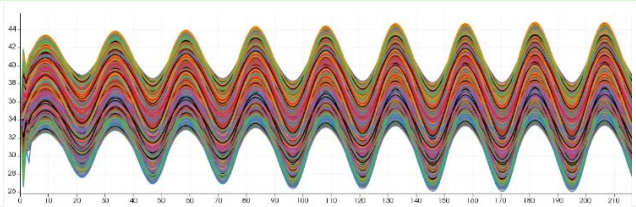
Large Scale Visualization with ParaView

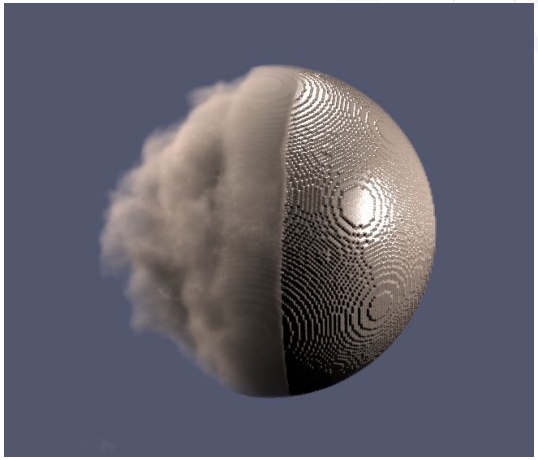
ATPESC 2025



kitware

Outline

- Kitware
- Introduction
- Basic Usage
- Visualizing Large Models
- Topics for Future Exploration



Volumetric Rendering in VTK and ParaView: Introducing the Scattering Model on GPU

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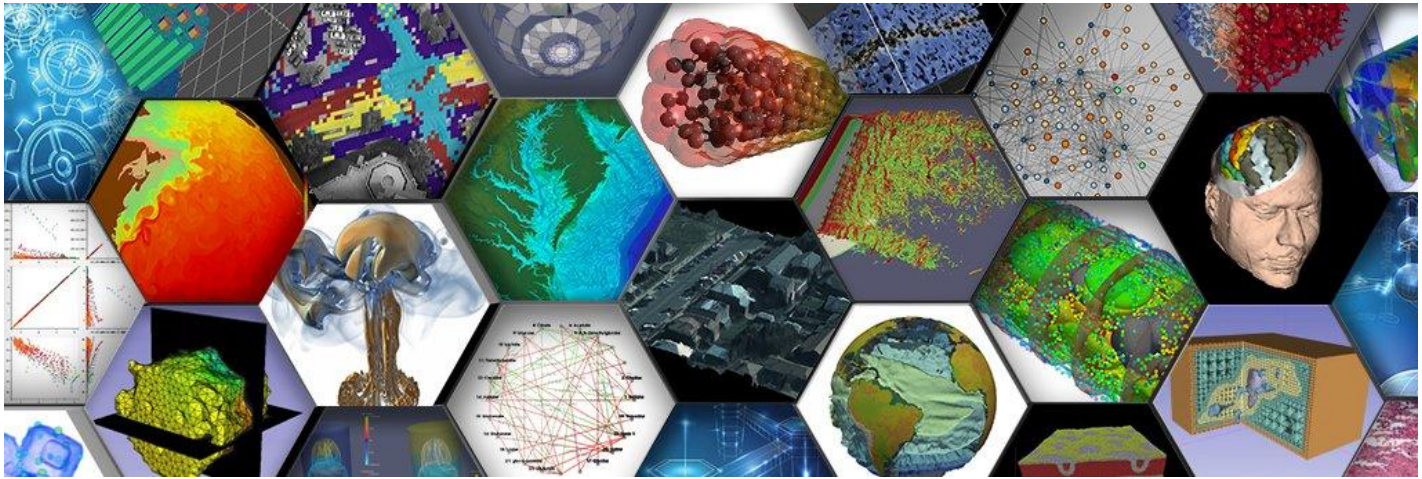
Kitware

- Open-source, software R&D company
- Core areas of expertise



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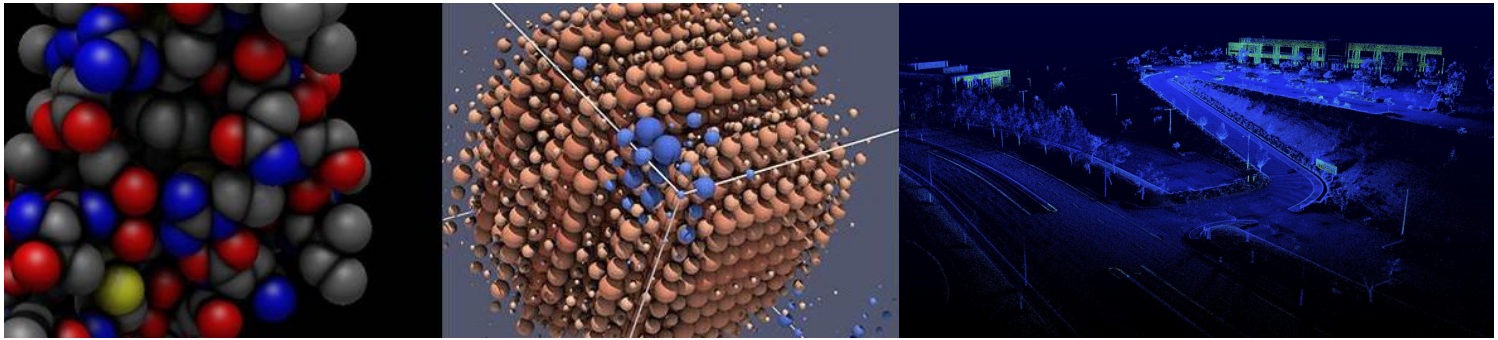
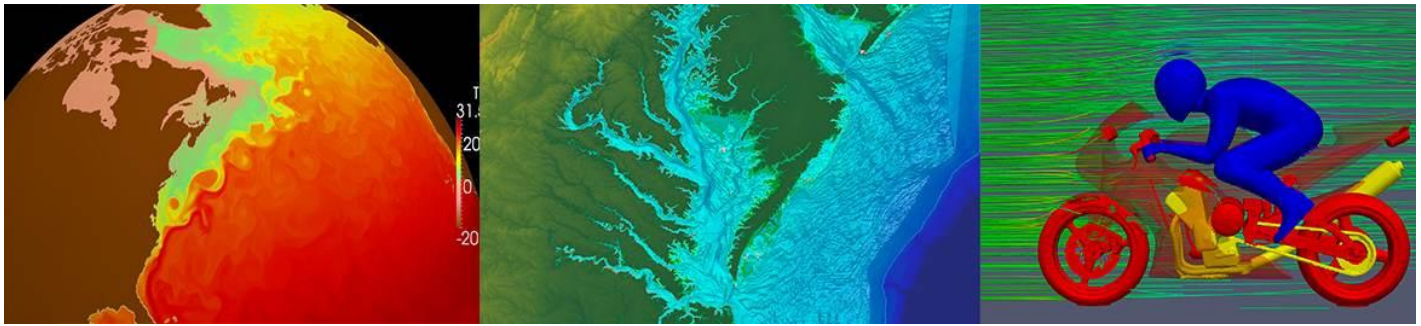
Kitware – HPC and Visualization

VTK ParaView CMB tomviz LidarView Trame





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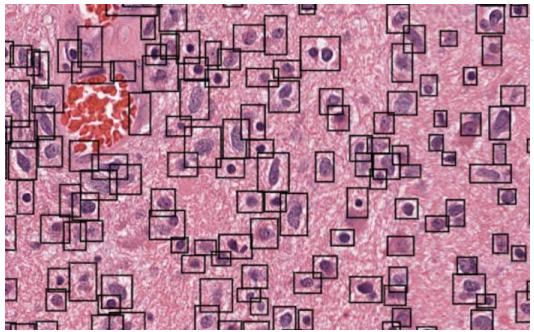
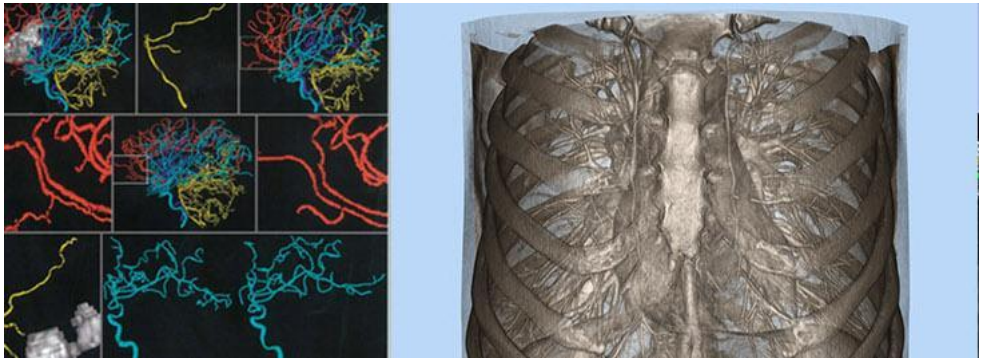
Kitware: Additional Core Areas of Expertise

- Computer Vision and AI
- Data and Analytics
- Medical Computing
- Software Process (cmake)





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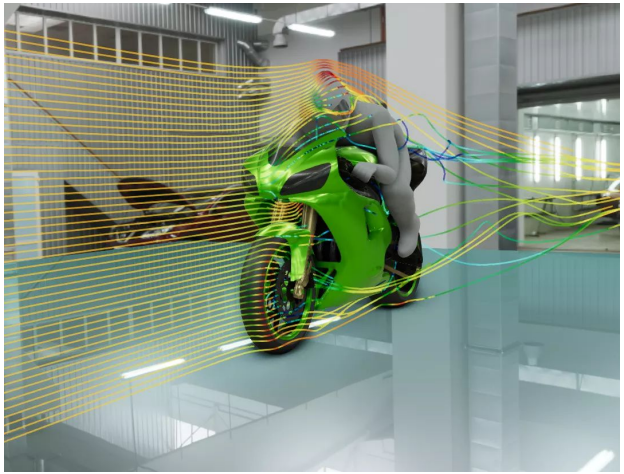
To Follow Along…

Install ParaView 5.13.1

- http://www.paraview.org/download



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Introduction

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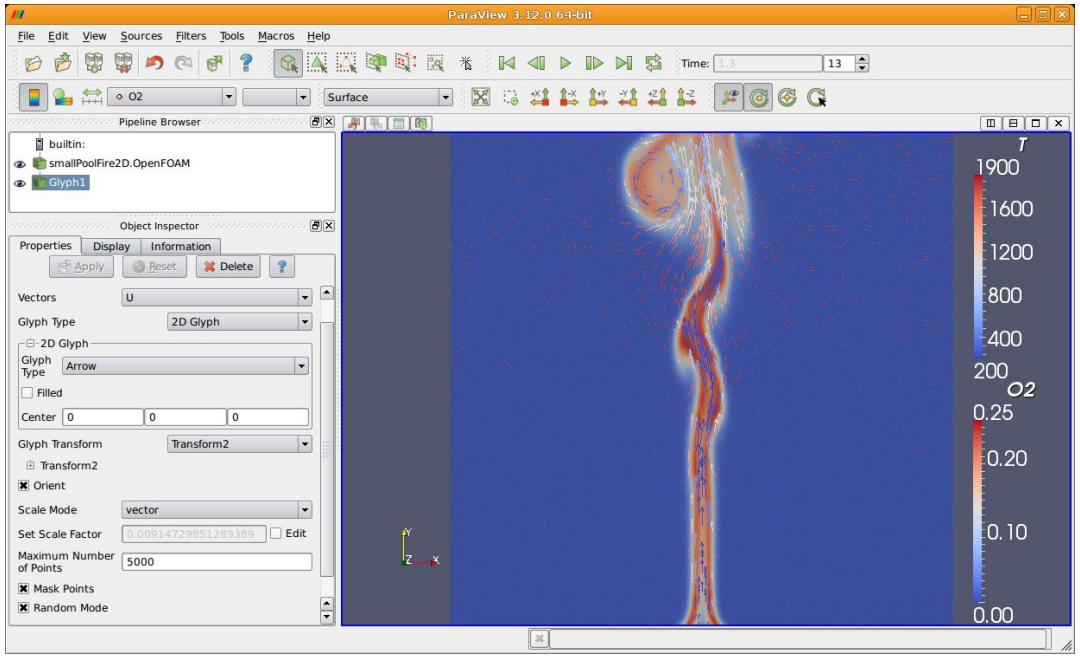
What is ParaView?

- An open-source (BSD 3 Clause License), **scalable**, multi-platform visualization application based on VTK
- Processing paradigms:
  - distributed computing (MPI)
  - shared memory multiprocessing (SMP) (vtkSMPTools)
  - GPU processing (viskores).
- Has an open, flexible, and intuitive user interface
- Has an **extensible, modular architecture** based on open standards

ParaView on the Desktop



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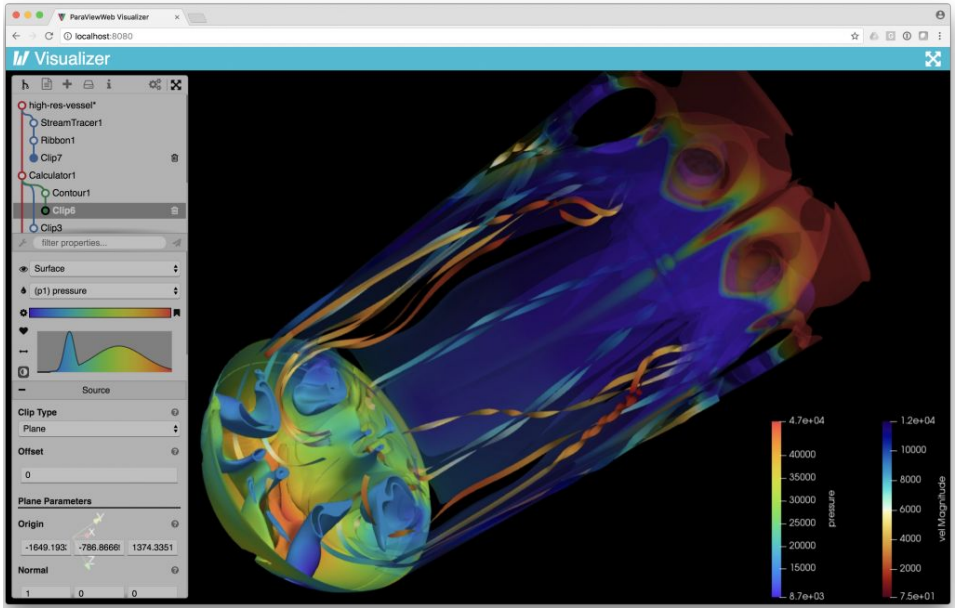
ParaView on the Web

Visualizer, Glance (vtk.js)

https://blog.kitware.com/vis-on-the-web/



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ParaView Scripting - Python

Tools > Start Trace

__ build a pipeline __

Tools > Stop Trace

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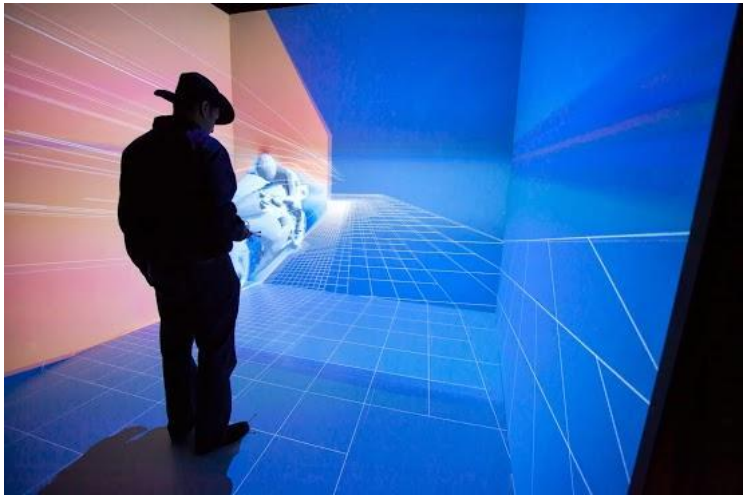
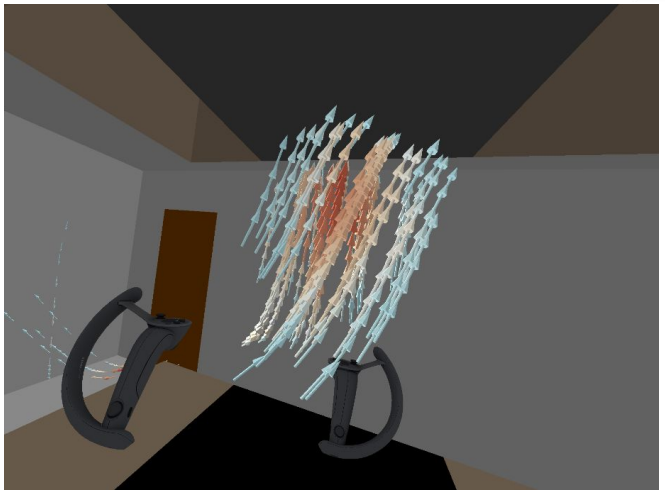
ParaView Immersive and VR





OpenVR, OpenXR

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ParaView for HPC

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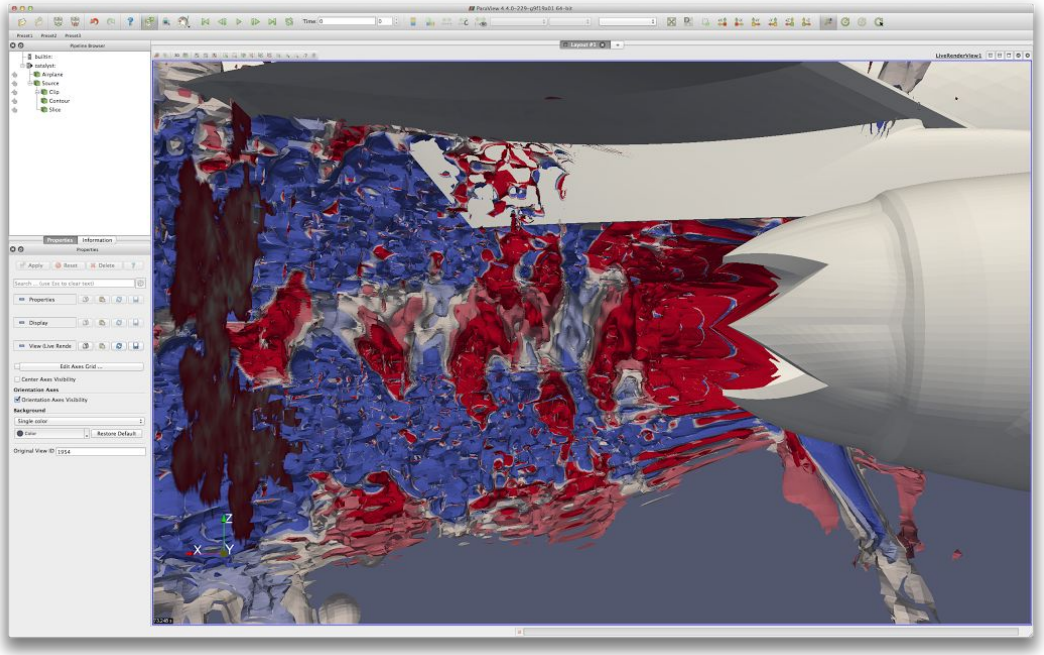
ParaView Catalyst - Insitu Solution



Uses Conduit Blueprint data description

- No need to compile ParaView
- No need to recompile when ParaView version changes

Simulations with Catalyst: PyFR, HPCMP CREATE HELIOS, PHASTA, MPAS Ocean, VPIC, RAGE, UH3D, CAM

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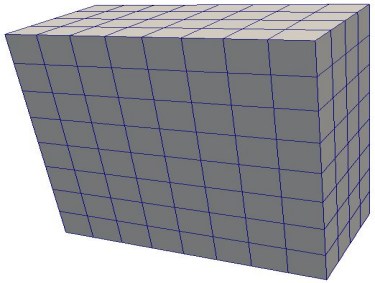
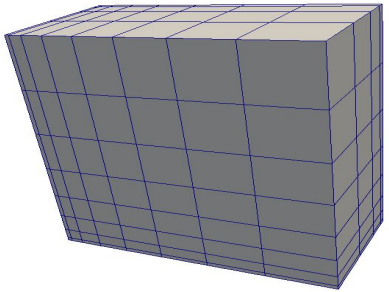
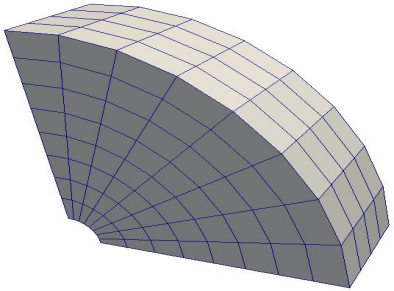
ParaView (VTK) Data Types



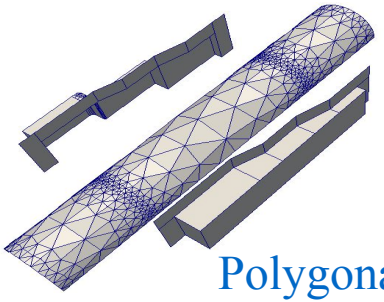
Uniform Rectilinear
(vtkImageData)



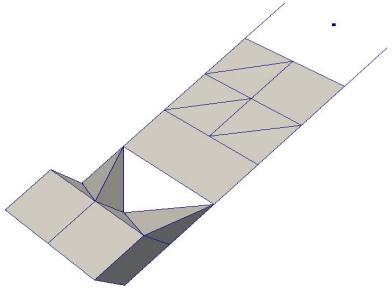
Non-Uniform Rectilinear
(vtkRectilinearData)



Curvilinear
(vtkStructuredData)



Polygonal
(vtkPolyData)



Unstructured Grid
(vtkUnstructuredGrid)

- Partitioned Dataset
- Partitioned Dataset Collection
- Adaptive Mesh Refinement (AMR)

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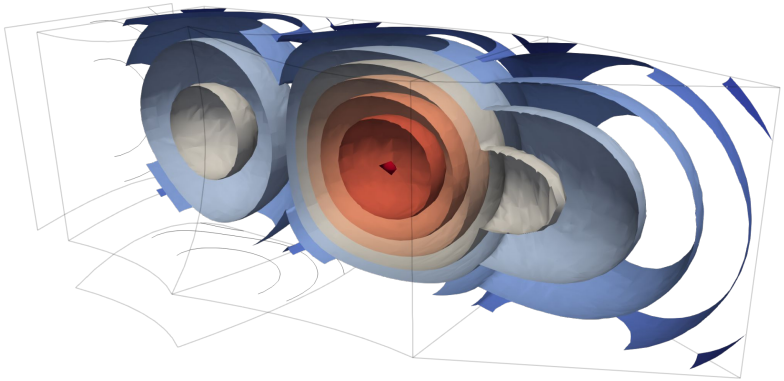
ParaView (VTK) Cell Types

- Cell types (linear, nonlinear), interpolation
- Arbitrary order Lagrange Finite Elements
- Discontinuous Galerkin elements and other novel cell-types/function-spaces



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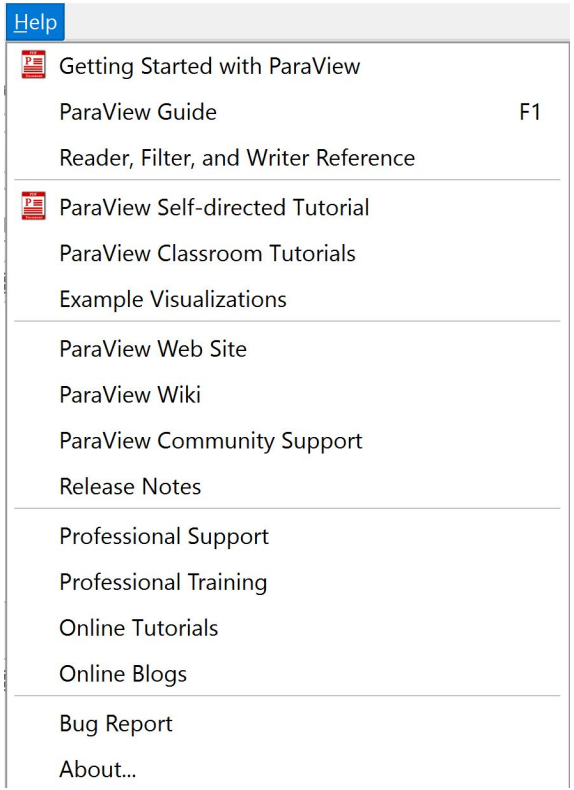
More Information



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Basic Usage

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User Interface

Menu Bar

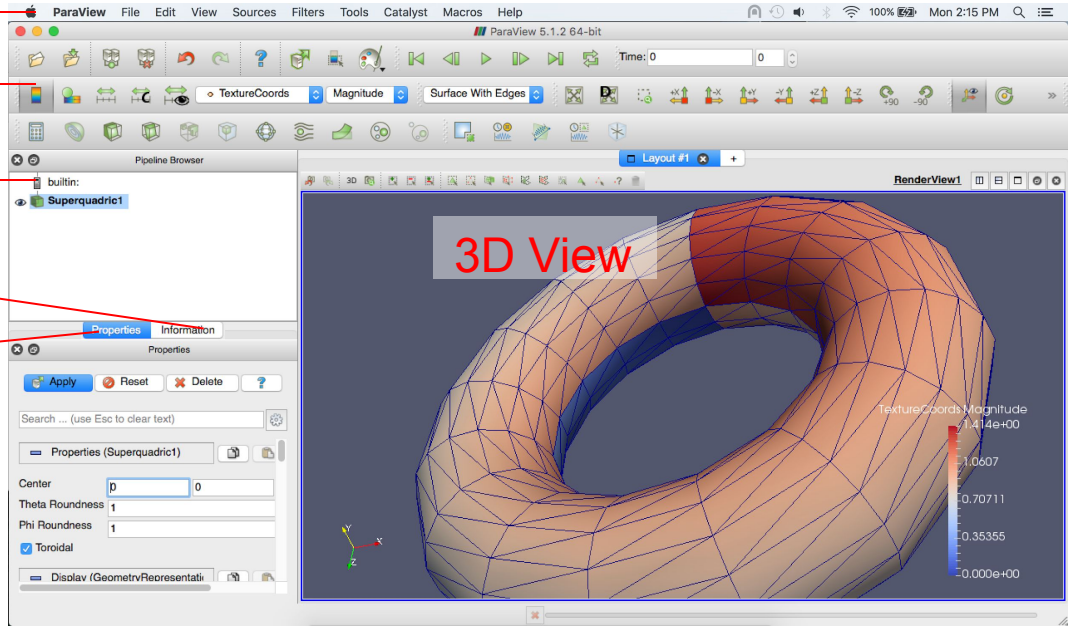
Toolbars

Pipeline Browser

Information Panel

Properties Panel

- Properties
- Display
- View



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Creating a Cylinder Source

1. Go to the Sources menu and select Cylinder.
2. Click the 

button to accept the default parameters.

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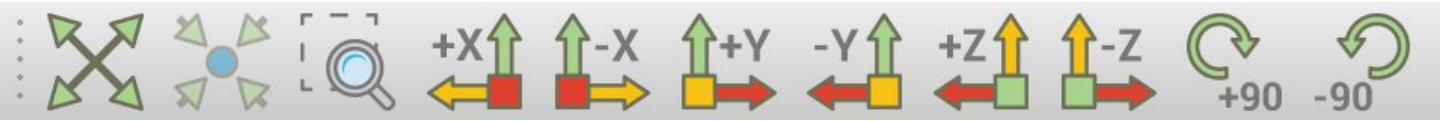
Simple Camera Manipulation

- Drag left, middle, right buttons for rotate, pan, zoom.
  - Laptop: use Shift, Ctrl modifiers (see Edit > Setting > Camera)
  - Also try holding down x, y, or z.



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Pipeline Object Properties

1. Go to the Source menu and select Cylinder.
2. Click the 

button to accept the default parameters.
3. Increase the Resolution parameter.
4. 

5. Click the 

button again.

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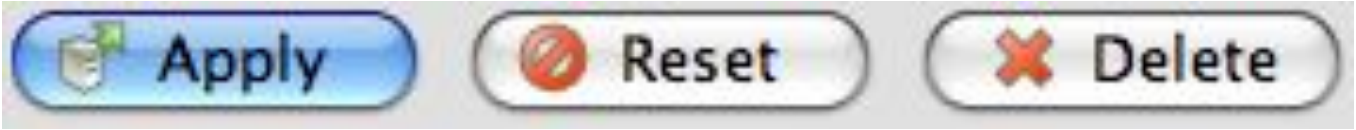
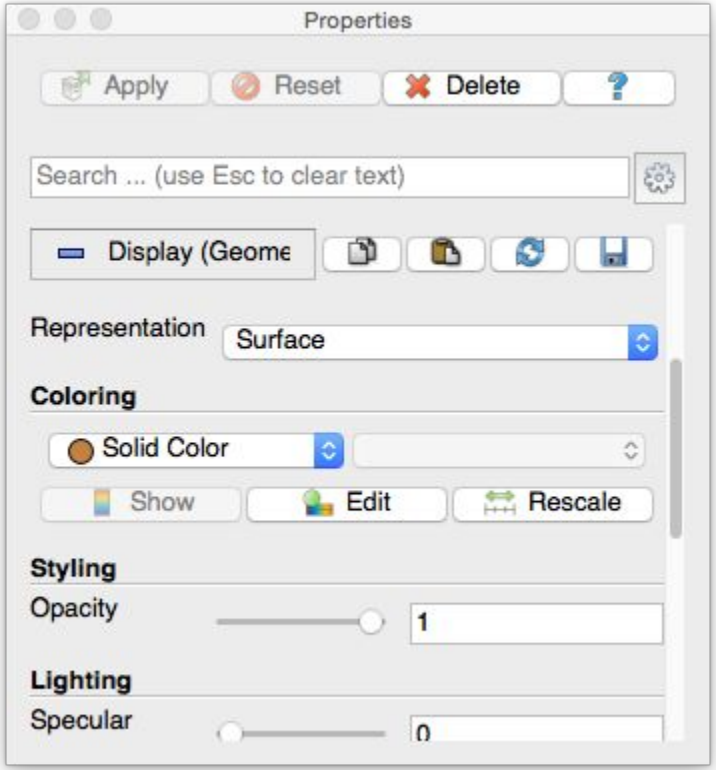
Pipeline Object Controls



Pipeline objects
- Sources
- Filters
- Readers
- Extractors

Display Properties



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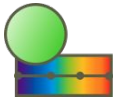
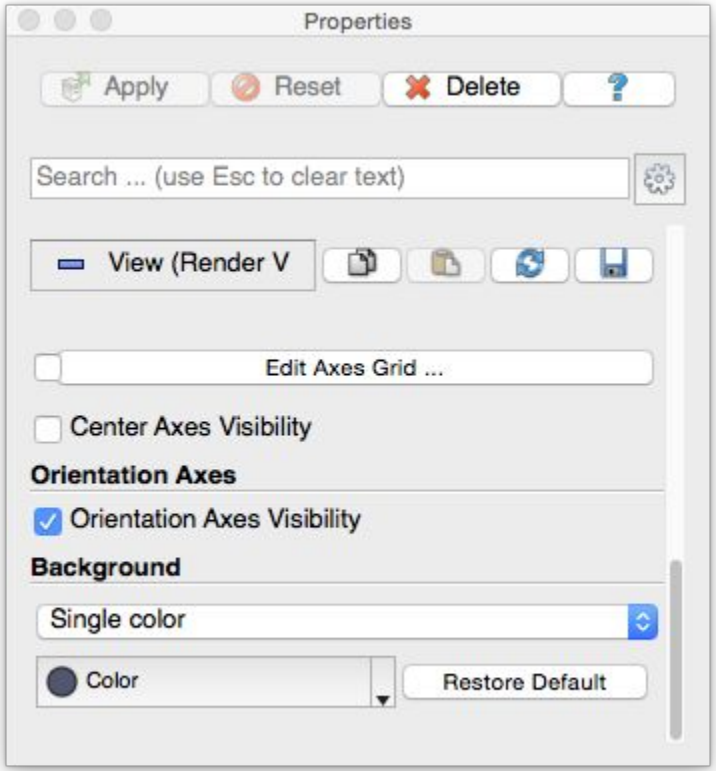
Change Display Properties

1. Scroll down to the Display group.
2. Click the  Edit Color Map button. (This button is replicated in the toolbar.)
3. Select a new color for the cylinder.

View Properties



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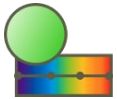
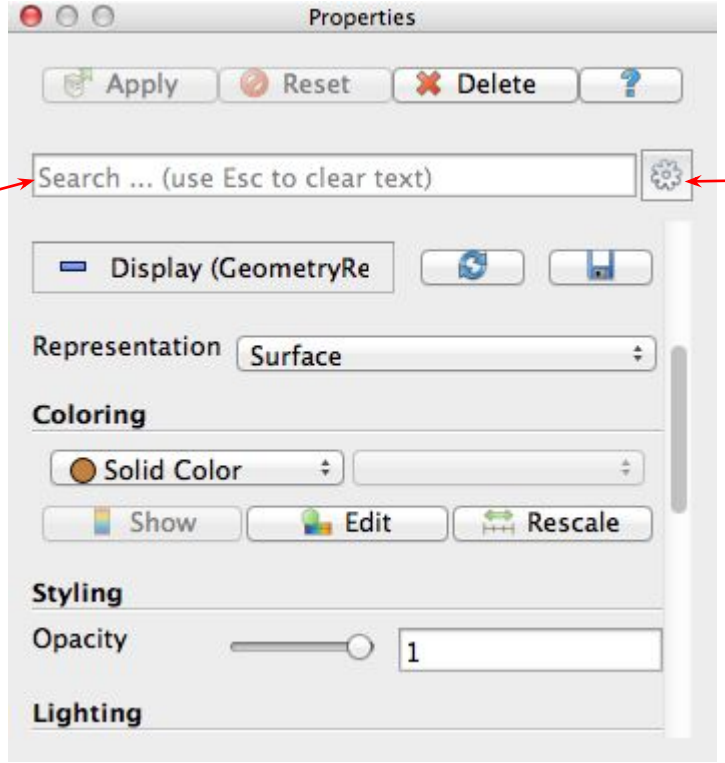
Change View Properties

1. Scroll down to the Display group.
2. Click the  Edit Color Map button. (This button is replicated in the toolbar.)
3. Select a new color for the cylinder.
4. Scroll down to the View group.
5. Turn on the Axis Grid.

Advanced Properties

Search Properties



Toggle Advanced Properties

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Searching Properties

1. Type “specular” in the properties search box
2. Change Specular value to 1 (makes the cylinder shiny)

Searching Properties

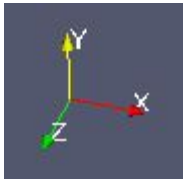
1. Type “specular” in the properties search box
2. Change Specular value to 1 (makes the cylinder shiny)

Other interesting properties:

- Axes Grid
- Opacity

Changing the Color Palette

1. Make sure the orientation axes are visible in the lower left corner. 



2. Click the color palette button  and change the colors.

3. Try several color palettes.

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Undo Redo

Undo

Redo

Camera Undo

Camera Redo

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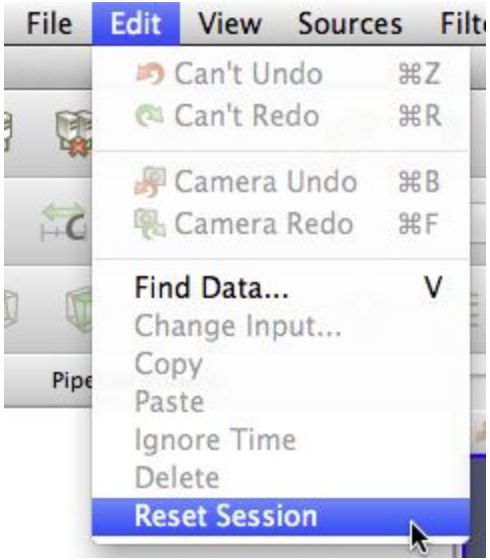
Reset ParaView

Edit → Reset Session



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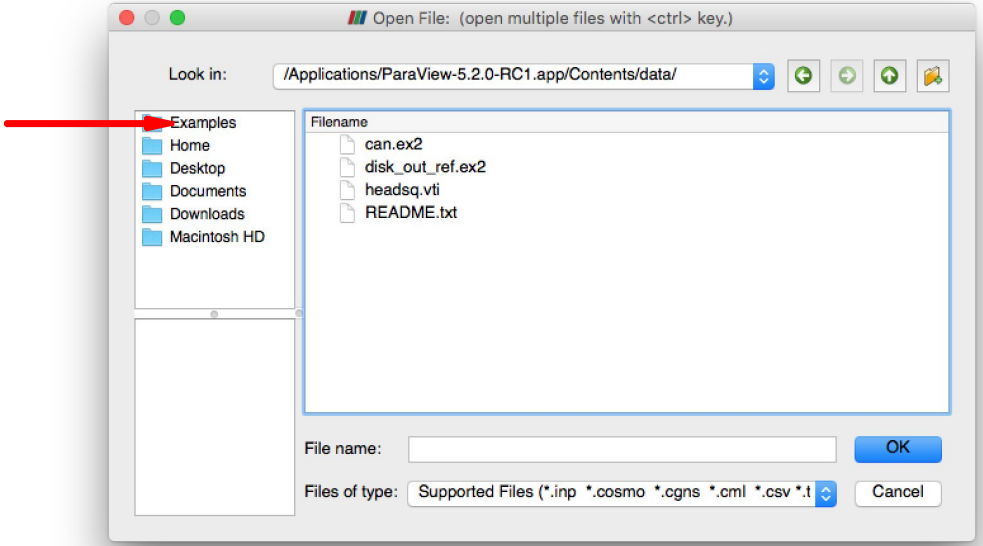
Load disk_out_ref.ex2

1. Open the file disk_out_ref.ex2 from the examples directory.

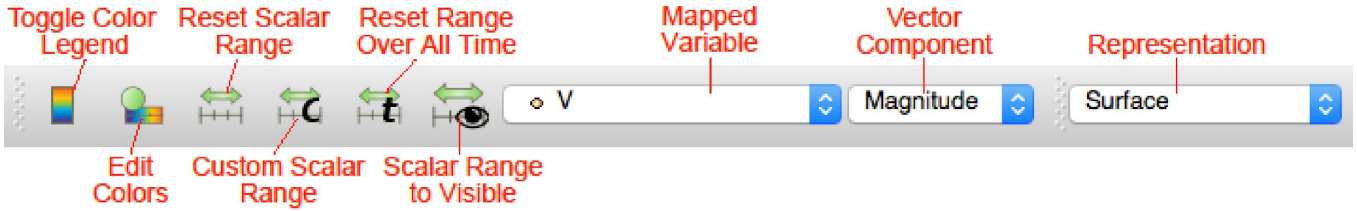


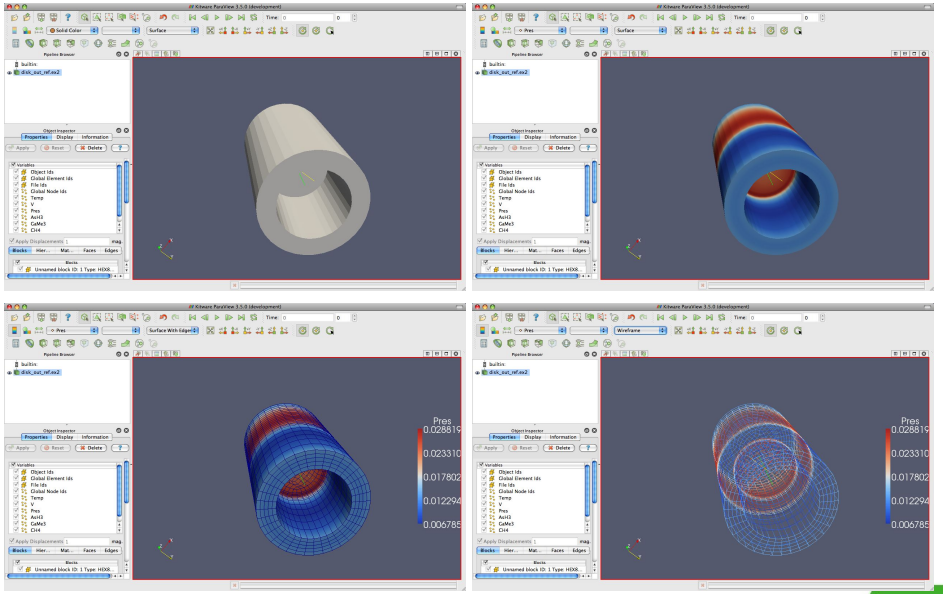
kitware

Load disk_out_ref.ex2

1. Open the file disk_out_ref.ex2 from the examples directory.
2. Click 

Display Properties





Representation

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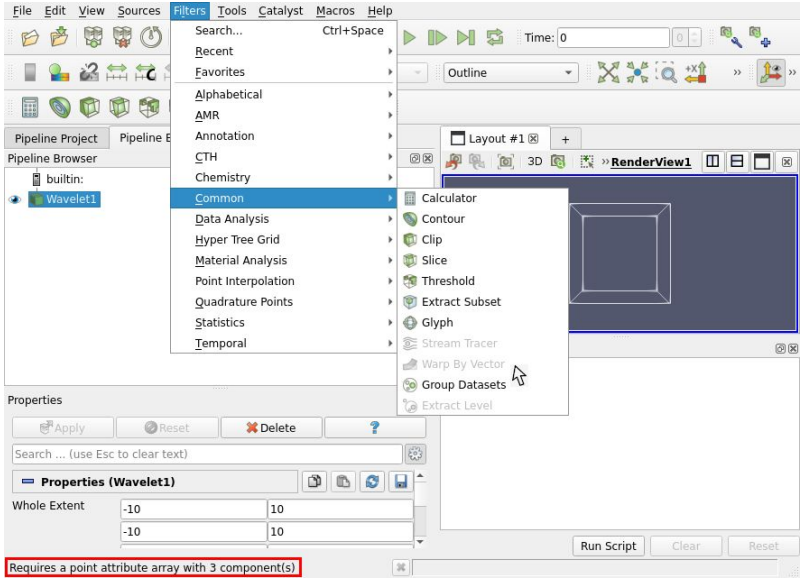
Filters Menu



~200 filters

Status bar:

- Short description
- Reason why is grayed

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Common Filters


Calculator


Contour


Clip


Slice


Threshold


Extract Subset


Glyph


Stream Tracer


Warp (vector)


Group Datasets


Extract Block

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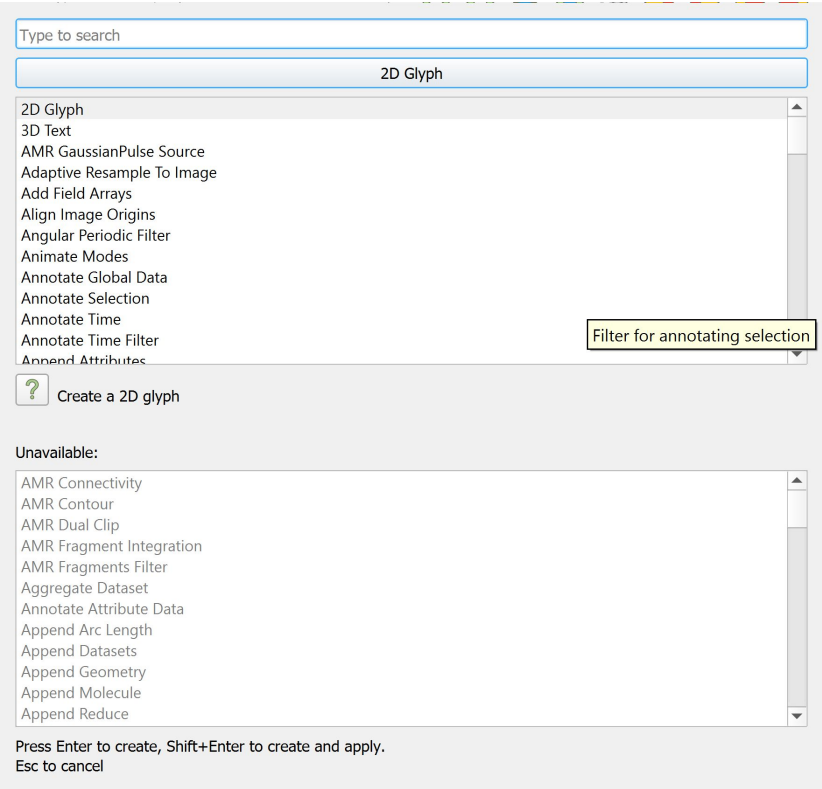
Quick Launch

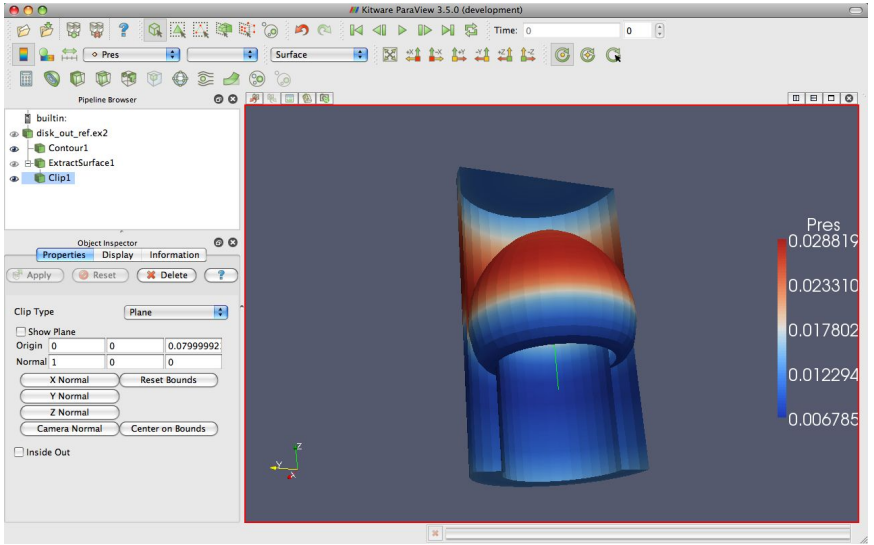


- Used for searching for filters by name
- Keyboard shortcut
  - Ctrl-space for Windows & Linux
  - Alt-space for Mac

Apply Contour

1. Select disk_out_ref.ex2 in the pipeline browser.
2. Press the contour filter. 

Specify the data you apply the filter on



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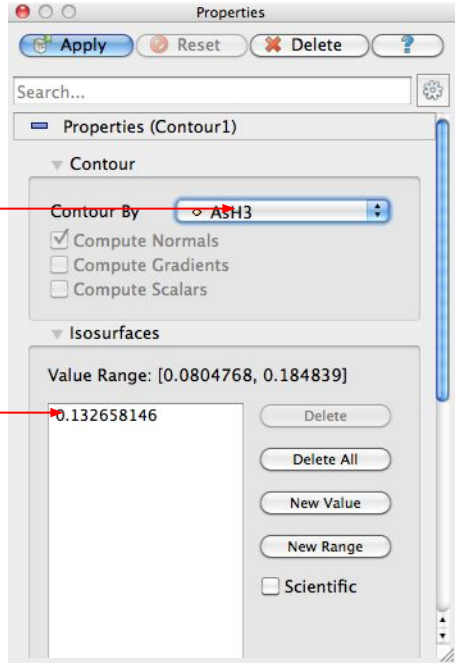
Apply Contour

3. Change parameters to create an isosurface at Temp = 400K.



Change to Temp

Change to 400

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Apply Contour

1. Select disk_out_ref.ex2 in the pipeline browser.
2. Select the contour filter. 
3. Change parameters to create an isosurface at Temp = 400K.
4. 

Apply ExtractSurface

1. Select disk_out_ref.ex2 in the pipeline browser.
2. From the quick launch, select Extract Surface.
3. 

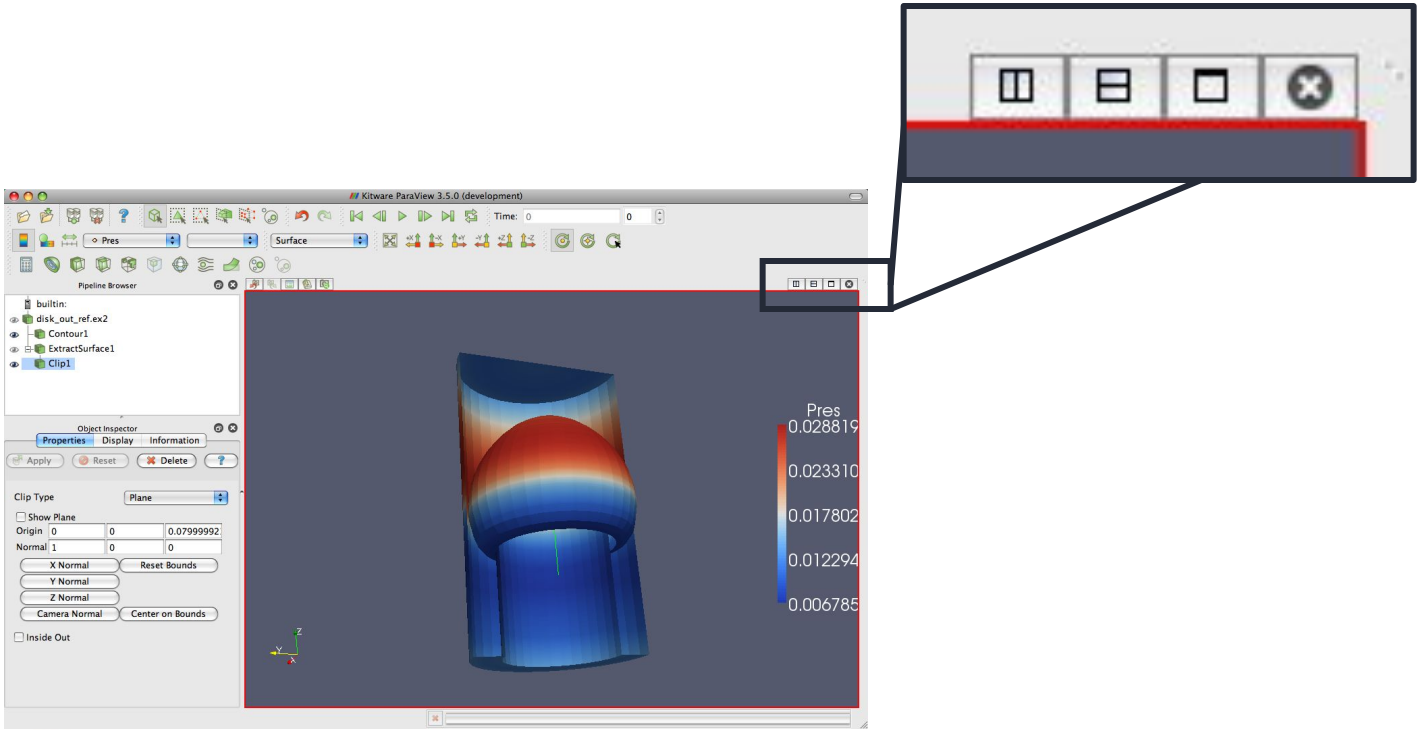
Apply ExtractSurface, Clip

1. Select disk_out_ref.ex2 in the pipeline browser.
2. From the quick launch, select Extract Surface.
3. 

4. Select …  Create a clip filter.
5. Uncheck 

6. 

Multiview


Kitware ParaView 3.5.0 (development)
Time:
Pres
Surface
Pipeline Browser
builtin:
disk_out_ref.ex2
Contour1
ExtractSurface1
Clip1
Object Inspector
Properties
Display
Information
Apply
Reset
Delete
Clip Type
Plane
Show Plane
Origin
Normal
X Normal
Y Normal
Z Normal
Reset Bounds
Camera Normal
Center on Bounds
Inside Out
Pres
0.028819
0.023310
0.017802
0.012294
0.006785

Multiview - Disk colored by Temp

1. Select disk_out_ref.ex2 in the pipeline browser.
2. Add Clip filter. 
3. Uncheck 

4. 

5. Hide Clip2 

Multiview

1. Split the view horizontally. 
2. Make Clip2 visible. 
3. Color surface by Temp.

Multiview

1. Split the view horizontally. 
2. Make Clip2 visible. 
3. Color surface by Temp.
4. Right-click view, Link Camera...
5. Click other view.

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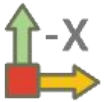
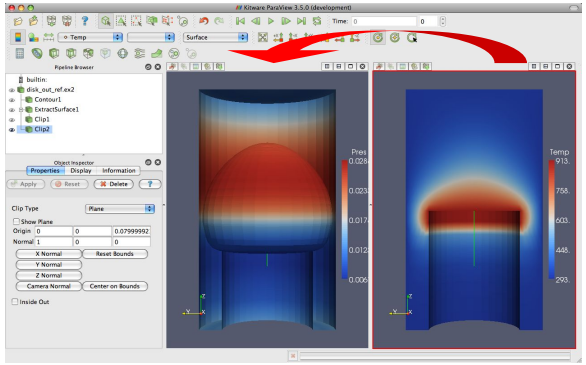
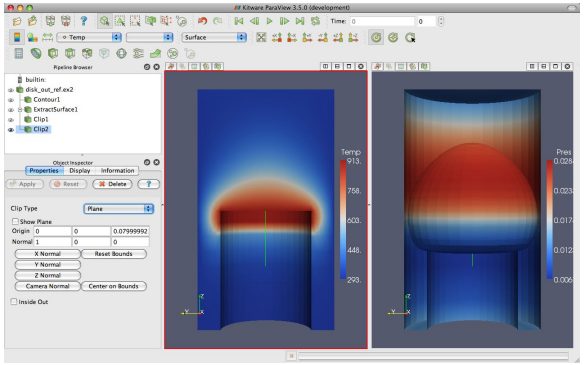
Multiview

1. Split the view horizontally. 
2. Make Clip1 visible. 
3. Color surface by Temp.
4. Right-click view, Link Camera...
5. Click other view.
6. Click 

and zoom in a bit.

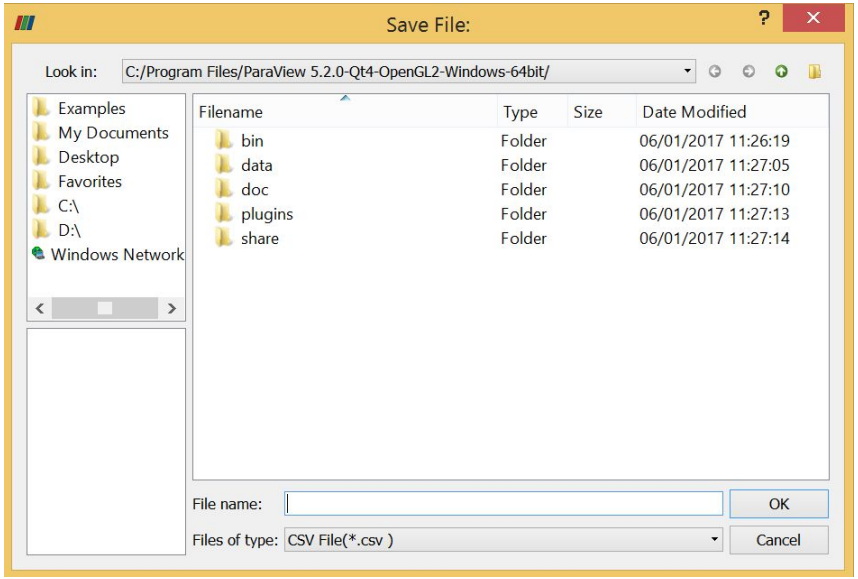
Modifying Views





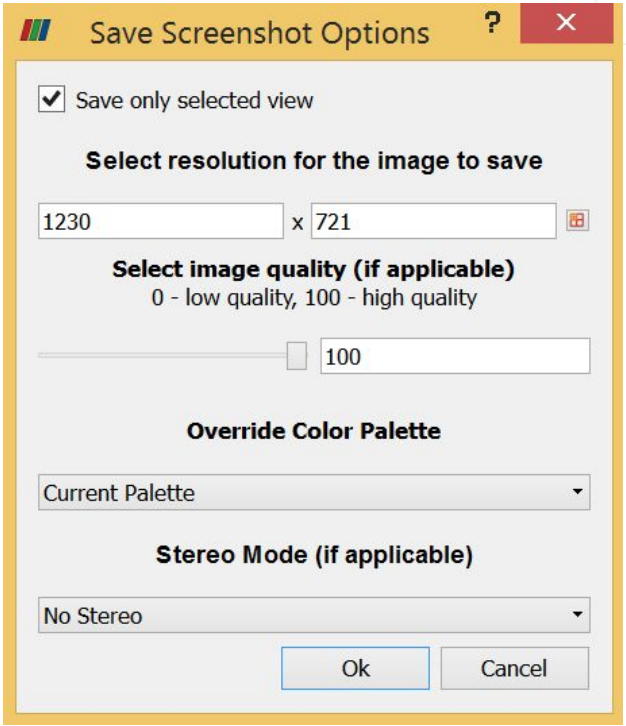
Saving a DataSet

- Save Data saves the dataset output of the current active pipeline object
- *File -> Save Data*
- Options to configure writer



Saving a Screenshot

- Saves an image from the view
- *File -> Save Screenshot*
- Set Resolution and Quality

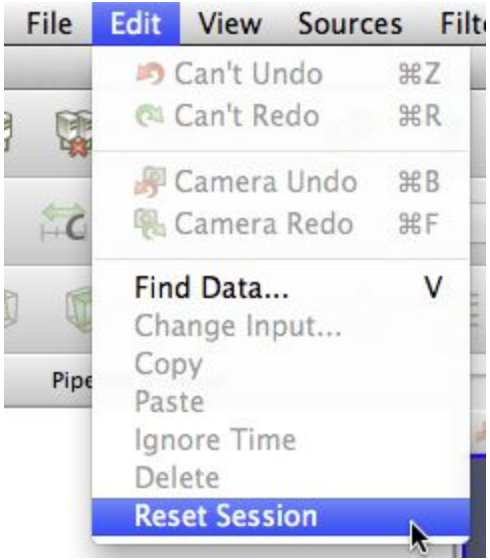


Saving the State

- **Save the current state of the application**
- ***File -> Save State***
- **Include Pipeline, Views, Layouts, all properties…**
- **PVSM State file : Robust, based on proxy state**
  - Descriptive Approach
  - Enable user to modify file path
  - Use with File -> Load State
  - Use for sharing with colleagues
- **Python State file : User-friendly, based on UI actions**
  - Just a python script
  - Use python shell or in pvpython

Reset ParaView

Edit → Reset Session



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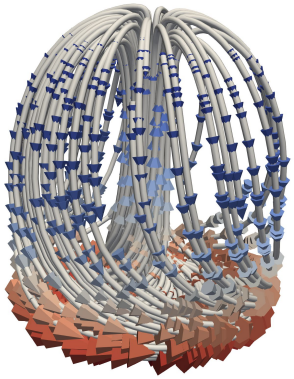
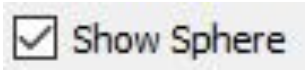
Streamlines



1. Open disk_out_ref.ex2. Load all variables.
2. Add Stream Tracer. 

3. Change Seed Type to Point Source. 
4. Uncheck Show Sphere. 

5. 

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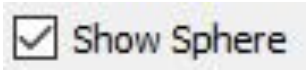
Streamlines

1. Open disk_out_ref.ex2. Load all variables. 

2. Add Stream Tracer. 
3. Change Seed Type to Point Source.
4. Uncheck Show Sphere. 

5. 

6. From the quick launch, select Tube
7. 

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Adding Glyphs

1. Select StreamTracer1.
2. Add Glyph filter. 
3. Change Glyph Type to Cone.
4. Change Orientation Array and Scale Array to V.
5. Change Vector Scale Mode to Scale By Magnitude.
6. Click reset  next to Scale Factor.
7. 

8. Color by Temp.

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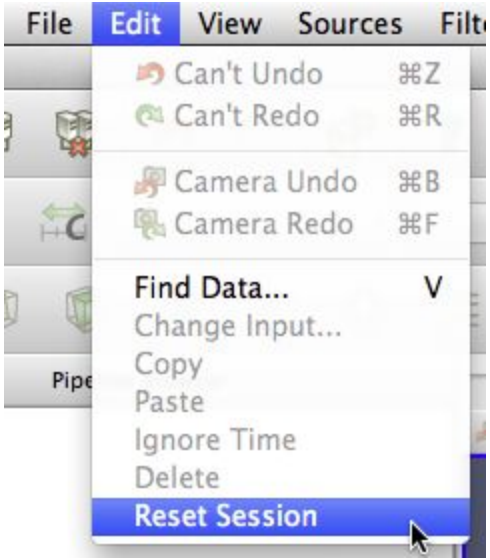
Reset ParaView

Edit → Reset Session



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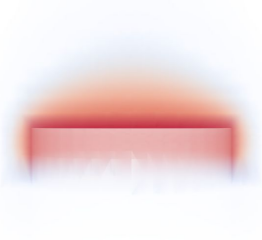
Volume Rendering

1. Open disk_out_ref.ex2. Load all variables. 

2. Change variable viewed to Temp.
3. Change representation to Volume.
4. In the Are you Sure dialog box, click Yes.



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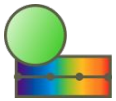
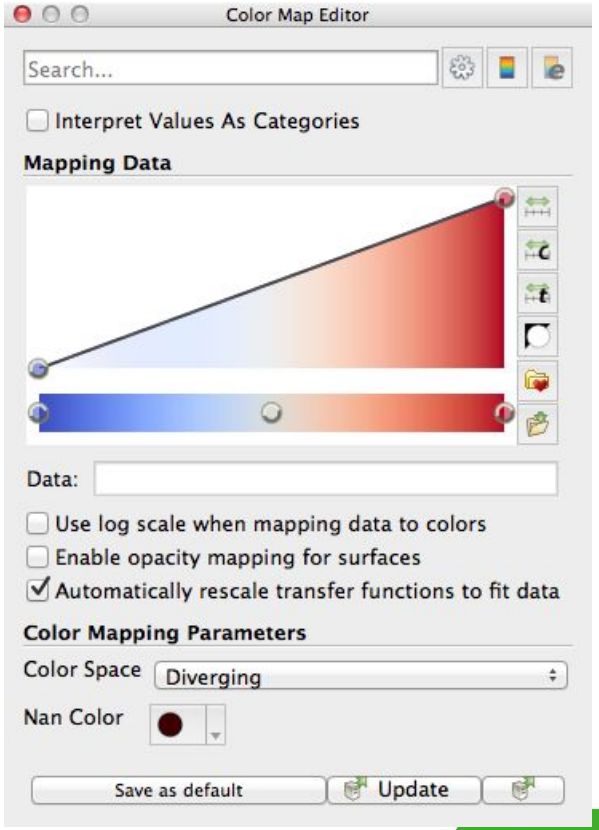
Transfer Function Editor





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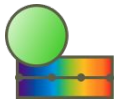
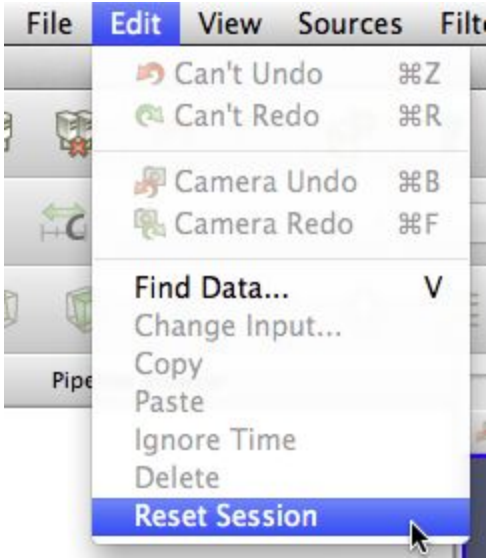
Modify Transfer Function

1. Select disk_out_ref.ex2.
2. Click Edit Color Map  .
3. Click Choose preset  .
4. Select Black-Body Radiation. Apply. Close.
5. Try adding and changing control points.

Reset ParaView

Edit → Reset Session



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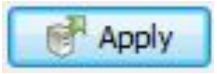
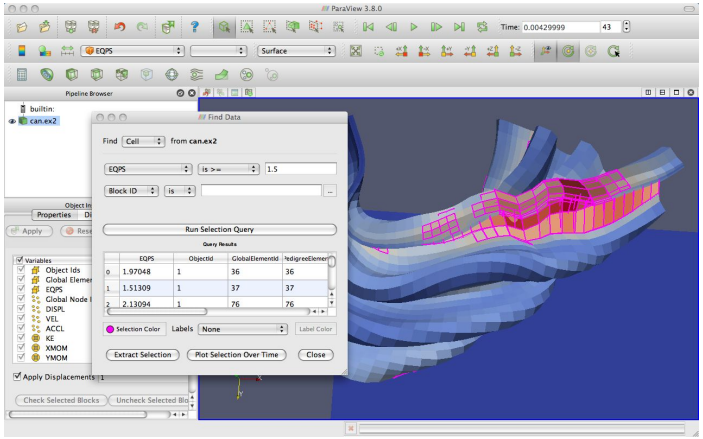
Query-Based and Brush Selection

1. Open can.ex2. Select all variables. 

2. Go to last time step. 
3. Edit → Find Data. 
4. Top combo box: Find Cells.
5. Next row: EQPS, is >=, and 1.5.
6. Click Run Selection Query.



 Surface Cell Selection  Interactively Select Cells  Hover Cell Query

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Visualizing Large Models

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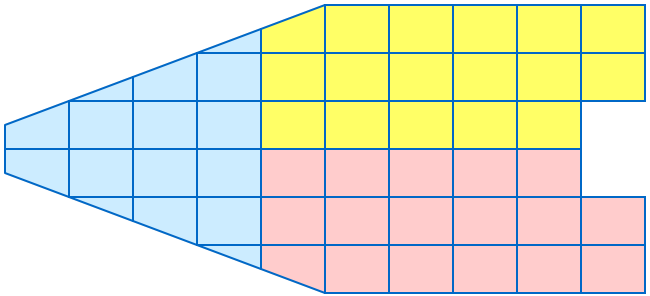
Data Parallel Pipelines

- Duplicate pipelines run independently on different partitions of data.



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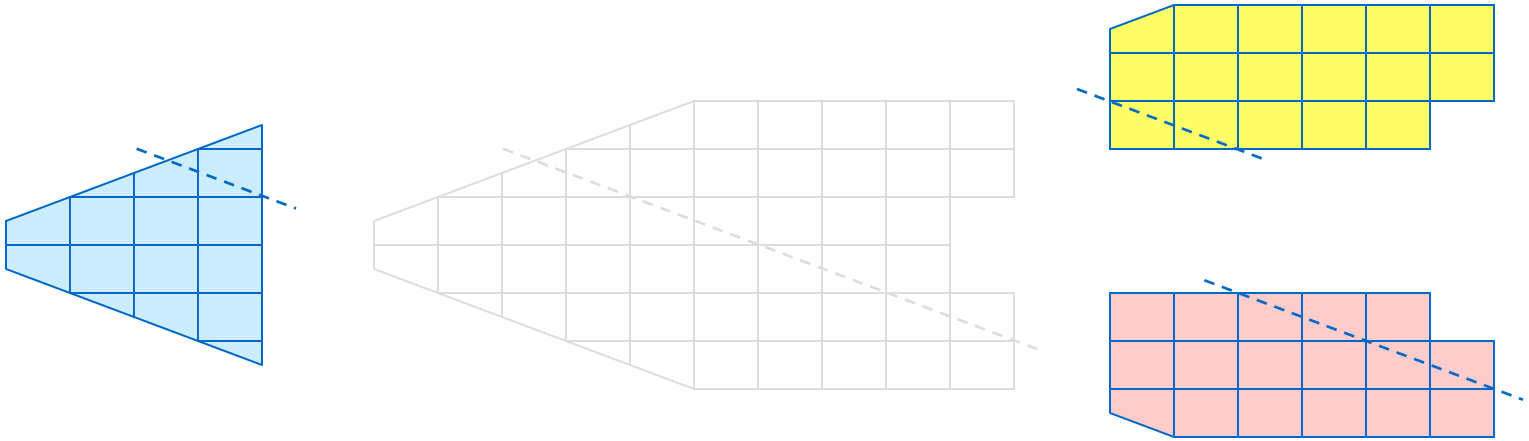
Data Parallel Pipelines

- Many operations will work regardless.
  - Example: Clipping.



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Data Parallel Pipelines

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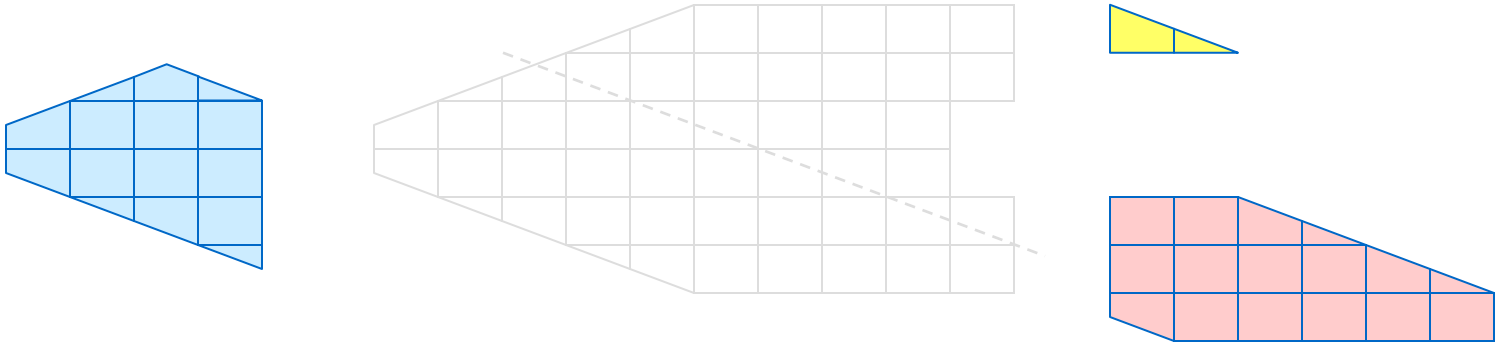
  - Example: Clipping



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Data Parallel Pipelines

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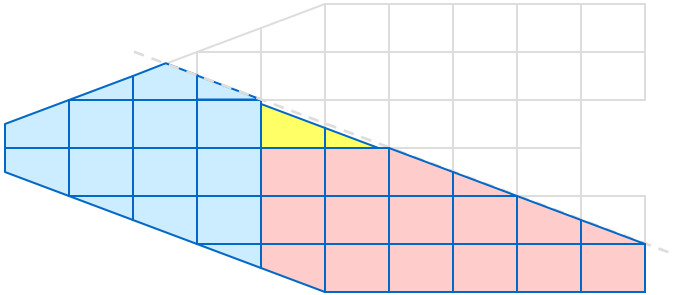

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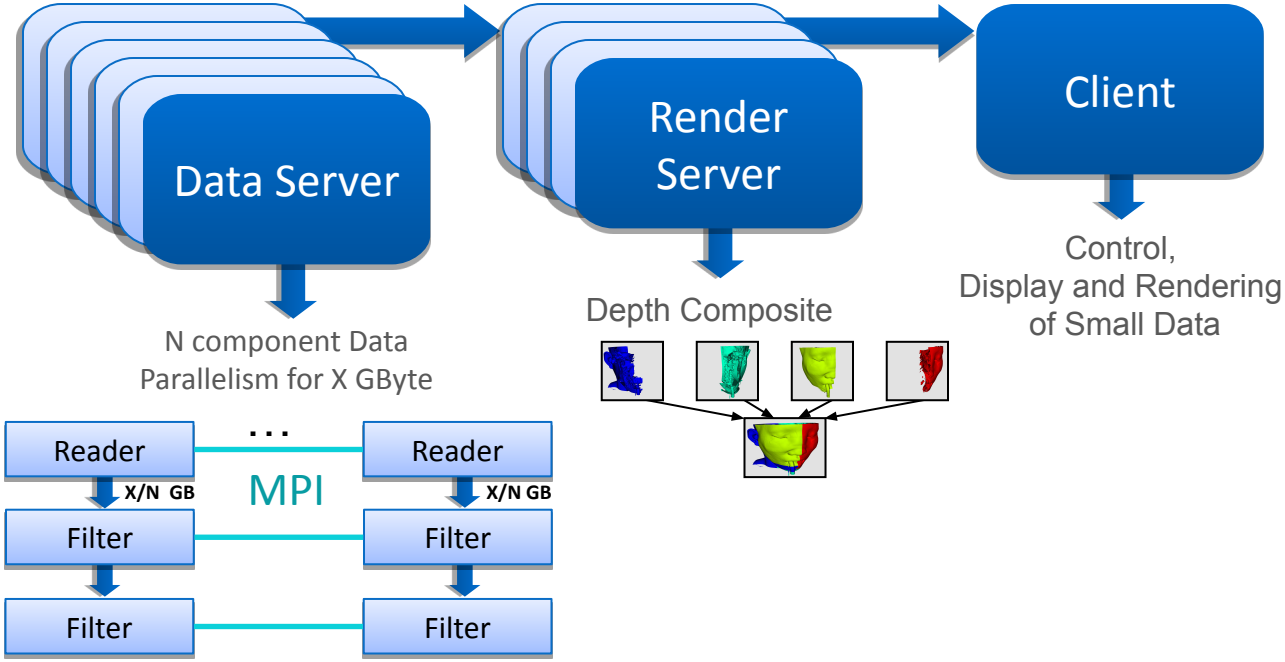
Data Server
Render Server
Client
Control,
Display and Rendering
of Small Data
Depth Composite
N component Data
Parallelism for X GByte
Reader
Reader
X/N GB
X/N GB
MPI
Filter
Filter
Filter
Filter

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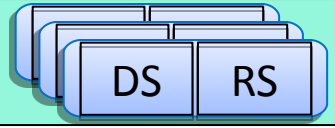
ParaView's Running Modes

Builtin aka Standalone aka Serial		all components within one process (client may be GUI or pvpython) `paraview` or `pvpython`
Combined Server		data processing and parallel rendering in MPI job of combined processes. control from TCP connected client. `mpiexec -n x pvserver &; paraview #` or `pvpython # + Connect`

Batch		server is an MPI job which directly runs a python script
		`mpiexec -n x pvbatch \`
		`vis_script.py`

DS = data server

RS = render server

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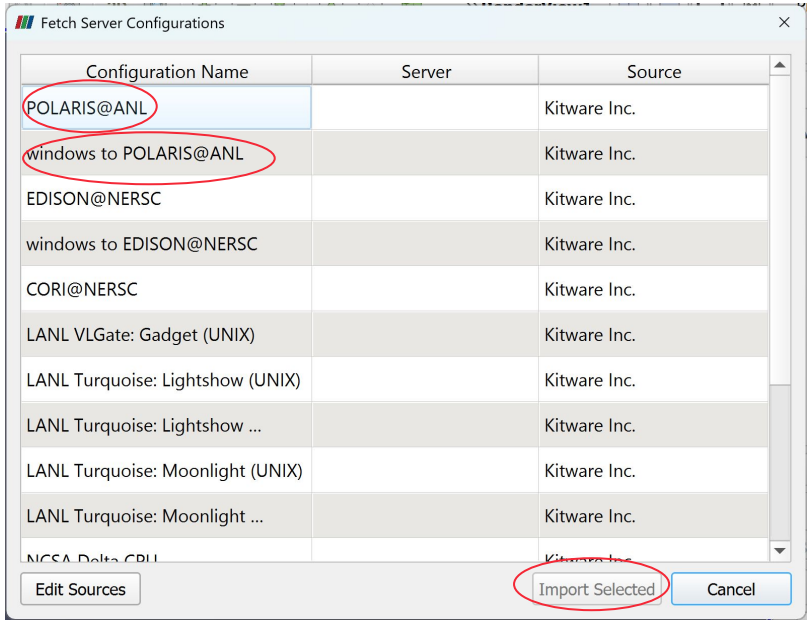
Start the ParaView Server from the Client

Prerequisites:

- Able to use ssh to connect to the server machine
- Have a project allocation
- Check paraview versions on server: see documentation
- Use client with the same major.minor version (5.13)

File > Connect > Fetch Servers



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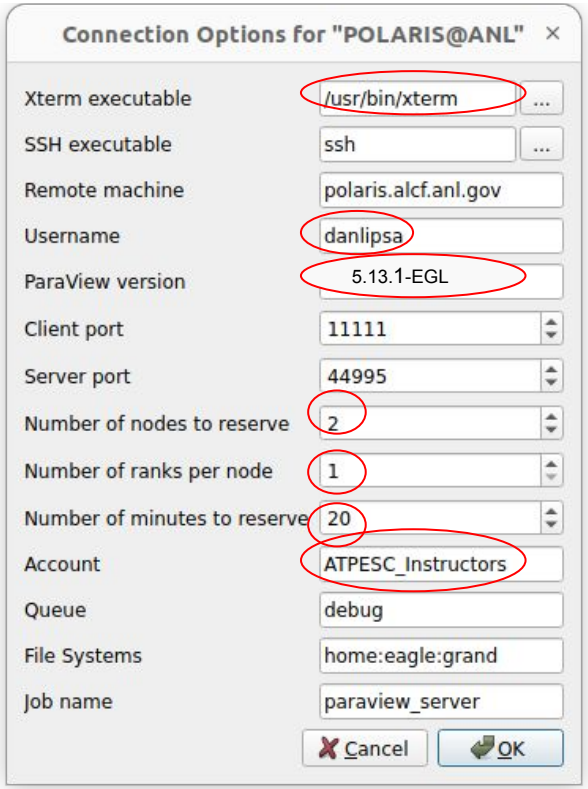
Connect Unix/Mac

Mac Os: Install Xquartz



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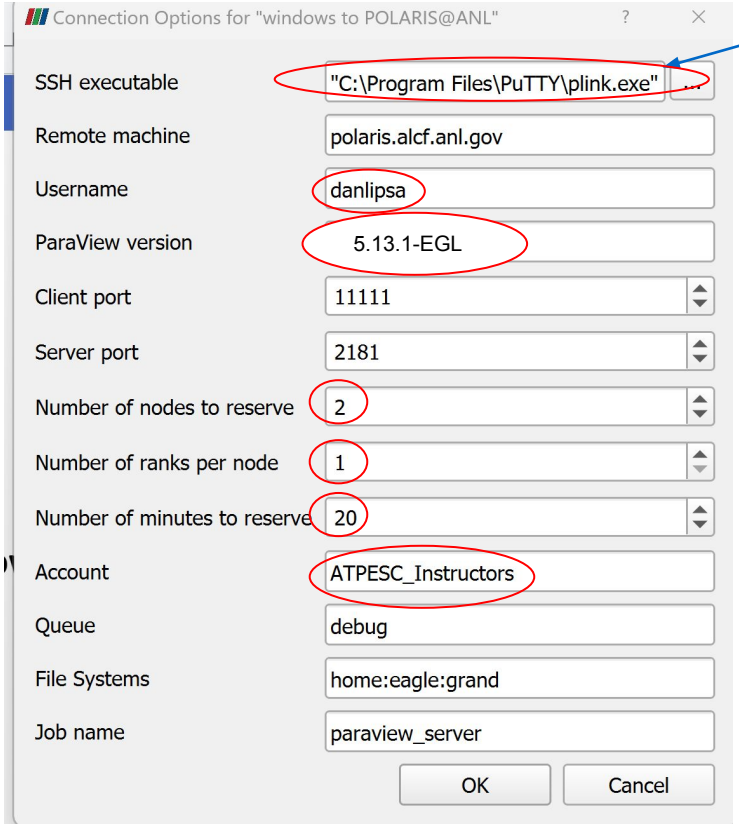
Connect Windows

Windows: Install PuTTY



quotes are required

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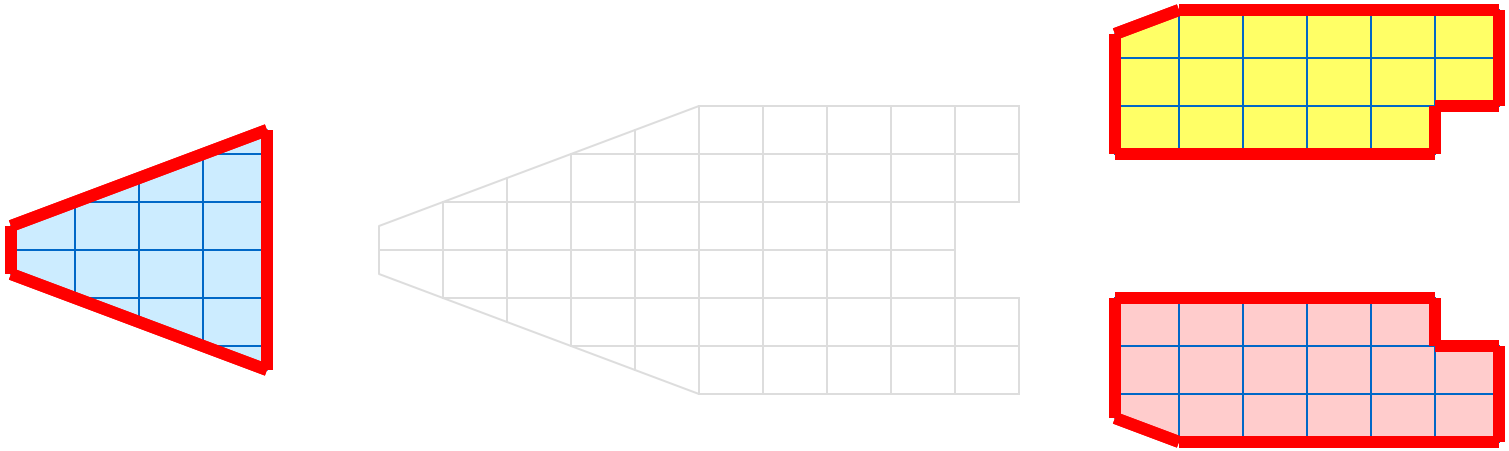
Advanced Data Parallel Pipelines

- Some operations will have problems.
  - Example: External Faces



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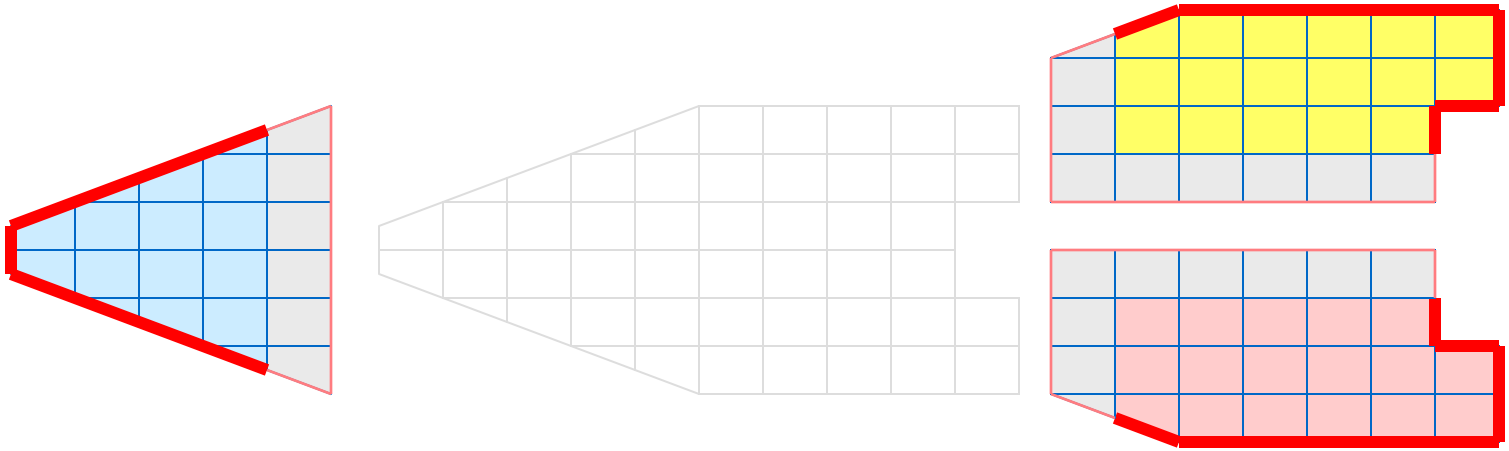
Advanced Data Parallel Pipelines

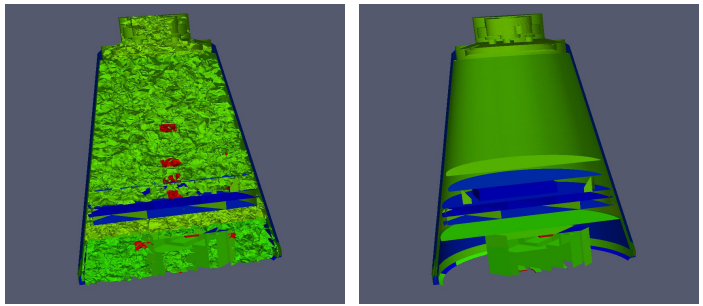
- Ghost cells can solve most of these problems.



Balanced Partitioning + Ghost Cells

- Automatic when reading structured data.
- For unstructured data:
  - Ghost Cells: creates ghost cells (if data is partitioned on disk)
  - D3: also creates a balanced partition.

Extract Surface without ghost cells



Extract Surface after D3

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Topics for future exploration

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Python Scripting

- Tools > Start Trace
- Build visualization pipeline with UI
- Tools > End Trace
- Save Python script

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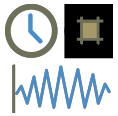
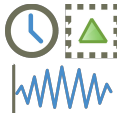
Common Data Analysis Filters

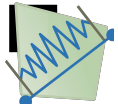
Extract Selection



Plot Global Variables Over Time



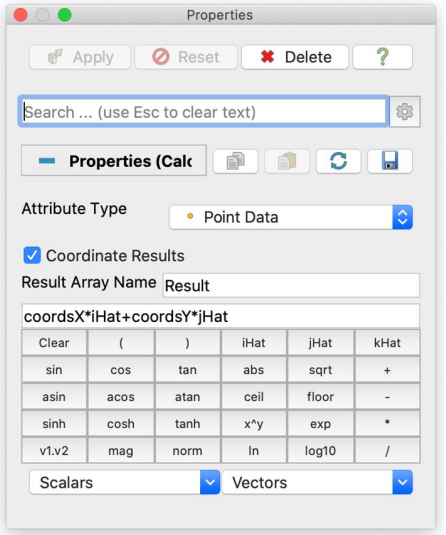
Plot Selection Over Time



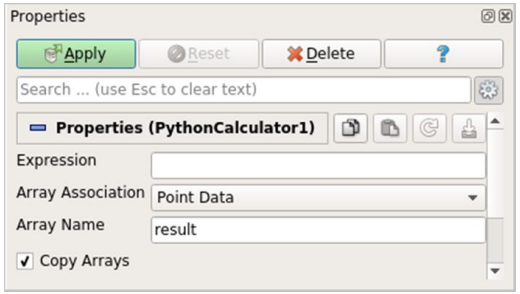
Plot Over Line

Probe Location

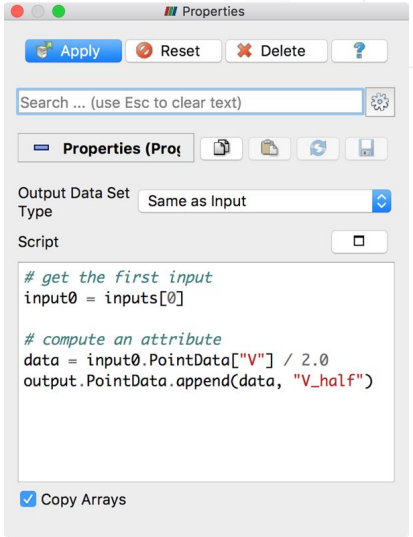
User Defined Filters



Calculator



Python Calculator
(numpy)



Programmable Filter

Python Algorithms

Plugins

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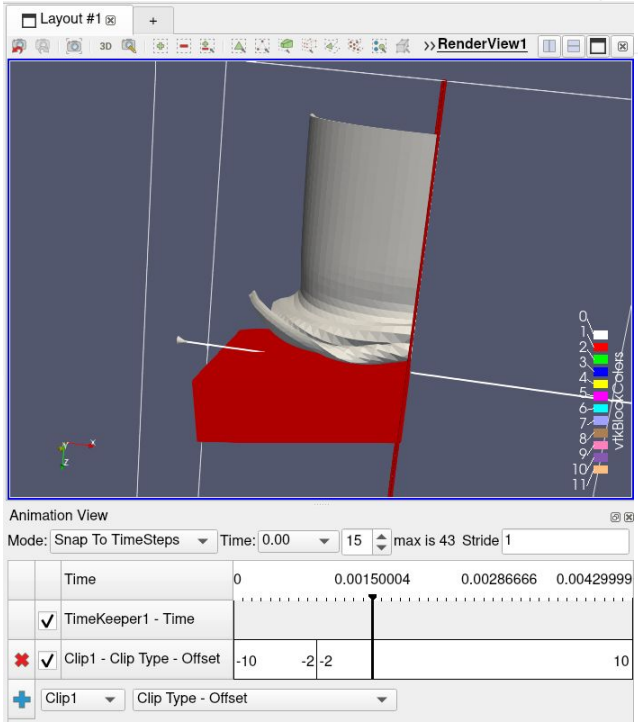
Animation

- Temporal data
- Fly over your data
- Animate filter parameters



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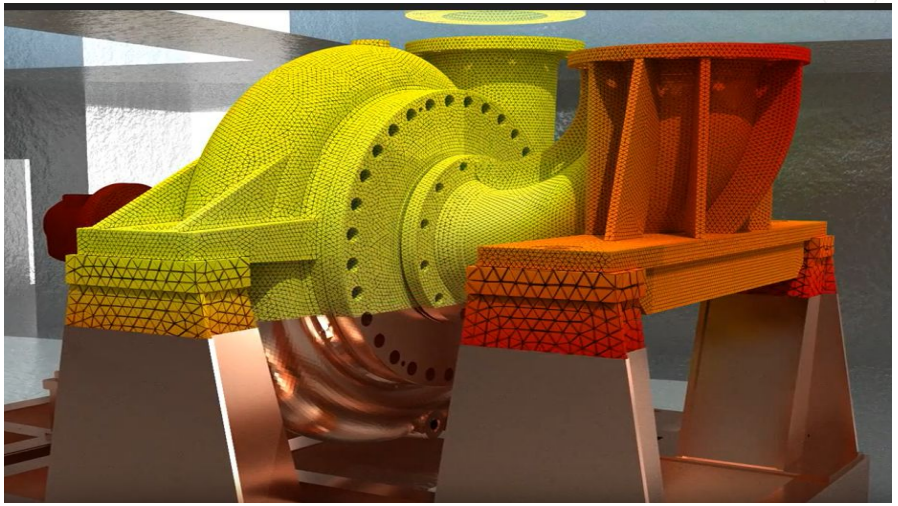
Advanced Rendering

- Physically Based Rendering (PBR)
- Ray Tracing (Intel OSPRay, Nvidia OptiX)



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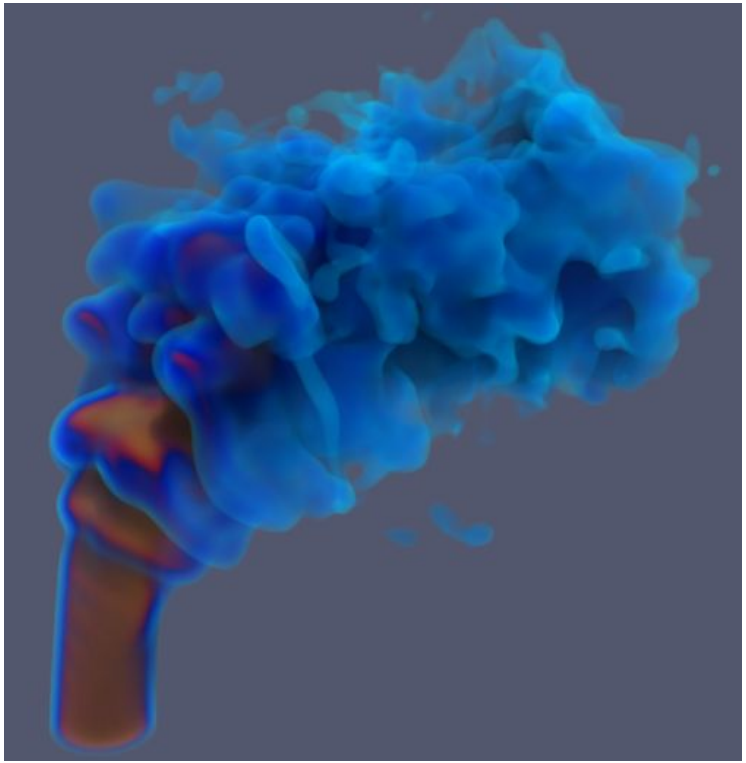
Questions



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paraview_server.e5691594

Permission denied (publickey,keyboard-interactive,hostbased).

- generate keys with the ssh-keygen command
- navigate to ~/.ssh
- cp id_rsa.pub authorized_keys