



**National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration**

**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**  
California Institute of Technology  
Pasadena, California

## **From Data to Insights: Shift Toward Data Analytics**

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[CL # ]

# Tackling the AI and Data Challenges

- JPL is engaging data science and AI technologies and methodologies for science, mission operations, engineering applications
  - From onboard computing to scalable archives to analytics
  - Applying ML techniques with supporting infrastructure
- JPL has established a program focused on building and implementing an institution-wide strategy for data science and AI
  - Expanding from archives to enable data analytics as a first class activity
  - Methodology transfer across disciplines
  - Research partnerships with academia, government, and industry



ENGINEERING

## How NASA's Search for ET Relies on Advanced AI

Jet Propulsion Laboratory's artificial intelligence chief describes the "ultimate" test for AI in space exploration



Really, Really Big Data  
 NASA at the Forefront of Analytics

Seth Earley, *Earley Information Science*



# Driving AI and Data Science into JPL Activities

- In 2017-2018, JPL launched 25 data science pilots
  - Spanning science, mission and DSN operations, and formulation
  - Building towards a data science vision of full utilization of data and agile application of analytics

## Use Cases: Science



## Use Cases: Mission Ops



## Use Cases: Formulation

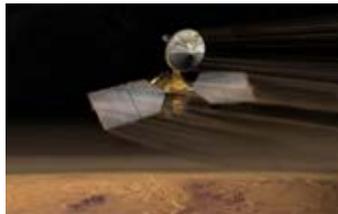


## Use Cases: Institution



# Applying AI Across the Mission-Science Data Lifecycle

- Emerging Solutions**
- *Onboard Data Analytics*
  - *Onboard Data Prioritization*
  - *Flight Computing*



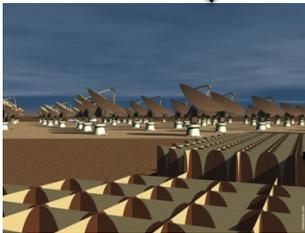
Observational Platforms and Flight Computing



SMAP (Today): 485 GB/day NI-SAR (2020): 86 TB/day

**(1) Too much data, too fast; cannot transport data efficiently enough to store**

- Emerging Solutions**
- *Intelligent Ground Stations*
  - *Agile MOS-GDS*



Massive Data Archives and Big Data Analytics

- Emerging Solutions**
- *Data Discovery from Archives*
  - *Distributed Data Analytics*
  - *Advanced Data Science Methods*
  - *Scalable Computation and Storage*



**(2) Data collection capacity at the instrument continually outstrips data transport (downlink) capacity**

Ground-based Mission Systems

**(3) Data distributed in massive archives; many different types of measurements and observations**

# Increasing Computing Capability Onboard Heading Toward Multicore in Space



## Voyager computer

8,000 instructions/sec and kilobytes of memory



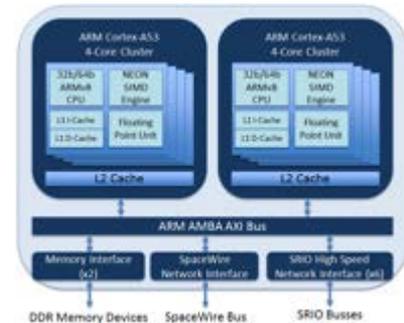
**Curiosity** (Mars Science Laboratory)  
Processor: 200 MOPS BAE RAD750

## iPhone

14 GOPS and gigabytes of memory



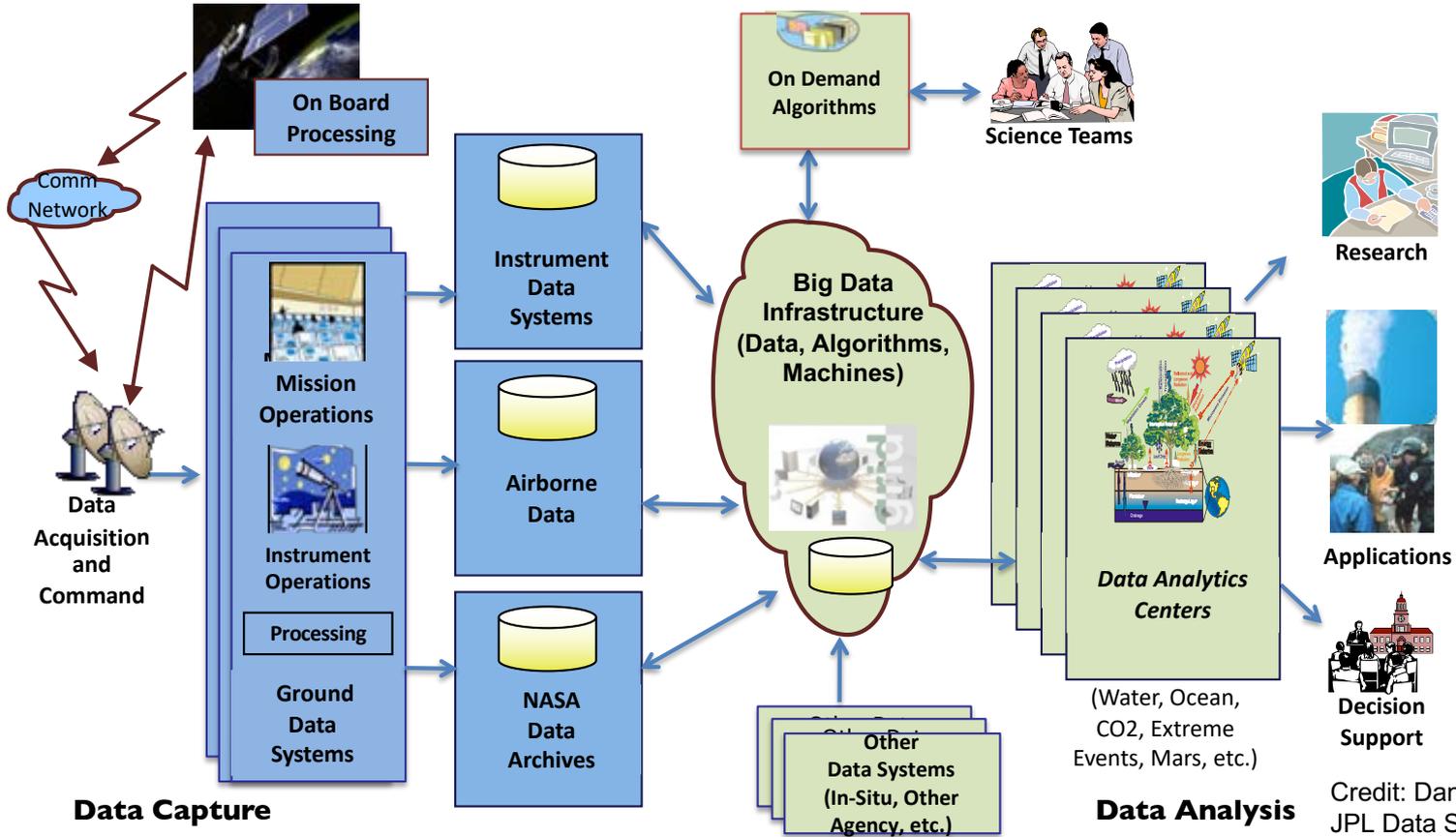
**High Performance Space Computer (HPSC)** (NASA STMD / USAF)  
Processor: 15 GOPS, extensible



# Some Background Info

- **Agencies are historically focused on systematic capture and stewardship of data for observational Systems**
- **With large amount of observational and modeling data,**
  - The overall cost for data stewardship is expecting to rise significantly
  - Finding and downloading is becoming inefficient
- **Reality with large amount of observational and modeling data**
  - Downloading to local machine is becoming inefficient
  - Search has gotten a lot faster, but finding the relevant measurement has becoming a very time consuming process
  - Analyze decades of regional measurement is labor-intensive and costly
- **Increasing “big data” era is driving needs to**
  - Scale computational and data infrastructures
  - Support new methods for deriving scientific inferences and **shift towards integrated data analytics**
  - Apply computational and data science across the lifecycle
- **Scalable Data Management**
  - Capture well-architected and curated data repositories based on well-defined data/information architectures
  - Architecting automated pipelines for data capture
- **Scalable Data Analytics**
  - Access and integration of highly distributed, heterogeneous data
  - Novel statistical approaches for data integration and fusion
  - Computation applied at the data sources
  - Algorithms for identifying and extracting interesting features and patterns

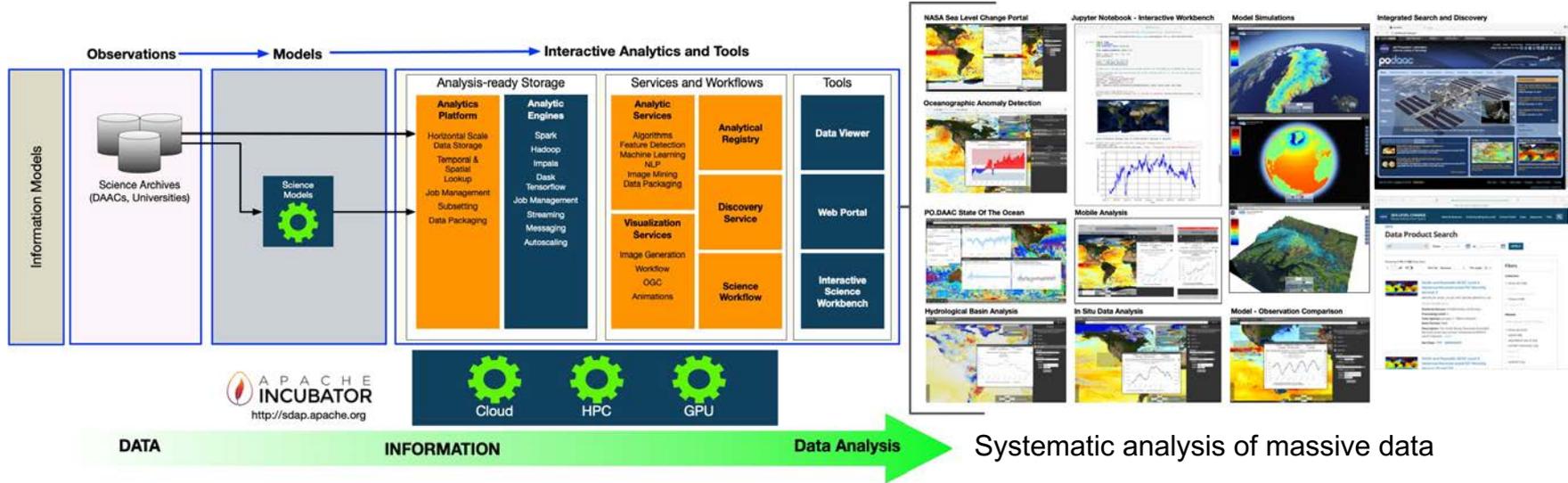
# Shift Toward Data Analytics



Credit: Dan Crichton  
JPL Data Science

# Integrated Science Data Analytics Platform

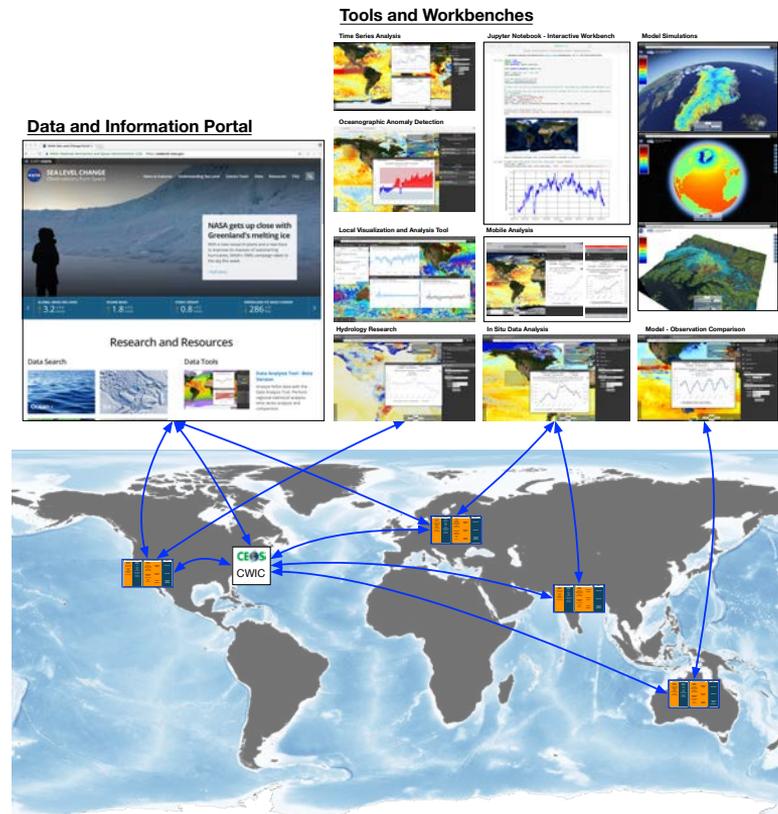
## Creating SaaS and PaaS for Science Tools and Services



- **Integrated Science Data Analytics Platform:** an analytic center framework to provide an environment for conducting a science investigation
  - Enables the confluence of resources for that investigation
  - Tailored to the individual study area (physical ocean, sea level, etc.)
- Harmonizes data, tools and computational resources to permit the research community to focus on the investigation
- Scale computational and data infrastructures
- Shift towards integrated data analytics
- Algorithms for identifying and extracting interesting features and patterns

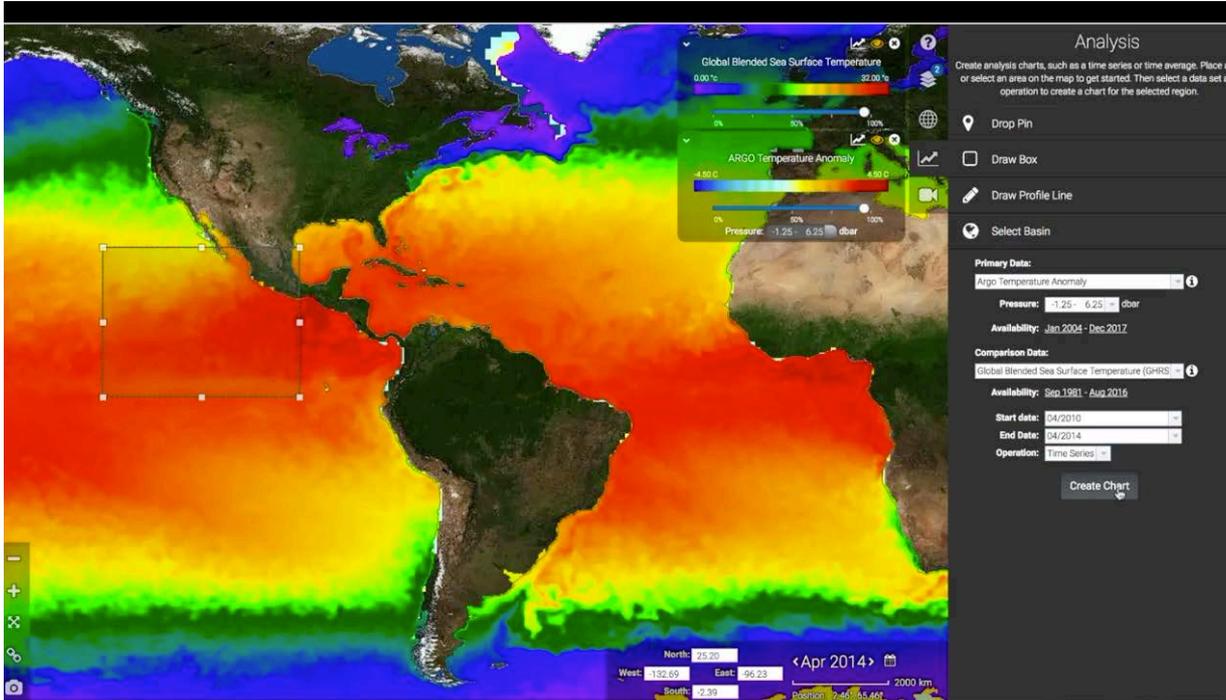
# Architecture for Distributed Data System and Analysis

- **Committee of Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) Ocean Variables Enabling Research and Applications for GEO (COVERAGE) Initiative**
- Seeks to provide **improved access to multi-agency ocean remote sensing data** that are **better integrated with in-situ and biological observations**, in support of **oceanographic and decision support applications** for societal benefit.
- A community-support open specification with common taxonomies, information model, and API (maybe security)
- Putting value-added services next to the data to eliminate unnecessary data movement
- Avoid data replication. Reduce unnecessary data movement and egress charges
- Public accessible RESTful analytic APIs where computation is next to the data
- Analytic engine infused and managed by the data centers perhaps on the Cloud
- Researchers can perform multi-variable analysis using any web-enabled devices without having to download files



# Visualize and Analyze Sea Level

<https://sealevel.nasa.gov>

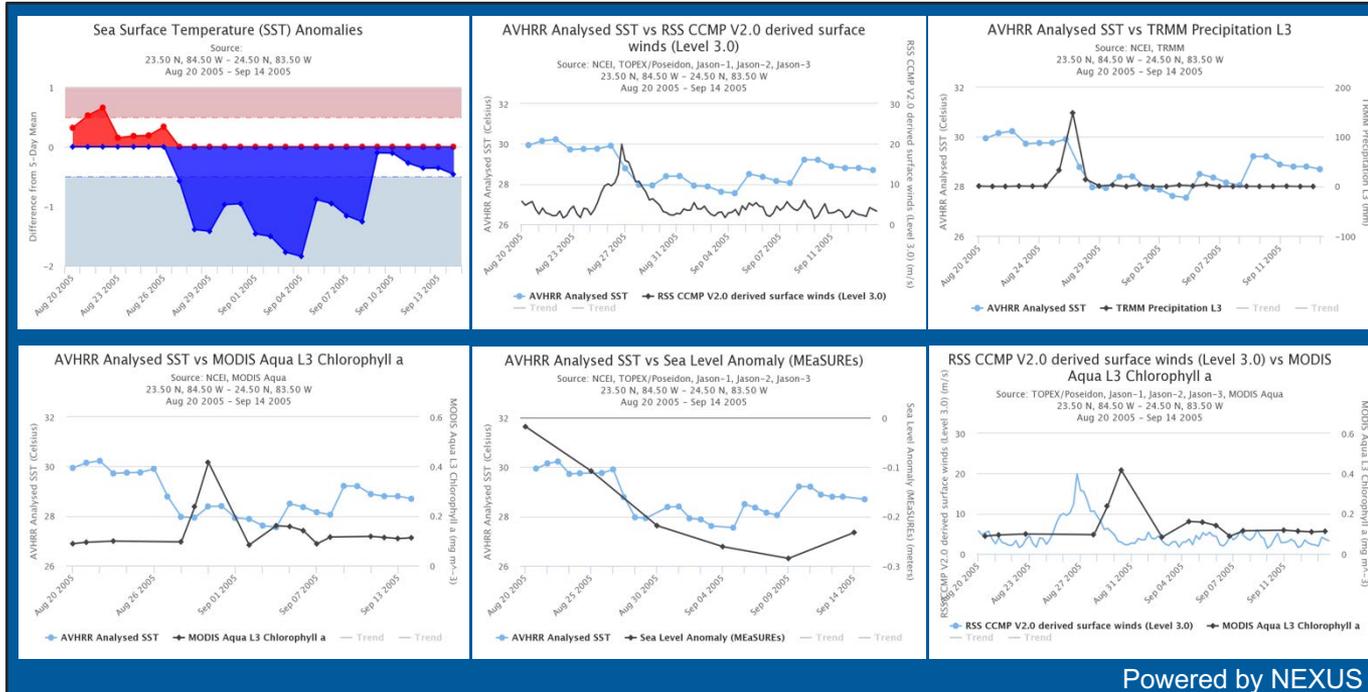


Analyze in situ and satellite observations



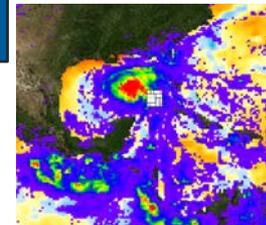
Analyze Sea Level mobiles

# Hurricane Katrina Study



Hurricane Katrina passed to the southwest of Florida on Aug 27, 2005. The ocean response in a 1 x 1 deg region is captured by a number of satellites. The initial ocean response was an immediate cooling of the surface waters by 2 °C that lingers for several days. Following this was a short intense ocean chlorophyll bloom a few days later. The ocean may have been “preconditioned” by a cool core eddy and low sea surface height.

The SST drop is correlated to both wind and precipitation data. The Chl-A data is lagged by about 3 days to the other observations like SST, wind and precipitation.

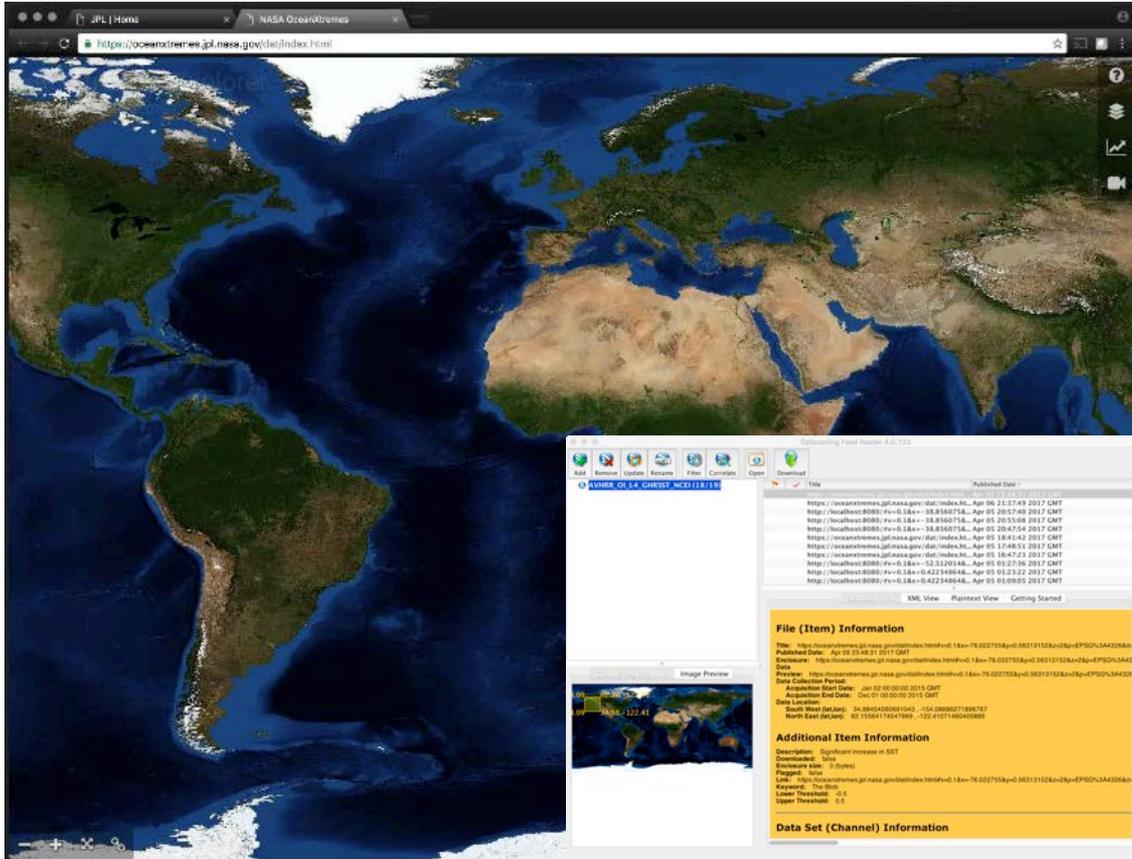


Hurricane Katrina TRMM overlay SST Anomaly

*A study of a Hurricane Katrina-induced phytoplankton bloom using satellite observations and model simulations*  
 Xiaoming Liu, Menghua Wang, and Wei Shi  
 JOURNAL OF GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH, VOL. 114, C03023, doi:10.1029/2008JC004934, 2009

Powered by NEXUS

# Analyze Ocean Anomaly – “The Blob”



- **Visualize** parameter
- **Compute** daily differences against climatology
- **Analyze** time series area averaged differences
- **Replay** the anomaly and visualize with other measurements
- **Document** the anomaly
- **Publish** the anomaly

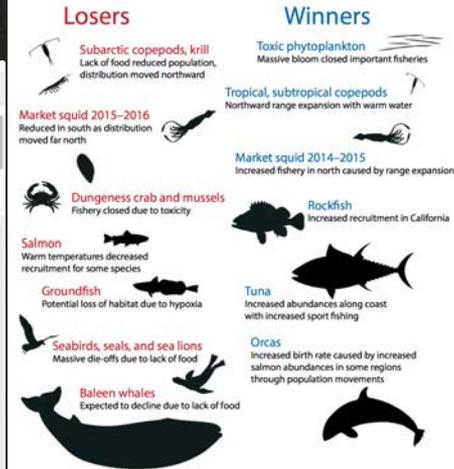
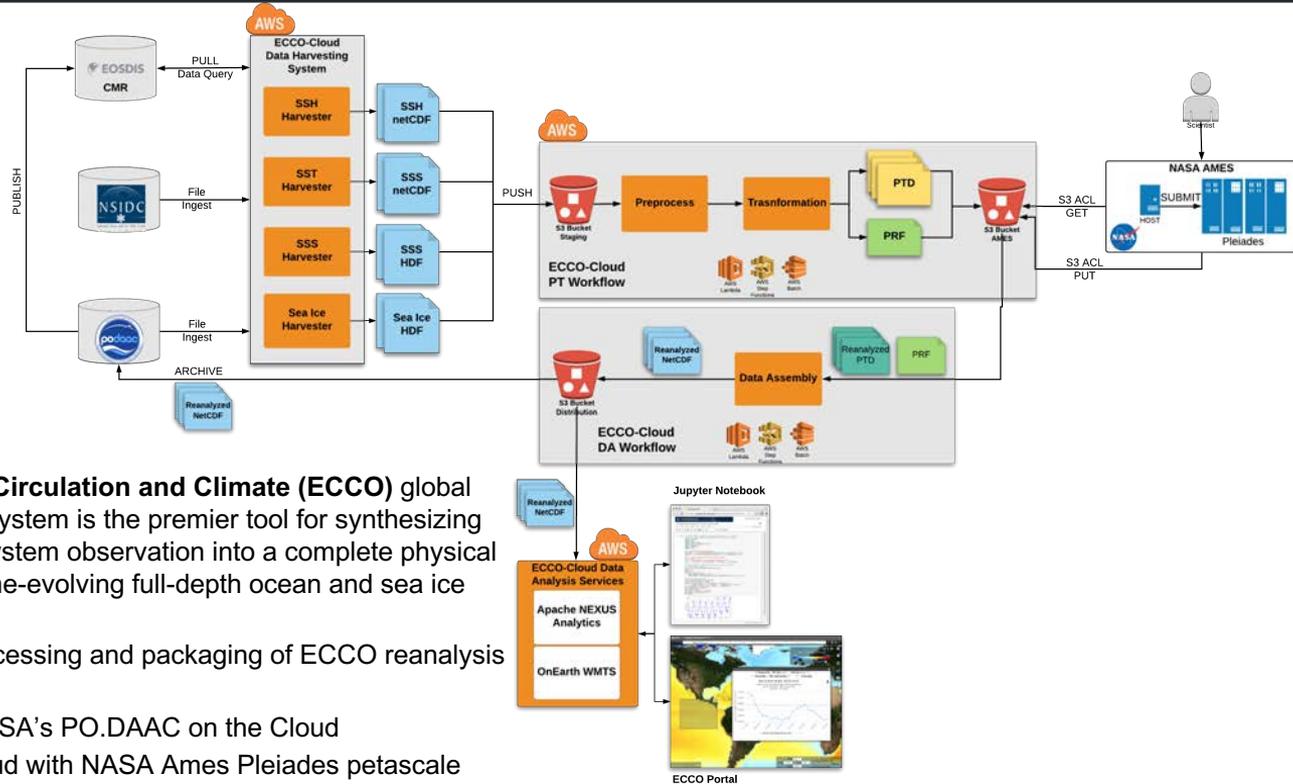


Figure from Cavole, L. M., et al. (2016). "Biological Impacts of the 2013–2015 Warm-Water Anomaly in the Northeast Pacific: Winners, Losers, and the Future." *Oceanography* 29.

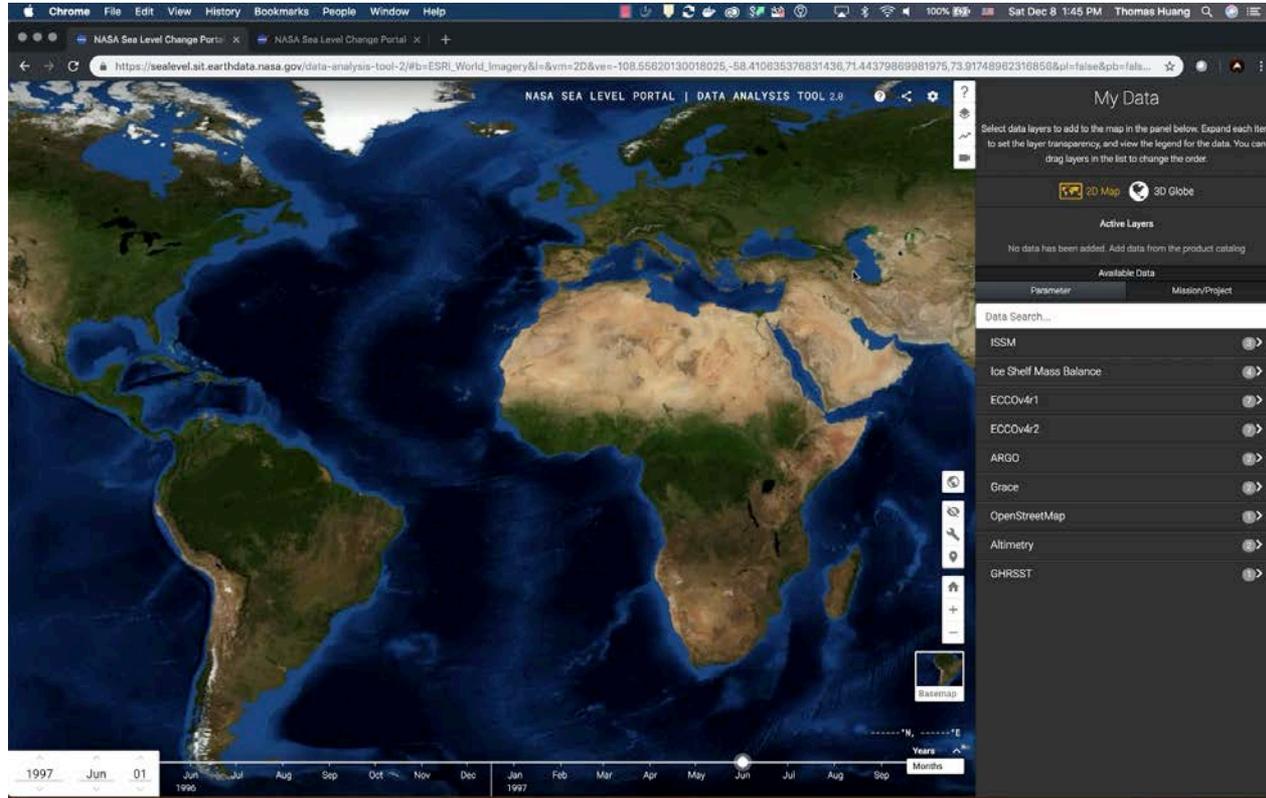
# NASA ACCESS: ECCO-Cloud



- **Estimating the Ocean Circulation and Climate (ECCO)** global ocean state estimation system is the premier tool for synthesizing NASA's diverse Earth system observation into a complete physical description of Earth's time-evolving full-depth ocean and sea ice system.
- Automate ingestion, processing and packaging of ECCO reanalysis products
- Automate delivery to NASA's PO.DAAC on the Cloud
- Integrating Amazon Cloud with NASA Ames Pleiades petascale supercomputer
- Establish ECCO Data Analysis Services and web portal for interactive visualization and analysis, and distribution using Apache SDAP

PI: Patrick Heimbach, University of Texas, Austin  
 Co-Is: Ian Fenty/JPL, Thomas Huang/JPL

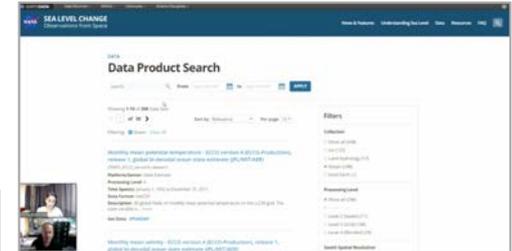
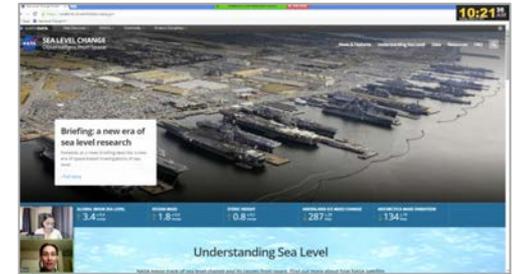
# SST and ECCO



Overlay ECCO with satellite observation and 3D visualization

# Know The User's Real Needs

- **Work on improving communication - building bridge between IT and science**
  - **JPL's Data Science Program** is consists of technologists, project scientists, mission operations, etc.
  - Our science users tends get overwhelmed by tech jargons and cloud terminology
  - Learn to develop common language
- **Understand** how and for what purposes users obtain data and information
- **Describe** users' pain points and unmet needs for extracting, visualizing, comparing and analyzing science data
- **Identify** architectural approaches for tackling the real needs and identify opportunities for enhancing cross-disciplinary collaborative activities on the web portal.



# Processors are not Getting Faster

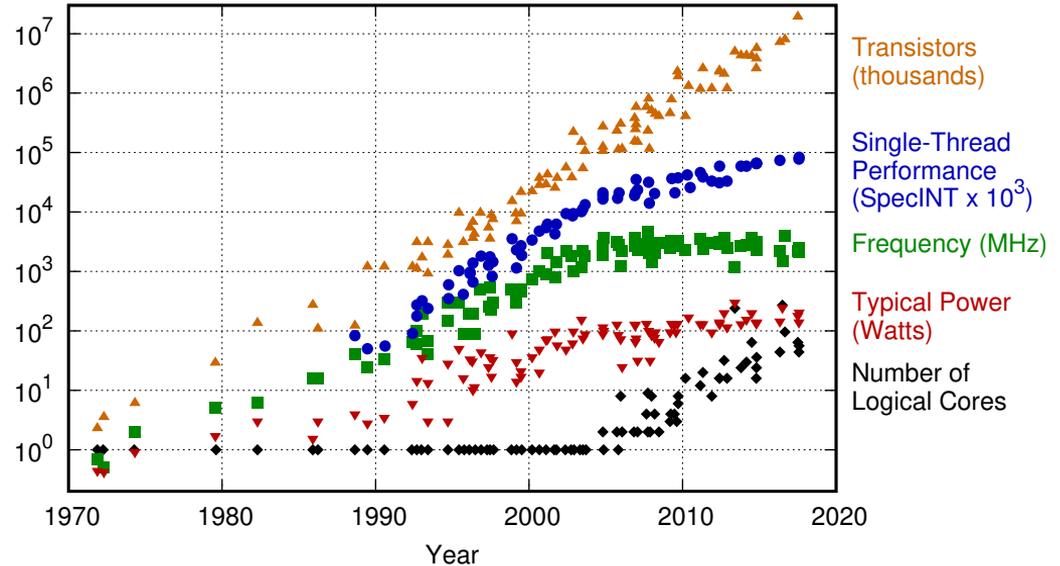
2004: First Pentium 4 processor with 3.0GHz clock speed

2018: Apple's MacBook Pro has clock speed of 2.7GHz

14 years later, not much has gain in raw processing power

**Modern big data architects are required to “think outside of the box”. Literally!**

42 Years of Microprocessor Trend Data



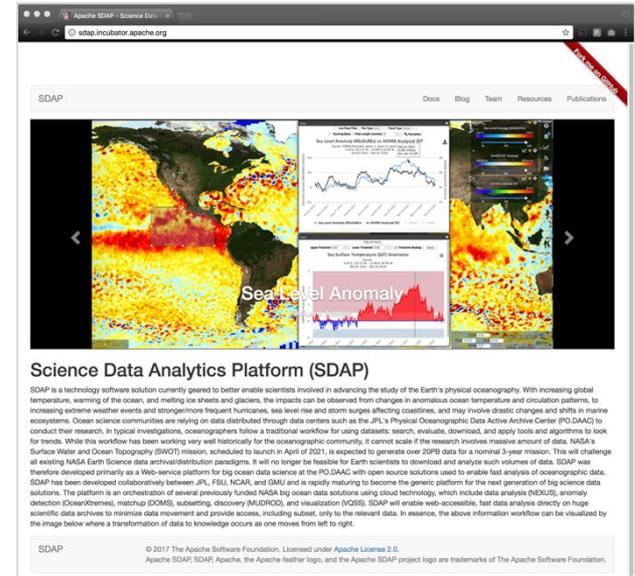
Original data up to the year 2010 collected and plotted by M. Horowitz, F. Labonte, O. Shacham, K. Olukotun, L. Hammond, and C. Batten  
 New plot and data collected for 2010-2017 by K. Rupp

# Cloud: the Brain behind Disruptive Innovations

- “Completely evolved business computing and software architectures, changing a rigid set of services into an iterative, scalable set of applications that constantly transform to meet the need of companies and consumers.” – Forbes, Jul 9, 2018
- Power to scale to meet business and consumer needs
- Enables collaboration from different locations
- Streamline delivery of the latest software solutions without shipping boxes of software
- Simplifies access to data and services from any platform
- High availability
- **2018 IDG Cloud Computing Study**
  - 77% of enterprises have at least one application or a portion of their enterprise computing infrastructure in the cloud
  - 76% of enterprises are looking to cloud applications and platforms to accelerate IT service delivery
    - Improving the speed of IT service delivery
    - Increasing flexibility to react to changing market conditions
    - Enabling business continuity
    - Improving customer support and services
  - 95% of all organizations will be relying on the SaaS model for application delivery in 18 months, with IaaS increasing to 83% and PaaS, 73%

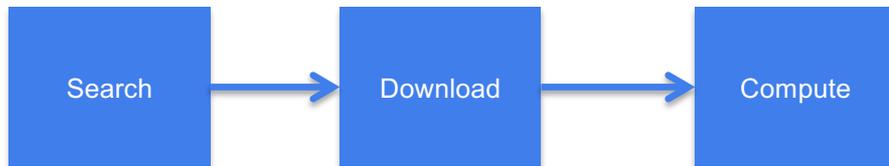
# Free and Open Open Source Software (FOSS)

- October 2017, established Apache Software Foundation and established the **Science Data Analytics Platform (SDAP)** in the **Apache Incubator**
- Technology sharing through Free and Open Source Software (FOSS)
- Why? Further technology evolution that is restricted by projects / missions
- It is more than GitHub
  - Quarterly reporting
  - Reports are open for community review by over 6000 committers
  - SDAP has a group of appointed international Mentors: Jörn Rottmann, and Suneel Marthi
- SDAP and its affiliated projects are now being developed in the open
  - For local cluster and cloud computing platform
  - Fully containerized using Docker (multiple containers)
  - Infrastructure orchestration using Amazon CloudFormation
  - Analyzing satellite and model data
  - In situ data analysis and colocation with satellite measurements
  - Fast data subsetting
  - Data services integration architecture
  - OpenSearch and dynamic metadata translation
  - Mining of user interactions and data to enable discovery and recommendations
  - Streamline deployment through container technology

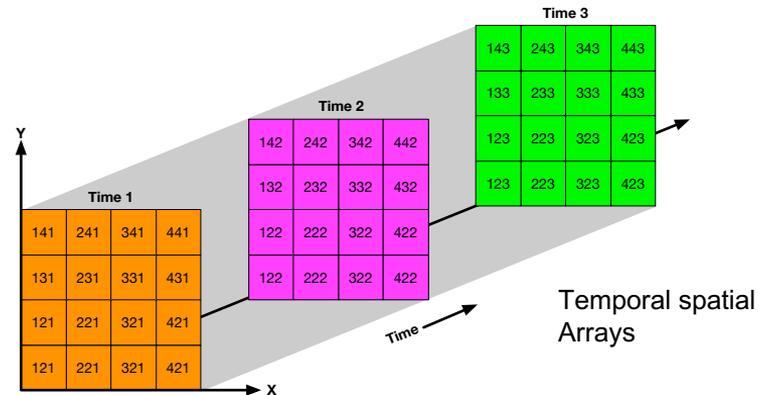


<http://sdap.apache.org>

# Traditional Method for Analyze Satellite Measurements

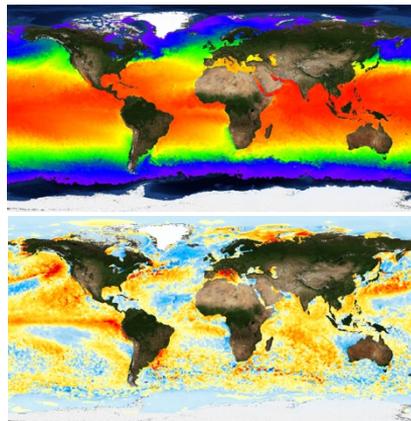


- Depending on the data volume (size and number of files)
- It could take many hours of download – (e.g. 10yr of observational data could yield thousands of files)
- It could take many hours of computation
- It requires expensive local computing resource (CPU + RAM + Storage)
- After result is produced, purge downloaded files



## Observation

- Traditional methods for data analysis (time-series, distribution, climatology generation) can't scale to handle large volume, high-resolution data. They perform poorly
- Performance suffers when involve large files and/or large collection of files
- A high-performance data analysis solution must be free from file I/O bottleneck



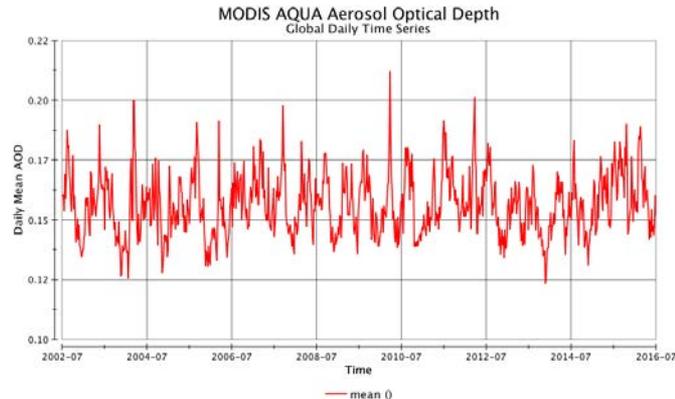
# Apache SDAP's NEXUS Performance

**Dataset:** MODIS AQUA Daily  
**Name:** Aerosol Optical Depth 550 nm (Dark Target) (MYD08\_D3v6)  
**File Count:** 5106  
**Volume:** 2.6GB  
**Time Coverage:** July 4, 2002 – July 3, 2016

**Giovanni:** A web-based application for visualize, analyze, and access vast amounts of Earth science remote sensing data without having to download the data.

- Represents current state of data analysis technology, by processing one file at a time
- Backed by the popular NCO library. Highly optimized C/C++ library

**AWS EMR:** Amazon's provisioned MapReduce cluster **Giovanni: 20 min**  
**NEXUS: 1.7 sec**



Area Averaged Time Series on AWS - Boulder

July 4, 2002 - July 3, 2016  
 NEXUS Performance

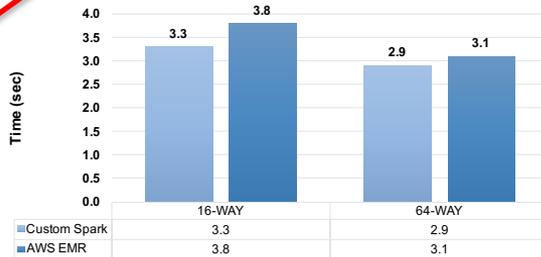
Custom Spark vs. AWS EMR  
 Ref. Speed - Giovanni: 1140.22 sec



Area Averaged Time Series on AWS - Colorado

July 4, 2002 - July 3, 2016  
 NEXUS Performance

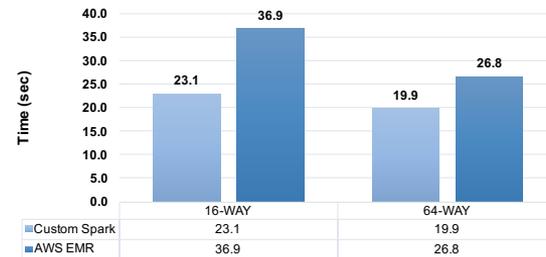
Custom Spark vs. AWS EMR  
 Ref. Speed - Giovanni: 1150.6 sec



Area Averaged Time Series on AWS - Global

July 4, 2002 - July 3, 2016  
 NEXUS Performance

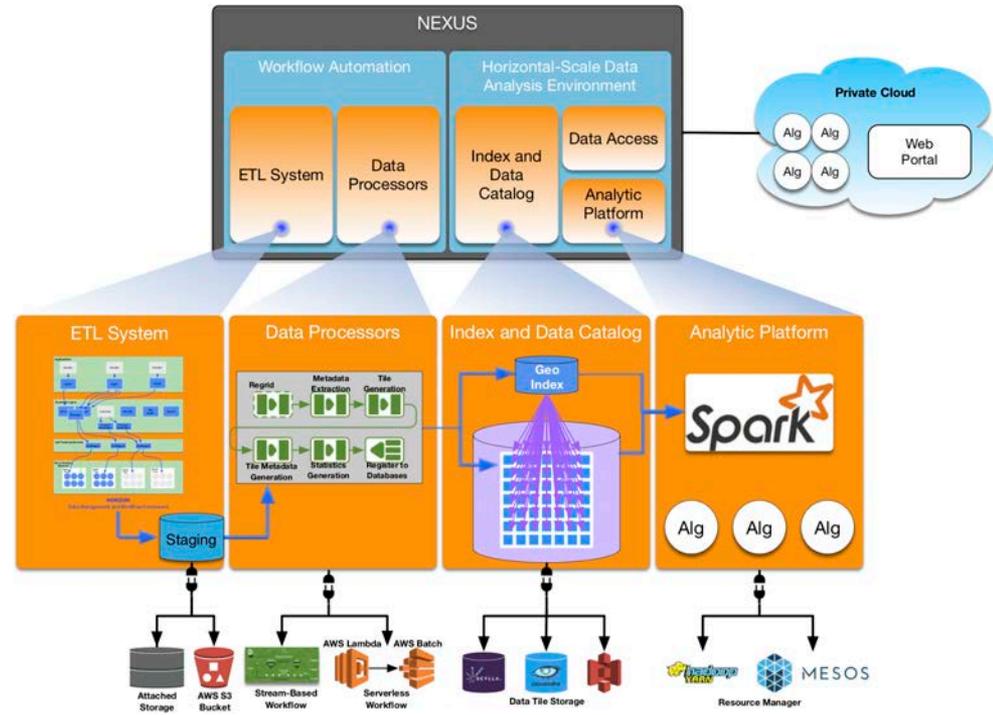
Custom Spark vs. AWS EMR  
 Ref. Speed - Giovanni: 1366.84 sec



Algorithm execution time. Excludes Giovanni's data scrubbing processing time

# Evolve the Architecture

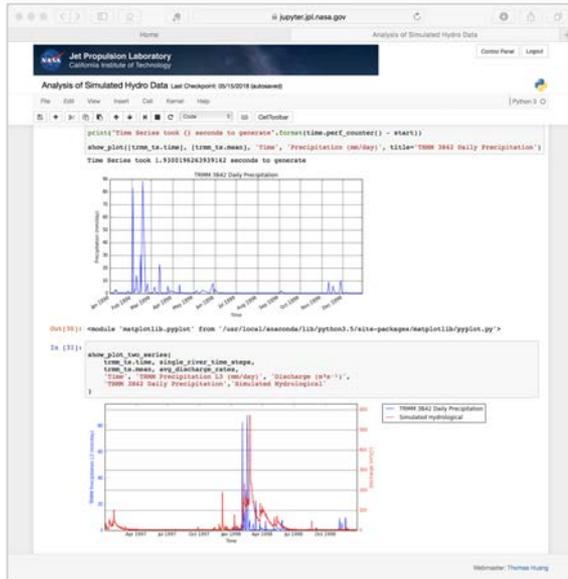
- **Several container-based deployment options**
  - Local on-premise cluster
  - Private Cloud
  - Amazon Web Service
- **Automate Data Ingestion with Image Generation**
  - Cluster based
  - Serverless (Amazon Lambda and Batch)
- **Data Store Options**
  - Apache Cassandra
  - ScyllaDB
  - Amazon Simple Storage Service (S3)
- **Resource Management Options**
  - Apache YARN
  - Apache MESOS
- **Analytic Engine Options**
  - Custom Apache Spark Cluster
  - Amazon Elastic MapReduce (EMR)
  - Amazon Athena (work-in-progress)



Apache SDAP's NEXUS supports public/private Cloud and local cluster deployments



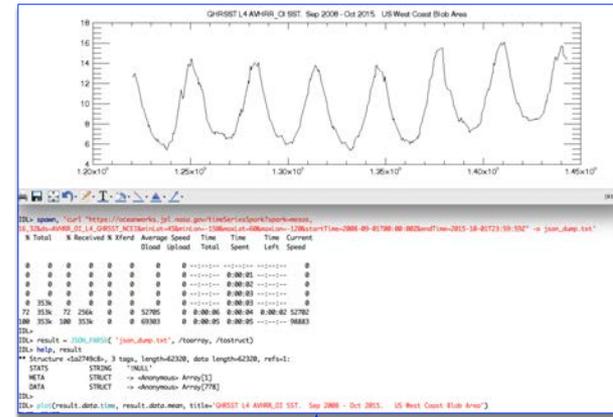
# Distributed Analytics



**Hydrologic Analysis**

**Time series coordination between TRMM and river**

**Access our analytic service using IDL from Germany**



Credit: Ed Armstrong  
Jun. 05, 2018



- Accessing analytic services hosted at JPL and on Amazon through simple interfaces
- **River data**: ~3.6 billion data points. 3-hour sample rate. Consists of measurements from ~600,000 rivers
- **TRMM data**: 17 years, .25deg, 1.5 billion data points
- Sub-second retrieval of river measurements
- On-the-fly computation of time series and generate coordination plot

# Building Community-Driven Open Source Solution

- Develop in the open, so every data provider can infuse the same software stack next to their data
- Establish or leverage an existing governance policy
- Community accessible issue tracking and documentations
- Community validation
- Evolve the technology through community contributions
- Share recipes and lessons learned
- Remember open source != less secure. Some open source technologies, Linux, Apache Webserver,, GNU, etc., have already been adopted by enterprises for years
- Host webinars, hands-on cloud analytics workshops and hackathons



Big Data Analytics and Cloud Computing Workshop, 2017 ESIP Summer Meeting, Bloomington, IN

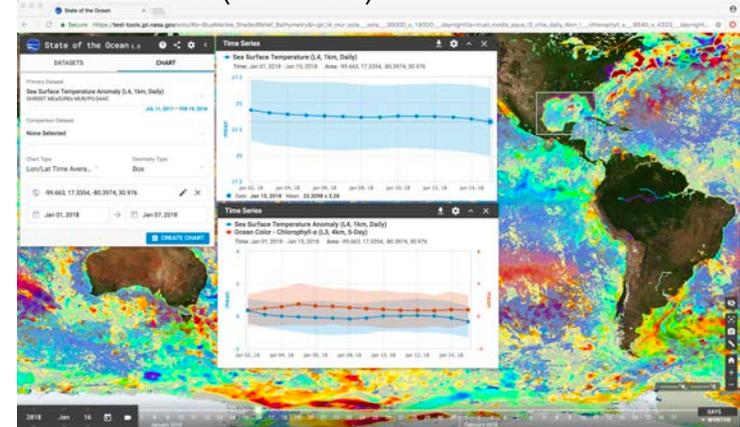
# Partner with NASA and non-NASA Projects - Deliver to Production

- The gap between visionary to pragmatists is significant. It must be the primary focus of any long-term high-tech marketing plan – Geoffrey Moore
- Become an expert in the production environment and devote resources in creating automations
- Give project engineering team early access to the PaaS
- Deliver all technical documents and work with project system engineering
- Provide user-focused trainings

## NASA Sea Level Change Team



NASA's Physical Oceanography Distributed Active Archive Center (PO.DAAC)



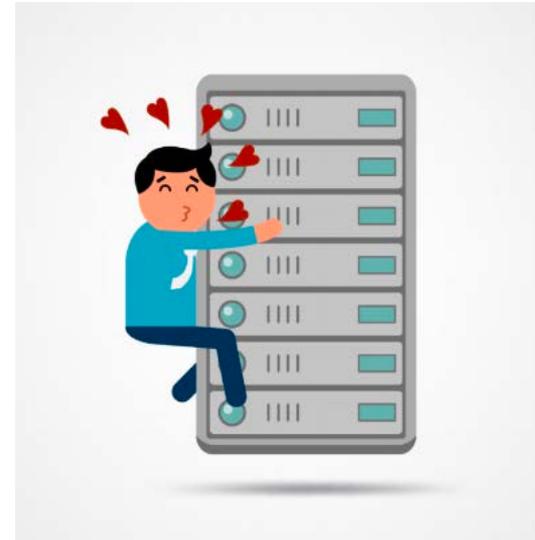
# In Summary

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- JPL Strategy is to drive AI and Data Science into the fabric of JPL by
  - Launching cross-institution pilots
  - Building a trained workforce
  - Linking to the mission-science data lifecycle
- Great opportunities to both innovate onboard and leverage emerging capabilities and platforms on the ground
  - Transform autonomy onboard
  - Transform mission operations
  - Drive new science insights
- AI and Data Science will be an essential part of NASA's future!

# In Summary

- Our approach to big data analytics is disruptive to **Data Huggers** and **Server Huggers** – Moving file-based to parallel analytics
- Our method of development is disruptive to **Software Huggers** - FOSS
- Hackers to Tinkers – Develop a plan on how to evolve Rapid Prototyping (killer ideas) to Production
- Our motivation
  - Develop technology solution to fully leverage the cloud to deliver an answer to our users as quickly as funding allow
  - Data lineage and access to the original data is important, but we must understand the motivation for download.
  - Can we develop and provide the solutions to meet some of these needs without having to download?
- Disruptive Innovations are products that require us to change our current mode of behavior or to modify other products and services – Geoffrey Moore
- We will see many disruptive innovations for tackling our big data analytics challenges



<https://topspeeddata.com/spinning-top-blog/2018/3/30/dont-be-a-server-hugger>



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Space Administration**

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California Institute of Technology  
Pasadena, California

### **Big thanks to our sponsors and partners**

- NASA ESTO/AIST Program
- NASA ACCESS Program
- NASA Sea Level Rise Program
- NASA ESDIS Project
- JPL Data Science Program
- Apache Software Foundation
- Others...

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