Advanced Visualization Techniques

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TEXAS ADVANCED COMPUTING CENTER

Topics Covered

- Remote and Collaborative Visualization
- EnVision simplified Interface for Visualization
- Visualizing and Animating a Time Series in Paraview
- Vislt
- Parallel Visualization



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Remote Visualization Motivation

- It is no longer necessarily practical to move tera and peta-scale data from instruments or HPC systems to user's local site
- Certain data is sensitive (e.g. data from industry, government, academia)
- Growth of data has outstripped the graphics capabilities of single GPUs and aggregation of GPUs requires specialized knowledge



Remote Visualization Challenges

- Latency (wide-area network and GPU read-back)
- Quality of service and the user interface (scheduling, ease of access, and usability)
- Wide-area network bandwidth (1280 * 1024 * 12 * 24 = 360 MBps uncompressed)



Old Model (No Remote Capability)





New Model Remote Capability





New Model Multi-User and Collaborative Capability





Step 1: Download a vnc client. Recommended option is TurboVNC which can be downloaded from:

http://www.virtualgl.org/Downloads/TurboVNC



Step 2: ssh maverick.tacc.utexas.edu

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Step 3: On maverick, set up your vnc password. This only needs to be done once, but is attached to the machine you are currently logged into.

> Type 'vncpasswd' and hit return. This will prompt you for a password. Type in something that you can easily remember and hit enter. You will then be asked to verify the password.



Step 4: type

'qsub -v GEOMETRY=1600x1200 -l h_rt=1:00:00 -l gfx=1 /usr/local/qsub/RUN.vnc'

qsub = Method to submit job to the queue

GEOMETRY sets the size of the vnc window

-I h_rt=1:00:00 sets the job run time to 1 hour

-I gfx=1 requests 1 graphics card

/usr/local/qsub/RUN.vnc is the script to start the vnc session

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Starting a Remote Visualization Job on Maverick (Lab Exercise) Step 5: type 'qstat' to see the status of your job

q = job is still queued

t = job is still being transferred to the SGE manager

e = job has errorred out and possible causes can be found in the file vnc.log in your home directory

r = job is running

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Starting a Remote Visualization Job on Maverick (Lab Exercise) Step 6: Find the display that your job is running on by looking in the file vnc_server in your home directory

You will see a display address, for example:

mav1.tacc.utexas.edu:5902

This tells you to connect to display 2 on mav1.tacc.utexas.edu

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Starting a Remote Visualization Job on Maverick (Lab Exercise) Step 7: Connect to that display by using a vnc client





Starting a Remote Visualization Job on Maverick (Lab Exercise) Step 8: Type 'module avail' in the xterm.

This will tell you which programs are available to load and run.

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Starting a Remote Visualization Job on Maverick (Lab Exercise) Step 9: Type 'module load paraview/3.2.1'

This will load paraview 3.2.1 and make it available for running.

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Starting a Remote Visualization Job on Maverick (Lab Exercise) Step 10: Type 'vglrun paraview'. vglrun is necessary to run any OpenGL based applications through the vnc viewer.

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Step 11: Load the RectGrid2.vtk dataset. It can be found in /work/utexas/staff/kelly/PORTUGAL





Step 12: You can also view through a web browser. The web address can be found in vnc_url in your home directory.





Topics Covered

- Remote and Collaborative Visualization
- EnVision simplified Interface for Visualization
- Visualizing and Animating a Time Series in Paraview
- Vislt
- Parallel Visualization



EnVision: Web-Based Remote Scientific Visualization

EnVision Team: Greg P. Johnson, Stephen Mock, Greg S. Johnson





Motivation for EnVision

- Most visualization software takes significant time and effort to learn effectively
- EnVision was created with these audiences in mind:
 - 1. Computational scientists with little to no visualization experience
 - 2. Users who want to quickly import and visualize their data from anywhere



EnVision Goals: Simple, Intuitive, Immediate

- Web-based visualization application with a wizard-style interface
- Does not aim to supersede or replace current visualization applications
- Focus is on simplicity and ease-of-use
- Semi-automates the data importation process
- Presents visualization methods, with examples, that are applicable to their data set



EnVision Guides the User Through the Process

- Authenticates user, shows visualization resources, and automatically starts a remote visualization job on selected resource
- 2. Imports data in nearly any format based on a series of intuitive questions
- 3. Presents user with examples of visualization methods to add
- 4. Builds the visualization using reasonable defaults for color mapping, etc.
- 5. Renders the visualization and allows user to interact with it and save snapshots



EnVision General Architecture





Current State and Future Plans

- Version 2.0b1 released June 9, 2008
- Current capabilities:
 - TACC Maverick visualization resource
 - supports any VTK formatted data set
 - structured and point arbitrarily formatted data importation through interview
 - basic visualization methods
- Future capabilities include:
 - additional visualization resources
 - additional visualization methods (e.g. volume rendering)
 - collaborative visualization sessions
 - unstructured arbitrarily formatted data importation through interview
 - automated data staging



https://envision2.tacc.utexas.edu



Step 1: Login in to your maverick account and type the following command:

cp -R ~train00/envision_demo ./

Then log out of maverick



Step 2: Login and authenticate: goto http://envision2.tacc.utexas.edu

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Step 3: Select the resource. (Maverick)

Done

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Available Resources: Maverick Maverick terascale visualization system is a Sun E25K server with 64 dual-core 1.05 GHz UltraSPARC IV processors and 512 gigabytes of shared me devices, and is available to TACC and TeraGrid users. For more detailed information on Maverick, please see the Maverick User Guide. 	ry. Maverick provides users with access to 16 high-end graphics

Step 4: Load the data.

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Done	envision2.tacc.ut	exas.edu

Step 5: Select the type of visualization you want to see.





Step 6: Create a heightmap.



Step 7: Create an isosurface.




EnVision Demo

Step 8: Create glyphs.





Topics Covered

- Remote and Collaborative Visualization
- EnVision simplified Interface for Visualization
- Visualizing and Animating a Time Series in Paraview
- Vislt
- Parallel Visualization



- Download the data from your maverick account at /work/utexas/staff/kelly/PORTUGAL/
- The data is called sol_data.tar.gz
- gunzip the file: gunzip sol_data.tar.gz
- Untar the file: tar –xvf sol_data.tar
- This will produce a series of time steps



 Step 1: In paraview, locate the time series data, select it and load the data.





 Step2: Find the data's information and verify that all time steps were loaded.





• Step 3: In the File menu, select "Save Animation". This will animate the time series.





• The movie should look like:



 Step 4: Add particle traces using a line to seed the points. Change the color to black and line width to 1.





Step 5: Go back to the contour and turn it back on.





Step 6: Save an animation of this view.





• The movie should look like:



Topics Covered

- Remote and Collaborative Visualization
- EnVision simplified Interface for Visualization
- Visualizing and Animating a Time Series in Paraview
- Vislt
- Parallel Visualization



Vislt

- Open source parallel visualization tool out of LLNL
- Key features:
 - Scalar, vector, and tensor field visualization
 - Structured and unstructured mesh types
 - Support for structured AMR meshes and CSG meshes\
 - Quantitative analysis (expressions, queries, picking, lineout)
 - GIS support
 - Image export (*BMP, JPEG, PNG, PPM, Raster Postscript, RGB, TIFF, stereo images*)
 - Annotation support for publication and presentation graphics
 - Built on VTK (open source graphics library)



Vislt Supported File Formats

ANALYZE ANSYS BOV (brick of values) **Boxlib** CGNS Chombo **CTRL** Curve2D Ensight Gold Enzo Exodus FITS FLASH **FLUENT**

FVCOM GGCM H5Nimrod H5Part Image ITAPS MFIX MM5 NASTRAN Nek3D NetCDF OpenFOAM PATRAN

PLOT3D **Protein Databank** SAMRAI Silo Spheral STL TecPlot VASP Vis5D VTK Wavefront OBJ Xmdv ZeusMP (HDF4)

GIS (DEM, ArcGrid, ESRI Shapefile, vector file formats...)



Running Vislt

 Download from web and install on local computer





Vislt Application





Visit Terminology

- Plot = Mapping Algorithm
 - Pseudocolor plot (scalar color map)
 - Surface plot (of 3D isosurface or 2D data)
 - Volume plot (3D volume rendered image)
- Operator = Data Manipulation Algorithm
 - Slice (extract data)
 - Resample (change data resolution)
 - Transform (move data in space or time)
- Database = file or set of files



Common Plots

Contour



Surface



Pseudocolor





Common Plots

Mesh + Pseudocolor



Volume





Vislt Advanced Features

- Various lighting, rendering, and view (camera) options
- Geometry export (*Curve, Alias WaveFront Obj, STL, ULTRA,* and *VTK*)
- Animation and movie generation
- Scripting interface with Python
- API interface with C++ and Java
- Dynamically extensible through plugins
- Parallel and distributed architecture for visualizing very large data sets
- Database export (BOV, SILO, Tecplot, SimV1Writer, VTK, columnar ascii file (xmdf))
- Multiple database correlation / visualization



Step 1: Download Vislt from

Done

- https://wci.llnl.gov/codes/visit/executables.html

Vislt Executables - Mozilla Firefox	- - ×
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Linux - x86 32 bit Redhat Enterprise Linux 4, ellipse.uchicago.edu 2.6.9-42.0.10.ELsmp, icc 9.1 & gcc 3.4.6	
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Linux - Opteron 64 bit Fedora Core 4, xchem.llnl.gov 2.6.17-1.2142_FC4smp, gcc 4.0.2	
Linux - Itanium 64 bit Redhat Enterprise Linux 4, thunder.llnl.gov 2.6.9-70chaos, gcc 3.2.3	
Linux - Altix 64 bit SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 9, davinci.nersc.gov 2.6.5-7.283-sn2, gcc 3.3.3	
Windows SE/ME/2000/Xp MSVC7, Visual Studio 2003	
Mac OS X - Intel Darwin 10.4.11, Darwin Kernel Version 8.11.1, gcc 4.0.1	download
Mac OS X - PowerPC Darwin 10.4, Darwin Kernel Version 8.10.0, gcc 4.0.1	
Solaris SunOS 5.7, sunspot.llnl.gov Generic_106541-23, gcc 3.2	
AIX - 32 bit AIX 5.3, up.llnl.gov 00C5D6DD4C00, xlc	
AIX - 64 bit AIX 5.3, up.linl.gov 00C5D6DD4C00, xlc	
Irix IRIX 64 6.5, quad.llnl.gov 07010238, MIPSpro 7.41	
Java client library (jar file, compiled classes, source code, examples)	



VisIt 1.9.0

Step 2: Bring up Vislt and Load the RectGrid2.vtk dataset

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 Step 3: Create a surface plot (pseudocolor) of the volume boundary by clicking on plots and selecting pseudocolor.



 Step 4: Swap the background color and foreground color



user: kelly

Thu Jul 17 05:08:38 2008



 Step 5: Create a set of isosurfaces by clicking on plots and selecting contours.





 Step 6: Create a set of streamlines by clicking on plots and selecting streamline



Step 7: Create volume by selecting volume in plots



 Step 8: Adjust the volume rendering color profile



 Step 9: Adjust the transparency and color of isosurfaces



Topics Covered

- Remote and Collaborative Visualization
- EnVision simplified Interface for Visualization
- Visualizing and Animating a Time Series in Paraview
- Vislt
- Parallel Visualization



Parallel Visualization

- Three types of parallelism to think about:
 - Task parallelism passing results to 1 process for rendering
 Timesteps





Parallel Visualization

- Three types of parallelism to think about:
 - Pipeline parallelism useful when processes have access to separate resources or when an operation requires many steps.



Timesteps



Parallel Visualization

- Three types of parallelism to think about:
 - Data parallelism data set is partitioned between the processes and all processes execute same operations on the data. Scales well as long as the data and operations can be decomposed.

		1	2	3
SeS	1	Read partition 1	Isosurface partition 1	Render partition 1
roces	2	Read partition 2	Isosurface partition 2	Render partition 2
7	3	Read partition 3	Isosurface partition 2	Render partition 3

Timesteps



Questions?



Parallel Paraview

- Paraview has three main logical components:
 - Client server responsible for user interface of the application
 - Data server reads and processes data sets to create final geometric models. Each process is told which partition of the data it should load
 - Render Server is responsible for rendering the final geometry. The render server can run in parallel if it is configured to do so.
- It is possible to run the render server with less processes than the data server, but never more.



Parallel Paraview

- Paraview can be run in a variety of configurations
 - Client, Data Server and Render Server all running on the same process (the way we have been running this week)
 - Client as a single process program, Data Server and Render Server as MPI multi-process programs.
 - MPI is used to send messages between processes
 - Sockets are used to send messages and data between servers


- Login to login3.ranger.tacc.utexas.edu
- Set your vnc password by typing 'vncpasswd'
- Start a vnc server: vncserver
- Pay attention to the display number on ranger as this is the one you are going to connect to
- Point vnc client to that adisplay:
 - E.g., 'Login3.ranger.tacc.utexas.edu, using display 3'
- This will bring up a vnc window



- Look for the file 'job' in your home directory. This is your job script
- Type 'module delete mvapich2'
- Type 'module swap pgi intel'
- Type 'module load mvapich'
- Type 'module load vis'
- Type 'module load mesa'
- Type 'module load qt'
- Type 'module load paraview'



- Type 'qsub job'
- Type 'showq –u' to see when you job starts to run
- When the job starts to run, do a 'qstat' to find your job. Look for the compute node you are running on
 - Example: If the compute node is: i115-406.ranger.tacc.utexas.edu, you compute node is i115-406
- Run paraview by typing 'paraview'
- Open the server dialog with: File -> Connect
- Click "Add Server"
- Enter a name, for example: i115-406 (look at qstat and look for compute node assigned to you)
- For "Server Type" select "Client / Server"



- For host, enter the compute node address, e.g.: i115-406.ranger.tacc.utexas.edu
- Click the "Configure" button
- For "Startup Type:" select "Manual"
- Click "Save"
- Under "Choose a server:" select the name you just entered, e.g. i115-406
- Click "Connect"



- NOTE: you will get a message that says rendering disabled on server. This is okay.
- NOTE: you will need to configure a new server each time the compute node changes, which will likely be each time you run ParaView.



- Login to login3.ranger.tacc.utexas.edu
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- Pay attention to the display number on ranger as this is the one you are going to connect to
- Point vnc client to that adisplay:
 - E.g., 'Login3.ranger.tacc.utexas.edu, using display 3'
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- Type 'module delete mvapich2'
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- Type 'module load mvapich'
- Type 'module load vis'
- Type 'module load mesa'
- Type 'module load qt'
- Type 'module load visit'



- Launch Vislt by typing 'visit'
- Configure a parallel run engine:
 - Open the host profile: <Ctrl+H> or Options -> Host Profiles
 - Click the button "New Profile"
 - Under the "Selected profile" tab:
 - Name the profile, e.g. "ranger-login3"
 - Remote host name will be the current login node, e.g. login3.ranger.tacc.utexas.edu
 - Check the "Parallel computation engine" box (this activates the "Parallel options" tab)



- Under the "Parallel options" tab:
 - Check the "Parallel launch method" box, and select "qsub/srun"
 - Check the "Launcher arguments" box, and enter arguments that you would put at the top of a job script, except for the queue (-q) and the account information (-A). For example:

-V -cwd -N visit_engine -j y

-o \$JOB_NAME.o\$JOB_ID -pe 16way 16

-l h_rt=00:30:00

- Check the "Partition / Pool" box, and enter the queue name. This will usually be "normal" or "development"
- Set the "Default number of processors" field to a value greater than one. The exact value is ignored, but it must be 2 or more to avoid automatic launch of the serial engine. The number of processors requested is controlled by the "-pe" argument in the "Launcher arguments" field above.
- Check the "Default Bank" box, and enter the account to charge against: A-tr3



- Under the "Advanced options" tab:
 - Check the box "Use Vislt script to set up parallel environment"
 - Check the box "Tunnel data connections through SSH"
- Click the button "Apply"
- Click the button "Dismiss"
- Save your configuration! Select Options -> Save Settings
- When you load a data file, a dialog will open where you can select the host configuration. Here you can change the account you would like to use, if needed.



Questions?

