



DiRAC Resource Allocation Committee

Terms of Reference

Introduction

DiRAC is the national HPC facility for the UK astronomy, cosmology, particle physics and nuclear physics communities. The current facility, DiRAC 2, has five machines based at four universities:

- Data Analytic Cluster (Cambridge)
- Shared Memory Service (Cambridge)
- Data Centric Cluster (Durham)
- Blue/Gene Q (Edinburgh)
- Complexity Cluster (Leicester)

All members of the academic communities listed above are eligible to apply for DiRAC resources. Allocations of compute time on DiRAC are decided primarily on the basis of scientific excellence, with additional criteria on project management and technical feasibility.

Remit

The DiRAC Resource Allocation Committee (RAC) will:

- Assess applications for time allocations on the DiRAC facility, taking appropriate account of advice from external referees, and make recommendations to the STFC Executive
- Aim to achieve the optimal use of DiRAC resources, taking into account the RAC assessment criteria, STFC strategic priorities and the need to balance resources across the different science areas, and the technical capabilities of the machines
- Advise the STFC Executive on any issues related to DiRAC resource allocation policy and practice

Structure and membership

The RAC consists of two sub-panels: the Particle Physics and Nuclear Physics sub-panel and the Astronomy/Cosmology sub-panel. The sub-panels will assess applications in their respective remits and then the full committee will recommend the overall allocation of resources across all applications. Each sub-panel will have a chair (who will be the joint Co-Chairs of the RAC) and at least four other members representative of the science communities.

Membership will usually be for a period of two years. The DiRAC RAC Technical Secretary attends RAC meetings ex-officio.

Responsibility and reporting

The DiRAC Resource Allocation Committee is responsible to the STFC Executive and will provide reports to the STFC DiRAC Oversight Committee. It will also provide reports as required to the DiRAC Project Board. The DiRAC Resource Usage Committee (chaired by the DiRAC RAC Technical Secretary; membership composed of the DiRAC system managers) will report to the RAC on issues such as appropriate allocation of resources and resource usage.