

# High Performance Computing

ADVANCED SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING

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SHORT LECTURE 13

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## Systems Biology & Bioinformatics

November 21, 2019

Webinar



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND NATURAL SCIENCES  
FACULTY OF INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING,  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE



**JÜLICH**  
Forschungszentrum

JÜLICH  
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CENTRE

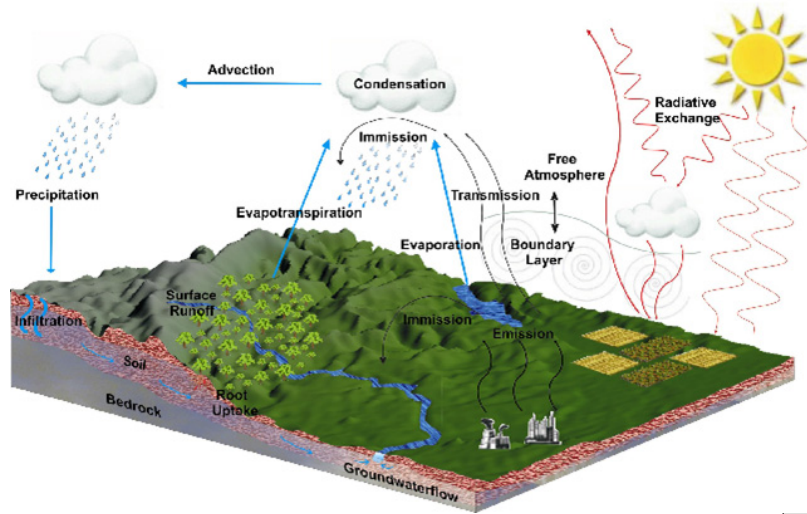


**HELMHOLTZ**  
RESEARCH FOR GRAND CHALLENGES

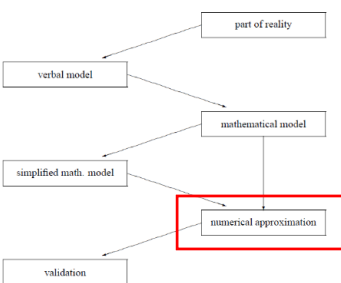


HELMHOLTZ  
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE  
COOPERATION UNIT

# Review of Short Lecture 12 – Terrestrial Systems & Climate



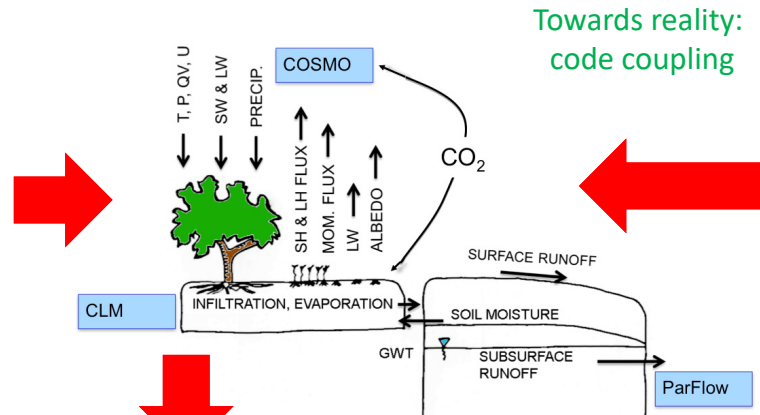
Physical system changes are accompanied by major state changes of land surfaces & ecosystems



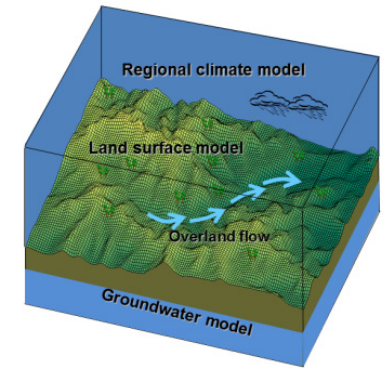
Solving Partial Differential Equations (PDEs) is often too complicated & computationally expensive or impossible to analytically compute driving the need for numerical approximation

modified from [1] SimLab Terrestrial Systems [2] F. Gasper et al.

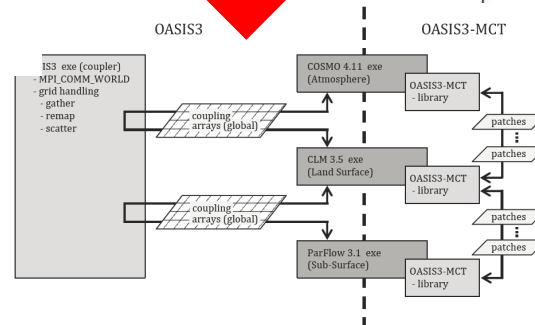
Short Lecture 13 – Systems Biology & Bioinformatics



Towards reality:  
code coupling

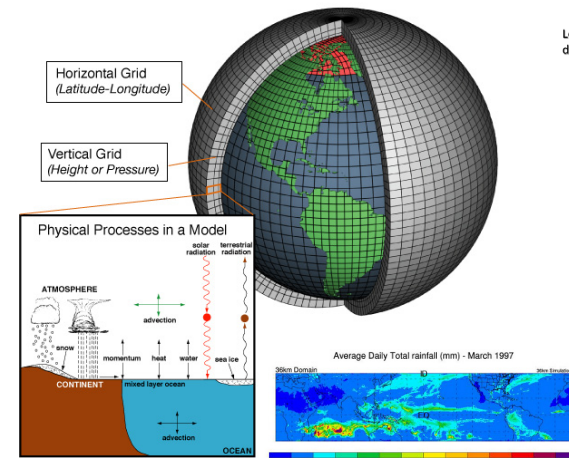


Numerical Weather Prediction Example

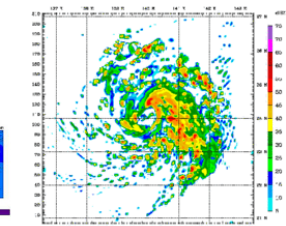
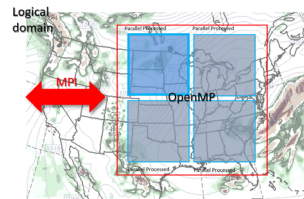


modified from [3] Wikipedia on  
'Numerical Weather Prediction'

modified from [4] WRF – Code  
and Parallel Computing

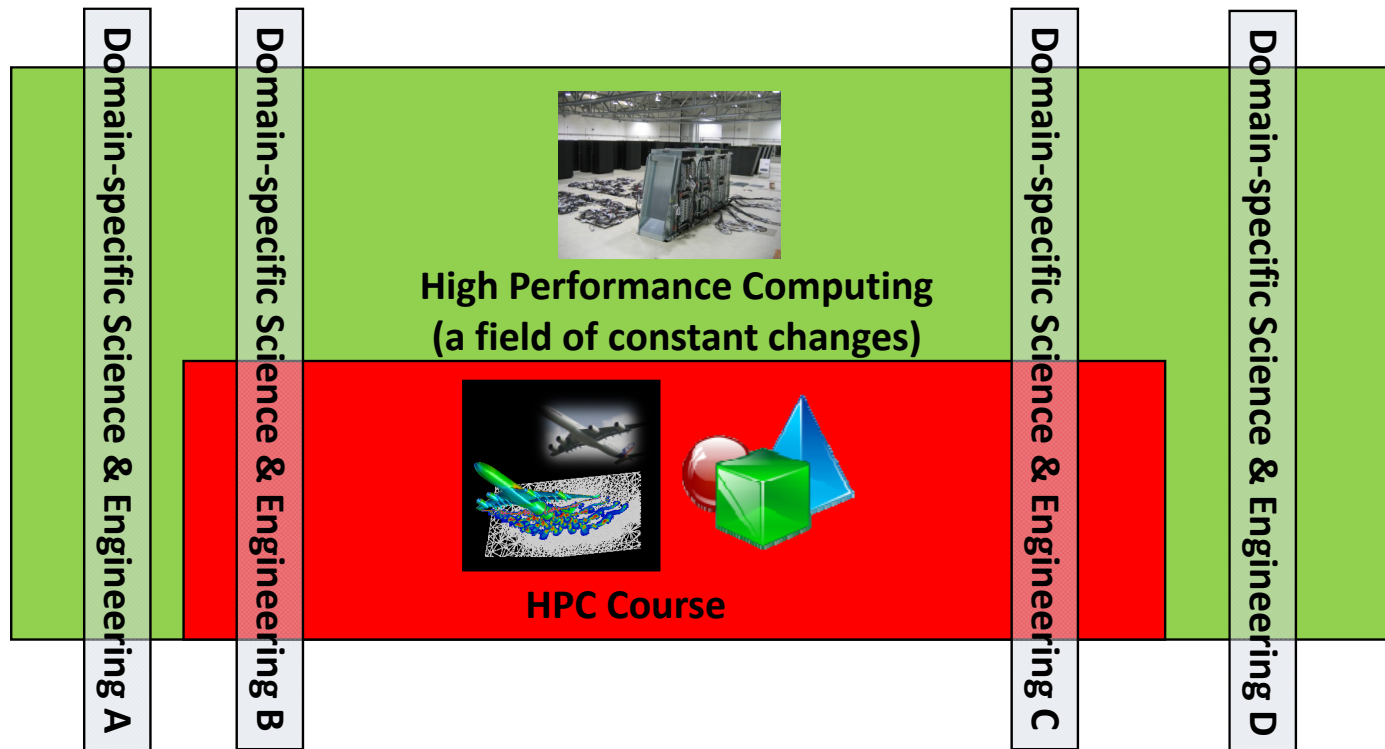


[5] Wikipedia on 'WRF'



# HPC-A[dvanced] Scientific Computing (cf. Prologue) – Second Part

- Consists of techniques for programming & using large-scale HPC Systems
  - Approach: Get a **broad understanding what HPC is** and what can be done
  - Goal: Train **general HPC techniques and systems** and selected details of **domain-specific applications**



# Outline of the Course

1. High Performance Computing
2. Parallel Programming with MPI
3. Parallelization Fundamentals
4. Advanced MPI Techniques
5. Parallel Algorithms & Data Structures
6. Parallel Programming with OpenMP
7. Graphical Processing Units (GPUs)
8. Parallel & Scalable Machine & Deep Learning
9. Debugging & Profiling & Performance Toolsets
10. Hybrid Programming & Patterns

11. Scientific Visualization & Scalable Infrastructures
12. Terrestrial Systems & Climate
13. Systems Biology & Bioinformatics
14. Molecular Systems & Libraries
15. Computational Fluid Dynamics & Finite Elements
16. Epilogue

+ additional practical lectures & Webinars for our hands-on assignments in context

- Practical Topics
- Theoretical / Conceptual Topics

# Outline

## ■ Systems Biology

- Motivation to Simulate Complex Systems & Basic Terminology
- Scientific Case Protein Folding & Role of Specific Shapes
- Role of Monte Carlo Methods & Repeated Random Sampling
- SMMP Parallel Package Example to Simulate Proteins
- Neuroscience Parallel Applications & NEST Parallel Code

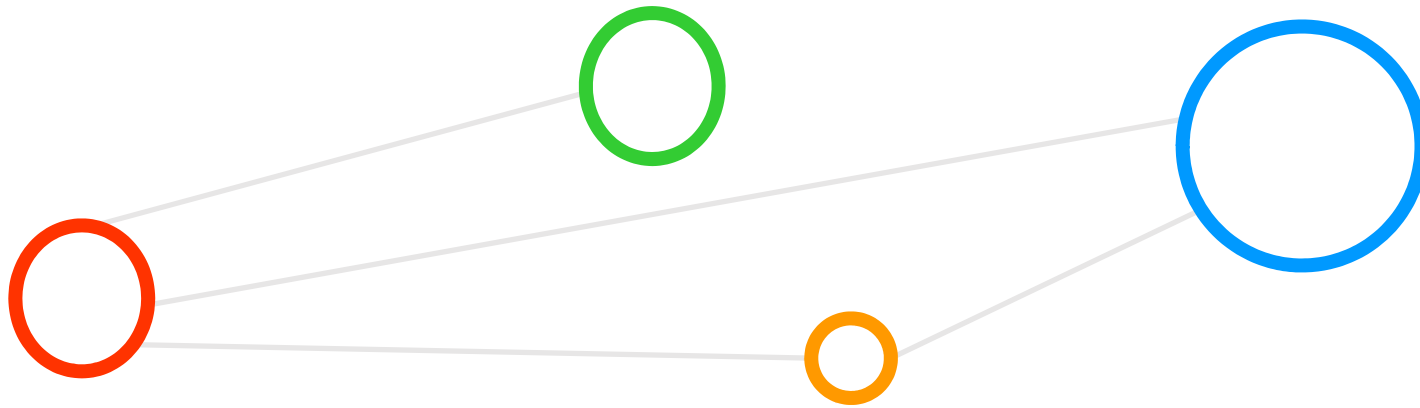
## ■ Bioinformatics

- Motivation for Analysis of DNA Sequences & Terminology
- Scientific Case Gene Sequencing & Role of Databases
- Web Portals & BLAST Parallel Application Example
- Drug Development using Scalable Computing Infrastructures
- Human Brain Project Example for Challenges in Neuroscience

- Promises from previous lecture(s):
- *Practical Lecture 0.2*: Lecture 12 & Lecture 13 provides more insights about selected applications in Terrestrial Systems & some applications in Neuroscience
- *Lecture 5*: Lecture 13 will provide more details on using different & scalable parallel algorithms for systems biology & bioinformatics applications
- *Lecture 10*: Lecture 13 will provide more details on various systems biology & bioinformatics application codes that use parallel computing
- *Lecture 12*: Lecture 13 provides more details on general & so-called ensemble methods to estimate uncertainties that are often used in HPC

- Note that this lecture is only a short lecture that usually needs a full course
- The goal is to understand selected HPC application fields & provide a few pointers to other advanced related university courses/topics/tutorials

# Systems Biology



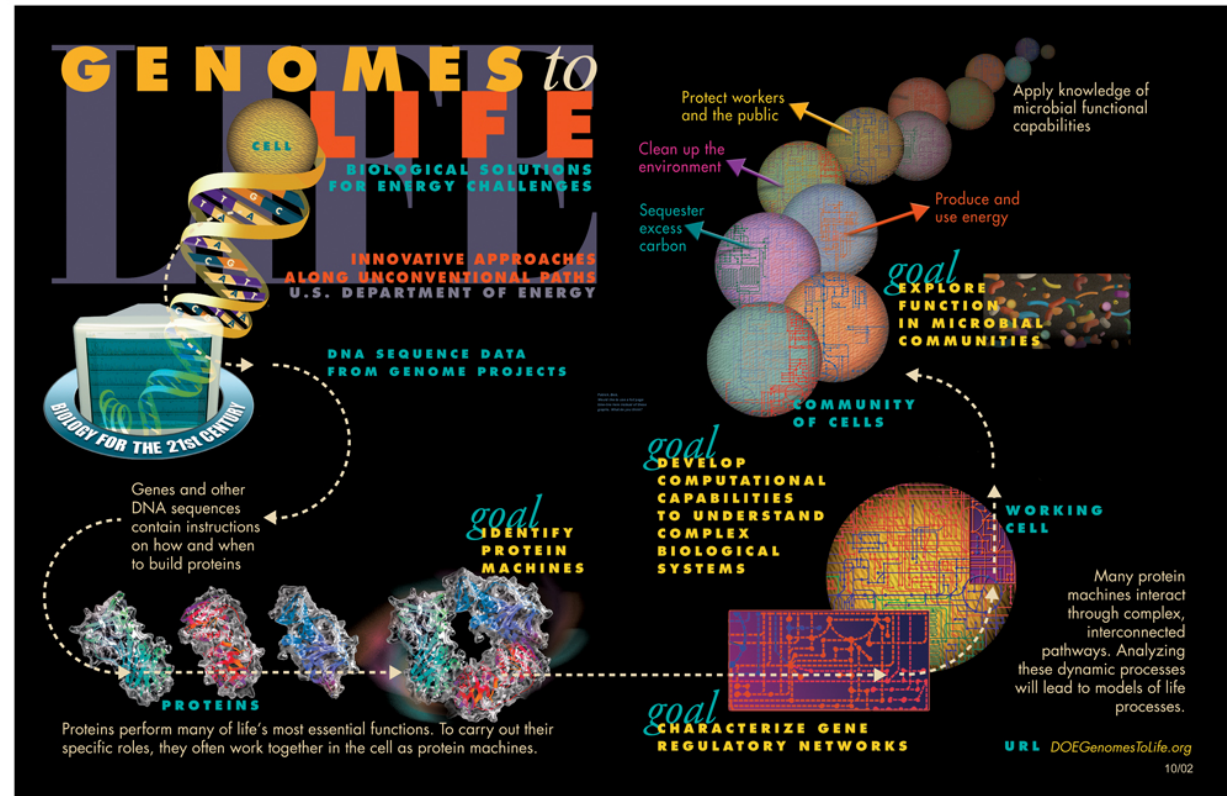


# Systems Biology – Motivation

## ■ Focus

- Study, **model**, and simulate a ‘**complex biological system**’
- E.g. understand and simulate small ‘**Protein machines**’
- E.g. understand and simulate models of life processes in cells (‘**protein interactions pathways & joint work**’)

- **Systems biology is the computational and mathematical modeling of complex biological systems**
- **Modelling complex interactions within complex biological systems require powerful HPC systems**



*modified from [6] Wikipedia on Systems Biology*

# Systems Biology – Complex Domain-Specific Terminology

- Selected **terms**

- Atoms, molecules, peptides, cells, tissue, energy fields, **proteins**, etc.

(overlaps with many other domain-specific terminology)

- Selected **fields**

- Life sciences (broad)**, biochemistry, bioinformatics, biophysics, etc.

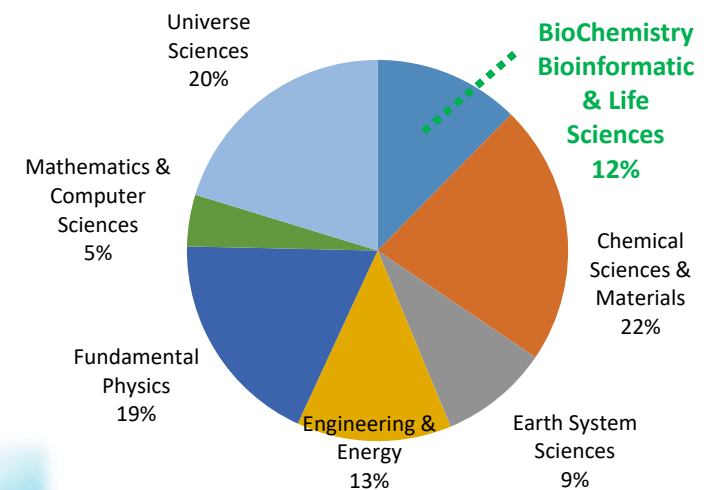
- Selected **tasks**

- Analysis, sampling, monte carlo

- Importance in HPC

- Focus on the ‘task at hand’** in parallelization:  
Not get carried away by terminology

- Modelling a complex biological systems requires an understanding of the complex terminology**
- Working closely together with domain scientists ensures correct understanding & modelling ideas**



[7] PRACE Usage per community

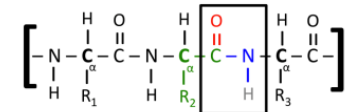
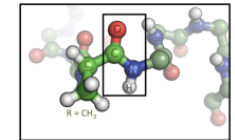
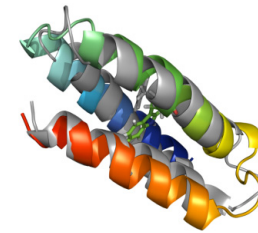


# Systems Biology – Domain-Specific Terminology – Proteins

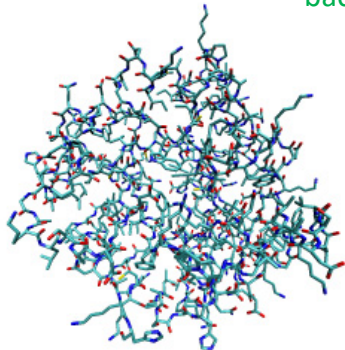
## ■ Proteins

- Large **biological molecules** that consist of one or more long chains of amino acid residues
- **Responsible for transporting molecules**
- Catalyzing and regulating **biochemical reactions** in the cell (or as **antibodies** for fighting infections)
- E.g. 3D-structure of the '**protein triose-phosphate isomerase**'

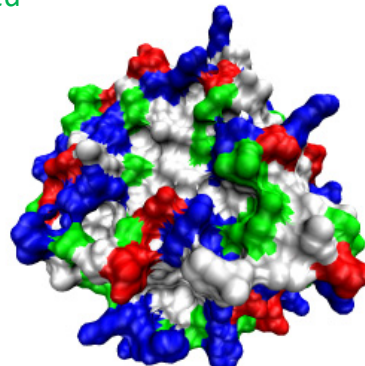
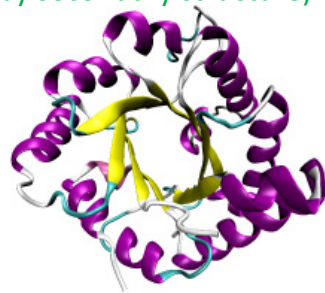
Function of a protein is closely related to its 3D shape



(all atom representation colored by atom type)



(simplified representation illustrating backbone conformation, colored by secondary structure)



(Solvent-accessible surface representation colored by residue type – acidic residues red; basic residues blue, polar residues green, non-polar residues white)

(once linked in the protein chain, an individual amino acid is called a residue)

[8] Wikipedia on Protein

# Systems Biology – Scientific Case Protein Folding (1)

- Understanding ‘physics of the proteins’

- Only functional if they assume specific shapes
- Important to explore how these structures emerge from a protein's chemical composition (sequence of amino acids as specified in the genome)

Part of a Multicanonical  
Simulation of PTH(1-34)



- Scientific impact

- Lead to the rational design of novel drugs
- Understanding of diseases that are caused by misfolding of proteins (e.g. protein mis-fold and aggregate conditions → neurological diseases)
- Research on solutions for neurological diseases (e.g. Alzheimers)

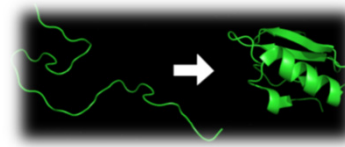
Visualizes sampling of protein structures  
by computational simulations  
(multicanonical sampling)

- Computational simulations

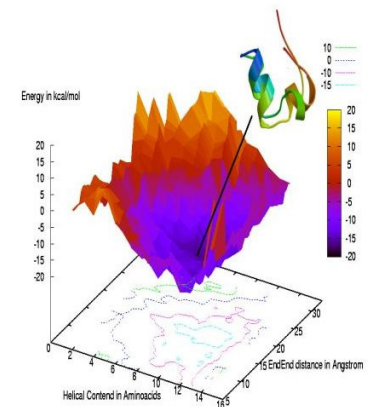
- Explore ‘sequence-structure relation’ – very complex problem
- Extremely difficult for realistic protein models with high dimensionality and competing interactions

## Systems Biology – Scientific Case Protein Folding (2)

- Need for ‘computational biophysical chemistry’
  - Understand for a given protein the relation between its sequence of amino acids and the set of thermally accessible conformations
  - Comprehend the mechanism by which the protein folds into its native structure
- Complex systems (Protein folding is computationally hard)
  - All-atom models lead rough energy landscape
  - Probing the mechanism of folding in small proteins
  - Explore conditions under which proteins mis-fold and aggregate
  - Analysis of the energy landscape of molecules
  - Time intensive calculation of energy function  
→ Potential for parallelization



[9] Protein Folding



[10] A. Schug et al.

- Understanding functions of proteins is a biological case of complex systems requiring HPC systems

# Systems Biology – SMMP Package Example (1)

## ■ Approach

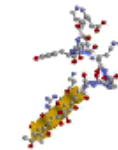
- Time intensive calculation of energy function:  
parallelized calculation of the energy
- Targets complexity through the development  
of numerical methods and techniques
- Energy of a protein can be calculated  
by exploiting different force fields
- Use various force fields to calculate the  
energy of a protein and protein-protein interactions

## ■ Selected Features

- Open source software package (some parts use MPI)
- Contains various modern Monte Carlo algorithms
- Contains more than 60 functions and subroutines

Simulation of the Peptide Sequence  
EKAYLRT Interacting with a  $\beta$ -Strand

[11] Eisenmenger &  
Hansmann *et al.*



© 2003 U. H. E. Hansmann

Structure of peptide  
(strand, alpha-helix, etc.)  
EKAYLRT depends  
on its environment

- Simple Molecular Mechanics for Proteins (SMMP)  
is a parallel software tool for protein simulations

## Systems Biology – SMMP Package Example (2)

### ■ Example: Parallelization of ECEPP/3 force field

[12] J. Meinke et al.

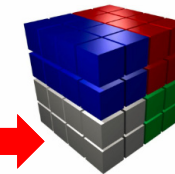
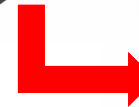
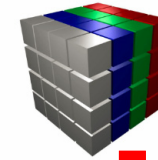
- i and j are indices of atoms;  $r_{ij}$  is the distance between atom i and j,
- L is the index of a dihedral angle in the protein chain.

$$E_{\text{ECEPP/3}} = \sum_{(i,j)} \frac{332q_iq_j}{\epsilon r_{ij}} + \sum_{(i,j)} \left( \frac{A_{ij}}{r_{ij}^{12}} - \frac{B_{ij}}{r_{ij}^6} \right) + \sum_{(i,j)} \left( \frac{C_{ij}}{r_{ij}^{12}} - \frac{D_{ij}}{r_{ij}^{10}} \right) + \sum_l U_l(1 \pm \cos(n_l \xi_l))$$

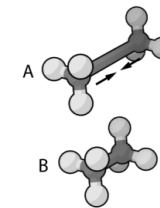
Energy function equation that needs to be calculated

(used to describe the potential energy of a system of particles (e.g. molecules and atoms))

(default arrangement for 4x4x4 communicator)



(cubic arrangement of communicator scale much better)

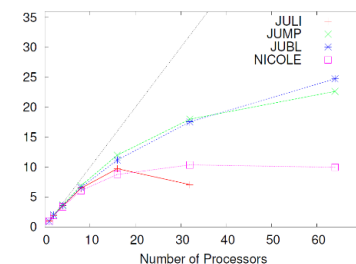


[13] Wikipedia on 'force fields'

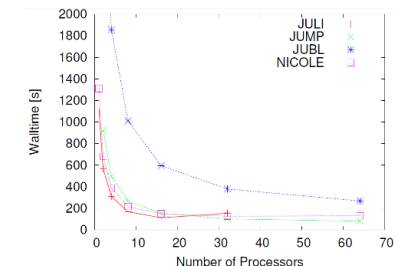
### ■ Selected parallelization approaches

- Optimize MPI communicators for the energy calculation with a cubic arrangement
- Use of sweeps of a Monte Carlo simulation (e.g. of the designed protein Top7, a 92 residue protein with 1477 atoms)

(Monte Carlo simulation of Top7 protein – 50 sweeps)



(maximum speedup 25x on JUBL – BlueGene/L System)



(significant reduction of used walltime)

# Systems Biology – Monte Carlo Methods – Approach

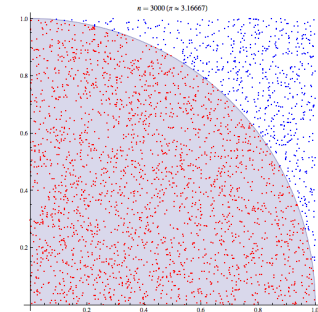
## ■ Method applicability

- Useful when it is **difficult or impossible to apply a deterministic algorithm**
- Define a domain of **possible inputs**
- Generate inputs randomly from a **probability distribution** over the domain
- Perform a **deterministic computation** on the inputs and **aggregate the results**

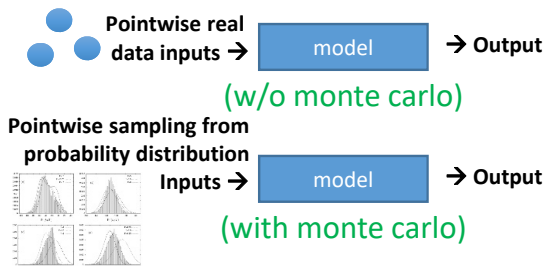
- Monte Carlo (MC) methods rely on **repeated random sampling** to obtain numerical results
- MC run simulations many times over to obtain the distribution of an unknown probabilistic entity

(origin related to techniques in playing & recording results in gambling casinos)

(also known as MC ensemble method)



(Example of approximating the value of  $\pi$  – After placing many (30000) random sampling points, the estimate for  $\pi$  is within 0.07% of the value – happens with an approximate probability of 20%)



(count the number of points inside the circle and the total number of points)

(the ratio of the two counts is an estimate of the two areas  $\sim \pi/4$ )

(estimate of the two areas gives  $\sim \pi/4$ , so multiply with 4 to estimate  $\pi$ )

[14] Wikipedia on Monte Carlo method

# Systems Biology – Monte Carlo Methods – MPI Example

```
#include <math.h>
#include <mpi.h>
#include <gsl/sdl_rng.h>
#include "gsl-spring.h"

int main( int argc; char *argv[]) {
    int i, k, N;
    double u, ksum, Nsum, gsl_rng *r;
    MPI_Init(&argc,&argv);
    MPI_Comm_size(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &N);
    MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &k);

    r = gsl_rng_alloc(gsl_rng_spring20);

    for (i=0; i<10000; i++) {
        u = gsl_rng_uniform(r);
        ksum += exp(-u*u);
    }

    MPI_Reduce(&ksum, &Nsum, 1, MPI_DOUBLE,
              MPI_SUM, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
    printf("MC estimate is %f\n", (Nsum/10000/N));
    MPI_Finalize();
    return 0;
}
```

*modified from [15] MSMC*

*'simplified  
demo code'*

- Include library for a parallel random number generator (PRNG) – Important part of MC!

- Initializes random number generator (with a specific type)

- Use 10000 variates on each processor to create 'local sum'
- Gsl\_rng\_uniform(r) function returns a double precision floating point number uniformly distributed in the range [0,1) (idea of probability distribution)

- Use MPI\_Reduce to create 'global sum' and printout estimate

(MPI code prints out estimate of integral)

$$I = \int_0^1 \exp(-u^2) du$$



# Systems Biology – Monte Carlo Methods – Example (1)

## ■ Scientific case: Understanding protein folding & pathways

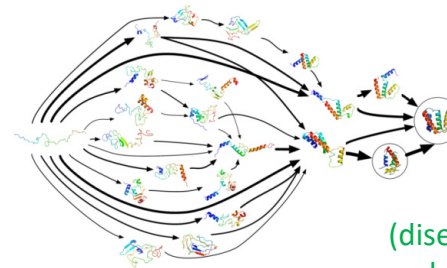
- Proteins perform functions within living organisms (e.g. respond to stimuli)
- Proteins differ in their sequence of amino acids, results in different foldings
- Correct and unique 3D structure is essential to the functions of proteins

(Research 'folds' to find out what the protein does and how it does it)

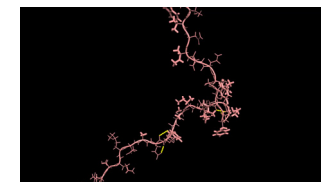
## ■ Process of protein folding as a parallel computing application

- Using Monte Carlo simulations
- Simulations that use stochastic methods
- to generate new configurations of a system
- Initial conditions of particles, then Monte Carlo 'moves' that changes configuration of particles (if acceptance criteria is fulfilled)

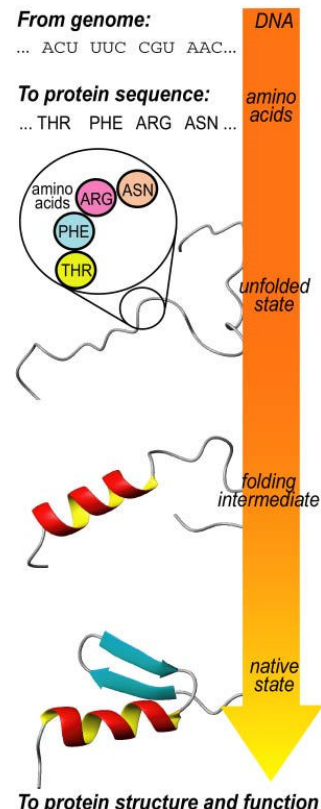
(out of the astronomical number of possible ways to fold, a protein can pick one fold in microseconds)



(diseases may happen)



- The Monte Carlo 'method' is used in many parallel computing applications, e.g. also in finance



[17] S. Mohanty et al, JSC Simlab Biology

[16] Folding@Home

# Systems Biology – Parallel Neuroscience Application Example – Revisited

- **Scientific case:** understanding the function of the human brain

- **Neuron/NEST code:**

- Parallel application codes to simulate biologically realistic neural networks (**neurons + synapses**)

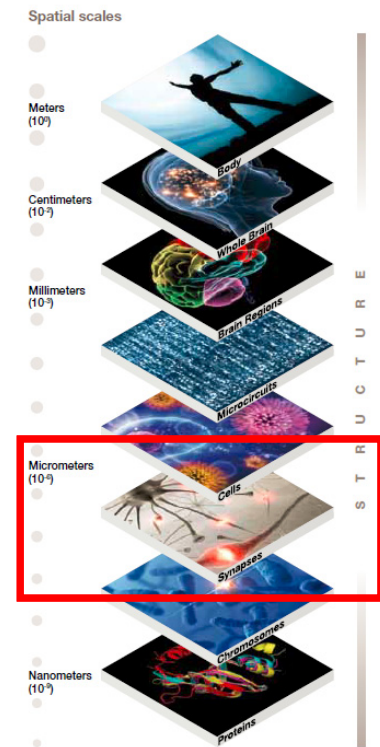
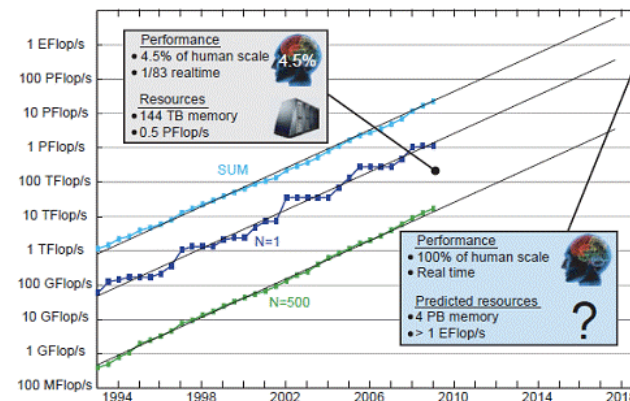
(the biggest supercomputers today just reach ~4.5% of human scale)

- Simulate models of the brain at different levels

- **Different 'granularity':** Molecular, cellular, network level
  - Simulated brain will reach up to **~900 TB (Big Data!)**

Simulated ~2 billion neurons

- **1 second biological time**
  - **40 minutes compute time (on K supercomputer)**



[18] HBP Project

# Systems Biology – Parallel Neuroscience Application Example – Revisited

## ■ Simulations of spiking – parallel neural network models

- Use parallelization (e.g. [MPI](#) cf. Lecture 3 [and hybrid programming](#))

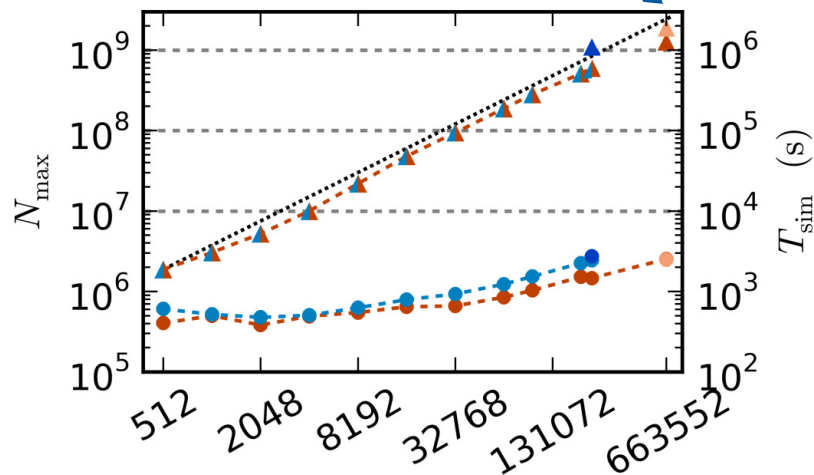


Human Brain Project

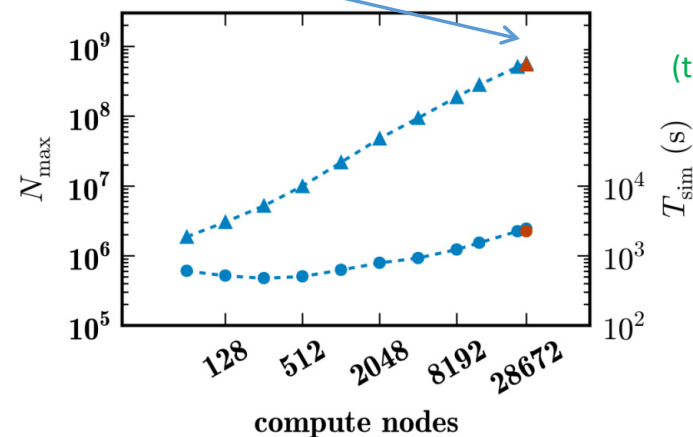
nest::

Largest spiking neural network simulation to date:  
 $1.86 \cdot 10^9$  neurons,  $11.1 \cdot 10^{12}$  synapses

550 Mio. Neurons,  $5.5 \cdot 10^{12}$  synapses on 458752 cores



(11.250 synapses/neuron – light blue JUQUEEN, red: K computer)

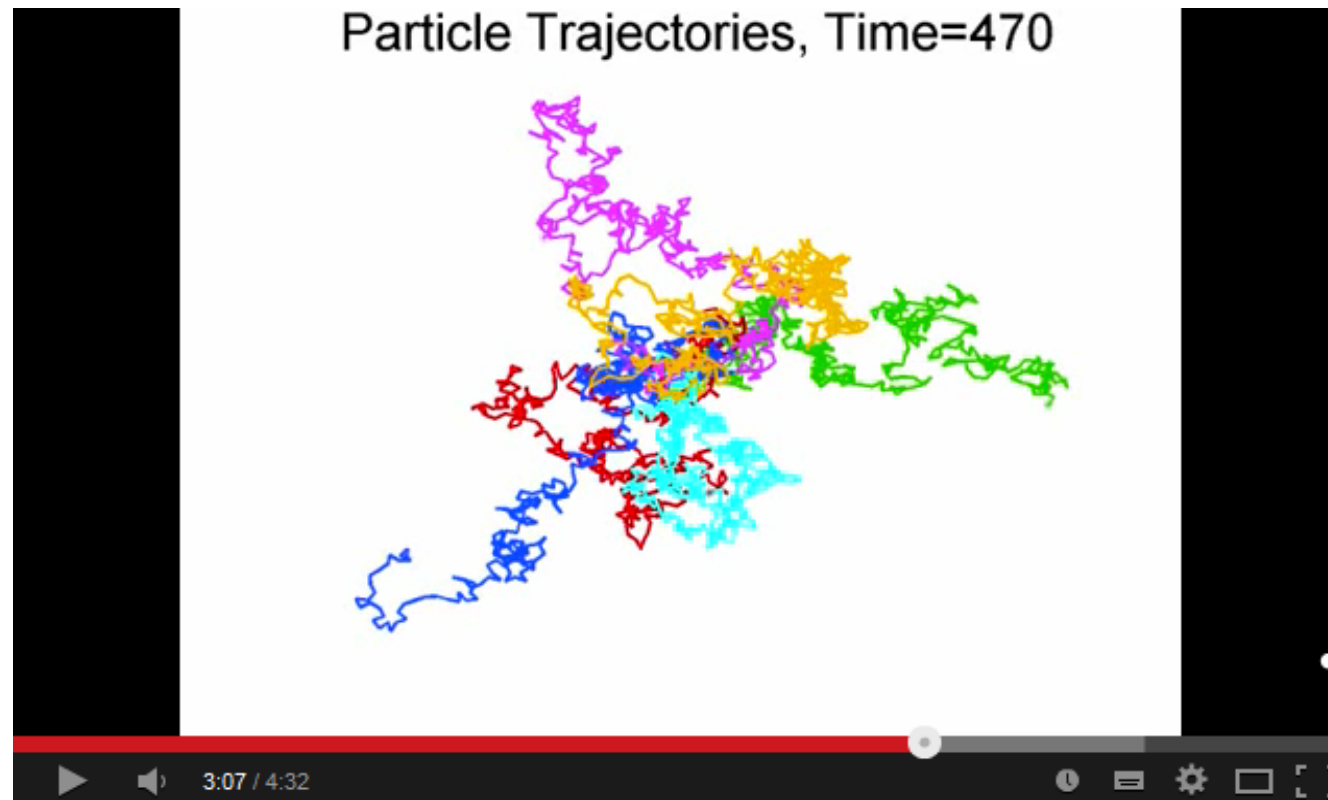


(blue: 8 threads, red: 16 threads per node)

(triangles: maximum network size,  
dots: simulation time)

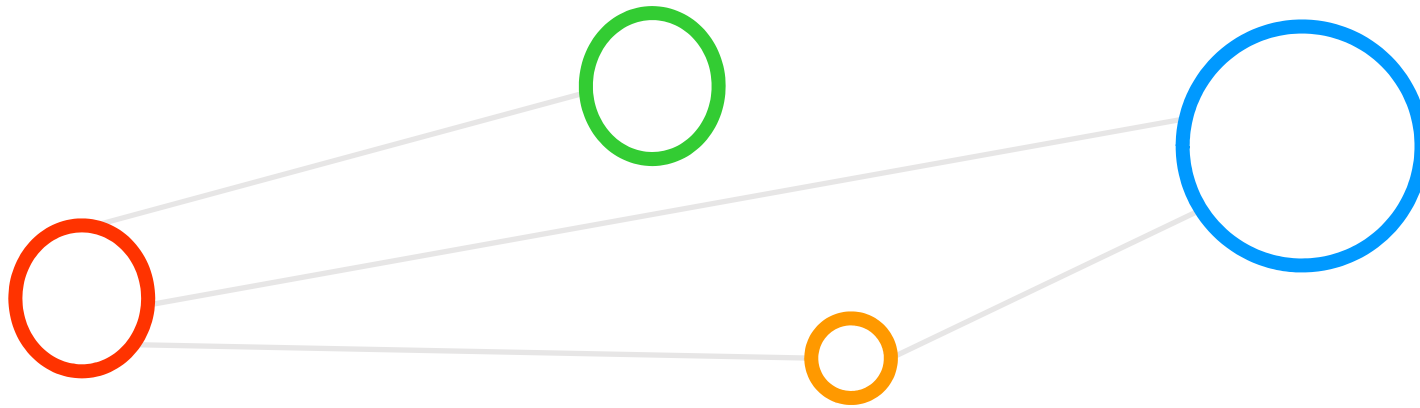
[18] HBP Project

## [Video] Systems Biology – Important Monte Carlo Methods



*[19] YouTube Video, Monte Carlo Simulation*

# Bioinformatics



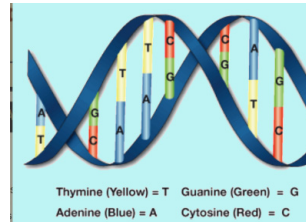
# Bioinformatics – Motivation & BLAST Application Example

## ■ Focus

- Study and process **biological datasets** (cf. Systems Biology focus was ‘model complex systems’)
- Develop **user-friendly** tools & technologies
- E.g. analysis of ‘**DNA sequences**’

## ■ Relationship to **Systems Biology**

- **Closely related** with **massive overlaps**
- **Tools & techniques** developed & exchanged
- **Datasets** used in both fields from real biological systems



- **Bioinformatics develops methods & software tools for understanding biological datasets**
- **Interdisciplinary field combining computer science, statistics, mathematics and engineering**

## ■ **BLAST Application Example**

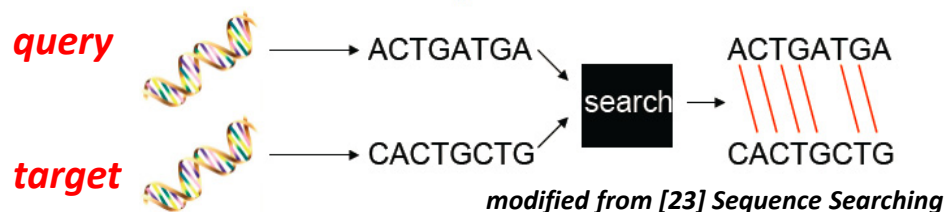
- **Scientific case:** Infer functional and evolutionary **relationships between gene sequences**
- **General approach:** Finds regions of local similarity between gene sequences
- Two step **method**:
  1. **Compare gene sequences** to sequence databases (DBs)
  2. Calculate the statistical **significance of matches**

- **The Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) is one of the most known tools in comp. biology**
- **BLAST two step method: (1) Compares gene sequences to DBs (2) Calculates match significance**

*modified from [22] Wikipedia on Bioinformatics    [21] DNA sequences*

# Blast Application in Computational Biology – Comparing Sequences

- Comparing sequences
  - **Heuristic method** → approximate solutions, exact is too compute-intensive
  - Finds similar sequences not by comparing either sequence in its entirety
  - **Locates short matches between the two sequences** to find similar ones
- Algorithm (many optimizations and variations exist)
  - Input A: **Query sequence to search for**
  - Input B: **Sequence(s) to search against** (target sequence)  
(Use of sequence DB here enables comparison with n sequences)
  - Output: **Found sub-sequences in target/DB similar to subsequences in query**



[24] NCBI GenBank Genomic BLAST databases

NCBI Home: GenBank BLAST			
The Map Viewer provides a wide variety of genome mapping and sequencing data. <a href="#">More...</a>			
Search	▼	Vertebrates	(36)
Search for:	▼	Mammals	(27)
▼	Go	Primates	(11)
Tools Legend	▼	Scientific name	Common name
① Search or Browse the Genome	▼	Callithrix jacchus	white-tufted-ear marmoset
② BLAST	▼	Sciurus griseus	western grey squirrel
③ Clone Finder	▼	Homo sapiens	human
④ Go to region on a chromosome	▼	Macaca mulatta	rhesus macaque
⑤ Genome Resources page	▼	Nomascus leucogenys	northern white-cheeked gibbon
News	▼	Otlemur garnettii	small-eared galago
18 annotation releases added to MapViewer	▼	Pan paniscus	pygmy chimpanzee
The following Annotation Releases are now available on MapViewer. <a href="#">more</a>	▼	Pan troglodytes	chimpanzee
Mouse annotation release 103	▼	Papio anubis	olive baboon
Mouse annotation release 100	▼	Pongo abelii	Sumatran orangutan
Ovis aries annotation release 100 has been released to MapViewer. <a href="#">more</a>	▼	Saimiri boliviensis	Bolivian squirrel monkey
Rattus norvegicus build 5.1 released	▼		
Rattus norvegicus build 5.1 has been released to mapviewer. <a href="#">more</a>	▼		
Related Resources	▼		
	▼		



# Blast Application in Computational Biology – Parallelization Approach

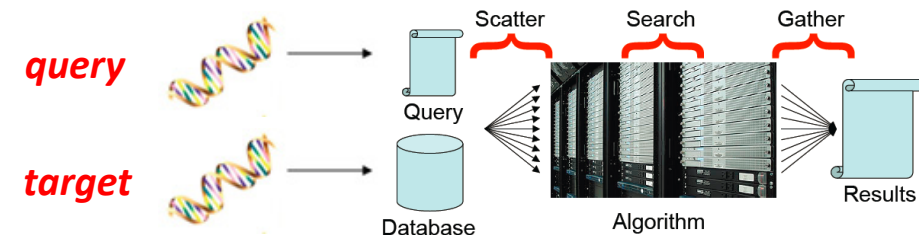
## ■ Parallelization

1. Apply a good parallelization method (e.g. domain decomposition or general parallelization approach)
  2. Write ‘manually’ good MPI (or OpenMP) code for (technical) communication between processors (e.g. across 1024 cores)
- In this case the MPI implementation exists already: mpiBLAST
  - (practice: several different parallel implementations of BLAST exist)
- ## ■ mpiBLAST as ‘parallel computing application’
- Open Source, parallel MPI implementation of BLAST

[25] MPI Blast



Master-worker  
scheme (cf. Lecture 3)



- As the searches are independent from each other we can use parallel libraries to split the whole ‘big search query’ into smaller independent ‘search tasks’ computed in parallel
- As in many cases within parallel application development, commonly needed libraries or implementations of algorithms are already existing and should be re-used where possible

```
int main( int argc, char* argv[] ) {  
    ...  
    MPI_Init(&argc, &argv);  
    MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &rank);  
    MPI_Comm_size(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &node_count);  
    ...  
    MPI_Barrier(MPI_COMM_WORLD);  
    ...  
    MPI_Finalize();  
    ...  
}
```

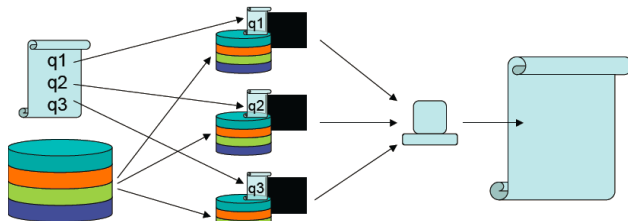
mpiblast.cpp

# Blast Application in Computational Biology – Parallel I/O Approach

## ■ I/O Approach

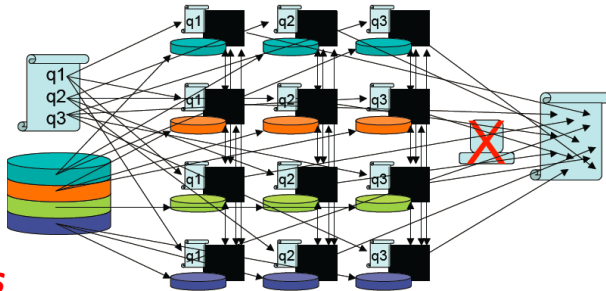
- Integrate well technical code with ‘problem-domain code’  
(e.g. target database data & data distribution)

*‘Distribute  
DB & Query  
fragments’*



*‘not well integrated’  
→ scalability limits  
(master bottleneck, IO,  
load imbalancing,...)*

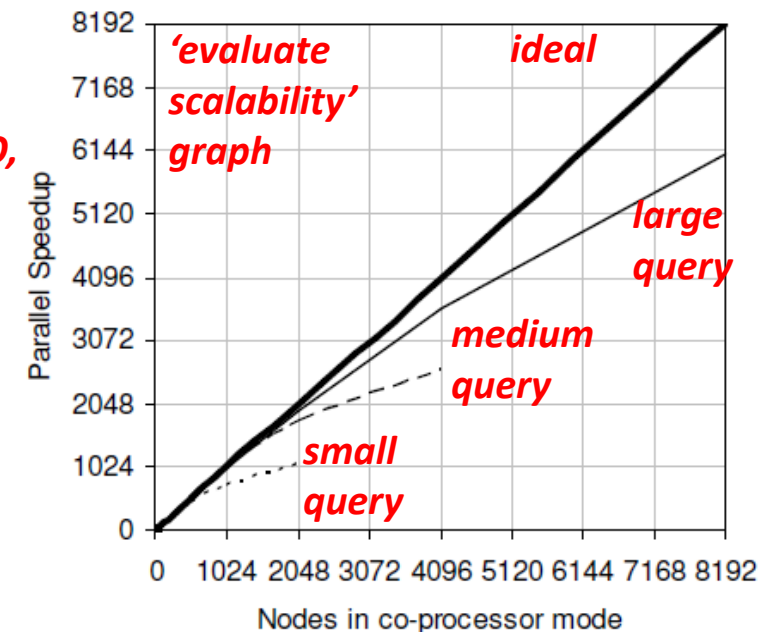
*Knowing...  
... system architecture  
... parallel file system  
... available memory  
... MPI instead of files  
... using communicators*



*‘optimizations’  
(e.g. think about  
I/O & network)*

*‘well integrated’  
→ truly scalable  
(parallel IO,  
multiple masters)*

- Achieving a speedup of ‘processing some problem space data sets’ is one of the major motivations of creating parallel computing applications that users can really experience



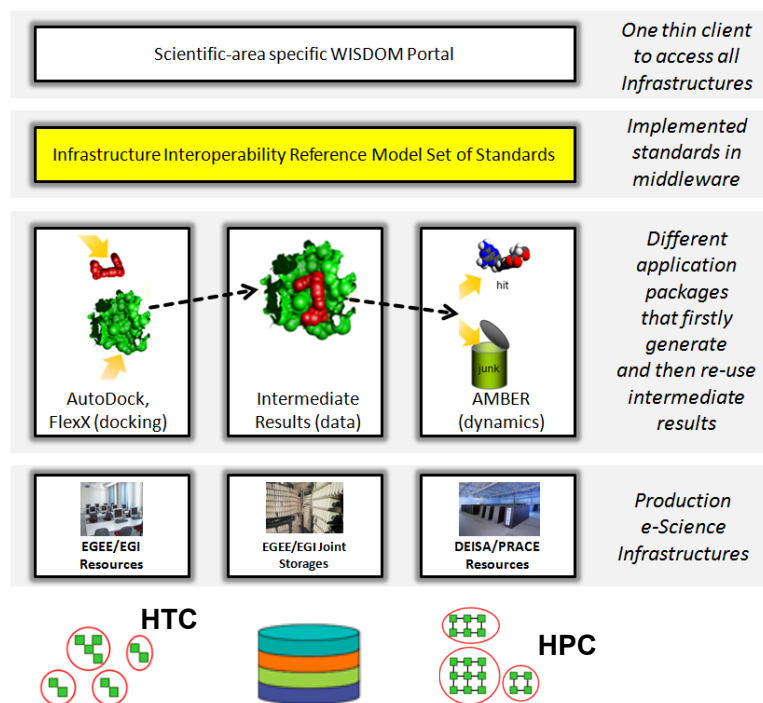
- Optimizations in various forms and using a wide variety of different approaches can lead to significant improvements in speed-up of the parallel computing application

modified from [26] O. Thorsen et al.,  
Parallel Genome Sequence Search

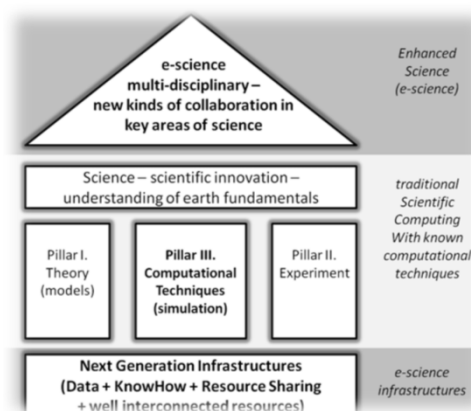
[23] Sequence Searching

# Bioinformatics – Drug Development using Scalable Computing Infrastructures

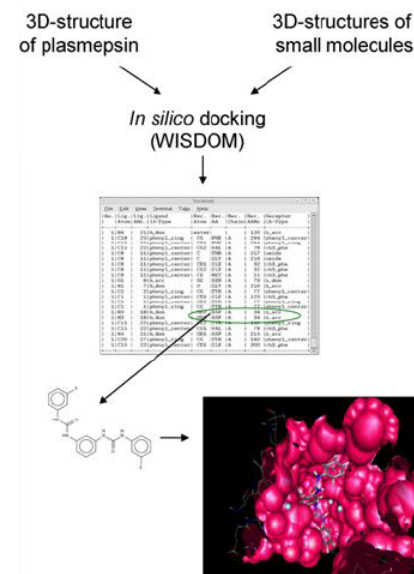
- Use of Interoperability of **two different computing paradigms**
  - E.g. use of HTC in EGI & HPC in PRACE infrastructures (cf. Short Lecture 11)



(Web-based portal make complex infrastructure access easy for biological domain scientists)

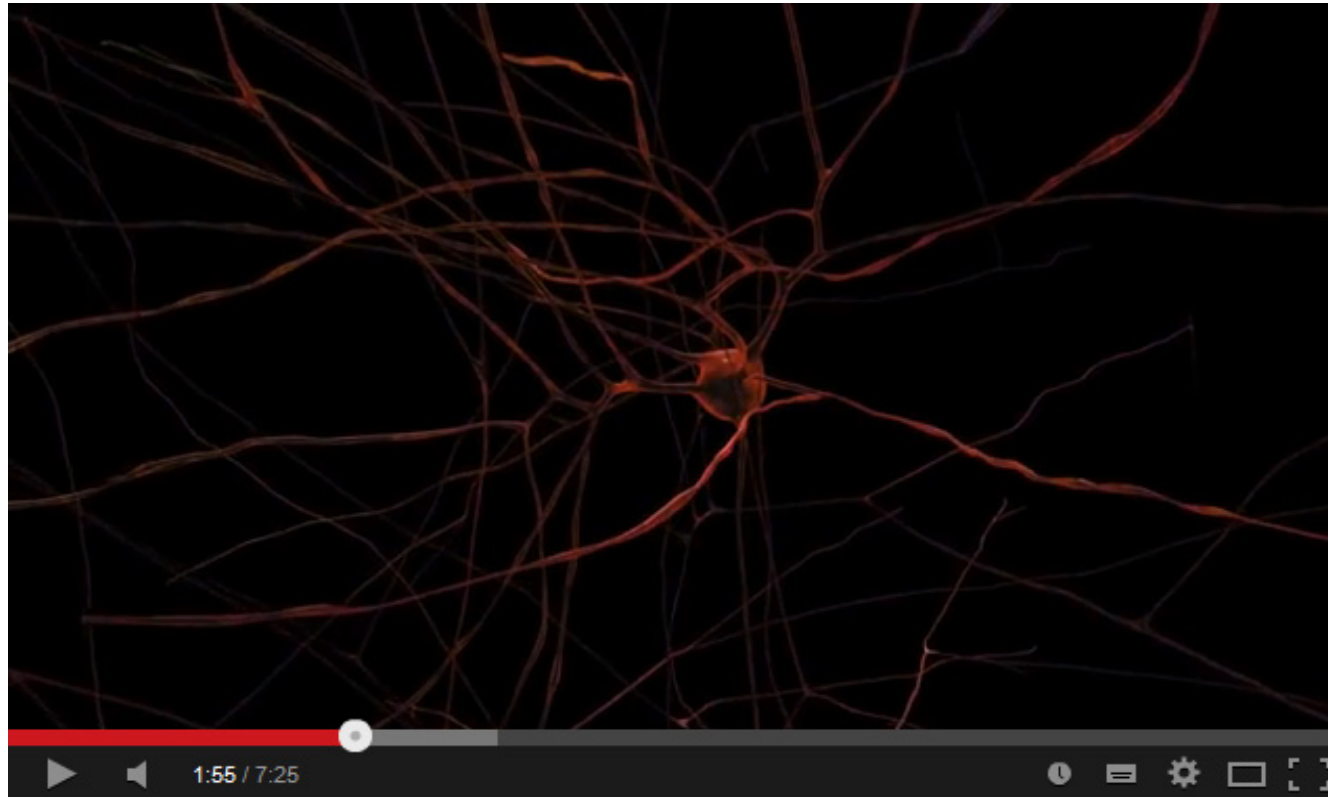


[27] M. Riedel et al., 'Research Advances by using interoperable e-Science Infrastructures', 2009



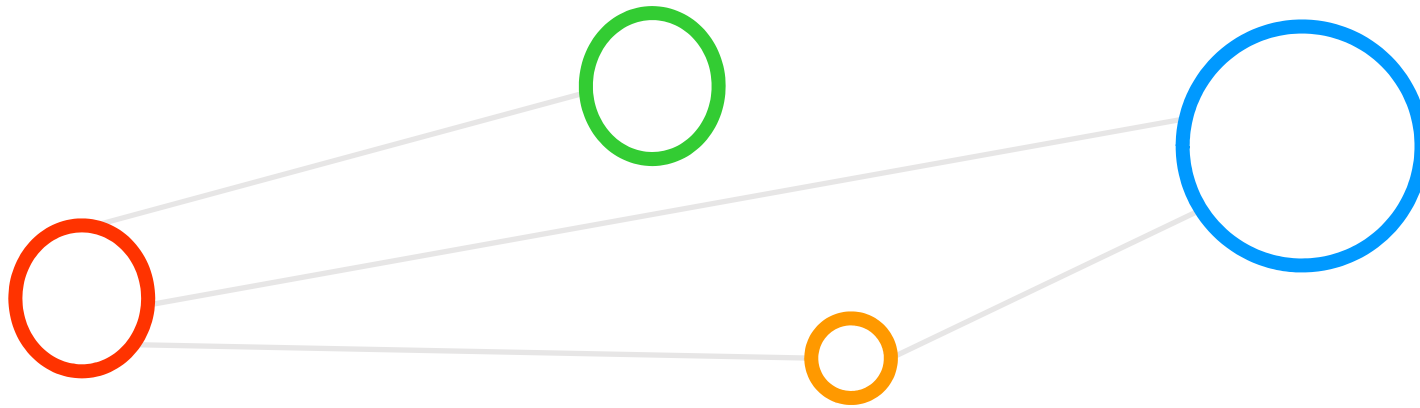
➤ Lecture 14 will provide more pieces of information about molecular systems & libraries as well as selected parallel application methods

## [Video] Systems Biology & Bioinformatics in Neuroscience



*[20] YouTube Video, Human Brain Project*

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