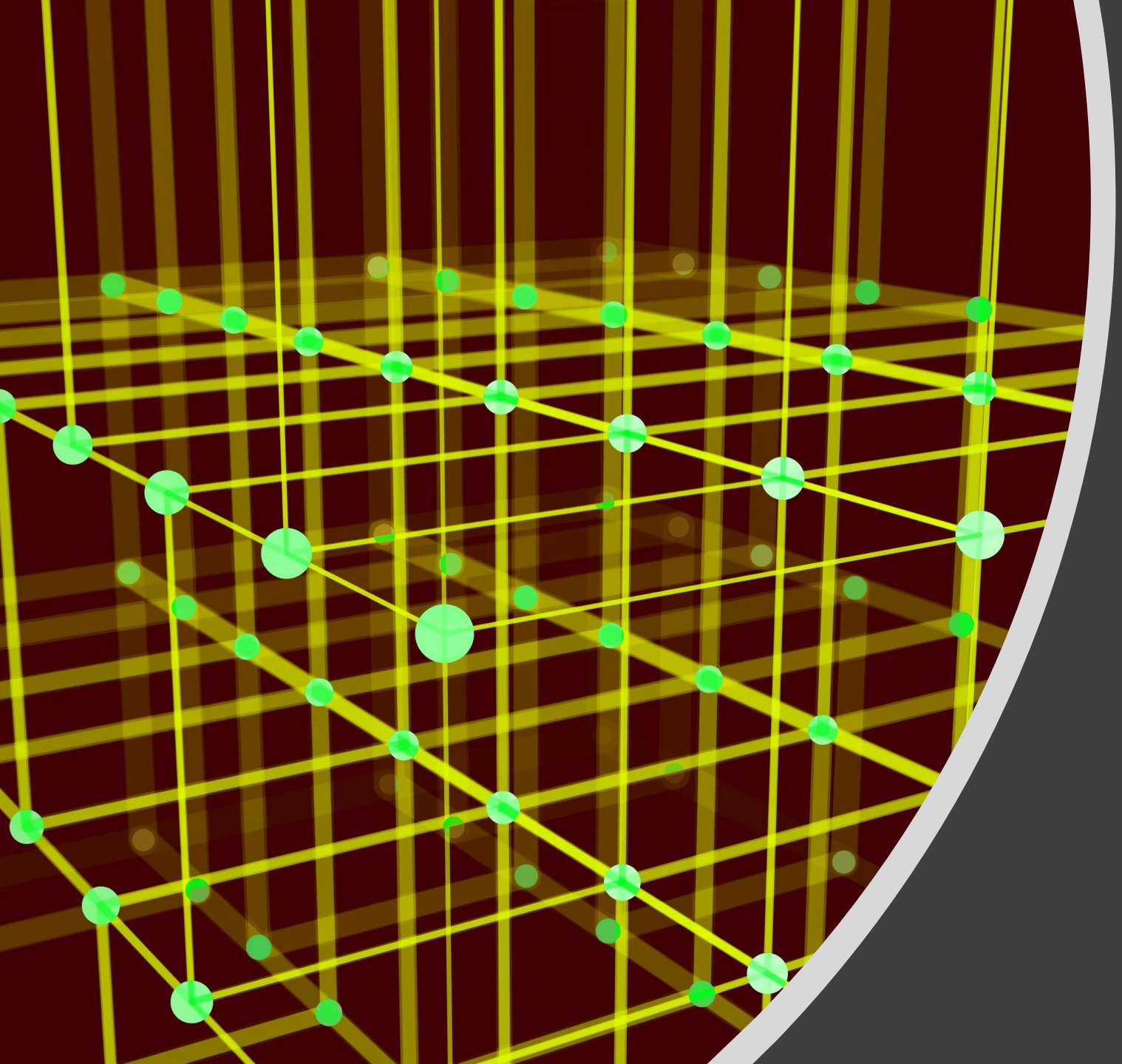
#TeamsNation

Autism, Teams & Socials

Dennie Declercq

Sponsored by

Microsoft Teams Microsoft Tech Community



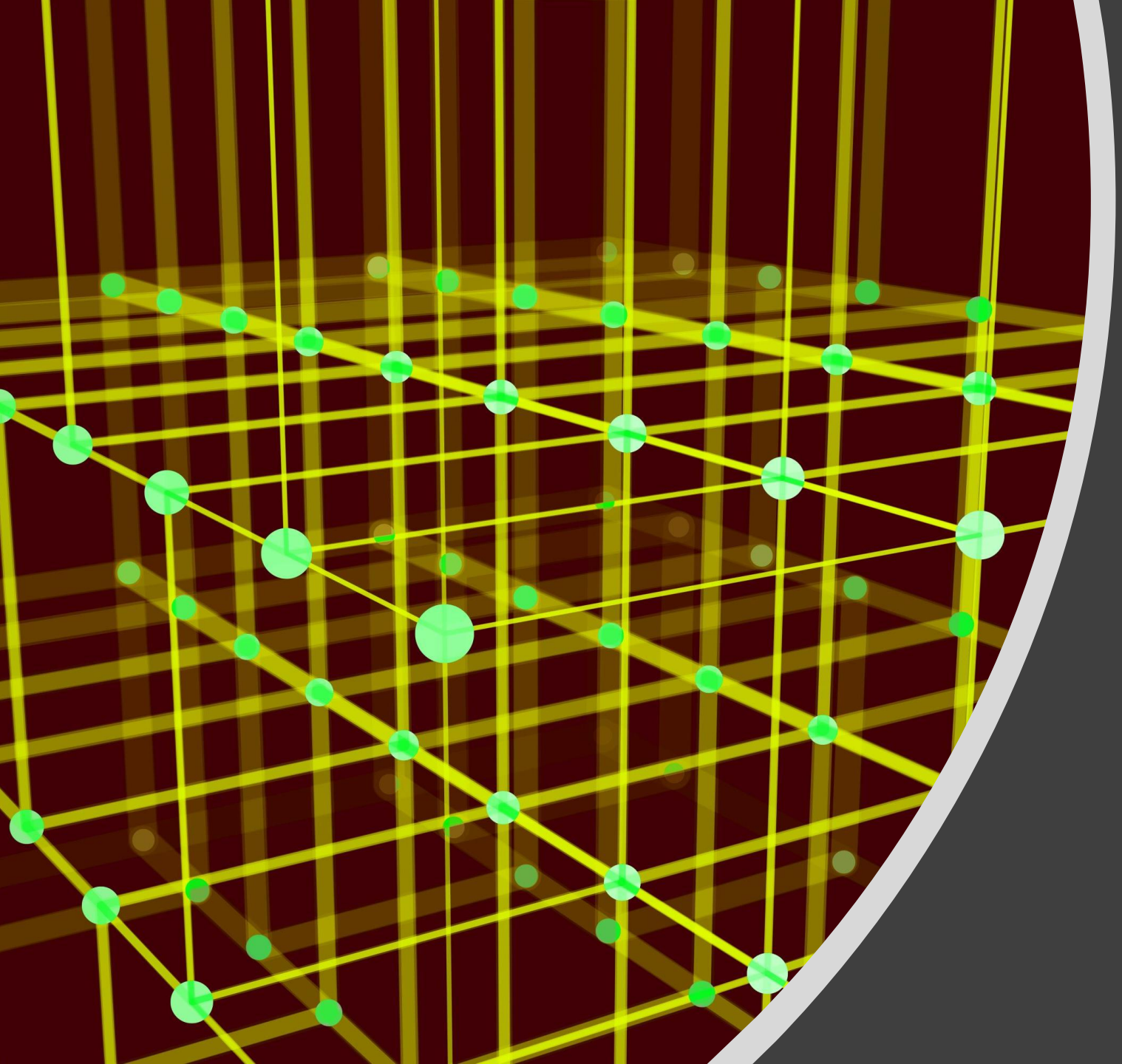
Intro

Who am I?

- Dennie Declercq
- Developer & President DDSoft
- Microsoft MVP
- #DreamingIsBelieving
- @DennieDeclercq

Content

- Intro
- Prequel
- Autism & MS Teams
- Social Fun & MS Teams
- To be Hybrid
- Thanks // Q&A



Prequel

DDSoft & MS Teams

DDSoft

- Connection social industry and IT
- IT-coaching mindset
- Understands needs of social industry
- 4 Volunteers (3 p.w. Autism)

MS Teams history

- Started with MS Teams
  - Quite from the start
  - Administration
  - Hybrid meetings in team
  - Sharing of documents
- No SharePoint knowledge needed
- Really easy

The Pandemic

Me, myself

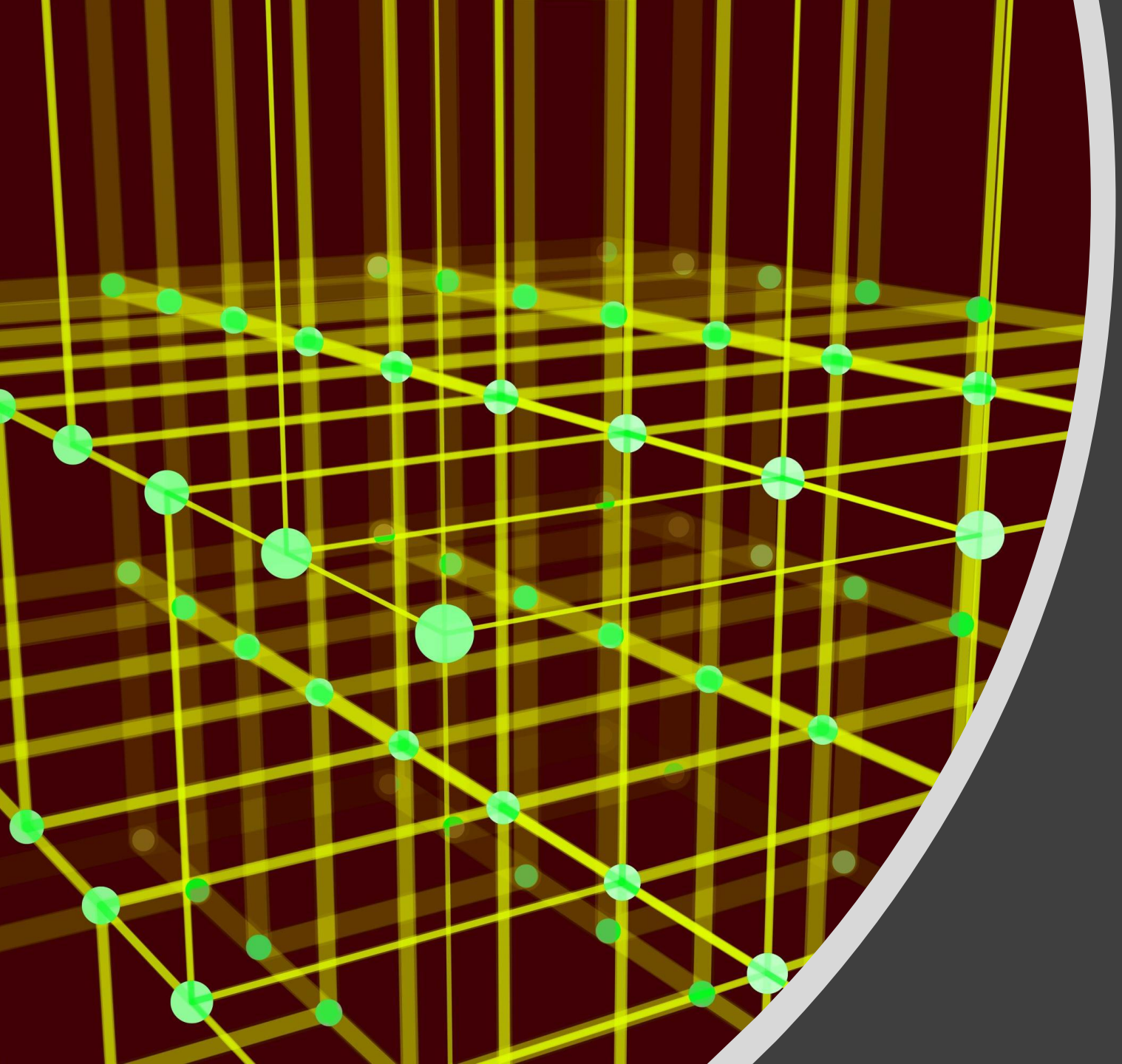
- Increase of anxiety
  - (Severe)
- Missed in person conferences
  - Like hell
- Working for customers
  - An escape
- Virtual conferences
  - Better than boredom

DDSoft

- Announcement of Teams knowledge
  - Huge increase customers
  - Virtual host
- Increase of budget
- Finally known in Belgium
- Start of methodology ‘IT-Coaching’

The need for social contact

- People are social species
- Myself, I am extroverted
- Even introverted people missed folks
- A virtual meeting is not the same as a webinar
- People are in search of connections
- Mental health issues coming up due to loneliness



Autism & MS Teams

Virtual Backgrounds

Pro

- Hide of social environment
  - Poverty
- Privacy
- Branding

Contra

- Contrast
  - ‘People pasted’ on the background
  - Overlay and stuff

Eye contact

AWE!
Something great about the pandemic

Serious topics

Difficult
No feeling of connection
Less non-verbal feedback
Feedback loop of trust

“The first meetings with my (autism) coach were awful!”

- Dennie Declercq

Cam on or cam off?

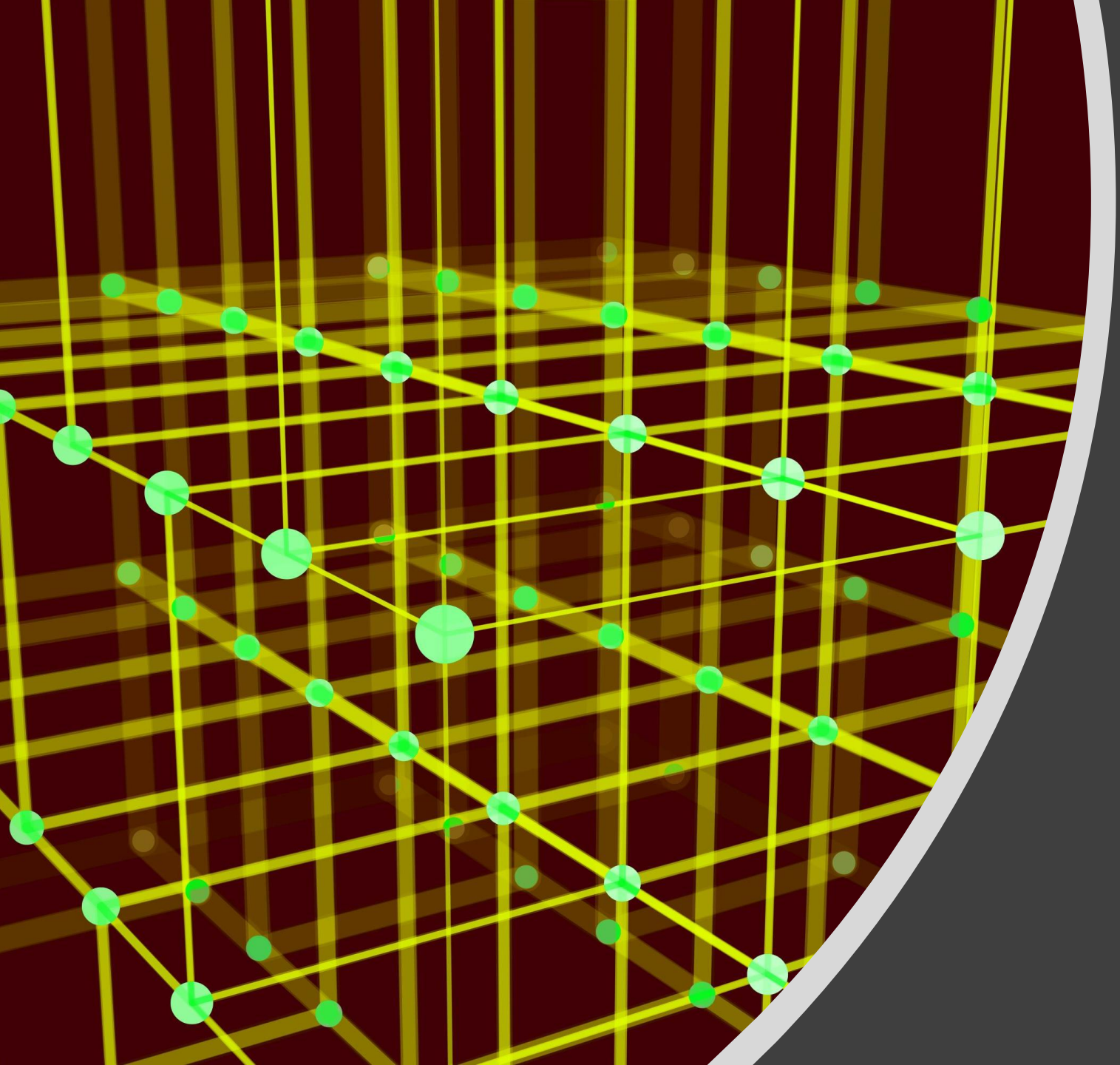
Cam On

- More nonverbal feedback
- More attention
  - Attention control
- Less people joining

Cam Off

- No nonverbal feedback AT ALL
- More people joining
- Less trust
- Some people too shy to cam

NOTE: Here we speak about
- Non (professional) work related topics
- Autism Self support user groups
- Virtual (non/ semi professional) get togethers



Social Fun & MS Teams

- Open Houses (Virtual Pub Nights)
- Self Support groups (Alcohol, Autism, parents with lost child)

Login

- No “spontaneous ad hoc” login
  - People in MS Teams tenant are easier
    - In the beginning NEEDED
  - There are errors, by “non experienced” users
    - Even if they are in the team environment

NOTE: Here we speak about
- Teams usage March 2020 – March 2021
- During Fall 2021 general improvements

To drink or not to drink?

- Heavy LinkedIn topic Anno 2020 (and +)
  - For social gatherings OK
  - Virtual Pubs (aka Open Houses)
  - After drink (after a community talk)
  - Birthday party
- It’s not WHICH TOOL you use but WHAT you do and which ATMOSPHERE
  - Work
  - Free time
  - Family

PJs & DJ's

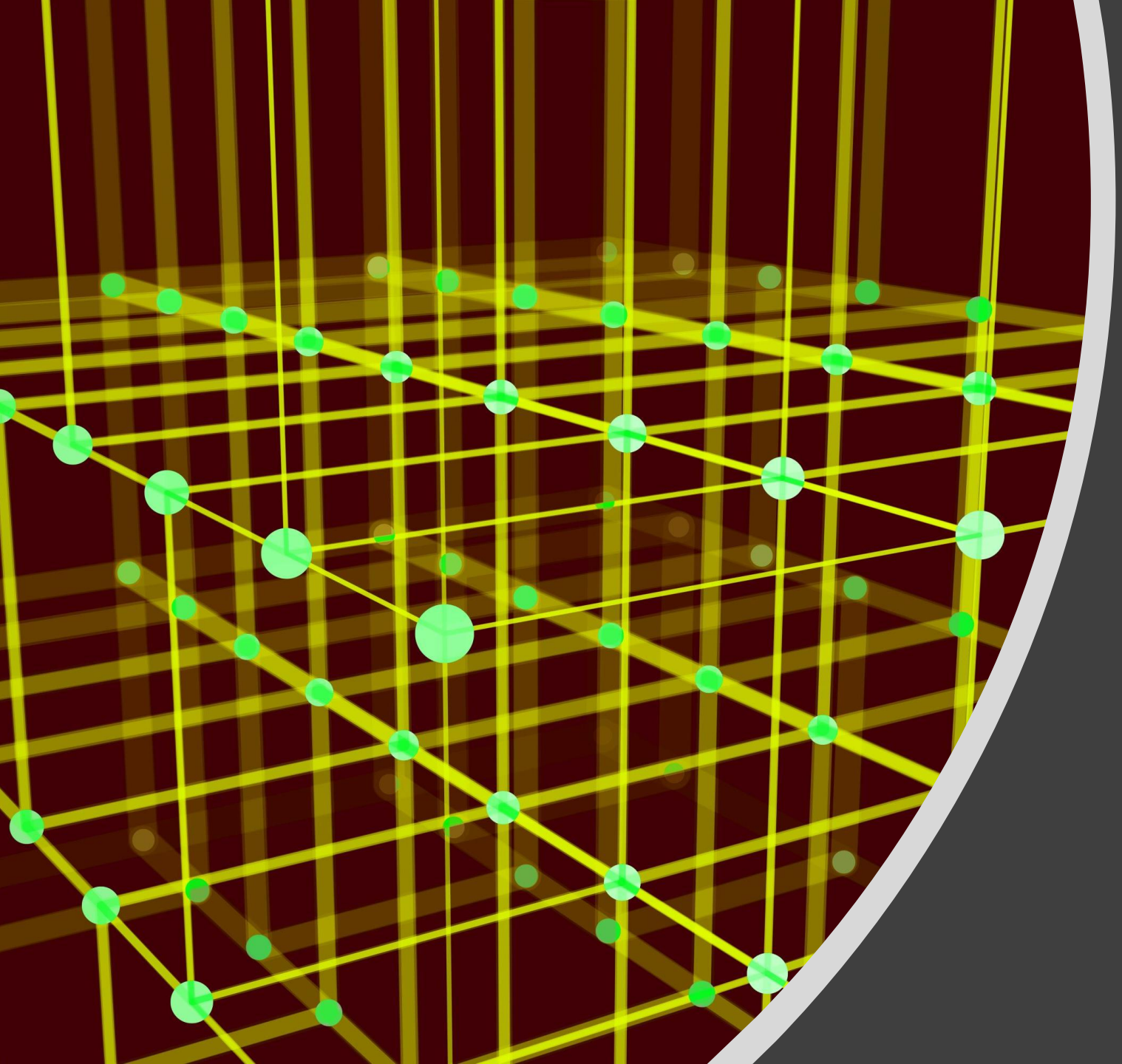
- Did you try (I did)?
  - DJ/ Music gatherings
  - Online escape games
  - Word games?
  - Quizzes
  - Get togethers in PJ
  - Video calls until 3 am

Virtual Coffees

- With family
  - Non tech users
  - Just about random stuff
  - Seeing our grand…
  - Seeing family

Trust & Safety

- Microsoft Teams is the safest video conference tool
  - Perfect where privacy is needed
  - For 2 customers a BIG PLUS comparing to Zoom even login was difficult for some users



To be..
Hybrid

Autism meetup

- Advantages not needing to take public transport
- Not needed to be long away from home
- More accessible

Some people in person
Some people joining virtual

Kinect & Lectures

- We do dream:
  - External speakers
  - Kinect device faced on in person audience
  - Additional screen to see home audience

Thanks || Q&A

- dennie@ddsoft.be
- @DennieDeclercq
- #DreamingIsBelieving
- Slides:

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Attend more sessions and join our keynotes at 19.00 CET

2

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