



In Situ Analysis and Visualization with Ascent and ParaView Catalyst

[Ascent Project Overview]

SC23 Tutorial
Monday November 13th, 2023

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Ascent: Flyweight In Situ Visualization and Analysis for HPC Simulations

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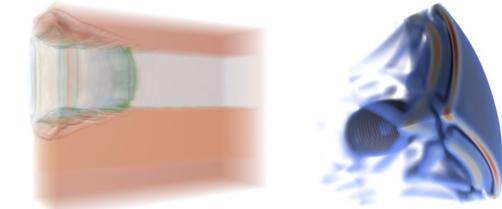
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Ascent is an easy-to-use flyweight in situ visualization and analysis library for HPC simulations

- **Easy to use in-memory visualization and analysis**

- Use cases: *Making Pictures*, *Transforming Data*, and *Capturing Data*
 - Young effort, yet already supports most common visualization operations
 - Provides a simple infrastructure to integrate custom analysis
 - Provides C++, C, Python, and Fortran APIs



Visualizations created using Ascent



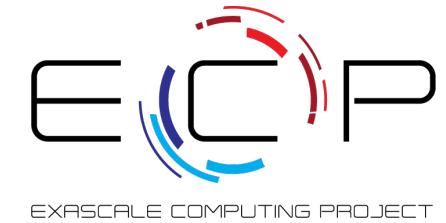
Extracts supported by Ascent

<http://ascent-dav.org>

<https://github.com/Alpine-DAV/ascent>

Website and GitHub Repo

Acknowledgements

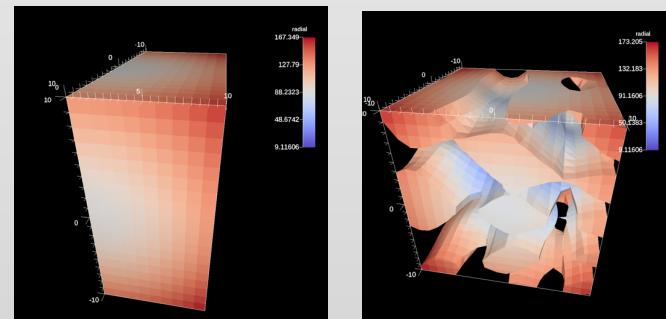
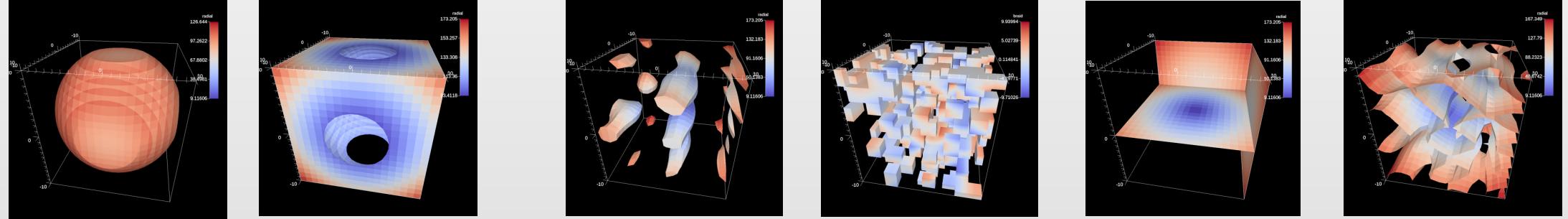


This work was performed under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Energy by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory under contract DE-AC52-07NA27344.

Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC

This research was supported by the Exascale Computing Project (17-SC-20-SC), a joint project of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science and National Nuclear Security Administration, responsible for delivering a capable exascale ecosystem, including software, applications, and hardware technology, to support the nation's exascale computing imperative.

Ascent supports common visualization use cases



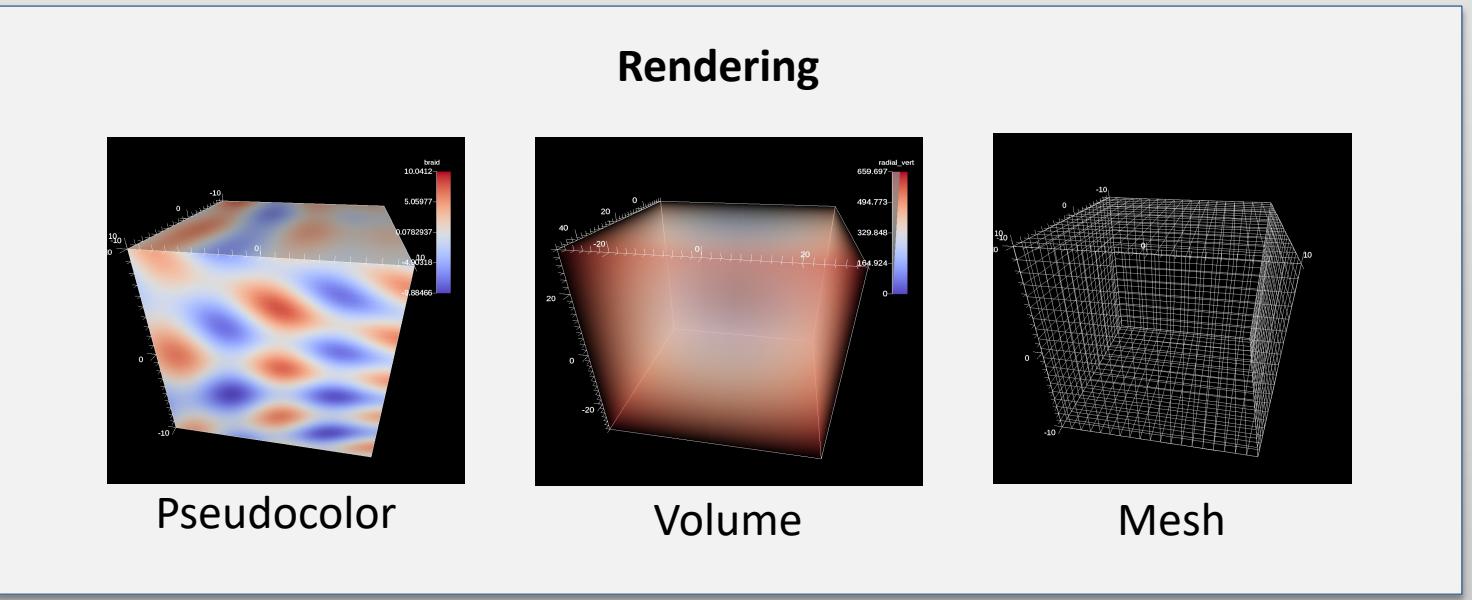
Clips

Iso-Volume

Threshold

Slice

Contour



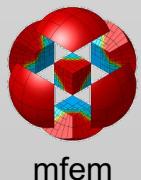
Rendering

Pseudocolor

Volume

Mesh

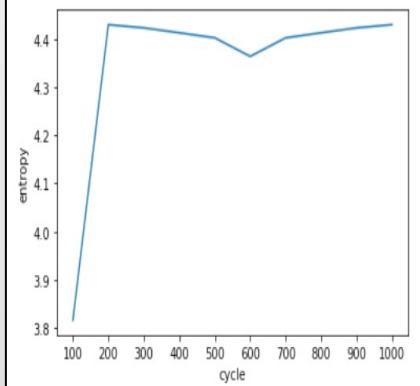
[powered by]



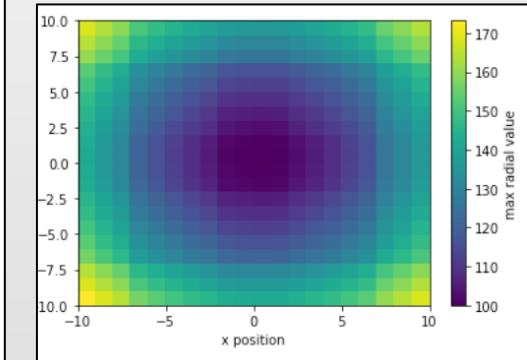
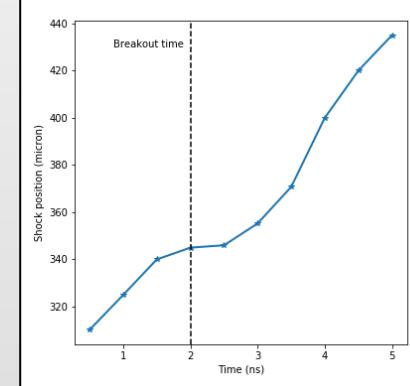
Ascent supports common analysis use cases

```
expression: |  
    du = gradient(field('velocity', 'u'))  
    dv = gradient(field('velocity', 'v'))  
    dw = gradient(field('velocity', 'w'))  
    w_x = dw.y - dv.z  
    w_y = dw.z - dv.x  
    w_z = dw.x - dv.y  
    vector(w_x, w_y, w_z)  
name: vorticity
```

Derived Fields



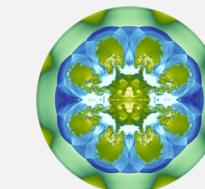
Time Histories



Lineouts and Spatial Binning

```
condition:  
    entropy - history(entropy,  
        relative_index = 1) > 0.5
```

Triggers



Scalar Images



HDF5 Files

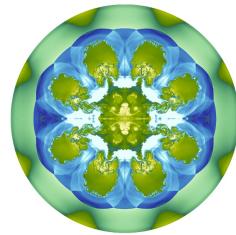
Extracts



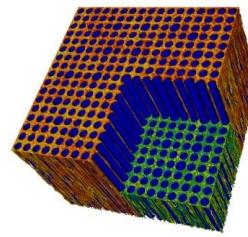
Cinema
Databases



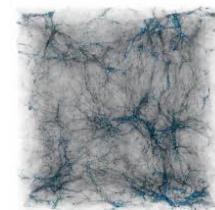
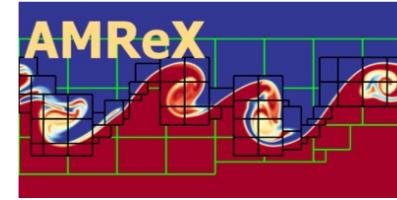
We are working to integrate and deploy Ascent with HPC simulation codes (ECP and beyond)



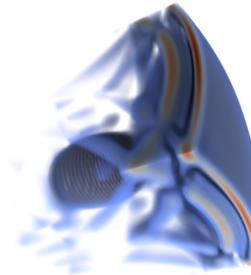
MARBL



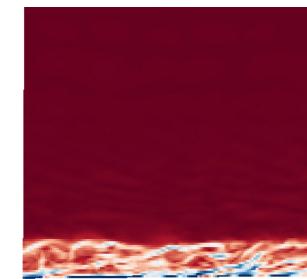
NekRS



Nyx



WarpX



AMRWind

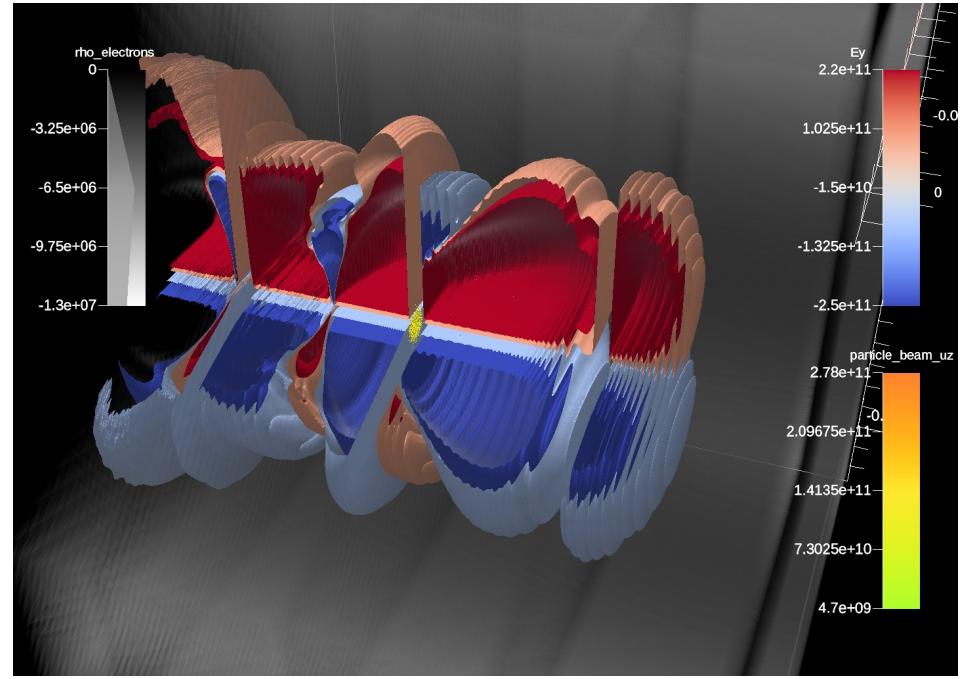


Pele



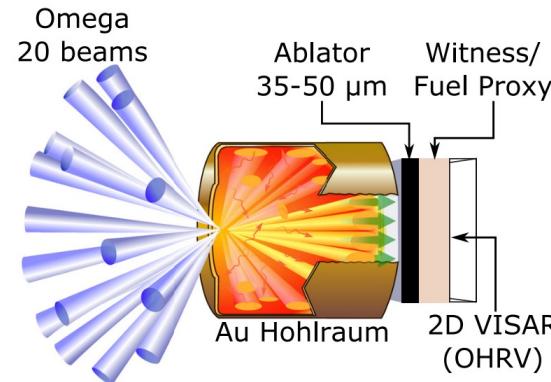
Science Enabling Results: WarpX Simulations on ORNL Frontier (2023)

- The **578.8 million** element simulation ran across **552 GPUs** on **69 Nodes**
- The simulation application used **HIP** to run on the GPUs and passed device pointers to Ascent, providing **zero-copy** in situ processing of the time-varying data
- Ascent leveraged **RAJA** to create derived fields and **VTK-m** to run visualization algorithms on the GPUs

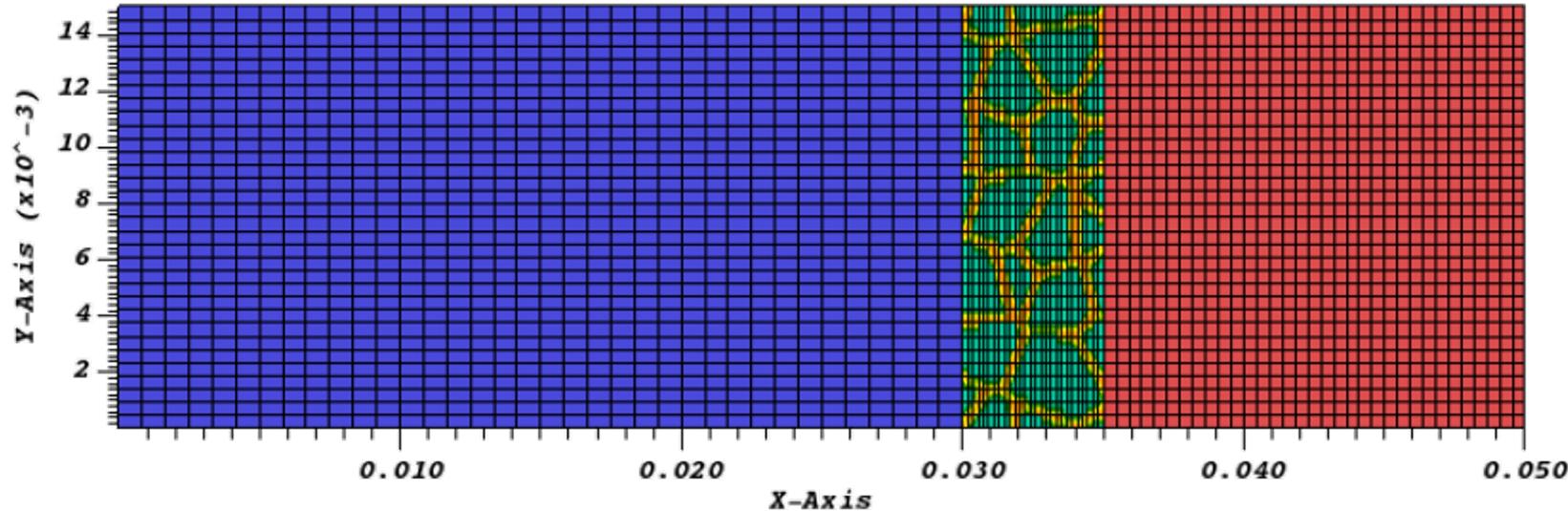


Visualization of a staged laser-wakefield accelerator simulation. Shown is the strong traversal focusing fields (red-blue) in the first plasma stage (gray) and injected into this structure is an electron beam (orange-green) that is accelerated to the right to high energies.

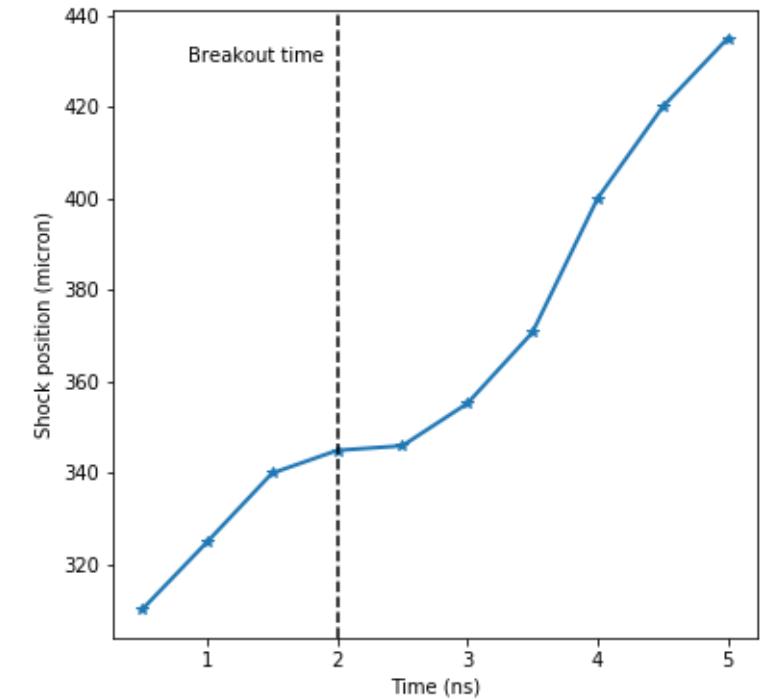
Science Enabling Results: Shock Front Tracking (VISAR)



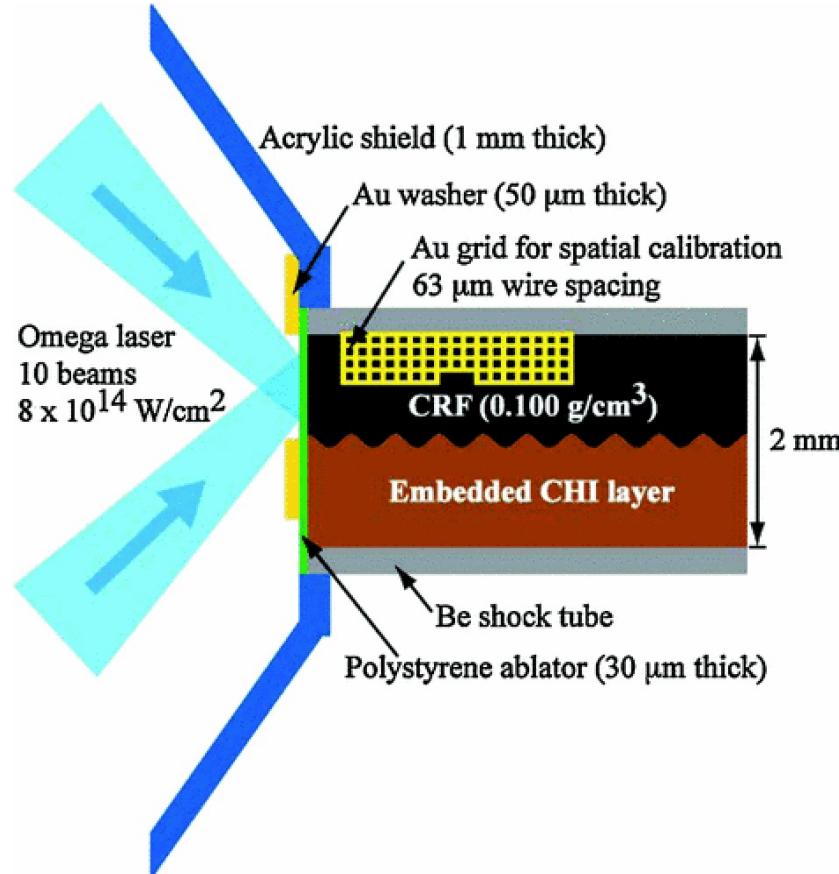
Velocity interferometer system for any reflector (VISAR)



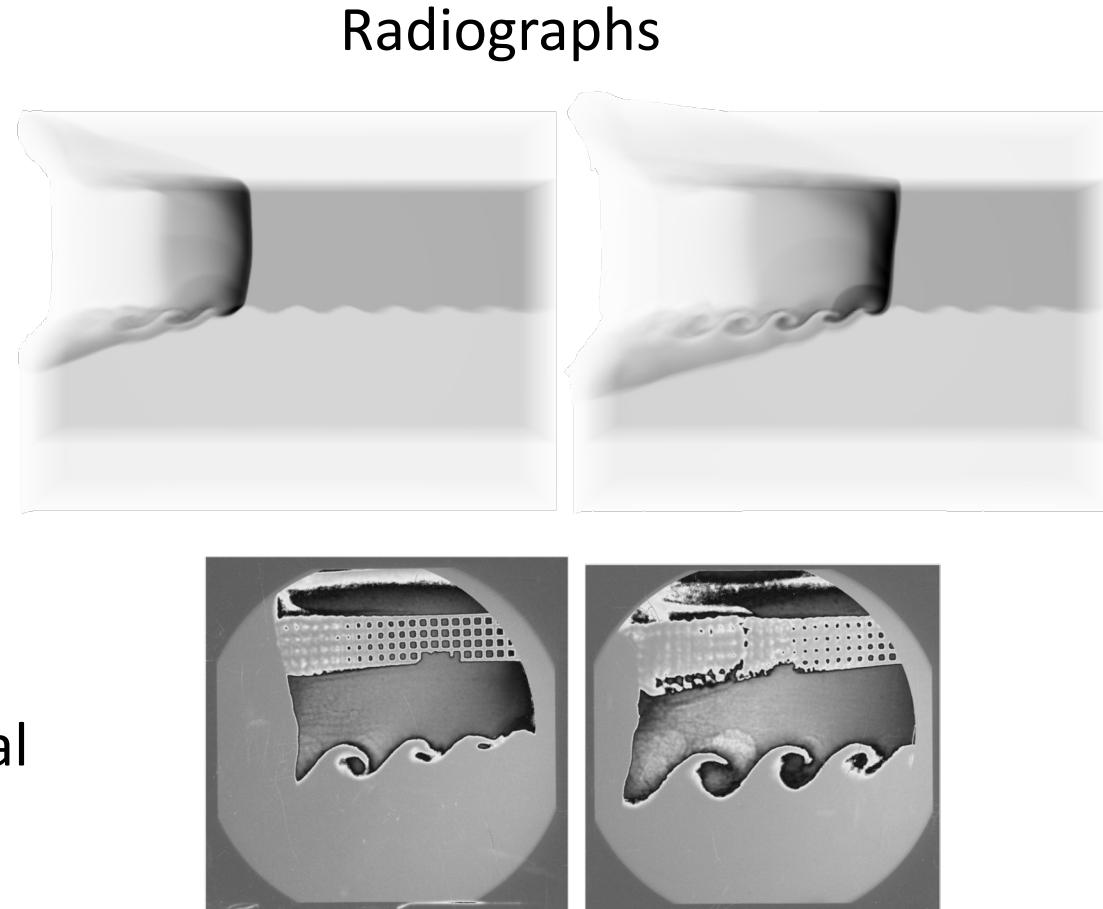
Shock position tracked
in Ascent



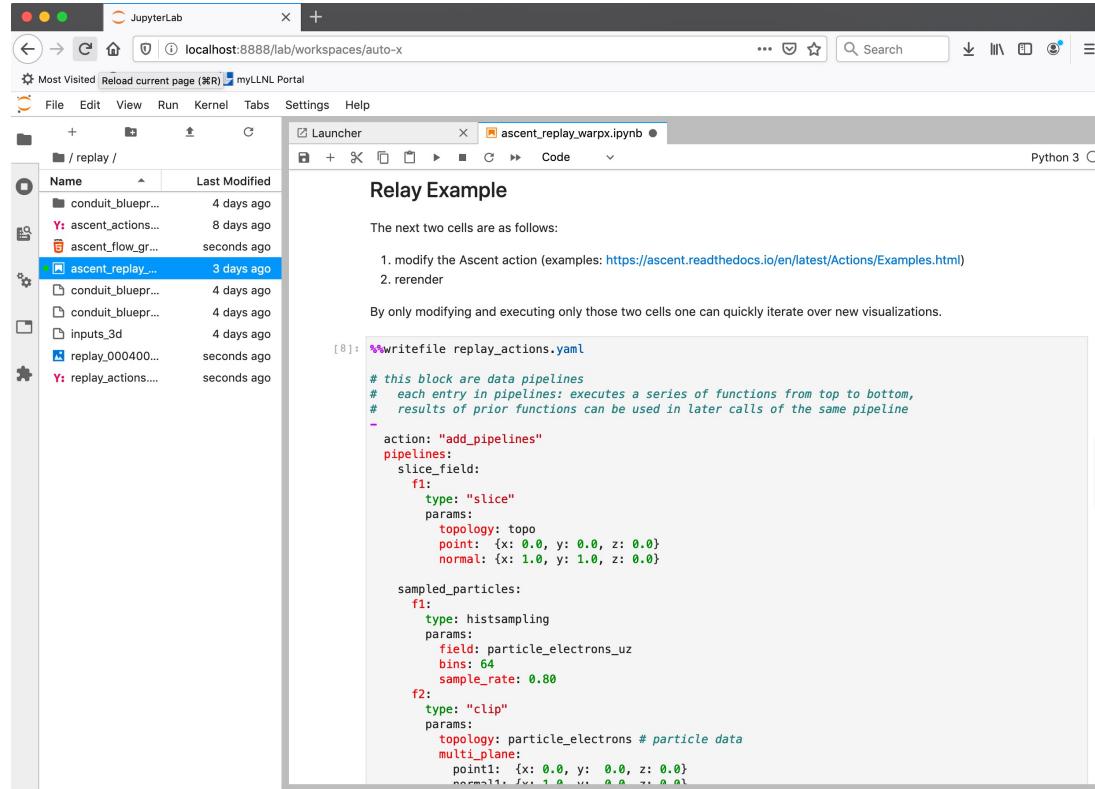
Science Enabling Results: Simulation Validation



Simulated



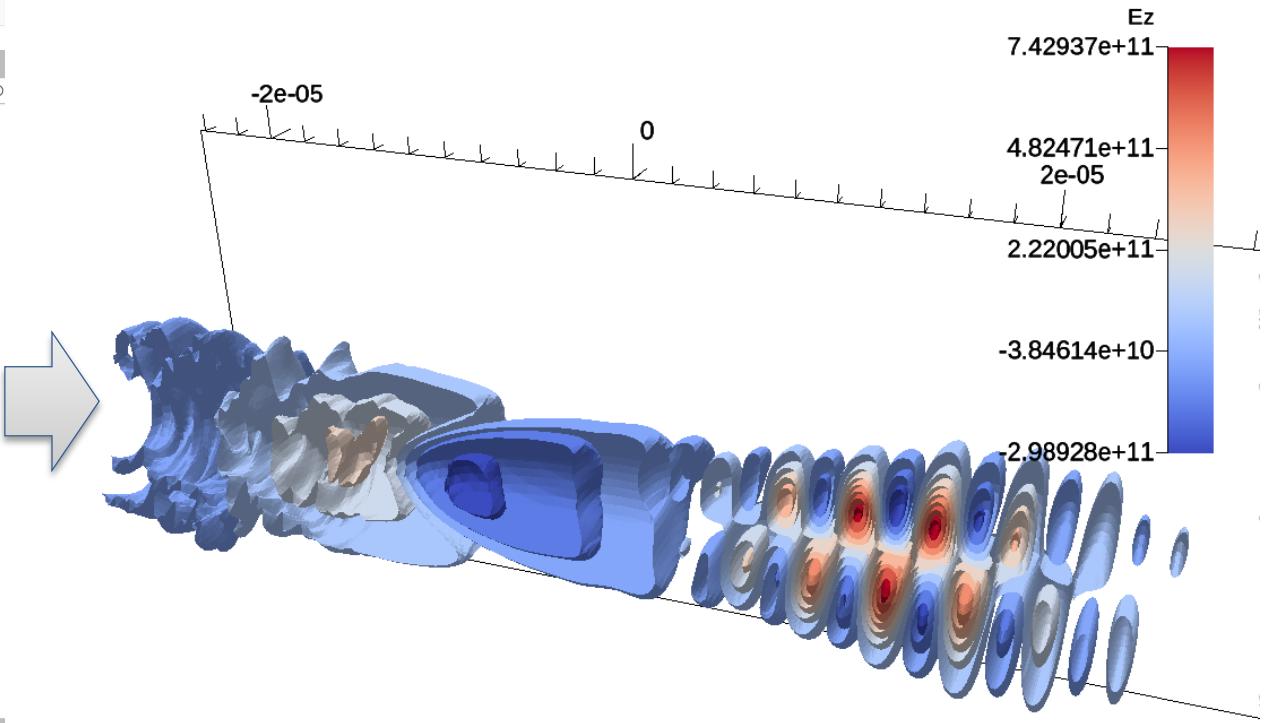
Science Enabling Results: WarpX Workflow Tools (Jupyter Lab)



The screenshot shows the Jupyter Lab interface with a tab titled "ascent_replay_warpix.ipynb". The code in the cell [8] is as follows:

```
[8]: #>writewfile replay_actions.yaml
# this block are data pipelines
# each entry in pipelines: executes a series of functions from top to bottom,
# results of prior functions can be used in later calls of the same pipeline
-
action: "add_pipelines"
pipelines:
  slice_field:
    f1:
      type: "slice"
      params:
        topology: topo
        point: {x: 0.0, y: 0.0, z: 0.0}
        normal: {x: 1.0, y: 1.0, z: 0.0}
    sampled_particles:
      f1:
        type: histsampling
        params:
          field: particle_electrons_uz
          bins: 64
          sample_rate: 0.80
      f2:
        type: "clip"
        params:
          topology: particle_electrons # particle data
          multi_plane:
            point1: {x: 0.0, y: 0.0, z: 0.0}
            normal1: {x: 1.0, y: 0.0, z: 0.0}
```

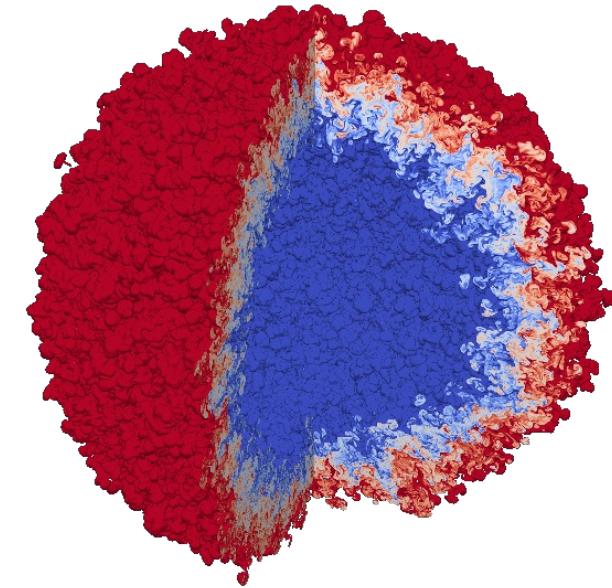
Jupyter Lab Interface



Resulting Image

Science Enabling Results: Rendering At Scale (2018)

- The **97.8 billion** element simulation ran across **16,384 GPUs** on **4,096 Nodes**
- The simulation application used **CUDA** via **RAJA** to run on the GPUs
- Time-varying evolution of the mixing was visualized in-situ using **Ascent**, also leveraging 16,384 GPUs
- Ascent leveraged **VTK-m** to run visualization algorithms on the GPUs



Visualization of an idealized Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) simulation of Rayleigh-Taylor instability with two fluids mixing in a spherical geometry.

Ascent Project Resources and Contacts

Ascent Resources:

- Github: <https://github.com/alpine-dav/ascent>
- Docs: <http://ascent-dav.org/>
- Tutorial Landing Page: <https://www.ascent-dav.org/tutorial/>

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