



the meta-data standard

- particle and mesh based data
- data format agnostic
- frictionless data exchange

www.openPMD.org

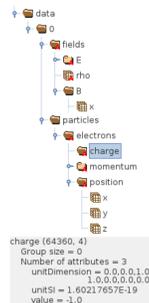
github.com/openPMD

## Self-Description is a Challenge

Scientific workflows need to *bridge* various applications and algorithms, ideally both **automatically-** and **human-readable**.

Our *glue*, using a **hierarchical file format** such as HDF5, ADIOS BP, XML, JSON, is not automatically **scientifically self-describing**.

*minimal set/kernel of meta information*



- meta-standard:** truly self-describe data (sinks & sources)
- open-access:** unified description (creation → publishing)
- workflows:** high-level integrations (apps, visualization markups)

## Key Concepts by Example

electric field  $\vec{E}(\vec{r})$ : **record** / ... / **meshes** / **E** / x, y, z **component**  
 .unitSI, .unitDimension,  
 .geometry, .time, ... **attribute**  
 electron charge  $Q_i$ : **group** / ... / **particles** / **electrons** /  $Q_i$   
 .unitSI, ...

A **strict grouping** but flexible naming of **records** allows easy parsing and traversal.

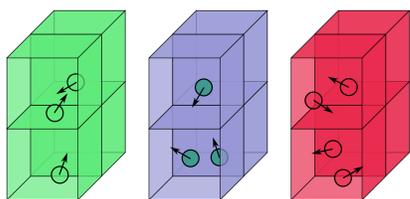
**Heavy data** is guaranteed to stay contiguous for performant I/O. Light-weight **annotations** are buffered and read/written at once.

Example for the structure of an openPMD annotated data set. From a user-point of view, **records** are the central objects to be described.

## Exascale Computing Needs Multi-PByte Scalable, Documented Data

User-space expressible:

- constant record components
- domain patches



Still full functionality of **underlying I/O libraries**:

- portability
- internal / external links
- strides, aggregations, multi-file
- compression [2], staging [3,4]

Integrated and long **staged I/O pipelines** will be essential for I/O in **Exascale HPC**. Meta-data must easily *propagate* and *be usable* at any stage and time.

