A Few Highlights of Space Science Computational Challenges

Azita Valinia
Sciences & Exploration Directorate
NASA GSFC

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A Few Highlights...

- Space Weather Modeling
- Hydrodynamic simulation of dark matter and gas in galaxies
- Dark Matter Halo of Milkyway
- Relativistic Jets
- Gravitational radiation from black hole binary mergers
Sun to Mud:
A Simulation of CME Interacting with Earth’s Magnetosphere

Courtesy of Gombosi et. al
The quiet Sun magnetic field in the model chromosphere

Magnetic field generated through the action of a convective surface dynamo.

Fieldlines drawn (in both directions) from points located 700 km above the visible surface.

Grayscale image represents the vertical component of the velocity field at the model photosphere.

The low-chromosphere acts as a dynamic, high-\(\beta\) plasma except along thin rope-like structures threading the atmosphere, connecting strong photospheric structures to the transition region-corona interface.

Plasma-\(\beta\) \(~\, 1\) at the photosphere only in localized regions of concentrated field (near strong high-vorticity downdrafts.

From Abbett (2007)
Flux submergence in the quiet Sun and the connectivity between an initially vertical coronal field and the turbulent convection zone

From Abbett (2007)
Radiative Transfer Hydrodynamic Simulations

Dark matter
- Dynamic range achieved on Columbia 22 in May 2008 is 2.4x $10^{10}$
- Dynamic range in mass desired is $10^{12}$
- Both RAM and CPU limited

Gasdynamics
- Spatial dynamic range achieved on Columbia 22 in May 2008 is 1536
- Spatial dynamic range desired is 8192
- Both RAM and CPU limited

Radiative transfer
- Ray tracing grid achieved on Columbia 22 in May 2008 is $512^3$
- Ray tracing grid desired is $2048^3$
- Both RAM and CPU limited

Courtesy of Renyue Cen/Princeton
Dark matter and gas

- Dynamic range achievable on Columbia 22 now is $4.2 \times 10^{10}$, giving spatial resolution of 2-3pc at redshift $z=3$, marginal for resolving interstellar medium, requiring a few month of C22

- Mostly CPU limited, 10-100x Columbia 22 w/ fast communication would allow us to do grand simulations of galaxy formation that are able to resolve ISM, spiral structures, bulges, & interaction between galaxies and the intergalactic medium

Courtesy of Renyue Cen/Princeton
“Via Lactea II”, a billion particle simulation of the dark matter halo of the Milky Way galaxy PI: Piero Madau (UC Santa Cruz)

2007 INCITE award: A single simulation starting about 20 million years after the Big Bang and calculating the gravitational interactions of $1.1 \times 10^9$ particles of dark matter over 13.7 billion years. Run on 3000 “cores” using $10^6$ cpu hours on the “Jaguar” Cray XT3 supercomputer at the ORNL. Previous, pathbreaking simulation, “Via Lactea I”, run for $3 \times 10^5$ cpu hours on NASA’s Project Columbia.

“The Via Lactea Project”, the most extensive suite of cosmological simulations ever carried out of the assembly and lumpiness of the Milky Way’s halo, seeks clues to the nature of the dark matter and the assembly of galaxies.
Computational Studies of Relativistic Jets (PI: Ken Nishikawa)

3D RMHD Simulations for Current Driven Instability

Production of Magnetic Turbulence by Cosmic Rays Drifting Upstream of Supernova Remnant Shocks

Color: Isovolume density, Lines: magnetic field
(Mizuno et al. 2008)

perpendicular magnetic field generated by cosmic ray ions
(Niemiec et al. 2008)

Evolution of Current filaments generated by the Weibel instability

Jet generation from black hole using GRPIC code

electrons and positrons ejected from BH
(Watson et al. 2008)

current filaments merged nonlinearly
Nishikawa et al. 2008)
Simulations of the gravitational radiation from mergers of spinning black holes (left) has led to the discovery of large asymmetries in the radiated energy-momentum (Aitoff map, right) leading to astrophysically significant recoil “kicks”.

Analysis of waveforms from black holes of various spins and mass ratios (above) will be important for LISA. The above simulations ran on as many as 500 processors. Further exploration of parameter space with larger spins and mass ratios will require higher resolution.
Defining the Future

- Science drivers
- Models/Applications that drive the computing requirements
- Computing Requirements
- Programming and Analysis Environment