

REPRODUCIBLE WORKFLOWS: THE WAY FORWARD



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DISCLOSURES:

Scientific Advisory Board, Schrödinger

All opinions/views are my own.

SAMPL/D3R Workshop - 23 Feb 2018 - La Jolla, CA

COMPUTATIONAL CHEMISTRY
IS FACING SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES

INTEROPERABILITY

Current software communities are **balkanized**

Poor (or no) standards for moving data between codes/packages

If there was a good standard, developers would adhere to it

(where **good** = it made our lives **easier**, not harder)

EVALUATION

Comparison of predictive modeling on retrospective data hindered by **lack of standard datasets** and **absence of common benchmark framework**

Predictive challenges (e.g., SAMPL, D3R) often end up **testing unrelated choices** (such as biomolecular setup pipeline), not the scientific core code

BIOMOLECULAR SYSTEM PREPARATION REQUIRES MANY CHOICES

Before beginning, we have to make many decisions about structural data:

- * Which structure(s) do we want to use? Often multiple
- * What do we do about missing loops, termini, and residues?
- * How do we treat modified residues? (phosphates, unnatural amino acids, PTMs)
- * What do we do with cofactors? Keep or discard?
- * What about crystallographic waters?
- * How do we treat non-biological crystal contacts or domain swaps?

WHAT ARE WE EVALUATING IN BLIND COMPETITIONS?



evaluating the driver



evaluating the technology

Need to separate capabilities of technology from skill of driver

ENABLING FOCUS ON KEY SCIENCE

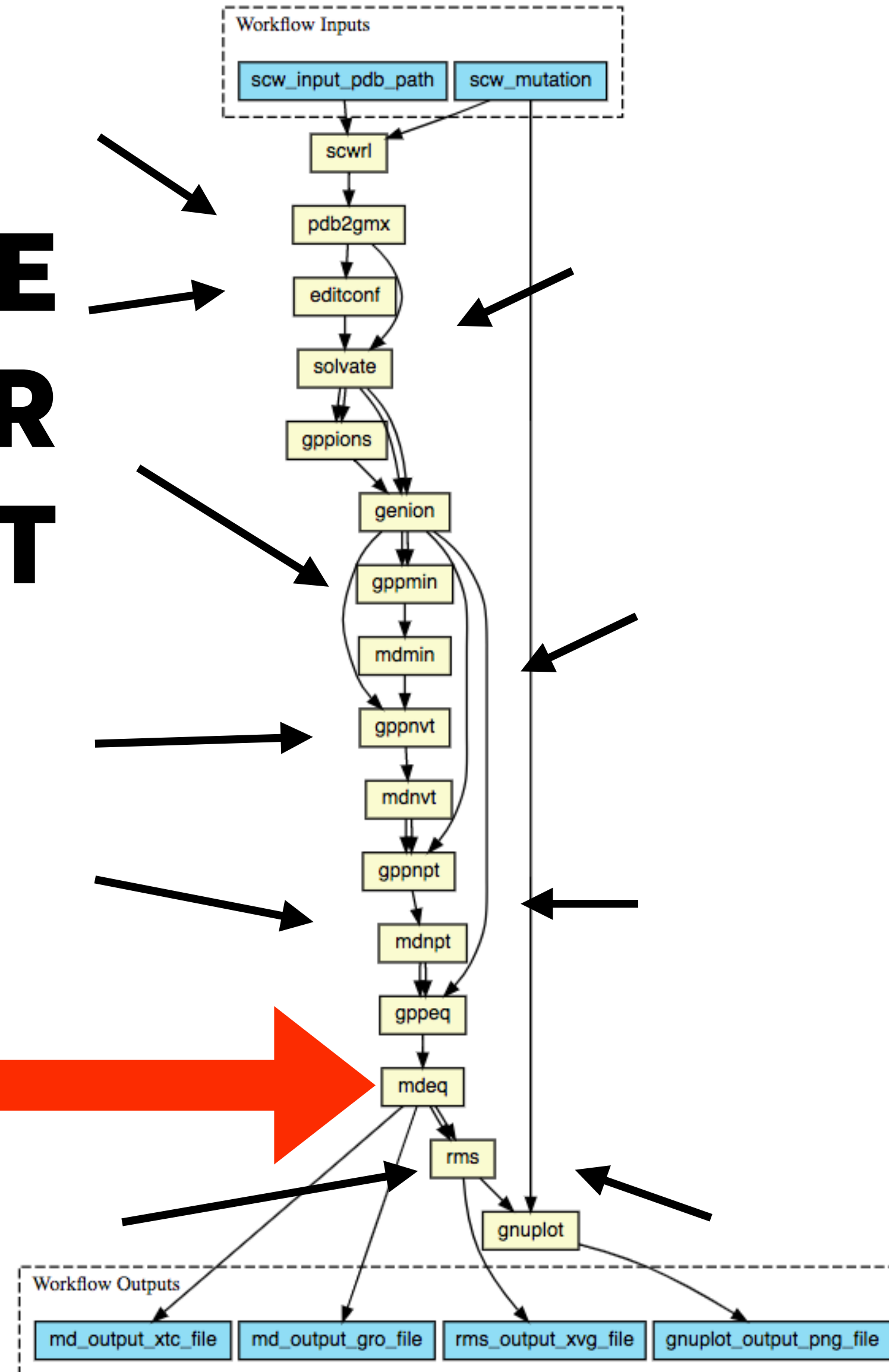
Academic scientists want to **focus creative efforts on a specific part of the process**, but are often forced to build everything from scratch to have a working framework in which they can carry out productive research

Industry wants to **combine best practices** from academia into useful pipelines for discovery, but has to hack everything together if they want to make this work

EXAMPLE: SETTING UP A FREE ENERGY CALCULATION IN GROMACS

**EVERYTHING ELSE
I NEED IN ORDER
TO RUN MY BIT**

**THE SCIENCE
I'M INTERESTED IN**



REPRODUCIBILITY

Reproducing work from a published computational chemistry paper is currently **nearly impossible**, which **minimizes opportunities for learning and improvement**

Translating best performers from D3R/SAMPL blind challenges into production pipelines is **nearly impossible** for the same reason

Example: SAMPL pKa methods

some are detailed:

```
# SOFTWARE SECTION
Software:
COSMOtherm C30_1701
Turbomole 7.2
COSMOconf 4.2
COSMOquick version 1.6
COSMOPY (version2017) & Python 2.7

# METHODS SECTION
#
Method:
The pKa dataset consists of 24 small to medium sized drug-like molecules which combine several functional groups whereas most of them have at least one basic functional group. Molecules SM01, SM08, SM15, SM20 and SM22 possess an additional (significant) acidic functional group
Possible deprotonated and protonated species (anions, cations, zwitterions) have been generated automatically via the COSMOquick software package. A few further potential ions and tautomers were determined from visual inspection of the neutral forms as provided for the challenge. In all cases, only single protonation or deprotonation turned out to be relevant at the experimental region from pH=2 to pH=12.
For all compounds, including the ionic and tautomeric forms, independent sets of relevant conformations were computed with the COSMOconf 4.2 workflow. Additional neutral conformers which are thermodynamically relevant in water according to COSMOtherm computations have been found only for compound SM18 (tautomeric) and SM22 (zwitterionic) and have been included into the respective conformer sets used later on for the COSMOtherm pKa calculations.
The quantum chemistry calculations of COSMO sigma-surfaces were done at the BP//TZVPD//FINE single point level based upon BP//TZVP//COSMO optimized geometries to match the parameterization (BP-TZVPD-FINE-C30-1701) used in the 2017 COSMOtherm-release. All quantum chemical calculations were carried out with the TURBOMOLE 7.2 quantum chemistry software.
The COSMOtherm pka-module uses a simple linear free energy relationship (LFER) in order to correct the free energy differences of the neutral and protonated (deprotonated) forms. ( Klamt, A. et al. J. Phys. Chem. A 107, 9380-9386 (2003). & Eckert et al. J Comp Chem 27, 11-19 (2006).):
pKa = c0 + c1*(DG_neutral-DG_ionic)
with
c0=-131.7422 and c1=0.4910 mol/kcal (for acids in water)
c0=-171.1748 and c1=0.6227 mol/kcal (for bases in water)
```

pKa values were computed for all identified single protonated and deprotonated sampl6 molecules and the respective zwitterions using the COSMO-RS method as implemented in the COSMOtherm software. The workflow for the batch computation about 80 pKa reactions has been automated via an in-house script based on Python 2.7 (COSMOPY). For the final submission, only relevant pKa-values were included. For bases all protonation reactions with predicted pKa>0 and for acids all pKa values <14 were selected. The pKa value of basic molecule SM14 containing 2 equivalent basic groups according to our calculations was corrected by the addition of log10(2). The accuracy of the pKa prediction with the current COSMOtherm parameterization is about 0.65 log units root mean squared deviation (RMSD). The RMSD was evaluated on a validation set of about 160 basic and acidic compounds having a fairly simple molecular structure. However, due to the somewhat more complex structure of the sampl6 molecules the mean of the expected error may be somewhat higher.

some are brief:

```
# SOFTWARE SECTION
#
# All major software packages used and their versions.
# Create a new line for each software.
# The "Software:" keyword is required.
Software:
Gaussian09, versions D.01 and A.02
Microsoft Excel 2008 MacOSX

# METHODS SECTION
#
# Methodology and computational details.
# Level of detail should be at least that used in a publication.
# Please include the values of key parameters, with units, and explain how any statistical uncertainties were estimated.
# Use as many lines of text as you need.
# All text following the "Method:" keyword will be regarded as part of your free text methods description.
Method:
From the microscopic pKa values (submission typeI-Iorga-2) we computed the pKa of macroscopic states for the three simplest systems (SM15, SM20 and SM22) using the procedure described in Bodner, G.M. J. Chem. Education 1986, 63, 246. For SM20 there is one macroscopic state, which is the same as the unique microscopic state. For SM15 and SM22 there are two macroscopic states.
```


DEPLOYMENT

Translating academic research software into a tool that can be employed within industry is **extremely difficult** if not impossible for reasons of code quality, robustness, interoperability, and user-friendliness

Example from my own group: Merck KGaA pays us to fly a postdoc out once a quarter to do software updates and ensure code remains fully interoperable with their batch queue system, even though we try hard to make code conda-installable, use continuous integration, etc.

TRAINING

Pharma and comp chem are facing an exodus of talent due to wave of retirements

Need better tools to train the next generation of computational chemists
(which we're in also danger of losing to machine learning and data science)

FUNDING

Industry and federal funding agencies (NSF, NIH) tired of investing \$ in software or research that is not useful to them or others

Easier to justify small investments in funding to deliver new features if they can be rapidly deployed and utilized/combined

VALIDATION AND ANALYSIS

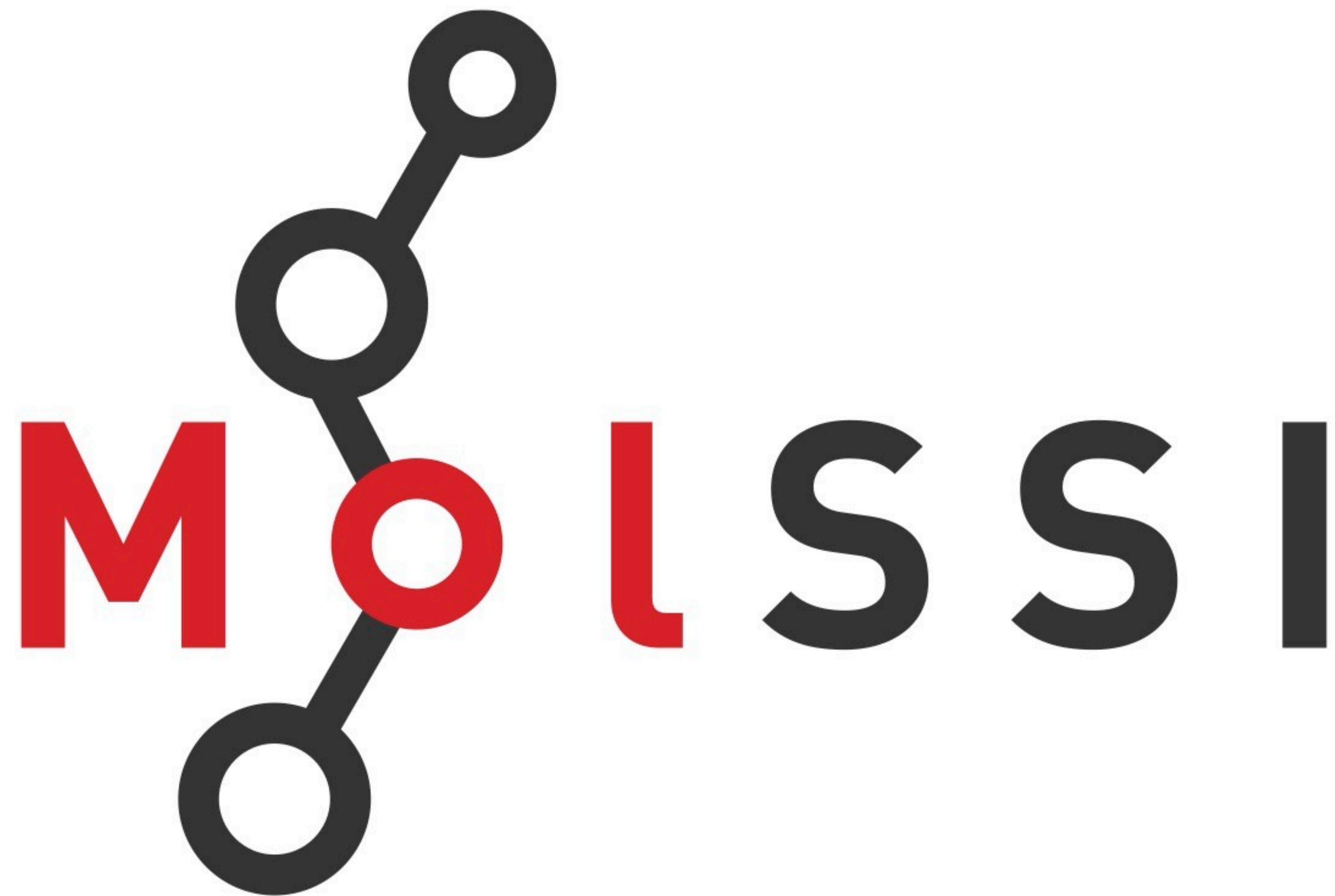
For blind challenge participants, it's difficult to **validate** the output of your scripts to make sure it's in the right format, and to test on known datasets with the same analysis pipeline that will be used for assessment.

For blind challenge assessors, it's almost impossible to guarantee everyone will submit the data in the right format. (Sorry, Pat!)

WORKFLOWS TO THE RESCUE

Workflows (and the machinery to support them) can address many of these issues:

- * Training
- * Interoperability
- * Reproducibility
- * Evaluation
- * Deployment
- * Funding
- * Enabling focus on key science
- * Productivity

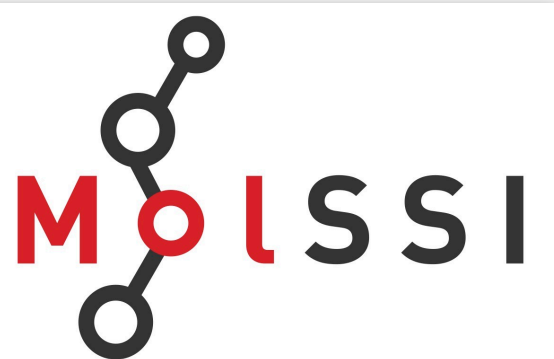


The Molecular Sciences Software Institute

... a nexus for science, education, and cooperation for the global computational molecular sciences community.

WHAT IS THE MOLSSI?

- New project (as of August 1st, 2016) funded by the National Science Foundation.
- Collaborative effort by Virginia Tech, Rice U., Stony Brook U., U.C. Berkeley, Stanford U., Rutgers U., U. Southern California, and Iowa State U.
- Part of the NSF's commitment to the White House's National Strategic Computing Initiative (NSCI).
- Total budget of \$19.42M for five years, potentially renewable to ten years.
- Joint support from numerous NSF divisions: Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (ACI), Chemistry (CHE), and Division of Materials Research (DMR)
- Designed to **serve** and **enhance** the software development efforts of the broad field of computational molecular science.





Prof. T. Daniel Crawford

Director

crawdad@vt.edu



Prof. Robert J. Harrison

Co-Director for Parallel Computing and Emerging Technologies

Robert.Harrison@stonybrook.edu

Prof. Robert J. Harrison will oversee the Institute's



Prof. Shantenu Jha

Co-Director for Software Engineering Process, Middleware, and Infrastructure

shantenu.jha@rutgers.edu

Prof. Shantenu Jha will be responsible for the (i)



Prof. Vijay Pande

Co-Director for Molecular Simulation

pande@stanford.edu

Prof. Vijay Pande will be the primary liaison for MolSSI and the biomolecular simulation/r



Prof. Cecilia Clementi

Co-Director for Molecular Simulation, and International Engagement

cecilia@rice.edu



Prof. Teresa Head-Gordon

Co-Director for Laboratory, Industrial, and Academic Outreach and Education

thg@berkeley.edu

Prof. Teresa Head-Gordon will lead MolSSI outreach



Prof. Anna Krylov

Co-Director for Quantum Chemistry and Materials

krylov@usc.edu

Prof. Anna Krylov will be the primary liaison to the quantum chemistry and soft materials community.

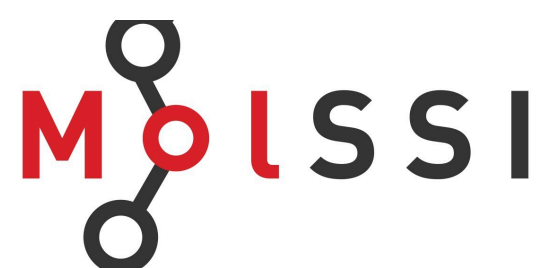


Prof. Theresa Windus

Co-Director for Code and Data Interoperability

twindus@iastate.edu

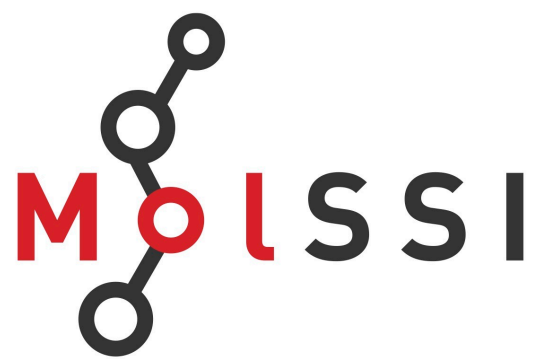
Prof. Theresa Windus will oversee the Institute's interoperability projects, an area in which she has long been a community leader. She has participated



MOLSSI SOFTWARE SCIENTISTS

- A team of ~12 software engineering experts, drawn both from newly minted Ph.D.s and established researchers in molecular sciences, computer science, and applied mathematics.
- Dedicated to multiple responsibilities:
 - Developing software infrastructure and frameworks;
 - Interacting with CMS research groups and community code developers;
 - Providing forums for standards development and resource curation;
 - Serving as mentors to MolSSI Software Fellows;
 - Working with industrial, national laboratory, and international partners;

Approximately 50% of the Institute's budget will directly support the MolSSI Software Scientists.



MOLSSI NEEDS BIOMOLECULAR SOFTWARE SCIENTISTS



Qualified applicants must have a PhD in biophysics, chemistry, biology, materials science, applied mathematics, or related areas and experience in theoretical and computational methods for biophysical sciences.

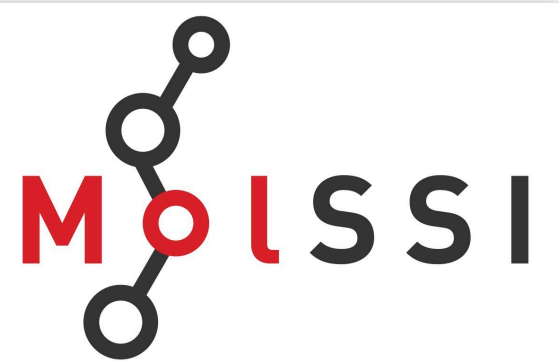
Preferred Qualifications

- Experience in successful software development activities such as bioinformatics, molecular dynamics and simulation, coarse graining, statistical mechanics
- Experience in modern computational software development cycle methods;
- Experience with high performance computers and associated centers
- Ability to meet intermediate objectives towards the accomplishment of milestones for the advancement of concurrent projects
- Excellent publication record
- Excellent written and oral communication skills

Duties and Responsibilities of the Software Scientist Team as a Whole

- Develop software infrastructure and frameworks for community use and development
- Collaborate with scientists both within and without MolSSI to address the priorities of the community and MolSSI
- Provide expertise in design, optimization, verification, and documentation of software
- Provide forums for standards development and resource curation to the community
- Serve as mentors to Software Fellows by training them in software engineering best practices, API development, unit-testing, documentation, version control, performance profiling and other issues essential to community software development.
- Interact with partners in industry, NSF supercomputing centers, national laboratories, and international facilities to identify emerging hardware trends, software priorities and future career paths
- Lead and participate in outreach and educational activities, as well as developing instructional materials
- Author/co-author articles for publication and presentation in scientific journals Present MolSSI activities and research at professional and project meetings
- Ensure all relevant safety policies and procedures are followed and appropriate training is acquired and maintained
- Personal professional development activities

Applicants must submit their applications online at <http://www.jobs.vt.edu> and locate the posting for Staff Software Scientists (Posting [SR0180022](#)) under the Department of Chemistry. Applicants will submit a curriculum vita, a cover letter, and provide three references. The Search Committee Coordinator is available to address any specific questions related to the position: Professor Theresa Windus, Iowa State University, Department of Chemistry, 125 Spedding Hall Ames, IA 50011; twindus@iastate.edu.



<http://molssi.org/2018/02/21/molssi-is-seeking-software-scientists-biophysics/>



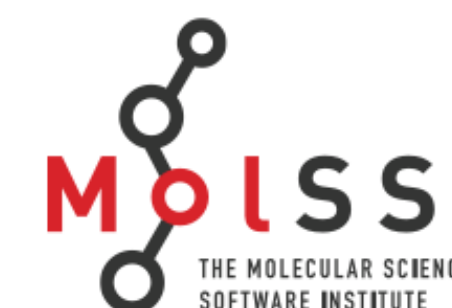
A MolSSI Workshop

DISTRIBUTED WORKFLOWS FOR BIOMOLECULAR SIMULATION

September 12-13, 2017 | Autodesk Gallery, 1 Market Street, San Francisco, CA

Distributed Workflows for Biomolecular Simulations is an invite-only, innovation-driven workshop hosted by MolSSI and Autodesk Life Sciences for academic and industry experts on how workflow technologies will vastly accelerate pipelines from academic research to industrial discovery.

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE,
REGISTRATION LINK TO FOLLOW**



BACKGROUND

Workflow technologies simplify the processes of developing reliable computational methods, deploying reproducible and reliable software, exploiting scalable computing, and sharing standardized best practices. With increasing interest in such systems from academic, industrial, and computing groups, this two-day workshop will bring together a diverse group of experts to catalyze and develop modern workflow

WORKFLOWS TO THE RESCUE

Success stories from industries transformed by workflows



Pharma industry needs for workflow engines



Great workflow engines for computational chemistry are emerging now:

- * OpenEye **Orion**
- * Autodesk **Molecular Design Toolkit (MDT)**
- * Schrödinger **LiveDesign**



Cloud computing technologies that are eliminating computing constraints

- * Google Life Sciences / Verily
- * Amazon Web Services



HOW CAN WE MAKE THE FUTURE **BETTER** THAN THE PAST?

What could **computational chemistry in 2020** look like?

Computational chemistry publications include a DOI-indexed workflow that can be pulled from a **common workflow registry** to reproduce the calculations in the paper.

Publications require virtual screening or affinity prediction tools to report performance on **standard benchmark datasets**.

Academics can focus their efforts on improving the science underlying **specific components** of versioned best practices workflows, and share them in a common **app store**.

Industry can easily **evaluate academic tools or workflows** on internal datasets without having to embark on a multi-year effort to reimplement, hack together, or harden the software.

Vendors could flexibly charge for use of their tools, potentially by **pay for privacy/ownership** so tools could be evaluated freely but funded by use for IP generation.

Don't miss **Alpha Shock**: Murcko and Walters, JCAMD 26:97, 2012.

<http://doi.org/10.1007/s10822-011-9532-z>

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DO NOTHING?

We pay an enormous opportunity cost.

Stage 1: PROLIFERATION.

Many competing non-interoperable workflow engines emerge, remain balkanized. Toolmakers must wrap their tools separately for each engine, wasting time. Workflows must be tediously re-implemented in each engine.

Stage 2: METASTASIS.

One workflow engine dominates, leading to monoculture, which is also not good for innovation.

MolSSI is here to catalyze change that would be otherwise difficult

OPPORTUNITIES

Workflow component interoperability:

- Components could be portable between workflow engines
 - Academics could **wrap tools once** to make them available to many systems
 - Software vendors could make components available via licensing models
 - Workflow engines could benefit from large **ecosystem** of components
- Common component format could be supported alongside specialized formats
- Enable a common “app store” or registry of components?
- We would need to define:
 - How components are **encapsulated**
 - What **information must be exchanged**
 - How components **expose their functionality**
 - Different **licensing models** that enable research, use, and fair compensation
 - How toolmakers can get **feedback** (especially regarding failures)

OPPORTUNITIES

Workflow definition interoperability:

- Workflows could be portable between workflow engines
 - Different workflow engines may be ideal for different hardware environments
- Common workflow format could be supported alongside specialized formats
- Workflows could implement **versioned best practices** (LiveCoMS)
- Enable a **common registry of workflows**?
 - Computational chemistry papers could contain workflow references to reproduce calculations performed in paper
 - Workflows could be evaluated retrospectively on common benchmark datasets or prospectively on blinded datasets
- Would also require interoperable workflow components

FOCUS WORKFLOW GROUPS

Free energy calculations: Michael Shirts

Molecular dynamics simulation: Pek Leong & Paul Saxe

Biomolecular complex setup pipeline: David Mobley

Docking, scoring, and quantitative affinity prediction blind assessment:
Jeffrey Wagner & Ajay Jain



Michael Shirts, UC Boulder



Pek Leong, UCSD / NBCR



Paul Saxe, MoSSI



David Mobley, UC Irvine



Daniel Smith, D3R/UCSD



Ajay Jain, UCSF

WHAT ARE THE INCENTIVES?

- To **workflow engine developers?**
 - Access to many more components / workflows without needing to wrap tools
 - Continual supply of updated versions of components
- To **tool developers?**
 - Large user base (via multiple workflow engines)
 - Don't need to directly support users
 - Academics can focus on science, software vendors on their strengths
- To **industry?**
 - Rapid translation of new science from academia or vendors to pharma
 - Facile benchmarking of new technologies
- To **infrastructure providers**
 - Better scalability of tools; greater utilization of resources
- Makes lives of all stakeholders better

WHAT ARE WE EVALUATING IN BLIND COMPETITIONS?



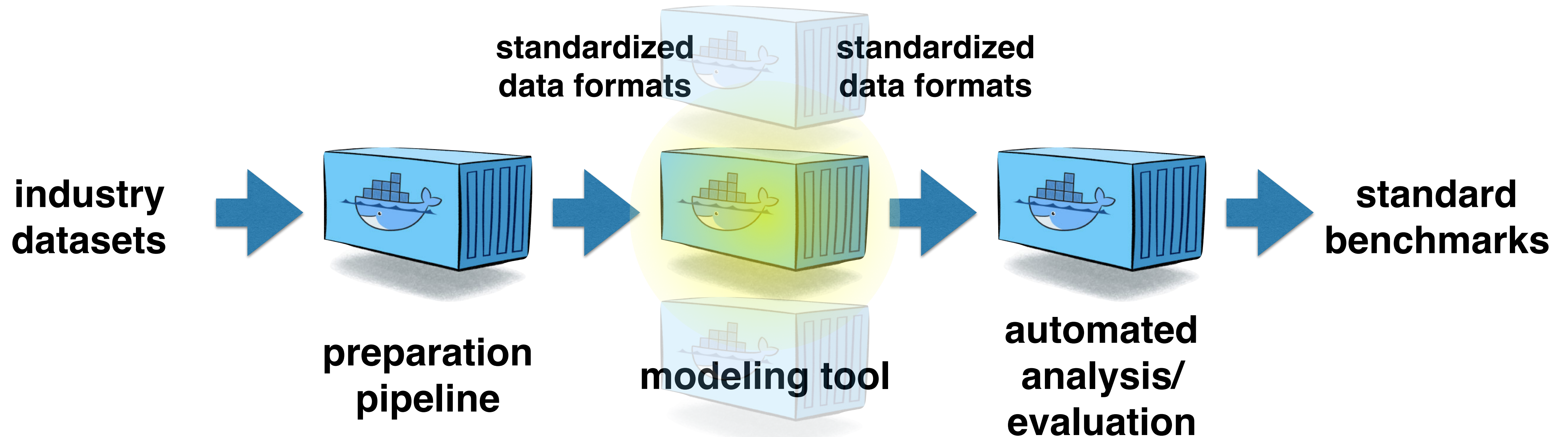
evaluating the driver



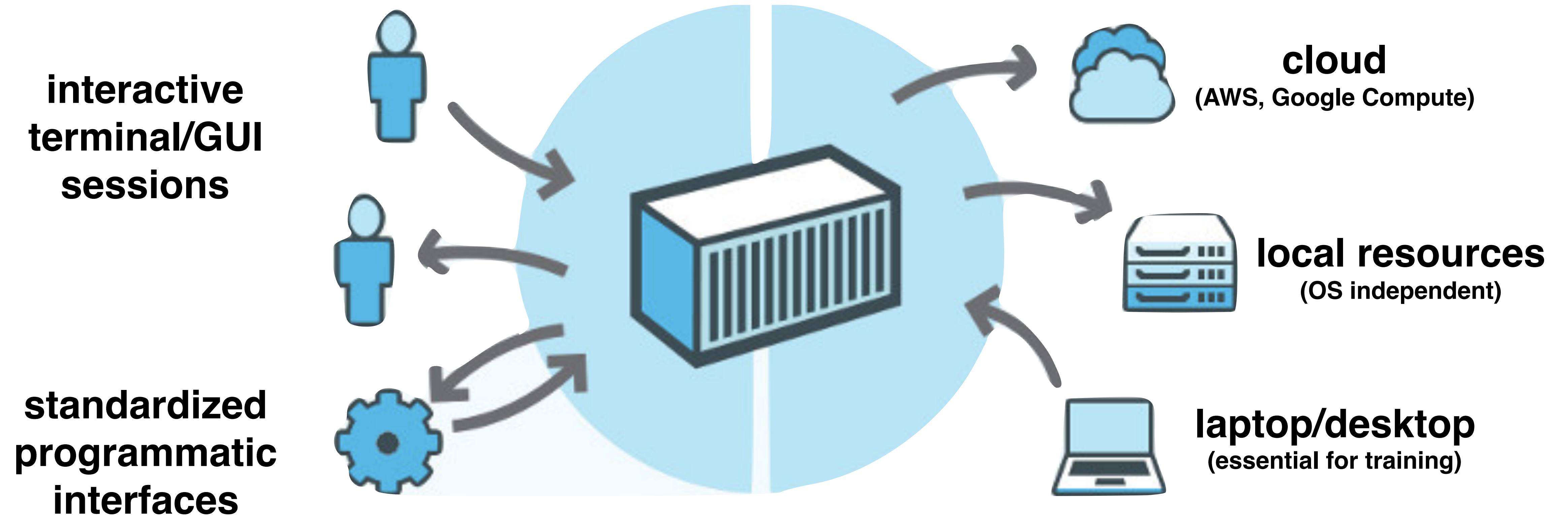
evaluating the technology

Need to separate capabilities of technology from skill of driver

WORKFLOWS USING BEST PRACTICES WOULD ALLOW US TO EVALUATE THE **TECHNOLOGY**

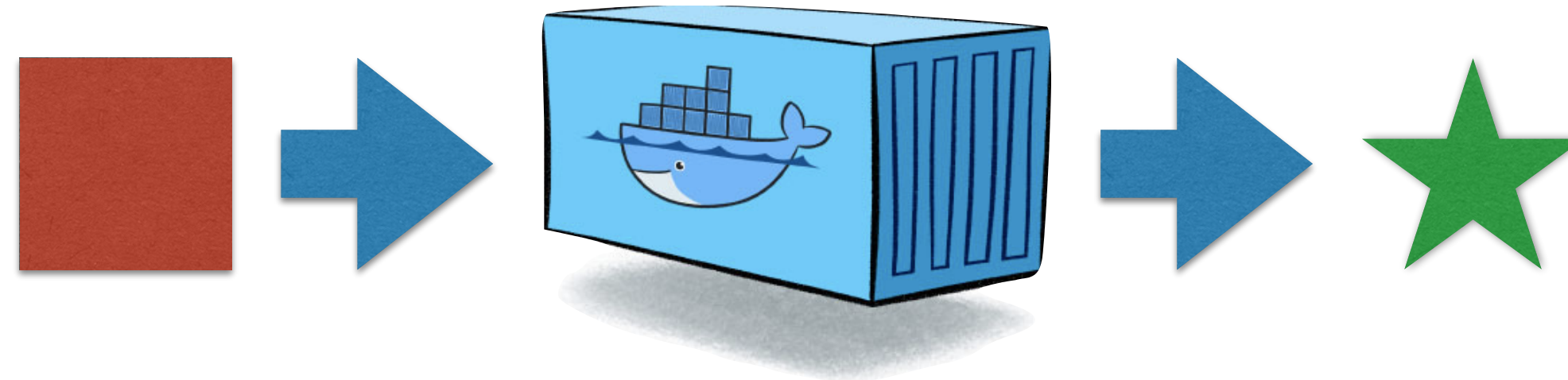


CONTAINERS SOLVE THE PORTABILITY PROBLEM

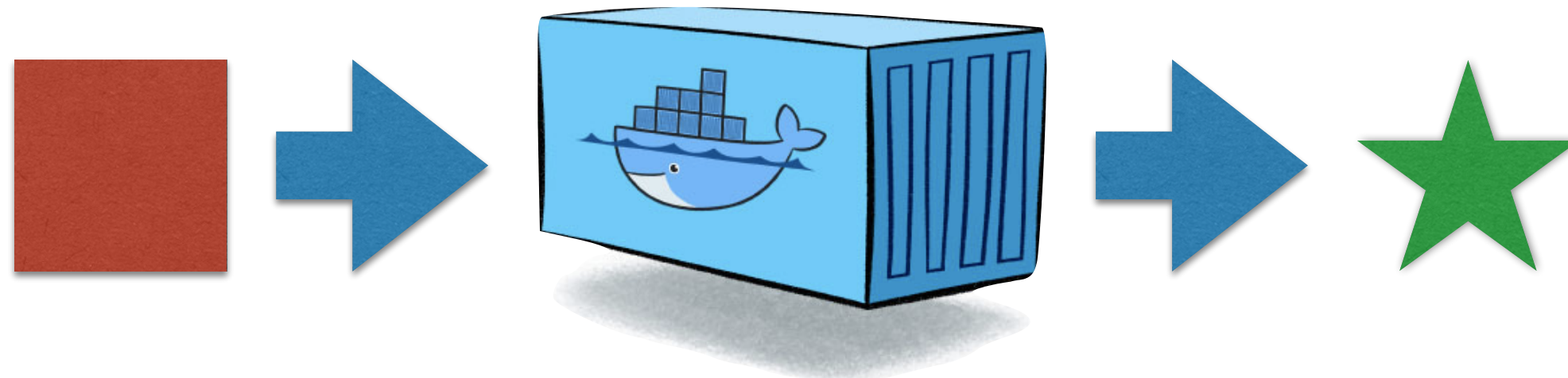


CONTAINERS SOLVE THE REPRODUCIBILITY PROBLEM

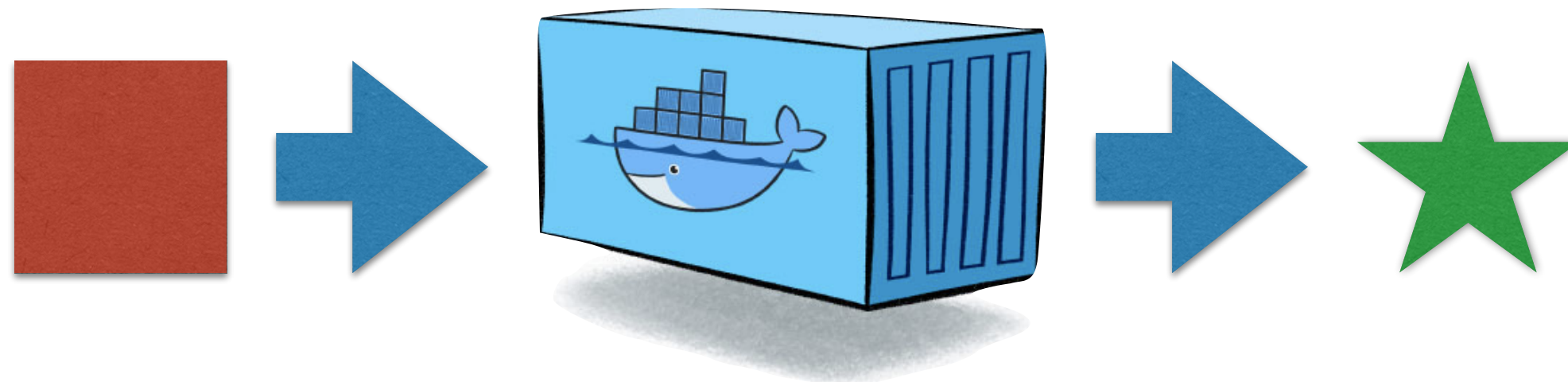
2016



2017

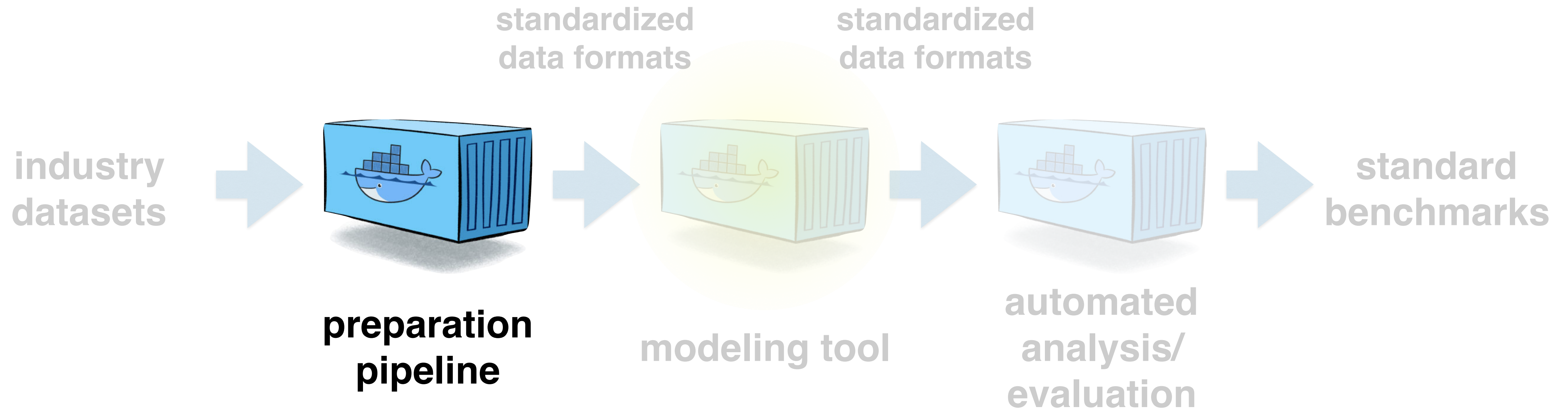


2018

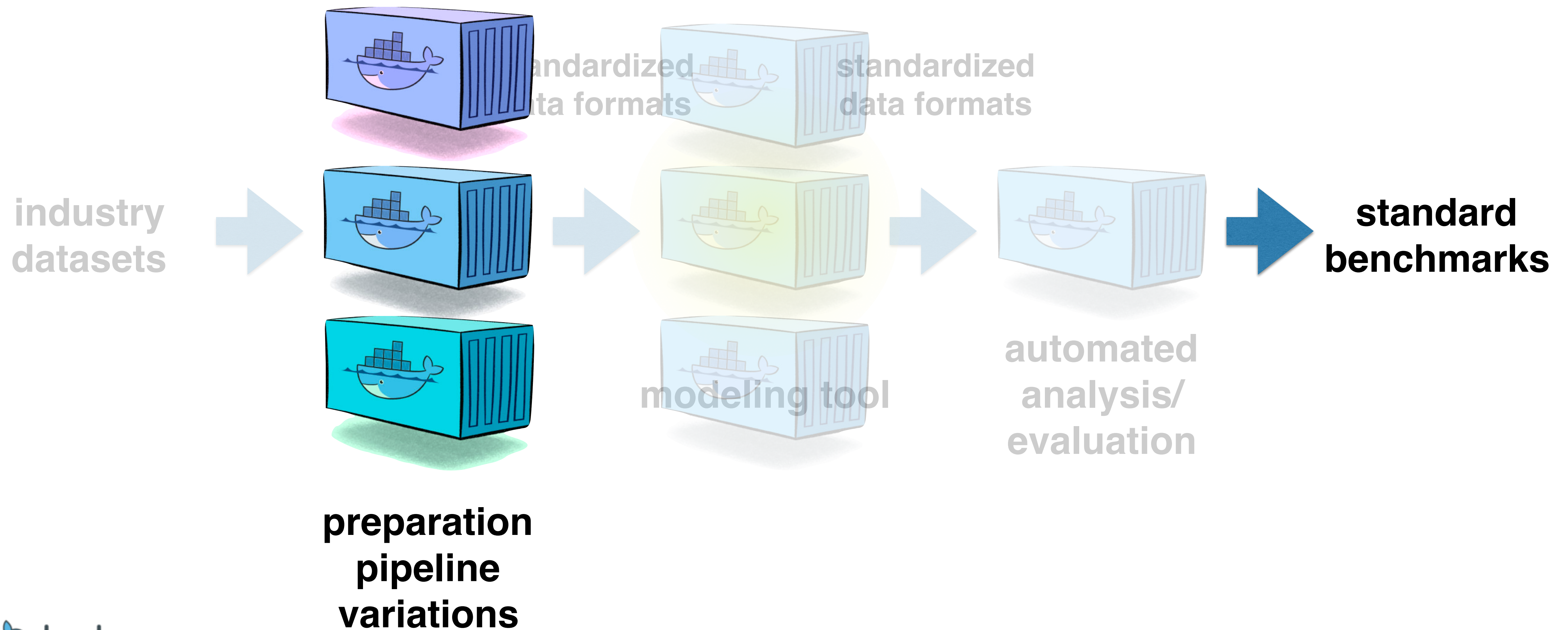


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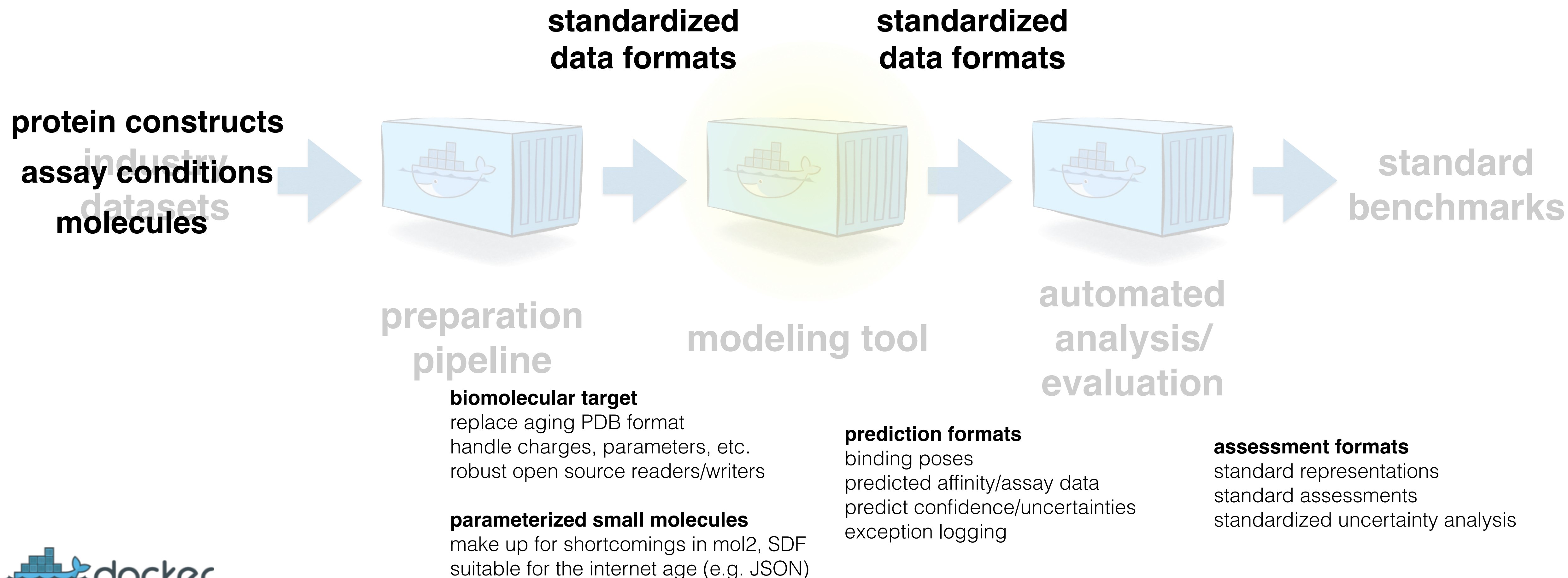
OPEN PREPARATION PIPELINES COULD CAPTURE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN BEST PRACTICES



BEST PRACTICES CAN BE EVALUATED BY TESTING VARIATIONS ON A VARIETY OF MODELING TOOLS



THIS REQUIRES STANDARDIZED DATA INTERCHANGE FORMATS



WHAT WOULD DO WE NEED TO DO?

Articulate workflows, workflow components, and tools of interest

Determine what kinds of data they consume/emit

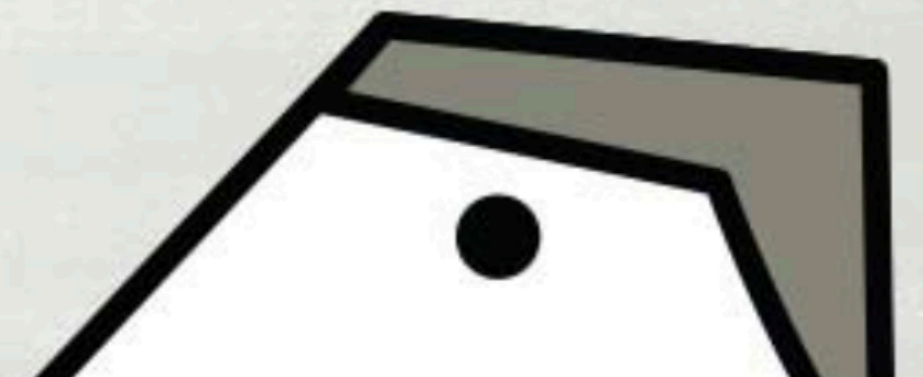
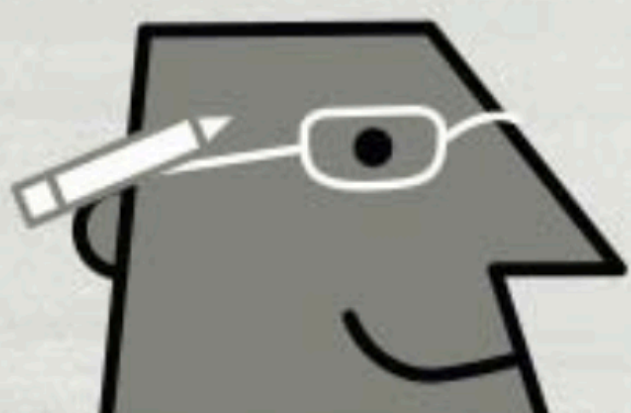
Identify what, if any, new standards, formats, or APIs are needed

Create working groups to establish standards for building interoperable components/workflows



Our System

The most practical, flexible and versatile approach to innovation in the world, that anyone can learn and apply.



Lightning Round: What are the "ingredients" for this task/workflow?



Algorithm



Software Tool



Computing Requirement



People: Job role or Expertise



AUTODESK











AFFINITY CLUSTER

Protein prep
Variant set
Protein ID
Binding site
Binding site

Protein Prep

Confidence
Ensemble
- High affinity

Conf. pen

Conf. pen

Conf. pen

Force Field
PDB
Charges
Torsion
Non-bonded

Ligand Preparation

SAC + Structure
knowledge for
Target Class

expert

People
Non-expert
who can script

Lack of
human
intervention
in docking

Incorporation of
Expanded
Constraints/Info

Unambiguous
files (1 pdb
chain, not mol 2
or mol set)

Easy description
w/ altered
parameters/receptor

Analysis
workflow for
researcher

Enable
Resonance/Analysis
from different
Data points/
papers

Organized/Analyzed
for
Comparative
docking/score
molecule families

Docking

Pose Prediction
- H₂O treatment

Docking algorithm

docking
& ranking

Confidence
measurement
in prediction

docking
program

RELEVANT
(VARIABLE)
MILL
MODEL
as a molecule
shape

FIT TO
DENSITY
FIT TO
COORDS/MSD

RSCC calculator
for ambiguous
ligand atom
assignment

MCSS\ Atom mapping

Industry
Standards
Methods
Vendors
etc.

Industry
Standards
Methods
Vendors
etc.

Human
Score Anomaly
checker

Test
Data
Collect
(Interface
pharma)

Crystallography
Industry rep.

Blind
Datasets

Rank Order
Scoring
Rho/Tau

Reproducible
binding affinity
measurement

Data Xfer
(Secure/private) to server
Data Upload

Cluster

Production
& Development
Exit
or Cost

Comparing Reg.
Any decent cap
cluster

FFINITY LUSTER

Target Users

Biophysicist
Bioinformatician
Med Chemist

\$

Funding guy

Asking The Right Question

Expert in gogling

Compound Repository

Biological SME

What protein?
Is this the one you want?

Sanity Checks On Input

check protein structure

How to evaluate input QA ept.

e.g. Orin Eye
MMDS

Check ligand, confirm it is correct

Parameterization Choices

Solvation Models

Protein Prep

Homology Modeling Alignment

Simulate protein states (pH, salt, etc.)

Build a protein protons

Protonation state of protein

ping/animation

Compute time for pKa pred/protein prep

Build missing loops (residues)

Ligand Prep

Build in correct ligand and cofactors and covalent modifications

Ligand protonation state/tautomer

Generate starting ligand pose if needed

Complex Prep

Build correct functional unit

Solvate, add ions

(predict) Decide about ordered waters and ions

Protein/Complex Parameterizer

QA Output

How to evaluate time outcome?

How do we judge effectiveness of a setup pipeline?
Need a scoring method algorithm to judge.

User Interaction

Should user input be required for setup pipeline parameters?

Someone who can containerize algo

Workflow Management

Workflow Metadata Management

Is caching useful/necessary for pipeline steps?

Parameter storage/input files

Versioning of results per step

Format Interchange Tools

Reproducible deterministic computing steps

Compute Platform

AWS

HPC

Orion

Visualization

VMD

Visualization Tool

How do we visualize steps of the setup pipeline? Is it information only, or can there be user intervention?

Simulation

NAMD

GROMACS

Energy Minimization

FREE ENERGY CALCULATIONS

AFFINITY CLUSTER

ALGORITHMS MD

APPROXIMATING

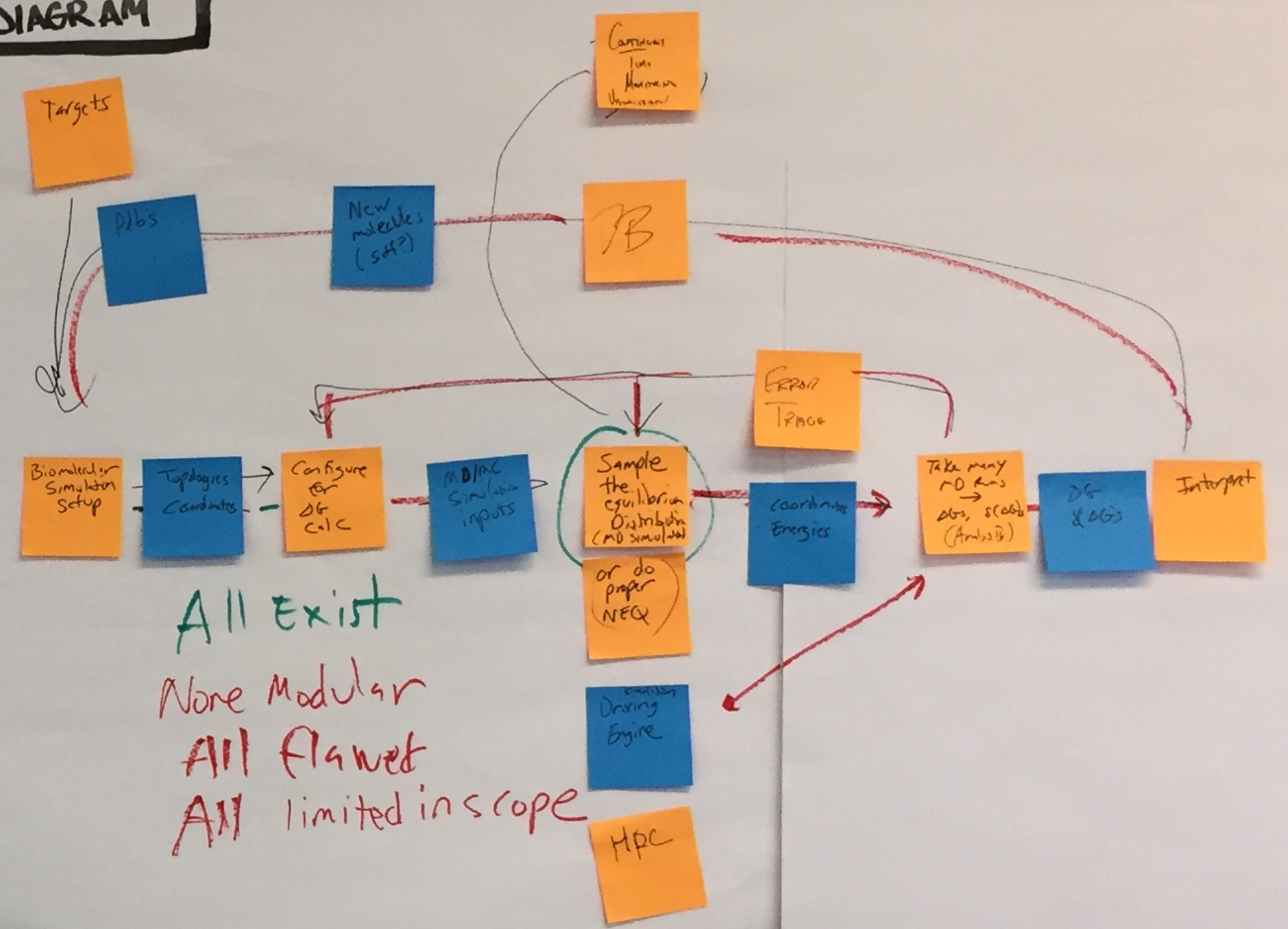
ANALYZE RESULTS

MANAGING INSTANCES

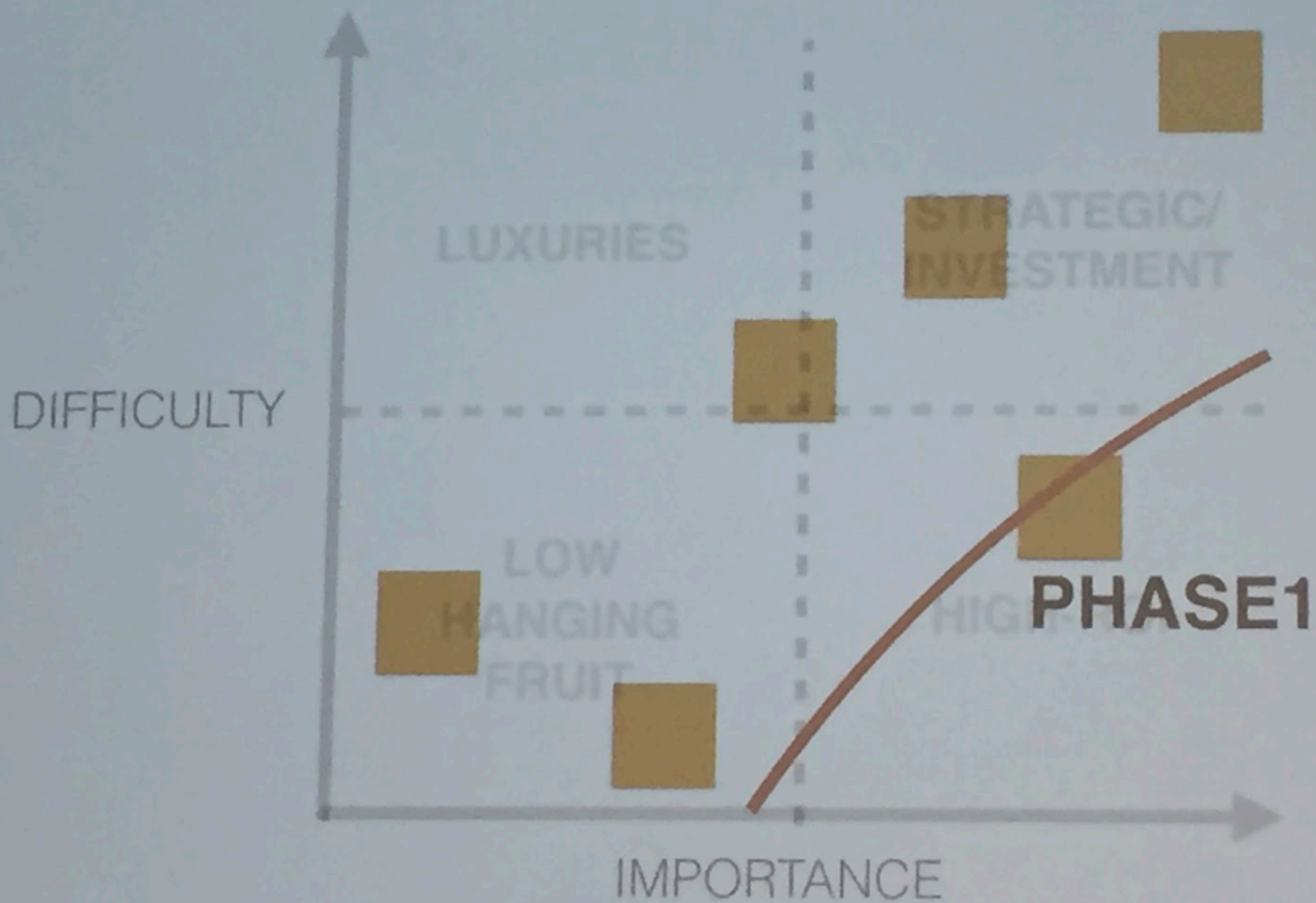
RESOURCES

PREPARE THE MODEL

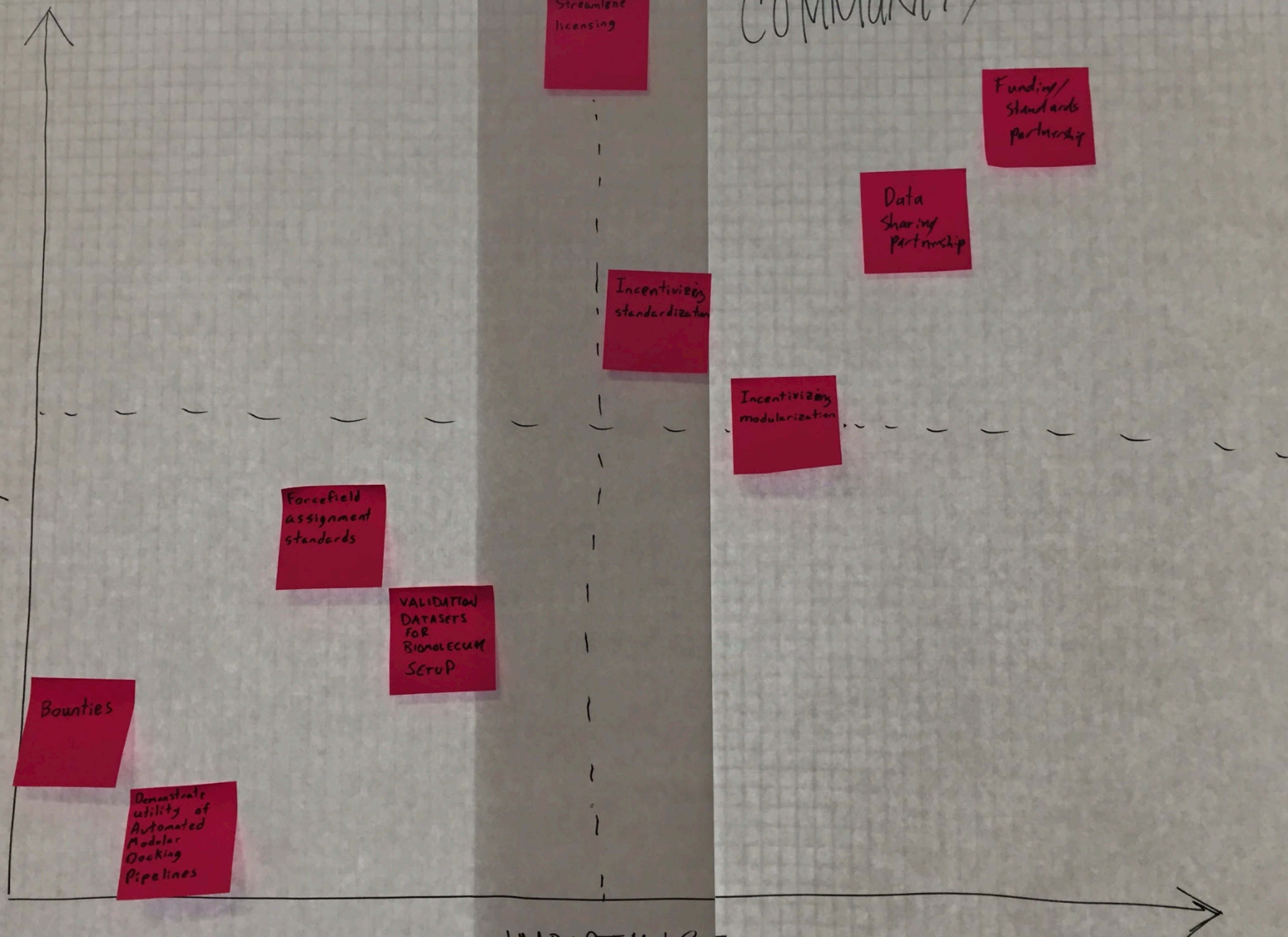
SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM



6. Prioritize a plan of action



DIFFICULTY



IMPORTANCE

SOFTWARE

DIFFICULTY

IMPORTANCE

Reference Implementation
Free Energy Workflow

Flexible ΔG sim.
setup framework

Lossless data
formats for
molecule prep
docking

Common data
models for
communicating
between different
components

Modularize
existing
tools for
setup pipes

PHASE I

Common
workflow
component
defs +
registry

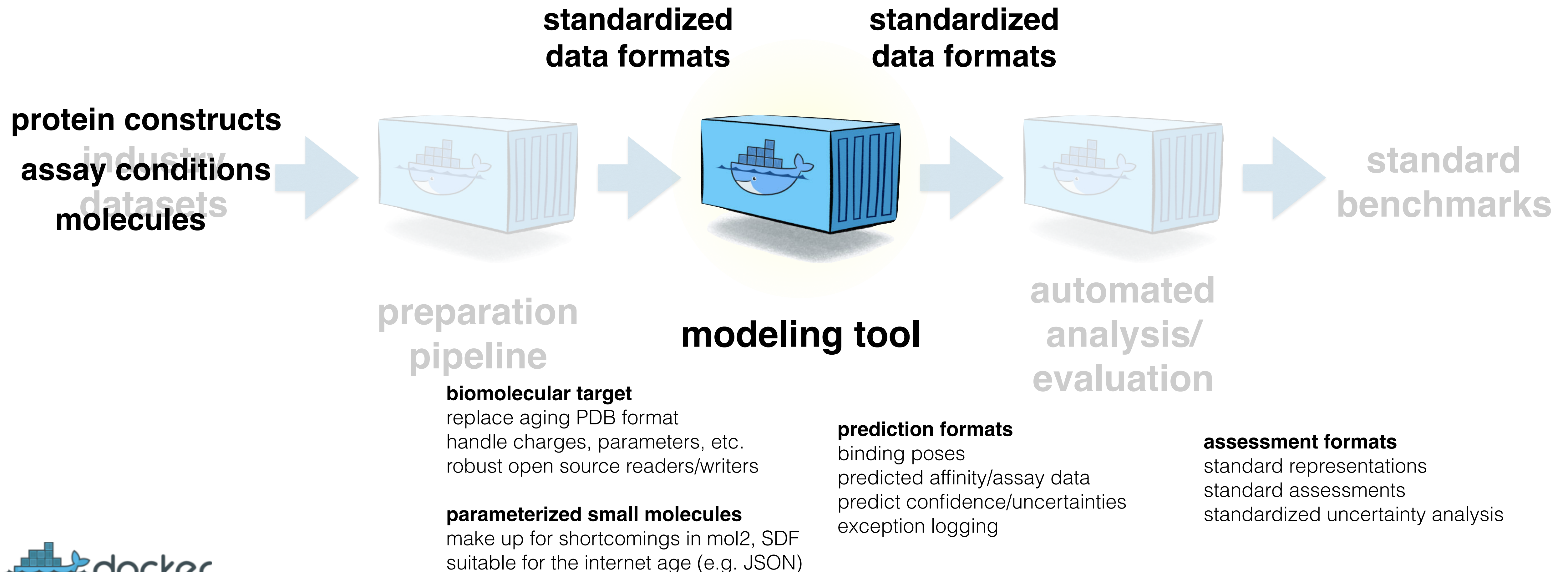
Common
visualization
API +
ref. implem.

Reference Calc.
Reference Imp.
(Abstract syntax
call
MD using
any engine)
Generalized
analysis /
tools
(Data flow)

Reference Imp.
Setup Pipeline

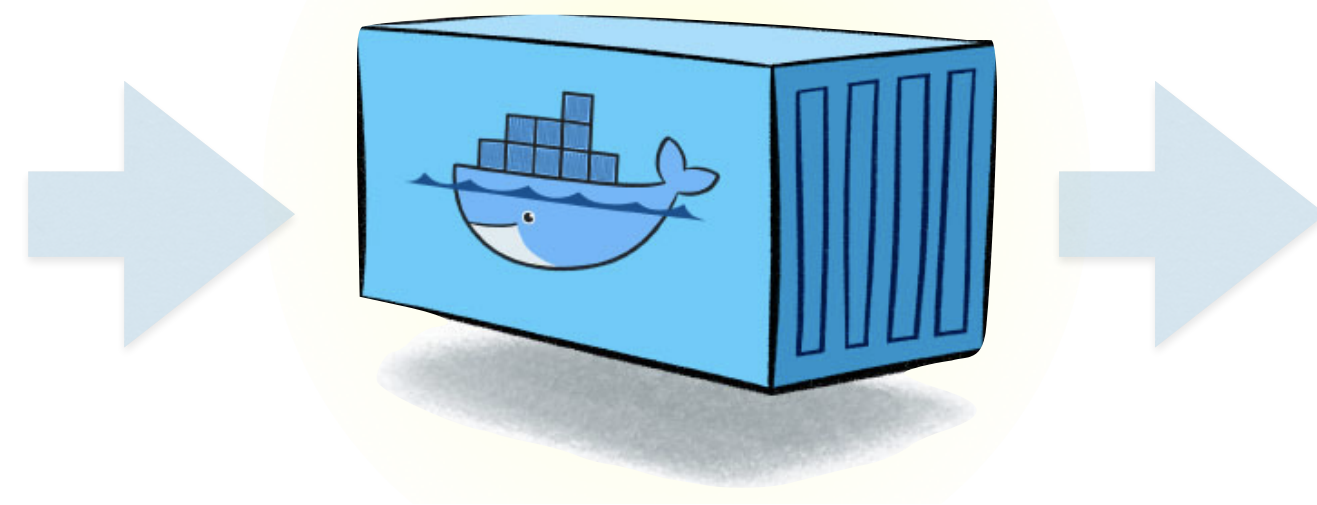
NEXT STEPS:

COMMON COMPONENT WORKING GROUP



DEFINE COMMON COMPONENT FORMAT, I/O, API, AND REGISTRY


What if every modeling tool paper came with a DOI that let you pull the exact tool used in that paper from a common component registry and evaluate it yourself?



ON

DOI 10.5281/zenodo.8475
(example)

Enabled Repositories

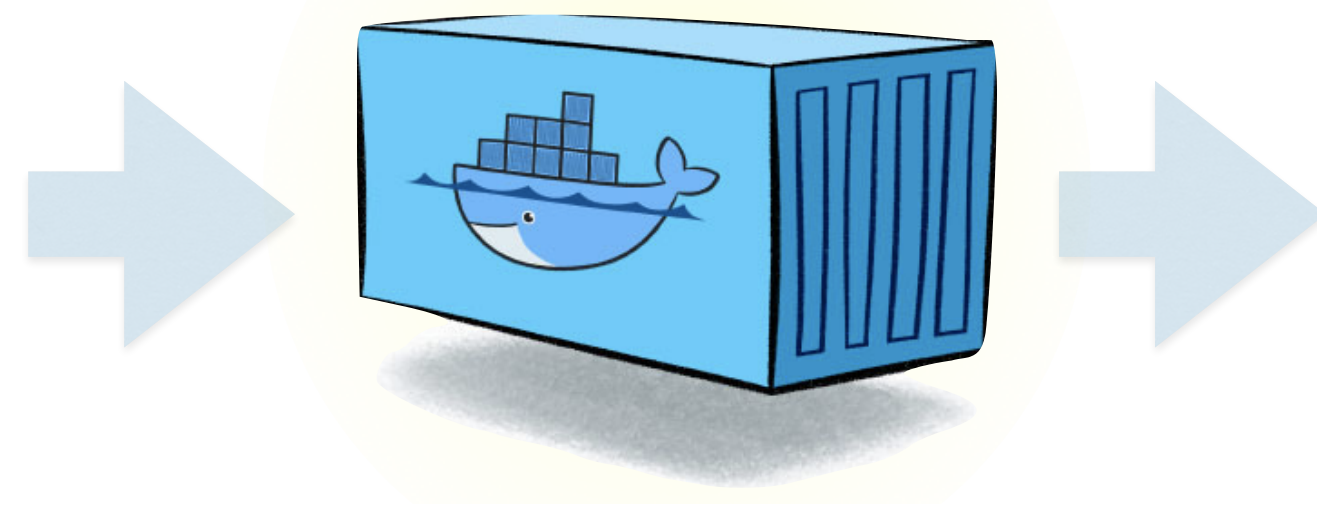
 [arfonsmith/My-Awesome-Science-Software](#)

DOI 10.5281/zenodo.163951

ON

DEFINE COMMON COMPONENT FORMAT, I/O, API, AND REGISTRY


What if every modeling tool paper came with a DOI that let you pull the exact tool used in that paper from a common component registry and evaluate it yourself?



ON

DOI 10.5281/zenodo.8475
(example)

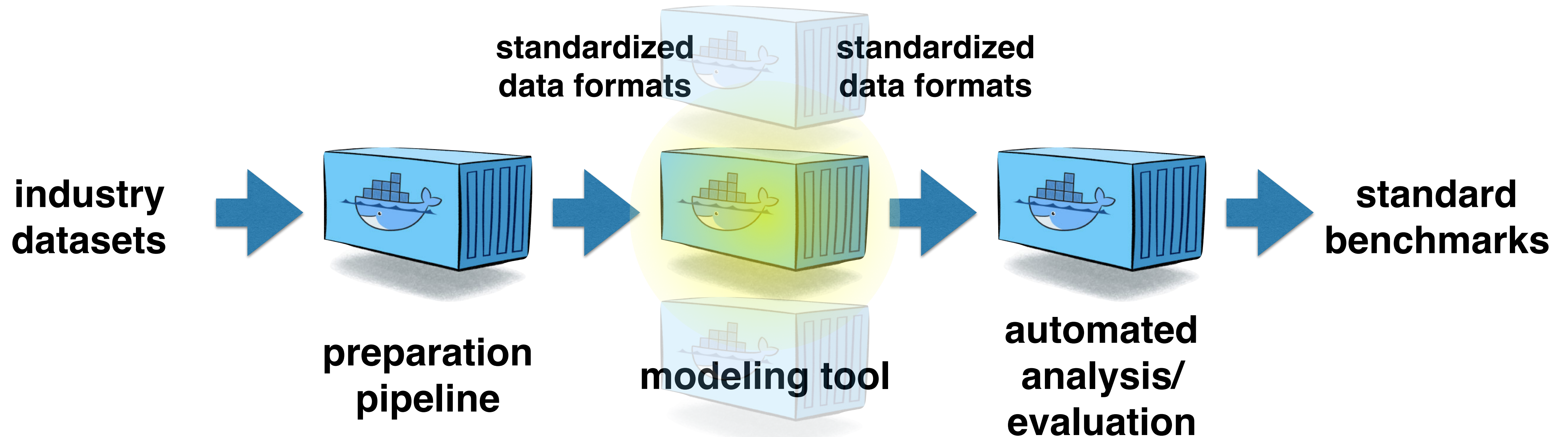
Enabled Repositories

 [arfonsmith/My-Awesome-Science-Software](#)

DOI 10.5281/zenodo.163951

ON

AUTOMATED SAMPL/D3R?

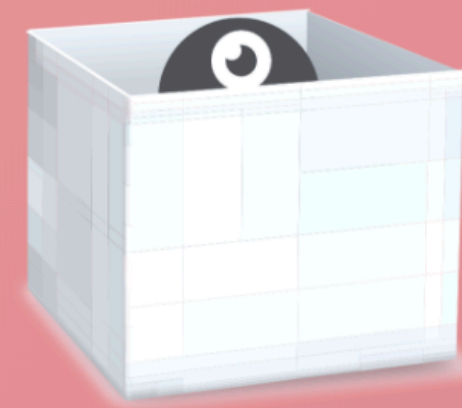


We can likely find a way to raise funds for AWS / GCE time to run tools retrospectively and prospectively for modeling evaluation.

SOME NEAT TECHNOLOGY IS HELPING MAKE THIS EASY

Singularity Hub

Publicly available cloud service for Singularity Containers



Singularity Registry

Deploy your own Singularity Registry for your Institution



Singularity Global Client

Container Management for the Individual User



Singularity Python

Singularity Python Client (under development)

