

# Feature Extraction & Tracking: What next?

---

Deborah Silver

Prof, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

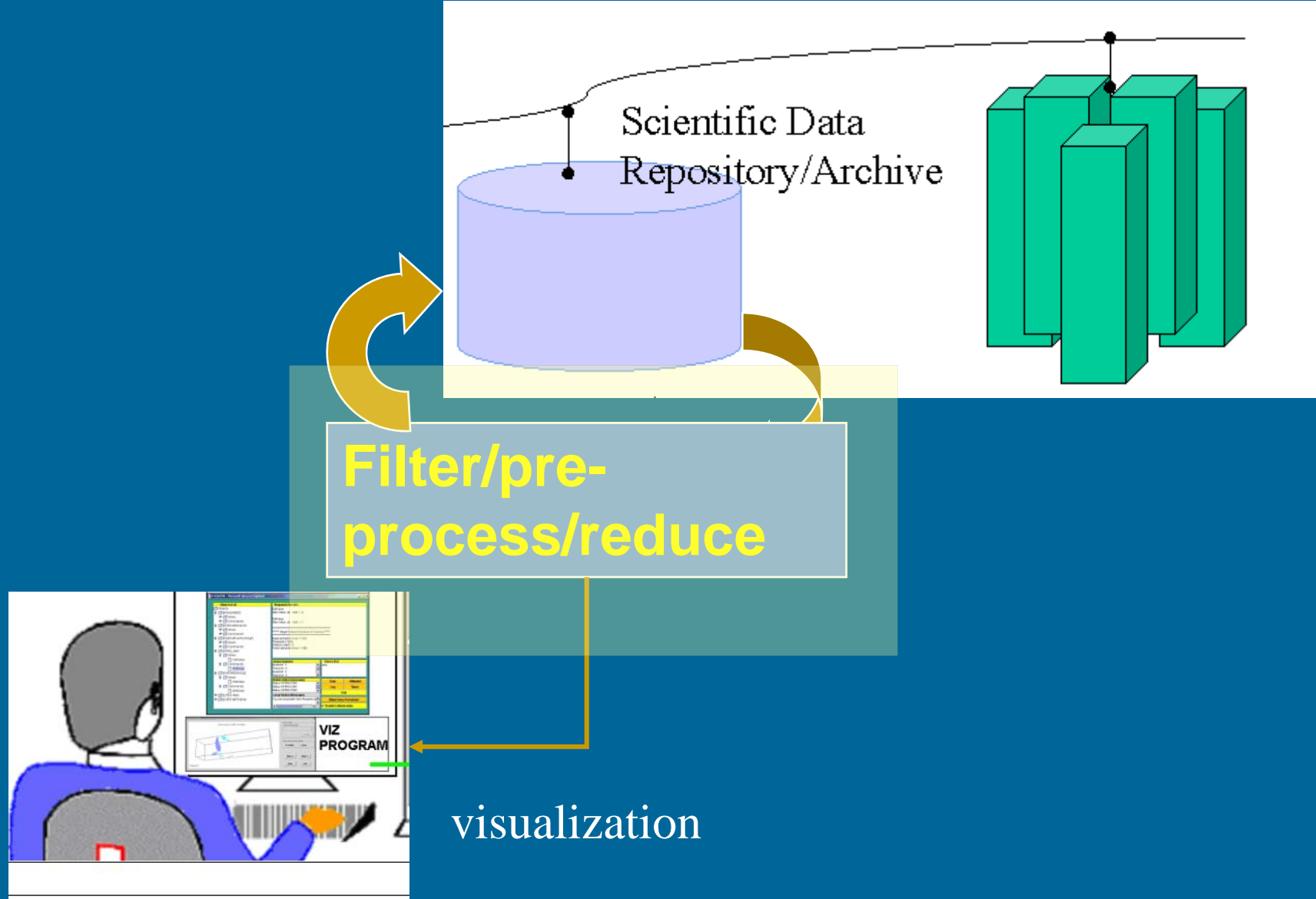
<http://www.caip.rutgers.edu/vizlab.html>

August 2009

# Space/Time reduction

As the datasets become larger and larger, it becomes physically impossible to do in-depth discovery of all of the data. Filtering techniques are necessary to help the scientist focus on regions of interest in the *space/time* domain.

# Data Reduction



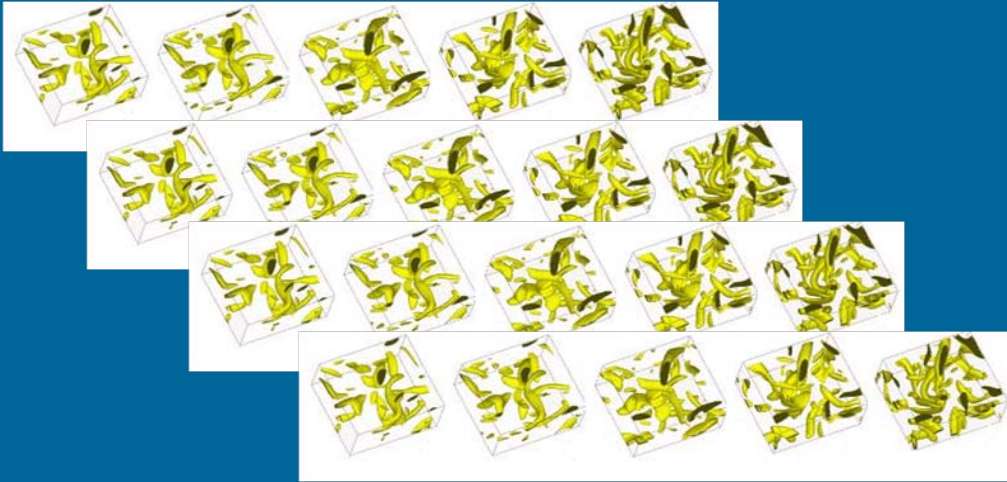
# Effective Filtering

To Create *Effective Filtering*  
+ *Visualizations* of Massive  
3D+ Time Varying Simulation  
Data



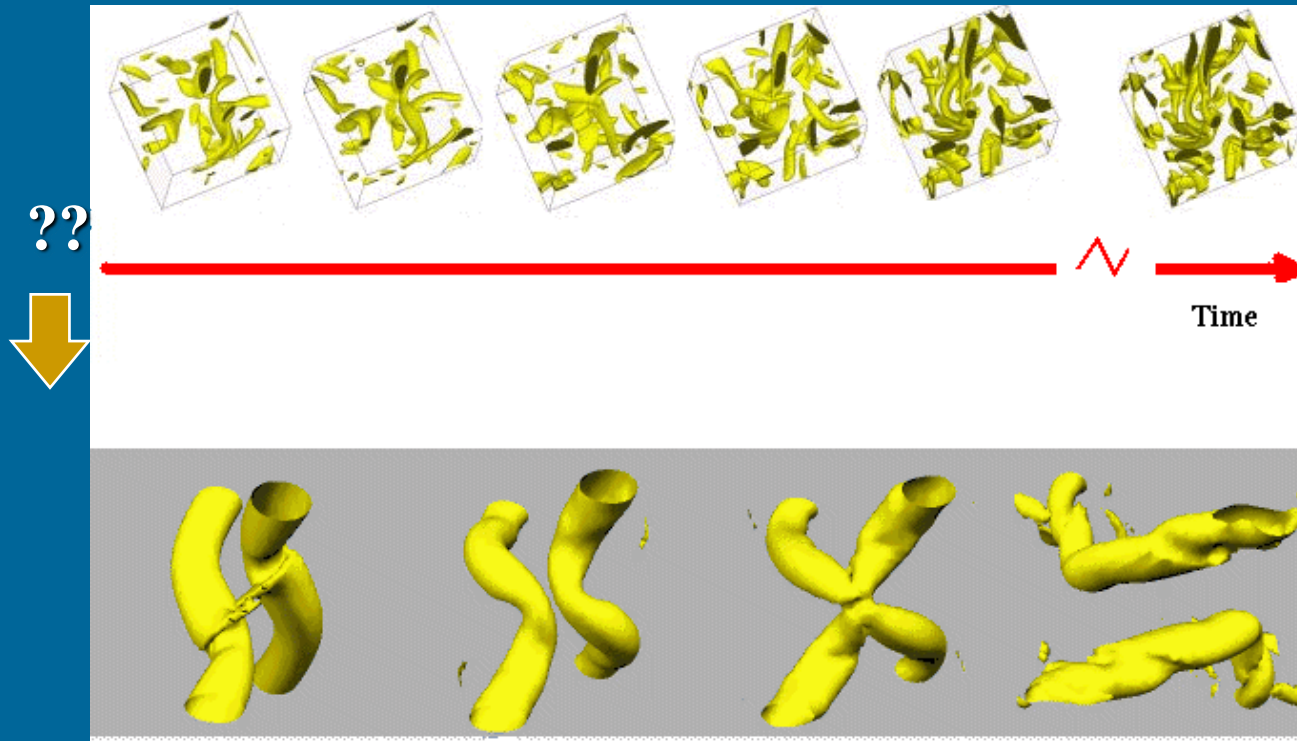
Feature Extraction & Tracking

# Motivation



terabytes – very difficult to look  
through all of them – need a better  
way to search

# Example-3D Event Querying



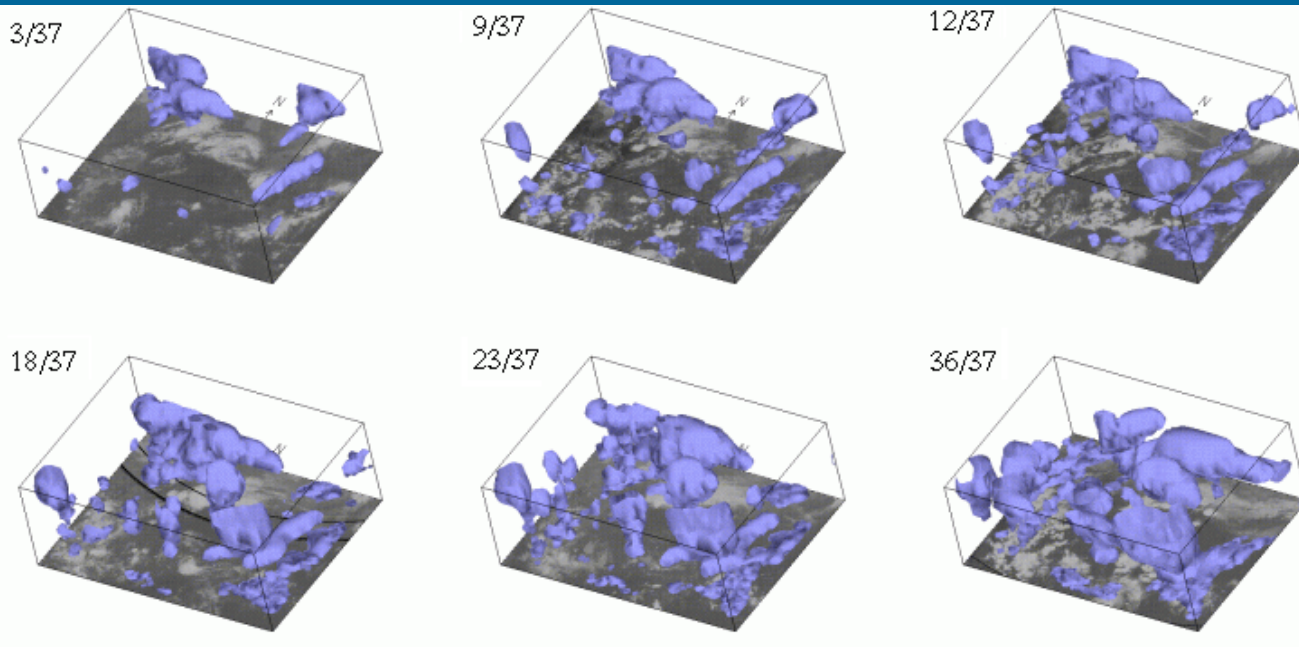
**Vortex Reconnection**

- Automatically find interesting events
- Follow Topological changes
- Classify events
- Search events

# What is tracking?

- Following “features” over time
- “Features” can be anything --- defined as coherent blobs/objects meeting certain conditions

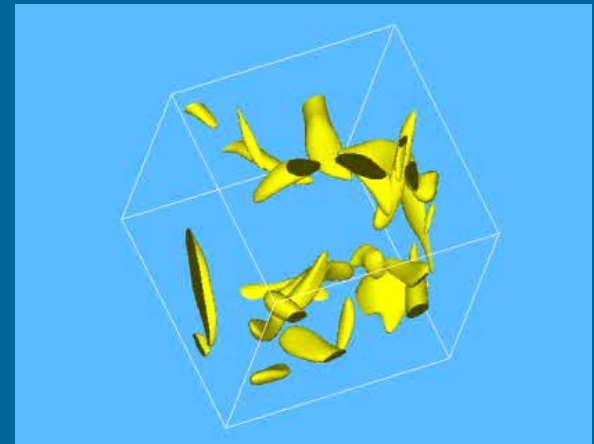
# Weather Simulation



in courtesy of Dr. YanChing Zhang at EPA

Isosurface of Cloud Water at threshold  $=0.00029$

Pseudo-spectral Simulation.  
Isosurface of vorticity magnitude at 48% of  
maximum  
 $128^3$ , 100 timestepsn (shown)

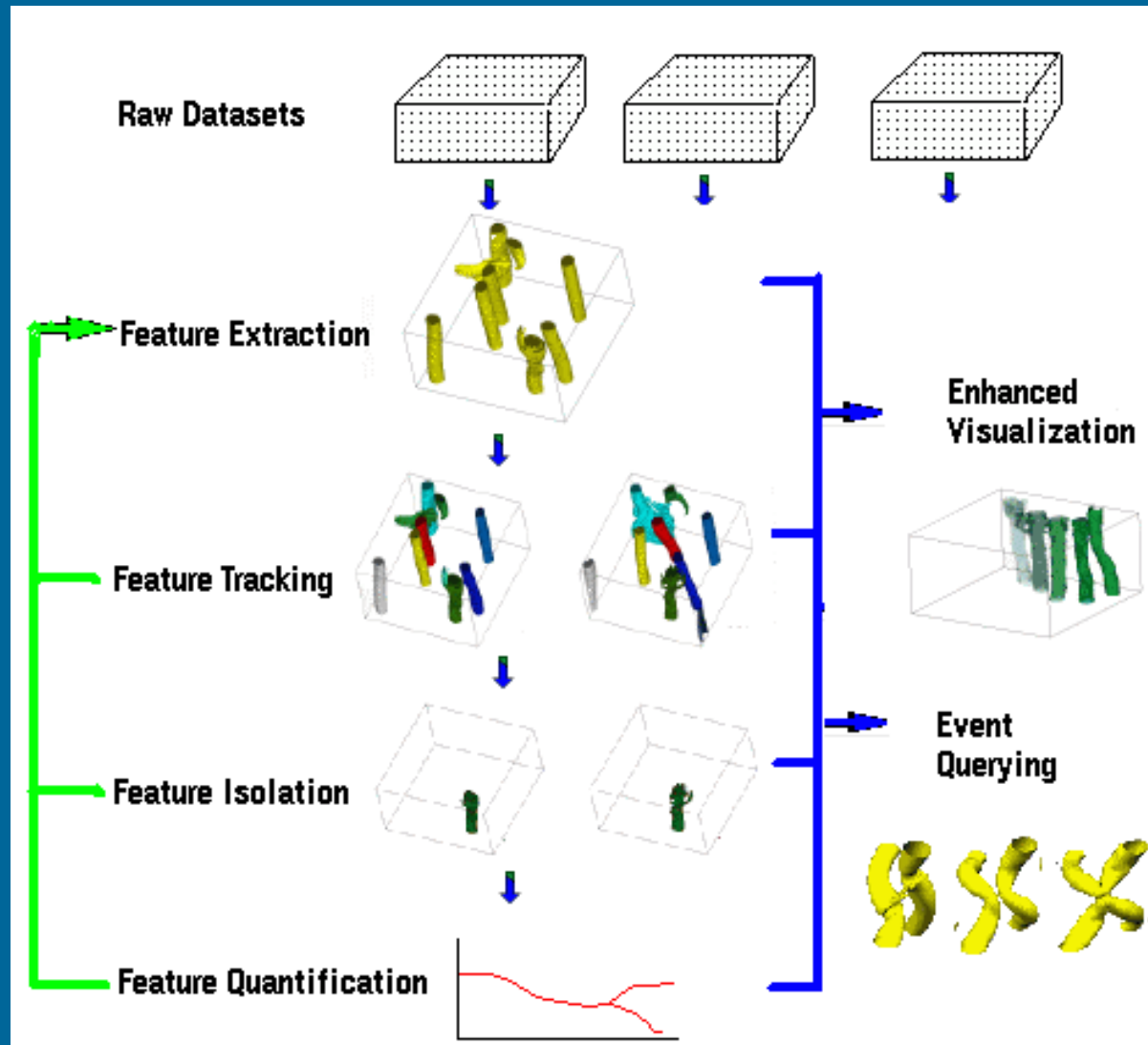




# Difficulties:

- Size – too much data
- Clutter (Visual)
- Quantification: measurements
- Querying capabilities:
  - How many regions are there?
  - Where are the big regions?
  - Is “XXXX” present?
  - How does this compare to a different simulation?
- Classification: store in a database

# Feature-based Process Model



# Major Components

## ■ Feature Extraction

- Define the features of interest. Domain dependent. Pre-defined or interactive.

## ■ Feature Tracking

- Automatically correlate extracted regions from one dataset to the next

## ■ Quantification / Measurements for extraction & tracking.

--> BETTER VISUALIZATION

# Features

- Basic definition

- Regions of interest consisting of connected nodes satisfying some criteria (e.g. threshold interval, topological specification)

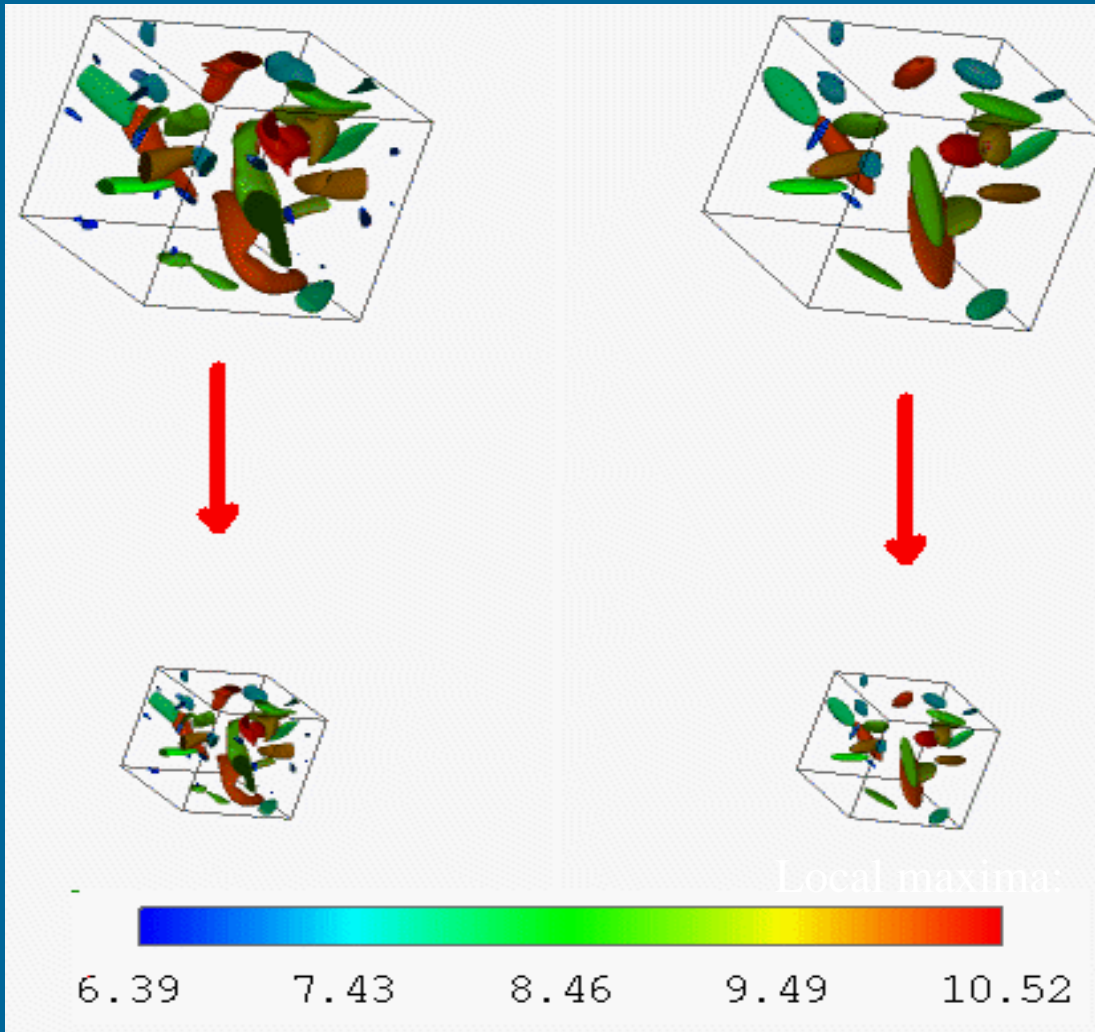
- Each domain has its own definition

- Volume intervals [G95]
- Segmentation [S95]
- Selective Visualization [W95]
- Domain specific: Shock waves, Vortex Cores, Eddies, Medical ...

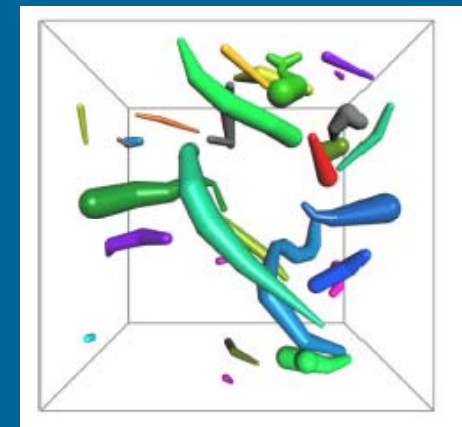
# Feature Abstraction

- Abstract feature using a “reduced” representation object
- Compression of geometry
- Encapsulation of idea --- non-photorealistic rendering
- Reduced modeling

# Abstraction: Data Reduction



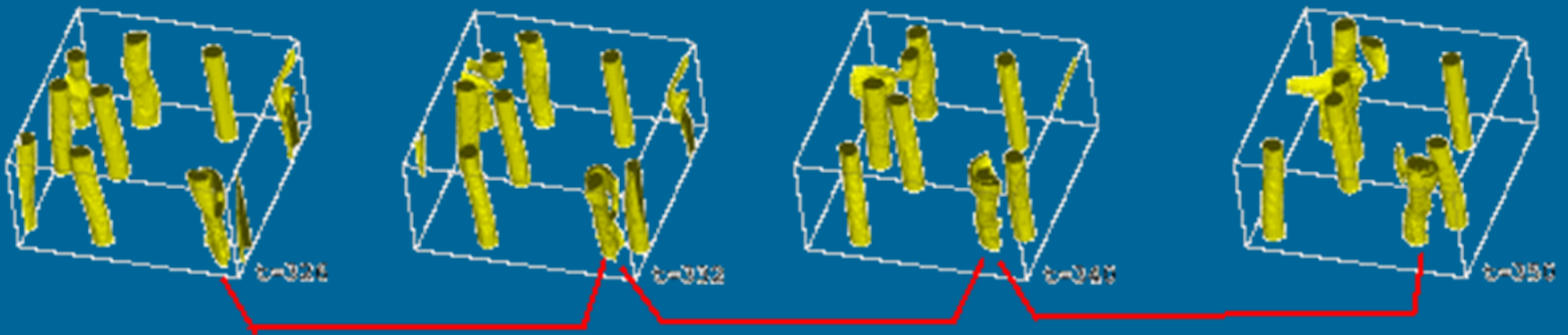
Abstraction using ellipsoids



Abstraction using skeletons

# Feature Tracking

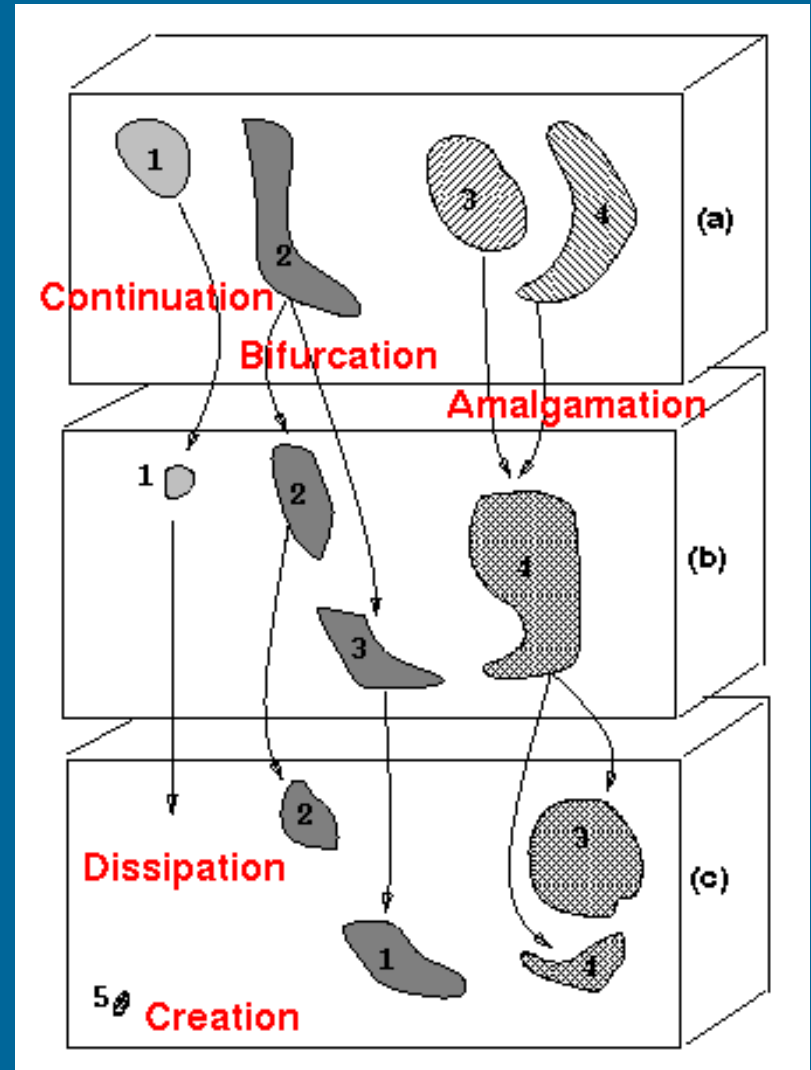
- Automatically correlate extracted regions from one dataset to the next



Assumption:  
Sufficient Sampling Frequency  
such that corresponding  
features overlap in space.

# Tracking

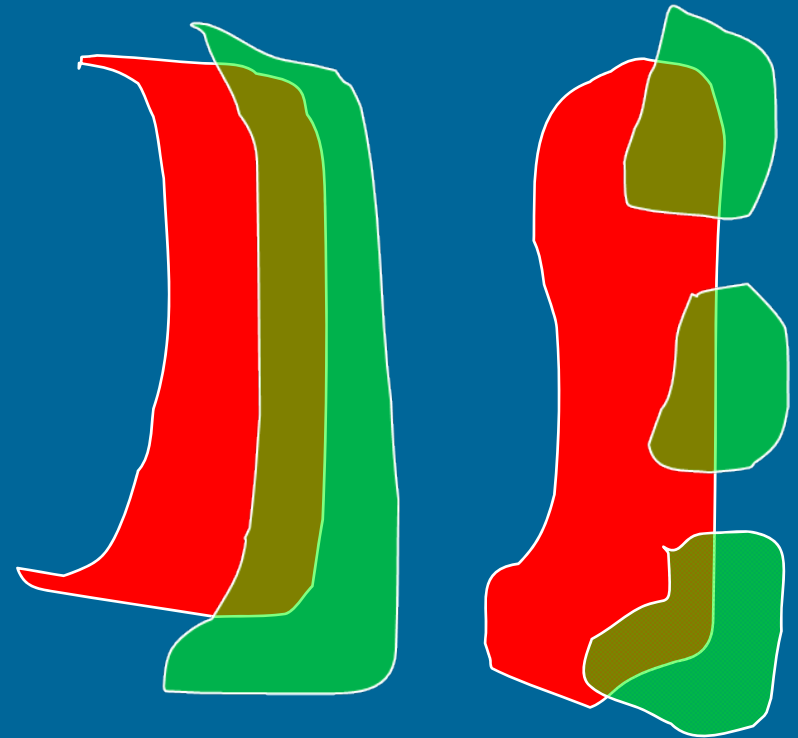
- Continuation
- Bifurcation
- Amalgamation
- Dissipation
- Creation





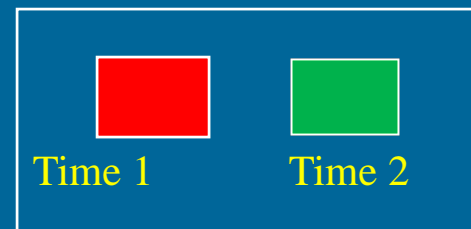
# Observations

- **Continuation:** if feature  $O_A^i$  corresponds to  $O_B^{i+1}$ , then  $O_A^i$  overlaps with  $O_B^{i+1}$ .
- **Bifurcation or Amalgamation:** if a feature splits into a group of N objects, then all  $O_A^i$  in N overlap with  $O_B^{i+1}$



Continuation

Bifurcation/  
Amalgamation



# Visualization Paradigm

- DAG
- Enhanced surface rendering
- Enhanced volume rendering
- Feature isolation
- Trace and trajectory
- Feature Juxtaposition

# Enhanced Surface Rendering

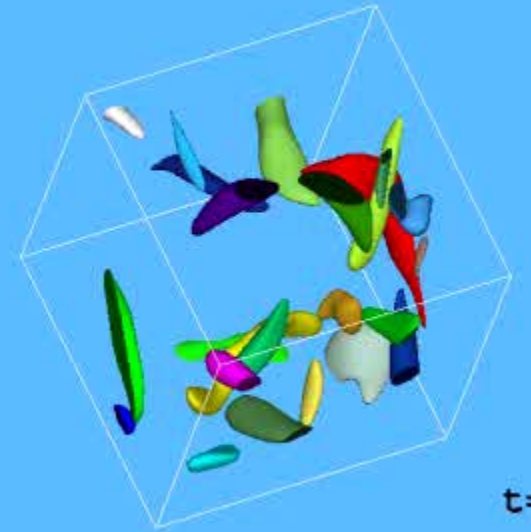
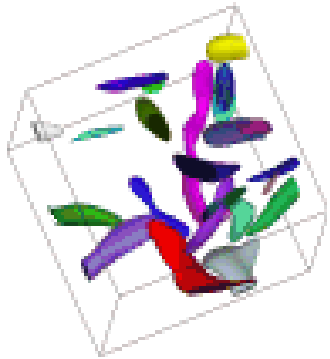
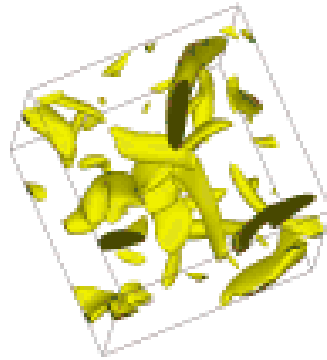
t=1



t=20



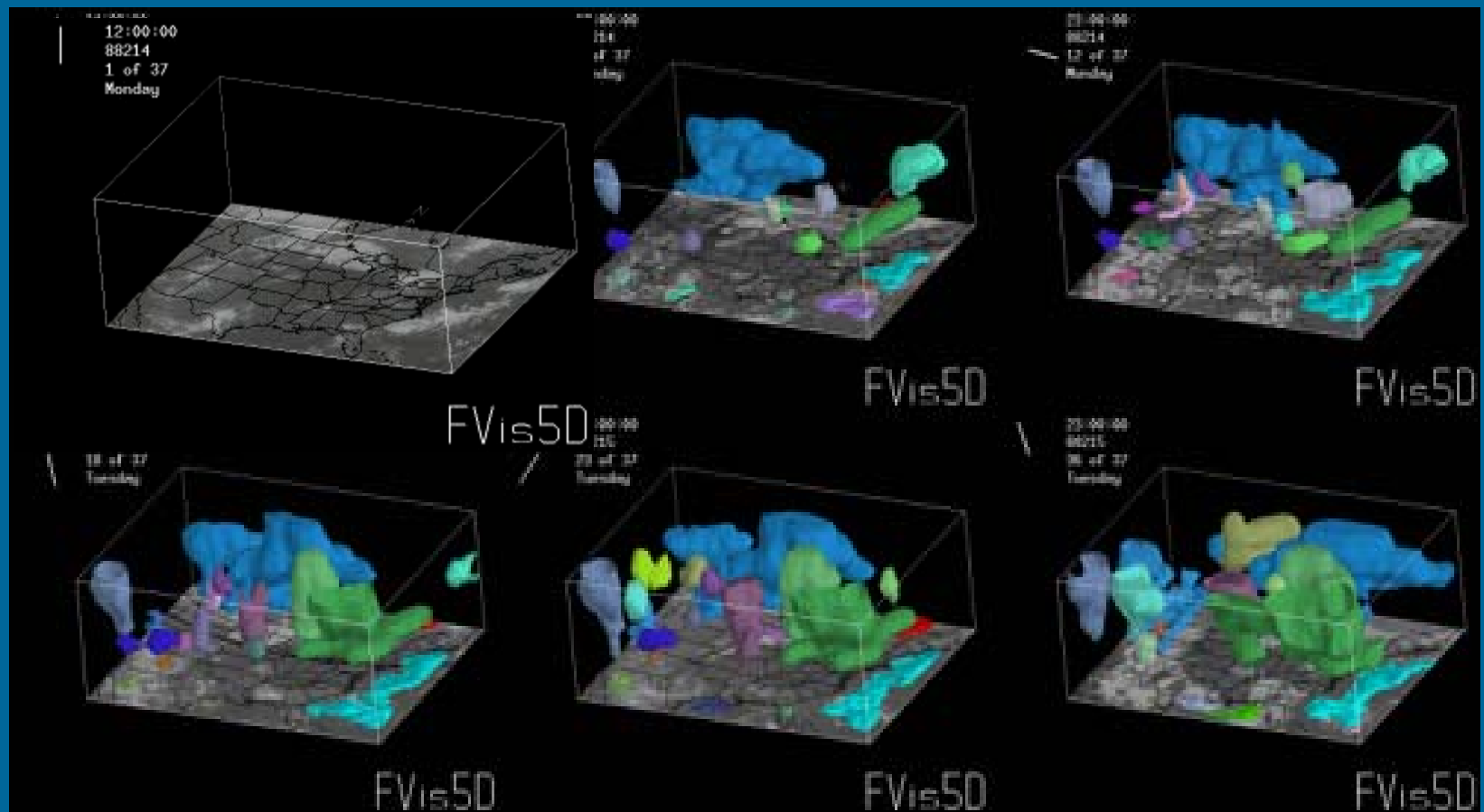
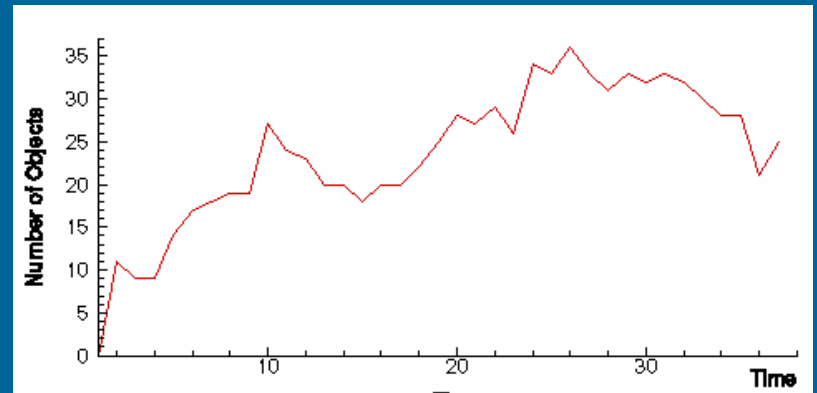
t=30



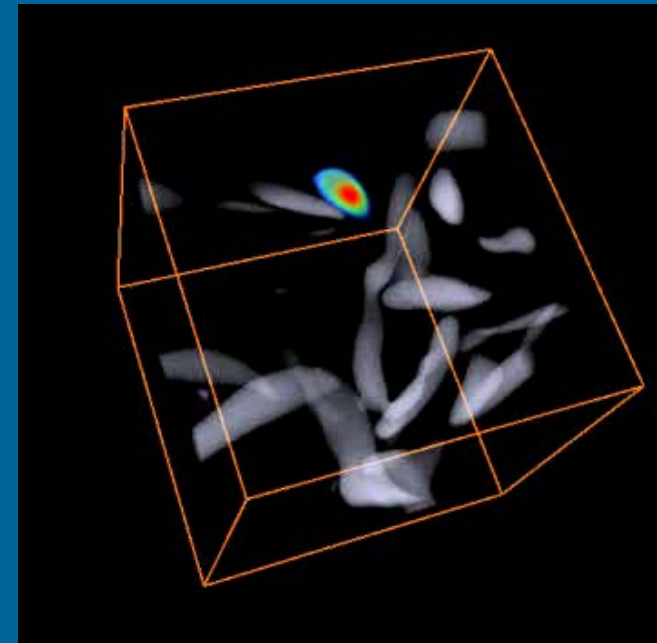
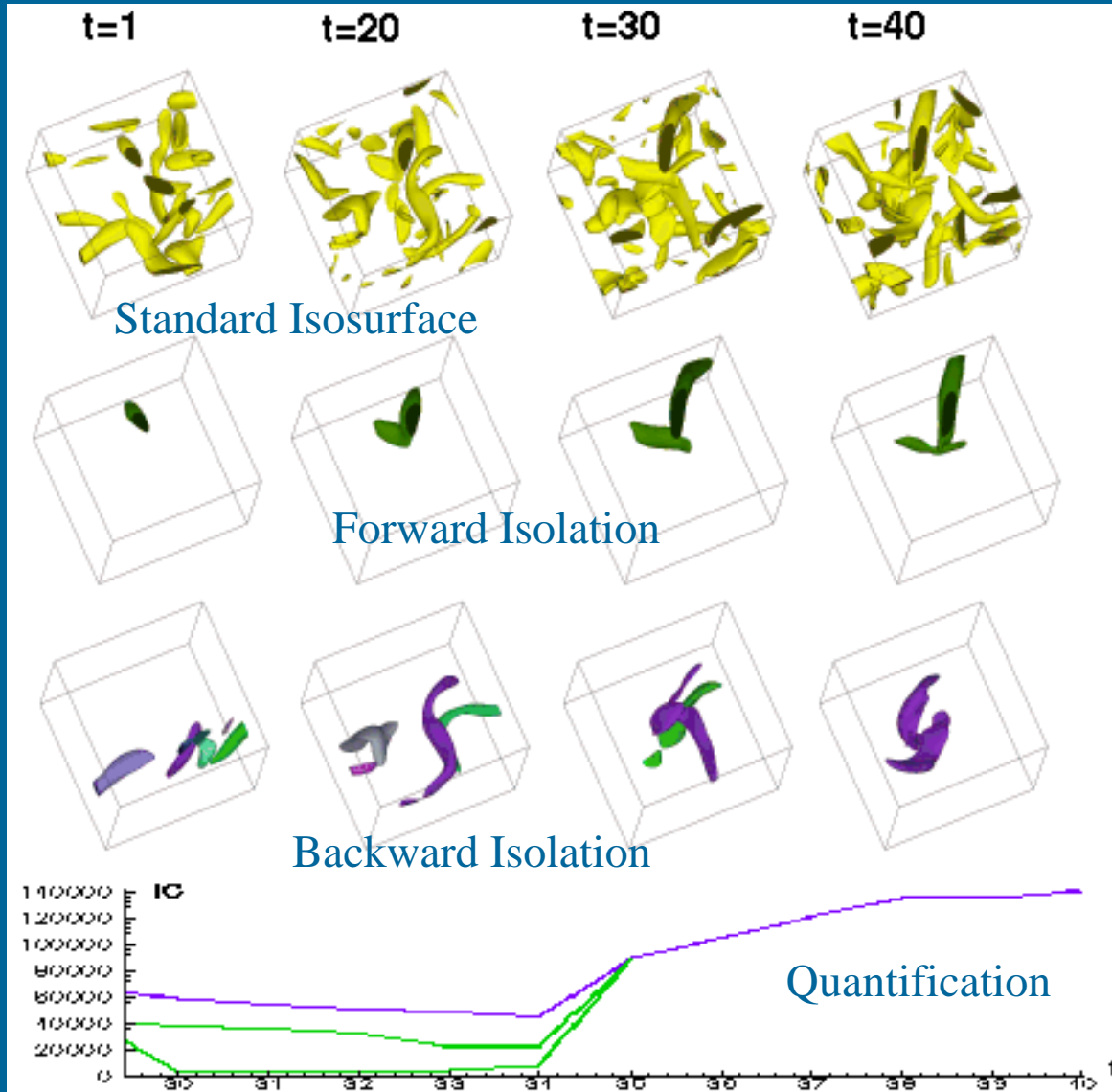
t=1

# Dr. Zhang, EPA Weather Simulation

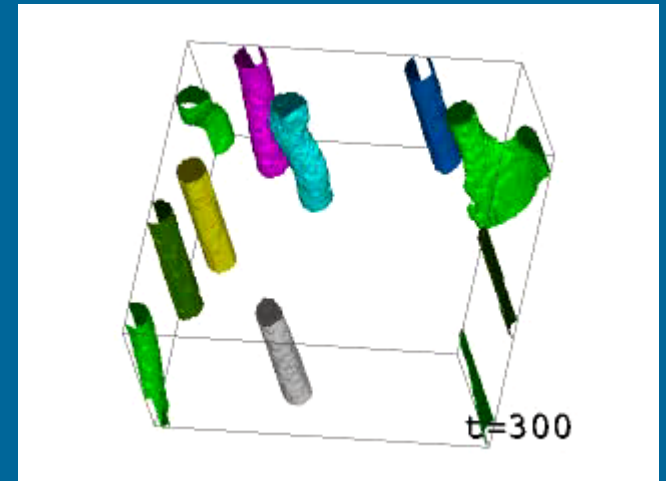
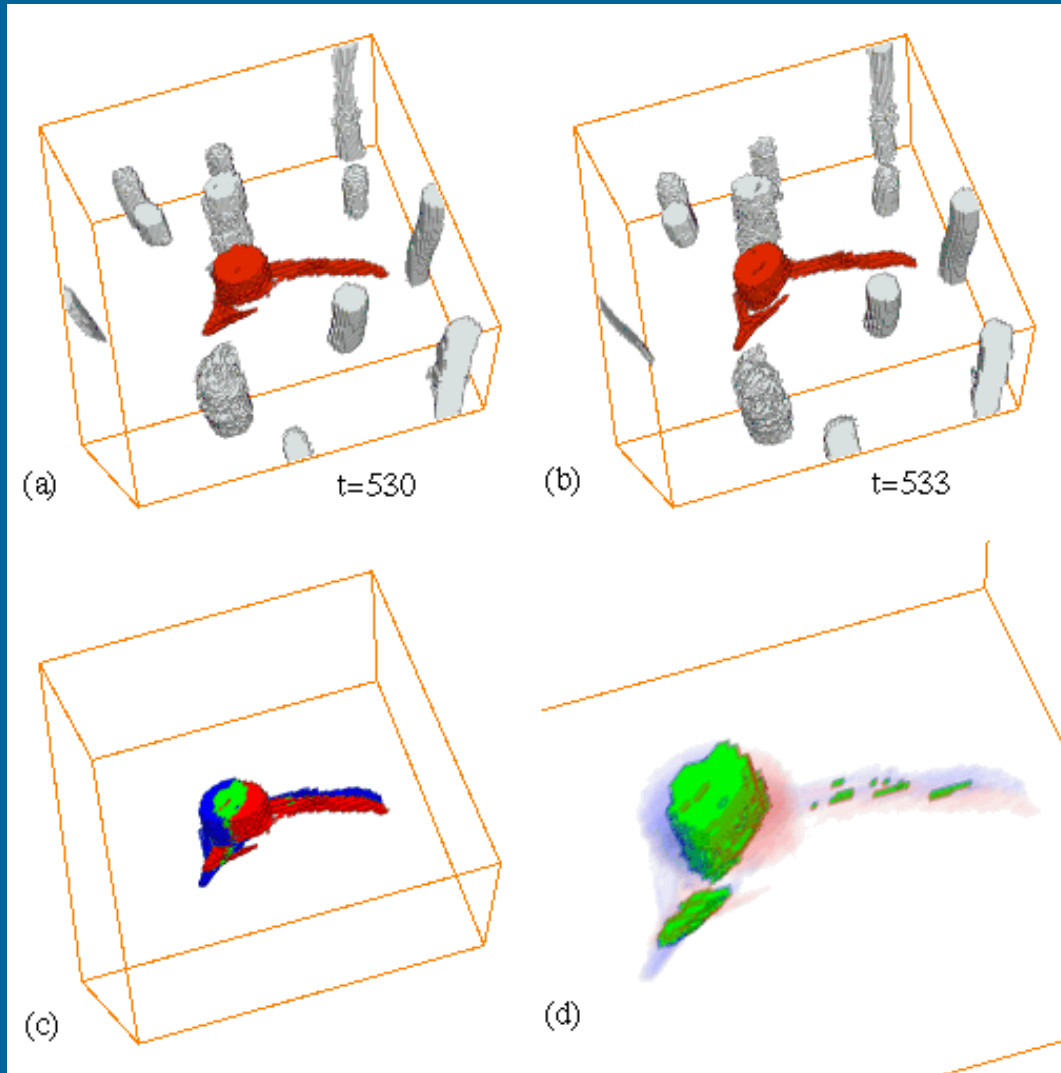
Graphs for Real-  
time monitoring



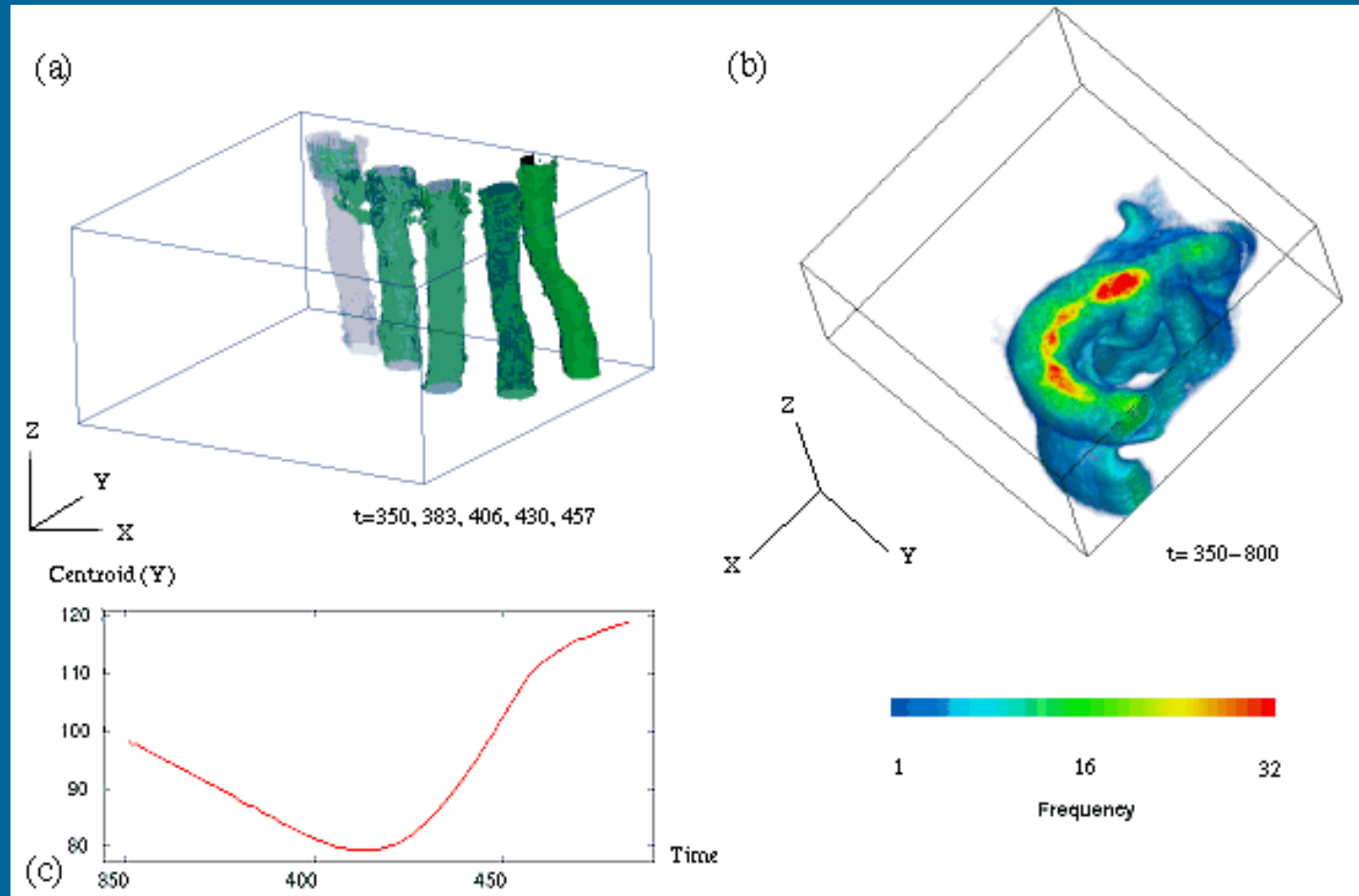
# Feature Isolation/Quantification



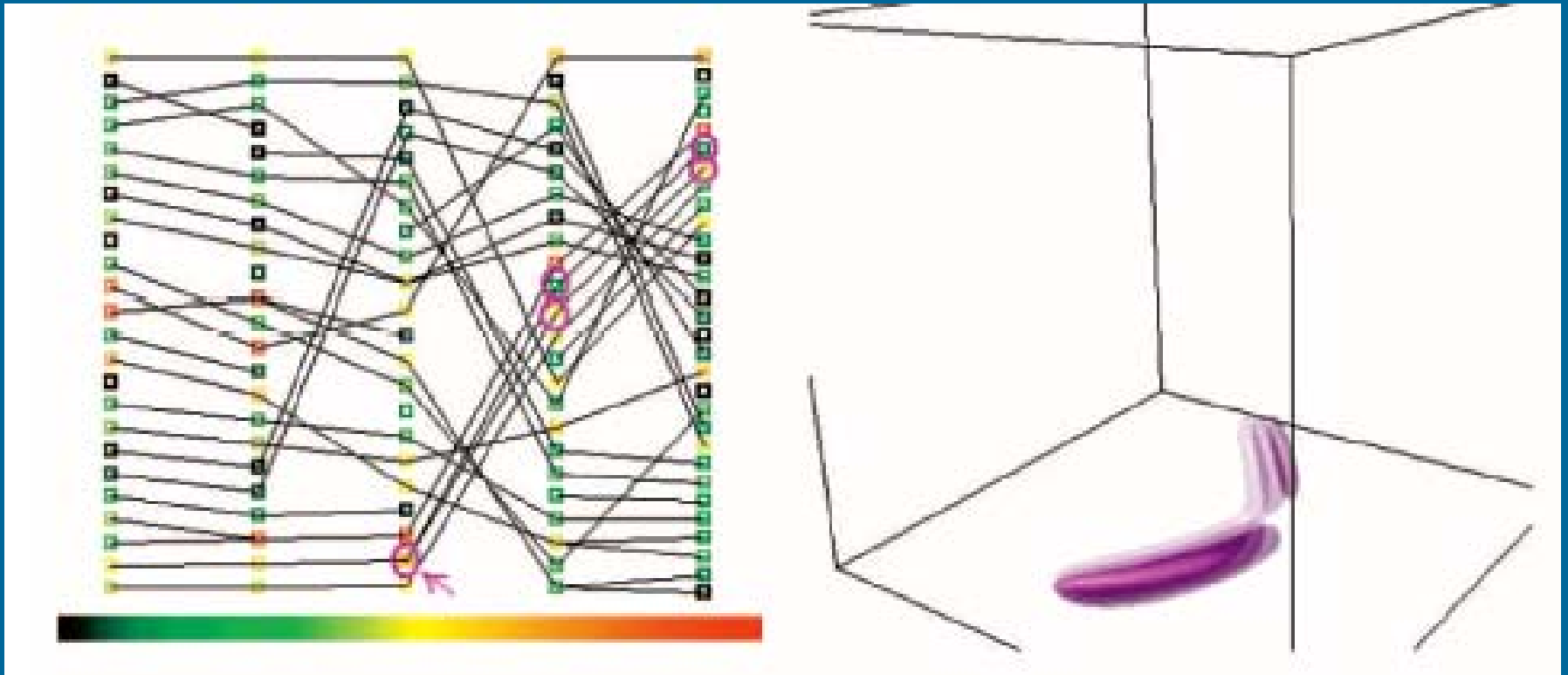
# Juxtaposition



# Trace and Trajectory



# Event Graph Visualization



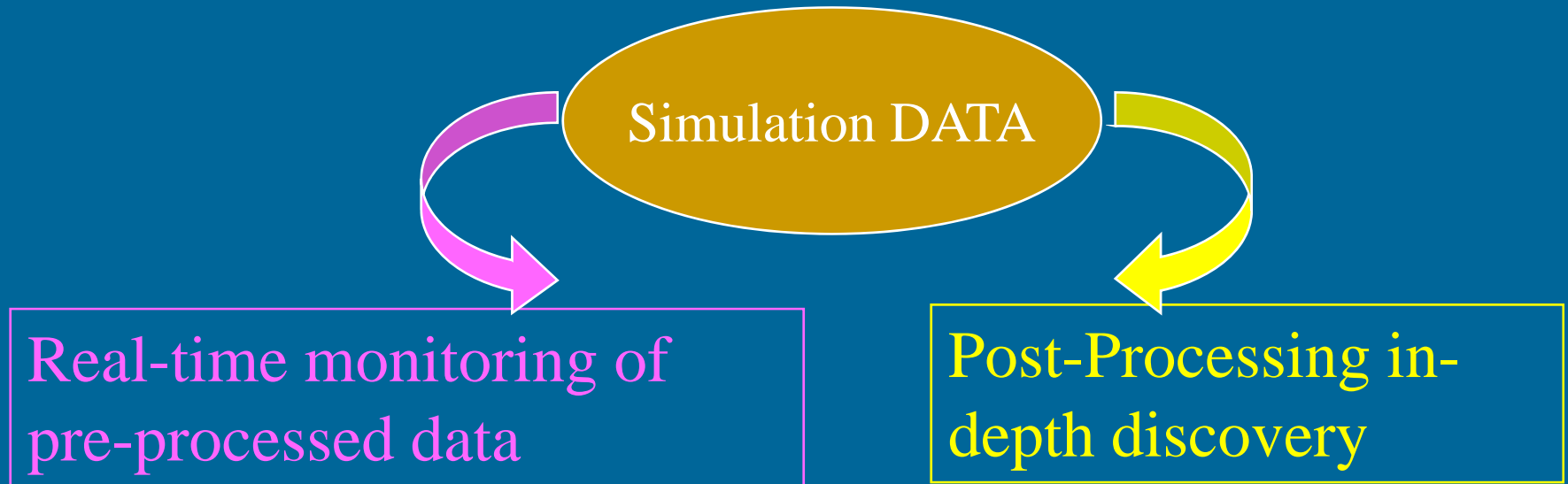


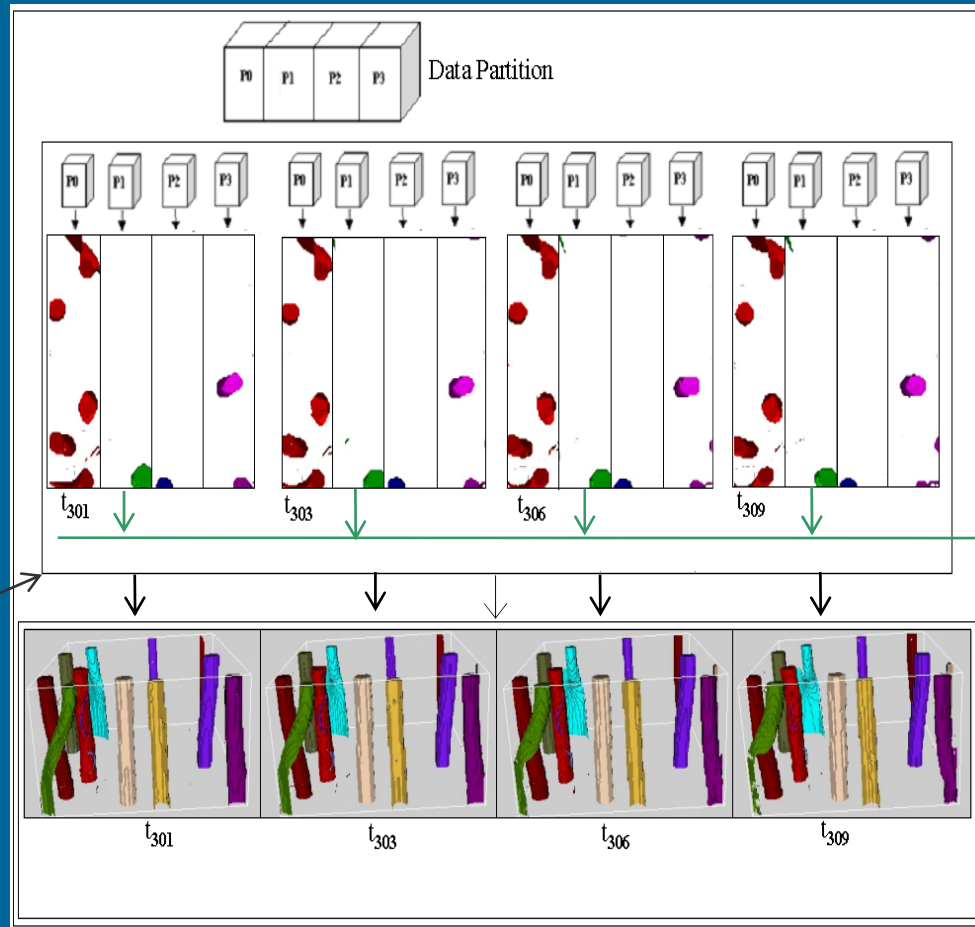
# Tracking issues for Ultra-scale Visualization

- Post-processing tracking too slow, data too large → tracking while simulation is progressing
  - Feature extraction must be preset
  - Mechanism to change thresholds etc..
  - Quantities extracted
- Real time steering
- Can be used for simulation (feedback to simulation)
- Multiresolution data
- Database classification for discovery

Challenges- robust code, distributed code, standard in vis packages

Tracking can be done as part of a pre- or post-processing of the data.



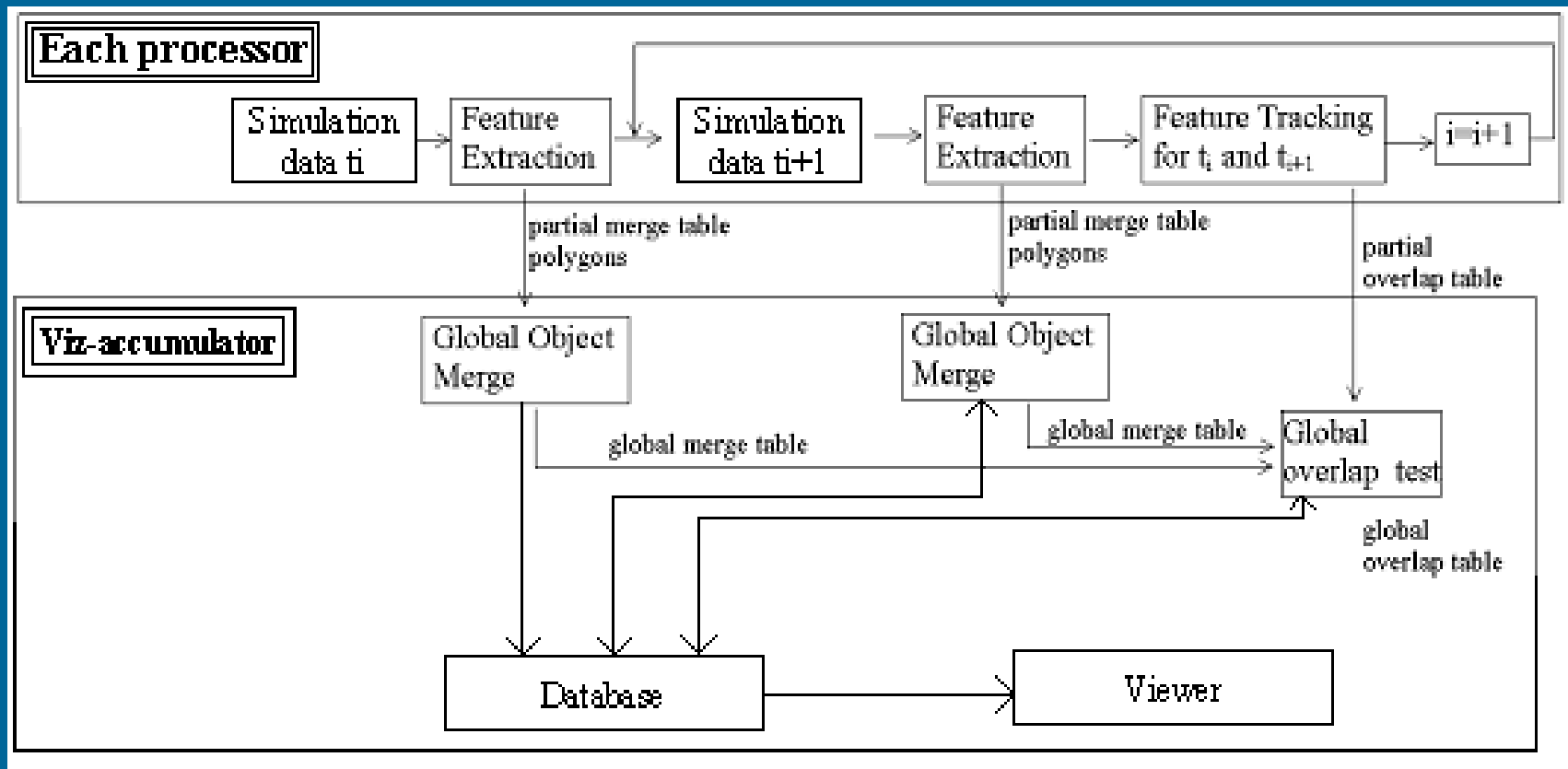


Partial merge  
across  
processor  
boundaries

Feature  
tracking  
from  $t_i$  to  $t_{i+1}$

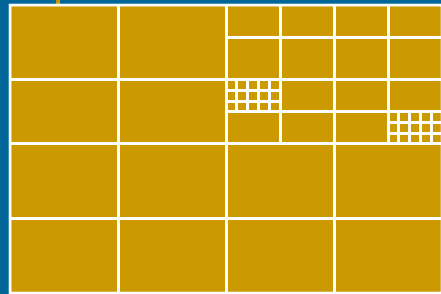
Distributed feature extraction and tracking. Each processor computes a partial extraction and tracking using ghost communications. The full solution is then merged.

# Distributed Feature Tracking

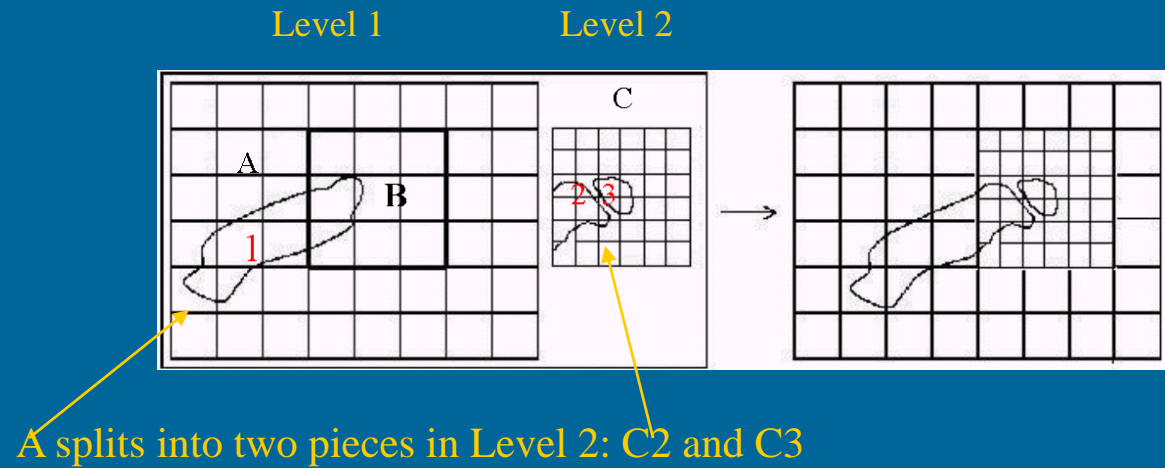


# Challenges...

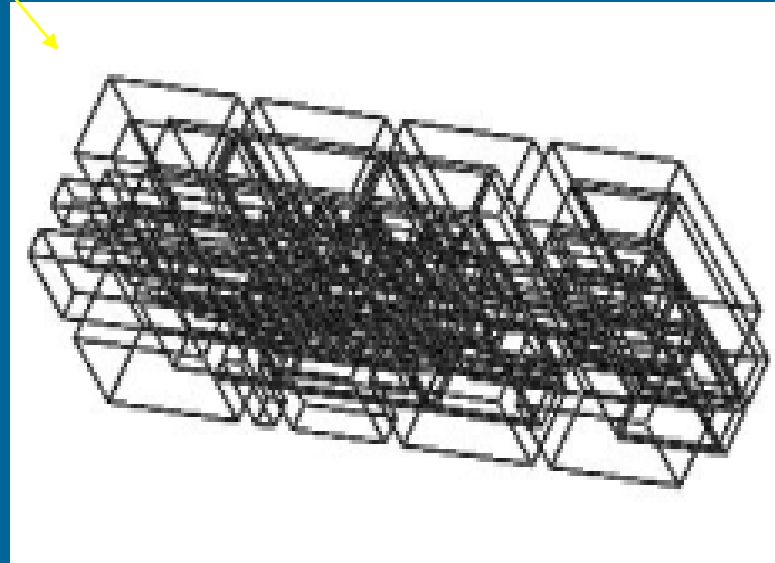
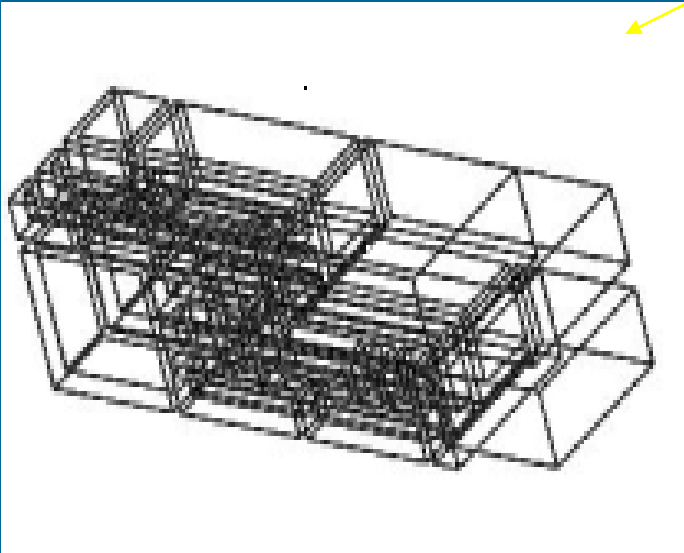
## AMR datasets: Adaptive Mesh Refinement



2D AMR



Regridding from  $t_i$  to  $t_{i+1}$

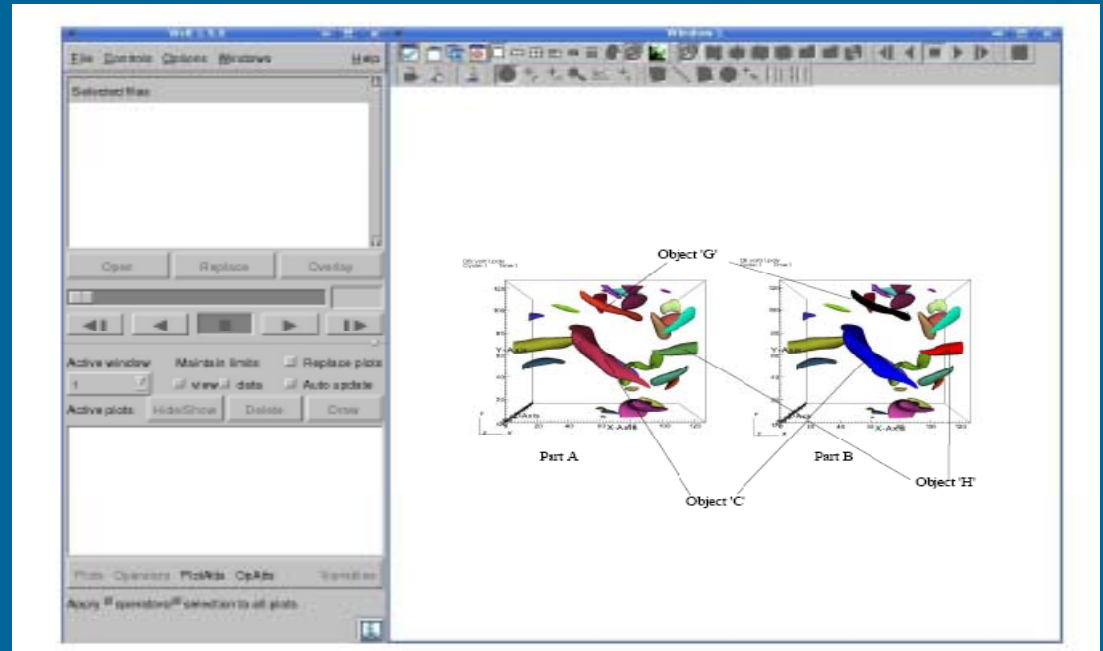
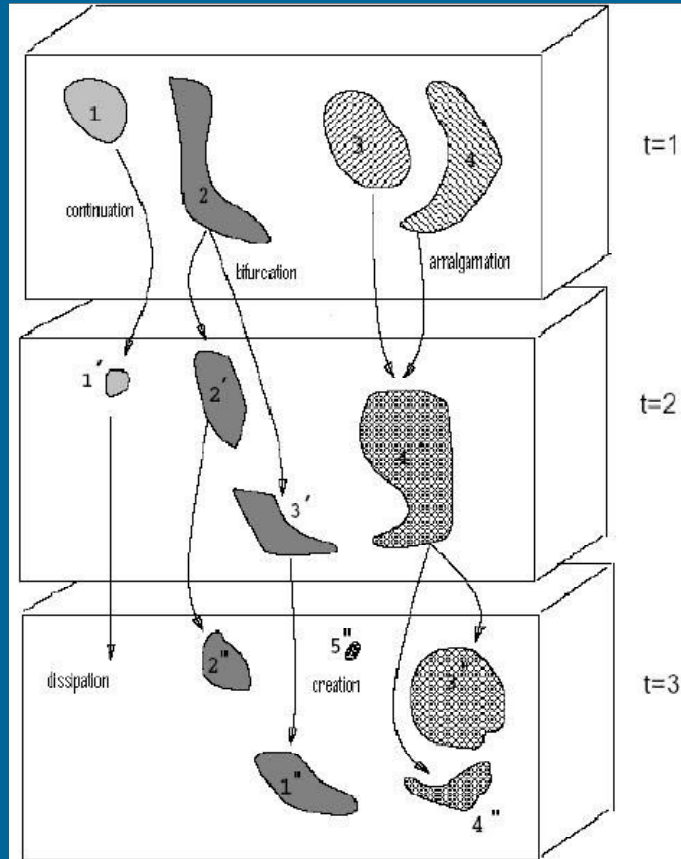


# Visualization Updates

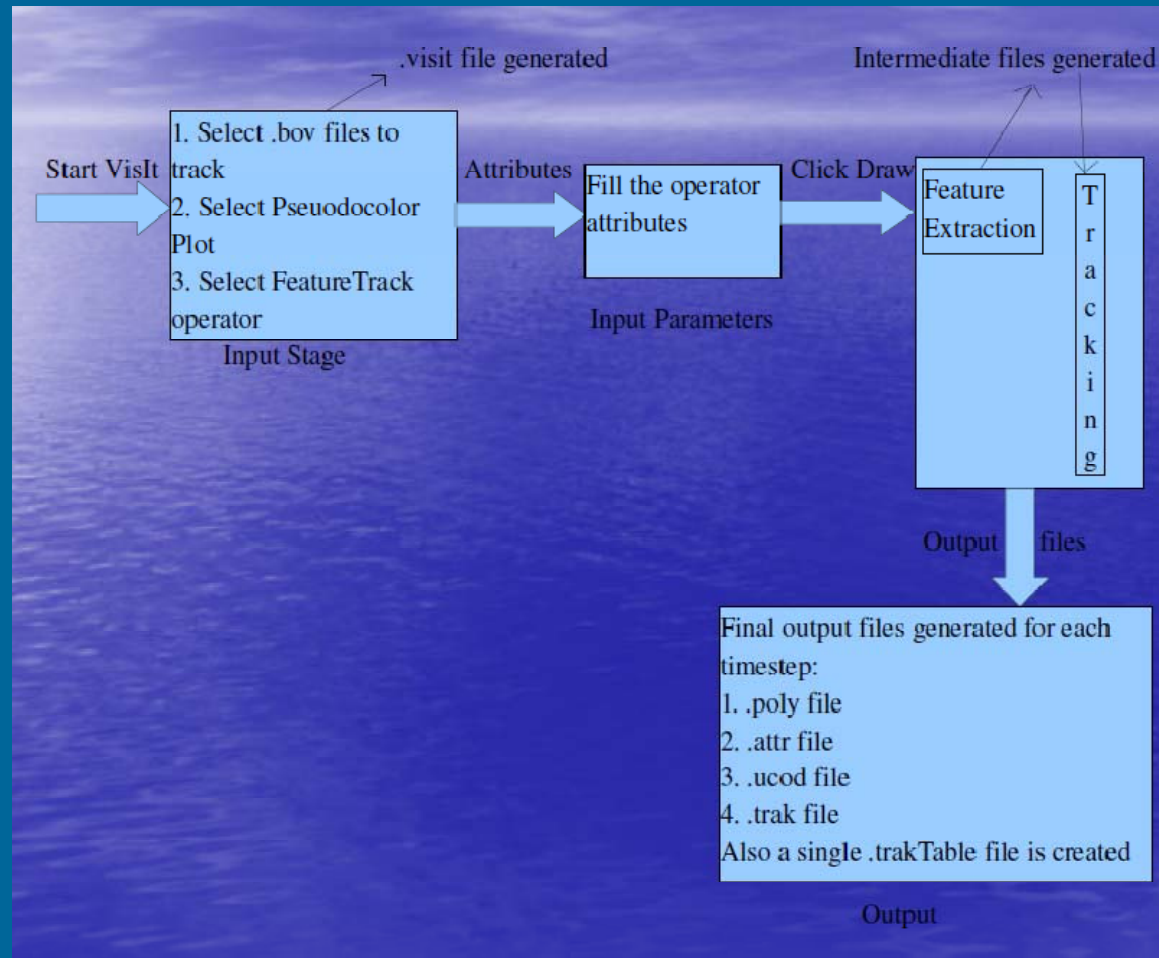
- **Feature Tracking**
- The feature extraction and tracking system, previously implemented for AVS/Express, has been ported to the VisIt visualization tool.
- In the VisIt version of the feature tracking system the computations have been decoupled from the visualization of the results, to allow faster and more flexible viewing.

# Feature Tracking within VisIt

<http://www.eden.rutgers.edu/~anaveen/VisIt/VisIt.html>

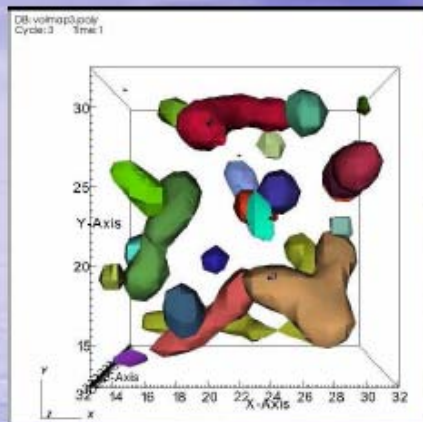


# Feature Tracking pipeline

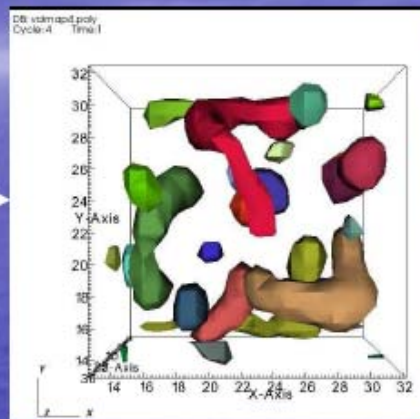




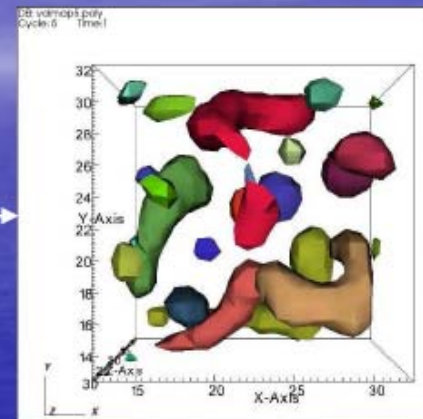
# Feature Tracking and Enhanced Visualization: Change Alpha Value (Transparency) of the Displayed Objects(timesteps t1, t2 and t3)



**volmap3.bin (t1)**



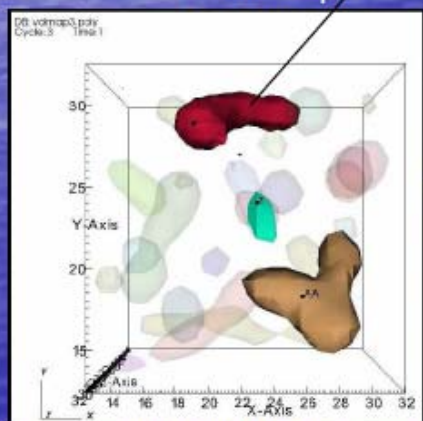
**volmap4.bin (t2)**



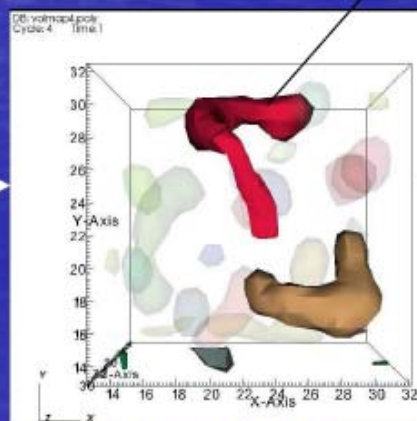
**volmap5.bin (t3)**

Grows and merges with other object in next timestep

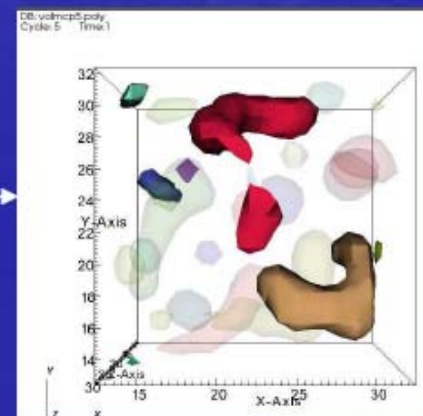
Splits in next timestep



**volmap3.bin (t1)**



**volmap4.bin (t2)**



**volmap5.bin (t3)**

A yellow L-shaped line consisting of a horizontal segment at the top and a vertical segment on the left, forming a corner that frames the text.

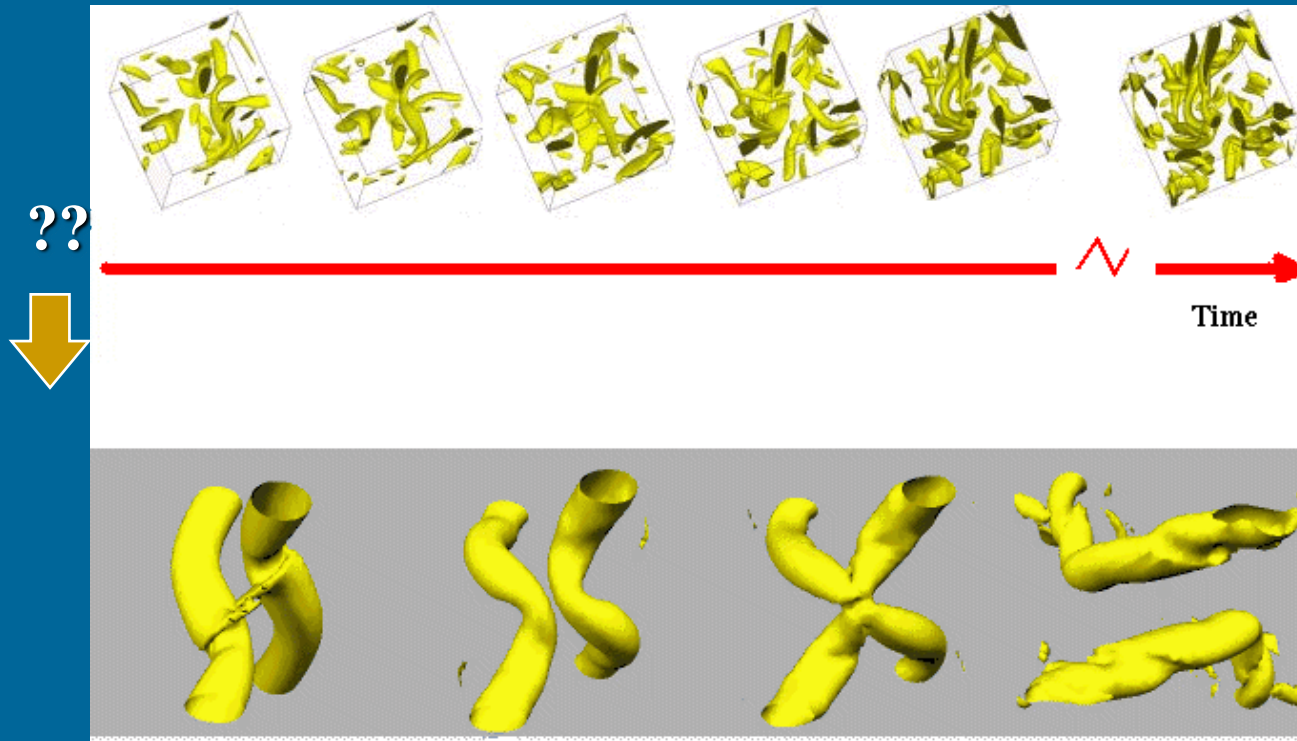
What next?

A yellow horizontal line that is solid on the left and transitions into a dashed line on the right.

# Event Classification

- For massive simulations
- Database querying functions (pre-processed)
- Event tracking

# Example-3D Event searching



**Vortex Reconnection**

- Automatically find interesting events
- Follow Topological changes
- Classify events
- Search events

# Data is too large to look at

- Similar to large databases – need to query the data
- “higher level queries”
- Isolate when a particular event occurs
- Show when a behavior happens or is about to happen
- Need semantics to specify the query

# Feature & Event classification for Fusion-

*Feature Based Techniques to characterize and catalogue interesting phenomena*

Objects/Features				Move	Interact ----Come Together/Apart		
<i>(Plasma specific)</i>				<i>(Plasma specific)</i>	<i>(Plasma specific)</i>		
Blobs		Wiggles					
Filaments		Flux tubes		Spin/wake (blobs)	Coalesce (blobs)		
Avaloids		Loss Cone		Zonal flows	Breakup (blobs)		
Striations				Flow shears			
Bursts				Rotation	<i>(CFD General)</i>		
Radial streamers				<i>(CFD general)</i>			
IPO (Intermittent plasma Objects)					accrete	condense	roll-up
Holes (opposite of blobs, density rarefactions)				advect swirl	aggregate	disassemble	plow
Chaotic Field line regions				entangle transport	align	disrupt	reflect
<i>(CFD-general)</i>				disperse wind	bind	finger	scatter
bubble	hole	Favor	roll	flow	bifurcate	fission	spike
blast wave	packet	filament	separatrix	hop	burst	focus	split
blobcloud	patch	finger	spike	migrate	collapse	fold	striae
critical pt.	point	gyres	spiral	stream		fuse	strip
eddy	ring	hairpin	striation			pair	wind about
		helix	vortex				

# Characterization of events for combustion

Objects				Move		Interact ----Come Together/Apart		
Combustion specific				Combustion specific		Combustion specific		
Kernal Flame (premixed, part, diffusion,edge) Shockwave Fuel Jet Stochiometric Line Region of chemical reaction Region of Flow				burn curve convect diffuse ignite	quench percolate propagate reignite react strain	flame-wall interactions merge annihilate upstream annihilate downstream		
						CFD General		
						accrete aggregate align bind bifurcate breakup burst collapse	condense disassemble disrupt finger fission focus fold fuse pair	roll-up plow reflect scatter spike split striate strip wind about
CFD-general				CFD-general				
bubble blast wave blobcloud critical pt. eddy	hole packet patch pint ring	favor filament finger gyre hairpin helix	roll separatrix spike spiral striation vortex	advect entangle disperse flow hop migrate	stream swirlt transport wind			



# Challenges

- MOST IMPORTANT: Usable extraction/tracking code – either libraries or end applications to allow scientists to try it and not just visualization experts



# Challenges

- Track neighborhoods, not just atomic features
- Characterize events – sequences of actions not just the “simple” tracking actions
- Data structure to store events (multimedia data structures)
- Each domain has its own events – are there commonalities so that a generic system could be developed?

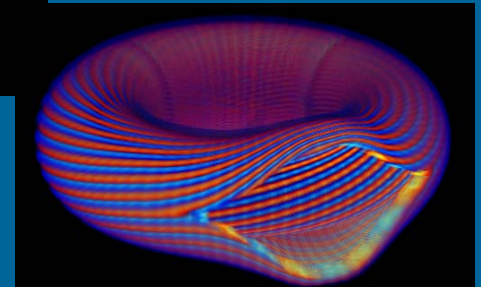
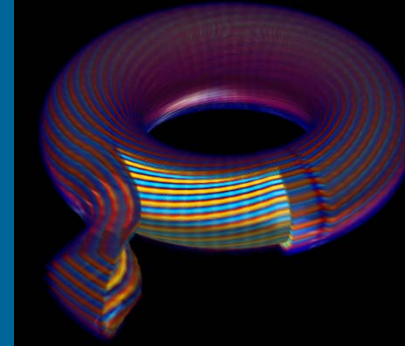
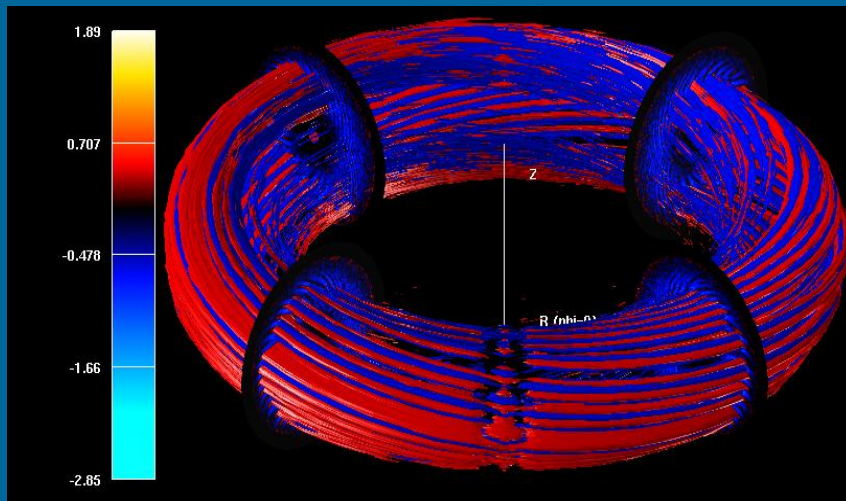
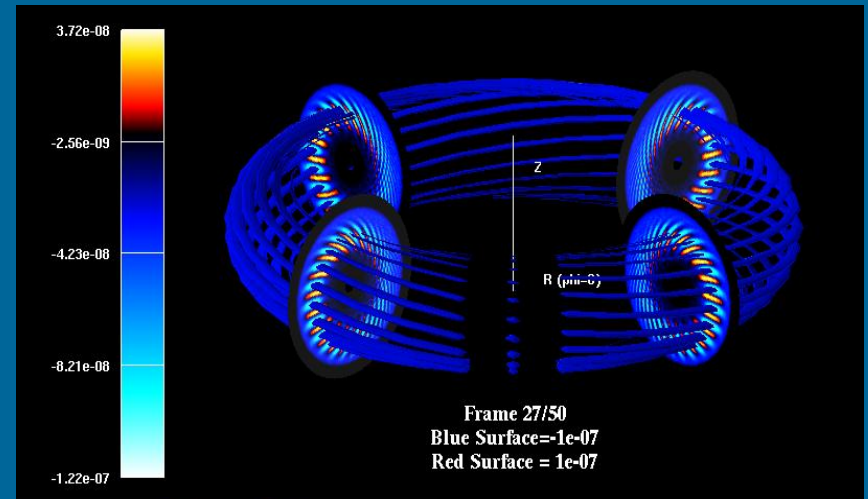
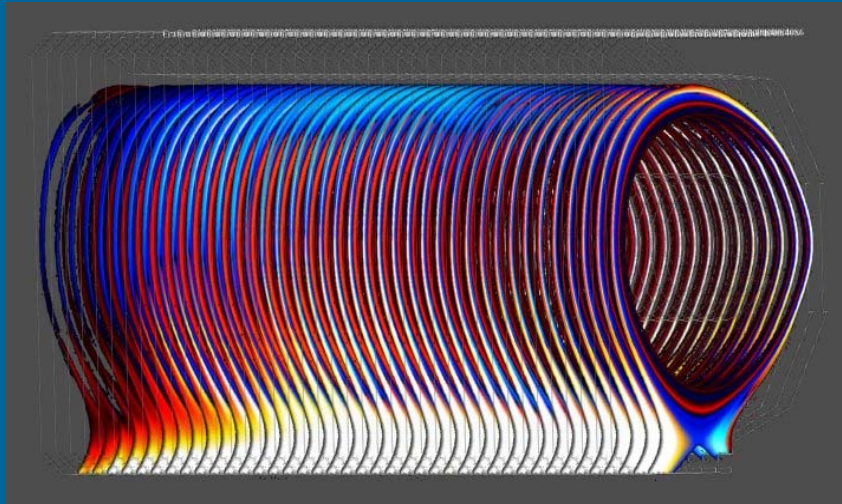
# Challenges

- New meta-data is created which also creates new visualization issues
- Feature data base
- Event comparisons, event monitoring, control
- What is the best way to present tracking information (perceptual issues).

# Why Feature Tracking

- Reduce the Size of Data
- Reduce Complexity
- Provide Quantification
- Enhance Visualization
- Feature based QUERYING
- Facilitate Event Searching
- Help with code comparisons, help with simulation/observation analysis. Can only be done on a higher level comparison

# CPES Visualization



# Thank You!!

<http://www.caip.rutgers.edu/vizlab.html>

