

Computational Science Moves to Interdisciplinary Research

Piet Hut

Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

Center for Planetary Science, Kobe, 14 December 2010

Dense Stellar Systems as a Laboratory for Fundamental Physics

We can study *elementary particles* through their interactions:

- bound states
- scattering experiments

Other extreme forms of matter: *black holes* and *neutron stars*

We can study these, too, through their interactions:

- bound states: double stars
- scattering experiments: collisions between stars

There is a natural laboratory: **dense stellar systems**

Dense Stellar Systems

- Interactions between individual stars important
 - Two-body relaxation time $<$ Age of the system
 - binary--single-star encounters; physical collisions
- Locations:
 - star-forming regions
 - old open star clusters
 - globular clusters
 - galactic nuclei









MODEST

Modeling Dense STellar systems

or

MODifying Existing STellar codes

<http://www.manybody.org/modest.html>

STANDING
TRUCKS
& UNLOADING
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SALES

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nomad

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BoHoCo

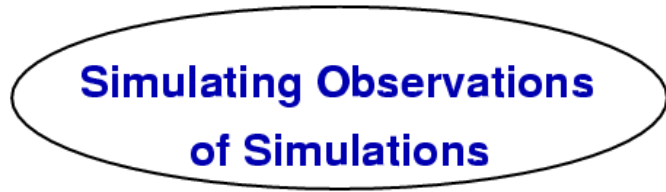
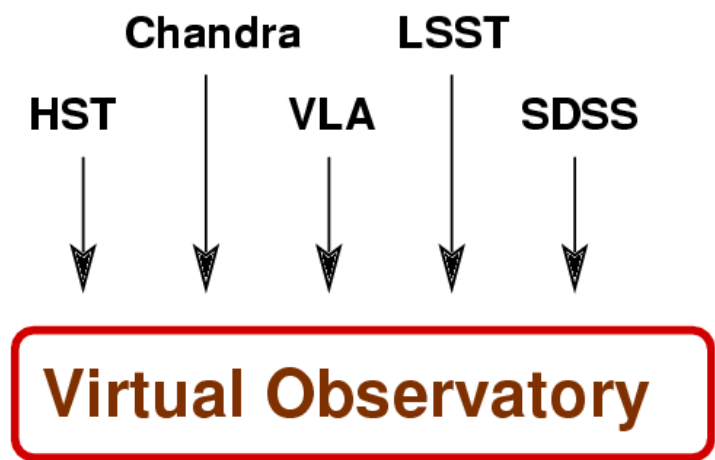
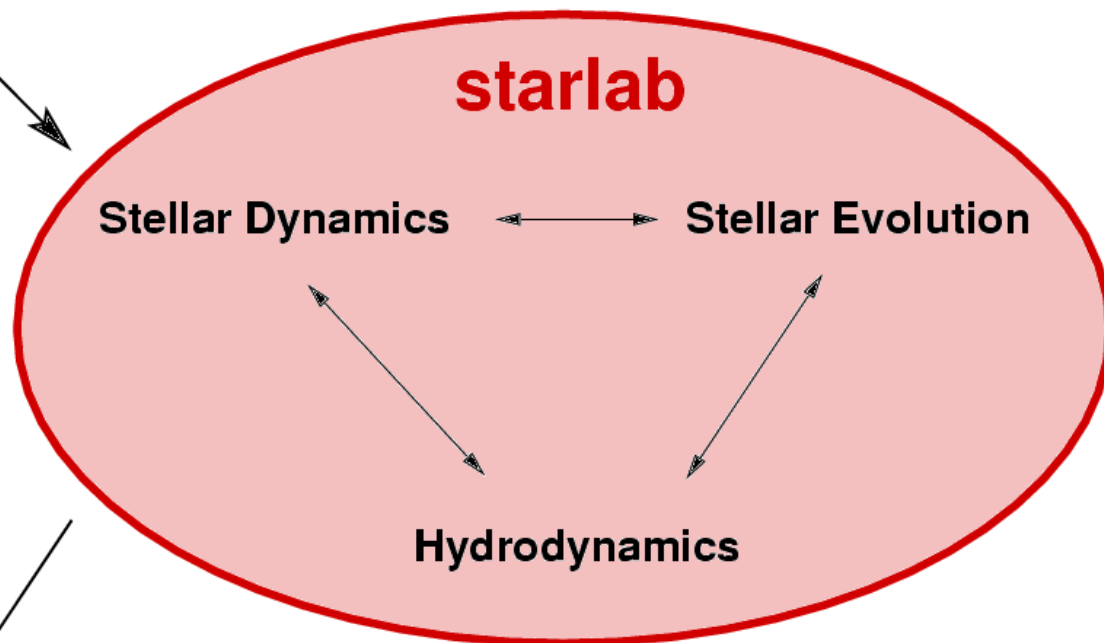
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ROSE CENTER FOR
EARTH AND SPACE
Featuring the New Hayden Planetarium



GRAPE

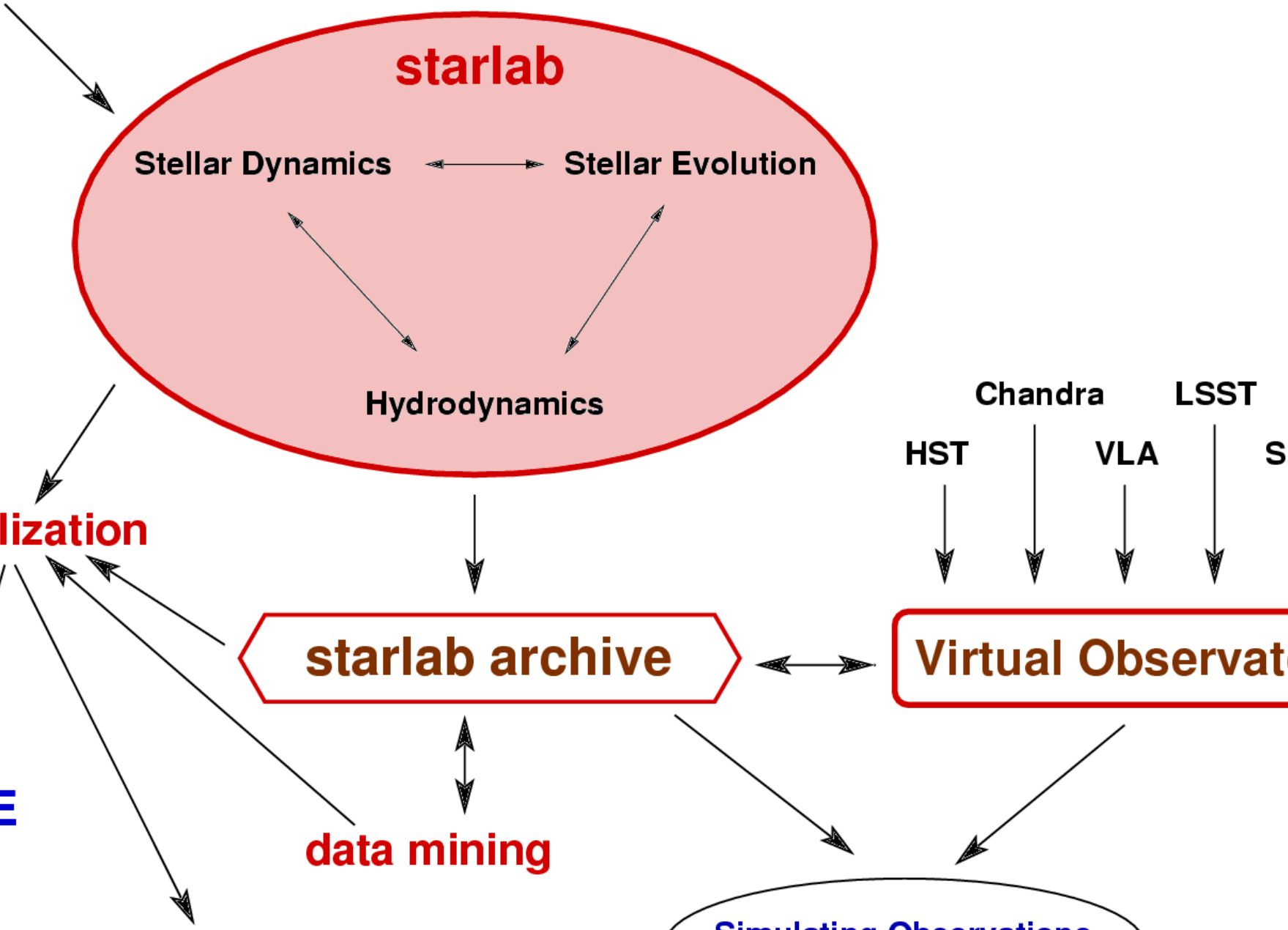


visualization

CAVE

PLANETARIUM

data mining



A Brief History of Science

~ 2000 years ago: Theory -- Greek mathematics

~ 400 years ago: Theory & Experiment -- Modern Science

~ 50 years ago: Theory, Experiment & Simulations -- ?

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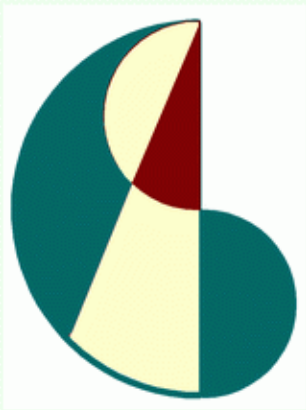
Science is the first “open source” project.

Experiments: a new lab culture had to be developed

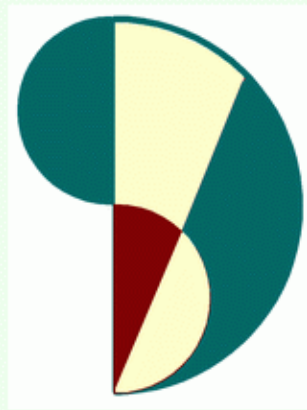
- make detailed lab notes, keep raw data
- report failures as well as success

Simulations: a new `virtual lab' culture is now emerging

- we don't yet have a good way to share code
- we don't yet know how to share knowledge



The Art of Computational Science



A series of books on how to build a computational lab

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www.artcompsci.org

An open source project

The Gravitational Million-Body Problem

A Multidisciplinary Approach to
Star Cluster Dynamics

Douglas Heggie and Piet Hut



CAMBRIDGE

4 Introductions: astrophysics
theoretical physics
computational physics
mathematics

Moving Stars Around

A Preliminary Version
of what will expand into
Volumes 1,2,3
of the series

The Art of Computational Science



Piet Hut & Jun Makino

3 themes: exploring N-body algorithms
writing N-body codes
performing N-body experiments
(www.artcompsci.org)