SPIS advancement proposal: Coupling to other open-source solvers, automation, cloud deployment

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- About PlasmaSolve
- Why we want to use SPIS
- Complementary competence
  - Rarefied gas flow and sputtering physics
  - Automation and cloud deployment
- Project idea and conclusions

#### About PlasmaSolve



- Company objective: Develop "digital twin" simulation tools for technologies that leverage plasma. Our tools aim to be industry-grade in terms of speed and quantitative accuracy
- Clearly defined market segments: (1) plasma coating, (2) laboratory ion sources, (3) EP and space plasma?
- Agile and agnostic approach: Leveraging open-source tools and cloud computing

- Technology start-up based in Brno, CZ
- Started 4 yrs ago
- 5 people + 3 junior staff
- Bootstrapping startup = no outside investments



#### Our "space heritage" – The PlasmaJetPack



- International Horizon 2020 project
- Development of pulsed vacuum-arc thruster electric propulsion
- Aim to increase thrust by magnetic field
- Electric propulsion with solid propellant sacrificial cathode
- IOD/IOV scheduled for 2021







### Our "space heritage" – SpaceLabEU ABEP

- Czech initiative for an air-breathing electric propulsion system
- Coordinated by SpaceLabEU SE and VZLU (Czech Aerospace Research Institute)
- Small but consistent private funding
- Achievements:
  - Breadboard model of high-efficiency ECR ion source
  - Plasma operation at 10 mPa and 4 watts
  - Implementation and validation of global plasma model for ECR in air
  - DSMC simulation of intake and rarefied flow at VLEO



**Plasma**Solve

Simulation at the service of coating industry

# PlasmaSolve









#### Why we want to use SPIS?







- Mostly because of the ABEP project
  - Interaction of plume with ABEP-powered spacecraft
  - Charging of ABEP-powered spacecraft
  - Extraction grids simulation
- Plus we like the open-source feeling of the community  $\ensuremath{\mathfrak{O}}$ .

# Rarefield flow and sputtering physics



- DSMC simulations for plasma coating industry
- Internal fork on dsmcFoam and dsmcFoamPlus solvers (to be published online once the documentation is better)







Open source finite element software for multiphysical problems







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- Our additions:
  - 1. Advanced collision models and validation
  - 2. Advanced boundary conditions (particle injection, reactive BC)
  - 3. Dynamic load balancing
  - 4. Coupling layer to external solvers
  - 5. Surface physics with TRI(3)DYN



Density distribution for species of different weight – tungsten, carbon and boron.



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E and B fields calculated by Elmer, lagrangian particle tracing in dsmcFoamPlus (non-conformal meshes, iterative coupling)

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Angluar distribution of sputtered atoms in longitudal direction

**Plasma**Solve

Angularly-resolved sputtering yields calculated by TRIDYN



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Material damage simulated by TRI(3)DYN for various ion incidence angles

## Cloud deployment and automation of simulations

### Cloud deployment of simulations



- PlasmaSolve does not have any computational HW in house, all simulations are run in the cloud.
- We have developed a software layer "p3s" that takes care of deploying *any simulation in the cloud*.
- Now we are working on an upgraded and more general version "p4s"

... any simulation?









... as long as you can wrap it in a docker!



Representative example, not an existing pipeline

#### Conclusions



- We would like to create a coupling layer beween SPIS and OpenFOAM, specifically the DSMC solver
- Two-way coupling:
  - SPIS boundary data/volume data loaded to OF
  - OF BC or volume data loaded to SPIS
- Added value:
  - Exact treatment of non-uniform gas background at VLEO
  - Exposure of S/C to reactive species flow
  - Growth of oxides/nitrides at VLEO due to sputtering?
  - Sputtering and redeposition simulation based on SPIS-calculated ion flux
  - ...
- Co-funding of €30-50k needed to get to MVP. Considering ESA open calls, any other options?
- Alternatively, we can help with automated cloud deployment of SPIS simulations, should that interest anyone.

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