

20th EG/VGTC Conference on Visualization



# Key Time Steps Selection for Large-Scale Time-Varying Volume Datasets Using an Information-Theoretic Storyboard

Bo Zhou and Yi-Jen Chiang

New York University, NY, USA





#### Data

- Scientific data, usually generated by simulations
- Regular-grid scalar field --- a scalar value at each vertex (e.g., temperature, pressure, etc.) of the regular-grid volume mesh
- Time-varying: (*T* time steps) x (*N* vertices)

#### **Motivation**

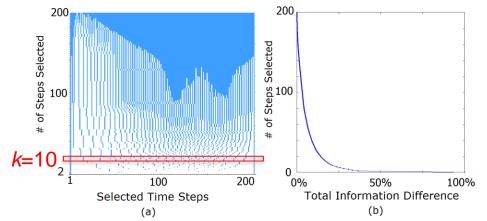
- Expensive to visualize all time steps
- Typically only small changes are between consecutive time steps
- Select a few time steps with the most salient features to visualize, with theoretical guarantees
- Provide a storyboard to guide the user during data exploration

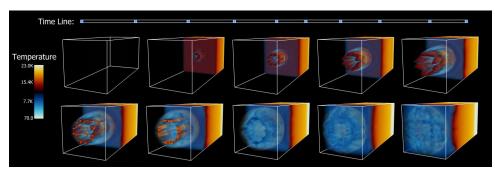
# Proposed Scheme

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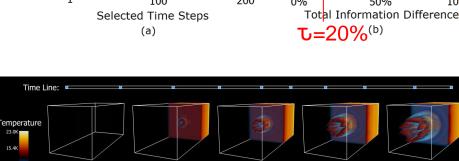
- After fully-automatic preprocessing, storyboard to answer in run-time:
- User inputs *k*<=*T*; return a selection of *k* time steps that best represent the data



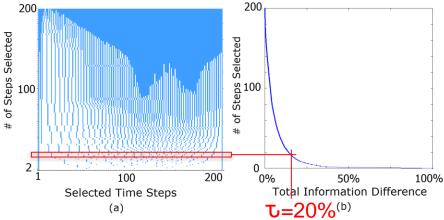


# Proposed Scheme

- After fully-automatic preprocessing, storyboard to answer in run-time:
- User inputs *k*<=*T*; return a selection of *k* time steps that best represent the data
- User inputs a tolerance τ (in %) of Total Information Difference; return the fewest time steps to satisfy Information Difference <= τ</li>



70.0











#### **Previous Work**

In video processing

*key frame selection* is well studied (large number of frames & small data size in each frame). Dynamic programming [Liu *et al.* 02]; many others are greedy methods --- excellent survey [Hu *et al.* 11]

In volume visualization

 Many results are based on local/greedy considerations: [Akiba *et al.* 06 & 07], [Lu *et al.* 08]; *importance curves* [Wang *et al.* 08]; Time Activity Curve (TAC) [e.g., Woodring *et al.* 09, Lee *et al.* 09, Lee *et al.* 09, Lee *et al.* 09]; *TransGraph* [Gu *et al.* 11]; *in-situ* method [Myers *et al.* 16].

• *Flow-based* approach [Frey *et al.* 17]: random sampling

 Globally Optimal: Dynamic time warping (DTW) [Tong et al. 12]: dynamic programming; I/O issue not considered (can't handle large data)





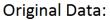
#### **Our New Approaches**

- Fully automatic preprocessing; globally optimal by dynamic programming
- Provide a storyboard of the data to guide data exploration in run time
- Out-of-Core approximate method (multi-pass dynamic programming)
  + optimal I/O
- + significant speed-up for large data (1000+ hrs  $\rightarrow$  < 20 hrs!)
- + close-to-optimal selection qualities
- Independent of the selection-quality metrics used
- + We give Information Difference (InfoD) based on information theory (could extract unknown salient data features [Wang et al. 11])
- + All experiments were under both InfoD and root-mean-square error (RMSE)



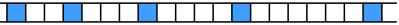


• How to quantify the quality of selected time steps?





Selected Data:





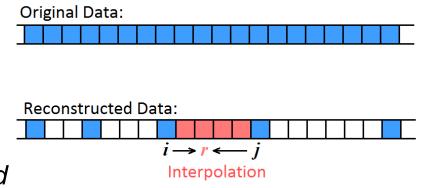


• How to quantify the quality of selected time steps?

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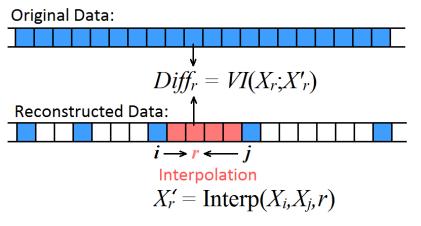
 When looking at the missing time steps, the user would probably reconstruct the missing data in mind to understand what is going on.







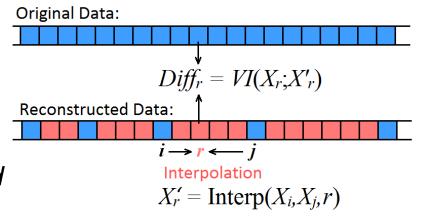
- How to quantify the quality of selected time steps?
- When looking at the missing time steps, the user would probably reconstruct the missing data in mind to understand what is going on.
- We use linear interpolation to "simulate" that process. Quantify the difference of information between the reconstructed and the original data.







- How to quantify the quality of selected time steps?
- When looking at the missing time steps, the user would probably reconstruct the missing data in mind to understand what is going on.
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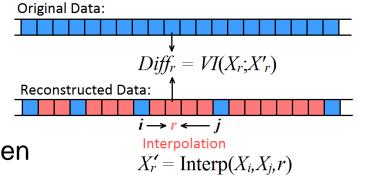
• Find *k* time steps that minimize the Total Information Difference.





## **Dynamic Programming**

- *Diffr* = *VI*(*Xr*; *X'r*): Difference between reconstructed data and original data
- $c(i, j) = \sum_{i < r < j} Diff_r$ : Cost for selecting time steps *i* and *j* while skipping all others in between



•  $D^{(k)}(T)$  : Minimum cost for selecting *k* time steps from {1... T} The first and last time steps must be selected (linear interp.)

 $D^{(k)}(T) = \min_{1$  $(Subproblem: <math>D^{(k)}(i) = \min_{1 for <math>i : 1 \rightarrow T$  and  $k: 2 \rightarrow T$ )



# **Complexity Analysis**

- *T* time steps (50 ~ 500)
- N vertices for each time step (100M ~ 500M)
- Time to compute c(i, j) in table C for all pairs  $\{i, j\}$ :  $O(T^3N)$ 
  - Esp. if not fit in memory, #blocks disk read:  $O(T^3N/B) \leftarrow Too Slow$
- Time to compute D<sup>(k)</sup>(i) in the memorization table D for all tuples {i, k}: O(T<sup>3</sup>)
- Total in-core time:  $O(T^{3}_{N} + T^{3})$
- Total I/O cost:  $O(T^3N/B)$
- (B: # items fitting in one disk block)





#### Key Insight to Overcome the Bottleneck

- **Bottleneck:** Computing *c(i,j)*'s, especially when *i,j* are far apart.
- How are the *c(i,j)*'s used?

Recall the DP recurrence:  $D^{(k)}(i) = \min_{1 \le p \le i} \{D^{(k-1)}(p) + c(p,i)\}$ 

Note:  $c(i, j) = \sum_{i < r < j} Diff_r$ : c(i, j) is large when i, j are far apart.

→ Such expensive (to compute) c(i,j)'s are rarely used!!





# **Our Solution – Multi-pass Approximate Approach**

- First pass, working set  $S = \{1, 2, ..., T\}$ .
  - Use a sliding window (in-core memory) of size *t*, only compute *C*(*i*, *j*) in the sliding window
  - In the cost table C,  $c(i,j) = \infty$ , for i and j far away (not both in the window)
  - Run DP, compute memoization table *D*

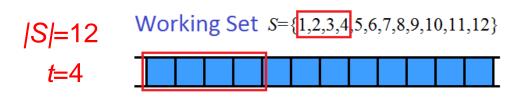




	Ori	igir	nal	Da	ata	:	<i>T</i> =	:12	)			
•												
C(i,	j)						j					
	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	8
	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
	×	8	8	×	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	×	$\infty$	×	$\infty$	8
	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	×	$\infty$	8
	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	×	×	$\infty$	×	$\infty$	8
i	$\infty$	×	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	×	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	8
	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	×	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	8
	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	×	8	8	8	$\infty$	8	8
	8	8	8	×	8	8	×	8	8	8	8	8
	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
	×	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	$\infty$



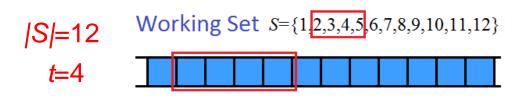




C(i, ,	j)						j					
	0	0	2.7	5.2	×	×	×	8	×	8	8	8
	8	0	0	2.3	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8
	8	8	0	0	8	8	8	×	8	8	8	8
	8	8	8	0	8	8	8	$\infty$	8	8	8	8
	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
i	8	8	8	×	×	8	8	$\infty$	×	×	$\infty$	×
l	8	8	$\infty$	×	$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
	8	8	8	×	×	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	×	$\infty$	×
	8	8	8	×	×	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	×	$\infty$	×
	8	8	8	8	×	8	8	$\infty$	8	×	$\infty$	×
	8	8	8	×	8	8	8	$\infty$	8	×	$\infty$	×
	8	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	8	8	8	8	8	8



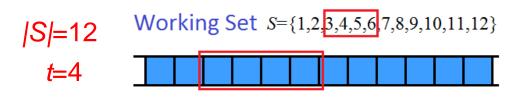




C(i, ,	j)						j					
	0	0	2.7	5.2	8	8	×	8	×	8	8	8
	8	0	0	2.3	4,7	$\infty$						
	8	8	0	0	2.0	8	8	8	8	×	8	8
	8	8	8	0	0	8	$\infty$	8	8	8	×	8
	8	8	$\infty$	×	0	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
i	8	8	$\infty$	×	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
l	8	8	$\infty$	×	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	8	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$
	8	8	$\infty$	×	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$
	8	8	$\infty$	×	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$
	8	8	$\infty$	×	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	8	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$
	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	×	8
	8	8	$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$



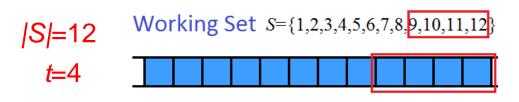




C(i, j	i)					j	i						
	0	0	2.7	5.2	8	8	×	8	8	8	8	8	
	8	0	0	2.3	4,7	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	
	8	8	0	0	2.0	4.8	8	8	8	8	8	8	
	8	8	8	0	0	1.8	8	$\infty$	8	8	×	8	
	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	0	0	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	
i	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	
l	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	
	$\infty$	8	$\infty$										
	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	
	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	
	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	
	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	







C(	i, j	)					j	İ					
		0	0	2.7	5.2	8	8	×	8	×	8	8	8
		×	0	0	2.3	4.7	8	8	8	$\infty$	8	8	8
		×	8	0	0	2.0	4.8	8	8	8	8	8	8
		×	8	8	0	0	1.8	4.5	8	8	8	8	8
		×	8	8	8	0	0	1.1	3.5	8	8	8	8
	;	×	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	0	0	1.8	2.1	8	8	$\infty$
ì	l	$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	0	0	3.8	6.1	8	$\infty$
		$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0	0	2.3	6.8	$\infty$
		$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	0	0	2.8	6.5
		$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	8	0	0	1.2
		$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	8	8	0	0
		×	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	0



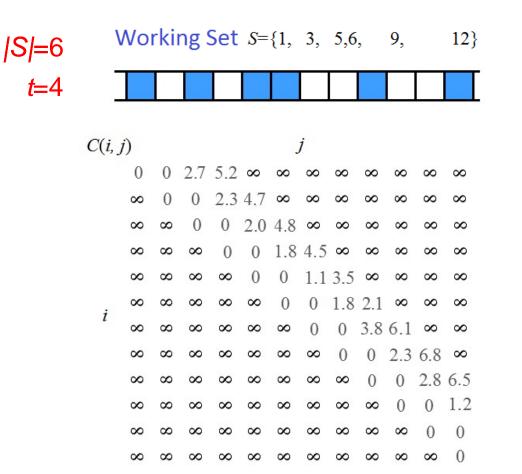


# **Our Solution – Multi-pass Approximate Approach**

- First pass, working set  $S = \{1, 2, ..., T\}$ .
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  - Run DP, update memoization table D

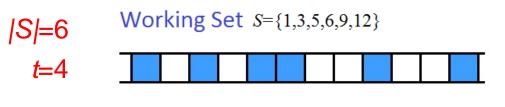








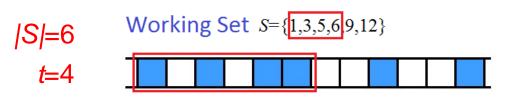




C(i, .)	j)					)	i					
	0	0	2.7	5.2	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
	8	0	0	2.3	4.7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
	8	8	0	0	2.0	4.8	8	8	8	8	8	$\infty$
	8	8	$\infty$	0	0	1.8	4.5	8	$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$
	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	0	0	1.1	3.5	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$
i	8	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	0	0	1.8	2.1	8	$\infty$	$\infty$
l	8	8	8	$\infty$	8	8	0	0	3.8	6.1	$\infty$	8
	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	0	2.3	6.8	8
	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	0	2.8	6.5
	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	0	1.2
	8	8	8	$\infty$	8	8	8	8	$\infty$	8	0	0
	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	0								



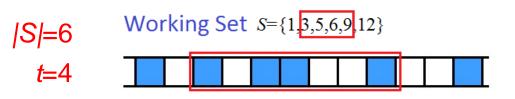




C(i, j	i)					J	i					
	0	0	2.7	5.2	6.6	7.9	8	8	8	8	8	8
	8	0	0	2.3	4.7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
	8	8	0	0	2.0	4.8	8	8	8	8	8	$\infty$
	$\infty$	8	8	0	0	1.8	4.5	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$
	$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	0	0	1.1	3.5	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$
i	8	8	8	$\infty$	8	0	0	1.8	2.1	8	8	$\infty$
L	8	8	8	$\infty$	8	8	0	0	3.8	6.1	8	$\infty$
	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	0	2.3	6.8	8
	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	0	2.8	6.5
	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	0	1.2
	8	8	8	$\infty$	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	0
	$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	0



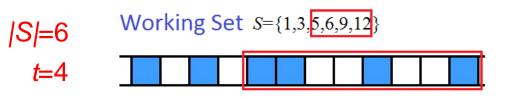




C(i, j)	i)					J	i					
	0	0	2.7	5.2	6.6	7.9	8	8	8	8	8	8
	8	0	0	2.3	4.7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
	8	8	0	0	2.0	4.8	8	8	8	8	8	$\infty$
	8	8	$\infty$	0	0	1.8	4.5	$\infty$	8	8	8	$\infty$
	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	0	0	1.1	3.5	5.6	8	8	$\infty$
i	$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	0	0	1.8	2.1	8	$\infty$	$\infty$
L	8	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	8	0	0	3.8	6.1	8	$\infty$
	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	0	2.3	6.8	8
	8	8	$\infty$	8	8	8	8	8	0	0	2.8	6.5
	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	0	1.2
	8	8	$\infty$	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	0
	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	0







C(i, j	i)					J	i					
	0	0	2.7	5.2	6.6	7.9	8	8	$\infty$	8	8	8
	8	0	0	2.3	4.7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
	8	8	0	0	2.0	4.8	8	8	8	8	8	8
	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	0	0	1.8	4.5	8	8	8	8	$\infty$
	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	0	0	1.1	3.5	5.6	8	8	7.7
i	8	8	8	8	$\infty$	0	0	1.8	2.1	8	8	6.4
l	8	8	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	0	0	3.8	6.1	8	$\infty$
	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	0	2.3	6.8	8
	8	8	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	8	8	0	0	2.8	6.5
	8	8	8	8	$\infty$	8	8	8	8	0	0	1.2
	8	8	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	8	8	8	8	8	0	0
	8	8	$\infty$	8	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	8	8	$\infty$	0



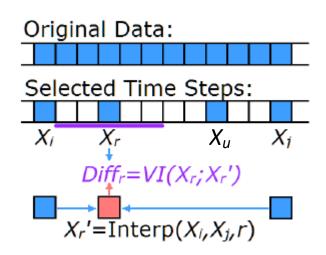


#### **Key Technical Detail**

In computing  $c(i, j) = sum of Diff_v$  (i < v < j), use approximate information difference

- In  $2^{nd}$  row, blue squares (e.g.,  $\chi_r$ ) are in the sliding window (in-core). Easy to compute  $Diff_r$
- Use *Diff*, to approximate the *Diff* of each of 5 time steps underlined in purple

 $\rightarrow$  c(i, j) = 5 Diff<sub>r</sub> + 5 Diff<sub>u</sub>





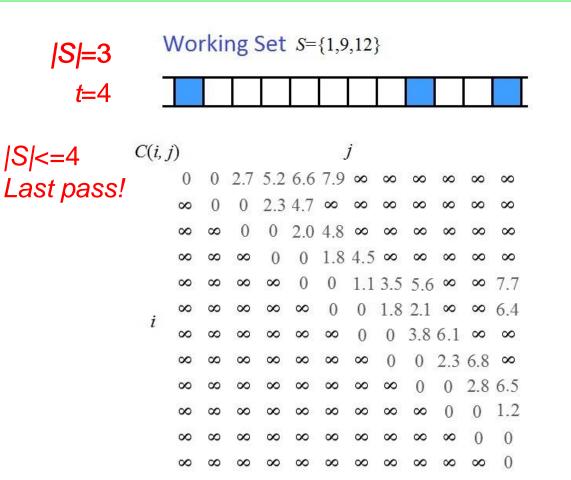


# **Our Solution – Multi-pass Approximate Approach**

- First pass, working set  $S = \{1, 2, ..., T\}$ .
  - Use a sliding window (in-core memory) of size *t*, only compute *C*(*i*, *j*) in the sliding window
  - In the cost table C,  $c(i,j) = \infty$ , for i and j far away (not both in the window)
  - Run DP, compute memoization table *D*
- Second pass, working set  $S = \{\text{best } k = T/2 \text{ time steps from previous DP result}\}$ .
  - Use a sliding window of size t, update those  $c(i,j) = \infty$  which are now close enough in the current sliding window, by estimating only using S
  - Run DP, update memoization table D
- |S| = T/4, T/8, T/16...
- Repeat until  $|S| \le t$  (last pass is  $|S| \le t$ )







# **Results:**

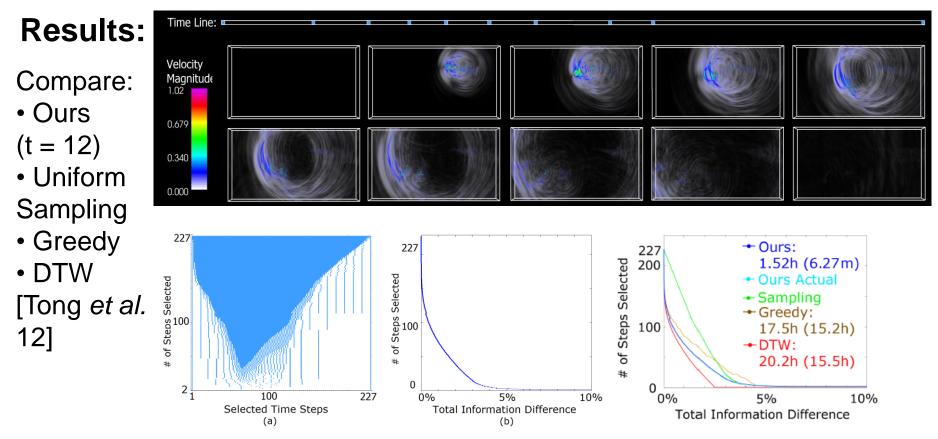
- In each pass, we spend  $O(t^2N \cdot |S|)$  to update the c(i, j) values. Then we use  $O(T^2 \cdot |S|)$  to run DP. Every pass the size of *S* is reduced in half, until  $|S| \le t$ . So number of passes is  $O(\log_2 \frac{T}{t})$ .
- Total DP time:  $O(T^2 \cdot (T + T/2 + T/4 + ...)) = O(T^3)$
- Total time for c(i,j)'s:  $O(t^2N \cdot (T + T/2 + T/4 + ...)) = O(t^2TN) << O(T^3N)$
- Overall about linear to data size: O(t<sup>2</sup>TN + T<sup>3</sup>) = O(t<sup>2</sup>TN)
  O(t<sup>2</sup>TN) \*(improved from O(T<sup>3</sup>N)) \* t is a chosen constant typically 10~15
- I/O equivalent to 2 linear scans:  $(N/B)(T + T/2 + T/4 + ...) \le 2(N/B)T$ O(TN/B) (improved from  $O(T^3N/B)$ ) = O(TN/B) --- Optimal I/O!
- Error of approximation: Very low, similar results as accurate method









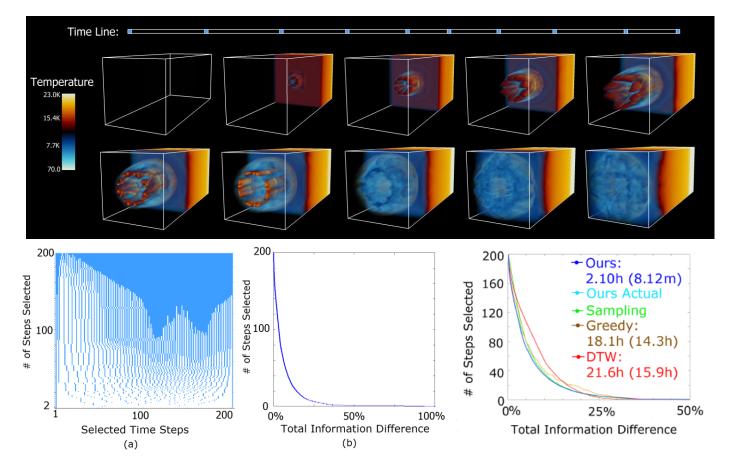






#### **Results:**

- Compare: • Ours (t = 12) • Uniform Sampling
- Greedy
- DTW [Tong *et al.* 12]







# **Results: Running Time Analysis**

- In-Core Computation
- + Time for c(i, j)'s:  $O(t^2TN) = O(TN)$  (t = 12) Dominates! + Time for DP:  $O(T^3)$
- + Total in-core time:  $O(t^2TN+T^3) = O(TN)$  Linear in data size (>> I/O time!)
- I/O: O(TN/B)

Linear in data size

Dataset	Size	Т	Total (h)	I/O (m)	DP (s)
Radiation	27.4GB	200	2.1	8.1	0.026
Radiation2	54.8GB	400	4.5	17.8	0.19
Radiation4	109.6GB	800	9.4	36.6	1.35
Radiation8	219.2GB	1600	19.5	73.2	13.6

*N: 37M, t* = *12.* Memory footprint: 1.91GB





#### **Results:**

Dataset Size	DTW	Our Method
27.4 GB	21.6 hours	2.1 hours
219.2 GB	> 1000 hours (estimated)	19.5 hours

Selection Quality of our method: very close to DTW (optimal) Memory Footprints of our method: 1.91GB. Running Time of our method: Significant Speed-up!





# Conclusions

#### **Our New Approches:**

- Fully automatic; globally optimal qualities for the accurate method
- Provide a storyboard to guide data exploration
- Out-of-core approximate method:
- + optimal I/O
- + significant speed-up (1000+ hrs  $\rightarrow$  < 20 hrs!)
- + close-to-optimal selection qualities
- Independent of the metrics used (InfoD proposed; RMSE also used)

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