

TORSTEN HOEFLER, ROBERTO BELLI

Scientific Benchmarking of Parallel Computing Systems

Twelve ways to tell the masses when reporting performance results

Keynote at the EMBRACE Workshop at IPDPS'17, Orlando, FL



PA
SC 17

Platform for Advanced Scientific Computing
Conference

Lugano
Switzerland

26-28 June 2017

- CLIMATE & WEATHER
- SOLID EARTH
- LIFE SCIENCE
- CHEMISTRY & MATERIALS
- PHYSICS
- COMPUTER SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS
- ENGINEERING
- EMERGING DOMAINS

sighpc



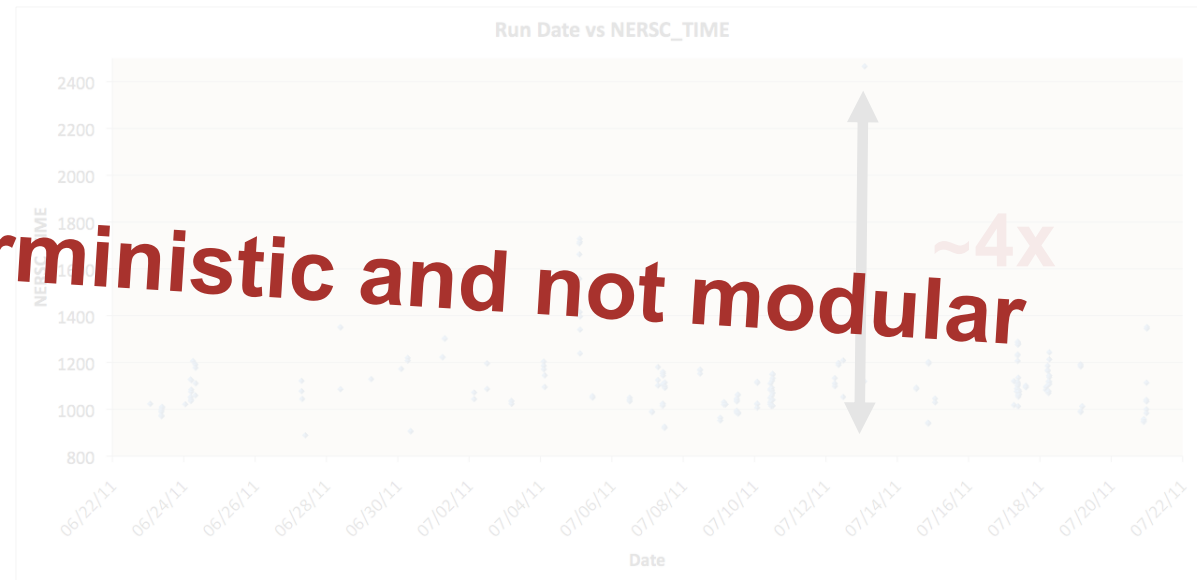
Disclaimer(s)

- **This is an experience talk (published at SC 15 – State of the Practice)!**
 - Explained in SC15 FAQ:
“generalizable insights as gained from experiences with particular HPC machines/operations/applications/benchmarks, overall analysis of the status quo of a particular metric of the entire field or historical reviews of the progress of the field.”
 - Don't expect novel insights
Given the papers I read, much of what I say may be new for many
- **My musings shall not offend anybody**
 - Everything is (now) anonymized
- **Criticism may be rhetorically exaggerated**
 - Watch for tropes!
- **This talk should be entertaining!**

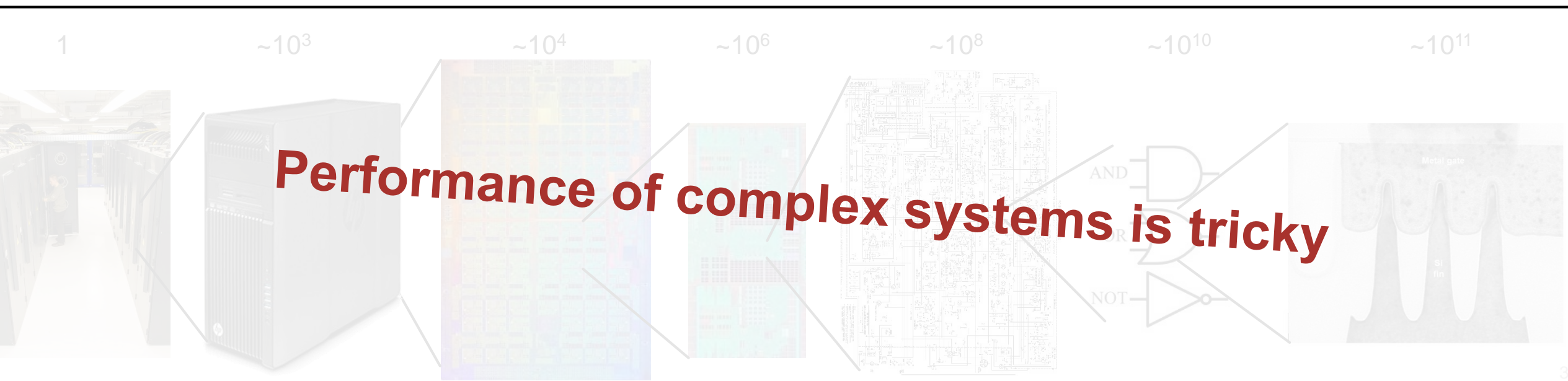


High Performance Computing

```
dgemm("N", "N", 50, 50, 50, 1.0, A, 50, B, 50, 1.0, C, 50);
```



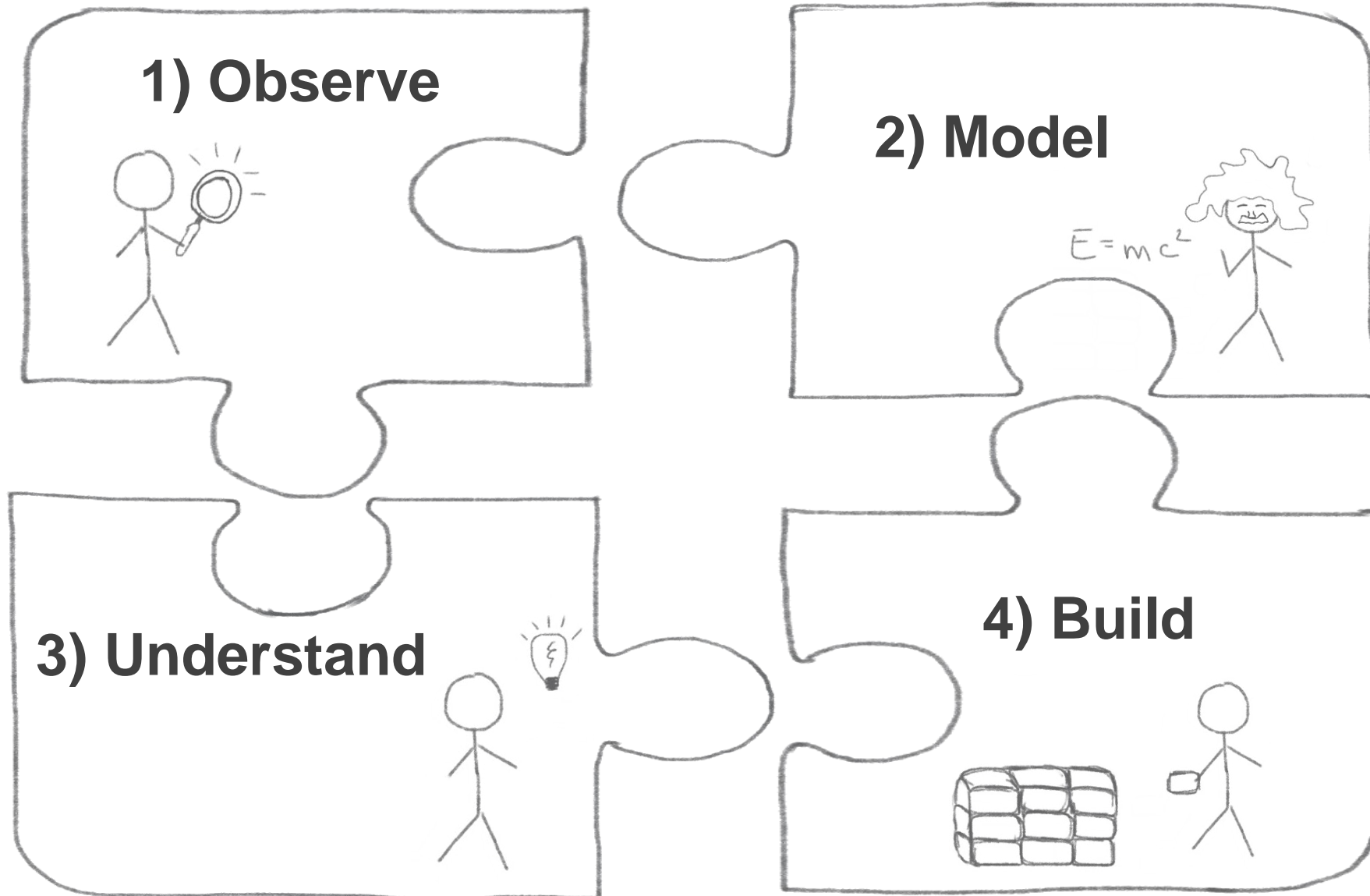
Performance is nondeterministic and not modular



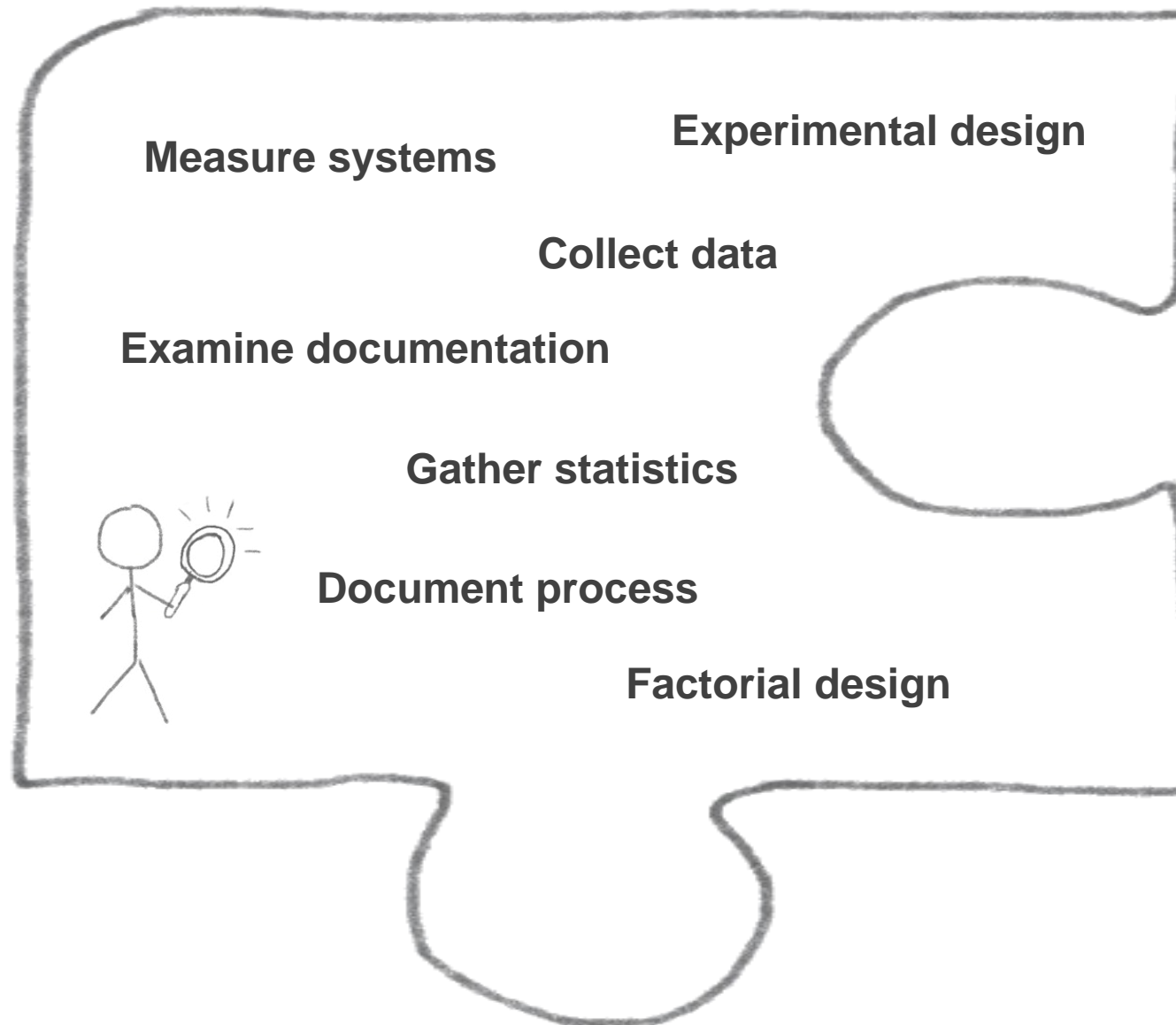
HPC is used to solve complex problems!

**Treat performance-centric programming
and system design like physical systems**

Scientific **Performance** Engineering

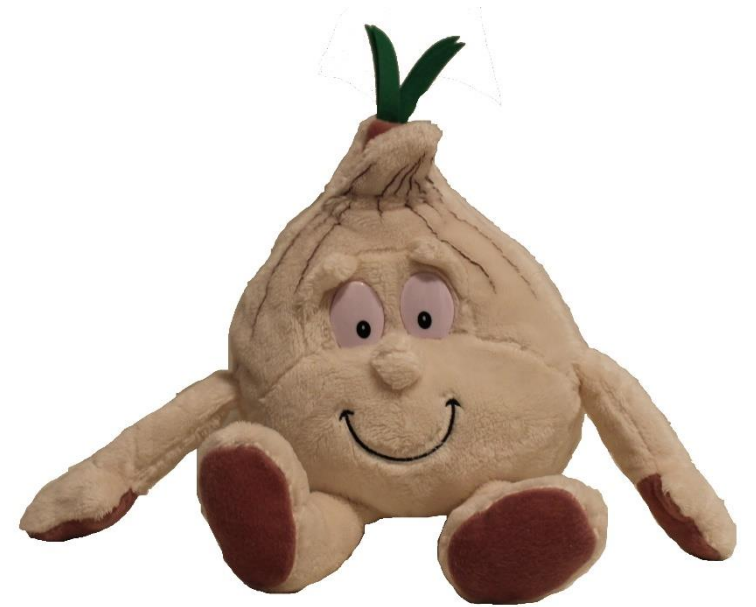


Part I: Observe



How does Garth measure and report performance?

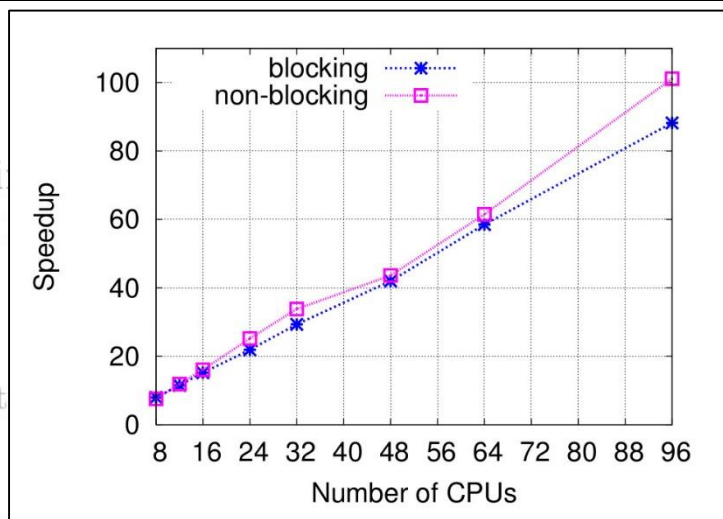
- We may be interested in High **Performance** Computing
 - We (want to) see it as a science – reproducing experiments is a major pillar of the scientific method
- When measuring **performance**, important questions are
 - “How many iterations do I have to run per measurement?”
 - “How many measurements should I run?”
 - “Once I have all data, how do I summarize it into a single number?”
 - “How do I compare the performance of different systems?”
 - “How do I measure time in a parallel system?”
 - ...
- How are they answered in the field today?
 - Let me start with a little anecdote ... a reaction to this paper ☺



Opti

er with

Torst

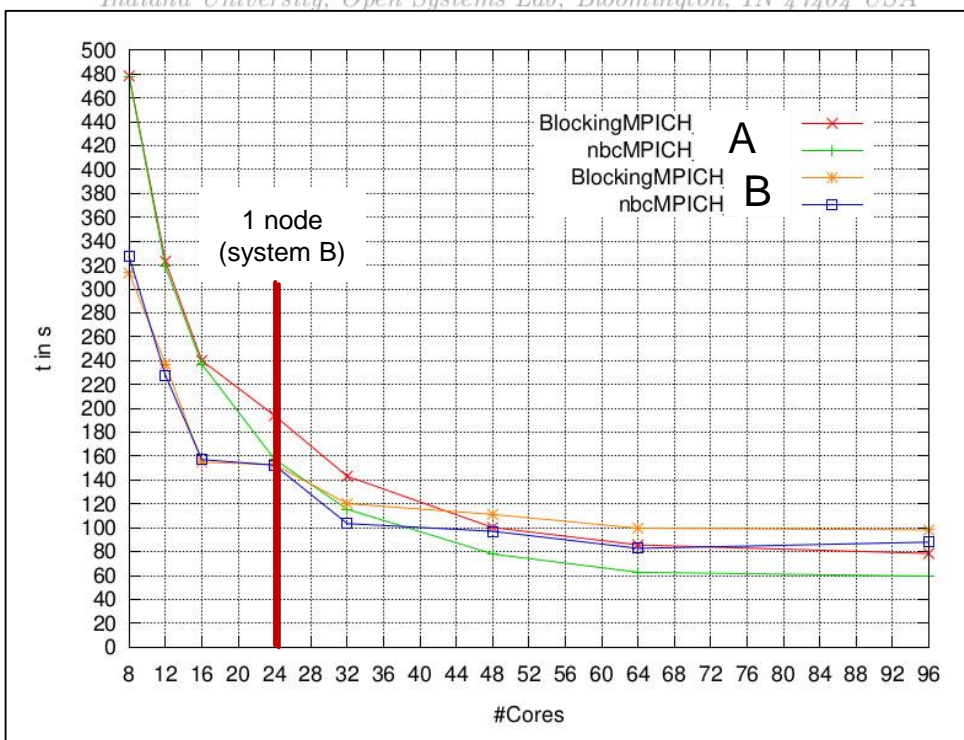
 nsdaine^a
^a Indiana University, Open Systems Lab, Bloomington, IN 47404 USA


(2006)

Original findings:

- If carefully tuned, NBC speed up a 3D solver
 - Full code published*
- 800³ domain – 4 GB (distributed) array
 - 1 process per node, 8-96 nodes*
 - Opteron 246 (old even in 2006, retired now)*
- Super-linear speedup for 96 nodes
 - ~5% better than linear*

(2015)



9 years later: attempt to reproduce 😊!

System A: 28 quad-core nodes, Xeon E5520

System B: 4 nodes, dual Opteron 6274

“Neither the experiment in A nor the one in B could reproduce the results presented in the original paper, where the usage of the NBC library resulted in a performance gain for practically all node counts, reaching a superlinear speedup for 96 cores (explained as being due to cache effects in the inner part of the matrix vector product).”

Well, we all know this - but do we really know how to fix it?

1991 – the classic!



Twelve Ways to Fool the Masses When Giving Performance Results on Parallel Computers



2012 – the shocking

Abstract

Many of us quite difficult to understand scientific papers these results

How to Avoid Pitfalls

2013 – the extension



Fooling the Masses with Performance Results: Old Classics & Some New Ideas

Gerhard Wellein^(1,2), Georg Hager⁽²⁾

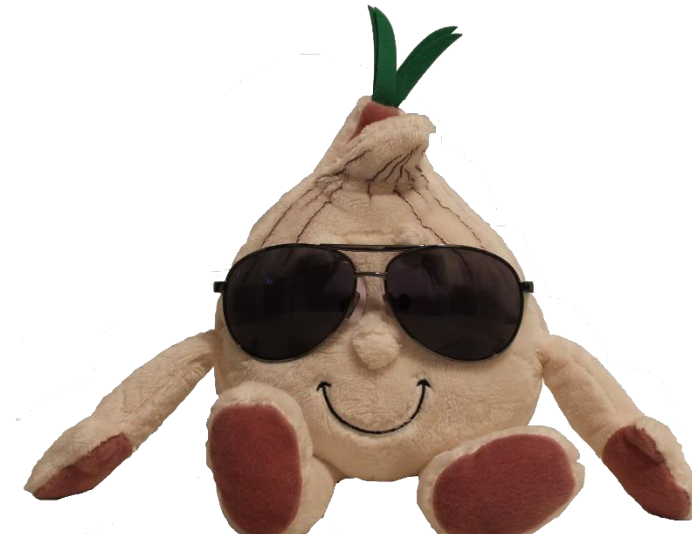
⁽¹⁾Department for Computer Science

⁽²⁾Erlangen Regional Computing Center

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg



Yes, this is a garlic press!



This is not new – meet Eddie!

Our constructive approach: provide a set of (12) rules

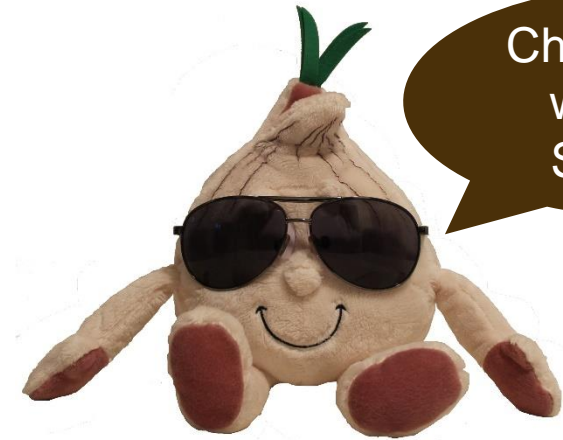
- **Attempt to emphasize interpretability of performance experiments**
- **The set is not complete**
 - And probably never will be
 - Intended to serve as a solid start
 - Call to the community to extend it
- **I will illustrate the 12 rules now**
 - Using real-world examples
All anonymized!
 - Garth and Eddie will represent the bad/good scientist

Yes, this is a
garlic press!

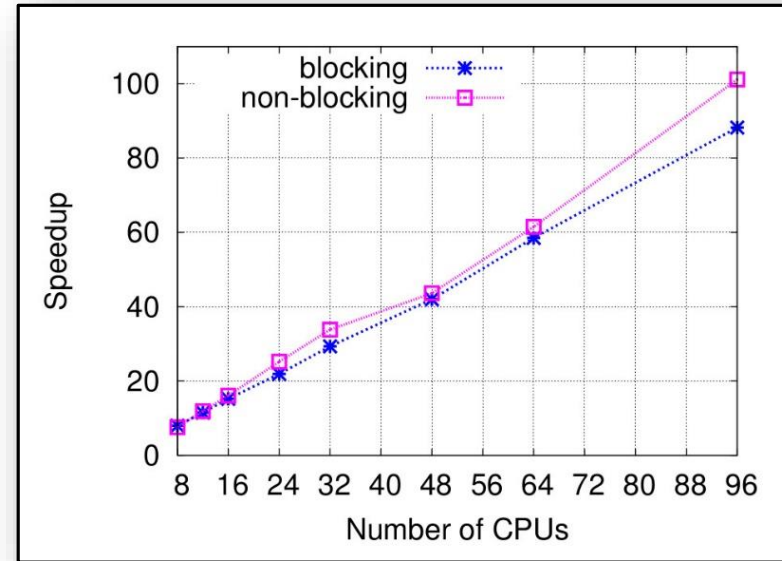
(1)Department for Computer Science
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The most common issue: speedup plots



Check out my wonderful Speedup!



- **Most common and oldest-known issue**

- First seen 1988 – also included in Bailey’s 12 ways
- 39 papers reported speedups
 - 15 (38%) did not specify the base-performance 😞
- Recently rediscovered in the “big data” universe

A. Rowstron et al.: Nobody ever got fired for using Hadoop on a cluster, HotCDP 2012

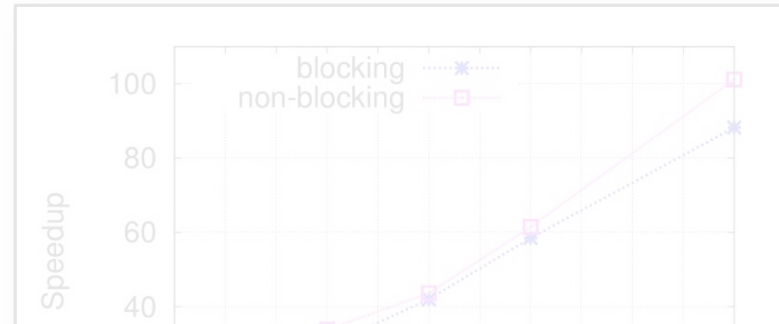

F. McSherry et al.: Scalability! but at what cost?, HotOS 2015



The most common issue: speedup plots



Check out my wonderful Speedup!

I can't tell if this is useful at all!

Rule 1: *When publishing parallel speedup, report if the base case is a single parallel process or best serial execution, as well as the absolute execution performance of the base case.*

Most common and oldest known issue

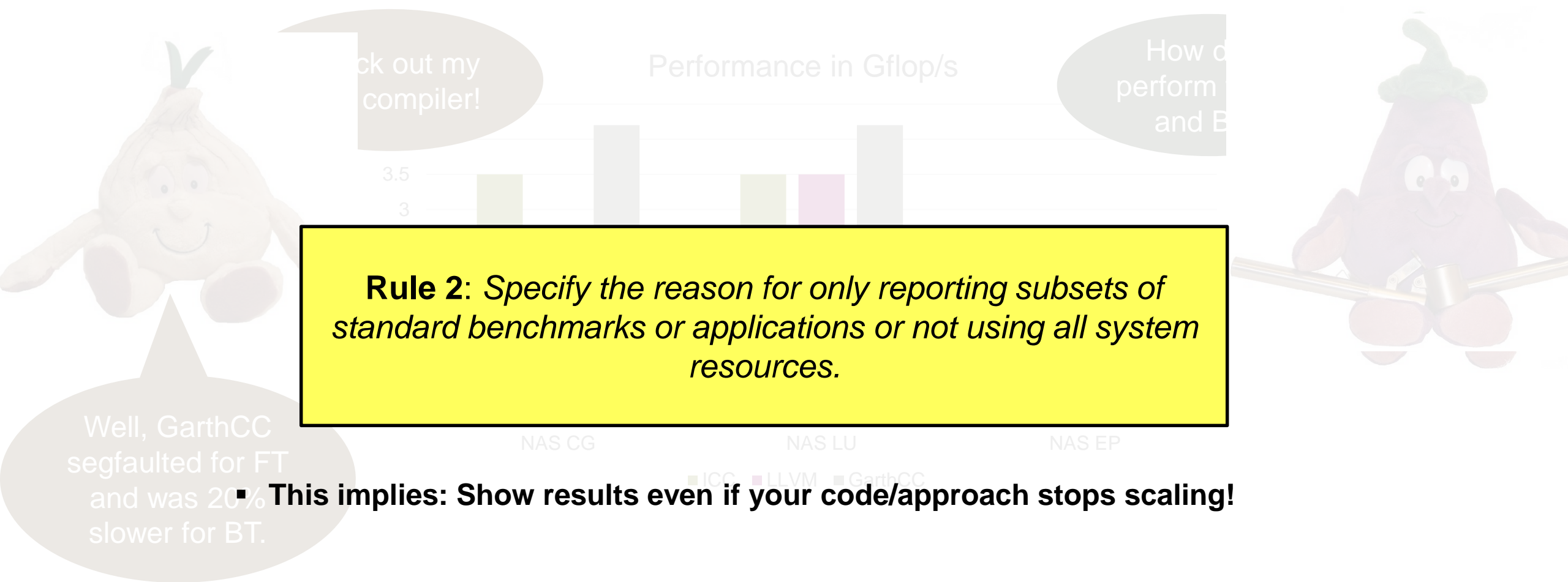
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A. Rowstron et al.: *Nobody ever got fired for using Hadoop on a cluster*, HotCDP 2012

F. McSherry et al.: *Scalability! but at what cost?*, HotOS 2015



Garth's new compiler optimization



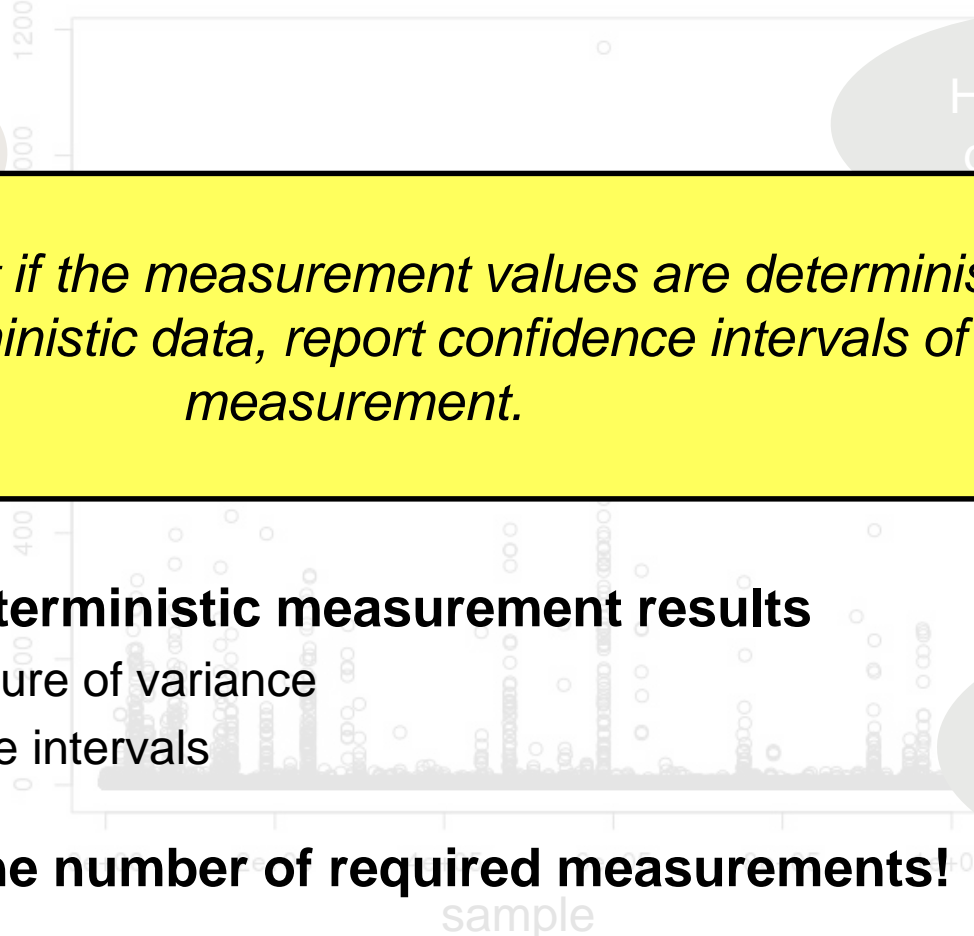
The mean parts of means – or how to summarize data

Rule 3: *Use the arithmetic mean only for summarizing costs.
Use the harmonic mean for summarizing rates.*

Rule 4: *Avoid summarizing ratios; summarize the costs or rates that the ratios base on instead. Only if these are not available use the geometric mean for summarizing ratios.*

- 51 papers use means to summarize data, only four (!) specify which mean was used
 - A single paper correctly specifies the use of the harmonic mean
 - Two use geometric means, without reason
 - Similar issues in other communities (PLDI, CGO, LCTES) – see N. Amaral's report
- $\text{harmonic mean} \leq \text{geometric mean} \leq \text{arithmetic mean}$

Dealing with variation



Rule 5: Report if the measurement values are deterministic. For nondeterministic data, report confidence intervals of the measurement.

- **Most papers report nondeterministic measurement results**

- Only 15 mention some measure of variance
- Only two (!) report confidence intervals

- **CIs allow us to compute the number of required measurements!**

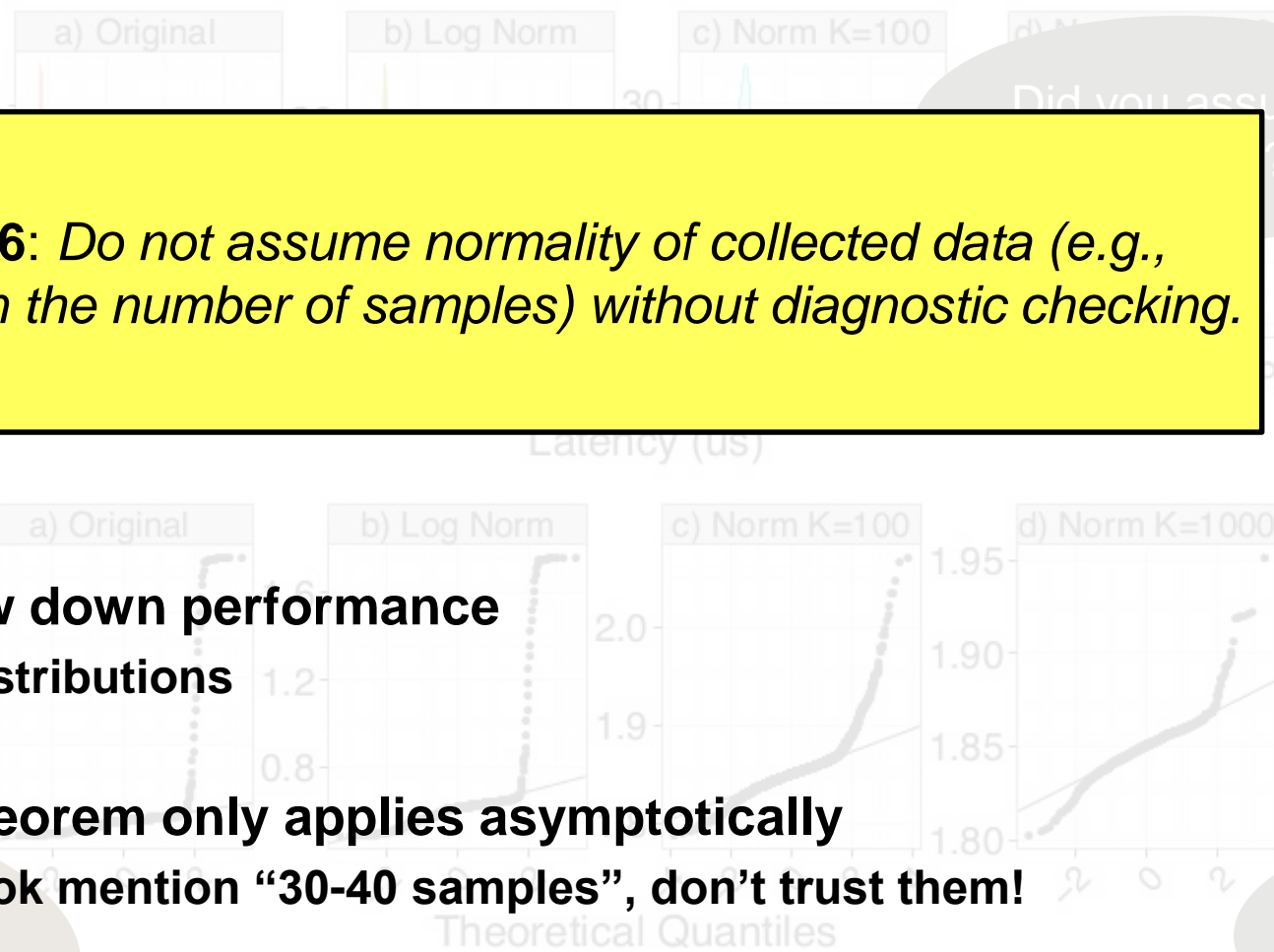
- **Can be very simple, e.g., single sentence in evaluation:**

“We collected measurements until the 99% confidence interval was within 5% of our reported means.”

Dealing with variation

Rule 6: *Do not assume normality of collected data (e.g., based on the number of samples) without diagnostic checking.*

- **Most events will slow down performance**
 - **Heavy right-tailed distributions**
- **The Central Limit Theorem only applies asymptotically**
 - **Some papers/textbook mention “30-40 samples”, don’t trust them!**
- **Two papers used CIs around the mean without testing for normality**



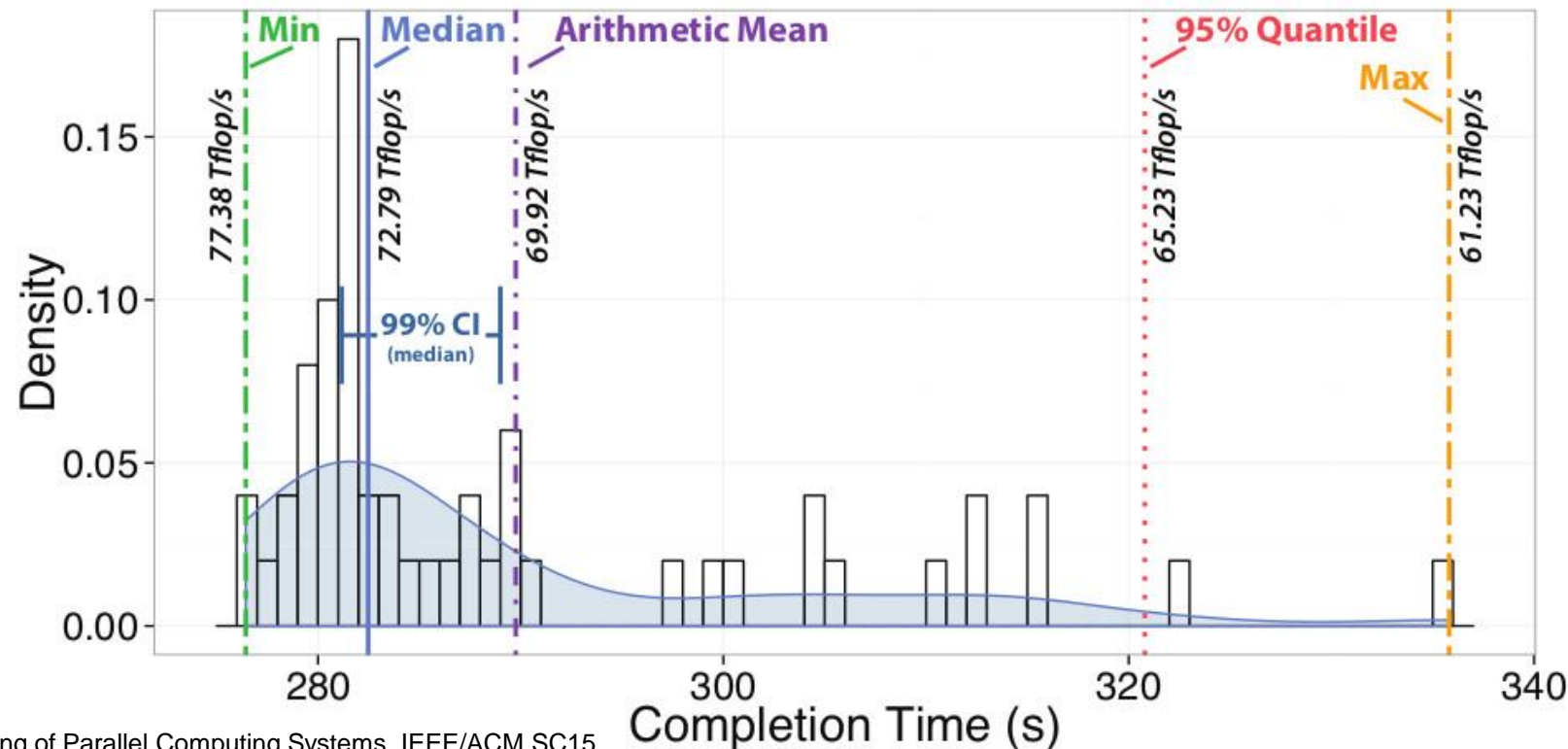
The confidence interval is 1.765us to 1.775us

Did you assume ...?

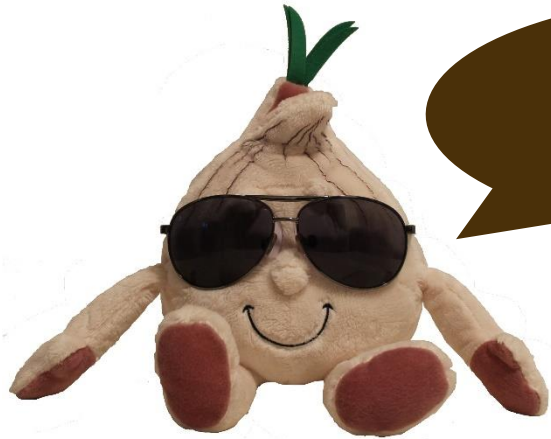
Can we test for normality?

Dealing with non-normal data – nonparametric statistics

- Rank-based measures (no assumption about distribution)
 - Essentially always better than assuming normality
- Example: median (50th percentile) vs. mean for HPL
 - Rather stable statistic for expectation
 - Other percentiles (usually 25th and 75th) are also useful

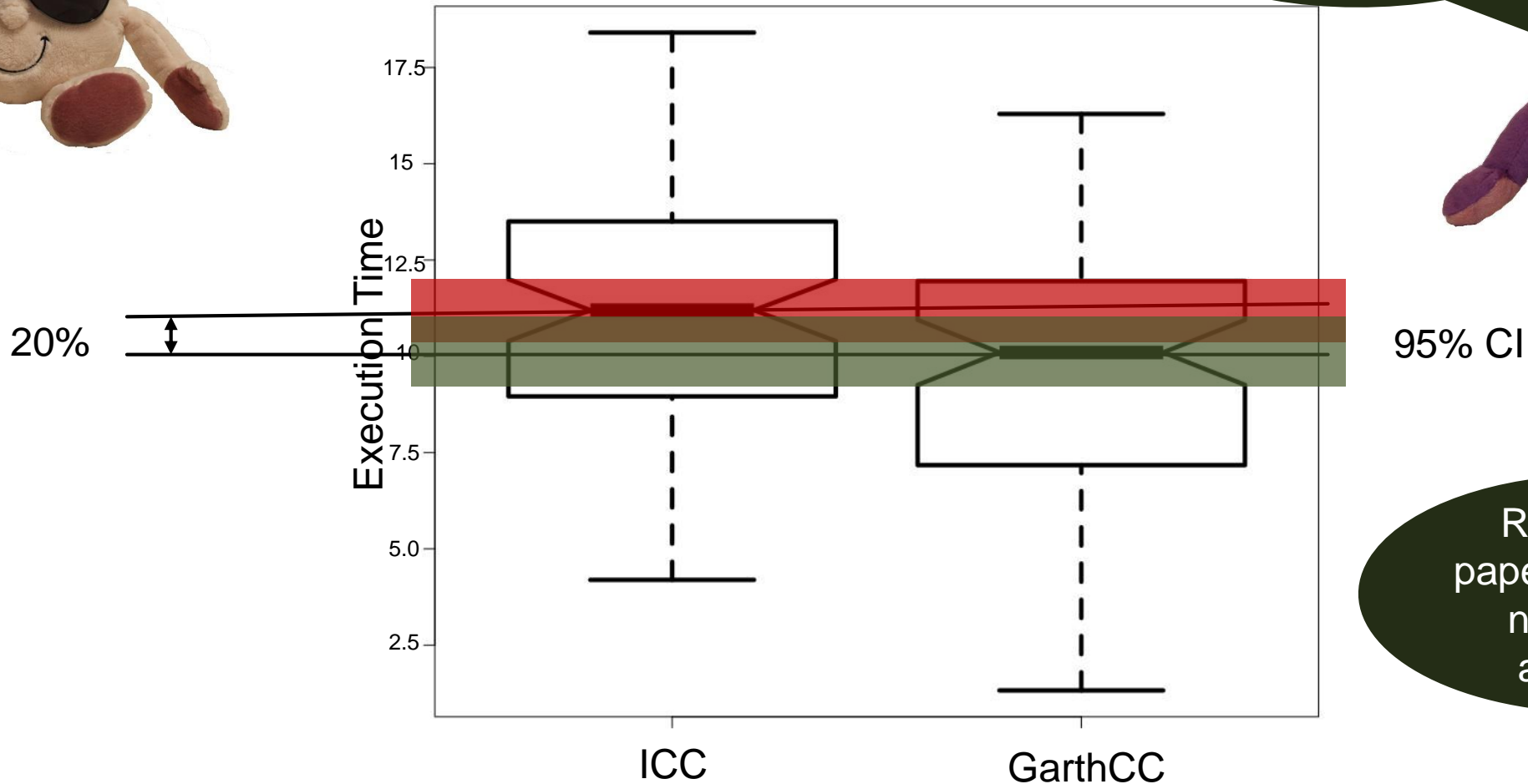


Comparing nondeterministic measurements



I saw variance using GarthCC as well!

Show me the data!



95% CI

Retract the paper! You have not shown anything!

What if the data looks weird!?

Look what data I got!

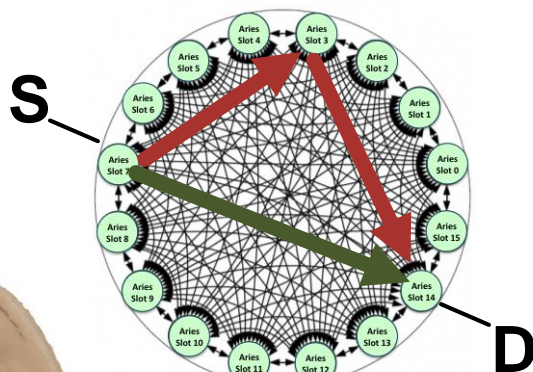
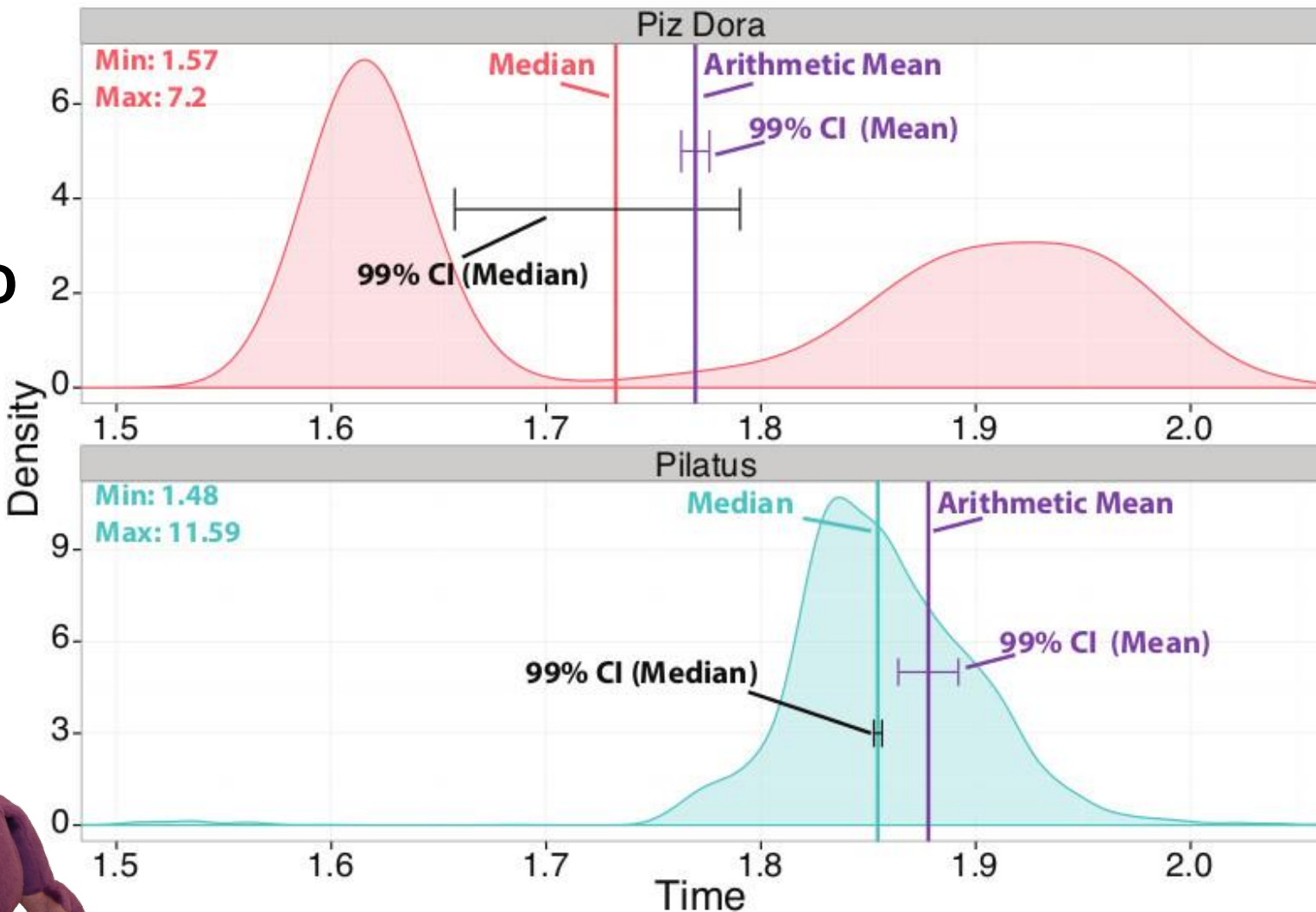


Image credit: nersc.gov

Clearly, the mean/median are not sufficient!

Try quantile regression!



Quantile Regression

Wow, so Pilatus is better for (worst-case) latency-critical workloads even though Dora is expected to be faster



Rule 8: Carefully investigate if measures of central tendency such as mean or median are useful to report. Some problems, such as worst-case latency, may require other percentiles.

- Check Oliveira et al. "Why you should care about quantile regression". SIGARCH Computer Architecture News, 2013.

How many measurements are needed?

- **Measurements can be expensive!**
 - Yet necessary to reach certain confidence
- **How to determine the minimal number of measurements?**
 - Measure until the confidence interval has a certain acceptable width
 - For example, measure until the 95% CI is within 5% of the mean/median
 - Can be computed analytically assuming normal data
 - Compute iteratively for nonparametric statistics
- **Often heard: “we cannot afford more than a single measurement”**
 - E.g., Gordon Bell runs
 - Well, then one cannot say anything about the variance
 - Even 3-4 measurement can provide very tight CI (assuming normality)*
 - Can also exploit repetitive nature of many applications*



Experimental design

Rule 9: Document all varying factors and their levels as well as the complete experimental setup (e.g., software, hardware, techniques) to facilitate reproducibility and provide interpretability.

- We recommend factorial design
- Consider parameters such as node allocation, process-to-node mapping, network or node contention
 - If they cannot be controlled easily, use randomization and model them as random variable
- This is hard in practice and not easy to capture in rules

Time in parallel systems

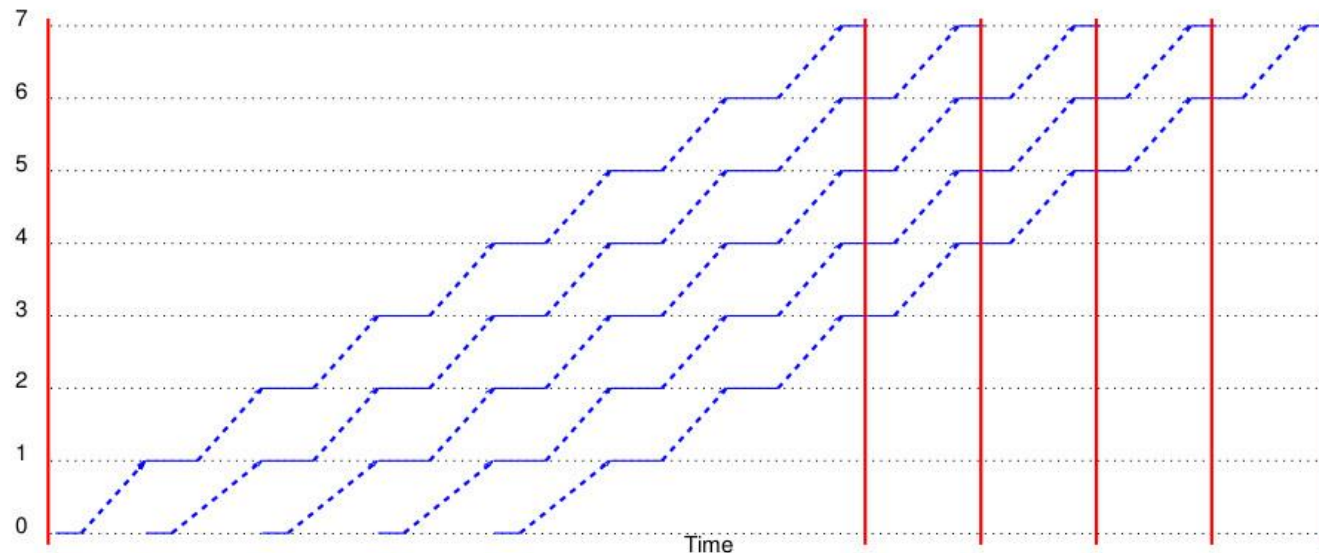


My simple broadcast takes only one latency!

But I measured it so it must be true!

```

t = -MPI_Wtime();
for(i=0; i<1000; i++) {
  MPI_Bcast(...);
}
t += MPI_Wtime();
t /= 1000;
    
```



That's nonsense!



Measure each operation separately!

Summarizing times in parallel systems!

My new reduce

Come on, show me the data!

Rule 10: *For parallel time measurements, report all measurement, (optional) synchronization, and summarization techniques.*

- **Measure events separately**
 - Use high-precision timers
 - Synchronize processes
- **Summarize across processes:**
 - Min/max (unstable), average, median – depends on use-case

Somebody Time 100-

whiskers depict the 1.5 IQR

Processes

Give times a meaning!

I compute 10^{10} digits of Pi

I have no clue.

Rule 11: *If possible, show upper performance bounds to facilitate interpretability of the measured results.*

- **Model computer system as k-dimensional space**

- Each dimension represents a capability
Floating point, Integer, memory bandwidth, cache bandwidth, etc.

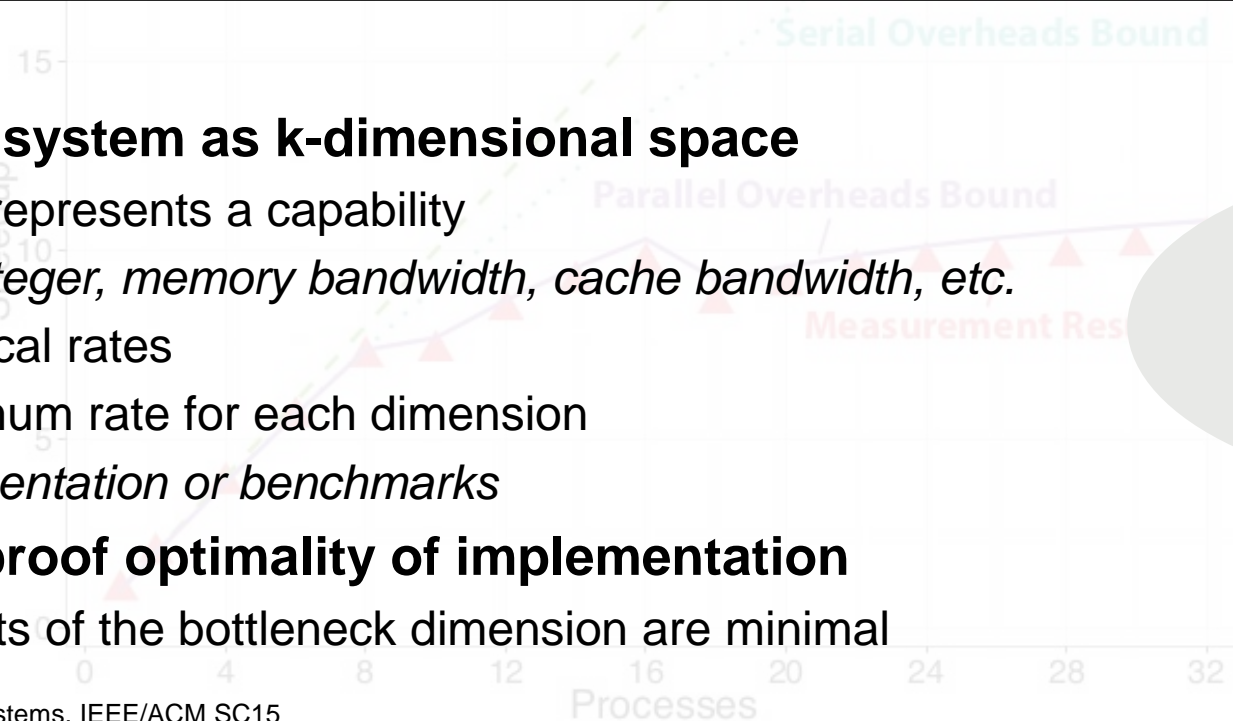
Ok: The features are typical rates

- Determine maximum rate for each dimension
E.g., from documentation or benchmarks

- **Can be used to proof optimality of implementation**

- If the requirements of the bottleneck dimension are minimal

- Can you provide?
- Ideal speedup
 - Amdahl's speedup
 - Parallel overheads



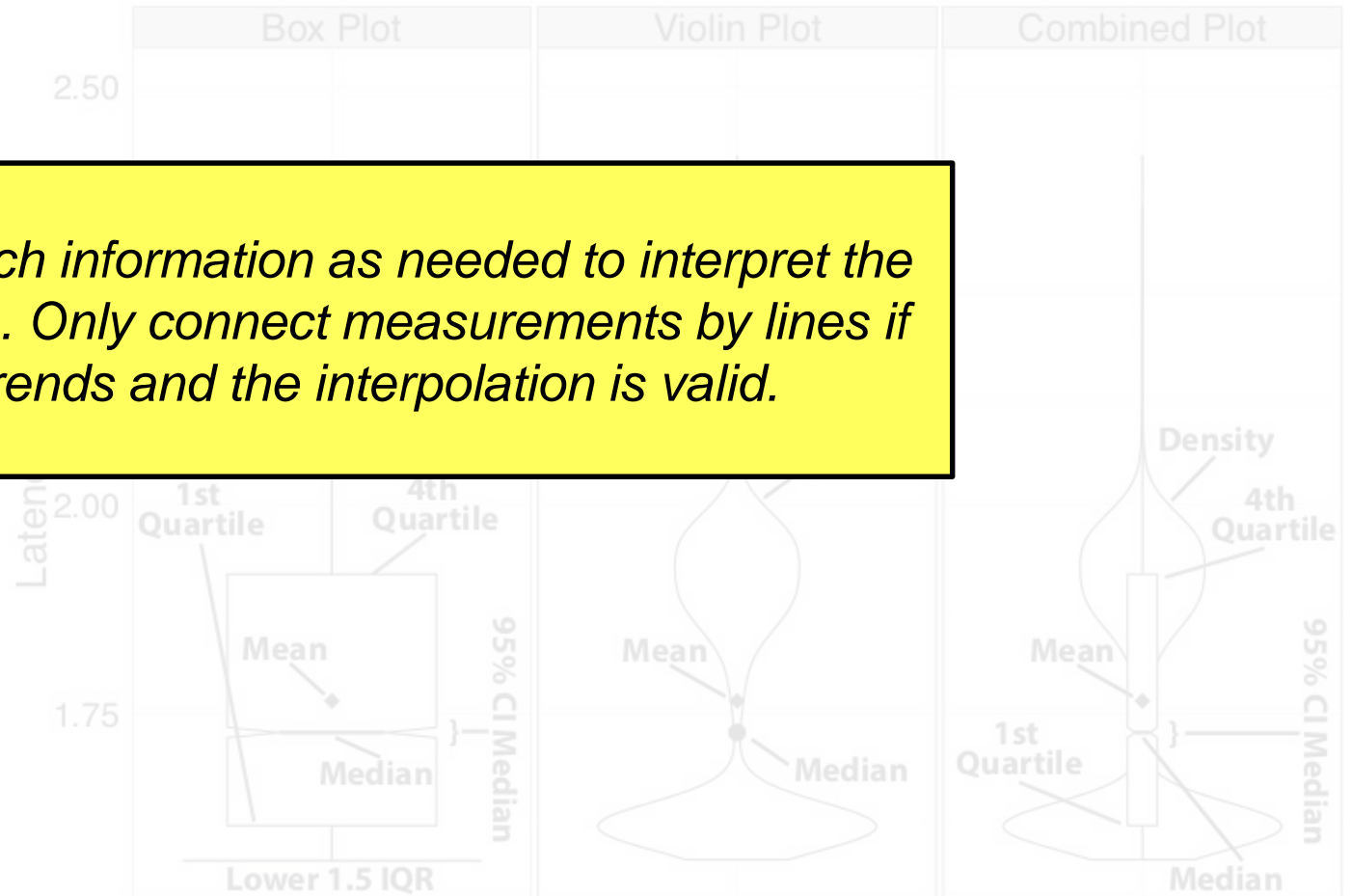
Plot as much information as possible!

My most common request was "show me the data"

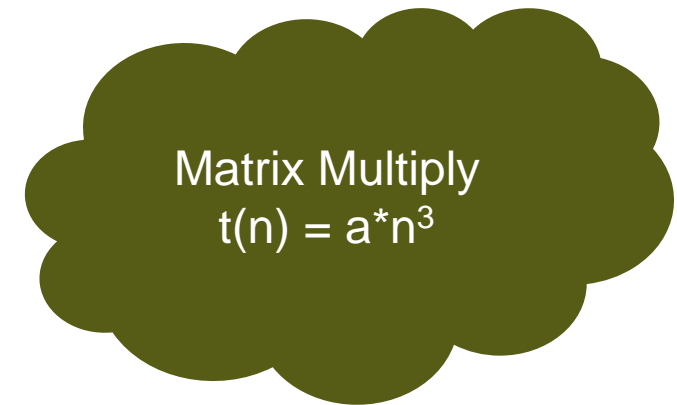
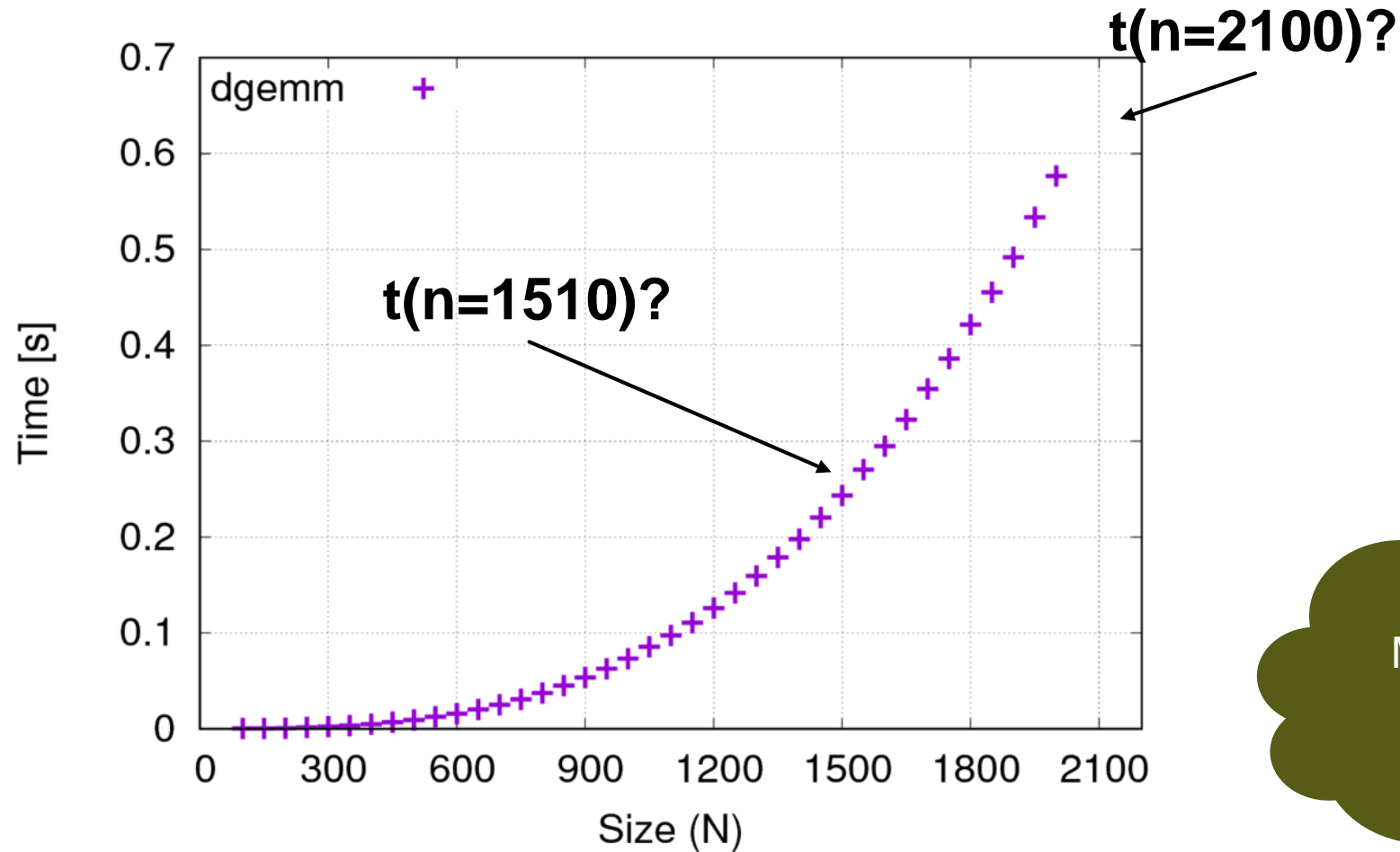


Rule 12: *Plot as much information as needed to interpret the experimental results. Only connect measurements by lines if they indicate trends and the interpolation is valid.*

This is how I should have presented the Dora results.

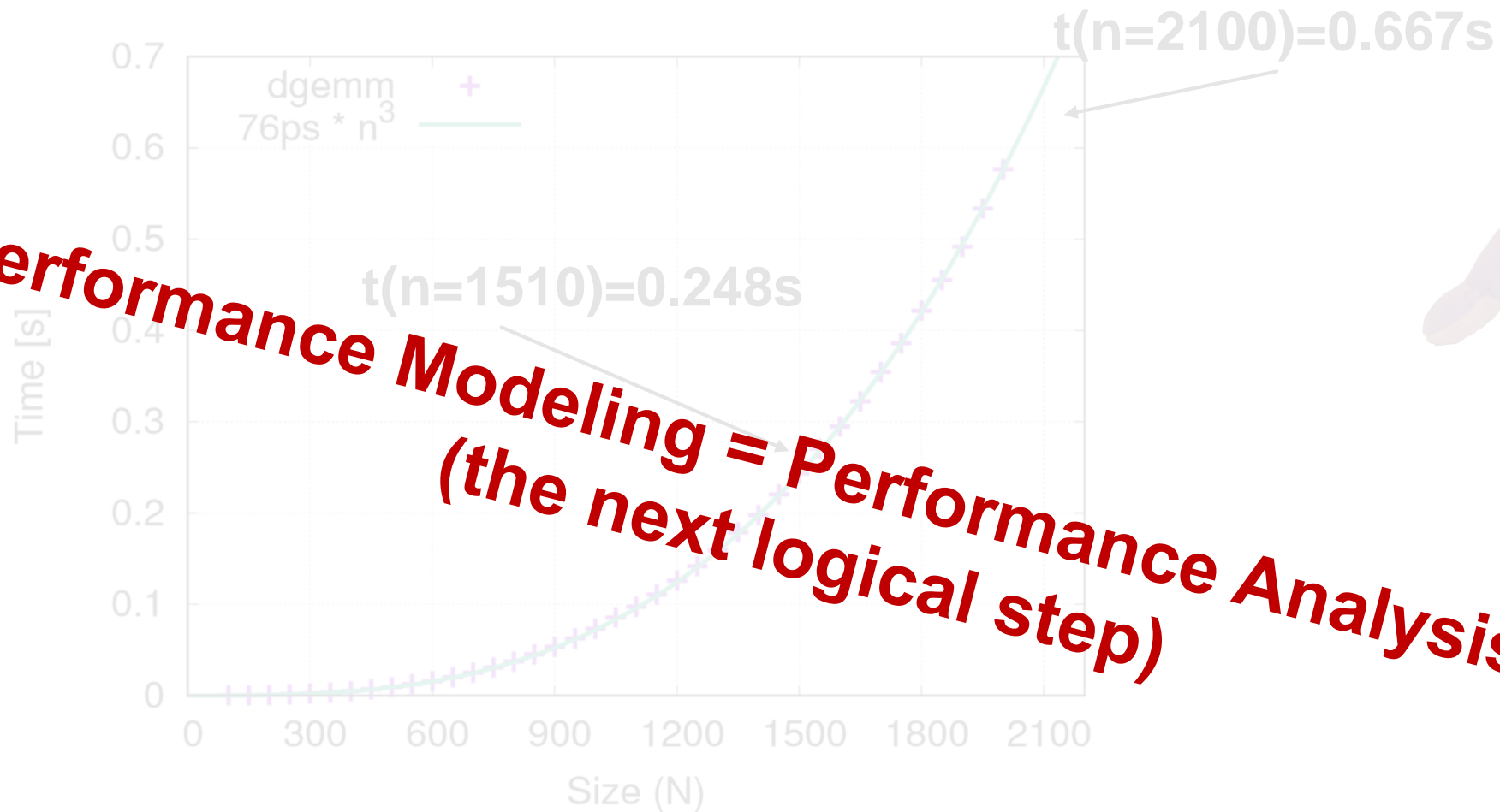


We have the (statistically sound) data, now what?



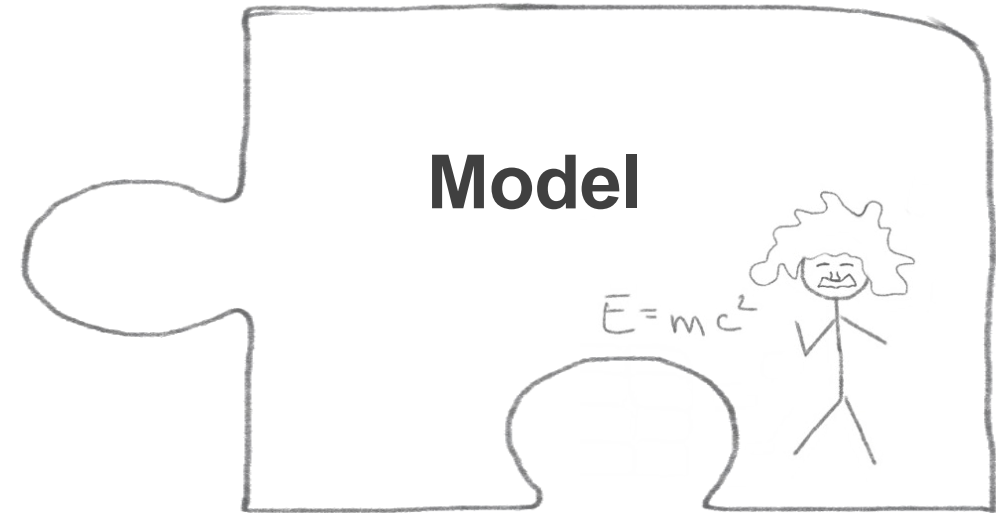
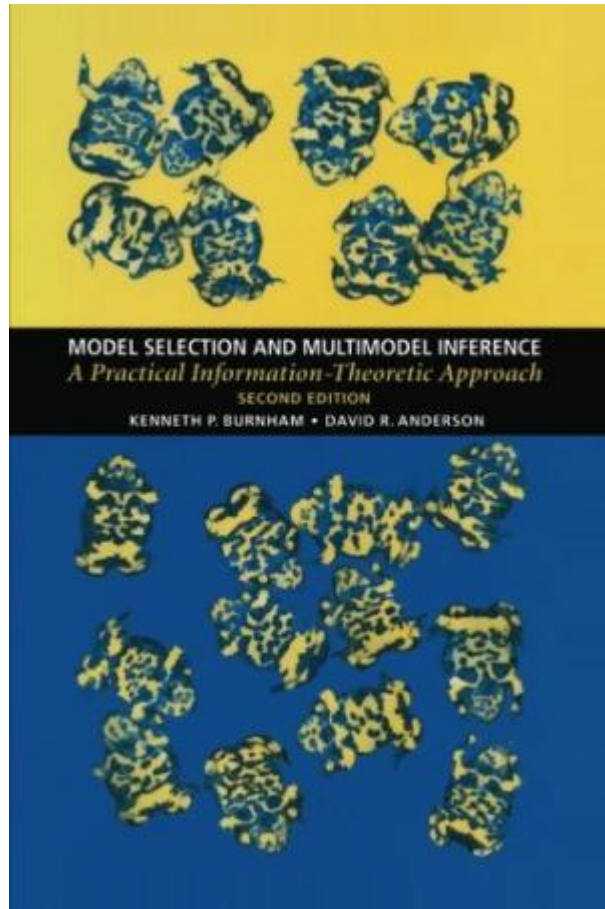
The 99% confidence interval is within 1% of the reported median.

We have the (statistically sound) data, now what?



The 99% confidence interval is within 1% of the reported median.
The adjusted R^2 of the model fit is 0.99

Part II: Model



Burnham, Anderson: *“A model is a simplification or approximation of reality and hence will not reflect all of reality. ... Box noted that “all models are wrong, but some are useful.” While a model can never be “truth,” a model might be ranked from very useful, to useful, to somewhat useful to, finally, essentially useless.”*

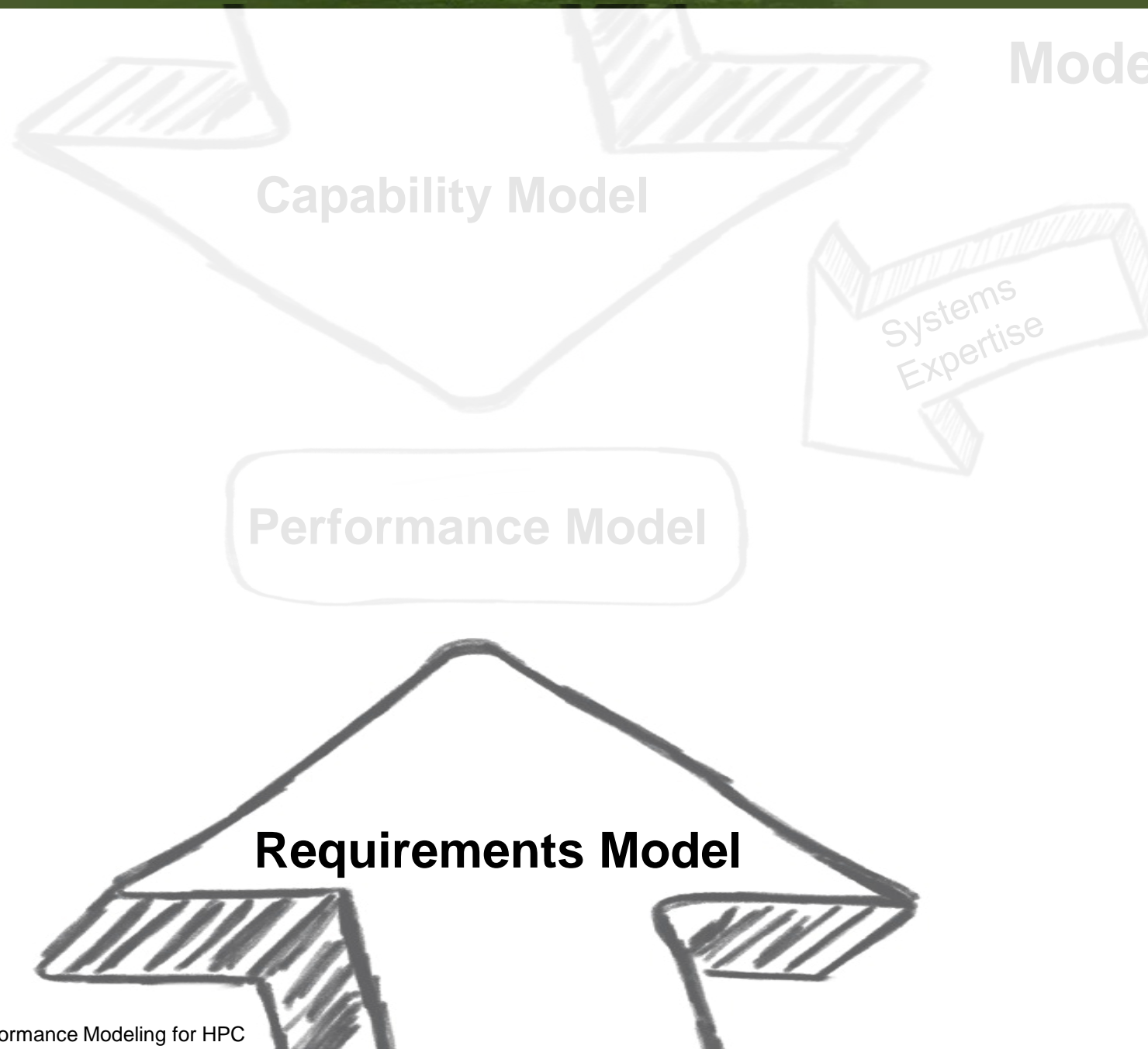
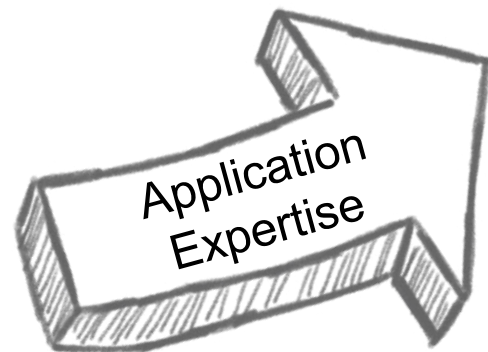
This is generally true for all kinds of modeling.
We focus on **performance modeling** in the following!

Cited by 33599

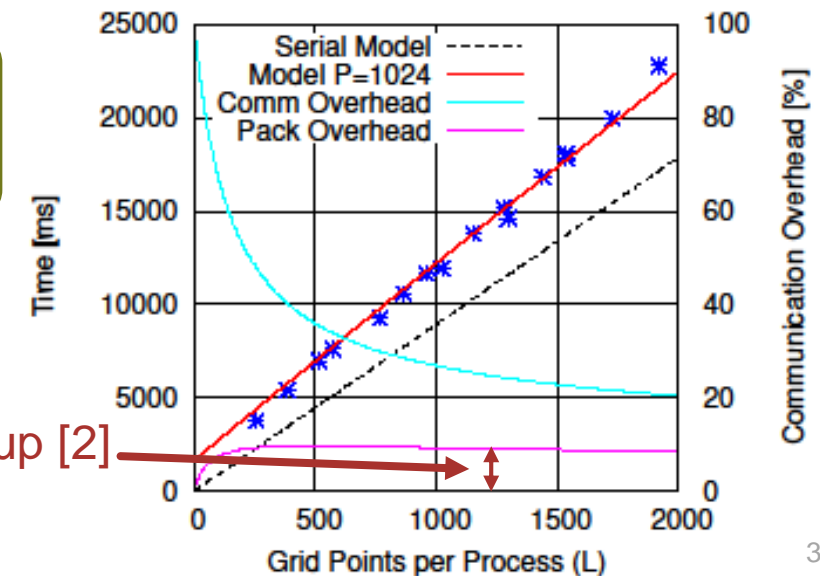
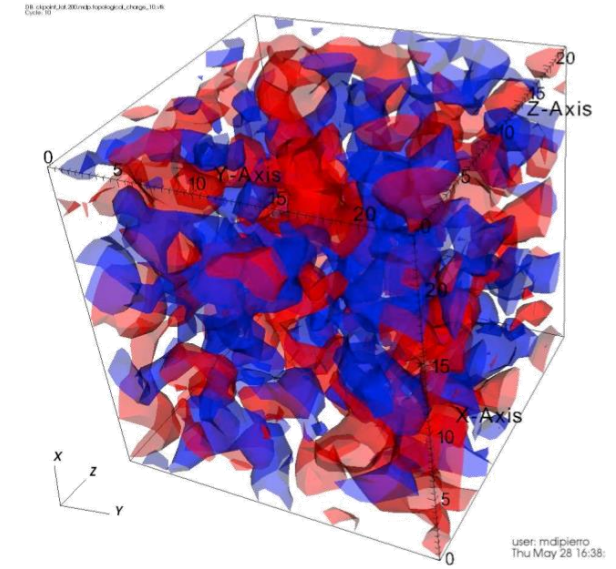
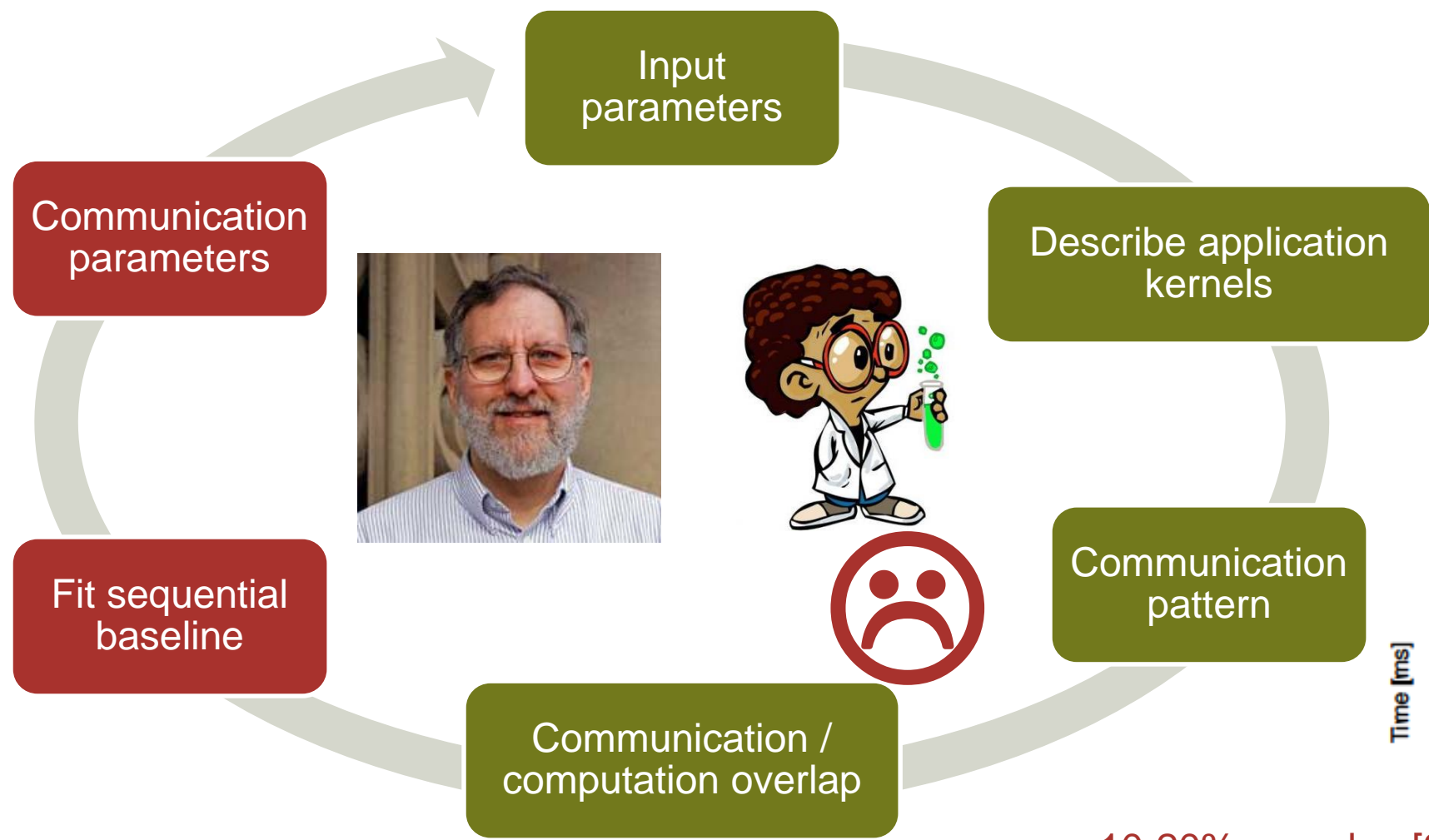


Performance

Modeling



Requirements modeling I: Six-step performance modeling



[1] TH, W. Gropp, M. Snir and W. Kramer: Performance Modeling for Systematic Performance Tuning, SC11
 [2] TH and S. Gottlieb: Parallel Zero-Copy Algorithms for Fast Fourier Transform and Conjugate Gradient using MPI Datatypes, EuroMPI'10

Requirements modeling II: Automated best-fit modeling

- Manual kernel selection and hypothesis generation is time consuming (boring and tricky)
- Idea: Automatically select best (scalability) model from predefined search space

Number of processes

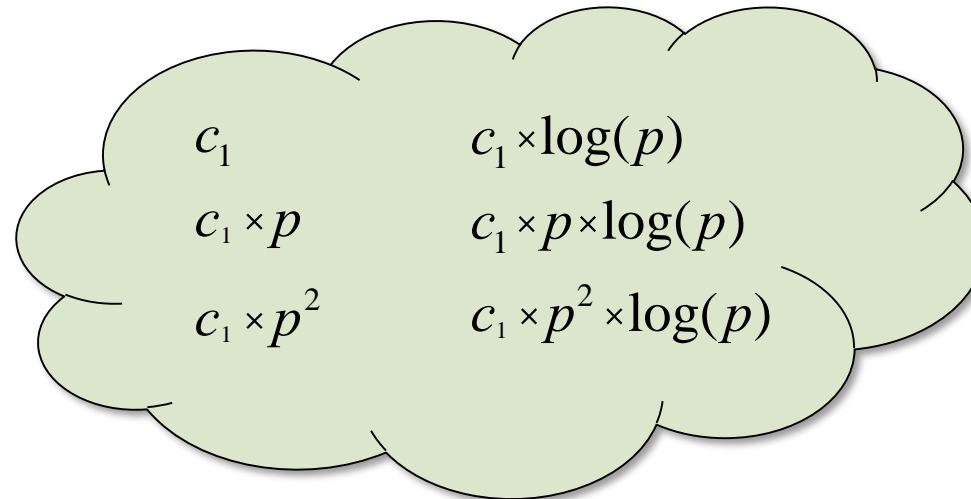
$$f(p) = \sum_{k=1}^n c_k \cdot p^{i_k} \cdot \log_2^{j_k}(p)$$

number of terms

(model) constant

$$\begin{aligned}
 n &\hat{=} \mathbb{N} \\
 i_k &\hat{=} I \\
 j_k &\hat{=} J \\
 I, J &\hat{=} \mathbb{Q}
 \end{aligned}$$

$n = 1$
 $I = \{0, 1, 2\}$
 $J = \{0, 1\}$



Requirements modeling II: Automated best-fit modeling

- Manual kernel selection and hypothesis generation is time consuming (and boring)
- Idea: Automatically select best model from predefined space

$$f(p) = \prod_{k=1}^n c_k \times p^{i_k} \times \log_2^{j_k}(p)$$

$$n = 2$$

$$I = \{0, 1, 2\}$$

$$J = \{0, 1\}$$

$$c_1 + c_2 \times p$$

$$c_1 + c_2 \times p^2$$

$$c_1 + c_2 \times \log(p)$$

$$c_1 + c_2 \times p \times \log(p)$$

$$c_1 + c_2 \times p^2 \times \log(p)$$

$$c_1 \cdot \log(p) + c_2 \cdot p$$

$$c_1 \cdot \log(p) + c_2 \cdot p \cdot \log(p)$$

$$c_1 \cdot \log(p) + c_2 \cdot p^2$$

$$c_1 \cdot \log(p) + c_2 \cdot p^2 \cdot \log(p)$$

$$c_1 \cdot p + c_2 \cdot p \cdot \log(p)$$

$$c_1 \cdot p + c_2 \cdot p^2$$

$$c_1 \cdot p + c_2 \cdot p^2 \cdot \log(p)$$

$$c_1 \cdot p \cdot \log(p) + c_2 \cdot p^2$$

$$c_1 \cdot p \cdot \log(p) + c_2 \cdot p^2 \cdot \log(p)$$

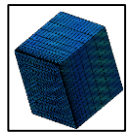
$$c_1 \cdot p^2 + c_2 \cdot p^2 \cdot \log(p)$$

$$\begin{aligned} n &\hat{=} \mathbb{N} \\ i_k &\hat{=} I \\ j_k &\hat{=} J \\ I, J &\hat{=} \mathbb{Q} \end{aligned}$$

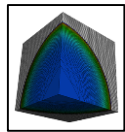
Tool support: Extra-P for automated best-fit modeling [1]



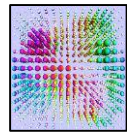
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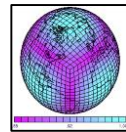
Sweep3d



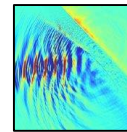
Lulesh



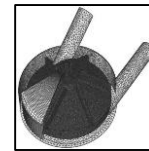
Milc



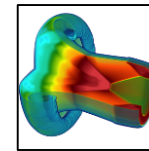
HOMME



JUSPIC



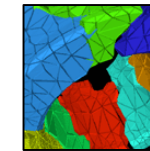
XNS



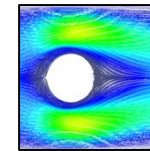
BLAST



NEST



UG4



MP2C

[1] Download Extra-P at: <http://www.scalasca.org/software/extra-p/download.html>

[2] A. Calotoiu, D. Beckingsale, C. W. Earl TH, I. Karlin, M. Schulz, F. Wolf: Fast Multi-Parameter Performance Modeling, IEEE Cluster 2016



Requirements modeling III: Source-code analysis [1]

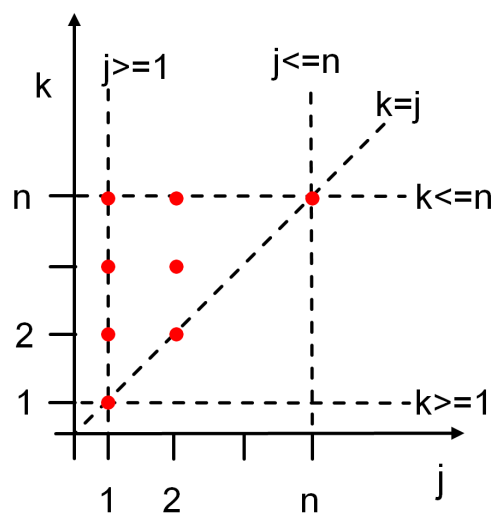
- **Extra-P** selects model based on best fit to the data
 - What if the data is not sufficient or too noisy?
- **Back to first principles**
 - The source code describes all possible executions
 - Describing all possibilities is too expensive, focus on counting loop iterations symbolically

```
for (j = 1; j <= n; j = j*2)
  for (k = j; k <= n; k = k++)
    OperationInBody(j,k);
```

Parallel program

```
do i = 1, procCols
  call mpi_irecv( buff, 2, dp_type, reduce_exch_proc(i),
    i, mpi_comm_world, request, ierr )
  call mpi_send( buff2, 2, dp_type, reduce_exch_proc(i),
    i, mpi_comm_world, ierr )
  call mpi_wait( request, status, ierr )
enddo

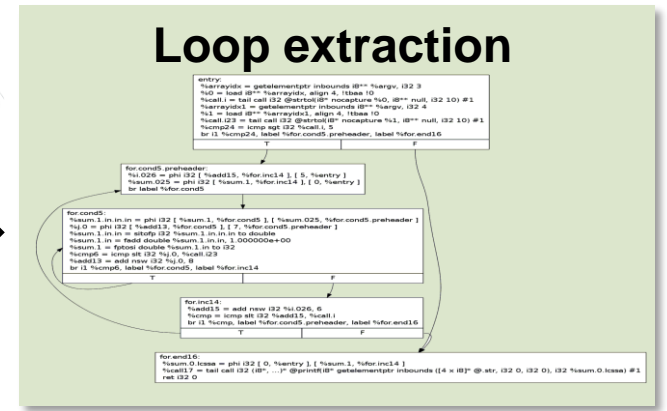
do i = id * n/p, ( id + 1 ) * n/p
  do j = 1, nSize
    call compute
```



$$N = (n + 1) \log_2 n - n + 2$$

Requirements Models

$$W = N \Big|_{p=1}$$

$$D = N \Big|_{p \rightarrow \infty}$$


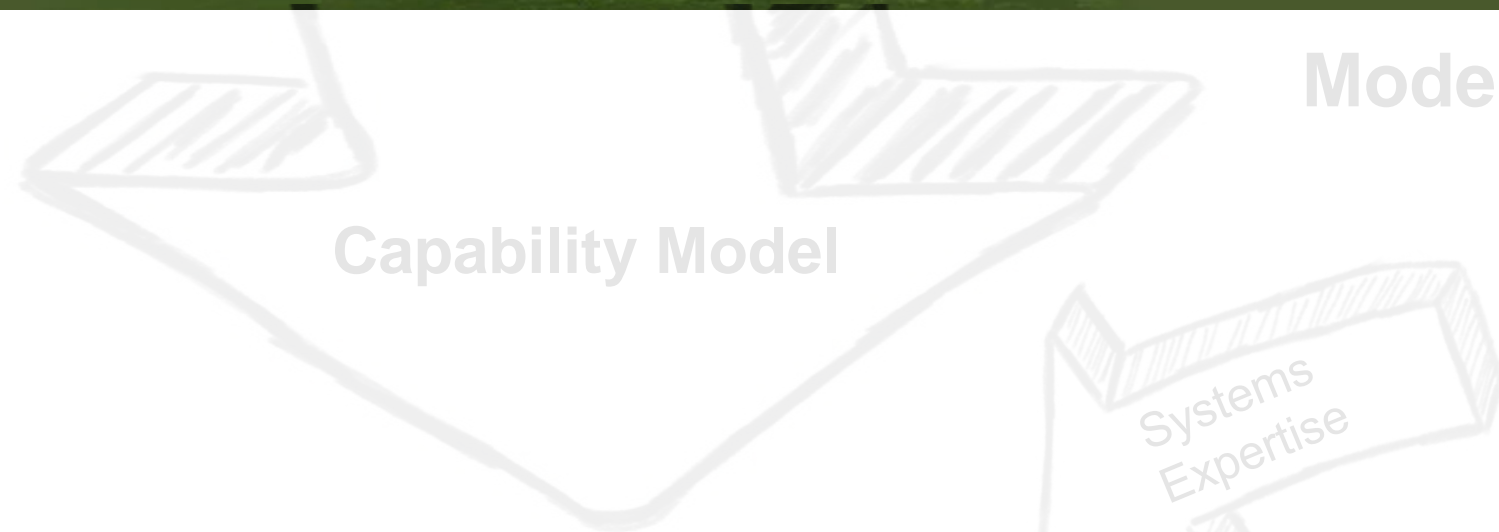
Number of iterations

$$N = \sum_{i_1=0}^{n_1(x_0,1)} \sum_{i_2=0}^{n_2(x_0,2)} \dots \sum_{i_{r-1}=0}^{n_{r-1}(x_0,r-1)} n_r(x_0,r).$$

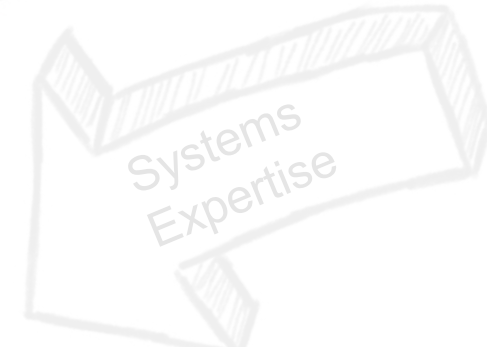


Performance

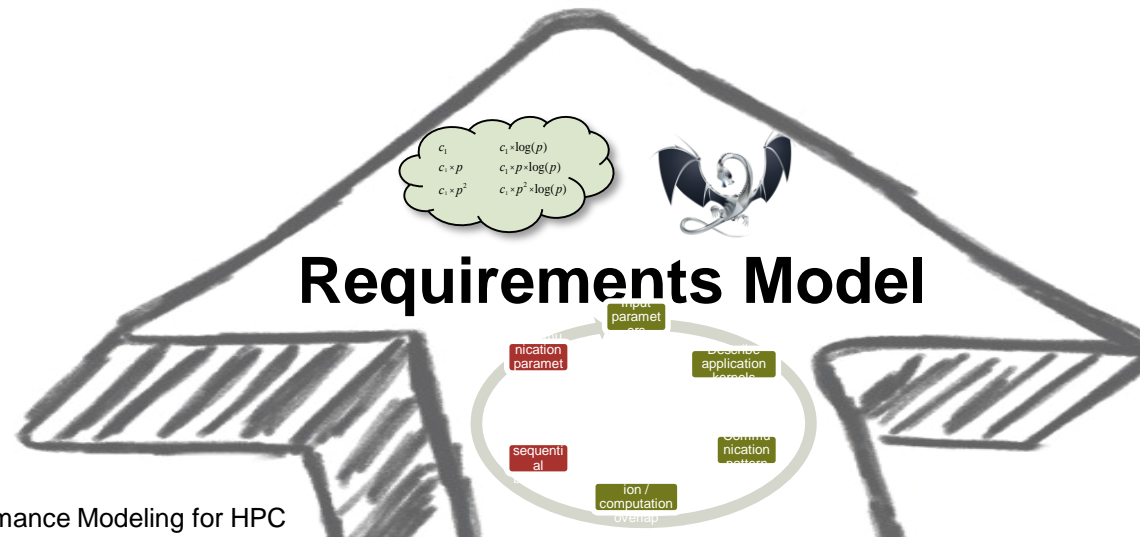
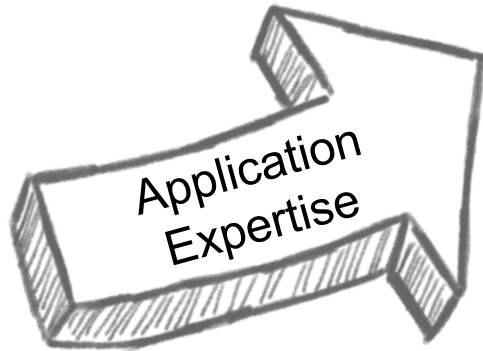
Modeling



Capability Model



Performance Model

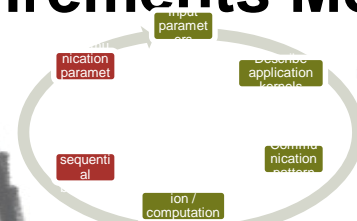


c_1
 $c_1 \cdot p$
 $c_1 \cdot p^2$

$c_1 \cdot \log(p)$
 $c_1 \cdot p \cdot \log(p)$
 $c_1 \cdot p^2 \cdot \log(p)$



Requirements Model



Performance

Modeling

Capability Model

Systems Expertise

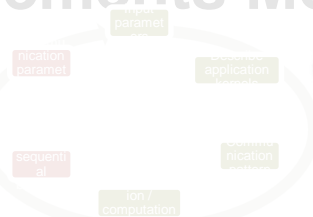
Performance Model

Application Expertise

Requirements Model

$$\begin{matrix} c_1 \\ c_1 + p \\ c_1 + p^2 \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} c_1 \cdot \log(p) \\ c_1 \cdot p \cdot \log(p) \\ c_1 \cdot p^2 \cdot \log(p) \end{matrix}$$



Capability models for network communication

The LogP model family and the LogGOPS model [1]

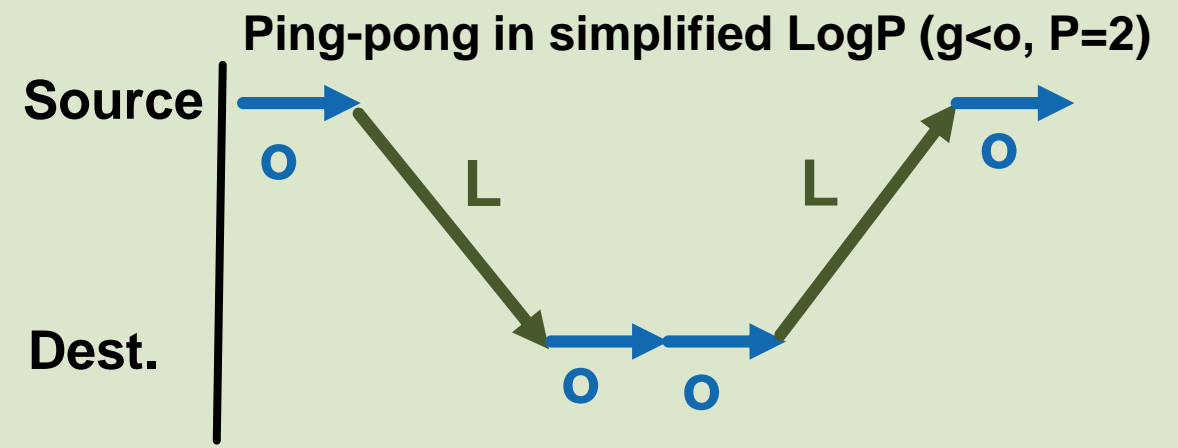
A new parallel machine model reflects the critical technology trends underlying parallel computers

A PRACTICAL MODEL of PARALLEL COMPUTATION

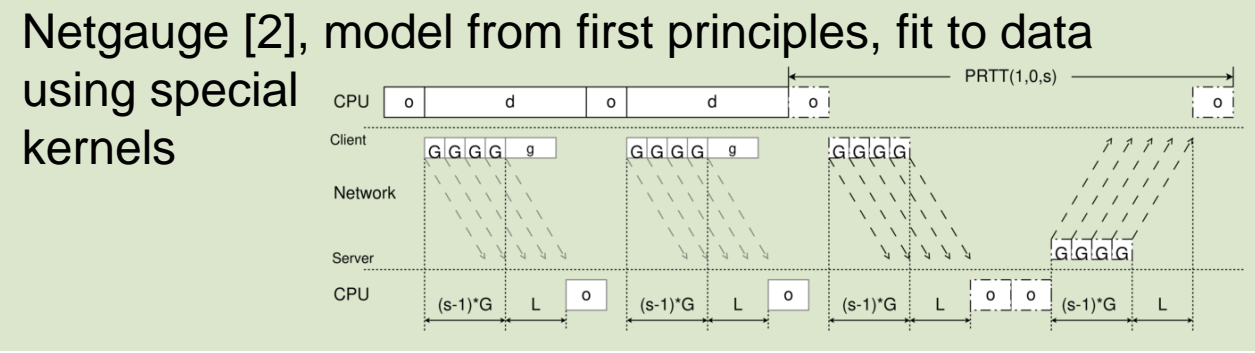
OUR GOAL IS TO DEVELOP A MODEL OF PARALLEL COMPUTATION THAT WILL serve as a basis for the design and analysis of fast, portable parallel algorithms, such as algorithms that can be implemented effectively on a wide variety of current and future parallel machines. If we look at the body of parallel algorithms developed under current parallel models, many are impractical because they exploit artificial factors not present in any real machine.

PRAM consists of a collection of processors which compute synchronously in parallel and communicate with a global random access memory.

David E. Culler, Richard M. Karp, David Patterson, Abhijit Sahay, Eunice E. Santos, Klaus Erik Schauer, Ramesh Subramonian, and Thorsten von Eicken



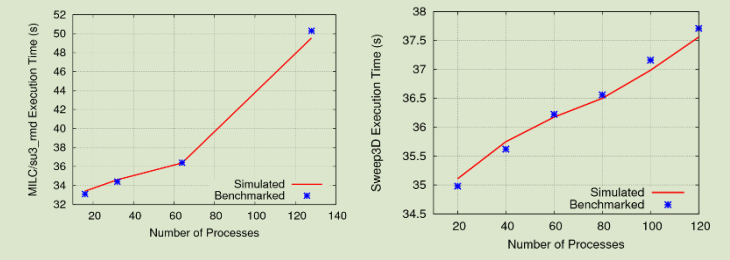
Finding LogGOPS parameters



Large scale LogGOPS Simulation

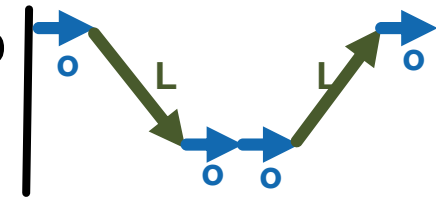
LogGOPSim [1], simulates LogGOPS with 10 million MPI ranks

<5% error

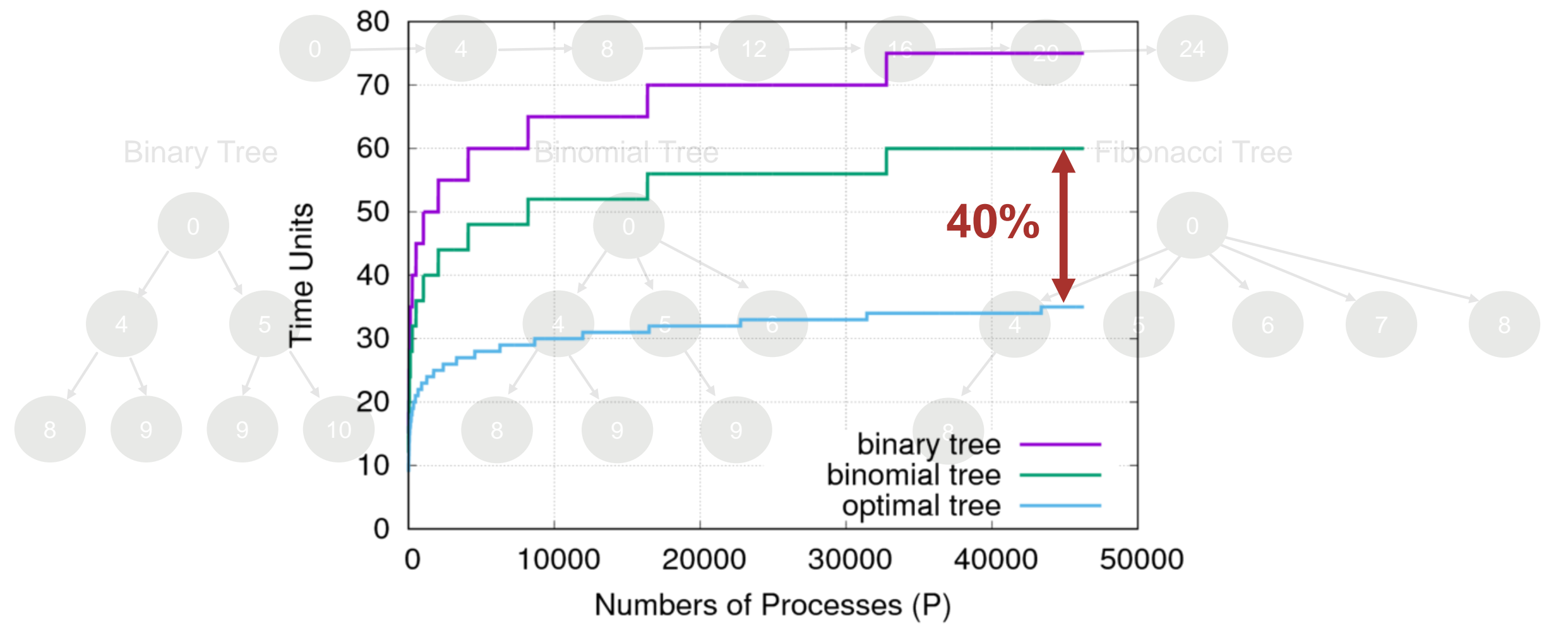


[1]: TH, T. Schneider and A. Lumsdaine: LogGOPSim - Simulating Large-Scale Applications in the LogGOPS Model, LSAP 2010, <https://spcl.inf.ethz.ch/Research/Performance/LogGOPSim/>
 [2]: TH, T. Mehlan, A. Lumsdaine and W. Rehm: Netgauge: A Network Performance Measurement Framework, HPC 2007, <https://spcl.inf.ethz.ch/Research/Performance/Netgauge/>

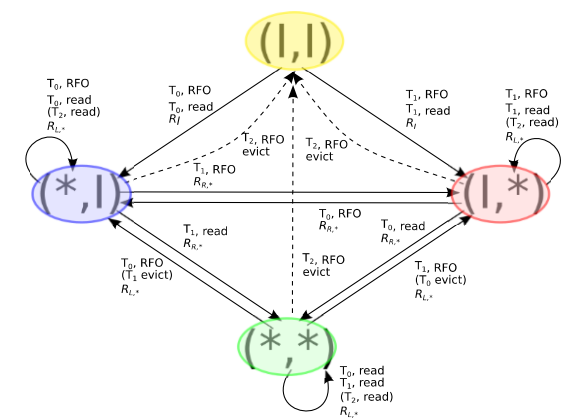
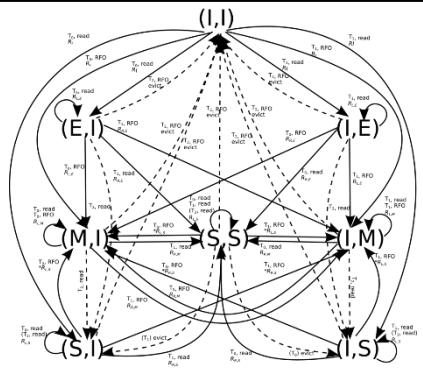
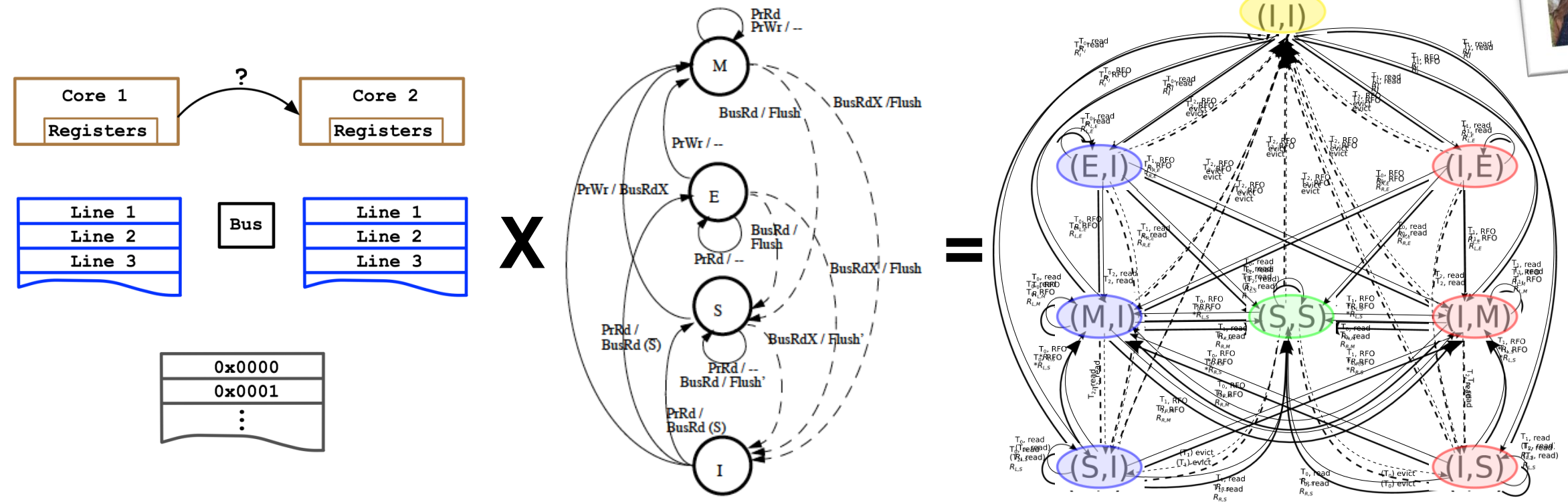
2) Design optimal algorithms – small broadcast in LogP



$L=2, o=1, P=7$



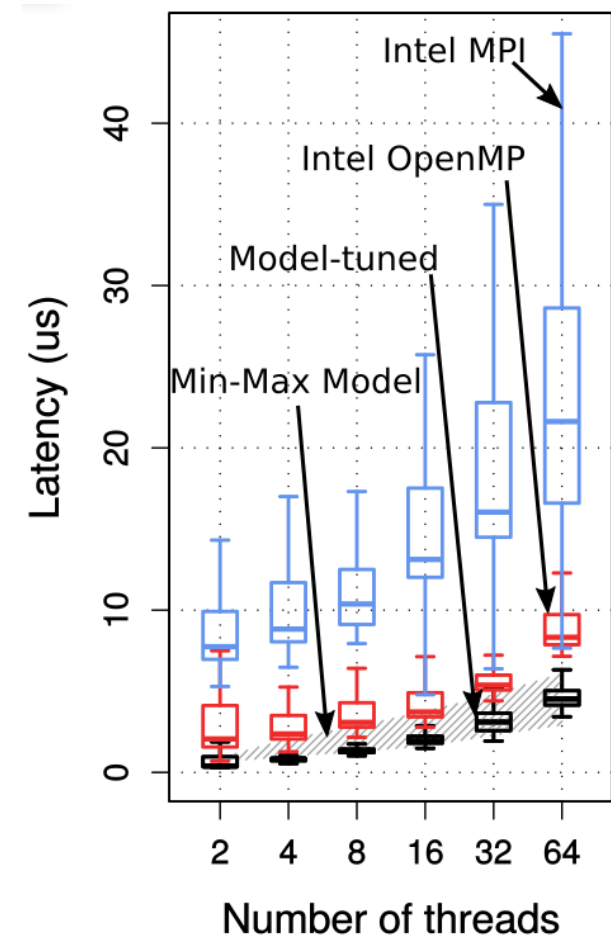
Capability models for cache-to-cache communication



Invalid read $R_I \approx 135$ ns
 Local read: $R_L = 3.8$ ns
 Remote read $R_R \approx 115$ ns

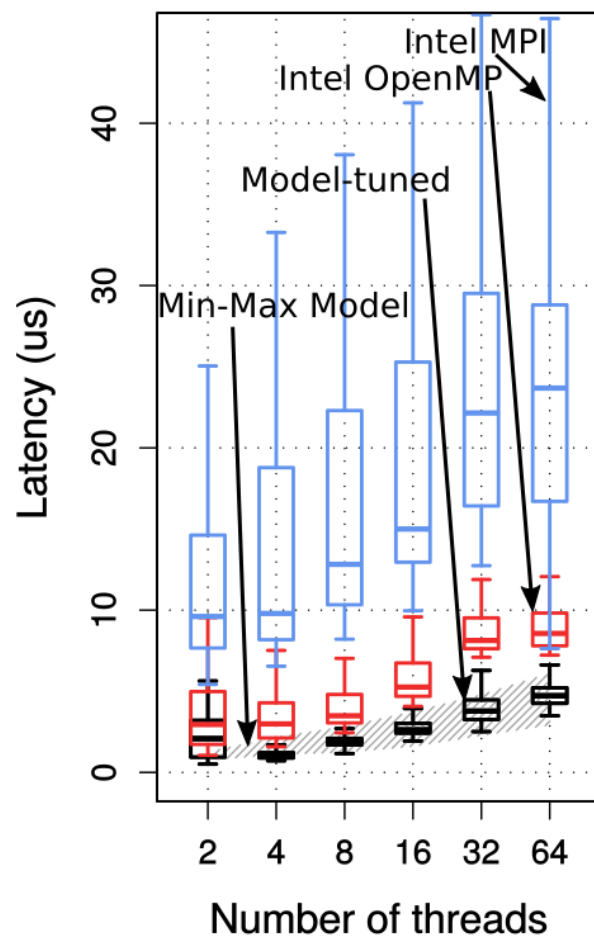
S. Ramos, TH: "Capability Models for Manycore Memory Systems: A Case-Study with Xeon Phi KNL", IEEE IPDPS'17
 S. Ramos, TH: "Modeling Communication in Cache-Coherent SMP Systems - A Case-Study with Xeon Phi", ACM HPDC'13

Model-tuned Barrier and Reduce vs. Intel's OpenMP and MPI

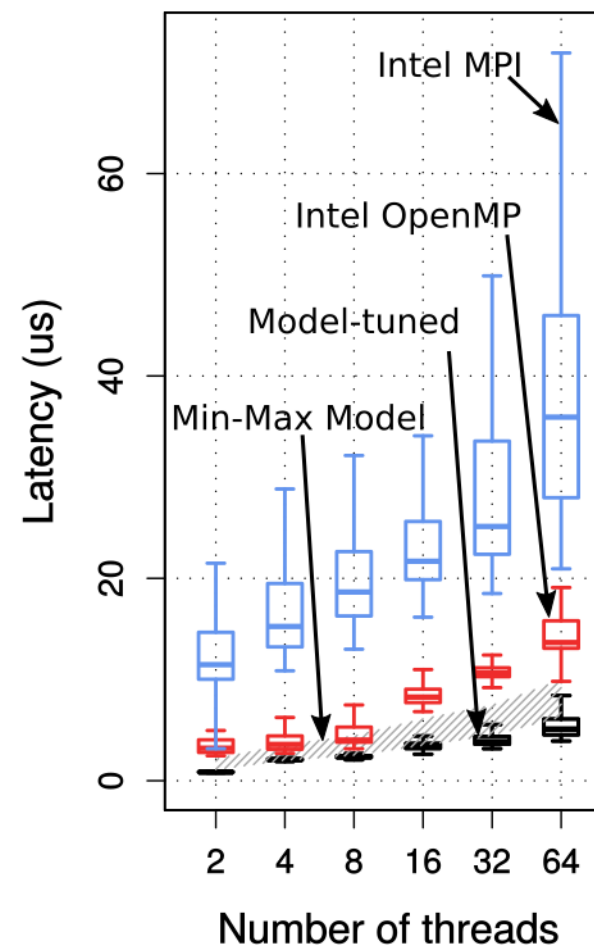


(a) Filling Tiles.

Barrier (7x faster than OpenMP)

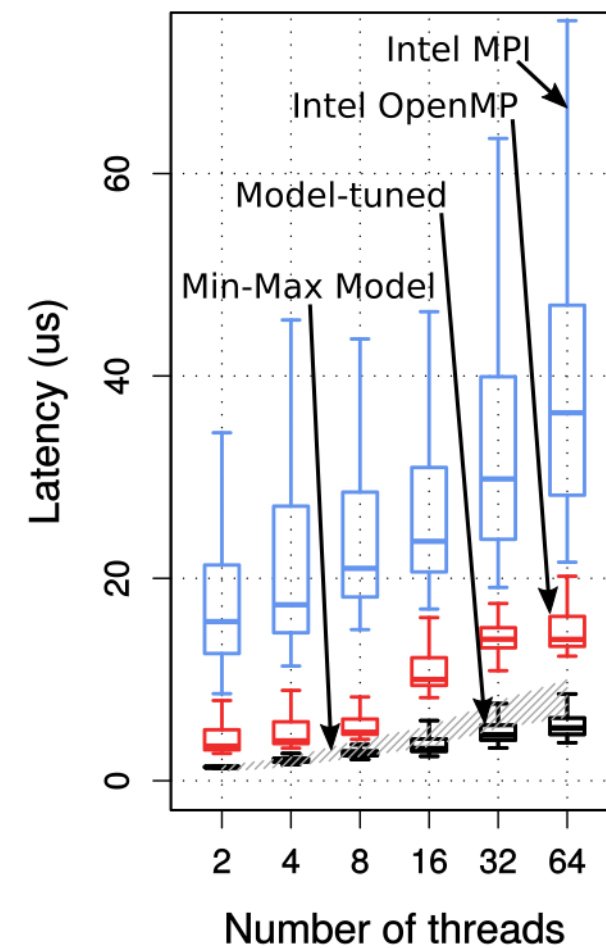


(b) Scatter.



(a) Filling Tiles.

Reduce (5x faster than OpenMP)



(b) Scatter.

Performance

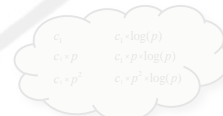
Modeling



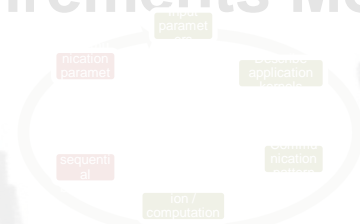
Capability Model



Performance Model



Requirements Model



Conclusions and call for action

- **Performance may not be reproducible**
 - At least not for many (important) results
- **Interpretability fosters scientific progress**
 - Enables to build on results
 - Sounds statistics is the biggest gap today
- **We need to foster interpretability**
 - Do it ourselves (this is not easy)
 - Teach young students
 - Maybe even enforce in TPCs
- **See the 12 rules as a start**
 - Need to be extended (or concretized)
 - Much is implemented in LibSciBench [1]



No vegetables were harmed for creating these slides!

Acknowledgments

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