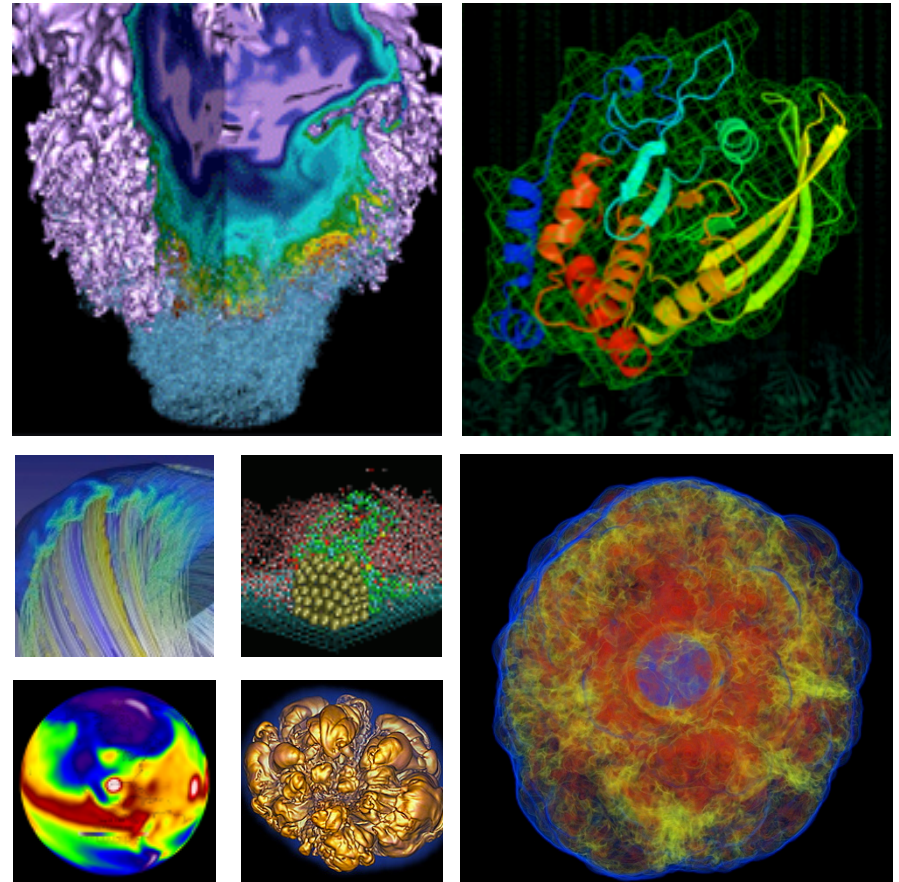


# Support for Astronomy & Astrophysics at NERSC



**Richard Gerber**  
Senior Science Advisor  
User Services Group Lead  
NERSC @ Berkeley Lab

April 9, 2014

# Outline

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- **What is NERSC**
- **Who uses NERSC?**
- **How to get access to NERSC Resources**
- **NERSC Requirements Gathering**

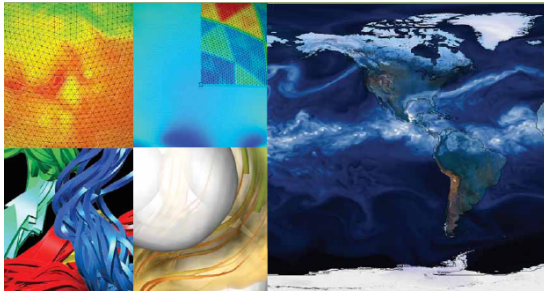
# NERSC is the Production HPC & Data Facility for DOE Office of Science Research



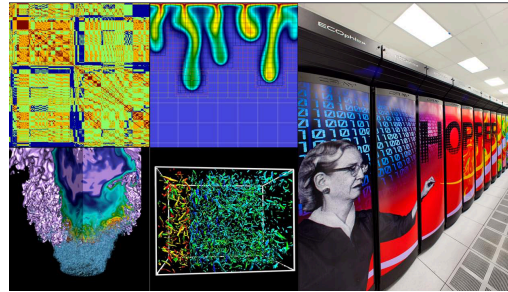
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science

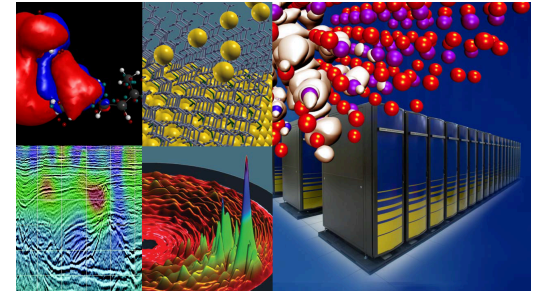
Largest funder of physical  
science research in U.S.



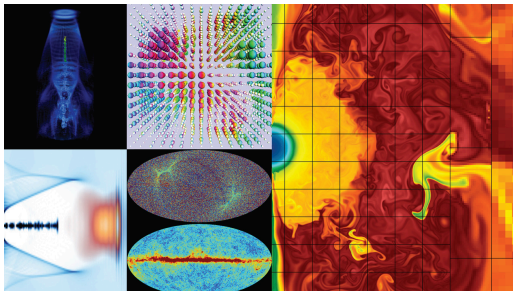
Bio Energy, Environment



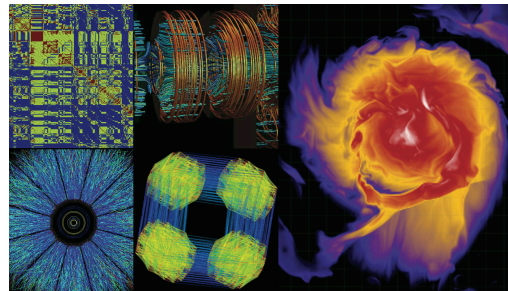
Computing



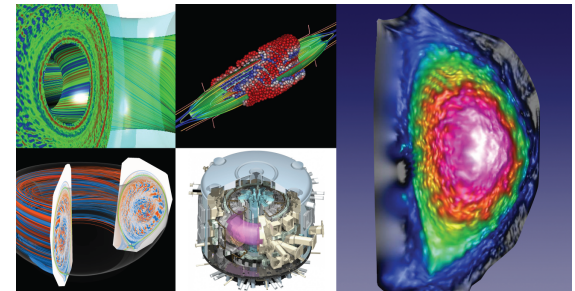
Materials, Chemistry,  
Geophysics



Particle Physics,  
Astrophysics



Nuclear Physics



Fusion Energy,  
Plasma Physics

# Some Benefits of NERSC



- **Large, state-of-the-art computing and data systems**
- **Consulting, system admin, 24x7 operations support**
- **Well maintained software environment, prebuilt optimized applications & libraries**
- **Designed for massive parallelism, but supports all scales**
- **Easily share data and codes**
- **Easy to use account management**
- **Large permanent archival data storage**
- **Ongoing technology refreshes**
- **Word-class cybersecurity**
- **Open science environment**
- **Web-based science /data gateways**

## Focus on Science

- A word-class resource to support world-class science.
- 1,500 refereed journal publications per year
- Supports Nobel-prize winning projects: Chemistry 2013, Physics 2011, Peace 2007

## Large diverse user community

- 5,000 users, 700 projects
- From 48 states, 65% from universities
- Many large international collaborations

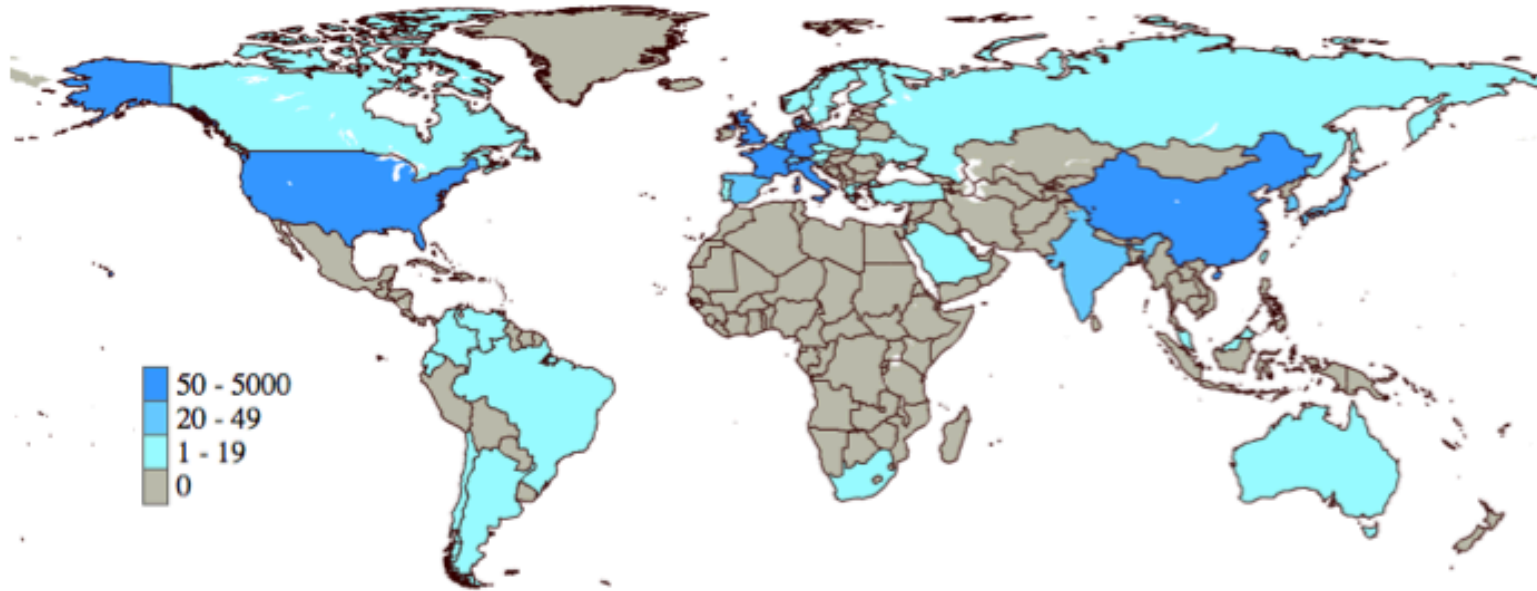
## Science-driven systems and services

- Designed to support science
- Optimized for scientific productivity at cutting-edge scale

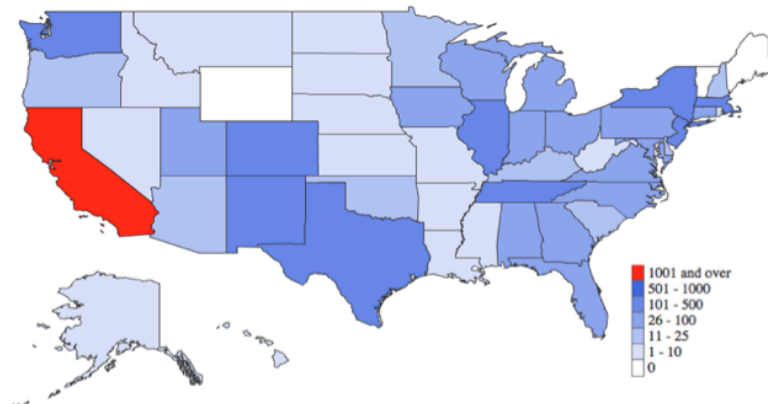
**17 Journal Covers in 2013**



# Demographics



642 users from outside the U.S.



# NERSC Systems Today

**Edison: 2.57PF, 357 TB RAM**



**Cray XC30 5,576 nodes, 134K Cores**

**Hopper: 1.3PF, 212 TB RAM**



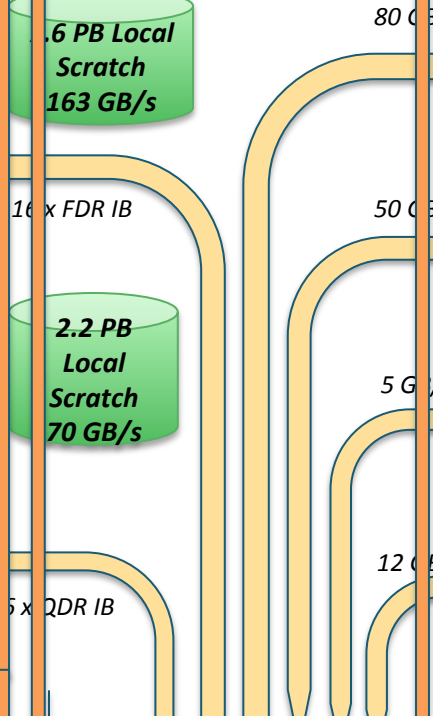
**Cray XE6 6,384 nodes 150K Cores**

**Production Clusters**  
Carver, PDSF, JGI, KBASE, HEP  
14x QDR

**Vis & Analytics Data Transfer Nodes**  
Adv. Arch. Testbeds Science Gateways

3.6 PB Local Scratch  
163 GB/s

2.2 PB Local Scratch  
70 GB/s



**Ethernet & IB Fabric**

Science Friendly Security  
Production Monitoring  
Power Efficiency  
**WAN**

Global Scratch

3.6 PB  
5 x SFA12KE

/project

5 PB  
DDN9900 & NexSAN

/home

250 TB  
NetApp 5460

HPSS

50 PB stored, 240 PB capacity, 20 years of community data

2 x 10 Gb

1 x 100 Gb

Software Defined Networking





## Edison Quick Facts

First Petaflop system with Intel “Ivy Bridge” processors & Cray Aires High Speed Network

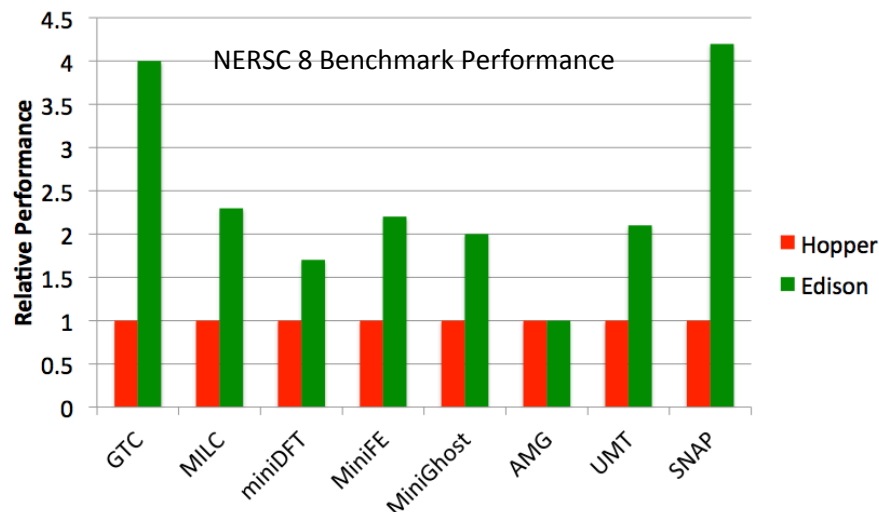
Nodes	5,576 dual-socket with 64 GB memory
Processors	Intel “Ivy Bridge” 12-core, 2.4 GHz
Network	Cray “Aires” Dragonfly Topology
Scratch Disk	7.6PB with >165 GB/sec bandwidth
Peak / Sustained	2.67 PF / 260 TF
Global Network Bandwidth	> 11 TB/sec
Node Memory Bandwidth	90 GB/s

## High-Impact Results on Day One

NERSC’s users started running production codes immediately on Edison.

Top projects: carbon sequestration, artificial photosynthesis, complex novel materials, cosmic background radiation analysis

*Edison is very similar to Hopper, but with 2-5 times the performance per core on most codes.*

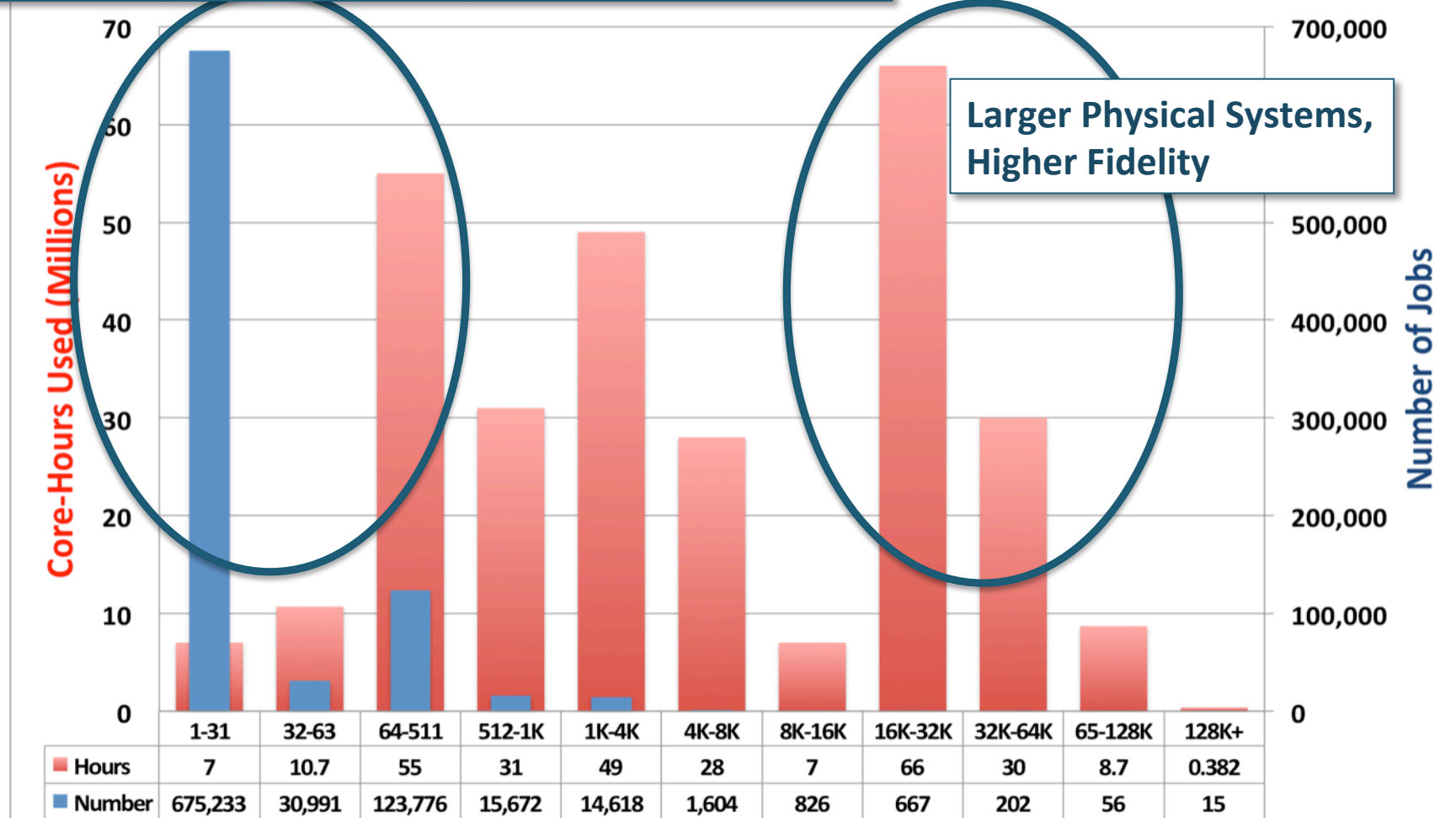




# NERSC Supports Jobs of all Kinds and Sizes



High Throughput: Statistics, Systematics, Analysis, UQ



# NERSC-8 Mission Need



*The Department of Energy Office of Science requires an HPC system to support the rapidly increasing computational demands of the entire spectrum of DOE SC computational research.*

- Provide a significant increase in computational capabilities, at least 10 times the sustained performance of the Hopper system on a set of representative DOE benchmarks
- Delivery in the 2015/2016 time frame
- Provide high bandwidth access to existing data stored by continuing research projects.
- Platform needs to begin to transition users to more energy-efficient many-core architectures.

# NERSC Data Resources

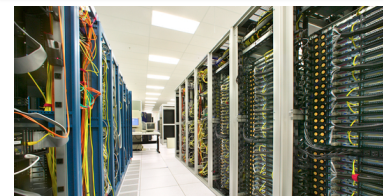


- **Global shared filesystems (aka NGF)**
  - Connected to all NERSC computational systems
  - Large, fast, permanent data storage
  - Intended for data sharing within and among projects
  - Many PBs
  - Default quotas ~ 5-10 TB, but often increased
- **Hopper and Edison have dedicated “local” scratch systems**
  - 2 PB & 7.6 PB, respectively
- **Archival storage system**
  - HPSS tape-backed storage
  - Permanent, many 10s of PB
  - No quotas per se, current 240 PB capacity
- **Grid enabled for fast and easy transfers**
- **Dedicated data transfer nodes**
- **Science Data Gateways**

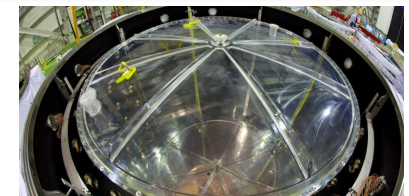
# Solving the Puzzle of the Neutrino

- HPC and ESnet vital in the measurement of the important “ $\theta_{13}$ ” neutrino parameter.
  - Last and most elusive piece of a longstanding puzzle: why neutrinos appear to vanish as they travel
  - The result affords new understanding of fundamental physics; may eventually help solve the riddle of matter-antimatter asymmetry in the universe.
- HPC for simulation / analysis; HPSS and data transfer capabilities; NGF and Science Gateways for distributing results
  - All the raw, simulated, and derived data are analyzed and archived at a single site
  - => Investment in experimental physics requires investment in HPC.
- One of Science Magazine’s Top-Ten Breakthroughs of 2012

*The Daya Bay experiment counts antineutrinos at three detectors (shown in yellow) near the nuclear reactors and calculates how many would reach the detectors if there were no oscillation transformation.*



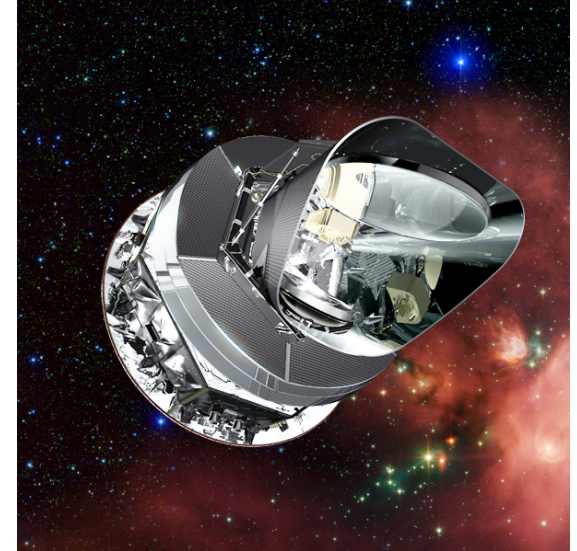
NERSC's PDSF cluster

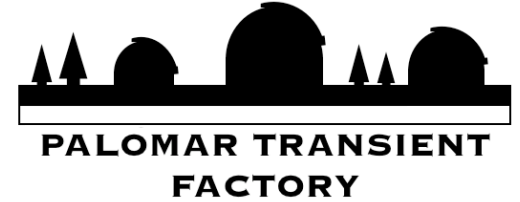
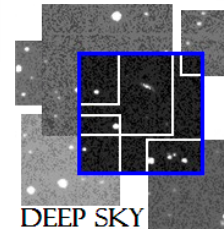
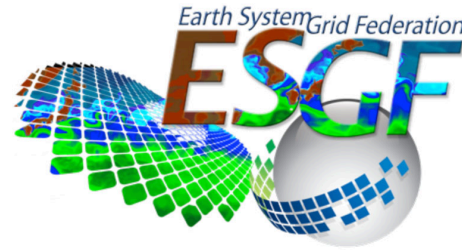
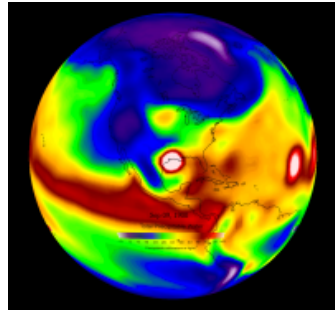


Daya Bay detectors

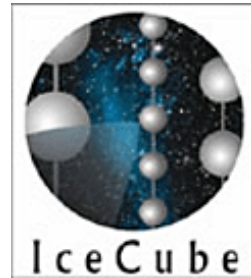
# The Planck Mission

- **A European Space Agency (+NASA) satellite mission to measure the temperature and polarization of the Cosmic Microwave Background.**
  - The echo of the Big Bang: primordial photons have seen it all.
  - Fluctuations encode all of fundamental physics & cosmology.
  - Planck results assumed by all Dark Energy experiments.
- **Realizing the full scientific potential of Planck requires very significant computing resources**
  - Tiny signal ( $\mu\text{K}$  -  $\text{nK}$ ) requires huge data volume for sufficient S/N
  - 72 detectors sampling at 30-180Hz for 2.5 years  $\Rightarrow 10^{12}$  samples.
  - Analysis depends critically on Monte Carlo methods
    - Simulate and analyze  $10^4$  realizations of the entire mission!
- **One of Physics World's Top 10 Breakthroughs of 2013**



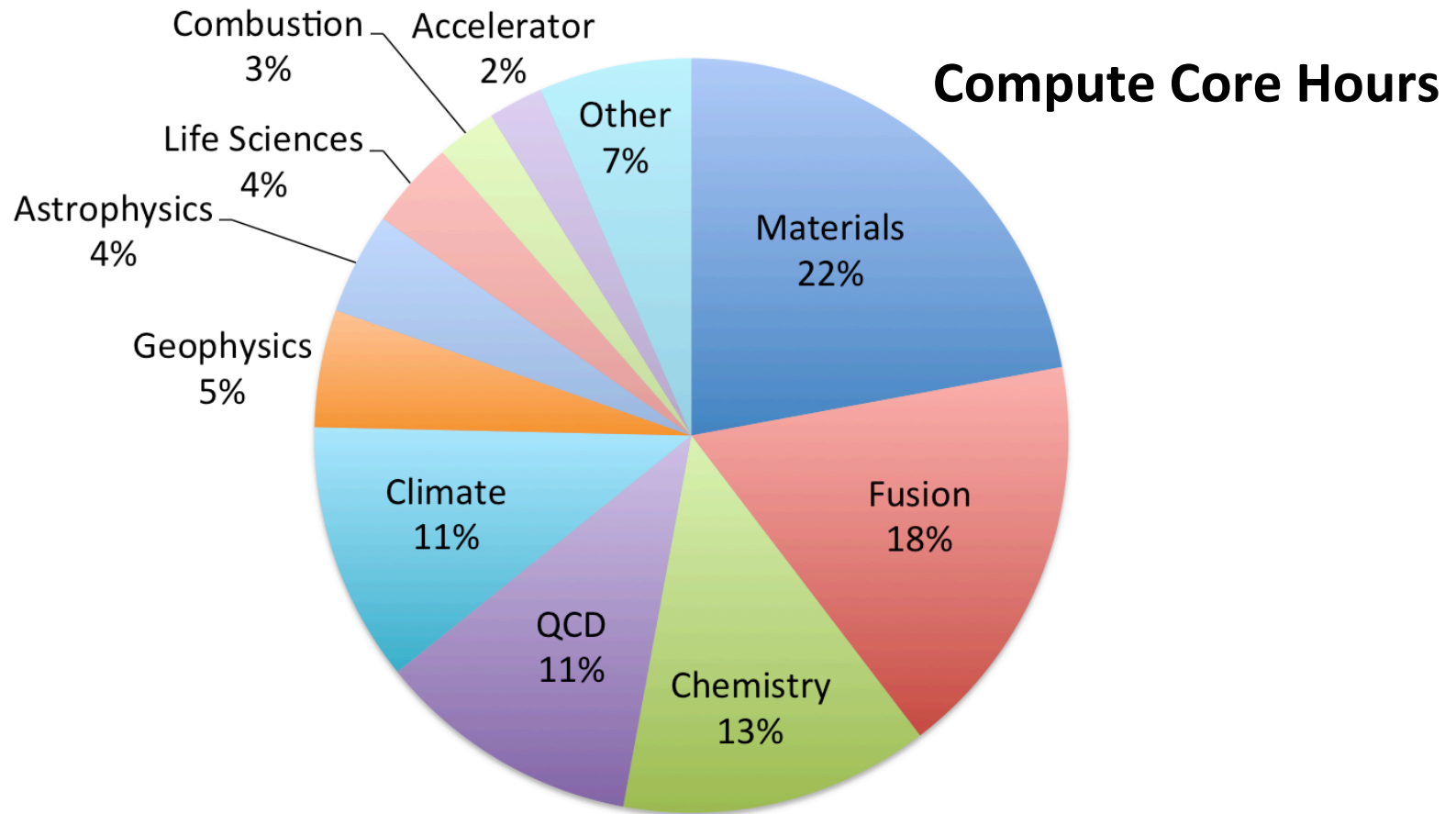


MATERIALS PROJECT



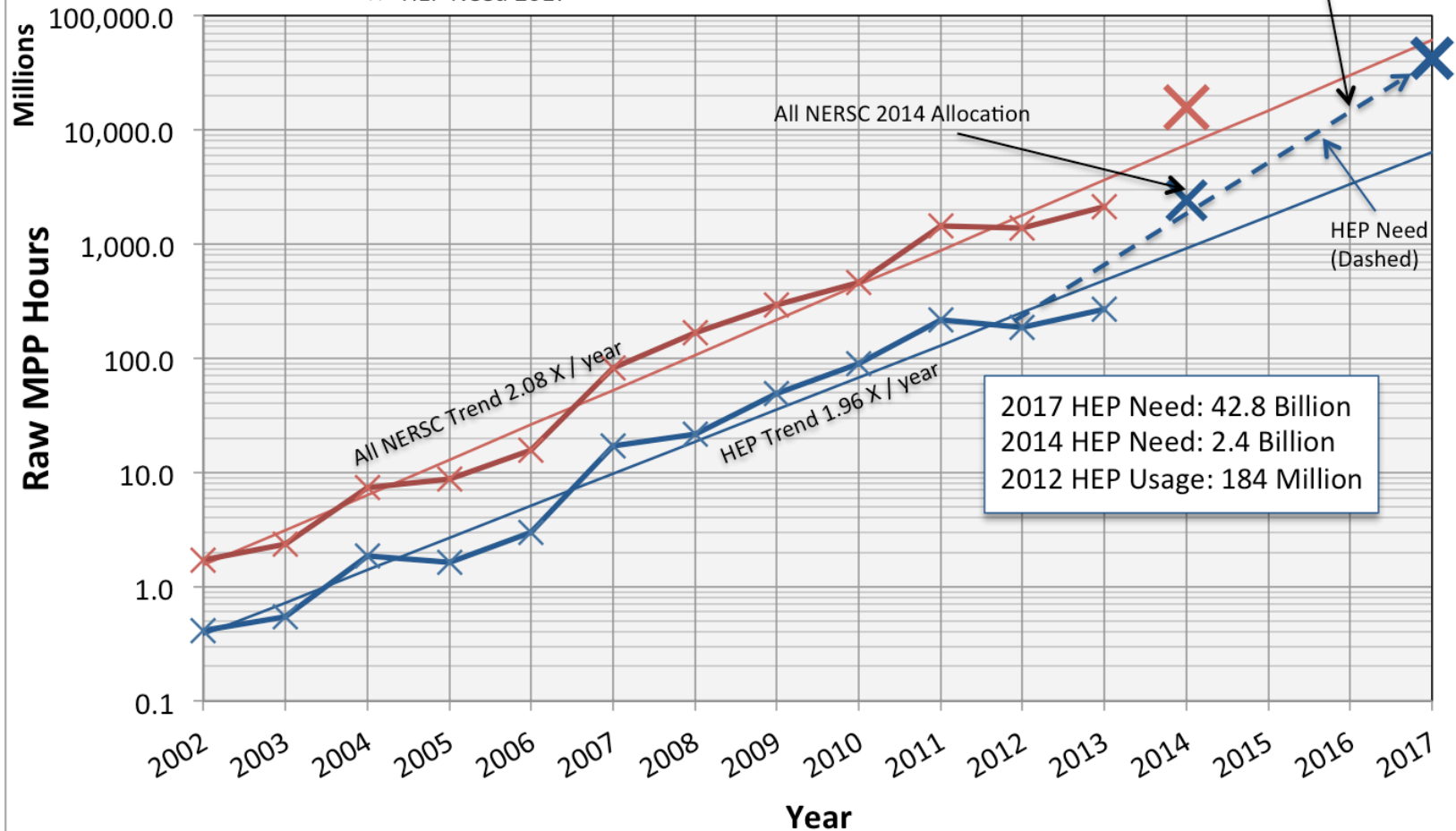
# Who Uses NERSC? : Compute Hours

NERSC 2013 Usage by Scientific Discipline



### NERSC (all) and HEP Computational Hours

- HEP Trend
- NERSC Trend
- HEP Usage
- All NERSC
- HEP Need 2014
- All NERSC Need
- HEP Need 2017

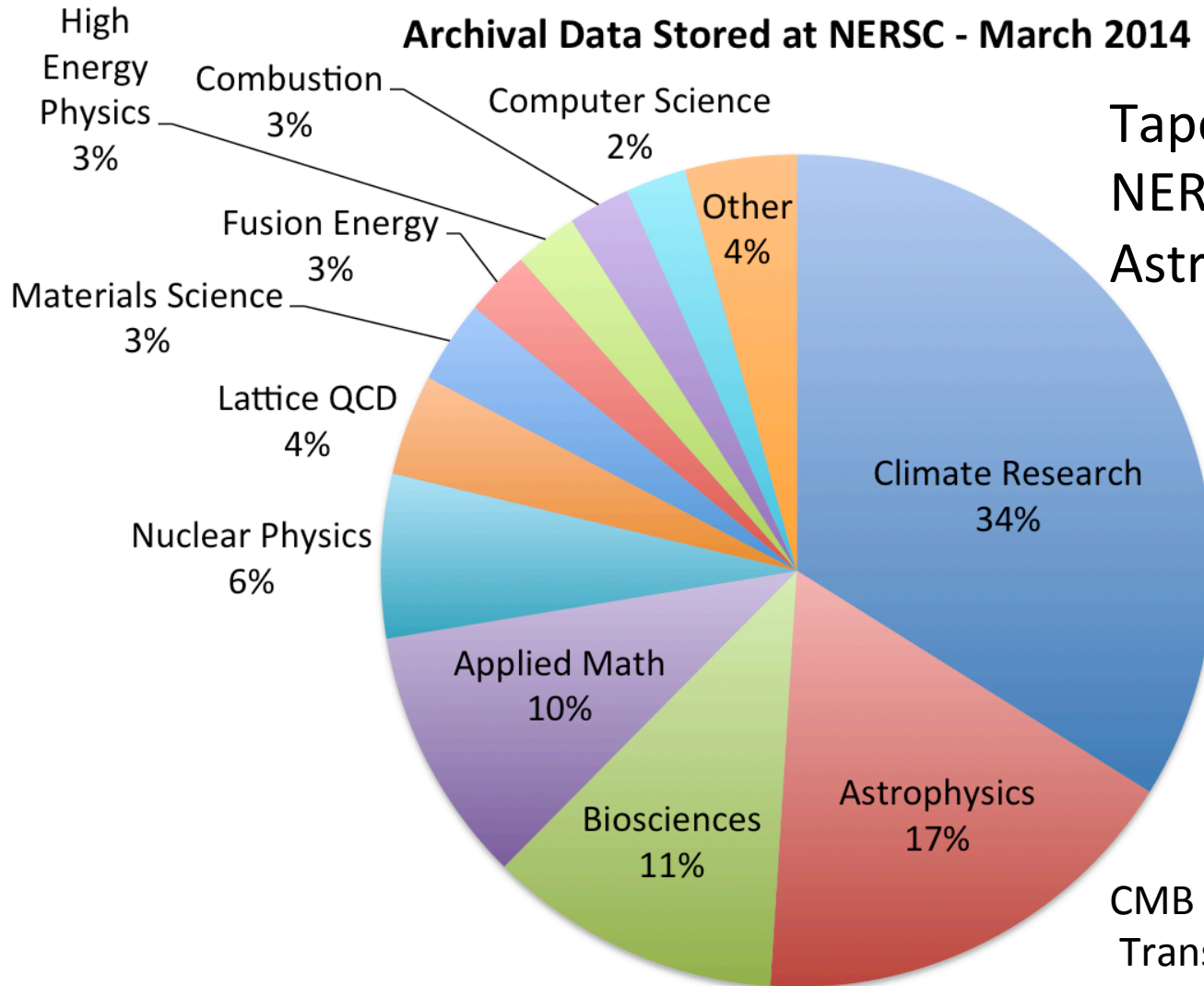




# Who Uses NERSC? – Archival Storage



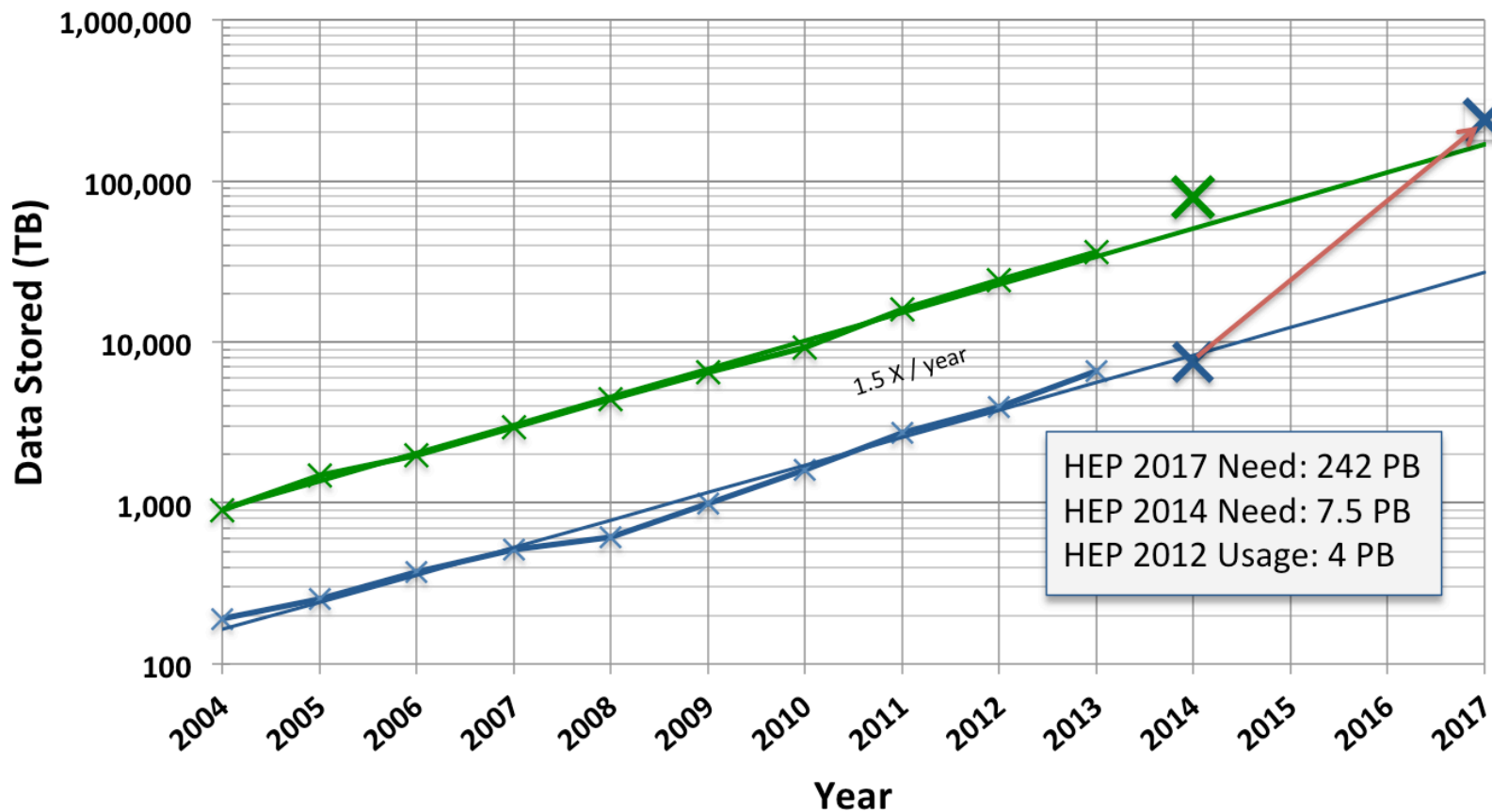
### Archival Data Stored at NERSC - March 2014



Tape-Backed Storage  
NERSC Total: 38 PB  
Astro: 6.5 PB

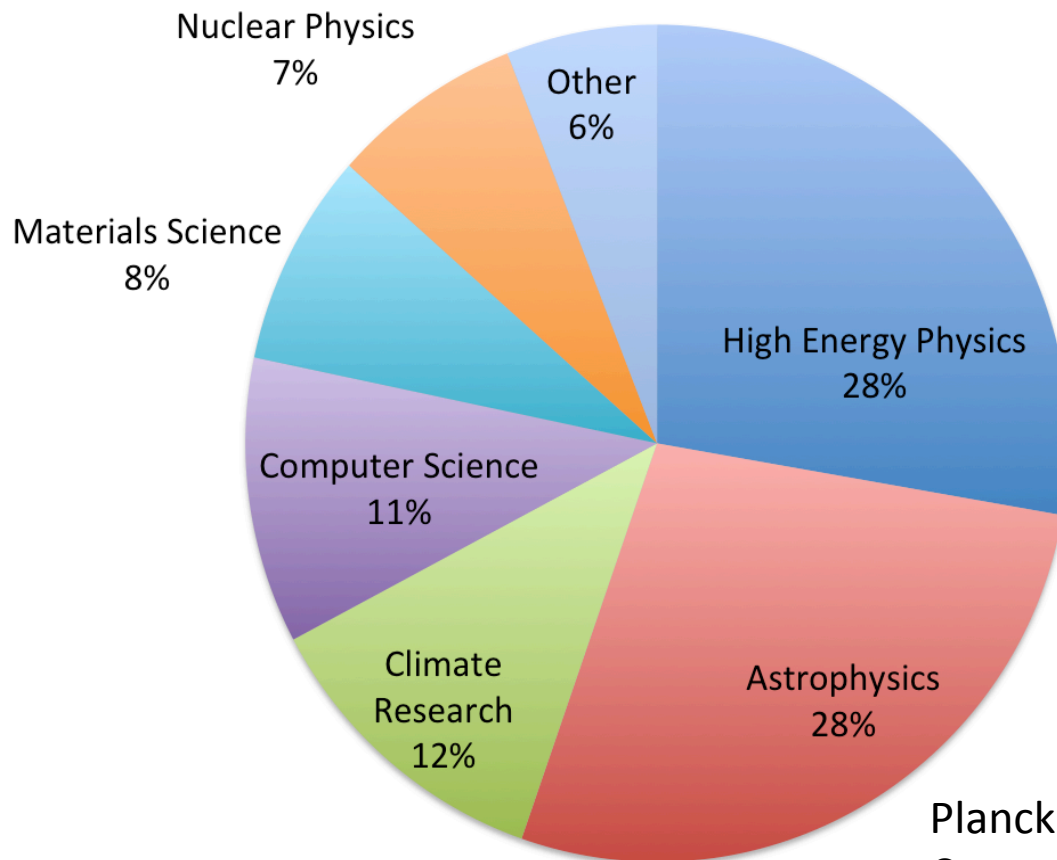
CMB  
Transient/SN searches

## High Energy Physics (HEP) and All NERSC Archival Storage



# Who Uses NERSC? – Permanent Disk

Shared Permanent Disk Storage at NERSC - March 2014



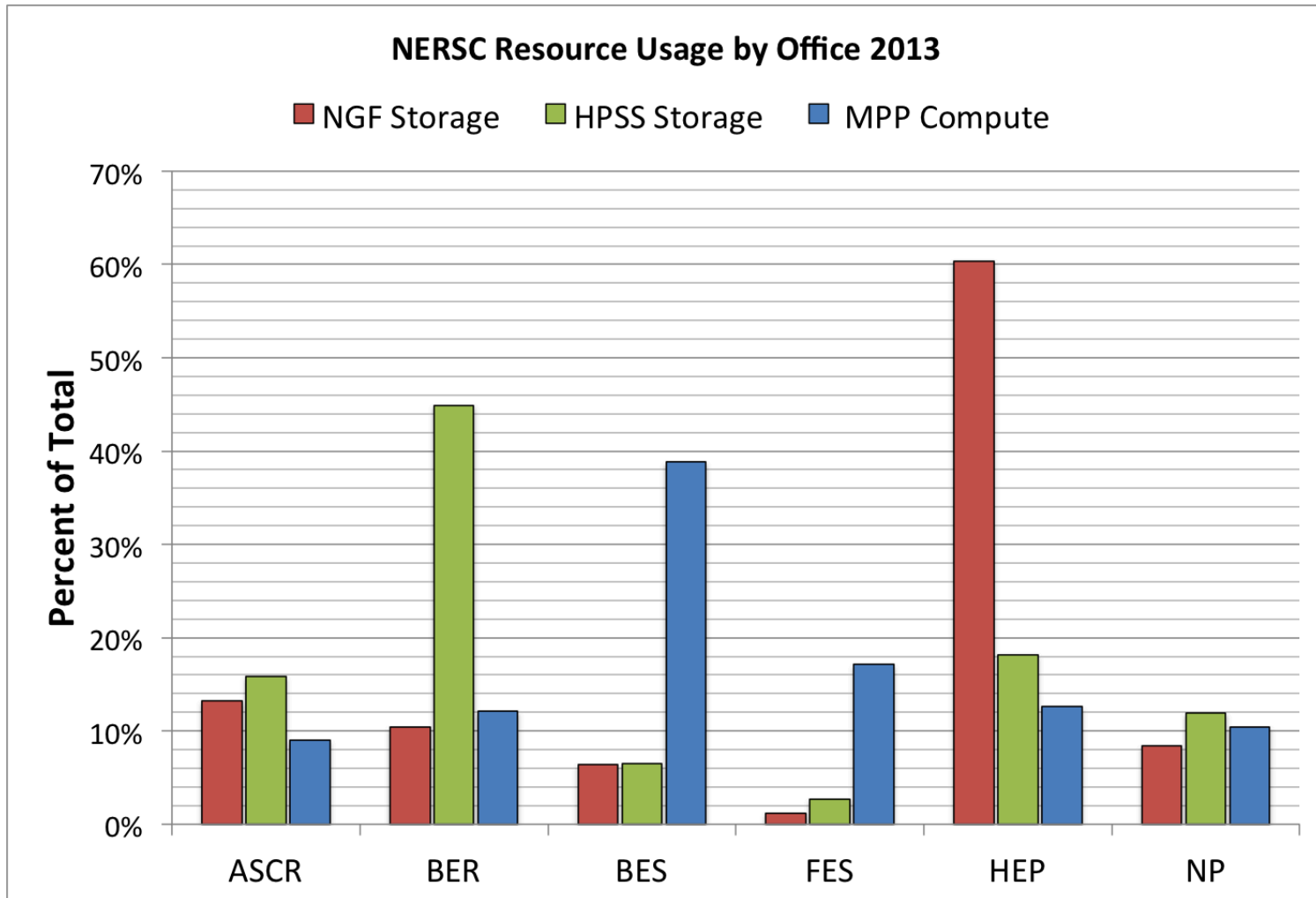
Permanent Spinning Disk  
(Shared)

NERSC Total: 3.25 PB

Astro: 0.9 PB

Planck  
Cosmo Simulation Data

# DOE Usage by Office



# Astronomy & Astrophysics Projects at NERSC



- **55 Projects in 2014**

- 250 Million hours of compute time allocated
- 6.5 PB of archival data currently stored
- 1 PB on permanent spinning disk shared among project members (/project)

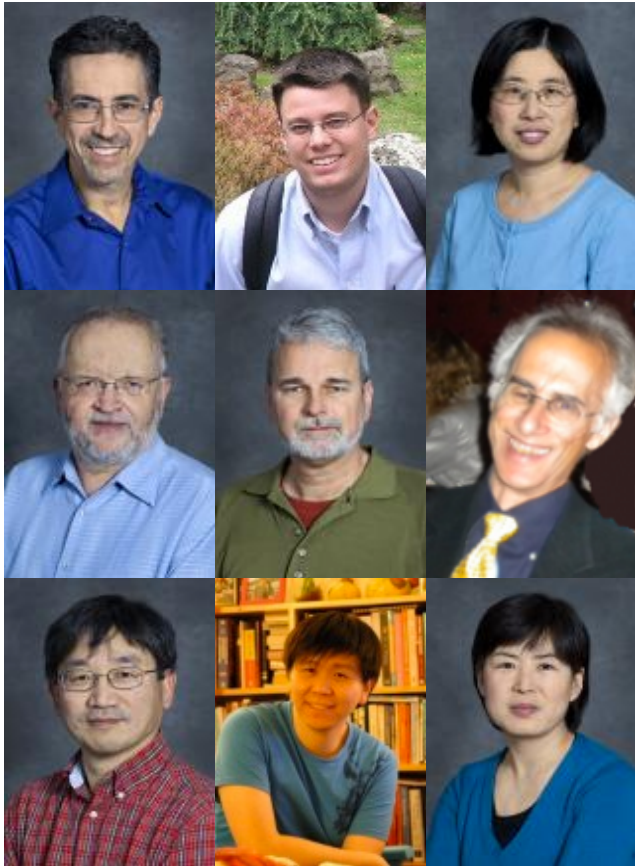
- **Science Emphasis**

- Planck data analysis and synthetic observations/maps
- Supernova searches & transients
- Cosmological simulations
- Supernova simulations
- Other: Neutrino astrophysics, radio astronomy data analysis, galaxy formation, X-ray bursts, MHD, ...

# HPC Services at NERSC



## User Services



HPC Consultants (1 open position)



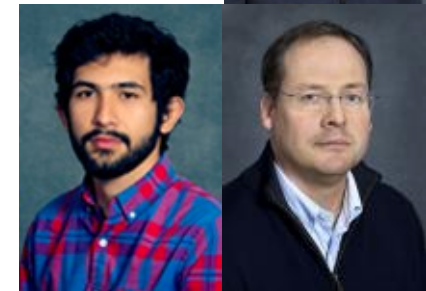
JGI Consultants



PDSF Consultant

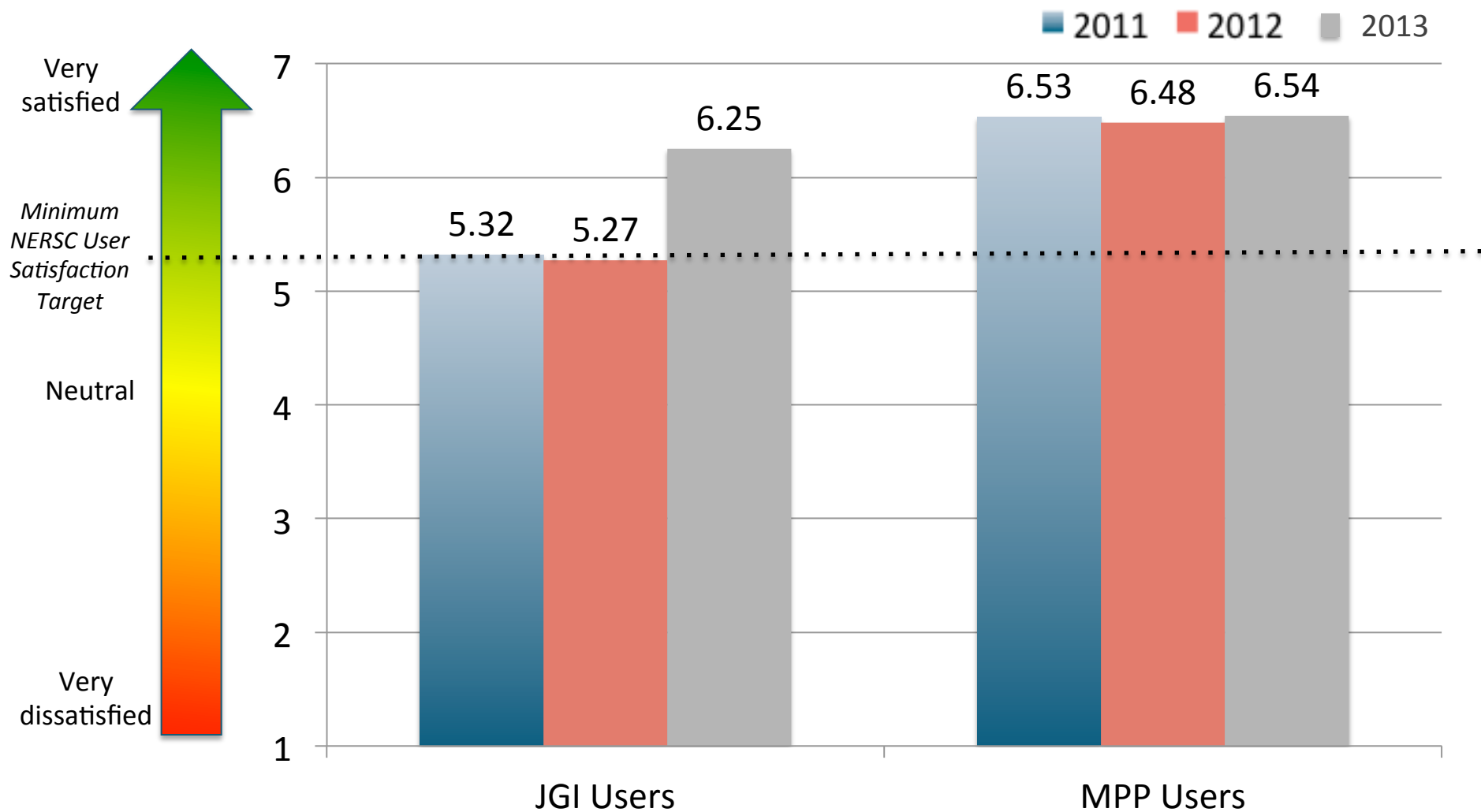
Postdoc  
Program  
Coming Soon

## Data & Analytics Services



+ Many partial FTEs

# Year to Year comparison: JGI overall satisfaction with NERSC



# How to Get Access to NERSC Resources



- **“ERCAP” allocations process**
  - 80% of compute hours allocated by DOE program managers to projects doing research within the DOE mission
  - 10% allocated through ALCC (high-risk, high-payoff)
  - Archival storage (tape) also allocated
  - Project funding from DOE not required; at discretion of program managers
- **NERSC Director’s Reserve for strategic projects**
  - 10% of computer time (250 M hours)
  - NISE and Data Initiative exploratory programs
- **Startup Projects**
  - At NERSC’s discretion
  - Up to 50 K hours for 18 months



# How to Get Access to NERSC II

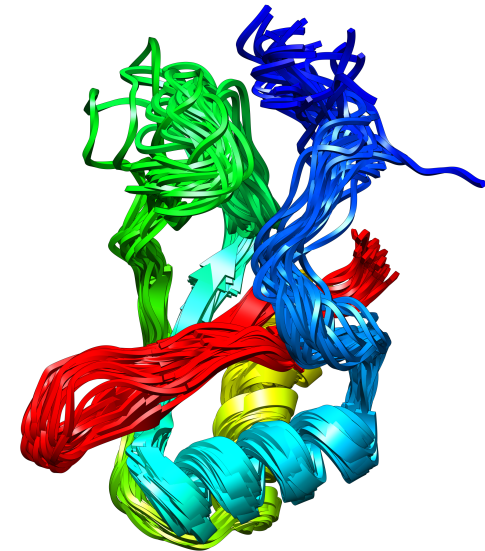
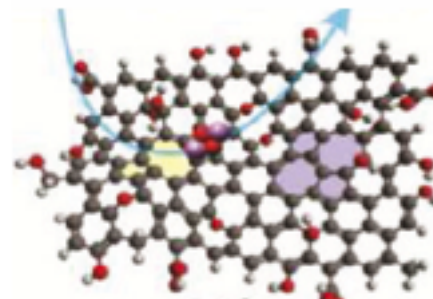
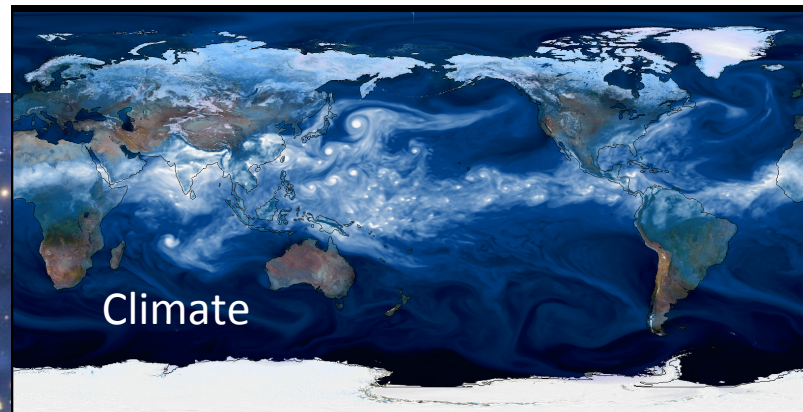


- **Buy-in model for hardware and support**
  - PDSF cluster: Nuclear and High Energy Physics
  - Genepool cluster & file systems: Joint Genome Institute
- **A La Carte resources run by NERSC**
  - Planck bought a rack of a compute cluster
  - Fixed cost for 5 years of shared spinning disk (coming soon)
  - The Materials Project has dedicated nodes
  - Science Gateways

# High Performance Computing is ...

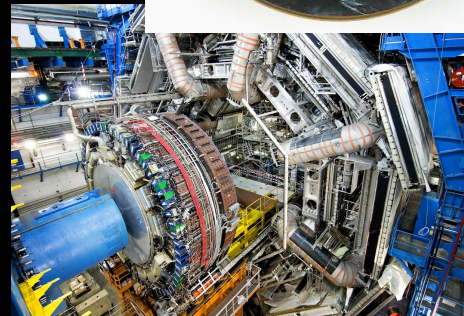
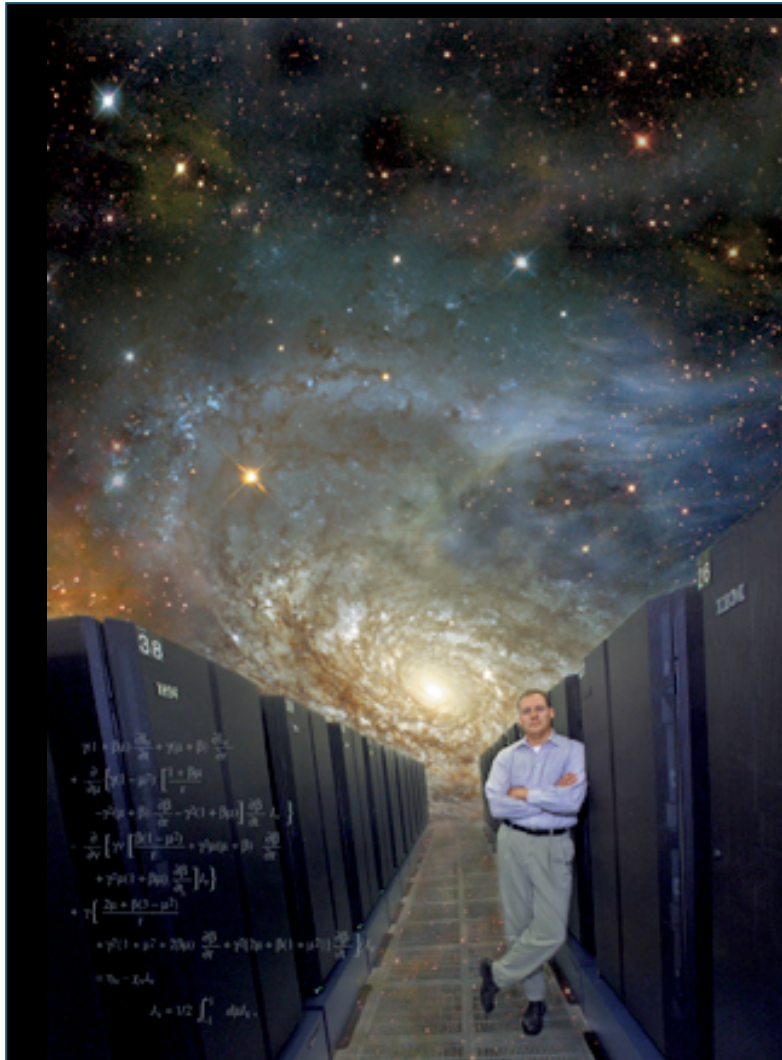
... the application of supercomputers, **data systems, networking, and advanced algorithms & workflows** to scientific problems that are either too large for standard computers or would take too long on them.

Understanding  
How Proteins  
Work

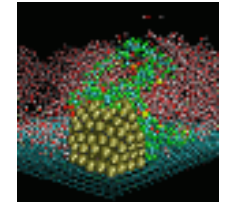
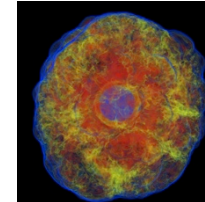
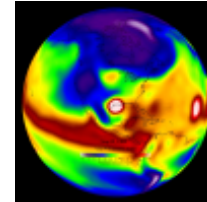
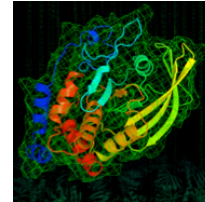
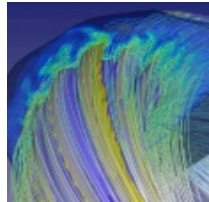
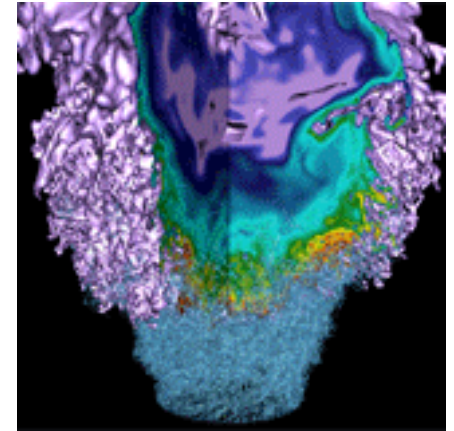


Designing Better Batteries

# HPC is a Tool for Discovery



# Additional Slides



# Requirements Reviews

1½-day reviews with each Program Office

Computing and storage requirements for next 5 years

- Participants
  - DOE ADs & Program Managers
  - Leading NERSC users & key potential users
  - NERSC staff & CS Experts



Scientific Objectives

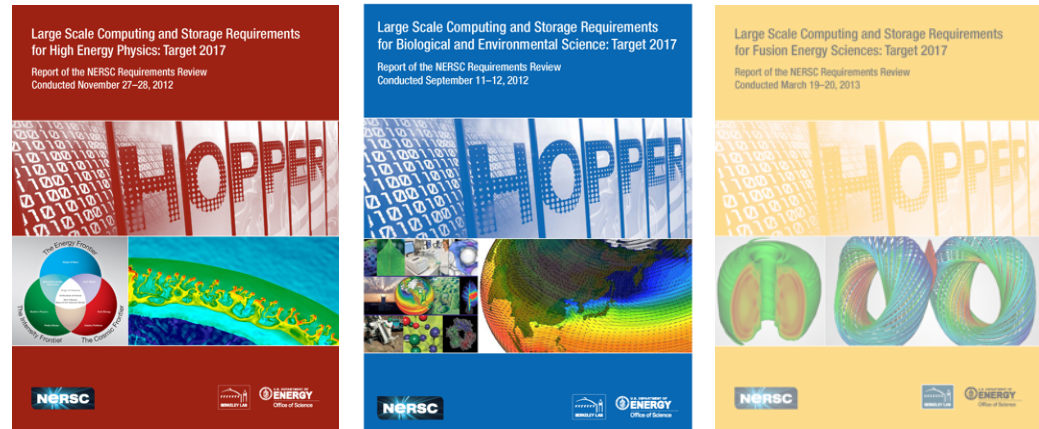


Computing, Storage, Software, Services Requirements

# Reports From 8 Requirements Reviews Have Been Published



- Computing and storage requirements for 2014 & 2017
- Executive Summary of requirements
- Case studies
- Second round, for 2017 requirements, will be completed in April 2014 (NP)



<http://www.nersc.gov/science/hpc-requirements-reviews/reports/>

- **Highly regarded within DOE**
- **Scientific justification for ASCR budget requests**
  - Quantitative requirements
  - Documented science goals & needs from science teams
- **Basis for NERSC 7 and NERSC 8 Mission Need documents**
- **Influence on NERSC services**
  - e.g. application readiness, support for high-throughput computing, planning for NERSC data services
- **Derivative publications and reports:**
  - HEP community's "Snowmass" Report
  - DOE ASCR white paper on data needs

# HEP Executive Summary



- More computing and data resources needed
- Vastly improved I/O capabilities and better facilities for data-intensive science
- Need to support both large-scale and ensemble runs
- Assistance needed to transition to next-generation processors
- There are communities within DOE HEP that are not traditional users of large HPC centers, yet have a profound need for additional computing, storage, and analysis facilities. (LHC, sky surveys, ...)



# HEP Cosmic Frontier Requirements - MPP



Project	Repos	2012 Usage	2017 Need	Factor Increase
Experimental Cosmology	LSST, Boss, BigBoss, DES, DESSN, PTF, DESI, COSMO	2 M	82 M	41
Cosmological Simulations for Sky Surveys	Cosmosim, cusp, hacc	24 M	10,000 M	417
CMB Analysis	Planck, usplanck, mp107	13 M	500 M	38
Supernova Studies	m1400	13 M	200 M	15

32X is "Normal"

# HEP Cosmic Frontier Requirements - HPSS



Project	Repos	2012 Usage	2017 Need	Factor Increase
Experimental Cosmology	LSST, Boss, BigBoss, DES, DESSN, PTF, DESI, COSMO	40 TB	1,000 TB	25
Cosmological Simulations for Sky Surveys	Cosmosim, cusp, hacc	70 TB	10,000 TB	143
CMB Analysis	Planck, usplanck, mp107	550 TB	50,000 TB	91
Supernova Studies	m1400	100 TB	2,000 TB	20

7.6 X is "Normal"

# HEP Cosmic Frontier Requirements - /project



Project	Repos	2012 Usage	2017 Need	Factor Increase
Experimental Cosmology	LSST, Boss, BigBoss, DES, DESSN, PTF, DESI, COSMO	20TB	500 TB	25
Cosmological Simulations for Sky Surveys	Cosmosim, cusp, hacc	120 TB	10,000 TB	83
CMB Analysis	Planck, usplanck, mp107	200TB	5,000 TB	25
Supernova Studies	m1400	3 TB	200 TB	67

7.6 X is "Normal"

# Extreme Data Strategy

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- **Develop and deploy new data resources and capabilities**
- **Partner with DOE experimental facilities and projects to identify requirements and create early success**
- **Provide expertise and services for extreme data**
- **Leverage ESnet and ASCR research to create end-to-end solutions**



**Thank you.**