

Education in HPC: A Lifelong Effort

Introduction

Dirk Pleiter (KTH), 2023-03-22

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Goals for this session

- Create an understanding for HPC education and training as a lifelong effort
- Show-case education and training efforts
- Stimulate feedback on specific needs for training and education
- Stimulate exchange on best-practices

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Speakers

Education and training initiatives

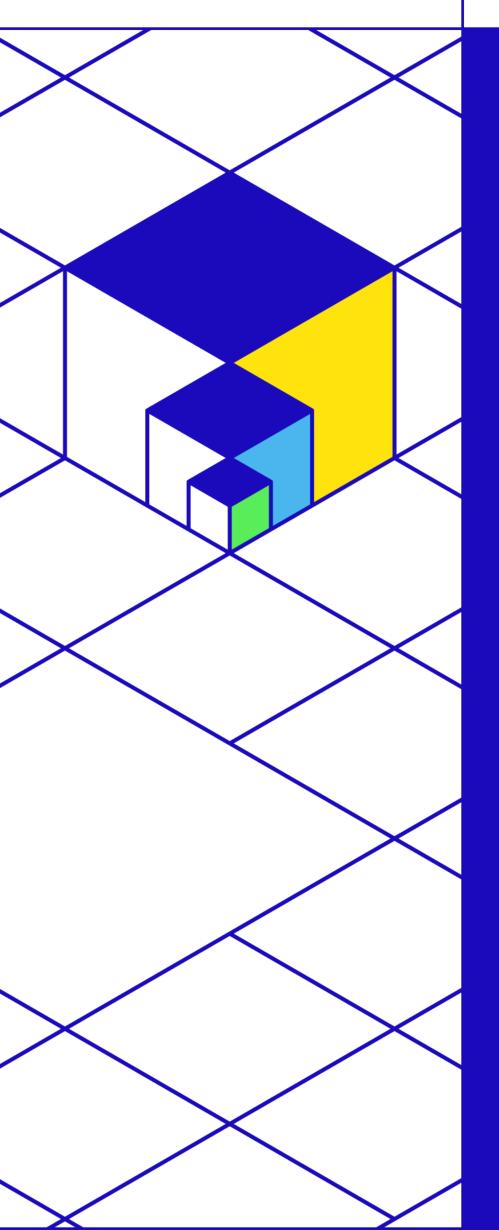
- Tiina Leiponen (CSC)
- Thor Wikfeldt (RISE)
- Pascal Bouvry (Unilu)

Needs for education

- Maria Ribera Sancho (UPC)
- Eric Monchalin (Atos)

Best practices in education and training

- Andreas Herten (FZJ)
- Johan Hellsvik (KTH)
- Pratik Nayak (KIT)



Education in HPC: A Lifelong Effort

PRACE Training Centres

Tiina Leiponen (CSC), 2023-03-22

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PRACE PTCs

- 14 PRACE Training Centres (PTCs) in Europe
- Established a state-of-the-art curriculum for training in HPC
 - and scientific computing
- Free of charge training for European research and industry
- Nurtured training quality
- Backbone of PRACE training
- Extensive and developing offering steady marketing practises
- Knowing the users reaction and adaptation to novel technologies
- Adaptation to environmental change and pandemic
 rise of online training, MOOCS



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People – The Power of the PRACE PTCs

- PRACE is a well-known, trusted and valuable brand in HPC training based on customer experience and shared partnership promise of delivering top-class HPC training, already since 2008.
- Common to the PTCs: Competence, tradition and commitment to training, maintaining and developing the HPC training legacy
- People willing to collaborate, share experiences, discuss and agree with the common plans, guidelines, practises and development ideas are the glue that keeps the network alive
- Professional course delivery, integrated plans, continuous participant statistics, feedback (ICHEC, Simon Wong)
- Sustainable and experienced pool of trainers, established processes, sufficient funding, suitable venue
- Trust between partners It is the people we know making the training events possible





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Clear Training Strategy

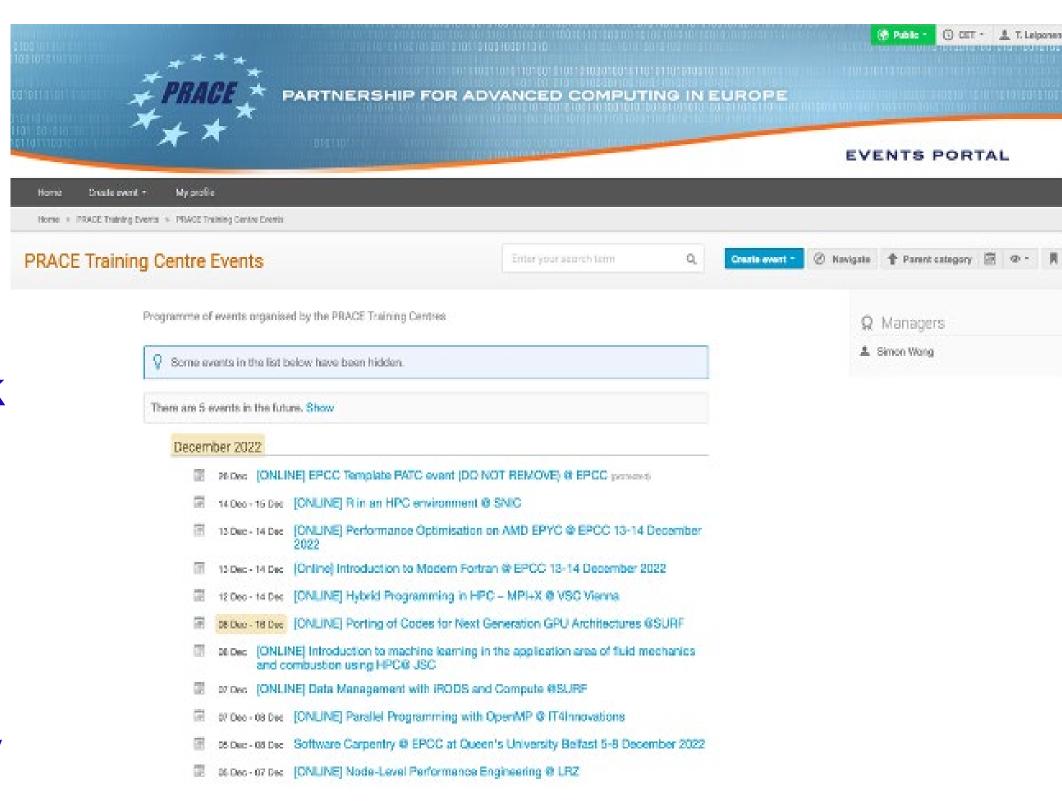
- PTCs place in the HPC training ecosystem, place in the PRACE training portfolio
- PTC's goal to maintain the core course offering: courses participants expect to find and what they need in their profession
- Flexible, personal ways of reaching the common goals as partners
- Basic guidelines to annual plans, regular active discussion in the meetings
- Collaboration and multilateral partnerships between partners and the HPC community

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Offering PRACE training

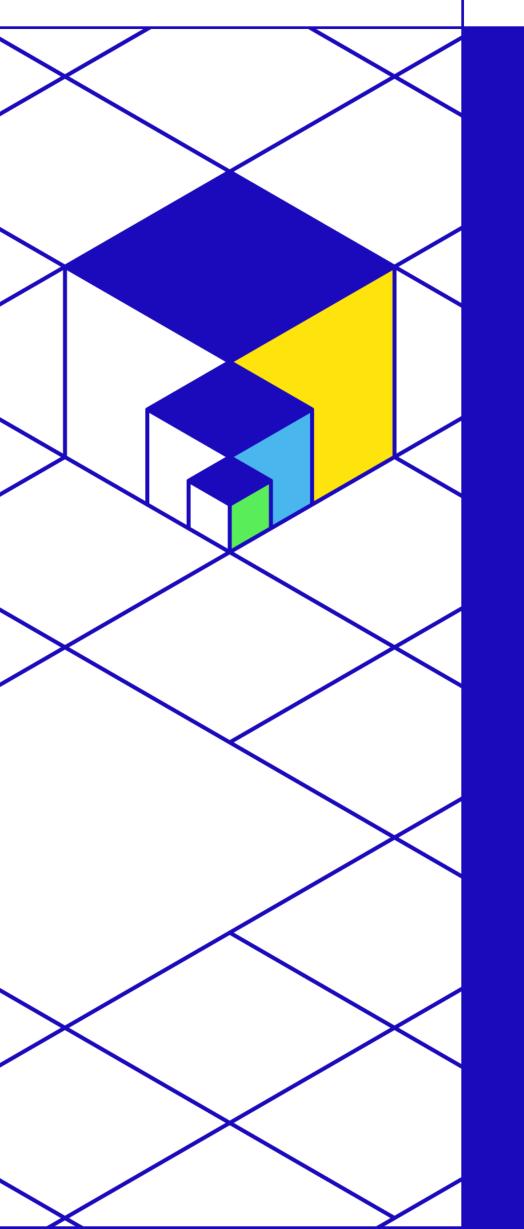
- PRACE training and events portal
 - the marketplace for PTCs
- Enable viewing and inputting PRACE PTC trainings as well as training offered by other partners and projects
- Materials, videos and more from the network
- One stop shop for training offering
- Developed and revamped over times
- Requires continuous maintenance and updates
- PTCs adapted Indico system as the primary source of all training meta data



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All time PRACE Training Achievements

Activity/Course	#events	#training days	#participants		
PRACE Training Centres	955	2 608	26 081		
Seasonal Schools and workshops	45	175	2 161		
International HPC Summer School	11	54	808		
On-demand events	14	43	388		
TOTAL (short courses)	1 025	2 880	29 438		
Feedback from the participants	Positive feedback		Average overall rating 8,4/10 remained stable through the years		
Summer of HPC	Organised annually for 10 years since 2013; mentored 289 students in Europe.				
MOOCs	8 MOOCs developed since 2017; a total of 37 929 people joined these courses.				



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EuroCC Training

Thor Wikfeldt (RISE/ENCCS), 2023-03-22

With input from:
Martina Blazkova
Carlos Teijeiro Barjas



EuroCC





- 33 National Competence Centers
- Bringing together expertise
- Increase national strengths in HPC, HPDA, AI
- One-stop shop for HPC









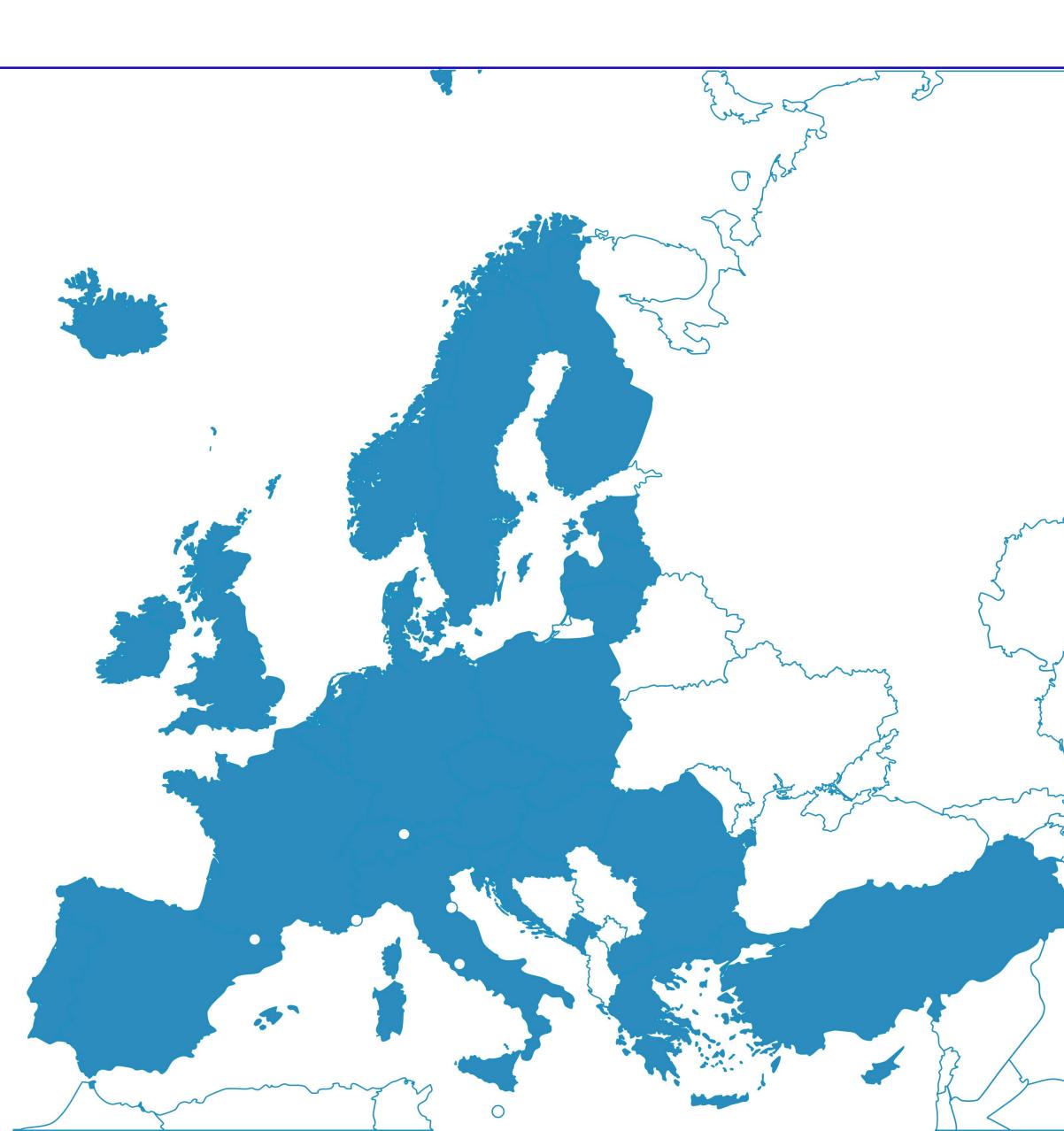
Services











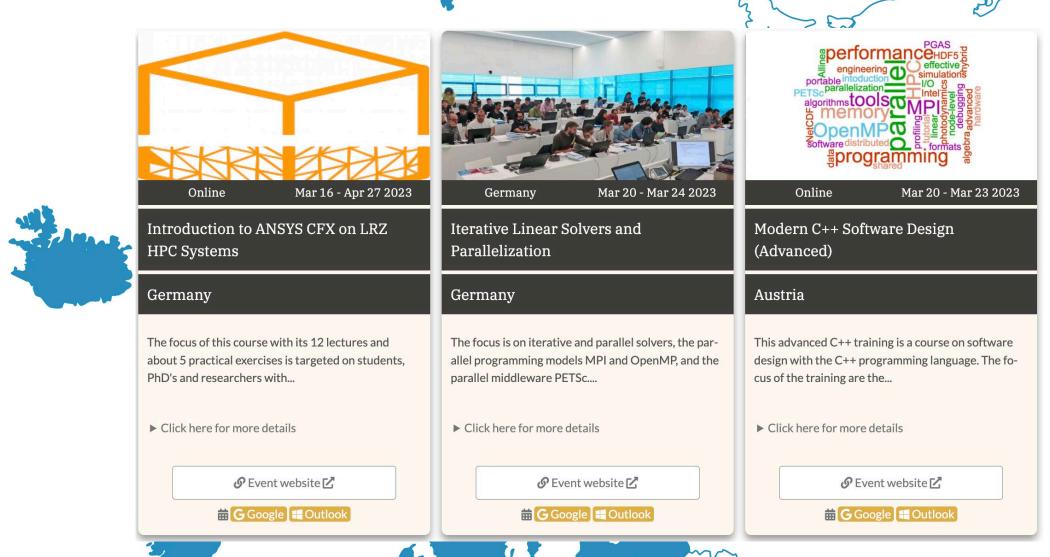
EuroCC

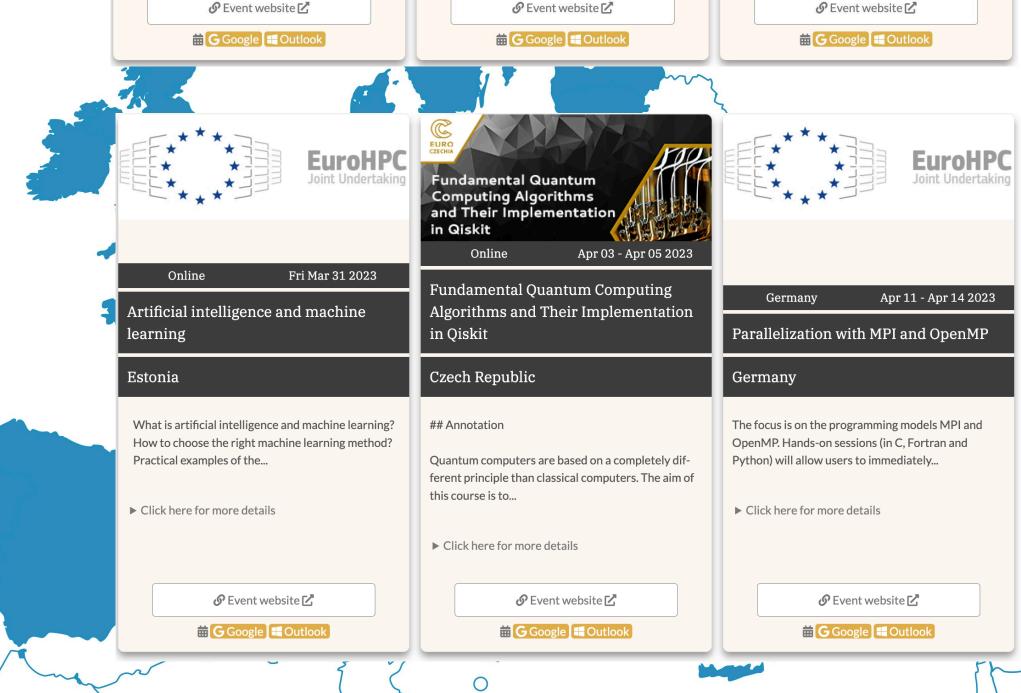


EuroCC National Competence Centre Sweden

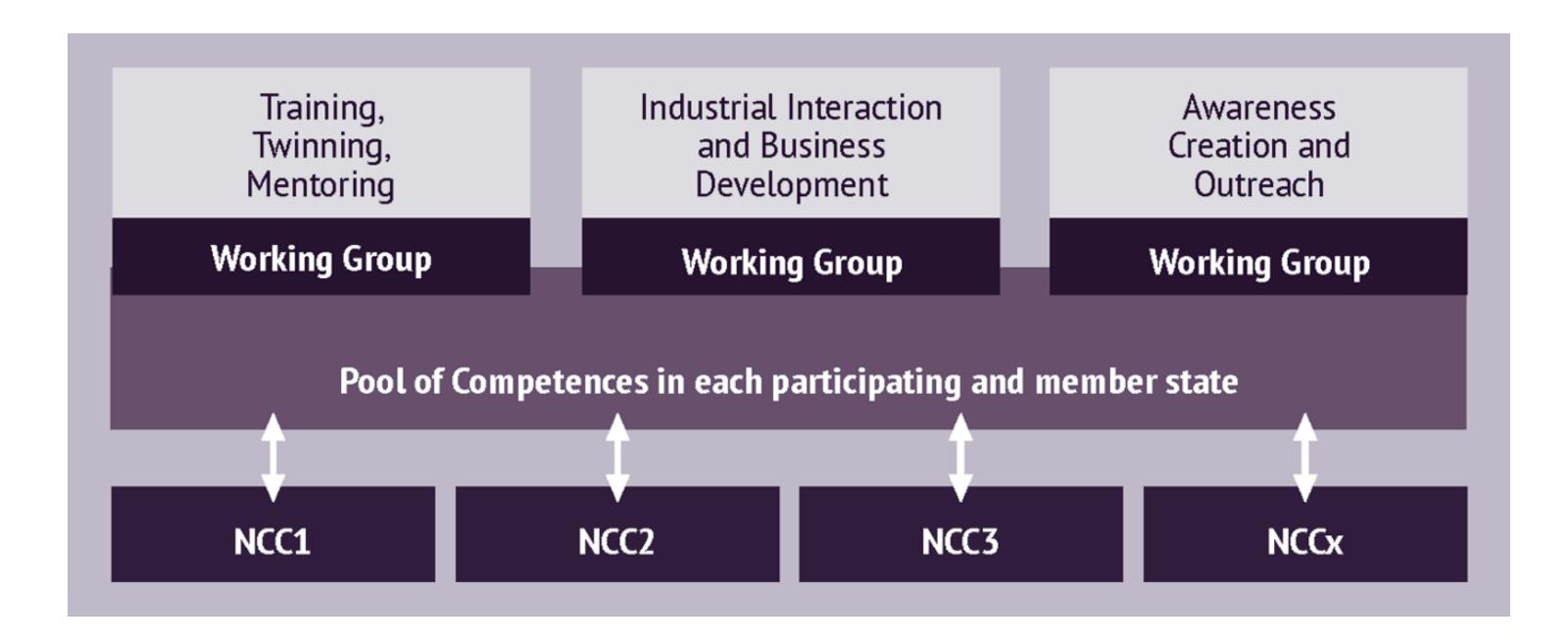
- 33 National Competence Centers
- Bringing together expertise
- Increase national strengths in HPC, HPDA, AI
- One-stop shop for HPC







CASTIEL



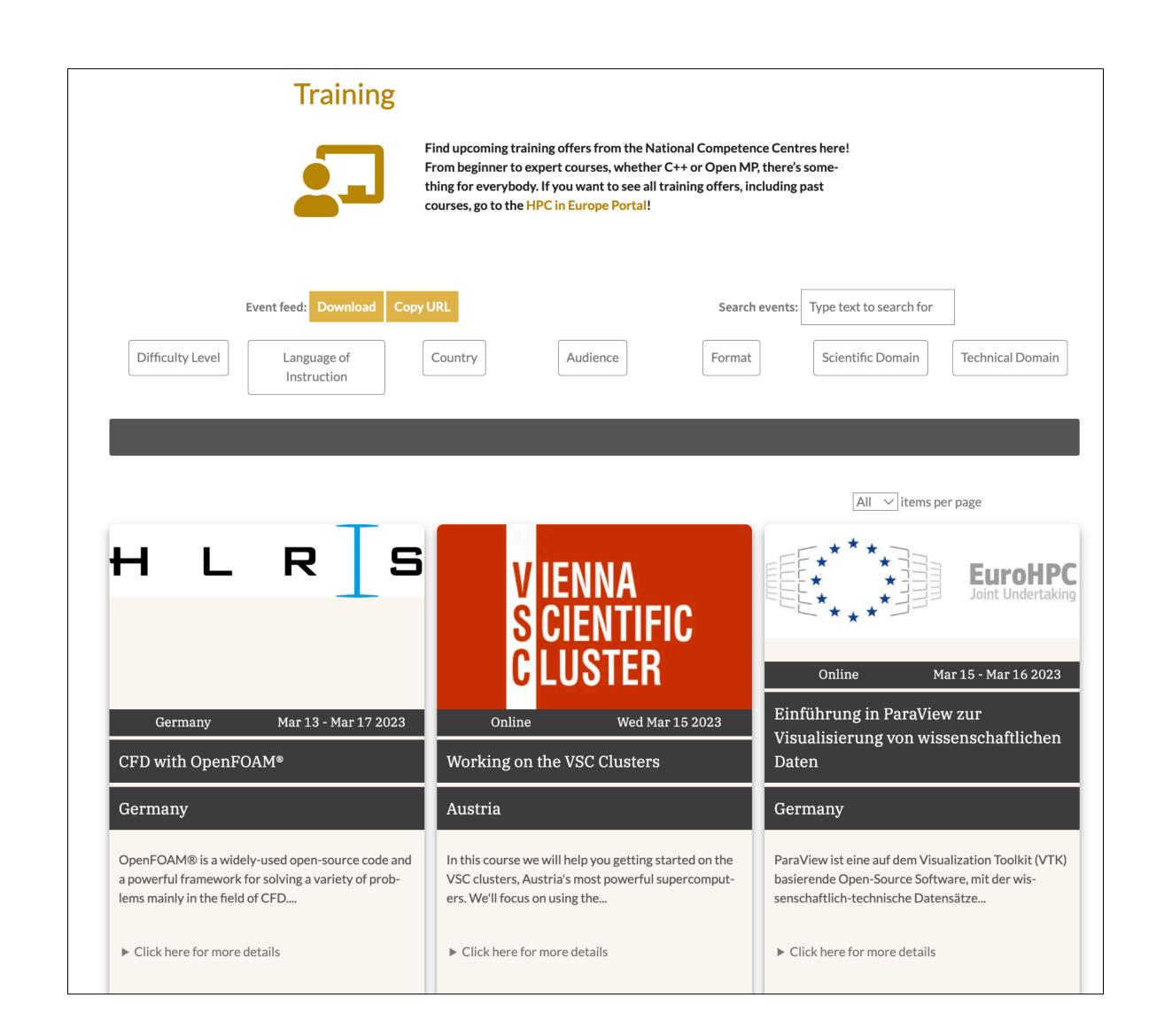
- Connecting NCCs recruiting teachers, co-organizing workshops
- Internationalisation advertising NCC workshops
- Workshops with hardware providers
- Mentoring workshops "HPC, HPDA and Al Applied to Industrial Use Cases", and "Quantum Computing"
- Best practice guides Train the Trainer, How to Organise an HPC Event, How to Find Attendees for Trainings, In-Person and Online Training Courses

Training portals

- Several portals exist
 - https://hpc-portal.eu/
 - https://www.eurocc-access.eu/services/training/
 - https://events.prace-ri.eu/
- NCCs encouraged to share training events
- Enables HPC users to find online training not available locally

Challenges

- Multiple portals
- No standardised curriculum, taxonomy, certification
- Not widely known in key user communities



Training materials

- CASTIEL shares material and recordings
 - https://www.eurocc-access.eu/services/video-library/
- ENCCS is building a repository of public and open-source training material
 - https://enccs.se/lessons/
- Training materials are increasingly being shared among NCCs, CoEs and others

Challenges

- Lack of coordination and collaboration in training material development
- No generally agreed-upon content level specification
- Much high-quality training material is not shared























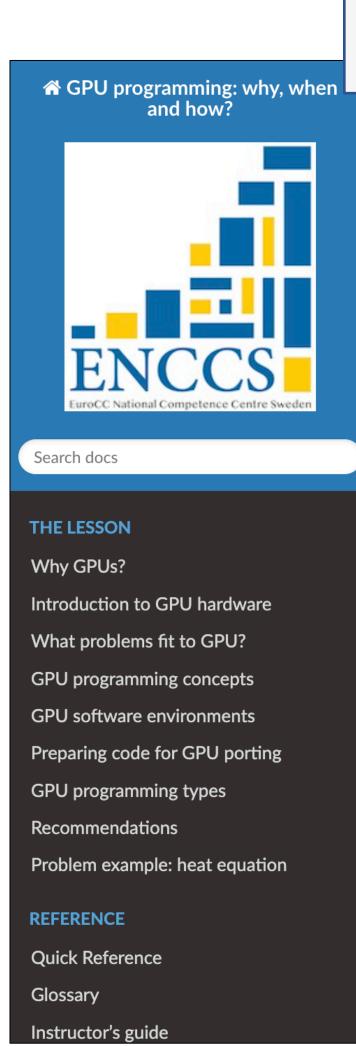


Training collaborations

- Many NCCs collaborate on training
 - Example 1: NCC1 contributes instructors, NCC2 provides hardware access, NCC1+NCC2 advertise to local audiences
 - Example 2: Collaborative development of training material with multiple NCCs
- NCCs disseminate training events from other NCCs
- CASTIEL Twinning/Mentoring program often used for training

Challenges

- Not all training providers can offer HPC access for workshops
- We tend to collaborate mostly with NCCs we already know





↑ The hitchhiker's guide to GPU programming

C Edit on GitHub

The hitchhiker's guide to GPU programming

Graphical processing units (GPUs) are the workhorse of many high performance computing (HPC) systems around the world. The number of GPU-enabled supercomputers on the Top500 has been steadily increasing in recent years and this development is expected to continue. In the near future the majority of HPC computing power available to researchers and engineers is likely to be provided by GPUs or other types of accelerators. Programming GPUs and other accelerators is thus increasingly important to developers who write software which is executed on HPC systems.

However, the landscape of GPU hardware, software and programming environments is complicated. Multiple vendors compete in the high-end GPU market, each vendor provides their own software stack and development toolkits, and even beyond that there is a proliferation of tools, languages and frameworks that can be used to write code for GPUs. It can thus be difficult for individual developers and project owners to know how to navigate this landscape and select the most appropriate GPU programming framework for their projects based on the requirements of a given project and technical specifics of any existing code.

This material is meant to help both software developers and decision makers navigate the GPU programming landscape and make more informed decisions on which languages or frameworks to learn and use for their projects. Specifically, you will:

- Understand why and when to use GPUs.
- Become comfortable with key concepts in GPU programming.
- Acquire a comprehensive overview of different software frameworks, what levels they operate
 at, and which to use when.
- Learn the fundamentals in at least one framework to a level which will enable you to quickly become a productive GPU programmer.

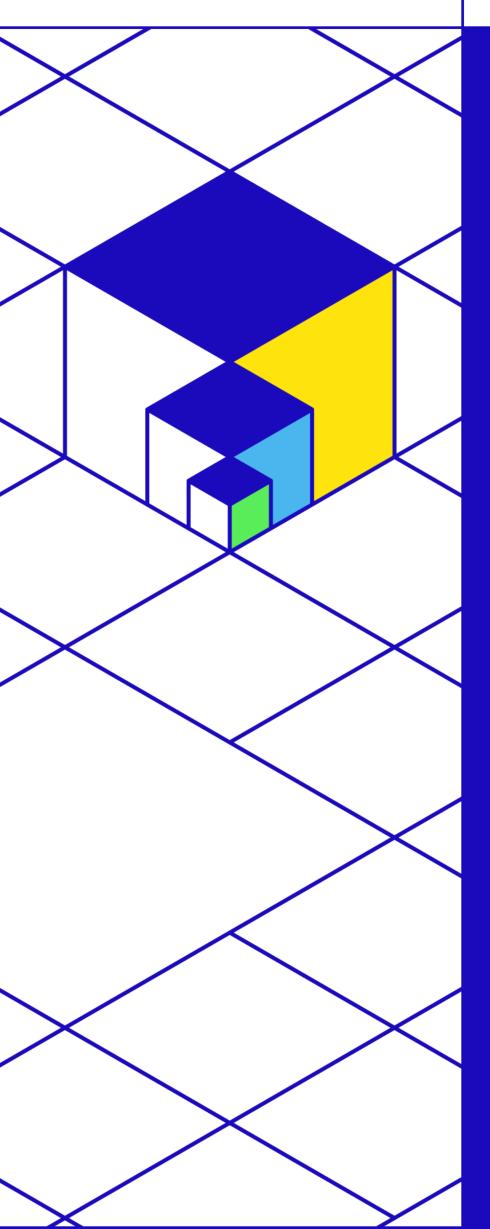
Collaboration initiated at ENCCS Training Development Hackathon, August 2022

Future directions

In EuroCC2, we need to ...

- Consolidate all training events in single widely disseminated training platform
- Meet more often to discuss and initiate joint training efforts
- Agree on common format and collaboratively develop EuroHPC training material
- Share more instructors between NCCs
- Build a coherent and coordinated training catalogue with learning paths
- Introduce EuroCC-wide certification for HPC training
- Streamline HPC access for EuroCC training workshops





Education in HPC: A Lifelong Effort

EUMaster4HPC

The first pan-European Master Programme for High Performance Computing

Pascal Bouvry (U Luxembourg), 2023-03-22

EuroHPC Summit

Objectives

Pan-European Master programme for HPC: 120 ECTS (2 year)

- ✓ Train the next generation of HPC experts in Europe
- ✓ Joint modular curriculum on core courses and specializations
- ✓ Establishment of strong collaboration between universities, HPC centres, industry and promoting students' mobility

The consortium and Partners

8 awarding Universities

- 1. Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain
- 2. Sorbonne Université, France
- 3. Politecnico di Milano, Italy
- 4. Università della Svizzera Italiana, Switzerland
- 5. Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany
- 6. University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg
- 7. Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Bulgaria
- 8. KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden

Contribution to:

- ✓ Body of knowledge
- ✓ New educational content, materials, teaching methods
- ✓ Joint/dual diploma
- ✓ Quality and standardization
- ✓ Implementation of pilot program

29 Non-awarding universities

- ✓ Input on the curriculum
- ✓ Joint effort on the creation of new teaching material
- ✓ Future adopters of the standard programme

16 Contributing parties (industry and research)

- ✓ Definition of industry/research needs
- ✓ Sponsorship of students/events
- ✓ Organization of student training
- ✓ Future employers

36 Additional supporting partners

- ✓ Promoting
- ✓ Lobbying

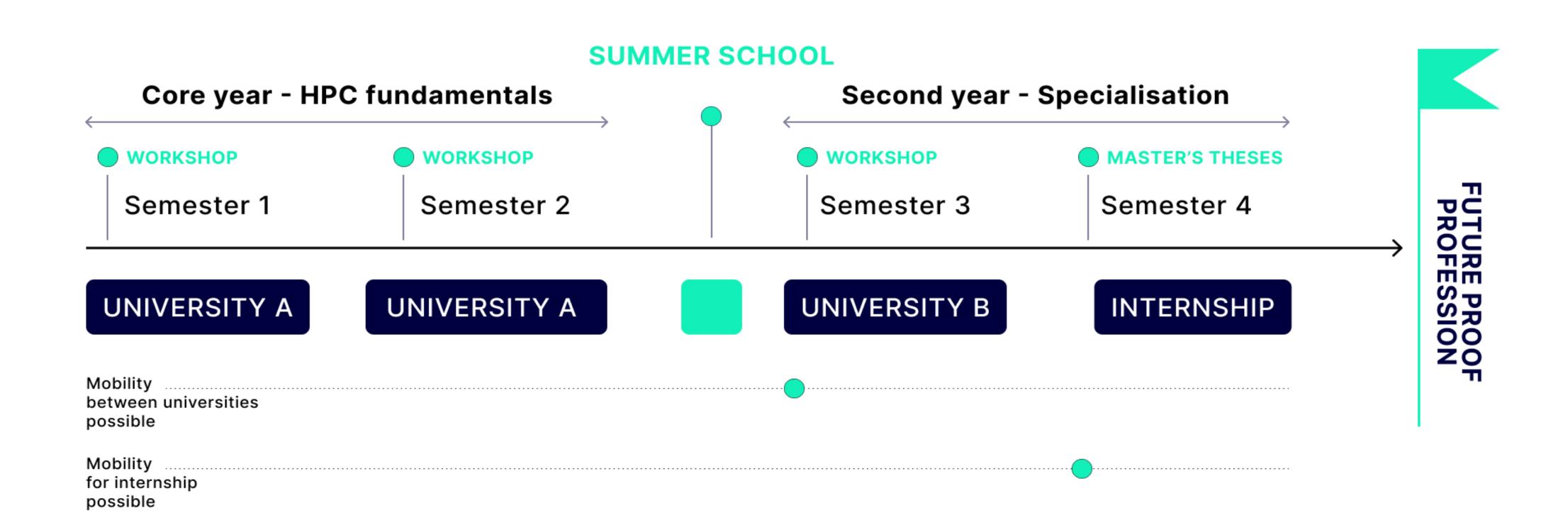
List of target Expertises

- ✓ Research Software and Domain Expertise
- ✓ Numerical and Data Analytics Expertise
- ✓ Performance Analysis and Engineering Expertise
- ✓ System Development, Operations and Support Expertise
- ✓ System Architecture Expertise

Academic Journey



ACADEMIC JOURNEY



WP2 Modules: 1st year (fundamentals)

- 4 topics covering first year of the EUMaster4HPC curriculum:
- 1. Mathematics and Statistics
- 2. Software Engineering
- 3. Parallel Programming
- 4. Computer Architecture

Ongoing: setting up list of suitable courses for each topic.

WP2 Modules: 2ndyear (specialisation)

5 specialisations based on industrial and academic needs

- 1. Application Domain Expert
- 2. Numerical and Data Specialist for Science Domains
- 3. Performance Analyst and Advisor
- 4. System Development and Support
- 5. System Architect

Ongoing: setting up list of suitable courses for each topic.

WP3 Modules - MOOC

TARGET USE CASES

- ✓ Pre-course (entire course topic)
- ✓ Pre-class (a specific topic)
- ✓ In-class (replacing a specific topic lecture)
- ✓ Post-class (additional specific topic lecture)
- ✓ Independent learning (pre-requisite for some courses)

Expected hours of video:

- √ 1 ECTS = 3-5 hours of video on theory
- \checkmark 2 ECTS = 6-10 hours of vide

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL PROVIDED WITH THE MODULES

- ✓ Slides
- ✓ Notes
- ✓ Open/Multiple-choice questions for self-assessment
- ✓ Evaluation material for peer review
- ✓ Other online evaluation material
- ✓ Lab exercises

Planned timeline:

Planned credits:

✓ 1 ECTS

✓ 2 ECTS

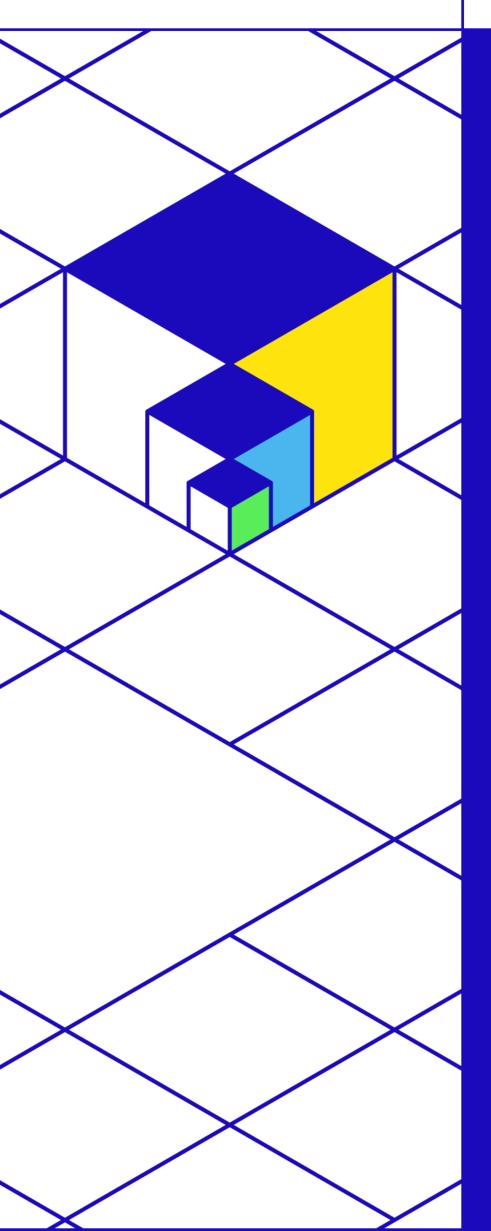
- ✓ Call close: May 1
- ✓ Proposals selected: May 15
- ✓ MOOCs published: November 2023

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WP6: pan-European education in HPC

Common roadmap and recommendations for the pan-European curriculum in High Performance Computing (HPC)

- ✓ Collect and analyse lessons learned from each WP and deliver a set of recommendations
- ✓ Promote and support the implementation of the updated curriculum for a European master in HPC within the interested participating universities
- ✓ Explore and design bridges between this EUMaster4HPC and HPC-courses in various HPC related Master programs
- ✓ Map the network created in this pilot
- ✓ List possible new candidates and partners for a further collaboration



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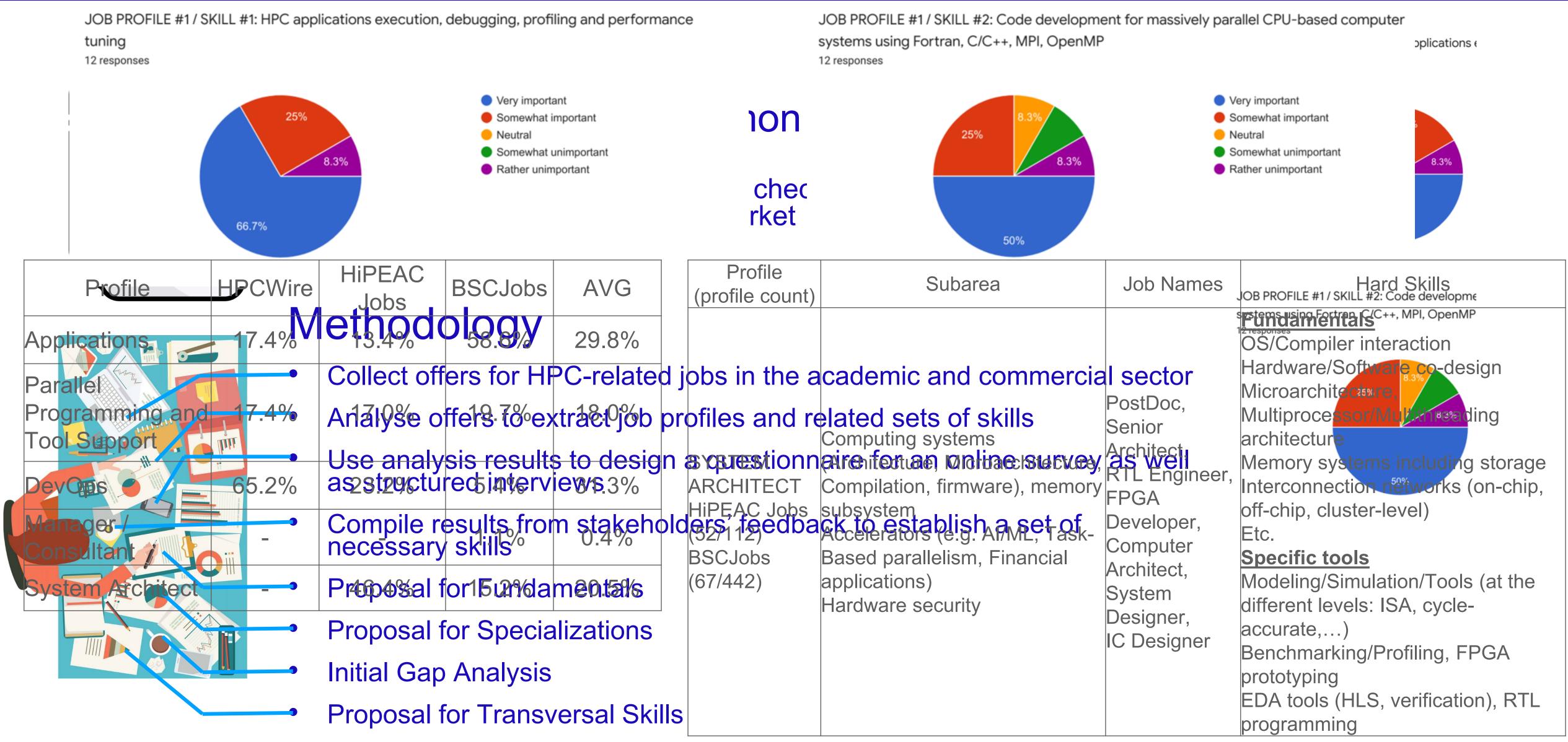
Needs for Education: Academia

Towards an European Curriculum for a Master in HPC





Requirements and Methodology



Initial Results: Job Profiles

Academic sector

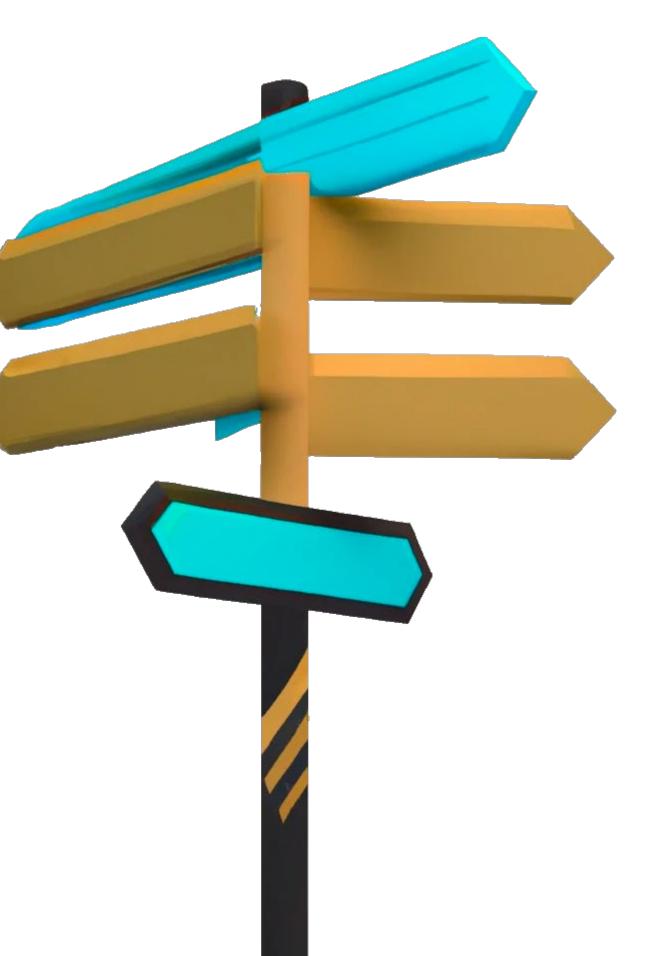
- Analysis of ~600 job offers
- Job profiles:
 - Application / Domain Expert
 - Parallel Programming and Tools Support/Solution Designer
 - DevOps (System Support and Development)
 - System Architect

Commercial sector

- Analysis of ~30 job offers
- Job profiles:
- Computational scientist
- Hardware developer
- System software developer
- HPC architect
- System administrator
- Application software developer



Identification of Specializations



Application Domain Expert

• Specialist on a science domain, getting the skills on parallel programming, and computer architecture, to participate in application development in interdisciplinary teams from the perspective of the Science Domain

Numerical and Data Analyst for Science Domains IT4I, VSB

Focus on the software engineering techniques for the development of algorithms for supercomputers, parallel programming, computer
architecture, knowledge on Application Domains, works tightly with Domain Scientists, and Application Domain Experts

Performance Analyst and Advisor

 Specialist on performance analysis and tuning for supercomputers. Focus on algorithm analysis, knowledge on performance analysis tools and models, get the best of heterogeneous systems. Use of containers, virtualization

System Development and Support

Development of the software for supercomputers. Focus on operating system, programming models, compiler, performance analysis tools, middleware, virtualization. Knowledge on the low level characteristics of the hardware, synchronization techniques, communications, from chip to data center

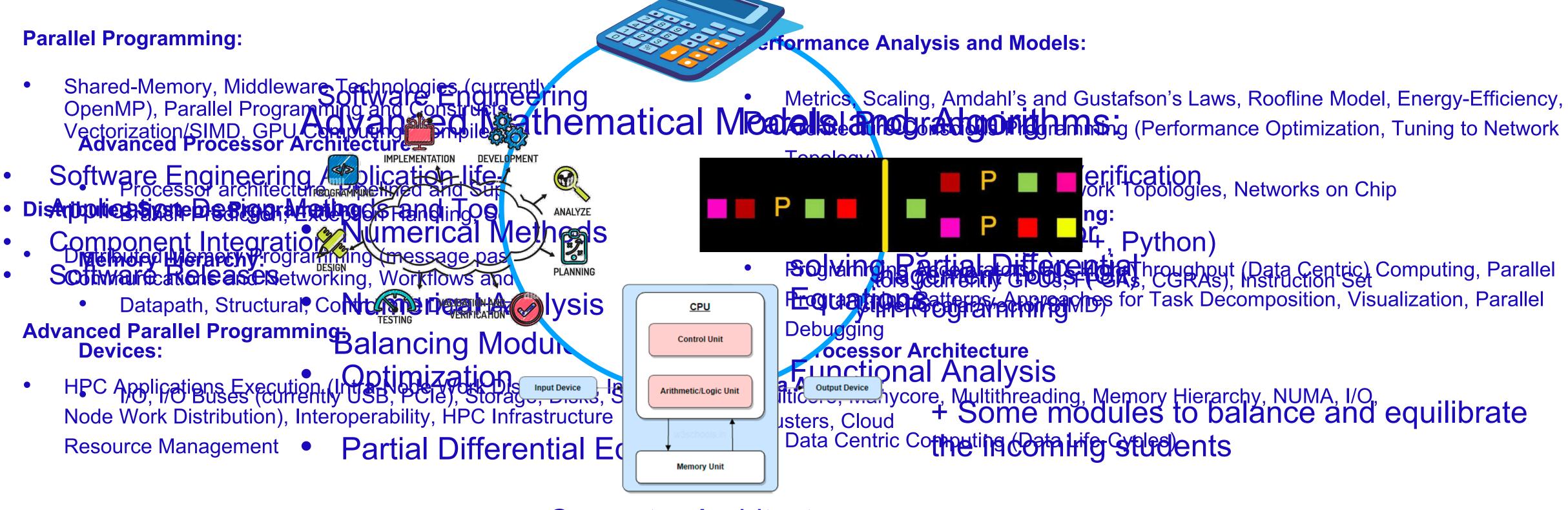
System Architect

Design and development of the supercomputers. Focus on processor, multiprocessor, supercomputer architectures. Memory and I/O systems, networking, circuit design, verification and test, low power techniques, fabrication

FAU, KTH, NTUA, POLIMI, Sorbonne, TUW, Uni Pannonia, UDC-La Coruña, UL/IST-Uni Lisboa, Uni Pisa, UniLu, Uni of Ljubljana, UPC/BSC, VSB-TUO/IT4I

Current proposal for Fundamentals: Main topics

Mathematics and Statistics



Computer Architecture

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Initial Gap Analysis

Disciplines	Uni.L u	Sofia	POLI MI	FAU	Sorbon ne	KTH	USI	UPC
Applied Math			$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	
Applications			$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	
Parallel/Het. Prog.	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$		$\sqrt{}$
Distributed/Clo ud	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$		$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$
DevOps		$\sqrt{}$						$\sqrt{}$
Big Data/HPDA	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$			$\sqrt{}$		$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$
Al	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$			$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$
Comp. Architecture					$\sqrt{}$			$\sqrt{}$
Transversal skills	$\sqrt{}$							$\sqrt{}$

POLIMI

- Starting a new Master this current year
- Increased strength towards Computer Architecture
- Including now new topics: Quantum Computing

Sorbonne

- Current master program
- Good coverage of the Fundamentals
- Additional strength on Mathematics

FAU

- Current master program
- Good coverage of the Fundamentals
- Additional strength on Applications

UPC

- Current Master Program
- Increased strength towards Computer Architecture
- Including now new topics: CMOS Technology and Verification

Current State

Fundamentals:

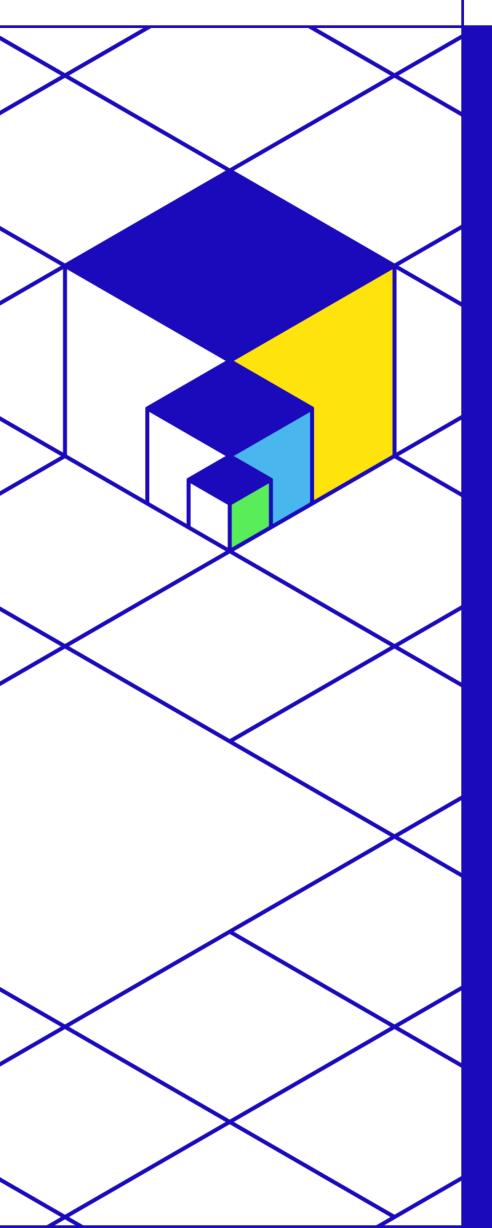
- Detailed definition of skills
- Learning outcomes, modules and content definition in progress

Specializations:

- Initial definition of skills
- Working groups for skills detailed definition established and progressing

Transversal Skills

- Detailed definition of main skills to address
- Initial work on how to address them in the CV

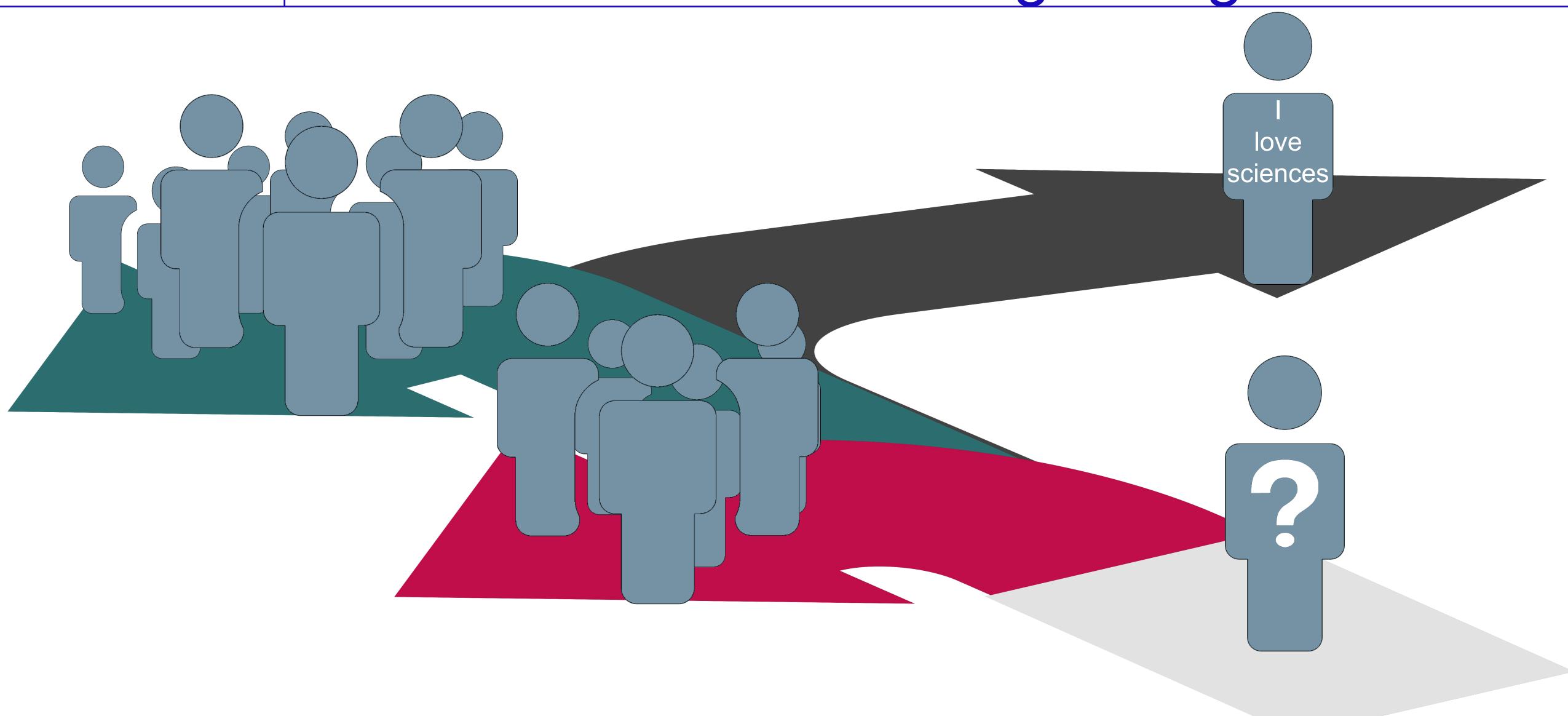


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Needs for Education: Industry

Eric Monchalin (Atos), 2023-03-22

Make scientific education great again



Gen Z motto: You Only Live Once

Leave an impact on the world

Entrepreneur

Multi-taskers

work-life balance

Freedom





Few focus

Digital interactive

HPC, a key asset for the future of Humanity



Be ready to get hired for your 2^{sd} job

High School

Bachelor - Master

Professional life

Talent Factory Talent Incubator

Talent
Accelerator

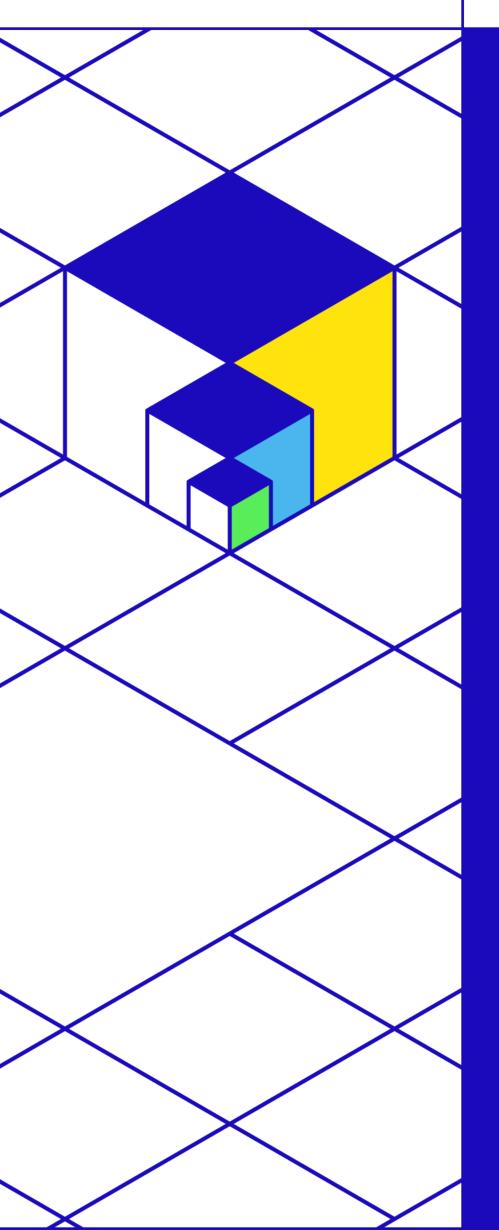
Empower yourself with the right basic skills for sustainable innovation

Take a step ahead Be above competition

- Ecosystem & economy
- Math background
- Fluent in HW & SW concepts
- Master solvers and Al principles

- Customer value
- Production quality
- Curiosity Self-learning
- Cooperation Autonomy
- Leadership
- Problem solving

- Extend your expertise
 - Sell your ideas
 - Develop your strengths

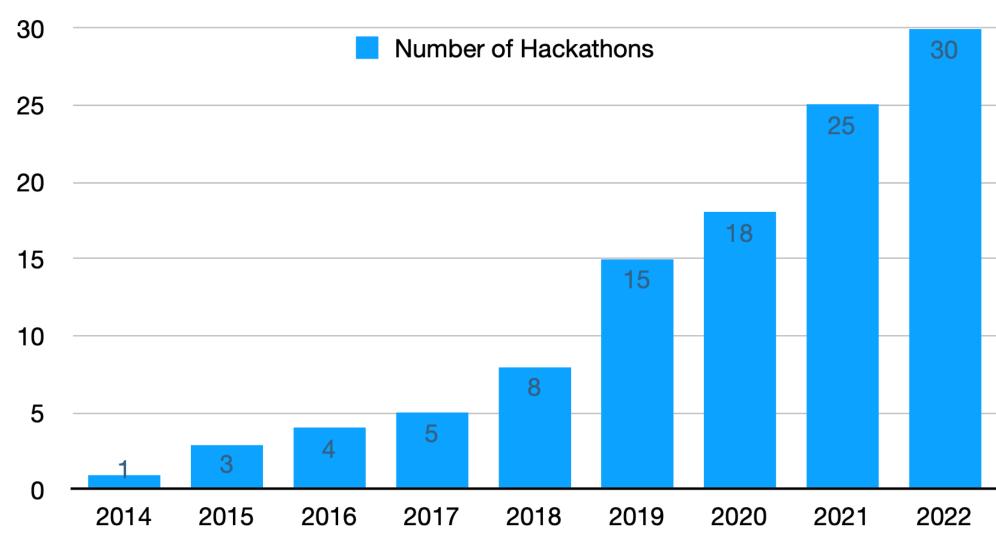


Education in HPC: A Lifelong Effort

Practices: GPU Hackathons

Andreas Herten (FZJ), 2023-03-22





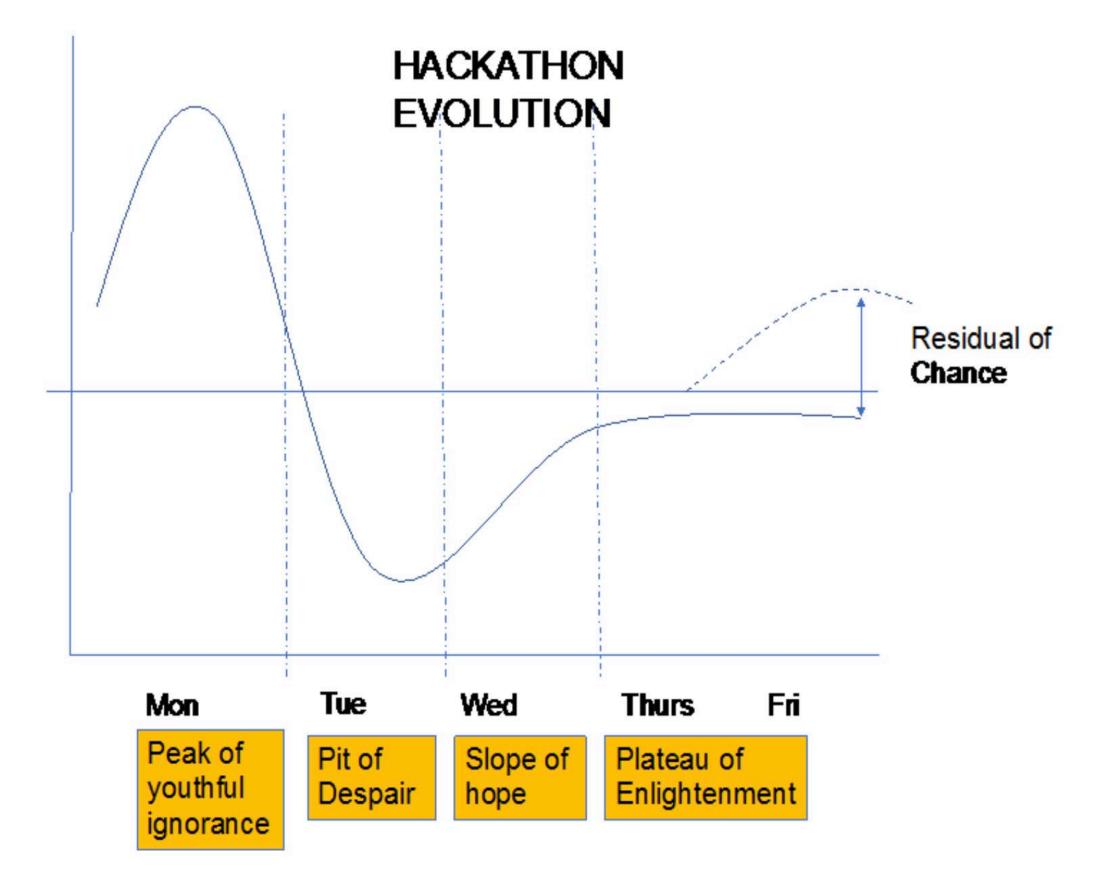
History

- Since 2014: Start at ORNL
- 2016: German Hackathon hosted by Dresden/Jülich
- 2022: >30 Hackathons world-wide
- Organization: ORNL → OpenACC
 → Open Hackathons, with local support



Key Aspects

- 3+1 intensive days of nonstop hacking
- Teams (min. 3 members) with own application, goals; reviewed
- 2 **expert mentors** per team (centres, vendors, universities)
- Regular status updates (short/long)
- On **HPC** infrastructure
- Possibly how-tos, lectures
 - One common room + breakout

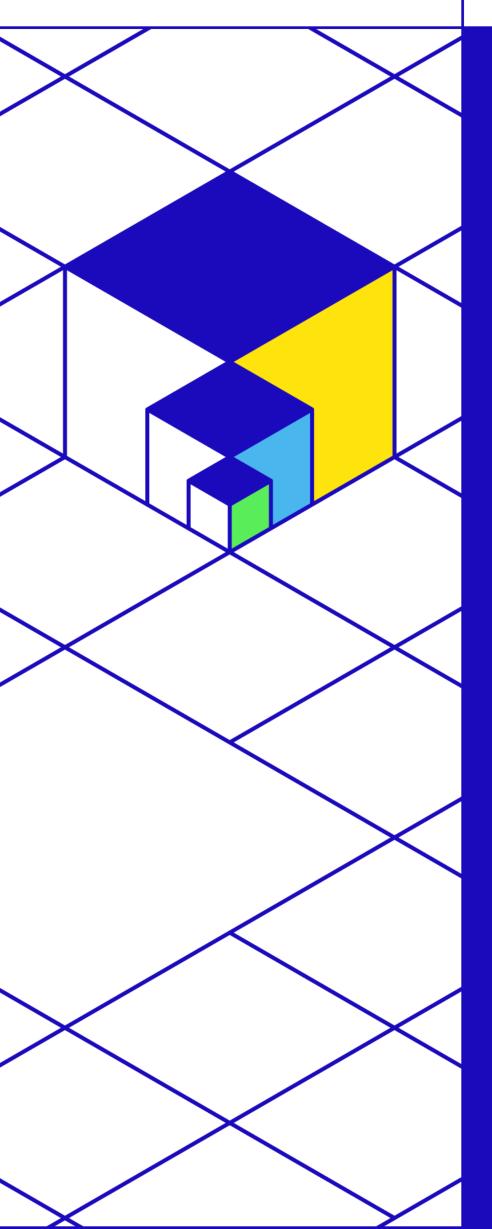


Hackathon Stages

Goals/Results

- Jump-start for fresh GPU projects
- Apply best GPU coding practices to own code
- Obtain skills for performance analysis, apply to own code
- Improve soft skills (team work, ...)
- Sustainable impact on own application

More: go.fzj.de/hack1, go.fzj.de/hack2



Education in HPC: A Lifelong Effort

Practices: CodeRefinery

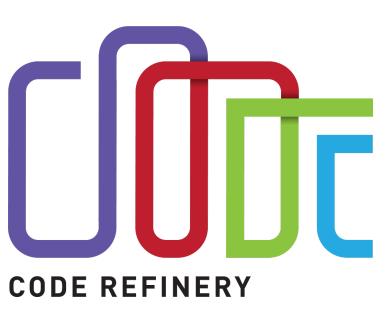
Johan Hellsvik (KTH), 2023-03-22

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CodeRefinery

coderefinery.org

- We teach tools and practices for the development of reproducible and reusable research software
- Team and project: Started in 2016 as a Nordic collaboration and NeIC projet.
 Is now in phase 3 until 2025.
- Partners: NeIC (1 FTE), Aalto University, CSC; Sigma2/NRIS, USIT, UiO; ENCCS, NAISS, PDC, UPPMAX; DeIC, T1C for interactive HPC
- Workshops, since 2016
 - 31 full workshops
 - 25 other workshops/events
 - 3 instructor training events
 - Over 2000 persons trained
 - Last four workshops: 8 volunteer instructors, 80 volunteer helpers



CodeRefinery: bridging the gap

Specialist training

Traditionally run by computing centers
CodeRefinery provides collaboration network

CodeRefinery

Expert training for reusable software Not broadly taught in all degree programs that need it

The Carpentries **Basics training** in programming and data science for novices

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Typical curriculum

- Basic and collaborative Git
- Code review
- Social coding and open software
- Reproducible research
- Jupyter notebooks
- Code documentation
- Automated testing
- Modular code development

- 3 days on-site (next: Uppsala May 2023)
- 6 half-days online (ongoing: March 2023)

All material is open and CC-BY

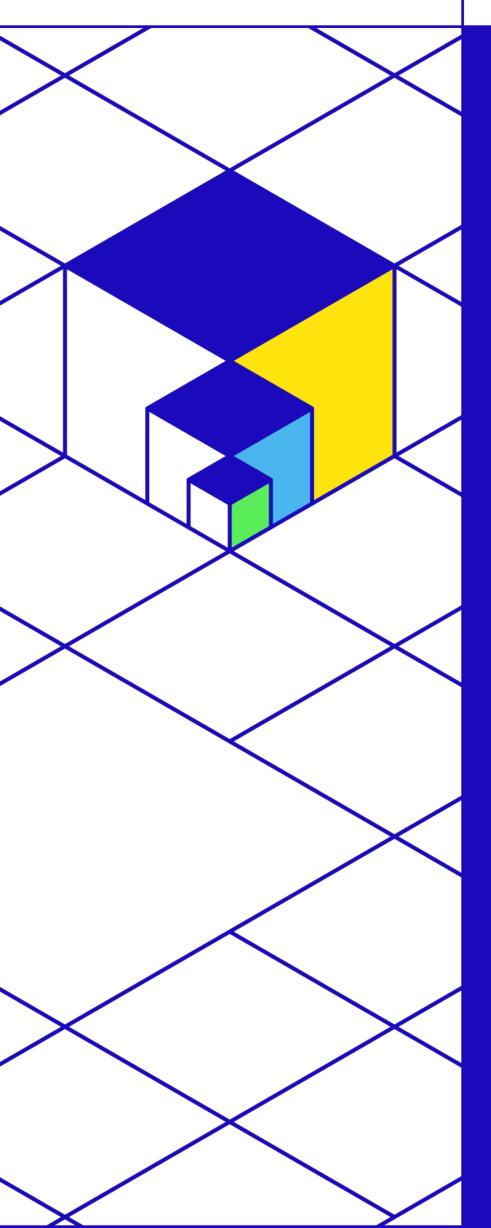
https://coderefinery.org/lessons

https://github.com/coderefinery

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Future

- Establish a CodeRefinery non-profit organization
- Continue the fruitful collaboration with partners/members inside and outside the Nordic countries
- Challenge: Coordination effort starts to outweigh lesson preparation and teaching
- The importance of communicating value to organizations: for learners and for staff participating in hosting and teaching workshops



Education in HPC: A Lifelong Effort

Practices: Teaching sustainable software development practices

Pratik Nayak (KIT), 2023-03-22

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Why?

- Almost all research employs some form of software.
- Software lifecycle often exceeds hardware lifecycles.
- Good sustainable software is THE key component of computational science.
- Ingraining good software practices in students is important to their careers in industry and in academia.

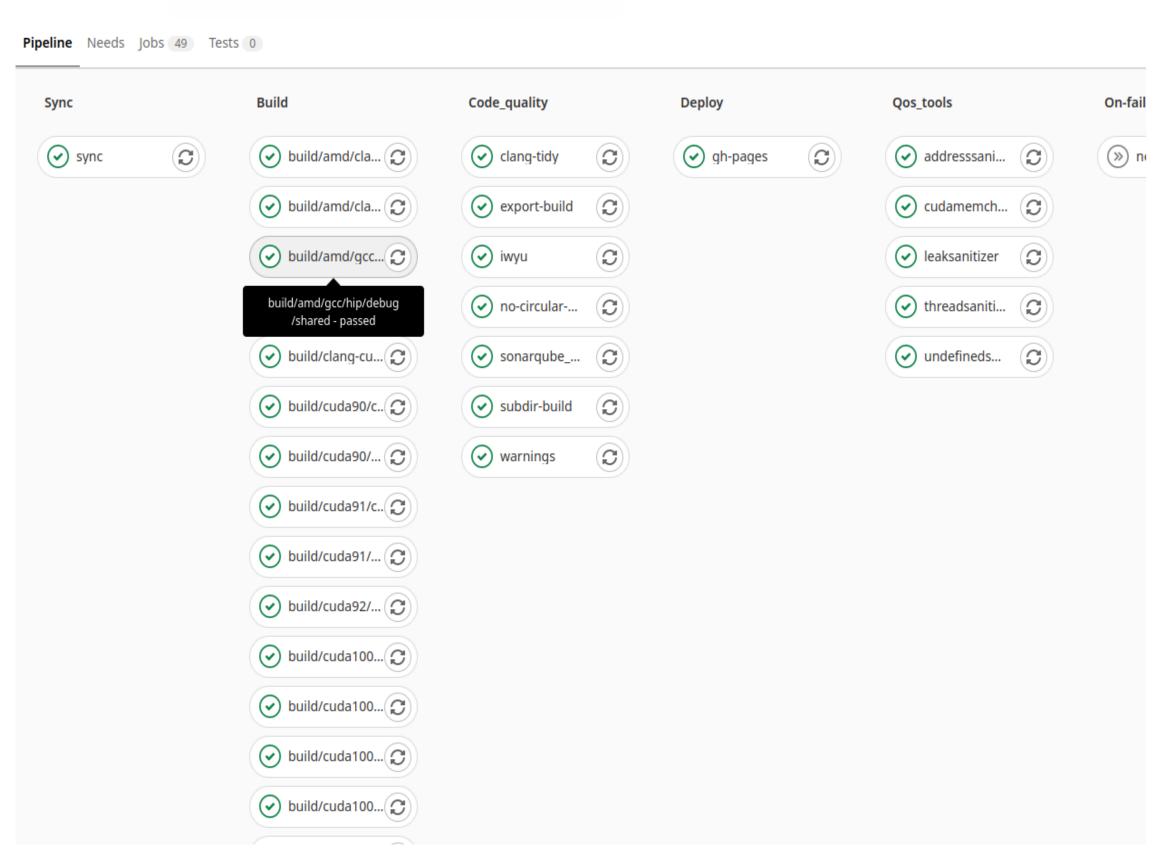
What?







- Version control.
- Continuous Integration.
- Automated testing
- Collaborative peer review



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How?

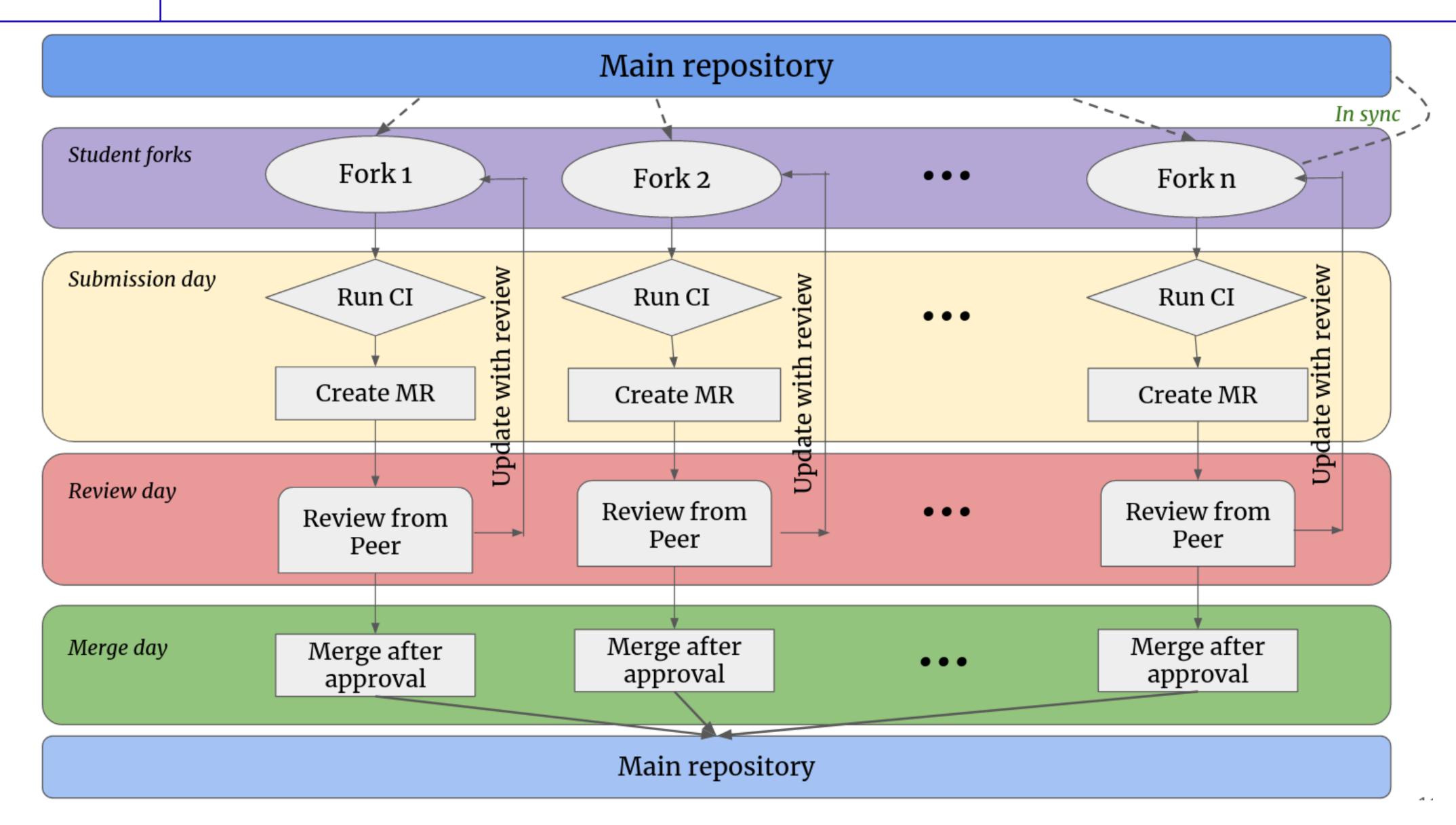
- Incorporate these common practices into courses.
- Encourage students to experiment with algorithms and implementations and not be bogged down in build and platform issues.
- Review each other's codes, and encourage critical and constructive feedback.
- Improve your code from the code review.

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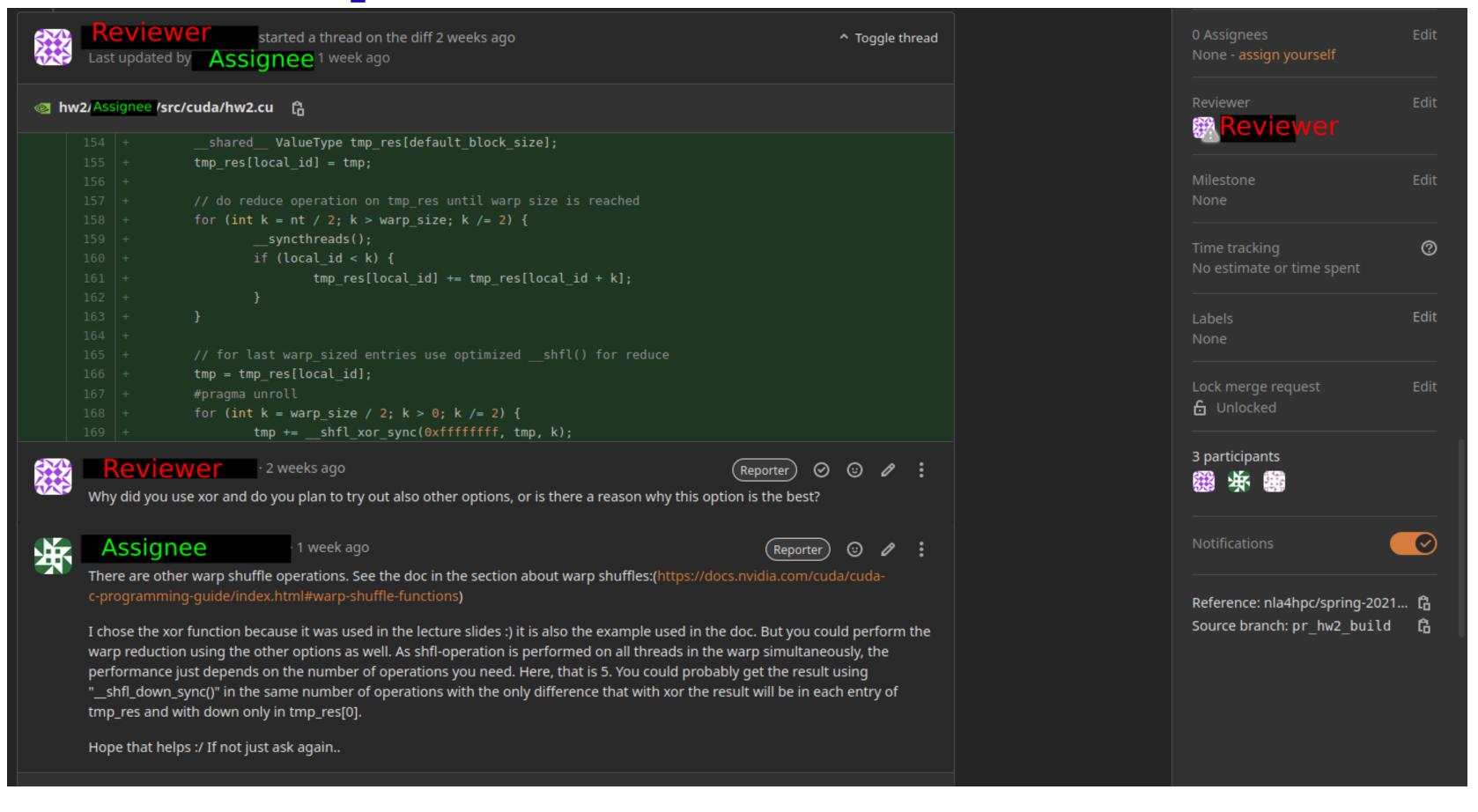
How?

- Create a common Exercise framework for all to work on.
- Provide the building blocks: Compilation, testing and benchmarking frameworks and setup a Continuous Integration setup to automatically test the code on push.

https://github.com/pratikvn/nla4hpc-exercises-framework

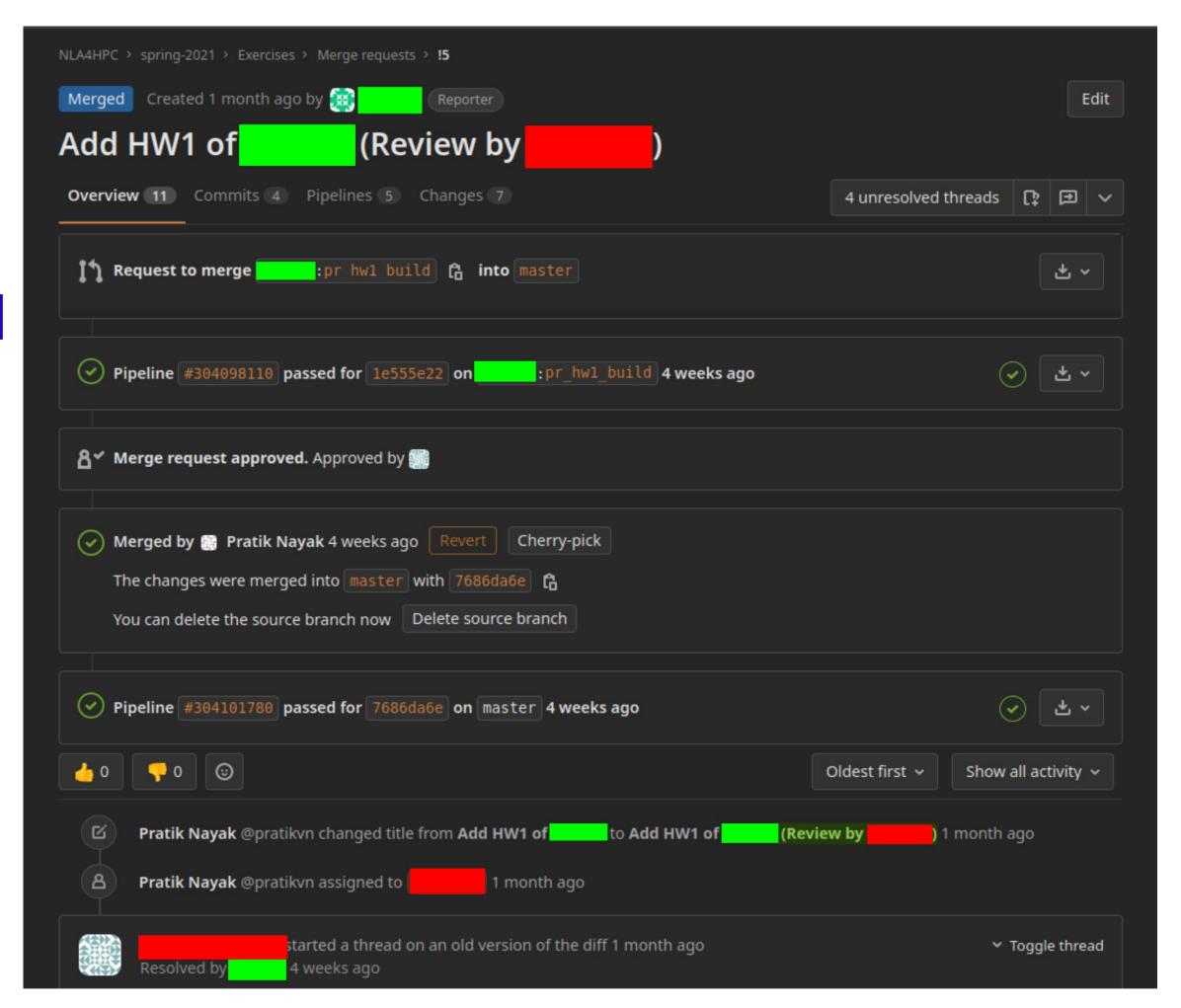


An example



An example

- Assign HW reviews to peers.
- Merge once CI has passed and has been approved.
- Grading based on merged HW



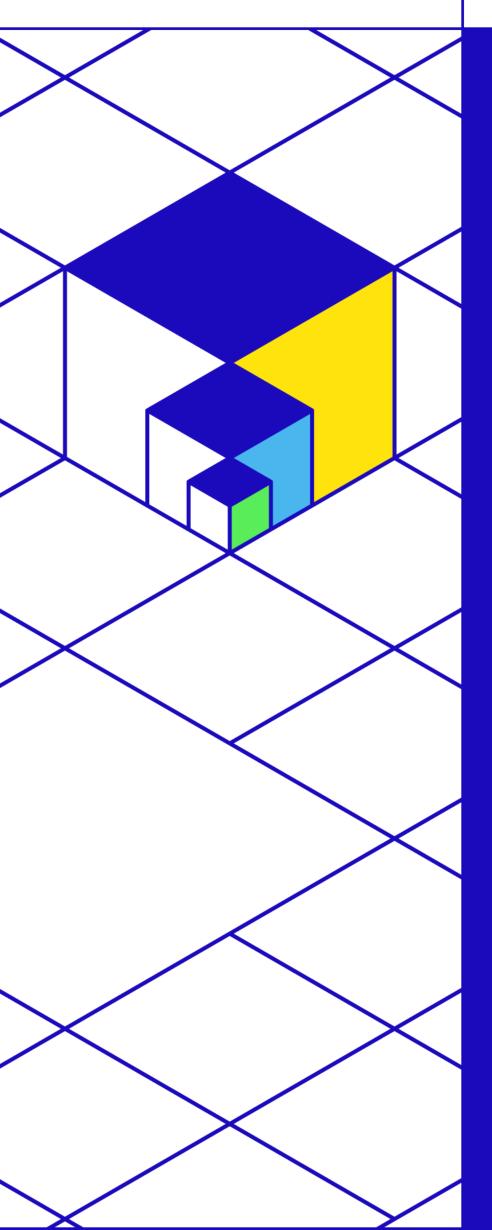
Student Feedback

Question	Avg rating (1–5)
How easy was it to use the framework?	2
How useful did you find the exercises instructions?	2
How easy was it to compile and run the code as provided?	2.3
How useful was the code review from your peer?	1.6
How easy was the reviewing process?	3.6
Would you like to see this type of frameworks in other courses?	1

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Conclusions

- We saw a marked improvement in code quality as the course progressed, which was not the case in our previous course offerings.
- This approach is scalable.
 - It can be almost completely automated.
- The students were able to focus on algorithms and optimizations rather than on build system and other orthogonal issues.
- It encourages students to showcase their code and makes them comfortable with contributing to open-source projects.



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Discussion and Q&A

Dirk Pleiter (KTH), 2023-03-22