Major Project Report

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Major Project
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Project Overview (͡° ͜ʖ ͡°)

Main Aspects

1. Fractal Renderer
2. FX Work
3. Pipeline

Initial Research

1.1 Trying out existing stuff

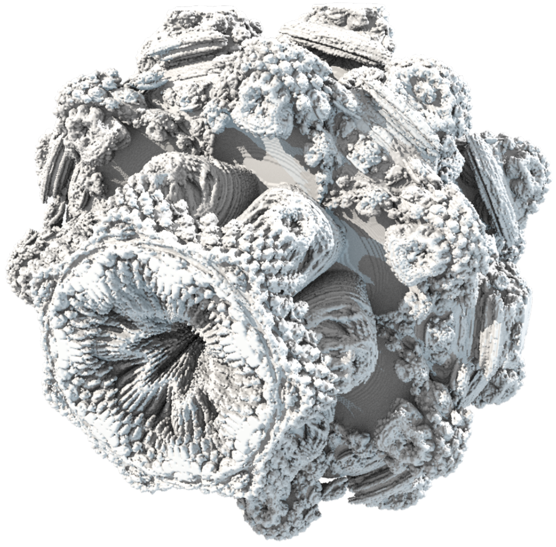
1.1.1 Fractals in FX Software

Looked at developing fractals in Houdini, may not need to develop a custom tool to visualise

Volumetric mandelbulb

Voxel Based

Slow to compute



Disney used houdini on BH6, but it's much too slow for our needs.

Need a custom tool

Houdini is still good for creature effects though, example noise shader goes here

1.2 Reading the documentation and tutorials

Pipeline

- Dropbox isn't enough
- Need to version
- More effort at beginning of the project, having backups of every asset could save our asses in the end
- use perforce
- Other scripts can be added to the main pipeline suite
- Referencing pipeline required custom hooks that modify all referenced paths to be relative to $CONTACTROOT, automated, idiot proof
- Referencing in 10 files and manually clicking student popup is tedious, on save and submit remove student/education flags
- Forces the team to think in a collaborative way, they literally cannot work on the same asset at the same time
- Took some getting used to, but now the artists are used to version control and it's benefits even if it's tedious at times
- Main development time spent on PySide Qt GUI stuff, after the initial time spent learning the P4 API and commands
- Technically cross application, the P4 and GUI side of things will work whereever pyside is available. Needs a few app specific tweaks such as file saving commands etc to work properly but wouldn't take long to port
- Various wizards to automate asset/shot/lookdev file structure generation because kyran made the layout super complex
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Renderer

- How best to make this artist friendly (Nodegraph)
- What technique (ray marching)
- Use Optix because it's faster than what i can do
- Nodegraph needs runtime compilation, at least for geo
- Does require a little hacking to get runtime code generation
- Use NVRTC to compile code at runtime and plug into preexisting functions in the optix code
- Use hacky system commands to call nvcc directly if using CUDA 6.5 or less, aka, the uni systems
- Initial dev time for node graph, runtime compilation etc is long, but in theory will allow for rapid iteration once it works
- Everything is based on demo scene stuff, can use shadertoy as reference for loads of effects

Conclusion