

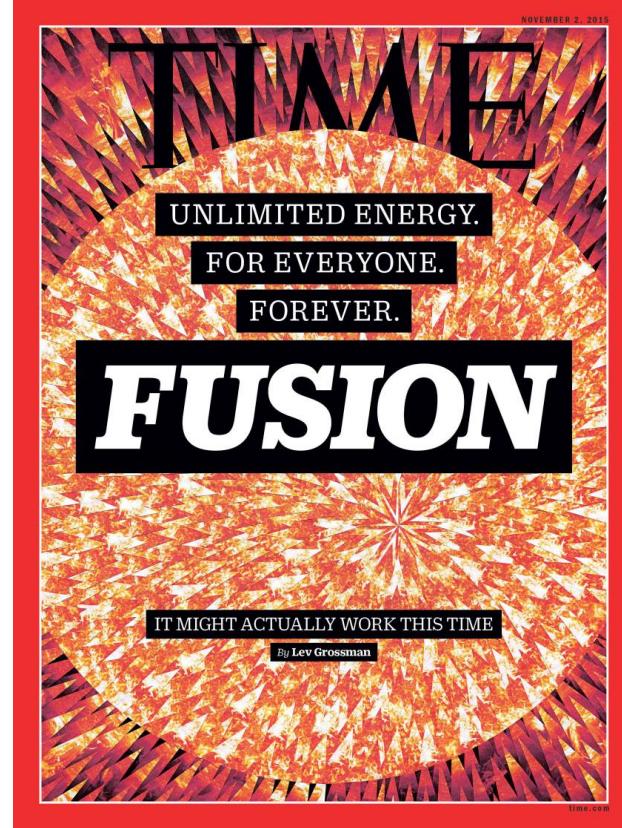
# Combining Computing and Learning for (Plasma) Physics

Frank Jenko

Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics, Garching  
Technical University of Munich  
The University of Texas at Austin

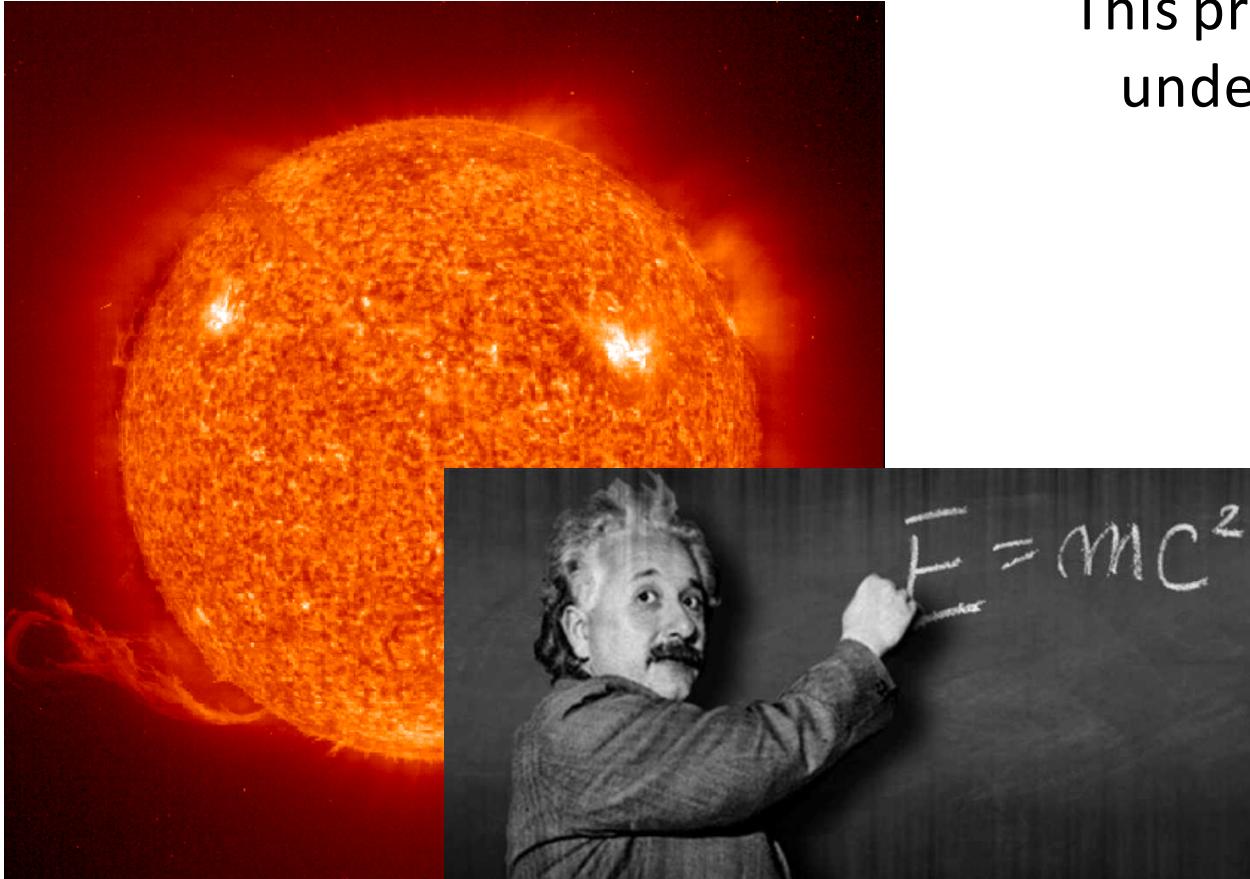
Workshop on *HPC and Data Science for Scientific Discovery*  
IPAM, University of California, Los Angeles, USA, October 15-19, 2018

# Fusion energy in the news (two examples)

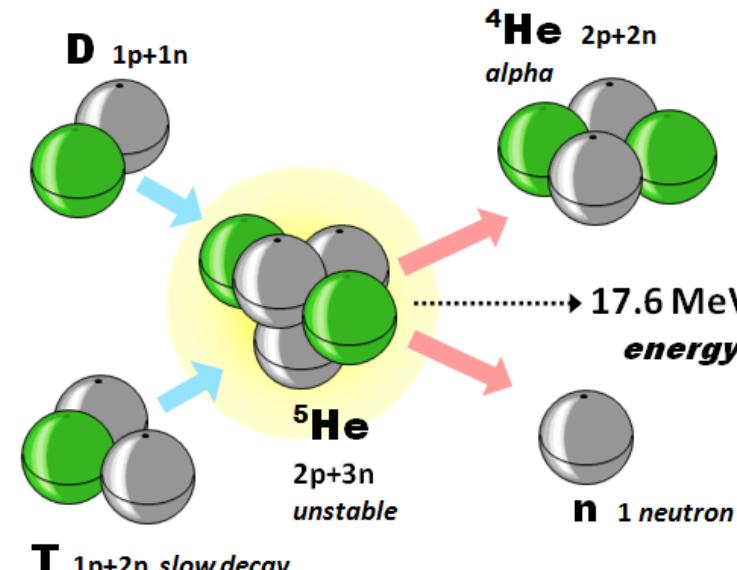


Idea: Carbon-free energy source  
for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and well beyond

# Fusion energy in the laboratory



This process has by far the **highest reaction rate** under experimentally accessible conditions:



LastTechAge.wordpress.com

Optimal temp: 145–330 M °C

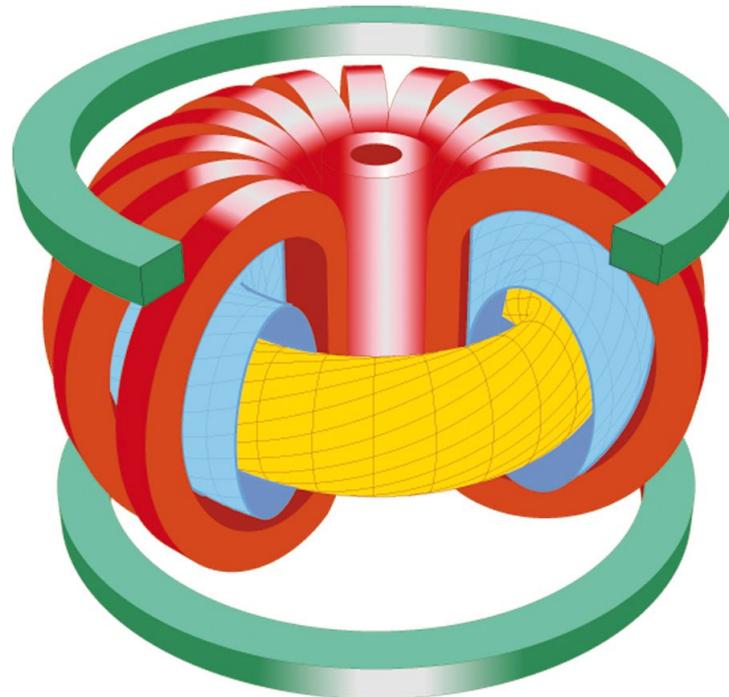
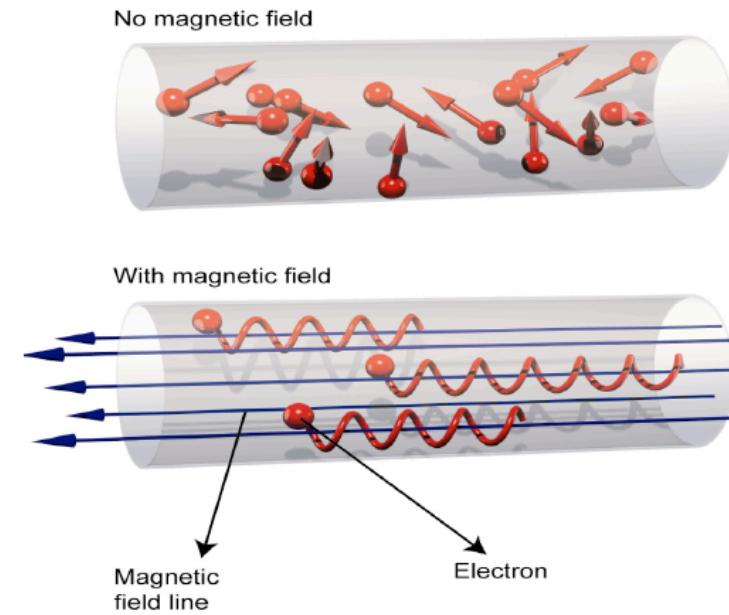
Still, temperatures of about **100 million degrees** are required!  
Thus, **we are dealing with a fully ionized gas (plasma)**

# Magnetic confinement of fusion plasmas

Charged particles basically follow magnetic field lines

Helically twisted field lines span nested magnetic surfaces

Such an axisymmetric device is called “tokamak”



# Fusion research: Towards burning plasmas

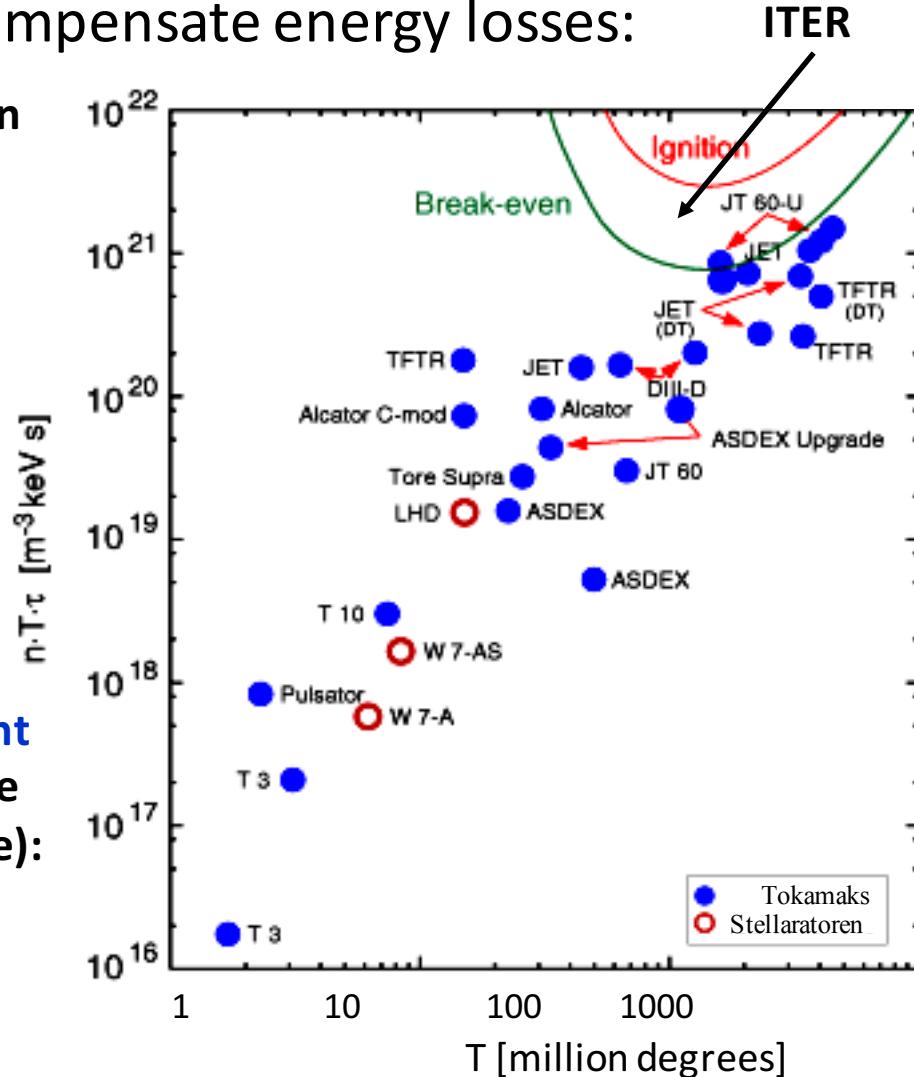
Self-heating must compensate energy losses:

- Electromagnetic radiation
- Turbulent transport

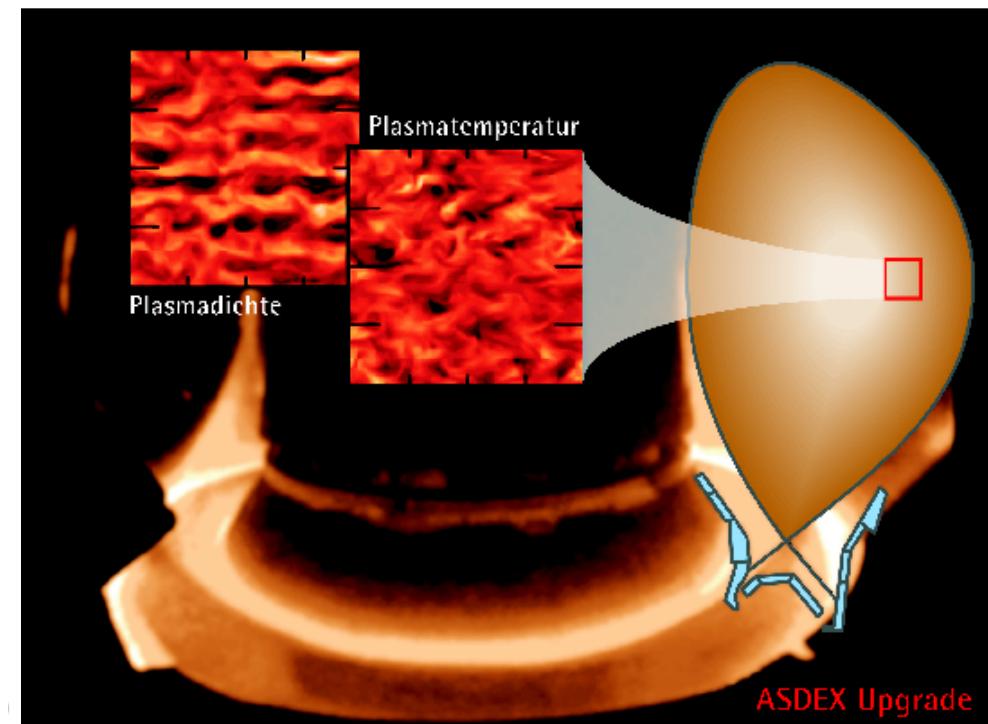
## Key requirements:

- Large central pressure  
(limited by onset of large-scale instabilities)
- Large energy confinement time  
(limited by small-scale instabilities, i.e. turbulence):

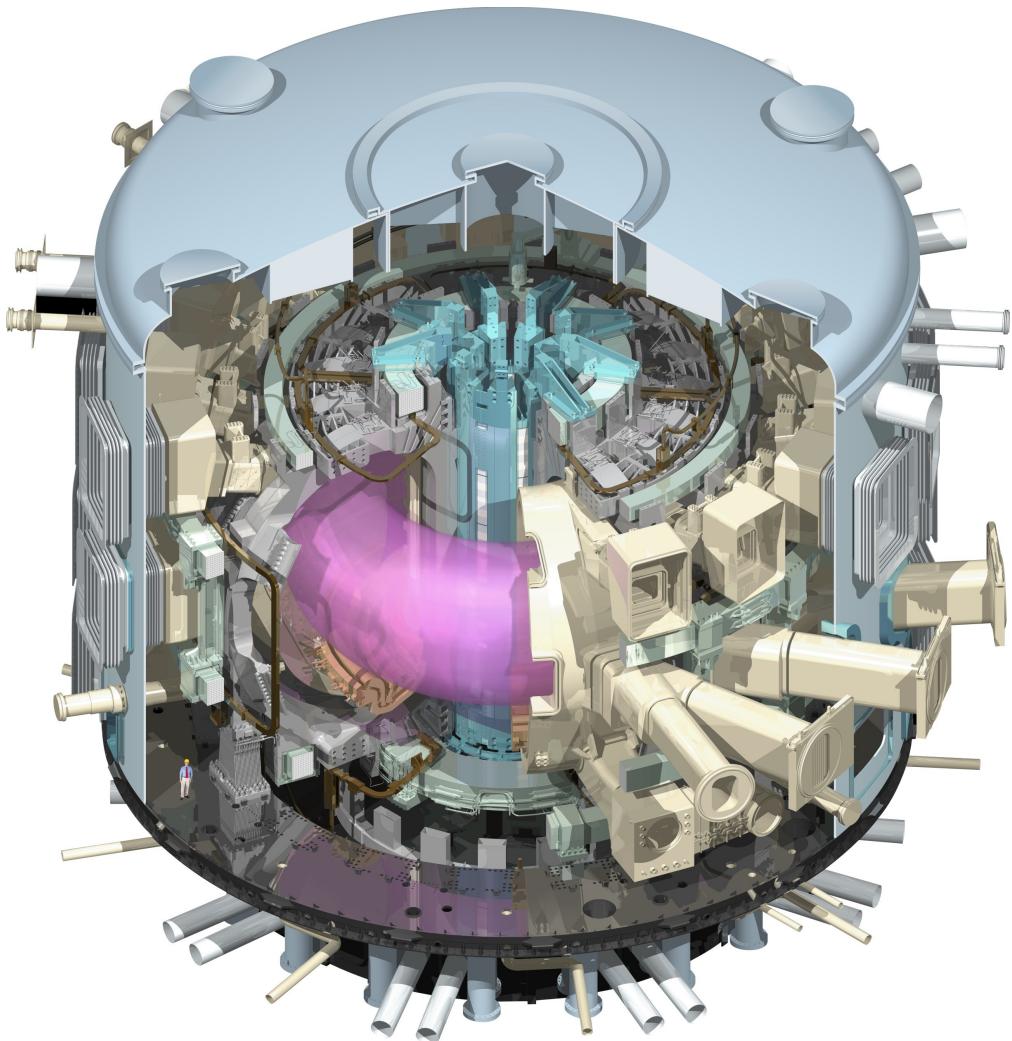
$$\tau_E = E_{\text{plasma}} / P_{\text{loss}}$$



Radial heat transport due to small-scale turbulence controls energy confinement time



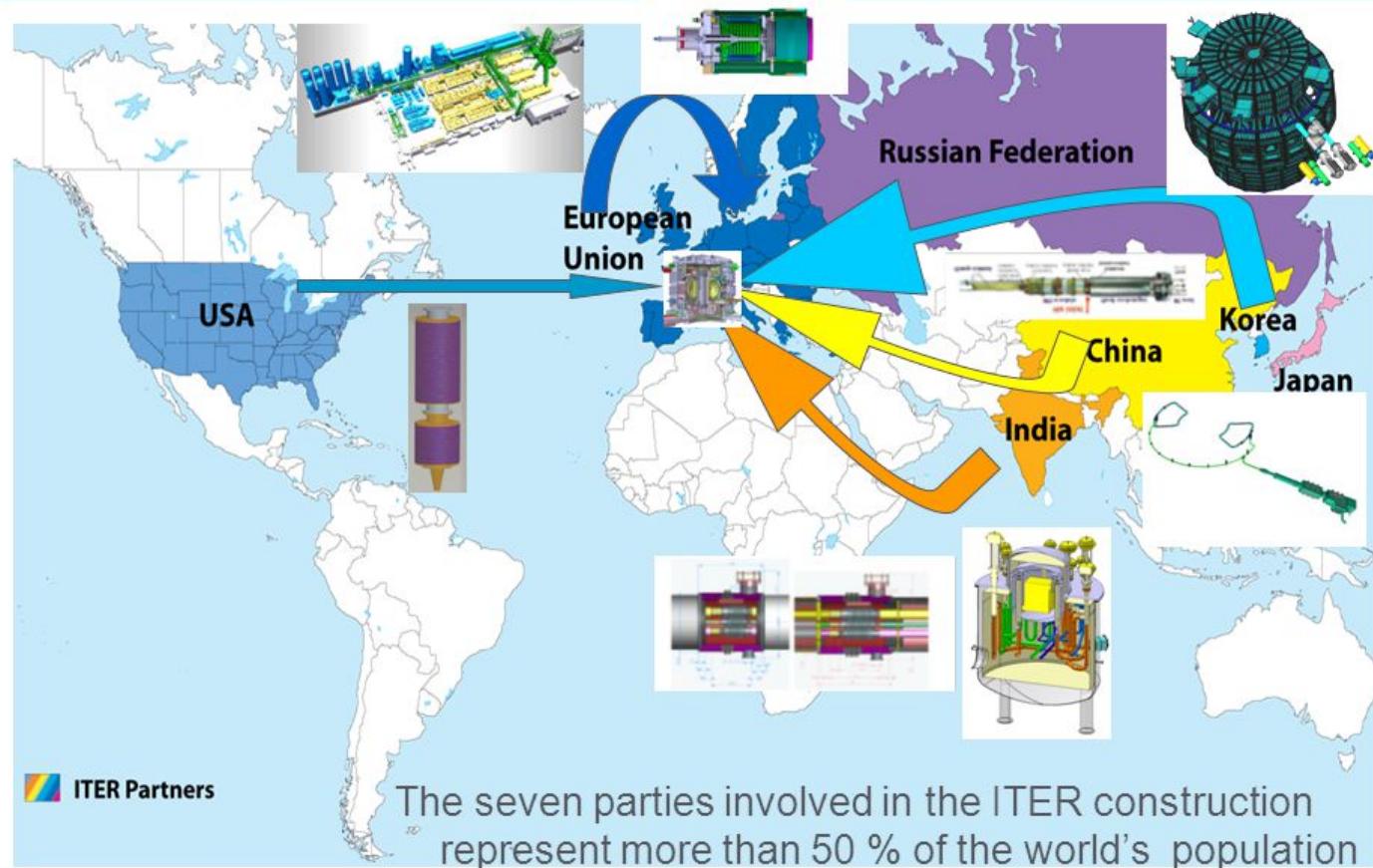
# The international ITER project



Goal: 500 MW of fusion power

[www.iter.org](http://www.iter.org)

## ITER PROJECT: International Cooperation



# ITER construction site in Southern France



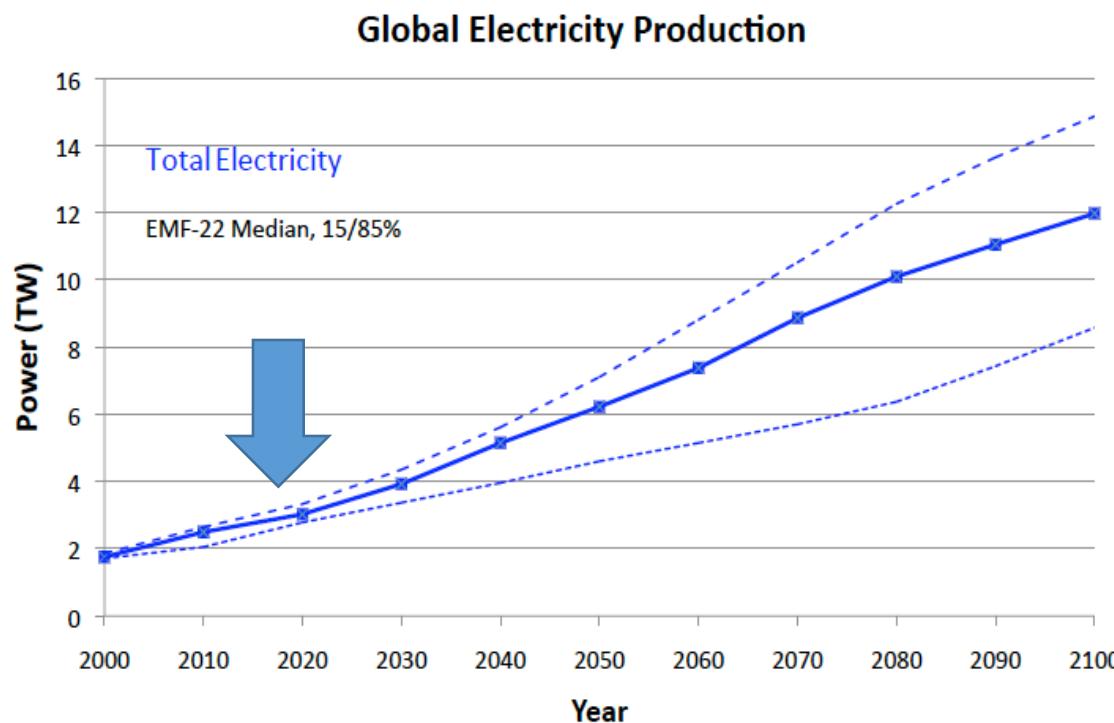
# Resources are practically unlimited



**Deuterium** in a bath tub full of water and **Lithium** in a used laptop battery suffice for a family over 50 years

# Global electricity needs will keep increasing

Energy Modeling Forum 22  
100 models from 15 research groups (Clarke 2009)





**From trial-and-error to predict-first:  
The role of High Performance Computing**

# At the forefront of supercomputing since the 70's

## NERSC HISTORY

### Powering Scientific Discovery Since 1974

Contact: Jon Bashor, [jbashor@lbl.gov](mailto:jbashor@lbl.gov), +1 510 486 5849



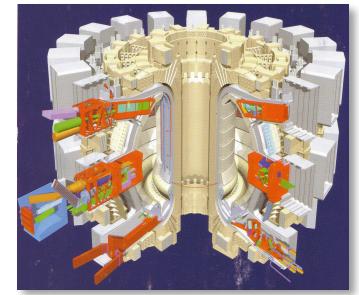
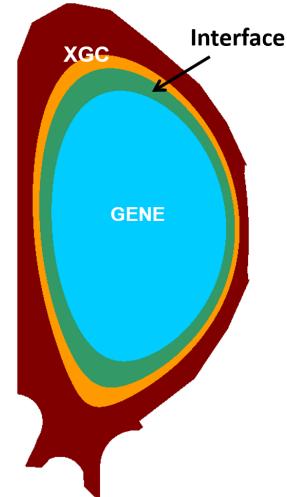
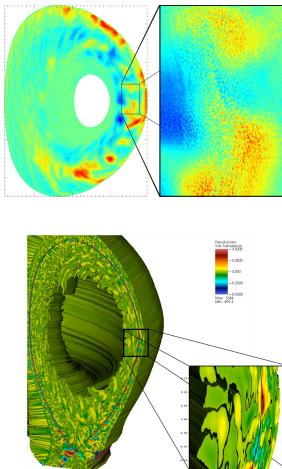
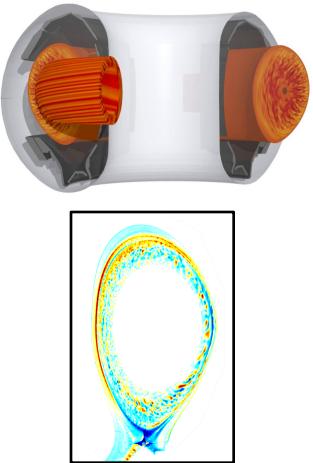
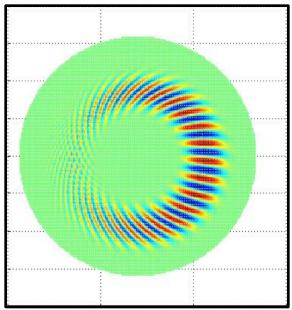
The oil crisis of 1973 did more than create long lines at the gas pumps — it jumpstarted a supercomputing revolution.

The quest for alternative energy sources led to increased funding for the Department of Energy's Magnetic Fusion Energy program, and simulating the behavior of plasma in a fusion reactor required a computer center dedicated to this purpose. Founded in 1974 at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the Controlled Thermonuclear Research Computer Center was the first unclassified supercomputer center and was the model for those that followed.

Over the years the center's name was changed to the National Magnetic Fusion Energy Computer Center and later the National Energy Research Supercomputer Center (NERSC). In 1983 NERSC's role was expanded beyond the fusion program, and it began providing general computing services to all of the programs funded by the DOE Office of Energy Research (now the Office of Science). The current name was adopted in 1996 when NERSC relocated to Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and merged with Berkeley Lab's Computing Sciences program. The name change — from "Supercomputer Center" to "Scientific Computing Center" — signaled a new philosophy, one of making scientific computing more productive, not just providing supercomputer cycles.

# Towards a virtual fusion plasma

Increasing fidelity & modeling capability with increasing computing power



## Gigaflops

Core: ion-scale electrostatic physics in simplified geometry

## Teraflops

Core: adding kinetic electron electromagnetic physics in a torus

Edge: ion+neutral electrostatic physics in a torus

## Petaflops

Core: adding electron-scale physics

Edge: adding kinetic electron electrostatic physics

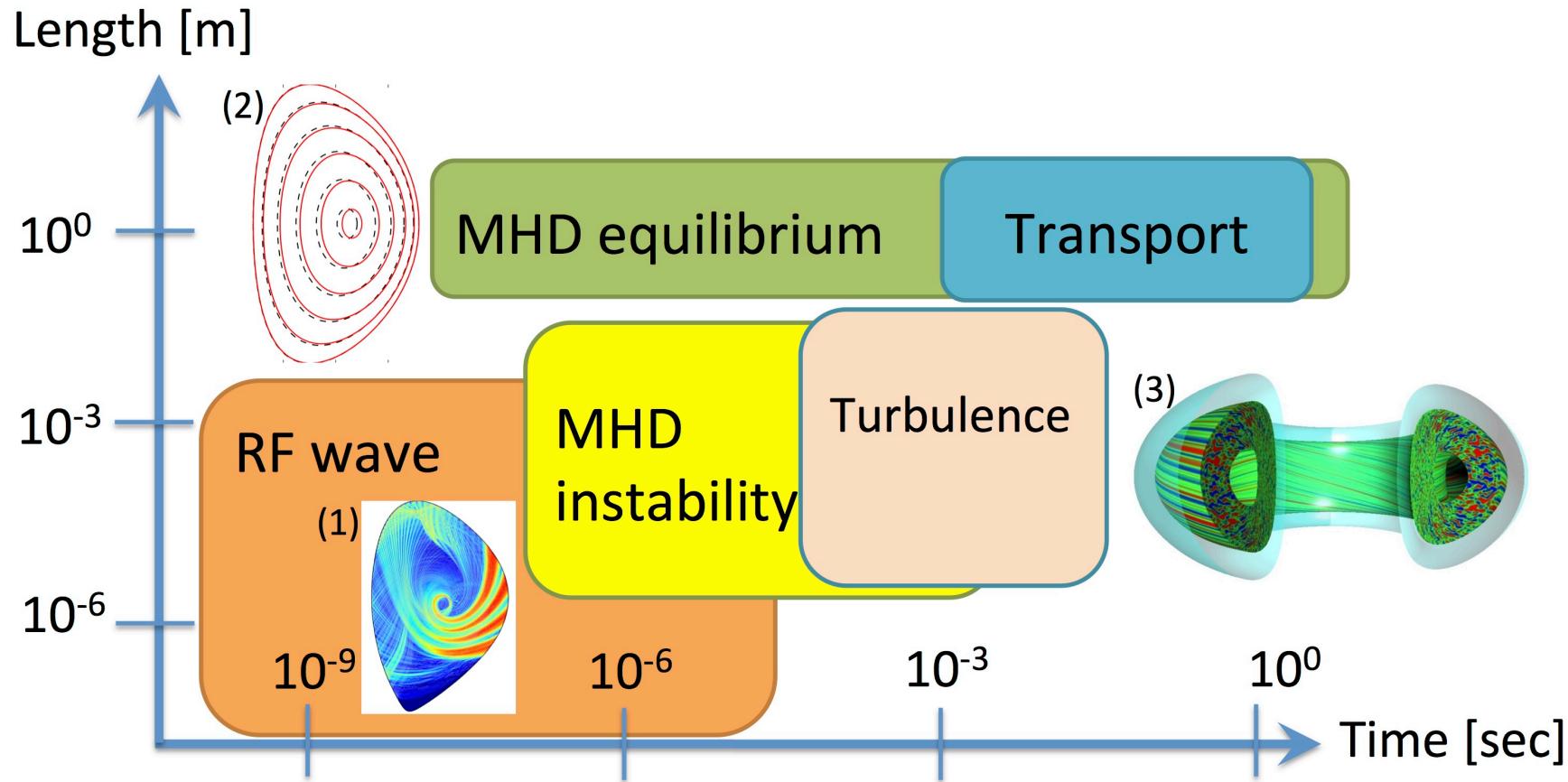
## Exaflops

Core-edge coupled studies of whole-device ITER, incl. turbulence, MHD instability, fast particles, heating, and plasma-wall interactions

## Beyond

Whole device modeling of all relevant fusion science

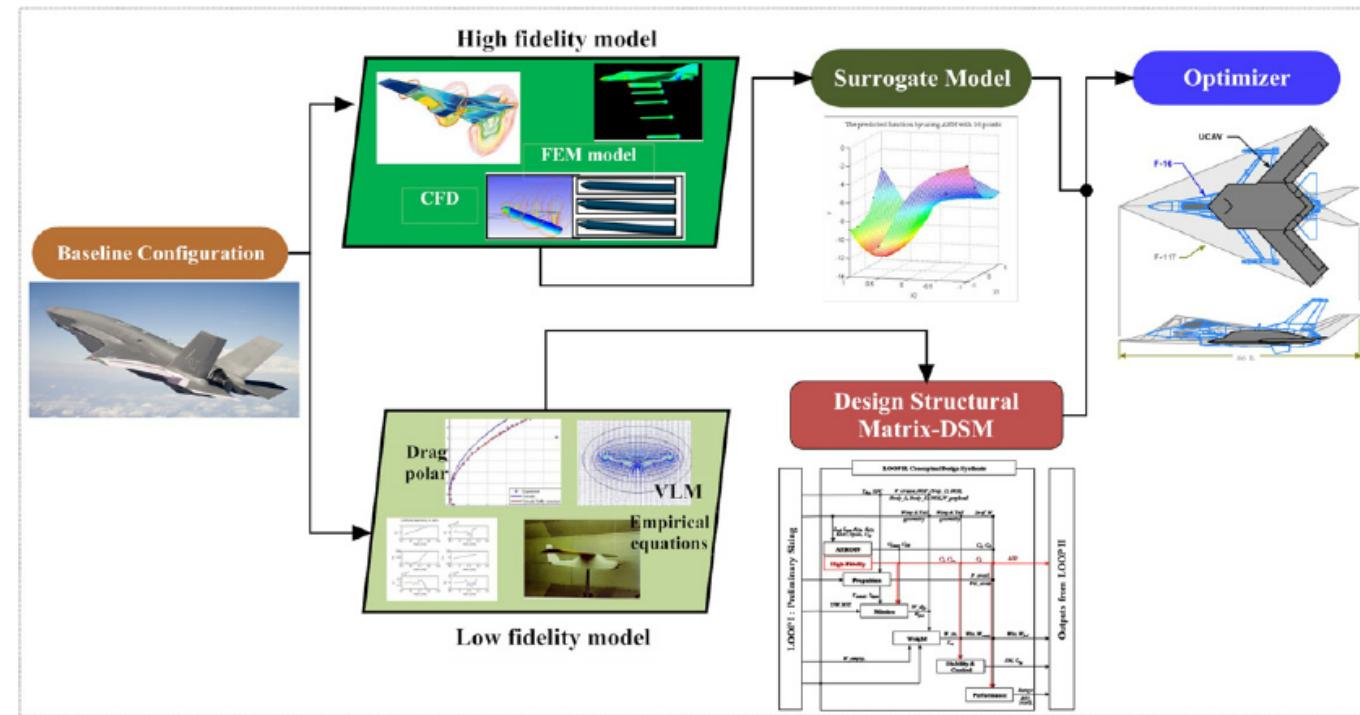
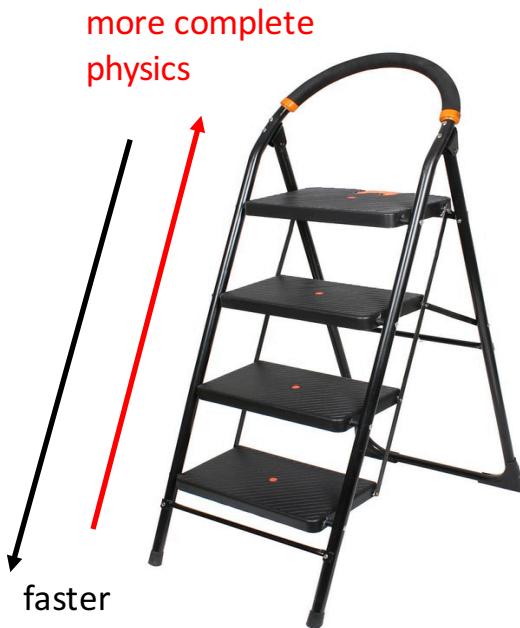
# The multiscale, multiphysics challenge



Many nonlinear interactions; we cannot use a simple “superposition principle”

# A multi-fidelity approach

An example:



**Talks by K. Willcox  
& B. Peherstorfer**

- High-fidelity models provide reliable **predictive capability**
- Lower-fidelity models foster **high-throughput computing**
- Both are needed – together



**A high-fidelity model for determining turbulent transport (i.e., the energy confinement time):  
The GENE code**

Global Gyrokinetic Simulation of  
Turbulence in  
**ASDEX Upgrade**



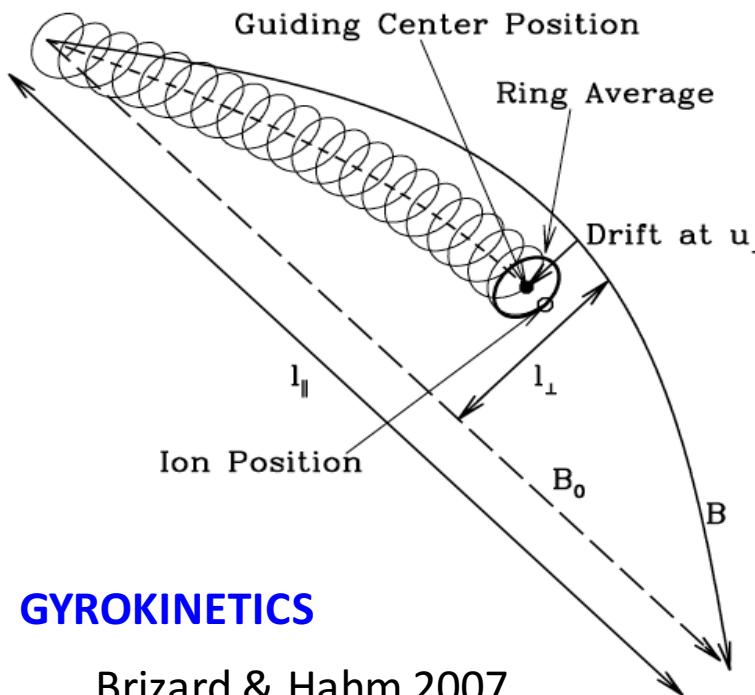
[gene.rzg.mpg.de](http://gene.rzg.mpg.de)

# Fluid models don't work – use (gyro-)kinetics!

Hot and/or dilute plasmas are only **weakly collisional**: **6D Vlasov-Maxwell equations**

$$\frac{\partial f_\alpha}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla f_\alpha + \frac{q_\alpha}{m_\alpha} \left[ \mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}}{c} \right] \cdot \nabla_v f_\alpha = 0 \quad \alpha = \text{particle species}$$

$f_\alpha = f_\alpha(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}, t)$  ...from the Liouville equation via the BBGKY hierarchy



**Strong background magnetic field:**  
Eliminate fast gyromotion; consider  
slow dynamics of **guiding centers**

$$f = f(\mathbf{X}, v_{||}, \mu; t)$$

**Reduction of effort by  
~12 orders of magnitude  
(elimination of irrelevant  
spatio-temporal scales &  
reduction from 6D to 5D)**

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \dot{\mathbf{X}} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{X}} + \dot{v}_{||} \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_{||}} = 0$$

**Additional gain from using  
field-aligned coordinates**

# The gyrokinetic code GENE

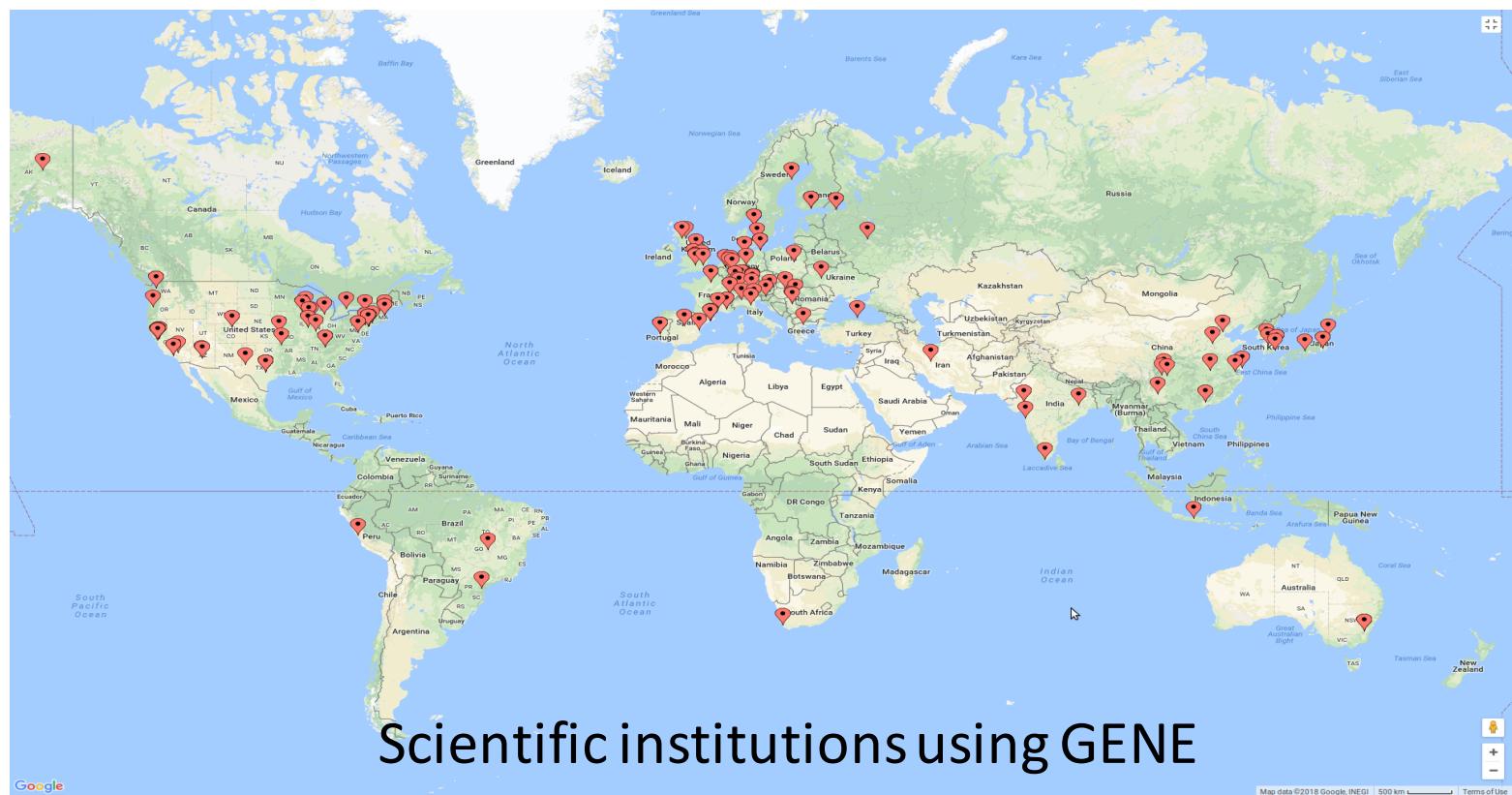


- First GENE publication: Jenko et al., Physics of Plasmas 2000 (~600 citations)
- More than 100,000 lines of source code, plus 200,000 lines for pre-/post-processing
- Part of **PRACE's Unified European Applications Benchmark Suite**

- Open source policy
- World-wide user base:  
[genecode.org](http://genecode.org)

Part of an ecosystem of codes for fusion research

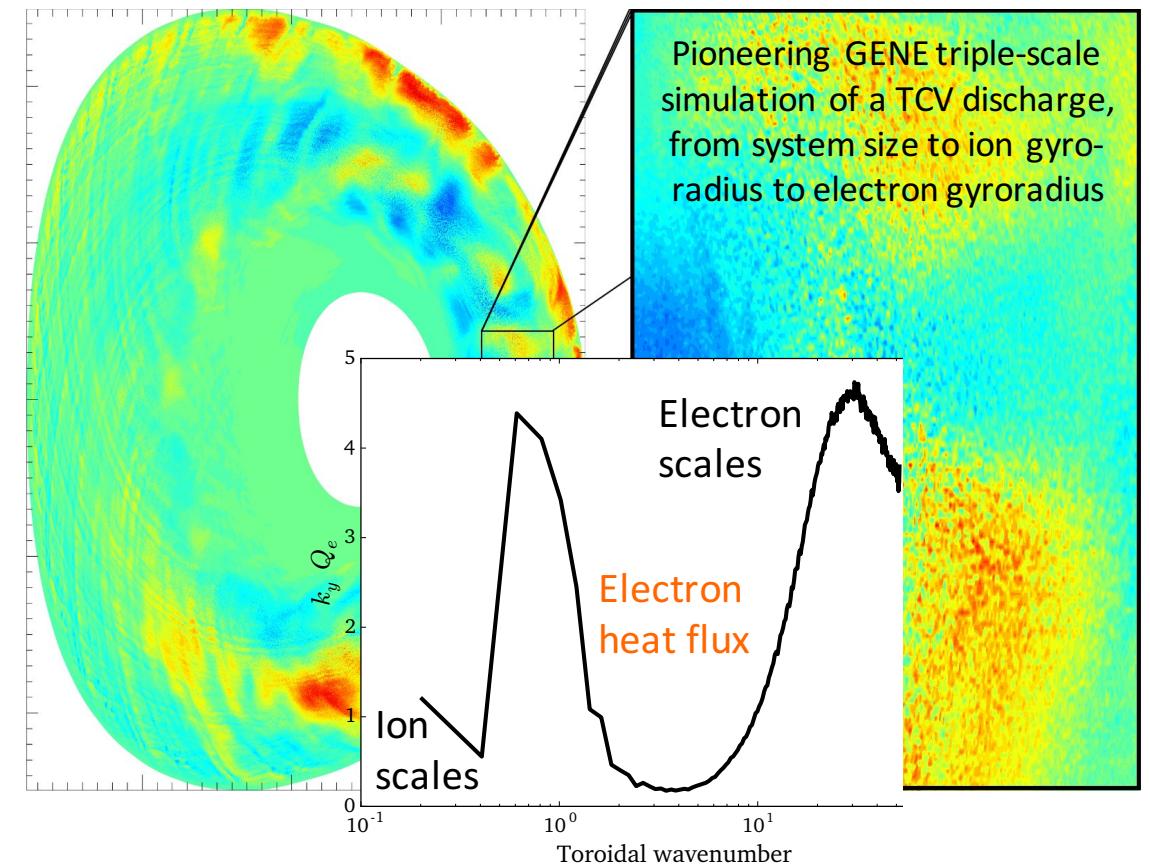
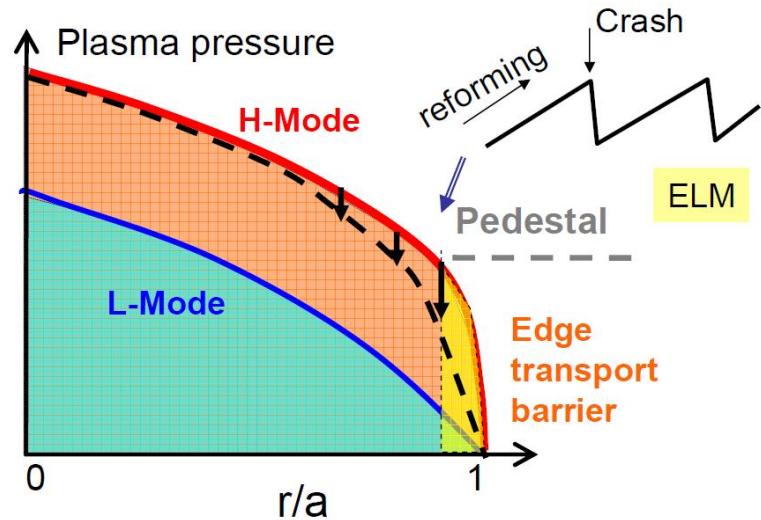
Also used in astrophysics



# Science highlights (just two examples)

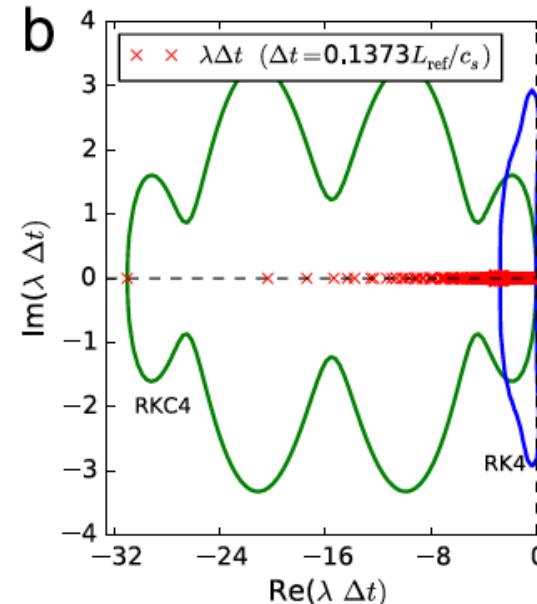
Prediction of relevant contributions to turbulent transport at very small – hitherto neglected – spatio-temporal scales (experimentally confirmed)

Indications that the physics of the “pedestal region” in ITER may differ from that in present-day devices



# Some background on GENE

- The underlying nonlinear PDEs are discretized on a fixed grid in 5D phase space
- Apply CFD-type (mix of spectral, finite difference, and finite volume) methods
- Explicit time-stepping facilitates scalability
- Time step is maximized during initialization
- 5D domain decomposition
- Primarily pure MPI or hybrid MPI/OpenACC programming model
- Auto-tuning (optimal subroutines and processor layout)



Runge–Kutta–  
Chebychev  
schemes

Doerk & Jenko  
CPC 2014

# Some software engineering aspects

**Version control system**



git

<https://github.com/git/git>

**Repository hosted by**



MAX PLANCK COMPUTING & DATA FACILITY  
RECHENZENTRUM GARCHING DER MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

**Web interface** installed at MPCDF – contains wiki, CI/CD, interface to bug tracker

**Development repository** managed via



GitLab

<https://gitlab.com>

**Regression tests** are performed automatically once per day/week

**User repository** at

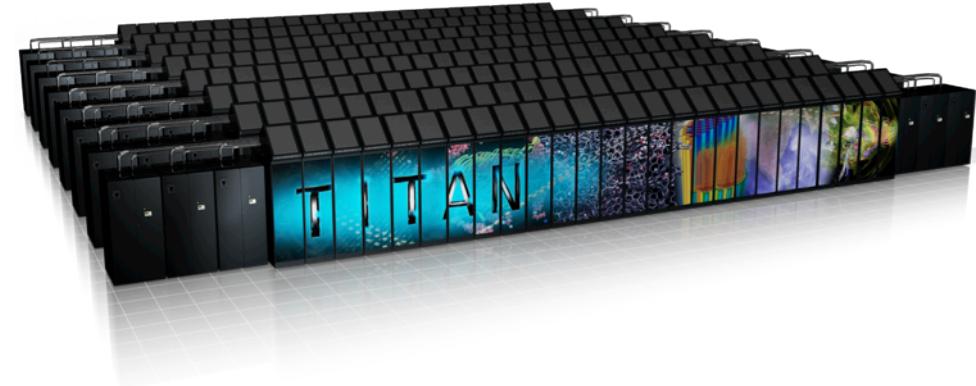
<https://gitta.rzg.mpg.de/GENE>

release tags and master branch mirrored from development repository

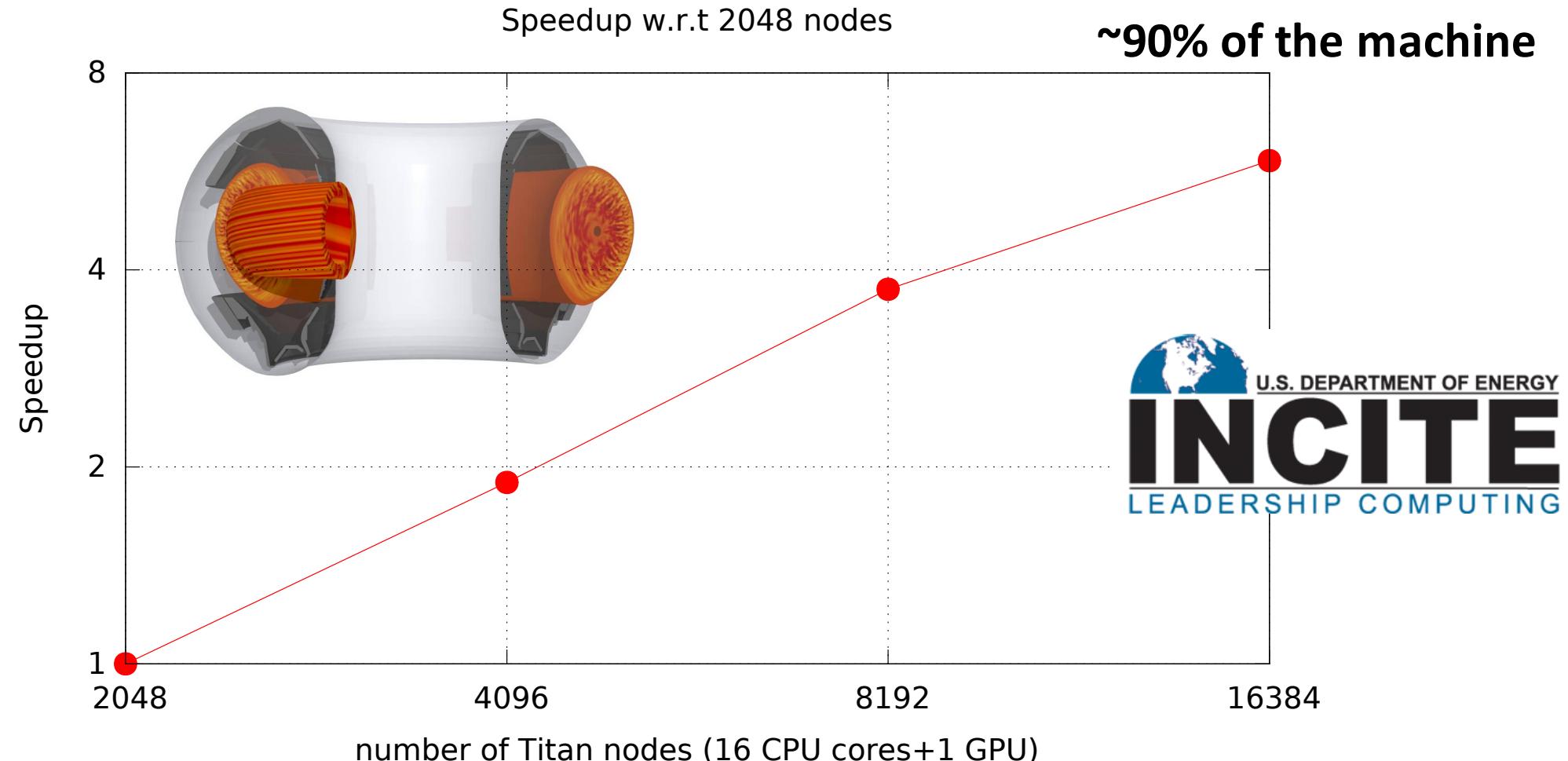
**Source code documentation** via Doxygen and FORD (FORtran Documenter)

# Porting GENE to Titan (@ORNL)

- 18,688 compute nodes
  - Node: 16 Opteron cores + Kepler GPU
  - Cray system
- 
- First, the nonlinear terms were ported to GPUs using CUDA and cuFFT
  - The bottleneck at this time was the data transfer to and from the GPUs
  - Idea: Shift more computations to the GPUs; compute *all* terms there
  - For maintenance reasons, we decided to use OpenACC instead of CUDA
  - This lead us to use the PGI compiler



# Strong scaling of GENE on Titan



Optimizing large-scale codes (like GENE) on pre-exascale systems may take person-years

# From Titan to Summit (2018)

2,282,544 cores  
187 PF (peak)

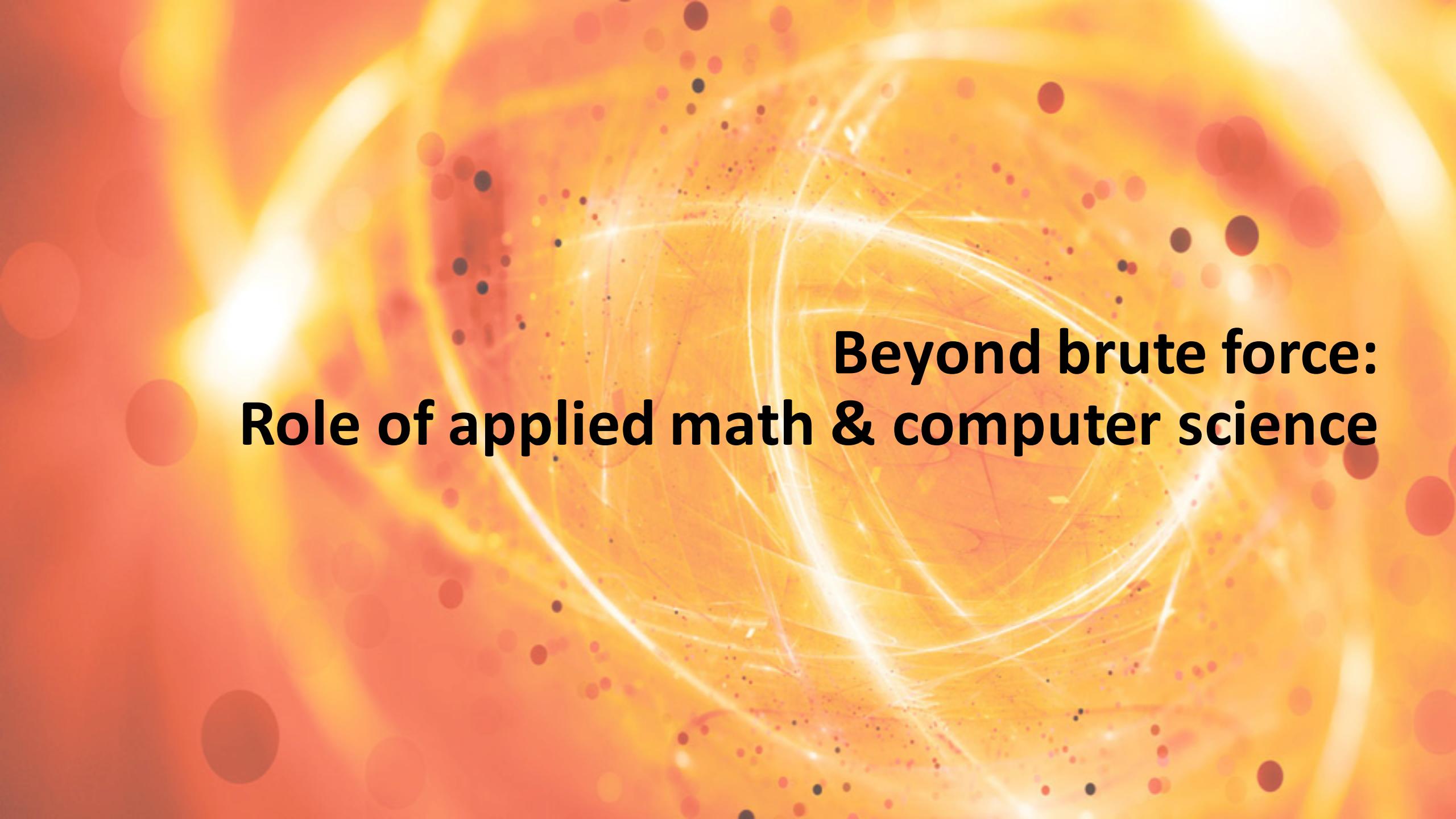
IBM's Power9 processors  
NVIDIA's Volta GV100 GPUs

Much faster data motion



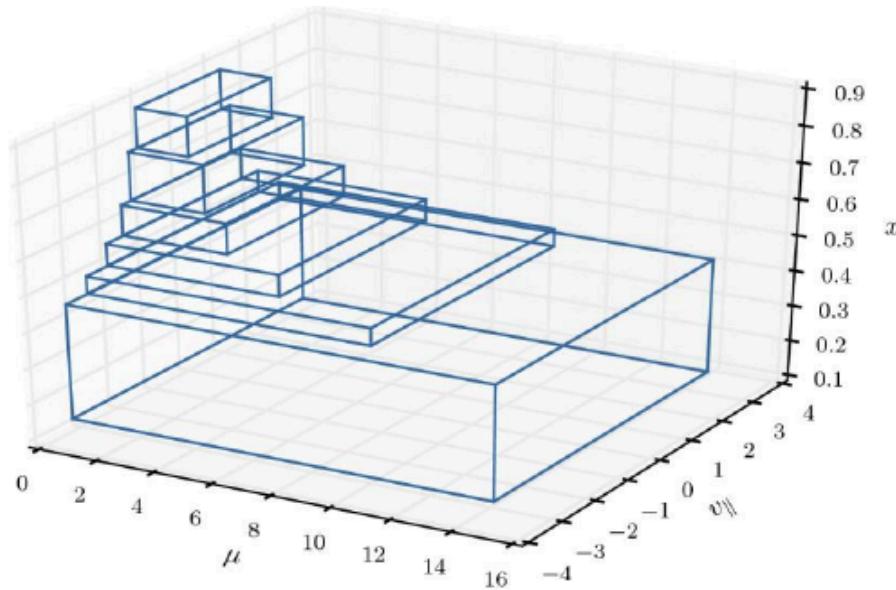
Rank	System	Cores	Rmax (TFlop/s)	Rpeak (TFlop/s)	Power (kW)
1	<b>Summit</b> - IBM Power System AC922, IBM POWER9 22C 3.07GHz, NVIDIA Volta GV100, Dual-rail Mellanox EDR Infiniband (/system/179397), IBM DOE/SC/Oak Ridge National Laboratory (/site /48553) United States	2,282,544	122,300.0	187,659.3	8,806
2	<b>Sunway TaihuLight</b> - Sunway MPP, Sunway	10,649,600	93,014.6	125,435.9	15,371

Most powerful supercomputer in the world  
(Top 500 List, June 2018)



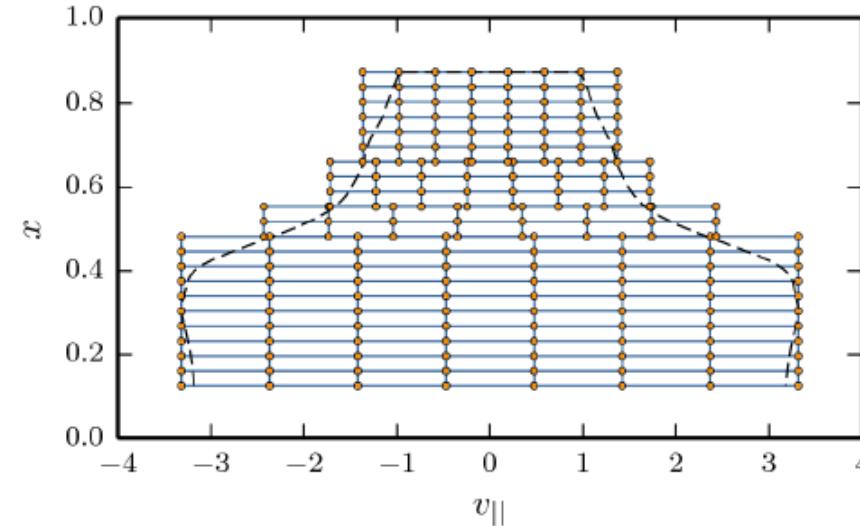
**Beyond brute force:  
Role of applied math & computer science**

# Block-structured grids in velocity space



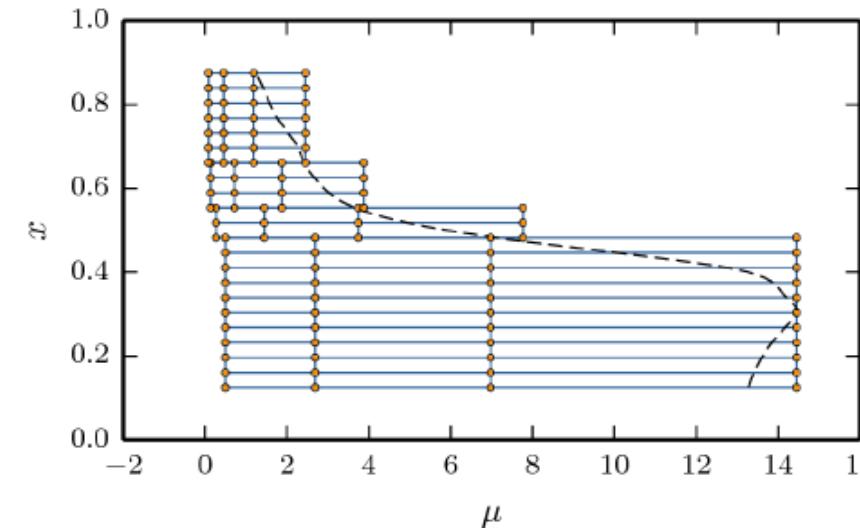
## Benefits:

- Preserves governing equation
- Reuses implementation for original regular grids
- Allows simultaneous development of physical model and computational grid
- For already five-six blocks, reduction in grid points equivalent to scaling approach



Effort:  
~4 person-years

Gain:  
~10x



Jarema+ CPC 2016  
Jarema+ CPC 2017

# Sparse grid techniques

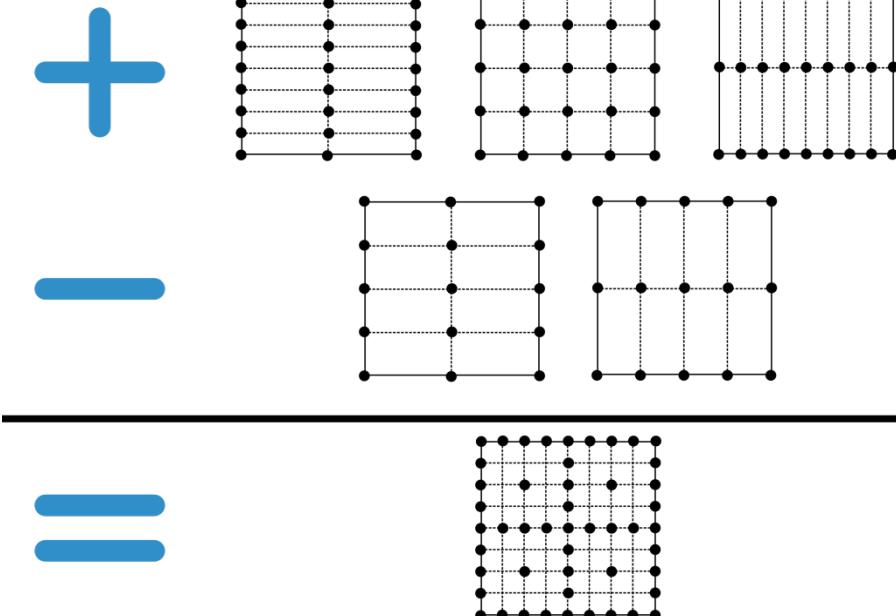
## Cartesian grid

- Regular data structure
- Huge number of grid points in high dimensions  
**“curse of dimensionality”**

Resolution: 33 grid points per dimension	2D	5D
Cartesian grid	1,089	39,135,393
Combination tech.	641	206,358

## Sparse grid combination technique

- Good approximation of the Cartesian grid solution
- Existing code (GENE) can be used more or less as it is
- **A new level of parallelism**
- **Algorithmic fault tolerance**



Talks by H. Bungartz and D. Pflüger



An ambitious project:  
**Coupling two high-fidelity codes  
to create a whole device model**

# 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. exascale system (2021)

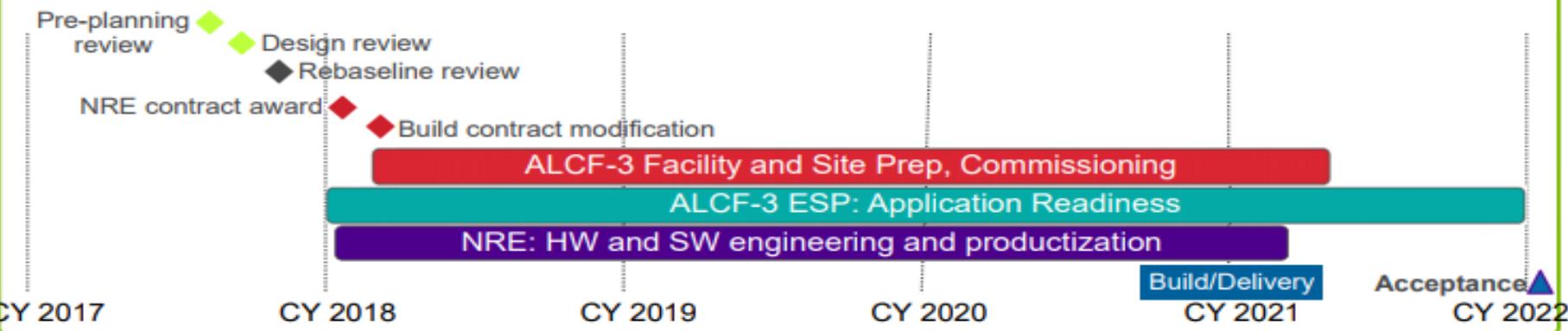
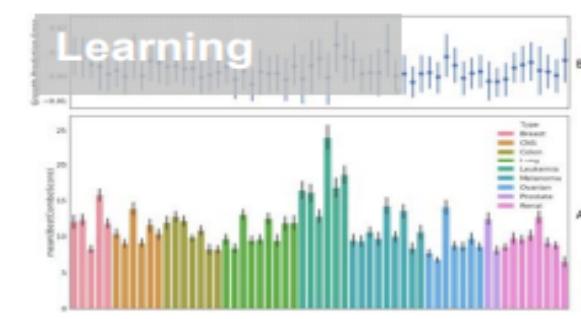
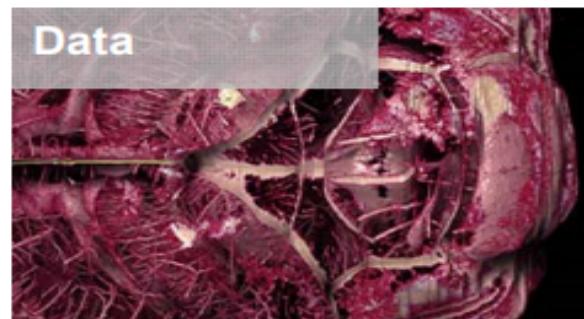
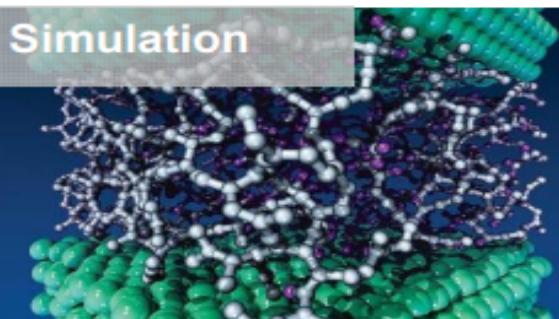
## ALCF 2021 EXASCALE SUPERCOMPUTER – A21

Intel/Cray Aurora supercomputer planned for 2018 shifted to 2021

Scaled up from **180 PF** to over **1000 PF**

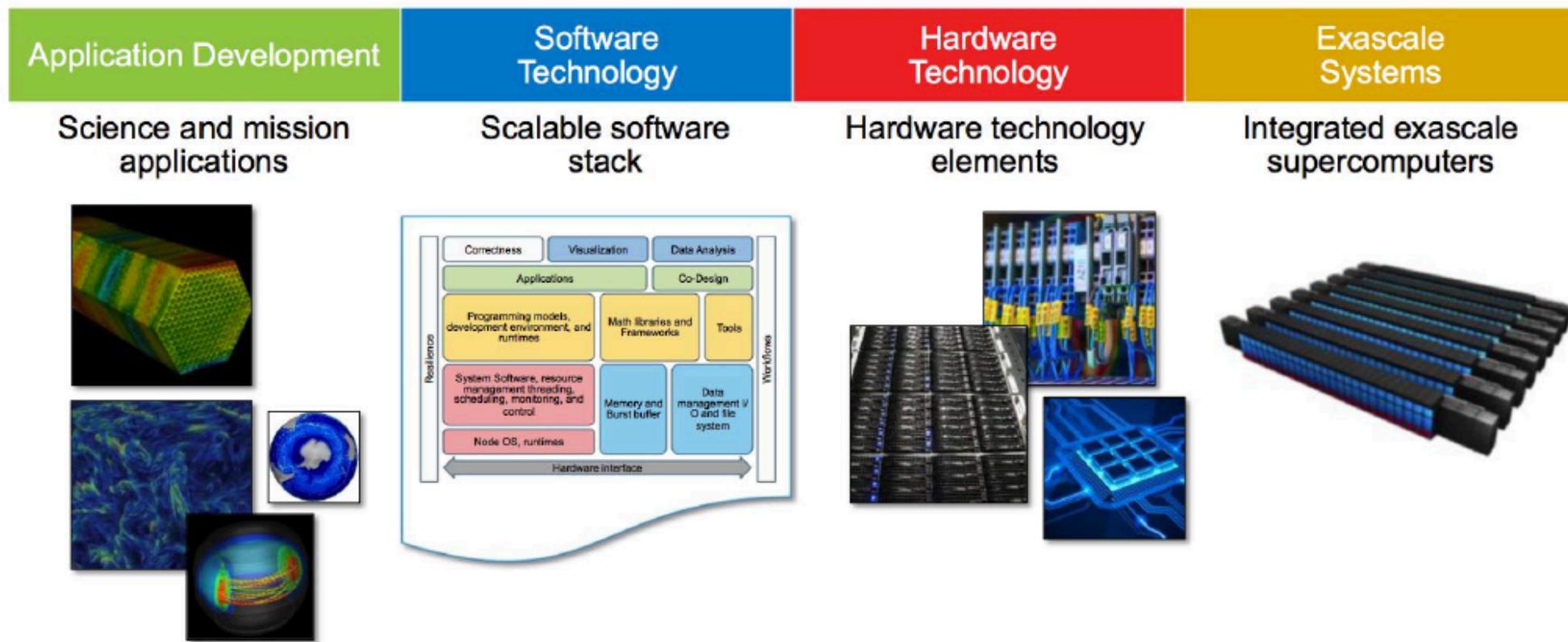


Support for three “pillars”



# U.S. DOE Exascale Computing Project (ECP)

## A holistic approach

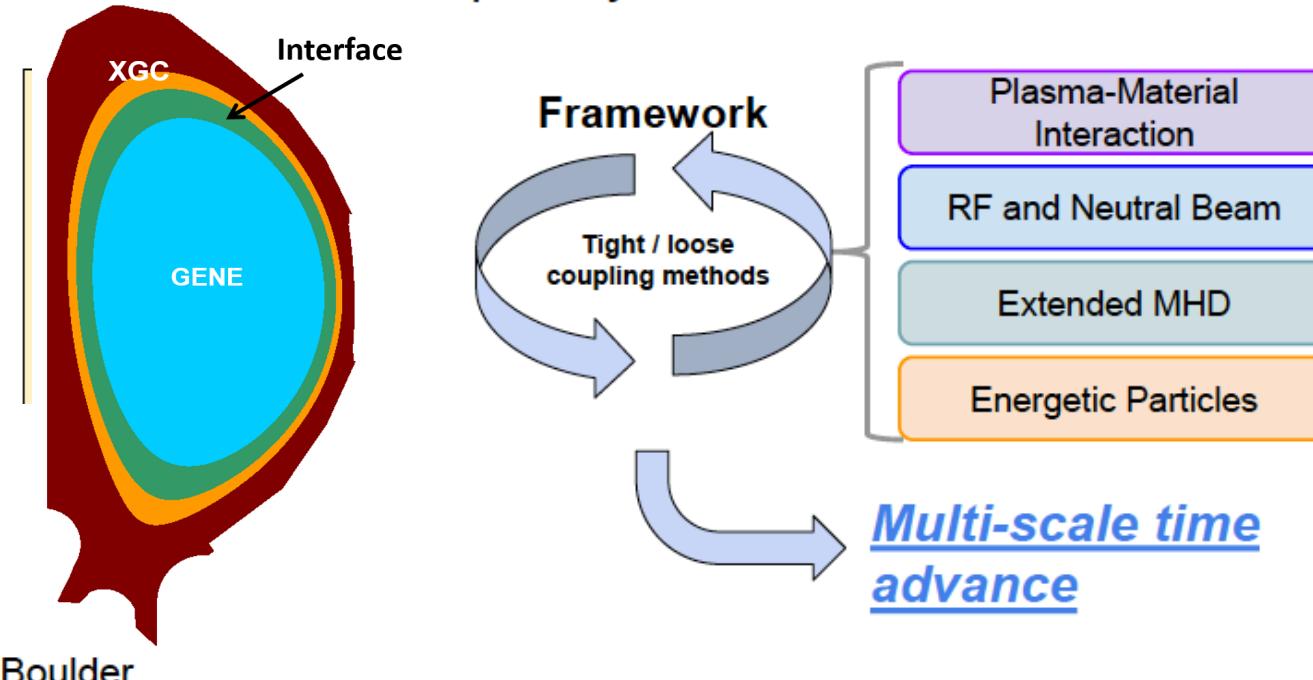


The ECP is a 7-year project with a cost range of \$3.5B – \$5.7B

# Fusion Energy Application Development (2016-)

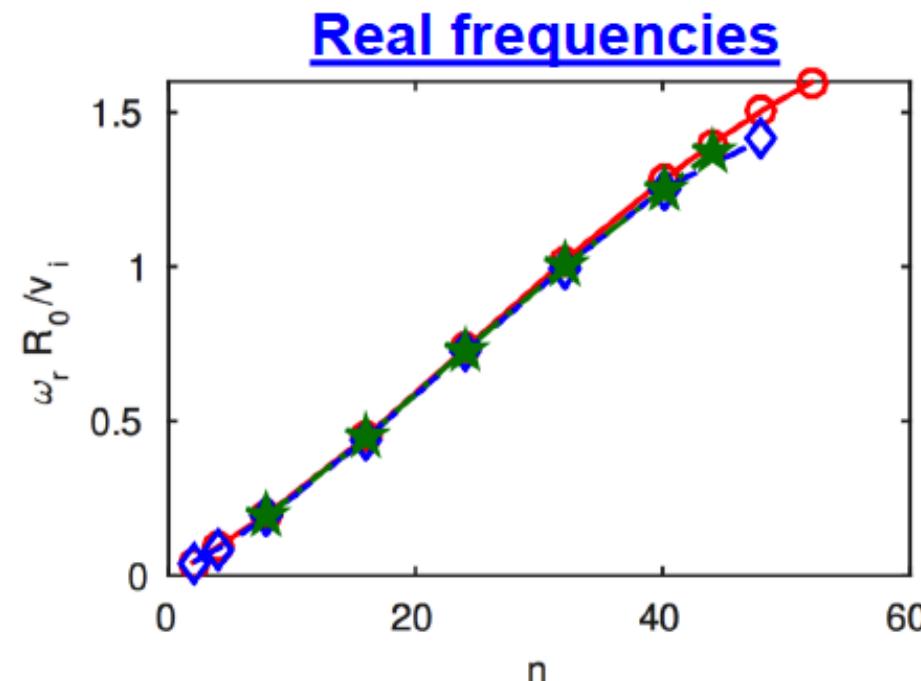
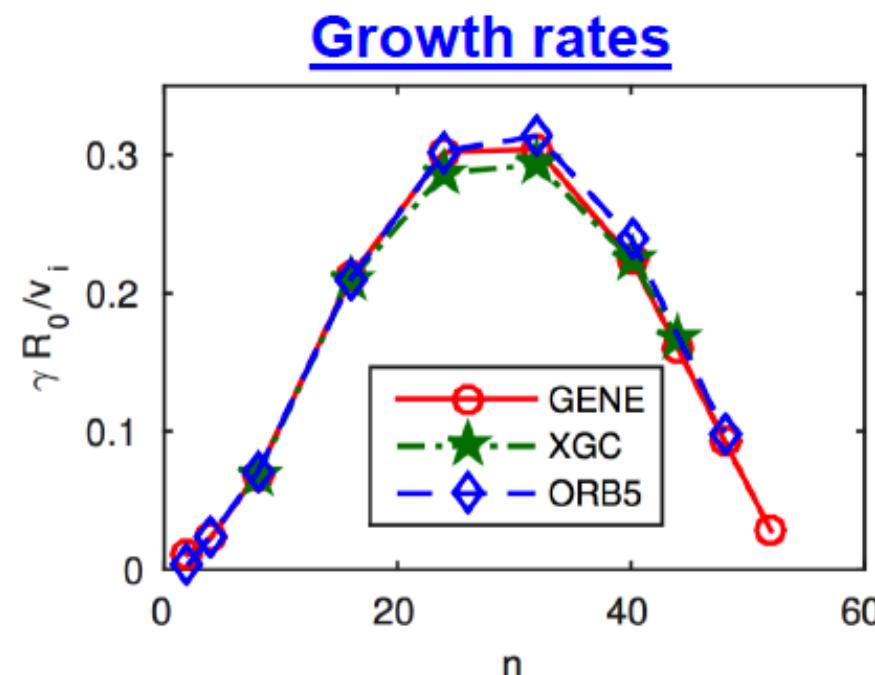
**10-year Goal: A First-Principles-Based Whole Device Model that Covers the Full Space/Time Scales of a Reactor**

- XGC full-f particle-in-cell technique with continuity across separatrix
- GENE continuum delta-f capability for core



# 1<sup>st</sup> step: Code benchmarking

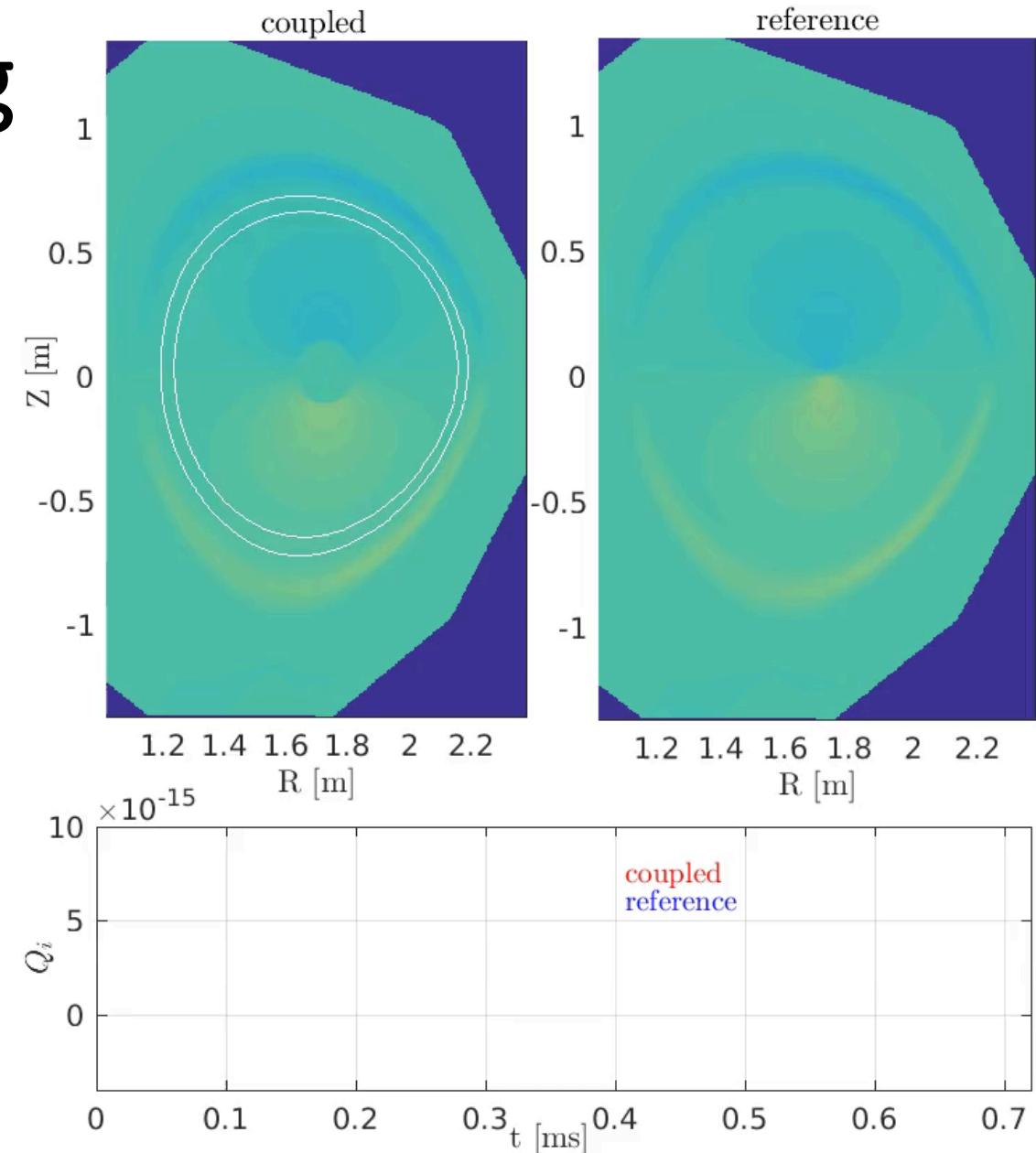
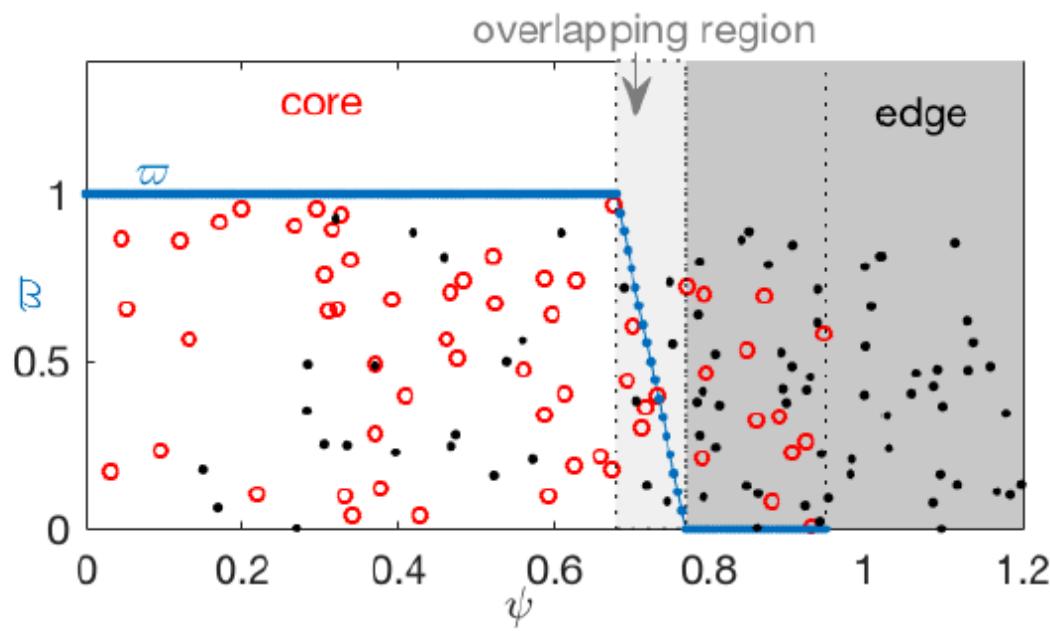
**Cross-verification between GENE, XGC, and ORB5: linear ITG instability (S. Ku, G. Merlo, E. Lanti (SPC, EPFL))** *bonus!*



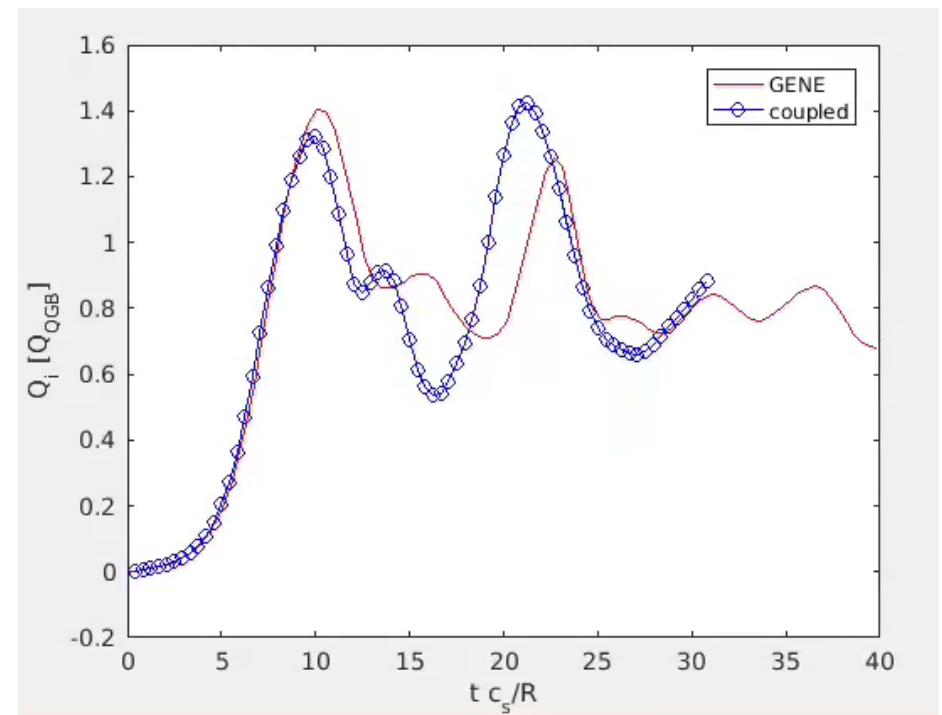
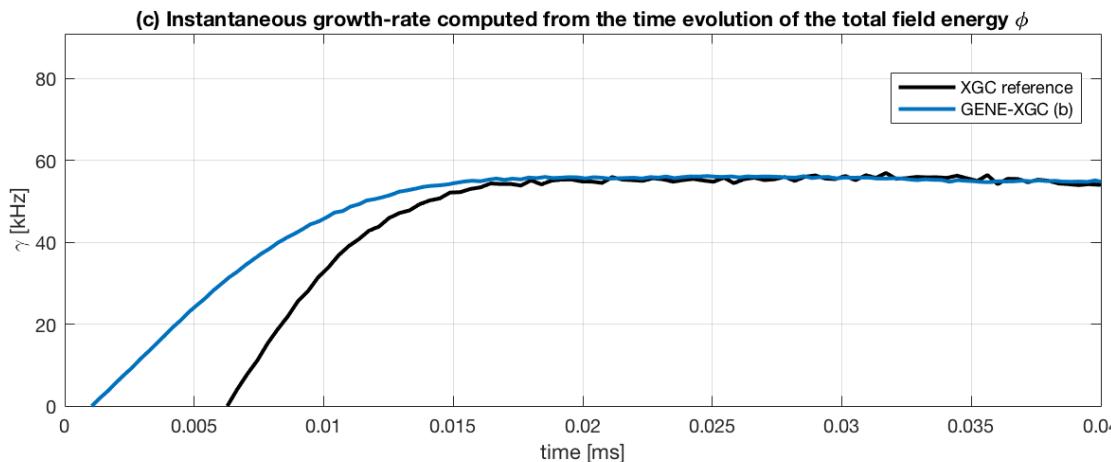
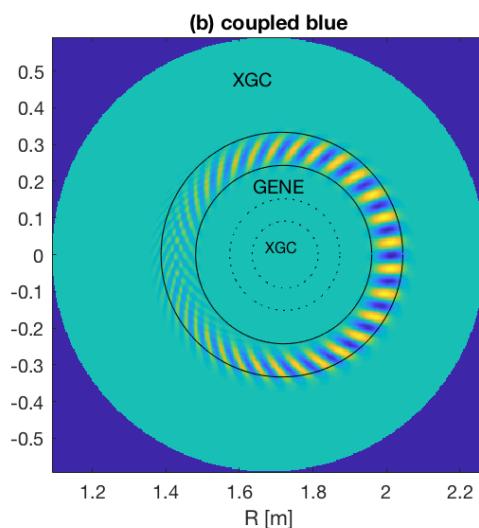
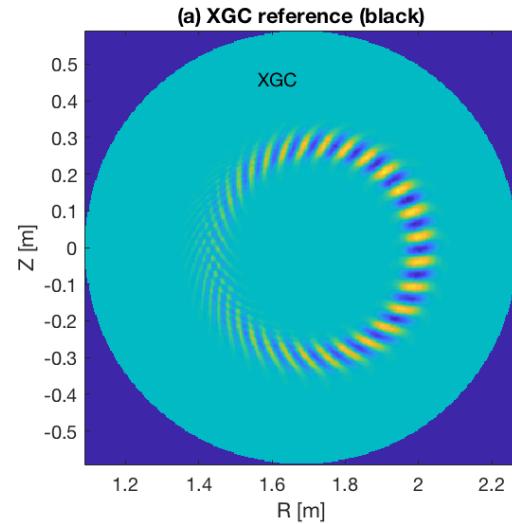
- Codes agree within 10% for all modes considered

# 2<sup>nd</sup> step: XGC self-coupling

**Global field solve via combined f**



# 3<sup>rd</sup> step: GENE-XGC coupling





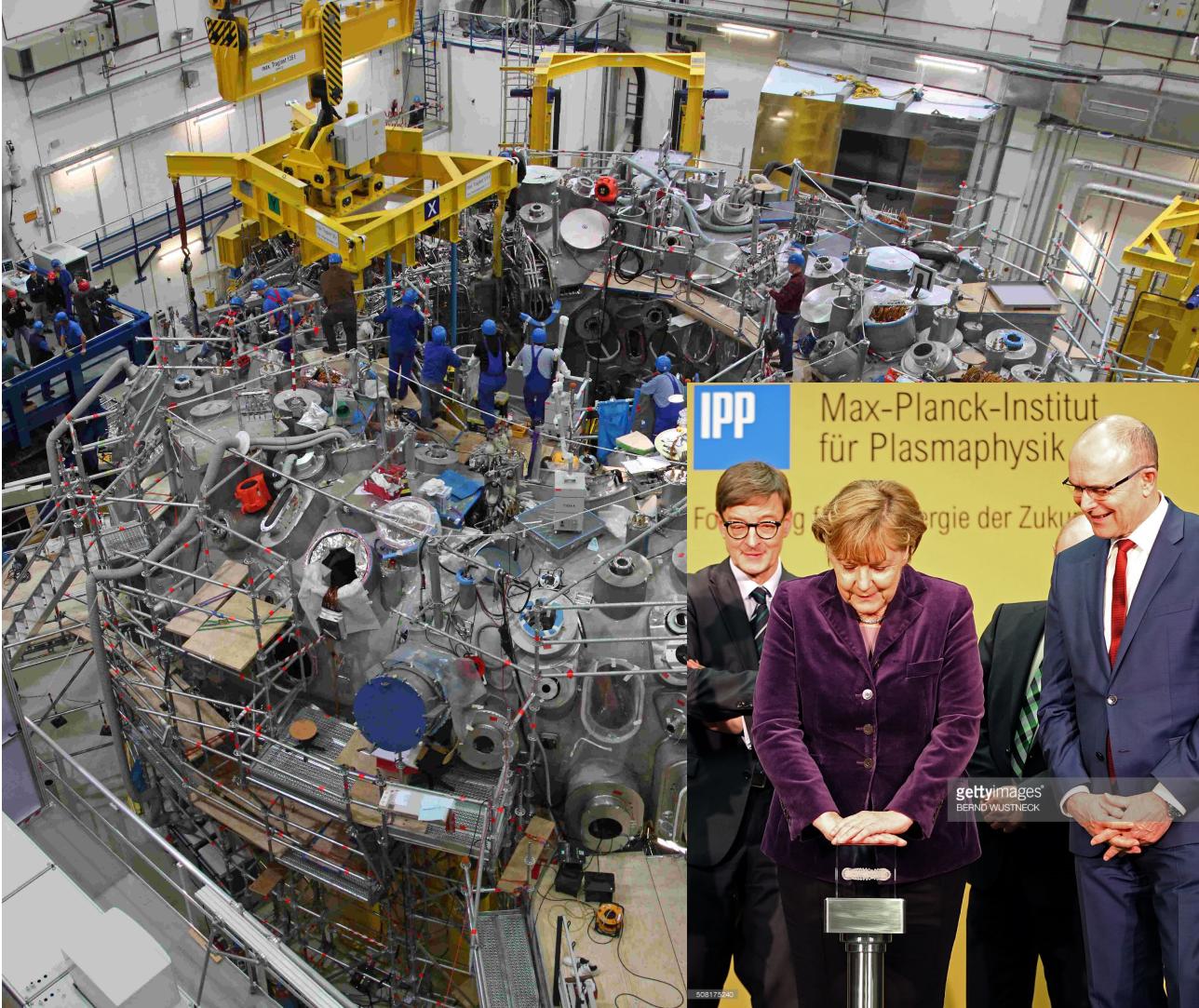
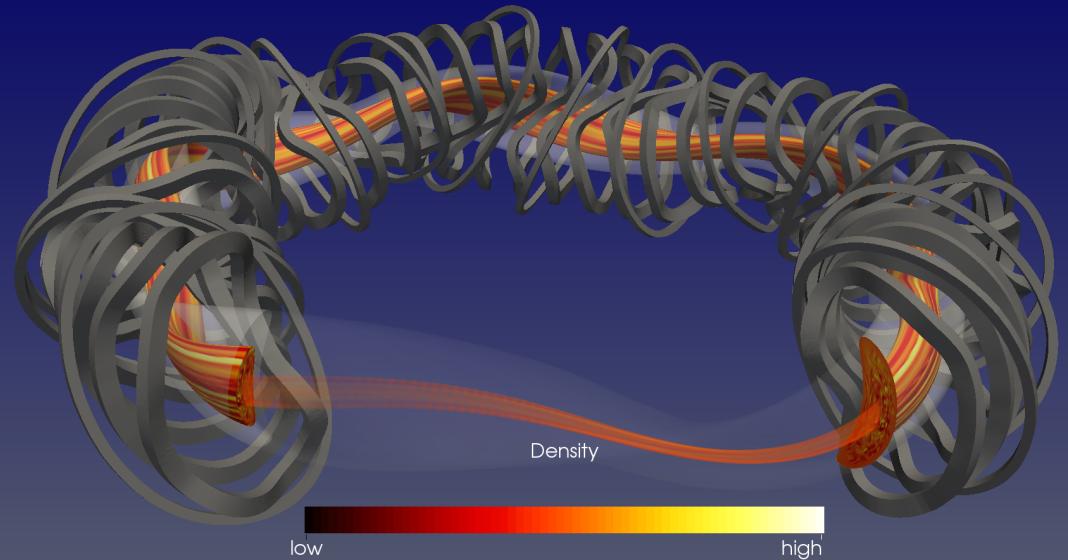
**Optimizing the design of  
future fusion experiments  
on supercomputers**

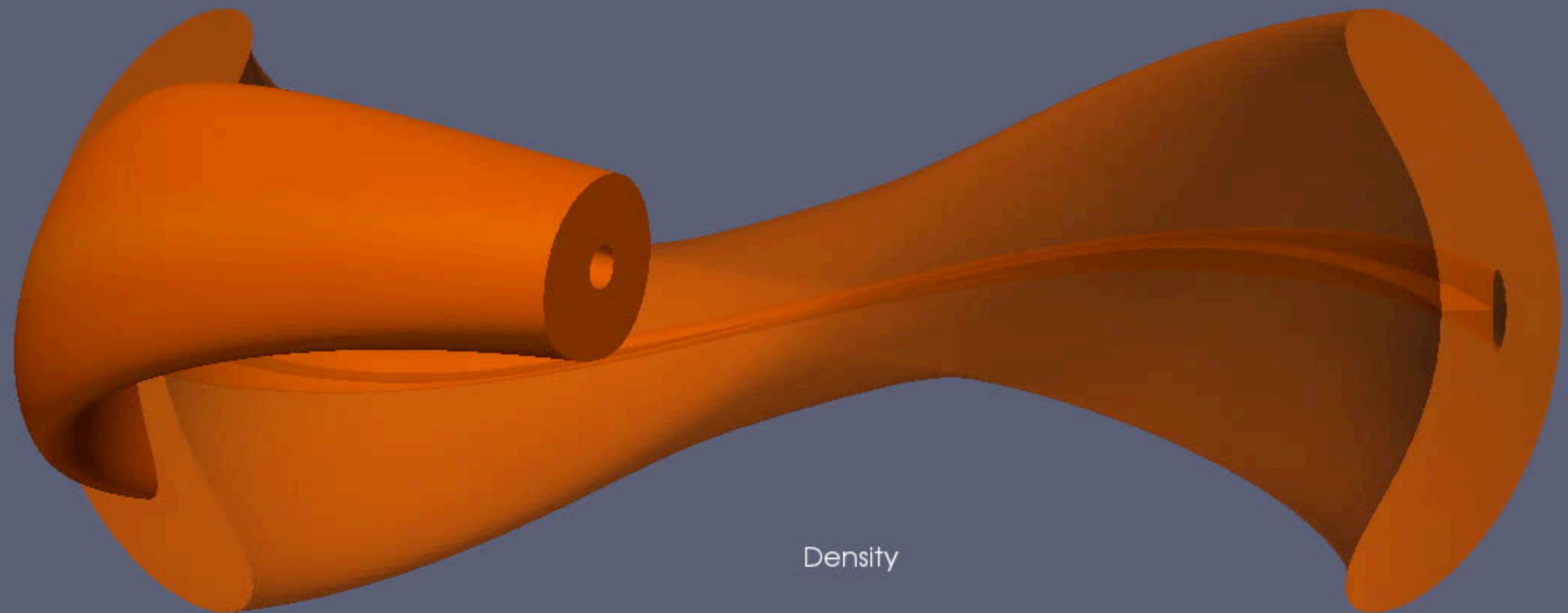
# Non-axisymmetric devices: W7-X (2015-)

Complex plasma shape, optimized via HPC

Next step: Take turbulence into account

GENE simulation





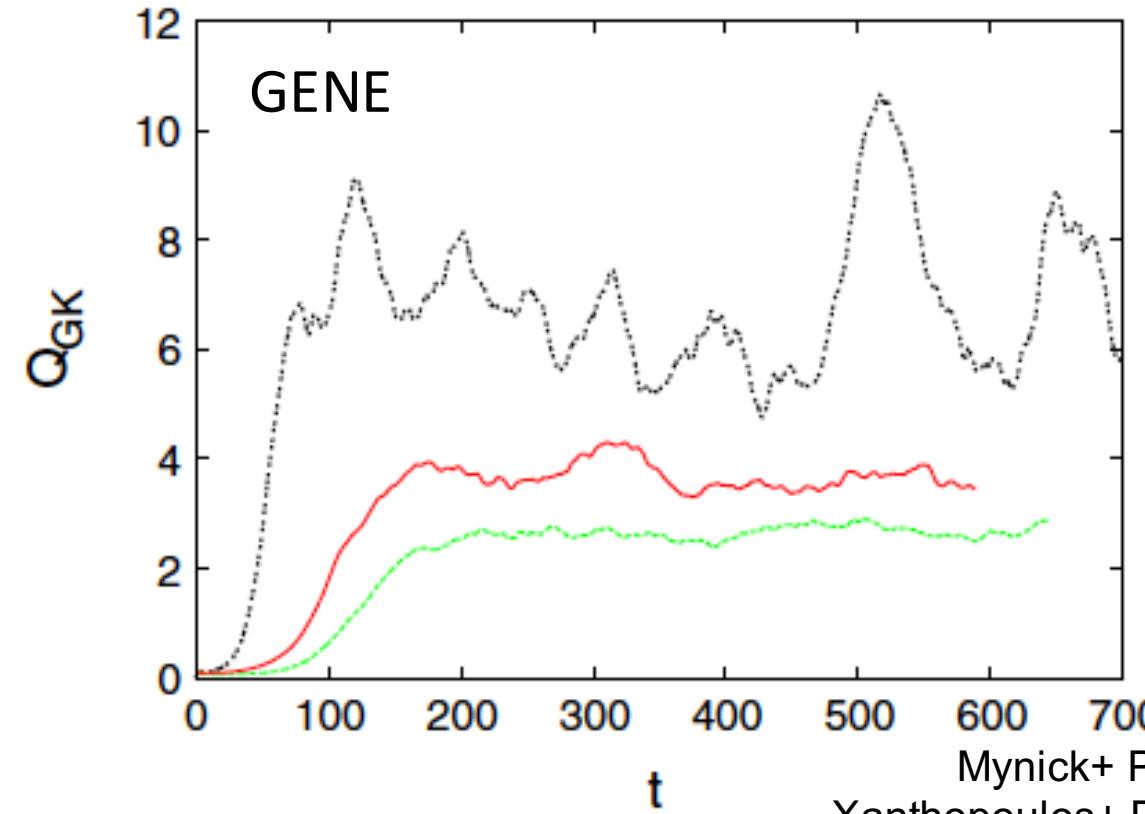
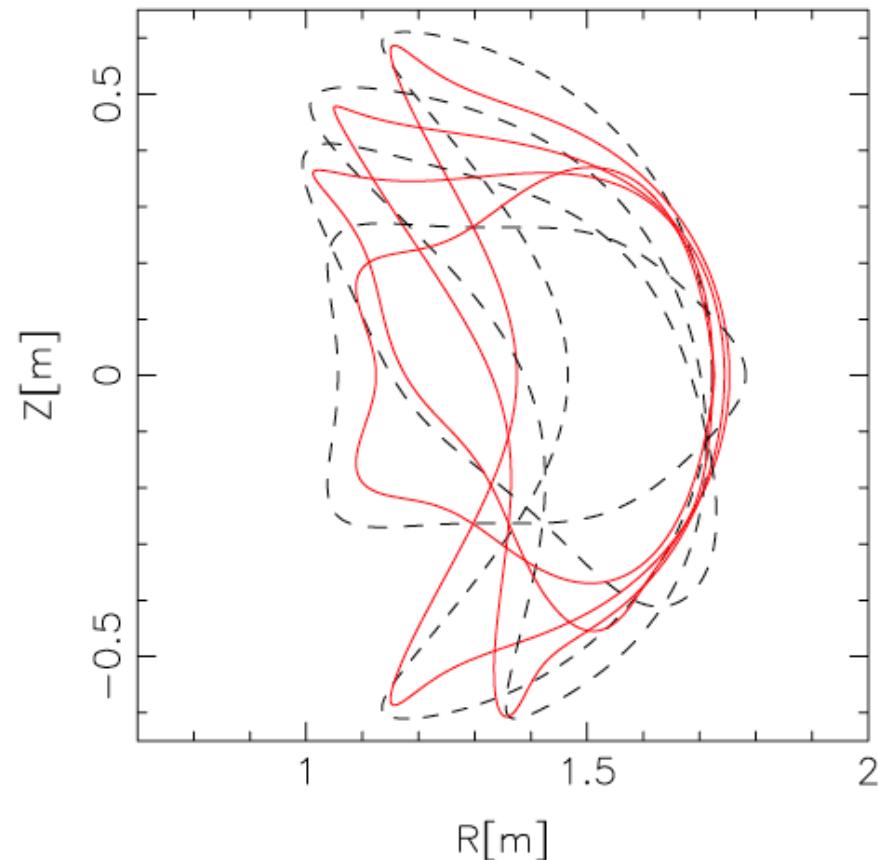
Density

-21.4

21.7

# Vision: “Transport-by-design”

**Proof-of-principle:** Magnetic geometries, optimized for turbulent transport via successive magnetohydrodynamic equilibria, using simple “cost functions” and GENE simulations





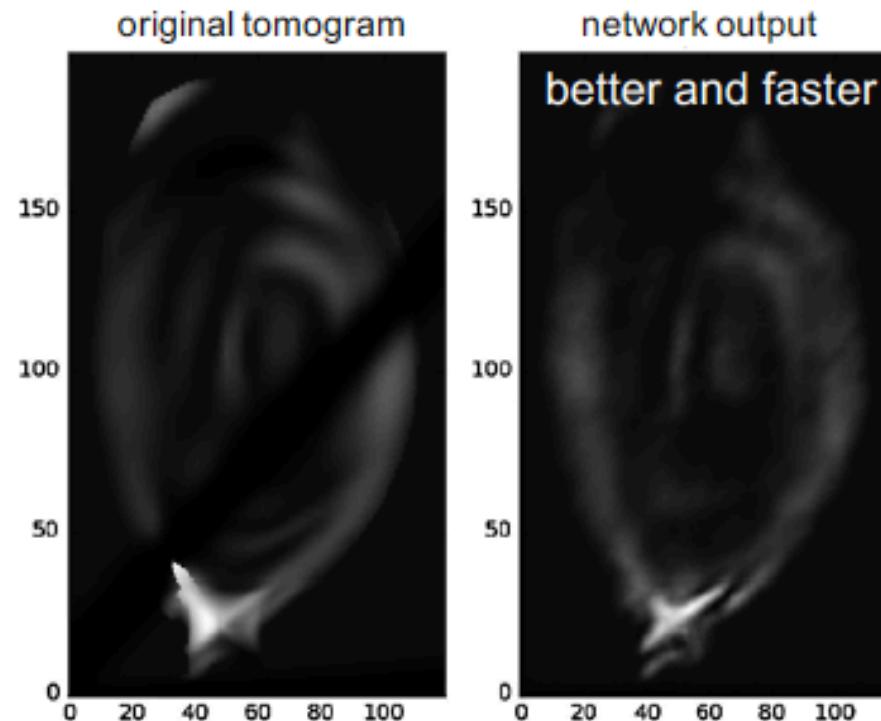
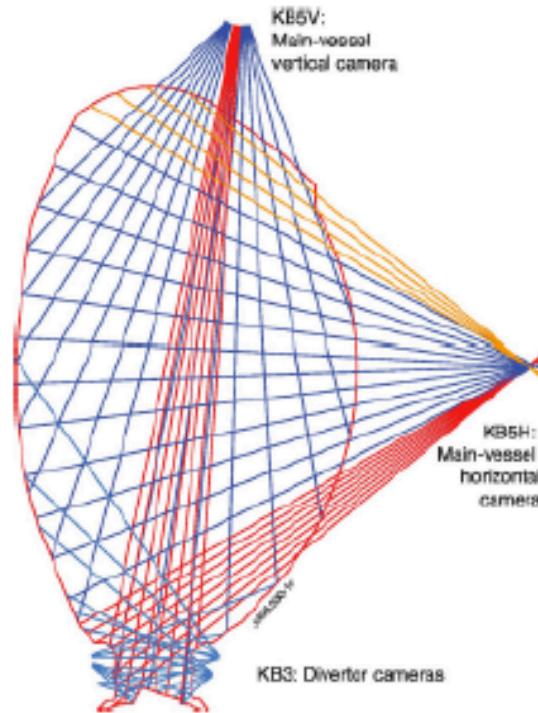
**Combining computation with  
data analytics and machine learning  
for plasma physics**

# Transformative Enabling Capabilities for fusion

*Advanced Algorithms* – Advanced algorithms will transform our vision of feedback control for a power-producing fusion reactor. The vision will change from one of basic feasibility to the creation of intelligent systems, and perhaps even enabling operation at optimized operating points whose achievement and sustainment are impossible without high-performance feedback control. The area of advanced algorithms includes the related fields of mathematical control, machine learning, artificial intelligence, integrated data analysis, and other algorithm-based R&D. Given the pace of advances, control solutions that establish fusion reactor operation will become within reach, as will the discovery and refinement of physics principles embedded within the data from present experiments. This TEC offers tools and methods to support and accelerate the pace of physics understanding, leveraging both experimental and theoretical efforts. These tools are synergistic with advances in exascale and other high-performance computing capabilities that will enable improved physics understanding. Machine learning and mathematical control can also help to bridge gaps in knowledge when these exist, for example to enable effective control of fusion plasmas with imperfect understanding of the plasma state.

# Deep Learning for real-time plasma control

Plasma tomography: Use CNNs to reconstruct cross-section from projections



Traditional inversion schemes:

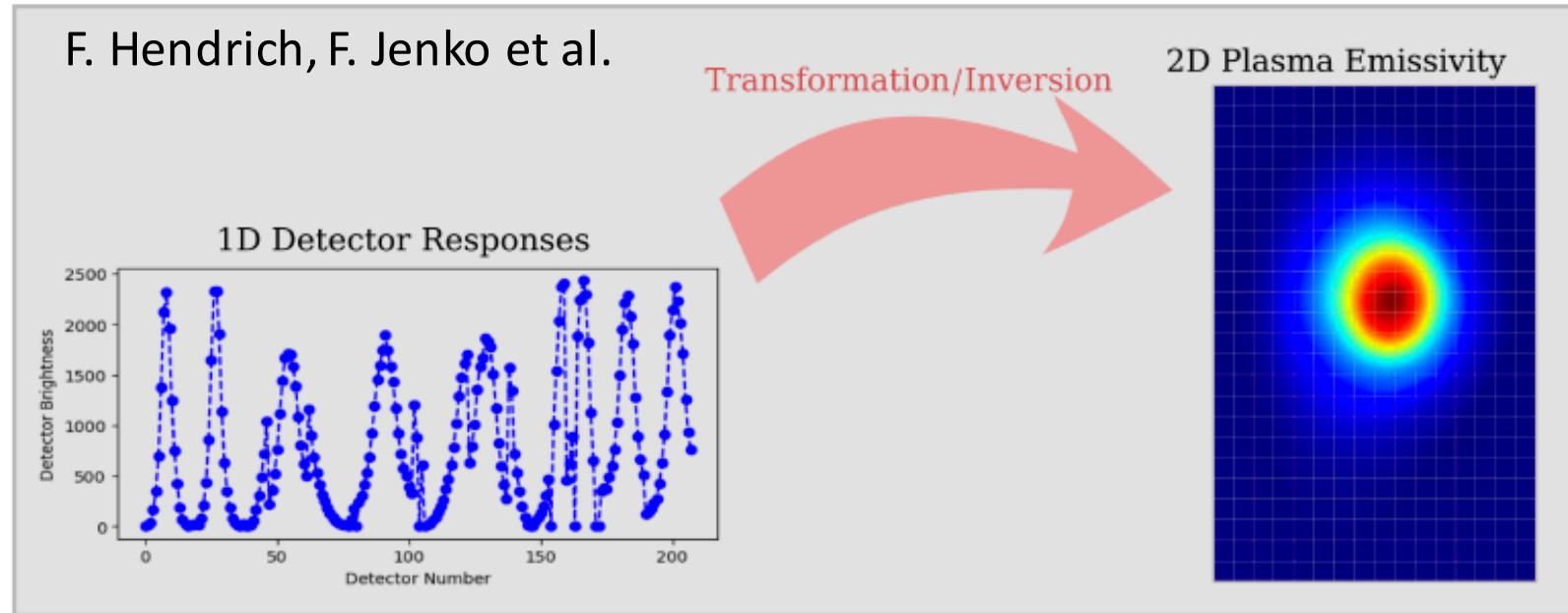
- Varying runtime
- Dependence on additional data (magnetic equilibrium)
- Not real-time capable

Deep learning for plasma tomography using the bolometer system at  
JET PhD student at IPP

Francisco A. Matos<sup>a</sup>, Diogo R. Ferreira<sup>a,\*</sup>, Pedro J. Carvalho<sup>b</sup>, JET Contributors<sup>1</sup>

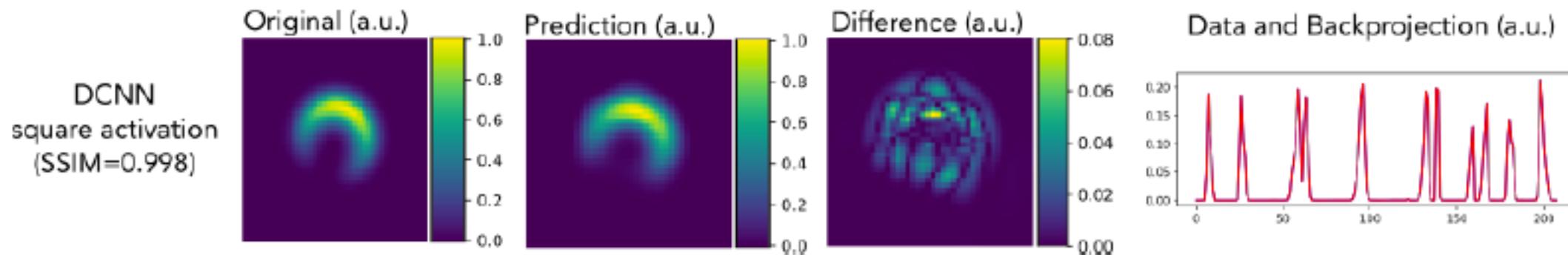
# Unsupervised inversion with Deep Learning

F. Hendrich, F. Jenko et al.



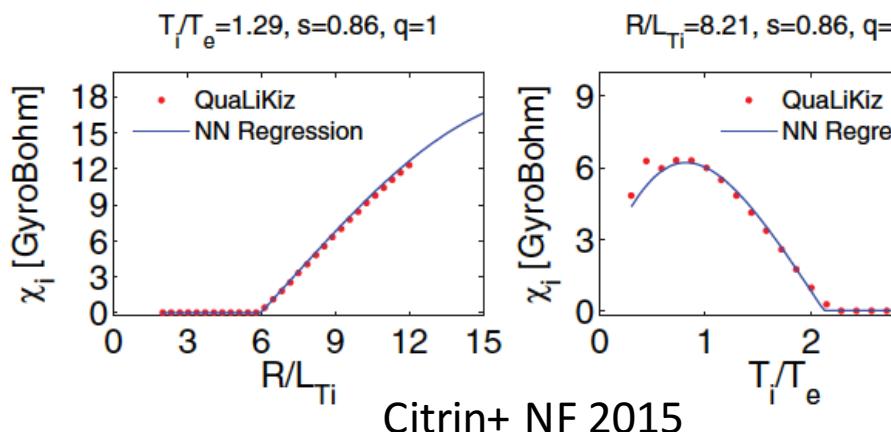
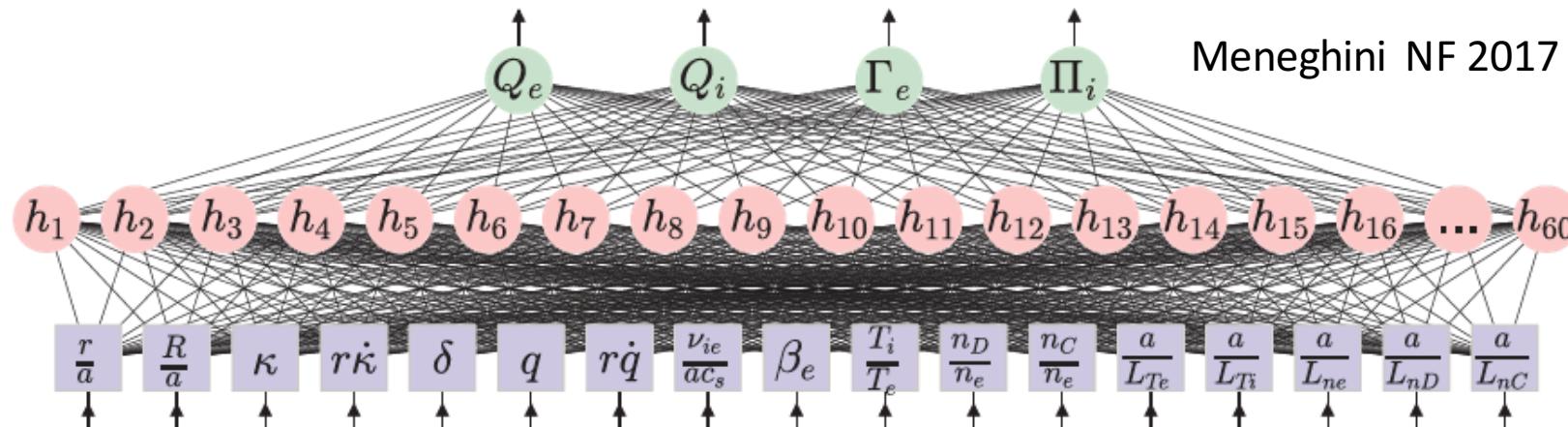
Encode (weak) prior knowledge directly in the NN architecture (in lieu of minimizing an additional regularization term):

- Positivity
- Locality (smoothness)



# Real-time plasma profile prediction

From *nonlinear* gyrokinetics to *quasilinear* gyrokinetics/gyrofluids to NNs:  
Calls for **deep understanding of turbulence** in plasmas



NL gyrokinetics:  $\sim 10^5$  core-h

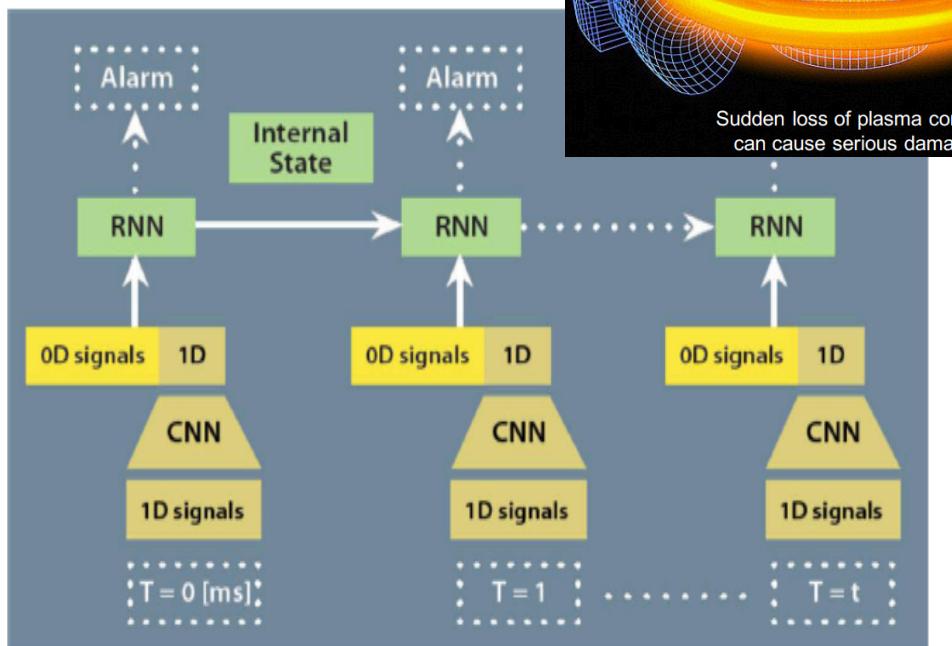
QL gyrokinetics:  $\sim 10^{-3}$  core-h

NNs: real-time capability

Similarity to financial data analysis, earthquake prediction etc.

# DL for real-time disruption prediction

Recurrent NNs

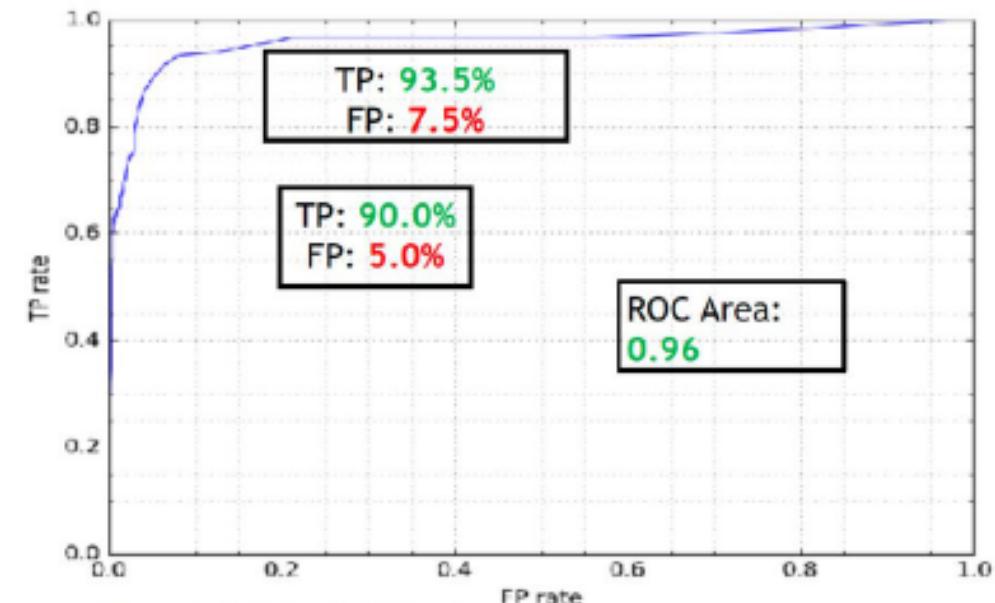


This campaign won the NVIDIA Global Impact Award at the 2018 GPU Technology Conference

## FRNN Code PERFORMANCE: ROC CURVES

JET ITER-like Wall Cases @30ms before Disruption

Performance Tradeoff: Tune **True Positives** (good: correctly caught disruption) vs. **False Positives** (bad: safe shot incorrectly labeled disruptive).



Data (~50 GB), 0D signals:

- Training: on 4100 shots from JET C-Wall campaigns
- Testing 1200 shots from Jet ILW campaigns
- All shots used, no signal filtering or removal of shots

# Integrated data analysis

R. Fischer

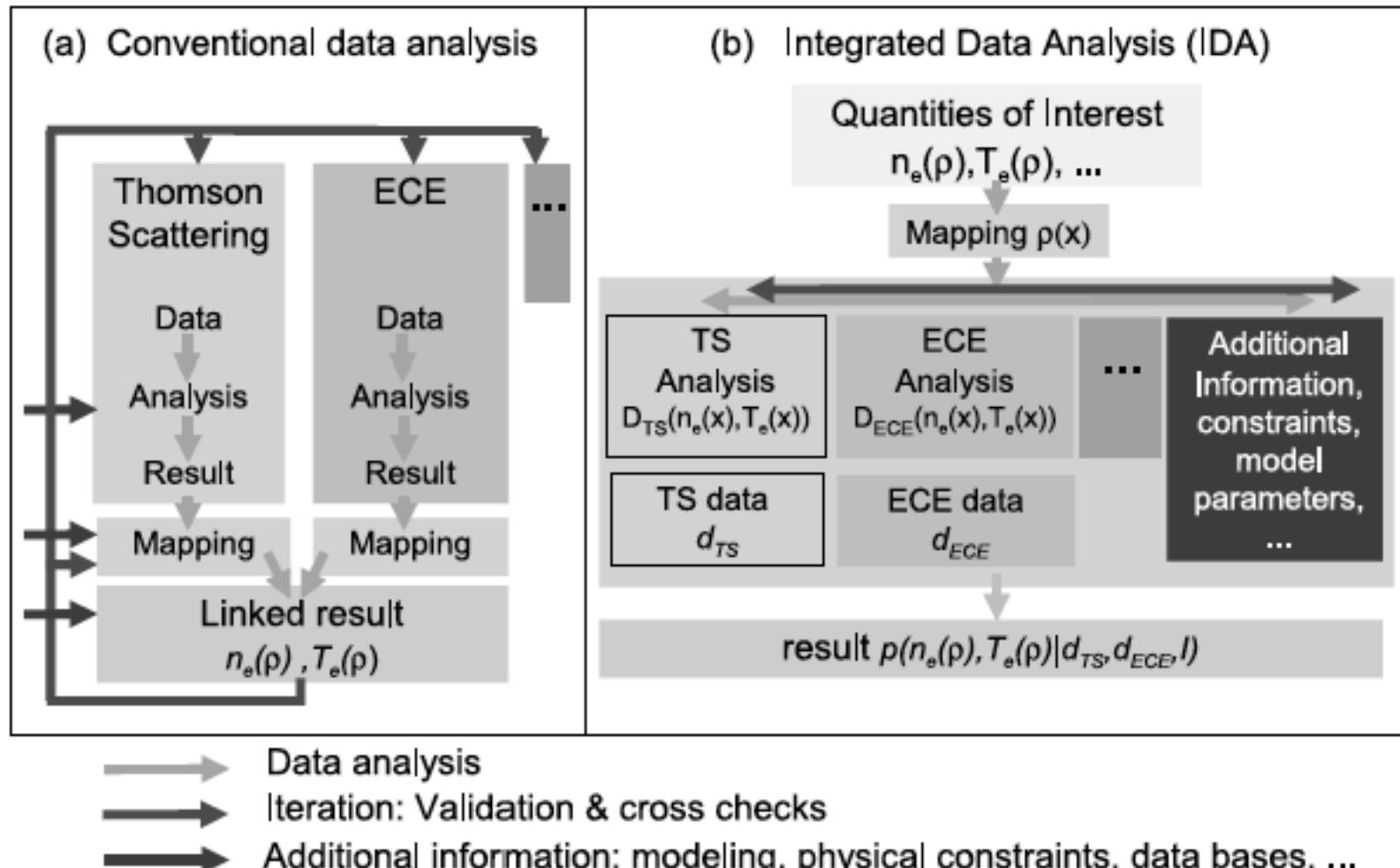
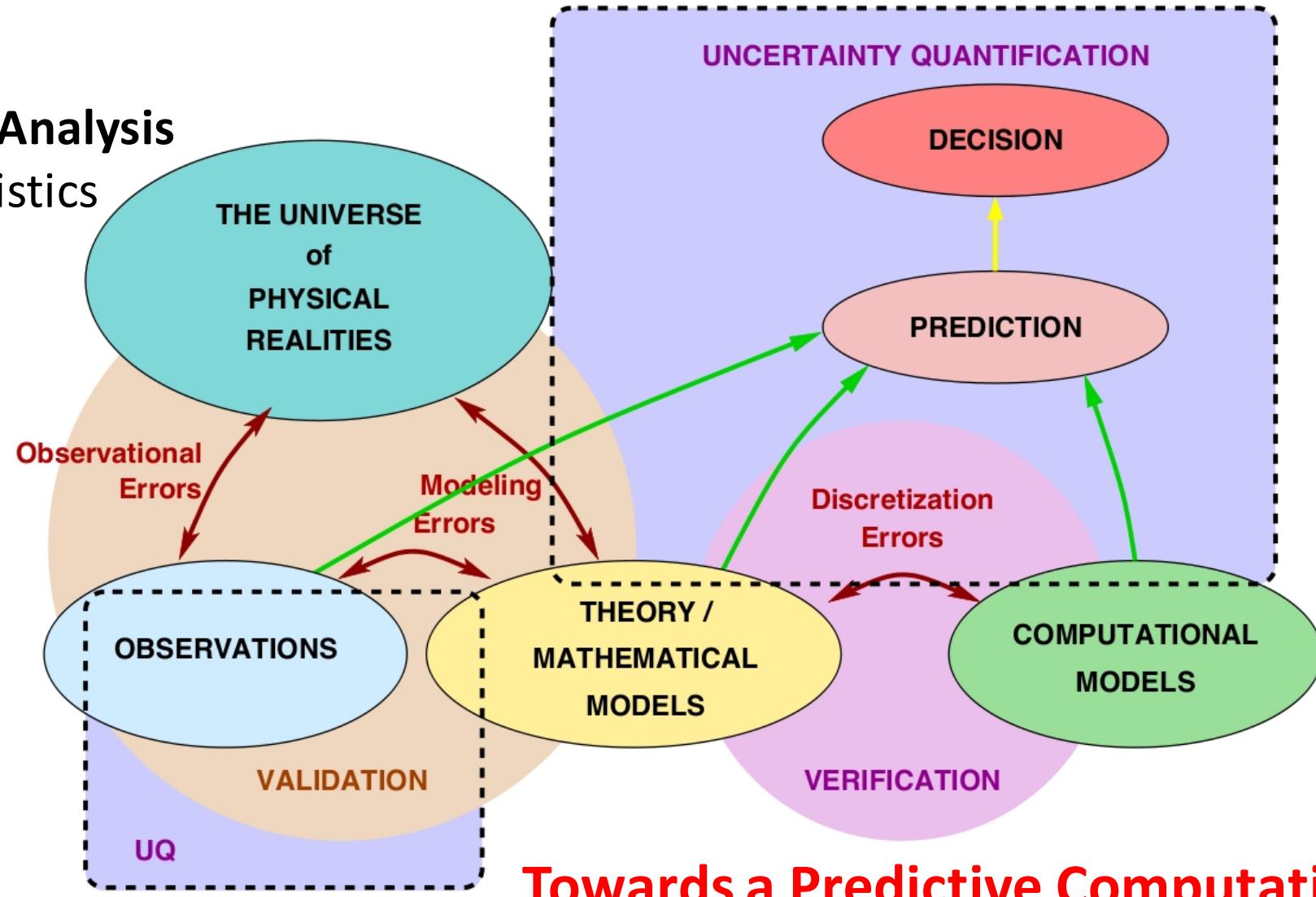


Fig. 1. Schematic comparison of the conventional data analysis with the IDA approach.

# The crucial role of Uncertainty Quantification

Example:

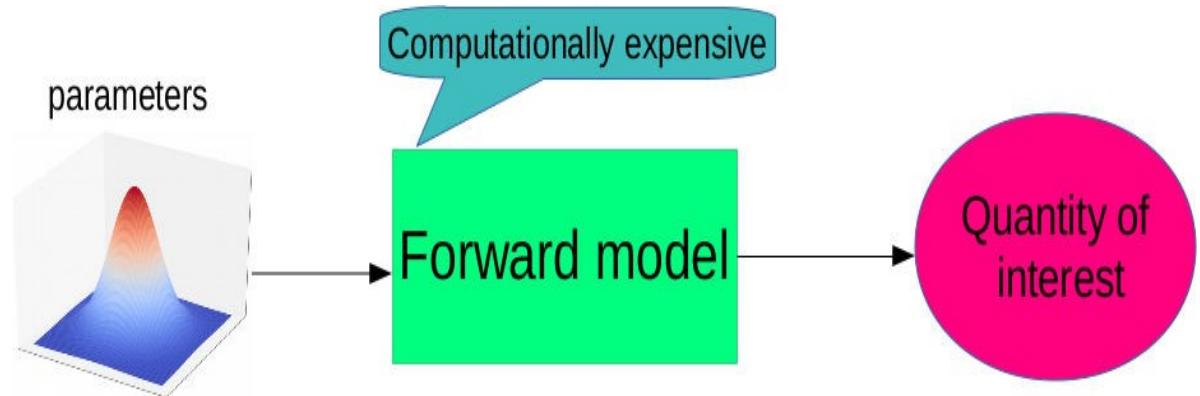
Integrated Data Analysis  
via Bayesian statistics



Towards a Predictive Computational Science

# Outer-loop applications

Examples: optimization, control, inverse problems, **uncertainty propagation** etc.

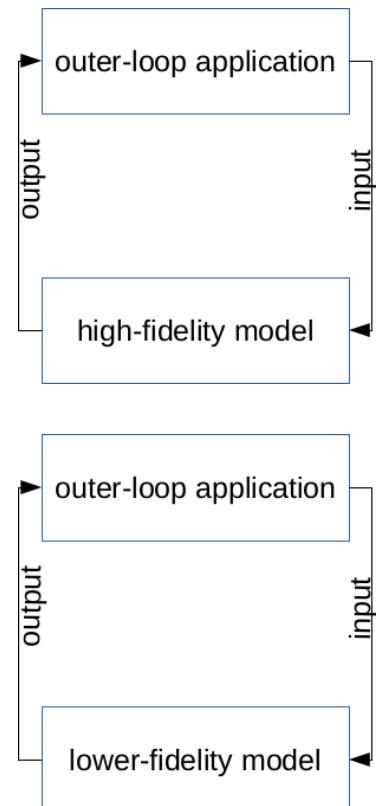


## Challenges

- ...usually originate in “high-fidelity” models (e.g., PDEs) having...
- high dimensionality, i.e., large number of stochastic parameters
  - high computational demands
  - high data throughput

## Some solutions

- ...by replacing the hi-fi model with a “lower-fidelity” model that...
- is less accurate, but **computationally cheap**
  - **exploits the structure** of the problem at hand



# Sensitivity-driven, adaptive sparse approximations

I.-G. Farcas, , T. Görler, H.-J. Bungartz, F. Jenko, T. Neckel, *Sensitivity-driven adaptive sparse stochastic approximations in plasma microinstability analysis*, in preparation

Our approach:

Design a **non-intrusive, sensitivity-driven, adaptive** approach that...

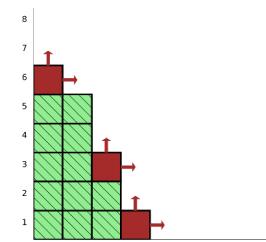
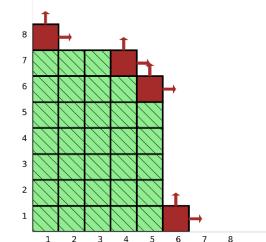
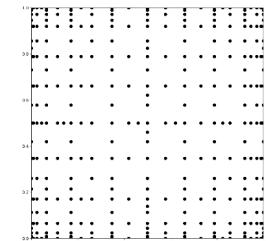
...delays the “curse of dimensionality”

→ **sparse approximations**

...decreases the overall computational cost

→ **sensitivity-driven adaptivity**

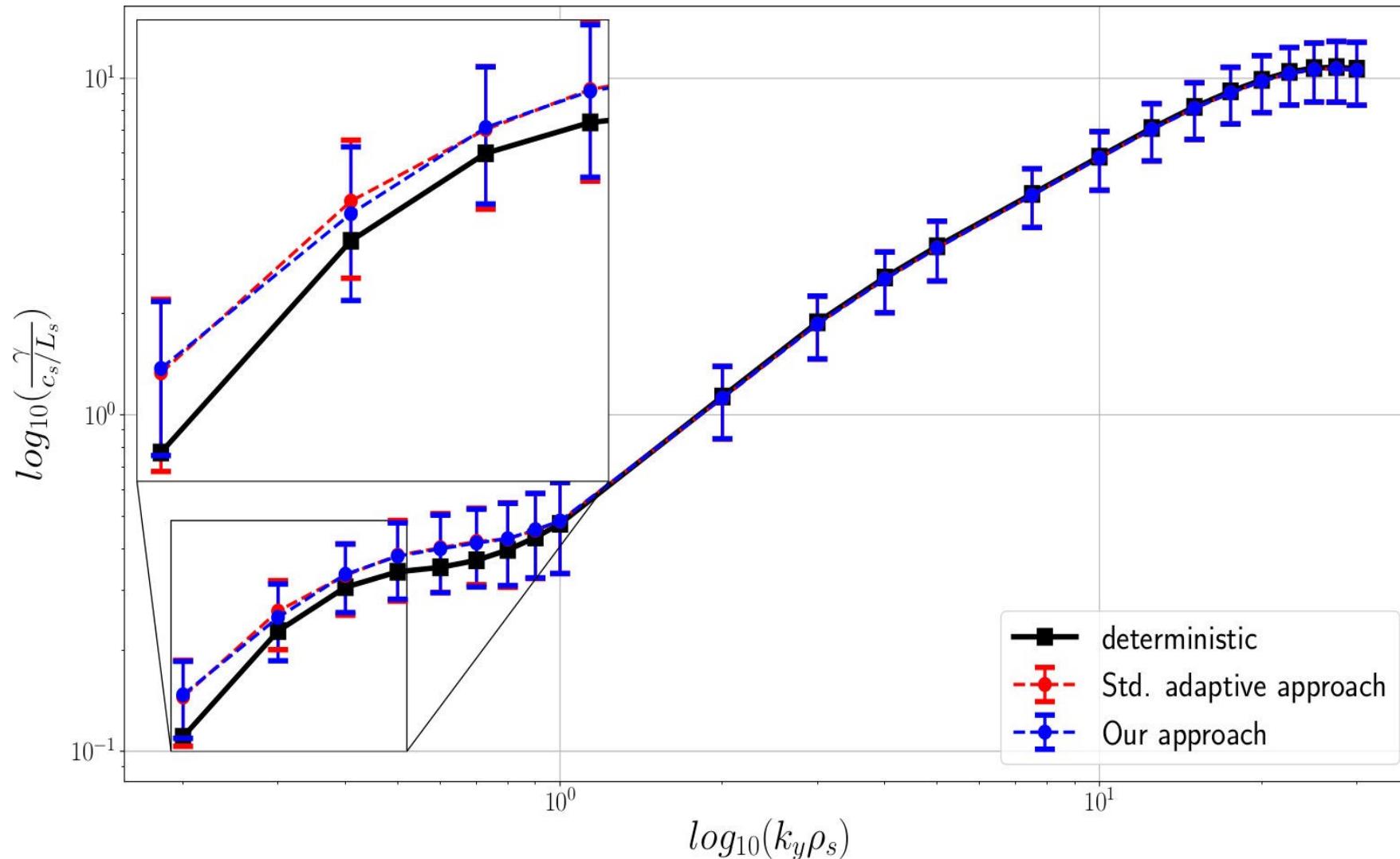
- exploits the structure of the problem at hand
- adds new subspaces based on suitable metrics
- use sensitivity information to drive the adaptive process
- preferentially refine the “important” directions



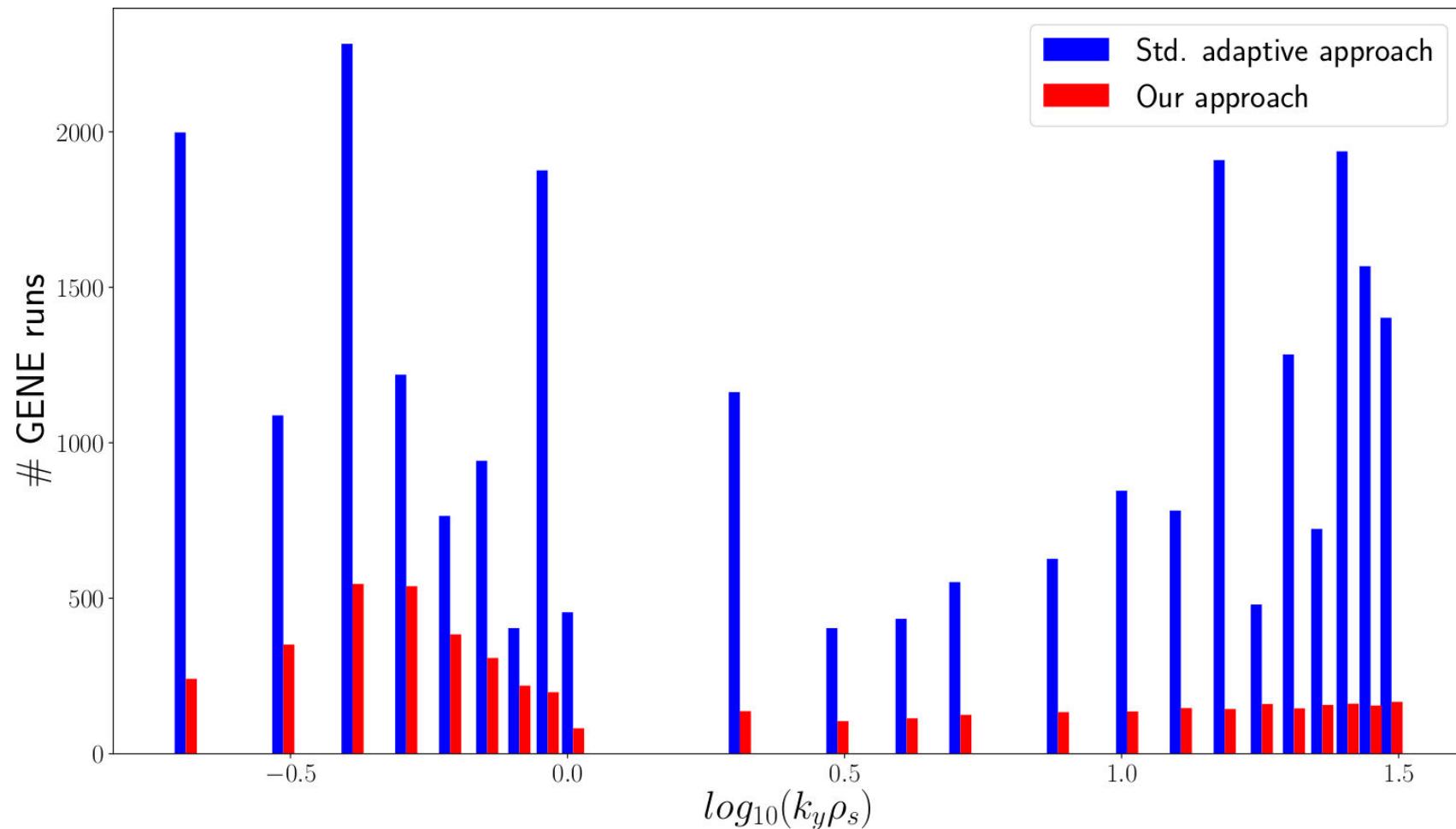
# Real-world application: ASDEX Upgrade

stochastic parameter	symbol	left bound	right bound
plasma beta	$\beta$	$0.488 \times 10^{-3}$	$0.597 \times 10^{-3}$
collision frequency	$v_c$	$0.641 \times 10^{-2}$	$0.867 \times 10^{-2}$
$i/e$ log density gradient	$-(L_s/n)/(dn/dx)$	1.156	1.927
$i$ log temperature gradient	$-(L_s/T_i)/(dT_i/dx)$	2.096	3.494
$i$ temperature	$T_i$	0.610	0.670
$e$ log temperature gradient	$-(L_s/T_e)/(dT_e/dx)$	4.040	6.733
effective ion charge	$Z_{\text{eff}} = \sum_i n_i q_i^2 / \sum_i n_i$	1.280	1.920
safety factor	$q$	2.170	2.399
magnetic shear	$\hat{s} = \frac{r}{q} \frac{dq}{dr}$	1.992	2.435
elongation	$k$	0.128	0.141
elongation gradient	$s_k = \frac{r}{k} \frac{\partial k}{\partial r}$	0.200	0.250
triangularity	$\delta$	0.710	0.870

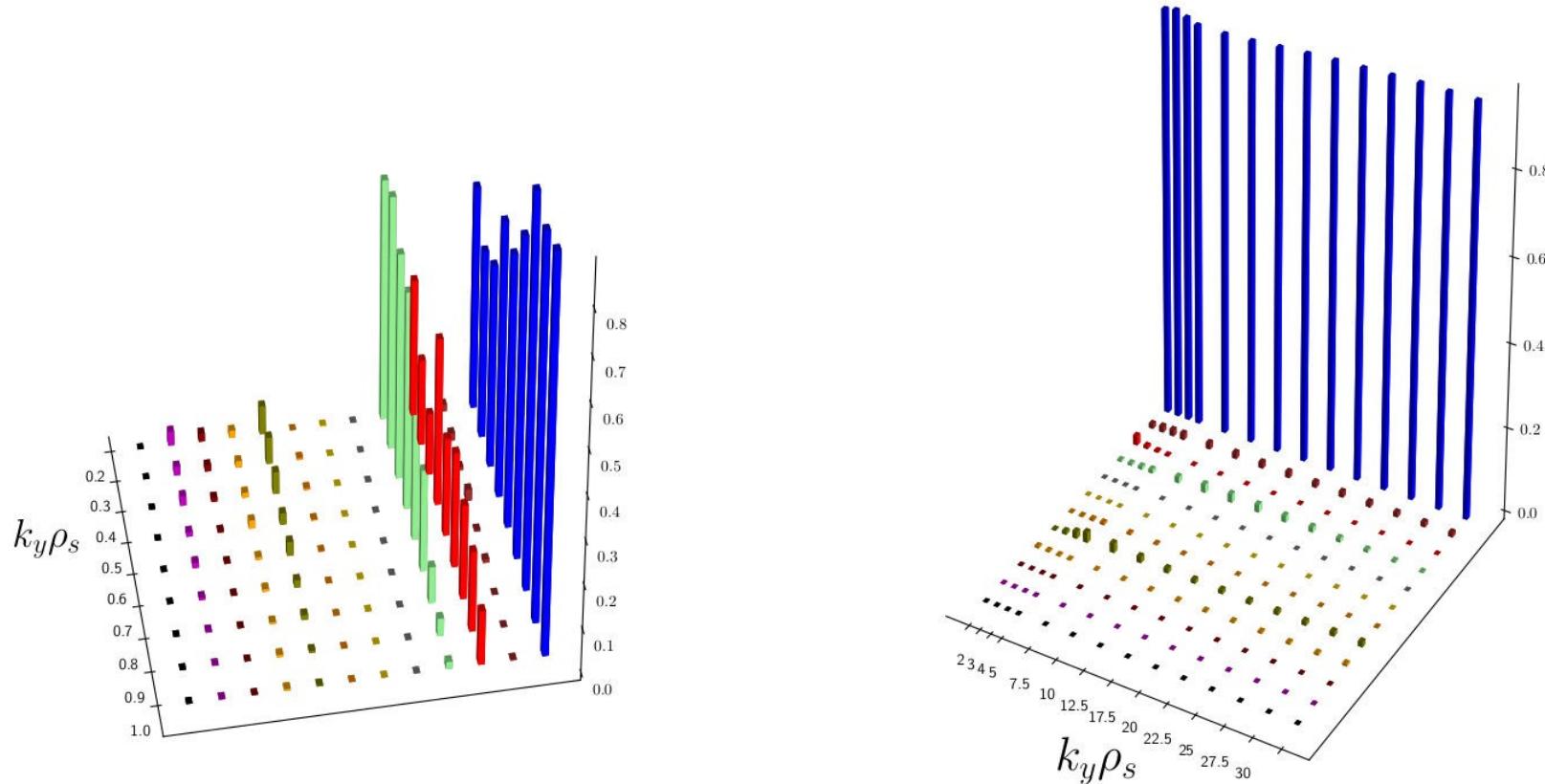
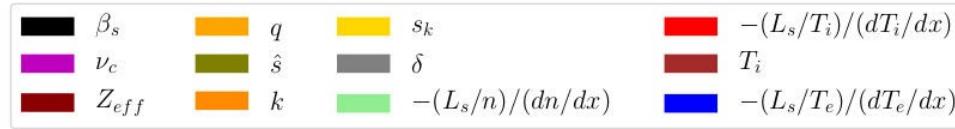
# Linear growth rates of microinstabilities (GENE)



# Number of necessary GENE runs is minimized

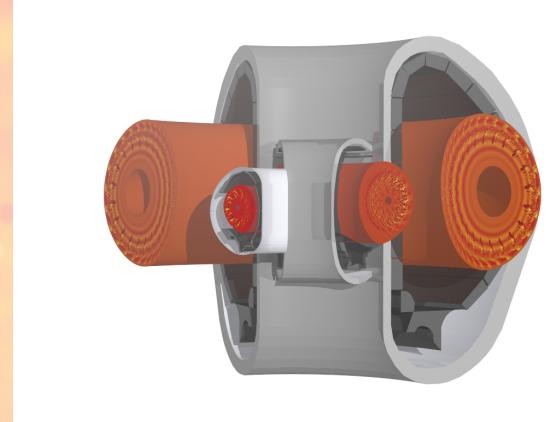
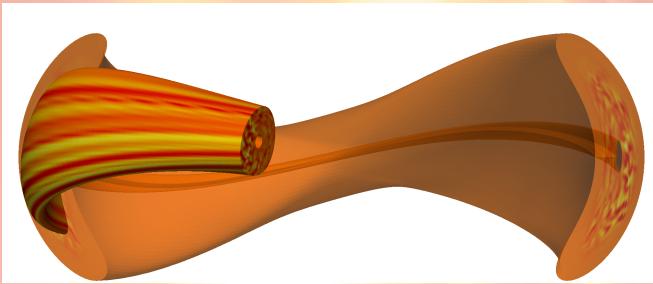


# Variable importance: total Sobol' indices



# Summary

# The big picture



*Overarching goal:* Contribute to the gradual development of a validated predictive capability (“virtual fusion plasma”), helping to accelerate fusion energy research

A beautiful example of how fascinating science on some of the world’s largest supercomputers contributes to solving grand challenges facing society

Growing role of (Theory-Guided) Data Science; towards a convergence with HPC?