

# ESTIMATING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF COMPUTING IN SCIENCE

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2023 EIC Workshop

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Research Associate, University of Cambridge  
Software Sustainability Institute Fellow  
Post-Doctoral Associate, Jesus College, Cambridge

# WHAT ABOUT THE SCIENCE WE DO? BIOLOGY

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GWAS of 1,000 traits in UK Biobank  
*(225h / 100 GB per trait)*

**17.3 T CO<sub>2</sub>e**

Metagenome assembly  
of 100 soil samples  
*(1h / 130 GB)*

**14 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e**

RNA read alignments  
10 million 100-bp to *P. falciparum*  
*(1h30 / 13 GB)*

**240 g CO<sub>2</sub>e**

# WHAT ABOUT THE SCIENCE WE DO? AI + BIOLOGY

Article | [Open Access](#) | Published: 15 July 2021

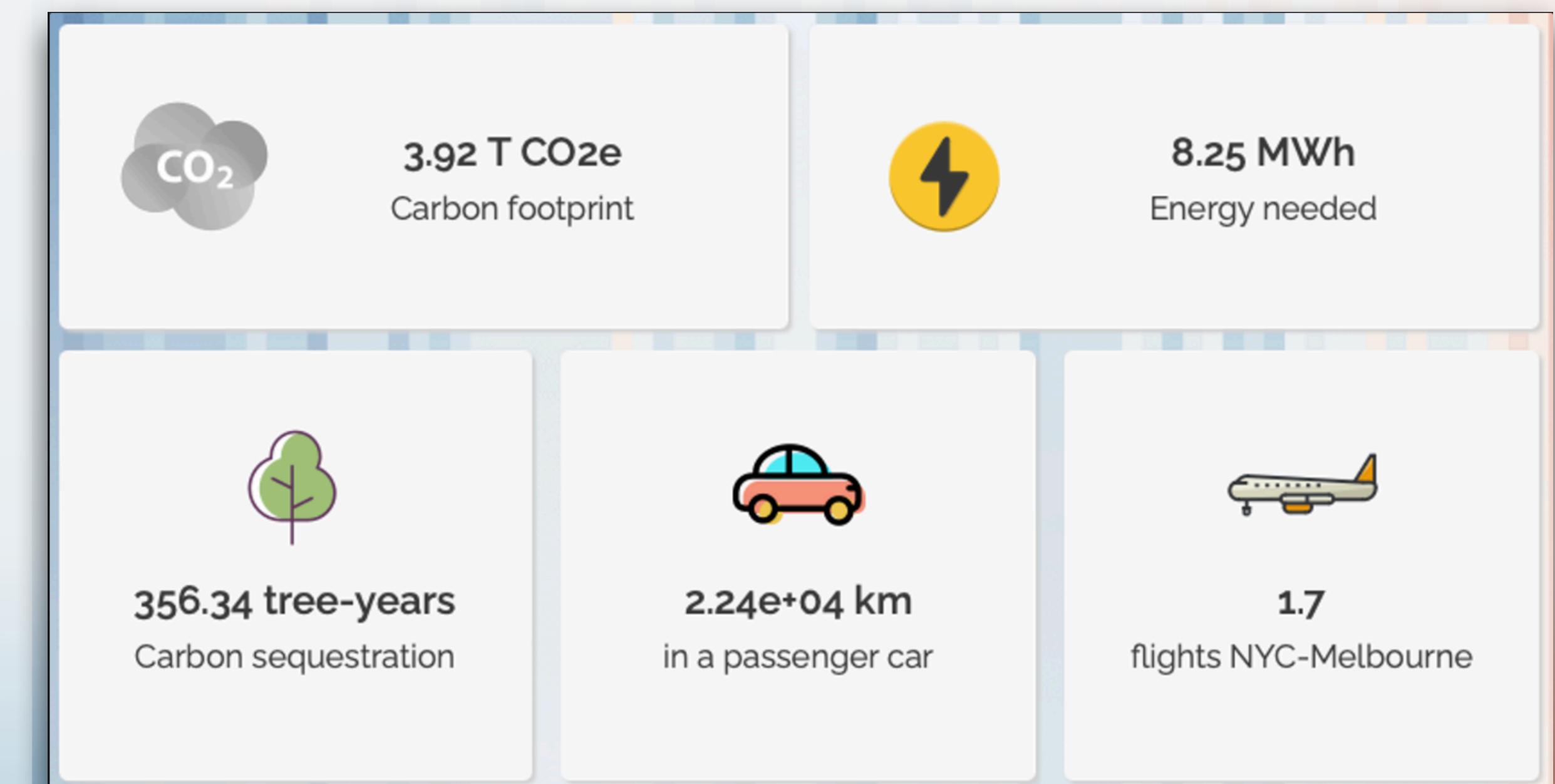
## Highly accurate protein structure prediction with AlphaFold

[John Jumper](#)✉, [Richard Evans](#), [Alexander Pritzel](#), [Tim Green](#), [Michael Figurnov](#), [Olaf Ronneberger](#), [Kathryn Tunyasuvunakool](#), [Russ Bates](#), [Augustin Žídek](#), [Anna Potapenko](#), [Alex Bridgland](#), [Clemens Meyer](#), [Simon A. A. Kohl](#), [Andrew J. Ballard](#), [Andrew Cowie](#), [Bernardino Romera-Paredes](#), [Stanislav Nikolov](#), [Rishabh Jain](#), [Jonas Adler](#), [Trevor Back](#), [Stig Petersen](#), [David Reiman](#), [Ellen Clancy](#), [Michał Zieliński](#), ... [Demis Hassabis](#)✉ [+ Show authors](#)

[Nature](#) 596, 583–589 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

1.13m Accesses | 7287 Citations | 3435 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Training



# WHAT ABOUT THE SCIENCE WE DO? AI + BIOLOGY

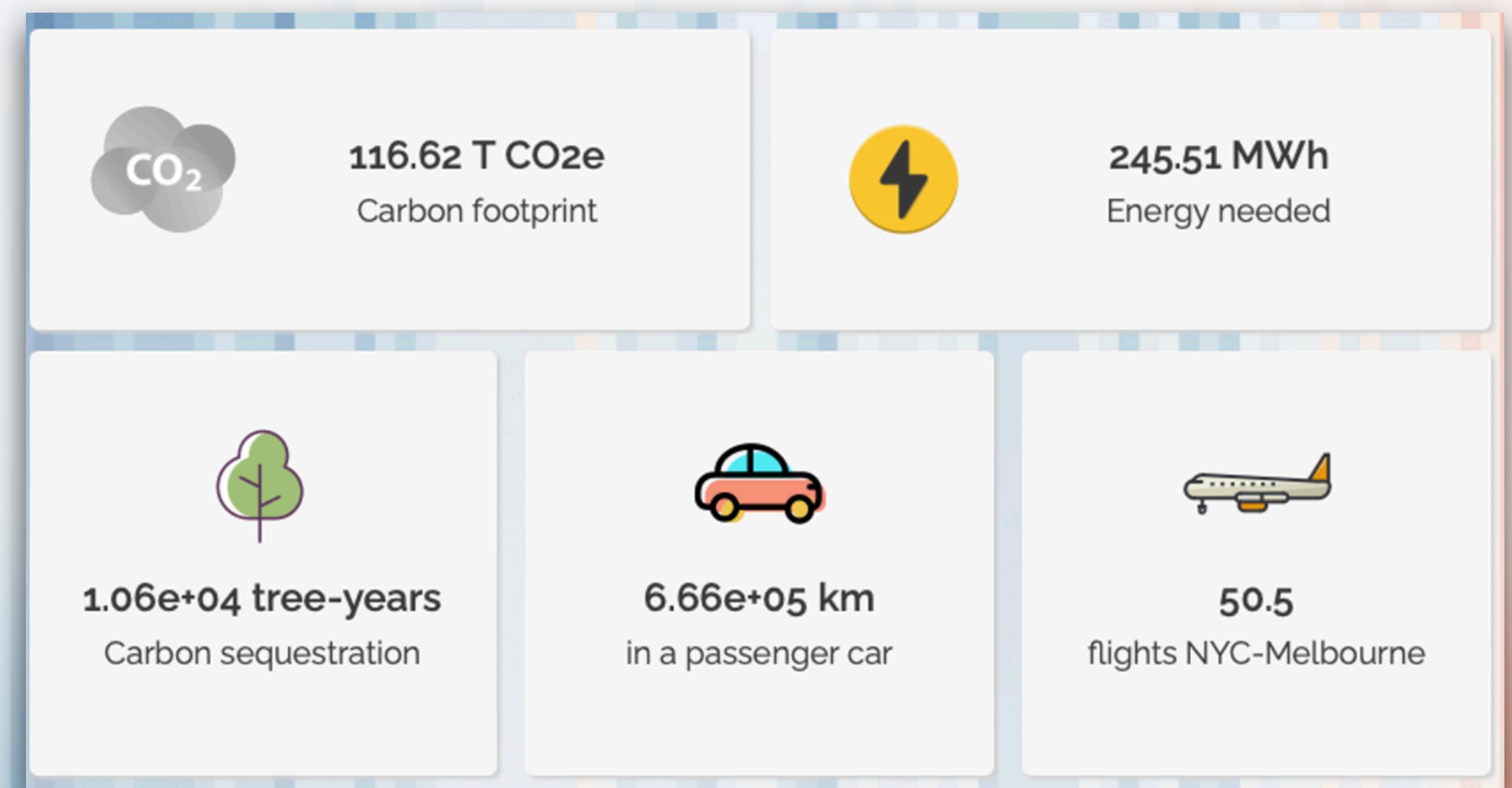
RESEARCH ARTICLE | STRUCTURE PREDICTION

f t in g m

## Evolutionary-scale prediction of atomic-level protein structure with a language model

ZEMING LIN  , HALIL AKIN  , ROSHAN RAO  , BRIAN HIE  , ZHONGKAI ZHU, WENTING LU, NIKITA SMETANIN, ROBERT VERKUIL  , ORI KABELI  , [...], AND ALEXANDER RIVES   [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

Training the 15B model



# UNFORTUNATELY...

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Computing is **not** free

But from a **user** point of view, **it may look like it**

# FOCUSING ON COMPUTING

---

## Day-to-day computing

Emails

Writing on Words

Web surfing

Zoom

## Intense computations:

long runtimes (several hours)

and/or large memory requirements (10s GB)

# FOCUSING ON COMPUTING

---

## Day-to-day computing

Emails

Writing on Words

Web surfing

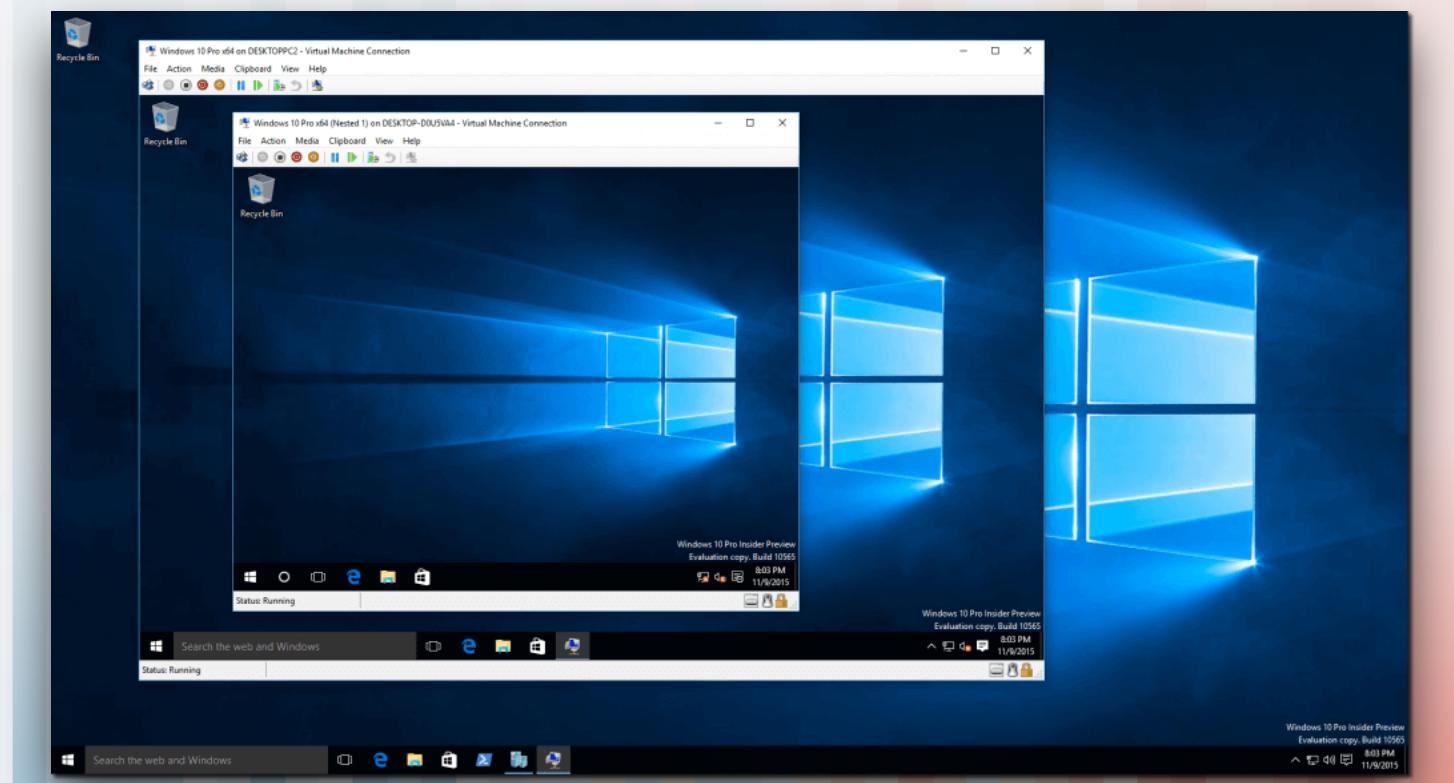
Zoom

Intense computations:  
long runtimes (several hours)  
and/or large memory requirements (10s GB)

# IT'S ALL THE SAME (ISH)



```
mark@linux-desktop: /tmp/tutorial
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
mark@linux-desktop:~$ mkdir /tmp/tutorial
mark@linux-desktop:~$ cd /tmp/tutorial
mark@linux-desktop:/tmp/tutorial$ mkdir dir1 dir2 dir3
mark@linux-desktop:/tmp/tutorial$ mkdir
mkdir: missing operand
Try 'mkdir --help' for more information.
mark@linux-desktop:/tmp/tutorial$ cd /etc ~/Desktop
bash: cd: too many arguments
mark@linux-desktop:/tmp/tutorial$ ls
dir1 dir2 dir3
mark@linux-desktop:/tmp/tutorial$
```



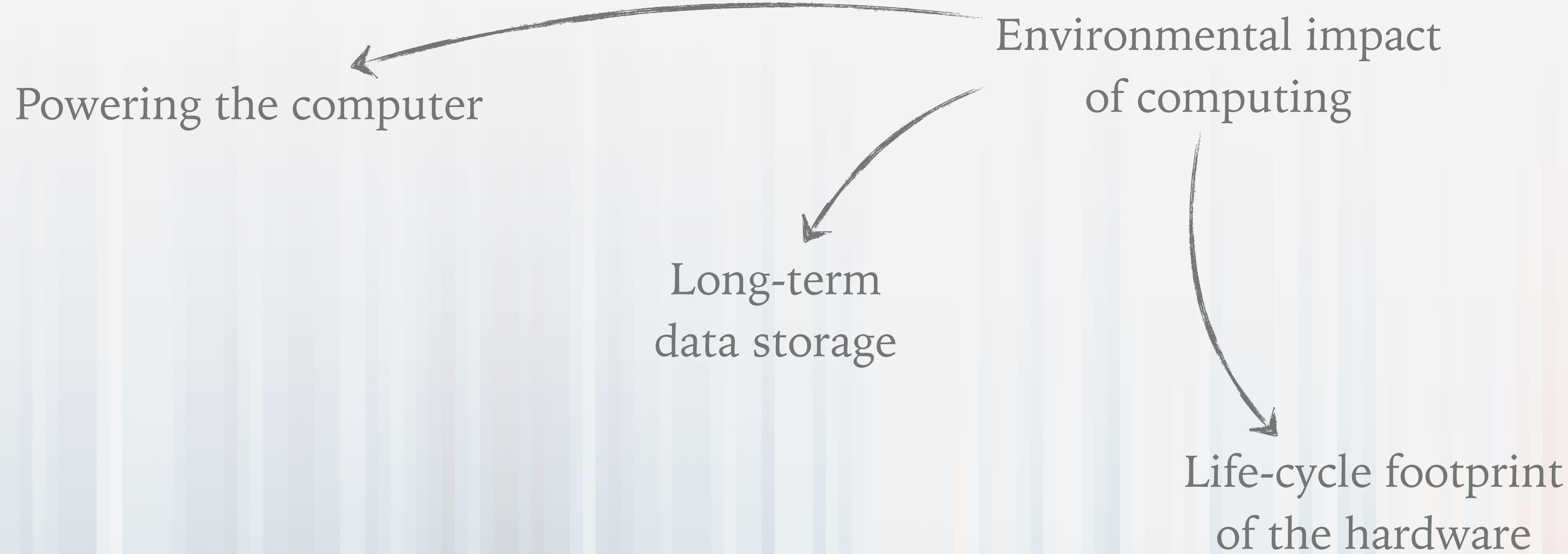
# BREAKING DOWN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF COMPUTING

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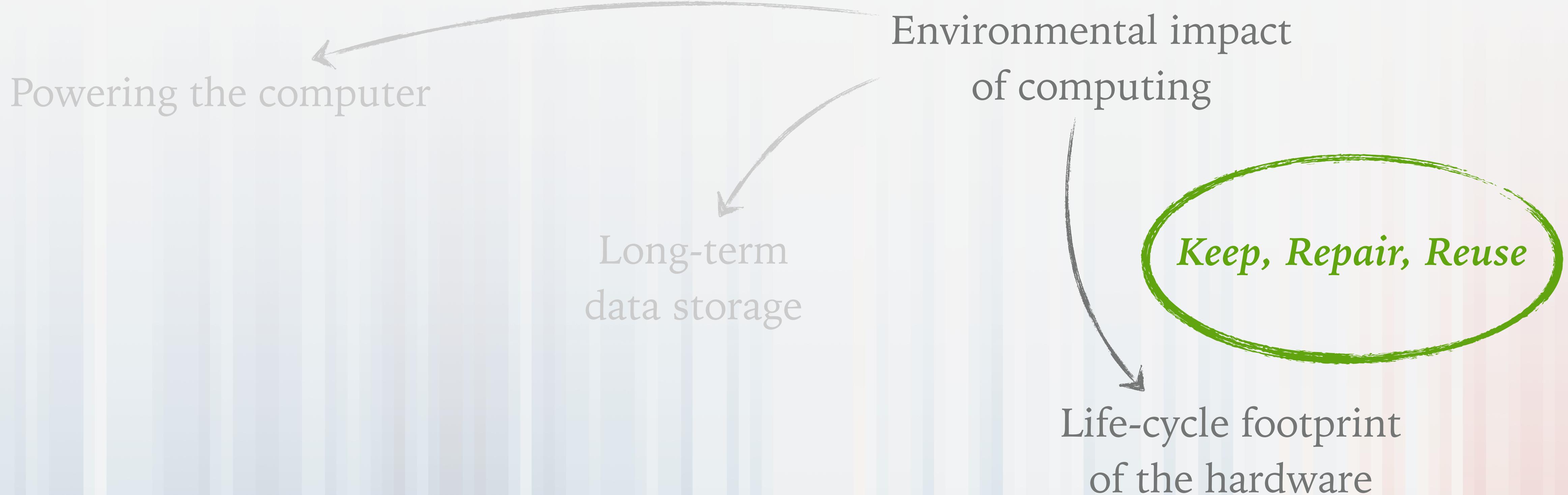
Environmental impact  
of computing

# BREAKING DOWN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF COMPUTING

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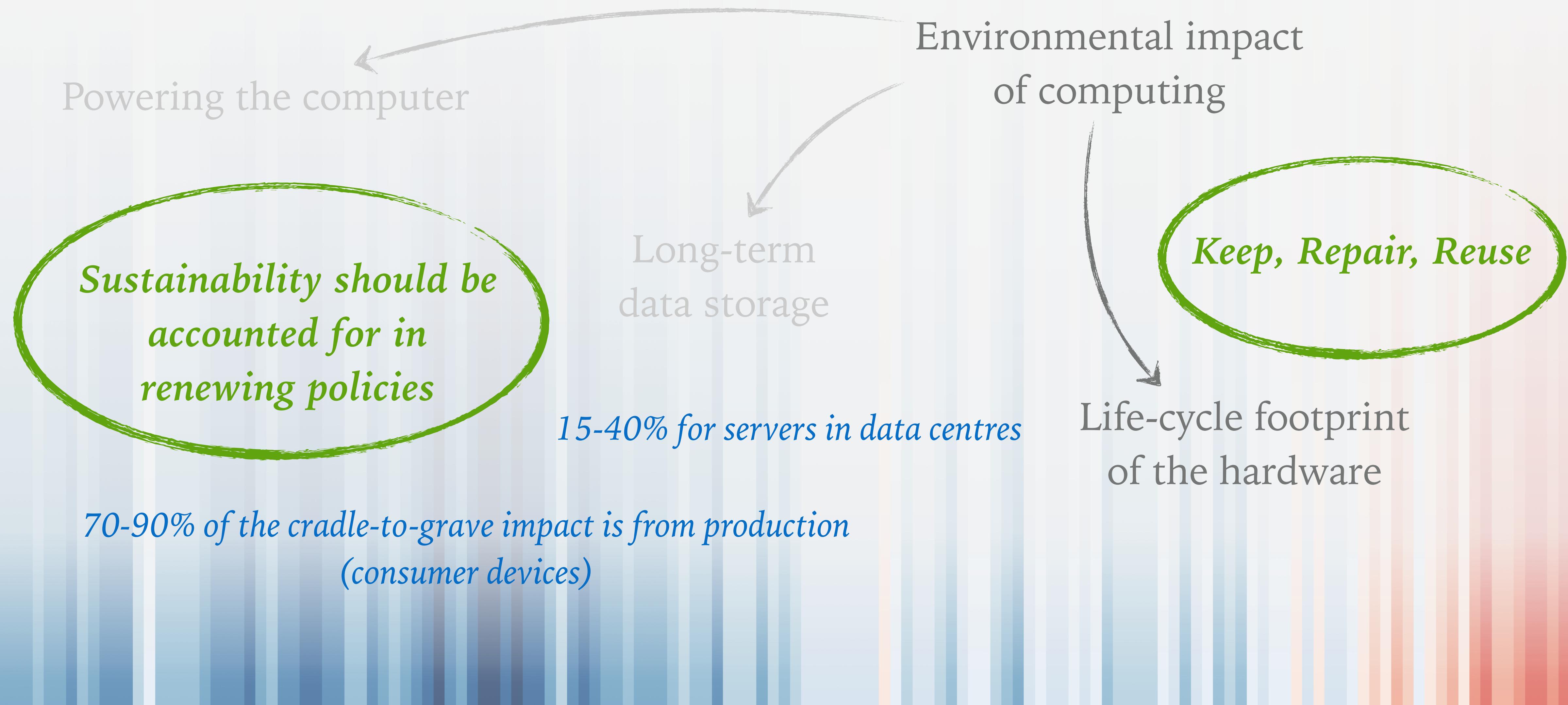


# BREAKING DOWN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF COMPUTING



*70-90% of the cradle-to-grave impact is from production  
(consumer devices)*

# BREAKING DOWN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF COMPUTING



# BREAKING DOWN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF COMPUTING



## Children and digital dumpsites

E-waste exposure and child health



*>82% of the 54m tonnes of e-waste are handled by 12-56m informal waste workers worldwide*

*18m children work in industries involving waste processing*

Environmental impact of computing

Long-term data storage

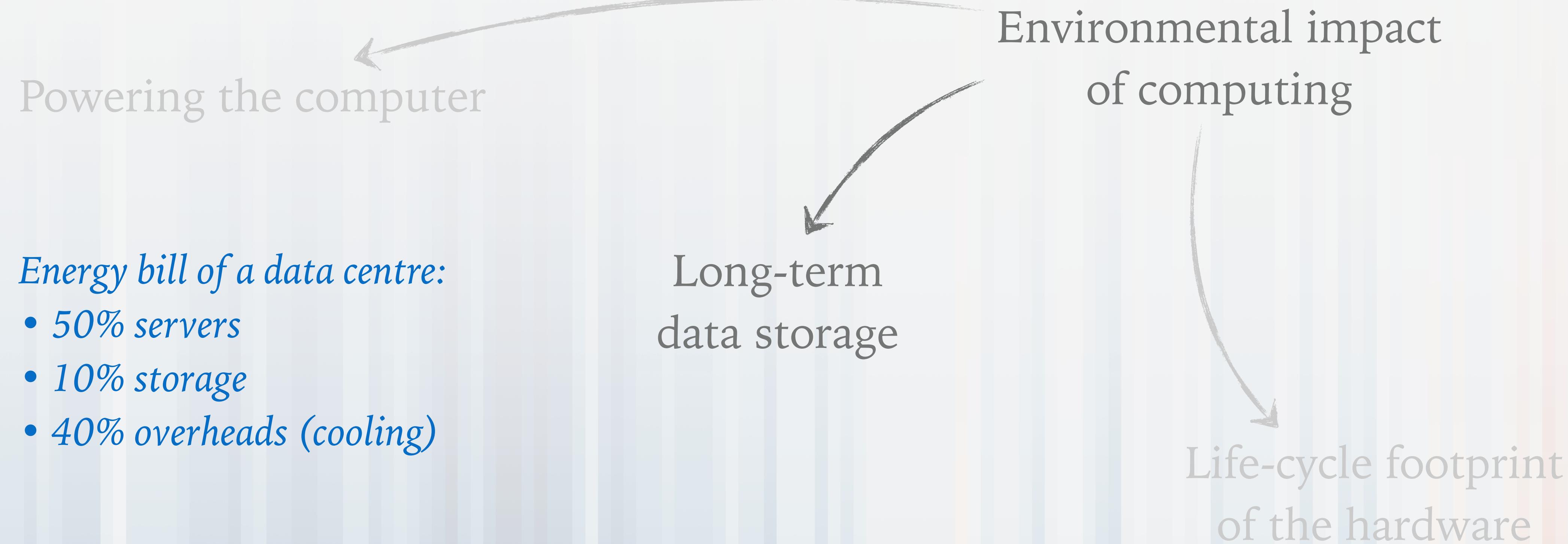
*Keep, Repair, Reuse*

Life-cycle footprint of the hardware

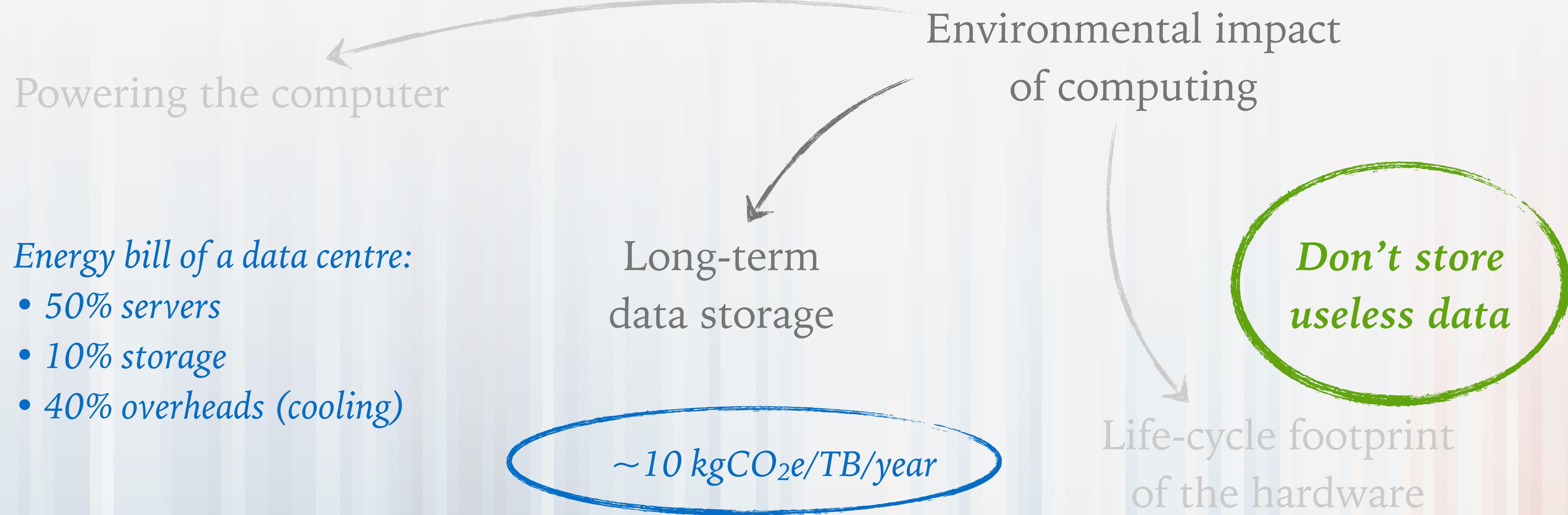
*E-waste are predicted to raise by 40% by 2030*

# BREAKING DOWN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF COMPUTING

---

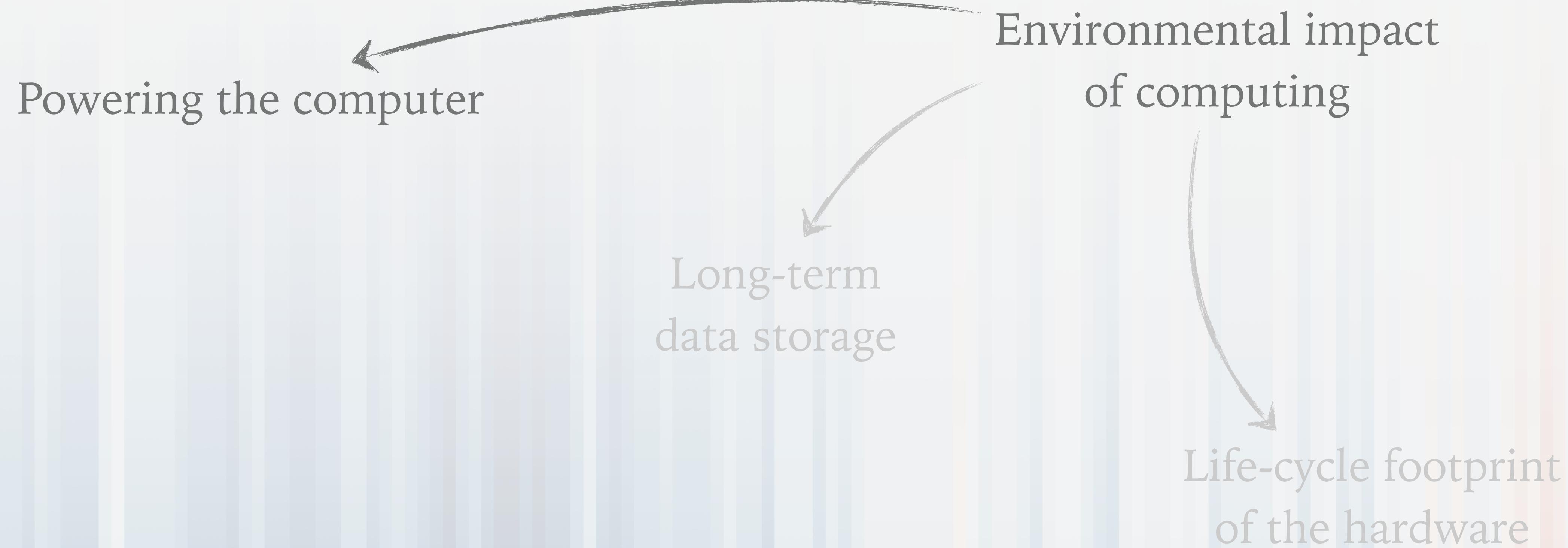


# BREAKING DOWN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF COMPUTING



# BREAKING DOWN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF COMPUTING

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# THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF COMPUTATION

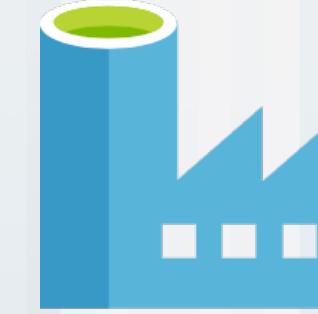
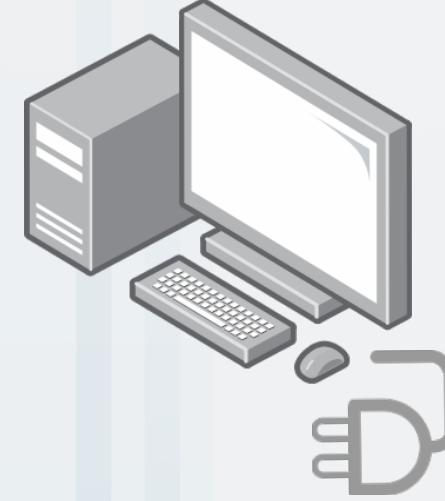
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Carbon footprint = energy used x carbon intensity

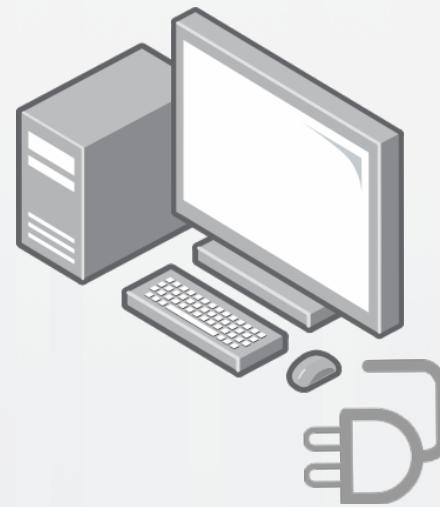
$gCO_2e$

$kWh$

$gCO_2e/kWh$



# THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF COMPUTATION: ENERGY NEEDED



$$E = t \times (P_c + P_m) \times PUE$$

Running time (h)

Power draw of processing cores (W)

Power draw from memory (W)

Efficiency of the data centre

The diagram illustrates the formula for energy consumption (E). It shows three main components: 'Running time (h)', 'Power draw of processing cores (W)', and 'Power draw from memory (W)'. Arrows point from each of these components to the corresponding terms in the formula. A final arrow points from the term 'PUE' to the text 'Efficiency of the data centre'.

## ADVANCED SCIENCE

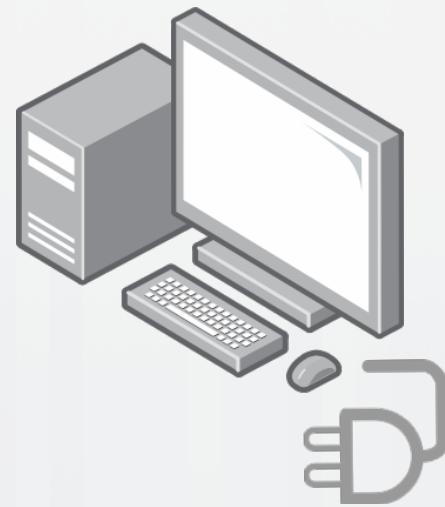
Research Article | Open Access | CC BY

Green Algorithms: Quantifying the Carbon Footprint of Computation

Loïc Lannelongue, Jason Grealey, Michael Inouye

First published: 02 May 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/advs.202100707>

# THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF COMPUTATION: ENERGY NEEDED



$$E = t \times (P_c + P_m) \times PUE$$

Running time (h)

Power draw of processing cores (W)

Power draw from memory (W)

Efficiency of the data centre

The diagram illustrates the components of the energy equation. Arrows point from the labels 'Running time (h)', 'Power draw of processing cores (W)', and 'Power draw from memory (W)' to their respective terms in the equation  $E = t \times (P_c + P_m) \times PUE$ . A final arrow points from the label 'Efficiency of the data centre' to the PUE term.

$$\text{PUE} = \frac{\text{Total Facility Power}}{\text{IT Equipment Power}}$$

## ADVANCED SCIENCE

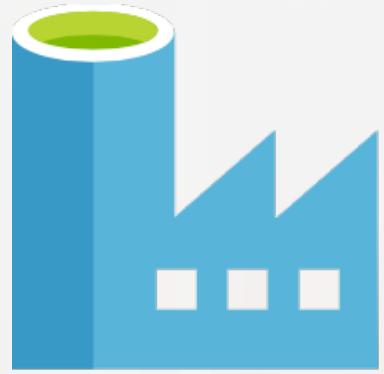
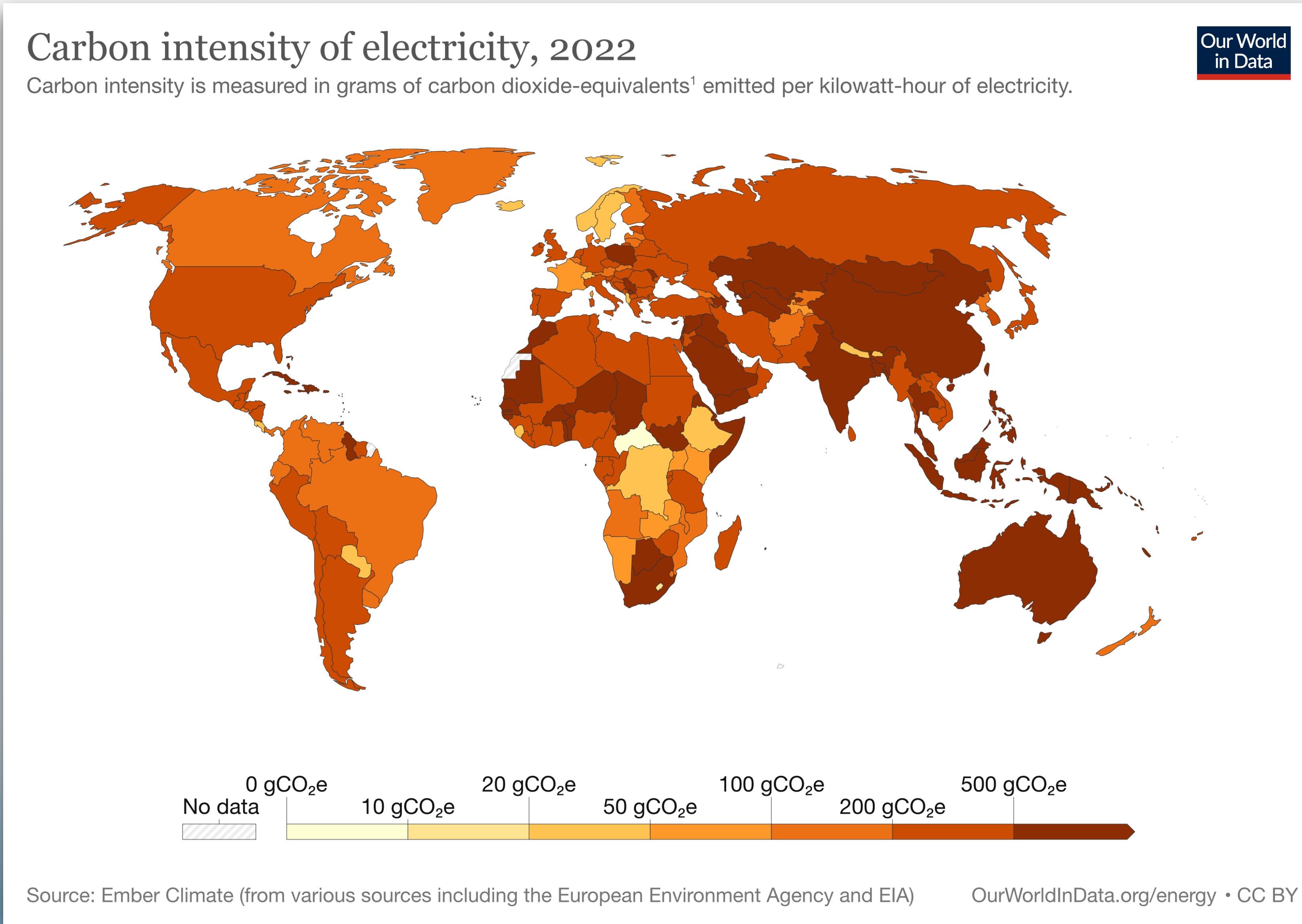
Research Article | Open Access | CC BY

Green Algorithms: Quantifying the Carbon Footprint of Computation

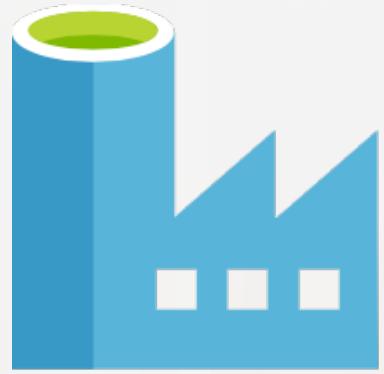
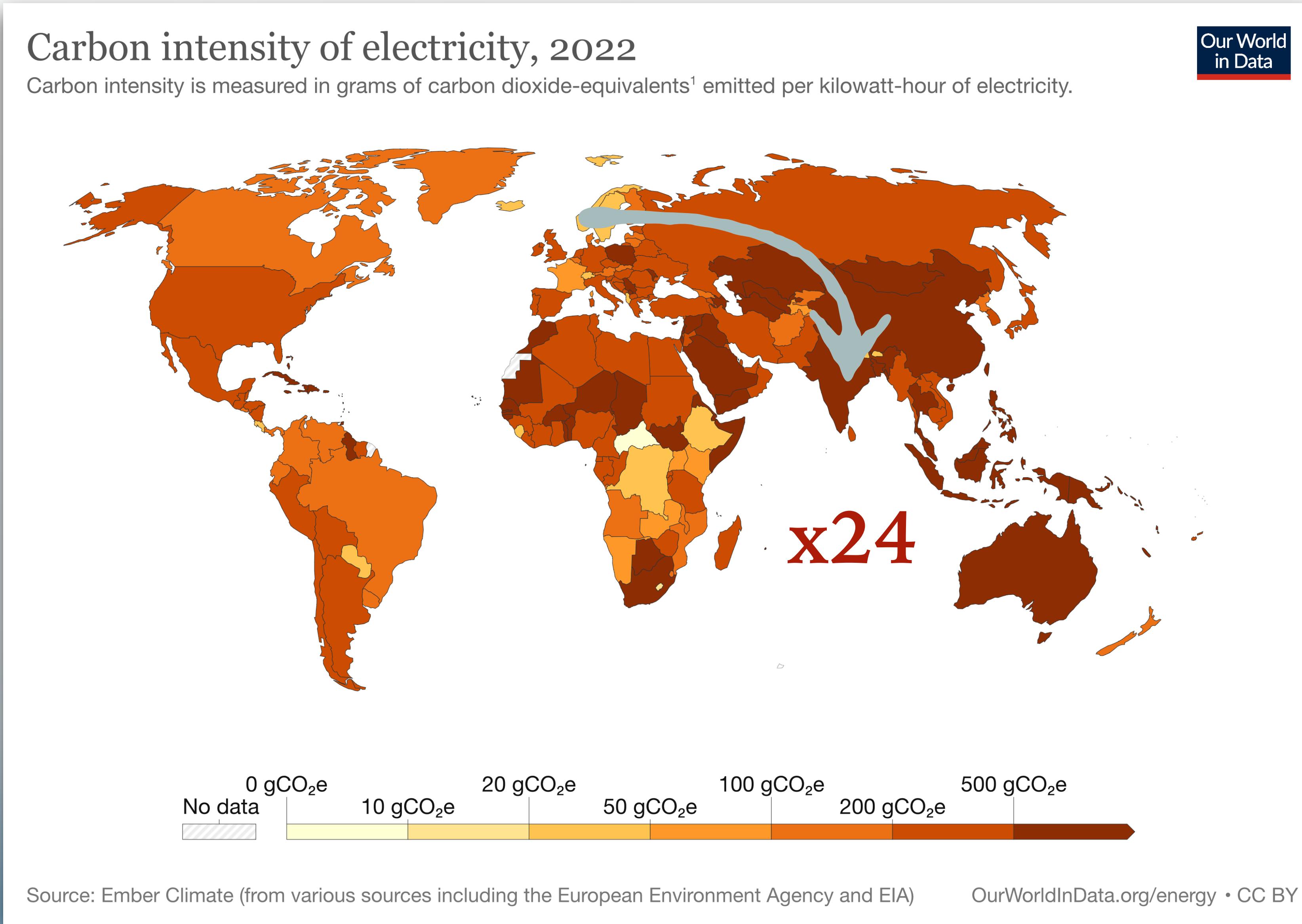
Loïc Lannelongue, Jason Grealey, Michael Inouye

First published: 02 May 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/advs.202100707>

# THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF COMPUTATION: CARBON INTENSITY

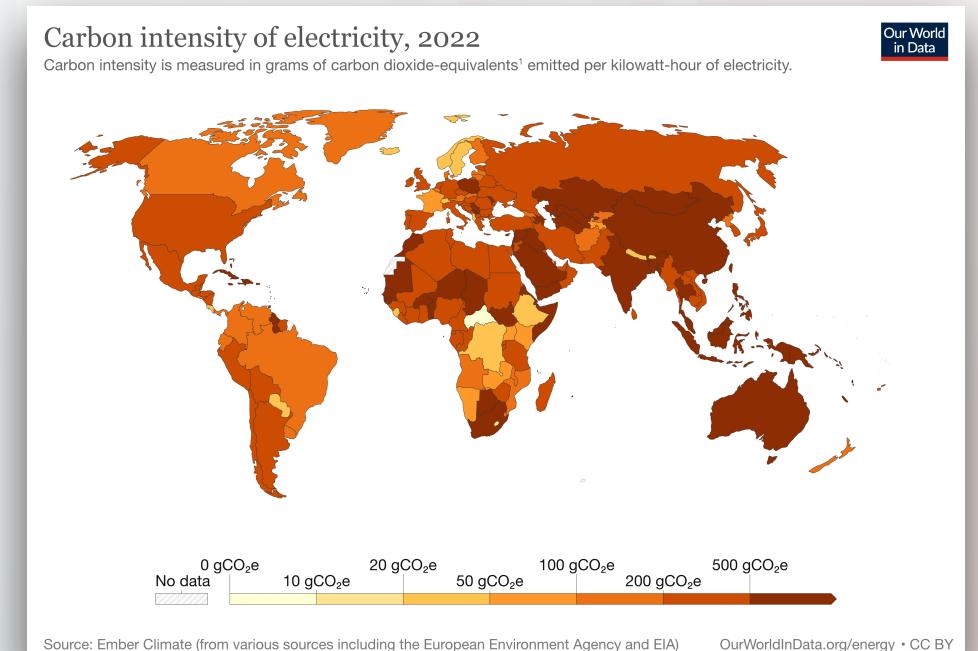
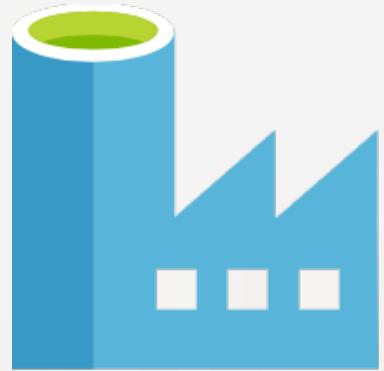
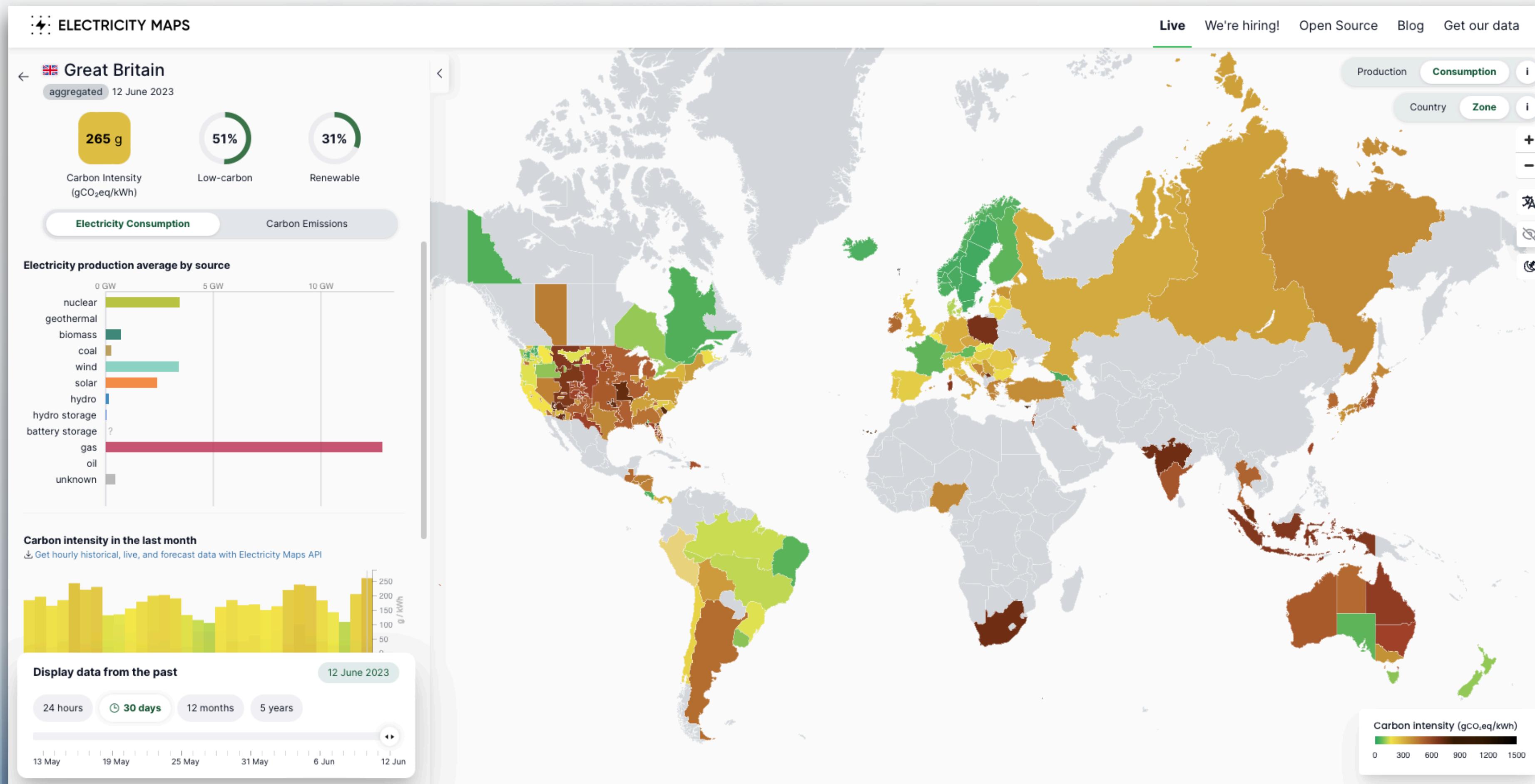


# THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF COMPUTATION: CARBON INTENSITY



# THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF COMPUTATION: CARBON INTENSITY

[www.electricitymap.org](http://www.electricitymap.org)

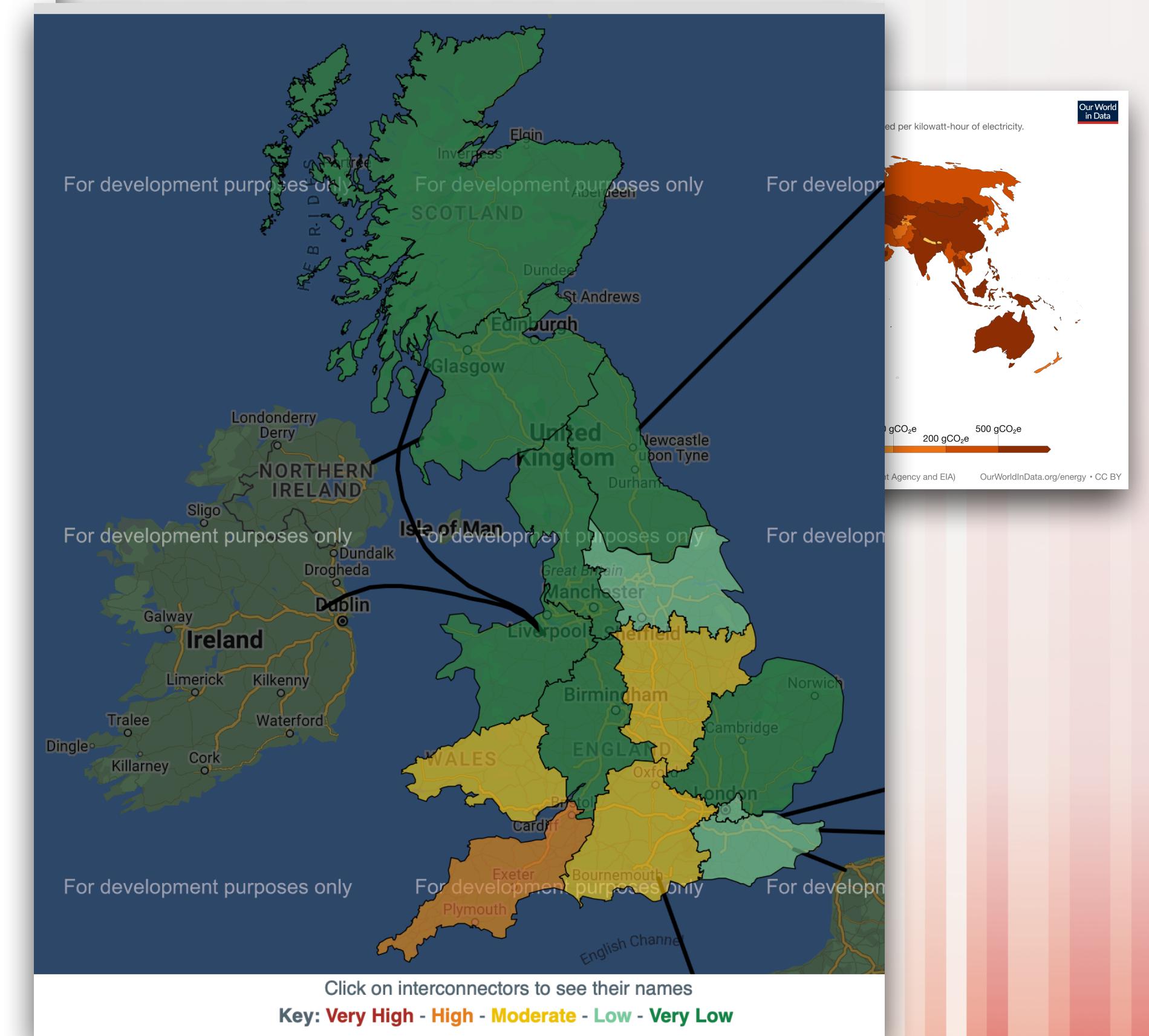


# THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF COMPUTATION: CARBON INTENSITY

<https://carbonintensity.org.uk/>



About National Regional new Methodology Docs Terms Contact Dark mode beta



BUT....

---

It doesn't mean we should stop doing science

Synergies exist

# GREENER PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE

nature computational science

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nature > nature computational science > perspectives > article

Perspective | Published: 26 June 2023

## GREENER principles for environmentally sustainable computational science

Loïc Lannelongue , Hans-Erik G. Aronson, Alex Bateman, Ewan Birney, Talia Caplan, Martin Juckes, Johanna McEntyre, Andrew D. Morris, Gerry Reilly & Michael Inouye

*Nature Computational Science* 3, 514–521 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

515 Accesses | 69 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

### Abstract

The carbon footprint of scientific computing is substantial, but environmentally sustainable computational science (ESCS) is a nascent field with many opportunities to thrive. To realize the immense green opportunities and continued, yet sustainable, growth of computer science, we must take a coordinated approach to our current challenges, including greater awareness and transparency, improved estimation and wider reporting of environmental impacts. Here, we present a snapshot of where ESCS stands today and introduce the GREENER set of principles, as well as guidance for best practices moving forward.

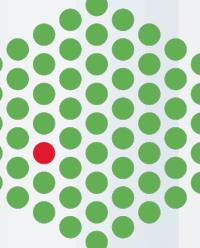
## Collaboration with UK stakeholders



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE  
Department of Public Health  
and Primary Care



UK Research  
and Innovation

EMBL-EBI 

**HDRUK**  
Health Data Research UK

**W**  
wellcome

DARE UK

# GREENER PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE

## Governance

All actors in computational research have a key role to play and can lead the efforts towards sustainable computing.

## Responsibility

Embracing both individual and institutional responsibility regarding the environmental impacts of research. This involves being transparent about these and initiating bold initiatives to reduce them.

## Estimation

Monitoring environmental impacts to identify inefficiencies and opportunities for improvement.

## Energy and embodied impacts

Minimising energy needs of computations and favouring low-carbon energy sources, while also considering the broader environmental impacts (e.g. water usage, mining of raw materials etc.).

## New collaborations

Cooperating to leverage low-carbon infrastructures, facilitate equitable access to low-carbon computation and limit wasted resources.

## Education

Training all stakeholders to be aware of the sustainability challenges of HPC and to be equipped with the skills to tackle them.

## Research

Dedicate research efforts to green computing to improve our understanding of power usage, support sustainable software engineering and enable energy-efficient research.

**Cultural change:**  
make environmental sustainability a core element of research

# FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

*Estimating and reporting the carbon footprint of algorithms*

# ESTIMATING CARBON FOOTPRINTS IN PRACTICE

**nature reviews methods primers**

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Comment | [Published: 16 February 2023](#)

## Carbon footprint estimation for computational research

[Loïc Lannelongue](#)  & [Michael Inouye](#)

[Nature Reviews Methods Primers](#) 3, Article number: 9 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

187 Accesses | 23 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

**Data analysis relies heavily on computation, and algorithms have grown more demanding in terms of hardware and energy. Monitoring their environmental impacts is and will continue to be an essential part of sustainable research. Here, we provide guidance on how to do so accurately and with limited overheads.**



*Michael Inouye*

# EXISTING TOOLS

---

## carbontracker

pypi v1.1.6   python 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.10   build passing   License MIT

### About

carbontracker is a tool for tracking and predicting the energy consumption and carbon footprint of training deep learning models as described in [Anthony et al. \(2020\)](#).



### What it is



A lightweight and easy-to-use Python pip package



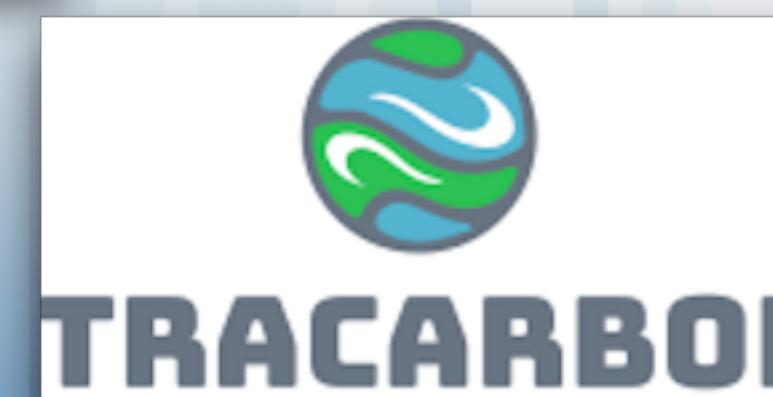
Emissions tracked based on your power consumption & location-dependent carbon intensity



### Cloud Carbon Footprint

#### Cloud Carbon Emissions Measurement and Analysis Tool

Understand how your cloud usage impacts our environment and what you can do about it



CUMULATOR — a tool to quantify and report the carbon footprint of machine learning computations and communication in academia and healthcare

👤 Trébaol, Tristan

📅 2020

# Green Algorithms

How green are your computations?

## Details about your algorithm

To understand how each parameter impacts your carbon footprint, check out the formula below and the [methods article](#).

Runtime (HH:MM)

Type of cores

CPUs

Number of cores

Model

GPUs

Number of GPUs

Model

Memory available  
(in GB)

Select the platform used for the computations

Select location

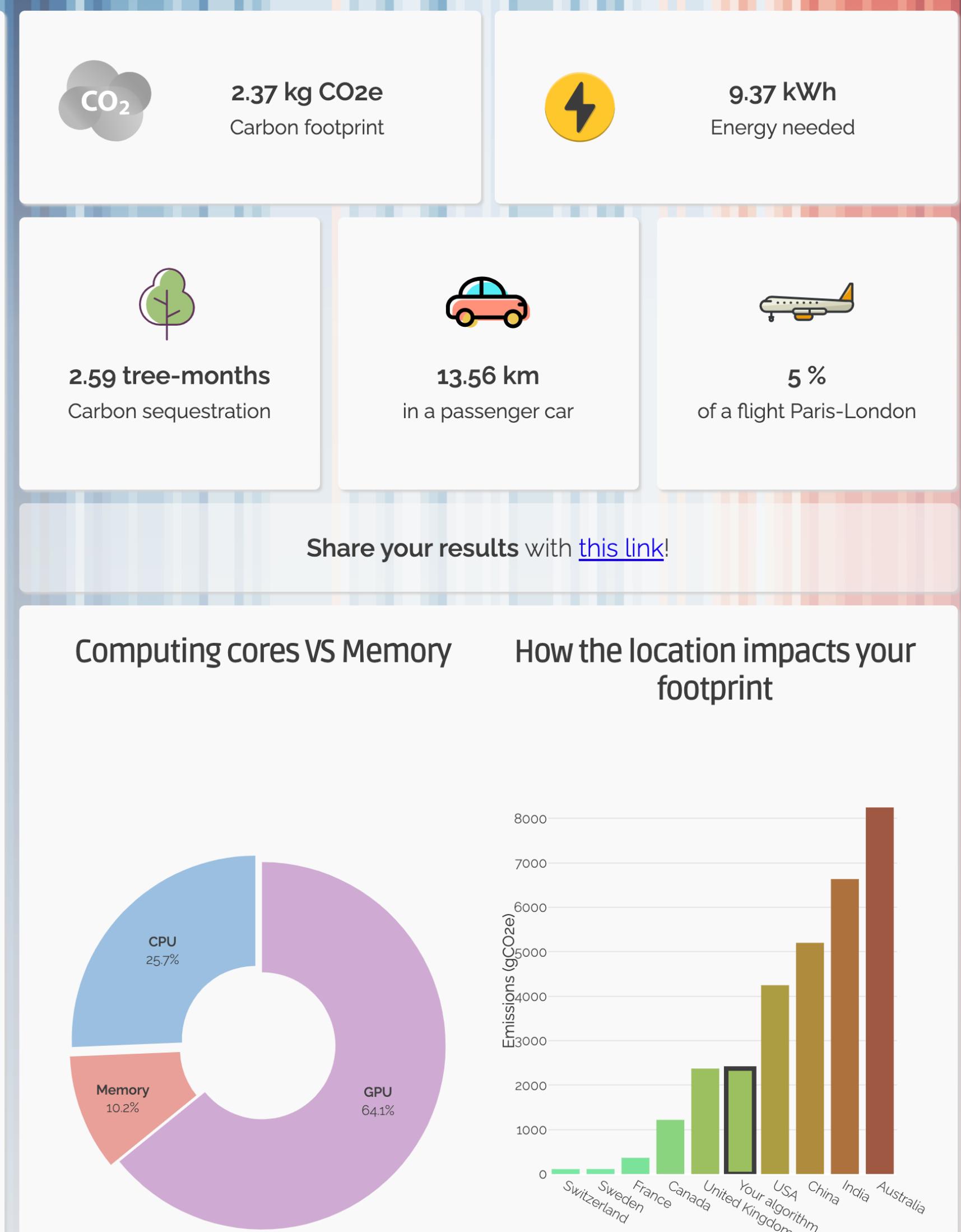
Do you know the real usage factor of your CPU?

Yes     No

Do you know the real usage factor of your GPU?

Yes     No

Do you know the Power Usage Efficiency (PUE) of your local data centre?



# ADVANCED SCIENCE

Open Access

Research Article | Open Access |

## Green Algorithms: Quantifying the Carbon Footprint of Computation

Loïc Lannelongue , Jason Grealey, Michael Inouye

First published: 02 May 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/advs.202100707>

# THE GREEN ALGORITHMS CALCULATOR

[calculator.green-algorithms.org](http://calculator.green-algorithms.org)



Jason Grealey



Michael Inouye

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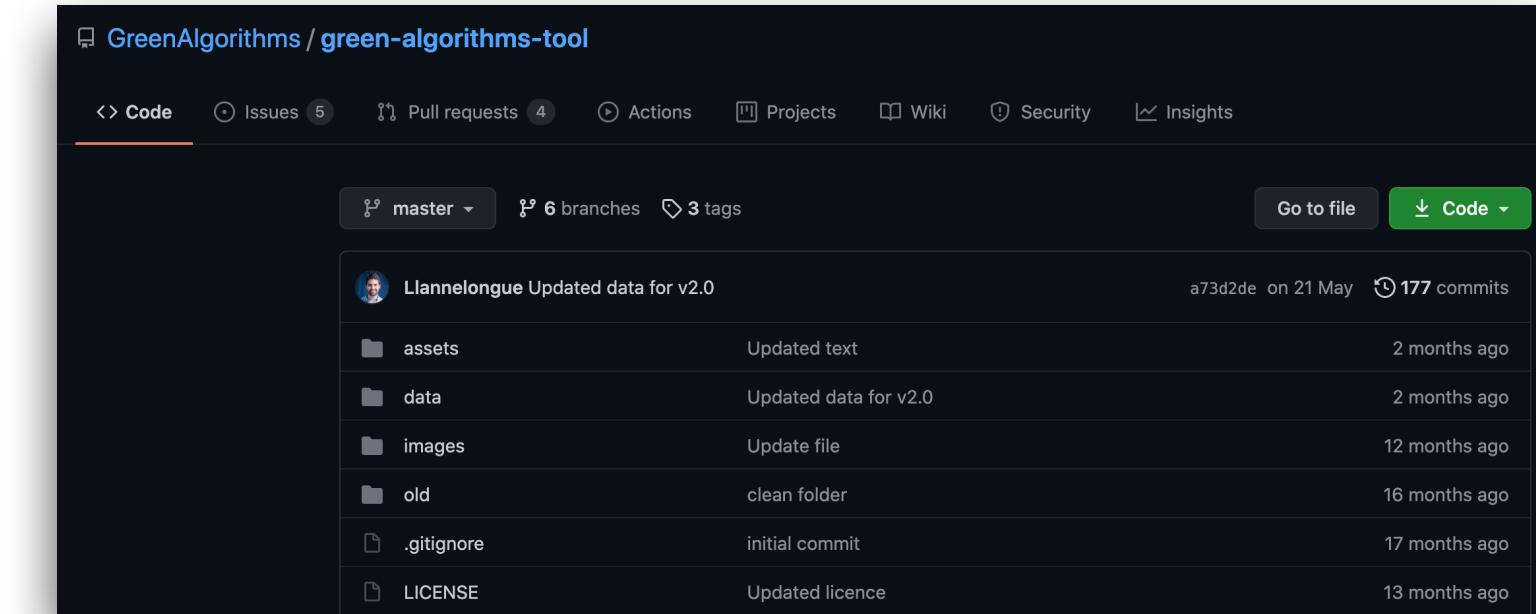
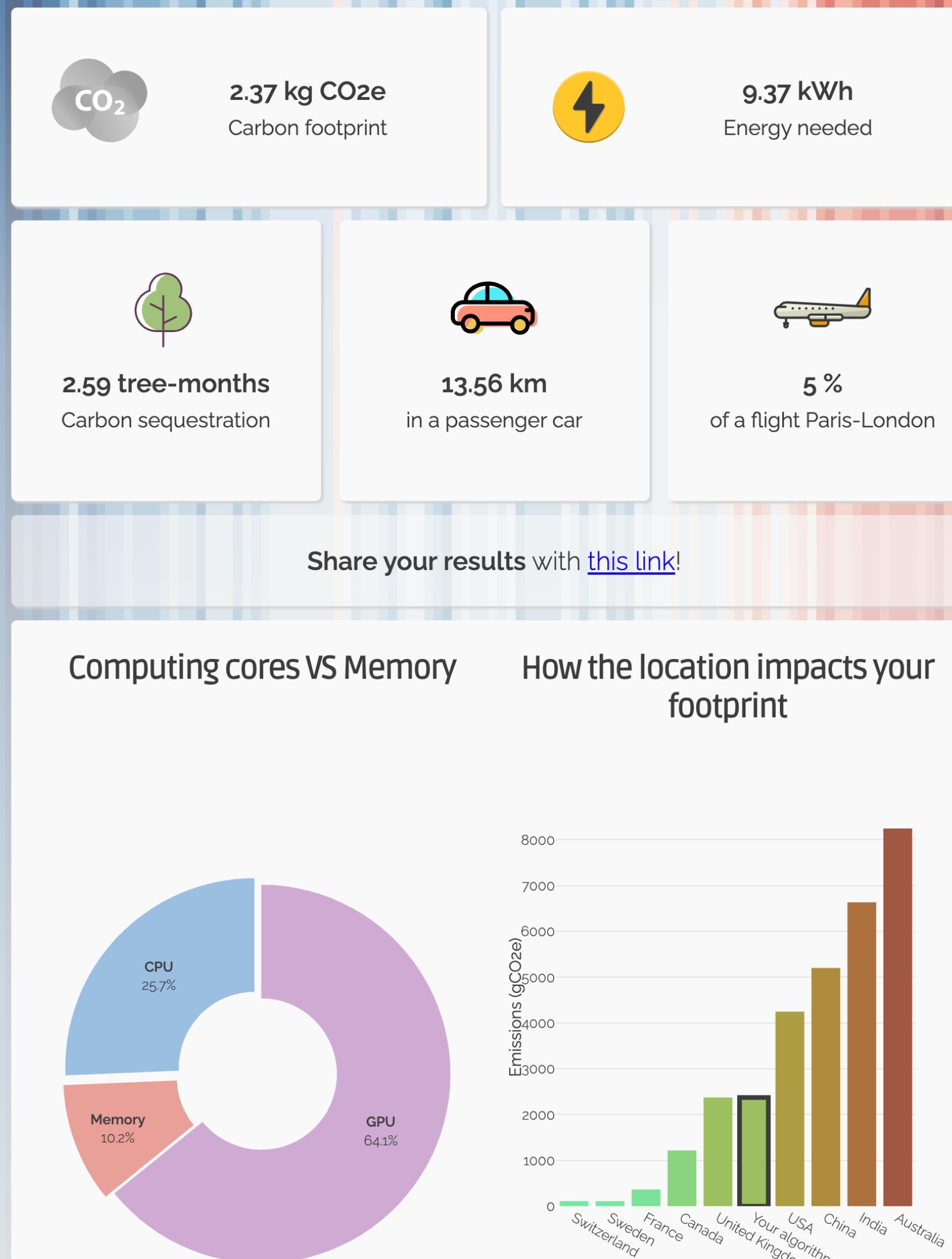
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Select location

Do you know the real usage factor of your CPU?  
 Yes  No

Do you know the real usage factor of your GPU?  
 Yes  No

Do you know the Power Usage Efficiency (PUE) of your local data centre?



<https://github.com/GreenAlgorithms/green-algorithms-tool>

# THE GREEN ALGORITHMS CALCULATOR

[calculator.green-algorithms.org](http://calculator.green-algorithms.org)



Jason Grealey



Michael Inouye

# GREEN ALGORITHMS 4 HPC

---

```
[ GreenAlgorithms4HPC]$ myCarbonFootprint.sh --STARTDAY 2020-01-01 --ENDDAY 2020-06-01
```

# GREEN ALGORITHMS 4 HPC

---

```
GreenAlgorithms4HPC]$ myCarbonFootprint.sh --STARTDAY 2020-01-01 --ENDDAY 2020-06-01
```

```
#####
# Your carbon footprint on CSD3 #
# (2021-01-01 / 2021-12-31) #
#####

-----| 222 kgCO2e |-----

...This is equivalent to:
- 20 tree-years
- driving 1,268 km
- 4.44 flights between Paris and London

...26.0% of your jobs failed, which represents a waste of 51 kgCO2e (55.26 tree-months).
...On average, you request at least 1.0 times the memory you need. By only requesting the memory you needed, you could have saved 0 gCO2e (0.00 tree-months).

Energy used: 960.17 kWh
- CPUs: 88.91 kWh (9%)
- GPUs: 713.81 kWh (74%)
- Memory: 32.22 kWh (3%)
- Data centre overheads: 125.24 kWh (13%)
Carbon intensity used for the calculations: 231.12 gCO2e/kWh

Summary of your usage:
- First/last job recorded on that period: 2021-01-01/2021-12-08
- Number of jobs: 1,490 (1,102 completed)
- Core hours used/charged: 1,302.1 (CPU), 2,852.0 (GPU), 4,154.1 (total).
- Total usage time (i.e. when cores were performing computations):
  - CPU: 430 days 03:58:39
  - GPU: 118 days 20:01:30
- Total wallclock time: 132 days 10:49:44
- Total memory requested: 40,981 GB

Limitations to keep in mind:
- The workload manager doesn't always log the exact CPU usage time, and when this information is missing, we assume that all cores are used at 100%.
- For now, we assume that GPU jobs only use 1 GPU and the GPU is used at 100% (as the information needed for more accurate measurement is not available)
  (both of these may lead to slightly overestimated carbon footprints, although the order of magnitude is likely to be correct)
- Conversely, the wasted energy due to memory overallocation may be largely underestimated, as the information needed is not always logged.

Any bugs, questions, suggestions? Email LL582@medschl.cam.ac.uk
-----
Calculated using the Green Algorithms framework: www.green-algorithms.org
Please cite https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/advs.202100707
```

# GREEN ALGORITHMS 4 HPC

```
[ GreenAlgorithms4HPC]$ myCarbonFootprint.sh --STARTDAY 2020-01-01 --ENDDAY 2020-06-01
```

GreenAlgorithms / GreenAlgorithms4HPC Public

Code Issues 1 Pull requests Actions Projects Wiki Security Insights Settings

main · 1 branch · 4 tags

Llanelongue minor edit · a5e35a6 17 days ago · 52 commits

example\_files · Fix example files · 17 days ago

.gitignore · Calculate core hours charged (mainly for sanity checks) · 6 months ago

GreenAlgorithms\_global.py · minor edit · 17 days ago

GreenAlgorithms\_workloadManage... · Add --useCustomLogs option (formerly --useLoggedOutput) and op... · 17 days ago

Let us know  
if you try it!

<https://github.com/GreenAlgorithms/GreenAlgorithms4HPC>

```
#####
# Your carbon footprint on CSD3 #
# (2021-01-01 / 2021-12-31) #
#####
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```

# IT ENABLES DEEP DIVES INTO PARTICULAR FIELDS

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

**Smbe**  
Society for Molecular Biology & Evolution

Article Navigation

## The Carbon Footprint of Bioinformatics

Jason Grealey , Loïc Lannelongue, Woei-Yuh Saw, Jonathan Marten, Guillaume Méric, Sergio Ruiz-Carmona, Michael Inouye  Author Notes

*Molecular Biology and Evolution*, Volume 39, Issue 3, March 2022, msac034, <https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/msac034>

**Published:** 10 February 2022



Jason  
Grealey



Woei Yuh  
Saw



Jonathan  
Marten



Sergio  
Ruiz-Carmona



Guillaume  
Méric



Michael  
Inouye

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

**Smbe**  
Society for Molecular Biology & Evolution

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Article Navigation

## Embracing Green Computing in Molecular Phylogenetics

Sudhir Kumar 

*Molecular Biology and Evolution*, Volume 39, Issue 3, March 2022, msac043, <https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/msac043>

**Published:** 04 March 2022

# IT ENABLES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

GOUVERNEMENT  
Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité

Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des territoires  
Ministère de la Transition énergétique

f t y in i

FRANCE NATION VERTE  
Agir · Mobiliser · Accélérer

Actualités Politiques publiques Démarches Ministères

Accueil → Rendez-vous → Appel à projets Démonstrateurs d'IA pour les transitions écologique et énergétique → Appel à projets Démonstrateurs d'intelligence artificielle

Du 13 juillet au 07 novembre 2022

Appel à projets Démonstrateurs d'IA pour les transitions écologique et énergétique

Elle appuie l'appel à projet « démonstrateurs d'IA frugale dans les territoires pour la transition écologique », doté de 40 millions d'euros sur cinq ans, dans le cadre de la seconde phase de la stratégie nationale pour l'intelligence artificielle (SNIA).

- Estimer la consommation énergétique des services ou des produits numériques développés dans le cadre du projet (algorithmes et composants) exprimée de façon crédible et mesurable. Le porteur de projet s'appuiera sur l'outil en ligne et gratuit ci-dessous. Son code est ouvert et sa méthodologie est considérée comme robuste vis-à-vis de la littérature existante<sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup>. Il s'agit de ***Green Algorithms (GT)***, Lannelongue et al, <https://www.green-algorithms.org/>

# COMING NEXT: GA4HPC DASHBOARD

---

Institutional dashboard to **monitor computing carbon footprint**  
across research groups, units and departments

# COMING NEXT: GA4HPC DASHBOARD

Concept pioneered by EMBL-EBI  
(and others!)

## EMBL-EBI – Carbon footprint

Last updated: Thursday, 22 Jun 2023, 18:00

Introduction  
Activity  
Groups  
Memory  
CPU  
Runtime  
Status  
Details  
Activity  
Memory  
Status  
Groups  
Reports  
Contact  
FAQ

Computing is a major contributor to energy consumption, and thus is one of the main sources of carbon emission. In the context of the global climate crisis, it is imperative that individuals and organizations find ways to assess then reduce the carbon footprint of their work.

This page aims to represent the carbon footprint that we are, collectively and individually, responsible for at EMBL-EBI. LSF jobs submitted to the Codon High Performance Cluster were monitored, information such as resource requested, run time, memory efficiency, etc. were collected, and the carbon footprint was calculated using the formula proposed by [Green Algorithms](#) and the following assumptions:

CPU	Intel Xeon Gold 6252, 6.3 W/core
GPU	NVIDIA Tesla V100, 300 W/core
Memory power	0.3725 W/GB
Power usage effectiveness	1.2 ( <a href="https://kaodata.com/sustainability">https://kaodata.com/sustainability</a> )
Carbon intensity	231.12 gCO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh
Energy cost	£0.34/kWh

We built this tool in the hope to raise awareness of computing usage, highlight resources waste, and foster good computing practices. This is intended to be a lightweight carbon footprint calculator, not a cluster monitoring system.

### Activity

Overall activity over the past 14 days.



CPU time



Carbon footprint



London - Tokyo

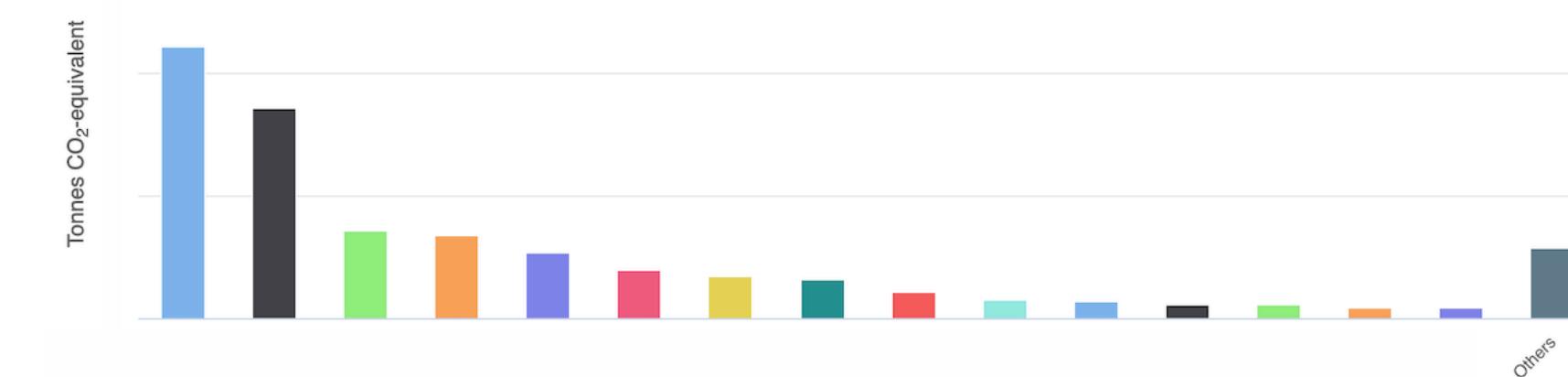


Carbon sequestration

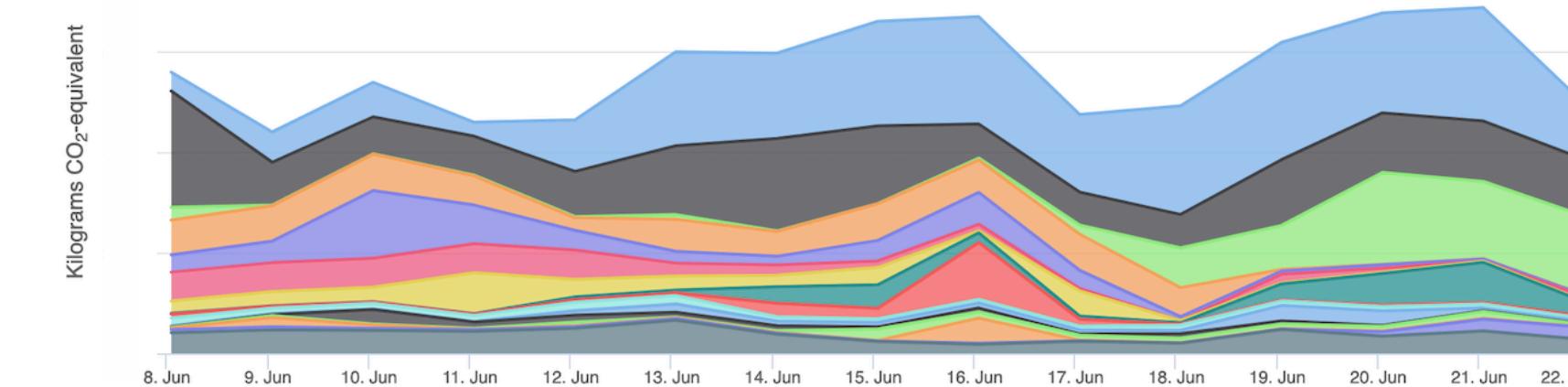
### Research & service groups

Carbon footprint of research and service groups in the past 14 days.

Main contributors to EMBL-EBI's carbon footprint



### Daily carbon footprint



Matthias Blum

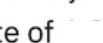


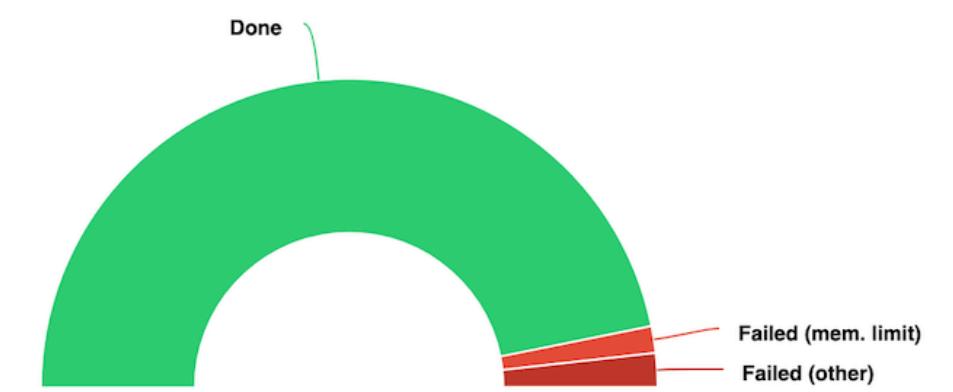
Alex Bateman

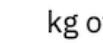
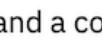
# COMING NEXT: GA4HPC DASHBOARD

Concept pioneered by EMBL-EBI  
(and others!)

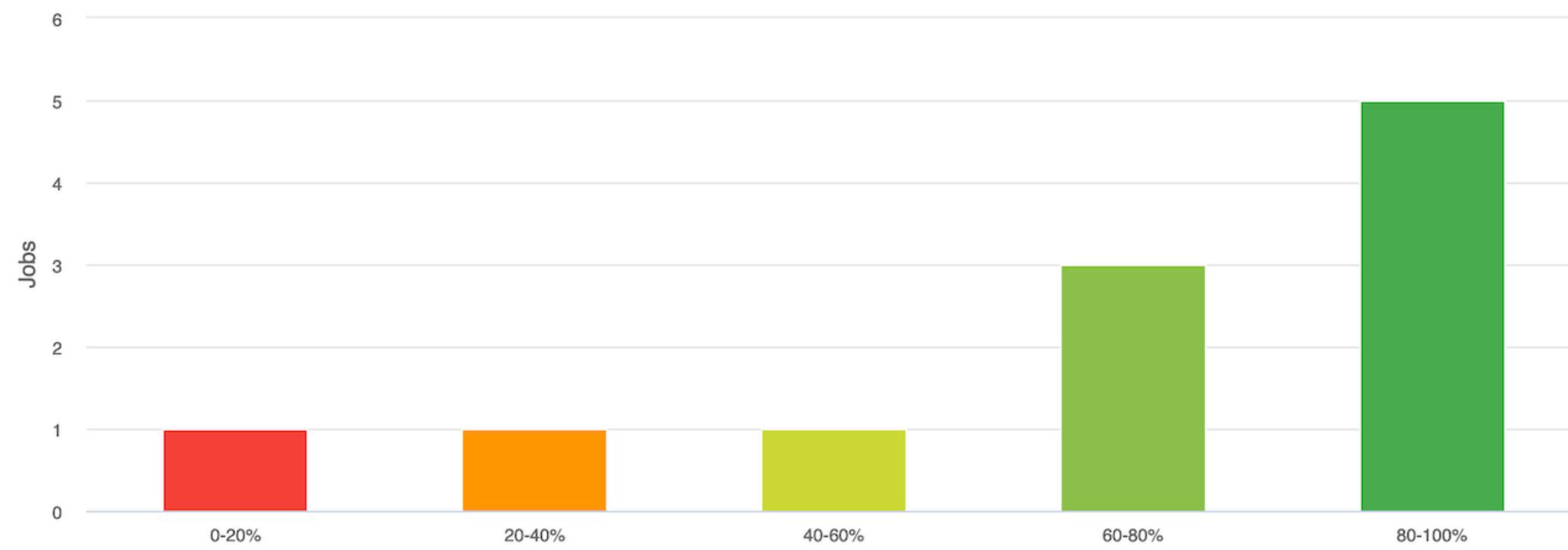
## Status

Because any resource spent on a job is wasted if the job fails, it is important to test scripts and pipelines on small datasets. The chart below shows the success rate of  jobs that completed in the past 14 days.



Failed jobs represent  kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e and a cost of  . They are responsible for 24.1% of the overall carbon footprint. 6.1% of failed jobs ran for at least an hour before failing, and are responsible for 23.0% of the overall carbon footprint.

Memory efficiency of recent successful jobs



Matthias Blum



Alex Bateman

# GREEN ALGORITHMS 4 HPC: THE DASHBOARD

Next step: an **open source**, **easy to deploy**, **reliable** and **transparent** SLURM-based dashboard implementing GA4HPC in computing facilities



Matthias Blum

 **Green Algorithms dashboard**  
Your organisation

Last updated: Monday 17 Jul 2023, 10:44

**Introduction** **Activity** **All departments** **Groups (DPHPC)** **Users (Inouye)** **Credits** **Contact** **FAQ**

**Computing is a major contributor to energy consumption, and thus is one of the main sources of the carbon emission of our research. In the context of the global climate crisis, it is imperative that individuals and organizations find ways to assess then reduce the carbon footprint of their work.**

This page aims to represent the carbon footprint that we are, collectively and individually, responsible for. SLURM jobs submitted to the High Performance Cluster are logged automatically (including information such as resource requested, run time, memory efficiency, etc.), and the corresponding carbon footprint was calculated using the framework proposed by [Green Algorithms](#) and the following assumptions:

<b>CPU</b>	5.9 - 9.4 W/core (see <a href="#">here</a> for models)
<b>GPU</b>	NVIDIA A100 (300 W) and NVIDIA Tesla P100 (250 W)
<b>Memory power</b>	0.3725 W/GB
<b>Power usage effectiveness</b>	1.15
<b>Carbon intensity</b>	231.12 gCO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh
<b>Energy cost</b>	£0.34/kWh

We built this tool in the hope to raise awareness of computing usage, highlight resources waste, and foster good computing practices. This is intended to be a lightweight carbon footprint calculator, not a cluster monitoring system.

**Activity**  
Overall activity between 2023-06-15 and 2023-06-16.

 CPU time <b>236.4 days</b>	 Carbon footprint <b>23 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e</b>	 Paris - London <b>0.5 flight</b>	 Carbon sequestration <b>2.1 tree-years</b>
---	--	---	---

SLURM does not track activity on the login nodes, so the number above only measure the impact of compute nodes.

*Interested in piloting it  
in your organisation?  
Let's chat!*



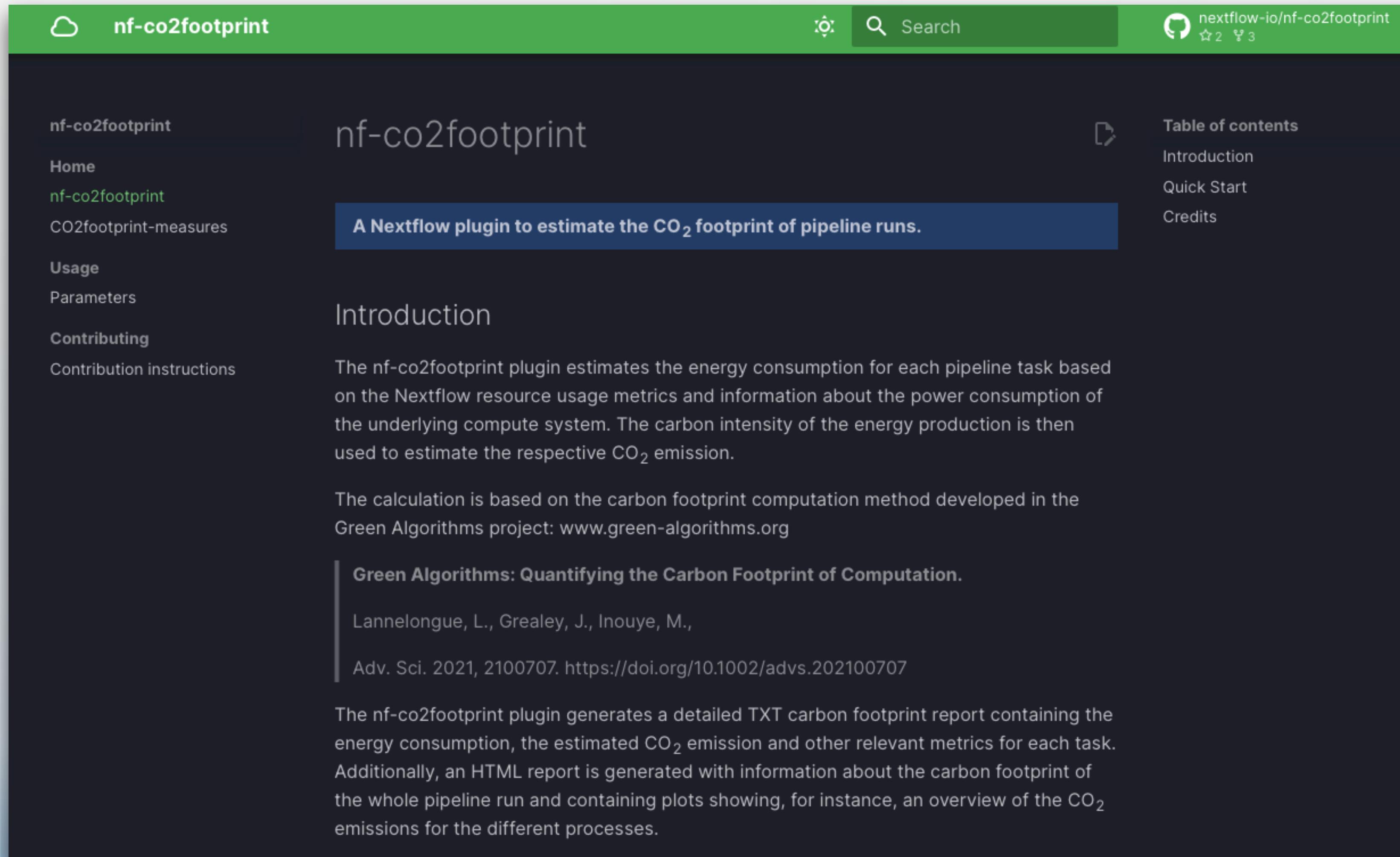
Alex Bateman

*Already have  
such a dashboard?  
Let's chat!*



Michael Inouye

# COMING NEXT (PART 2): NEXTFLOW PLUGIN



The screenshot shows the documentation for the `nf-co2footprint` Nextflow plugin. The top navigation bar includes a cloud icon, the project name `nf-co2footprint`, a search bar, and a GitHub icon with the repository name `nextflow-io/nf-co2footprint` and metrics (2 stars, 3 forks). The main content area has a dark background with white text. On the left, a sidebar lists links: Home, `nf-co2footprint`, `CO2footprint-measures`, Usage, Parameters, Contributing, and Contribution instructions. The main title `nf-co2footprint` is centered above a blue banner that reads "A Nextflow plugin to estimate the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint of pipeline runs.". To the right of the banner is a "Table of contents" section with links to Introduction, Quick Start, and Credits. Below the banner, the **Introduction** section explains the plugin's purpose: estimating energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions based on Nextflow resource usage and power consumption of the underlying system. It cites a reference from "Green Algorithms: Quantifying the Carbon Footprint of Computation" by Lannelongue et al. (Adv. Sci. 2021, 2100707). The bottom section describes the plugin's output: a detailed TXT report and an HTML report with carbon footprint plots.



Sabrina Krakau



Júlia Mir Pedrol



Phil Ewels

# A DETAILED GUIDE FOR DEEP LEARNING

---

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH  
COMMUNICATIONS



*Lucia Souza*

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT • OPEN ACCESS

## How to estimate carbon footprint when training deep learning models? A guide and review

Lucia Bouza Heguerte<sup>1</sup>, Aurélie Bugeau<sup>2</sup>  and Loïc Lannelongue<sup>3</sup>

Accepted Manuscript online 8 September 2023 • © 2023 The Author(s). Published by IOP Publishing Ltd



*Aurélie Bureau*

# TRANSPARENCY, FROM ALL OF US

---

Hardware manufacturers

Cloud providers

Institutions

Data centres

Scientists

# TRANSPARENCY, FROM ALL OF US

---

## Carbon impact and offsetting

We used GreenAlgorithms v.1.0 (ref. [121](#)) to estimate that the main computational work in this study had a carbon impact of at least 2,660 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>e), corresponding to 233 tree-years. As a commitment to the reduction of carbon emissions associated with computation in research, we consequently funded planting of 30 trees through a local Australian charity, which across their lifetime will sequester a combined estimated 8,040 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e, or three times the amount of CO<sub>2</sub>e generated by this study.

*Youwen Qin et al., Combined effects of host genetics and diet on human gut microbiota and incident disease in a single population cohort, Nature Genetics, 2022*

## Carbon impact and offsetting

We used GreenAlgorithms v.1.0 (ref. [84](#)) to estimate that the main computational work in this study had a carbon impact of at least 1,004 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>e), corresponding to 94 tree-years. As a commitment to the reduction of carbon emissions associated with computation in research, we consequently funded the planting of 45 trees through a local Australian charity, which across their lifetime will sequester a combined estimated 12,000 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e, or 12 times the amount of CO<sub>2</sub>e generated by this study.

*Yu Xu et al., An atlas of genetic scores to predict multi-omic traits, Nature, 2023*

## Carbon footprint of this project

We did our best to minimise greenhouse gas emissions related to this project and, using the Green Algorithms calculator (v2.1) [35], we estimated that the carbon footprint of this project was 51 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e, which corresponds to 4.7 tree-years.

*Lannelongue & Inouye, Inference mechanisms and prediction of protein-protein interactions, bioRxiv, 2022*

# TRANSPARENCY, FROM ALL OF US

Research | Open Access | Published: 19 August 2022

## A comprehensive evaluation of microbial differential abundance analysis methods: current status and potential solutions

Lu Yang & Jun Chen 

*Microbiome* 10, Article number: 130 (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

others (146.1s vs 1.2–57.8 s). For large sample sizes, ZicoSeq can complete the analysis at an average of 5 and 25 min for  $n = 1000$  and 5000, respectively (Fig. S22). Based on the Green Algorithms (green-algorithms.org v2.1 [62]) and the geographic location of Minnesota, USA, ZicoSeq has a carbon footprint of 0.06 g CO<sub>2</sub>e, 0.59 g CO<sub>2</sub>e, and 3.16 g CO<sub>2</sub>e for  $n = 100$ , 1000, and 5000, respectively.

## Equivariant and Modular DeepSets with Applications in Cluster Cosmology

Leander Thiele\*  
Department of Physics  
Princeton University  
Princeton, NJ 08544

Miles Cranmer  
Department of Astrophysical Sciences  
Princeton University  
Princeton, NJ 08544

William Coulton, Shirley Ho, David N. Spergel  
Center for Computational Astrophysics

<sup>6</sup>Total compute cost is 13.4 (Tesla P100+9CPU) khr (1.09t CO<sub>2</sub>e [24]) with a PyTorch [27] implementation.

tel-03726667, version 1

Theses

en  
fr

## The vehicle routing problem for flash floods relief operations

Florent Dubois <sup>1,2</sup> [Details](#)

<sup>1</sup> IRIT-SEPIA - Système d'exploitation, systèmes répartis, de l'intericiel à l'architecture

IRIT - Institut de recherche en informatique de Toulouse

<sup>2</sup> UT3 - Université Toulouse III - Paul Sabatier

To conclude on the ethical aspect of my research, the carbon footprint of my thesis has been evaluated. It has been calculated using green-algorithms.org v2.0 [59]. The calculation considers the large-scale experimentation conducted on the platform Grid5000 located in France. Experimentation took a total of

576 hours of computations on 16 CPUs Xeon E5-2660 v3 and has drawn 207.47 kWh. It represents a carbon footprint of 8.08kg CO<sub>2</sub>e.



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## Efficient computation of Faith's phylogenetic diversity with applications in characterizing microbiomes

George Armstrong <sup>1,2,3</sup>, Kalen Cantrell <sup>2</sup>, Shi Huang <sup>1,2</sup>, Daniel McDonald <sup>1</sup>,

Niina Haiminen <sup>4</sup>, Anna

Imran McGrath <sup>2,8</sup>, Kris

Guillaume Méric <sup>12,13</sup>,

Mohit Jain <sup>2,17,18</sup>, Michael

Laxmi Parida <sup>4</sup>, Yoshiki

0.5 GB of memory. Additionally, using Green Algorithms (Lannelongue et al. 2021), we estimated the carbon footprint of the scikit-bio reference implementation on the 20,000 sample table to be 12.84 g CO<sub>2</sub>e, whereas we estimated the carbon footprint of SFPhD would be 0.04 g CO<sub>2</sub>e in the United States, which is a 321-fold reduction in impact on global warming.

# **FROM ACKNOWLEDGING TO REDUCING IMPACTS**

*Tackling Energy and embodied impact through New Collaborations*

# WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?

*Keep, Repair, Reuse*

*Promote efficient  
data centres*

*Estimate and report  
your own footprint  
for your projects*

*Carefully choose your  
computing facility*

*...and include it in  
your cost-benefit  
analysis*

*Optimise (or use optimised) code*

## PLOS COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

OPEN ACCESS

EDITORIAL

### Ten simple rules to make your computing more environmentally sustainable

Loïc Lannelongue, Jason Grealey, Alex Bateman , Michael Inouye

Published: September 20, 2021 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1009324>



Jason Grealey



Alex Bateman



Michael Inouye

# A SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD FOR DRY LAB

---

*Pilot phase underway*

*Coming soon*

Want to be kept updated? Email me! [LL582@medschl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:LL582@medschl.cam.ac.uk)

# FIELD-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE: NEUROSCIENCE

Ten recommendations for reducing the carbon footprint of research computing in human neuroimaging

AUTHORS

Nicholas Edward Souter, Loic Lannelongue, Gabby Samuel, Chris Racey, Lincoln Colling, Nikhil Bhagwat, Raghavendra Selvan, Charlotte Rae



Nick Souter



Charlotte Rae

**Suggested Action:** Regularly remove files that you do not need.

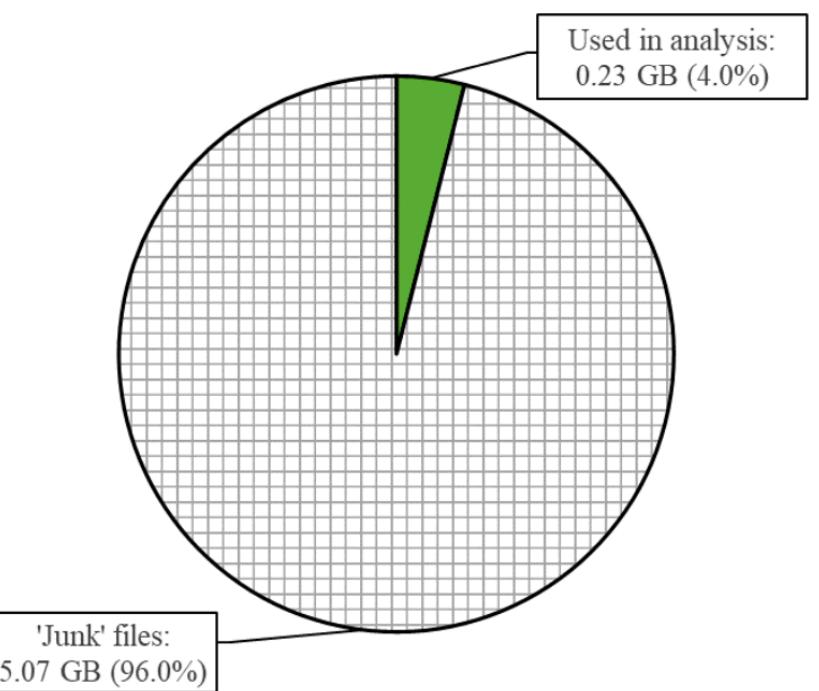


Figure 3. The mean percentage of total data generated by fMRIprep that is actively used in data analysis (solid green) versus files that can be safely deleted after the completion of

## Box 1. Summary of ten recommendations for reducing the carbon footprint of neuroimaging computing

1. *Make use of existing preprocessed data when possible, instead of acquiring and processing new data*
2. *Preregister a study analysis plan in order to avoid repetitions*
3. *Quantify and report the carbon footprint of your computing using available carbon tracking tools*
4. *Only run the preprocessing and analysis steps that you need*
5. *Run your computing at lower carbon intensity times and in lower carbon intensity locations*
6. *Regularly remove files that you do not need*
7. *Plan where, and for how long, you will store files, aided by research technicians*
8. *Advocate for non-commercial and centralised data storage solutions*
9. *Publicly share sufficient data to ensure it is FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable), but consider the extent of what others will actually need or use*
10. *Discuss the importance of greener computing with other neuroimagers and advocate for systemic change*

# MINIMISING CARBON INTENSITY THROUGH SMART SCHEDULING

## CATS

**Climate-Aware Task Scheduler**

CATS is a Climate-Aware Task Scheduler. It schedules cluster jobs to minimize predicted carbon intensity of running the process. It was created as part of the [2023 Collaborations Workshop](#).

Currently CATS only works in the UK, if you are aware of APIs for realtime grid carbon intensity data in other countries please open an issue and let us know.



# **MOVING FORWARD: EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

# MAKING SUSTAINABILITY PART OF SCIENTIFIC TRAINING



**ISMB 2022**  
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[HOME - ISMB 2022](#)

WEB2022: Reduce your impact - become more green!



RECORDED WEBINAR

## The environmental impact of computational biology

[Watch video](#)

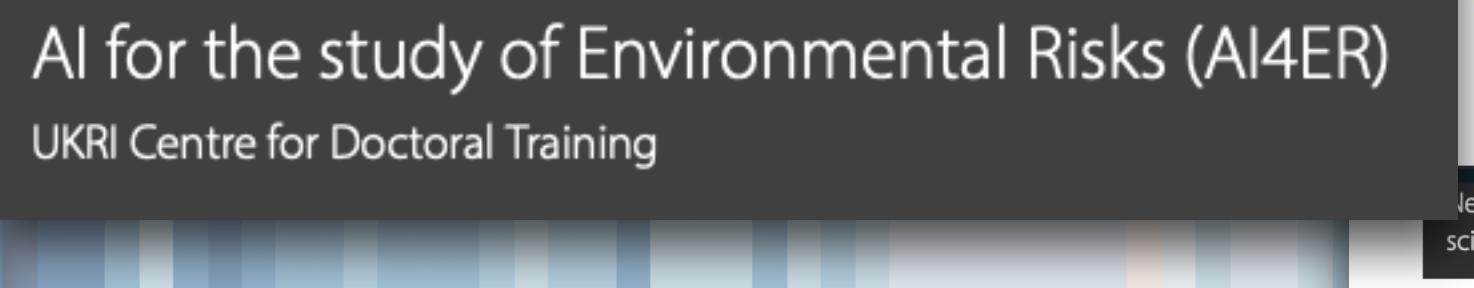
Duration: 00:56:17



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

DIS  
CDT

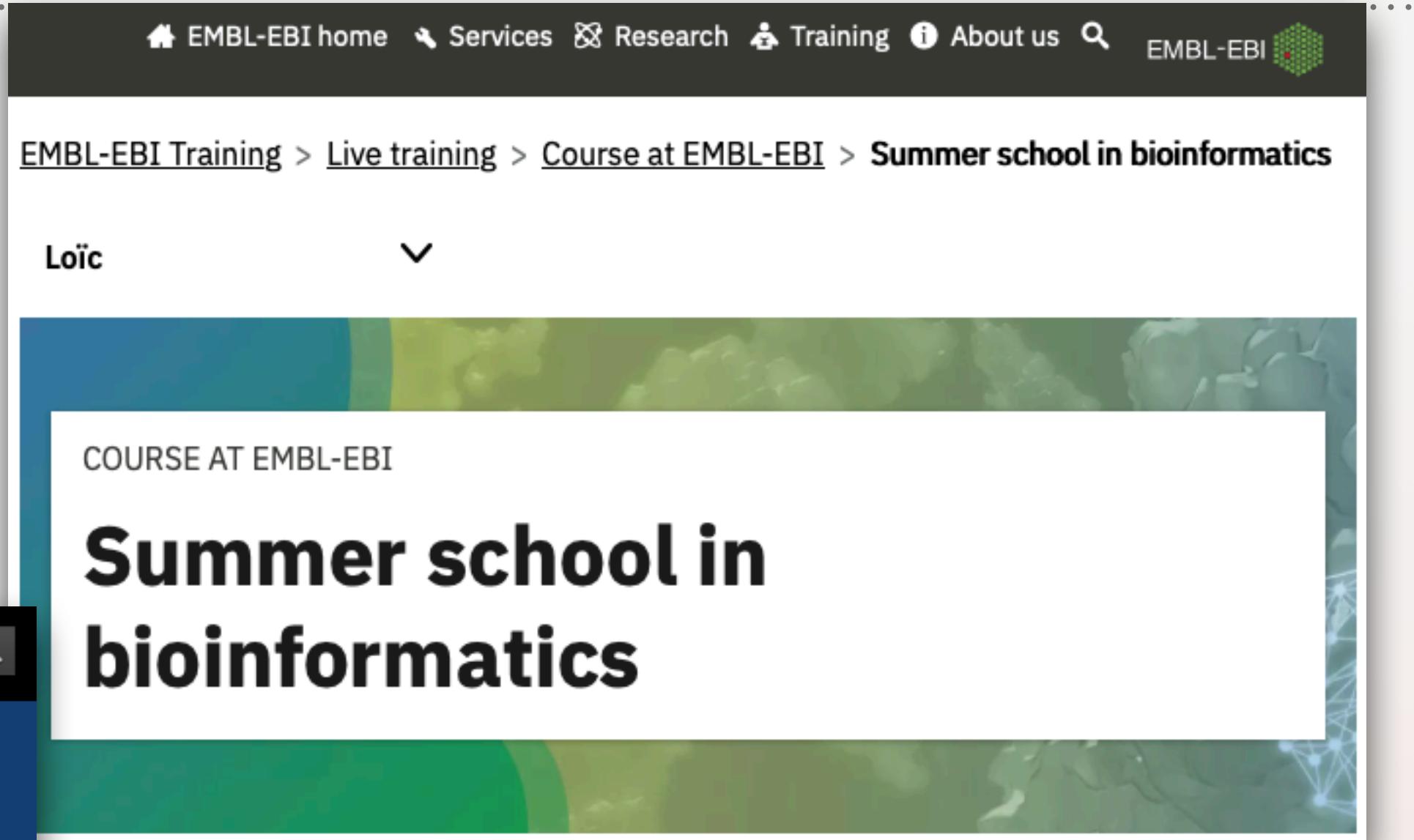
Centre for Doctoral Training in Data Intensive Science



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

AI for the study of Environmental Risks (AI4ER)

UKRI Centre for Doctoral Training



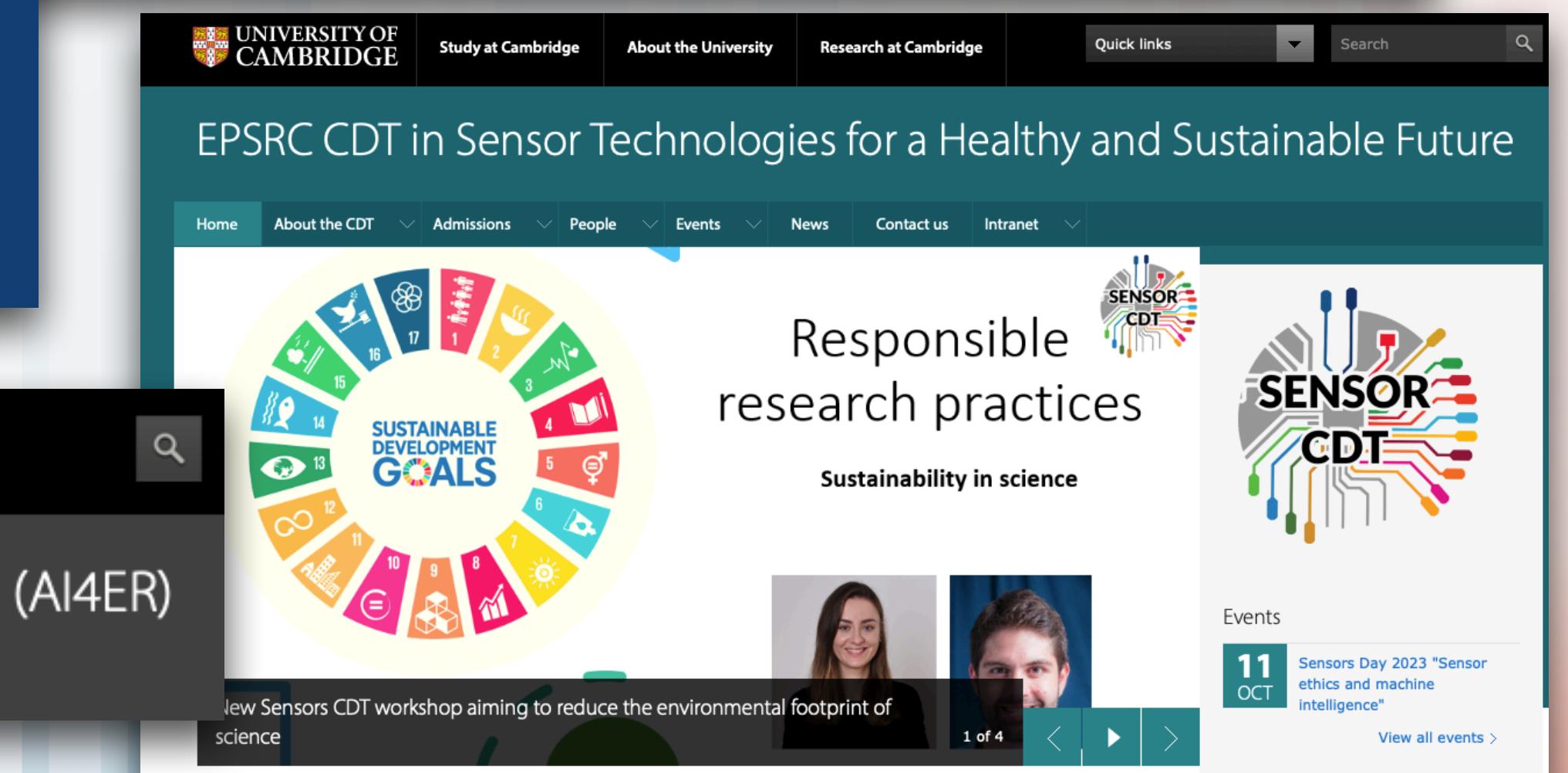
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EMBL-EBI Training > Live training > Course at EMBL-EBI > Summer school in bioinformatics

Loïc

COURSE AT EMBL-EBI

## Summer school in bioinformatics



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE Study at Cambridge About the University Research at Cambridge Quick links Search

EPSRC CDT in Sensor Technologies for a Healthy and Sustainable Future

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

RESPONSIBLE research practices

Sustainability in science

SENSOR CDT

Events

11 OCT Sensors Day 2023 "Sensor ethics and machine intelligence"

View all events >

# IDENTIFY FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE COMPUTING

---

We believe this resolves all remaining questions on this topic. No further research is needed.

## References

1. [www.google.com](#) (n.d.) n.n.
2. [www.udacity.com](#), n.n. (n.d.) n.n.
3. [www.udacity.com](#) (n.d.) n.n.
4. [www.udacity.com](#) (n.d.) n.n.

JUST ONCE, I WANT TO SEE A RESEARCH PAPER WITH THE GUTS TO END THIS WAY.

*Sadly not yet*

*So dedicated research efforts  
are needed*

# IDENTIFY FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE COMPUTING

**Table 3**  
Results for binary-trees, fannkuch-redux, and fasta.

binary-trees	Energy (J)	Time (ms)	Ratio (J/ms)	Mb
(c) C	39.80	1125	0.035	131
(c) C++	41.23	1129	0.037	132
(c) Rust ↓ <sub>2</sub>	49.07	1263	0.039	180
(c) Fortran ↑ <sub>1</sub>	69.82	2112	0.033	133
(c) Ada ↓ <sub>1</sub>	95.02	2822	0.034	197
(c) Ocaml ↓ <sub>1</sub> ↑ <sub>2</sub>	100.74	3525	0.029	148
(v) Java ↑ <sub>1</sub> ↓ <sub>16</sub>	111.84	3306	0.034	1120
(v) Lisp ↓ <sub>3</sub> ↓ <sub>3</sub>	149.55	10570	0.014	373
(v) Racket ↓ <sub>4</sub> ↓ <sub>6</sub>	155.81	11261	0.014	467
(i) Hack ↑ <sub>2</sub> ↓ <sub>9</sub>	156.71	4497	0.035	502
(v) C# ↓ <sub>1</sub> ↓ <sub>1</sub>	189.74	10797	0.018	427
(v) F# ↓ <sub>3</sub> ↓ <sub>1</sub>	207.13	15637	0.013	432
(c) Pascal ↓ <sub>3</sub> ↑ <sub>5</sub>	214.64	16079	0.013	256
(c) Chapel ↑ <sub>5</sub> ↑ <sub>4</sub>	237.29	7265	0.033	335
(v) Erlang ↑ <sub>5</sub> ↑ <sub>1</sub>	266.14	7327	0.036	433
(c) Haskell ↑ <sub>2</sub> ↓ <sub>2</sub>	270.15	11582	0.023	494
(i) Dart ↓ <sub>1</sub> ↑ <sub>1</sub>	290.27	17197	0.017	475
(i) JavaScript ↓ <sub>2</sub> ↓ <sub>4</sub>	312.14	21349	0.015	916
(i) TypeScript ↓ <sub>2</sub> ↓ <sub>2</sub>	315.10	21686	0.015	915
(c) Go ↑ <sub>3</sub> ↑ <sub>13</sub>	636.71	16292	0.039	228
(i) Jruby ↑ <sub>2</sub> ↓ <sub>3</sub>	720.53	19276	0.037	1671
(i) Ruby ↑ <sub>5</sub>	855.12	26634	0.032	482
(i) PHP ↑ <sub>3</sub>	1,397.51	42316	0.033	786
(i) Python ↑ <sub>15</sub>	1,793.46	45003	0.040	275
(i) Lua ↓ <sub>1</sub>	2,452.04	209217	0.012	1961
(i) Perl ↑ <sub>1</sub>	3,542.20	96097	0.037	2148
(c) Swift	n.e.			



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

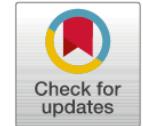
Science of Computer Programming

[www.elsevier.com/locate/scico](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/scico)



Ranking programming languages by energy efficiency

Rui Pereira <sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Marco Couto <sup>c,b</sup>, Francisco Ribeiro <sup>c,b</sup>, Rui Ruia <sup>c,b</sup>, Jácome Cunha <sup>c,b</sup>, João Paulo Fernandes <sup>d</sup>, João Saraiva <sup>c,b</sup>



<sup>a</sup> C4 – Centro de Competências em Cloud Computing (C4-UBI), Universidade da Beira Interior, Rua Marquês d'Ávila e Bolama, 6201-001, Covilhã, Portugal

<sup>b</sup> HASLab/INESC Tec, Portugal

<sup>c</sup> Universidade do Minho, Portugal

<sup>d</sup> Departamento de Engenharia Informática, Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade do Porto & CISUC, Portugal

We need more trained  
Research Softwares Engineers

**ALL THIS LEADING TO  
CULTURAL CHANGE**

# JEVON'S PARADOX

---

Rebound effect can ruin all our efforts

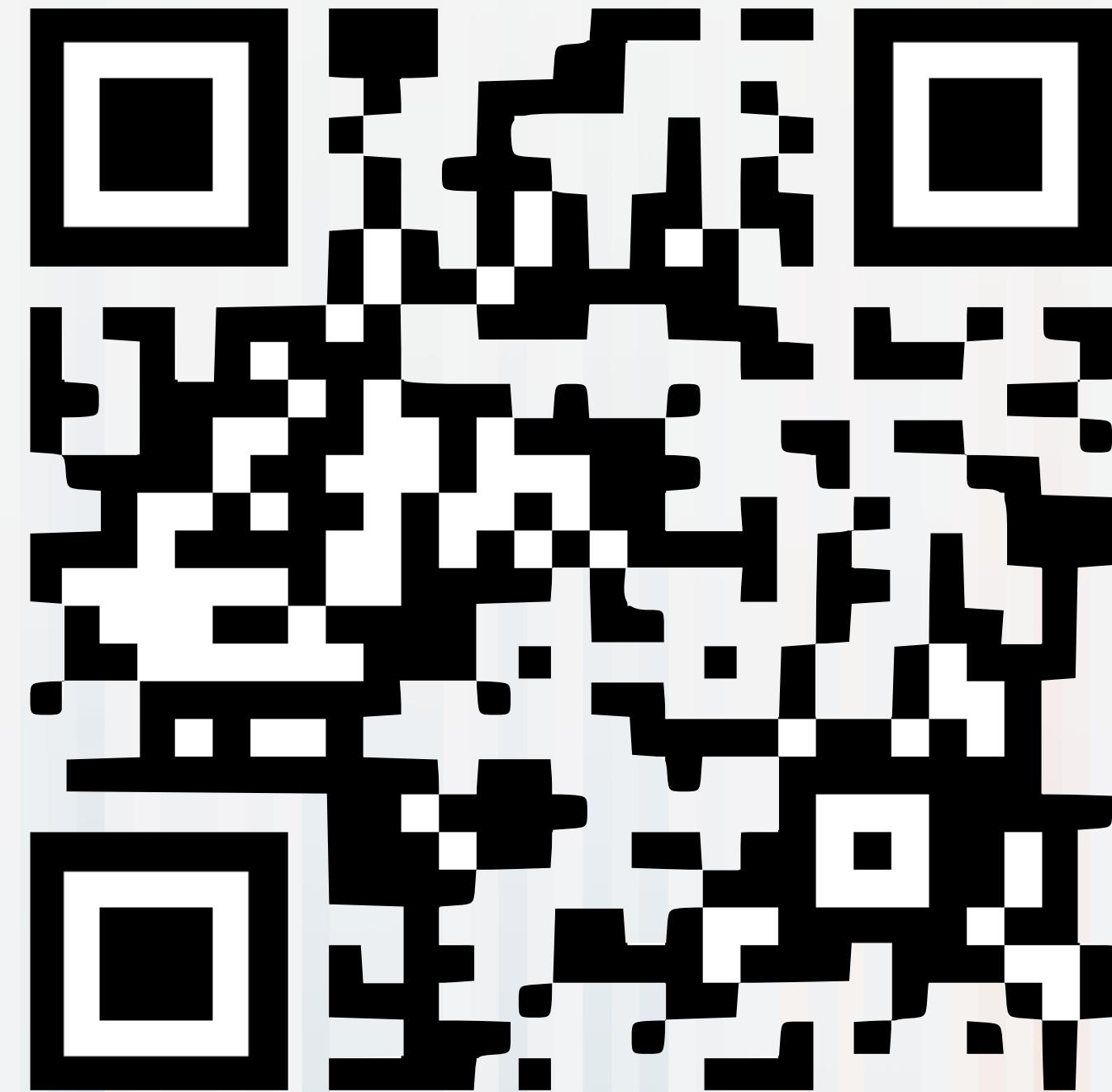
# BUILDING A COMMUNITY

---



[www.eicworkshop.info](http://www.eicworkshop.info)

An upcoming community of practice



<https://forms.gle/rgeqzcpo51gge5Xr6>

# The Green Algorithms website with all resources

At [www.green-algorithms.org](http://www.green-algorithms.org)

Home      Calculator      GA4HPC      Training      Publications      Talks      About      

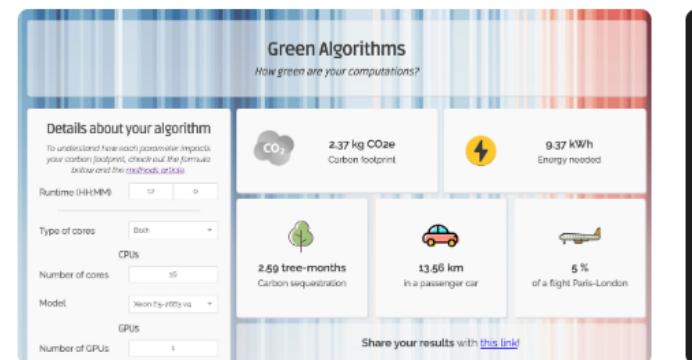
## Green Algorithms

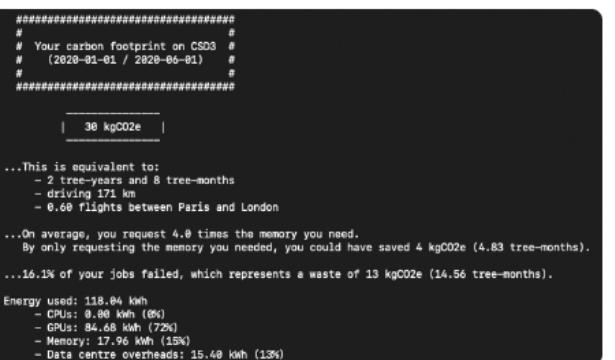
Towards environmentally sustainable computational science

[Carbon footprint calculator](#)

 **New publication!** *"Carbon footprint estimation for computational research"*. We have just released a Comment in *Nature Reviews Methods Primers* that summarises the different ways you can estimate the environmental impacts of your algorithms. [\[link\]](#) [\[pdf\]](#)

The Green Algorithms project aims at promoting more environmentally sustainable computational science. It regroups calculators that researchers can use to estimate the carbon footprint of their projects, tips on how to be more environmentally friendly, training material, past talks etc.







### The online calculator

A tool to easily estimate the carbon footprint of a computation.

[Learn more](#)

### Green Algorithms 4 HPC

A tool that calculates the carbon footprint of all computations run on an HPC platform.

[Learn more](#)

### Tips for green computing

Resources to move towards more sustainable computing.

[Learn more](#)

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cambridge-Baker System

Genomics Initiative

Michael Inouye

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Charlotte Rae

Nick Souther

Lincoln Colling

HDR-UK

Andrew Morris

Hans-Erik Aronson

Gerry Reilly

KCL

Gabrielle Samuel

Wellcome

Talia Caplan

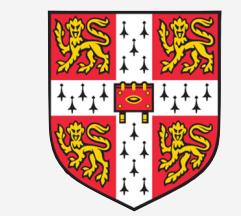
UKRI

Martin Juckes

LEAF

Martin Farley

The CATS team



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and Primary Care



British Heart  
Foundation

**NIHR** | Cambridge Biomedical  
Research Centre

Baker  
HEART & DIABETES INSTITUTE

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Health Data Research UK

Software  
Sustainability  
Institute

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CAMBRIDGE

How to follow the project and reach out

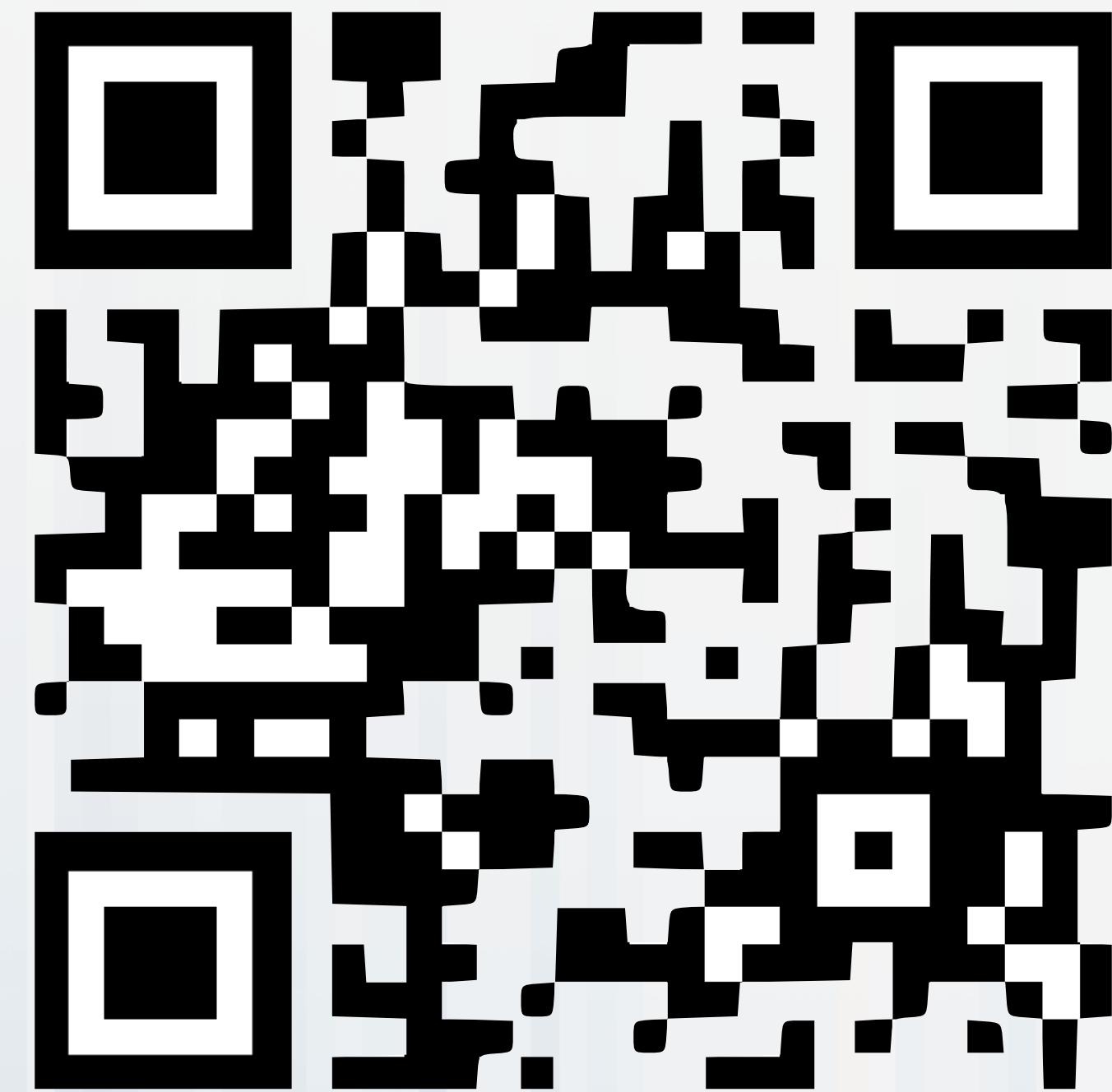
[www.green-algorithms.org](http://www.green-algorithms.org)



@Loic\_Lnlg

[LL582@medschl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:LL582@medschl.cam.ac.uk)

An upcoming community of practice



<https://forms.gle/rgeqzcpo51gge5Xr6>