**Revision Report**

Dear reviewers:

We would like to thank you for your constructive suggestions to help improve our paper.

One of the main criticisms is that the paper did not demonstrate the impact of the level-0 grid on the image quality. To address this issue, we have added to Table 2 the quality measurements with respect to the level-0 grid resolution. We used the image produced with the highest level-0 resolution as the ground truth image, and compared the images produced at different level-0 resolutions with the ground truth image. The RMS values of the pixel-wise differences are used to measure the image quality.

Some reviewers questioned the practical value of our illumination method as the added depth cues may decrease the visibility of some features in the volume. As we state in the paper, advanced illumination helps more correctly perceive feature shape and size, and particularly the spatial relationship between neighboring features. The interactivity achieved by our method facilitates spatial exploration, which helps remove the ambiguity due to decreased visibility for certain features. We consulted a domain expert who provides one of the test datasets, and he found the images generated with our method much more appealing and helpful for his task, which is to understand the evolution of complex flow features. Furthermore, our illumination method can be made as an optional feature of a volume visualization system. The user can turn on or off this feature according to the dataset and tasks. We have added a small discussion on this issue to the Conclusion section.

We also have done the following:

* The citation of a new volumetric soft shadow paper (Ament et al. 2014) was added in the Related Work section.
* According to Reviewer 1’s suggestion, we added an intermediate image () to Figure 6 to show the changes of the rendering images with different scattering strength. We did not do the same for Figure 5 because the effect of the absorption strength is simple to estimate and we are short of space.
* Figure 7 was added to show an overview of all the datasets used in the experiments. Algorithm 1 and original Figure 8 was removed due to limited space.

Best regards,

Authors of Paper 206.