

Lecture 1: Introduction

DHBW, Computer Graphics

Lovro Bosnar

18.1.2023.

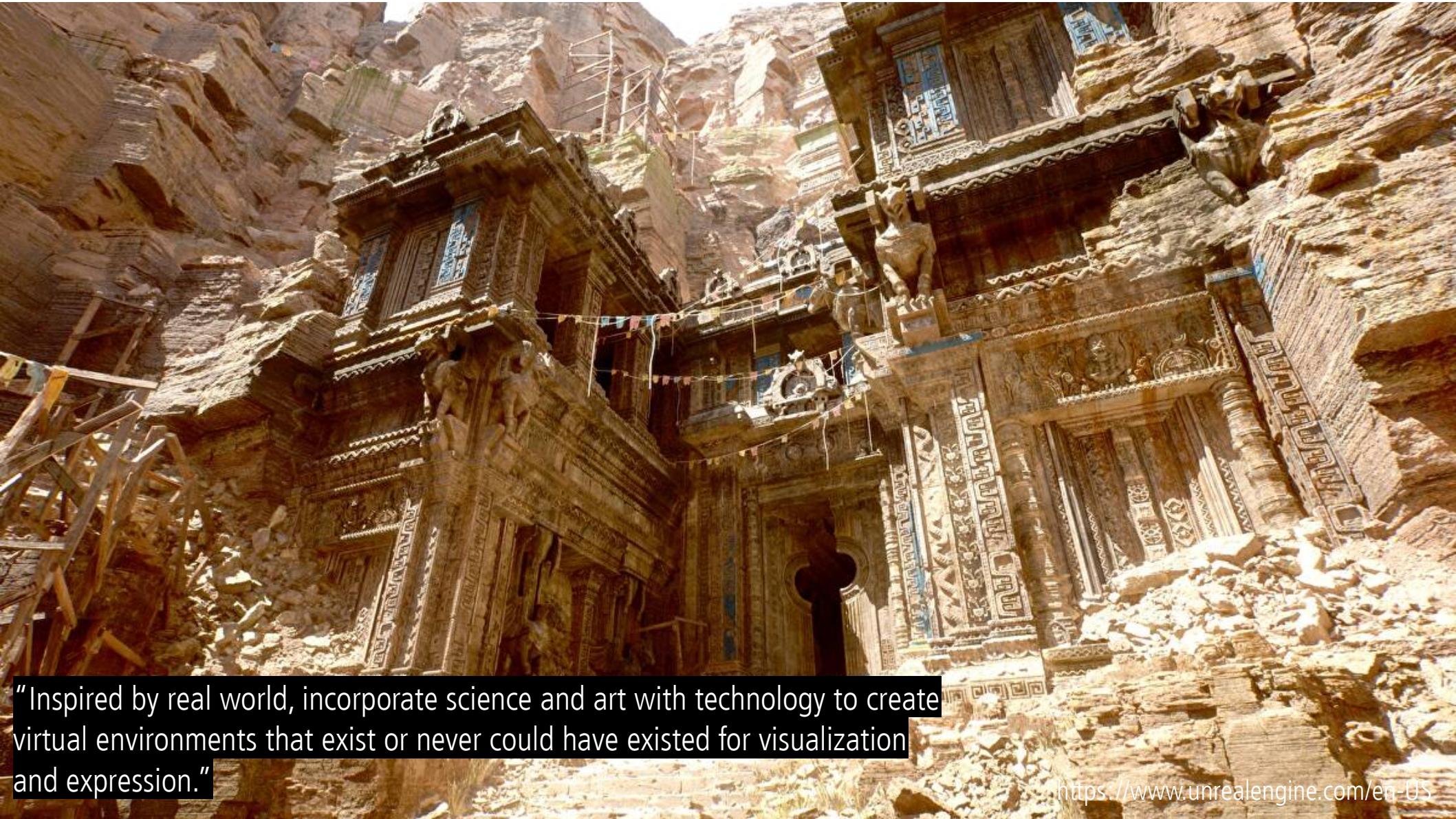
Contents

- Computer graphics: what and why
- Glimpse of image synthesis
- Course organization

Computer graphics: what and why

Motivation

“Computer graphics is science and art of communicating visually via computer display and its interaction devices”



"Inspired by real world, incorporate science and art with technology to create virtual environments that exist or never could have existed for visualization and expression."

<https://www.unrealengine.com/en-US>

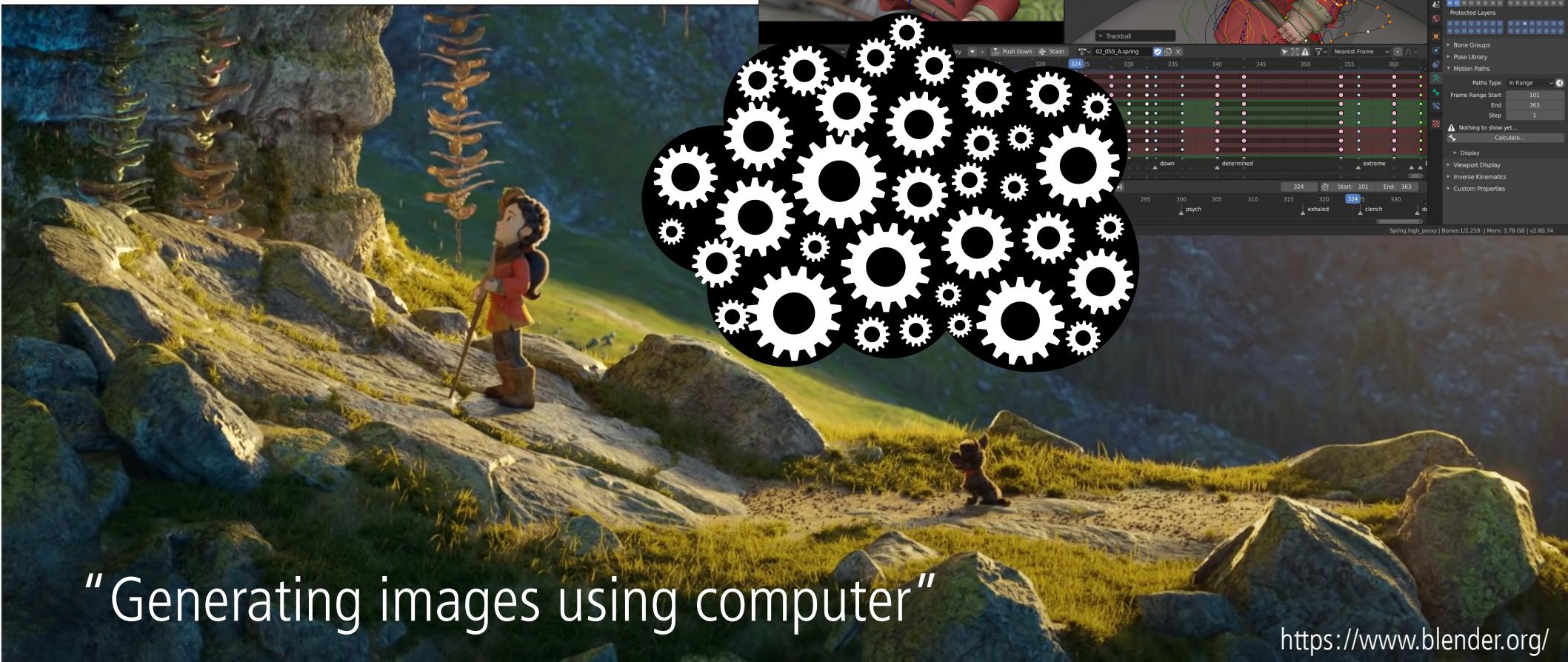


6

"A collaboration between art and technology"

<https://www.pixar.com/>

Computer graphics



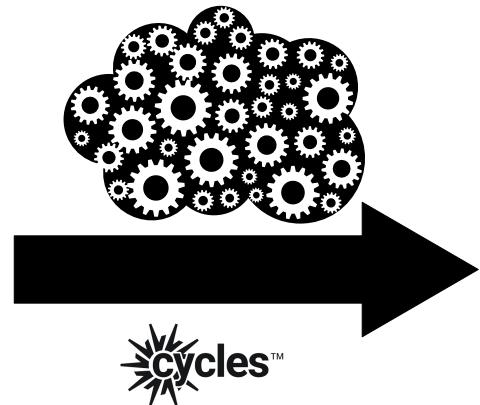
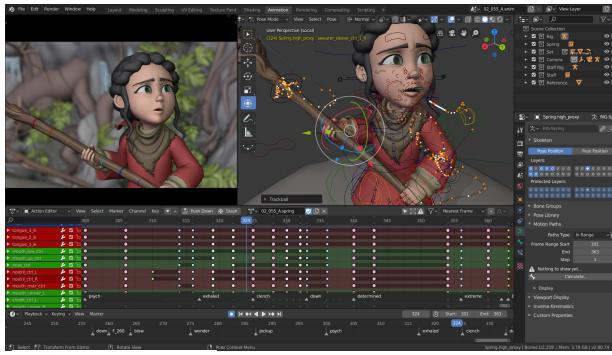
"Generating images using computer"

<https://www.blender.org/>

Computer graphics

Generating images:

- **3D scene** – what will be present in image
- **Rendering** – how image is generated from 3D scene
- **Image display** – how image is displayed



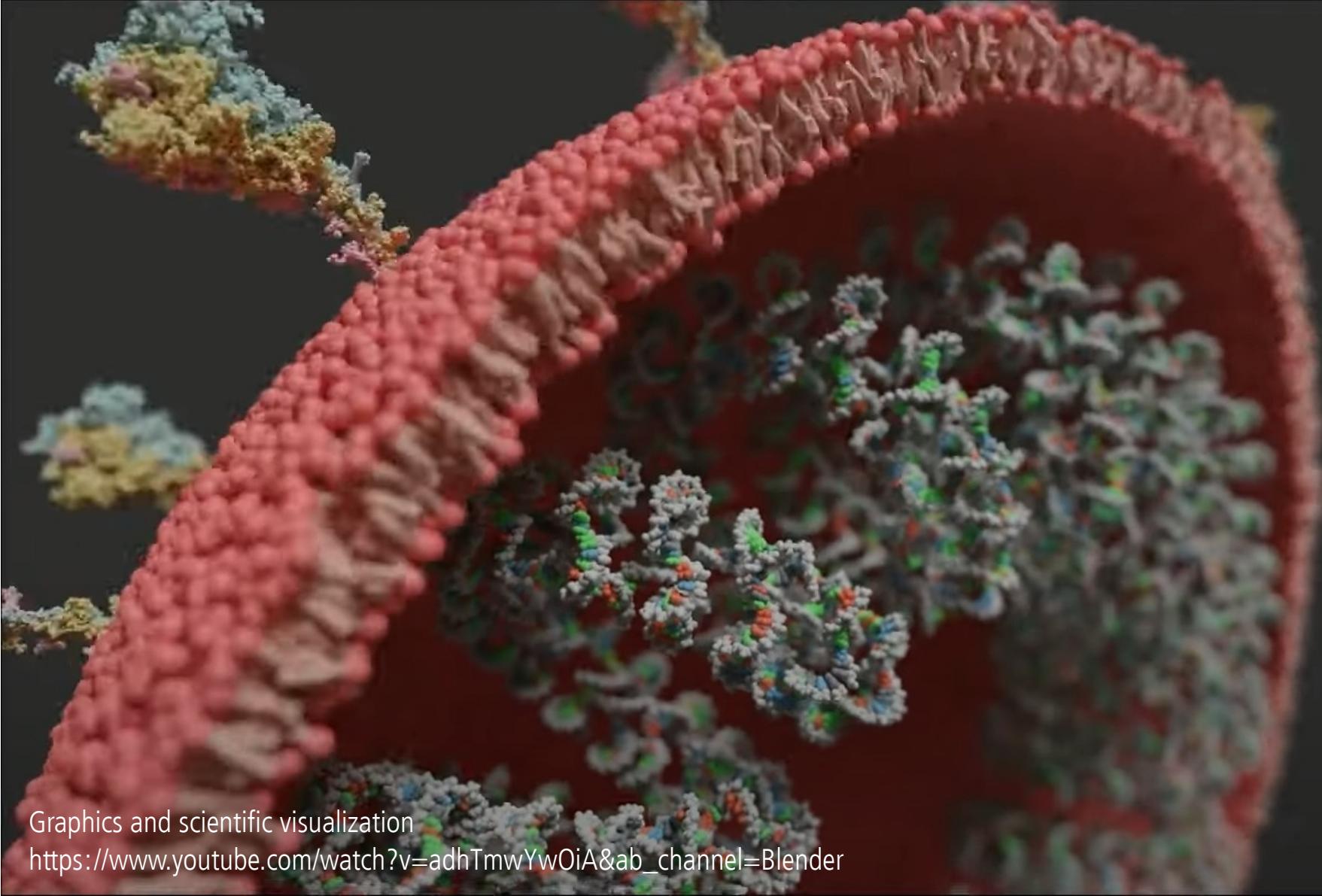


Graphics and computer games

<https://www.rockstargames.com/reddeadredemption2/>

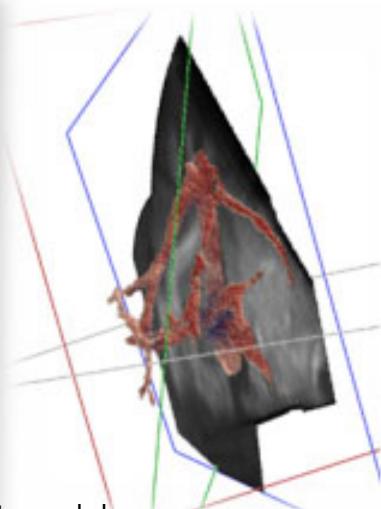
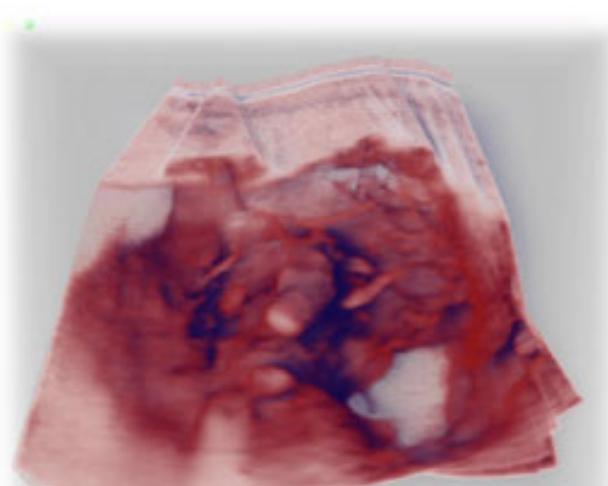
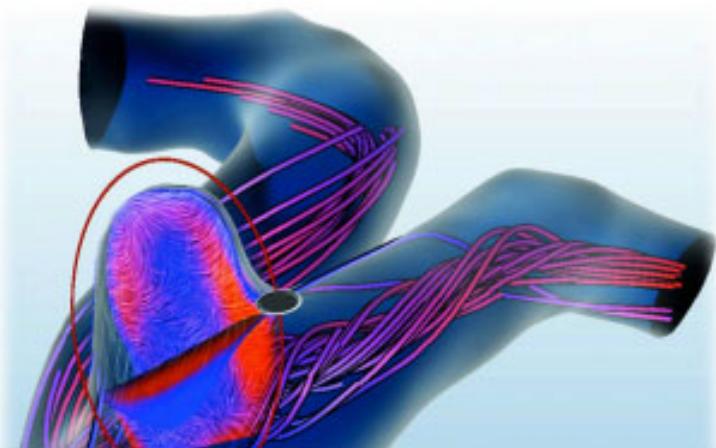
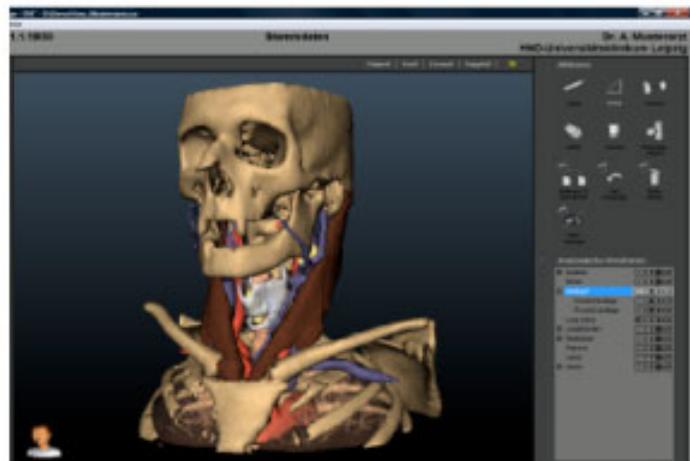
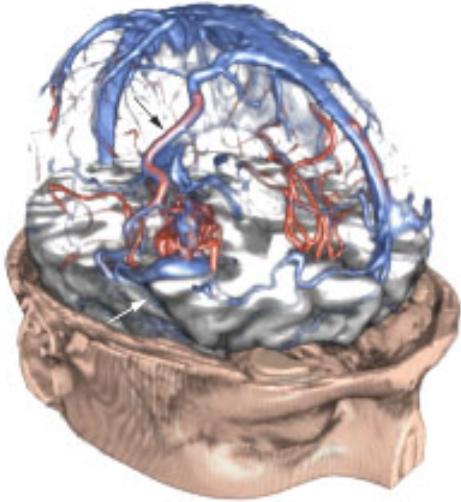


Graphics and animated film
<https://www.pixar.com/soul>



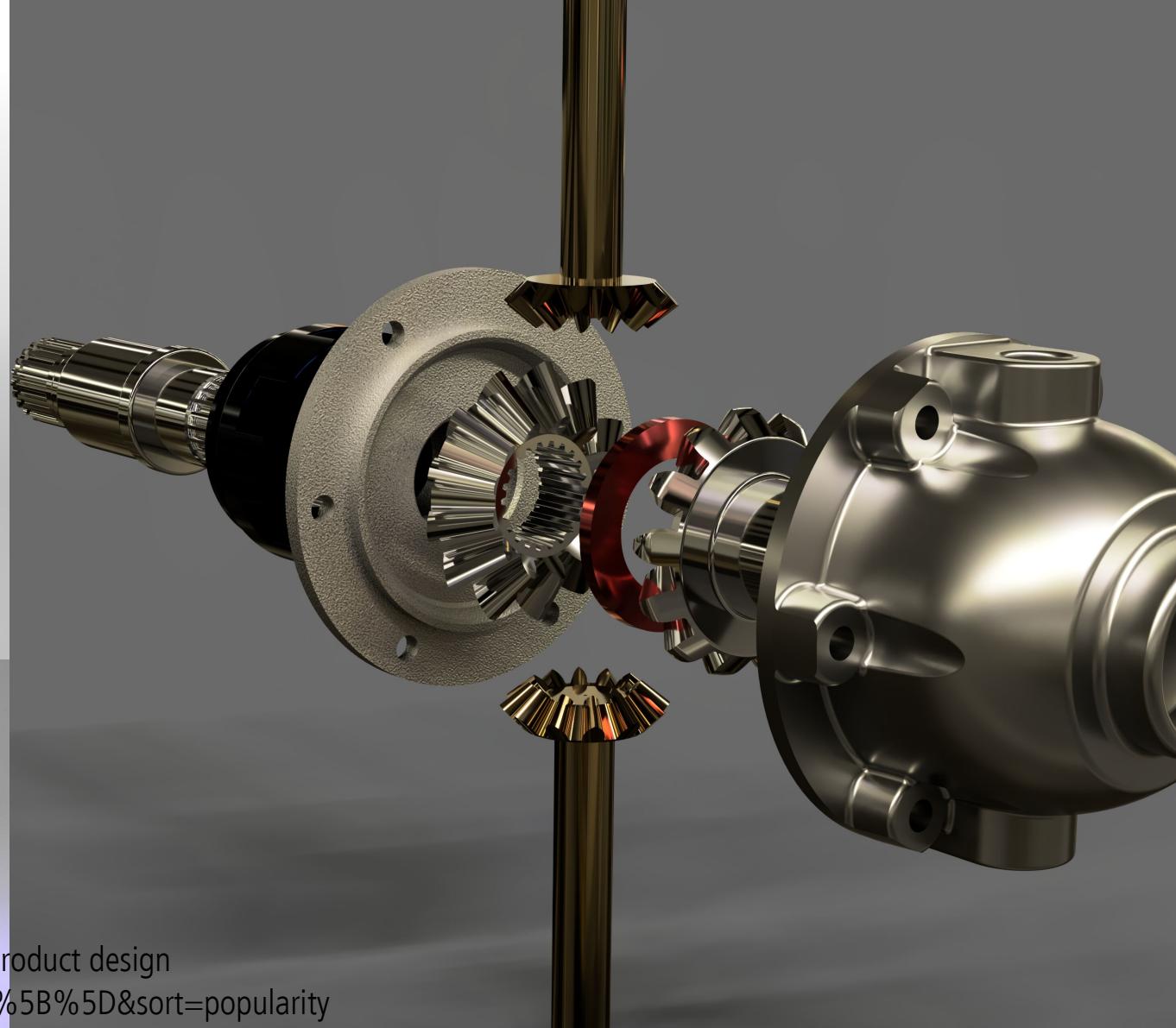
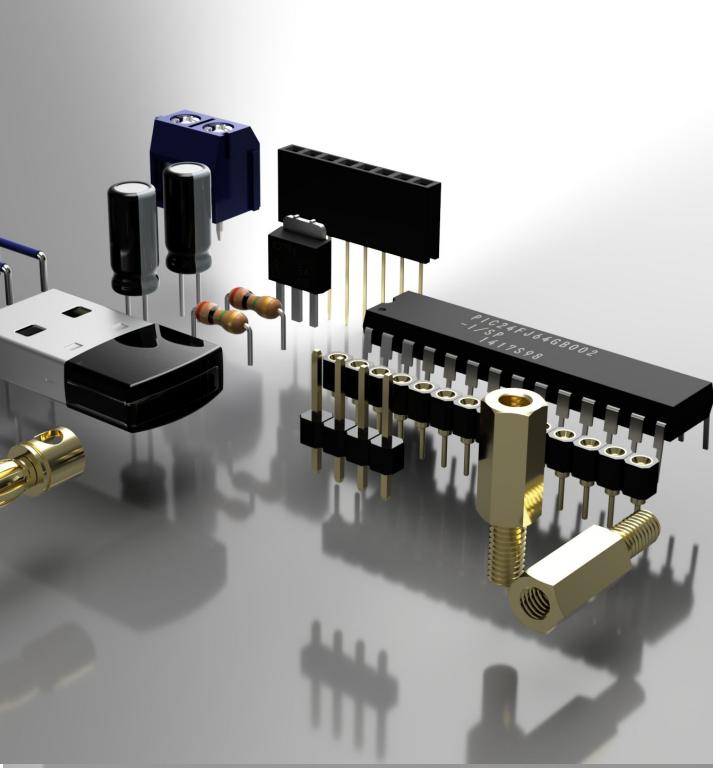
Graphics and scientific visualization

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adhTmwYwOjA&ab_channel=Blender

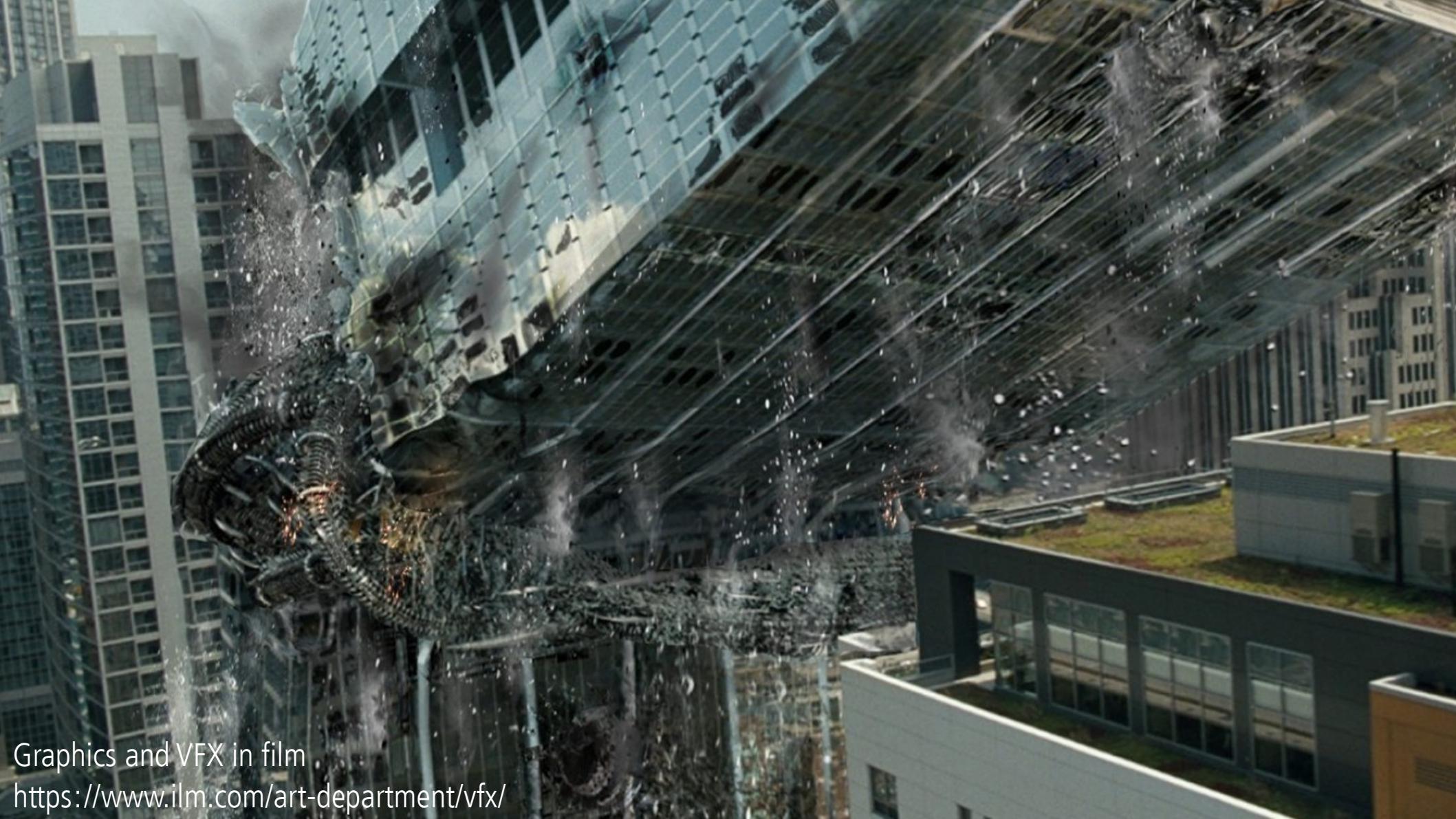


Graphics and medicine

<https://www.siggraph.org/news/eurographics-celebrates-computer-graphics-in-medicine/>

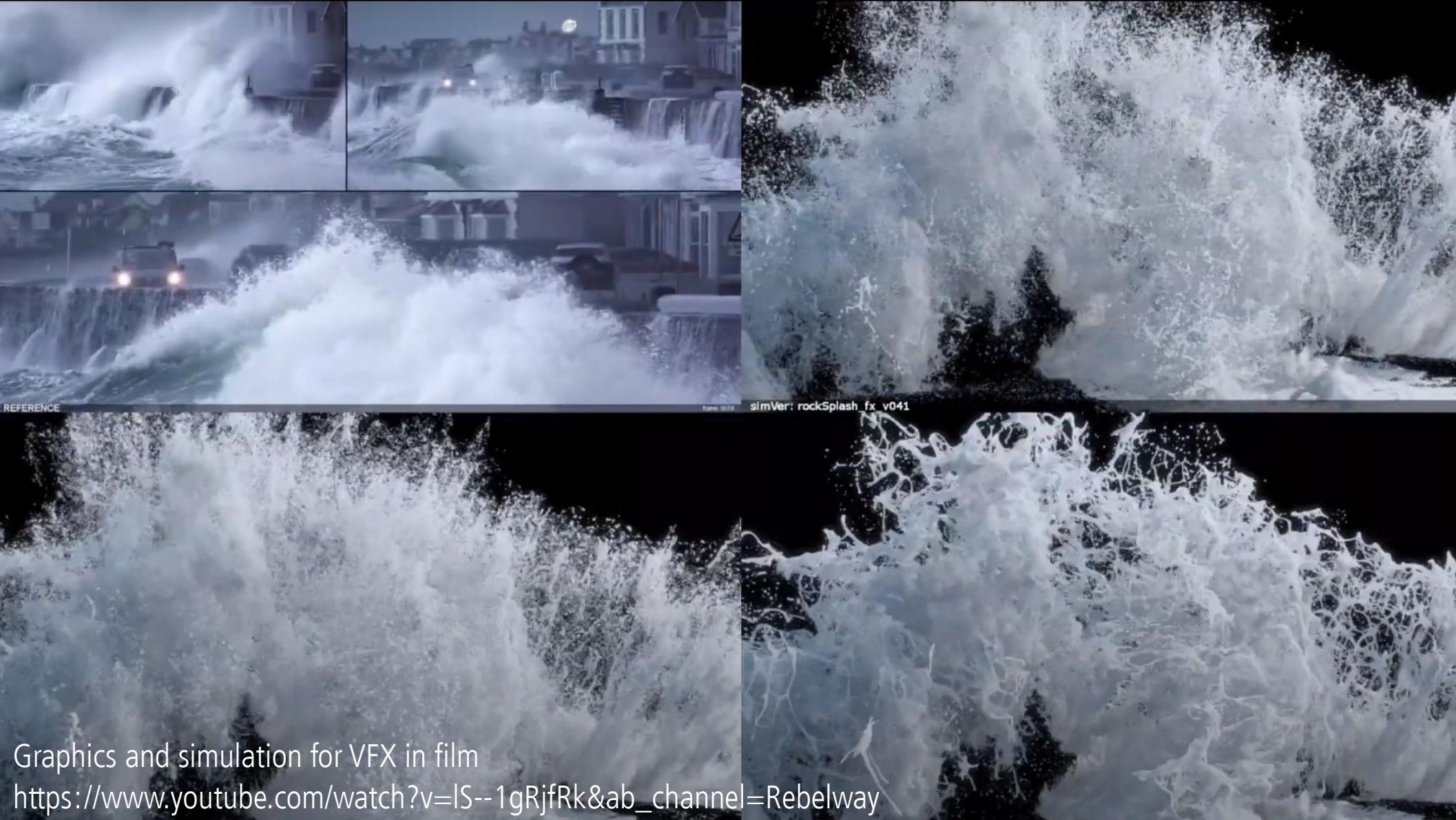


Graphics and CAD, manufacturing, engineering, product design
<https://gallery.autodesk.com/projects/all#filters=%5B%5D&sort=popularity>



Graphics and VFX in film

<https://www.ilm.com/art-department/vfx/>



Graphics and simulation for VFX in film

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lS--1gRjfRk&ab_channel=Rebelway



Graphics and motion capture for VFX in film

<https://www.fxguide.com/fxfeatured/weta-digital-s-remarkable-face-pipeline-alita-battle-angel/>



Graphics and arhitecture

<https://www.blenderguru.com/articles/20-jaw-dropping-architectural-renders>



Engineered with



Graphics and product design; product visualization

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BscQpkhpJw&ab_channel=Houdini



Graphics and interior design; ergonomic design

<https://www.blenderguru.com/articles/20-jaw-dropping-architectural-renders>

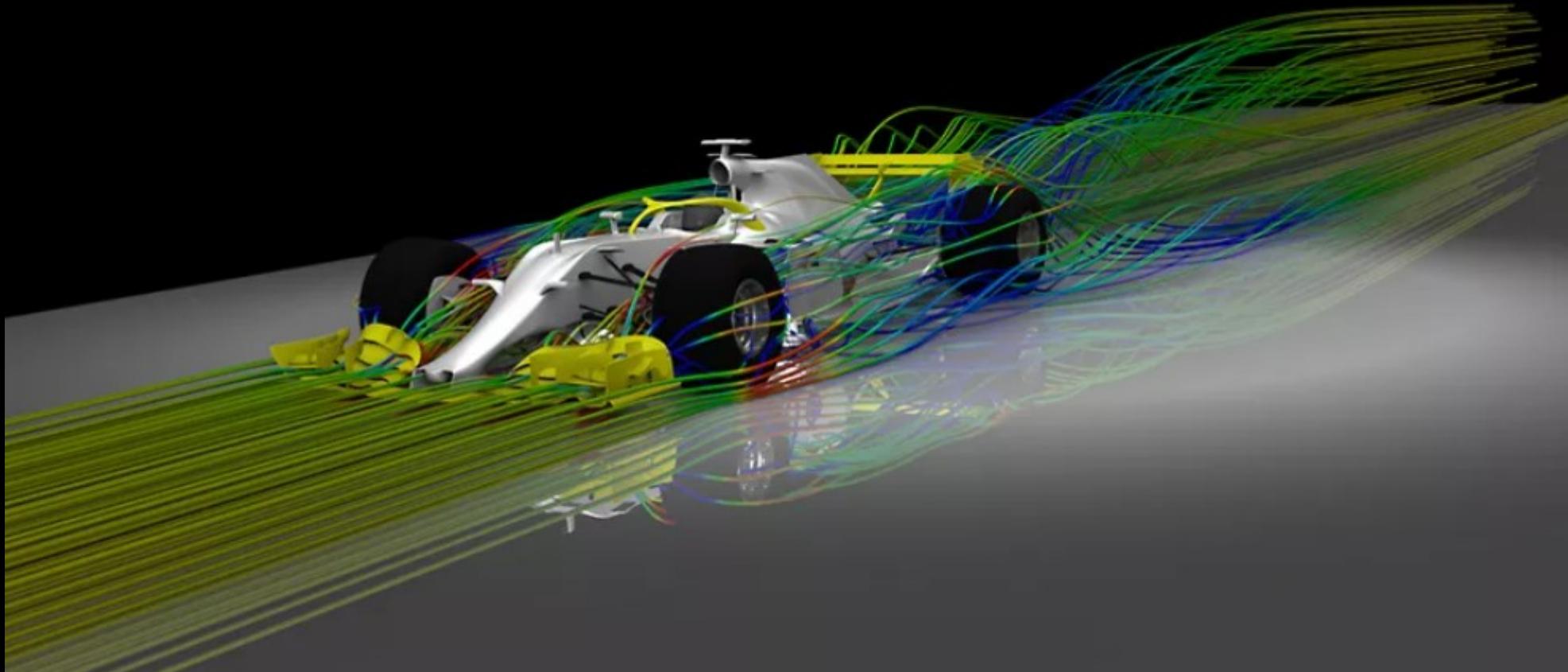


graphics and illumination planning
http://graphics.cs.aueb.gr/graphics/research_lightingopt.html



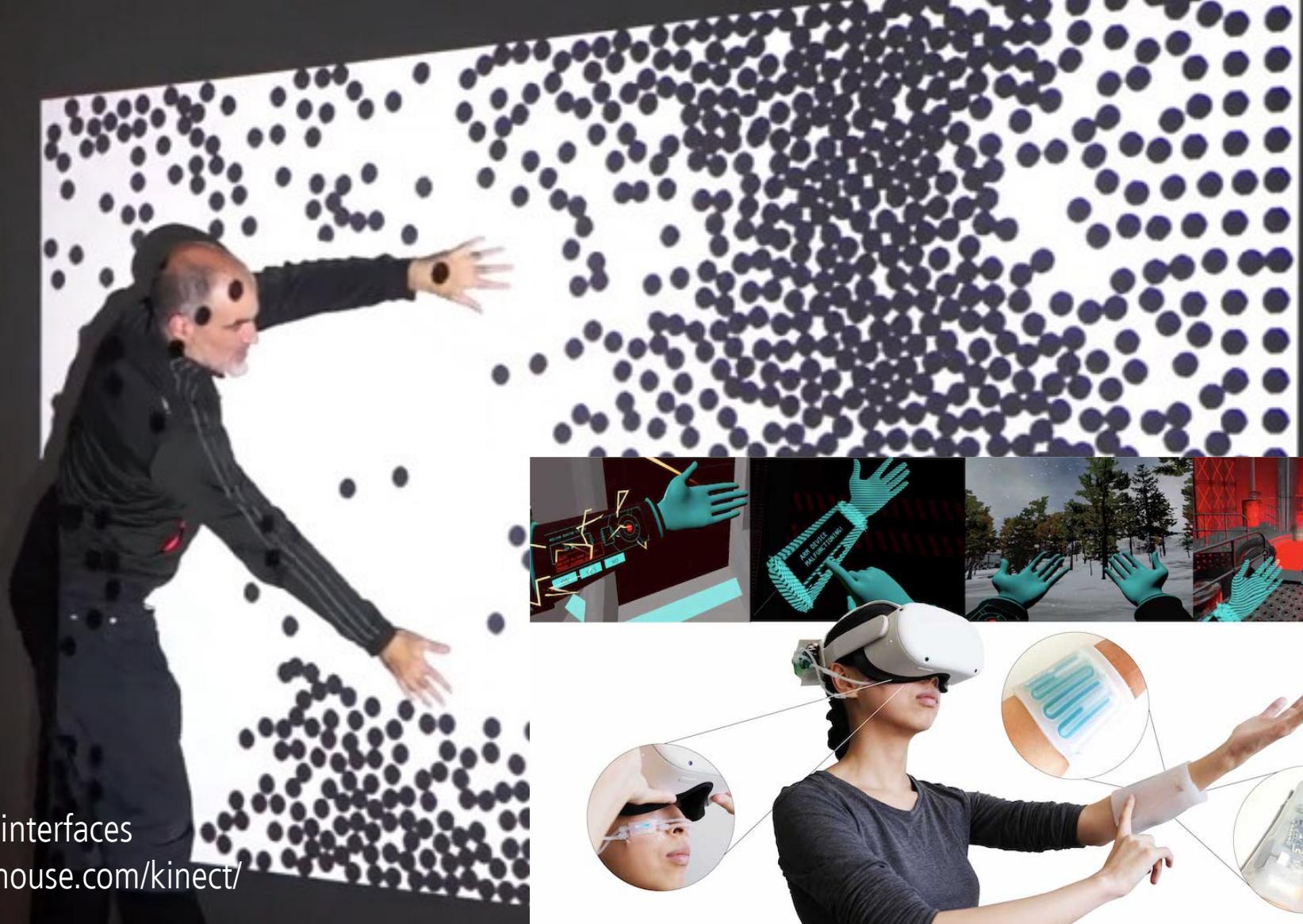


Graphics and new media art
<https://refikanadol.com/>



Graphics and predictive simulations

<https://www.ansys.com/company-information/the-ansys-story>



Graphics and user interfaces
<https://parametrichouse.com/kinect/>
<http://plopes.org/>

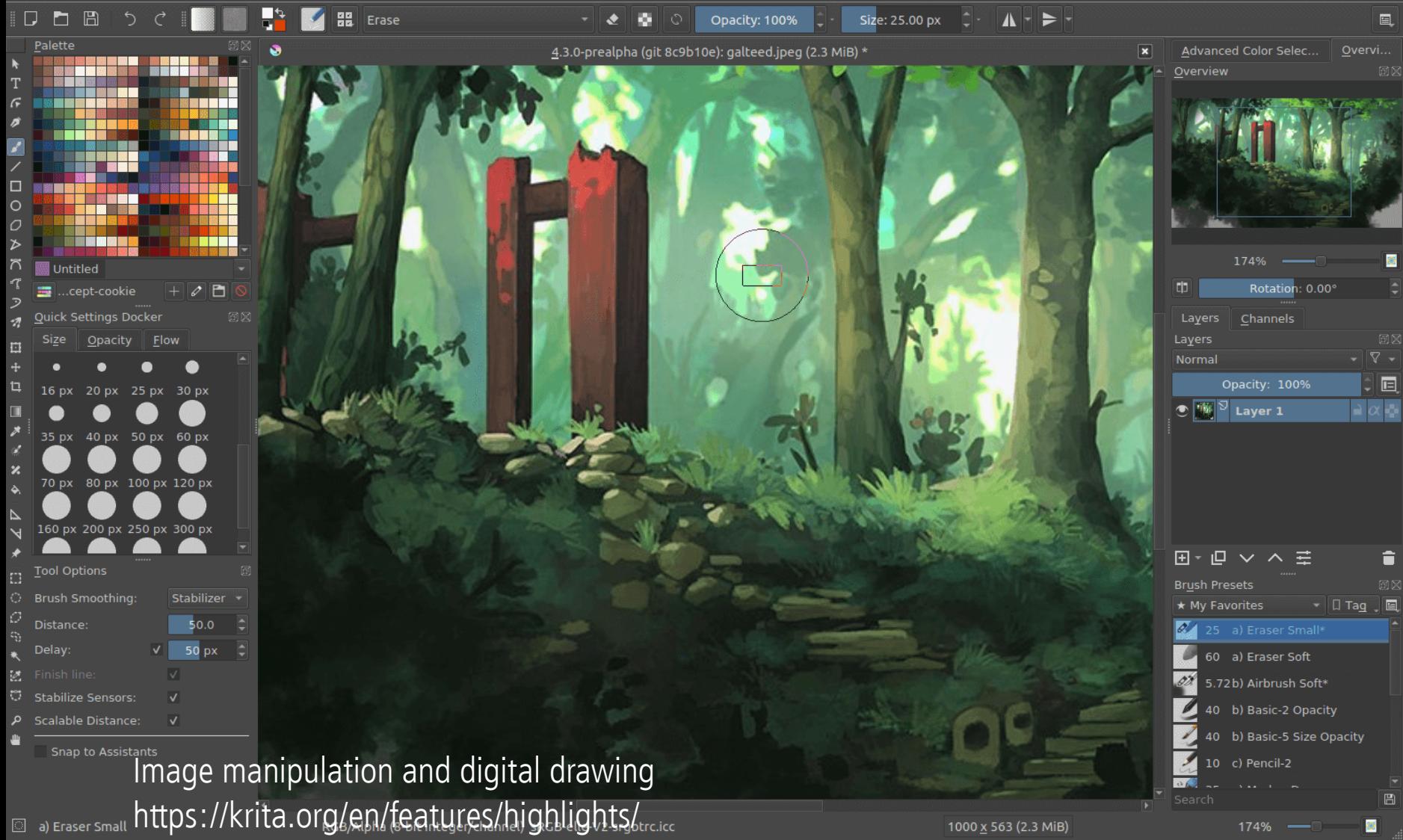


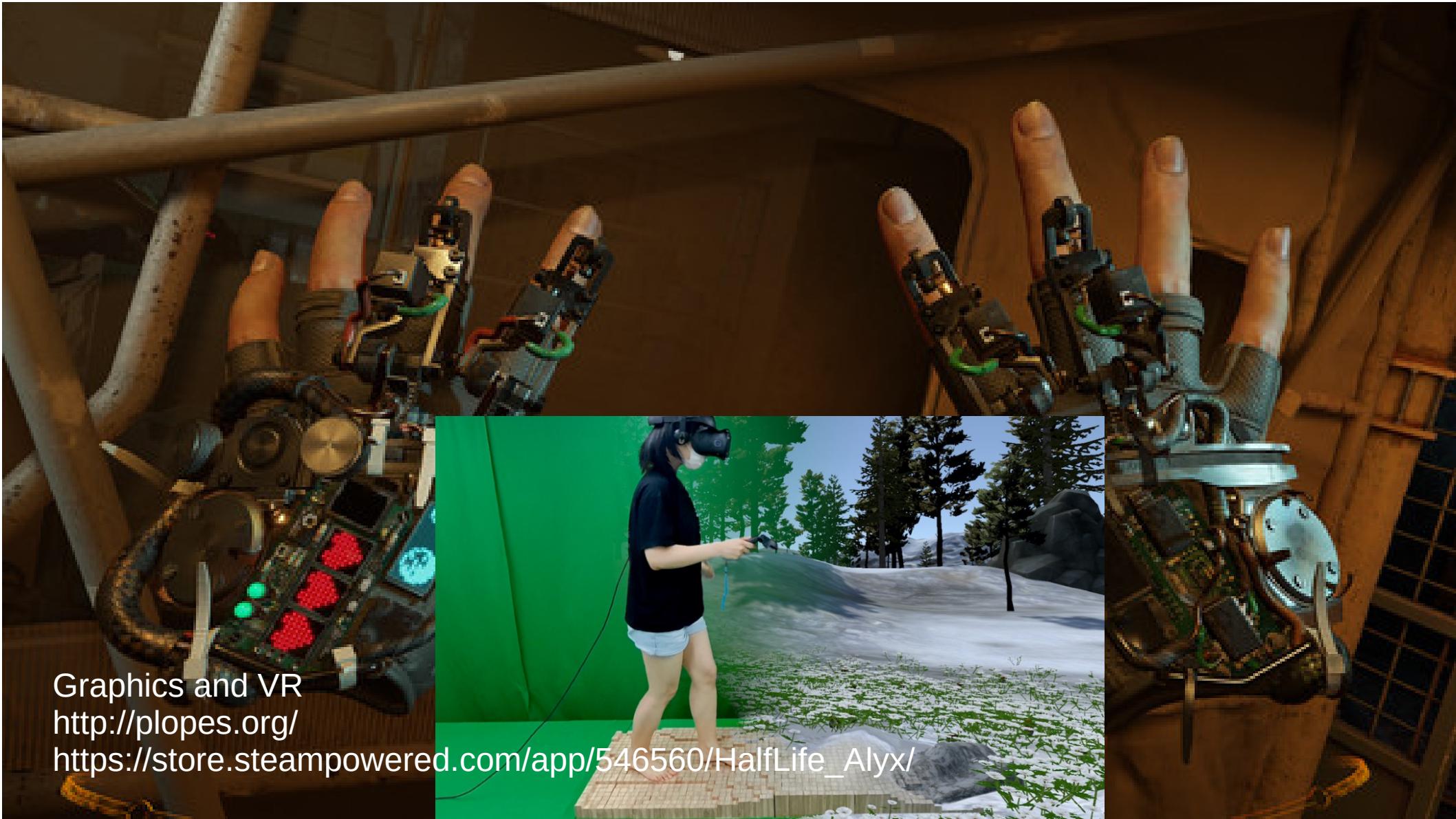
Image manipulation and digital drawing

<https://krita.org/en/features/highlights/>

1000x563 (2.3 MiB)

a) Eraser Small

174%

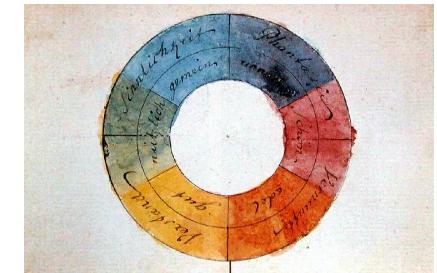
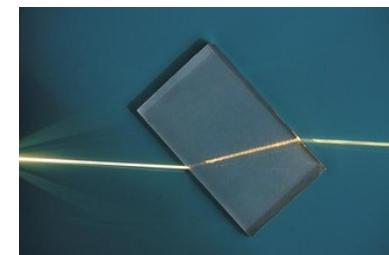
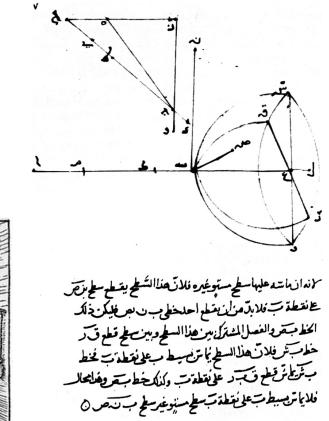
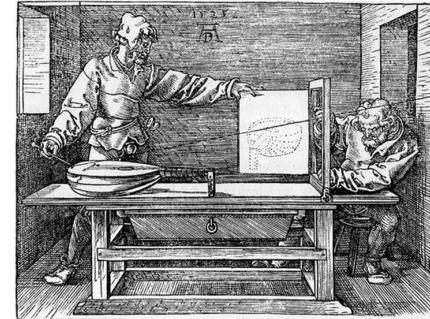


Graphics and VR
<http://plopes.org/>
https://store.steampowered.com/app/546560/HalfLife_Alyx/



Bit of history

- Geometric optics (Alhazen (Ibn al-Haytham), "the father of Optics", 1010)
- Development of perspective projection in drawing: perspective machine (e.g., Albrecht Dürer, 1525)
- Development in optics (Physics, e.g. Young, 1807)
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Theory of Colors, 1810
- Geometry, linear algebra, statistics

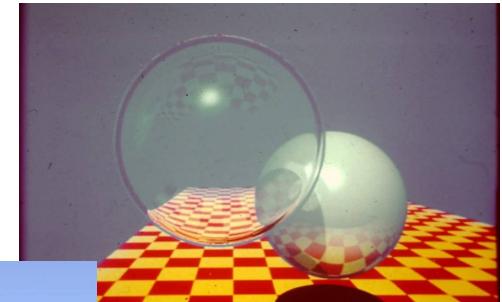
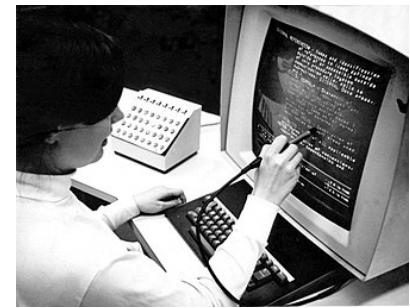


Bit of history

- Computer science and hardware (IBM 2250, 1964)
- VFX (ILM, 1975)
- Ray-tracing (J. Turner Whitted, 1979)
- Animated films (Pixar, 1986)
- Games (Naughty dog, 2013)



INDUSTRIAL
LIGHT & MAGIC



Computer graphics today



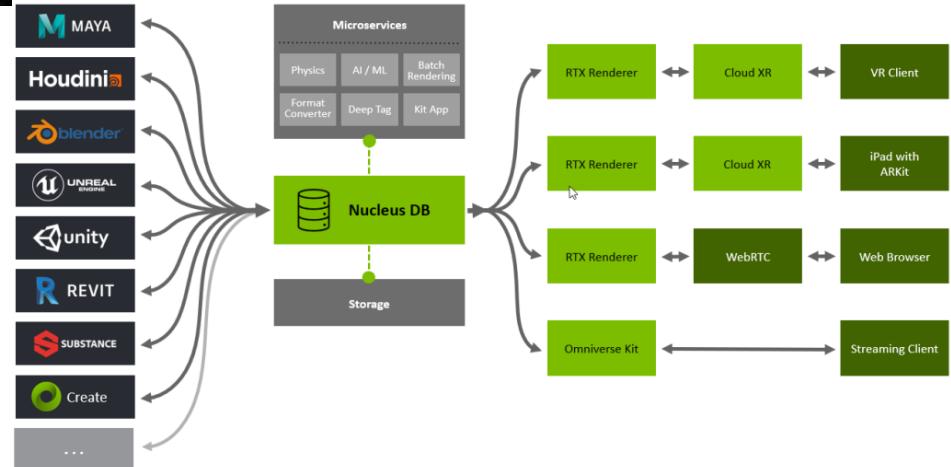
<https://www.siggraph.org/>



[https://www.research.autodesk.com/bloa/inside-autodesk-research-explo
ring-our-research-teams/#industry-futures](https://www.research.autodesk.com/bloa/inside-autodesk-research-explo-ring-our-research-teams/#industry-futures)



<https://research.nvidia.com/research-area/real-time-rendering>



<https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/omniverse/>

Computer graphics and you

- You like **physics** and would like to see its practical applications in generating amazing imagery and effects.
- You like **mathematics**: computer graphics is applied mathematics. Enough said.
- You like **programming**: computer graphics is exciting application that employs complex architectures for modeling and rendering and in return gives very gratifying results.
- You like **art** and **design**: Computer graphics is not only about tools which serve for simulating and rendering 3D scenes - it is also how we use those tools to create something that exists or never existed
- You like **animated films** or **VFX**: yes there is a lot of computer graphics there combined with other disciplines to support stories to remember
- You like **computer vision** or image processing: graphics is about creating and manipulating images
- You like **human-computer interaction**: computer graphics enables visual interfaces and interaction
- You like **computer games**: amazing application of computer graphics combined with different disciplines
- You like **visualization**: biology? Chemistry? Geology? Astronomy? Computer graphics is there for you!

Glimpse of image synthesis

Glimpse into image generation

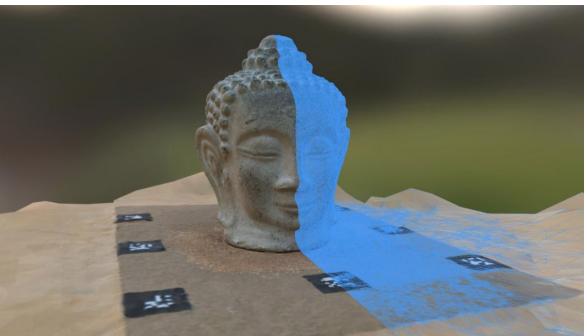
Analogy: taking a photograph

- World surrounding photographer → **3D scene**
- Light interaction with world and image formation → **rendering**
- Result: **Image**

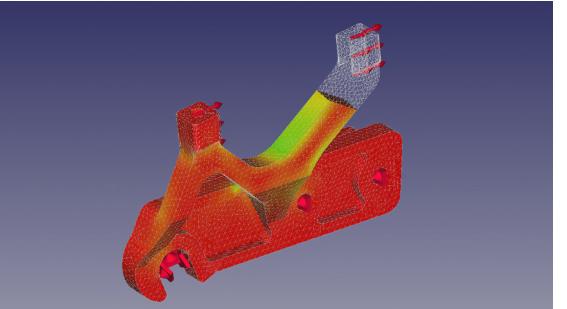


3D scene creation

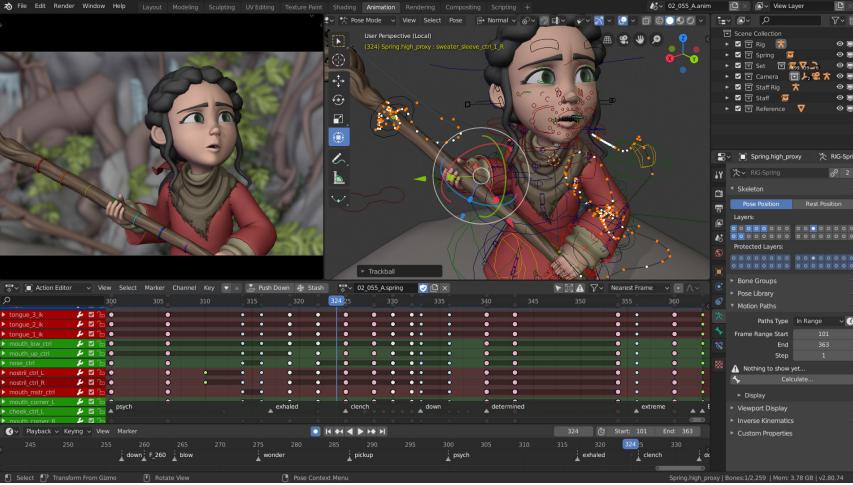
- Modeling: artists, engineers, designers, etc.
 - CAD modeling, sculpting
 - Animation
 - Simulation
- Acquisition from real world
 - Scanning



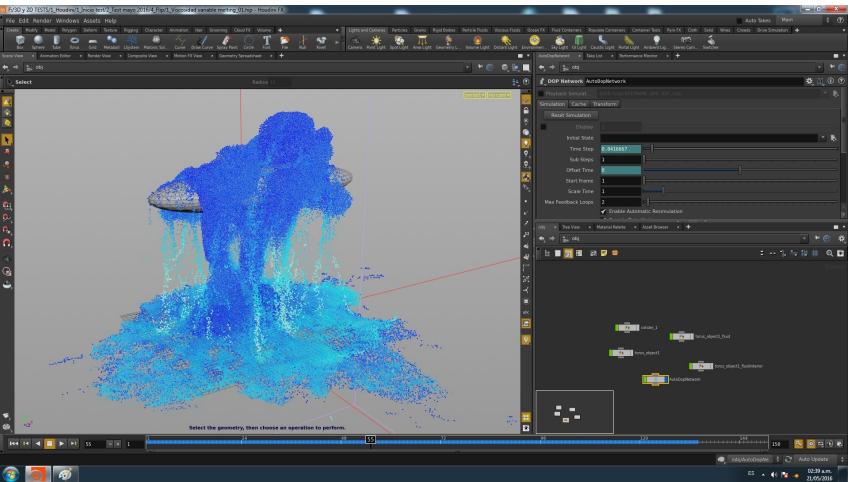
<https://alicevision.org/>



<https://www.freecadweb.org>

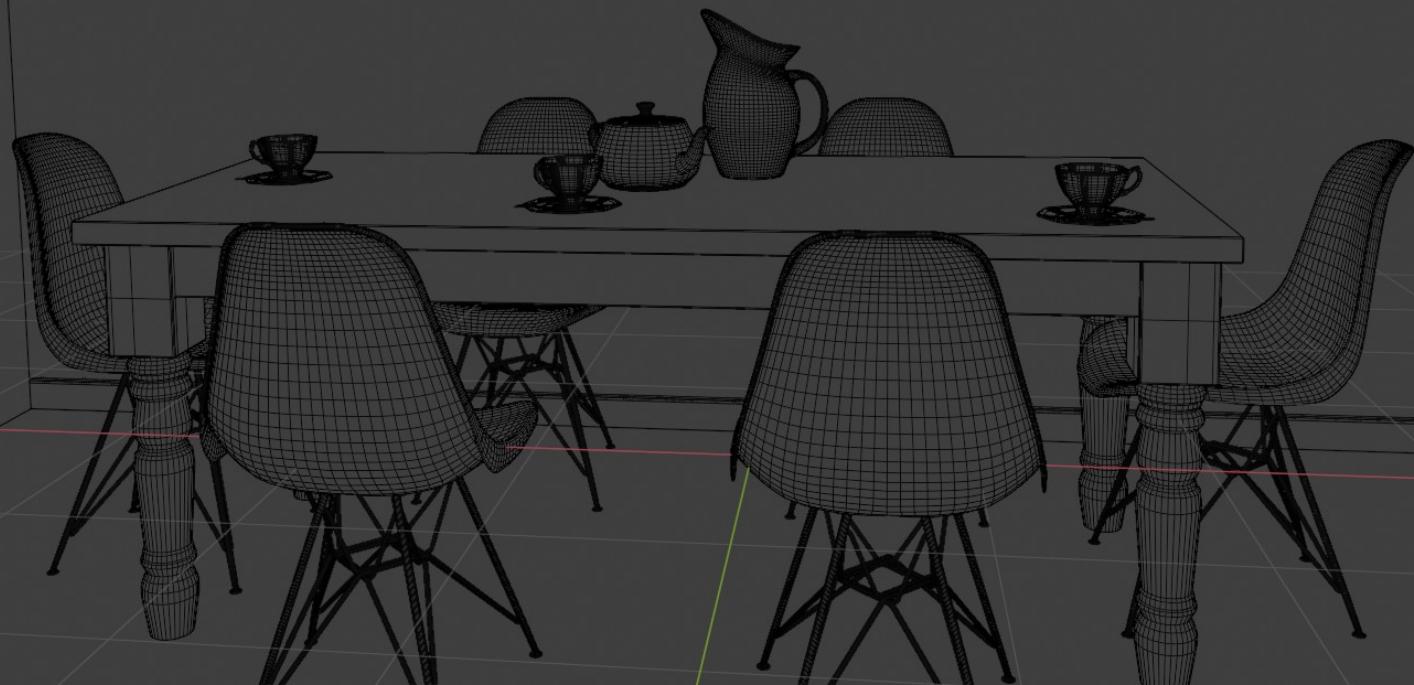


<https://www.blender.org/>



<https://e7p.artstation.com/projects/XbPLD>

3D scene



A modern dining room setup. A blue rectangular table with black legs is positioned against a light-colored wall. Six white chairs with black metal frames are arranged around the table. On the table, there is a white pitcher and a white teapot with a small white cup and saucer. The floor is made of blue-tiled tiles.

A dining room scene featuring a long, rectangular table set for tea. The table is covered with a white cloth and holds a white teapot, a small white pitcher, and four blue and white teacups on saucers. Six chairs with black frames and curved backrests are arranged around the table. The room is dimly lit, with light streaming in from a window on the right side, which has white horizontal blinds. The blinds cast long, thin shadows across the wall behind the table. The overall atmosphere is warm and cozy.

Rendering

Update 19.1.2022.

Object and
image centric terms

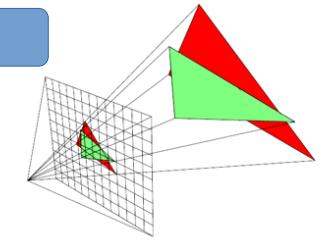
- Rasterization-based rendering
 - Object-centric approach
- Ray-tracing based rendering
 - Image-centric approach



Rasterization-based render – EEVEE (Blender)

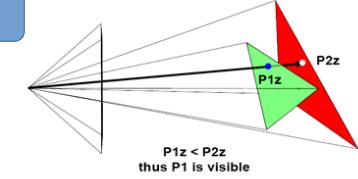
```
for T do in triangles  
  for P do in pixels  
    determine if P inside T  
  end for  
end for
```

Rasterization



```
for P do in pixels  
  for T do in triangles  
    determine if ray through P hits T  
  end for  
end for
```

Ray-tracing



© www.scratchapixel.com



Ray-tracing based render - Cycles (Blender)

Rendering

- Rasterization-based rendering: interactivity
- Ray-tracing based rendering: fidelity



<https://www.starwars.com/lego-star-wars-the-skywalker-saga>



Image



Different exposures of the same render: https://docs.blender.org/manual/en/latest/render/color_management.html

Pillars of image synthesis

- 3D scene
 - Objects
 - Lights
 - Cameras
- Rendering
 - Rasterization-based
 - Ray-tracing based
- Image
 - Display and post-processing

Landscape of computer graphics

- <https://www.realtimerendering.com/portal.html>



Real-Time Rendering Portal

Last changed: September 28, 2022

This page is devoted to sites and tools we use on a continuing basis. They're personal picks, and reflect our own biases.

1. [Ke-Sen Huang's conference pages](#) has links for papers from all the major computer graphics conferences and workshops. The pages by Tim Rowley are not available directly, but [this archive](#) contains them.
2. [Advances in Real-Time Rendering in 3D Graphics and Games](#), [Introduction to Real-Time Ray Tracing](#), [Open Problems in Real-Time Rendering](#), [An Overview of Next-Generation Graphics APIs](#), and [Stylized Rendering in Games](#) SIGGRAPH course materials are hosted on our site.
3. [SIGGRAPH 2021 links](#), compiled by Stephen Hill. Also see link pages for [SIGGRAPH 2020 links](#) [SIGGRAPH 2019 links](#) (and [SIGGRAPH 2019 ray tracing links](#)), [SIGGRAPH 2018](#), [SIGGRAPH 2017](#), [SIGGRAPH 2016](#), [SIGGRAPH 2015](#), [SIGGRAPH 2014](#), [SIGGRAPH 2013](#), [SIGGRAPH 2012](#) and [SIGGRAPH 2011](#).
4. [Game Developers Conference 2019 links](#), also [2018](#), [2017](#), [2016](#). There's none for 2015, but before then Javier "Jare" Arevalo collected [GDC 2014](#), [2013](#), and [2012](#) presentations. Also see the [GDC Vault](#).
5. [Graphics Programming weekly](#) - Jendrik Illner summarizes graphics blog articles. Think of it as your one-stop blog. He also has a nice [searchable collection](#).
6. [NVIDIA](#) (and [NVIDIA Research](#)), and [AMD](#) (plus [GPUOpen](#)) graphics developer sites - demos, code samples, white papers, etc. Other worthwhile code samples at [Humus-3D](#).
7. Min Chen's list of [Computer Graphics Forum](#) State-of-the-Art (STAR), survey, and review papers since 2010.
8. [The Journal of Computer Graphics Techniques](#) - open access (free to all) and many articles include code samples.
9. [Journal of Graphics Tools](#) (JGT) code repository.
10. [Graphics Gems Repository](#) - contains the source code for many graphics algorithms. Search the contents by [category](#), by [author](#), or by [book](#).
11. [Developer sites and mailing lists](#): [GameDev.net](#) is active, as is [OpenGL.org](#), [Ogre Forums](#), [GD Algorithms](#) archives dying out but searchable ([subscribe](#)), and [FlipCode](#) (old, closed, but some good things in the archives).
12. [Game company publication pages](#): alphabetically, and a few quite dated, but here goes. [Frostbite](#), [Guerrilla Games](#), [Unreal Engine](#), [Unity](#), [Ready At Dawn](#), [Tri-Ace](#), and [Activision](#).
13. [Film company publication pages](#): [Disney](#) (Hyperion renderer specific) and [Pixar](#).
14. [Commercial research lab pages](#): [Microsoft Research Asia](#), [Microsoft Research U.S.](#), and [Cesium](#) (GIS).
15. The [Level Up Report](#) by Mark DeLoura is a free weekly that provides pointers to all sorts of developments and resources for learning through games, coding, and making.
16. [Level 80](#) has a constant stream of information for game artists and content creators.
17. [Free \(and good\) books online](#)

Course organization

Computer graphics is a toolset

- This course is not about art, design, game-development, film, visualization for engineering and science domains, etc.
- This course gives fundamental tools for creating imagery for arbitrary discipline
- Tool alone is not enough to create images
 - Applying graphics to specific domain area (game, film, sci-vis, etc.) requires understanding domain as well.

About lecturer

- PhD 2020 – 2023: “Material and geometry modeling for visual surface inspection planning.
 - Virtual surface inspection planning, Fraunhofer ITWM, Kaiserslautern, Germany
 - Computer graphics and HCI TU Kaiserslautern, Kaiserslautern, Germany
- Interests: computer graphics, procedural geometry, interactive graphics, animation, material modeling, rendering
- Background: Computer science, University of Zagreb, Croatia
- Contact: lovro.bosnar@itwm.fraunhofer.de

About you

- What is computer graphics for you?
- Your experience with computer graphics?

Course contents

- Lectures
- Project
- Exam

Lectures plan

10 lectures; Wednesday 14-17h, 3 x 45min

- Lecture 1 (18.1.2023): introduction (this) and image synthesis overview
- No lecture (25.1.2023)
- Lecture 2 (1.2.2023): 3D scene overview, transforms and object shapes
- Lecture 3 (8.2.2023): Materials: scattering model
- Lecture 4 (15.2.2023): Materials: texture
- Lecture 5 (22.2.2023): Lights and cameras
- Lecture 6 (1.3.2023): Rendering overview
- Lecture 7 (8.3.2023): Ray-tracing based rendering
- Lecture 8 (15.3.2023): Rasterization-based rendering
- Lecture 9 (22.3.2023): Display, images and post-processing
- Lecture 10 (29.3.2023): Advanced topics and outlook

Lectures

- The point of lectures is to give the structure and foundations
 - They are starting point, a map, which is for you to explore.
- During lectures write down important points and ask if anything is not clear
 - Feel free to interrupt! If something is not clear for you it is a high possibility it is also not clear for someone else – it is good to repeat!

Map of computer graphics

- Point of lectures is to give structure – a map and it is up to you to fill it.

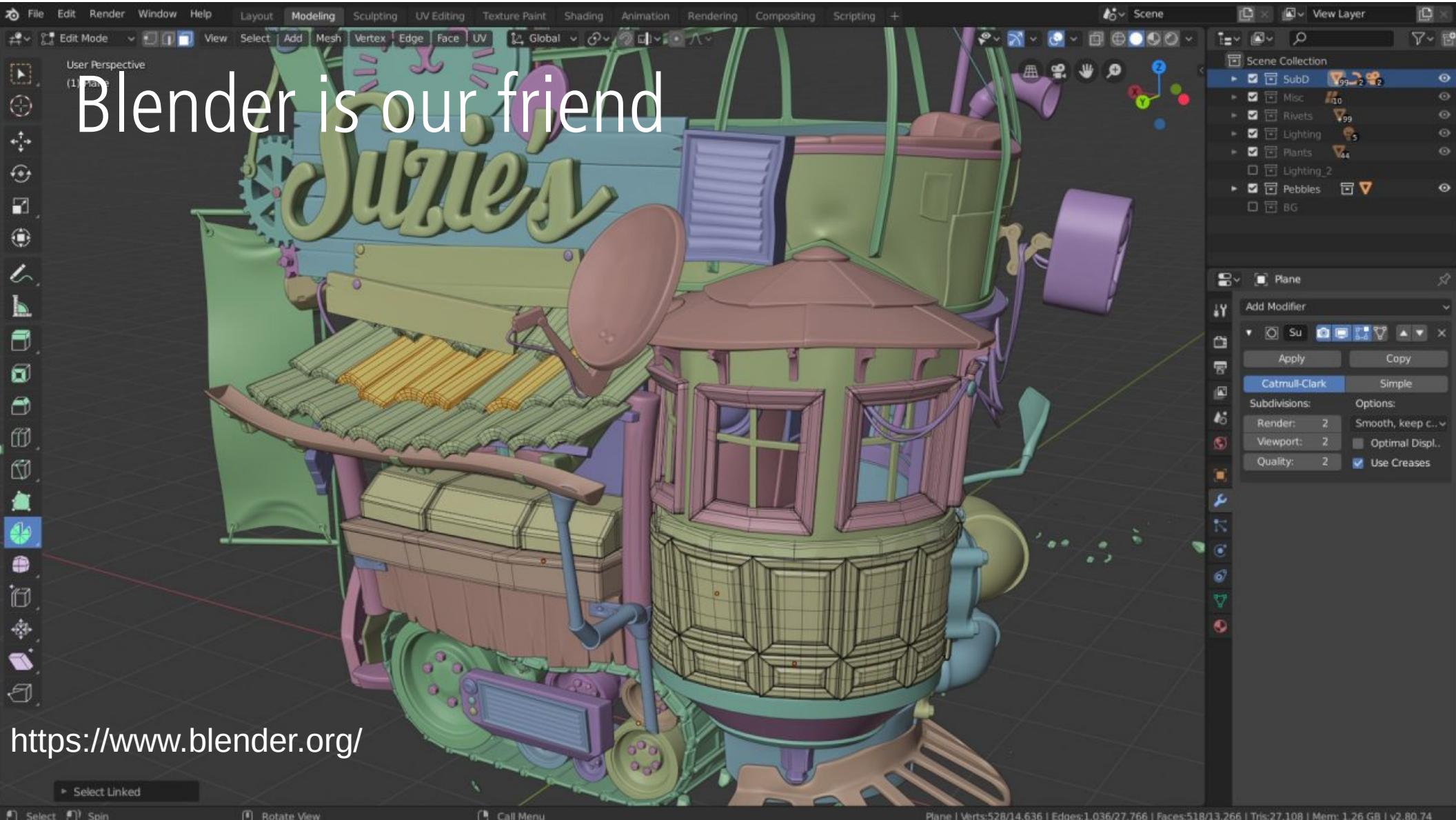


Note for lectures

- All information will be on slides
- Take notes, some elements will be written on board
- Note for slides
 - Slides were intended for both lectures and as reading material.
 - Important elements will be highlighted
 - Your interaction is crucial for best learning experience – feel free to interrupt and ask questions!

Lectures: what is important and preparing for exam

- The point of lectures is to give overview with occasional deep dives
- There might be a lot of content and faster pace of lecturing
- Things that are important for you to take away and which will be on exam will be given as questions at the end of each lecture



Blender is our friend

<https://www.blender.org/>

Select Linked

Select Spin

Rotate View

Call Menu

Plane | Verts:528/14,636 | Edges:1,036/27,766 | Faces:518/13,266 | Tris:27,108 | Mem: 1.26 GB | v2.80.74

Projects

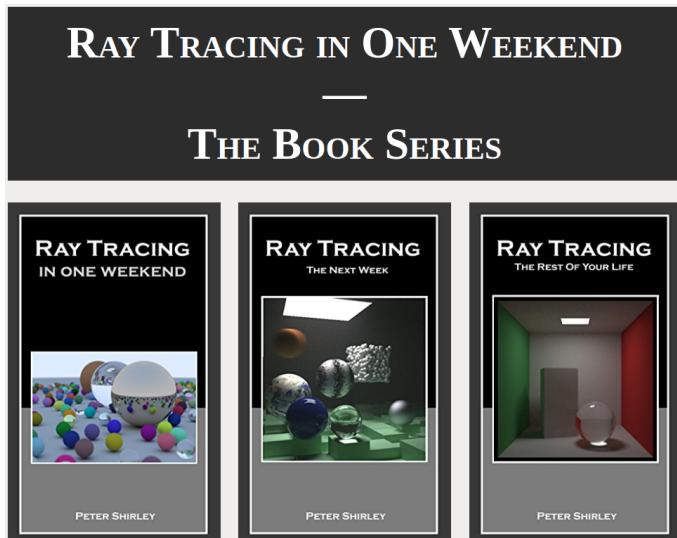
- During lectures we will cover wide range of methods and ideas conceptually
- During project work, you will have time to dive deeper into technical aspects and implementations of what is the most interesting to you.
- Projects: a time dedicated to experience real-life development (and research).
 - Projects can be started even after this lecture: decide on topic and start investigating!
 - Projects should be time for you to research and work on your own - consultations are always possible!
 - Projects are made to be fun and engaging: choose what you like!

Projects

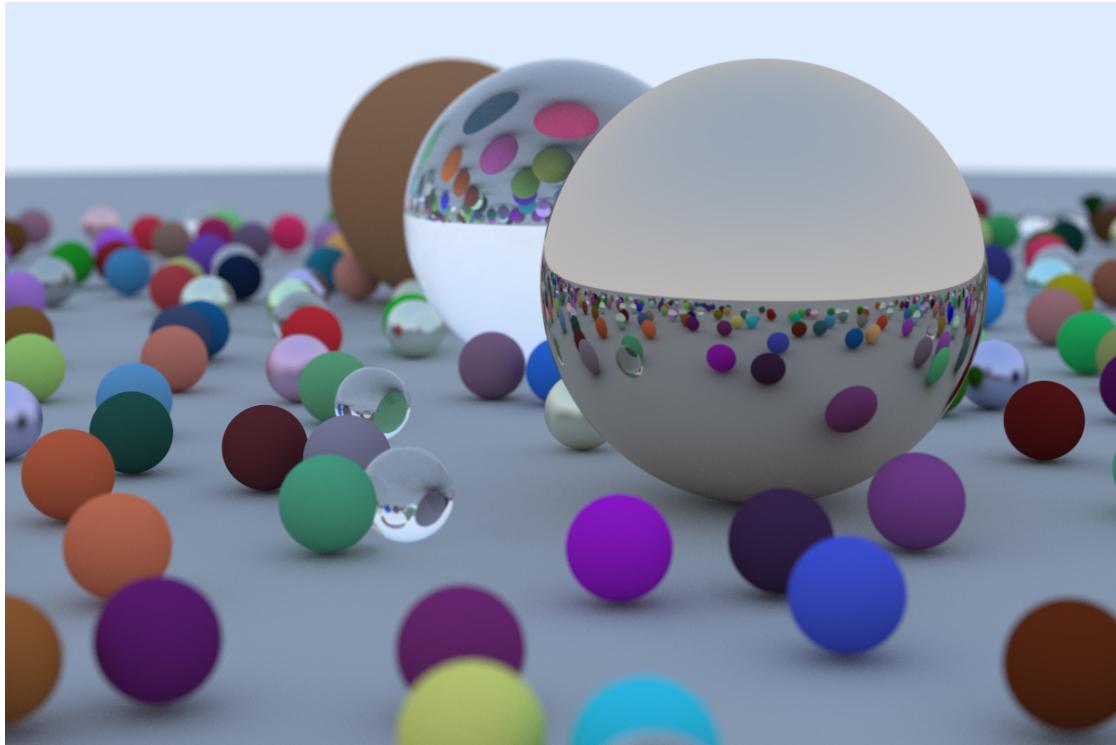
- One of following:
 - Ray-tracing rendering engine from scratch
 - Web-based interactive 3D engine: three.js
 - Modeling and animation in Blender
- Ideas for your own project?
 - Game
 - Animation
 - Visualization

Projects: ray-tracing rendering engine from scratch

- Complete rendering engine from scratch
- Requirements: knowledge of one programming language (e.g., C++, Python, etc.)



Project guide: <https://raytracing.github.io/>



What after?

- Good basis for building more complex renderer with advanced features:
 - <https://pbrt.org/>
 - <https://github.com/mmp/pbrt-v3>
 - <https://github.com/mitsuba-renderer/mitsuba2>
- Investigating and contributing to production rendering engines:
 - <https://github.com/appleseedhq/appleseed>
 - <https://www.cycles-renderer.org/>
 - <https://luxcorerender.org/>



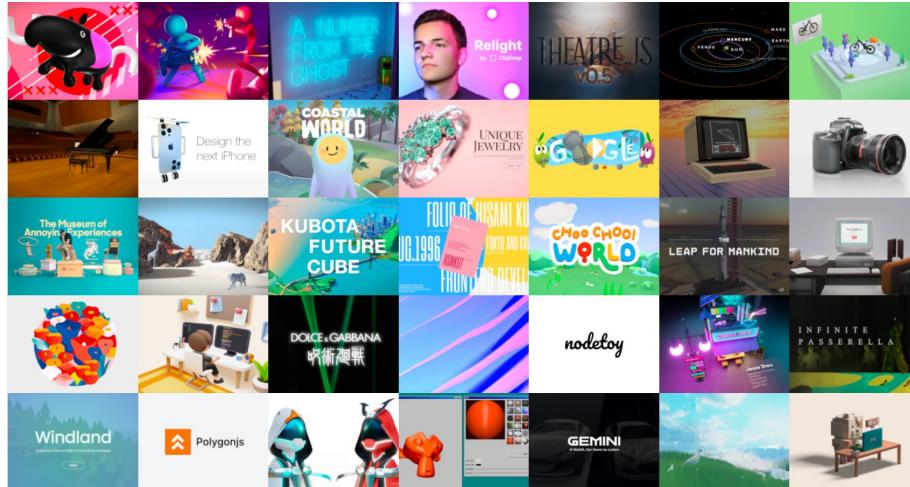
<https://www.cycles-renderer.org/>



<https://github.com/mmp/pbrt-v3>

Projects: web-based interactive 3D engine: three.js

- Web-based 3D library and renderer based on WebGL
- Requirements:
 - Three.js setup
 - Knowledge of javascript
 - Learning about three.js API



Three.js library with documentation and examples for project: <https://threejs.org/>



<https://henryheffernan.com/>

What after?

- Building advanced web-based 3D graphics:
 - <https://threejs.org/>
- Diving deeper into real-time, interactive rendering APIs:
 - WebGL: <http://learnwebgl.brown37.net/>
 - OpenGL: <https://learnopengl.com/>
 - Vulkan: <https://vulkan-tutorial.com/>
- Game engines for advanced interactive graphics:
 - <https://www.unrealengine.com/en-US>
 - <https://unity.com/>
 - <https://godotengine.org/>



Project: modeling and animation in Blender

- Learning modeling, animation and rendering in open-source, production tool.
- Prerequisites:
 - Downloading blender: <https://www.blender.org/>
 - Learning Blender



Blender: <https://www.blender.org/>



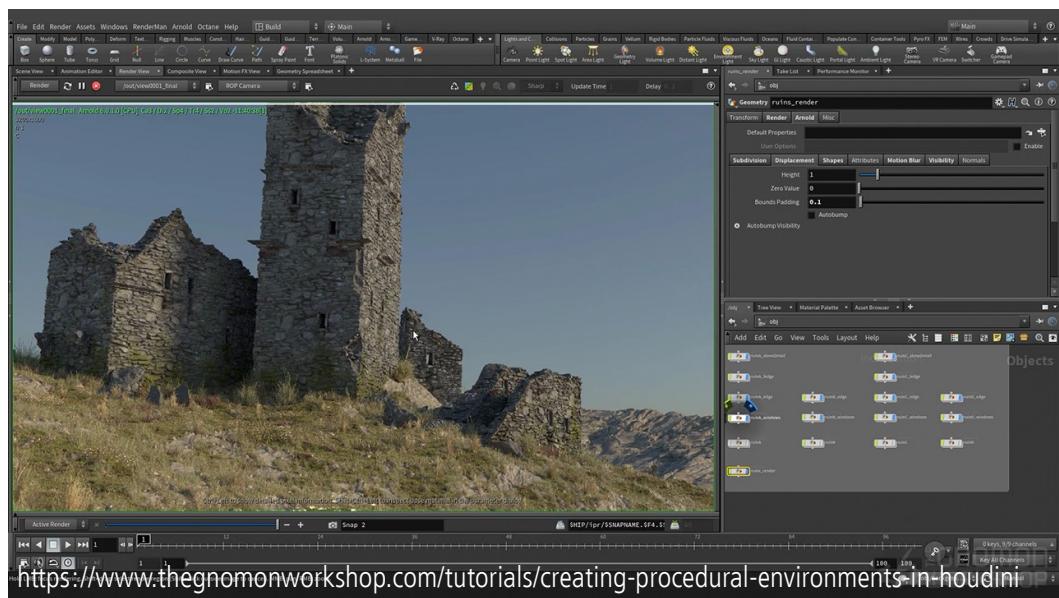
<https://casual-effects.com/data/index.html>

What after?

- Advanced 3D modeling, sculpting, lighting, material modeling, rendering and compositing in Blender and other content creation tools:
 - <https://www.blender.org/features/>
 - <https://www.maxon.net/en/zbrush>
 - <https://www.adobe.com/products/substance3d-painter.html>
 - <https://renderman.pixar.com/>
- Advanced procedural modeling in Houdini:
 - <https://www.sidefx.com/>



<https://www.adobe.com/products/substance3d-painter.html>



<https://www.thegnomonworkshop.com/tutorials/creating-procedural-environments-in-houdini>

Projects: your own project?

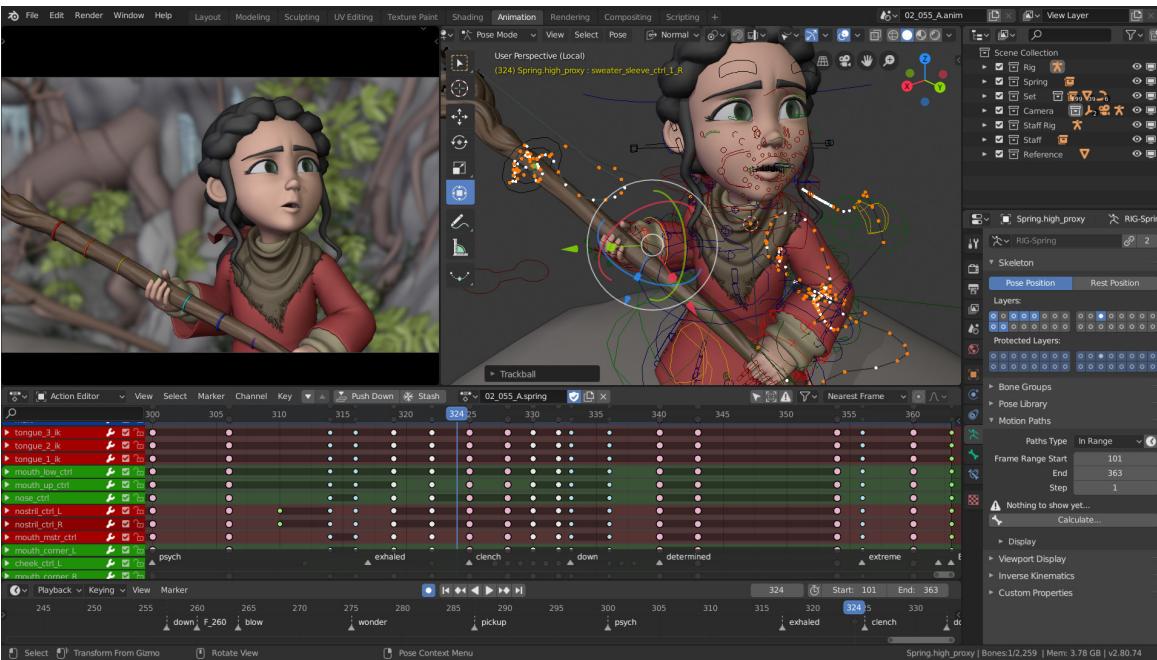
- Write a small project roadmap and deliverables
 - What will be done
 - How
 - What are expected results

Course outcomes

- Understand fundamental concepts and theory behind
- Typically mathematics, algorithms and methods used in computer graphics
- Understanding how foundations are supporting technology and which technology exists for you to create
- Structure and map of the computer graphics

Special outcomes

- “Seeing world with different eyes”
- Foundations for visualization and expression



Course web-site and materials

- Course web-site
 - <https://github.com/lorentzo/IntroductionToComputerGraphics>
 - All materials are available in advance with most recent updates
 - TIP: read materials before lecture – it helps for following the lecture

Additional learning material

- <https://www.realtimerendering.com/>
- <https://www.scratchapixel.com/>
- <https://learnopengl.com/>
- <https://raytracing.github.io/>
- <https://pbrt.org/>

Course grading

- One project of your choice
 - Grading: amount of technical contribution and documentation: required and optional tasks
 - Deadline: 8.4.2023
- Exam
 - Theory and concepts, multiple choices type of exam
 - Concepts, not equations and learning by heart
 - Preparation: questions after lectures
 - Date: 5.4.2023, 14h (30 min)

Summary

Update 30.1.2023.
Adding link to questions

- Questions: https://github.com/lorentzo/IntroductionToComputerGraphics/tree/main/lectures/1_introduction