**NERSC allotments and job queues**

NERSC CPU time is allocated on a yearly basis, termed an ‘allotment’. The owner of the ASCOT work for CFS needs to justify the requested allotment, and John Wright collects all of the proposals and submits it to NERSC. This process typically happens in the Fall, and the allotment decisions are announced in early January; the new allotment-year typically starts circa mid-January. The file [nersc-allotment-2021-sds.docx](file:///C:\Users\sscott\Documents\ripple\ASCOT_handover\nersc-allotment-2021-sds.docx) is my justification for our 2021 allotment.

Note that the job control system at NERSC allows you to define a priority for your runs. Jobs in the ‘regular’ priority queue get charged at the usual rates (described on the NERSC website). ‘Premium’ priority jobs will get processed faster, i.e. they will wait less time in the queue before starting, but the charge for the CPU time is twice that for regular-priority jobs. There are also a number of low-priority queues which wait even longer to get started; I have not used these low-priority queues.

Keep in mind that NERSC keeps track of your ‘average’ queue priority (with 1.0 being regular and 2.0 being premium). They expect use of the premium queue to be limited to rush jobs, e.g. just before a conference; I think they frown on an average queue priority larger than 1.1. The way NERSC expresses its displeasure with high average queue priorities is apparently to give you less time in the next year’s allocation.