

CSE 167 (WI25)

Computer Graphics

Albert Chern

Course Logistics

- Course logistics
- Getting started
- What is computer graphics
- This course

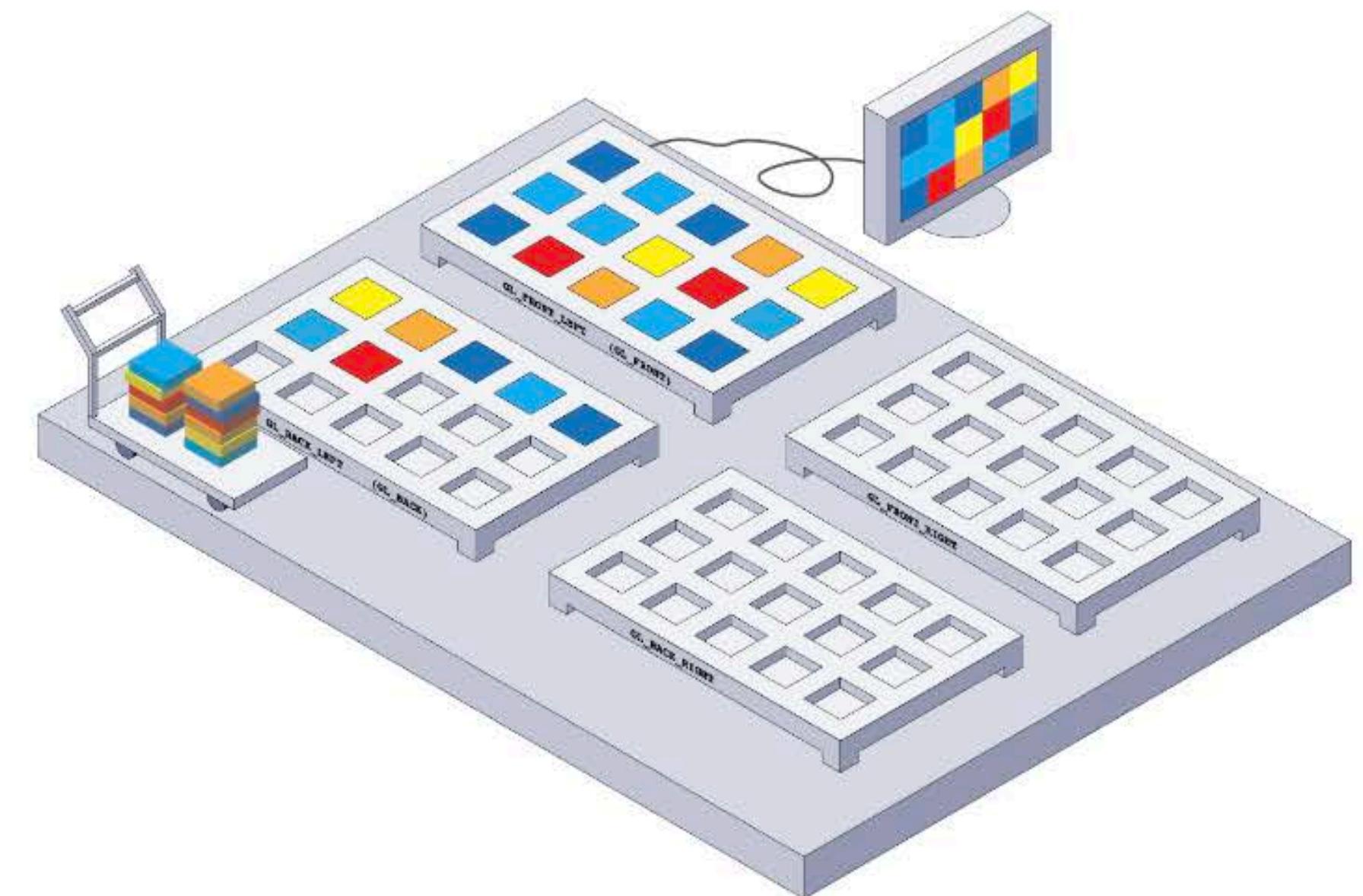
Lectures

- **Lectures (Albert Chern)**
 - ▶ Center Hall 119
- **Discussion (by the TAs)**
 - ▶ Fri 15:00–15:50, Center Hall 115
(starting from Week1)
- **TAs**
 - ▶ Trevor Hedstrom
 - ▶ Rudresh Veerkhare
- **Tutors**
 - ▶ Arnav Dandu
 - ▶ Venkataram Edavamadathil Sivaram
 - ▶ Nicholas Ho
 - ▶ Shambhavi Mittal

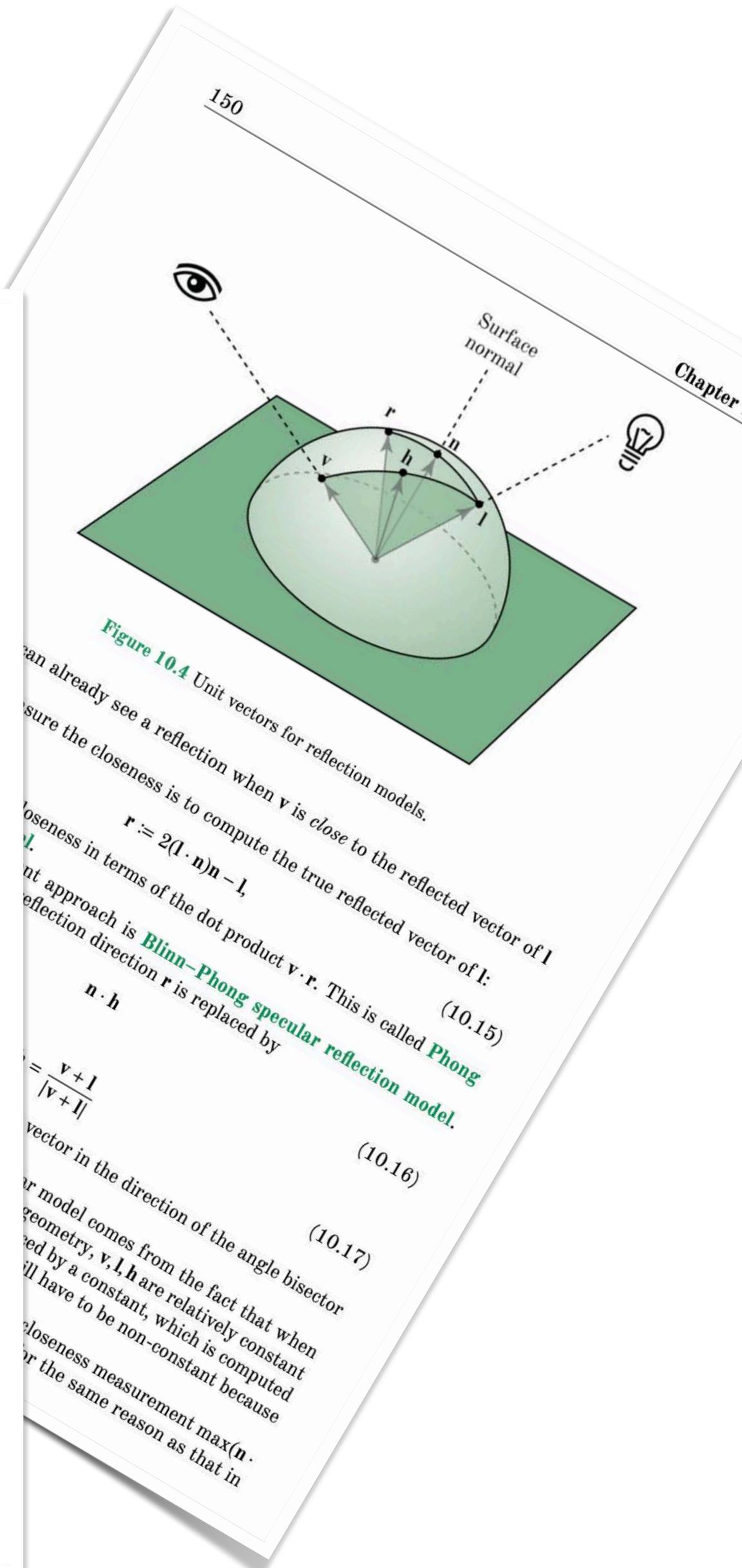
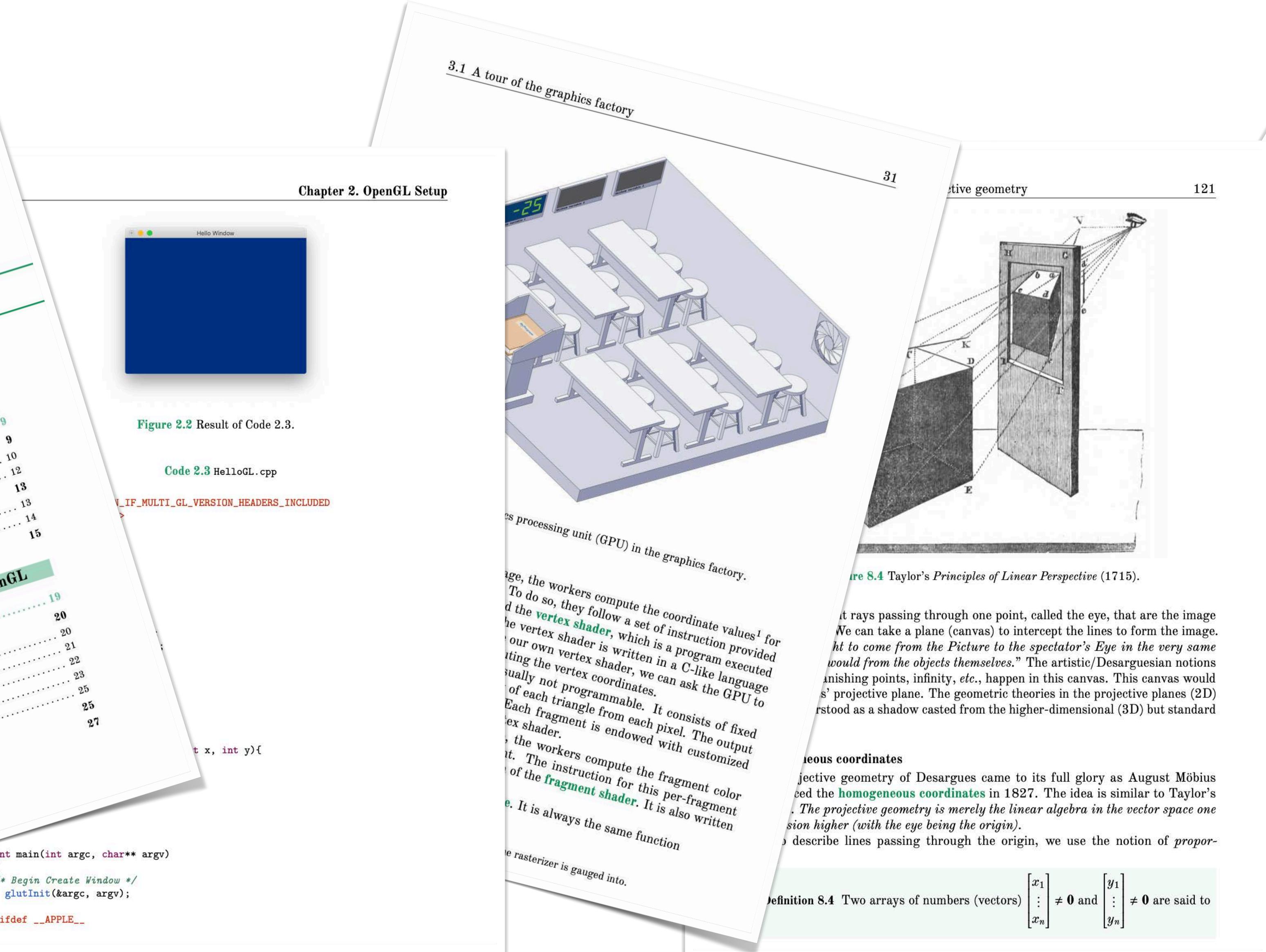
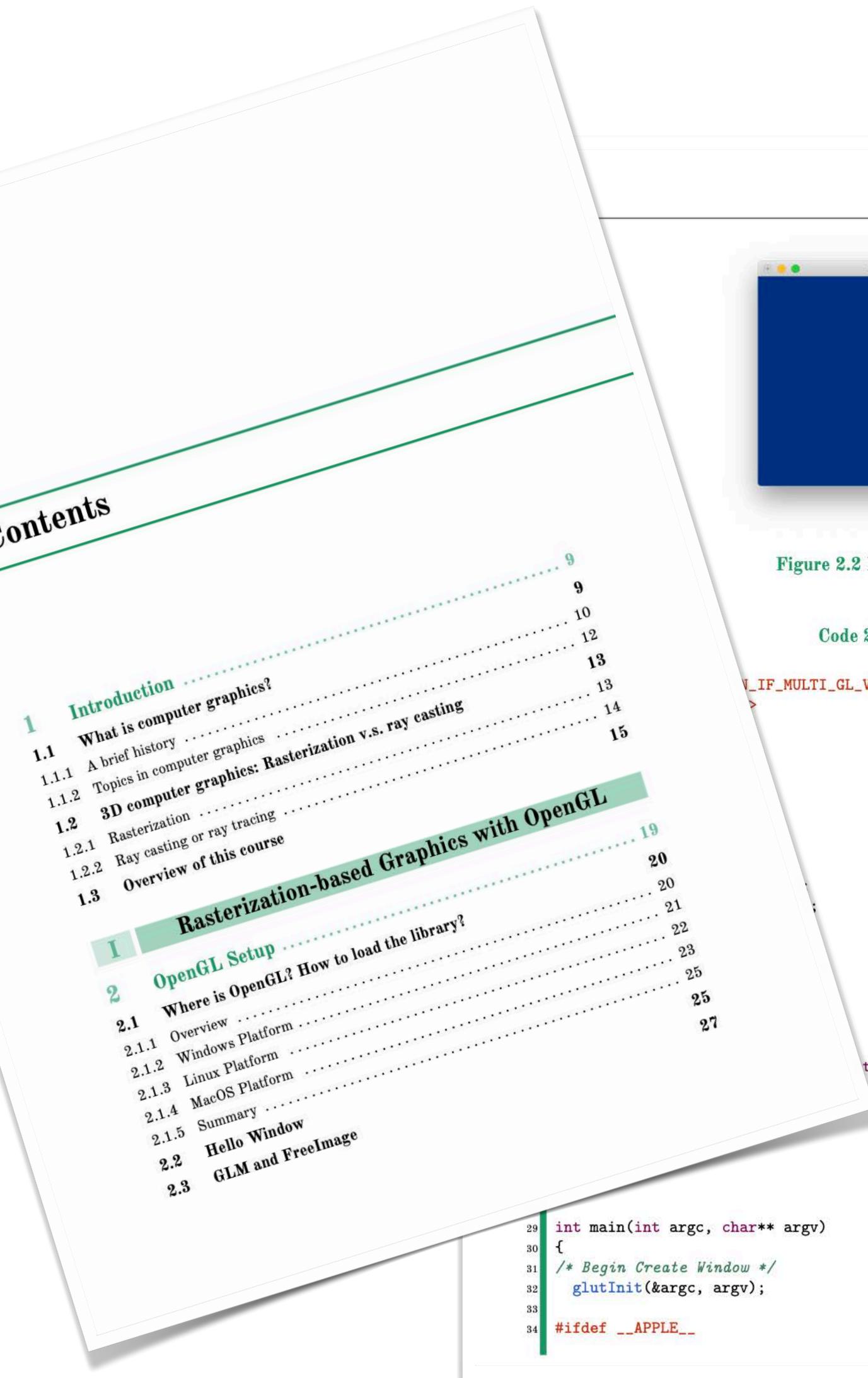
CSE 167 (WI 2025) Computer Graphics

Welcome to CSE 167, Introduction to Computer Graphics.

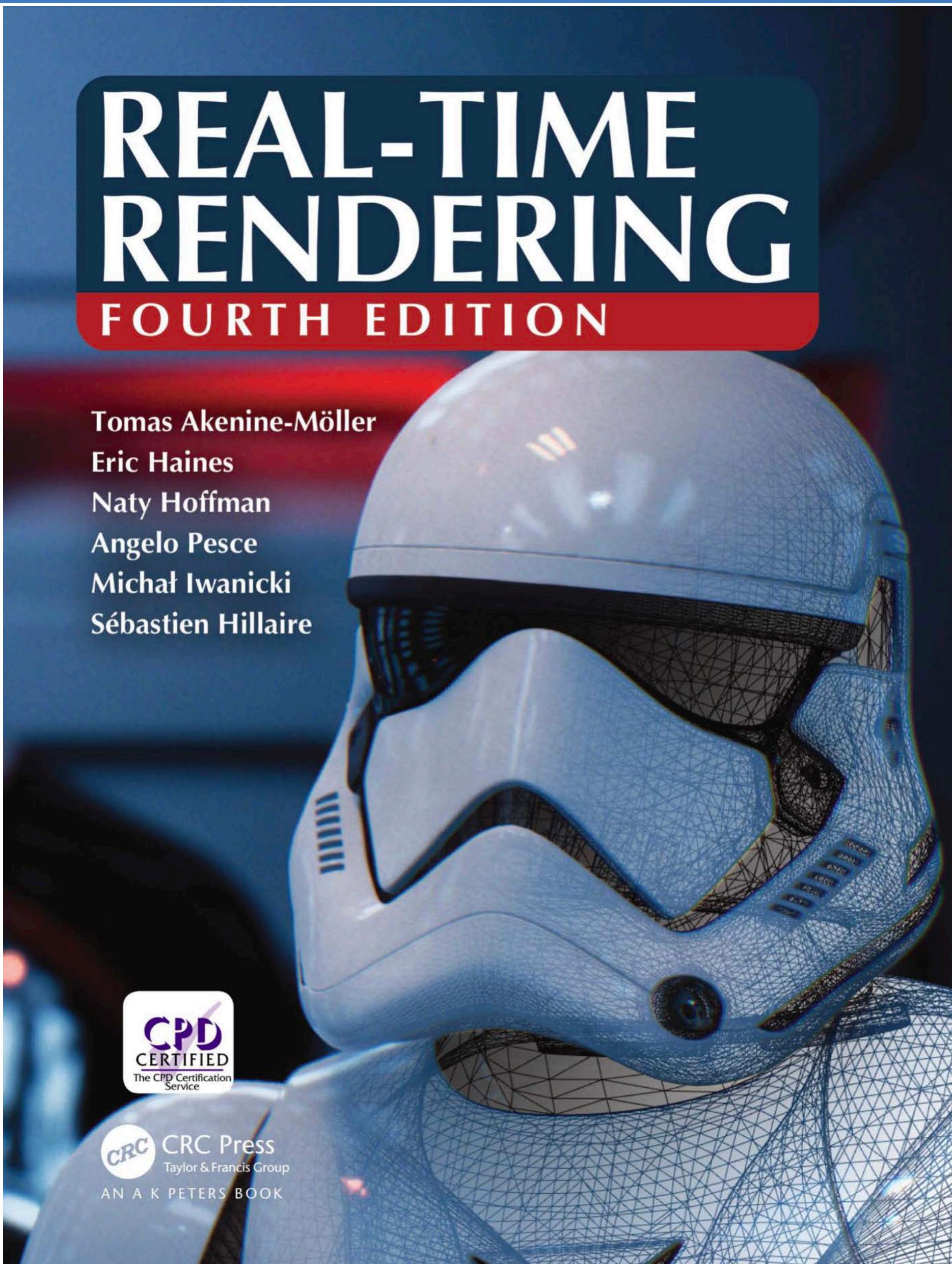
- **Lecture:** Mon Wed 17:00 - 18:20. [Center Hall 119](#).
- **Discussion Session:** Fri 15:00-15:50. [Center Hall 115](#).
- **Podcast:** Recorded lectures
https://podcast.ucsd.edu/watch/wi25/cse167_a00
- **Sites:**
 - **This page:** Slides, lecture notes, HW
 - **Canvas:** Link to Zoom (and Zoom recordings), link to Gradescope, and link back to this page.
 - **Piazza:**
https://piazza.com/ucsd/winter2025/cse167_wi25_a00 Q&A forum for the class.
 - **Gradescope:** <https://www.gradescope.com/courses/939177> (log in with School credential, or use entry code: G3DZXW) HW submission.
- **Lecture note:** Introduction to Computer Graphics



Lecture Note

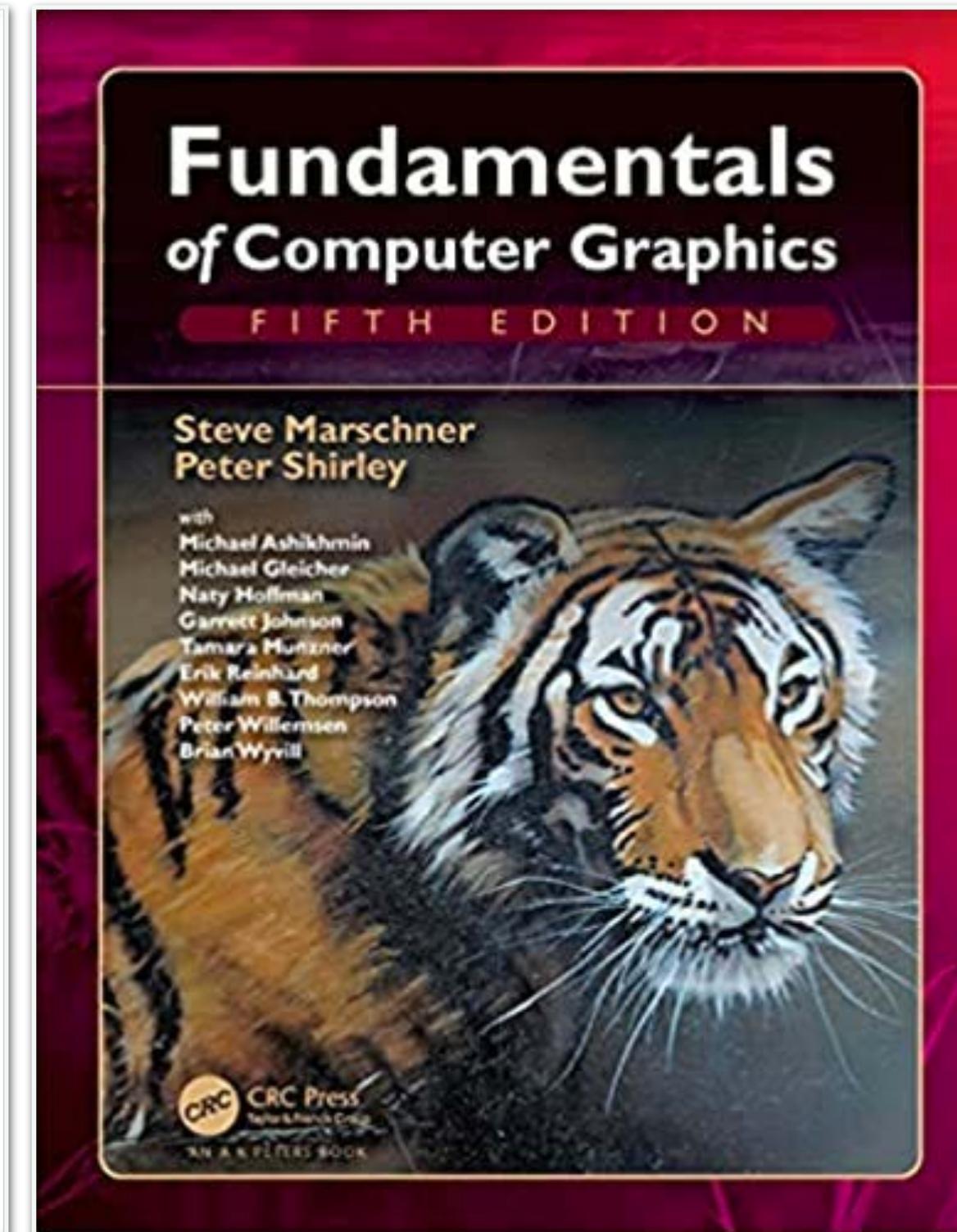
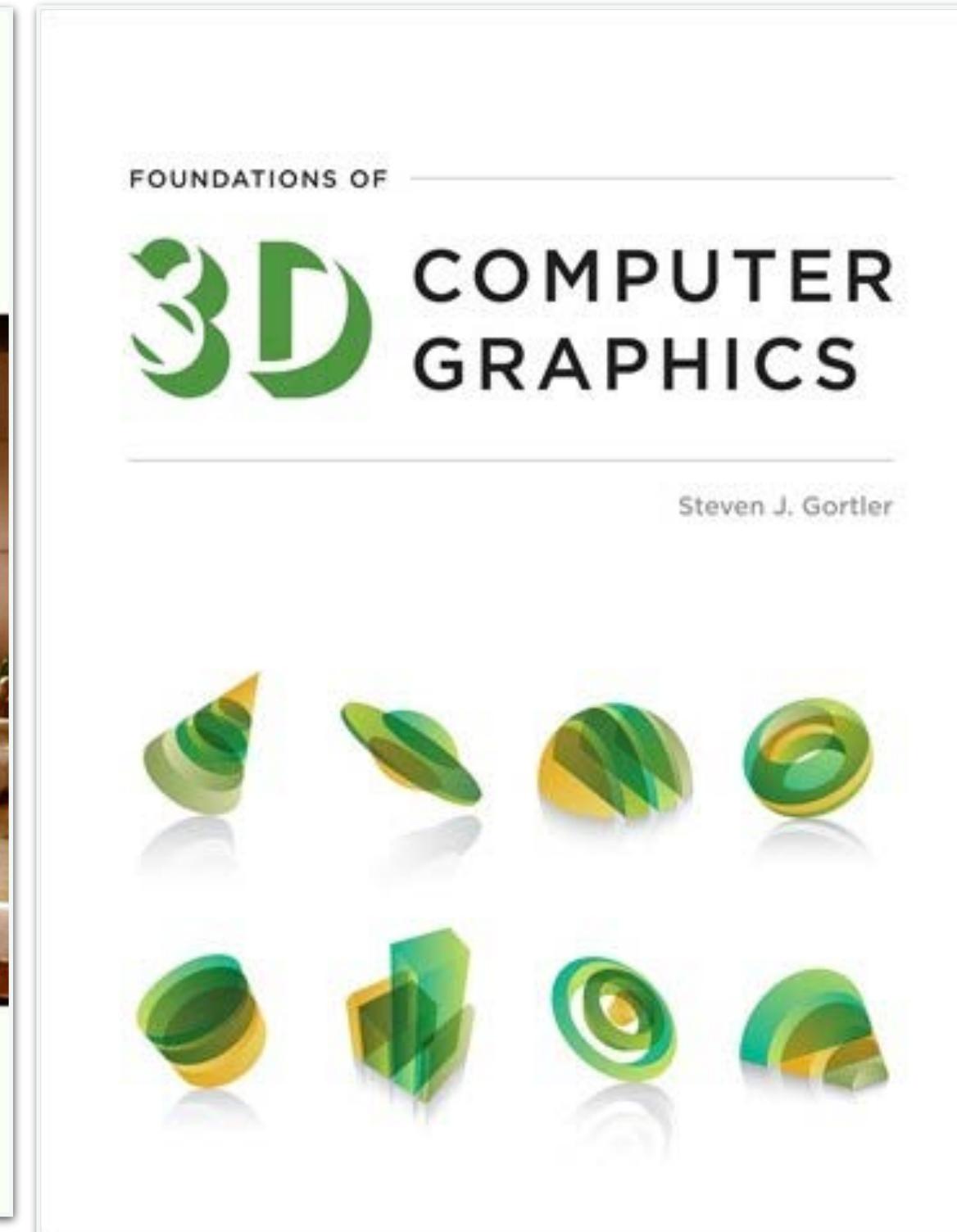
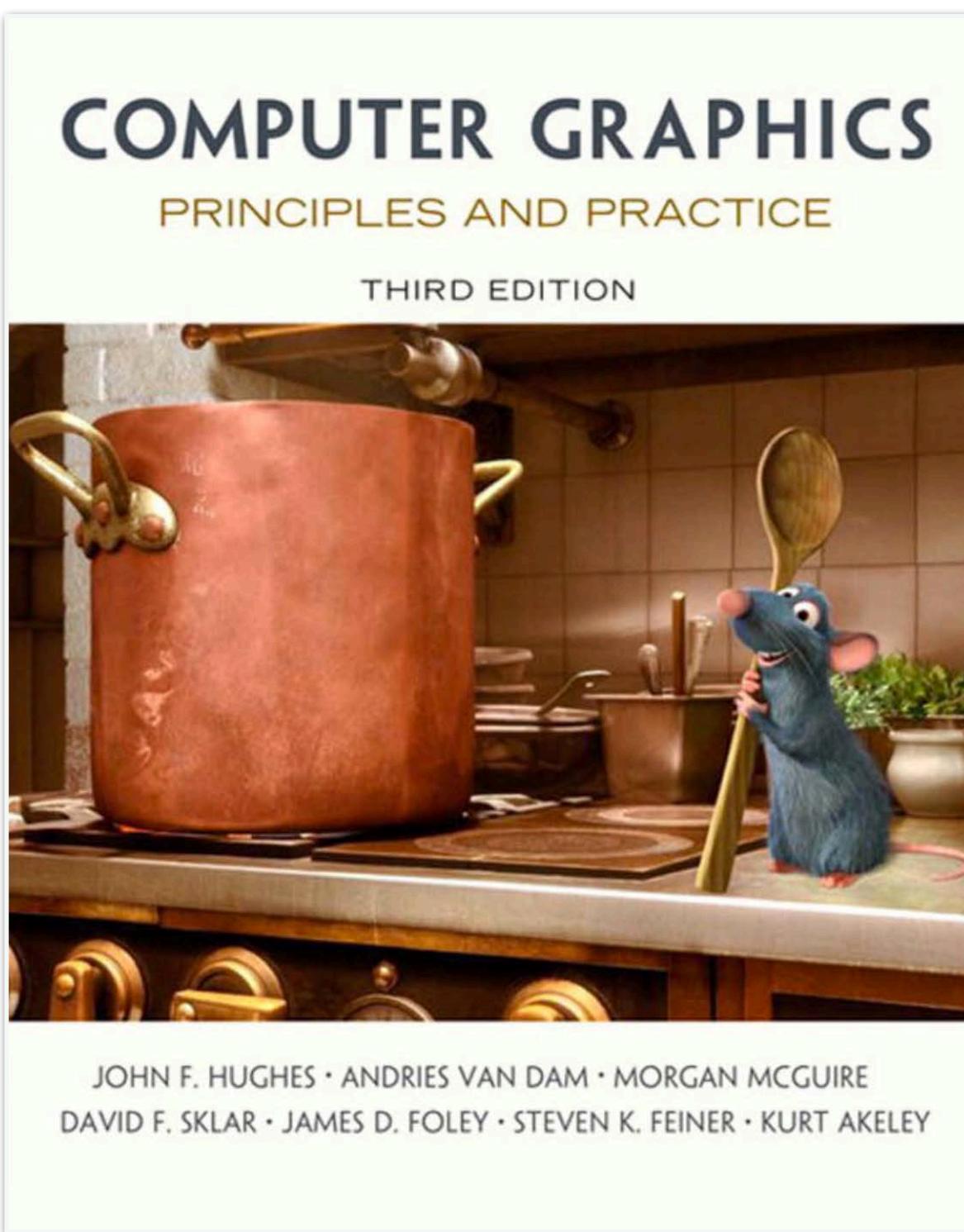


References

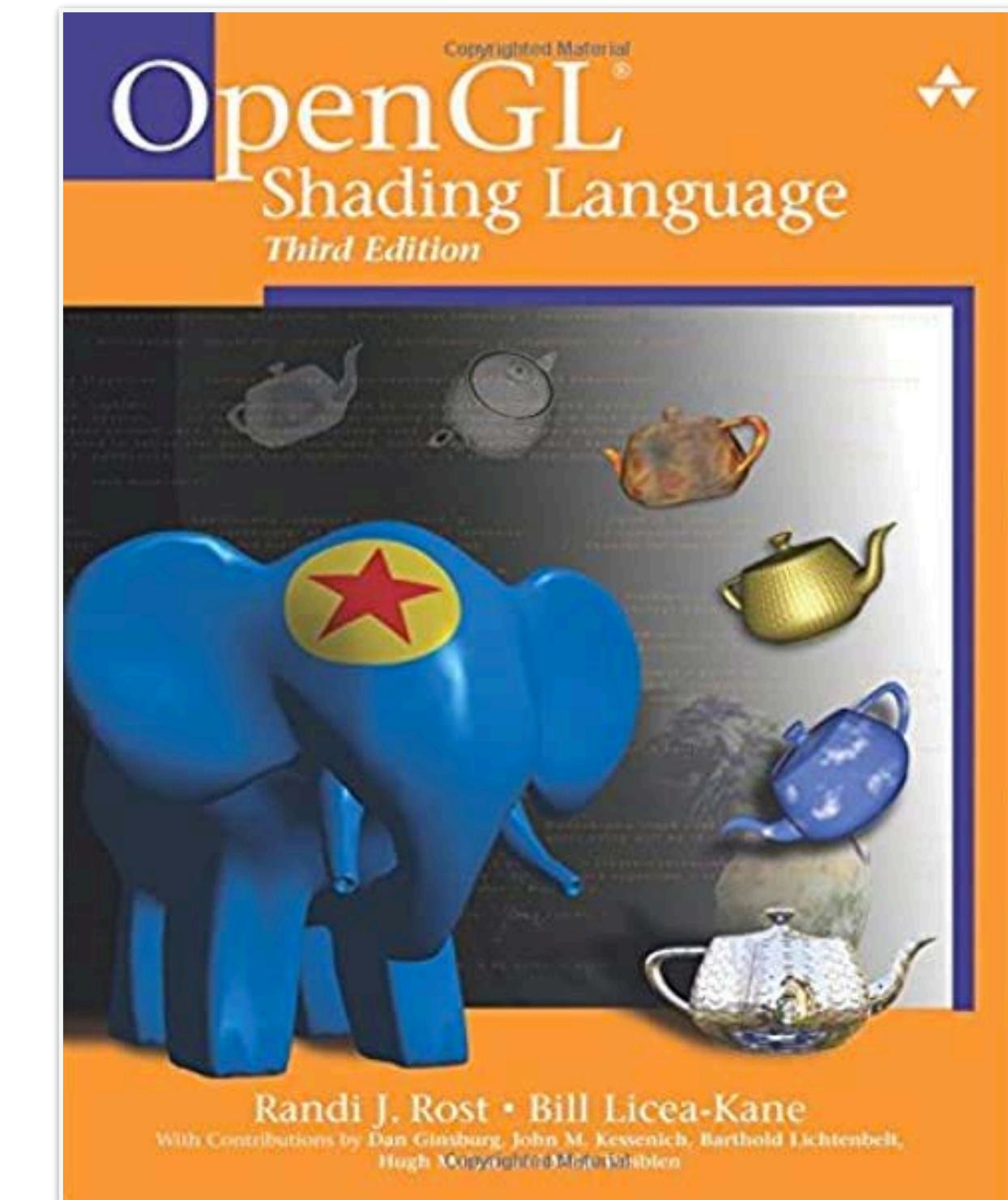
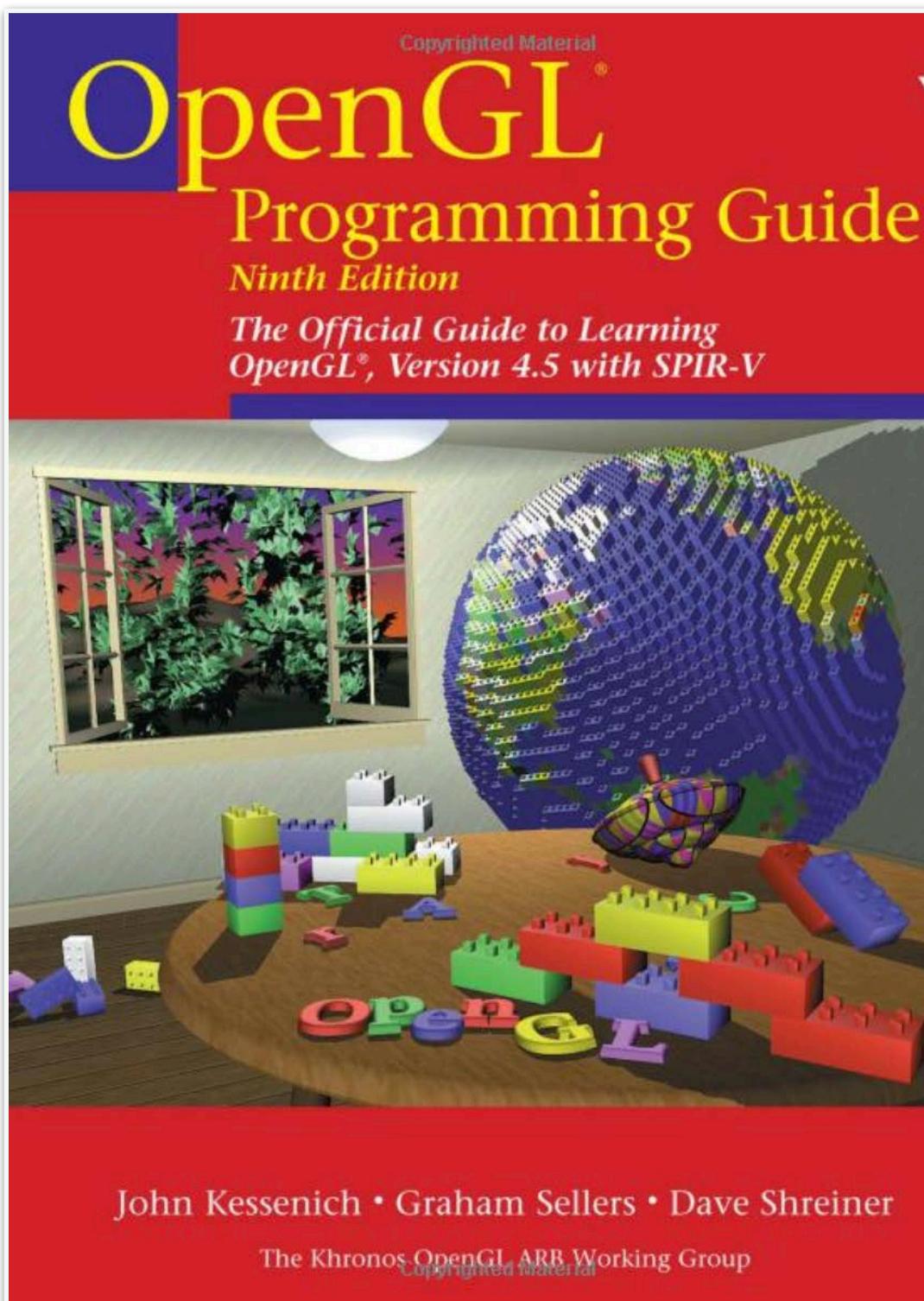


(Available online
from UC Library)

References



References



References

<https://learnopengl.com>

The screenshot shows the left sidebar of the LearnOpenGL website. The sidebar contains a vertical list of topics:

- Introduction
- Getting started ▾
 - OpenGL
 - Creating a window
 - Hello Window
 - Hello Triangle
 - Shaders
 - Textures
 - Transformations
 - Coordinate Systems
 - Camera
 - Review
- Lighting
- Model Loading
- Advanced OpenGL
- Advanced Lighting
- PBR
- In Practice
- Guest Articles
- Code repository
- Translations
- About

Below the sidebar, there is a "PRINT EDITION" button.

The main content area discusses the graphics pipeline. It states:

about transforming all 3D coordinates to 2D pixels that fit on your screen. The process of transforming 3D coordinates to 2D pixels is managed by the **graphics pipeline** of OpenGL. The graphics pipeline can be divided into two large parts: the first transforms your 3D coordinates into 2D coordinates and the second part transforms the 2D coordinates into actual colored pixels. In this chapter we'll briefly discuss the graphics pipeline and how we can use it to our advantage to create fancy pixels.

The graphics pipeline takes as input a set of 3D coordinates and transforms these to colored 2D pixels on your screen. The graphics pipeline can be divided into several steps where each step requires the output of the previous step as its input. All of these steps are highly specialized (they have one specific function) and can easily be executed in parallel. Because of their parallel nature, graphics cards of today have thousands of small processing cores to quickly process your data within the graphics pipeline. The processing cores run small programs on the GPU for each step of the pipeline. These small programs are called **shaders**.

Some of these shaders are configurable by the developer which allows us to write our own shaders to replace the existing default shaders. This gives us much more fine-grained control over specific parts of the pipeline and because they run on the GPU, they can also save us valuable CPU time. Shaders are written in the **OpenGL Shading Language (GLSL)** and we'll delve more into that in the next chapter.

Below you'll find an abstract representation of all the stages of the graphics pipeline. Note that the blue sections represent sections where we can inject our own shaders.

The diagram illustrates the OpenGL graphics pipeline as a series of stages:

- VERTEX DATA[]**: Represented by three dots.
- VERTEX SHADER**: Represented by a blue box containing three vertices.
- SHAPE ASSEMBLY**: Represented by a grey box containing a triangle.
- GEOMETRY SHADER**: Represented by a blue box containing a transformed triangle.
- TESTS AND BLENDING**: Represented by a grey box containing a textured butterfly.
- FRAGMENT SHADER**: Represented by a blue box containing a colored butterfly.
- RASTERIZATION**: Represented by a grey box containing a grid of pixels.

Grades

- No quiz or exam
- Weekly written exercise 40% *individual work*
- Programming HW 60%
 - ▶ HW0–4: 40% *individual work*
 - ▶ Final Project: 20% *group of 1 or 2*
- Passing grade: 70%
- Curve letter grade condition: 3/4 of the class complete the CAPE course evaluation in Week 9,10.

Prerequisite and some expectation

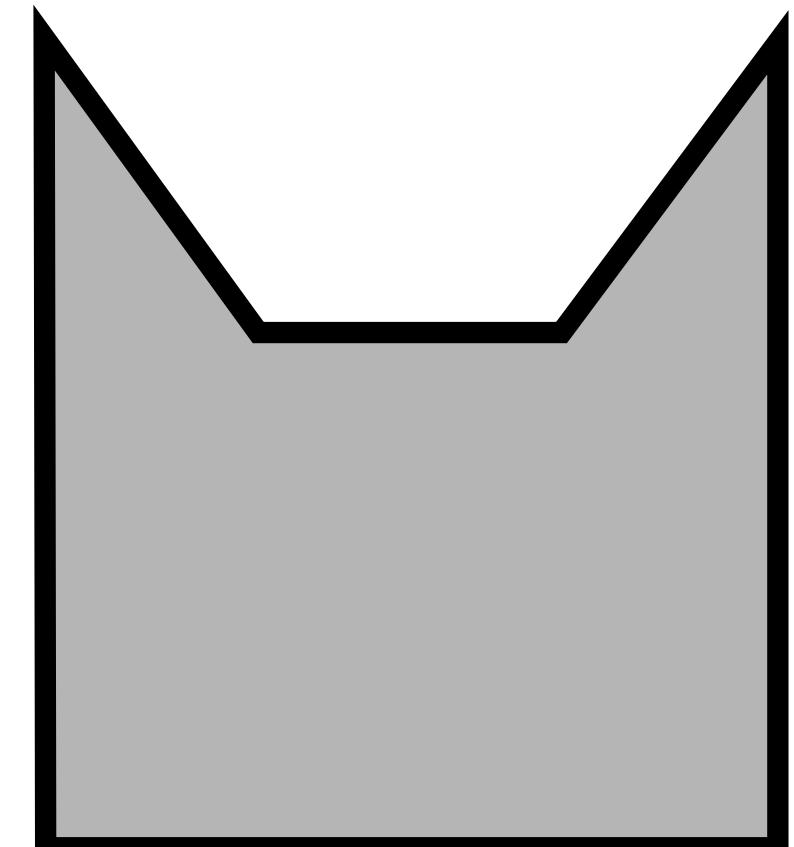
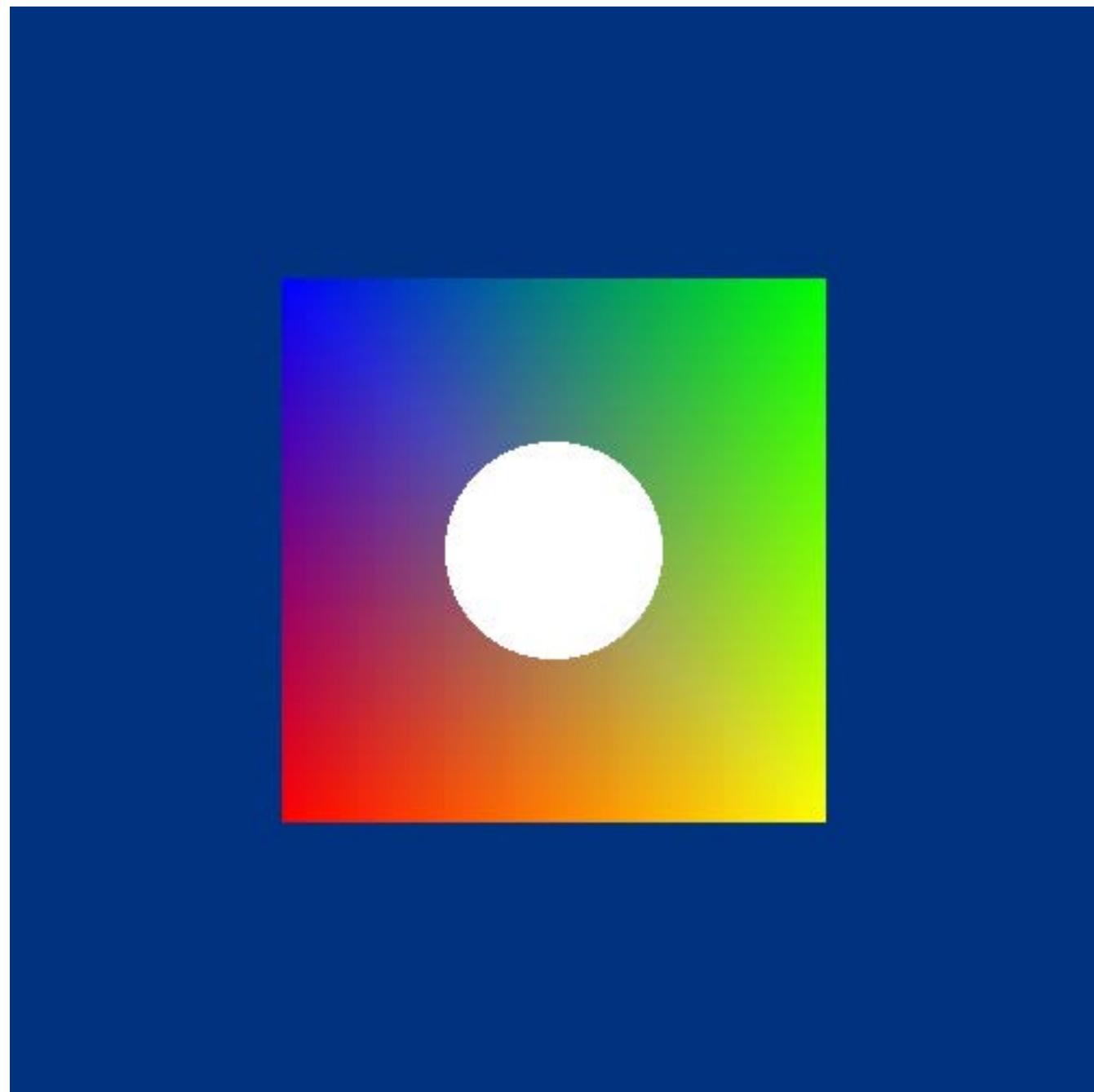
- **Experience with**
 - ▶ basic linear algebra (matrix & vector)
 - ▶ C++
- **You can expect that you will**
 - ▶ Command and run programs on GPUs (using OpenGL)
 - ▶ Deal with lots of floating point numbers (continuous math)
 - ▶ Think of problems geometrically
 - ▶ View math operators “structurally”
 - ▶ See some physics (optics, mechanics)

Getting Started

- Course logistics
- Getting started
- What is computer graphics
- This course

Getting started

- Next week, we will start working with **OpenGL**
- HW0 & Exer1 are due 1/17
 - ▶ Compile, run, and upload the result (should look like this Fig.).
 - ▶ Modify the code to get the cat/fox shape
 - ▶ Compilation problem: office hour (see TA/tutor's platform) or piazza.
 - ▶ Later this week, we explain what happens in the code.



Today

Computer Graphics

Today

Computer Graphics

- What is computer graphics? (brief history)
- Topics of this course
- How to draw programmatically? (computer graphics pipeline)

What is Computer Graphics?

- Course logistics
- Getting started
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What is Computer Graphics?

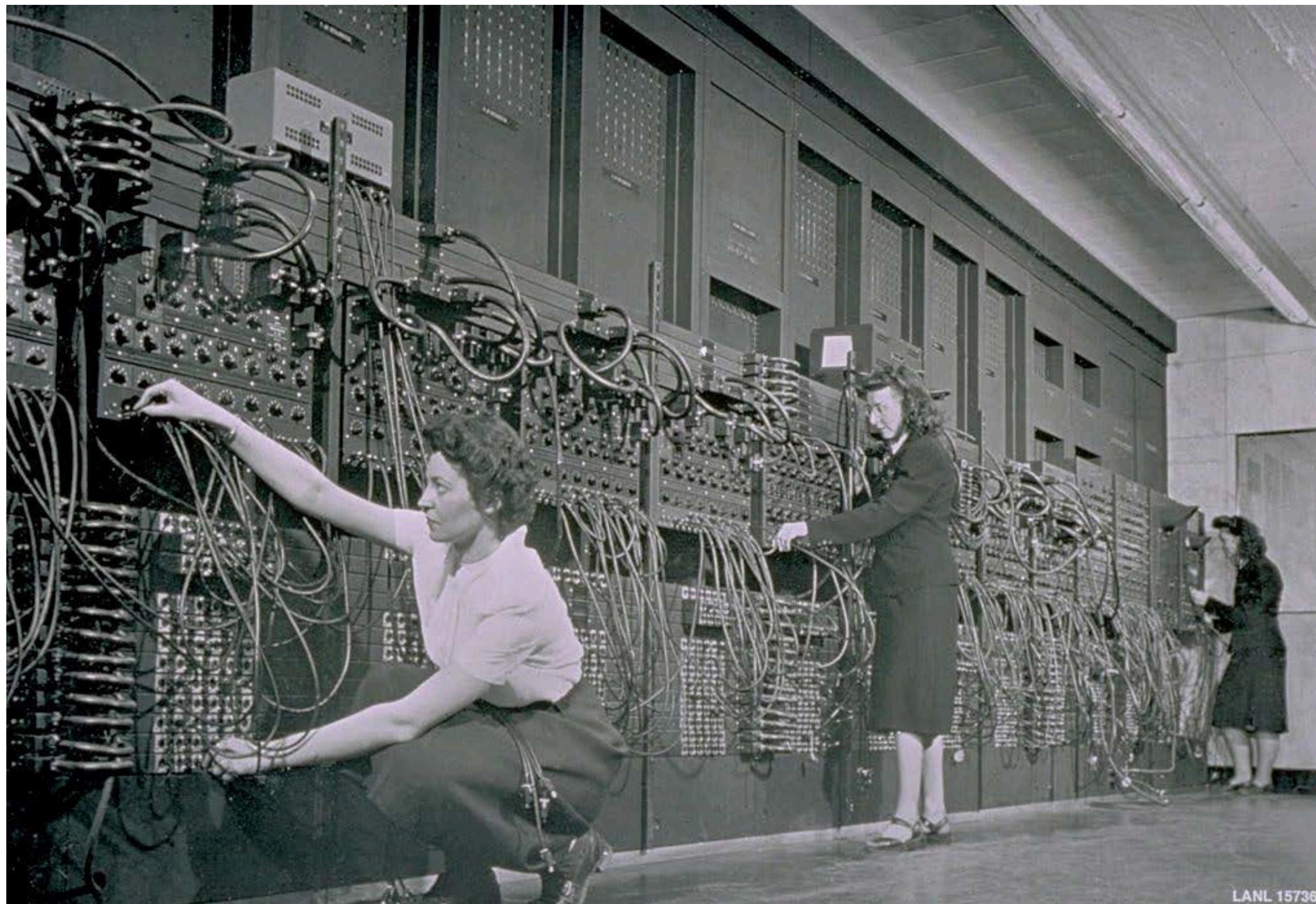


Jurassic Park 1993

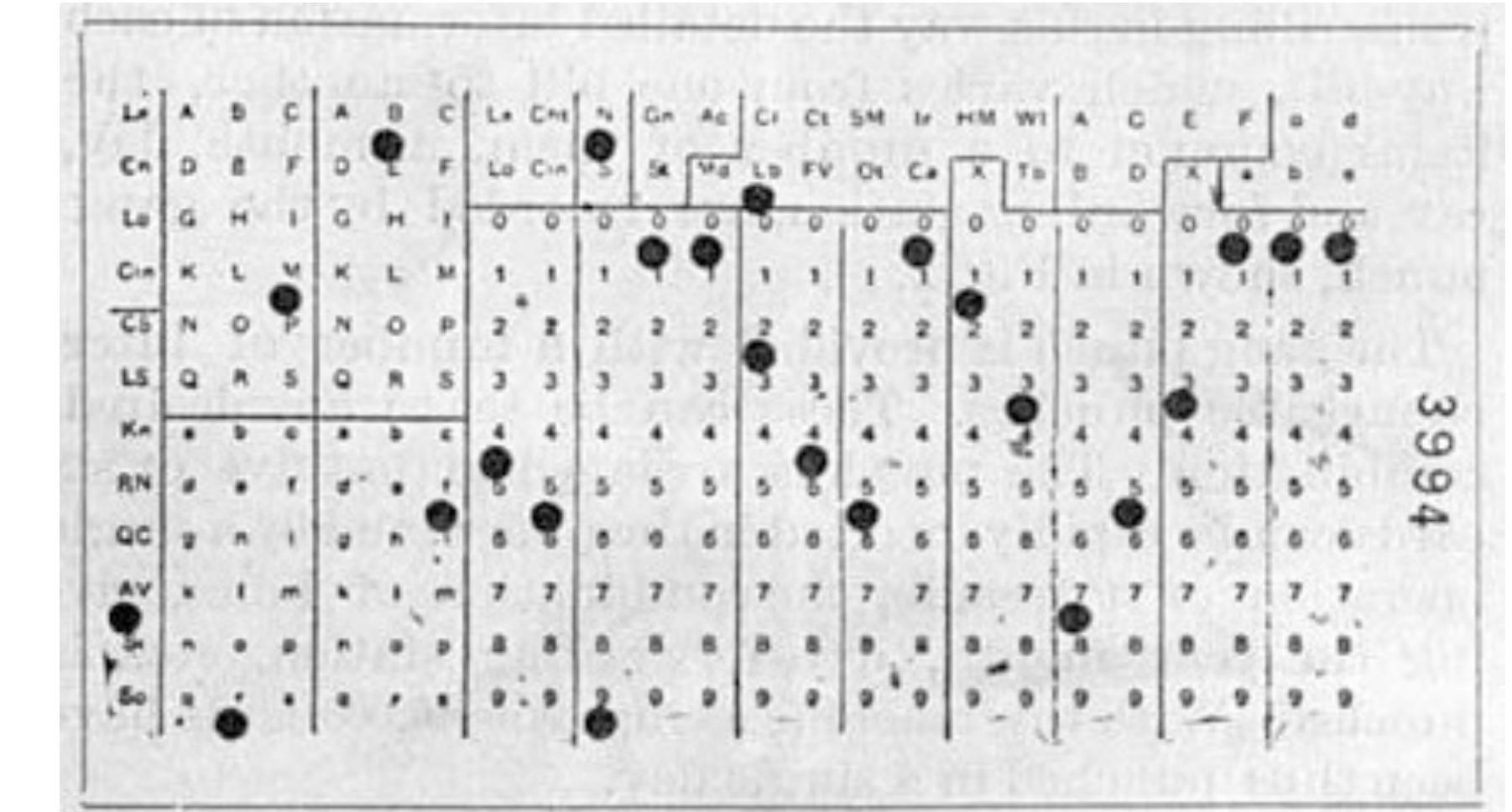


Ratatouille 2007

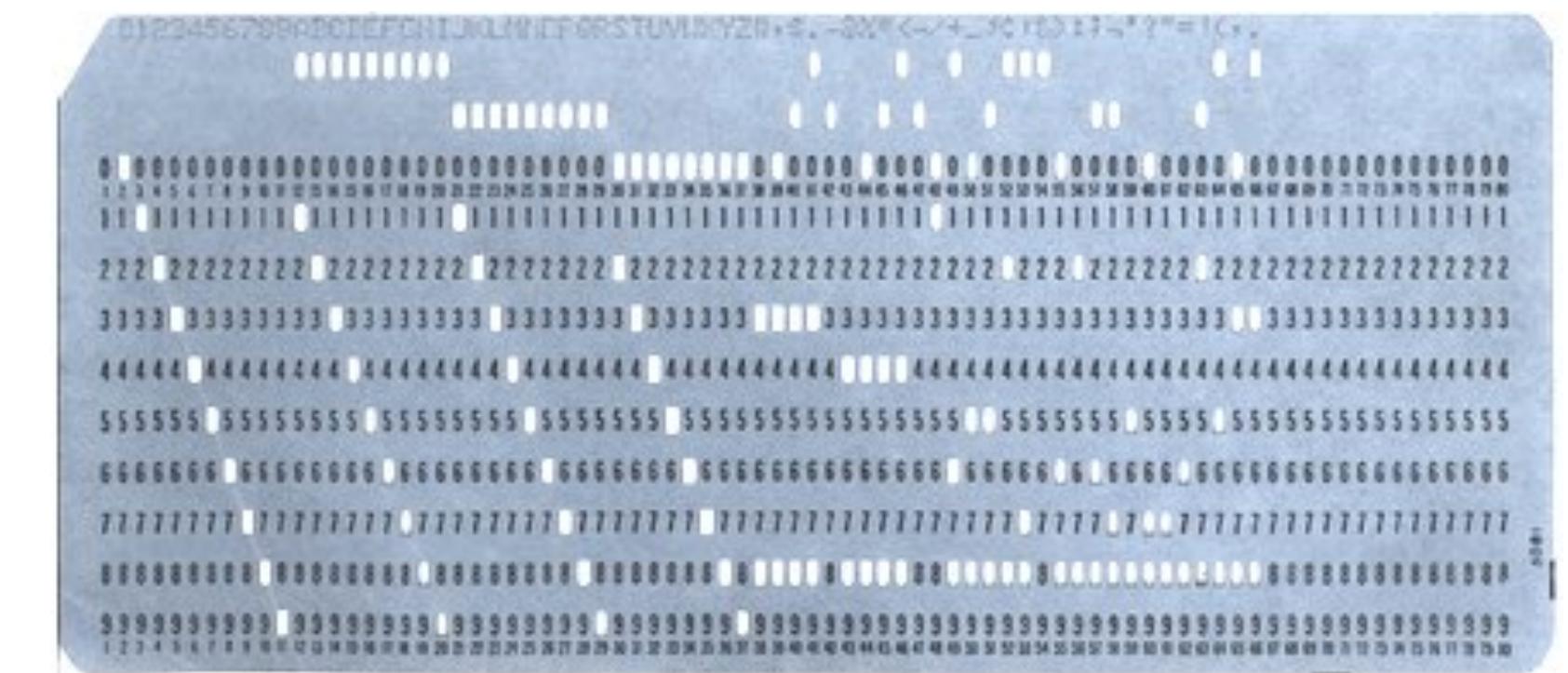
Why Computer Graphics?



early computer (ENIAC) 1945



punched card 1890's



ENIAC I/O 1945

Why Computer Graphics?



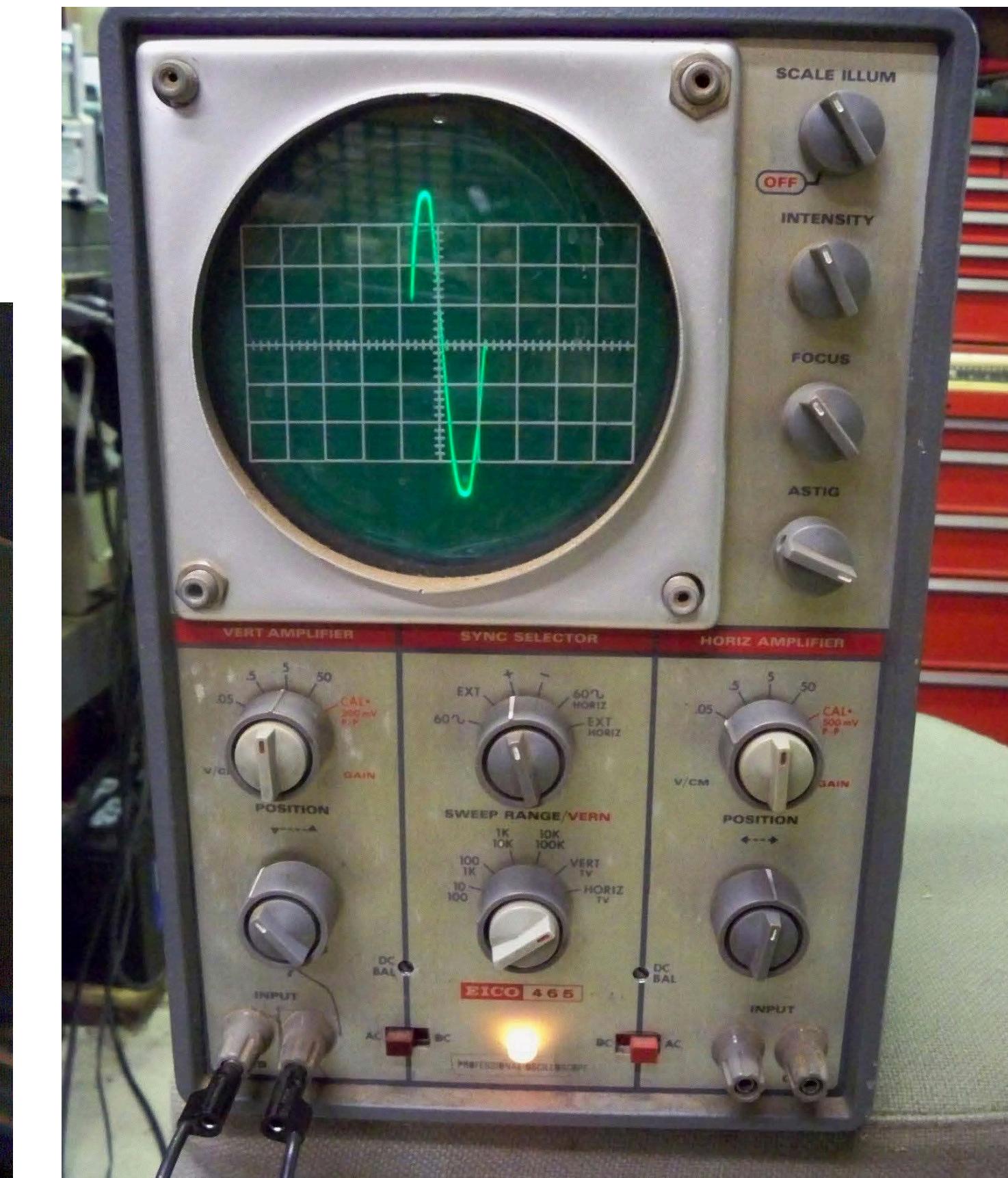
30% of the brain is devoted to visual processing
Most efficient way to receive information is in the form of visual data

Computer Graphics

Computer graphics

The use of computer to synthesize visual informations.

History of Graphics: Visual output



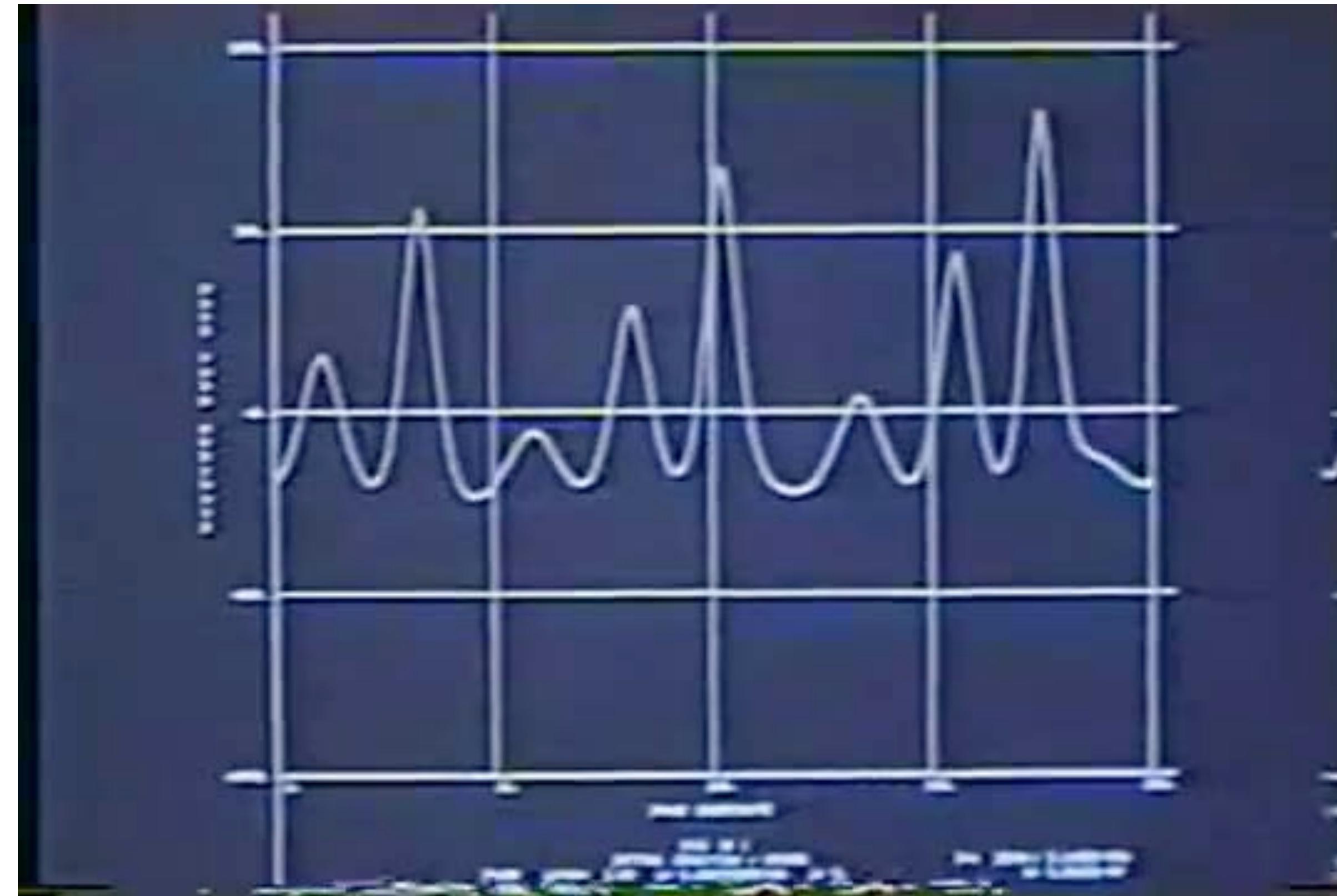
CRT monitors 1950's–1960's

History of Graphics: Visual input



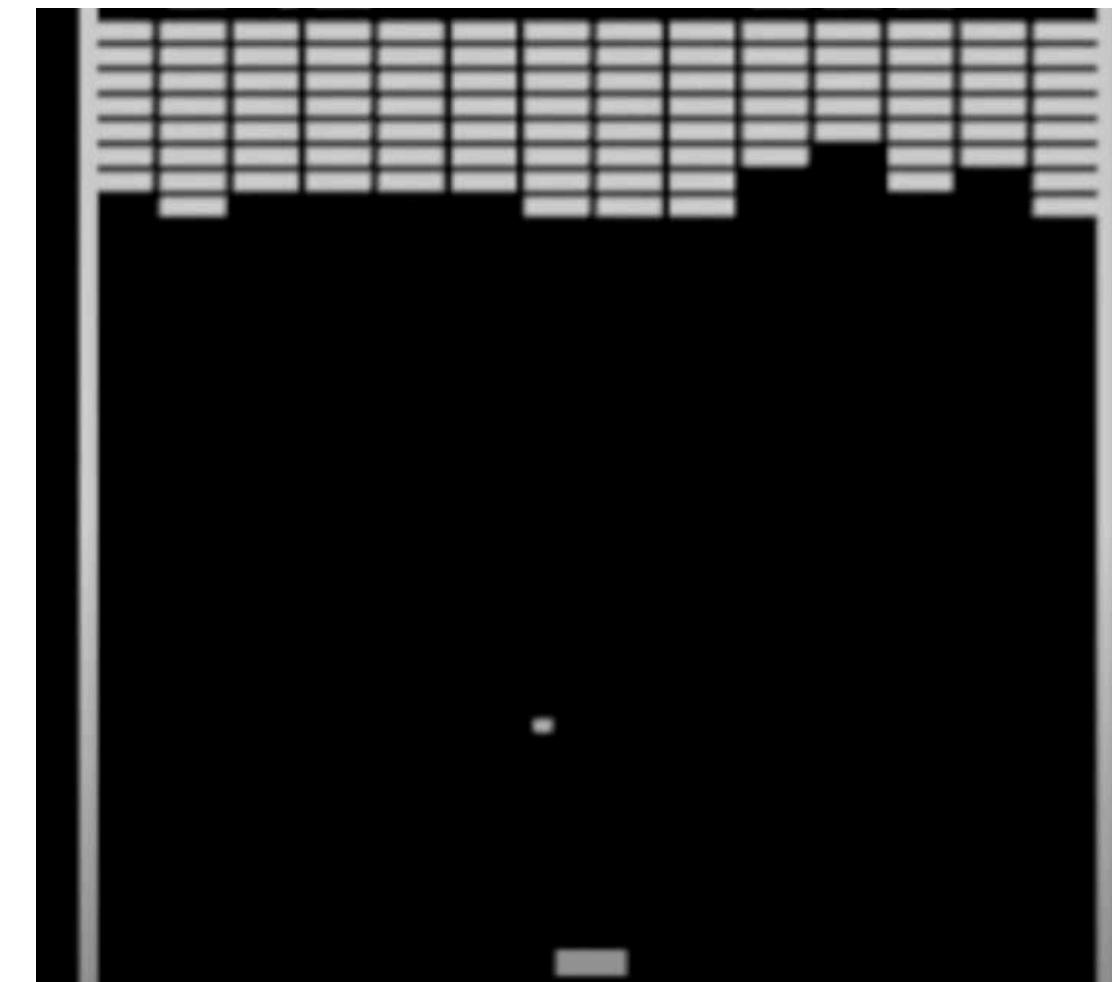
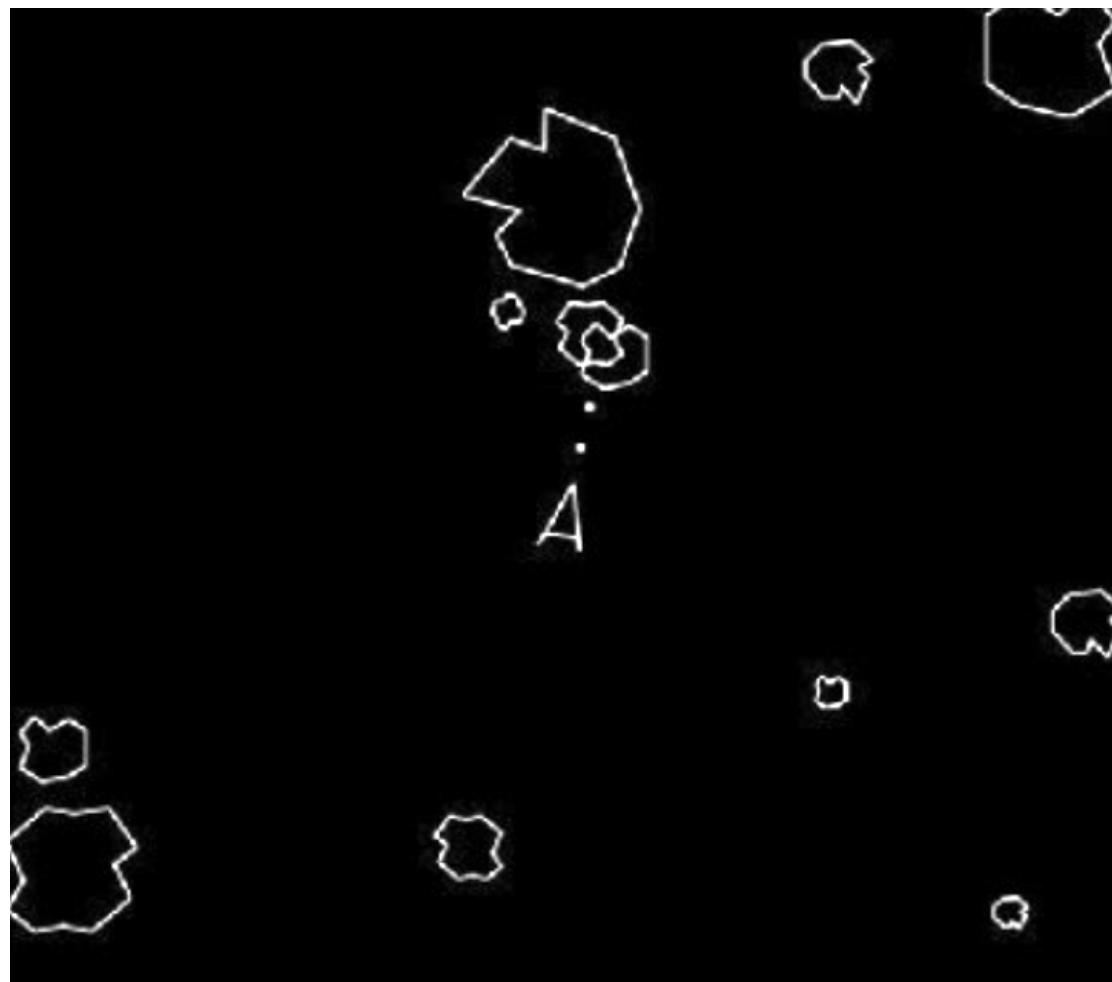
“Sketchpad” – Ivan Sutherland 1963

History of Graphics: Visualizing math



Discovery of “solitons” in the Korteweg–de Vries (KdV) equation
by Zabusky & Kruskal in 1965 while making the above film

History of Graphics: 1970's

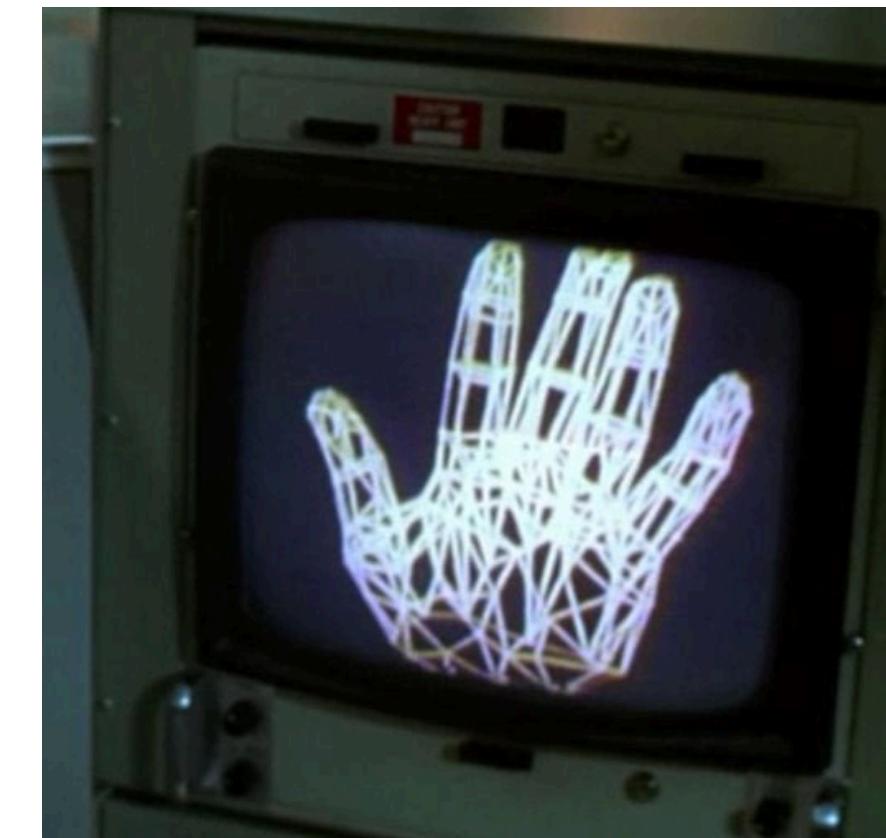


Arcade games 1970's

- ▶ Raster (pixel) graphics
- ▶ Graphic processing unit (GPU)
- ▶ Realtime

3DCG: Ed Catmull & others in Utah

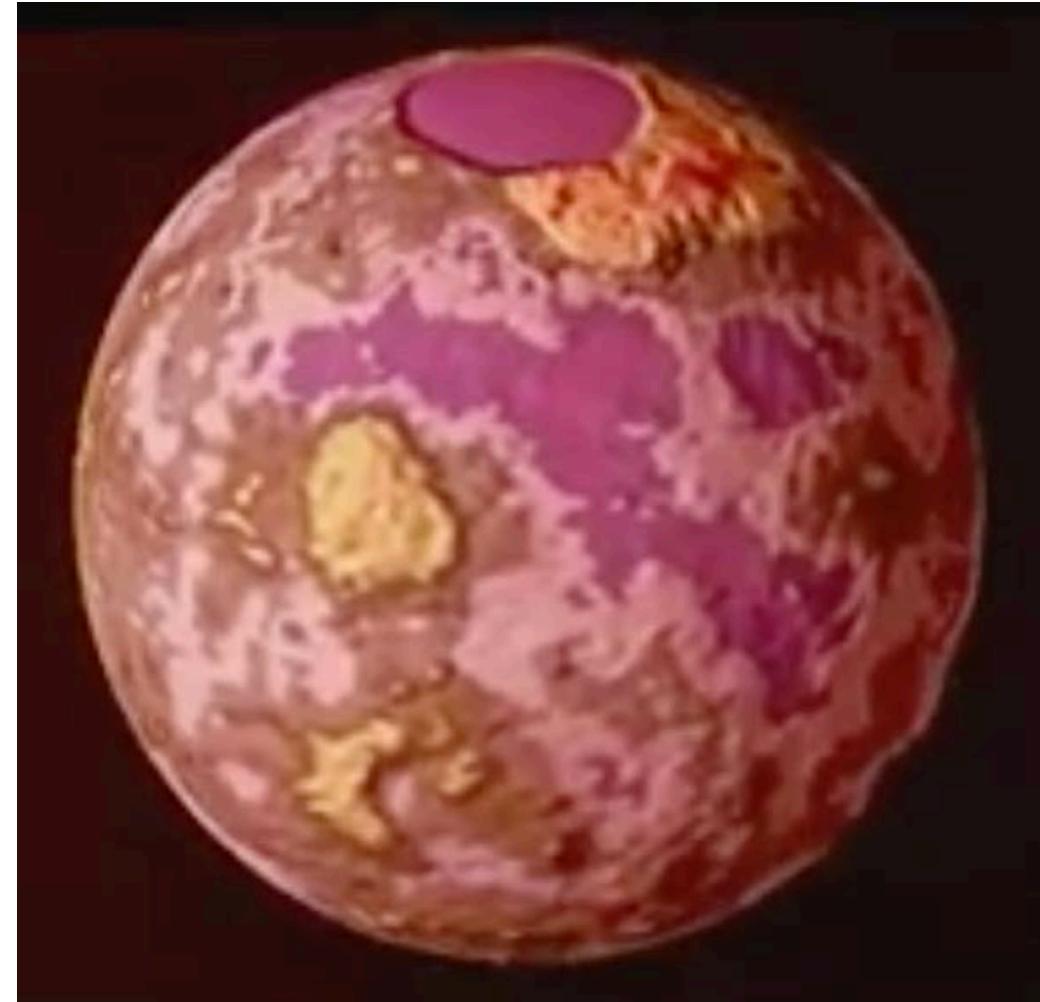
- ▶ Z-buffering
- ▶ Texture mapping
- ▶ Subdivision



Lucasfilm *Star Wars IV* 1977

- ▶ Computer graphics in blockbusters

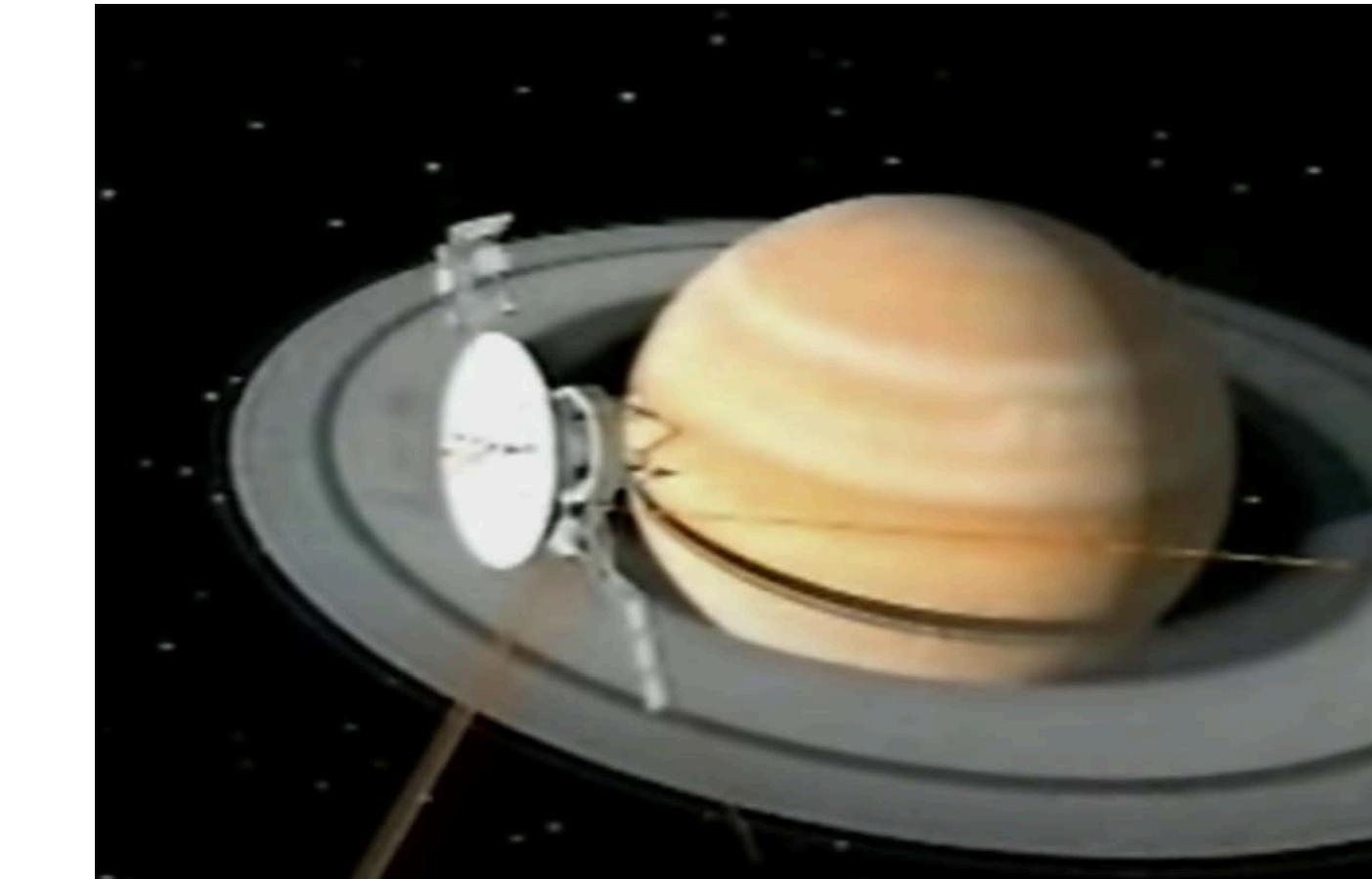
History of Graphics: Voyagers & Cosmos



Bump map for Venus 1978



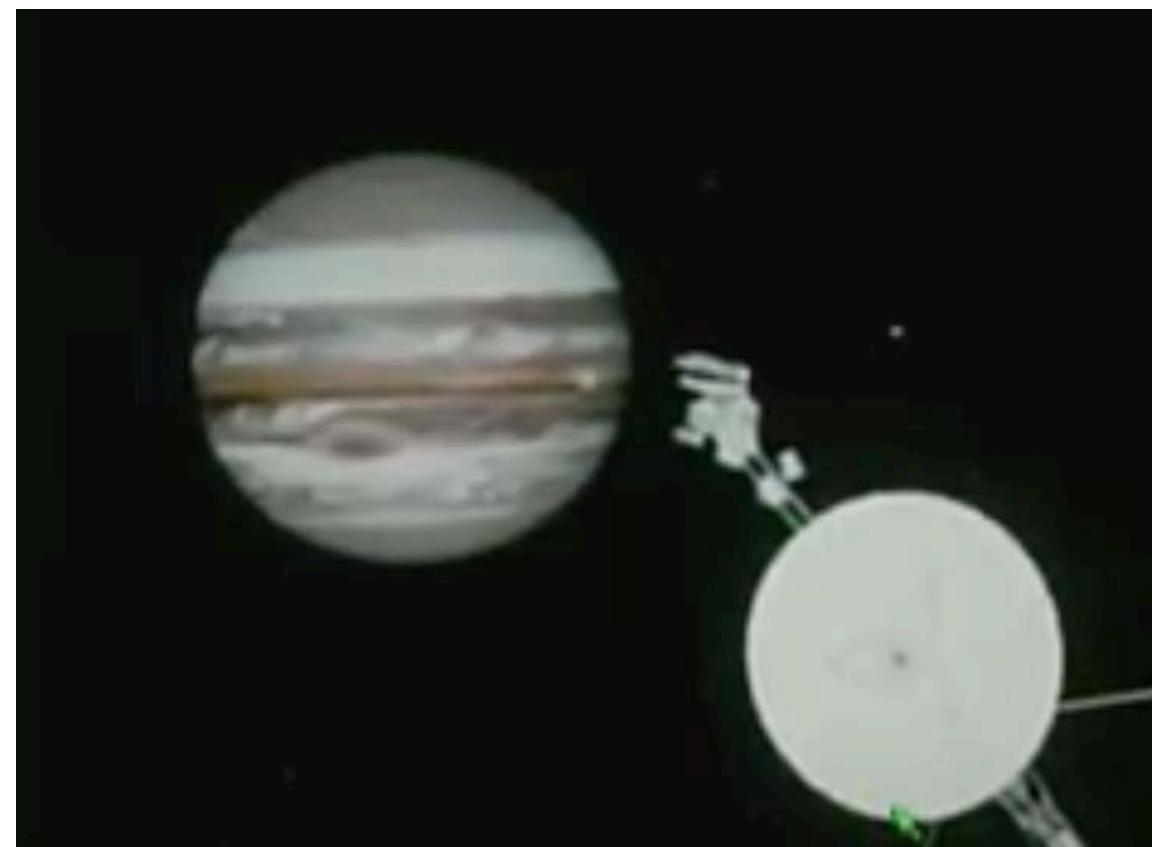
Texture reconstruction
for moons of Jupiter



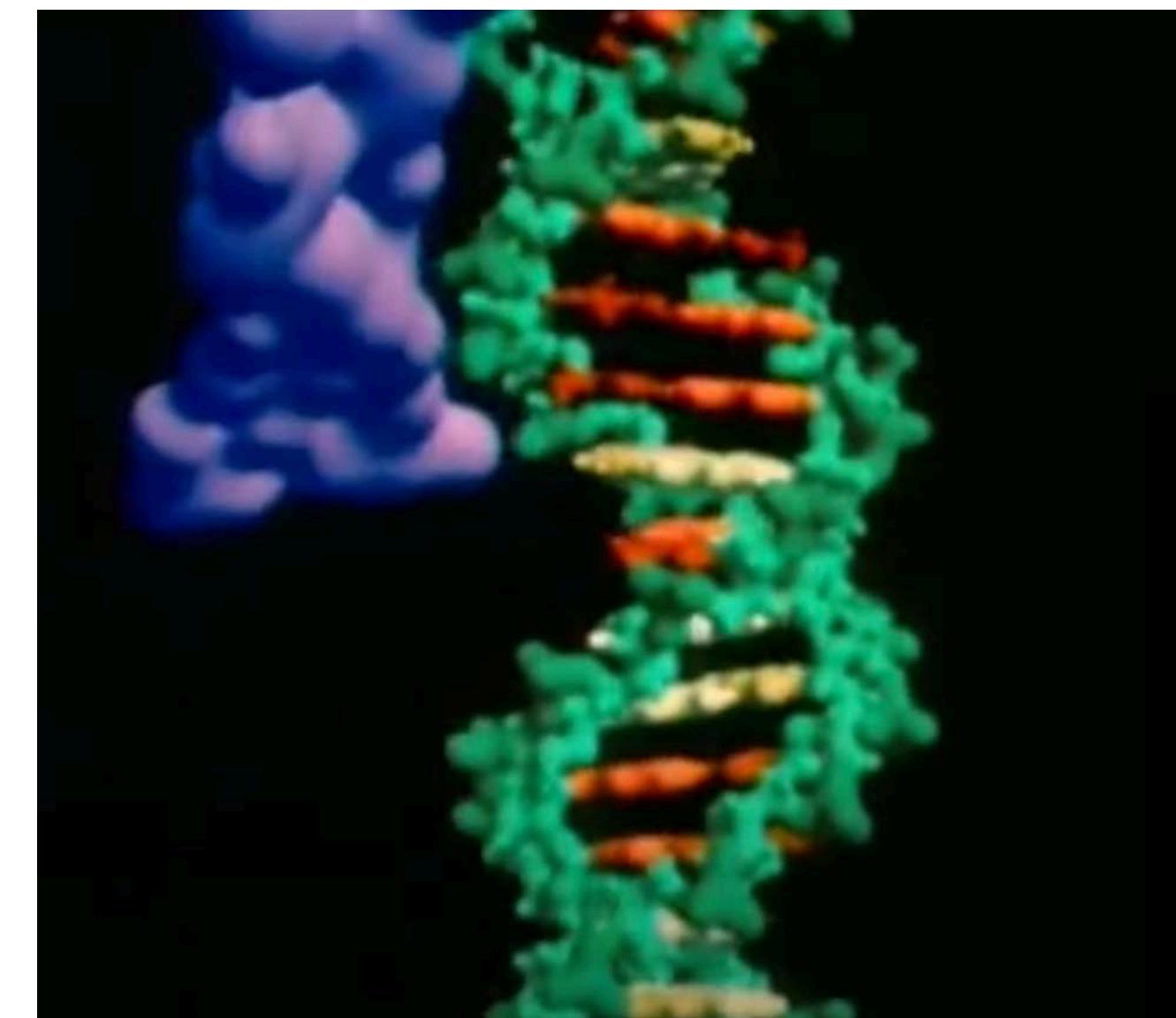
V2 Saturn flyby 1981



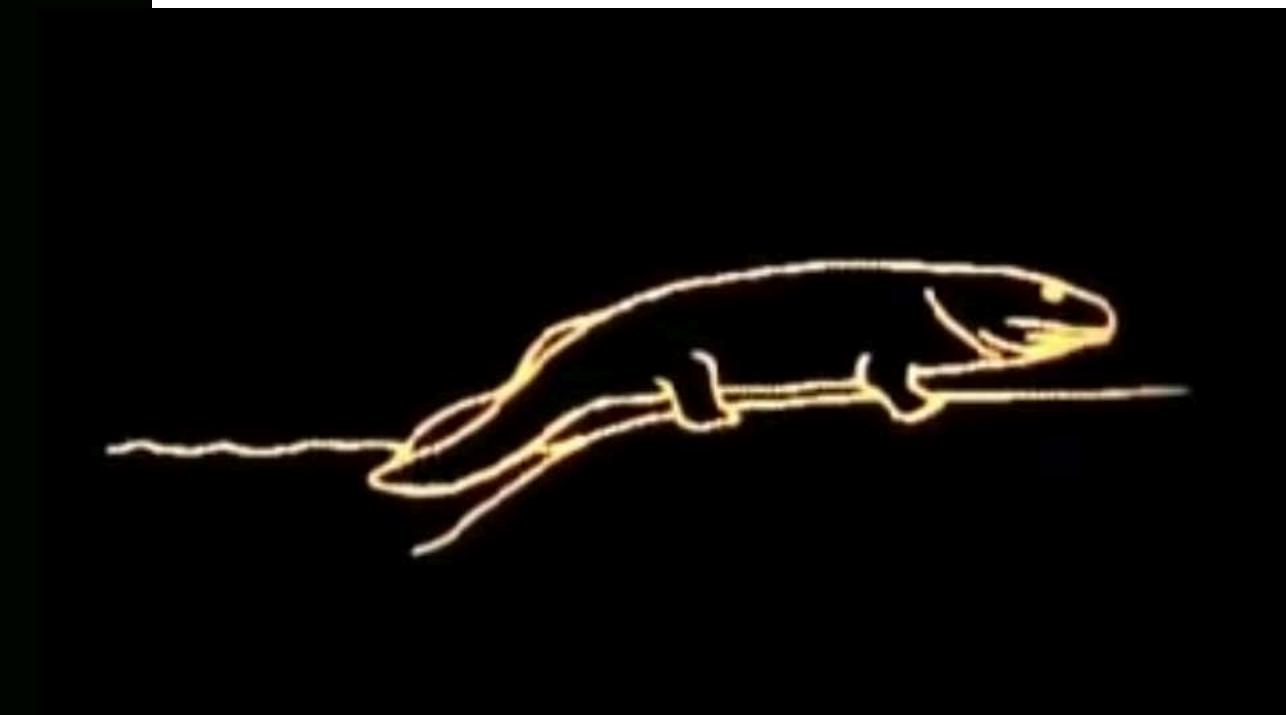
James Blinn



V1 Jupiter flyby 1979



Cosmos “DNA” 1980

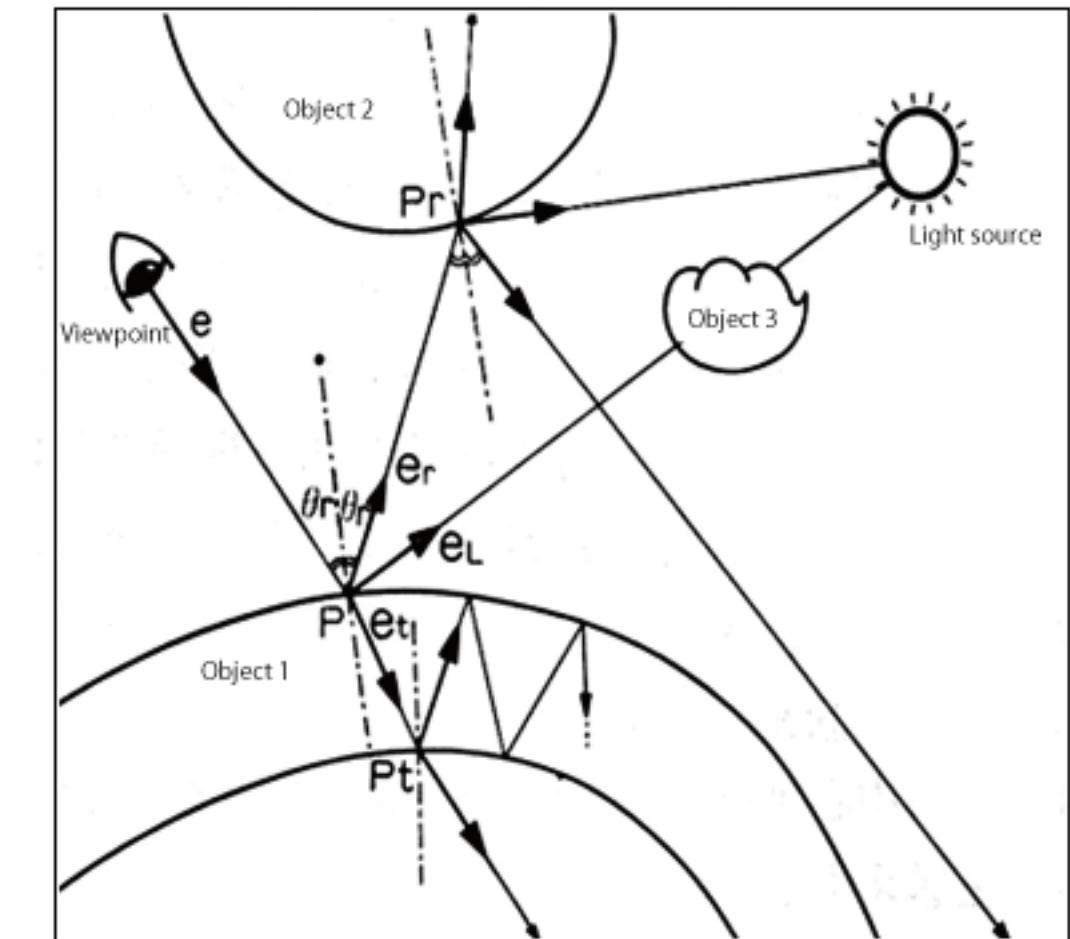


Cosmos “evolution” 1980

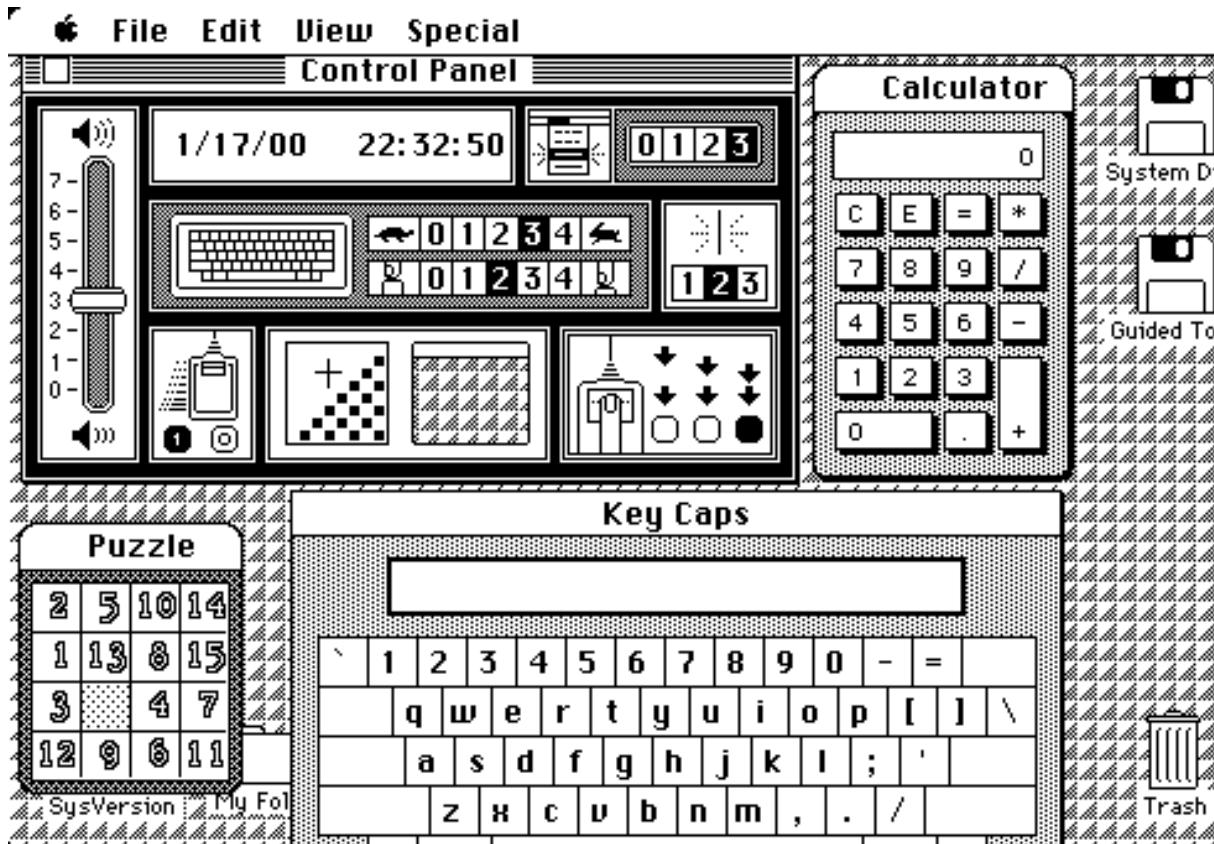
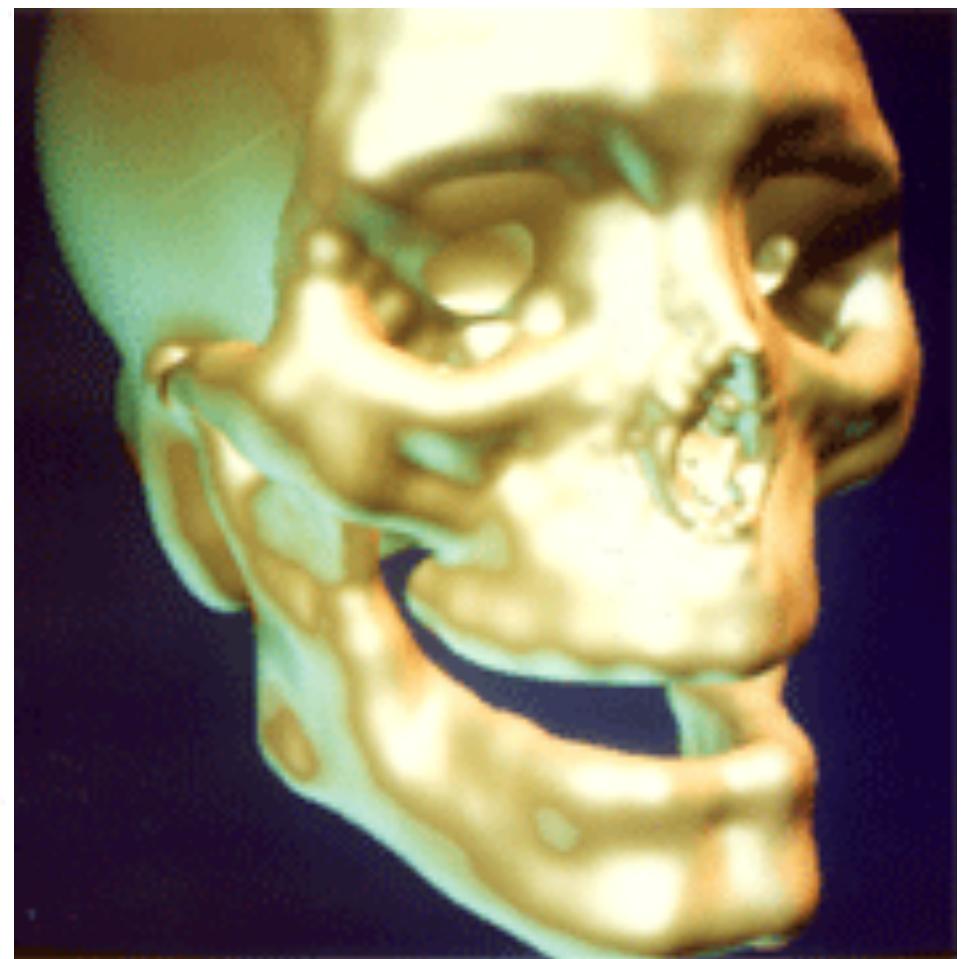
History of Graphics: 1980's



Nintendo 1981



LINKS-1 CG System 1983



Macintosh 1984
PC graphics

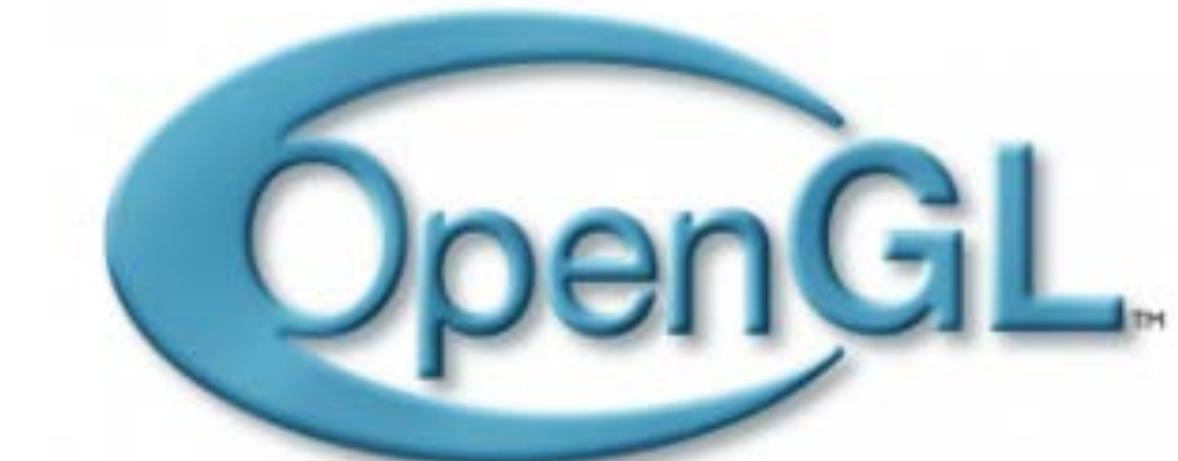


Pixar Luxo Jr. 1986

History of Graphics: interface with GPU

Graphics API's 1990s

- ▶ Simple to tell GPU to draw
- ▶ Hardcoded fixed function for drawing (fast but not flexible).



Graphics API's after mid 2000–10s

- ▶ Drawing stages are programmable.
- ▶ Flexible shading.
- ▶ General purpose parallel computing.



New era of graphics 2020

- ▶ Realtime photorealism

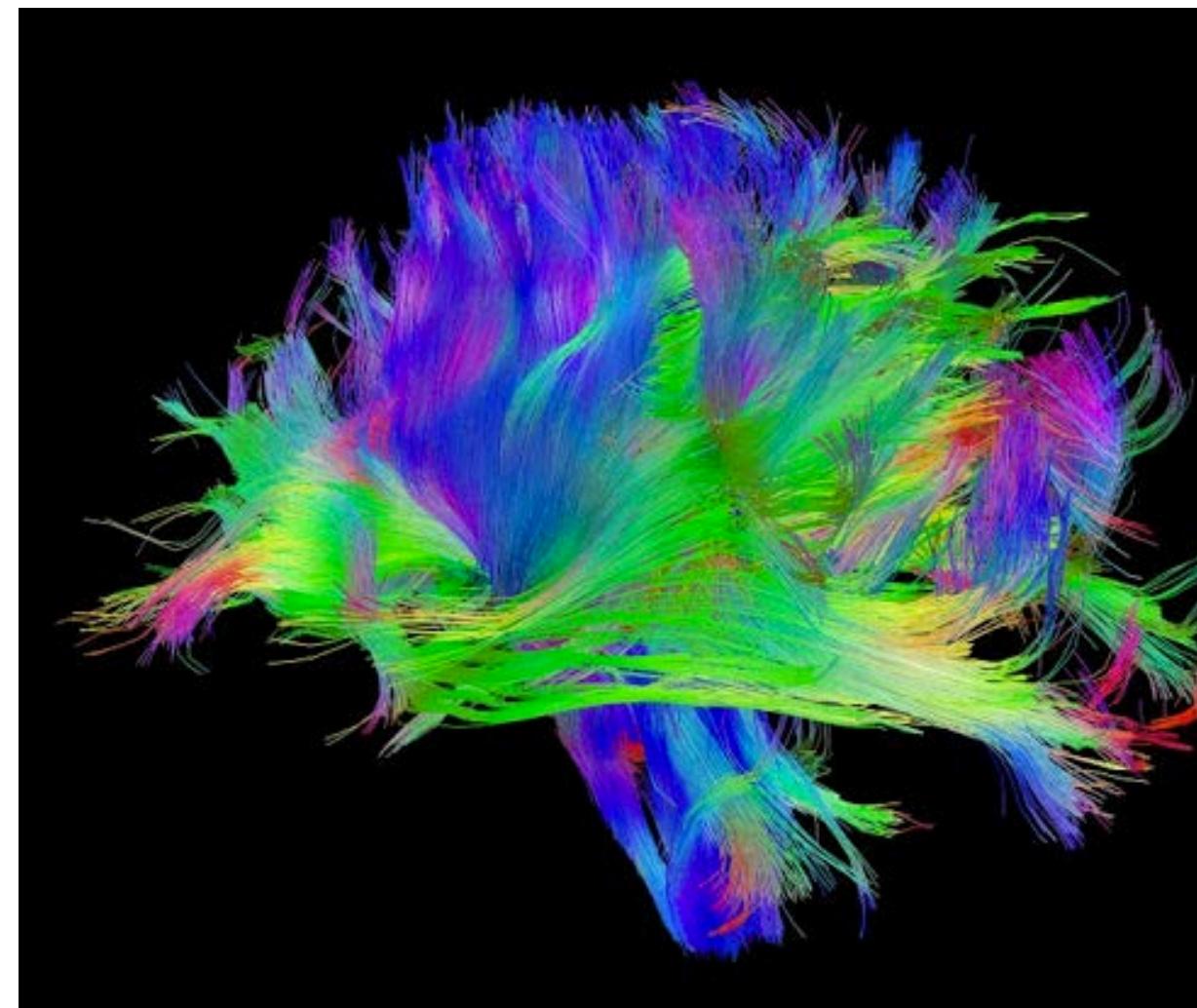
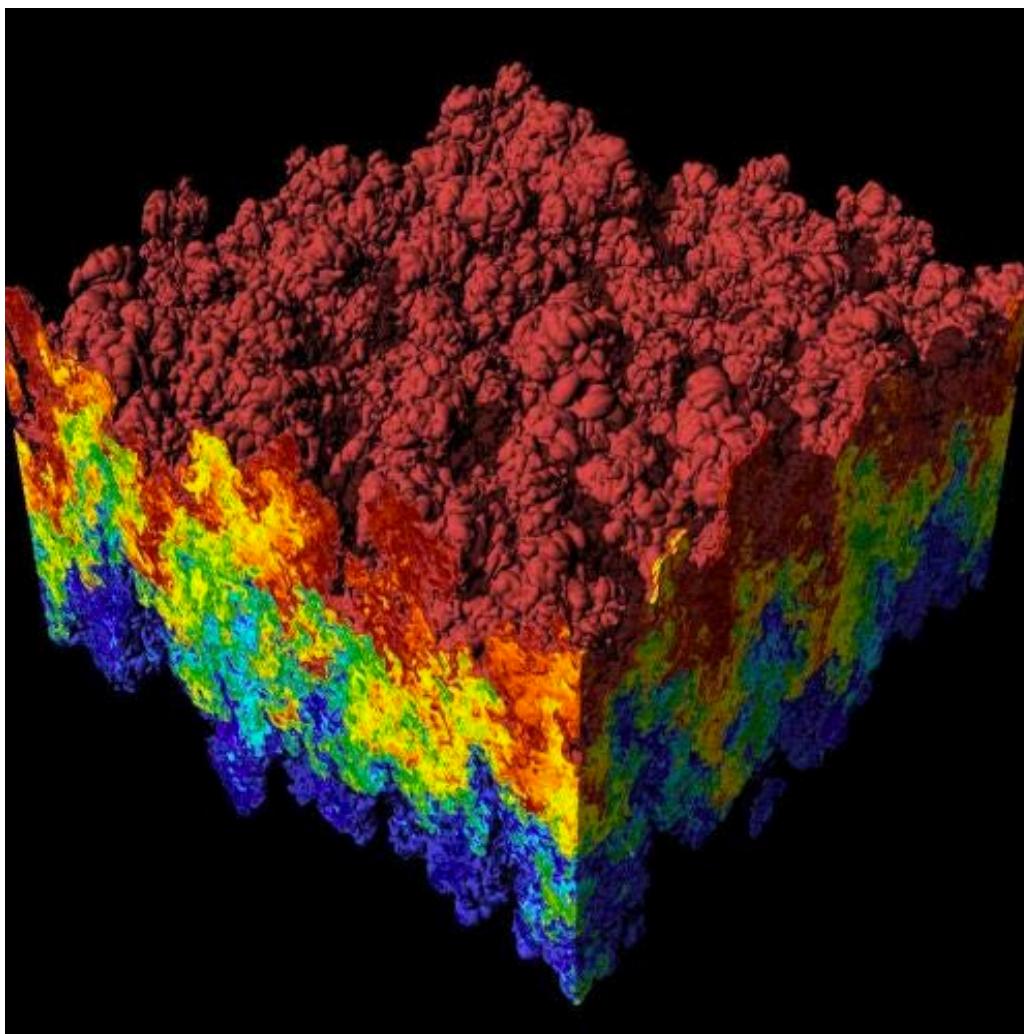
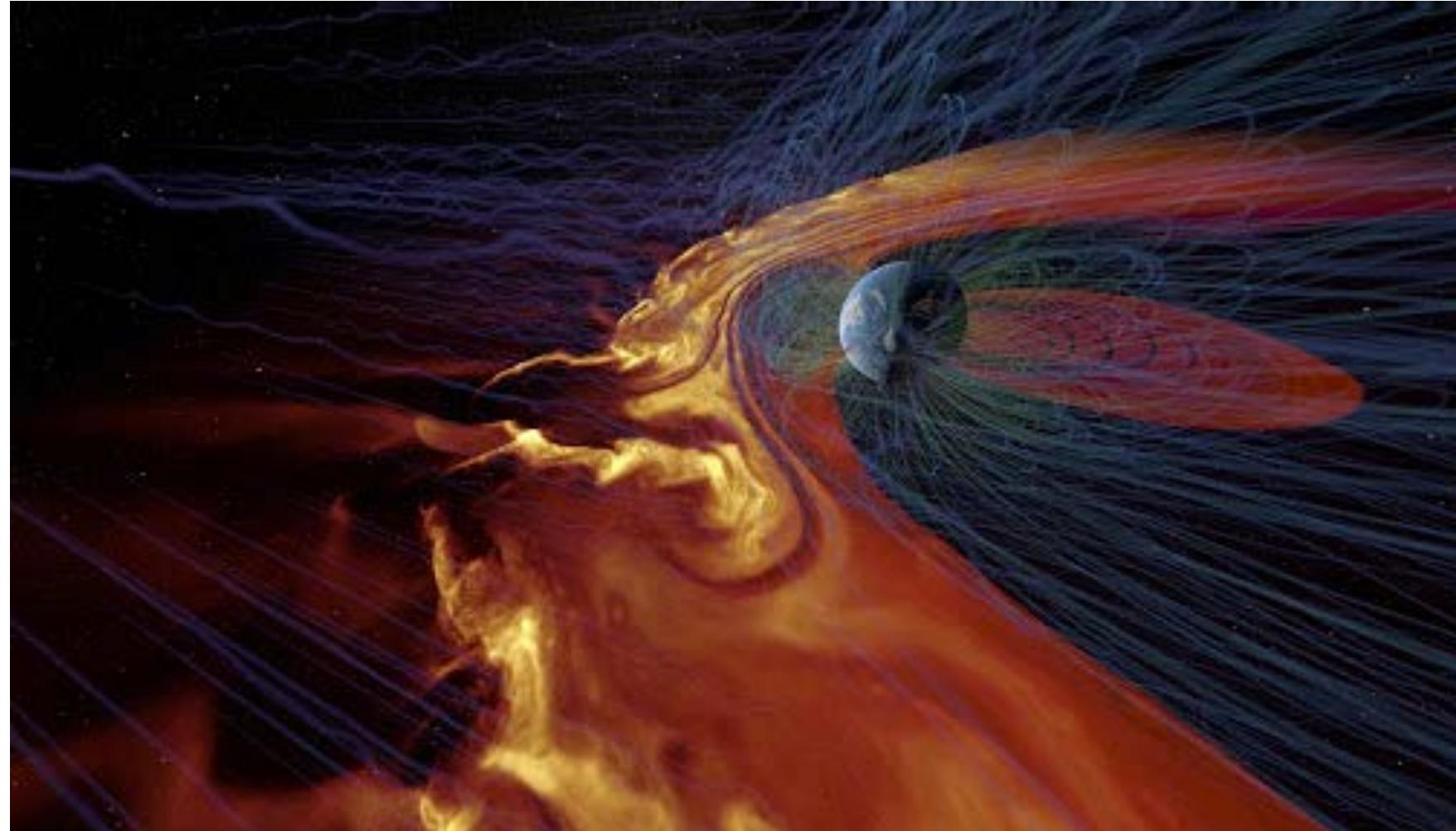
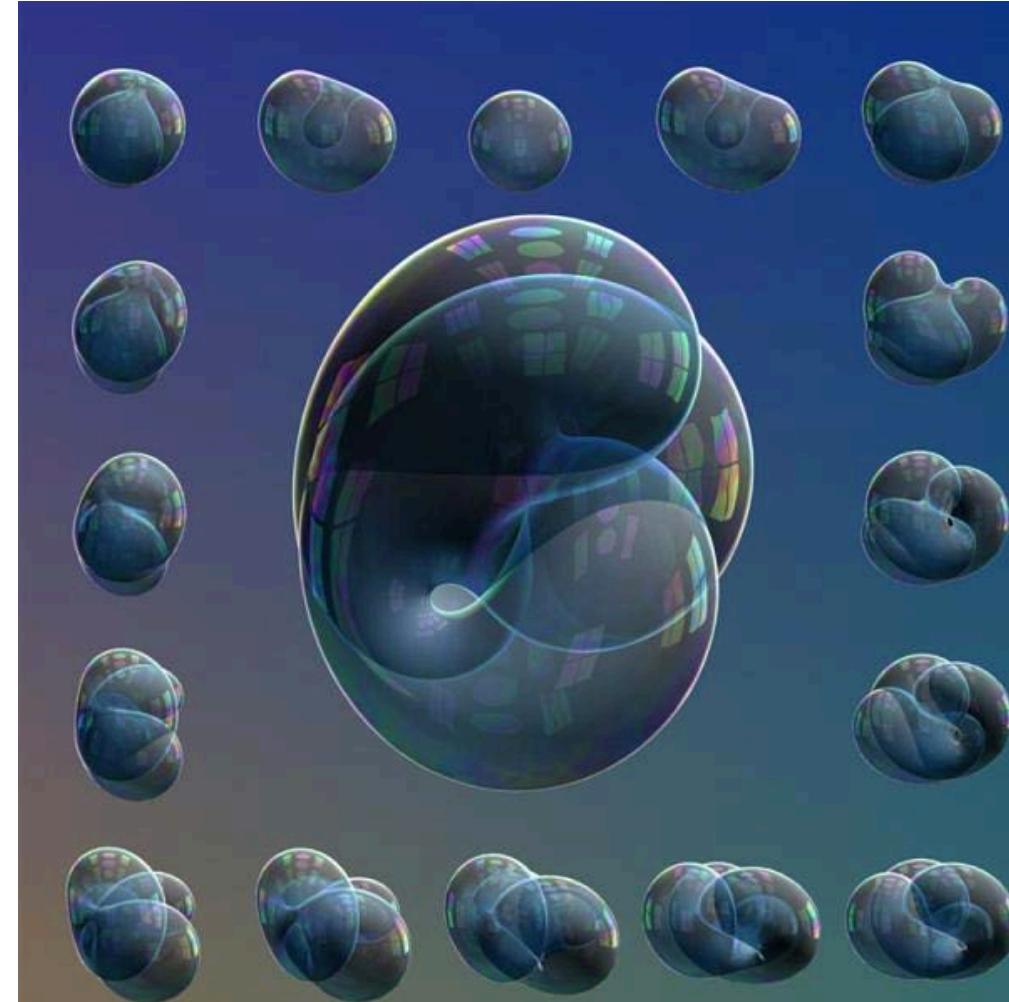
Beyond controlling pixels

Physical simulations in entertainment



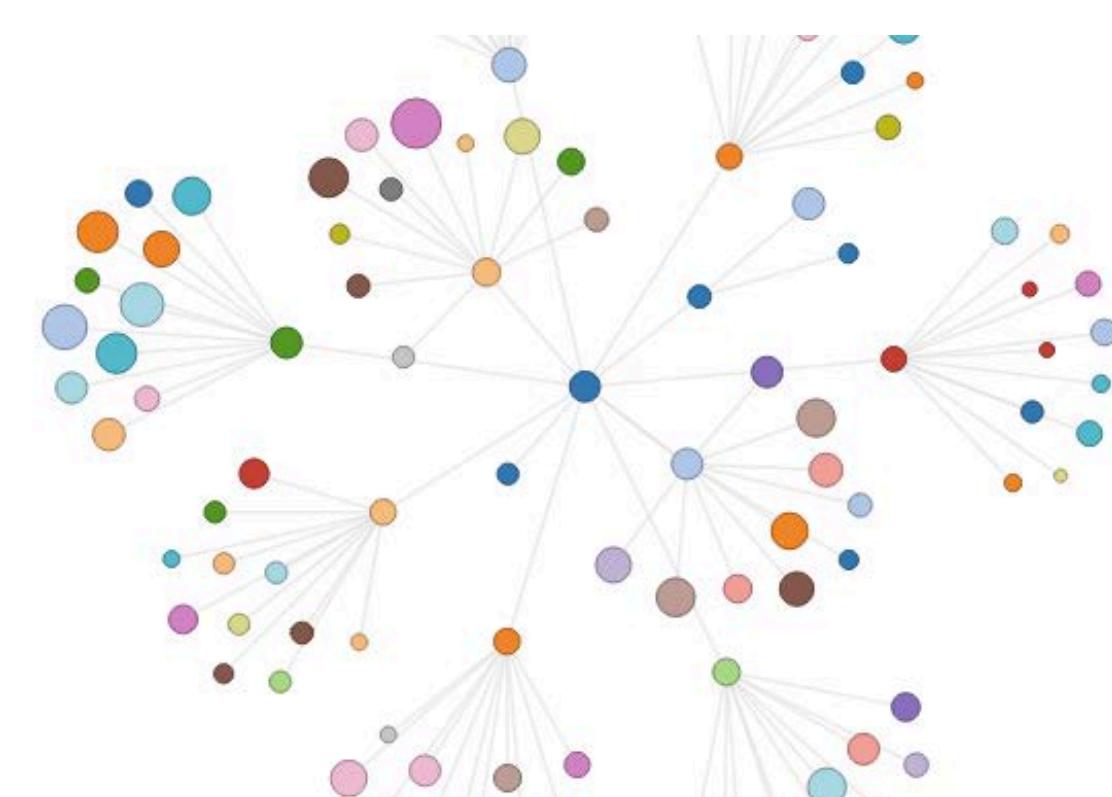
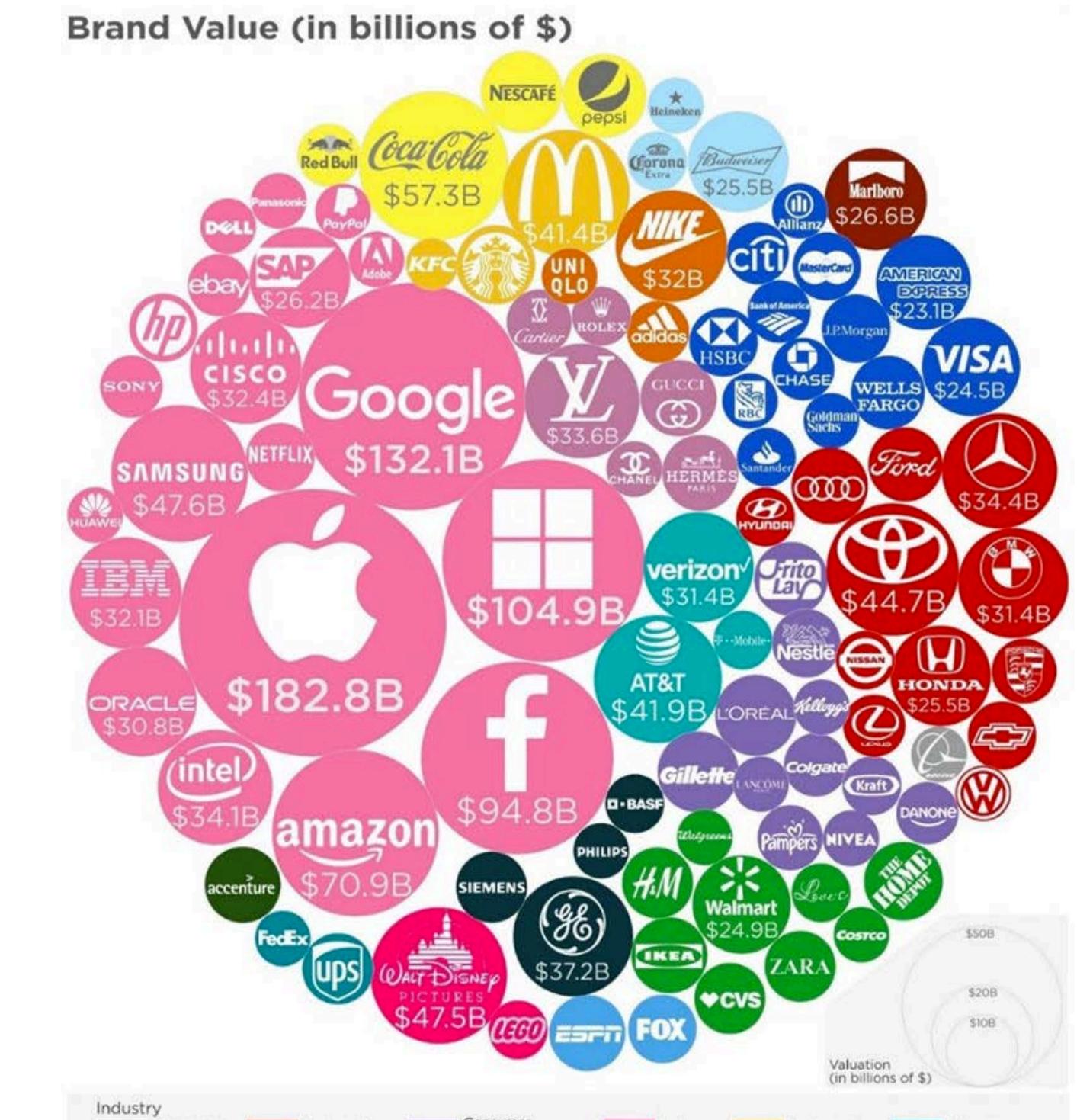
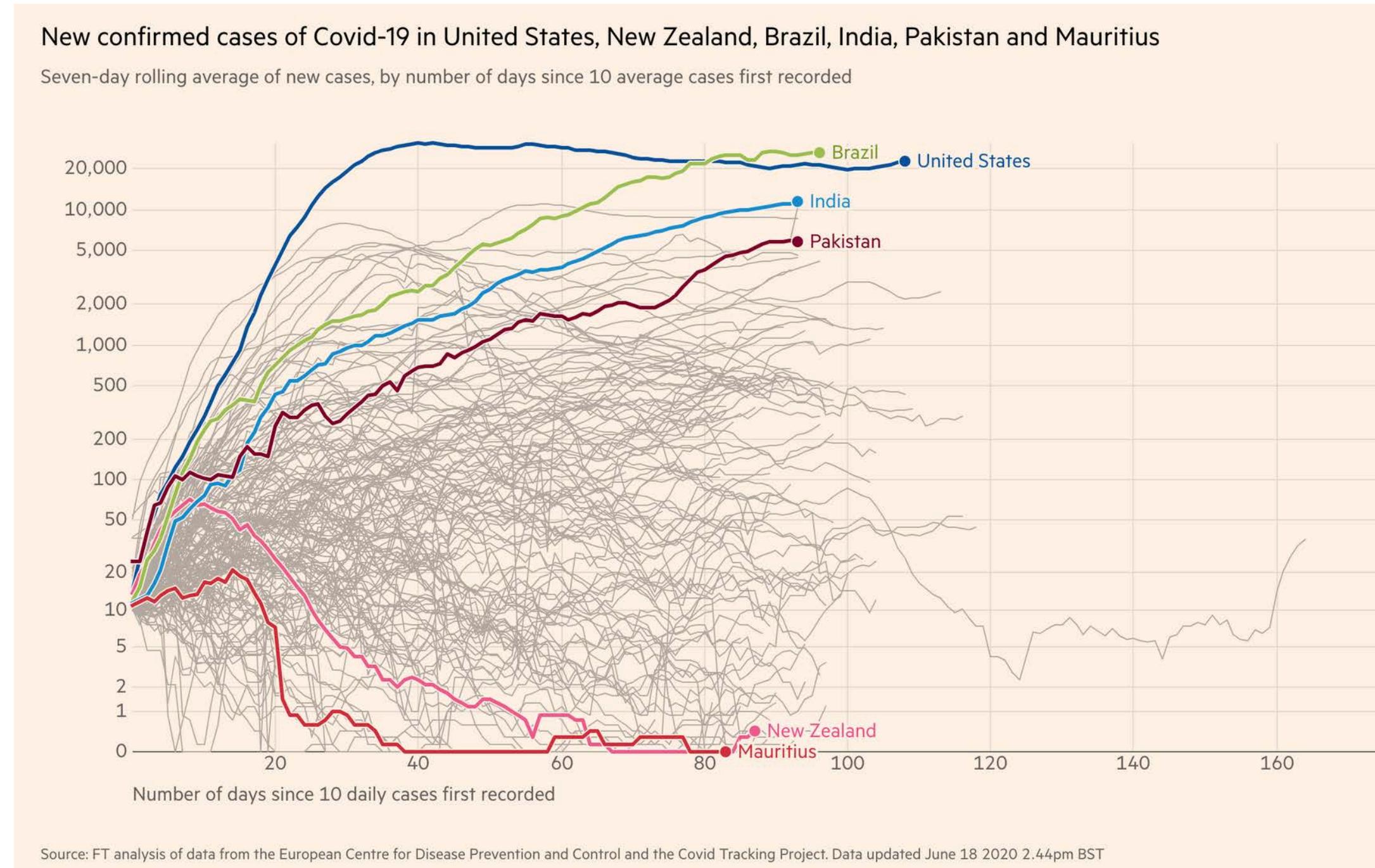
Beyond controlling pixels

Mathematical and Scientific Visualizations



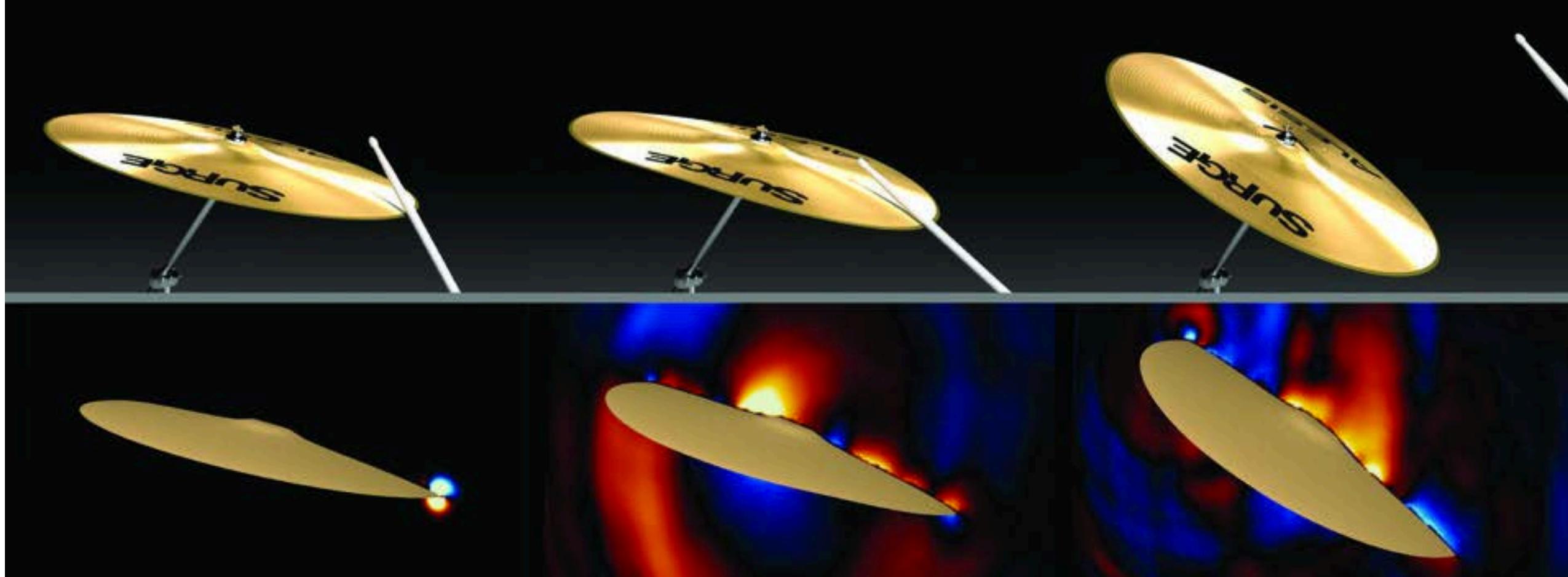
Beyond controlling pixels

Data visualizations



Beyond controlling pixels

Synthesize sound (not only visual information)



and touch senses



Beyond controlling pixels

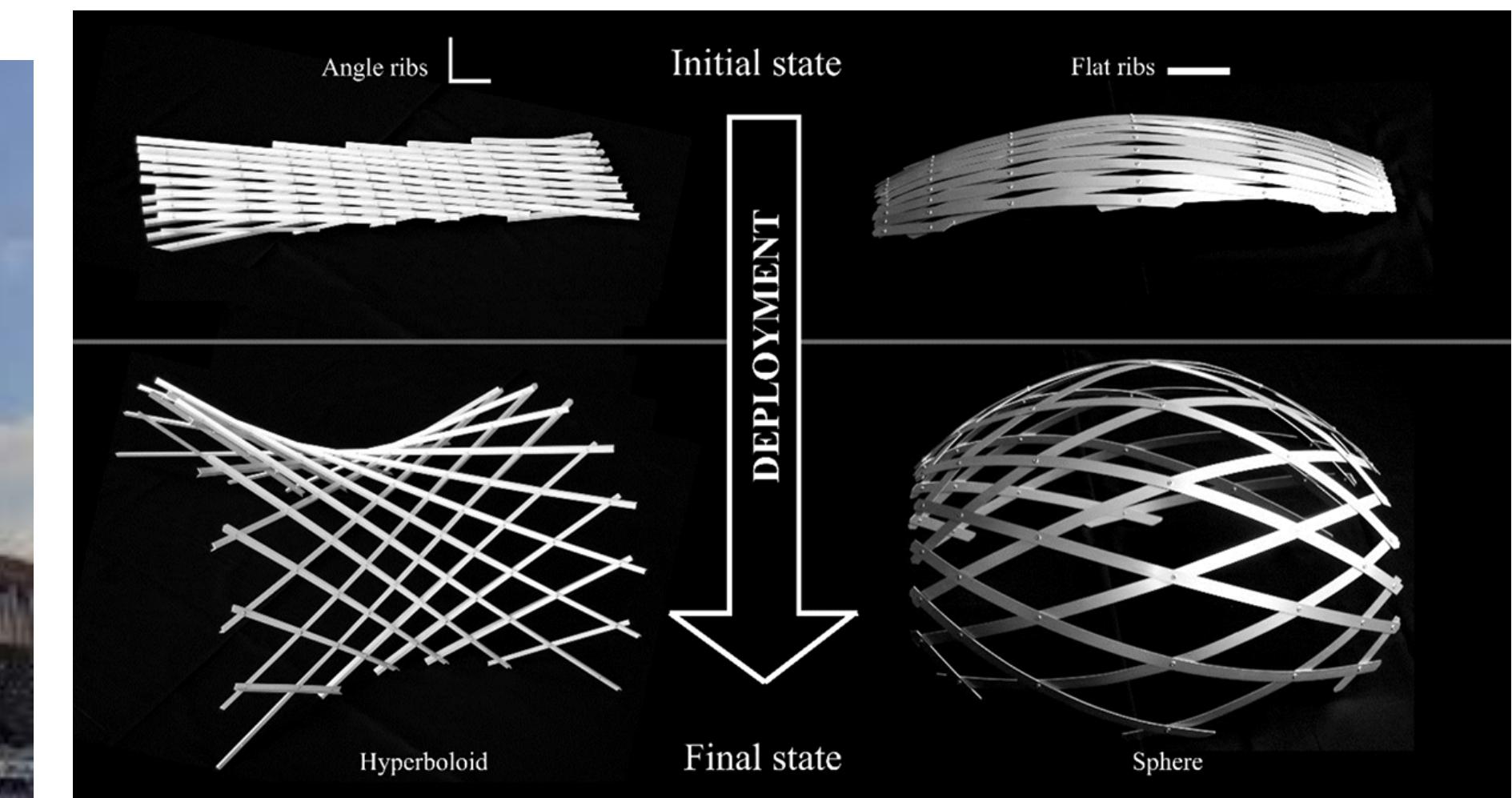
3D printing



Constrained deformable geometry

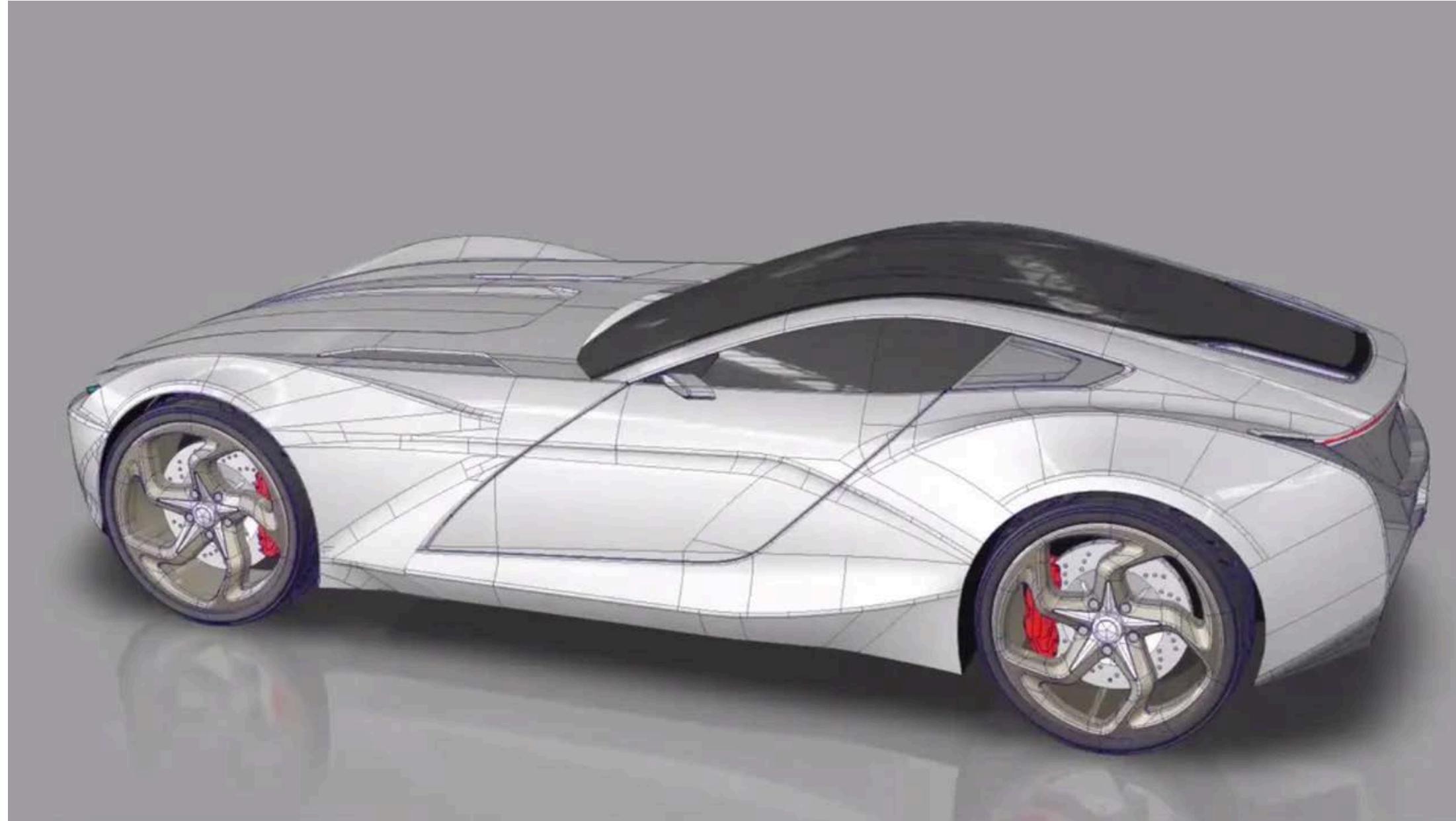


architecture



Beyond controlling pixels

Industrial computer aided design



Fonts on your screen and on newspapers

OUR STORY

Formed in New Zealand in 2004, Image Mechanics has gone from strength to strength since opening our Sydney studio, continuing to deliver premium branding, design and digital services.

With a ton of successful new media projects under our belt, we've turned our experience designing and developing websites and applications to the art of crafting unique and exciting user experiences within the mobile space. This means we're able to take an integrated approach to creating innovative applications to enhance your business and brand, looking at the wider picture beyond just apps.

If you're after a mobile strategy to revolutionize your business, optimise your website for mobile devices, or something else bold and brave, give us a call. We're not just designers - we're innovators, too.

Frontier of Computer Graphics

SIGGRAPH: Annual conference since 1974 with ~20k attendees per year.

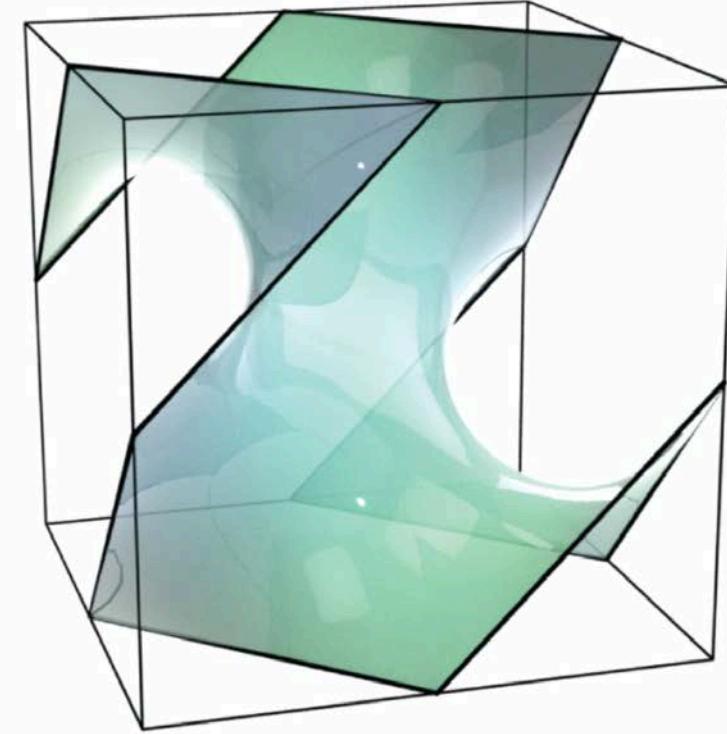
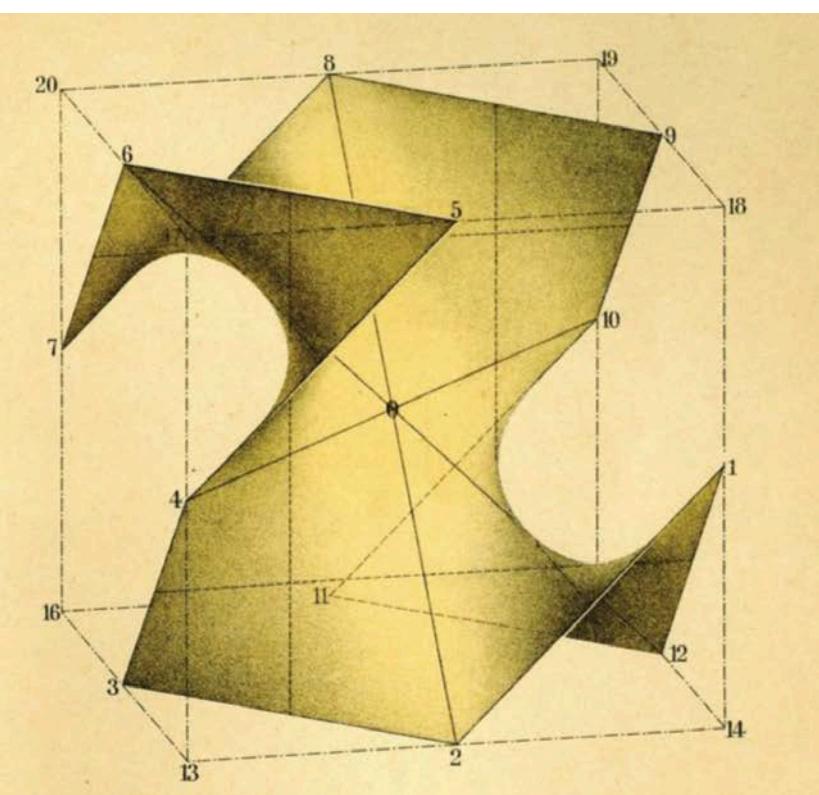
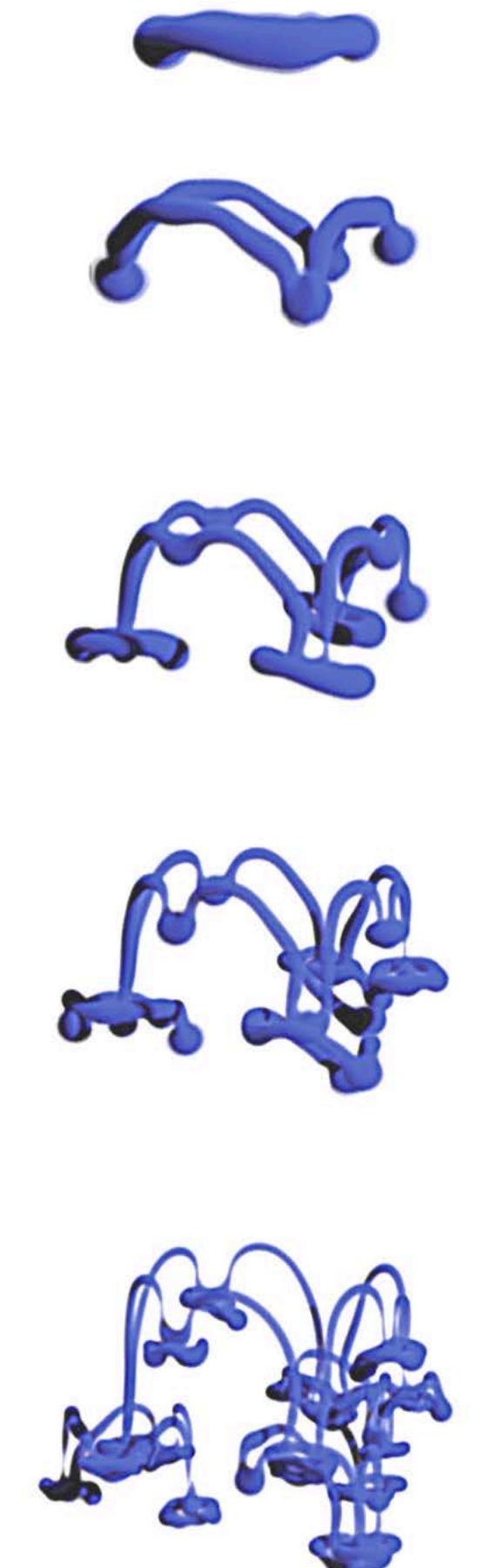
Youtube search “**SIGGRAPH technical paper trailer**”



Our research

Geometry processing & physical simulation

- Find underlying geometric structures to make simulations easier





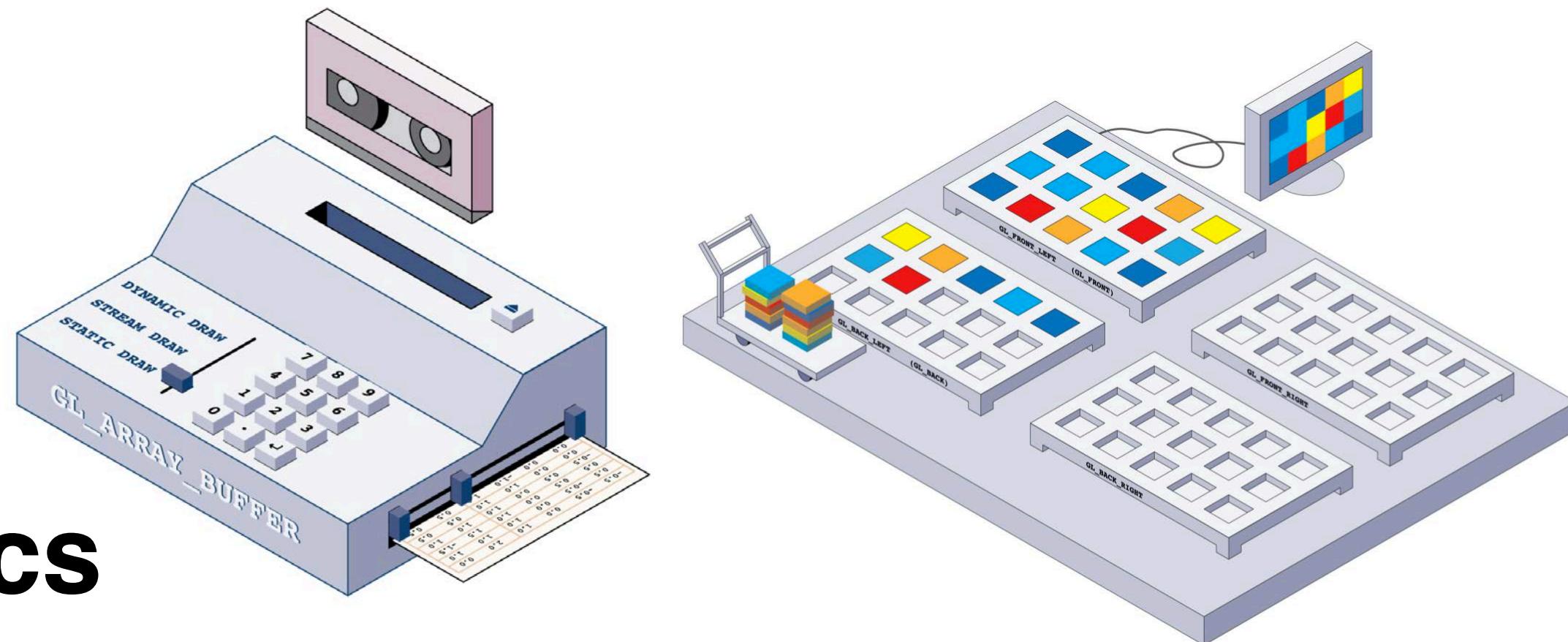
Topics of this course

- Course logistics
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This course

Modern OpenGL

- Command the graphics card



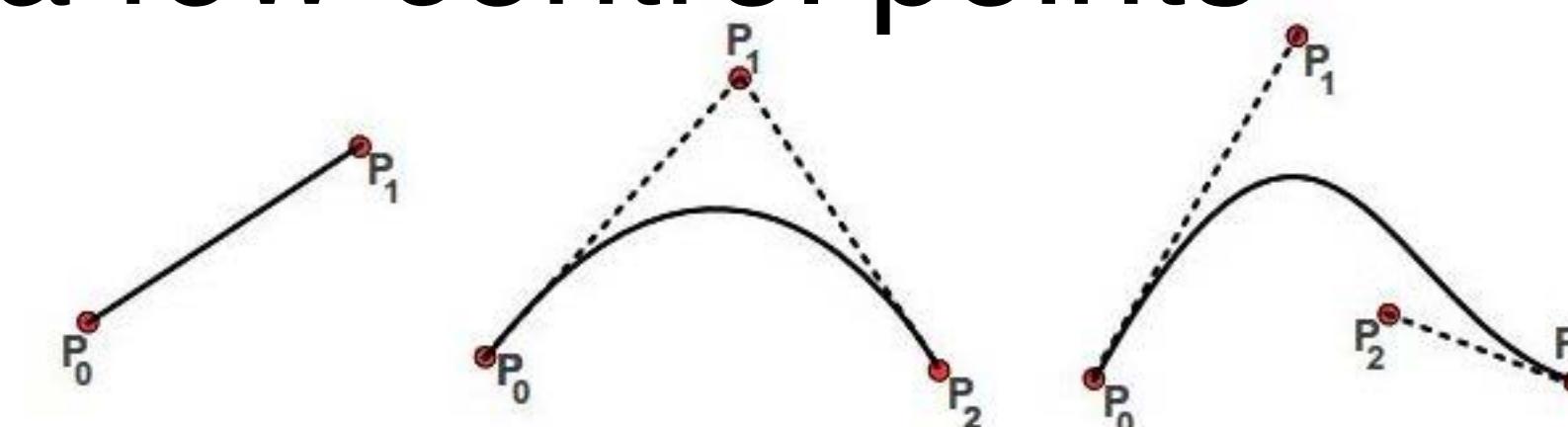
Foundation of 3D Computer Graphics

- Convert geometries in a 3D scene into pixel colors in a 2D screen.



Foundation of Vector Graphics

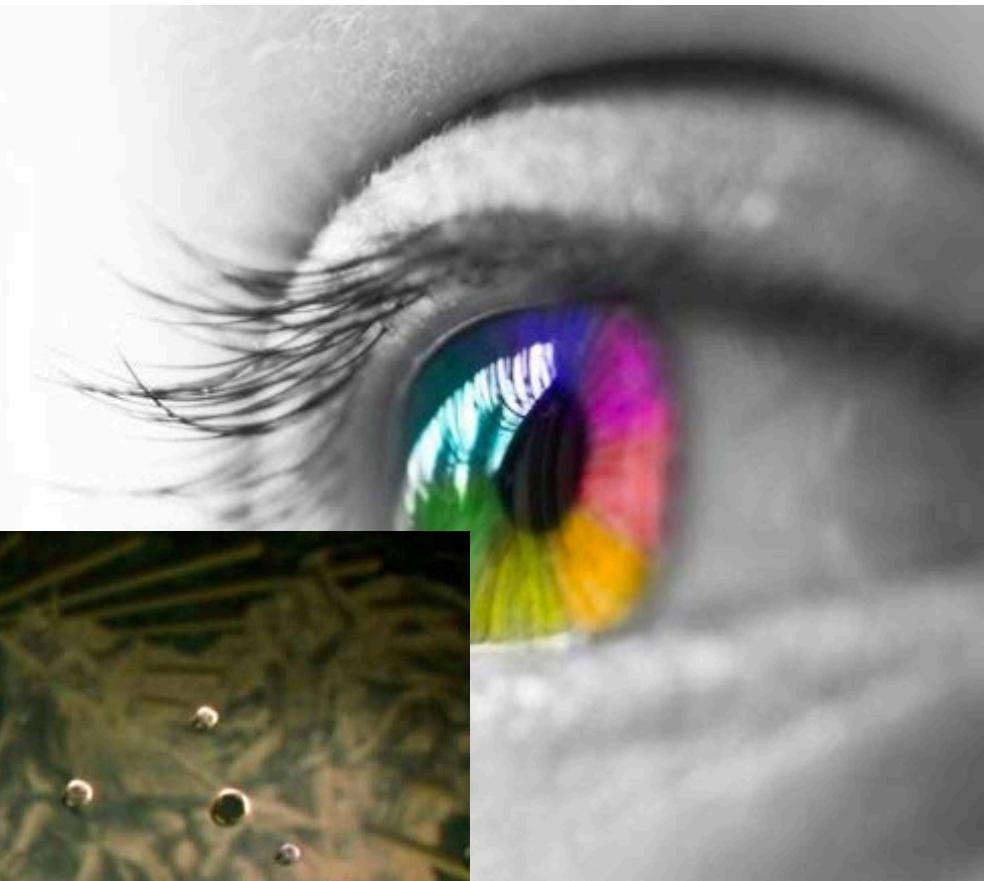
- Build smooth geometries from only a few control points



Additional topics

Perception of color

- Physical color, displayed color, perceived color



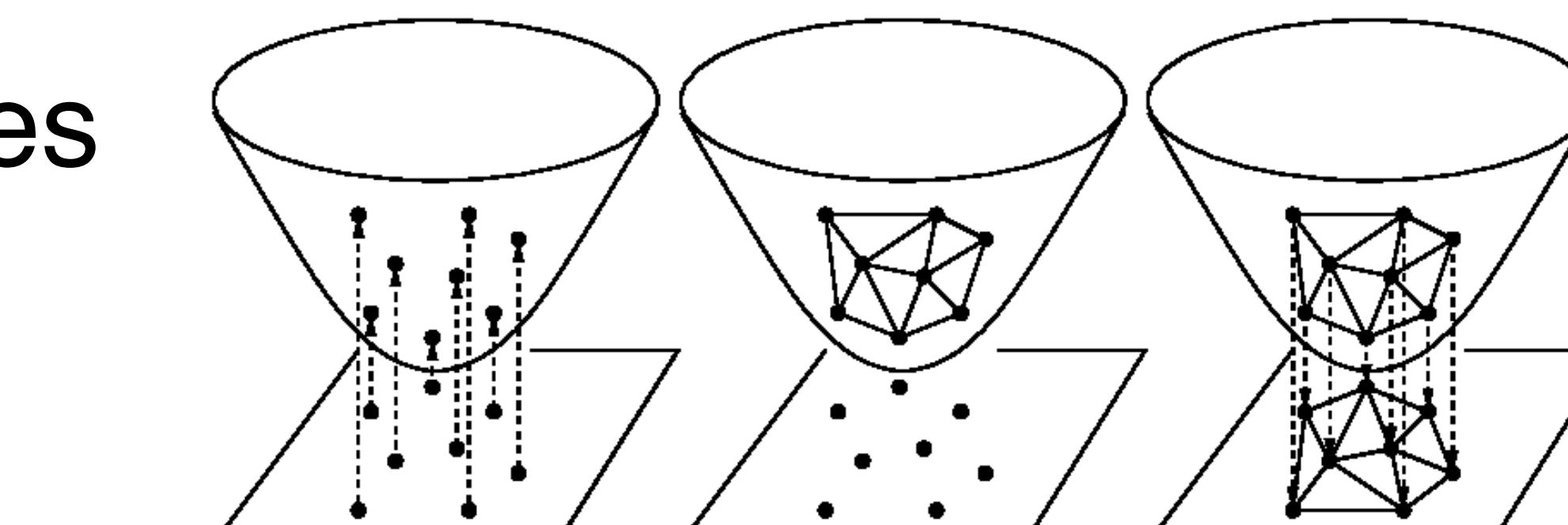
Physics-based animation

- Behind the scenes of special effects.



Optics

- Light transport equation



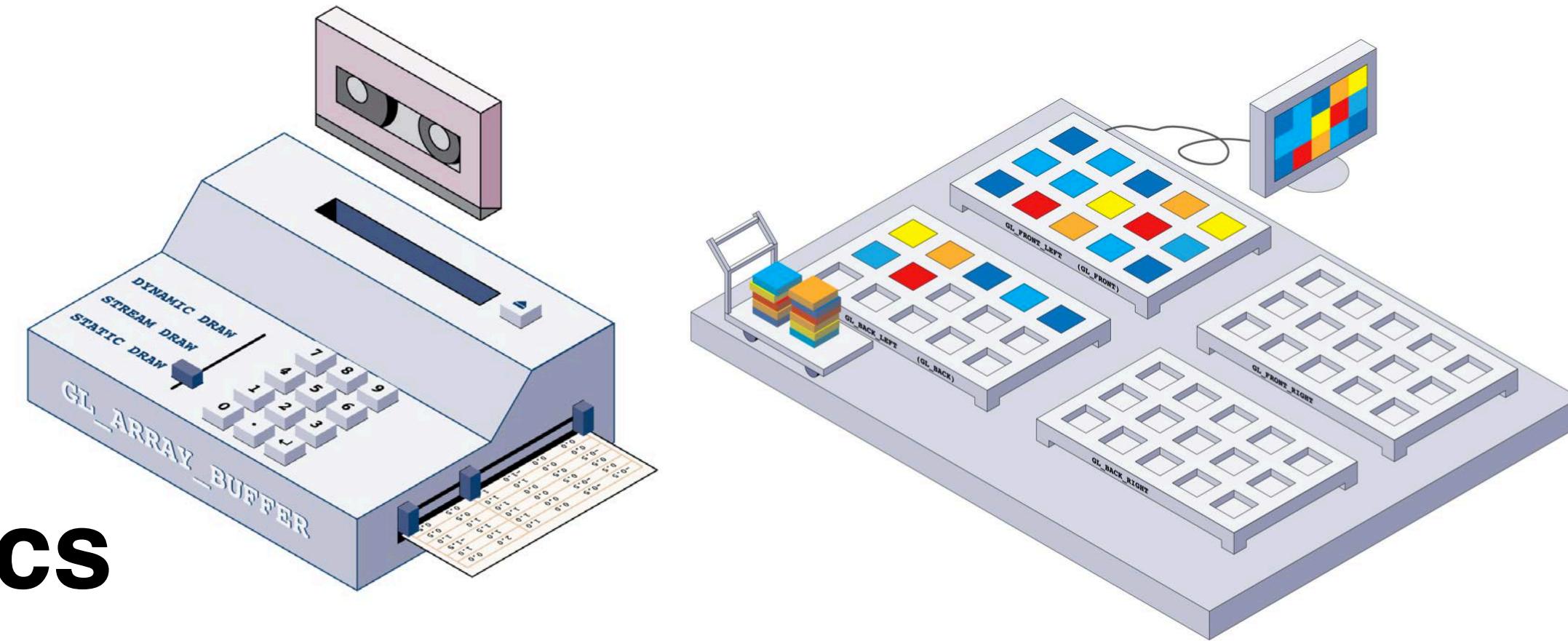
Geometry processing

- Differential geometry of discrete meshes

This course

Modern OpenGL

- Command the graphics card



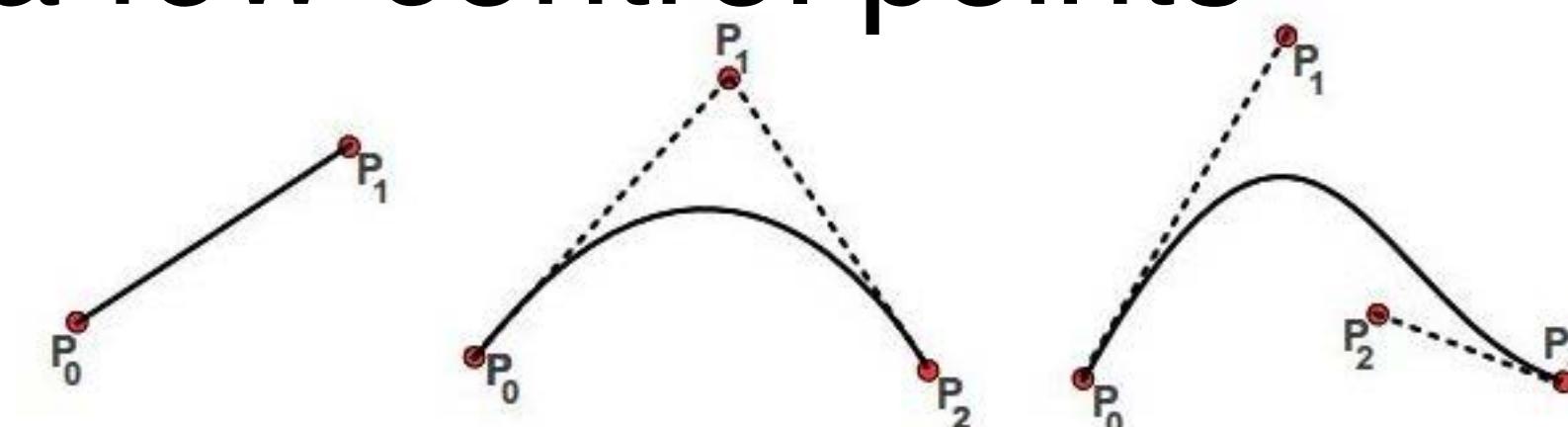
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Foundation of Vector Graphics

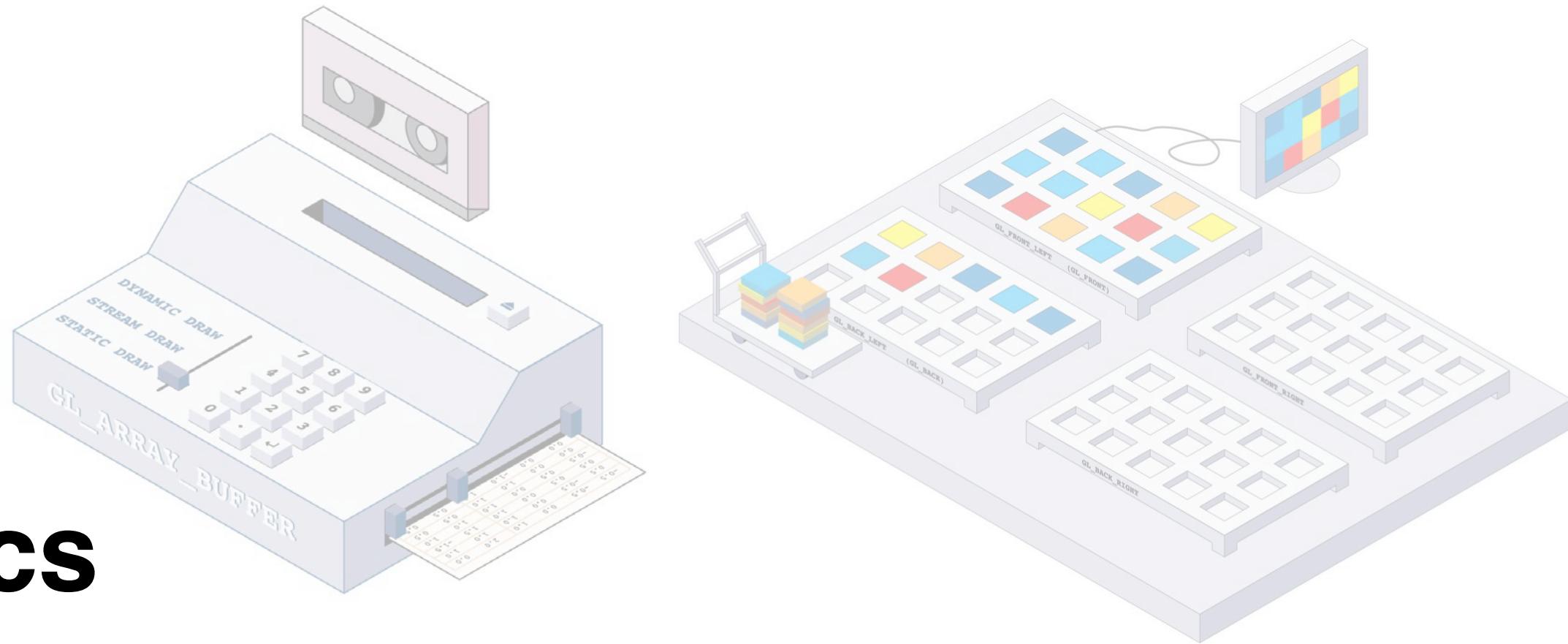
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This course

Modern OpenGL

- Command the graphics card



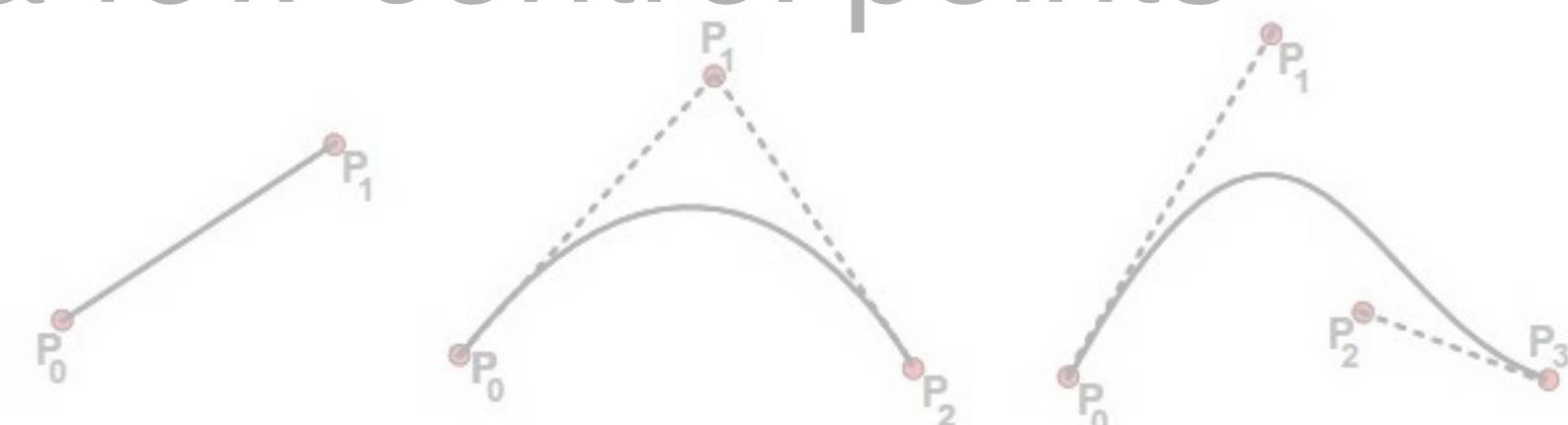
Foundation of 3D Computer Graphics

- Convert geometries in a 3D scene into pixel colors in a 2D screen.



Foundation of Vector Graphics

- Build smooth geometries from only a few control points



3D Computer Graphics

Foundation of 3D Computer Graphics

- Convert geometries in a 3D scene into pixel colors in a 2D screen.

- **How to draw pictures algorithmically?**

- ▶ Rasterization v.s. Ray tracing
- ▶ Graphics pipeline
- ▶ Hardware: GPU

