Challenges and Solutions for Visual Data Analysis on Current and Emerging HPC Platforms

July 20, 2011



BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA USA 18–21 JULY 2011



Wes Bethel & Hank Childs, Lawrence Berkeley Lab

### Outline

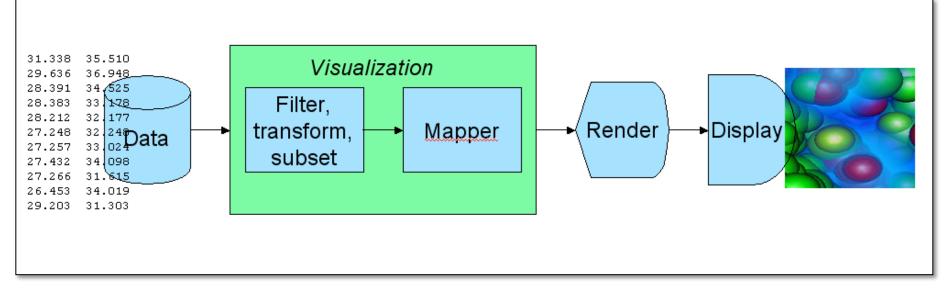
- Petascale & Exascale issues (Childs)
- Tools: how the community comes together to collectively solve large data visual data analysis problems (Childs)
- Achieving extreme performance in visual data analysis (Bethel)
- Recent examples/case studies (Bethel)

# Visualization 101

Transformation of numbers (data) into readily comprehensible images.

Plays an integral part in the scientific and analytic processes.





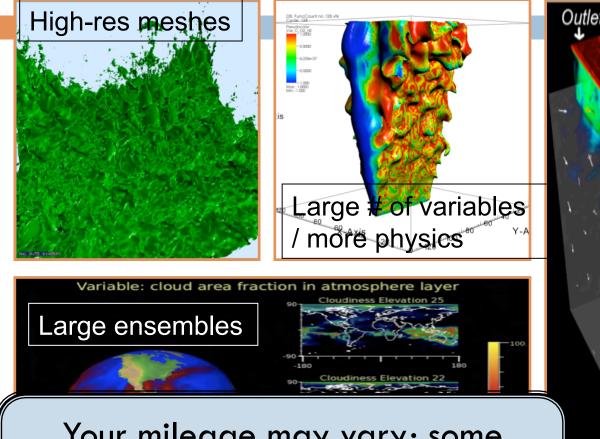
Why are supercomputing trends going to change the rules for visualization and analysis?

Michael Strayer (U.S. DoE Office of Science) in 2006: "petascale is not business as usual"

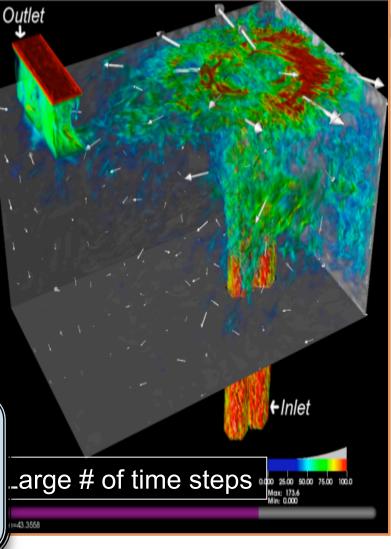
Especially true for visualization and analysis!

- Large scale data creates two incredible challenges: scale and complexity
- Scale is not "business as usual"
  - Will discuss this assertion throughout this talk
  - Solution: we will need "smart" techniques in production environments
- More resolution leads to more and more complexity
   Will the "business as usual" techniques still suffice?

# How does increased computing power affect the data to be visualized?



Your mileage may vary; some simulations produce a lot of data and some don't.



Slide credit: Sean Ahern (ORNL) & Ken Joy (UCD)

# Today's production visualization tools use "pure parallelism" to process data.

## Pure parallelism

Pure parallelism: "brute force" ... processing full resolution data using data-level parallelism

Pros:

Easy to implement

Requires large I/O capabilities

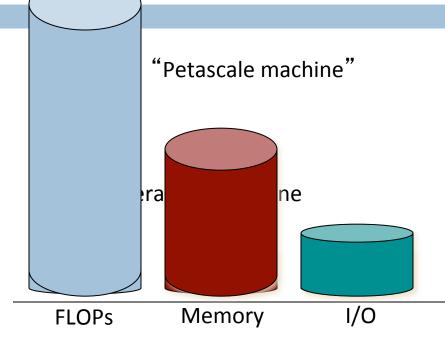
Requires large amount of primary memory

# I/O and visualization

- Pure parallelism is almost always >50% I/O and sometimes 98% I/O
- Amount of data to visualize is typically O(total mem)



- 1 how much data you have to read
- 2 how fast you can read it
- $\rightarrow$  Relative I/O (ratio of total memory and I/O) is key



# Why is relative I/O getting slower?

- I/O is quickly becoming a dominant cost in the overall supercomputer procurement.
   And I/O doesn't pay the bills.
- Simulation codes aren't as exposed.

We need to de-emphasize I/O in our visualization and analysis techniques.

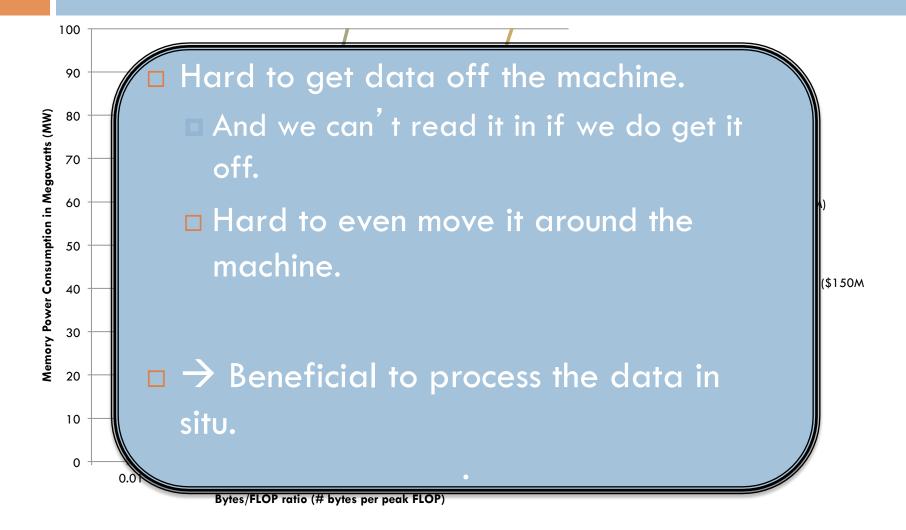
# There are "smart techniques" that de-emphasize memory and I/O.

- Out of core
- Data subsetting
- Multi-resolution
- 🗆 In situ

 the community is currently getting these techniques deployed in production tools.

This will be the primary challenge of the <100PFLOP era.</p>

# Exascale hurdle: memory bandwidth eats up the entire power budget



c/o John Shalf, LBNL

# Possible in situ visualization scenarios



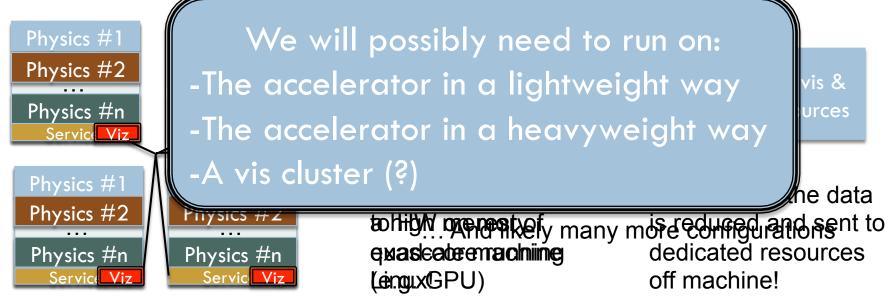
... or visualization could be done on a separate node located nearby dedicated to visualization/analysis/IO/etc. (loosely coupled)

sics #1

rsics #2

vsics #n

vices



# Additional exascale challenges

#### Programming language:

- OpenCL? Domain-specific language?
- We have a substantial investment in CPU code; we can't even get started on migrating until language is resolved.
- Memory efficiency
- □ How do we explore data?
  - In situ reductions that are post-processed afterwards?
- Resiliency
- New types of data massive ensembles, multiphysics, etc – will require new techniques
- Reducing complexity

Tools: the VDA community achieves an economy of scale by collectively developing a shared infrastructure that is used by many application areas.



Food co-op, Ralston, Iowa

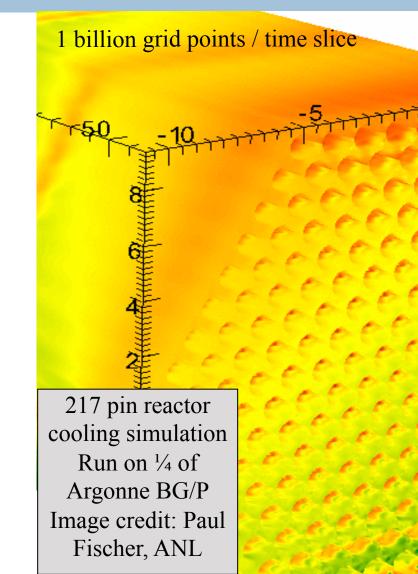
VisIt is an open source, richly featured, turnkey application for large data.

#### Terribly named!!!:

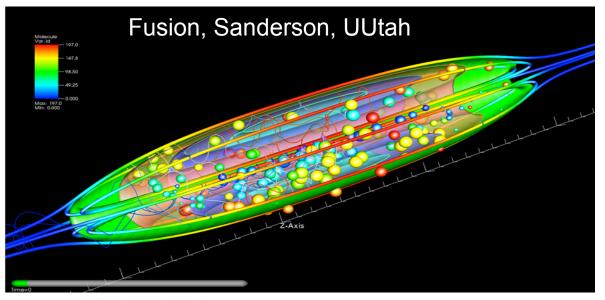
- Visual debugging
- Quantitative & comparative analysis
- Data exploration
- Presentations
- Popular

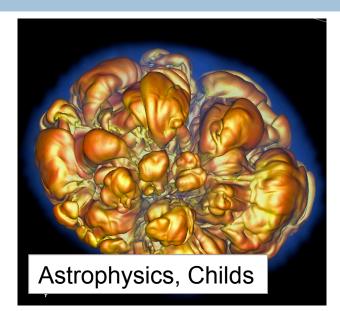


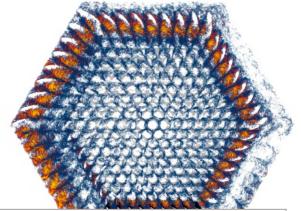
- R&D 100 award in 2005
- Used on many of the Top500
- >>>100K downloads



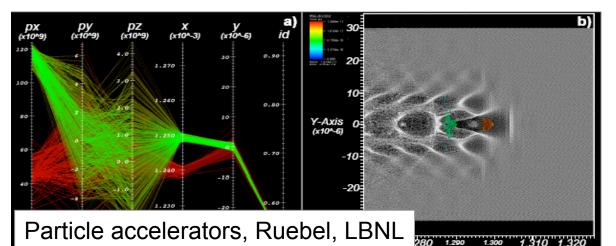
# VisIt is used to look at lots of types of simulated and experimental data.



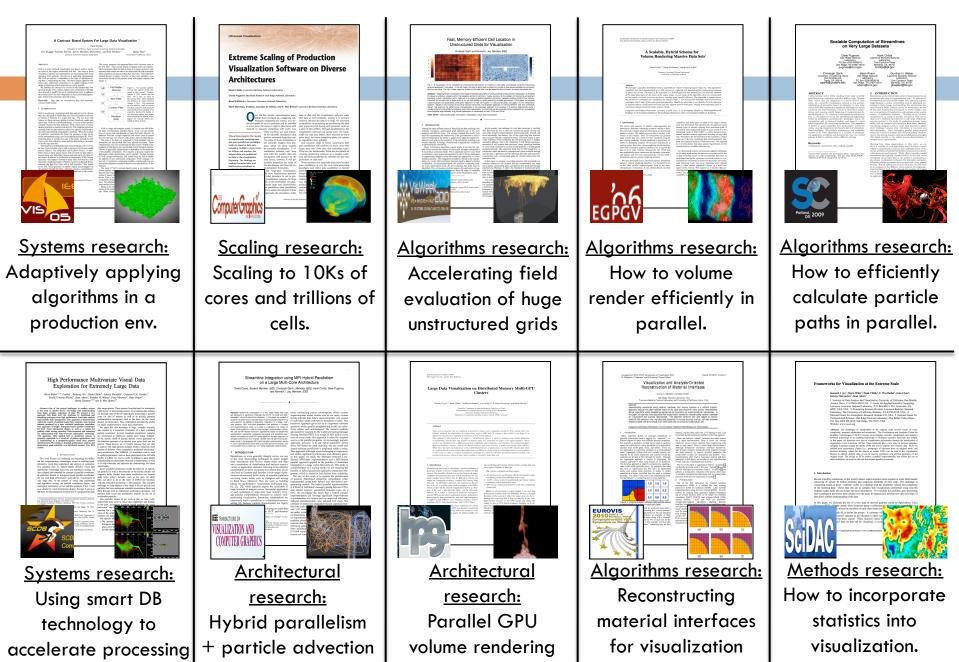




Nuclear Reactors, Childs



#### It has taken a lot of research to make VisIt work

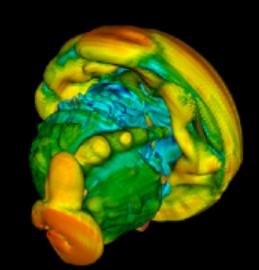


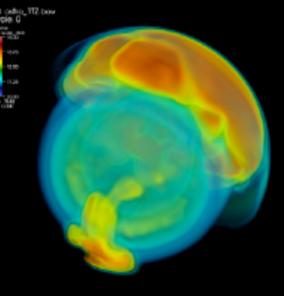
# VisIt recently demonstrated good performance at unprecedented scale.

Weak scaling study: ~62.5M cells/core

| Machine  | Model    | Problem Size | #cores   |
|----------|----------|--------------|----------|
| Franklin | Cray XT4 | 1 T, 2T      | 16K, 32K |
| Dawn     | BG/P     | 4T           | 64K      |
| JaguarPF | Cray XT5 | 2T           | 32K      |
| Juno     | X86_64   | 1T           | 16K      |
| Purple   | IBM P5   | 0.5T         | 8K       |
| Ranger   | Sun      | 1T           | 16K      |

Two trillion cell data set, rendered in VisIt by David Pugmire on ORNL Jaguar machine

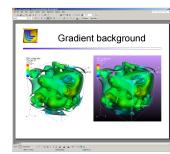


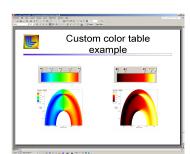


# The VisIt team focuses on making a robust, usable product for end users.

- Manuals
  - 300 page user manual
  - 200 page command line interface manual
  - "Getting your data into VisIt" manual
- Wiki for users (and developers)
- Revision control, nightly regression testing, etc
- Executables for all major platforms
- Day long class, complete with exercises



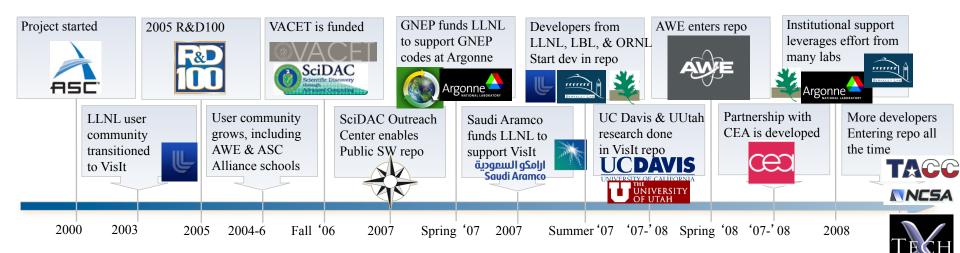




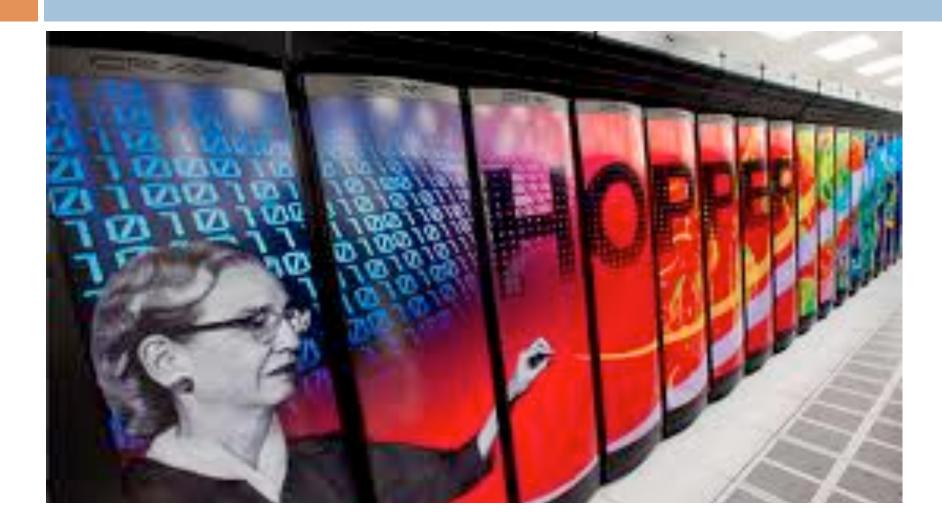


# VisIt is a vibrant project with many participants.

- Over 75 person-years of effort
- Over 1.5 million lines of code
- Partnership between: Department of Energy's Office of Science, National Nuclear Security Agency, and Office of Nuclear Energy, the National Science Foundation XD centers (Longhorn XD and RDAV), and more....



### Achieving Extreme Performance

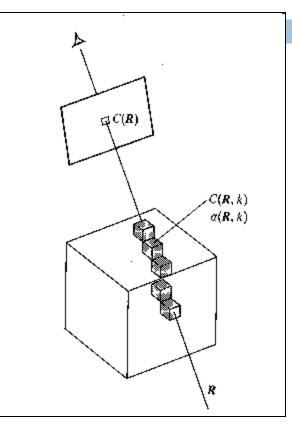


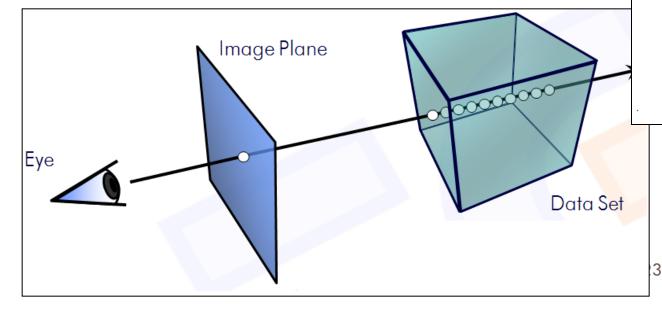
# Achieving Extreme Performance

- The lessons of auto-tuning and multi-/many-core architectures:
  - Performance can vary by as much as 5x depending upon how tunable algorithmic parameters.
- Hybrid-parallelism:
  - MPI-only approaches not sustainable to extreme levels of concurrency.
  - Our results show hybrid parallelism runs faster, consumes less memory, requires less data movement.

# Algorithm Studied: Raycasting VR

- Overview of Levoy's method
  - For each pixel in image plane:
    - Find intersection of ray and volume
    - Sample data (RGBa) along ray, integrate samples to compute final image pixel color





# Parallelizing Volume Render

Image-space decomposition.

- Each process works on a disjoint subset of the final image (in parallel)
- Processes may access source voxels more than once, will access a given output pixel only once.
- Great for shared memory parallelism.
- Object-space decomposition.
  - Each process works on a disjoint subset of the input data (in parallel).
  - Processes may access output pixels more than encess
  - Output requires image composition (ordering semantics).
  - Typical approach for distributed memory parallelism.

# Autotuning and Performance Optimization

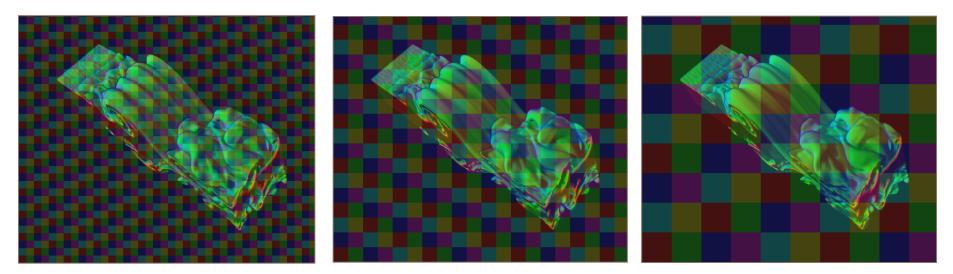


# Motivation

- Many algorithms have "tunable" parameters
  - CUDA: size/shape of thread block.
  - Image-parallel volume rendering: size of image tile.
- Choice of tunable parameters can have a huge impact on algorithm performance.
  - May vary by specific problem, architecture.
  - Examples that follow:
    - Shared-memory volume rendering: 2.5x difference between best and worst depending upon image tile size (unpublished work)
    - CUDA: 10x performance difference on stencil-based code (unpublished work, led to half of work for SC09 paper submission).
  - Other examples:
    - Multi-core CPU and GPU: 49x performance gain for a clinical medical imaging application. (Submitted to SC09)
    - Autotuning framework and multi-core CPUs and GPUs applied to stencilbased code. (CUG 2009, Best Paper Award)

# Work Decomposition: Image Tile Size

- Final image divided into spatially disjoint regions, or work blocks.
- User specifiable block size/shape:
  - E.g., 8x8, 64x64, 512x1, 1x512
- Do some block sizes and shapes result in better performance than others?



# Does Block Size/Shape Impact Performance?

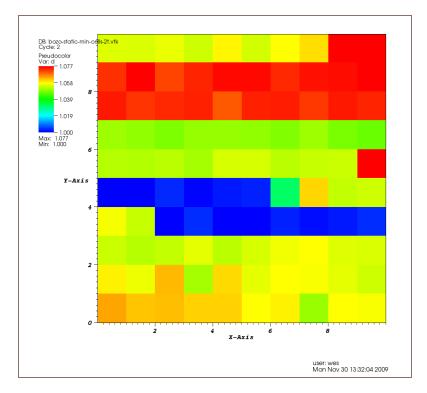
| Platform      | Concurrency | Nearest-neighbor | Trilinear | Phong, NN | Phong, Trilinear |
|---------------|-------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| AMD/Italy     | 1           | 2.62             | 1.35      | 5.74      | 4.33             |
| Intel/Nehalem | 1           | 0.76             | 0.66      | 1.22      | 0.66             |
| AMD/Italy     | 2           | 7.74             | 5.29      | 11.21     | 8.93             |
| Intel/Nehalem | 2           | 4.85             | 5.40      | 5.20      | 5.40             |
| AMD/Italy     | 4           | 68.39            | 74.78     | 79.49     | 76.03            |
| Intel/Nehalem | 4           | 65.25            | 73.34     | 72.85     | 73.34            |
| AMD/Italy     | 8           | 63.23            | 67.71     | 70.60     | 77.60            |
| Intel/Nehalem | 8           | 226.85           | 246.61    | 244.44    | 246.61           |

Percent variation in runtime across entire test battery.

- □ Yes! Huge impact!
  - Greater <u>variation</u> at increasing concurrency.
  - Greater variation for more memory intensive algorithmic configurations.

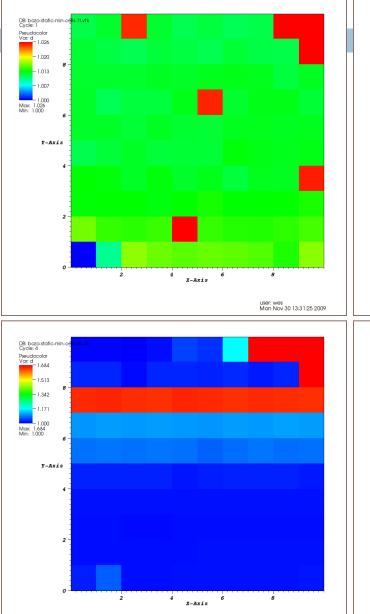
# Optimal Block Size/Shape?

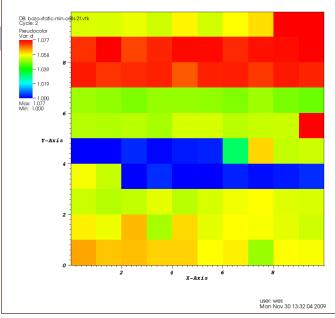
- Raw render time normalized by minimum render time value (shows sweet spots)
- □ This example:
  - 2 threads, AMD/Italy
  - X-axis/Y-axis: block sizes
  - Blue: sweet spot
  - Red: sour spot

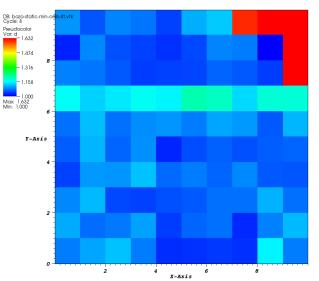


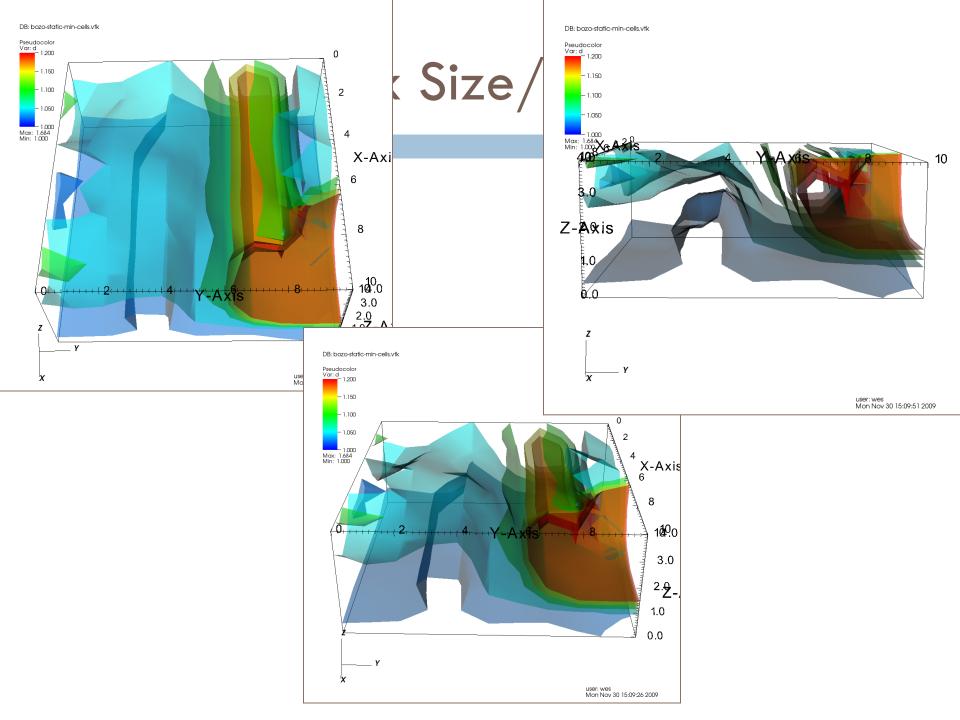
# Optimal Block Size/Shape?

- Avg render time.
- 1, 2, 4, 8
   threads.
- NN, NL.
- Bw=128 is really bad at t=2, 4, and bad at t-8.
- Dual socket, dual core machine.



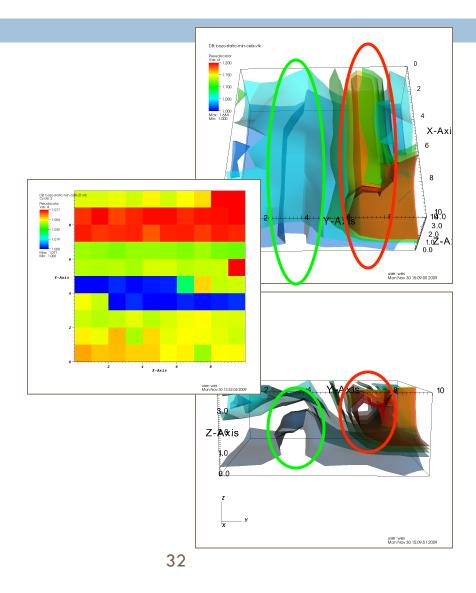




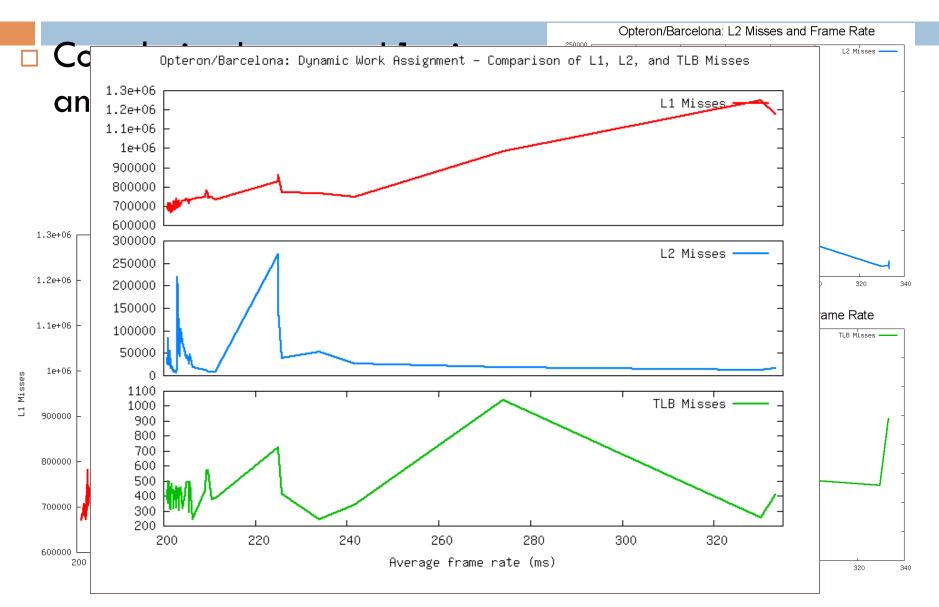


# Optimal Block Size/Shape?

- AMD/Opteron-Italy
- Sweet spot/region:
   Block width: 2<sup>3</sup>-2<sup>4</sup>
   Block height: 2<sup>2</sup>-2<sup>6</sup>
- Sour spot/region: 
   Block width: 2<sup>7</sup>-2<sup>8</sup>
  - Block height: all



# Cache Utilization and Block Size



### Many-core Platform: GPU



# Performance Optimization and Auto-tuning: Summary

- Different settings for tunable algorithmic parameters can have a huge impact on performance on m-core platforms.
- Our results show roughly 2.5x variation on 6-core CPUs, up to 4.5x variation on GPUs.
- Code: unstructured memory access, largely memory bound rather than compute bound.
- Optimal settings from this study feed into the next study...

### Hybrid Parallelism



# State of Parallelism in Scientific Computing

- Most production codes written using MPI, vendor MPI implementations optimized for their architecture.
- HPC community wondering how well MPI will scale to high concurrency, particularly on 100-core CPUs.
- What to do?
  - Some alternatives: data parallel languages (CUDA), PGAS languages (UPC), global shared memory (CAF).
  - Various research projects explore different aspects of this space: Chombo in Titanium, autotuning, hybrid parallelism.
     37

# This Study

- First-ever study of hybrid parallelism on visualization: raycasting volume rendering.
  - Parallels similar work done for scientific computing.
- Hybrid-parallel implementation/architecture.
- Performance study.
  - Runs at 216K-way parallel: 6x larger than any published results (circa May 2010).
  - Look at:
    - Costs of initialization, Memory use comparison, Scalability, Absolute runtime.

# Hybrid Parallel Volume Rendering

Hybrid-parallelism a blend of shared- and distributed-memory parallelism.

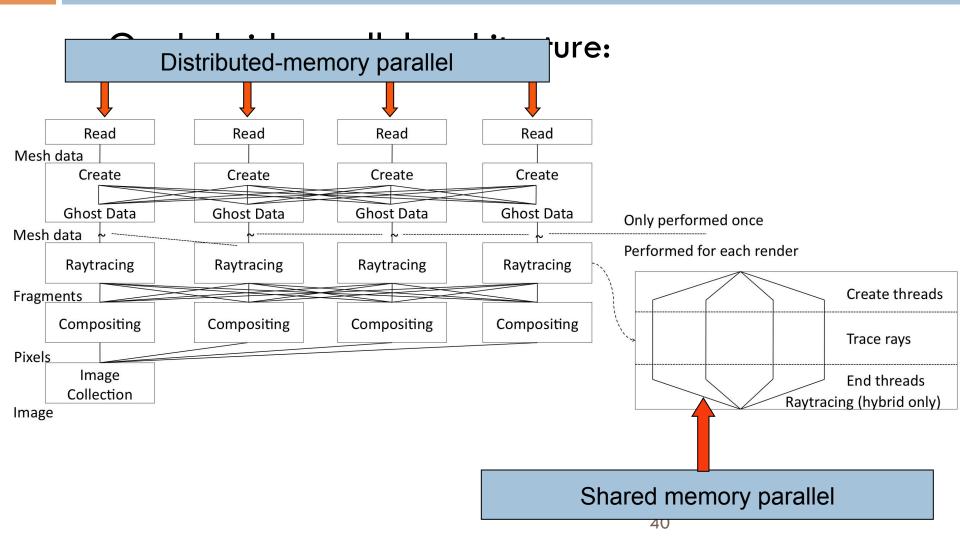
#### Distributed-memory parallelism:

- Each socket assigned a spatially disjoint subset of source data, produces an image of its chunk.
- All subimages composited together into final image.
- MPI implementation.

#### Shared-memory parallelism:

- Inside a socket, threads use image-space partitioning, each thread responsible for a subset of the final image.
  - What is the best image tile size? (Autotuning presentation)
- Implementations (2): pthreads, OpenMP.

# Hybrid Parallel Volume Rendering



# **Our Experiment**

- Thesis: hybrid-parallel will exhibit favorable performance, resource utilization characteristics compared to traditional approach.
- □ How/what to measure?
  - Memory footprint, communication traffic load, scalability characteristics, absolute runtime.
  - Across a wide range of concurrencies.
  - Algorithm performance somewhat dependent upon viewpoint, data:
    - Vary viewpoints over a set that cut through data in different directions: will induce different memory access patterns.
- Strong scaling study: hold problem size constant, vary amount of resources.

# Experiment: Platform and Source Data

- Platform: JaguarPF, a Cray XT5 system at ORNL
  - 18,688 nodes, dual-socket, six-core AMD Opteron (224K cores)
- Source data:
  - Combustion simulation results, hydrogen flame (data courtesy J. Bell, CCSE, LBNL)
  - Effective AMR resolution: 1024<sup>3</sup>, flattened to 512<sup>3</sup>, runtime upscaled to 4608<sup>3</sup> (to avoid I/O costs).
- □ Target image size: 4608<sup>2</sup> image.
  - Want approx 1:1 voxels to pixels.
- Strong scaling study:
  - As we increase the number of procs/cores, each proc/core works on a smaller-sized problem.
  - Time-to-solution should drop.

### Memory Use - MPI\_Init()

#### □ Per PE memory:

About the same at 1728, over 2x at 216000.

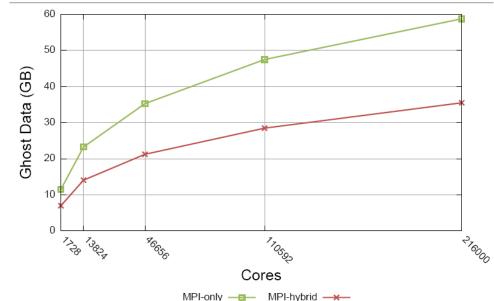
#### Aggregate memory use:

About 6x at 1728, about 12x at 216000.

| Cores  | Mode       | MPI PEs | MPI Runtime Memory Usage |               |                |
|--------|------------|---------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Cores  |            |         | Per PE (MB)              | Per Node (MB) | Aggregate (GB) |
| 1728   | MPI-hybrid | 288     | 67                       | 133           | 19             |
| 1728   | MPI-only   | 1728    | 67                       | 807           | 113            |
| 13824  | MPI-hybrid | 2304    | 67                       | 134           | 151            |
| 13824  | MPI-only   | 13824   | 71                       | 857           | 965            |
| 46656  | MPI-hybrid | 7776    | 68                       | 136           | 518            |
| 46656  | MPI-only   | 46656   | 88                       | 1055          | 4007           |
| 110592 | MPI-hybrid | 18432   | 73                       | 146           | 1318           |
| 110592 | MPI-only   | 110592  | 121                      | 1453          | 13078          |
| 216000 | MPI-hybrid | 36000   | 82                       | 165           | 2892           |
| 216000 | MPI-only   | 216000  | 176                      | 2106          | 37023          |

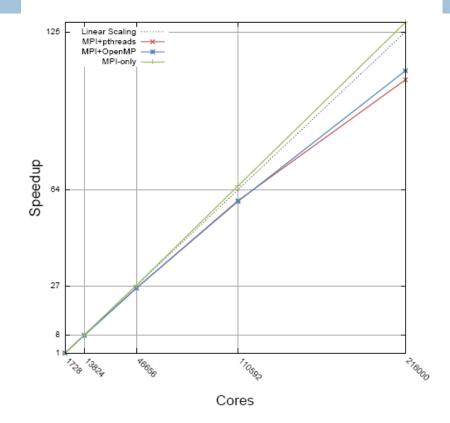
### Memory Use – Ghost Zones

- Two layers of ghost cells required for this problem:
  - One for trilinear interpolation during ray integration loop.
  - Another for computing a gradient field (central differences) for shading.
- Hybrid approach uses fewer, but larger data blocks.
  - ~40% less memory required for ghost zones (smaller surface area)
  - Reduced communication costs



# Scalability – Raycasting Phase

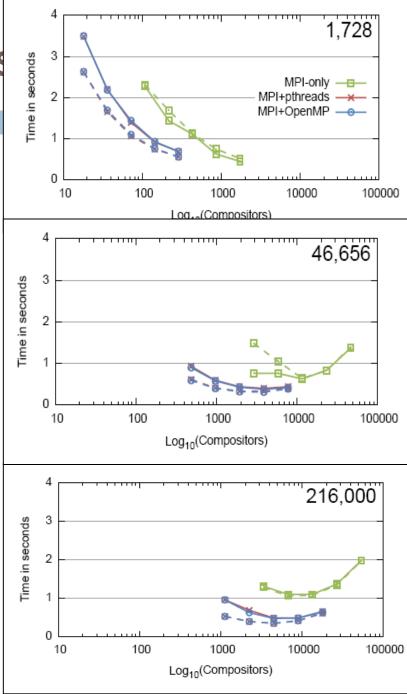
- Near linear scaling since no interprocess communication.
- -hybrid shows sublinear
   scaling due to oblong block
   shape.
- -only shows slightly better than linear due to reduced work caused by perspective foreshortening.



# Scalability – Compos

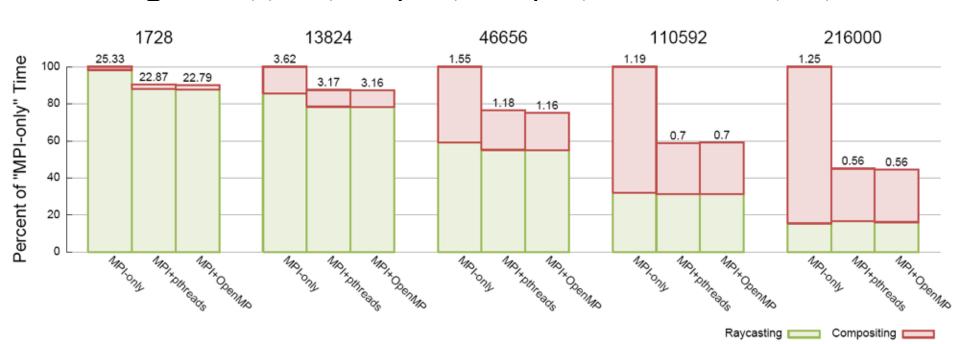
How many compositors to use?

- Previous work: 1K to 2K for 32K renderers (Peterka, 2009).
- Our work: above ~46K renderers, 4K to 8K works better.
- -hybrid cases always performs better: fewer messages.
- Open question: why the critical point?



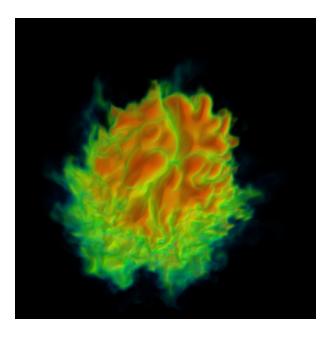
### Absolute Runtime

- -hybrid outperforms —only at every concurrency level.
  - At 216K-way parallel, -hybrid is more than twice as fast as -only.



# Summary of Results

- Absolute runtime: -hybrid twice as fast as -only at 216K-way parallel.
- Memory footprint: -only requires 12x more memory for MPI initialization then –hybrid
  - Factor of 6x due to 6x more MPI PEs.
  - Additional factor of 2x at high concurrency, likely a vendor MPI implementation (an N<sup>2</sup> effect).
- Communication traffic:
  - -hybrid performs 40% less communication than only for ghost zone setup.
  - -only requires 6x the number of messages for compositing.
- Image: 4608<sup>2</sup> image of a ~4500<sup>3</sup> dataset generated using 216,000 cores on JaguarPF in ~0.5s (not counting I/O time).



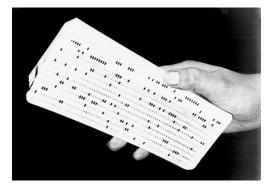
## Examples/Case Studies

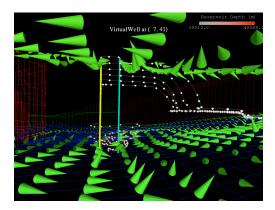
- 1995: Concurrent (in situ) visualization: UTCHEM simulation code and AVS.
- 2011: Advanced Simulation Capability for Environmental Management (ASCEM).

# Reservoir modeling and VDA

#### Problem(s):

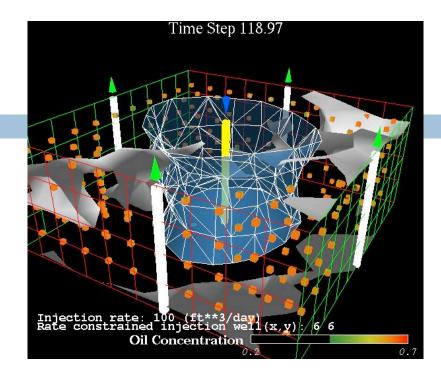
- Setting up inputs (well locations) to optimize production (secondary, tertiary recovery, or EM applications) is tricky; input "card deck."
- Simulations generate tabular output, difficult to quickly gain insight.
- Approach:
  - Couple model setup with intuitive input devices.
  - Couple simulation directly with VDA software.
  - Closed-loop system easy to use, quickly converge on optimal setup.





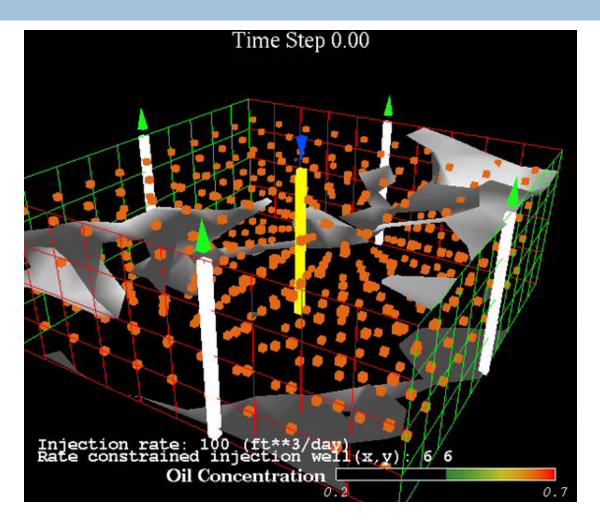
# **Problem Setup**

- Placement of production and injection wells to optimize recovery/ mobilization.
- Supplant manual editing of card deck with 3D input device for easy well placement.
- (movie, next slide)





### UTCHEM+AVS



Movie file located here: http://vis.lbl.gov/Research/utchem-1993/images/utchem.mov

### **Environmental Management**



### **Environmental Management - Mission**

"Complete the safe cleanup of the environmental legacy brought about from five decades of nuclear weapons development, production, and Government-sponsored nuclear energy research."



- 6.4 trillion liters & 40
   million cubic meters of contaminated groundwater and soil respectively
- Distributed across 30 states and 10,000 individual sites

Solving highly complex technical problems with transformational technologies can lead to billions of dollars of savings and improved clean up

# The Challenge

Current practices work for some sites and lead to closure
 Many of the subsurface contamination problems at DOE sites have no practical remedy









Some successes: SRS F-Area groundwater contaminated with metals and radionuclides

- Pump & treat system cost \$1M/month to operate and generated waste products
- Barrier system installed in 2006 costs <\$10K/month and generates no waste products
- Need more options to address costly systems and meet regulatory requirements for closure of sites
  - Hanford pump & treat systems for the 200 Area cost ~ \$10M/year
  - Oak Ridge mercury contamination in debris, soil, groundwater, and stream systems is estimated to cost \$1B to meet regulatory requirements

# **ASCEM Challenge and Impact**

- > Challenge
  - Reduce time required and financial cost of remedial actions at sites within EM complex by providing scientifically defensible modeling and simulation tools that accurately address complex environmental management situations
  - Develop an integrated, high-performance computer modeling capability to simulate multiphase, multi-component, multi-scale flow and contaminant transport, waste degradation and contaminant release, including
  - <u>Provide (software) tools for decision making: parameter estimation, visualization, uncertainty</u> <u>quantification, data management, risk analysis, and decision support</u>
  - Leverage investments made by SC, NE, RW, and FE as well as other Federal agencies to capitalize on significant investments and reduce the lifecycle development time and costs

#### ➤ Impact

- Near-term: *technically underpin*" existing site RA's and PA's
- Inform strategic data collection for model improvement
- Scientifically defensible and standardized EM RA's and PA's



# ASCEM Leverages SciDAC and ASC

- Significant leveraging of investments by Advanced Simulation and Computing (ASC /DOE NNSA) and Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR/DOE SC)
- Examples include:
  - Vislt visualization and graphic analysis tool developed by ASC and ASCR SciDAC
     Program
  - PSUADE uncertainty analysis tool developed by ASC
  - Trilinos Framework services for parallel programming and integrated software packages developed by ASC and ASCR SciDAC program
  - PETsc Portable, Extensible Toolkit for Scientific Computation developed by ASCR
     SciDAC Program
  - BoxLib parallel AMR framework developed by ASCR Base Math and SciDAC
  - MFD Mimetic Finite Difference discretization methods developed by ASCR Base
     Math Program
  - Geochemistry Toolset developed by computational scientists funded through DOE SC BER

# ASCEM Delivered via a National Laboratory Consortium











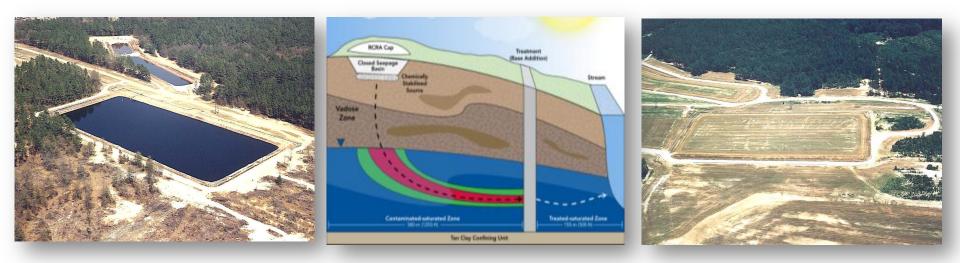






# Savannah River Site F-Area Background

- Disposal of low-level radioactive, acid waste solutions (1955–1989) created groundwater plume (pH 3–3.5, NO<sub>3</sub>, U, <sup>90</sup>Sr, <sup>129</sup>I, <sup>99</sup>Tc, tritium)
- Ongoing remediation includes capping (1989), active pump and treat (1997-2003), and pH manipulation since 2004
- Natural attenuation is desired as a long-term remediation strategy

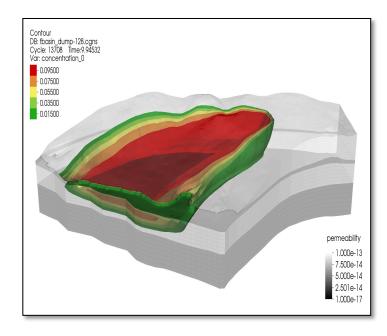


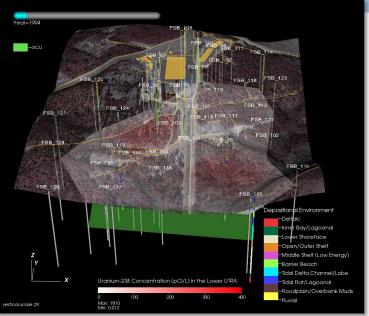
### Goals: Phase/Year 1 Demonstration

| Platform Data<br>Management  | Platform<br>Visualization   | Platform<br>Uncertainty<br>Quantification   | НРС  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <ul> <li>Depositional data<br/>entered into<br/>databases</li> <li>Contaminant<br/>concentrations<br/>entered into<br/>databases</li> <li>Browsing and<br/>query interface<br/>with tabled output</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>3D navigation of<br/>concentration data</li> <li>Visualization of<br/>time lapse<br/>contaminant<br/>concentrations<br/>through subsurface<br/>domain</li> <li>Selectively enable<br/>several types of<br/>data</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Initial Monte Carlo<br/>sampling capability</li> <li>Automatic creation<br/>of forward<br/>simulation runs</li> <li>Visualization of<br/>relationships<br/>between key<br/>parameters and<br/>model outputs</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>3D simulation</li> <li>Richards' equation</li> <li>Parallel (100 cores)</li> <li>Reactive transport<br/>of uranium</li> <li>Advection of non-<br/>reactive species</li> <li>Aqueous<br/>speciation</li> <li>Sorption</li> <li>Mineral<br/>precipitation, and<br/>dissolution</li> </ul> |

# ASCEM Visualization Year 1 Objectives

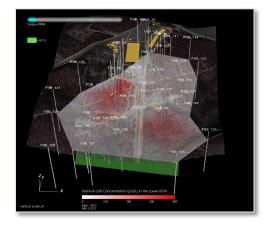
- Visual data exploration of
  - Part 1: Historical field data.
  - Part 2: Simulation data.
  - Part 3: Ensemble data.

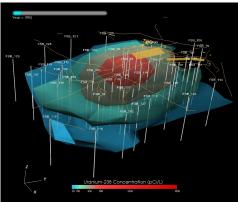




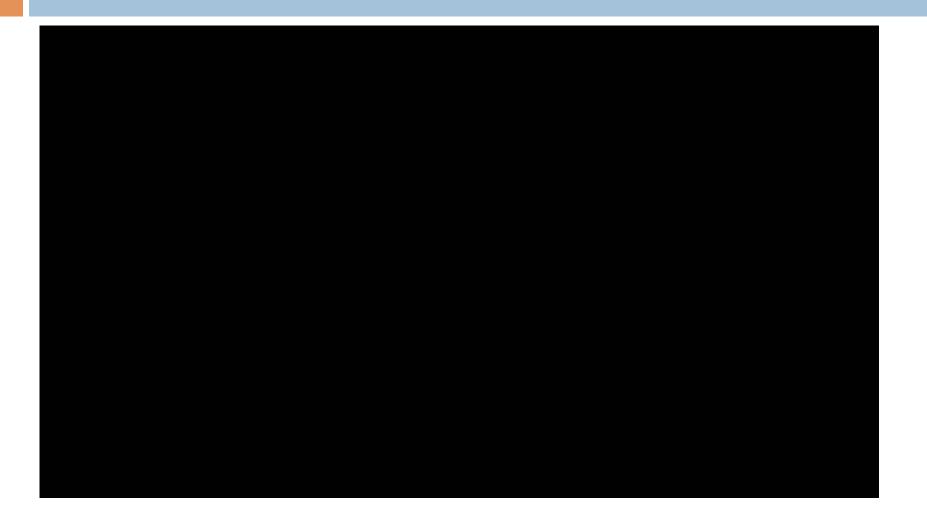
# Visualization – Goals and Approach (Part 1)

- Visual data exploration of different types of geospatially registered data for the F-area seepage basin:
  - Observation wells, surface topography, depositional environment, observed concentration from many years, GIS data.
- Phase I Demonstration Objectives:
  - **3**D navigation through the F-area historical concentration data.
  - Temporal browsing to show time evolving contaminant plume.
- Approach
  - Add new capabilities to well-established, production-quality, open source visual data analysis and exploration software infrastructure to meet ASCEM needs.
  - Demonstrate viability via application to ASCEM-specific problems.





### **ASCEM** Animation



Movie file located here: http://vis.lbl.gov/Vignettes/ASCEM/ascem.mp4



- DOE and LBNL Visualization team studying different aspects of scalable visualization and analysis, deploying working technologies to the science research community.
- Terascale: Easy. Petascale: lots of work to do. Exascale: Hard.
  - Exascale requires us to rethink everything, and requires us to change course in terms of programming models/ languages, and in how we think about performance.

