SINTEF

Transition to CAPE-OPEN COBIA in SINTEF

CO-LaN – CAPE-OPEN 2021 Annual Meeting

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Outline

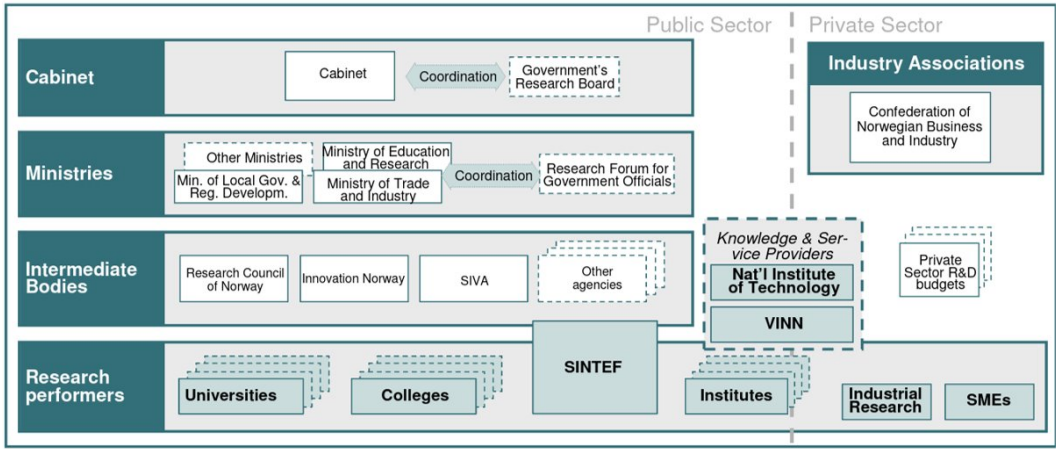
- Bio
- SINTEF: a not-for-profit research foundation
- Our history with CAPE-OPEN in NTNU and SINTEF
- COBIA to the rescue
- Our current work on COBIA adoption
- Some feedback and a wish-list

Bio

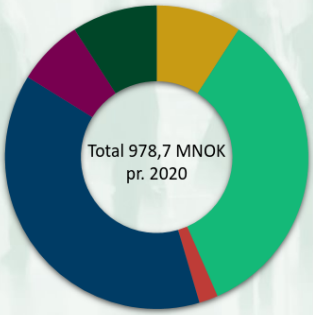
- PhD in chemical engineering modelling and thermodynamics
- Senior Research Scientist, with SINTEF since 2008
- 3 years in industry (Linux/IT-company) and medical informatics – long time ago
- 2021-2022 - Visiting research scholar at Renewable and Sustainable Energy Institute, CU Boulder, Colorado, USA

On the 36 bike highway towards Boulder, Colorado

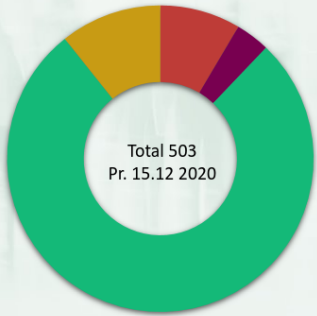
The Norwegian research scene



SINTEF Industry, not-for-profit RTO - some basic figures



- 9 % NFR basic grant
- 34 % NFR project support
- 2 % Public sector
- 38 % Industri og næringsliv
- 7 % International contracts
- 9 % International EU contracts

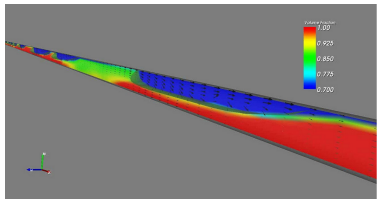


- 8,5 % Administration
- 3,6 % Technical personnel
- 77,1 % Researchers
- 10,7 % Ingenieers

35,4 % of our employees are from abroad,
and from 50 different nations.

Our history with CAPE-OPEN

- Exposure to CAPE-OPEN plans at early phase when at NTNU as MSc-student in late 1999. NTNU contribution to the Global CAPE-OPEN EU-project never materialized (or so I think).
- SINTEF became associate member in 2005 - largely dormant membership
- Leda-project and CO2SIM - CAPE-OPEN was considered but never adopted
- COBIA - now things become interesting. First attempts at implementing with COBIA in real projects started spring 2021



Why did we not adopt CAPE-OPEN before?

- COM and CORBA - complicated, code-intrusive, the Microsoft ecosystem and ATL
- Overly object-oriented focus
- Very much platform dependent

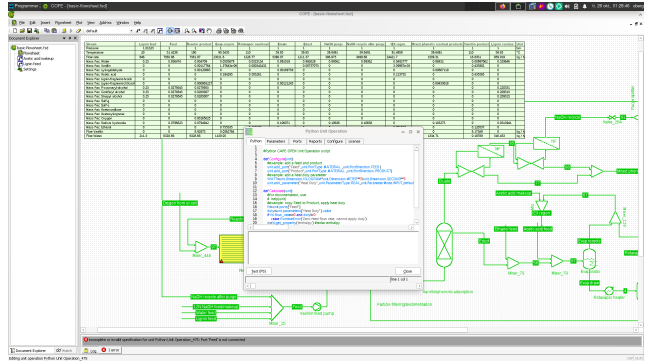
```c
/* Opaque pointer */
typedef struct F *F;

/* Functional interface */
void fluid_get_density(F *fluid, double T, double P, double n[], double
void fluid_get_enthalpy(F *fluid, double T, double P, double n[], double
void fluid_get_diffusivity(F *fluid, double T, double P, double n[], dou
void fluid_get_fugacity(F *fluid, double T, double P, double n[], double
/* (...) */
void fluid_free(F *fluid);
```

Simple functional interface in one of our simulators. Binary compatible, C-ABI.

What does COBIA solve for SINTEF

- We work increasingly with Linux - platform independence. Why not also Mac OS?
- COBIA removes need to deal with COM/CORBA
- We’re still compatible with COM and can deliver on the commercial simulator platforms on Windows



COFE and Amsterchem Python module running under Linux (with Wine)

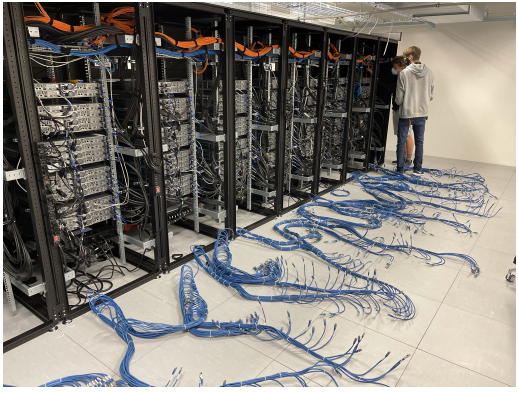
Current activities at SINTEF with COBIA

- Porting novel gas-liquid contactor to COBIA PMC (planning)
- Porting membrane models to COBIA PMC (prototype)
- Porting tailored thermodynamic models for gas absorption (planning)
- Building thermo-models and PMC's for complex biorefinery processes, lignin depolymerization, etc. (started)

The future for COBIA at SINTEF

We expect increasing use of

- server applications, not desktop
- Linux, not Windows – ideally platform independent code
- binary compatible units and stable interfaces



A section of the SINTEF OpenStack cluster

SINTEF

… and a wish-list

For this we'd like

- A C-ABI, binary compatible, easy to use runtime library – no need to implement all kinds of collections, it's standardized with runtime utility functions
- Language wrappers that all use the same C-ABI – avoid the heavy C++ dependence and recompile issues
- Prefer runtime functional interfaces over C++ code generation
- Reduce complexity, keep it simple and stable
- Simulator environments that become platform independent
- Focus on in-proc, leave the out-of-proc to the implementer in an in-proc unit

Acknowledgements

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