

# The Future of Ground Motion Simulation: Harnessing the Power of High- Performance Computing

**Arthur Rodgers**

Atmospheric, Earth and Energy Division, Physical and Life Sciences Directorate  
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

*Also at: Berkeley Seismology Lab, University of California, Berkeley  
Earth & Environmental Sciences, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory*

January 16, 2020  
Pacific Earthquake Engineering Center  
Annual Meeting



LLNL-PRES-801241

This work was performed under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Energy by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory under contract DE-AC52-07NA27344. Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC

 Lawrence Livermore  
National Laboratory

# Thanks to my coworkers

- Anders Petersson (LLNL, CASC)
- Bjorn Sjogreen (LLNL, CASC)
- Ramesh Pankajakshan (LLNL, LC)
- Arben Pitarka (LLNL, AEED)
- Rob Graves (USGS)
- Dave McCallen (LBNL, UNR)
- Norm Abrahamson (UCB & UCD)
- Albert Kottke (PG&E)
- **Computing Facilities**
  - NERSC (LBNL)
  - Livermore Computing (LLNL)





**LIVERMORE COMPUTING CENTER**  
HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING

# Outline

---

- Motivation
- The GM simulation methods
  - 1D, 3D, deterministic, stochastic, kinematic, dynamic
  - High-Performance Computing is needed for realistic simulations
- Challenges for more realistic and useful GM simulations
  - Computational – Efficiency, porting to emerging HPC resources
  - Physical
    - Source – need realistic source models to represent excitation of seismic waves
    - Path – 3D Earth models must represent crustal structure across length-scales
    - Site – capture 3D effects, body and surface waves, variability
- New results for  $M_w$  7.0 Hayward Fault ruptures

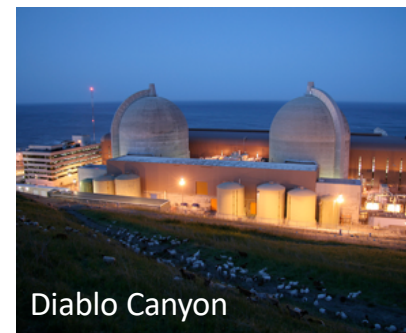
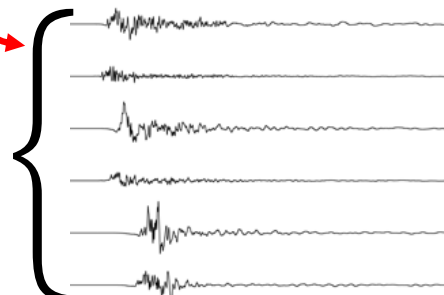
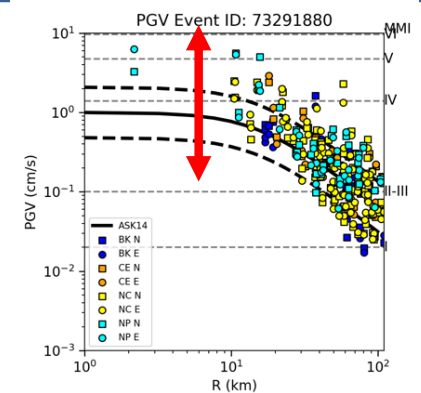
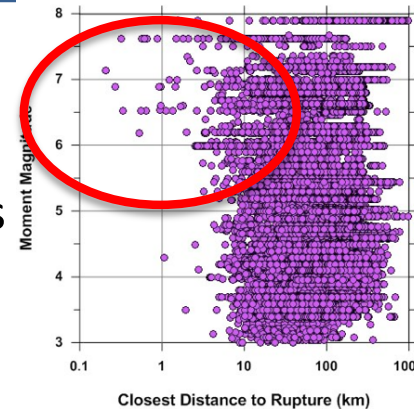
# Simulations provide valuable constraints on site-specific near-fault ground motions

- Empirical data are limited
  - Few observations at short distance 
  - Variability  due to different regions, conditions

- Near-fault motions are highly variable

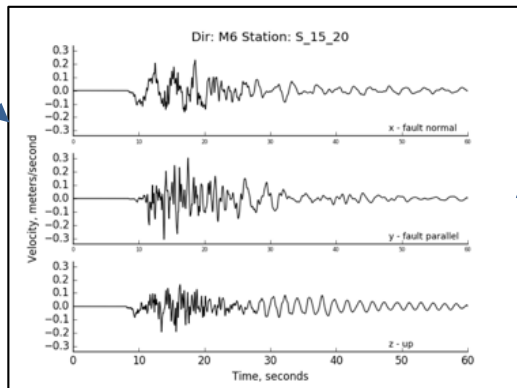
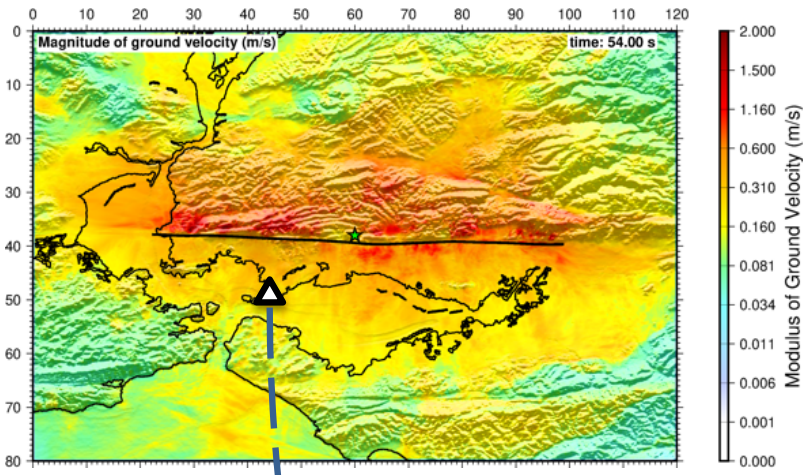
- Motions shaped by rupture details
  - Slip, directivity, rise-time, rupture speed
  - Displacement step and velocity pulse
  - Coupling into sedimentary basins

- Hazard to structures by specific faults, deterministic scenarios
  - Critical facilities (e.g. nuclear installations)
  - Transportation infrastructure
  - Lifelines (electricity, water, gas)

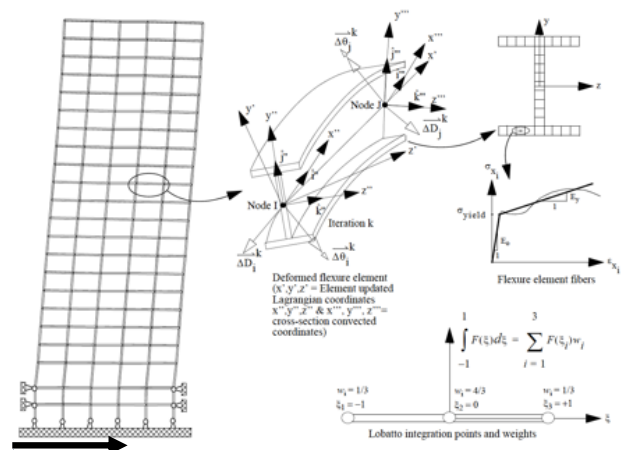


Electric Grid

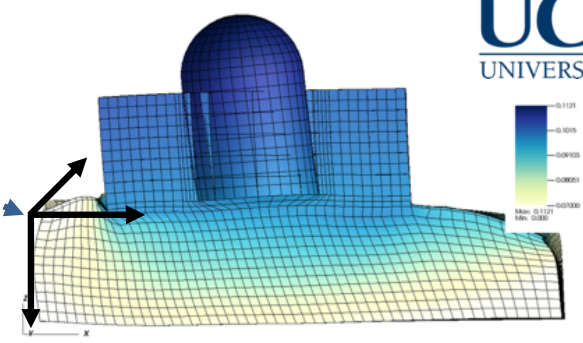
# Computed motions support engineering applications: geotechnical, building and/or SSI response



NEVADA: Building response



ESSI: Soil-structure response



See Dave McCallen's talk  
Friday afternoon

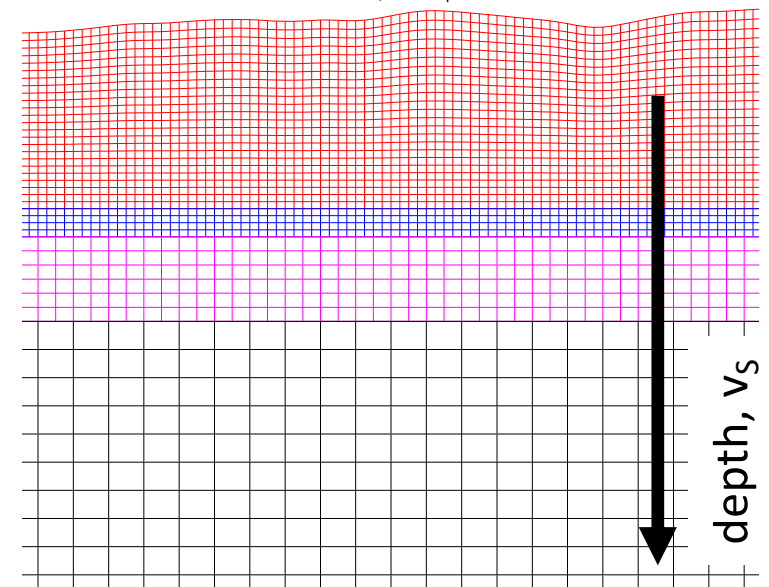
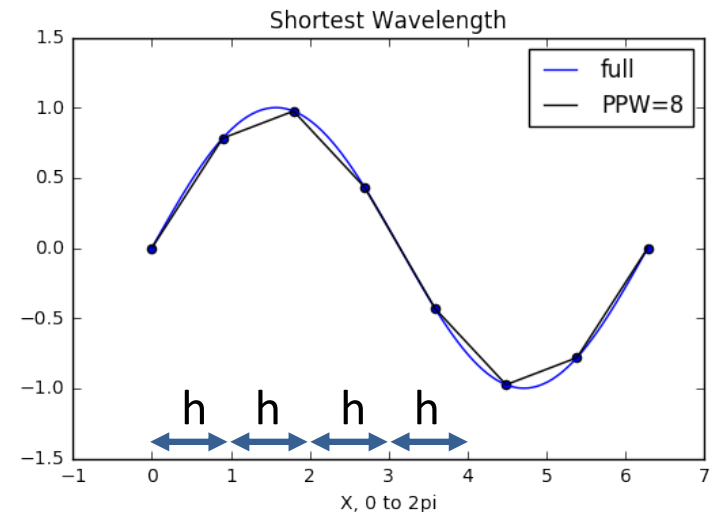


# Ground Motion Simulation Methods

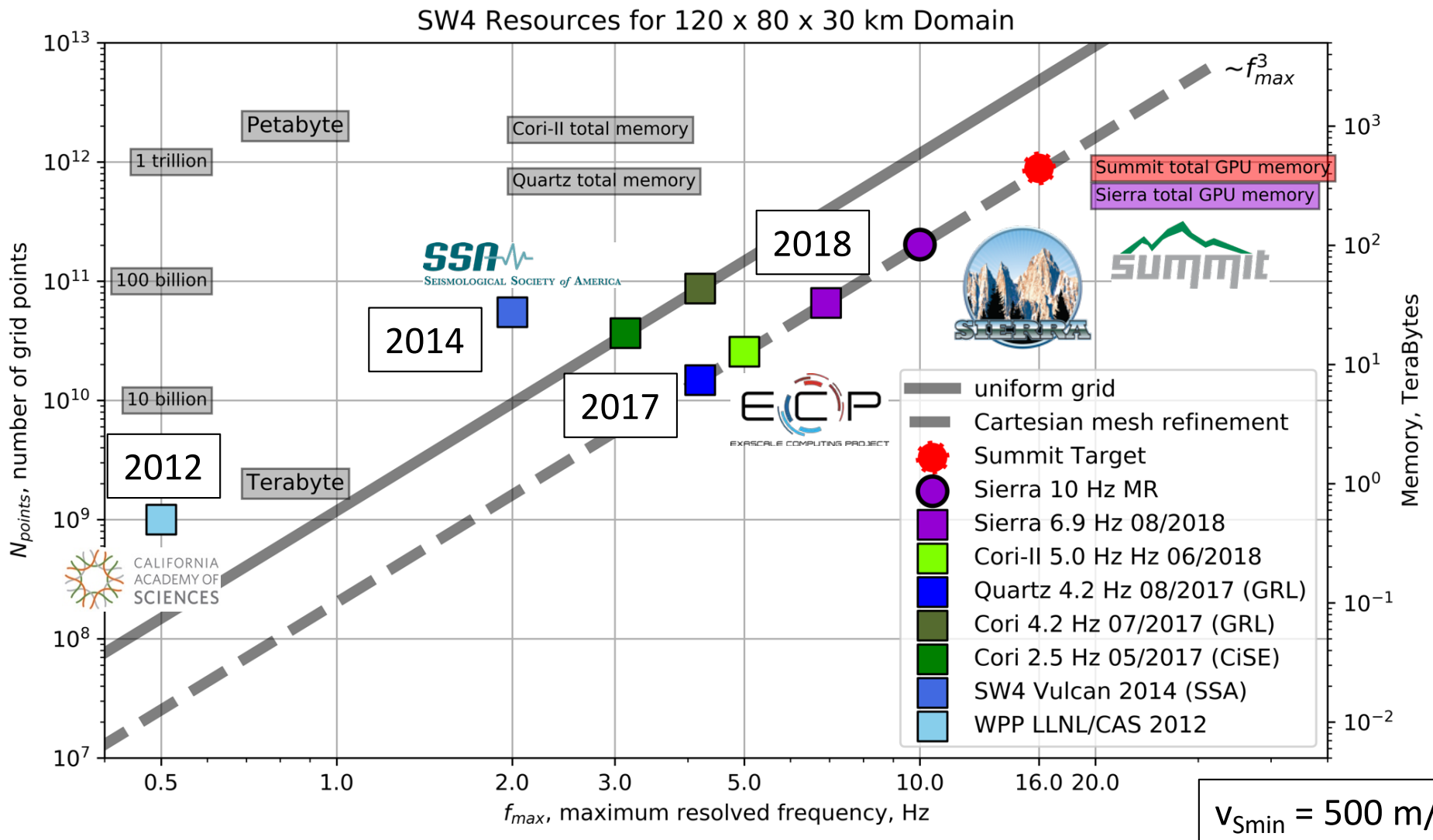
Method	Source	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>Stochastic</b> – acceleration time-history is white noise, shaped to fit response spectra	Kinematic	easiest	unrealistic spatial and spectral correlations
<b>1D Kinematic, Anelastic</b> – laterally homogeneous, plane-layered model, e.g. wavenumber integration	Kinematic	easy	simplified wave propagation 1D, plane-layered, no basins
<b>Hybrid</b> – 1D or 3D low freq, stochastic high freq (e.g. SCEC BBP, CyberShake)	Kinematic	relatively easy, modest HPC for 3D	high freq. stochastic (see above)
<b>3D Kinematic, Anelastic</b> – includes lateral heterogeneity, e.g. FD, FEM, SEM, DG	Kinematic	full waveform, 3D wave propagation w/ attenuation, basins	requires HPC, steep climb to increase $f_{\max}$ 16x to double freq.
<b>3D Dynamic Rupture</b> – fracture mechanics, friction laws, spontaneous rupture on fault	Dynamic	includes physics of fracture, generates slip time-dependence	Most comp. intensive, important unknown or poorly parameters
<b>3D Non-Linear</b> - Non-linear geomechanics, plasticity	K or D	More realistic for high GMs, damping	Most comp. intensive, even more unconstrained parameters ...

# 3D full waveform seismic simulation methods (FD, FEM, SEM, DG) require fine discretization

- Methods need a certain number of grid points per shortest wavelength (PPW), grid spacing =  $h$ 
  - Numerical solution is more accurate as PPW increases
- Doubling the highest resolved frequency,  $f_{\max}$ , generally requires:
  - 8x more grid points, 2x more time steps
  - 16x increase in computational effort
  - $f_{\max} = v_{\min} / (\text{PPW} * h_{\min})$
- Seismic wavespeeds increase with depth, so increasing grid spacing with depth greatly improves memory and computational efficiency



# Ever-increasing ease of regional-scale simulations: M<sub>w</sub> 7.0 Hayward Fault on various machines



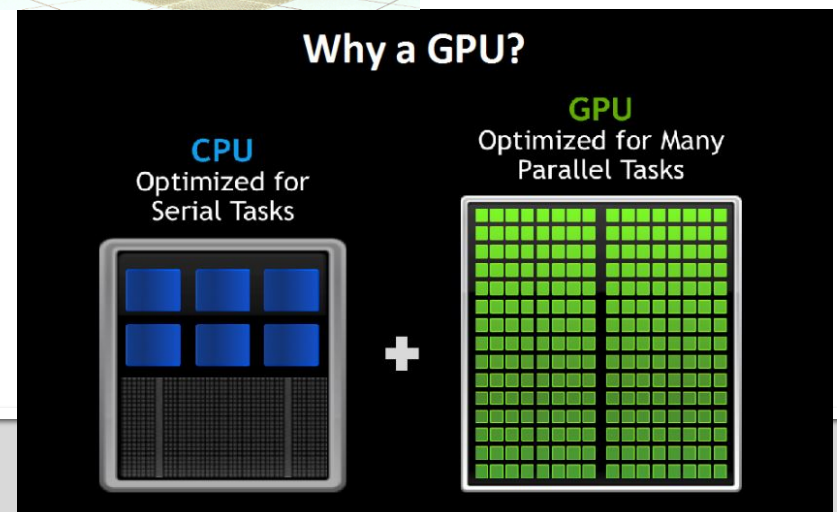
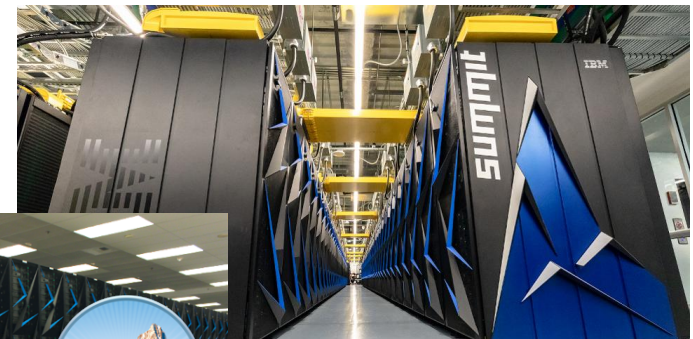


# Challenges: Computational efficiency

- Early HPC systems were clusters of networked CPU nodes with MPI
- Integration of many cores per node, multi-threading improved efficiency
- State-of-the-art systems rely on graphic processing units (GPU's)
- Software must be written to make use of new hardware
  - Algorithms modified and tested
  - RAJA enables efficient offloading of work from CPU to GPU

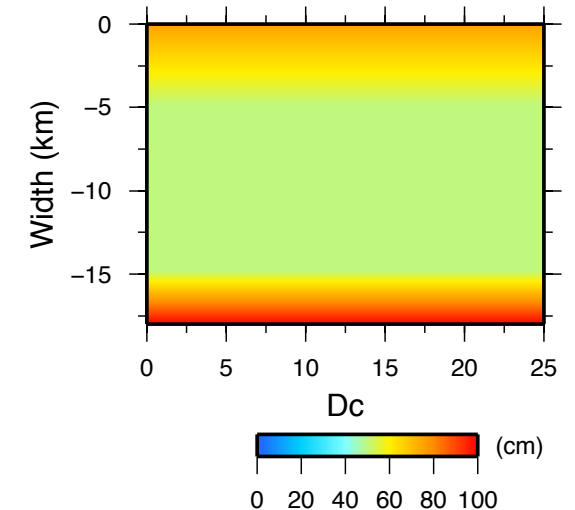
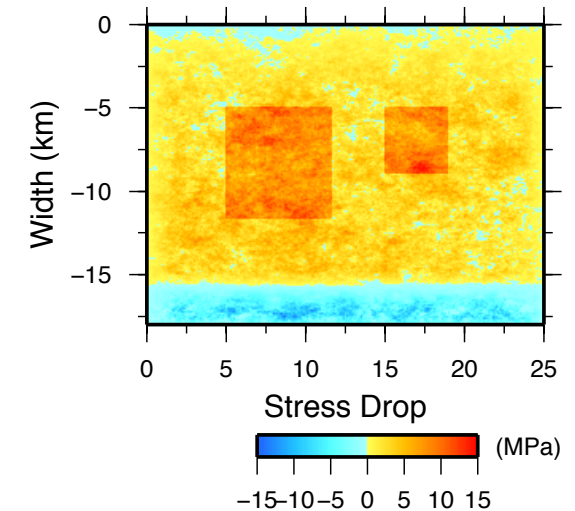
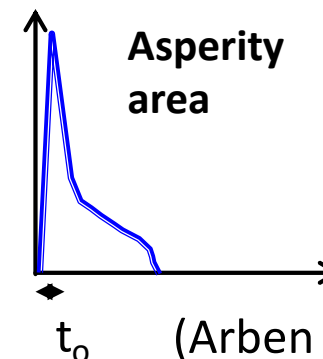
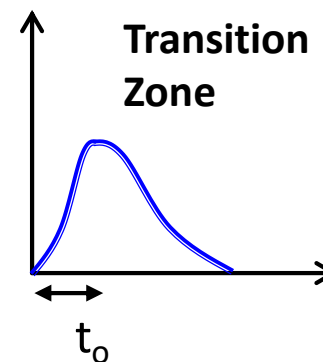
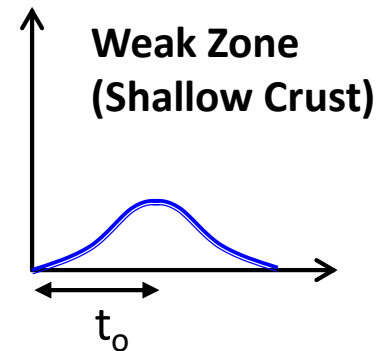


Summit  
& Sierra



# Challenges: Source modeling

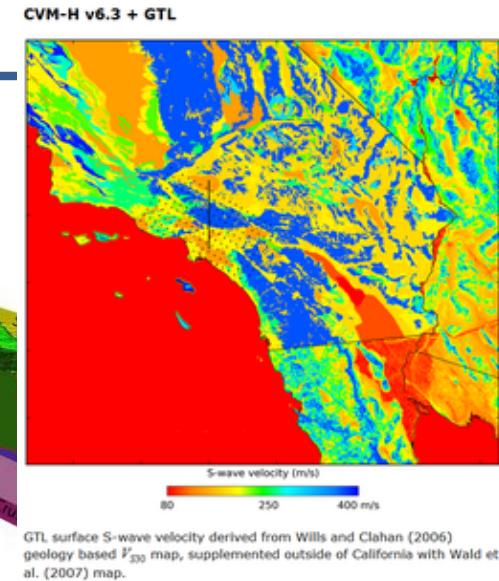
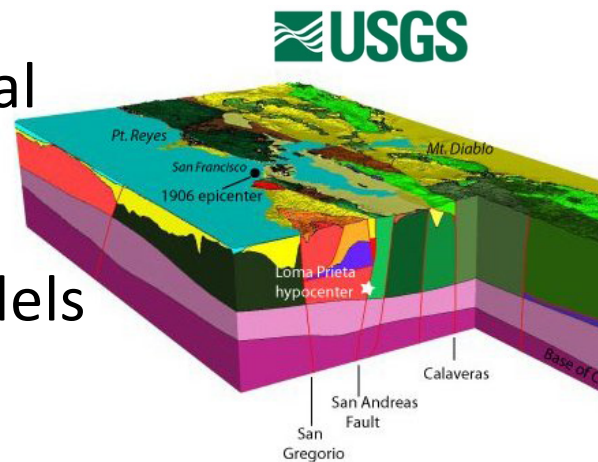
- We expose details of the source rupture process as we increase the frequency content in our kinematic simulation
- Rupture dynamics informs the nature of slip
- Rock strength depends on depth
  - Rise time,  $t_0 \sim$  duration
  - Duration  $\sim$  slip
  - But, depends on depth, local rock strength



(Arben Pitarka, work in progress)

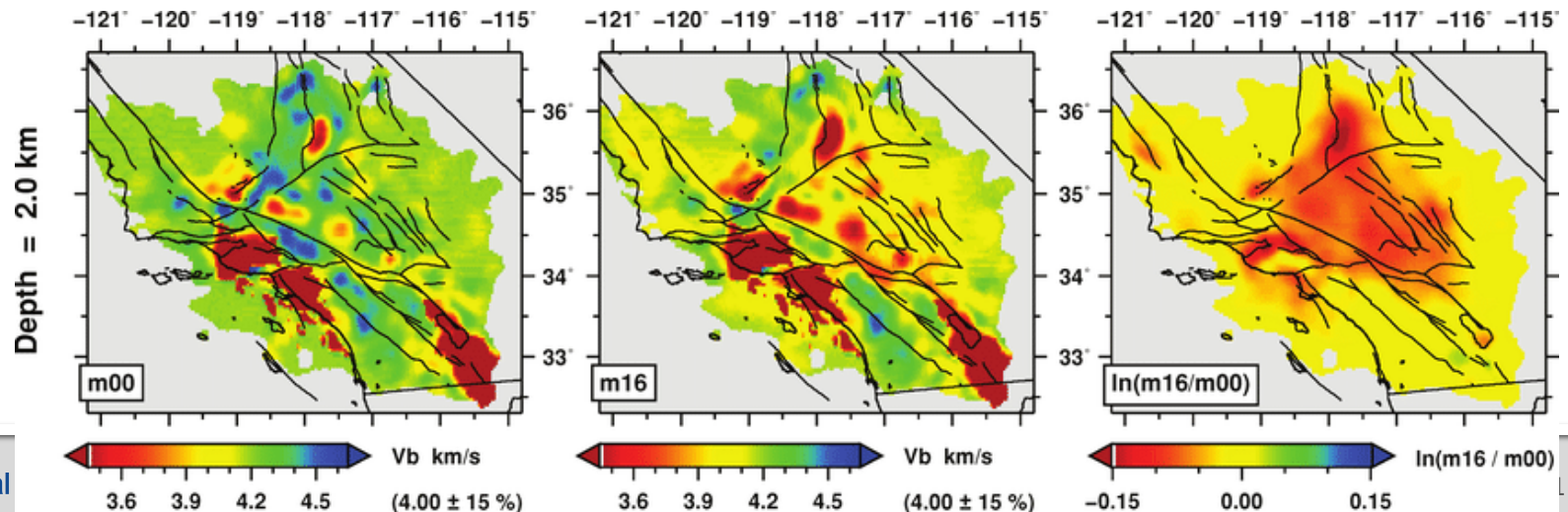
# Challenges: Path, improve 3D crustal structure

- Ad hoc models generally built based on geologic & geophysical data
- Many seismic tomography models generally don't fit waveforms
- Waveform-based inversion offers possibility to resolve crustal structure



**SC/EC**  
AN NSF+USGS CENTER

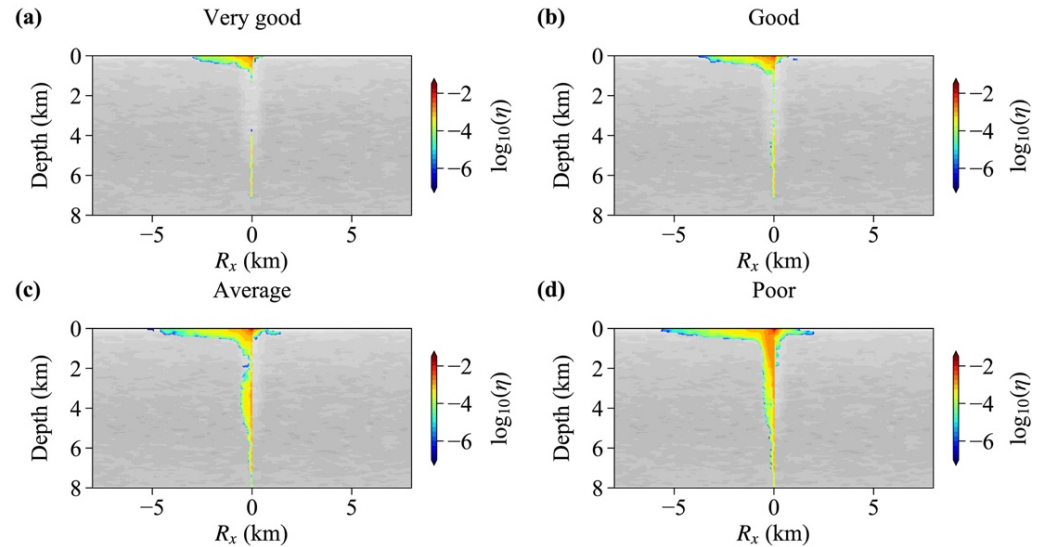
(Tape et al., 2009)



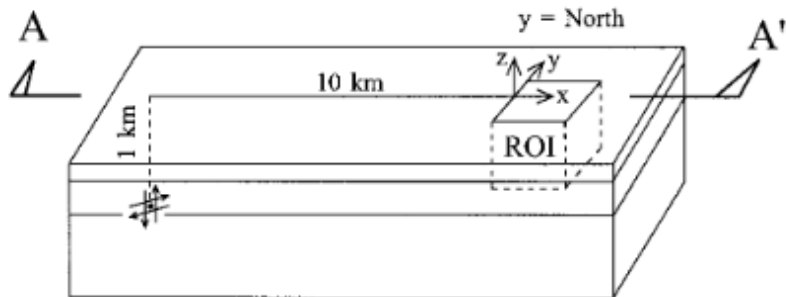
# Challenges: Path & Site, improved geomechanics

- Account for mechanical response beyond linear elasticity
  - 3D plasticity
  - Models fault zone & near-surface
- Domain Reduction Method (DRM) approach
  - Geotechnical & SSI

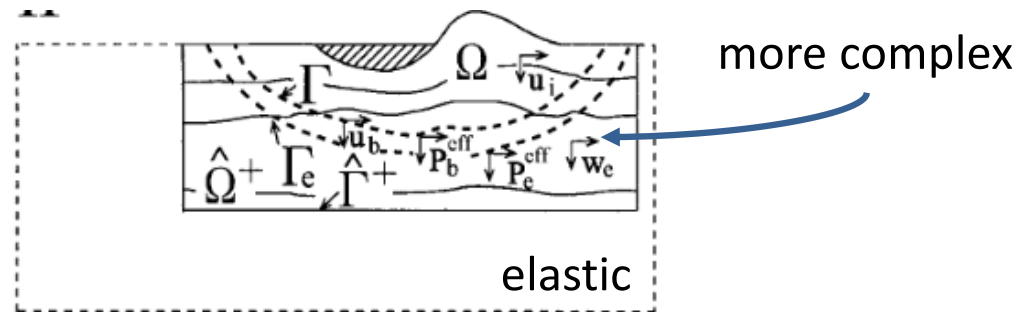
## Plastic deformation with different rock properties



(Roten et al., 2017, GRL)



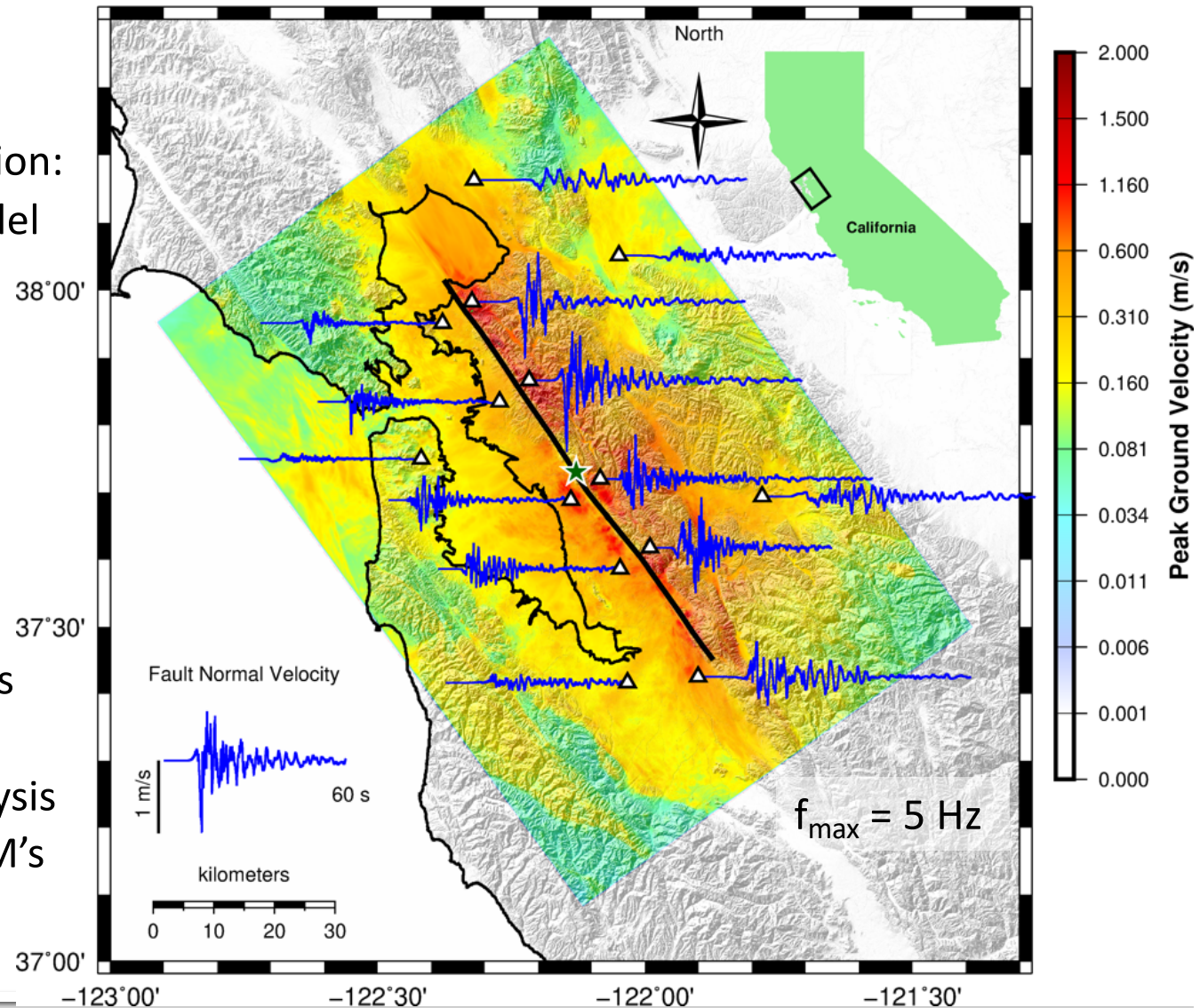
Jacobo Bielak and co-workers



# HPC ground motion simulations for Hayward Fault $M_w$ 7.0 scenario earthquake

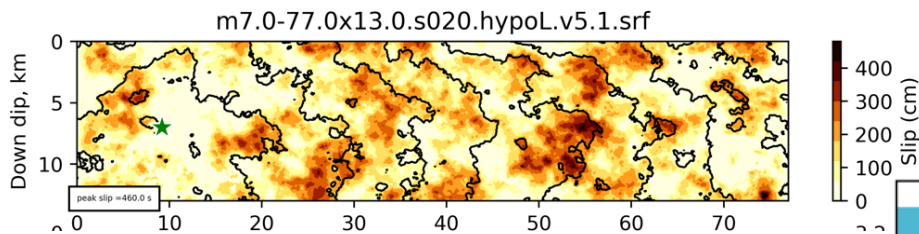


- SW4 FDTD simulations
- Physics-based wave propagation:
  - 3D geologic/seismic model
  - topography
  - attenuation
- Broadband, deterministic
  - $f_{\max}$ : 5 – 10 Hz
  - $h_{\min}$  = 12.5 – 6.25 m
- Run on large HPC systems
  - Port to GPU/CPU systems
- Motions for engineering analysis
- Motions agree well with GMM's

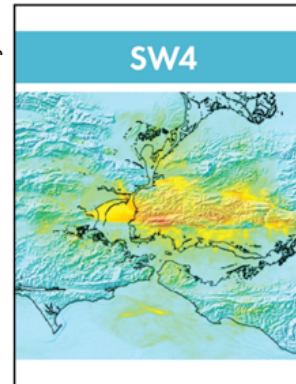


# Our goal is to compute broadband motions in 3D models with purely deterministic methods & HPC

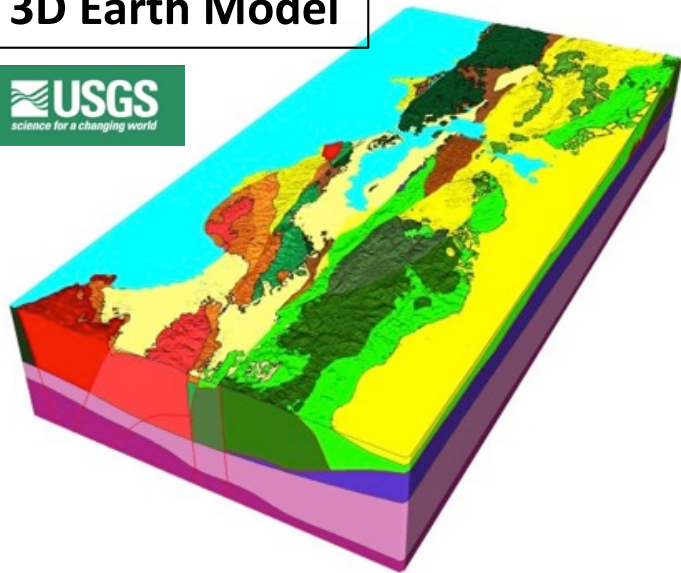
Ruptures: Graves & Pitarka (2016)



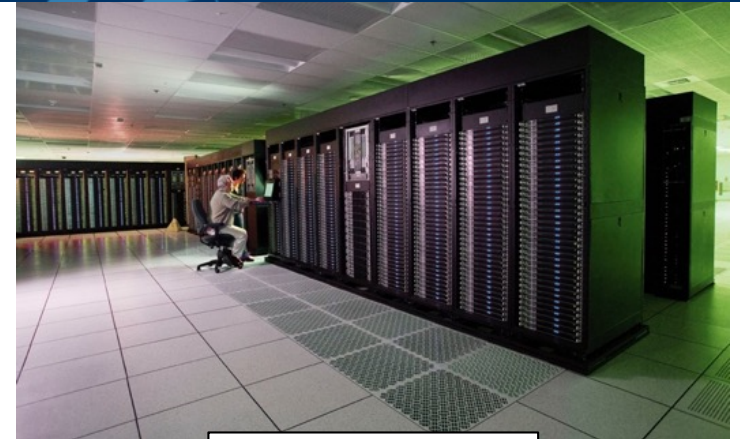
Solver



3D Earth Model



HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING  
@ Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory



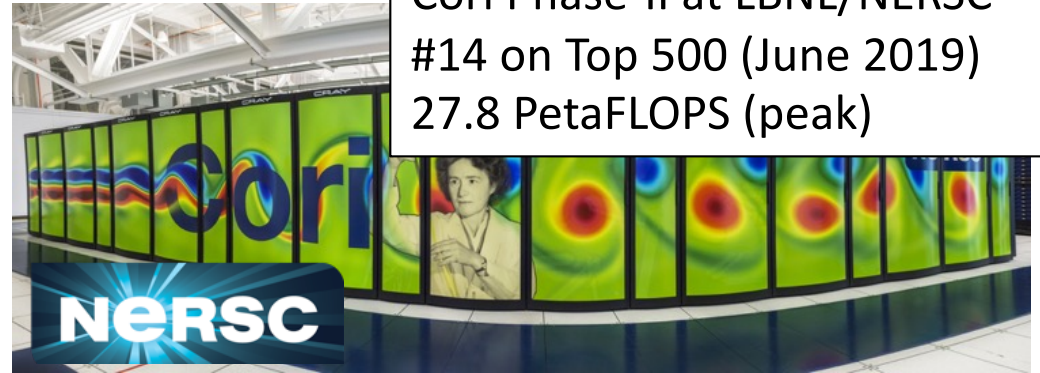
HPC Cycles



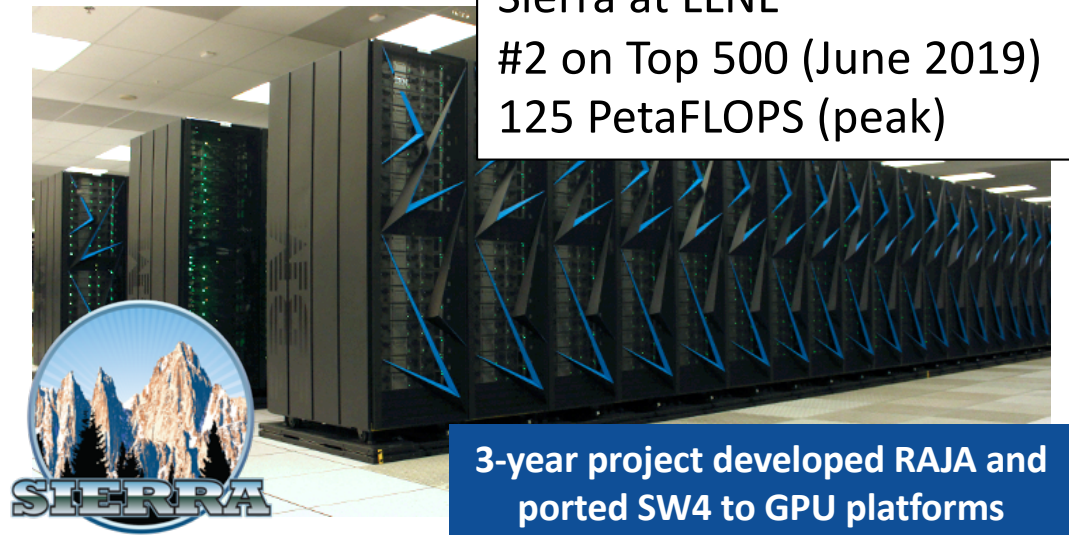
# Recent developments enable SW4 simulations on the world's most powerful computers

- For 0-5 Hz HF M 7 rupture, we obtained ~50x speed-up in node-hour performance:
  - Cori: 8,192 nodes \* 10 hours = 81,920 node-hours
  - Sierra: 256 nodes \* 6.6 hours = 1,690 node-hours
- Verification for 0-5 Hz of SW4-RAJA (Sierra) and SW4 (Cori)

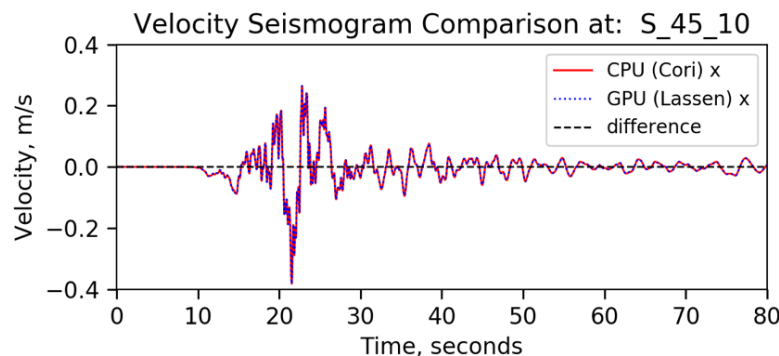
Cori Phase-II at LBNL/NERSC  
#14 on Top 500 (June 2019)  
27.8 PetaFLOPS (peak)



Sierra at LLNL  
#2 on Top 500 (June 2019)  
125 PetaFLOPS (peak)



3-year project developed RAJA and ported SW4 to GPU platforms



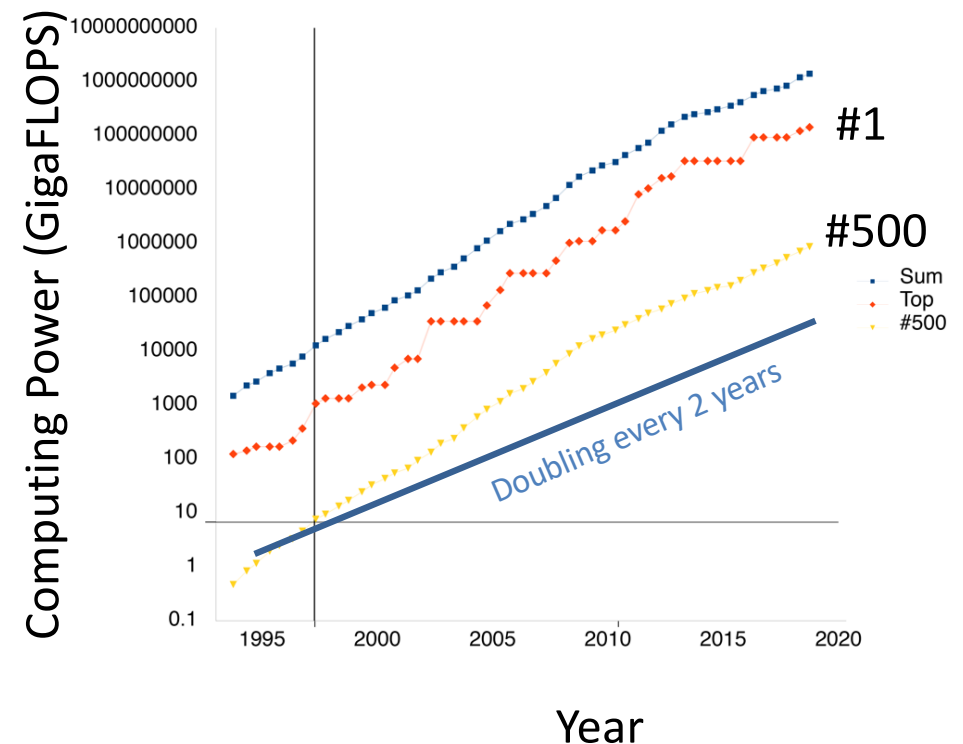
# Moore's Law, the IEEE Top 500 and Earthquake Science and Engineering

**Moore's Law** is the observation that the number of transistors in a dense integrated circuit doubles about every two years. (Gordon Moore, 1965, Wikipedia)

- Computers keep getting more powerful
- Enabling disruption to meet challenges and break barriers in science and engineering

*Technology companies anticipate growth in computational power without knowing the specifics of next generation architectures.*

IEEE Top 500 Statistics (Wikipedia)



**Future methods in seismic hazard and risk should rely on physics-based 3D simulations to provide ground motions for structural response and performance-based design**



# Summary take away points

---

- Three factors contribute to more accessible broadband 3D GM simulations:
  - Improvement in numerical methods & algorithms
  - Inexorable growth in computing power
  - Optimization of computer codes (programs) to run on new platforms
- Three elements require ongoing research:
  - Realism of earthquake rupture models
    - Particularly slip function & rise time as we push to higher frequencies
    - Follow developments in dynamic rupture modeling
  - Improvement in 3D crustal models
    - Particularly the upper crust (0-4 km) and smaller scale structure
    - Full waveform inversion methods promise to improve resolution
  - Methods to account for geotechnical structure
    - Particularly short-scale length heterogeneity, 2D & 3D, non-linear effects