

*SnowMass2021*



# CompF Early Career: The Story So Far

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CompF Kickoff Meeting (7/10)

# Who are we?

The logo for SnowMass2021, featuring the text "SnowMass2021" in a stylized, light blue font on a dark grey rectangular background.

A group of about 8 EC physicists:

- Ranging in experience from grad student to assistant professor
- All US-based
- Diverse interests: representation in all 7 CompF topical groups
- Although relatively small, really high engagement from the members

The whole group can be reached via [sec-compf@googlegroups.com](mailto:sec-compf@googlegroups.com), and we are happy to welcome new members of any experience level at any stage

# What's happened so far?

The logo for SnowMass2021, featuring the text "SnowMass2021" in a stylized, cursive font. "Snow" is in light blue, "Mass" is in white, and "2021" is in white. The text is set against a dark grey rectangular background.

First several meetings: Like most groups, have focused on organization, membership advertisement, leadership structure, and so on (the boring part?):

We have members who have attended every CompF proceeding and SEC proceeding, and communication lines outlining the major takeaways; **we're in the loop!**

**Fun part:** we intend to produce an LOI by the August deadline, outlining the input offered by the unique perspectives in SEC CompF

# SEC LOI

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Our LOI breaks down into two fundamental pieces (which may or may not actually become separate LOIs depending on some factors):

- **Software Accessibility**
  - How can we improve the experience, diversity, and participation of new users entering the physics computing space?
- **“Direct Input” -- direct commentary on general issues in CompF**
  - Drawing on the expertise in the EC CompF group, what input do we have on issues of general interest to CompF?

# Software Accessibility

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**Main emphasis:** As younger developers and users, we feel uniquely able to comment on the experiences of new users entering the physics computing space. We hope to address (among other things in discussion):

- **Tribal knowledge** in the physics computing space
  - Mentorship and in-group knowledge is too common
- **Barriers to entry** for new users and developers
  - E.g. computing backgrounds can be varied, especially from URMs
- **Broad organizational practices** that can assist new users/developers in creating strong workflows

# Direct Input

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**Main emphasis:** EC CompF members have subject matter expertise and are poised to create change in the coming years. Two main subtopics thus far:

- **Governance in Scientific Computing Projects**
  - We want to collaborate on complex problems, re-use frameworks, not reinvent the wheel
- **Long term reproducibility and Sustainability**
  - Need open source codes
  - Encourage cross-competencies in physics teams
  - Need to modernize codes and coding practices; develop with the new user in mind, not the current one
- **We expect heavy overlap on some of these issues.** That's okay; our ideas can join efforts later on but we want to develop our own statements first

# Concluding

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The SEC CompF group is well organized and well representative of different interests and backgrounds, but always eager for more members! In particular, a URM perspective would give some broader diversity

We will be participating in the Snowmass process via LOI in the short term, but more generally by providing a coherent perspective from EC members (and serving as a general connection to the broader EC community, where a lot of residual computing happens)

Once again, contact info for the whole group: [sec-compf@googlegroups.com](mailto:sec-compf@googlegroups.com)

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