Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing

David Keyes

Department of Applied Physics & Applied Mathematics

Columbia University
Presentation plan

- **Are we ready to call simulation “science”?**
  - Supporting trends
  - Hurdles to science by simulation

- **DOE’s SciDAC initiative**
  - Anatomy of a scientific simulation program
  - A few “stories from the trenches”

- **Outlook**
  - Climate for simulation
  - Illustrative scientific opportunities
Can simulation produce more than “insight”? 

“The purpose of computing is *insight*, not numbers.”

— R. W. Hamming (1961) 

“The computer literally is providing a new window through which we can observe the natural world in exquisite detail.”

— J. S. Langer (1998) 

“What changed were simulations that showed that the new ITER design will, in fact, be capable of achieving and sustaining burning plasma.”

— R. L. Orbach (2003, in Congressional testimony about why the U.S. intends to rejoin the International Thermonuclear Energy Reactor (ITER) consortium)
Can simulation lead to scientific discovery?

Images c/o R. Cheng (left), J. Bell (right), LBNL, and NERSC
2003 SIAM/ACM Prize in CS&E (J. Bell & P. Colella)
Turbulent combustion example...

- **Simulation models and methods:**
  - Detailed chemical kinetics w 84 reactions, 21 species
  - Acoustically filtered compressible fluid model
  - Adaptive mesh refinement, $10^4 \times$ speedup
  - Message-passing parallelism, 2048 procs

- **Reaction zone location** a delicate balance of fluxes of: species, momentum, internal energy

- **Directly relevant to:** engines, turbines, furnaces, incinerators (energy efficiency, pollution mitigation)

- **Component model of other computational apps:** firespread, stellar dynamics, chemical processing

- **Theory, experiment, and simulation** feed on and enrich each other

This simulation sits at the pinnacle of numerous prior achievements in experiment, theory, and computer science.
Gedanken experiment:
How to use a jar of peanut butter as its price slides downward?

- In 2005, at $3.20: make sandwiches
- By 2008, at $0.80: make recipe substitutions for other oils
- By 2011, at $0.20: use as feedstock for biopolymers, plastics, etc.
- By 2014, at $0.05: heat homes
- By 2017, at $0.0125: pave roads 😊

The cost of computing has been on a curve much better than this for two decades and promises to continue for at least one more. Like everyone else, scientists should plan increasing uses for it…

CSGF, 21 June 2005
# Gordon Bell Prize: “price performance”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Application</th>
<th>System</th>
<th>$ per Mflops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Reservoir modeling</td>
<td>CM-2</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Electronic structure</td>
<td>IPSC</td>
<td>1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Polymer dynamics</td>
<td>cluster</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Image analysis</td>
<td>custom</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Quant molecular dyn</td>
<td>cluster</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Comp fluid dynamics</td>
<td>cluster</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Electronic structure</td>
<td>SGI</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Gravitation</td>
<td>cluster</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Quant chromody</td>
<td>custom</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Gravitation</td>
<td>custom</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Comp fluid dynamics</td>
<td>cluster</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Structural analysis</td>
<td>cluster</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Four orders of magnitude in 12 years

2005 update: another order of magnitude for various graphical applications
Gordon Bell Prize: “peak performance”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Application</th>
<th>No. Procs</th>
<th>System</th>
<th>Gflop/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>PDE</td>
<td>Structures</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cray Y-MP</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>PDE</td>
<td>Seismic</td>
<td>2,048</td>
<td>CM-2</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>PDE</td>
<td>Seismic</td>
<td>2,048</td>
<td>CM-2</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>NB</td>
<td>Gravitation</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>MC</td>
<td>Boltzmann</td>
<td>1,024</td>
<td>CM-5</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>IE</td>
<td>Structures</td>
<td>1,904</td>
<td>Paragon</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>MC</td>
<td>QCD</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>NWT</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>PDE</td>
<td>CFD</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>NWT</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>NB</td>
<td>Gravitation</td>
<td>4,096</td>
<td>ASCI Red</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>Magnetism</td>
<td>1,536</td>
<td>T3E-1200</td>
<td>1,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>PDE</td>
<td>CFD</td>
<td>5,832</td>
<td>ASCI BluePac</td>
<td>627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>NB</td>
<td>Gravitation</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>GRAPE-6</td>
<td>1,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>NB</td>
<td>Gravitation</td>
<td>1,024</td>
<td>GRAPE-6</td>
<td>11,550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Four orders of magnitude in 13 years

2005 update: > 50 Tflop/s expected by at least three DOE-led teams on BG/L
Some recent Bell “special” prizes

- 2002 Bell Prize in “special category” went to an implicit, unstructured grid structural mechanics problem (static and vibrational analysis)
  - 60 million degrees of freedom
  - 1 Tflop/s sustained on 3000+ processors of IBM’s “ASCI White”
  - In production in engineering design and certification at Sandia
Some recent Bell “special” prizes

- 2003 Bell Prize in “special category” went to explicit, unstructured grid geological parameter estimation problem (seismic inversion)
  - 17 million degrees of freedom in mesh; 70 billion overall
  - 1 Tflop/s sustained on 2000+ processors of HP’s “Lemieux”
  - in production use in NSF-sponsored seismology research
Some recent Bell “special” prizes

- 2004 Bell Prize in “special category” went to an implicit, unstructured grid large-deformation compression analysis for bone
  - half-billion degrees of freedom
  - 0.5 Tflop/s sustained on 4 thousand procs of ASCI White
  - in production at Berkeley bone mechanics lab
Gordon Bell Prize outpaces Moore’s Law

Gordon Bell Prize

Four orders of magnitude in 13 years

CONCURRENCY!!!

DOE CSGF, 21 June 2005
IBM’s BlueGene/L: 65536 dual procs, 180 Tflop/s

Cabinet (32 Node boards, 8x8x16)

Node Board (32 chips, 4x4x2)
16 Compute Cards

Compute Card (2 chips, 2x1x1)

Chip (2 processors)

2.8/5.6 GF/s
4 MB

5.6/11.2 GF/s
0.5 GB DDR

90/180 GF/s
8 GB DDR

2.9/5.7 TF/s
256 GB DDR

90/180 GF/s
8 GB DDR

Present offer from IBM
Single cabinet
5.7 TFlop/s peak
$2M in acad. consortium

System (64 cabinets, 64x32x32)
Tflop/s-capable machines on “Top500”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>398</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

June 2005 list to be published tomorrow at ISC 2005 in Heidelberg!

Power to the people

CSGF, 21 June 2005
The imperative of simulation

In these, and many other areas, simulation is an important complement to experiment.
In these, and many other areas, simulation is an important complement to experiment.
The imperative of simulation

In these, and many other areas, simulation is an important complement to experiment.
The imperative of simulation

In these, and many other areas, simulation is an important complement to experiment.
The imperative of simulation

- Experiments prohibited or impossible
- Experiments dangerous
- Experiments controversial

Experiments prohibited or impossible
- Applied Physics: radiation transport, supernovae
- Environment: global climate, contaminant transport
- Biology: drug design, genomics
- Engineering: crash testing, aerodynamics
- Lasers & Energy: combustion, ICF

Scientific Simulation

In these, and many other areas, simulation is an important complement to experiment.
The imperative of simulation

In these, and many other areas, simulation is an important complement to experiment.
Hurdles to simulation

- **“Triple finiteness” of computers**
  - finite precision
  - finite number of words
  - finite processing rate

- **Curse of dimensionality**
  - Moore’s Law is quickly “eaten up” in 3 space dimensions plus time

- **Acceptance**
  - models, inputs are often poorly known
  - paltry standards for reproducibility

- **Knowledge explosion**
  - no one scientist can track all necessary developments

Need: stability, optimality of representation & optimality of work

Need adaptivity

Need UQ methods & fuller archiving

Need good colleagues 😊
The power of optimal algorithms

- Advances in algorithmic efficiency rival advances in hardware architecture
- Consider Poisson’s equation on a cube of size $N=n^3$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Storage</th>
<th>Flops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>GE (banded)</td>
<td>Von Neumann &amp; Goldstine</td>
<td>$n^5$</td>
<td>$n^7$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Optimal SOR</td>
<td>Young</td>
<td>$n^3$</td>
<td>$n^4 \log n$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>CG</td>
<td>Reid</td>
<td>$n^3$</td>
<td>$n^{3.5} \log n$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Full MG</td>
<td>Brandt</td>
<td>$n^3$</td>
<td>$n^3$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- If $n=64$, this implies an overall reduction in flops of ~16 million*

*Six-months is reduced to 1 s
Optimality from multilevel preconditioning

A Multigrid V-cycle

Restriction
transfer from
fine to coarse
grid

coa rser grid has fewer cells
(less work & storage)

Recursively apply this
idea until we have an
easy problem to solve

Prolongation
transfer from coarse
to fine grid
Algorithms and Moore’s Law

- This advance took place over a span of about 36 years, or 24 doubling times for Moore’s Law
- $2^{24} \approx 16$ million $\Rightarrow$ the same as the factor from algorithms alone!
Today: a perfect season for simulation

(dates are symbolic)

“Computational science is undergoing a phase transition.” – D. Hitchcock, DOE
Designing a simulation code

V&V loop

Mathematical Model?

Applied Mathematics
(basic algorithms)

Theoretical Science
(mathematical models)

Computer Science
(systems software)

Computational Science
(scientific codes)

Computational Predictions

Disagree

Comparison to Experiment?

Agree

Code Performance?

Good

Performance loop

High-performance, Validated “Tool” for Scientific Discovery

How large-scale simulation is structured

- **Applications-driven**
  - motivation is from applications to enabling technologies
  - applications expose challenges, enabling technologies respond

- **Enabling technologies-intensive**
  - in many cases, the application agenda is well-defined
  - architecture, algorithms, and software represent bottlenecks

- **Most worthwhile development may be at the interface**
● “Enabling technologies” groups to develop reusable software and partner with application groups

● From 2001 start-up, 51 projects share $57M/year
  ■ Approximately one-third for applications
  ■ A third for “integrated software infrastructure centers”
  ■ A third for grid infrastructure and collaboratories

● Plus, multi-Tflop/s IBM SP machines at NERSC and ORNL available for SciDAC researchers
4 projects in high energy and nuclear physics

18 projects in scientific software and network infrastructure

14 projects in biological and environmental research

5 projects in fusion energy science

10 projects will in basic energy sciences
SciDAC’s Integrated Software Infrastructure Centers

- Scientific Data Management
- Common Component Architecture
- Performance Engineering Research Center
- Scalable Systems Software
- Terascale Simulation Tools & Technologies
- Applied Partial Differential Equations Center
- Terascale Optimal PDE Simulations
SciDAC’s Grid Infrastructure Projects

DOE Science Grid

FusionGrid

Particle Physics Data Grid

GrPhysN

Earth System Grid

plus several others ...
Features of DOE’s SciDAC initiative

- Affirmation of importance of simulation
  - for new scientific discovery, not just for “fitting” experiments

- Recognition that leading-edge simulation is interdisciplinary
  - physicists and chemists not supported to write their own software infrastructure; deliverables intertwined with those of math & CS experts

- Commitment to distributed hierarchical memory computers
  - new code must target this architecture type

- Commitment to maintenance of software infrastructure (*rare to find this 😊*)

- Requirement of lab-university collaborations
  - complementary strengths in simulation
  - 13 laboratories and 50 universities in first round of projects
Collaborators in 5-year $17M SciDAC scalable solvers project
Toolchain for PDE solvers in TOPS project

- **Design and implementation of “solvers”**
  - Time integrators
    (w/ sens. anal.)
  - Nonlinear solvers
    (w/ sens. anal.)
  - Constrained optimizers
    \[
    \min_{u} \phi(x,u) \text{ s.t. } F(x,u) = 0, u \geq 0
    \]
  - Linear solvers
  - Eigen solvers

- **Software integration**
- **Performance optimization**
Illustrations from computational MHD

- **M3D code (Princeton)**
  - multigrid for optimality
- **NIMROD code (General Atomics)**
  - direct elimination for robustness
- **AORSA code (Oak Ridge)**
  - new bases for storage economy

The fusion community uses more cycles on unclassified U.S. DOE computers than any other (32% of all cycles at NERSC in 2003). Well over 90% of the cycles are spent solving *linear systems* in each of these three codes, which are prime U.S. contributions to the designing of ITER.
Light a Star on Earth
The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor project (ITER)
The following slide is rated for explicit equations.

No one admitted unless accompanied by a mathematician or physical scientist.
Magnetohydrodynamics: Maxwell’s equations of electromagnetics coupled to Navier-Stokes equations of fluid flow:

\[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = - \nabla \times \mathbf{E} \]

\[ \mathbf{E} = - \mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B} + \eta \mathbf{J} \]

\[ \mu_0 \mathbf{J} = \nabla \times \mathbf{B} \]

\[ \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (n \mathbf{V}) = 0 \]

\[ \rho \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{V}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{V} \right) = \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} - \nabla p + \nabla \cdot \nu \rho \nabla \mathbf{V} \]

\[ \frac{n}{\gamma - 1} \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla T \right) = -p \nabla \cdot \mathbf{V} + \nabla \cdot n \left[ (\chi_\parallel - \chi_\perp) \mathbf{b} \mathbf{b} + \chi_\perp \mathbf{I} \right] \cdot \nabla T + Q \]
Challenges in magnetic fusion

- Conditions of interest possess two properties that pose great challenges to numerical approaches—anisotropy and stiffness
  
  - Anisotropy produces subtle balances of large forces, and vastly different parallel and perpendicular transport properties
  
  - Stiffness reflects the vast range of time-scales in the system: targeted physics is slow (~transport scale) compared to waves
  
- These have led to a family of codes specialized to numerous regimes (52 DOE codes inventoried in 2002)
**M3D: multigrid for optimality**

- **M3D code**
  - realistic toroidal geom., unstructured mesh, hybrid FE/FD discretization
  - parallelized through domain decomposition w/PETSc (www.mcs.anl.gov/petsc)

- **SciDAC accomplishment**
  - reformulation of Poisson solves to exploit symmetry and coefficient reuse
  - replacement of additive Schwarz (ASM) preconditioner with algebraic multigrid (AMG) from Hypre (www.llnl.gov/CASC/linear_solvers)
  - achieved mesh-independent convergence
  - 4-5 × improvement in solver execution time
NIMROD: direct elim. for robustness

- **NIMROD code**
  - high-order finite elements
  - complex, nonsymmetric linear systems with 10K-100K unknowns SciDAC accomplishment

- **SciDAC accomplishment**
  - replacement of diagonally scaled Krylov with SuperLU, a supernodal parallel sparse direct solver
    (crd.lbl.gov/~xiaoye/SuperLU)
  - $4-5 \times$ improvement in solver execution time

CSGF, 21 June 2005
AORSA: new bases for storage

- **AORSA code**
  - fully spectral harmonic Maxwell formulation for RF plasma heating
  - large, dense systems with 780 GB of matrix data

- **SciDAC accomplishment**
  - replacement of Fourier formulation with physical ("configuration") space
  - 3D production runs are 27 × faster (the linear systems are solved 100 × faster)
  - storage is only 26 GB
“Moore’s Law” for MHD simulations

Magnetic Fusion Energy: “Effective speed” increases came from both faster hardware and improved algorithms

- **“Semi-implicit”**: All waves treated implicitly, but still stability-limited by transport
- **“Partially implicit”**: Fastest waves filtered, but still stability-limited by slower waves

Figure from SCaLeS report, Volume 2
Today’s take on an old proverb…

“A few months in the laboratory can frequently save a few hours in the library.”

-Frank Westheimer,
Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, Harvard

“A few hours on the supercomputer can frequently save a few months in the laboratory.”
“SCaLeS” Report

Volume I (July 2003)
- Chapter 1. Introduction
- Chapter 2. Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing: a Successful Pilot Program
- Chapter 3. Anatomy of a Large-scale Simulation
- Chapter 4. Opportunities at the Scientific Horizon
- Chapter 5. Enabling Mathematics and Computer Science Tools
- Chapter 6. Recommendations and Discussion

Volume II (September 2004)
- 11 chapters on applications
- 16 chapters on enabling technologies
Climate for scientific simulation

- Much federal pulse-taking …
  - Cyberinfrastructure (NSF, 2003)
  - SCaLeS (DOE, 2003)
  - HECRTF (Interagency, 2004)
  - Future of Supercomputing (NAS, 2005)
  - PITAC-2 (Interagency, 2005)

- … but threatened decline in federal support
  - NSF supercomputer centers, DARPA, ASCI

- Labs leading in hardware and mission “buy-in”

- Professional societies, conferences, journals rising to the opportunities

- Universities slowing catching up with CS&E certificates and degrees
Scientific “market share” must increase

- Cost curves crossing in every domain
  - Accelerators to wind tunnels, drug design to reservoir development
- Tools improving
  - Capability pushing upwards, training barrier extending downwards
- Best stories still ahead
What would we do with 100-1000x more?

**Example:** predict future climates

**Resolution of Kuroshio Current:** Simulations at various resolutions have demonstrated that, because equatorial meso-scale eddies have diameters ~10-200 km, the grid spacing must be < 10 km to adequately resolve the eddy spectrum. This is illustrated in four images of the sea-surface temperature. Figure (a) shows a snapshot from satellite observations, while the three other figures are snapshots from simulations at resolutions of (b) 2°, (c) 0.28°, and (d) 0.1°.
What would we do with 100-1000x more?  

**Example:** probe the structure of particles

*Constraints on the Standard Model parameters ρ and η.* For the Standard Model to be correct, these parameters from the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) matrix must be restricted to the region of overlap of the solidly colored bands. The figure on the left shows the constraints as they exist today. The figure on the right shows the constraints as they would exist with no improvement in the experimental errors, but with lattice gauge theory uncertainties reduced to 3%.
Wrap up claims

- Simulation will become *increasingly cost-effective* relative to experiment, while never fully replacing experiment
- Simulation may define today’s *limit to progress* in areas that are already theoretically well modeled
- Simulation *aids model refinement* in areas not already well modeled (via interplay with theory)
- Advanced simulation makes scientists and engineers *more productive*
Wrap up lessons from SciDAC

- Much high pay-off work to be done in large-scale simulation is *at the interface* between disciplines.
- *Mission-oriented laboratories and idea-oriented universities* make good partners in developing the “science” of simulation.
On “Experimental Mathematics”

“There will be opened a gateway and a road to a large and excellent science into which minds more piercing than mine shall penetrate to recesses still deeper.”

Galileo (1564-1642) on “experimental mathematics”
Related URLs

- **TOPS project**
  
  http://www.tops-scidac.org

- **SciDAC initiative**
  
  http://www.science.doe.gov/scidac

- **SCaLeS report**
  
  http://www.pnl.gov/scales
EOF