

# Basic Visualization Techniques & ParaView

Theodoros Christoudias Cyprus Institute



# Visualizing Scientific Data

- Common Visualization Techniques
  - Mesh view
  - Outer surface with attributes
  - Slicing
  - Glyphing
  - Contouring
  - Volume rendering















### Visualization Software

 We will explain how to generate the common visualizations using the ParaView visualization software





### What is ParaView

- An open-source application for visualizing scientific data sets
- Supports a wide range of platforms, from laptop to supercomputers with 100,000 cores
- Built on top of VTK, the visualization toolkit, but with intuitive graphical user interface
- Modular design, can be controlled using scripting language such as python
- Can run on distributed memory parallel computers to process large data sets







### ParaView Software Stack





### ParaView Data Model

 ParaView can process the following types of spatial data





### ParaView User Interface









 Draw the face either in wireframe or surface (or both) mode using a preferred graphics library (such as OpenGL)





# Mesh Surface with Colors

- Map the attribute values at the vertices of each cell to colors by a lookup table
- Draw the faces in surface mode with the color attributes using a preferred graphics library (such as OpenGL)
- Colors are interpolated across the surface







### Data Slicing

- Intersecting the mesh with a slicing surface (slicer)
- The slicer can be represented as an implicit function f(x,y,z) = 0
- A plane is typically used (Ax + By + Cz+ D = 0), but does not need to be
- Data attributes are sampled at the intersection points between the slicer and the mesh, and the resulting polygonal mesh is rendered









- Pros: Precise
- Cons: extremely local, and can cause visual cluttering
- Example: arrows to depict vectors











- Show all the points whose attribute values equal to a constant; f(x,y,z) = C
- Contouring on a 2D surface: curves
- Contouring in a 3D volume: surfaces
- Discrete algorithms are needed to

extract the contours (e.g. Marching Cubes)













### **Volume Rendering**

- A method to visualize the entire 3D data set by simulating light transport across the volume
- A 2D projection of 3D disgrete samples







### ParaView Demo

#### https://www.paraview.org/download



#### http://christoudias.cyi.ac.cy/data