

# Integrating New Functionality Using Smart Interfaces to Improve Productivity of Legacy Tools

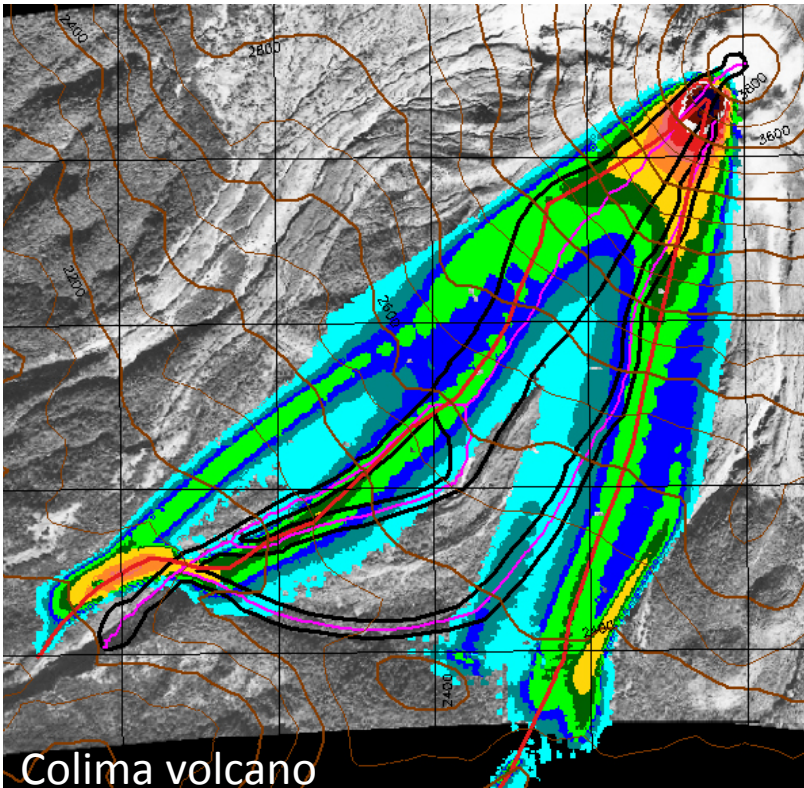
## Modernizing Titan2d, Geoflow Simulation Software

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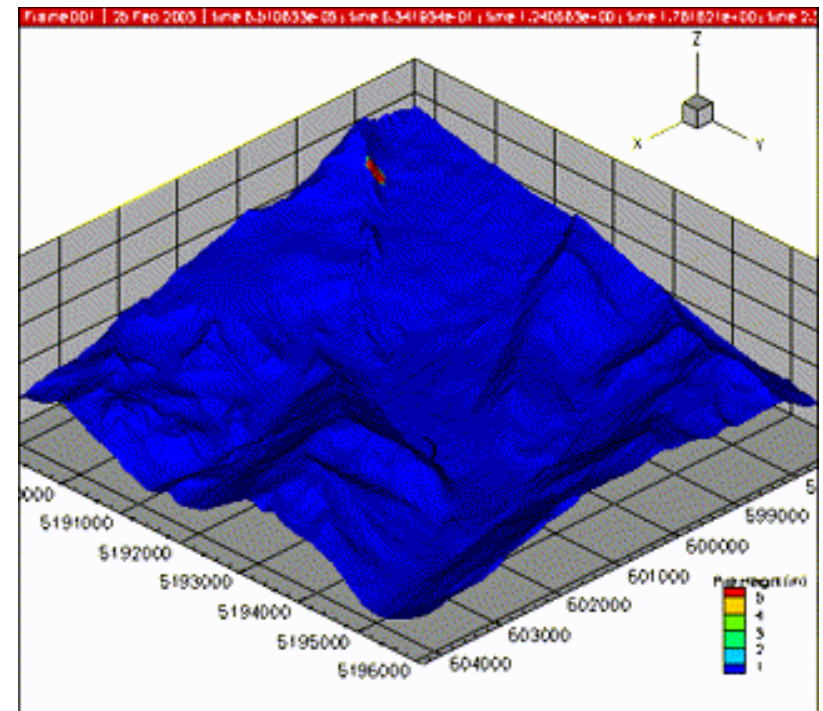
WSSSPE Meeting, September 28, 2015

# Titan2D - Geoflow Simulation Software



- Modeling of granular flows (geological mass flows such as debris avalanches and landslides) over digital elevation models (DEM)s of natural terrain.
- Risk assessment of hazards due to dry debris flows and avalanches

- Uses adaptive mesh refinement
- MPI Parallel



peak of Little Tahoma in Washington, USA

# Forking without Version Control System. Restoring Single Code Base

Historically the code was forked to multiple version each developing new physical approximation or numerical methodology

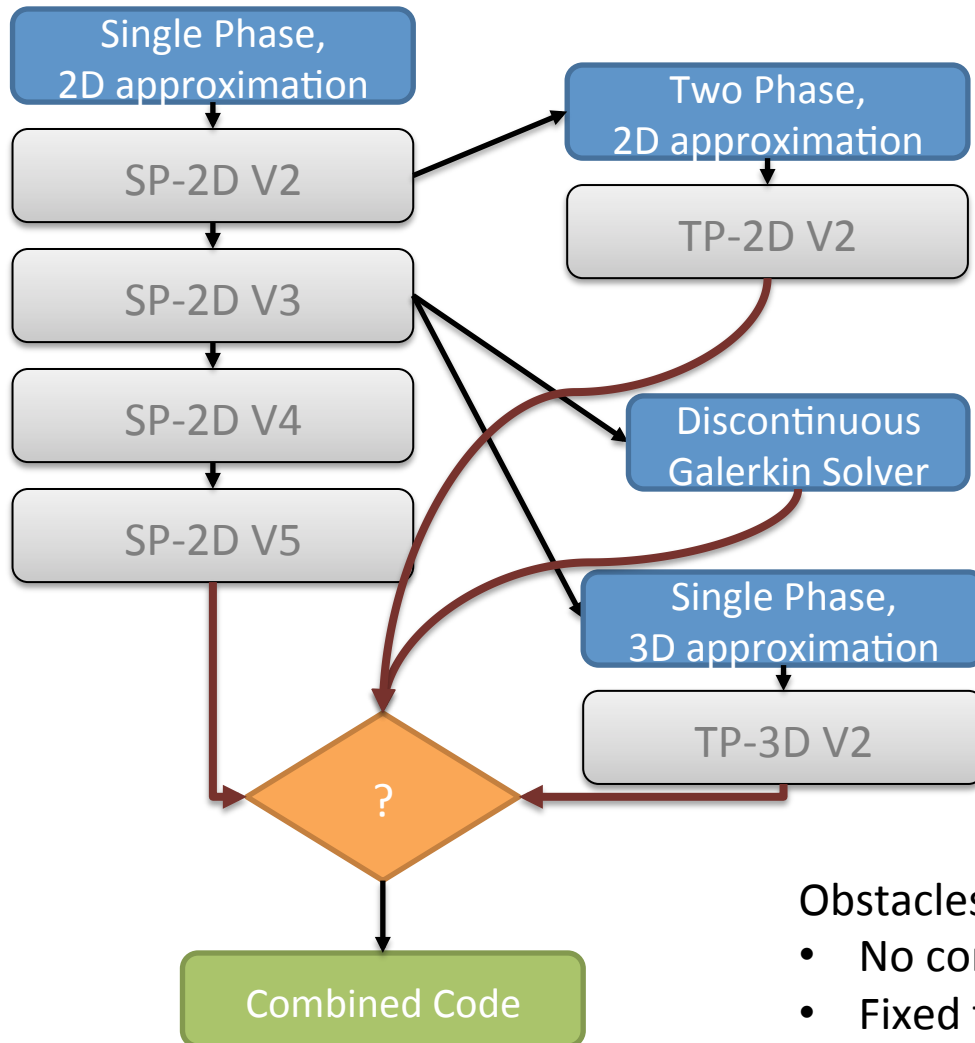
Common version control system was not used due to:

- Complexity of version control system of past
- Immediate research goals

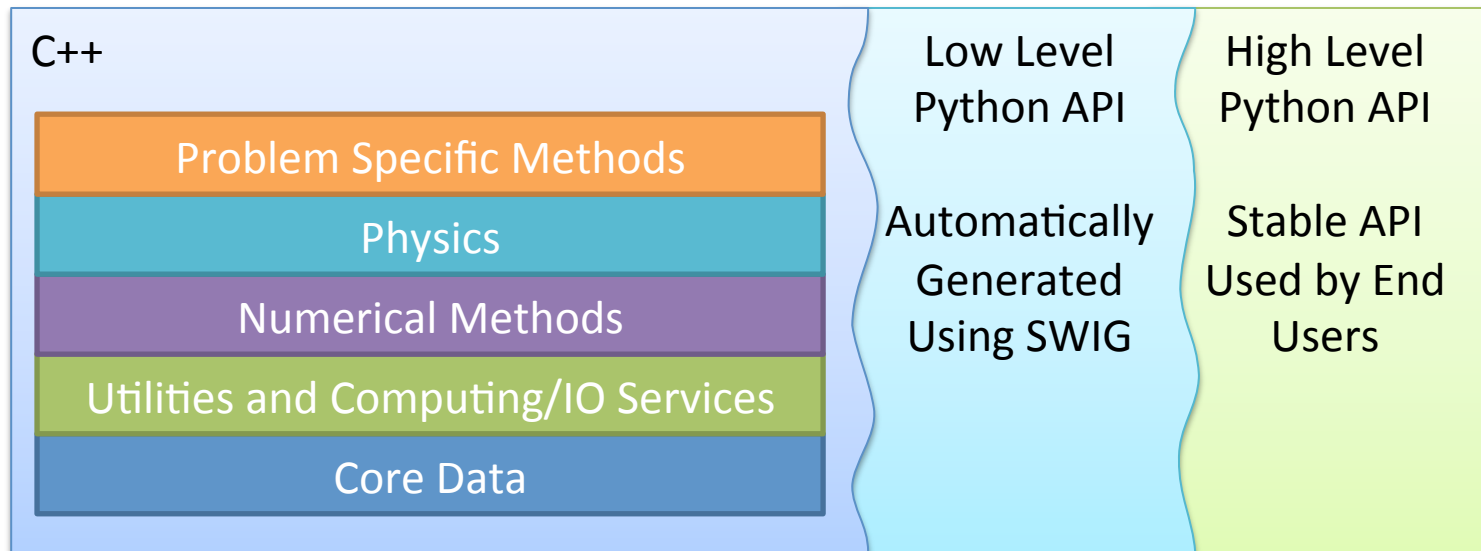
Now we want to merge all forks to benefit from crosspollination of developed physical approximations or numerical methods.

Obstacles:

- No common version control system
- Fixed format of input files
- Many input values set as compilation flags
- Data layout difficult for utilizing modern technologies (vectorization, accelerators, etc.)



# Reinforcing Code Structure



- Over the time code structure separation of was blurred
- Reinforcing the code layout should improve code merging process and performance optimization
- Two levels of python API
  - Automatic low-level generation with SWIG
  - Stable, long-life, high-level Python API
  - Flexibility to setup simulation

# Data Layout Redesign

- Majority of modern CPUs and accelerators (GPU, MIC) benefit of usage of simple arrays (due to possible vectorization and memory access patterns).
- Titan2d was utilizing on demand allocated elements, accessed with hash table which uses linked list for buckets content. All elements properties was stored within element class.

Incremental approach for switching from  
linked list of structures (elements)  
to structure of arrays (elements content storage)

Reinforce classes members encapsulation  
using refactoring tools and regular  
expression substitution.

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Improve hash table with arrays for bucket  
content with binary search

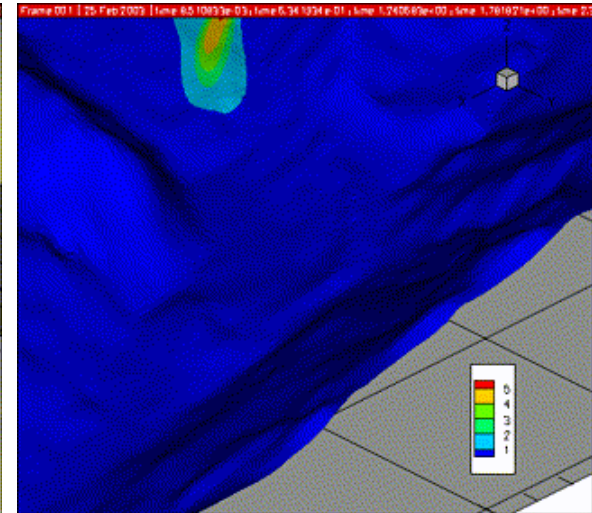
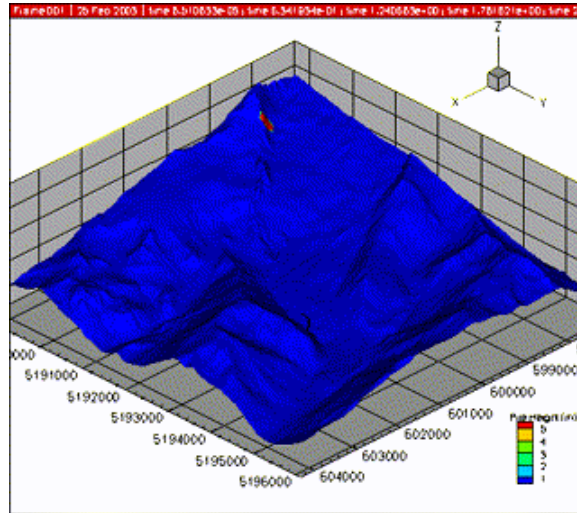
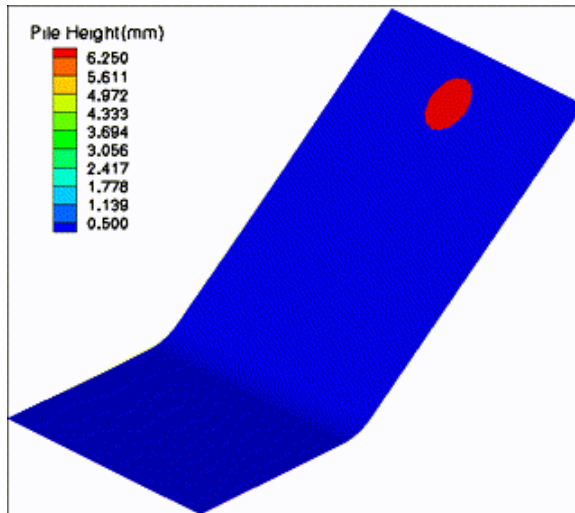
x3↑

Switch elements properties storage from  
element class to elements content storage  
class

12.9%↑

- With new data layout we can exploit vectorization for further performance improvement
- New data layout simplify facilitation of accelerators (GPU, MIC)

# Questions?



Titan2D Web site:  
<http://www.gmfg.buffalo.edu/>

GIT repository:  
<https://github.com/TITAN2D>