

ASCI Blue Mountain

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ASCI (Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative) was created after the 1992 US moratorium on nuclear testing with the aim of providing the stockpile stewardship an increase in simulation capability of 5 orders of magnitude. This increase would be provided partly by building new, powerful one-of-a-kind supercomputers and partly by finding algorithms that would work well on these computers. The first two ASCI computers, ASCI Red and ASCI Blue Mountain became operational in 1997 and 1998, and were the first to break the 1 Pflop/s limit on the LINPACK benchmark.

This talk will describe ASCI Blue Mountain, the experiences made using this system for conjugate gradient methods with sparse matrices and try to draw conclusions relevant for contemporary computer systems.