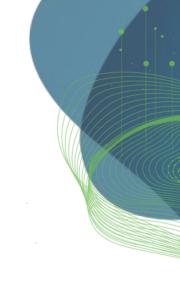


CENTER FOR SCALABLE DATA ANALYTICS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

#### Delayed Data Processing Robert Haase



#### Funded by



**SACHSEN** 



Diese Maßnahme wird gefördert durch die Bundesregierung aufgrund eines Beschlusses des Deutschen Bundestages. Diese Maßnahme wird mitfinanziert durch Steuermittel auf der Grundlage des von den Abgeordneten des Sächsischen Landtags beschlossenen Haushaltes.



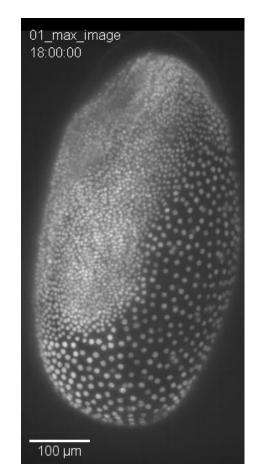


## Quiz: Memory constraints

Assume your computer runs out of memory while

processing this image dataset. What can you do to avoid this?

Tiled image processing



The full data set is about 1024 (width) 2048 (height) 100 (depth) 3700 (frames) large

Robert Haase

October 2025

• The classical way of dealing with large image stacks...

Load data

**Preprocessing** 

Load data

Load data

Load data

Load data

Load data



• The classical way of dealing with large image stacks... is suboptimal

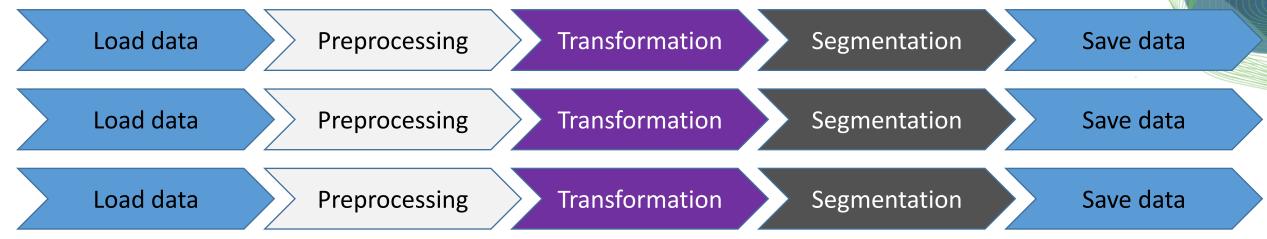
**Preprocessing** Load data Load data **Preprocessing** Load data **Preprocessing** Load data **Preprocessing Preprocessing** Load data Preprocessing Load data

This strategy does not just take long; it also costs a lot of memory!





Processing time-point by time-point is more efficient!



This strategy also works tile-by-tile on large 3D stacks and timelapse data!





• Even better: Distribute tasks between parallelized computation systems

Load data	Preprocessing	Transformation	Segmentation	Save data
Load data	Preprocessing	Transformation	Segmentation	Save data
Load data	Preprocessing	Transformation	Segmentation	Save data
Load data	Preprocessing	Transformation	Segmentation	Save data
Load data	Preprocessing	Transformation	Segmentation	Save data
Load data	Preprocessing	Transformation	Segmentation	Save data





• Even better: Distribute tasks between parallelized computation systems





For this strategy, advanced programming skills are necessary.

Save data

Save data

Save data

Segmentation

Save data

**Transformation** 

Segmentation

Save data

**Preprocessing** 

**Transformation** 

Segmentation

Save data









 Not not deal with details behind scheduling data loading and processing, we use Dask delayed and Dask stacks.

```
import dask
import dask.array as da
```

```
Decorator

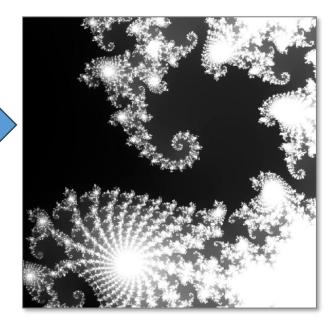
@delayed

def render_level(i):

from mandelbrot import SCALE0, ZOOM_PER_LEVEL

scale = SCALE0 / (ZOOM_PER_LEVEL ** i)

return mandelbrot_array(scale=scale)
```



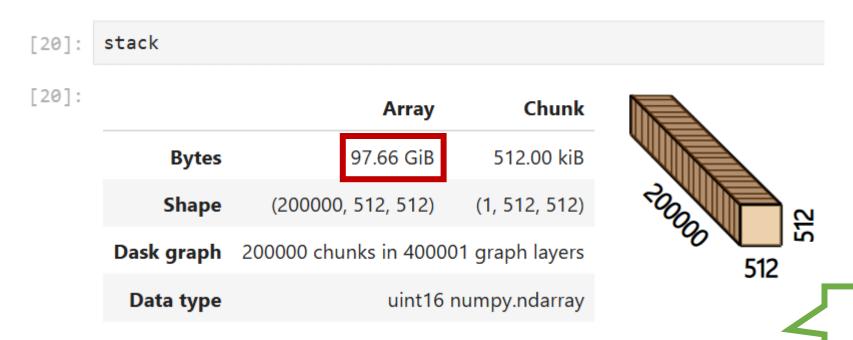


 Not not deal with details behind scheduling data loading and processing, we use Dask delayed and Dask stacks.

```
Delayed function calls,
levels =
    da.from_delayed(
                           NOT executed (yet)
        render level(i)
        shape=(HEIGHT, WIDTH), dtype=DTYPE
    for i in range(number_of_images)
                                     Stack of delayed / not
stack = da.stack(levels, axis=0)
                                      yet computed data
```



 Not not deal with details behind scheduling data loading and processing, we use Dask delayed and Dask stacks.



At this point, no image has been computed yet.





 Not not deal with details behind scheduling data loading and processing, we use Dask delayed and Dask stacks.

[22]: stackview.imshow(stack[20000])

Computation of one chunk is nvoked when we need the data

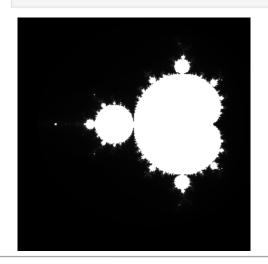


[11]: image = np.asarray(stack[0:20000:1000,::2,::2])
 image.shape

[11]: (20, 256, 256)

[17]: stackview.animate(image)

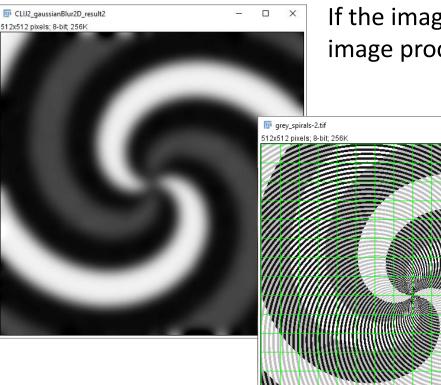
Also works with multiple chunks





• The last perimeter against processing big image data





If the image is too large for the computer memory, image processing as a whole is *not possible*.



Processing tile-by-tile poses new challenges



- Example: Gaussian blur (sigma = 20)
- Solution: Process with overlapping tiles (size + margin)

Margin: 0 pixels



Margin: 10 pixels



Optimal margin size depends on algorithm and its parameters

Margin: 20 pixels



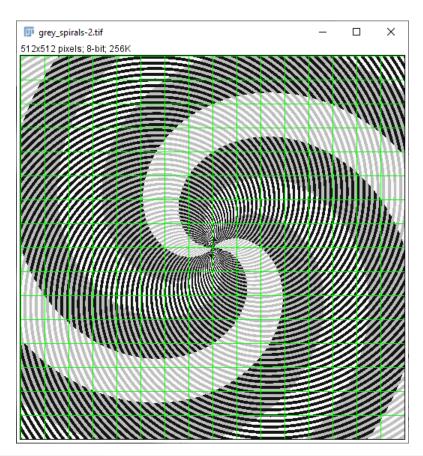


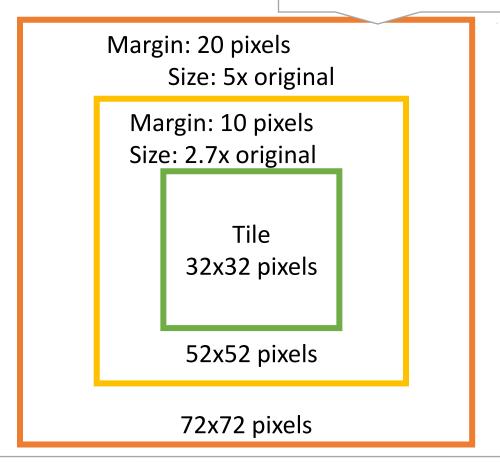




- Example: Gaussian blur (sigma = 20 pixels)
- Solution: Process with overlapping tiles (size + margin)

Computation time depends on tile size and margin width

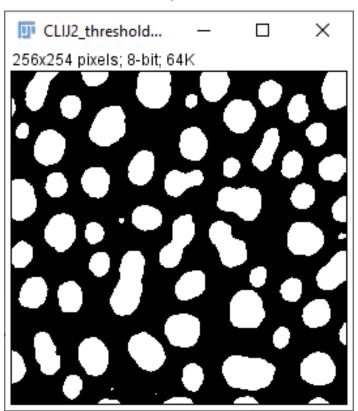


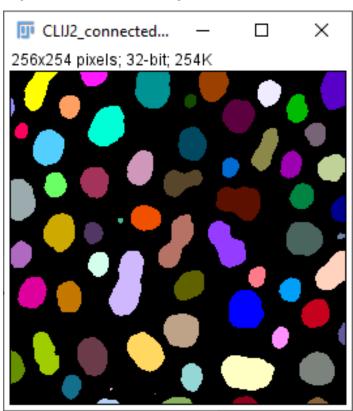


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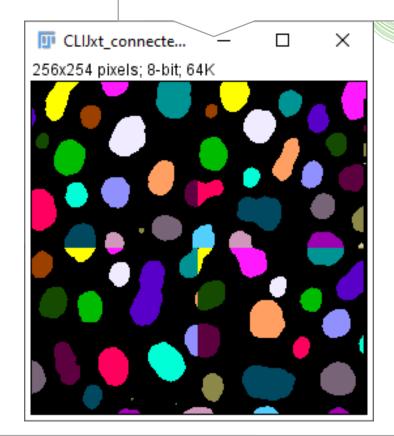
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- Some algorithms are hard to solve by processing tiles
- Example: Connected component analysis





Checking which labels touch and combine them is feasible.

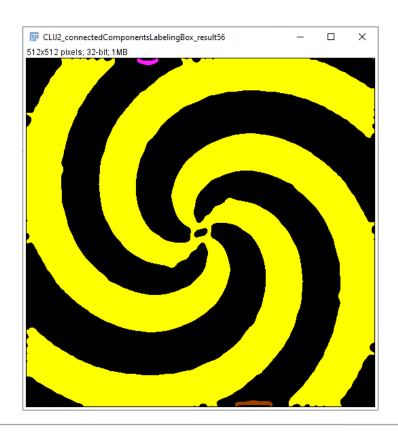


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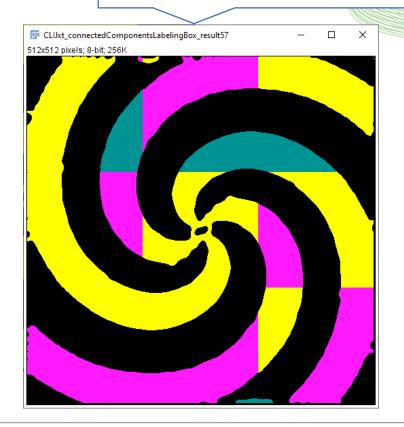
LEIPZIG

- Some algorithms are hard to solve by processing tiles
- Example: Connected component analysis

in binary\_spirals.tif 512x512 pixels; 8-bit; 256K



There are algorithms for that, but hardly available tools.





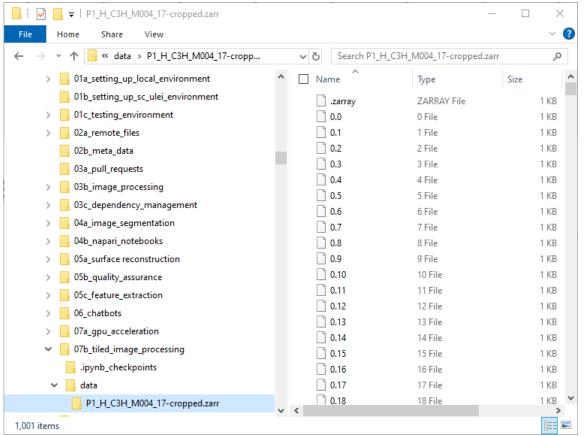


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### Tiled image processing in Python

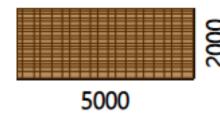
Key: tiled file formats, for parallel, distributed, lazy loading



After executing this, no pixel has been read yet.

zarr\_image = da.from\_zarr(zarr\_filename) zarr image

	Array	Chunk	
Bytes	9.54 MiB	9.77 kiB	
Shape	(2000, 5000)	(100, 100)	
Dask graph	1000 chunks in 2 graph layers		
Data type	uint8 numpy.ndarray		



### Tiled image processing in Python

Delayed processing

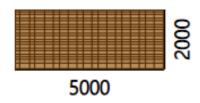
After executing this, no pixel has been read or processed yet.

[5]: tile\_map = da.map\_blocks(count\_nuclei, zarr\_image)
tile\_map

Processing image of size (0, 0) (1, 1)
Processing image of size (1, 1) (1, 1)

[5]:

	Array	Chunk	
Bytes	76.29 MiB	78.12 kiB	
Shape	(2000, 5000)	(100, 100)	
Dask graph	1000 chunks in 3 graph layers		



After that, results are available

result = tile\_map.compute()

Processing image of size (100, 100)



Data type



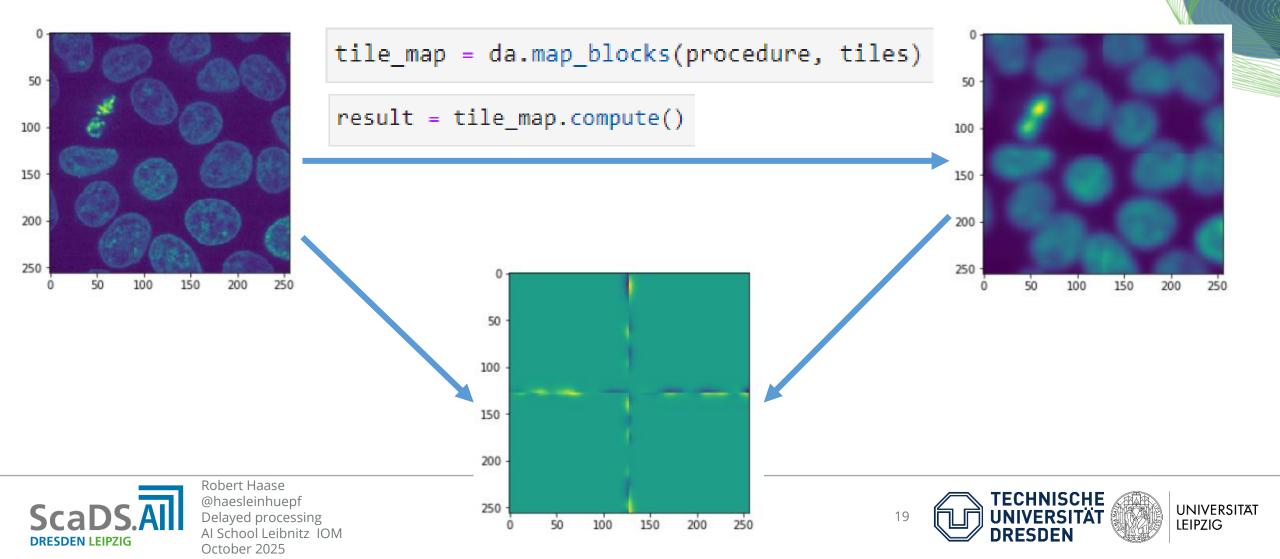
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float64 numpy.ndarray

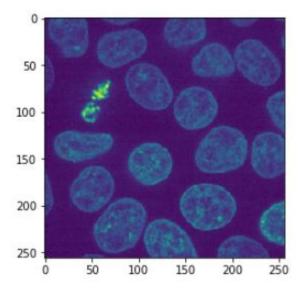
### Tiling with/out overlap

• Processing of images in tiles: artifacts at tile borders

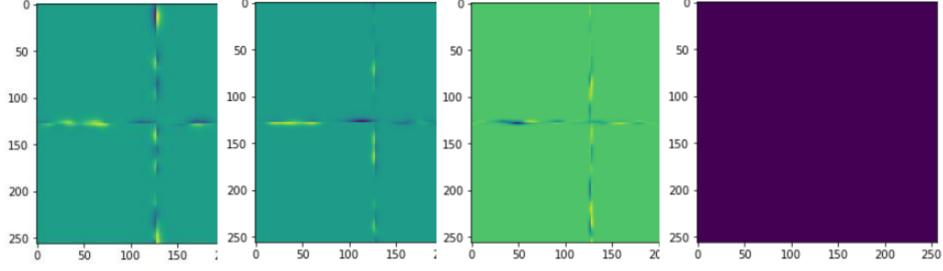


#### Tiling with/out overlap

Processing of images in tiles: artifacts at tile borders



```
overlap_width = 1
tile_map = da.map_overlap(procedure, tiles, depth=overlap_width)
result = tile_map.compute()
```



sum difference 1.5288188631 sum difference 2.0981679908 sum difference -0.0057617038 sum difference 0.0

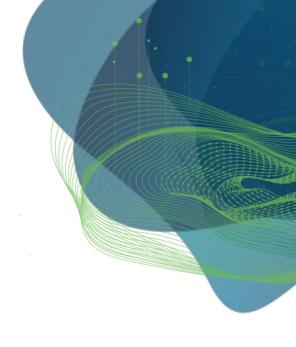




# Exercises

Robert Haase

**DRESDEN LEIPZIG** 



GEFÖRDERT VOM



Diese Maßnahme wird gefördert durch die Bundesregierung aufgrund eines Beschlusses des Deutschen Bundestages. Diese Maßnahme wird mitfinanziert durch Steuermittel auf der Grundlage des von den Abgeordneten des Sächsischen Landtags beschlossenen Haushaltes.

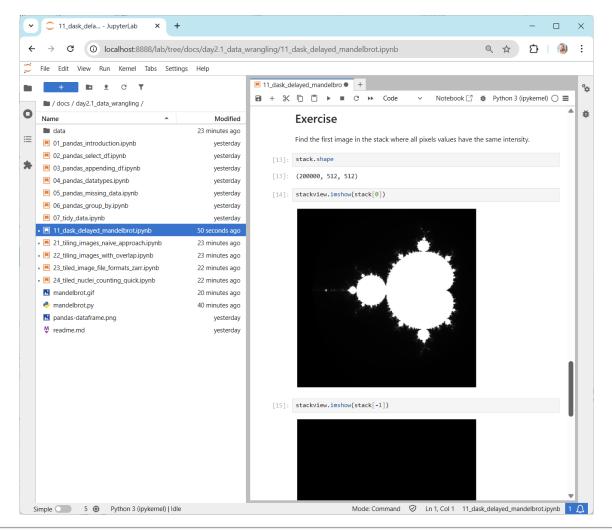






#### Exercise: Delayed processing

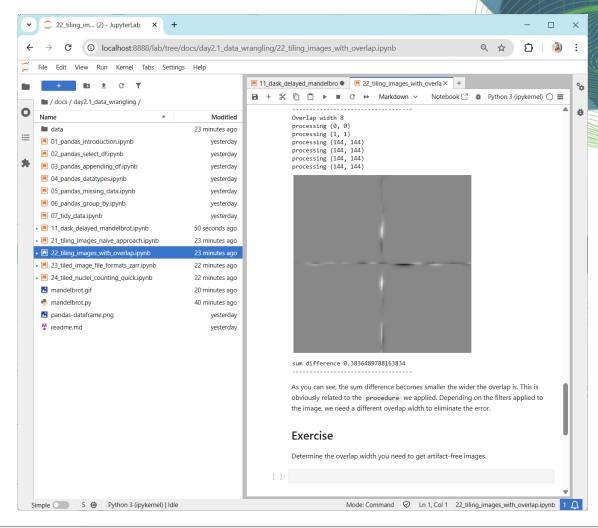
 Determine the first image index when all pixels have the same intensity (approximately).





### Exercise: Tiled image processing

 Apply background-removal to an image in tiles. Determine the overlap width that's necessary to have artifact-free results.





#### Exercise: Counting Nuclei in tiles

 After segmenting and counting nuclei in tiles, compare the result to processing the whole image. Try out strategies for reducing the error.

