



CONFERENCE 4 – 7 December 2018  
EXHIBITION 5 – 7 December 2018  
Tokyo International Forum, Japan  
[SA2018.SIGGRAPH.ORG](http://SA2018.SIGGRAPH.ORG)

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# GPU-Based Large-Scale Scientific Visualization

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Course Website:

<http://johanna-b.github.io/LargeSciVis2018/index.html>





**Part 3 -**

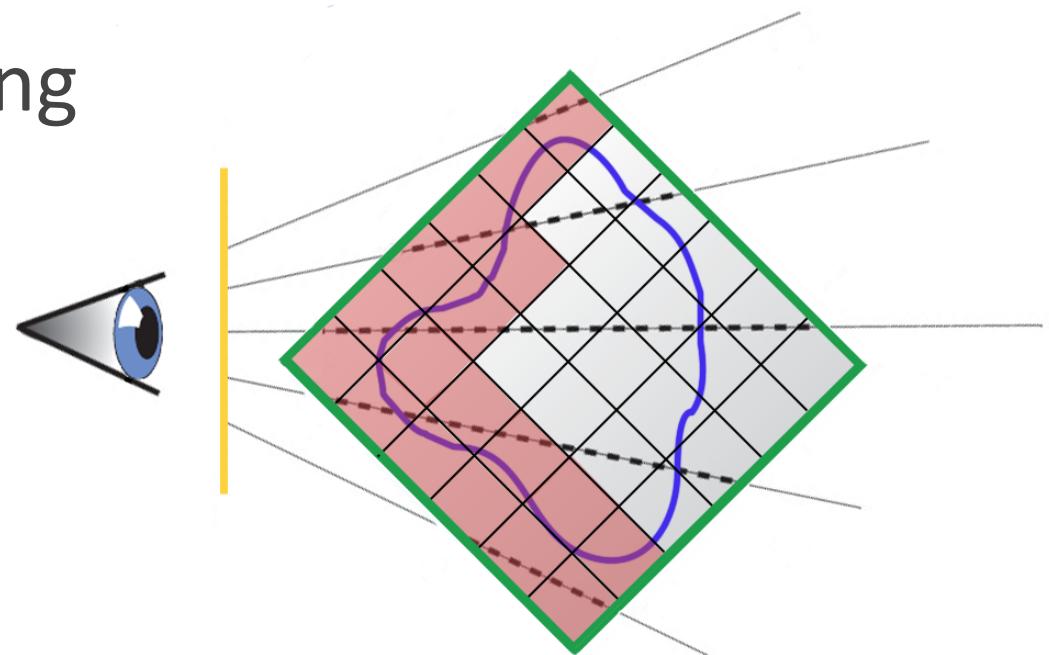
**GPU-Based Ray-Guided**

**Volume Rendering Algorithms &**

**Efficient Empty Space Skipping**

## RAY-GUIDED VOLUME RENDERING

- Working set determination on GPU
- Single-pass rendering
- Traversal on GPU
- Virtual texturing





## RAY-GUIDED VOLUME RENDERING (2)

Examples using octree traversal (kd-restart):

- **Gigavoxels** [Crassin et al., 2009]
  - Gigavoxel isosurface and volume rendering
- **Tera-CVR** [Engel, 2011]
  - Teravoxel volume rendering with dynamic transfer functions

## RAY-GUIDED VOLUME RENDERING (2)

Examples using virtual texturing instead of tree traversal

- Petascale volume exploration of microscopy streams [Hadwiger et al., 2012]
  - *Visualization-driven* pipeline, including data construction
- ImageVis3D [Fogal et al., 2013]
  - Analysis of different settings (brick size, ...)



# Ray-guided Volume Rendering Examples



## EARLY 'RAY-GUIDED' OCTREE RAY-CASTING (1)

[Gobbetti et al., The Visual Computer, 2008]

Volume representation	Octree
Rendering	GPU octree traversal
Working set determination	Interleaved occlusion queries



## EARLY ‘RAY-GUIDED’ OCTREE RAY-CASTING (1)

Data structure: Octree with ropes

- Pointers to 8 children, 6 neighbors and volume data
- Active subtree stored in spatial index structure and texture pool on GPU

[Gobbetti et al.]

Volume representation	Octree
Rendering	GPU octree traversal
Working set determination	Interleaved occlusion queries

## EARLY ‘RAY-GUIDED’ OCTREE RAY-CASTING (2)

Rendering:

- Stackless GPU octree traversal (rope tree)

[Gobbetti et al.]

Volume representation	Octree
<b>Rendering</b>	<b>GPU octree traversal</b>
Working set determination	Interleaved occlusion queries

## EARLY ‘RAY-GUIDED’ OCTREE RAY-CASTING (2)

### Culling: Culling on CPU

- Culling uses global transfer function, iso-value, view frustum
- Only visible nodes of previous rendering pass get refined
- Occlusion queries to check bounding box of node against depth of last sample during raycasting

[Gobbetti et al.]

Volume representation	Octree
Rendering	GPU octree traversal
<b>Working set determination</b>	<b>Interleaved occlusion queries</b>



## RAY-GUIDED OCTREE RAY-CASTING (1)

[Crassin et al., ACM SIGGRAPH i3D, 2009]

Volume representation

Octree

Rendering

GPU octree traversal

Working set determination

Ray-guided

## RAY-GUIDED OCTREE RAY-CASTING (1)

Data structure:  $N^3$  tree + multi-resolution volume

- Subtree stored on GPU in node/brick pool
  - Node: 1 pointer to children, 1 pointer to volume brick
  - Children stored together in node pool

[Crassin et al.]

Volume representation	Octree
Rendering	GPU octree traversal
Working set determination	Ray-guided

## RAY-GUIDED OCTREE RAY-CASTING (2)

### Rendering:

- Stackless GPU octree traversal (Kd-restart)
- 3 mipmap levels for correct filtering
- Missing data substituted by lower-res data

[Crassin et al.]

Volume representation	Octree
<b>Rendering</b>	<b>GPU octree traversal</b>
Working set determination	Ray-guided

## RAY-GUIDED OCTREE RAY-CASTING (2)

### Culling:

- Multiple render targets write out data usage
- Exploits temporal and spatial coherence

[Crassin et al.]

Volume representation	Octree
Rendering	GPU octree traversal
<b>Working set determination</b>	<b>Ray-guided</b>



## RAY-GUIDED MULTI-LEVEL PAGETABLE RAY-CASTING (1)

[Hadwiger et al., IEEE SciVis 2012]

Volume representation

Multi-resolution grid

Rendering

Multi-level virtual texture  
ray-casting

Working set determination

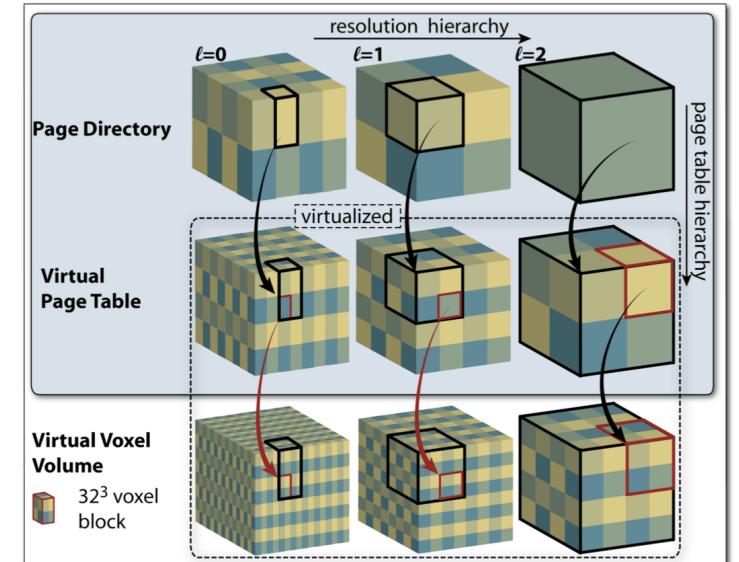
Ray-guided

## RAY-GUIDED MULTI-LEVEL PAGETABLE RAY-CASTING (1)

### Data structure: Multi-res grid

- On-the-fly reconstruction of bricks
- Stored on disk in 2D multi-resolution grid
- Multi-level multi-res. page table on GPU

[Hadwiger et al.]



Volume representation	Multi-resolution grid
Rendering	Multi-level virtual texture ray-casting
Working set determination	Ray-guided



## RAY-GUIDED MULTI-LEVEL PAGETABLE RAY-CASTING (2)

Rendering:

- Multi-level virtual texture ray-casting
- LOD chosen per individual sample
- Data reconstruction triggered by ray-caster

[Hadwiger et al.]

Volume representation

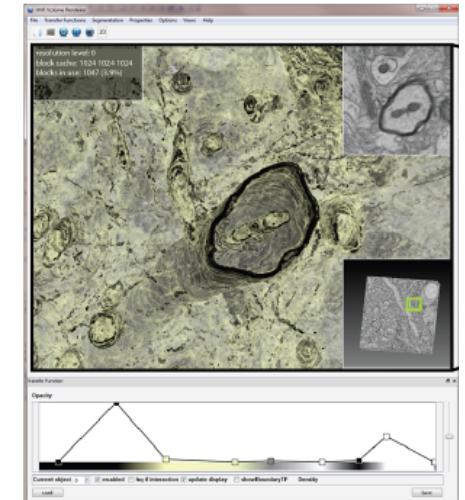
Multi-resolution grid

**Rendering**

**Multi-level virtual texture  
ray-casting**

Working set determination

Ray-guided





## RAY-GUIDED MULTI-LEVEL PAGETABLE RAY-CASTING (2)

### Culling:

- GPU hash table to report missing blocks
  - Exploits temporal and spatial coherence

[Hadwiger et al.]

Volume representation	Multi-resolution grid
Rendering	Multi-level virtual texture ray-casting
<b>Working set determination</b>	<b>Ray-guided</b>



## RAY-GUIDED MULTI-LEVEL PAGETABLE RAY-CASTING - ANALYSIS

[Fogal et al., IEEE LDAV 2013]

Volume representation

Multi-resolution grid

Rendering

(Multi-level) virtual texture  
ray-casting

Working set determination

Ray-guided



## RAY-GUIDED MULTI-LEVEL PAGETABLE RAY-CASTING - ANALYSIS

Implementation differences:

- Lock-free hash table, pagetable lookup only per brick
- Fallback for multi-pass rendering

[Fogal et al.]

Volume representation	Multi-resolution grid
Rendering	(Multi-level) virtual texture ray-casting
Working set determination	Ray-guided



## RAY-GUIDED MULTI-LEVEL PAGETABLE RAY-CASTING - ANALYSIS

### Analysis:

- Many detailed performance numbers (see paper)
- Working set size: typically lower than GPU memory
- Brick size: larger on disk ( $\geq 64^3$ ), smaller for rendering ( $16^3, 32^3$ )

[Fogal et al.]

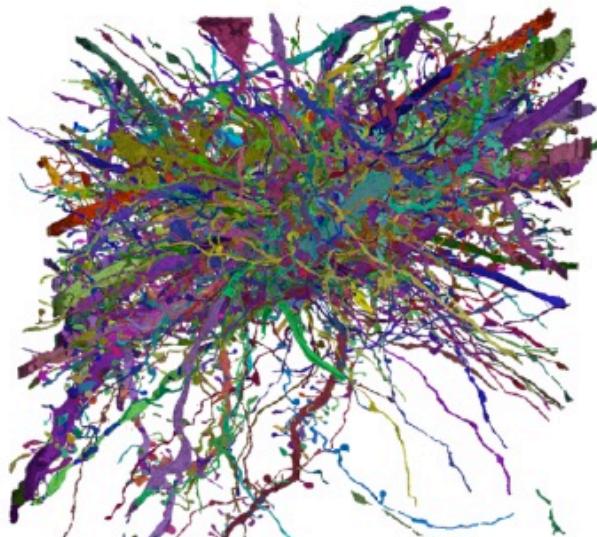
Volume representation	Multi-resolution grid
Rendering	(Multi-level) virtual texture ray-casting
Working set determination	Ray-guided



# Scalable Empty-Space Skipping

## MOTIVATION

Large volumes, finely detailed structures, many segmented objects



connectomics electron microscopy volume

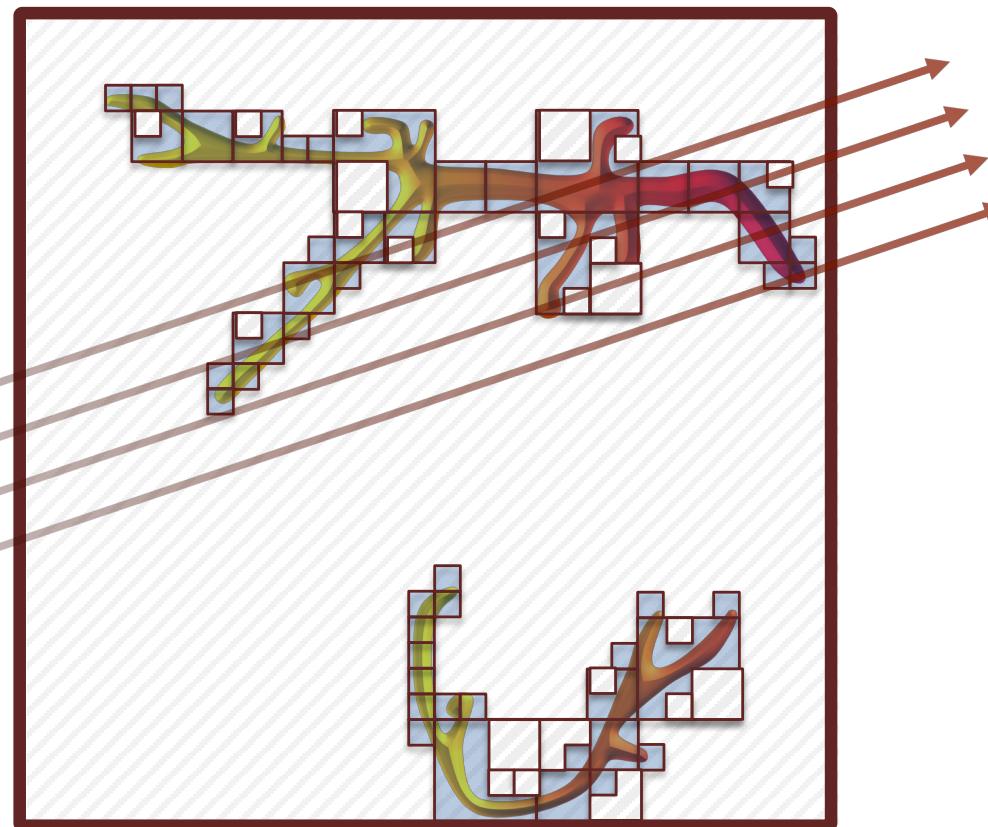
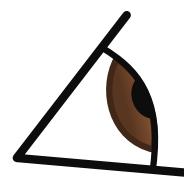
21,000 x 25,000 x 2,000

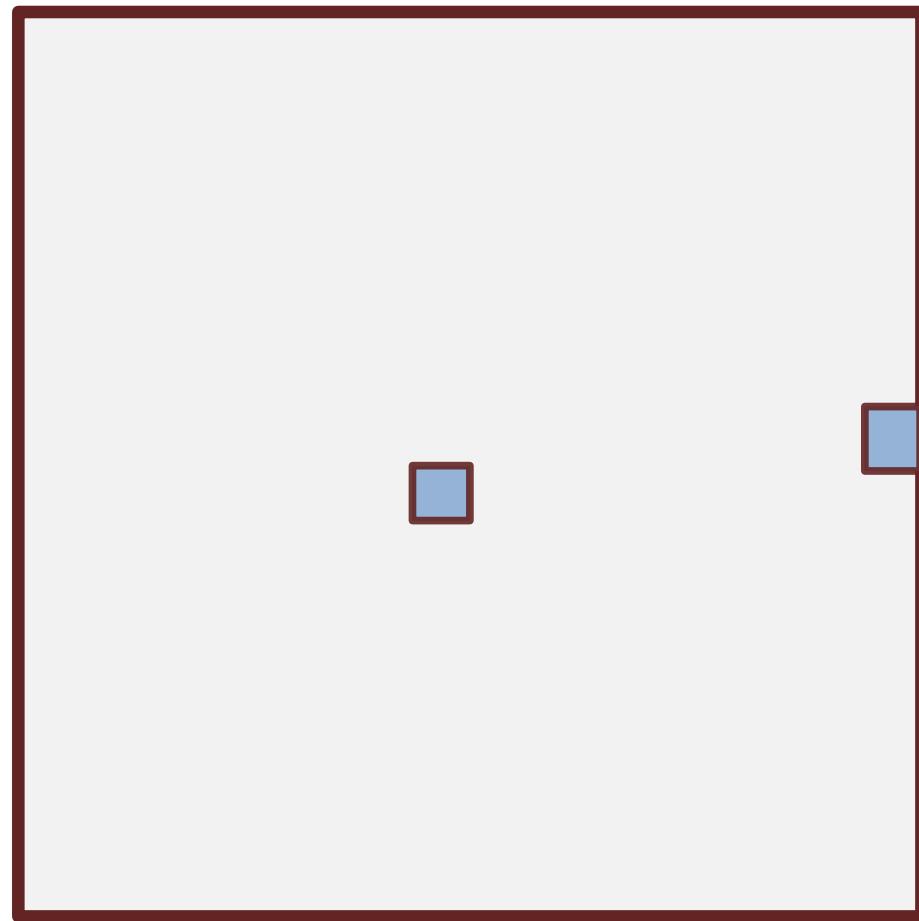
> 1 teravoxels

> 4,000 objects



## MOTIVATION

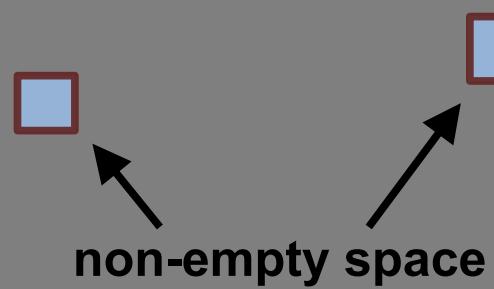






no skipping

sampling whole volume



non-empty space

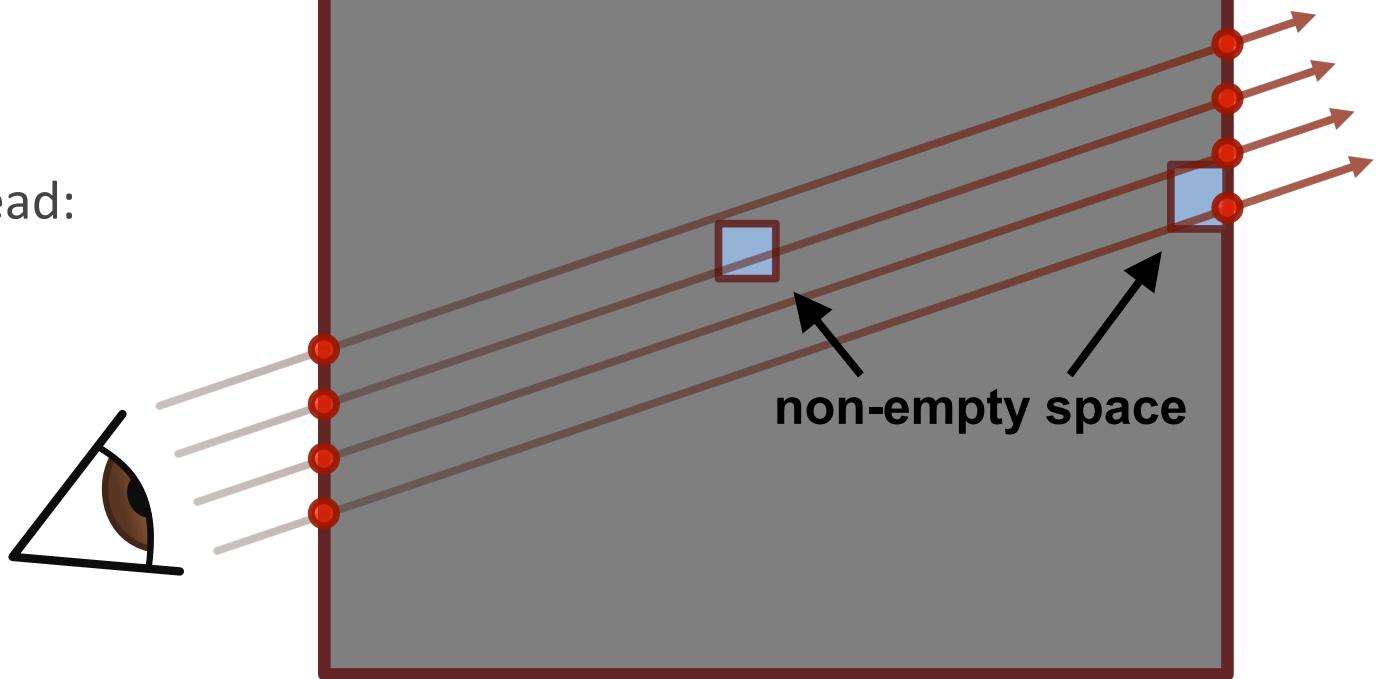
**no skipping**

look-up overhead:

**none**

● look-ups

**sampling whole volume**

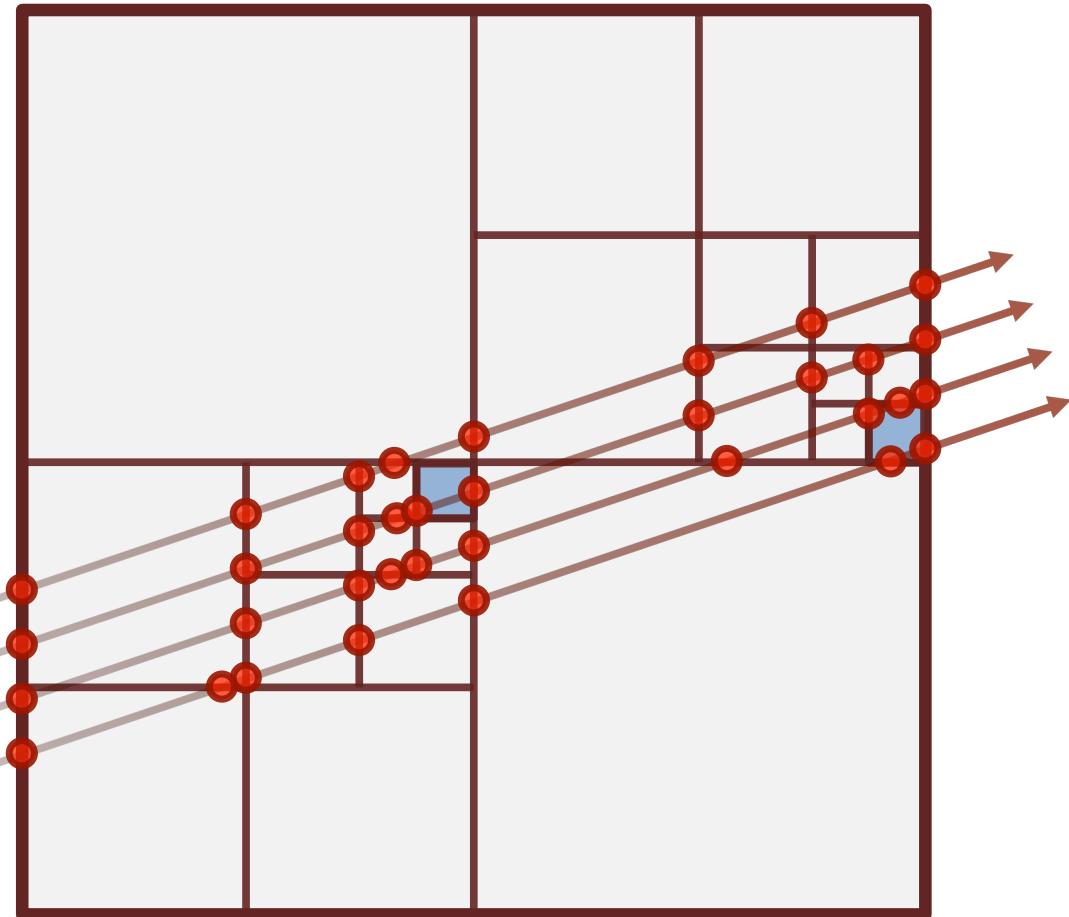
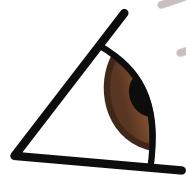




octree skipping

look-up overhead:  
high

● look-ups

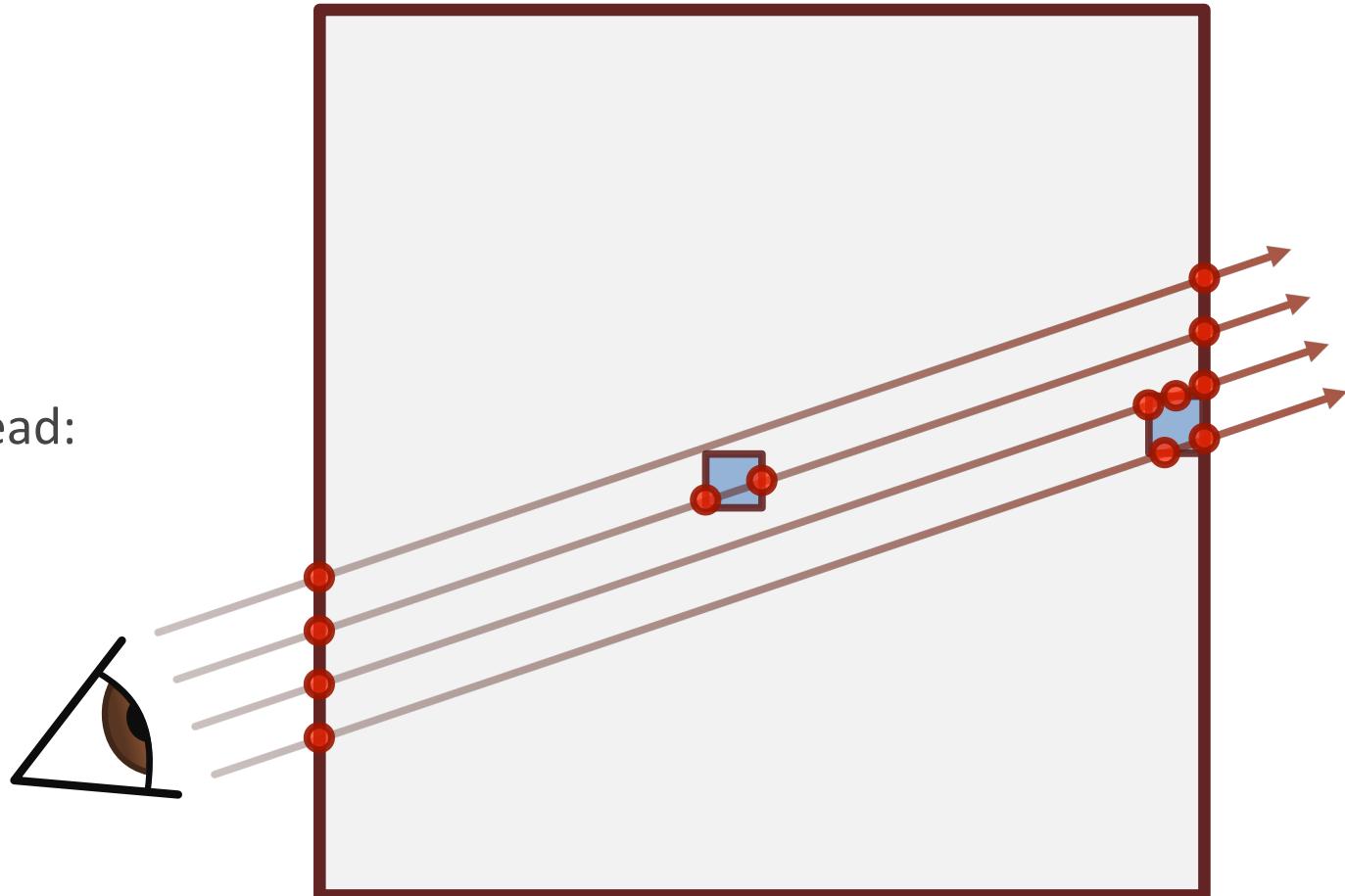


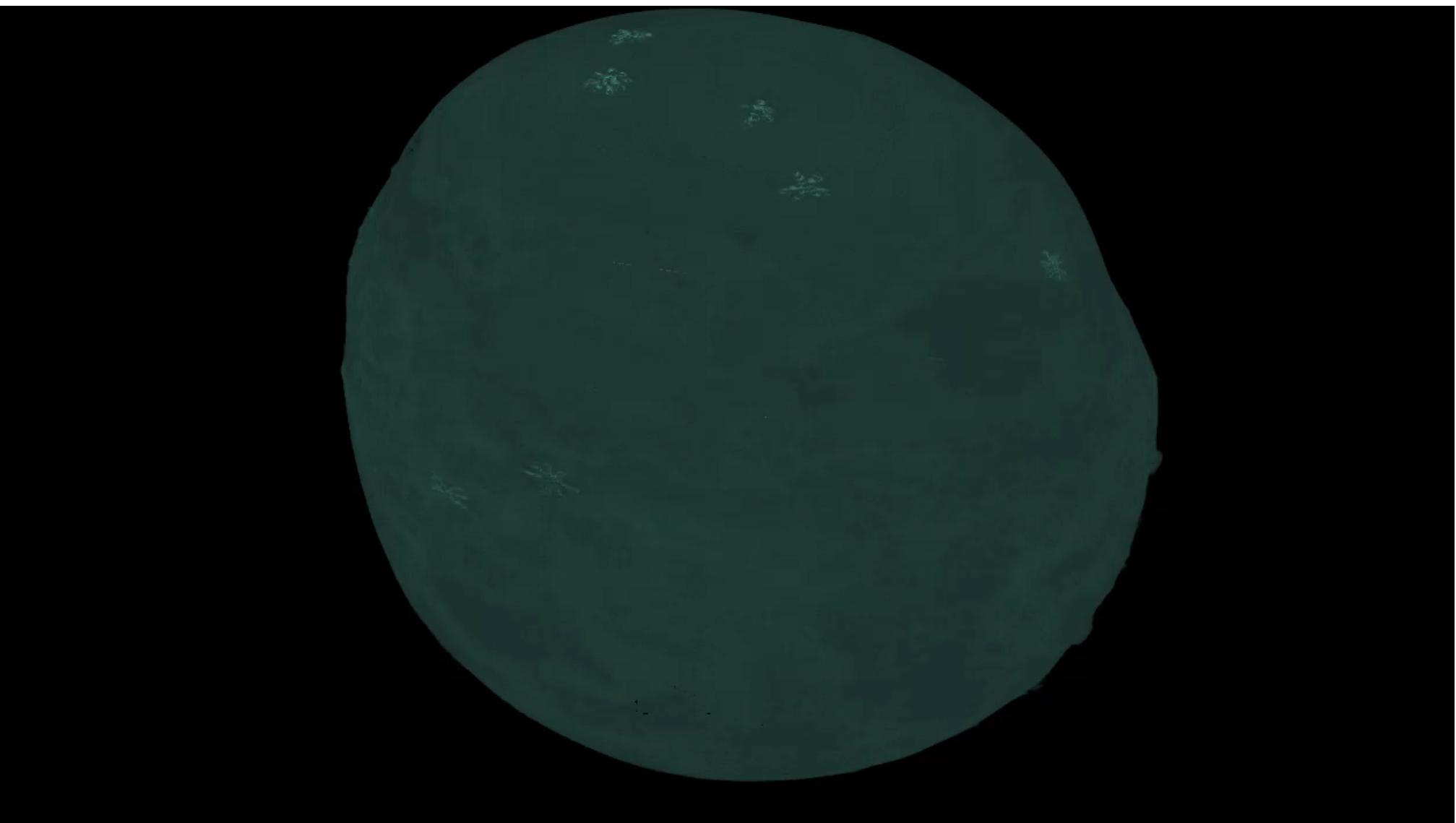


## SparseLeap

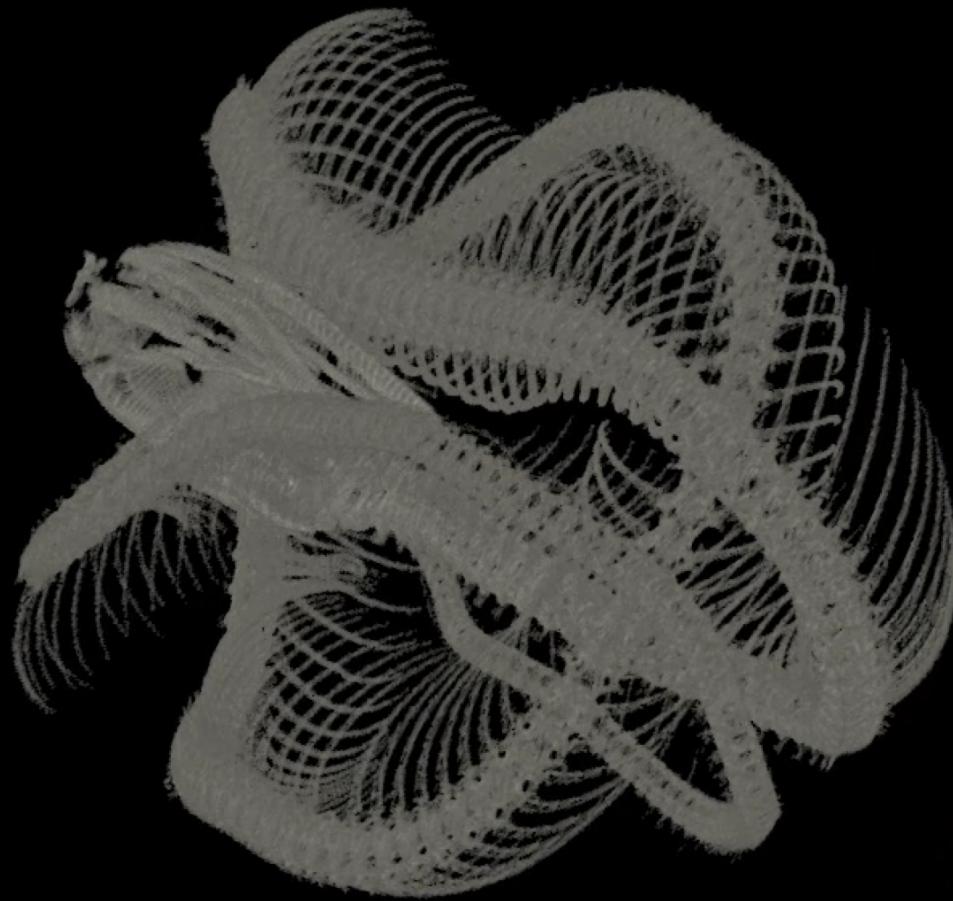
look-up overhead:  
small

● look-ups



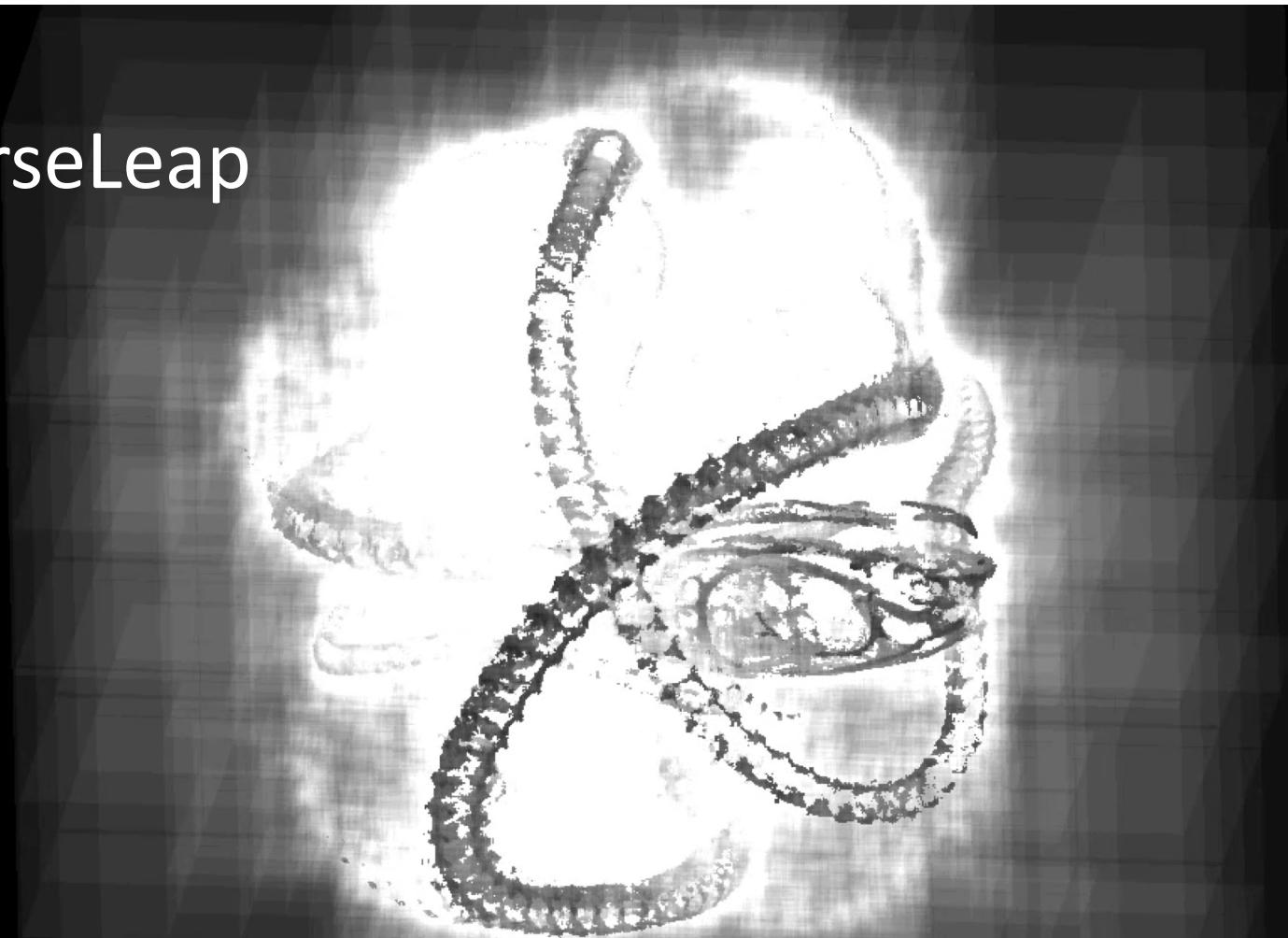


# Octree



depth complexity: # look-ups for space skipping

# SparseLeap



depth complexity: # look-ups for space skipping



## SPARSELEAP PIPELINE

Track volume occupancy

- Occupancy histogram tree

Extract nested occupancy

- Occupancy geometry

Rasterize occupancy

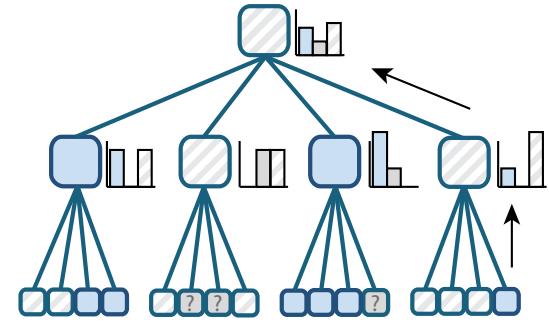
- Ray segment lists

Empty space skipping: Linear list traversal

## SPARSELEAP PIPELINE

### Track volume occupancy

- Occupancy histogram tree



### Extract nested occupancy

- Occupancy geometry

### Rasterize occupancy

- Ray segment lists

Empty space skipping: Linear list traversal

## SPARSELEAP PIPELINE

Track volume occupancy

- Occupancy histogram tree

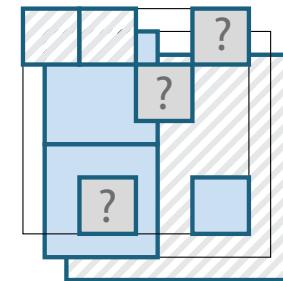
**Extract nested occupancy**

- Occupancy geometry

Rasterize occupancy

- Ray segment lists

Empty space skipping: Linear list traversal



## SPARSELEAP PIPELINE

Track volume occupancy

- Occupancy histogram tree

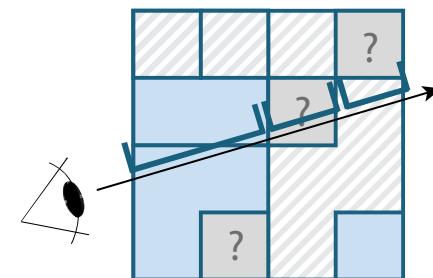
Extract nested occupancy

- Occupancy geometry

Rasterize occupancy

- Ray segment lists

Empty space skipping: Linear list traversal





## SPARSELEAP PIPELINE

Track volume occupancy

- Occupancy histogram tree

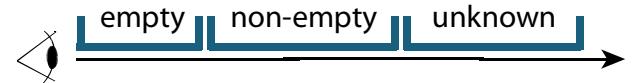
Extract nested occupancy

- Occupancy geometry

Rasterize occupancy

- Ray segment lists

**Empty space skipping: Linear list traversal**

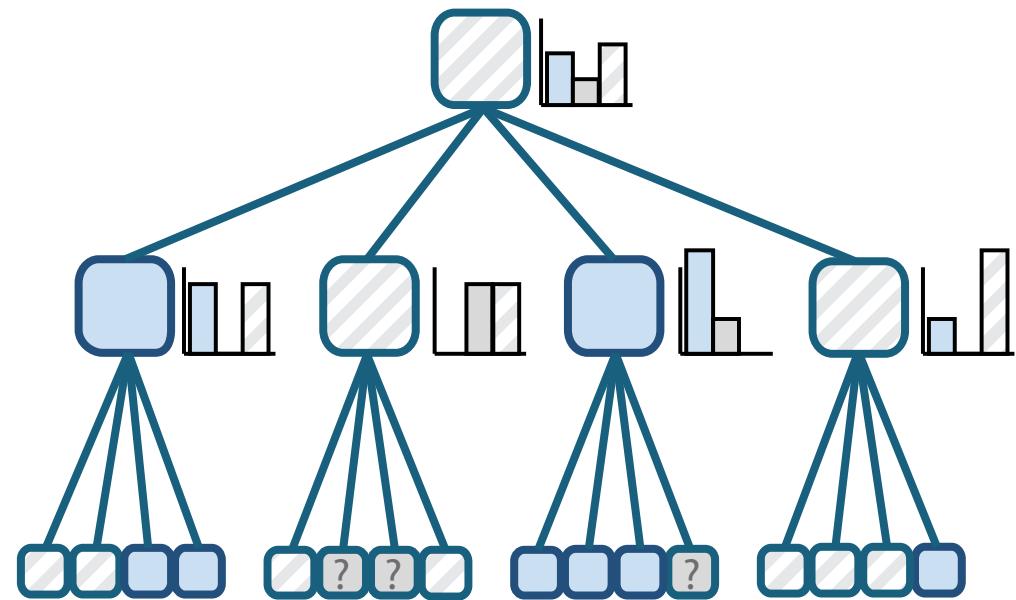


## OCCUPANCY HISTOGRAM TREE

Occupancy classes

- non-empty
- empty
- unknown

Node count in each class over whole subtree



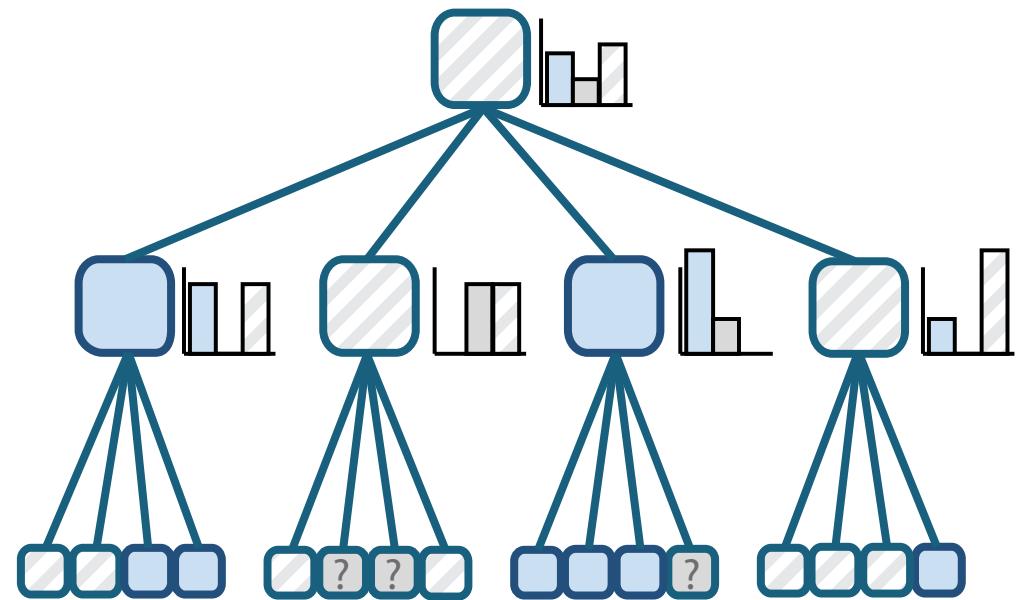
## OCCUPANCY HISTOGRAM TREE

Occupancy classes

- non-empty
- empty
- unknown \*

Node count in each class over whole subtree

\* enables deferred culling



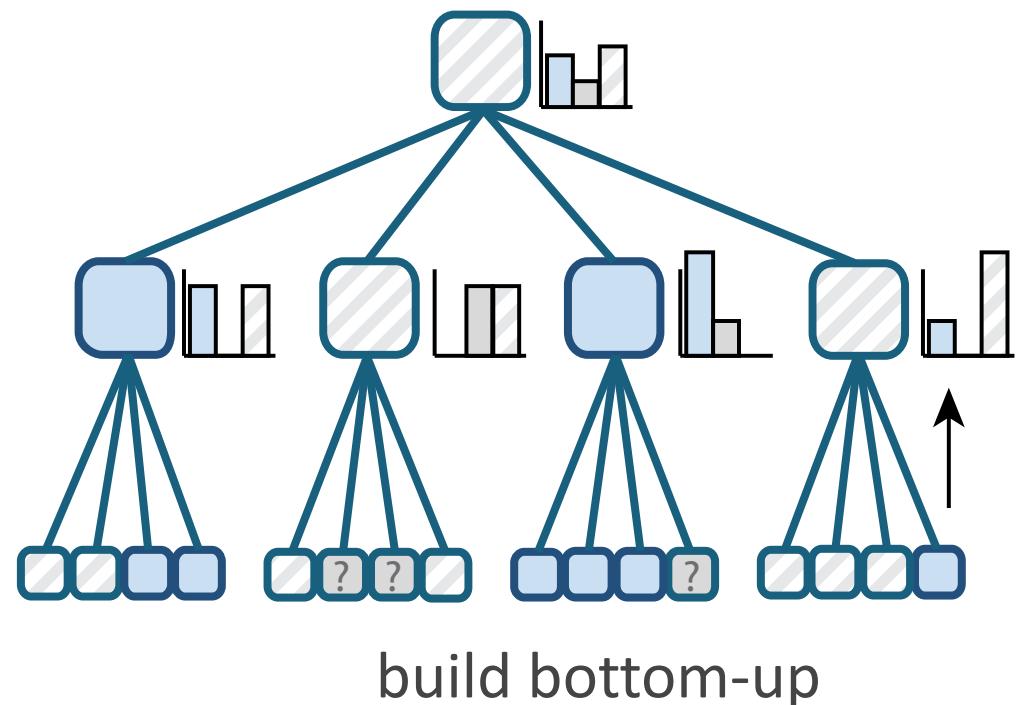
## OCCUPANCY HISTOGRAM TREE

Occupancy classes

- non-empty
- empty
- unknown \*

Node count in each class over whole subtree

\* enables deferred culling



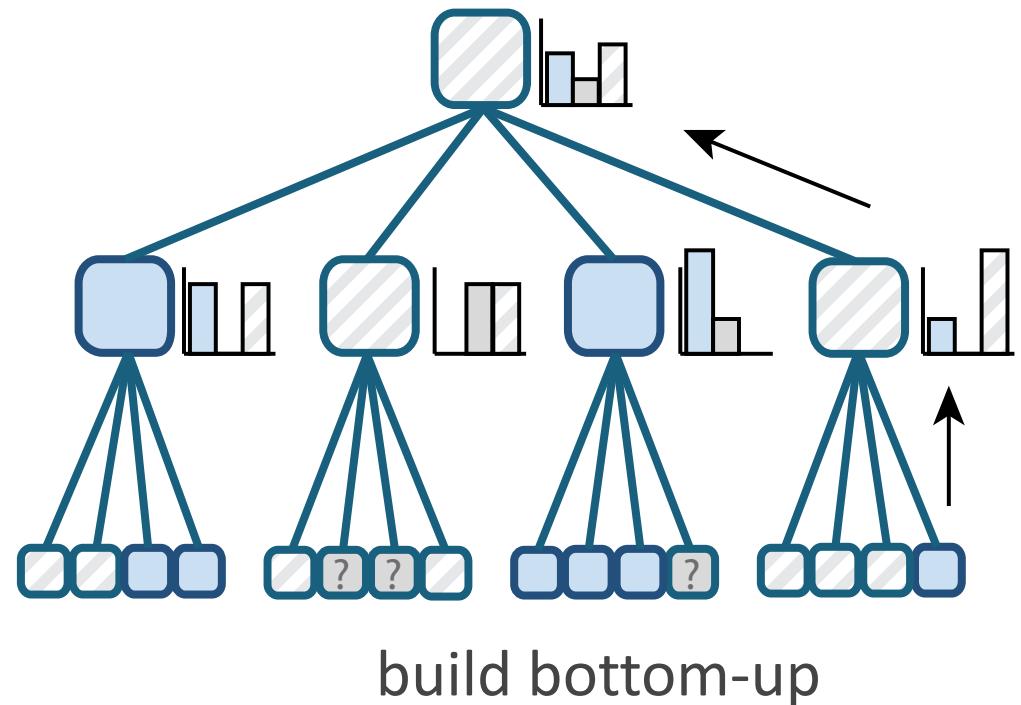
## OCCUPANCY HISTOGRAM TREE

Occupancy classes

- non-empty
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Node count in each class over whole subtree

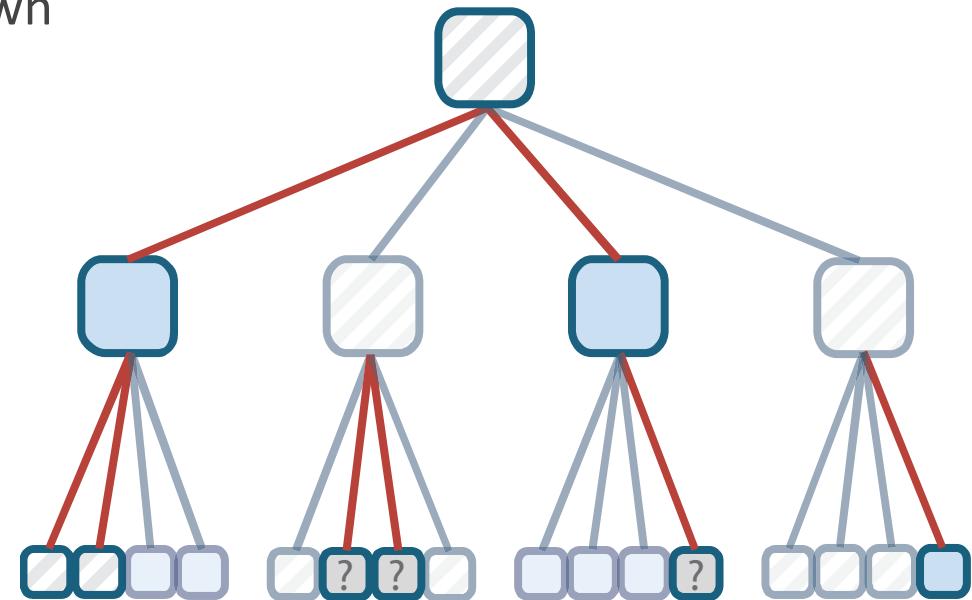
\* enables deferred culling



## OCCUPANCY GEOMETRY

Traverse histogram tree top-down

Pick majority class in each node

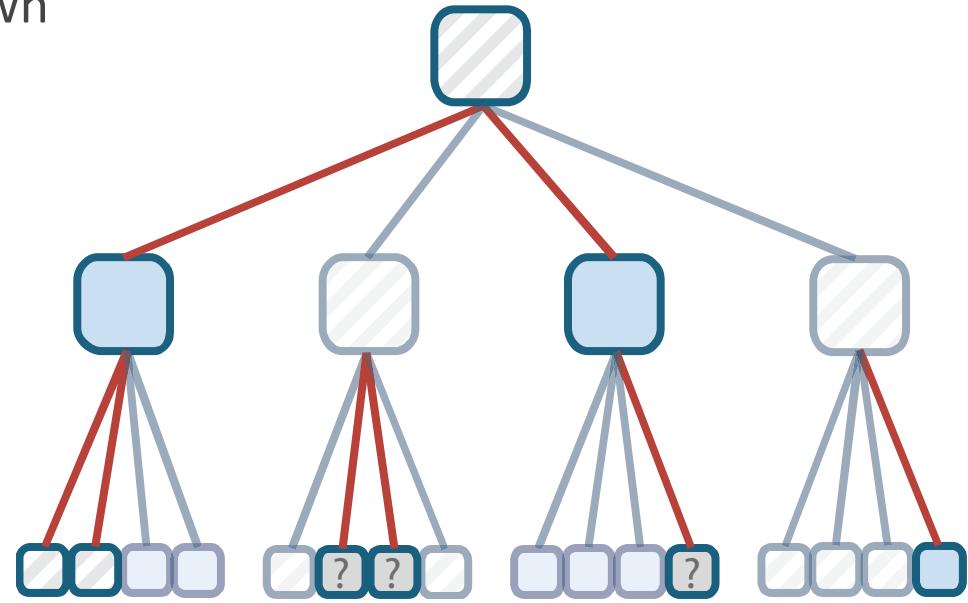
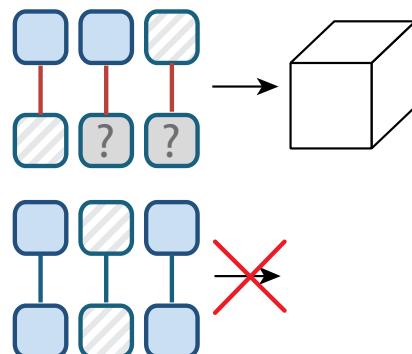


## OCCUPANCY GEOMETRY

Traverse histogram tree top-down

Pick majority class in each node

Emit box on class change

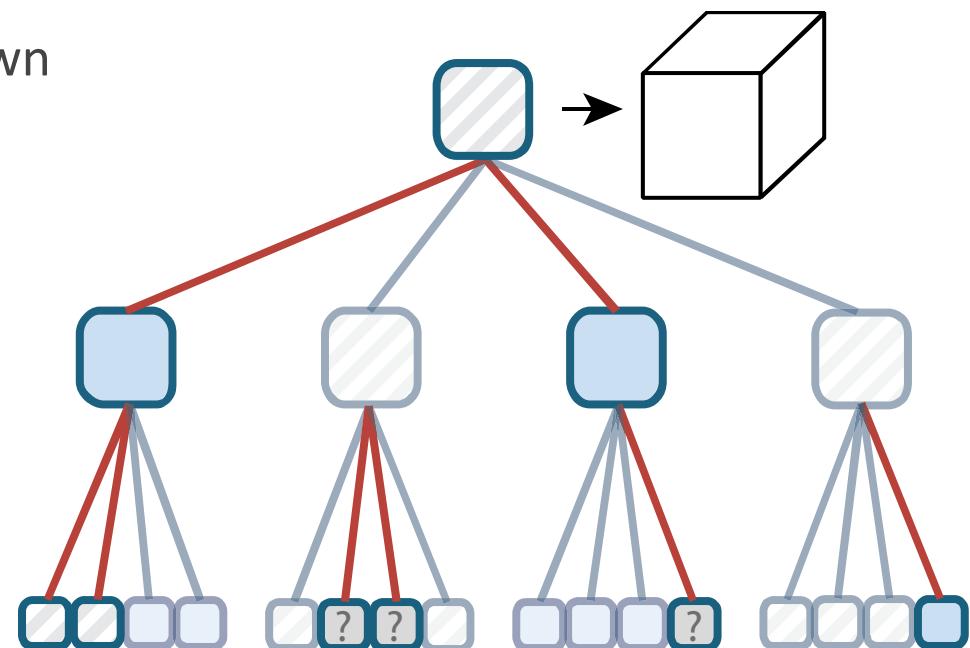
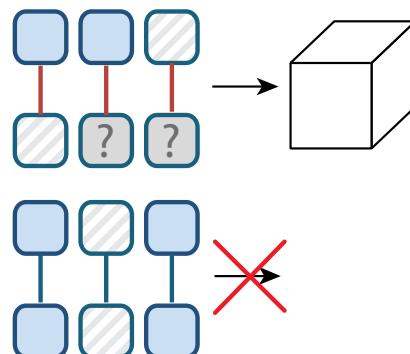


## OCCUPANCY GEOMETRY

Traverse histogram tree top-down

Pick majority class in each node

Emit box on class change

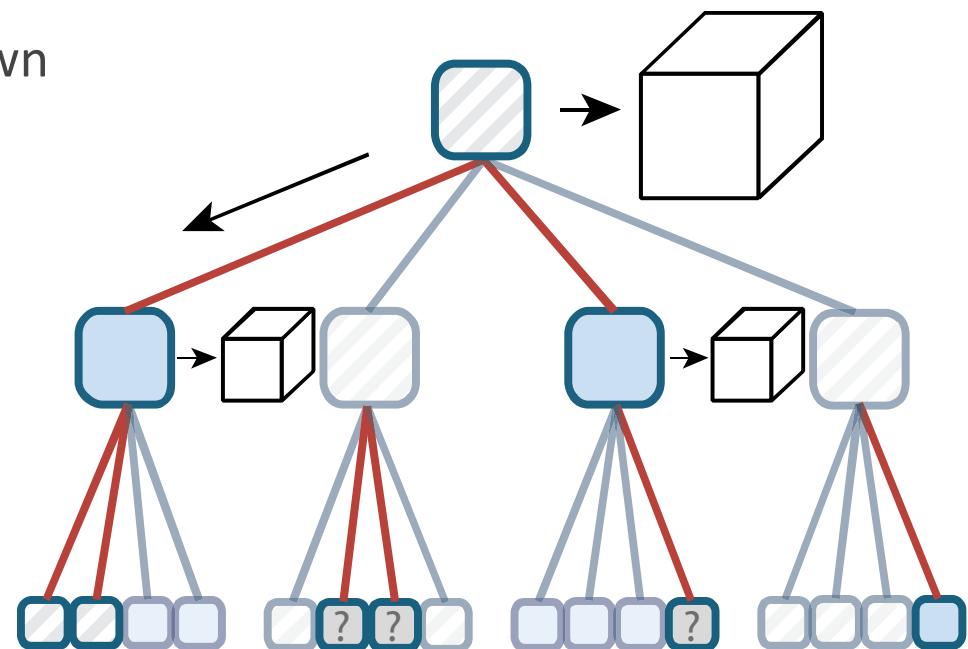
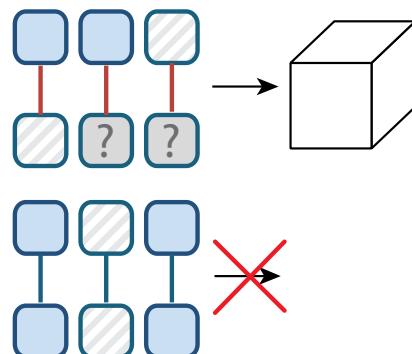


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Traverse histogram tree top-down

Pick majority class in each node

Emit box on class change

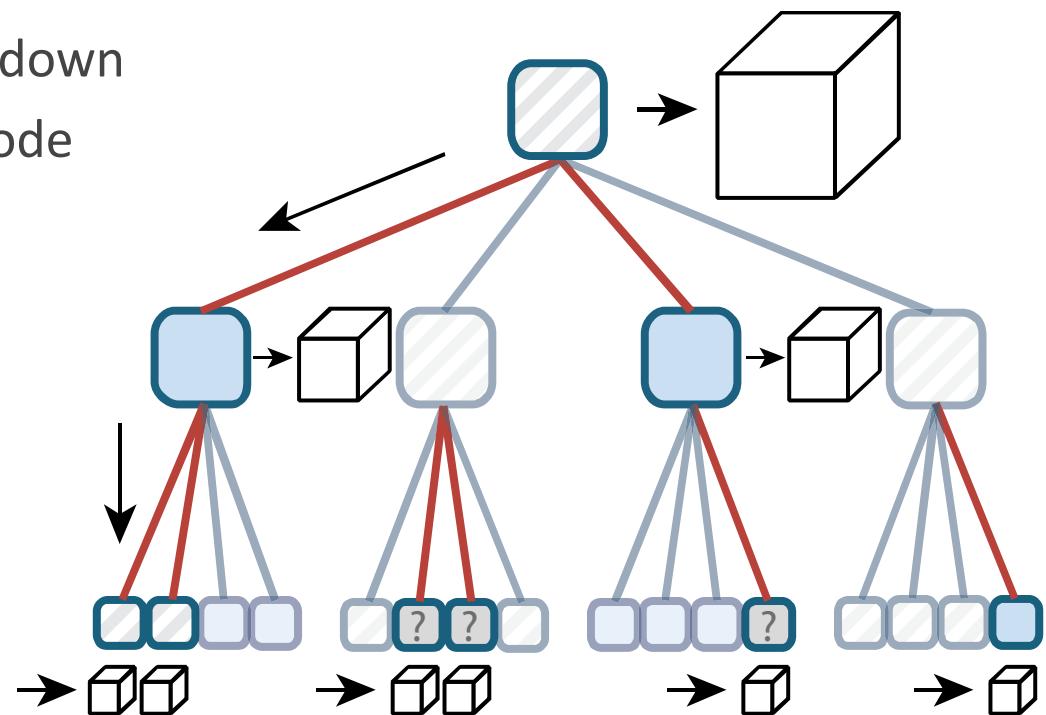
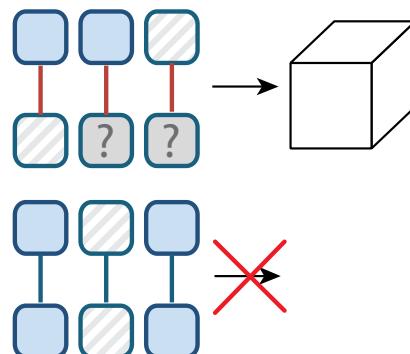


## OCCUPANCY GEOMETRY

Traverse histogram tree top-down

Pick majority class in each node

Emit box on class change

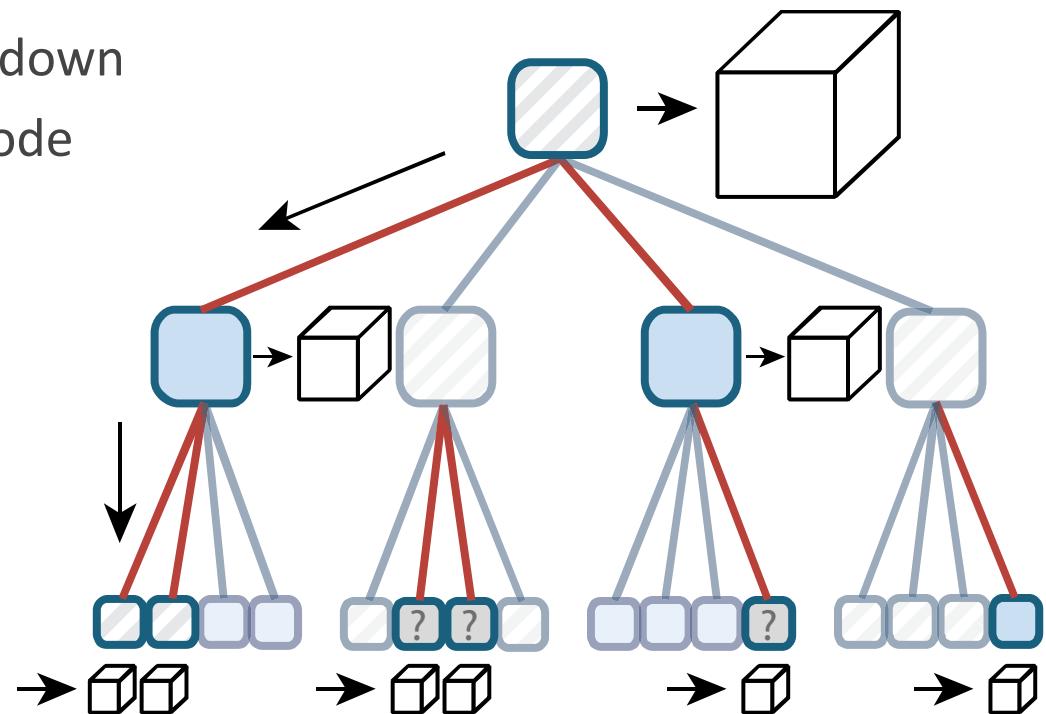
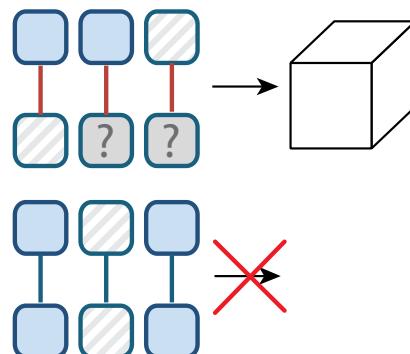


## OCCUPANCY GEOMETRY

Traverse histogram tree top-down

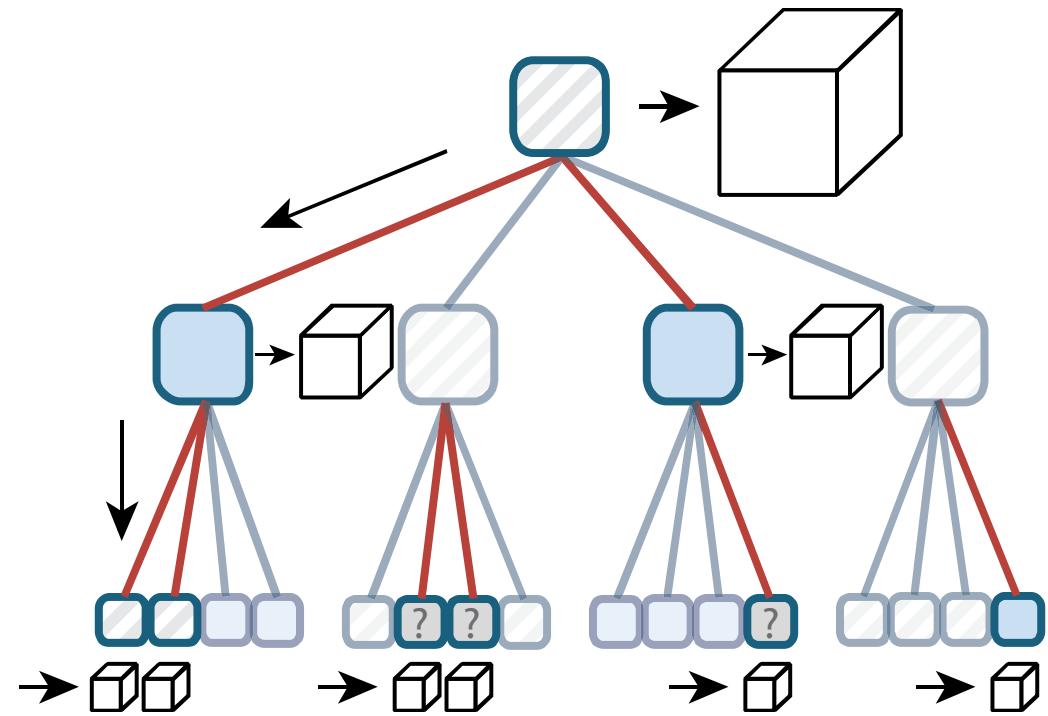
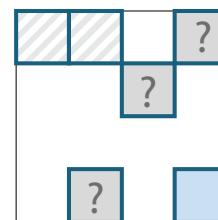
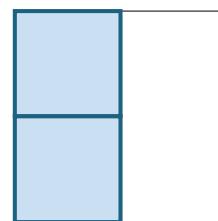
Pick majority class in each node

Emit box on class change



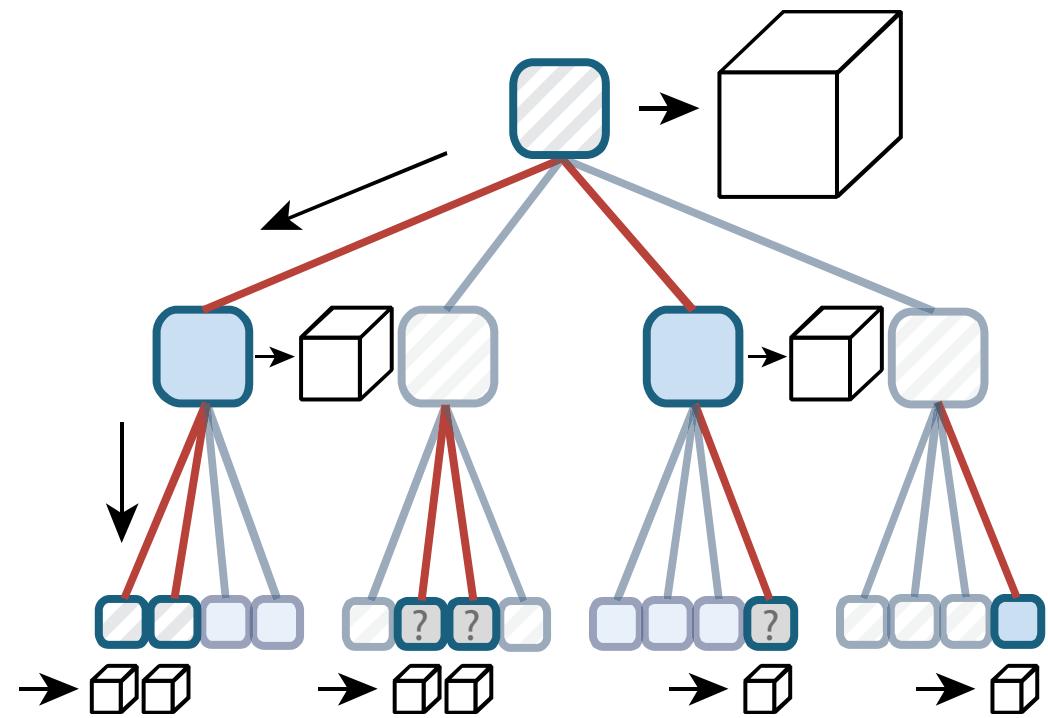
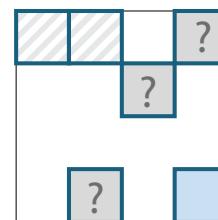
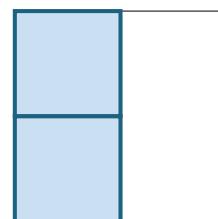
## OCCUPANCY GEOMETRY

extracted  
geometry



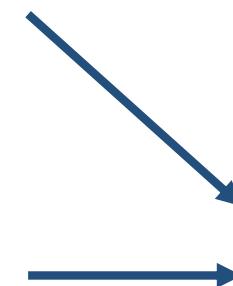
## OCCUPANCY GEOMETRY

extracted  
geometry

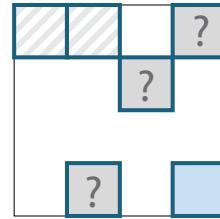


## OCCUPANCY GEOMETRY

extracted  
geometry



flattened  
occupancy

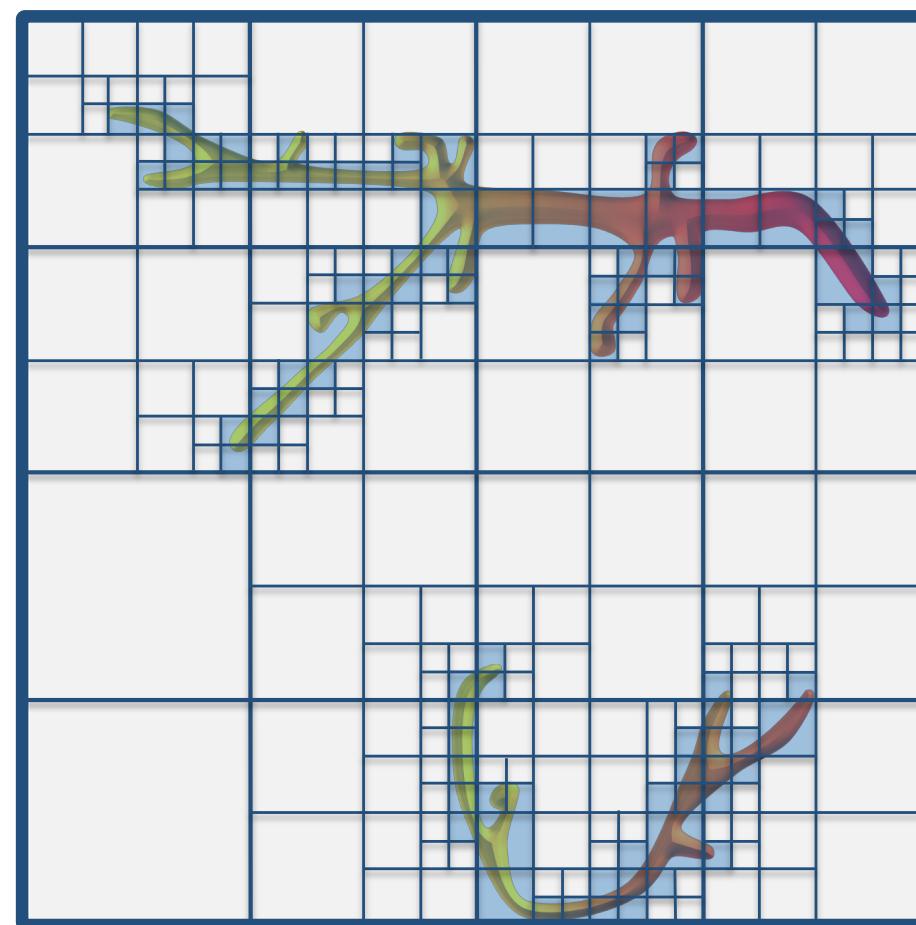


smaller boxes  
**override** larger boxes



## COMPARISON

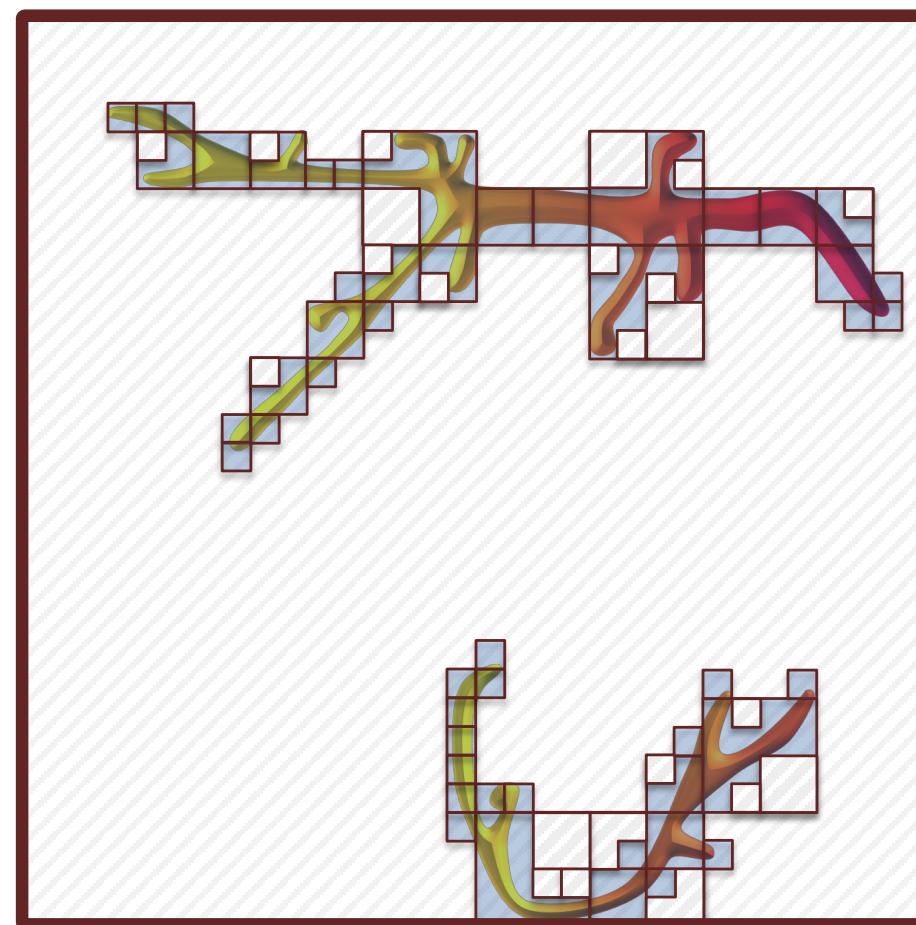
octree  
subdivision





occupancy  
geometry

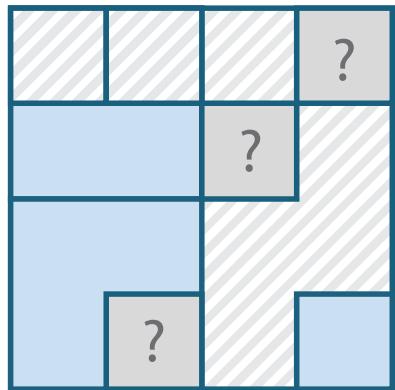
## COMPARISON





## RASTERIZATION: OVERVIEW

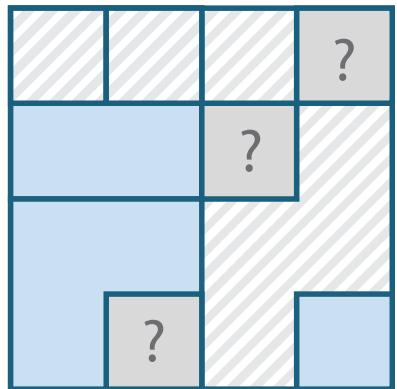
occupancy geometry



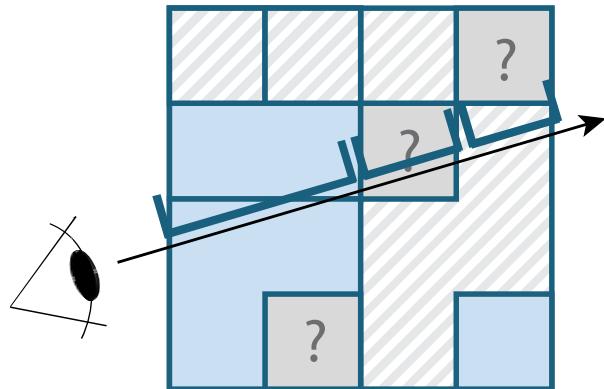


## RASTERIZATION: OVERVIEW

occupancy geometry

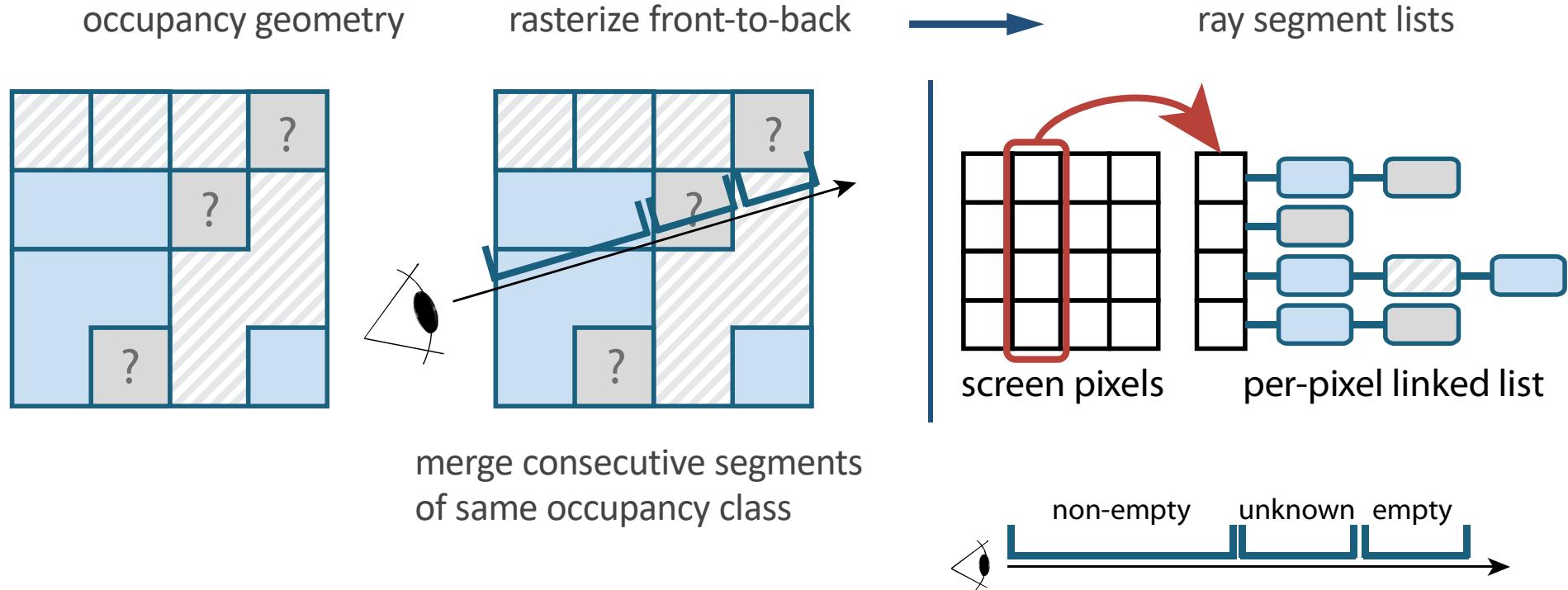


rasterize front-to-back



merge consecutive segments  
of same occupancy class

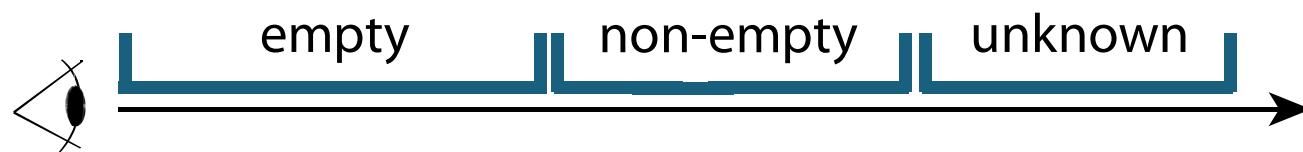
## RASTERIZATION: OVERVIEW





## RAY-CASTING

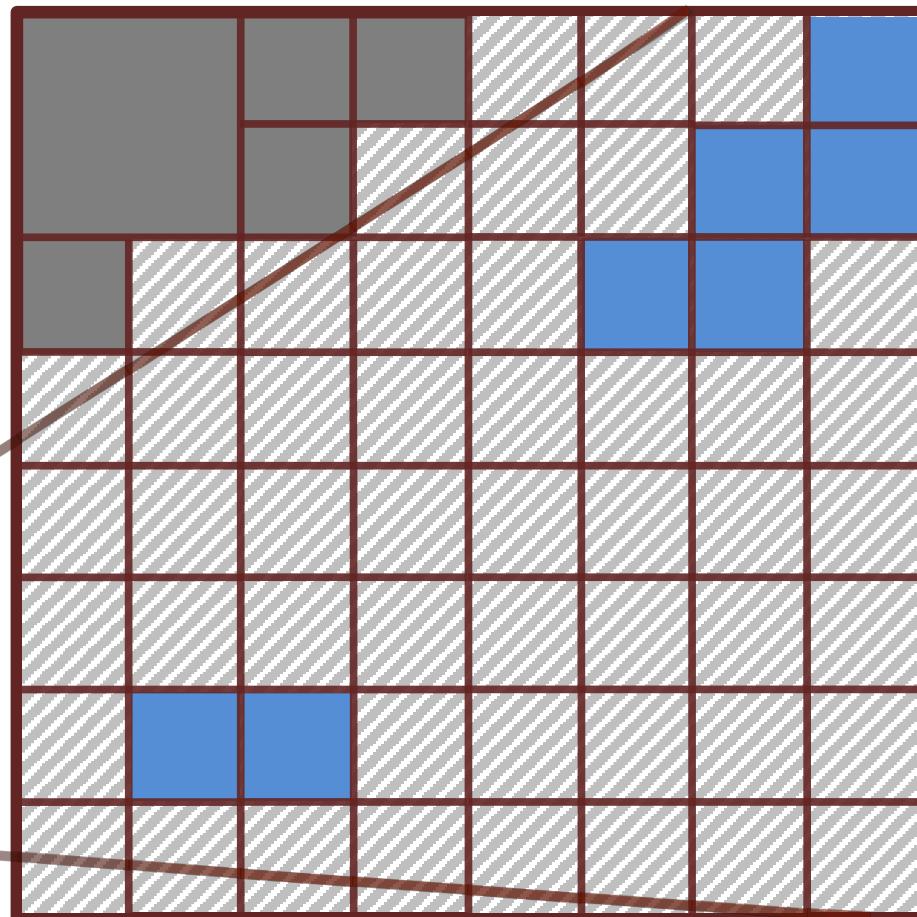
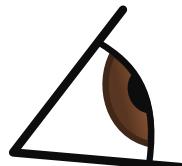
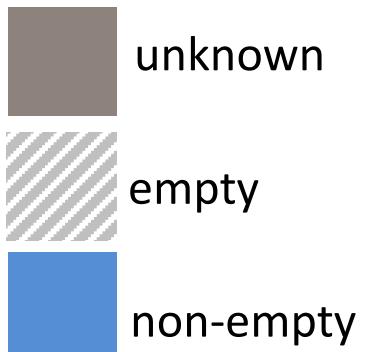
Linear traversal of ray segment list



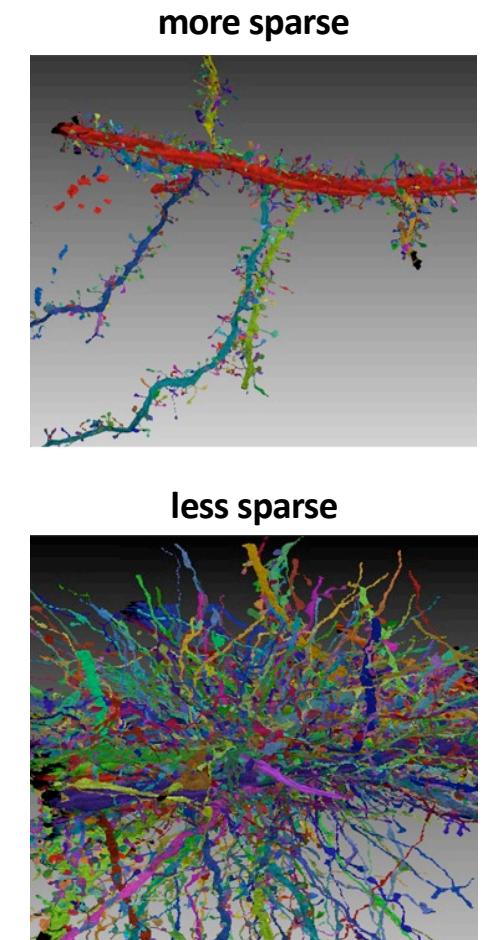
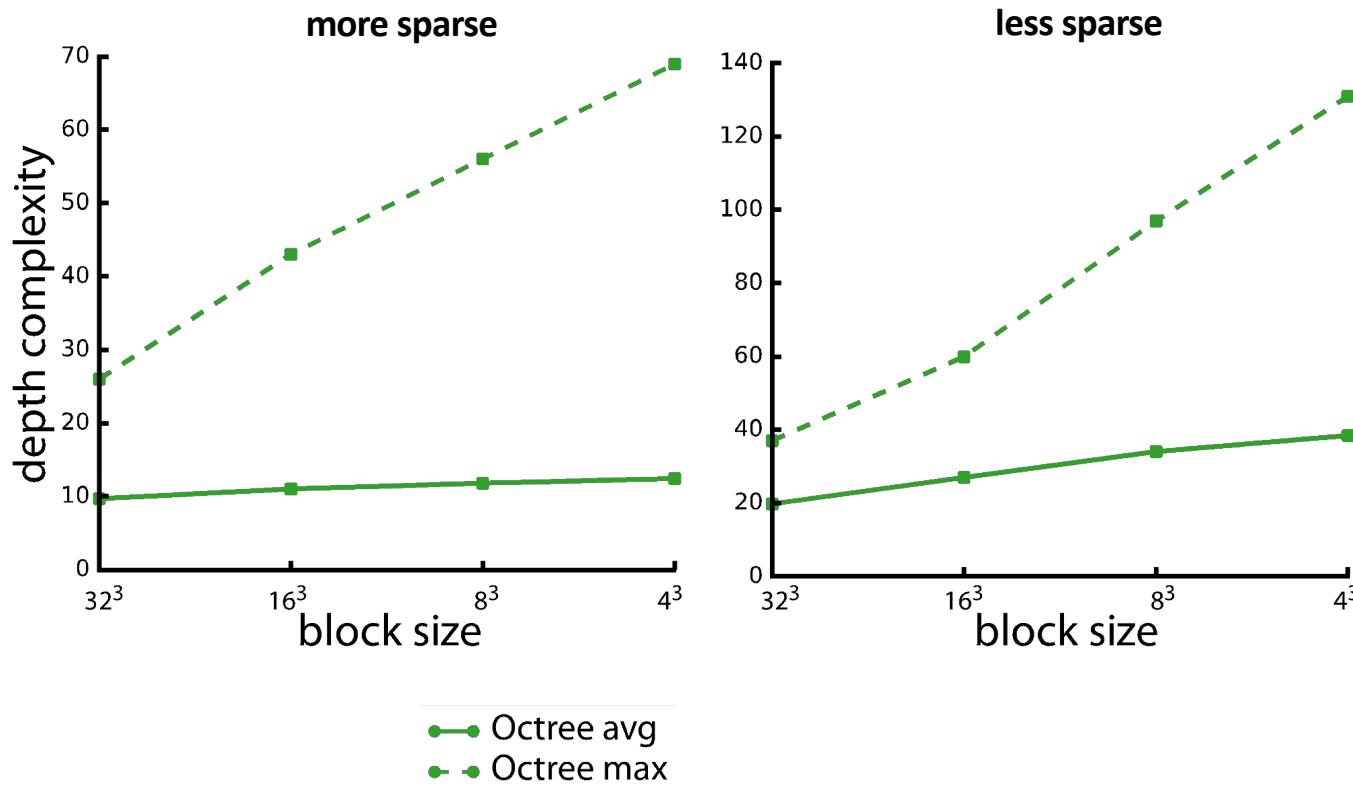
**Deferred culling for large volumes:**  
Occupancy class *unknown*

## DEFERRED CULLING

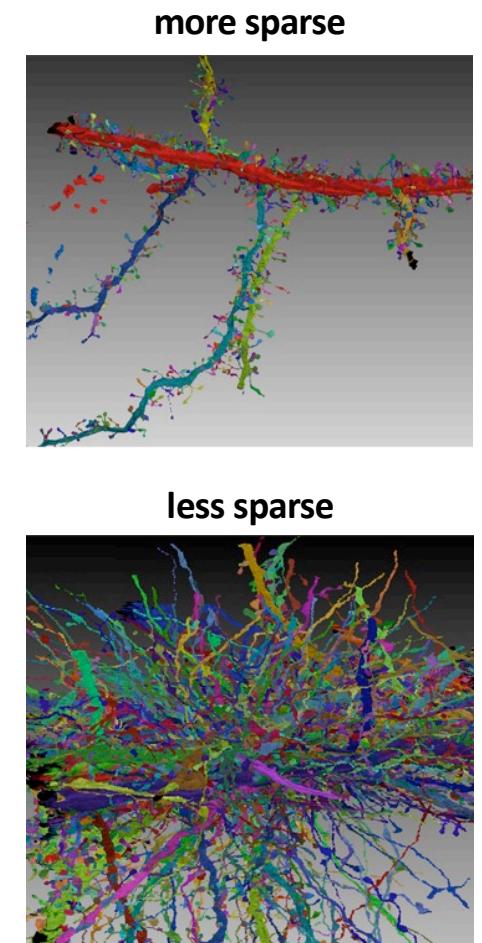
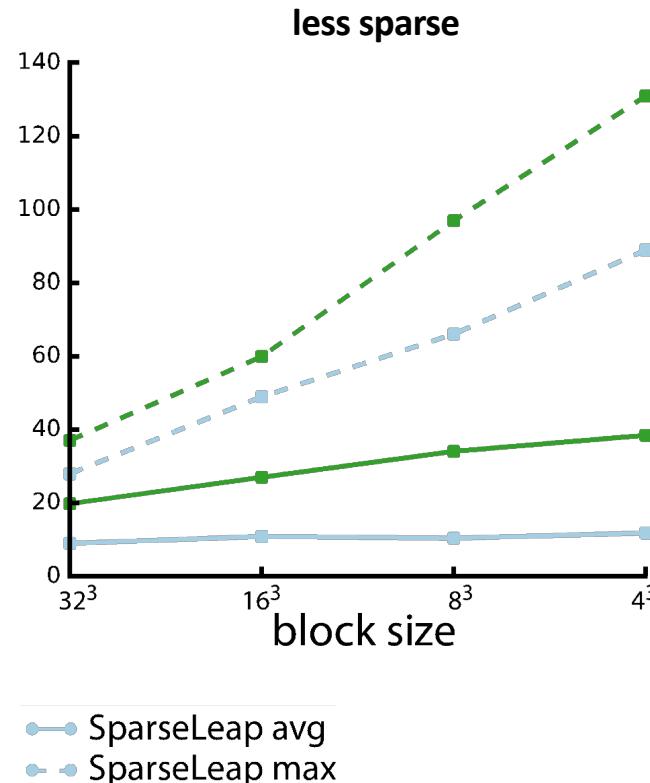
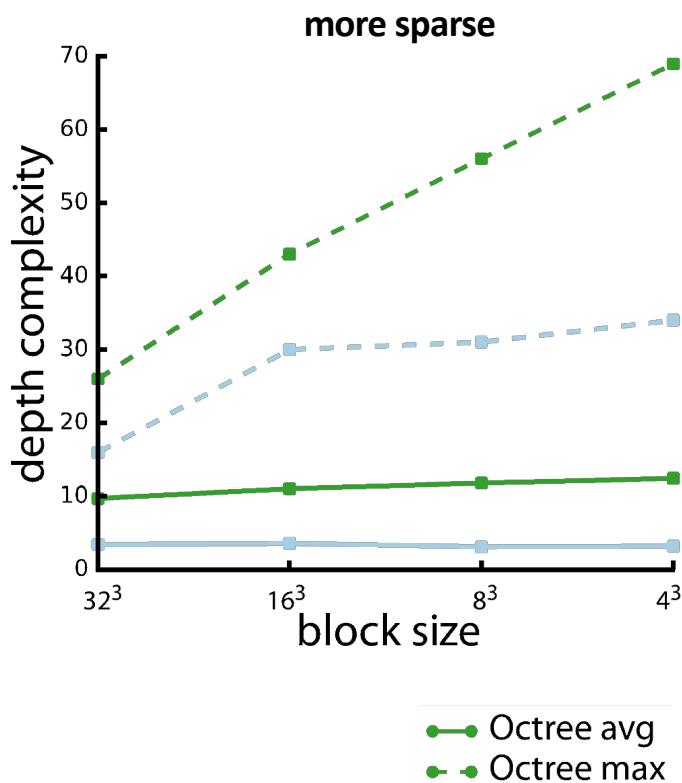
The occupancy class  
**unknown** causes  
**occupancy miss**



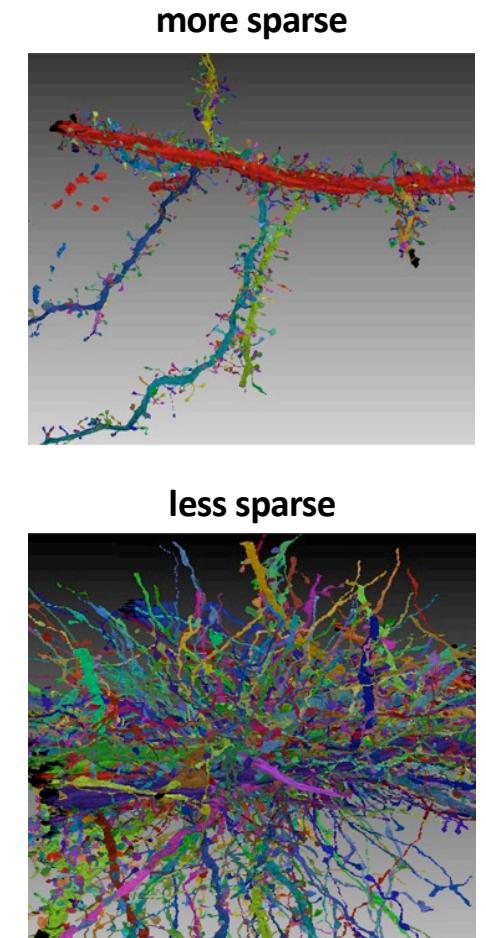
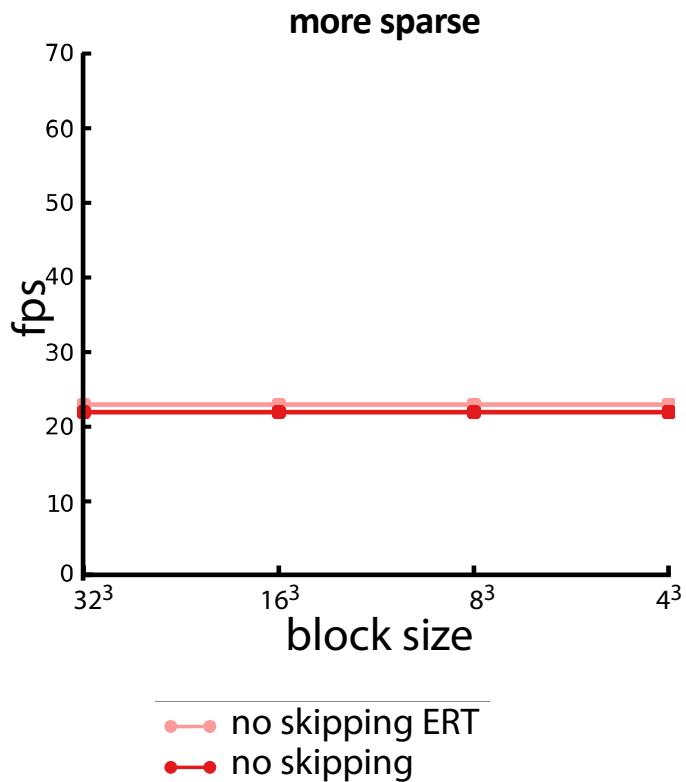
## RESULTS: DEPTH COMPLEXITY



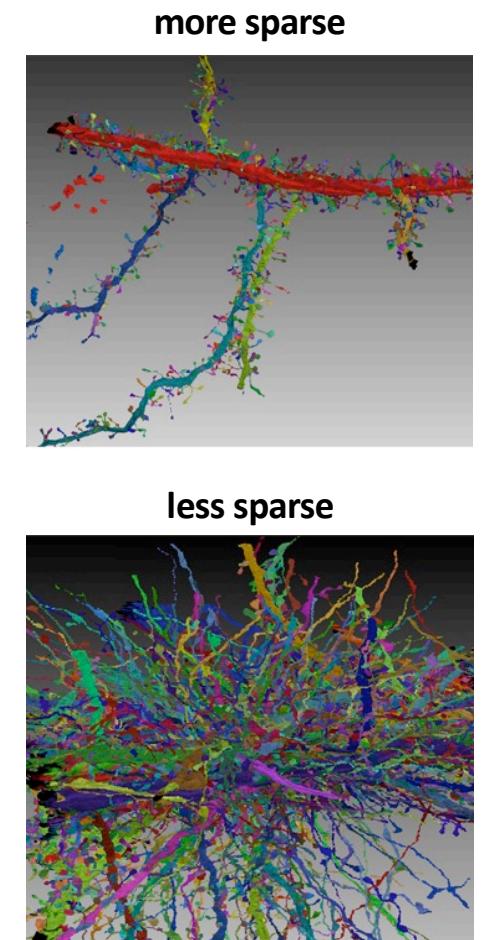
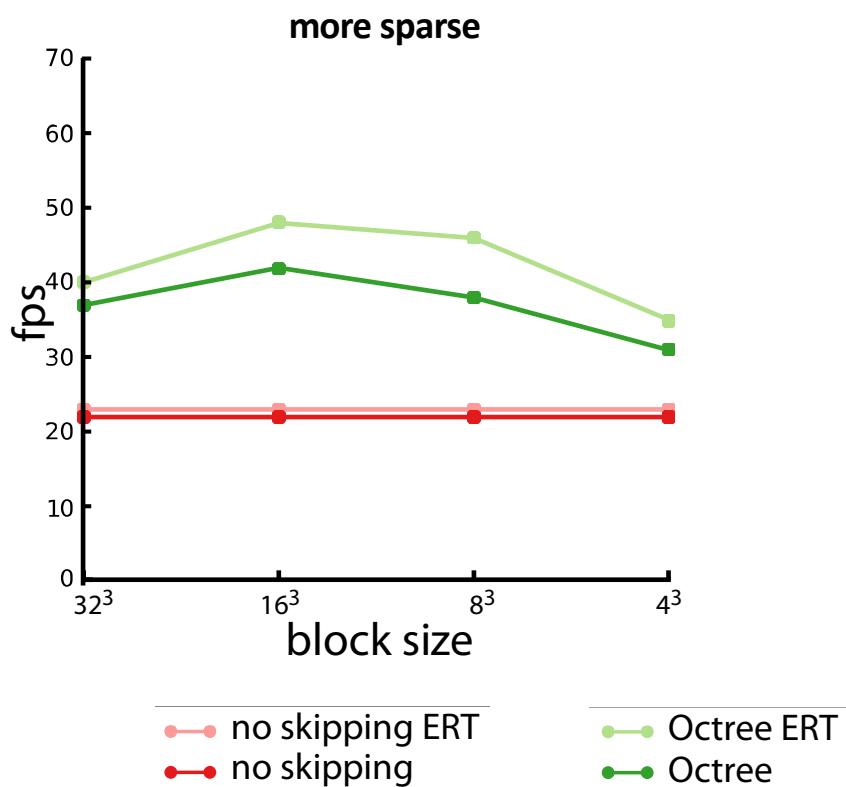
## RESULTS: DEPTH COMPLEXITY



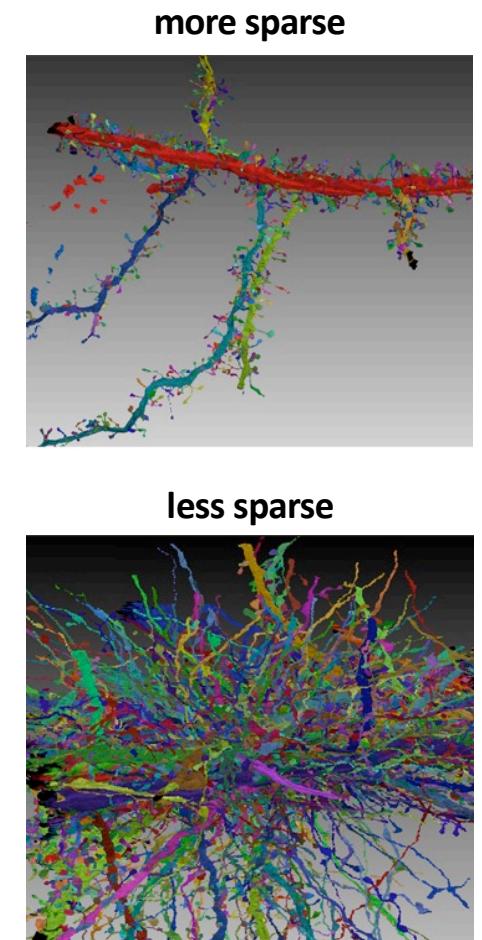
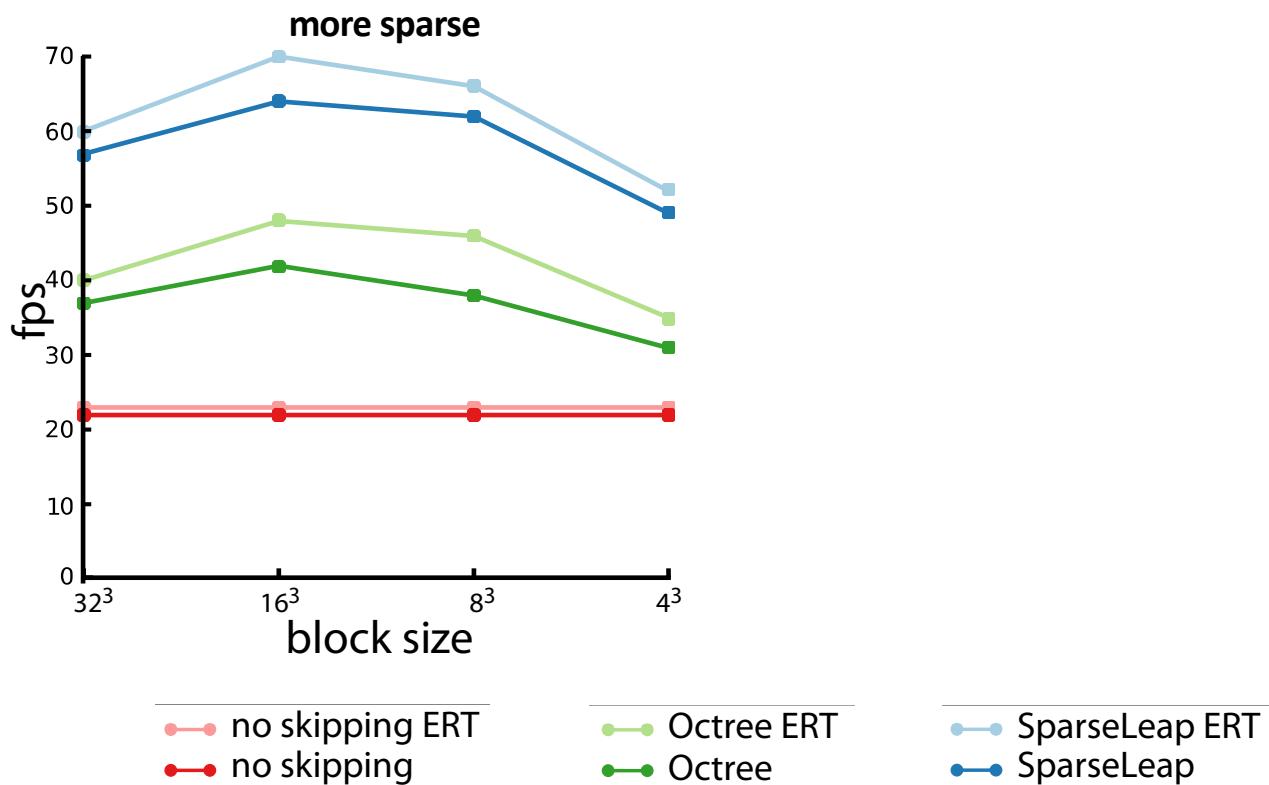
## RESULTS: PERFORMANCE



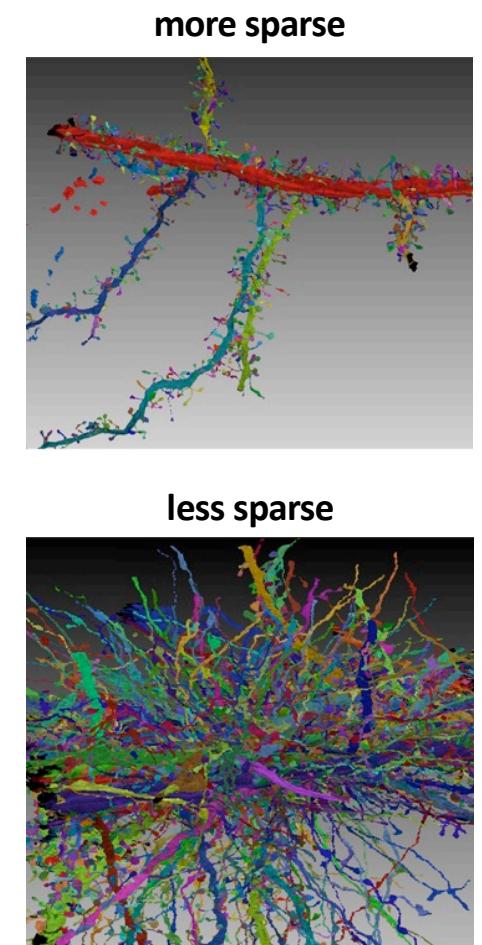
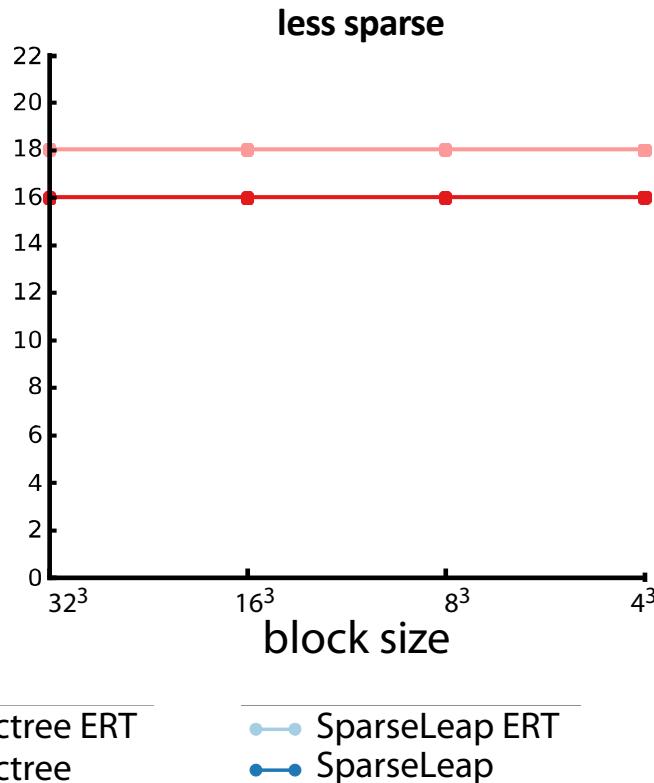
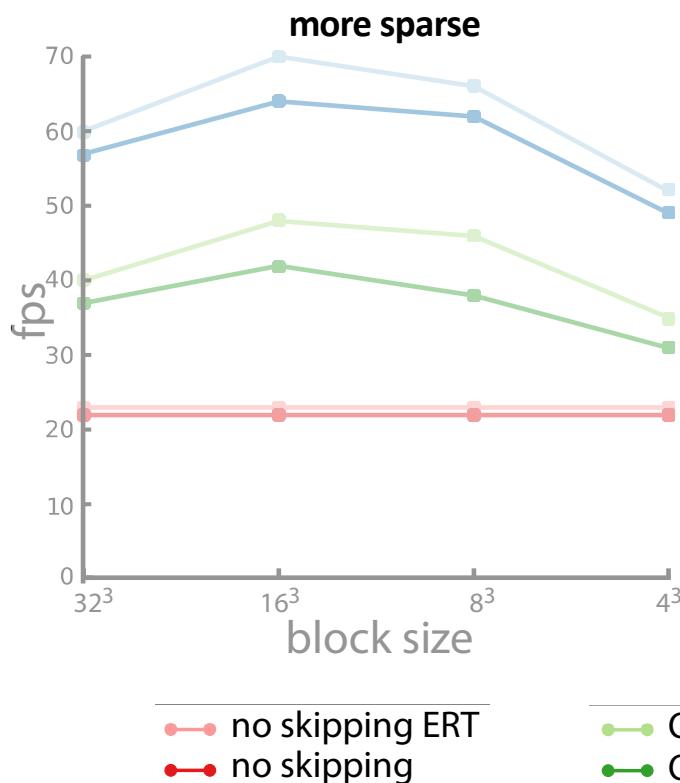
## RESULTS: PERFORMANCE



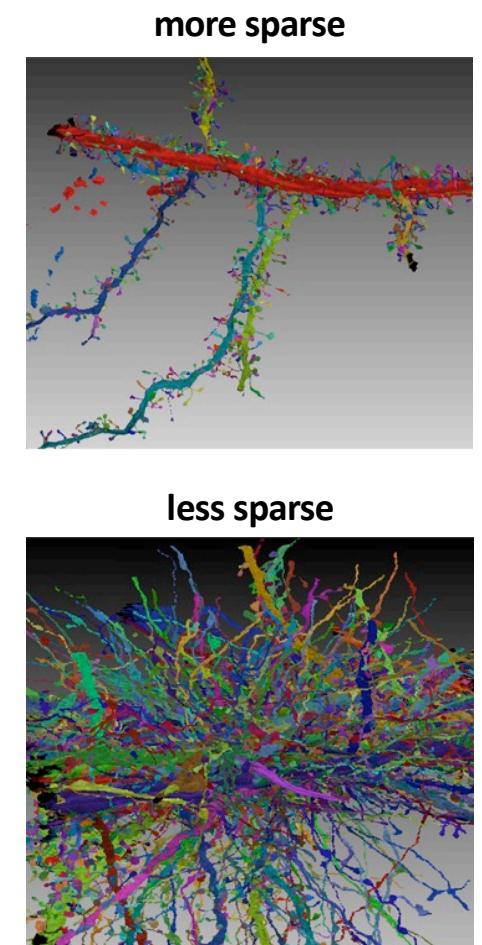
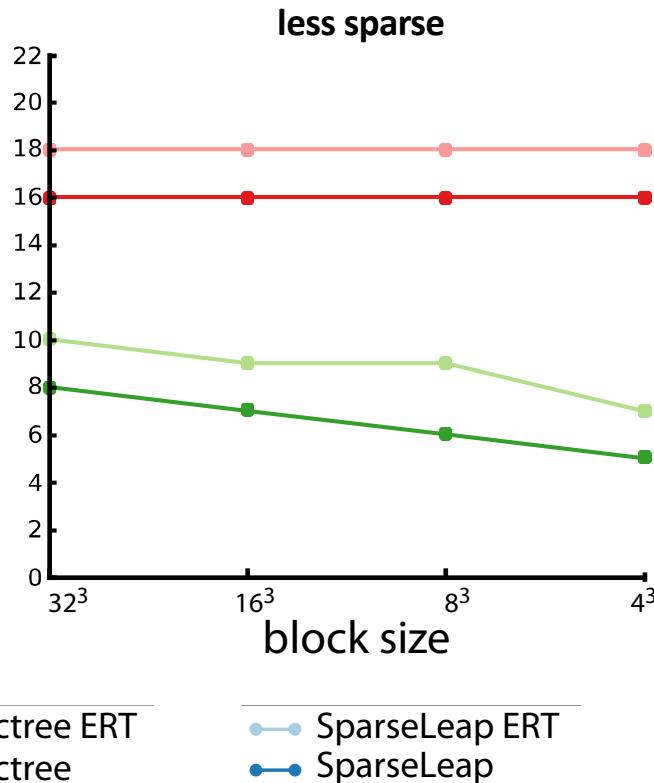
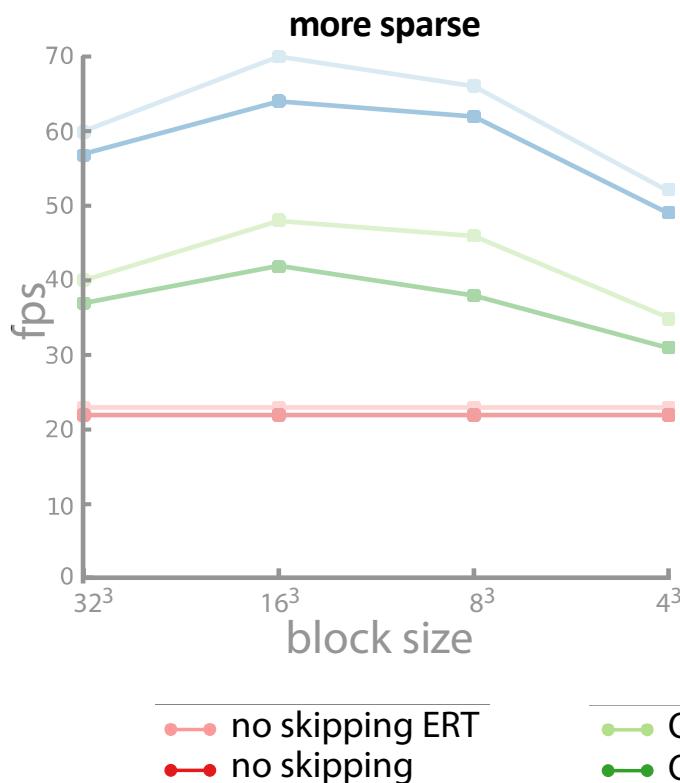
## RESULTS: PERFORMANCE



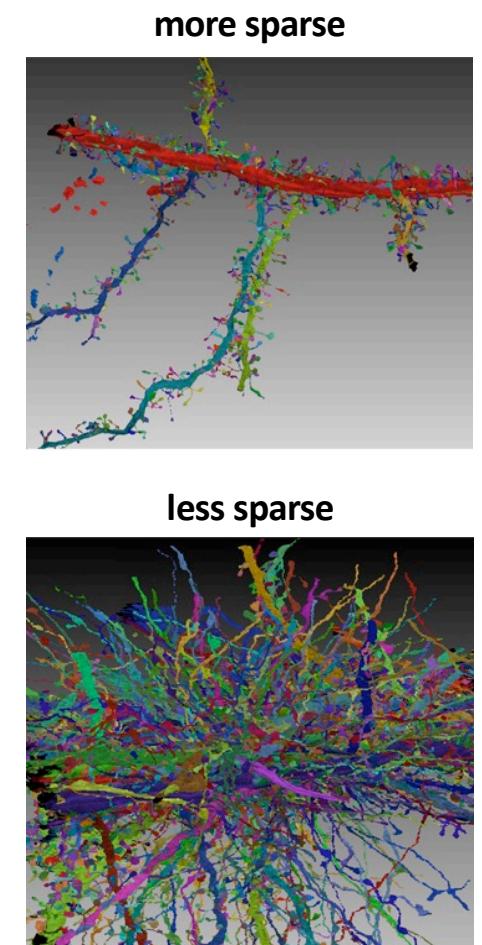
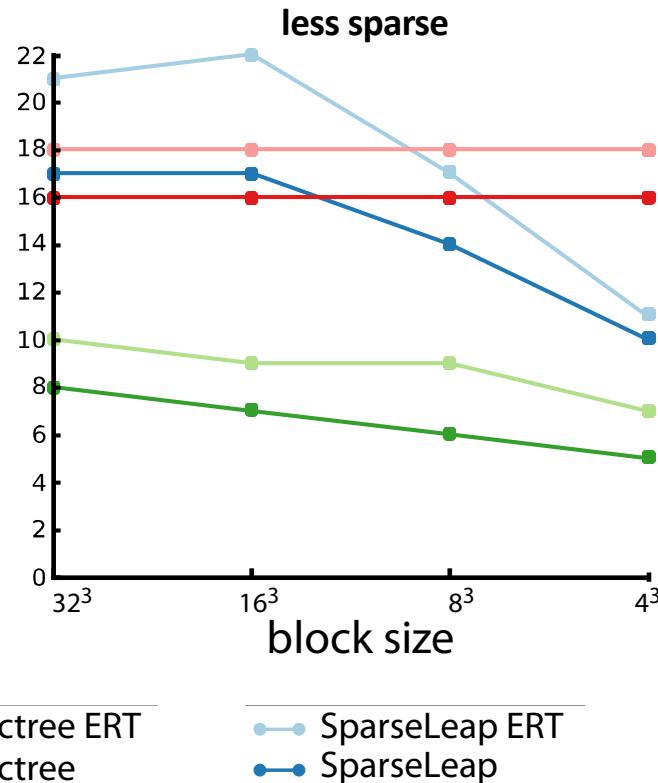
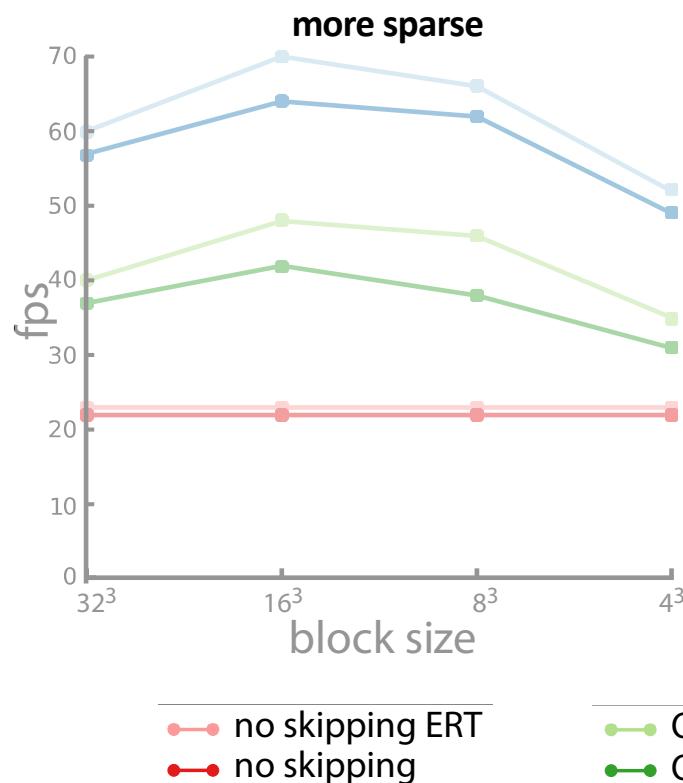
## RESULTS: PERFORMANCE



## RESULTS: PERFORMANCE



## RESULTS: PERFORMANCE

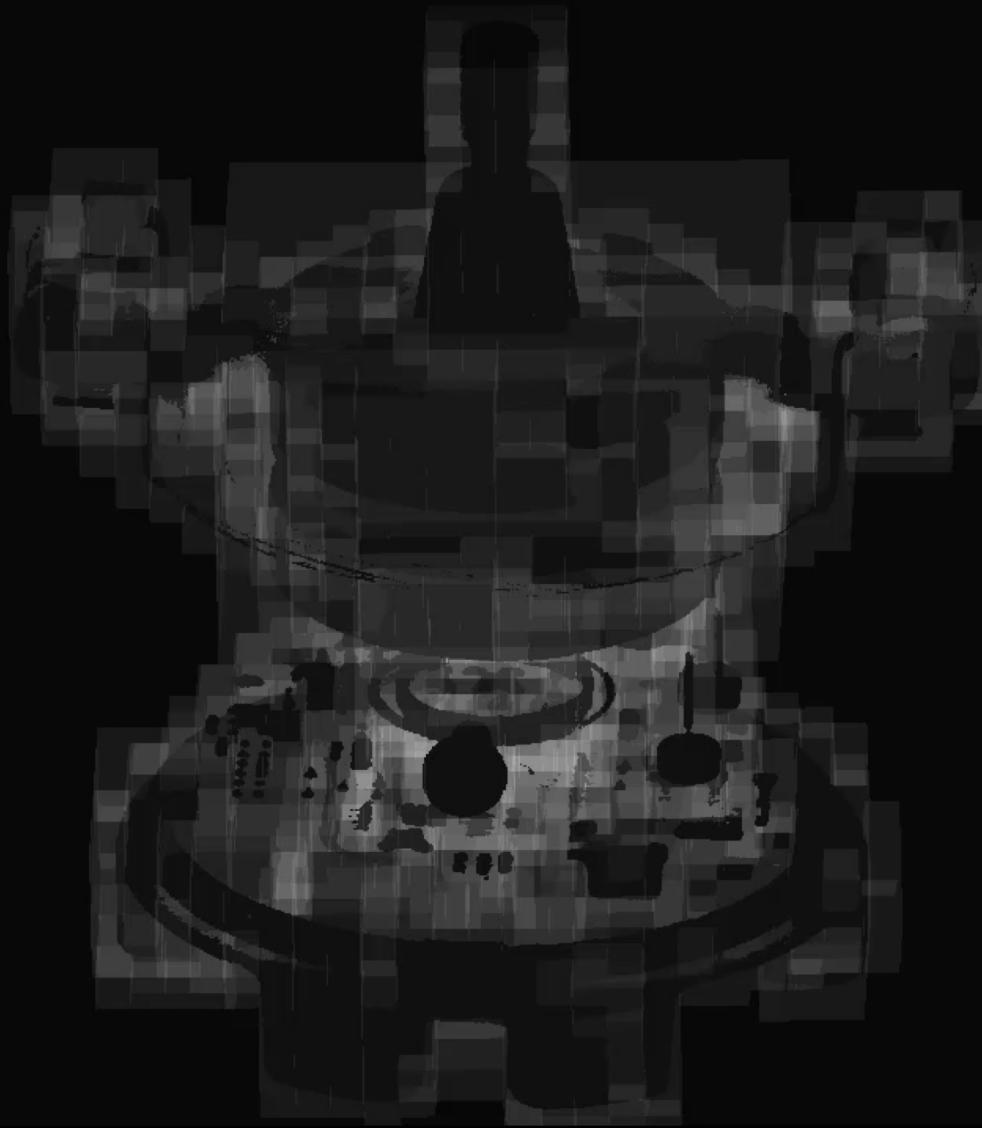




Dreh Sensor data set:  $2,048 \times 2,048 \times 2,048$   
85 segmented objects



SparseLeap  
depth complexity







## SUMMARY

Cost of empty space skipping moved out of ray-casting loop

Attractive alternative for complex volumes

Memory consumption (GPU)

- Occupancy geometry: very low; much lower than octree storage
- Lists: depends on screen resolution and average depth complexity



# **Scalable Culling for Large Segmentation Volumes**



## LARGE SEGMENTATION VOLUMES

Raw image volume

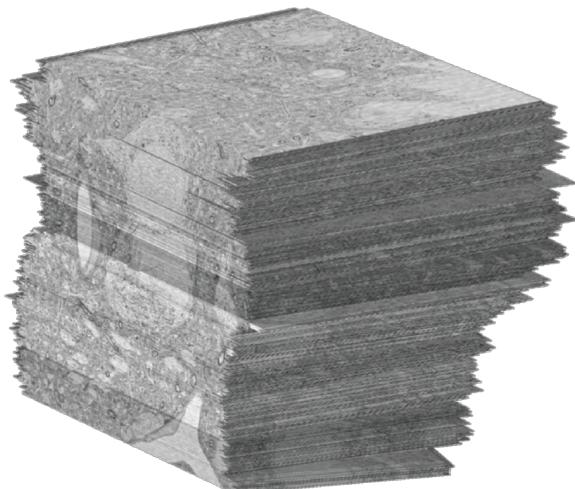
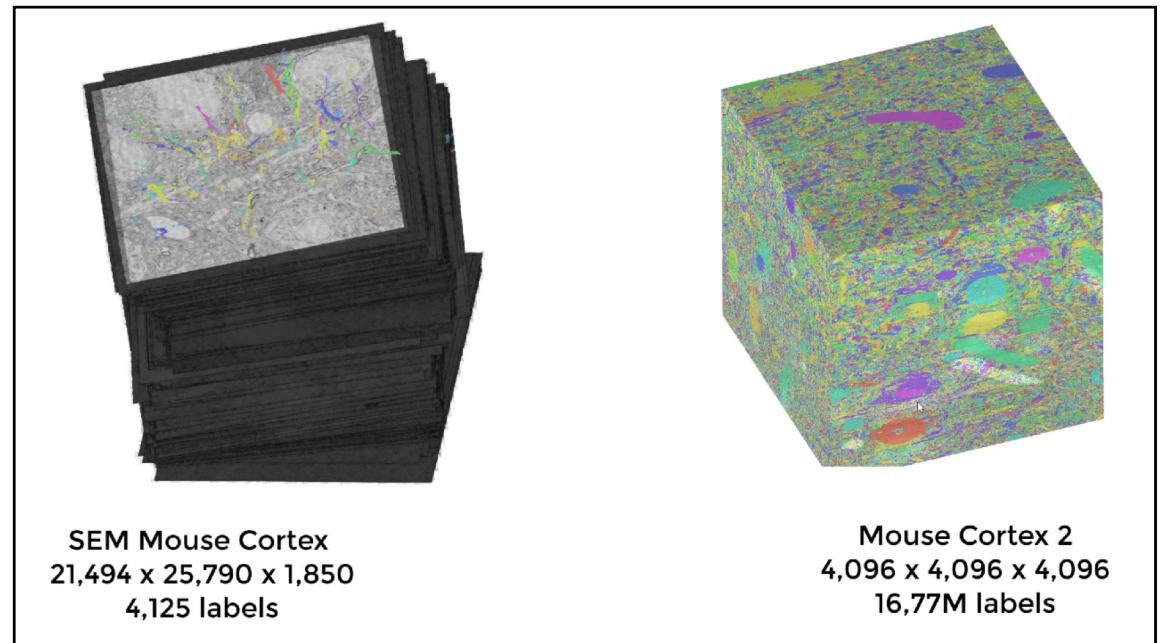


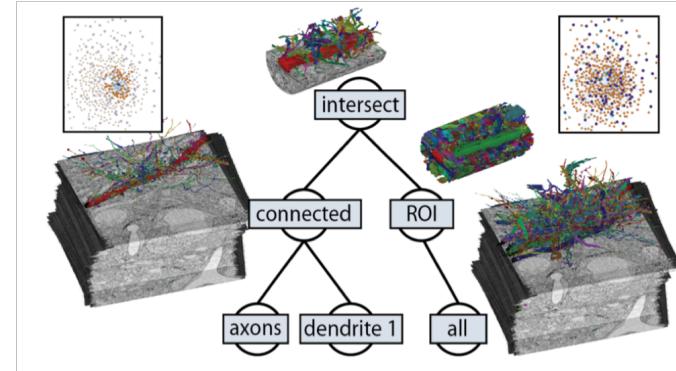
Image + Label volumes



## MOTIVATION – INTERACTIVE VIS APPLICATIONS

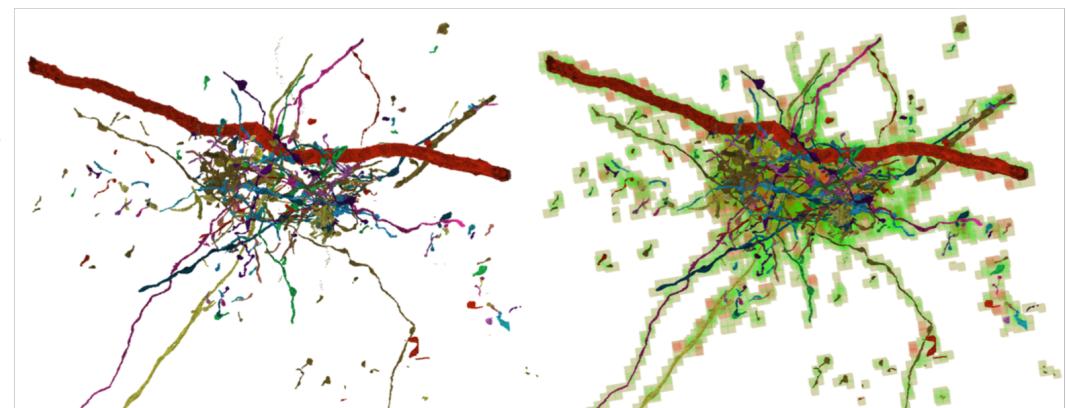
### Visual Queries

[ConnectomeExplorer.  
Beyer et al., SciVis 2013]



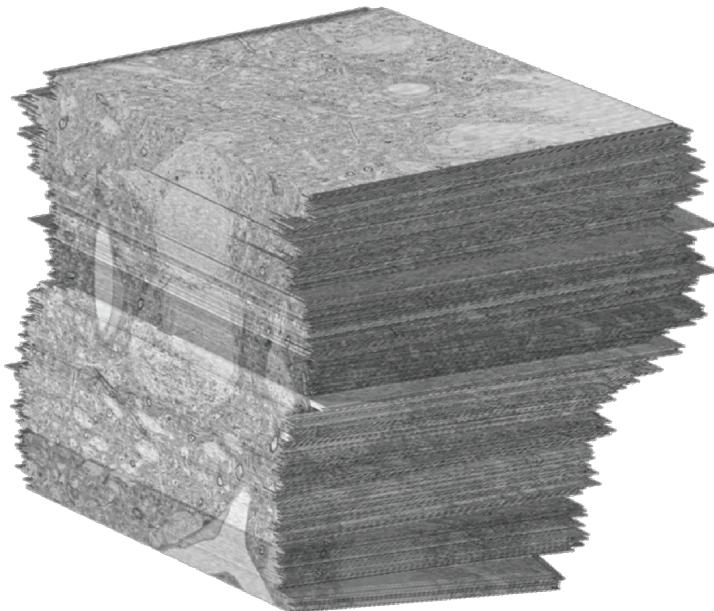
### Fast Volume Rendering

[SparseLeap.  
Hadwiger et al., SciVis 2018]





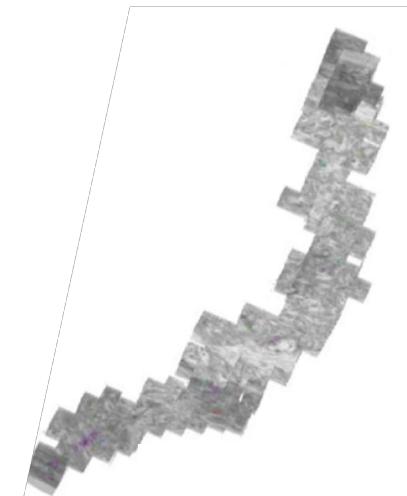
## EXAMPLE: CULLING FOR EMPTY SPACE SKIPPING



Raw image  
volume



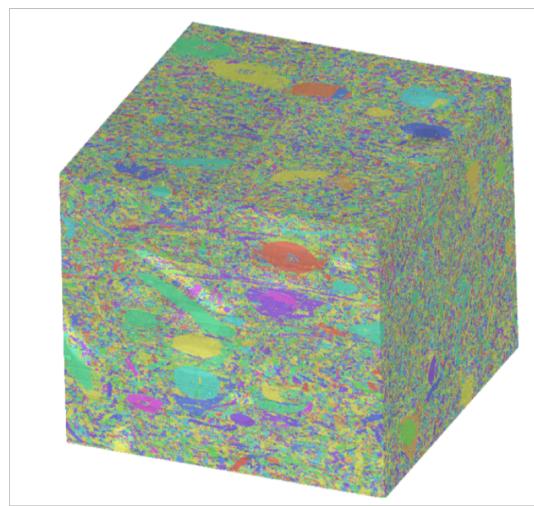
Single label  
within volume



Volume blocks  
after culling  
( $<0.1\%$  of volume blocks)

## CHALLENGES

Large label volumes stored as up to 64-bit integer data.



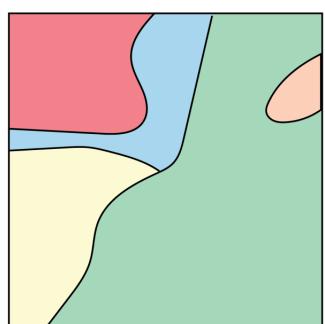
> 250 GB

discrete labels

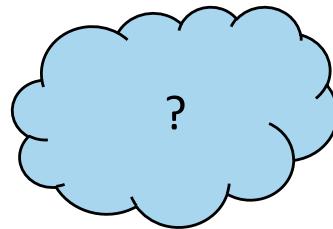
> 13 million  
labels

(24 bit data)

## OUR APPROACH FOR SCALABLE CULLING

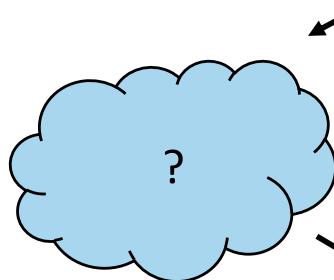


Label volume



Data structure:  
Label List Tree

Pre-processing

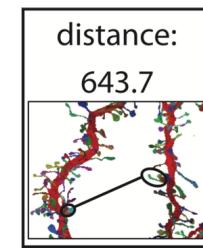


Optimized Culling

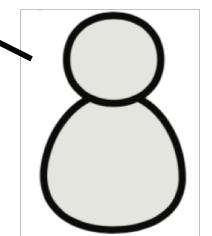
Interactive



Culling Result



Spatial Query  
(Distance)



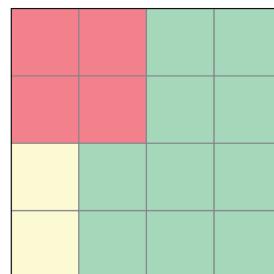
User



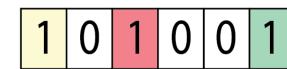
# Data Structure: Label List Tree

## LABEL LISTS

- Which labels are present in a volume block?
- Store a list (or set) of labels per volume block



Volume Block

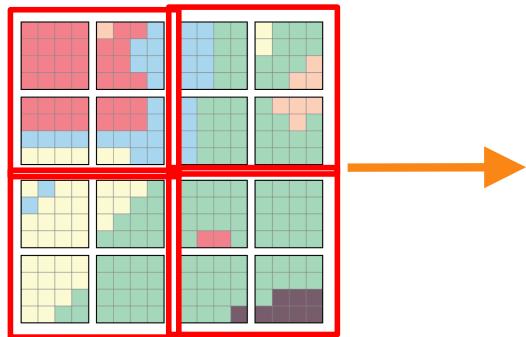


Label List



## LABEL LISTS

Label  
Volume



0	0	1	0	0	0
0	1	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	1
0	0	0	0	0	1

0	0	0	1	0	1
1	1	0	0	0	1
0	0	0	1	0	1
0	1	0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0	0	1
0	0	0	0	0	1
0	0	0	0	1	1
0	0	0	0	1	1



## HYBRID LABEL LIST ENCODING

	Data Structure	Data Access Time	Culling
Deterministic	Roaring Bitmap [1]	Logarithmic	Exact
Probabilistic	Bloom Filter [2]	Constant	Conservative

Best representation chosen based on:

- Memory size
- Expected run time query performance
- User preferences

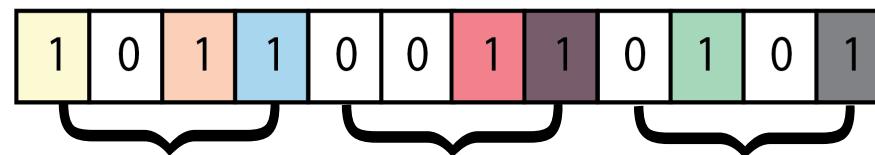
[1] Better bitmap performance with roaring bitmaps. Chambi et al., 2016.

[2] Space/time trade-offs in hash coding with allowable errors. Bloom, 1970.



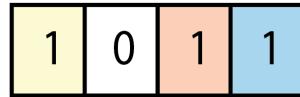
## LABEL LIST ENCODING - DETERMINISTIC

Bit string



buckets

Roaring bitmaps

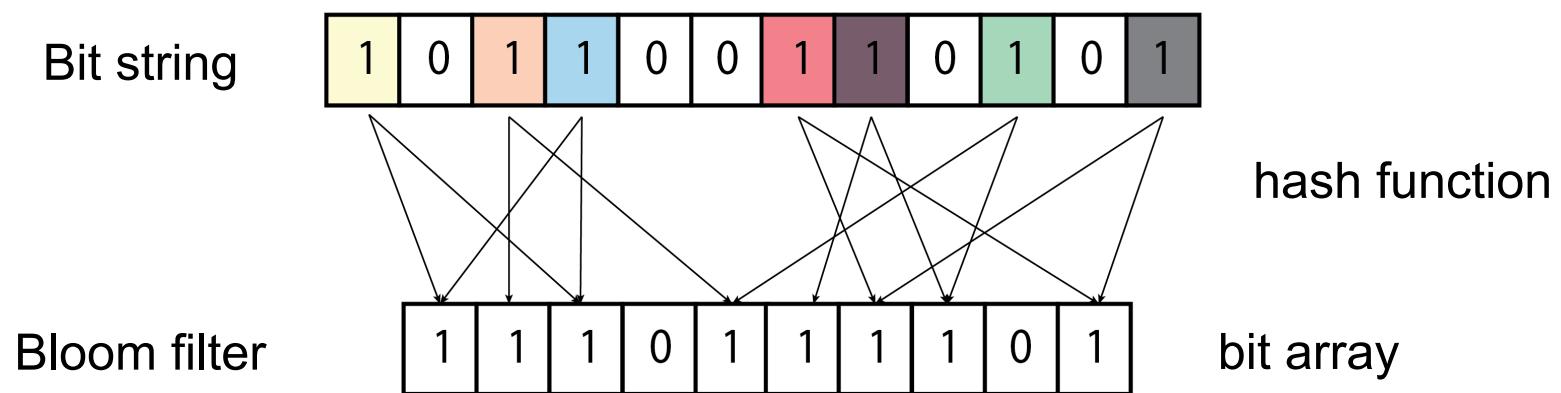


Bitmap  
(dense)

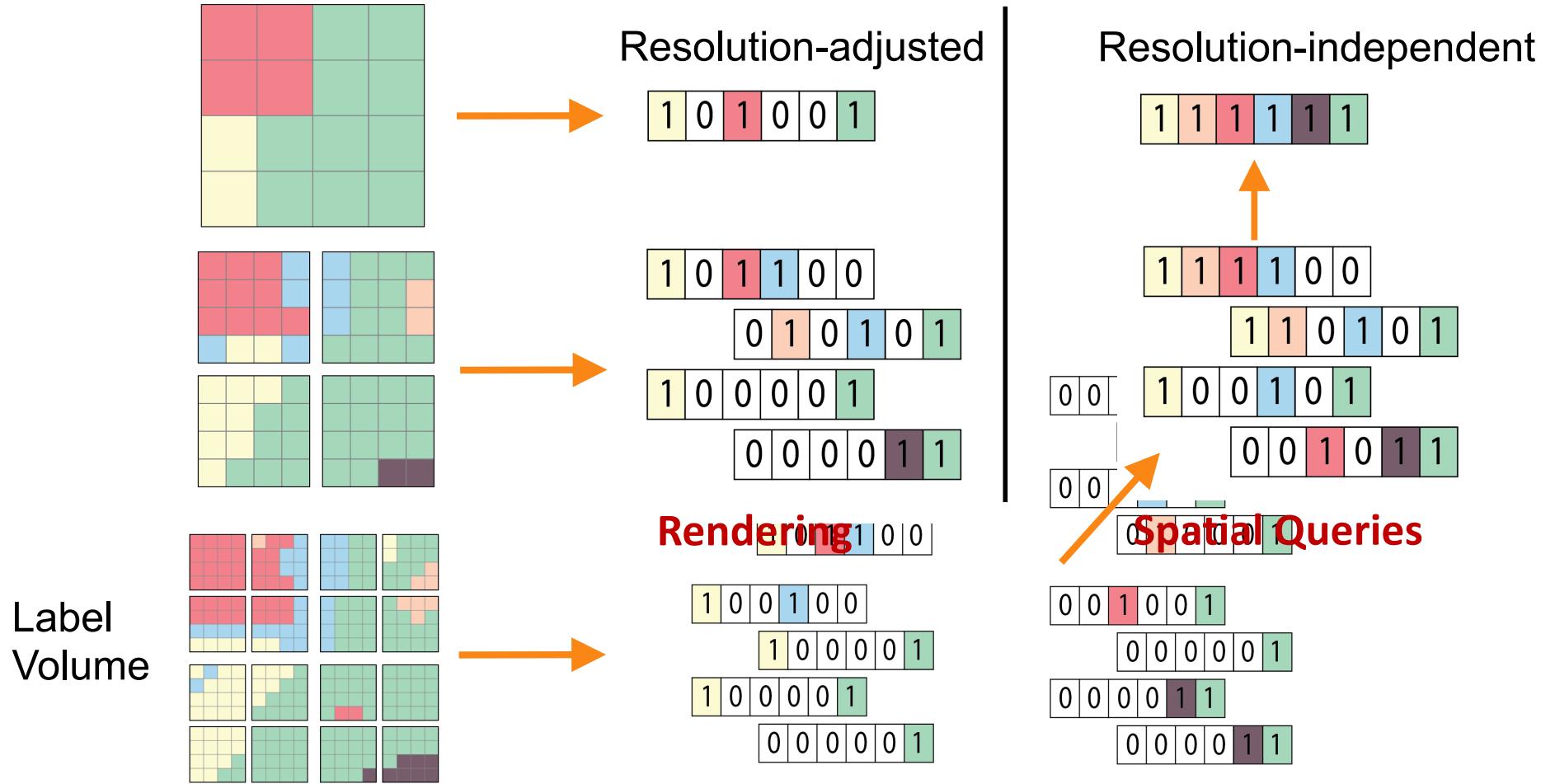
RLE  
(runs)

Sorted list  
(sparse)

# Label List Encoding - Probabilistic



## MULTI-RESOLUTION LABEL LIST TREE





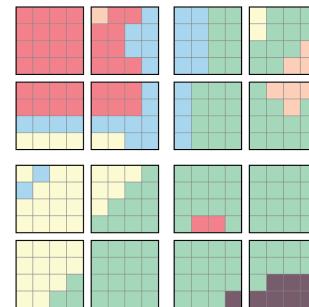
# Optimized Culling

## CULLING

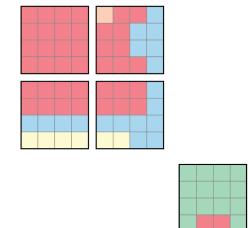
- Culling input: Culling Query, set of labels we are interested in
- Culling output: List of volume blocks that contain labels from query

0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0

Culling query

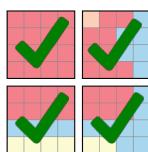
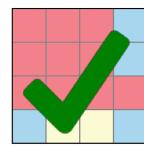


Volume blocks



Culling result

# HIERARCHICAL CULLING



Label  
lists

1	1	1	1	1	1	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1	1	1	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

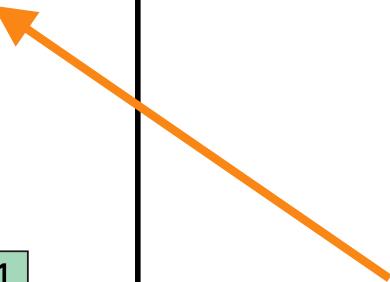
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1	0	0	1	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

0	0	1	0	1	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

0	0	1	0	0	0
0	1	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	1	0	0

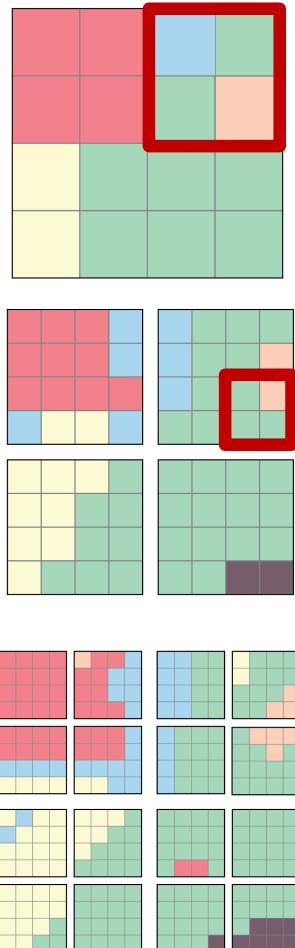
0	0	1	0	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---



Culling query

0	0	1	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

## HIERARCHICAL QUERY PRUNING



Label list

1	1	1	1	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

1	0	0	1	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

Query

Query  $\cap$  Label list

1	0	0	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

0	1	0	1	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

0	0	0	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

0	1	0	0	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

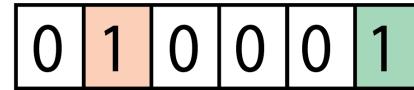
0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

Query empty



## HIERARCHICAL QUERY PRUNING

Label list



1 0 0 1 1 0      Query

1 0 0 1 0 0

0 0 0 1 0 0

0 0 0 0 0 0



## QUERY-ADAPTIVE LABEL LIST REQUESTS

Label list

1	1	1	1	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

Roaring

1	0	0	1	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

Query

0	1	0	1	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

Bloom filter

1	0	0	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

0	1	0	0	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

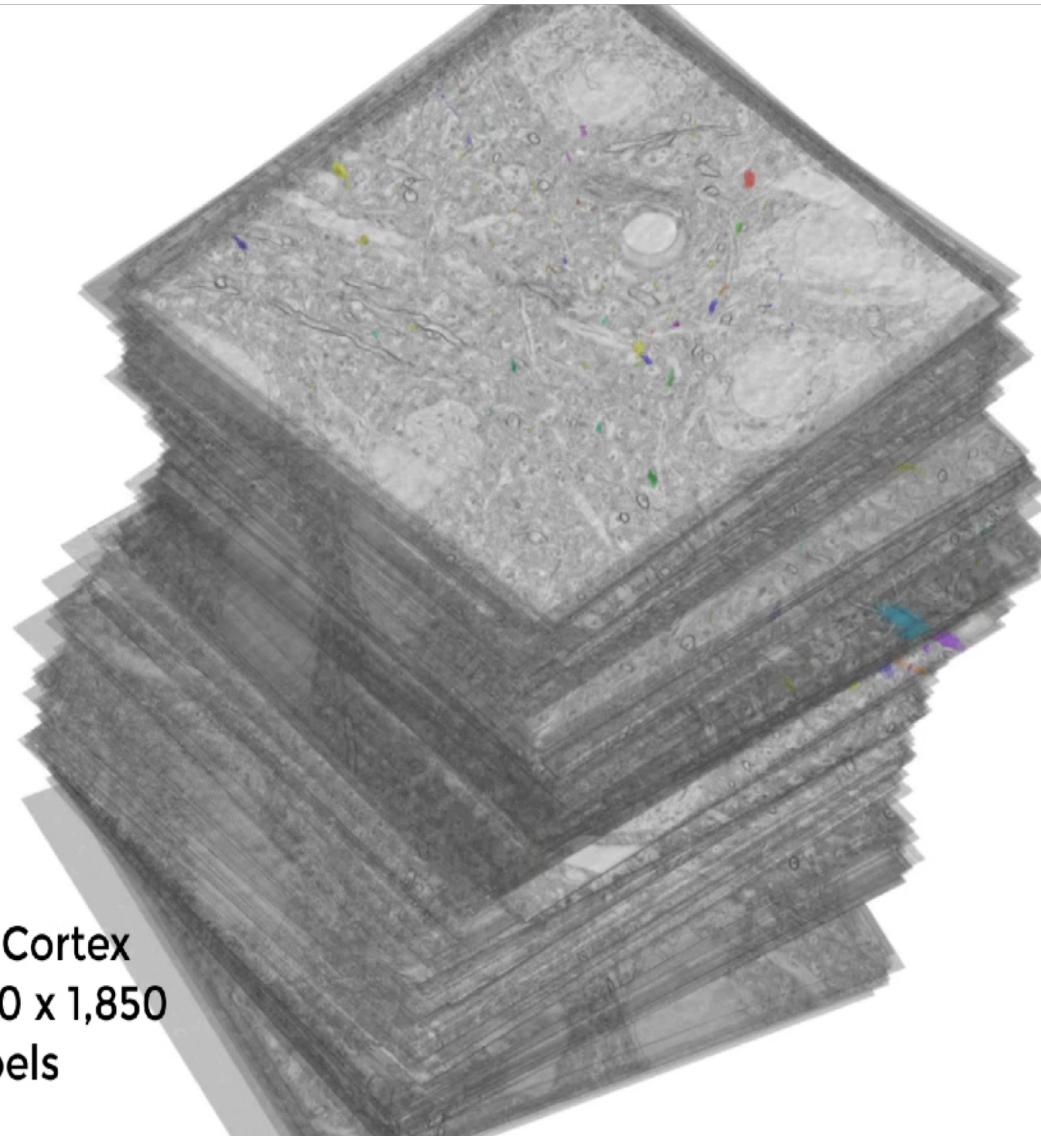
Bloom filter

0	0	0	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---



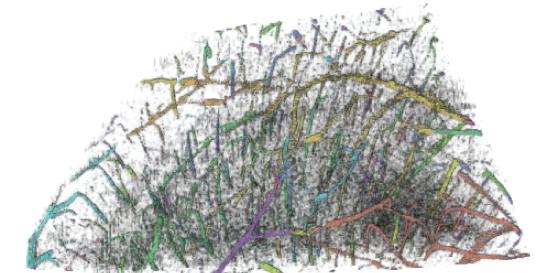
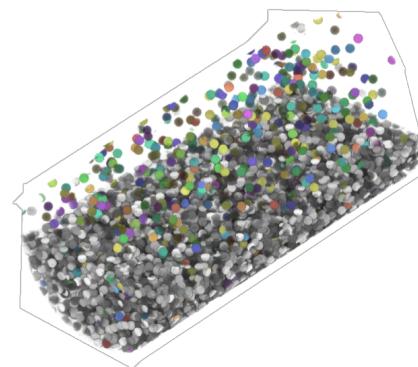
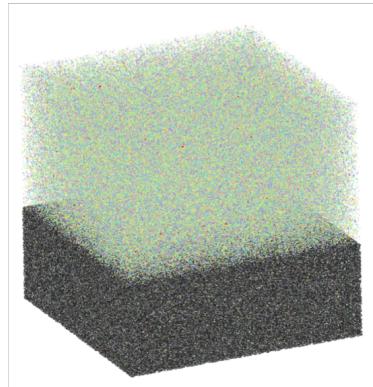
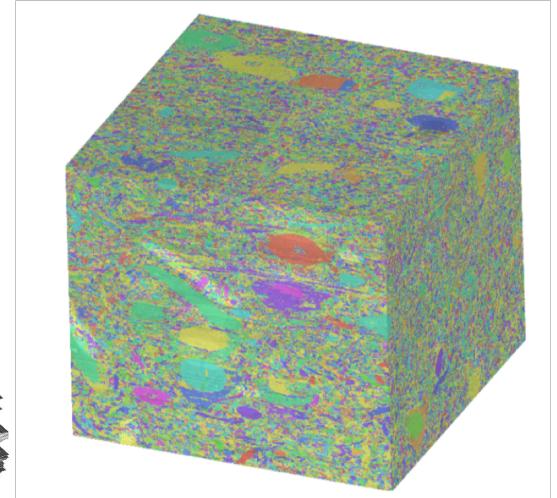
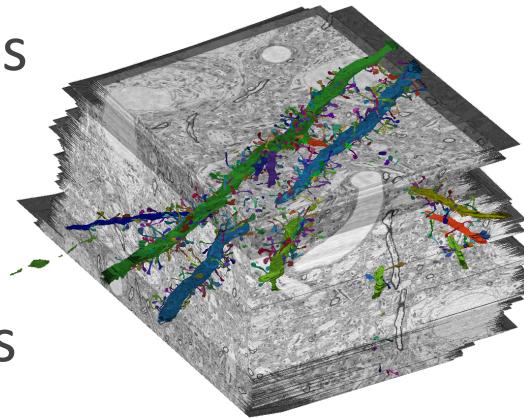
# Results



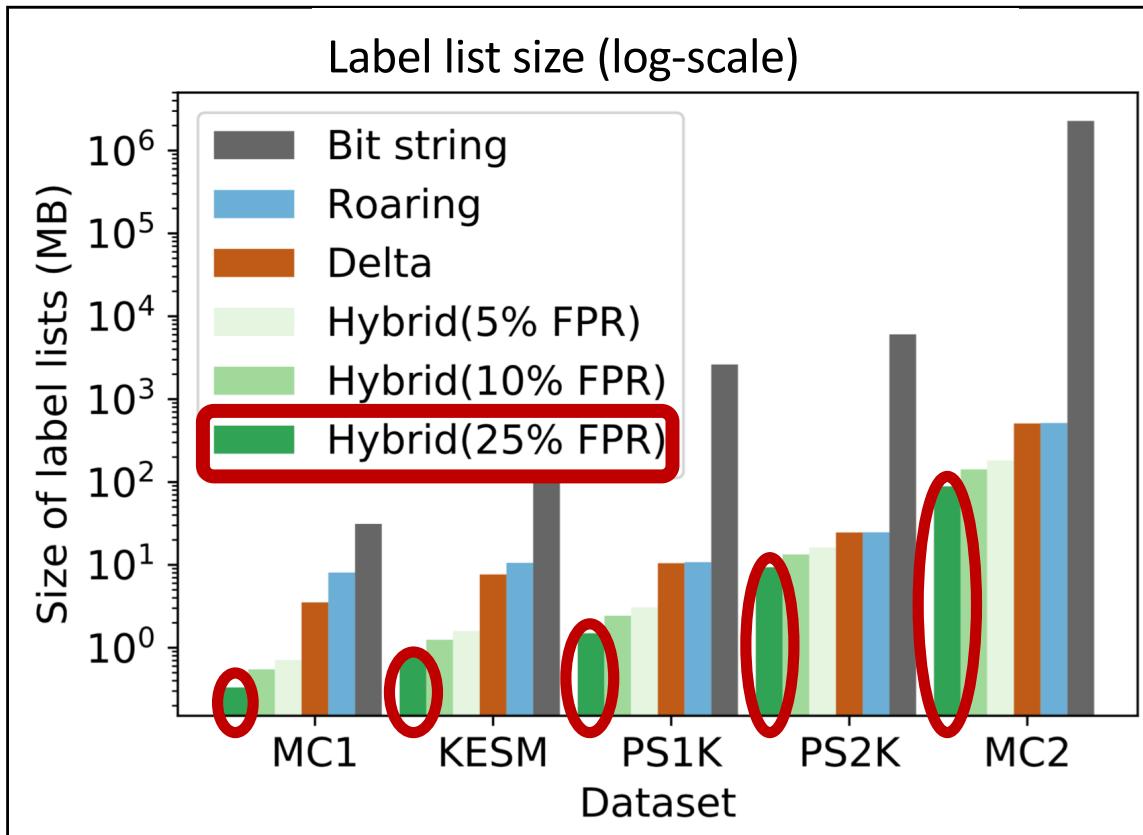
**SEM Mouse Cortex**  
**21,494 x 25,790 x 1,850**  
**4,125 labels**

## RESULTS - DATASETS

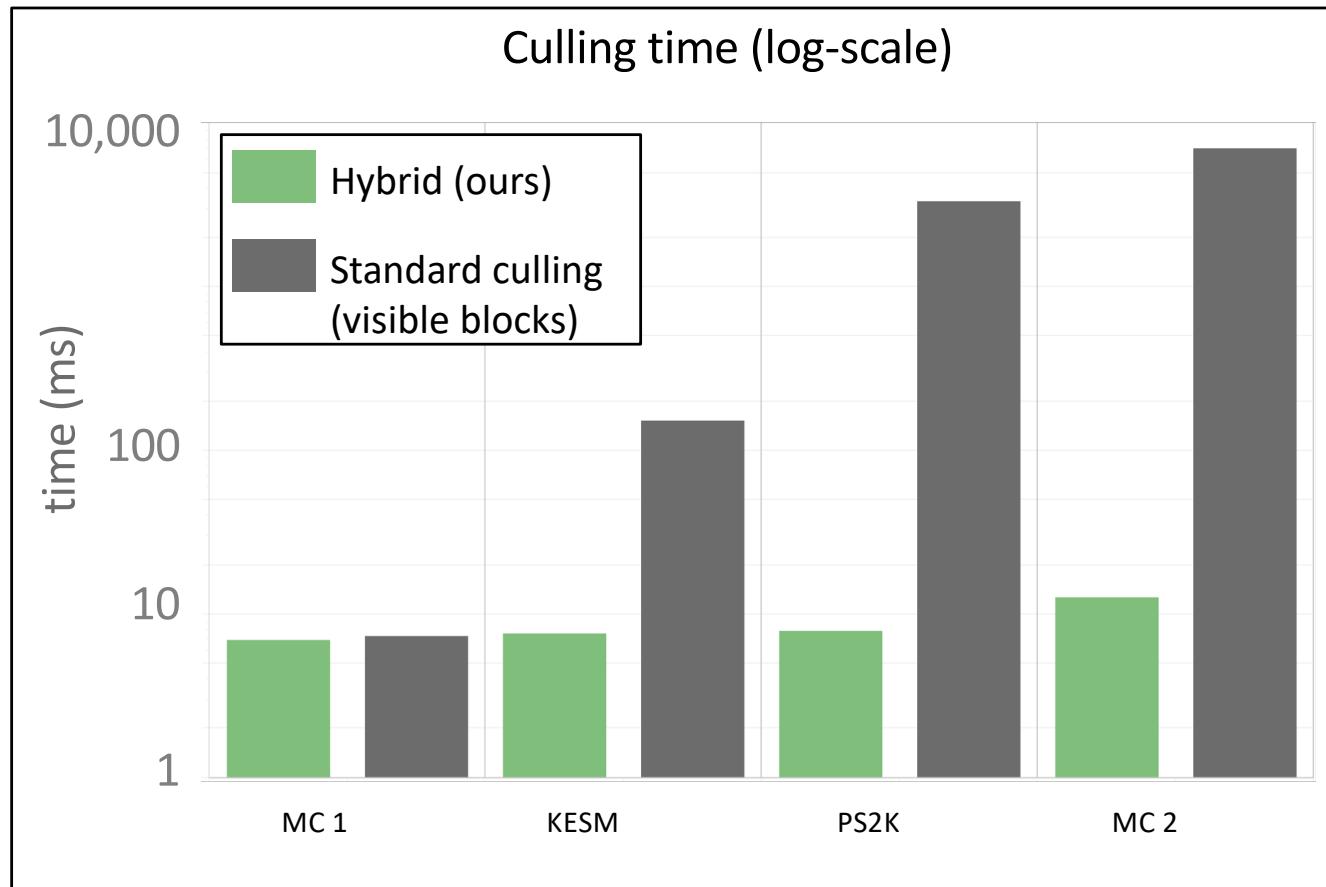
- 3 neuroscience volumes
- 2 phantom datasets
- 16 - 24 bit label data
- 4,000 - 13 million labels
- 4 GB - 1.5 TB data size



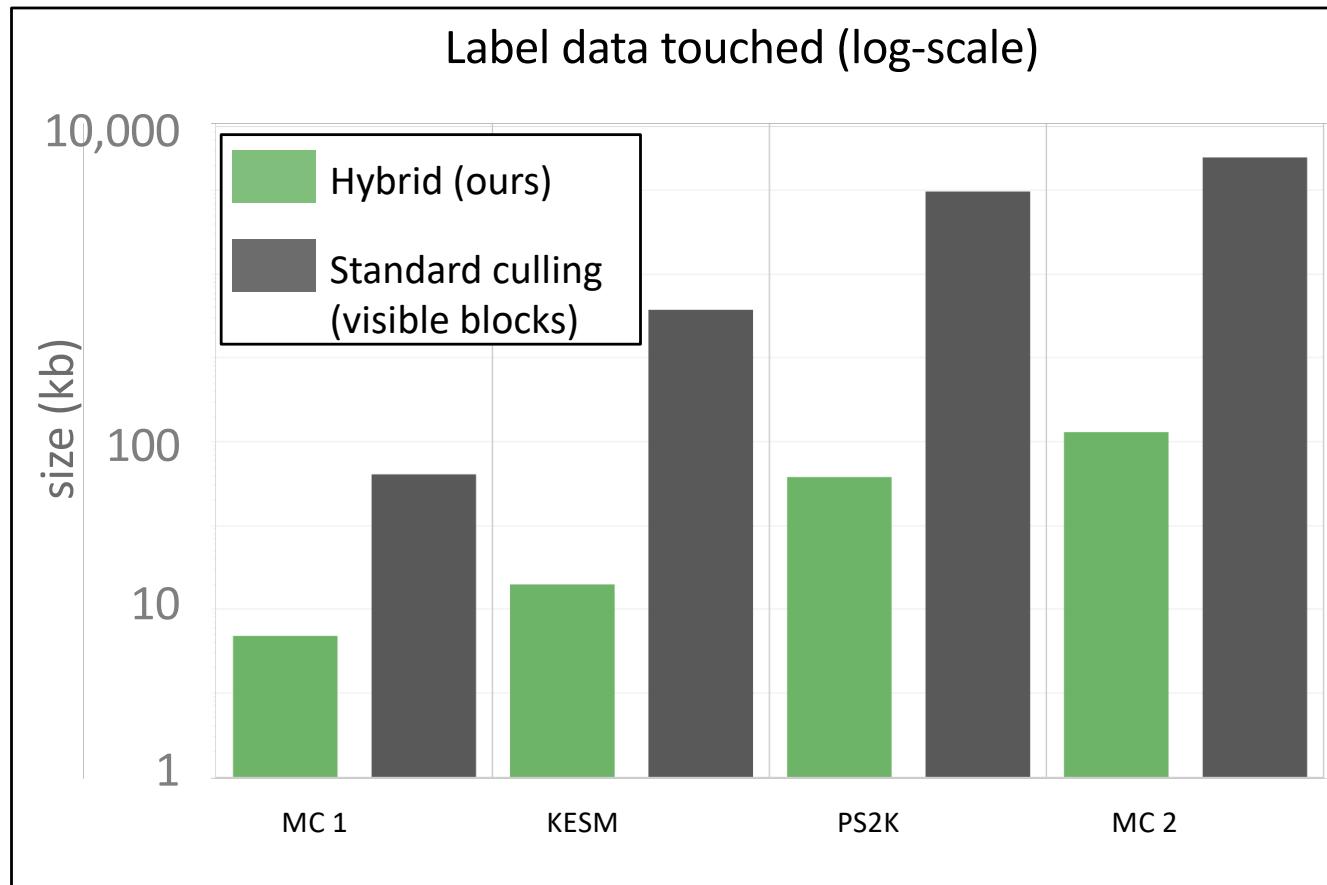
## RESULTS – MEMORY CONSUMPTION OF LABEL LISTS



## RESULTS – CULLING PERFORMANCE



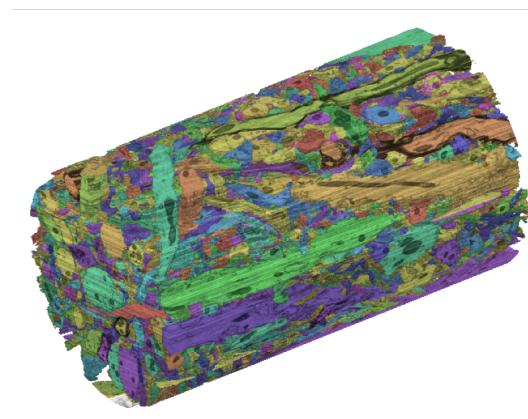
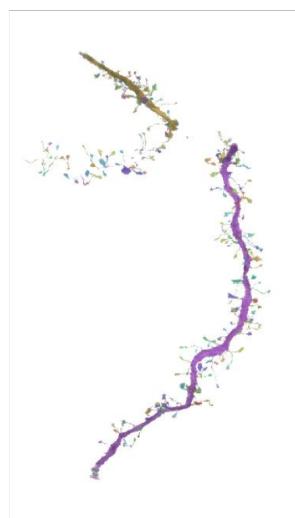
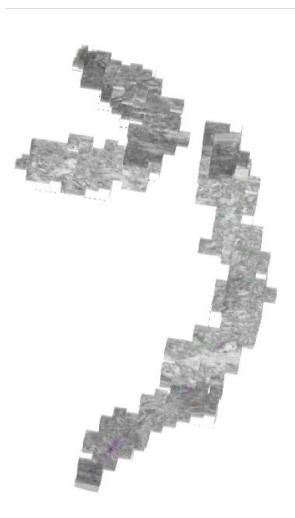
## RESULTS – CULLING PERFORMANCE



## SUMMARY

### Our method

1. Novel hybrid data structure → compact storage of integer label lists
2. Hierarchical culling algorithm → fast, memory efficient culling





# Questions?



CONFERENCE 4 – 7 December 2018  
EXHIBITION 5 – 7 December 2018  
Tokyo International Forum, Japan  
[SA2018.SIGGRAPH.ORG](http://SA2018.SIGGRAPH.ORG)

Sponsored by

# GPU-Based Large-Scale Scientific Visualization

**Johanna Beyer, Harvard University**

**Markus Hadwiger, KAUST**

Course Website:

<http://johanna-b.github.io/LargeSciVis2018/index.html>

