



Leibniz Supercomputing Centre
of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities

The background of the slide is a photograph of the Leibniz Supercomputing Centre building, which is a large, modern, multi-story structure with a complex facade of glass and metal panels. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The building is situated in an urban environment with trees and other buildings visible in the background.

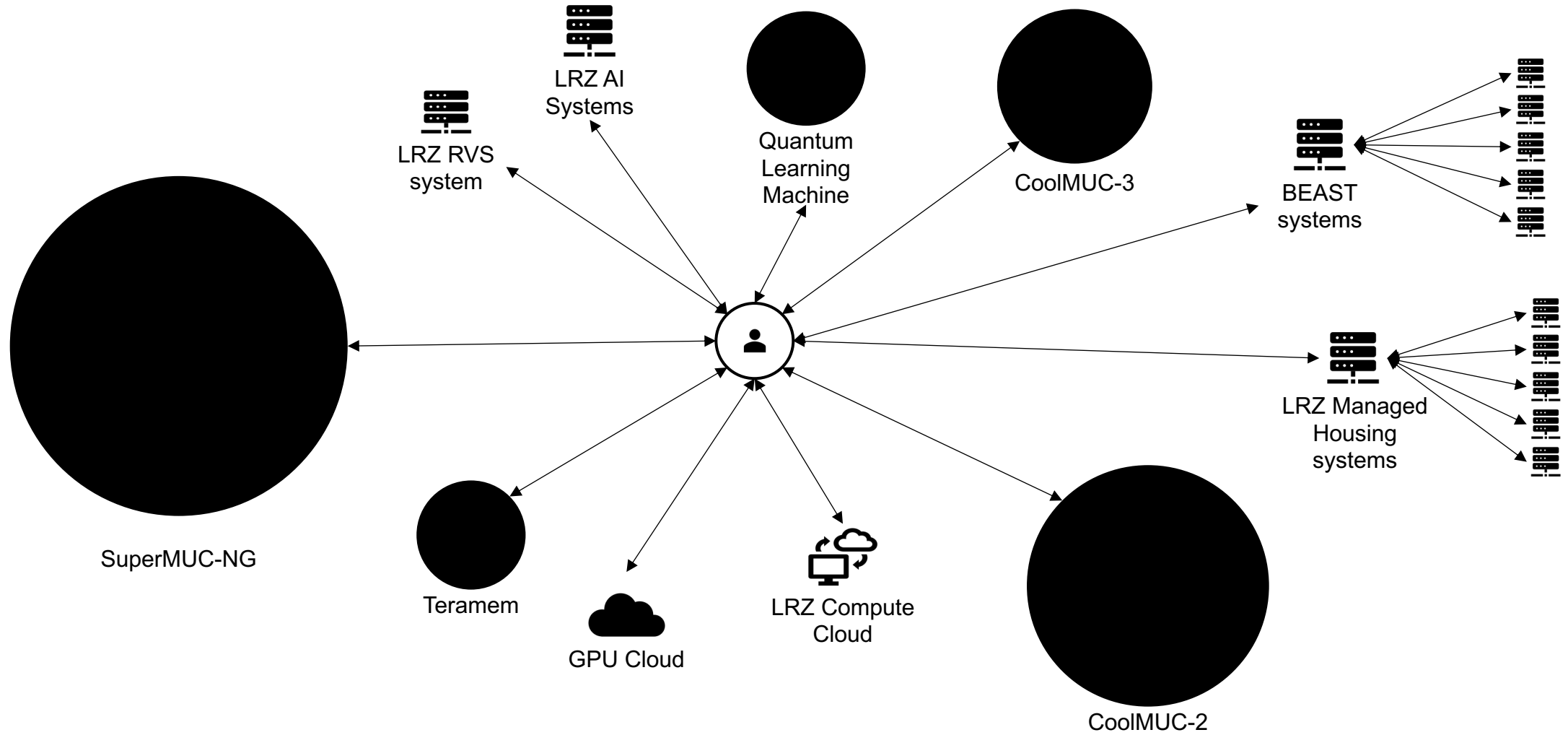
Leibniz Supercomputing Centre

Software Ecosystem at LRZ | 14.10.2022 | Nisarg Patel

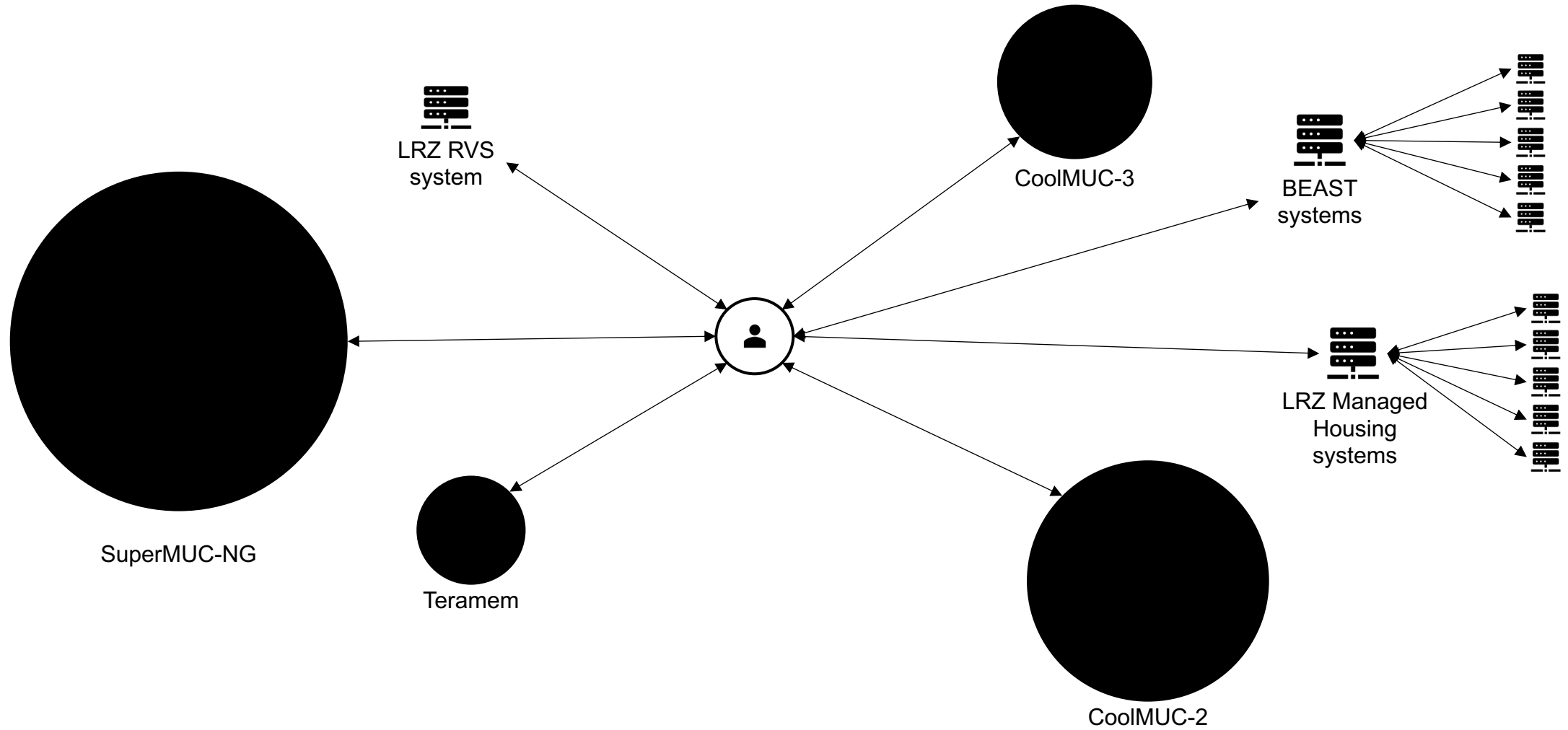
Motivation

- Introducing compute resources and software ecosystem on it.
- Understating the complexity in providing a fully-featured software – “dependency-hell”.
- LRZ software stack overview - list of modules available for users
- Using Spack on top of LRZ provided software ecosystem
 - Chaining & User Spack
 - Spack environments
- User Spack internals and in-dept view

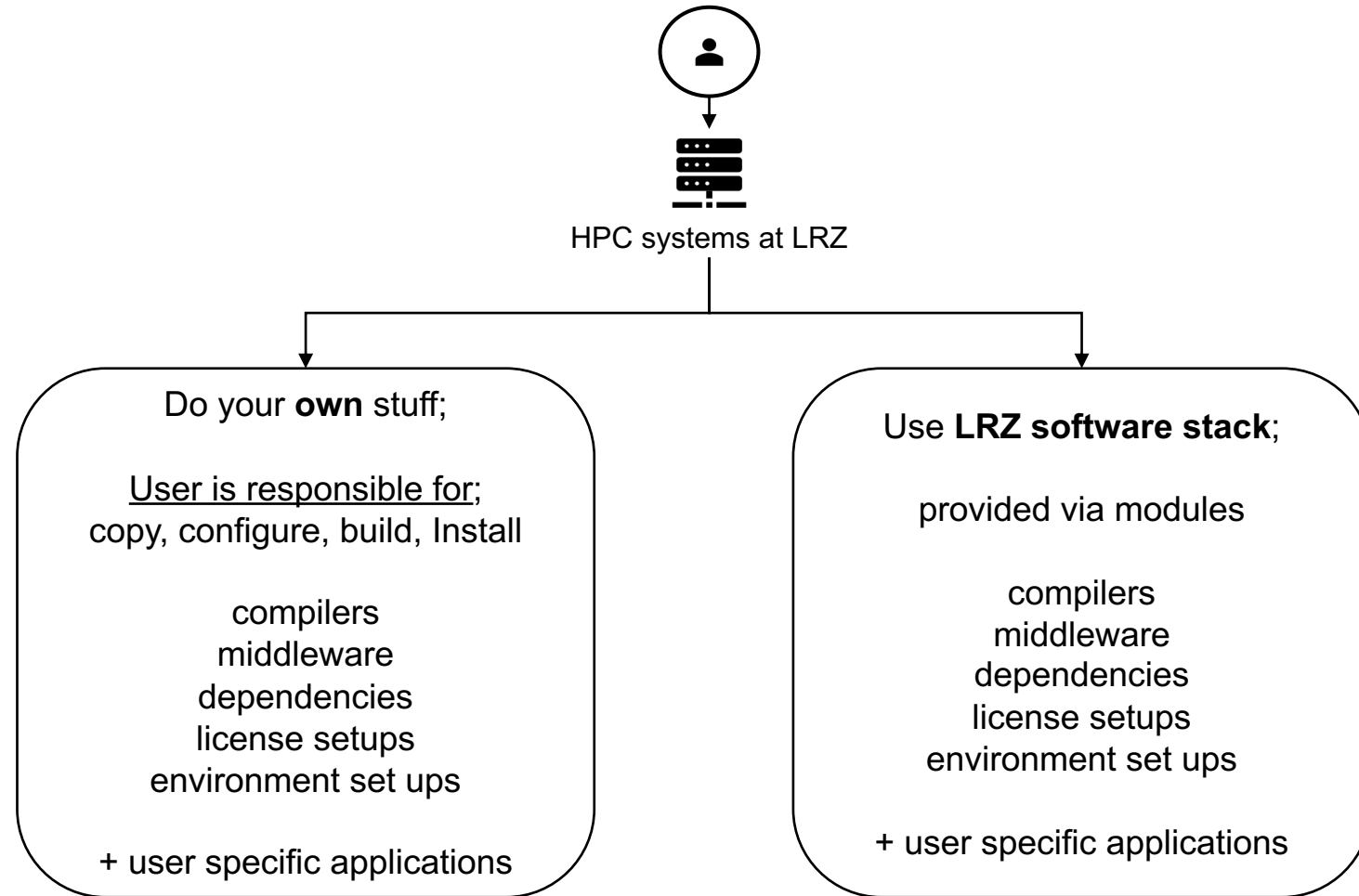
Available compute resources at LRZ



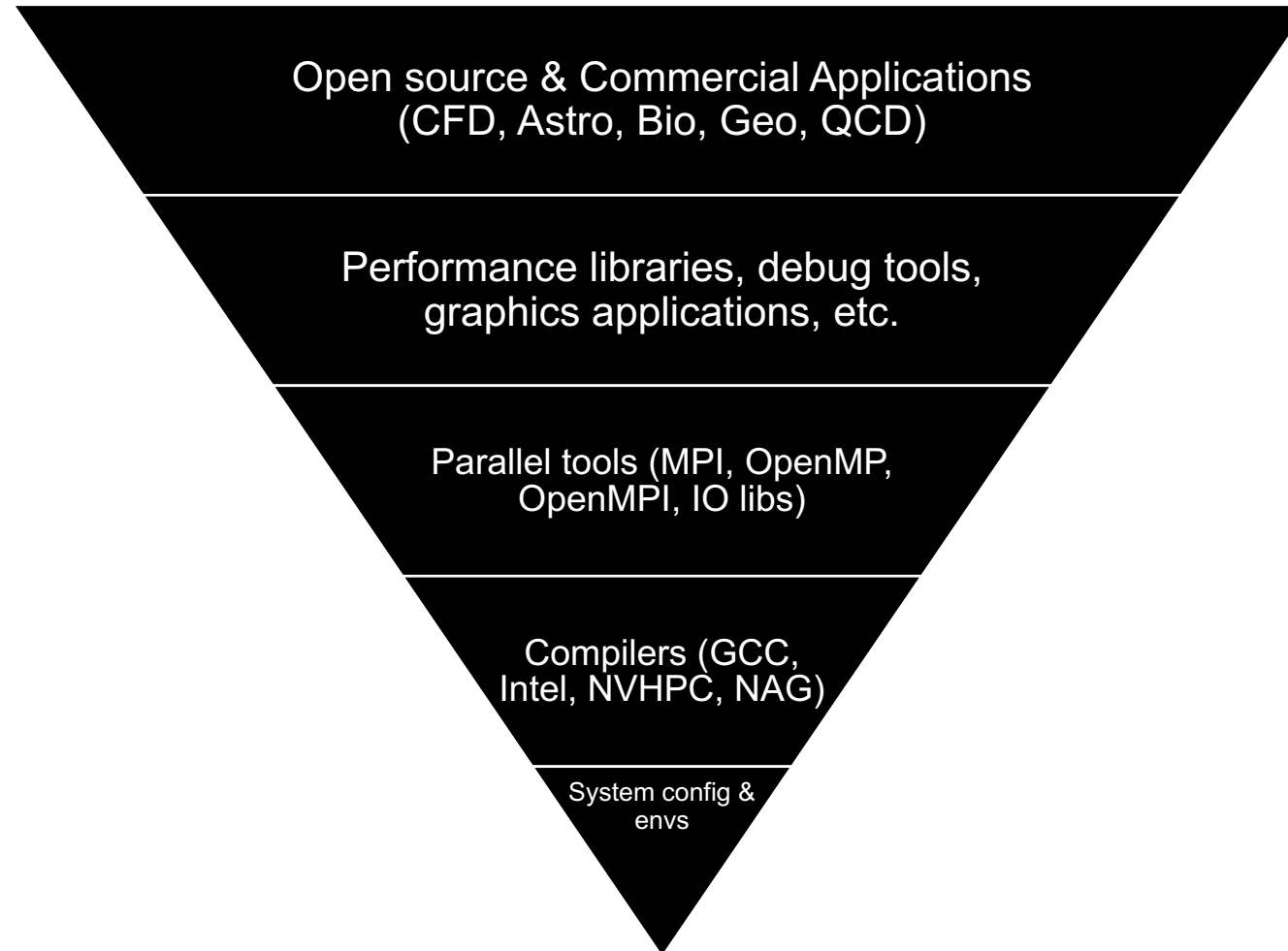
Software ecosystem on compute resources at LRZ



Getting user application ready for HPC

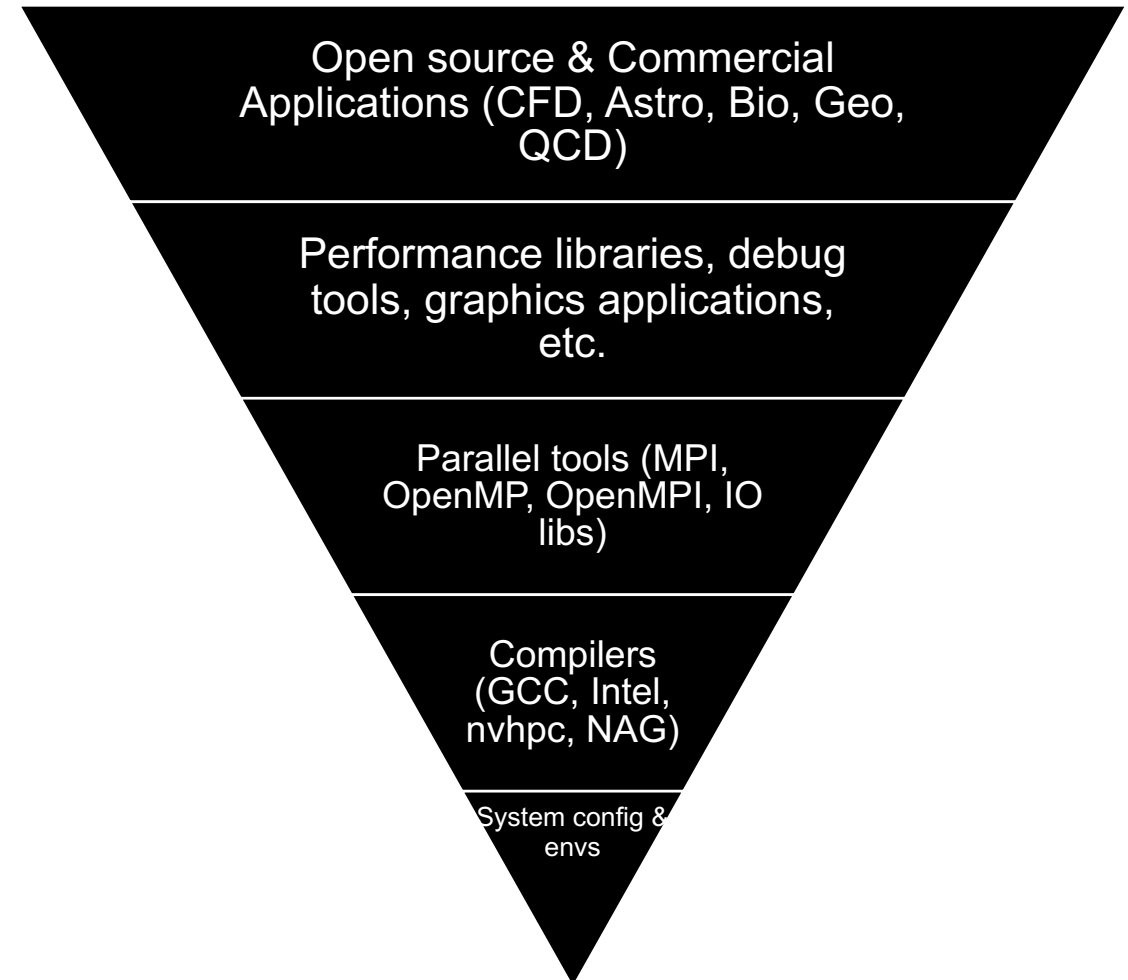


Software ecosystem/stack on compute resources



Software stack on compute resources

- In total about ~400 modules on each of these machines,
 - SuperMUC-NG
 - CoolMUC-2
 - CoolMUC-3
- Libraries and applications are build for,
 - Specific architectures
 - Skylake
 - Haswell
 - KNL
 - General build
 - x86_64
- A trimmed software stack on,
 - Housing systems
 - BEAST systems
 - RVS system
- Baring most commercial applications, **about >90%** of all software/libraries are provided with the help of **Spack**.



What is an Environmental Module?



- Modules provide a flexible way to configure and access various applications, compilers, tools and libraries dynamically by managing the shell environment
- In other words modules allow for the dynamic modification of environment variables such as;
 - library paths
 - binary paths
 - license server settings
 - application specific configurations

```
local PC :~> ssh lxlogin1.lrz.de

cm2login1:~> module list

1) admin/1.0 2) tmpdir/1.0 3) lrz/1.0 4) spack/22.2.1
5) intel-oneapi-compilers/2021.4.0 6) intel-mkl/2020 7) intel-mpi/2019-intel

cm2login1:~> module show intel-oneapi-compilers

conflict      intel-oneapi-compilers
conflict      intel pgi nag intel-parallel-studio
prepend-path  LD_LIBRARY_PATH      /lrz/sys/spack/release/22.2.1/opt/...
prepend-path  PATH                  /lrz/sys/spack/release/22.2.1/opt/...
setenv        CC          icx
setenv        CXX         icpx
setenv        CPP         {icx -E}
setenv        FC          ifx
setenv        FORT_BUFFERED true
setenv        FORT_BLOCKSIZE c
module-whatis compilers:fortran/c/c++/dpc++:icx:icpx:ifx:ifort:icc

cm2login1:~> module avail gcc

gcc/8.5.0 gcc/9.4.0 gcc/10.3.0 gcc/11.2.0

cm2login1:~> module load gcc
```


Providing software with Spack at LRZ

- In the past at LRZ ...
- Software stack on LRZ HPC-systems used to be provided via the module system in a non-orchestrated way with hand-written TCL-files to make installations available:
applications/libraries/tools/compilers
- Limitations:
 - Non-transparent or oblique conflicts and/or dependencies of packages
 - Non-transparent package-configs and build-variants
 - Builds often not reproducible (documentation issue)
- Since 2018 at LRZ ...
- Most software (barring a few commercial software) we provide are installed using Spack.
- Advantages:
 - Spack Builds are self-documenting
 - Package-builds are typically reproducible
 - Spack-compiler wrappers inject compiler-flags for the target-architecture -> optimized software stack
 - Installation of many package-variants do not disturb each other -> many packages may peacefully coexist
 - Installation (fetch/configure/build/install/module-create) of the software is automatized

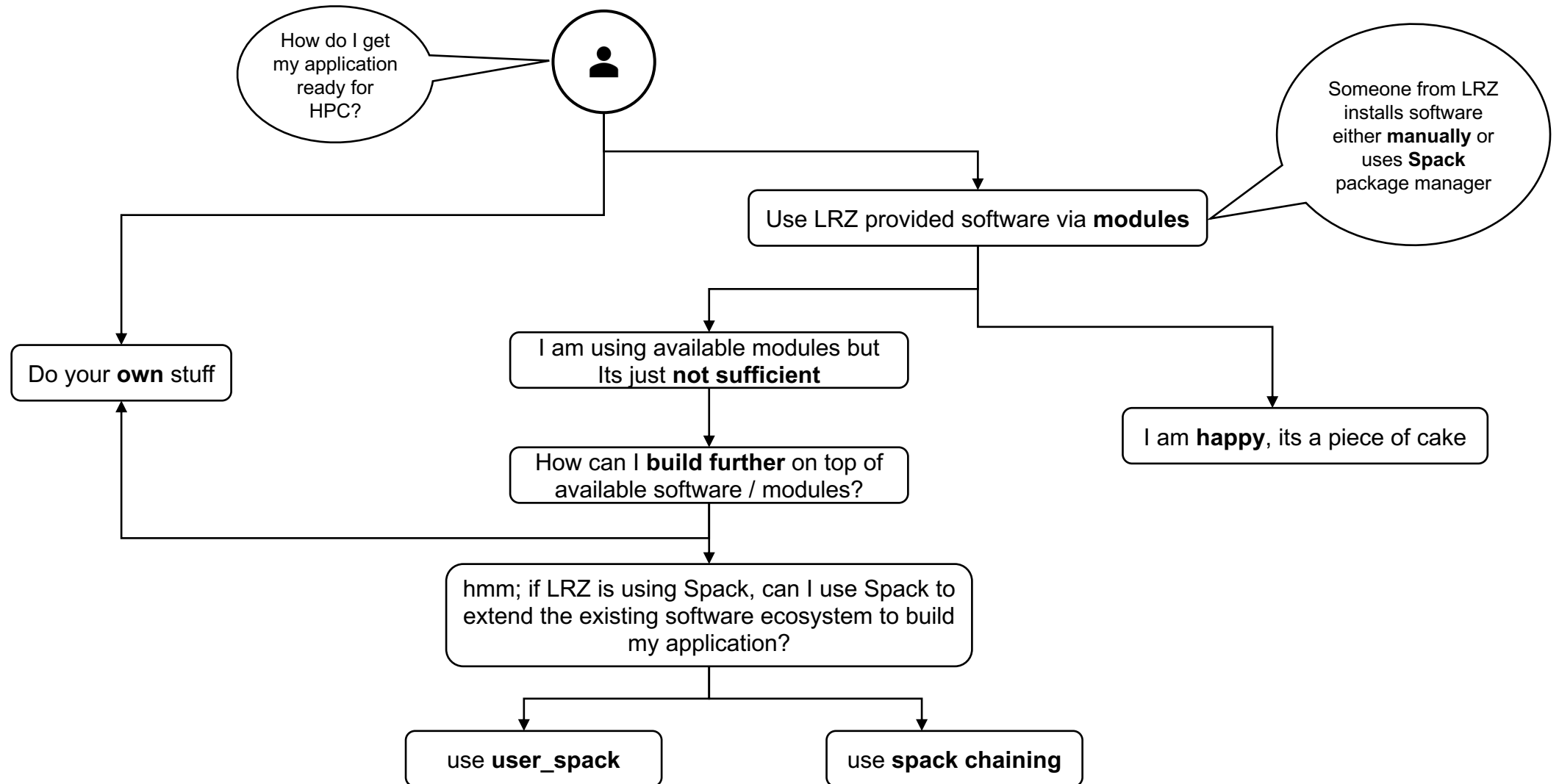
Spack is one of many package-managers



- **Functional Cross-Platform Package Managers:**
e.g Nix (NixOs), Gnu Guix (Gnu Guix Linux) ... use hashes in install-dirs
- **Build-from-source Package Managers**
e.g. HomeBrew/LinuxBrew
- **Package Managers for specific scripting languages**
e.g. Pip (Python), NPM (Javascript)
- **Easy Build:**
installation framework for managing scientific software on HPC-systems
- **Conda:**
popular binary package managers for Python and R (but also for other rpm-like packaging in user-space). Easy to use.
In general no architecture optimized binaries, not targeted at HPC



Flow chart to get my application ready for HPC



If you want to use Spack,
you might want to know about it

What is Spack? In a nutshell

- Spack automates the fetch, configure and installation of scientific software.
- It's a package manager and not build tool, like cmake / Autotools.
- Spack works out of the box. Only few prerequisites from system side, like basic python, git, make, c/c++ compiler, etc.
- Simply clone Spack to get going.

```
[>git clone https://github.com/spack/spack
Cloning into 'spack'...
remote: Enumerating objects: 355317, done.
remote: Total 355317 (delta 0), reused 0 (delta 0), pack-reused 355317
Receiving objects: 100% (355317/355317), 159.99 MiB | 23.13 MiB/s, done.
Resolving deltas: 100% (151370/151370), done.
Updating files: 100% (9087/9087), done.
>
[>. spack/share/spack/setup-env.sh
>
```

```
>spack install zlib
==> Installing zlib-1.2.11-fy5vijvec3tmqbdnsh4q3wkmqspzb5a
==> No binary for zlib-1.2.11-fy5vijvec3tmqbdnsh4q3wkmqspzb5a found: installing from source
==> Fetching https://mirror.spack.io/_source-cache/archive/c3/c3e5e9fdd5004dcb542feda5ee4f0ff0744628baf8ed2dd5d66f8ca1197cb1a1.tar.gz
==> No patches needed for zlib
==> zlib: Executing phase: 'install'
==> zlib: Successfully installed zlib-1.2.11-fy5vijvec3tmqbdnsh4q3wkmqspzb5a
Fetch: 0.29s. Build: 2.18s. Total: 2.48s.
[+] /dss/dsshome1/09/di36pex/demo_spack/spack/opt/spack/linux-sles15-haswell/gcc-8.4.0/zlib-1.2.11-fy5vijvec3tmqbdnsh4q3wkmqspzb5a
```


What is Spack? In a nutshell

- Spack can install many different variants of the same package, to name a few:
 - package-versions
 - different compilers
 - different MPI-implementations
 - different build options
- Most important terminology using Spack is **“spec”**
 - Spec is what comes after “spack install” command.
 - Specs refer to a particular build configuration of a package.
 - “Specs” are more than package name. It can contain the compiler, compiler version, architecture, compile options, and dependency options for a build.
- Installation locations are separated via unique hashes
 - installations may peacefully coexist (dynamic linking with RPATH)
- The installation location of any package will also contain,
 - dump (in form of text files) of environment during installation, output from installation, configure arguments, and concretized spack-specs
- Install a package
 - `spack install hdf5`
- Install a particular version by appending @
 - `spack install hdf5@1.12.1`
- Specify a compiler (and its version), with %
 - `spack install hdf5%gcc@11.2.0`
- Add special boolean compile-time options with +
 - `spack install hdf5@1.12.1%gcc@11.2.0 +fortran +hl`
- Add compiler flags using the conventional names
 - `spack install hdf5%gcc@11.2.0 +cxx cppflags="-O3 -floop-block"`
- Add micro-architecture with target (for cross compiling)
 - `$ spack install hdf5@1.12.1%gcc target=skylake_avx512`

Finding version and variants of a package

- Spack will fetch all the information from a “package file” of a package.

➤ Spack info <package name>

```
>spack info hdf5
CMakePackage:  hdf5

Description:
  HDF5 is a data model, library, and file format for storing and managing
  data. It supports an unlimited variety of datatypes, and is designed for
  flexible and efficient I/O and for high volume and complex data.

Homepage: https://portal.hdfgroup.org

Maintainers: @lrxknox @brtnfld @byrnHDF @ChristopherHogan @epourmal @gheber @hyoklee @lkurz @soumagne

Externally Detectable:
  False

Tags:
  e4s

Preferred version:
  1.12.1      https://support.hdfgroup.org/ftp/HDF5/releases/hdf5-1.12/hdf5-1.12.1/src/hdf5-1.12.1.tar.gz

Safe versions:
  develop-1.13 [git] https://github.com/HDFGroup/hdf5.git on branch develop
  1.8.10      https://support.hdfgroup.org/ftp/HDF5/releases/hdf5-1.8/hdf5-1.8.10/src/hdf5-1.8.10.tar.gz

Deprecated versions:
  None

Variants:
  Name [Default]      When      Allowed values      Description
  =====
  api [default]      --      default, v114, v112, v110, v18, v16      Choose api compatibility for earlier version
  build_type [RelWithDebInfo] --      Debug, Release, RelWithDebInfo, MinSizeRel      CMake build type
  cxx [off]          --      on, off              Enable C++ support
  fortran [off]     --      on, off              Enable Fortran support
  hl [off]           --      on, off              Enable the high-level library
  ipo [off]         --      on, off              CMake interprocedural optimization
  java [off]        --      on, off              Enable Java support
  mpi [on]          --      on, off              Enable MPI support
  threadsafe [off]  --      on, off              Enable thread-safe capabilities
  tools [on]        --      on, off              Enable building tools

Installation Phases:
  cmake  build  install

Build Dependencies:
  cmake  java  mpi  numactl  szip  zlib

Link Dependencies:
  mpi  numactl  szip  zlib

Run Dependencies:
  java  pkgconfig
```

Concretization: dependency tree of a package

- Spack will fetch all the information from a “package file” of a package.
 - Spack info <package name>
- Listing a dependency graph before you go ahead with an installation
 - Spack spec -INTL <package name>
- Spack spec gives you full concretized map of the package

```
>spack spec -INT hdf5 +fortran +hl
Input spec
-----
- [ ] .hdf5+fortran+hl

Concretized
-----
- qhat2bv [ ] builtin.hdf5@1.12.1%gcc@8.4.0~cxx+fortran+hl~ipo~java+mpi+shared~szip~threadsa
- i5dqbwv [b ] ^builtin.cmake@3.22.2%gcc@8.4.0~doc+ncurses+openssl+ownlibs~qt build_type=
- lg6uazi [bl ] ^builtin.ncurses@6.2%gcc@8.4.0~symlinks+termLib abi=none arch=linux-sle
- daqug65 [b r ] ^builtin.pkgconf@1.8.0%gcc@8.4.0 arch=linux-sles15-haswell
- 2zfrt75 [bl ] ^builtin.openssl@1.1.1m%gcc@8.4.0~docs certs=system arch=linux-sles15-
- zveogua [b r ] ^builtin.perl@5.34.0%gcc@8.4.0+cpanm+shared+threads arch=linux-sle
- t5a6kg1 [bl ] ^builtin.berkeley-db@18.1.40%gcc@8.4.0+cxx~docs+stl patches=b2
- dpfohvz [bl ] ^builtin.bz2@1.0.8%gcc@8.4.0~debug~pic+shared arch=linux-sle
- ji7jj7r [b ] ^builtin.diffutils@3.8%gcc@8.4.0 arch=linux-sles15-haswell
- rtusfmn [bl ] ^builtin.libiconv@1.16%gcc@8.4.0 libs=shared,static ar
- b3okknr [bl ] ^builtin.gdbm@1.19%gcc@8.4.0 arch=linux-sles15-haswell
- tjseh3 [bl ] ^builtin.readline@8.1%gcc@8.4.0 arch=linux-sles15-haswell
[+] fy5vijv [bl ] ^builtin.zlib@1.2.11%gcc@8.4.0+optimize+pic+shared arch=linux-
- sklqwij [bl ] ^builtin.numactl@2.0.14%gcc@8.4.0 patches=4e1d78cbbb85de625bad28705e748856
f599cfabf0740518b91ec8daaf18e8f288b19adaae5364dc1f6b2296 arch=linux-sles15-haswell
- kyq3asj [b ] ^builtin.autoconf@2.69%gcc@8.4.0 patches=35c449281546376449766f92d49fc
5bac3b62daa0ff688ab4d508d71dbd2f4f8d7e2a02321926346161bf3ee arch=linux-sles15-haswell
- 1x4bpg [b r ] ^builtin.m4@1.4.19%gcc@8.4.0+sigsegv patches=9dc5fbd0d5cb1037ab1e6
89 arch=linux-sles15-haswell
- 6zmn6dv [bl ] ^builtin.libsigsegv@2.13%gcc@8.4.0 arch=linux-sles15-haswell
- y77iduv [b ] ^builtin.automake@1.16.5%gcc@8.4.0 arch=linux-sles15-haswell
- kyyaw3y [b ] ^builtin.libtool@2.4.6%gcc@8.4.0 arch=linux-sles15-haswell
- 17ukpnd [bl ] ^builtin.openmpi@4.1.2%gcc@8.4.0~atomics~cuda~cxx~exceptions+gpfs~inte
e+vt+wrapper~rpath fabrics=none schedulers=none arch=linux-sles15-haswell
- gzlecom [bl ] ^builtin.hwloc@2.7.0%gcc@8.4.0~cairo~cuda~gl~libudev+libxml2~netloc~nv
- qxup3jg [bl ] ^builtin.libpciaccess@0.16%gcc@8.4.0 arch=linux-sles15-haswell
- kg3gaar [b ] ^builtin.util-macros@1.19.3%gcc@8.4.0 arch=linux-sles15-haswell
- wwlegeg [bl ] ^builtin.libxml2@2.9.12%gcc@8.4.0~python arch=linux-sles15-haswell
- 4syc2vd [bl ] ^builtin.xz@5.2.5%gcc@8.4.0~pic libs=shared,static arch=linux-
- 4sogqx7 [bl ] ^builtin.libevent@2.1.12%gcc@8.4.0+openssl arch=linux-sles15-haswell
- jitrjio [ r ] ^builtin.openssh@8.8p1%gcc@8.4.0 arch=linux-sles15-haswell
- jkppbin [bl ] ^builtin.libedit@3.1-20210216%gcc@8.4.0 arch=linux-sles15-haswell
```

Useful Spack commands

```
$ spack help
usage: spack [-hkv] [--color {always,never,auto}] COMMAND ...

A flexible package manager that supports multiple versions,
configurations, platforms, and compilers.

These are common spack commands:

query packages:
  list          list and search available packages
  info          get detailed information on a particular package
  find          list and search installed packages

build packages:
  install       build and install packages
  uninstall     remove installed packages
  gc            remove specs that are now no longer needed
  spec         show what would be installed, given a spec

configuration:
  external      manage external packages in Spack configuration

environments:
  env           manage virtual environments
  view         project packages to a compact naming scheme on the filesystem.

create packages:
  create        create a new package file
  edit         open package files in $EDITOR

system:
  arch          print architecture information about this machine
  audit         audit configuration files, packages, etc.
  compilers    list available compilers
```

• Spack in User space – “user_spack” module

- Chaining existing Installation into your own Spack Environment
- How do I activate user_spack?
 - module load user_spack
- Why do I use it?
 - making use of already installed packages via chaining of upstream-location (lrzs/sys/spack/x/y)
 - avoids recompiling low level packages in many situations
 - has working defaults configured for some essential dependencies (e.g. MPI)
- What does loading “user_spack” module do actually?
 - loads a setup script that adds the spack command to your shell.
 - spack version matches the version the default software stack has been built with
 - LRZ specific configurations are preconfigured for you

```
>spack spec -INlt hdf5 +fortran ~threadsafe
Input spec
```

```
-----
- [ ] .hdf5+fortran~threadsafe
```

```
Concretized
```

```
-----
- ohh12i4 [ ] builtin.hdf5@1.10.7%gcc@11.2.0~cx
h=linux-sles15-haswell
[^] kdeymh2 [b ] ^builtin.cmake@3.21.4%gcc@11.2.0~cx
[^] 47oirry [bl ] ^builtin.ncurses@6.2%gcc@11.2.0~cx
[^] 6dqwgxm [b r ] ^builtin.pkgconf@1.8.0~cx
[^] oeopnpj [bl ] ^builtin.openssl@1.1.1l%gcc@11.2.0~cx
[^] rken265 [b r ] ^builtin.perl@5.34.0%gcc@11.2.0~cx
[^] dp5zt2x [bl ] ^builtin.berkeley-
05aff41de522 arch=linux-sles15-haswell
[^] ybteog6 [bl ] ^builtin.bzip2@1.0.8~cx
[^] gweivqh [b ] ^builtin.diffutils@3.8~cx
[^] q6m4kz6 [bl ] ^builtin.gcc@11.2.0~cx
```

- Installing software with `user_spack`

- HDF5 dependency tree is shown in the image.
- The library itself is not yet installed (-).
- But all of its dependencies are already available via the upstream LRZ installation ([^]).
- A package that you have installed locally in your home directory with Spack is marked by [+].

```
[>spack spec -INlt hdf5 +fortran ~threadsafe
```

```
Input spec
```

```
-----
- [ ] .hdf5+fortran~threadsafe
```

```
Concretized
```

```
-----
- ohh12i4 [ ] builtin.hdf5@1.10.7%gcc@11.2.0~cx
h=linux-sles15-haswell
[^] kdeymh2 [b ] ^builtin.cmake@3.21.4%gcc@11.2.0
[^] 47oirry [bl ] ^builtin.ncurses@6.2%gcc@11.2.0
[^] 6dqwgxm [b r ] ^builtin.pkgconf@1.8.0
[^] oeopnpj [bl ] ^builtin.openssl@1.1.1l%gcc@11.2.0
[^] rken265 [b r ] ^builtin.perl@5.34.0%gcc@11.2.0
[^] dp5zt2x [bl ] ^builtin.berkeley-
05aff41de522 arch=linux-sles15-haswell
[^] ybteog6 [bl ] ^builtin.bzip2@1.0.8
[^] gweivqh [b ] ^builtin.diffutils@3.8.0
[^] q6m4kz6 [bl ] ^builtin.glibc@2.34
```

- Installing your software with user_spack

- Dependencies are chained from the LRZ installation
 - see /dss/.../lrz/sys/spack/... paths
- Spack checks if the source tar ball is available in the LRZ cache
- If not present, tar files can be download from external site
- installation location of the library in \$HOME/spack/opt/...

```

>spack install hdf5 +fortran ~threadsafe
[+] /dss/dsshome1/lrz/sys/spack/release/22.2.1/opt/haswell/pk
[+] /dss/dsshome1/lrz/sys/spack/release/22.2.1/opt/haswell/be
[+] /dss/dsshome1/lrz/sys/spack/release/22.2.1/opt/haswell/li
[+] /dss/dsshome1/lrz/sys/spack/release/22.2.1/opt/haswell/zi
-----
[+] /dss/dsshome1/lrz/sys/spack/release/22.2.1/opt/haswell/aut
[+] /dss/dsshome1/lrz/sys/spack/release/22.2.1/opt/haswell/cma
[+] /dss/dsshome1/lrz/sys/spack/release/22.2.1/opt/haswell/aut
[+] /dss/dsshome1/lrz/sys/spack/release/22.2.1/opt/haswell/nur
==> Installing hdf5-1.10.7-ohhl2i4g4ztco53okwghc5zcre3321k2
==> No binary for hdf5-1.10.7-ohhl2i4g4ztco53okwghc5zcre3321k2
==> Fetching file:///lrz/sys/spack/cache/_source-cache/archive
==> Ran patch() for hdf5
==> hdf5: Executing phase: 'cmake'
==> hdf5: Executing phase: 'build'
==> hdf5: Executing phase: 'install'
==> hdf5: Successfully installed hdf5-1.10.7-ohhl2i4g4ztco53ol
Fetch: 0.04s. Build: 2m 2.08s. Total: 2m 2.12s.
[+] /dss/dsshome1/09/di36pex/spack/opt/linux-sles15-haswell/hc

```

Generating Modules for your software

- We have configured Spack such that modules will only be generated for explicitly installed packages.
- Modules are installed in `$HOME/spack/modules/$LRZ_INSTRSET/<architecture>/<package>/<version>`
- The path to the modules is added to `$MODULEPATH` when you load the `user_spack` module, but only if it already exists. You might want to reload `user_spack`.
- If the does not exist,
 - `> module use <path to local modules>`
- To check if the path exist in the list of module paths by,
 - `> module use`

```
[>]spack module tcl refresh hdf5
==> You are about to regenerate tcl mod

-- linux-sles15-haswell / gcc@11.2.0 --
ohh12i4 hdf5@1.10.7

[==> Do you want to proceed? [y/n] y
[==> Regenerating tcl module files
```


Configuring your Spack Instance

- LRZ provides a configuration that is very similar to the one the software stack was built with.
- You may want to change some or all of these settings to serve your needs, e.g. for the package selection, generation of modules, etc.
- Your individual configuration files are stored in the directory `~/.spack/`.
 - `> spack config edit repos`
 - `> spack config edit config`
 - `> spack config edit modules`
- User config files take precedence over system provided config file, that is they are loaded after the system config files and overwrite their settings.

Example: Generating modules for upstream packages

- For packages that have been implicitly installed in the upstream spack (LRZ installed) stack no modules are generated by default.
- You can configure your `user_spack` such that you generate modules in your \$HOME directory.
- You may want to change some or all of these settings to serve your needs, e.g. for the package selection, generation of modules, etc.

- `spack config edit modules`
- `cat ~/.spack/modules.yaml`

```
modules:  
  tcl:  
    blacklist_implicit: False  
    hash_length: 7
```

- Now modules are generated for all installed modules and each newly created module gets a hash suffix of length 7 to avoid naming conflicts.
- Modules are generated with
 - `spack module tcl refresh --upstream-modules`

Configuring your Spack Instance

- **Adding compilers**
- Spack searches for compilers on your machine automatically the first time it is run. It does this by inspecting your \$PATH
- One could use “spack compiler add” command,
 - spack compiler add /path/to/my_compiler
 - spack compiler list
- For example the output of spack compiler list could look like,

==> Available compilers

```
-- gcc sles15-x86_64 -----
gcc@8.4.0 gcc@7.5.0
```

```
-- intel sles15-x86_64 -----
intel@19.0.5.281
```

- **Spack package repositories**
- Spack supports external package repositories
 - Separate directories of package files
- Many reasons for doing this,
 - You want to write a package file for an in-house code that you may not want to release publicly.
 - Overwrite default package files with site specific versions or restrictions
- One could use “spack repo create” command,
 - spack repo create /path/to/my_repo
 - spack repo add my_repo
 - spack repo list
- This will show 2 package repositories.
 - my_repo /path/to/my_repo builtin
 - spack/var/spack/repos/builtin

Chaining Spack Installations

- You can point your Spack installation to another installation to use any packages that are installed there.
- To register the other Spack instance, you can add it as an entry to `upstreams.yaml`

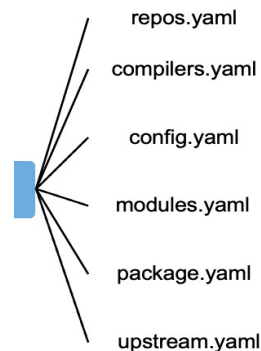
upstreams:

spack-instance-1:

install_tree: /path/to/other/spack/opt/spack

spack-instance-2:

install_tree: /path/to/another/spack/opt/spack



```
>spack spec -INlt hdf5 +fortran~hl
Input spec
```

```
-----
- [ ] .hdf5+fortran~hl
```

Concretized

```
-----
- zt4lxlrl [ ] fixes015x.hdf5@1.10.7%gcc@8.4.0~cxx~debug+fc
[^] cyojcvv [bl ] ^fixes015x.intel-mpi@2019.8.254%gcc@8.4.
[^] wz47lgr [bl ] ^builtin.numactl@2.0.12%gcc@8.4.0 arch=]
[^] jns7liw [b ] ^builtin.autoconf@2.69%gcc@8.4.0 arc
[^] 6vxvnr [b r ] ^builtin.m4@1.4.18%gcc@8.4.0+sig
c8 arch=linux-sles15-haswell
[^] gv36h32 [bl ] ^builtin.libsigsegv@2.12%gcc
[^] bhpjih4 [b r ] ^builtin.perl@5.30.3%gcc@8.4.0+c
[^] szzheyp [bl ] ^builtin.gdbm@1.18.1%gcc@8.4
[^] 3kfx6pu [bl ] ^builtin.readline@8.0%gc
[^] 6qhv5ta [bl ] ^fixes015x.ncurses@6
[^] cfijkws [b ] ^builtin.pkgconf
[^] zzoup2h [b ] ^builtin.automake@1.16.2%gcc@8.4.0 a
[^] 4nya677 [b ] ^builtin.libtool@2.4.6%gcc@8.4.0 arc
[^] m2bfsoy [bl ] ^builtin.zlib@1.2.11%gcc@8.4.0+optimize
```

Spack Environments

- A spack environment is used to group together a set of specs for the purpose of building, rebuilding and deploying in a coherent fashion.
- Lets say you want to create an spack environment for your group / team / project.
 - `spack env create XYZ_env`
 - Spack then creates the directory `var/spack/environments/ XYZ_env`
 - Within this directory, a file `spack.yaml` and the hidden directory `.spack-env` will exist
 - Spack stores metadata in the `.spack-env` directory. User interaction will occur through the `spack.yaml`
 - In short, **spack.yaml describes project requirements**
 - When the environment is concretized, Spack will create a file `spack.lock`. This file describes exactly what versions/configurations were installed, allows them to be reproduced.
 - You can give this file to any one in the project and he would get the exact same customized sets of packages installed, without any differences. A very robust reproducible software environment!

```
>cat recipes/x86_64/python-extended.yaml
spack:
  include:
  - ./config/
  specs:
  - python@3.8.11
  - py-mpi4py
  - py-scipy
  - py-numpy
  - py-pip
  - py-flake8
  - py-pylint
  - py-autopep8
  - py-ipython
  view:
    default:
      root: ../../views/python/3.8.11-extended
```

Questions?