

# Blasting Through the 10 Petaflops Barrier: HACC on the BG/Q

HACC (Hardware/Hybrid Accelerated Cosmology Code) Framework

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## Press Release

Record Setting Simulations at DOE Laboratories  
Supercomputers  
November 29, 2012  
Nov 28, 2012

Sequoia Supercomputer Runs Cosmology Code at 14 Petaflops

Inside The Largest Simulation Of The Universe Ever Created

A giant supercomputer is making massively detailed models of the cosmos.  
By Clay Dillow Posted 11.08.2012 at 9:02 am



Petaflops performance scored running universe simulation

Posted November 8, 2012

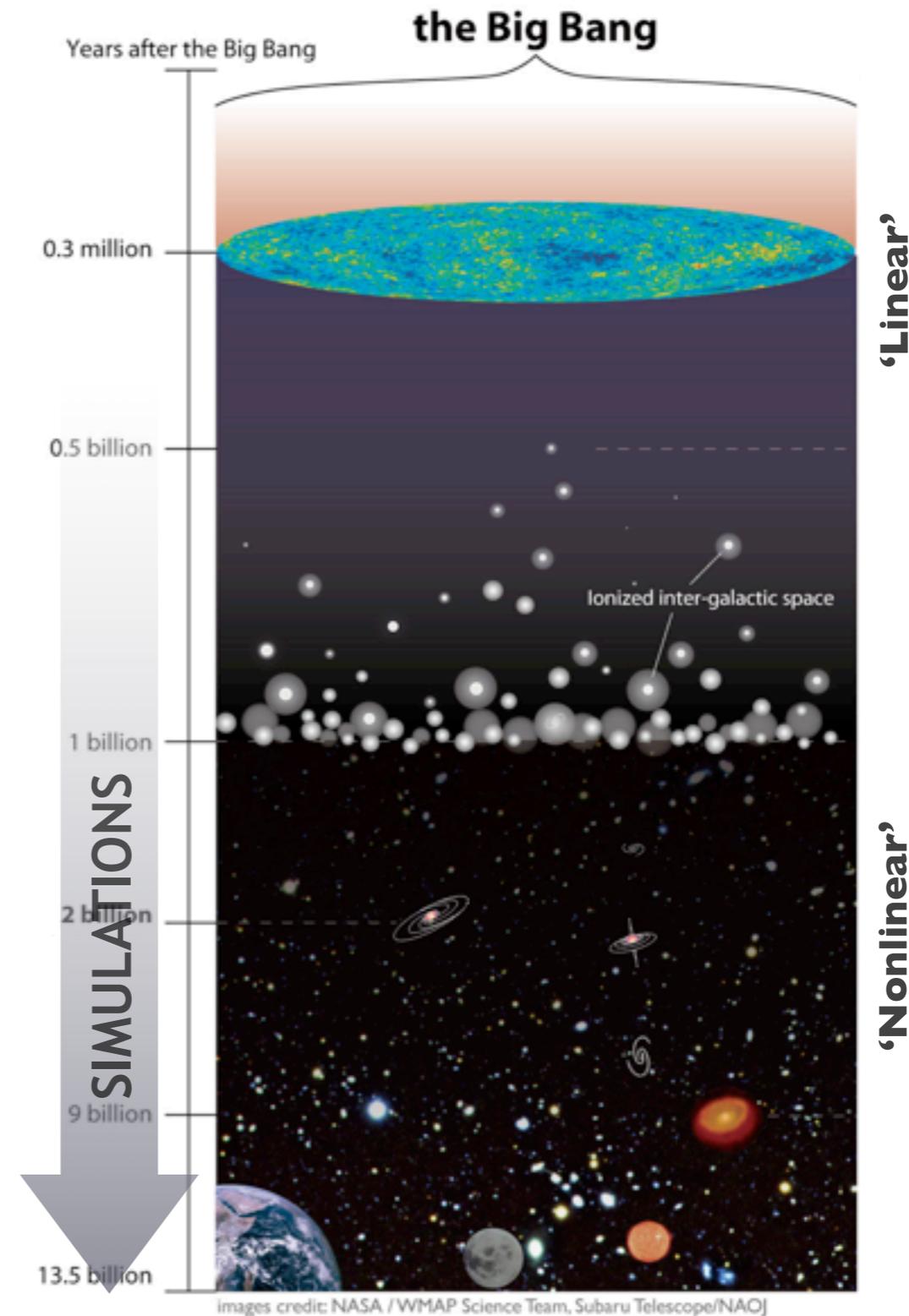


# The Dark Universe: Mapping the Sky



# Structure Formation in the Universe: The Basic Paradigm

- **Solid understanding of structure formation is a requirement for cosmic discovery**
  - To high accuracy, initial conditions are given by a Gaussian random field
  - Initial perturbations amplified by gravitational instability in a dark matter-dominated Universe
  - Relevant theory is gravity and atomic physics (**‘first principles’**)
- **Early Universe**
  - **Linear** perturbation theory very successful (Cosmic Microwave Background)
- **The Universe: ‘Second Half’**
  - **Nonlinear** domain of structure formation, **impossible** to treat without large-scale computing



# Data 'Overload': Observations of Cosmic Structure

- **Cosmology=Physics+Statistics**

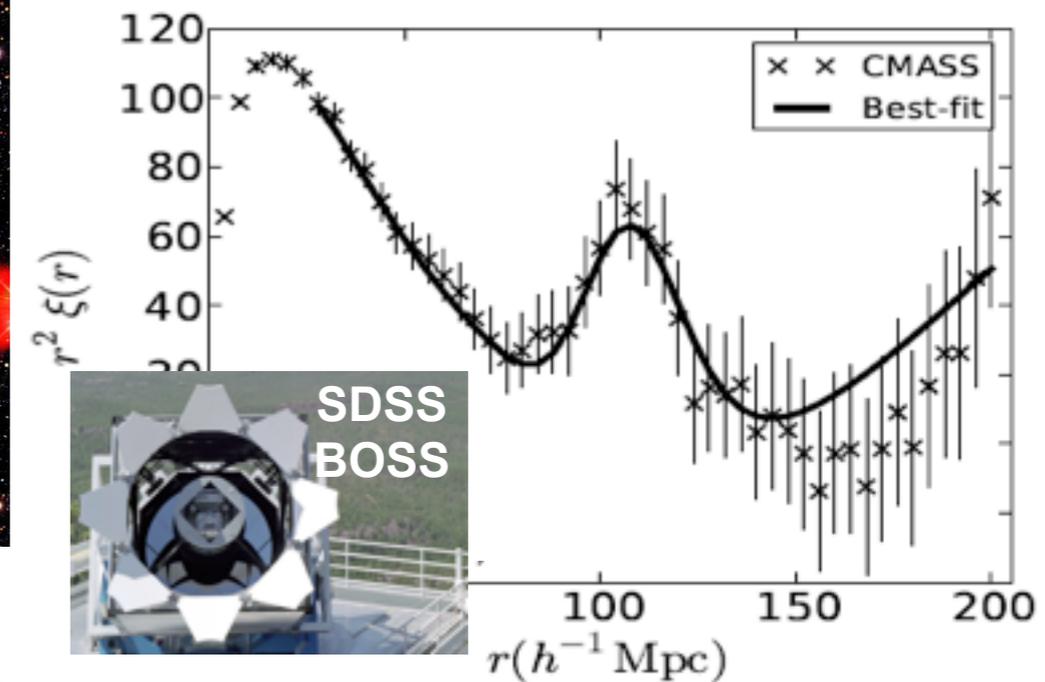
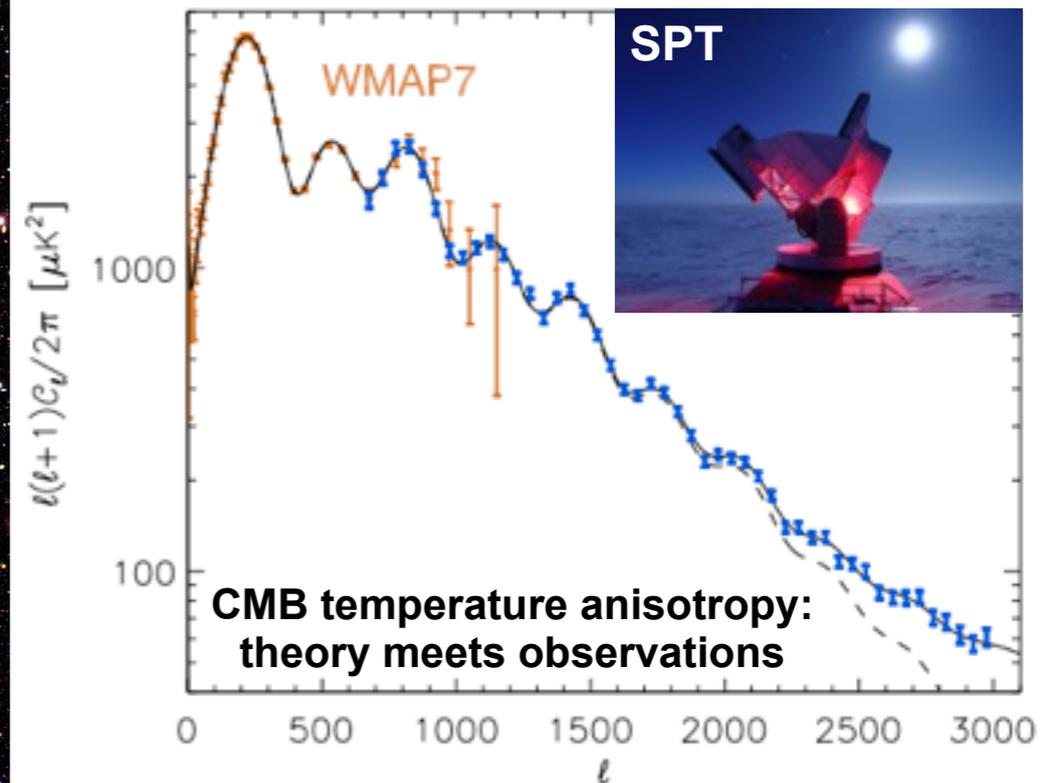
- Mapping the sky with large-area surveys across multiple wave-bands, at remarkably low levels of statistical error
- Many different probes: abundances, clustering, weak lensing, redshift space distortions, cross-correlations --

Galaxies in a patch of sky with area roughly the size of the full moon as seen from the ground (Deep Lens Survey). LSST will cover an area 50,000 times this size (and go deeper)

LSST



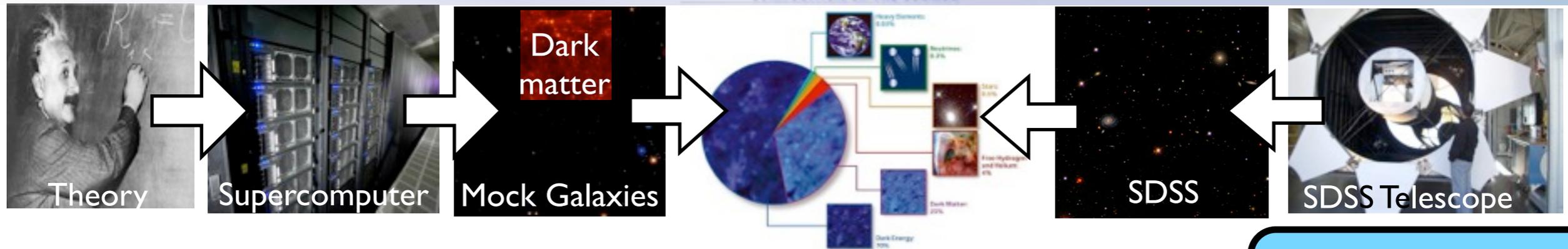
~300 PB database



The same signal in the galaxy distribution



# Key Role of Computational Theory/Modeling



## • Three Roles of Cosmological Simulations

- **Basic theory** of cosmological probes
- Production of high-fidelity 'mock skies' for **end-to-end tests of the observation/analysis chain**
- Essential component of **analysis toolkits**

## • Extreme Simulation and Analysis Challenges

- Large dynamic range simulations; control of subgrid modeling and feedback mechanisms
- Design and implementation of **complex analyses** on large datasets; new fast (approximate) algorithms
- Solution of large statistical **inverse problems** of scientific inference (many parameters, ~10-100) at the **~1% level**

Theory

Project

Science

Cosmological Simulation

Observables

Experiment-specific output  
(e.g., sky catalog)

Atmosphere

Telescope

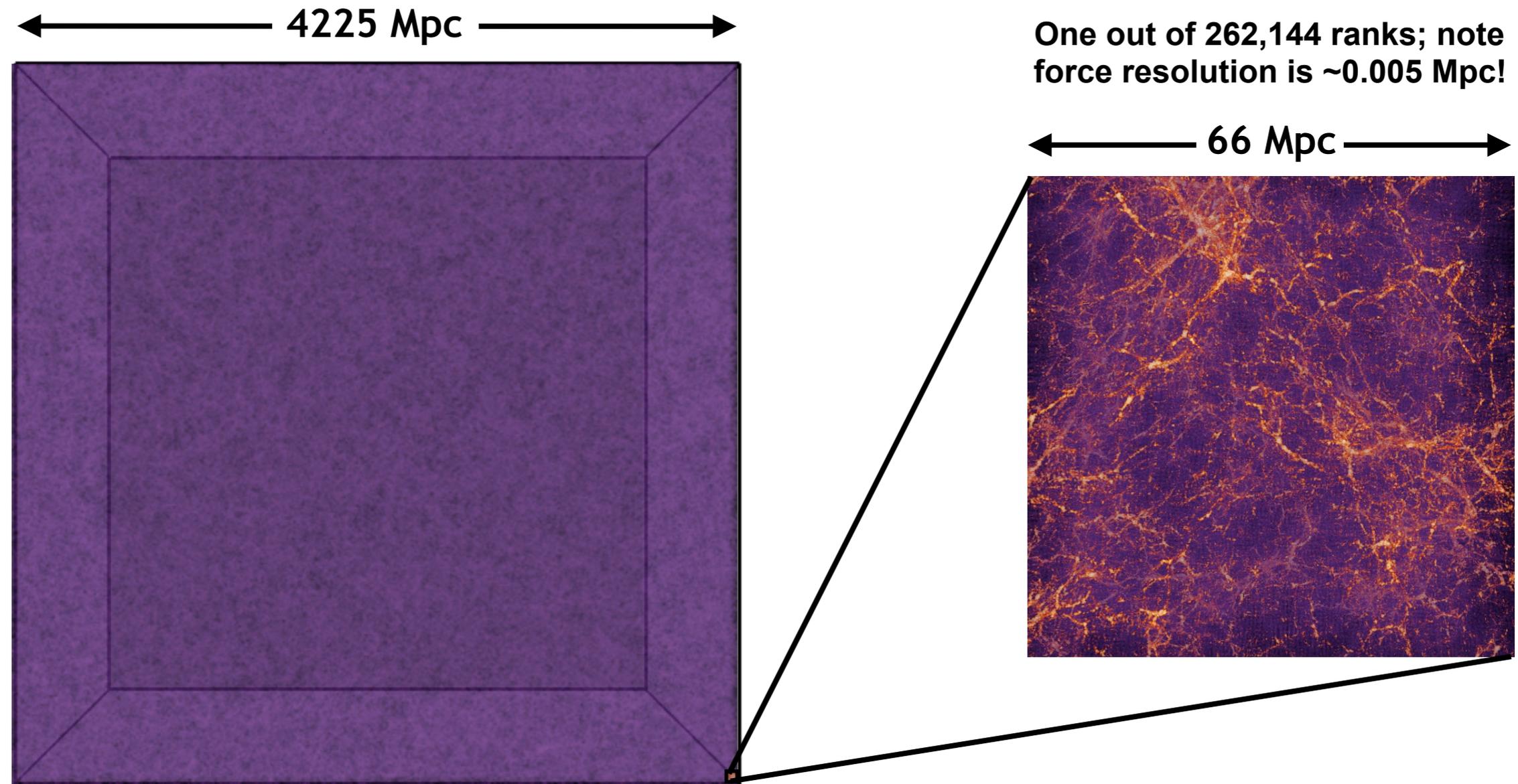
Detector

Pipelines

Analysis Software



# Capturing Sky Surveys: Trillion Particles in a 'Box'



- **Size:** Volumes = ~100's of cubic Gpc (1 pc = 3.26 light-years)
- To capture individual galaxy mass concentrations over this volume, need **trillions** of particles (billions of objects with thousands of sampling particles per object) -- simple numerical algorithms useless

**1.1 trillion particle HACCC science run at  $z=3$  illustrating the dynamic range of a large, high-resolution, cosmological N-body simulation**



# Large Scale Structure Simulation Requirements

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial t} + \dot{\mathbf{x}} \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \mathbf{x}} - \nabla \phi \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \mathbf{p}} &= 0, & \mathbf{p} &= a^2 \dot{\mathbf{x}}, \\ \nabla^2 \phi &= 4\pi G a^2 (\rho(\mathbf{x}, t) - \langle \rho_{\text{dm}}(t) \rangle) = 4\pi G a^2 \Omega_{\text{dm}} \delta_{\text{dm}} \rho_{\text{cr}}, \\ \delta_{\text{dm}}(\mathbf{x}, t) &= (\rho_{\text{dm}} - \langle \rho_{\text{dm}} \rangle) / \langle \rho_{\text{dm}} \rangle, \\ \rho_{\text{dm}}(\mathbf{x}, t) &= a^{-3} \sum_i m_i \int d^3 \mathbf{p} f_i(\mathbf{x}, \dot{\mathbf{x}}, t). \end{aligned}$$

**Cosmological  
Vlasov-Poisson  
Equation**

- **Resolution:**

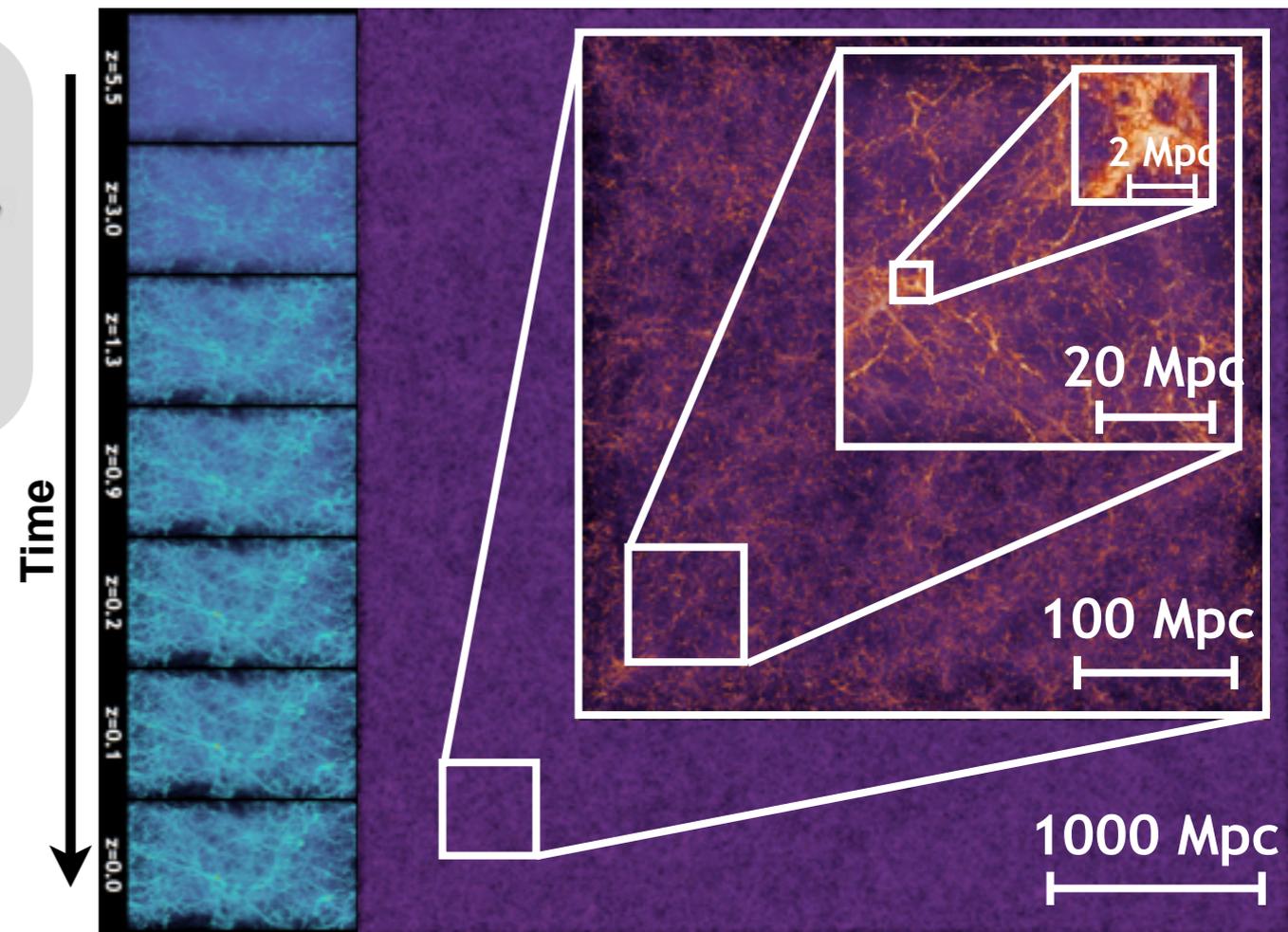
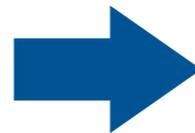
- Force resolution has to be  $\sim \text{kpc}$ , a **dynamic range of a million to one**, also controls time-stepping
- Local overdensity variation is  **$\sim$ million to one**

- **Physics:**

- Gravity dominates at scales greater than  $\sim \text{Mpc}$
- At small scales: galaxy distribution modeling

- **Computing ‘Boundary Conditions’:**

- Total memory in the PB+ class
- Performance in the 10 PFlops+ class
- Wall-clock of  $\sim$ days/week, in situ analysis



**Gravitational Jeans Instability**

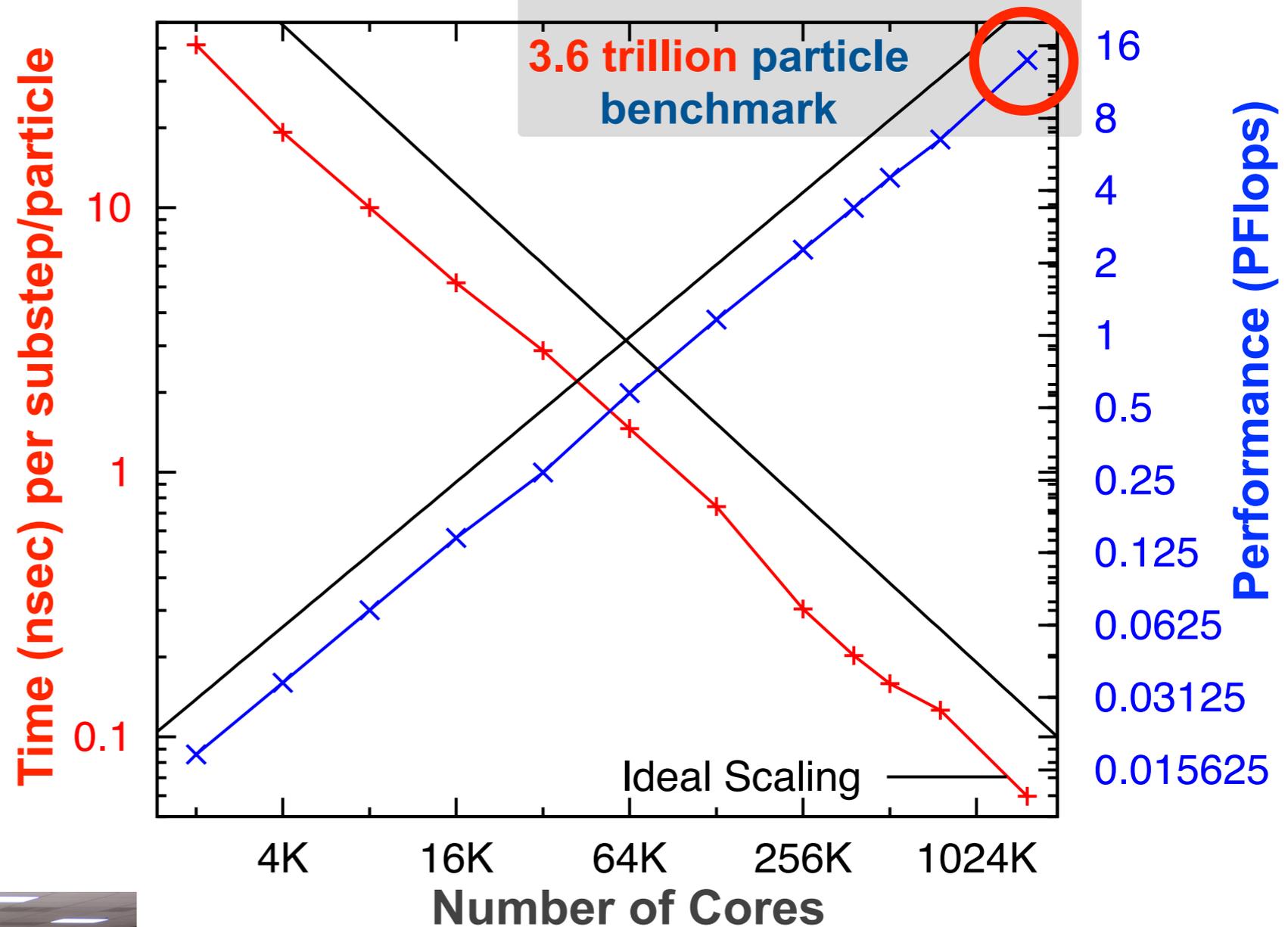
**Can the Universe be run  
as a short computational  
‘experiment’?**



# Meeting the Challenge: HACC on the BG/Q

- New Cosmological N-Body Framework
- Designed for extreme performance AND portability, including heterogeneous systems
- Supports multiple programming models
- Memory efficient
- In situ analysis framework
- Production science code

**13.94 PFlops, 69.2% peak, 90% parallel efficiency on 1,572,864 cores/MPI ranks, 6.3M-way concurrency**



**HACC weak scaling on the IBM BG/Q (MPI/OpenMP)**

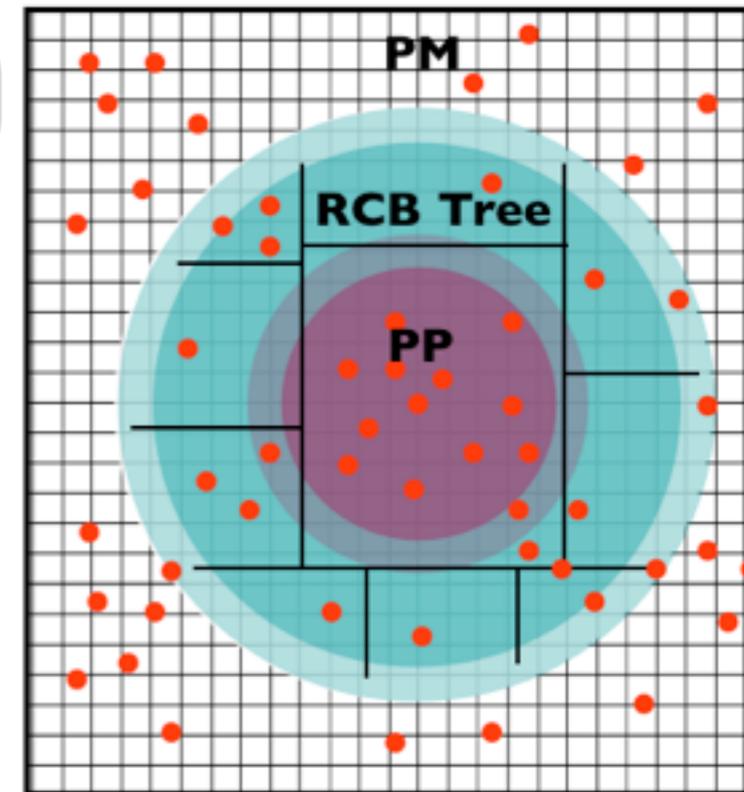


# Opening the HACC 'Black Box': Design Principles

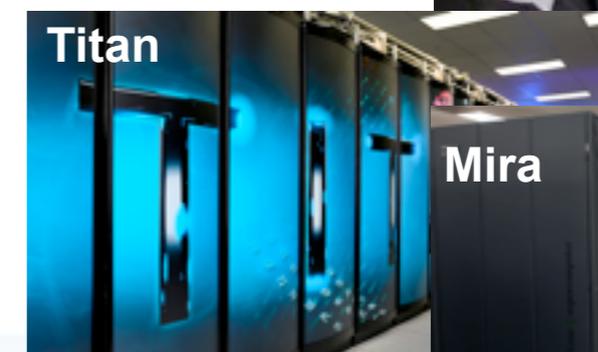
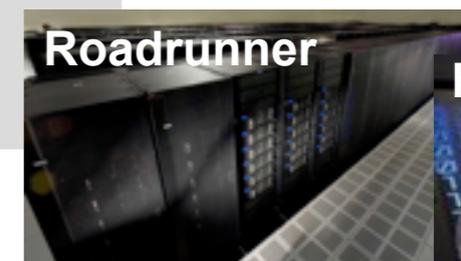
Andrew White

Dec 7, 2007 + [What if you had a petaflop/s](#)

- **Optimize Next-Generation Code 'Ecology':** Numerical methods, algorithms, mixed precision, data locality, scalability, I/O, in situ analysis -- life-cycle significantly longer than architecture timescales
- **Framework design:** Support a 'universal' top layer + 'plug-in' optimized node-level components; minimize data structure complexity and data motion -- support multiple programming models
- **Performance:** Optimization stresses scalability, low memory overhead, and platform flexibility; assume 'on your own' for software support, but hook into tools as available (e.g., ESSL FFT)
- **Optimal Splitting of Gravitational Forces:** Spectral Particle-Mesh melded with direct and RCB tree force solvers, short hand-over scale (dynamic range splitting  $\sim 10,000 \times 100$ )
- **Compute to Communication balance:** Particle Overloading
- **Time-Stepping:** Symplectic, sub-cycled (uses Hamiltonian Maps)
- **Force Kernel:** Highly optimized force kernel takes up large fraction of compute time, no look-ups due to short hand-over scale
- **Production Readiness:** runs on all supercomputer architectures

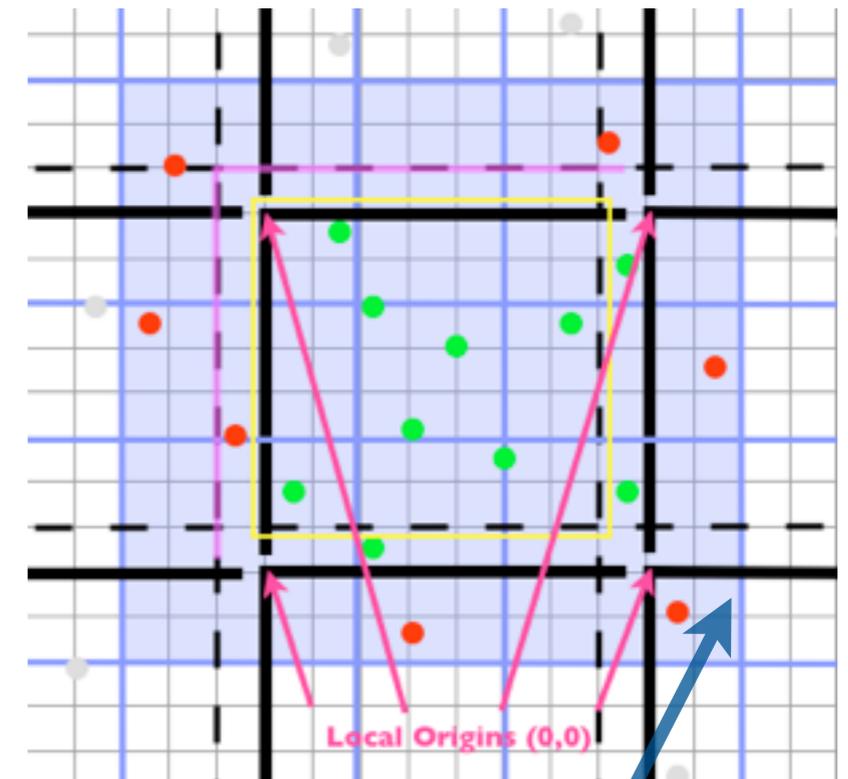


**HACC force hierarchy (PPTreePM)**

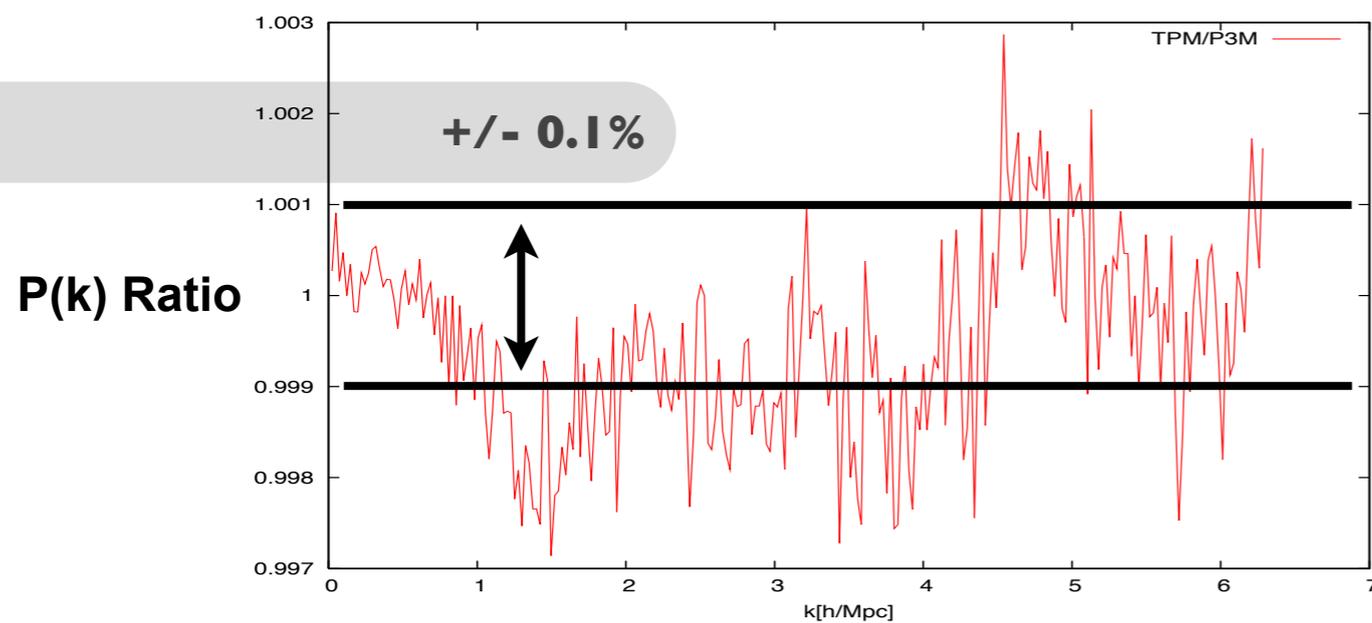


# Particle Overloading and Short-Range Solvers

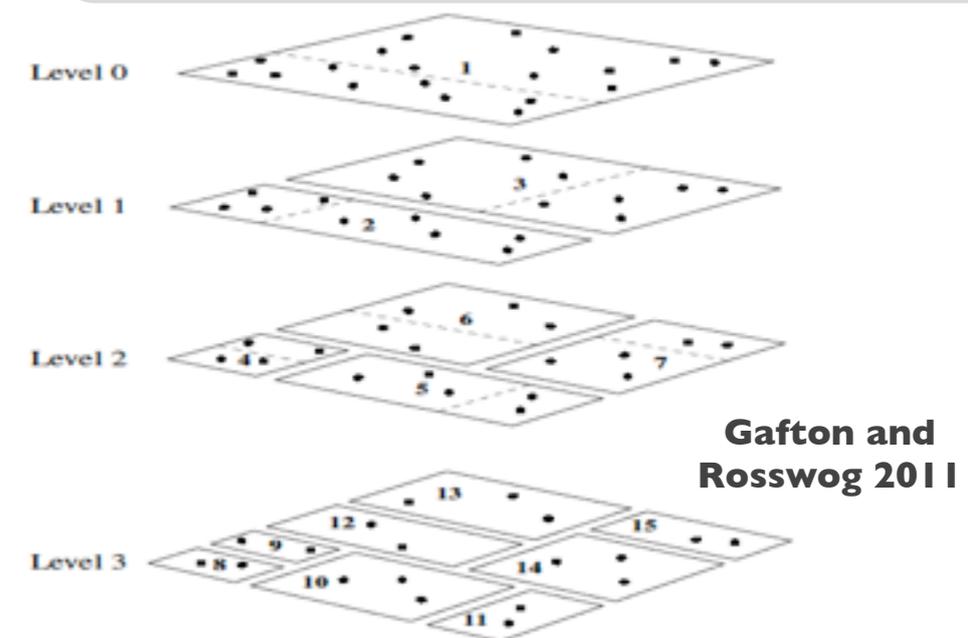
- **Particle Overloading:** Particle replication instead of conventional guard zones with 3-D domain decomposition -- minimizes inter-processor communication and allows for swappable short-range solvers
- **Short-range Force:** Depending on node architecture switch between P3M and PPTreePM algorithms (pseudo-particle method goes beyond monopole order), by tuning number of particles in leaf nodes and error control criteria, optimize for computational efficiency
- **Error tests:** Can directly compare different short-range solver algorithms



Overload Zone (particle 'cache')



HACC Force Algorithm Test: PPTreePM vs. P3M



RCB Tree Hierarchy



# HACC: BG/Q Implementation

- **HACC BG/Q Algorithms:**

- 1) Long-range force with base HACC FFT-based SPM (excellent performance)

- 2) Short-range force: Particle-Particle + RCB Tree + highly tuned force kernel

- **Data Locality:** At rank-level, enforced by particle overloading, at tree-level use the RCB grouping to organize particle memory buffers (all P-P interactions are in nearby leaf nodes, this also increases accuracy)

- **Tree Build/Walk Minimization:** Every particle has an interaction list -- constructing this is an overhead ('treebuild'); reduce tree depth in two ways: (i) rank-local trees, (ii) shortest possible hand-over scale, (iii) bigger P-P component than is usual, using the optimized force kernel

- **Force Kernel:** Because of the compactness of the short-range interaction, the kernel can be represented as

$$f_{SR} = (s + \epsilon)^{-3/2} - f_{grid}(s)$$

where

$$s = \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{r}, \quad f_{grid}(s) = poly[5](s)$$

- **Kernel Evaluation:** This consists of three parts: (i) Filtering, (ii) Inverse square root evaluation, and (iii) Polynomial evaluation



# HACC: *Fast In Situ Analysis*

- **Data Reduction:** A trillion

particle s  
analysis  
requirem  
analysis

- **I/O Chok**

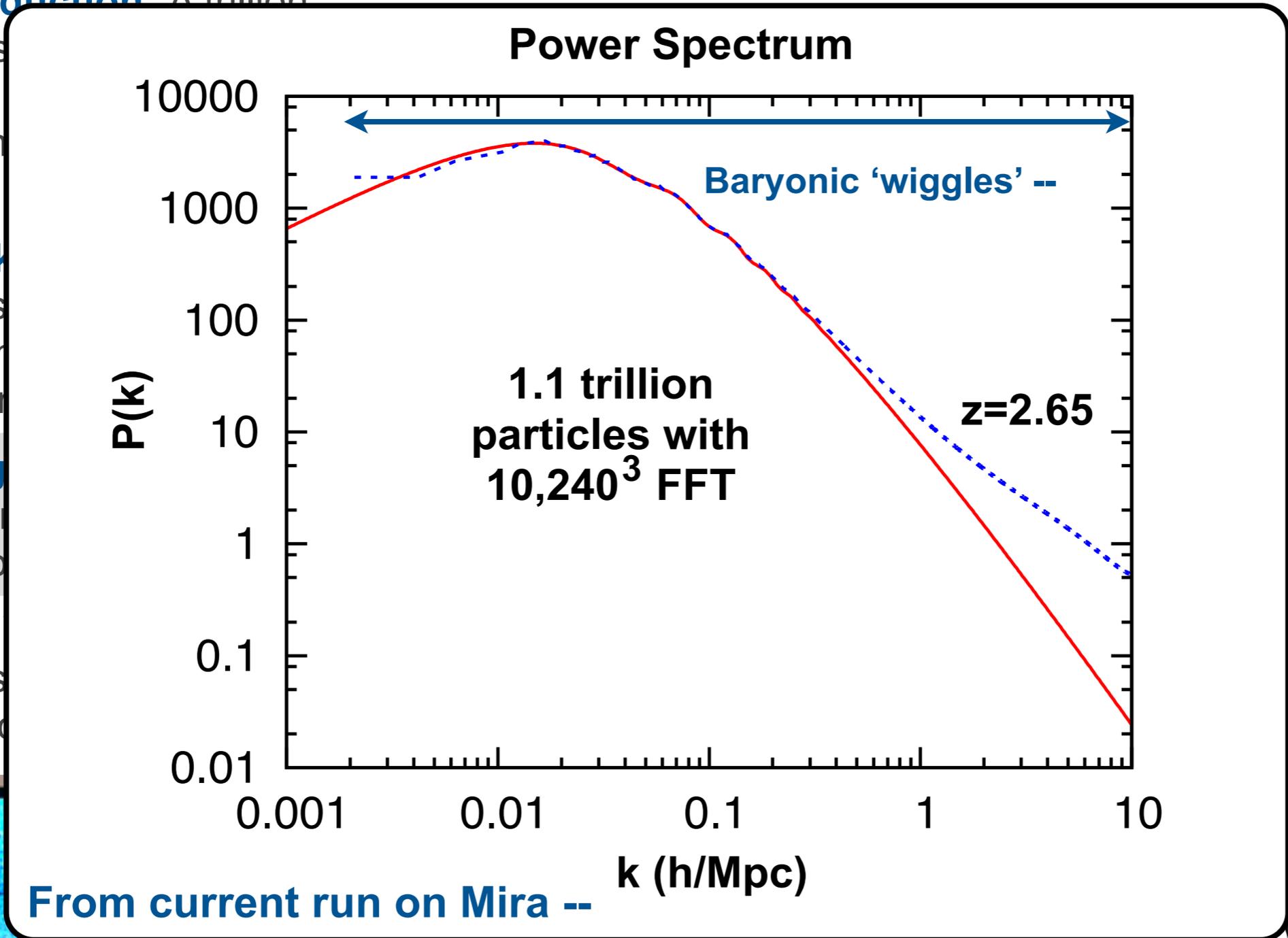
analyses  
time > an  
scheduling

- **Fast Alg**

time is o  
simulatio

- **Ease of**

analyses  
post-proc



k-d Tree  
Halo  
Finders

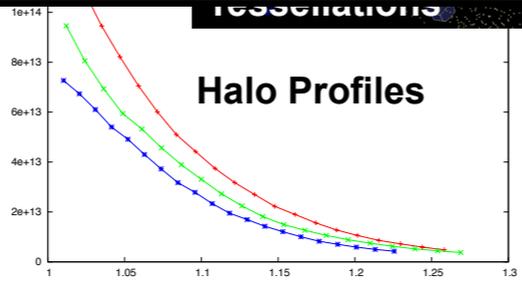
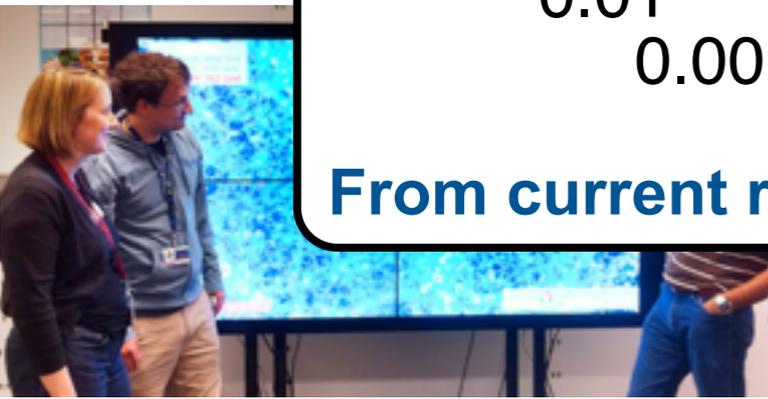
Voronoi  
Tesselation

Merger  
Trees

N-point  
Functions



Predictions go into  
Cosmic Calibration  
Framework that  
solves the Cosmic  
Inverse Problem



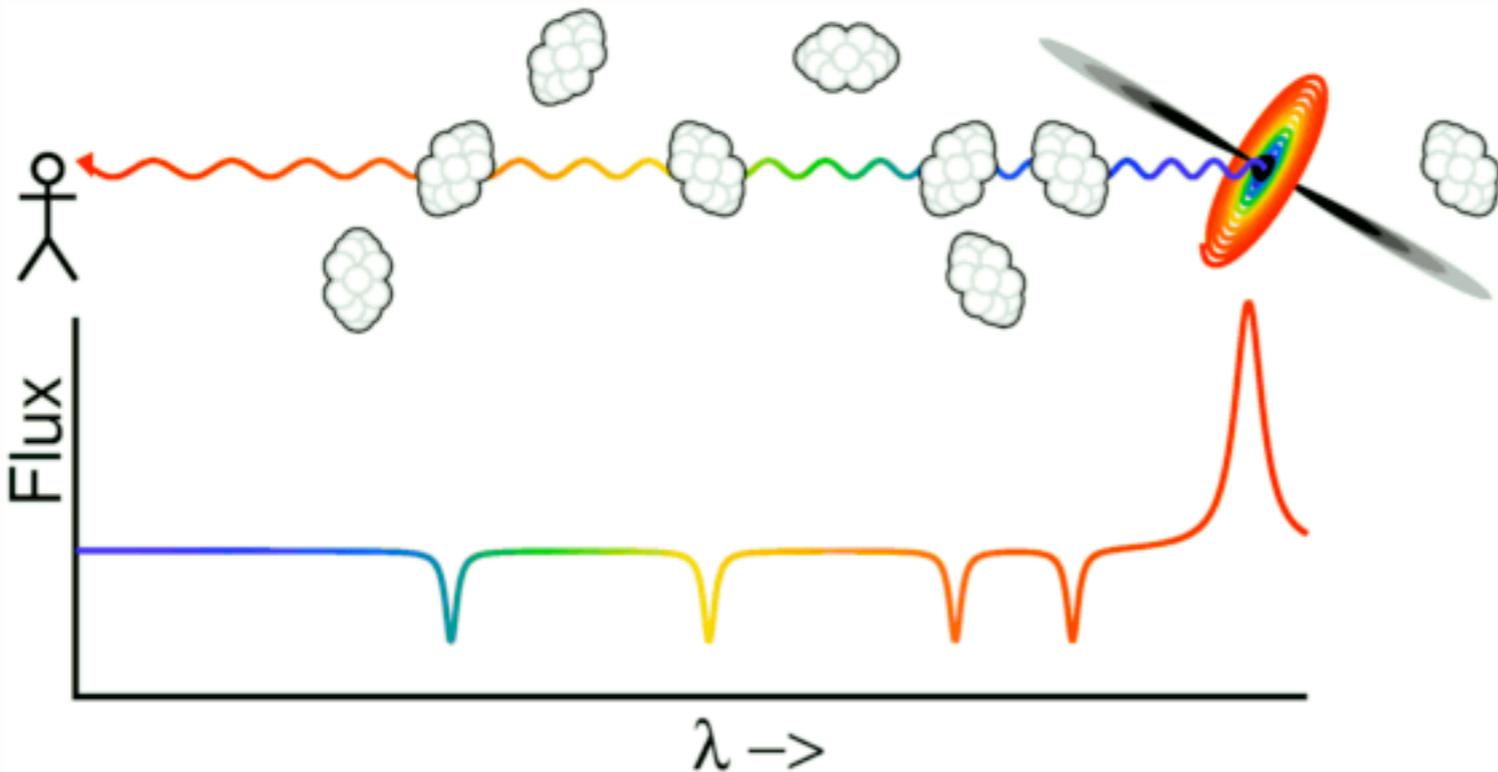
# *Ly- $\alpha$ Forest Simulations*

*Zarija Lukić*

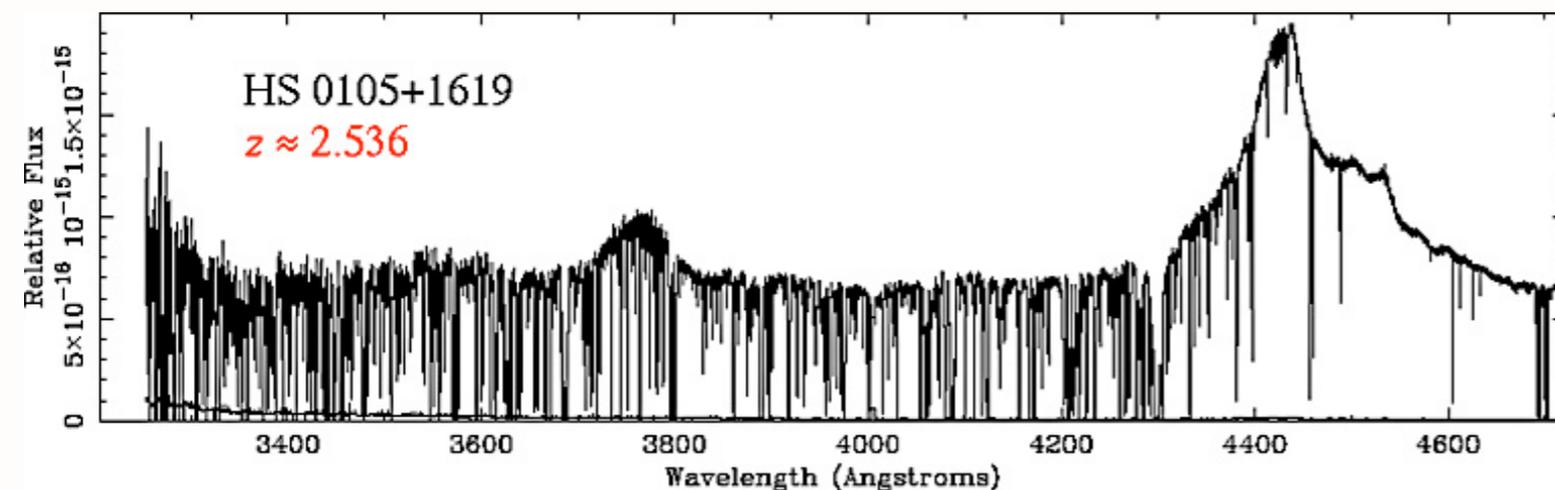
*Ann Almgren, Peter Nugent,  
Casey Stark, Martin White*



# Lyman-alpha forest

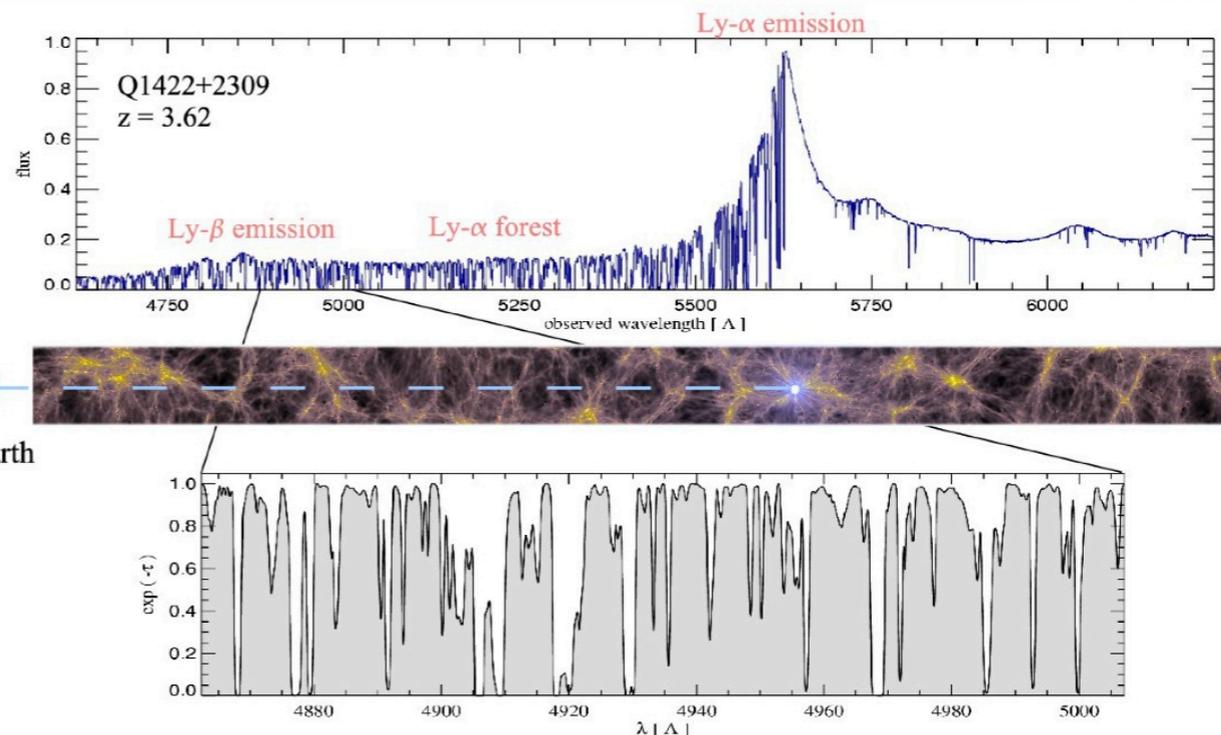
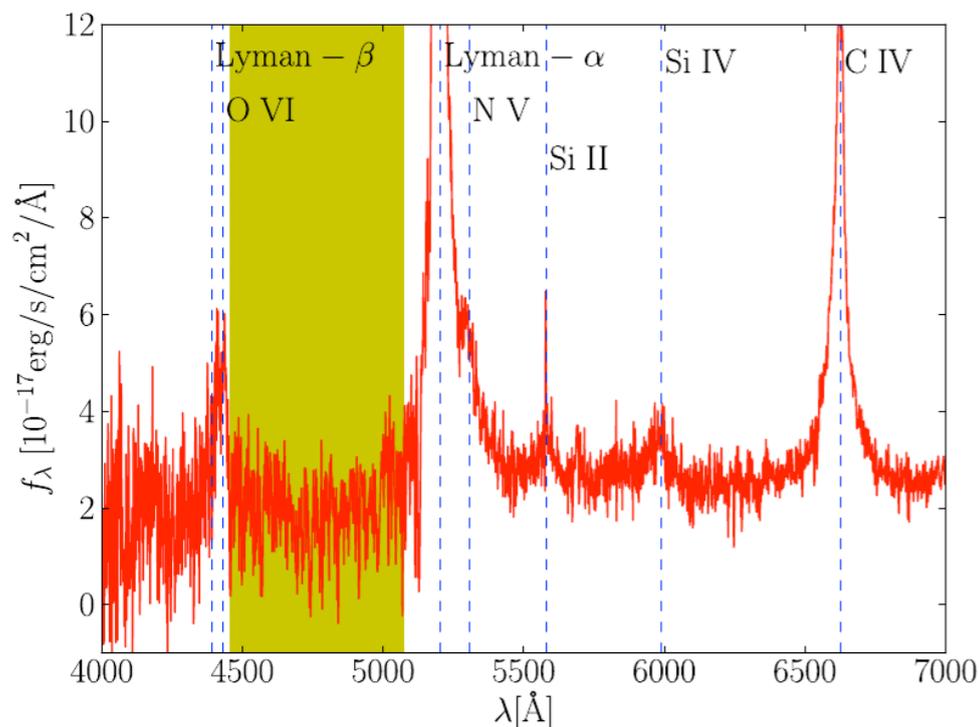
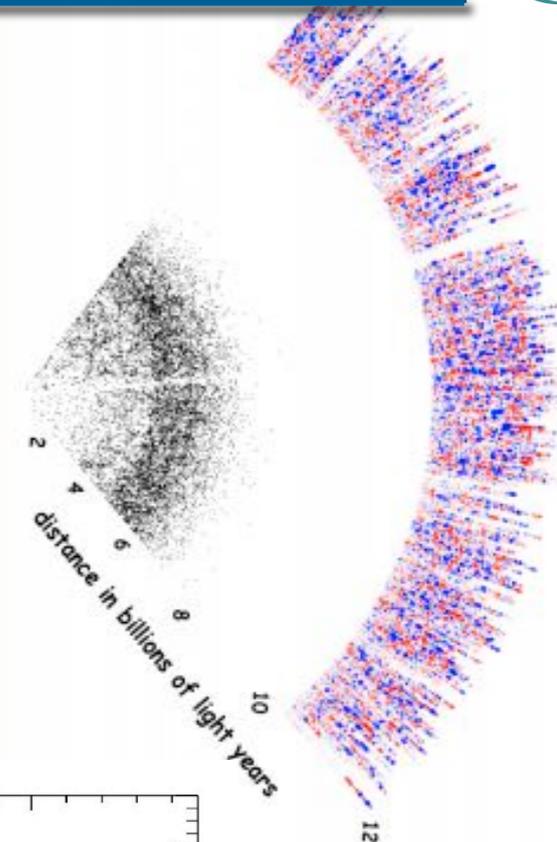
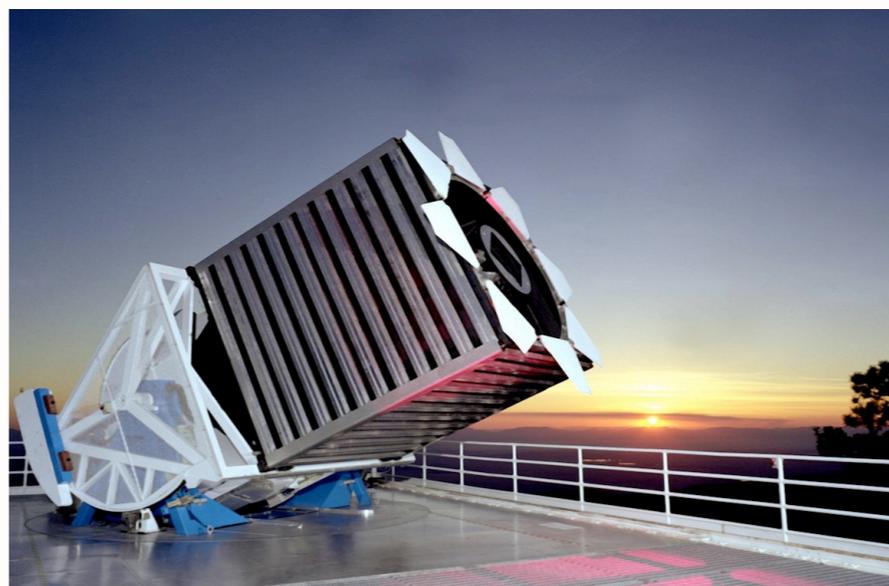


- Quasars emit featureless spectrum with a few broad emissions
- Neutral hydrogen absorbs light at its rest-frame Ly- $\alpha$
- HI traces gas, which traces dark matter...
- Each "skewer" is a 1-D map of density field



# Surveys

1. BOSS (2009-2014):  
~160,000 quasars
  2. MS-DESI (2018+):  
~1,000,000 quasars
- Low resolution!



$O(100)$  high-res VLT/Keck spectra

# NYX code

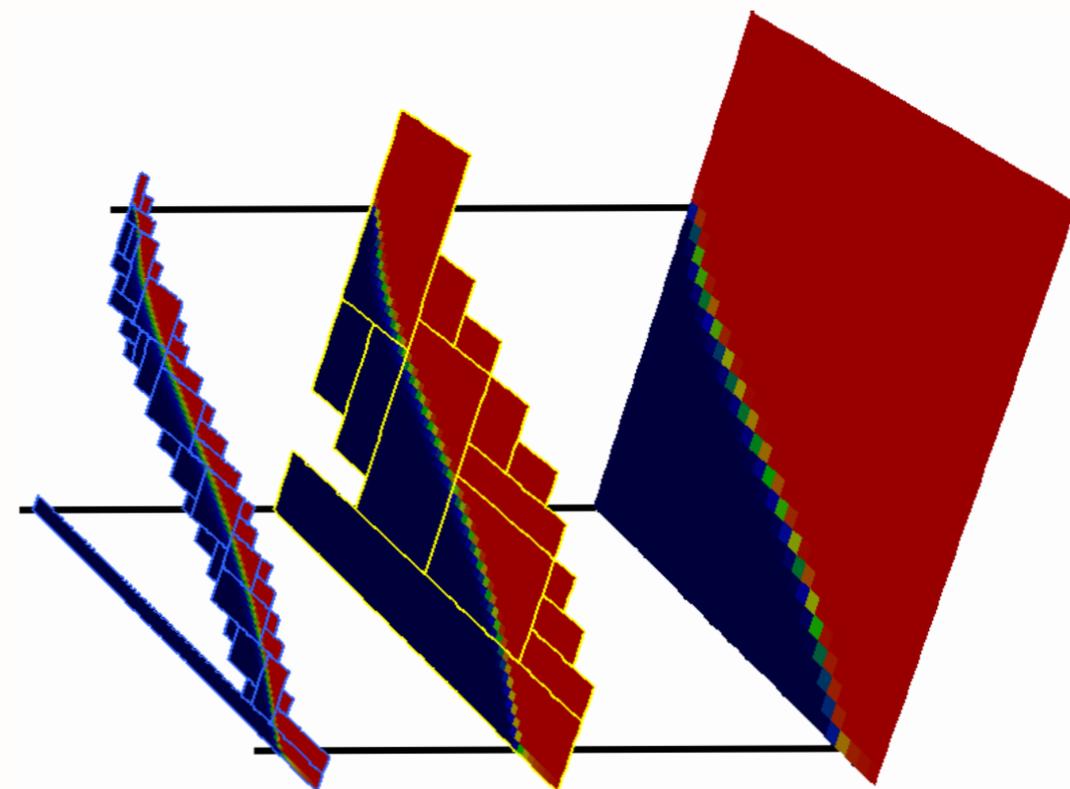
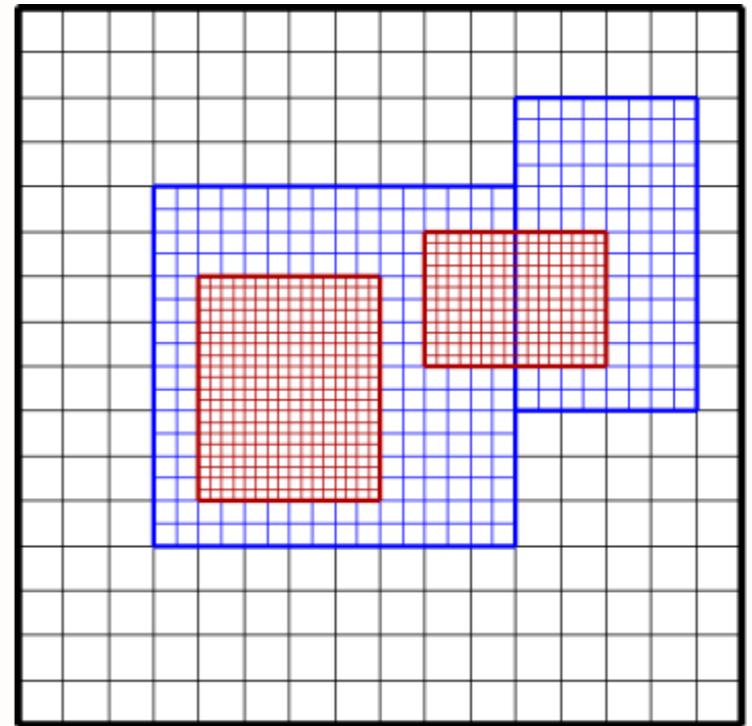


- 3-D Cartesian grid, finite volume representation
- Evolve dark matter as collisionless Lagrangian fluid
- Evolve baryons as ideal gas using unsplit, Godunov-type methodology
- Adaptive mesh refinement (AMR) to extend dynamic range
- Uses BoxLib software framework developed by CCSE group @ LBL
- Code paper: *ApJ*, 765, 39 (2013)



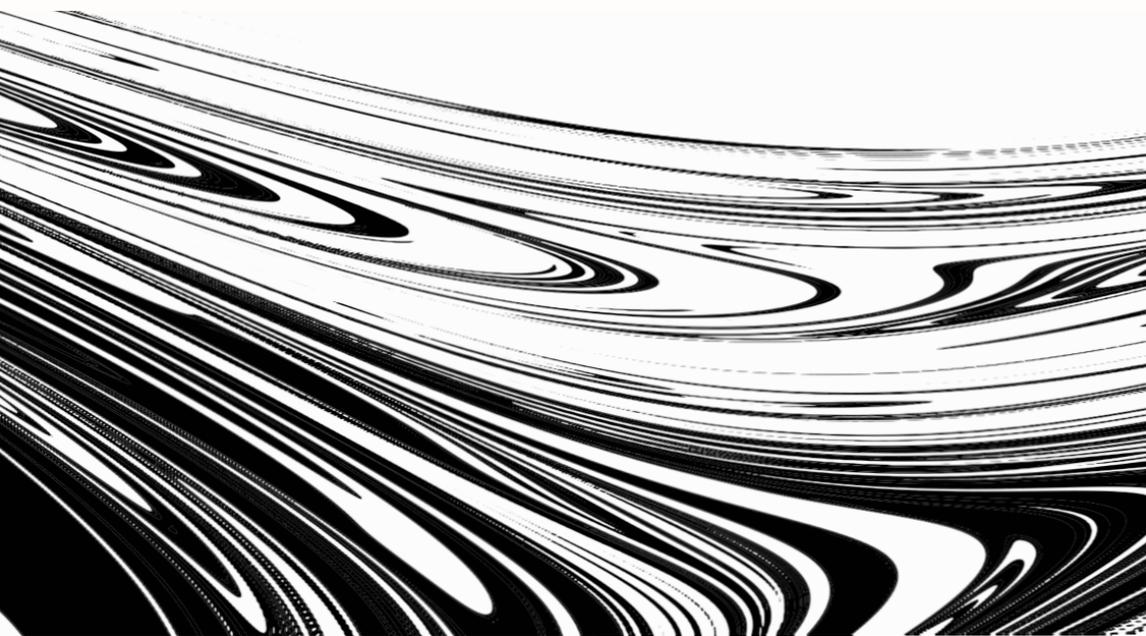
# Mesh (AMR) code

- BoxLib framework
- Adaptive refinement
- Works as:
  1. Tag cells for refinement on a desired criteria
  2. Group cells into optimal rectangular grids
  3. Chunk grids & distribute them to processes
- Refinement factor 2 or 4
- No strict parent-child relation between patches



# Dark matter

- Collisionless fluid evolving under self-gravity



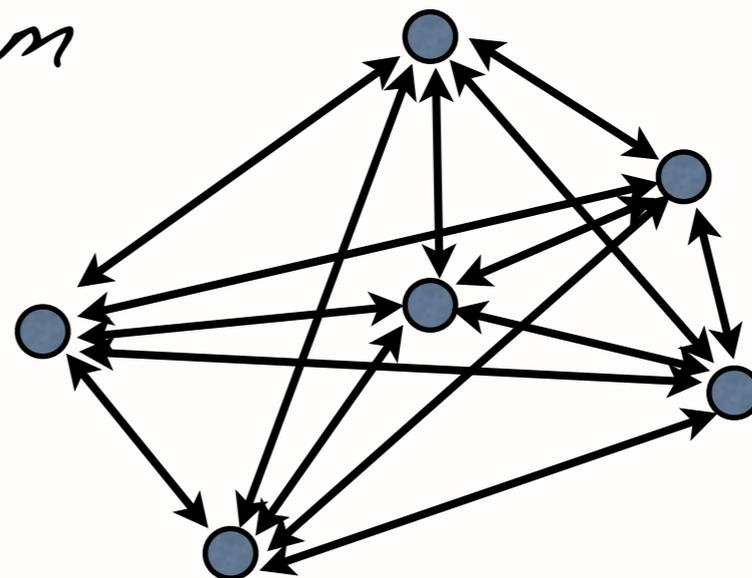
$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{ma^2} \mathbf{p} \cdot \nabla f - m \nabla \phi \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{p}} = 0$$

$$\nabla^2 \phi = \frac{4\pi G}{a} (\rho_{\text{tot}} - \rho_0)$$

- Solve as  $N$ -body problem

$$\frac{d\mathbf{x}_i}{dt} = \frac{1}{a} \mathbf{u}_i$$

$$\frac{d(a\mathbf{u}_i)}{dt} = \mathbf{g}_i$$

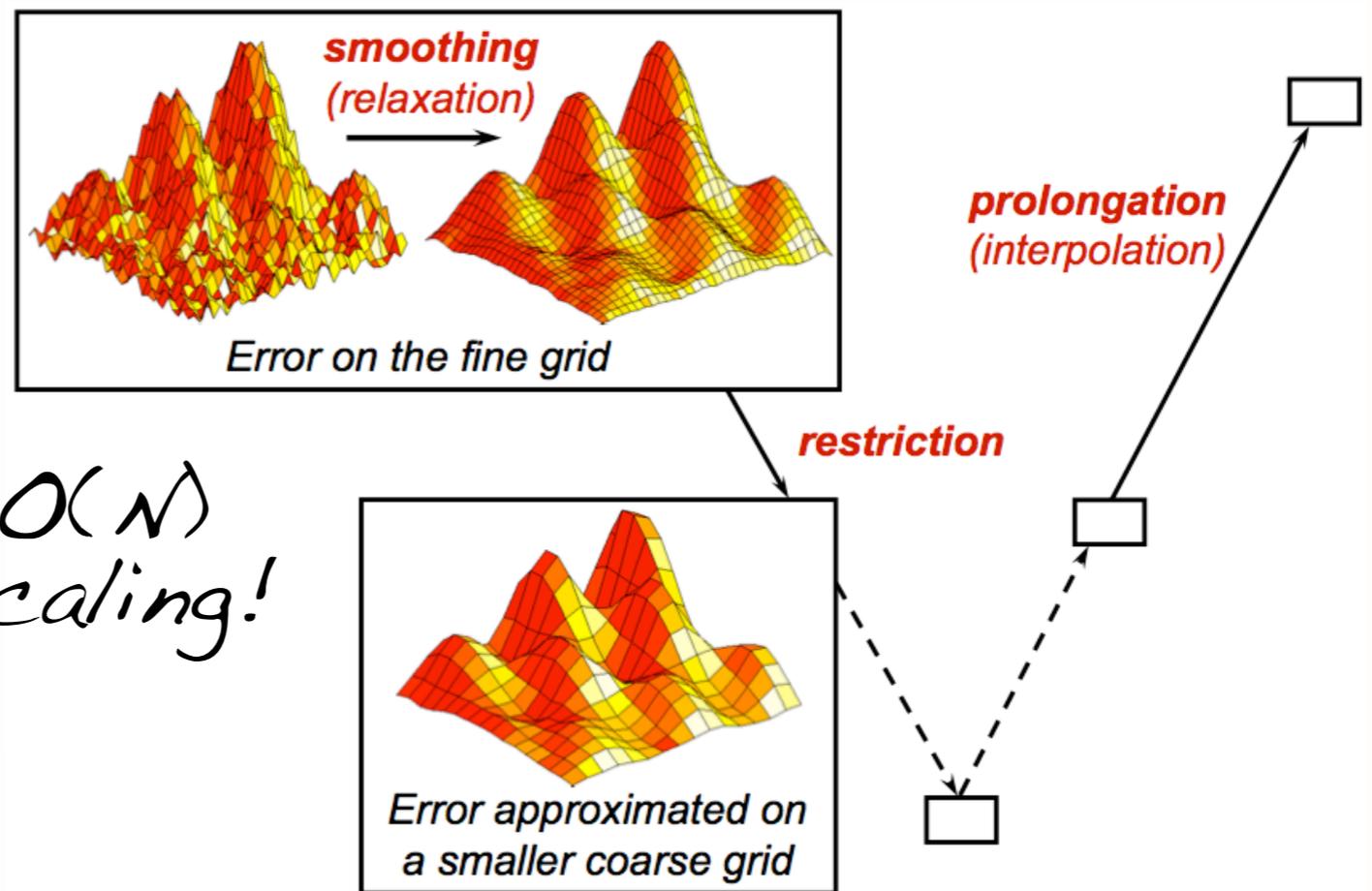
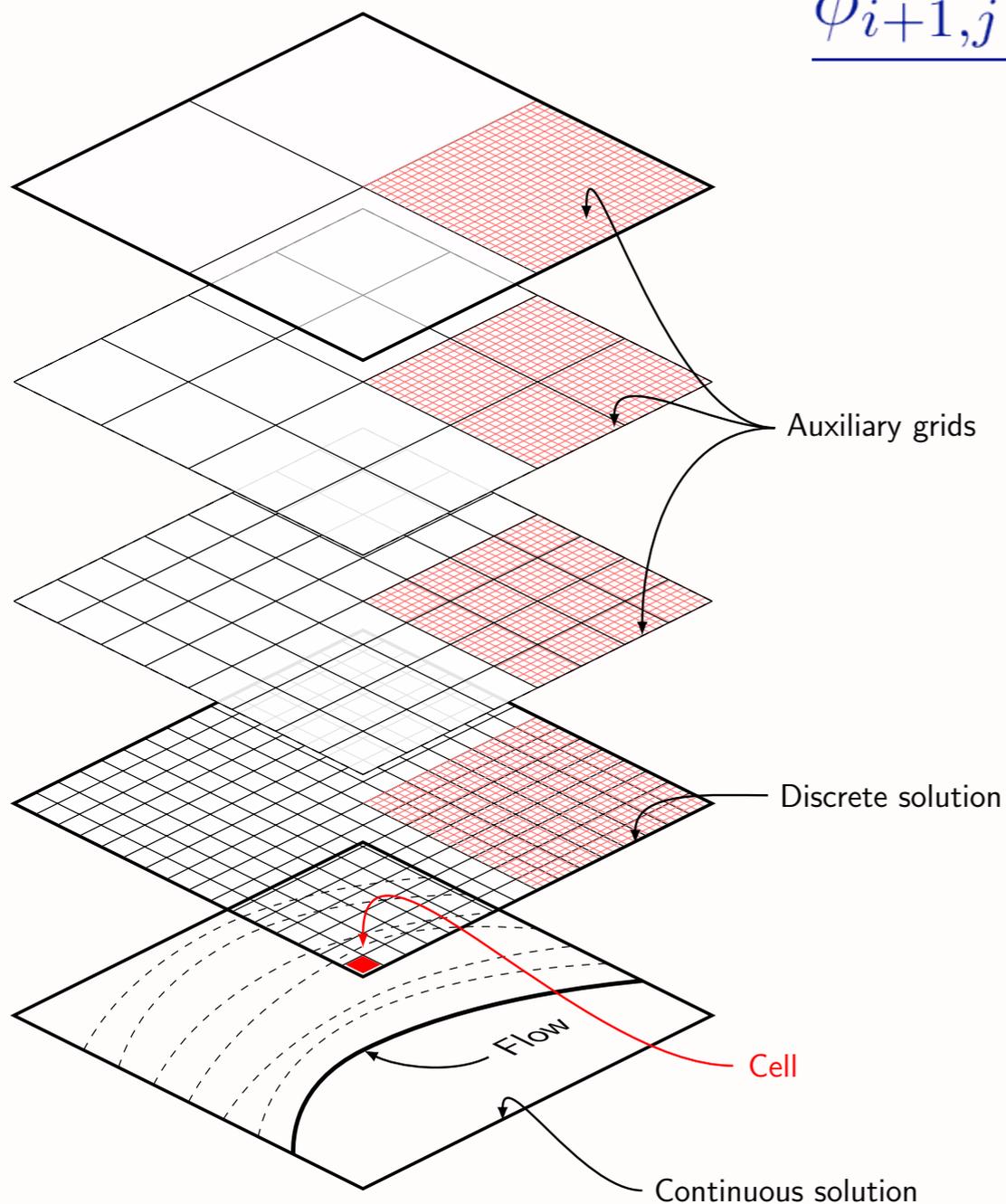


$O(N^2)$   
scaling

# Gravity solve

- Deposit mass on a grid, and solve linear system:

$$\frac{\phi_{i+1,j} + \phi_{i,j+1} - 4\phi_{i,j} + \phi_{i-1,j} + \phi_{i,j-1}}{\Delta x^2} = \rho_{i,j}$$



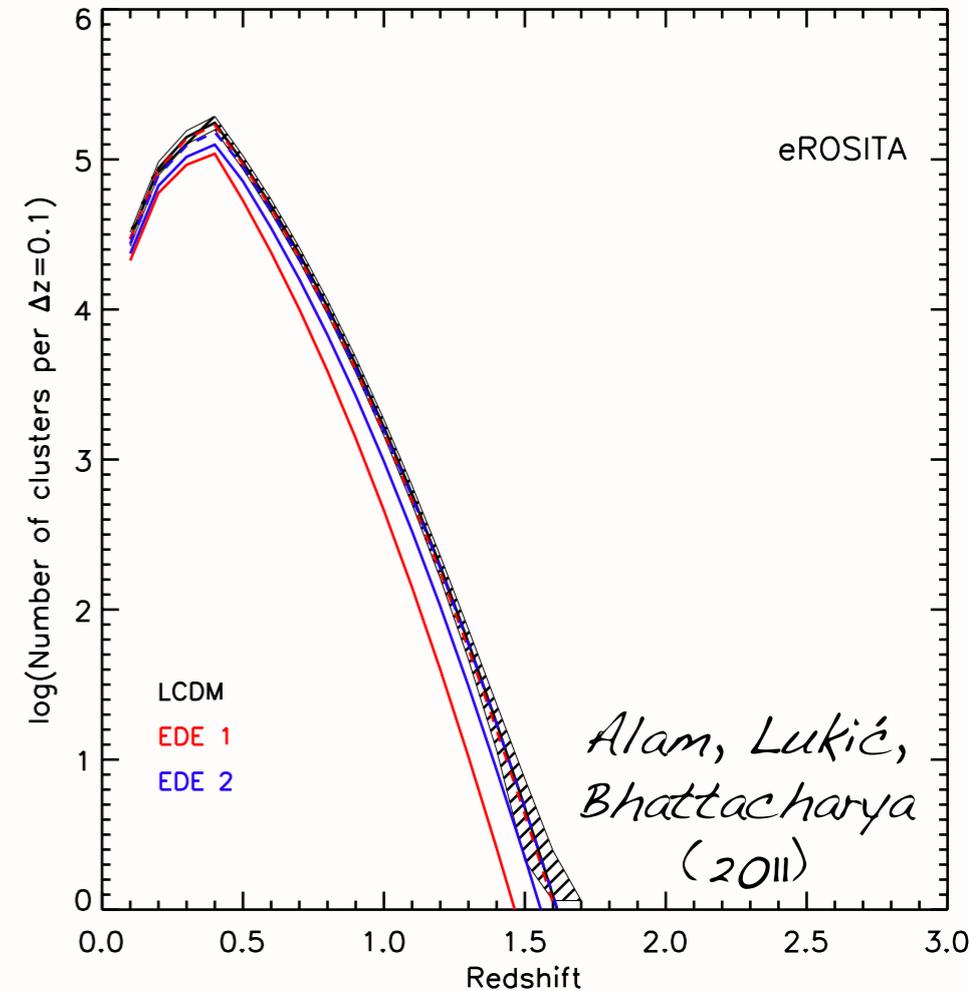
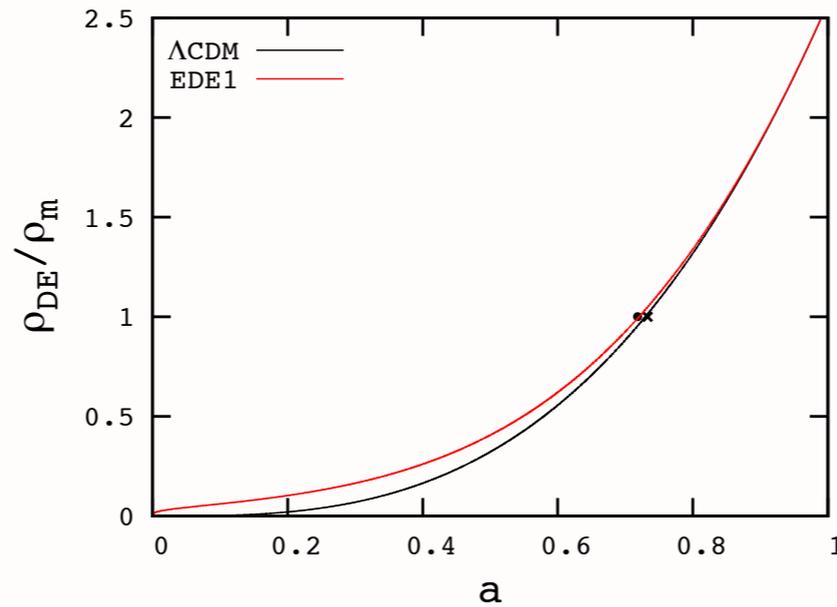
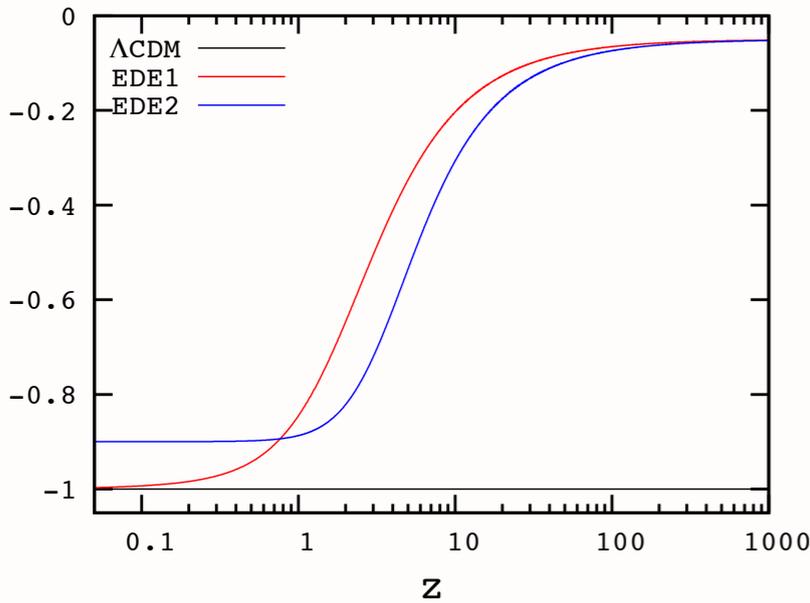
*O(N)*  
scaling!

Excellent engine for non-linear  
Poisson equation

# Dynamical models\*



- Dark energy equation of state  $w \neq -1$
- Modifications of gravity



$$ds^2 = a^2(\eta) \left[ (1 + 2\Psi(\mathbf{x}, \eta))d\eta^2 - (1 + 2\Phi(\mathbf{x}, \eta))\delta_{\alpha\beta}dx^\alpha dx^\beta \right]$$

$$\delta'_i = -3\mathcal{H}(c_{s,i}^2 - w_i)\delta_i - \left[ 1 + 3\mathcal{H}(c_{s,i}^2 - c_{a,i}^2) \right] (1 + w_i) \frac{v_i}{k} - 3(1 + w_i)\Psi'$$

$$v'_i = -\mathcal{H}(1 - 3c_{s,i}^2)v_i + \frac{kc_{s,i}^2}{(1 + w_i)}\delta_i - kA$$

*w ≠ -1  
perturbations!*

\* Footnote slide

# Baryons



- Modeled as inviscid ideal fluid
- Solve Euler equations of gasdynamics:

$$\frac{\partial \rho_b}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{a} \nabla \cdot (\rho_b \mathbf{u})$$

$$\frac{\partial (a \rho_b \mathbf{u})}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (\rho_b \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u}) - \nabla p + \rho_b \mathbf{g}$$

$$\frac{\partial (a^2 \rho_b E)}{\partial t} = -a \nabla \cdot (\rho_b \mathbf{u} E + p \mathbf{u}) + a \rho_b \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{g} + a \dot{a} ((2 - 3(\gamma - 1)) \rho_b e) + a \Lambda_{HC}$$

+ gamma-law equation of state

$$p = (\gamma - 1) \rho e$$



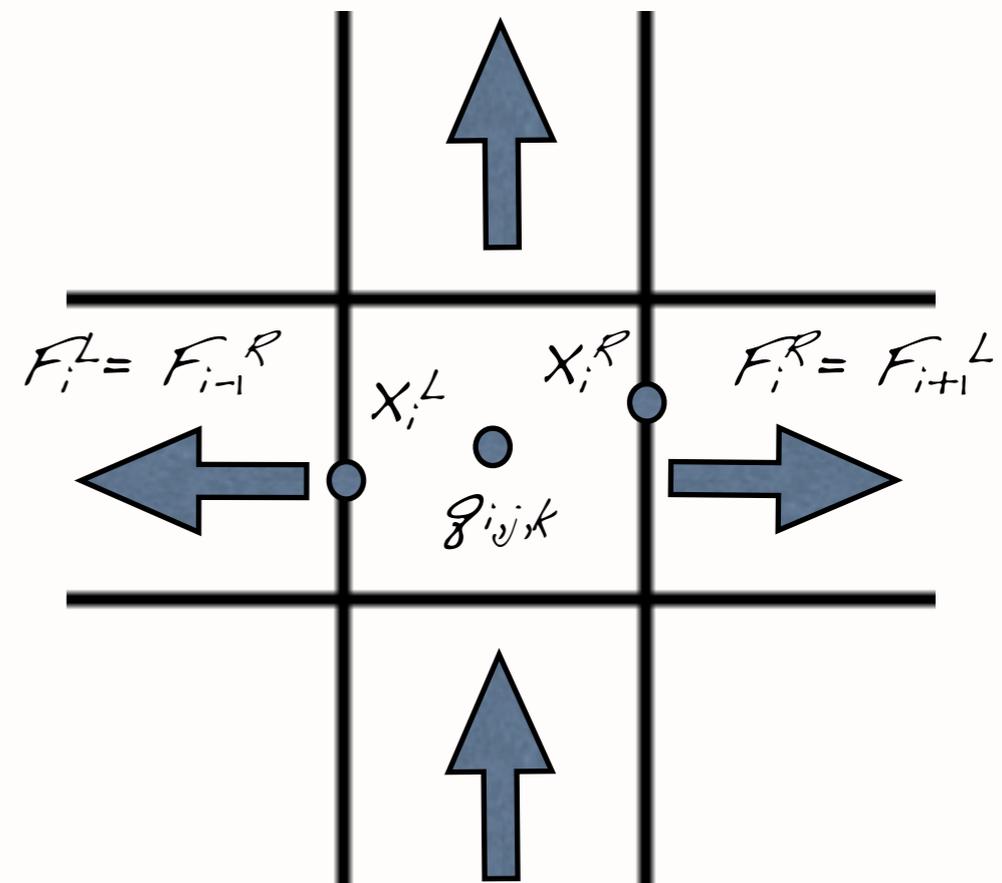
# Finite volume method



- Calculate "face" values of primitive variables from cell averages using high-order interpolation
- Reconstruct profile of each variable within the cell
- Predict average values on edges over the time step using characteristic extrapolation.
- Compute fluxes by solving exact Riemann problem
- Use these fluxes to update solution to the next timestep

Conservation law:

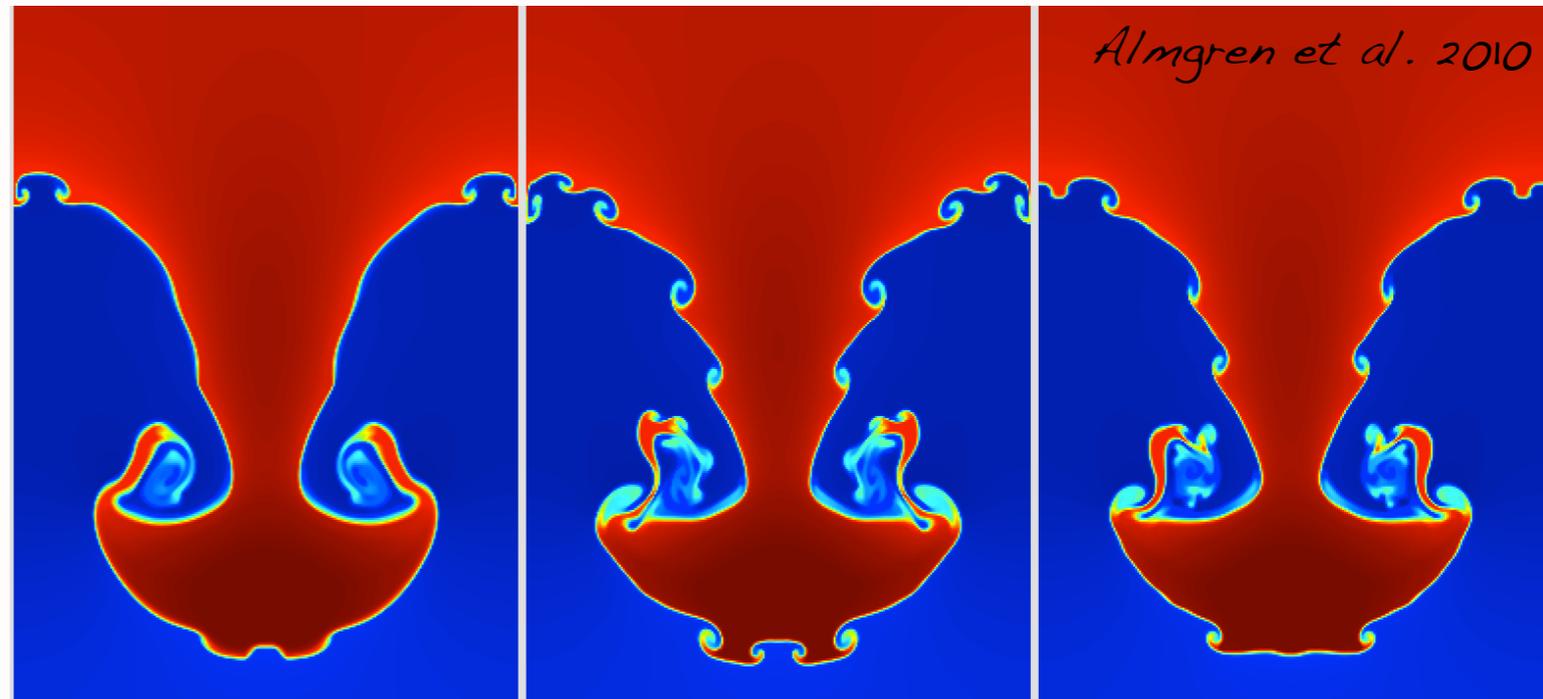
$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}(q, t)$$



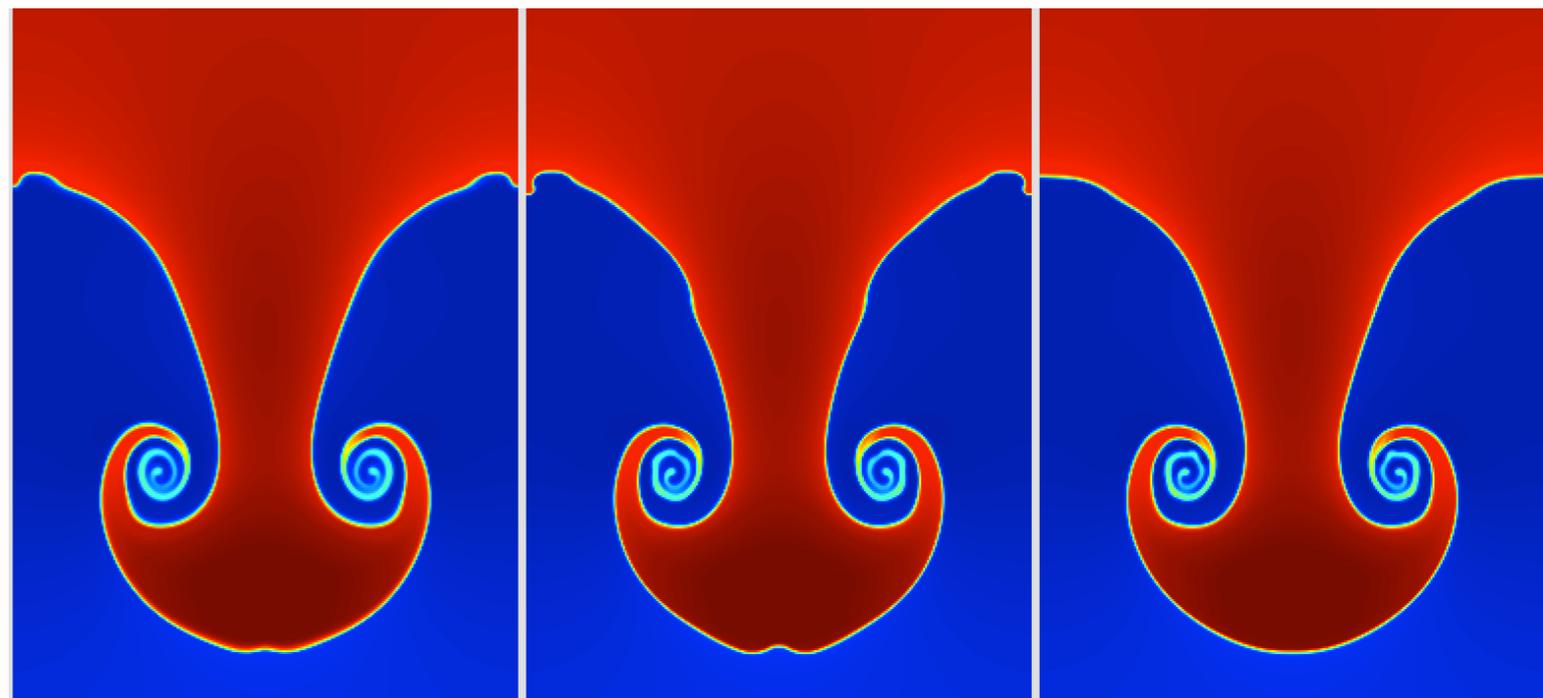
# Multiple dimensions

Rayleigh-Taylor instability:

Dimensionally split  
methods induce  
secondary instabilities



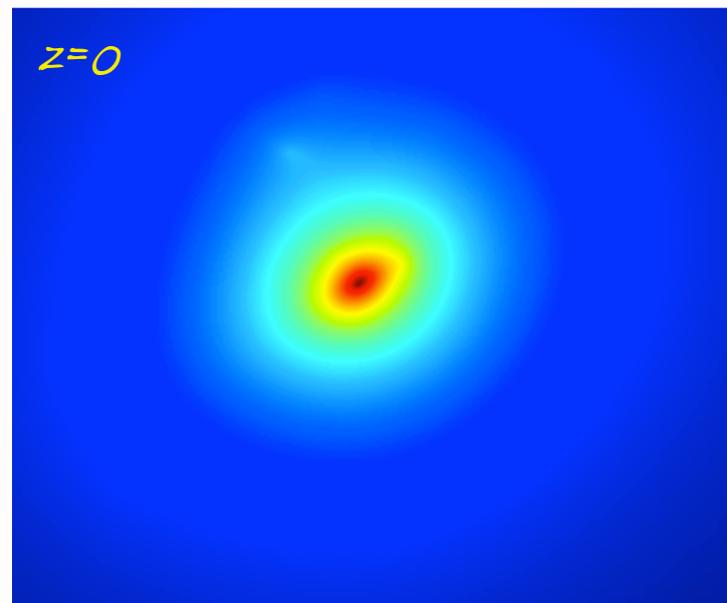
Unsplit methods don't;  
price: ~2x slower in 3D



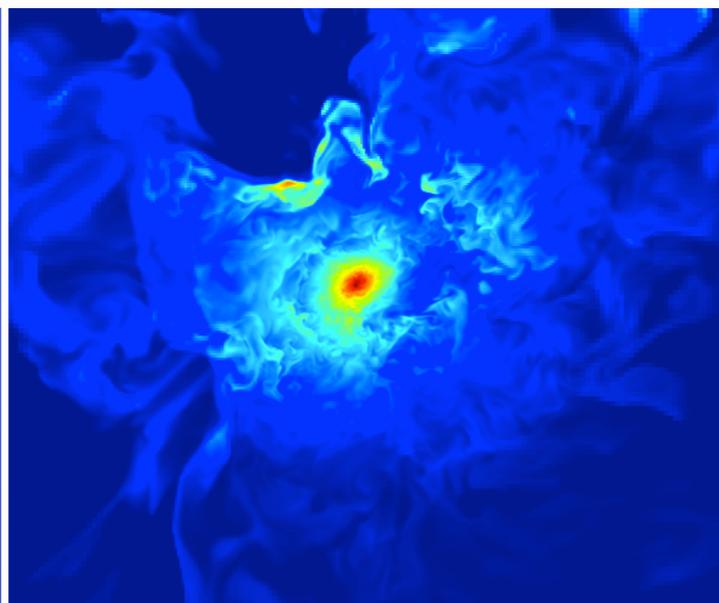
# Validation

Santa Barbara cluster:

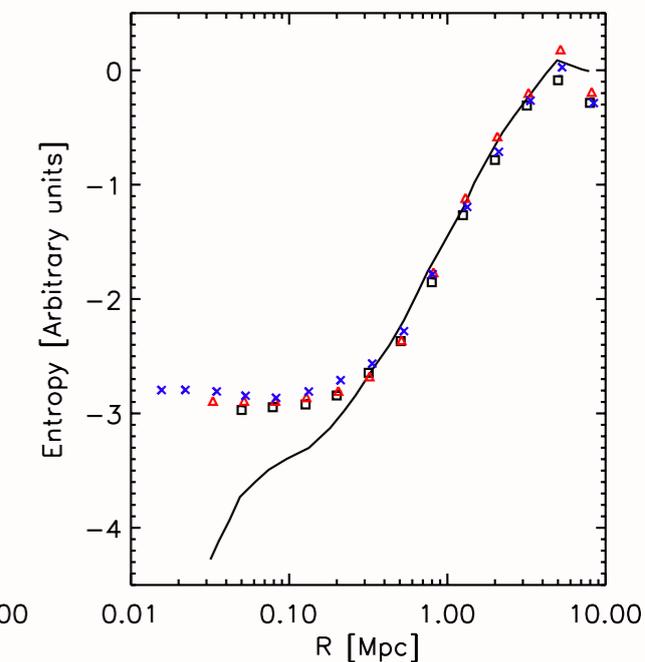
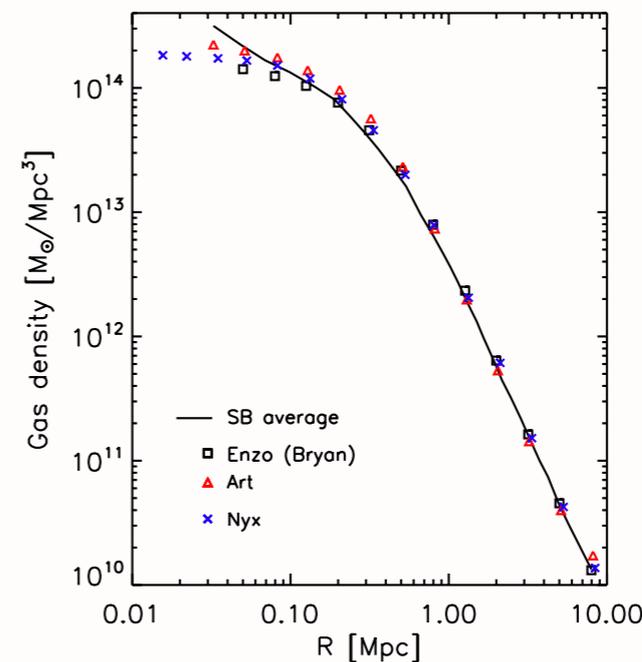
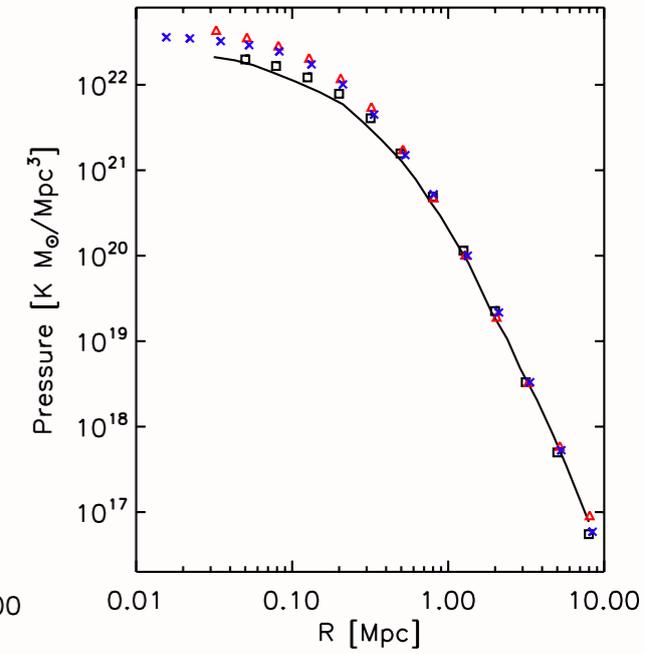
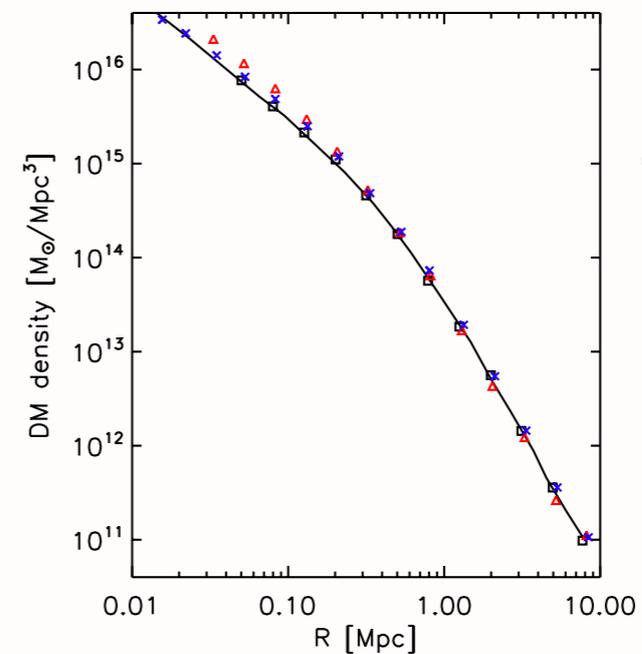
$L=64\text{Mpc}$        $\Omega_{tot}=1$   
 $Z_{ini}=63$        $\Omega_L=0$   
 $h=0.5$        $\Omega_b=0.1$



Grav. potential



Gas temperature



# Scaling

