The L-CSC cluster: An AMD-GPU-based cost- and power-efficient multi-GPU system for Lattice-QCD calculations at GSI

Dr. David Rohr

Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies

SC14, New Orleans

Green500 BoF Session, 20.11.2014

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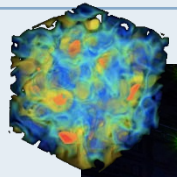
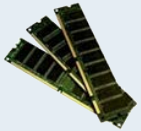
The Lattice-CSC Cluster at GSI



Lattice-CSC (at GSI):

- Built for Lattice-QCD simulations.
- Quantum Chromo Dynamics (QCD) is the physical theory describing the strong force.
- Very memory intensive.



GSI:

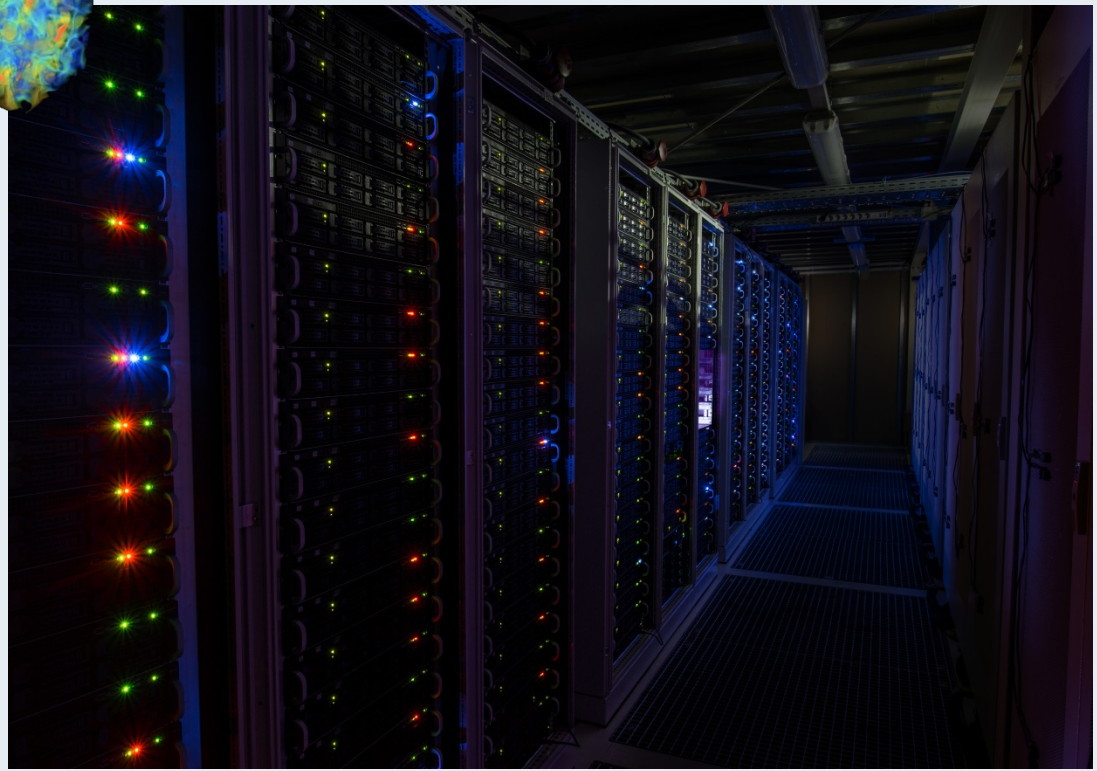
Helmholtz-Center for Heavy Ion Research

Darmstadt, Germany

Currently building a new particle accelerator for the FAIR project.

→ Large New Datacenter (Green Cube)

- 700+ Racks, 15 MW Power
- PUE: approx. 1.05



Green DataCenter at GSI, Darmstat, Germany

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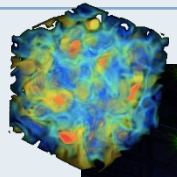
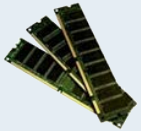
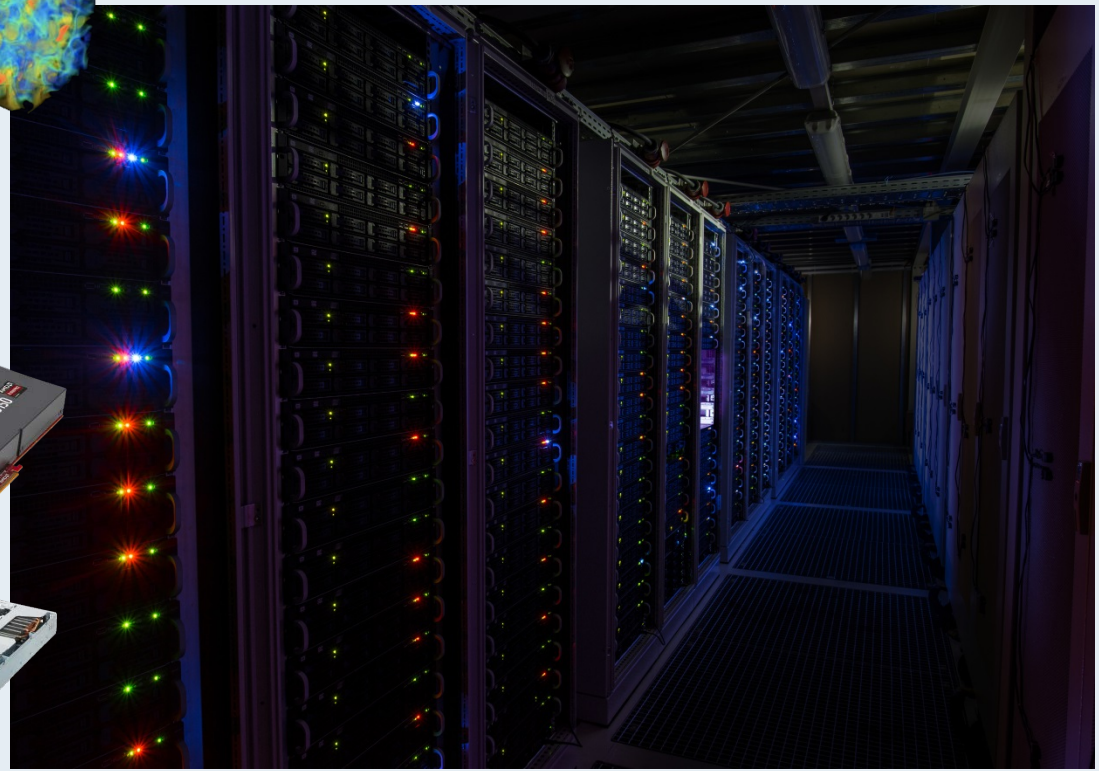




160 Compute nodes:

- 4 * AMD FirePro S9150 GPU
- ASUS ESC4000 G2S Server
- 2 * Intel 10-core Ivy-Bridge CPU
- 256 GB DDR3-1600 1.35V
- FDR Infiniband
- 1.7 PFLOPS Peak



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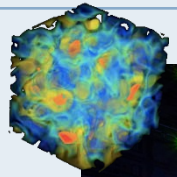

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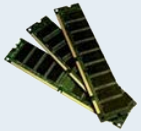

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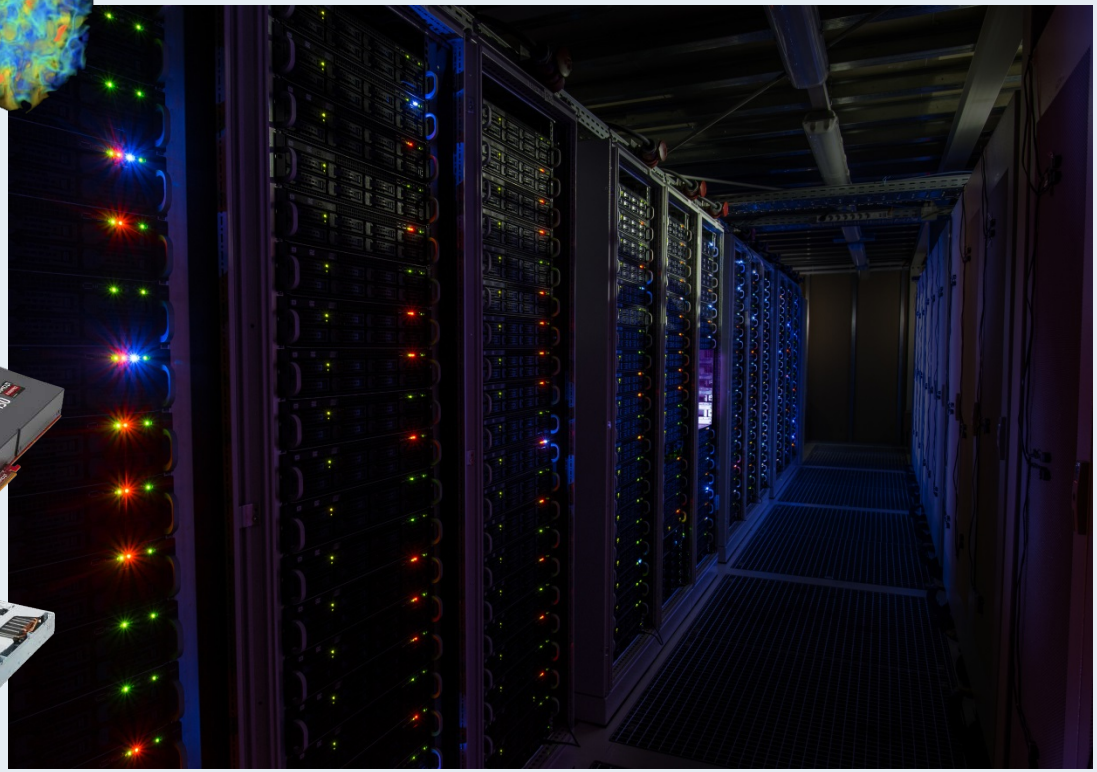
Installation ongoing, 56 nodes ready



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Custom Open-Source DGEMM & HPL

CALDGEMM Library and HPL-GPU, available as Open-Source under (L)GPL license.

- Optimized for multi-GPU with OpenCL (exchangeable GPU backend – vendor independent).
- Dynamic workload balancing among CPUs / GPUs.
- Optimized for power efficiency.

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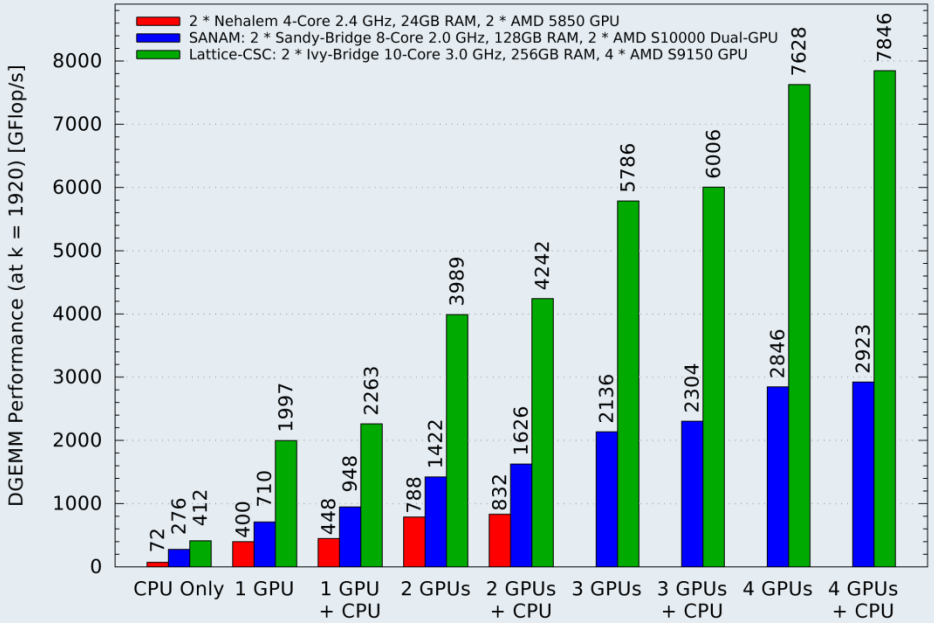

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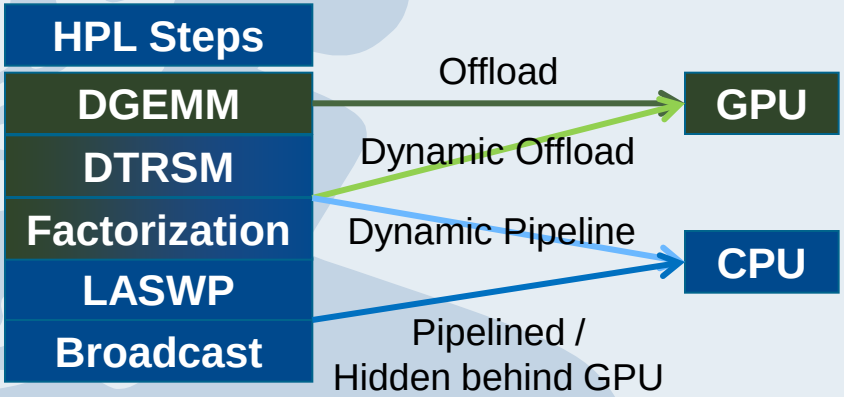
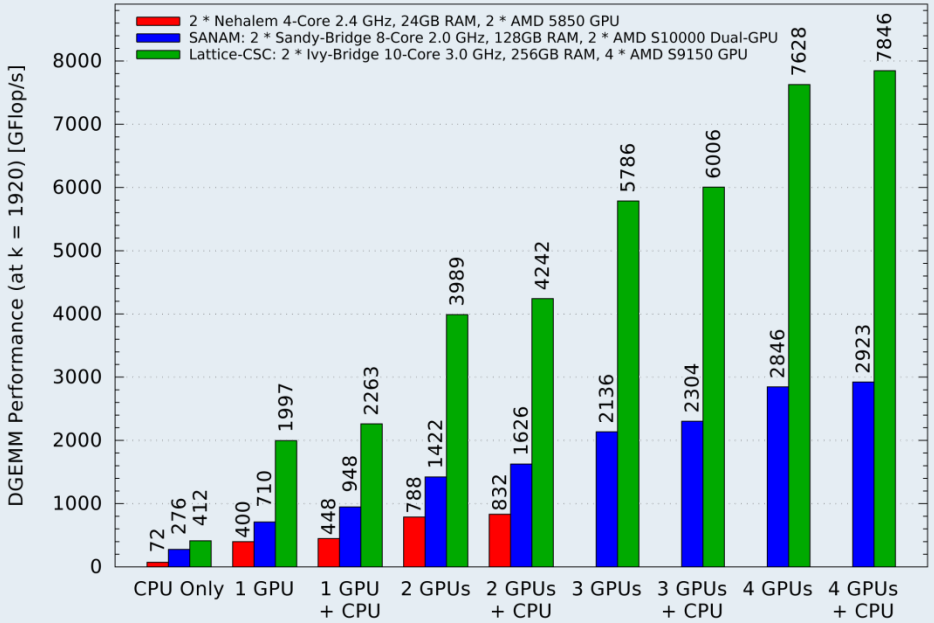
Our approach for HPL:





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Dynamic Work Balancing & Optimal Configuration

Pipeline works well, as long as CPU tasks (solid line) finish before GPU tasks (dashed line).

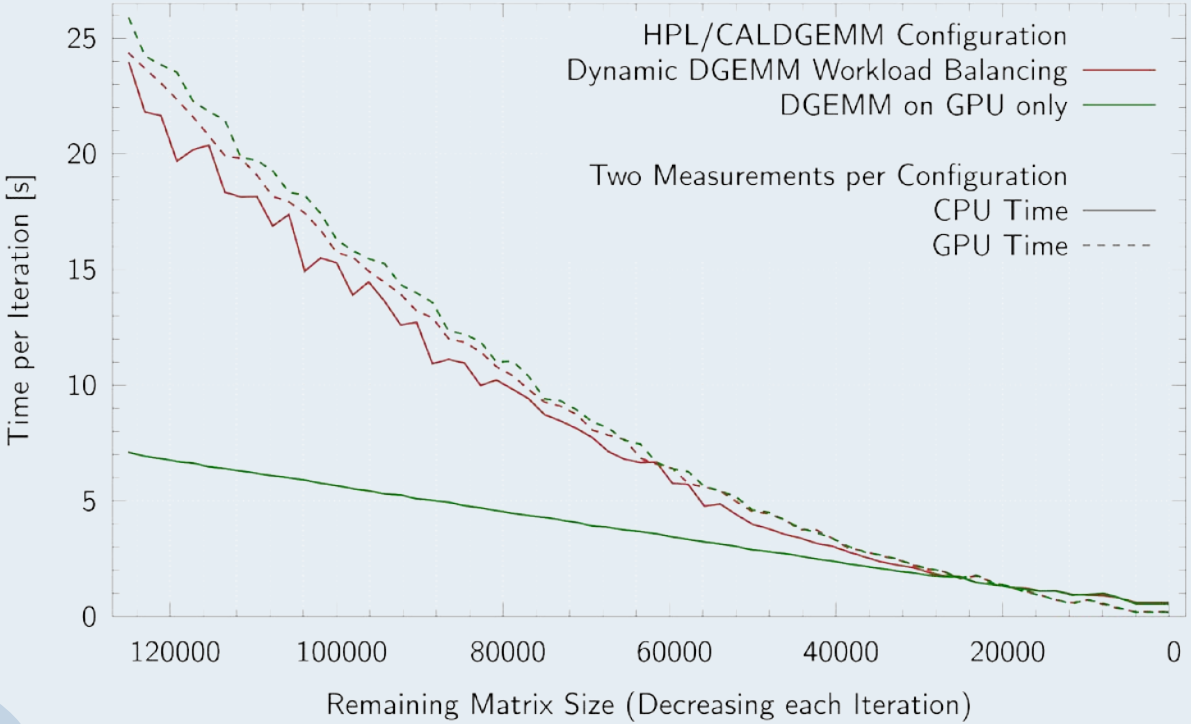
→ Optimal GPU usage 95% of time

Combined CPU / GPU DGEMM:

- **Better Performance (2-5%)**

GPU Only DGEMM:

- **Better Efficiency (3-4%)**



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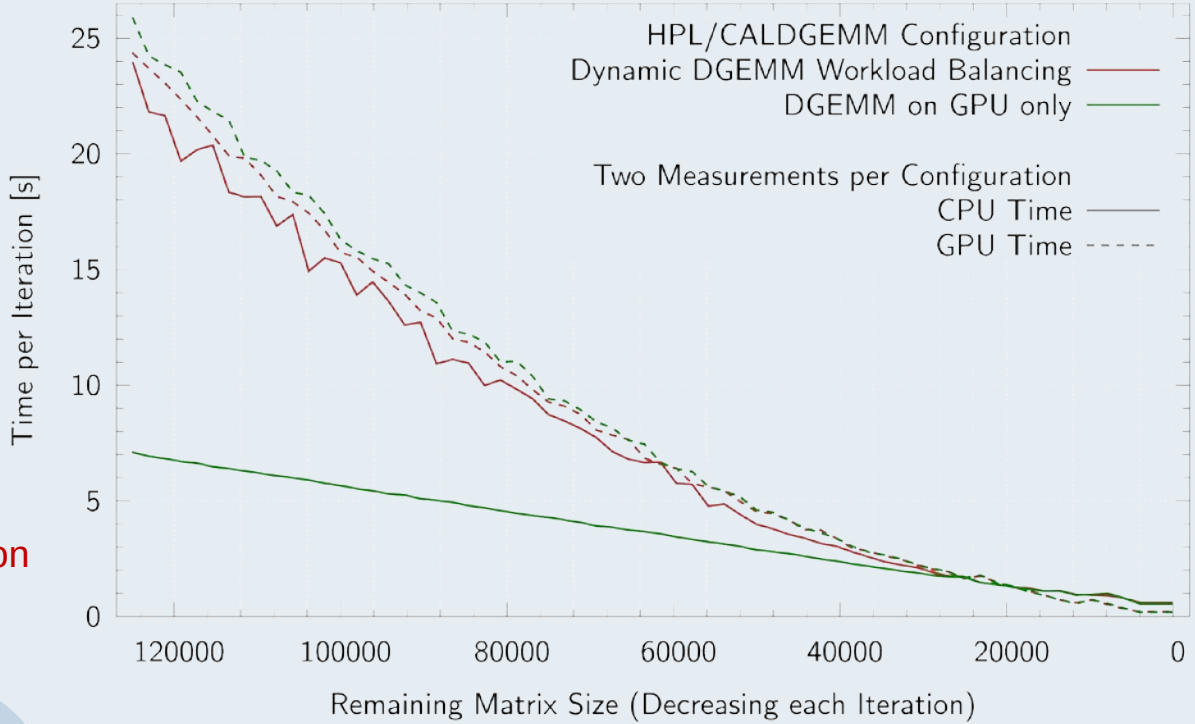
→ We have two software versions:

- A performance optimized version
- An efficiency optimized version



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Dynamic Parameter Tuning for Best Performance

At different point in time during Linpack run, different parameters are optimal.

- We choose optimal settings dynamically at every point in time.

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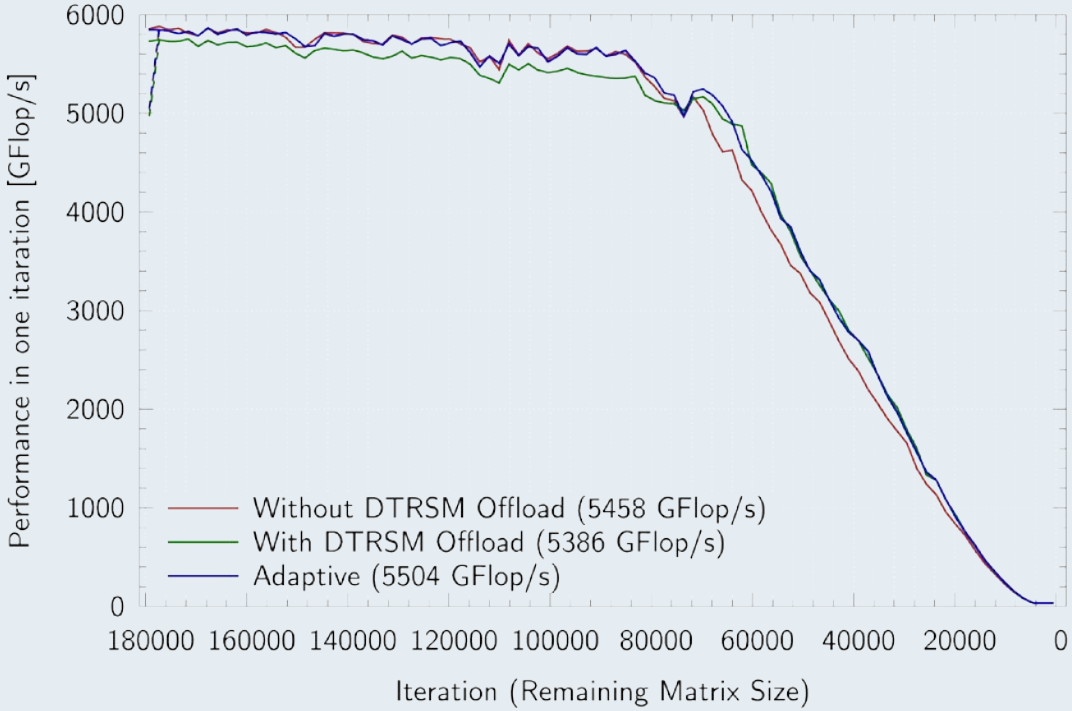
- Take care:
  Settings yielding optimal performance and settings yielding optimal efficiency may be different!



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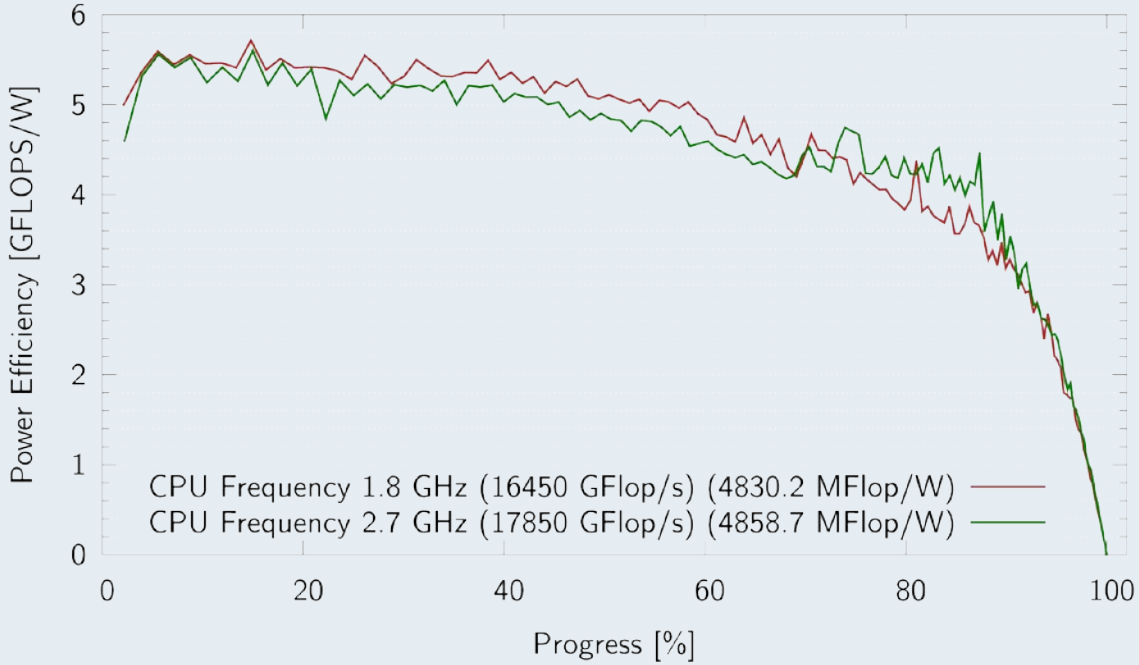
Dynamic Parameter Tuning for Optimal Efficiency

Using high-resolution power measurement, we plot the efficiency over time.
(Number of Operations per timebin / Energy consumption per timebin)

- Optimal CPU Frequency changes over time.



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Dynamic Parameter Tuning for Optimal Efficiency

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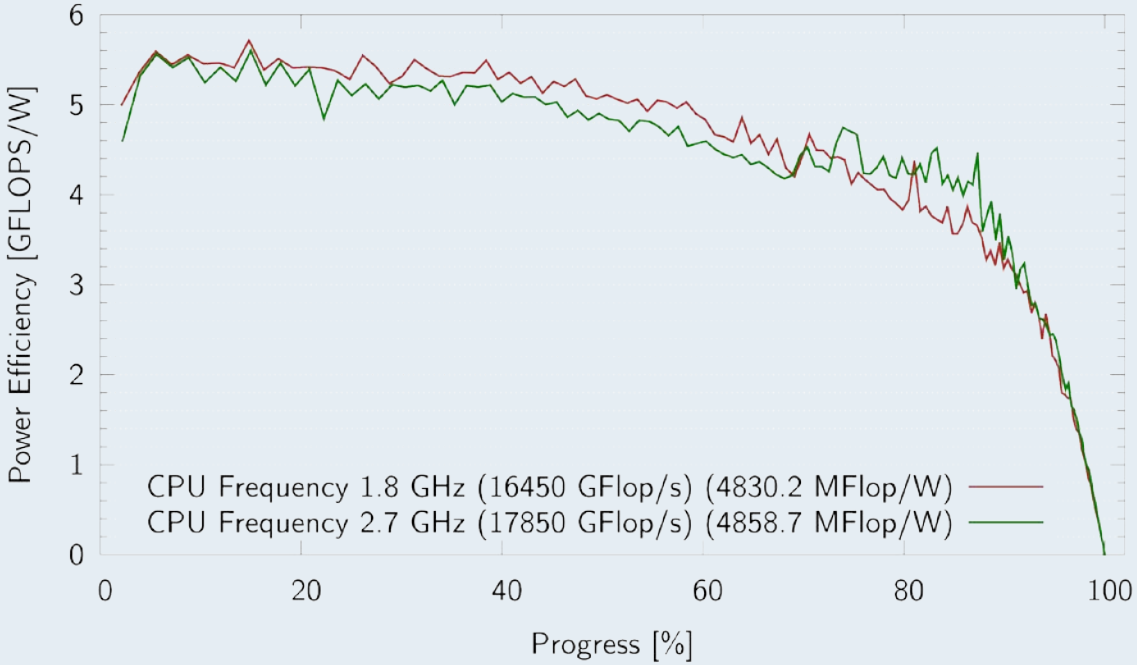
(Number of Operations per timebin / Energy consumption per timebin)

- Optimal CPU Frequency changes over time.
- **We use dynamic frequency scaling to achieve optimal efficiency at every point in time.**



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Optimization Summary

Hardware tuning:

- **Infiniband Network Root Filesystem – No Hard Disks / Ethernet / USB / etc.**
- **Optimal Fan Settings – Temperature v.s. Fan Power Consumption**

Software optimizations:

- **Custom Open-Source DGEMM / HPL Software based on OpenCL.**
- **Dynamic workload distribution among CPUs / GPUs.**
- **Dynamic parameter adaption for best performance or best efficiency at every point in time.**
- **Two settings of parameters – optimized for performance or for efficiency.**
- **Dynamic voltage / frequency scaling for CPU and GPU.**
- **For best efficiency, we leave some devices unloaded by intent: CPU at beginning, GPU at end.**

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Results

Power consumption over time

56 Nodes:

- 301300 GFLOPS
- 1016 W per Node

→ **5295 MFLOPS/W**

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Infiniband Switches:

- 257 W

→ Including the network:

5.27 GFLOPS/W

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Results

Perfect scaling to many nodes:

Efficiency:

1 Node: 5378 MFLOPS/W

4 Nodes: 5250 MFLOPS/W

56 Nodes: 5270 MFLOPS/W

Performance (per node):

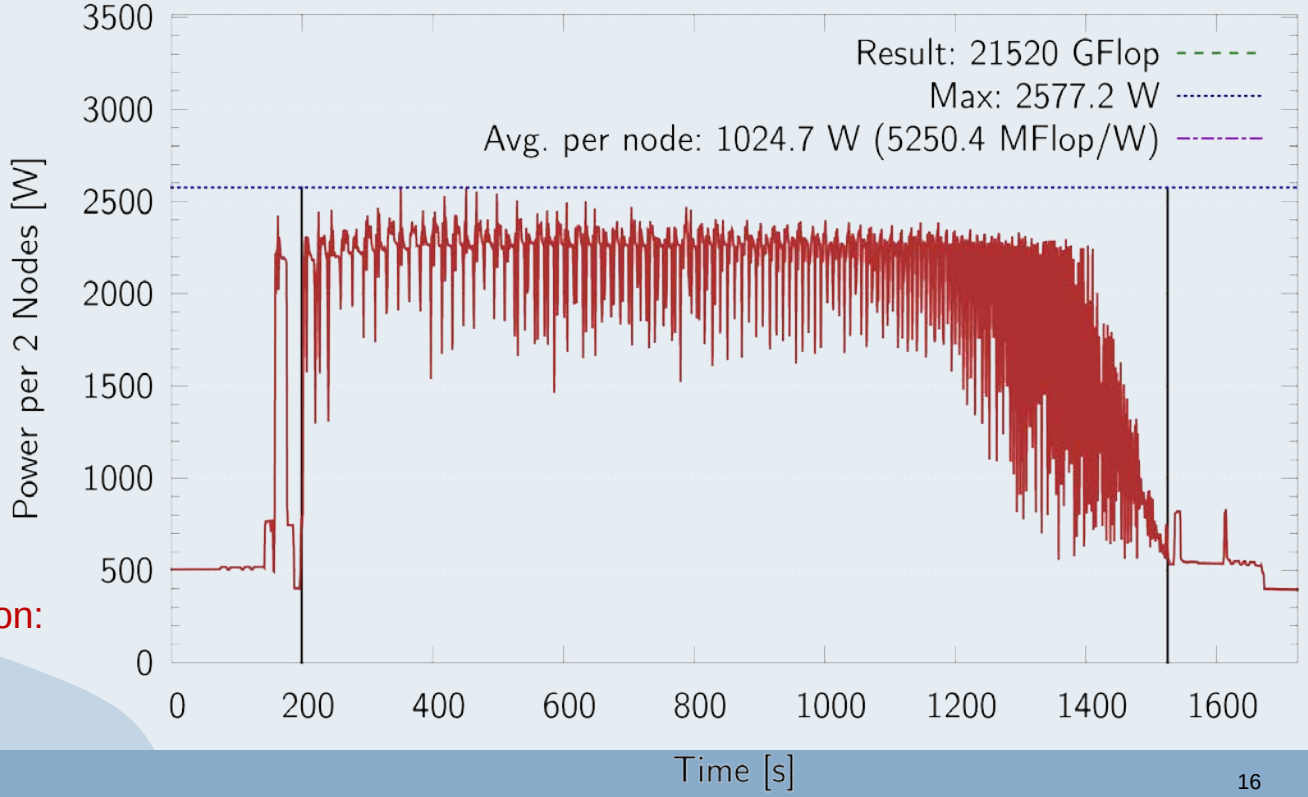
1 Node: 5791 GFLOPS

4 Nodes: 5380 GFLOPS

56 Nodes: 5380 GFLOPS

Performance optimized version:

6800 GFLOPS (single node)



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Playing with the rules

The Green500 rules state that the power measurement interval must at least cover 20% of the middle 80% of the core phase.

GFLOPS/W:

Full measurement: **5296**

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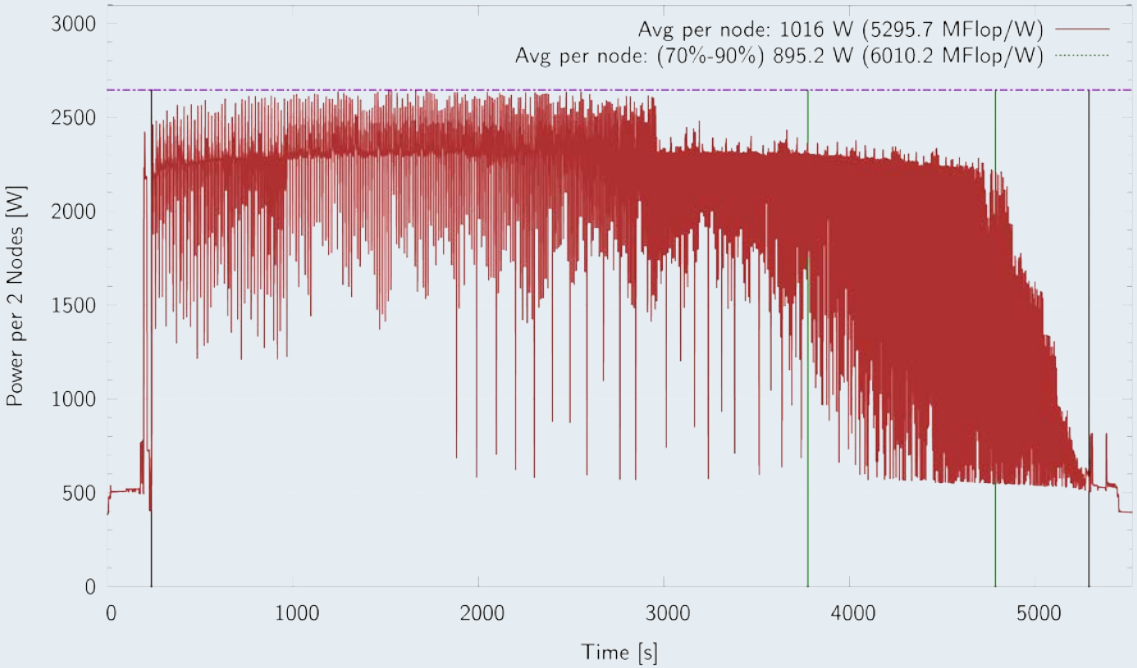

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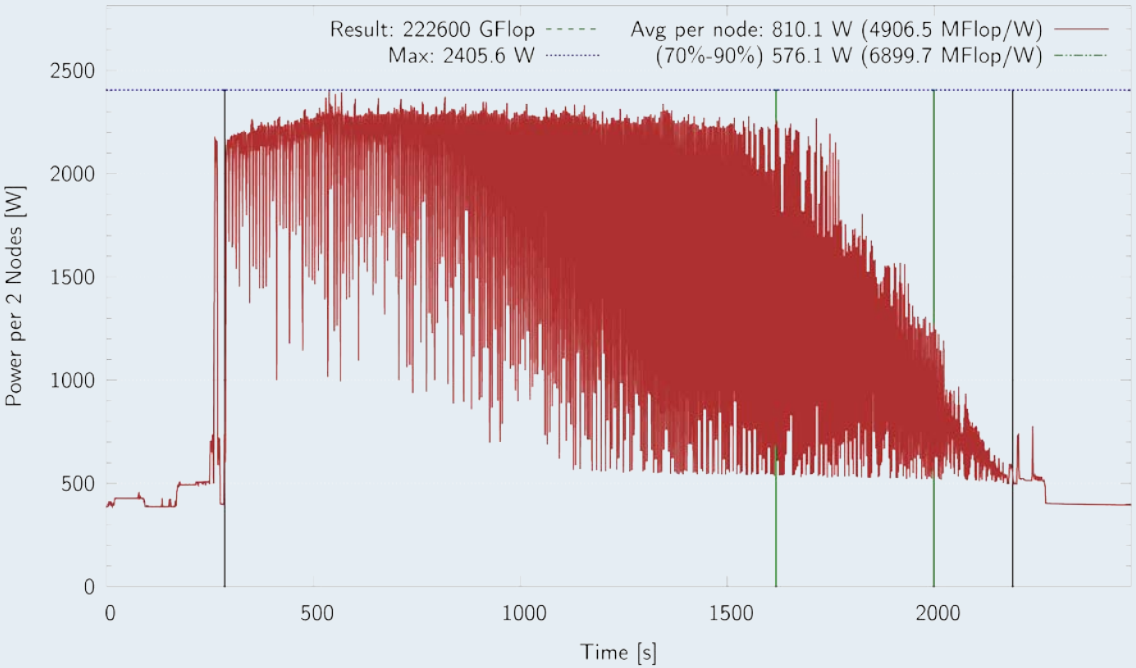
GFLOPS/W:

Full measurement:	**5296**
70%-90%:	6010
Short Run:	4907
Short Run, 70%-90%:	**6900**



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Suggestions

- All power measurements should cover 100% of the core phase.
- Do we want to measure 100% of the cluster?
  - Yes! Otherwise one could screen the nodes and measure the best one.
  - No! Measuring 100 kW and above at high accuracy can be very challenging.

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Questions

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Q & A