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Platypus: An Open-Source Application for MFEM Problem Set-Up and Assembly in the MOOSE Framework

MFEM Community Workshop 2024 | 23rd October 2024

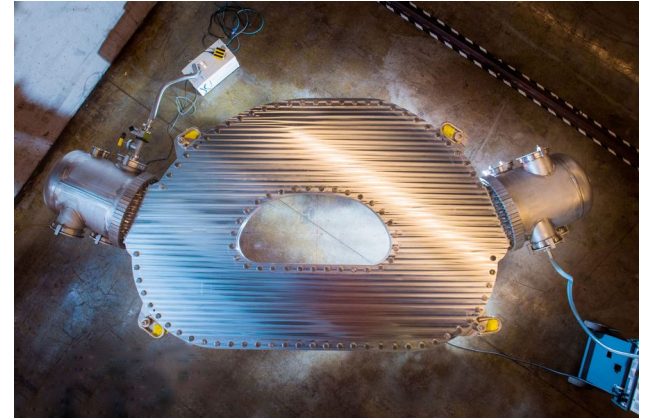
1. **Motivation**
2. **MOOSE at UKAEA**
3. **Platypus Introduction**
4. **Platypus Examples**
5. **Future Work**
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Motivation

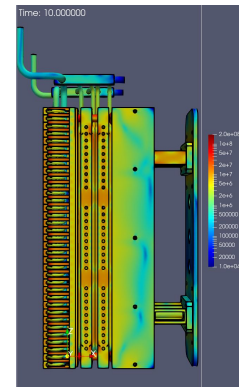
There will not be sufficient experimental data by 2040 to fully qualify components for next-generation fusion reactors!

Engineers must have scalable multiphysics simulation tools to enable them to substantively assess and de-risk complex component and reactor designs *in silico*.

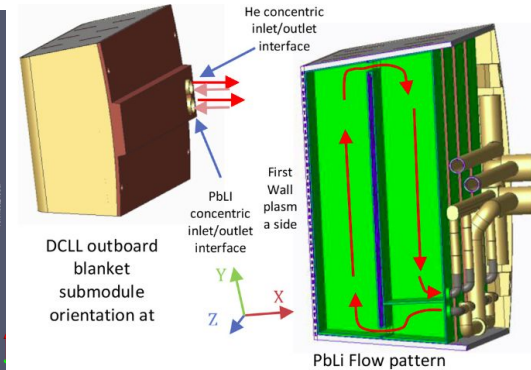
We need multiphysics simulation tools capable of modelling a range of fusion use cases, spanning both time and frequency domains.



<https://news.mit.edu/2021/MIT-CFS-major-advance-toward-fusion-energy-0908>



CHIMERA CSUT



Khodak A et al. 2018 *Fusion Engineering and Design* 137 124-129

Part of UKAEA's Computing Division - interdisciplinary group with ~20 people (and growing!)

- Number of open-source applications in the MOOSE ecosystem under development - available at <https://github.com/aurora-multiphysics>
- Coupling to a range of external tools (OpenFOAM, NekRS, OpenMC...)
- Aim to provide tools to enable engineers to run actionable simulations of fusion-relevant problems on complex geometries



AURORA
Radiation transport +
thermo-mechanics



Apollo
Electromagnetism
MFEM adaptor



Hephaestus
MFEM EM Library



Astrea / Hippo
OpenFOAM
adaptor

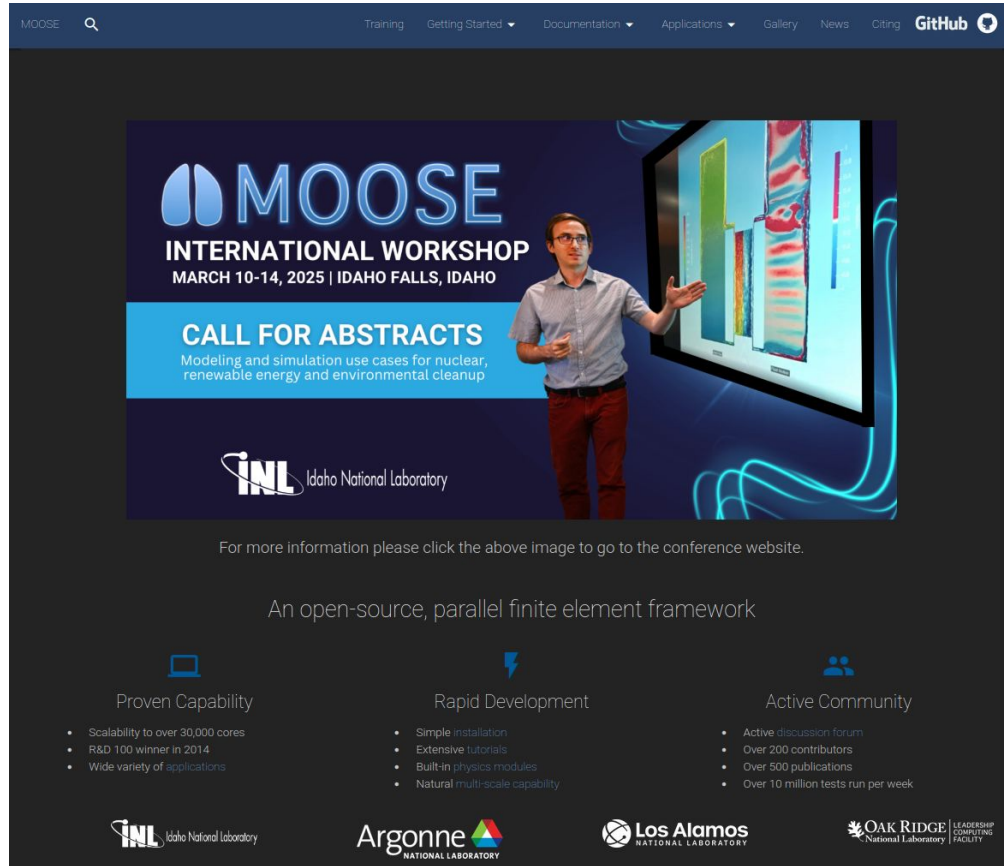


Proteus
Turbulent Fluids
MHD



Achlys
Hydrogen ion
transport

What is MOOSE?



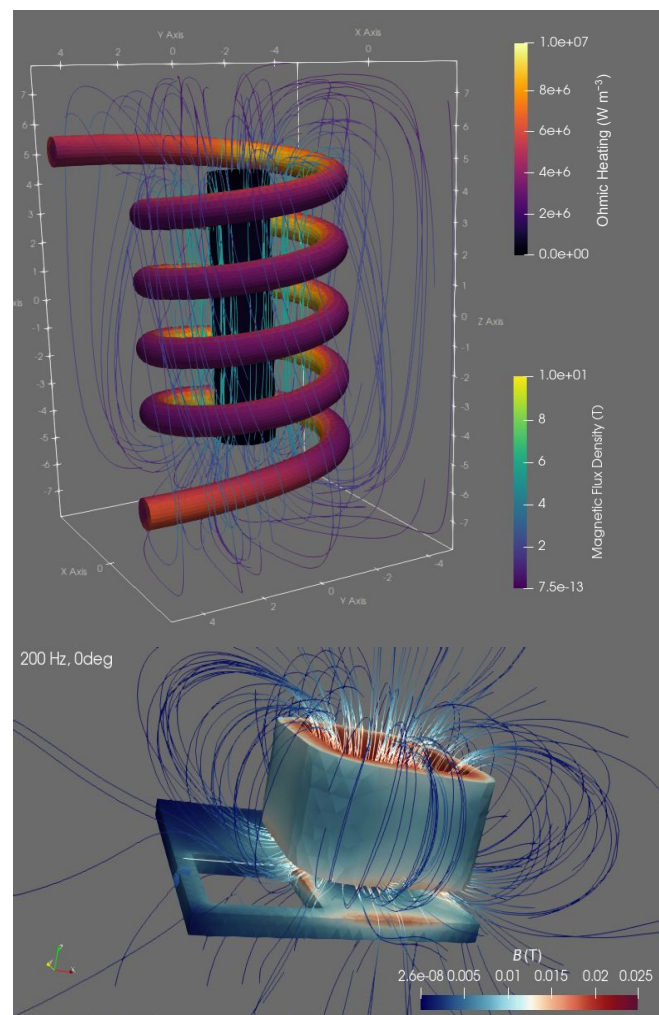
The screenshot shows the MOOSE website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Training, Getting Started, Documentation, Applications, Gallery, News, Citing, and GitHub. The main content area features a large banner for the MOOSE International Workshop, scheduled for March 10-14, 2025, in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The banner includes a call for abstracts, highlighting modeling and simulation use cases for nuclear, renewable energy, and environmental cleanup. Below the banner, there is a section titled "An open-source, parallel finite element framework" with three columns: Proven Capability (Scalability to over 30,000 cores, R&D 100 winner in 2014, Wide variety of applications), Rapid Development (Simple installation, Extensive tutorials, Built-in physics modules, Natural multi-scale capability), and Active Community (Active discussion forum, Over 200 contributors, Over 500 publications, Over 10 million tests run per week). The footer contains logos for INL, Argonne National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

- Open source parallel FE framework from INL
- Active, large user community (repository starred by >1.7k users on GitHub)
- Wide range of existing validated physics modules
- Simple user interface for problem definition
- Demonstrated scalability on tens of thousands of CPU cores

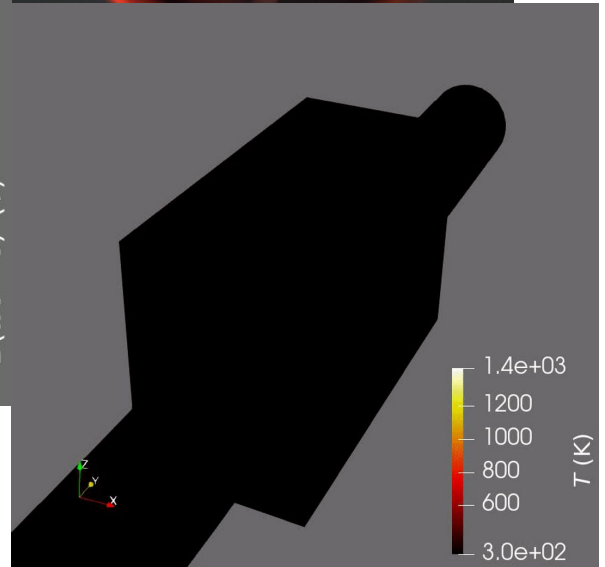
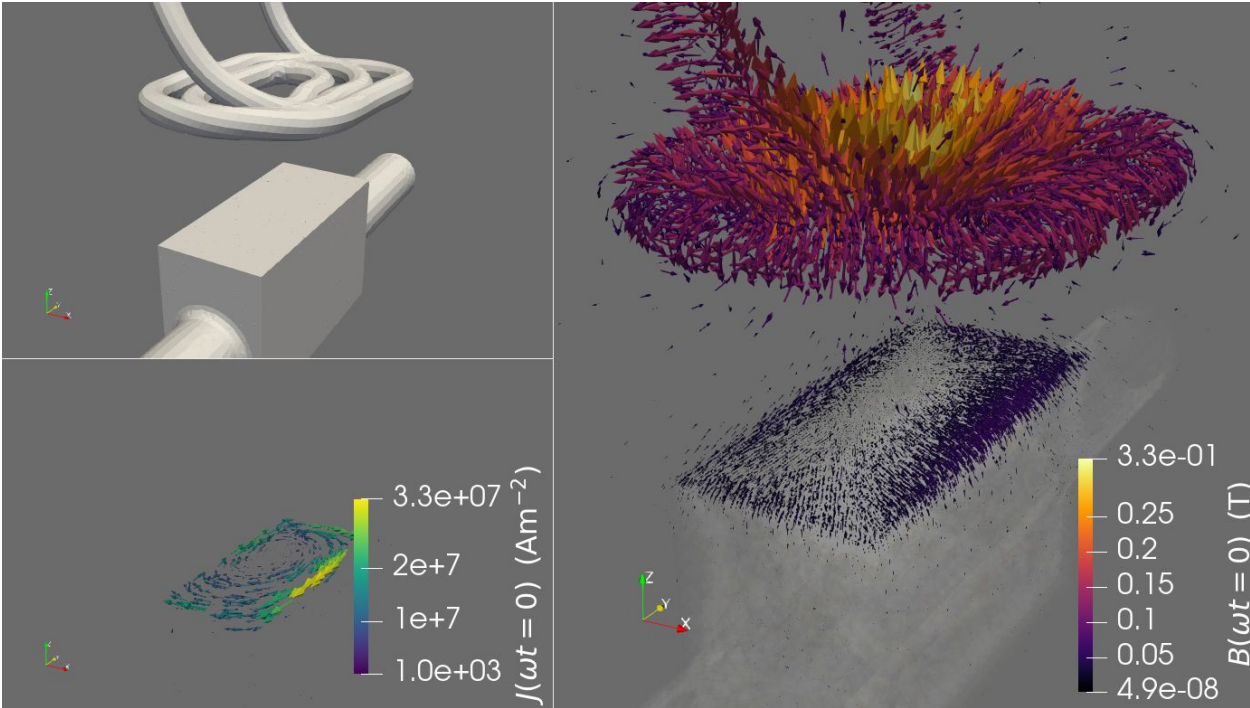
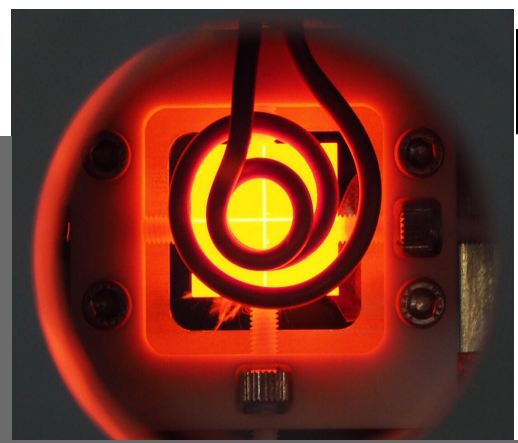
LibMesh Limitations

However - **MOOSE**'s underlying FE library libMesh has a number of limitations compared to MFEM:

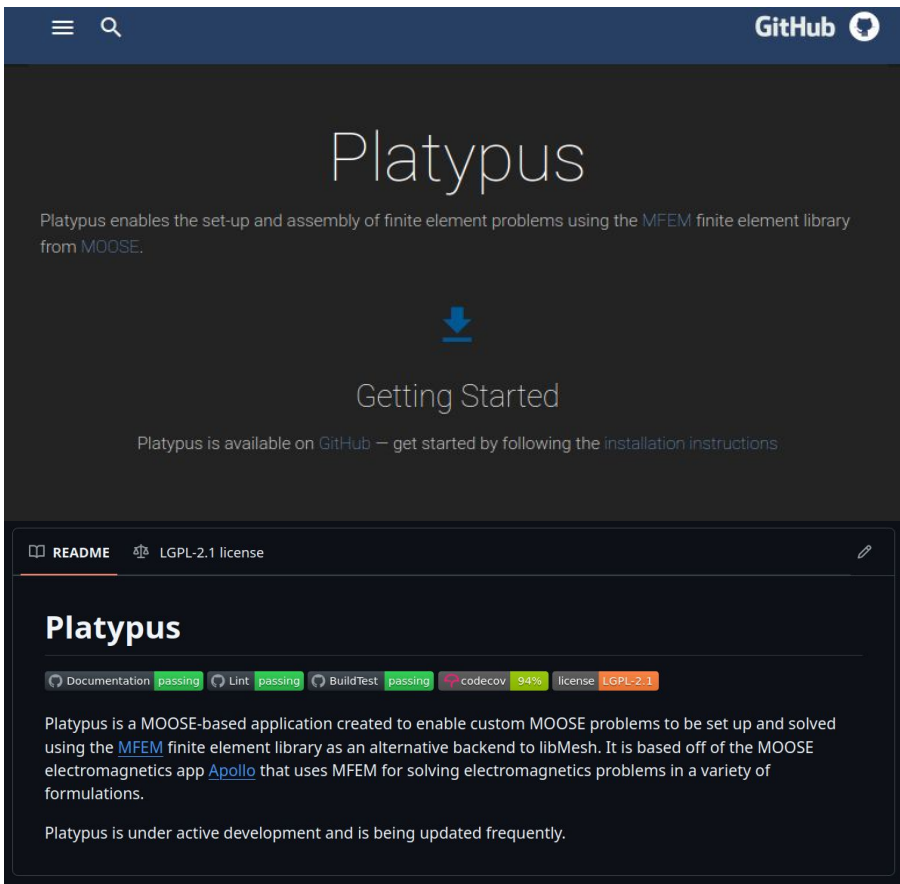
- Limited support for $H(\text{curl})$ and $H(\text{div})$ conforming vector FE types (e.g. Dirichlet BCs for ND1 and RT FEs not supported)
- Performant preconditioners for EM diffusion problems in $H(\text{curl})$ (eg. HypreAMS) require additional fine-grid orientation information at setup not yet available from MOOSE
- No GPU support



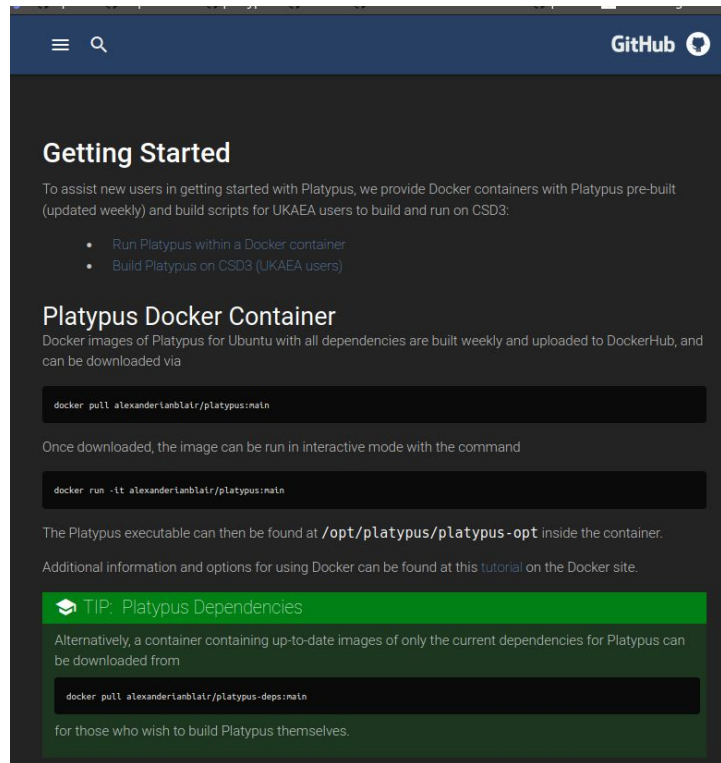
HIVE Digital Twin Development



Some success writing (and wrapping) an MFEM EM solver library for use with MOOSE - **Apollo/Hephaestus**



The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for Platypus. At the top, the GitHub logo and search icon are visible. The main heading is "Platypus" in a large, light blue font. Below it, a paragraph states: "Platypus enables the set-up and assembly of finite element problems using the MFEM finite element library from MOOSE." A blue download icon is centered below the text. Underneath, the heading "Getting Started" is displayed, followed by the text: "Platypus is available on GitHub – get started by following the installation instructions". At the bottom, there is a section for the README and license (LGPL-2.1 license). The README section includes a list of badges: Documentation (passing), Lint (passing), BuildTest (passing), codecov (94%), and license (LGPL-2.1). The main text of the README describes Platypus as a MOOSE-based application for solving custom MOOSE problems using the MFEM finite element library as an alternative backend to libMesh. It also mentions that Platypus is under active development and is being updated frequently.

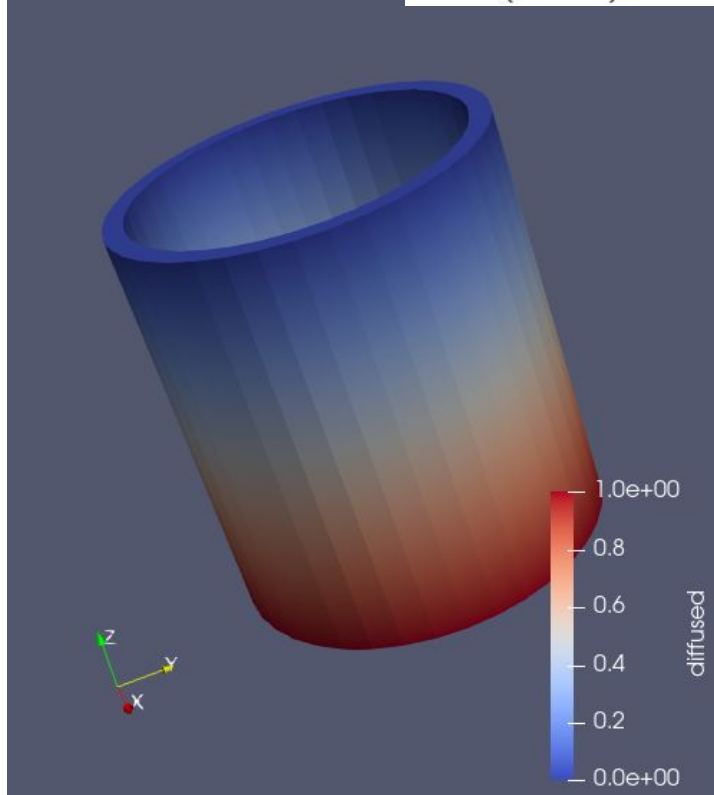


The screenshot shows the "Getting Started" page of the Platypus GitHub repository. The GitHub logo and search icon are at the top. The heading "Getting Started" is followed by a paragraph: "To assist new users in getting started with Platypus, we provide Docker containers with Platypus pre-built (updated weekly) and build scripts for UKAEA users to build and run on CSD3:". Below this, a list of bullet points provides instructions: "Run Platypus within a Docker container" and "Build Platypus on CSD3 (UKAEA users)". The next section is "Platypus Docker Container", which states: "Docker images of Platypus for Ubuntu with all dependencies are built weekly and uploaded to DockerHub, and can be downloaded via". A code block shows the command: `docker pull alexanderianblair/platypus:main`. Below this, it says: "Once downloaded, the image can be run in interactive mode with the command". Another code block shows: `docker run -it alexanderianblair/platypus:main`. The text continues: "The Platypus executable can then be found at `/opt/platypus/platypus-opt` inside the container. Additional information and options for using Docker can be found at this tutorial on the Docker site." A green box with a graduation cap icon contains the heading "TIP: Platypus Dependencies". Below it, the text says: "Alternatively, a container containing up-to-date images of only the current dependencies for Platypus can be downloaded from". A code block shows: `docker pull alexanderianblair/platypus-deps:main`. The final sentence reads: "for those who wish to build Platypus themselves."

<https://aurora-multiphysics.github.io/platypus/>

Diffusion Example

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot (\alpha \vec{\nabla} T) = 0$$



```
[Mesh]
  type = MFEMMesh
  file = gold/mug.e
[]

[Problem]
  type = MFEMProblem
[]

[FESpaces]
[H1FESpace]
  type = MFEMFESpace
  fec_type = H1
  fec_order = FIRST
[]
[]

[Variables]
[diffused]
  type = MFEMVariable
  fespace = H1FESpace
[]
[]

[Materials]
[DiffusiveMaterial]
  type = MFEMGenericConstantMaterial
  prop_names = diffusivity
  prop_values = 1.0
[]
[]

[Kernels]
[diff]
  type = MFEMDiffusionKernel
  variable = diffused
  coefficient = diffusivity
[]
[]

[Coefficients]
[TopValue]
  type = MFEMConstantCoefficient
  value = 0.0
[]
[BottomValue]
  type = MFEMConstantCoefficient
  value = 1.0
[]

[BCs]
[MugBottom]
  type = MFEMScalarDirichletBC
  variable = diffused
  boundary = 1
  coefficient = BottomValue
[]
[MugTop]
  type = MFEMScalarDirichletBC
  variable = diffused
  boundary = 2
  coefficient = TopValue
[]

[Preconditioner]
[BoomerAMG]
  type = MFEMHyprBoomerAMG
[]
[]

[Solver]
  type = MFEMHyprGMRES
  preconditioner = BoomerAMG
  l_tol = 1e-16
  l_max_its = 1000
[]

[Executioner]
  type = MFEMSteady
  device = cpu
  assembly_level = legacy
[]

[Outputs]
[ParaViewDataCollection]
  type = MFEMParaViewDataCollection
  file_base = OutputData/MFEM/Diffusion
  vtk_format = ASCII
  execute_on = 'final'
[]
[]
```

Diffusion Example – Mesh & FE Variables

Platypus

```
[Mesh]
  type = MFEMMesh
  file = gold/mug.e
[]

[Problem]
  type = MFEMProblem
[]

[FESpaces]
  [H1FESpace]
    type = MFEMFESpace
    fec_type = H1
    fec_order = FIRST
  []
[]

[Variables]
  [diffused]
    type = MFEMVariable
    fespace = H1FESpace
  []
[]
```

Native MOOSE

```
[Mesh]
  type = FileMesh
  file = gold/mug.e
[]

[Problem]
  type = FEProblem
[]

[Variables]
  [diffused]
    order = FIRST
    family = LAGRANGE
  []
[]
```

- **MFEMProblem** Problem type used to set up and solve FE problem using MFEM rather than libMesh
- **MFEMVariable** sets up an `mfem::GridFunction`; allows use of MFEM's FE types and orders.

Diffusion Example – Materials & Kernels

Platypus

```
[Materials]
  [DiffusiveMaterial]
    type = MFEMGenericConstantMaterial
    prop_names = diffusivity
    prop_values = 1.0
  []
[]

[Kernels]
  [diff]
    type = MFEMDiffusionKernel
    variable = diffused
    coefficient = diffusivity
  []
[]
```

Native MOOSE

```
[Materials]
  [DiffusiveMaterial]
    type = GenericConstantMaterial
    prop_names = diffusivity
    prop_values = 1.0
  []
[]

[Kernels]
  [diff]
    type = MatDiffusion
    variable = diffused
    diffusivity = diffusivity
  []
[]
```

- **MFEMMaterial** types add (piecewise) coefficients to the problem on mesh subdomains, representing material properties.
- **MFEMKernels** add domain integrators to the weak form.

Diffusion Example – Boundary Conditions

Platypus

```
[Coefficients]
[TopValue]
  type = MFEMConstantCoefficient
  value = 0.0
[]
[BottomValue]
  type = MFEMConstantCoefficient
  value = 1.0
[]
[]

[BCs]
[MugBottom]
  type = MFEMScalarDirichletBC
  variable = diffused
  boundary = 1
  coefficient = BottomValue
[]
[MugTop]
  type = MFEMScalarDirichletBC
  variable = diffused
  boundary = 2
  coefficient = TopValue
[]
[]
```

Native MOOSE

```
[BCs]
[MugBottom]
  type = DirichletBC
  variable = diffused
  boundary = 1
  value = 1.0
[]
[MugTop]
  type = DirichletBC
  variable = diffused
  boundary = 2
  value = 0.0
[]
[]
```

- **MFEMCoefficients** can also be added directly as needed
- **MFEMBoundaryConditions** either add boundary integrators to the weak form (for integrated BCs) or set essential BCs.

Diffusion Example – Solver & Outputs

Platypus

```
[Preconditioner]
[BoomerAMG]
  type = MFEMHypreBoomerAMG
[]

[Solver]
  type = MFEMHypreGMRES
  preconditioner = BoomerAMG
  l_tol = 1e-16
  l_max_its = 1000
[]

[Executioner]
  type = MFEMSteady
  device = cpu
  assembly_level = legacy
[]

[Outputs]
[ParaViewDataCollection]
  type = MFEMParaViewDataCollection
  file_base = OutputData/MFEM/Diffusion
  vtk_format = ASCII
  execute_on = 'final'
[]
```

Native MOOSE

```
[Executioner]
  type = Steady
  solve_type = 'LINEAR'
  petsc_options_iname = '-ksp_type -pc_type -pc_hypre_type'
  petsc_options_value = 'gmres hypre boomeramg'
[]

[Outputs]
[ExodusOutput]
  type = Exodus
  file_base = OutputData/MOOSE/Diffusion
  execute_on = 'final'
[]
```

- Available MFEM solvers – including from Hypre – can be set up and used directly
- Execution on CPU/GPU and MFEM assembly level controlled by the **Executioner**
- File export of results to `mfem::DataCollections` supported using MOOSE's Outputs system.

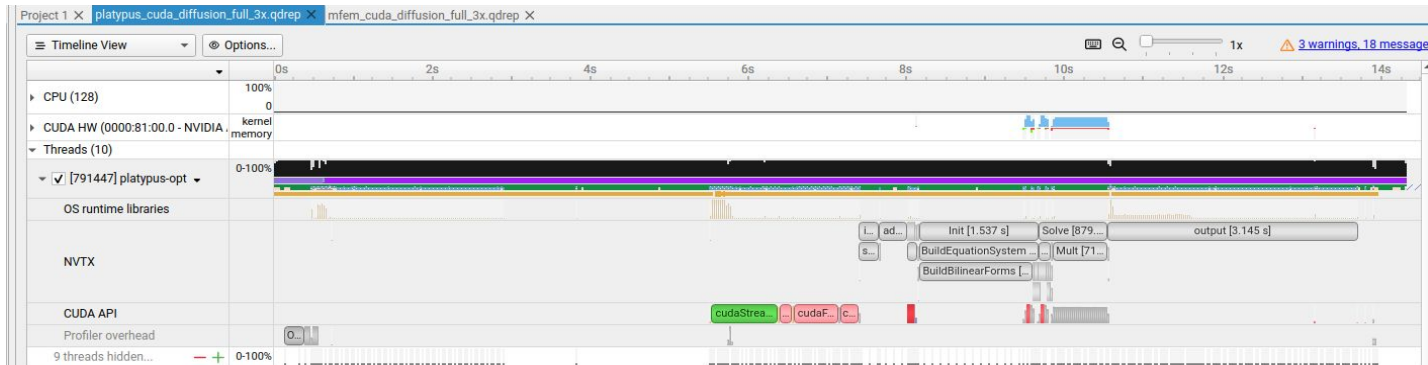
Diffusion Example – GPU Execution

```
[Executioner]  
type = MFEMSteady  
device = cuda  
assembly_level = full  
[]
```

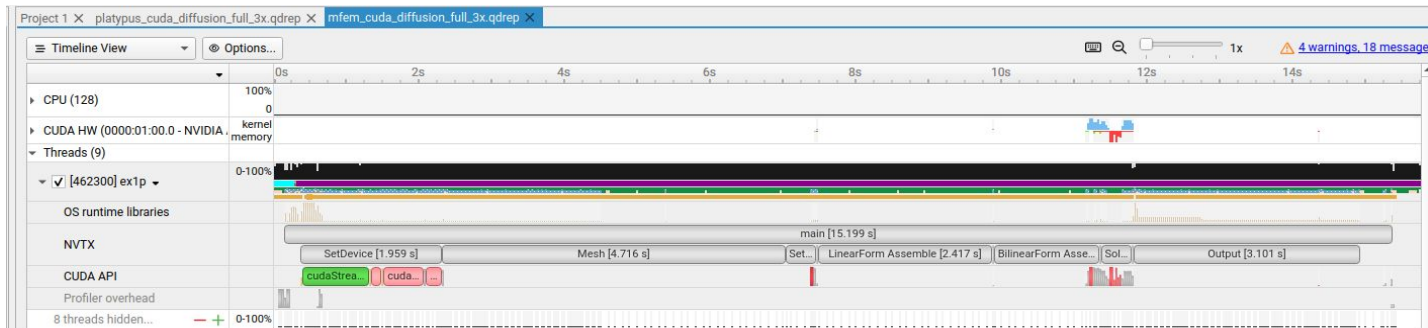
- Support for execution on GPU currently only for single variable steady state problems.
- Minimal overhead compared to native MFEM runs

1,349,545 DoFs

Platypus



MFEM Example 1



Definite Maxwell Example

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} + \vec{E} = \vec{f}$$

```
# Definite Maxwell problem solved with Nedelec elements of the first kind
# based on MFEM Example 3.

[Mesh]
  type = MFEMMesh
  file = gold/small_fichera.mesh
[]

[Problem]
  type = MFEMProblem
[]

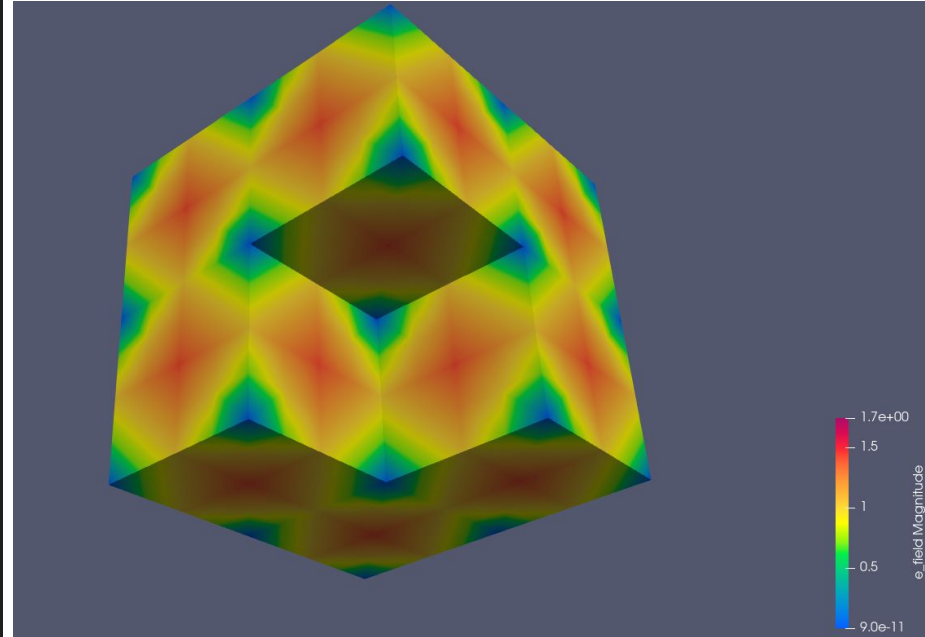
[FESpaces]
  [HCurlFESpace]
    type = MFEMFESpace
    fec_type = ND
    fec_order = FIRST
  []
[]

[Variables]
  [e_field]
    type = MFEMVariable
    fespace = HCurlFESpace
  []
[]

[Preconditioner]
  [ams]
    type = MFEMHypreAMS
    fespace = HCurlFESpace
  []
[]

[Solver]
  type = MFEMHypreGMRES
  preconditioner = ams
  l_tol = 1e-6
[]

[Executioner]
  type = MFEMSteady
  device = cpu
[]
```



Transient Example – Heat Conduction

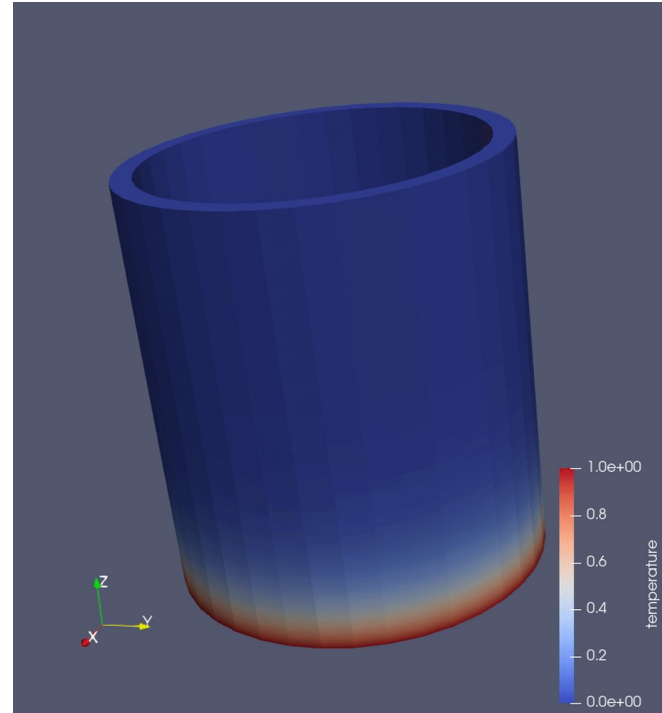
$$\rho c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} - \vec{\nabla} \cdot (k \vec{\nabla} T) = 0$$

```
[Materials]
[Substance]
  type = MFEMGenericConstantMaterial
  prop_names = 'thermal_conductivity volumetric_heat_capacity'
  prop_values = '1.0 1.0'
[]
[]

[Coefficients]
[TopValue]
  type = MFEMFunctionCoefficient
  function = value_top
[]
[BottomValue]
  type = MFEMFunctionCoefficient
  function = value_bottom
[]
[]

[Kernels]
[diff]
  type = MFEMDiffusionKernel
  variable = temperature
  coefficient = thermal_conductivity
[]
[dT_dt]
  type = MFEMTimeDerivativeMassKernel
  variable = temperature
  coefficient = volumetric_heat_capacity
[]
[]
```

```
[Executioner]
  type = MFEMTransient
  device = cpu
  dt = 0.25
  start_time = 0.0
  end_time = 1.0
[]
```



Upcoming – Mesh Updates

```
[Mesh]
  type = MFEMMesh
  file = gold/beam-tet.mesh
  uniform_refine = 2
  displacement = "displacement"
[]
```

```
[Problem]
  type = MFEMProblem
[]
```

```
[FESpaces]
[H1FESpace]
  type = MFEMFESpace
  fec_type = H1
  fec_order = FIRST
  vdim = 3
[]
```

```
[Variables]
[displacement]
  type = MFEMVariable
  fespace = H1FESpace
[]
```

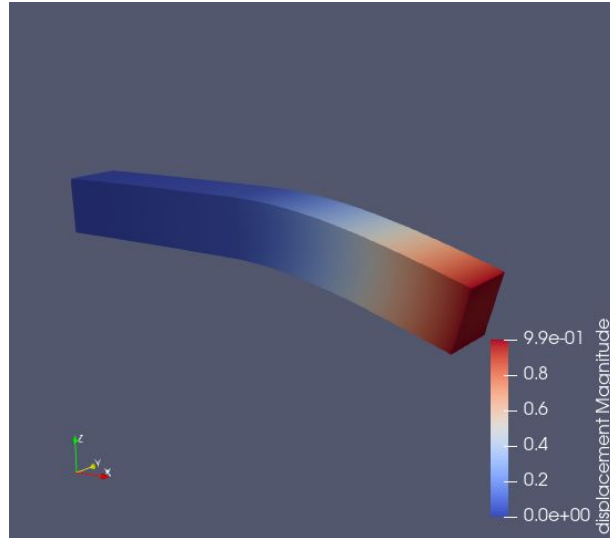
```
[Materials]
[Rigidium]
  type = MFEMGenericConstantMaterial
  prop_names = 'lambda mu'
  prop_values = '50.0 50.0'
  block = 1
[]
[Bendium]
  type = MFEMGenericConstantMaterial
  prop_names = 'lambda mu'
  prop_values = '1.0 1.0'
  block = 2
[]
```

```
[Kernels]
[diff]
  type = MFEMLinearElasticityKernel
  variable = displacement
  lambda = lambda
  mu = mu
[]
```

You, 6 minutes ago • Uncommitted cha

```
[VectorCoefficients]
[FixedValue]
  type = MFEMVectorConstantCoefficient
  value_x = 0.0
  value_y = 0.0
  value_z = 0.0
[]
[PullDownValue]
  type = MFEMVectorConstantCoefficient
  value_x = 0.0
  value_y = 0.0
  value_z = -0.01
[]
```

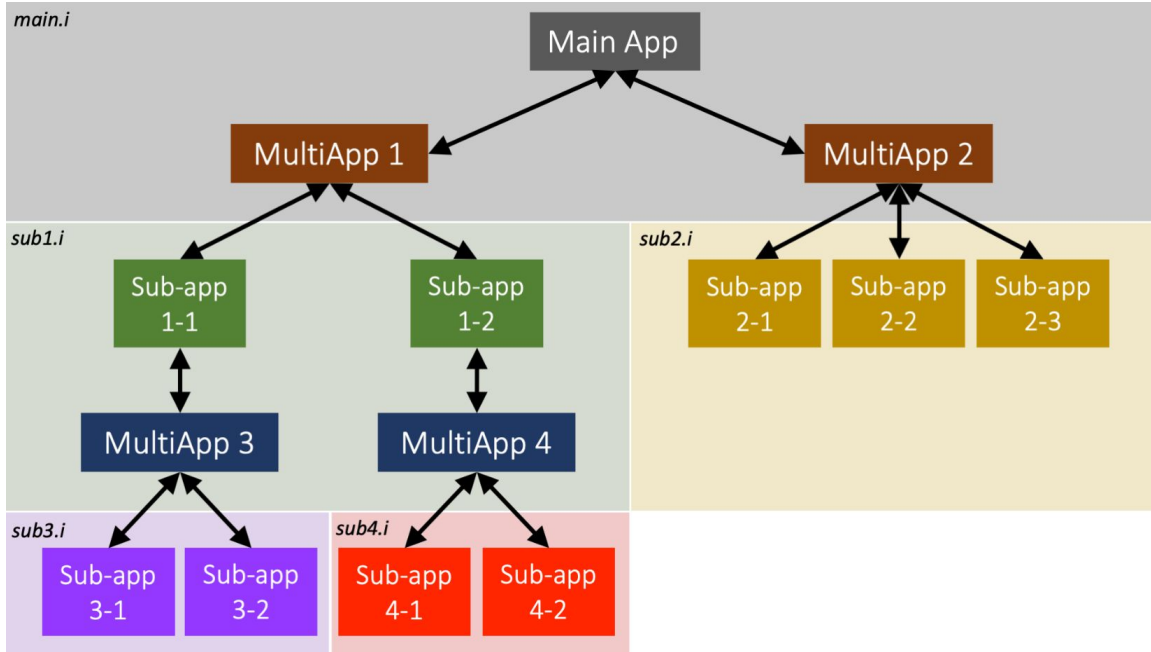
```
[BCs]
[dirichlet]
  type = MFEMVectorDirichletBC
  variable = displacement
  boundary = '1'
  vector_coefficient = FixedValue
[]
[pull_down]
  type = MFEMVectorBoundaryIntegratedBC
  variable = displacement
  boundary = '2'
  vector_coefficient = PullDownValue
[]
```



MFEM Example 2 run using Platypus

- Support for mesh updates coming soon!
- Intended for AMR and transient mechanical problems

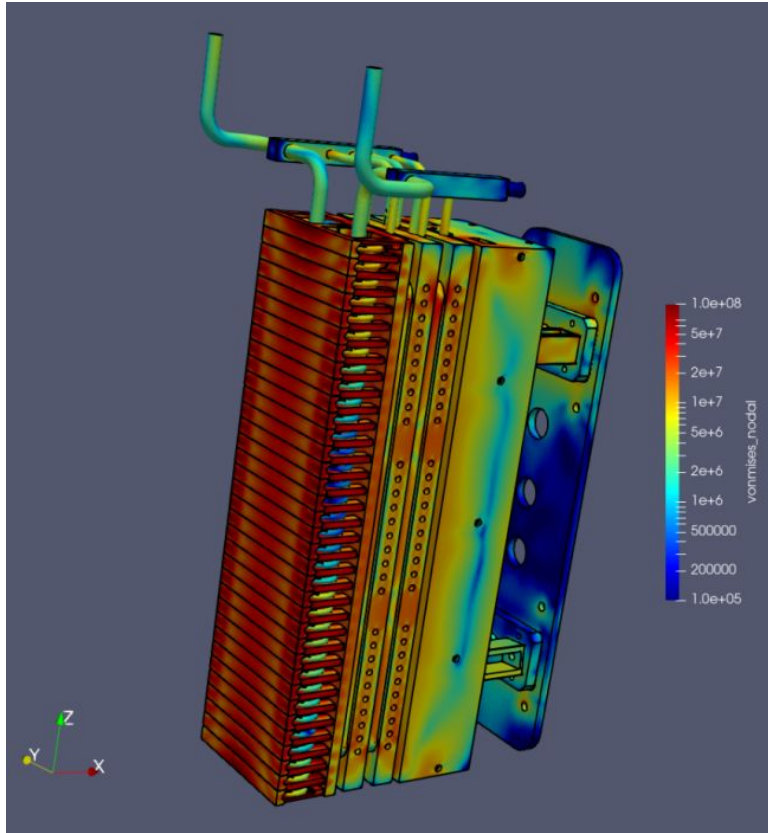
Upcoming – MOOSE/MFEM Transfers



<https://mooseframework.inl.gov/syntax/MultiApps/>

- MOOSE Transfers with MFEM problems in Platypus needed to facilitate interoperability with existing MOOSE modules.
- Handles the transfer of data from variables in one running MOOSE sub-app to another.
- libMesh to MFEM node orderings for GridFunctions/libMesh variables known from **Apollo/Hephaestus**.

Upcoming – Nonlinear Problems



Von Mises Stresses on CHIMERA CSUT, A. Davis

- Extension of Platypus's EquationSystem to support `mfem::NonLinearForm` contributions to the weak form
- Exploration of using of Enzyme for AD is also planned

Summary

- We need new scalable tools to enable engineers to carry out actionable multiphysics simulations of reactor components in the fusion environment, to qualify and de-risk designs, where experimental data will be scant.
- We are developing **Platypus** to support this, enabling the solution of large-scale FE problems on CPU or GPU in the MOOSE FE framework using MFEM as the underlying FE backend.
- Initial support for solving single-variable steady or transient linear problems has been added – first formal release coming soon!

This work has been funded by the Fusion Futures Programme. As announced by the UK Government in October 2023, Fusion Futures aims to provide holistic support for the development of the fusion sector.