

POP Performance analysis methodology

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HORIZON-EUROHPC-JU-2023-COE

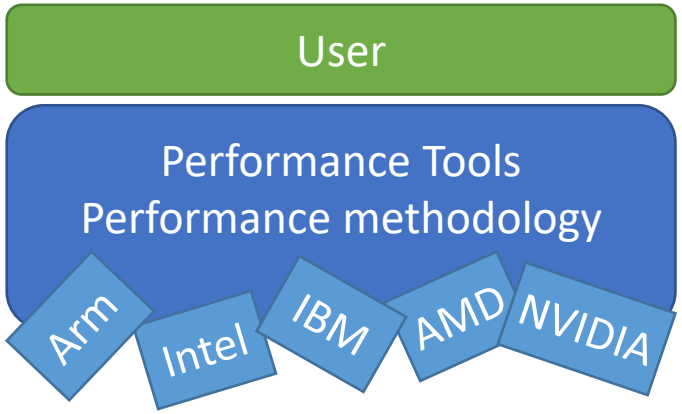
EuroHPC Joint Undertaking

1 January 2024– 31 December 2026

Grant Agreement No 101143931

Context and history

- **POP-CoE** starts in 2015
- Objectives:
  - To offer performance analysis services to European HPC users.
  - To develop a common methodology for performance analysis
- **POP1** runs from October 2015 to March 2018
- **POP2** runs from December 2018 to June 2022
- **POP3** will run between January 2023 and December 2026



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Partners

- **Who?**
  - BSC (coordinator), ES
  - HLRS, DE
  - JSC, DE
  - INES-ID, PT
  - RWTH Aachen, IT Center, DE
  - TERATEC, FR
  - IT4I, CZ
  - UVSQ, FR

A team with

- Excellence in performance tools and tuning
- Excellence in programming models and practices
- Research and development background AND
  proven commitment in application to real academic and industrial use cases

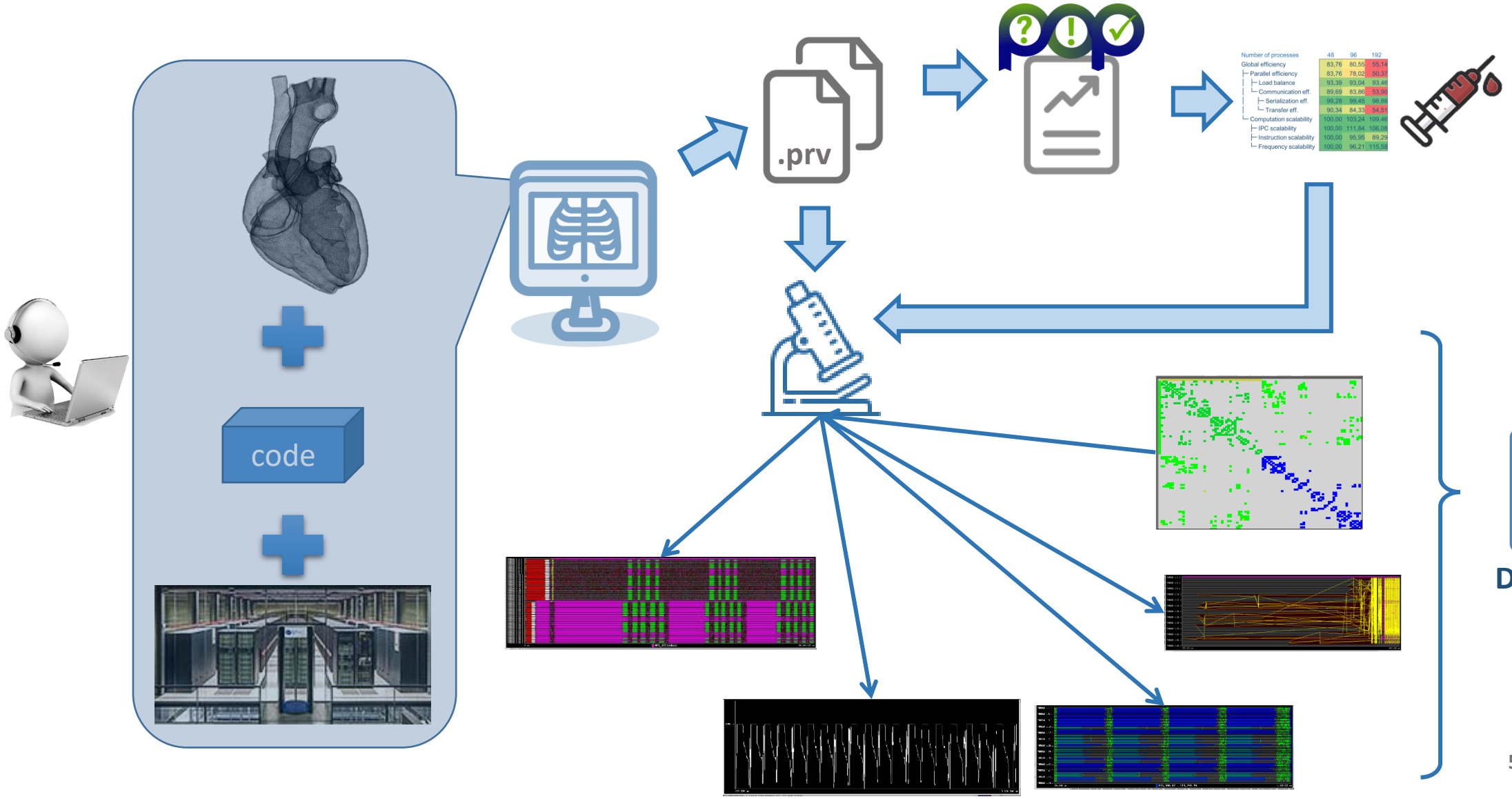
Content

- POP methodology
  - A methodology for performance analysis
  - Agnostic of the tools
    - But this presentation is based on BSC tools (Extrae, Paraver, Dimemas and Basic Analysis)
    - You will see examples of the methodology applied using both JSC and BSC tools in the following presentations

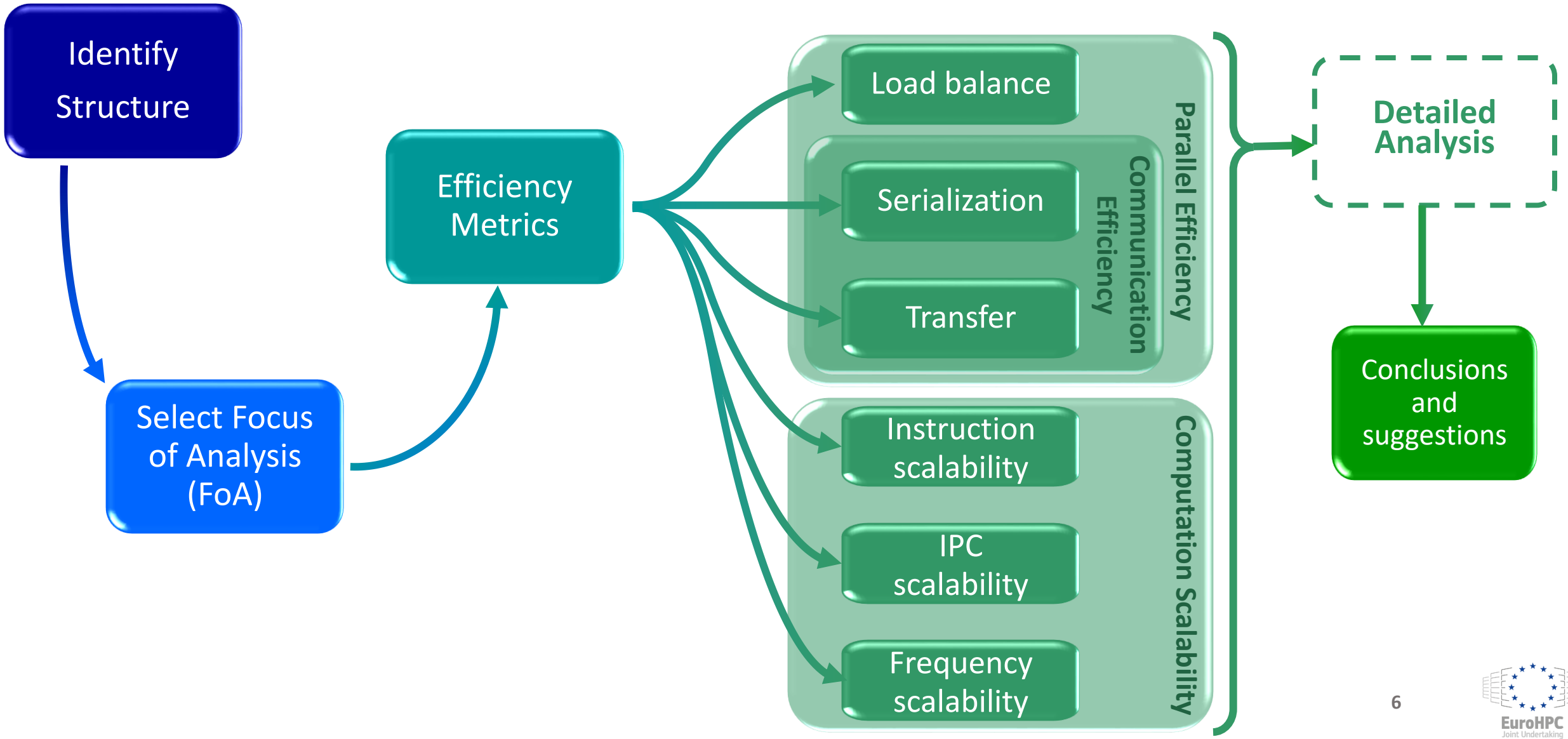
- MPI only applications
  - But POP methodology is being extended to:
    - Hybrid models: OpenMP, GPUs…
    - I/O
    - Vectorization

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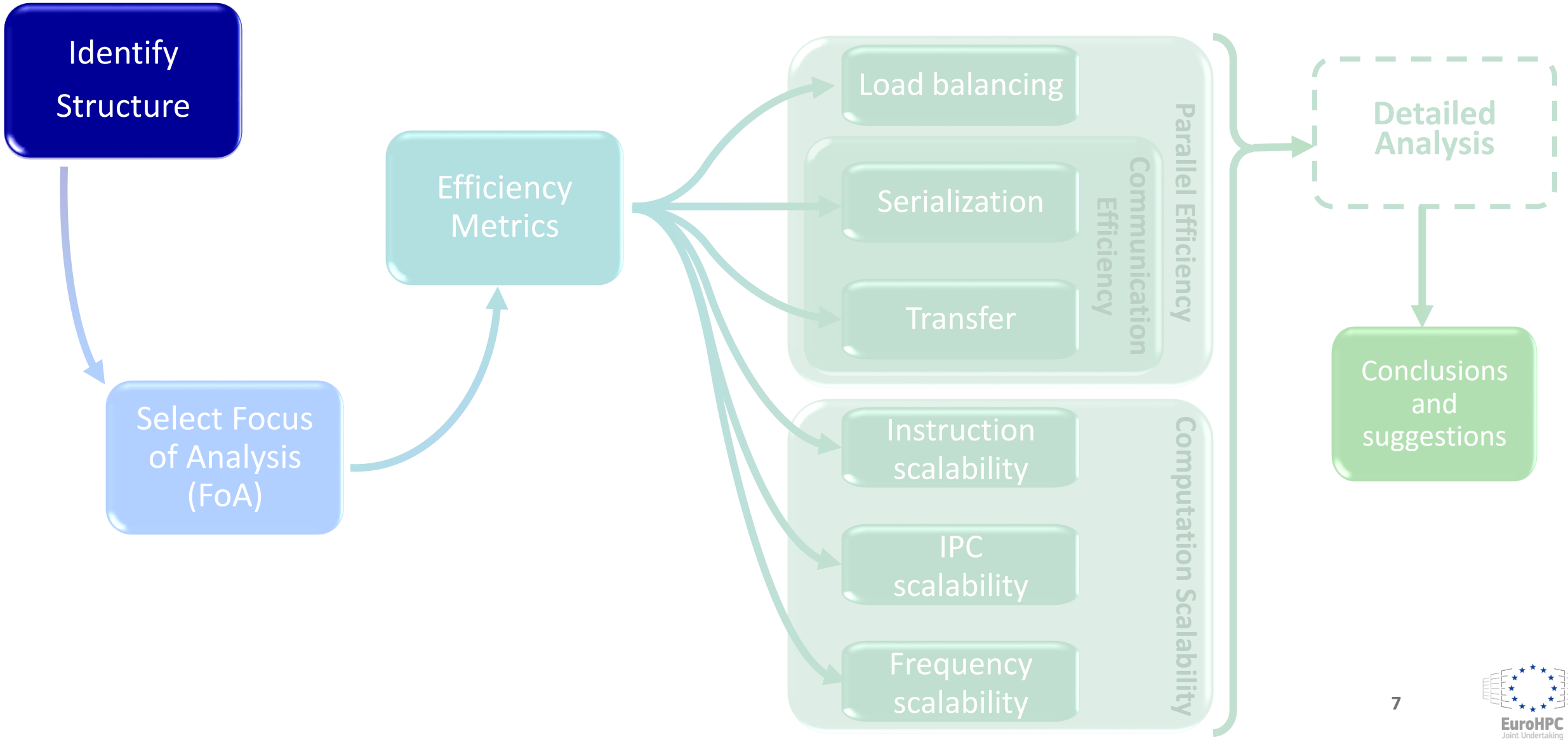
Performance analysis



The journey


Identify Structure
Select Focus of Analysis (FoA)
Efficiency Metrics
Load balance
Serialization
Transfer
Communication Efficiency
Parallel Efficiency
Instruction scalability
IPC scalability
Frequency scalability
Computation Scalability
Detailed Analysis
Conclusions and suggestions

The journey


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Identify structure

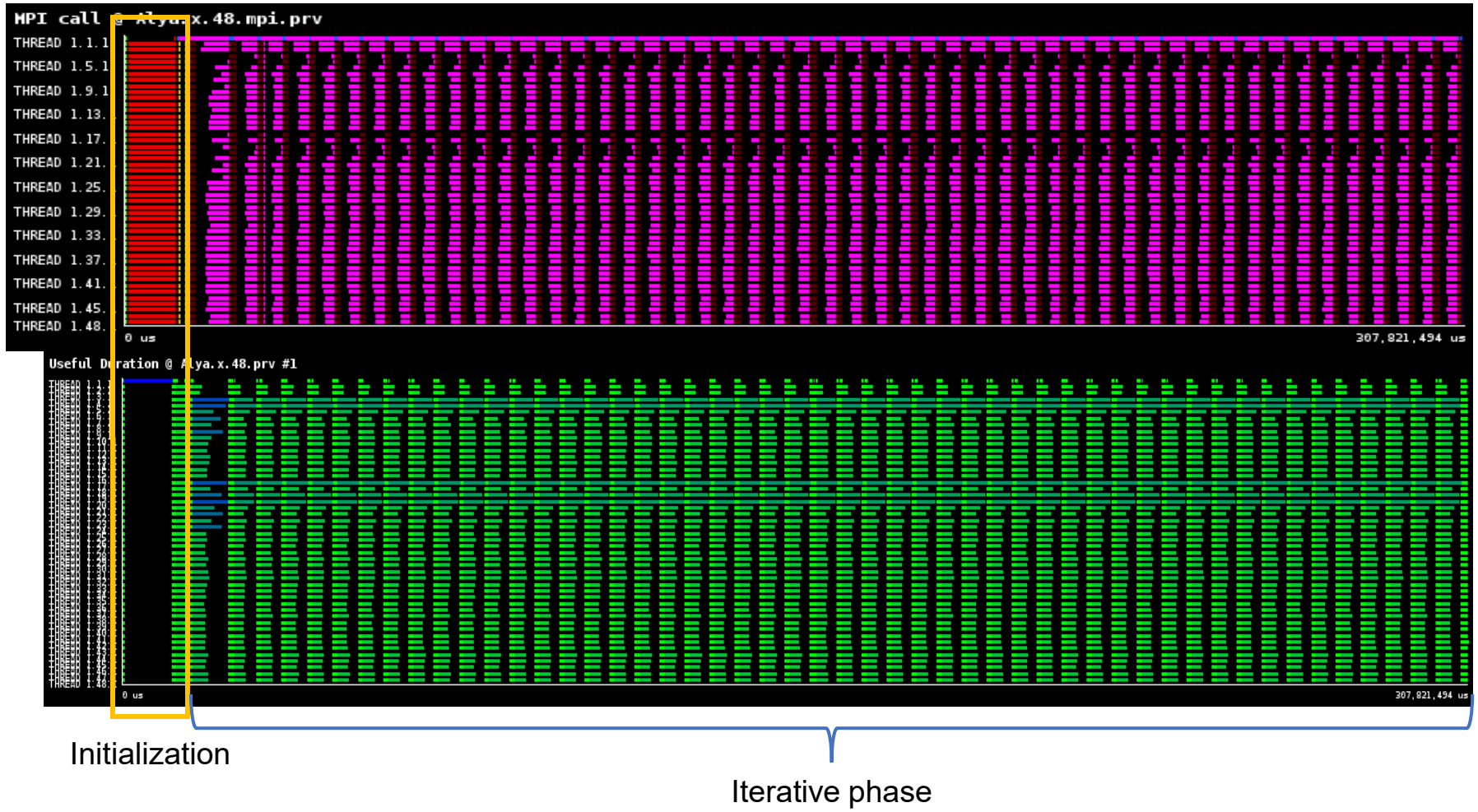
- Objectives:
  - Understand general structure
  - Identify initialization/finalization phases
  - Detect iterative pattern
  - Granularity

- Different levels of “difficulty” → Different levels of knowledge

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Identify structure

- Usually use “MPI calls” view or “Useful Duration”

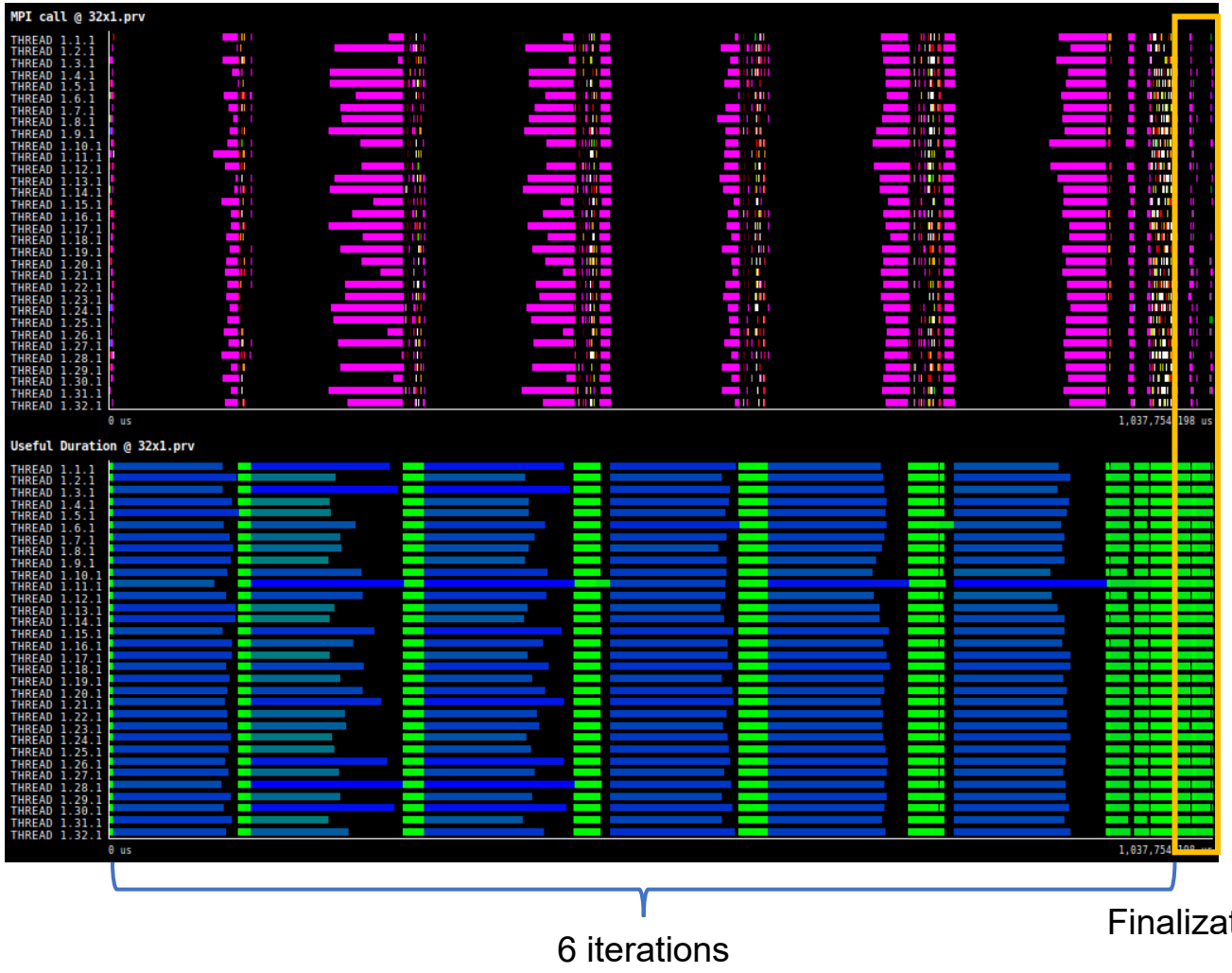


- Clear iterative pattern
- With an initialization phase
- All iterations are similar
  - We can select a few to analyze

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Identify structure

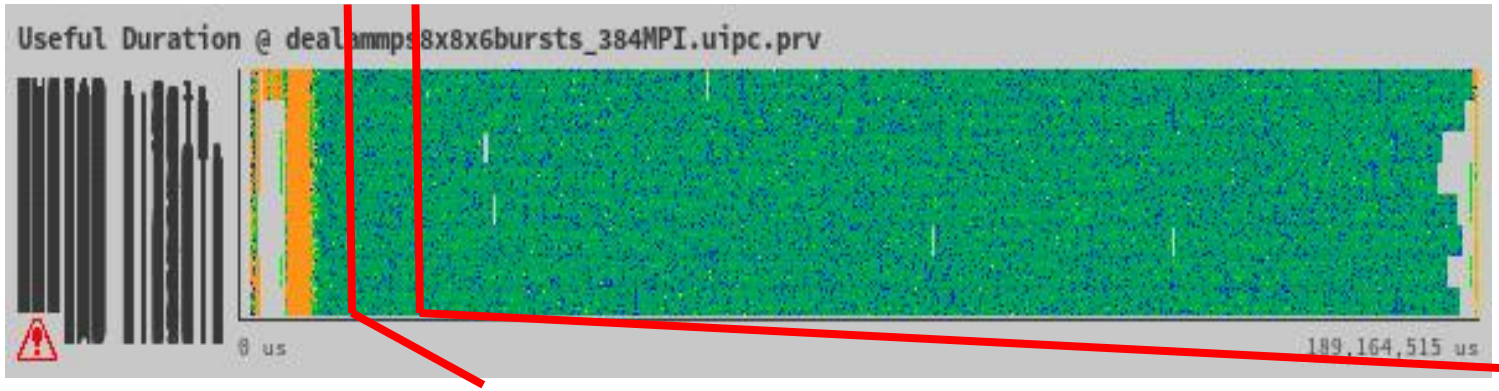
- Not always easy

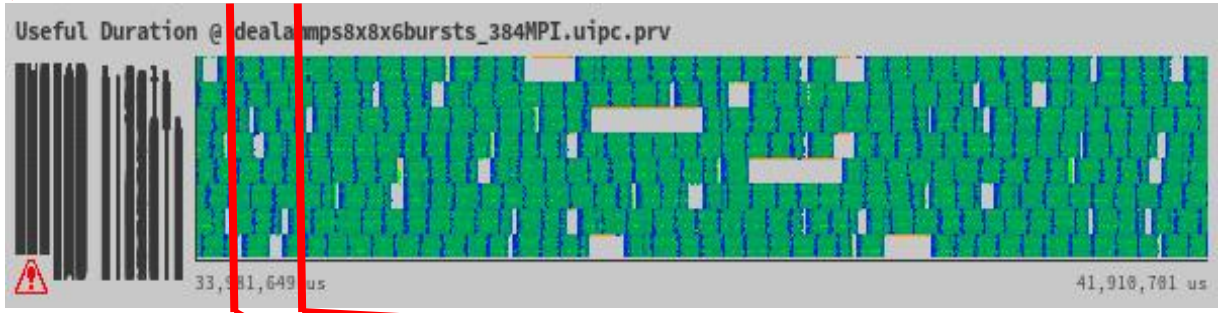


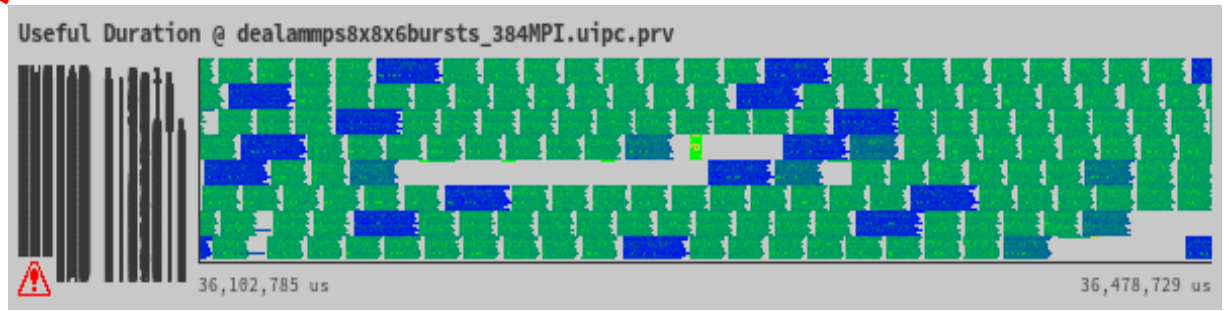
- There are 6 iterations and one finalization phase
- Iterations are not regular along time
  - Different pattern of load balance
  - Different pattern of durations

Identify structure

- Not always easy





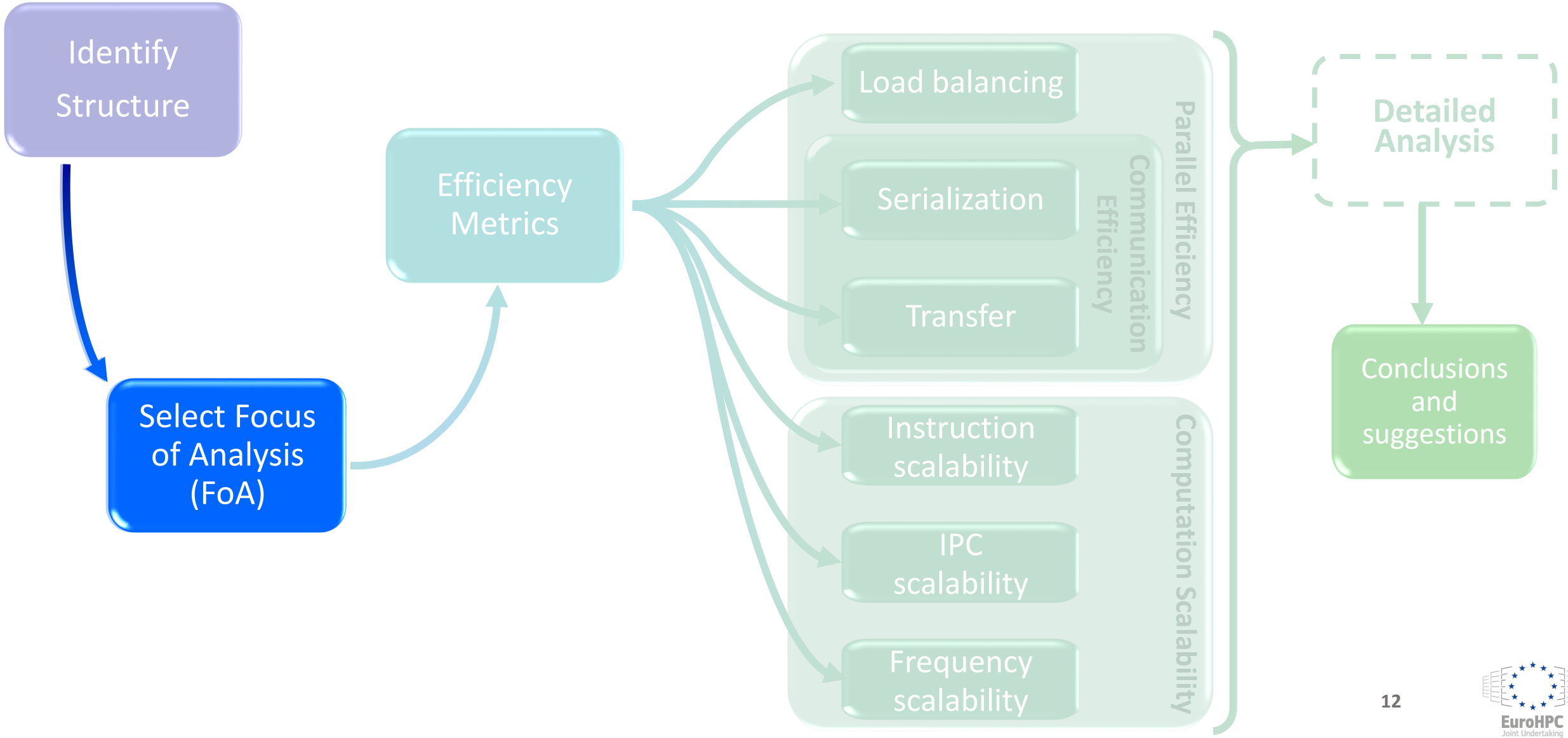


- It is not easy to detect an iterative structure
- No global synchronizations

- Zooming in we detect that synchronizations only happen at node level
- Not possible to determine iterations

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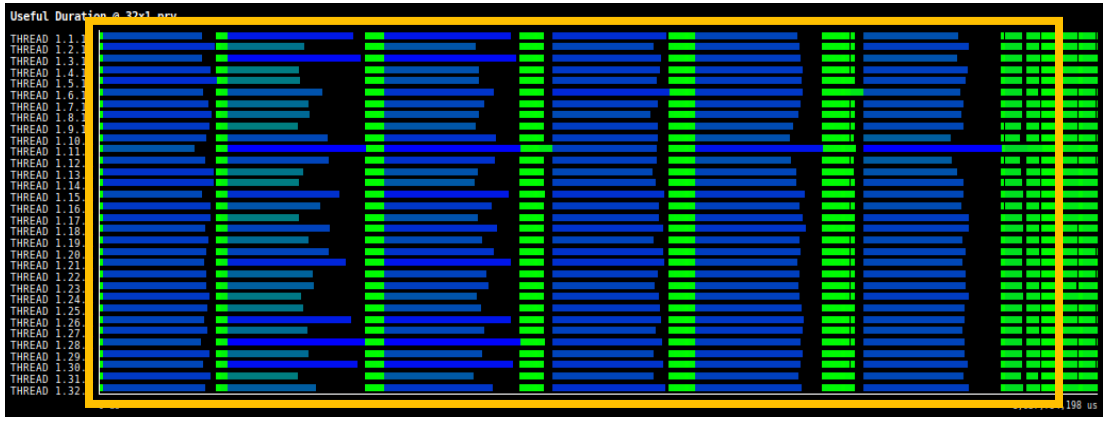
The journey

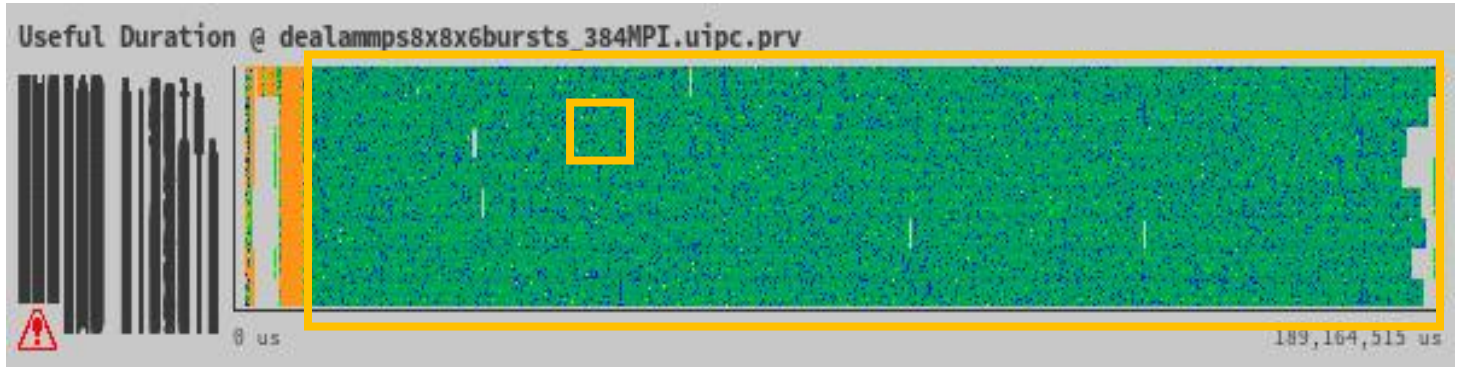

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Select Focus of Analysis (FoA)

- **Objective:** Select the region we want to analyze
  - Not a correct answer, depends on the context of the analysis
  - For the same trace we may select two different FoA to perform two different studies with two different objectives.

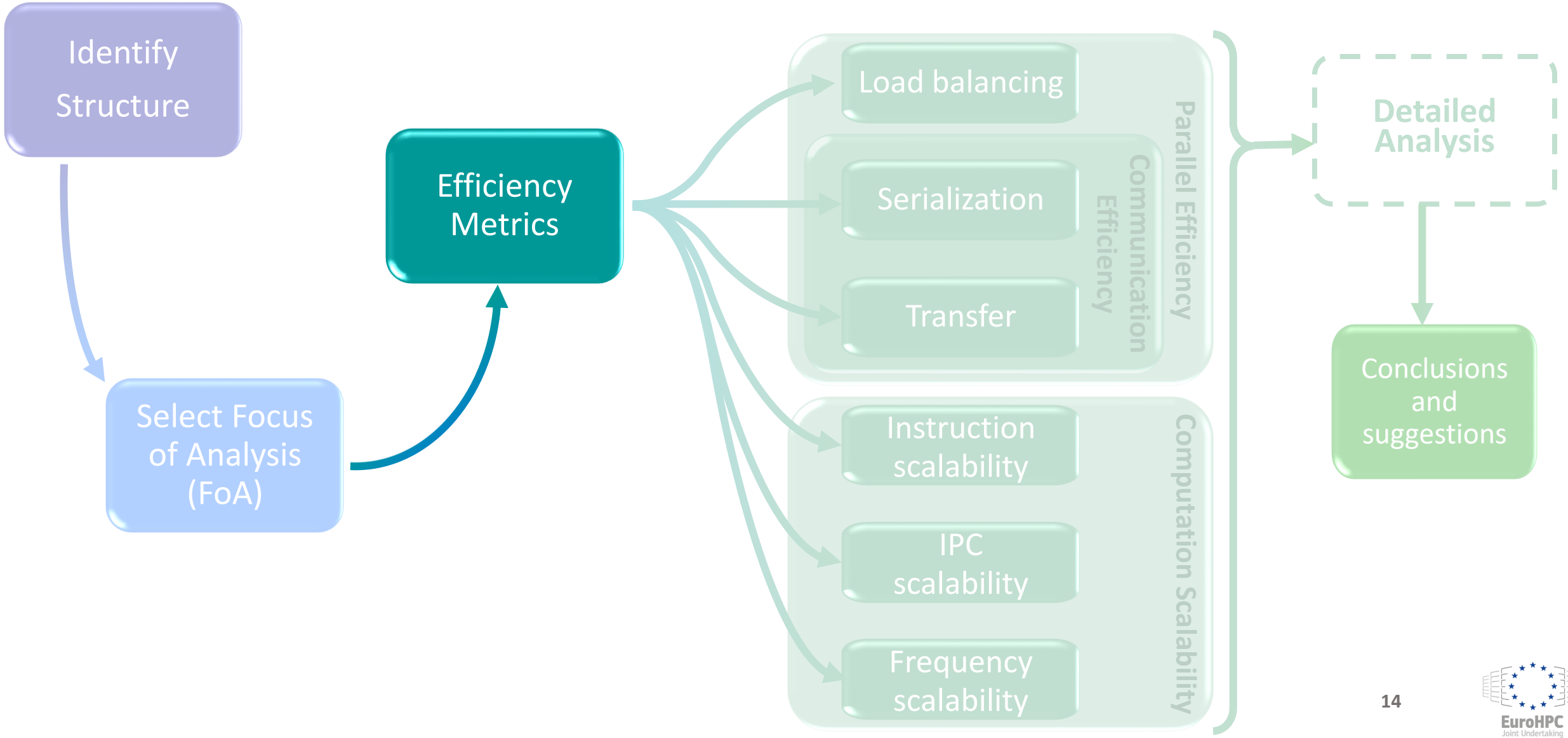




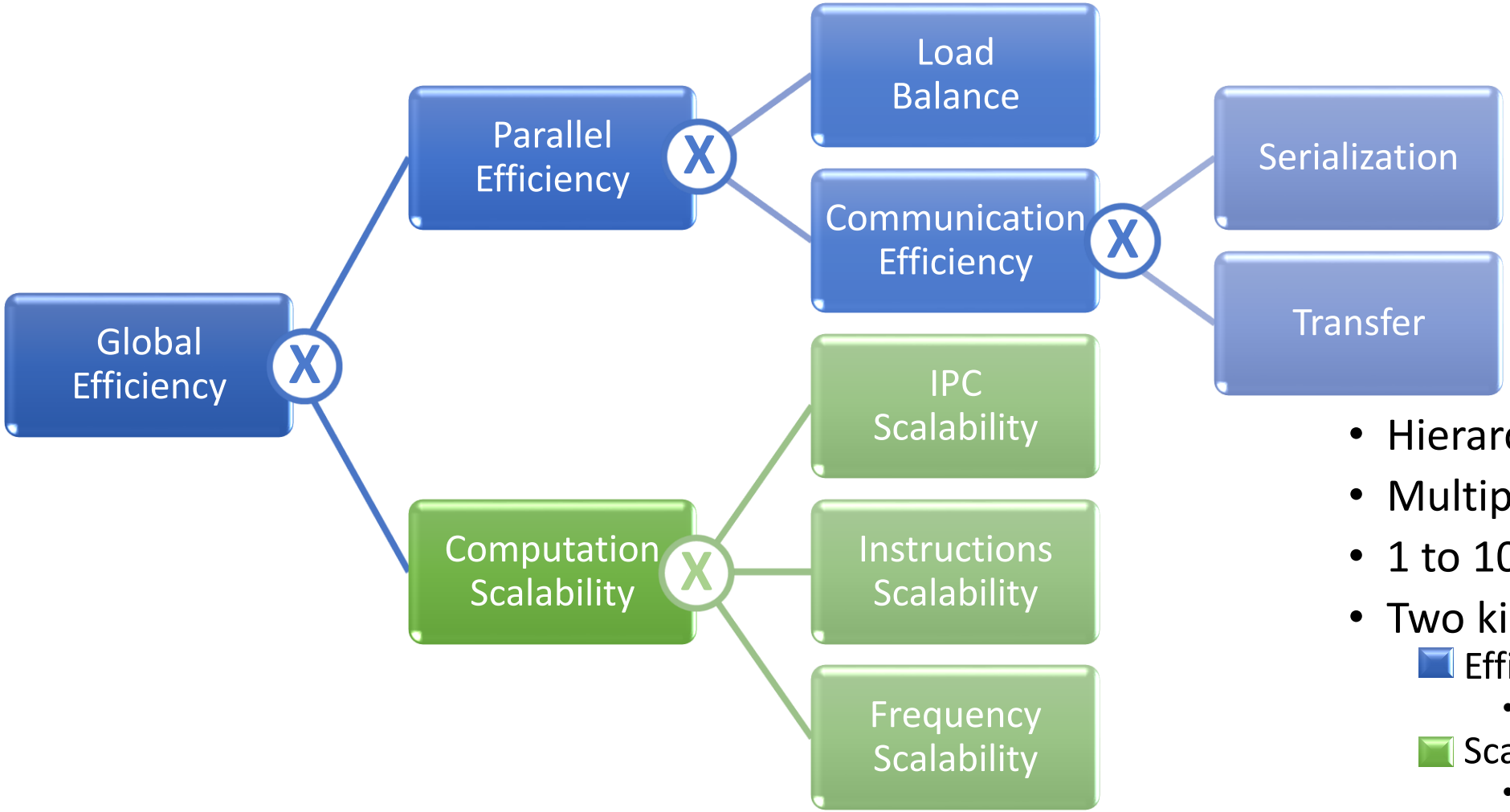


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The Efficiency Metrics



- Hierarchical model
- Multiplicative metrics
- 1 to 100% scale
- Two kind of metrics:
  - Efficiency metrics
    - Absolute metrics
  - Scalability metrics
    - Relative to a base case
    - 100% for the base case

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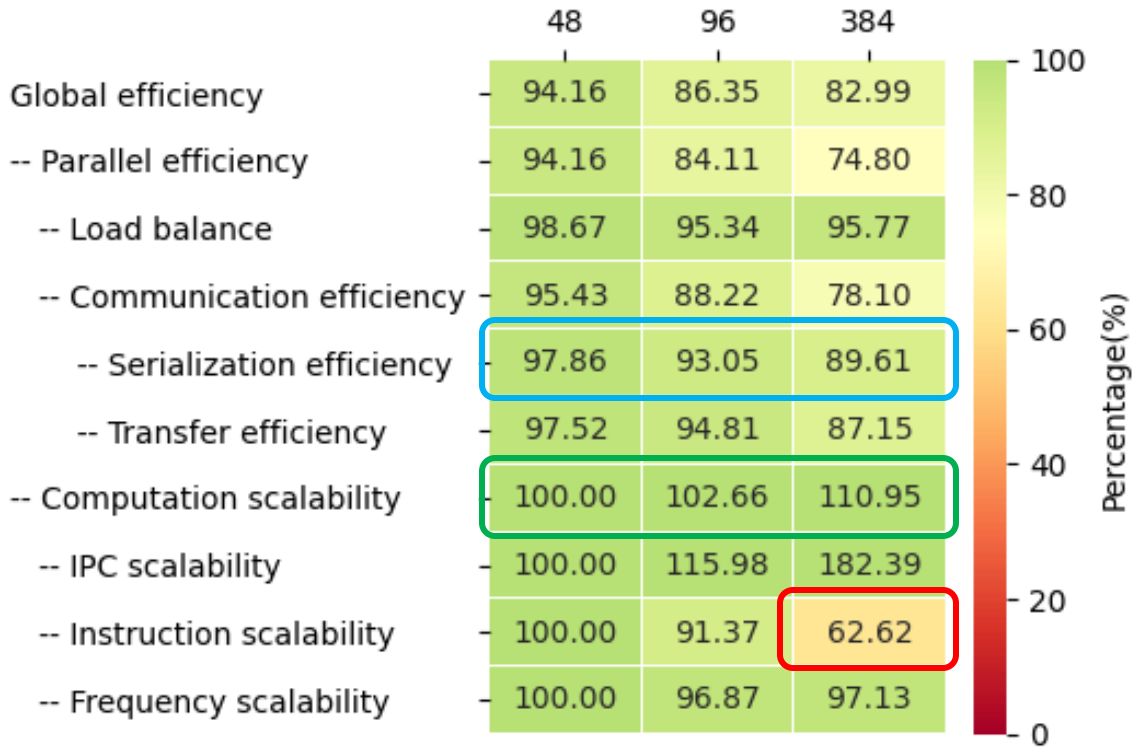
The Efficiency Metrics

- What they are NOT
  - The end of the journey
- What they are…
  - … a general mechanism to describe the fundamental concepts of parallelism
  - … a hint that tells where to look
  - … a way to quantify efficiency loss
  - … a fair comparison between different…
    - … code versions
    - … architectures
    - … core counts (scalability)
    - … applications
- For each metric we are going to see:
  - What it quantifies
  - How it is computed
    - Formula
    - Graphical
  - Interpretation
  - Where to look next

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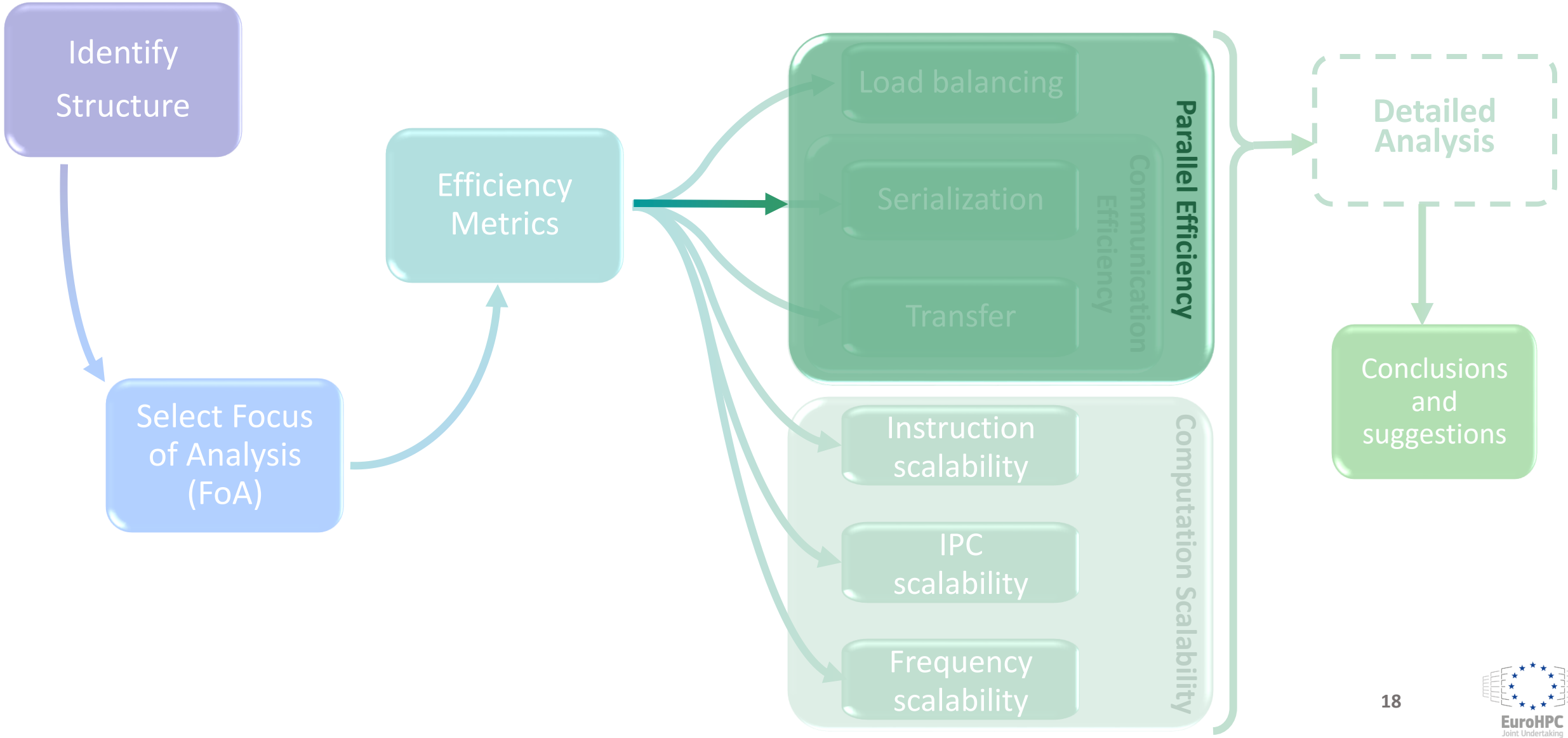
The Efficiency Metrics

- Usually shown in a table
  - Rows: Metrics
  - Columns: Different traces
- With colored cells as a heat map
- What to look for?
  - Low values
  - Trend
  - High values



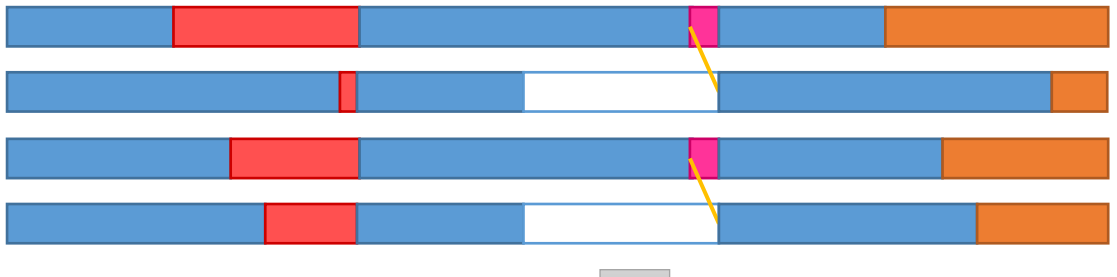
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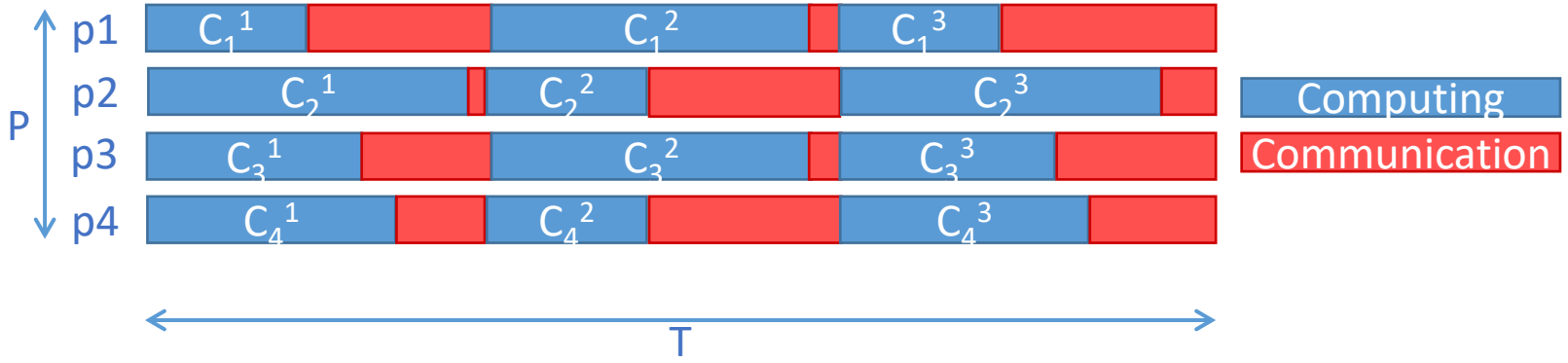

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Some semantics first

- The state of a processes is simplified to two values:
  - Useful == Computing
  - Not useful == Otherwise



- T = Elapsed time
- P = Number of processes
- c_i = Compute time of process i
  - $c_i = \sum_{j=1}^{n} {c_i}^j$
- C = Total compute time
  - $C = \sum_{i=1}^{P} c_i$



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Parallel Efficiency

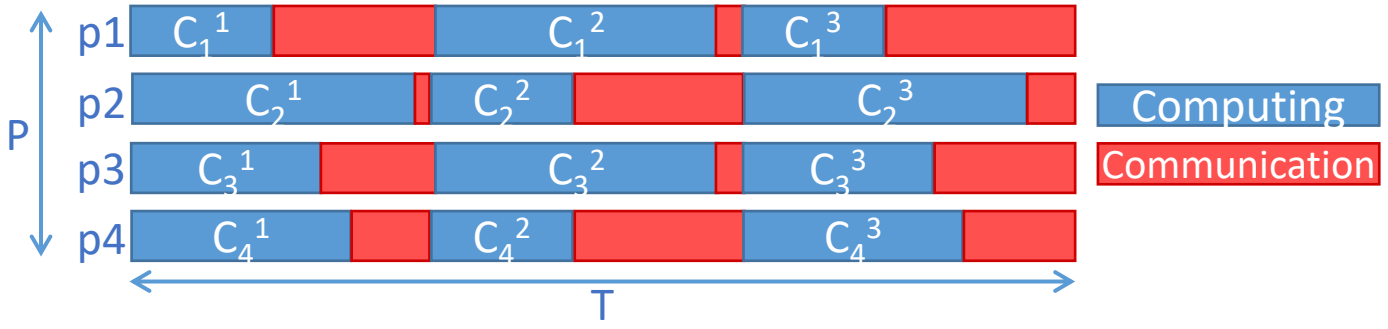
Quantifies: The extent to which all resources in the system are kept active doing useful work

How it is computed: Ratio between time used to do useful computation and consumed cpu time

Parallel Efficiency = / (+)

How it is computed:

$$Parallel\ Efficiency = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{P} c_i}{P * T}$$



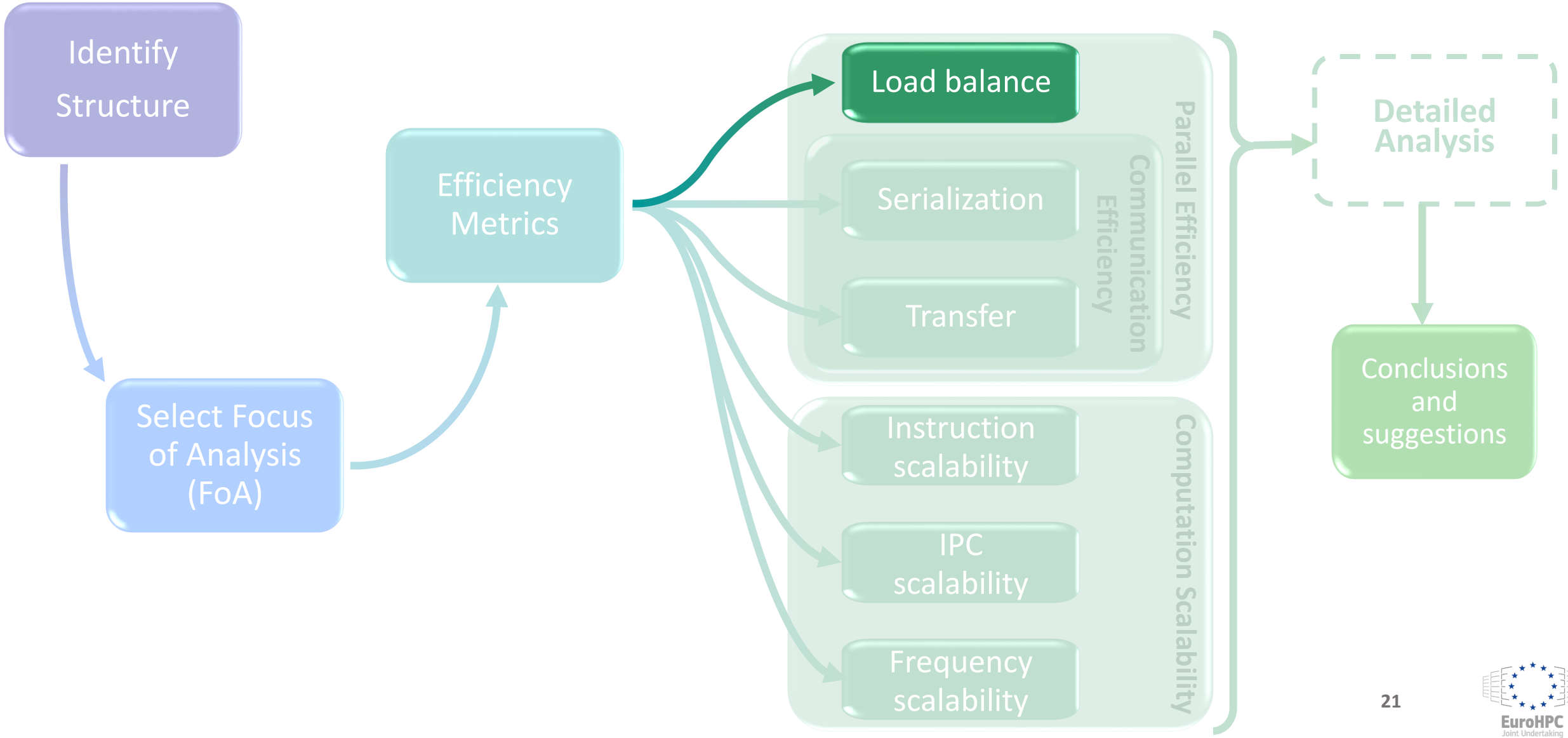
Interpretation: A low value indicates that a low fraction of the time consumed is used to do useful computation.

Where to look next?

- Look at its child metrics

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Load Balance

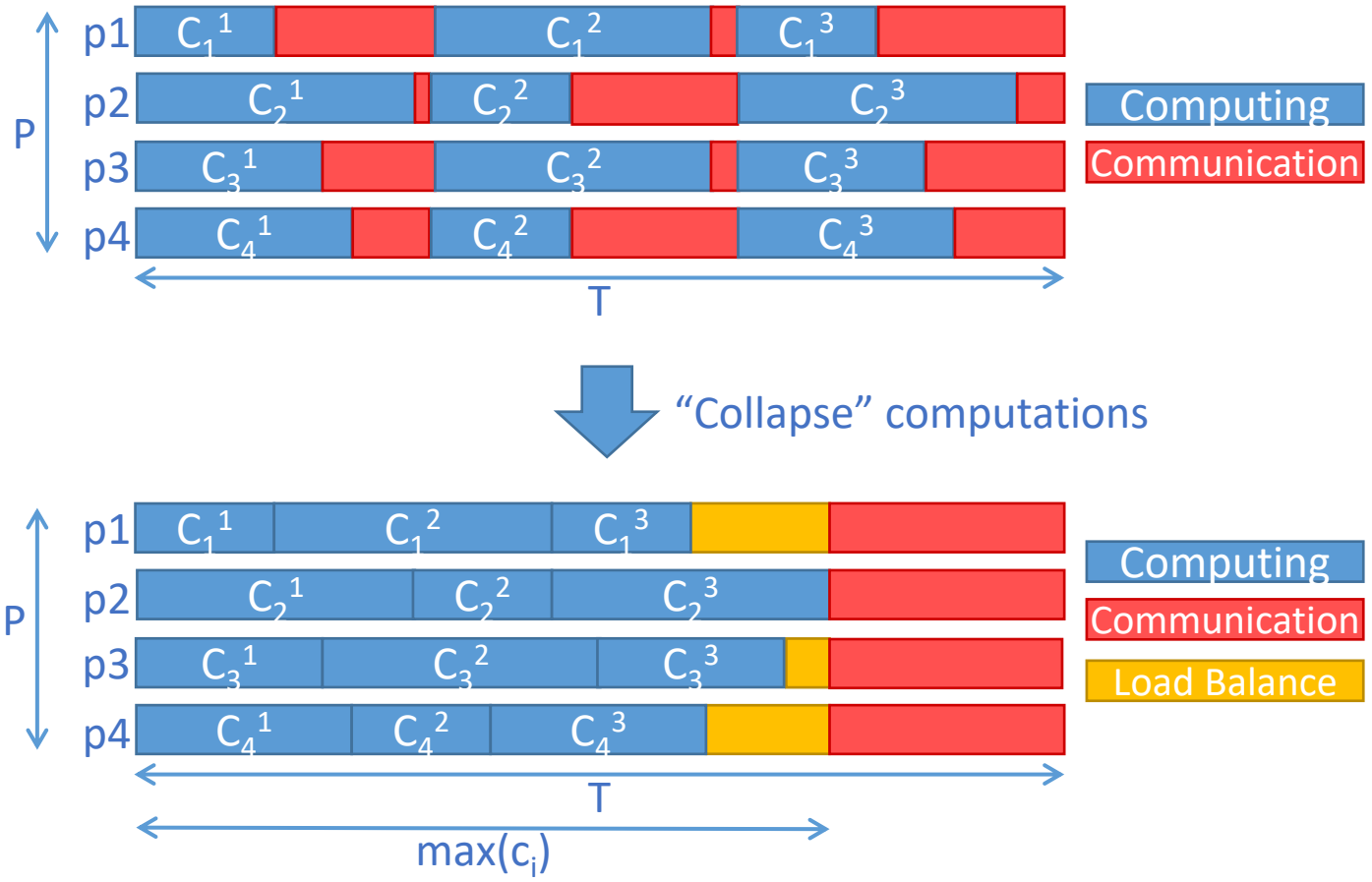
Quantifies: The efficiency loss due to the global distribution of work among processes.

How it is computed: Ratio between time used to do useful computation and the useful computation of the most loaded process multiplied by the number of processes

Load Balance = ■ / (■ + ■)

How it is computed:

$$Load\ Balance = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{P} C_i}{max^{P}{}_{i=1}(c_i) * P}$$

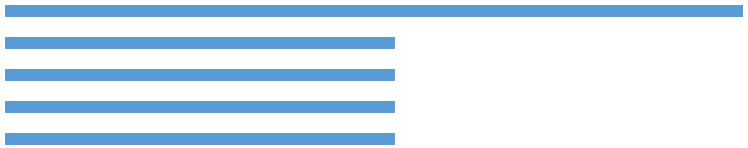


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Load Balance

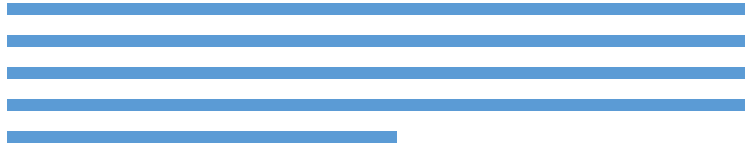
Interpretation: A low value in this metric indicates that more highly loaded processes keep other processes idle for a significant amount of time.

- A single highly loaded process will make this metric report a low value



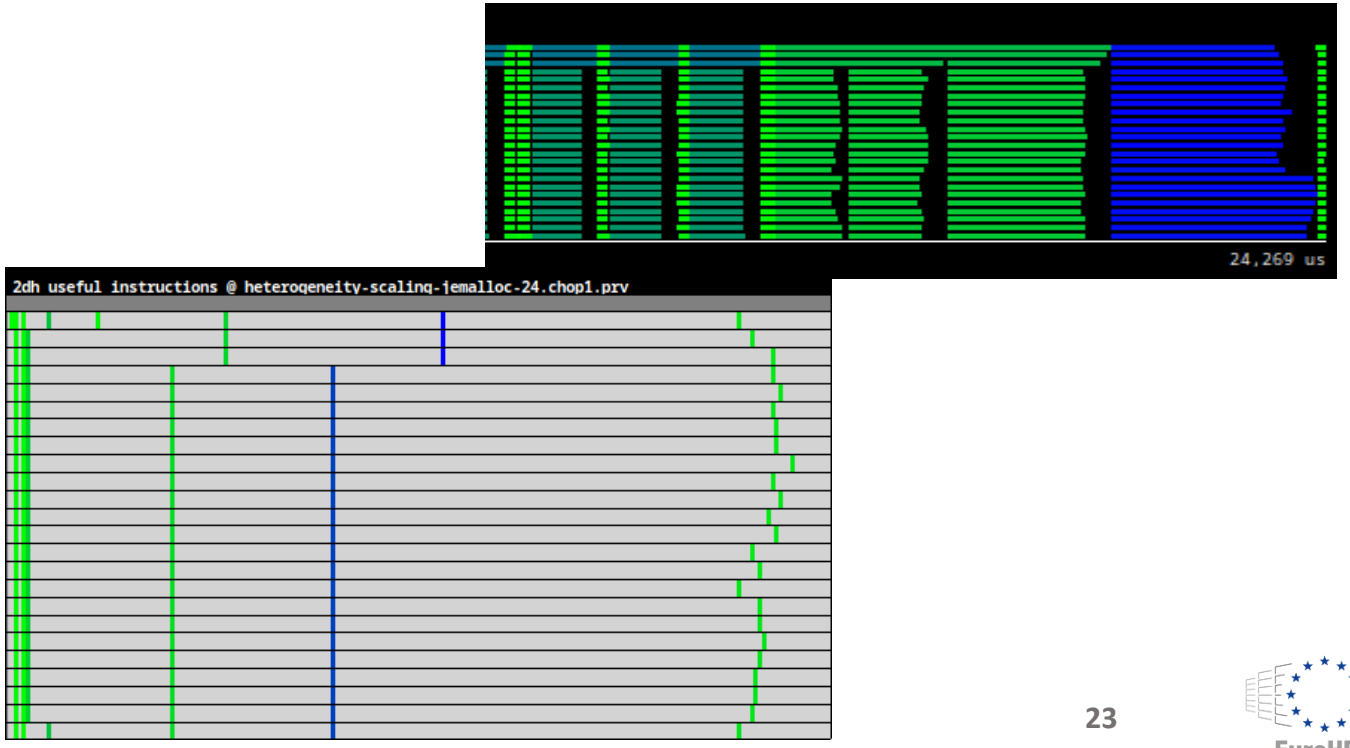
$$LB = \frac{2+1+1+1+1}{2*5} = \frac{6}{10} = 0.6$$

- A single low loaded process won't have an effect on this metric



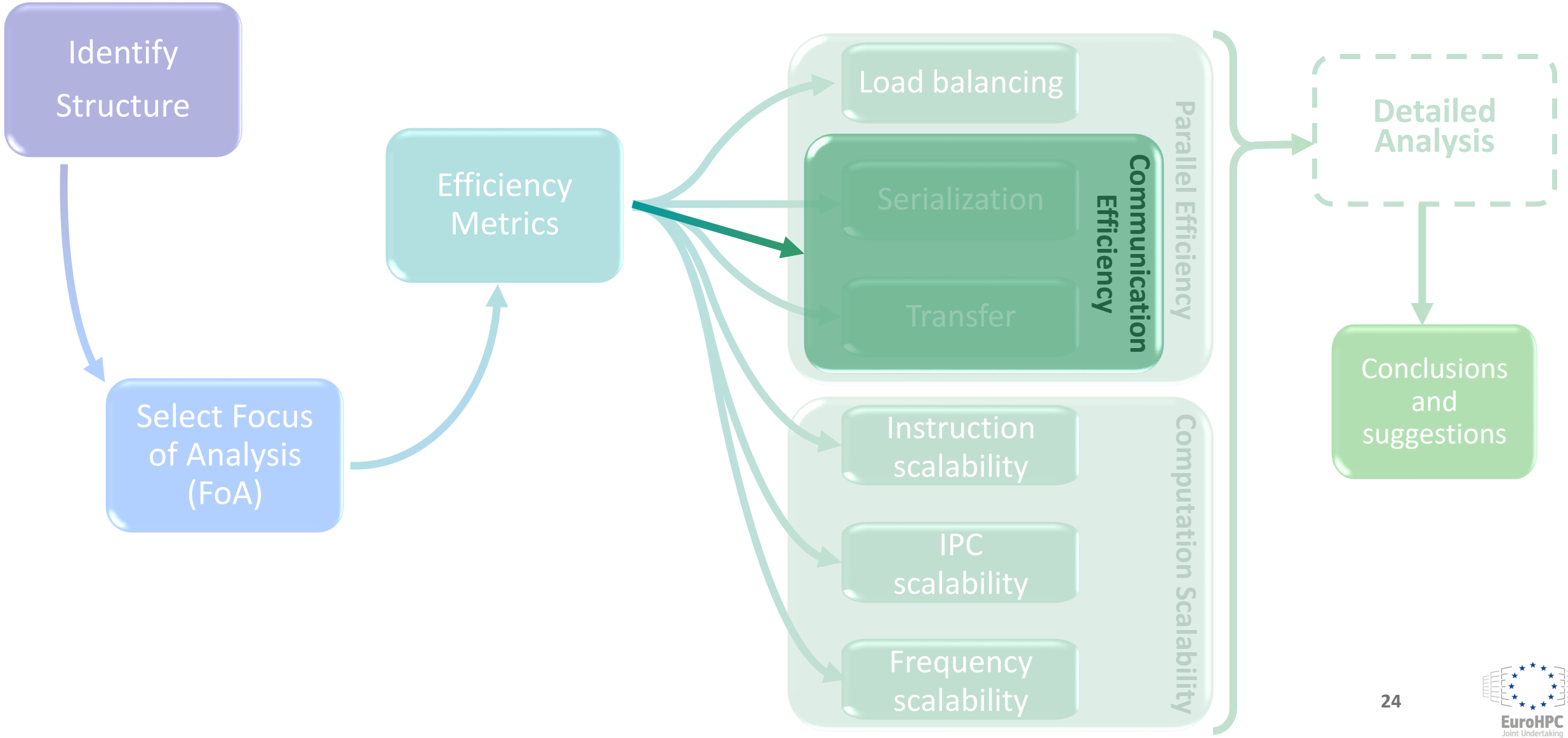
$$LB = \frac{2+2+2+2+1}{2*5} = \frac{9}{10} = 0.9$$

- What to look next?
  - We try to understand the cause of the Load Imbalance
  - In general can have 3 sources
    - Number of instructions → Histogram of useful instructions
    - IPC → Histogram of IPC
    - Frequency → Histogram of cycles per us



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Communication Efficiency

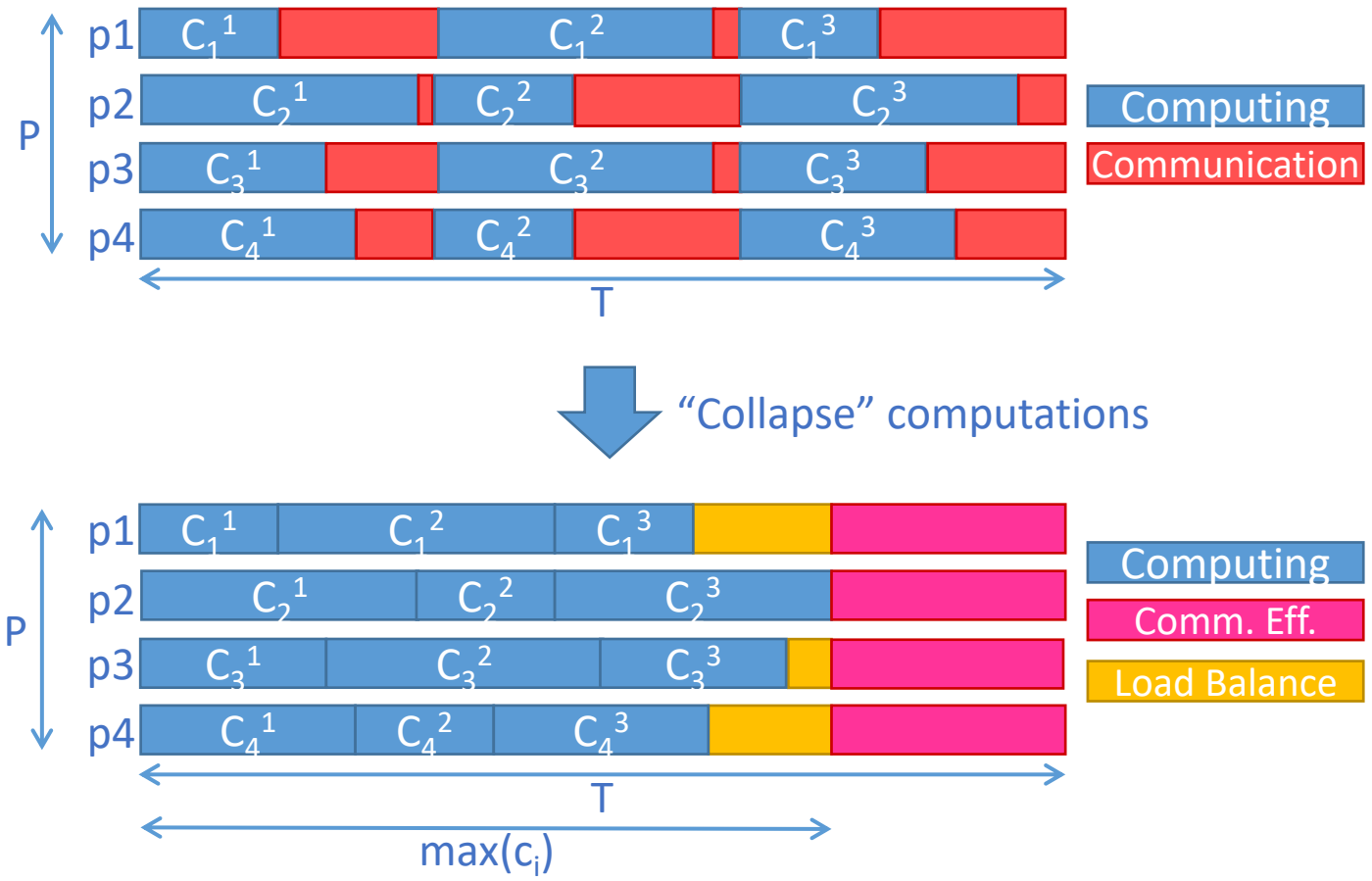
Quantifies: The efficiency loss due to the communication of data. Be it due to synchronizations between processes or to the overhead introduced by the communication itself. Excluding time loss due to global load imbalance

How it is computed: Ratio between the useful computation time of the most loaded processes and the total elapsed time

Communication Eff.= (+) / (+ +)

How it is computed:

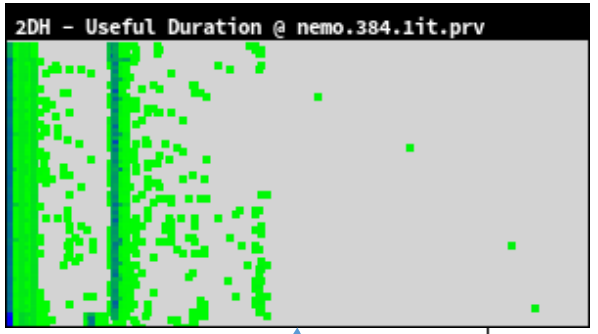
$$Communication\ Eff. = \frac{max^{P}{}_{i=1}(c_i)}{T}$$

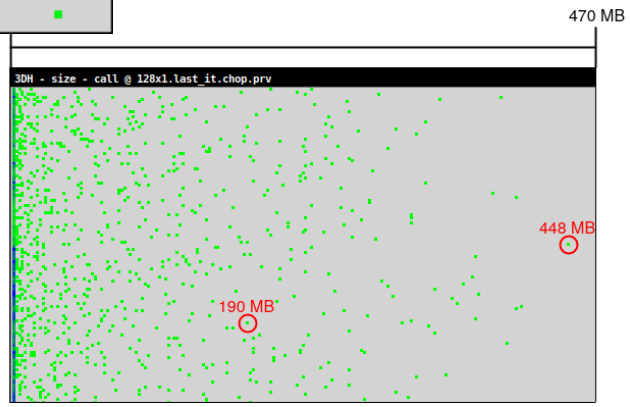


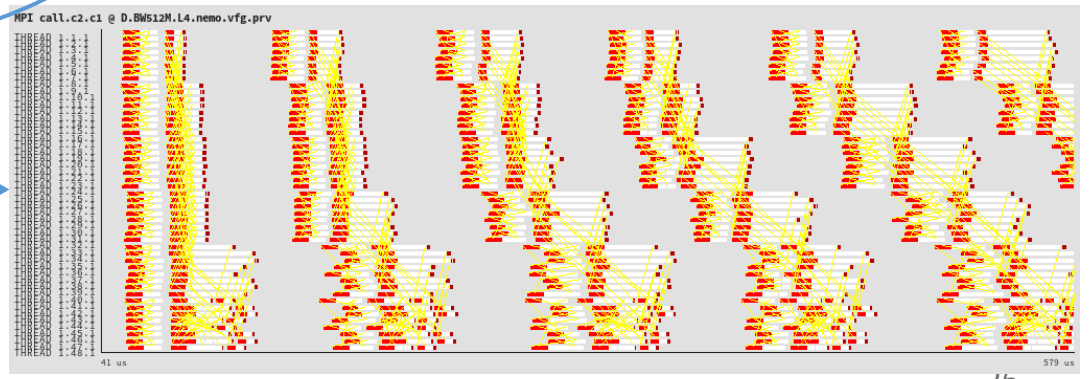
Communication Efficiency

Interpretation: A low value in this metric indicates that the interaction between processes is impacting the performance.

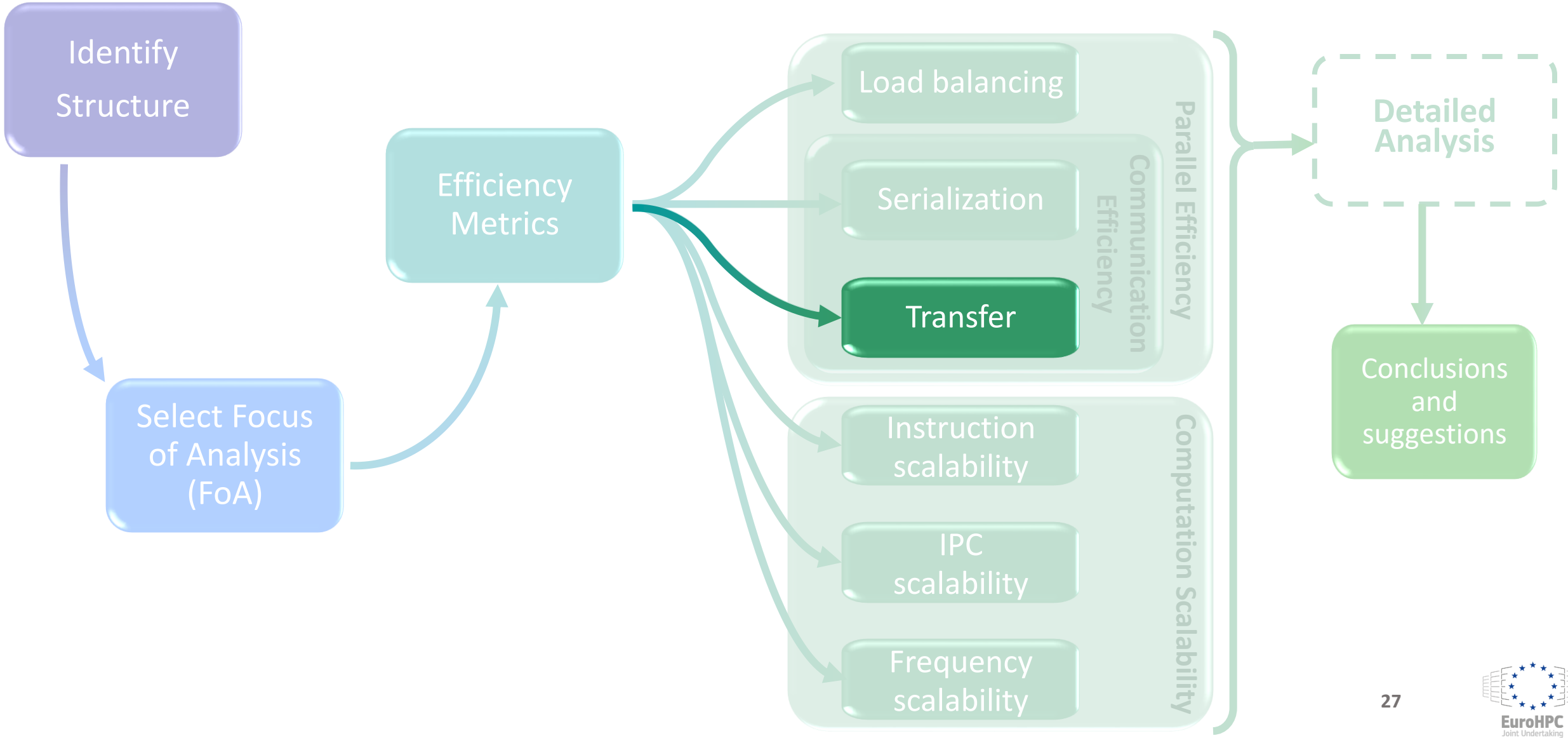
- This metric can report good values in codes where a profile reports significant time in MPI and that would be reported by a bad load balance efficiency
- What to look next?
- If possible child metrics
- If not…
  - How many MPI calls are made?
    - Histogram of MPI calls
  - How often? Granularity of computations
    - Useful duration
  - How much data is sent?
    - Bytes sent per MPI call
  - Which are the semantics of the communication?
    - Chains of dependences?
      - MPI calls







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Transfer Efficiency

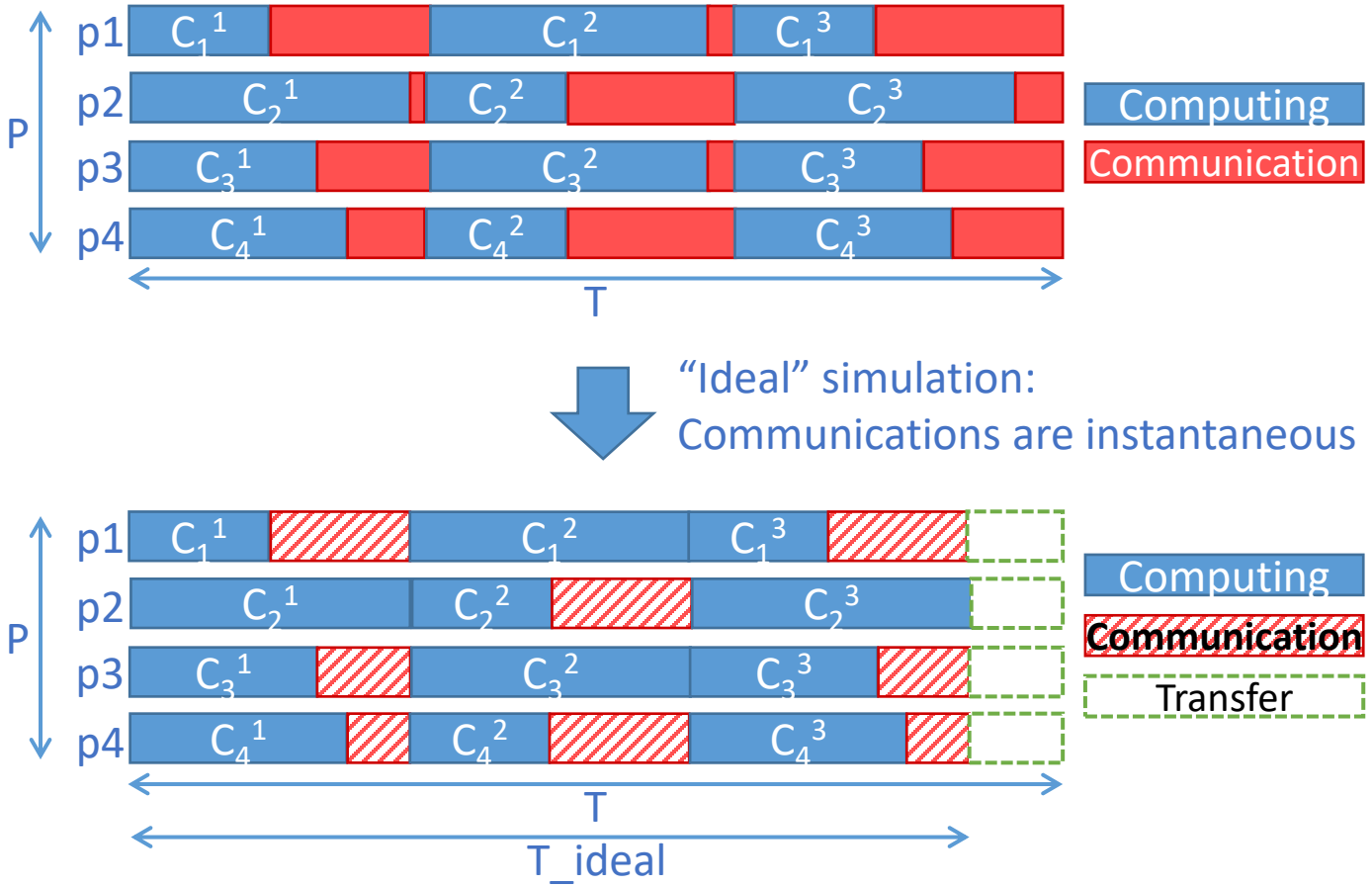
Quantifies: Efficiency loss related to the non instantaneous nature of communication mechanisms. Includes time to transmit the data over the physical channel and the overhead in the libraries.

How it is computed: Ratio between elapsed time in the ideal simulation and the elapsed time in the real execution

Transfer Eff.= (+) / (+ +)

How it is computed:

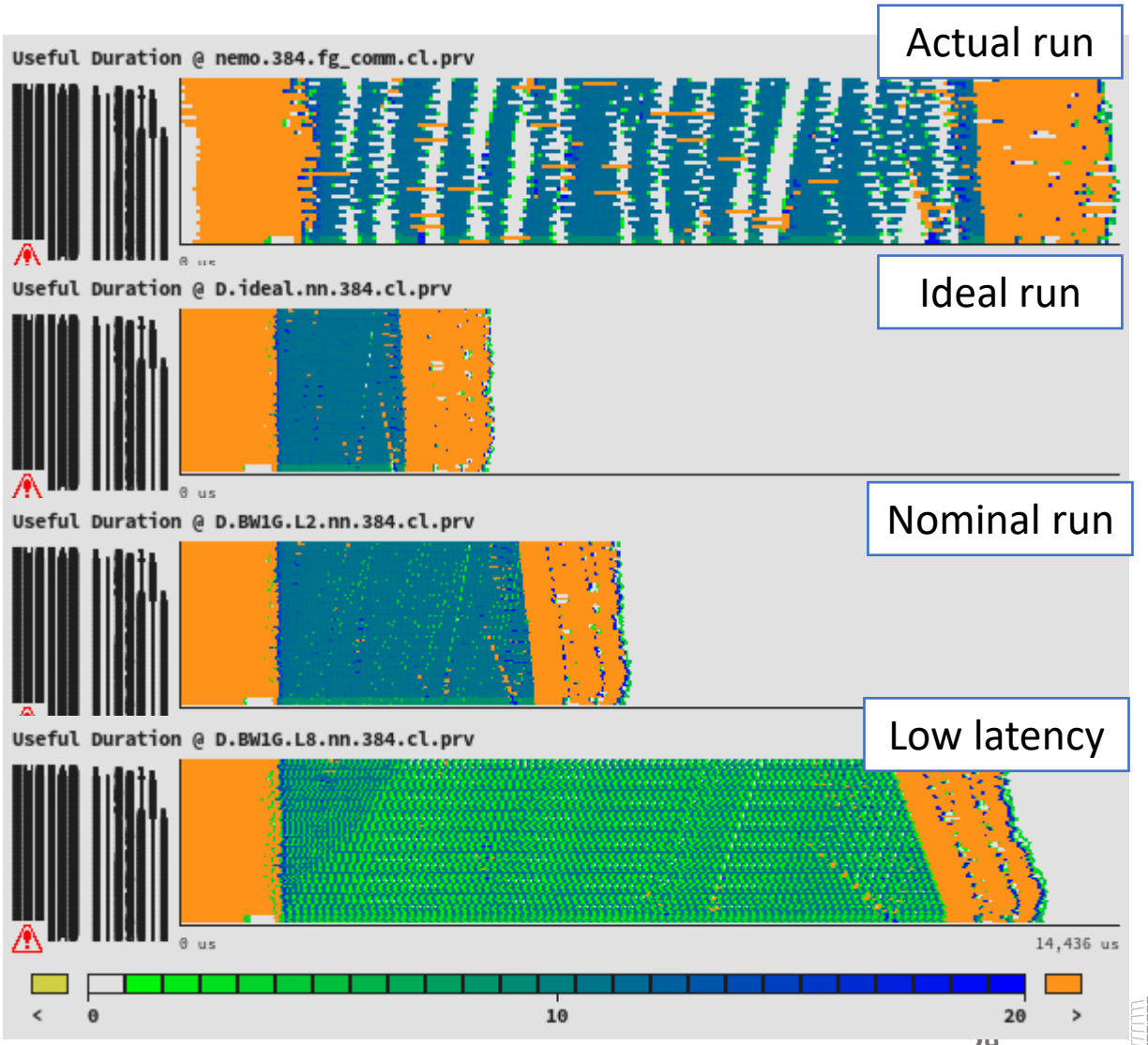
$$Transfer\ Eff. = \frac{T_{ideal}}{T}$$



Transfer Efficiency

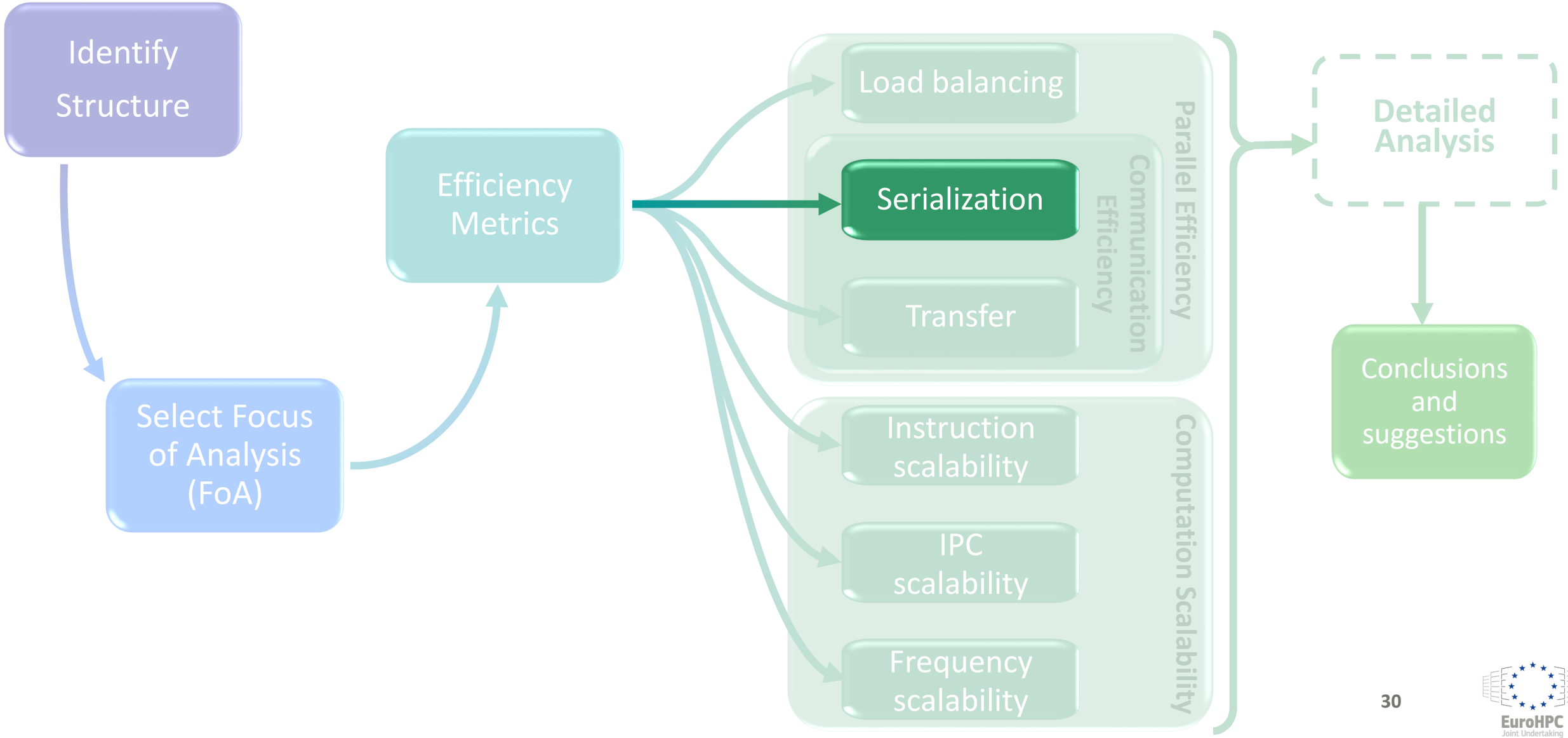
Interpretation: Low values indicate that the execution is suffering from a high overhead of the runtime or a poor latency or bandwidth of the network.

- What to look next?
  - Determine if the transfer problem is Bandwidth or Latency
    - Note that in Latency we include the overhead of the communication library
    - Use Simulations of Dimemas
      - Different BW and latency



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Serialization Efficiency

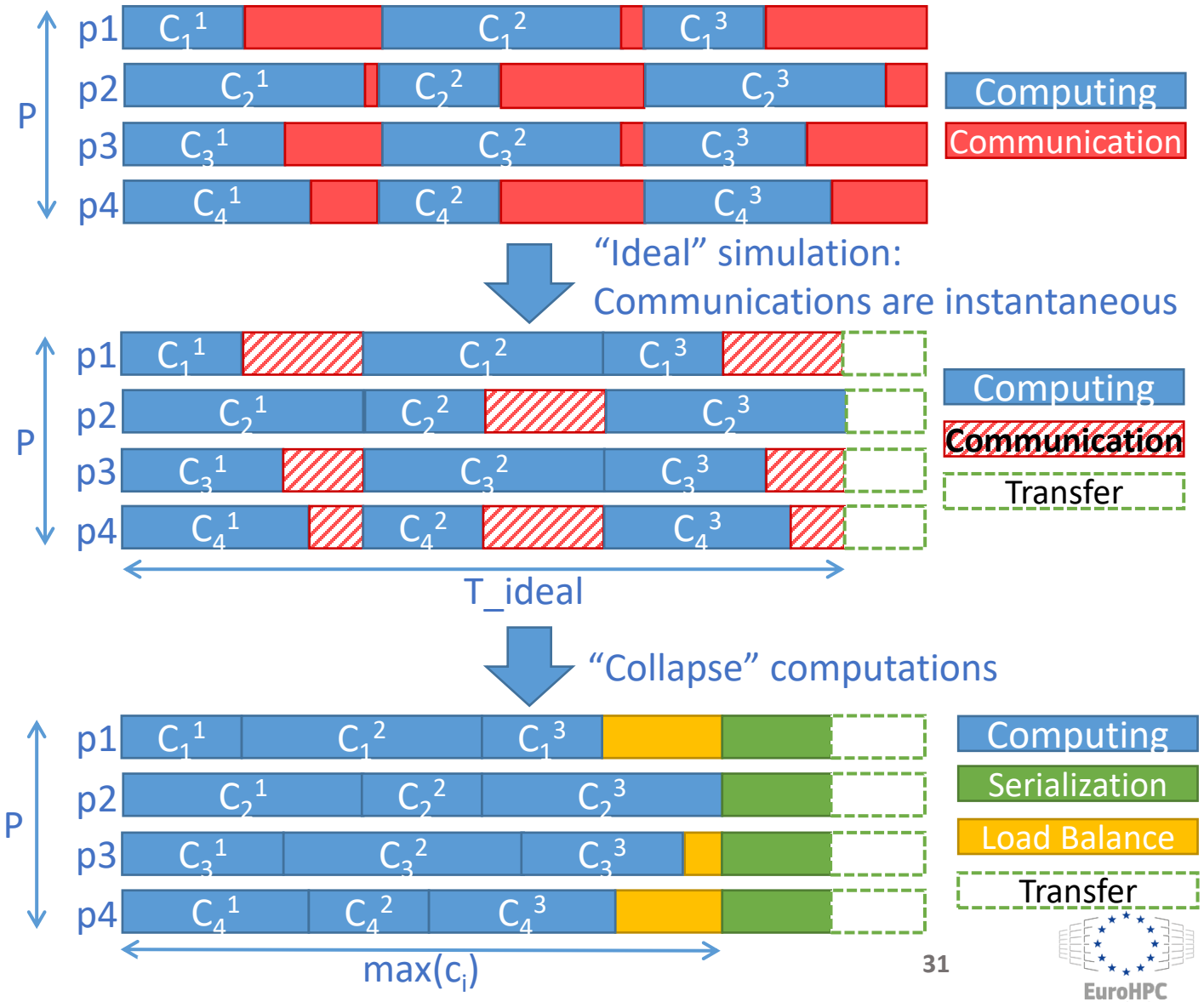
Quantifies: Inefficiencies caused by circular dependences or non-uniform imbalances

How it is computed: Ratio between useful computation of most loaded process and elapsed time in the ideal simulation

Serialization Eff.= (+) / (+)

How it is computed:

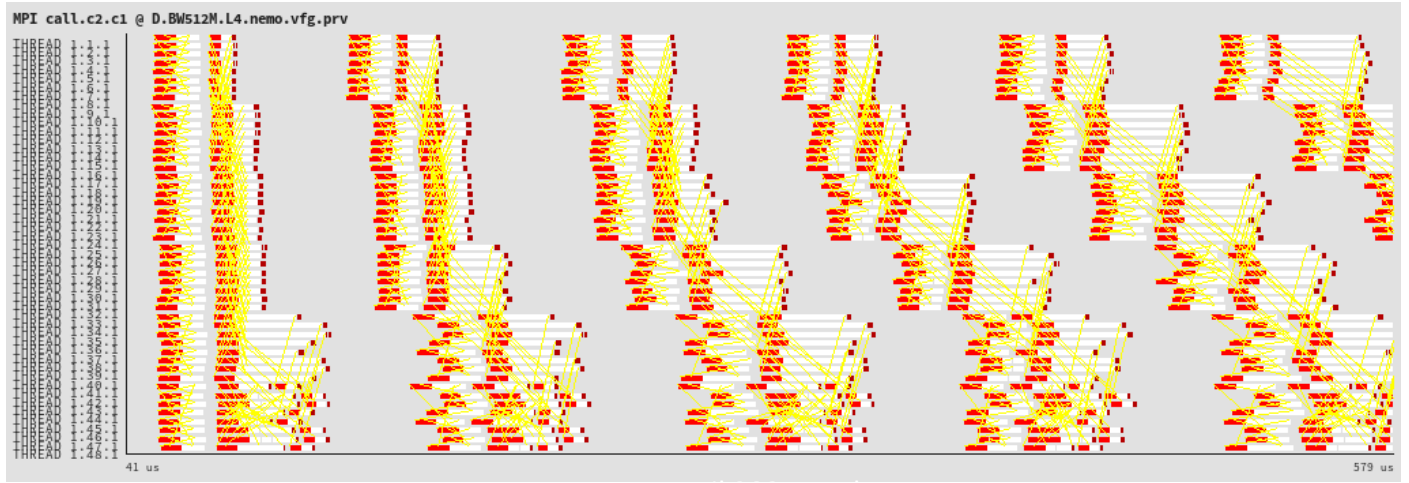
$$Serialization\ Eff. = \frac{max^{P}{}_{i=1}(c_i)}{T_{ideal}}$$



Serialization Efficiency

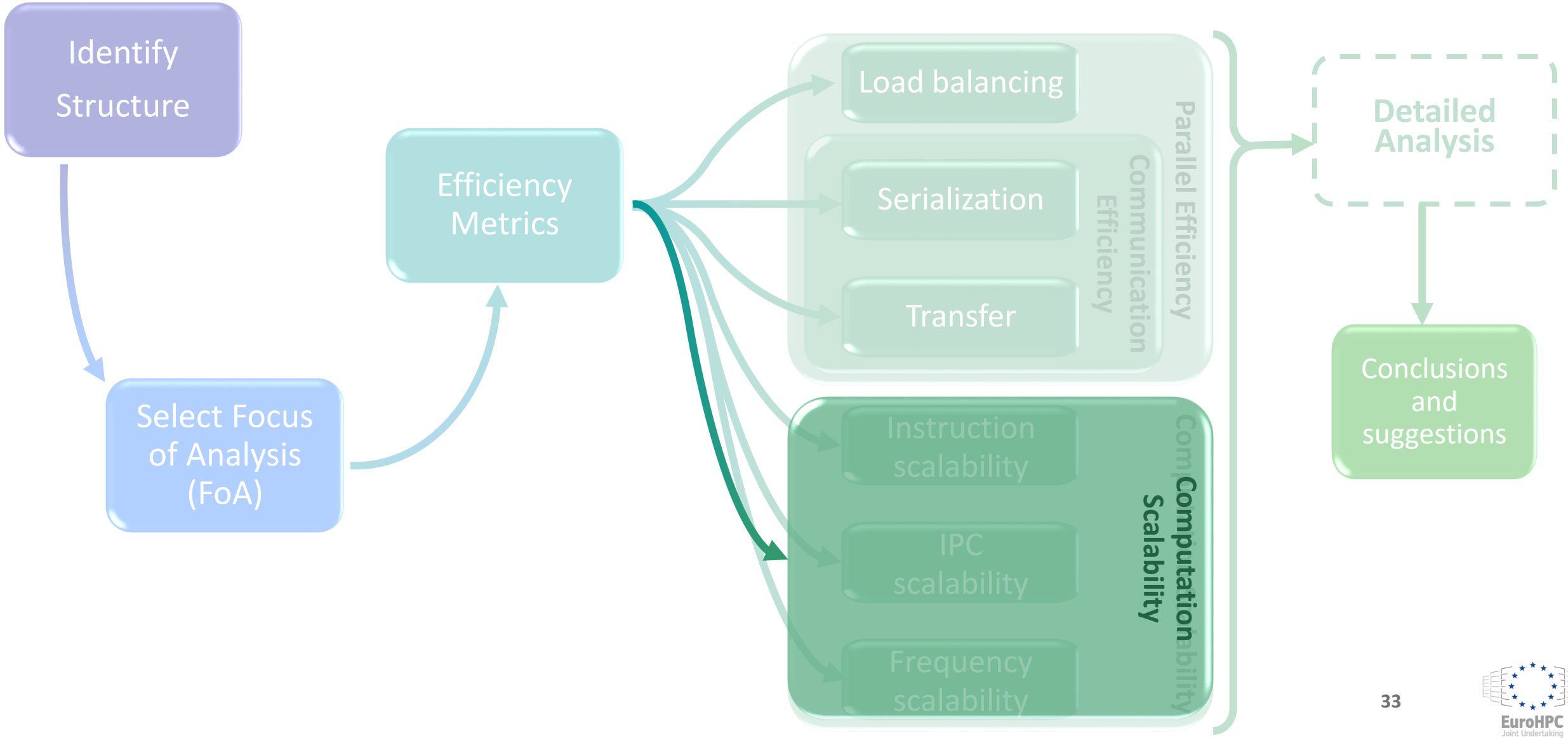
Interpretation: A low value indicates the existence of circular dependences. They can be caused by actual algorithmic serialization, irregularities in the load of processes during the execution or noise.

- What to look next?
  - Discard noise
    - Cycles per us
  - Try to identify causes for circular waits.
  - Understand semantics of the communication
    - MPI Calls



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Computation Scalability

Quantifies: How the time spent computing scales with respect to the reference case.

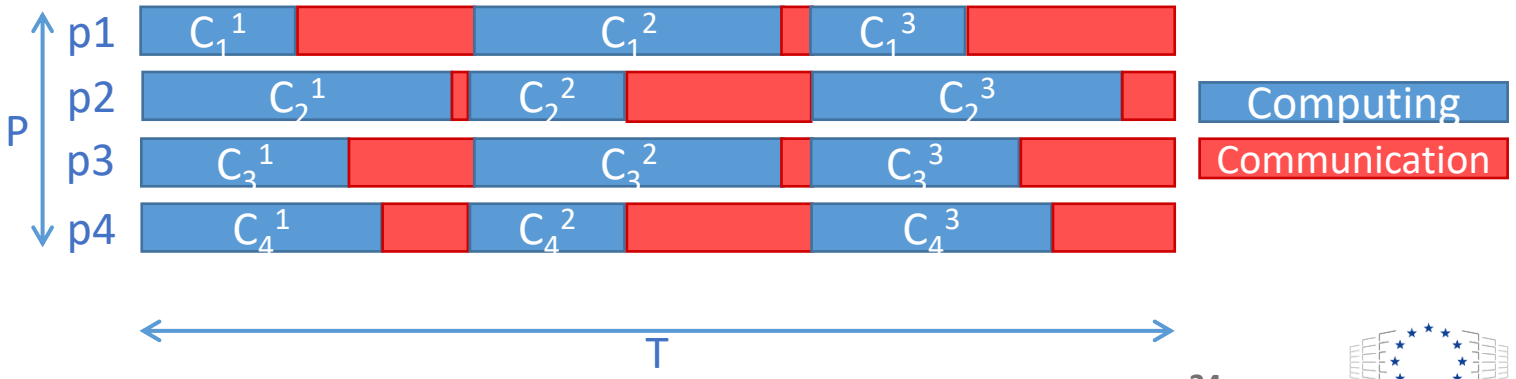
How it is computed: Ratio between time spent on useful computation in the reference case and the time spent on useful computation on current run.

How it is computed:

$$Computation\ Sc. = \frac{C_{ref}}{C_{current}}$$

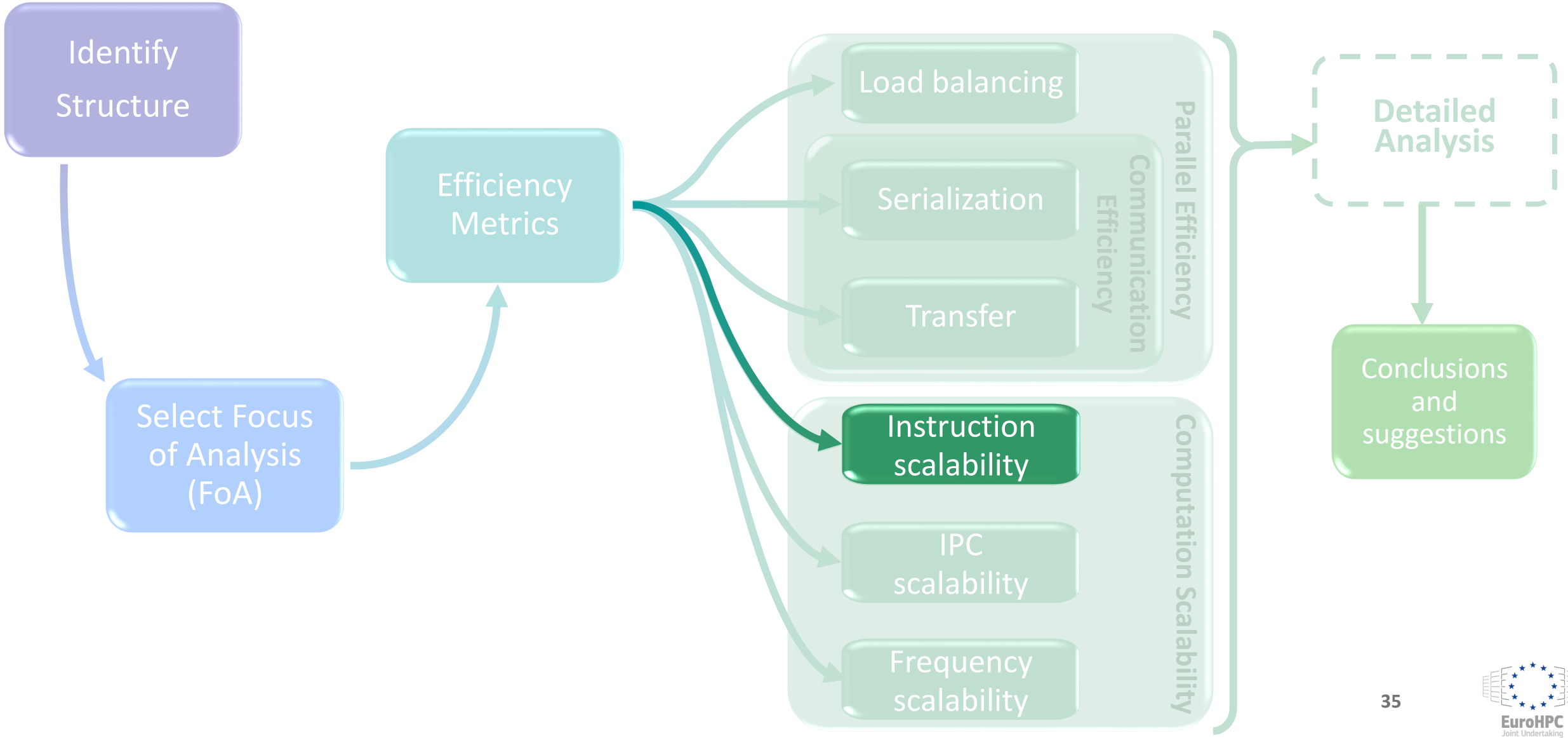
Interpretation: A low value indicates time grows per core count. Ideally the total compute time to solve a problem should be constant, independent of core count (in strong scaling).

- Relative metric, based on a reference case.
  - C_{ref} = Useful Computation of the reference run
  - $C_{current}$ = Useful computation current run
- 100% for the reference case
- Can be weak or strong scaling
  - Strong scaling for all the formulas presented
    - In strong scaling we assume total compute time and total number of instructions should remain constant as we increase the number of processes
  - In an analogous way weak scaling can be computed
- High level metric composed by three child metrics based on:
  - T = # instr. / (IPC * freq)



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The journey


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Load balancing
Serialization
Transfer
Communication Efficiency
Parallel Efficiency
Instruction scalability
IPC scalability
Frequency scalability
Computation Scalability
Detailed Analysis
Conclusions and suggestions

Instructions Scalability

Quantifies: How the number of instructions scales with respect to the reference case.

How it is computed: Ratio between number of instructions executed on the reference case and the number of instructions executed on current run.

How it is computed:

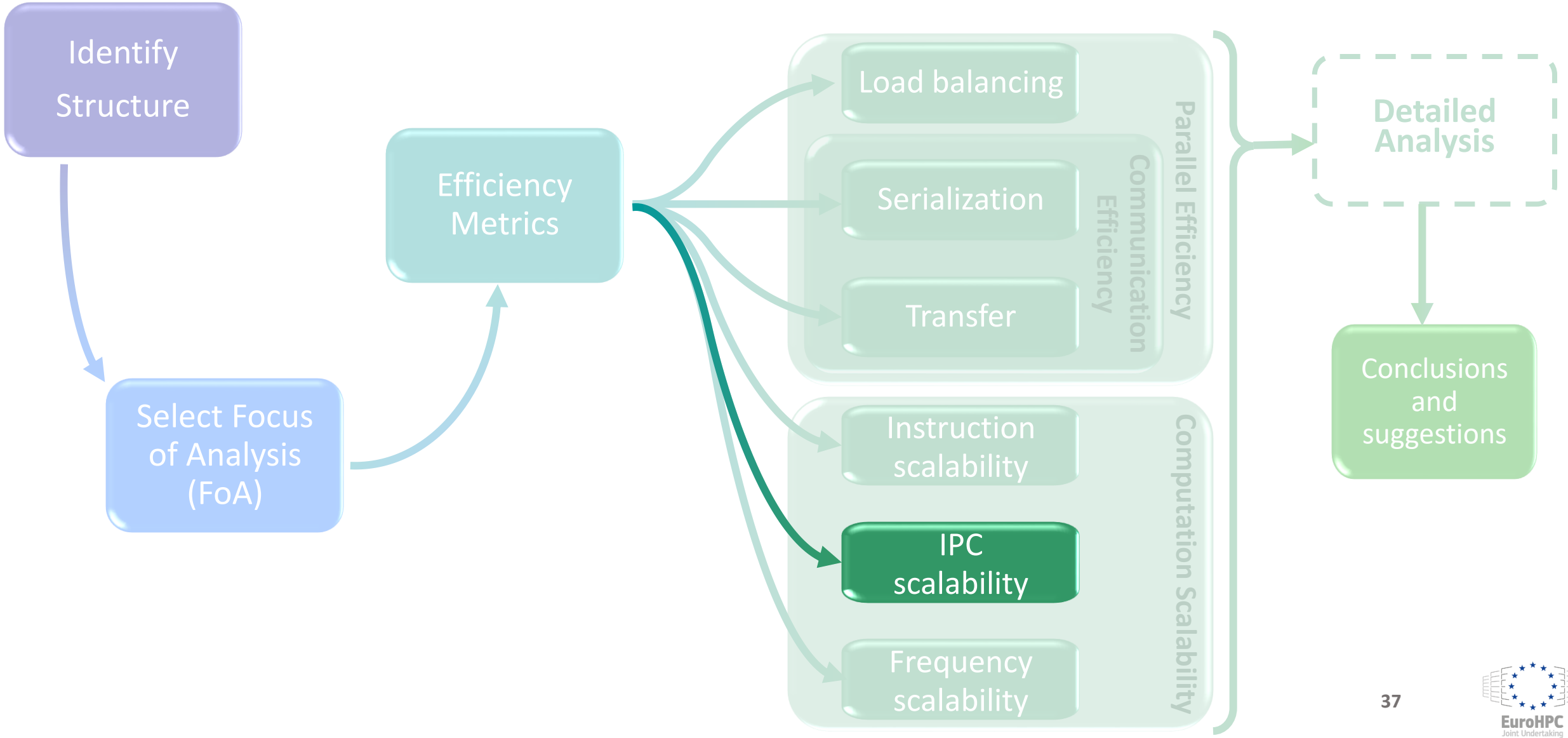
$$Instructions\ Sc. = \frac{I_{ref}}{I_{current}}$$

- Relative metric, based on a reference case.
  - I_{ref} = Total number of instructions executed on the reference run
  - $I_{current}$ = Total number of instructions executed on the current run
- 100% for reference case

Interpretation: A value less than 100 indicate that the total number of instructions to solve the problem grows with core count, which ideally should not be the case.
May be caused by code replication (computed by all processes, by an increase in the surface to volume ratio when computations on the surface/boundary are "replicated", ...

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IPC Scalability

Quantifies: How the IPC scales with respect to the reference case.

How it is computed: Ratio between average IPC on the current run and the average IPC on the reference run.

How it is computed:

$$IPC\ Sc. = \frac{IPC_{current}}{IPC_{ref}}$$

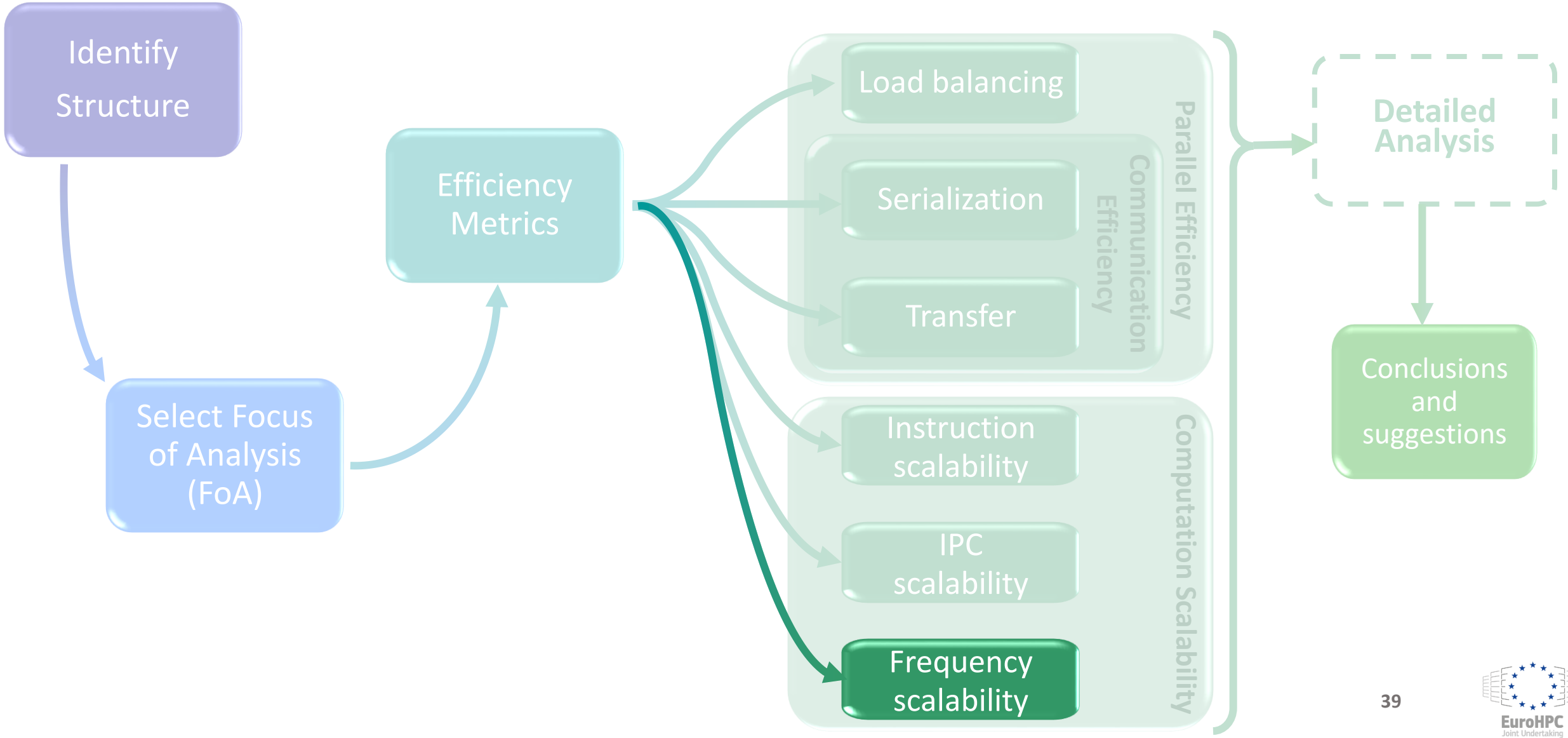
- Relative metric, based on a reference case.
  - IPC_{ref} = Average IPC of the reference run
  - $IPC_{current}$ = Average IPC current run
- 100% otherwise

Interpretation: A value less than 100 indicates that the IPC for the specific core count is worse that of the reference case. May be caused by different locality behavior, contention on resources such as memory bandwidth, ...

A value above 100 indicates a higher IPC than the reference case this can be produced by cache effects for example.

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Frequency Scalability

Quantifies: How the frequency scales with respect to the reference case.

How it is computed: Ratio between average frequency on the current run and the average frequency on the reference run.

How it is computed:

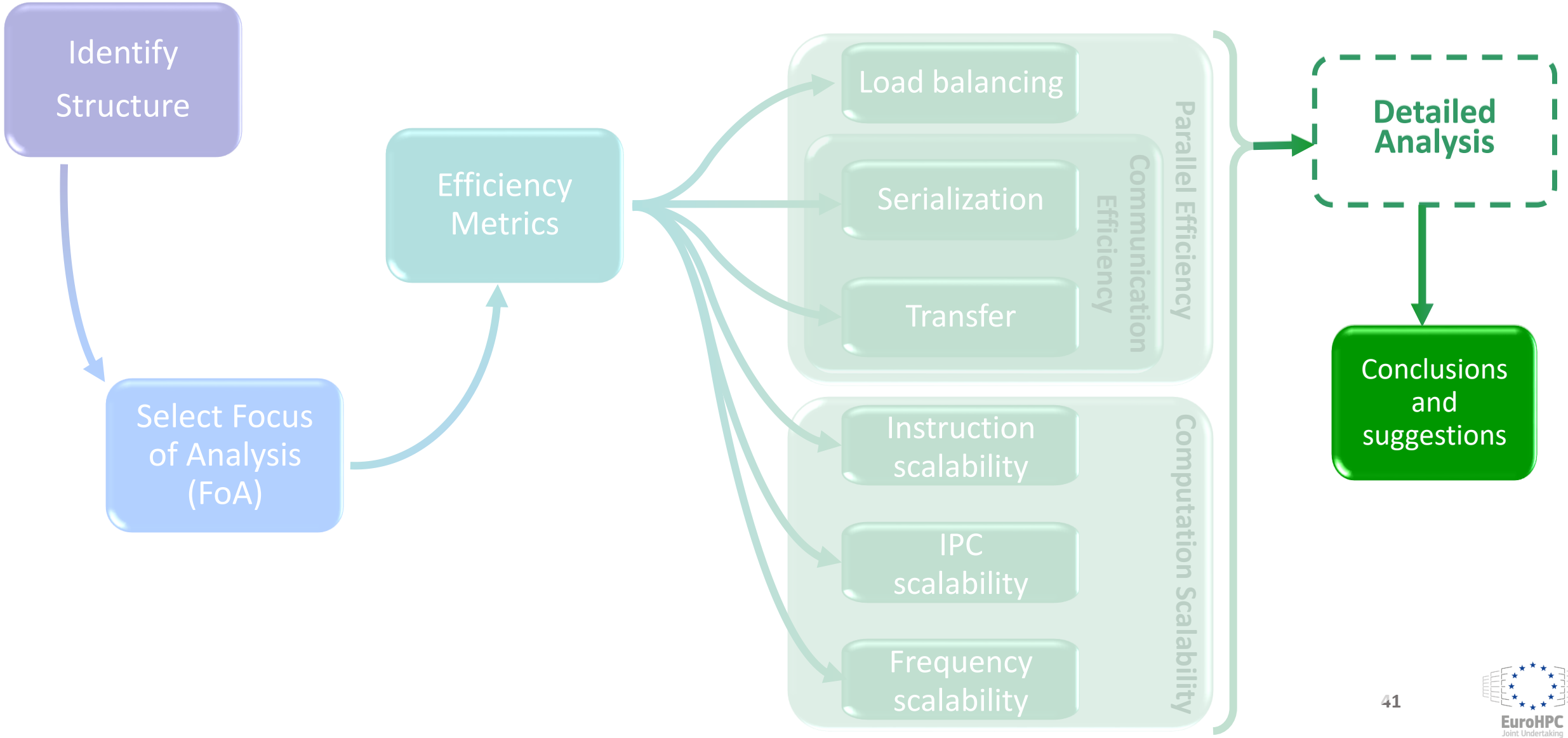
$$Frequency\ Sc. = \frac{Freq_{current}}{Freq_{ref}}$$

- Relative metric, based on a reference case.
  - $Freq_{ref}$ = Average frequency on the reference run
  - $Freq_{current}$ = Average frequency on the current run
- 100% for the reference case

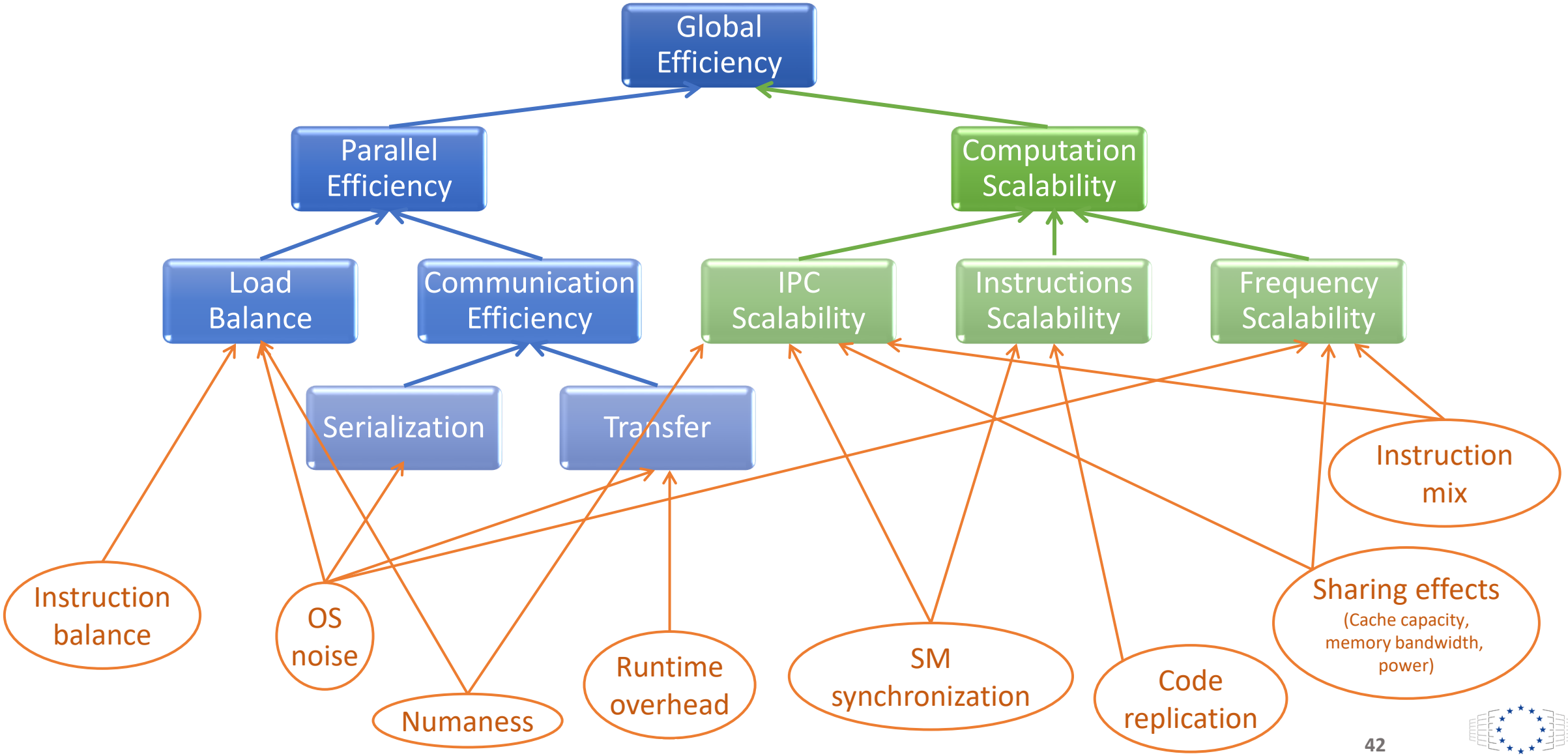
Interpretation: A value less than 100 indicates that the frequency is lower than the reference frequency. This may be caused by "preemptions", power management measures, ...

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Factors and causes





Date: 13 - 17/Oct/2025, 9h-18h

Place: BSC (Barcelona, Spain)

Registration: Free registration, limited spots

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Performance Optimisation and Productivity 3

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