



Visualization in Astronomy

Astro Tech Talk
MPIA, 12.05.2017

Thomas Müller
Haus der Astronomie (MPIA)
Email: tmueller@mpia.de

Data in Astronomy

- Images
 - @ different wavelengths, Hubble, Spitzer, VLT,...
 - (360° 20-Gigapixel image of New York, <http://360gigapixels.com/nyc-skyline-photo-panorama>)
- Spectral data
 - Integral field spectroscopy
- Point data sets
 - Hipparcos, Gaia (DR1: TGAS-sources: 2,057,050; DR2: > 2 Billion)
- Volume data sets
 - from numerical simulations: Illustris-Dark1 ($1820^3 = 6,028,568,000$)

How to bring image data to the dome

Haus der Astronomie

Model: ZEISS powerdome VELVET

Dome diameter: 12m

tilted by 30°

5 projectors: 1920 × 1200

Nvidia Geforce GTX 560

(11,520,000 pixels)

Image of „Haus der Astronomie“
Image licence is not clear

How to bring image data to the dome

Haus der Astronomie

Model: ZEISS powerdome VELVET

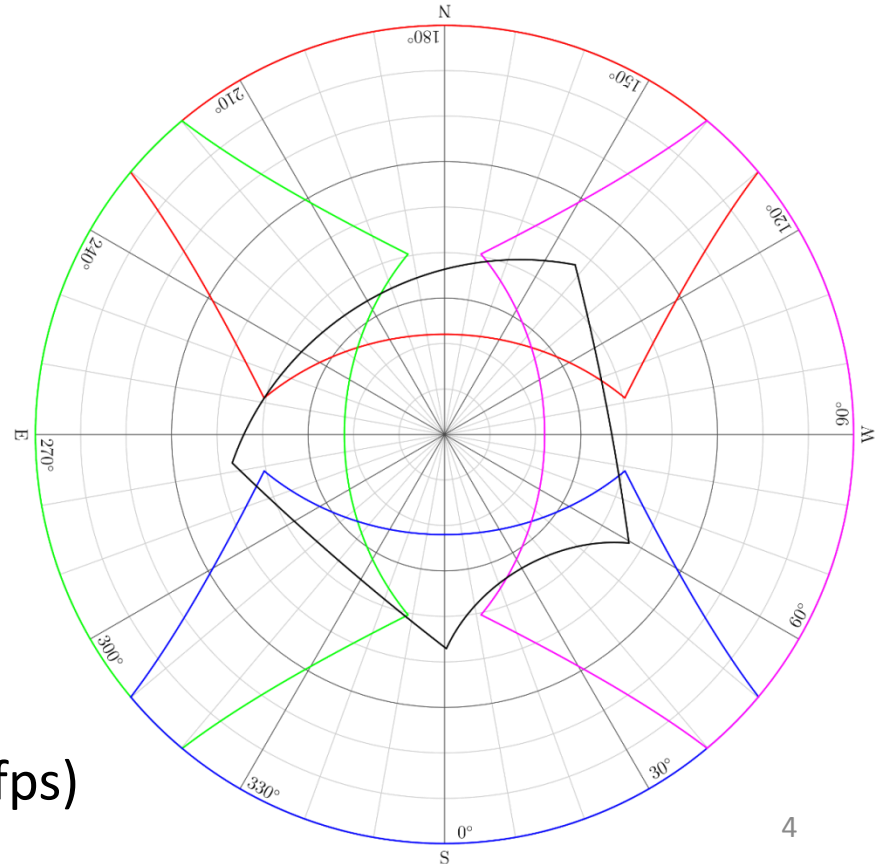
Dome diameter: 12m

tilted by 30°

5 projectors: 1920×1200

Nvidia Geforce GTX 560

Domemaster: 3072×3072 (max 30 fps)



How to bring image data to the dome

THOR image (H. Beuter et al.)

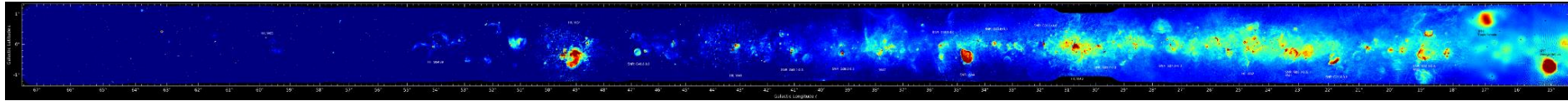
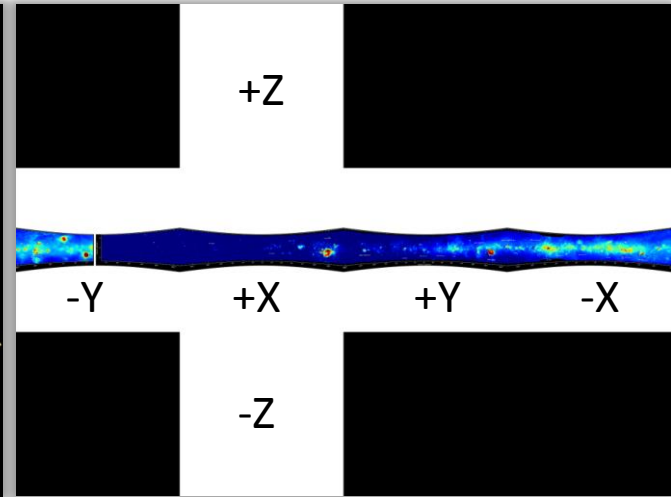
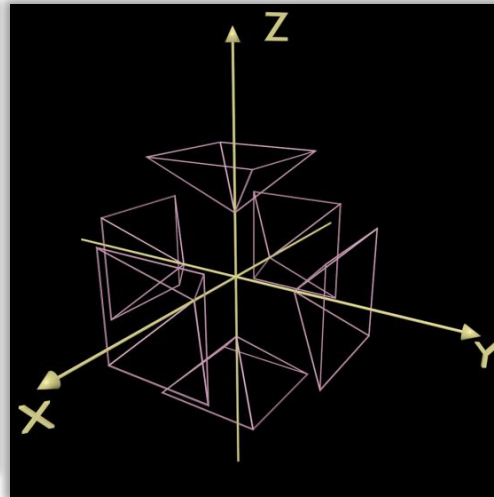
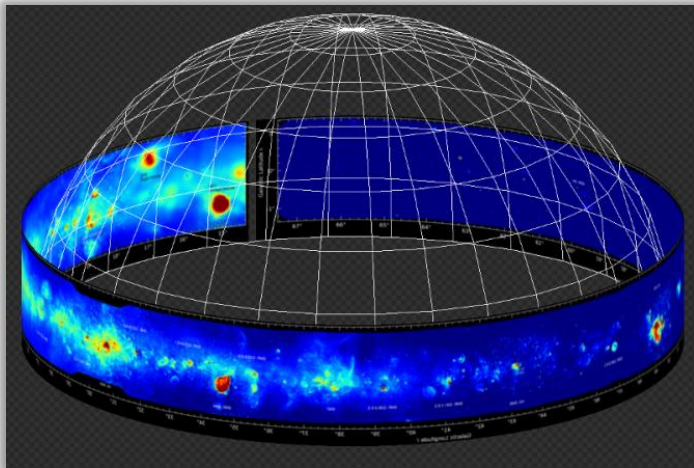


Image resolution 82257 x 4331 (19:1); $-1.4 < b < 1.4$, $67.4 > l > 14.6$

Scale to 360 x 18.9; Cubemap camera: 90° field of view

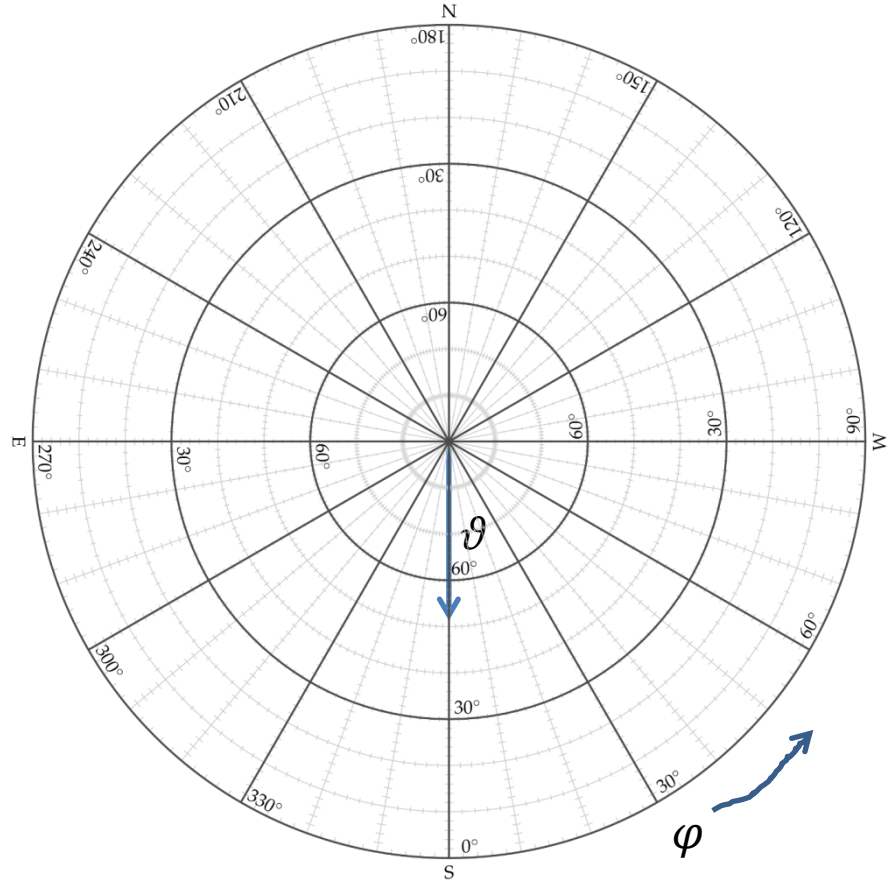
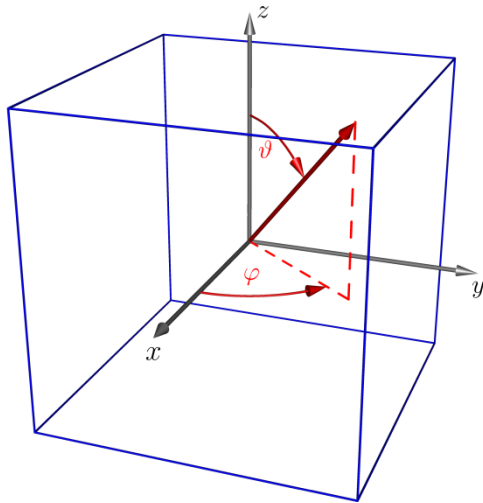


How to bring image data to the dome

THOR image (H. Beuter et al.)

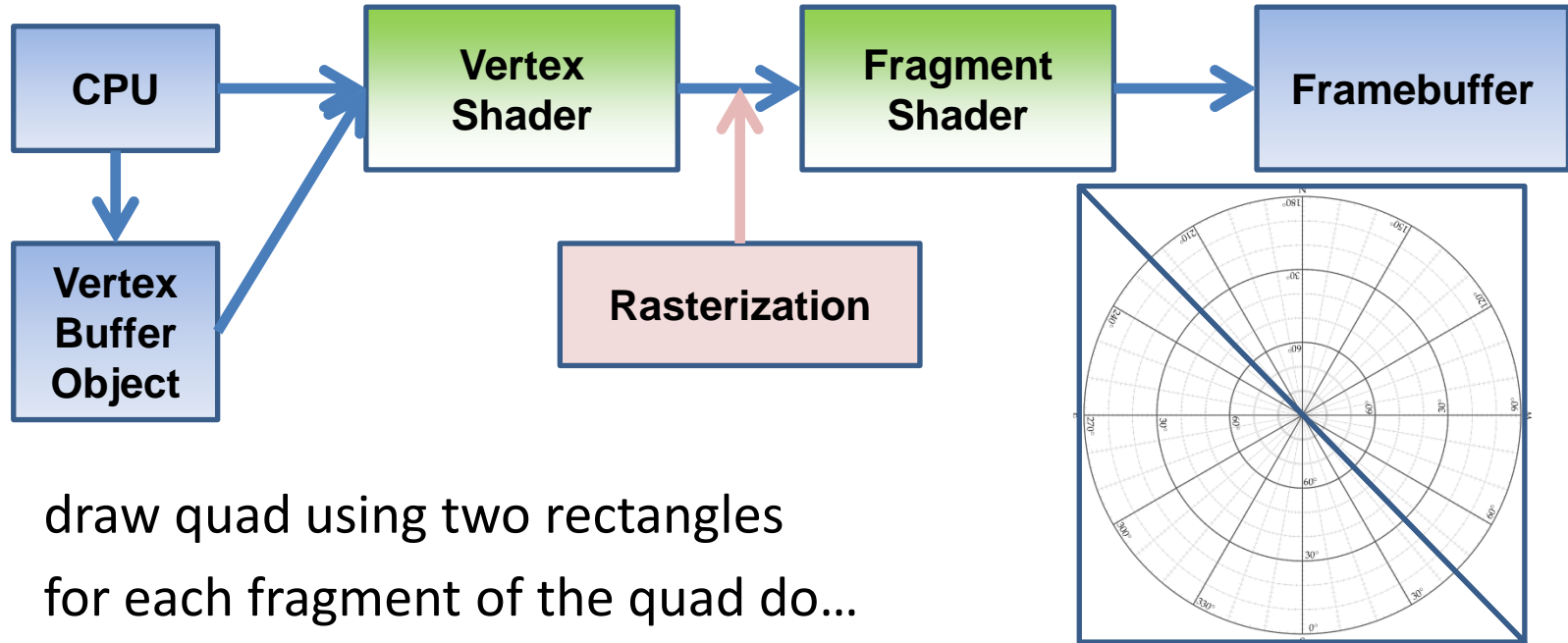
Better: scale to 720 x 37.8

Map Cubemap to DomeMaster



Insertion: OpenGL graphics pipeline

Interactive rendering using OpenGL vertex and fragment shader



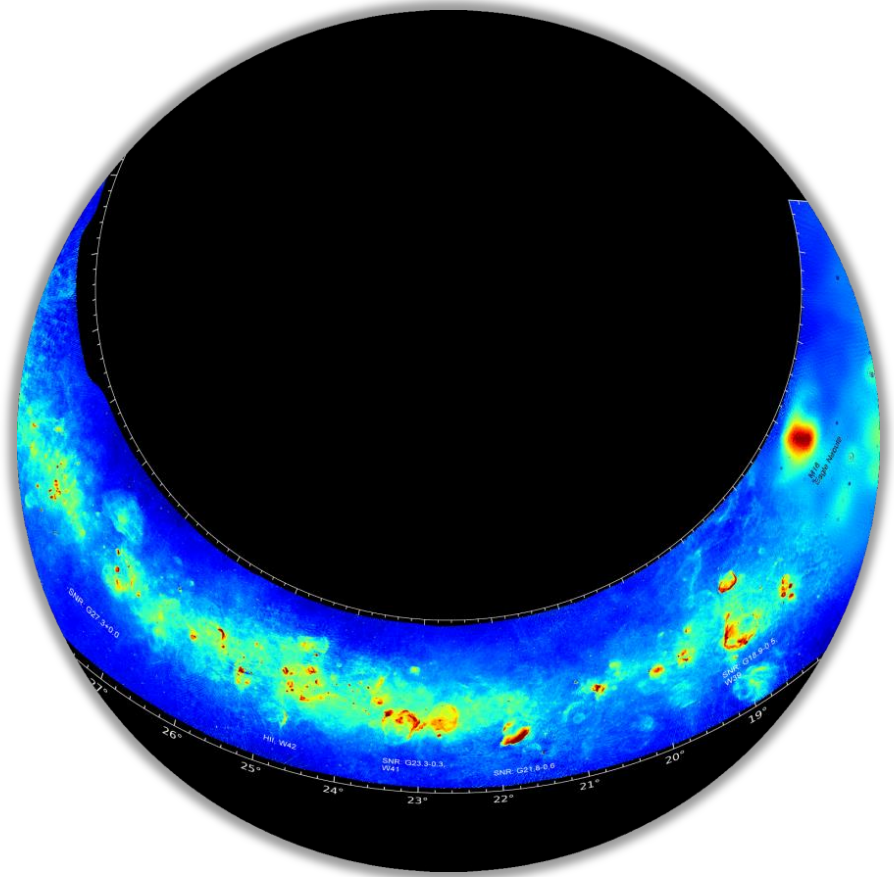
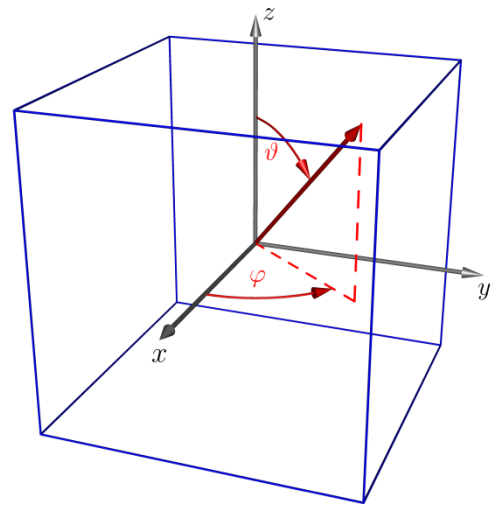
- draw quad using two rectangles
- for each fragment of the quad do...
 - determine $(\vartheta, \varphi) \mapsto \vec{d} = (\sin \vartheta \cos \varphi, \sin \vartheta \sin \varphi, \cos \vartheta)$

How to bring image data to the dome

THOR image (H. Beuter et al.)

Better: scale to 720 x 37.8

Map Cubemap to DomeMaster

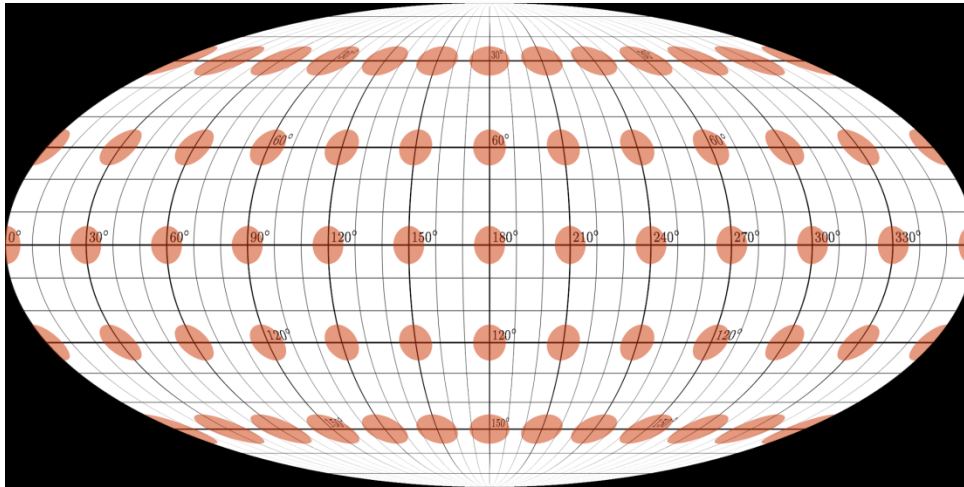


How to bring image data to the dome

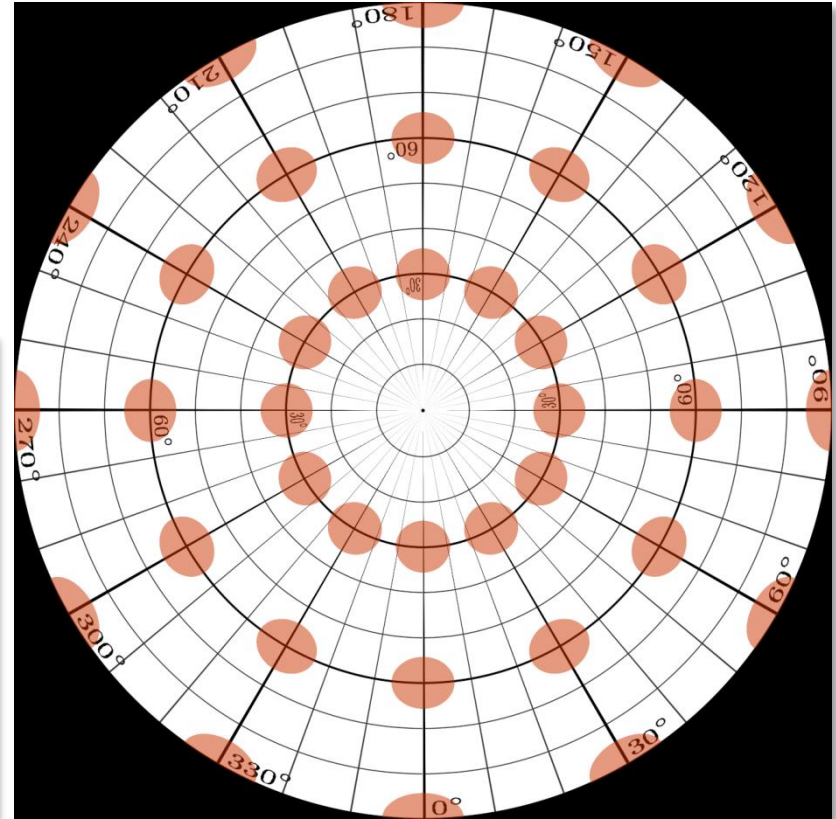
PanSTARRS image covers only 3π

(Panoramic Survey Telescope And Rapid Response System;
1.8m telescope with 1.4 Gpix camera; map sky in 5 broadband filters)

Mollweide to Domemaster



4π



2π

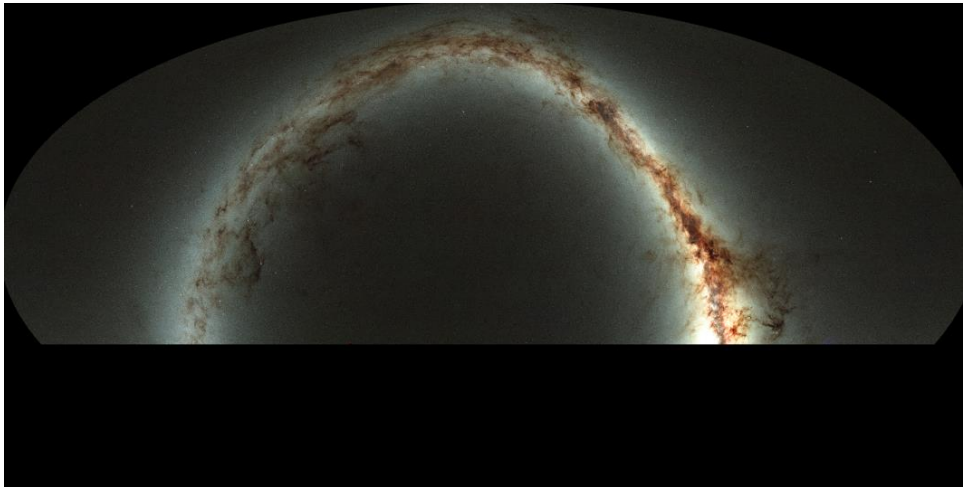
9

How to bring image data to the dome

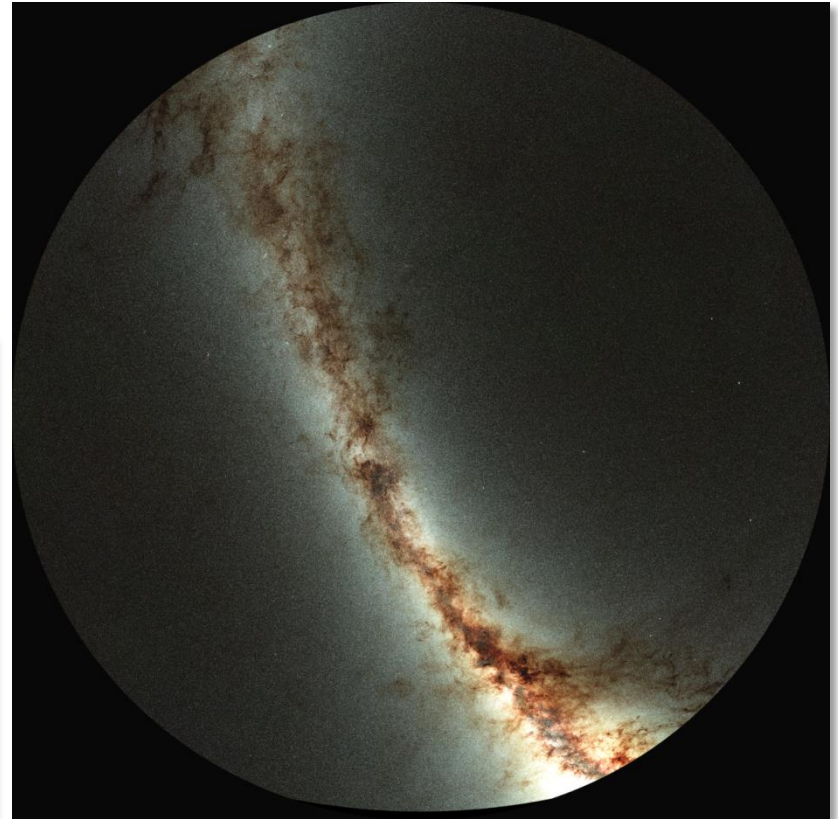
PanSTARRS image covers only 3π

(Panoramic Survey Telescope And Rapid Response System;
1.8m telescope with 1.4 Gpix camera; map sky in 5 broadband filters)

Mollweide to Domemaster



<https://panstarrs.stsci.edu/>



2π

10

How to bring image data to the dome

HEALPix to Domemaster

(Hierarchical Equal Area isoLatitude Pixelization)

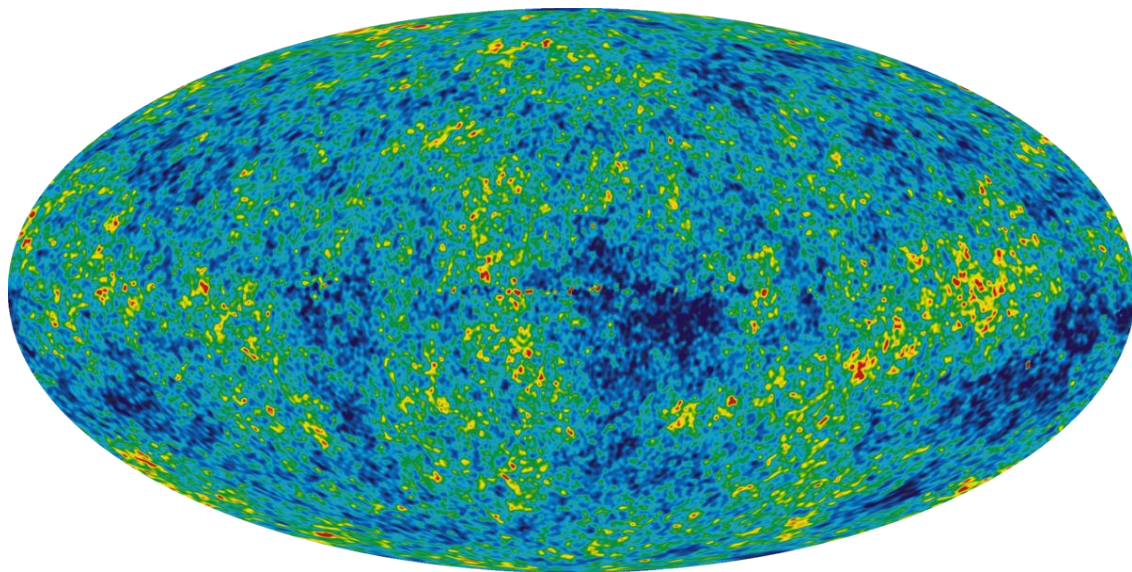
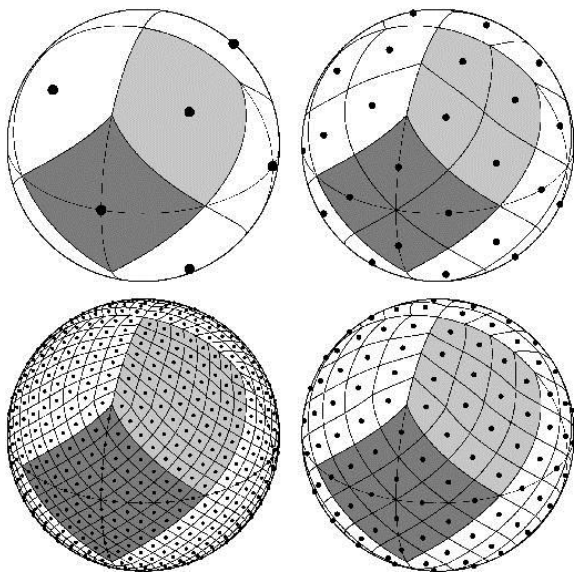
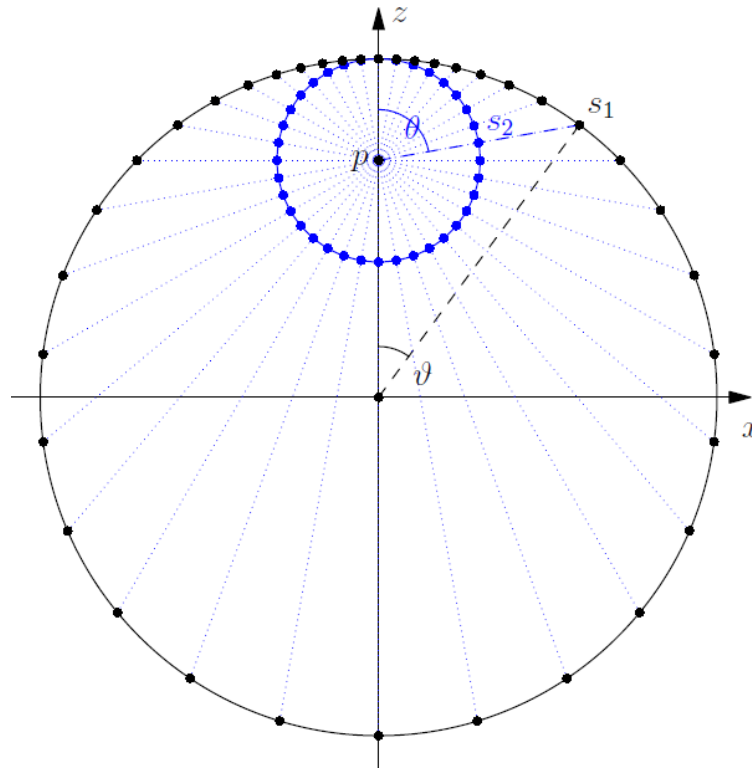


Image source: <http://healpix.sourceforge.net/>

Image source: NASA / WMAP Science Team

Zoom into spherical image

Zoom into image via sphere-to-sphere mapping:

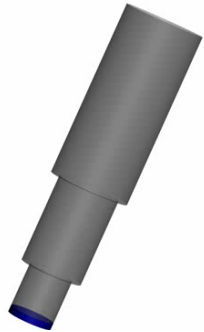


Zoom into spherical image

Zoom into image via special relativistic aberration



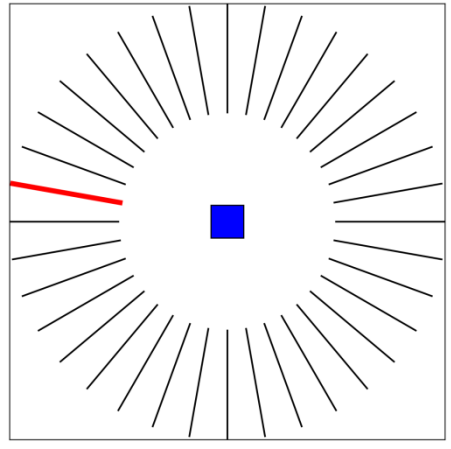
$$\cos \theta = \frac{\cos \vartheta + \beta}{1 + \beta \cos \vartheta}$$



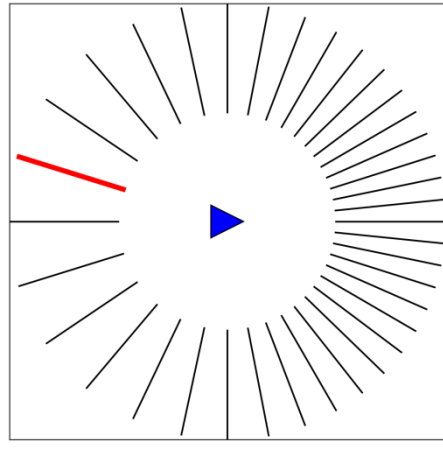
Zoom into spherical image

Zoom into image via special relativistic aberration

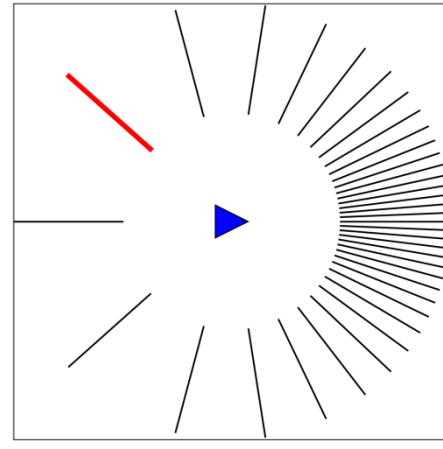
$$\cos \theta = \frac{\cos \vartheta + \beta}{1 + \beta \cos \vartheta}$$



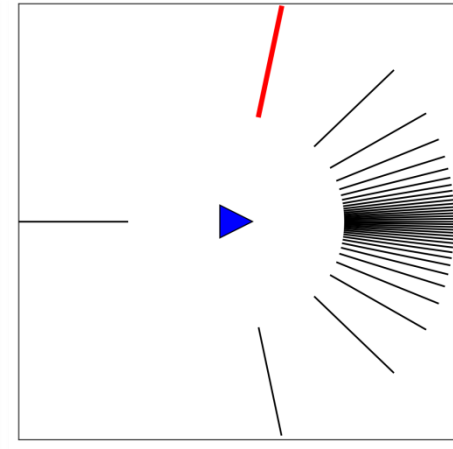
$\beta = 0$



$\beta = 0.5$



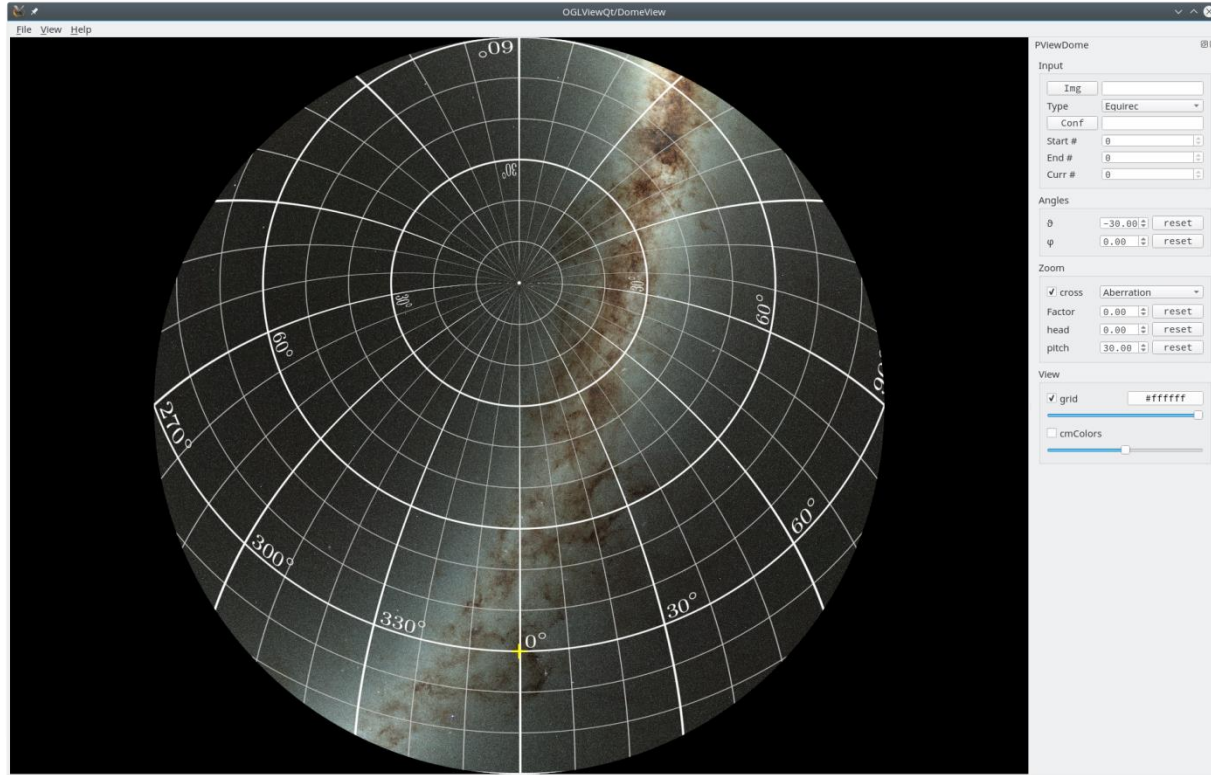
$\beta = 0.9$



$\beta = 0.99$

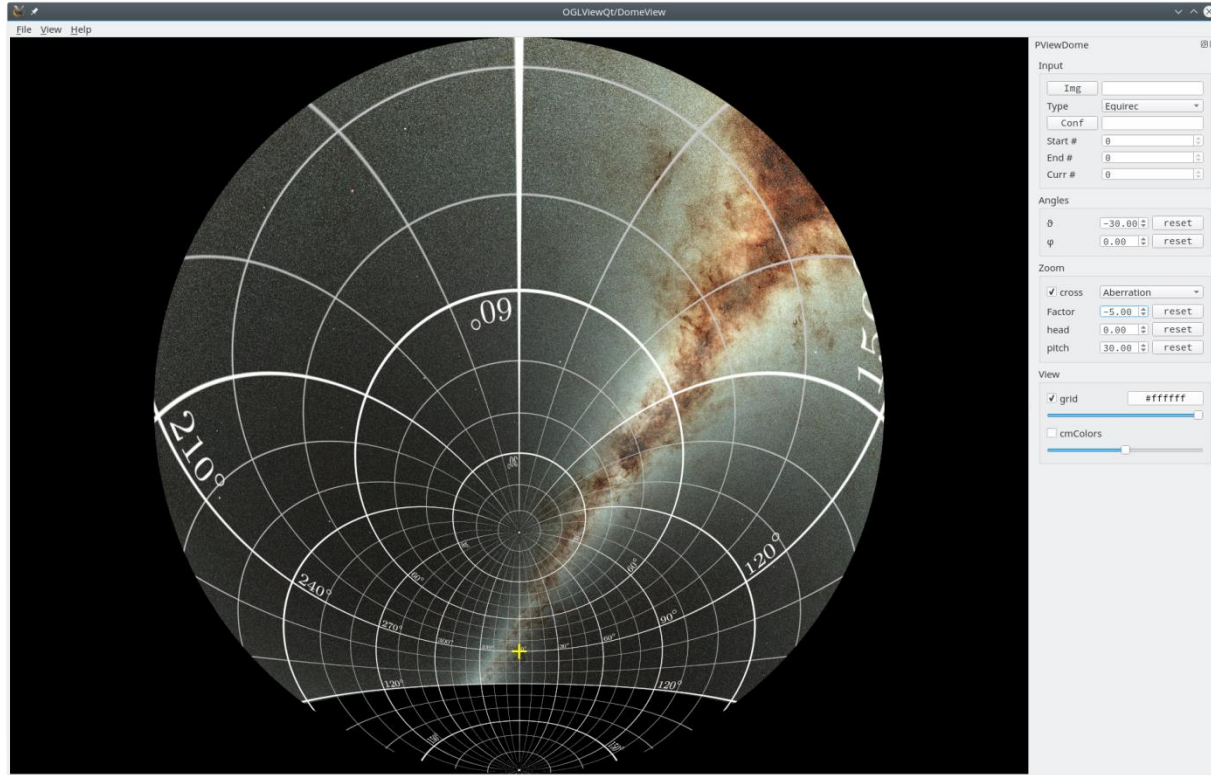
Zoom into spherical image

Zoom into image via special relativistic aberration



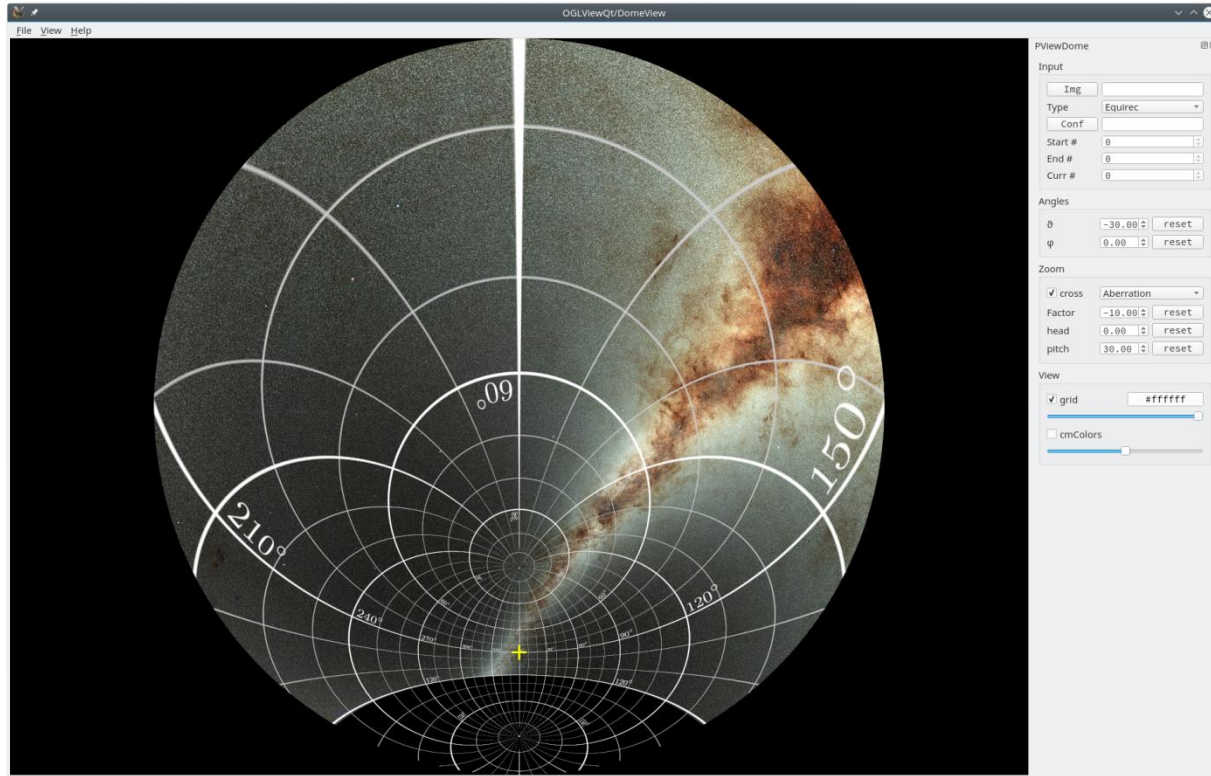
Zoom into spherical image

Zoom into image via special relativistic aberration



Zoom into spherical image

Zoom into image via special relativistic aberration

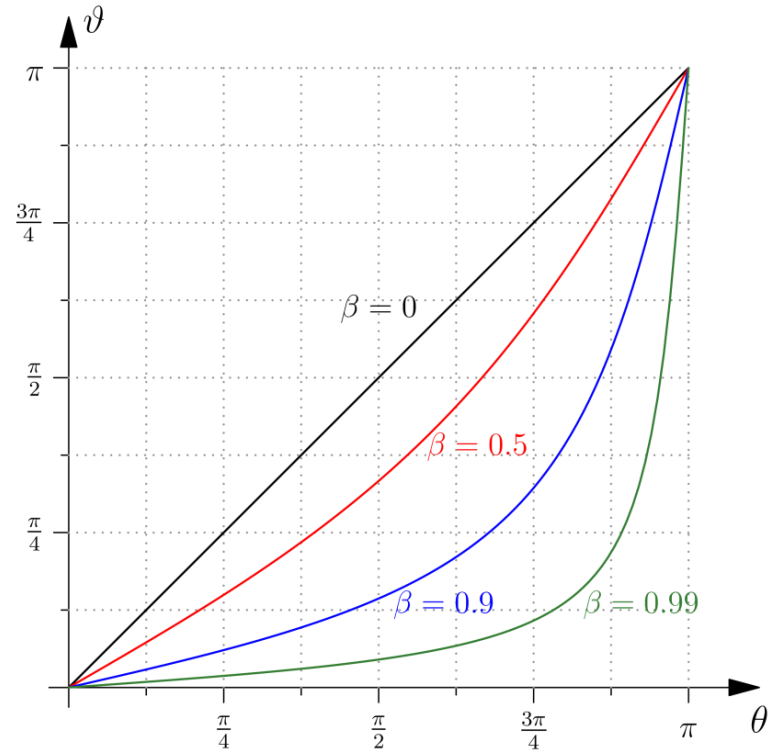
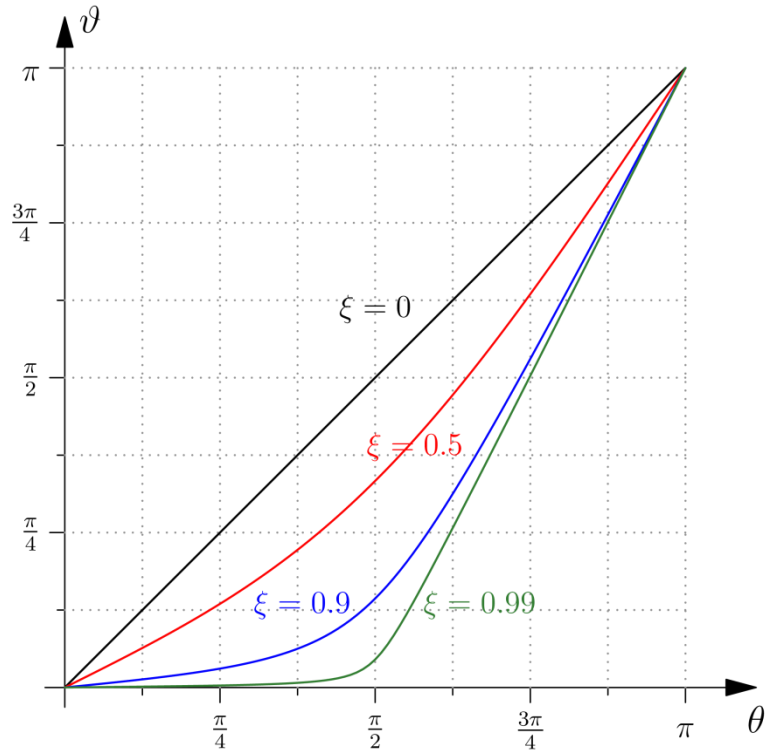


Zoom into spherical image

sphere-to-sphere

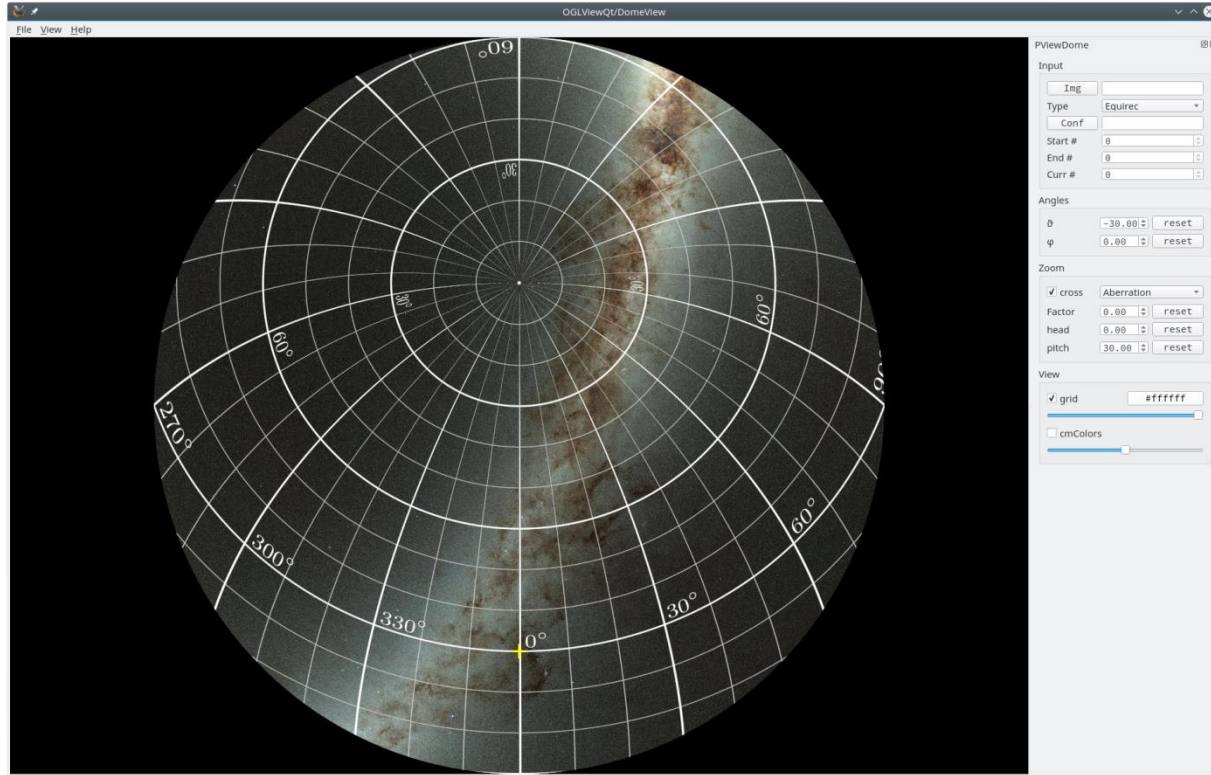
vs

special relativistic aberration



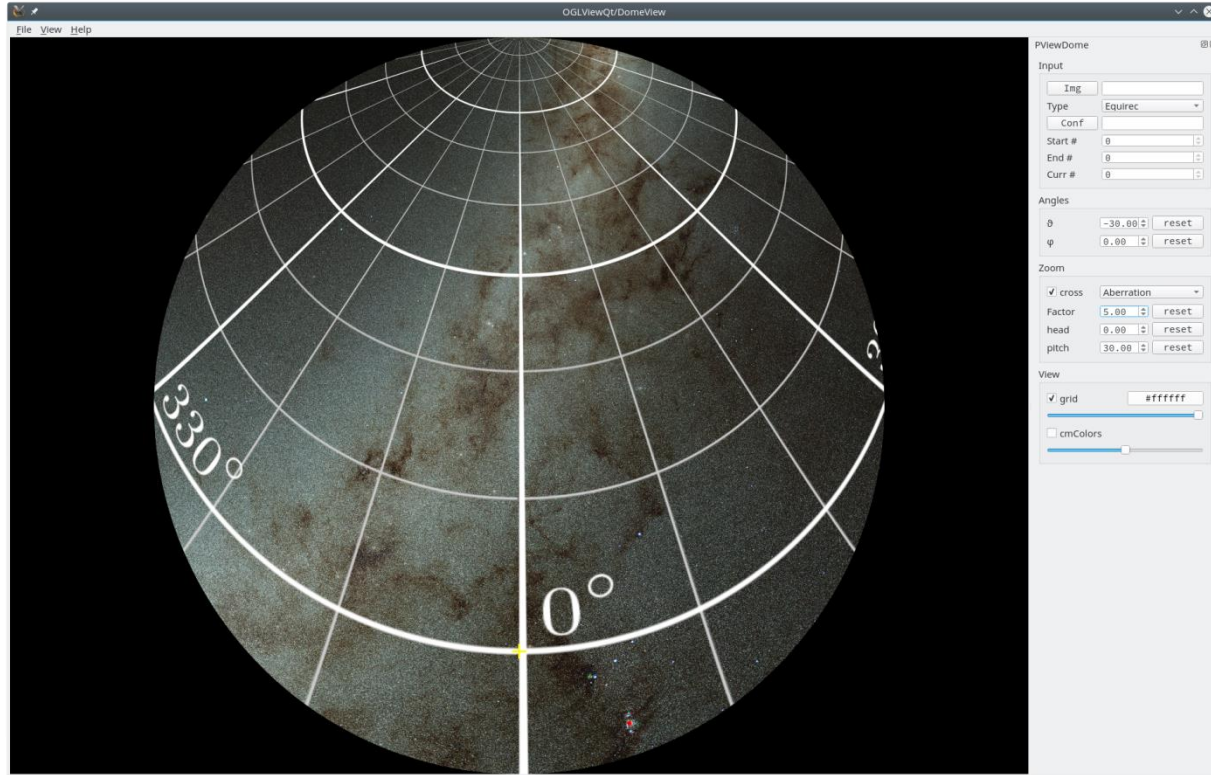
Zoom into spherical image

Zoom into image via special relativistic aberration



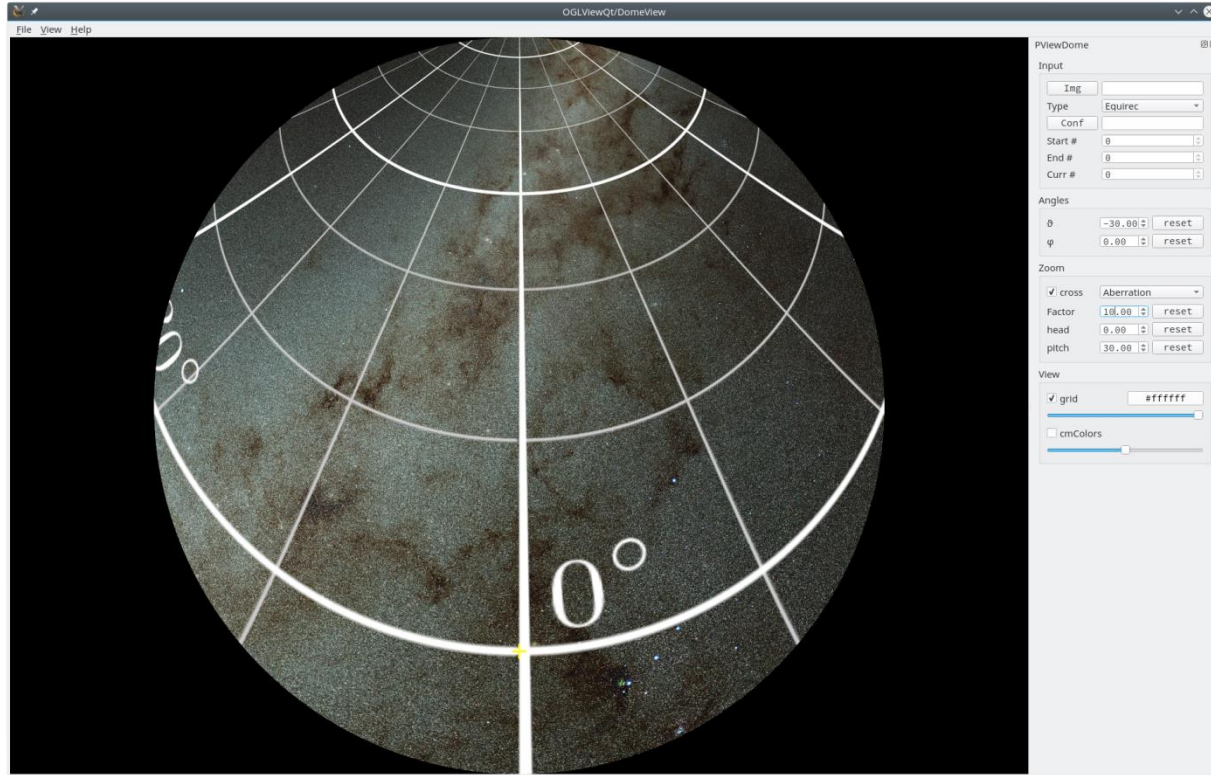
Zoom into spherical image

Zoom into image via special relativistic aberration



Zoom into spherical image

Zoom into image via special relativistic aberration



Very large images

Generate hierarchical image pyramid; caching and preloading

LOD 0

1024×1024

LOD 1

total: 2048×2048

LOD 2

total: 4096×4096

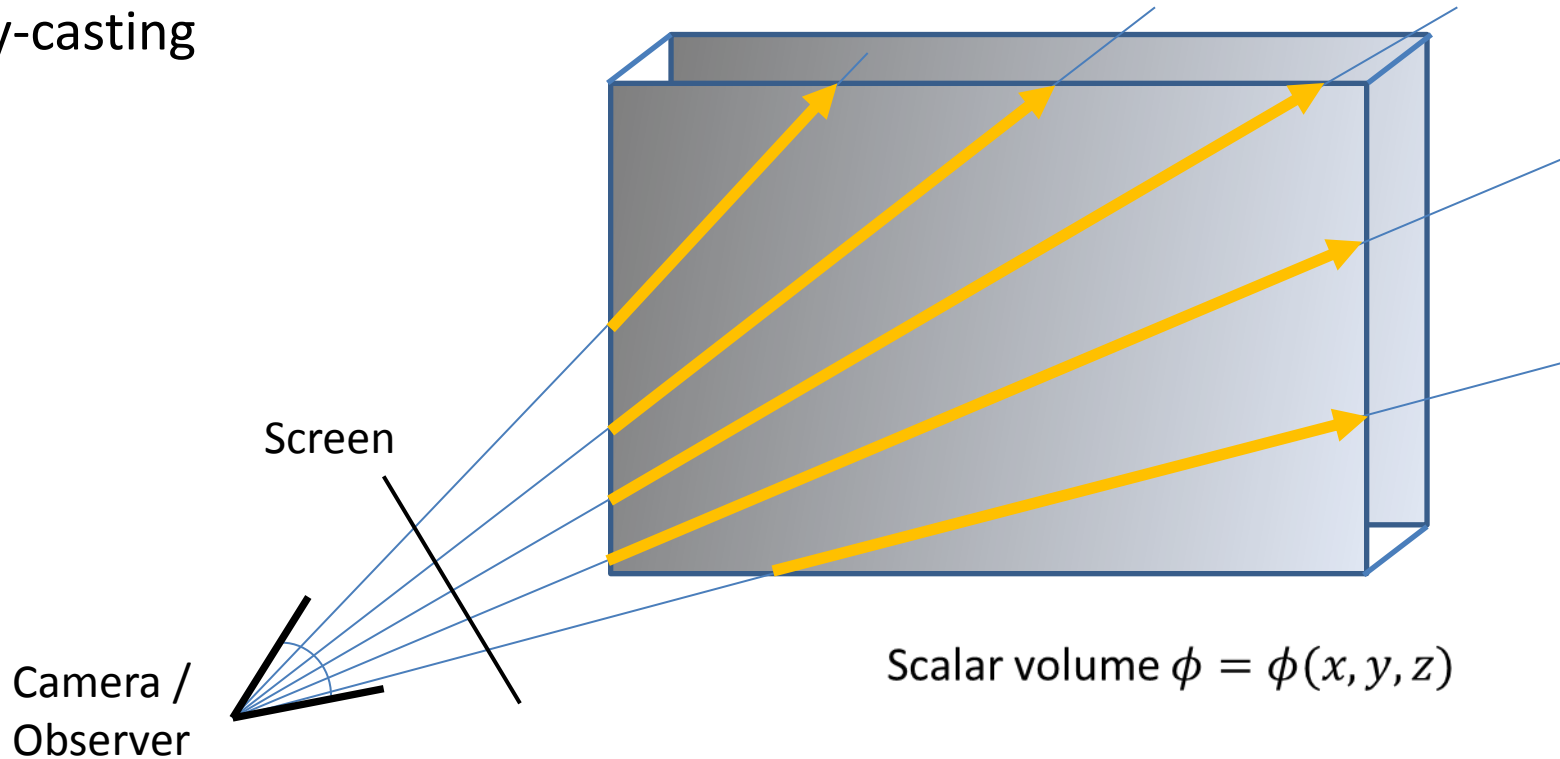
LOD 3

total: 8192×8192

Image licence is not clear

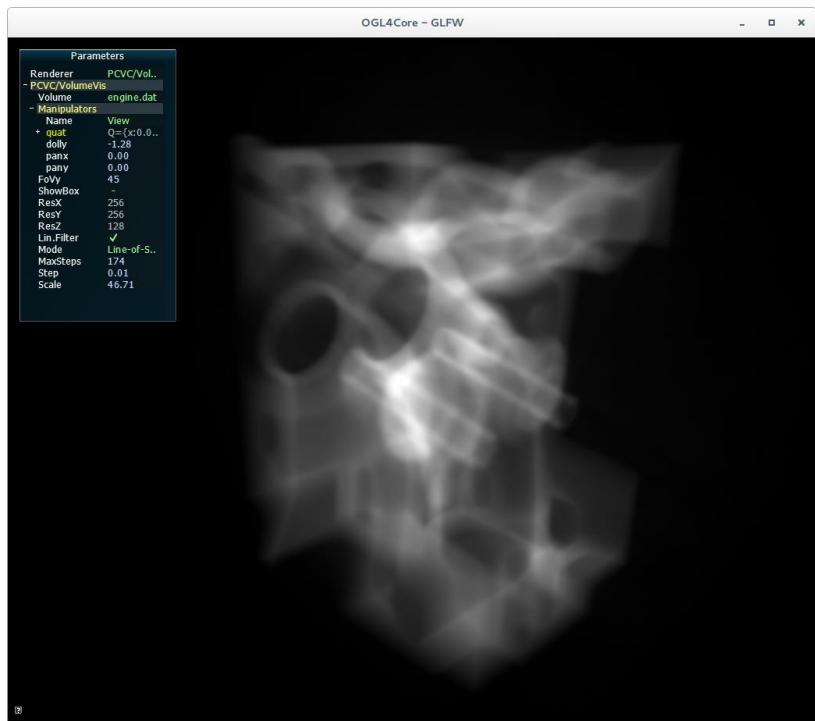
Direct Volume Rendering

Ray-casting

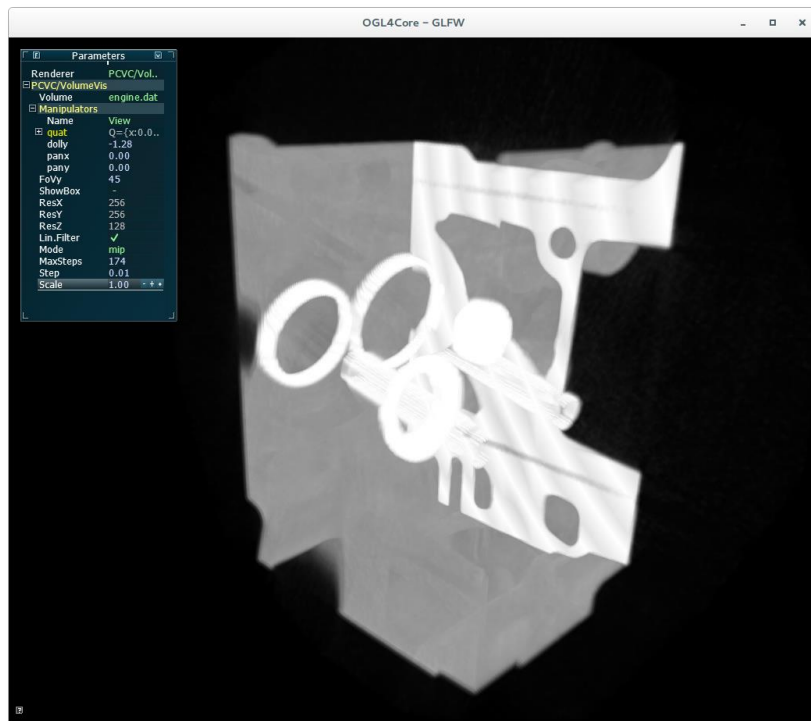


Direct Volume Rendering

Line-of-sight integration

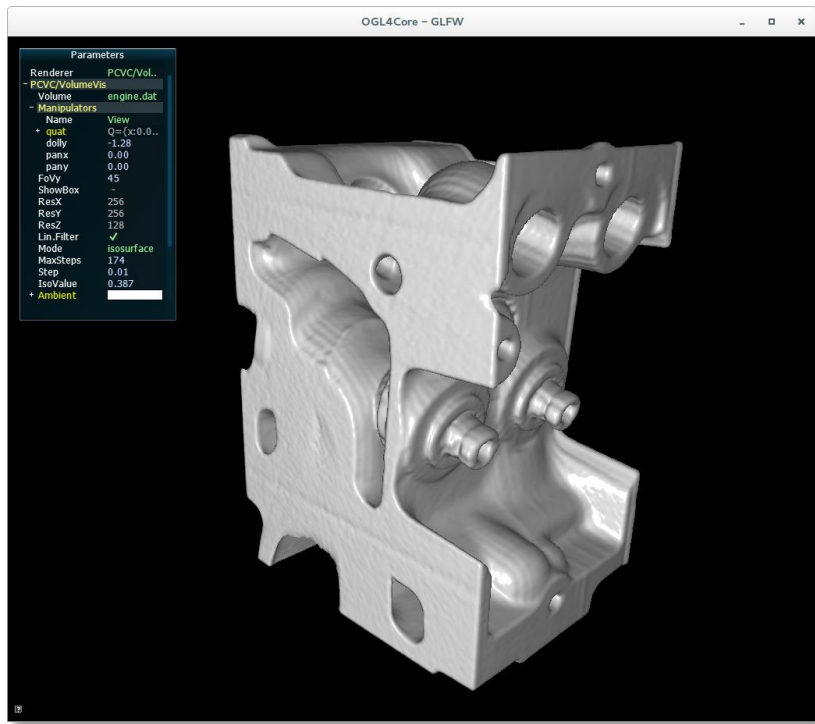


Maximum-Intensity-Projection



Direct Volume Rendering

Isosurface with Phong-Illumination



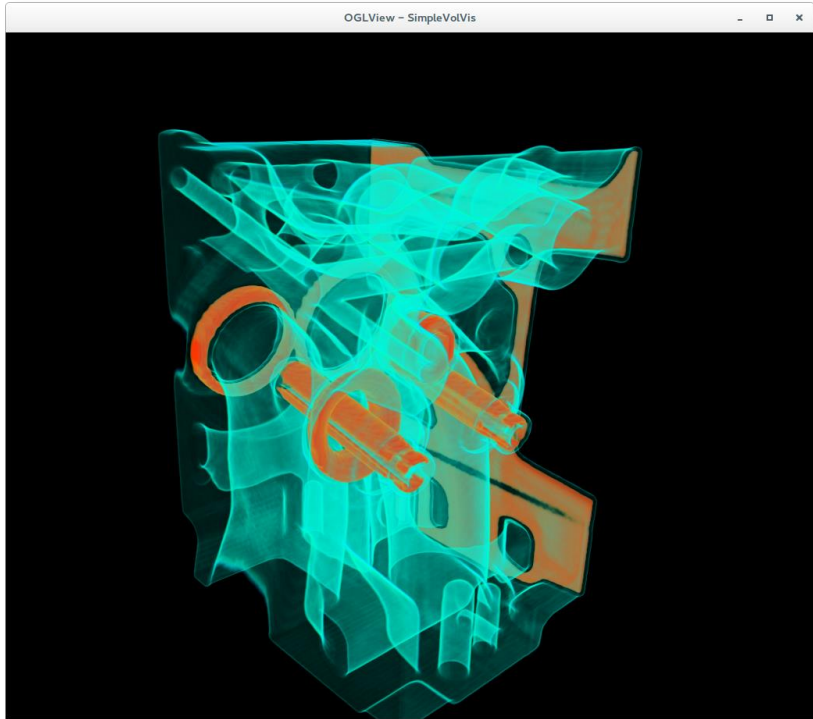
For each ray:

- find scalar value $\phi = \phi_{iso} \Rightarrow P = (x, y, z)$
- calculate gradient $\nabla\phi$ at point P
- calculate angle between gradient and direction of light source
- Phong shading based on ambient, diffuse and specular light

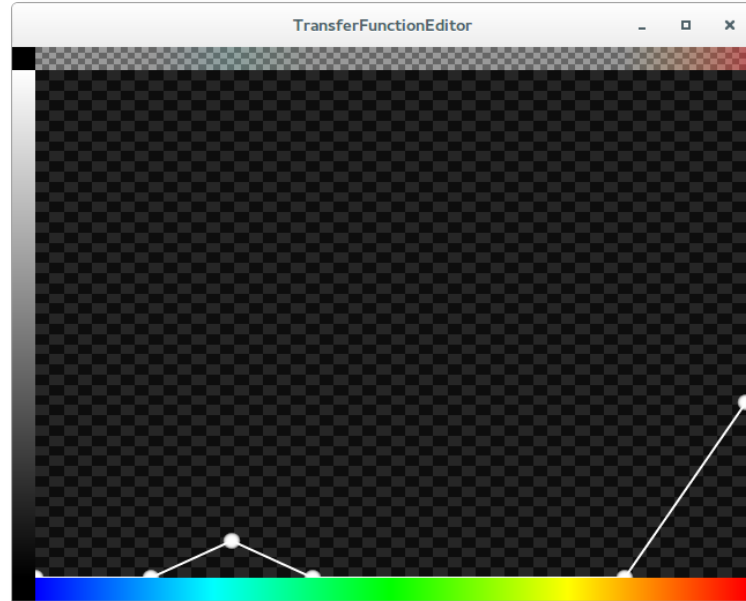
Disadvantage: isosurface is opaque

Direct Volume Rendering

VolumeVis with Transferfunction



Transferfunction maps scalar value to color and opacity



Direct Volume Rendering

Challenges:

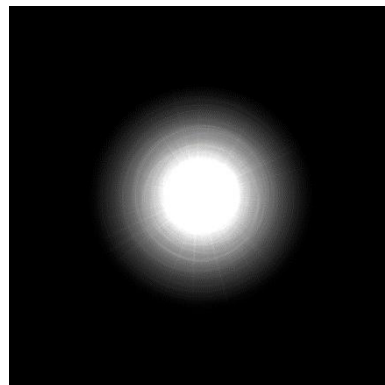
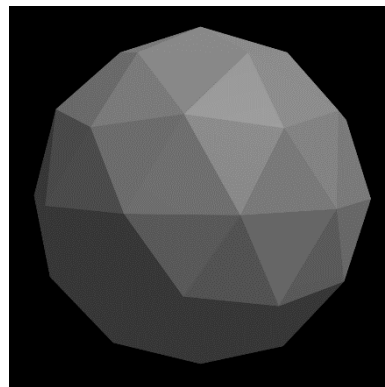
- data sets become very large: do not longer fit into GPU memory
- out-of-core rendering techniques
- dynamic data sets become e.g. too complex to select isosurfaces manually
- visualization of multivariate data: 3D vector or tensor fields
- more advanced transfer functions (2D: scalar + gradient)
- ...

Particle Rendering

Particle rendering using single vertices.

Particle rendering using small spheres:

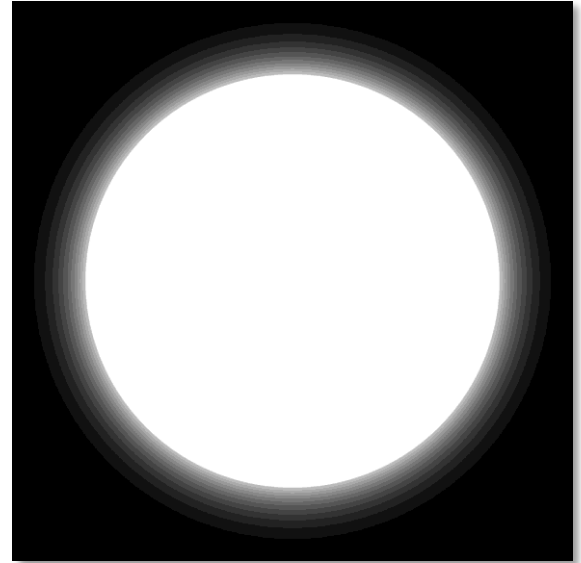
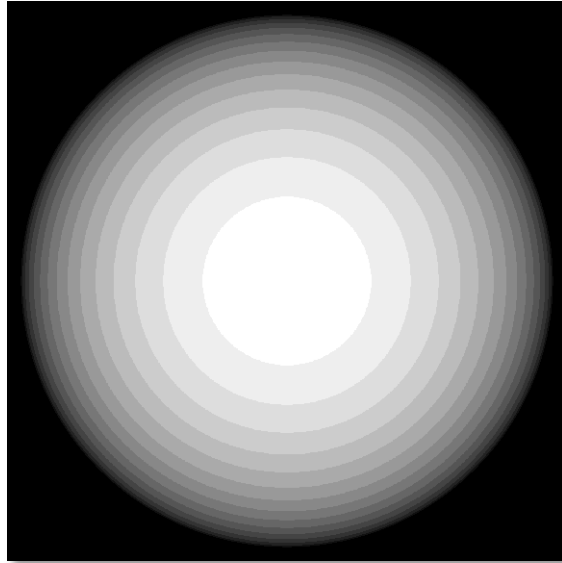
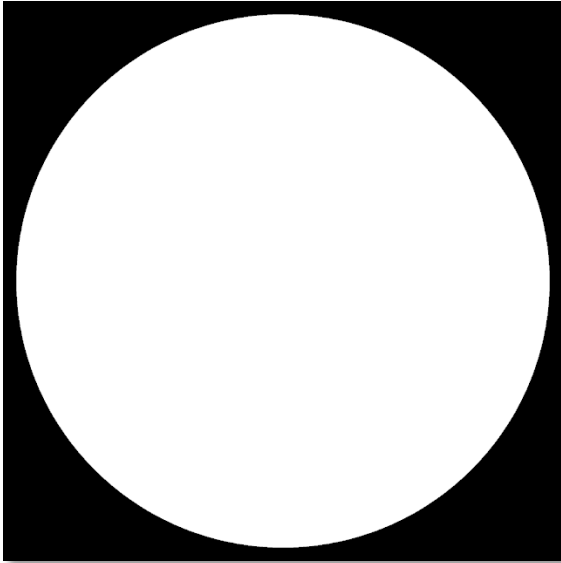
- approximated by triangle mesh;
too many geometry!
- slow



Particle Rendering

Particle rendering using billboards (camera oriented, shaded quad)

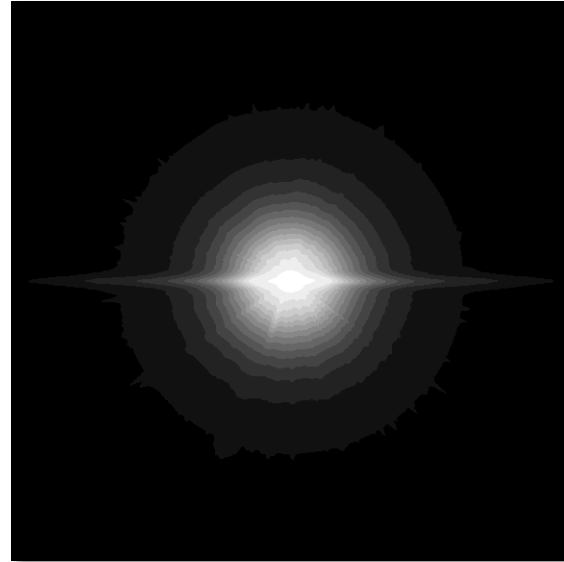
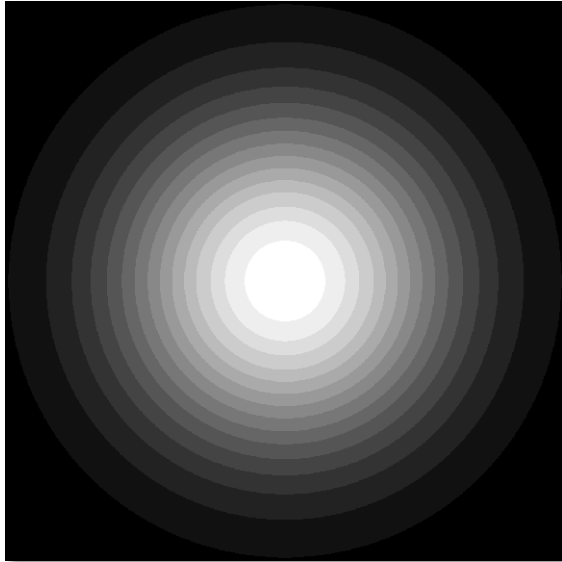
- very fast



Particle Rendering

Particle rendering using billboards (camera oriented, shaded quad)

- very fast



Particle Rendering

Particle rendering using billboards

- Blending \rightarrow depth sorting (very expensive)

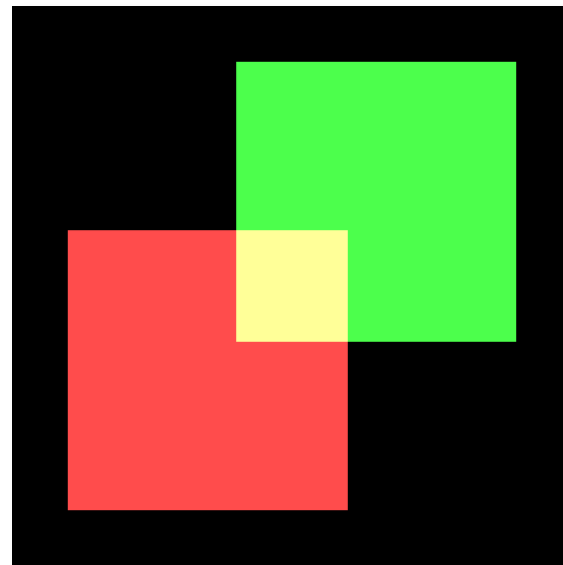
red in front of green



green in front of red

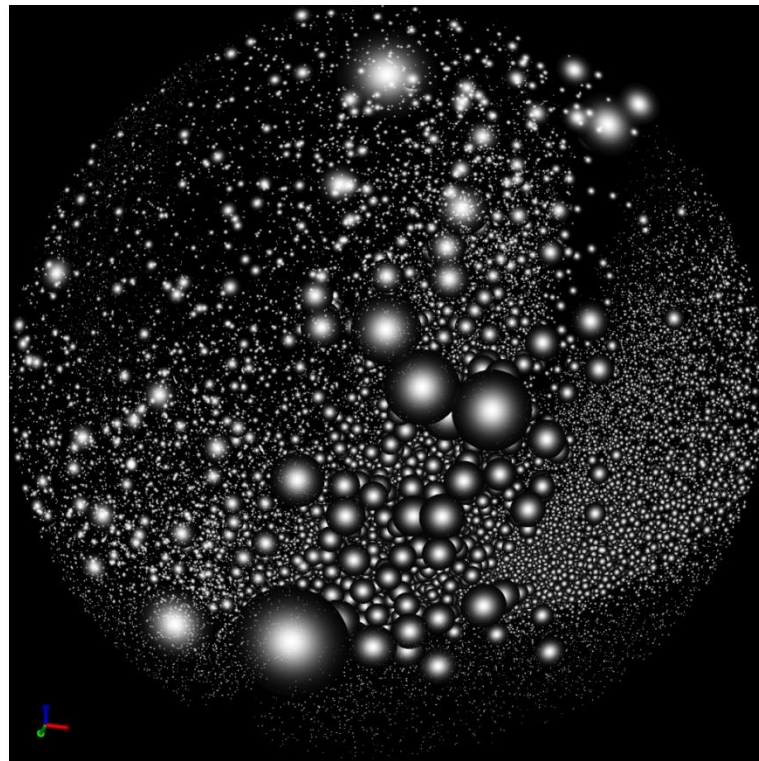
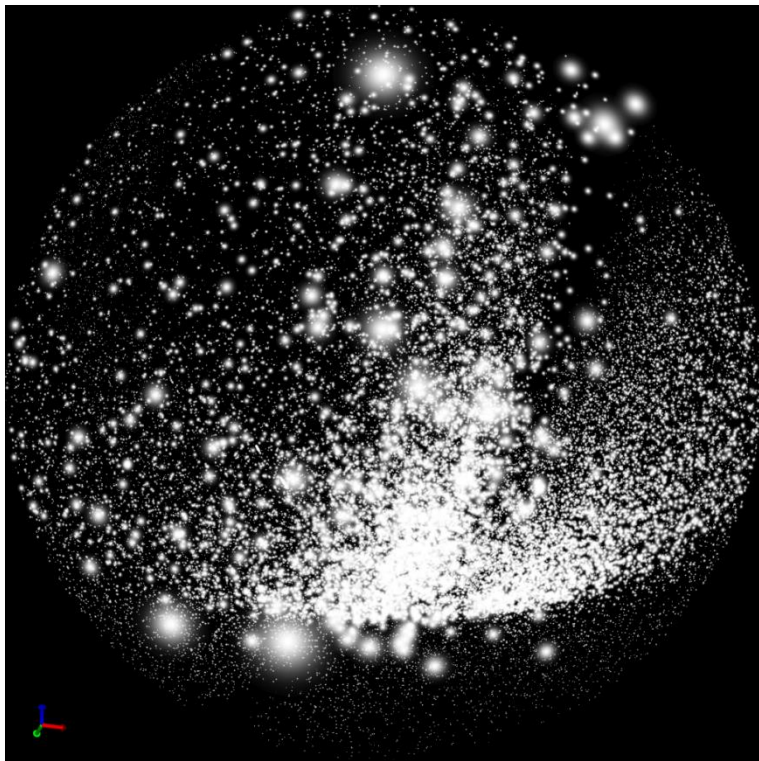


additive blending



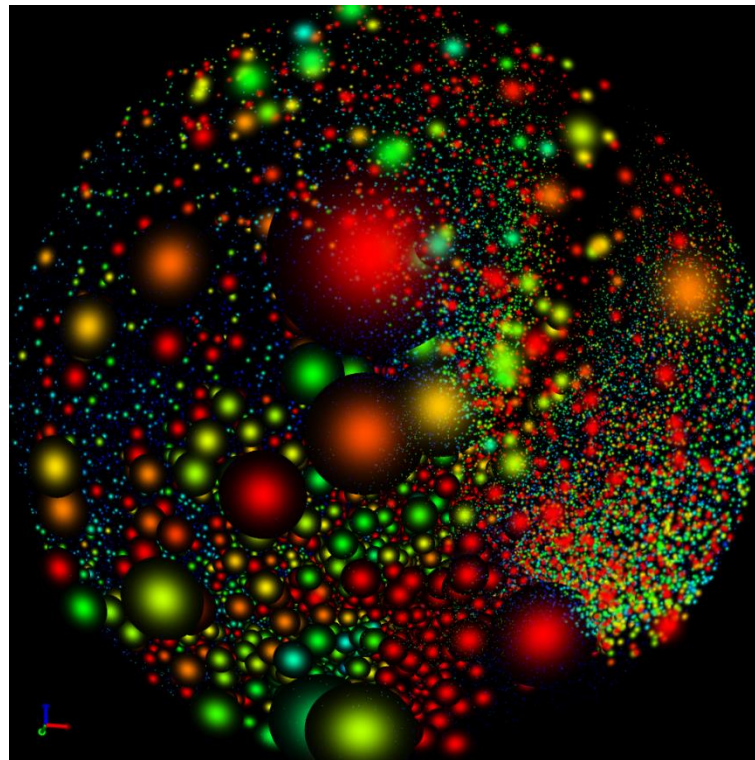
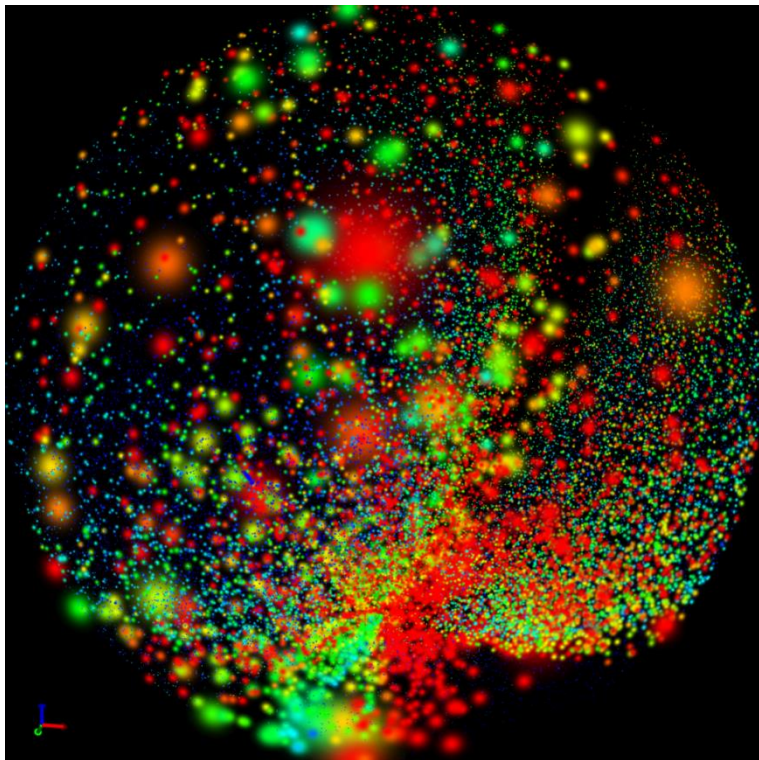
Particle Rendering

Star rendering using billboards (only white)



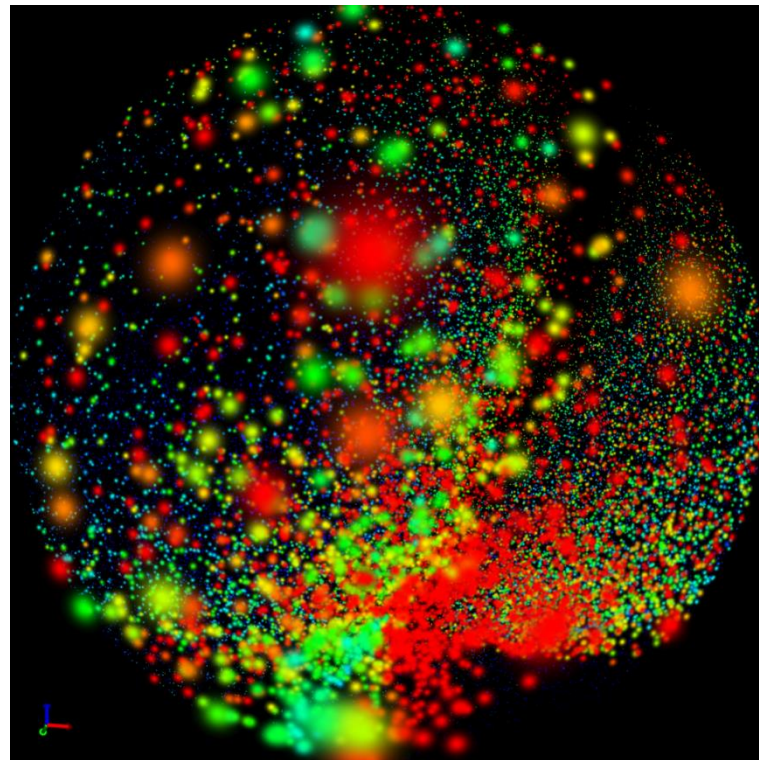
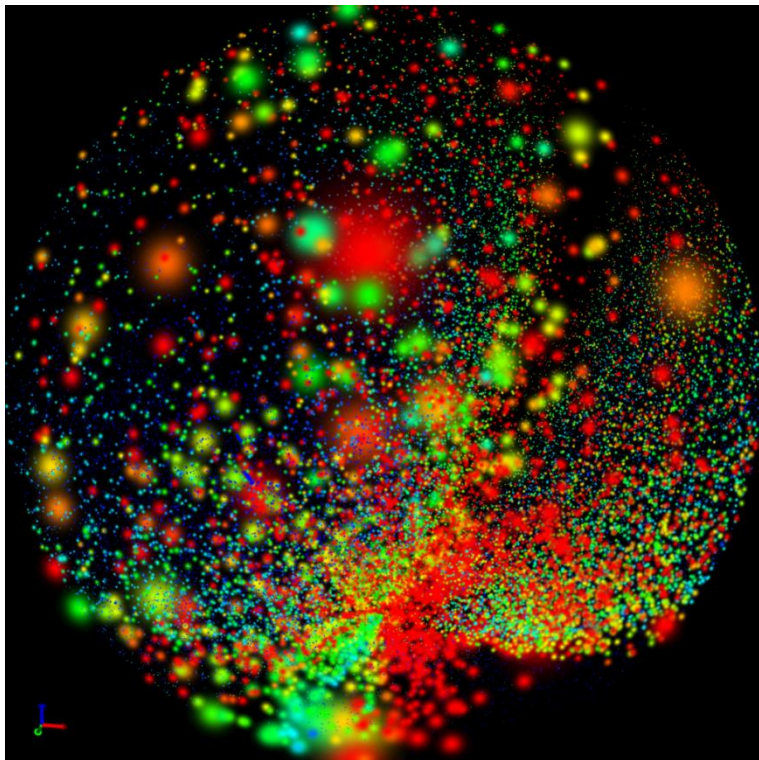
Particle Rendering

Star rendering using billboards (colored stars)



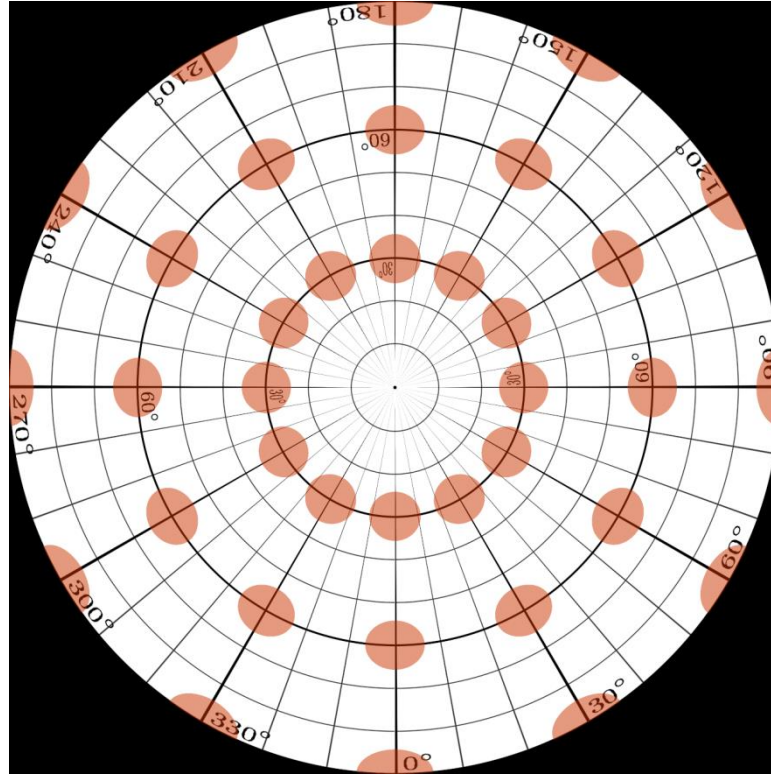
Particle Rendering

Star rendering using billboards (colored stars)



Particle Rendering

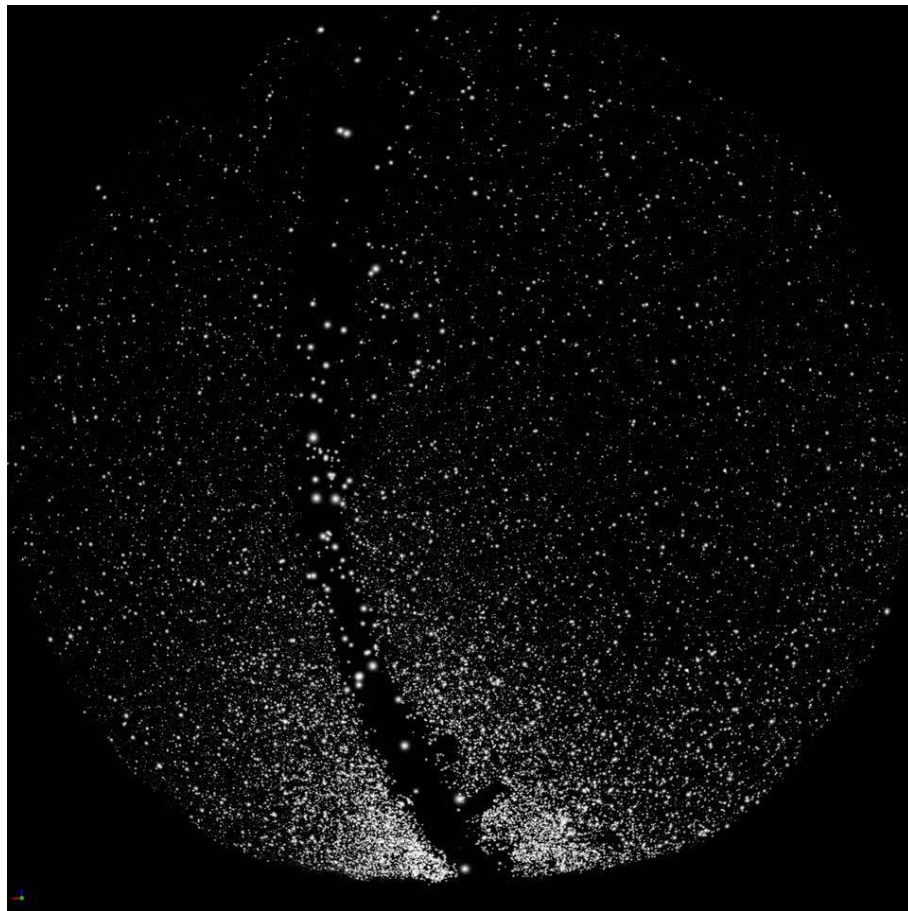
Star rendering using billboards (geometry correction)



RRLyrae stars from PanSTARRS (work in progress)

Visualization of RRLyrae stars
(H.W. Rix)

- about 44000 stars
- Star sizes depend on distance to observer
- Star brightness decreases by distance and are faded to full transparent
- Sorting on CPU; better on GPU

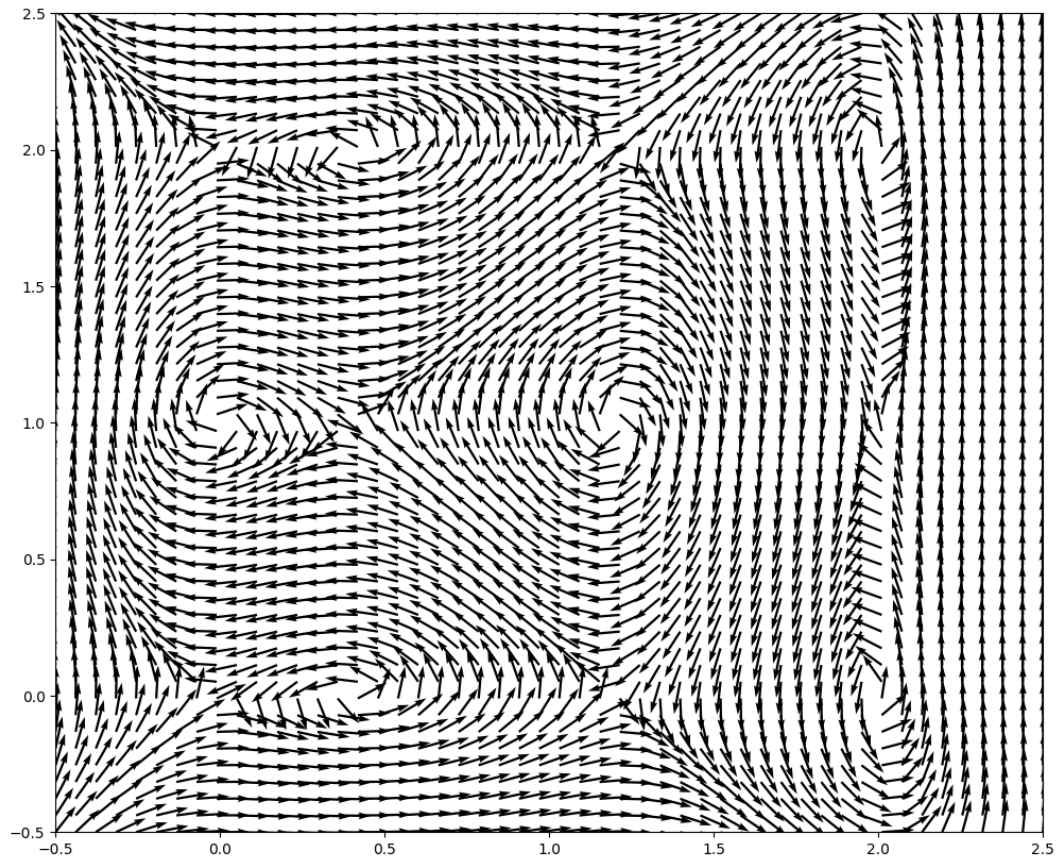


Visualization of vector fields

Vector fields

$$\vec{x} \mapsto \vec{\sigma}(\vec{x}) \quad \forall \vec{x} \in \mathbb{D}$$

- Every arrow indicates the vector $\vec{\sigma}$ at \vec{x} .
- $\vec{\sigma}$ can be normalized.
- critical points are difficult to determine

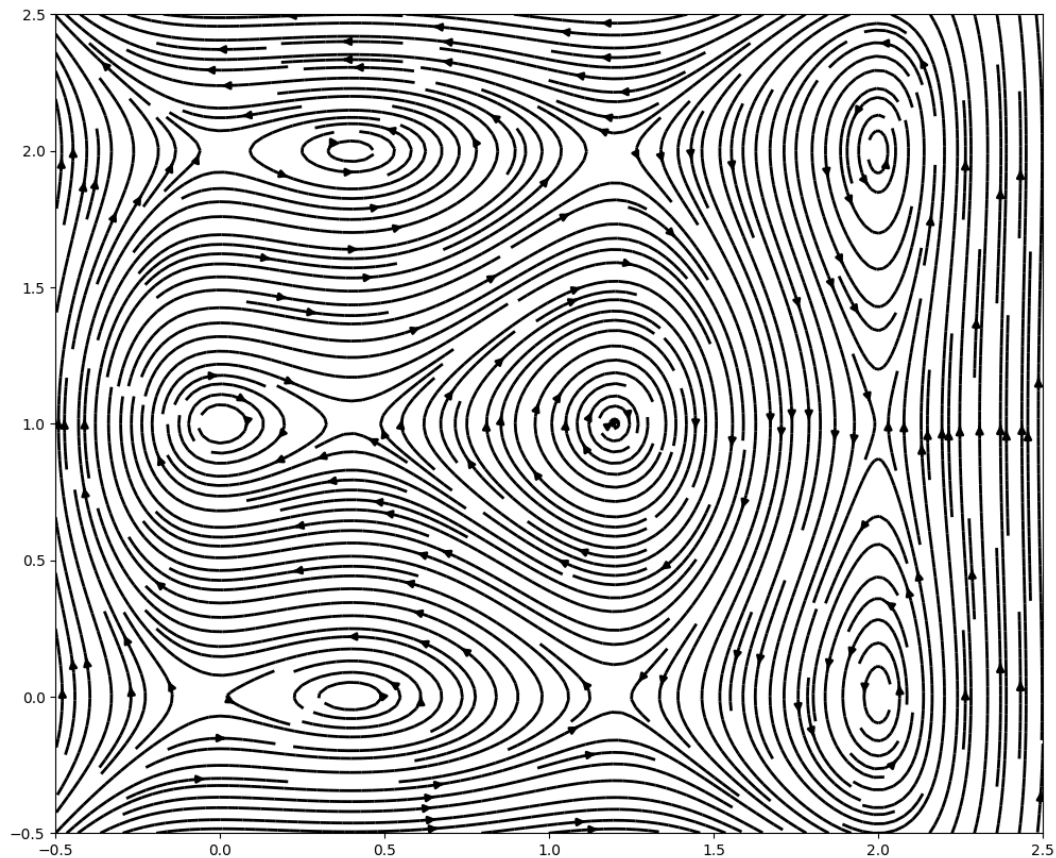


Visualization of vector fields

Vector fields

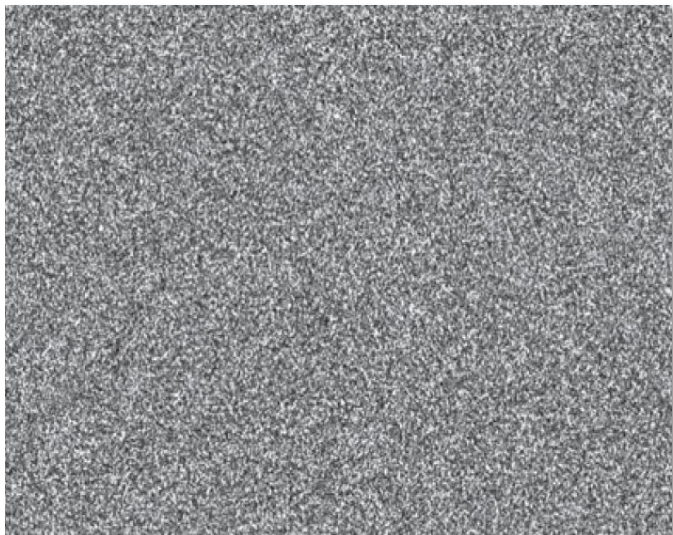
$$\vec{x} \mapsto \vec{\sigma}(\vec{x}) \quad \forall \vec{x} \in \mathbb{D}$$

- Stream lines are integral lines along the vector field $\vec{\sigma}$
- Stream line placement is important!

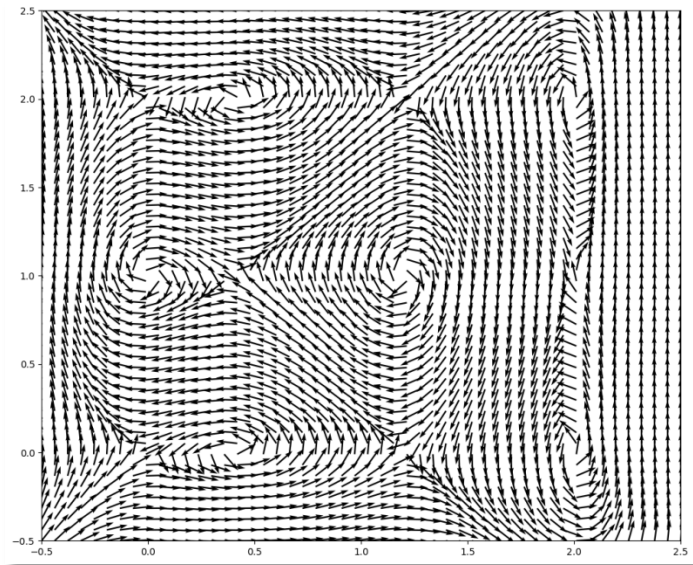


Visualization of vector fields

Line integral convolution (LIC)



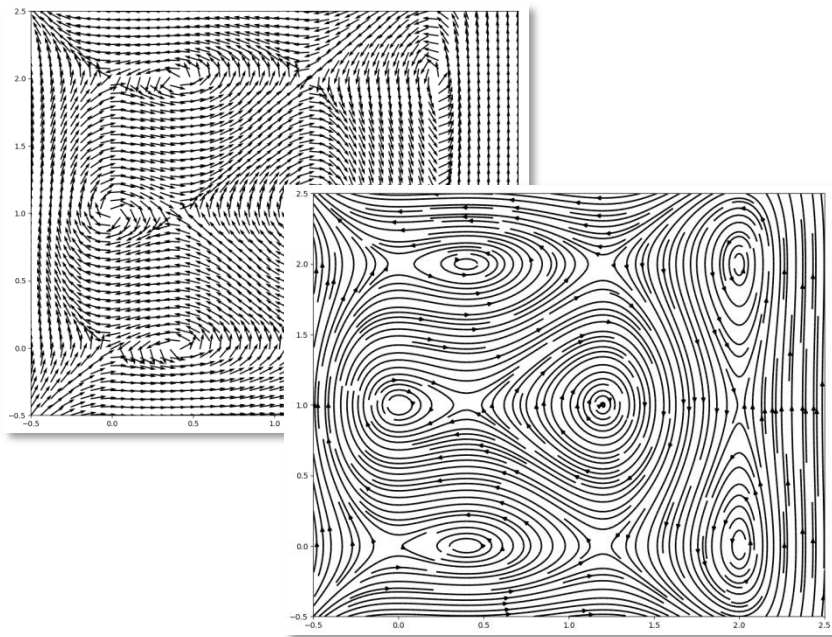
*



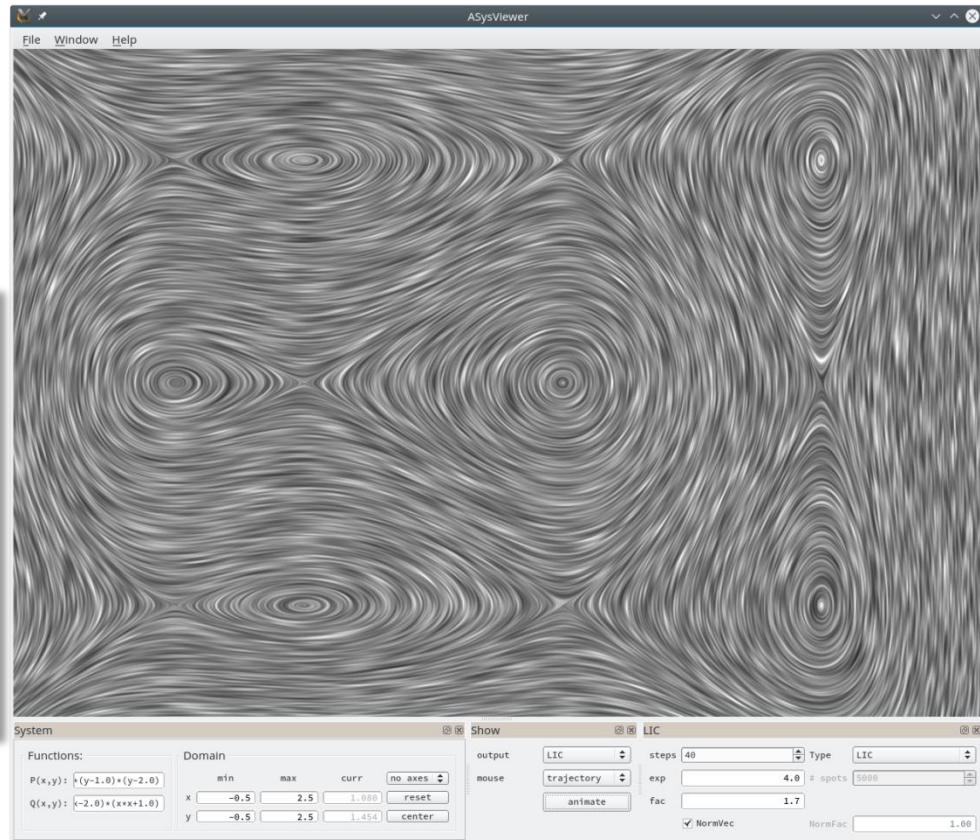
⇒ strong correlation along vector field; no correlation perpendicular

Visualization of vector fields

Line integral convolution



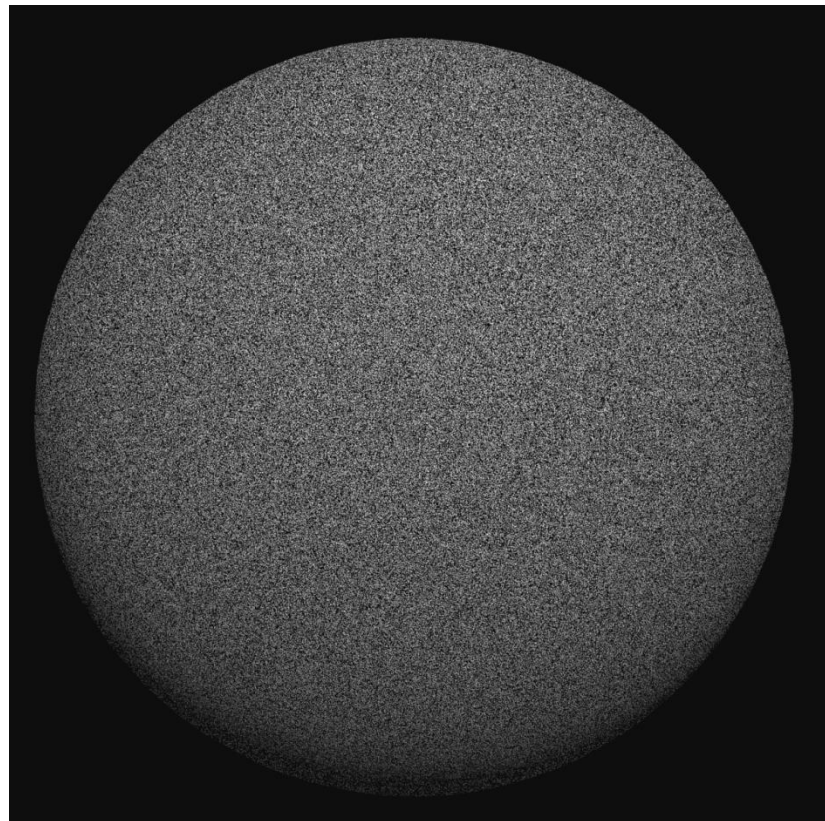
Animated / oriented LIC to keep direction information.



Visualization of vector fields (work in progress)

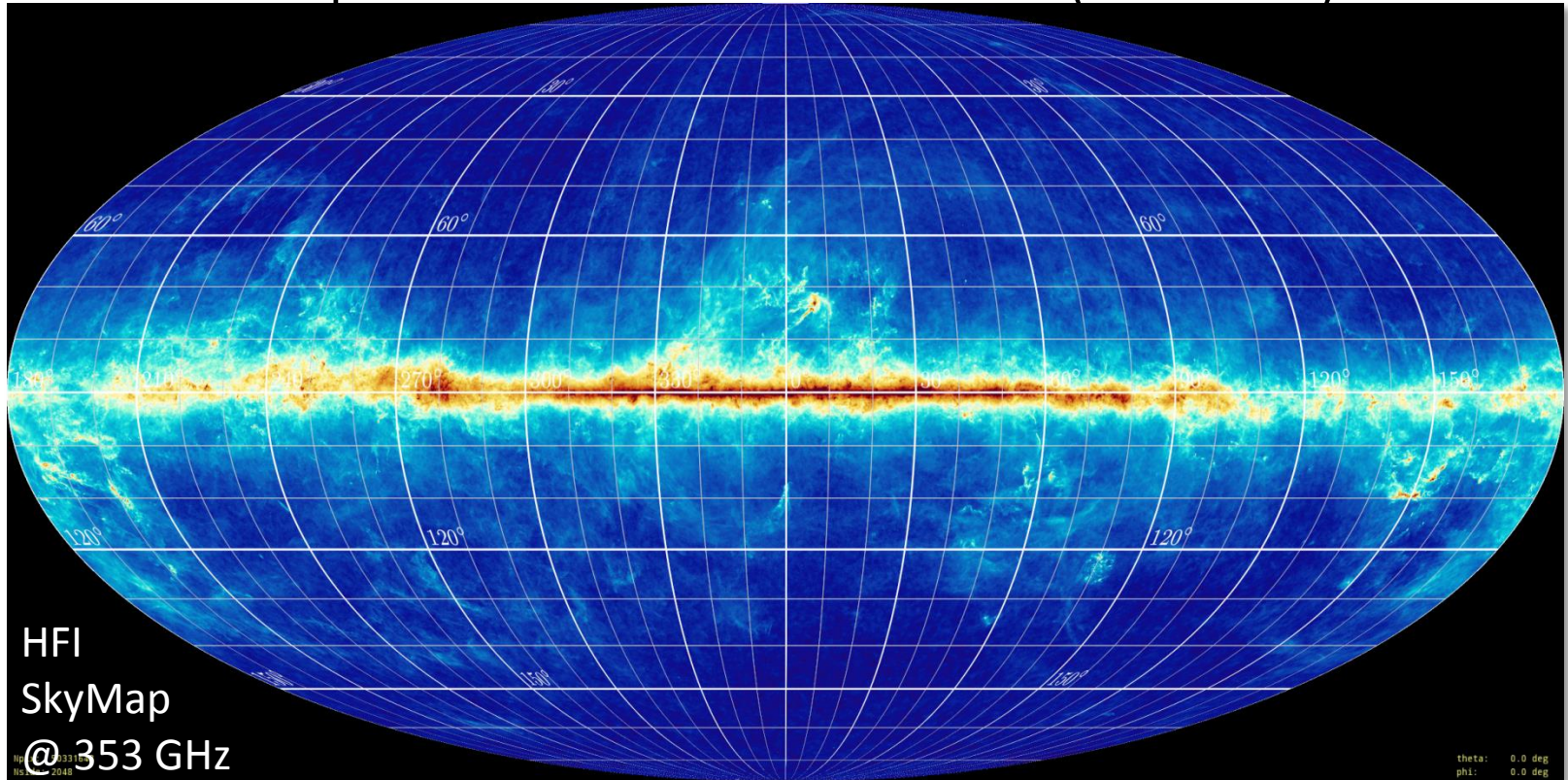
Line integral convolution on spheres

- Integrate along surface of sphere
- implement in CUDA
- calculate LIC before mapping



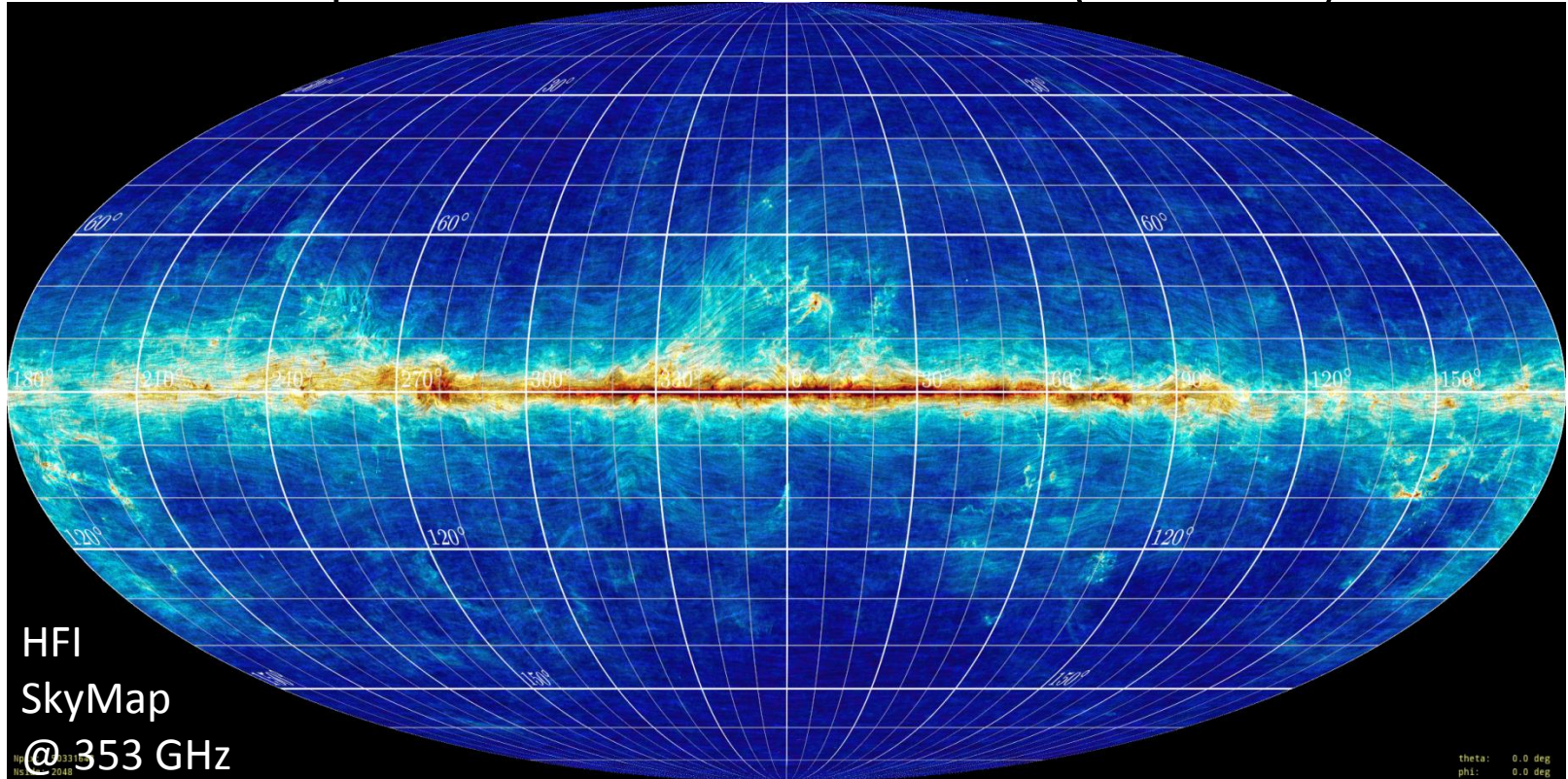
Planck data / polarization

Visualization of polarization data of Planck data (Juan Soler)



Planck data / polarization

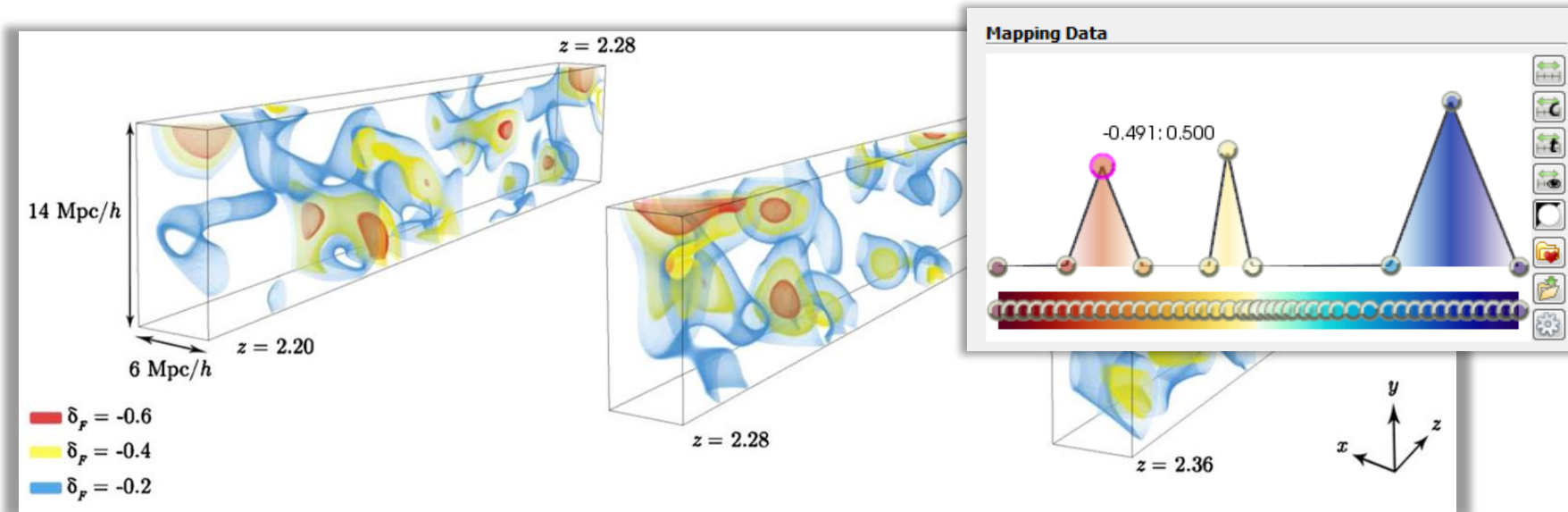
Visualization of polarization data of Planck data (Juan Soler)



IGM Tomography (ongoing work)

High quality volume vis of IGM Tomography (K.G. Lee, Joe Hennawi)

- Volume data set (Cartesian grid, 680 x 48 x 36)

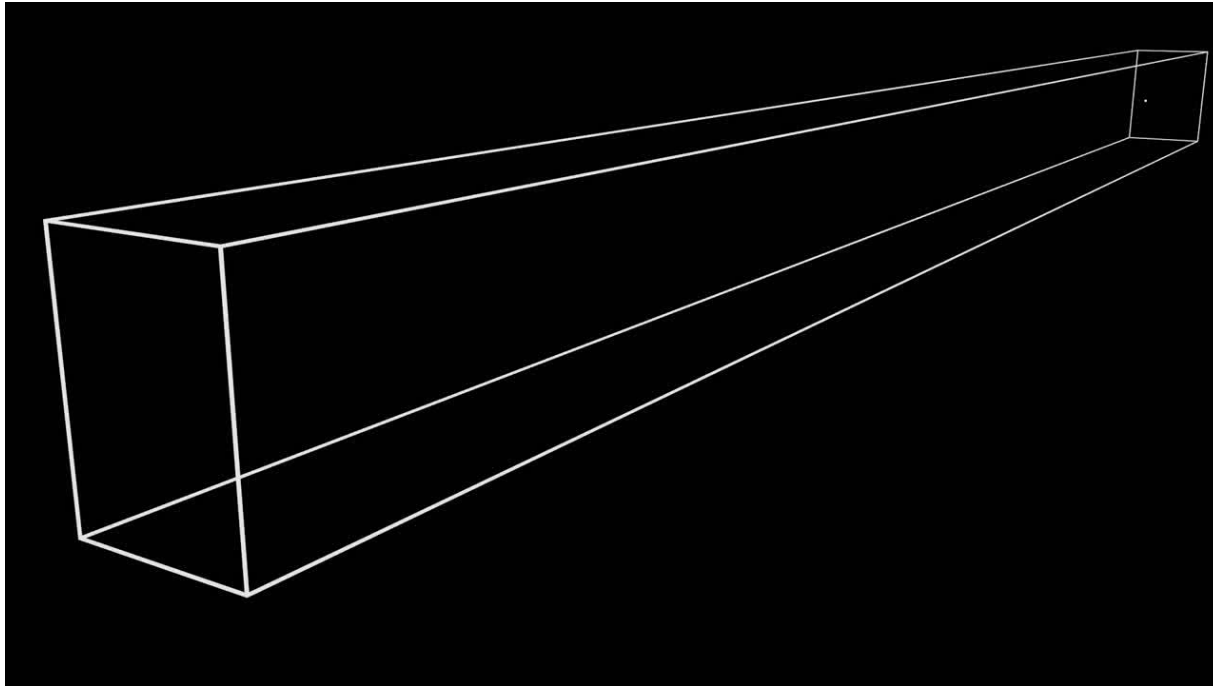


K.G. Lee et al, "Ly-alpha Forest Tomography from background galaxies: The first megaparsec-resolution large-scale structure map at $z > 2$ " ApJL 795:L12 (2014)

IGM Tomography (ongoing work)

High quality volume vis of IGM Tomography (K.G. Lee, Joe Hennawi)

- Volume data set (Cartesian grid, 680 x 48 x 36)

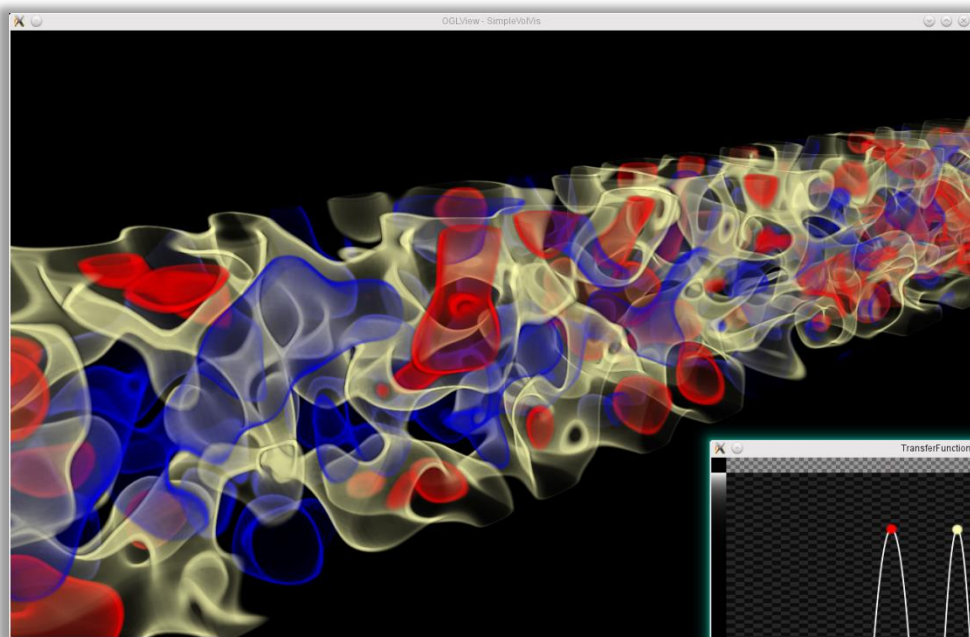


IGM Tomography (ongoing work)

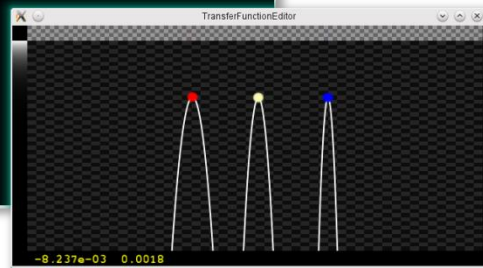
High quality volume vis of IGM Tomography (K.G. Lee, Joe Hennawi)

- Volume data set (Cartesian grid, 680 x 48 x 36)

VolVis with own
framework
(OpenGLView)



Gauss curve
TF editor for
isosurfaces



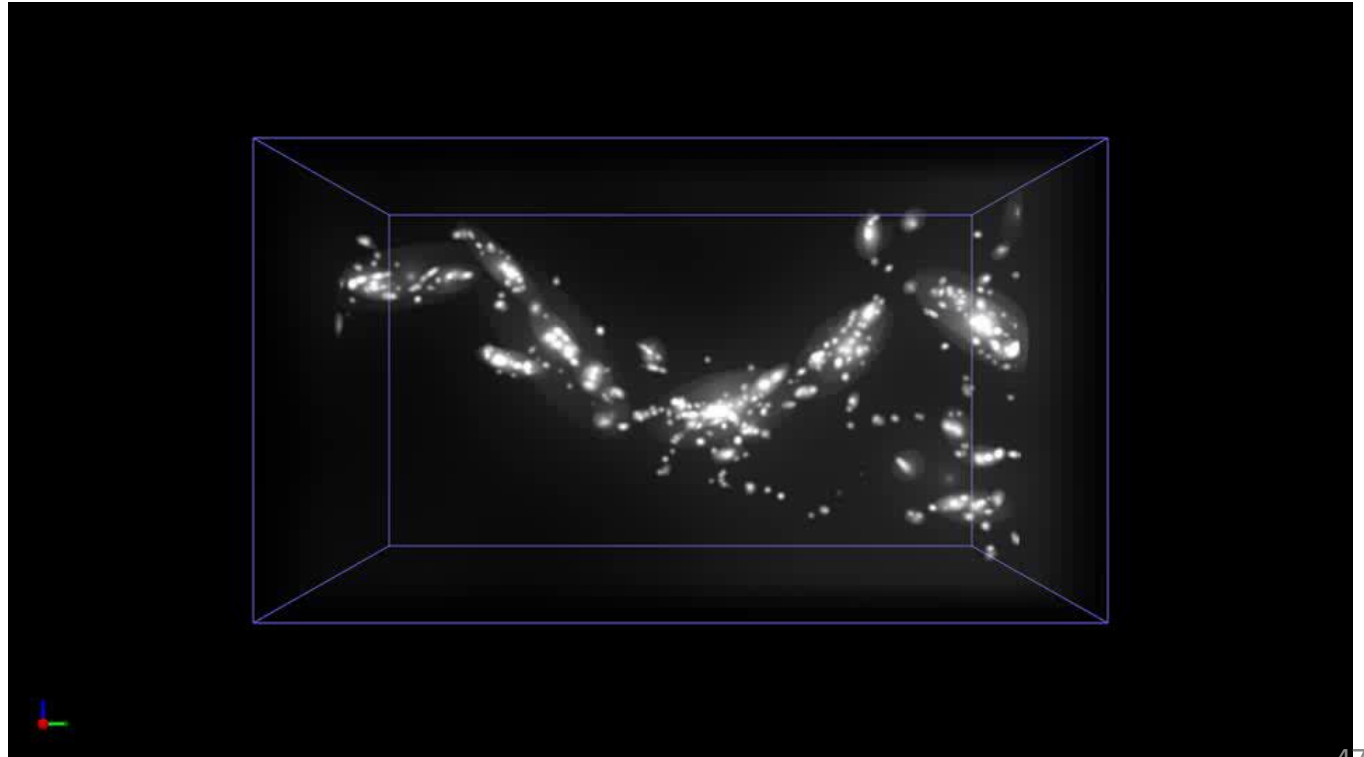
Filamentary structures in the interstellar medium

Volume vis of filamentary structures in the ISM (Jouni Kainulainen)

Cartesian grid

1024 x 581 x 581

MIP-rendering



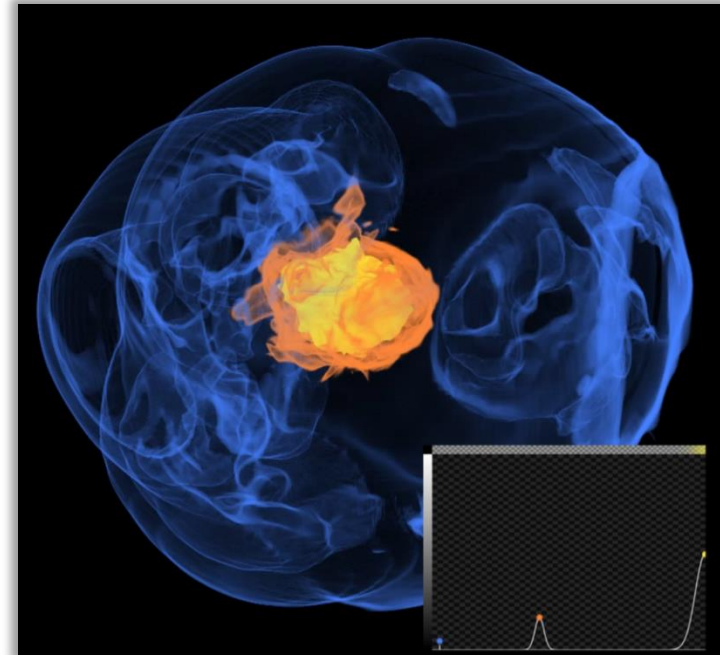
Core collapse supernova (work in progress)

Volume vis of supernova simulation (A. Summa, T. Melson, MPA)

- Volume data set (spherical grid, 358 x 186 x 522)

Aims:

- improve rendering performance, develop improved rendering techniques for spherical grids (OGLView: 1 sec @ 800 x 800 pixels)
- lower res during mouse interaction
- improve rendering quality (rendering artifacts due to undersampling, high freqs)
- improve visual depth perception (e.g. with ambient occlusion)

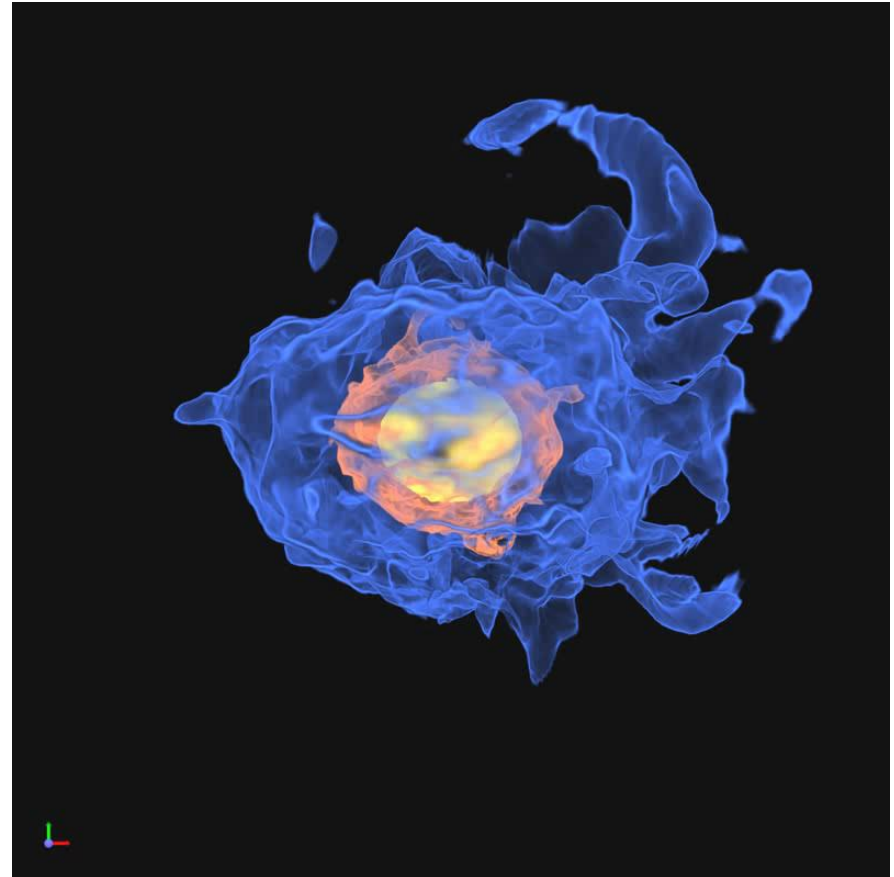


Core collapse supernova (work in progress)

Volume vis of supernova simulation (A. Summa, T. Melson, MPA)

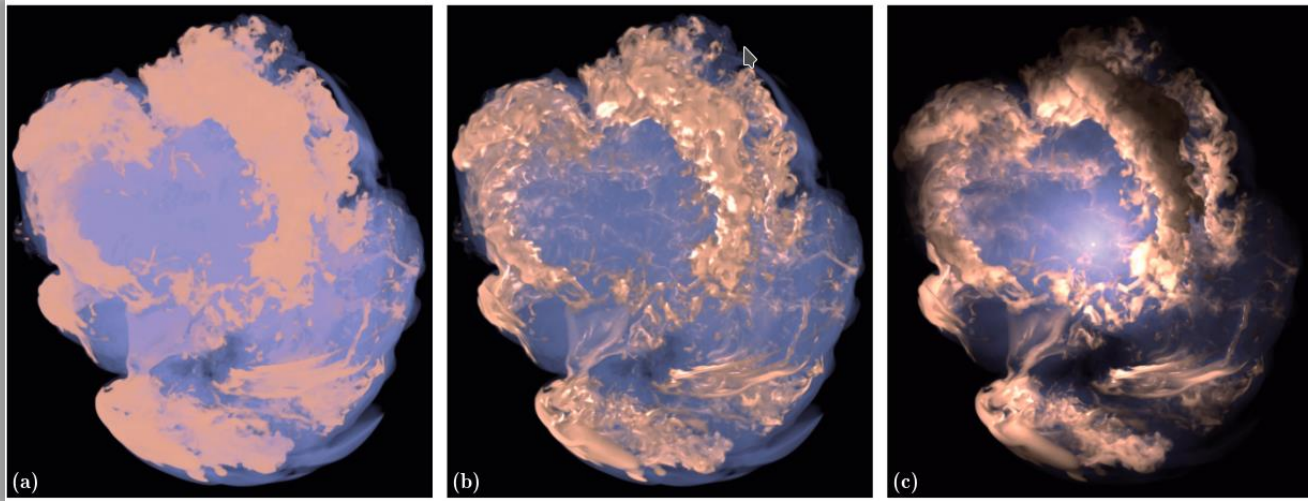


Gaussian functions (log-plot)



Core collapse supernova (work in progress)

Improve visual depth perception (with different shading techniques)



- Supernova simulation
- a) Standard emission-absorption model
 - b) Volumetric ambient occlusion
 - c) Ambient scattering with light source

Ament et al., „Ambient Volume Scattering“,
IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics 19, Issue 12 (2013)

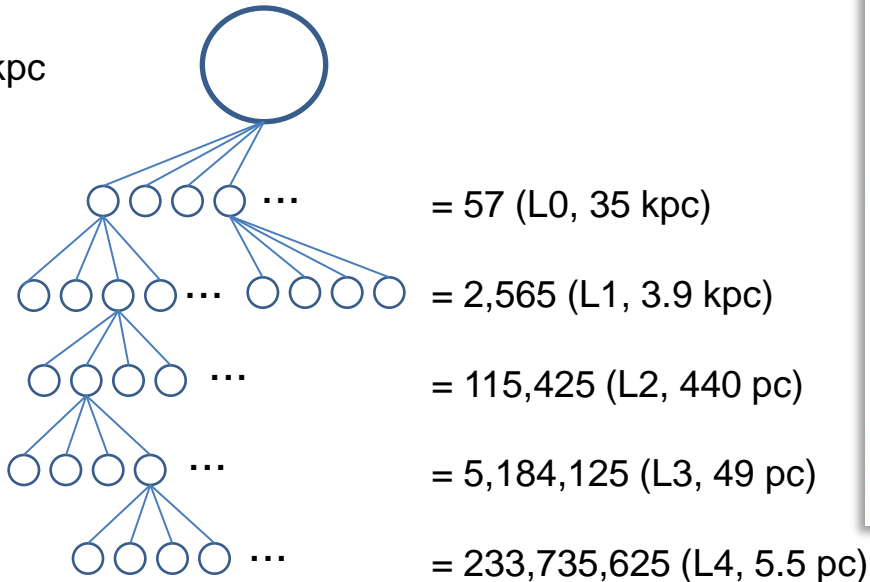
Density structure of the CGM

Hierarchical cloud data visualization (Jonathan Stern, Joe Hennawi)

- Hierarchical cloud data of circum galactic medium

Main cloud: $R = 280$ kpc

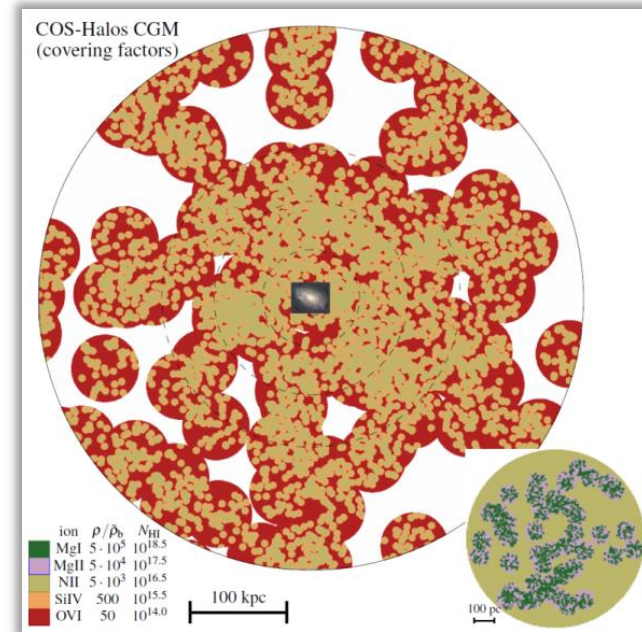
57 clouds



57 x 45 clouds

57 x 45 x 45 clouds

etc.

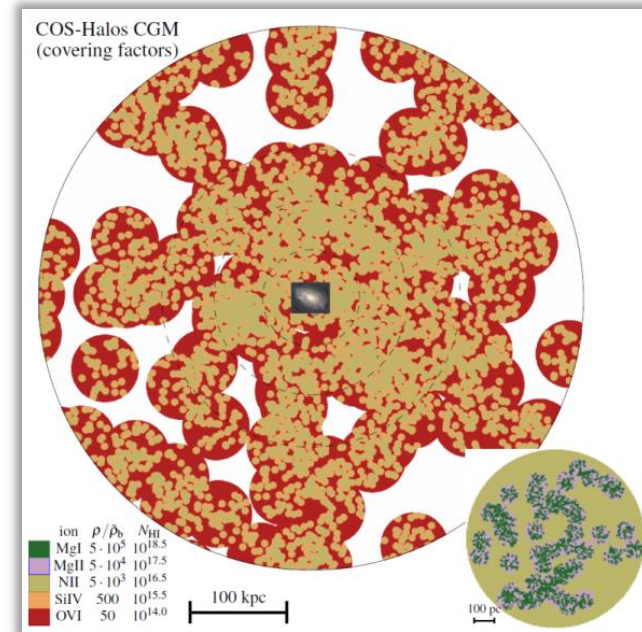


* <http://www2.mpia-hd.mpg.de/homes/stern/CGM.html>

Density structure of the CGM

Hierarchical cloud data visualization (Jonathan Stern, Joe Hennawi)

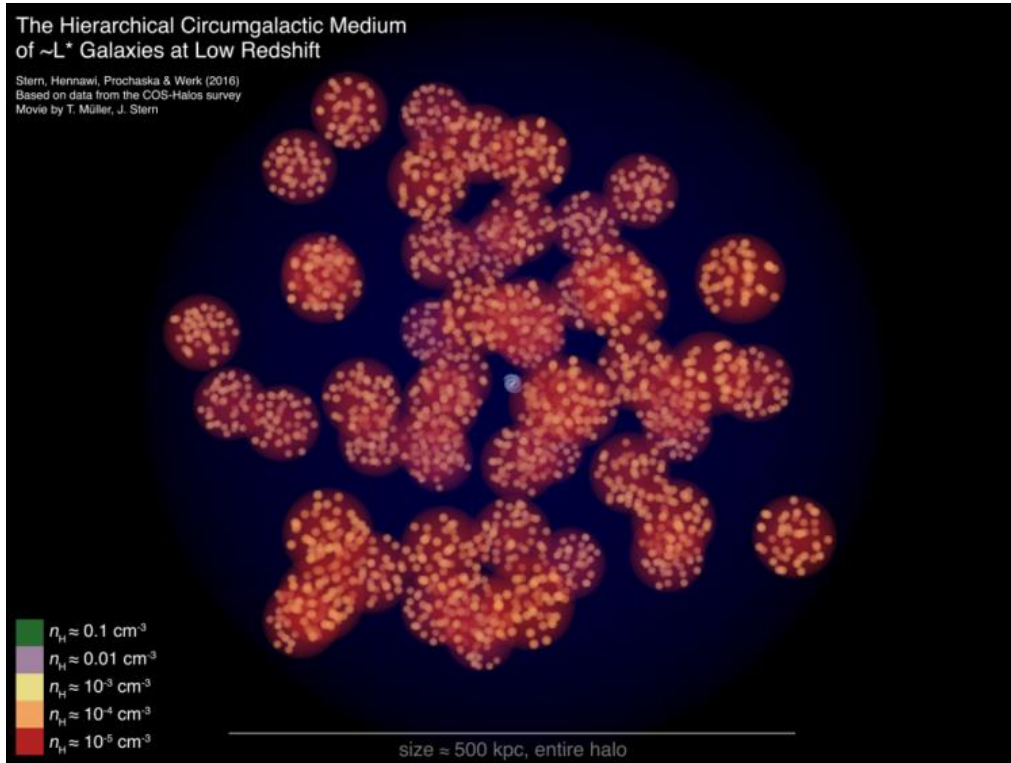
- Hierarchical cloud data
- Sampling on $1024 \times 1024 \times 1024$, + VolVis
 - 1024 pix = 560,000 pc
 - 0.02 pix = 11 pc (L4)
- Develop new rendering technique based on
 - view frustum culling
 - hierarchical loading (clouds larger than 1 pixel)
 - calculate sphere intersections
 - sort intersections for correct blending
 - ray casting with early ray termination



* <http://www2.mpia-hd.mpg.de/homes/stern/CGM.html>

Density structure of the CGM

Hierarchical cloud data visualization (Jonathan Stern, Joe Hennawi)



Rendering performance:

40 fps @ 400 x 300 pixels

10 fps @ 1280 x 960 pixels

Annotations and movie editing
with Adobe AfterEffects

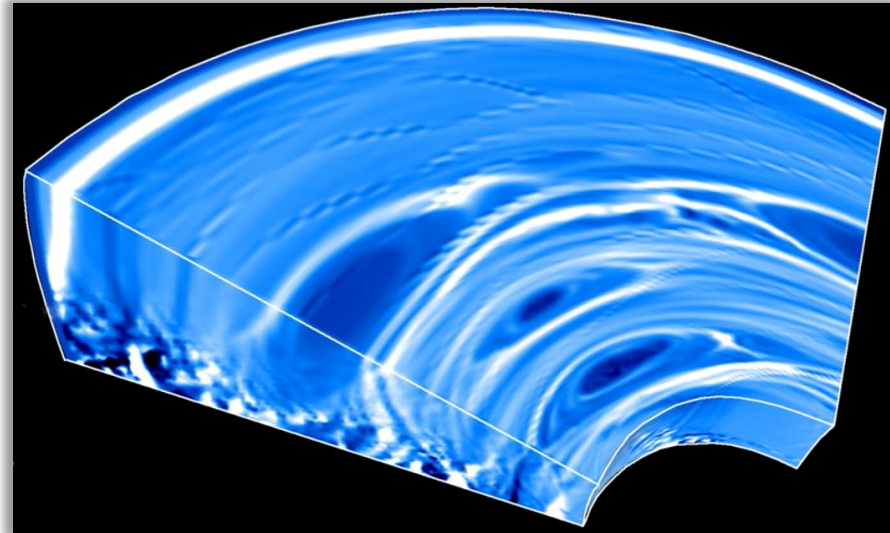
Vorticity visualization (work in progress)

Vorticity visualization (Hubert Klahr) of high resolution data:

pluto code:

(density, v_r , v_t , v_p , pr_s) @ 1024 x 512 x 256, spherical grid

- Vorticity:
$$\vec{\omega} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}$$
- Develop vortex detection algorithms for planetary disks
- Student project (Ramin Safarpour, master thesis) in cooperation with IWR (F. Sadlo)

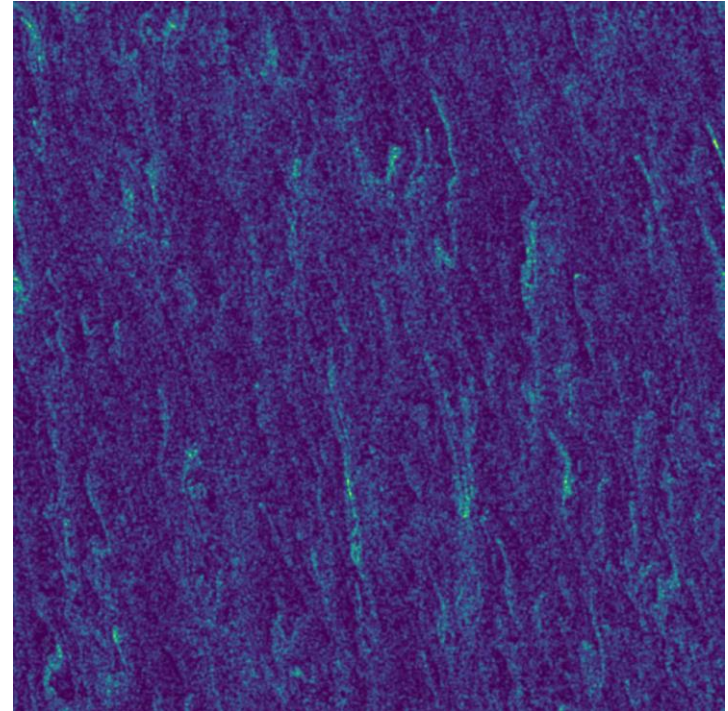


Planetesimal development (work in progress)

Visualization of planetesimal development

(Patrick Quicker (student apprentice), Andreas Schreiber)

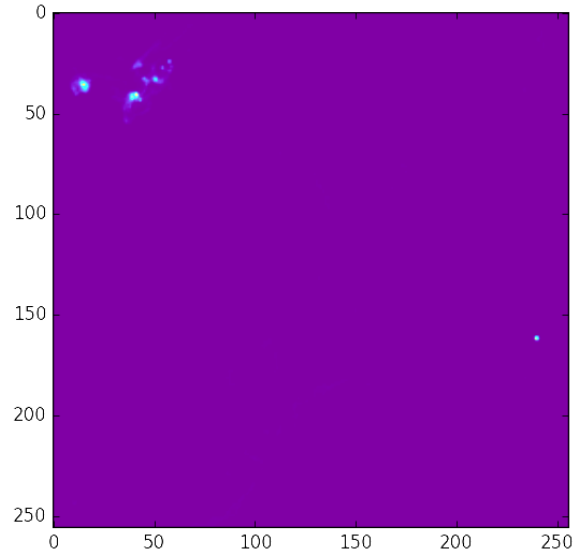
- 2D particle simulation
- periodic boundary conditions in phi-direction; shear-periodic boundary conditions in radial-direction
- track planetesimal
- 3d-stack (x,y + time)



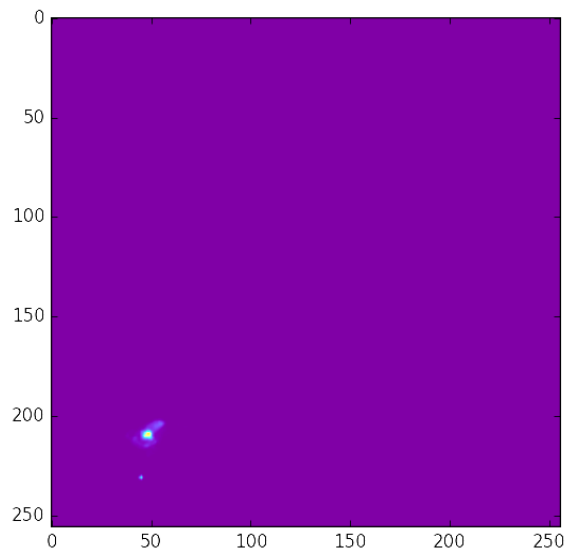
Planetesimal development (work in progress)

Visualization of planetesimal development

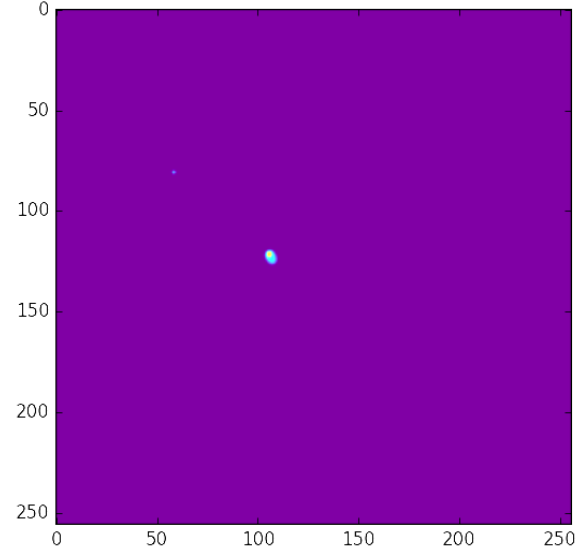
(Patrick Quicker (student apprentice), Andreas Schreiber)



$t = t_1$



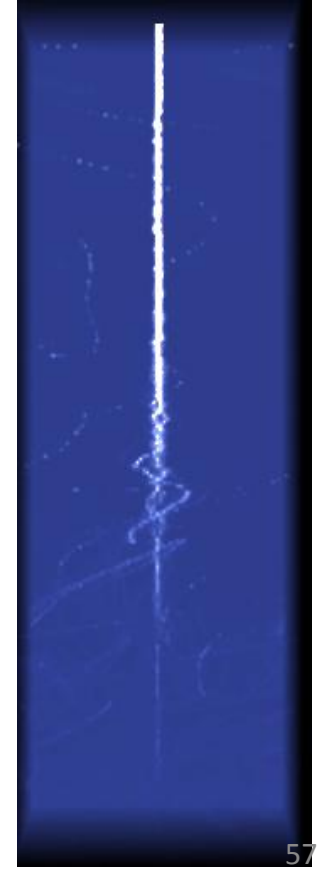
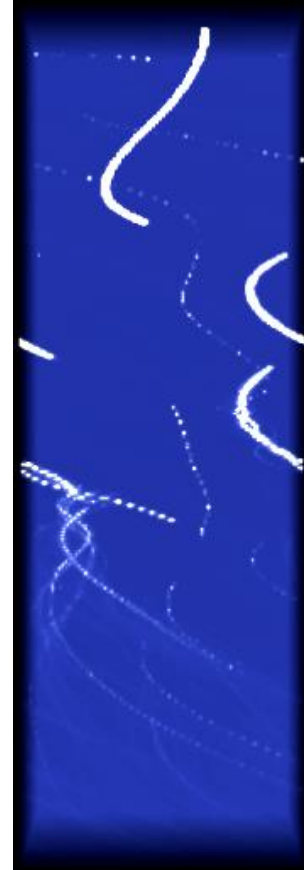
$t = t_2 > t_1$



$t = t_3 > t_2$

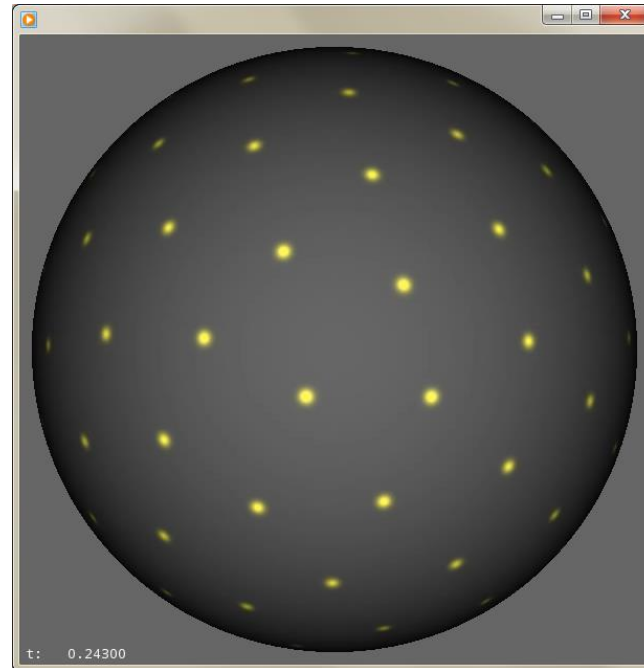
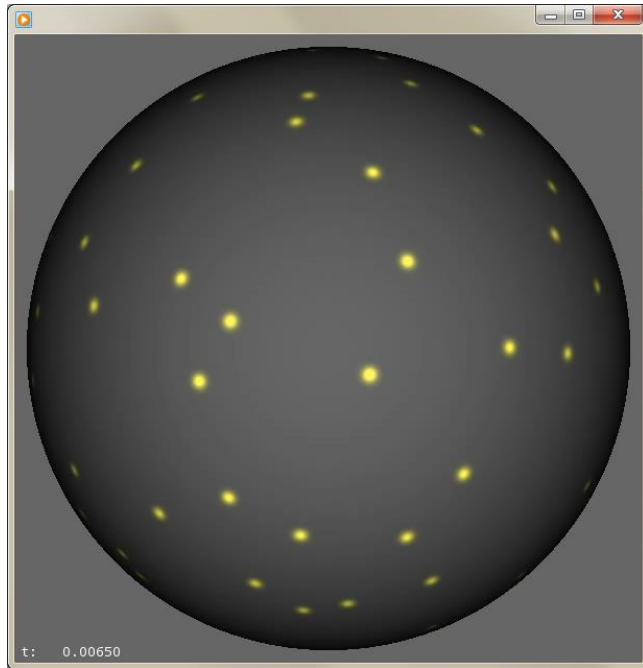
Planetesimal development (work in progress)

Visualization of planetesimal development



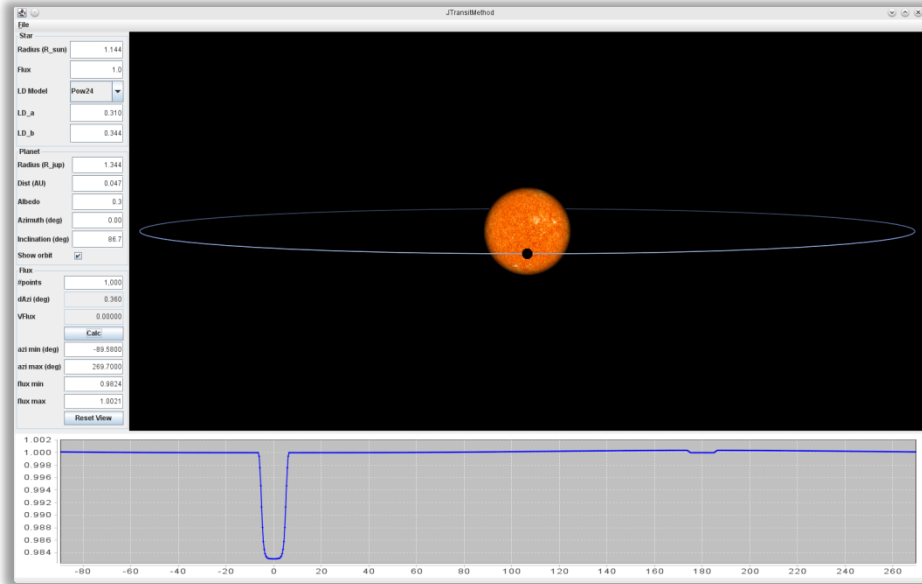
Full dome exoplanet orrery (Bachelor thesis)

Charged particle motion on sphere

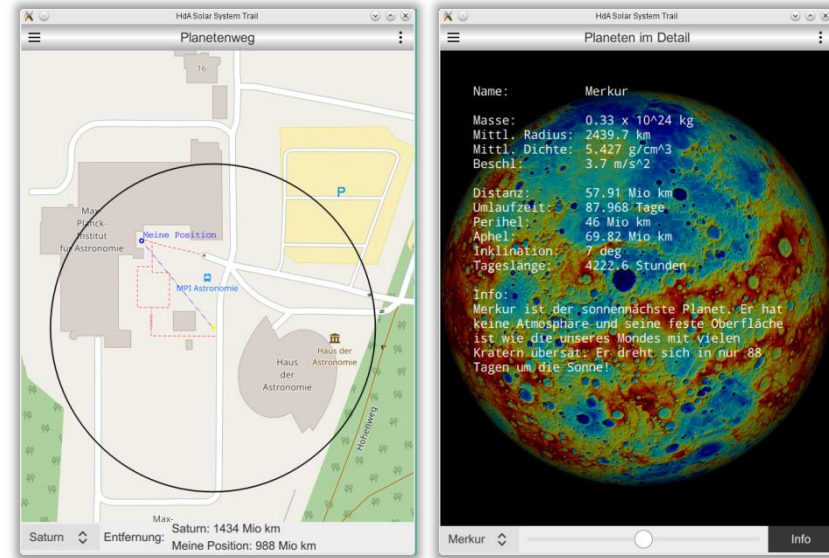


Vis for education – interactive apps

Java-App to demonstrate the transit method

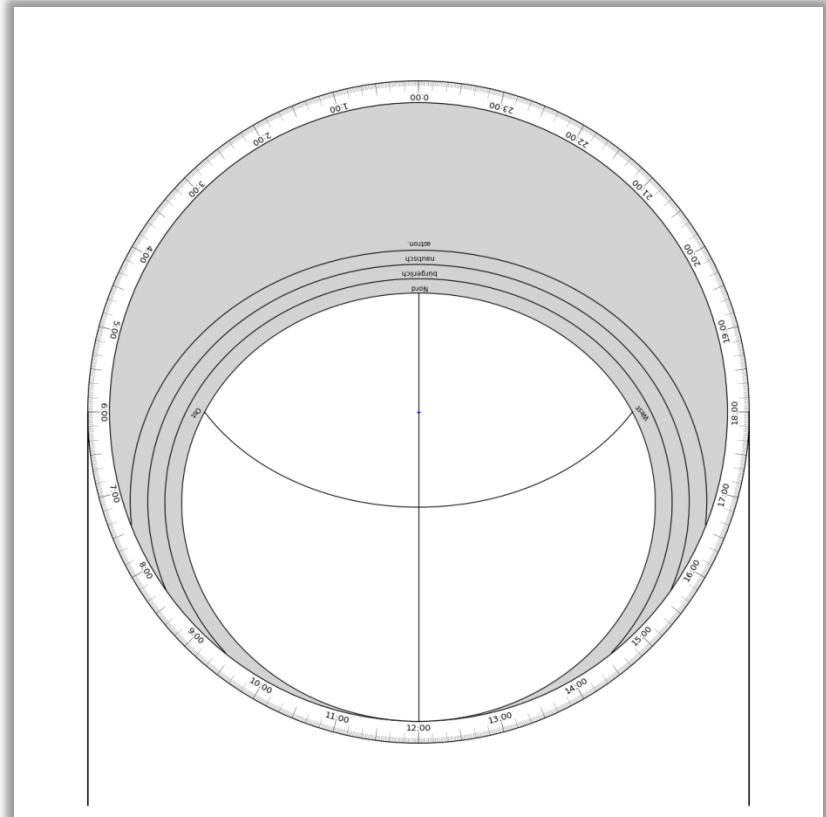
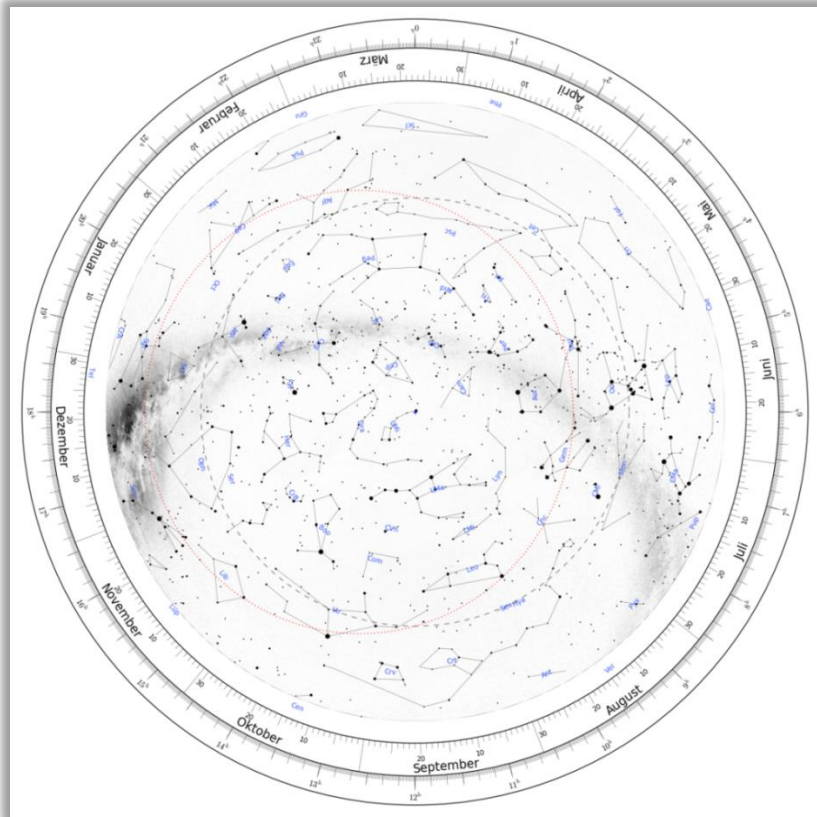


Android-App for our Solar System Trail



Vis for education – diagrams

Highly configurable stellar map (python, matplotlib)



Fulldome Demo