Parallel I/O Wrap-up

- **Assess the cost benefit of using shared file parallel-IO for the lifetime of your project**
  - How much overhead can you afford?
  - Slower runtime, could save years of post-processing, visualization and analysis time later
- **Use high level parallel I/O libraries over MPI-IO.**
  - They don't cost you performance (sometimes improve it)
  - Gain: portability, longevity, programmability
- **MPI-IO is the layer where most optimizations are implemented – tune these parameters carefully**
- **Watch out for the key parallel-I/O pitfalls – unaligned block sizes and small writes**
  - MPI-IO layer can often solve these pitfalls on your behalf.