



# HPC in the UK: a changing landscape?

Iain Bethune,  
Technical Programme Manager,  
STFC Hartree Centre

[iain.bethune@stfc.ac.uk](mailto:iain.bethune@stfc.ac.uk)  
@ibethune

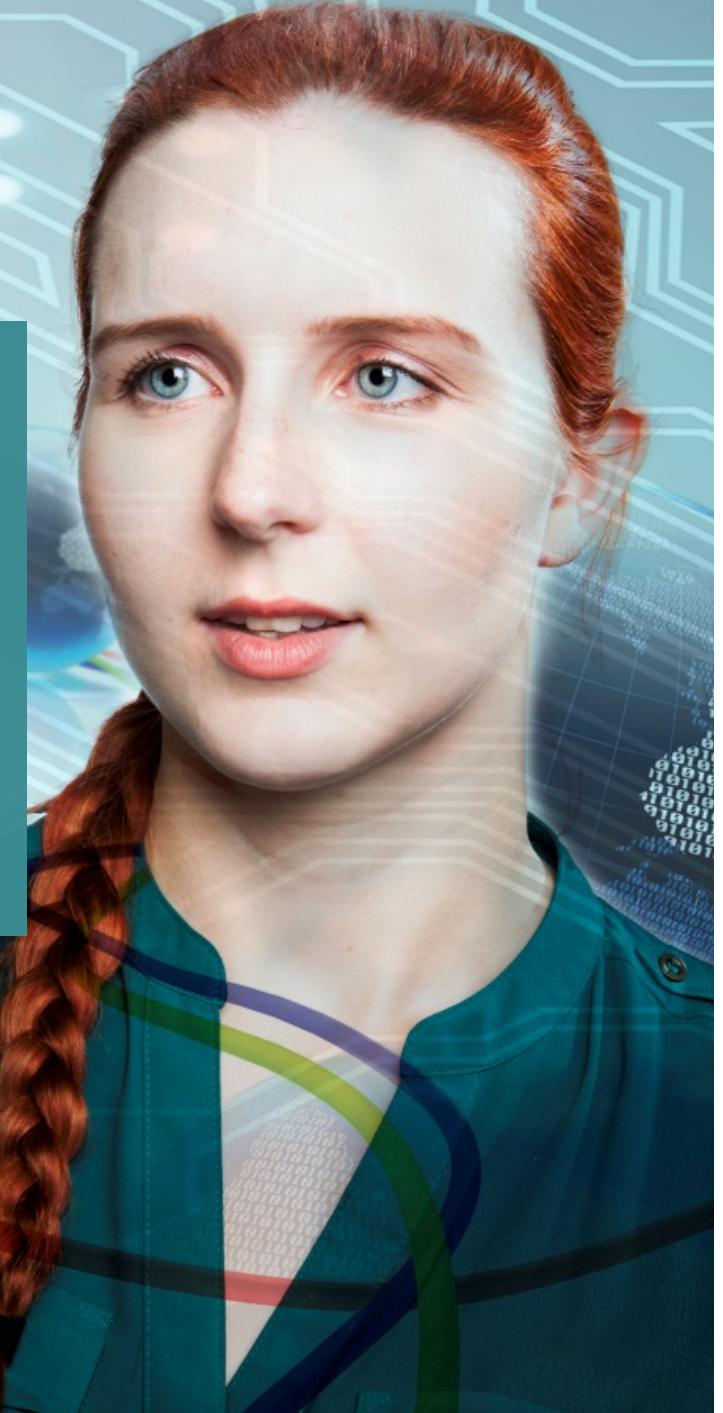
# Who are we?

STFC's High Performance Computing, data analytics and cognitive technology centre

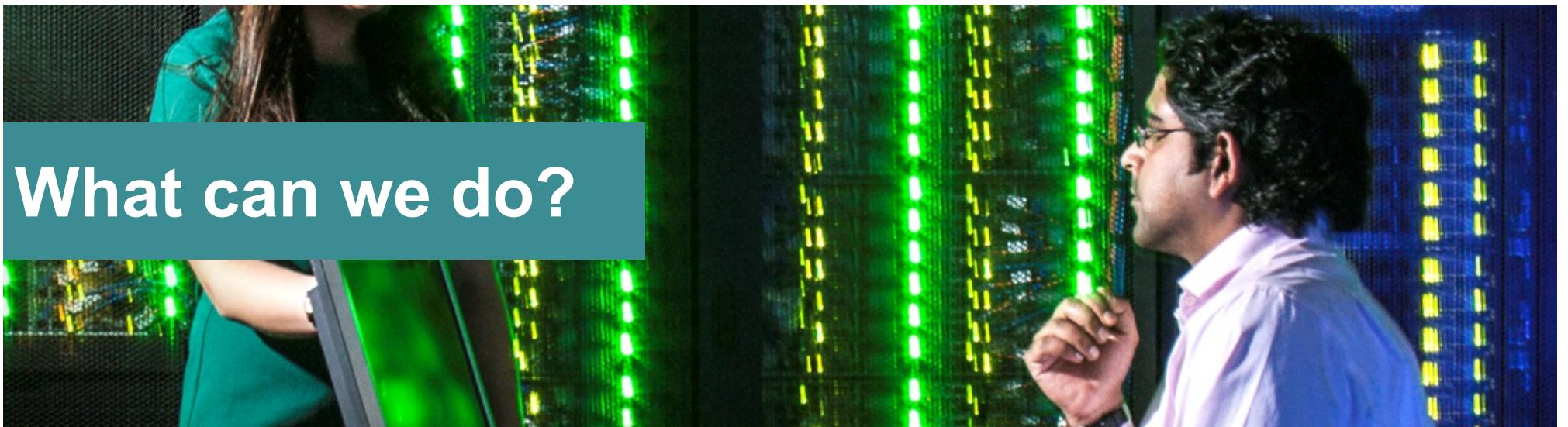
Provides businesses and researchers with access to powerful technologies, facilities and scientific computing expertise



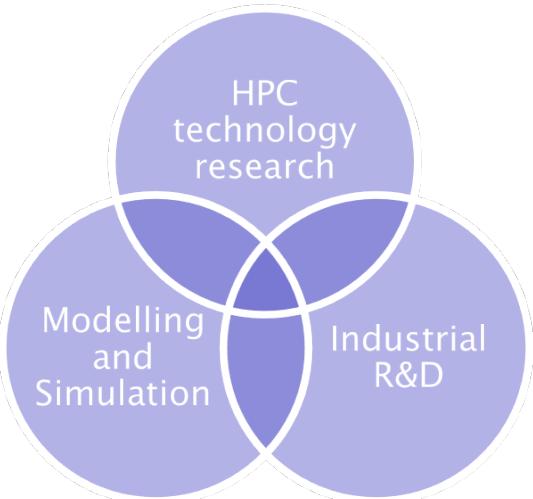
Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council



# What can we do?

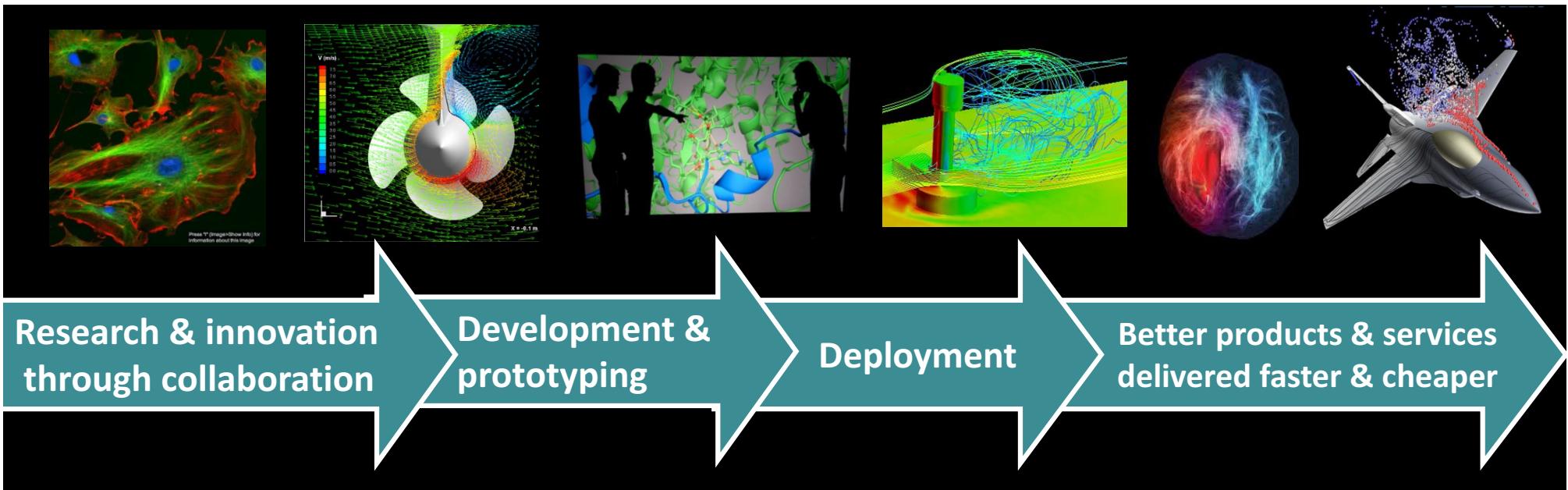


- Hartree Centre builds on STFC's long heritage and expertise in High Performance Computing
- 2012 focus on economic impact through software & modelling
- 2015 major investment in collaborative research
  - Additional focus on data centric and cognitive computing
  - Embedded IBM Research Centre
  - Extended industrial & scientific reach
- Grown to ~50 STFC + 20 IBM staff



# Our mission

To transform UK competitiveness by facilitating and accelerating the adoption of high performance computing, data-centric computing and cognitive technologies.





Converting physical experiments to a simulation workflow

Reducing the innovation cycle and time to market

Putting the tools in the hands of the formulation chemist

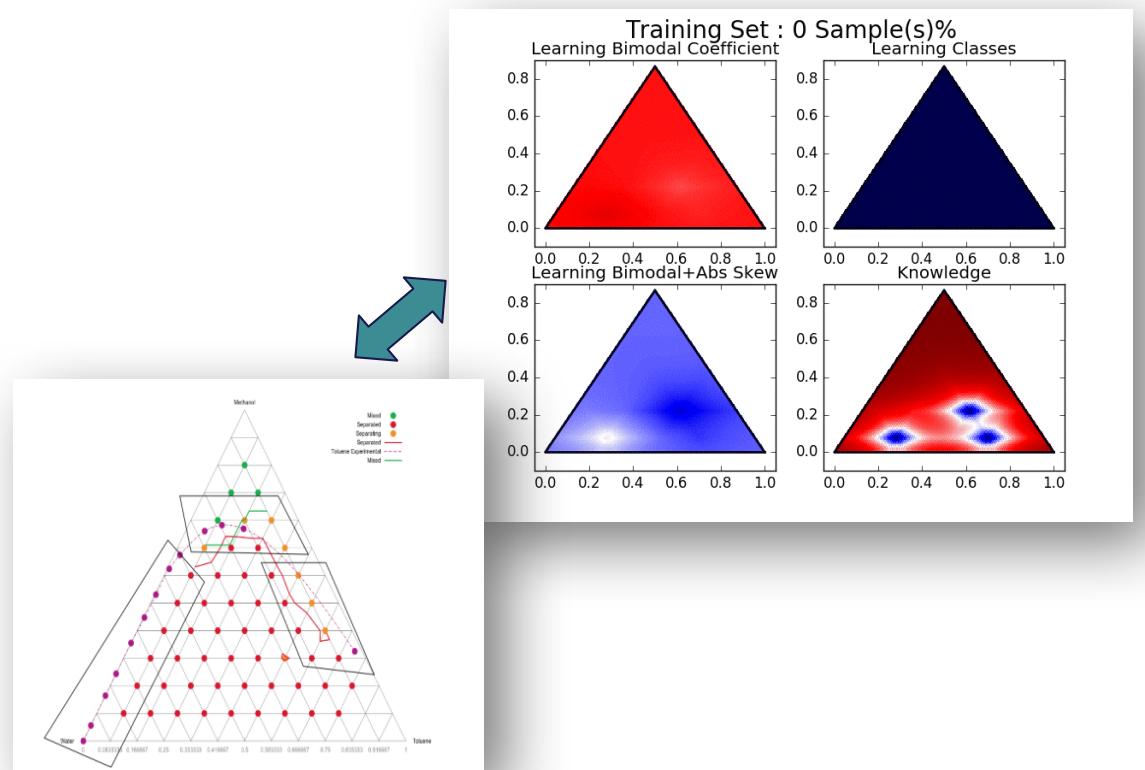


**Unilever – Computer Aided Formulation**



# Getting HPC to “work smart, not hard”

- Typically HPC development is focused on increased speed.
  - The fastest calculation is the one which you don't run!
- Can we use machine learning to make better decisions on **which simulations give the most value?**
- Can we use machine learning to improve resolution of information?



**‘Cognitive’ workflow uses 1/3 of the calculations to achieve 4 orders of magnitude resolution increase**



With our help, Alder Hey  
Children's Hospital is  
harnessing IBM Watson  
to enhance the patient  
experience.

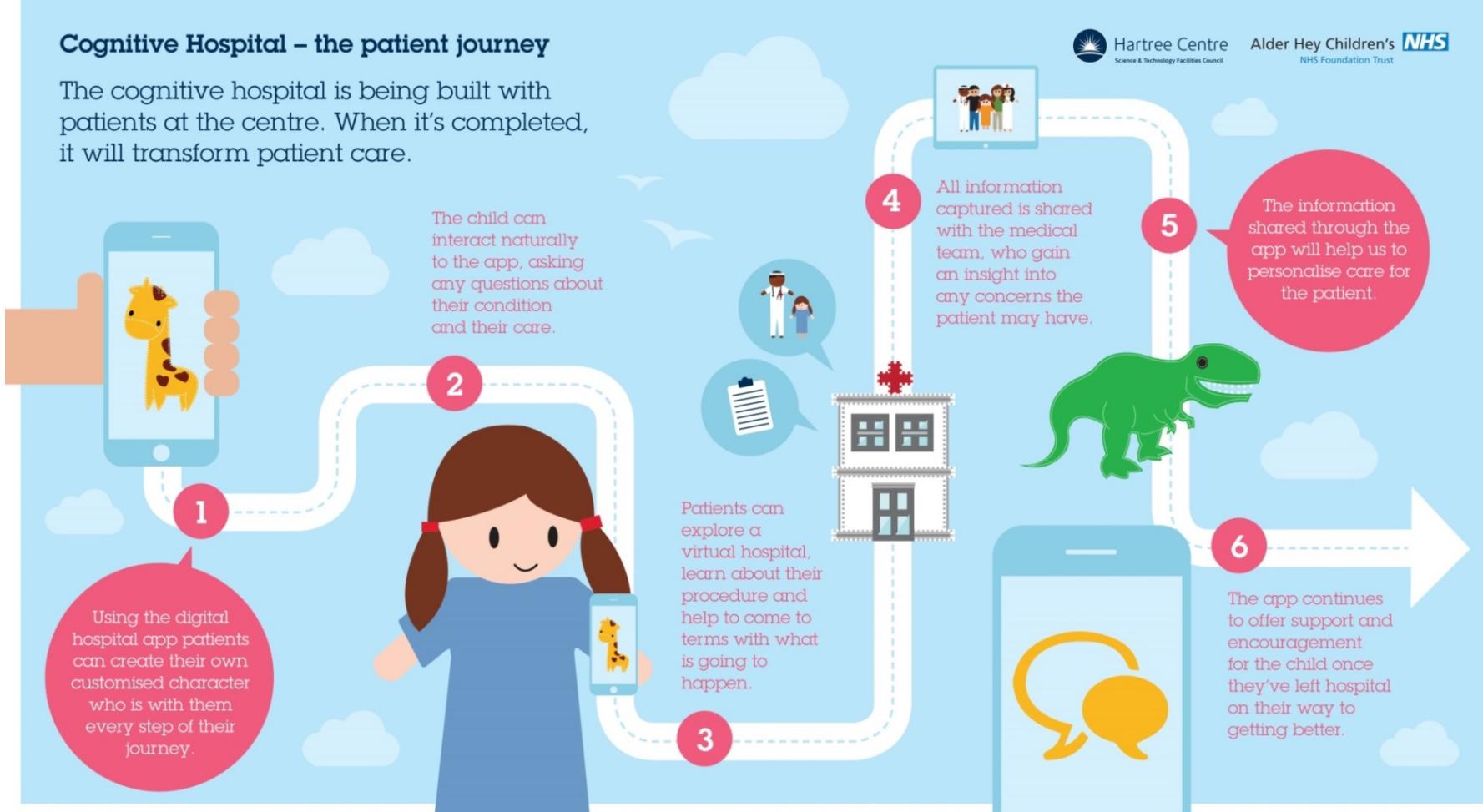


Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council



## Cognitive Hospital – the patient journey

The cognitive hospital is being built with patients at the centre. When it's completed, it will transform patient care.



# Our machines



## Intel platforms

Bull Sequana X1000 | 846 Xeon nodes + 840 KNL

Lenovo NeXtScale | 8,192 cores

Lenovo System x iDataPlex system | 2048 cores

Intel Xeon Phi | Knight's Corner

IBM big data analytics cluster | 288TB

## IBM data centric platforms

IBM Power8 + NVLink + Tesla P100

IBM Power8 + Nvidia K80

## Accelerated & emerging tech

Maxeler FPGA system

ARM 64-bit platform

Clustervision novel cooling demonstrator

## Academic HPC platform

JADE NVIDIA DGX-1 Deep Learning System

# New partnership with Atos Bull



**General purpose HPC system to be called “Scafell Pike”**

**First Bull Sequana system in UK**

**One of the largest supercomputers in Europe (3.4 PFLOP/s estimated) and largest focusing primarily on industrial-led challenges**

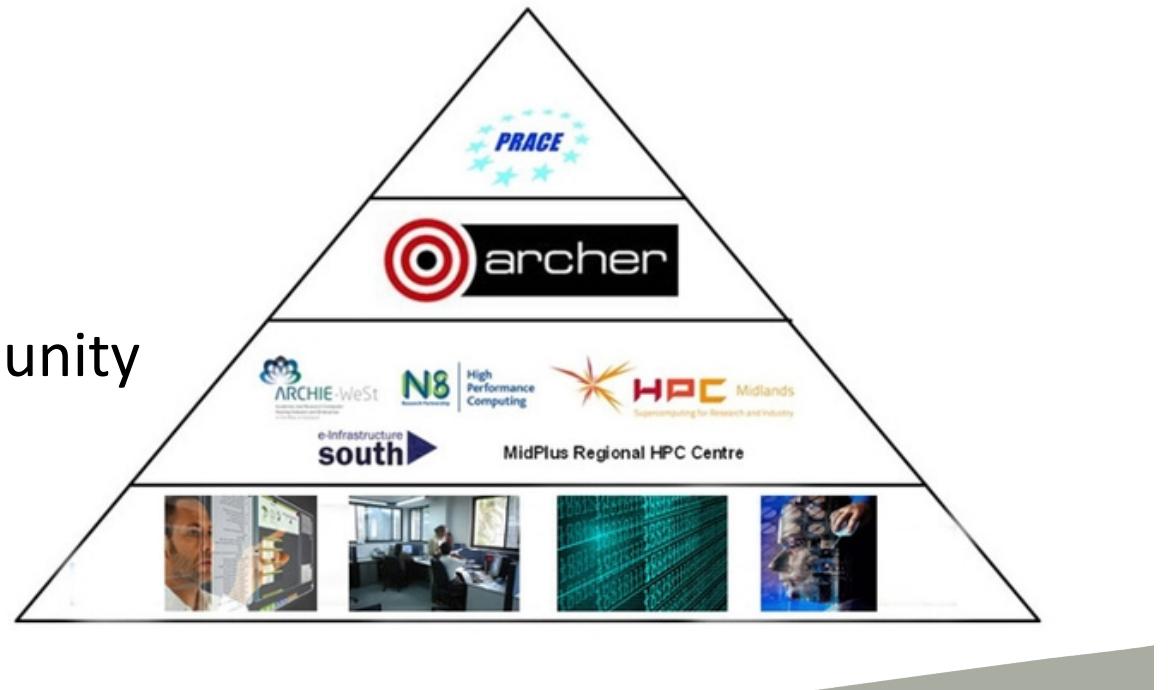


**Hartree Centre**  
Science & Technology Facilities Council

# Academic HPC in the UK

National HPC Service(s)?

- Tier-0: International
- Tier-1: National
- Tier-2: Regional / Community
- Tier-3: Institutional/  
Departmental / Group



# 2011

C/C++/Fortran + MPI is enough

- PRACE Tier-0
  - JUGENE – 0.2 PF BlueGene/P
  - CURIE – 1.7 PF Intel Xeon
  - HERMIT – 1 PF AMD Opteron
- EPSRC Tier-1 (£118M)
  - HECToR – 0.8 PF AMD Opteron
- EPSRC Tier-2 (£10M)
  - HPC Midlands, Mid Plus, H8, ARCHIE-WeSt
    - 0.25 PF total, Intel Xeon



Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council

# 2017

- PRACE Tier-0
  - CURIE – 1.7 PF Intel Xeon Sandybridge
    - 9 PFLOP/s Skylake + KNL in mid-2018
  - MARCONI – 13 PF Intel Xeon Broadwell + KNL
  - Hazel Hen – 7.4 PF Intel Xeon Haswell
  - JUQUEEN – 5.9 PF BlueGene/Q Power A2
  - MareNostrum – 11 PF Intel Xeon
    - IBM Power + NVIDIA Volta, KNH, ARMv8 coming
  - Piz Daint – 25 PF Intel Xeon + NVIDIA Tesla P100
  - SuperMUC – 7.7 PF Intel Xeon Westmere/Haswell



24x  
compute in  
6 years!



Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council

# 2017

- EPSRC/NERC Tier-1 (£43M)
  - ARCHER – 2.6 PF Intel Xeon Ivy Bridge
    - 12 node KNL partition
- STFC Tier-1
  - DIRAC – 1.3 PF BlueGene/Q
    - Also data analytics services

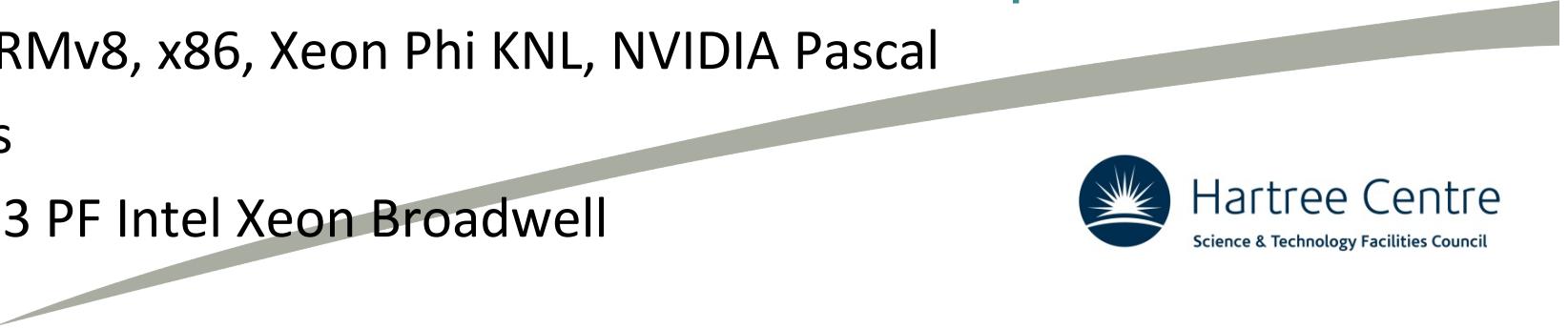
3x compute!

< half price!



Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council

# 2017

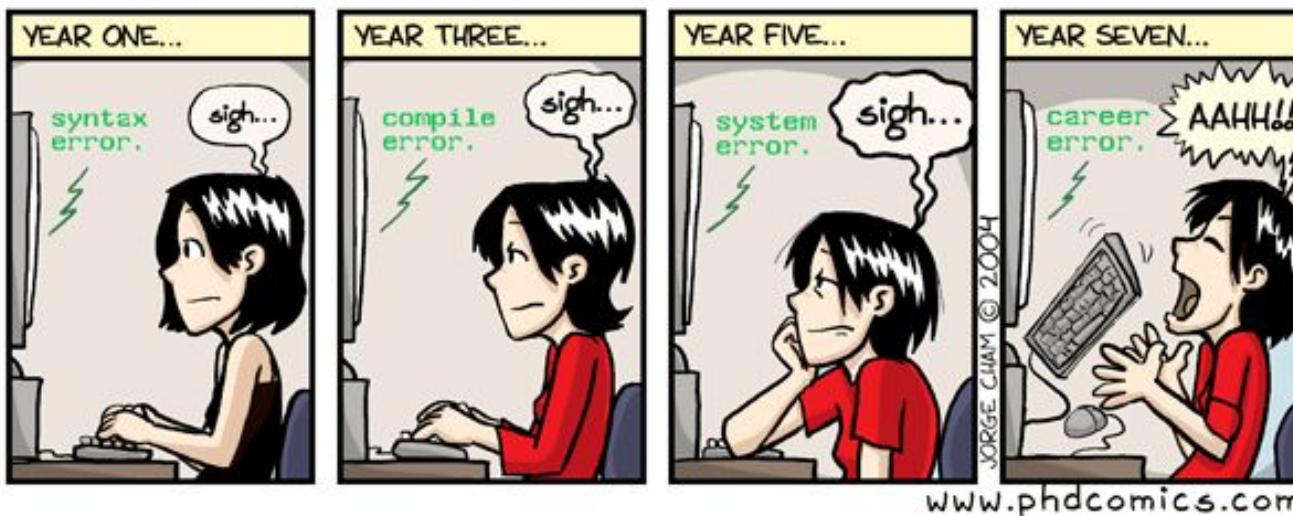
- EPSRC Tier-2 (£20M investment 2016)
    - CSD3
      - 1.0 PF Intel Xeon Skylake, 0.5 PF Intel KNL, 1.2 PF NVIDIA P100
    - Thomas
      - 0.5 PF Intel Xeon Broadwell
    - JADE
      - 3.7 PF NVIDIA DGX-1 (Intel Xeon + Pascal)
    - HPC Midlands Plus
      - 0.5 PF Intel Xeon Broadwell + IBM Power8
    - Isambard GW4
      - ARMv8, x86, Xeon Phi KNL, NVIDIA Pascal
    - Cirrus
      - 0.3 PF Intel Xeon Broadwell
- 24x compute!**
- KNL, GPUs, ARM,  
Power8...**
- Hull Viper = ~0.2 PF!**
- 



Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council

# 2017: Architecture Diversity

- Performance ↑ 😊 C/C++, Fortran, Python, R...
- Cost / performance ↓ 😃 MPI+OpenMP/CUDA/OpenCL,
- Complexity & parallelism ↑ 😕 SIMD, NUMA...
- Performance portability ↓ 😡 Threads per node: 10–10,000s
- Result: researchers need to spend more time writing, porting, maintaining code than doing research!



Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council

# Research Software Engineering

- 
- HPC Centres have the expertise, but mainly focussed on Tier-1
    - Need skilled people, embedded in research groups / institutions
    - With up-to-date skills
    - Science literate
    - More than ‘just’ software engineers
    - With a recognised career path to drive excellence
  - Research Software Engineer
    - First coined in 2012
    - Supported by Software Sustainability Institute
    - Now UK RSE association, EPSRC support...
- 



Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council

# Research Software Engineering

- ~20 RSE posts associated with new Tier-2 sites
- RSE Groups springing up around the UK
  - UCL, Cambridge, Bristol, ...
  - Many more posts in individual groups
- PIs starting to see the value of including RSE support in grants
- Universities creating career pathways
- Growing number of RSEs
  - Skills development
  - Best practice / knowledge sharing
- Turning software into Impact

We're hiring too!



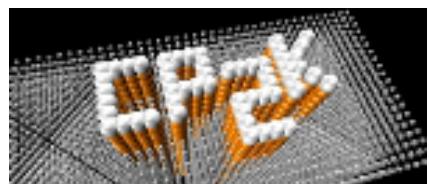
Virtuous circle



Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council

# Case study: CP2K

“CP2K is a program to perform atomistic and molecular simulations of solid state, liquid, molecular, and biological systems. It provides a general framework for different methods such as e.g., density functional theory (DFT) using a mixed Gaussian and plane waves approach (GPW) and classical pair and many-body potentials.”



From [www.cp2k.org](http://www.cp2k.org) (and original home page from 2004!)

- Open Source
  - GPL, Sourceforge SVN & Github
  - 1M LOC, ~2 commits per day
  - 10-20 core developers



Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council



# CP2K Applications

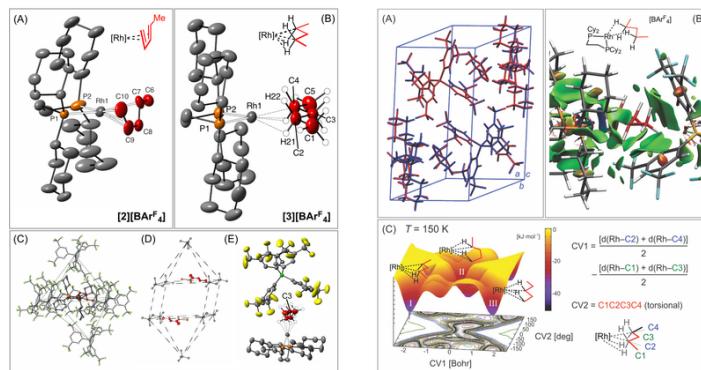
## Alkane Complexes

International Edition: DOI: 10.1002/anie.201511269

German Edition: DOI: 10.1002/ange.201511269

### A Rhodium–Pentane Sigma-Alkane Complex: Characterization in the Solid State by Experimental and Computational Techniques

F. Mark Chadwick\*, Nicholas H. Rees, Andrew S. Weller,\* Tobias Krämer\*, Marcella Iannuzzi, and Stuart A. Macgregor\*



PRL 116, 086402 (2016)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
26 FEBRUARY 2016

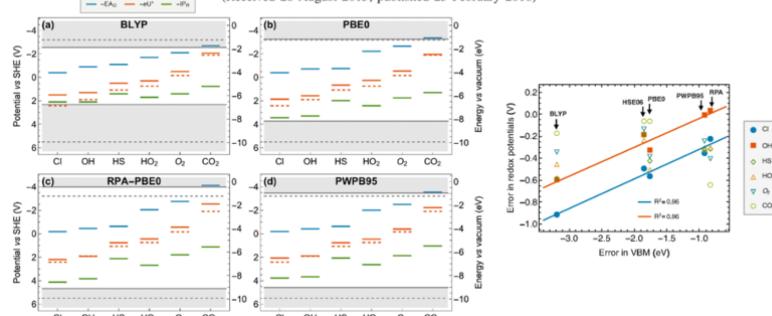
### Calculation of Electrochemical Energy Levels in Water Using the Random Phase Approximation and a Double Hybrid Functional

Jun Cheng\*

Collaborative Innovation Center of Chemistry for Energy Materials, State Key Laboratory of Physical Chemistry of Solid Surfaces, College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Xiamen University, Xiamen 361005, People's Republic of China and Department of Chemistry, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB24 3UE, United Kingdom

Joost VandeVondele\*

Department of Materials, ETH Zurich, Wolfgang-Pauli-Strasse 27, CH-8093 Zurich, Switzerland  
(Received 28 August 2015; published 25 February 2016)

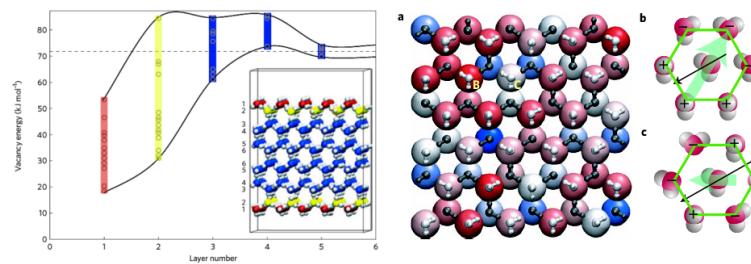


## Large variation of vacancy formation energies in the surface of crystalline ice

M. Watkins<sup>1,2,3</sup>, D. Pan<sup>4</sup>, E. G. Wang<sup>5</sup>, A. Michaelides<sup>1,2,3</sup>, J. VandeVondele<sup>6</sup> and B. Slater<sup>1,3\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemistry, Christopher Ingold Building, 20 Gordon Street, University College London, London WC1H 0AJ, UK, <sup>2</sup>London Centre for Nanotechnology, University College London, London WC1H 0AJ, UK, <sup>3</sup>TYC@UCL, University College London, London WC1H 0AJ, UK, <sup>4</sup>Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, P.O. Box 603, Beijing 100190, China, <sup>5</sup>School of Physics, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China, <sup>6</sup>Institute of Physical Chemistry, University of Zurich, Winterthurerstrasse 190, CH-8057 Zurich, Switzerland. \*e-mail: b.slater@ucl.ac.uk

NATURE MATERIALS | VOL 10 | OCTOBER 2011



ARTICLE

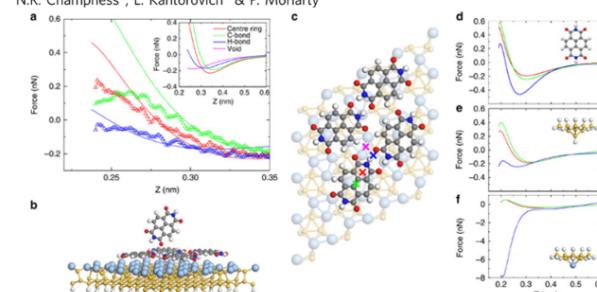
Received 6 Dec 2013 | Accepted 22 Apr 2014 | Published 30 May 2014

DOI: 10.1038/ncomms4931

OPEN

### Mapping the force field of a hydrogen-bonded assembly

A.M. Sweetman<sup>1,\*</sup>, S.P. Jarvis<sup>1,\*</sup>, Hongqian Sang<sup>2,3,\*</sup>, I. Lekkas<sup>1</sup>, P. Rahe<sup>4</sup>, Yu Wang<sup>2</sup>, Jianbo Wang<sup>2</sup>, N.R. Champness<sup>5</sup>, L. Kantorovich<sup>3</sup> & P. Moriarty<sup>1</sup>





# CP2K-UK

- 2013–2018 EPSRC Software for the Future
- Led by Hartree Centre
- Partners EPCC, KCL, UCL, Lincoln
- + 7 supporting group leads



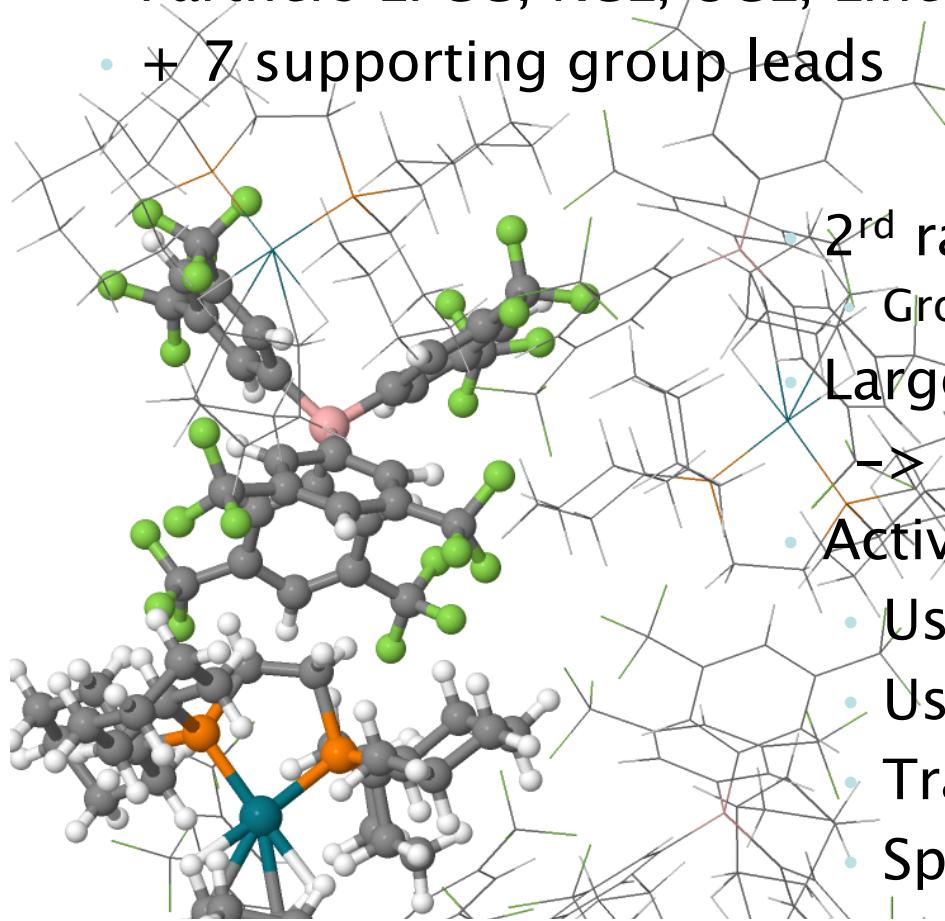
2<sup>nd</sup> ranked code on ARCHER

Growing usage and interest

Large feature set + excellent performance  
-> complexity hump for new users / devs

• Activities:

- User group meetings (annual)
- Usability, New Functionality
- Training
- Spin-off projects



# CP2K Overview

- QUICKSTEP DFT: Gaussian and Plane Waves Method  
(VandeVondele *et al*, Comp. Phys. Comm., 2005)

- Advantages of atom-centred basis (primary)
    - Density, Overlap, KS matrices are sparse

- Advantages of plane-wave basis (auxiliary)

**Distributed 3D multigrids!**

- Efficient computation of Hartree potential

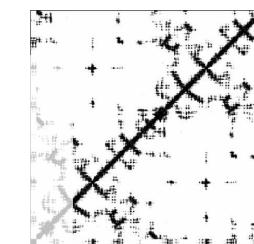
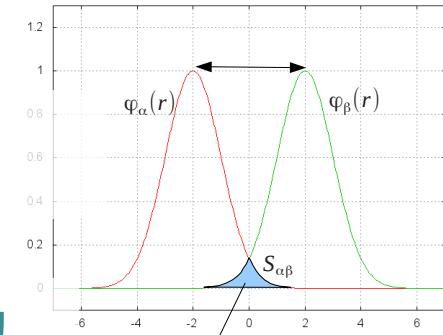
**3D FFT! Gaussian collocation / integration!**

- Orbital Transformation Method (VandeVondele & Hutter, J. Chem. Phys., 2003)

**Dense Matrices! (ScalAPACK / ELPA)**

mixing (non-metallic systems only)

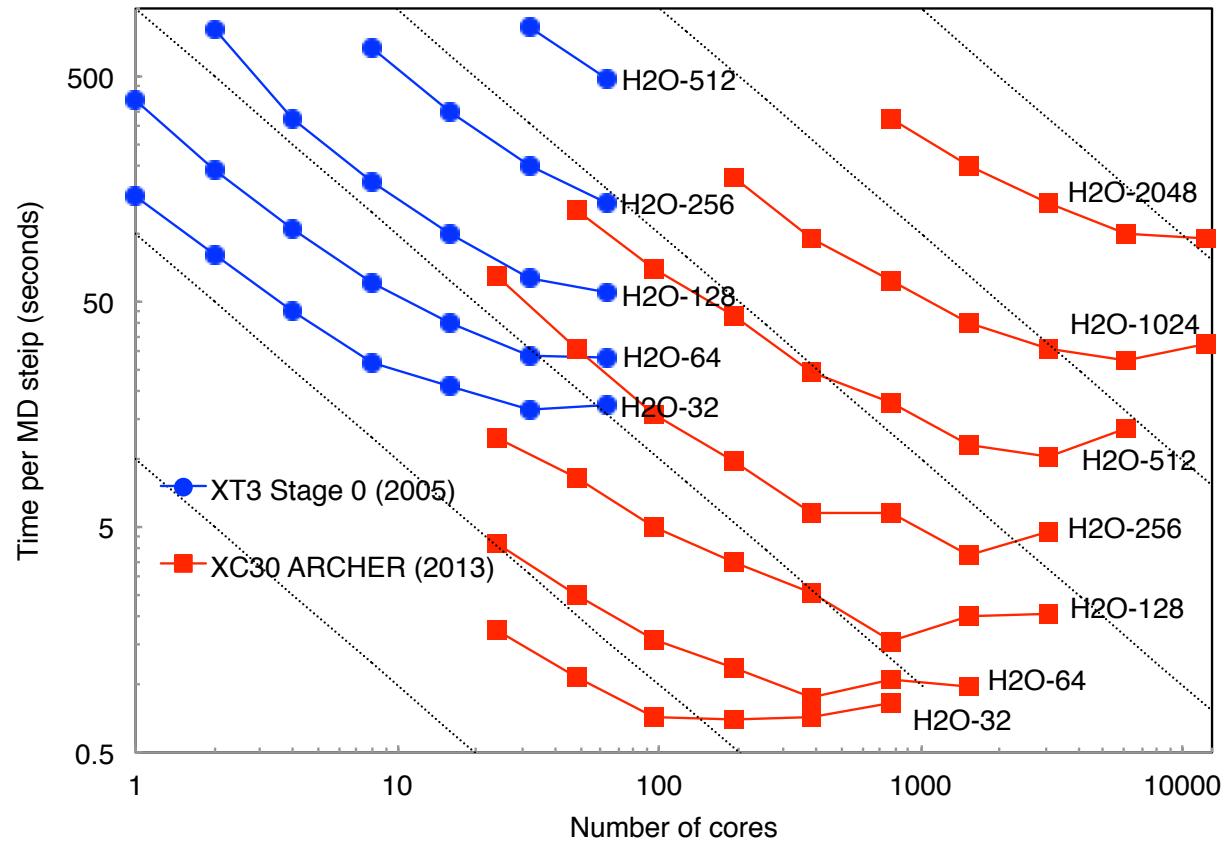
» Cubic scaling but ~10% cost



Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council

# Water benchmarks

- *ab initio* MD of various sizes of water boxes
- Production quality settings
- 84x single node speed-up in 8 years!
- Scaling and peak perf up 10-20x



Ref: "CP2K Performance from Cray XT3 to XC30",  
IB et al, Proceedings of Cray User Group 2014



Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council

# Algorithm development for CPUs

- MPI Load balancing, communication optimisation (2008/9)
- OpenMP parallelism (2009/10)
  - 3D FFT, grid operations, matrix/matrix multiplication
- Optimised small block matrix multiplications (2011/12)
- Memory-efficient algorithms (2015)

Nodes of ARCHER	2	4	8	16	32	48	64	96
Old Algorithm (millisec)	26	32	51	153	389	1140	1864	5406
New Algorithm (millisec)	17	20	34	69	115	171	305	607
Speedup	1.53	1.60	1.50	2.22	3.38	6.67	6.11	8.91

Table 1: Time in `optimize_load_list`

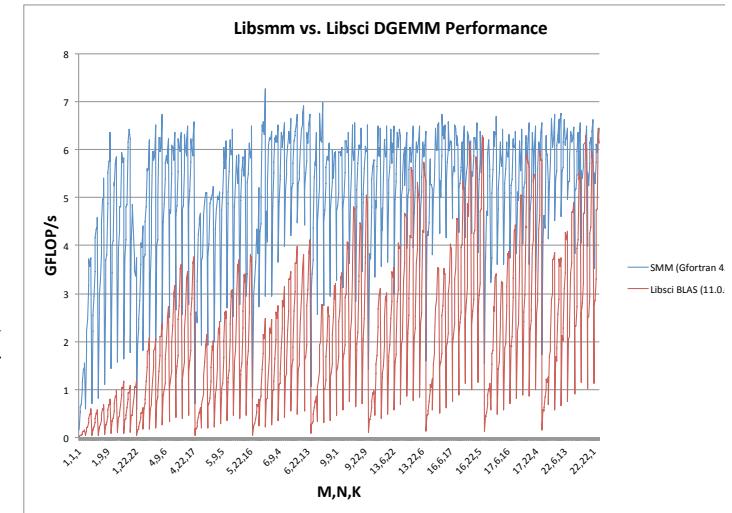


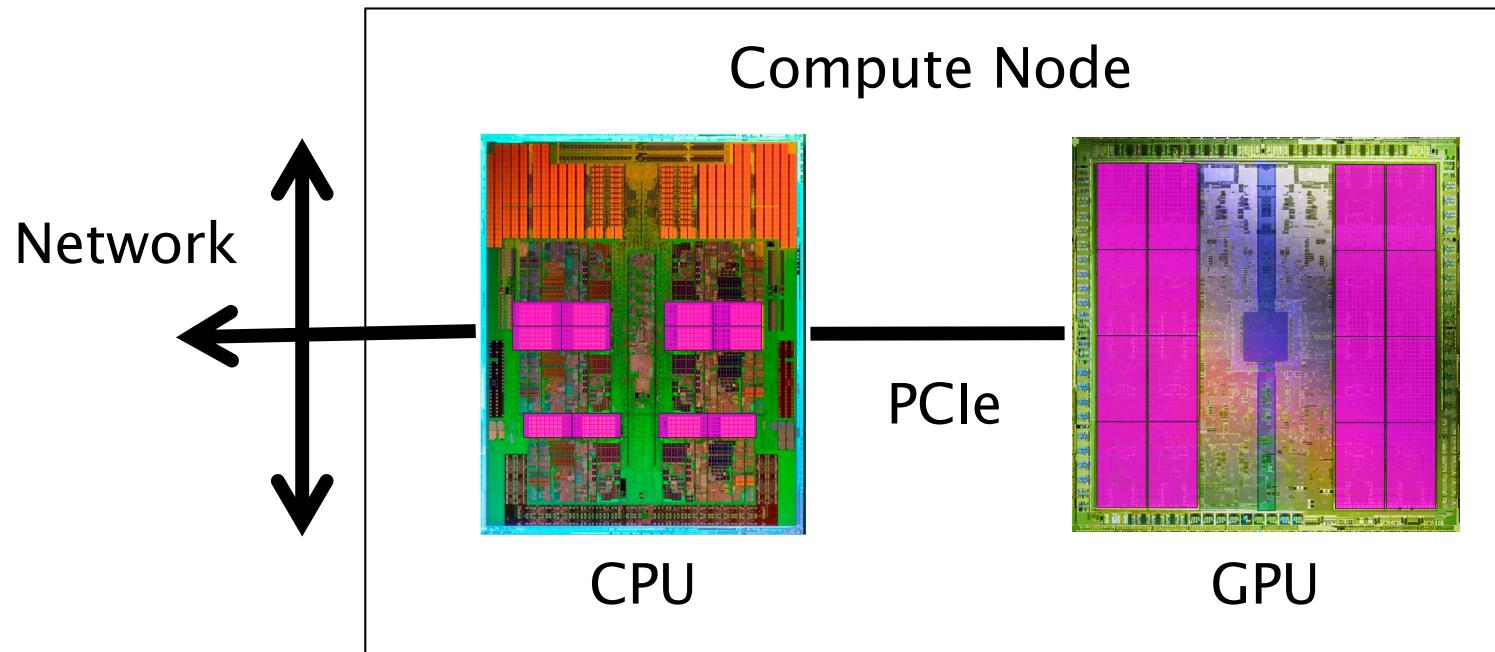
Figure 5: Comparing performance of SMM and Libsci BLAS for block sizes up to 22,22

Saving 3.3GB  
memory per  
node!



Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council

# Adapting to GPU



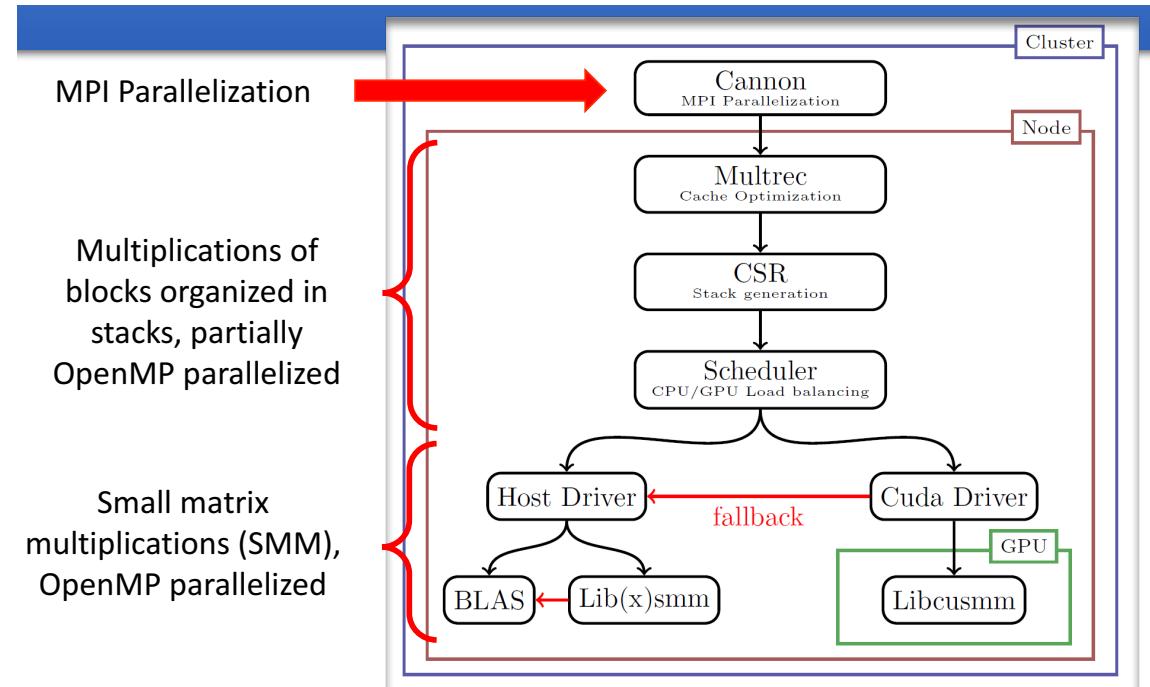
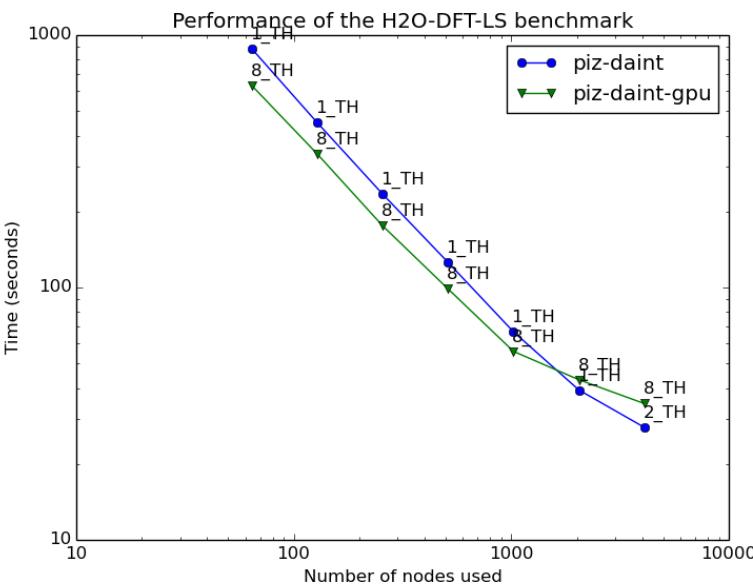
- CPU socket – 0.3 TFLOP/s, ~50 GB/s, 64+ GB DDR
- GPU socket – 1-5 TFLOP/s, ~700+ GB/s, 8-16 GB GDDR
- PCIe x16 – 32 GB/s
- 10,000s threads needed
- **Programmability!**



Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council

# Adapting to GPU

- CUDA kernels for SMM (and FFT)
- Latency hiding
- Load balance GPU & CPU
- Result: 25% speedup

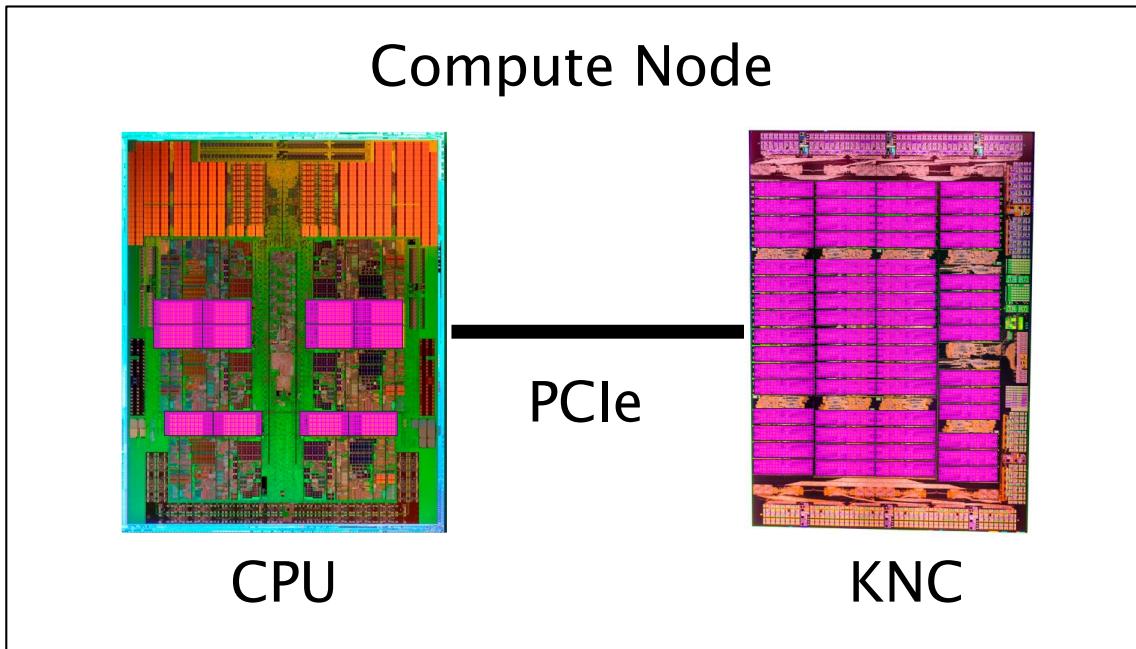


Ref: “*GPU-accelerated Sparse Matrix-matrix Multiplication for Linear Scaling DFT*”, Schütt et al, Electronic Structure Calculations on GPUs (2016)



Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council

# Adapting to Xeon Phi KNC



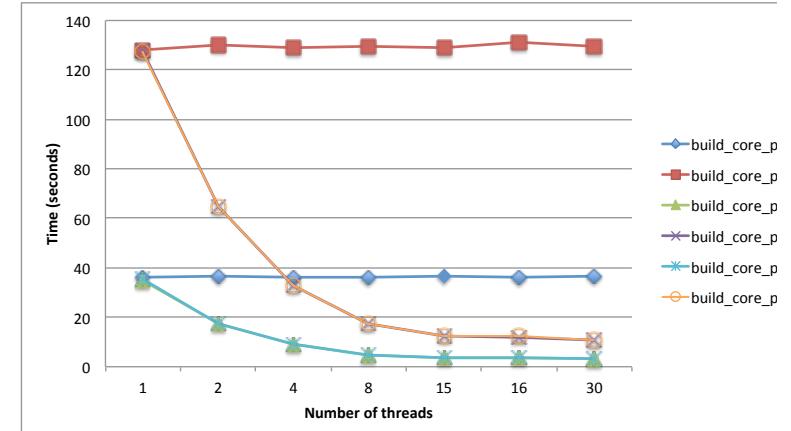
- CPU socket – 0.3 TFLOP/s, ~50 GB/s, 64+ GB DDR
- KNC socket – 1.2 TFLOP/s, 352 GB/s, 16 GB GDDR
- PCIe x16 – 32 GB/s
- 240 threads needed
- Less parallelism, easy to program!



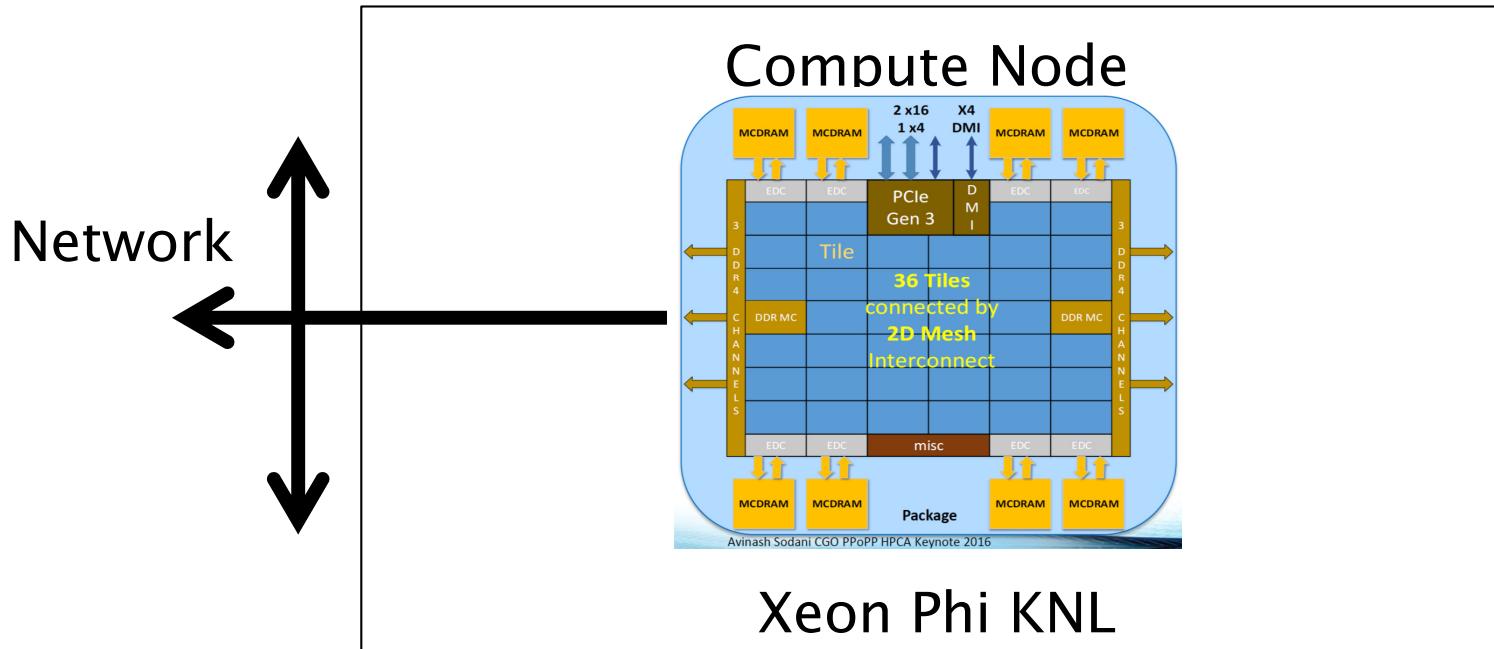
# Adapting to Xeon Phi KNC

- Requires excellent vectorisation (hard)
- Requires Intel compiler suite (tricky)
- Requires scaling to 240 threads
  - while fitting into 16 GB (very hard)
- P54C cores (from 1993!) exposed by complex logic, branching, function calls
- Lots of work on efficient OpenMP, memory reduction...
- **Result:** KNC in native mode 4-8x slower than Sandy Bridge Xeon!

Refs: “*Evaluating CP2K on Exascale Hardware: Intel Xeon Phi*”, “*Optimising CP2K for the Intel Xeon Phi*” FR + IB, PRACE white papers, 2013



# Adapting to Xeon Phi KNL



- KNL socket – ~3 TFLOP/s, ~450+ GB/s (HBM)
  - 96 GB DDR + 12 GB HBM
- PCIe x16 – 32 GB/s
- 128/256 threads needed
- No offload model!

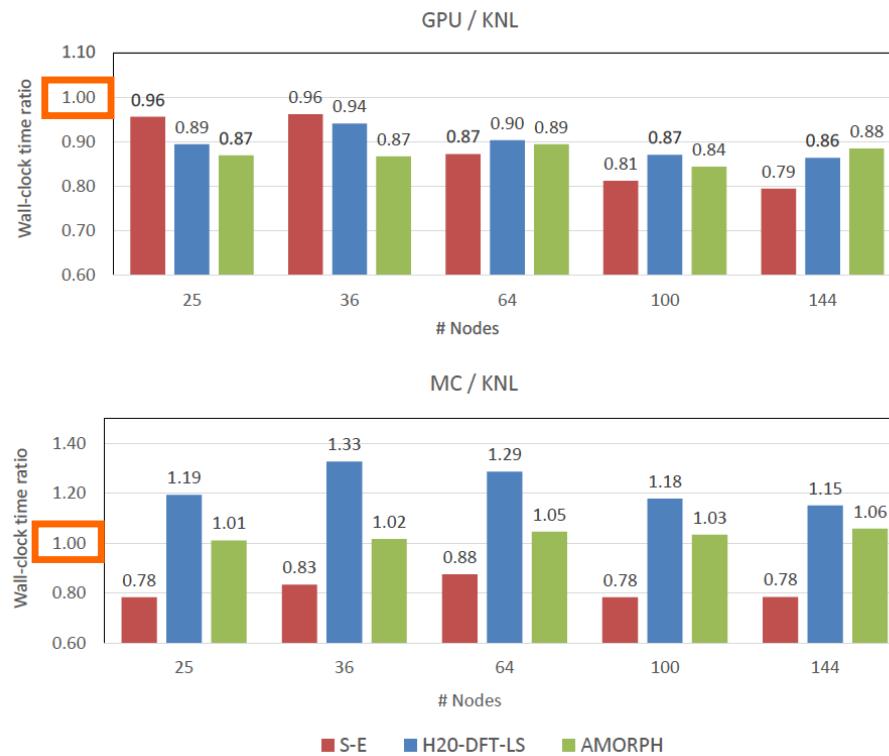


Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council

# Adapting to Xeon Phi KNL

>1 → KNL faster

<1 → KNL slower



- No KNL-specific tweaks
  - S-E
    - Small blocks size
    - Dominated by stacks preparation and communications
  - H2O-DFT-LS
    - Large blocks size
    - Communication-bound
  - AMORPH
    - Medium blocks sizes
    - Computation-bound

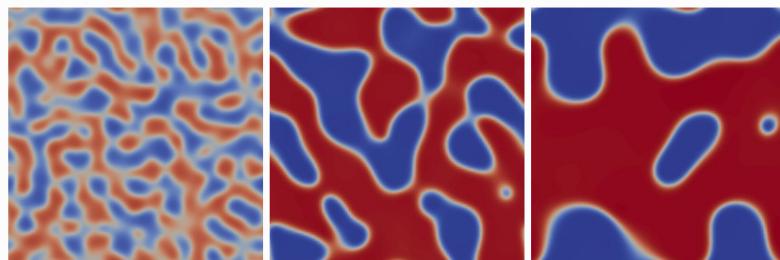
Ref: “Porting of the DBCSR library for Sparse Matrix-Matrix Multiplication to Intel Xeon Phi systems”, IB et al, ParCo 2017



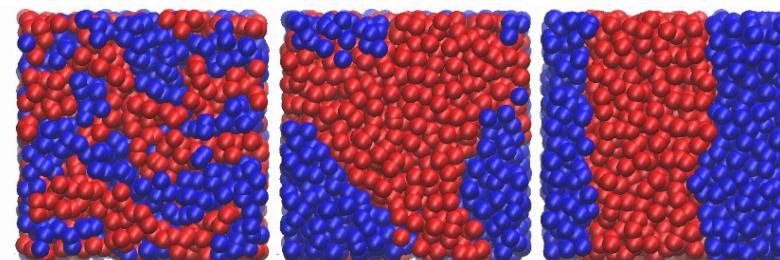
Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council

# Mesoscale Chemistry Simulations : DL\_MESO

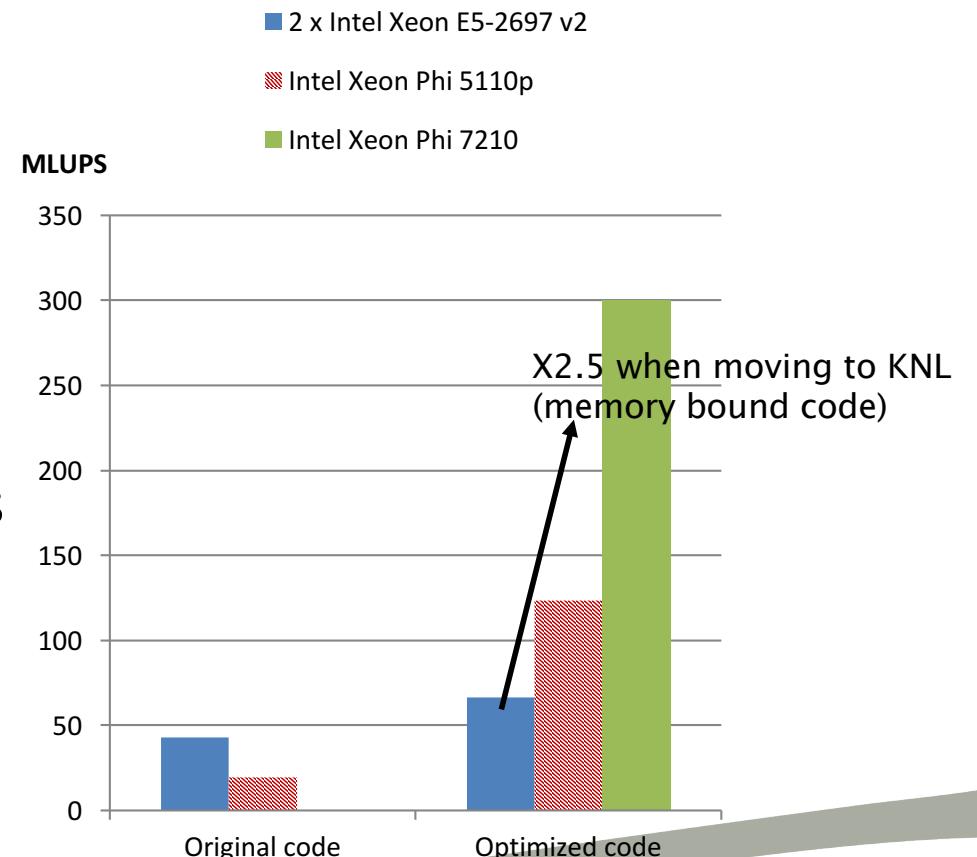
- Lattice Boltzmann



- Dissipative Particle Dynamics

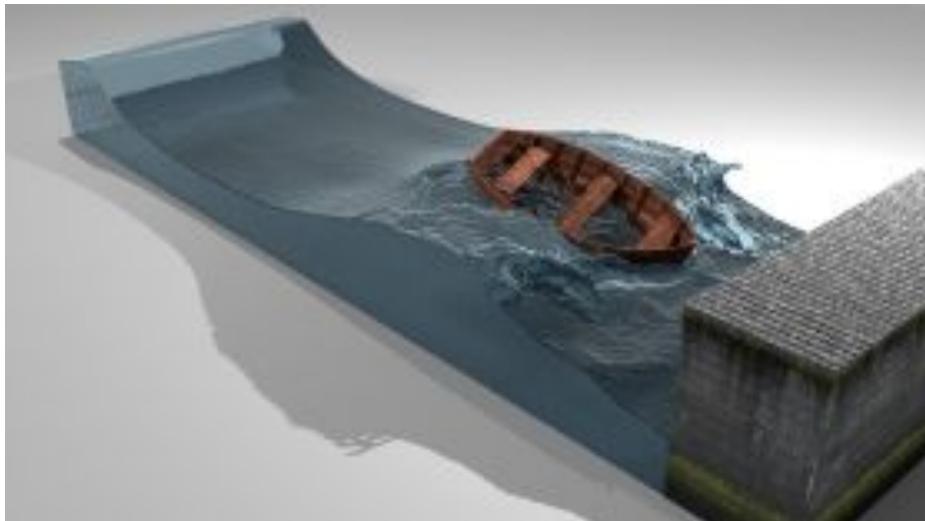


DL\_MESO MINILBE Performance  
(BGK Shan Chen with 4 fluids, Size: 160<sup>3</sup>)

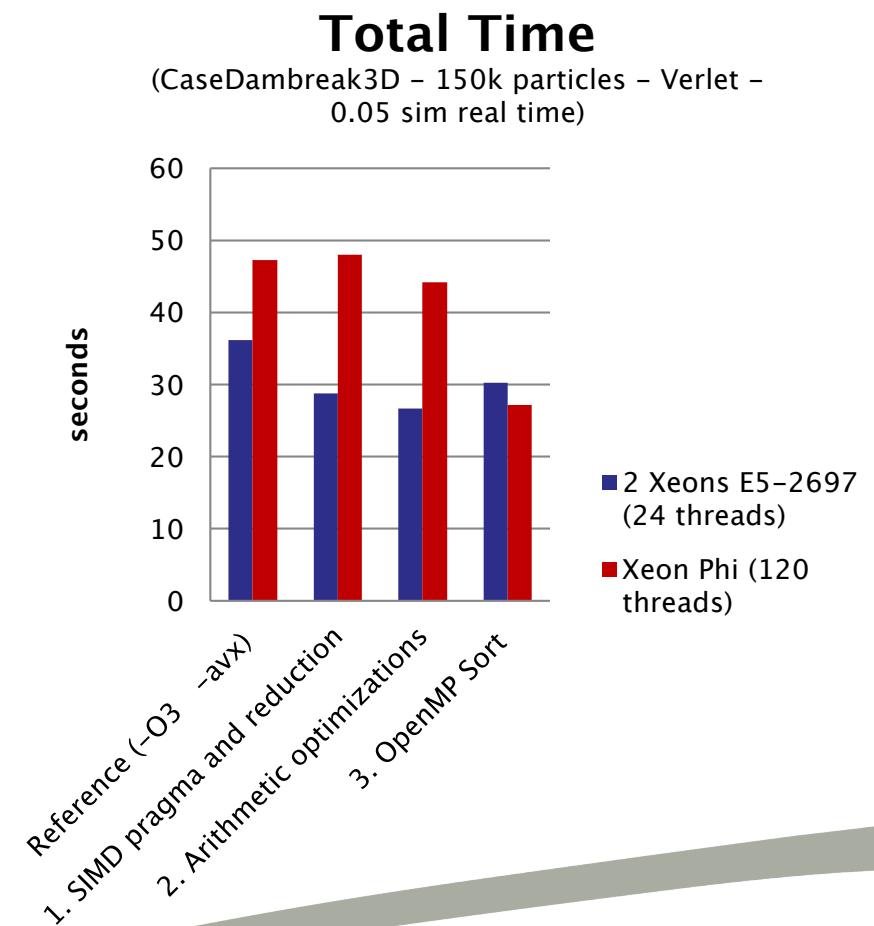


Work from Hartree IPCC

# Hydrodynamics simulation : DualSPHysics



Work from Hartree IPCC



Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council

# Conclusions

- The future of HPC is going to be:
  - More parallel, more heterogeneous, more dynamic
  - More work for the programmer
- We need to start preparing codes now
  - Practical benefit = more places to run on
  - Funding available
    - IPCC, ARCHER eCSE, EPSRC Tier-2 Support, PRACE...
- Get in touch with your local RSE team!



Image: Jorge Cham,  
[www.phdcomics.com](http://www.phdcomics.com)



Hartree Centre  
Science & Technology Facilities Council



# Thanks for listening!

[iain.bethune@stfc.ac.uk](mailto:iain.bethune@stfc.ac.uk)

@ibethune

@HartreeCentre