

**make  
history.**



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* ADELAIDE

# Setting up Cryo-EM tools and workflows on HPC Phoenix – lessons learnt

Dr Fabien Voisin



# Who are we?

Adelaide Microscopy  
Fiona Whelan  
Ashley Slattery  
Bryant Roberts

Division Research and  
Infrastructure  
Fabien Voisin  
Bowen Chen

Information Technology and  
digital services  
Jason Tan  
Tim Bowen  
Peter Koleff

# Cryo-TEM requirements



Large data acquisitions (TBs of raw data)



Live data analysis to check quickly the quality of the data before further analysis



Installation of software for data post-processing (e.g Cryosparc, Relion...), GPUs are required!



Sending the data/results securely to collaborators outside the University



# UoA Cryo-TEM Microscope



## FEI Glacios 200kV Cryo-Transmission Electron Microscope

Please contact [Dr Fiona Whelan](#) for further information.  
Located at [Frome Road](#).

[Collapse All](#)

Information on the FEI Glacios 200kV Cryo-Transmission Electron Microscope

The Thermo Scientific Glacios Cryo-Transmission Electron Microscope (Cryo-TEM) delivers a complete cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) solution to a broad range of scientists. It features 200 kV XFEG optics, the industry-leading Autoloader (cryogenic sample manipulation robot), and the same innovative automation for ease of use as on the Thermo Scientific Krios G4 Cryo-TEM. The Glacios Cryo-TEM bundles all this into a smaller footprint that simplifies installation.

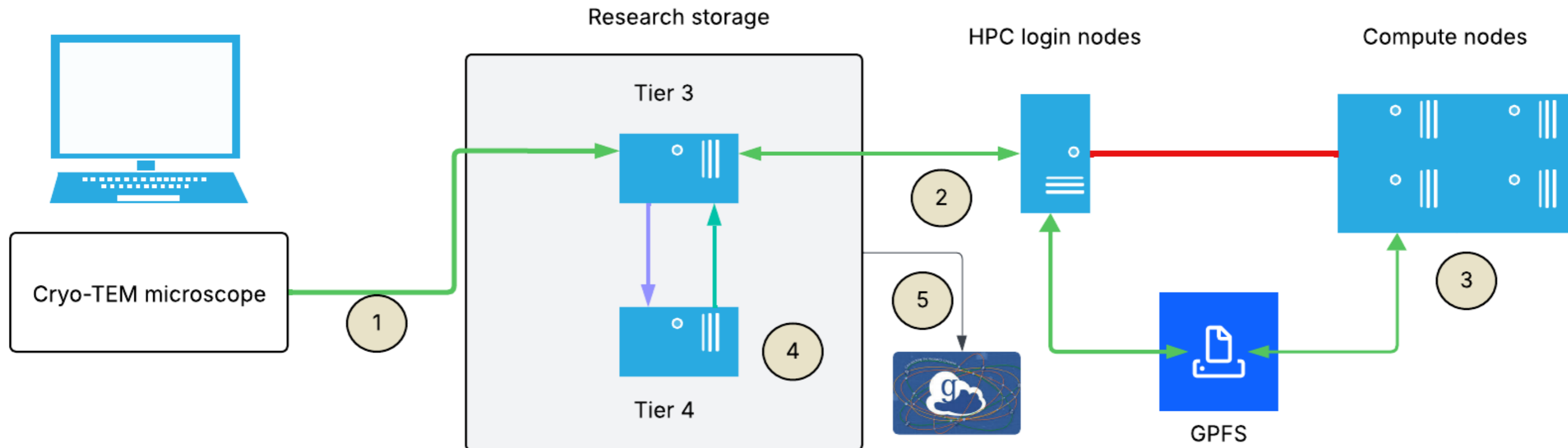
# HPC Phoenix

Cluster	Node Type	Nodes	Node Specification	Total Specification	Performance	GoLive
Phoenix HPC1	CPU	105	2x Intel(R) Xeon(R) Platinum 8360Y CPU@, 36 cores @ 2.4GHz, 255000 MiB memory(around 256 GB per node)	7560 CPUs, 26 TB of memory	N/A	2022-2023
	CPU High Memory	8	2x Intel(R) Xeon(R) Platinum 8360Y CPU@, 36 cores @ 2.4GHz, 1990000 MiB memory (around 2TB per node)	576 CPUs, 16 TB of memory	N/A	2022-2023
	GPU	50	2x Intel(R) Xeon(R) Platinum 8360Y CPU@, 36 cores @ 2.4GHz, 515000 MiB memory, 4x Nvidia A100-SXM4-40GB	3600 CPU, 200 GPUs, 25 TB of memory	N/A	2022-2023
<b>SYSTEM TOTAL</b>		163		<b>11736 cores, 200 GPU accelerators, 242 TB memory</b>		



Leverage the capabilities of our existing HPC to accelerate analysis and outputs

# High level architecture



1. Data acquisition is copied from CryoTEM workstation to Research storage
2. Data is continuously pulled from Research storage onto HPC GPFS.
3. Data processing is done onto HPC compute nodes and results transferred back to Research storage.
4. Inactive data sent to lower storage tier.
5. Data sent to external collaborators through GLOBUS

# Cryo-TEM data processing apps in HPC

## Cryosparc

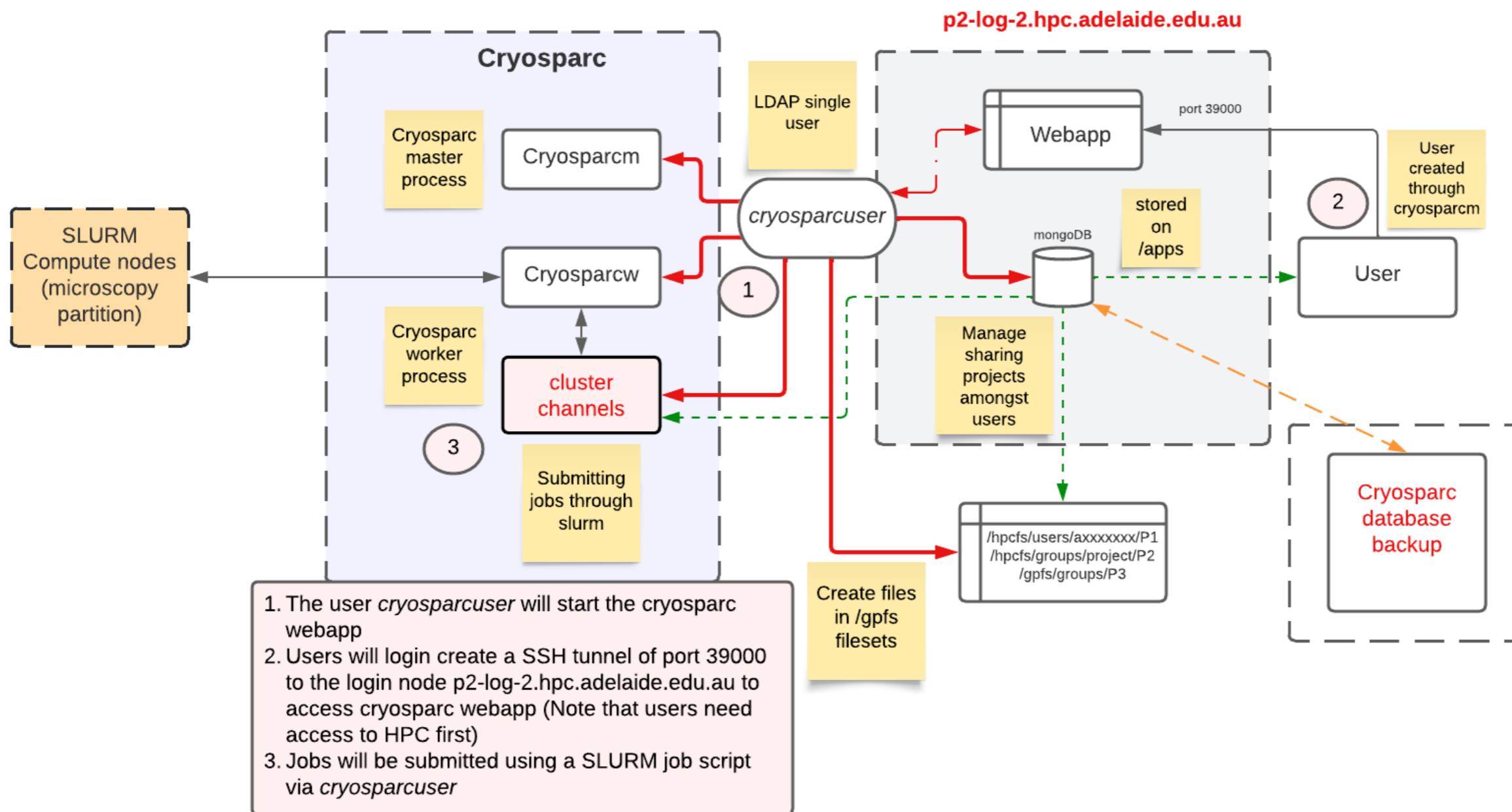
- Data analysis solution for single-particle analysis.
- Machine learning approach to particle picking with **Topaz**
- <https://guide.cryosparc.com/>

## RELION

- Software package that employs an empirical Bayesian approach for electron cryo-microscopy (cryo-EM) structure determination
- <https://relion.readthedocs.io/en/release-5.0/>

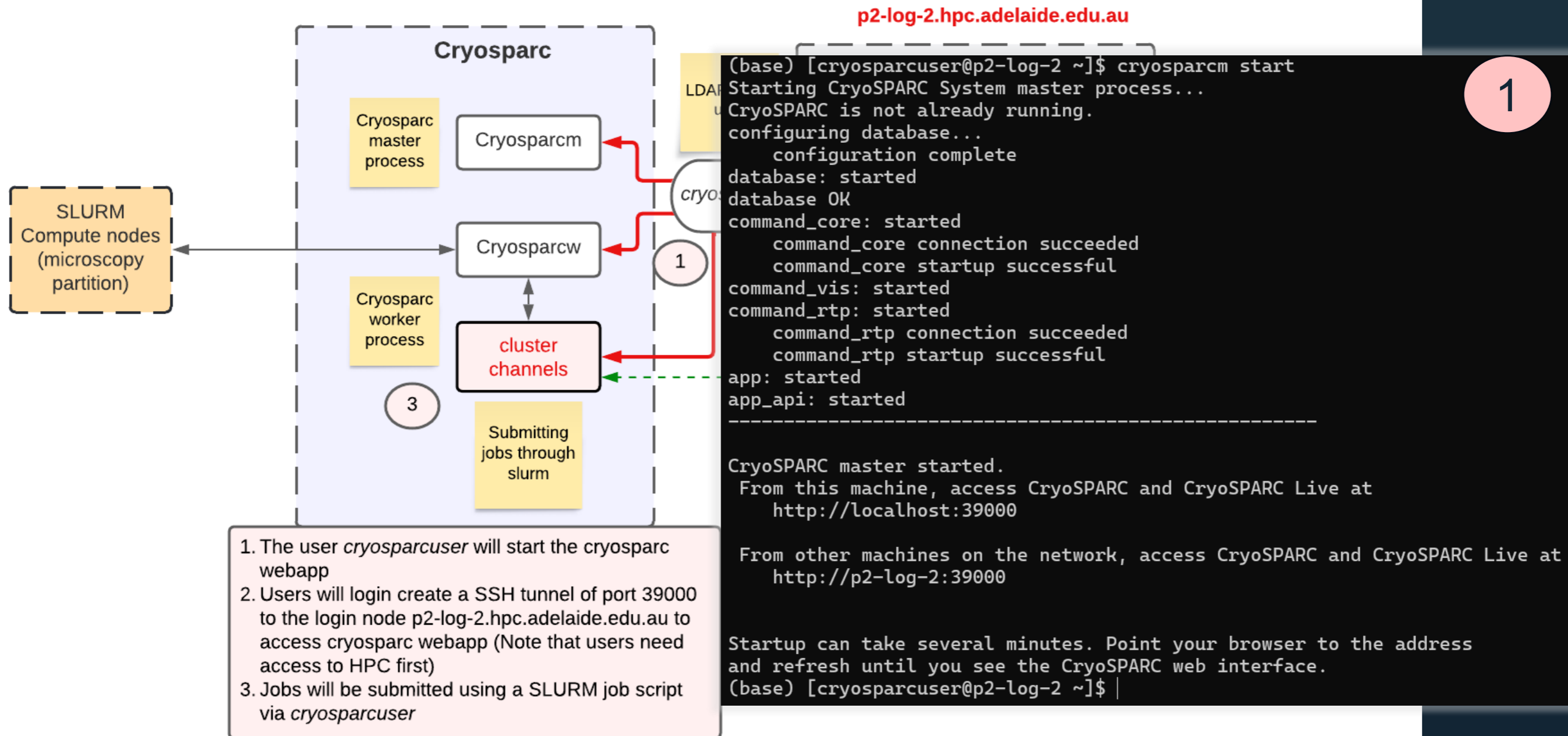


# Cryosparc application high level setup



# Cryosparc high level setup

## 1 Starting up the cryosparc webapp



# Cryosparc high level setup

## 2 Accessing the cryosparc webapp through SSH tunneling

The diagram illustrates the Cryosparc architecture. On the left, SLURM Compute nodes (microscopy partition) connect to Cryosparcw (Cryosparc worker process). Cryosparcw connects to Cryosparcm (Cryosparc master process). Cryosparcm connects to cryosparcuser (LDAP single user). cryosparcuser connects to the Webapp (port 39000) and MongoDB (stored on /apps). The Webapp connects to a User (User created through cryosparcm). A red arrow labeled '1' points from cryosparcuser to MongoDB. A red arrow labeled '2' points from the User to the Webapp.

```
PS C:\Users\A1204390> ssh -L 39000:localhost:39000 a1204390@p2-log-2.hpc.adelaide.edu.au
a1204390@p2-log-2.hpc.adelaide.edu.au's password:
client_input_hostkeys: received duplicated ecdsa-sha2-nistp256 host key
Last login: Tue Oct 14 10:08:26 2025 from 10.12.36.249
(base) [a1204390@p2-log-2 ~]$
```

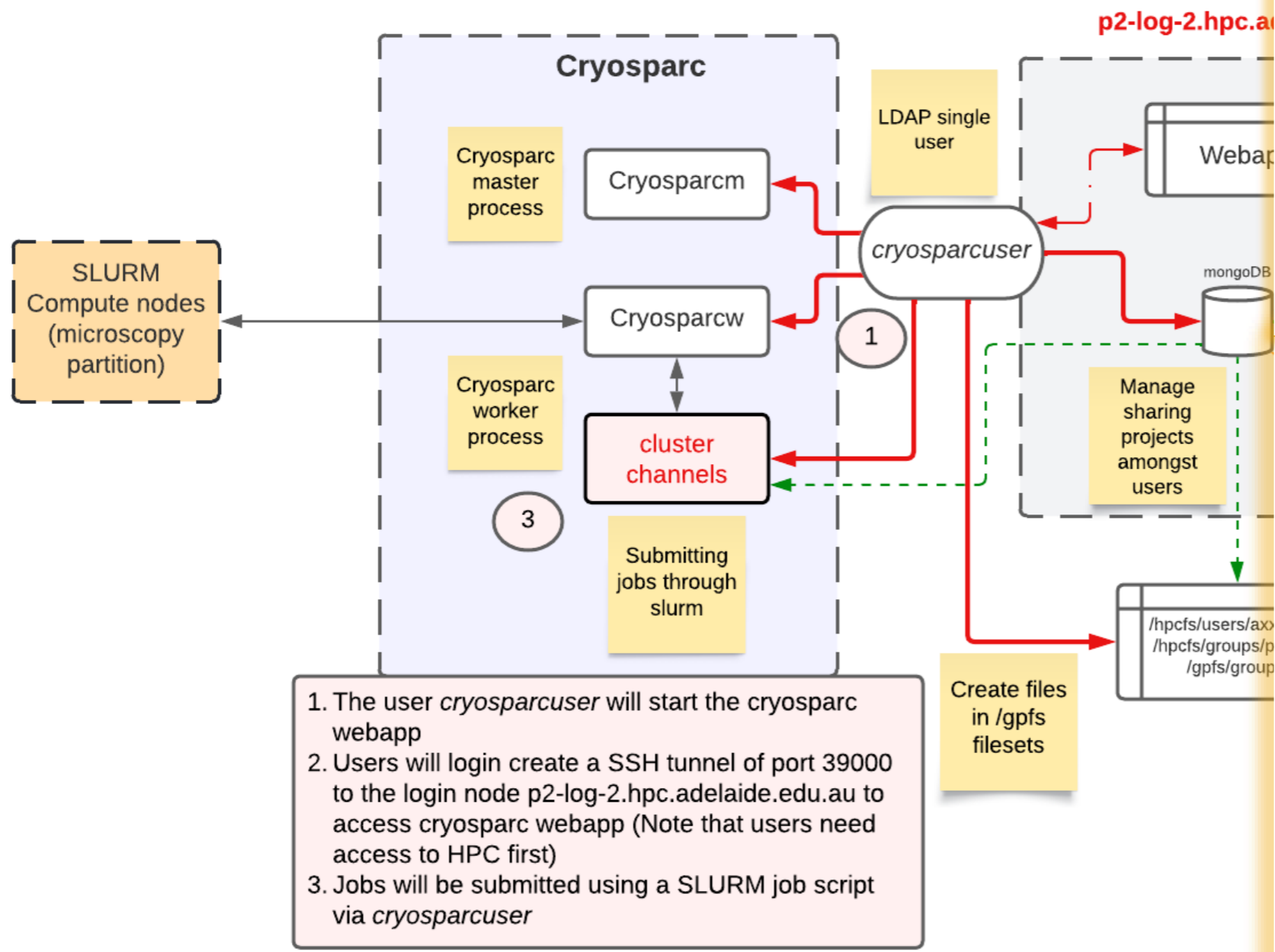
The screenshot shows the CryoSPARC webapp interface. The left sidebar shows the CryoSPARC logo and a login form with fields for Email address and Password, and a Log in button. Below the login form are links for New Account and Reset password. The main content area displays a grid of project cards (P101, P100, P99, P97, P96, P95) with various cryo-EM data visualizations and graphs. The right sidebar shows Instance Stats and Recent Jobs.

	THIS WEEK	THIS MONTH	ALL
PROJECTS	0	2	44
WORKSPACES	0	2	57
JOB	0	78	2,849

Job ID	Status
P76 J270	completed
P76 J269	completed
[Redacted]	completed
[Redacted]	completed
[Redacted]	completed

# Cryosparc high level setup

## 3 Configure a cluster lane for Cryosparc



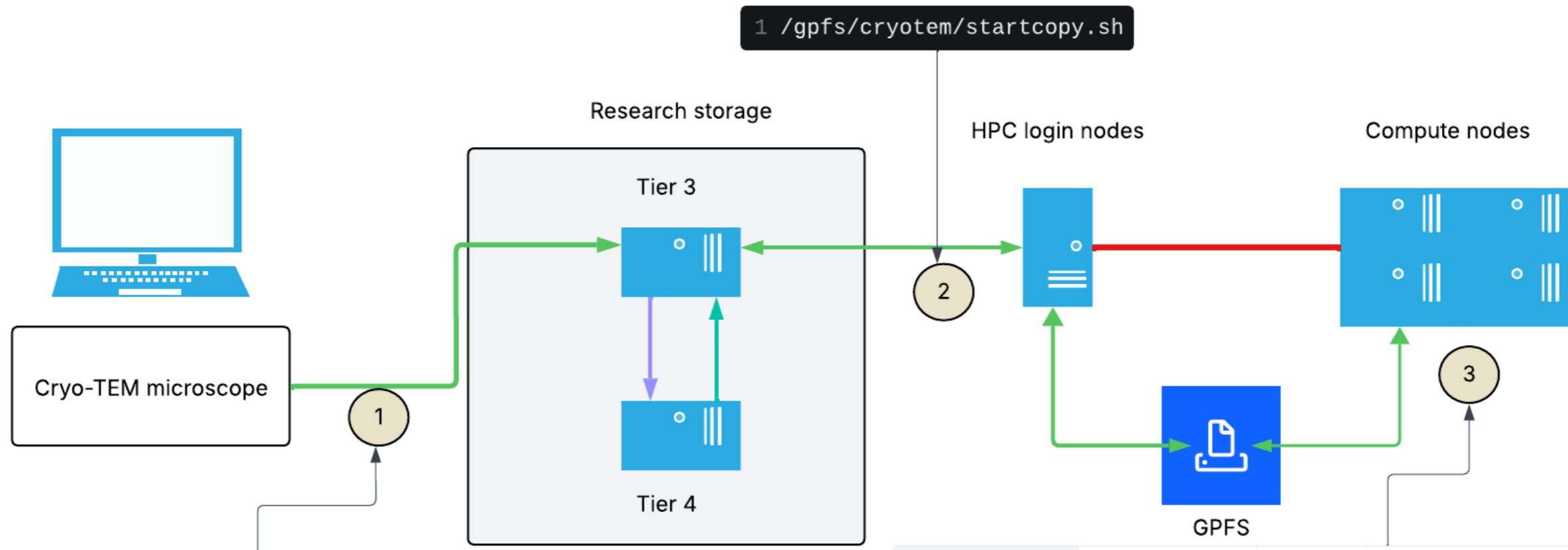
1. The user *cryosparcuser* will start the cryosparc webapp
2. Users will login create a SSH tunnel of port 39000 to the login node *p2-log-2.hpc.adelaide.edu.au* to access cryosparc webapp (Note that users need access to HPC first)
3. Jobs will be submitted using a SLURM job script via *cryosparcuser*

```
1 (base) [a1204390@p2-log-1 hpc1]$ cat cluster_info.json
2 {
3     "name": "hpc1",
4     "title": "hpc1",
5     "worker_bin_path":
6     "/apps/skl/software/CryoSPARC/3.2/cryosparc_worker/bin/cryosparcw",
7     "send_cmd_tpl": "{{ command }}",
8     "qsub_cmd_tpl": "sbatch {{ script_path_abs }}",
9     "qstat_cmd_tpl": "squeue -j {{ cluster_job_id }}",
10    "qdel_cmd_tpl": "scancel {{ cluster_job_id }}",
11    "qinfo_cmd_tpl": "sinfo --format='%0.8N %0.6D %0.10P %0.6T %0.14C %0.5c %0.6z %0.7m %0.7G
12    %0.9d %0.20E'",
13    "cache_path": null,
14    "cache_quota_mb": null,
15    "cache_reserve_mb": 10000
16 }
```

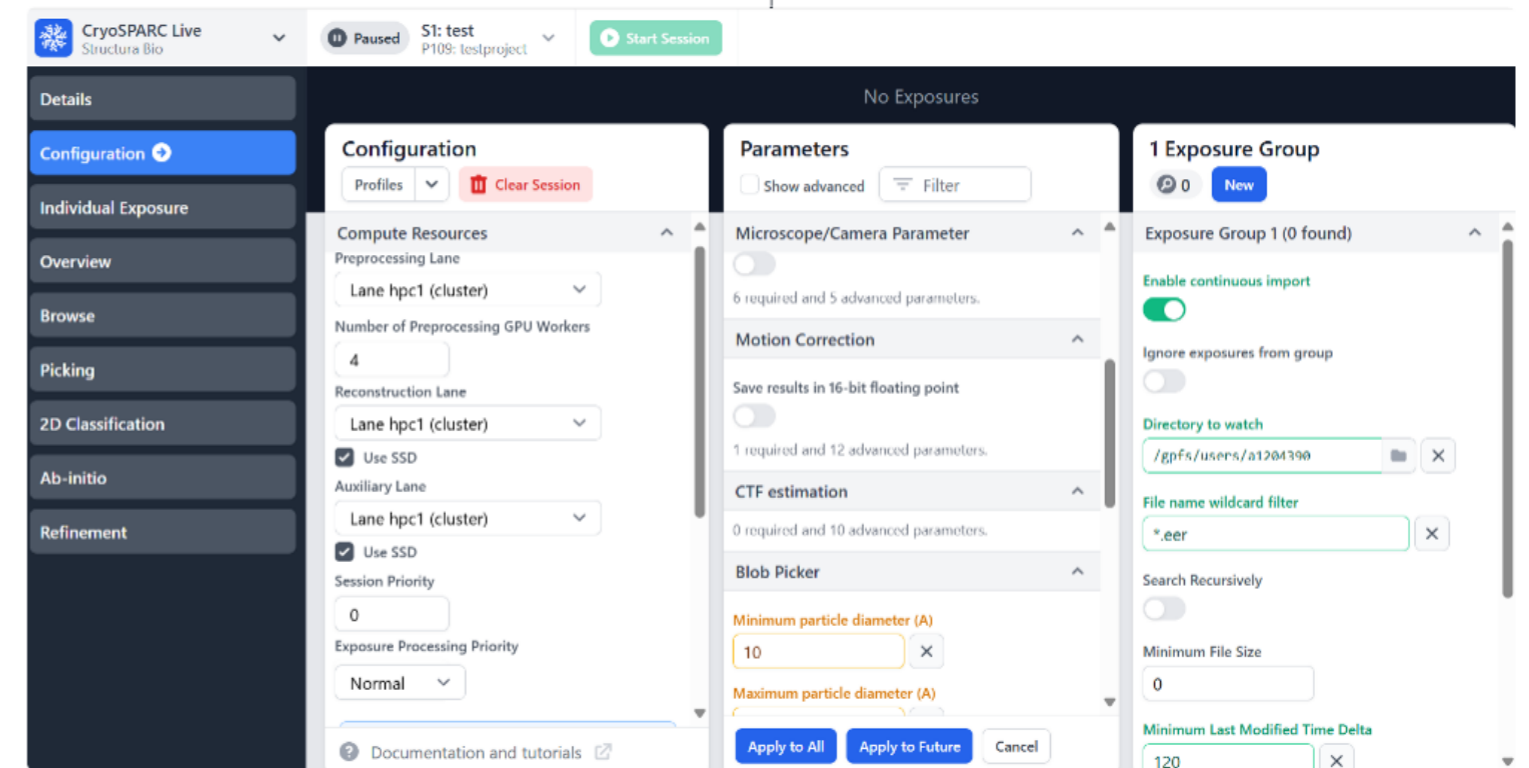
```
1 (base) [a1204390@p2-log-1 hpc1]$ cat cluster_script.sh
2 #!/bin/bash
3 #SBATCH --job-name=cryosparc_{{ project_uid }}_{{ job_uid }}
4 #SBATCH --partition=microscopy
5 #SBATCH --output={{ job_log_path_abs }}
6 #SBATCH --error={{ job_log_path_abs }}
7 #SBATCH --nodes=1
8 #SBATCH --mem={{ (ram_gb*6400)|int }}MB
9 #SBATCH --ntasks-per-node=1
10 #SBATCH --cpus-per-task={{ num_cpu }}
11 #SBATCH --gres=gpu:{{ num_gpu }},tmpfs:500G
12 #SBATCH --gres-flags=enforce-binding
13 #SBATCH --time=2-00:00:00
14 export CRYOSPARC_SSD_PATH=${TMPDIR}
15 module load CUDA/12.2.2
16 module load CUDAcompat/12.2-535.161.08
17 srun {{ run_cmd }}
```

```
(base) [cryosparcuser@p2-log-1 ~]$ cd /apps/skl/software/CryoSPARC/3.2/cryosparc_master/hpc1/
(base) [cryosparcuser@p2-log-1 hpc1]$ cryosparcm cluster connect
```

# Cryosparlive...setup



```
1 $Date = Get-Date -format yyyyMMdd
2
3 robocopy $SourceFolder $DestinationFolder /E /R:10 /W:5 /MT /maxage:$date /MOT:2
```



**HPC copy scripts available in Appendix**

# Cryosparlive...live

```
1 (base) [cryosparcuser@p2-log-2 cryosparcuser]$ squeue --me
2
3 JOBID PARTITION NAME USER ST TIME NODES NODELIST(REASON)
4 6043054 microscop cryospar cryospar R 2:35:43 1 p2-gpu-39
5 6043062 microscop cryospar cryospar R 2:35:43 1 p2-gpu-39
6 6043099 microscop cryospar cryospar R 2:35:43 1 p2-gpu-40
7 6043149 microscop cryospar cryospar R 2:35:43 1 p2-gpu-40
8 6050330 microscop cryospar cryospar R 1:28 1 p3-gpu-42
9 6050252 microscop cryospar cryospar R 30:24 1 p3-gpu-41
10 6043582 microscop cryospar cryospar R 2:29:44 1 p3-gpu-41
```

### Browse

2015 Queued

### Picking

Extraction box size 700px  
Extraction bin size 180px  
Blob particle diameter 106Å

### 2D Classification

**P102 J6** Running

Classes selected 20/50  
Particles Seen 406,711  
Classified so far 393,711  
Available 393,480  
Selected 152,979  
Rejected (duplicates) 231

Updated 1 minute ago  
Updating class averages: re-aligning all particles

### Ab-initio

**P102 J8** Completed

Particles 100,000  
Classes 3  
Symmetry C1  
Elapsed: 26 min 27 s  
Done iteration 1106

### Refinement

**P102 J9** Running

Particles 152,979  
Symmetry C1  
Elapsed: 43 min 36 s  
Updated 2 minutes ago

### Refinement

P102 J9 Settings Refinement: P102 J9 GSFSC: 8.62Å

[CPU: 9.40 GB Avail: 484.93 GB] Plotting..

Real Space Slices Iteration 028 [png] [pdf]

Fourier Space Slices Iteration 028 [png] [pdf]

Real Space Mask Slices Iteration 028 [png] [pdf]

# Cryosparc on HPC

Advantage	Issues	Potential resolution?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Instantaneous access to scalable compute resources (thanks to strategic reservation of compute nodes) + concurrent analysis.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>⚠ Data transfer is still a <i>manual</i> process. Multiple steps required to ensure Cryosparc can successfully fetch data</li></ul>	<p>Looking at Active File Management (AFM) to cache the data from archival storage to GPFS.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Access to high end GPUs with High performance scratch storage and 100+Gbps interconnect</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>⚠ Projects separated by users/group but <i>cryosparcuser</i> needs Posix access to all raw data that must be imported → <b>users can potentially access other users input files.</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Containerized Cryosparc?</li><li>• LDAP integrated Cryosparc?</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Ability to split A100 GPUs into smaller multi-instance GPUs for increased throughput</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Cryosparc webapp currently needs IT or HPC personnel to restart in case something goes wrong -&gt; <b>Potential delays</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Systemd restart script</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Cryosparc webapp can be started in other login nodes in case one login node is down</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Overall, more control from microscopy staff and users over data tiering and access</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Setuid script allowing clean processes kill and service restart by Cryo-TEM admin</li></ul>

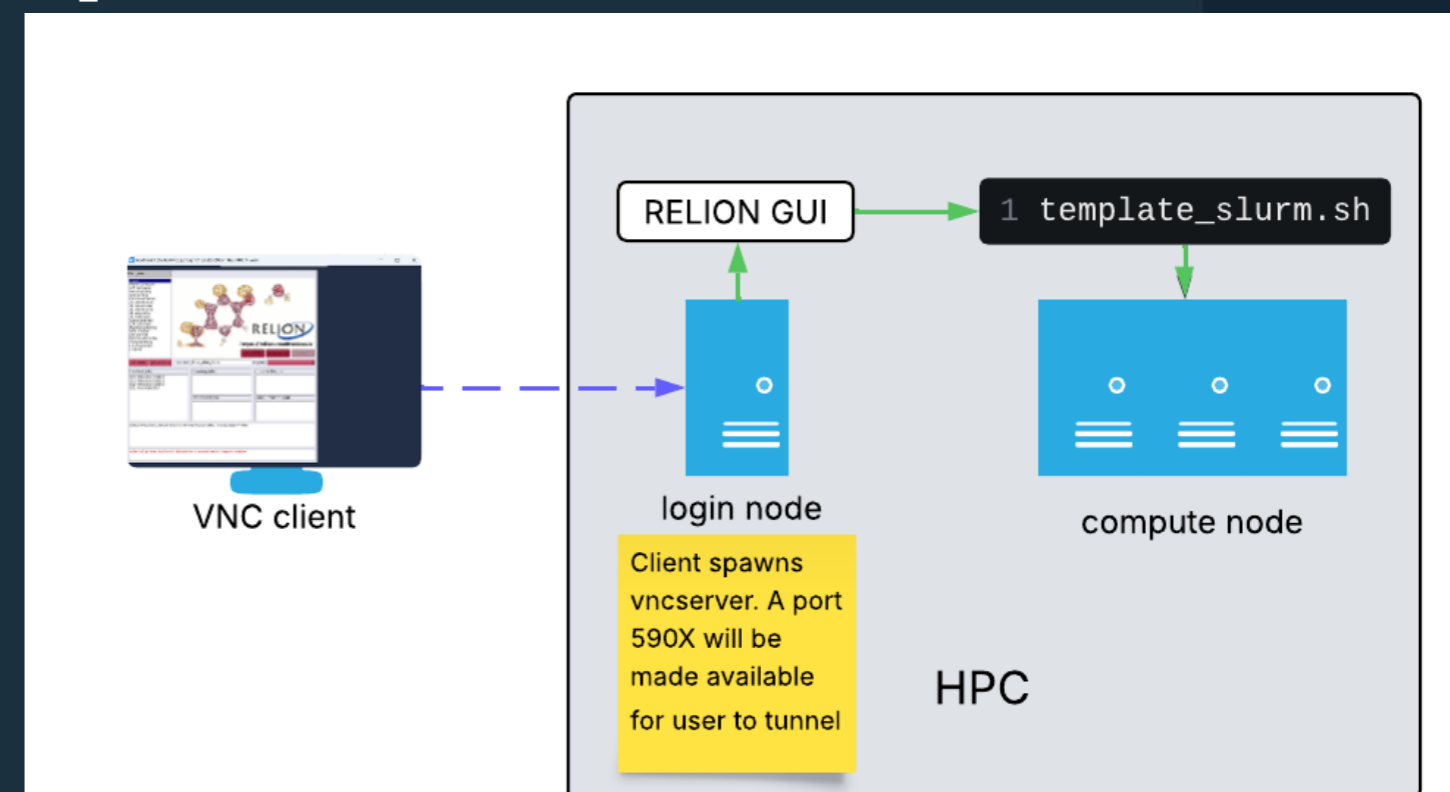


# Relion installation and setup

## Installation and setup

- Requires VNC server (or anything that can provide a graphic interface) if user interface is a requirement.
- Used **EasyBuild** installation tools for dependencies but user personal conda environment for RELION installation.
- **Use template job scripts available to users for RELION GUI to submit jobs on compute nodes. Must add for multi-nodes and GPUS:**

```
1 export RELION_QSUB_EXTRA_COUNT=2
2 export RELION_QSUB_EXTRA1="Number of nodes:"
3 export RELION_QSUB_EXTRA1_DEFAULT="1"
4 export RELION_QSUB_EXTRA2="Number of GPUs:"
5 export RELION_QSUB_EXTRA2_DEFAULT="0"
```



```
1 (base) [a1204390@p2-log-1 cryotem]$ cat template_slurm.sh
2 #!/bin/bash
3 #SBATCH -N XXXnodesXXX
4 #SBATCH --ntasks-per-node=XXXmpinodesXXX
5 #SBATCH --partition=XXXqueueXXX
6 #SBATCH --error=XXXerrfileXXX
7 #SBATCH --gres=gpu:XXXextra2XXX
8
9 module load RELION
10 module load Ghostscript/9.56.1-GCCcore-11.3.0
11 export OMP_NUM_THREADS=XXXthreadsXXX
12 mpiexec -np XXXmpinodesXXX --bind-to-core --map-by
ppr:XXXmpinodesXXX:node:pe=XXXthreadsXXX -x OMP_NUM_THREADS XXXcommandXXX
```

# RELION GUI on HPC

Advantage	Issues	Potential resolution?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Template job script good to avoid inefficient resources setup</li><li>✓ Leverage HPC application specialist for tedious software installation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>⚠ VNC on login nodes can be tedious and with limited features (as opposed to proper VDIs)</li><li>⚠ <b>Relion workflows may have dependencies to other modules and thus need constant support to ensure new jobs does not fail due to missing libraries/python packages.</b></li></ul>	<p>Open on Demand?</p> <p>- Singularity image and template script to call singularity images to deal with complexity of installation</p>

# The bigger picture....

- **Current setup shows great capability to scale.**
- **Steep learning curve for new users to fully take advantage of such infrastructure**
  - **Need scripts/solutions for better user experience in both compute and data management AND/OR**
  - **Sacrifice performance for better user experience AND/OR**
  - **Integrate with other e-infrastructure (e,g Nectar VMs)?**

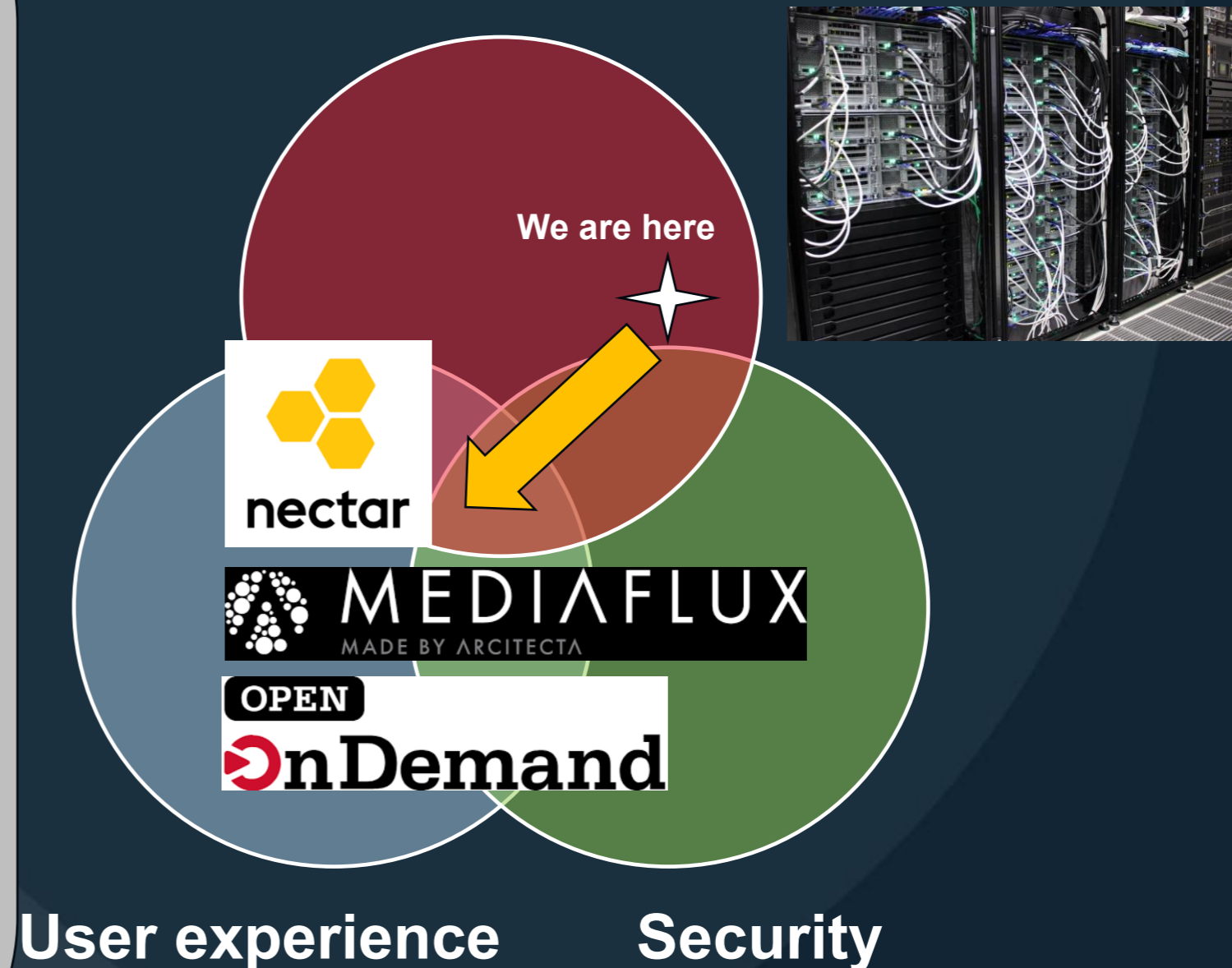
## Performance scalability



# The bigger picture....

- **Current setup shows great capability to scale.**
- **Steep learning curve for new users to fully take advantage of such infrastructures**
  - **Need scripts/solutions for better user experience in both compute and data management AND/OR**
  - **Sacrifice performance for better user experience AND/OR**
  - **Integrate with other e-infrastructure (e,g Nectar VMs)?**

## Performance scalability



**make  
history.**



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* ADELAIDE

**Thank you**



# Appendix : HPC startcopy script

```
1 (base) [a1204390@p2-log-2 cryotem]$ cat startcopy.sh
2 #!/bin/bash
3
4 #Check if an existing session is running"
5 IS_RUNNING=$(screen -ls | grep robocopy)
6 ANSWER=""
7 if [[ ! ${IS_RUNNING} == "" ]]
8 then
9     echo -e "It seems that robocopy instance is already running\nPlease stop robocopy
10     exit 1
11 else
12     while [[ ! ${ANSWER} =~ [nNyY] ]]
13     do
14         echo -e "Do you want to remove the content?[yY/nN]"
15         read ANSWER
16         if [[ ${ANSWER} =~ [yY] ]]
17         then
18             echo -e "Removing files now in /gpfs/cryotem/cryosparc_live"
19             rm -rf /gpfs/cryotem/cryosparc_live/*
20         elif [[ ${ANSWER} =~ [nN] ]]
21         then
22             echo "keeping the files but please make sure to eventually remove them\n"
23         fi
24     done
25     echo "Starting robocopy in the background"
26     screen -S robocopy -d -m /gpfs/cryotem/livecopy.sh
27 fi
```

```
1 (base) [a1204390@p2-log-2 cryotem]$ cat livecopy.sh
2 #!/bin/bash
3 #This script will read the folder to copy, the config must be full path
4 TARGET="/gpfs/cryotem/cryosparc_live/"
5 while true
6 do
7     sleep 10
8     FOLDERARRAY=$(grep \#FOLDER copypath.config | awk '{print $NF}')
9     for FOLDER in ${FOLDERARRAY[@]}
10    do
11        echo Start tranferring content ${FOLDER} into ${TARGET} >>/gpfs/cryotem/
12        cp -ru ${FOLDER} ${TARGET} &
13    done
14 wait
15 done
16
```

```
1 (base) [a1204390@p2-log-2 cryotem]$ cat copypath.config.example
2 #FOLDER /uofaresstor/cryotem/user_data/<examplepath>/
```

startcopy.sh :

- 1/ first verify whether the older livedata can be discarded.
- 2/ Create a *screen* session that copies the data from archival storage to HPC storage
- 3/ copypath.config helps for finer selection of folders to be copied across.

