

Hans Hagen, Martin Hering-Bertram, Christoph Garth (Eds.)

Visualization of Large and Unstructured Data Sets

**Second workshop of the DFG's
International Research Training Group**

*Visualization of Large and Unstructured Data Sets –
Applications in Geospatial Planning, Modeling, and
Engineering*

September 9-11, 2007 Kaiserslautern, Germany

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Preface

The International Research Training Group (IRTG) “Visualization of Large and Unstructured Data Sets – Applications in Geospatial Planning, Modeling and Engineering” is a joint effort of the University of Kaiserslautern (Germany) and the U.S. partners University of California at its Davis and Irvine campuses, Arizona State University, and University of Utah. It is funded by the German Science Foundation (DFG) under grant DFG GK 1131.

The primary research goal of this graduate program is the enhancement of scientific and information visualization techniques applied to large and unstructured data sets. Every visualization task is based on application data. For providing these data, we integrate applications from the domain “Geospatial Planning, Modeling and Engineering”, which produce huge amounts of unstructured data that are of interest for the visualization tasks at hand. This integration is necessary to allow a deeper understanding of the provided data due to the sharing of knowledge through the projects.

Up to now, visualization of large and structured or small and unstructured data sets is the state of the art. Large and unstructured data sets are still not very well understood, especially with respect to visualization. In order to address these questions, we have defined a set of projects aiming at solving these problems. In detail, we are handling visualization problems, with respect to modeling, feature detection, and comparison tasks. For doing this, both the extension of existing techniques and the development of new ones are investigated.

In the application areas there is an increasing need to handle huge amounts of unstructured data that are produced either by data from field measurements like environmental observation stations, from experiments, and from simulation. For example, nowadays environmental monitoring systems are capable of measuring data at a very high resolution and in a large number of frequency bands. On the other hand, in scaled-down earthquake laboratory experiments within a centrifuge improved sensor technology permits the measurement of an increased number of parameters at higher sampling rates. Finally, earthquake simulations produce more and more data because of more elaborate simulation techniques. All these improvements in measurement technology lead to large, high-dimensional data sets. Visualizing these data is very useful to get new insights into the problems involved. The visualizations themselves are based on improved or newly developed visualization techniques like volume modeling, feature detection and visualization, etc.

The current issue of GI’s Lecture Notes in Informatics presents the results of the second annual workshop of this IRTG held in Kaiserslautern, September 9-11, 2007. The aim of this meeting was to bring together all project partners, advisors, and of course PhD students as well as to report on the different research projects. After three days of presentations and lively discussions, slightly more than three months were spent on writing papers that cover the outcome of the second year of the graduate program and give surveys on related topics. These papers were cross-reviewed internally as well as by the project advisors. Note that the covered topics do not include all ongoing projects because not all IRTG members were able to attend.

We would like to thank all attendees for their contribution to this fruitful workshop. We are also grateful to the Gesellschaft for Informatik e.V. (GI) for publishing the workshop papers in its LNI series.

August 2008

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Contents

Part I – Visualization Techniques

E. Deines, F. Michel

On the modification of phonon tracing 1

A. Middel

A Framework for Visualizing Multivariate Geodata 13

T. Bobach, G. Umlauf

Natural Neighbor Concepts in Scattered Data Interpolation and Discrete Function Approximation 23

R. Mohr, T. Bobach, Y. Hijazi, G. Reis, P. Steinmann, H. Hagen

Comparative Tensor Visualisation within the Framework of Consistent Time-Stepping Schemes 36

S. Thelen, T. Bierz, B. Müller, H. Hagen, A. Ebert, E. Friauf, J. Meyer

A Framework for the Visualization of Brain Structures 54

T. Bierz, A. Ebert, J. Meyer

GPU Accelerated Gesture Detection for Real Time Interaction 64

Part II – Visualization of Application Data

C. B. Hirschberger, S. Ricker, P. Steinmann, N. Sukumar

Deriving Global Material Properties of a Microscopically Heterogeneous Medium – Computational Homogenisation and Opportunities in Visualisation 76

R. Mohr, A. Menzel, P. Steinmann

Finite Elasto-Plasto-Dynamics â Challenges & Solutions 88

H. A. Meier, P. Steinmann, E. Kuhl

Towards completeness, a multiscale approach of confined particulate systems. 103

P. R. Schmitt and P. Steinmann

Geometric Numerical Integration of Simple Dynamical Systems 115

O. Rübel, G.H. Weber, M.-Y. Huang, E.W. Bethel, S.V.E. Keränen,

C. C. Fowlkes, C. L. Luengo Hendriks, A. H. DePace, L. Simirenko,

M. B. Eisen, M. D. Biggin, H. Hagen, J. Malik, D.W. Knowles, B. Hamann

PointCloudXplore 2: Visual Exploration of 3D Gene Expression 125

C. v. Malottki

Geomodeling and Geovisualizations in Urban Planning und Real Estate Industry: The Example of Office Market Research.....	138
---	-----

Part III – Surveys

Y. Hijazi, H. Hagen , C. D. Hansen, K. I. Joy

Why interval arithmetic is so useful	148
--	-----

A. Knoll

A Survey of Implicit Surface Rendering Methods, and a Proposal for a Common Sampling Framework	164
---	-----

B. Lehner, G. Umlauf, B. Hamann

Survey of Techniques for Data-dependent Triangulations	178
--	-----

<i>Colorplates</i>	188
--------------------------	-----