

# The PyData and Radio Astronomy Ecosystems

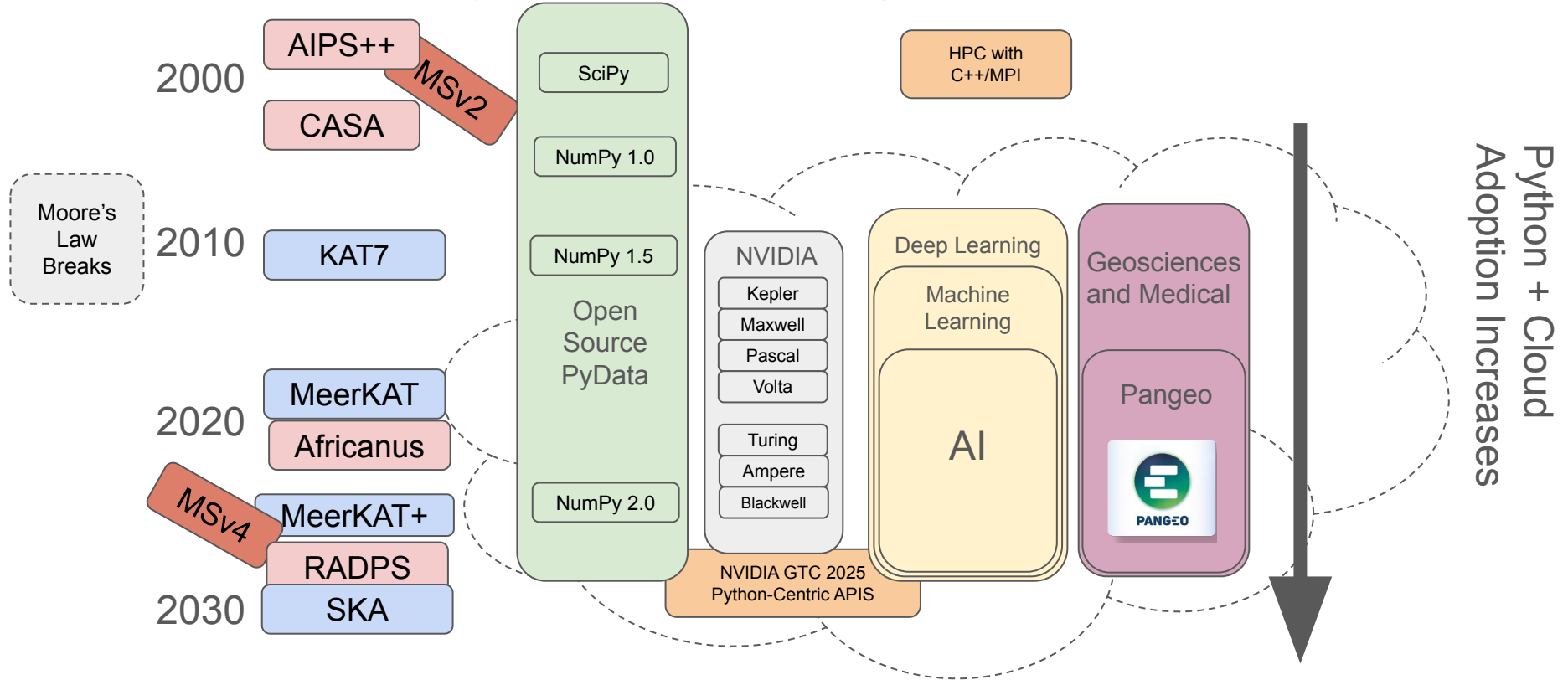
Simon Perkins, Jon Kenyon, Landman Bester, Oleg Smirnov  
and Ben Hugo



**SARAO**  
South African Radio  
Astronomy Observatory

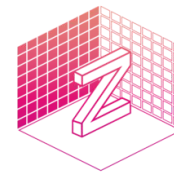


# Radio Astronomy Software Ecosystems in Context



“Big Data may be a  
solved problem”

PyData and AI  
ecosystems offer high  
quality,  
well-maintained  
formats and libraries



Approach pioneered  
by Geosciences:  
Pangeo Project



# An Opinionated Distributed Compute Architecture

Tensor Data

Tabular Data

Backend  
Filesystem/  
Object Store)



Chunk 1

Chunk 2

Chunk 3



Google  
Tensorstore

NVIDIA  
Kvikio



PyArrow



Distributed  
Execution  
Framework



NVIDIA  
Holoscan



Transform  
1

Transform  
2

Transform  
3

Google  
Jax



Modular



RAPIDS

Compute Layer



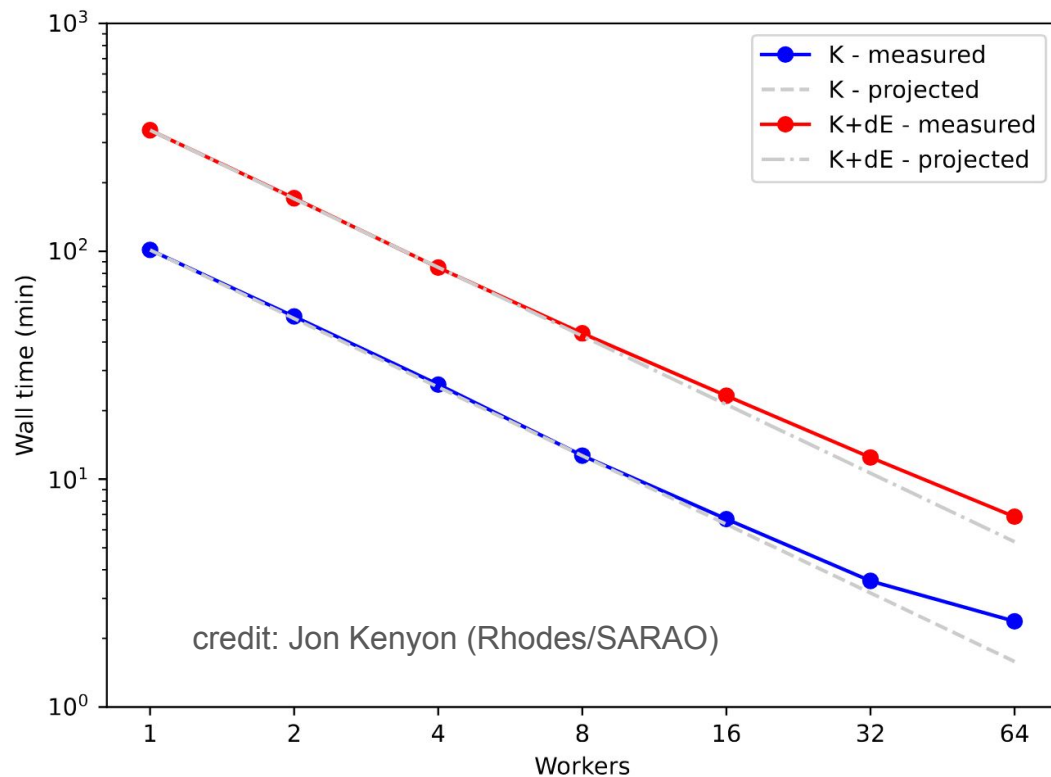
Why Opinionated?  
Good scaling  
properties!

# Quartical Strong Scaling Experiment on AWS: c6in.8xlarge EC2 instances

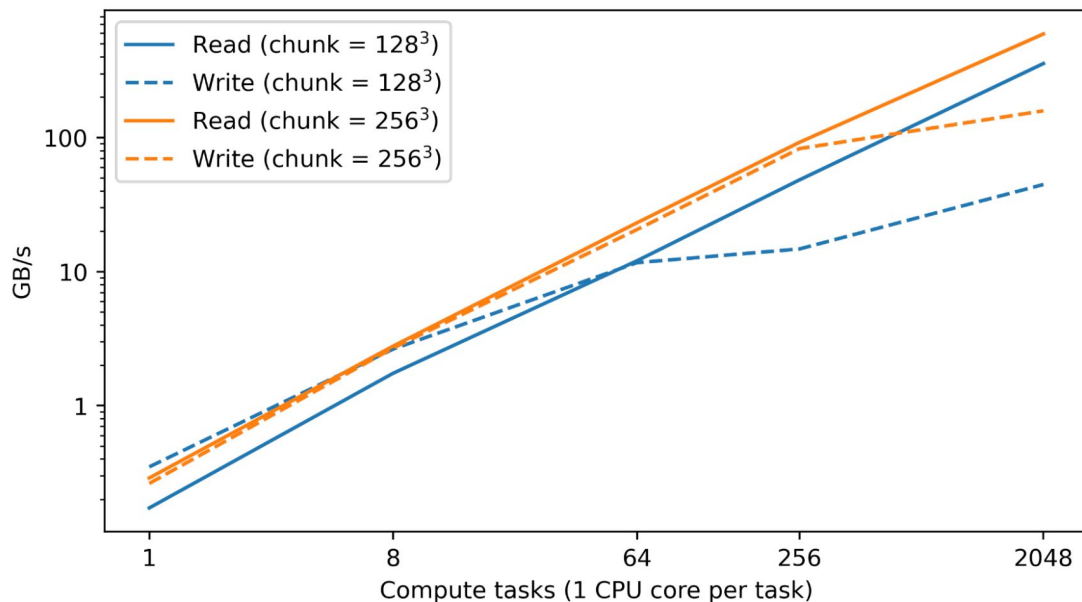
- Shard by time/frequency solution intervals



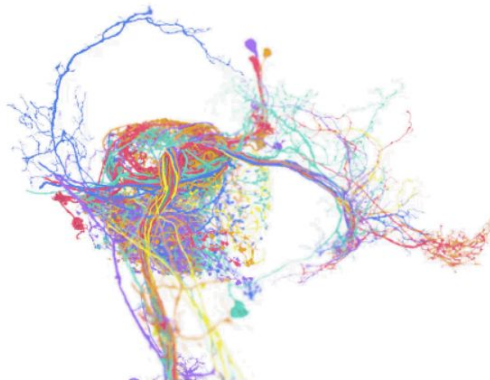
Zarr



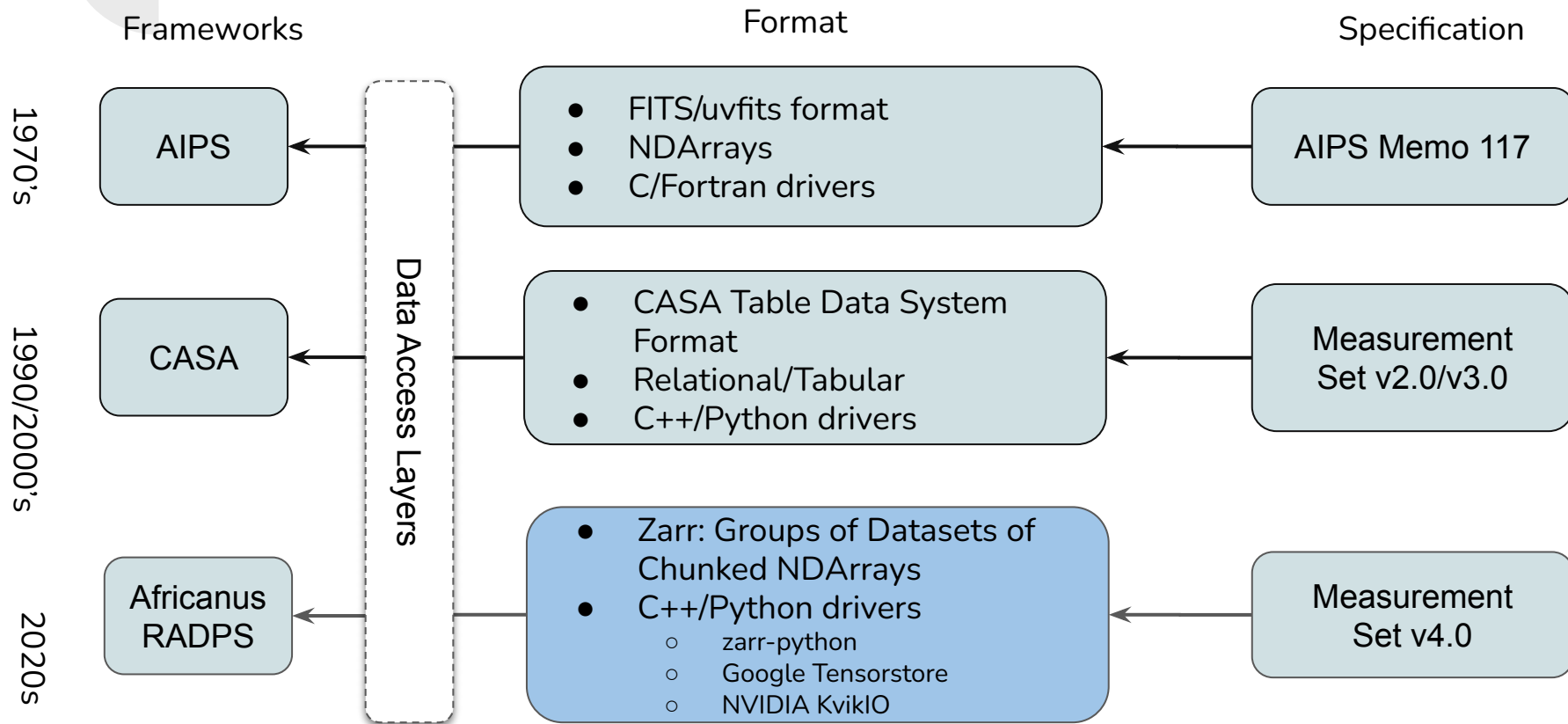
# Google Tensorstore raw Zarr scaling (Google Cloud Storage)



- Used for 3D electron microscopy at petascale
- Climate Science
- <https://research.google/blog/a-browsable-petasc-scale-reconstruction-of-the-human-cortex/>



# Measurement Set v4 (NRAO/SKAO/SARAO)





“Zarr is motivated by the need for a simple, transparent, open, and community-driven format that supports high-throughput distributed I/O on different storage systems.”

- Conceptually **similar to HDF5**
- **Designed for distributed systems**
  - Distributed **Object Stores** (S3, Google Cloud Storage, Ceph)
  - **Posix** File Systems
- NDArrays **Chunked** into many objects/files
  - Read/Write chunks **independently**
  - **Horizontal Scaling**
  - **Compression**
- **Petасcale Datasets**



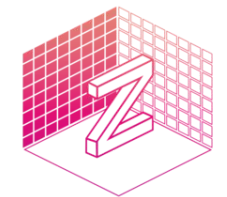
```

>>> ms = zarr.open_group("/tmp/ds.zarr")
>>> uvw = ms.require_dataset("uvw",
                             shape=(10000, 3),
                             chunks=(2500, 3),
                             dtype=np.float64)

>>> data = ms.require_dataset("data",
                              shape=(10000, 64, 4),
                              chunks=(2500, 16, 4),
                              dtype=np.complex64)

>>> data.info
Name                : /data
Type                : zarr.core.Array
Data type           : complex64
Shape               : (10000, 64, 4)
Chunk shape         : (2500, 16, 4)
Order               : C
Read-only           : False
Compressor          : Blosc(cname='lz4', clevel=5,
shuffle=SHUFFLE, blocksize=0)
Store type          : zarr.storage.DirectoryStore
No. bytes            : 20480000 (19.5M)
No. bytes stored    : 83113 (81.2K)
Storage ratio       : 246.4
Chunks initialized  : 0/16

```



# Zarr

- NumPy interface
- Compression
- In-memory data stores

```

>>> uvw[:] = np.random.random((10000, 3))
>>> data[:] = np.random.random((10000, 64, 4))
>>> data.info
No. bytes            : 20480000 (19.5M)
No. bytes stored     : 9108938 (8.7M)
Storage ratio        : 2.2
Chunks initialized   : 16/16

```

Hierarchical  
Tree of  
Datasets

```
Group: /
├── Group: /1530628393_sdp_l0_partition_000
│   ...
├── Group: /1530628393_sdp_l0_partition_001
│   Dimensions: (time: 2157, baseline_id: 1830,
│               frequency: 4096, polarization: 4, uvw_label: 3)
│   Coordinates:
│     * time      (time) float64 17kB 1.531e+09 ... 1.531e+09
│     * baseline_id (baseline_id) int64 15kB 0 1 2 ... 1828 1829
│     * frequency  (frequency) float64 33kB 8.56e+08 ... 1.712e+09
│     * polarization (polarization) <U2 32B 'XX' 'XY' 'YX' 'YY'
│   Data variables:
│     EFFECTIVE_INTEGRATION_TIME (time, baseline_id) float64 32MB ...
│     FLAG                       (time, baseline_id, frequency, polarization) uint8 65GB ...
│     TIME_CENTROID              (time, baseline_id) float64 32MB ...
│     UVW                       (time, baseline_id, uvw_label) float64 95MB ...
│     VISIBILITY                 (time, baseline_id, frequency, polarization) complex64 517GB ...
│     WEIGHT                    (time, baseline_id, frequency, polarization) float32 259GB ...
│   Attributes:
│     observation_info: {'observer': ['Tony'], 'project_UID': '20180703-0022', ...
│     processor_info:   {'sub_type': 'unknown', 'type': 'unknown'}
│     type:              visibility
└── Group: /1530628393_sdp_l0_partition_002
    ...
```

Coordinates  
associated with  
DimensionsMetadata associated with  
Datasets and VariablesVariable Types  
and sizes



is a **lazy** interface/presentation layer for data  
It abstracts the underlying data store away from the user

```
Group: /
├── Group: /1530628393_sdp_l0_partition_000
│   ...
├── Group: /1530628393_sdp_l0_partition_001
│   Dimensions:                (time: 2157, baseline_id: 1830,
│                               frequency: 4096, polarization: 4, uvw: 3)
│   Coordinates:
│     * time                    (time) float64 17kB 1.531e+09 ... 1.531e+09
│     * baseline_id             (baseline_id) int64 15 ... 1828 1829
│     * frequency               (frequency) float64 8.56e+08 ... 1.712e+09
│     * polarization            (polarization) uint8 32B 'XX' 'XY' 'YX' 'YY'
│   Data variables:
│     EFFECTIVE_INTEGRATION_TIME (time, baseline_id) float64 32MB ...
│     FLAG                      (time, baseline_id, frequency, polarization) uint8 65GB ...
│     TIME_CENTROID             (time, baseline_id) float64 32MB ...
│     UVW                      (time, baseline_id, uvw_label) float64 95MB ...
│     VISIBILITY                (time, baseline_id, frequency, polarization) complex64 517GB ...
│     WEIGHT                   (time, baseline_id, frequency, polarization) float32 259GB ...
│   Attributes:
│     observation_info: {'observer': ['Tony'], 'project_UID': '20180703-0022', ...
│     processor_info:   {'sub_type': 'unknown', 'type': 'unknown'}
│     type:              visibility
├── Group: /1530628393_sdp_l0_partition_002
│   ...
└── ...
```

800GB too  
large to fit in  
memory

FORMAT BOF  
BOF BOF!!!



is a **lazy** interface/presentation layer for data  
Can load variables on demand and select out regions

```
Group: /  
├── Group: /1530628393_sdp_l0_partition_000  
│   ...  
├── Group: /1530628393_sdp_l0_partition_001  
│   Dimensions: (time: 2157, baseline_id: 1830,  
│               frequency: 4096, polarization: 4, uvw_label: 3)  
│   ...  
└── ...
```

Too large to fit  
in memory

```
# Open an MS as an xarray DataTree  
dt = xarray.open_datatree("1234567890_sdp_l0.ms")  
# Reference a dataset  
ds = dt2["1530628393_sdp_l0_partition_001"].ds  
# Select a portion of the data out  
subds = ds.isel(time=slice(100, 200), baseline_id=[1, 3,  
5], polarization=["XX"])  
# Load in VISIBILITY data on demand  
operate_on(subds.VISIBILITY.values)  
# Load the rest of the selected dataset into memory  
subds.load()
```

```
.531e+09  
1828 1829  
.. 1.712e+09  
X' 'YY'  
.  
rization) uint8 65GB ...  
.  
t64 95MB ...  
rization) complex64 517GB ...  
rization) float32 259GB ...  
703-0022',...
```

# Different backends, same interface

```
import xarray_ms
import xarray
```

MSv4 view over MSv2  
data view xarray-ms

```
ms = "1234567890_sdp_10.ms"
dt = xarray.open_datatree(ms)
# Export to Zarr
dt.to_zarr("1234567890_sdp_10.zarr")
```

```
import xarray
```

Zarr via xarray

```
zms = "1234567890_sdp_10.zarr"
dt = xarray.open_datatree(zms)
```

```
import xarray_kat
import xarray
```

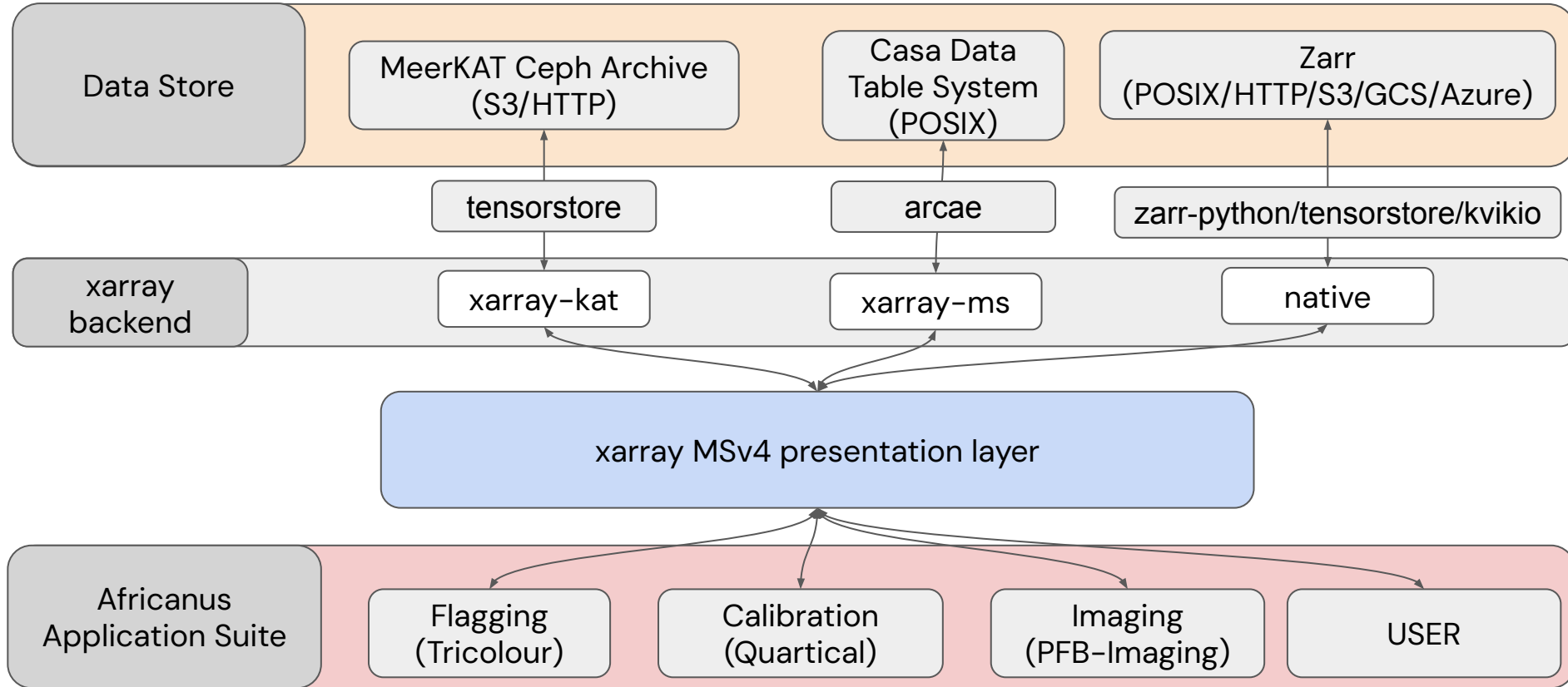
MSv4 view over the  
MeerKAT Archive  
via xarray-kat

```
url = "https://archive-gw-1.kat.ac.za/..."
dt = xarray.open_datatree(url)
# Export to Zarr
dt.to_zarr("1234567890_sdp_10.zarr")
```

```
# Select out a dataset
ds = dt["1234567890_sdp_10_000"].ds
# Select a subset of the dataset
sub_sel_ds = ds.isel(
    time=slice(100, 200),
    baseline_id=slice(20, 60),
    frequency=slice(256, 768))
# Load in the subselection
sub_sel_ds.load()
# Pass data into imaging function...
image(sub_sel_ds.VISIBILITY.values,
      sub_sel_ds.WEIGHT.values,
      sub_sel_ds.FLAG.values)
```

"Imaging  
Workflow"

# Africanus Ecosystem adapted to MSv4



# Time to sum 517GB visibilities and 259GB weights? CASA left vs Zarr right

```
In [42]: import xarray

In [43]: import xarray_ms

In [44]: dt = xarray.open_datatree("1530628393_sdp_10.ms",
    chunks={"time": 128, "baseline_id": 128},
    ninstances=16)

In [45]: ds = dt["1530628393_sdp_10_partition_001"].ds

In [46]: %time dask.compute(
    ds.VISIBILITY.data.sum(),
    ds.WEIGHT.data.sum())
CPU times: user yymin zzs, sys: xh ymin zs, total: xh yymin zzs
Wall time: ymin zzs

Out[46]: (np.complex64(2.198126e+07-5.5812296e+07j),
np.float32(1.3533127e+14))
```

```
In [48]: import xarray

In [49]: dt2 = xarray.open_datatree(
    "1530628393_sdp_10.zarr", chunks={})

In [50]: ds = dt2["1530628393_sdp_10_partition_001"].ds

In [51]: %time dask.compute(
    ds.VISIBILITY.data.sum(),
    ds.WEIGHT.data.sum())
CPU times: user yymin zzs, sys: xh yymin zzs, total: yymin zzs
Wall time: ymin zzs

Out[51]: (np.complex64(2.198126e+07-5.5812296e+07j),
np.float32(1.3533127e+14))
```

# Time to sum 517GB visibilities and 259GB weights?

## CASA left vs Zarr right

xarray-ms powered by **arcae** a python-casacore clone supporting multi-threaded access to CASA tables.

```
In [44]: dt = xarray.open_datatree("1530628393_sdp_10.ms",  
    chunks={"time": 128, "baseline_id": 128},  
    ninstances=16)
```

```
In [45]: ds = dt["1530628393_sdp_10_partition_001"].ds
```

```
In [46]: %time dask.compute(  
    ds.VISIBILITY.data.sum(),  
    ds.WEIGHT.data.sum())
```

```
CPU times: user 21min 19s, sys: 1h 7min 3s, total: 1h 28min 23s
```

```
Wall time: 4min 32s
```

```
Out[46]: (np.complex64(2.198126e+07-5.5812296e+07j),  
    np.float32(1.3533127e+14))
```

```
In [48]: import xarray
```

- AMD EPYC 7702P 64-Core Processor, 528GB RAM
- 4 Seagate FireCuda 530 [ZP4000GM30013](#) nvme in RAID0
- 5,645MB/s theoretical sequential read. ~22,580MB/s seq read in RAID0
- 16,600 MB/s in [fio sequential read benchmark](#)

```
    ds.VISIBILITY.data.sum(),  
    ds.WEIGHT.data.sum())
```

```
CPU times: user 23min 56s, sys: 28min 5s, total: 52min 2s
```

```
Wall time: 6min 55s
```

```
Out[51]: (np.complex64(2.198126e+07-5.5812296e+07j),  
    np.float32(1.3533127e+14))
```

Zarr may spend more time decompressing

# Conclusion: There's a plethora of software that makes working with large data easier and faster.

- PFB-Imaging
- Galactic Centre has a complex structure
- Classic CLEAN algorithm => un-physical result
- Variant of SARA algorithm for deconvolution
- 2X longer, 2X more memory than CLEAN, but far less manual effort, more physically correct result

Credit: Bester & Heywood

