

# Advances In Biomolecular Simulation with NAMD and VMD

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

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

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

Pawsey Supercomputing Centre

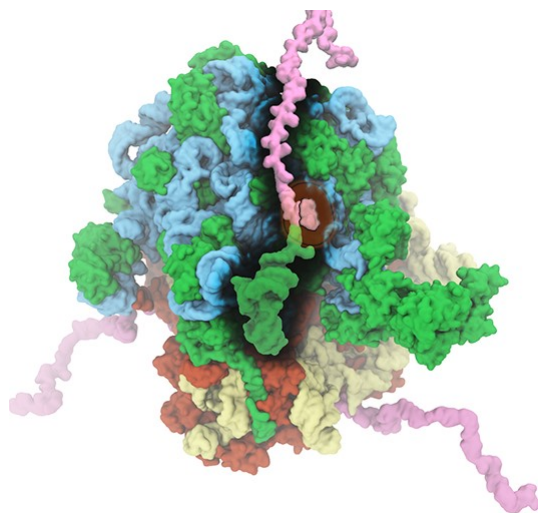
Kensington, WA, Australia, Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

# NAMD & VMD: Computational Microscope

Enable researchers to investigate systems described at the atomic scale

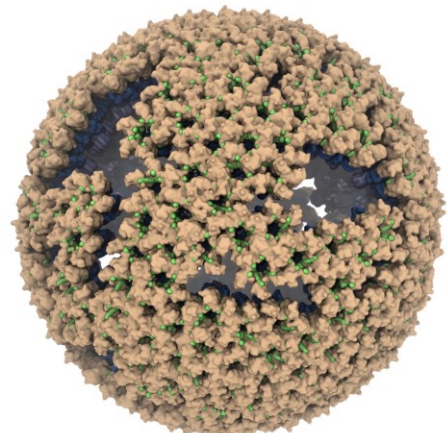
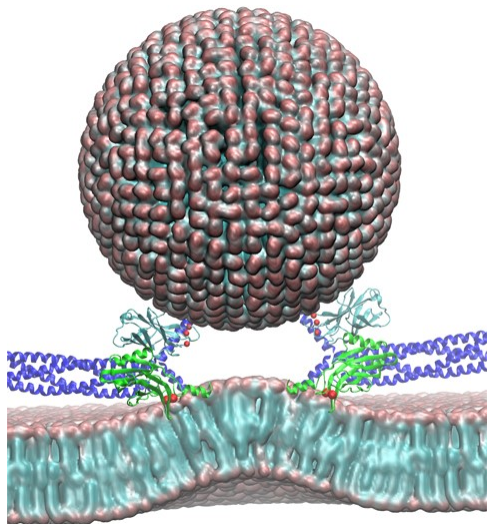
NAMD - molecular dynamics simulation

VMD - visualization, system preparation and analysis



Ribosome

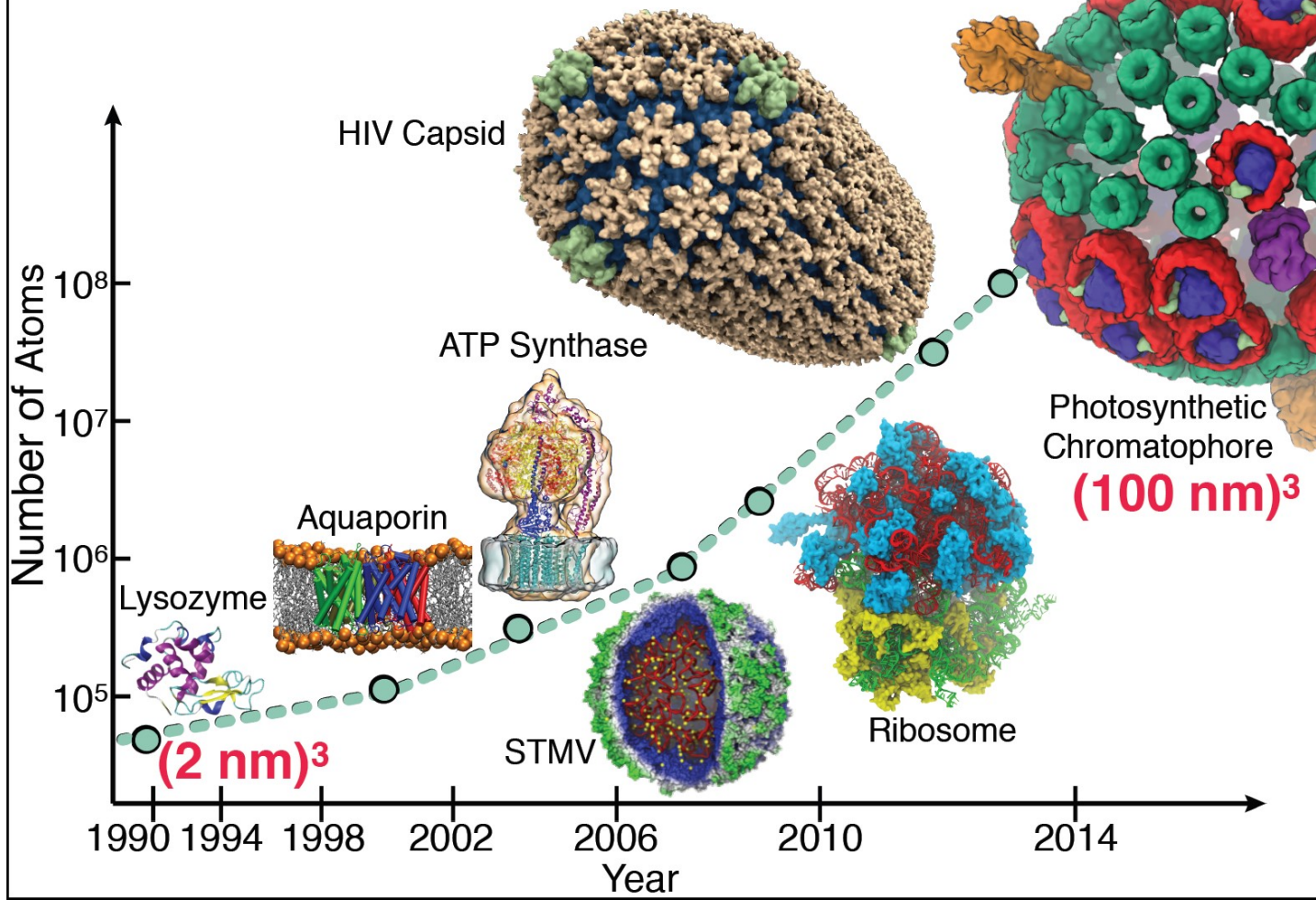
Neuron



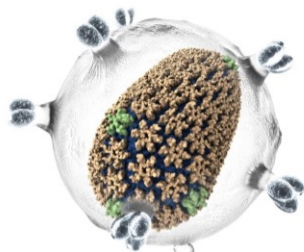
Theoretical and Computational Biophysics Group  
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Virus Capsid

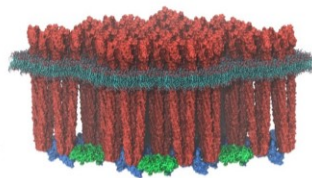
# All-Atom Molecular Dynamics Today



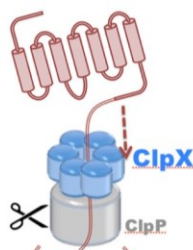
# Petascale Simulations Driving NAMD/VMD Development



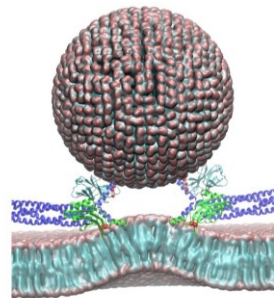
Viral  
Infection



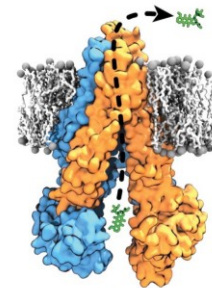
Symbiont  
Bacteria



Molecular  
Motors



Neurons and  
Synapses



Membrane  
Transporters

NCSA ORNL	Blue Waters (4,228 XK7 nodes) Titan (18,688 XK7 nodes)	AMD Opteron + K20X Kepler GPU	16 CPU cores / GPU
TACC	Stampede 2 (4200 KNL nodes, 1736 Skylake nodes)	Intel Knights Landing Intel Xeon Skylake	68 CPU cores 48 CPU cores
ORNL	Summit (~4600 nodes)	2 IBM Power9 + 6 Tesla V100 GPUs	7 CPU cores / GPU

# Technology Opportunities and Collaborations

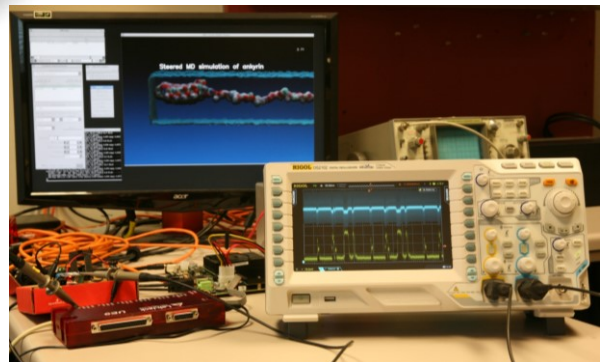
- Supercomputer Centers, Cray, IBM
  - GPU accelerated supercomputing
  - **In-situ and remote visualization technologies**
- NVIDIA
  - GPU computing
  - Performance profiling and optimization
  - Ray tracing
  - In-situ and remote visualization
  - HPC/AI containers and clouds
- Intel
  - CPU vectorization and sw optimization
  - Ray tracing
  - Non-volatile memory systems
- Amazon
  - Cloud deployment of VMD/NAMD, related tools
- Universities:
  - **T. Ertl, U. Stuttgart: visualization algorithms**
  - G. Fiorin, J. Henin, Toni Giorgino, collective variables
  - W. Sherman, Indiana U.: VR HMDs, visualization



GPU computing,  
Ray tracing,  
Remote viz.

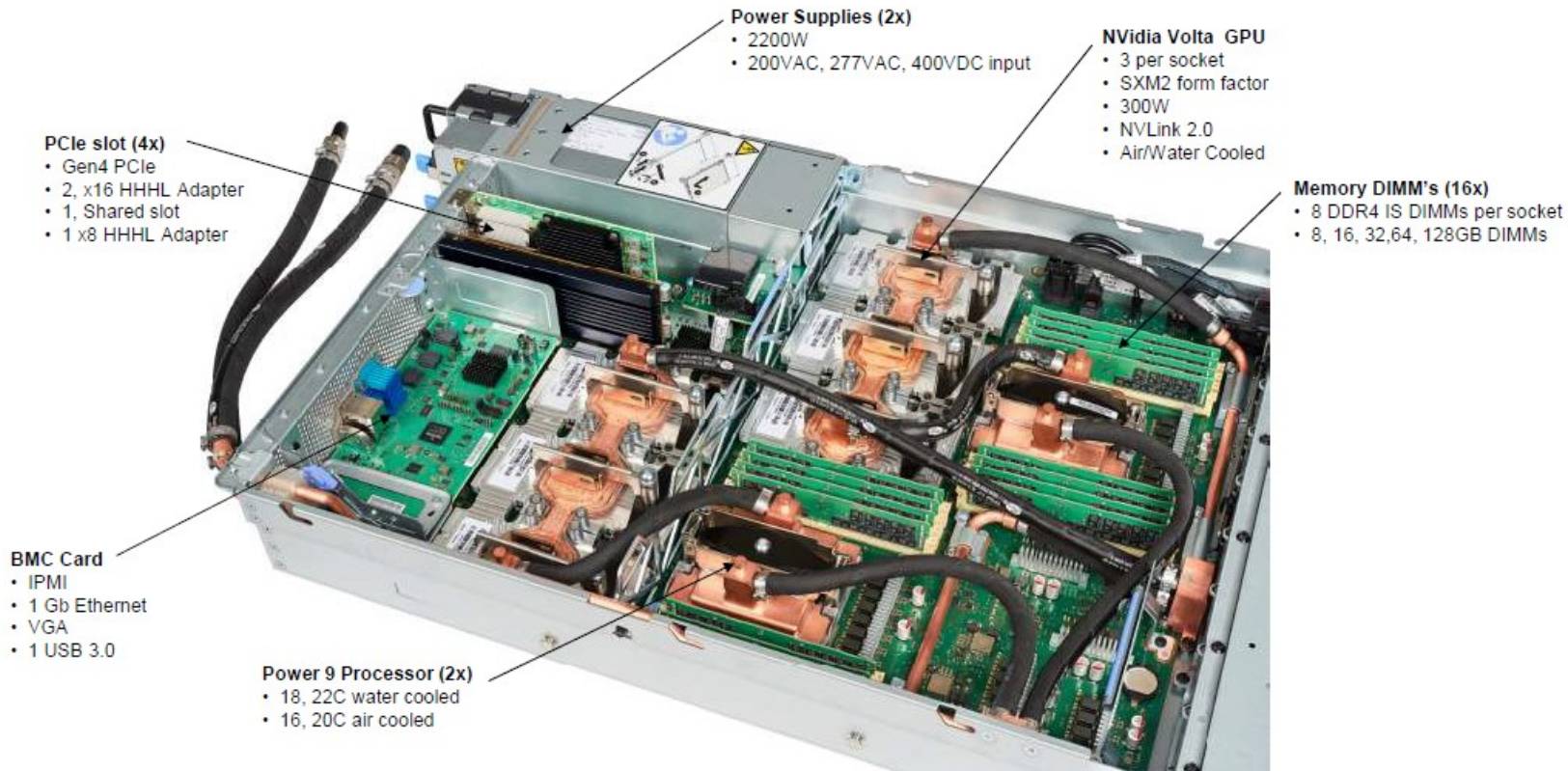


VR HMDs, 6DoF input devices



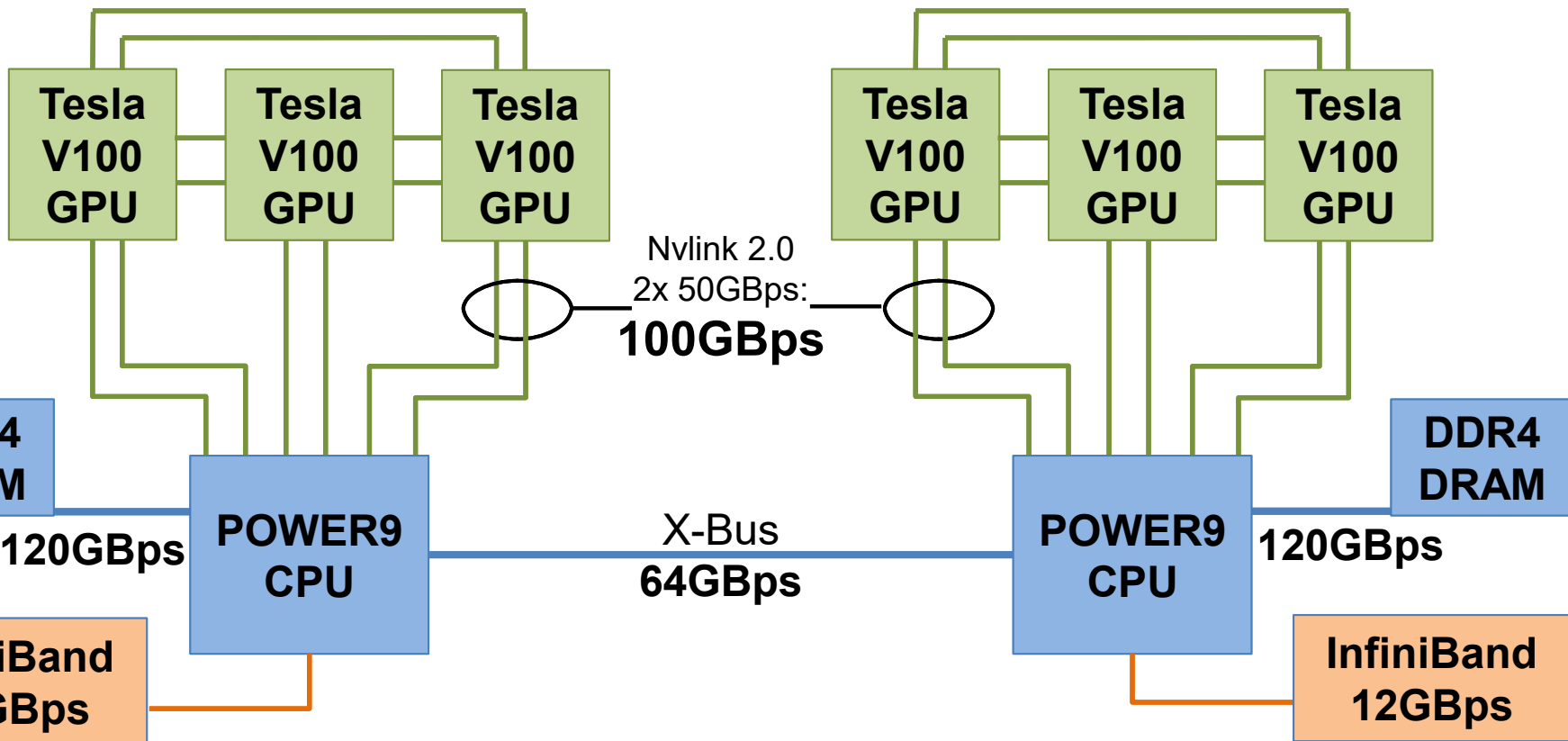
Energy efficiency: ARM+GPU

# IBM AC922 w/ 6 GPUs



# IBM AC922 Summit Node

3 GPUs Per CPU Socket



# NAMD Highlights

- **Over 12,600 citations of NAMD**
- One program available on all platforms.
  - Desktops and laptops – setup and testing
  - Linux clusters – affordable local workhorses
  - Supercomputers – free allocations on XSEDE
  - Blue Waters – sustained petaflop/s performance
  - GPUs – from desktop to supercomputer
- User knowledge is preserved across platforms.
  - No change in input or output files.
  - Run any simulation on **any number of cores**.
- Available free of charge to all.



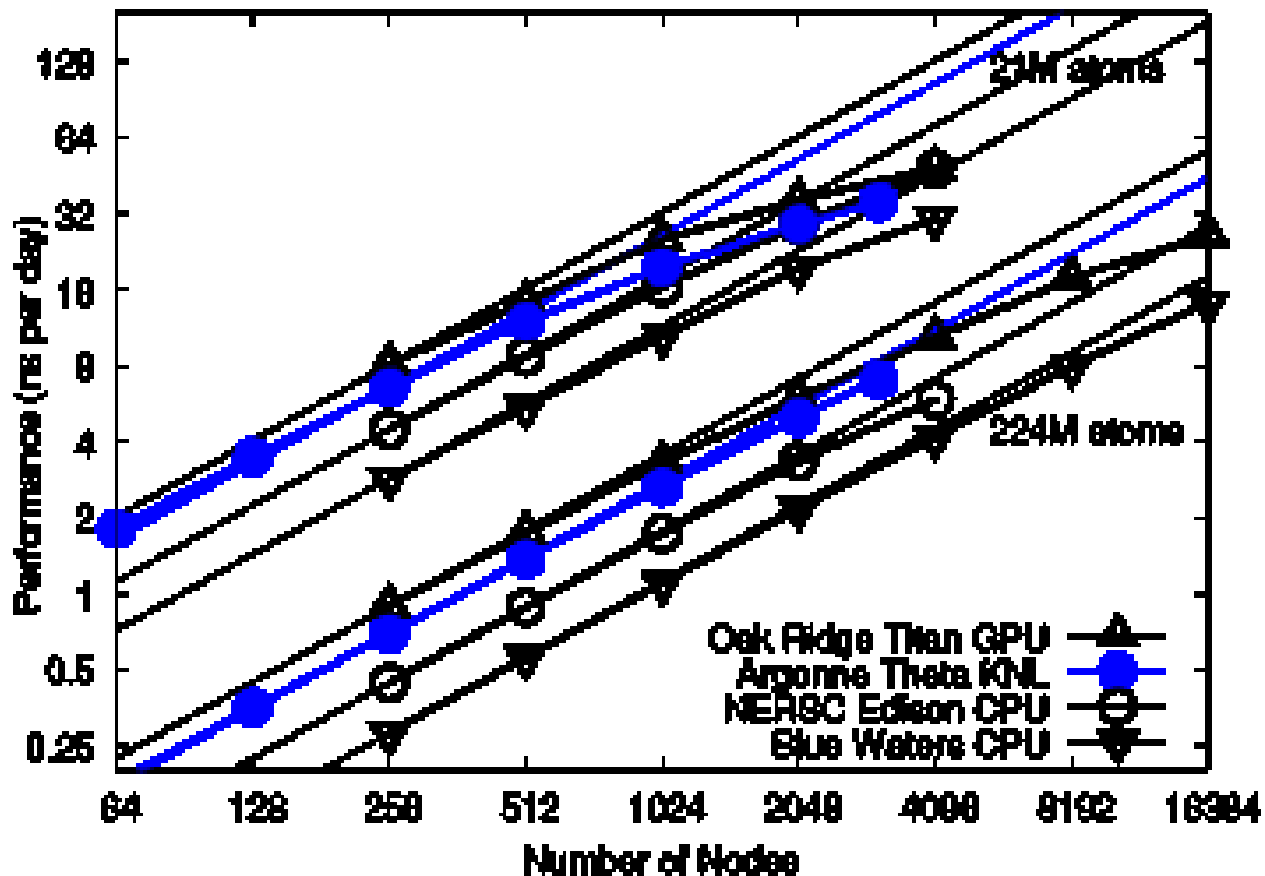
Hands-On Workshops



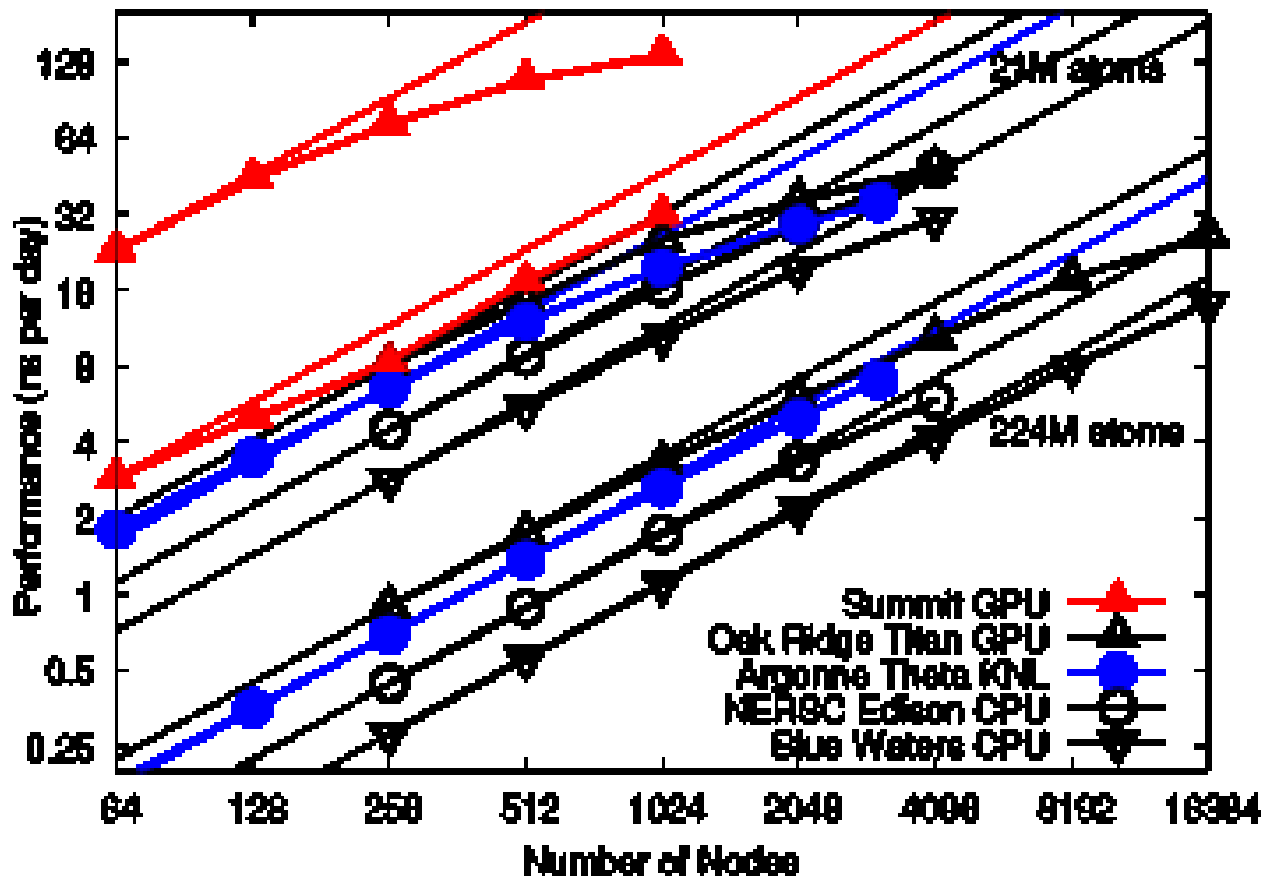
Oak Ridge TITAN



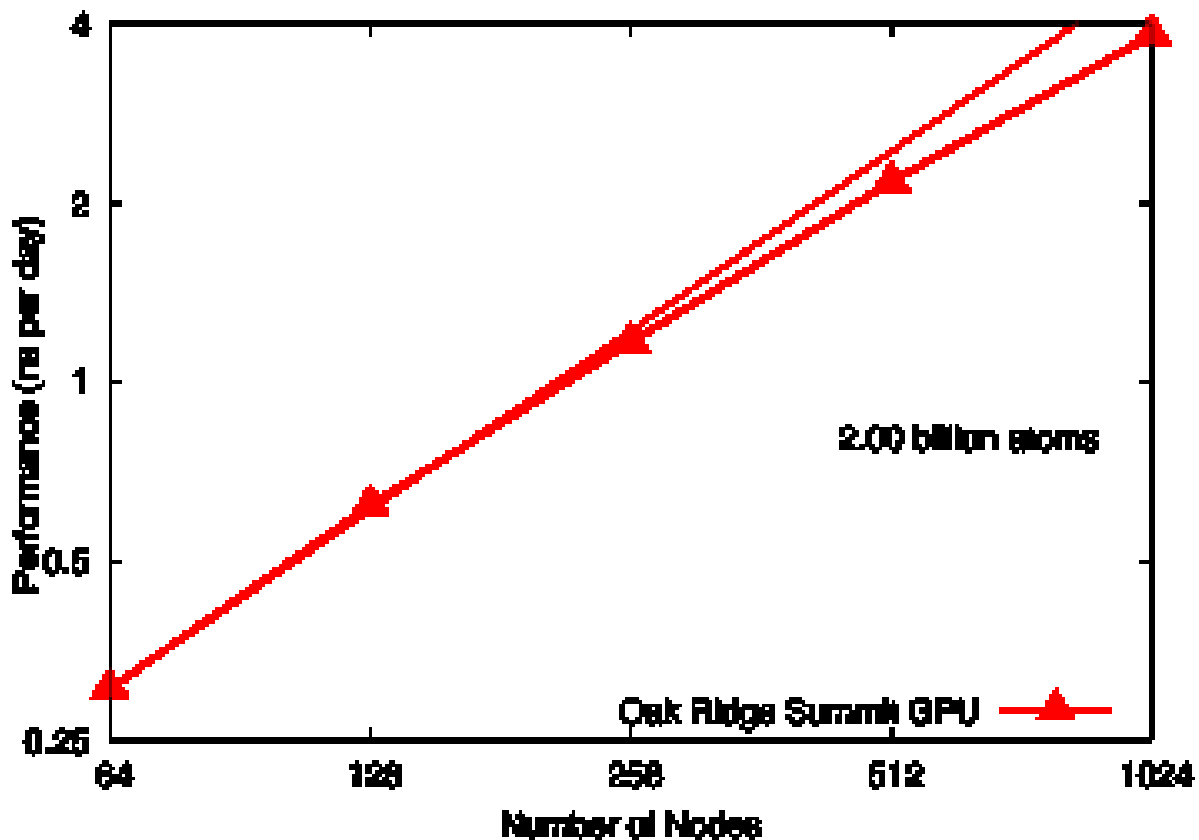
# NAMD Now Runs on Summit



# NAMD Now Runs on Summit



# NAMD 2 Billion Atom Benchmark



# Upcoming NAMD 2.13 Release

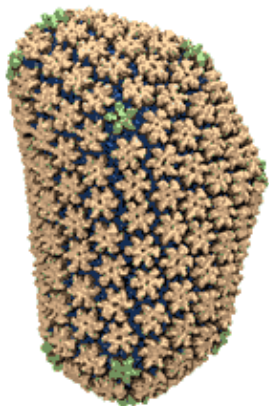
- NAMD 2.13 beta will soon be released
- Improved GPU support
  - Introducing CUDA kernels for offloading (almost) entire force calculation
    - Bonds, angles, dihedrals, impropers, crossterms, exclusions
  - Better GPU device management, especially for multiple GPUs per node
- Support for system sizes up to 2 billion atoms
  - Internal fixes for data structure setup and file I/O
  - Extend system preparation tools (combine Psfgen with substructure assembly)
  - Enables simulation of initial protocell model

# NAMD 2.13 Advanced Simulation Features

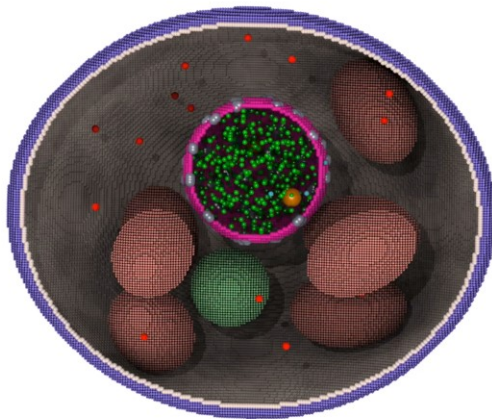
- Hybrid Quantum Mechanics / Molecular Mechanics simulation
  - Precise QM calculations for regions such as active sites of enzymes
  - Combined with fast classical calculation for the rest of a biomolecular system
  - **Interfaces support MOPAC (semi-empirical) and ORCA (*ab-initio*/DFT)**
  - **M. Melo, R. Bernardi, et al. *Nature Methods*, 2018.**
- Constant-pH Molecular Dynamics simulation
  - Study changes in protonation states of molecules in response to a pH buffer
- REST2 (Replica Exchange Solute Tempering) simulations
  - Enhanced sampling, more efficient than traditional temperature exchange
  - Implemented by rescaling force field parameters - immediate GPU support

# VMD – “Visual Molecular Dynamics”

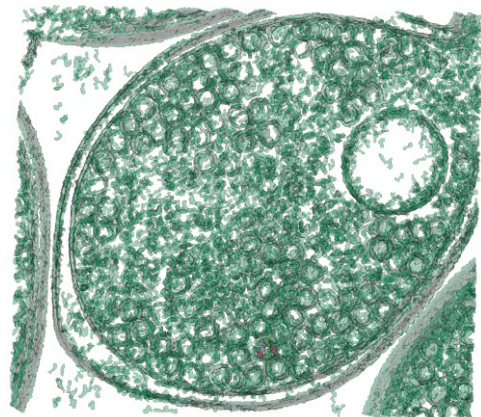
- Unique capabilities:
  - Trajectories are fundamental to VMD
  - Support for very large systems, now reaching billions of particles
  - Extensive GPU acceleration
  - Parallel analysis/visualization with MPI
- Visualization and analysis of:
  - Molecular dynamics simulations
  - “Particle” systems and whole cells
  - Cryo-EM densities, volumetric data
  - Quantum chemistry calculations
  - Sequence information



MD Simulations

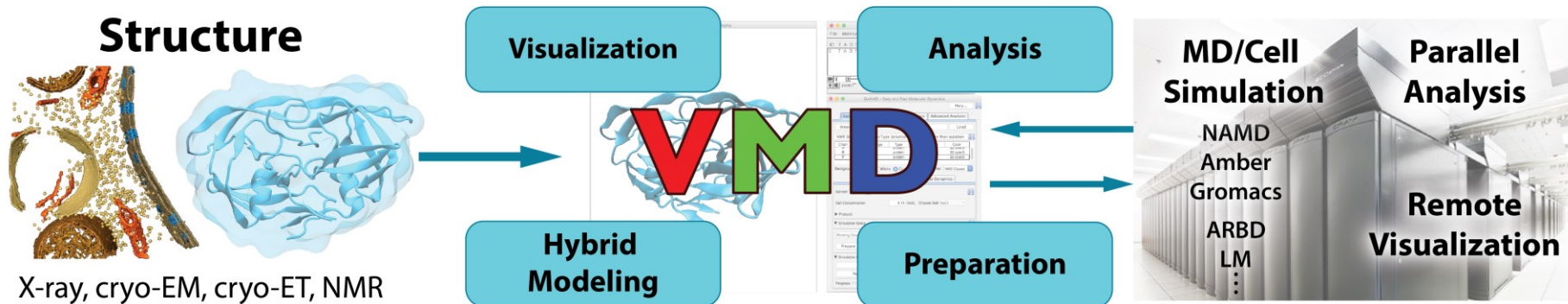


Cell-Scale Simulation



Integrate w/ Cryo-EM/ET

# VMD: Building A Next Generation Modeling Platform



- Provide tools for simulation preparation, visualization, and analysis
  - Reach cell-scale modeling w/ all-atom MD, coarse grained, Lattice Microbes
  - Improved performance, visual fidelity, exploit advanced technologies (GPUs, VR HMDs)
- Enable hybrid modeling and computational electron microscopy
  - Load, filter, process, interpret, visualize multi-modal structural information
- Connect key software tools to enable state-of-the-art simulations
  - Support new data types, file formats, software interfaces
- Openness, extensibility, and interoperability are VMD hallmarks
  - Reusable algorithms made available in NAMD, for other tools

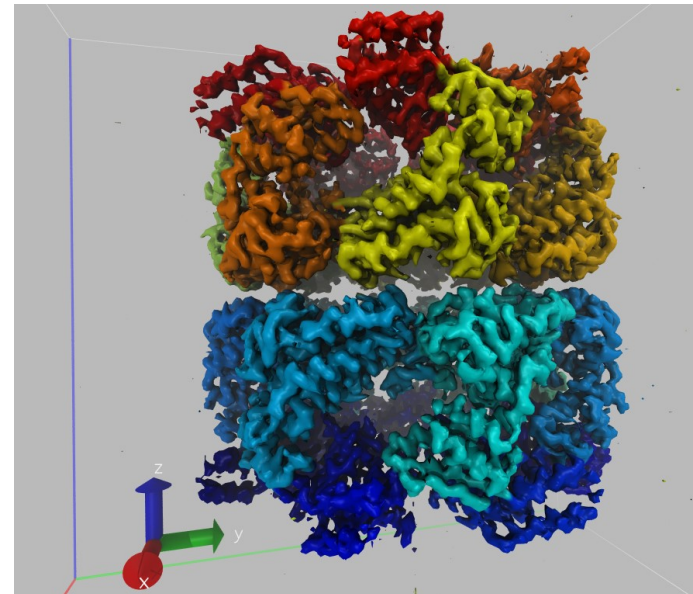
# Upcoming VMD 1.9.4 Release, Foundation for Future

24,600 VMD Citations

1.9.3: 63,000 users, 9,965 NIH (Nov'16)

1.9.4 pre-releases: 12,500 users (Jul'17)

- VMD 1.9.4 beta release next month
- Support for ORNL Summit
- Many visualization and analytical advances:
  - **GPU-accelerated density map segmentation**
  - **Multi-billion voxel tomograms and density maps**
  - **QM/MM visualization improvements**
  - NanoShaper: molecular surfaces, cavity calc.
  - Many ray tracing advances
- New, updated, user-contributed plugins:
  - **QwikMD simulation prep/analysis: QM/MM**
  - **ffTK force field parameterization: RESP calcs**
  - BFEE– Binding free energy estimator
  - ParseFEP – Analyze NAMD free energy calculations



**GPU Density Map Segmentation**

## Recent Publications:

- **NAMD goes quantum: An integrative suite for hybrid simulations.** Nature Methods, 2018.
- **Challenges of Integrating Stochastic Dynamics and Cryo-Electron Tomograms in Whole-Cell Simulations.** JPCB, 2017



# Selected VMD Plugins: Center Developed, and User Developed

## Analysis

APBSRun  
CatDCD  
Contact Map  
[GofRGUI](#)  
[HeatMapper](#)  
ILSTools  
[IRSpecGUI](#)  
MultiSeq  
NAMD Energy  
NAMD Plot  
NetworkView  
[NMWiz](#)  
[ParseFEP](#)  
PBCTools  
PMEpot  
[PropKa GUI](#)  
RamaPlot  
RMSD Tool  
[RMSD Trajectory Tool](#)  
[RMSD Visualizer Tool](#)  
Salt Bridges  
Sequence Viewer  
Symmetry Tool  
Timeline  
[TorsionPlot](#)  
VolMap

## Modeling

AutoIonize  
AutoPSF  
Chirality  
Cionize  
Cispeptide  
CGTools  
Dowser  
ffTK  
Inorganic Builder  
MDFF  
Membrane  
Merge Structs  
Molefacture  
Mutator  
[Nanotube](#)  
Psfgen  
[RESPTool](#)  
RNAView  
Solvate  
SSRestrains  
Topotools

## Visualization

Clipping Plane Tool  
[Clone Rep](#)  
DemoMaster  
[Dipole Watcher](#)  
[Intersurf](#)  
[Navigate](#)  
NavFly  
[MultiMolAnim](#)  
Color Scale Bar  
Remote  
Palette Tool  
ViewChangeRender  
ViewMaster  
[Virtual DNA Viewer](#)  
VMD Movie Maker

## Simulation

AlaScan  
AutoIMD  
IMDMenu  
NAMD GUI  
NAMD Server  
QMTTool

## Collaboration

Remote Control

## Data Import and Plotting

Data Import  
Multiplot  
PDBTool  
MultiText

## Externally Hosted Plugins and Extensions

[Check sidechains](#)  
[MultiMSMS](#)  
[Interactive Essential Dynamics](#)  
[Mead Ionize](#)  
[Clustering Tool](#)  
[iTrajComp](#)  
[Swap RMSD](#)  
[Intervor](#)  
[SurfVol](#)  
[vmdICE](#)

**75 MolFile I/O Plugins:**  
structure, trajectory, sequence,  
and density map

<http://www.ks.uiuc.edu/Research/vmd/plugins/>

# QwikMD: Guided MD Simulation and Training

## See live demo during lab tour!

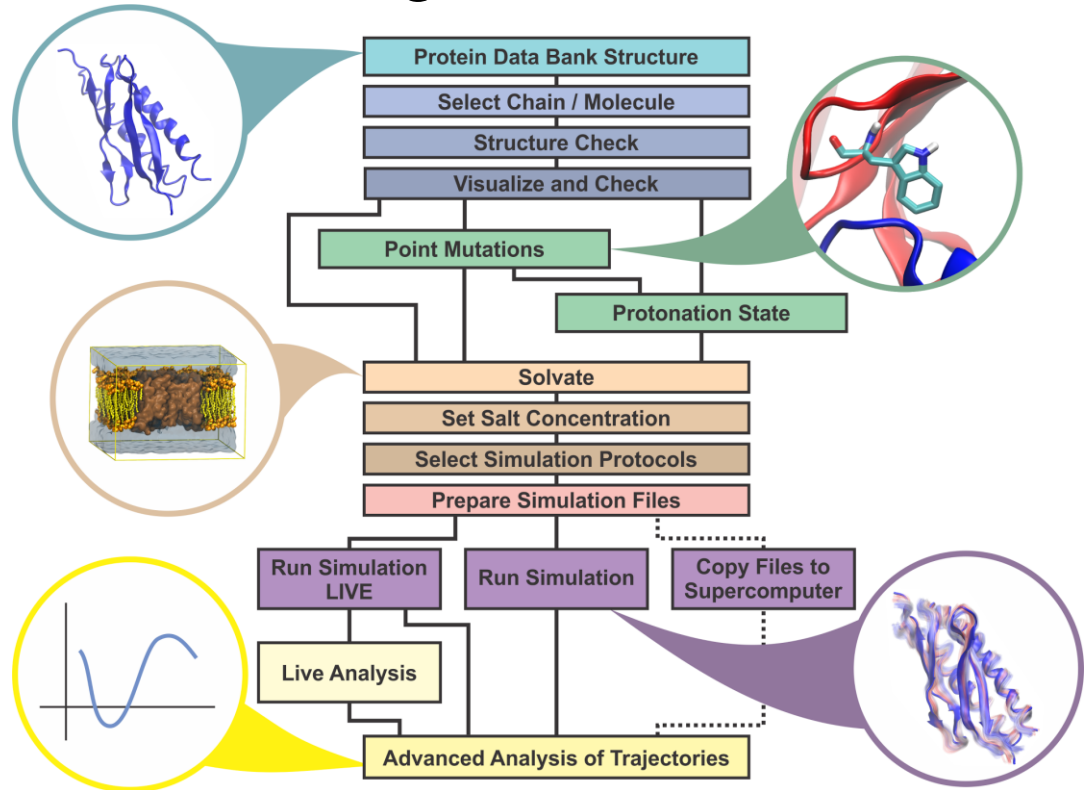
Smooths initial learning curve (non-expert users)

Training: used in 4 Center workshops to-date

Speed up tedious simulation preparation tasks (expert users)

**Reproducibility:**  
detailed log of all steps

Interactive preparation, simulation, and analysis



# Trajectory and Large System Analysis and Visualization on GPUs, Clusters, and Supercomputers

# VMD Petascale Visualization and Analysis

- Analyze/visualize large trajectories too large to transfer off-site:
  - User-defined parallel analysis operations, data types
  - Parallel rendering, movie making
- Supports GPU-accelerated Cray XK7 nodes for both visualization and analysis:
  - **GPU accelerated trajectory analysis w/ CUDA**
  - **OpenGL and GPU ray tracing for visualization and movie rendering**
- Parallel I/O rates up to **275 GB/sec** on 8192 Cray XE6 nodes – can read in **231 TB in 15 minutes!**

**Parallel VMD currently available on:**

**ORNL Titan, NCSA Blue Waters, Indiana Big Red II,  
CSCS Piz Daint, and similar systems**

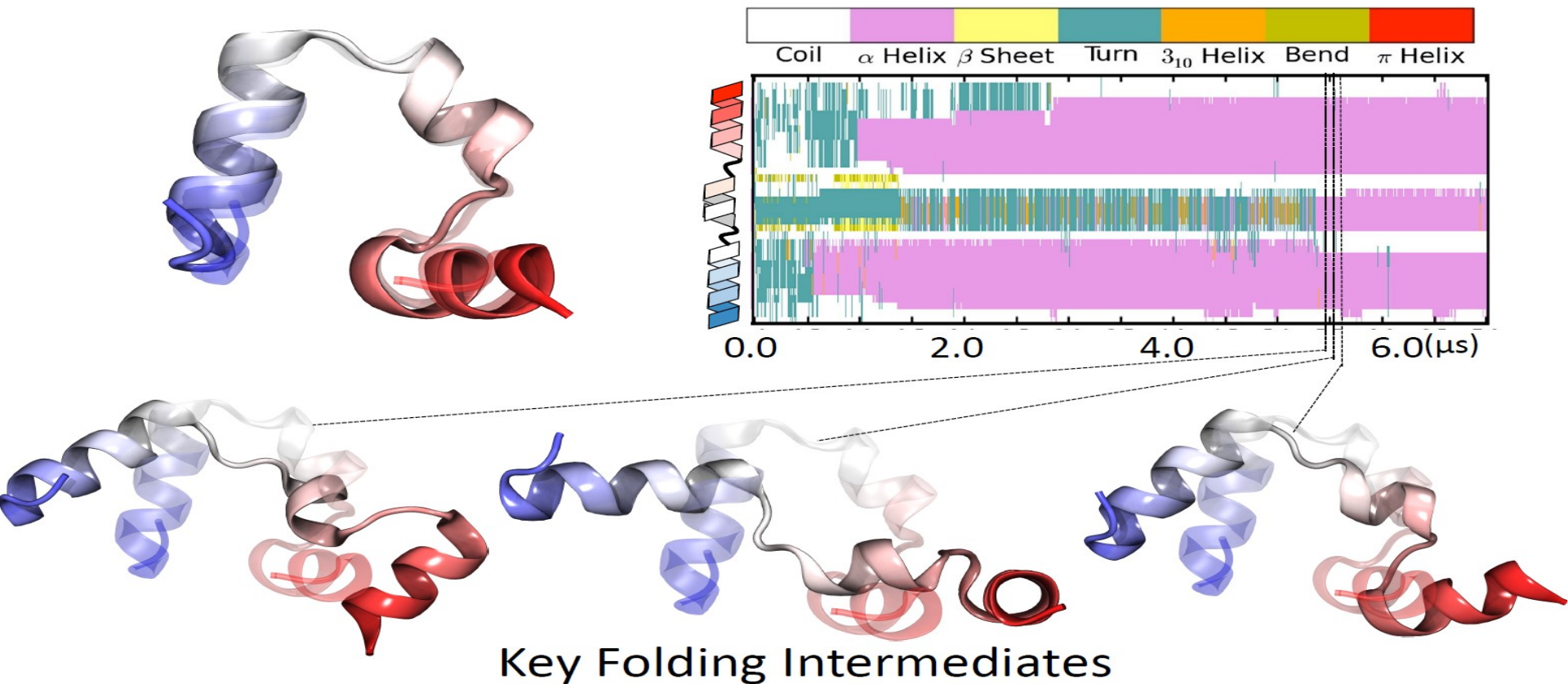


**NCSA Blue Waters Hybrid Cray XE6 / XK7**  
**22,640 XE6 dual-Opteron CPU nodes**  
**4,224 XK7 nodes w/ Telsa K20X GPUs**

# Folding Dynamics of Villin Headpiece Unveiled

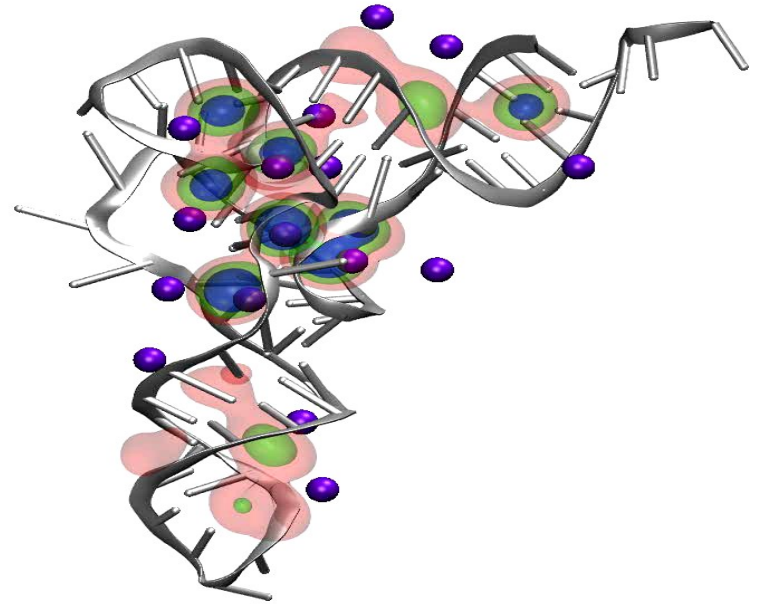
## 6.9 $\mu$ s folding simulation of 30K atoms: 380GB trajectory

Schulten et al. *Biophys J* **94**:L75, 2008, **97**: 2009



# Time-Averaged Volumetric Properties

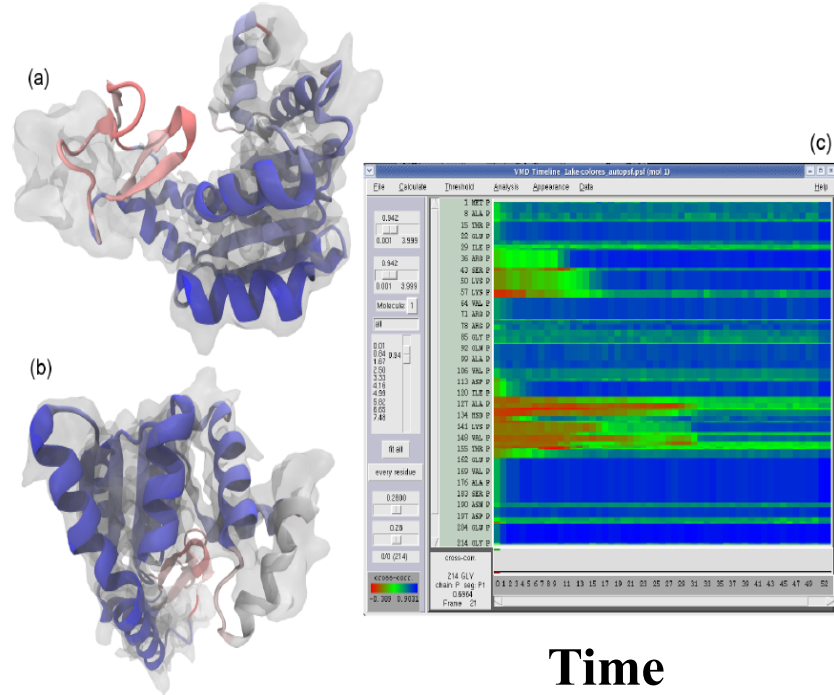
- Compute density, distance, occupancy, potential maps for a frame or averaged over a trajectory
- Example: display binding sites for diffusively bound ions as probability density isosurfaces



**tRNA magnesium ion occupancy:  
VMD volmap plugin**

# Interactive and Parallel Analysis

- New graphical interfaces for batch and interactive exploration, calculation
  - User interactions drive analysis focus with progressive refinement of details
  - Interactive in-situ analysis of running simulations
- Enabled by GPU acceleration, parallel computing on desktops, clouds, clusters
- Incorporate VMD analysis functions into NAMD, and other software



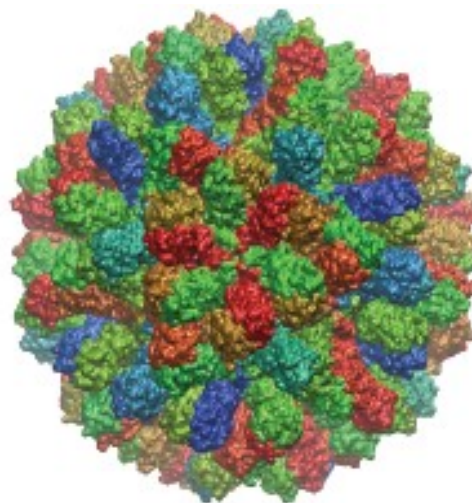
**MDFF Cross Correlation Analysis**  
**Regions with poor fit** **Regions with good fit**

# Parallel MDFF Cross Correlation Analysis on Cray XK7

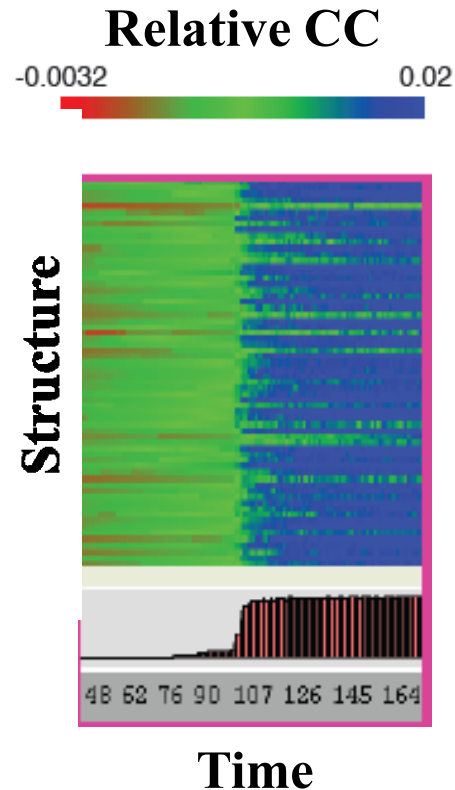
## Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV)

Traj. frames	10,000
Structure component selections	720
Single-node XK7 (projected)	336 hours (14 days)
128-node XK7	3.2 hours 105x speedup
2048-node XK7	19.5 minutes 1035x speedup

Calculation of 7M CCs would take **5 years** using serial CPU algorithm!



**RHDV colored by relative CC**





# VMD Tesla V100 Cross Correlation Performance

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus: 702K atoms, 6.5Å resolution

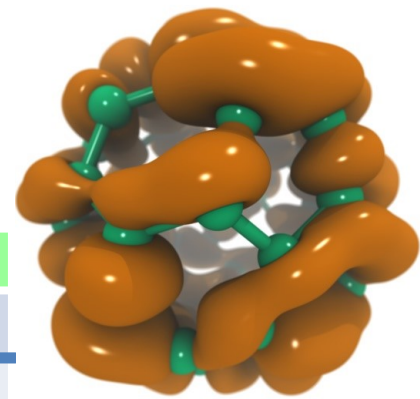
VMD on Volta GPUs now **~9x faster** than Kepler GPUs

Application and Hardware platform	Runtime, Speedup vs. Chimera, VMD+GPU
Chimera Xeon E5-2687W (2 socket) [1]	15.860s, 1x
VMD-CUDA IBM Power8 + 1x Tesla K40 [2]	0.488s, 32x <b>0.9x</b>
VMD-CUDA Intel Xeon E5-2687W + 1x Quadro K6000 [1,2]	0.458s, 35x <b>1.0x</b>
VMD-CUDA Intel Xeon E5-2698v3 + 1x Tesla P100	0.090s, 176x <b>5.1x</b>
VMD-CUDA IBM Power8 “Minsky” + 1x Tesla P100	0.080s, 198x <b>5.7x</b>
<b>VMD-CUDA Intel Xeon E5-2697Av4 + 1x Tesla V100</b>	<b>0.050s,</b> 317x <b>9.2x</b>
<b>VMD-CUDA IBM Power9 “Newell” + 1x Tesla V100</b>	<b>0.049s,</b> 323x <b>9.3x</b>

[1] GPU-Accelerated Analysis and Visualization of Large Structures Solved by Molecular Dynamics Flexible Fitting. J. E. Stone, R. McGreevy, B. Isralewitz, and K. Schulten. Faraday Discussions 169:265-283, 2014.

[2] Early Experiences Porting the NAMD and VMD Molecular Simulation and Analysis Software to GPU-Accelerated OpenPOWER Platforms. J. E. Stone, A.-P. Hynninen, J. C. Phillips, K. Schulten. International Workshop on OpenPOWER for HPC (IWOPH'16), LNCS 9945, pp. 188-206, 2016.

# VMD Tesla V100 Performance for $C_{60}$ Molecular Orbitals, 516x519x507 grid



Hardware platform	Runtime,	Speedup
IBM Power8 (ORNL 'crest') + 1x Tesla K40 [1]	3.49s,	1.0x
Intel Xeon E5-2697Av4 + 1x Tesla V100 [2]	0.610s,	5.7x
Intel Xeon E5-2697Av4 + 2x Tesla V100 [2]	0.294s,	11.8x
Intel Xeon E5-2697Av4 + 3x Tesla V100 [2]	0.220s,	15.9x
IBM Power9 "Newell" + 1x Tesla V100	0.394s,	8.8x
IBM Power9 "Newell" + 2x Tesla V100	0.207s,	16.8x
IBM Power9 "Newell" + 3x Tesla V100	0.151s,	23.1x
IBM Power9 "Newell" + 4x Tesla V100	0.130s,	26.8x

NVLink perf. boost

[1] Early Experiences Porting the NAMD and VMD Molecular Simulation and Analysis Software to GPU-Accelerated OpenPOWER Platforms. J. E. Stone, A.-P. Hynninen, J. C. Phillips, K. Schulten. International Workshop on OpenPOWER for HPC (IWOPH'16), LNCS 9945, pp. 188-206, 2016.

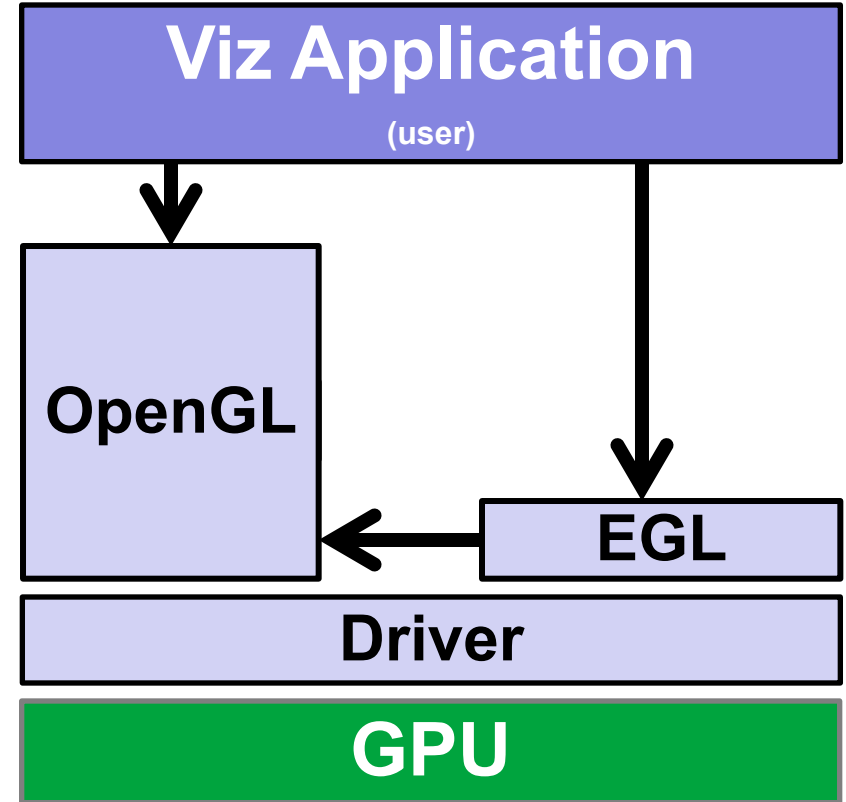
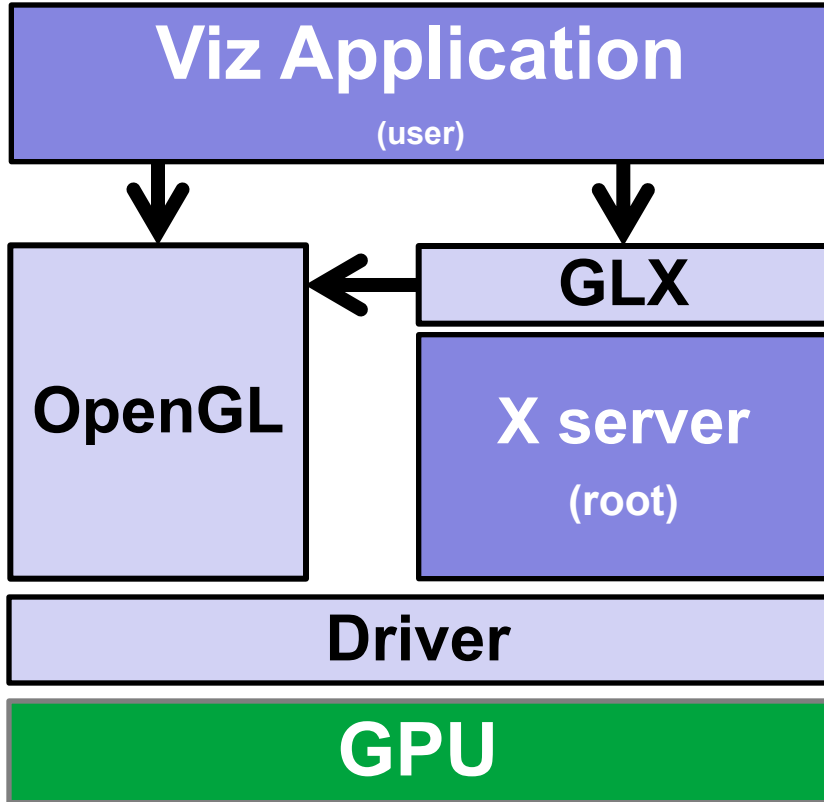
[2] NAMD goes quantum: An integrative suite for hybrid simulations. Melo et al., Nature Methods, 2018.

# VMD Off-Screen Rendering w/ EGL

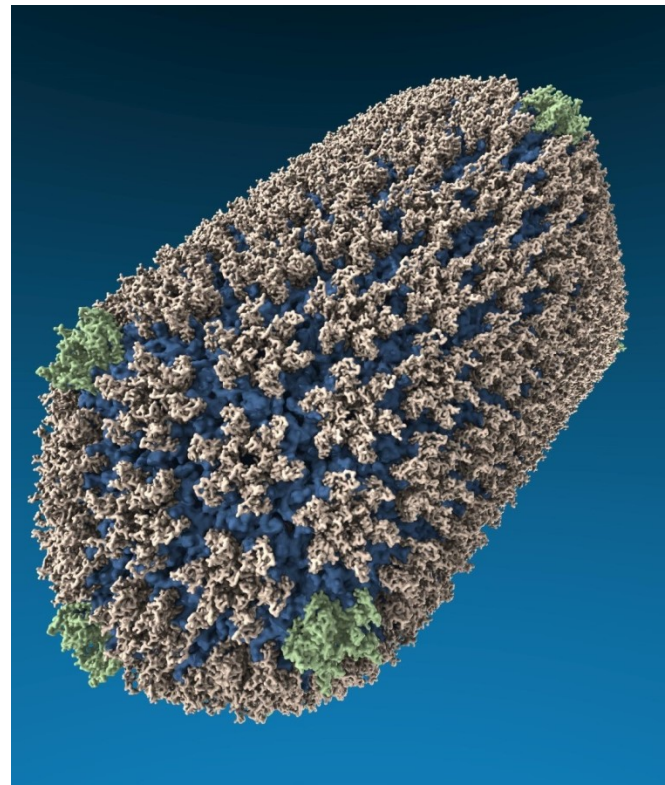
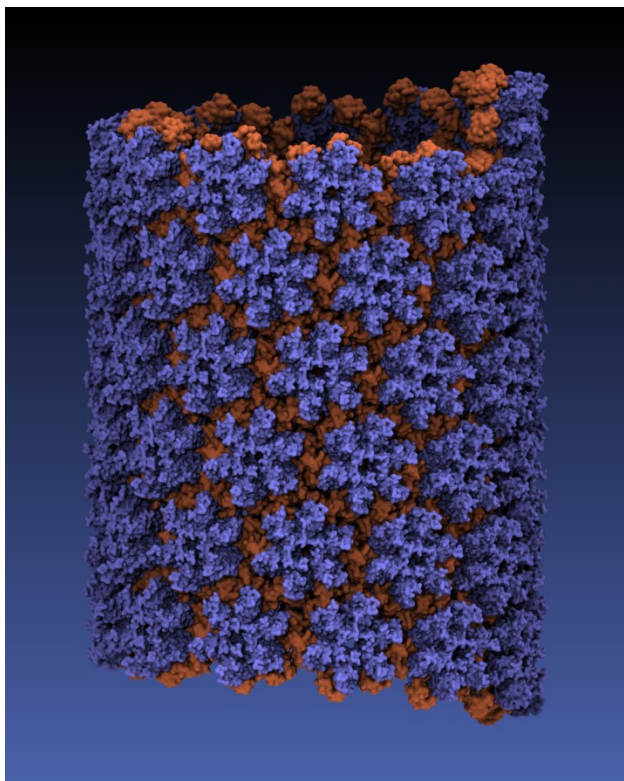
- Containers+Cloud+Workstations with recent NVIDIA drivers
- VMD on HPC systems w/ latest GPUs:
  - Cray XC50, CSCS Piz Daint
  - **ORNL Summit in progress now**
  - IBM OpenPOWER, drivers 375.66 and later support both GLX and EGL



# OpenGL: GLX vs. EGL



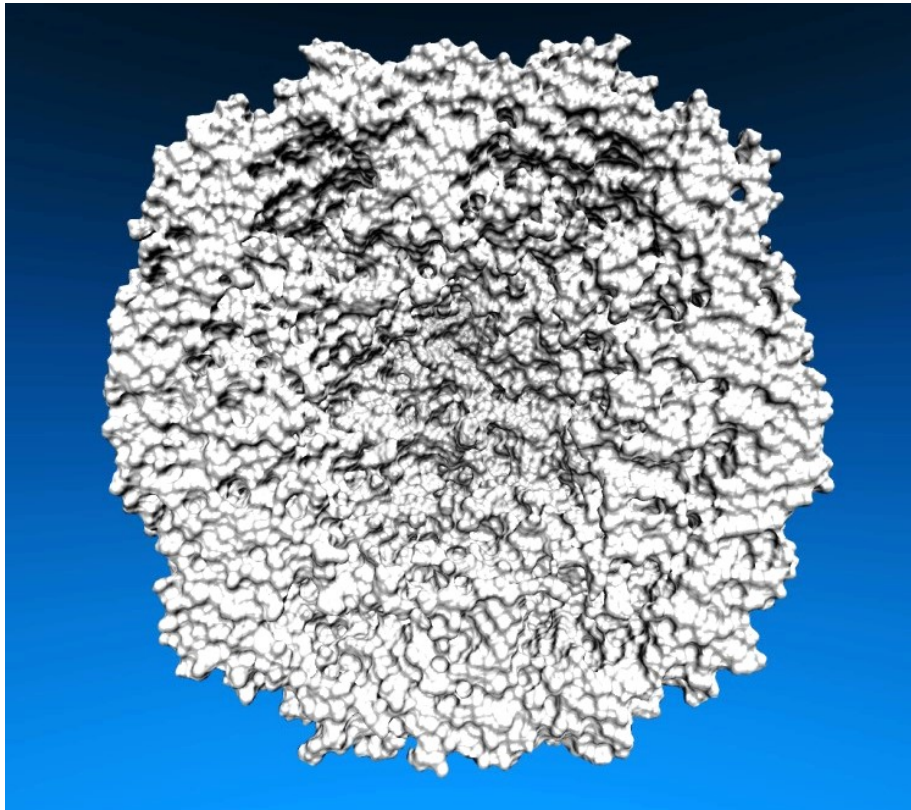
# VMD “QuickSurf” Representation, Ray Tracing



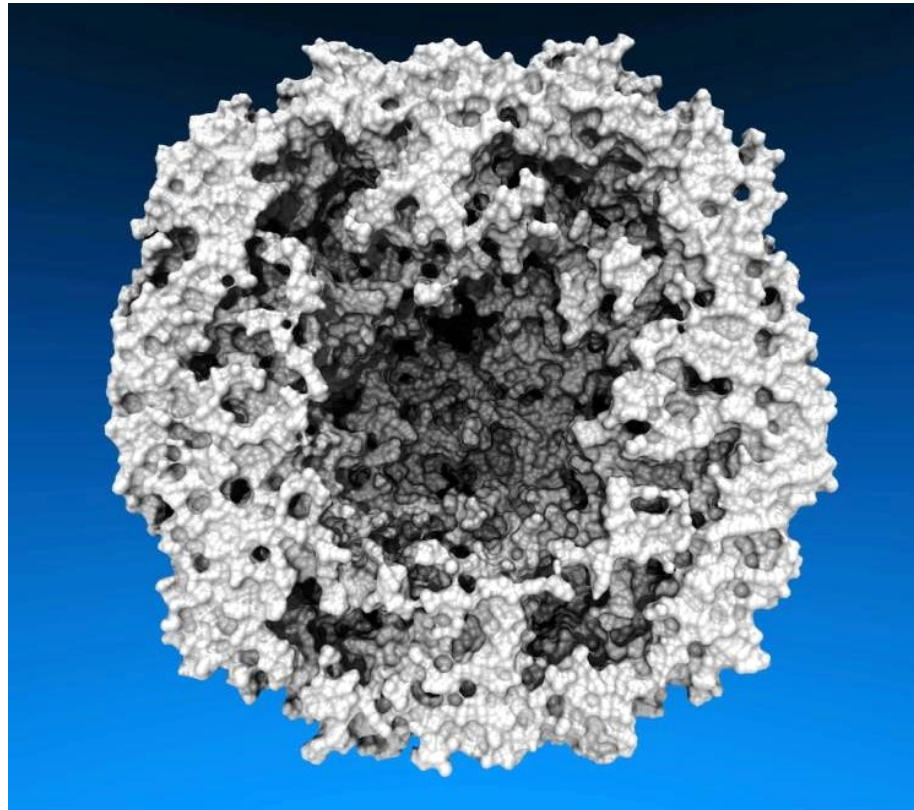
**All-atom HIV capsid simulations w/ up to 64M atoms on Blue Waters**

***Interactive*** Ray Tracing, Lighting Comparison: STMV Capsid

**Two lights, no shadows  
(e.g. as used by OpenGL)**

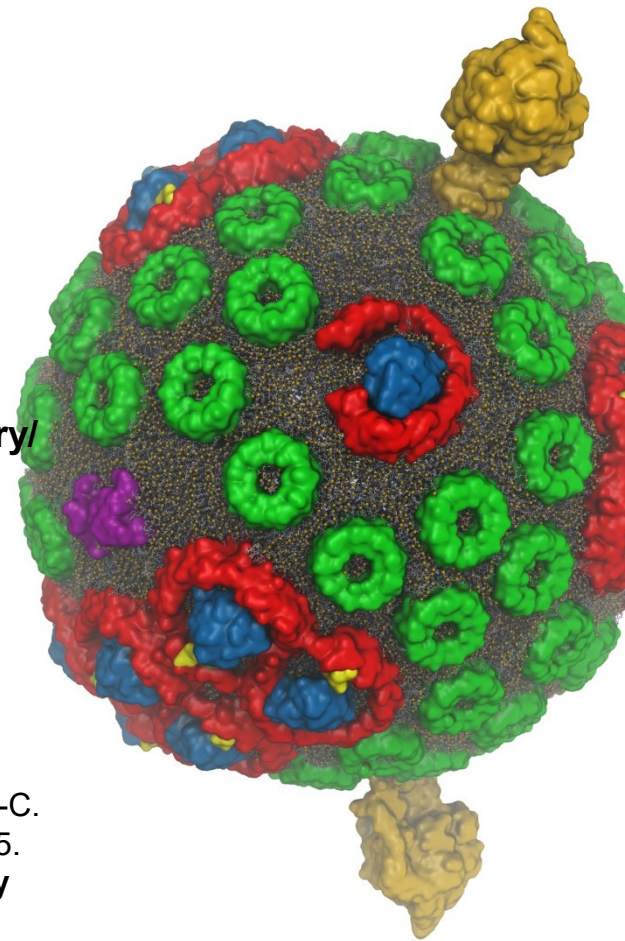


**Ambient occlusion lighting  
and shadows w/ RT**



# VMD w/ OptiX 5

- Interactive RT on laptops, desktops, and cloud
- Large-scale parallel rendering: in situ or post hoc visualization
- Remote RT on NVIDIA GPU clusters
- Stereoscopic panoramic and full-dome projections
- Omnidirectional VR for YouTube, VR HMDs
- **GPU memory sharing via NVLink on Quadro GP100, Tesla P100**
- **VMD+OptiX 5, NVIDIA NGC container: <https://ngc.nvidia.com/registry/>**
- **In-progress:**
  - **OptiX denoising support: fast turnaround w/ AO, DoF, etc**
  - **Denoising to enable practical use of path tracing in VMD**



**GPU-Accelerated Molecular Visualization on Petascale Supercomputing Platforms.**

J. E. Stone, K. L. Vandivort, and K. Schulten. UltraVis'13, pp. 6:1-6:8, 2013.

**Visualization of Energy Conversion Processes in a Light Harvesting Organelle at Atomic Detail.** M. Sener, et al. SC'14 Visualization and Data Analytics Showcase, 2014.

**Chemical Visualization of Human Pathogens: the Retroviral Capsids.** J. R. Perilla, B.-C. Goh, J. E. Stone, and K. Schulten. SC'15 Visualization and Data Analytics Showcase, 2015.

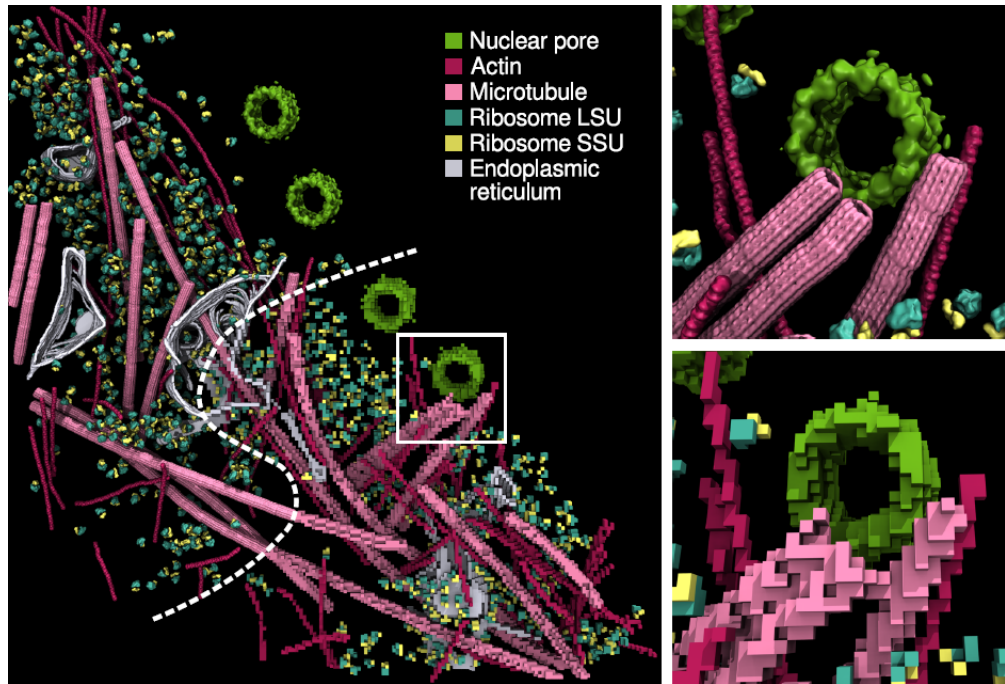
**Atomic Detail Visualization of Photosynthetic Membranes with GPU-Accelerated Ray Tracing.** J. E. Stone et al., J. Parallel Computing, 55:17-27, 2016.

**Immersive Molecular Visualization with Omnidirectional Stereoscopic Ray Tracing and Remote Rendering** J. E. Stone, W. R. Sherman, and K. HPDAV, IPDPSW, pp. 1048-1057, 2016.

**VMD/OptiX GPU Ray Tracing of all-atom Chromatophore w/ lipids.**

# Interactive Ray Tracing of Cells

- High resolution cellular tomograms, **billions of voxels**
- Even isosurface or lattice site graphical representations involve ~100M geometric primitives
- 24GB Quadro M6000s used for interactive RT of cellular tomograms of this size
- **Quadro GP100 / GV100 GPUs benefit from OptiX support for NVLink and distribution of scene data across multiple GPUs**

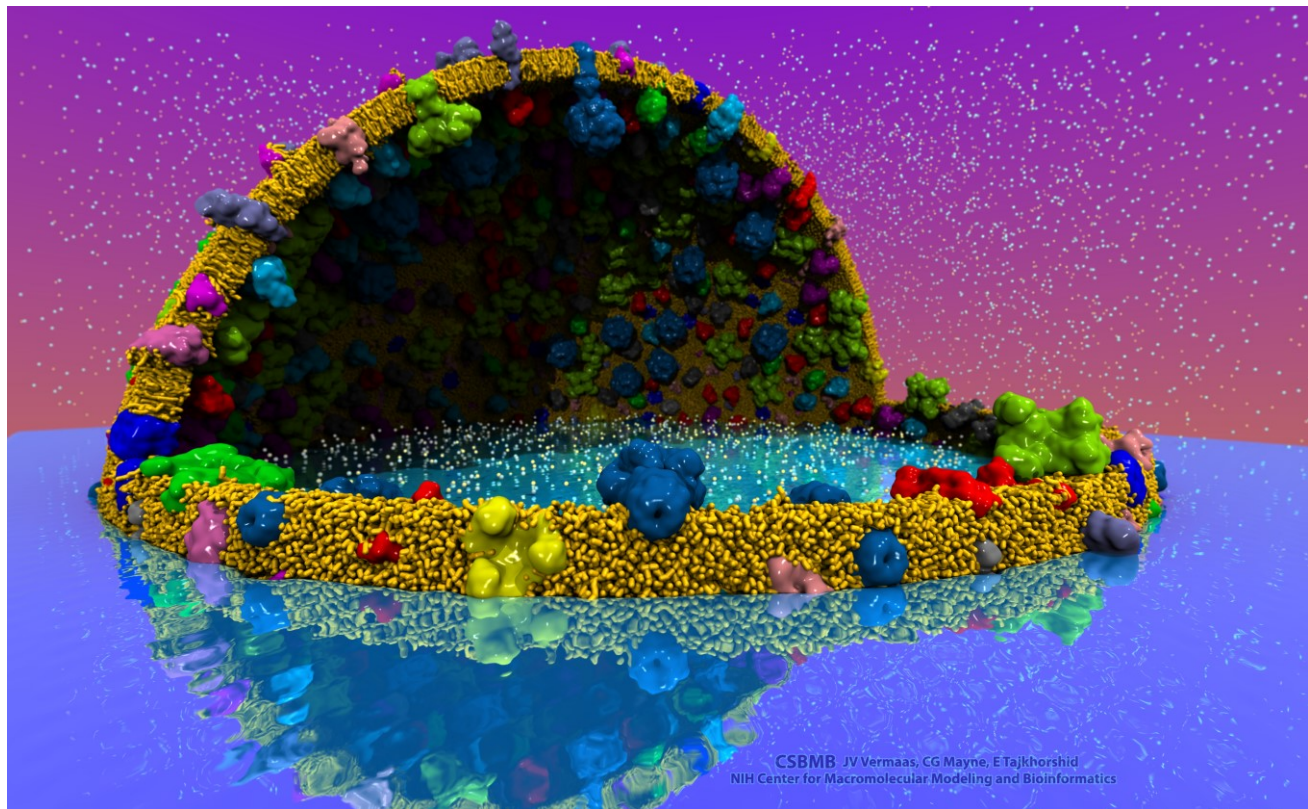


Earnest, et al. J. Physical Chemistry B, 121(15): 3871-3881, 2017.



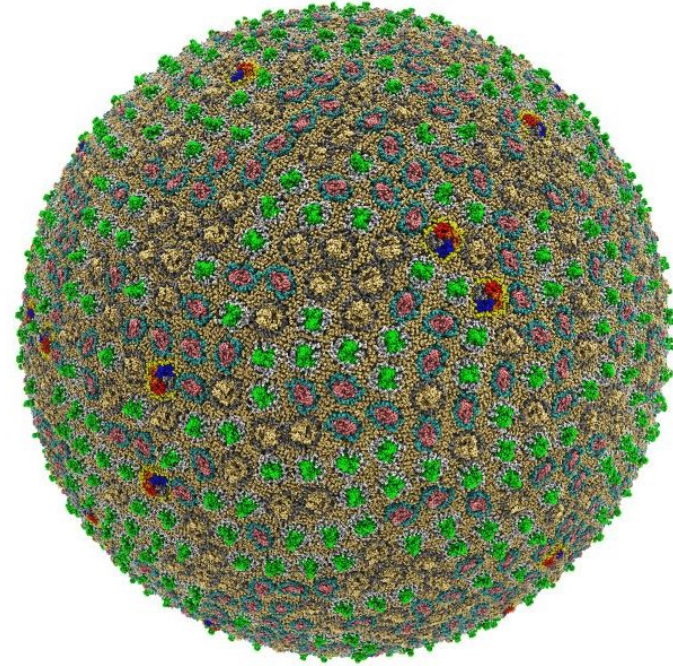
# Proto-Cell Rendered with VMD+OptiX

- 113M particles
- 1,397 copies of 14 different membrane proteins
- Preparing for simulations on pre-exascale computers



# Preparation, Visualization, Analysis of Cell-Scale Simulations

- Support for large memory (TB), up to **2 billion atoms per “molecule” now**
- Interactive viz. w/ OpenGL/EGL, Vulkan
- Interactive ray tracing on CPUs and GPUs
- Remote visualization w/ video streaming
- New file formats, compression, out-of-core, and non-volatile memory technologies
- Parallel analysis, visualization w/ MPI
- 200 nm spherical envelope
- Membrane with ~50% occupancy by proteins
- 63M atoms in envelope model



**Challenges of Integrating Stochastic Dynamics and Cryo-electron Tomograms in Whole-cell Simulations.** Earnest, et al. J. Physical Chemistry B, 121(15): 3871-3881, 2017.

**Atomic Detail Visualization of Photosynthetic Membranes with GPU-Accelerated Ray Tracing.** J.E. Stone, ..., K. Schulten, J. Parallel Computing, 55:17-27, 2016.

**High Performance Molecular Visualization: In-Situ and Parallel Rendering with EGL.** J.E. Stone, ..., K. Schulten. IEEE High Performance Data Analysis and Visualization, IPDPSW, pp. 1014-1023, 2016.

# VMD Atomic Detail Visualization of Cellular Architecture with Instancing

- VMD 1.9.4 supports instancing of graphical representations associated with molecules
- Exploit **VBO caching** in OpenGL to eliminate host-GPU geometry transfers
- **OptiX instancing** of geometry buffers to minimize GPU memory footprint for cell-scale scenes w/ atomic structures



# Making Our Research Tools Easily Accessible

- Docker “container” images available in NVIDIA NGC registry
  - Users obtain Docker images via registry, download and run on the laptop, workstation, cloud, or supercomputer of their choosing
  - <https://ngc.nvidia.com/registry/>
  - <https://ngc.nvidia.com/registry/hpc-vmd>
- Cloud based deployment
  - Full virtual machines (known as “AMI” in Amazon terminology)
  - Amazon AWS EC2 GPU-accelerated instances:  
<http://www.ks.uiuc.edu/Research/cloud/>



Clusters, Supercomputers

Workstations,  
Servers,  
Cloud



**Molecular dynamics-based refinement and validation for sub-5 Å cryo-electron microscopy maps.** Abhishek Singharoy, Ivan Teo, Ryan McGreevy, John E. Stone, Jianhua Zhao, and Klaus Schulten. *eLife*, 10.7554/eLife.16105, 2016. (66 pages).

**QwikMD-integrative molecular dynamics toolkit for novices and experts.** Joao V. Ribeiro, Rafael C. Bernardi, Till Rudack, John E. Stone, James C. Phillips, Peter L. Freddolino, and Klaus Schulten. *Scientific Reports*, 6:26536, 2016.

**High performance molecular visualization: In-situ and parallel rendering with EGL.** John E. Stone, Peter Messmer, Robert Sisneros, and Klaus Schulten. *2016 IEEE International Parallel and Distributed Processing Symposium Workshop (IPDPSW)*, pp. 1014-1023, 2016.

# VMD / NAMD / LM, NGC Containers

## Registry

[Get API Key](#)



### Documentation

How to use NGC containers on supported platforms >

### Repositories

**nvidia** ^

**hpc** v

- candle
- gamess
- gromacs
- lammers
- lattice-microbes
- namd
- relion
- vmd

**nvidia-hpcvis** v

- index
- paraview-holodeck
- paraview-index
- paraview-optim

### hpc/vmd

```
docker pull nvcr.io/hpc/vmd:cuda9-ubuntu1604-egl-1.9.4a17
```

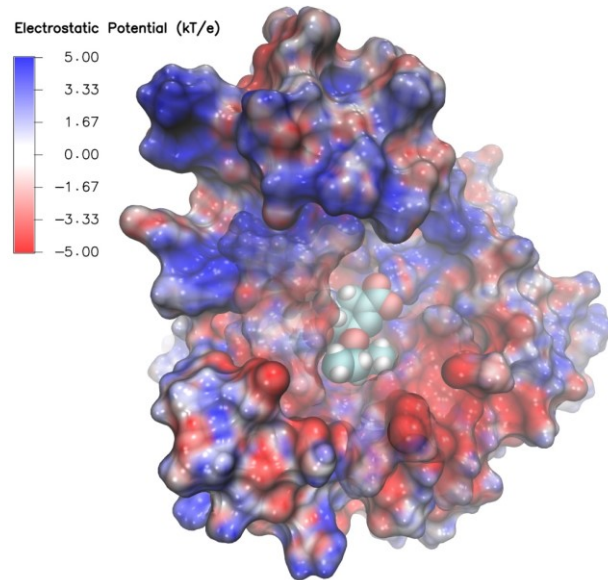
## VMD

VMD is designed for modeling, visualization, and analysis of biomolecular systems such as proteins, nucleic acids, lipid membranes, carbohydrate structures, etc. VMD provides a wide variety of graphical representations for visualizing and coloring molecular structures: molecular surfaces, space-filling CPK spheres and cylinders, licorice bonds, backbone tubes and ribbons, secondary structure cartoons, and others.

VMD can be used to animate and analyze the trajectory of a molecular dynamics (MD) simulation. In particular, VMD can act as a graphical front end for an external MD program by

# VMD OptiX/EGL NGC Container

- <https://ngc.nvidia.com/registry/>
- **CUDA-accelerated viz+analysis**
- **EGL off-screen rendering** – no windowing system needed
- **OptiX high-fidelity GPU ray tracing engine built in**
- All dependencies included
- **Easy to deploy on a wide range of GPU accelerated platforms**



**High performance molecular visualization: In-situ and parallel rendering with EGL.** J. E. Stone, P. Messmer, R. Sisneros, and K. Schulten. *2016 IEEE International Parallel and Distributed Processing Symposium Workshop (IPDPSW)*, pp. 1014-1023, 2016.

## Ongoing Work:

- Khronos OpenXR
- NVIDIA VR plugin for use w/ game engines

## VMD VR ray tracing:

- Google Cardboard [1]
- Remote VR Viz. [2]

VR user interaction with VMD models in **room-scale VR** with NVIDIA

# VMD VR Progress



## [1] Atomic Detail Visualization of Photosynthetic Membranes with GPU-Accelerated Ray Tracing.

Stone et al., J. Parallel Computing, 55:17-27, 2016.

## [2] Immersive Molecular Visualization with Omnidirectional Stereoscopic Ray Tracing and Remote Rendering.

J.E. Stone, W.R. Sherman, K. Schulten. IEEE HPDAV (IPDPSW), pp. 1048-1057, 2016.

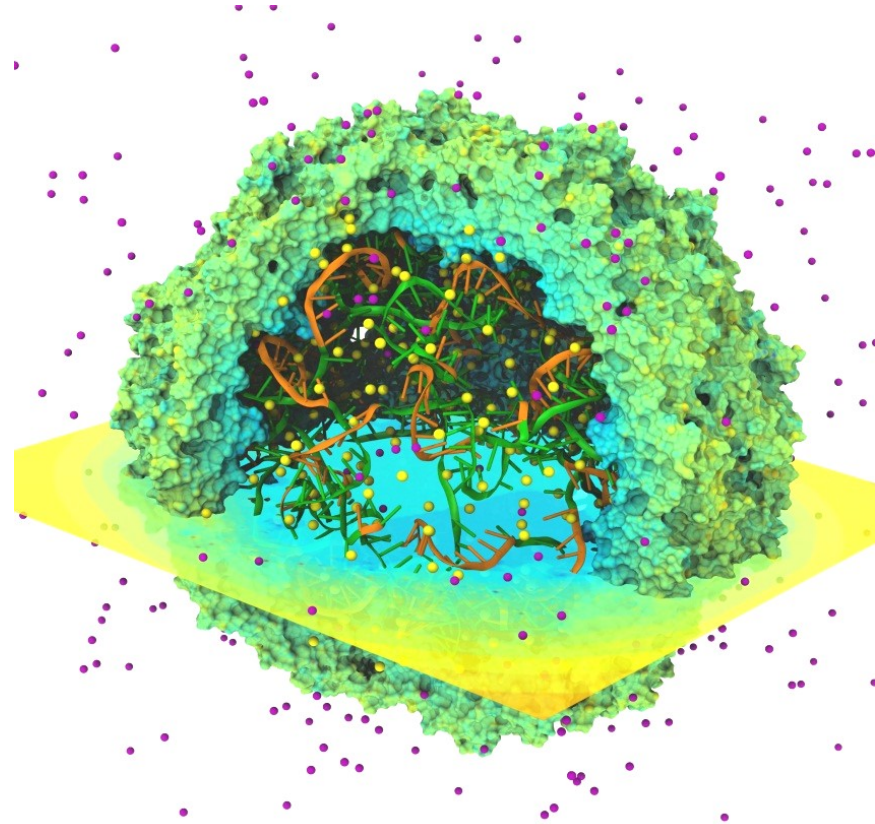
VMD Chromatophore Demo, NVIDIA VR Room @ Supercomputing

# VMD Visualization Concepts



# Biomolecular Visualization Challenges

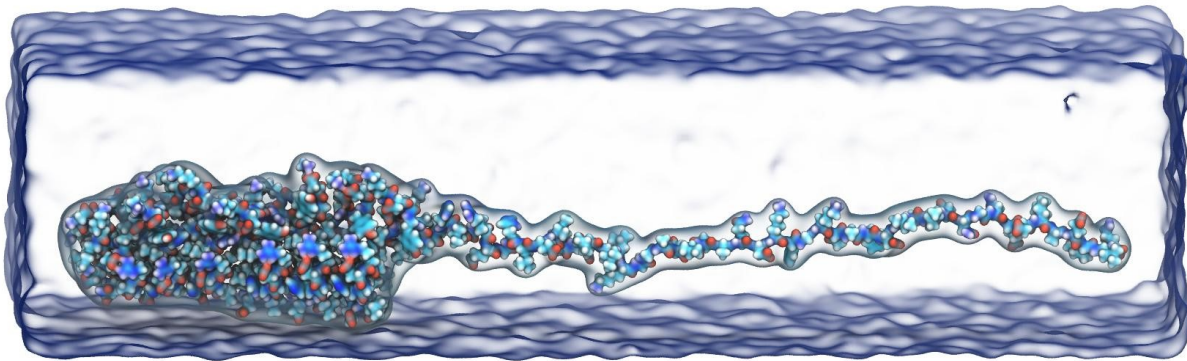
- Geometrically complex scenes
- Spatial relationships important to see clearly: fog, shadows, AO helpful
- Often show a mix of structural and spatial properties
- Time varying!



# Structure Visualization

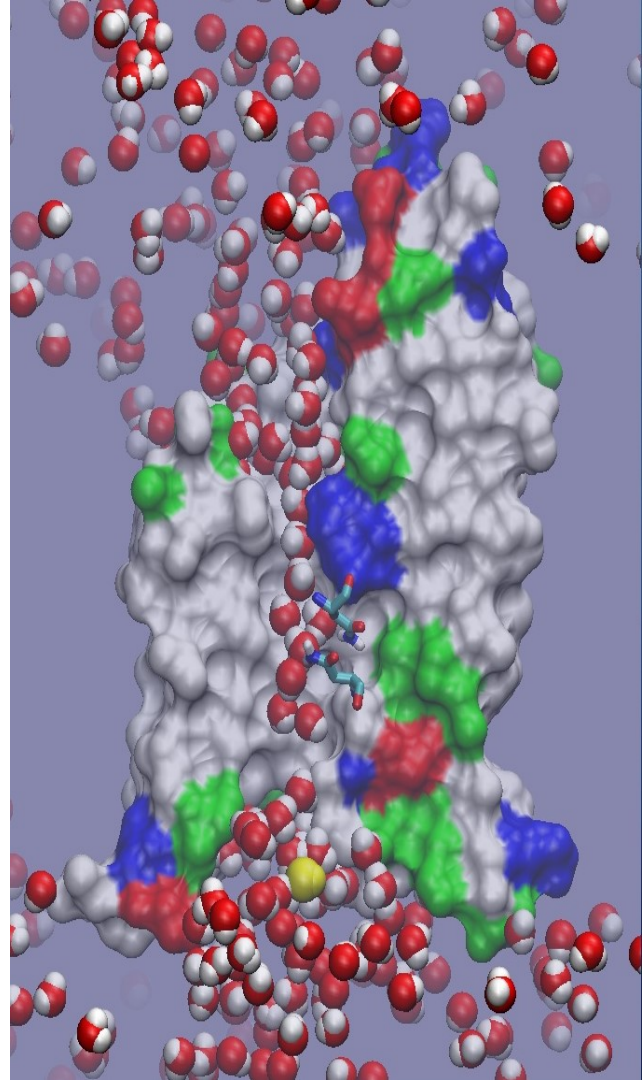
Molecular representations provide different levels of abstraction, atomic detail vs. higher level organizational information

- Atoms, VdW spheres, bonds, ball-stick, ...
- Molecular orbitals (quantum chemistry)
- Molecular surfaces
- Coarse-grained “beads”
- Ribbons, secondary structure, “cartoon” reps, RNA/DNA



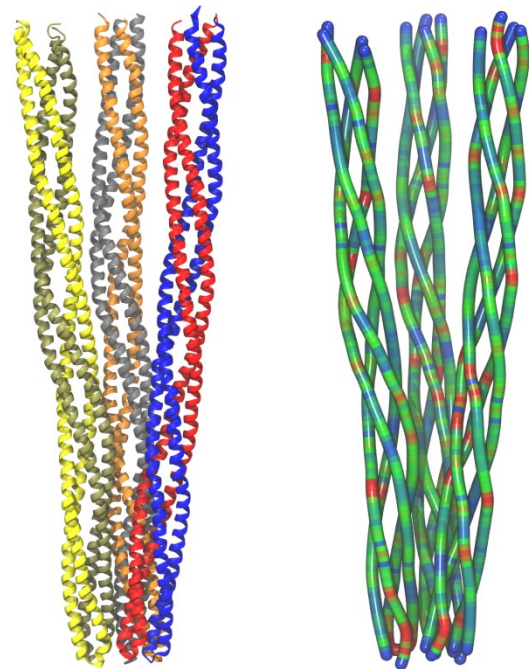
# Selection, Filtering

- Most viz tools allow interactive visual picking, menu-driven selections of structure components to display or operate on
- VMD also extensively uses a text-based selection language (think google):
  - “water within 10 of protein and  $z > 0$ ”
  - Allows selection on user-defined fields
  - ***Promotes synergy between interactive and scripting interfaces***
  - Works very well when dealing with huge time-varying structures



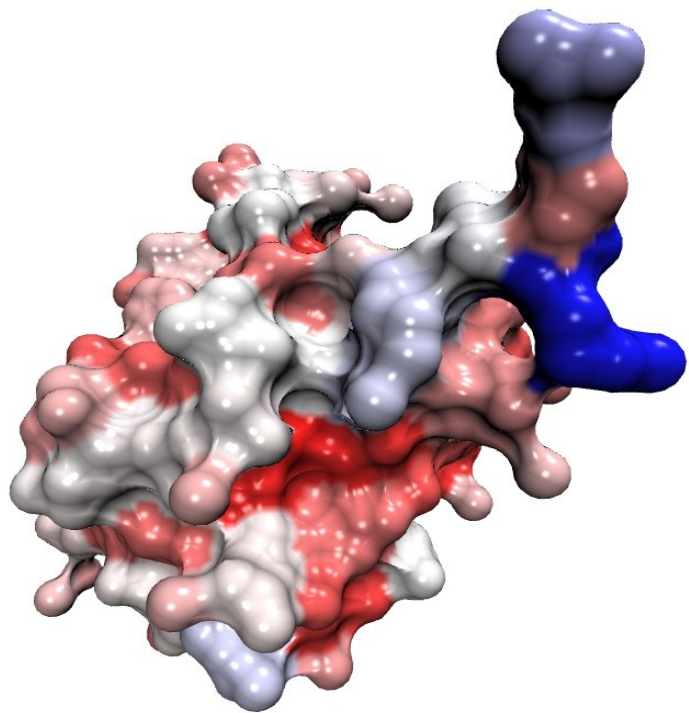
# Computed Properties

- Smoothing of thermal noise
- Secondary structure
- Hydrogen bonds, salt bridges
- Forces, energies, stress, strain
- Time averaging of electrostatic fields, occupancy maps
- Quality-of-fit cross correlation with cryo-EM density maps
- Normal modes, principal component analysis, essential dynamics
- Cluster simulation trajectory timesteps by structural similarity

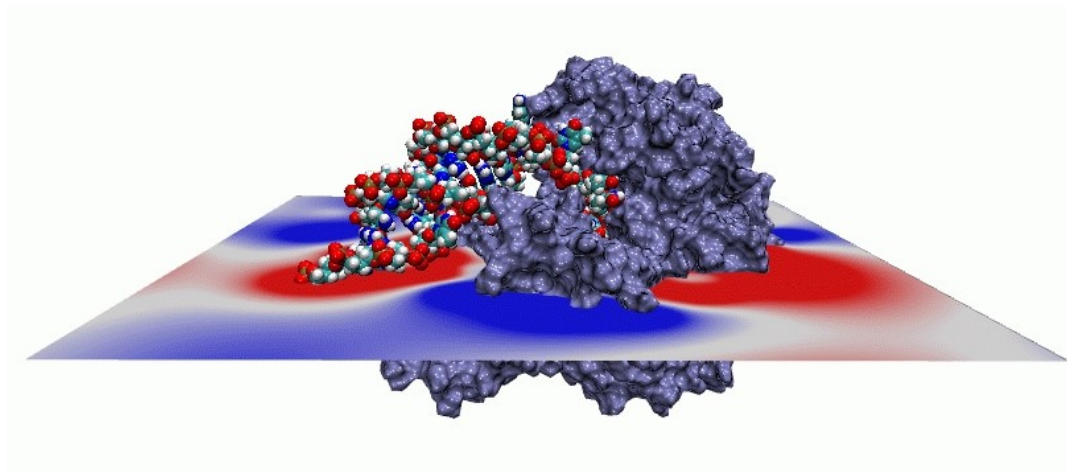


**Chemoreceptor trimer-of-dimers analysis with Bendix plugin in VMD**

# Display of Computed Properties on Structures

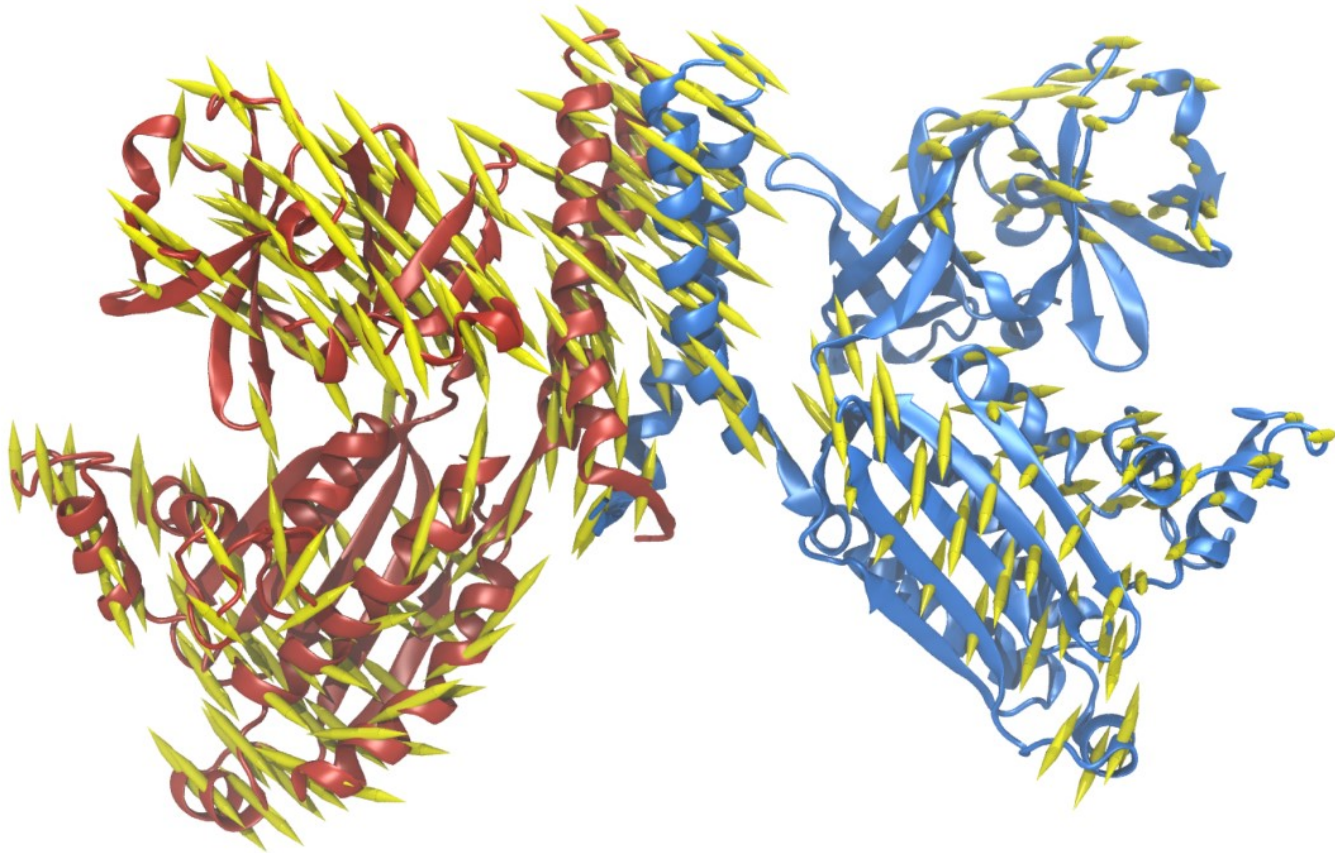


**Per-residue solvent-accessible surface area of Ubiquitin**



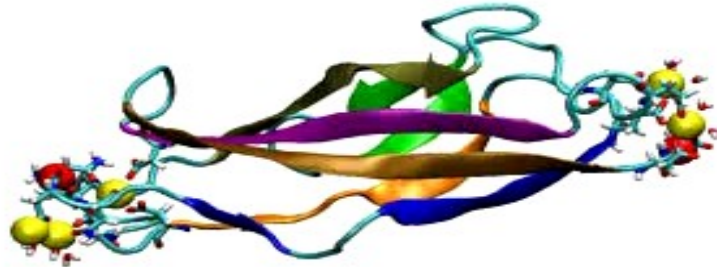
**PME electrostatic potential contour for a helicase on a volumetric slice plane**

# CheA kinase PCA: first principal component porcupine plot



# Visualization of Molecular Dynamics

- Molecular dynamics simulations save trajectories of atomic coordinates as simulated time progresses
- Researchers study trajectories by analyzing force profiles, energies, structural changes, etc.
- **Visualization selections, graphics, structure properties recomputed for each trajectory timestep!**



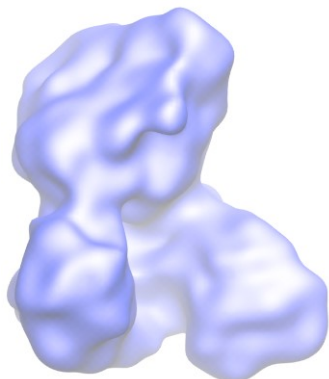
# Petascale Computing - A Key Instrument for Life Science

## MDFF Solves Structures from X-ray Crystallography and Cryo-EM

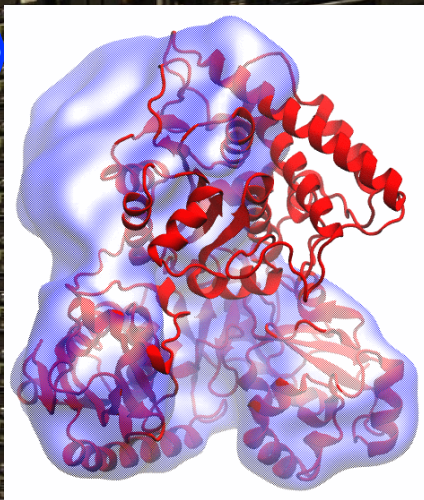
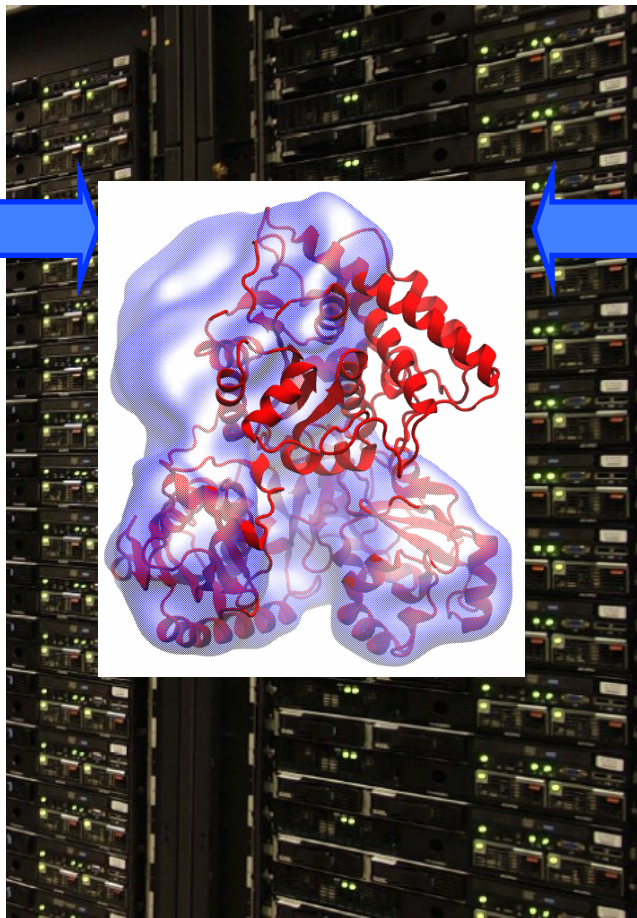
Electron microscopy



FEI microscope



Electron density of protein in action at low resolution



X-ray crystallography



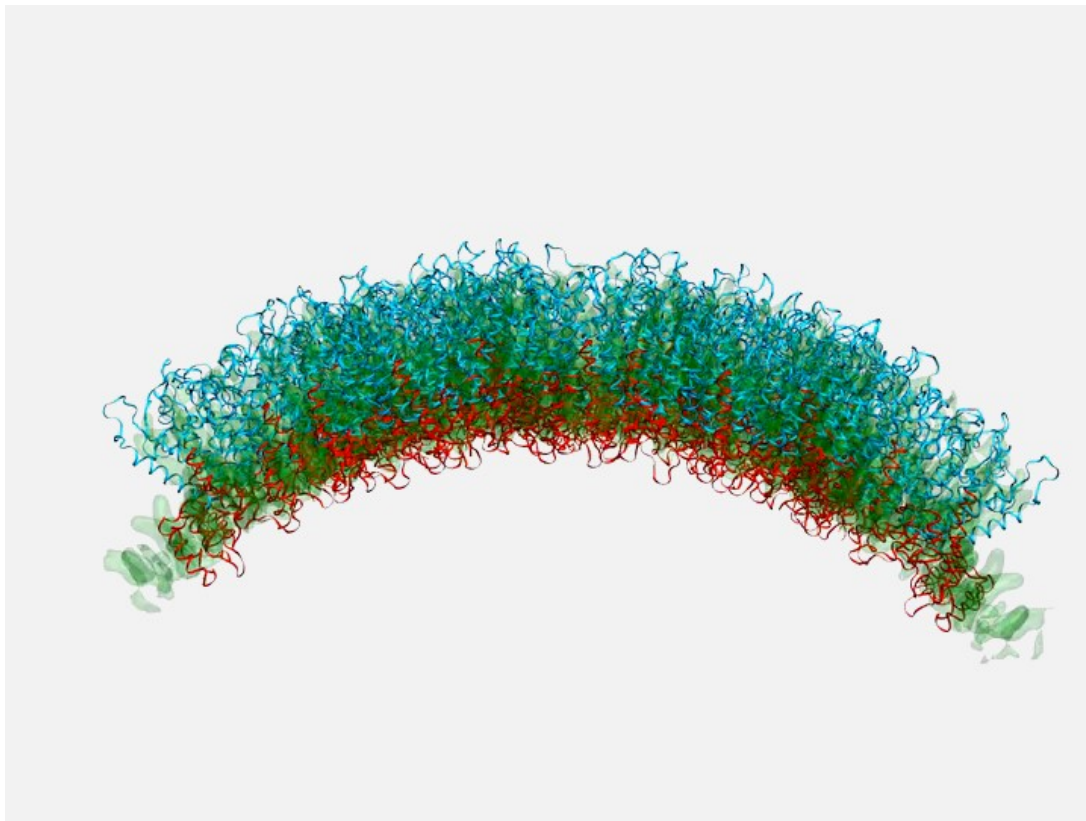
APS at Argonne



Ideal protein structure at high resolution  
Acetyl - CoA Synthase

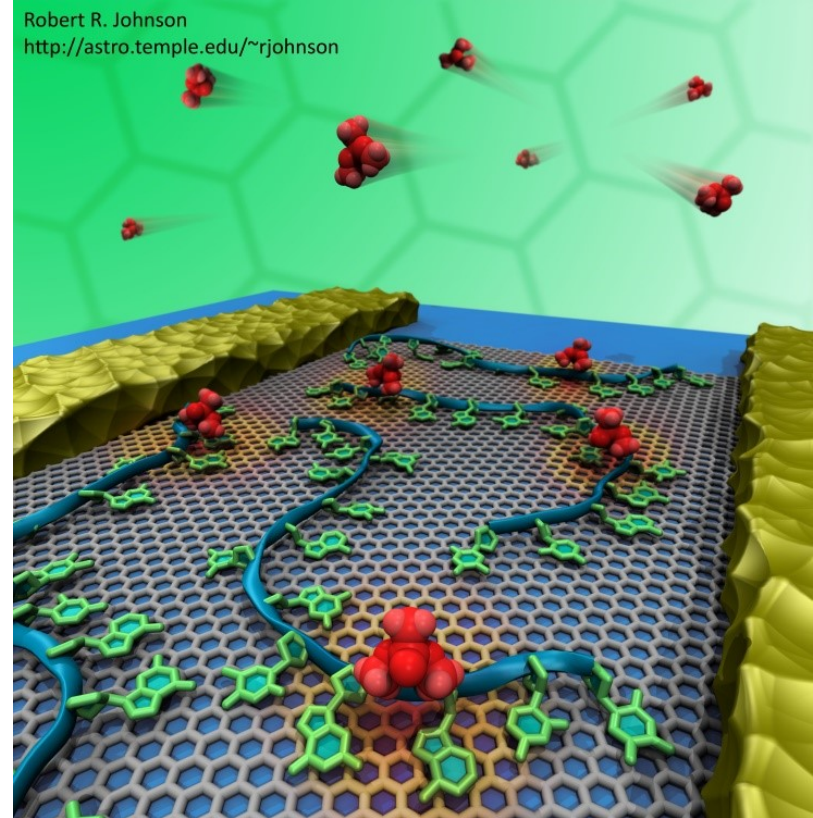


**Hexamer of hexamers HIV capsid substructure**  
**Molecular Dynamics Flexible Fitting (MDFF) simulation.**  
**All-atom structure fitting into cryo-EM density map.**



# Ray Tracing in VMD

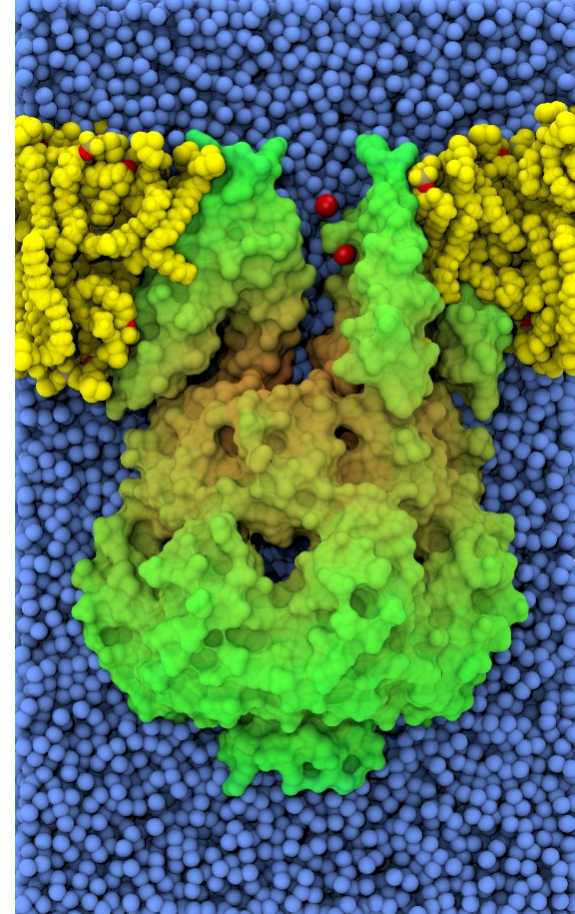
- Support for ray tracing of VMD molecular scenes began in 1995
- Tachyon parallel RT engine interfaced with VMD (1999)
- Tachyon embedded as an internal VMD rendering engine (2002)
- Built-in support for large scale parallel rendering (2012)
- Refactoring of VMD to allow fully interactive ray tracing as an alternative to OpenGL (2014)

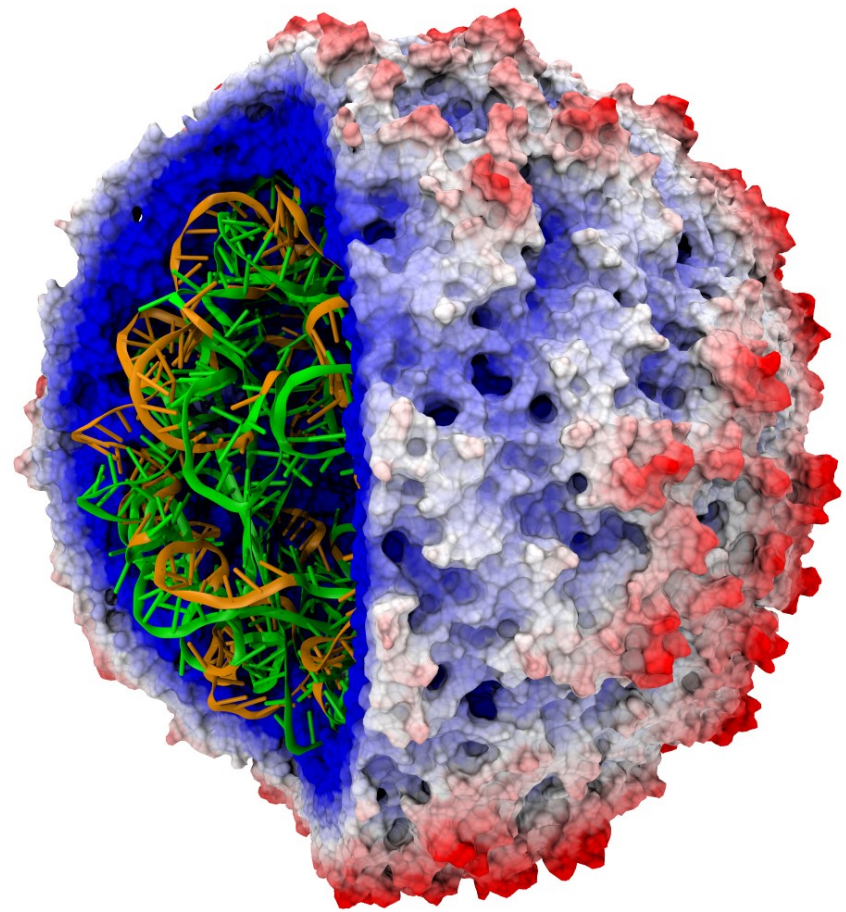
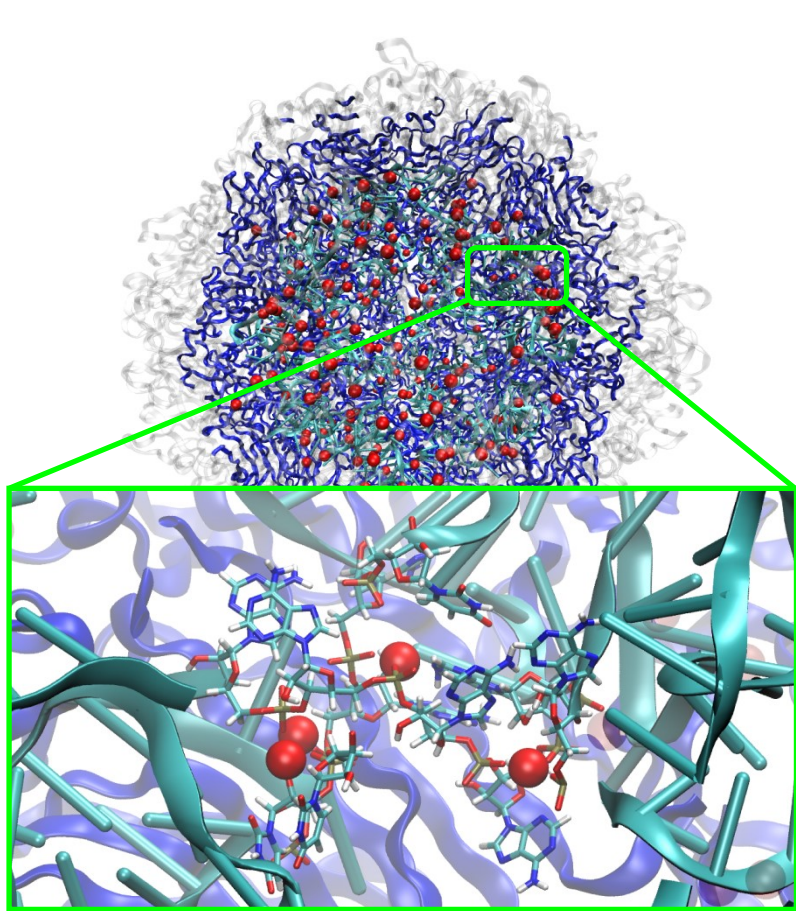


# Geometrically Complex Scenes

Ray tracing techniques well matched to molecular viz. needs:

- Curved geometry, e.g. spheres, cylinders, toroidal patches, easily supported
- Greatly reduced memory footprint vs. polygonalization
- Runtime scales only moderately with increasing geometric complexity
- Occlusion culling is “free”, RT acceleration algorithms do this and much more

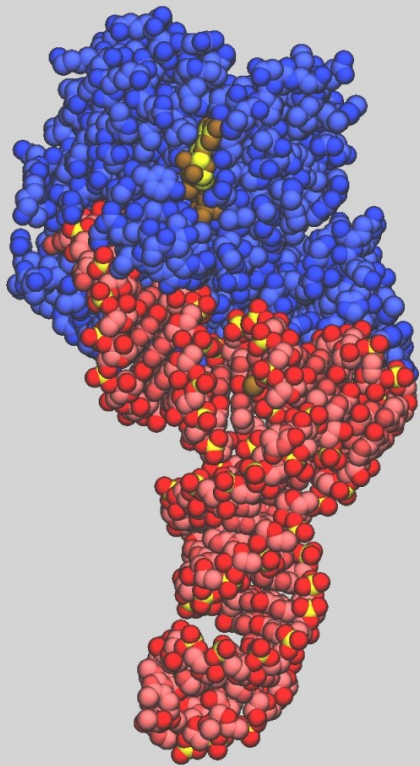




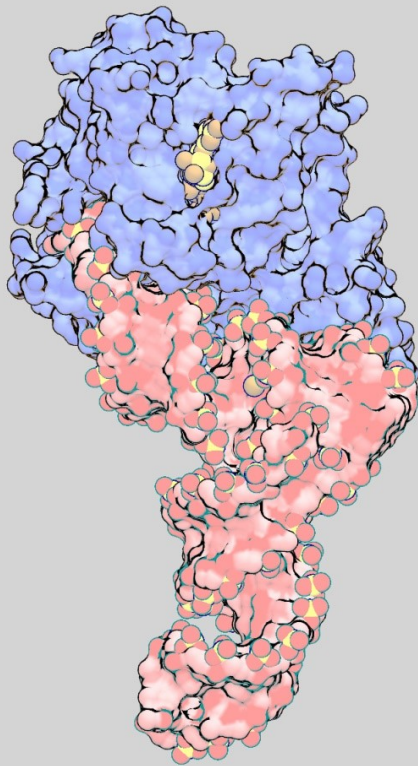
**Satellite Tobacco Mosaic Virus**

# VMD Shading Comparison: EF-Tu

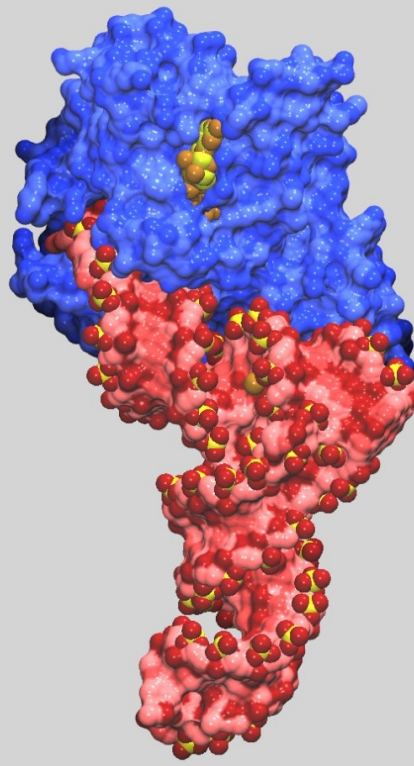
Outline  
Shader



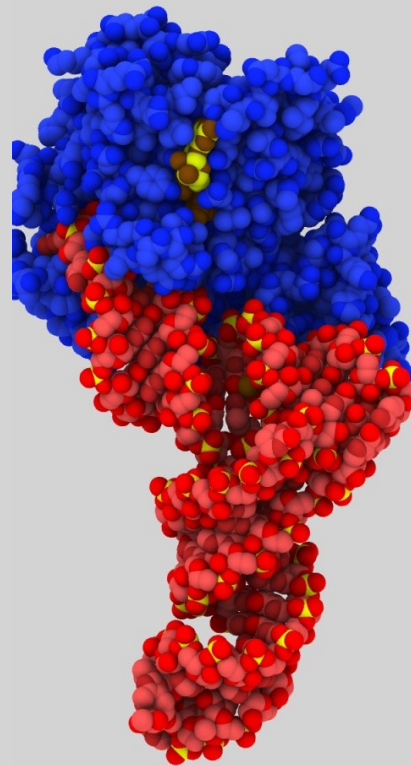
“Goodsell”  
Shader

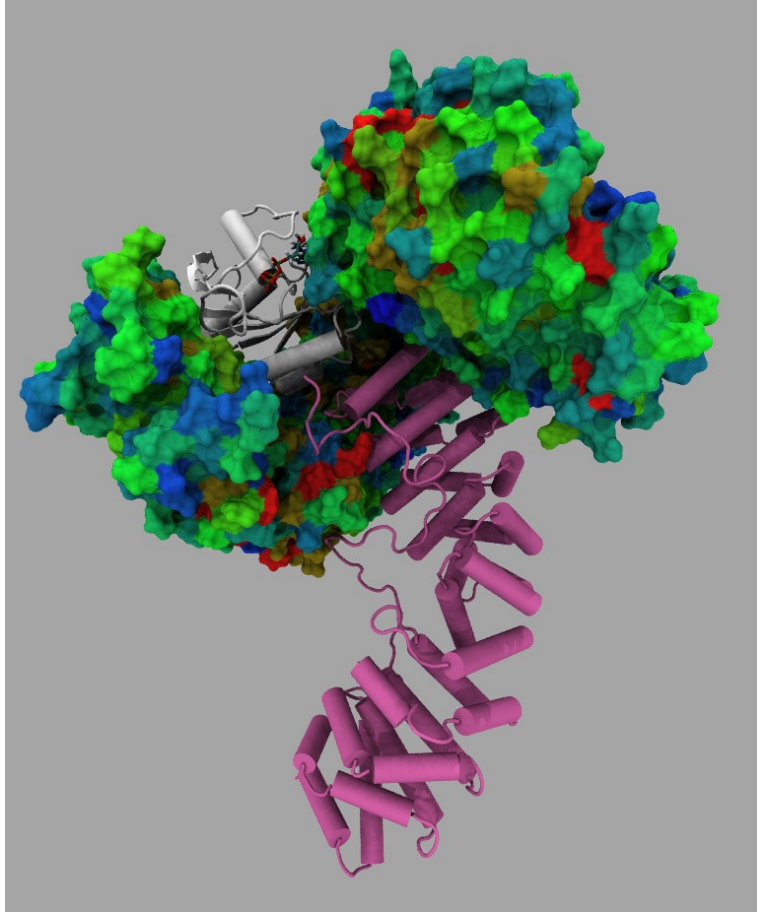


Glossy  
Shader

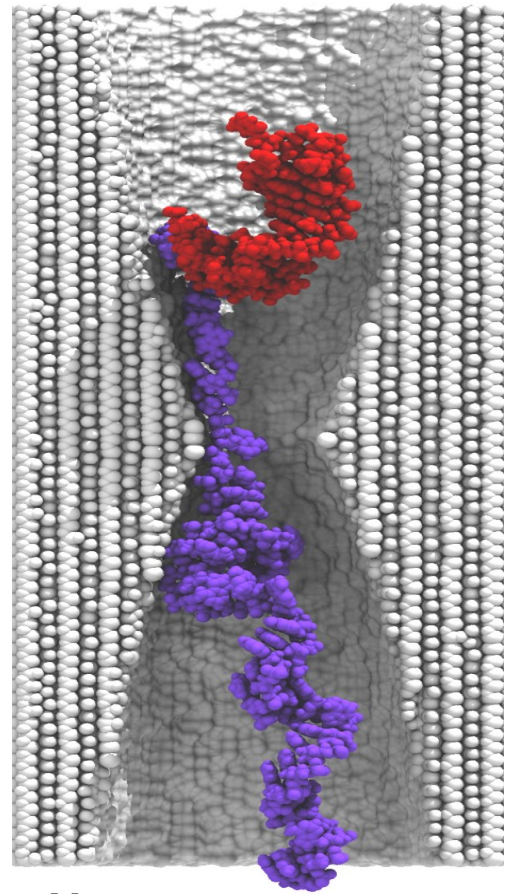


Ambient Occlusion,  
Shadowing





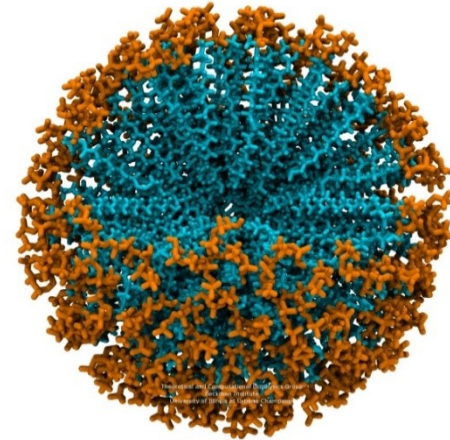
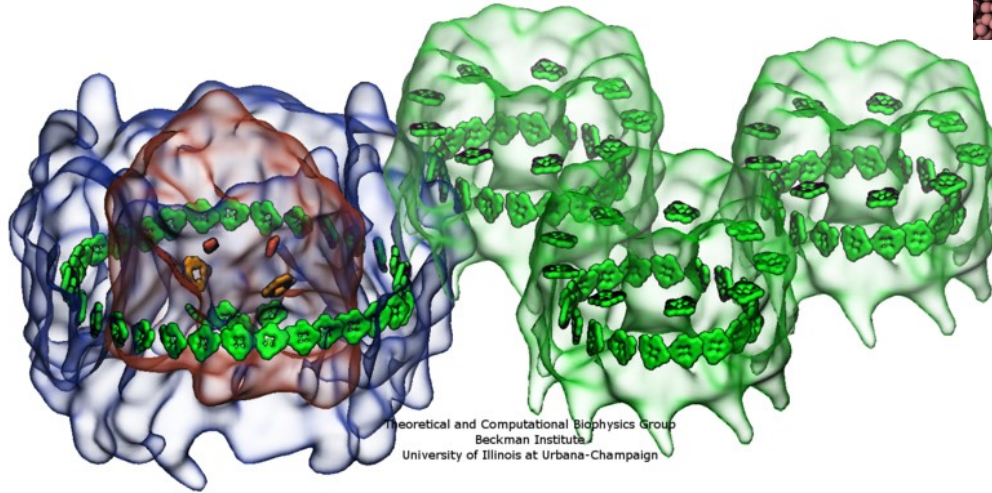
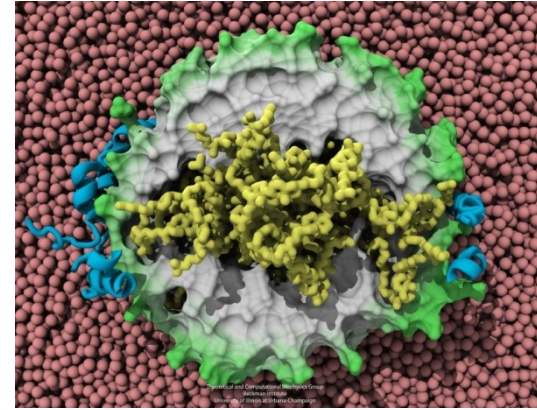
**Exportin Cse1p**



**Nanopore**

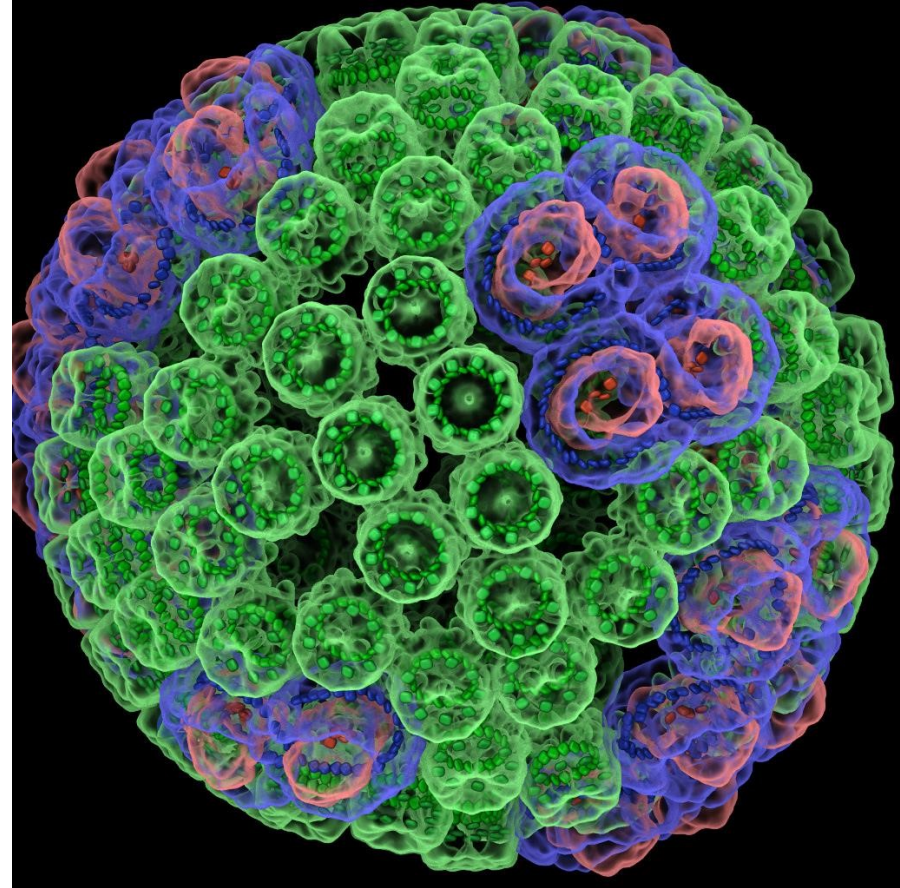
# Benefits of Advanced Lighting and Shading Techniques

- Exploit visual intuition
- Spend computer time in exchange for scientists' time, make images that are more easily interpreted

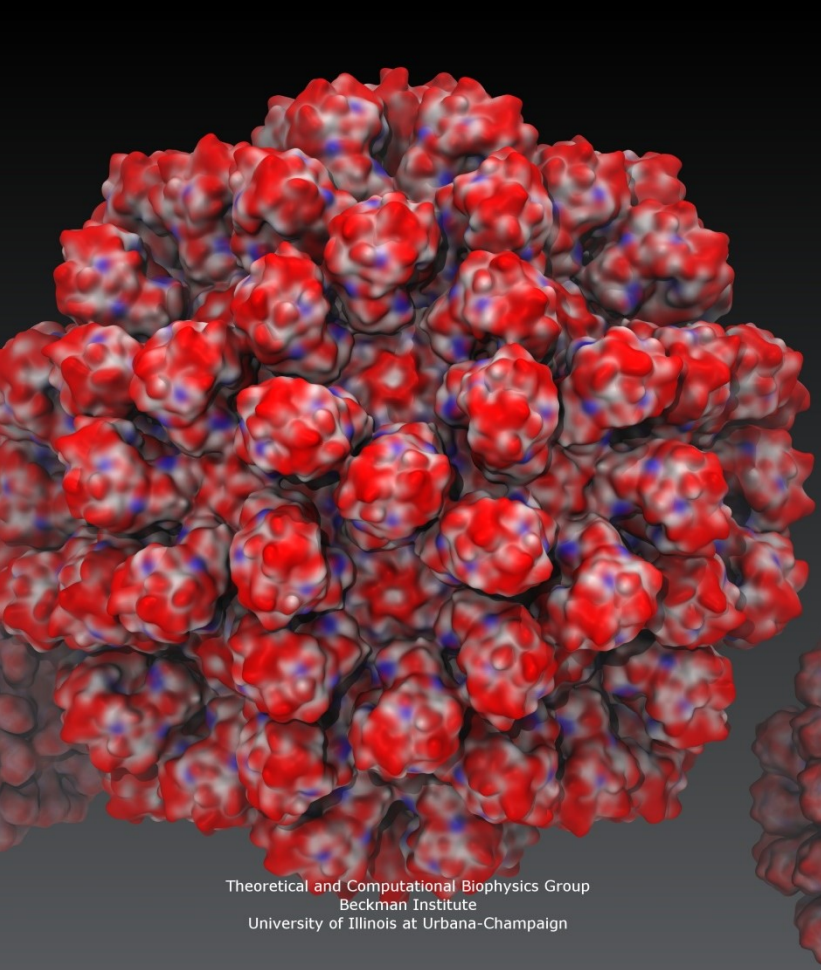


# High Fidelity Interactive Visualization

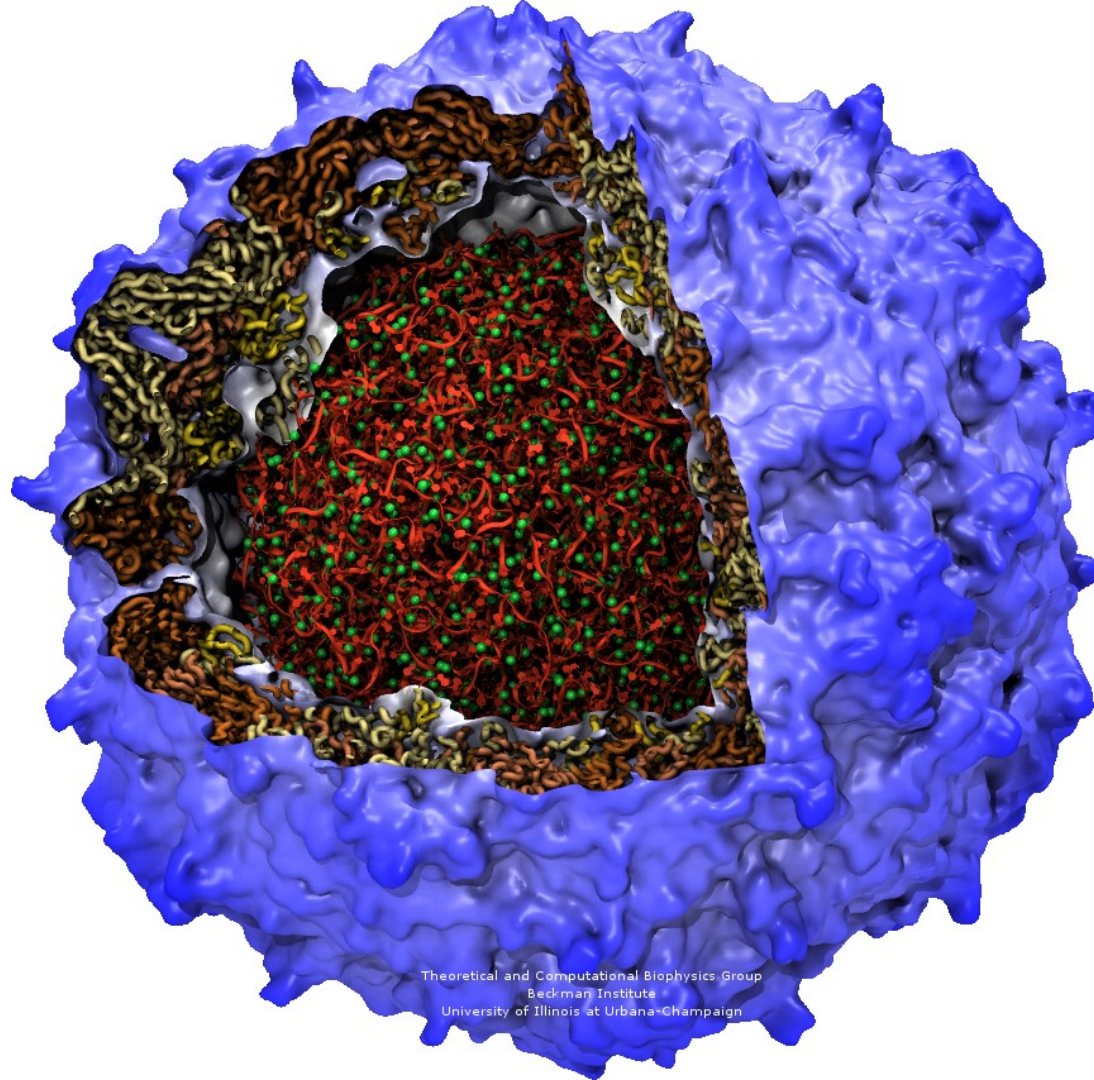
- VMD interactive ray tracing
  - Interactive ray tracing on GPUs with progressive refinement of image and lighting quality
  - Fully interactive rendering of large structures with advanced lighting features, and WYSIWYG “What you see is what you get” final image output





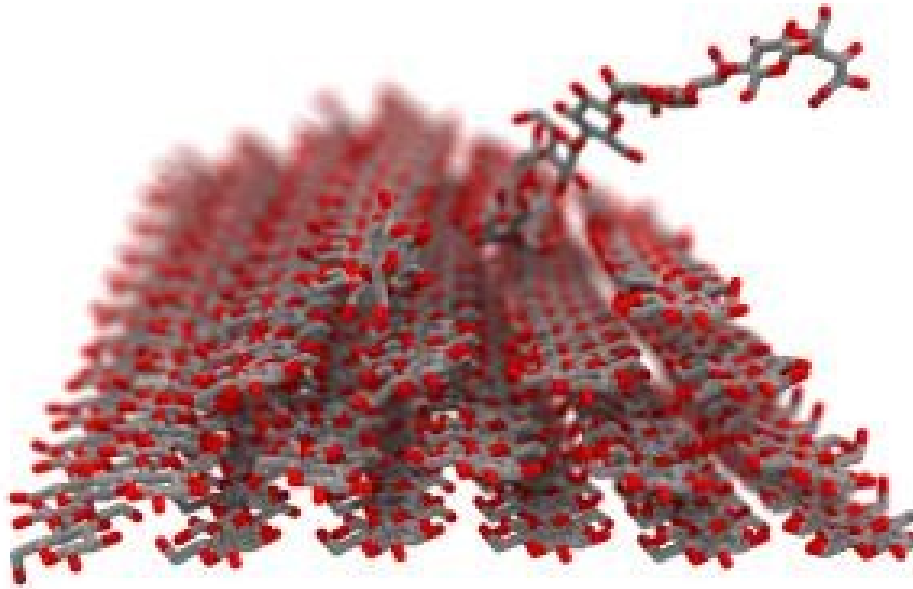


Theoretical and Computational Biophysics Group  
Beckman Institute  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

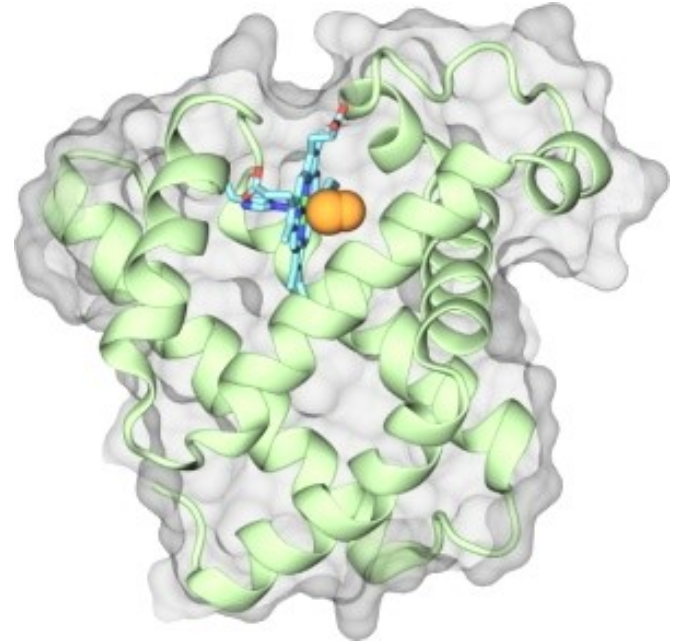


Theoretical and Computational Biophysics Group  
Beckman Institute  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

# Diverse Shading and Lighting Approaches



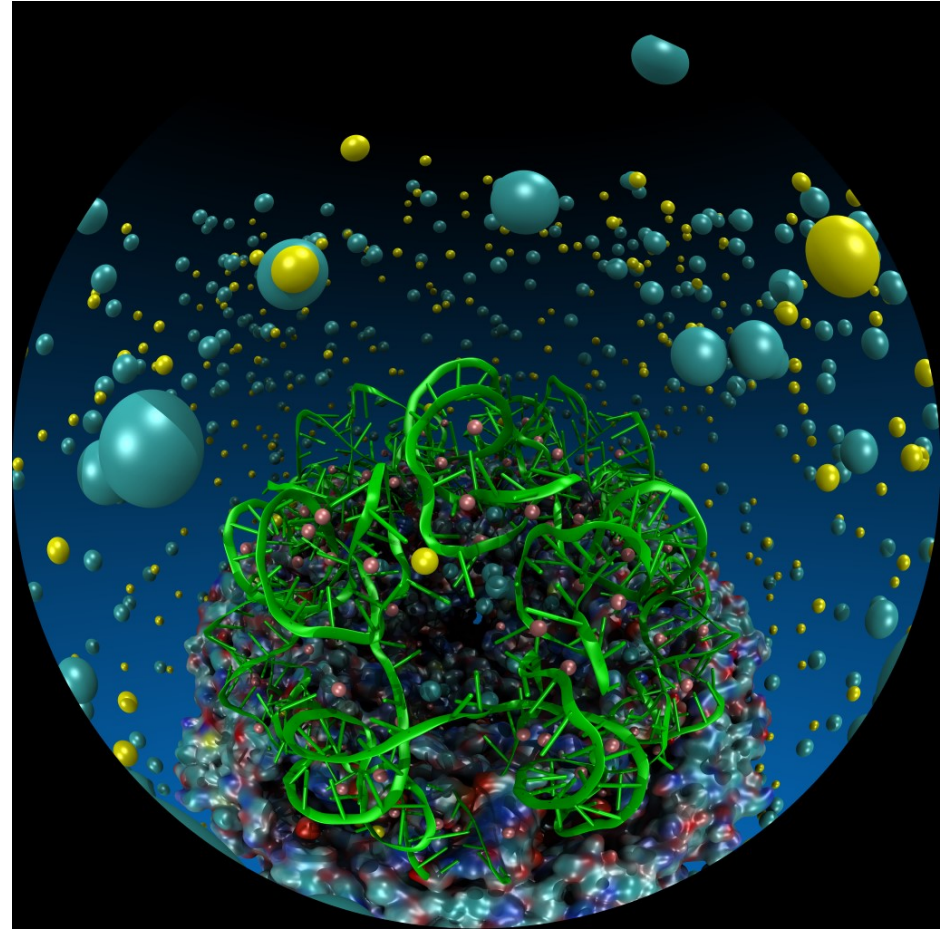
**Decrystallization: Interactive Ray Tracing w/  
Ambient Occlusion Lighting, Depth of Field  
Focal Blur**



**Myoglobin**

# VMD Planetarium Dome Master Camera

- RT-based dome projection -- rasterization poorly suited to non-planar projections
- Fully interactive RT with ambient occlusion, shadows, depth of field, reflections, and so on
- Both mono and stereoscopic
- No further post-processing required



# Immersive Viz. w/ VMD

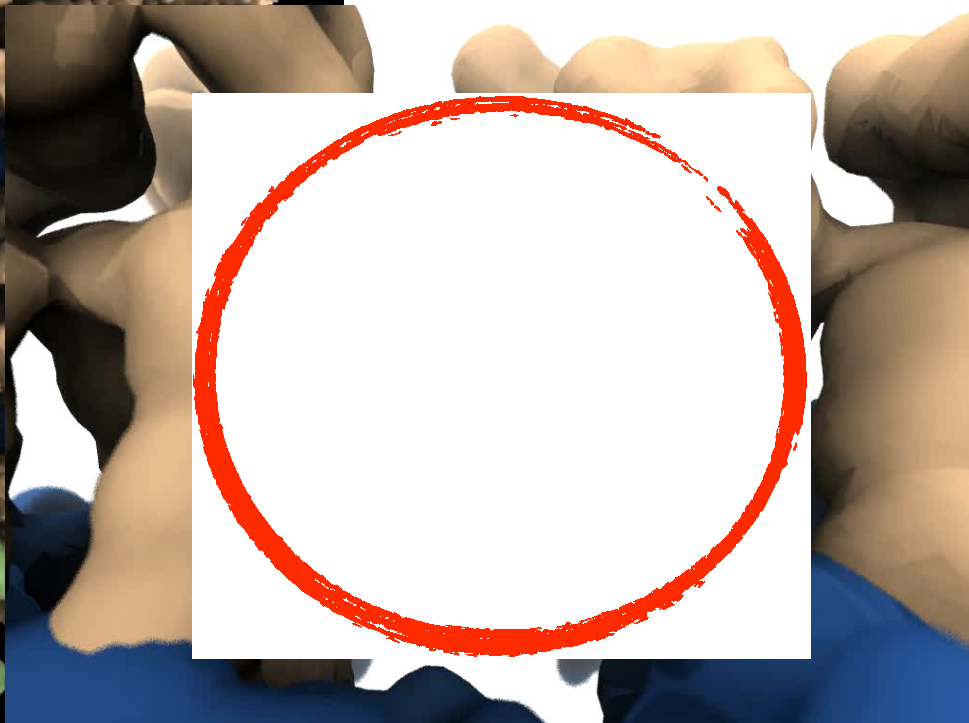
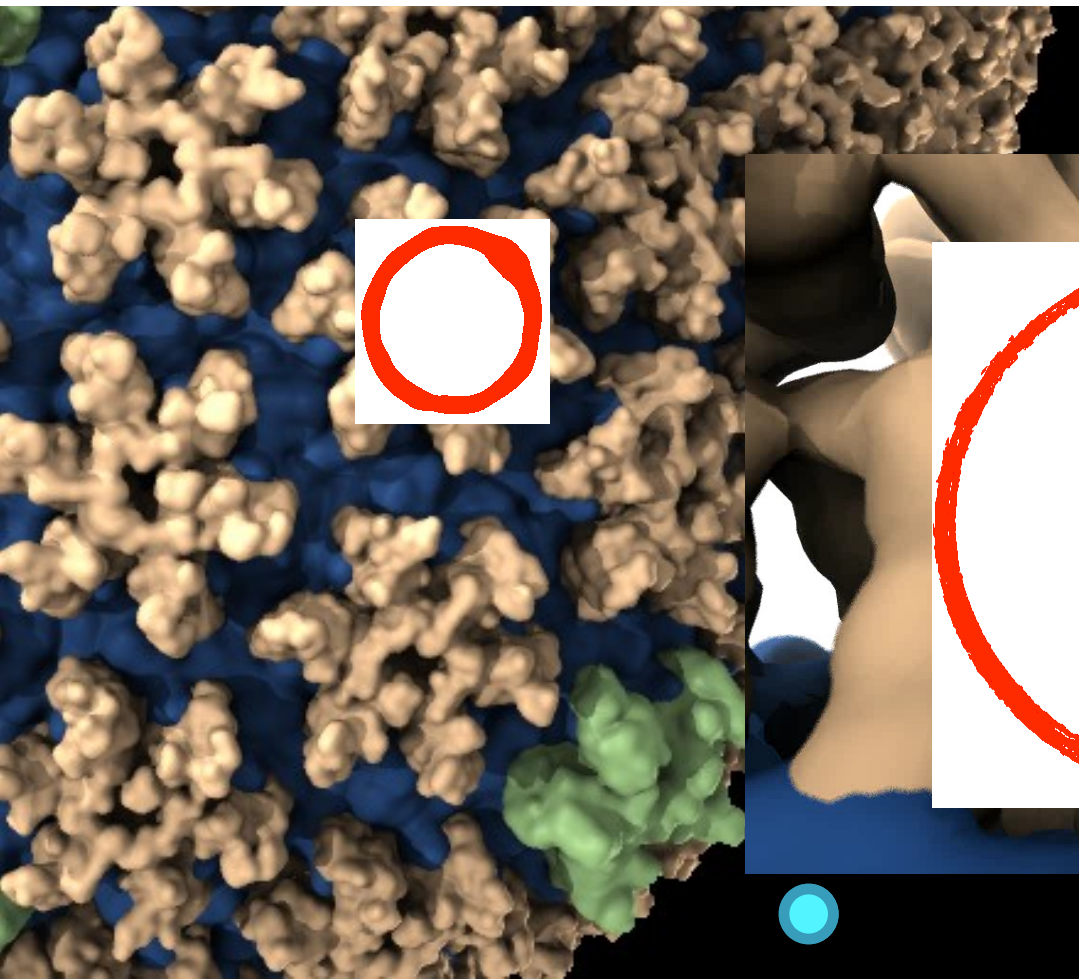
- VMD began as a CAVE app (1993)
- Use of immersive viz by molecular scientists limited due to cost, complexity, lack of local availability, convenience
- Commoditization of HMDs excellent opportunity to overcome cost/availability
- This leaves many challenges still to solve:
  - Incorporate support for **remote visualization**
  - UIs, **multi-user collaboration**/interaction
  - **Rendering perf for large molecular systems**
  - Accomodate limitations idiosyncracies of commercial HMDs



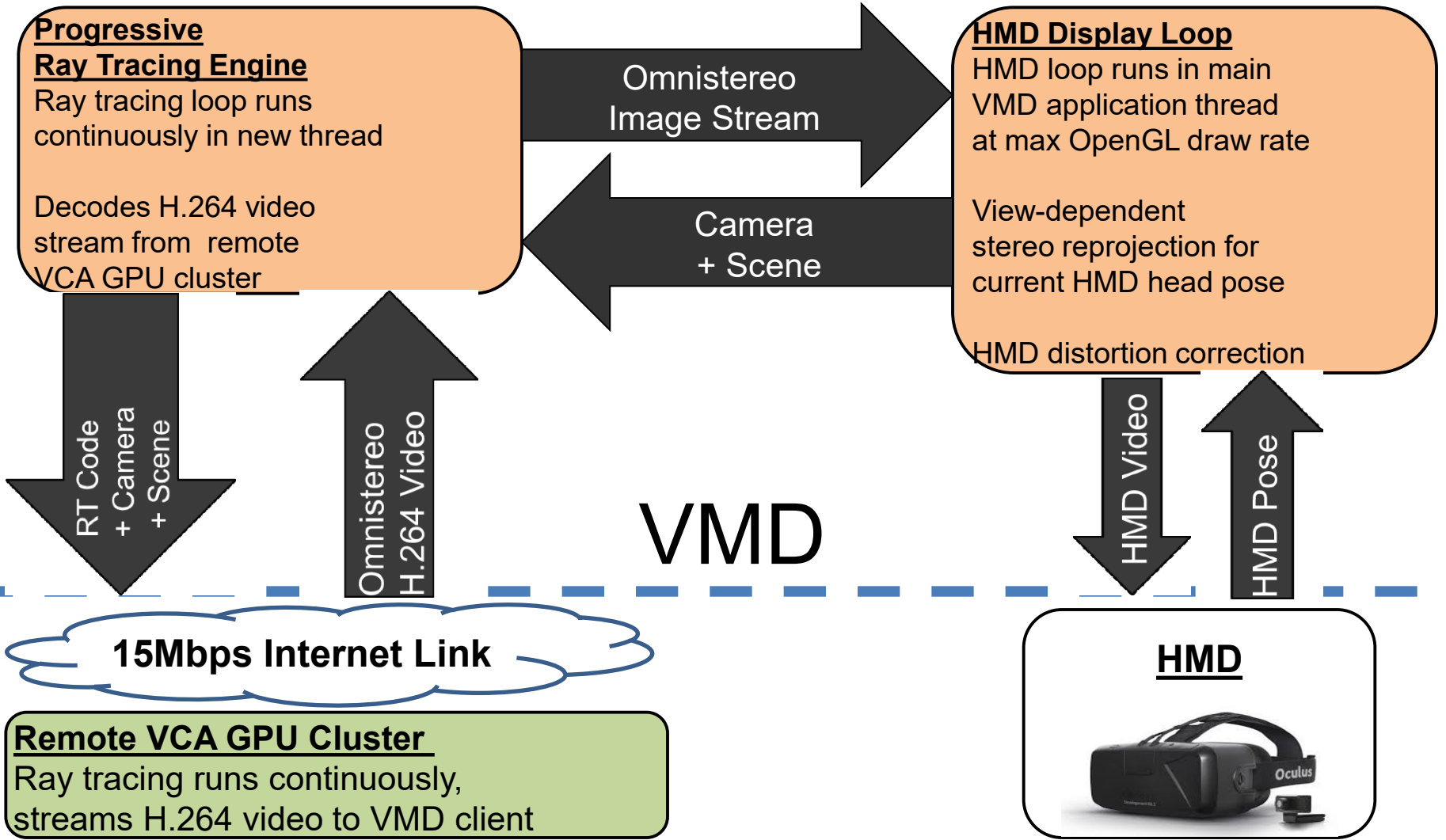
VMD running in a CAVE w/ VR Juggler

# Goal: Intuitive interactive viz. in crowded molecular complexes

Results from 64 M atom, 1  $\mu$ s sim!



Number of chloride ions permeating  
capsid hexameric centers



**Progressive**

**Ray Tracing Engine**

Ray tracing loop runs continuously in new thread

Decodes H.264 video stream from remote VCA GPU cluster

**HMD Display Loop**

HMD loop runs in main VMD application thread at max OpenGL draw rate

View-dependent stereo reprojection for current HMD head pose

HMD distortion correction

Omnistereo Image Stream

Camera + Scene

RT Code + Camera + Scene

Omnistereo H.264 Video

VMD

HMD Video

HMD Pose

15Mbps Internet Link

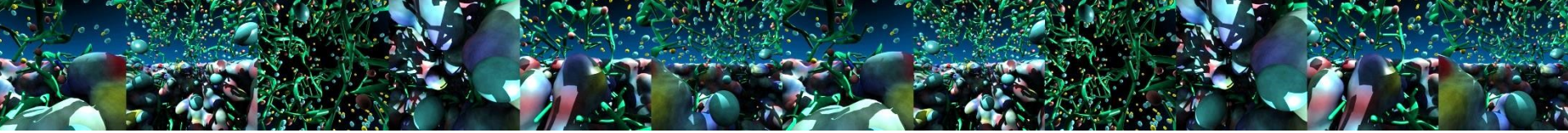
**Remote VCA GPU Cluster**

Ray tracing runs continuously, streams H.264 video to VMD client

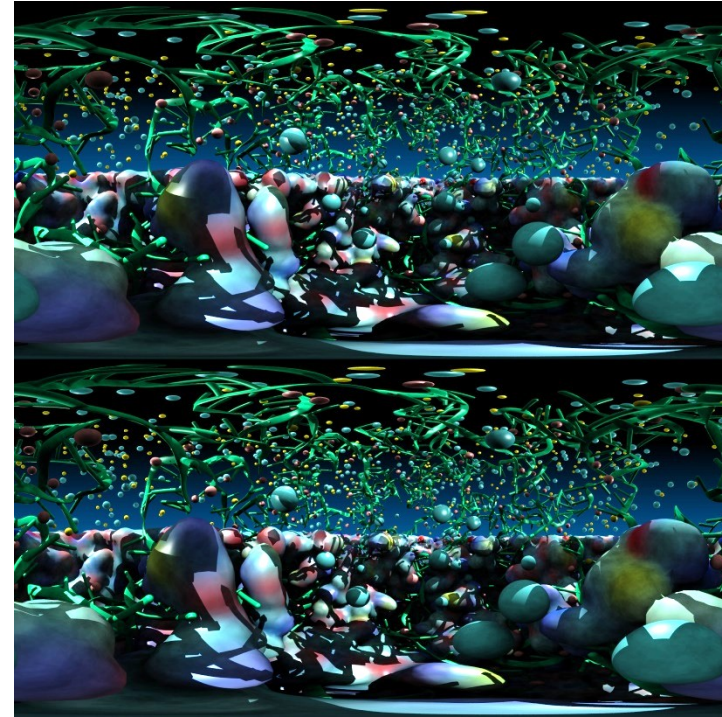
**HMD**

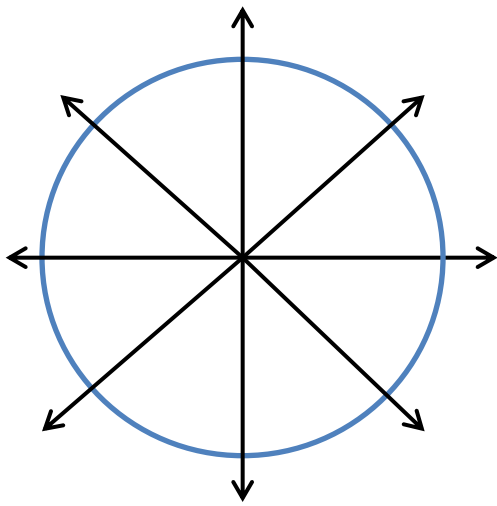


# Stereoscopic Panorama Ray Tracing w/ OptiX

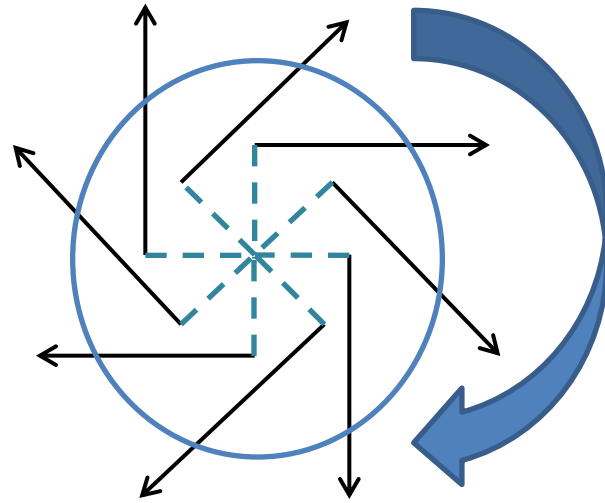


- **Render 360° images and movies for VR headsets such as Oculus Rift, Google Cardboard**
- Ray trace panoramic stereo spheremaps or cubemaps for very high-frame-rate display via OpenGL texturing onto simple geometry
- Stereo requires spherical camera projections **poorly suited to rasterization**
- Benefits from OptiX multi-GPU rendering and load balancing, **remote visualization**



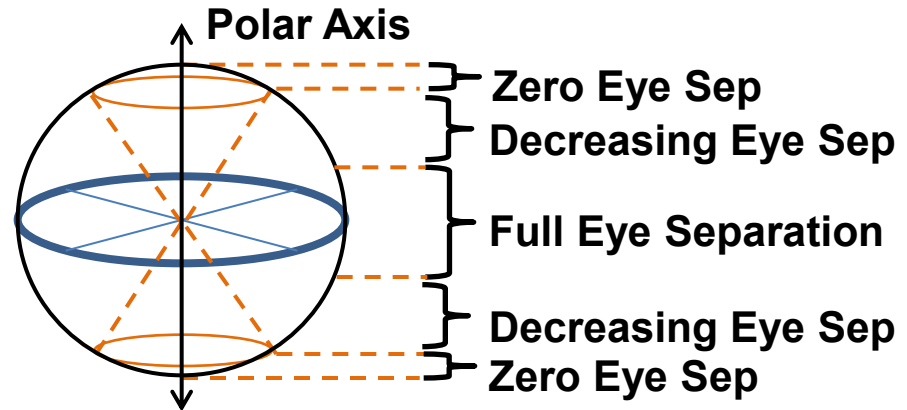


**A) Monoscopic circular projection.  
Eye at center of projection (COP).**



**B) Left eye stereo circular projection.  
Eye offset from COP by half of interocular distance.**

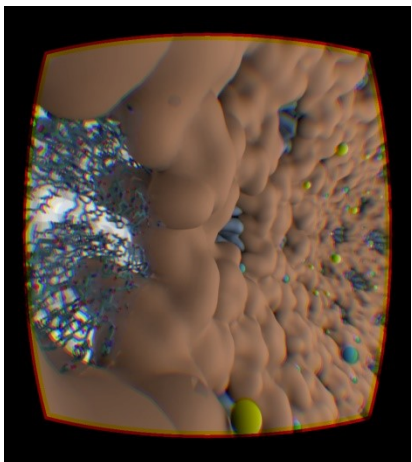
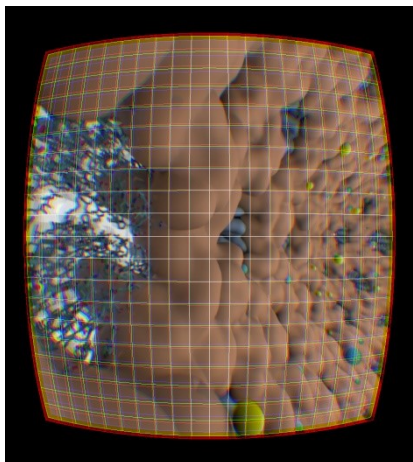
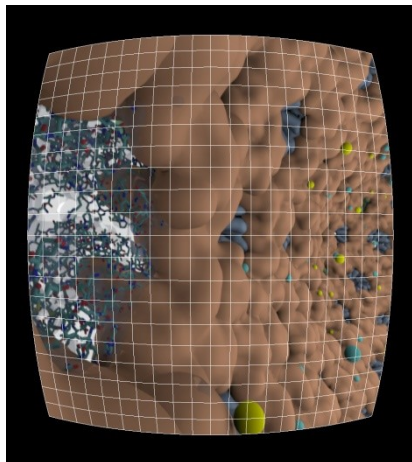
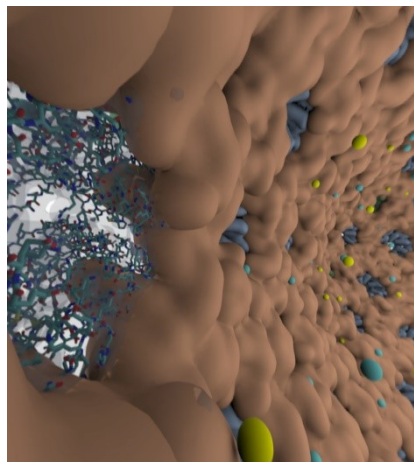
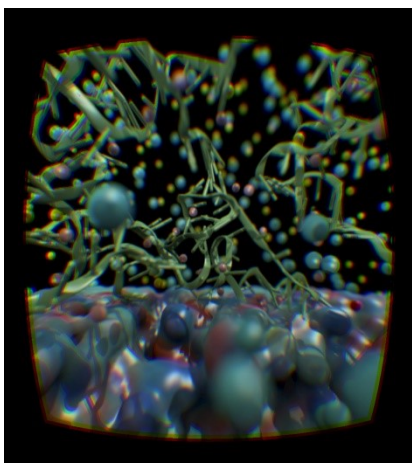
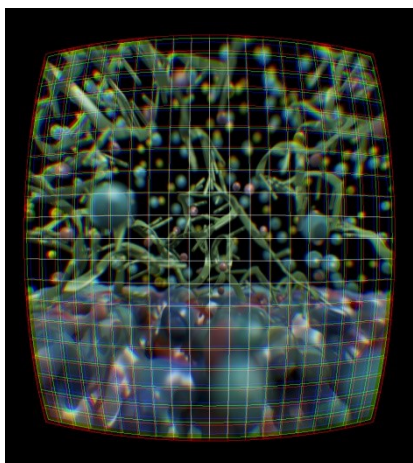
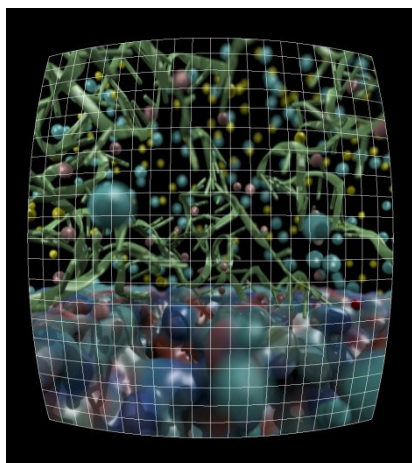
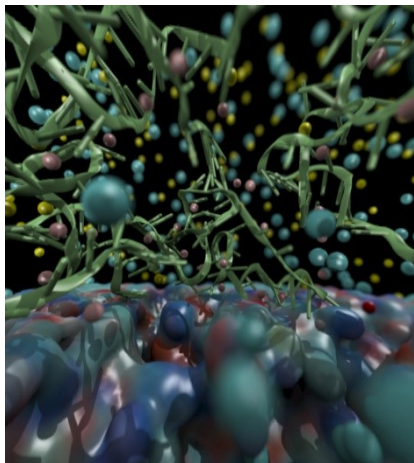
**C) Stereo eye separation smoothly decreased to zero at zenith and nadir points on the polar axis to prevent incorrect stereo when HMD sees the poles.**







**Immersive Molecular Visualization with Omnidirectional Stereoscopic Ray Tracing and Remote Rendering.** J. E. Stone, W. R. Sherman, and K. Schulten. High Performance Data Analysis and Visualization Workshop, IEEE International Parallel and Distributed Processing Symposium Workshops (IPDPSW), pp. 1048-1057, 2016.

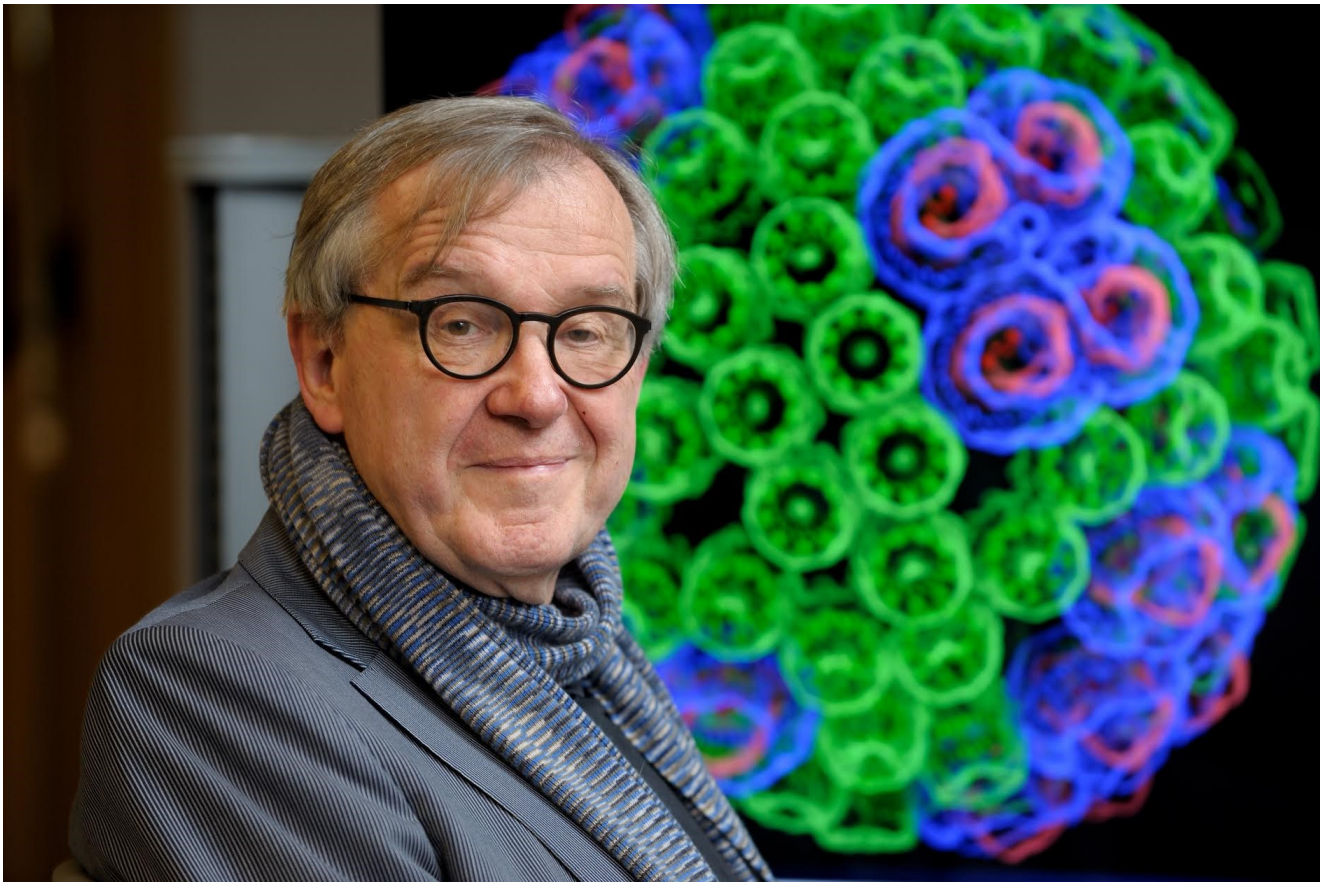


# Ongoing VR Work

- OpenXR – cross platform multi-vendor HMD support
- Ray tracing engine and optimizations:
  - **AI denoising for better average quality**
  - Interactive RT stochastic sampling strategies to improve interactivity
  - Improved omnidirectional cubemap/spheremap sampling approaches
  - **AI multi-view warping to allow rapid in-between view generation amid multiple HMD head locations**
  - **H.265 for high-res omnidirectional video streaming**
  - **Multi-node parallel RT and remote viz. on general clusters and supercomputers, e.g. NCSA Blue Waters, ORNL Titan**
- Tons of work to do on VR user interfaces, multi-user collaborative visualization, ...

# Acknowledgements

- Theoretical and Computational Biophysics Group, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- NVIDIA CUDA and OptiX teams
- Funding:
  - NIH support: P41GM104601
  - DOE INCITE, ORNL Titan: DE-AC05-00OR22725
  - NSF Blue Waters:  
NSF OCI 07-25070, PRAC “The Computational Microscope”,  
ACI-1238993, ACI-1440026



*“When I was a young man, my goal was to look with mathematical and computational means at the inside of cells, one atom at a time, to decipher how living systems work. That is what I strived for and I never deflected from this goal.” – Klaus Schulten*

# Related Publications

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

- **NAMD goes quantum: An integrative suite for hybrid simulations.** Melo, M. C. R.; Bernardi, R. C.; Rudack T.; Scheurer, M.; Riplinger, C.; Phillips, J. C.; Maia, J. D. C.; Rocha, G. D.; Ribeiro, J. V.; Stone, J. E.; Neese, F.; Schulten, K.; Luthey-Schulten, Z.; Nature Methods, 2018. (In press)
- **Challenges of Integrating Stochastic Dynamics and Cryo-electron Tomograms in Whole-cell Simulations.** T. M. Earnest, R. Watanabe, J. E. Stone, J. Mahamid, W. Baumeister, E. Villa, and Z. Luthey-Schulten. J. Physical Chemistry B, 121(15): 3871-3881, 2017.
- **Early Experiences Porting the NAMD and VMD Molecular Simulation and Analysis Software to GPU-Accelerated OpenPOWER Platforms.** J. E. Stone, A.-P. Hynninen, J. C. Phillips, and K. Schulten. International Workshop on OpenPOWER for HPC (IWOPH'16), LNCS 9945, pp. 188-206, 2016.
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