

# GPU-Accelerated Molecular Visualization and Analysis with VMD

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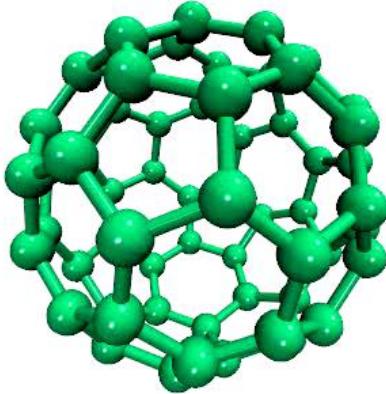
**<http://www.ks.uiuc.edu/Research/gpu/>**

Midwest Theoretical Chemistry Conference  
Urbana, Illinois, May 31, 2013

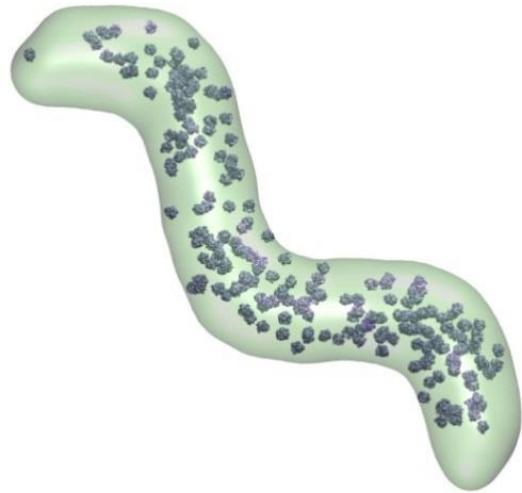


# VMD – “Visual Molecular Dynamics”

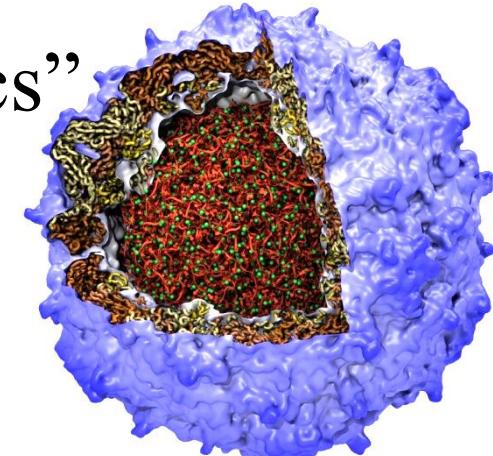
- Visualization and analysis of:
  - molecular dynamics simulations
  - quantum chemistry calculations
  - particle systems and whole cells
  - sequence data
- User extensible w/ scripting and plugins
- <http://www.ks.uiuc.edu/Research/vmd/>



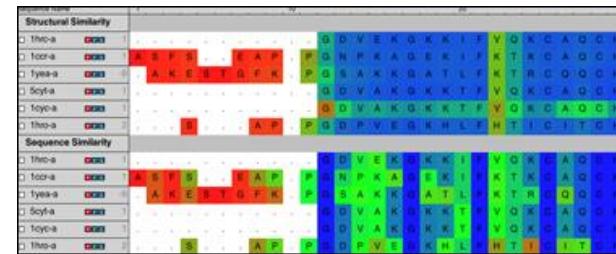
Electrons in  
Vibrating Buckyball



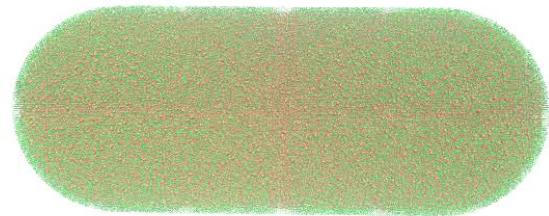
Cellular Tomography,  
Cryo-electron Microscopy



Poliovirus



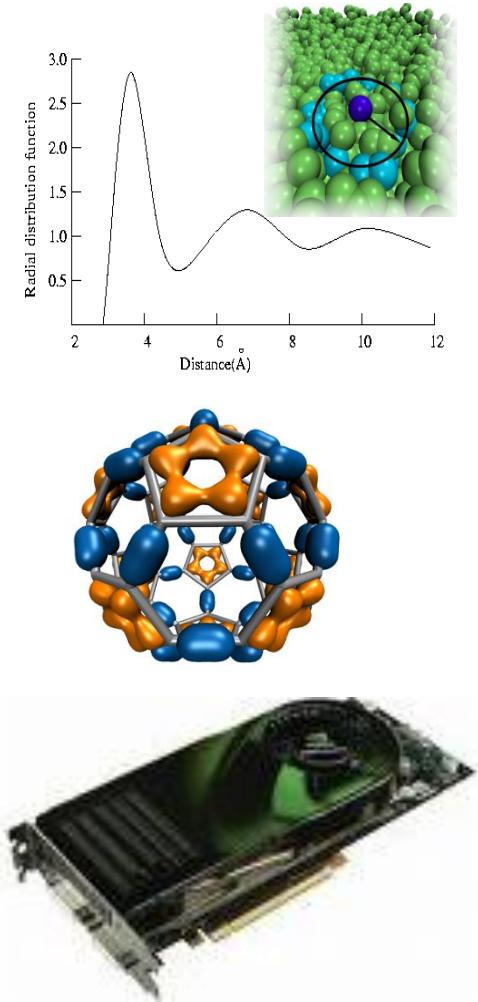
Ribosome Sequences



Whole Cell Simulations

# GPU Accelerated Trajectory Analysis and Visualization in VMD

GPU-Accelerated Feature	Peak speedup vs. single CPU core
Molecular orbital display	120x
Radial distribution function	92x
Electrostatic field calculation	44x
Molecular surface display	40x
Ion placement	26x
MDFF density map synthesis	26x
Implicit ligand sampling	25x
Root mean squared fluctuation	25x
Radius of gyration	21x
Close contact determination	20x
Dipole moment calculation	15x



# Ongoing VMD GPU Development

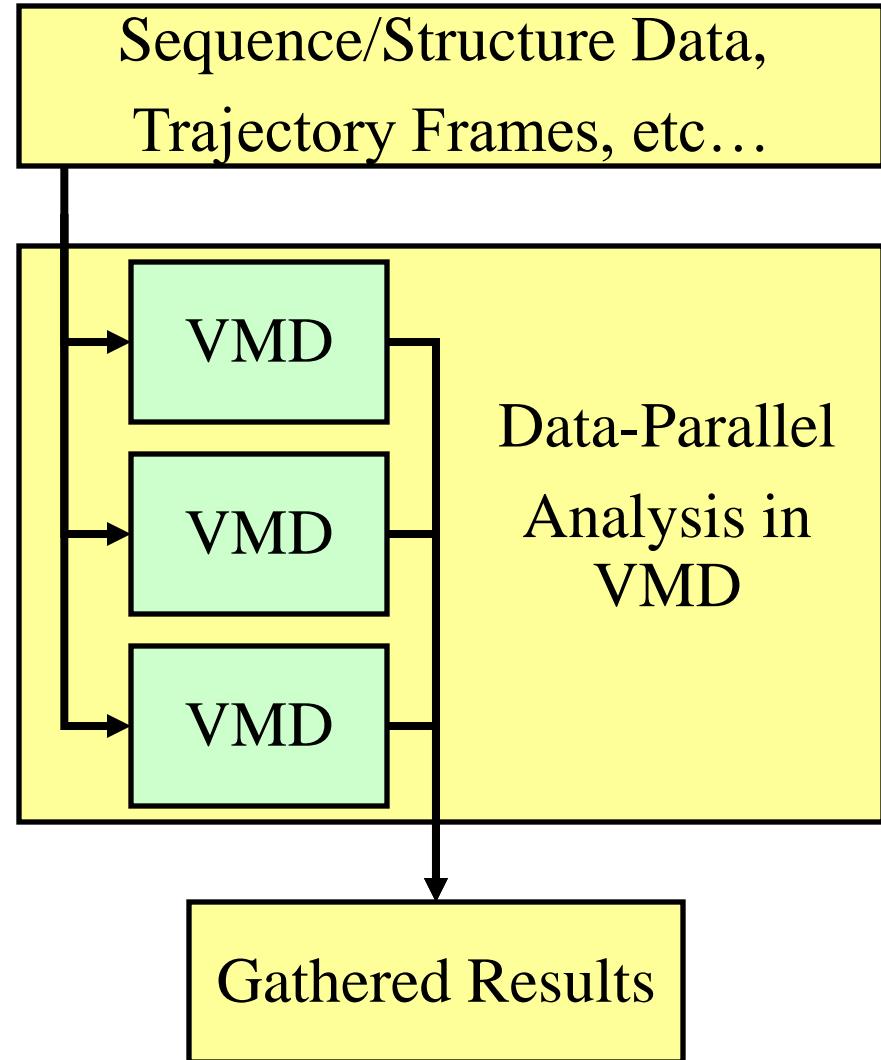
- New CUDA kernels for common analysis tasks
- Increase memory efficiency of CUDA kernels for large structures
- Improving CUDA performance for VMD trajectory analysis calculations w/ MPI:
  - GPU-accelerated commodity clusters
  - GPU-accelerated Cray XK7 supercomputers:  
NCSA Blue Waters, ORNL Titan



# VMD for Demanding Analysis Tasks

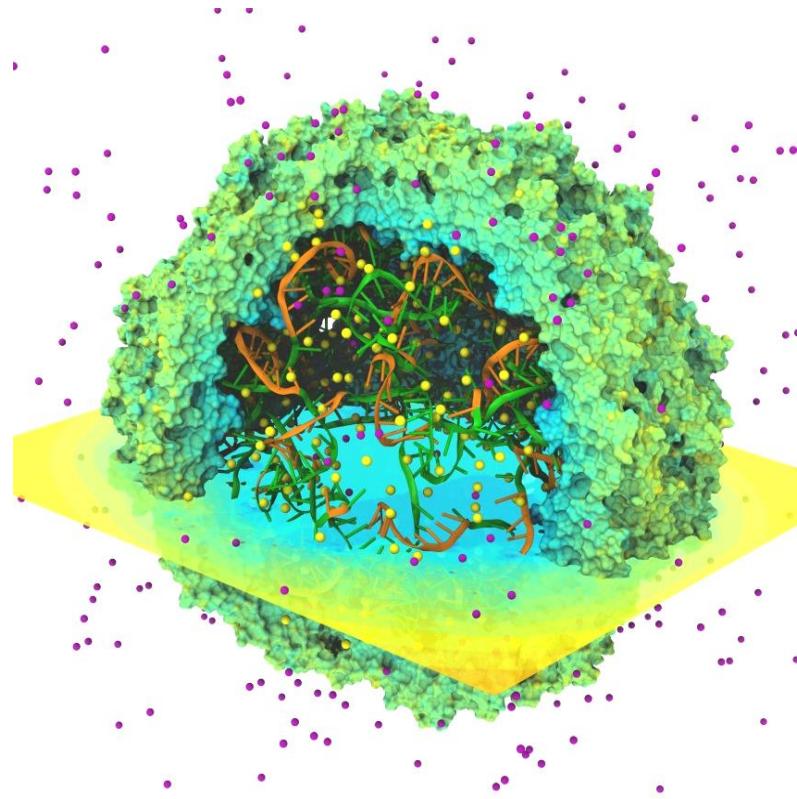
## Parallel VMD Analysis w/ MPI

- Addresses computing requirements beyond desktop
- Compute time-averaged electrostatic fields, MDFF quality-of-fit, etc.
- Parallel rendering, movie making
- User-defined parallel reduction operations, data types
- Dynamic load balancing
- **Parallel I/O: 109 GB/sec on 512 nodes of Blue Waters**
- **Supports GPU-accelerated clusters and supercomputers**



# Time-Averaged Electrostatics Analysis on Energy-Efficient GPU Cluster

- **1.5 hour** job (CPUs) reduced to **3 min** (CPUs+GPU)
- Electrostatics of thousands of trajectory frames averaged
- Per-node power consumption on NCSA “AC” GPU cluster:
  - CPUs-only: 299 watts
  - CPUs+GPUs: 742 watts
- GPU Speedup: **25.5x**
- Power efficiency gain: **10.5x**



**Quantifying the Impact of GPUs on Performance and Energy Efficiency in HPC Clusters.** J. Enos, C. Steffen, J. Fullop, M. Showerman, G. Shi, K. Esler, V. Kindratenko, J. Stone, J. Phillips.  
*The Work in Progress in Green Computing*, pp. 317-324, 2010.

# Time-Averaged Electrostatics Analysis on NCSA Blue Waters

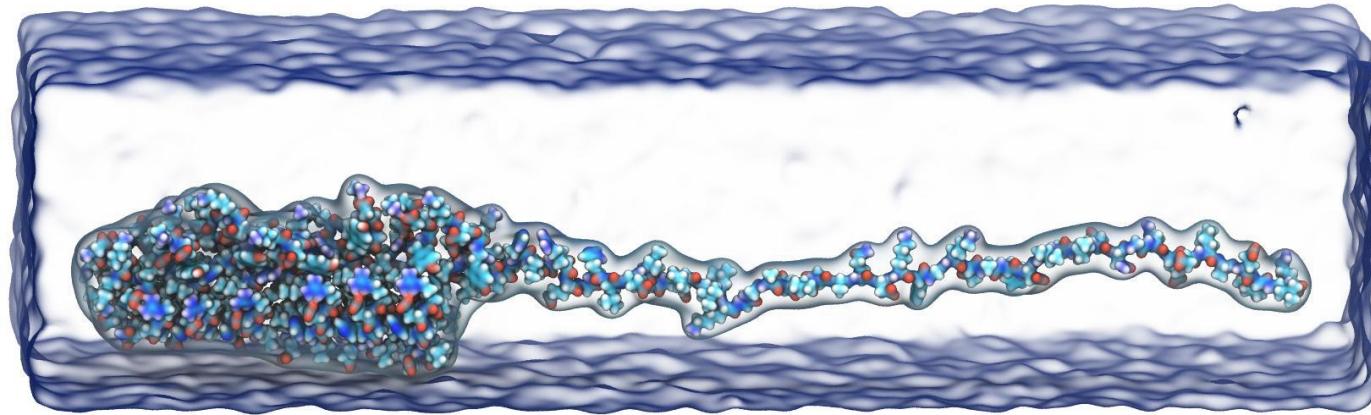
NCSA Blue Waters Node Type	Seconds per trajectory frame for one compute node
Cray XE6 Compute Node: 32 CPU cores (2xAMD 6200 CPUs)	9.33
<b>Cray XK6 GPU-accelerated Compute Node:</b> 16 CPU cores + <b>NVIDIA X2090 (Fermi) GPU</b>	2.25
Speedup for GPU XK6 nodes vs. CPU XE6 nodes	<b>GPU nodes are 4.15x faster overall</b>
<b>Early tests on XK7 nodes indicate MSM is becoming CPU-bound with the Kepler K20X GPU</b> <b>Performance is not much faster (yet) than Fermi X2090</b> <b>May need to move spatial hashing and other algorithms onto the GPU.</b>	<b>In progress....</b>

Preliminary performance for VMD time-averaged electrostatics w/ Multilevel Summation Method on the NCSA Blue Waters Early Science System



# VMD “QuickSurf” Representation

- Displays continuum of structural detail:
  - All-atom models
  - Coarse-grained models
  - Cellular scale models
  - Multi-scale models: All-atom + CG, Brownian + Whole Cell
  - Smoothly variable between full detail, and reduced resolution representations of very large complexes

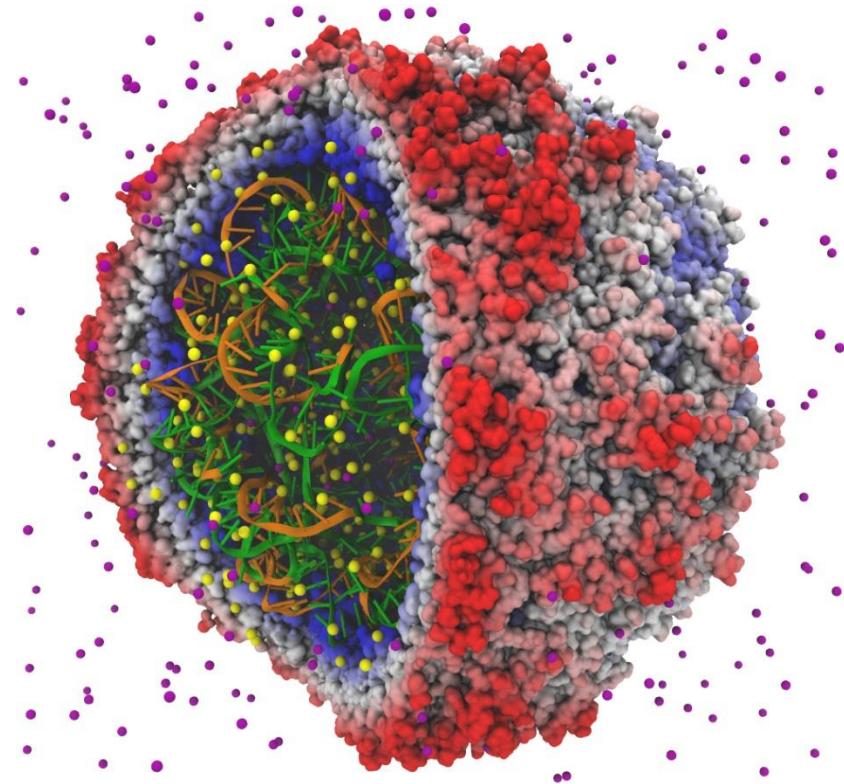


**Fast Visualization of Gaussian Density Surfaces for Molecular Dynamics and Particle System Trajectories.**

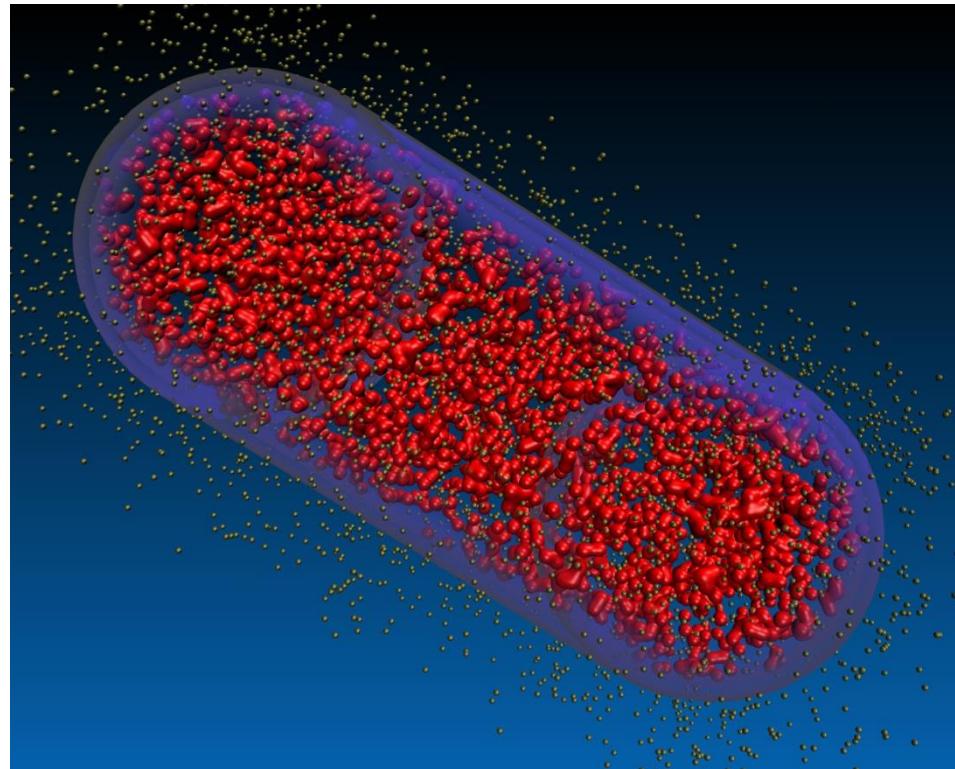
M. Krone, J. E. Stone, T. Ertl, K. Schulten. *EuroVis Short Papers*, pp. 67-71, 2012

# VMD “QuickSurf” Representation

- Uses multi-core CPUs and GPU acceleration to enable **smooth real-time animation** of MD trajectories
- Linear-time algorithm, scales to millions of particles, as limited by memory capacity

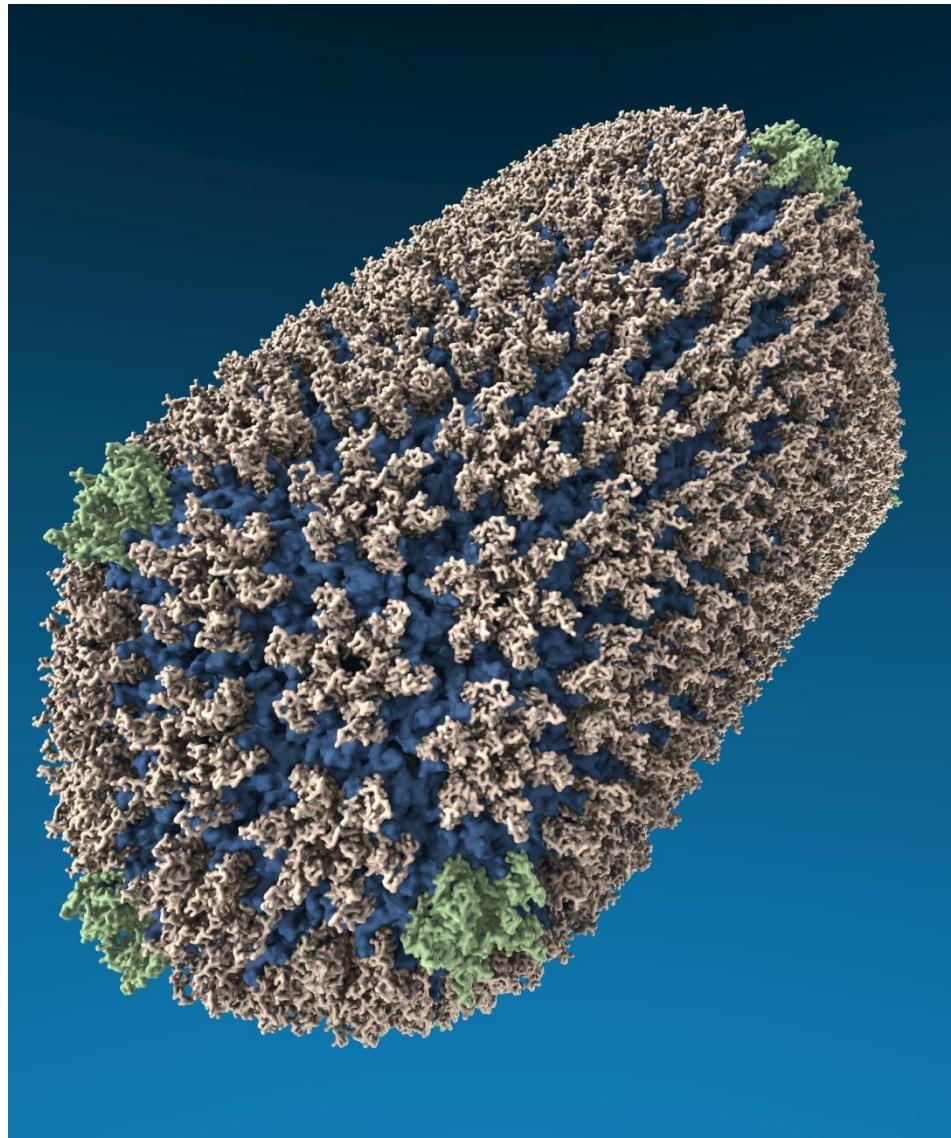
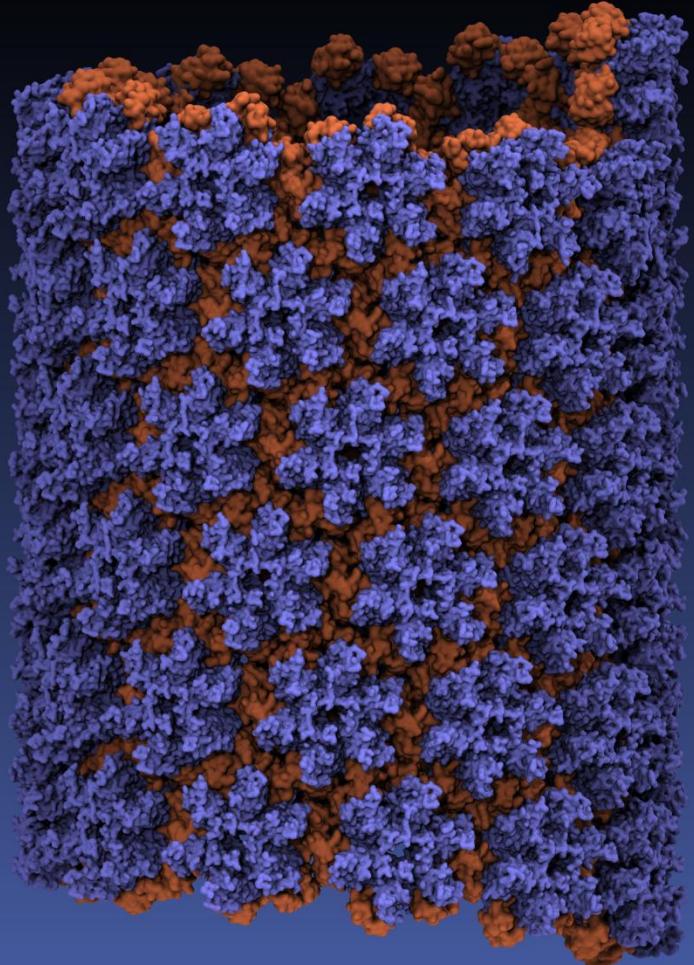


Satellite Tobacco Mosaic Virus



Lattice Cell Simulations

# VMD “QuickSurf” Representation



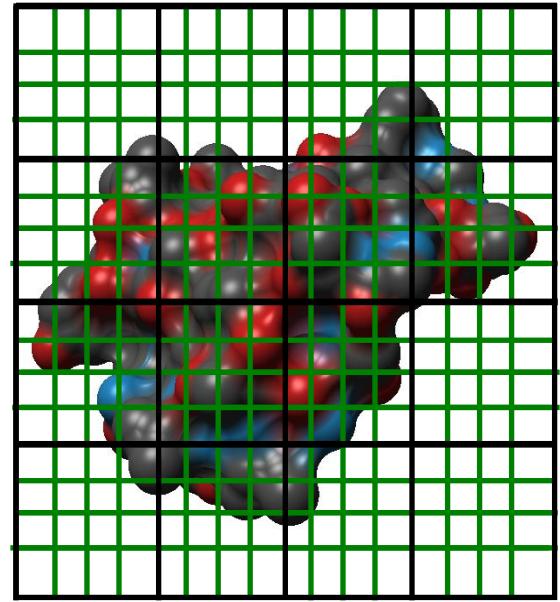
All-atom HIV capsid simulations

# QuickSurf Algorithm Overview

- Build spatial acceleration data structures, optimize data for GPU
- Compute 3-D density map, 3-D volumetric texture map:

$$\rho(\vec{r}; \vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2, \dots, \vec{r}_N) = \sum_{i=1}^N e^{\frac{-|\vec{r}-\vec{r}_i|^2}{2\alpha^2}}$$

- Extract isosurface for a user-defined density value

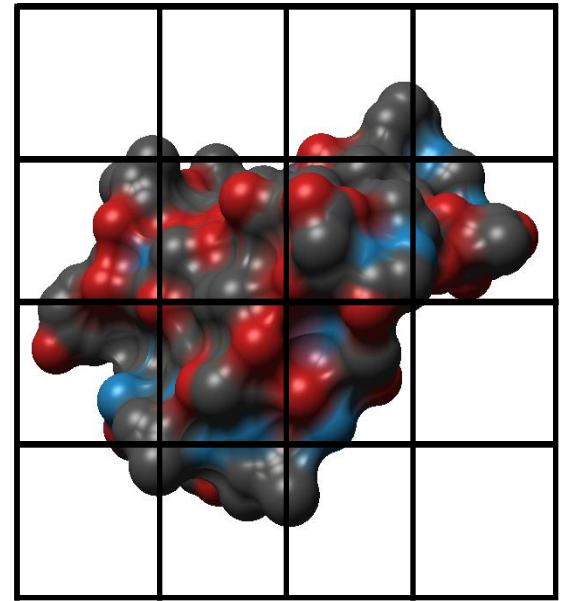


**3-D density map lattice, spatial acceleration grid, and extracted surface**



# Spatial Hashing Algorithm Steps/Kernels

- 1) Compute bin index for each atom, store to memory w/ atom index
- 2) Sort list of bin and atom index tuples (1) by bin index (**thrust kernel**)
- 3) Count atoms in each bin (2) using a **parallel prefix sum, aka scan**, compute the destination index for each atom, store per-bin starting index and atom count (**thrust kernel**)
- 4) Write atoms to the output indices computed in (3), and we have completed the data structure



**QuickSurf uniform grid spatial subdivision data structure**



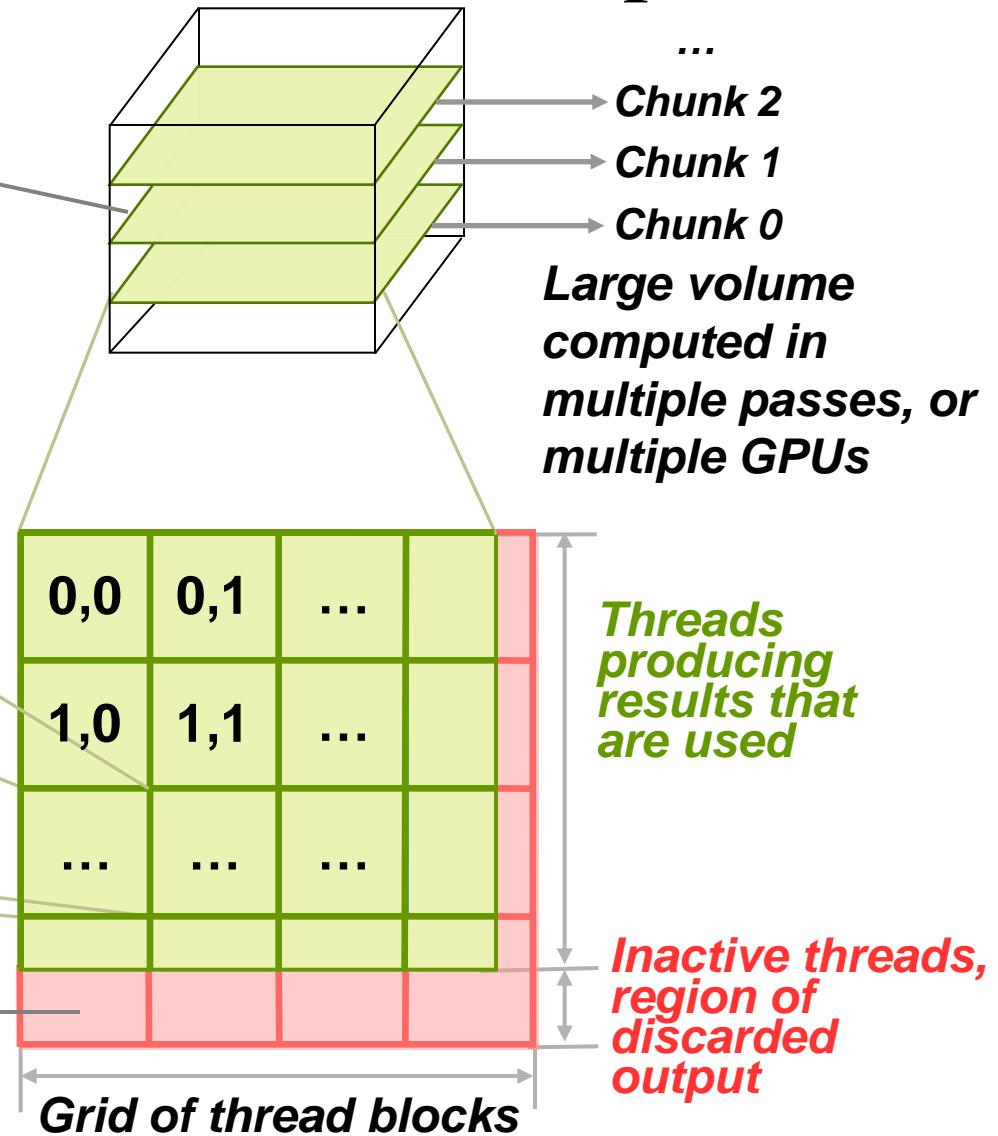
# QuickSurf Density Parallel Decomposition

*QuickSurf 3-D density map decomposes into thinner 3-D slabs/slices (CUDA grids)*

*Small 8x8 thread blocks afford large per-thread register count, shared memory*

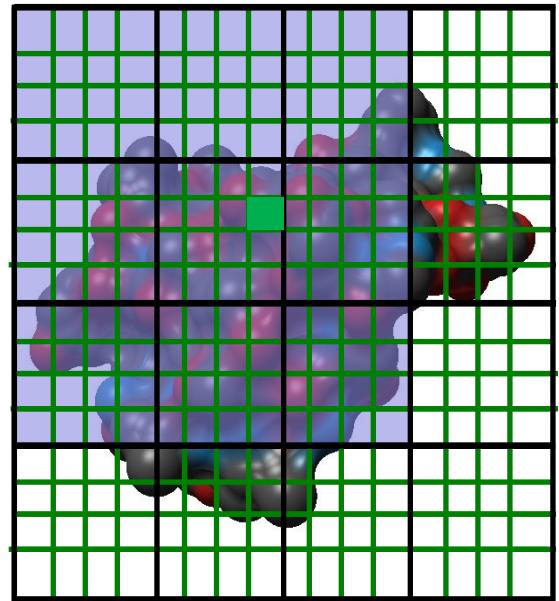
*Each thread computes one or more density map lattice points*

*Padding optimizes global memory performance, guaranteeing coalesced global memory accesses*



# QuickSurf Density Map Algorithm

- Spatial acceleration grid cells are sized to match the cutoff radius for the exponential, beyond which density contributions are negligible
- Density map lattice points computed by summing density contributions from particles in 3x3x3 grid of neighboring spatial acceleration cells
- Volumetric texture map is computed by summing particle colors normalized by their individual density contribution



**3-D density map  
lattice point and  
the neighboring  
spatial acceleration  
cells it references**

# QuickSurf Density Map Kernel Snippet...

```
for (zab=zabmin; zab<=zabmax; zab++) {  
    for (yab=yabmin; yab<=yabmax; yab++) {  
        for (xab=xabmin; xab<=xabmax; xab++) {  
            int abcellidx = zab * acplanesz + yab * acncells.x + xab;  
            uint2 atomstartend = cellStartEnd[abcellidx];  
            if (atomstartend.x != GRID_CELL_EMPTY) {  
                for (unsigned int atomid=atomstartend.x; atomid<atomstartend.y; atomid++) {  
                    float4 atom = sorted_xyzr[atomid];  
                    float dx = coorx - atom.x;           float dy = coory - atom.y;           float dz = coorz - atom.z;  
                    float dxy2 = dx*dx + dy*dy;  
                    float r21 = (dxy2 + dz*dz) * atom.w;  
                    densityval1 += exp2f(r21);  
                    // Loop unrolling and register tiling benefits begin here.....  
                    float dz2 = dz + gridspacing;  
                    float r22 = (dxy2 + dz2*dz2) * atom.w;  
                    densityval2 += exp2f(r22);  
                    // More loop unrolling ....
```



# QuickSurf Performance

## GeForce GTX 580

Molecular system	Atoms	Resolution	T <sub>sort</sub>	T <sub>density</sub>	T <sub>MC</sub>	# vertices	FPS
MscL	111,016	1.0Å	0.005	0.023	0.003	0.7 M	28
STMV capsid	147,976	1.0Å	0.007	0.048	0.009	2.4 M	13.2
Poliovirus capsid	754,200	1.0Å	0.01	0.18	0.05	9.2 M	3.5
STMV w/ water	955,225	1.0Å	0.008	0.189	0.012	2.3 M	4.2
Membrane	2.37 M	2.0Å	0.03	0.17	0.016	5.9 M	3.9
Chromatophore	9.62 M	2.0Å	0.16	0.023	0.06	11.5 M	3.4
Membrane w/ water	22.77 M	4.0Å	4.4	0.68	0.01	1.9 M	0.18

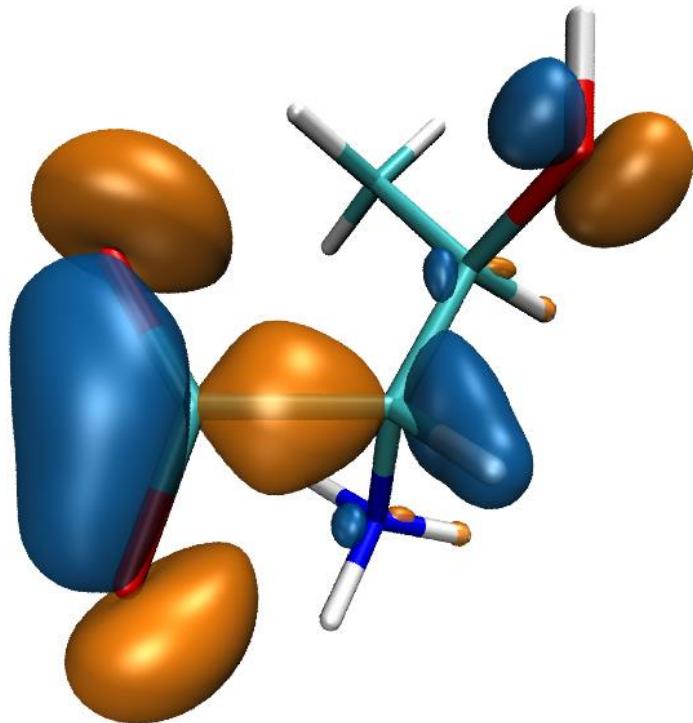
**Fast Visualization of Gaussian Density Surfaces for Molecular Dynamics and Particle System Trajectories.**

M. Krone, J. E. Stone, T. Ertl, K. Schulten. *EuroVis Short Papers*, pp. 67-71, 2012



# Animating Molecular Orbitals

- Animation of (classical mechanics) molecular dynamics trajectories provides insight into simulation results
- To do the same for QM or QM/MM simulations one must compute MOs at **~10 FPS** or more
- **>100x** speedup (GPU) over existing tools now makes this possible!



High Performance Computation and Interactive Display of Molecular Orbitals on GPUs and Multi-core CPUs.

J. Stone, J. Saam, D. Hardy, K. Vandivort, W. Hwu, K. Schulten,  
*2nd Workshop on General-Purpose Computation on Graphics Processing Units (GPGPU-2), ACM International Conference Proceeding Series*, volume 383, pp. 9-18, 2009.

# Molecular Orbital Computation and Display Process

**One-time  
initialization**

**Initialize Pool of GPU  
Worker Threads**

Read QM simulation log file, trajectory

Preprocess MO coefficient data  
eliminate duplicates, sort by type, etc...

**For each trj frame, for  
each MO shown**

For current frame and MO index,  
retrieve MO wavefunction coefficients

**Compute 3-D grid of MO wavefunction amplitudes**  
Most performance-demanding step, run on **GPU...**

Extract isosurface mesh from 3-D MO grid

Apply user coloring/texturing  
and render the resulting surface



# MO Kernel for One Grid Point (Naive C)

```
...  
for (at=0; at<numatoms; at++) {  
    int prim_counter = atom_basis[at];  
    calc_distances_to_atom(&atompos[at], &xdist, &ydist, &zdist, &dist2, &xdiv);  
  
    for (contracted_gto=0.0f, shell=0; shell < num_shells_per_atom[at]; shell++) {  
        int shell_type = shell_symmetry[shell_counter];  
  
        for (prim=0; prim < num_prim_per_shell[shell_counter]; prim++) {  
            float exponent      = basis_array[prim_counter      ];  
            float contract_coeff = basis_array[prim_counter + 1];  
            contracted_gto += contract_coeff * expf(-exponent*dist2);  
            prim_counter += 2;  
        }  
  
        for (tmpshell=0.0f, j=0, zdp=1.0f; j<=shell_type; j++, zdp*=zdist) {  
            int imax = shell_type - j;  
            for (i=0, ydp=1.0f, xdp=pow(xdist, imax); i<=imax; i++, ydp*=ydist, xdp*=xdiv)  
                tmpshell += wave_f[ifunc++] * xdp * ydp * zdp;  
        }  
  
        value += tmpshell * contracted_gto;  
        shell_counter++;  
    }  
}  
} .....
```

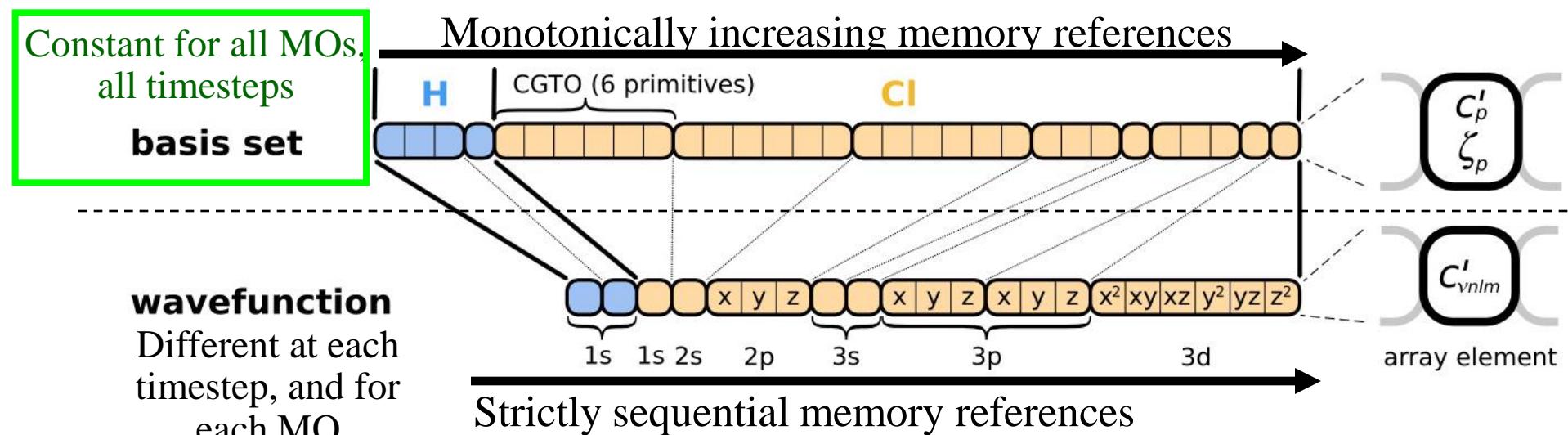
Loop over atoms

Loop over shells

Loop over primitives:  
largest component of  
runtime, due to expf()

Loop over angular  
momenta  
(unrolled in real code)

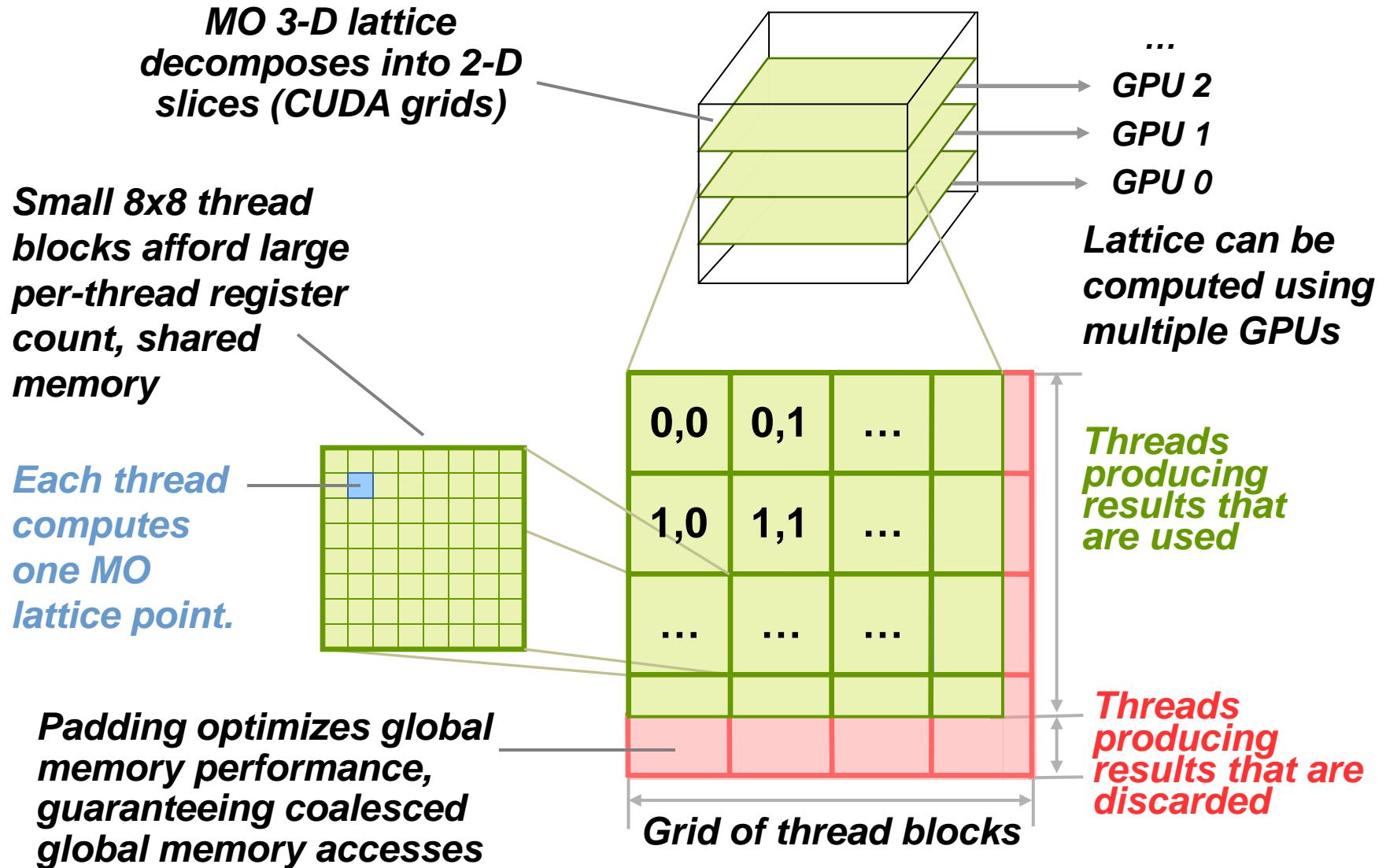
# GPU Traversal of Atom Type, Basis Set, Shell Type, and Wavefunction Coefficients



- Loop iterations always access same or consecutive array elements for all threads in a thread block:
  - Yields good constant memory and L1 cache performance
  - Increases shared memory tile reuse



# MO GPU Parallel Decomposition



# MO GPU Kernel Snippet: Contracted GTO Loop, Use of Constant Memory

[... outer loop over atoms ...]

```
float dist2 = xdist2 + ydist2 + zdist2;  
// Loop over the shells belonging to this atom (or basis function)  
for (shell=0; shell < maxshell; shell++) {  
    float contracted_gto = 0.0f;  
    // Loop over the Gaussian primitives of this contracted basis function to build the atomic  
    // orbital  
  
    int maxprim = const_num_prim_per_shell[shell_counter];  
    int shelltype = const_shell_types[shell_counter];  
    for (prim=0; prim < maxprim; prim++) {  
        float exponent      = const_basis_array[prim_counter      ];  
        float contract_coeff = const_basis_array[prim_counter + 1];  
        contracted_gto += contract_coeff * __expf(-exponent*dist2);  
        prim_counter += 2;  
    }  
}
```

[... continue on to angular momenta loop ...]

Constant memory:  
nearly register-  
speed when array  
elements accessed  
in unison by all  
threads....



# MO GPU Kernel Snippet: Unrolled Angular Momenta Loop

```
/* multiply with the appropriate wavefunction coefficient */

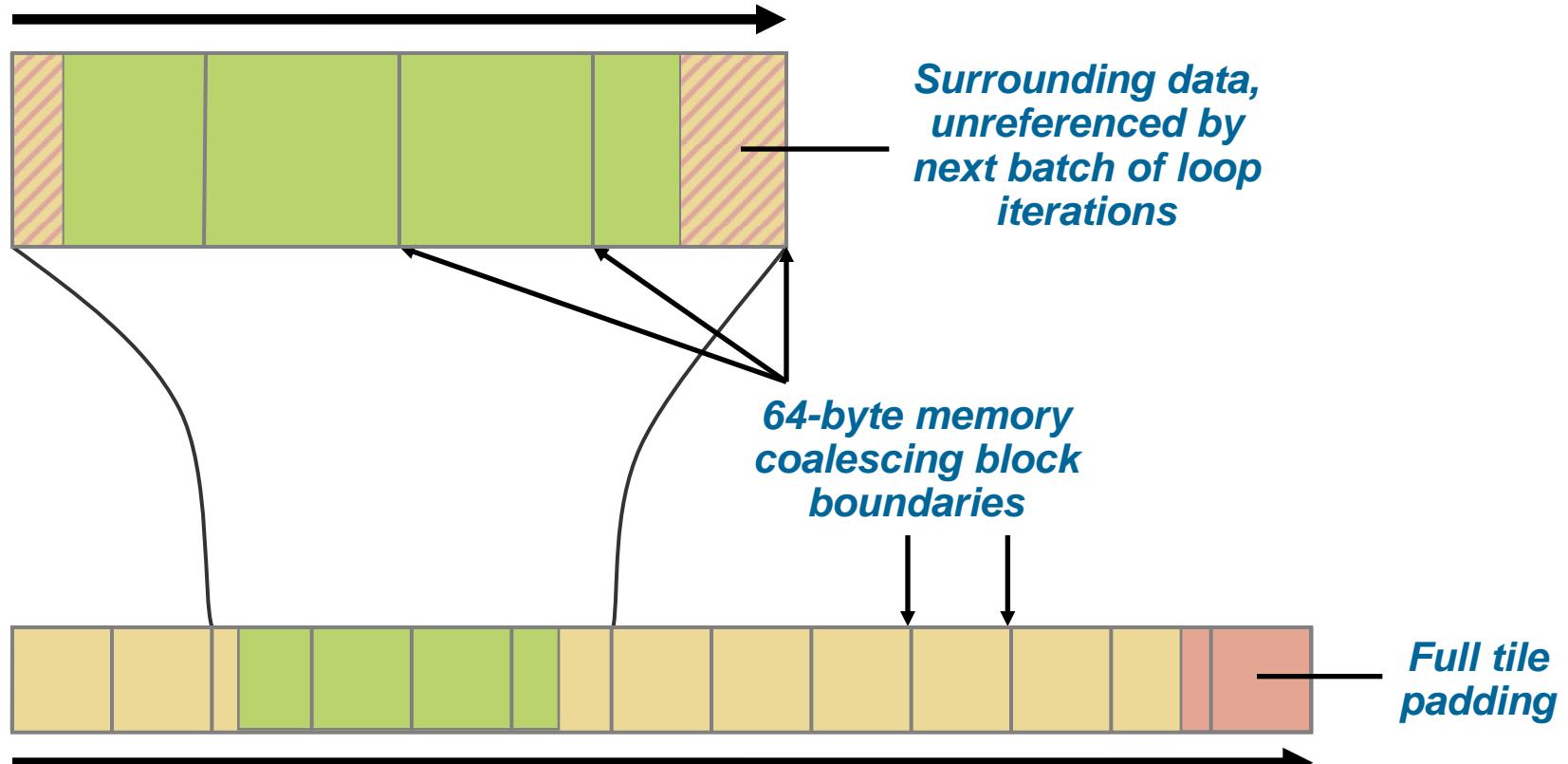
float tmpshell=0;
switch (shelltype) {
    case S_SHELL:
        value += const_wave_f[ifunc++] * contracted_gto;
        break;
    [... P_SHELL case ...]
    case D_SHELL:
        tmpshell += const_wave_f[ifunc++] * xdist2;
        tmpshell += const_wave_f[ifunc++] * xdist * ydist;
        tmpshell += const_wave_f[ifunc++] * ydist2;
        tmpshell += const_wave_f[ifunc++] * xdist * zdist;
        tmpshell += const_wave_f[ifunc++] * ydist * zdist;
        tmpshell += const_wave_f[ifunc++] * zdist2;
        value += tmpshell * contracted_gto;
        break;
    [... Other cases: F_SHELL, G_SHELL, etc ...]
} // end switch
```

## Loop unrolling:

- Saves registers  
(important for GPUs!)
- Reduces loop control overhead
- Increases arithmetic intensity



**Array tile loaded in GPU shared memory.** Tile size is a power-of-two, a multiple of coalescing size, and allows simple indexing in inner loops. Global memory array indices are merely offset to reference an MO coefficient within a tile loaded in fast on-chip shared memory.



***MO coefficient array in GPU global memory.  
Tiles are referenced in consecutive order.***



# VMD MO GPU Kernel Snippet: Loading Tiles Into Shared Memory On-Demand

[... outer loop over atoms ...]

```
if ((prim_counter + (maxprim<<1)) >= SHAREDSIZE) {  
    prim_counter += sblock_prim_counter;  
    sblock_prim_counter = prim_counter & MEMCOAMASK;  
    s_basis_array[sidx      ] = basis_array[sblock_prim_counter + sidx      ];  
    s_basis_array[sidx +  64] = basis_array[sblock_prim_counter + sidx +  64];  
    s_basis_array[sidx + 128] = basis_array[sblock_prim_counter + sidx + 128];  
    s_basis_array[sidx + 192] = basis_array[sblock_prim_counter + sidx + 192];  
    prim_counter -= sblock_prim_counter;  
    __syncthreads();  
}  
  
for (prim=0; prim < maxprim; prim++) {  
    float exponent      = s_basis_array[prim_counter      ];  
    float contract_coeff = s_basis_array[prim_counter + 1];  
    contracted_gto += contract_coeff * __expf(-exponent*dist2);  
    prim_counter += 2;  
}  
 [... continue on to angular momenta loop ...]
```

Shared memory tiles:

- Tiles are checked and loaded, if necessary, immediately prior to entering key arithmetic loops

- Adds additional control overhead to loops, even with optimized implementation



# VMD MO GPU Kernel Snippet:

## Fermi/Kepler kernel based on L1 cache

```
[... outer loop over atoms ...]  
// loop over the shells/basis funcs belonging to this atom  
for (shell=0; shell < maxshell; shell++) {  
    float contracted_gto = 0.0f;  
    int maxprim  = shellinfo[(shell_counter<<4)      ];  
    int shell_type = shellinfo[(shell_counter<<4) + 1];  
    for (prim=0; prim < maxprim; prim++) {  
        float exponent      = basis_array[prim_counter      ];  
        float contract_coeff = basis_array[prim_counter + 1];  
        contracted_gto += contract_coeff * __expf(-  
            exponent*dist2);  
        prim_counter += 2;  
    }  
    [... continue on to angular momenta loop ...]
```

### L1 cache:

- Simplifies code!
- Reduces control overhead
- Gracefully handles arbitrary-sized problems
- Matches performance of constant memory on Fermi



# Performance Evaluation:

## Molekel, MacMolPlt, and VMD

### Sun Ultra 24: Intel Q6600, NVIDIA GTX 280

	<b>C<sub>60</sub>-A</b>	<b>C<sub>60</sub>-B</b>	<b>Thr-A</b>	<b>Thr-B</b>	<b>Kr-A</b>	<b>Kr-B</b>
Atoms	60	60	17	17	1	1
Basis funcs (unique)	300 (5)	900 (15)	49 (16)	170 (59)	19 (19)	84 (84)

Kernel	Cores GPUs	Speedup vs. Molekel on 1 CPU core					
Molekel	1*	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
MacMolPlt	4	2.4	2.6	2.1	2.4	4.3	4.5
VMD GCC-cephes	4	3.2	4.0	3.0	3.5	4.3	6.5
VMD ICC-SSE-cephes	4	16.8	17.2	13.9	12.6	17.3	21.5
VMD ICC-SSE-approx**	4	59.3	53.4	50.4	49.2	54.8	69.8
VMD CUDA-const-cache	1	552.3	533.5	355.9	421.3	193.1	571.6



# VMD Single-GPU Molecular Orbital Performance Results for C<sub>60</sub> on Fermi Intel X5550 CPU, GeForce GTX 480 GPU

Kernel	Cores/GPUs	Runtime (s)	Speedup
Xeon 5550 ICC-SSE	1	30.64	1.0
Xeon 5550 ICC-SSE	8	4.13	7.4
CUDA shared mem	1	0.37	83
<b>CUDA L1-cache (16KB)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>113</b>
CUDA const-cache	1	0.26	117
CUDA const-cache, zero-copy	1	0.25	122

Fermi GPUs have caches: match perf. of hand-coded shared memory kernels. Zero-copy memory transfers improve overlap of computation and host-GPU I/Os.



# Preliminary Single-GPU Molecular Orbital Performance Results for C<sub>60</sub> on Kepler

## Intel X5550 CPU, GeForce GTX 680 GPU

Kernel	Cores/GPUs	Runtime (s)	Speedup
Xeon 5550 ICC-SSE	1	30.64	1.0
Xeon 5550 ICC-SSE	8	4.13	7.4
CUDA shared mem	1	0.264	116
<b>CUDA L1-cache (16KB)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.228</b>	<b>134</b>
CUDA const-cache	1	0.104	292
CUDA const-cache, zero-copy	1	0.0938	326

Kepler GK104 (GeForce 680) seems to strongly prefer the constant cache kernels vs. the others.



# VMD Multi-GPU Molecular Orbital Performance Results for C<sub>60</sub>

Intel X5550 CPU, 4x GeForce GTX 480 GPUs,

Kernel	Cores/GPUs	Runtime (s)	Speedup
Intel X5550-SSE	1	30.64	1.0
Intel X5550-SSE	8	4.13	7.4
GeForce GTX 480	1	0.255	120
GeForce GTX 480	2	0.136	225
GeForce GTX 480	3	0.098	312
GeForce GTX 480	4	0.081	378

Uses persistent thread pool to avoid GPU init overhead,  
dynamic scheduler distributes work to GPUs



# Molecular Orbital Dynamic Scheduling Performance with Heterogeneous GPUs

Kernel	Cores/GPUs	Runtime (s)	Speedup
Intel X5550-SSE	1	30.64	1.0
Quadro 5800	1	0.384	79
Tesla C2050	1	0.325	94
GeForce GTX 480	1	0.255	120
GeForce GTX 480 + Tesla C2050 + Quadro 5800	3	0.114	268 (91% of ideal perf)

Dynamic load balancing enables mixture of GPU generations, SM counts, and clock rates to perform well.



# MO Kernel Structure, Opportunity for JIT...

Data-driven, but representative loop trip counts in (...)

Loop over atoms (1 to ~200) {

Loop over electron shells for this atom type (1 to ~6) {

Loop over primitive functions for this shell type (1 to ~6) {

Unpredictable (at compile-time, since data-driven ) but  
small loop trip counts result in significant loop overhead.  
**Dynamic kernel generation and JIT compilation can  
unroll entirely, resulting in 40% speed boost**

Loop over angular momenta for this shell type (1 to ~15) { }

}

}



# Molecular Orbital Computation and Display Process

## Dynamic Kernel Generation, Just-In-Time (JIT) Compilation

**One-time  
initialization**

**Initialize Pool of GPU  
Worker Threads**

Read QM simulation log file, trajectory

Preprocess MO coefficient data  
eliminate duplicates, sort by type, etc...

**Generate/compile basis set-specific CUDA kernel**

**For each trj frame, for  
each MO shown**

For current frame and MO index,  
retrieve MO wavefunction coefficients

**Compute 3-D grid of MO wavefunction amplitudes  
using basis set-specific CUDA kernel**

Extract isosurface mesh from 3-D MO grid

Render the resulting surface



# Acknowledgements

- Theoretical and Computational Biophysics Group, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- NVIDIA CUDA Center of Excellence, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- NCSA Blue Waters Team
- NCSA Innovative Systems Lab
- The CUDA team at NVIDIA
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# GPU Computing Publications

<http://www.ks.uiuc.edu/Research/gpu/>

- **Lattice Microbes: High-performance stochastic simulation method for the reaction-diffusion master equation.** E. Roberts, J. E. Stone, and Z. Luthey-Schulten. *J. Computational Chemistry* 34 (3), 245-255, 2013.
- **Fast Visualization of Gaussian Density Surfaces for Molecular Dynamics and Particle System Trajectories.** M. Krone, J. E. Stone, T. Ertl, and K. Schulten. *EuroVis Short Papers*, pp. 67-71, 2012.
- **Immersive Out-of-Core Visualization of Large-Size and Long-Timescale Molecular Dynamics Trajectories.** J. Stone, K. Vandivort, and K. Schulten. G. Bebis et al. (Eds.): *7th International Symposium on Visual Computing (ISVC 2011)*, LNCS 6939, pp. 1-12, 2011.
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- **Quantifying the Impact of GPUs on Performance and Energy Efficiency in HPC Clusters.** J. Enos, C. Steffen, J. Fullop, M. Showerman, G. Shi, K. Esler, V. Kindratenko, J. Stone, J Phillips. *International Conference on Green Computing*, pp. 317-324, 2010.
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