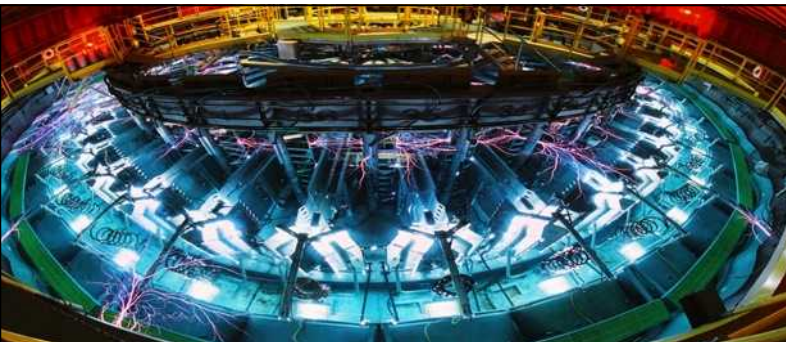


*Exceptional service in the national interest*



## Programming Models for Parallel Architectures and Requirements for Pre-Exascale

S.D. Hammond, Center for Computing Research  
Scalable Computer Architectures  
Sandia National Laboratories, NM  
[sdhammo@sandia.gov](mailto:sdhammo@sandia.gov)



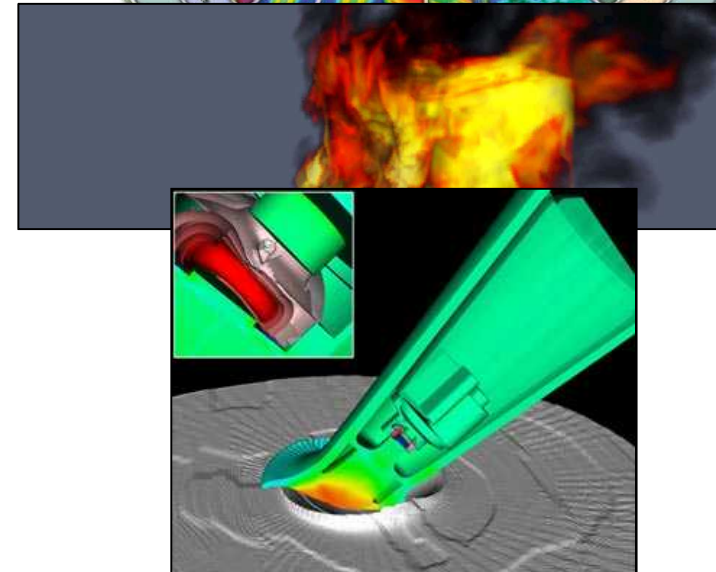
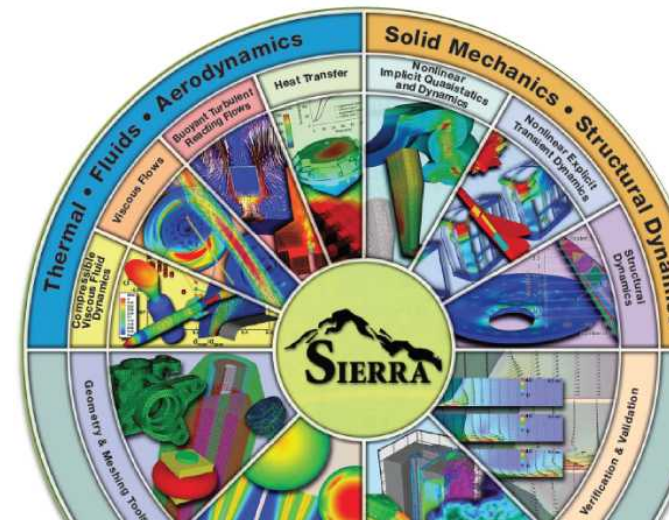
Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000.

# Disclaimer

- This is just *an* opinion from Sandia
- Does **not** represent any official position from Sandia or our research group
- But .. we do need a serious conversation about how to make the ecosystem get to where we need it to be
- Part of longer term conversation with/in the community
  - Help be part of it ..

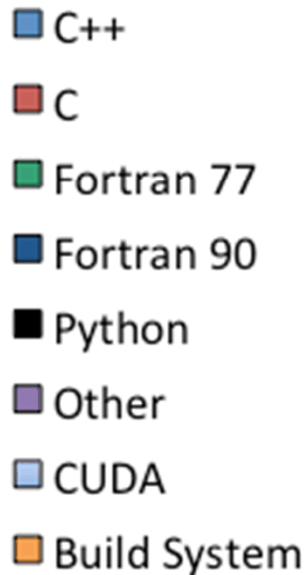
# Mini-Overview of Sandia

- National Laboratory with sites in across the country (DOE, DoD, Industry etc)
- Part of the NNSA Trilab complex associated with ensuring safety of the nations nuclear arsenal (Sandia focused on engineering)
- We do *much* more
  - Leadership in wide range of engineering
  - Supports complex data analytics research
  - Renewable energy
  - Partnerships with industry
  - Systems for space/satellites/hostiles
  - Strong mathematics research
  - Quantum computing and novel devices
- **All supported by broad HPC requirements**



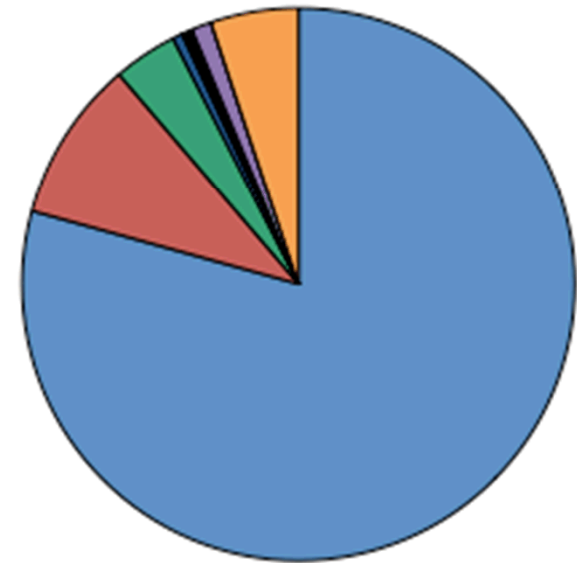
# What is the Problem?

Several Sandia Engineering Applications



~11.6M **Application** Lines of Code  
(Several Applications, Much Shared)  
>50 Third Party Libraries

Sandia Mathematics / Solvers TPL



~4.2M Lines of Code  
(Very Large Proportion Shared)

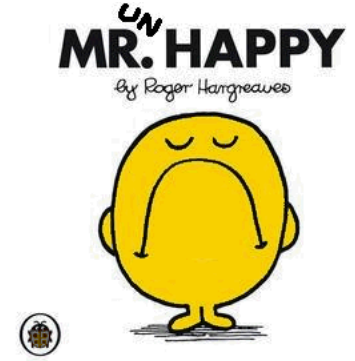
This is just a **small** part of our application portfolio

<https://github.com/trilinos/trilinos>

This is lines of code, does not include comments, white space, documentation etc, no meshing, viz, analysis *etc*



# So What Really is the Problem?



- Lots of codes and applications
  - Think meshing, viz, analysis, simulation etc etc
- These codes are **big**
  - Lots of third party libraries – these are great until just one doesn't run on your platform and then you're in trouble with the users
- These codes are **trusted** by our user community, by our sponsors, our customers (the people who *actually* pay the bills)
- Scale and age are a big problem
  - Legacy code sometimes means legacy algorithms and legacy language standards

# So What are We Doing?

- Searching for the Holy Grail

- ✓ Portable
  - ✓ Performant
  - ✓ Scalable
  - ✓ Open Standard
  - ✓ Easy to use
  - ✓ Even easier to Debug
  - ✓ Easier to Profile
- 
- Many things are promised but true success is the hearts and minds of programmers

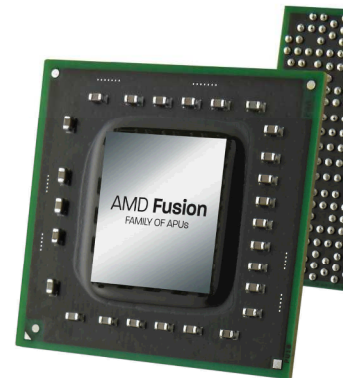
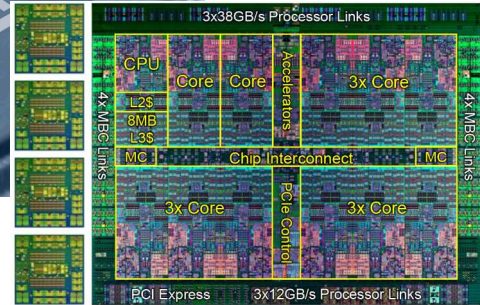
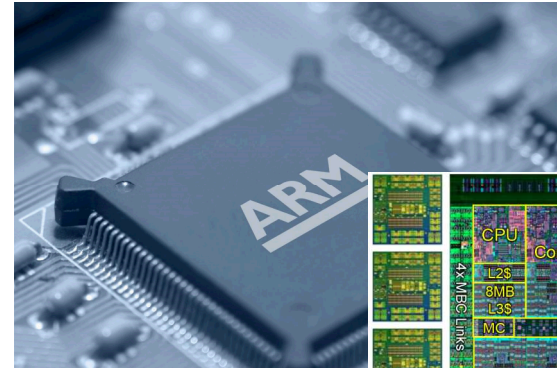


# What Are We Doing?

- Our main answer is to use Kokkos
- C++ Meta Templated Library
- Prototype for how we think future C++ may look
- Incredibly powerful
- Abstracts out backends (CPU, Phi, GPU)
- Abstracts out multiple memory spaces
- <http://www.github.com/kokkos>
- Carter Edwards and Christian Trott at Sandia
- RAJA from LLNL (Jeff Keasler and Rich Hornung)

SC Poster: **C++ ABSTRACTION LAYERS – PERFORMANCE, PORTABILITY AND PRODUCTIVITY**

<http://prod.sandia.gov/techlib/access-control.cgi/2015/157886.pdf>



# What Else Are You Thinking?

- **Directives – so annoying to be stuck in the middle of multiple standards**
  - Where is the multi-level memory support?
  - Multiple devices?
  - Why am I writing more directives than code!?
  - Still .. I think the route for many in the community (Fortran for sure)
- **DSLs – just don't seem to be broad enough for what we need**
  - Multi-physics demands that all this fits together
  - How do I debug multiple DSLs
  - Why don't you give up *your* DSL and use mine?
- **Asynchronous Many Tasks – just starting to become serious**
  - Problem is no standard runtime, not even an agreement on what is needed?  
Same thing as directives all over again
  - Often a “one-application” programming model



# If I could have just one thing....

- I'd wish for what we all want ..
- World Peace
- Harmony
- And .. a Long Life



# If I could have just one thing...

- **World Peace – Standardization (Abstraction?)**
  - To stop being stuck in the middle of wars over standards where I am forced to pick a side by tools, compilers, *etc*
  - What I *really* want is one code and to select the best hardware
  - Yes, we need some of this but we also need to understand that this *limits* what we can choose to do and I think it limits vendors ability to sell
- **Harmony - Interoperability**
  - To have programming models work together on the same hardware
  - No .. You don't own *all* the hardware, you just own this bit *now*
  - Critical for large applications which needs libraries and interoperability
- **A Long Life – Longevity (Standards? Support? Future Proof?)**
  - To have standards which are going to work going forward
  - To be truly be worth the considerable investment and give me a good return on my time



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National  
Laboratories**

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<http://www.github.com/kokkos>