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MILANO 1863

Dynamic Application Autotuning for Approximate Computing

Cristina Silvano



Yale talk at Politecnico di Milano, November 2008



Chania, Carlo and Niki Wedding, July 2016

Approximate Computing Applications



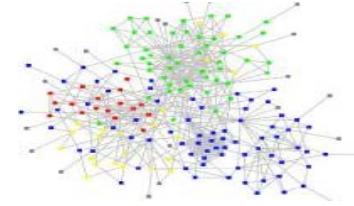
Image Processing



Machine Learning



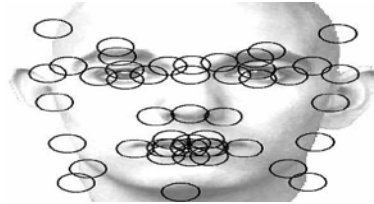
Big Data Analytics



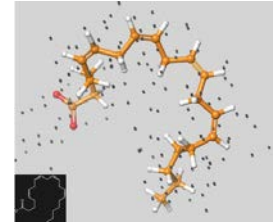
Graph Analytics



Multimedia Applications



Computer Vision



Drug Discovery

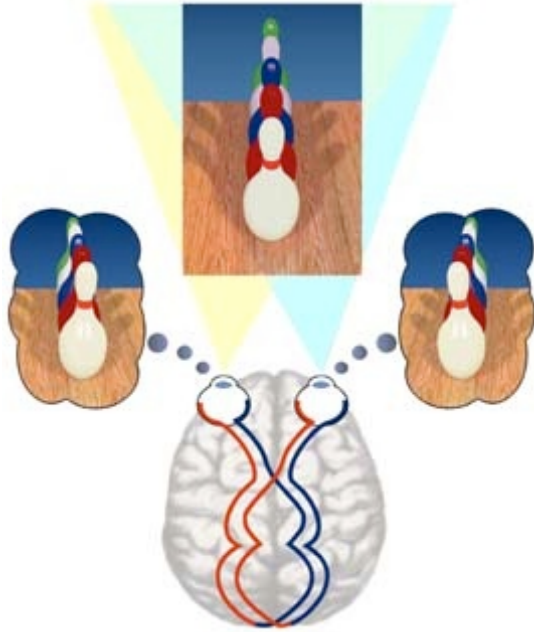


Traffic Prediction

100% computation accuracy is not always required...

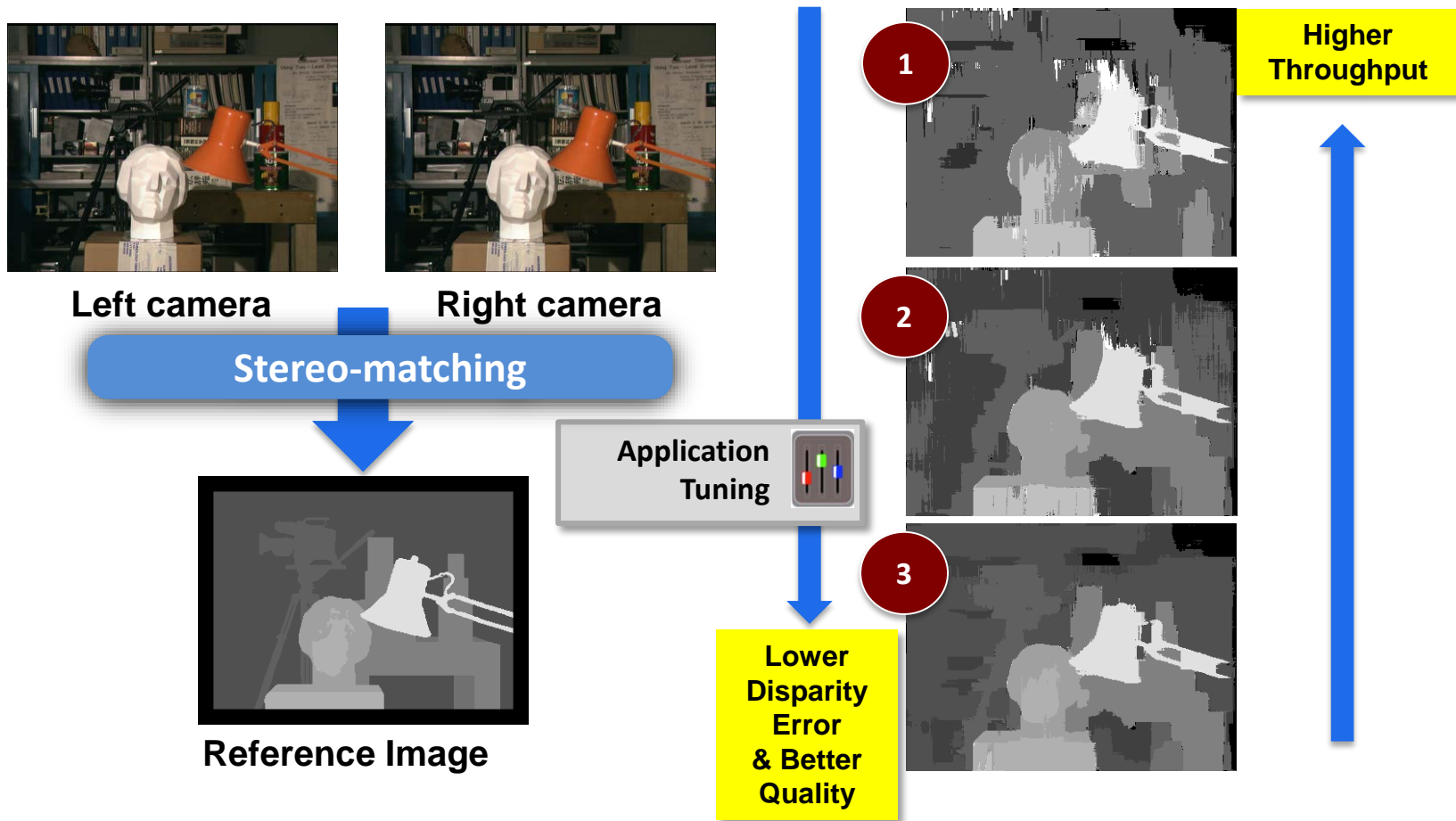
Approximation offers opportunities for trading off Accuracy vs. Performance vs. Energy

The human eye stereo-matching



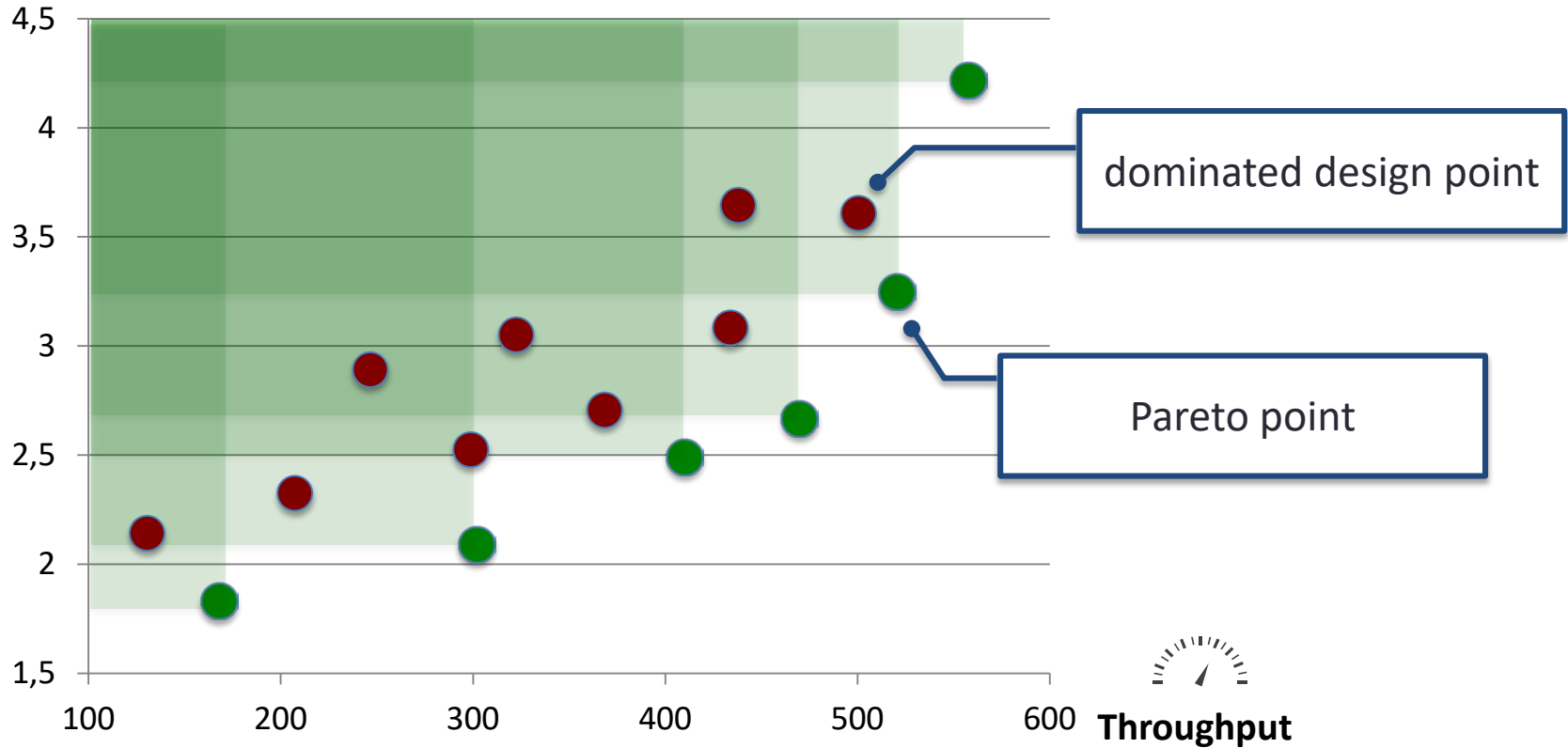
2 eyes → third dimension

Stereo-matching: Pixel Disparity Error vs Throughput

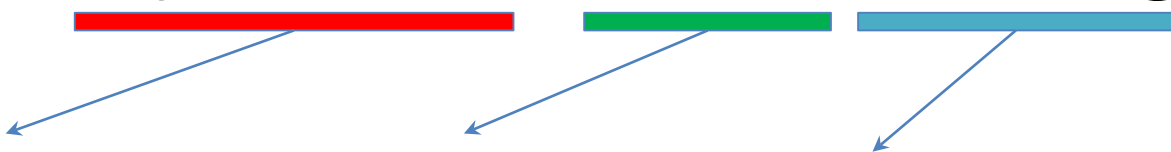


Approximate Computing: Pareto Points

Error



Dynamic Autotuning



At **runtime** according
to the computation
evolution

Automatic

Tuning:

1: to adjust in musical pitch or cause to be in
tune: *tune a guitar*

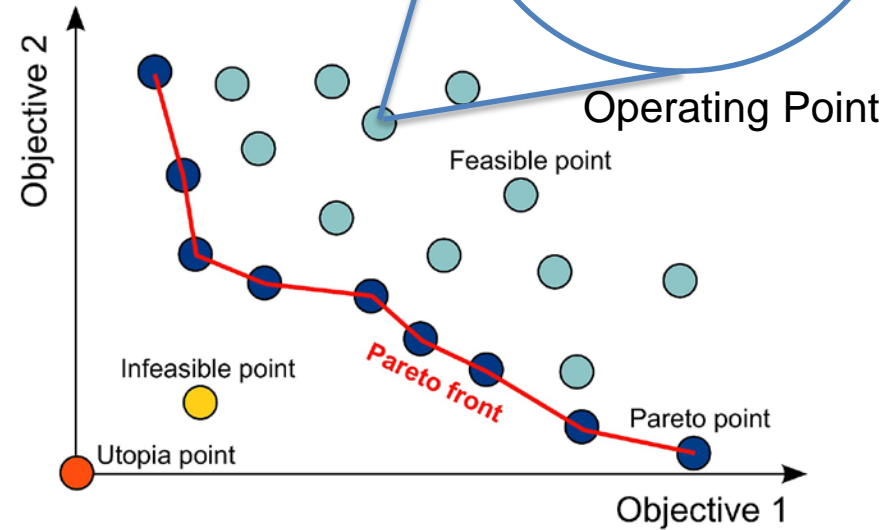
2 : to adjust for precise functioning: *tune up
an engine*

In our context:

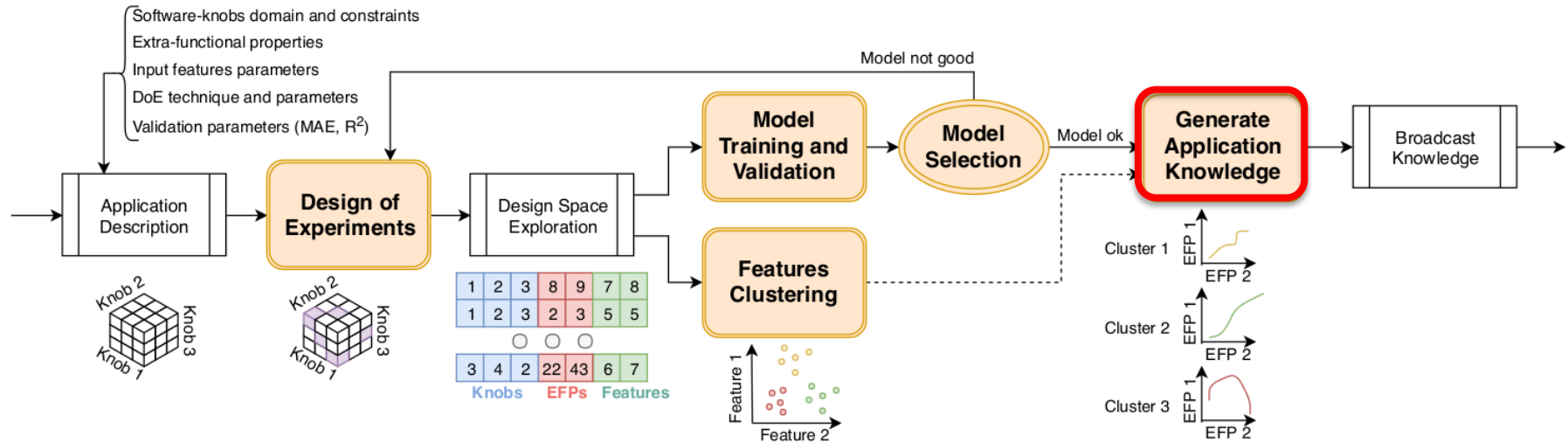
3: *To adjust the values of application
parameters to optimize the application
metrics*

Design-time Phase: Application Autotuning

- Best practice is to write parametric code with **software parameters**:
 - Number of iterations
 - Application-specific parameters
- At **design-time** we extract the **application knowledge**:
 - Instrument the application
 - Design Space Exploration
 - Machine-learning Models
 - Store the Pareto front to get the best tradeoffs



Design-time: Learning the Application Knowledge

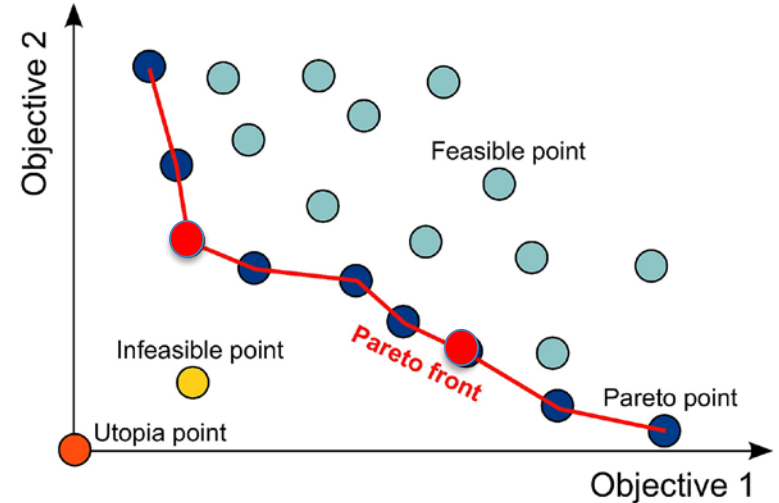
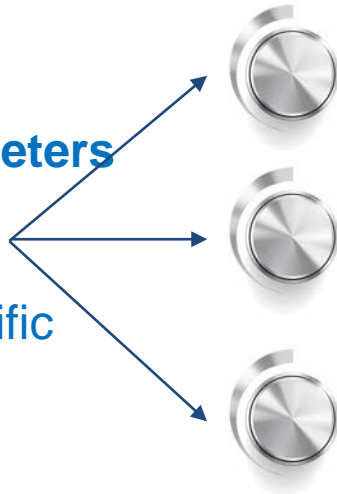


Dynamic Autotuning

It is a way to constantly improve performance/energy tradeoffs with low developer effort over a wide range of run-time situations

Dynamic SW parameters

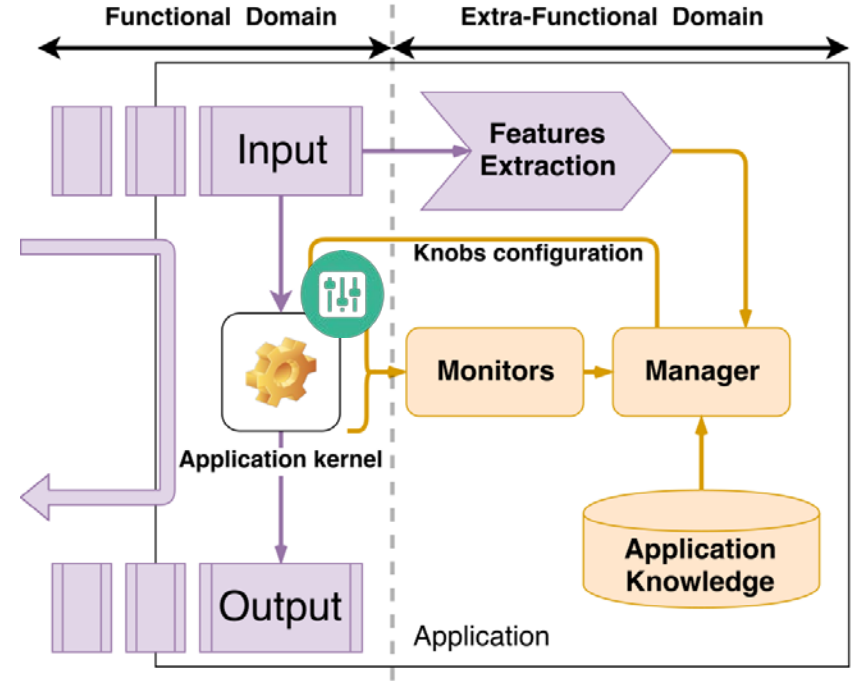
- num sw-thread
- loop perforation
- application-specific



mARGOT Dynamic Autotuning Framework

It enhances a target application with an **adaptation layer**

- It is a C++ library to be linked to the target application
- Separation of concerns between functional and extra-functional domains.

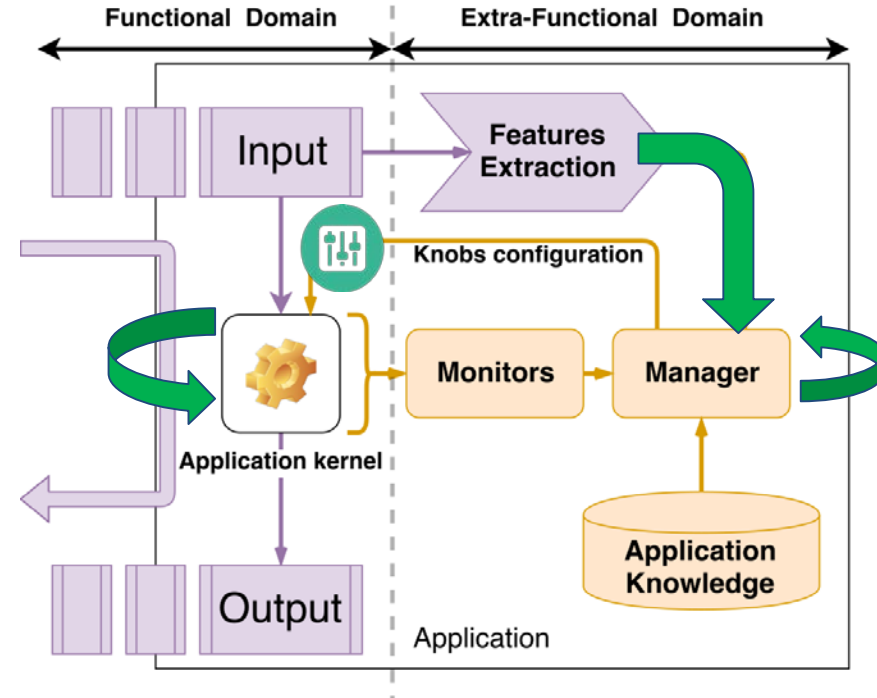


Public repository: https://gitlab.com/margot_project/core

mARGOT Dynamic Autotuning Framework

mARGOT provides an adaptation mechanism to react to changes in:

- Application requirements
- Application-knowledge due to online learning
- System monitoring values
- Data-features extracted from input data (such as image resolution)





What sort of society challenges could be addressed by exploiting the ANTAREX technologies?

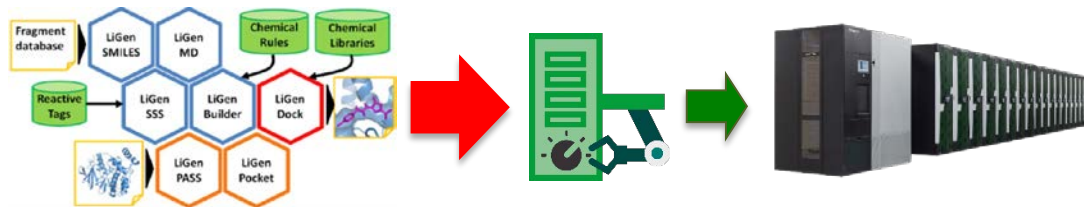


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**IT4Innovations
national
supercomputing
center**





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European
Commission

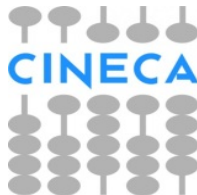
Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation



Dompé



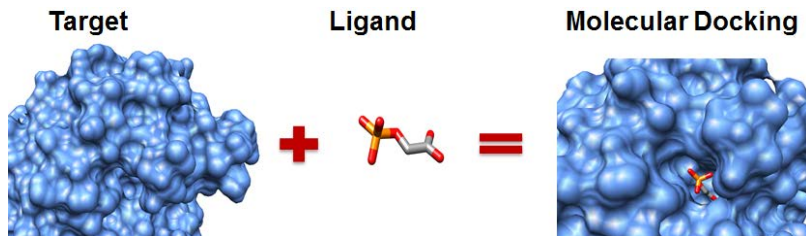
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Autotuning Geometric Docking for HPC Accelerated Drug Discovery

HPC Accelerated Drug Discovery

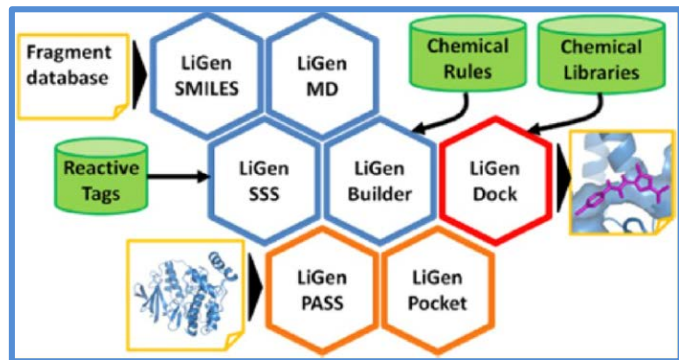
Need of HPC in Drug Discovery: HPC Molecular Simulations



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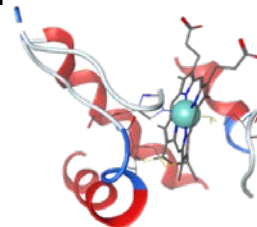


Dompé



Developing energy and resource efficient algorithms
Using self-functionalities to adapt and scale-out the application

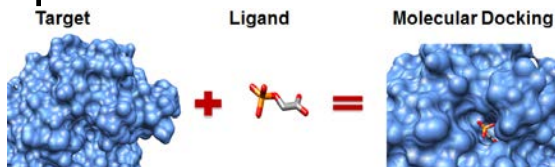
Exascale-ready HPC Virtual Screening



LiGen HPC application for drug discovery

Molecular docking is a method to estimate the preferred 3D position and shape of a candidate drug (ligand) in the target protein pocket when bound to each other

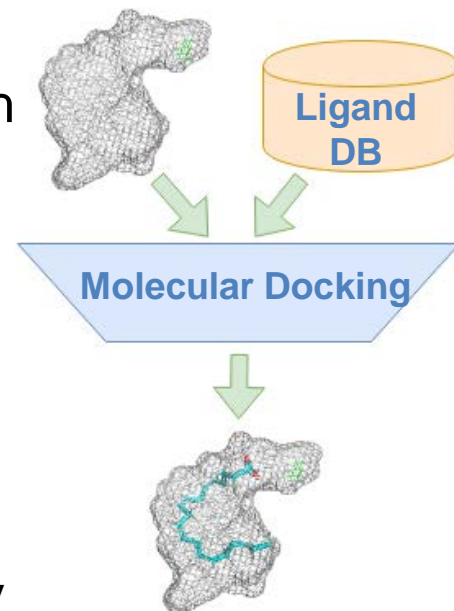
- **Geometric Docking**



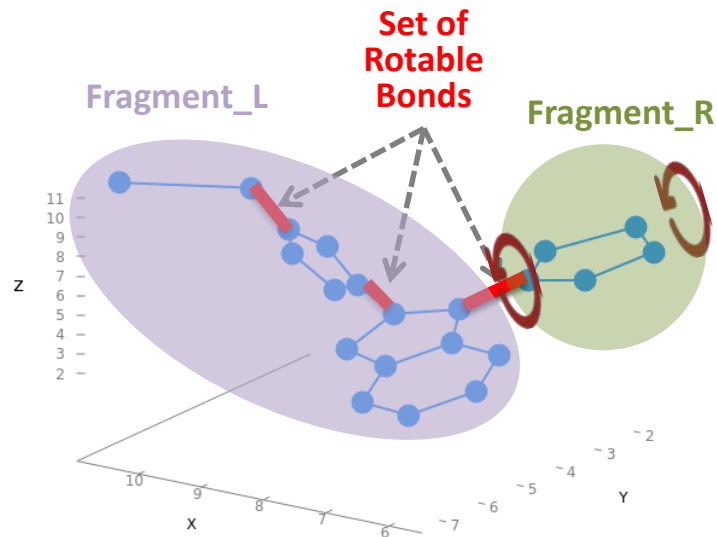
- **Shape Complementarity: 3D geometric matching search to find out compatible pairs and most suitable poses**

- **Pharmacophoric Docking**

- **Molecular Simulation:** exploration of a large energy landscape given by chemical & physical interactions



Expose software-parameters
from the geometric docking
application



Low Precision
Rotation Step



High Precision
Rotation Step



#Iterations

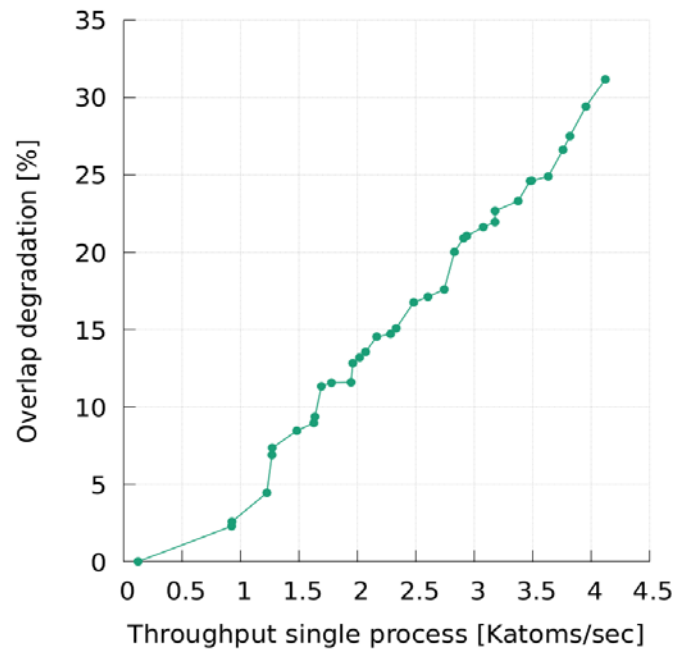
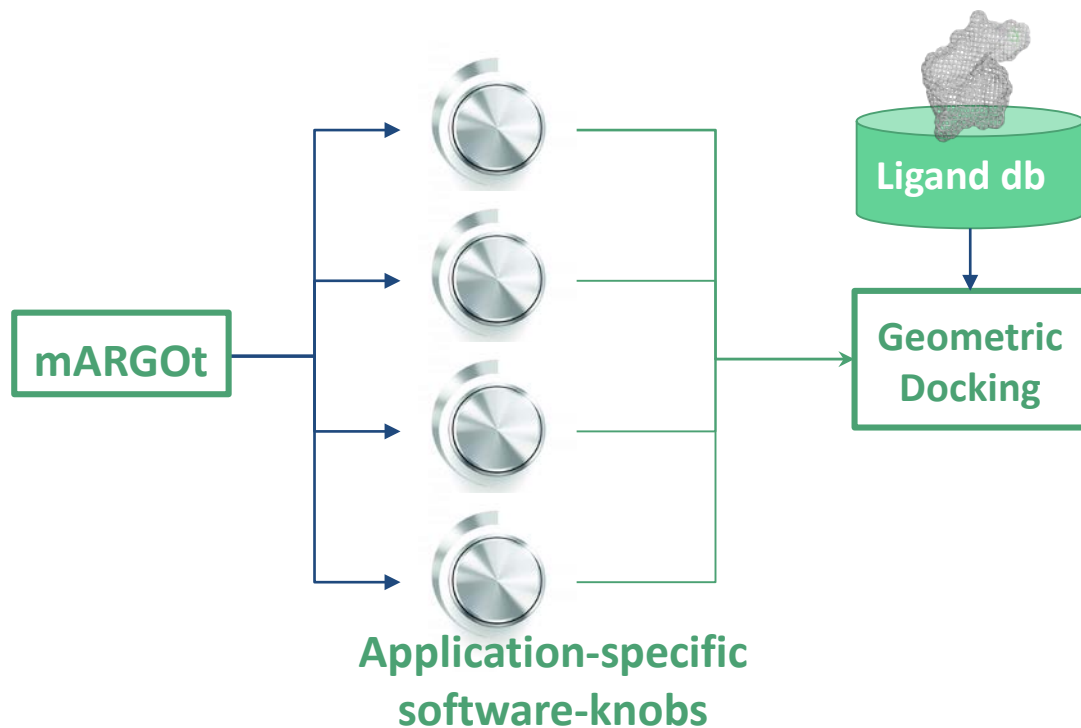


Size Threshold



Dynamic Autotuning of GeoDock

Expose software-knobs to get trade-offs between accuracy and throughput



Marconi: the most powerful public supercomputer in Italy



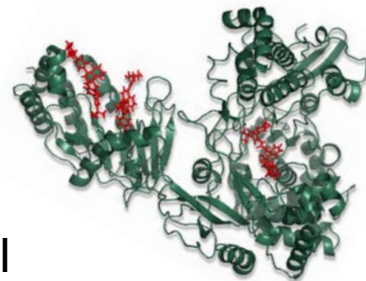
- **No. 19 in Top500 and No.4 in Europe: Marconi Intel Xeon Phi:**
10.38 PetaFlops (Linpack performance) 18.8 PetaFlops (peak performance)
with 348,000 cores. Site: Casalecchio di Reno, Bologna (Italy)



- **Marconi is the Cineca's Tier-0 system,**
co-designed by Cineca and Lenovo
based on the Lenovo NeXtScale
platform and Intel® Xeon Phi™ product
family alongside with Intel® Xeon®
processor and Intel Omni-Path

EXSCALATE: ExaSCale smArt pLatform Against pathogEns

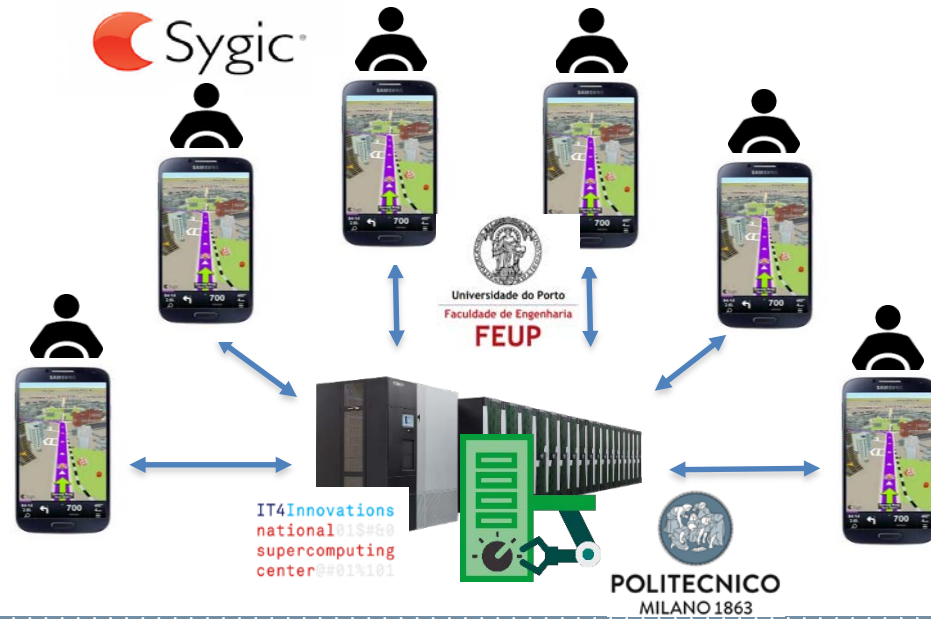
- 1.2 Billion ligands dataset (candidate drugs)
- 26 Zika binding sites (pharmacological targets)
- 8 Trillion poses scored (by GeoDock)
- 260 TeraByte of stored data
- About 900K Threads on 300k cores on 10 petaFLOPs MARCONI
- 1 MW measured power consumption
- Run Time to Solution: 3.2 h for 1 out of 26 sites (run in Jan 2019)
- Total Time to Solution: 3.5 days (84 h) for 26 sites
- Energy to Solution: 84 MWh



Estimated Exascale Run in 2021: from 84 h to less than 1 h

Experiment website:

<https://www.antarex4zika.eu>



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European
Commission

Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

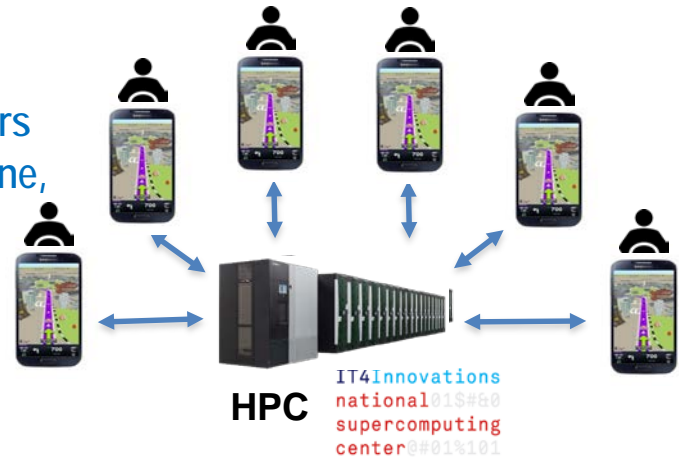
Autotuning an HPC-based Navigation System for Smart Cities

Self-adaptive Navigation System



- ✓ Sygic Top #2 App in navigation category worldwide with 200 M users
- ✓ Sygic world's 1st for iPhone, 2nd for Android

Sygic Company develops world's most popular navigation application & provides professional navigation software for business solutions



Exploit synergies between client-side and server-side:

- Many drivers – many routing requests to HPC system
- Traffic status data sources
- Continuous update of traffic flow calculation
- **Smart City Challenge**



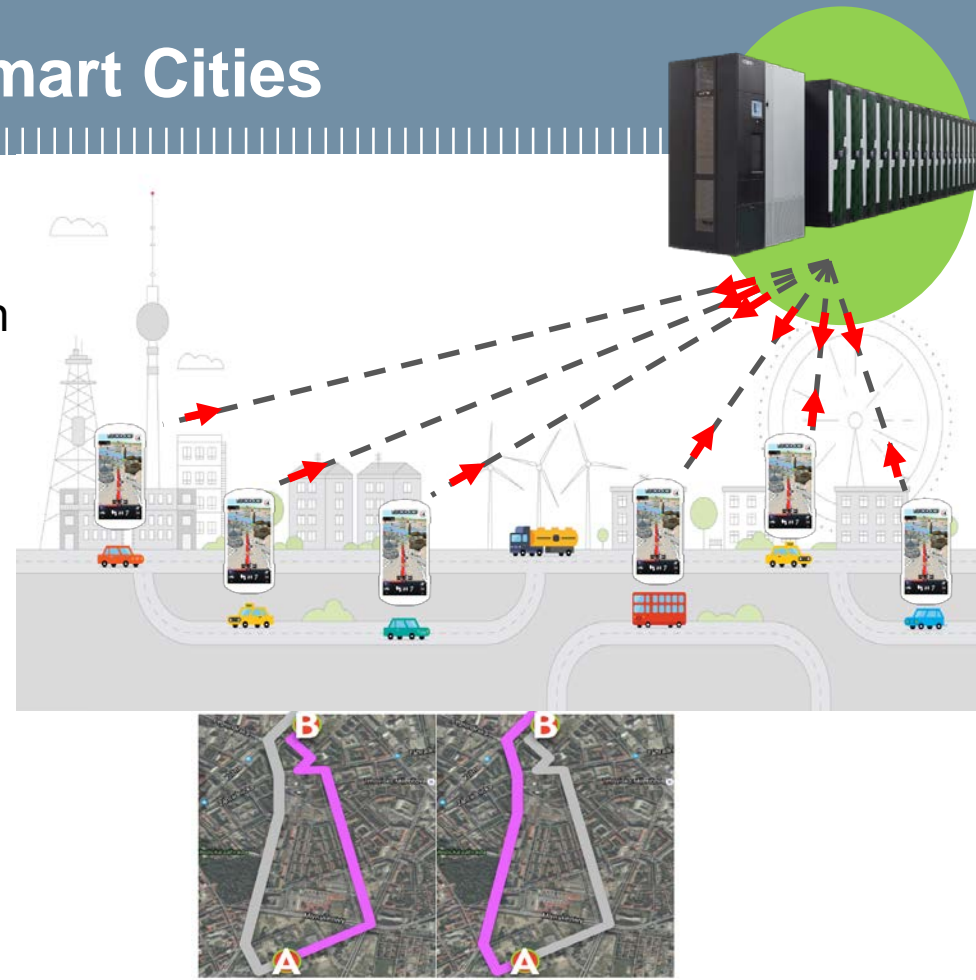
Intelligent Navigation for Smart Cities

Motivations:

- Provide optimal routes to hundred thousands of drivers/cars operating in the city area
- Serve all drivers' requests with global best to reduce total driving time
- Avoid traffic jams

Requires:

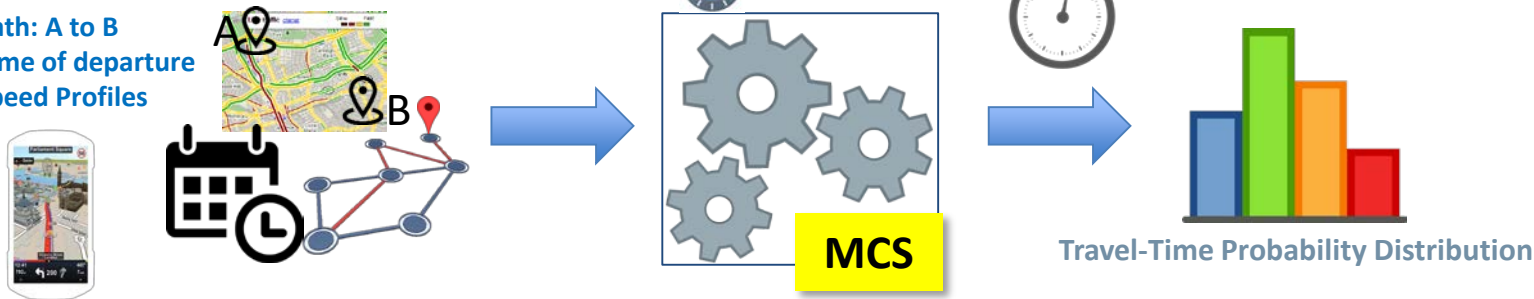
- Intelligent routing based on accurate calculation of traffic view state
- Balance routes for a city global optimum
- Minimize data transfer



What is the Probabilistic Time-dependent Routing for a navigation system?

- ✓ Module to evaluate the *expected travel time*
- ✓ In a client-server navigation infrastructure, the *server-side* must evaluate accurate expected travel time with updated traffic information
- ✓ Implemented by a *MonteCarlo Simulation (MCS)* to evaluate *the probabilistic speed profile* for each hop
- ✓ *Dynamic autotuning* of the number of samples for the MCS

- ✓ Path: A to B
- ✓ Time of departure
- ✓ Speed Profiles





Best Early Stage Innovation

✓ **ICT 2018 Vienna Award**

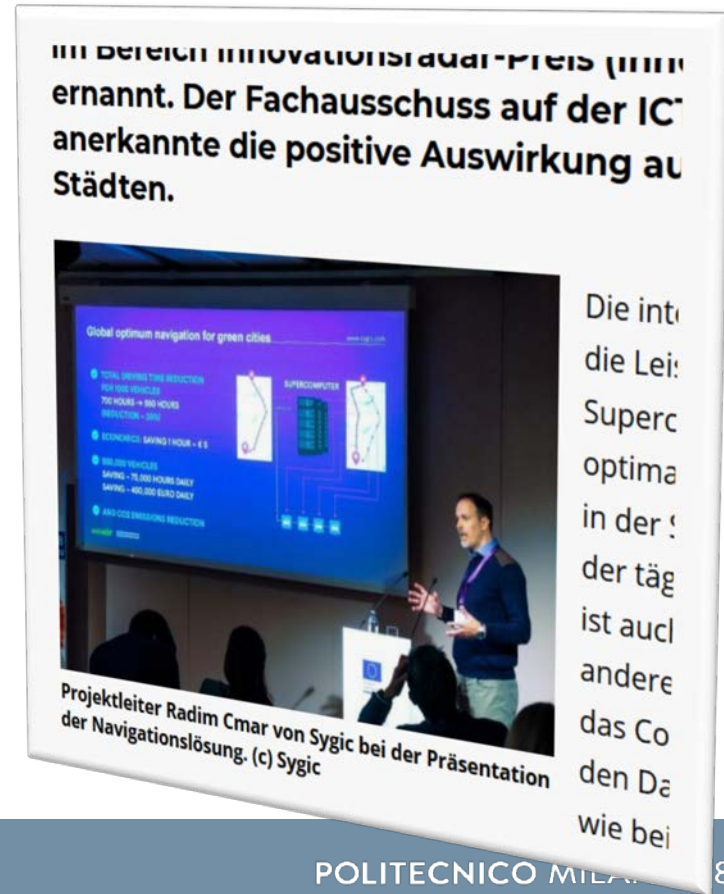
✓ *Top 20 Innovations in 2018*

“Saves money to drivers and cities.

Contributes to reduction of CO2 emissions.

Improves quality of life in urban areas.

Reduces time spent in daily travel traffic by more than 20 percent”





<http://www.antarex-project.eu/>