

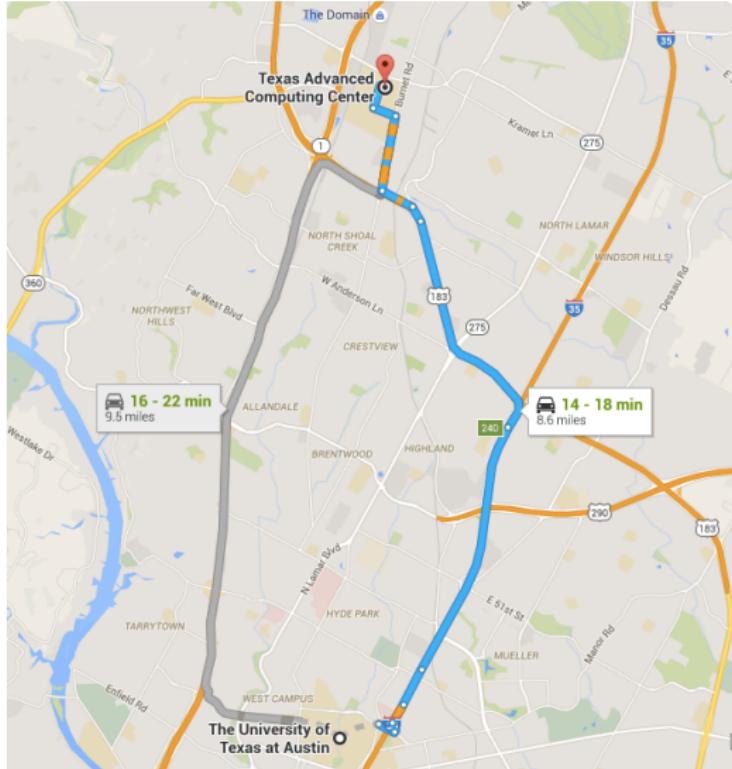
Overview of TACC

Fall 2023

last formatted: July 19, 2023

Your instructors work at the
Texas Advanced Computing Center

So where is TACC?



How do you get to TACC?



Pickle Campus

Formerly Balcones Research Center,
location of some of the best wildflowers in Austin.



James Jarrell ‘Jake’ Pickle

- 1913–2005, congressman
1963–1995
- US Navy during WW II
- important role in Civil Rights Act and Social Security reform



TACC

- Started in 2001 with 10-ish people, now 160
- UT has had computing centers before; in 2001 TACC became independent unit: falls under VP for research.
- First major supercomputer in 2008: Ranger (top500 ranking: #7).
- Currently: Frontera, #21 in the world (highest ranking #5), and largest academic computer in the world; and Stampede2, #56 in the world (highest ranking #12).
- Other rankings: Stampede1: #6,

TACC now

- 160-ish people, divided into Systems, High Performance Computing, Computational Biology, Big Data, Machine learning, Visualization, Outreach (and more) groups.
- A dozen machines-big-enough-to-have-a-name
- 1000 projects, 200 public data collections
- 30 web portals with 35k users
- new 10MWatt data center
- second new building in 10 years

Our new building



Supercomputers come and go

TACC has operated some of the leading supercomputers in the country / the world since 2008,

Want to guess how much a computer costs?

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/poll "Cost of a supercomputer?" "Under $1M" "$1M--10M" "$10M--100M" "$100M--1B"
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How long it stays operational?

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/poll "Supercomputer lifetime?" "2 yrs" "5 yrs" "12 yrs"
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Frontera

- Our currently most powerful machine, operational as of Right Now.
- Rough cost: \$60M for hardware, and similar for personnel.
- 91 racks with 8008 nodes; each node two 28-core Intel Cascade Lake processors.
- 60Pbyte of storage, of which 3Pbyte flash.
- Two GPU subclusters

Frontera compute racks; front view



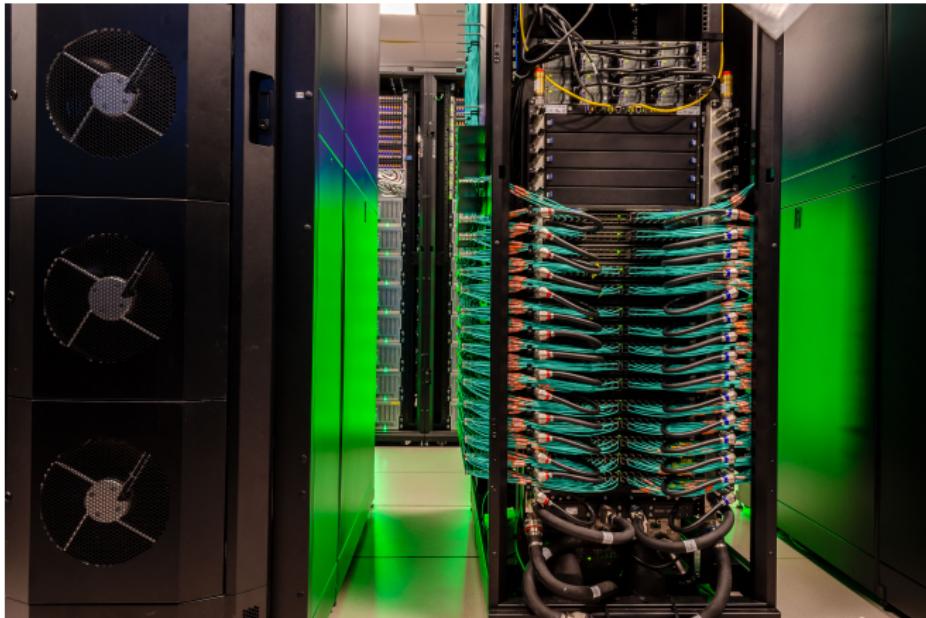
rightmost rack is open: note the water cooling cables

Frontera compute racks; rear view



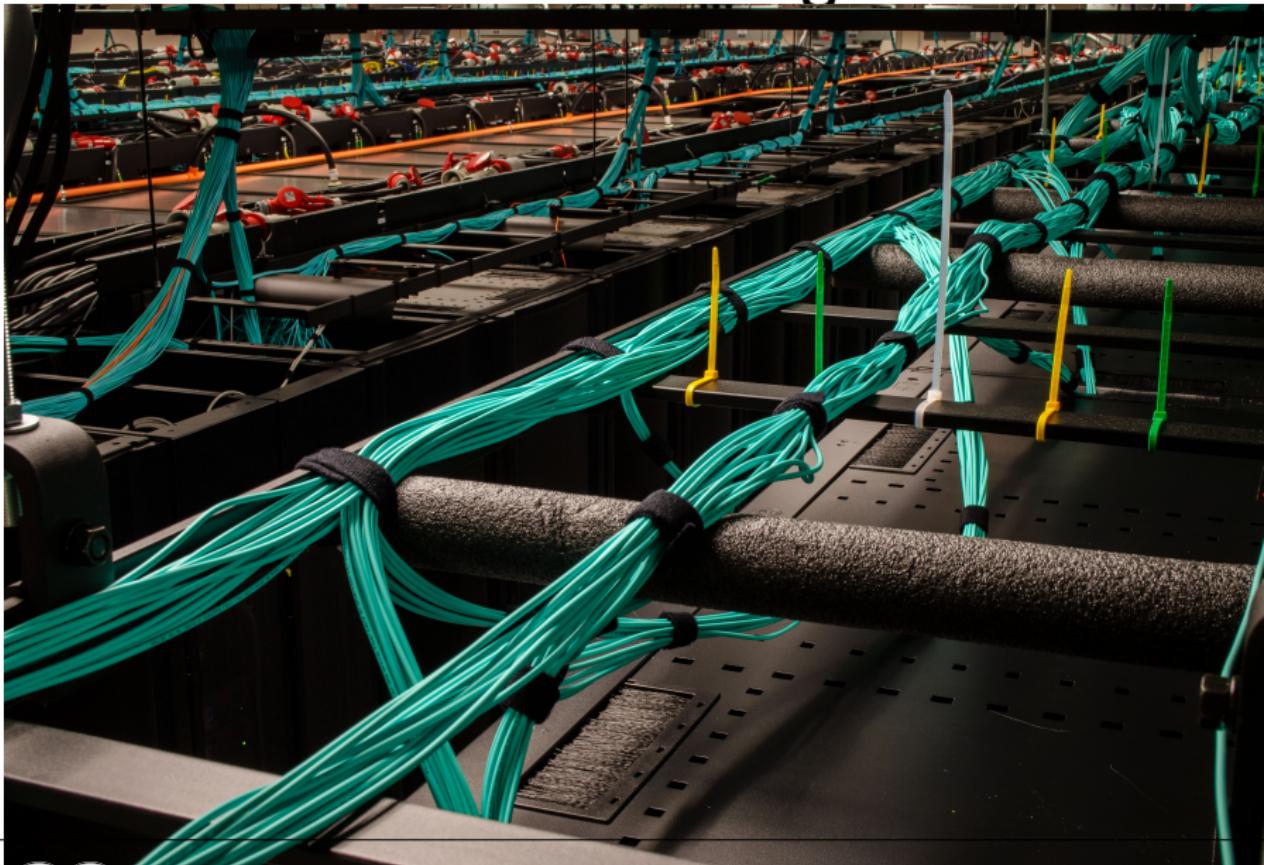
racks are approx 9ft tall; note blue network cables

Frontera network switch

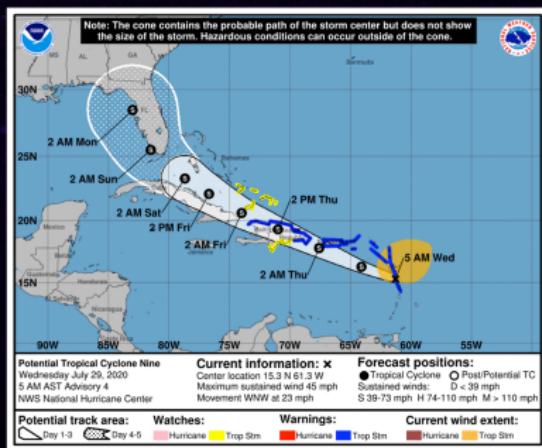
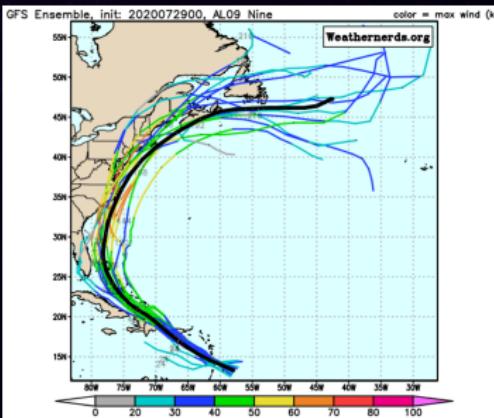


multiple network switches

Overhead cabling

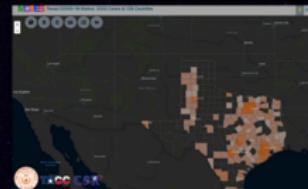


WHAT IS FRONTERA IS DOING THIS WEEK IS THIS. . .

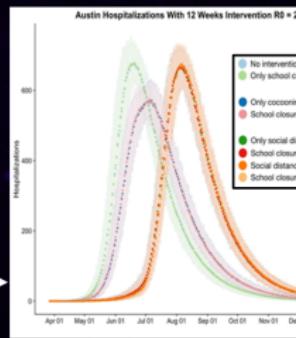
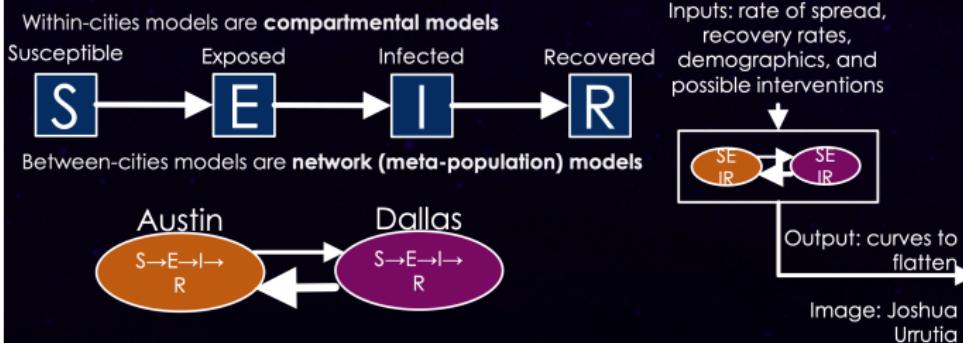


COVID - EPIDEMIOLOGY

- ▶ Dr. Lauren Meyers, UT-Austin -- Epidemiology guiding Austin and Texas shelter-in-place orders
- ▶ County-by-county outbreak predictions covered on front page of New York Times, April 5th.



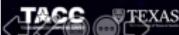
Emergency Responder
courtesy Gordon W



FIELDS OF SCIENCE

- ▶ From last allocation request

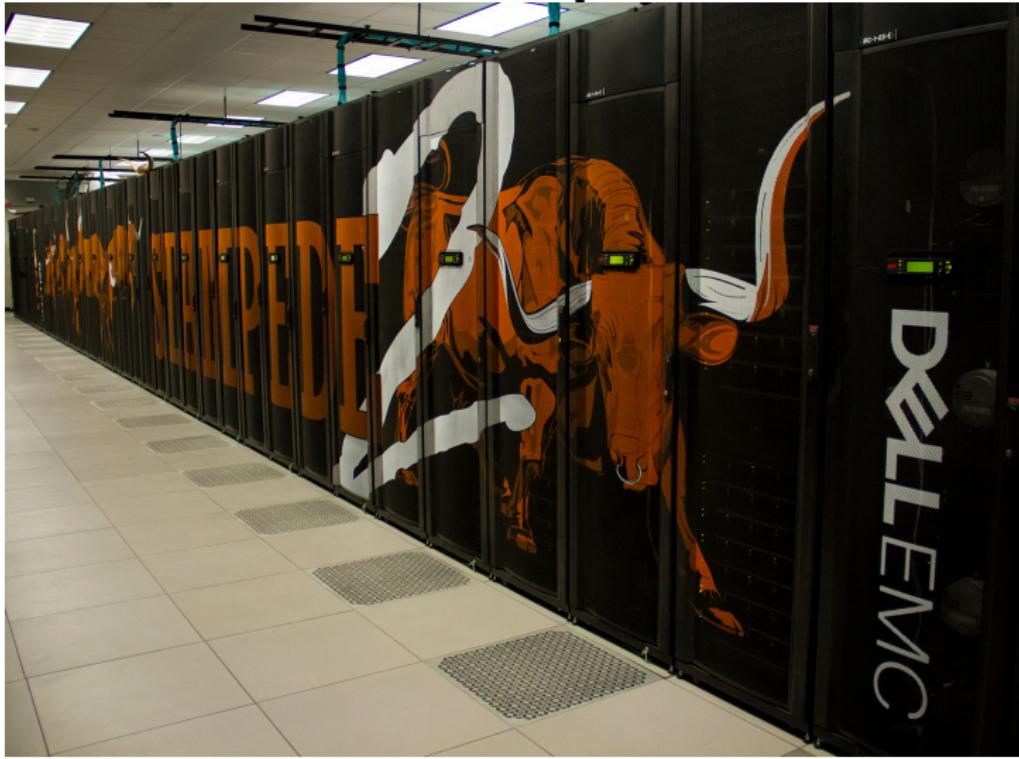
Extragalactic Astronomy and Cosmology	Materials Research	Nuclear Physics	Gravitational Physics	Astronomy and Sciences
Fluid, Particulate, and Hydraulic Systems	Biophysics	Chemistry	Molecular Biosciences	Condensed Matter Physics
		Physics	Solar Terrestrial Research	Stellar Astronomy and... Atmospheric Chemist...
		Elementary Particle Physics	Geophysics	Mathematical... Applied Materials... Atmospheric...
				Computational... Interfacial,... Physical...



Stampede2

- Second biggest machine: cost \$30M
- 4000 nodes with Intel 'Knights Landing' Xeon phi; 1700 nodes with two Intel Skylake server processors; 200 nodes Intel Icelake
- 75 miles of cabling, up to 4.5Mwatt power
- TACC's machines are popular and reliable:
Stampede1 was used by 5000 users, up 98% of the time, 8 million jobs over its lifetime.

Stampede2



Cabling coming down

Cables go from each, over the racks,
coming down to the switches



Lonestar5

Our late and not-all-that-lamented Cray



Lonestar6

Our first AMD in a long time
liquid-immersion cooled



('space coffin': before we wrapped it)

Lonestar6

With beautiful artwork:



Frontera-rtx

Single precision GPUs.



Note: the machine hangs in a bath of HEB-\$1/bottle-mineral oil
(ok, slightly better than that)

Oil



Hikari

Solar powered



No longer with us, but: ...

Solar panels

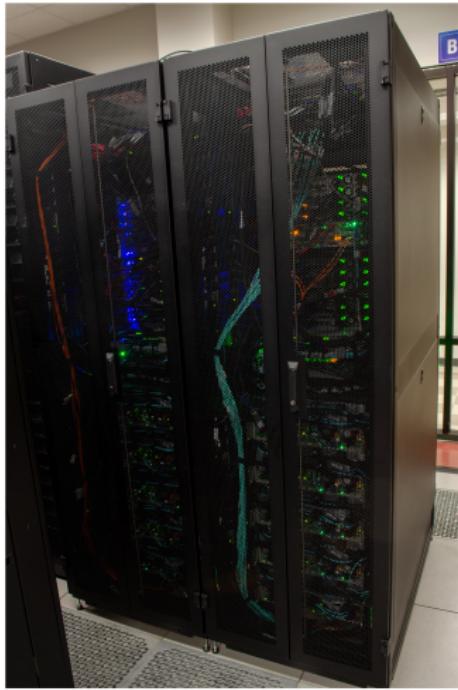


Big data

- Stockyard: 7Pbyte spinning disc (shared between all clusters)
- Ranch: 100Pbyte of tape
- Corral3: 40Pbyte
- Rustler: hadoop cluster (up for refresh)

Stockyard

Mass storage



Corral

Large spinning disc



Clouds

- Rodeo: mostly internal use
- Chameleon: cloud research
- Jetstream: for educational use

Visualization lab (POB)

Our graphics people can help you understand your results (and sell your research) through high quality visualization.



Small display in the TACC building



We're very hands-on



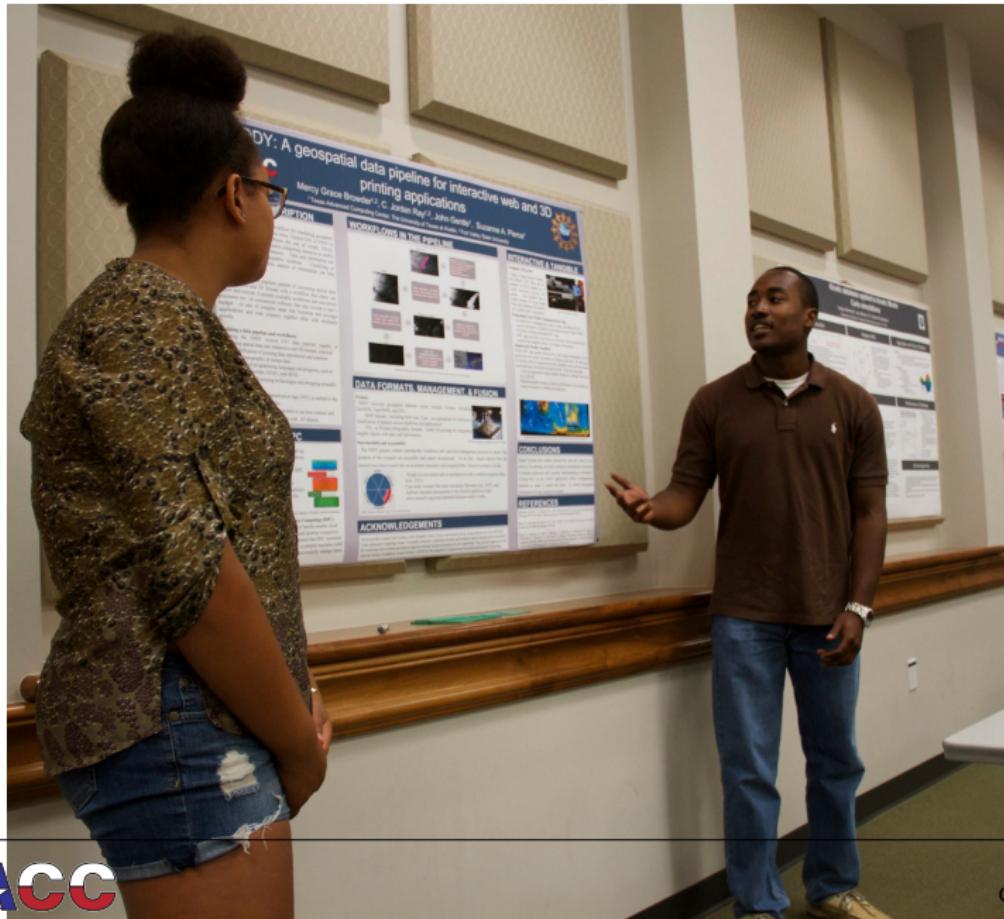
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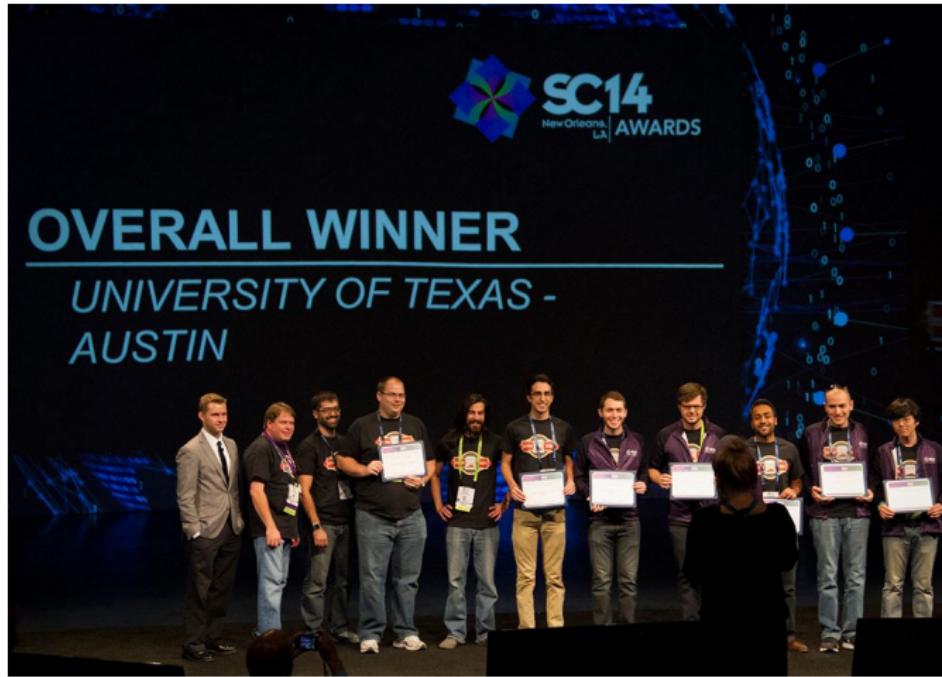
We're very hands-on



Student activities: REU



Student cluster competition



Outreach: Code at TACC



We share



We keep growing

As per FY25:



Artist Rendering of Switch Data Centers at Dusk

Credits

Most pictures: Jorge Salazar, TACC media group