

HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING: TOWARDS BETTER PERFORMANCE PREDICTIONS AND EXPERIMENTS

Tom Cornebize

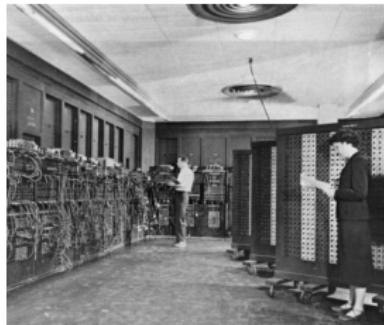
2 June 2021, PhD defense



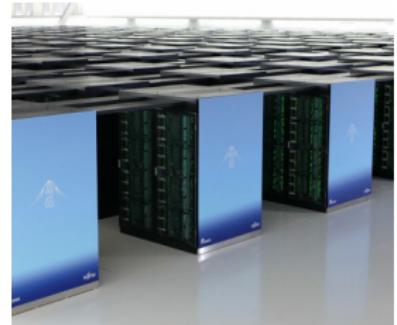
No SCIENCE WITHOUT COMPUTING



Arithmomètre (1851)



ENIAC (1945)



Fugaku (2021)

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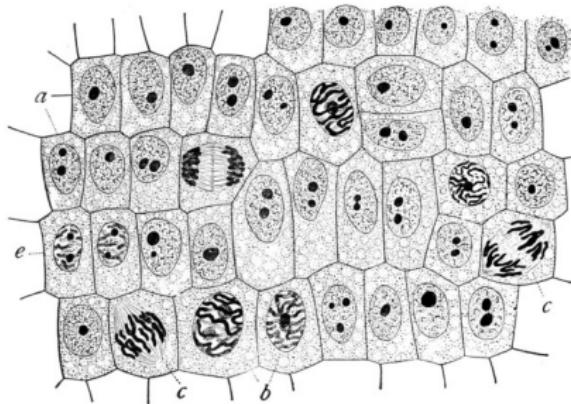


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Last decades:

- Exponential **performance** improvements (e.g. sequencing an entire human genome costed \$100,000,000 in 2001, \$1000 now)
- At the price of **complexity** (both software and hardware)

EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF COMPUTER PERFORMANCE



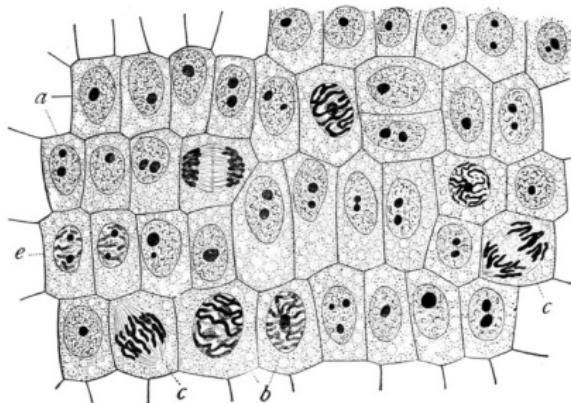
Similar to natural sciences

Complexity ⇒ Variability and Opacity

⇒ No perfect model

⇒ Need for [experiments](#)

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Empirical studies can be carried in reality or in simulation

Typical Performance Evaluation Questions (Given my application and a supercomputer)

- Before running
 - How many nodes?
 - For how long?
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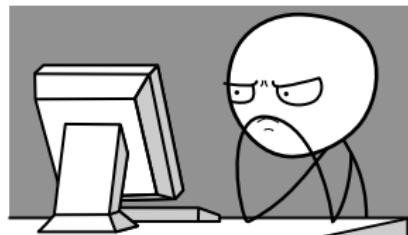
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Holy Grail: Predictive Simulation on a “Laptop”

Capture the whole application and platform complexity

Initial goal: **predict** the performance of a parallel application

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Thesis contributions (towards this goal)

- Case study: High Performance Linpack (HPL)
- Extensive (in)validation, comparing simulations with reality
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- Experiment methodology, to bias or not to bias
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PERFORMANCE PREDICTION THROUGH SIMULATION

SIM(EM)ULATION: THE SMPI APPROACH



Full reimplementation of MPI on top of



- C/C++/F77/F90 codes run [unmodified out of the box](#)
- Simply replace mpicc/mpirun by smpicc/smpirun





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- Application runs for real on a laptop
- Communications are faked, good fluid network models
- **Performance model** for the target platform



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Validations of SMPI before this thesis: simple applications without any high performance tricks

QUICK WORD ON HPL

Contribution: predict accurately the performance of HPL



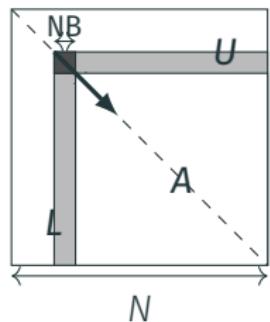
- Computations and communication overlap (custom collectives)
- More representative of some HPC applications
- Well established, used for the Top500

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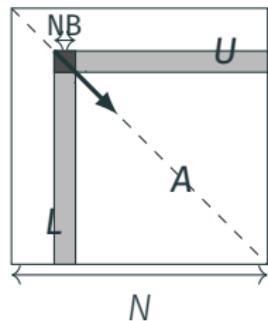
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- Process grid
- Block size
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- etc.

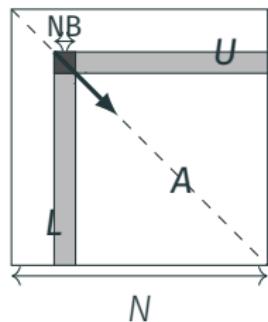
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Contribution: Skip the expensive computations (mostly `dgemm`) and replace them by performance models

MODELING COMPUTATIONS

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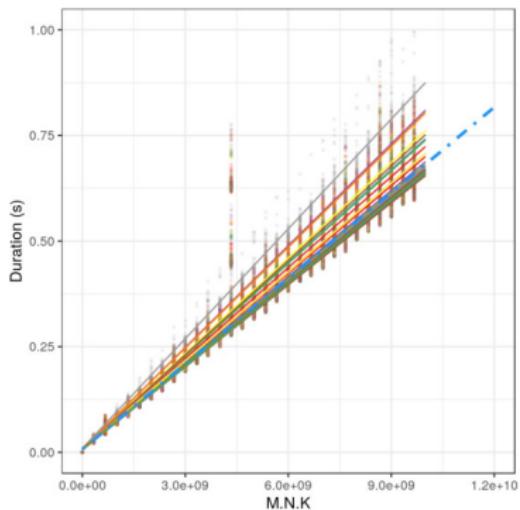
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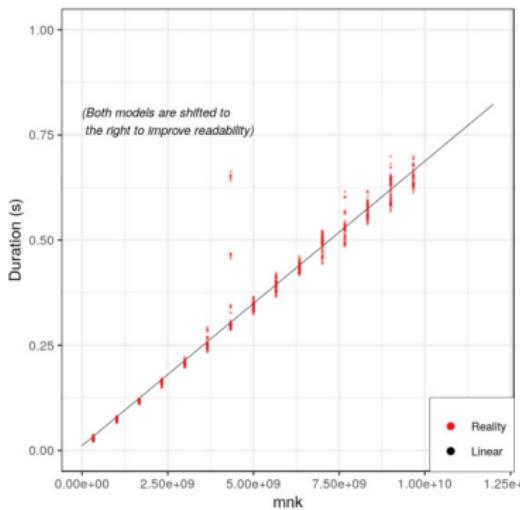
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For a particular host



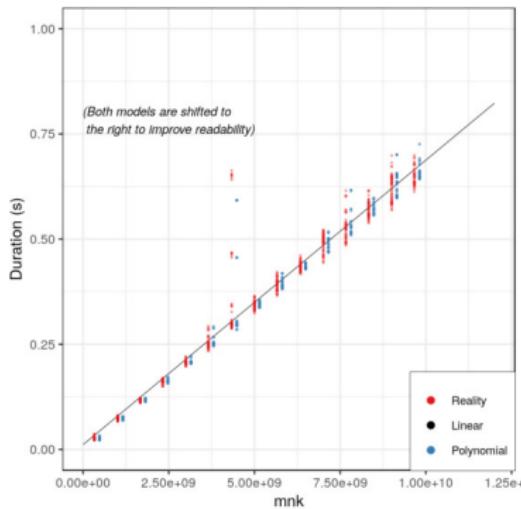
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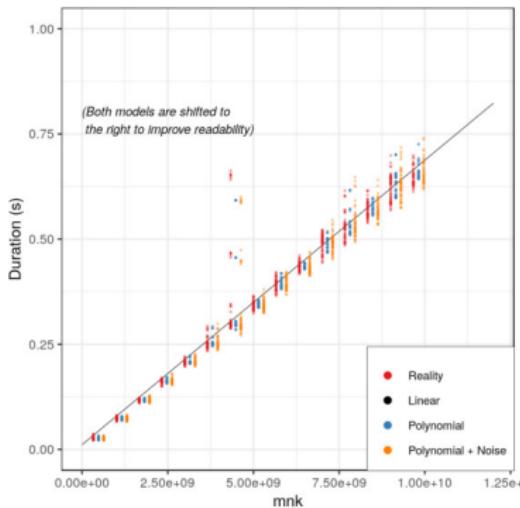
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MODELING COMMUNICATIONS

Hand-crafted non-blocking collective operations intertwined with computations

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VALIDATING THE PREDICTIONS

INTERNAL BEHAVIOR OF THE APPLICATION

256 MPI ranks, interrupted after the 5th iteration



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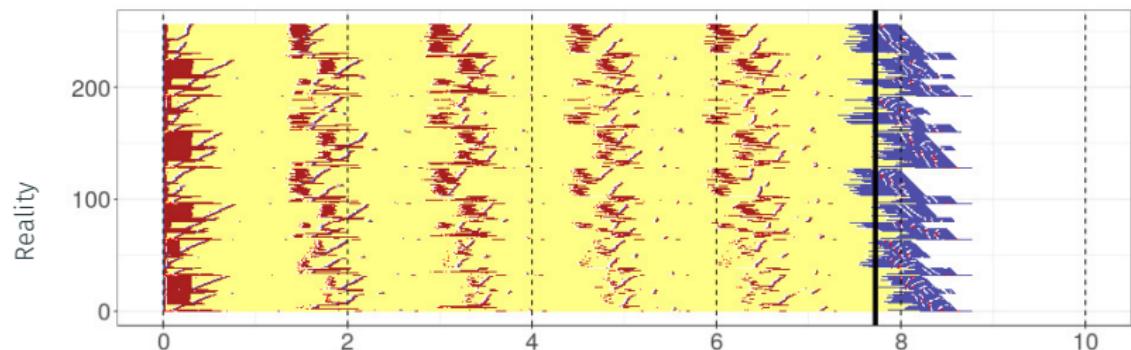
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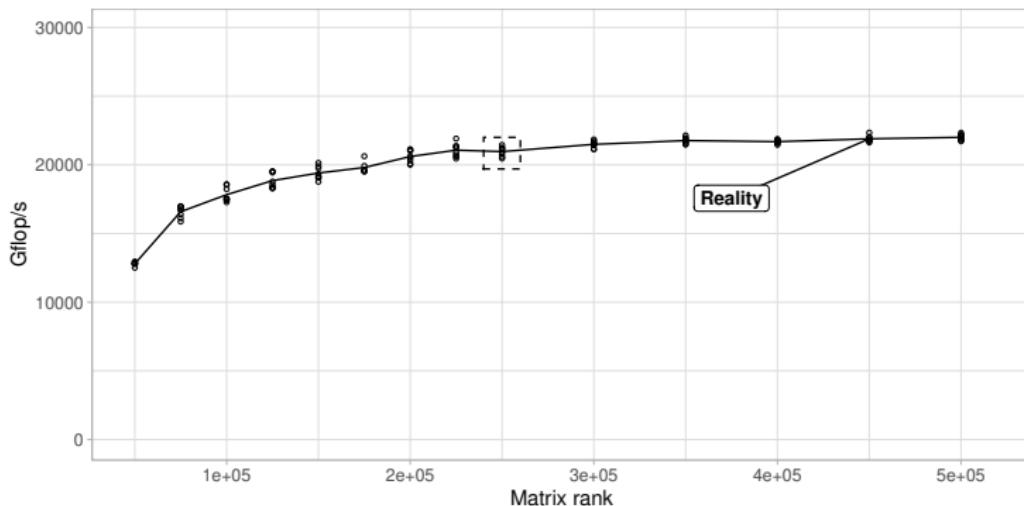
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INFLUENCE OF THE PROBLEM SIZE

Now the complete run, with 1024 MPI ranks



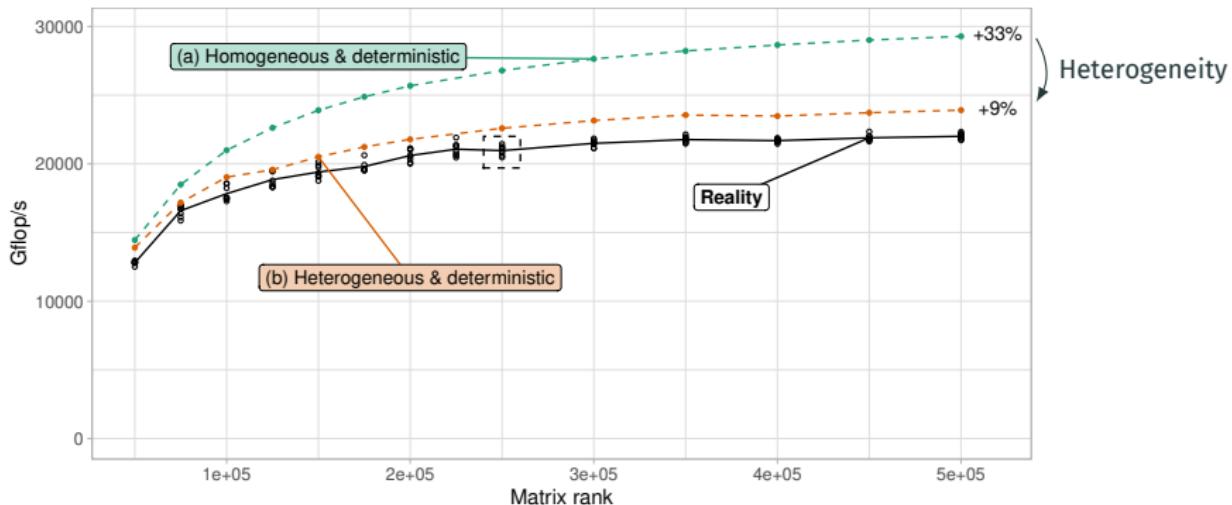
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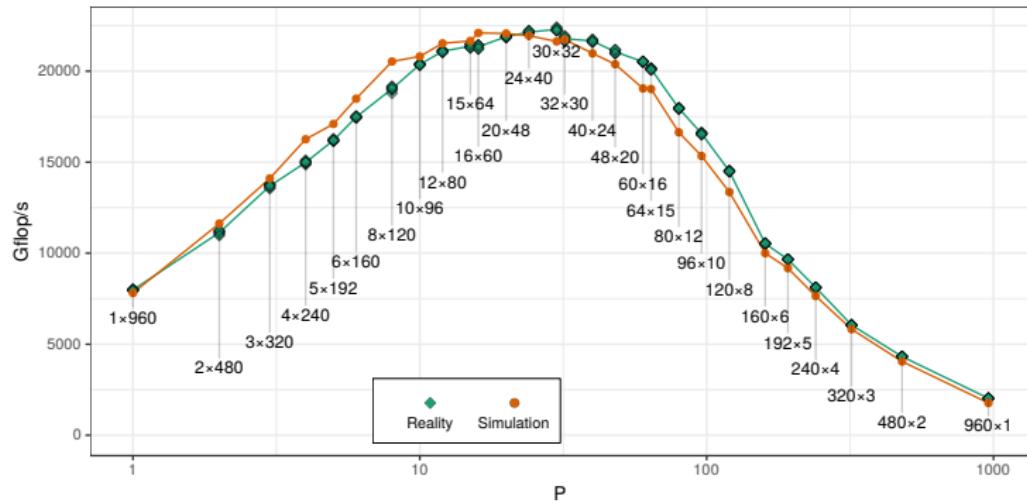


Take-Away Message: accurate prediction

Modeling both **spatial** and **temporal** computation variability is essential

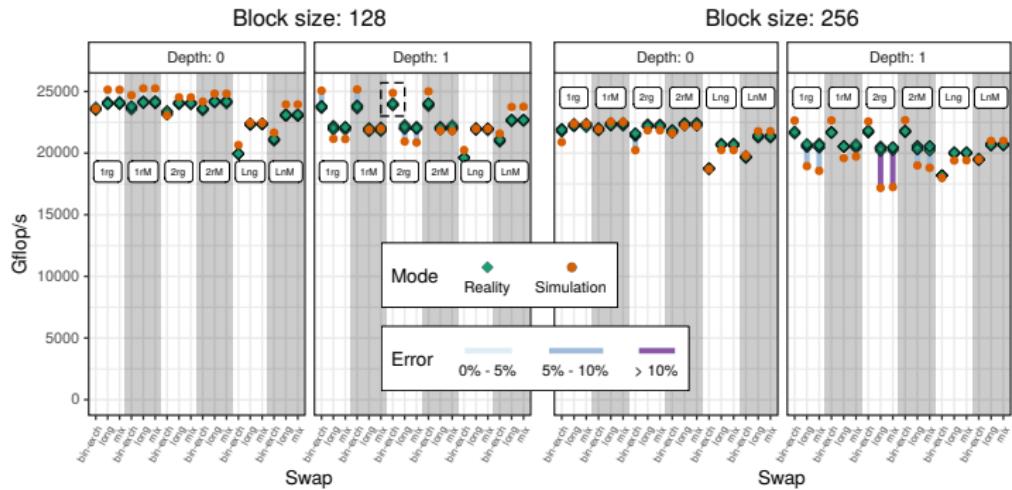
INFLUENCE OF THE GEOMETRY

$P \times Q$ MPI processes, organized in a 2D grid



INFLUENCE OF THE OTHER PARAMETERS

Tested the 72 combinations of the remaining parameters



INFLUENCE OF A PLATFORM CHANGE



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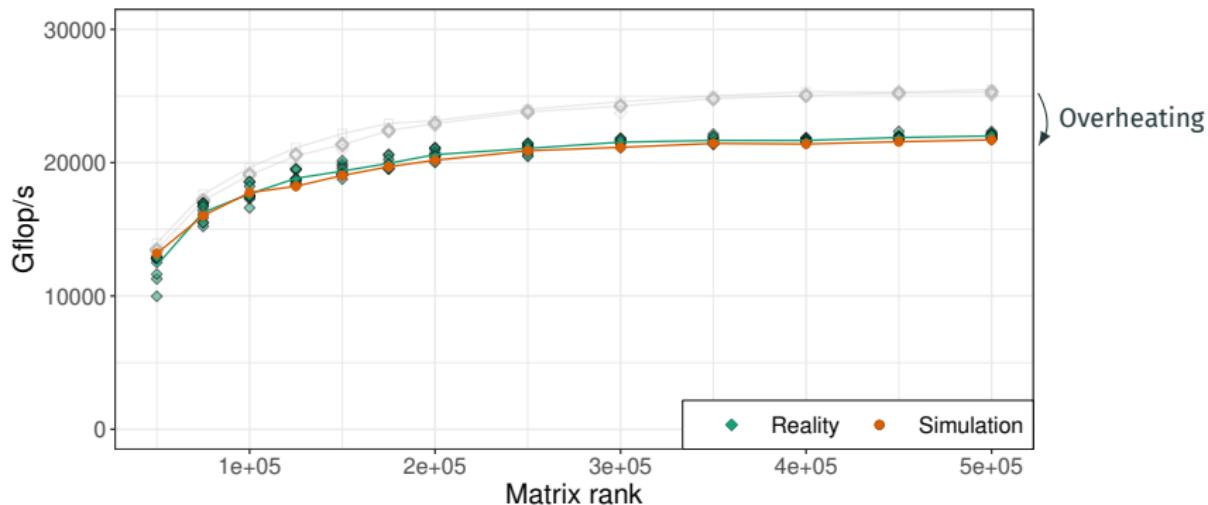
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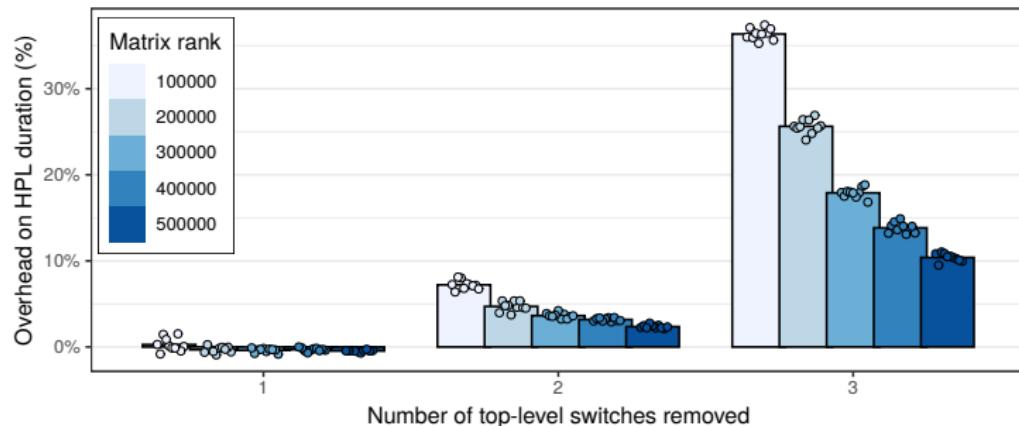


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Take-Away Message: Re-measuring `dgemm` durations to generate a new model was enough to account for the platform change

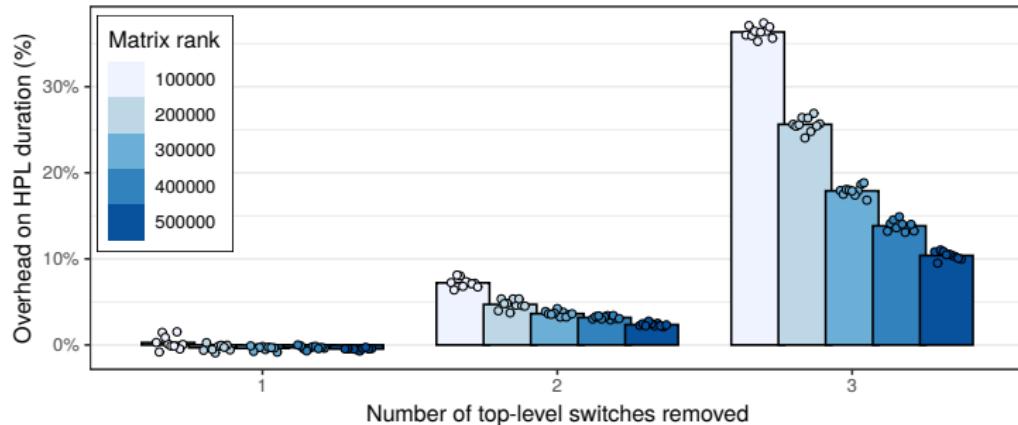
USE CASE: SENSIBILITY ANALYSIS

What if the network topology of my cluster was different?



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Faithful surrogate \Rightarrow Empirical studies of hypothetical platforms
 \Rightarrow Extrapolation of existing platforms
 \Rightarrow Accounting for spatial and temporal variability

Goal: performance prediction ✓

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Main difficulties:

- Realistic experimental conditions
- Platform changes (e.g., the cooling issue)

PARENTHESIS: ON THE DIFFICULTIES OF EXPERIMENTATION

Experimental biases when measuring `dgemm` or MPI durations

Effect on durations, but also other metrics (e.g. CPU frequency)

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Bias may be desirable in some situations

PERFORMANCE TESTS

REGULAR MEASURES

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454 nodes (792 CPU) from 12 clusters



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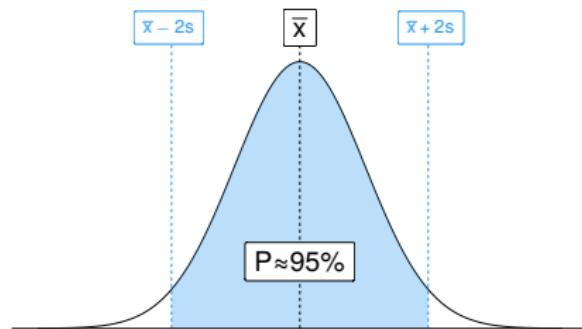
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If the platform did not change, then each parameter is
[normally distributed](#) (thanks to CLT)

FLUCTUATION INTERVAL

Given a sequence of old observations x_1, \dots, x_n and a new observation x_{n+1} , how likely was it to observe x_{n+1} ?

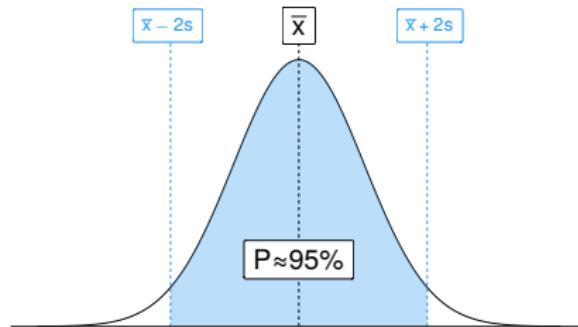


Take the sample mean \bar{x} and standard deviation s of the old observations

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Note: using the F distribution instead of the normal distribution (the true mean and standard deviation are unknown)

FLUCTUATION INTERVAL FOR SEVERAL VARIABLES

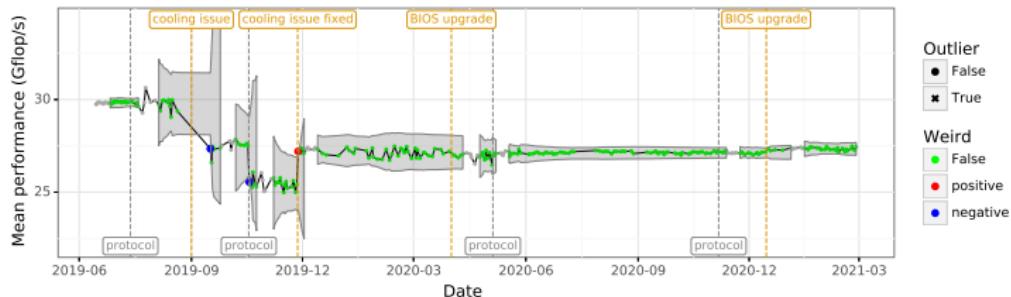
With several variables, use their [covariance matrix](#)

Example in dimension 2, with $\mathbb{P}(x_{n+1} \in \text{interval}) \approx 99.5\%$



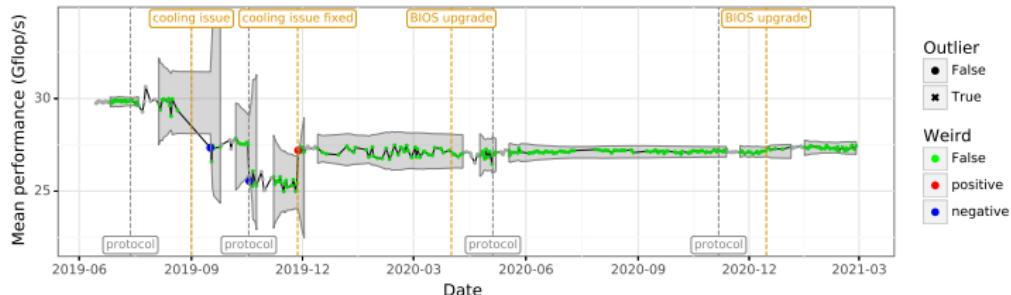
RESULT: PERFORMANCE FLUCTUATION

Performance fluctuation of the node dahu-14

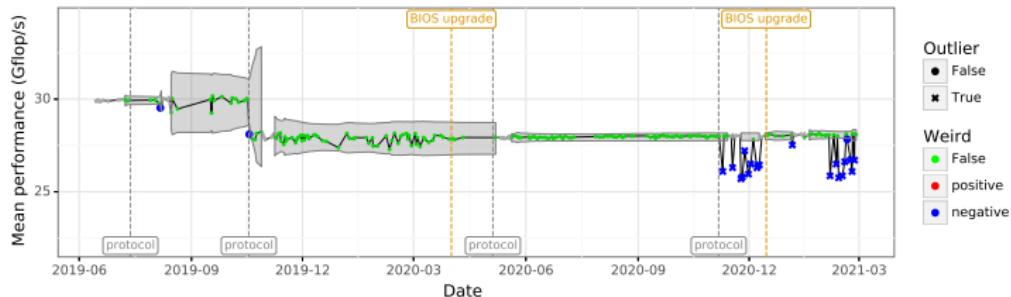


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Performance fluctuation of the node dahu-32



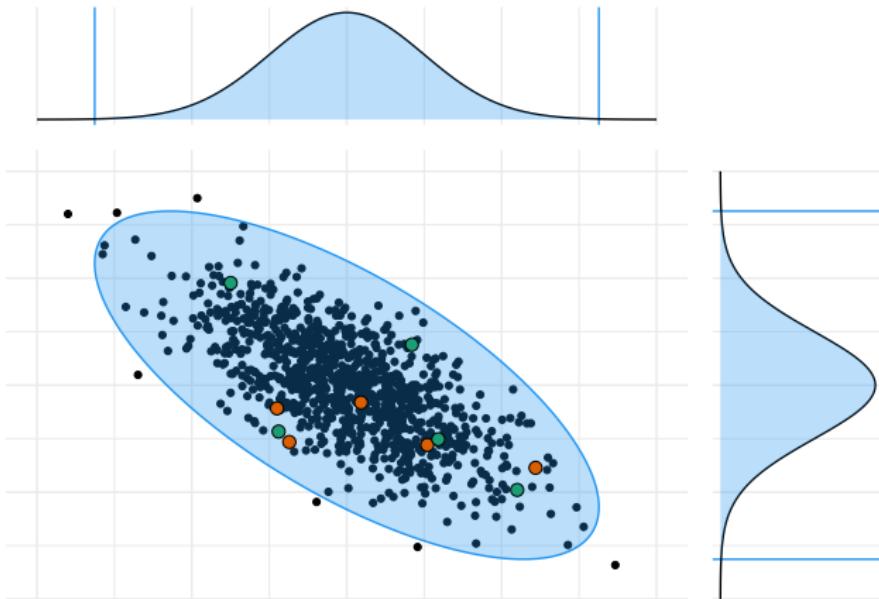
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Example with 5 measures



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Example with 5 measures (averages represented by crosses)



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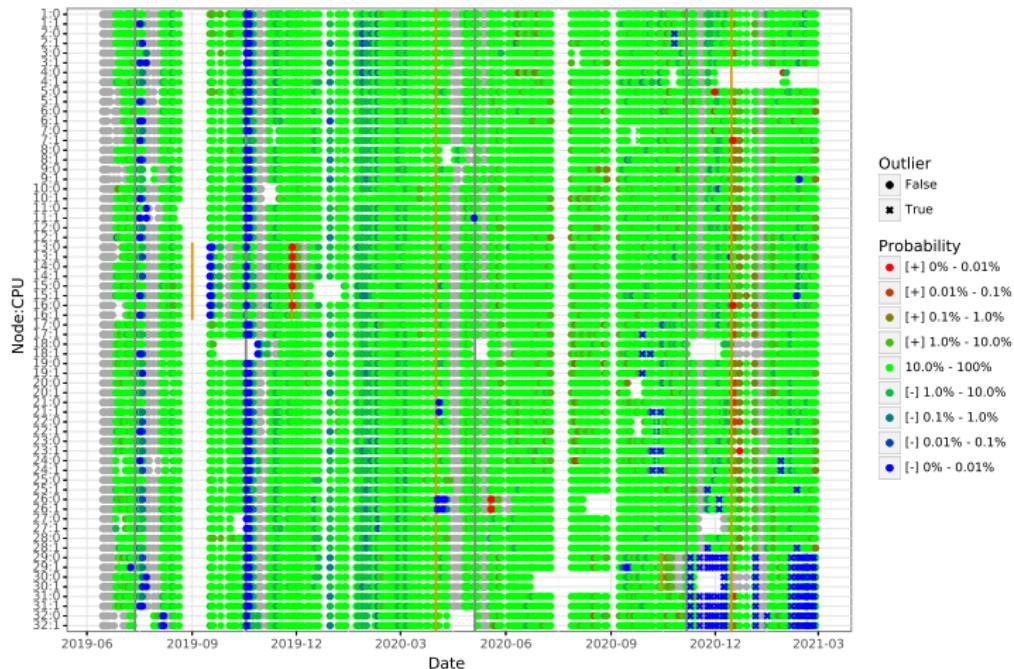


Performance fluctuation of the node dahu-32 (5-day window)



RESULT: PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

Overview of the performance on cluster dahu



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PERFORMANCE TESTS: WRAPING UP

Multi-variable test also implemented, on all the model coefficients

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chiclet							
dehu							
ecotype							
grassu							
gras							
grvingt							
parasito							
panchine							
pynix							
troll							
yeti							

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Detected events

- BIOS upgrades
- Cooling issue
- Faulty memory
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All went unnoticed by both Grid'5000 staff and users, despite significant effects

⇒ Great help potential

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

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There is no *correctness proof*, a model can be validated only by
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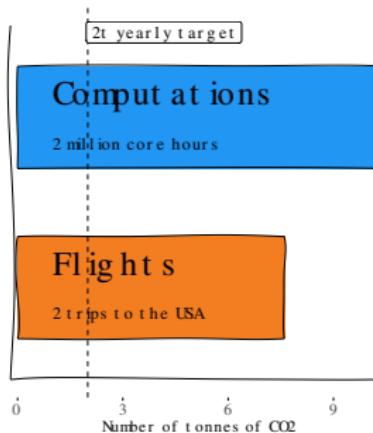
Repeated the whole study **from scratch** on a new cluster:



Where to stop? Try all the Grid'5000 clusters? Other applications?

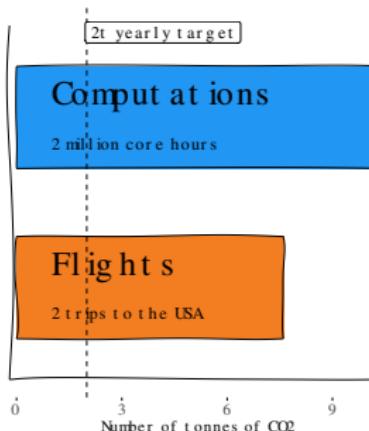
THERE IS NO PLANET B

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Do we really *need* to attend conferences in person?

What about computations?

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Who should be responsible of tests?

- Platform staff? But what should they test?
- Researchers? Isn't it redundant?

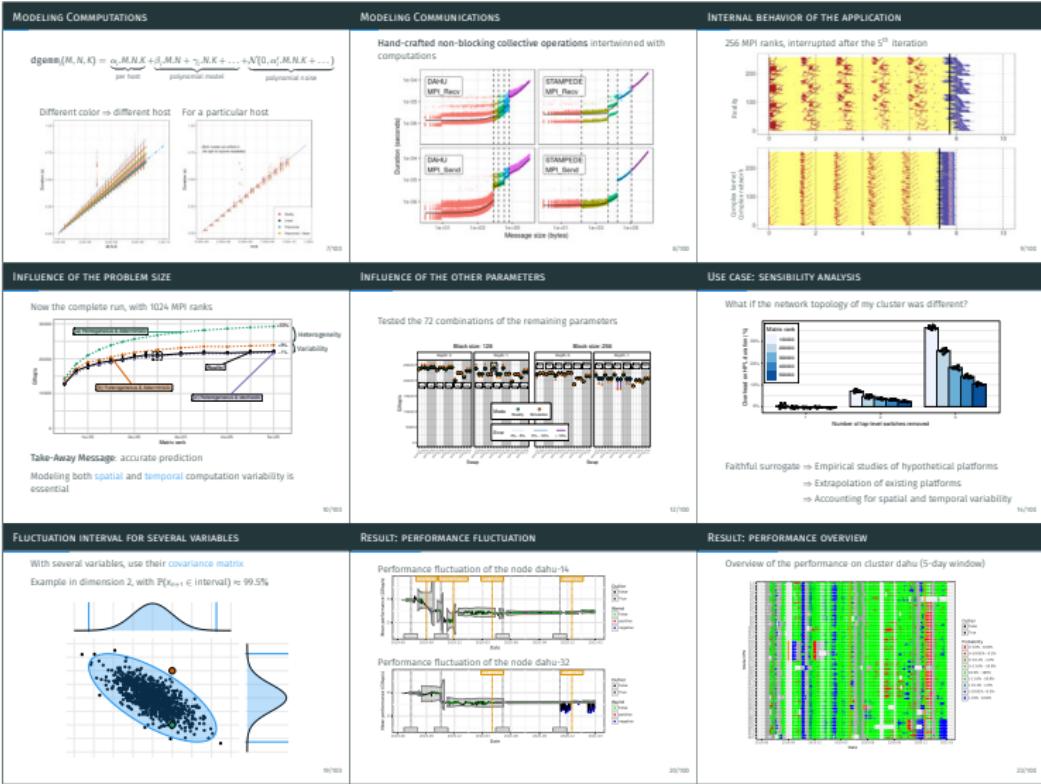
Applying our approach on the whole life cycle of supercomputers:

Design Constructing the best machine for a given budget,
using co-design

Scheduling Using predictions to improve the decisions of
Schedulers

Development Debugging and improving software performance

Maintenance Ensuring that routine upgrades keep the performance
as expected



Thank you all!