



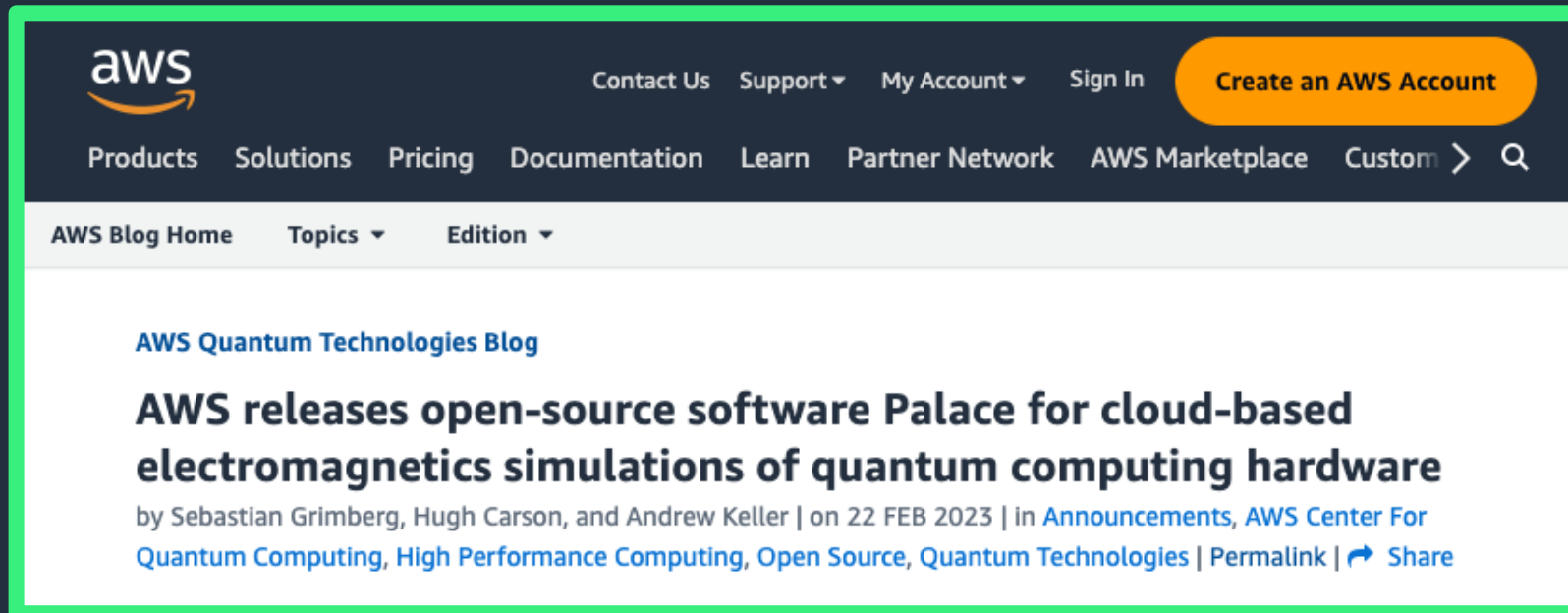
MFEM COMMUNITY WORKSHOP 2023

# Palace: PArallel LArge-scale Computational Electromagnetics

Sebastian Grimberg

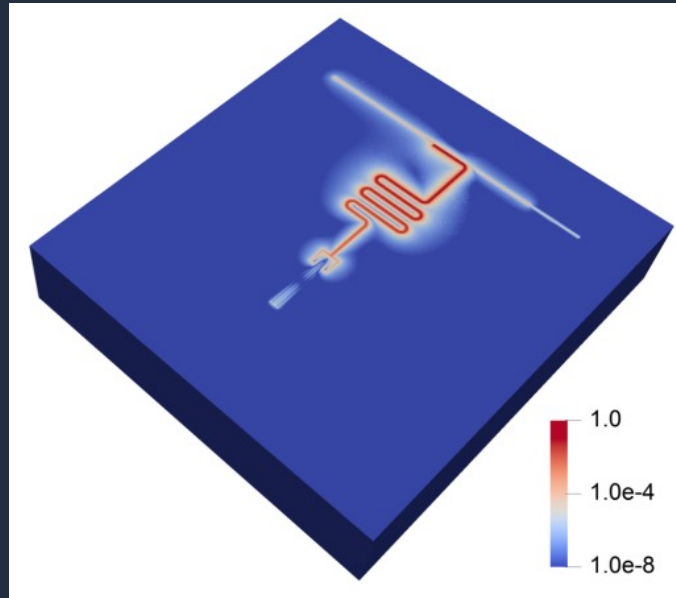
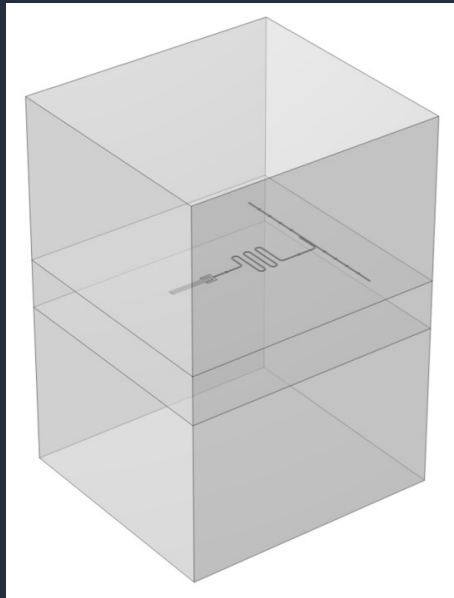
Sr. Applied Scientist  
AWS

# Palace: 3D finite element solver for computational electromagnetics



Palace is developed at the AWS Center for Quantum Computing to enable the design of quantum computing hardware

# Palace: 3D finite element solver for computational electromagnetics



Uses MFEM and libCEED to perform full-wave 3D electromagnetic simulations in the frequency and time domain

# Frequency and time domain electromagnetics models

## Driven

$$\nabla \times (\mu^{-1} \nabla \times \mathbf{E}) + i\omega\sigma\mathbf{E} - \omega^2\epsilon\mathbf{E} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{E} = 0, \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega_D$$

$$\mathbf{n} \times (\mu^{-1} \nabla \times \mathbf{E}) + i\omega Z_s^{-1} \mathbf{n} \times (\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{E}) = \mathbf{U}_s, \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega_R$$

## Transient

$$\nabla \times (\mu^{-1} \nabla \times \mathbf{E}) + \sigma \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} + \epsilon \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}}{\partial t^2} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{E} = 0, \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega_D$$

$$\mathbf{n} \times (\mu^{-1} \nabla \times \mathbf{E}) + Z_s^{-1} \mathbf{n} \times \left( \mathbf{n} \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} \right) = \mathbf{U}_s, \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega_R$$

- Lumped ports, numeric wave ports, scattering parameter calculations
- Anisotropic and lossy material properties
- Absorbing boundary conditions

# Frequency and time domain electromagnetics models

## Eigenmode

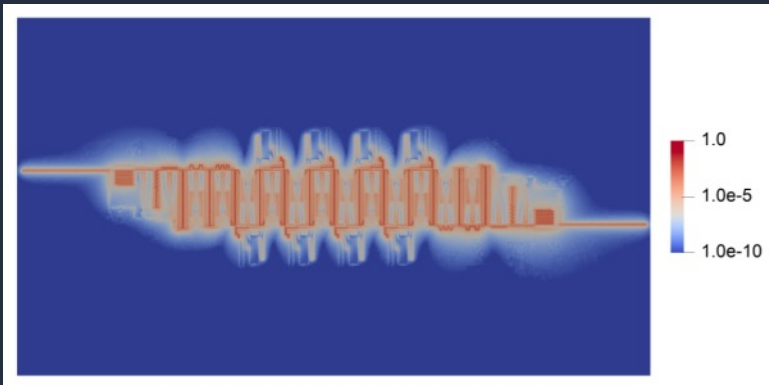
$$(\mathbf{K} + i\omega\mathbf{C} - \omega^2\mathbf{M}) \mathbf{u} = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \mathbf{I} \\ \mathbf{K} & i\mathbf{C} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u} \\ \omega\mathbf{u} \end{bmatrix} = \omega \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{M} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u} \\ \omega\mathbf{u} \end{bmatrix}$$

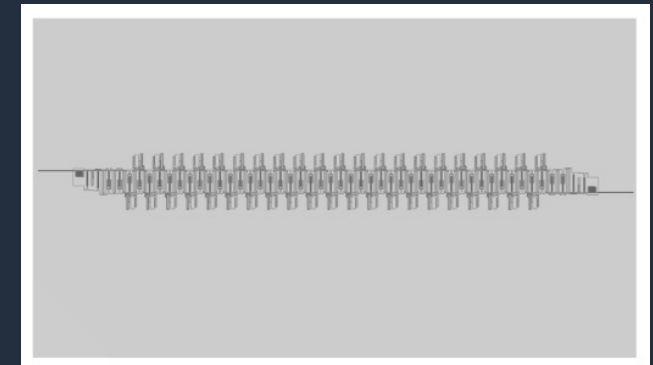
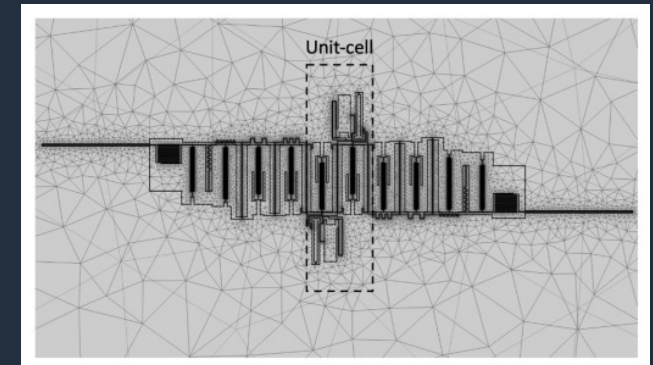
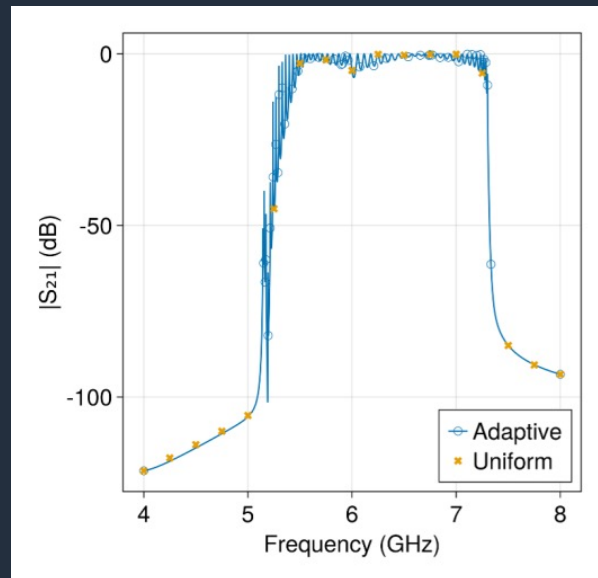
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# Large-scale cloud-based electromagnetics simulation

- 3D models ranging from 242.2 million to 1.4 billion degrees of freedom
- Adaptive fast frequency sweep simulations: Smallest in 45 min. (10 samples), largest in 4 hours (40 samples)
- Up to 12,800 AWS Graviton3E cores (hpc7g.16xlarge), EFA network

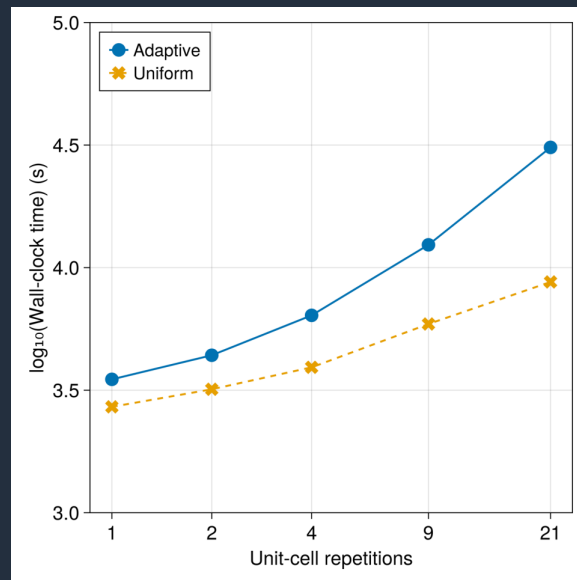


[AWS Quantum Technologies Blog](#)

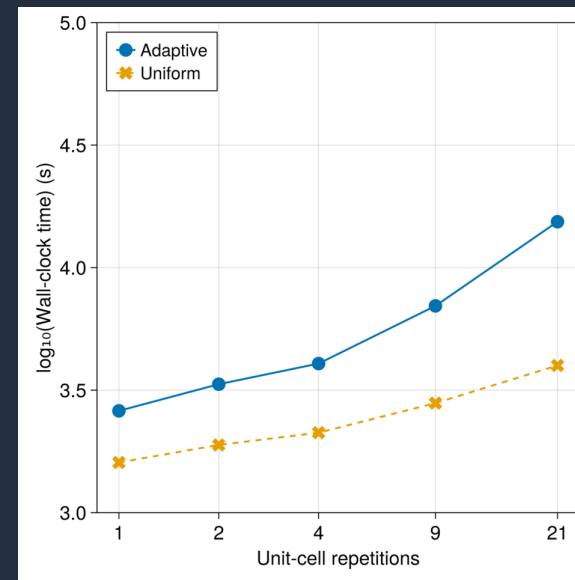


# Large-scale cloud-based electromagnetics simulation

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Feb. 2023  
c6gn.16xlarge



Oct. 2023  
1.69x – 2.19x improvement

# Adaptive mesh refinement

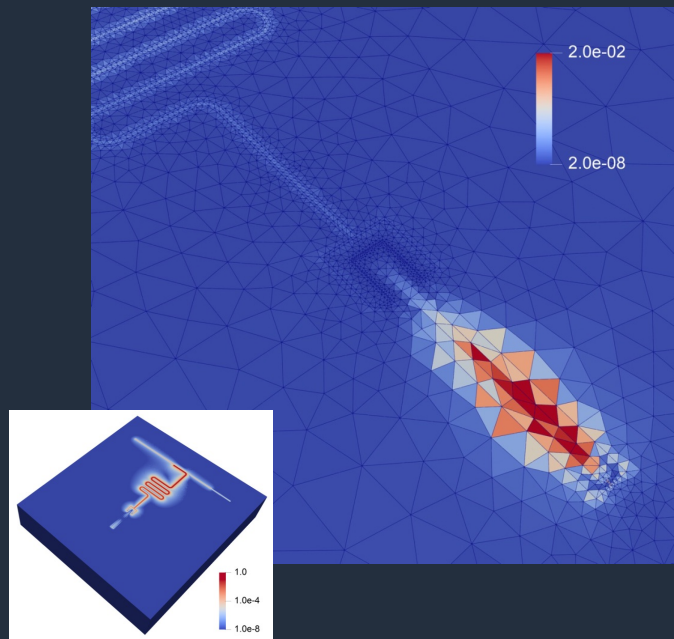
- Conforming refinement + rebalancing on tetrahedral meshes, general non-conforming refinement + coarsening + rebalancing for mixed meshes
- Non-conforming AMR for high-order Nédélec elements with triangular faces



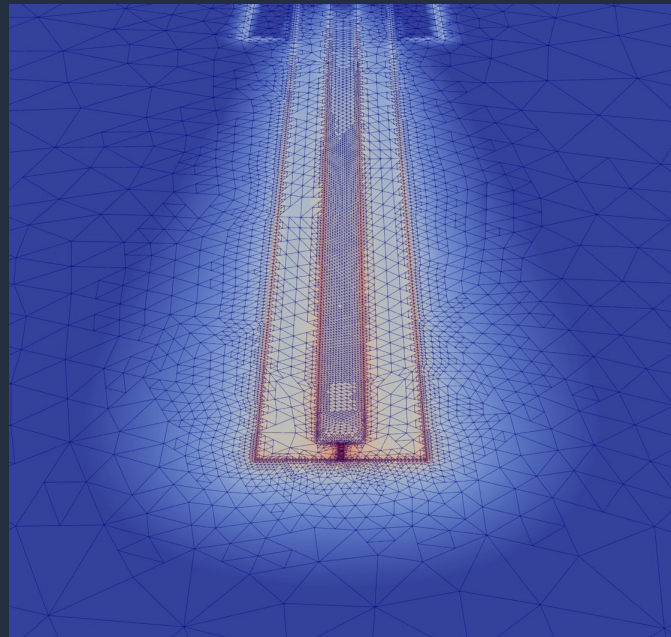
# Adaptive mesh refinement

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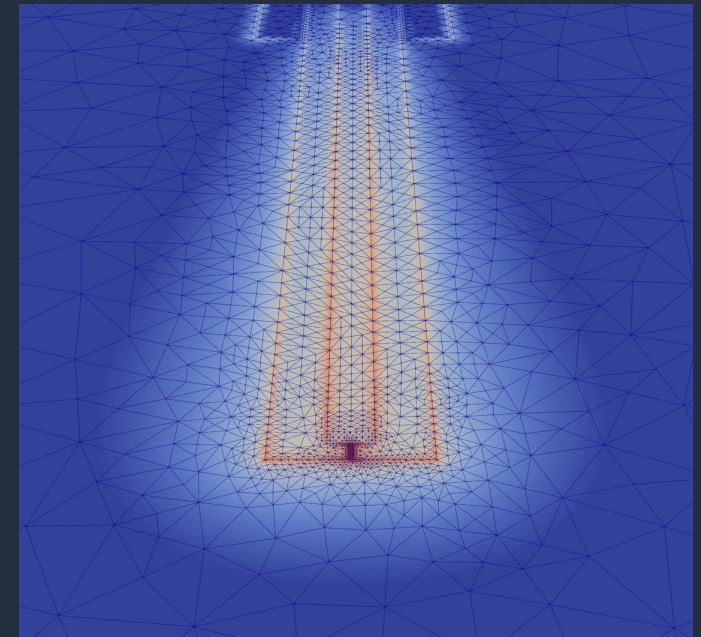
Indicator



Non-conforming refinement

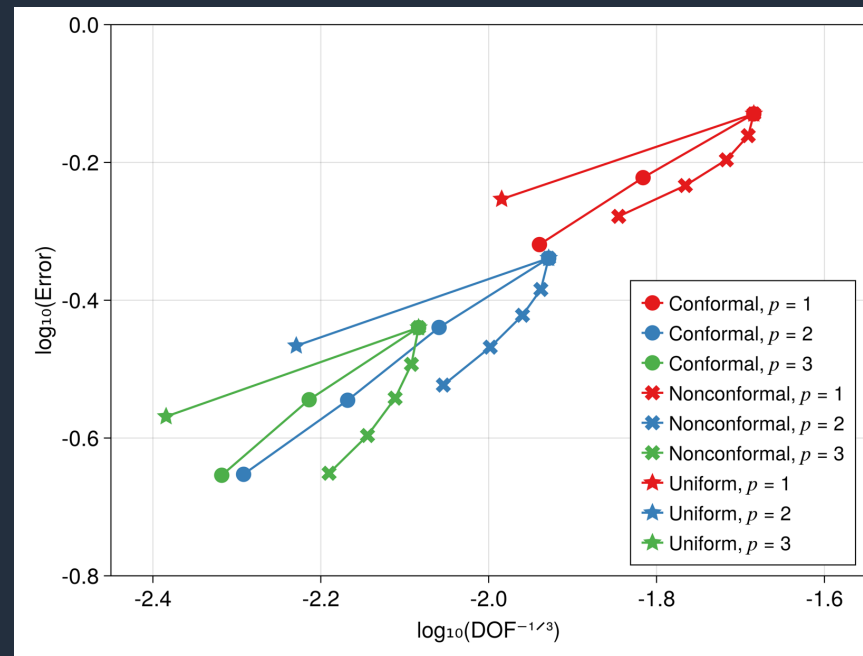


Conforming refinement



# Adaptive mesh refinement

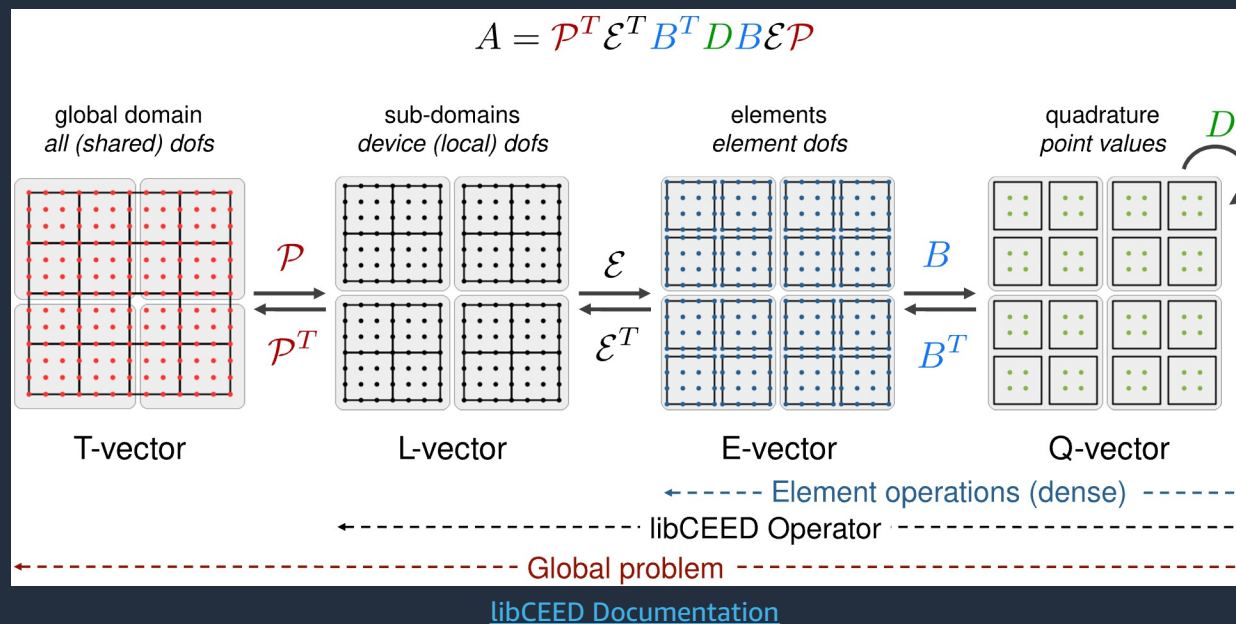
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# Operator assembly and linear solvers

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- Matrix-free  $p$ -multigrid preconditioning with partial assembly of high-order operators
- Partial assembly support: Simplex elements and mixed meshes, (mixed) operators on  $H^1$ -,  $H(\text{curl})$ -, and  $H(\text{div})$ -conforming spaces, boundary integrators, matrix-valued coefficients, all using libCEED

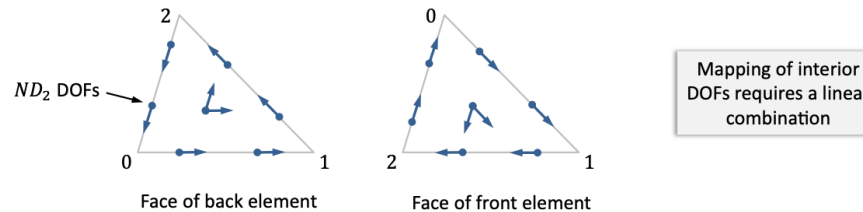


# Operator assembly and linear solvers

- Special element restriction operator  $\mathcal{E}_{ND} = \mathcal{T}\mathcal{E}_{H^1}$  for high-order Nédélec elements with triangular faces

## Highlight: Higher-order H(curl) on tetrahedra

- Added support for *arbitrary global-to-element* DOF transformations
- For most FE types the DOF transformation is *permutation + optional sign flip*
- Allows for any tetrahedron orientation with HO ( $p \geq 2$ ) H(curl) FEs
- Also needed for HO ( $p \geq 2$ ) H(curl) FEs on prisms and pyramids



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- Auxiliary-space smoothing for non-static Maxwell problems (time and frequency domain):

$$B = B_{ND} + GB_{H^1}G^T$$

(construct the operator  $A_{H^1} = G^T A_{ND}G$  for  $B_{H^1}$  directly without a sparse matrix triple product)

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- Coarse solve ( $p = 1$ , real-valued  $A_0 = \text{Re}\{A_0\} + \text{Im}\{A_0\}$ ):

*Electrostatics:* Standard AMG (Hypre)

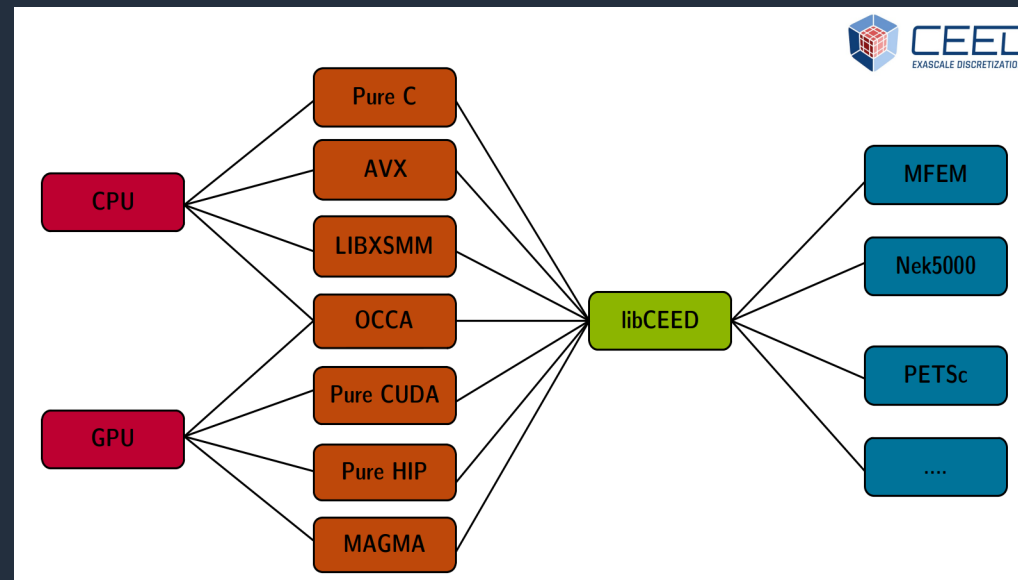
*Magnetostatic and transient:* Auxiliary-space Maxwell Solver (AMS)

*Driven and eigenmode (complex symmetric, indefinite):* AMS with SPD preconditioner matrix, or parallel sparse-direct solve (SuperLU\_DIST, STRUMPACK, MUMPS)



# Backends and GPU support

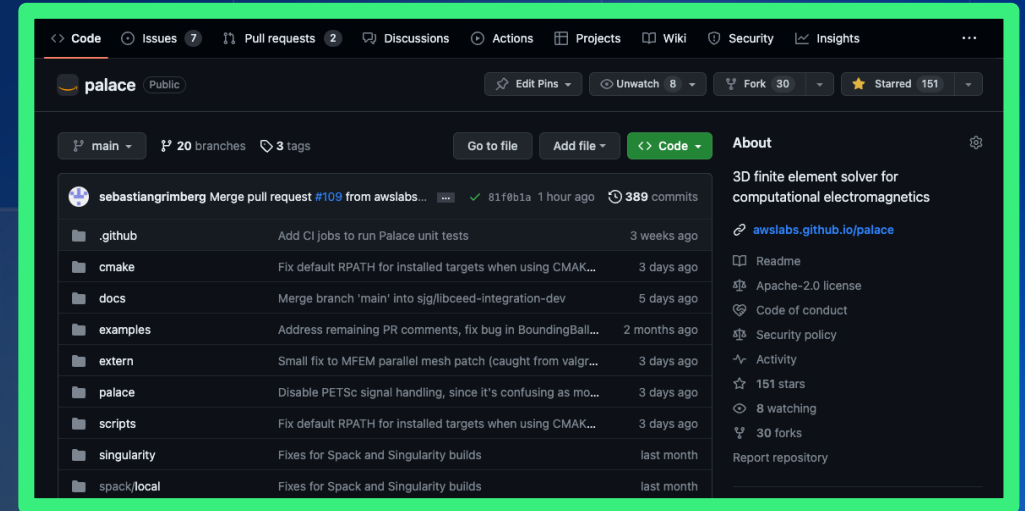
- Runtime backend selection for performance portability
- Support for NVIDIA and AMD GPUs using MFEM and libCEED's CUDA and HIP backends
- *Work in progress, but expected to release in coming weeks*



[libCEED Documentation](#)



# Thank you!



<https://github.com/awslabs/palace>

Sebastian Grimberg  
sjg@amazon.com

Hugh Carson  
hughcars@amazon.com

Andrew Keller  
kllrak@amazon.com