

# Understanding applications with BSC Tools

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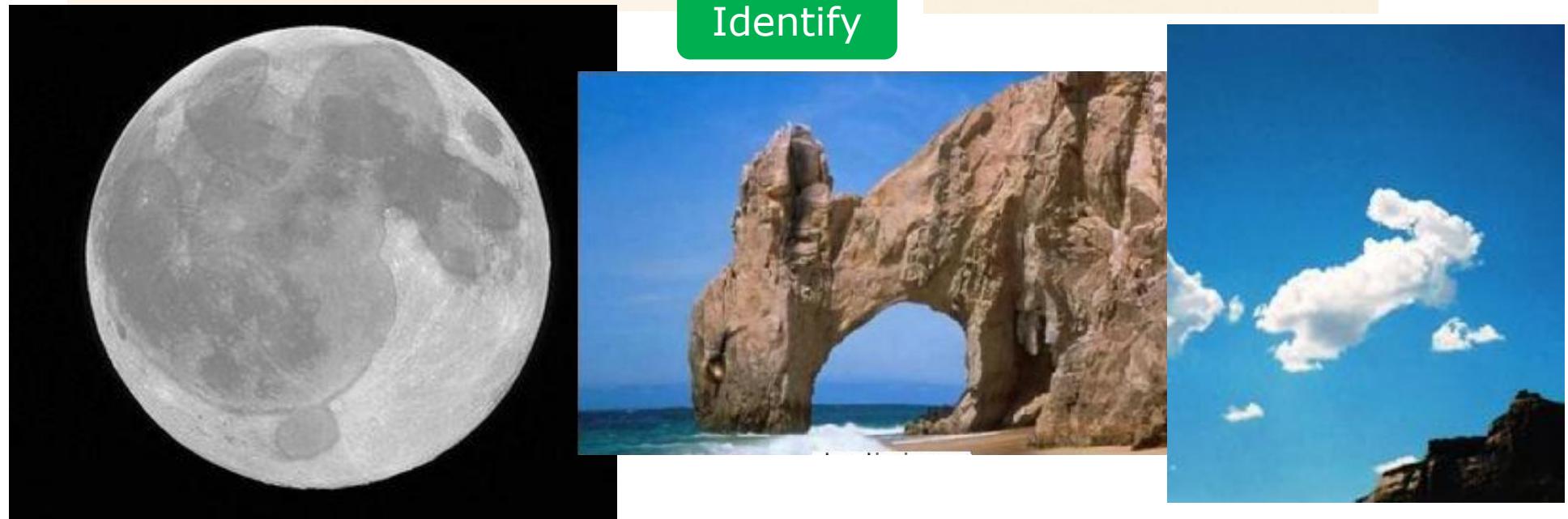
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Barcelona Supercomputing Center

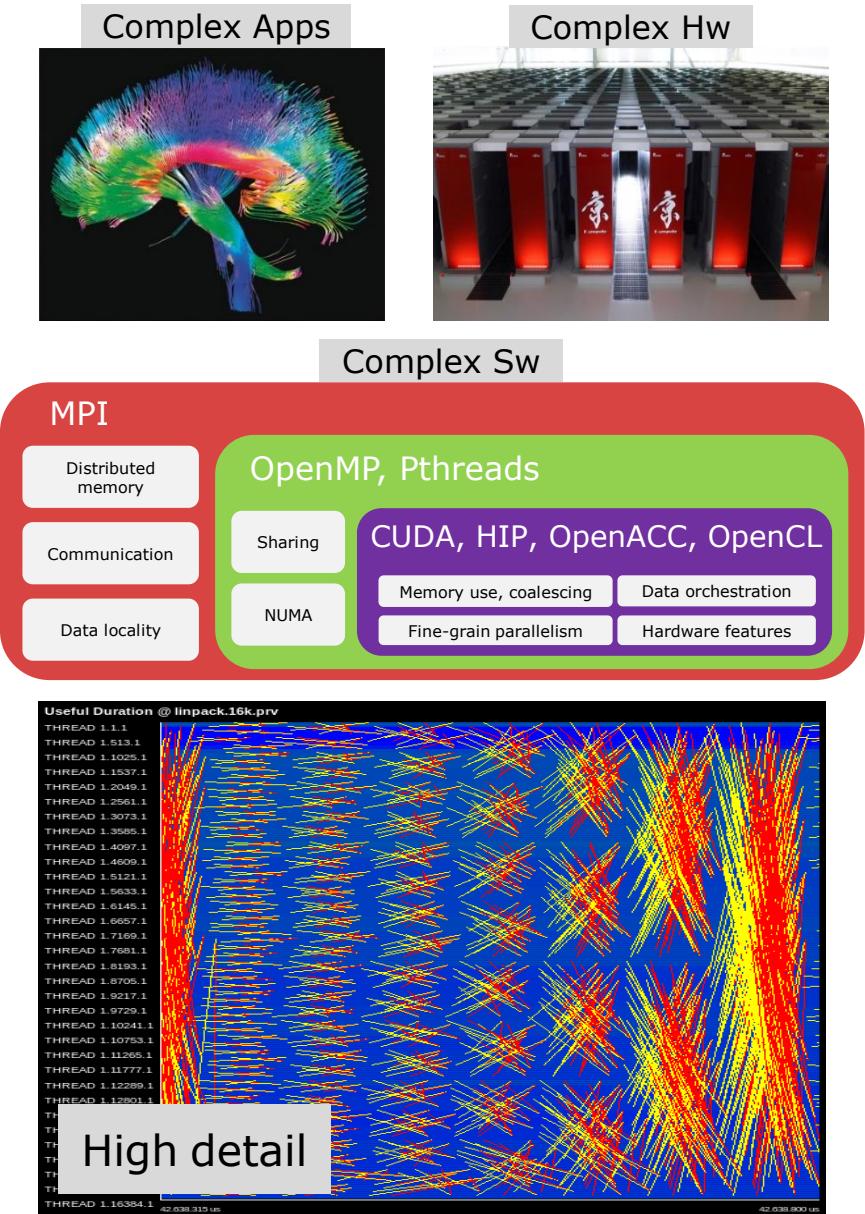
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Performance Optimisation and Productivity 3 (101143931)



# BSC Tools

- Since 1991
- Based on traces
- Open Source
  - <https://tools.bsc.es>
- Core tools:
  - **Extrae** – instrumentation
  - **Paraver** – offline trace analysis
  - **Dimemas** – message passing simulator
- Focus
  - Detail, variability, flexibility
  - Behavioural structure vs. syntactic structure
  - Intelligence: Performance Analytics





# Paraver

# Paraver – Performance data browser

1:151:1:147:1:294672917:294676549:1  
2:151:1:147:1:294672917:50000001:0  
3:151:1:147:1:294623693:294672917:158:1:154:1:294670636:297419889:4223536:8

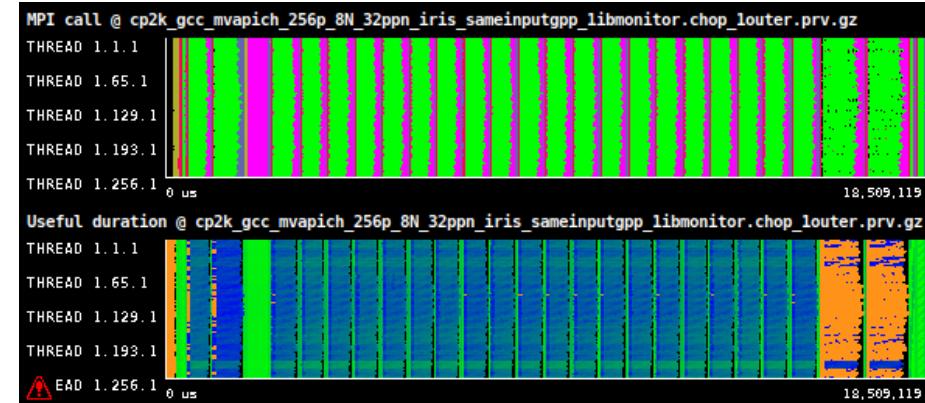
Raw data

Trace visualization/analysis



Trace manipulation

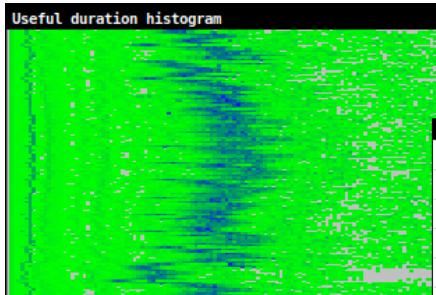
Timelines



2/3D Histograms



2/3D tables  
(statistics)



	MPI_Waitall	MPI_Allreduce	MPI_Recv	MPI_Alltoallv	MPI_Alltoall	MPI_Isend
<b>Num. Cells</b>	256	256	256	256	256	256
<b>Total</b>	4,323.70 %	2,868.80 %	1,201.01 %	312.82 %	305.23 %	172.99 %
<b>Average</b>	16.89 %	11.21 %	4.69 %	1.22 %	1.19 %	0.68 %
<b>Maximum</b>	36.54 %	21.12 %	12.49 %	1.30 %	4.66 %	5.10 %
<b>Minimum</b>	7.03 %	0.62 %	0.09 %	1.12 %	0.12 %	0.10 %
<b>StDev</b>	5.76 %	4.13 %	3.25 %	0.04 %	0.52 %	0.72 %
<b>Avg/Max</b>	0.46	0.53	0.38	0.94	0.26	0.13

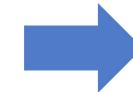
Goal = Flexibility  
No semantics  
Programmable

Comparative analyses  
Multiple traces  
Synchronize scales

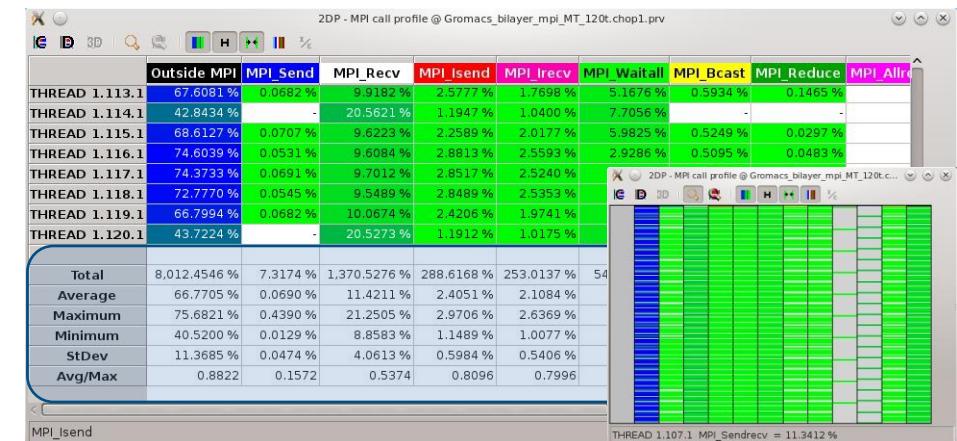
# From timelines to tables

- Categorical metrics → colours
  - Each category is assigned a distinct colour

MPI calls



MPI calls profile

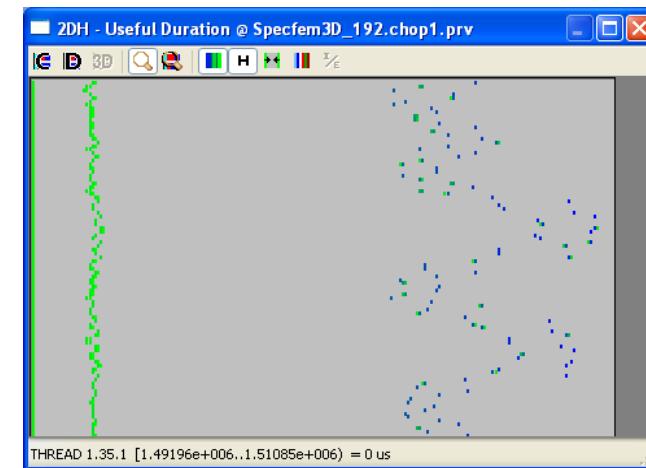


- Continuous metrics → gradients
  - **Green** to **blue** for **low** to **high** values

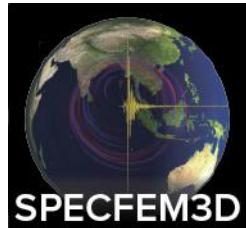
Useful duration



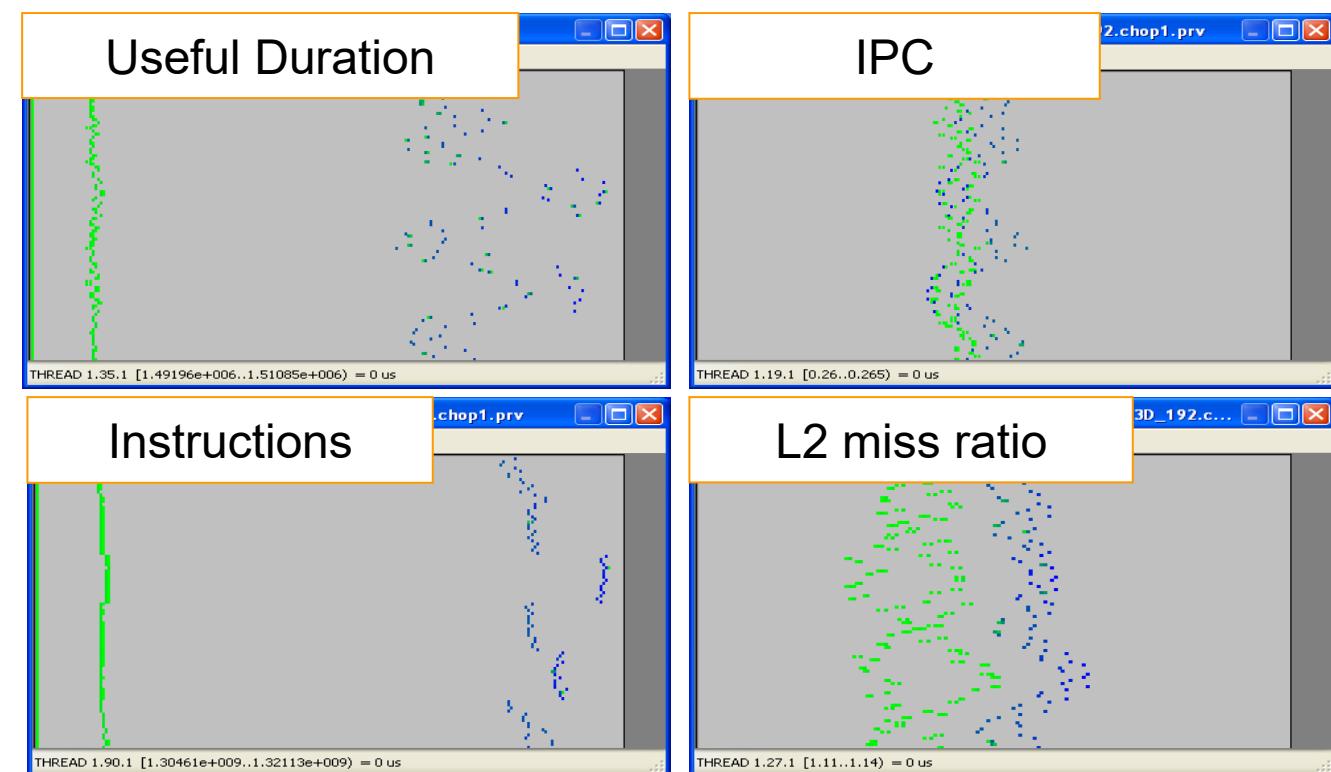
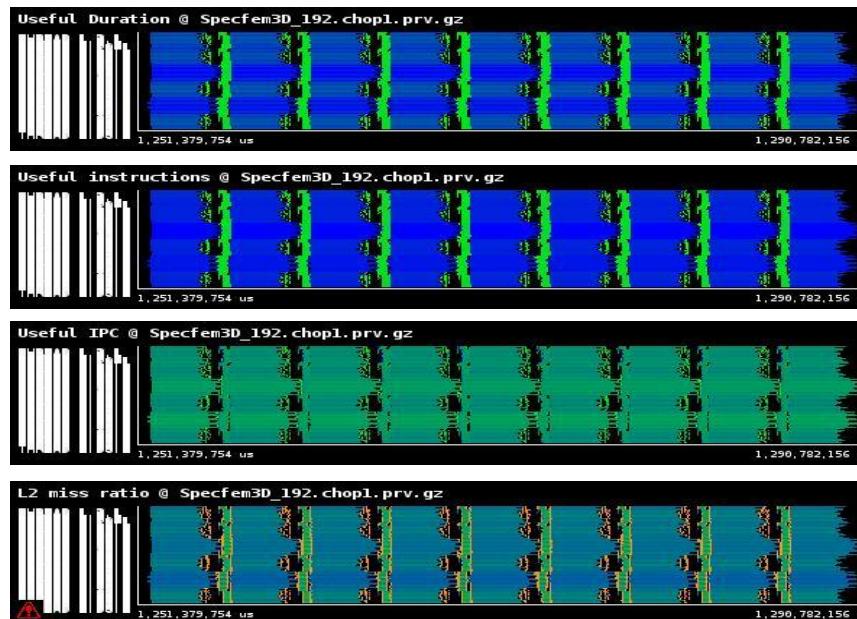
Compute-time histogram



# Analyzing variability through timelines and histograms



Courtesy Dimitri Komatitsch

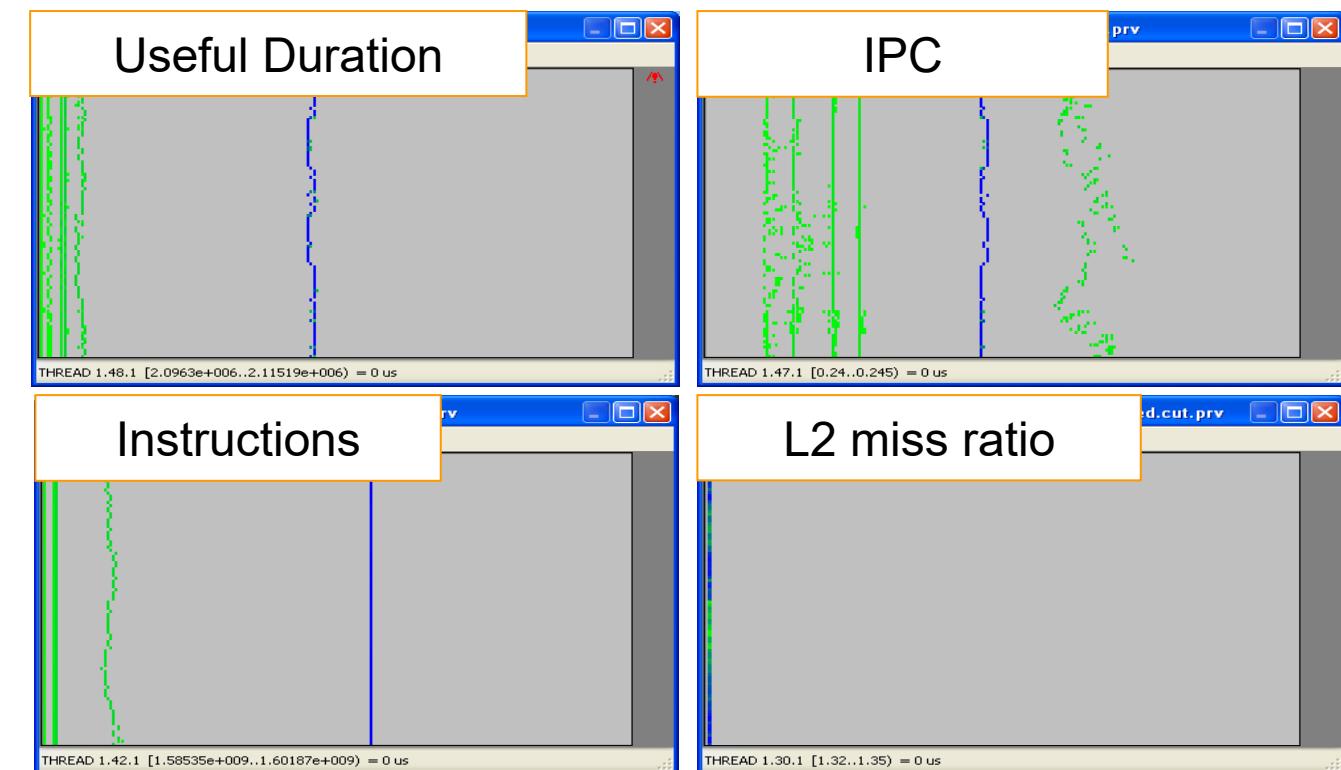


# Analyzing variability through histograms and timelines

- By the way: six months later...

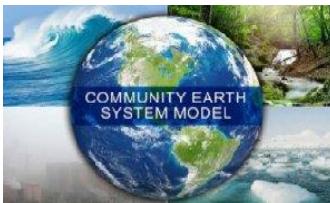


Focus optimization  
where it matters



# From tables to timelines

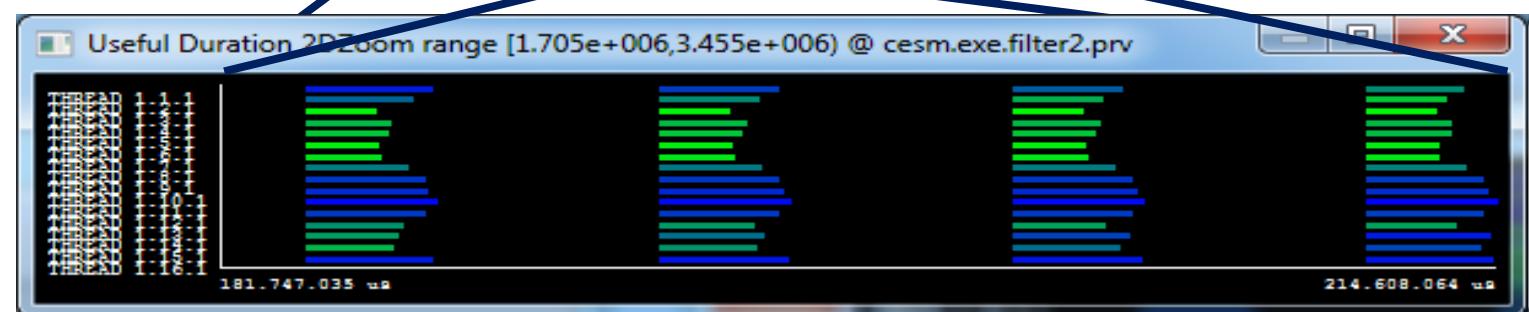
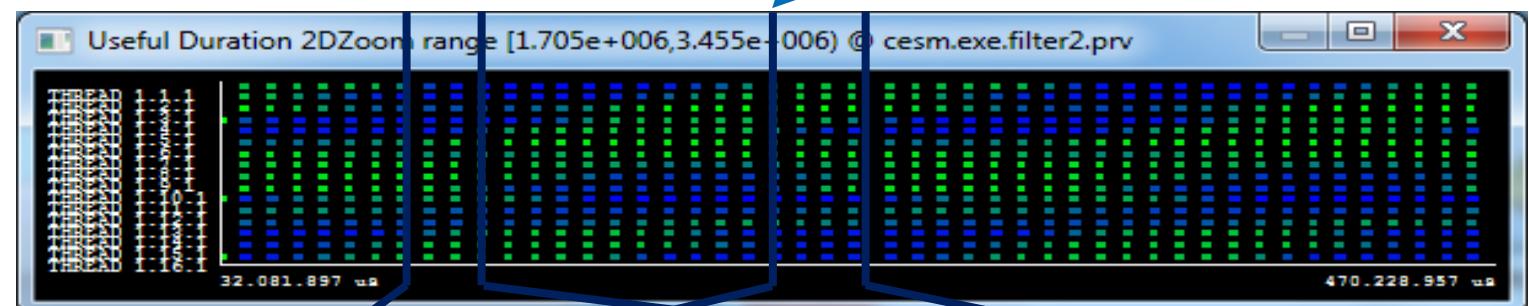
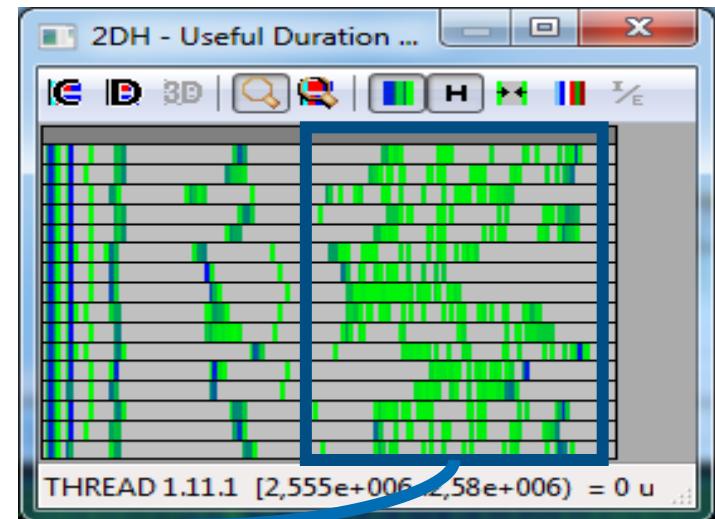
- CESM: 16 processes, 2-day simulation



- High variability in useful computation duration

- How is it distributed?

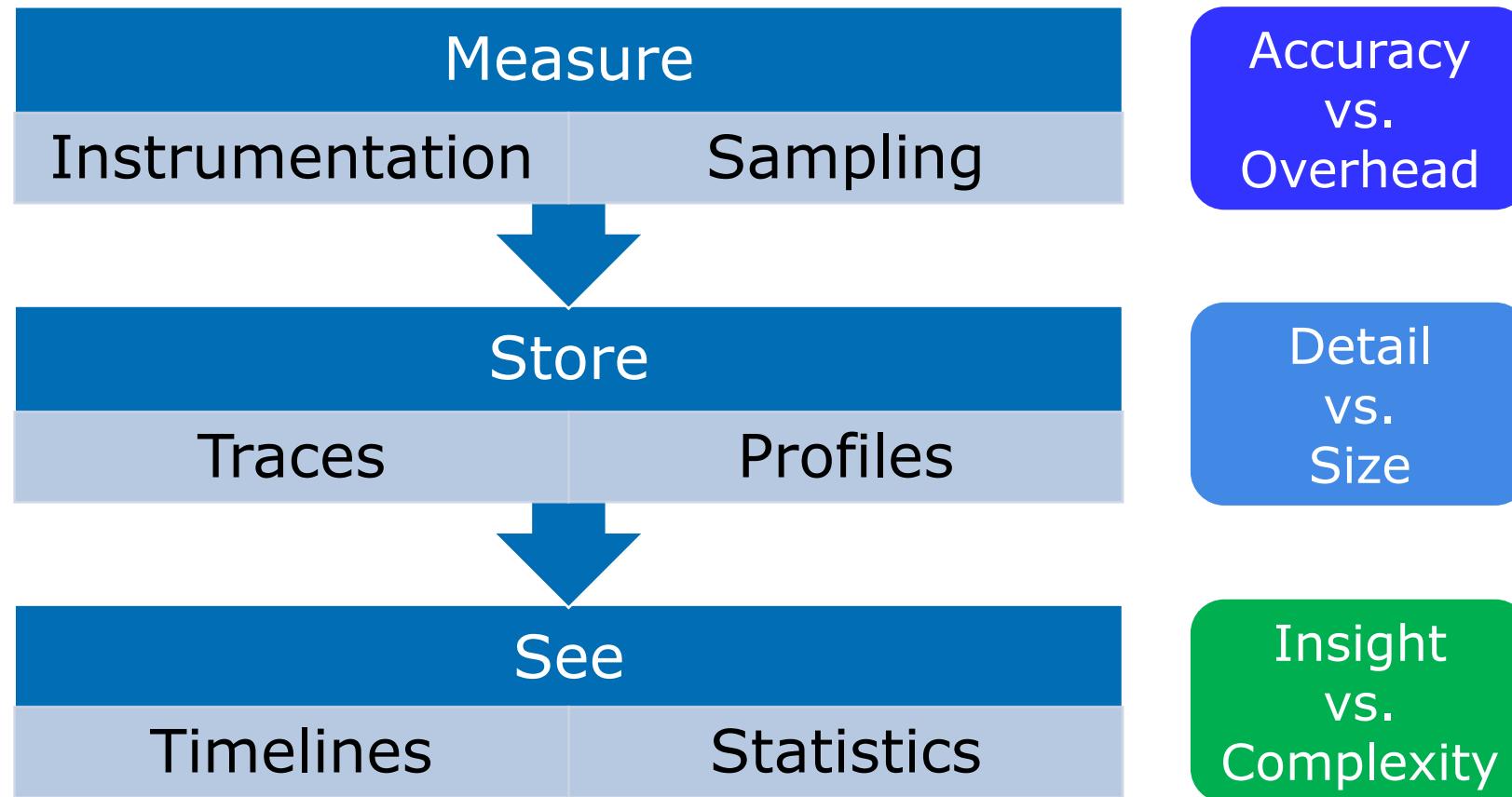
- Dynamic imbalance
  - In space and time
  - Day and night
  - Season?





# Why traces?

# Performance data trade-offs



**Highly detailed traces can be quite large...**

# Manipulating big traces

- Data processing & summarization

- **Filtering**

- Subset of records from the original trace
  - By duration, type, value...

- **Cutting**

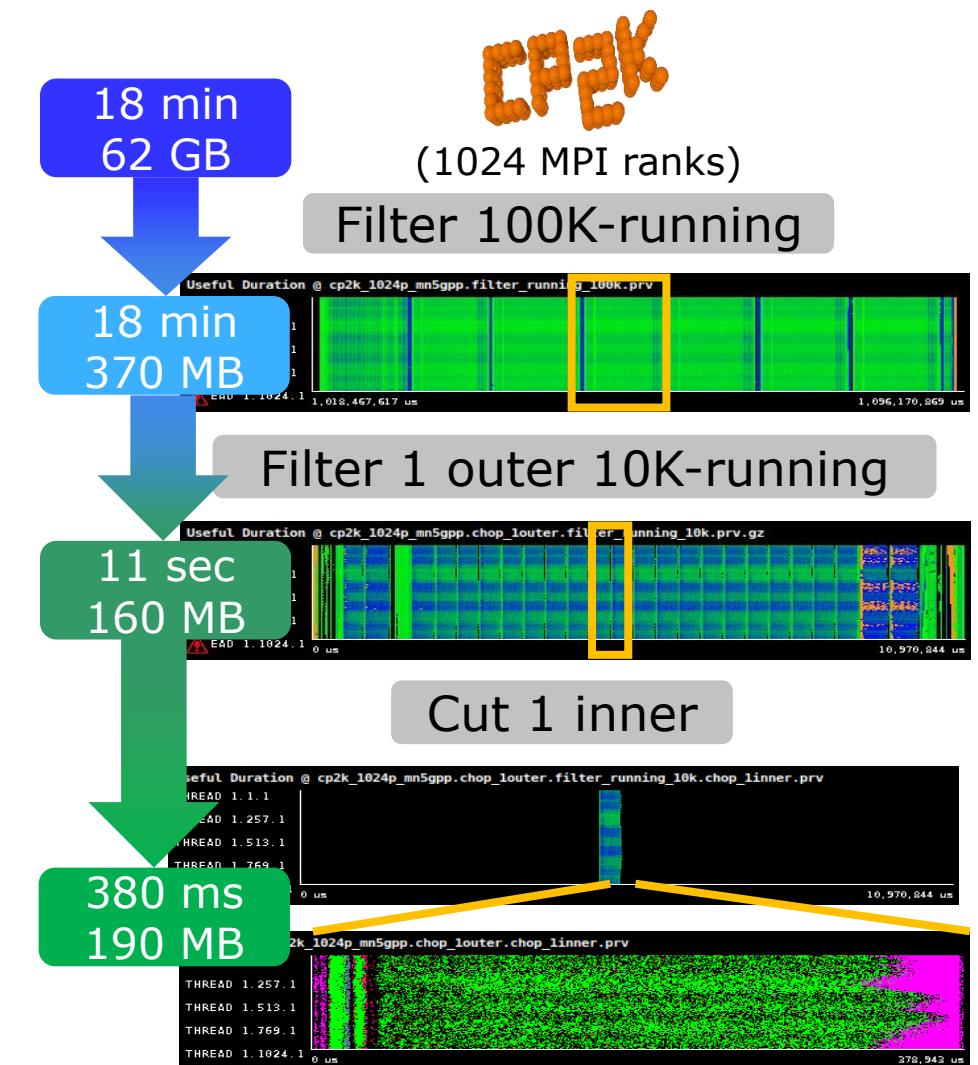
- All records within a time interval
  - Selected processes only

- **Software counters**

- Aggregated metrics as new events
  - MPI call count, HW totals...

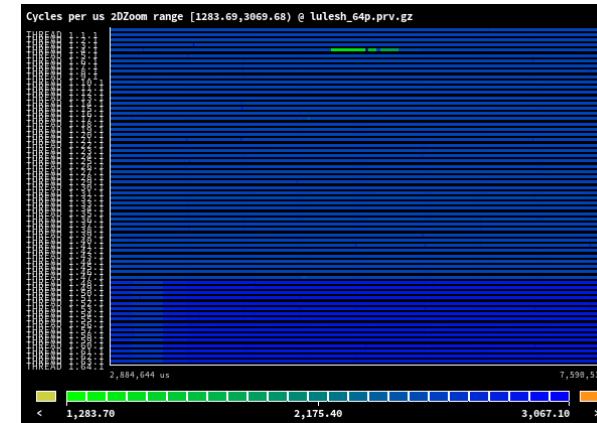
- Remains a Paraver-compatible trace for analysis with the same CFGs (if needed data is kept)

- Automatic analysis → **Performance Analytics**



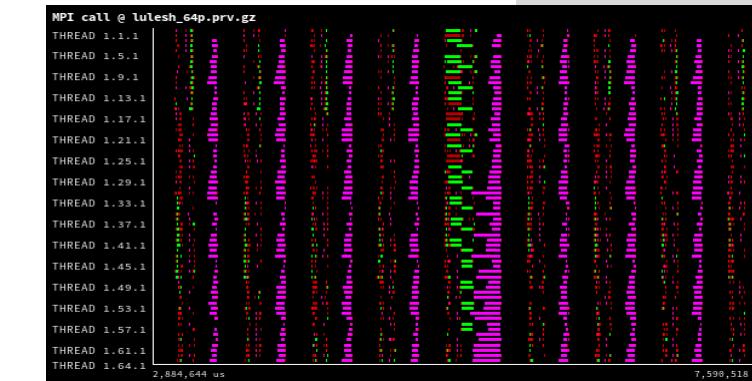
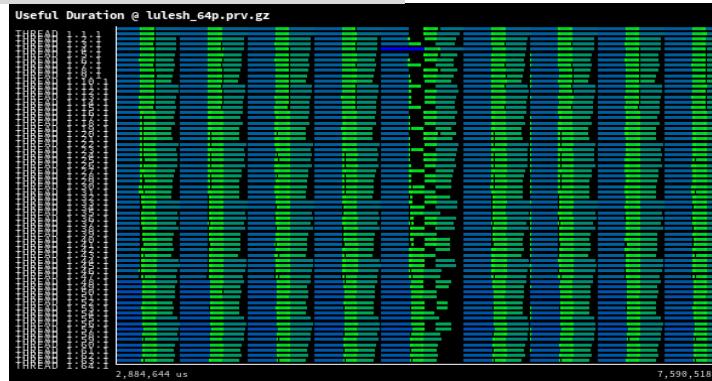
# The Butterfly Effect...

- A system preemption reduces the cycles assigned to one of the processes for a small interval



**Cycles/us**

**Useful duration**

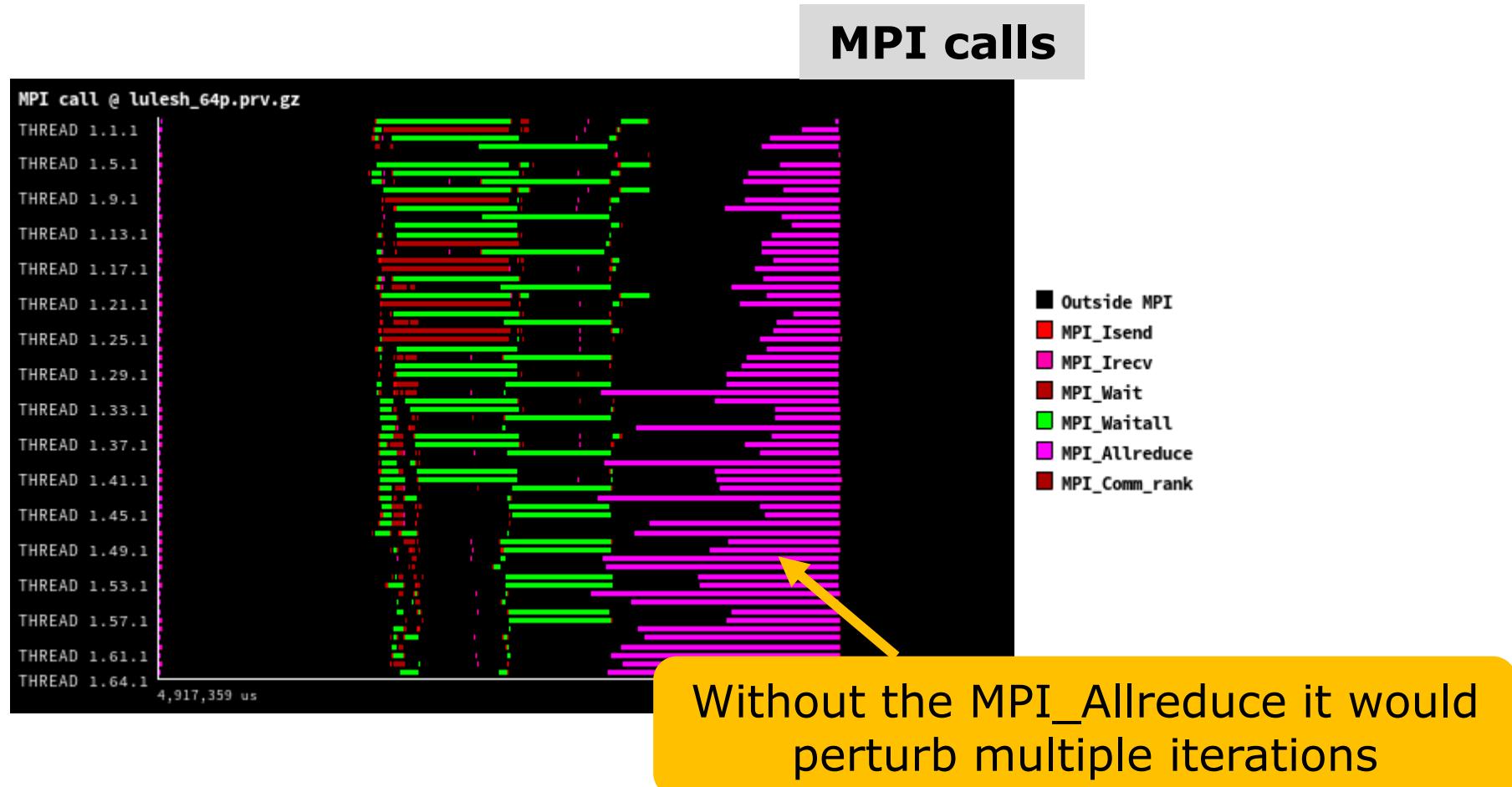


**MPI calls**

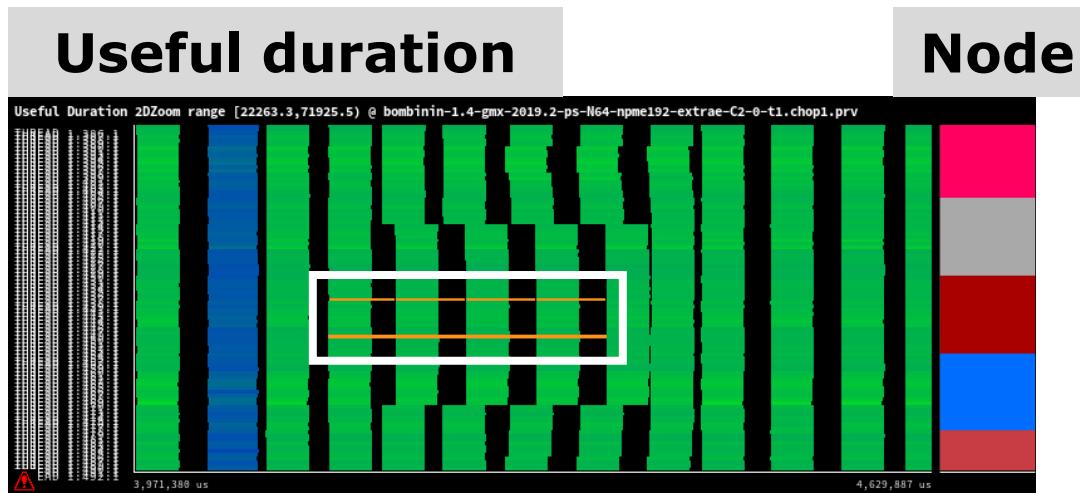
**Affects only one process, but disturbs all processes**

# ... flying through the MPI pattern

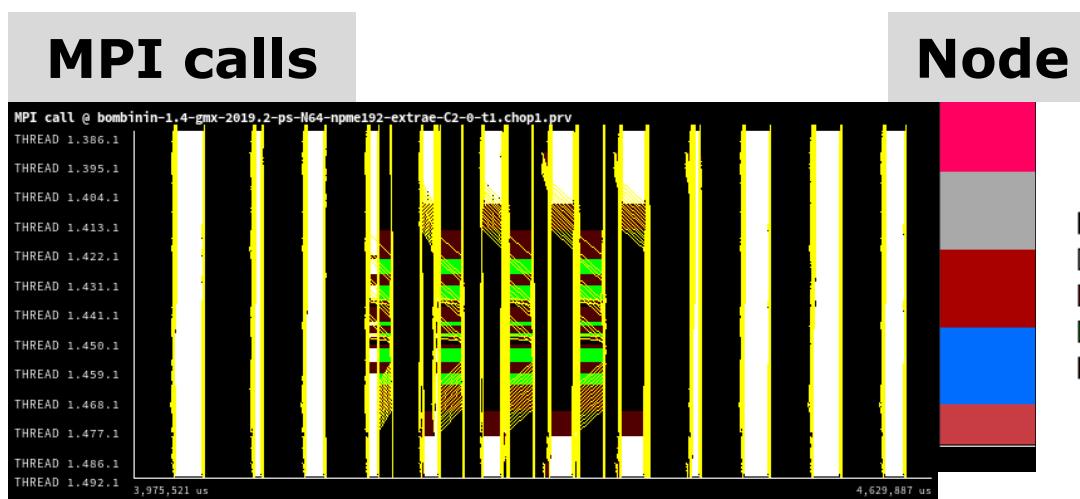
- Produces a wave effect that reflects and interferes across all partners



# ... flying to other nodes



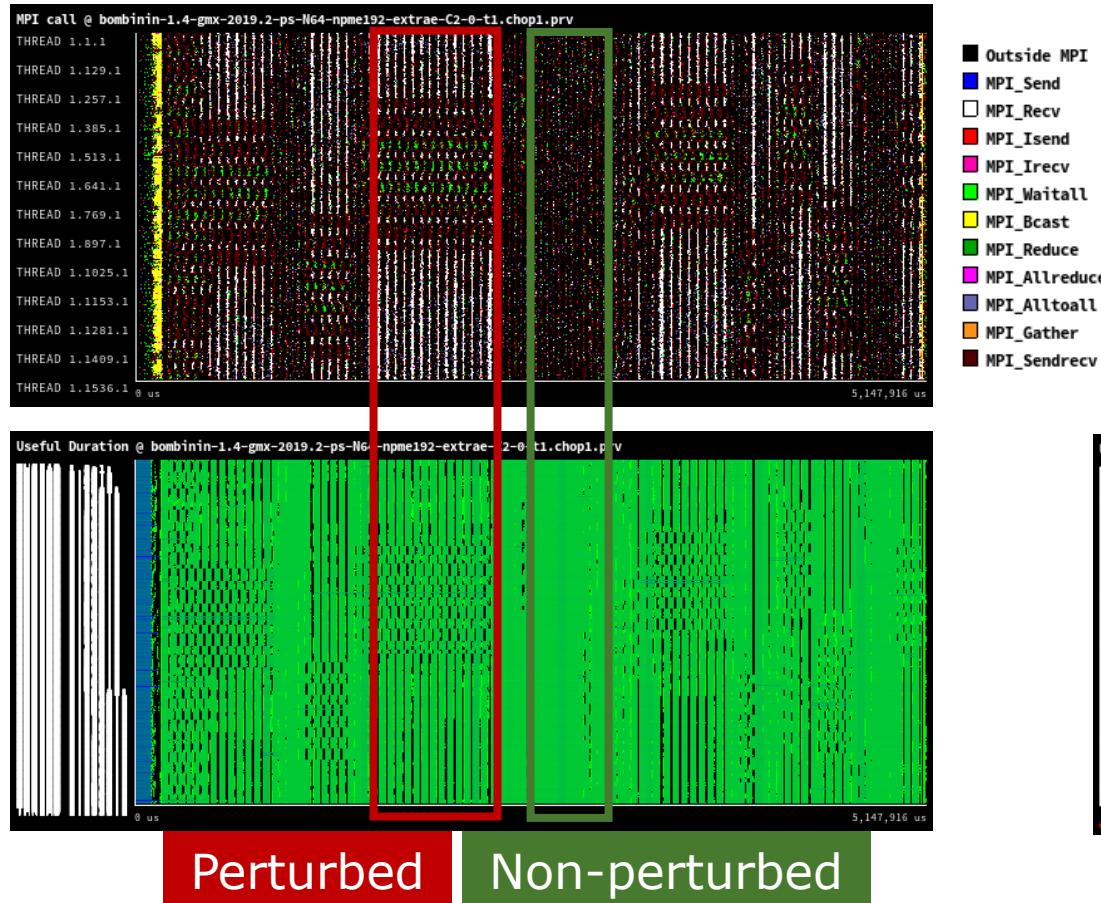
- 2 processes perturbed in the same interval
- On the same node



- Outside MPI
- MPI\_Recv
- MPI\_Isend
- MPI\_Waitall
- MPI\_Sendrecv

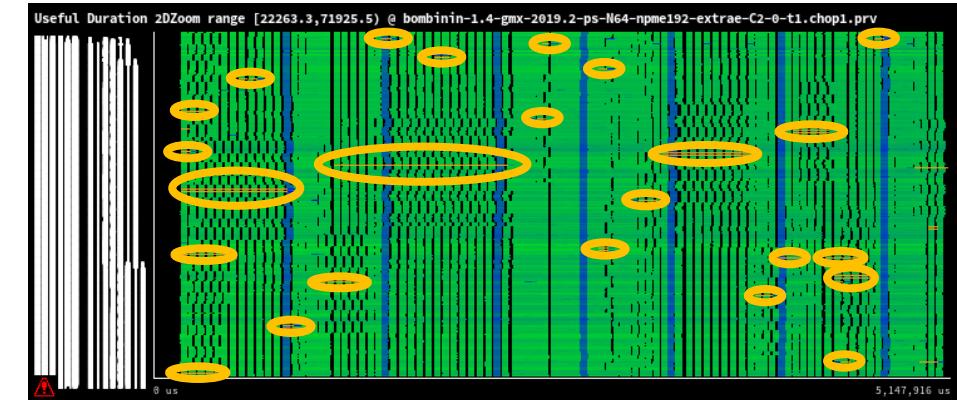
**Affects only one node,  
but disturbs many nodes**

# Thousands of butterflies?

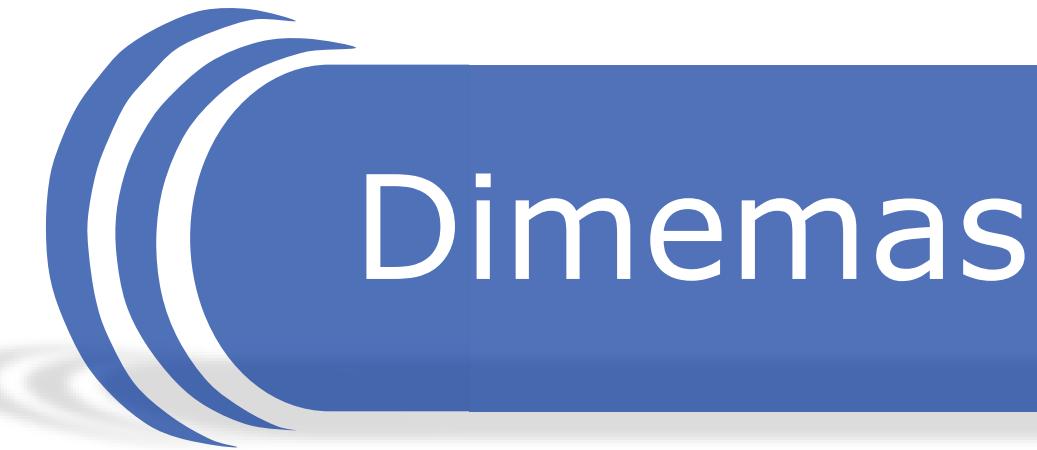


**Microscopic effects with large global impact**

- Rescaling the gradient...



**Pinpoint bursts larger than expected**

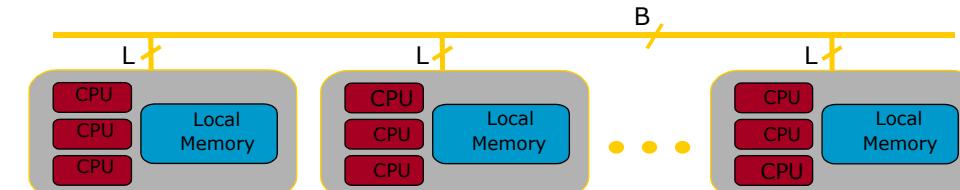


# Dimemas

# Dimemas: Coarse-grain, Trace-driven simulation

- **Fast simulation of an abstract interconnect**

- SMP nodes with local memory for intra-node comms
- Interconnect defined by L (links) and B (buses)
  - B → Limits concurrent messages (contention)
  - L → Limits per-node traffic (connectivity)
- Local/remote Latency/Bandwidth



- **Parametric sweeps**

- On abstract architectures
- On application computing regions

- **“What-if...” analysis**

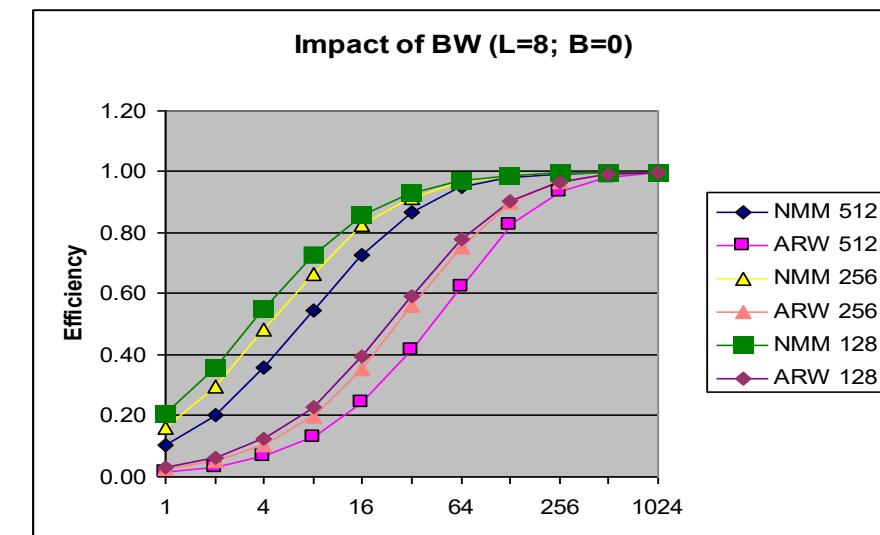
- Ideal machine (instantaneous network)
- Would benefit from asynchronous communications?
- Are all regions equally sensitive to the network?

- **MPI sanity check**

- Nominal modeling

- **Paraver + Dimemas tandem**

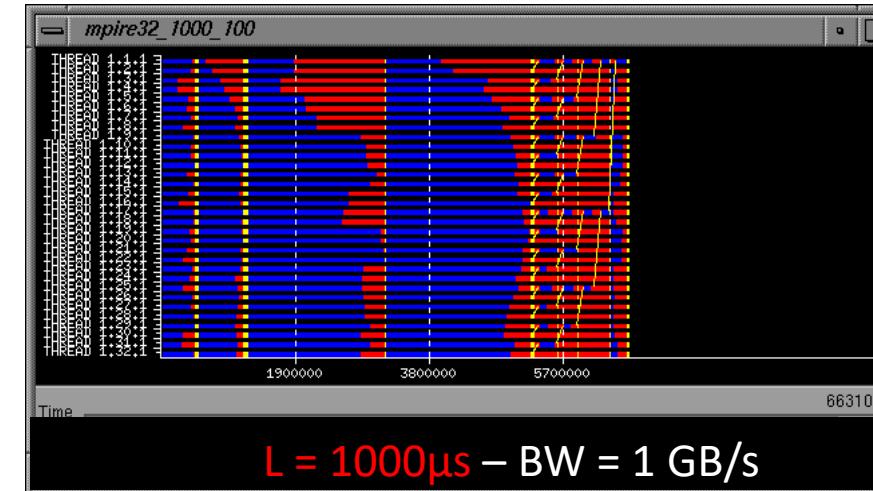
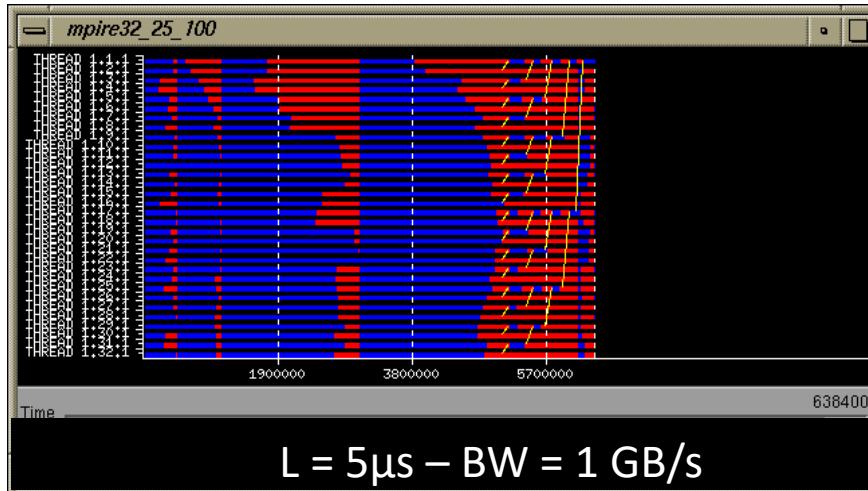
- Analysis and prediction
- What-if from selected time window



Simulation generates a trace → Detailed feedback

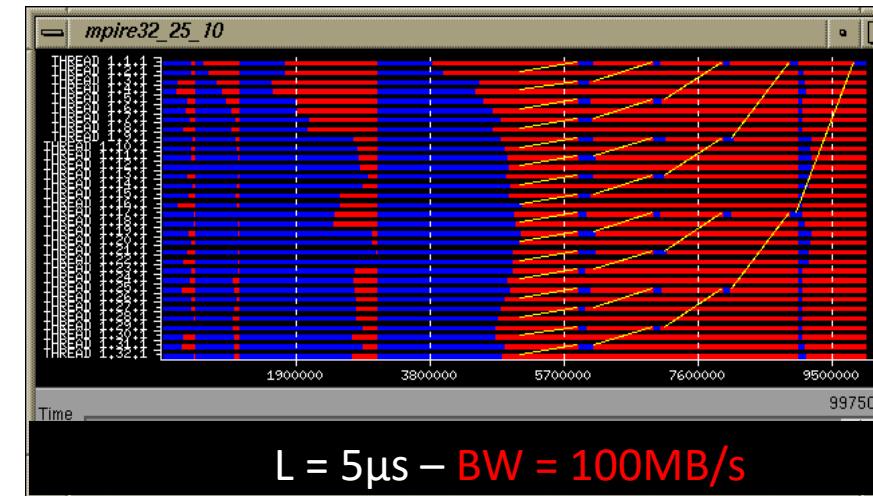
# Network sensitivity

- MPIRE 32 tasks, no contention → Sensitive to BW or Latency?

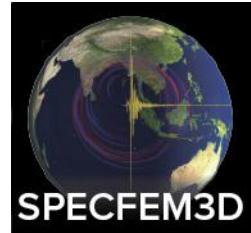


Higher latency  
doesn't hurt

Lower bandwidth kills  
the P2P phase



# What if... we had asynchronous communications?



Courtesy Dimitri Komatitsch

Ideal simulation shows not benefit

Perturbation only appears below 10 MB/s

Async comms won't help

Real

Ideal

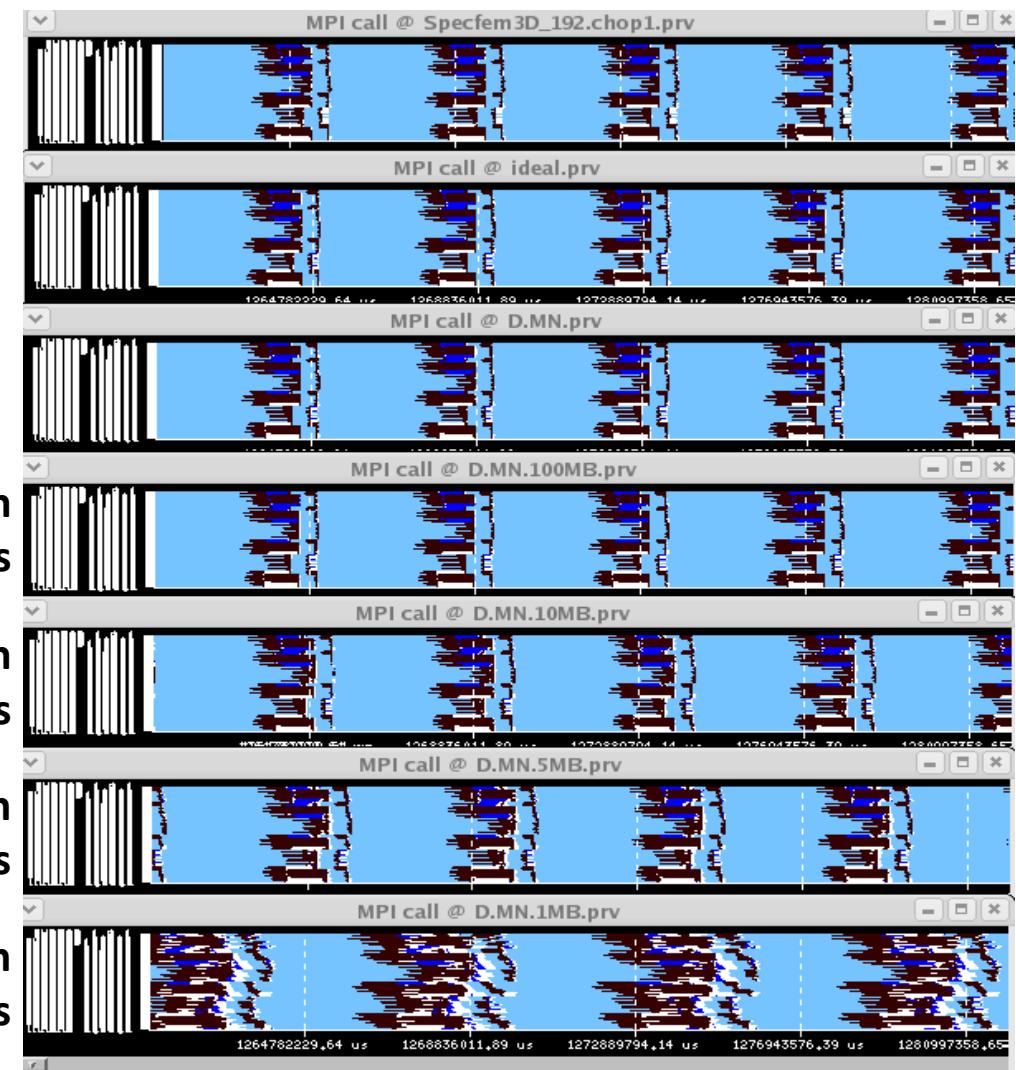
Prediction  
MN

Prediction  
100MB/s

Prediction  
10MB/s

Prediction  
5MB/s

Prediction  
1MB/s



# The Ideal Machine

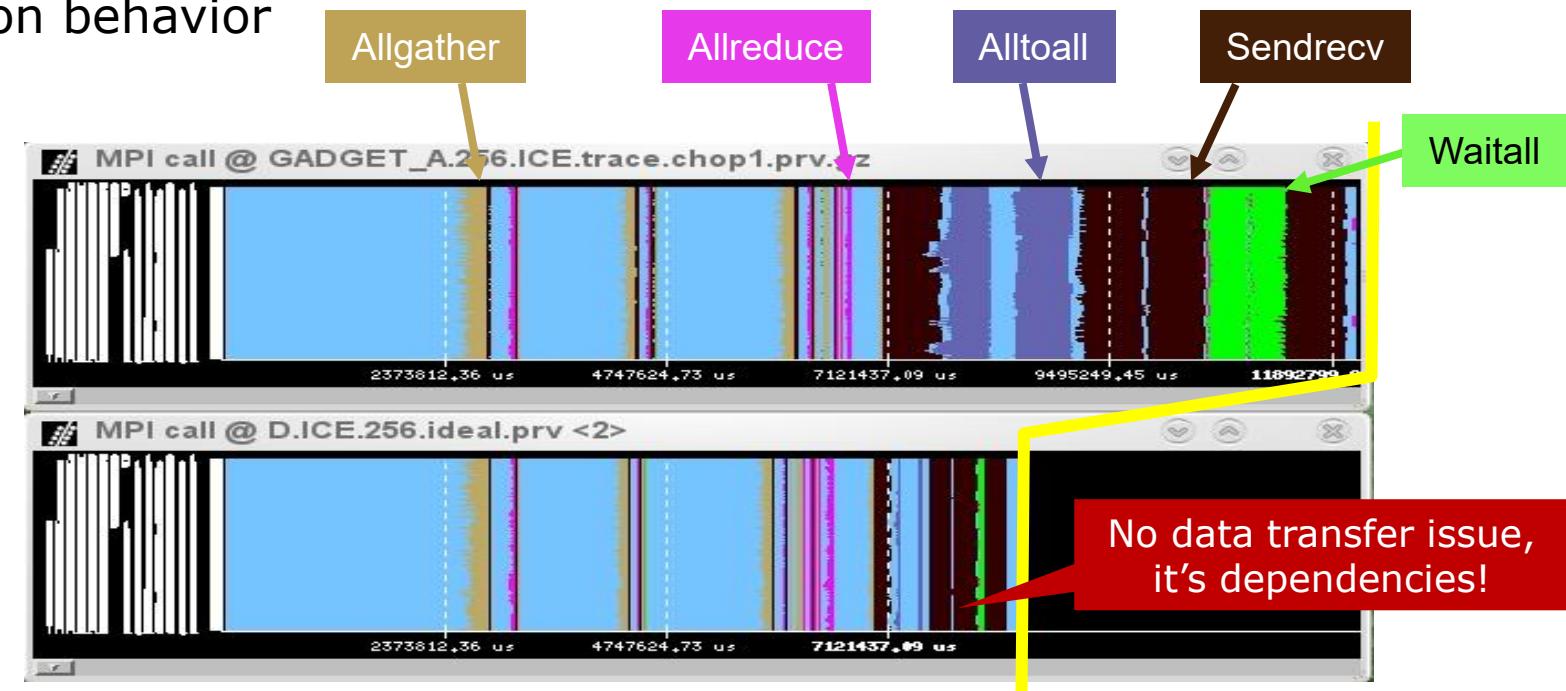
- **BW =  $\infty$ , L = 0**

- Data transfer would be instantaneous  $\rightarrow$  MPI time should vanish. Why not?
- Characterizes intrinsic application behavior
  - Load balance problems?
  - Dependency problems?

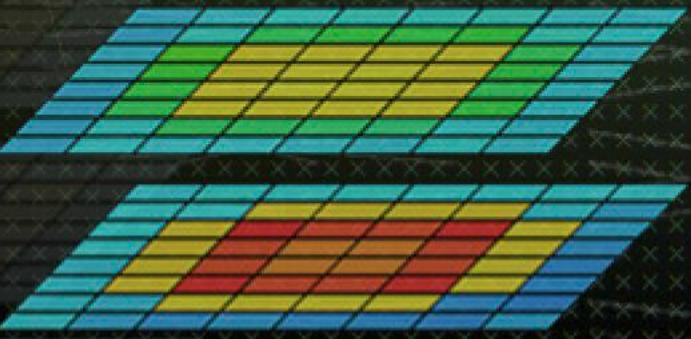
Real run

GADGET @ Nehalem  
256 processes

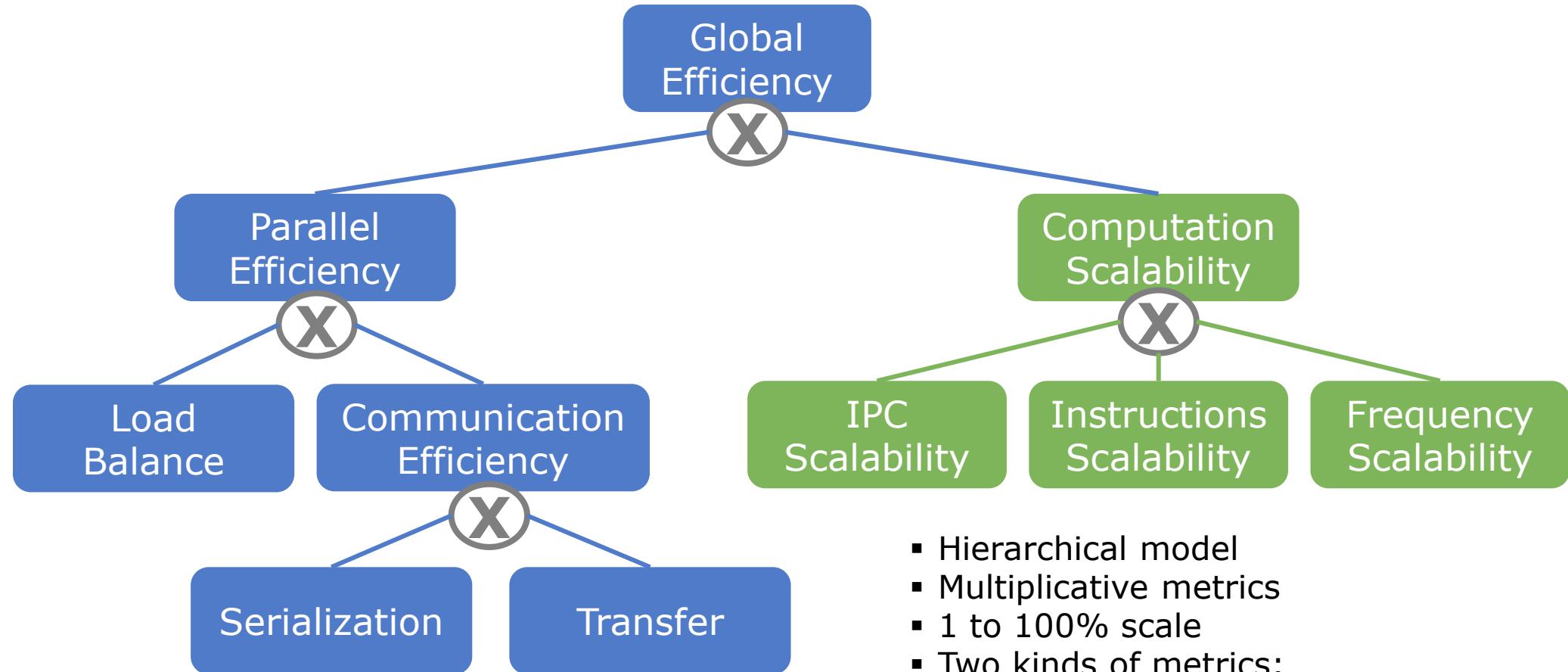
Ideal network



Impact on real machines?  
If it doesn't improve on the ideal, it won't on a faster real one



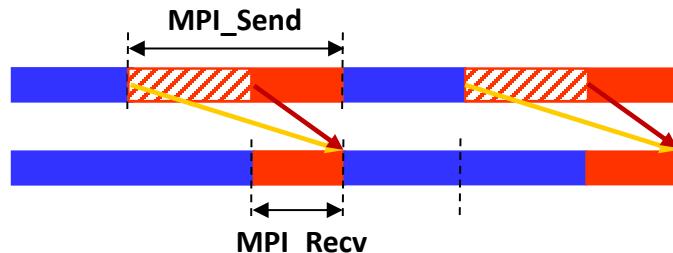
# Efficiency Model

 Efficiency Metrics

- Hierarchical model
- Multiplicative metrics
- 1 to 100% scale
- Two kinds of metrics:
  - Efficiency metrics (absolute)
  - Scalability metrics (relative to a base case)
- MPI, Hybrid MPI+OpenMP/CUDA

# Parallel Efficiency model

Computing    Communication



“Collapse” computations

Can't blame MPI for this!

LB

$\text{avg}(\text{LB})/\text{max}(\text{LB})$

Comm

$\text{max}(\text{Comm})/T$

$$\text{Parallel Efficiency} = \text{LB} * \text{Comm}$$

How effectively all system resources stay active doing useful work

Efficiency loss from data communication, processes and communication overhead

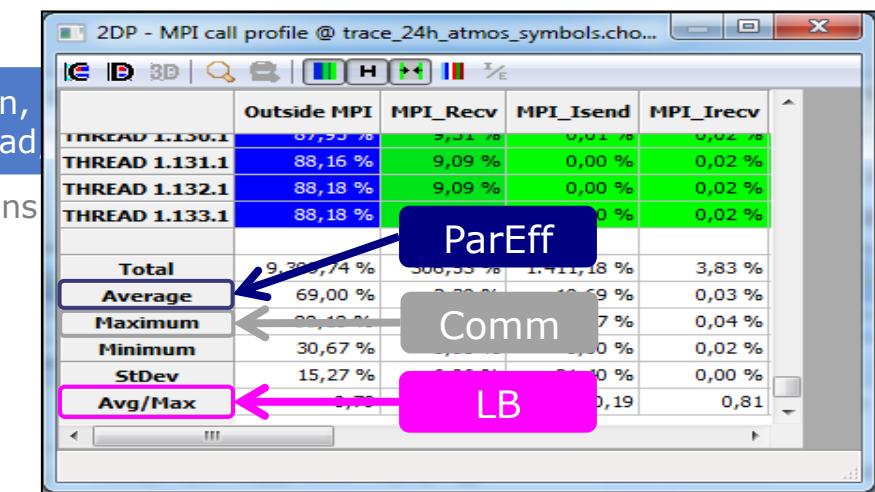


A low value means inter-process interactions

Can be measured directly in Paraver over a profile of Computing Time

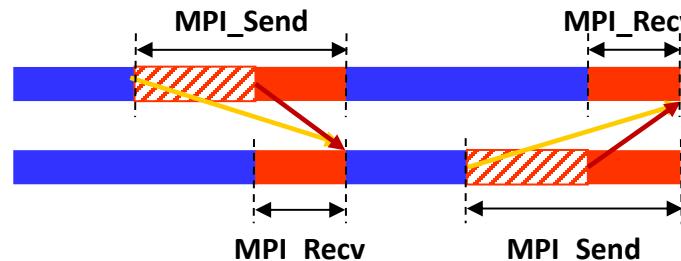
Efficiency loss from the global distribution of work among processes

A low value means heavily loaded processes keep others idle for long periods

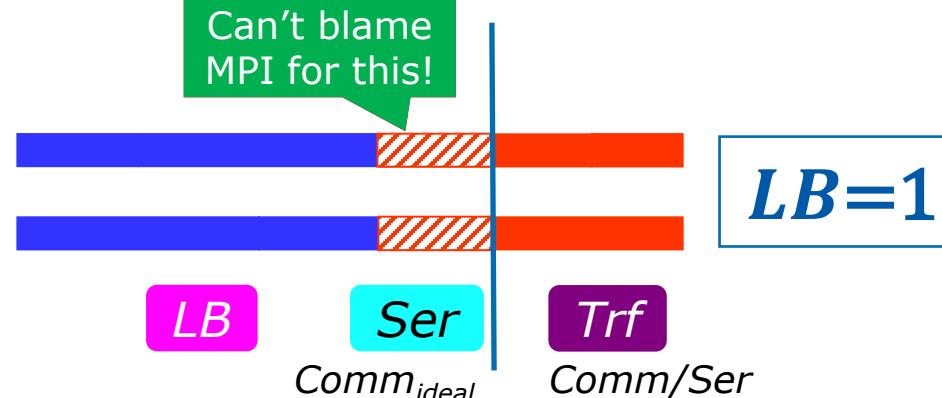


# Communication Efficiency refinement

Computing    Communication



Can't blame  
MPI for this!



- Splitting Serialization (*Ser*) and Transfer (*Trf*)
  - Simulate with Dimemas an ideal network
  - Instantaneous data transfer → red vanishes (*Trf*=100%)

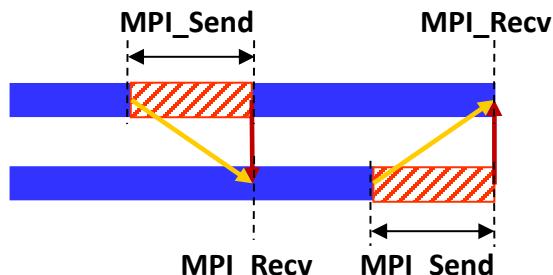
$$\text{Parallel Efficiency} = \text{LB} * \text{Ser} * \text{Trf}$$

Inefficiencies from circular dependences  
or non-uniform imbalances



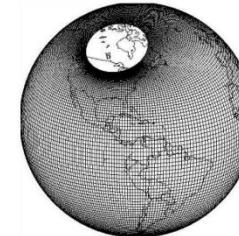
A low value means algorithmic dependency chains, varying load imbalance, or noise

Inefficiencies from communication delays, including transfer  
Can be measured in Paraver with the real and  
simulated trace, and directly with BasicAnalysis

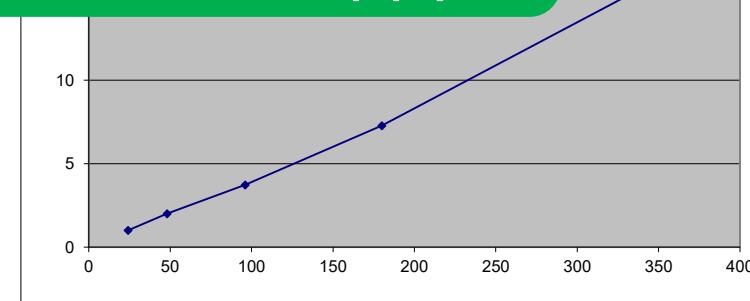


## Why scaling?

- CGPOP ocean modelling
  - Intrinsically unbalanced problem

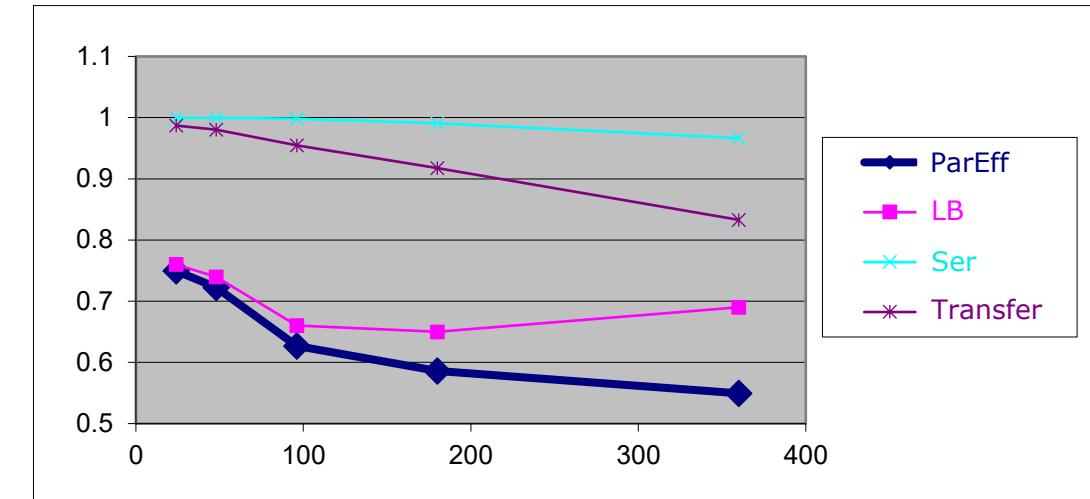


*Or just lucky!?*  
Good speed-up:  
Are we happy?

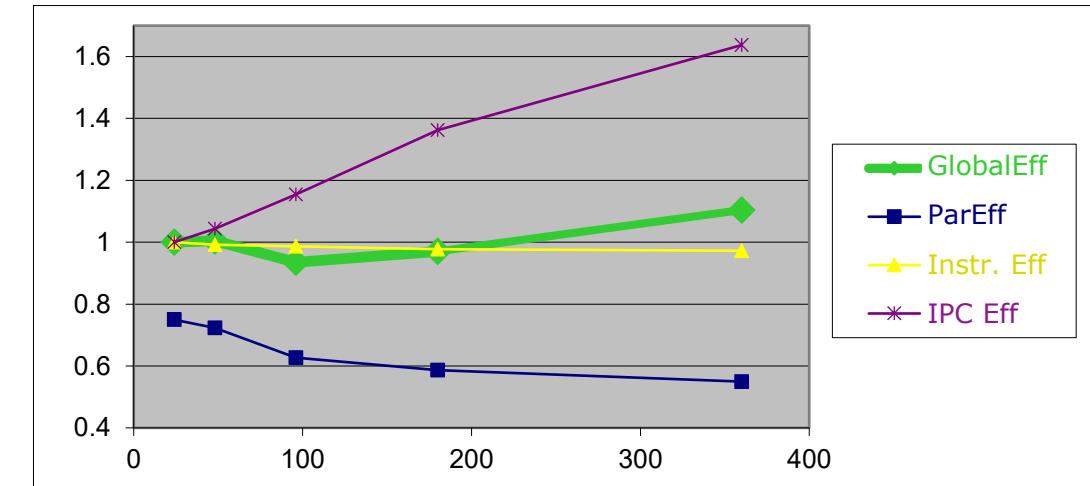


- Transfer Efficiency ↓
- IPC helps... for now!
- **Comms will become a bottleneck**

$$\text{ParEff} = \text{LB} * \text{Ser} * \text{Trf}$$



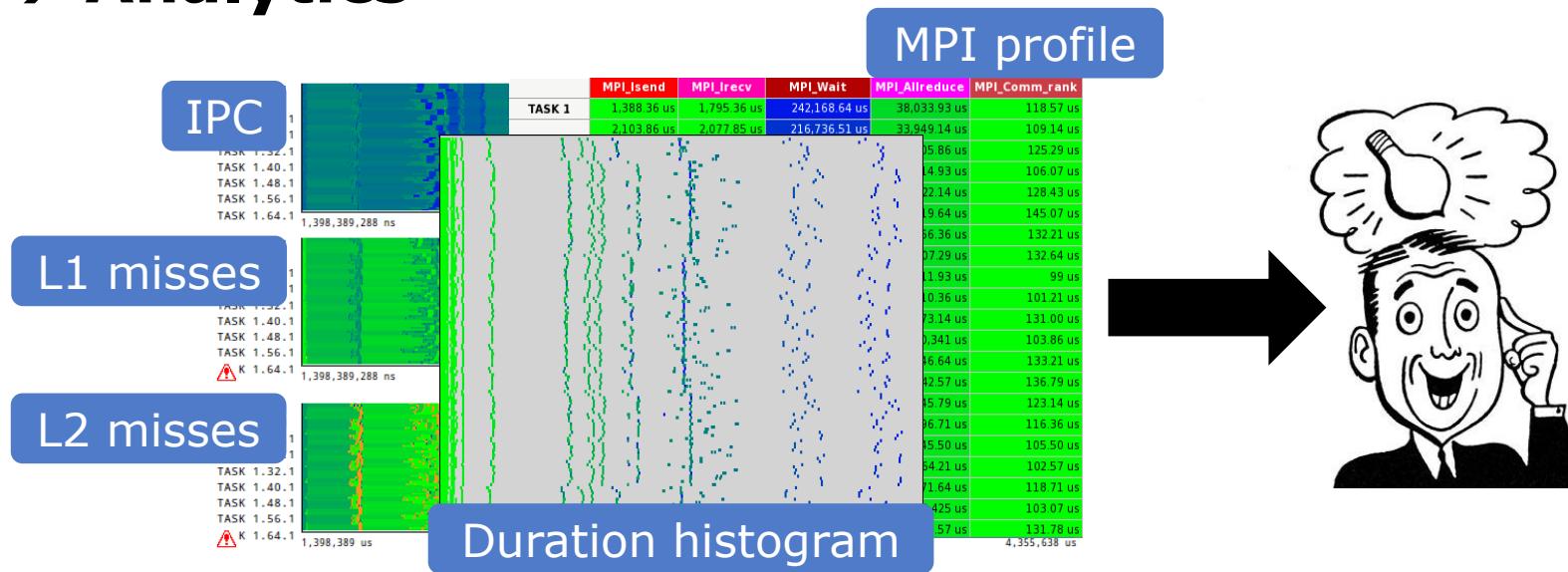
$$\text{GlobalEff} = \text{ParEff} * \text{Instr} * \text{IPC} * \text{Freq}$$





# Analytics

# Analysis → Analytics



- Dominant practice
  - Lots of data captured
    - But presentation goes from raw data to too general statistics
- Need for performance analytics
  - Leveraging techniques from data science, image processing, signal processing, etc.
  - Towards insight and models

# Basic Analysis

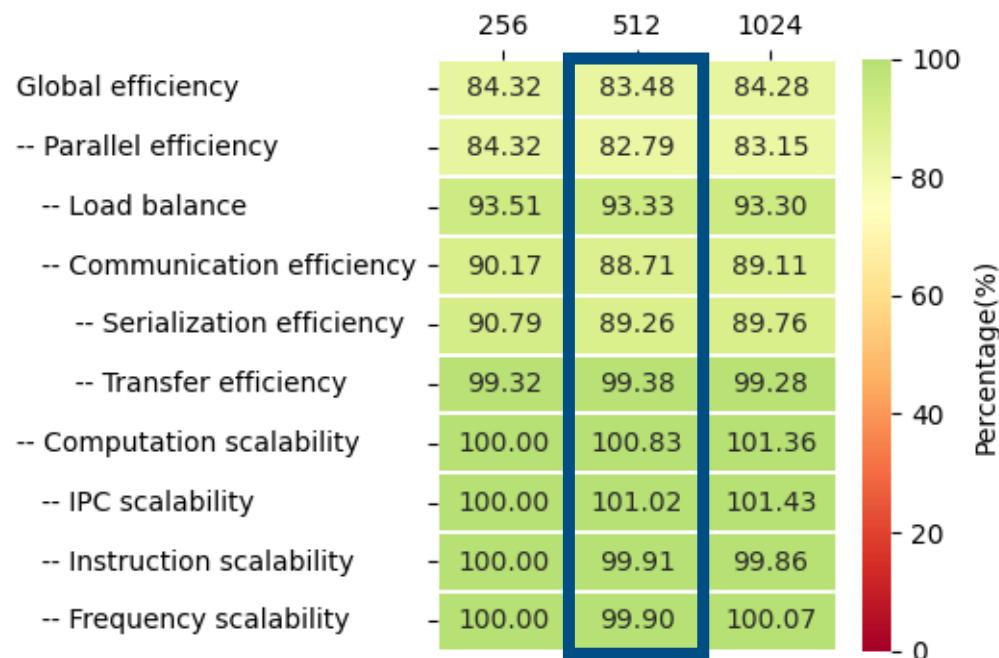
- Automatically compute the efficiency metrics from a Paraver trace (or many for scalability studies)
- Dig down from global to detailed efficiencies



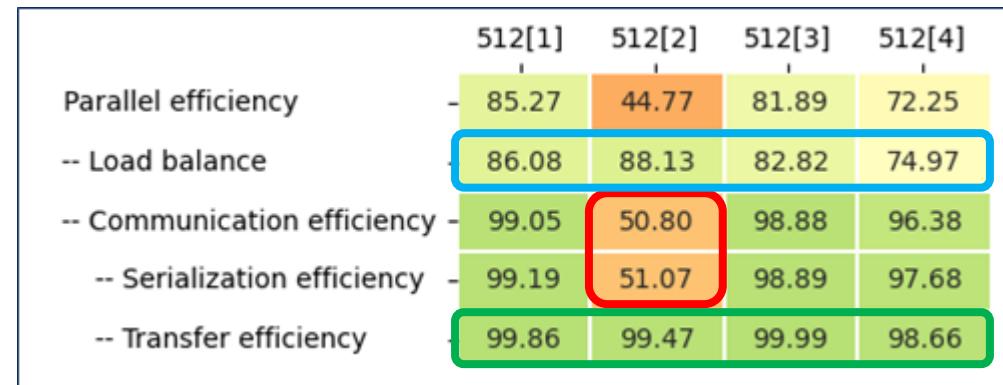
What to look for?

- Low values
- Trends
- High values

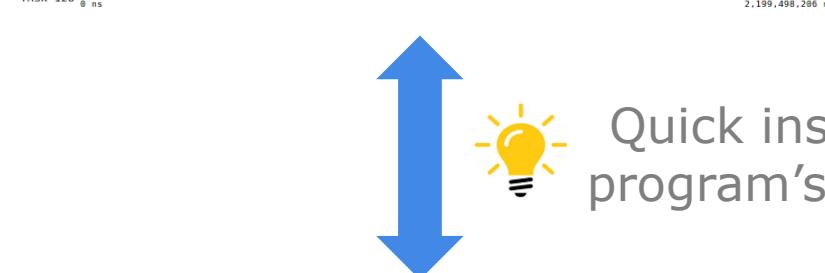
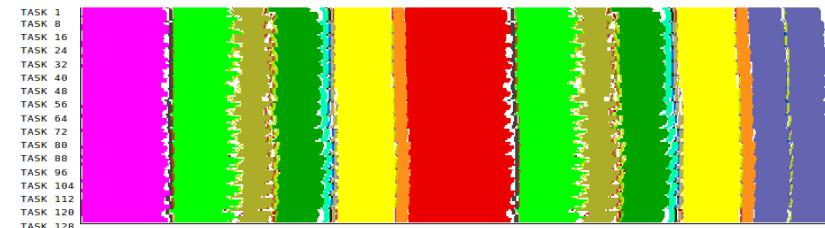
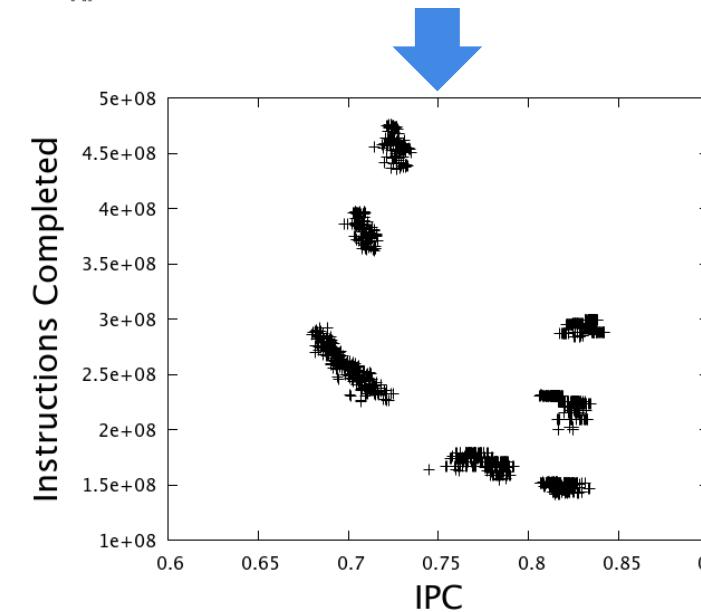
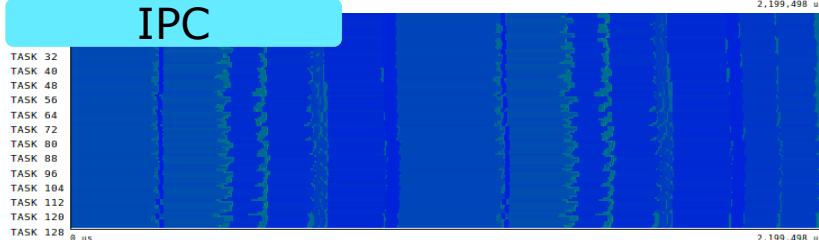
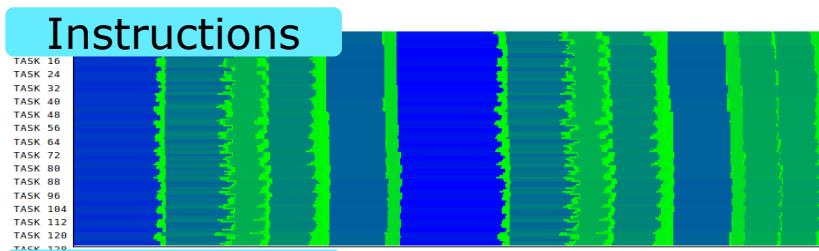
Comparing scales



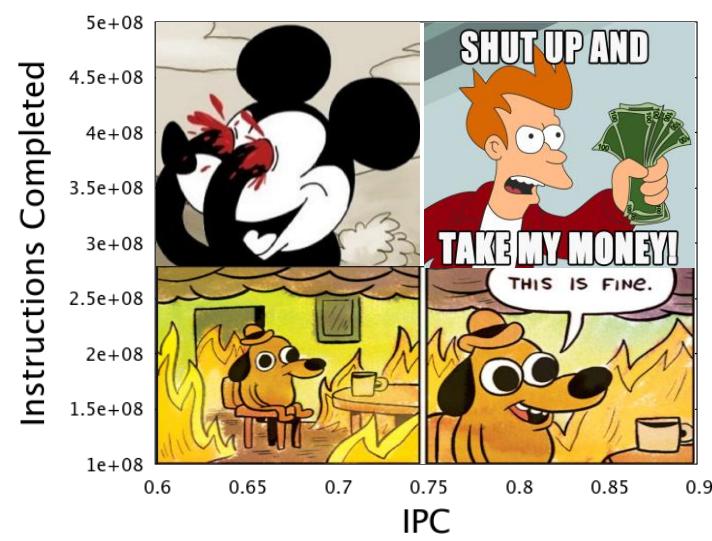
Comparing phases



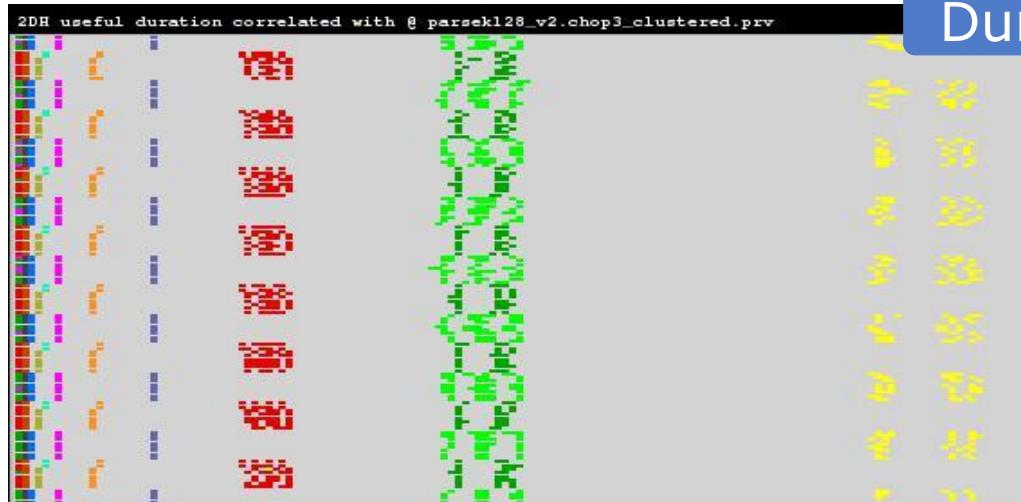
# Clustering to identify structure



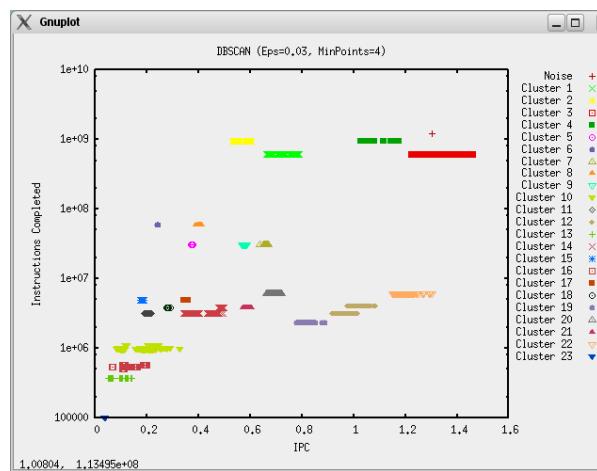
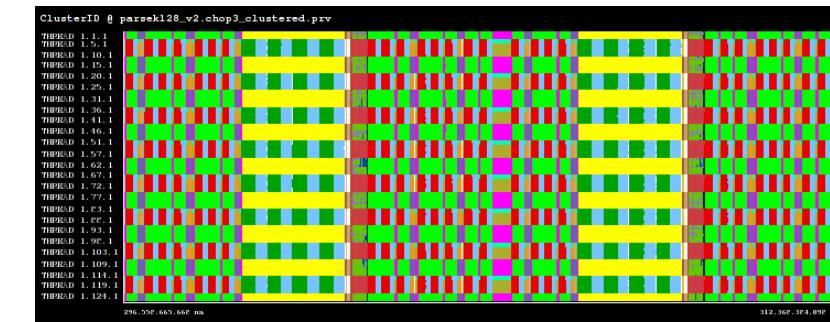
Quick insight into  
program's behavior



# Correlate clusters, histograms & timelines



Duration vs. Cluster

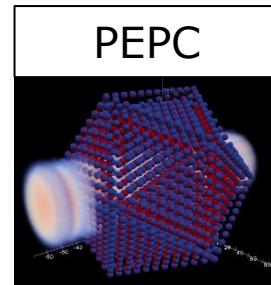
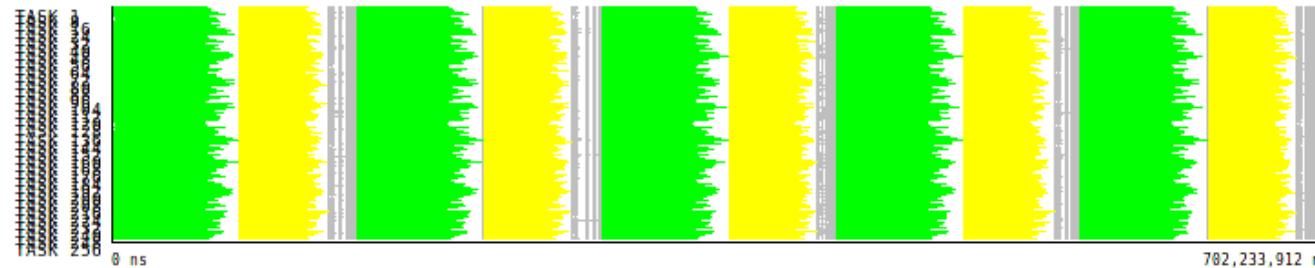


Instructions vs. Cluster

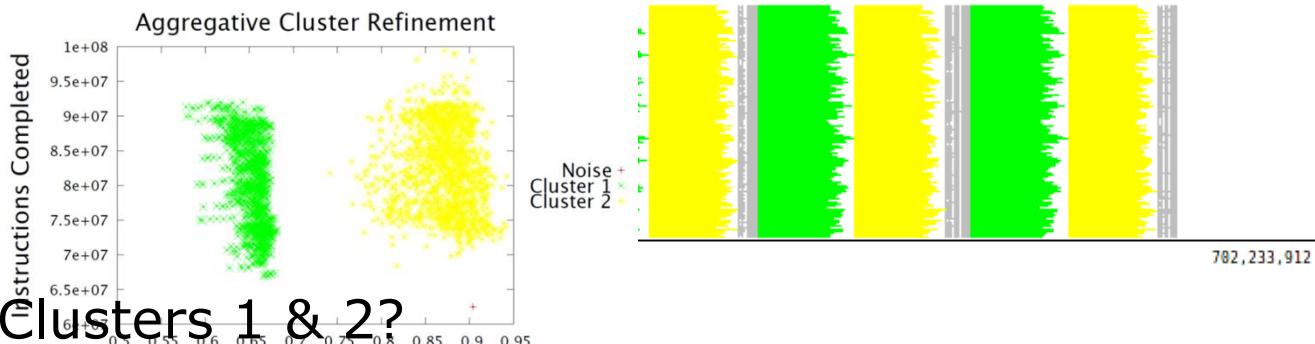


# Integrating models and analytics

- What if...

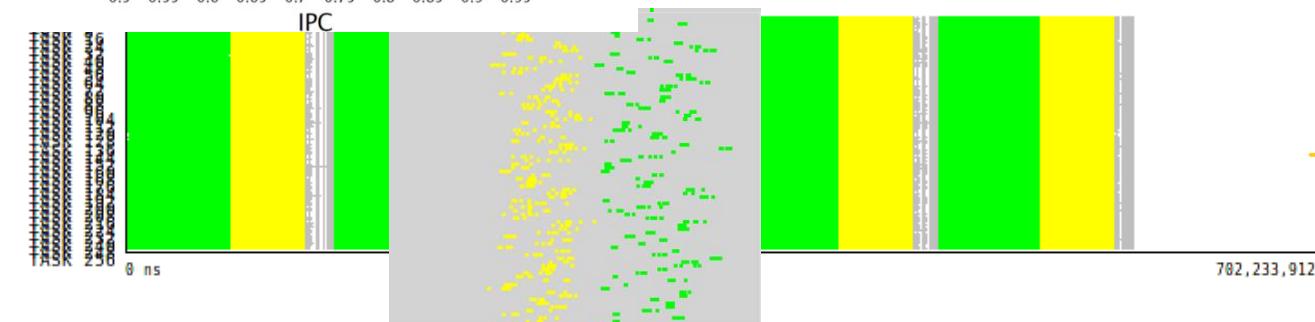


... we increase the IPC of Cluster1?



13%

... we balance Clusters 1 & 2?



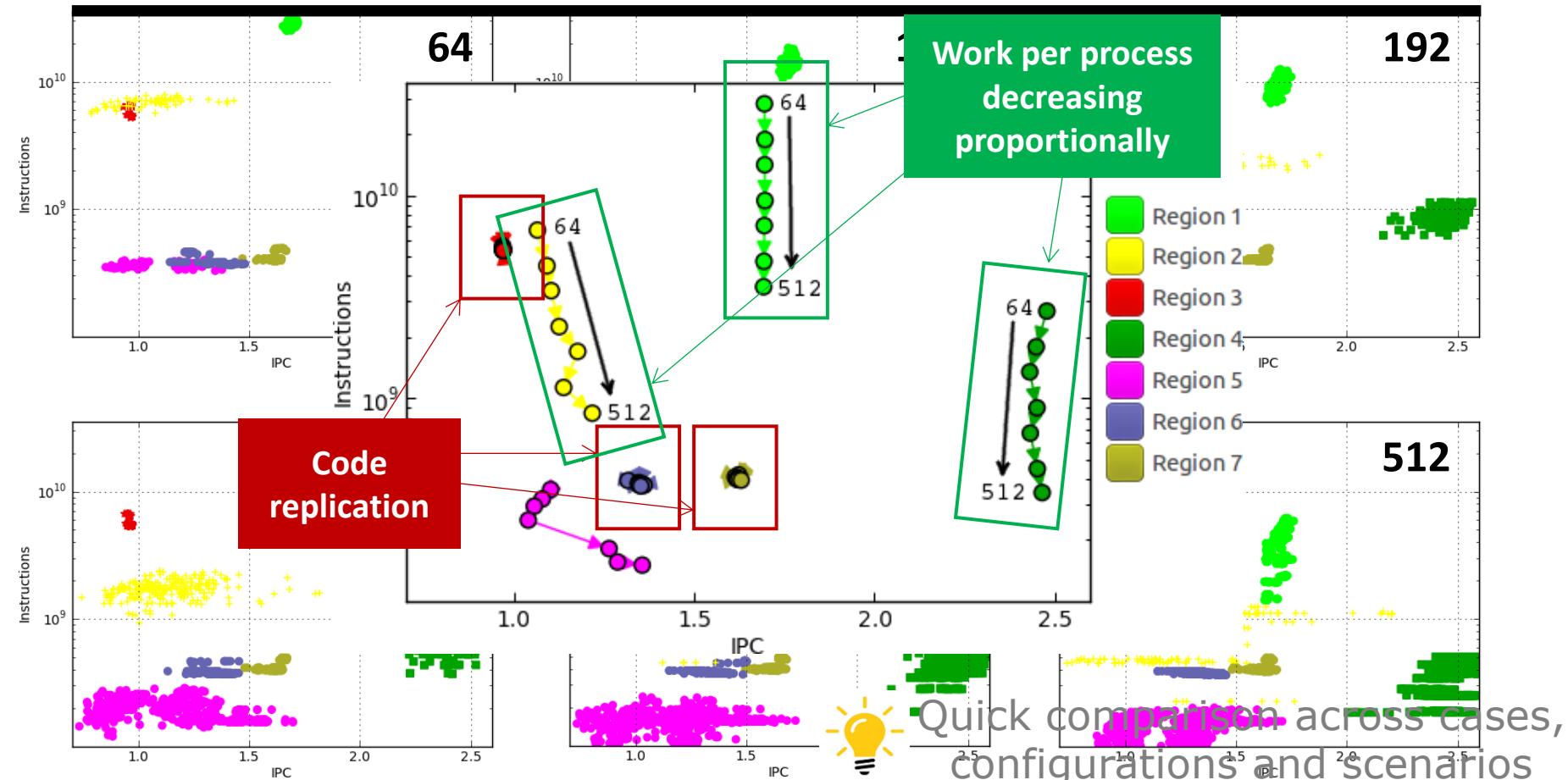
19%



Know where  
effort pays off.

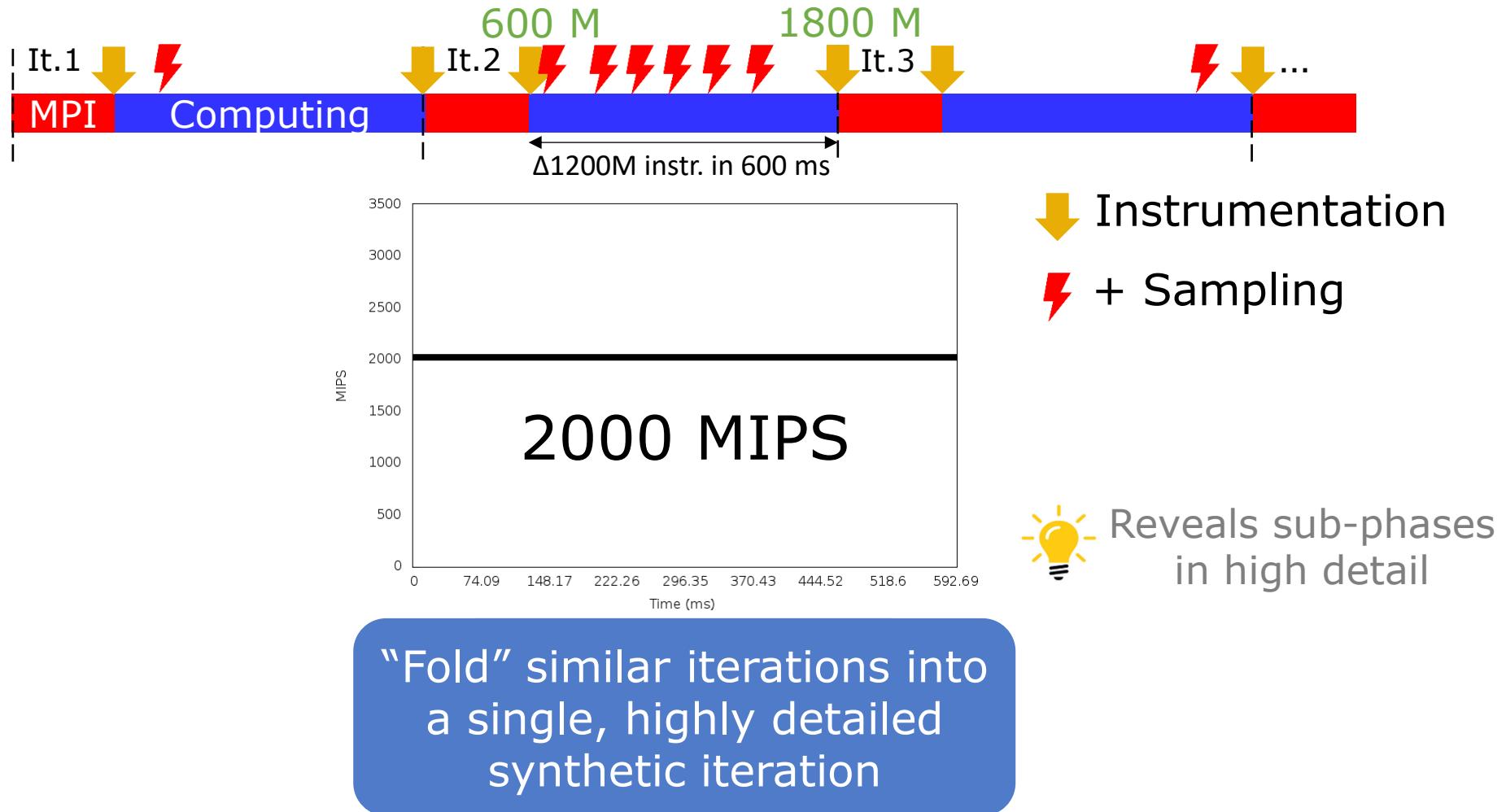
# Tracking scalability through clustering

- Analyze scalability of computing regions across 64 – 512 tasks

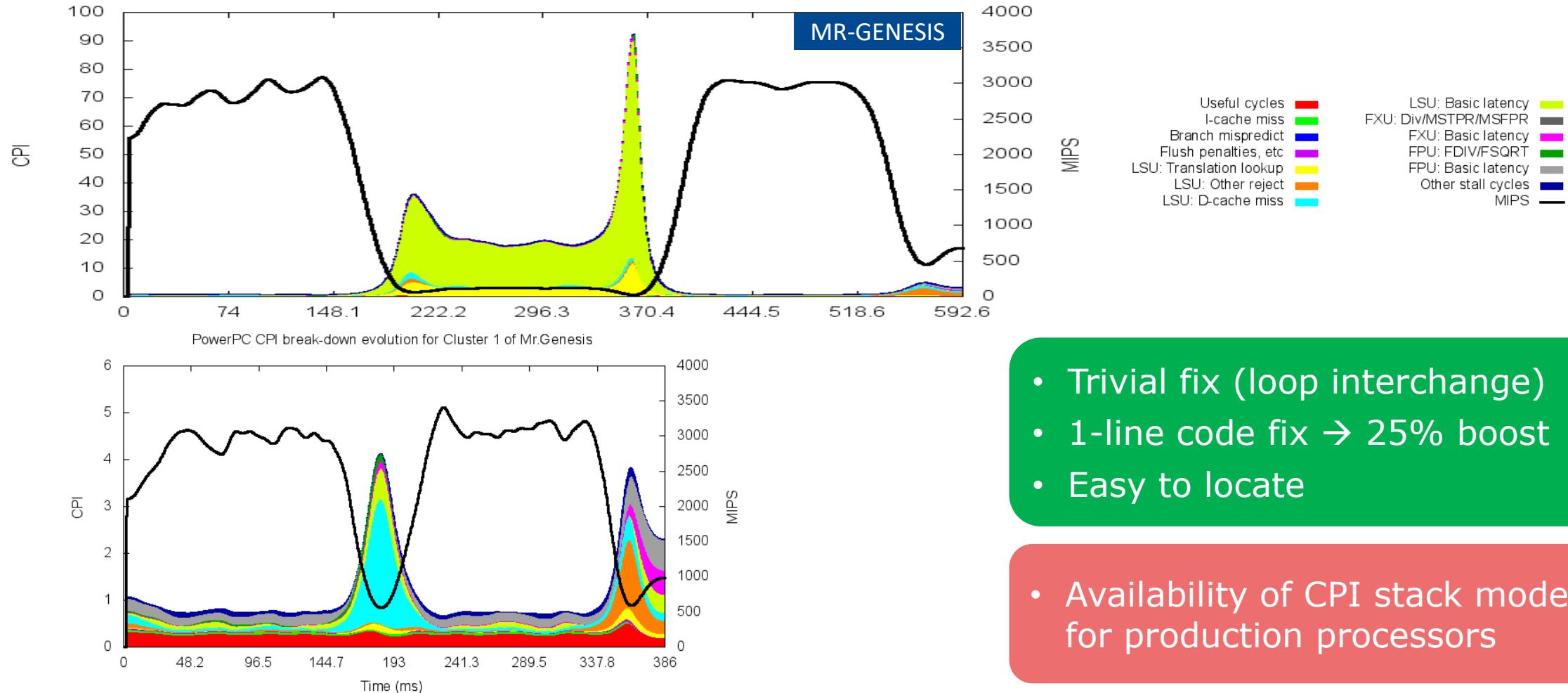


# Folding to increase details

- What is the performance of a single serial region?

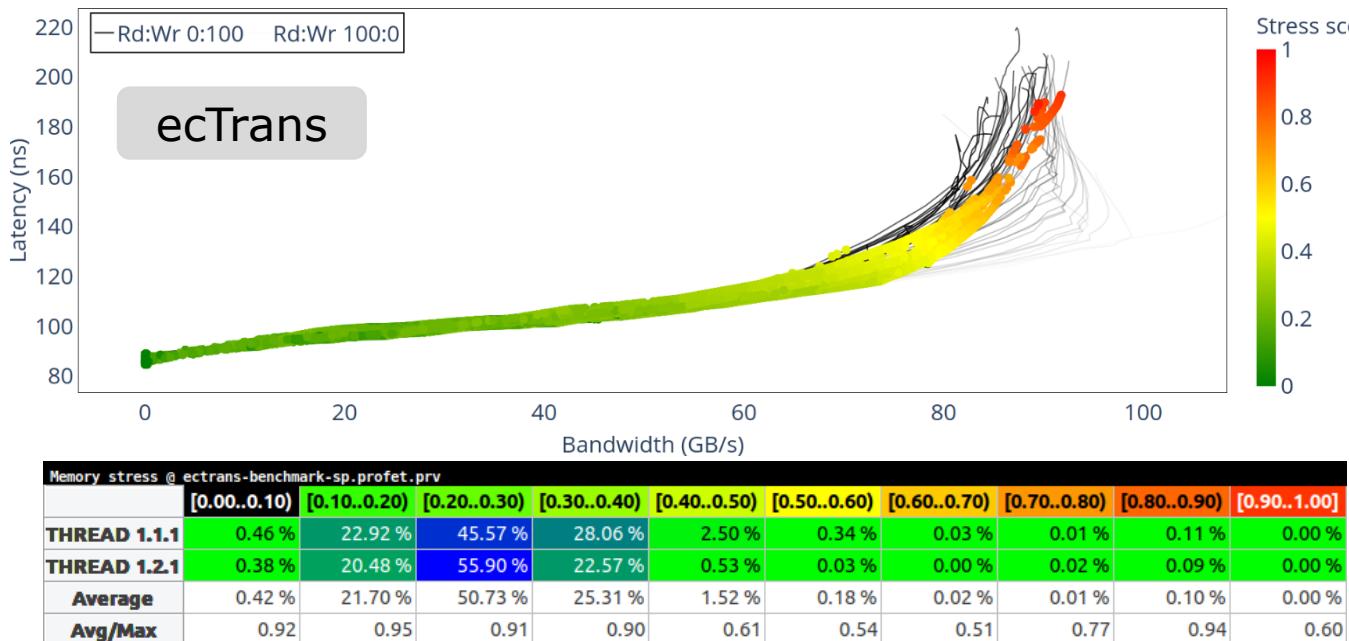


# Folding: CPI and HWC stack models

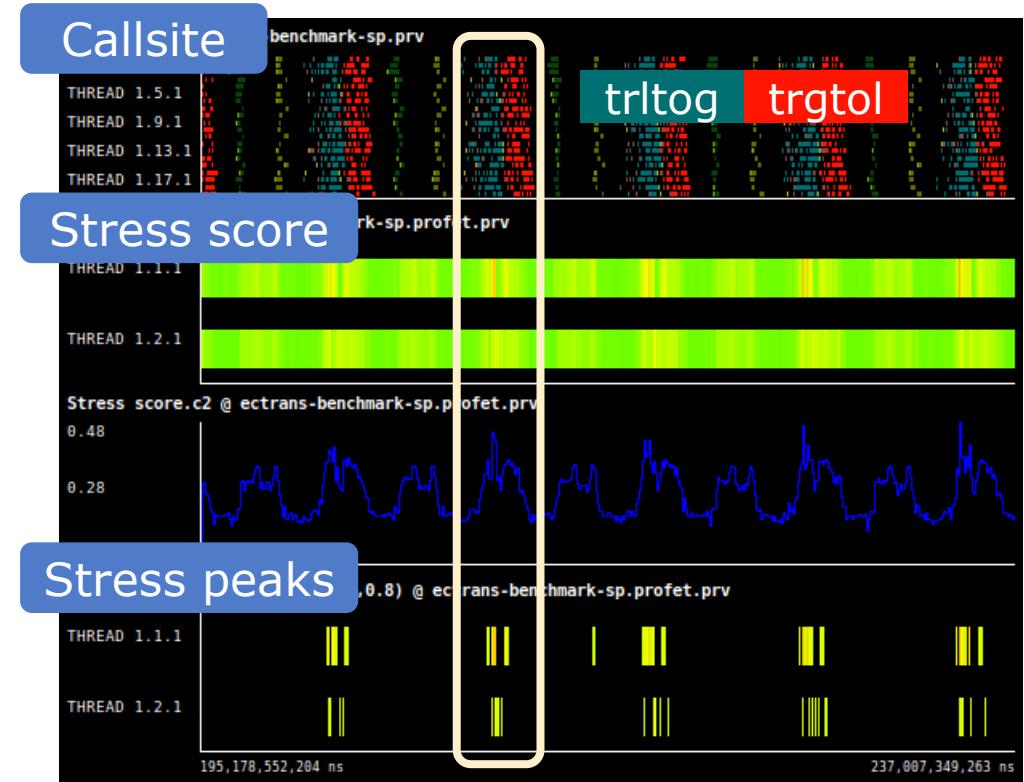


# Understanding memory influence

- Mess: Bandwidth-latency curves describe memory performance from unloaded to fully saturated states
- Integration with Paraver: Easily identify where memory stress is highest



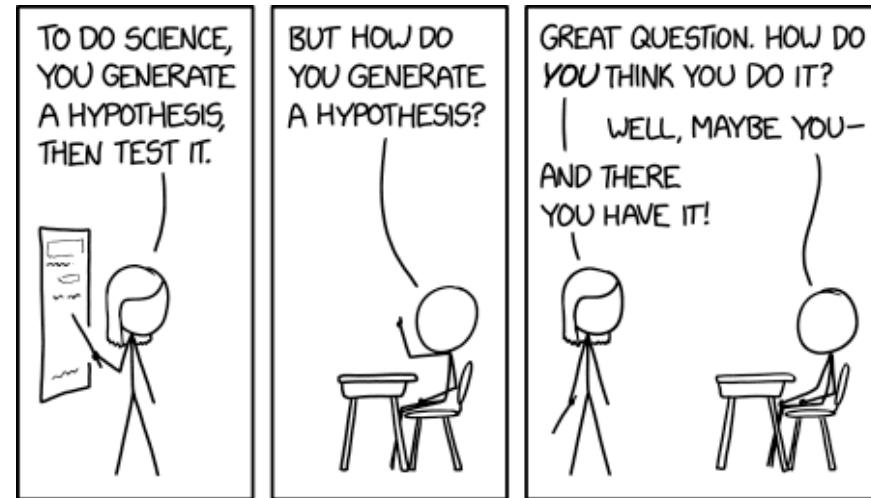
- Prediction of future ones (PROFET)
- Cache-Aware Roofline Model (CARM)





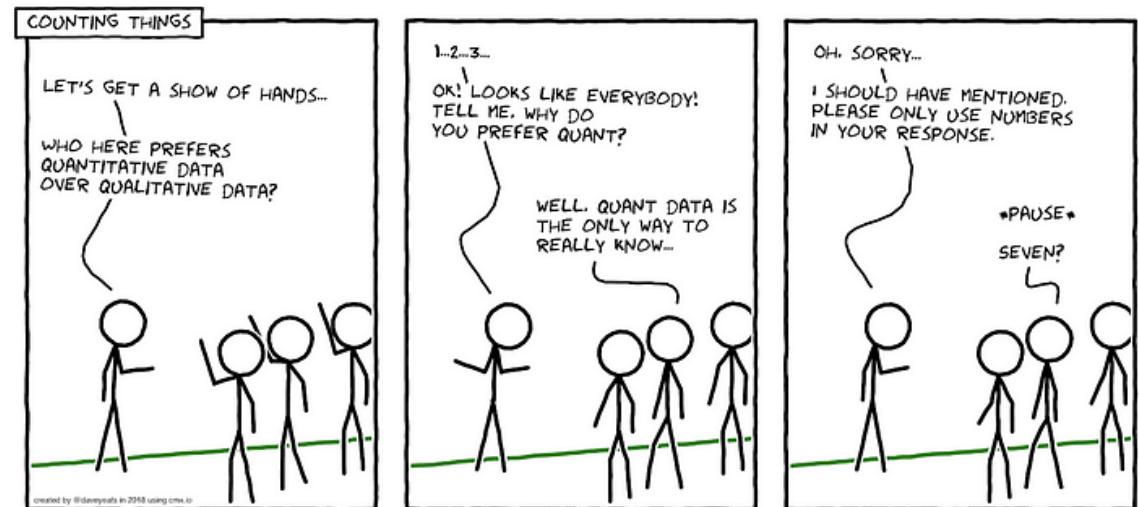
# Methodology

## BSC Performance Tools aim



- Be your copilot in the process of generating & validating hypotheses
  - The tool is the “wheel” and you “drive it”

- Provide quantitative (how much) + qualitative (why/how)
- Patterns, shapes, structure... beyond raw numbers “for a better understanding”



# First steps of analysis



## ▪ **Parallel Efficiency: Parallel resources are mostly doing useful work?**

- Load Balance → Work (programmer's fault)? Performance (machine's fault)?
- Serialization → Dependency chains? Sequence of MPI calls? Noise?
- Transfer → Bandwidth or Latency? Simulations with Dimemas

## ▪ **Serial Efficiency: How far from peak performance?**

- IPC → Cache effects? Correlate with other counters
- Frequency → Cycles per us? Multi-core sharing? Dynamic scaling? Power?

## ▪ **Scalability: Benefit from additional resources?**

- Code replication → Total instructions?

## ▪ **Variability?**

## ▪ **Behavioral Structure → Analytics**



Paraver Tutorials:  
Introduction to Paraver &  
Dimemas methodology

# BSC Tools Website & Contact

- <https://tools.bsc.es>



## Open Source



## Downloads

- Sources & Binaries



## Documentation

- Training guides
- Tutorial slides



[tools@bsc.es](mailto:tools@bsc.es)



## Quick Start

- Start wxparaver
- Help → Tutorials
- Follow training guides

The screenshot shows the 'Downloads' section of the BSC Tools website. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Paraver, Dimemas, Extrae, Research, Documentation, Downloads, and Publications. The 'Downloads' page has a breadcrumb trail: Home > Downloads. The main content is organized into two sections: 'CORE TOOLS' and 'PERFORMANCE ANALYTICS'. The 'CORE TOOLS' section contains EXRAE, PARAVER, and DIMEMAS. The 'PERFORMANCE ANALYTICS' section contains CLUSTERING, TRACKING, FOLDING, SPECTRAL, and BASIC ANALYSIS. Each tool card includes a 'Get' button, a version number, and download links for 101 RAW, 32, and 64-bit architectures.

- The importance of understanding  
    → **Keep asking questions**
- Use your brain  
    → **Use visual tools**
- The devil is in the details  
    → **Do not miss them**
- Don't over-theorize about your code  
    → **Look at it**





## Performance Optimisation and Productivity 3

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