

HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING: TOWARDS BETTER PERFORMANCE PREDICTIONS AND EXPERIMENTS

Tom Cornebize

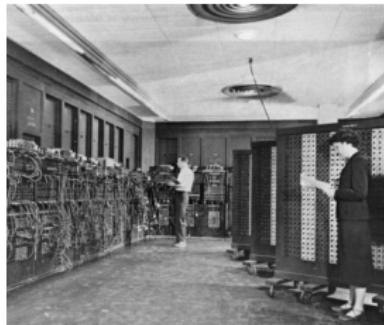
2 June 2021, PhD defense



No SCIENCE WITHOUT COMPUTING



Arithmomètre (1851)



ENIAC (1945)



Fugaku (2021)

No SCIENCE WITHOUT COMPUTING



Arithmomètre (1851)



ENIAC (1945)

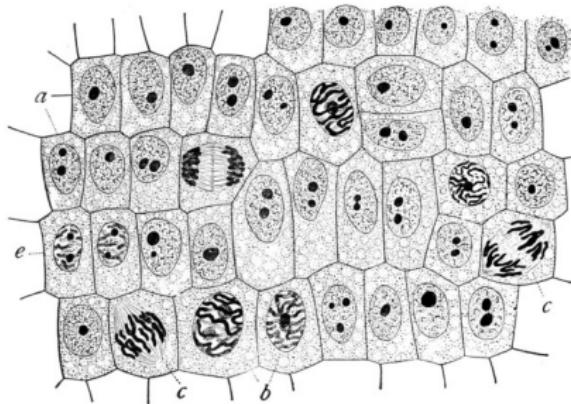


Fugaku (2021)

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



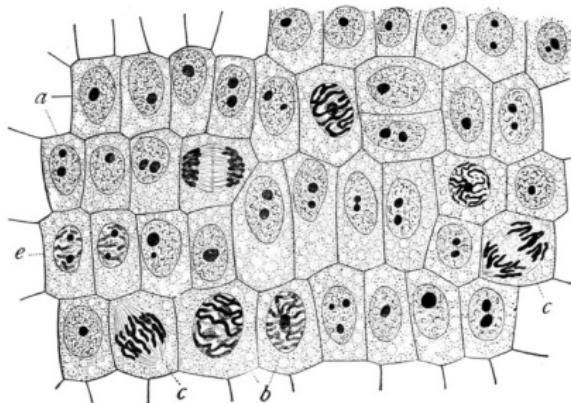
Similar to natural sciences

Complexity ⇒ Variability and Opacity

⇒ No perfect model

⇒ Need for [experiments](#)

EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF COMPUTER PERFORMANCE



Similar to natural sciences

Complexity ⇒ Variability and Opacity

⇒ No perfect model

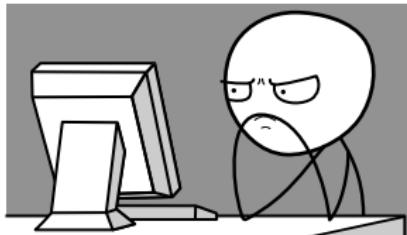
⇒ Need for experiments

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?
- Which parameters?



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



- **Before running**
 - How many nodes?
 - For how long?
 - Which parameters?
- **After running**
 - Performance as “expected”?
 - Problem in the app or the platform?

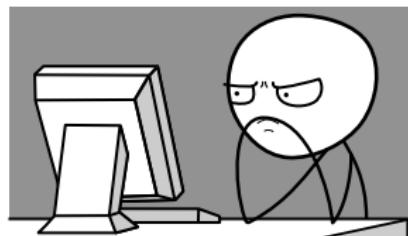
Typical Performance Evaluation Questions (Given my application and a supercomputer)



- Before running
 - How many nodes?
 - For how long?
 - Which parameters?
- After running
 - Performance as “expected”?
 - Problem in the app or the platform?

So many large-scale runs, solely to tune performance?!?

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



- Before running
 - How many nodes?
 - For how long?
 - Which parameters?
- After running
 - Performance as “expected”?
 - Problem in the app or the platform?

So many large-scale runs, solely to tune performance?!?

Holy Grail: Predictive Simulation on a “Laptop”

Capture the whole application and platform complexity

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

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

Thesis contributions (towards this goal)

- Case study: High Performance Linpack (HPL)
- Extensive (in)validation, comparing simulations with reality
- Modeling correctly the platform variability is key

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

Thesis contributions (towards this goal)

- Case study: High Performance Linpack (HPL)
- Extensive (in)validation, comparing simulations with reality
- Modeling correctly the platform variability is key

Thesis contributions (made on the way)

- Automation (of experiments, statistical analyzes, etc.)
- Experiment methodology, to bias or not to bias
- Performance tests, to detect eventual platform changes

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

Thesis contributions (towards this goal)

- Case study: High Performance Linpack (HPL)
- Extensive (in)validation, comparing simulations with reality
- Modeling correctly the platform variability is key

Thesis contributions (made on the way)

- Automation (of experiments, statistical analyzes, etc.)
- Experiment methodology, to bias or not to bias
- Performance tests, to detect eventual platform changes

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





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



Emulation: how?

- Application runs for real on a laptop
- Communications are faked, good fluid network models
- [Performance model](#) for the target platform

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

Emulation: how?



- Application runs for real on a laptop
- Communications are faked, good fluid network models
- [Performance model](#) for the target platform

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

QUICK WORD ON HPL

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

QUICK WORD ON HPL

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

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

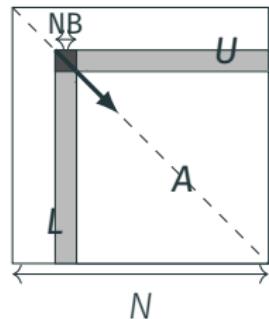
QUICK WORD ON HPL

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

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



Allocate and initialize A
for $k = N$ to 0 step NB do

- Allocate the panel
- Factor the panel
- Broadcast the panel
- Update the sub-matrix

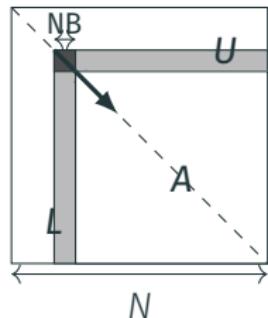
QUICK WORD ON HPL

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

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



Allocate and initialize A
for $k = N$ to 0 step NB do

- Allocate the panel
- Factor the panel
- Broadcast the panel
- Update the sub-matrix

Tuning parameters

- Process grid
- Block size
- Broadcast algorithm
- etc.

Hundreds of combinations

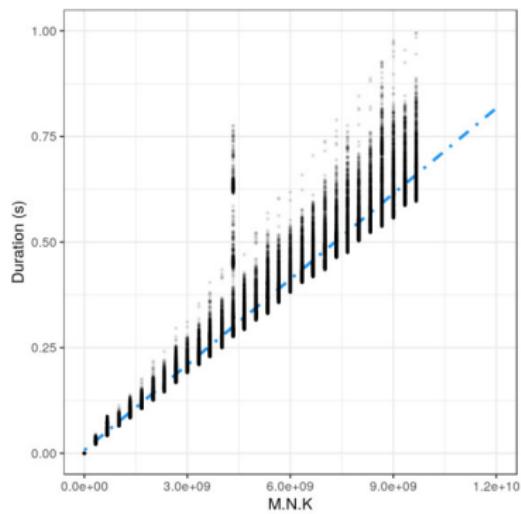
MODELING COMPUTATIONS

$$\text{dgemm } (M, N, K) = \alpha \cdot M \cdot N \cdot K$$



MODELING COMPUTATIONS

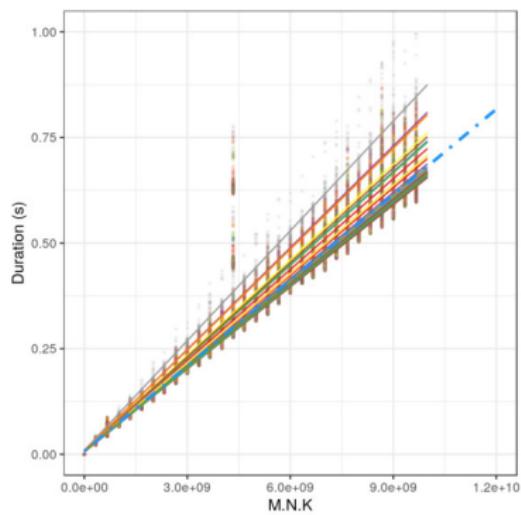
$$\text{dgemm } (M, N, K) = \alpha \cdot M \cdot N \cdot K$$



MODELING COMPUTATIONS

$$\text{dgemm}_i(M, N, K) = \underbrace{\alpha_i \cdot M \cdot N \cdot K}_{\text{per host}}$$

Different color \Rightarrow different host



MODELING COMPUTATIONS

$$\text{dgemm}_i(M, N, K) = \underbrace{\alpha_i \cdot M \cdot N \cdot K}_{\text{per host}}$$

Different color \Rightarrow different host



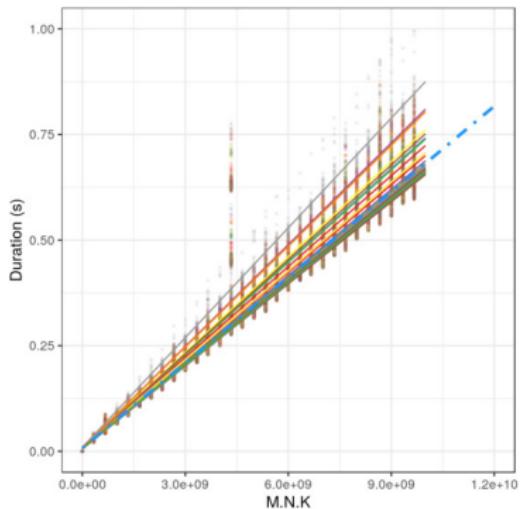
For a particular host



MODELING COMPUTATIONS

$$\text{dgemm}_i(M, N, K) = \underbrace{\alpha_i \cdot M \cdot N \cdot K}_{\text{per host}} + \underbrace{\beta_i \cdot M \cdot N + \gamma_i \cdot N \cdot K + \dots}_{\text{polynomial model}}$$

Different color \Rightarrow different host



For a particular host



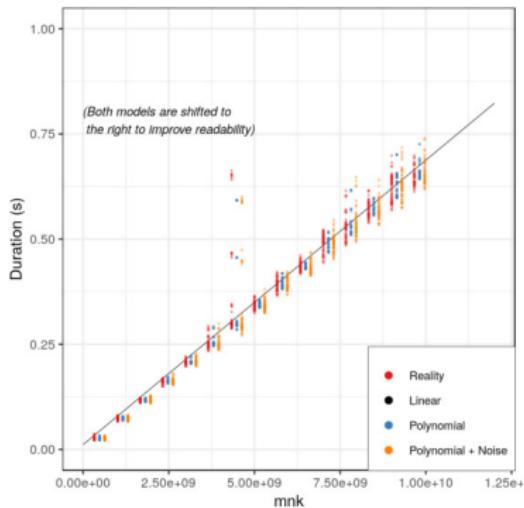
MODELING COMPUTATIONS

$$\text{dgemm}_i(M, N, K) = \underbrace{\alpha_i \cdot M \cdot N \cdot K}_{\text{per host}} + \underbrace{\beta_i \cdot M \cdot N + \gamma_i \cdot N \cdot K + \dots}_{\text{polynomial model}} + \underbrace{\mathcal{N}(0, \alpha'_i \cdot M \cdot N \cdot K + \dots)}_{\text{polynomial noise}}$$

Different color \Rightarrow different host



For a particular host



MODELING COMMUNICATIONS

Hand-crafted non-blocking collective operations intertwined with computations

MODELING COMMUNICATIONS

Hand-crafted non-blocking collective operations intertwined with computations



VALIDATING THE PREDICTIONS

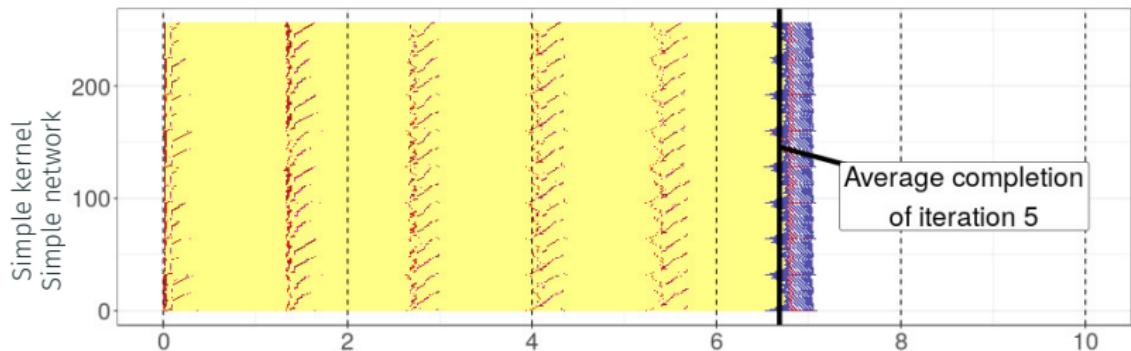
INTERNAL BEHAVIOR OF THE APPLICATION

256 MPI ranks, interrupted after the 5th iteration



INTERNAL BEHAVIOR OF THE APPLICATION

256 MPI ranks, interrupted after the 5th iteration



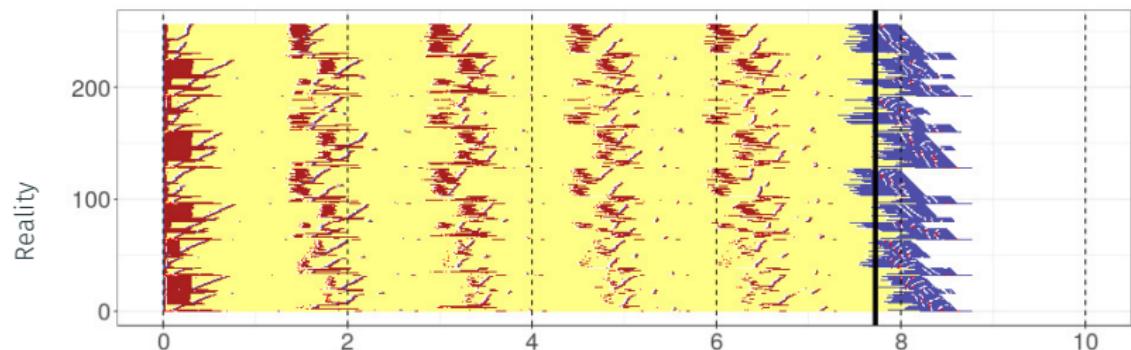
INTERNAL BEHAVIOR OF THE APPLICATION

256 MPI ranks, interrupted after the 5th iteration



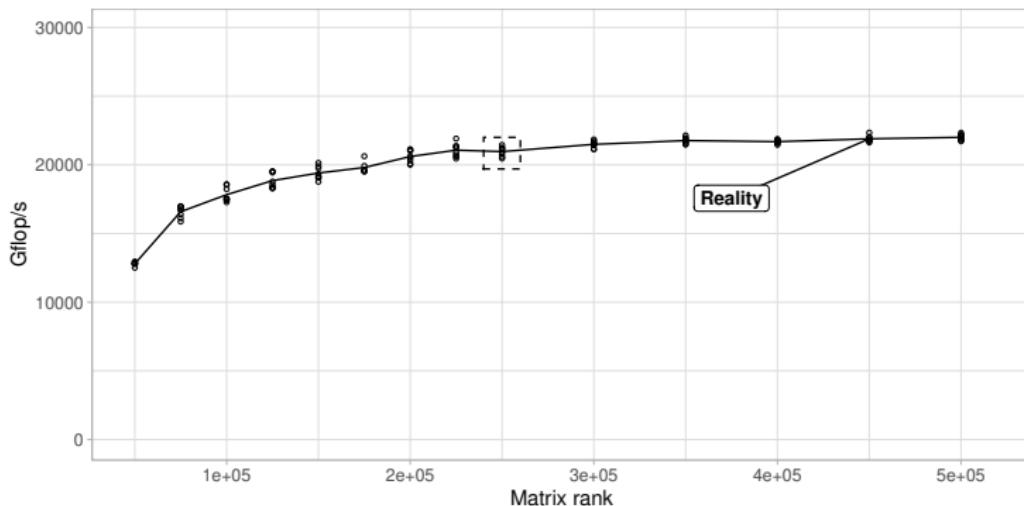
INTERNAL BEHAVIOR OF THE APPLICATION

256 MPI ranks, interrupted after the 5th iteration



INFLUENCE OF THE PROBLEM SIZE

Now the complete run, with 1024 MPI ranks



INFLUENCE OF THE PROBLEM SIZE

Now the complete run, with 1024 MPI ranks



INFLUENCE OF THE PROBLEM SIZE

Now the complete run, with 1024 MPI ranks



INFLUENCE OF THE PROBLEM SIZE

Now the complete run, with 1024 MPI ranks



INFLUENCE OF THE PROBLEM SIZE

Now the complete run, with 1024 MPI ranks

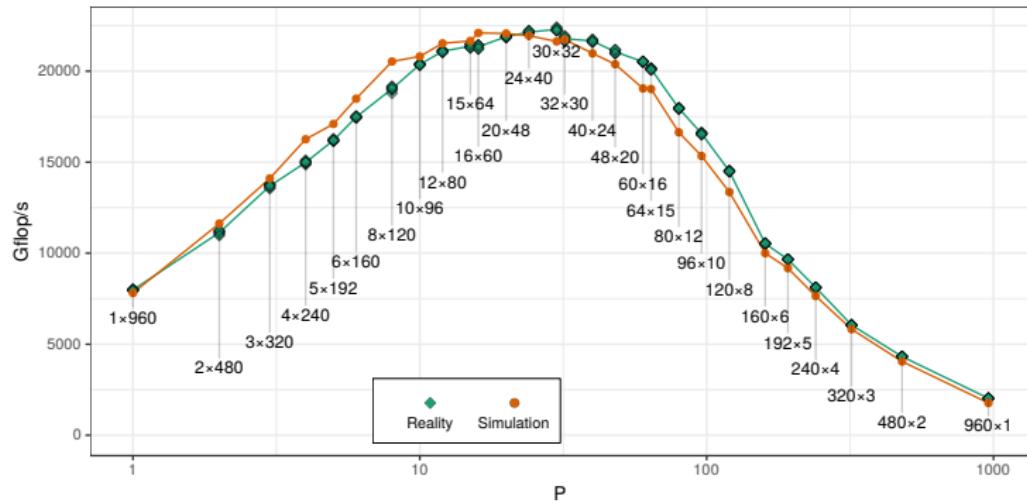


Take-Away Message: accurate prediction

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

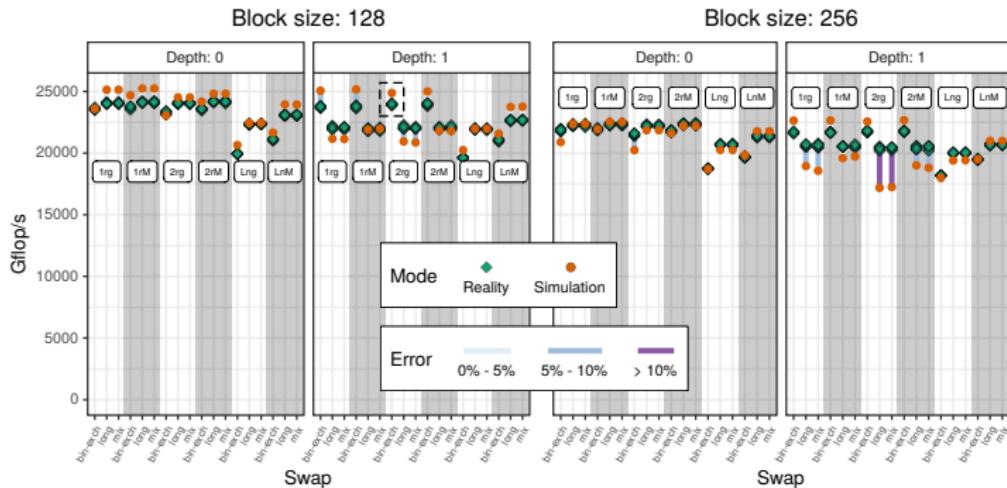
INFLUENCE OF THE GEOMETRY

$P \times Q$ 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



INFLUENCE OF A PLATFORM CHANGE



On four nodes, the cooling system malfunctionned for several weeks

INFLUENCE OF A PLATFORM CHANGE



On four nodes, the cooling system malfunctionned for several weeks

INFLUENCE OF A PLATFORM CHANGE

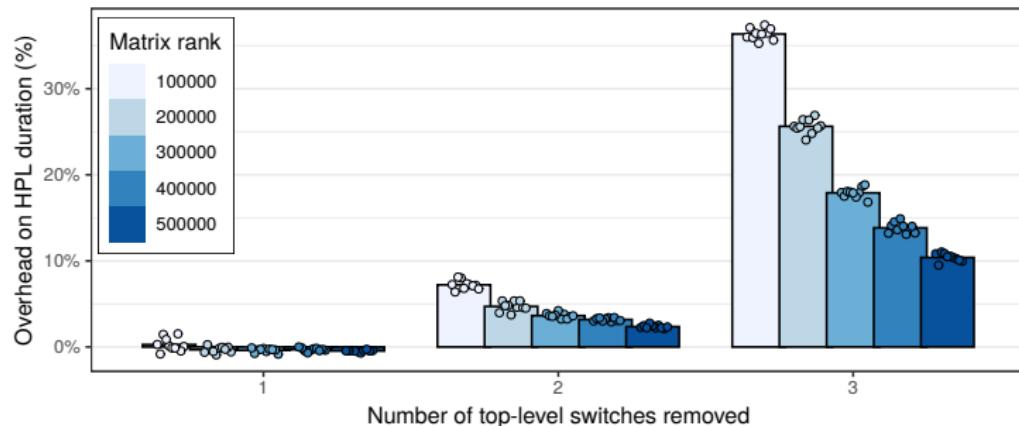


On four nodes, the cooling system malfunctionned for several weeks

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

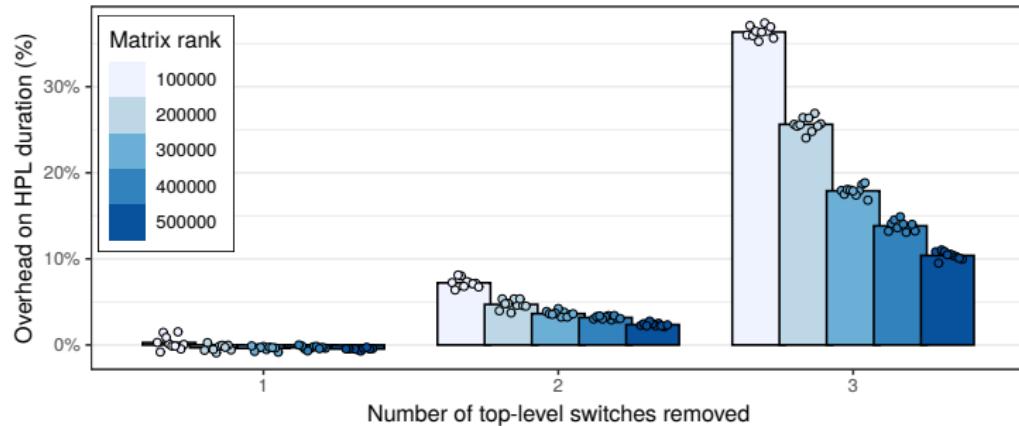
USE CASE: SENSIBILITY ANALYSIS

What if the network topology of my cluster was different?



USE CASE: SENSIBILITY ANALYSIS

What if the network topology of my cluster was different?



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

Goal: performance prediction ✓

Goal: performance prediction ✓

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)

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)

- Sampling method for generating the sequence of calls
~ 10% systematic performance change

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)

- Sampling method for generating the sequence of calls
 ~ 10% systematic performance change
- Interferences between computations and communications
 ~ 50% performance change in extreme configurations

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)

- Sampling method for generating the sequence of calls
 ~ 10% systematic performance change
- Interferences between computations and communications
 ~ 50% performance change in extreme configurations
- Content of the matrices used by `dgemm`
 ~ 5% systematic performance change

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)

- Sampling method for generating the sequence of calls
 ~ 10% systematic performance change
- Interferences between computations and communications
 ~ 50% performance change in extreme configurations
- Content of the matrices used by `dgemm`
 ~ 5% systematic performance change

Bias may be desirable in some situations

PERFORMANCE TESTS

REGULAR MEASURES

On a near-daily basis, run the `dgemm` calibration code on
454 nodes (792 CPU) from 12 clusters



REGULAR MEASURES

On a near-daily basis, run the `dgemm` calibration code on
454 nodes (792 CPU) from 12 clusters



For each CPU, collect:

- average `dgemm` performance
- `dgemm` coefficients of regression (i.e. the model for simulation)

REGULAR MEASURES



On a near-daily basis, run the `dgemm` calibration code on
454 nodes (792 CPU) from 12 clusters

For each CPU, collect:

- average `dgemm` performance
- `dgemm` coefficients of regression (i.e. the model for simulation)
- average CPU frequency
- average CPU power consumption
- average DRAM power consumption
- average temperature

REGULAR MEASURES



On a near-daily basis, run the `dgemm` calibration code on
454 nodes (792 CPU) from 12 clusters

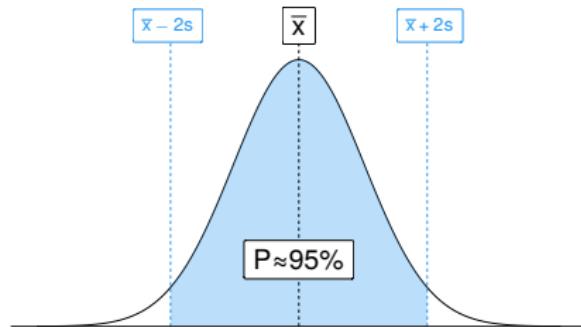
For each CPU, collect:

- average `dgemm` performance
- `dgemm` coefficients of regression (i.e. the model for simulation)
- average CPU frequency
- average CPU power consumption
- average DRAM power consumption
- average temperature

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} ?

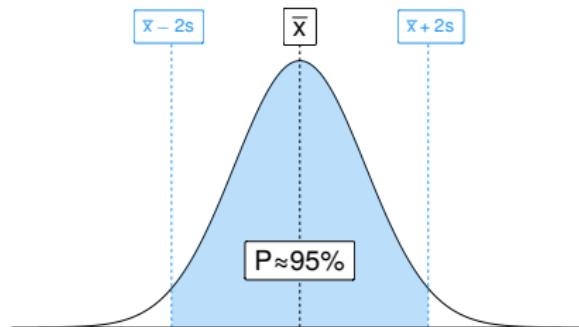


Take the sample mean \bar{x} and standard deviation s of the old observations

$$\mathbb{P}(x_{n+1} \in [\bar{x} - 2s; \bar{x} + 2s]) \approx 95\%$$

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

$$\mathbb{P}(x_{n+1} \in [\bar{x} - 2s; \bar{x} + 2s]) \approx 95\%$$

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 $\mathbb{P}(x_{n+1} \in \text{interval}) \approx 99.5\%$



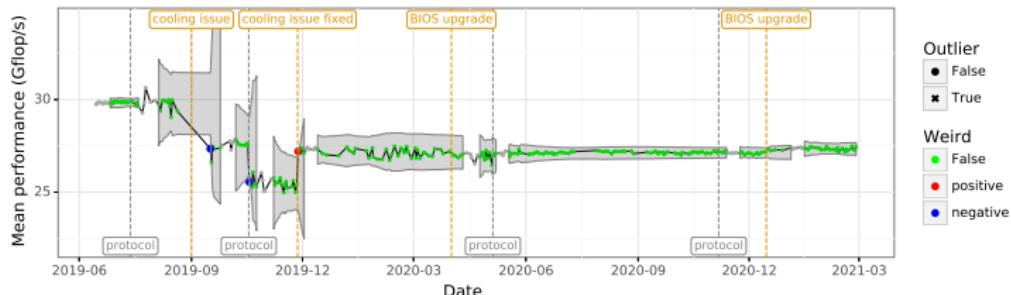
RESULT: PERFORMANCE FLUCTUATION

Performance fluctuation of the node dahu-14

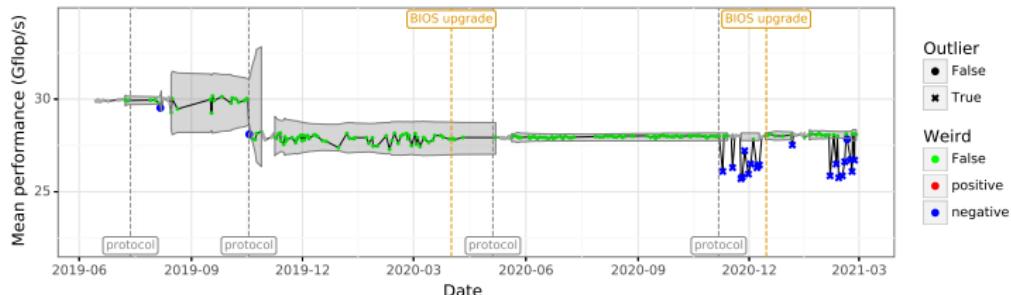


RESULT: PERFORMANCE FLUCTUATION

Performance fluctuation of the node dahu-14



Performance fluctuation of the node dahu-32



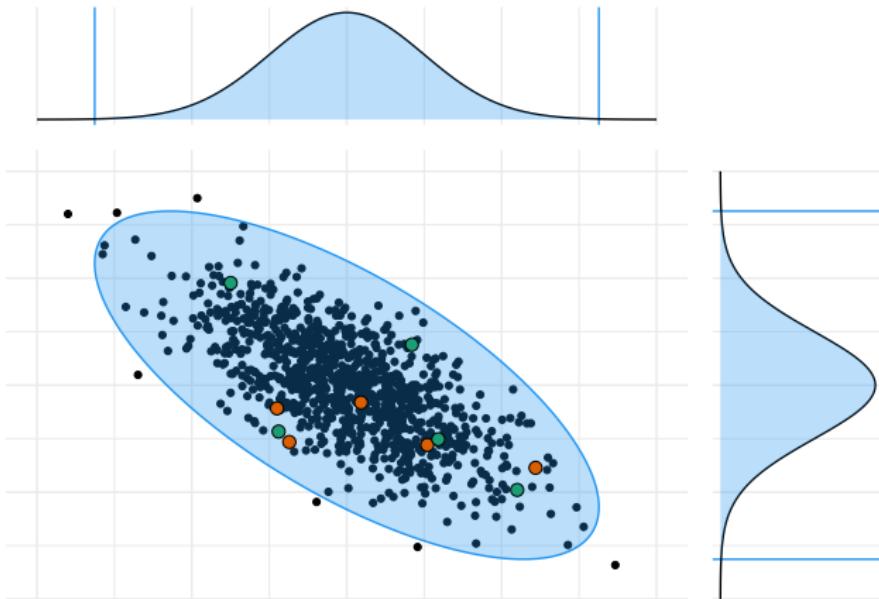
FLUCTUATION INTERVAL FOR SEVERAL MEASURES

How to detect more subtle changes? Take several consecutive measures x_{n+1}, \dots, x_{n+k} , use their [average](#) and shrink the interval accordingly

FLUCTUATION INTERVAL FOR SEVERAL MEASURES

How to detect more subtle changes? Take several consecutive measures x_{n+1}, \dots, x_{n+k} , use their [average](#) and shrink the interval accordingly

Example with 5 measures



FLUCTUATION INTERVAL FOR SEVERAL MEASURES

How to detect more subtle changes? Take several consecutive measures x_{n+1}, \dots, x_{n+k} , use their **average** and shrink the interval accordingly

Example with 5 measures (averages represented by crosses)



RESULT: PERFORMANCE FLUCTUATION

Performance fluctuation of the node dahu-14 (5-day window)

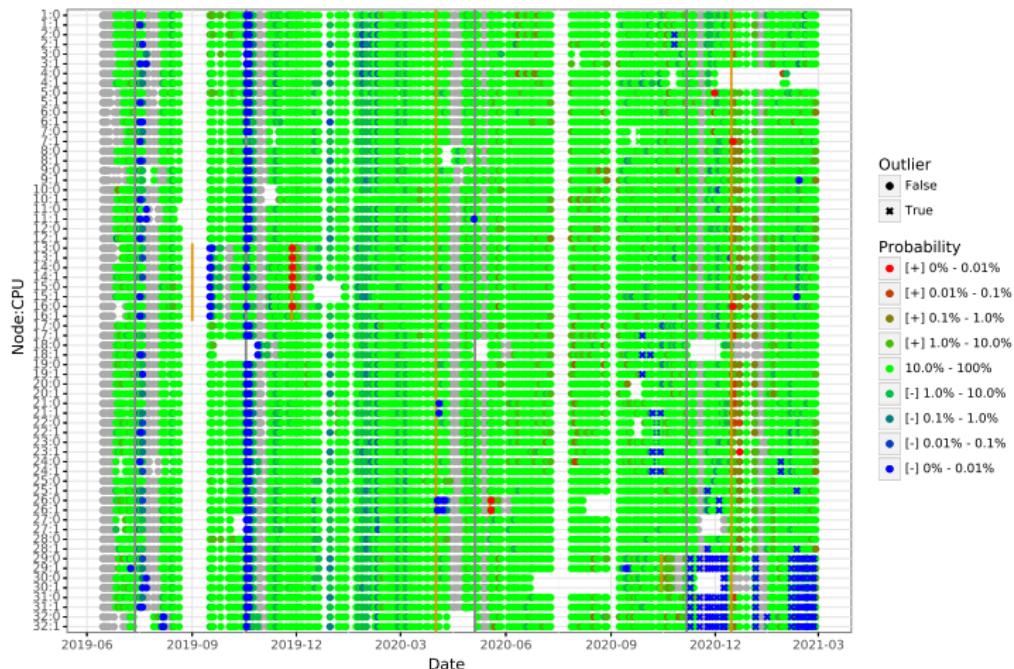


Performance fluctuation of the node dahu-32 (5-day window)



RESULT: PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

Overview of the performance on cluster dahu



RESULT: PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

Overview of the performance on cluster dahu (5-day window)



PERFORMANCE TESTS: WRAPING UP

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

PERFORMANCE TESTS: WRAPING UP

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

Results available at https://cornebize.net/g5k_test

Cluster	Performance	Performance _{GPU}	Frequency	Power _{CPU}	Power _{GPU}	Temperature	Model
chetteri							
chiclet							
dehu							
ecotype							
grassu							
gras							
grvingt							
parasito							
panchine							
pynix							
troll							
yeti							

PERFORMANCE TESTS: WRAPING UP

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

Results available at https://cornebize.net/g5k_test

Cluster	Performance	Performance _{DMB}	Frequency	Power _{CPU}	Power _{DRAM}	Temperature	Model
chetteri							
chiclet							
dehu							
ecotype							
grisou							
gross							
grivost							
parasito							
pantheon							
pynx							
troll							
yeti							

Detected events

- BIOS upgrades
- Cooling issue
- Faulty memory
- Power instability

PERFORMANCE TESTS: WRAPING UP

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

Results available at https://cornebize.net/g5k_test

Cluster	Performance	Performance _{DMB}	Frequency	Power _{CPU}	Power _{DRAM}	Temperature	Model
chetteri							
chiclet							
dehu							
ecotype							
grisou							
gross							
grivost							
parasilo							
pantheon							
pyxis							
troll							
yeti							

Detected events

- BIOS upgrades
- Cooling issue
- Faulty memory
- Power instability

All went unnoticed by both Grid'5000 staff and users, despite significant effects

⇒ Great help potential

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

CAN WE TRUST OUR PREDICTIONS?

How to know if our predictions are faithful?

There is no *correctness proof*, a model can be validated only by
trying to break it

CAN WE TRUST OUR PREDICTIONS?

How to know if our predictions are faithful?

There is no *correctness proof*, a model can be validated only by
[trying to break it](#)

⇒ Often broke the simulations during the last few years

CAN WE TRUST OUR PREDICTIONS?

How to know if our predictions are faithful?

There is no *correctness proof*, a model can be validated only by
trying to break it

⇒ Often broke the simulations during the last few years

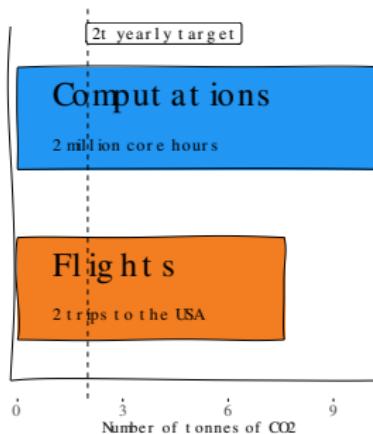
Repeated the whole study **from scratch** on a new cluster:



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

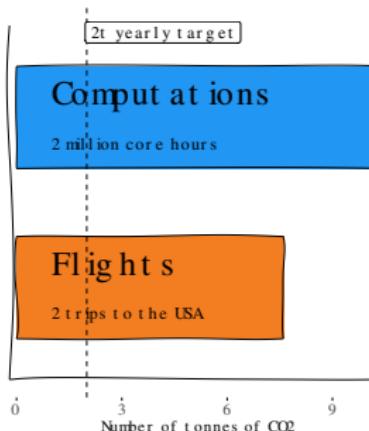
THERE IS NO PLANET B

About 18t of CO₂eq were emitted for this thesis



THERE IS NO PLANET B

About 18t of CO₂eq were emitted for this thesis



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

What about computations?

WHY SO MANY COMPUTATIONS?

More than half the total core hours were used for performance tests

WHY SO MANY COMPUTATIONS?

More than half the total core hours were used for performance tests

How to reduce them?

- Change the experiment procedure (e.g. no full node reinstallation)
- Test less frequently (e.g. only once a week)
- Use a cheaper test (e.g. shorter warmup, less extensive coverage)

WHY SO MANY COMPUTATIONS?

More than half the total core hours were used for performance tests

How to reduce them?

- Change the experiment procedure (e.g. no full node reinstallation)
- Test less frequently (e.g. only once a week)
- Use a cheaper test (e.g. shorter warmup, less extensive coverage)

Who should be responsible of tests?

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

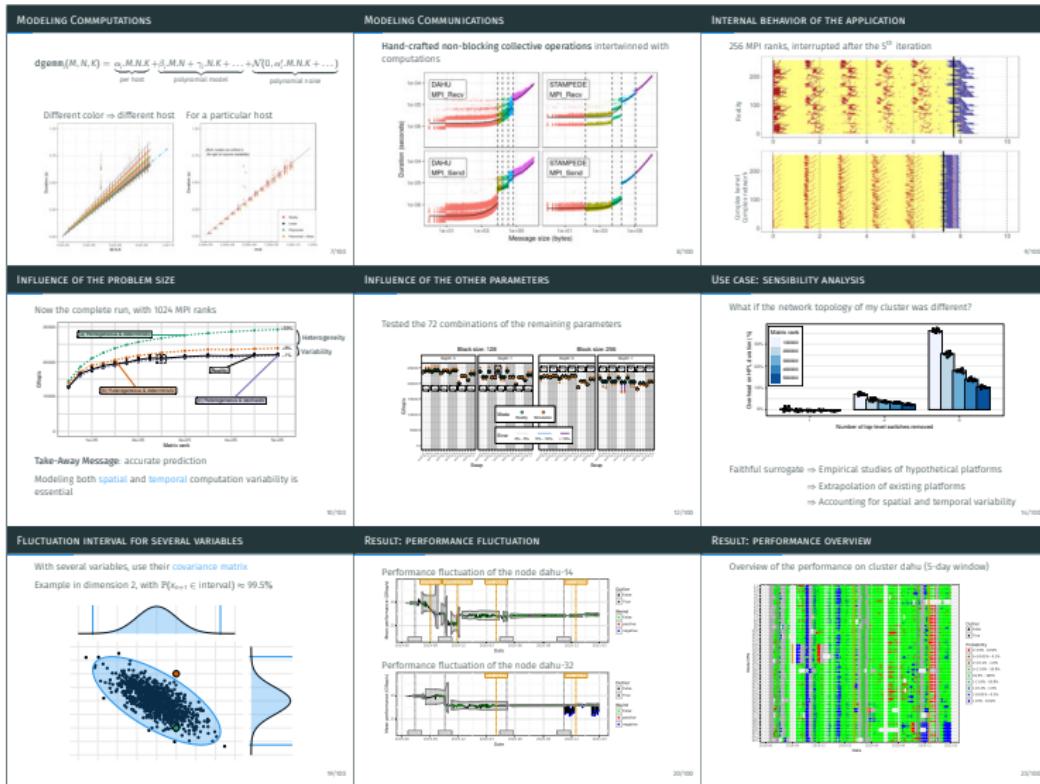
Applying our approach on the whole life cycle of supercomputers:

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!