



Post-processing utilities in Elmer

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Elmer/Ice advanced course

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Alternative postprocessors for Elmer



Open source

- ElmerPost
 - Postprocessor of Elmer suite
- ParaView, Visit
 - Use ResultOutputSolve to write .vtu or .vtk
 - Visualization of parallel data
- OpenDX
 - Supports some basic elementtypes
- Gmsh
 - Use ResultOutputSolve to write data
- Gnuplot, R, Octave, ...
 - Use SaveData to save results in ascii matrix format
 - Line plotting

Commercial

- Matlab, Excel, ...
 - Use SaveData to save results in ascii matrix format
 - Line plotting

Visualization tools – Poll (10/2013)



What visualization software do you use?

You may select up to **10** options

ElmerPost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<div style="width: 12%;"></div> 12	19%
ElmerGUI VTK postprocessor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<div style="width: 7%;"></div> 7	11%
Paraview	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<div style="width: 26%;"></div> 26	41%
ViSit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="width: 3%;"></div> 3	5%
Mayavi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="width: 0%;"></div> 0	No votes
Gmsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="width: 2%;"></div> 2	3%
GiD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="width: 1%;"></div> 1	2%
Matlab	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<div style="width: 4%;"></div> 4	6%
gnuplot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="width: 4%;"></div> 4	6%
Something else (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="width: 5%;"></div> 5	8%

Total votes : 64

Exporting 2D/3D data: ResultOutputSolve



- Apart from saving the results in .ep format it is possible to use other postprocessing tools
- ResultOutputSolve offers several formats
 - vtk: Visualization toolkit legacy format
 - vtu: Visualization toolkit XML format
 - Gid: GiD software from CIMNE: <http://gid.cimne.upc.es>
 - Gmsh: Gmsh software: <http://www.geuz.org/gmsh>
 - Dx: OpenDx software
- **Vtu** is the recommended format!
 - offers parallel data handling capabilities
 - Has binary and single precision formats for saving disk space
 - Suffix **.vtu** in Post File does this automatically

Exporting 2D/3D data: ResultOutputSolve

An example shows how to save data in unstructured XML VTK (.vtu) files to directory "results" in single precision binary format.

```
Solver n
  Exec Solver = after timestep
  Equation = "result output"
  Procedure = "ResultOutputSolve" "ResultOutputSolver"
  Output File Name = "case"
  Output Format = String "vtu"
  Binary Output = True
  Single Precision = True
End
```

Derived fields



- Many solvers have internal options for computing derived fields (fluxes, heating powers,...)
- Elmer offers several auxiliary solvers
 - SaveMaterials: makes a material parameter into field variable
 - Streamlines: computes the streamlines of 2D flow
 - FluxComputation: given potential, computes the flux $q = -c \nabla \phi$
 - VorticitySolver: computes the vorticity of flow, $w = \nabla \times \phi$
 - PotentialSolver: given flux, compute the potential $-c \nabla \phi = q$
 - Filtered Data: compute filtered data from time series (mean, fourier coefficients,...)
 - ...
- Usually auxiliary data need to be computed only after the iterative solution is ready
 - Exec Solver = after timestep
 - Exec Solver = after all
 - Exec Solver = before saving

Derived nodal data



- By default Elmer operates on distributed fields but sometimes nodal values are of interest
 - Multiphysics coupling may also be performed alternatively using nodal values for computing and setting loads
- Elmer computes the nodal loads from $Ax=b$ where A , and b are saved before boundary conditions are applied
 - **Calculate Loads = True**
- This is the most consistent way of obtaining boundary loads
- Note: the nodal data is really pointwise
 - expressed in units N, C, W etc. (rather than N/m^2 , C/m^2 , W/m^2 etc.)
 - For comparison with distributed data divided by the \sim size of the surface elements

Derived lower dimensional data

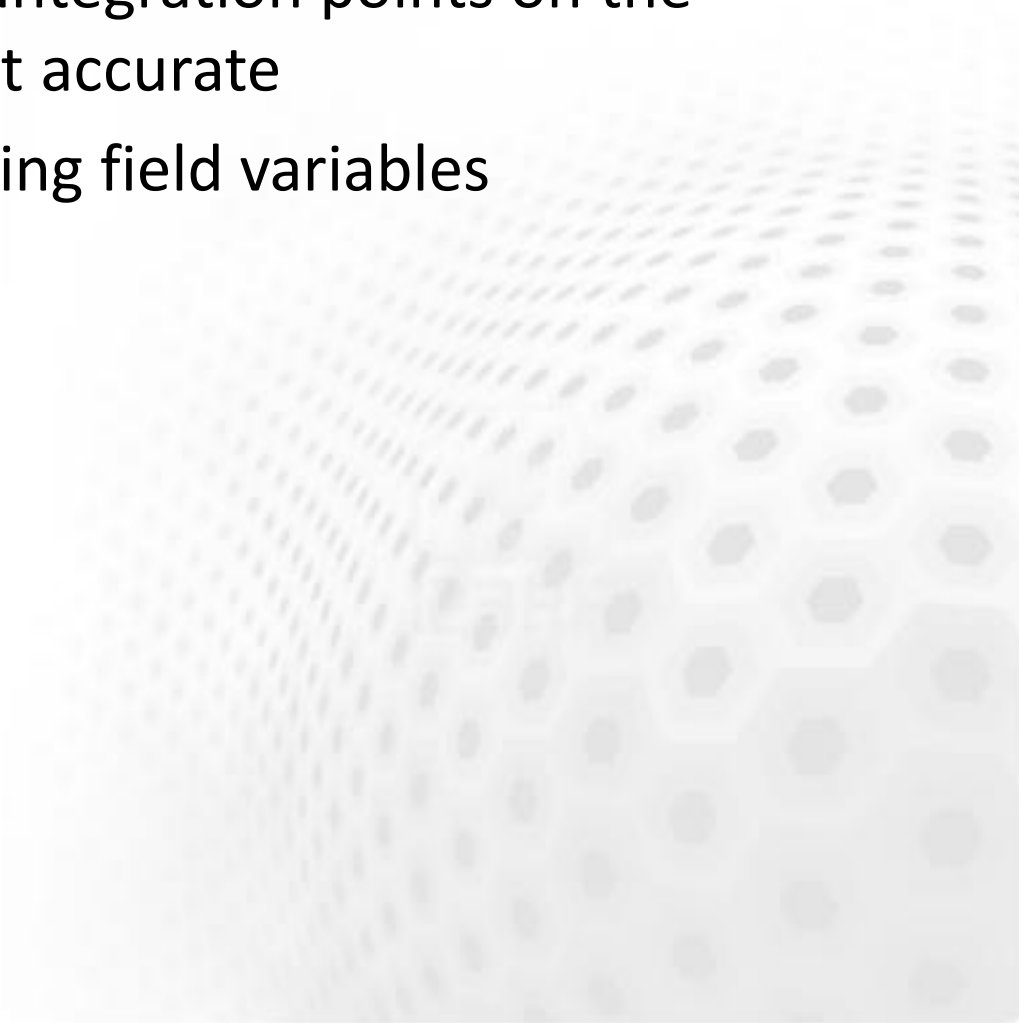


- Derived boundary data
 - SaveLine: Computes fluxes on-the-fly
- Derived lumped (or 0D) data
 - SaveScalars: Computes a large number of different quantities on-the-fly
 - FluidicForce: compute the fluidic force acting on a surface
 - ElectricForce: compute the electrostatic force using the Maxwell stress tensor
 - Many solvers compute lumped quantities internally for later use
(Capacitance, Lumped spring,...)

Saving 1D data: SaveLine



- Lines of interest may be defined on-the-fly
- Flux computation using integration points on the boundary – not the most accurate
- By default saves all existing field variables



Saving 1D data: SaveLine...



```
Solver n
Equation = "SaveLine"
Procedure = File "SaveData" "SaveLine"
Filename = "g.dat"
File Append = Logical True
Polyline Coordinates(2,2) = Real 0.0 1.0 0.0 2.0
End
```

```
Boundary Condition m
Save Line = Logical True
End
```

Saving 0D data: SaveScalars



Operators on bodies

- Statistical operators
 - Min, max, min abs, max abs, mean, variance, deviation
- Integral operators (quadratures on bodies)
 - volume, int mean, int variance
 - Diffusive energy, convective energy, potential energy

Operators on boundaries

- Statistical operators
 - Boundary min, boundary max, boundary min abs, max abs, mean, boundary variance, boundary deviation, boundary sum
 - Min, max, minabs, maxabs, mean
- Integral operators (quadratures on boundary)
 - area
 - Diffusive flux, convective flux

Other operators

- nonlinear change, steady state change, time, timestep size,...

Saving OD data: SaveScalars...



```
Solver n
```

```
  Exec Solver = after timestep
```

```
  Equation = String SaveScalars
```

```
  Procedure = File "SaveData" "SaveScalars"
```

```
  Filename = File "f.dat"
```

```
  Variable 1 = String Temperature
```

```
  Operator 1 = String max
```

```
  Variable 2 = String Temperature
```

```
  Operator 2 = String min
```

```
  Variable 3 = String Temperature
```

```
  Operator 3 = String mean
```

```
End
```

```
Boundary Condition m
```

```
  Save Scalars = Logical True
```

```
End
```

Case: TwelveSolvers

Natural convection with ten auxiliary solvers

Case: Motivation



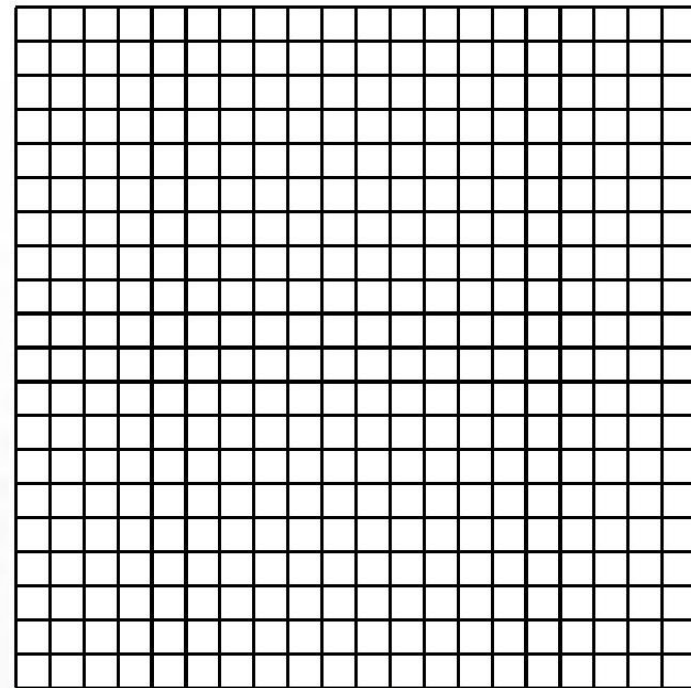
- The purpose of the example is to show the flexibility of the modular structure
- The users should not be afraid to add new atomistic solvers to perform specific tasks
- A case of 12 solvers is rather rare, yet not totally unrealistic

Case: preliminaries



- Square with hot wall on right and cold wall on left
- Filled with viscous fluid
- Bouyancy modeled with Boussinesq approximation
- Temperature difference initiates a convection roll

COLD



HOT

Case: 12 solvers



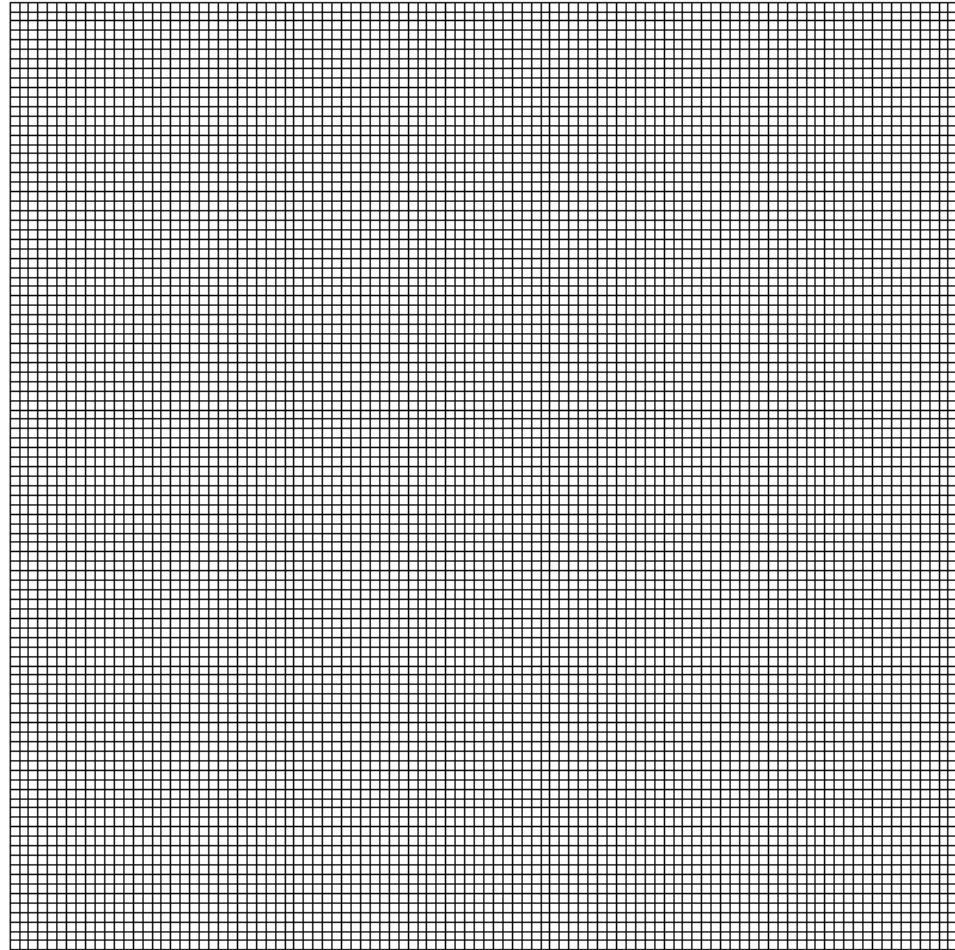
1. Heat Equation
2. Navier-Stokes
3. FluxSolver: solve the heat flux
4. StreamSolver
5. VorticitySolver
6. DivergenceSolver
7. ShearrateSolver
8. IsosurfaceSolver
9. ResultOutputSolver
10. SaveGridData
11. SaveLine
12. SaveScalars



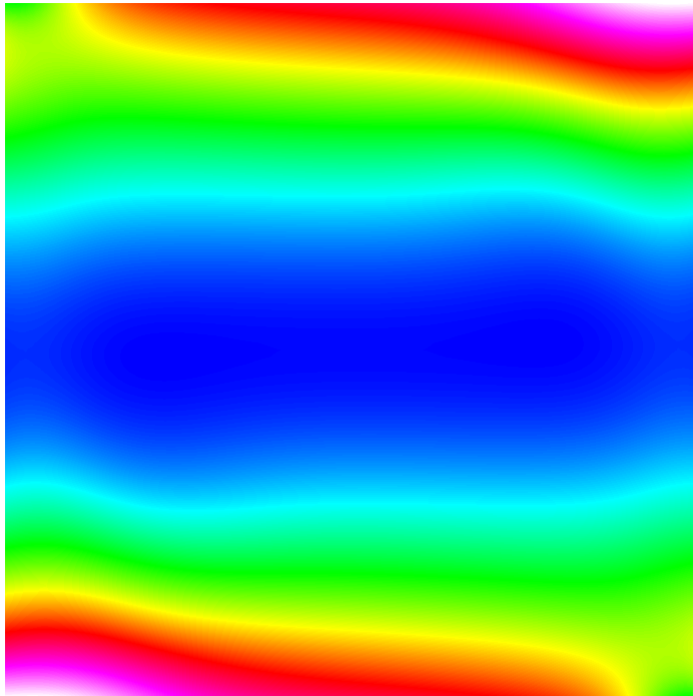
Case: Computational mesh



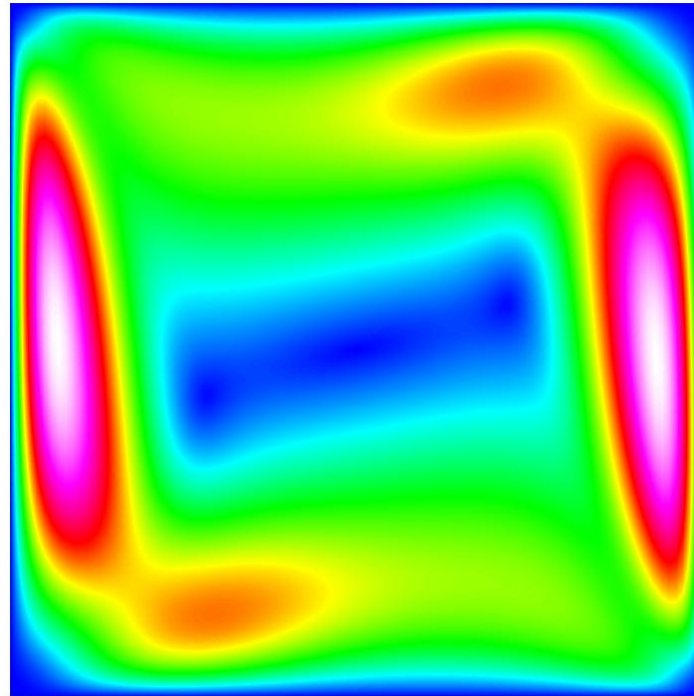
10000 bilinear
elements



Case: Navier-Stokes, primary fields

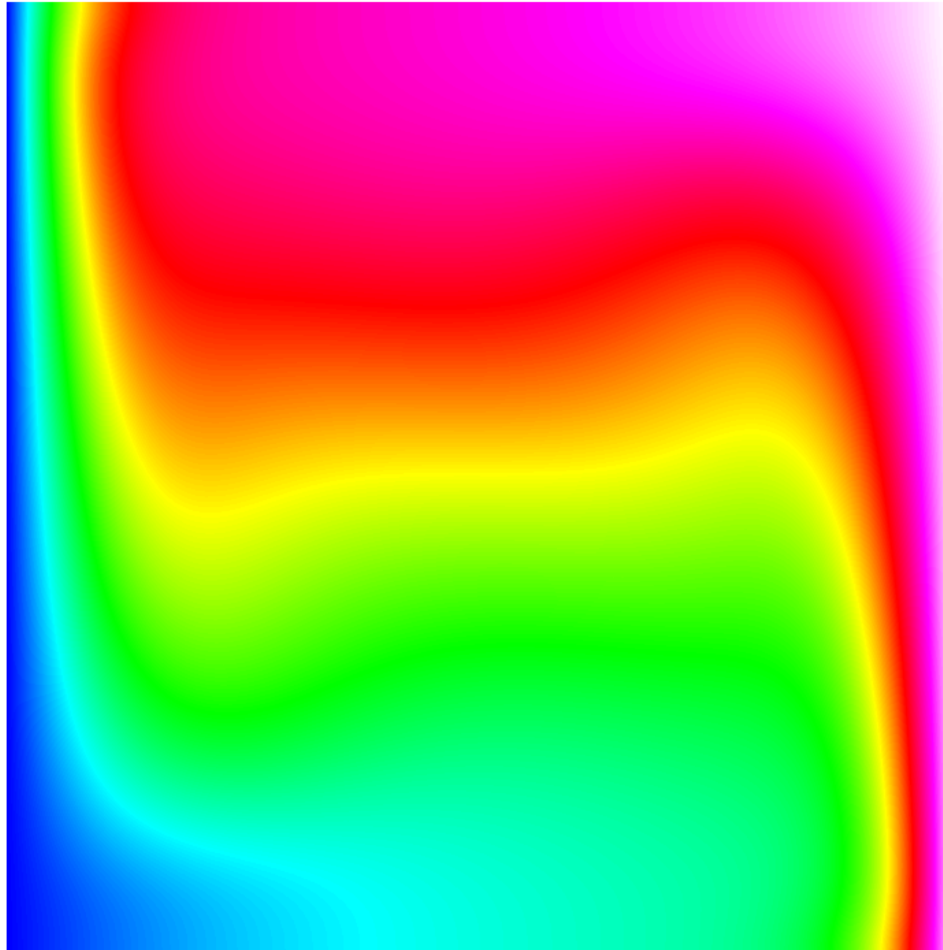


Pressure

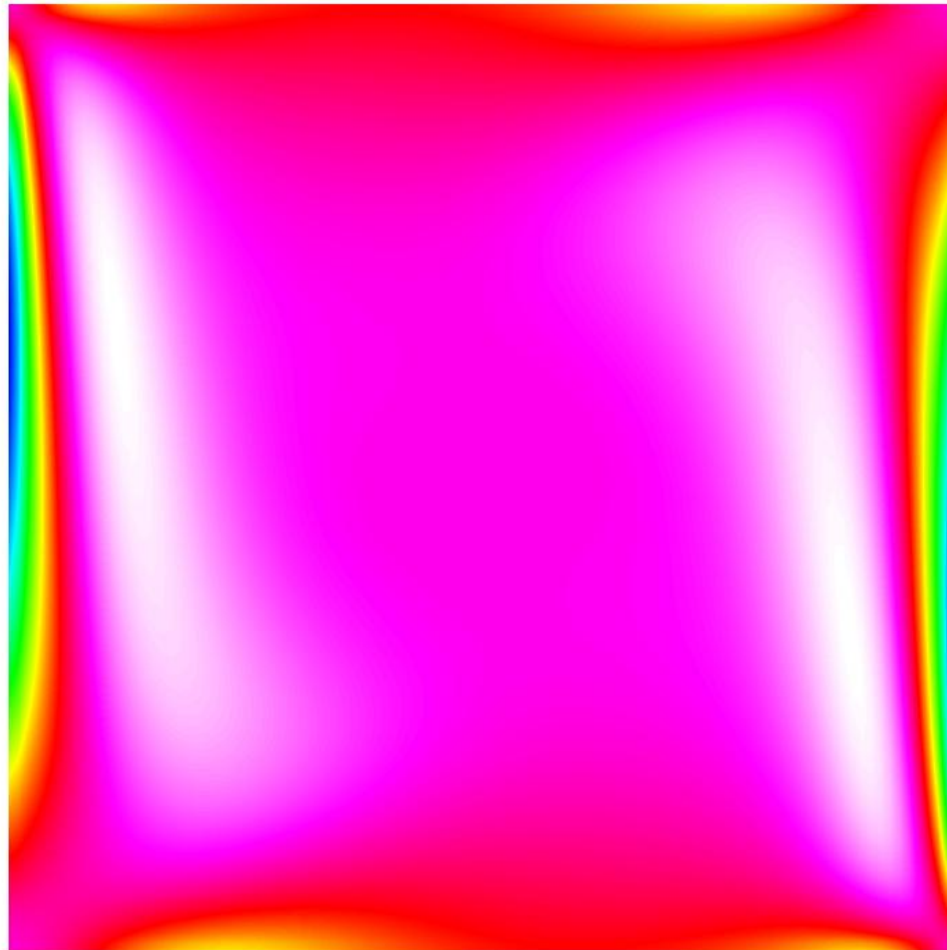


Velocity

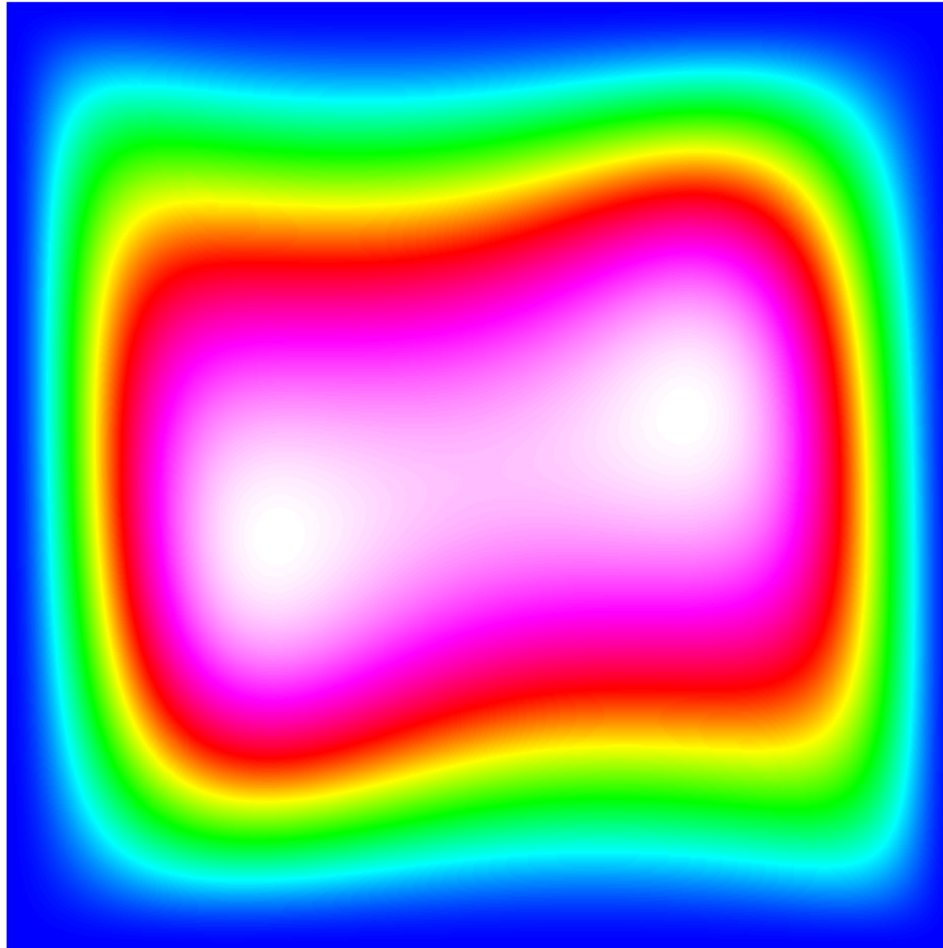
Case: Heat equation, primary field



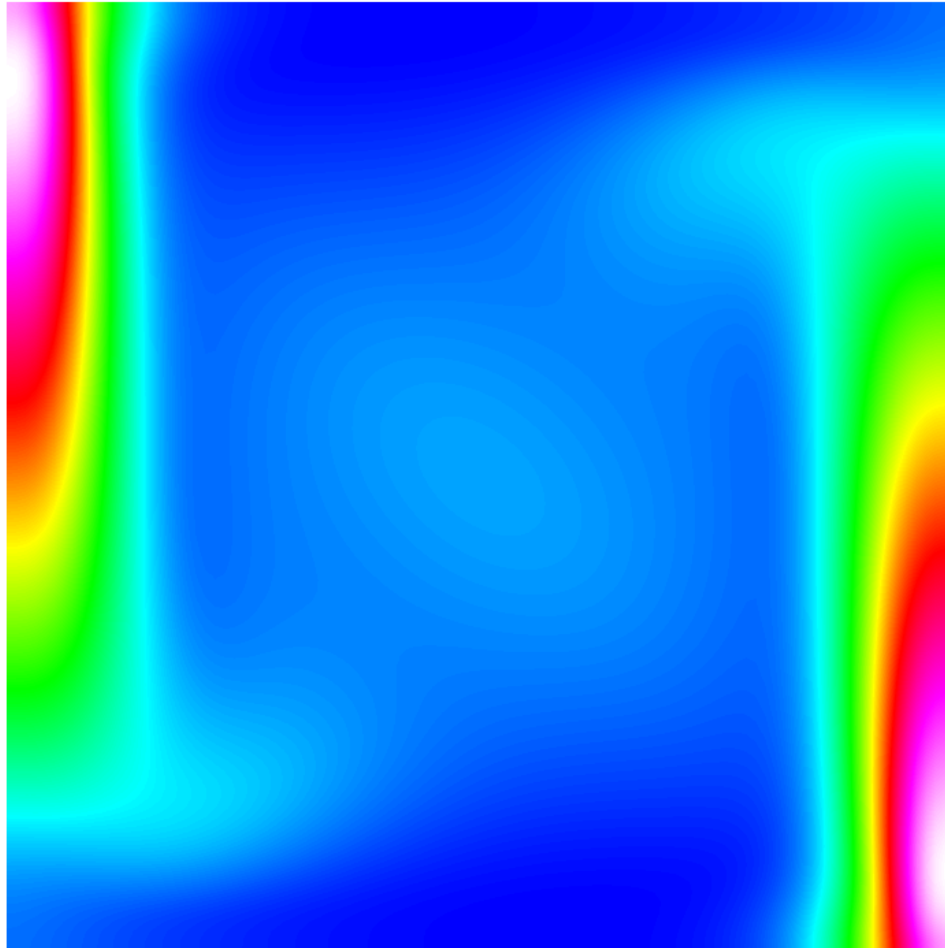
Case: Derived field, vorticity



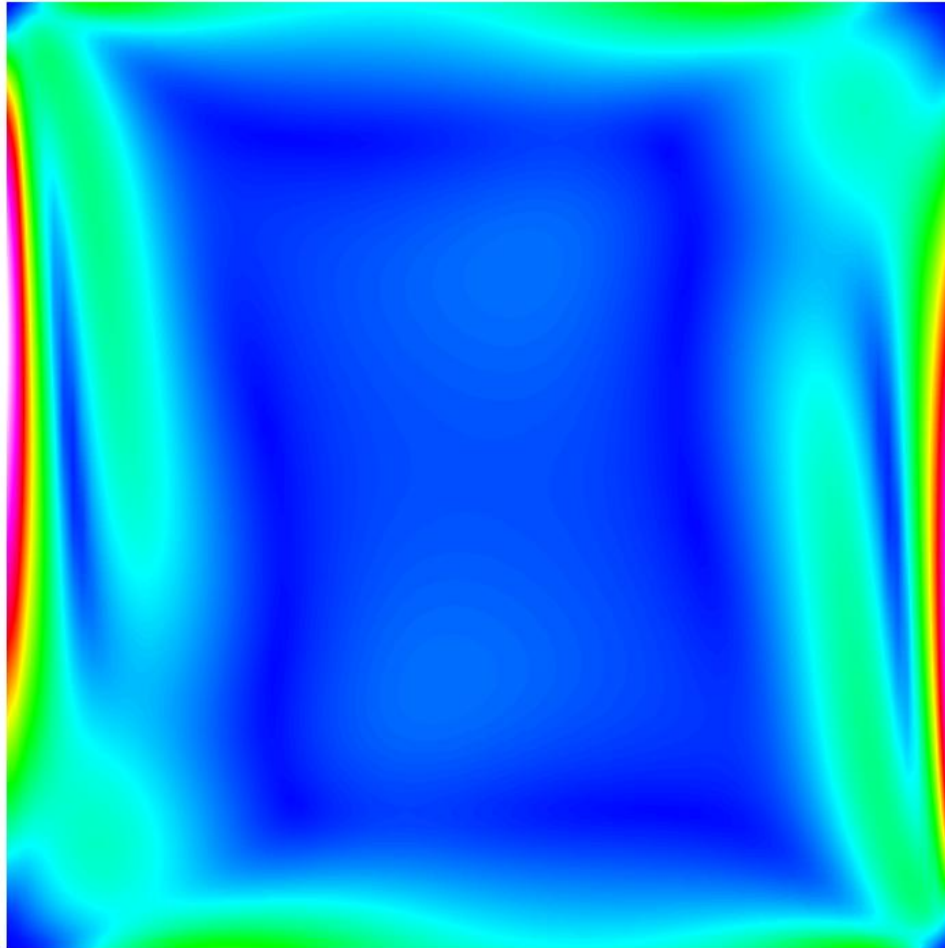
Case: Derived field, Streamlines



Case: Derived field, diffusive flux



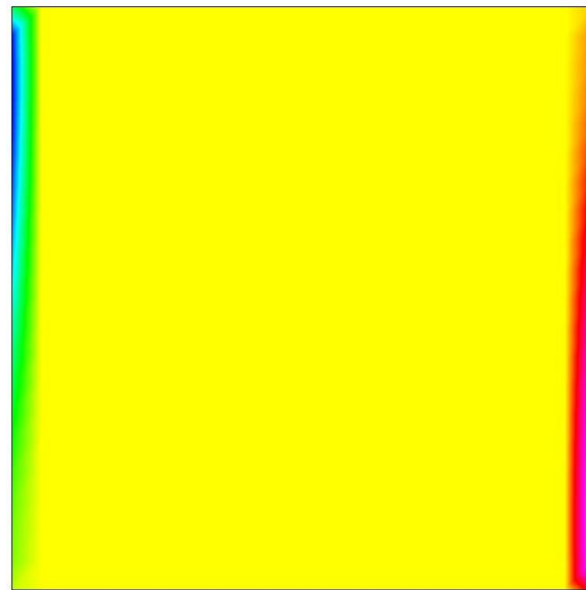
Case: Derived field, Shearrate



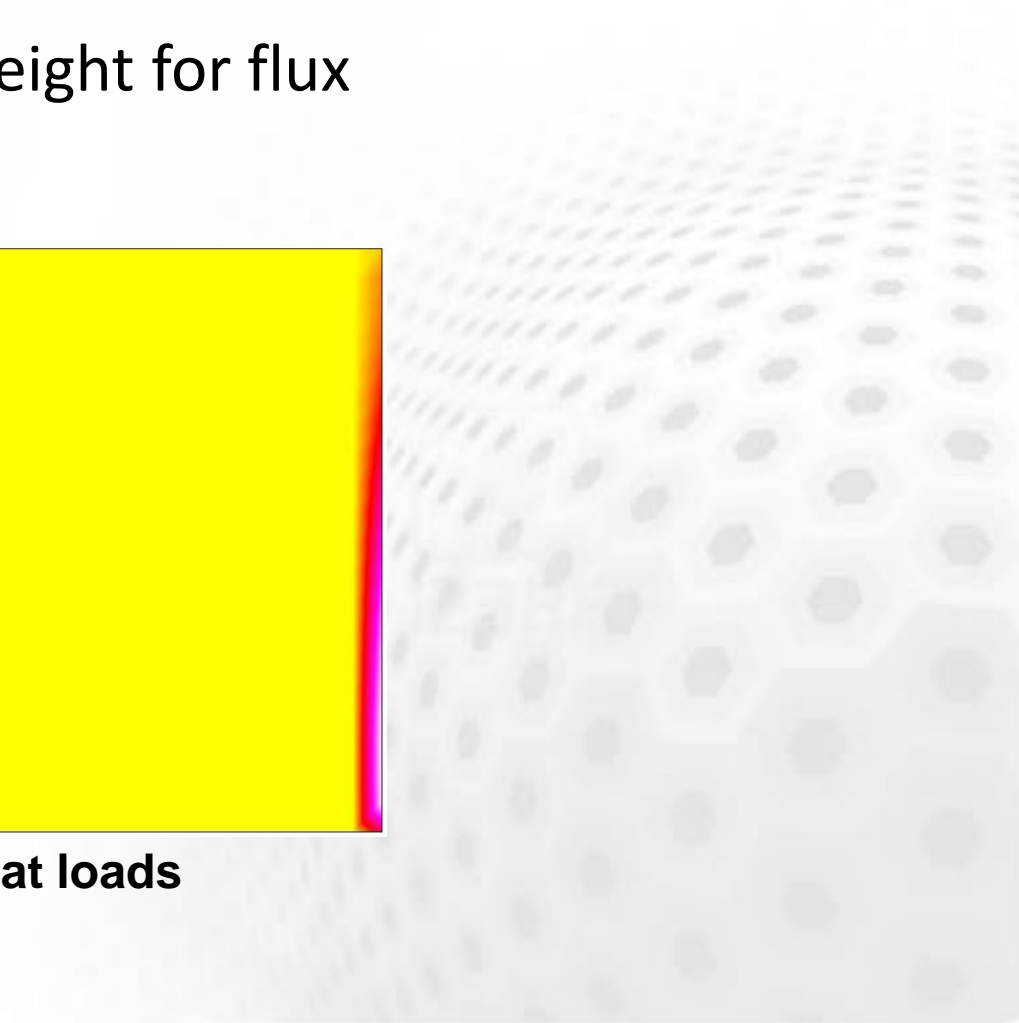
Example: nodal loads



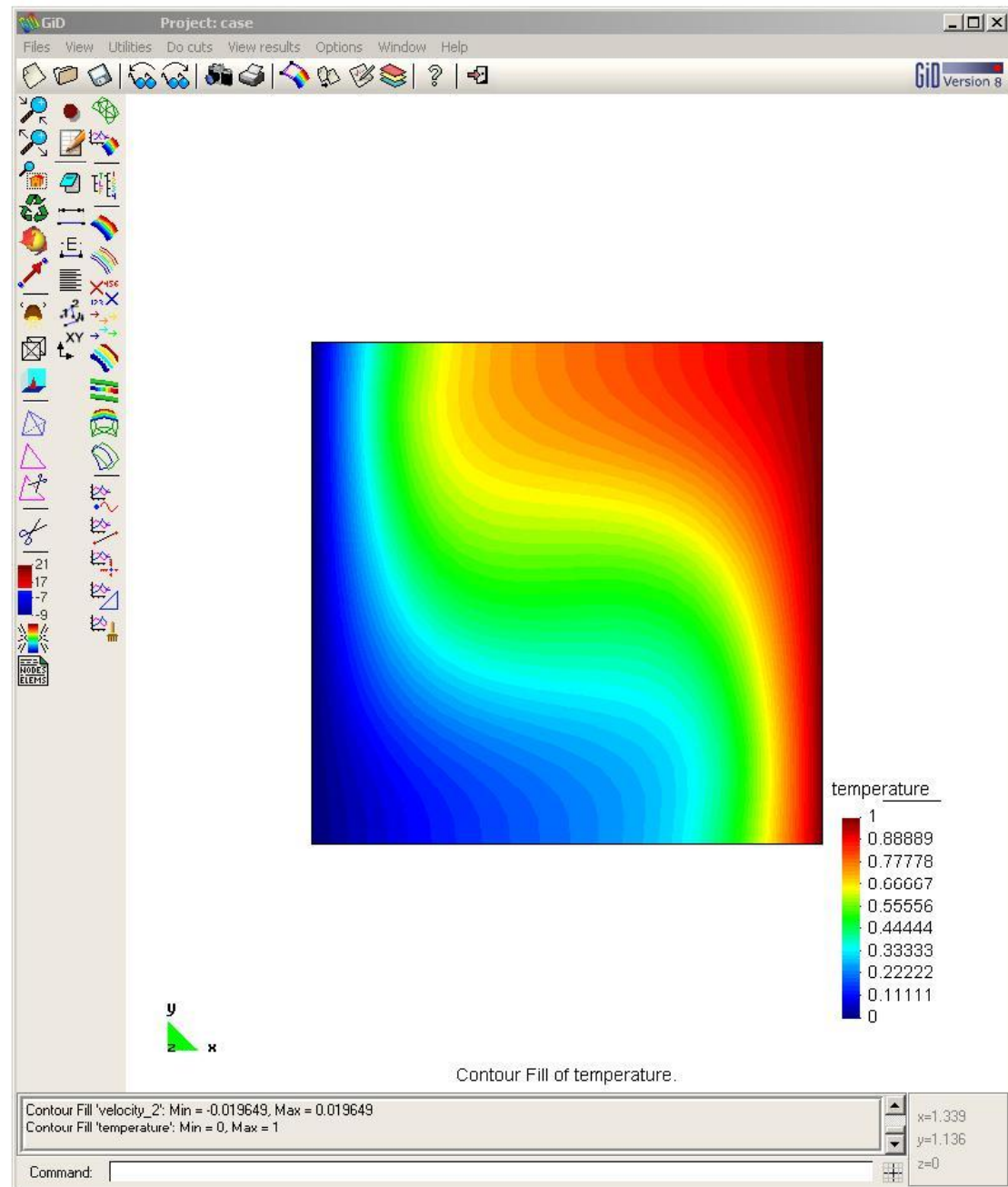
- If equation is solved until convergence nodal loads should only occur at boundaries
- Element size $h=1/20 \sim$ weight for flux



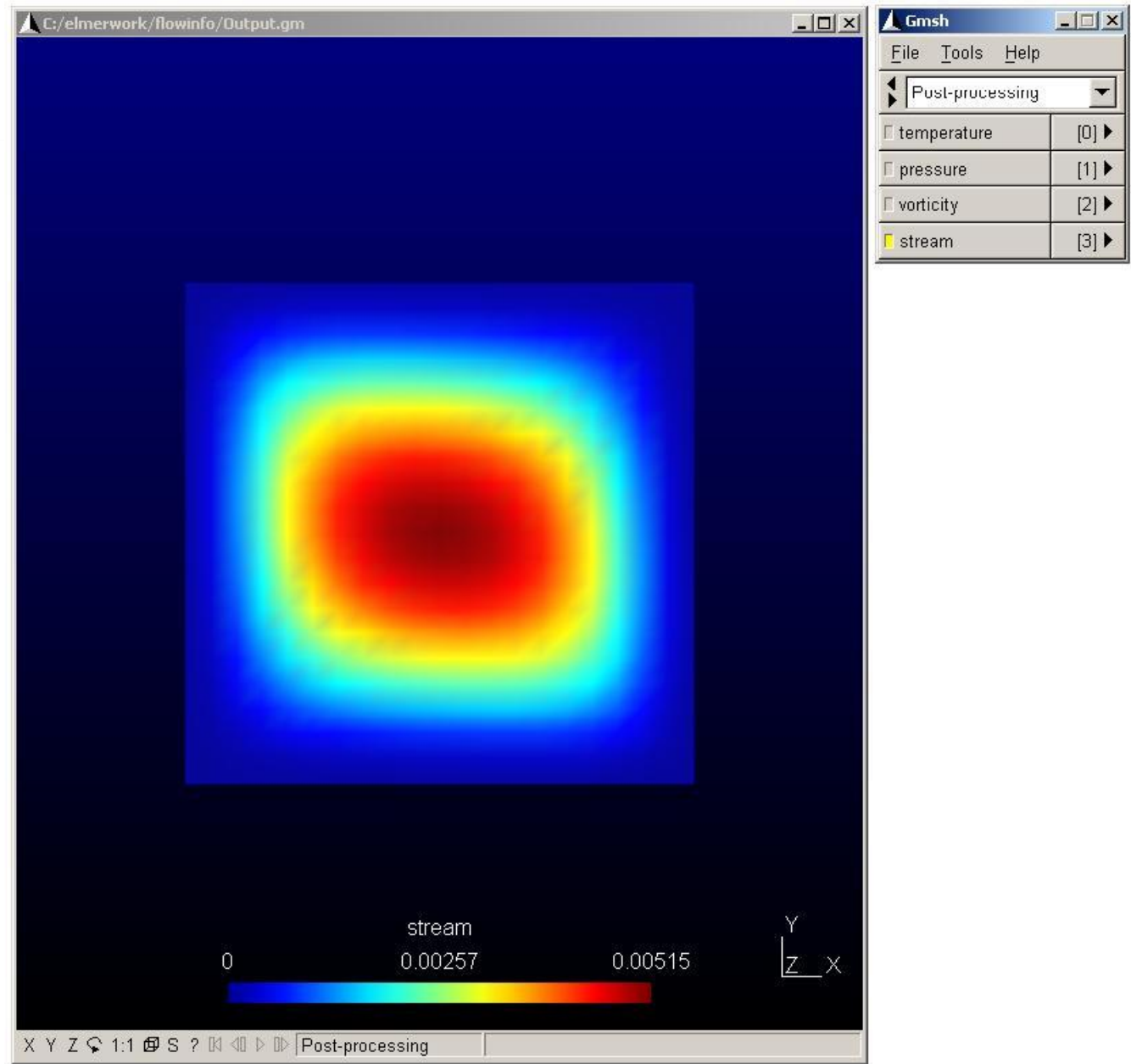
Nodal heat loads



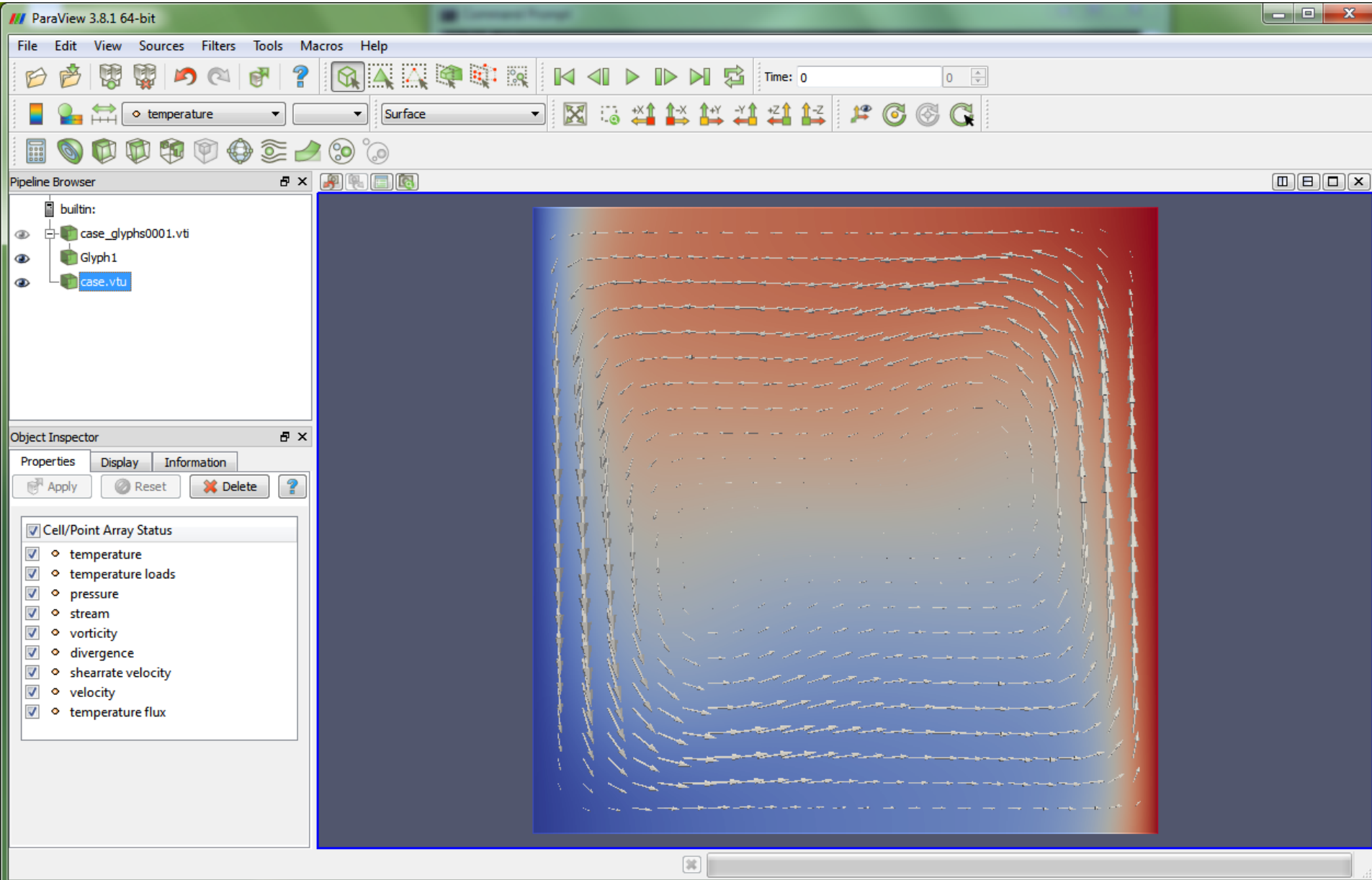
Example: view in GiD



Example: view in Gmsh



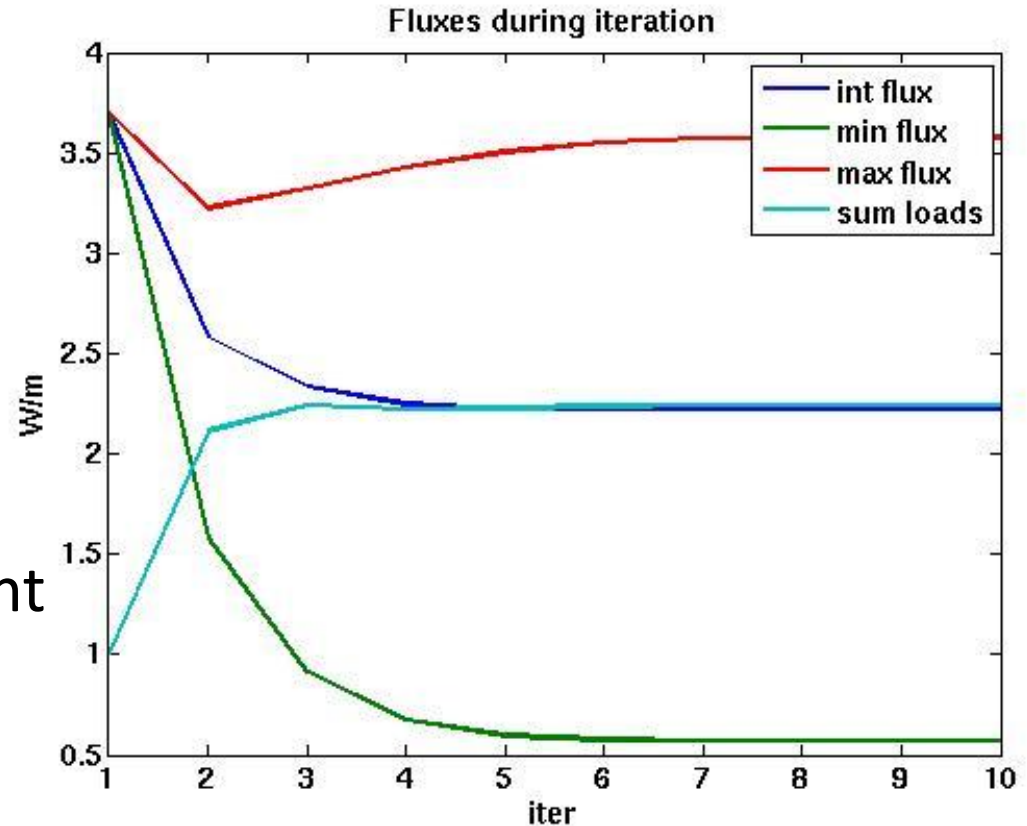
Case: View in Paraview



Example: total flux



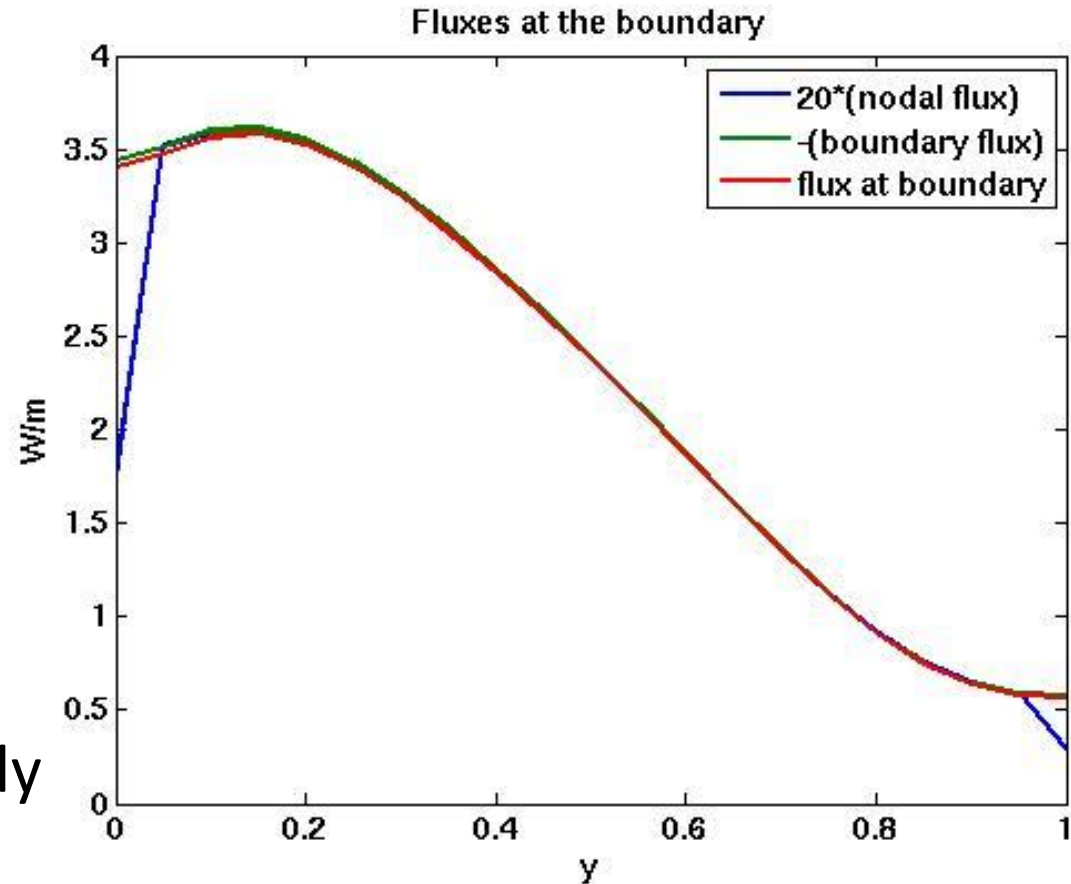
- Saved by SaveScalars
- Two ways of computing the total flux give different approximations
- When convergence is reached the agreement is good



Example: boundary flux



- Saved by SaveLine
- Three ways of computing the boundary flux give different approximations
- At the corner the nodal flux should be normalized using only $h/2$



Exercise



- Study the command file with 12 solvers
- Copy-paste an appropriate solver from there to some existing case of your own
 - ResultOutputSolver for VTU output
 - StreamSolver, VorticitySolver, FluxSolver,...
- Note: Make sure that the numbering of Solvers is consistent
 - Solvers that involve finite element solution you need to activate by **Active Solvers**
- Run the modified case
- Visualize results in ElmerPost or Paraview

Overcoming bottle-necks in postprocessing

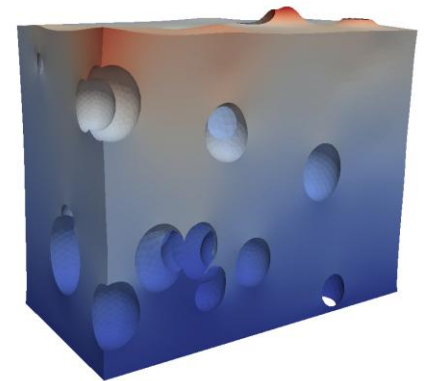


- Despite good visualization tools sometimes the amount of data may become a bottle-neck
- Reducing data
 - Saving only boundaries
 - Uniform point clouds
 - A priori defined isosurfaces
 - Using coarser meshes for output when hierarchy of meshes exist
- Extracting data
 - Dimensional reduction (3D -> 2D)
 - Averaging over time
 - Integrals over BCs & bodies
- More robust I/O
 - Not all cores should write to disk in massively parallel simulations
 - Preliminary HDF5+XDML output available for Elmer, mixed experiences

Example, File size in Swiss Cheese



- Memory consumption of vtu-files (for Paraview) was studied in the "swiss cheese" case
- The ResultOutputSolver with different flags was used to write output in parallel
- Saving just boundaries in single precision binary format may save over 90% in files size compared to full data in ascii
- With larger problem sizes the benefits are amplified



Binary output	Single Prec.	Only bound.	Bytes/node
-	X	-	376.0
X	-	-	236.5
X	X	-	184.5
X	-	X	67.2
X	X	X	38.5

Example, saving boundaries in .sif file



Solver 2

```
Exec Solver = Always
```

```
Equation = "result output"
```

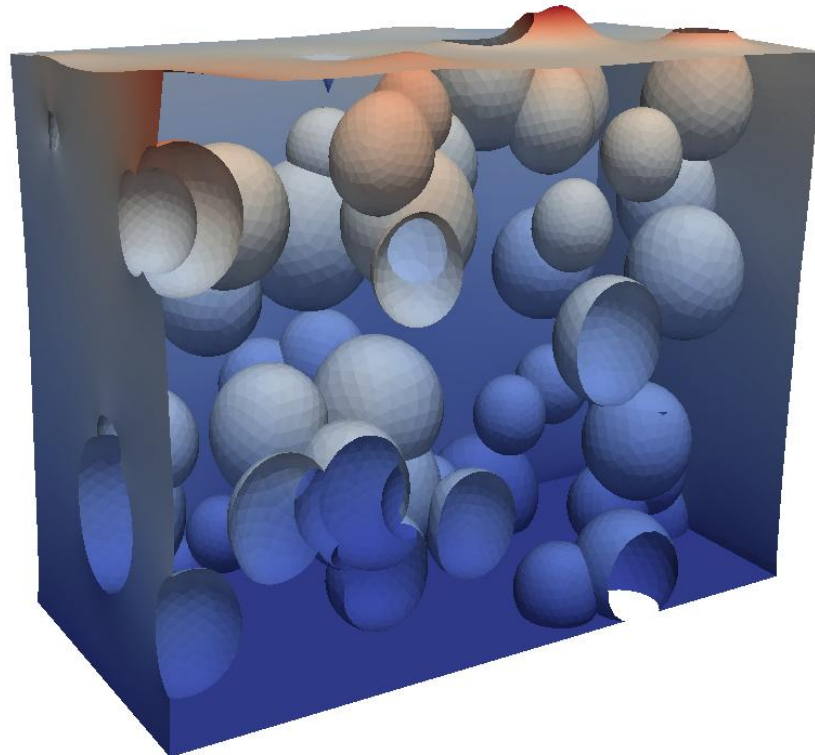
```
Procedure = "ResultOutputSolve" "ResultOutputSolver"
```

```
Output File Name = case
```

```
Vtu Format = Logical True
```

```
Save Boundaries Only = Logical True
```

End



Conclusions



- It is good to think in advance what kind of data you need
 - 3D volume and 2D surface data
 - Derived fields
 - 1D line data
 - 0D lumped data
- Often the same operations may be done also at later stages but with significantly greater effort



Visualization with ElmerPost

How to write files for ElmerPost

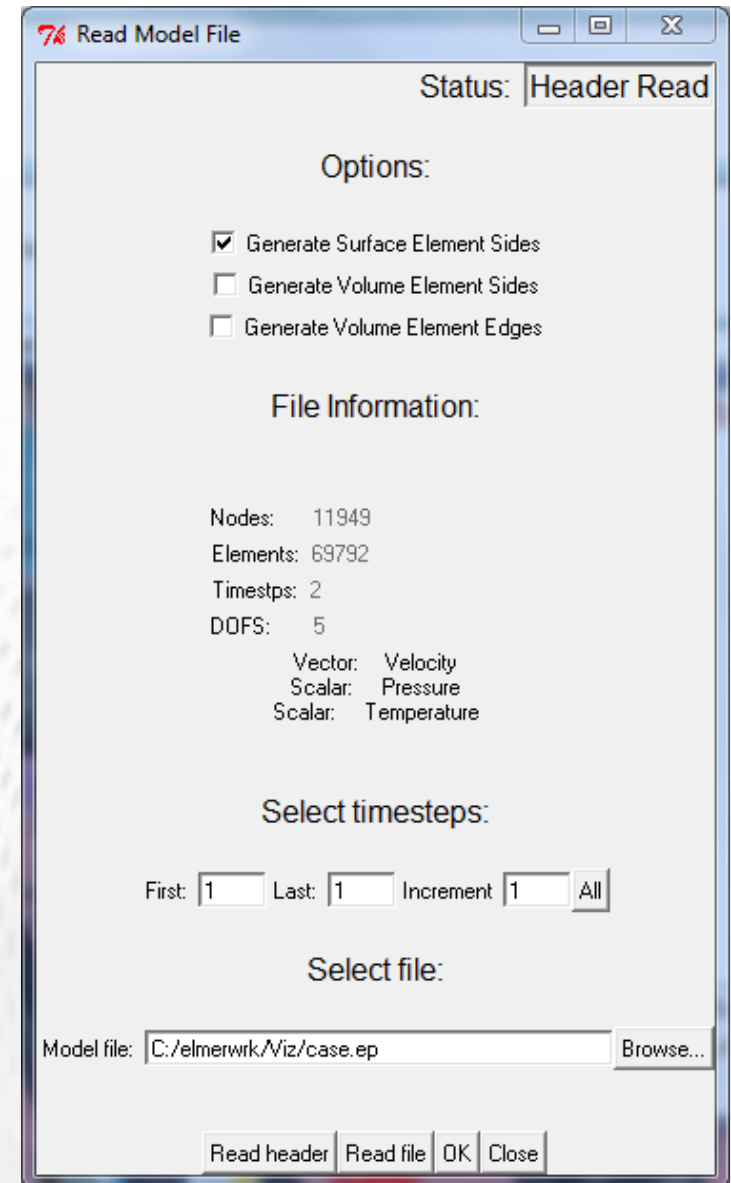


- Default suffix is `.ep`
- May be requested in Simulation section
`Post File = case.ep`
- Or using ResultOutputSolver with
`Output format = ElmerPost`

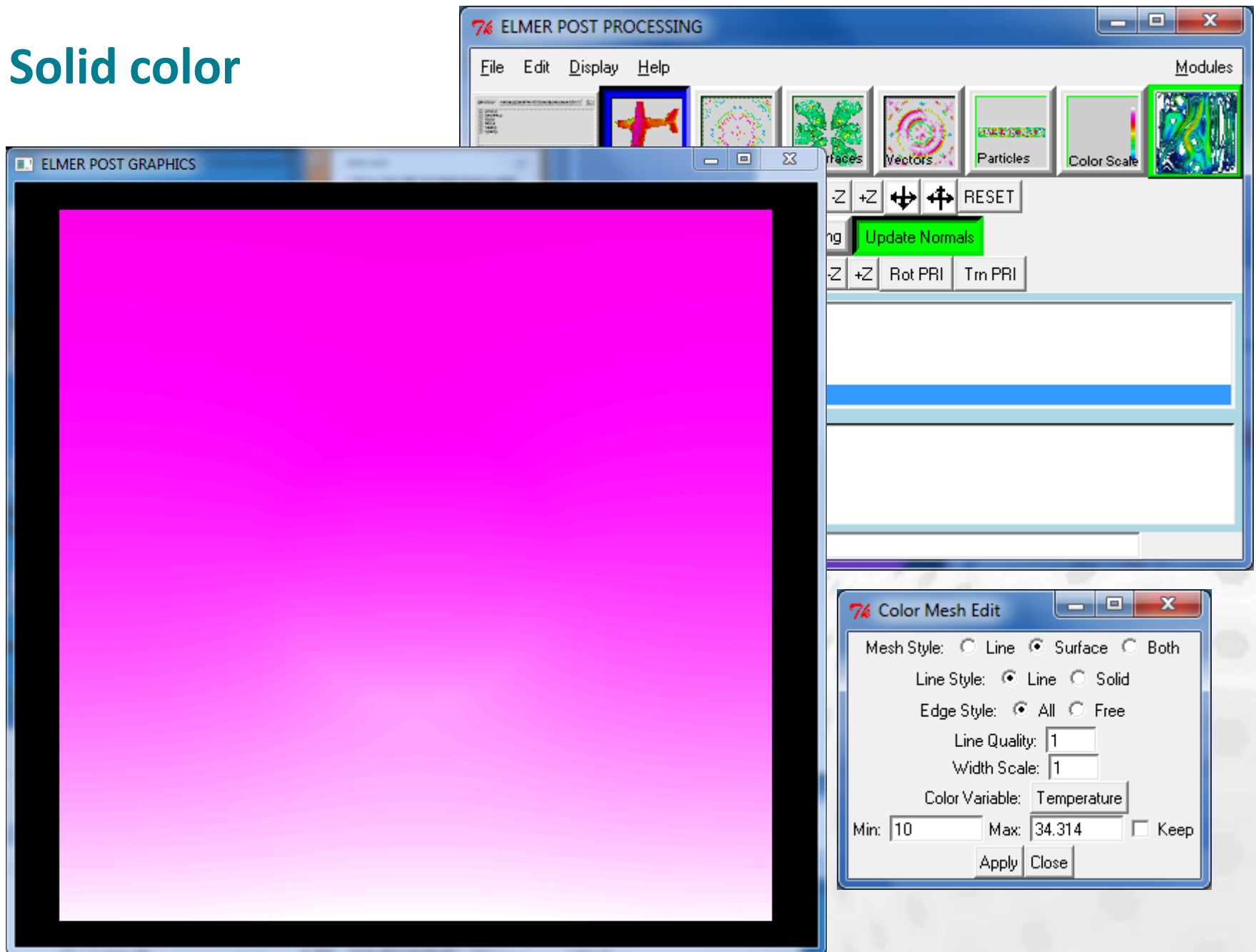
Loading data



- Assume data in case.ep
- File -> Open -> case.ep
- Here the timesteps are chosen
- If element edges or sides are not defined for BCs they may have to be created here



Solid color



Moving object in ElmerPost



Rotate

– Mouse: Right bottom

– Click: 

– Command line, e.g.: `rotate 30 45 60`

Scale


– Mouse: Both bottoms

– Click: 

– Command line: `scale 1 10 1`

Translate

– Mouse: Left bottom

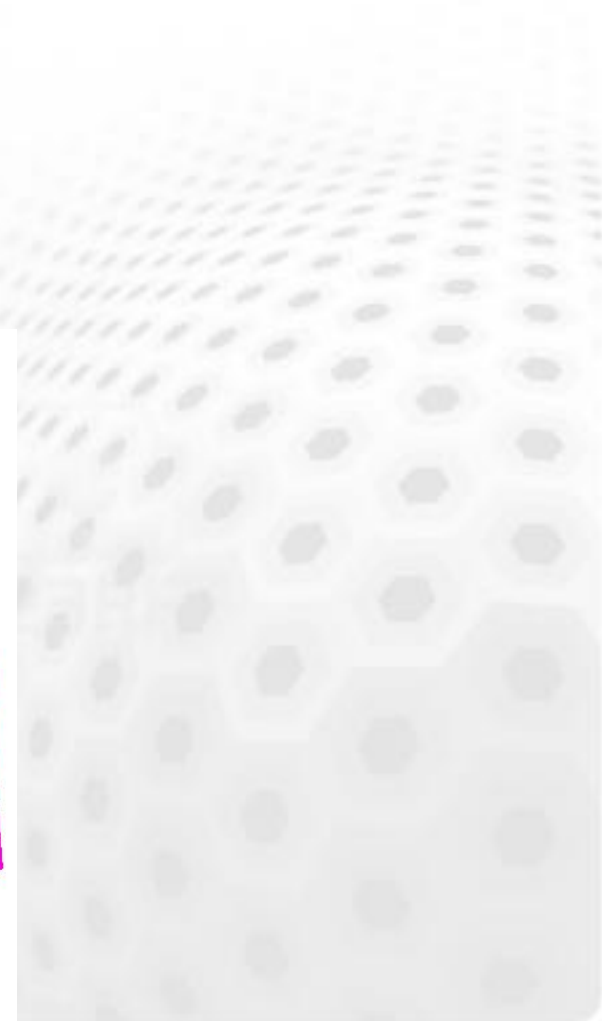
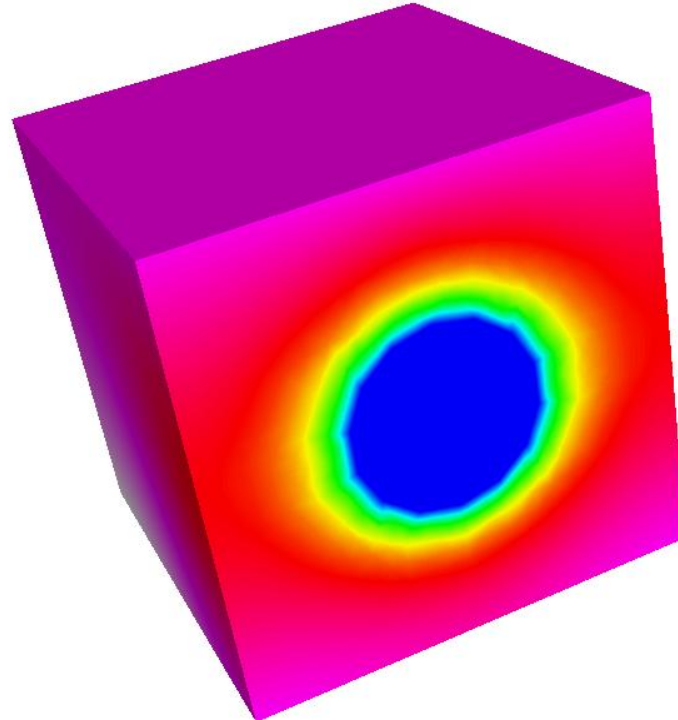
– Click: 

– Command line: `translate 1 2 3`

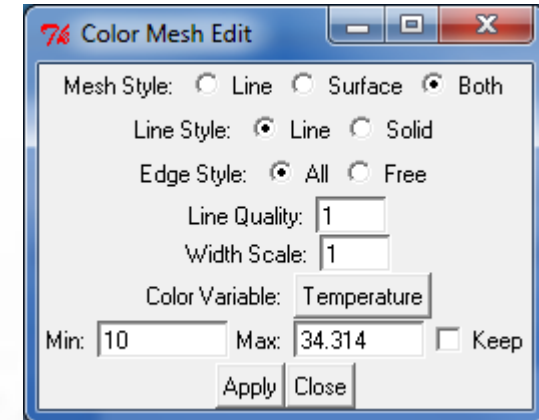
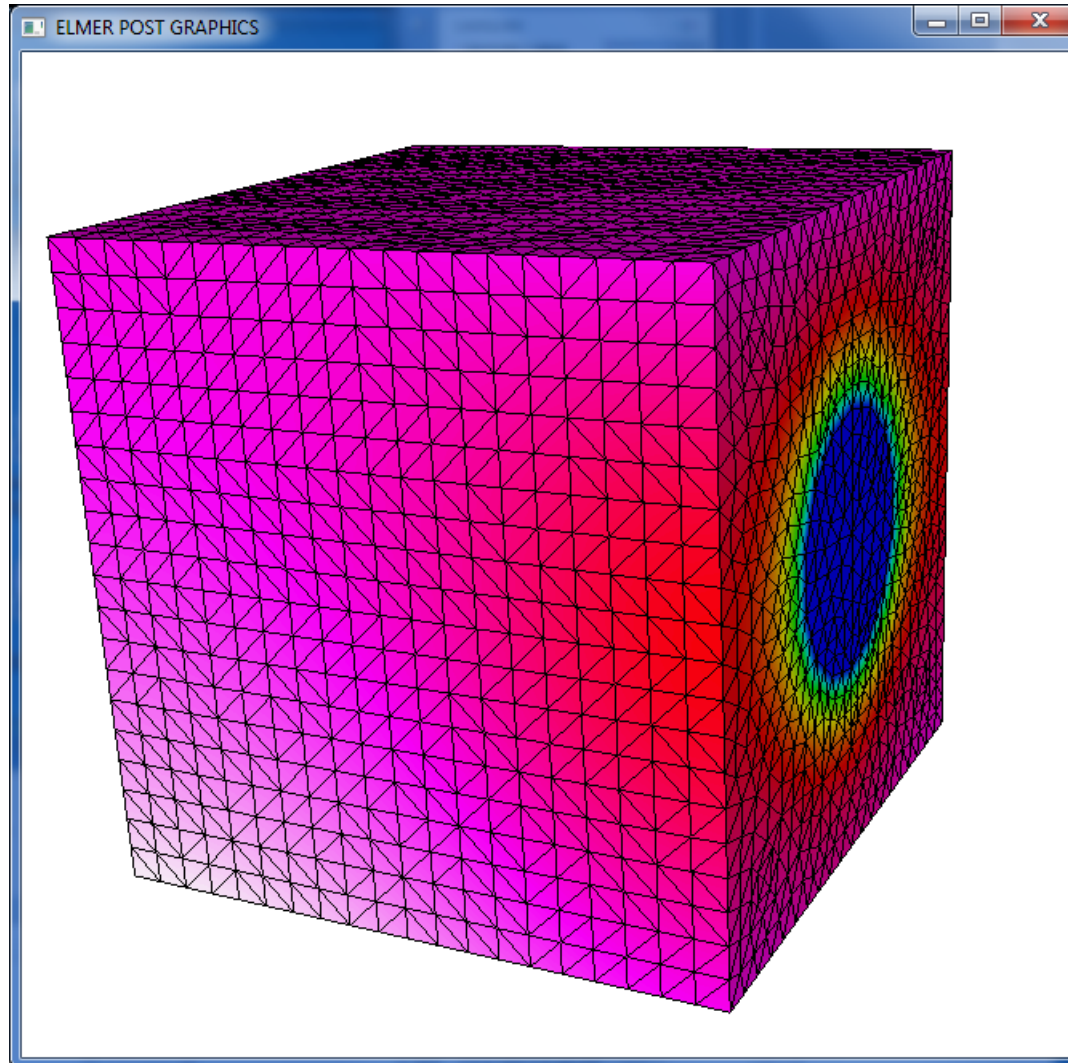
Setting background color



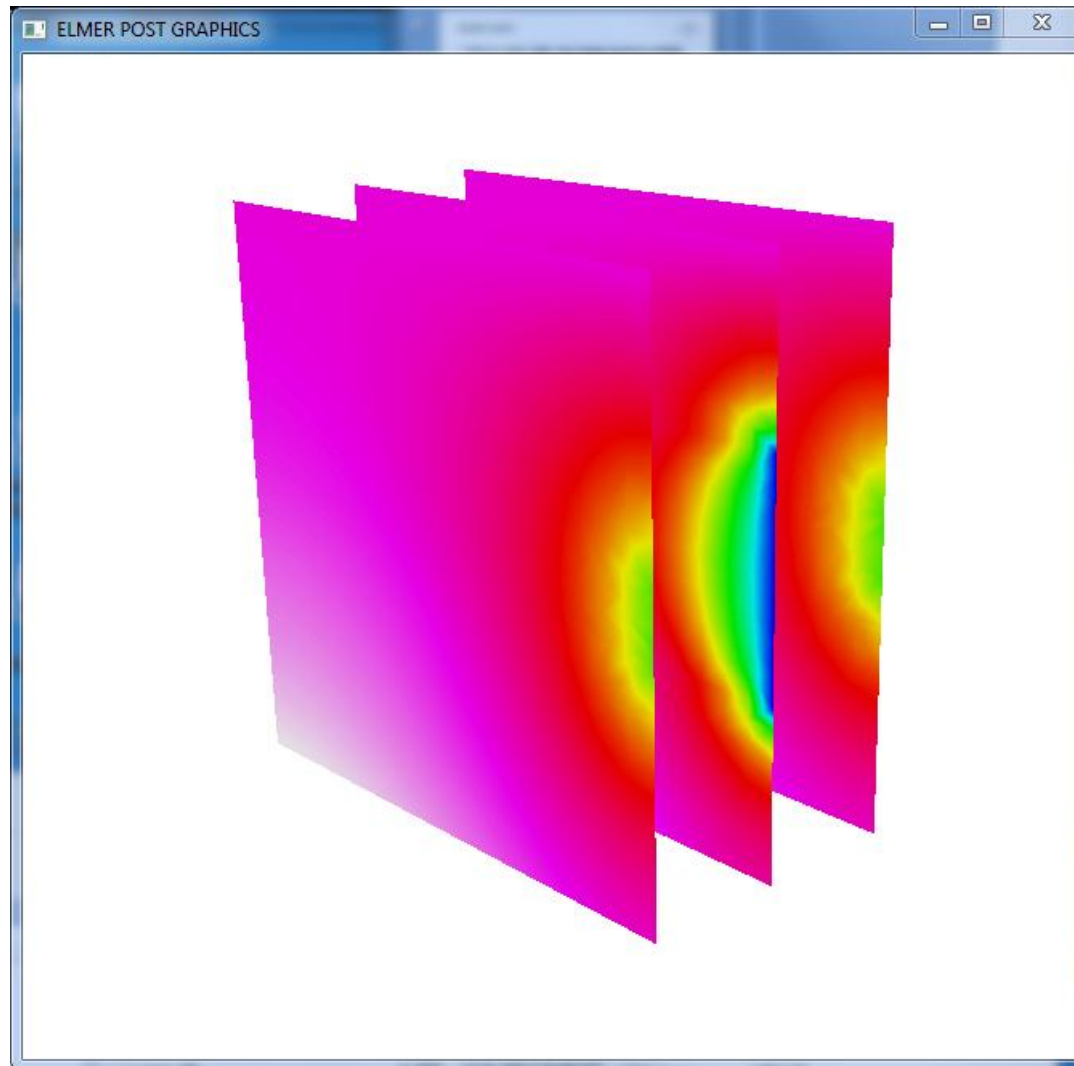
- Click:
 - Edit -> Background
 - Set 100.0 100.0 100.0 for white
- Command line
 - `background 100 100 100`



Color mesh with surface + edges

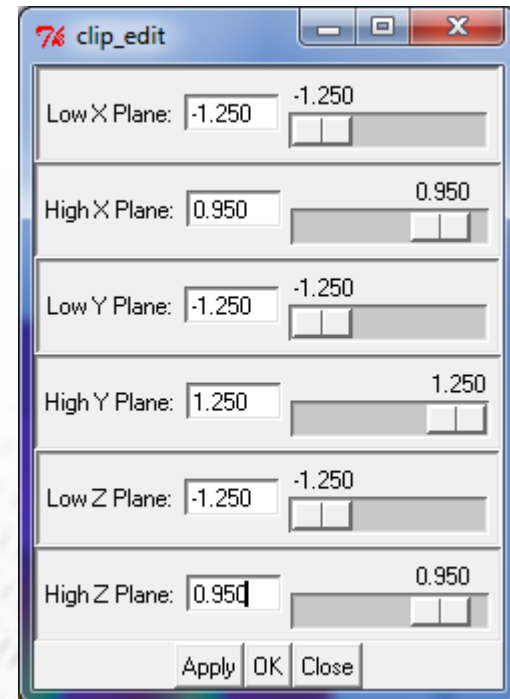
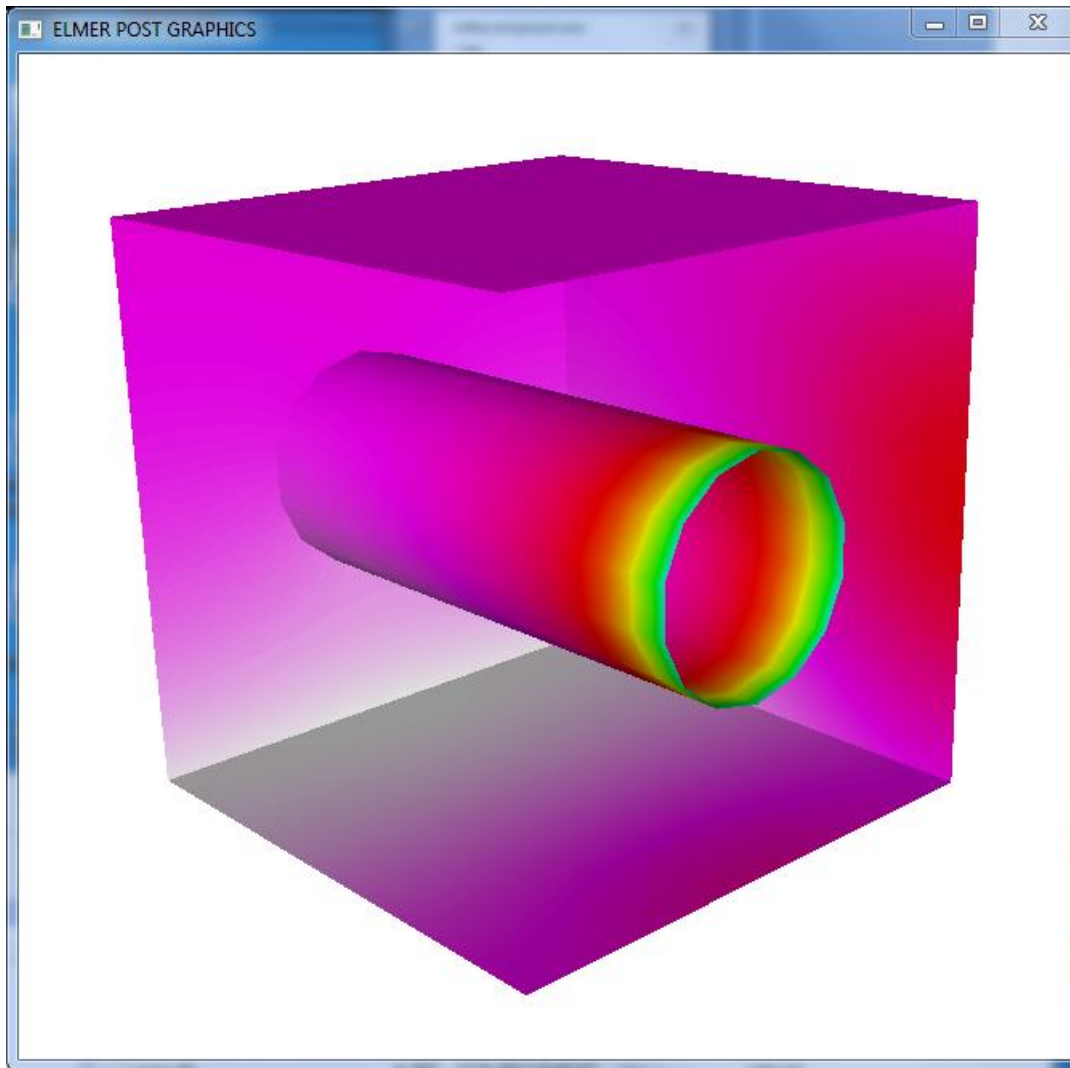


Plotting isosurfaces

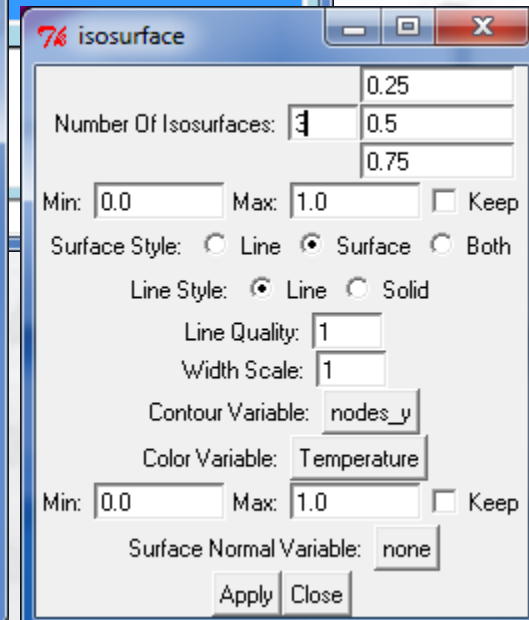
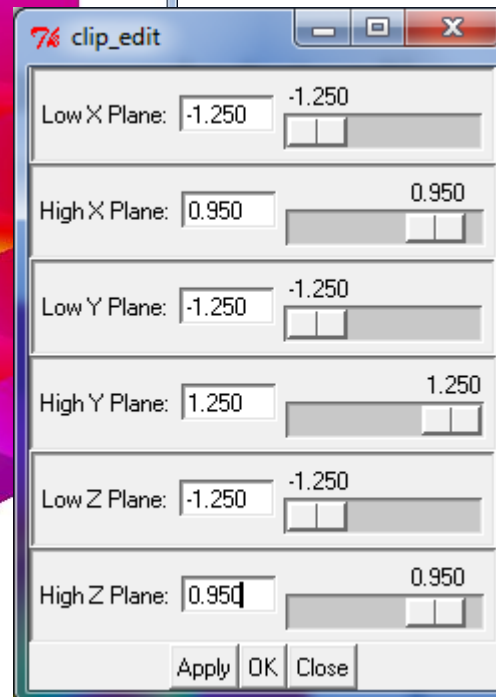
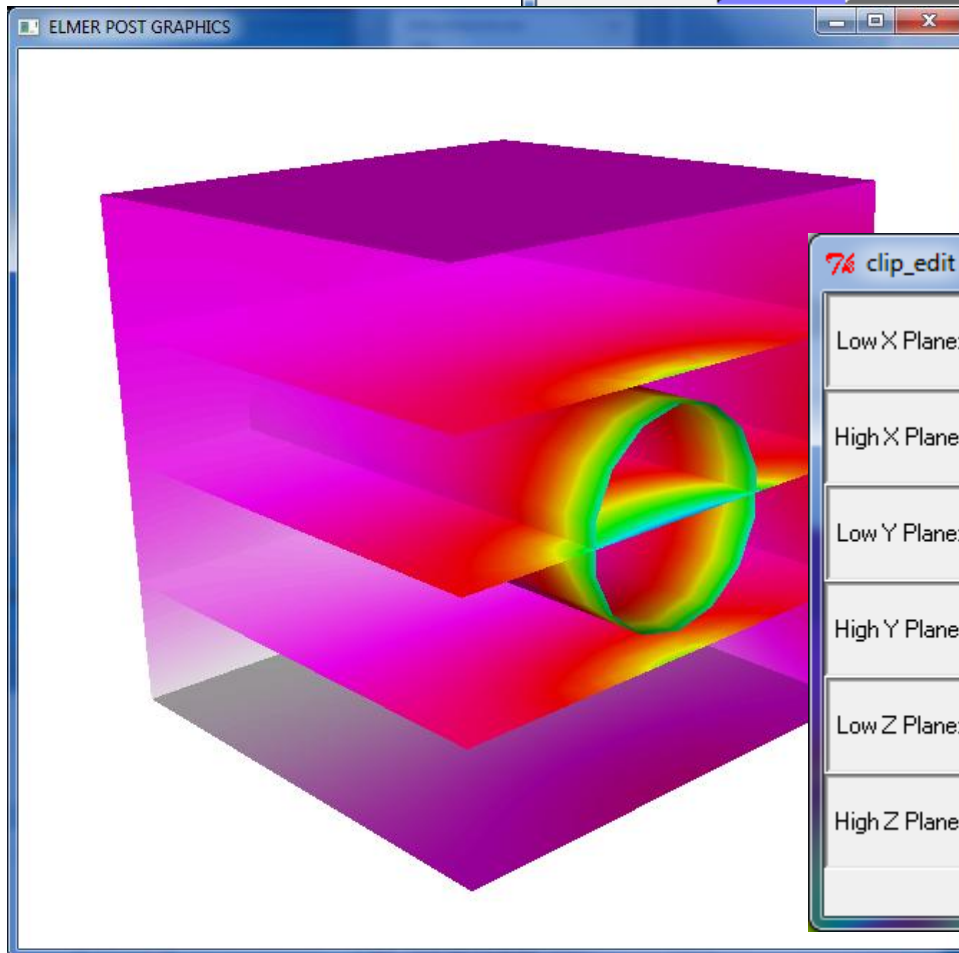
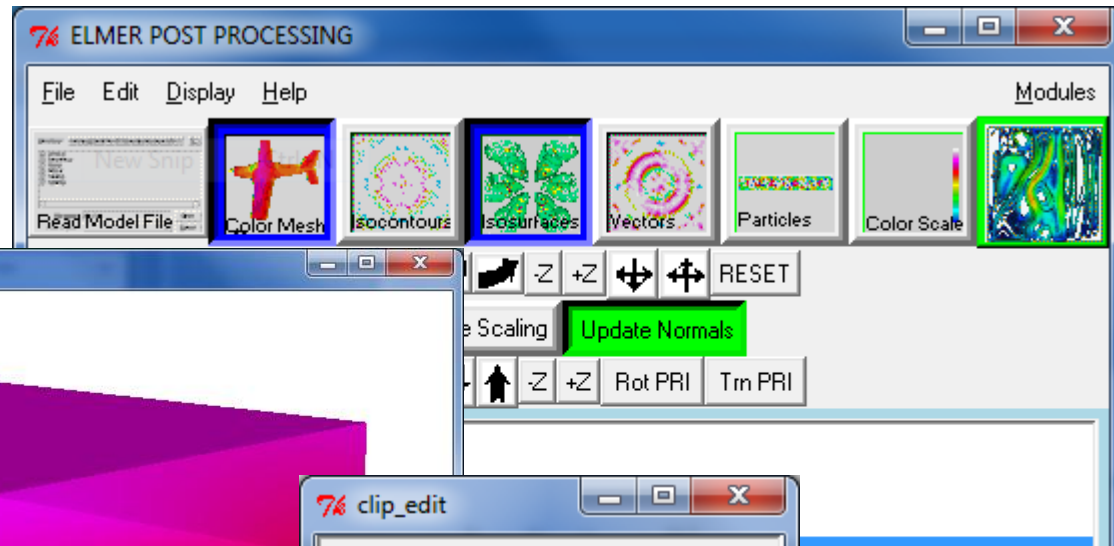
A screenshot of the "isosurface" dialog box in the software. It contains the following settings:

- Number Of Isosurfaces: 3
- Min: 0.0, Max: 1.0, Keep:
- Surface Style: Line, Surface, Both
- Line Style: Line, Solid
- Line Quality: 1
- Width Scale: 1
- Contour Variable: nodes_x
- Color Variable: Temperature
- Min: 0.0, Max: 1.0, Keep:
- Surface Normal Variable: none
- Buttons: Apply, Close

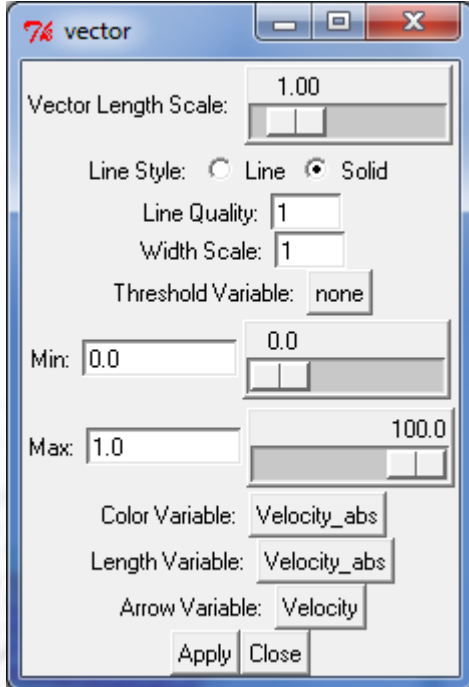
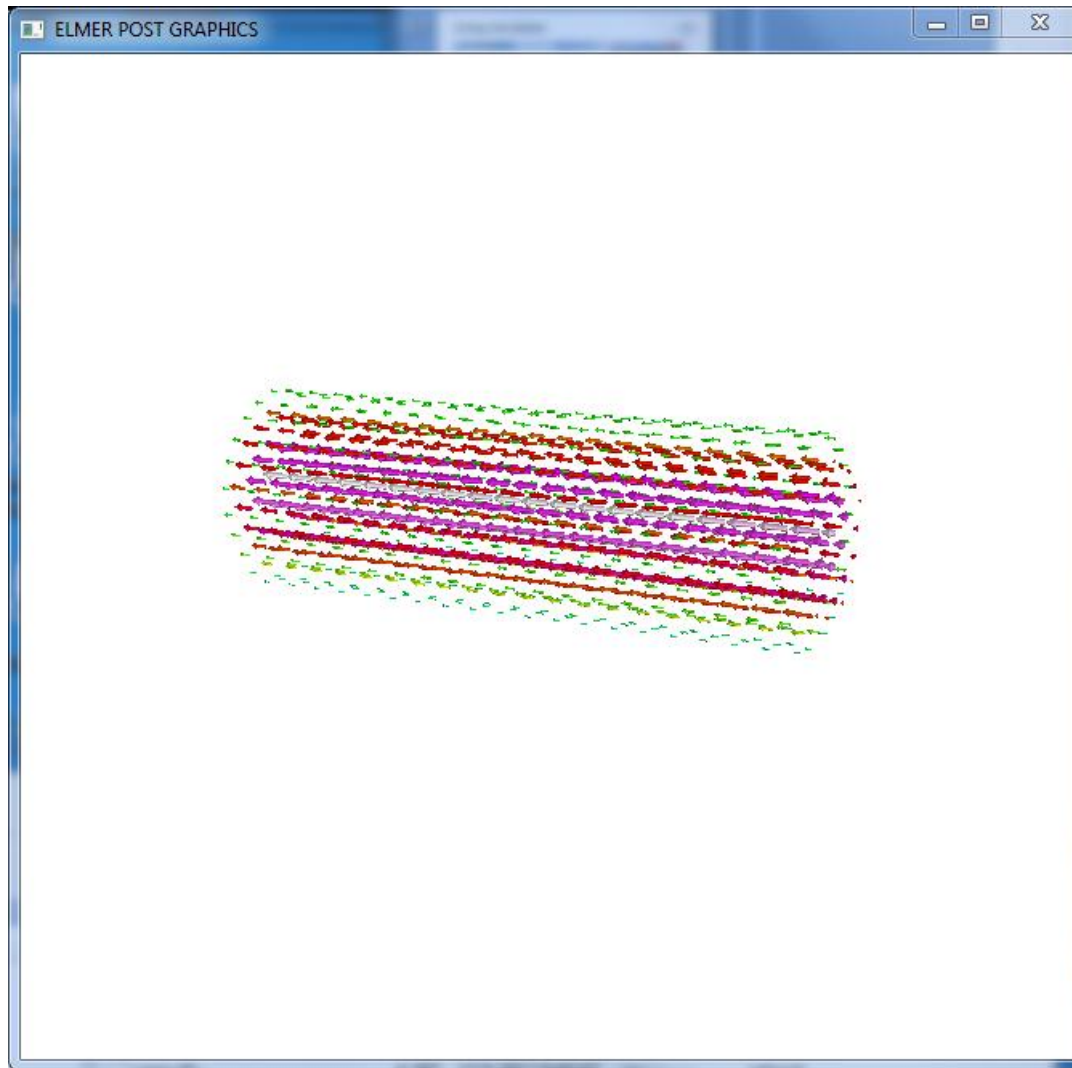
Using clip planes



Isosurface + surface plot + clip planes



Vector plots



The figure shows a dialog box titled "vector" with the following settings:

- Vector Length Scale: 1.00
- Line Style: Line Solid
- Line Quality: 1
- Width Scale: 1
- Threshold Variable: none
- Min: 0.0
- Max: 1.0
- Color Variable: Velocity_abs
- Length Variable: Velocity_abs
- Arrow Variable: Velocity
- Buttons: Apply, Close

Vector plot + solid surface

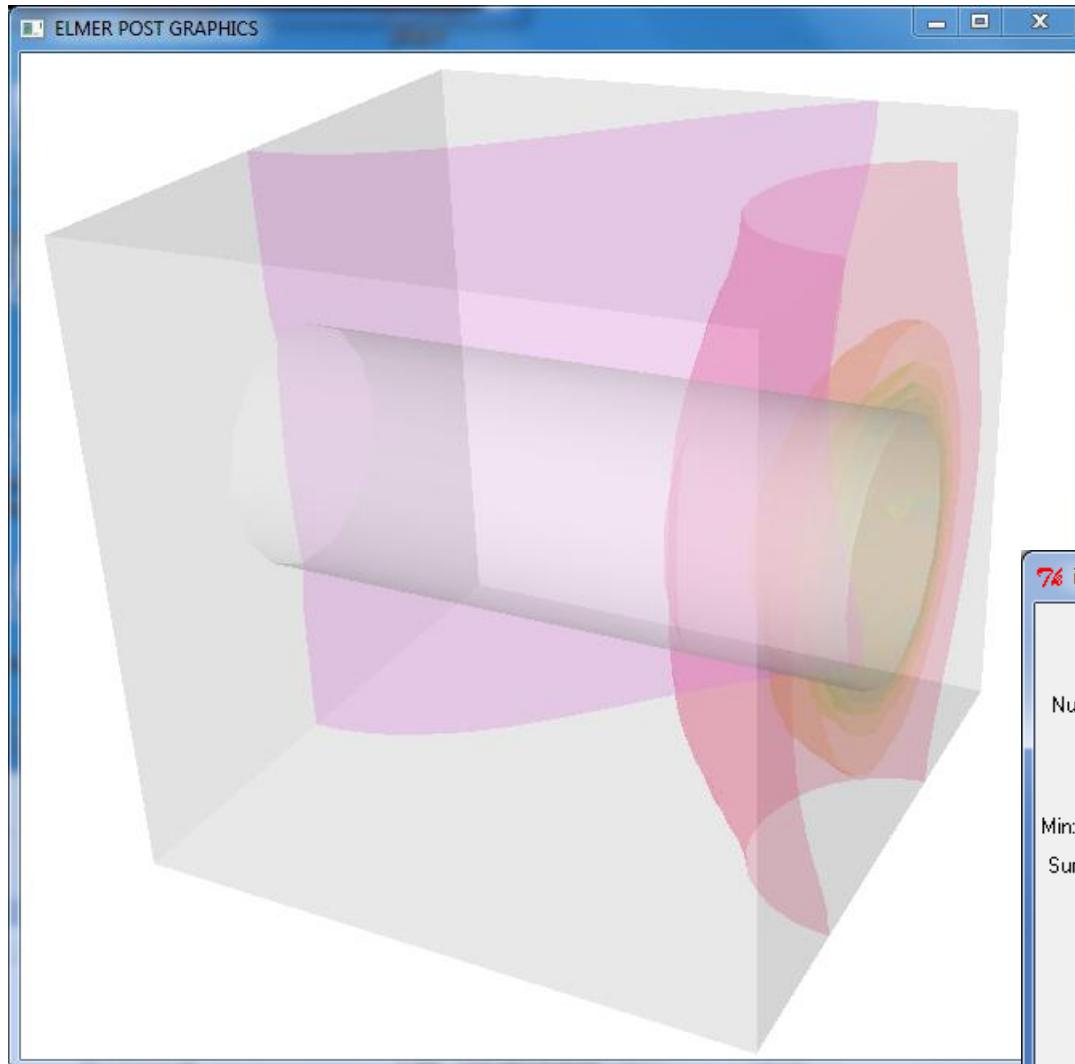


The screenshot displays the ELMER POST PROCESSING software interface. The main window shows a 3D visualization of a cylinder with a vector plot overlaid on it. The cylinder is colored with a gradient from purple to red. The surrounding rectangular box is colored with a gradient from purple to pink. The software interface includes a menu bar (File, Edit, Display, Help) and a toolbar with icons for Isocontours, Isosurfaces, Vectors, Particles, and Color Scale. A 'clip_edit' dialog box is open, showing settings for clipping planes:

Plane	Low Value	High Value
Low X Plane	-1.250	-1.250
High X Plane	0.000	0.000
Low Y Plane	-1.250	-1.250
High Y Plane	1.250	1.250
Low Z Plane	-1.250	-1.250
High Z Plane	0.945	0.945

The dialog box also includes 'Apply', 'OK', and 'Close' buttons.

Surface plot + Isosurfaces + Opaque



isosurface

13.4734079143
16.9468158286
20.4202237426
23.8936316572
27.3670395714
30.8404474857

Number Of Isosurfaces:

Min: Max: Keep

Surface Style: Line Surface Both

Line Style: Line Solid

Line Quality:

Width Scale:

Contour Variable:

Color Variable:

Min: Max: Keep

Surface Normal Variable:

Material

Apply-To

Ambient & Diffuse Specular

Shininess

0.0 32.0 64.0 96.0 128.0

Opacity (%)

90.0

90.0

90.0

0.0 25.0 50.0 75.0 100.0

alice blue
AliceBlue
antique white
AntiqueWhite
AntiqueWhite1
AntiqueWhite2
AntiqueWhite3
AntiqueWhite4
aquamarine
aquamarine1

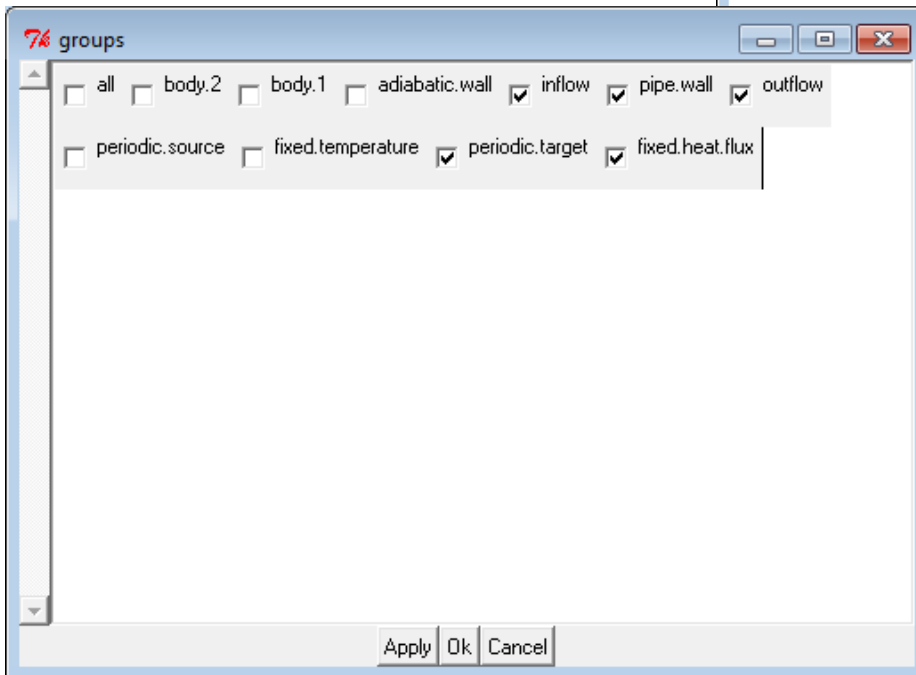
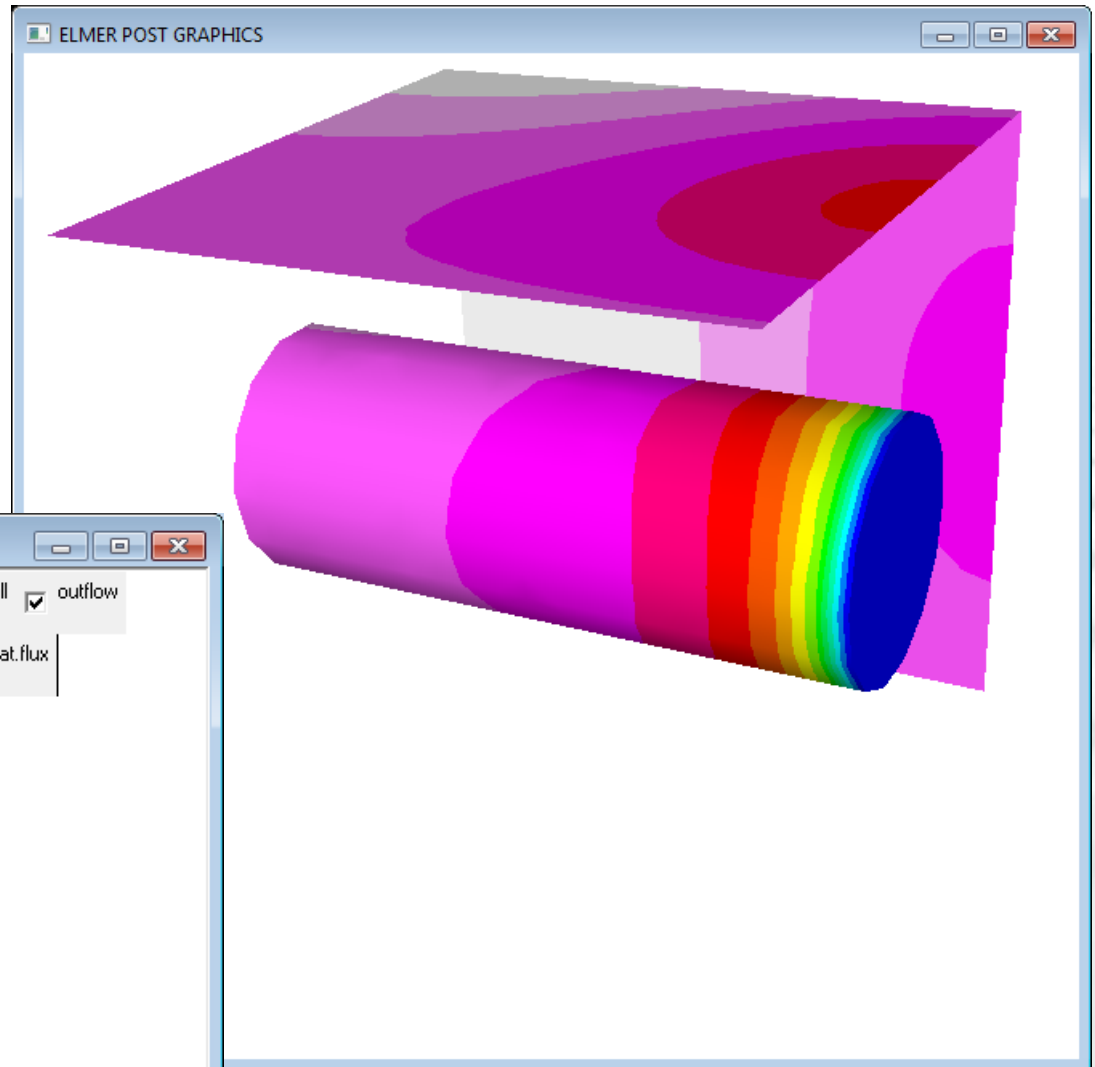
Change of colormap



The image shows a screenshot of the ELMER POST GRAPHICS software interface. The main window displays a 3D visualization of a cube with a stress distribution. A circular region on the right side of the cube is highlighted with a color gradient from blue (low stress) to red (high stress). Overlaid on this is a smaller window titled "ci_editColormap".

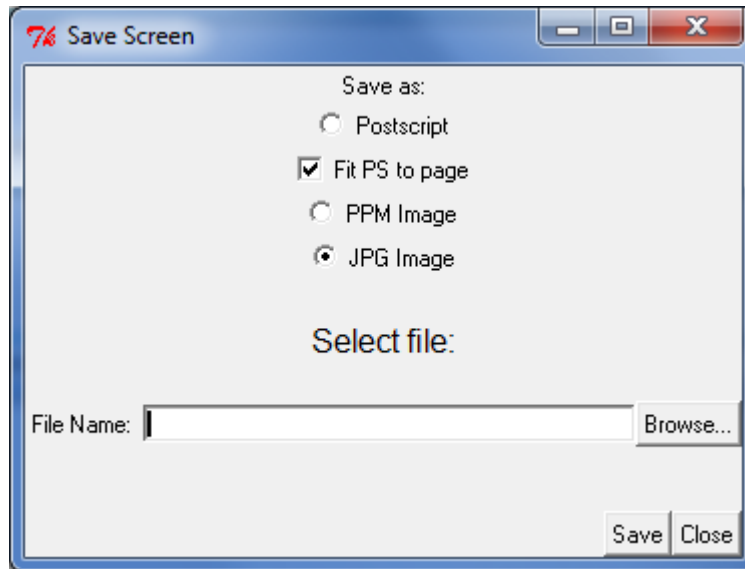
The "ci_editColormap" window has a menu bar with "File", "Edit", "Apply-To", and "Help". Below the menu is a horizontal bar with 15 color swatches. Underneath are three vertical sliders, each with a value of 100.0. The bottom slider is currently set to 0.0. At the bottom of the window are three buttons: "Apply", "OK", and "Cancel". A list of color names is visible at the bottom, including "alice blue", "AliceBlue", "antique white", "AntiqueWhite", "AntiqueWhite1", "AntiqueWhite2", "AntiqueWhite3", "AntiqueWhite4", "aquamarine", and "aquamarine1".

Selecting active geometric entities



Saving figures

➤ File -> Save Image -> jpg



Deformation in geometry



- Assume displacement field in variable "Displacement"
- Set in command windows:

```
math n0=nodes  
math nodes=n0+Displacement
```
- Replot



Visualization with Paraview

Exporting 2D/3D data: ResultOutputSolve

By setting suffix for **Post File** to **.vtu** paraview format is saved automatically.

An example shows how to save data in unstructured XML VTK (.vtu) files to directory "results" in single precision binary format.

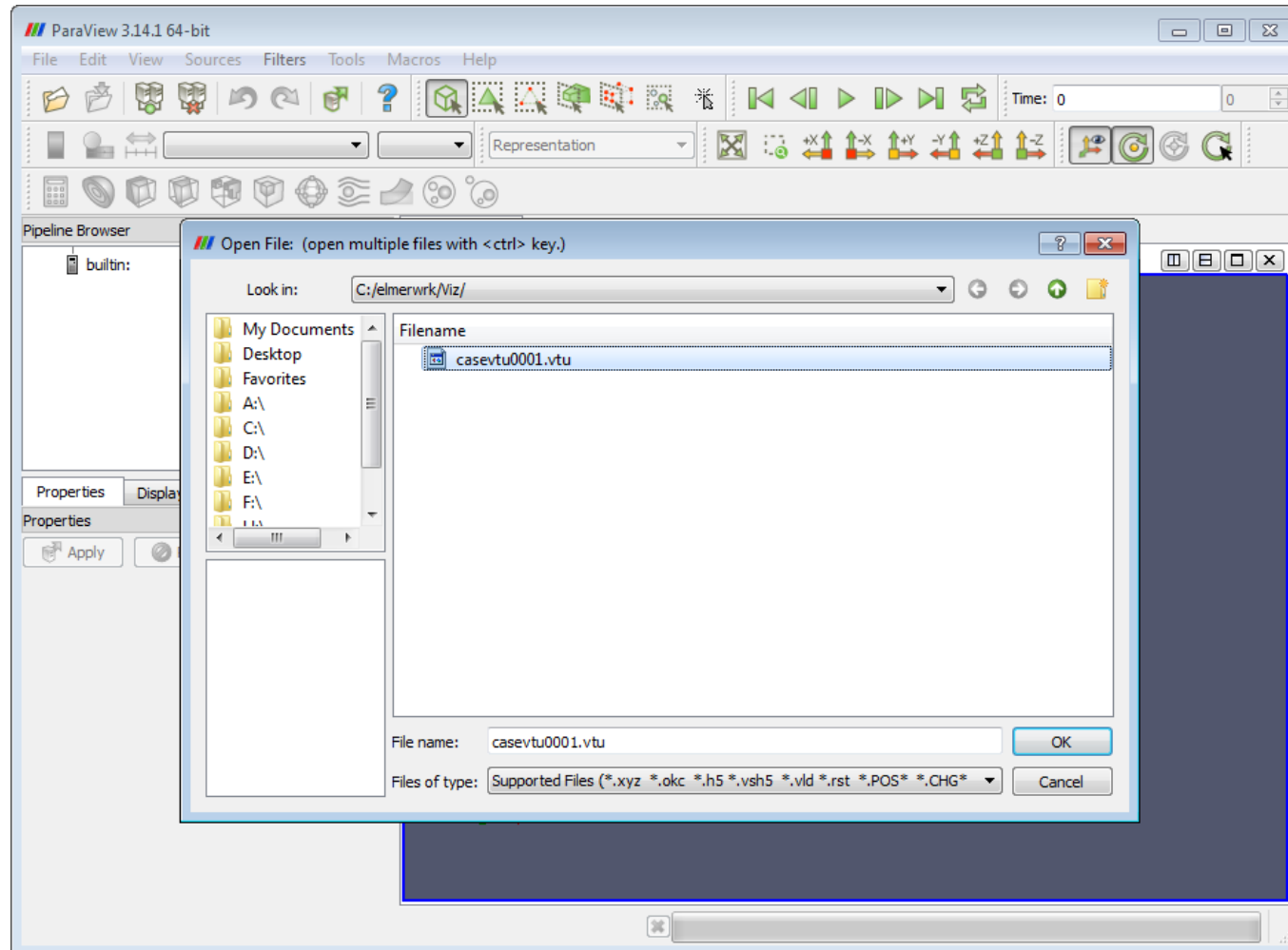
```
Solver n
  Exec Solver = after timestep
  Equation = "result output"
  Procedure = "ResultOutputSolve" "ResultOutputSolver"
  Output File Name = "case"
  Output Format = String "vtu"
  Binary Output = True
  Single Precision = True
  Save Geometry Ids = True
End
```

Filename conventions



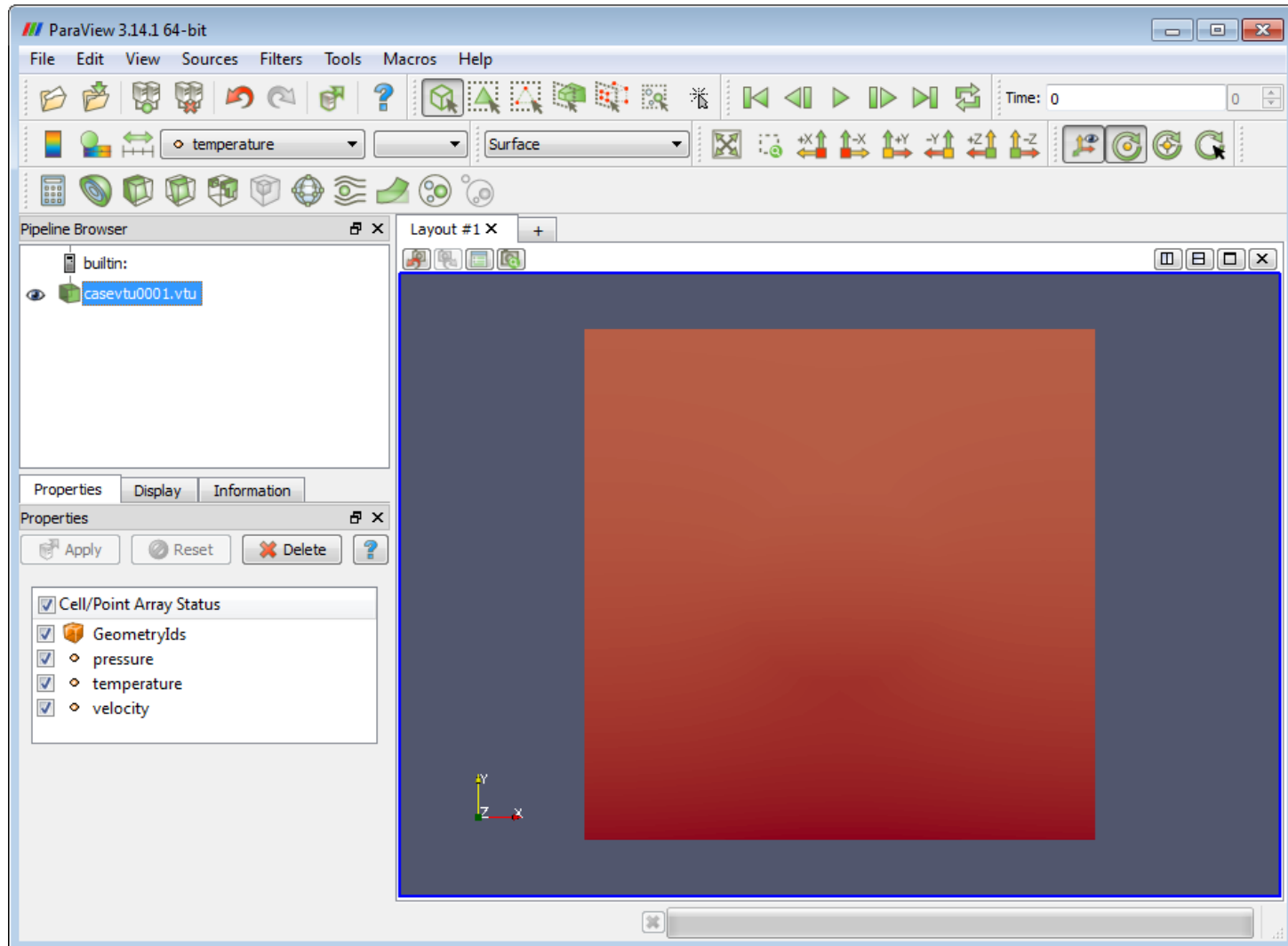
- Suffix of unstructured XML based VTU file is `.vtu`
- Timesteps numbered `#step`
- Partitions numbered with `#partpar#step`
- Holder for vtu files in parallel is `.pvtu`

Loading data



Note: Paraview may have several datasets at the same time!

Solid color



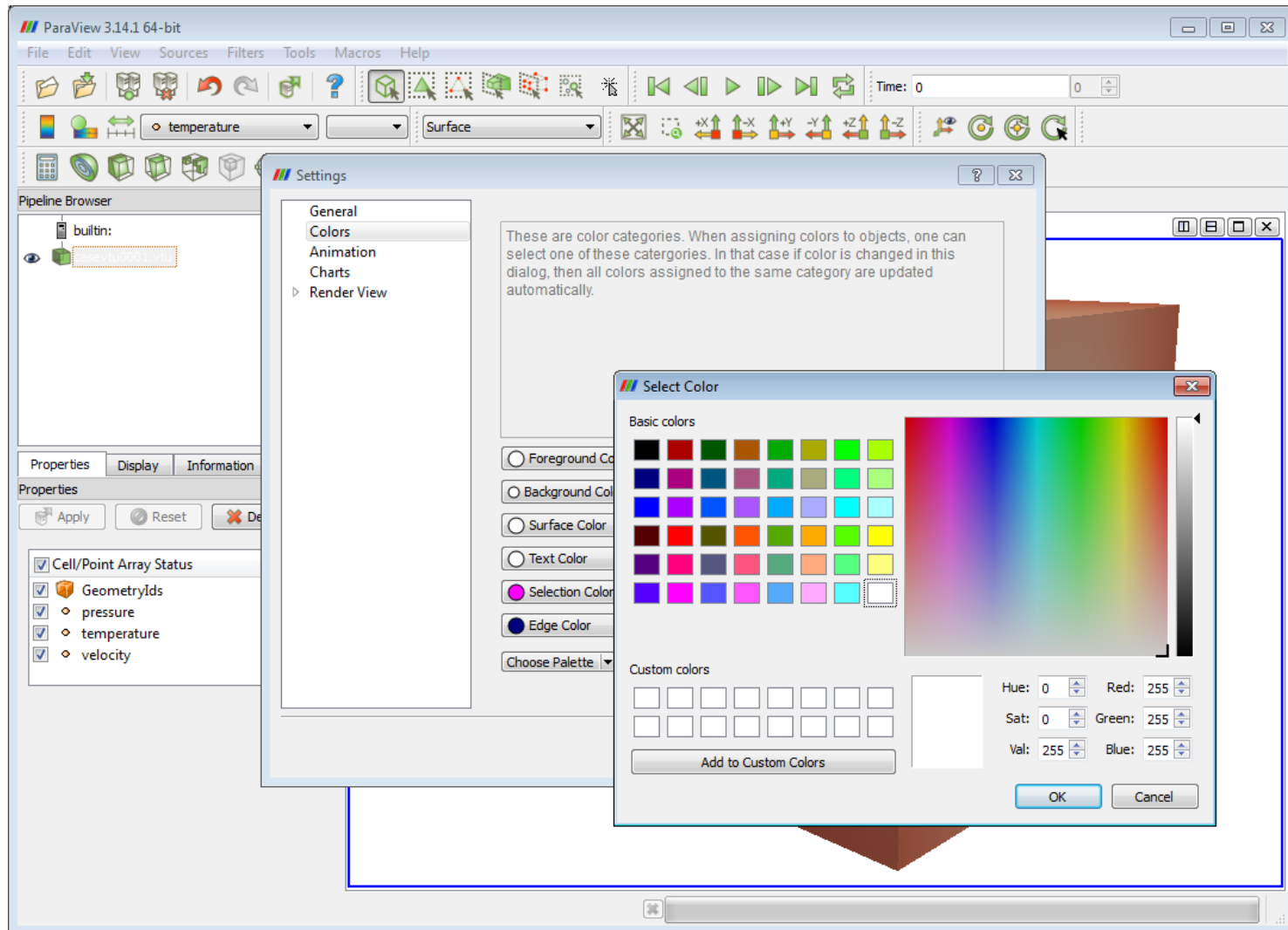
Moving object in Paraview



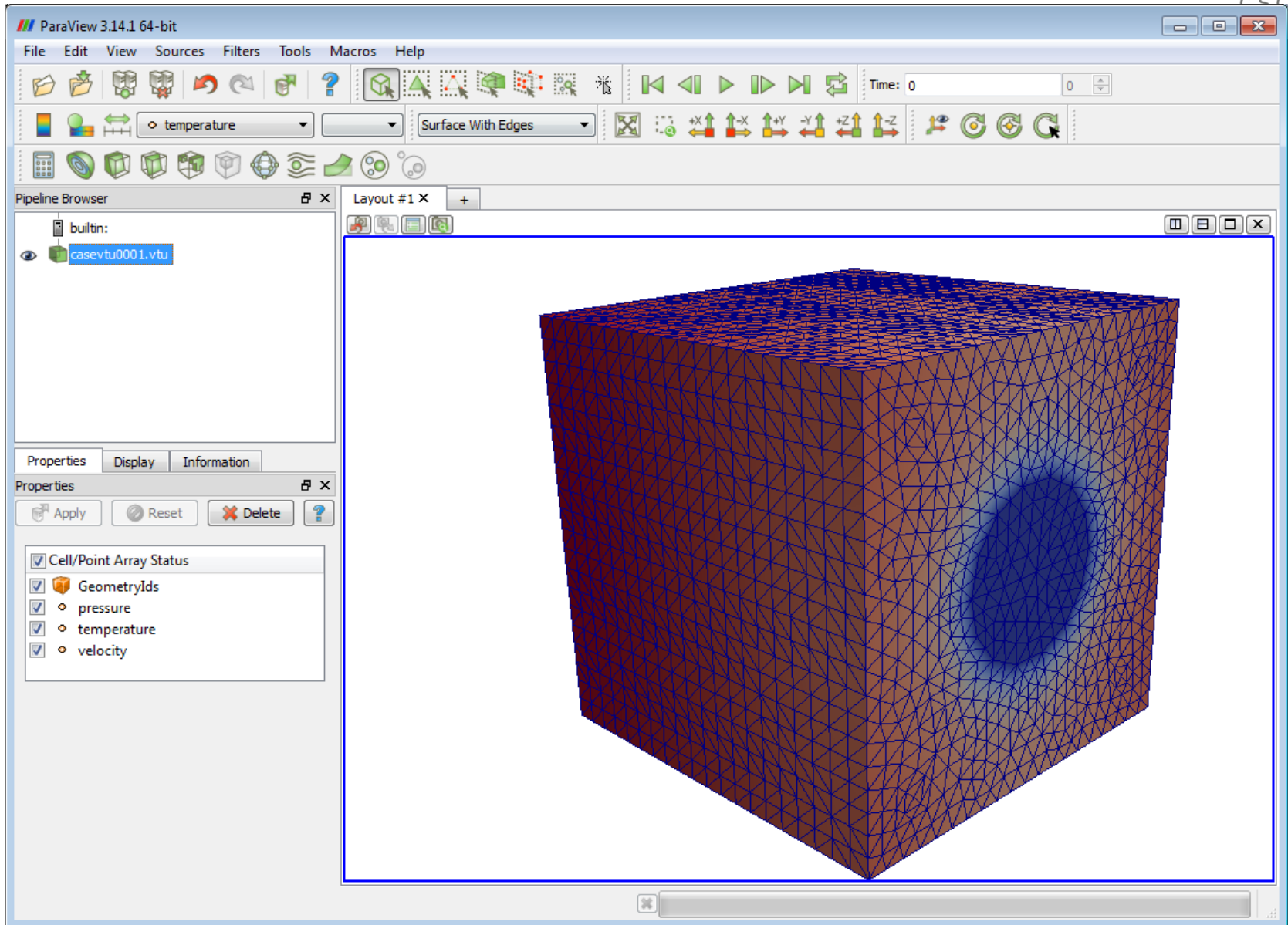
- Rotate
 - Mouse: Left bottom
- Scale
 - Mouse: Right bottom
- Translate
 - Mouse: Center bottom

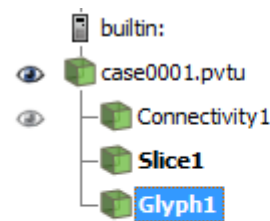


Setting background color



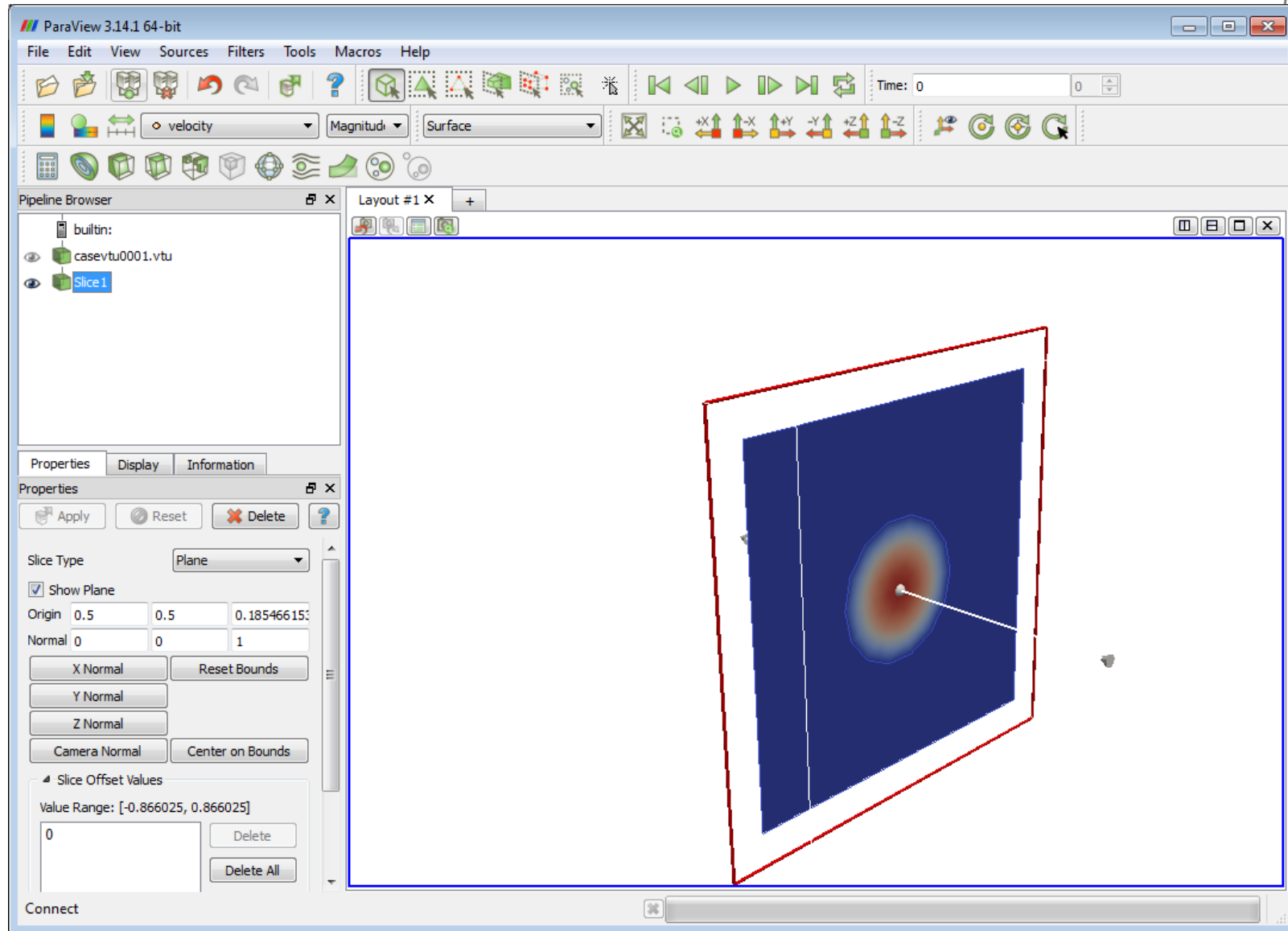
Color mesh with surface + edges



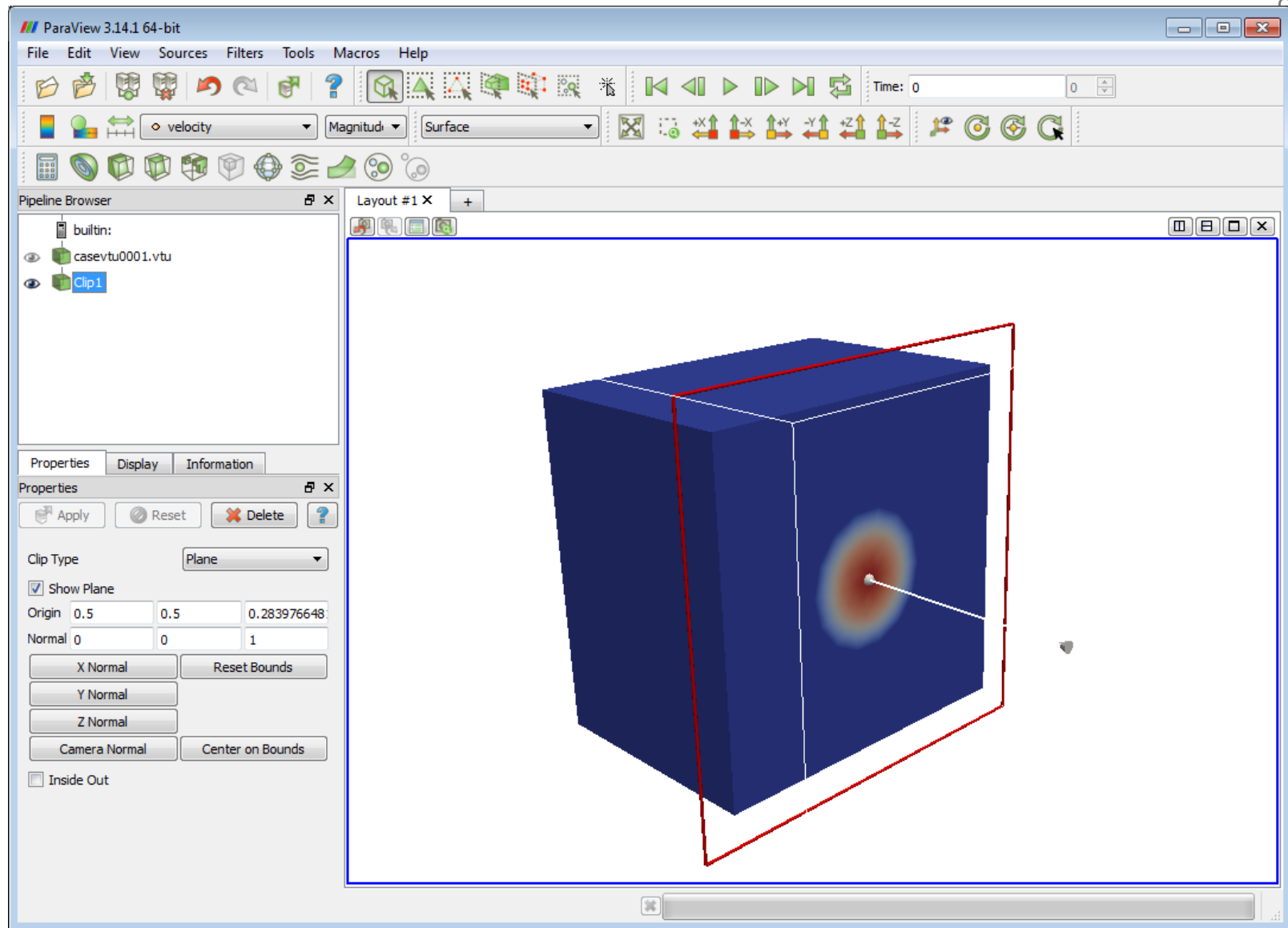


- Paraview uses extensively *filters* to create new datasets
- Filters and datasets may be set active or passive by clicking the eye
- Several datasets may be visualized at the same time

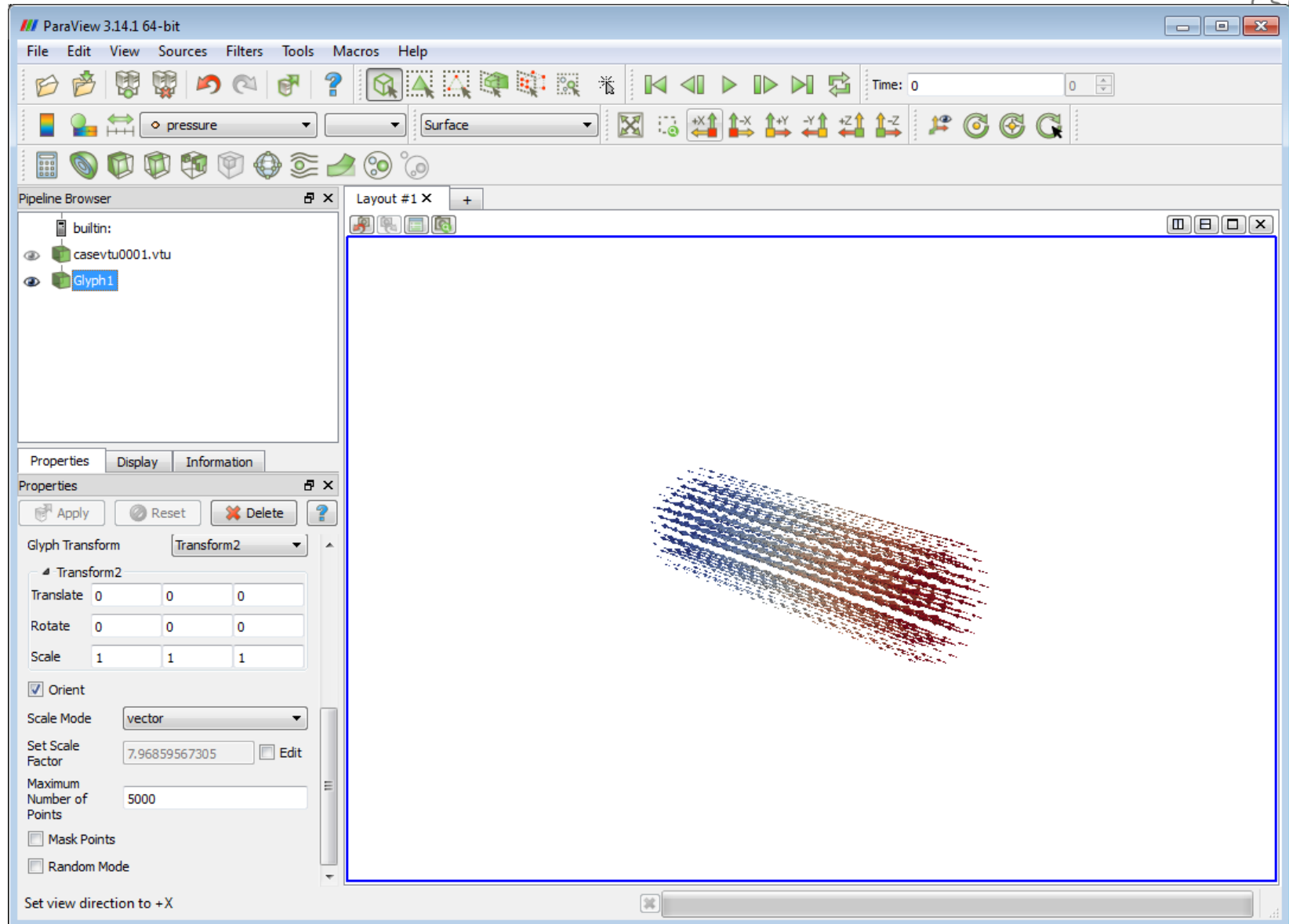
Plotting a slice



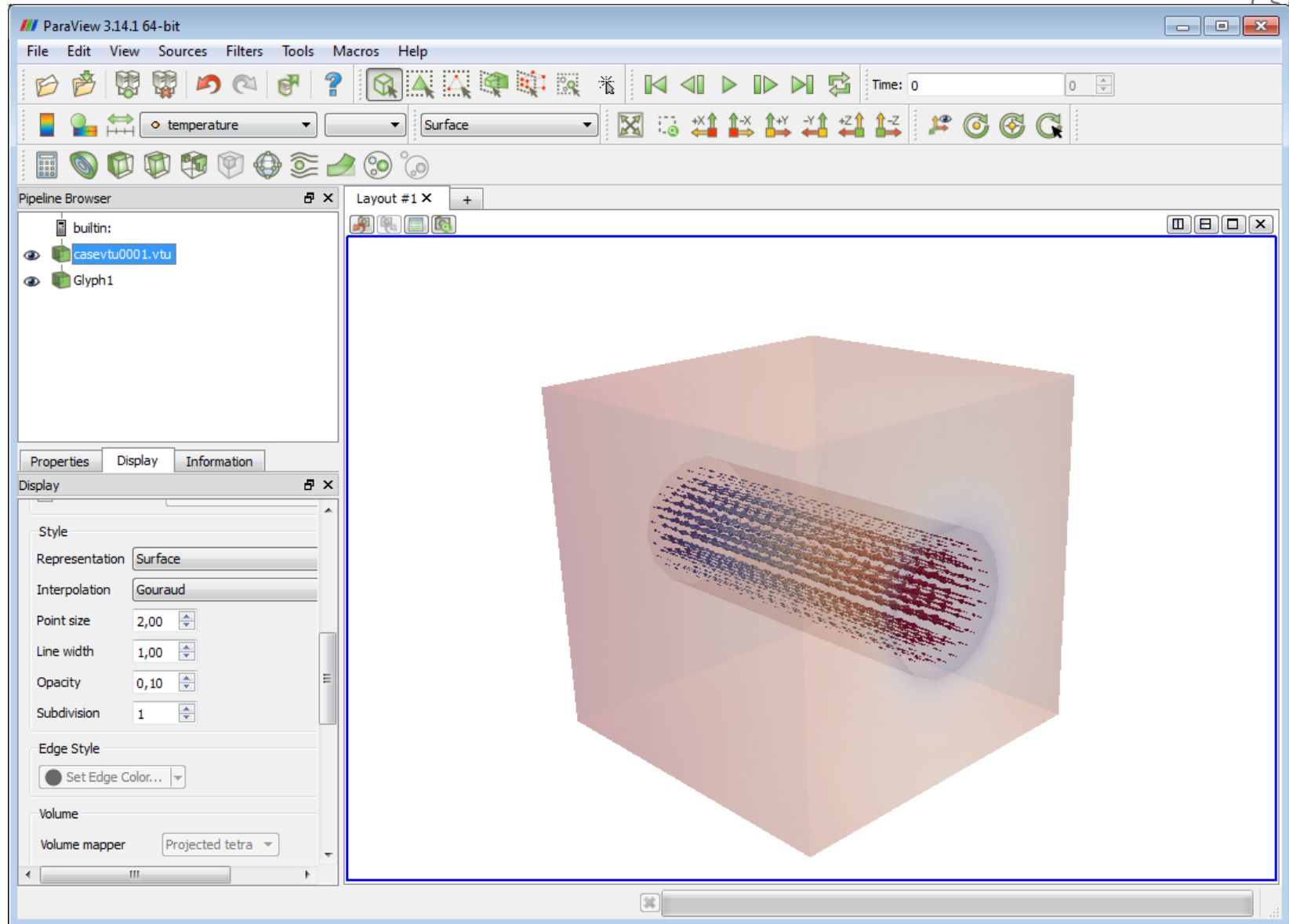
Plotting a clip



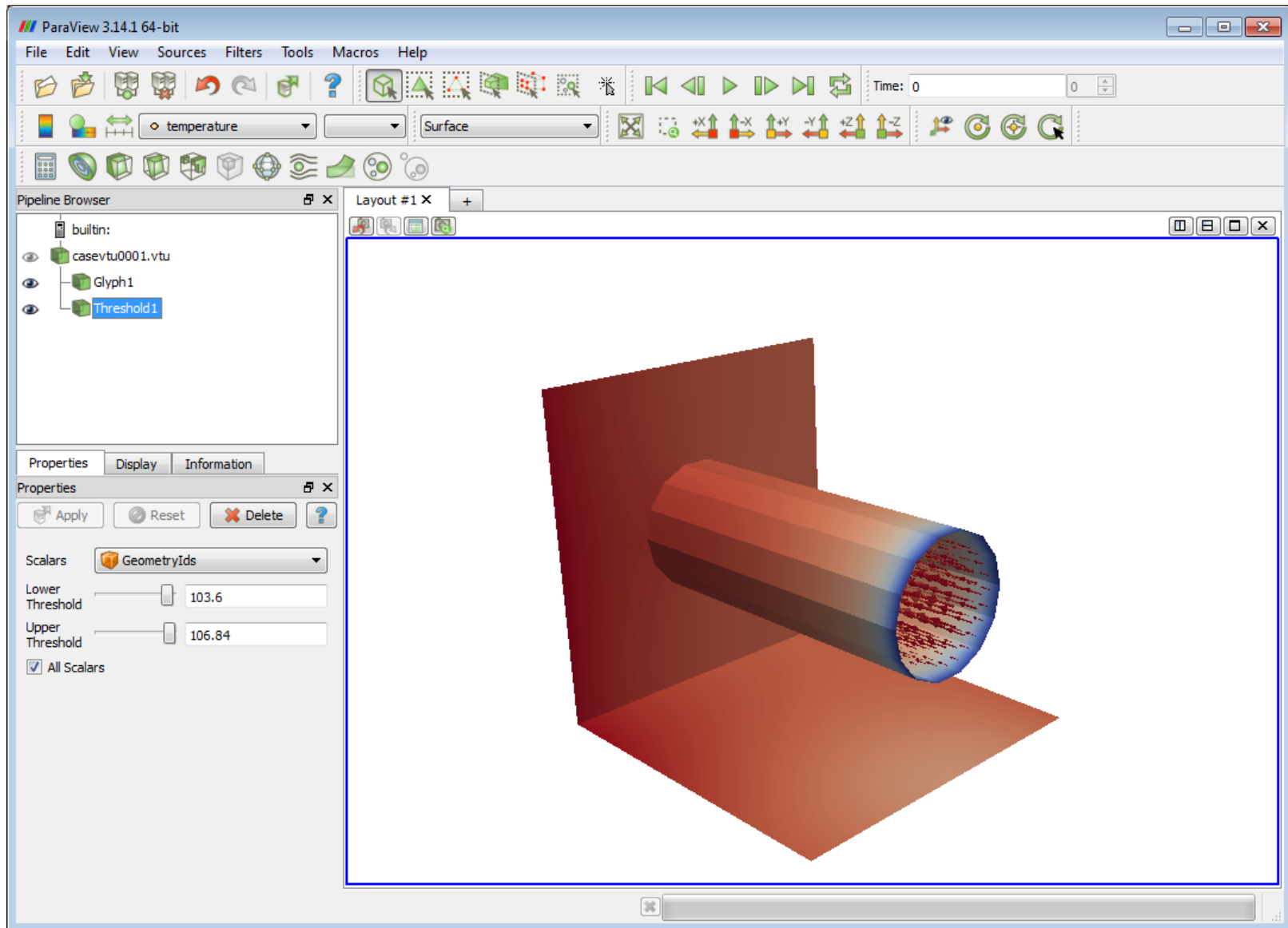
Vector plot



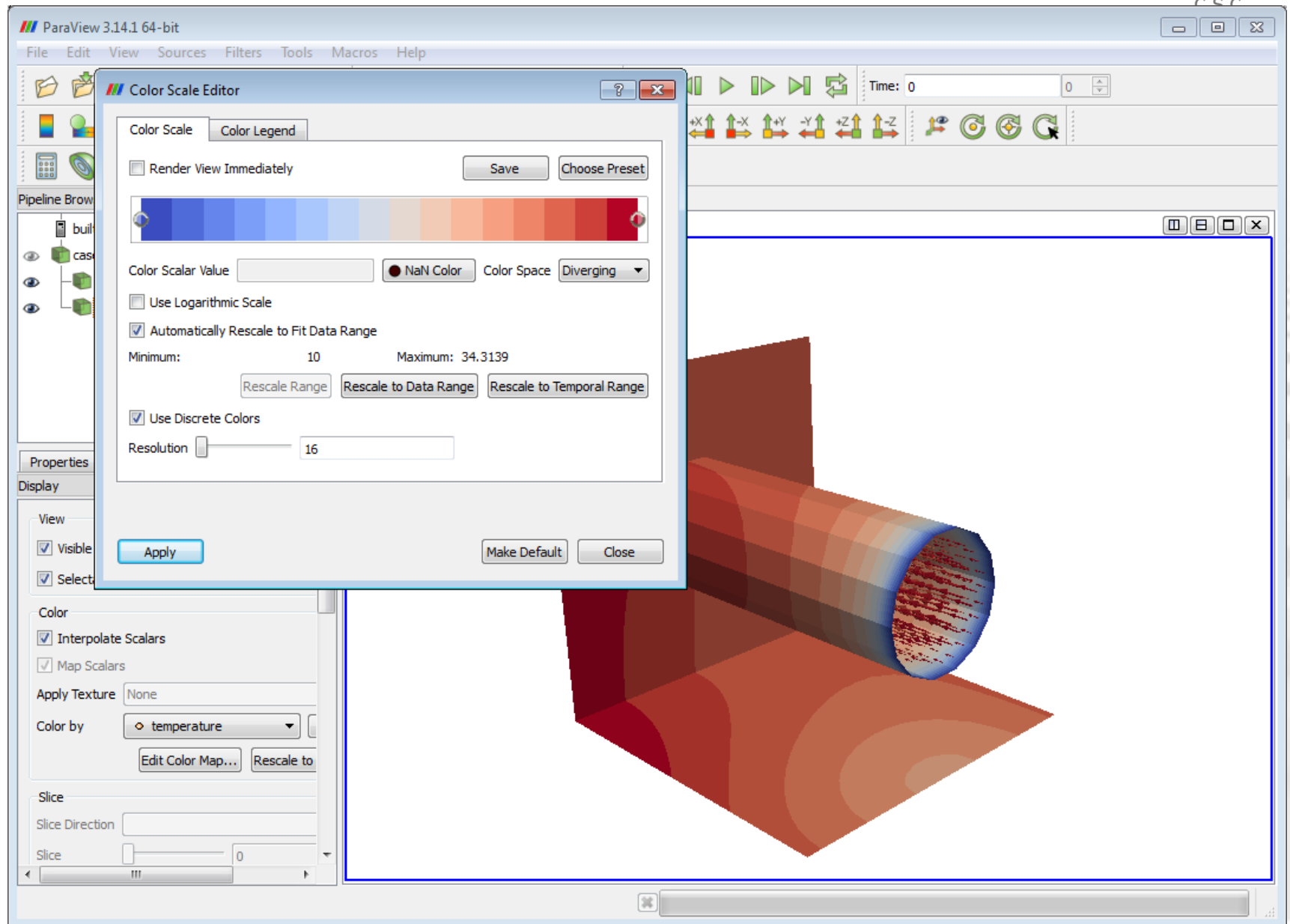
Vector plot + opaque solid surface



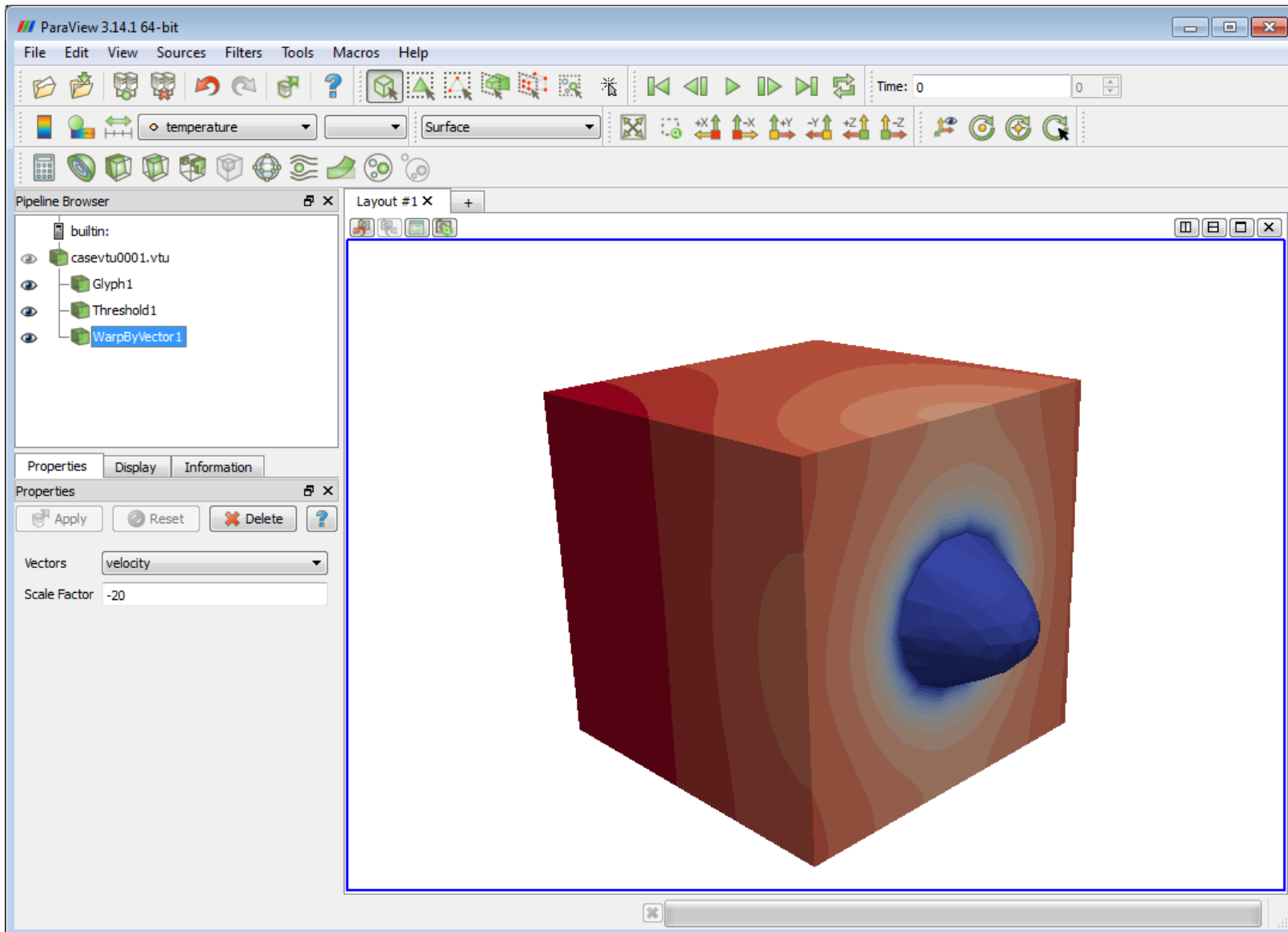
Vector plot + solid surface with Id threshold



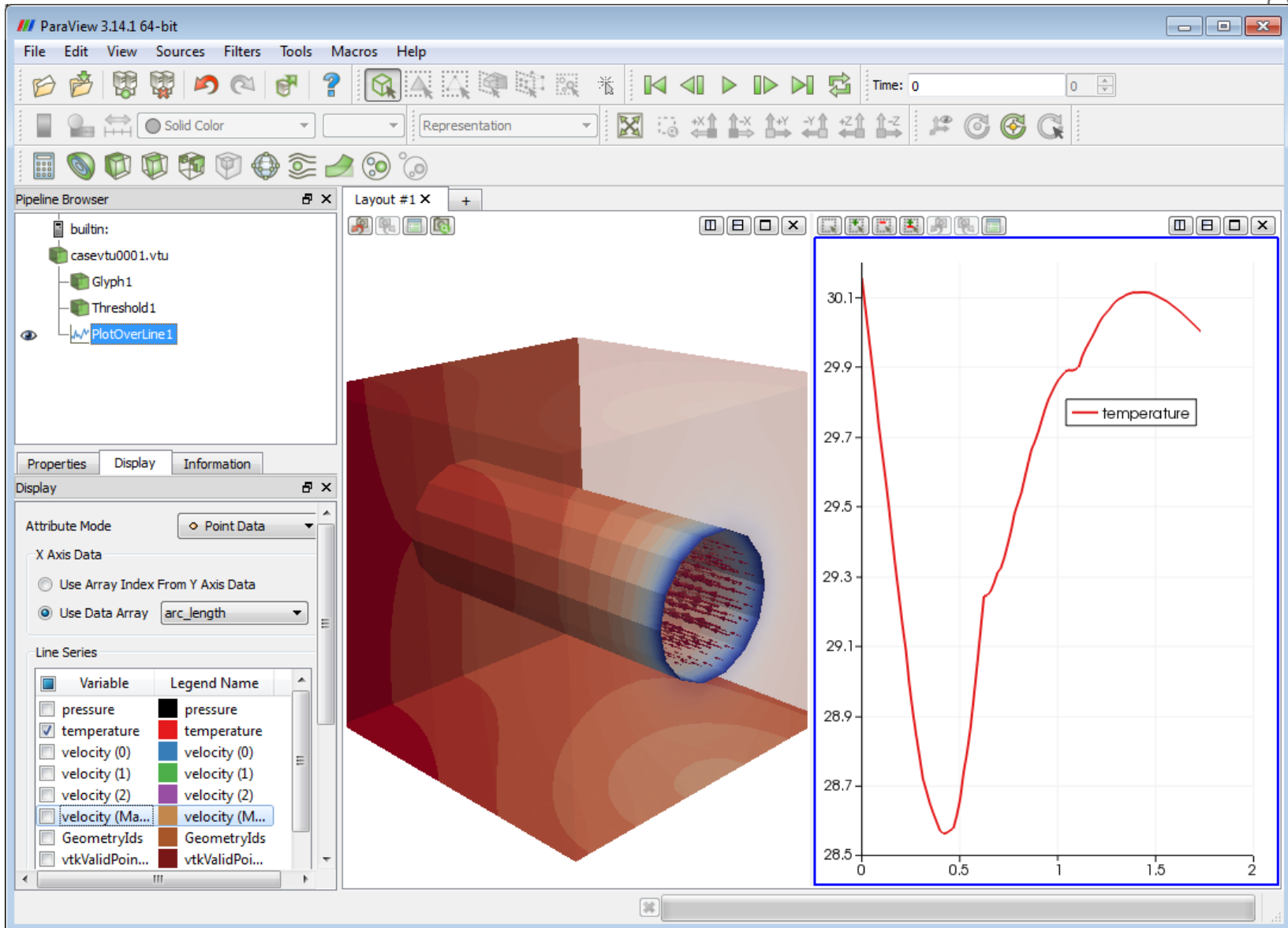
Change of colormap



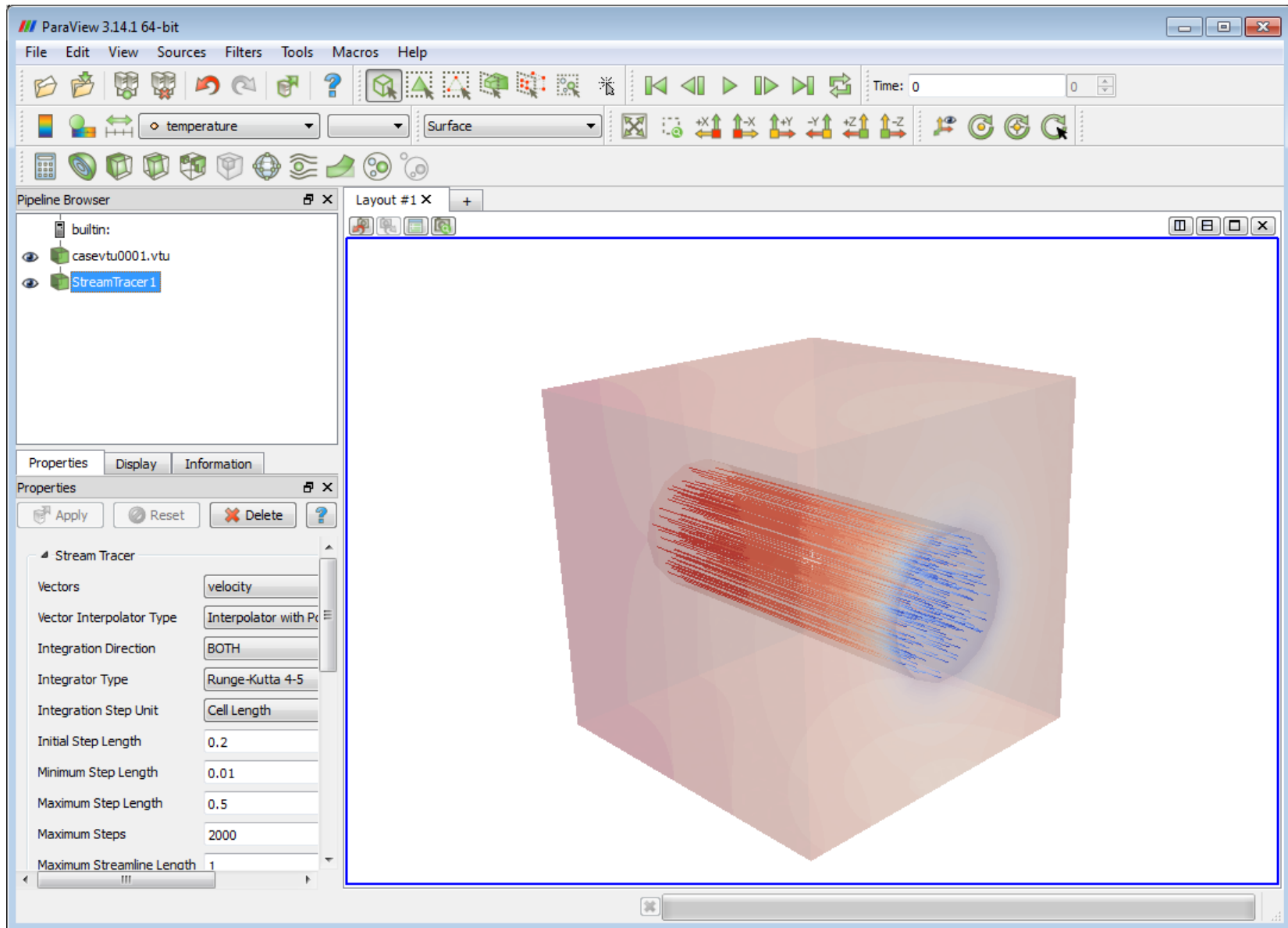
Deformation – WarpByVector filter



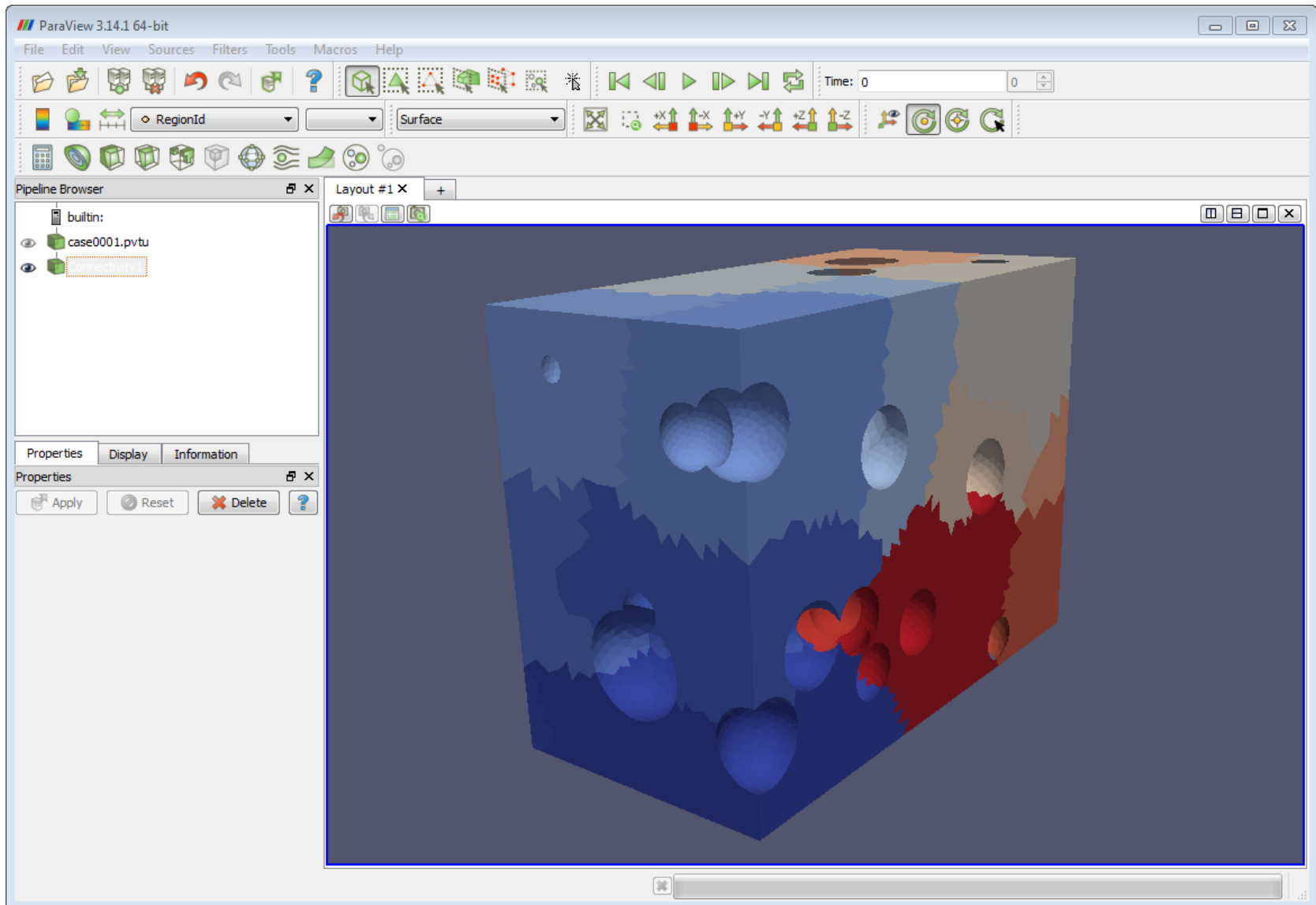
Plot line – PlotOverLine filter



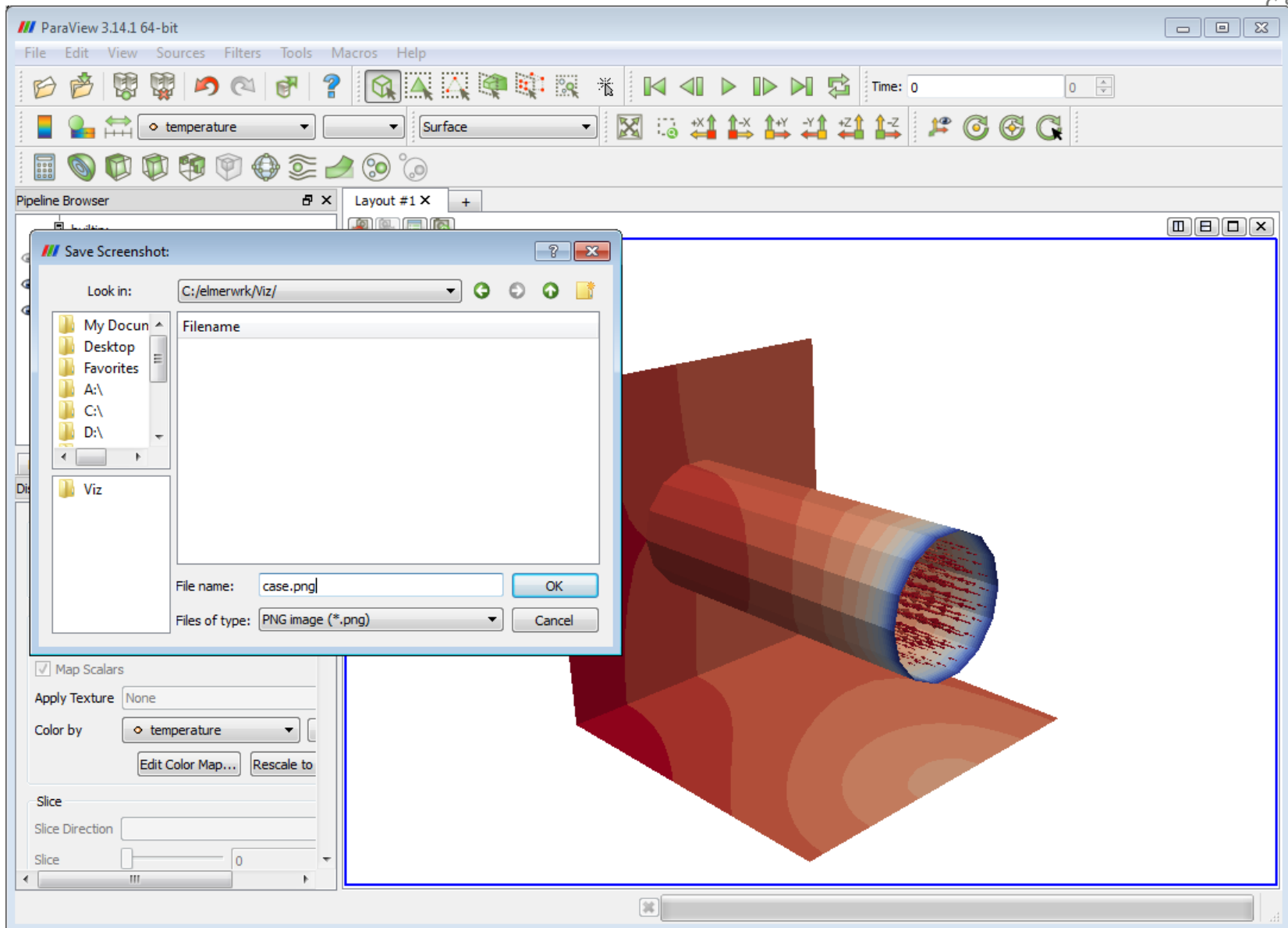
Streamlines – Filter StreamTracer



Partitioning – Connectivity filter



Saving figures



Saving animations with Paraview



- The only packing method that comes with Paraview by default is motion AVI
- It is advisable to save the animation as separate files
- You may use ElmerClips to make mpg animations of the separate png figures