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MSc in Computer Science 2017-18 Project Dissertation

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Candidate Name: Johannes Bernhard Goslar

Title of Degree the dissertation is being submitted under: MSc in Computer

Science

Abstract

Vivamus vehicula leo a justo. Quisque nec augue. Morbi mauris wisi, aliquet vitae, dignissim eget, sollicitudin molestie, ligula. In dictum enim sit amet risus. Curabitur vitae velit eu diam rhoncus hendrerit. Vivamus ut elit. Praesent mattis ipsum quis turpis. Curabitur rhoncus neque eu dui. Etiam vitae magna. Nam ullamcorper. Praesent interdum bibendum magna. Quisque auctor aliquam dolor. Morbi eu lorem et est porttitor fermentum. Nunc egestas arcu at tortor varius viverra. Fusce eu nulla ut nulla interdum consectetuer. Vestibulum gravida. Morbi mattis libero sed est.

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1.2 Background in Computer Science

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Background in Computer Science

2 Related Work

Todo Text:

Related work intro

2.1 RTI Theory and Workflows

Todo Text:

Workflow Comparisions

2.2 Fileformats

The most comprehensive overview on the current state of the art is done by the American library of congress as part of its Digital preservation effort, with the sections on the ptm[4] and rti[5] formats. The current PTM specification by Malzbender and Gelb[14].

Todo Text:

File formats comparison

Todo Diagramm:

Size tables/graphes of ptm/rti/btf(.zip)

Todo Text:

Streaming architectures

2.3 RTI Viewers

Todo Text:

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No extensible architecture

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No real open source (email before or one file sources)

2.4 Camera Theory

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Camera Theory

3 Methodology

Exploratory piece of work

3.1 Requirements

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Requirements Analysis, informal discussion

3.2 Architectural Design

Todo Text:

Architecture Picks

4 Requirements and Design

4.1 Requirements

Distilling these, I arrived at the following functional requirements, which are logically grouped into fileformat/support and viewer.

For the fileformat:

- 1. Support for the PTM[4] fileformat.
- 2. Support for the RTI[5] fileformat.
- 3. Conversion of the formats above into a unified format.
- 4. Extended metadata support.
- 5. Support for high resolutions.
- 6. Support for higher bitdepths per pixel than the 8 of PTM/RTI.
- 7. Easy exchange between multiple researchers.

For the viewer component:

- 8. Runnable on all major operating systems and/or web browsers.
- 9. Lightning Controls.
- 10. Quick navigation functionality.
- 11. Annotations.
- 12. Overlays.

Continuing the enumeration of the functional requirements, following nonfunctional requirements were extracted:

- 13. Free Software, the implementation should be available for everyone to change and distribute.
- 14. Easy on-boarding of new developers, either scientists in a research context or students in an education context.
- 15. Good developer experience.
- 16. Adequate performance, at least keeping up with current implementations.
- 17. Easy installation for researchers.

- 18. "Web"-Based.
- 19. Instant reactiveness.
- 20. Reasonable file sizes for instant transfer/viewing.
- 21. Preservable software and BTF files.

4.2 State-Driven

Todo Text: State-Driven

4.3 Plugins

Todo Text:

Plugins

4.4 Rendering Stack

Todo Text:

Rendering Stack

4.5 Workflow

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Workflow comparison

json

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File import/export

4.6 Fileformat

4.7 Novelties

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Novelties Design

5 Implementation

5.1 Overview

This section explains the current implementation of the developed tool set, it is primarily targeted to fulfill the dissertation's requirements. But is also aiming to be helpful for users wanting to understand the underlying systems and prepare them for potentially joining the development effort. Abridged code extracts are used as of their state for thesis submission, while the main principles will hold, later readers are asked to please consult the actual source code if any discrepancies arise or reexport the document. First the main libraries are shortly explained in their relevance to the program, second the largely abstract plugin architecture is shown, third the main plugins are presented and last the delivery processes to the end users are described.

All implementation files are contained and delivered inside a single git repository, which is freely available online: https://github.com/ksjogo/oxrti. All following file paths are relative to that repository's root. All future development will be immediately available there and the current compiled software version is always fed automatically from it into the hosted version at https://oxrtimaster.azurewebsites.net/api/azurestatic.

5.2 Libraries

TypeScript

The official header line of TypeScript show some points why it was picked for this project: "TypeScript is a typed superset of JavaScript that compiles to plain JavaScript. Any browser. Any host. Any OS. Open source." [25] Which fits requirements 13, 8. Whereas plain JavaScript would have allowed slightly easier initial on-boarding and maybe easier immediate code

'hacks', TypeScript will provide better stability in the long run and a quite improved developer experience (requirement 15) in the long run. With the full typed hook system (compare section 5.4) it ensures that a compiled plugin will not have runtime type problems, reducing the amount of switching between code editor and the running software. The whole project is setup in a way to fully embrace editor tooling, Visual Studio Code[26] and Emacs[11] are the 'officially' tested editors of the project. Code is recommended as it will support all developer features out of the box. The installation of the tslint[23] plugin[24] is recommended to keep a consistent code style, which is configured within the *tslint.json* file. Most importantly TypeScript adds type declarations (and inference) to JavaScript, e.g.:

would define *thing* as a function, taking a numbers as first argument and another function (taking a number as first parameter and returning a boolean) as second argument. The other most used TypeScript features inside the codebase are Classes[2], Decorators[6] and Generics[9], which will be discussed at their first appearance inside the code samples.

React

The two main points on React's official website are "Declarative" and "Component Based" [18], which is best shown by an extended example from their website, which exemplifies multiple patterns found through the oxrti implementation. The most important concept is the jump from having a stateful HTML document, which the JavaScript code is manipulating directly, e.g.:

Which is diametric to requirements 14 and 15 as it would require developers to manually keep track of all data cross-references (e.g. the pan values having to automatically adapt to the current zoom level). A declarative approach instead allows much better and easier implemented reactiveness and better performance (requirements 16 and 19) as the necessary changes can be track and components be updated selectively.

```
// a class represents a single component
class Timer extends React.Component {
```

```
// the parent component can pass on props to it
     constructor(props) {
       super(props);
5
       this.state = { seconds: 0 };
6
     }
     tick() {
9
       // the state is updated and the component is
10
            automatically rerendered
       this.setState(prevState => ({
11
         seconds: prevState.seconds + 1
12
       }));
13
     }
14
15
     // called after the component was created/added to the
16
      → browser window
     componentDidMount() {
17
       this.interval = setInterval(() => this.tick(), 1000);
20
     // called before the component will be deleted/removed from
21
      → the browser window
     componentWillUnmount() {
22
       clearInterval(this.interval);
23
24
     // the actual rendering code
26
     // html can be directly embedded into react components
27
     // {} blocks will be evaluated when the render method is
28
      \hookrightarrow called
     // which will happen any time the props or its internal
29
      \hookrightarrow states updates
     render() {
30
       return (
31
          <div>
32
            Seconds: {this.state.seconds}
33
          </div>
34
       );
35
     }
   }
37
38
```

```
// mountNode is a reference to a DOM Node
// the component will be mounted inside that node
ReactDOM.render(<Timer />, mountNode);
```

In conjunction with mobx and TypeScript no classes are used for React components though, but instead Stateless Functional Components ('SFCs'[12]). These SFCs are plain functions, only depending on their passed properties:

```
function SomeComponent(props: any) {
return {props.first} {props.first}
}
```

This component could then be used by:

SomeComponent first="Hello" second="World"/>

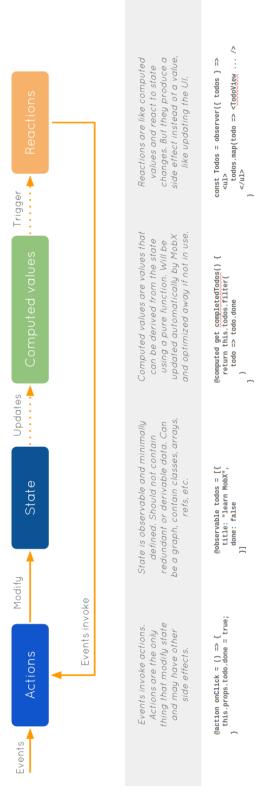
This component systems allows the plugins to define some components and then 'link' them into the program via the hook system, which will be explored later.

MobX

Its main tagline is "Simple, scalable state management" [16]. An introducing overview is shown in Figure 1. Broadly speaking MobX introduces observable objects. Instead of mentioned DOM handling or property passing inside React trees, components can just retrieve their values from the observable objects and will be automatically refreshed if the read values change. This for example makes the implementation of the QuickPan plugin extremely easy, as it can just read the zoom, pan, etc. values of the other plugins and will automatically receive all updates without any further manual observation handling.

mobx-state-tree

"Central in MST (mobx-state-tree) is the concept of a living tree. The tree consists of mutable, but strictly protected objects" [17] This allows the implementation to have one shared state tree which can be used to safely access all data. All nodes inside the state tree are MobX observables. A simple tree with plain MST would look like this:



then calling into plugins to change the state. The state is mostly encapsulated on a plugin basis with usage of the Figure 1: Taken from Weststrate[16]. Actions in the oxrti context are most often initially user actions, which are mobx-state-tree library, which also encapsulates most computed values. Reactions are most often the previously discussed React components.

```
// define a model type
   const Todo = types
    .model("Todo", {
     // state of every model
     title: types.string,
     done: false
    })
    .actions(self => ({
     //methods bounds to the current model instance
9
     toggle() {
10
      self.done = !self.done
11
     }
12
    }))
13
   // create a tree root, with a property todos
14
   const Store = types.model("Store", {
15
       todos: types.array(Todo)
16
   })
17
```

This syntax was deemed to convoluted, as it is a lot more complex than standard JavaScript/TypeScript classes, which were introduced by the ES6 version, as shown in the React description above and thus being in conflict with requirement 14.

classy-mst

There is an option to use a more traditional syntax instead though, with the classy-mst library, with which the example above becomes[3]:

```
const TodoData = types.model({
       title: types.string,
       done: false
3
   });
6
   class TodoCode extends shim(TodoData) {
       @action
       toggle() {
            this.done = !this.done;
10
       }
11
   }
12
13
```

Desktop	Mobile					
Feature	Chrome	Edge	Firefox (Gecko)	Internet Explorer	Opera	Safari
Basic support	9	(Yes)	4.0 (2.0)	11	12	5.1
WebGL 2	56	No support	51 (51)	No support	43	No support
Desktop	Mobile					
Feature	Chrome for Andr	oid Edg	ge Firefox Mobile (Geck	to) IE Mobile Opera	Mobile	Safari Mobile
Basic support	25	(Yes) 4	No support 12		8.1
WebGL 2	?	?	?	? ?		?

Figure 2: WebGL compability as from the Mozilla Developer network[22].

const Todo = mst(TodoCode, TodoData, 'Todo');

Weststrate, the original author of MobX initially was sceptic of this syntax[1] as it was changing the semantics of ES6 classes, as classy-mst's methods will be automatically bound to the instance. This boundness is an advantage for this implementation though, as the hook configurations can just refer to this.someMethod instead of this.someMethod.bind(this). The @action is a decorator, enabling the following method to change the state/properties of the model, as MST prohibits that by default. Reactions/View updates will only happen after the outermost action finished executing.

WebGL

The increasing support of the WebGL stack is the main reason, why it is now feasible to implement a full RTI software stack with plain web technologies, as it "enables web content to use an API based on OpenGL ES 2.0 to perform 3D rendering in an HTML <canvas> in browsers that support it without the use of plug-ins." [30] OpenGL ES 2.0 likeness means that (most importantly) shaders are supported, allowing the implementation to be split up into multiple shaders with single responsibilities, for details refer to section 5.7. While preserving compatibility and requirement 8 WebGL 2 support is sadly not widespread enough to fully rely on yet (compare Figure 2), as it is currently estimated at 50% of all devices[28]. Potential improvements when WebGL 2 is more widely supported or in conditional plugins are discussed in section 7.3.1. One notable limitation of WebGL is MAX_TEXTURE_IMAGE_UNITS, the maximum amount of bound textures inside a single shader, which in most implementations is 16[29], whereas the standard OpenGL implementations are likely to have a limit of 32. This is influencing the BTF file format, as for example in the PTM RGB use case a total of 18 coefficients exist, which now need to be bundled up somehow into maximum 16 textures, if the calculations should be done inside a single shader. It is also limiting the amount of layers of the Paint plugin, as these also consist of bound textures. Apart from the shaders, which are written in the OpenGL ES Shading Language[27] and the the texture loader (section 5.8), no direct WebGL code is necessary nor used anywhere inside the implementation, as the gl-react library is abstracting it neatly for use from the MobX/React environment.

gl-react

"Implement complex effects by composing React components." [20] is the main use of the gl-react library. A minimal component, adapted from the gl-react-cookbook looks like [20]:

```
const shaders = Shaders.create({
     helloGL: {
2
       frag: GLSL`
3
         precision highp float;
4
         varying vec2 uv;
         void main() {
          gl_FragColor = vec4(uv.x, uv.y, 0.5, 1.0);
8
9
   });
10
11
   export default class Example extends Component {
12
     render() {
13
       return (
14
          <Surface width={300} height={300}>
15
            <Node shader={shaders.helloGL} />
16
          </Surface>
17
       );
18
     }
19
   }
20
```

Which would result in a display like Figure 3. gl-react's is not a 3D engine, so no objects are to be created or scene graph managed, instead the oxrti implementation can concentrate on solely providing the necessary shaders. gl-react's default node size is taken from the parent surface size. The surface size will be dependent on the user running the program and his browser windows, which makes it undesirable as details would be lost, if the BTF provided more detail, so the processing Node sizes are usually set to the



Figure 3: RGBA texture, with R and G according to their respective u or v texture coordinate. From [10].

BTF resolution or higher.

Webpack

Webpack is used to bundle the implementation into single files as it is "a bundler for javascript and friends. Packs many modules into a few bundled assets." [31] A more detailed discussion on the targets is in section 5.10. Broadly speaking Webpack loads the source code inside the *src* directory according to the loaders defined inside the *webpack.config.js* file, analyses their dependencies and then bundles them together. This makes it possible to have a dependency tree spanning 26184 packages from npm, but still providing a single bundled application file only 1.5 megabyte large (data as of August 23, 2018). It also allows the dynamic plugin structure by bundling the plugins into a dynamic 'context' from which single plugins can be loaded at runtime.

Electron

Electron is used to "build cross-platform desktop apps with JavaScript, HTML, and CSS" [7] While theoretically not necessary to fulfill most requirements, as the implementation is compatible with all modern web browsers, providing an additional standalone executable provides some advantages:

• It is possible to add a more traditional menu-based interface, which the browser version could not support.

- Stable development environment, as electron-devtools-installer is used to provide relevant extensions (React devtools, MobX devtools) by default and the hot reloading is reliably tested, which together form a good developer experience (requirement 15)
- It allows to preserve the software in a usable, contained state, not relying on the user also having a compatible web browser in the future.
- It allows future development to more directly access resources of the host machine, e.g. the normal OpenGL stack could be used for calculating the coefficients, as it is less resource constrained compared to the WebGL stack.

MaterialUI

MaterialUI is succinctly described by "React components that implement Google's Material Design." [15]. MaterialUI's component are used throughout the app for styling the components, making the use of custom CSS largely unnecessary apart from minor positioning fixes. For example the Zoom component is defined as:

```
// Card, CardContent, Tooltip and Button are all components
   → provided by MaterialUI.
   // this refers to the Zoom Plugin's controller which
   // the content will be automatically refreshed if the refered

    values change

   const Zoom = Component(function ZoomSlider (props) {
       return <Card style={{ width: '100%' }} >
5
            <CardContent>
6
                <Tooltip title='Reset'>
7
                    <Button onClick={this.resetZoom} style={{</pre>
                     → marginLeft: '-8px' }}>Zoom</Button>
                </Tooltip>
                <Tooltip title={this.scale}>
10
                    <Slider value={this.scale}</pre>
11
                        onChange={this.onSlider} min={0.01}
                        \max={30} />
                     \hookrightarrow
                </Tooltip>
12
                <Tooltip title='Reset'>
13
                    <Button onClick={this.resetPan} style={{</pre>
                     → marginLeft: '-11px' }}>Pan</Button>
```

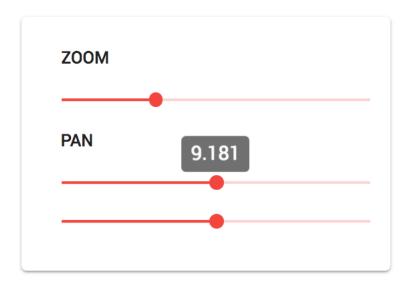


Figure 4: Zoom Component, the user is dragging the zoom slider currently, the mouse pointer is not depicted.

```
</Tooltip>
15
                <Tooltip title={this.panX}>
16
                     <Slider value={this.panX}</pre>
17
                         onChange={this.onSliderX} min={-1 *
                         this.scale} max={1 * this.scale} />
                </Tooltip>
18
                <Tooltip title={this.panY}>
                     <Slider value={this.panY}</pre>
20
                         onChange={this.onSliderY} min={-1 *
                         this.scale} max={1 * this.scale} />
                </Tooltip>
21
            </CardContent>
22
       </Card>
23
   })
24
```

It would result in a display like Figure 4.

Misc

Further libraries of note are:

electron-webpack[8] is providing the bridging between Webpack and Electron, its config is expanded by the webpack.renderer.additions.js and

webpack.renderer.shared.js files.

pngjs[21] is providing in-browser bitwise png manipulation, required in the converter.

jszip[13] is providing in-browser zip file manipulations, which are fundamental for the BTF fileformat.

5.3 Base

The implementation is making a distinction between plugin and non-plugin files. The amount of non-plugin files was aimed for to be as low as possible, as they are inflexible in all output configurations and will have slightly different behaviour while developing in regard to reloads. The files not contained in plugins are the following:

- AppState.tsx, the mobx-state-tree root node representing the whole application state in its leafs, detailed in section 5.6.
- BTFFile.tsx, containing the fileformat implementation and utility functions, described in section 5.5.
- *Hook.tsx* and *HookManager.tsx* which provide the whole dynamic interaction system between the different plugins, shown in section 5.4.
- Loader.tsx, electron/index.tsx, renderer/index.tsx and web/index.tsx, providing the loading functionality. The Electron application has two entry points, one for the main process, which is electron/index.tsx and one for the in-browser content, which is renderer/index.tsx. The in-browser one and the plain browser entry point web/index.tsx both call the Loader.tsx to initialise the state management and mount the root React component, so the user can interact finally. The Loader also handles hot-reloading, it will receive the changed source code from Webpack and update the plugins accordingly.
- *Plugin.tsx* defining the base class for a plugins, further explained in section 5.9.
- types.d.ts is providing the custom ambient type declarations for software dependencies, which are not providing TypeScript types on their own. In case new dependencies are added, they are likely to require and addition there.

- *Util.tsx* providing general helper functions, largely related to some math functions for texture coordinate handling.
- loaders/glslify-loader/index.js is the custom Webpack loader for .glsl files, allowing e.g. the import zoomShader from './zoom.glsl' statement and setting up Webpack to contain the shader source in the final bundle.
- loaders/oxrtidatatex/OxrtiDataTextureLoader.tsx is providing direct texture loading from in-memory BTF files, discussed in section 5.8.

5.4 Hooks

The hook system allows stable and prioritized interactions between the different plugins. All available hooks are declared inside the Hook.tsx file, which offers 3 different types of hooks:

```
// Hooks are sorted in descending priority order in their
   → respective `HookManager`
  export type HookBase = { priority?: number }
  // Generic single component hook, usually used for rendering
   → a dynamic list of components
  export type ComponentHook<P = PluginComponentType> = HookBase &
   // Generic single component hook, usually used for
   \hookrightarrow notifications
  export type FunctionHook<P = (...args: any[]) => any> =
   → HookBase & { func: P }
  // Generic hook config, requiring more work at the consumer
   → side
   export type ConfigHook<P = any> = HookBase & P
11
12
   // union of all hooks to allow for manual hook distinction
13
  export type UnknownHook = ComponentHook & FunctionHook &
   \hookrightarrow ConfigHook
  // object of named hooks
16
  type Hooks<P> = { [key: string]: P }
```

```
18
   // collection of unknown hooks
19
   export type UnknownHooks = Hooks<UnknownHook>
20
21
   // hook configuration inside plugins:
   → 1-Hookname->*-LocalName->1-HookConfig
   export type HookConfig = { [P in keyof HookTypes]:
23
      Hooks<HookTypes[P]> }
24
   // all hooknames
25
   export type HookName = keyof HookConfig
   // map one hookname to its type
28
   export type HookType<P extends HookName> = HookTypes[P]
29
30
   // list of hooknames inside hook collection T, having
   \rightarrow hooktype U
   type LimitedHooks<T, U> = ({ [P in keyof T]: T[P] extends U ? P
   33
   // limit hookname parameters to a type conforming subset,
   → e.g. LimitedHook<ComponentHook>
   export type LimitedHook<P> = LimitedHooks<HookConfig, Hooks<P>>
   These types are used to first declare single hook types (which will be dis-
   cussed within the plugins consuming them) and then construct the whole
   hook configuration tree for all plugins:
   type HookTypes = {
     ActionBar?: ConfigHook<ActionBar>,
2
     AfterPluginLoads?: FunctionHook,
     AppView?: ComponentHook,
  . . .
   }
   A plugin then can link itself into these hooks with its hooks method, for
   example:
   get hooks () {
     return {
2
       // register things for the ViewerSide hook / add
        \rightarrow components to the side bar
       ViewerSide: {
```

```
// a plugin can register itself multiple times with
5
              different names and configurations
         Metadata: {
6
            component: BTFMetadataConciseDisplay,
7
            // hooks will be sorted internally in priority order,
            \rightarrow highest first
            priority: -110,
9
          },
10
          Open: {
11
            component: Upload,
12
            priority: 100,
          },
       },
15
     }
16
   }
17
```

The state manager (section 5.6) collects all hooks and merges them into the respective HookManagers, which are then used to iterate/map over these:

```
/** type definitions for the different iterators */
   export declare type HookIterator<P extends HookName> = (hook:
   → HookType<P>, fullName: string) => boolean | void;
  export declare type AsyncHookIterator<P extends HookName> =
       (hook: HookType<P>, fullName: string) => Promise<boolean |</pre>
      void>;
  export declare type HookMapper<P extends HookName, S> = (hook:
   → HookType<P>, fullName: string) => S;
   export declare type HookFind<P extends HookName, S> = (hook:
   → HookType<P>, fullName: string) => S;
  /** * Manage one named hook */
   export declare class HookManagerCode extends ShimHookManager {
       /**
        * Add some hook into the managed stack
        * Oparam name in `Pluqin&Hookname&Entryname` form
10
        * Oparam priority higher will be treated first with the
11
       iterators
12
       insert(name: string, priority?: number): void;
13
```

```
/** Iterate with iterator over all registered hooks, stop
           iteration if the iterator is returning true, name is
           redundant as it could be infered from ourselves, but
           allows for easy typesafe calling, appState is needed
           to retrieve the current plugin instance */
       forEach<P extends HookName>(iterator: HookIterator<P>,
15
           name: P, appState: IAppState): void;
       /** iterate over all hooks, but wait for asynchronous
16
           hooks to finish before executing the next one */
       asyncForEach<P extends HookName>(iterator:
17
           AsyncHookIterator<P>, name: P, appState: IAppState):
           Promise<void>;
       /** iterate in reverse order */
18
       forEachReverse<P extends HookName>(iterator:
19
       → HookIterator<P>, name: P, appState: IAppState): void;
       /** map over all hooks */
20
       map<S, P extends HookName>(mapper: HookMapper<P, S>, name:
21
       → HookName, appState: IAppState): S[];
       /** get the concrete hook at index number */
       pick<P extends HookName>(index: number, name: P, appState:
23
          IAppState): HookType<P>;
  }
24
```

5.5 BTF FIle

The full standalone BTF file format specification can be found inside Appendix A. The implementation in *BTFFile.tsx* is an in-memory implementation of that file with following interface, it is mainly a 'dumb' data container.

```
1 export default class BTFFile {
2     /** running id numbers to allow easy cache busts */
3     id: number;
4     /** JSON object of the included oxrti state */
5     oxrtiState: object;
6     /** default data representation */
7     data: Data;
8     /** reference to annotation layers */
9     layers: AnnotationLayer[];
10     /** user visible name */
```

```
11
       name: string;
       /** manifest can come from an unpacked zip, usully typed
12
           as any */
       constructor(manifest?: BTFFile);
13
       /** cannocical zip name for name and id */
       zipName(): string;
15
       /** return true if no data is contained/is dummy object
16
           */
       isDefault(): boolean;
17
       /** export the JSON data of the manifest.json file */
18
       generateManifest(): string;
19
       /** export user visible shortened metadata */
       conciseManifest(): string;
21
       /**
22
        * Generate a unique tex container which the ql-react
23
       loader will cache
        * Oparam channel reference to the named channel
24
        * @param coefficent reference to the named child
       coefficent of channel
        */
26
       texForRender(channel: string, coefficent: string):
27
           TexForRender;
       /**
28
        * Generate a tex configuration for a layer
        * Oparam id of the layer, must be found in this.layers
30
        */
       annotationTexForRender(id: string): TexForRender;
32
       /** aspect ratio of the contained data */
33
       aspectRatio(): number;
34
       /** package the current data into a zip blob */
35
       generateZip(): Promise<Blob>;
   }
37
   /** unpackage a zip blob into a BTFFile */
38
   export declare function fromZip(zipData: Blob | ArrayBuffer):
      Promise<BTFFile>;
```

Notable is the PreDownload hook which is called before the generateZip function is called, to allow the ImpExp plugin and the Paint plugin to fill the BTF with their respective data. This hook is called by the AppState though, as the BTFFile implementation is fully standalone (apart from the jszip dependency), in case other software wishes to re-use the implementation.

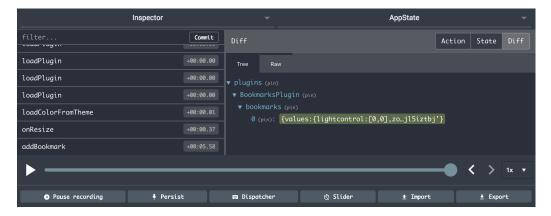


Figure 5: Run MobX at application startup and after one click on 'Add Bookmark'. The differential of that action is on the right.

5.6 State Management

The AppState.tsx file is the root of the applications state tree, but itself only contains limited data:

Its main function is to load all plugins and then let them share data between each other via the hook system. The set of to be loaded plugins is defined inside *oxrti.plugins.json*, the plugins defined there will be loaded in order. The state tree after inital plugin load is shown in Figure 6. As only @actions can modify the state, it is easy to follow the changing app state, as shown in Figure 5.

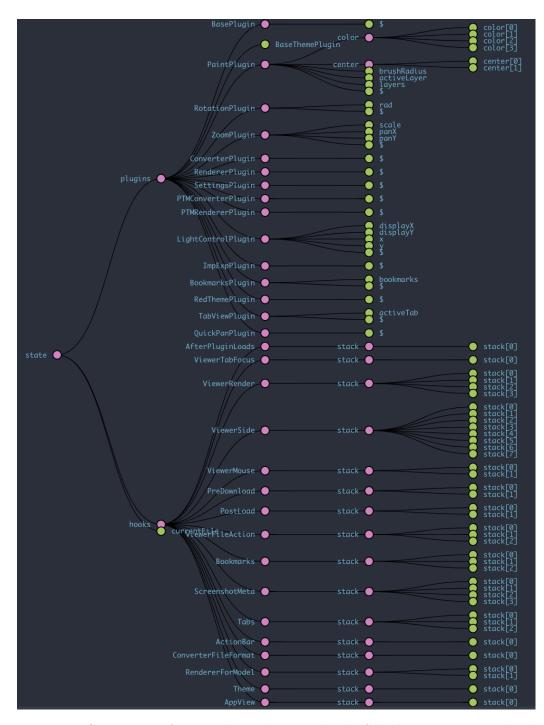


Figure 6: State tree after inital application load. All plugins are initialized and their hooks are registered. Visualized with redux dev tools.[19]

5.7 Renderer Stack

Even though the renderer stack is fully contained in the plugins, its principles span most of them, thus an overview is in order. All WebGL rendering is done through the gl-react library. If a plugin wants to register a node inside the stack, it is using the hook system, e.g. the Rotation plugin:

```
// register two nodes inside the rendering stack
   // higher priority will be run first
   ViewerRender: {
       // first center the underlying texture
4
       Centerer: {
5
           component: CentererComponent,
6
           inversePoint: this.undoCurrentCenterer,
           priority: 11,
       },
9
       // then rotate it
10
       Rotation: {
11
           component: RotationComponent,
12
           inversePoint: this.undoCurrentRotation,
13
           priority: 10,
       },
15
   },
16
```

The registered nodes are components again, which will link them into the automated mobx reactions, for example the Centerer node:

```
export const CentererComponent = Component(function
       CentererNode (props) {
       // dynamic sizes depending on the loaded btf
       // if the btf changes, the uniforms will be updated
3
           automatically
       let [width, height] = this.centererSizes
4
       let maxDims = this.maxDims
5
       // create one gl-react Node
6
       return <Node
           width={maxDims}
           height={maxDims}
9
           shader={{
10
               // shader from import centerShader from
11
                → './centerer.glsl'
               frag: centerShader,
12
```

```
}}
13
            // uniforms will be automatically type-converted to
14
                the appropiate WebGL types
            uniforms={{
15
                // referring to rendering output one step before
16
                children: props.children,
17
                inputHeight: height,
18
                inputWidth: width,
19
                maxDim: maxDims,
20
            }} />
21
   })
22
```

For the currently delivered default configuration the following nodes are registered:

- 1. PaintNode
- 2. CentererNode
- 3. RotationNode
- 4. ZoomNode

The Renderer plugin will start by picking the proper base rendering node depending on the channel format of the currently loaded BTF file (btf inside the code):

```
props.appState.hookForEach('RendererForModel', (Hook) => {
       if (Hook.channelModel === btf.data.channelModel) {
2
           current = <Hook.node</pre>
3
               key={btf.id}
               lightPos={lightControl.lightPos}
           />
6
       }
  })
  This inital node will then be wrapped by the registered nodes:
  props.appState.hookForEach('ViewerRender', (Hook) => {
       current = <Hook.component</pre>
           key={btf.id}
       >{current}</Hook.component>
  })
```

5.8 Texture Loader

The bridge between the loaded BTF files and the WebGL contexts needs to be closed with custom code, as gl-react was not supporting the load of PNG textures from memory. An abridged version of the code follows, as it is a good example of the Promise pattern used in some following parts.

```
loadTexture(config: TexForRender) {
       // keep track of the amount of currently loading textures
       appState.textureIsLoading()
3
       // shortcut for the WebGL reference
4
       let gl = this.gl
5
       // access the raw data buffer from the texture config
6
       let data = config.data
       // create a Promise
       // it is basically chaining callbacks together
       // and then asynchronously executing each step
10
       let promise =
11
           // first create an ImageBitmap object
12
           // we need to flipY as the textures are orientated
13
            \rightarrow naturally inside the BTF file
           // but WebGL is expecting them bottom row first
14
           createImageBitmap(data, { imageOrientation: 'flipY' })
15
           // the catch step is called if the previous part
16
               failed
           .catch((reason) => {
17
               // some browers do not like loading a lot of big
                    textures parrelly
               // and will garbage collect them in between and
19
                    thus fail
               // as a fallback the limiter function is used to
20
                    limit concurrency of that part to 1
               // this still allow max currency for other
21
                    environments
               return limiter(() => createImageBitmap(data))
           })
23
           // the then part is called when the previous step
24
               succedded
           .then(img => \{
25
               // create and bind a new WebGL texture
               let texture = gl.createTexture()
27
```

```
gl.bindTexture(gl.TEXTURE_2D, texture)
28
                let type: number
29
                // map the type from the BTF file to a WebGL
                    texture type
                switch (config.format) {
31
                    case 'PNG8':
32
                        type = gl.LUMINANCE
33
                        break
34
                     // ...
35
   Х
                    case 'PNG32':
36
                        type = gl.RGBA
37
                        break
                }
39
                // load the imageBitmap into the texture
40
                gl.texImage2D(gl.TEXTURE_2D, 0, type, type,
41
                    gl.UNSIGNED_BYTE, img)
                gl.texParameteri(gl.TEXTURE_2D,
42
                    gl.TEXTURE_MIN_FILTER, gl.NEAREST)
                gl.texParameteri(gl.TEXTURE_2D,
43
                    gl.TEXTURE_MAG_FILTER, gl.NEAREST)
                // finished and return
44
                appState.textureLoaded()
45
                return { texture, width: img.width, height:
46
                    img.height }
           })
47
            .catch((reason) => {
48
                // a null texture will be empty
49
                alert('Texture failed to load' + reason)
50
                appState.textureLoaded()
                return { texture: null, width: config.width,
52
                   height: config.height }
           })
      // the calling code will have its own catch/then logic
54
      return promise
55
   }
56
```

5.9 Plugins

All plugins extend the relatively limited abstract plugin class in *Plugin.tsx* and have no preserved state:

```
/** General Plugin controller, will be loaded into the MobX
       state tree */
   export declare class PluginController extends PluginShim {
       /** referential access to app state, will be set by the
         plugin loader */
       appState: IAppState;
       /** called when the plugin is initally loaded from file
5
       load(appState: IAppState): void;
6
       /** all hooks the plugin is using */
       readonly hooks: HookConfig;
       /** get a single typed hook */
       hook<P extends HookName>(name: P, instance: string):
10

→ HookType<P>;

       /** called before the plugin will be deleted from the
11
          state tree, ususally used for volatile state fixes,
          e.g. paint layers */
       hotUnload(): void;
12
       /** called after the plugin was restored in the state
13
           tree */
       hotReload(): void;
14
       /** convenience function to inverse a rendering point
15
           from surface coordinates into texture coordinates */
       inversePoint(point: Point): Point;
16
       /** some components need references to their actual DOM
17
       → nodes, these are stored outside the plugins scope to
          allow hot-reloads */
       handleRef(id: string): (ref: any) => void;
18
       /** return a stored ref */
19
       ref(id: string): any;
20
  }
21
```

The most important function is the PluginCreator, which merges the mobxstate-tree model with the classy-mst controller code and provides a wrapper function to create components bound to the containing plugin:

```
1  /**
2  * Create Subplugins
3  * @param Code is the controller
4  * @param Data is the model
5  * @param name must be the same as the folder and filename
6  */
```

```
function PluginCreator<S extends ModelProperties, T, U> (Code:
       new () => U, Data: IModelType<S, T>, name: string) {
       // create the resulting plugin class
       let SubPlugin = mst(Code, Data, name)
9
       // higher-order-component
       // inner is basically (props, classes?) => ReactElement
       // inner this will be bound to the SubPlugin instance
12
       type innerType<P, C extends string> = (this: typeof
13
          SubPlugin.Type, props: ComponentProps & { children?:
         ReactNode } & P, classes?: ClassNameMap<C>) =>
          ReactElement<any>
       // P are they freely definable properties of the embedded
          react component
       // C are the infered class keys for styling, usually no
15
         need to manually pass them
       function SubComponent<P = {}, C extends string = ''>
16
           (inner: innerType<P, C>, styles?:
          StyleRulesCallback<C>): PluginComponentType<P> {
           // wrapper function to extract the corresponding
               plugin from props into plugin argument typedly
           let innerMost = function (props: any) {
18
               let plugin = (props.appState.plugins.get(name)) as
19
               // actual rendering function
20
               // allow this so all code inside a plugin can just
21
               → refer to this
               let innerProps = [props]
22
               // append styles
23
               if (styles)
24
                   innerProps.push(props.classes)
25
               // call the embedded component
               return inner.apply(plugin, innerProps)
27
28
           // set a nice name for the MobX/redux dev tools
29
           (innerMost as any).displayName = inner.name
30
           // use MobX higher order functions to link into the
31
               state tree
           let func: any = inject('appState')(observer(innerMost))
32
           // wrap with material-ui styles if provided
           if (styles)
               func = withStyles(styles)(func);
35
```

```
// also name the wrapped function for dev tools
36
           (func as PluginComponentType<P>).displayName =
37
               `PluginComponent(${inner.name})`
           return func
       // allow easier renaming in the calling module
       return { Plugin: SubPlugin, Component: SubComponent }
41
42
   A minimal example would be:
   const BasePluginModel = Plugin.props({
       greeting: 'In the beginning was the deed!',
   })
   class BasePluginController extends shim(BasePluginModel,
       Plugin) {
       @action
6
       onGreeting (event: any) {
7
           this.greeting += '!'
       }
   }
10
11
   // general plugin template code
12
   const { Plugin: BasePlugin, Component } =
   → PluginCreator(BasePluginController, BasePluginModel,
       'BasePlugin')
   export default BasePlugin
   // export the type to allow other plugins to retrieve this
   \rightarrow plugin
   export type IBasePlugin = typeof BasePlugin.Type
16
   // CSS styles, classnames will be mangled, so styles is
   → passed to the component
   const styles = (theme: Theme) => createStyles({
19
       hello: {
20
           color: 'red',
21
       },
22
   })
23
   // props are standard react props, classes contains the
      mangled names
```

```
const HelloWorld = Component(function HelloWorld (props,
classes) {
    return {this.greeting}
    }, styles)
```

The rest of the plugins are presented on a higher conceptual level, as their internal APIs are most times used only be themselves. Their hooks will be discussed though.

5.9.1 Base Plugin

The base plugin is containing no further internal logic, but only is providing some shared display components. These could theoretically have been implemented outside of any plugin, but putting them into the Base plugin simplifies the distinction between components bound to plugins and unbound plugins, by having no unbound plugins at all. It also simplifies the code loading, as just the Base plugin can be (re-)loaded like all other plugins. The provided components are:

- JSONDisplay, showing a JSON object in a prettified for, used for displaying different metadata objects
- BTFMetadataDisplay, showing the currently loaded BTF's data
- RenderHooks, to render all components attached to a hook
- SafeGLIInspector, wrapping the secondary WebGL surfaces and disabling theme, if WebGL debug tools are used, which can handle only one surface.
- Tooltip, wrapping the material-ui tooltip component to fix styling errors

5.9.2 BaseTheme, RedTheme and BlueTheme Plugin

The BaseTheme plugin is having two essential properties:

```
/** app wide theme definitions */
themeBase: ThemeOptions = {
    palette: {
    },
    overrides: {
```

```
MuiTooltip: {
6
                 tooltip: {
7
                     fontSize: 16,
                 },
9
                 tooltipPlacementBottom: {
10
                     marginTop: 5,
11
                 },
12
                 tooltipPlacementTop: {
13
                     marginBottom: 5,
14
                 },
15
            },
16
        },
   }
18
19
   /** per theme plugin overridable definitions */
20
   themeExtension: ThemeOptions = {}
21
   Concrete themes (at the moment RedTheme and BlueTheme plugins) extend
   this BaseTheme and then set their themeExtension according to their mod-
   ifications. To pick a theme to be used the ThemeConfig hook exists:
   type ThemeConfig = {
```

controller: { theme: Theme }, 2 } 3 Concrete themes register with: get hooks (): HookConfig { 1 return { 2 Theme: { 3 Red: { 4 priority: 100, 5 controller: this, }, }, 8 } 9 10

If multiple plugins are registering themes, the appState will pick the theme with the highest priority to apply to the app.

5.9.3 TabView Plugin

The TabView plugin is providing the full app experience and is targeted at the Electron output and the online hosted version. As a tabbed container will occasionally delete the content of non-active tabs, some hooks are needed to ensure graceful behaviour of all displayed tabs:

```
// register a new tab
   type Tab = {
       // component to be the base of the tab
3
       content: PluginComponentType
       tab: TabProps,
5
       padding?: number,
6
       // async functions to allow customisation before/after
           tabs change
       beforeFocusGain?: () => Promise<void>,
       afterFocusGain?: () => Promise<void>,
9
       beforeFocusLose?: () => Promise<void>,
10
       afterFocusLose?: () => Promise<void>,
11
   }
12
   // action buttons on the top rights
14
   type ActionBar = {
15
       onClick: () => void,
16
       title: string,
17
       enabled: () => boolean,
       tooltip?: string,
19
   }
20
21
   // notifications if the tab changes for sub-components which
22
   → are not being a tab themselves
   type ViewerTabFocus = {
23
       beforeGain?: () => void,
24
       beforeLose?: () => void,
25
   }
```

This view is depicted in Figure 7.

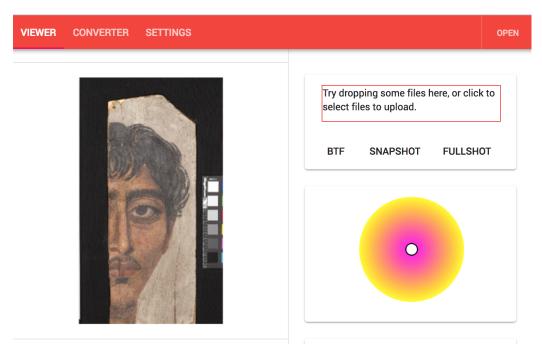


Figure 7: Viewer with loaded TabView and RedTheme plugins. Tabbar on top, with action buttons on top right.

5.9.4 SingleView Plugin

The SingleView plugin is aimed to provide a contained viewer experience, e.g. on a museum's website, it is just displaying the tab with the highest priority, see Figure 8.

5.9.5 Converter Plugin

Todo Text:

Converter Plugin

5.9.6 PTMConverter Plugin

Todo Text:

PTMConverter Plugin

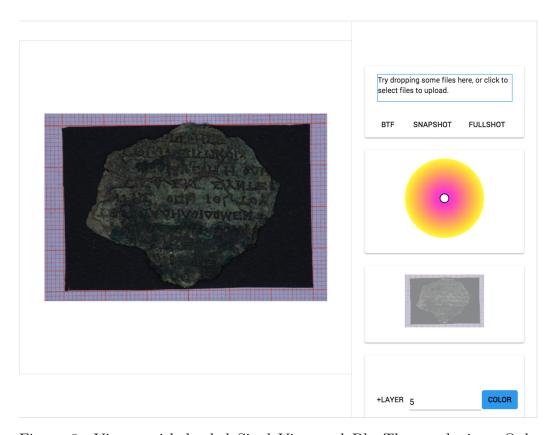


Figure 8: Viewer with loaded Single View and BlueTheme plugins. Only changes to Figure 7 are two lines in oxti.plugins.json.

5.9.7 Renderer Plugin

```
type BaseNodeConfig = {
       channelModel: ChannelModel,
       node: PluginComponentType<BaseNodeProps>,
   }
5
   type RendererNode = {
6
       component: PluginComponentType,
       inversePoint?: (point: Point) => Point,
   }
10
   type MouseConfig = {
11
       listener: MouseListener,
12
       mouseLeft?: () => void,
13
   }
14
15
   type ViewerFileAction = {
16
       tooltip: string,
       text: string,
18
       action: () => Promise<void>,
19
   }
20
21
   type ScreenshotMeta = {
       key: string,
23
       fullshot?: () => (string | number)[] | string | number,
24
       snapshot?: () => (string | number)[] | string | number,
25
   }
26
    Todo Text:
    Renderer Plugin
    Todo Text:
    Base Node
    Todo Text:
    WebGL texture packing
```

5.9.8 PTM Renderer Plugin
Todo Text: PTM Renderer Plugin
Todo Text: Dynamic Shaders
Todo Text: RGB vs LRGB
5.9.9 Light Control Plugin
Todo Text: Light Control Plugin
5.9.10 Rotation Plugin
Todo Text: Rotation Plugin
5.9.11 Zoom Plugin
Todo Text: Zoom Plugin
5.9.12 QuickPan Plugin
Todo Text: Zoom Plugin

5.9.13 Paint Plugin
Todo Text:
Zoom Plugin
5.9.14 Import Export Plugin
Todo Text:
Automatic Import Export
5.10 Applications
Todo Text: Other related graphics
Todo Text: Applications
5.10.1 Standalone Website
Todo Text: Standalone Website
Standarone Website
5.10.2 Embeddable
Todo Text: Embeddable
5.10.3 Electron
Todo Text: Electron App deliverable
Dietroi Tipp deliverable

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6.1 Featureset

Todo Text:
Featureset Comparison
Todo Diagramm: Screeshots
6.2 Performance
Todo Text:
Performance
6.3 Testing
Todo Text: Testing
Todo Text:
Shader Interpolation
Todo Text:
Image comparison

6.4 Rollouts and Deployments

rodo rext:		
Rollout		
Todo Text:		
Non-Tech deployment		

О

7 Discussion

7.1 Community Onboarding

Todo Text:
Community Onboarding

7.2 Novelties

Todo Text:
Novelties results

7.3 Future Work

The future work can be split into two parts. Improvements of the current system, including better performance and bug fixes, and further extensions with new functionality.

7.3.1 WebGL 2

Todo Text:
Future Work

8 Conclusion

Todo Text:
Conclusion

This is the specification of the BTF fileformat, as of version 1.0 on August 23, 2018. It was developed co-supervisor Stefano Gogioso, with input from and extension by the author of the enclosing thesis in relation to the oxrti viewer.

A BTF File Format

This section describes the BTF file format. The aim of this file format is to provide a generic container for BTF data to be specified using a variety of common formats. Files shall have the .btf.zip extension.

A.1 File Structure

A BTF file is a ZIP file containing the following:

- A manifest file in JSON format, named manifest.json. The manifest contains all information about the BRDF/BSDF model being used, including the names for the available channels (e.g. R, G and B for the 3-channel RGB), the names of the necessary coefficients (e.g. biquadratic coefficients) and the image file format for each channel.
- A single folder named data, with sub-folders having names in 1-to-1 correspondence with the channels specified in the manifest.
- Within each channel folder, greyscale image files having names in 1-to1 correspondence with the coefficients specified in the manifest, each
 in the image file format specified in the manifest for the corresponding
 channel. For example, if one is working with RGB format (3-channels
 named R, G and B) in the PTM model (five coefficients a2, b2, a1, b1
 and c, specifying a bi-quadratic) using 16-bit greyscale bitmaps, the file
 /data/B/a2.bmp is the texture encoding the a2 coefficient for the blue
 channel of each point in texture space.
- The datafiles are all in reversed scanline order (meaning from bottom to top), to keep aligned with the original PTM format and allow easier loading into WebGL.

In case of usage with the oxrti viewer, following files can be present in addition to those mentioned above:

A.2 Manifest

The manifest for the BTF file format is a JSON file with root dictionary. The root element has two mandatory child elements: one named data, and one named name with the option of additional child elements (with different names) left open to future extensions of the format.

- The name element is a string with a name of the contained object.
- The data element has for entries, named width, height, channels and channel-model. The width and height attributes have values in the positive integers describing the dimensions of the BTDF. The channel-model attribute has value a non-empty alphanumeric string uniquely identifying the BRDF/BSDF colour model used by the BTF file (see Options section below). The channels element has an arbitrary amout of named channel entries, according to the channel-model.
- Additionally the data element has one untyped entry named formatExtra, where format implementation specific data can be stored.
- Each channel has an coefficients child consisting of an arbitrary number of coefficient entries, as well as one coefficient-model attribute. The coefficient-model attribute has value a non-empty alphanumeric string uniquely identifying the BRDF/BSDF approximation model used by the BTF file (see Options section below).
- Each coefficient element has one attribute: format. The format attribute has value a non-empty alphanumeric string uniquely identifying the image file format used to store the channel values (see Options section below).

A.3 Textures

Each image file /data/CHAN/COEFF.EXT has the same dimensions specified by the width and height attributes of the data element in the manifest, and is encoded in the greyscale image file format specified by the format attribute of the unique coefficient element with attribute name taking the value COEFF (the extension .EXT is ignored). The colour value of a pixel (u,v) in the image is the value for coefficient COEFF of channel CHAN in the BRDF/BSDF for point (u,v), according to the model jointly specified by the values of the attribute model for element channels (colour model) and the attribute model for element coefficients (approximation model).

A.4 Options

At present, the following values are defined for attribute channel-model of element channels.

- RGB: the 3-channel RGB colour model, with channels named R, G and B. This colour model is currently under implementation.
- LRGB: the 4-channel LRGB colour model, with channels named L, R, G and B. This colour model is currently under implementation.
- SPECTRAL: the spectral radiance model, with an arbitrary non-zero number of channels named either all by wavelength (format ---nm, with --- an arbitrary non-zero number) or all by frequency format ---Hz, with --- an arbitrary non-zero number. This colour model is planned for future implementation.

At present, the following values are defined for attribute model of element coefficients, where the ending character * is to be replaced by an arbitrary number greater than or equal to 1.

- flat: flat approximation model (no dependence on light position). This approximation model is currently under implementation.
- RTIpoly*: order-* polynomial approximation model for RTI (single view-point BRDF). This approximation model is currently under implementation.
- RTIharmonic*: order-* hemispherical harmonic approximation model for RTI (single view-point BRDF). This approximation model is currently under implementation.
- BRDFpoly*: order-* polynomial approximation model for BRDFs. This approximation model is planned for future implementation.
- BRDFharmonic*: order-* hemispherical harmonic approximation model BRDFs. This approximation model is planned for future implementation.
- BSDFpoly*: order-* polynomial approximation model for BSDFs. This approximation model is planned for future implementation.
- BSDFharmonic*: order-* spherical harmonic approximation model for BSDFs. This approximation model is planned for future implementation.

At present, the following values are defined for attribute format of elements tagged coefficient, where the ending character * is the bit-depth, to be replaced by an allowed positive multiple of 8.

- BMP*: greyscale BMP file format with the specified bit-depth (8, 16, 24 or 32). Support for this format is currently under implementation.
- PNG*: PNG file format encoding the specified bit-depth (8, 16, 24, 32, 48 or 64). Support for this format is currently under implementation. Different PNG colour options are used to support different bit-depths:
- Grayscale with 8-bit/channel to encode 8-bit bit-depth.
- Grayscale with 16-bit/channel to encode 16-bit bit-depth.
- Truecolor with 8-bit/channel to encode 24-bit bit-depth.
- Truecolor and alpha with 8-bit/channel to encode 32-bit bit-depth.
- Truecolor with 16-bit/channel to encode 48-bit bit-depth.
- Truecolor and alpha with 16-bit/channel to encode 64-bit bit-depth.

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