

# CUBES IN A CAVE

*VISUALISATION AND ANALYSIS  
CHALLENGES FOR THE SKA ERA*

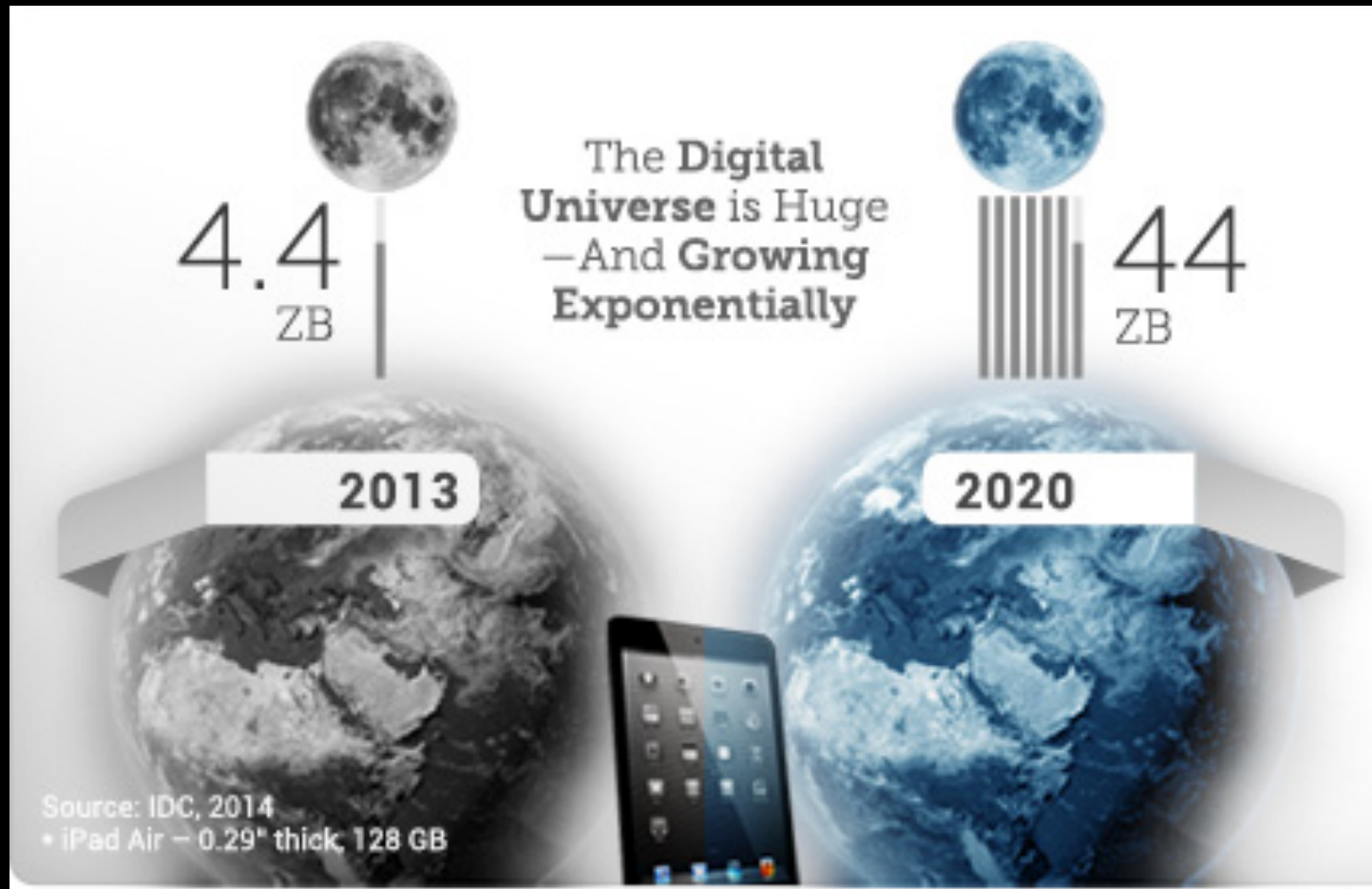


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CAS Scientific Computing & Visualisation: **Amr Hassan**  
Bernard Meade, George Bekiaris, Dany Vohl, Sarah Hegarty  
Monash University e-Research Centre: David Barnes



CRICOS provider 00111D



From Turner et al. (2014) - EMC Digital Universe with Research & Analysis by IDC  
<http://www.emc.com/leadership/digital-universe/2014iview/executive-summary.htm>

Business, Public (images/videos), Internet of Things, Metadata and Science projects

The vast majority will be collected...and then thrown away  
Never analysed, explored or understood

# Data-Rich Astronomy Era (c. 2000)

Data holdings crossed 100 TB barrier (Brunner et al. 2002)

Emergence of...

**Virtual Observatory** concept (e.g. Szalay & Gray 2001)

**“Data intensive scientific discovery”** paradigm emphasizing  
*Automated data mining* (Ball & Brunner 2010, Ivezić et al. 2013)

Taken to the extreme: computers making discoveries...not people

# Visualisation for Knowledge Discovery



**The human visual system is extremely powerful for discovering, exploring and understanding *“interesting things”***

How much of the data collected by SKA will ever be looked at?

What role will visualisation actually play in supporting the scientific goals of the SKA?

What can emerging technologies teach us about how visualisation *might* support knowledge discovery in the SKA era?



# CAVE2@Monash University



Ring diameter ~8m; ~320 degrees FOV





CAVE

## CAVE2 is a hybrid environment for Visualisation Experiments

Immersive Stereoscopic 3D (CAVE)  
84 Mpix for details + context (TDW)  
80 TFLOP/s GPU Supercomputer

Collaboration + Physical navigation



Tiled Display Wall



GPU HPC

Credits: EVL, B.Meade, G.Tan

*Are tiled display walls needed for astronomy?* Meade et al. (2014)

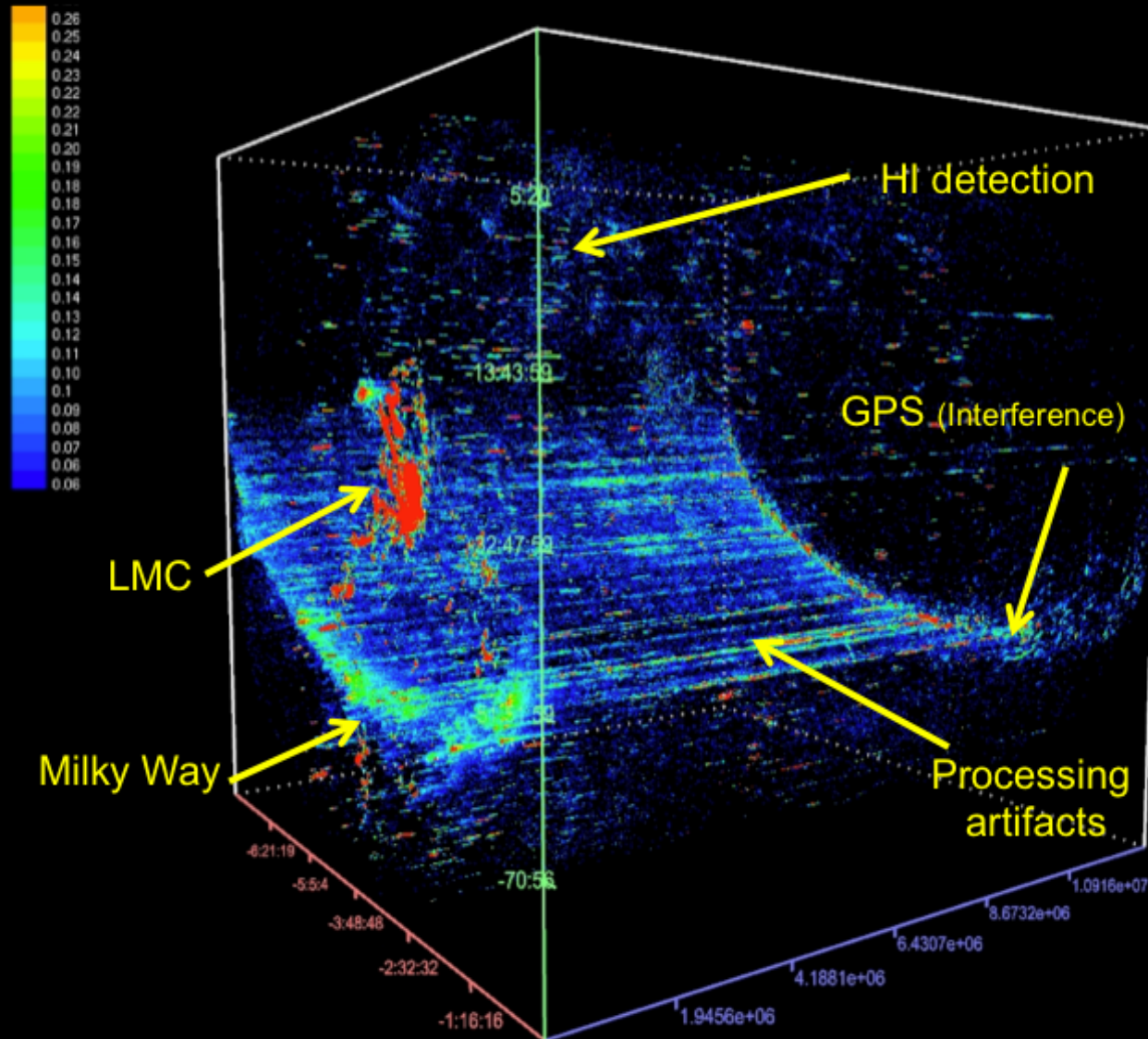
# Example Use Cases: HI Spectral Data Cubes



**One very large file**



**Many individual small files**

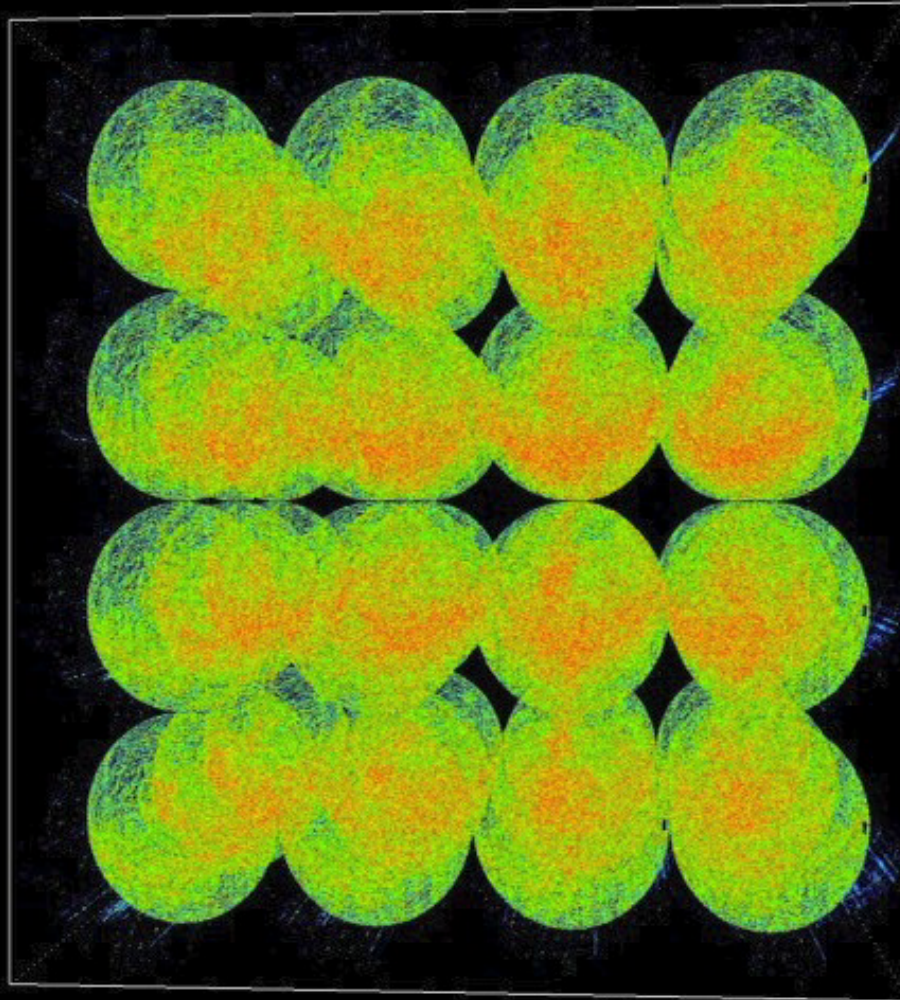


387 HIPASS cubes

**1721 x 1721 x 1024 = 12GB**

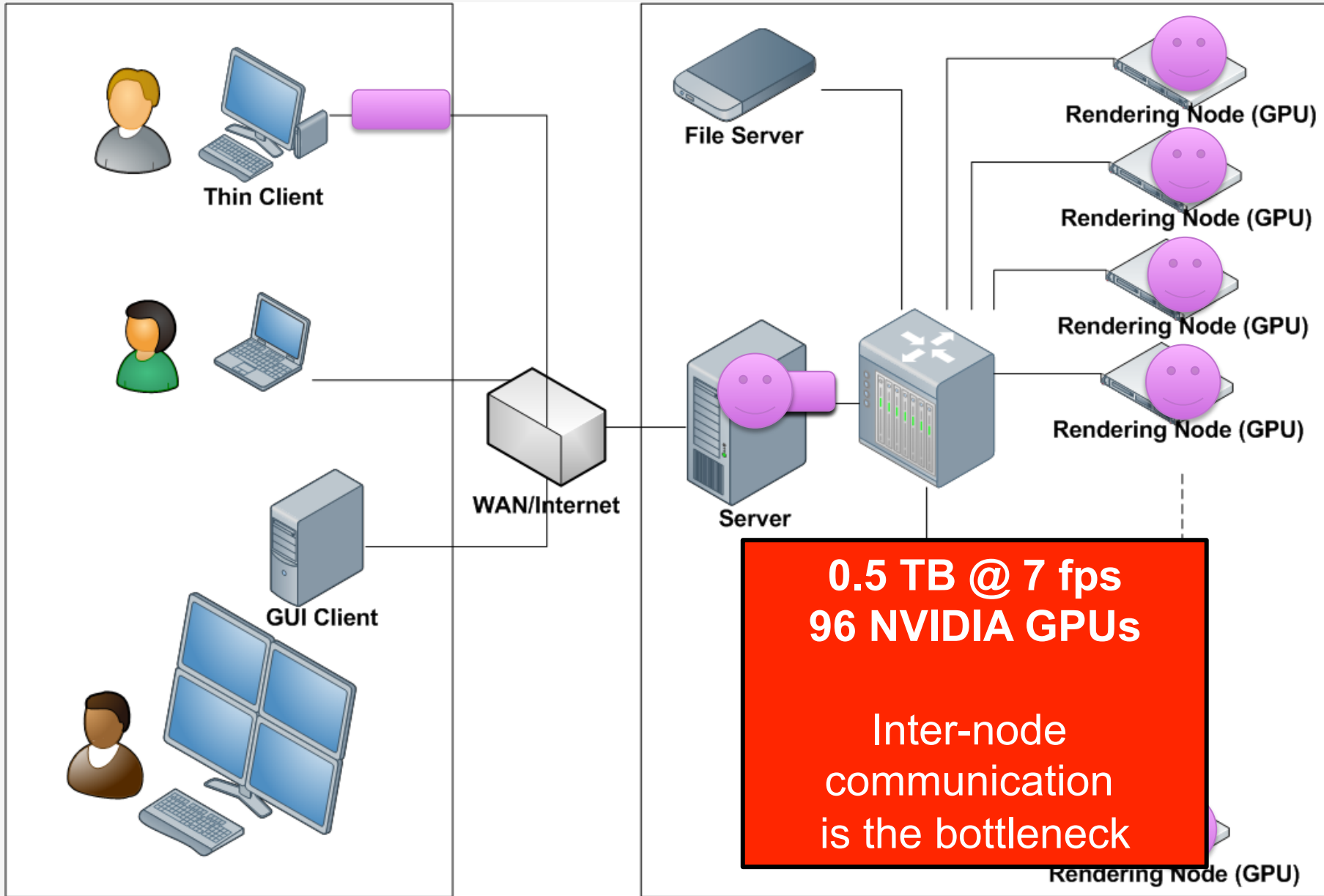
Data: Russell Jurek (ATNF)/HIPASS  
Vis: Amr Hassan





- **48 x HIPASS**
- 6884 x 6884 x 3072
- **542.33 GB**
- **5-10 frames/second**

Courtesy A.Hassan



Possible Remote Clients Configuration

Rendering Cluster

For details see: Hassan et al. (2011), Hassan et al. (2012), Hassan et al. (2013)



## A framework for **Terascale Interactive Visualisation and Analysis** of data

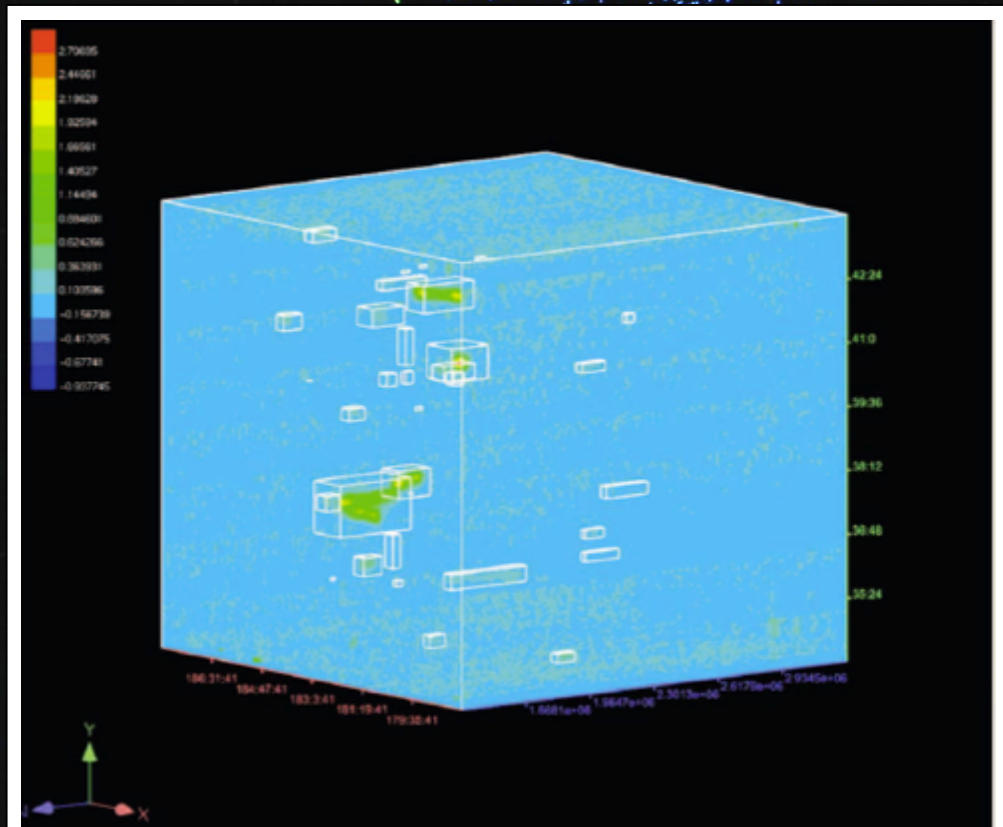
Task	Description	Time
Histogram	Visit each data point once	~4 sec
Global mean and standard deviation	Summarizing whole dataset into single value(s)	~2 sec
Global median	Multiple iterations to convergence (Torben's method)	~45 sec

96 GPUs

48X HIPASS Cube =  $6884 \times 6884 \times 3072 = 145$  Gigavoxels

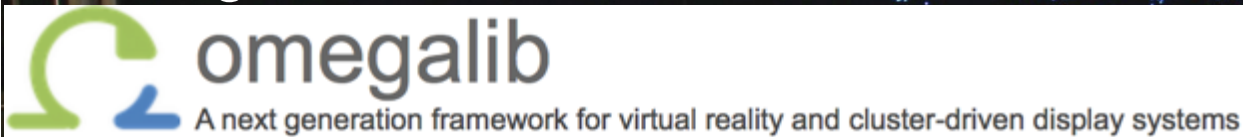
cf. CHILES (A.Popping talk) =  $2048 \times 2048 \times 31000 = 130$  Gigavoxels

# Details + Context for Terascale data: new mode for CAVE2



Duchamp source-finder catalogue overlaid on volume rendering.  
Data: Ursa Major galaxy cluster at 21cm (V.Kilborn)  
Image: Hassan, et al, 2011, ADASS XX

Existing CUDA/C++ code



Courtesy: A.Hassan



# Example Use Cases: HI Spectral Data Cubes



**One very large file**



*GraphTIVA*

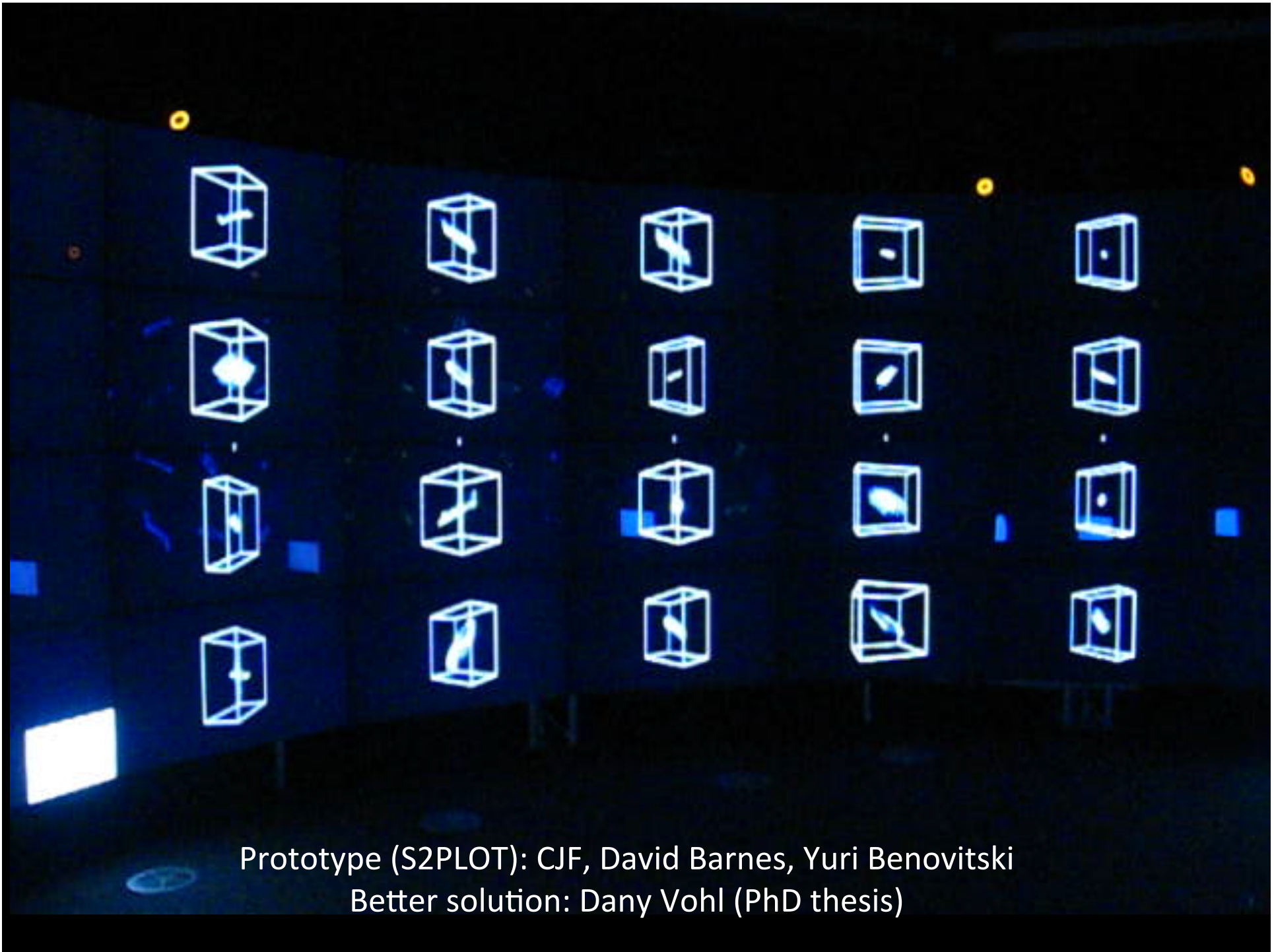
**Many individual small files**

**Cubes in a Cave**  
(CAVE-HD)

CAVE2 = 80 individual stereoscopic panels





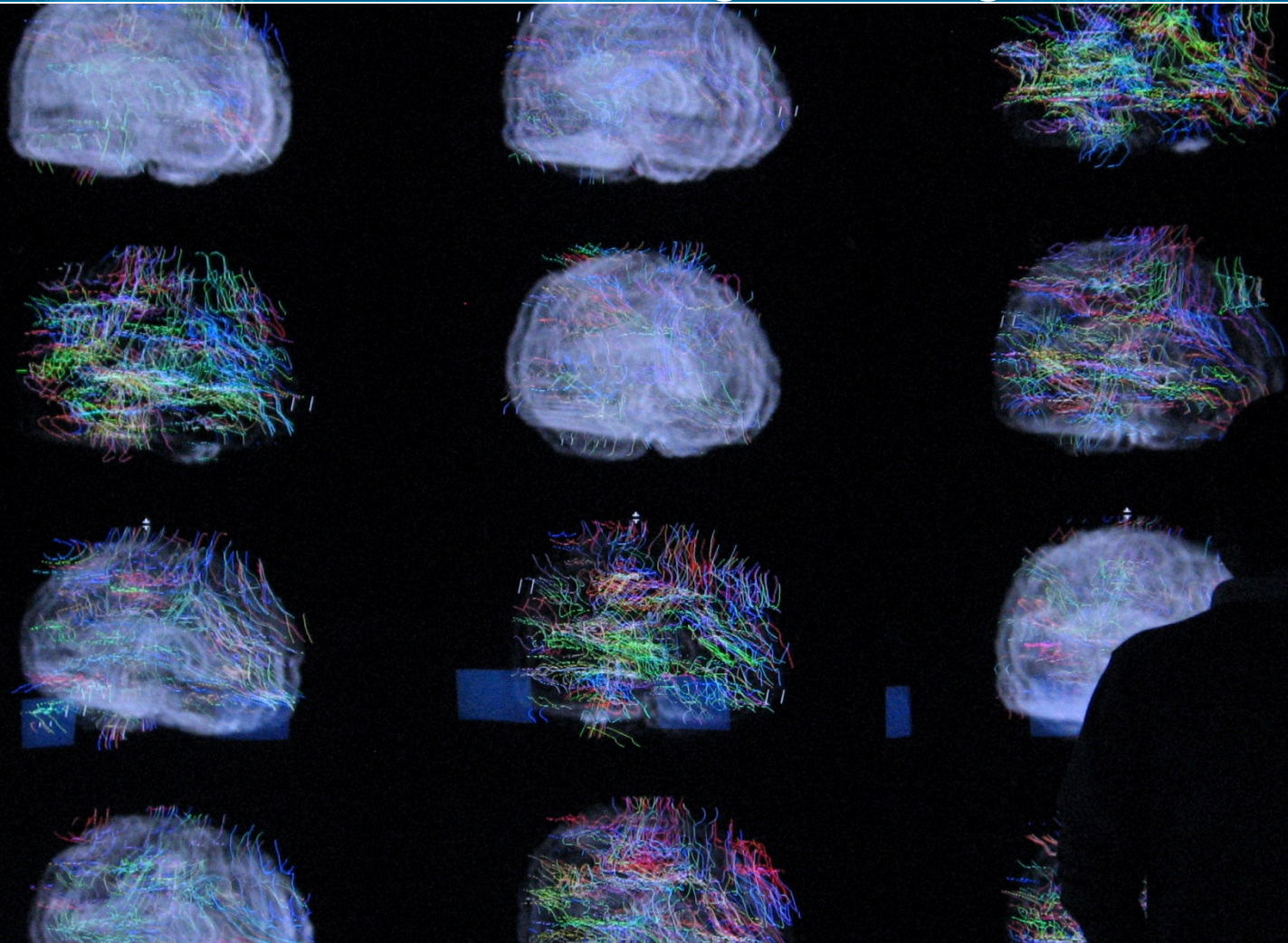


Prototype (S2PLOT): CJF, David Barnes, Yuri Benovitski  
Better solution: Dany Vohl (PhD thesis)



# IMAGE-HD: Early Identification of Huntington's Disease

An incurable neurodegenerative genetic disorder

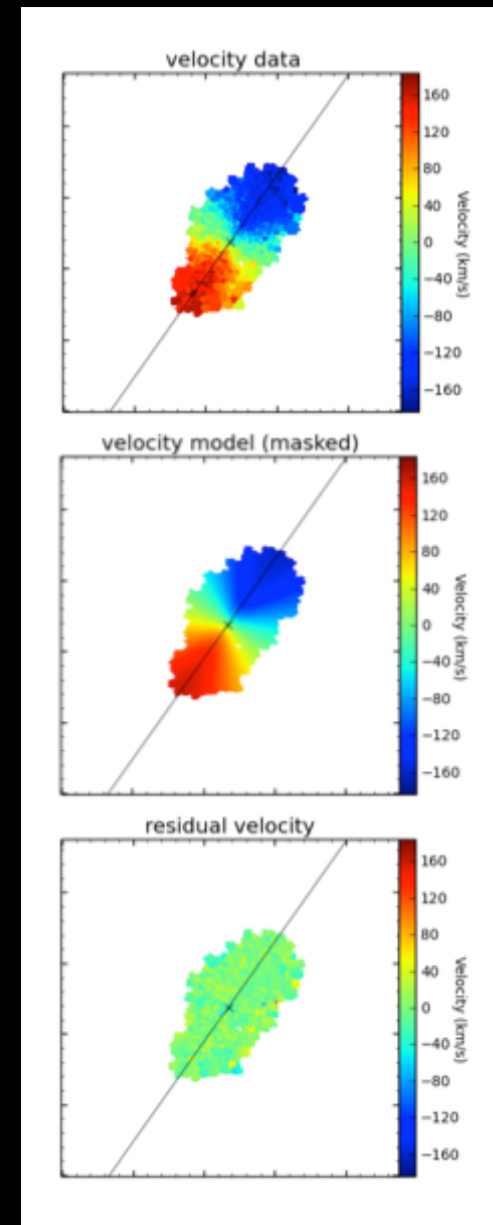
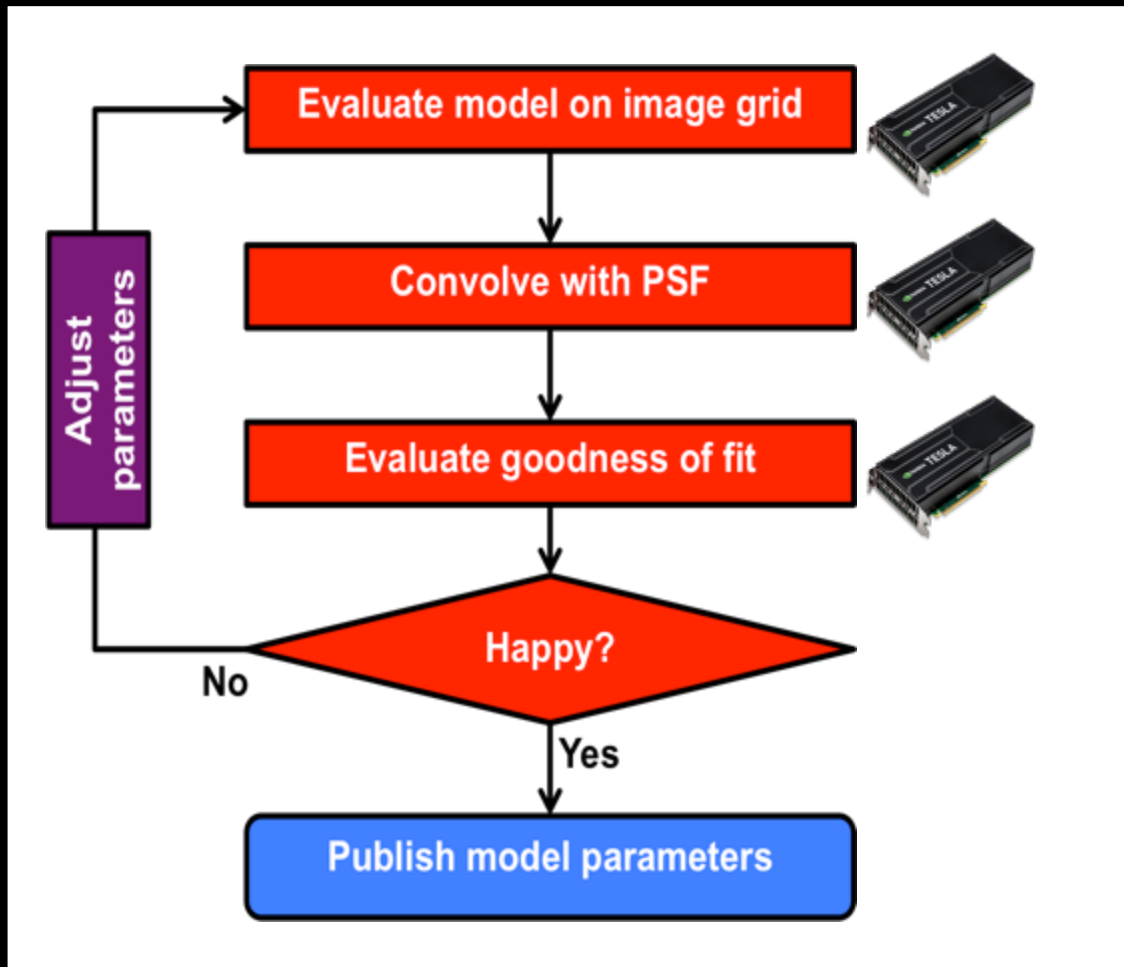


First impressions: *"It would would take me months at my desktop to make the type of discovery that could be done in an hour in the CAVE2."*

CAVE-HD: David Barnes (Monash), Yuri Benovitski (Monash/Bionics Institute), Owen Kaluza (Monash), Govinda Poudel (Monash), CJF



# CAVE2 = Visualisation environment + GPU Supercomputer



*Kinematic Modeling of Disc Galaxies using GPUs*

George Bekiaris et al. (submitted)

- 100x speed-up compared to single thread on CPU
- 10x speed-up compared to multi-threaded

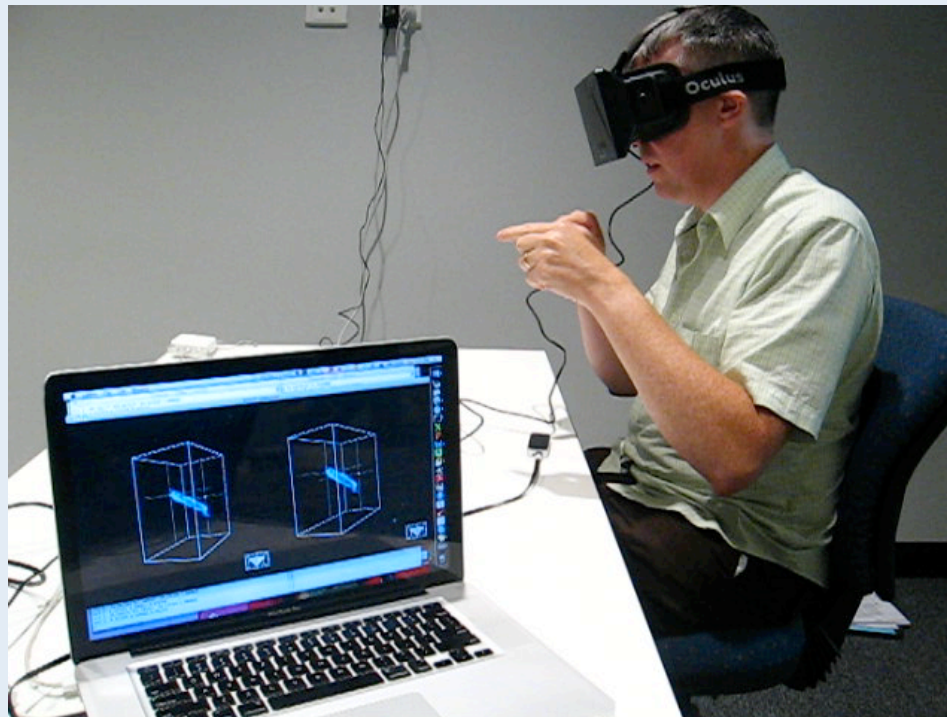
# Visualisation for Knowledge Discovery



What role will visualisation actually play in supporting the science goals of the SKA?

*Transformational science* might just benefit from *transformational technologies*...

*“Unknown unknowns”* may also apply to the emergence of technology



Can't fit  
a CAVE2 in  
your office?  
Try an  
**Oculus Rift**  
with a  
**Leap  
Motion**

## Optional question



**That's nice Chris, but does everyone actually need to regularly use the CAVE2 for science?**

Of course not!

In fact you might only need to use it once or twice to help ***accelerate discovery*** before returning to more traditional and/or automated techniques.

At this stage, the CAVE2 is so new, that our goal is to understand how/why alternative approaches might work when the data scales beyond what can be achieved at the desktop.