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Thèse n. 1234 2011 présenté le 12 Mars 2011 à la Faculté des Sciences de Base laboratoire SuperScience programme doctoral en SuperScience École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

pour l'obtention du grade de Docteur ès Sciences par

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acceptée sur proposition du jury:

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Lausanne, EPFL, 2011

Wings are a constraint that makes it possible to fly.

— Robert Bringhurst

To my parents...

### Acknowledgements

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Lausanne, 12 Mars 2011

D. K.

### **Preface**

A preface is not mandatory. It would typically be written by some other person (eg your thesis director).

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Lausanne, 12 Mars 2011

T.D.

### **Abstract**

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### Zusammenfassung

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### Résumé

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## 1 Introduction

#### Limitations

Microscopy: - optical -> video rate but crappy resolution - EM -> rasterscan can slow electron beam fast - AFM -> slow mostly because of bulky mechanics: intertia (mass of the system), toshi ando small piezos (small range) but fast

Using spiral has been shown to be better(demands less BWx,y) but need display of non gridded data (lower res. freq. system)

z is still limiting to go on large scales (x,y)

## 2 Visualisation of non-gridded data

Most of the current AFM technologies work under the following principle: projecting two-dimensional data on a N by M grid. A system of controllers is needed to position the cantilever at the right spot (center of a grid element). With this method, the actual position on the XY plane is unprecise and directly correlated with the efficiency of the position controller. By taking the acquired z-data and assuming that the cantilever was actually on the right spot, we can construct a two-dimensional image of the surface. One can already see the problems induced by this method: limitation by the controllers(speed and precision). Moreover, putting data on a grid forces the scan pattern to be raster. It is simple to project a raster pattern on a 2D grid. Finally, hysteris problems in the piezos is an additional imprecision in the system. We'll see how we can use position sensors on the XY-plane and different scan pattern to solve this problem.

#### 2.1 sensor data

(problem of hyst solved) - graph of hyst - kalman (bit noise)

#### 2.2 experimental setups

- MFP3D: capacity based - Homebuilt - attocube: interferometer

#### 2.3 Image rendering techniques

- OpenGL and heat equations - benchmarking

Current AFMs give discrete data about the cantilever's position; therefore, we'll need to use image processing algorithms to generate images. The process of restoring unknown images is called inpainting. Indeed, it was mainly used to restore missing pieces in old paintings or photos. The principle behind inpainting is to fill a patch with its surroundings. A perfect

example of inpainting is removing an undesirable object from a picture. Also, we can use these algorithms to generate images from a cloud of points.

#### 2.3.1 Heat equations

The heat equation represents the distribution of heat in a region over time.

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \alpha \nabla^2 u = 0 \tag{2.1}$$

 $\alpha$  is the thermal diffusity - that is interpreted as a "thermal inertia modulus" - and u is the temperature over space and time (i.e. u(x,y,z,t)). A high thermal implies that the heat moves rapidly.

#### 2.3.2 Triangulation with Delaunay

The principle behind the Delaunay triangulation is to generate triangles from triplets of point. The goal of the algorithm is to minimize the angles of each triangle. The triangulation is successful if no vertex (i.e. 3-dimensional point) is in the interior of a triangle.

Triangle.c is a powerful library developped by Jonathan Shewchuk to generate Delaunay triangulations. In our case, we'll only use the triangulation program on the first two dimensions of the 3d cloud of points. Indeed, we'll only render triangles on the 2D plane.

The next step is the coloring of the data. We use the z-data to render the color of the image.

## 3 Z axis limitations

- 3.1 fast z feedback
- 3.2 tilt compensation

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Calcite experiment

In this experiment we've observed the dissolution of calcite  $(CaCO_3)$  with water. This experiment is interesting

### 4.2 Soft sample

## A An appendix

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## Bibliography