Contribution ID: **6** Type: **not specified**

On the environmental footprint of supercharged science

Wednesday 12 June 2024 14:40 (30 minutes)

Since the dawn of human social organization, the practice of science and engineering has been the primary defense against the forces of Nature that has allowed for the progress of civilizations. Yet the same progress has allowed for the unchecked growth of the burden on natural resources and the destabilization of the fragile balance on which the continuation of living forms, as we know them today, depends. Climate change is a direct consequence of the choices we have made over several millennia and, especially, the era past the industrial revolution. To attenuate the existential threat that climate change poses to our society a paradigm shift is necessary in the way we do science and the core objectives that we aspire for from its practice. We will discuss how supercharged science can be better optimized to mitigate climate change rather than be a determinant of climate change.

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Session Classification: Invited Talks