

# Scaling Distributed Training of Flood-Filling Networks on HPC Infrastructure for Brain Mapping

**Wushi Dong**<sup>1</sup>, Murat Keceli<sup>2</sup>, Rafael Vescovi<sup>2</sup>, Hanyu Li<sup>1</sup>, Corey Adams<sup>2</sup>, Elise Jennings<sup>2</sup>, Samuel Flender<sup>2</sup>, Thomas Uram<sup>2</sup>, Venkatram Vishwanath<sup>2</sup>, Nicola Ferrier<sup>2</sup>, Bobby Kasthuri<sup>1,2</sup>, and Peter Littlewood<sup>1,2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>University of Chicago

<sup>2</sup>Argonne National Laboratory

# Contents

- **Background**
- **Methods**
- **Results**
- **Summary**

# Contents

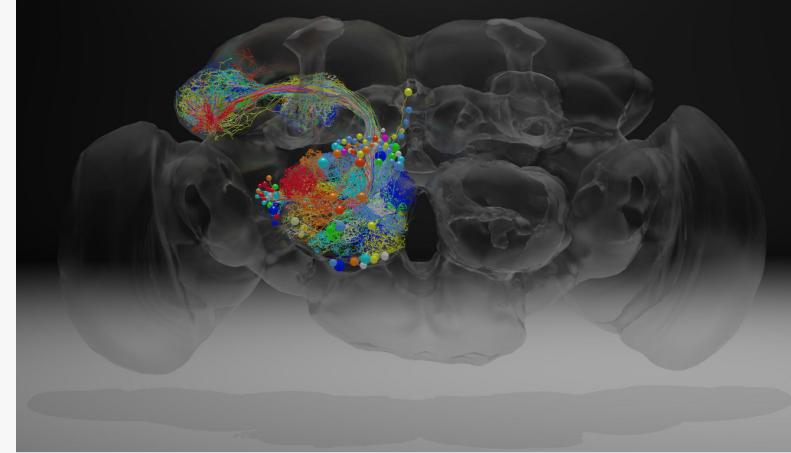
- **Background**
- **Methods**
- **Results**
- **Summary**

# Background

## Brain mapping

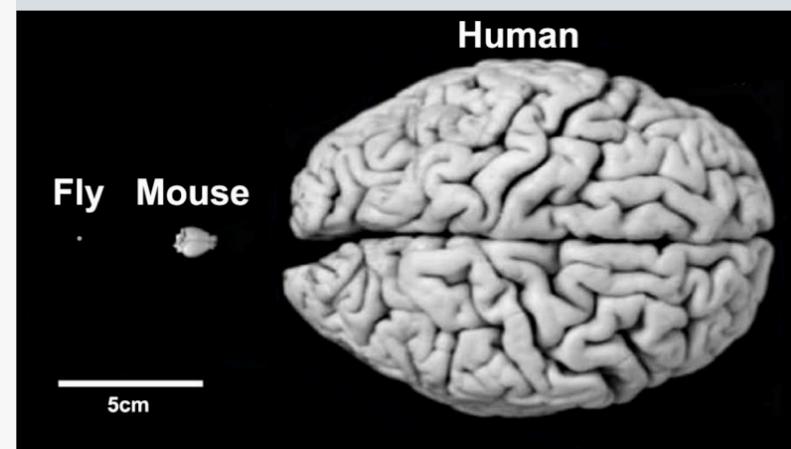
- Reconstruction of neuronal wiring diagrams
- Aid in understanding of brain function
- Data density:  $1 \text{ mm}^3 \sim 10^{15}$  pixels  $\sim$  Petabytes (PB)  $\sim$  100 million annotation hours
- Brain scales

Species	# of neurons	Volume (mm <sup>3</sup> )	Data size (PB)	Completion time
C. elegans	$\sim 10^2$	\	\	1986
Drosophila	$\sim 10^5$	$\sim 10^{-1}$	$\sim 10^{-1}$	2018
Mouse	$\sim 10^8$	$\sim 10^2$	$\sim 10^2$	2025?
Human	$\sim 10^{11}$	$\sim 10^6$	$\sim 10^6$	???



A 100,000-neuron *Drosophila* (Fruit fly) brain has been imaged at synaptic resolution.

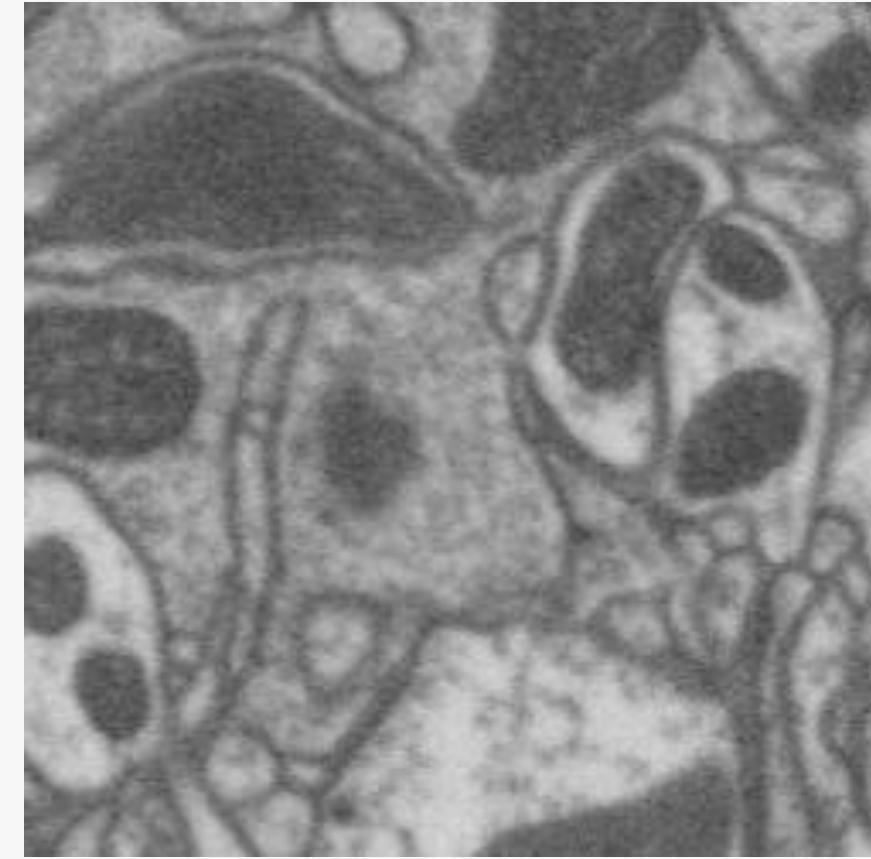
Zheng, Zhihao, et al. Cell 174.3 (2018)



# Background

## Scanning Electron-Microscopy (SEM) Imaging Data

- Fib-25 dataset
  - *Drosophila* optical lobe
  - Focused Ion Beam (FIB) SEM
  - At a resolution of  $8 \times 8 \times 8$  nm
  - $52 \times 53 \times 65 \mu\text{m}^3$  total volume
    - Training:  $520^3$ -voxels subvolume
    - Testing:  $250^3$ -voxels subvolume

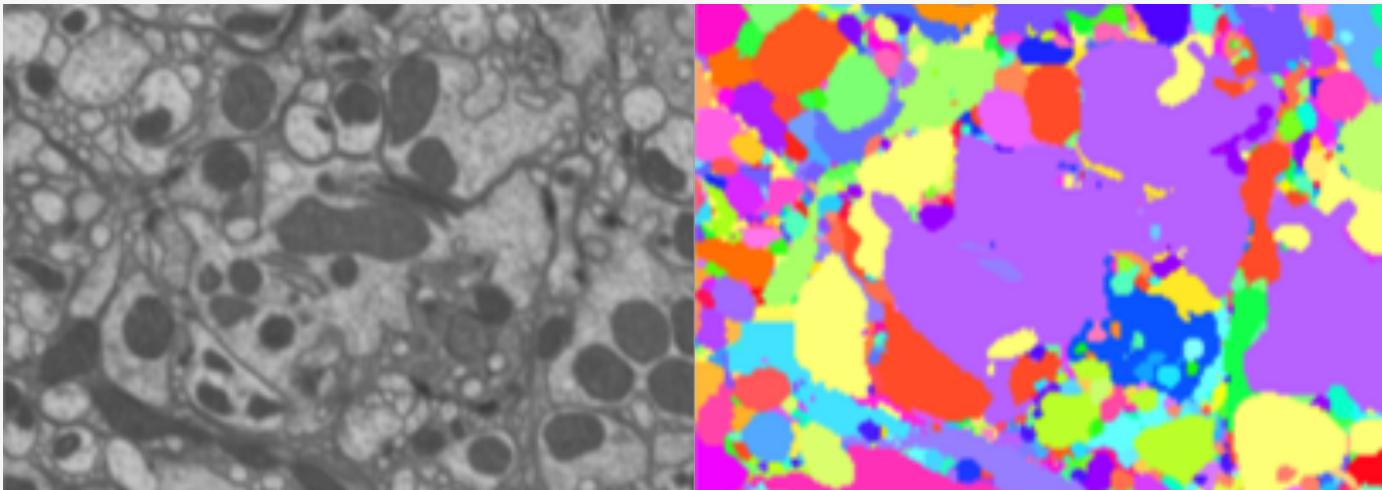


Images of cellular structure in consecutive slices of Fib-25 dataset.

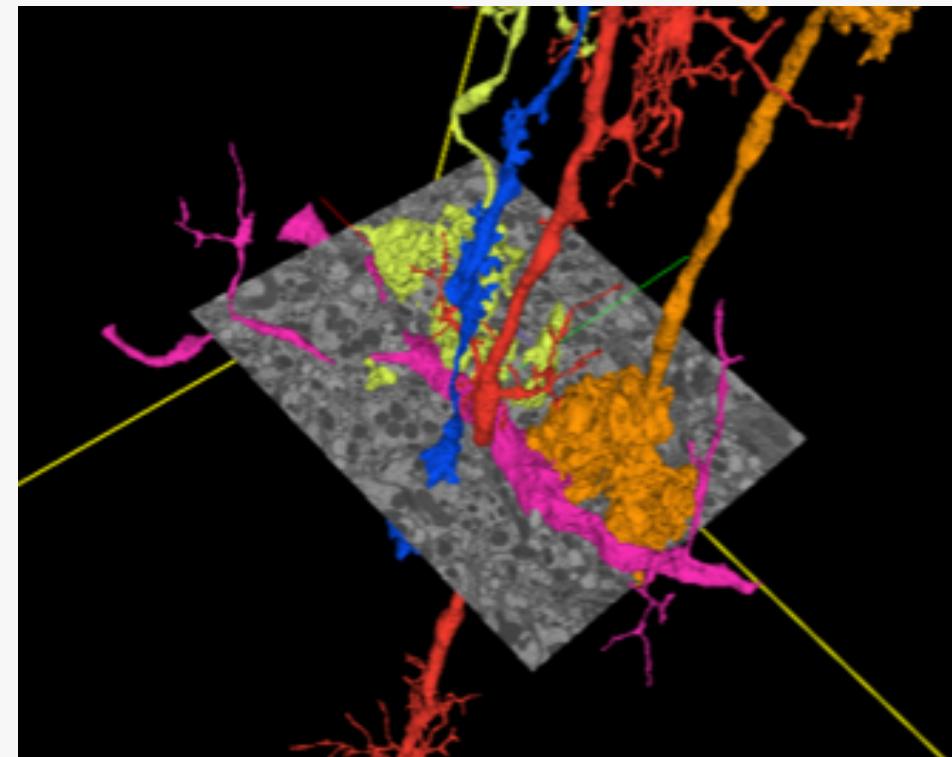
Takemura, Shin-ya, et al. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 112.44 (2015)

# Background

3D volumetric segmentation



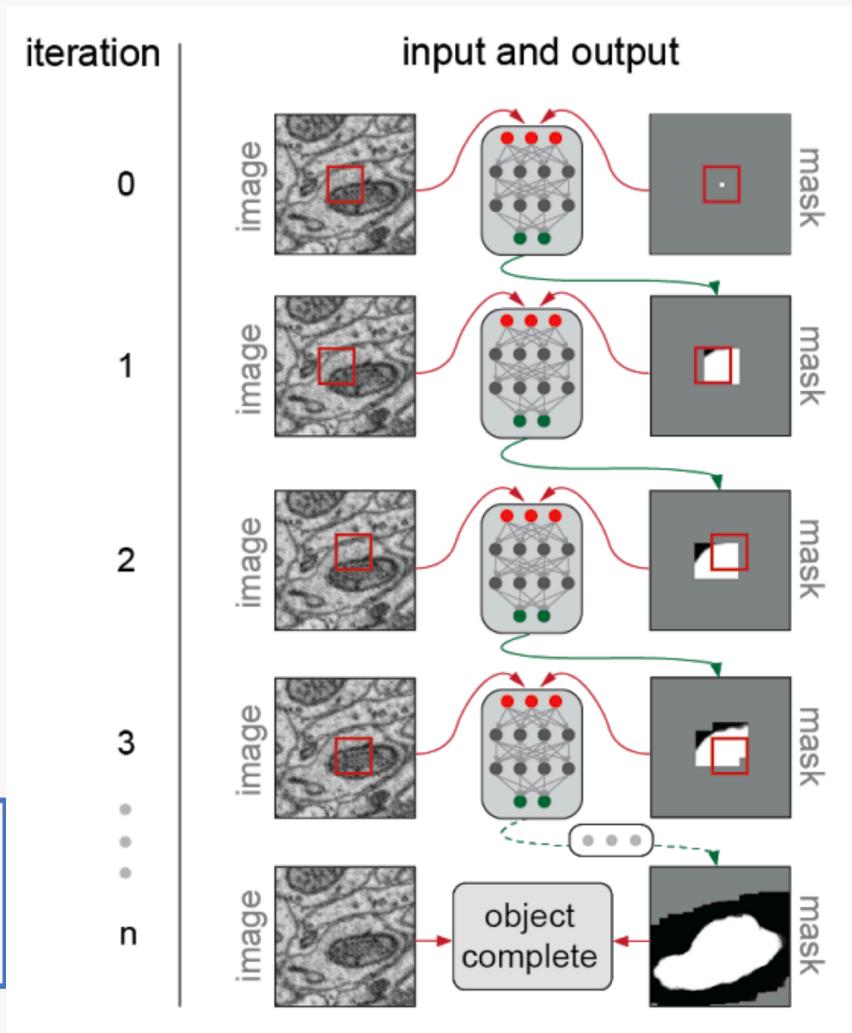
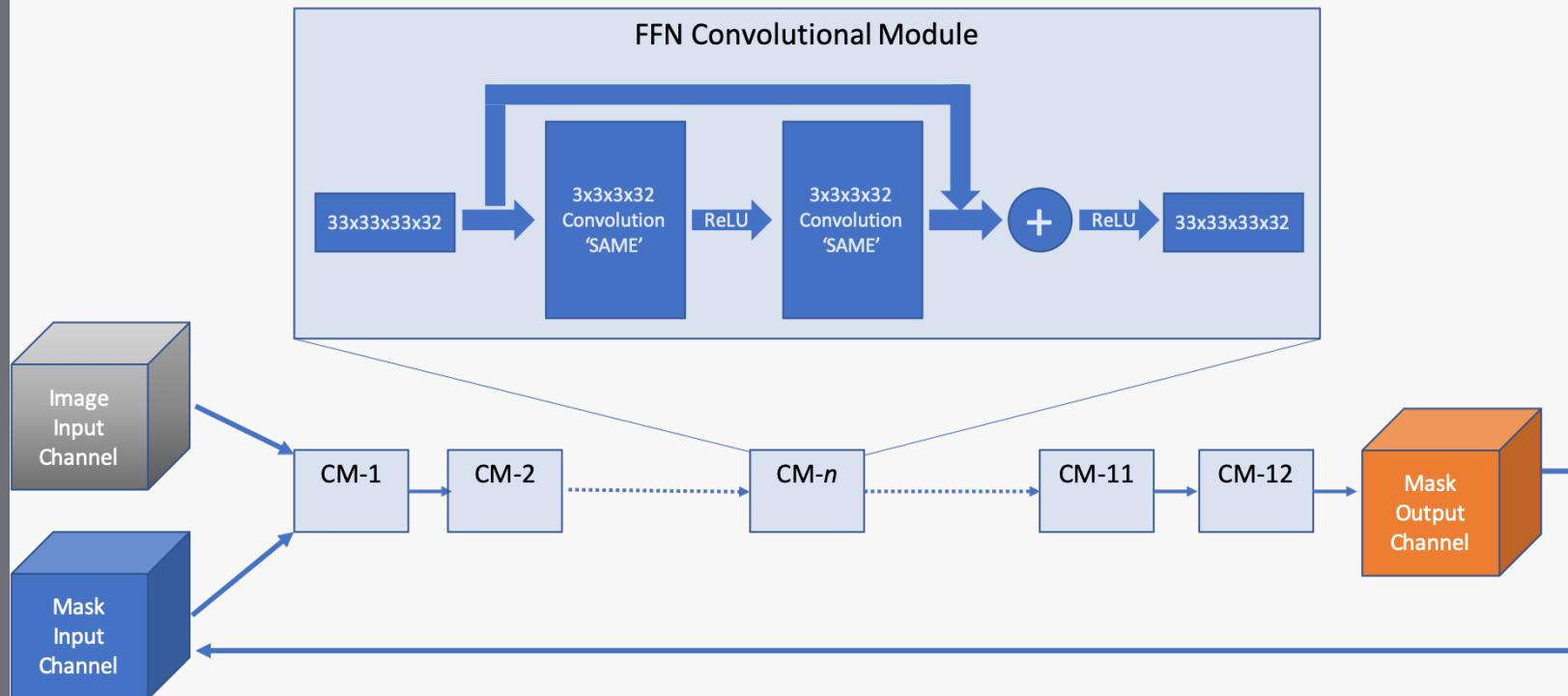
Raw imaging data (left) and manually annotated image (left) showing cell boundaries.



3D reconstruction of selected neurons from ~200 slices.

# Background

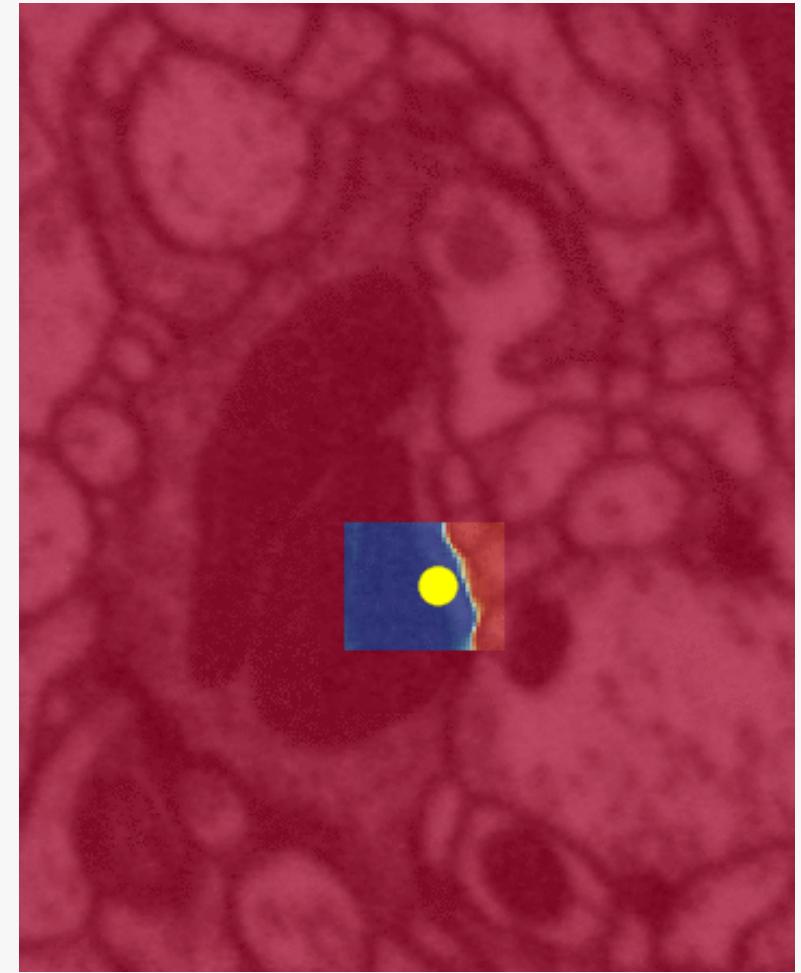
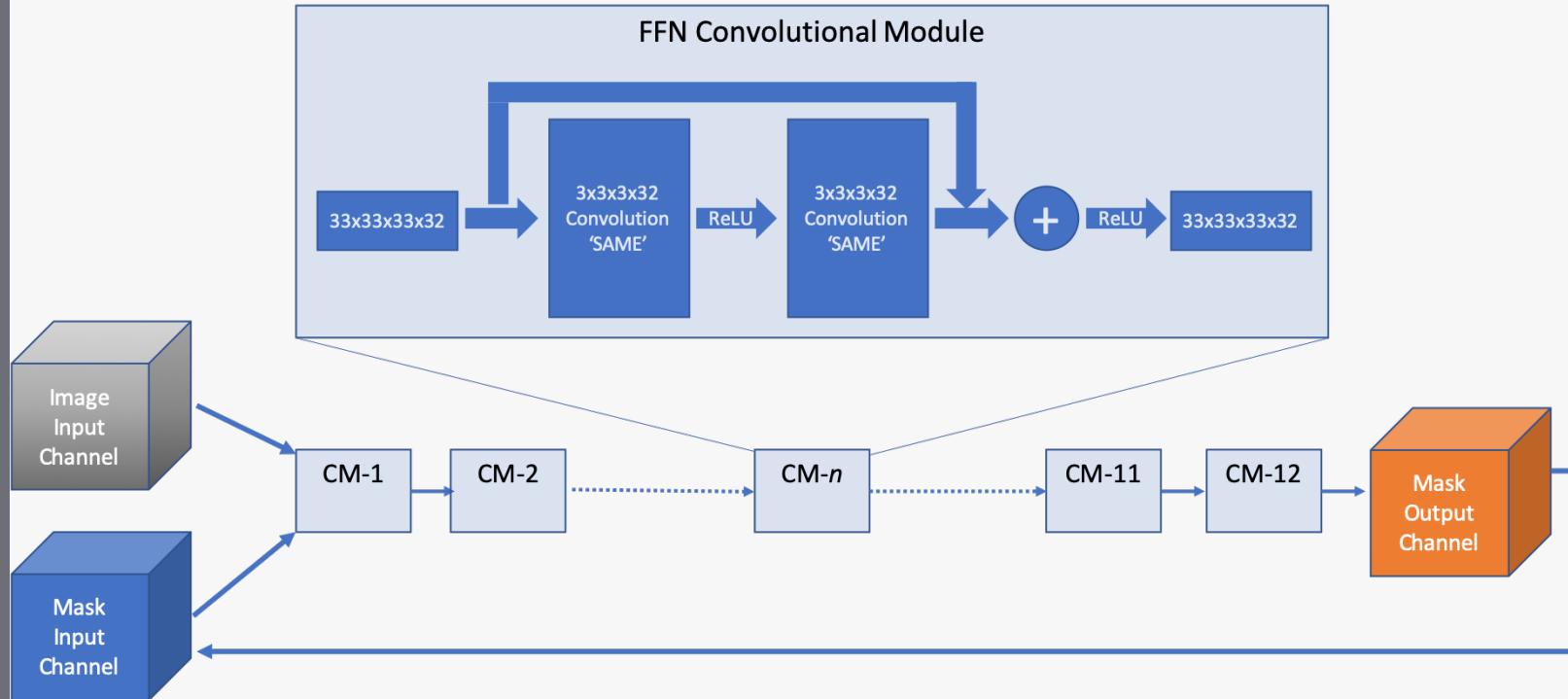
## Flood-Filling Networks (FFN)



Januszewski, Michał, et al. Nature methods 15.8 (2018)

# Background

## Flood-Filling Networks (FFN)



Januszewski, Michał, et al. Nature methods 15.8 (2018)

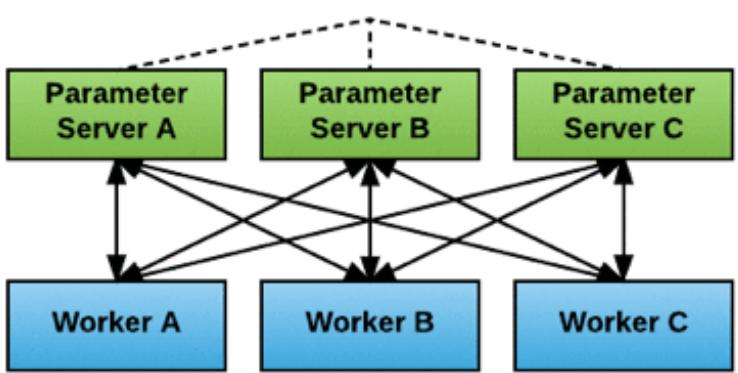
# Contents

- **Background**
- **Methods**
- **Results**
- **Summary**

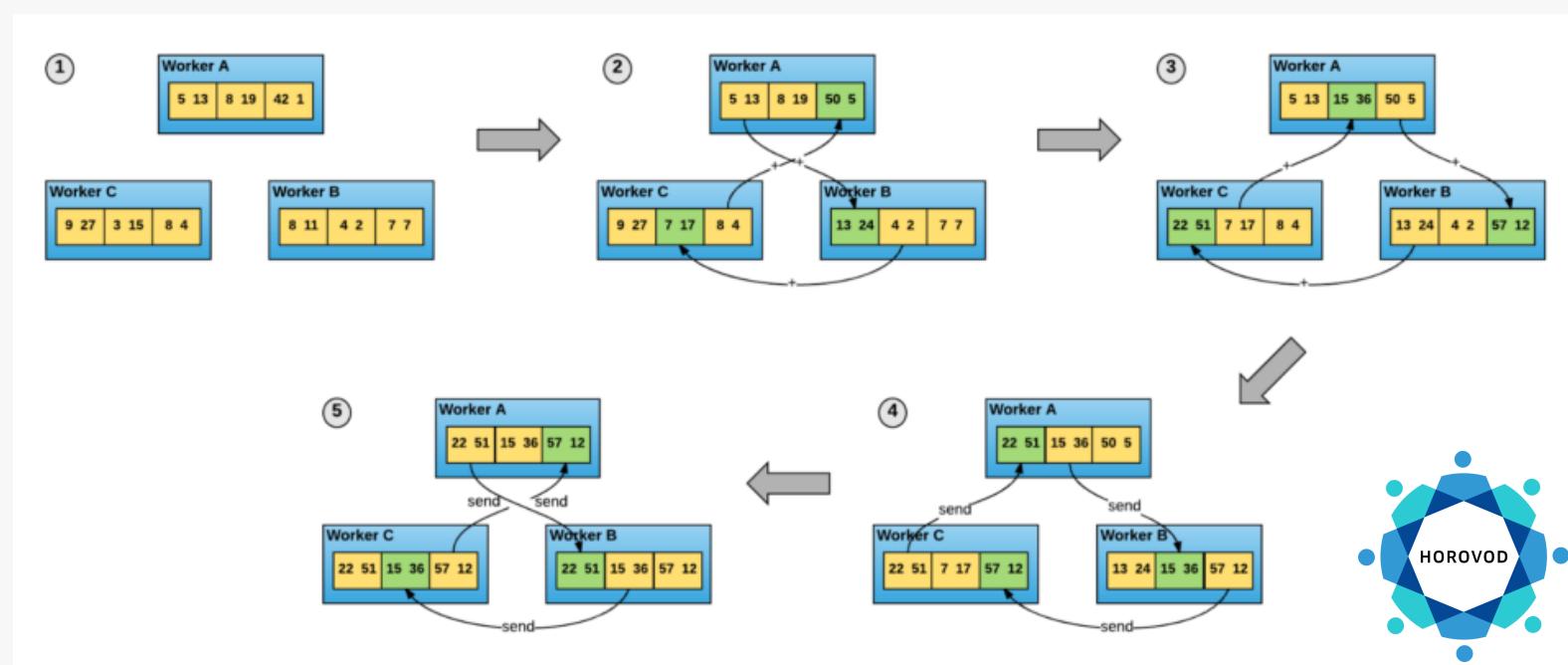
# Methods

Asynchronous VS Synchronous training

Asynchronous training



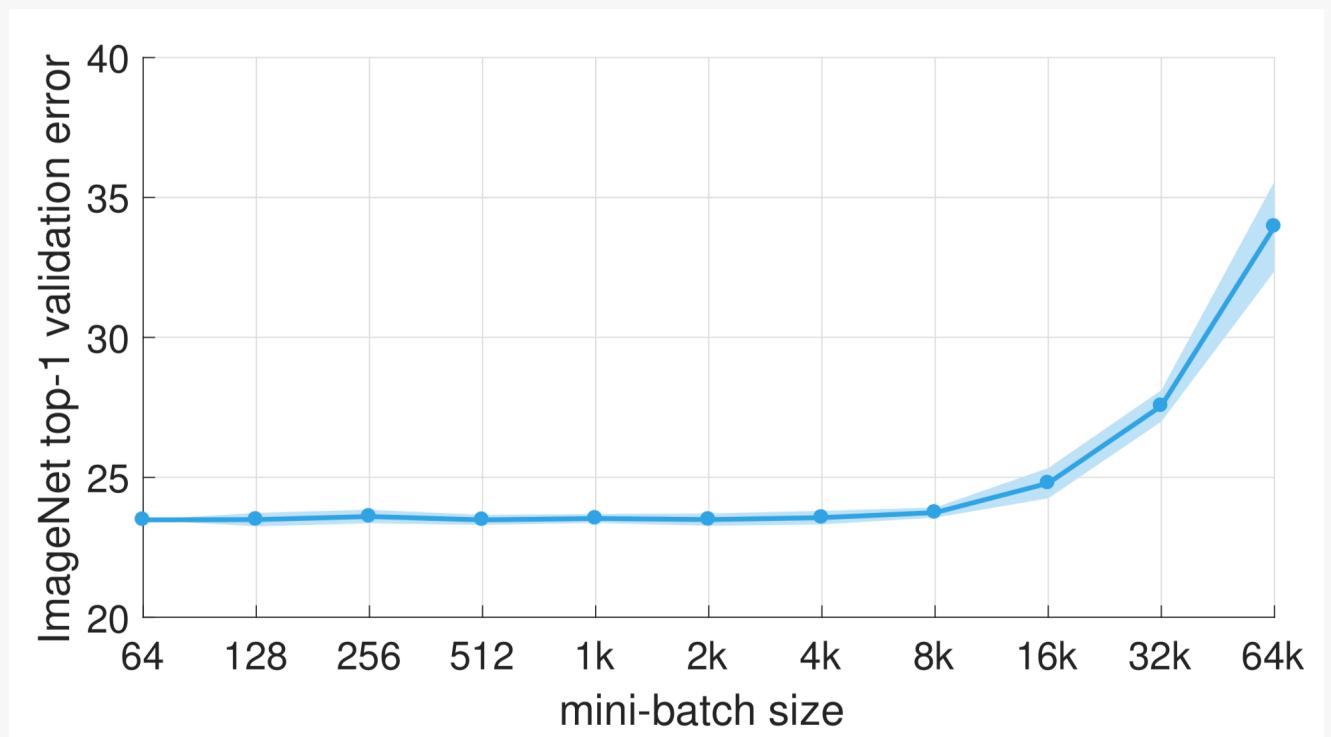
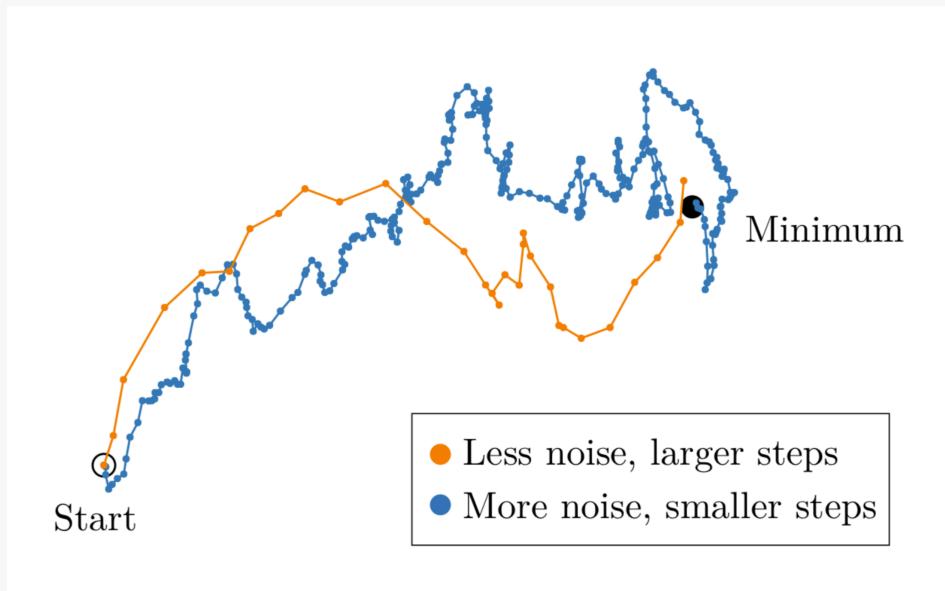
Synchronous training



Sergeev, Alexander, and Mike Del Balso. arXiv preprint arXiv:1802.05799 (2018)

# Methods

## Large-batch training



Goyal, Priya, et al. arXiv preprint arXiv:1706.02677 (2017)

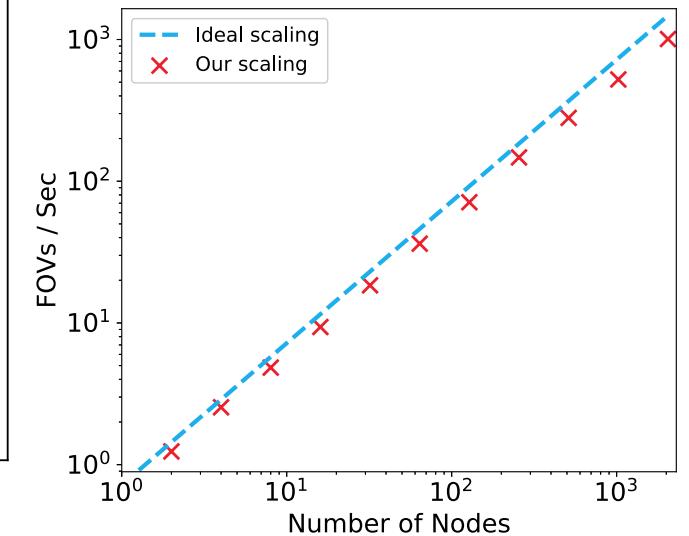
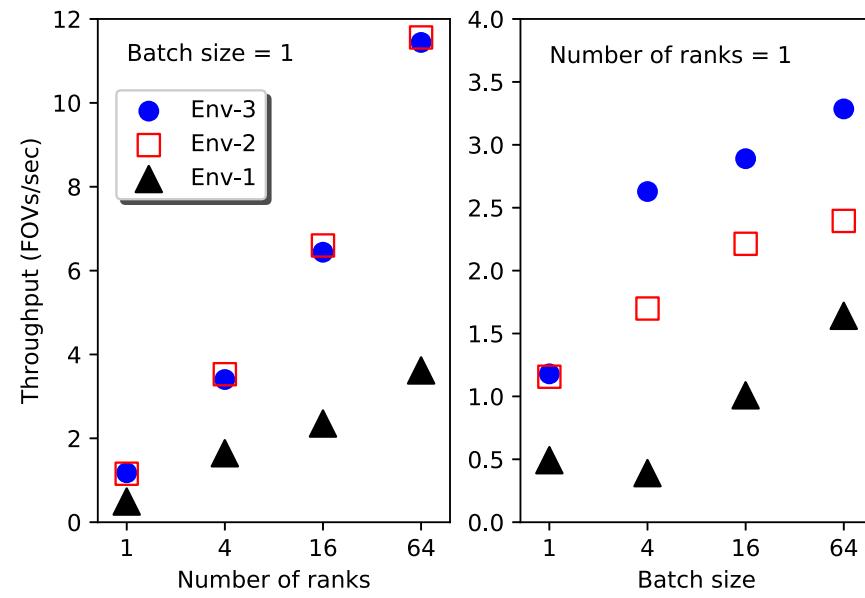
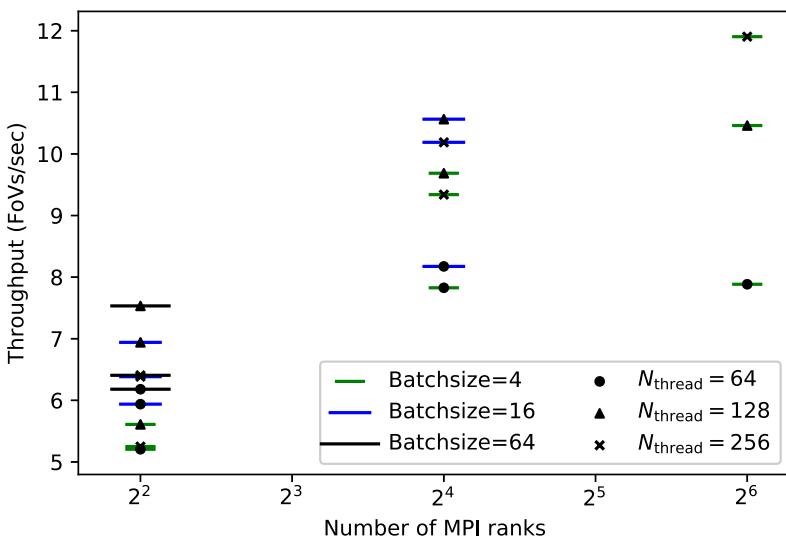
# Contents

- **Background**
- **Methods**
- **Results**
- **Summary**

# Results

## Throughput optimization

- Theta supercomputer (KNL-based system)



# Results

## Evaluation metrics

*True Positive (TP)*

*False Positive (FP)*

*True Negative (TN)*

*False Negative (FN)*

*Adapted Rand Error (ARE)*

$$\text{accuracy} = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN}$$

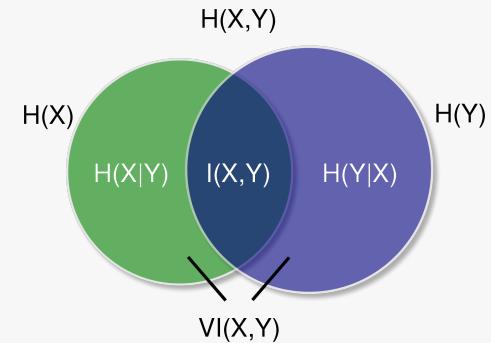
$$\text{precision} = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

$$\text{recall} = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

$$F1 = \frac{2 \times \text{recall}}{\text{precision} + \text{recall}}$$

$$\text{ARE} = 1 - F1$$

*Variation of Information (VOI)*



$H(X)$  denotes  
the entropy of  $X$

$$\text{VOI}_{\text{split}} = H(X|Y)$$

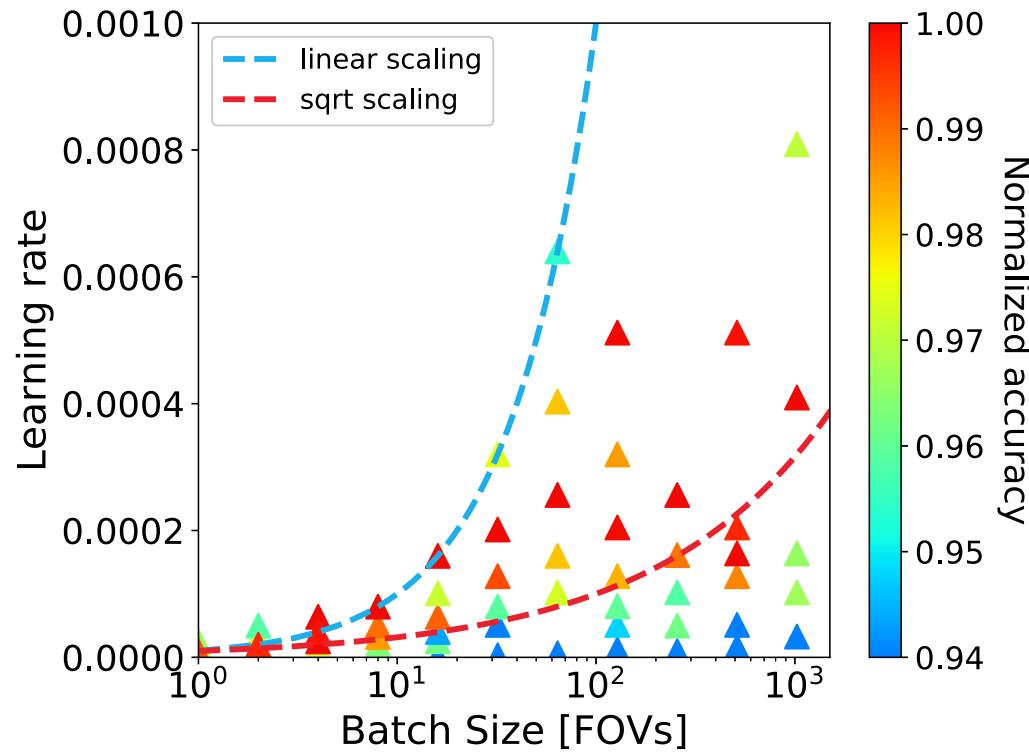
$$\text{VOI}_{\text{merge}} = H(Y|X)$$

$$\text{VOI} = \text{VOI}_{\text{split}} + \text{VOI}_{\text{merge}}$$

Arganda-Carreras, Ignacio, et al. Frontiers in neuroanatomy 9 (2015)

# Results

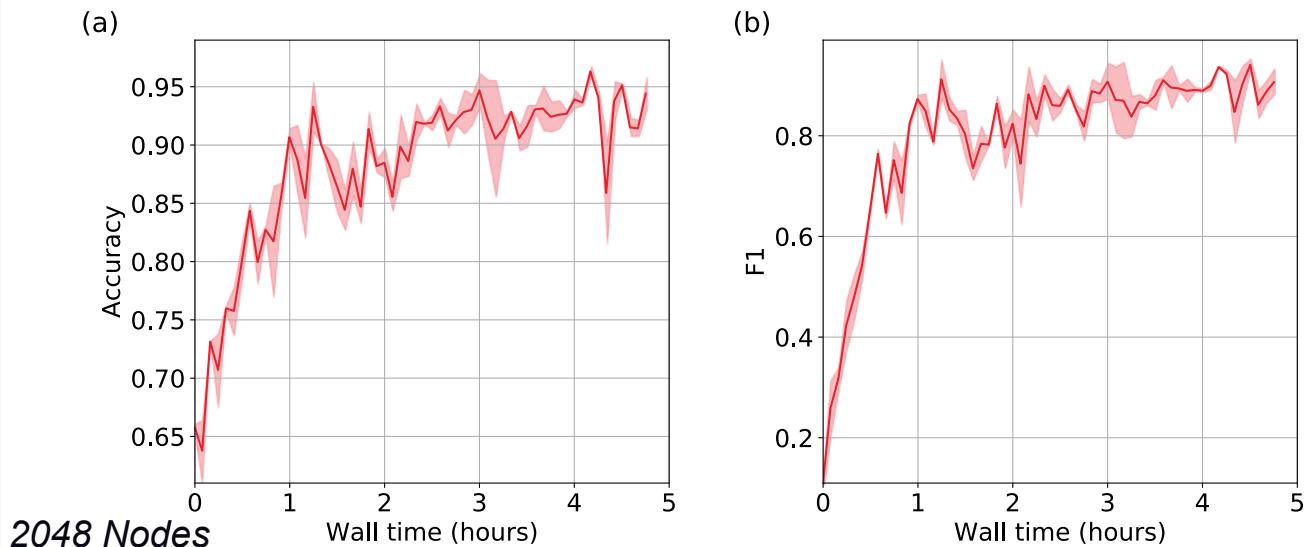
## Optimal learning rate scaling



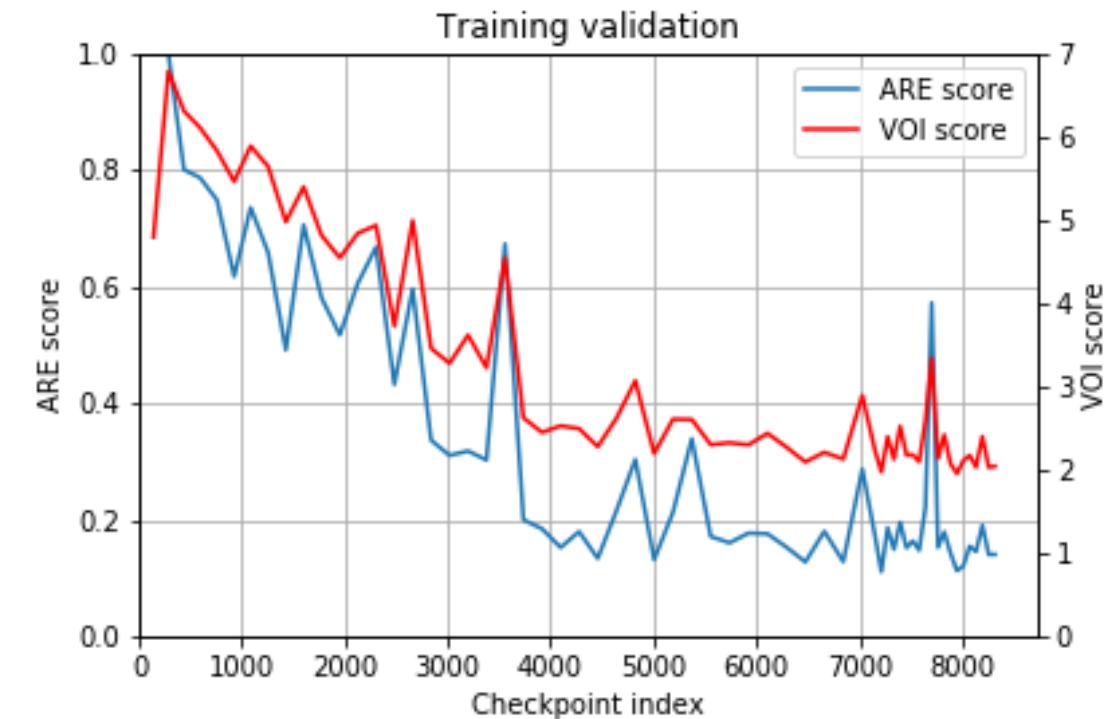
\* Normalized accuracy =  
Accuracy reached after a certain number of steps  
Max accuracy reached within the same batch size

# Results

## Training results

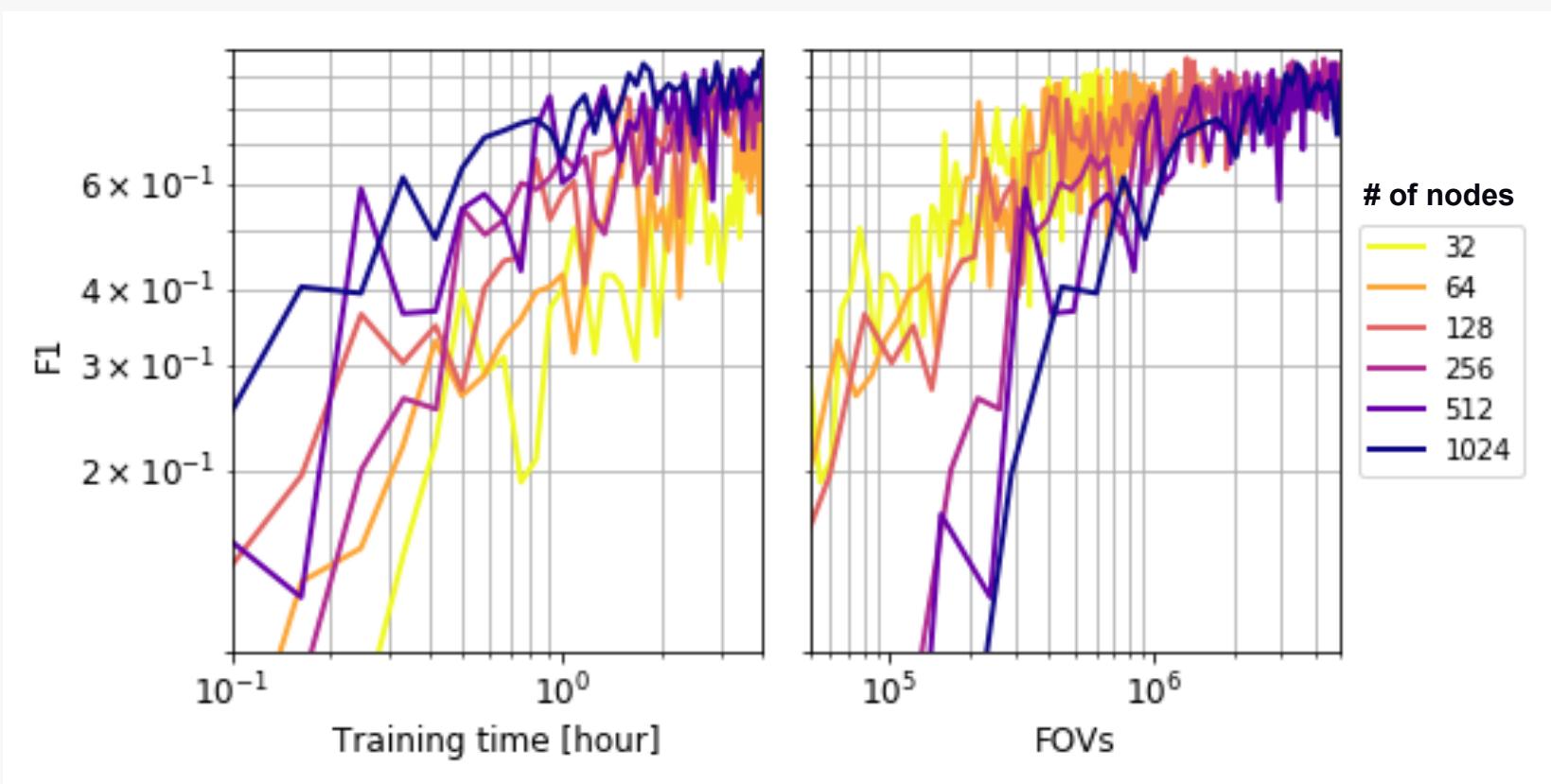


Enables exploration of the hyperparameter space to further improve training performance and to test different model architectures.



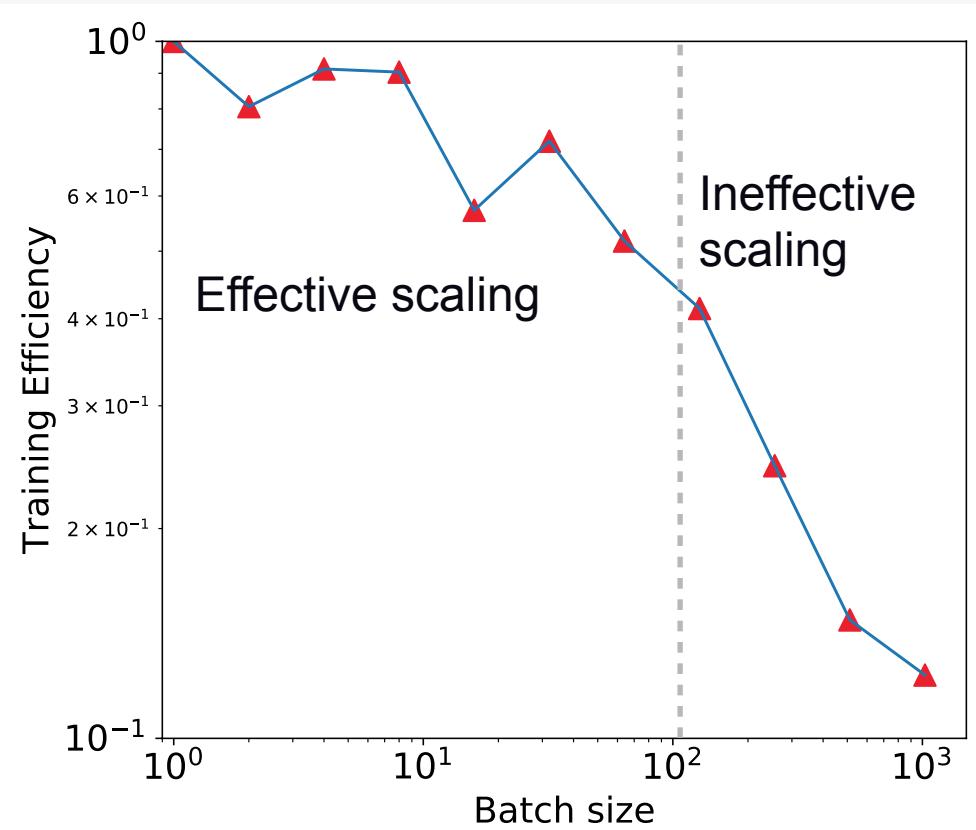
# Results

Compute-efficiency VS Time-efficiency



# Results

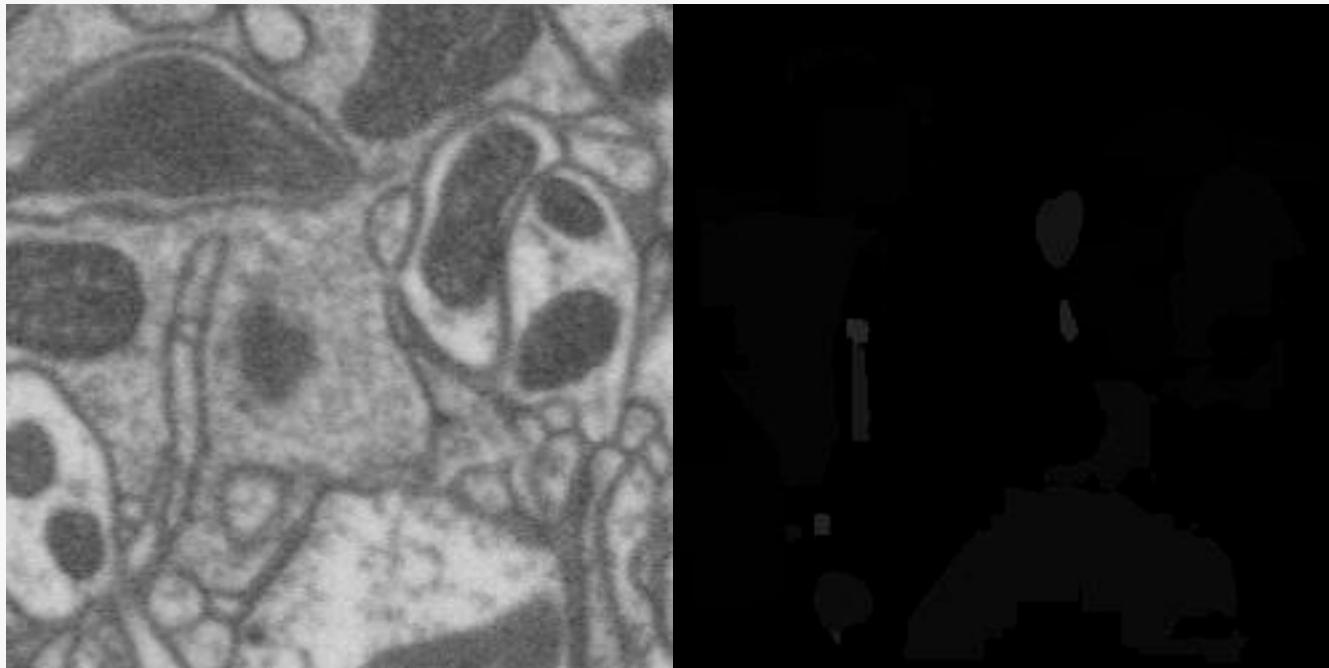
Effect of batch sizes on efficiency



\* *Training efficiency =*  
*(Time used to reach a specified F1 score)<sup>-1</sup>*

# Results

Training evaluation



Fib-25 raw imaging data (left) and our volumetric segmentation results (left).

Funke, Jan, et al. arXiv preprint arXiv:1709.02974 (2017)

Wolf, Steffen, et al. Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision. 2017

# Contents

- **Background**
- **Methods**
- **Results**
- **Summary**

# Summary

- Implemented data-parallel synchronous training of FFN and scaled it up to 2048 KNL nodes on Theta
- Reduced FFN training time needed to reach good levels of evaluation quality
- Reduced training enables hyper-parameter optimization
  - Important for different data sets
- Showed the tradeoff between compute-efficiency and time-efficiency
- Take-home message: Efficient training on HPC requires efficient usage of large training batches.

# Future works

- To implement automatic hyperparameter optimization to further improve training efficiency
- To test different model architectures

# Acknowledgement

- University of Chicago Office of Research and National Laboratories and the Center for Data and Computing (CDAC)
- U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Advanced Scientific Computing Research, under contract number DE-AC02-06CH11357
- Argonne Leadership Computing Facility

# Thank You!

For more information: arXiv 1905.06236

[dongws@uchicago.edu](mailto:dongws@uchicago.edu)