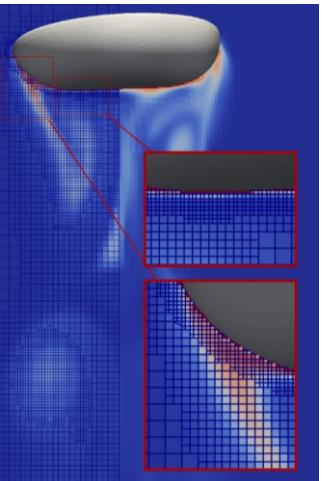


# Parallelization of CFD Simulations



Dr.-Ing. Holger Marschall

High Performance Computing for Simulation Science



# Learning Objectives of Today's Lecture

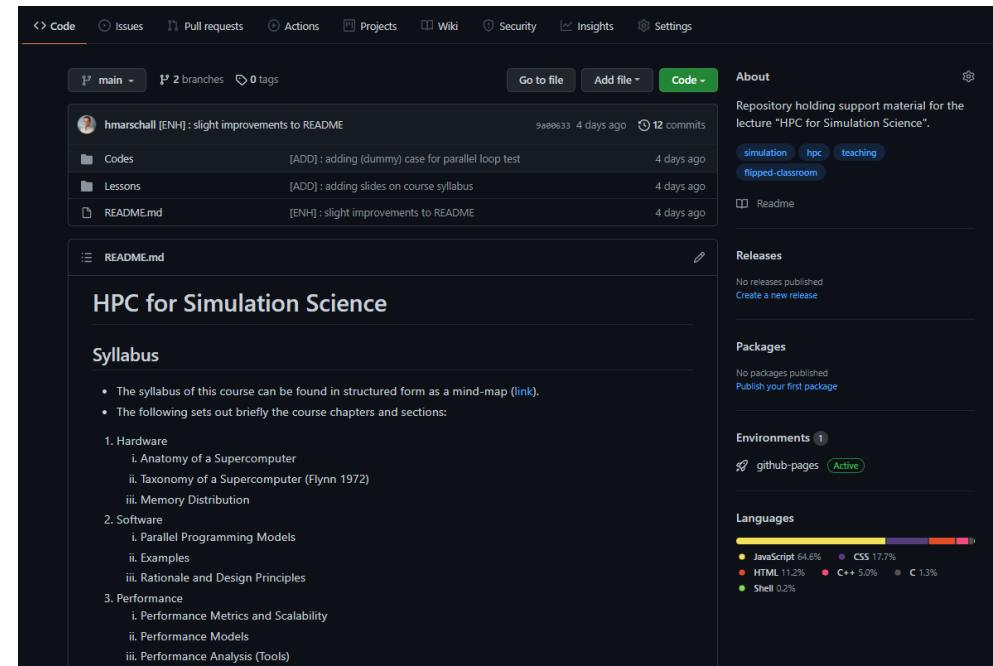
Students understand...

- the categorization and relevant combinations of **Parallel Computing Models**
- the conceptual differences between **Data and Task Parallelism**

Students are able to ...

- detail on the application of suitable **HPC techniques for Parallel Computational Fluid Dynamics**

**Please fill the Worksheet 2.2 during the lecture!**



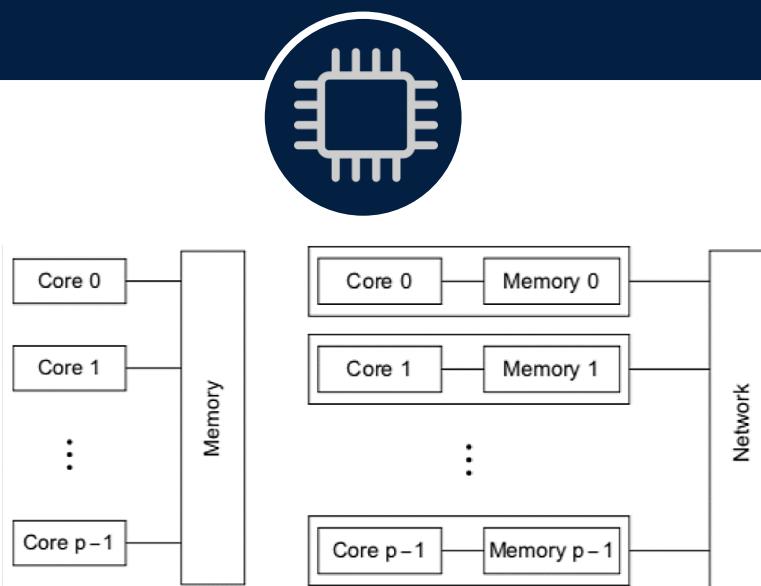
**Support material online!**  
<https://bit.ly/HPC4SimulationScience>

Assignments/  
Codes/  
Lessons/ ←  
README

# 01 Summary

## Parallel Programming Models

### Shared vs. Distributed Memory



#### Shared:

- all processors share same addressing
- access a pool of shared memory

#### Distributed:

- each processor with own local memory
- message passing for communication

### Explicit vs. Implicit



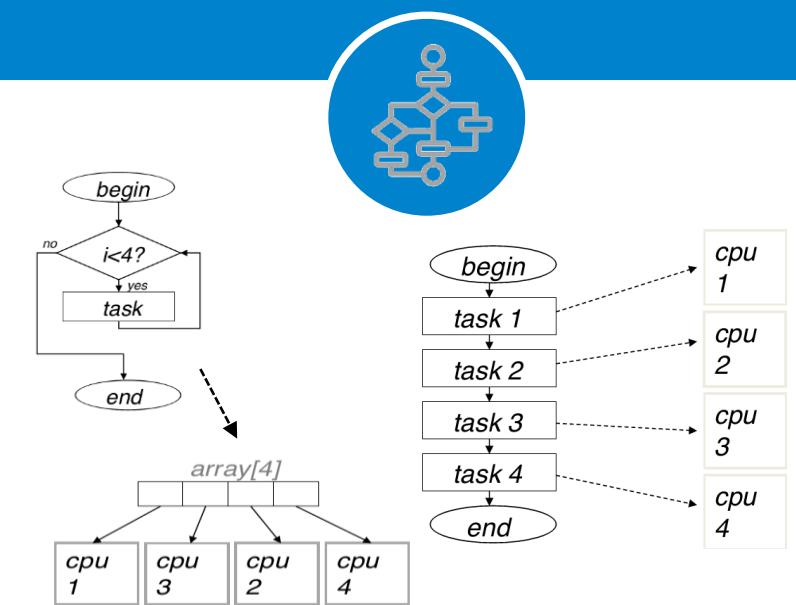
#### Explicit:

Explicitly expressed in the source code by the program developer

#### Implicit:

Implicitly (automatically) identified by the compiler

### Data vs. Task



#### Data:

- divide into sub-groups
- assign each piece to diff. processors

#### Task:

- divide algorithm into functional pieces
- execute each piece on separate processor

## 02 Distributed Memory Model with Explicit Data Parallelism

### Example: Parallelization in CFD Simulations

Parallel CFD simulations require the following essential steps:

- **Domain Decomposition**

*Task:* Decompose the computational domain into sub-domains, viz.



and the mesh/field data accordingly.

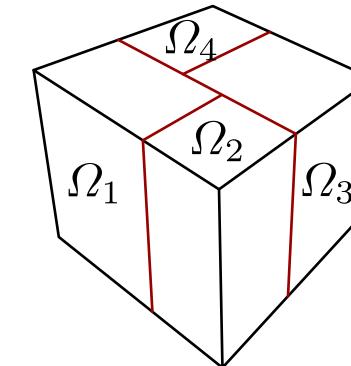
- **Parallel Communication**

*Task:* Devise a mechanism for data transfer across inter-process boundaries.



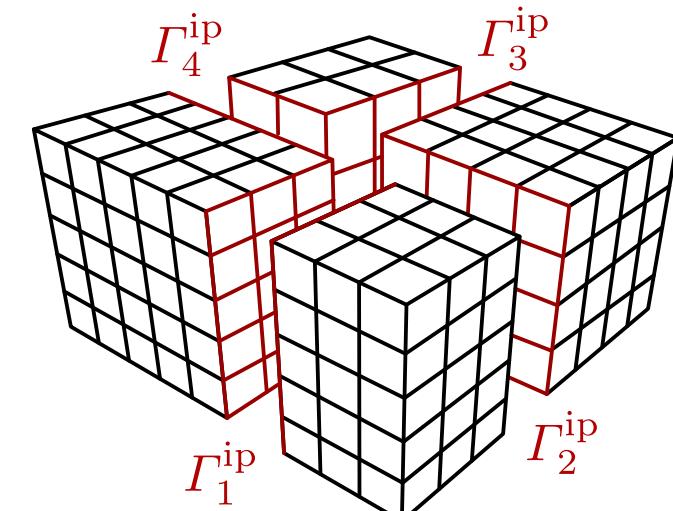
Ferziger, J. H., Perić, M., & Street, R. L. (2020). Computational Methods for Fluid Dynamics. Springer International Publishing.

Global computational domain



Domain decomposition

Computational subdomains



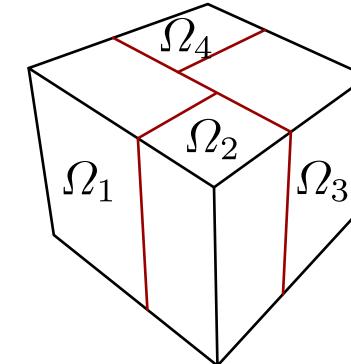
## Example: Parallelization in CFD Simulations

Parallel CFD simulations require the following essential ingredients:

### 1. Domain Decomposition Strategy

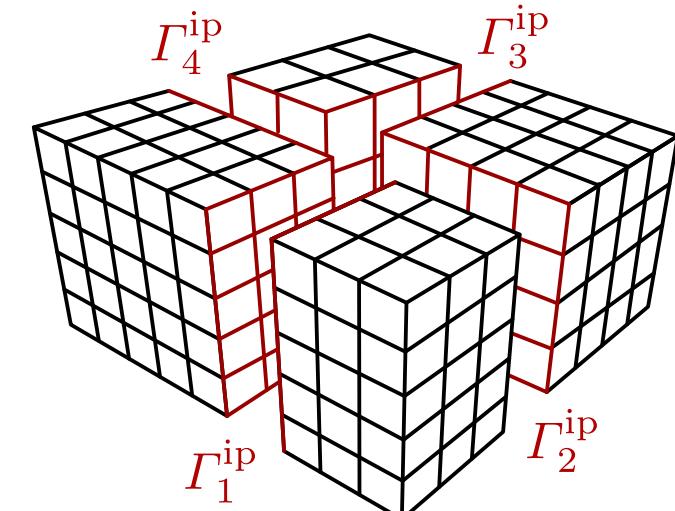
- each cell uniquely allocated to separate processor
- same set of operations performed over all mesh sub-domains
- each processor runs a copy of the solver on a separate part of the decomposed domain

Global computational domain



↓  
Domain decomposition

Computational subdomains



# 02 Distributed Memory Model with Explicit Data Parallelism

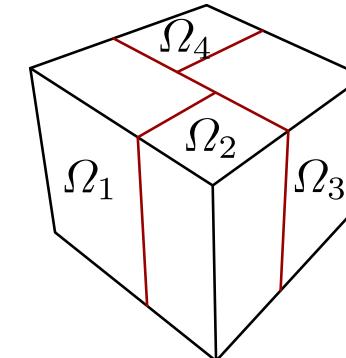
## Example: Parallelization in CFD Simulations

Parallel CFD simulations require the following essential ingredients:

### 2. Parallel Communication Device

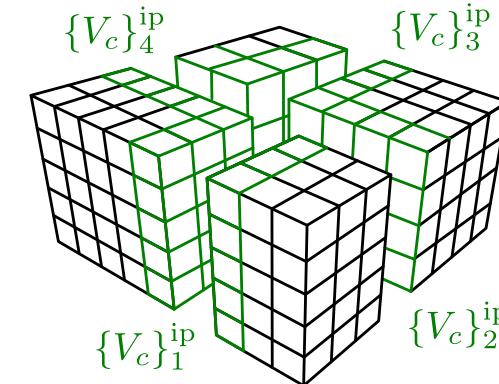
- *Halo Layer* approach  
cell data next to processor boundary is duplicated,  
explicitely updated via parallel communication calls
- *Zero Halo Layer* approach  
no duplication, inter-processor communication  
established as boundary condition

Global computational domain

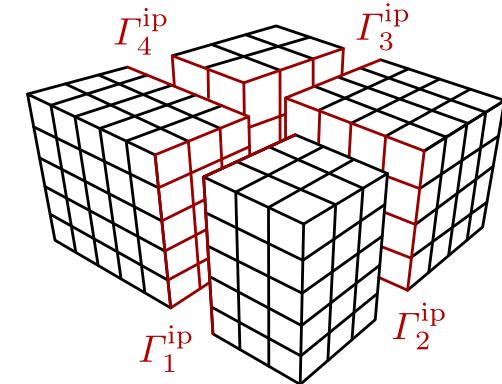


Domain decomposition

Computational subdomains



halo layer



zero halo layer

# 03 Parallelization in CFD Simulation

## Parallel Communication: Zero Halo Layer

### Finite Volume Matrix Assembly

Consider a generic transport equation:

$$\partial_t(\rho\phi) + \nabla \cdot (\rho\mathbf{u}\phi) - \nabla \cdot (\Gamma\nabla\phi) = S_\phi(\phi).$$

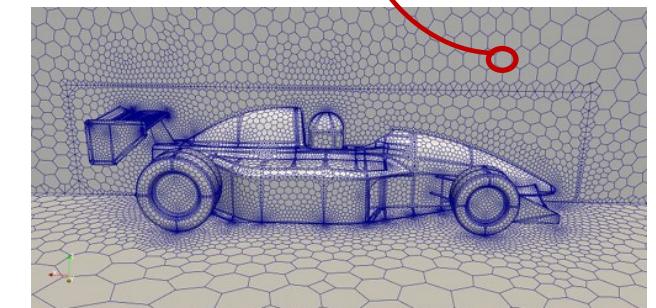
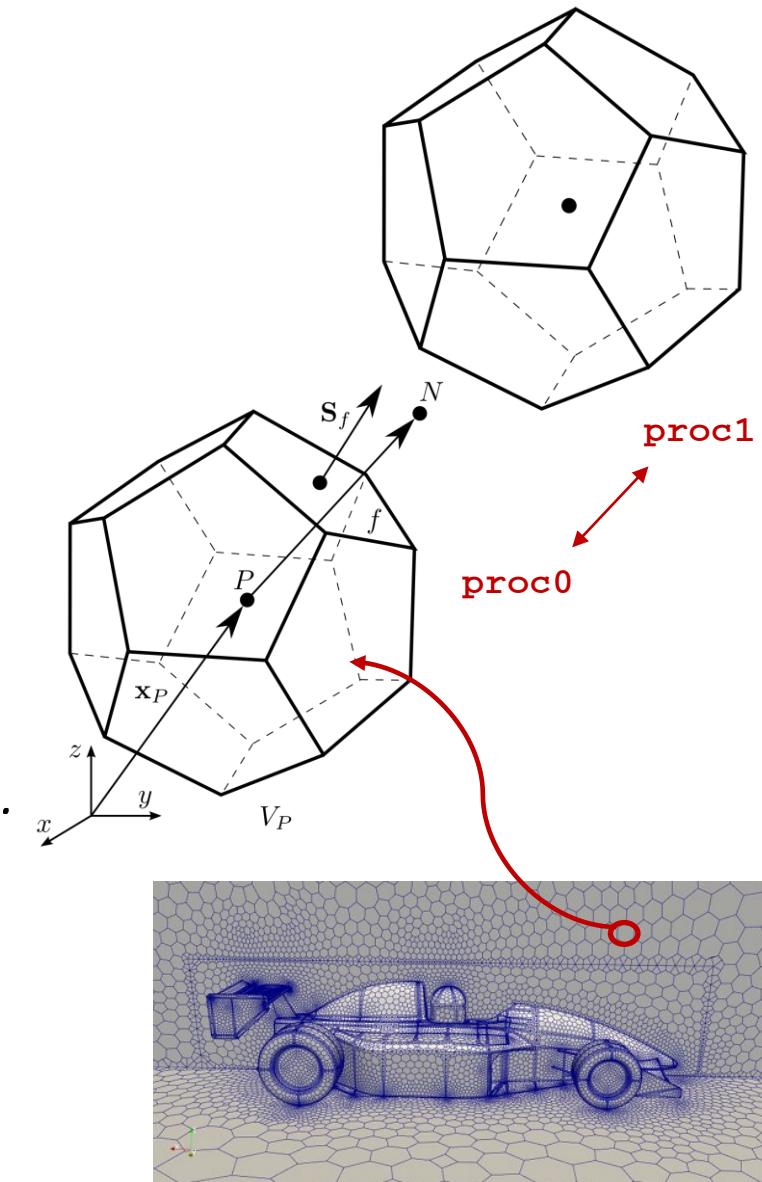


- Assembling the matrix coefficient for advection and diffusion terms requires *exchange of geometrical and interpolated field data*.

Example: off-diagonal matrix coefficient for diffusion operator:

$$a_N = \Gamma_f \frac{|\mathbf{S}_f|}{|\mathbf{d}_f|}$$

- Sources/sinks and temporal terms do not impair communication.



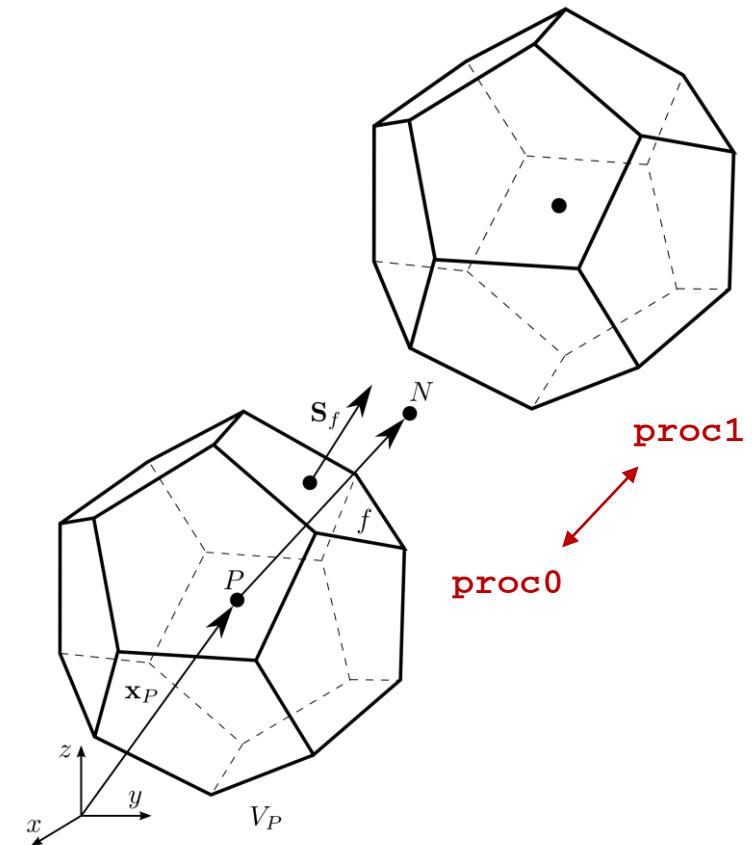
# 03 Parallelization in CFD Simulation

## Parallel Communication: Zero Halo Layer

- **Communication Pattern: simple pairwise**

1. Collect relevant cell values and geom. data from local subdomain and **send** to neighbour processes
2. **Receive** neighbour values and geom. data from neighbour processes
3. Interpolate values and use geom. data to **assemble** matrix coefficients

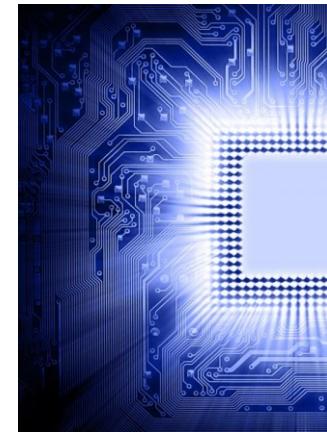
→ Message passing library: MPI (de facto standard)



MPI Forum, MPI: A Message-Passing Interface Standard Version 4.0, Technical Report 2021.

# Next Lecture & Plenum Events

- **Next Lecture:**  
Shared Memory Model with Explicit Task Parallelism  
(Force Decomposition in Parallel Molecular Dynamics)
- **Next Plenum:**  
Question & Answer, Peer Instruction  
(Exercise, see online support material)



## Thank You for Your Attention!

**Note your questions on the worksheet  
for the plenum event!**

