



# NEPTUNE SPECTRAL ELEMENT GRANTS

**Ed Threlfall**

**NEPTUNE Workshop (The Cosener's  
House, Abingdon)**

**5 September 2022**

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# Grants

- T/NA078/20 Examining the performance of Nektar++ for fusion applications; 01/01/2021-30/06/2022
- T/AW084/21 Solving high-dimensional plasma kinetics using Nektar++; 01/09/2021-22/09/2022
- T/AW085/22 (Nektar++ for fusion applications - work is continuation of T/NA078/20); 01/09/2022-15/02/2024

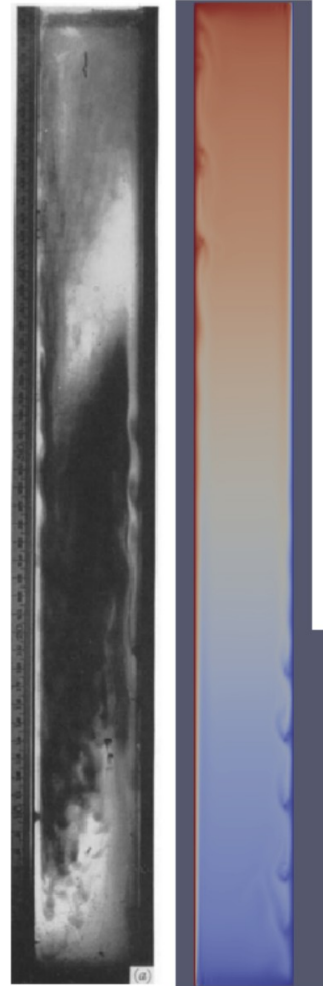
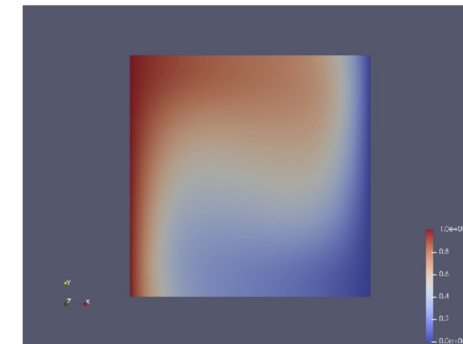
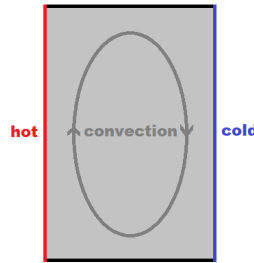
All are joint KCL / Imperial College London.

Main UKAEA personnel: Ed Threlfall (since June 2020), Owen Parry (joined early this year).

# T/NA078/20 Examining the performance of Nektar++ for fusion applications

- Approach: use Nektar++ for studying problems in heat transport – slot convection problem.
- Compare outputs with results in literature.
- Learn Nektar++ / note any issues discovered / Nektar-users mail list (or DM/CC) for queries.

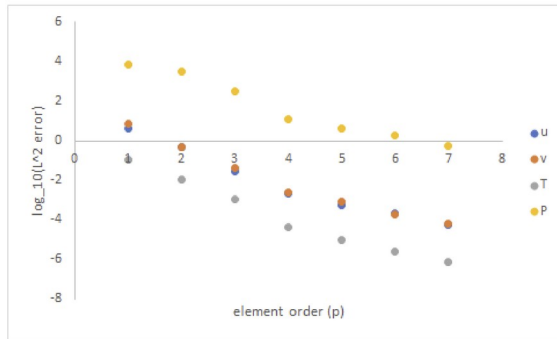
$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{Pr} \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \right) &= -\nabla p + Ra T \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} \\ \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla T \right) &= \nabla^2 T \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} &= 0.\end{aligned}$$



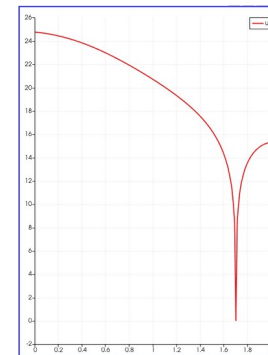
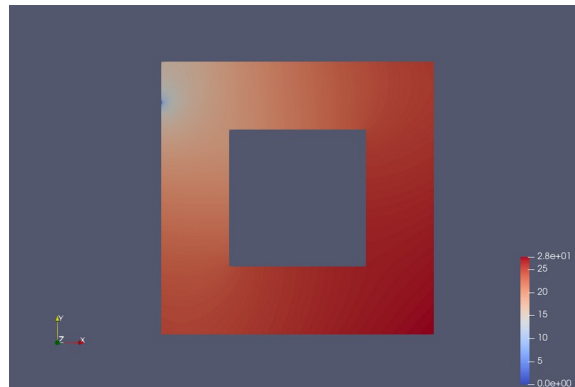
- Cf. J.W. Elder's experiments / numerics (1965).
- See UKAEA report Finite Element Models: Complementary Activities I ([Documents/CD-EXCALIBUR-FMS0051-M6.1.pdf](#) at main · [ExCALIBUR-NEPTUNE/Documents \(github.com\)](#)).

# T/NA078/20 Examining the performance of Nektar++ for fusion applications

- Spectral convergence verified for a laminar convective flow (evaluate error vs. converged solution).



- Uncovered issue with VelocityCorrectionScheme algorithm (is in pressure Poisson solve – also emerges generally in Helmholtz solver algorithm). Solution is to use alternate VCSWeakPressure algorithm.



# T/NA078/20 Examining the performance of Nektar++ for fusion applications

- Added new "filters" to Nektar++ to obtain heat flux (Nusselt number) and to study properties of hot spot on cavity wall where heat transfer is maximal, all as time series.

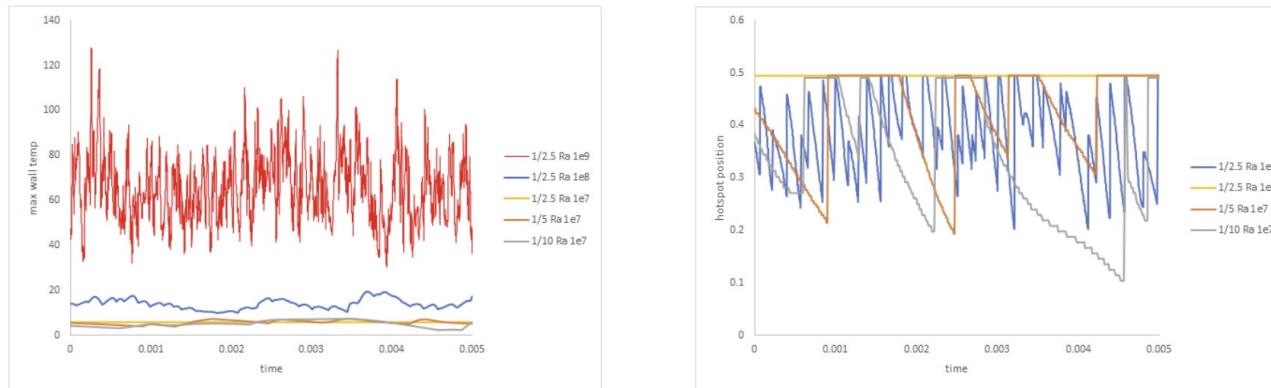


Figure 7: Transient behaviour associated to boundary-layer waves. The left-hand-side plot shows the maximum temperature at a small displacement from the cold-side wall and the right-hand-side one shows the vertical position of the hottest point near the cold wall, both as time series.

- Also constructed a GP fit to time series ... used VECMA toolkit to drive Nektar++ UQ campaign (in hackathons organized by UCL).

# T/NA078/20 Examining the performance of Nektar++ for fusion applications

- Further comparison with literature / exploration of Nektar++ capabilities ...
- MIT benchmark convection problem;  $Nu = 4.57946$ . (See [MIT Benchmark - Featflow \(tu-dortmund.de\)](https://tu-dortmund.de/featflow/))
- Same problem; time-dependent component of field near turbulent transition.

Element order $p$	time-av. Nusselt number $Nu$	Execution time / s (16 logical cores)
1	3.66566	38
2	4.95898	97
3	4.62167	171
4	4.54045	336
5	4.56850	601
6	4.57956	799
7	4.57977	1047
8	4.57943	1627
9	4.57936	1903
10	4.57935	2466
11	4.57935	3029

Table 1: Table of time-averaged Nusselt number values for  $Ra = 3.4 \times 10^5$  obtained from *Nektar++*.

- See report Finite Element Models: Complementary Activities 2 ([Documents/CD-EXCALIBUR-FMS0064-M6.2.pdf at main · ExCALIBUR-NEPTUNE/Documents \(github.com\)](https://github.com/ExCALIBUR-NEPTUNE/Documents/blob/main/CD-EXCALIBUR-FMS0064-M6.2.pdf))

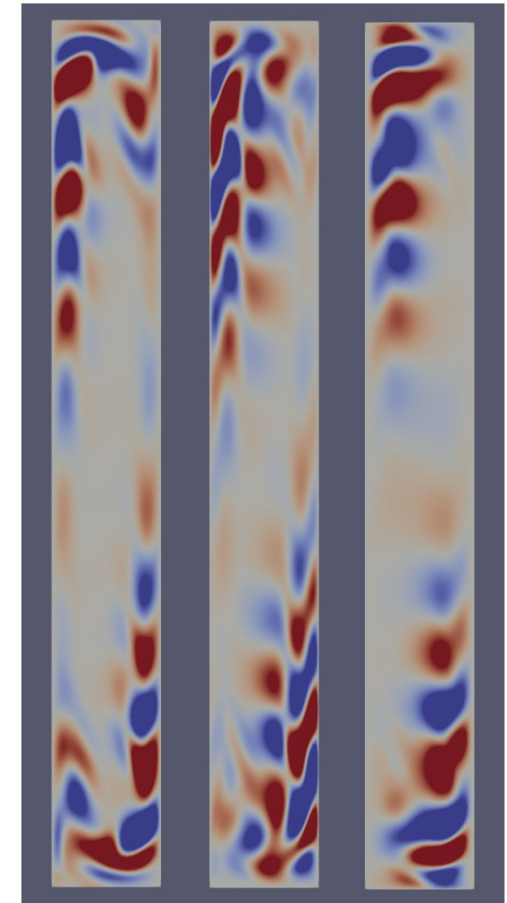


Figure 3: Nektar++ fluctuation fields for  $T, v, u$  (respectively temperature, vertical velocity, horizontal velocity), corresponding to Figs.5-7 of [8], computed by subtracting fields averaged over one period of  $Ra = 3.4 \times 10^5$  case. Scales are excluded as phase does not correspond to that used in figures from the reference.

# T/NA078/20 Examining the performance of Nektar++ for fusion applications

- Initial study of Nektar++-based proxyapps:
- Compared Nektar-Diffusion outputs with analytic solutions.
- Experimented with same problem in Firedrake inc. mock-up of coupled problem ... ongoing. See GitHub <https://github.com/ethrealfall/Heat-transport>.
- Compared output of Nektar-Driftwave Hasegawa-Wakatani solver with published results.
- See report Finite Element Models: Performance ([Documents/CD-EXCALIBUR-FMS0047-M2.2.2.pdf](#) at [main · ExCALIBUR-NEPTUNE/Documents \(github.com\)](#)).

i) A semi-infinite domain maintained at a unit temperature at  $x = 0$  at all times, for which the solution is

$$T(x; t) = 1 - \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{4Dt}}\right). \quad (1)$$

ii) A finite domain e.g.  $x \in [0, 1]$  with unit temperature at  $x = 0$  and zero temperature at  $x = 1$  for all times, with solution (expressible also in closed form as the integral of the Jacobi theta function of imaginary argument  $\theta(x; it)$ )

$$T(x; t) = 1 - x - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{\pi n} e^{-n^2 \pi^2 D t} \sin n \pi x. \quad (2)$$

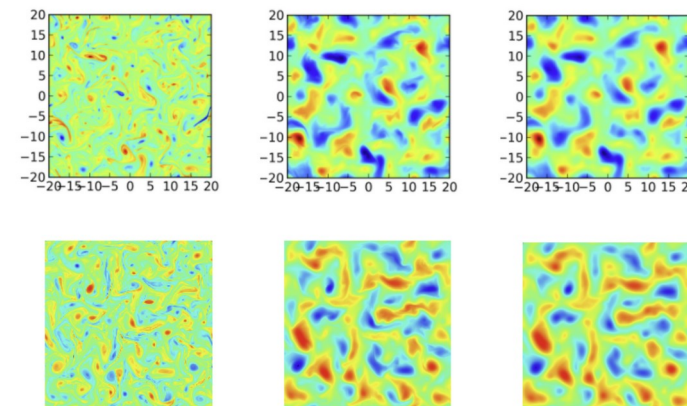
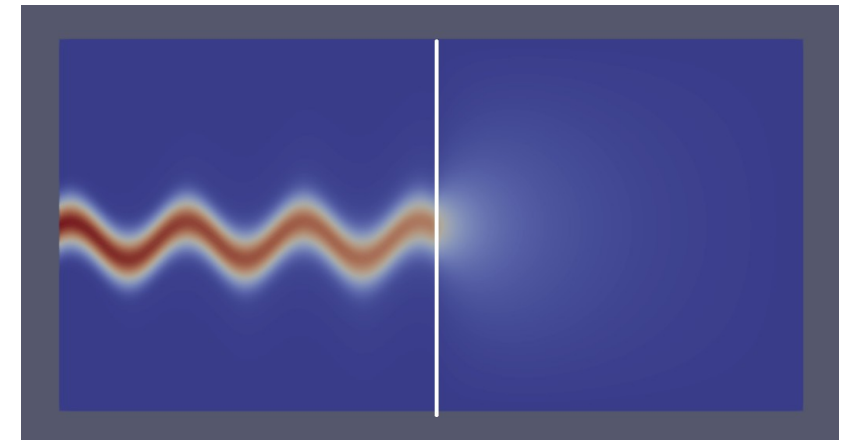
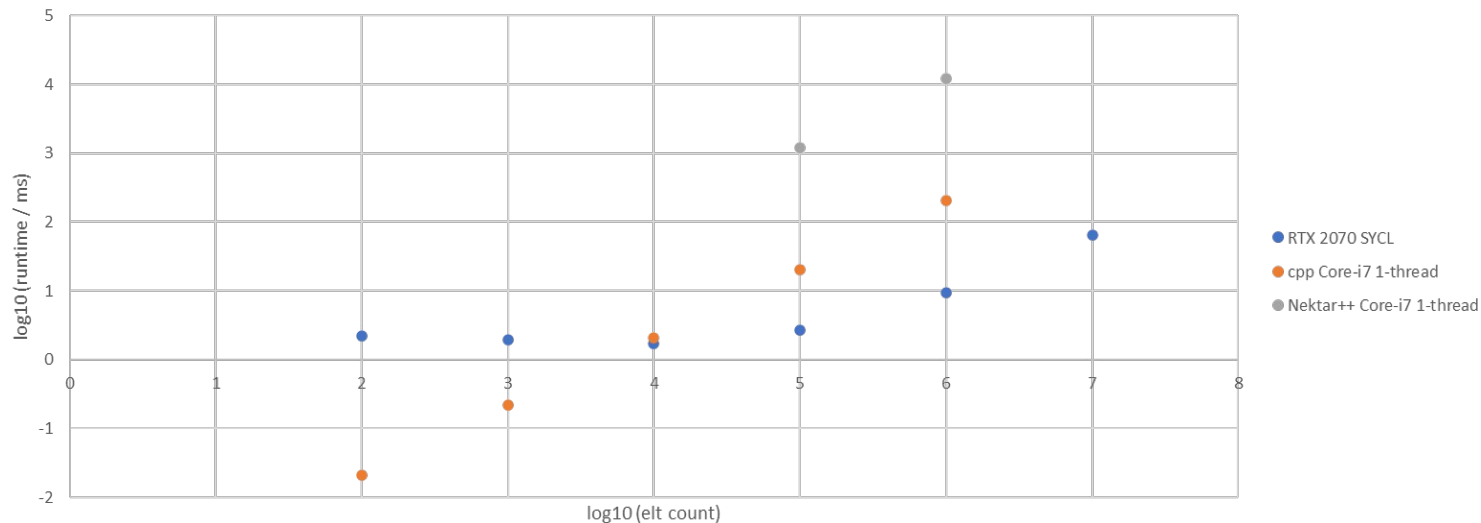


Figure 7: Example simulated vorticity, density, and electrostatic potential (left to right) from Ammar Hakim's web page (ref) (top) with corresponding proxyapp outputs (bottom), showing qualitative correspondence.

# T/NA078/20 Examining the performance of Nektar++ for fusion applications

- Simple performance study in 1D plus comparison to C++ and SYCL (Nvidia GPU via Codeplay ComputeCpp) implementations of the same.



- Other performance issues ... e.g. large memory use of incompressible Navier-Stokes solver – dialogue with David Moxey (established that non-essential pre-static-condensed matrix is retained).
- I have attended Nektar++ workshop events.

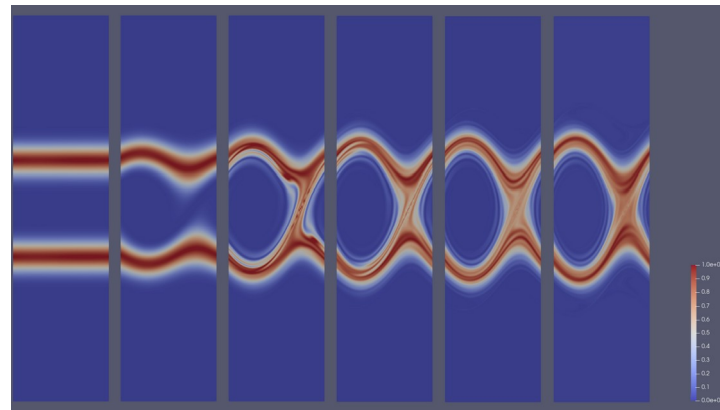


# T/AW084/21 Solving high-dimensional plasma physics using Nektar++

- Grant exploring solutions of Boltzmann-type equations in phase space; allows use of two meshes (real space and velocity space).
- Wrote exploratory code solving 1+1D Vlasov-Poisson problem within Nektar++ framework (new solver; used Microsoft Visual Studio).

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + v \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + E \frac{\partial f}{\partial v} = 0. \quad \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} = \omega_P^2 \left( \int f \frac{dv}{v_0} - 1 \right)$$

- Studied two-stream instability problem ... will be useful for assessing proxyapp developed under grant to solve same problem. Internal report Support High-Dimensional Procurement ([Documents/CD-EXCALIBUR-FMS0066-M4.1.pdf at main · ExCALIBUR-NEPTUNE/Documents \(github.com\)](#)) provided to grantee.



# T/AW084/21 Solving high-dimensional plasma physics using Nektar++

- Benchmark code against analytic solution for instability growth rate as function of plasma frequency and mode number. (Must use smooth initial data!)

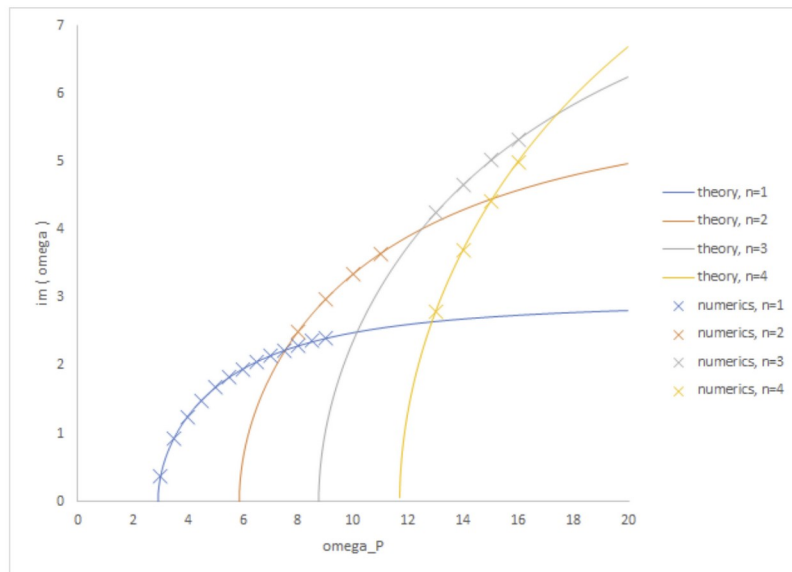


Figure 7: Theoretical predictions for the growth rates of modes  $n = 1 - 4$  (spatial wavenumber  $k = n\pi$ ) as a function of the plasma frequency  $\omega_P$ . Overlain are numerical results from the Nektar++ implementation, showing good agreement.

$$1 = -\frac{\omega_P^2}{2\sigma^2 k^2} \left( 2 - \sqrt{\pi} A e^{-A^2} (\operatorname{erfi}(A) - i) - \sqrt{\pi} A' e^{-A'^2} (\operatorname{erfi}(A') - i) \right)$$

$$\text{with } A \equiv \frac{\omega - kv_0}{\sqrt{2}\sigma k}, \quad A' \equiv \frac{\omega + kv_0}{\sqrt{2}\sigma k}.$$

- Good agreement; long-term energy conservation behaviour less nice (energy grows, even with upwinded DG).

# T/AW085/22 Nektar++ for fusion applications

- System 2-6 plasma fluid equations supplied to grantee for Nektar++ implementation.

number density  $n_e$ , “vorticity”  $(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}^+)$ , electron energy  $\mathcal{E}_e$ , ion energy  $\mathcal{E}_i$  and neutral number density  $n_n$  are respectively

$$\partial_t n_e + \nabla \cdot (n_e \mathbf{u}_e) = S_{n_e} - \frac{n_e}{\tau_{n_e}} \quad (94)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}^+ + \nabla \cdot (\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u}_i \otimes \mathbf{E}^+)) = \nabla \cdot \left( n_i (\mathbf{u}_{\nabla B i} + \mathbf{u}_{cx}) - \frac{1}{Z_i} n_e \mathbf{u}_{\nabla B e} \right) \\ + \frac{1}{Z_i} \frac{n_e}{\tau_{n_e}} - \frac{n_i}{\tau_{n_i}} + \nabla \cdot (\nu \nabla_{\perp} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}^+)) \end{aligned} \quad (95)$$

$$\partial_t \mathcal{E}_e + \nabla \cdot (\mathcal{E}_e \mathbf{u}_e + p_e \mathbf{u}_e) = S_{\mathcal{E}_e} - \frac{\mathcal{E}_e}{\tau_{Ee}} + Q_{ie} + \nabla \cdot (\chi_{\perp e} n_e \nabla_{\perp} T_e) \quad (96)$$

$$\partial_t \mathcal{E}_i + \nabla \cdot (\mathcal{E}_i \mathbf{u}_i + p_i \mathbf{u}_i) = S_{\mathcal{E}_i} - \frac{\mathcal{E}_i}{\tau_{Ei}} - Q_{ie} + \nabla \cdot (\chi_{\perp i} n_i \nabla_{\perp} T_i) \quad (97)$$

$$\partial_t n_n = S_{n_n} + \nabla \cdot (D_n \nabla_{\perp} p_n) \quad (98)$$

where with the usual notation for species  $\alpha$  pressure  $p_{\alpha}$ , temperature  $T_{\alpha}$ , charge state  $Z_i$ , species mass  $m_{\alpha}$ , electric potential  $\Phi$  and magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}$ ,

- Owen Parry embedded in Nektar++ development team at KCL.

# T/AW085/22 Nektar++ for fusion applications

- Exploring use of structure-preserving methods to enforce conservation laws / provide guarantees of validity of numerical methods (e.g. immanent stability removes requirement to add numerical dissipation).
- Hasegawa-Wakatani shown earlier is candidate, but equations may need re-framing (usually presented in scalar form but need vector).
- Started with simple Discrete Exterior Calculus problems assessed using Method of Manufactured Solutions or analytic solutions.

D.S. Rufat. Spectral exterior calculus and its implementation. *PhD thesis, Caltech, 2017.*

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\pi}{4} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2},$$

$$u(x, t) = \theta_3(x; t) \equiv 1 + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{-\pi n^2 t} \cos 2nx,$$

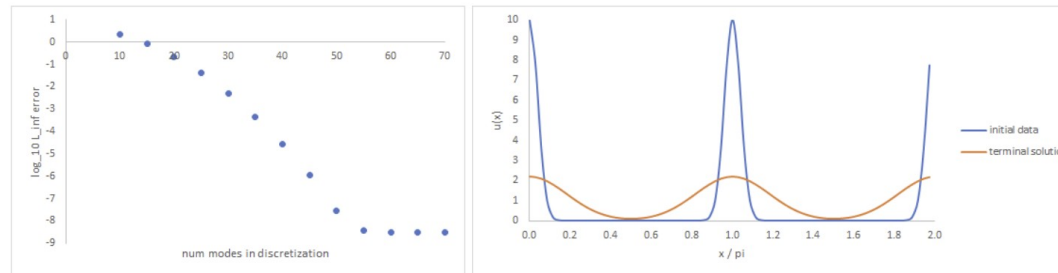


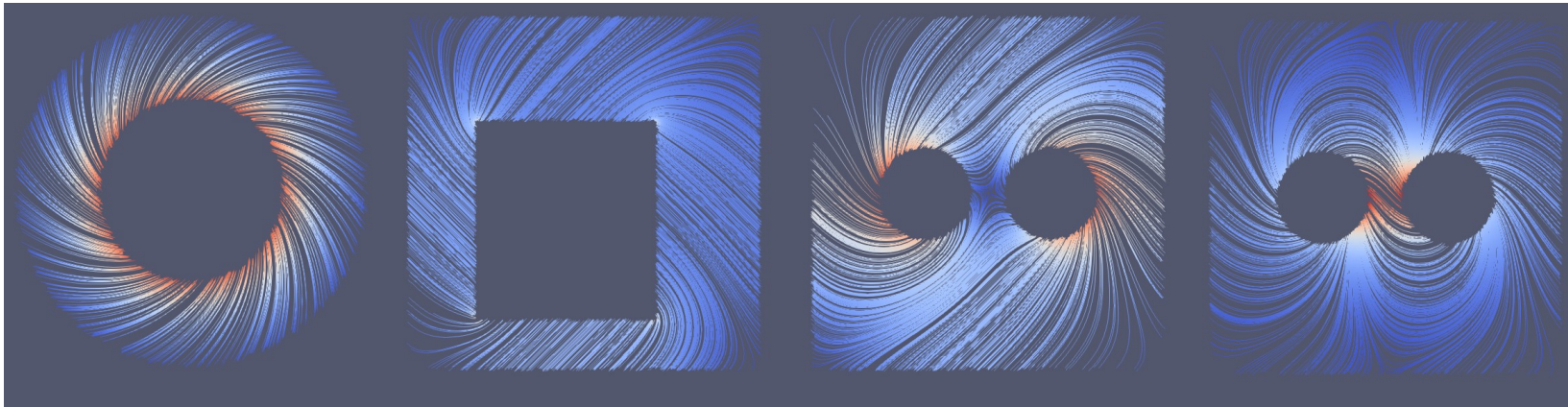
Figure 6: Convergence of the discrete exterior calculus implementation of the diffusion problem explained in the main text (left). Solution curves for  $N = 70$  shown to right - the initial data corresponds to  $t = 0.01$  and the terminal solution  $t = 0.21$ .

- Verified spectral convergence of toy implementations (C++ / Boost / Intel MKL).



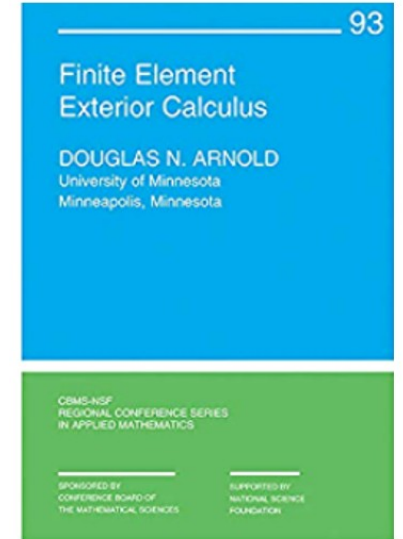
# T/AW085/22 Nektar++ for fusion applications

- Investigating Finite Element Exterior Calculus (FEEC) techniques.
- Read textbook / papers of Douglas N. Arnold.
- Implemented a number of examples in Firedrake and committed to GitHub repository; see <https://github.com/ethrelfall/Finite-element-exterior-calculus>.
- These are generically "challenging" for conventional FEM but work nicely if use FEEC.



$$\nabla \cdot \underline{v} = \nabla \times \underline{v} = 0; \quad \nabla^2 \underline{v} = 0; \quad \rho \underline{v} \cdot \nabla \underline{v} = -\nabla p$$

- I have canvassed opinion from members of the Firedrake community re FEEC.

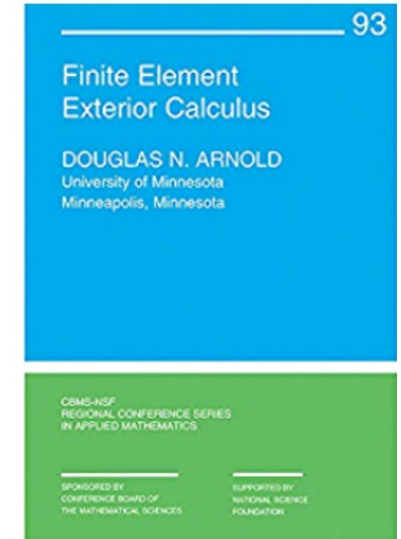
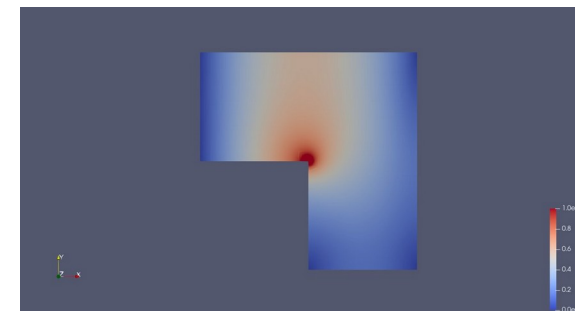
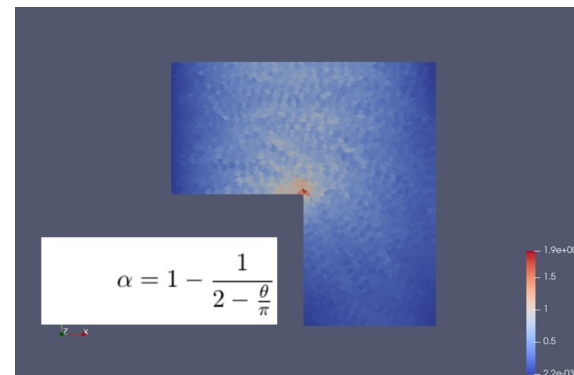


# T/AW085/22 Nektar++ for fusion applications

- FEEC makes sense of large "zoo" of finite-element types.

Bernstein		scalar	interval, triangle, tetrahedron	Bell	BELL	scalar	triangle
Brezzi-Douglas-Marini	BDM	vector	triangle, tetrahedron	Lagrange	CG	scalar	interval, triangle, tetrahedron, quadrilateral, hexahedron
Brezzi-Douglas-Fortin-Marini	BDFM	vector	triangle, tetrahedron	Nedelec 1st kind H(curl)	N1curl	vector	triangle, tetrahedron
Bubble	B	scalar	interval, triangle, tetrahedron	Nedelec 2nd kind H(curl)	N2curl	vector	triangle, tetrahedron
FacetBubble	FB	scalar	interval, triangle, tetrahedron	Raviart-Thomas	RT	vector	triangle, tetrahedron
Crouzeix-Raviart	CR	scalar	triangle, tetrahedron	Regge		tensor	triangle, tetrahedron
Discontinuous Lagrange	DG	scalar	interval, triangle, tetrahedron, quadrilateral, hexahedron	DQ		scalar	interval, quadrilateral, hexahedron
Discontinuous Raviart-Thomas	DRT	vector	triangle, tetrahedron	Q		scalar	interval, quadrilateral, hexahedron
Discontinuous Taylor	TDG	scalar	interval, triangle, tetrahedron	RTCE		vector	quadrilateral
Gauss-Legendre	GL	scalar	interval	RTCF		vector	quadrilateral
Gauss-Lobatto-Legendre	GLL	scalar	interval	NCE		vector	hexahedron
HDiv Trace	HDivT	scalar	interval, triangle, tetrahedron, quadrilateral, hexahedron	NCF		vector	hexahedron
Helian-Herrmann-Johnson	HHJ	tensor	triangle	Real	R	scalar	interval, triangle, tetrahedron, quadrilateral, hexahedron
Nonconforming Arnold-Winther	AWnc	tensor	triangle, tetrahedron	DPC		scalar	interval, quadrilateral, hexahedron
Conforming Arnold-Winther	AWc	tensor	triangle, tetrahedron	S		scalar	interval, quadrilateral, hexahedron
Hermite	HER	scalar	interval, triangle, tetrahedron	DPC L2		scalar	interval, quadrilateral, hexahedron
Kong-Mulder-Veldhuizen	KMV	scalar	triangle, tetrahedron	Discontinuous Lagrange L2	DG L2	scalar	interval, triangle, tetrahedron, quadrilateral, hexahedron
Argyris	ARG	scalar	triangle	Gauss-Legendre L2	GL L2	scalar	interval
Mardal-Tai-Winther	MTW	vector	triangle	DQ L2		scalar	interval, quadrilateral, hexahedron
Morley	MOR	scalar	triangle	Direct Serendipity	Sdirect	scalar	quadrilateral

- ... pick the right one!



# T/AW085/22 Nektar++ for fusion applications

- FabNEPTUNE plug-in made available by UCL.
- Facilitates NEPTUNE workflows on HPC and gives integration with SEAVEAtk UQ toolkit.
- Currently set-up to run Nektar++ convection simulations in 2D and 3D (189k elements).  
Ongoing ... 3D results have crossover with Smallab experimental program.

