

# 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**

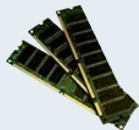
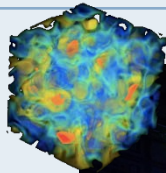
**SC14, New Orleans**

**Green500 BoF Session, 20.11.2014**

# 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.

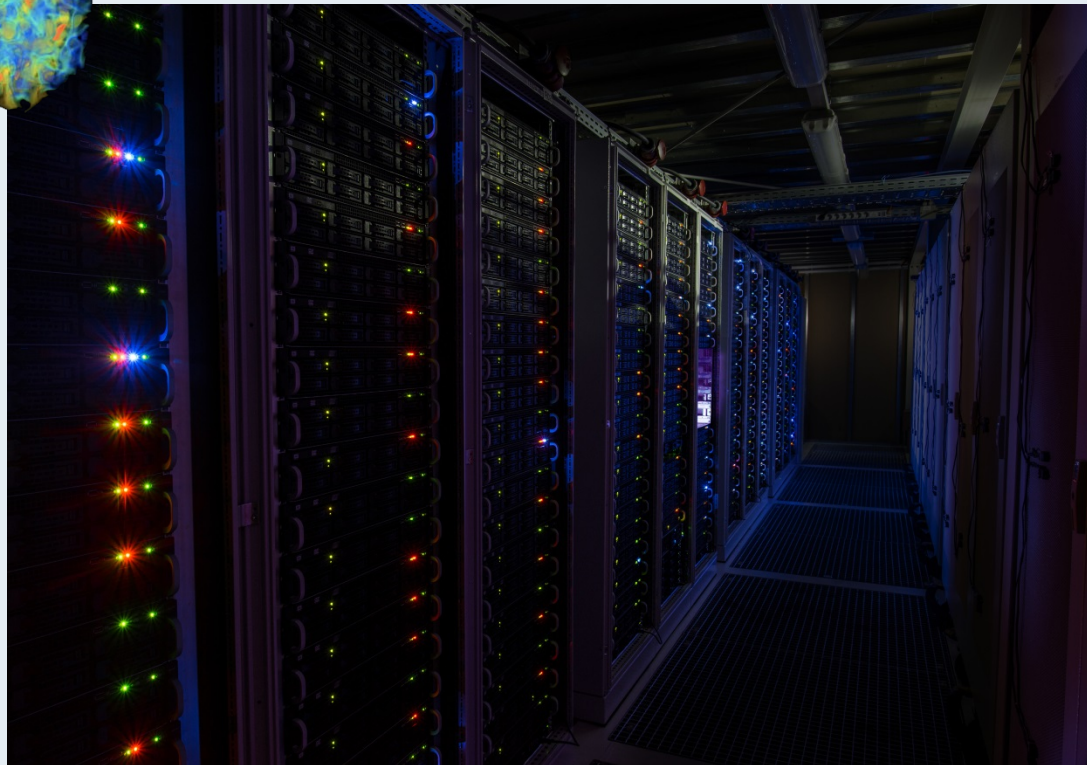


GSI:

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

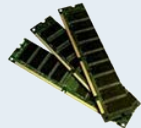
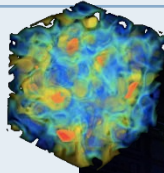
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## 160 Compute nodes:

- 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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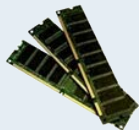
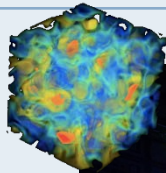
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Installation ongoing, 56 nodes ready



Green DateCenter at GSI, Darmstat, Germany

# Custom Open-Source DGEMM & HPL

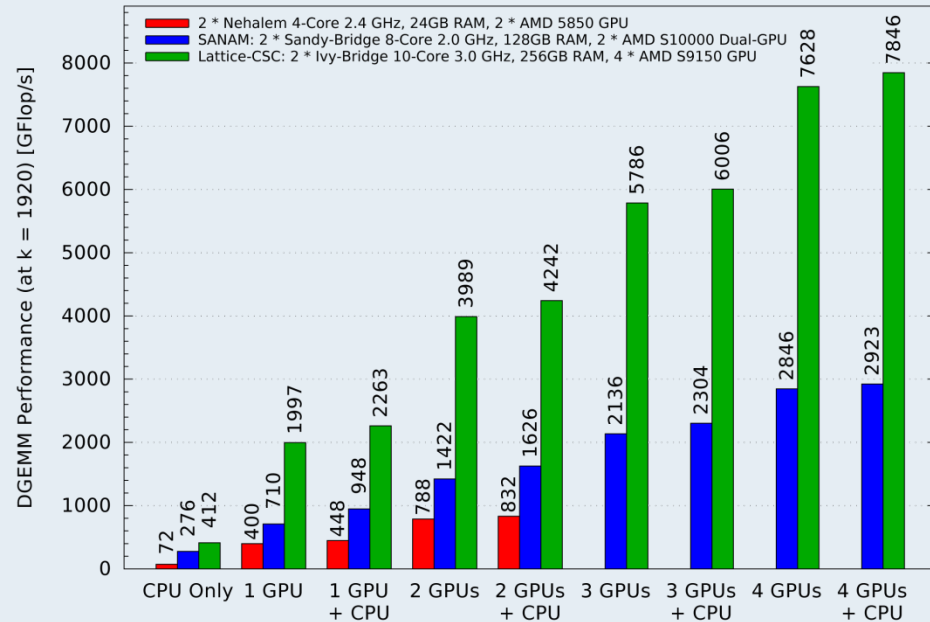
**CALDGEMM Library and HPL-GPU, available as Open-Source under (L)GPL license.**

- Optimized for multi-GPU with OpenCL (exchangeable GPU backend – vendor independent).
- Dynamic workload balancing among CPUs / GPUs.
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- **Perfect scaling up to four GPUs.**

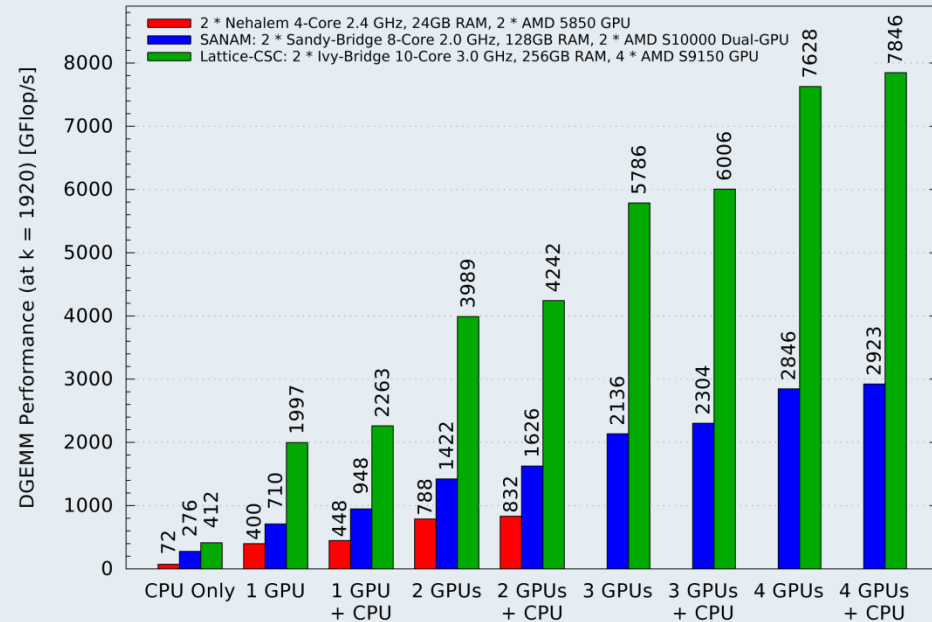
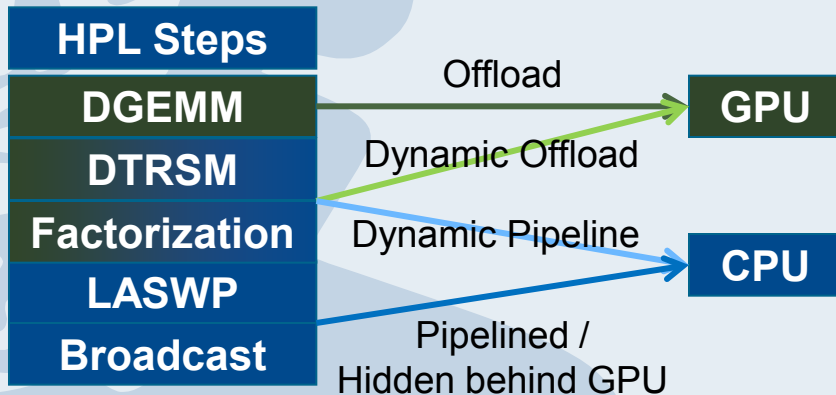


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**Our approach for HPL:**



# Dynamic Work Balancing & Optimal Configuration

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

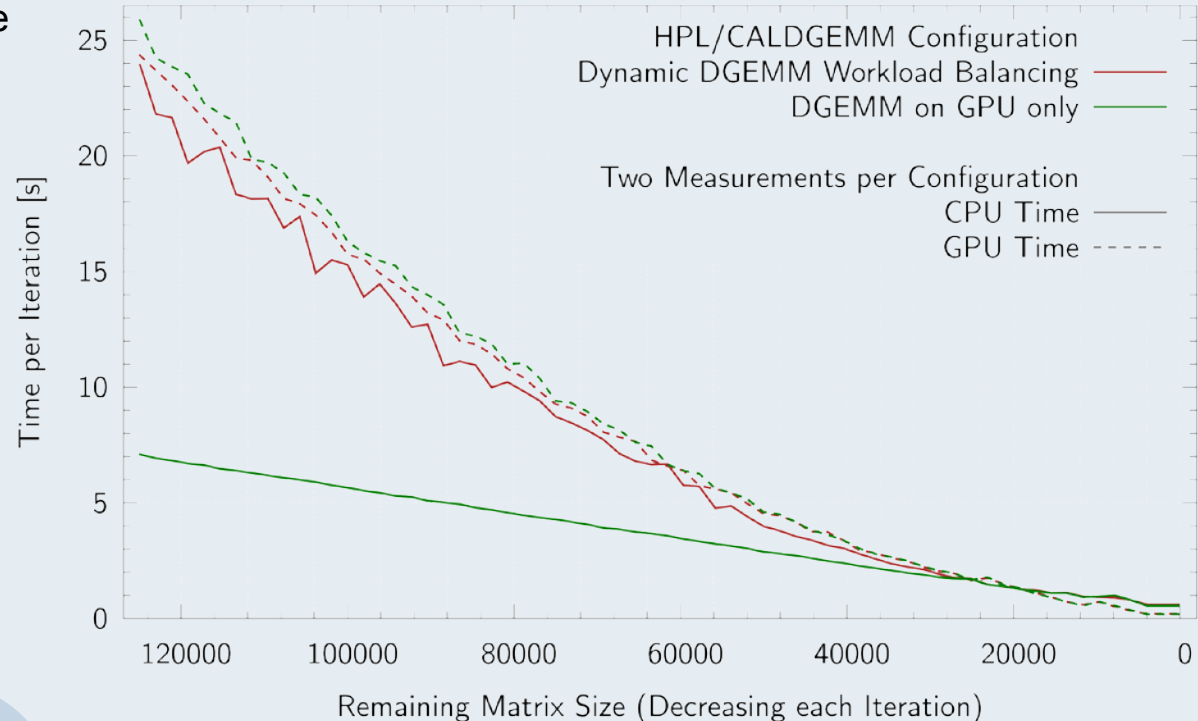
→ Optimal GPU usage 95% of time

Combined CPU / GPU DGEMM:

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

GPU Only DGEMM:

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





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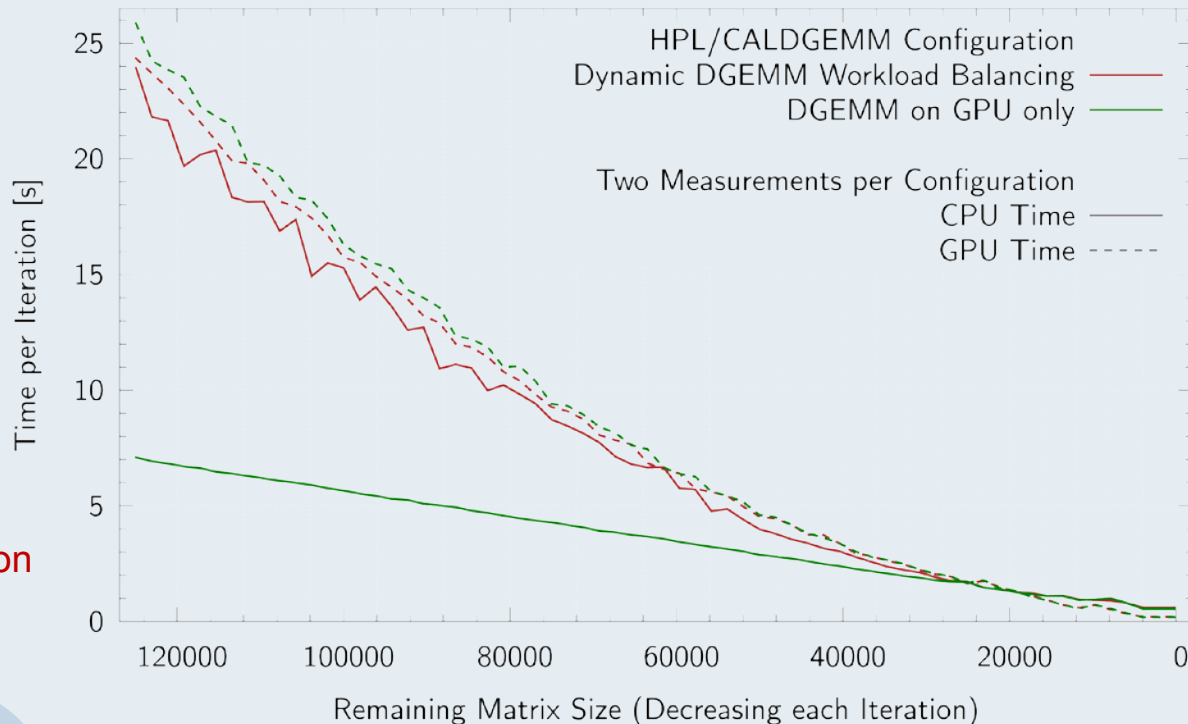
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GPU Only DGEMM:

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→ We have two software versions:

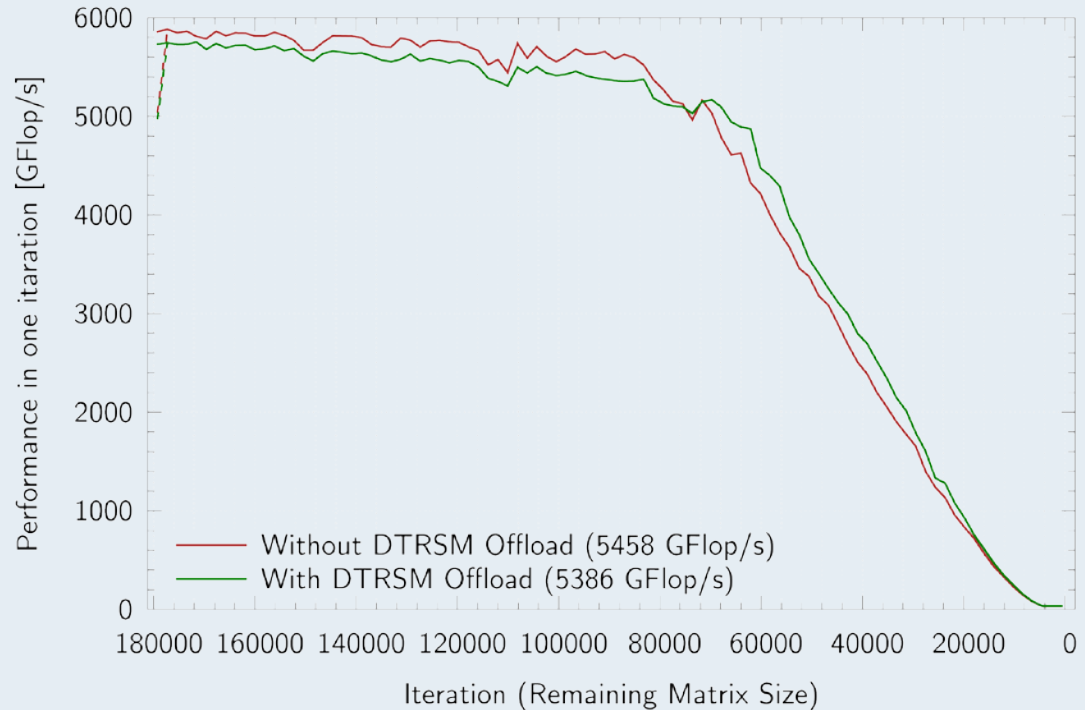
- **A performance optimized version**
- **An efficiency optimized version**



# Dynamic Parameter Tuning for Best Performance

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

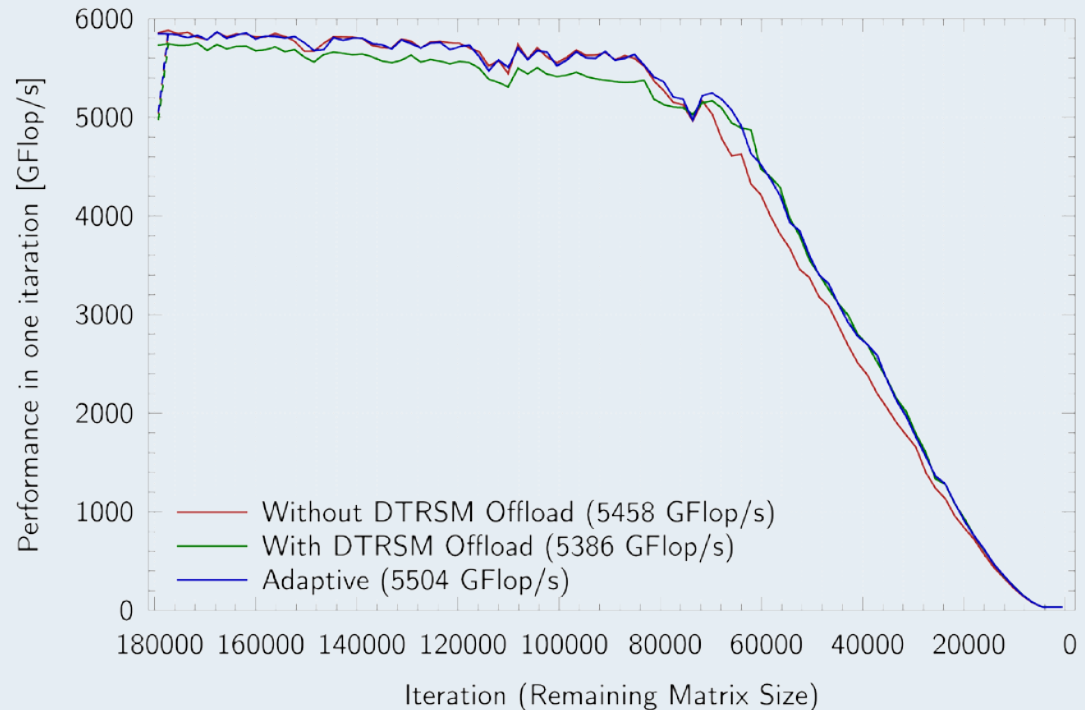
- We choose optimal settings dynamically at every point in time.



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

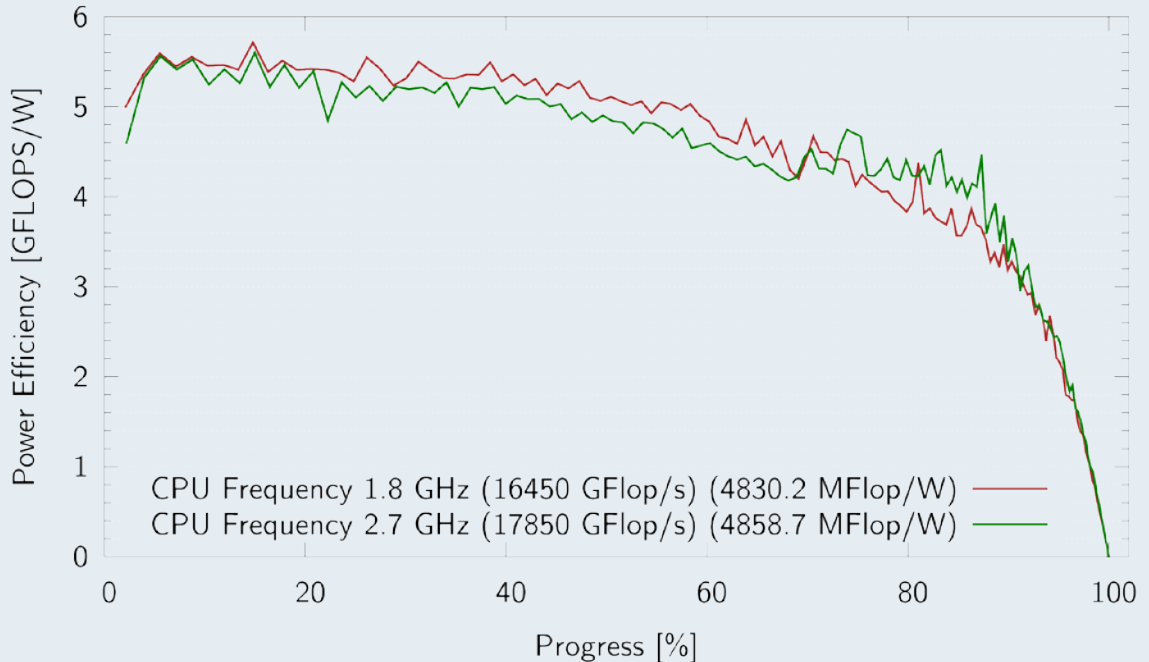


# Dynamic Parameter Tuning for Optimal Efficiency

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.

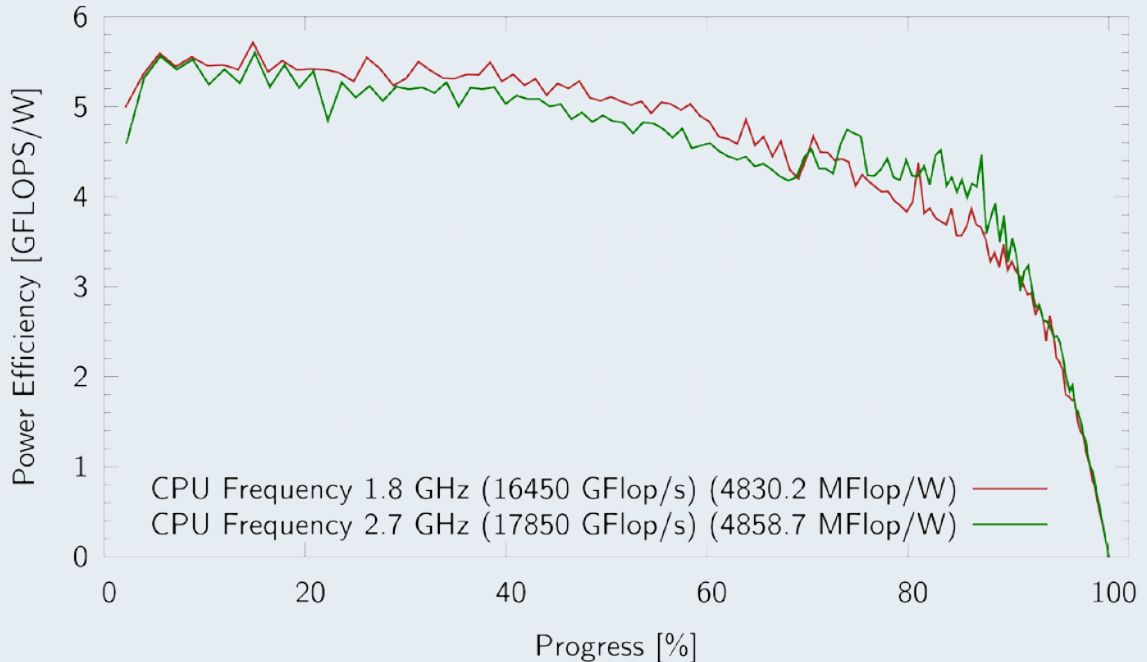


# Dynamic Parameter Tuning for Optimal Efficiency

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.
- **We use dynamic frequency scaling to achieve optimal efficiency at every point in time.**



# 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:

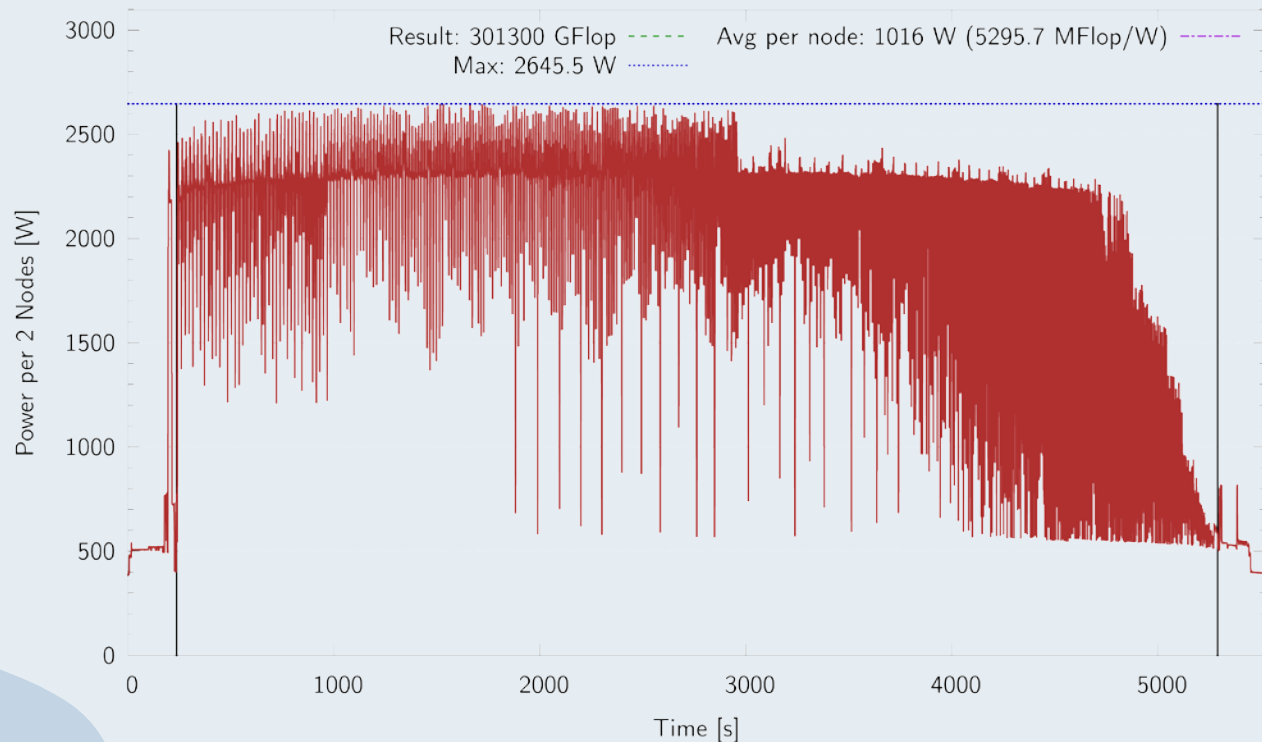
- **Custom Open-Source DGEMM / HPL Software based on OpenCL.**
- **Dynamic workload distribution among CPUs / GPUs.**
- **Dynamic parameter adaption for best performance or best efficiency at every point in time.**
- **Two settings of parameters – optimized for performance or for efficiency.**
- **Dynamic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

# 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**





# 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):

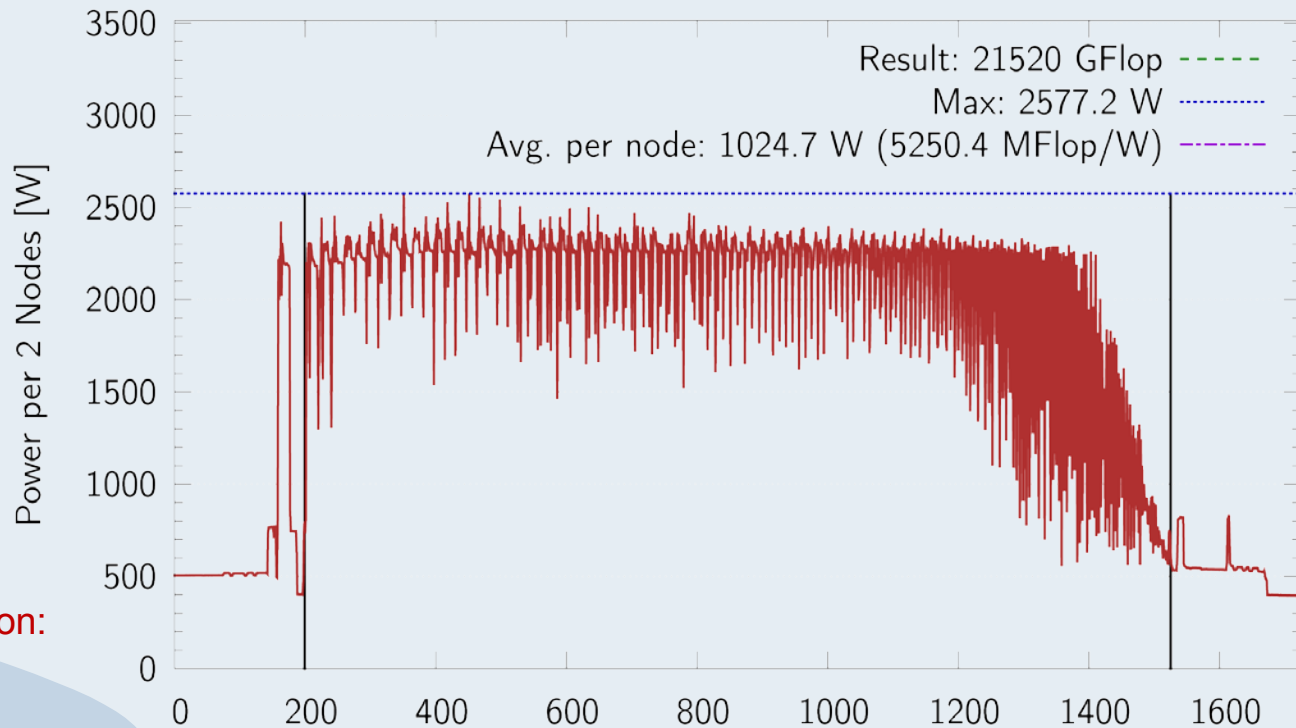
1 Node: 5791 GFLOPS

4 Nodes: 5380 GFLOPS

56 Nodes: 5380 GFLOPS

Performance optimized version:

6800 GFLOPS (single node)

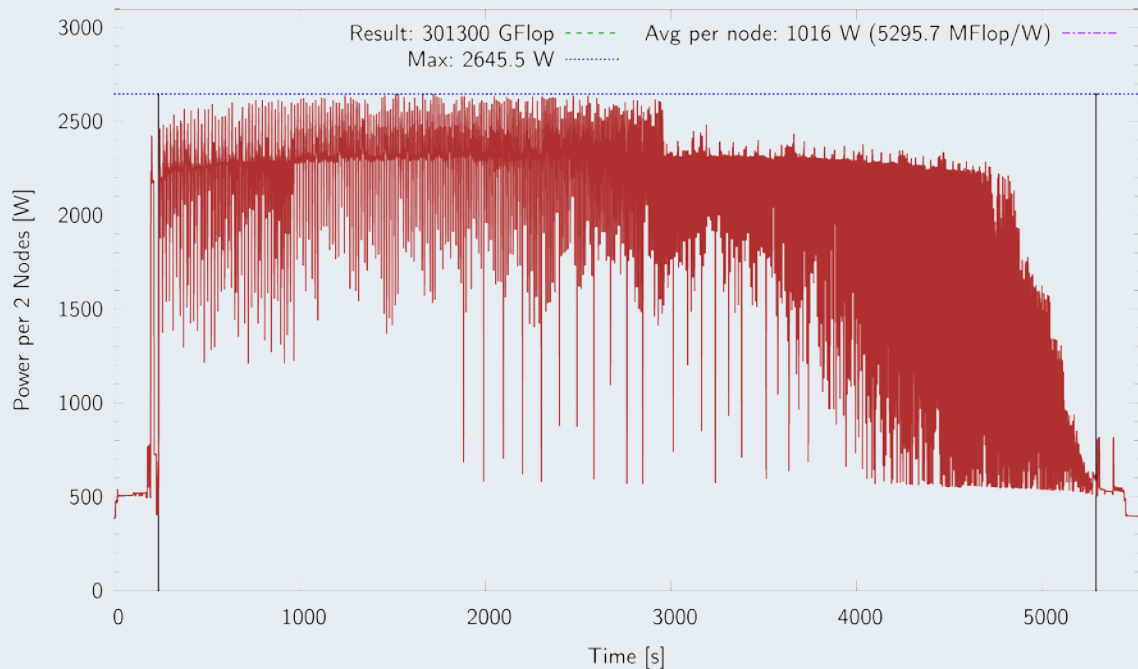


# Playing with the rules

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**



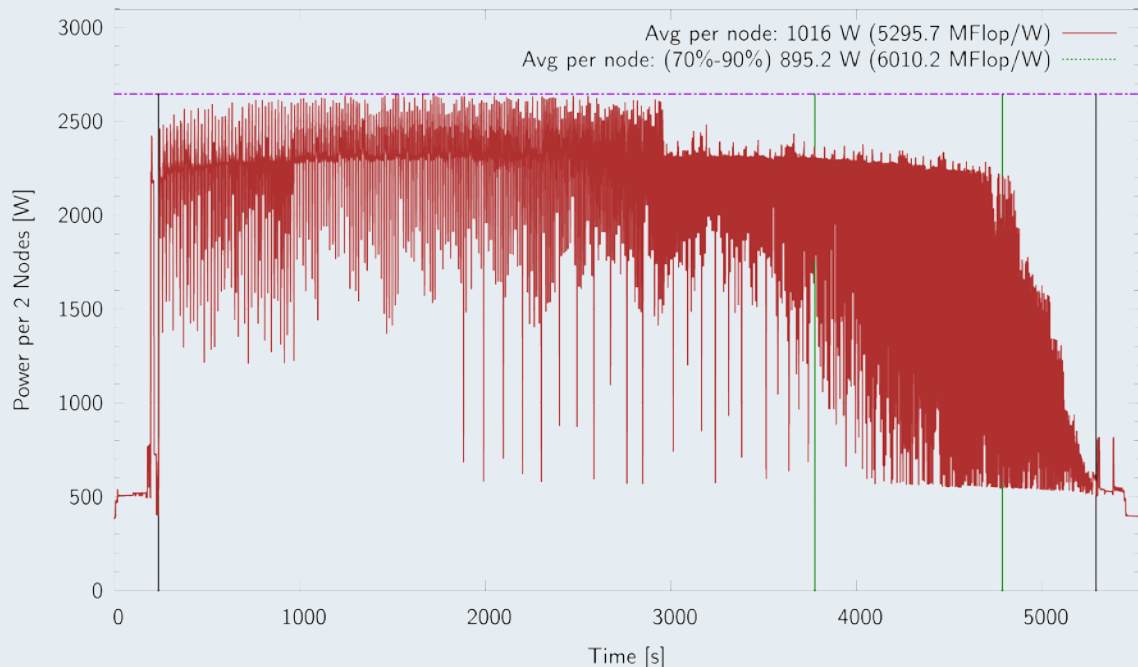
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70%-90%: **6010**



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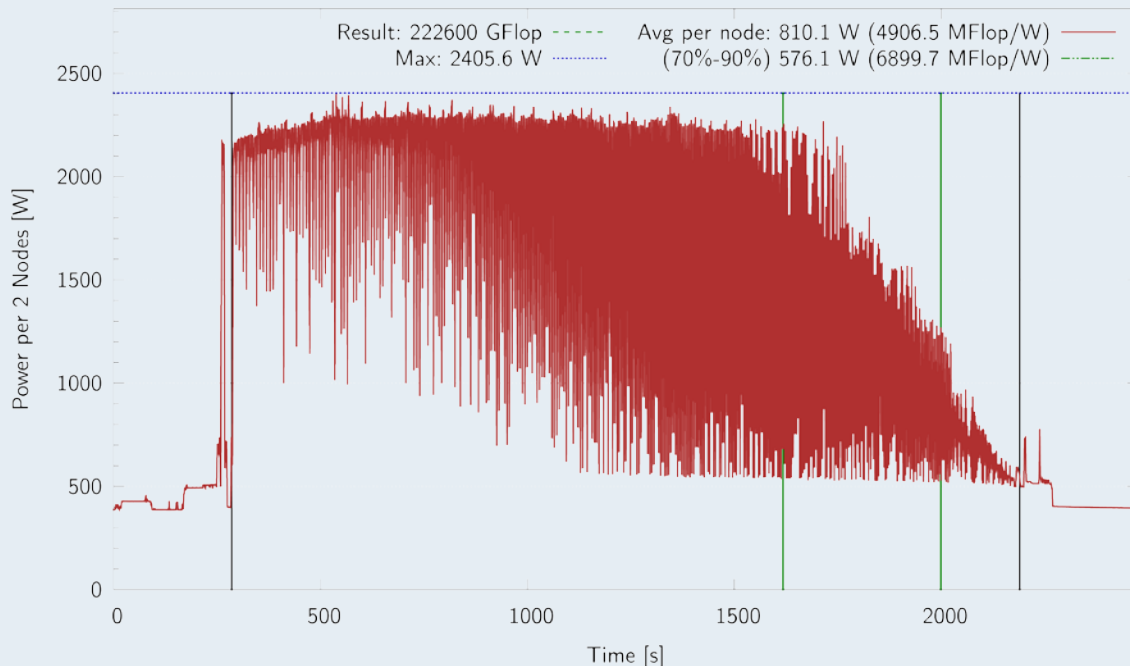
GFLOPS/W:

Full measurement: **5296**

70%-90%: 6010

Short Run: 4907

Short Run, 70%-90%: **6900**



# 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.

# Questions

**Q & A**

[www.goethe-universitaet.de](http://www.goethe-universitaet.de)