



OCTOBER 21, 2025

TOWARD A PRODUCTIVE SOFTWARE ECOSYSTEM FOR SCIENTIFIC USER FACILITIES



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NATIONAL INITIATIVES DRIVING A CONNECTED SCIENCE ECOSYSTEM

Pairing advanced computational power across multiple sites with a flexible software ecosystem will enable researchers to accelerate innovation and unlock insights at scale.

Programs like the DOE Integrated Research Infrastructure (IRI), the American Science Cloud, and the Transformational AI Models Consortium offer new opportunities for seamless multi-site operations.



FOUNDATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Secure data access and sharing via Globus and APS Data Management System
- Integrated data life cycle management reduces manual effort and frees beamtime for science
- APS collaborations with ALCF and NERSC connect experimental data to compute through:
 - Demand queue
 - Dedicated allocations
 - Service accounts
 - Globus Compute endpoints





To enable experiment steering and streamline workloads that integrate distributed resources, we must close the loop between measurement and insight.



An aerial photograph of the Argonne National Laboratory complex. The image shows a large circular particle accelerator ring in the upper left, surrounded by various laboratory buildings, roads, and green spaces. In the lower right, there is a more industrial area with several large white storage tanks, power lines, and a complex network of roads and parking lots.

FORWARD LOOKING OPPORTUNITIES



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CROSS FACILITY AWARENESS

The Challenge

- Data can be processed at APS, ALCF, or NERSC
- Most users lack ALCF/OLCF/NERSC accounts or HPC expertise
- System abstracts HPC complexity from APS beamline staff and users
- Workflow selects machine by name (e.g. polaris, perlmutter)
- No visibility for APS users to estimate queue depth at each site



CROSS FACILITY AWARENESS

What's Needed

- Automate site selection based on estimated wait time
- Users shouldn't need to choose compute machine manually
- System should select best site automatically or suggest to the user
- Requires common API from facilities with queue wait-time estimates
- APS DM system must query API and route job to optimal site
- Shared scheduler across facilities = ideal but unlikely



CROSS FACILITY AWARENESS

Current Work

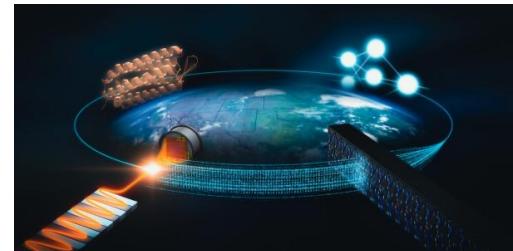
- IRI Interfaces Pathfinder collaboration between ALCF, OLCF, and NERSC
- Developed facility status APIs for sites
 - <https://api.alcf.anl.gov/docs>
 - <https://api.iri.nersc.gov/nersc/api/current/>
- Initial endpoints report machine availability or maintenance downtime
- Enables workflows to avoid submitting jobs to unavailable systems
- First step toward full cross-facility awareness



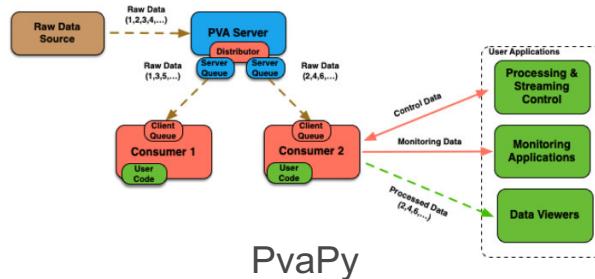
IMPROVING DATA STREAMING INFRASTRUCTURE

The Challenge

- Streaming to HPC demonstrated, but not used in live experiments
- Connections to HPC nodes are cumbersome
- Must reserve nodes and set up stream consumers manually
- Compute nodes lack open network connections and require special agreements
- No standard interfaces across facilities
- APS staff must configure streams and acquire HPC resources



LSLStream



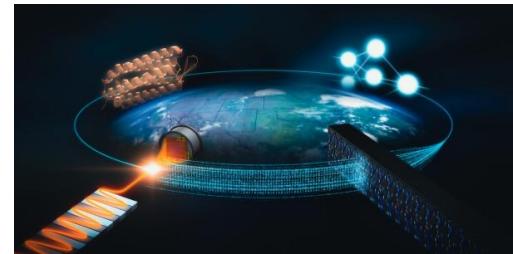
PvaPy



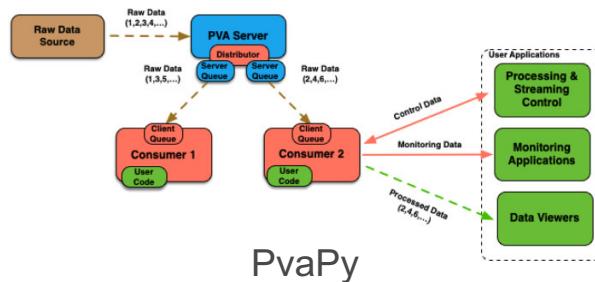
IMPROVING DATA STREAMING INFRASTRUCTURE

What's Needed

- Dynamically provisioning network connections
- Balancing loads across compute nodes
- Fault-tolerant transmission
- Consistent access between sites
- Visualization tools that ingest detector data streams from HPC centers and deliver live feedback to scientists



LSLStream



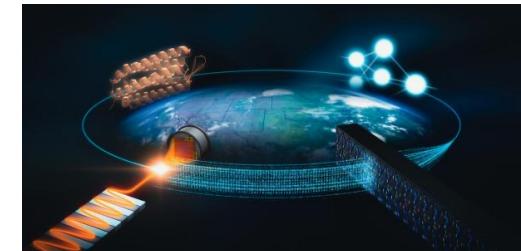
PvaPy



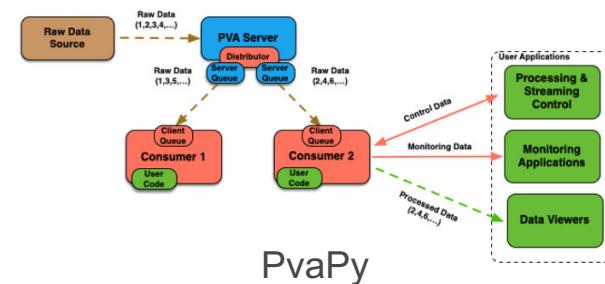
IMPROVING DATA STREAMING INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Work

- Rogers et al. (2025) demonstrated the LCLStream Ecosystem can submit to Slurm or start a Kubernetes pod on Frontier
- ESnet JLab FPGA Accelerated Transport (EJFAT) project aims to provide infrastructure for streaming from instruments to HPC facilities
- Veseli et al. (2025) demonstrated the PvaPy Streaming Framework can be used to stream EPICS data from X-ray instruments
- Skluzacek et al. (2025) developed the Secure Scientific Service Mesh (S3M) which allows streaming to RabbitMQ or Redis at OLCF
- Globus is planning to release a streaming solution between Globus Compute endpoints



LSLStream



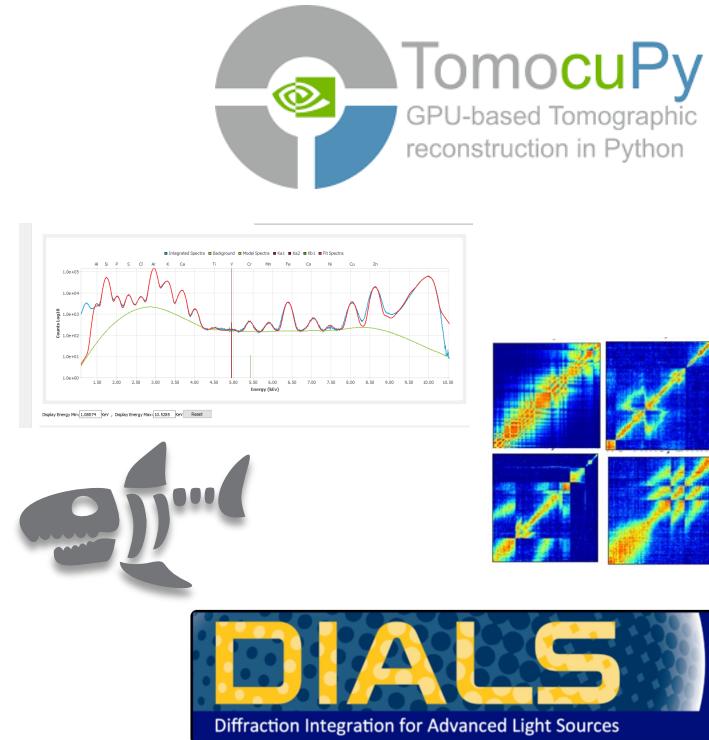
PvaPy



UPLIFTING COMMUNITY SCIENTIFIC SOFTWARE

The Challenge

- APS supports multiple types of X-ray science
 - tomography, ptychography, spectroscopy, diffraction, and more...
- There are existing community scientific software for each type of x-ray data analysis
- Users and staff already know and use these packages
- Most existing software was originally designed for single workstation execution, not optimized for GPU or multiple nodes



UPLIFTING COMMUNITY SCIENTIFIC SOFTWARE

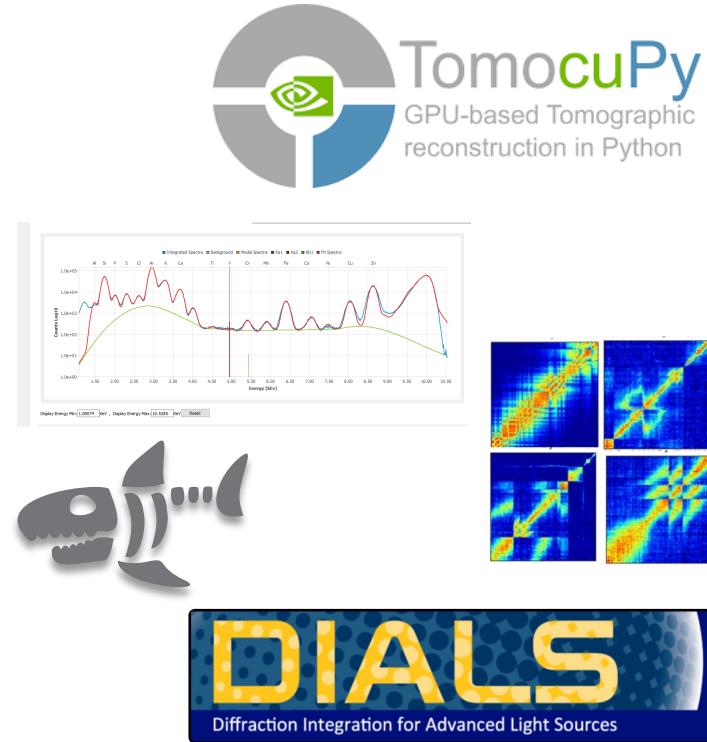
What's Needed

X-ray analysis software in a modern IRI ecosystem must:

- Process data streams
- Efficiently use multiple nodes and GPUs
- Deploys in standardized containerized environments that provide consistent software stacks across facilities

Need to engage with scientific software developers to connect them with:

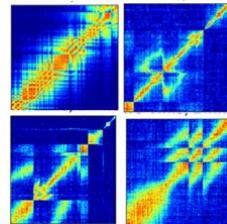
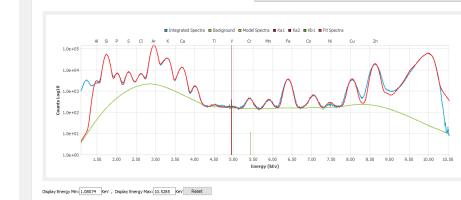
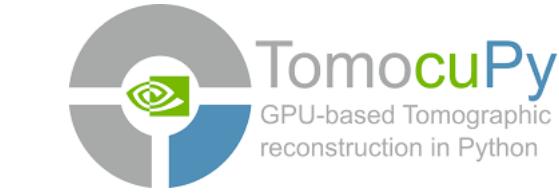
- Container experts
- HPC experts at ALCF and NERSC
- Developers of streaming frameworks



UPLIFTING COMMUNITY SCIENTIFIC SOFTWARE

Current Work

- APS has started a containers working group
- Nikitin et al. (2022) demonstrated streaming tomographic reconstruction
- Prince et al. (2023) demonstrated data processing for Laue microdiffraction optimized to run on ALCF's Polaris using CUDA and MPI
- Ptychodus ptychography processor demonstrated with pvaPy streaming framework
- ALCF and NERSC designate a facility point of contact for projects to ask for help running at their facilities



CONCLUSION

Opportunities remain for creating a productive software ecosystem for scientific user facilities like the Advanced Photon Source by strengthening cross-facility awareness, improving data streaming infrastructure, and uplifting community scientific software.



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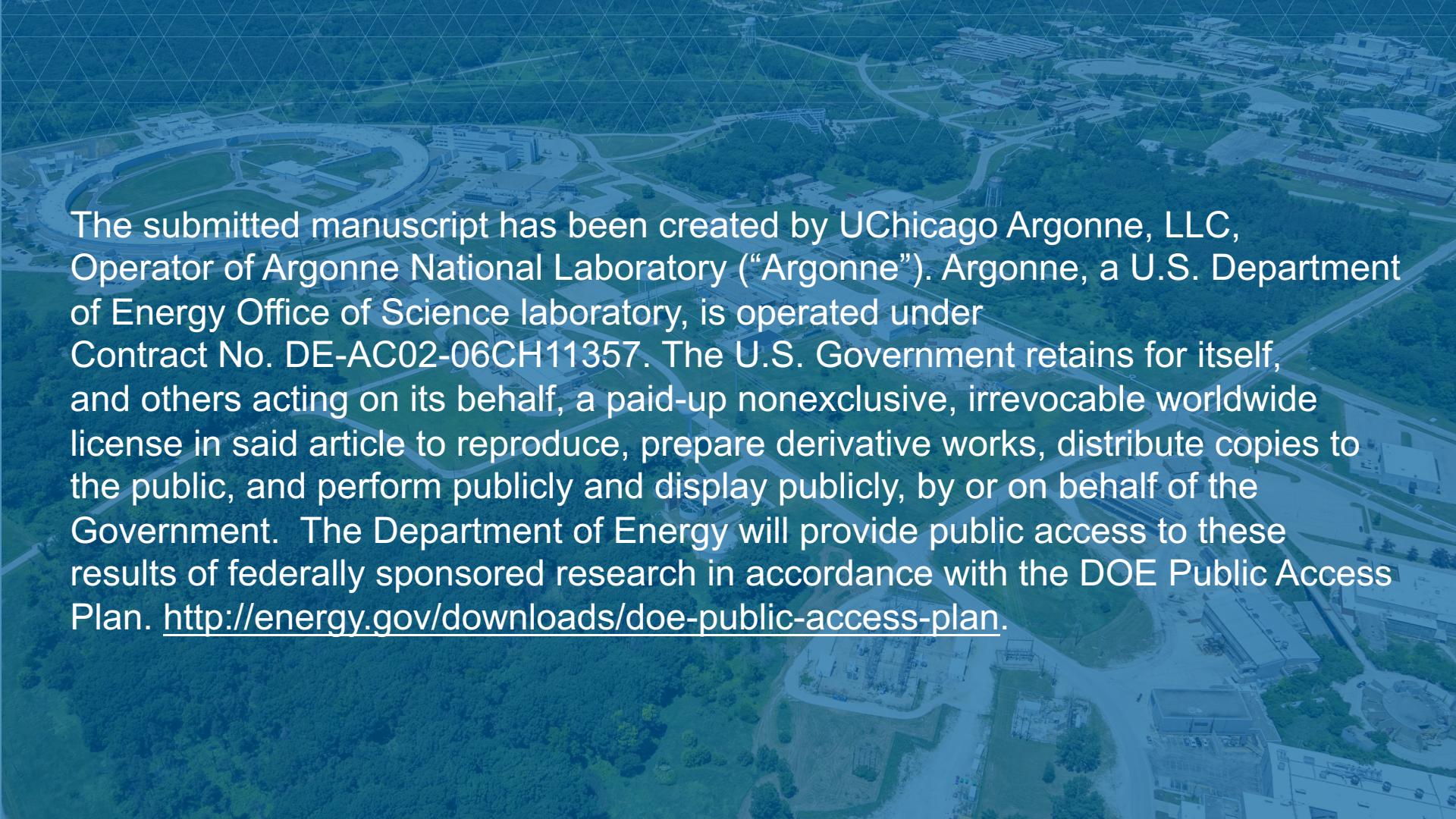
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- This research used resources of the Advanced Photon Source (APS) and the Argonne Leadership Computing Facility (ALCF), both U.S. DOE Office of Science user facilities operated by Argonne National Laboratory under Contract No. DE-AC02-06CH11357.
- This work received support from the DOE Office of Science ASCR Leadership Computing Challenge (ALCC) through the 2025–2026 award "Enhancing APS-Enabled Research through Integrated Research Infrastructure."
- This work is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) and Basic Energy Sciences (BES) under the award "ILLUMINE - Intelligent Learning for Light Source and Neutron Source User Measurements Including Navigation and Experiment Steering."
- This work is also supported by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science-Basic Energy Sciences awards Collaborative Machine Learning Platform for Scientific Discovery and Collaborative Machine Learning Platform for Scientific Discovery 2.0.

An aerial photograph of Argonne National Laboratory, showing a large circular particle accelerator (the Argonne Tandem Accelerator Facility) in the foreground. The laboratory complex includes several buildings, roads, and green spaces. A light blue grid pattern is overlaid on the entire image.

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