

# Head Mounted Display Optics II



Gordon Wetzstein  
Stanford University

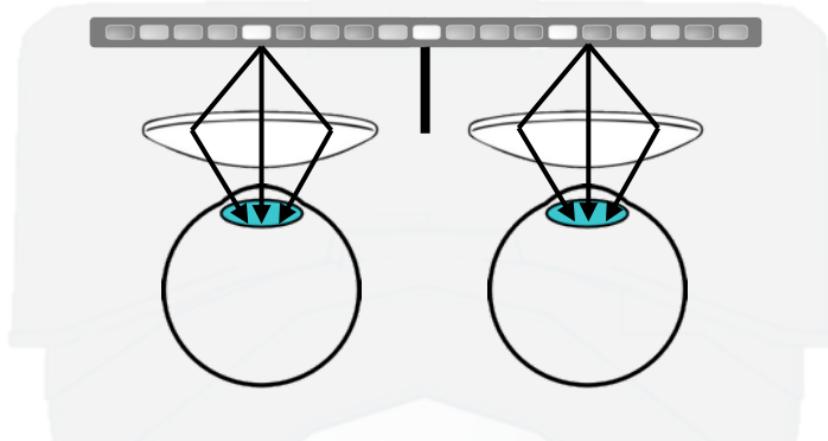
EE 267 Virtual Reality

Lecture 8

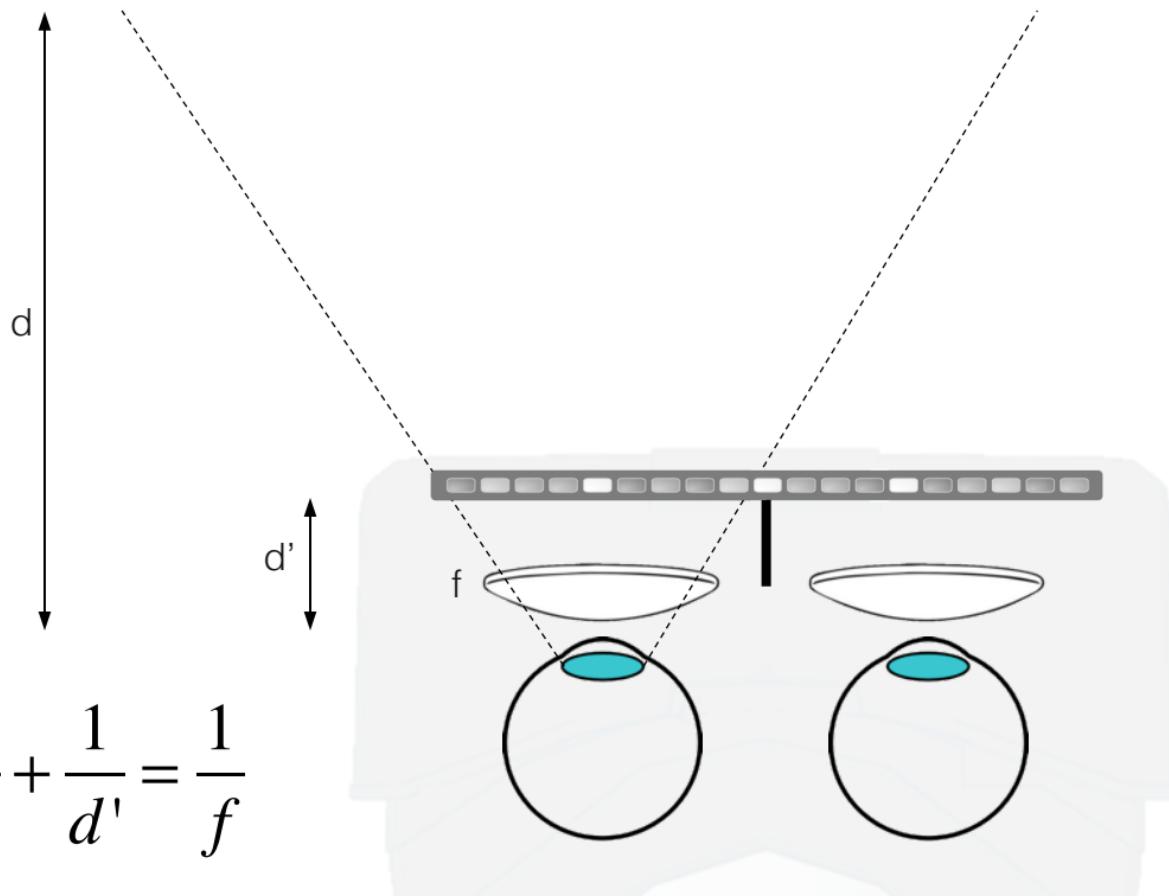
[stanford.edu/class/ee267/](http://stanford.edu/class/ee267/)

# Lecture Overview

- focus cues & the vergence-accommodation conflict
- advanced optics for VR with focus cues:
  - gaze-contingent varifocal displays
  - volumetric and multi-plane displays
  - near-eye light field displays
  - Maxwellian-type displays
- AR displays



# Magnified Display

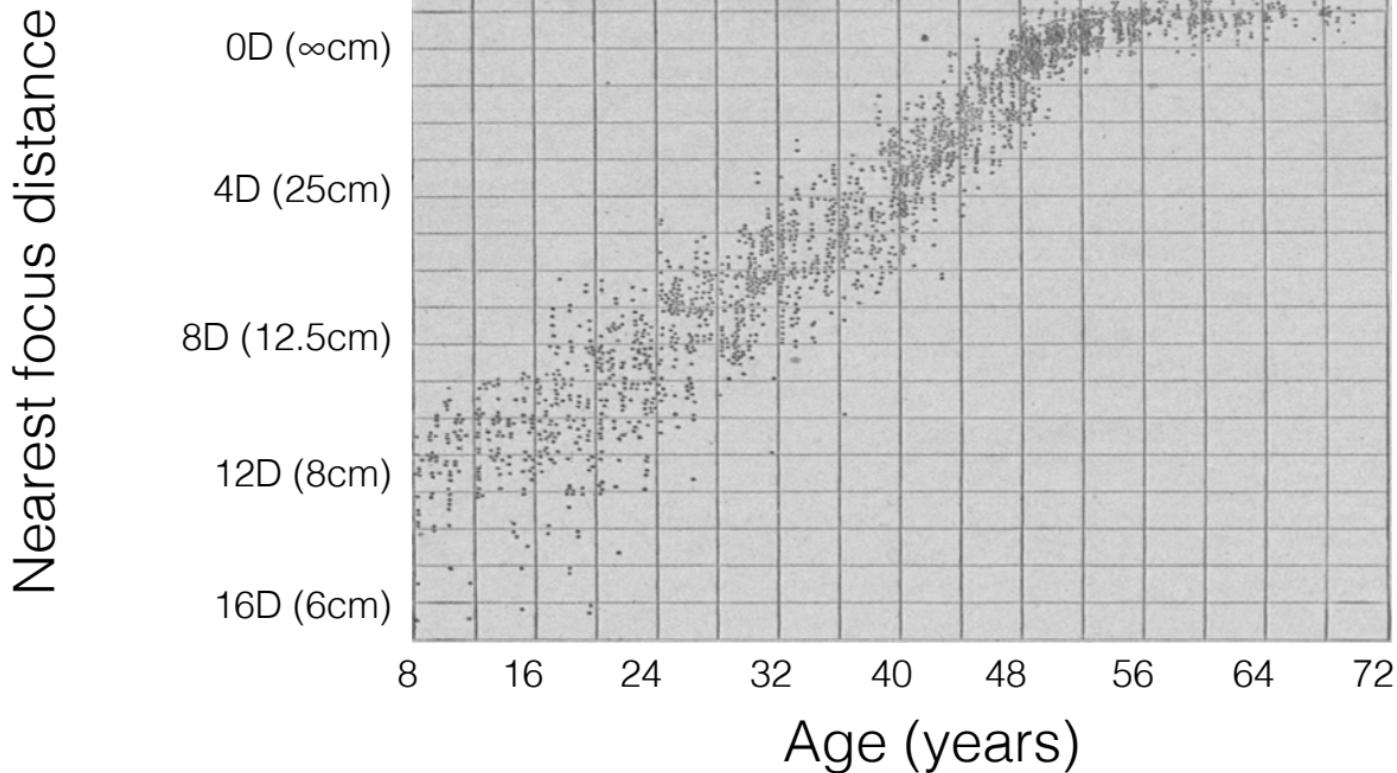


$$\frac{1}{d} + \frac{1}{d'} = \frac{1}{f}$$

- big challenge:  
virtual image  
appears at  
fixed focal  
plane!
- no focus cues



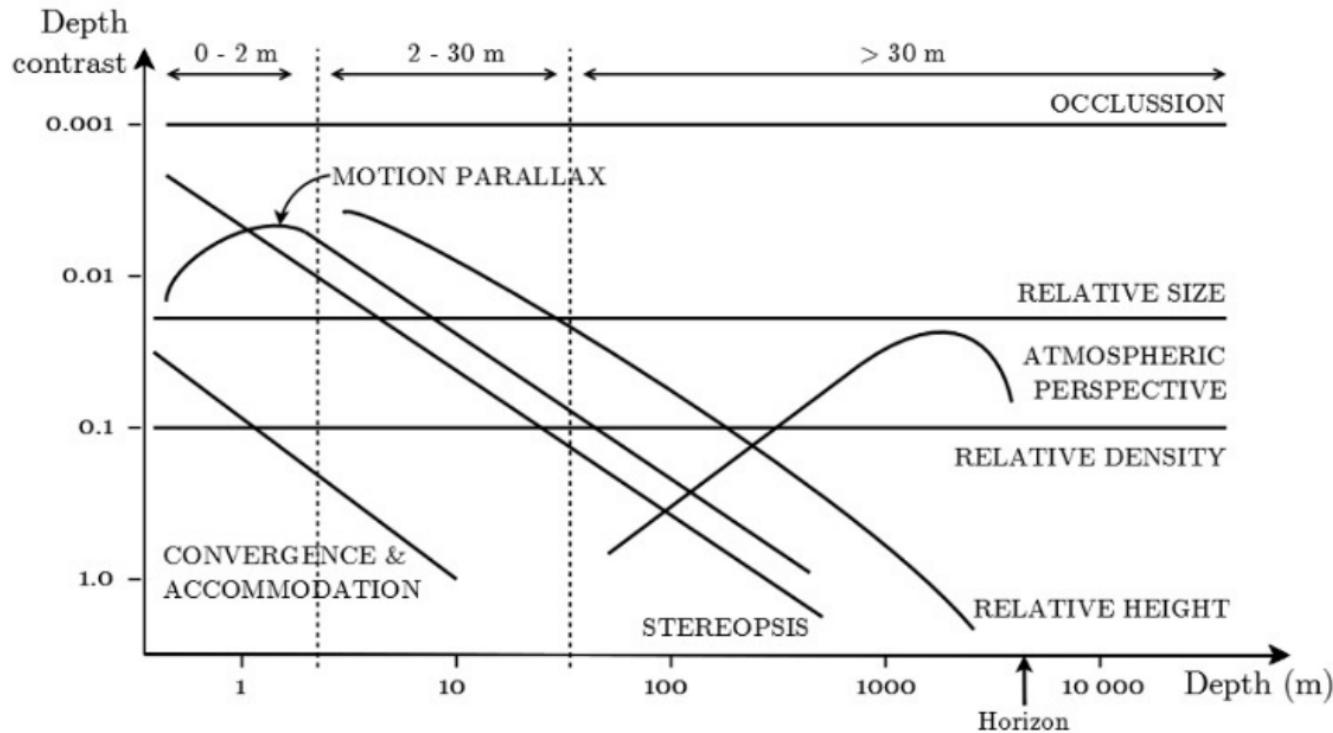
# Importance of Focus Cues Decreases with Age - Presbyopia



Duane, 1912

# Relative Importance of Depth Cues

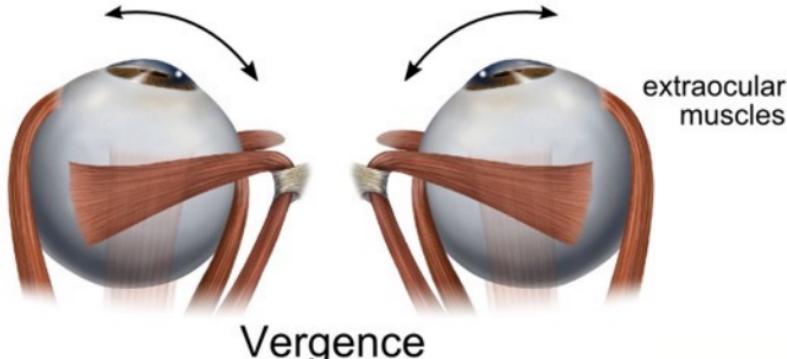
Cutting & Vishton, 1995



# The Vergence-Accommodation Conflict (VAC)

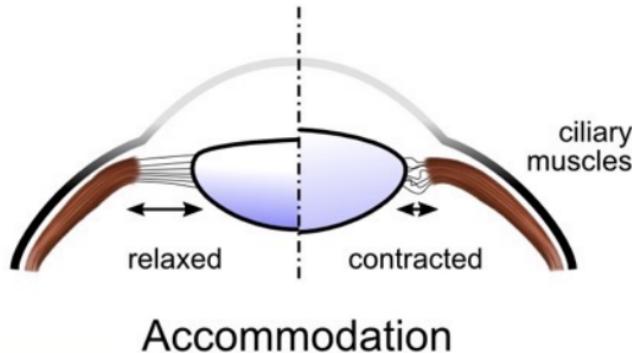
## Oculomotor Cue

### Stereopsis (Binocular)



Binocular Disparity

### Focus Cues (Monocular)



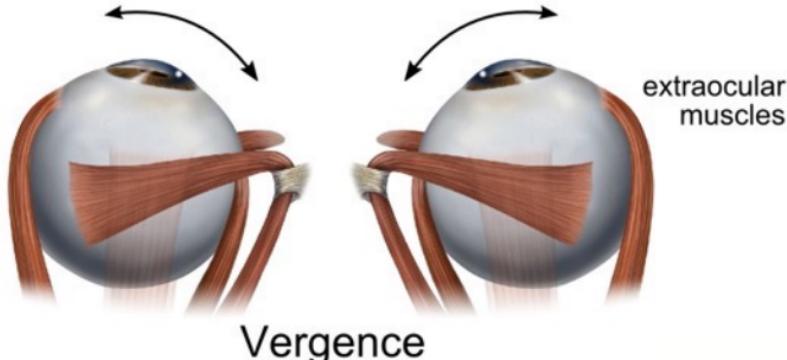
Accommodation



Retinal Blur

## Oculomotor Cue

### Stereopsis (Binocular)

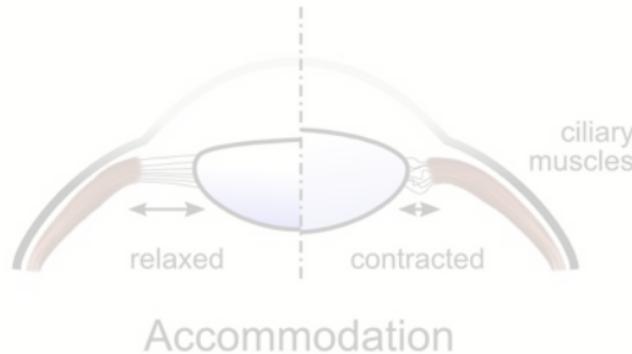


## Visual Cue



Binocular Disparity

### Focus Cues (Monocular)



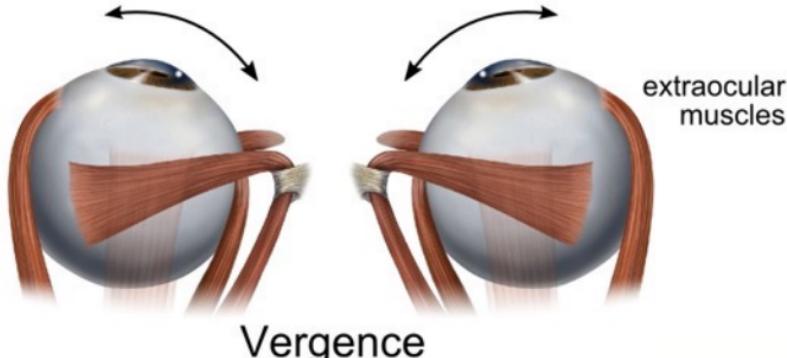
Accommodation



Retinal Blur

## Oculomotor Cue

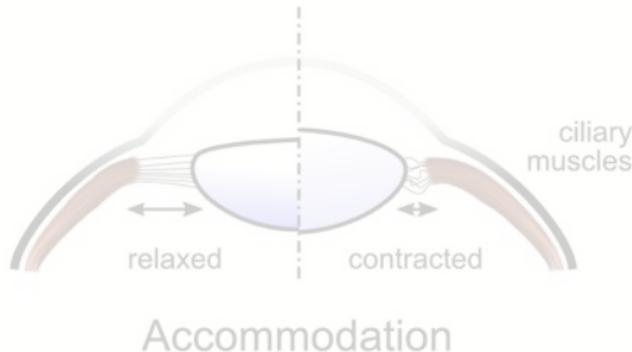
### Stereopsis (Binocular)



Binocular Disparity

## Visual Cue

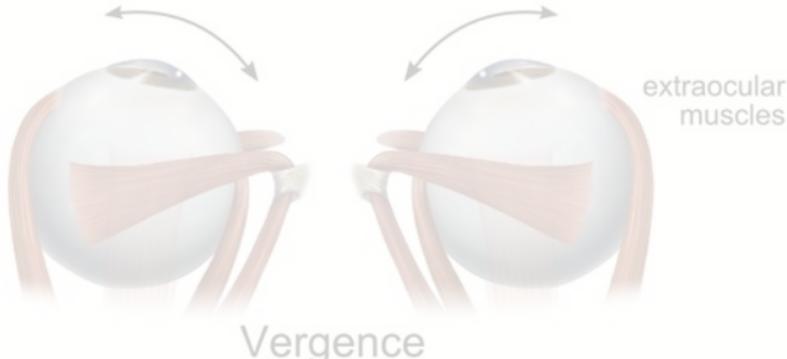
### Focus Cues (Monocular)



Retinal Blur

## Oculomotor Cue

### Stereopsis (Binocular)

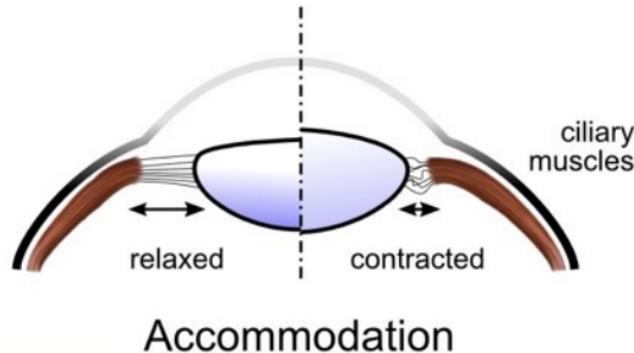


## Visual Cue

Binocular Disparity



### Focus Cues (Monocular)



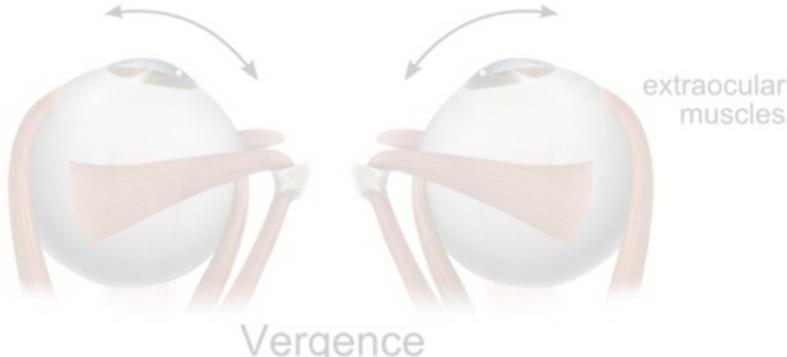
Accommodation



Retinal Blur

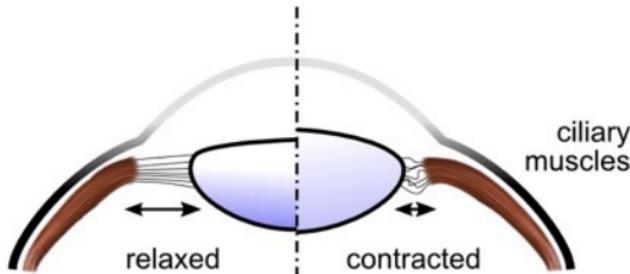
## Oculomotor Cue

### Stereopsis (Binocular)



Binocular Disparity

### Focus Cues (Monocular)



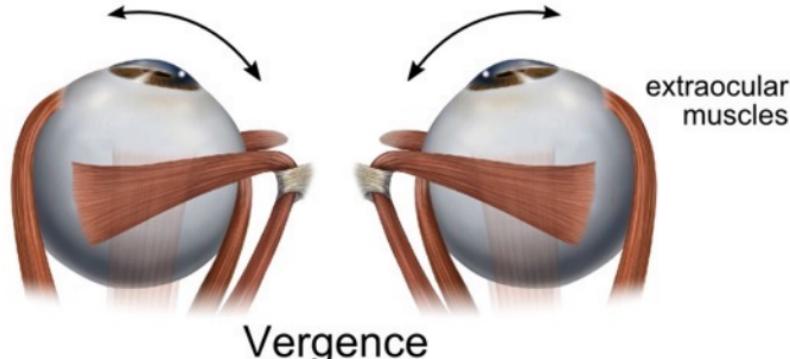
Accommodation



Retinal Blur

## Oculomotor Cue

### Stereopsis (Binocular)

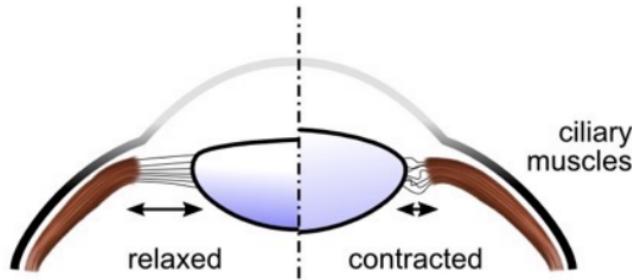


Vergence



Binocular Disparity

### Focus Cues (Monocular)



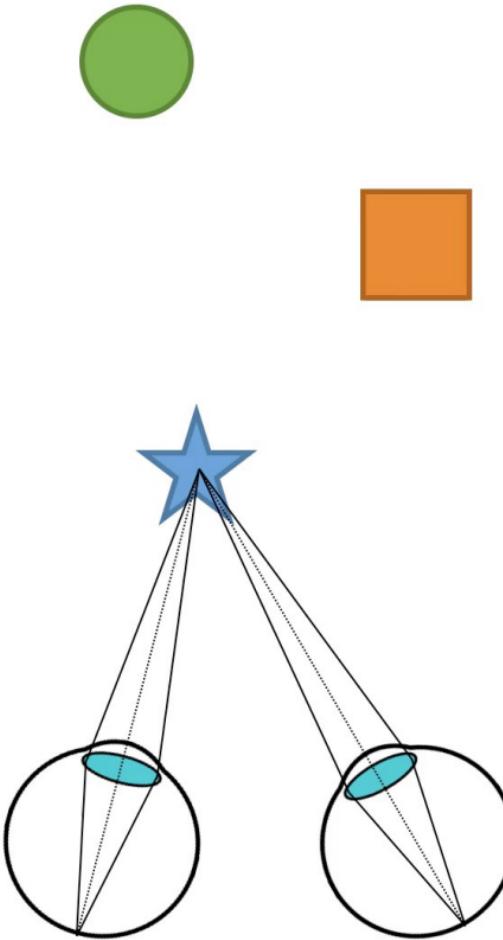
Accommodation



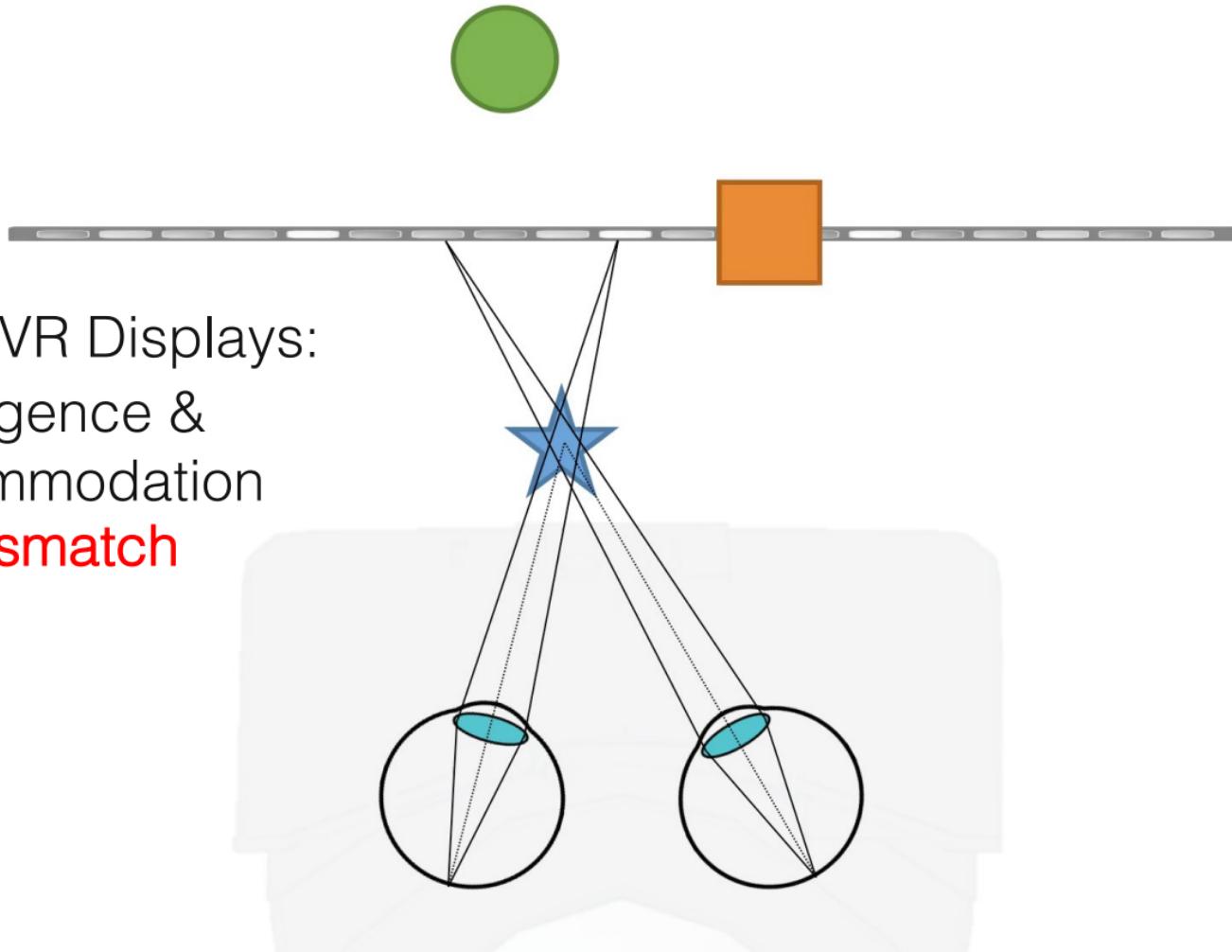
Retinal Blur

## Visual Cue

Real World:  
Vergence &  
Accommodation  
**Match!**

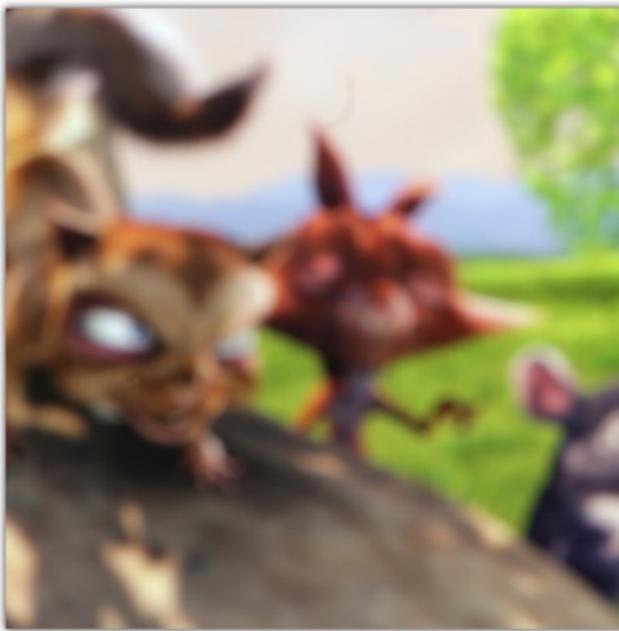


Current VR Displays:  
Vergence &  
Accommodation  
**Mismatch**



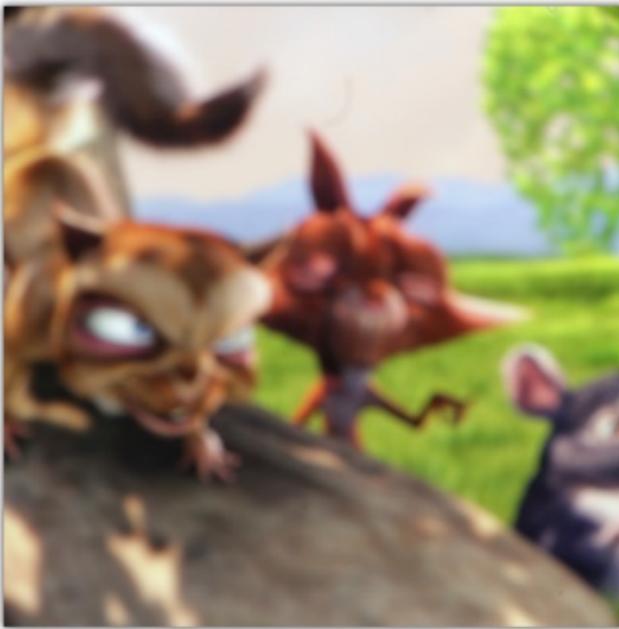
# Accommodation and Retinal Blur

Conventional Display



# Blur Gradient Driven Accommodation

Conventional Display



# Blur Gradient Driven Accommodation

Conventional Display

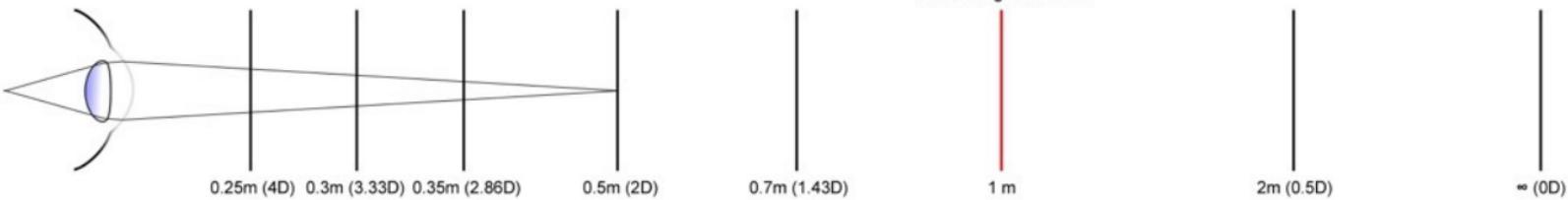


virtual image of screen



# Blur Gradient Driven Accommodation

Conventional Display

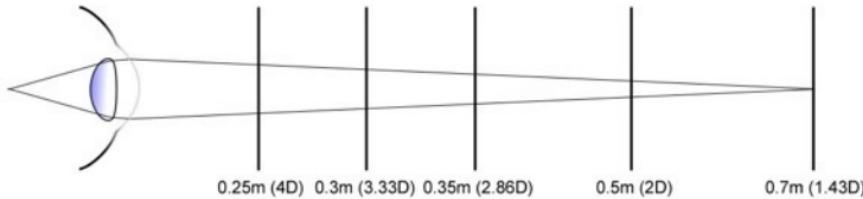


# Blur Gradient Driven Accommodation

Conventional Display

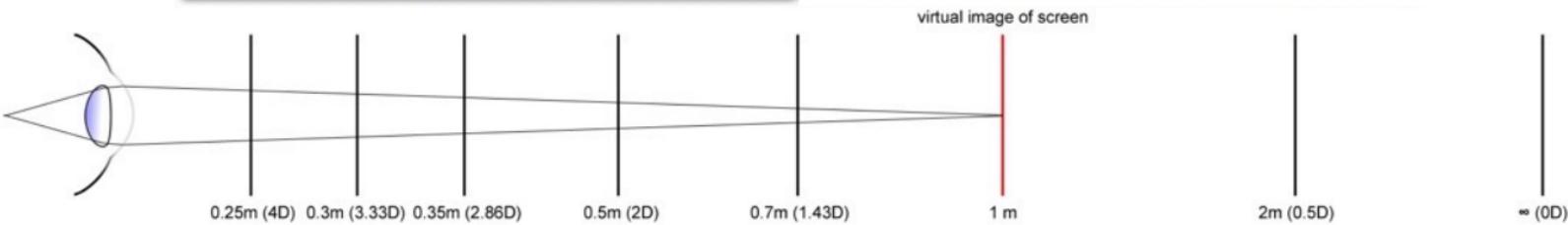


virtual image of screen



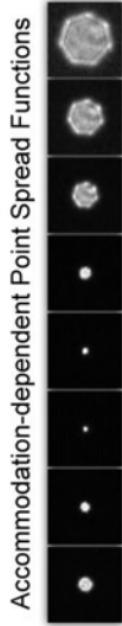
# Blur Gradient Driven Accommodation

Conventional Display

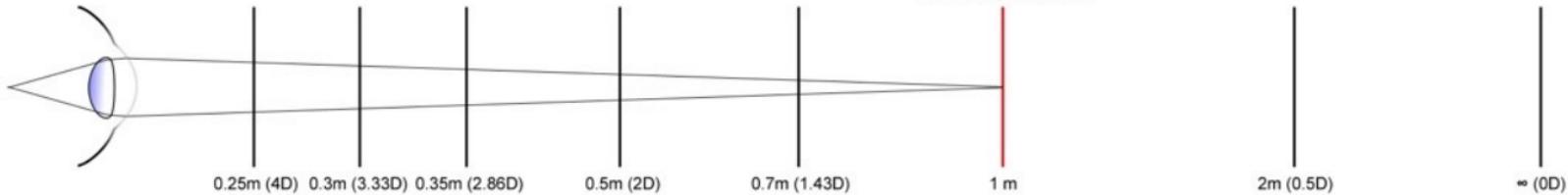


# Blur Gradient Driven Accommodation

Conventional Display



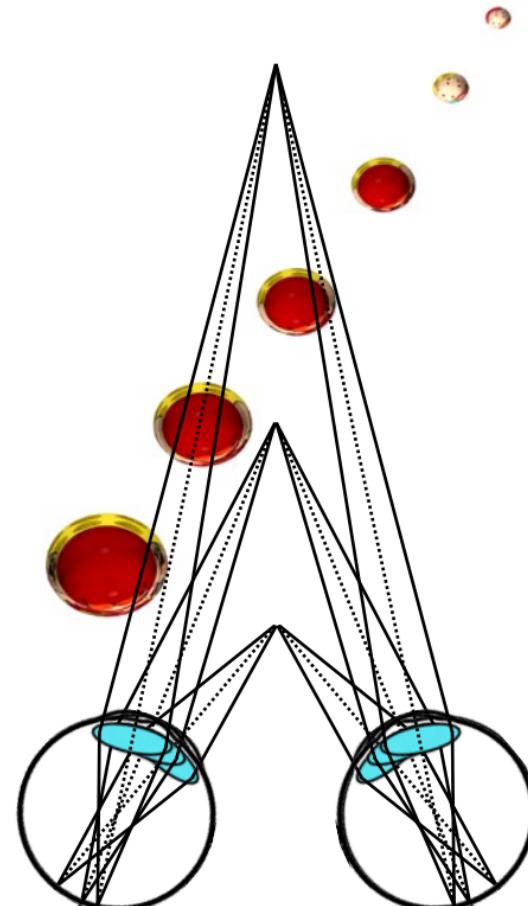
virtual image of screen





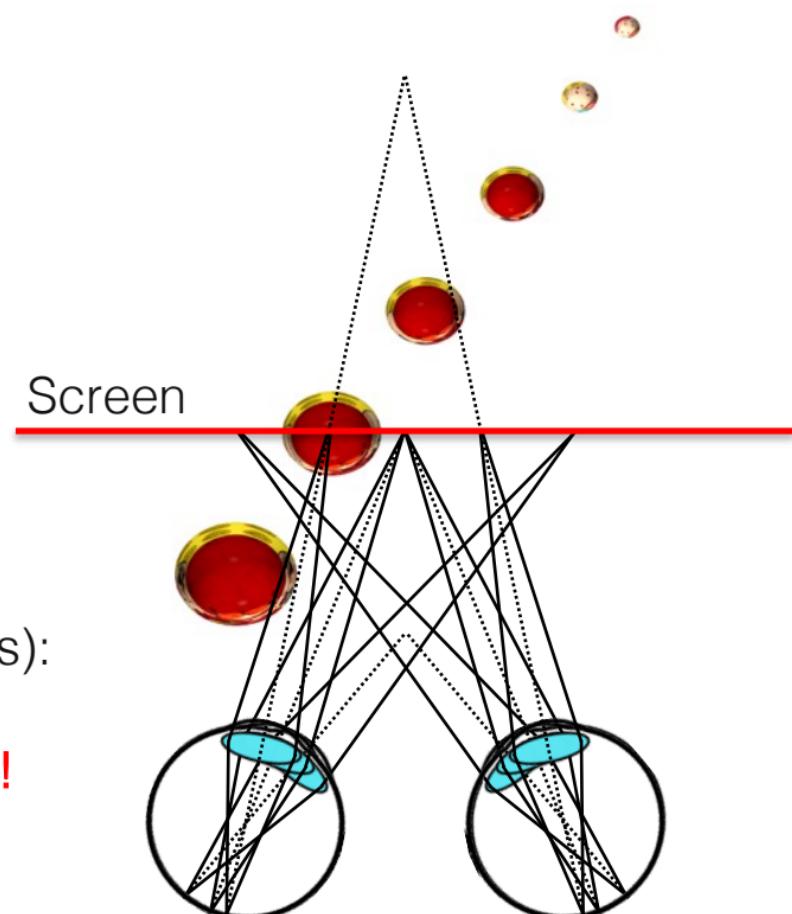
Top View

Real World:  
Vergence & Accommodation **Match!**





Top View



Stereo Displays Today (including HMDs):

Vergence-Accommodation **Mismatch!**

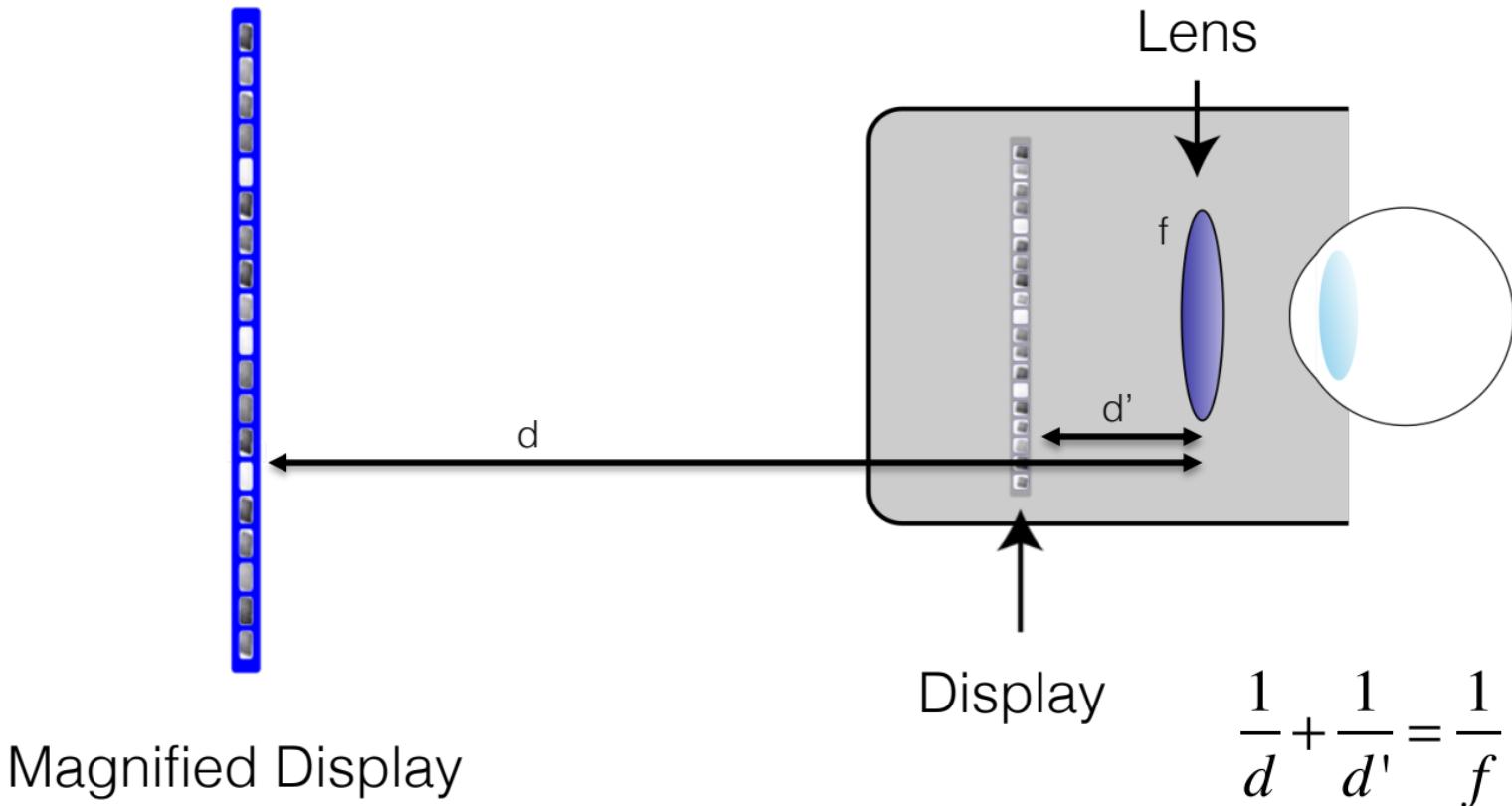
# Consequences of Vergence-Accommodation Conflict

- Visual discomfort (eye tiredness & eyestrain) after ~20 minutes of stereoscopic depth judgments (Hoffman et al. 2008; Shibata et al. 2011)
- Degrades visual performance in terms of reaction times and acuity for stereoscopic vision (Hoffman et al. 2008; Konrad et al. 2016; Johnson et al. 2016)
- Short-term effects: *double vision (diplopia), reduced visual clarity*

# VR Displays with Focus Cues

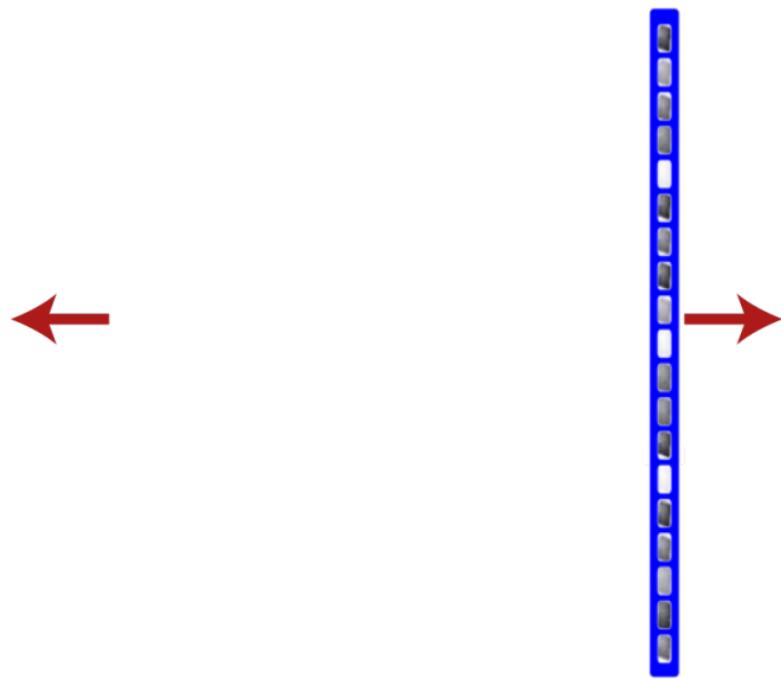
1. Gaze-contingent Varifocal Displays

# Fixed Focus Displays

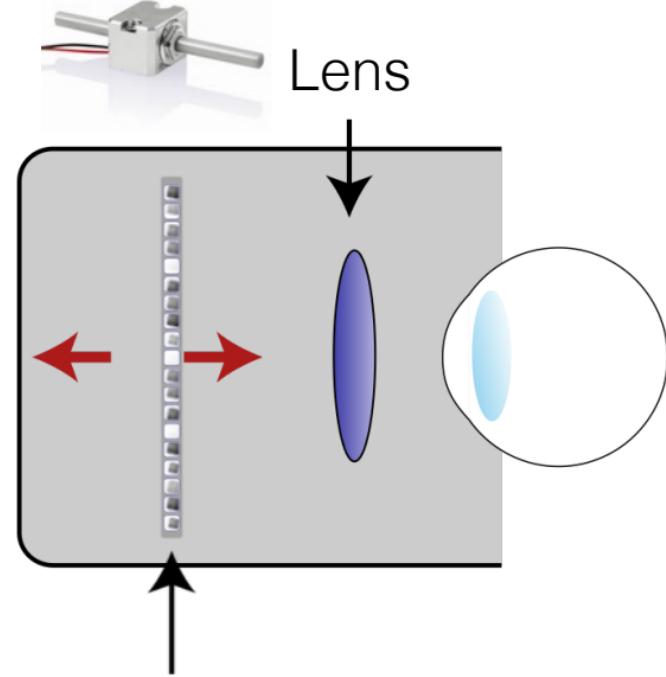


# Varifocal Displays

actuator → vary  $d'$



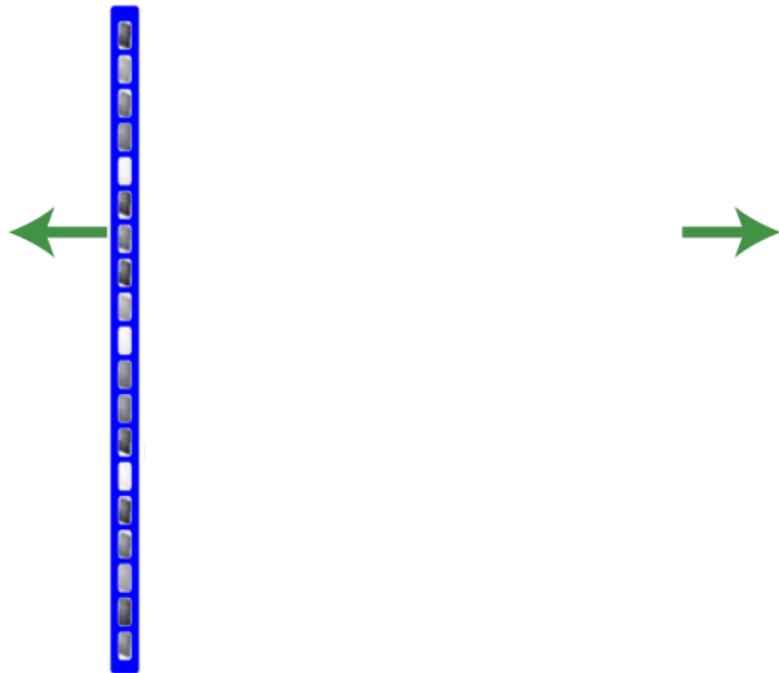
Magnified Display



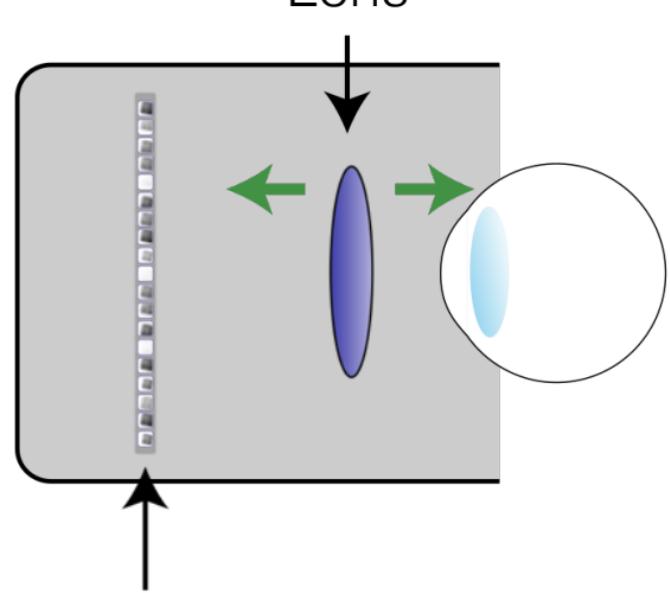
Display

$$\frac{1}{d} + \frac{1}{d'} = \frac{1}{f}$$

# Varifocal Displays



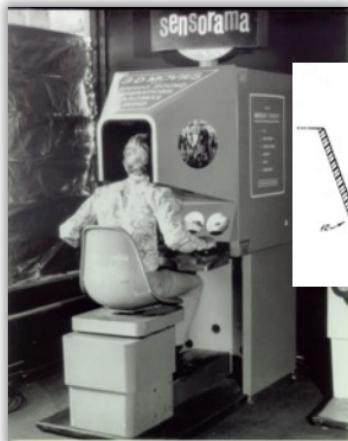
Magnified Display



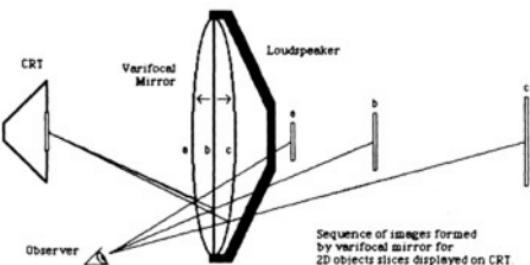
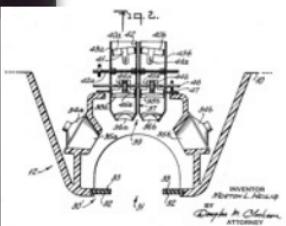
Display

$$\frac{1}{d} + \frac{1}{d'} = \frac{1}{f}$$

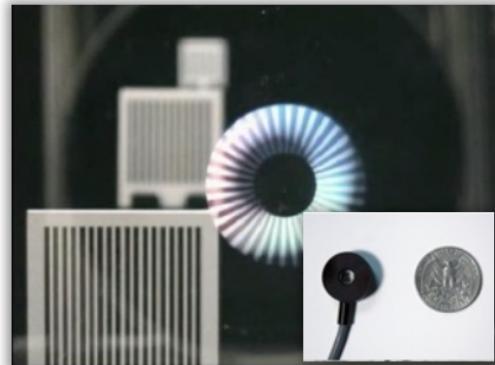
# Varifocal Displays - History



manual focus adjustment  
Heilig 1962

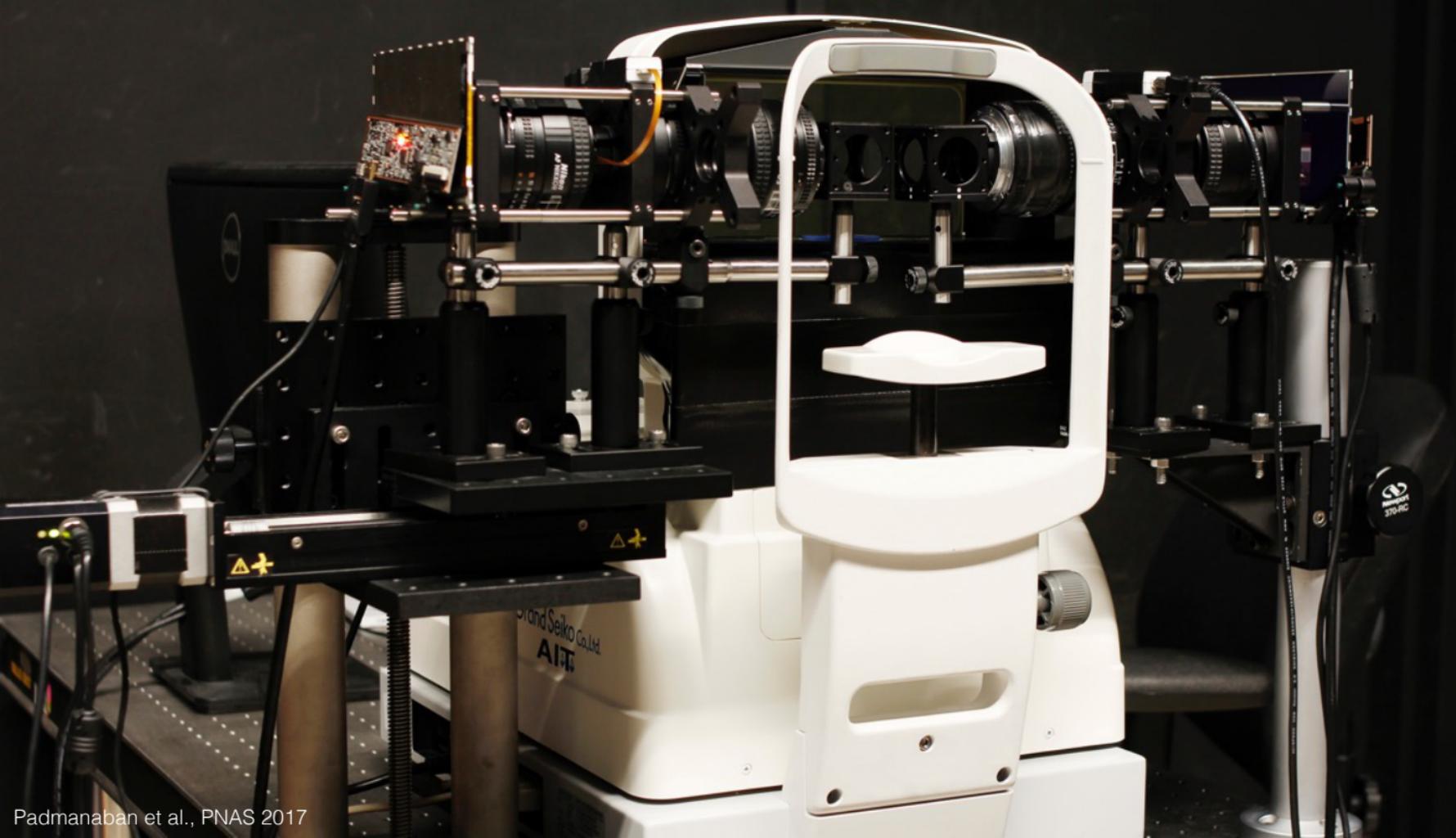


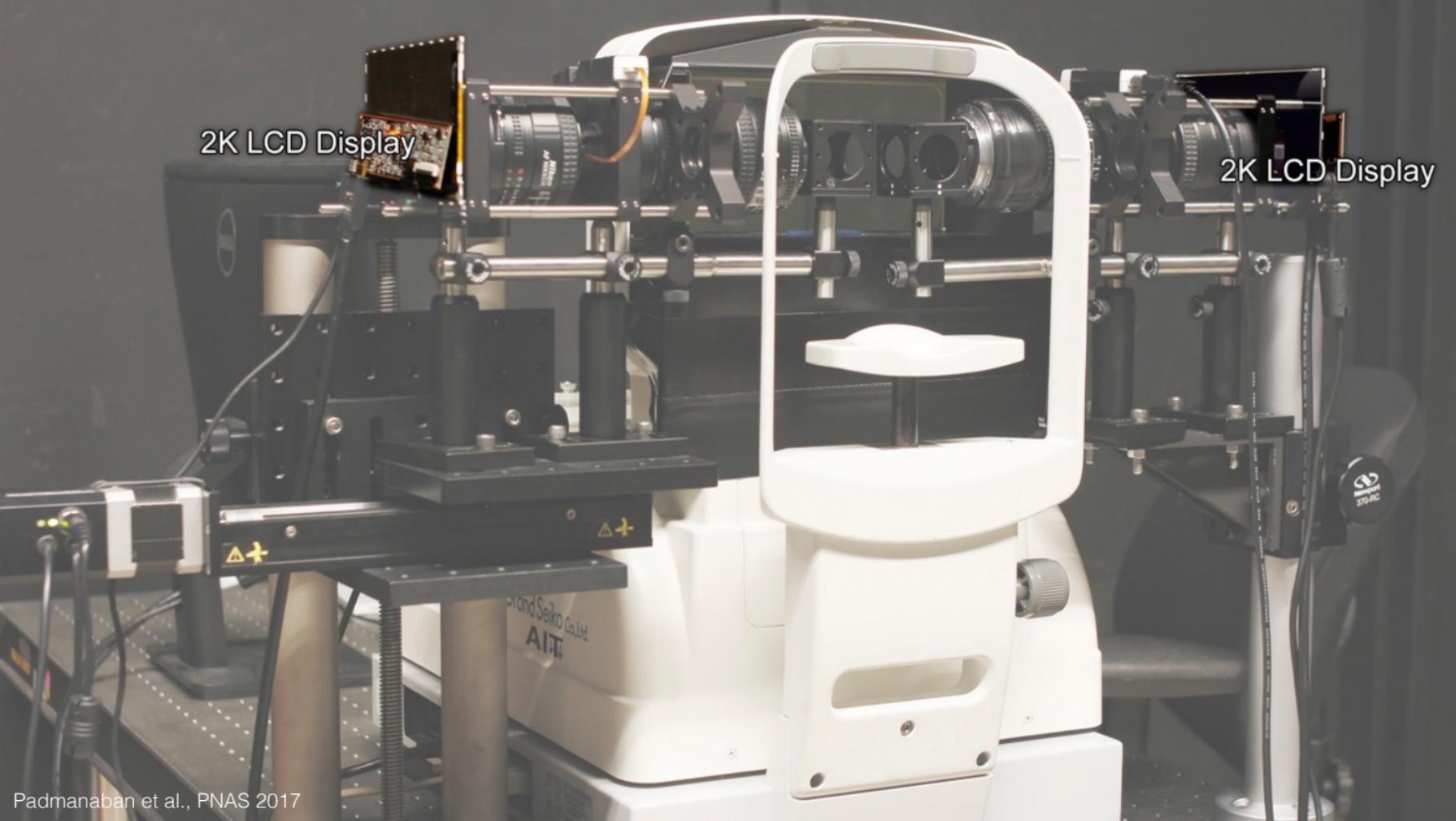
automatic focus adjustment  
Mills 1984



deformable mirrors & lenses  
McQuaide 2003, Liu 2008

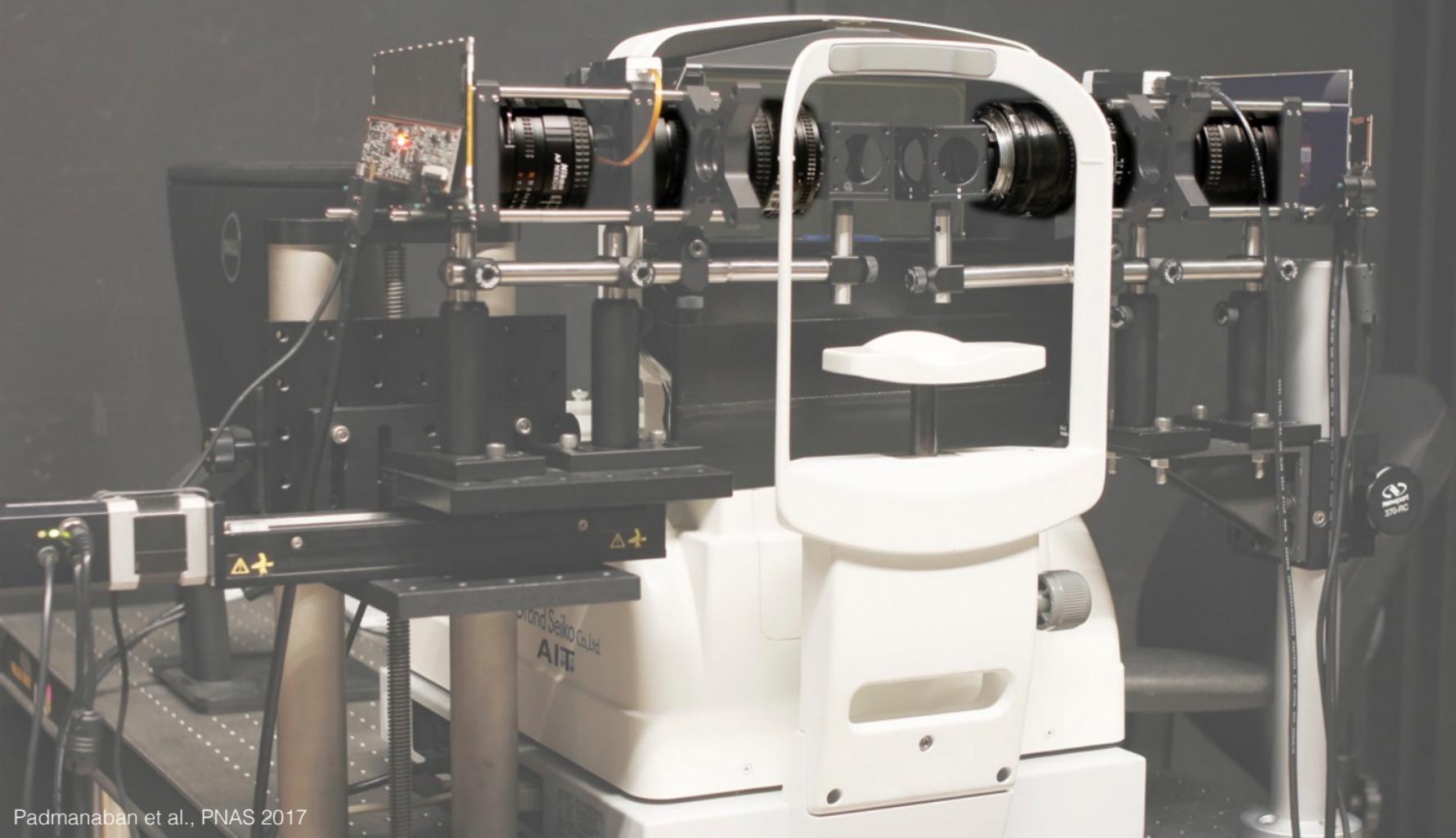
- M. Heilig "Sensorama", 1962 (US Patent #3,050,870)
- P. Mills, H. Fuchs, S. Pizer "High-Speed Interaction On A Vibrating-Mirror 3D Display", SPIE 0507 1984
- S. Shiwa, K. Omura, F. Kishino "Proposal for a 3-D display with accommodative compensation: 3DDAC", JSID 1996
- S. McQuaide, E. Seibel, J. Kelly, B. Schowengerdt, T. Furness "A retinal scanning display system that produces multiple focal planes with a deformable membrane mirror", Displays 2003
- S. Liu, D. Cheng, H. Hua "An optical see-through head mounted display with addressable focal planes", Proc. ISMAR 2008



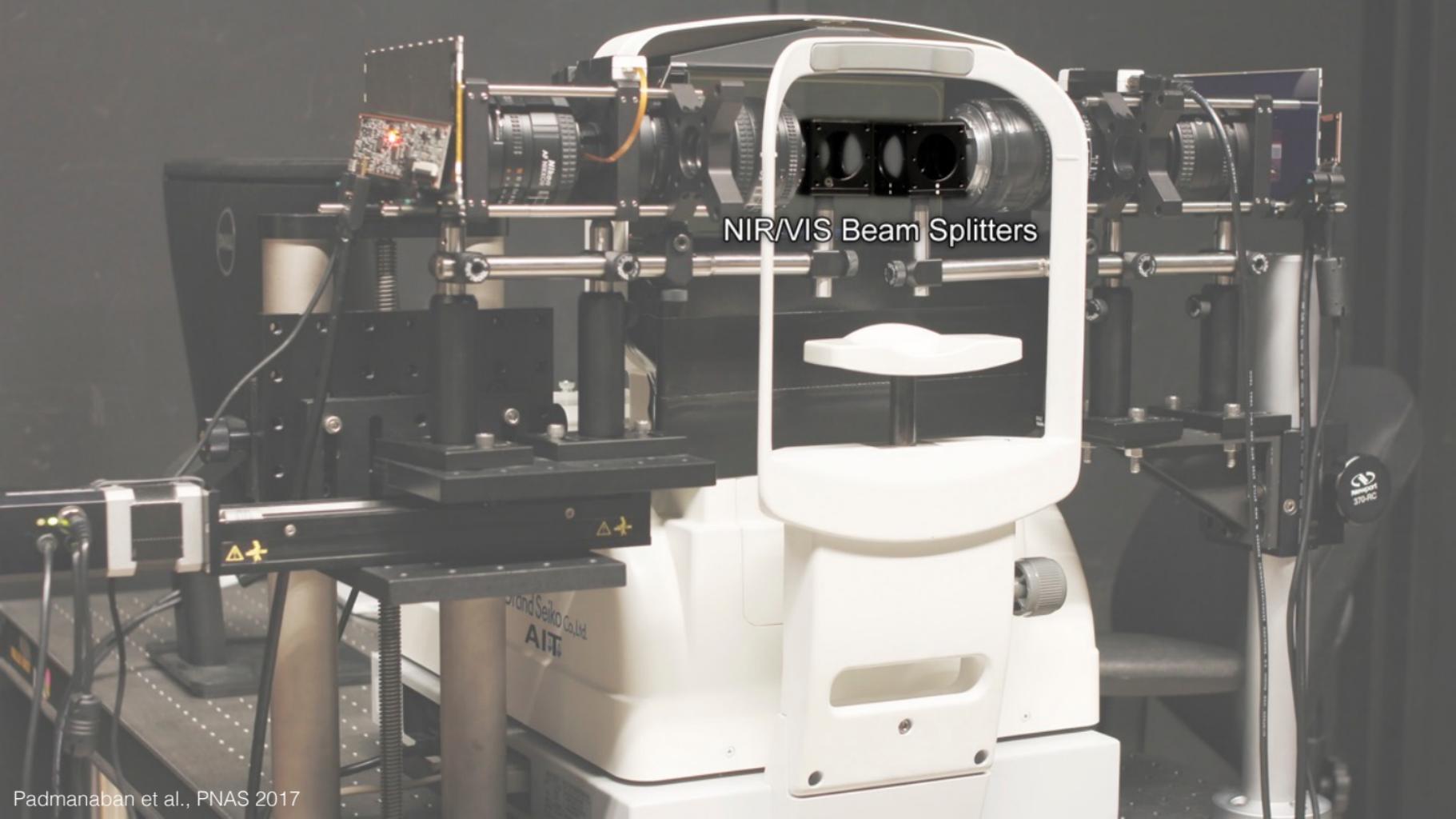


2K LCD Display

2K LCD Display

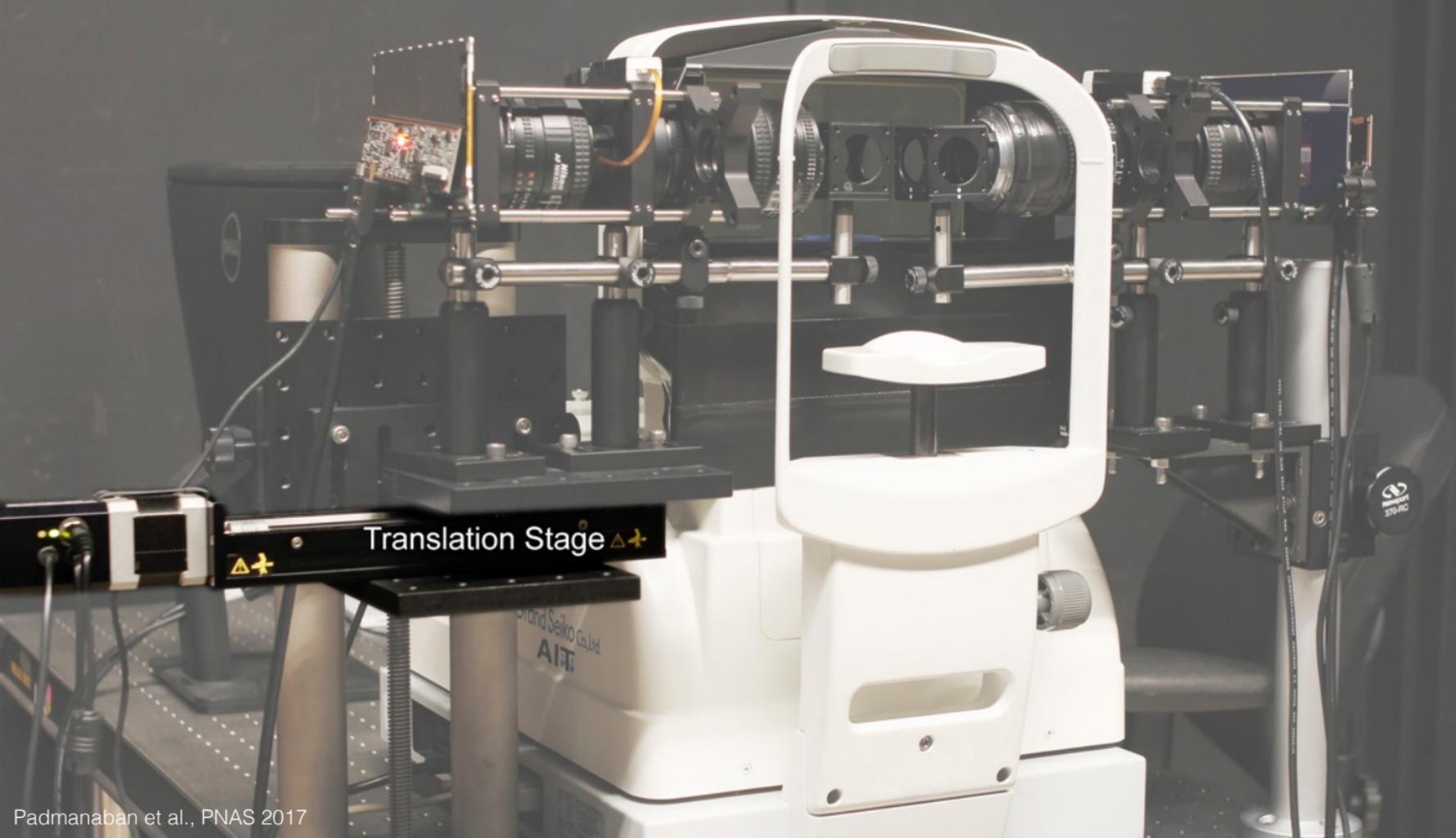






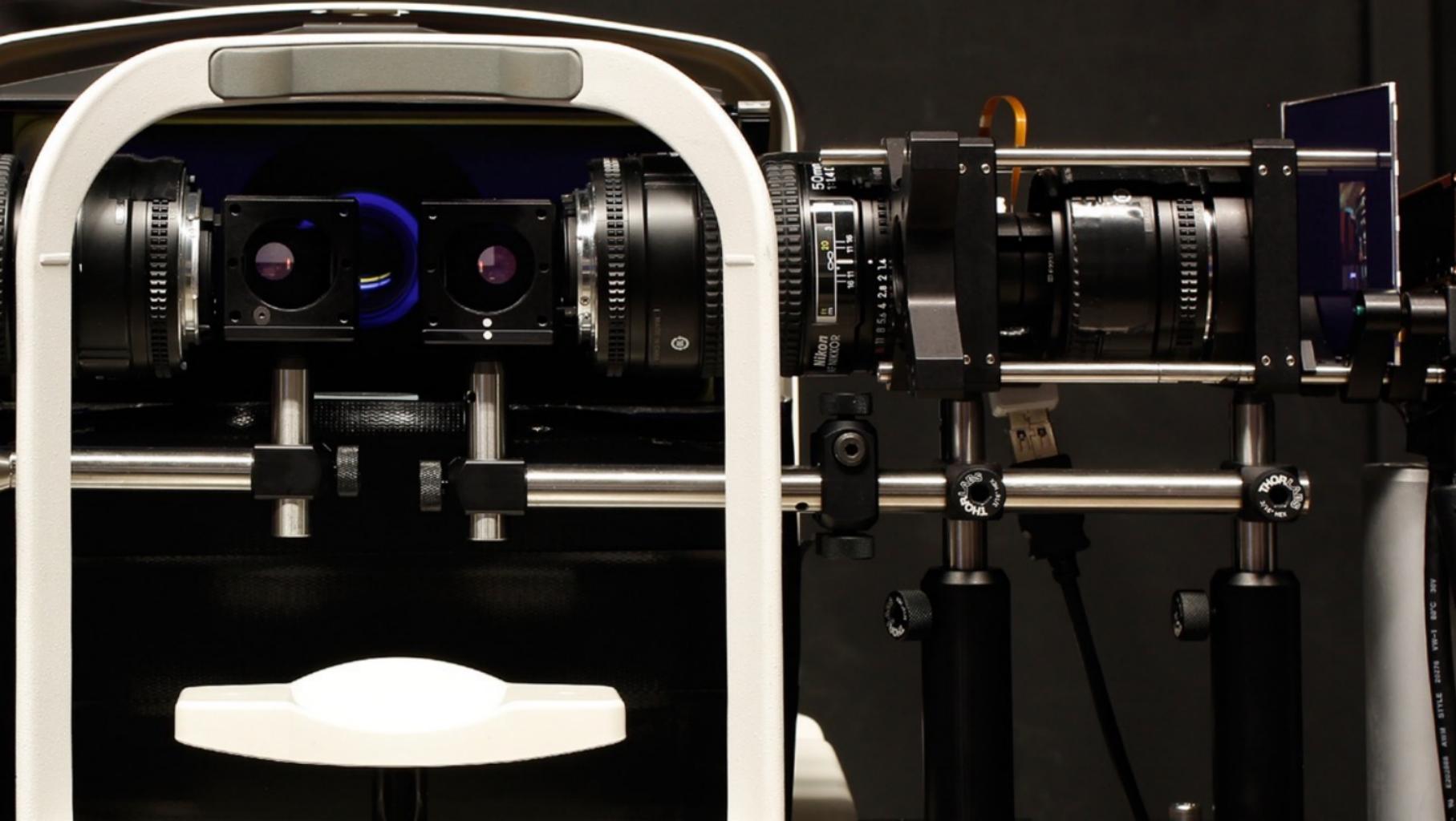
NIR/VIS Beam Splitters

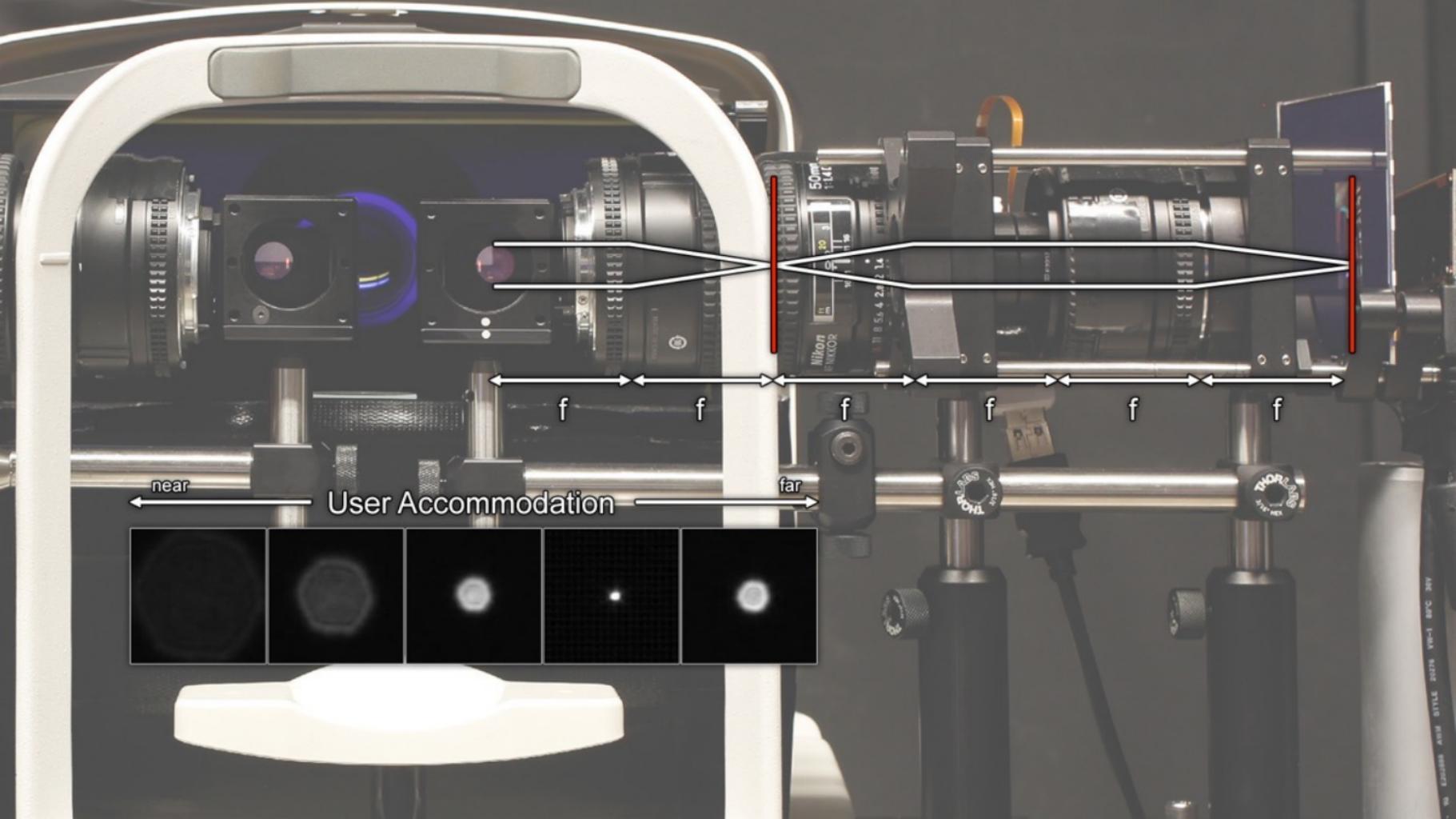
Seiko Co., Ltd.  
AIT

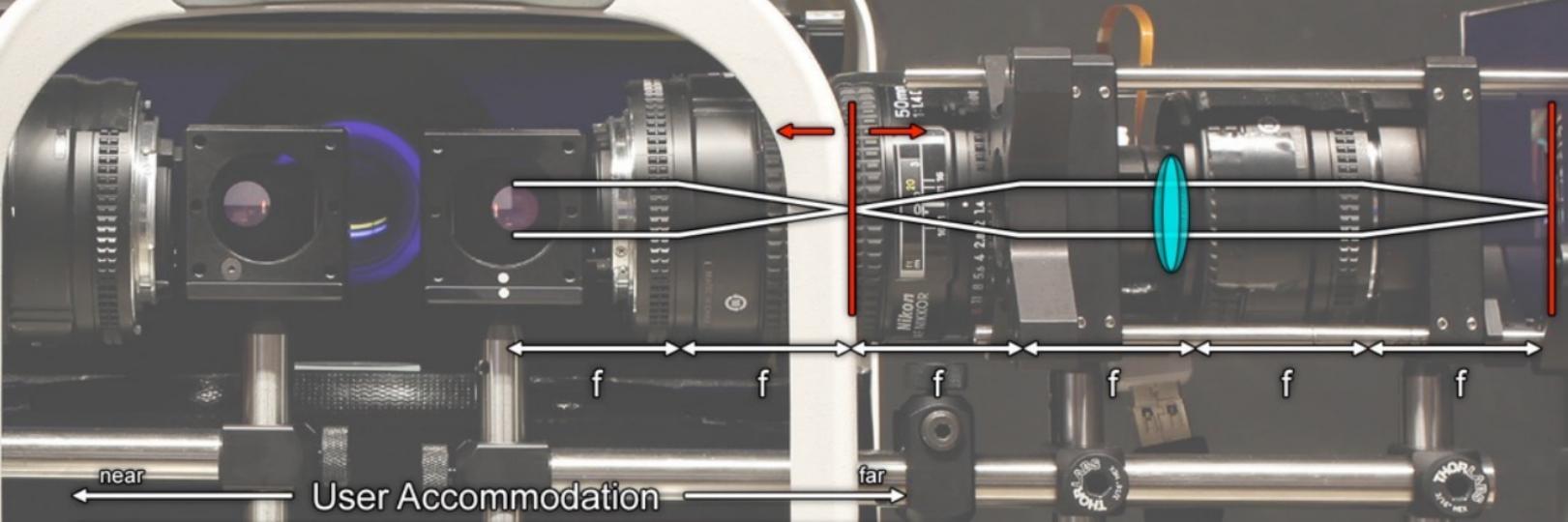




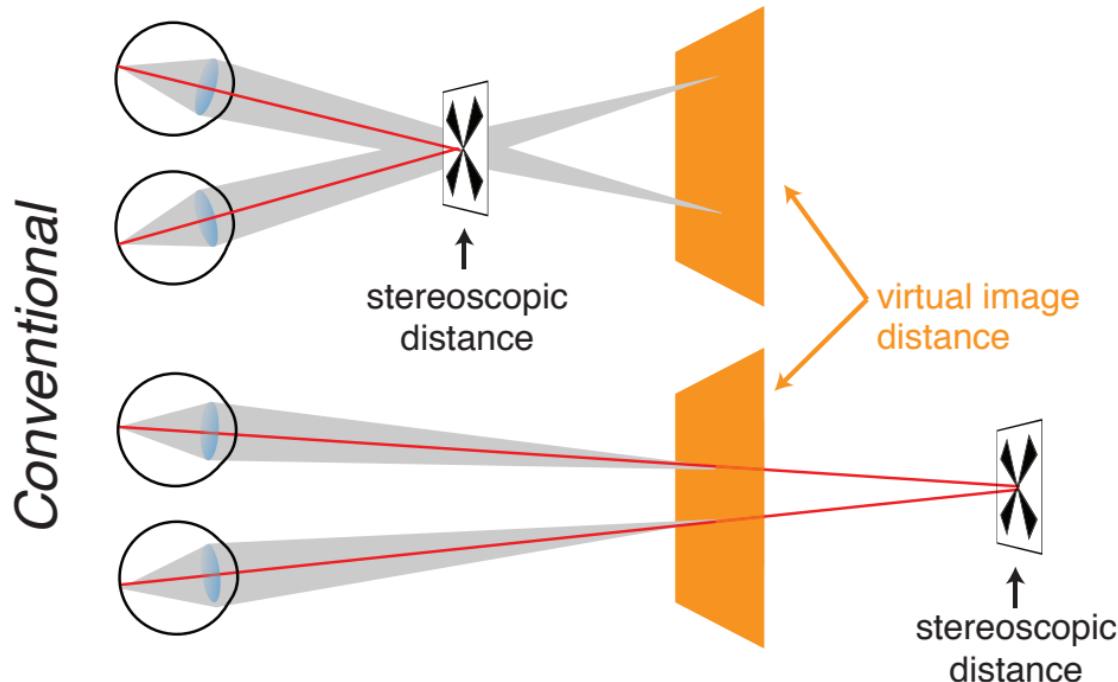
Autorefractor





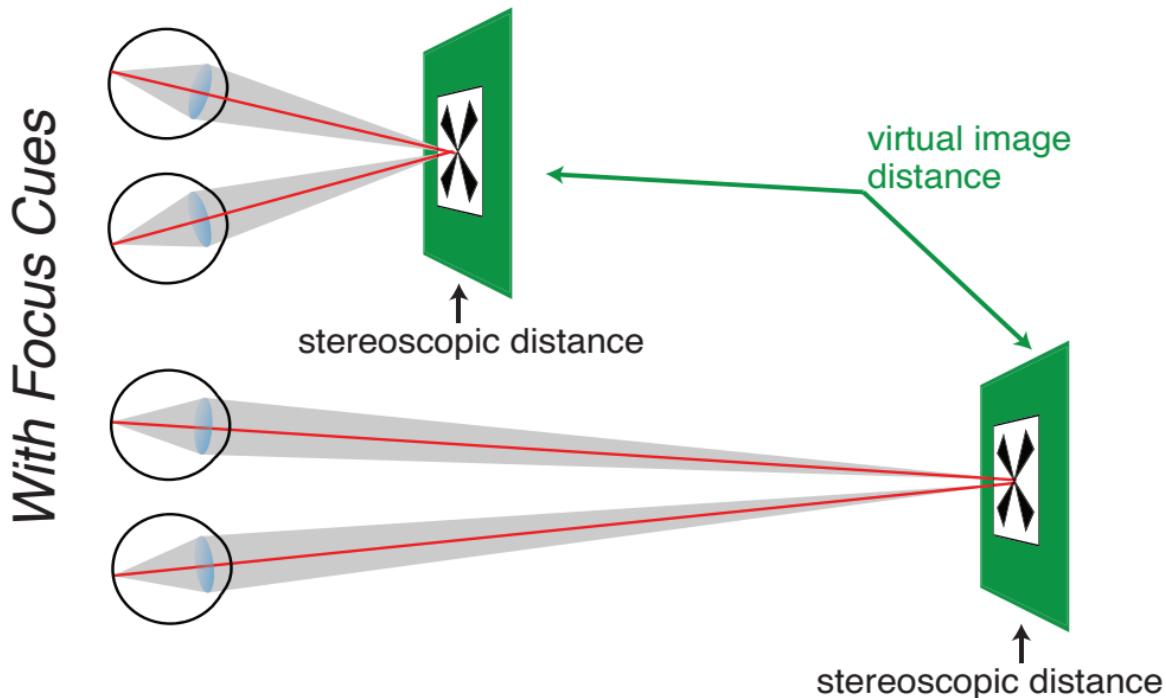


# Conventional Stereo / VR Display



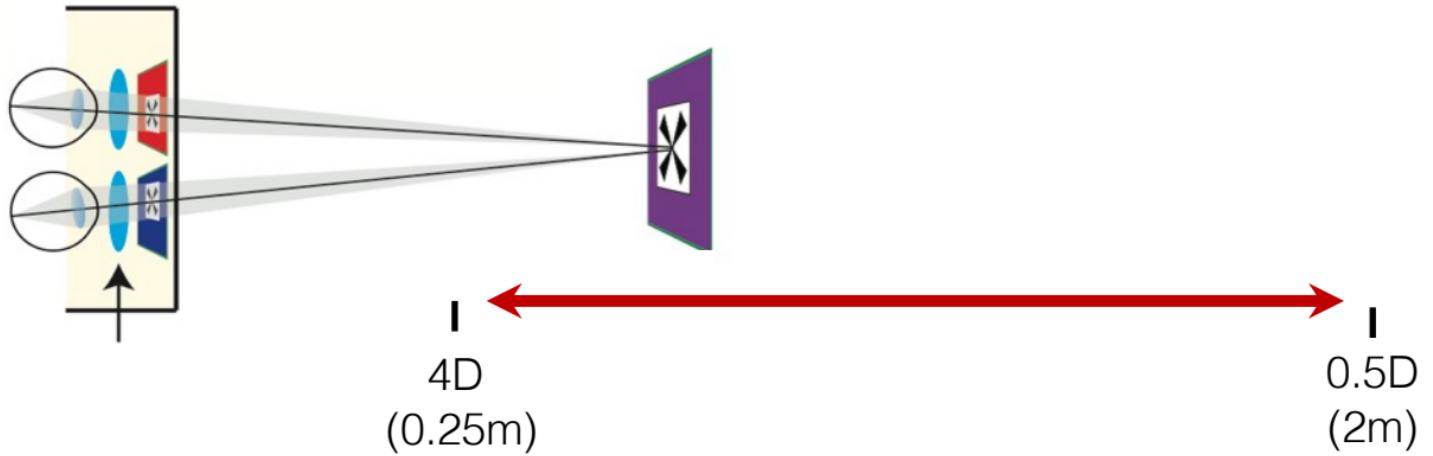
vergence  
accommodation

# Removing VAC with Varifocal Displays



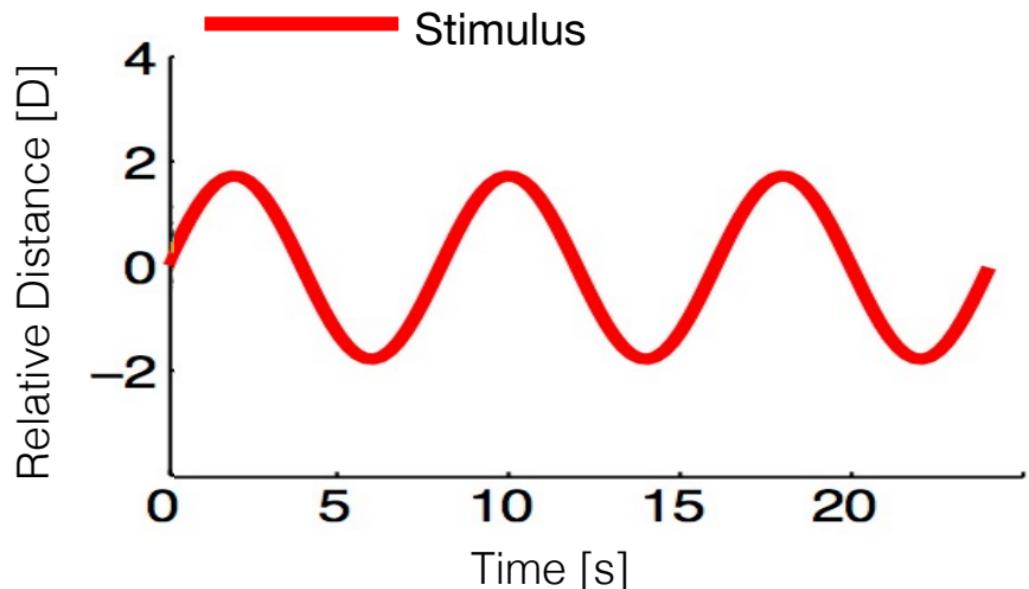
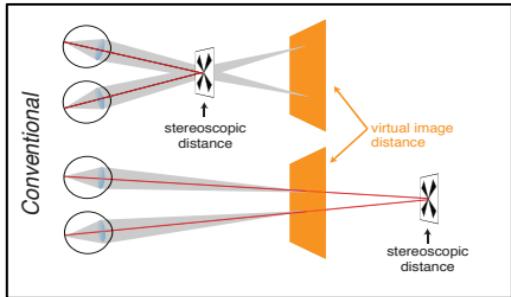
vergence  
accommodation

# Task

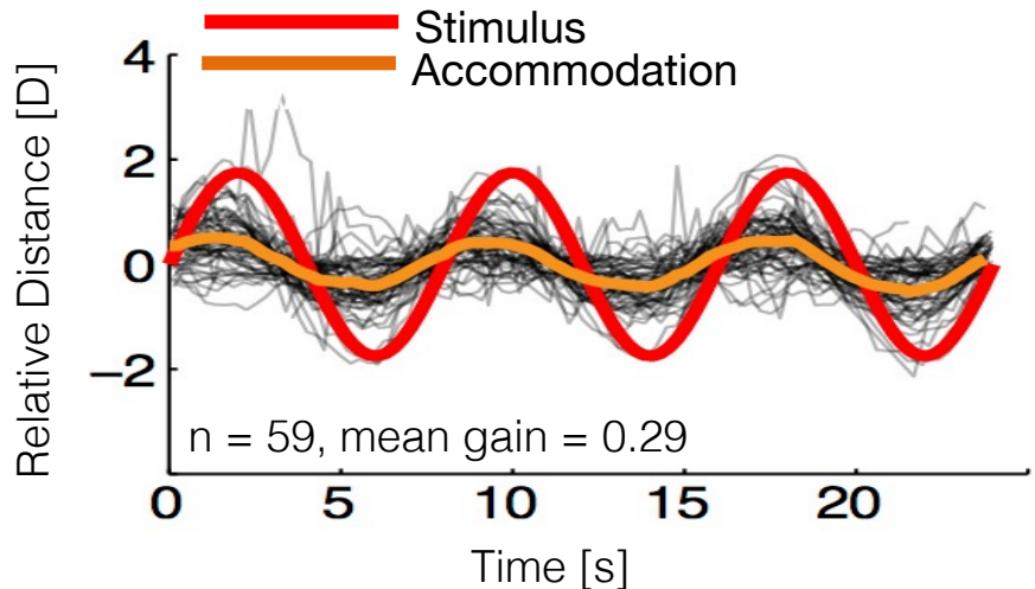
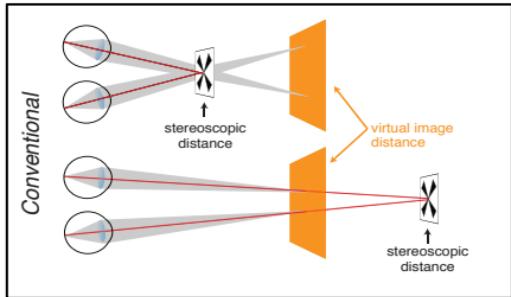


*Follow the target with your eyes*

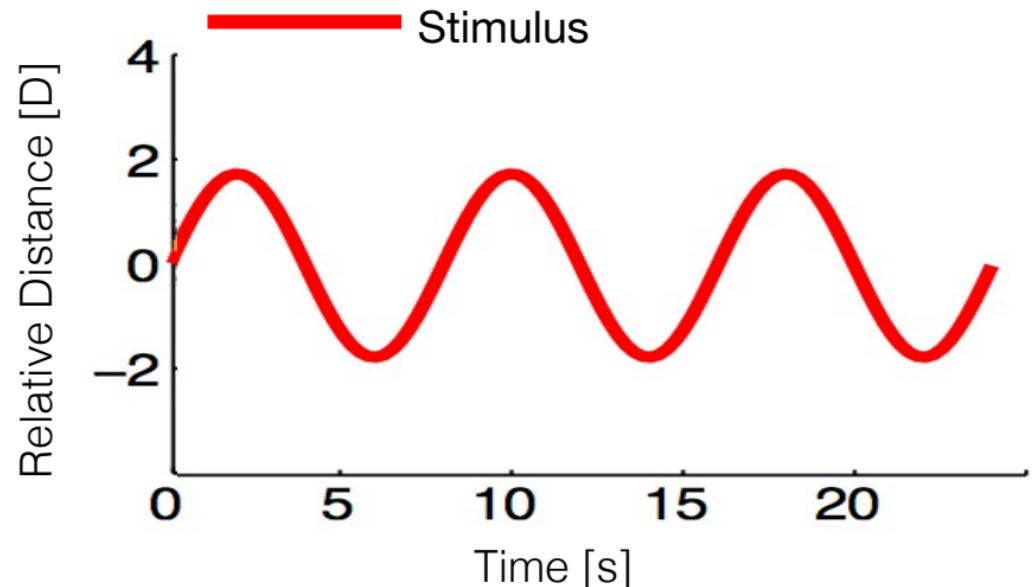
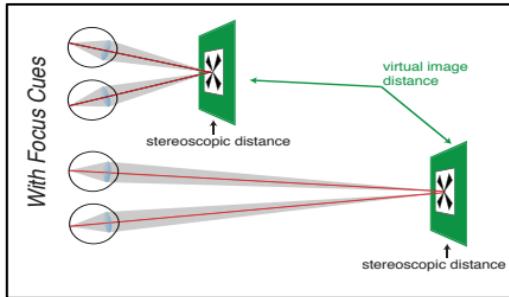
# Accommodative Response



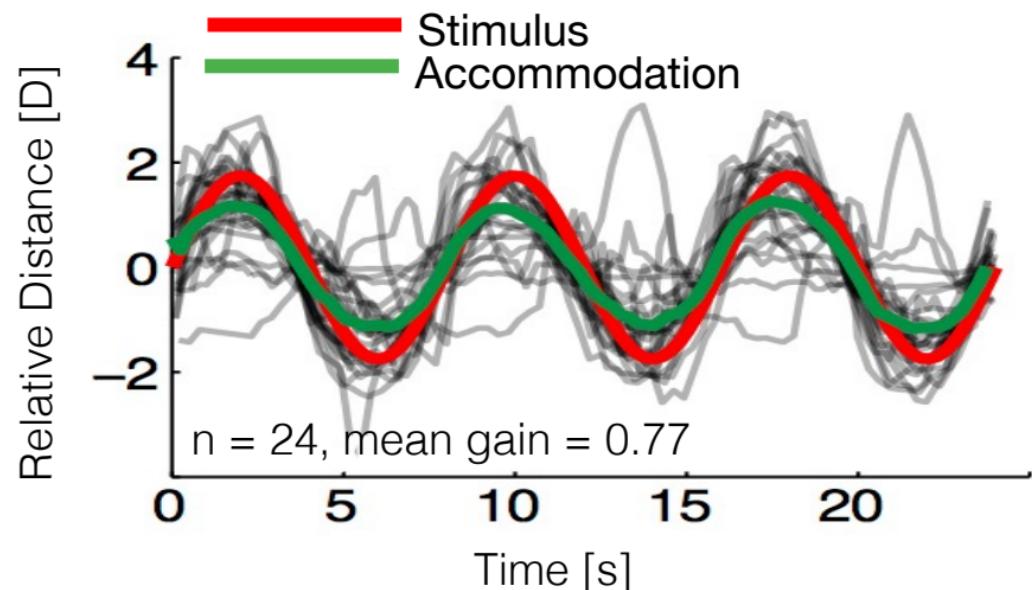
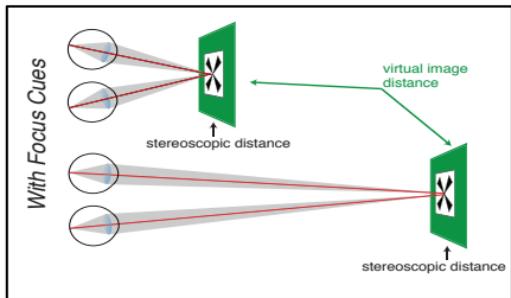
# Accommodative Response



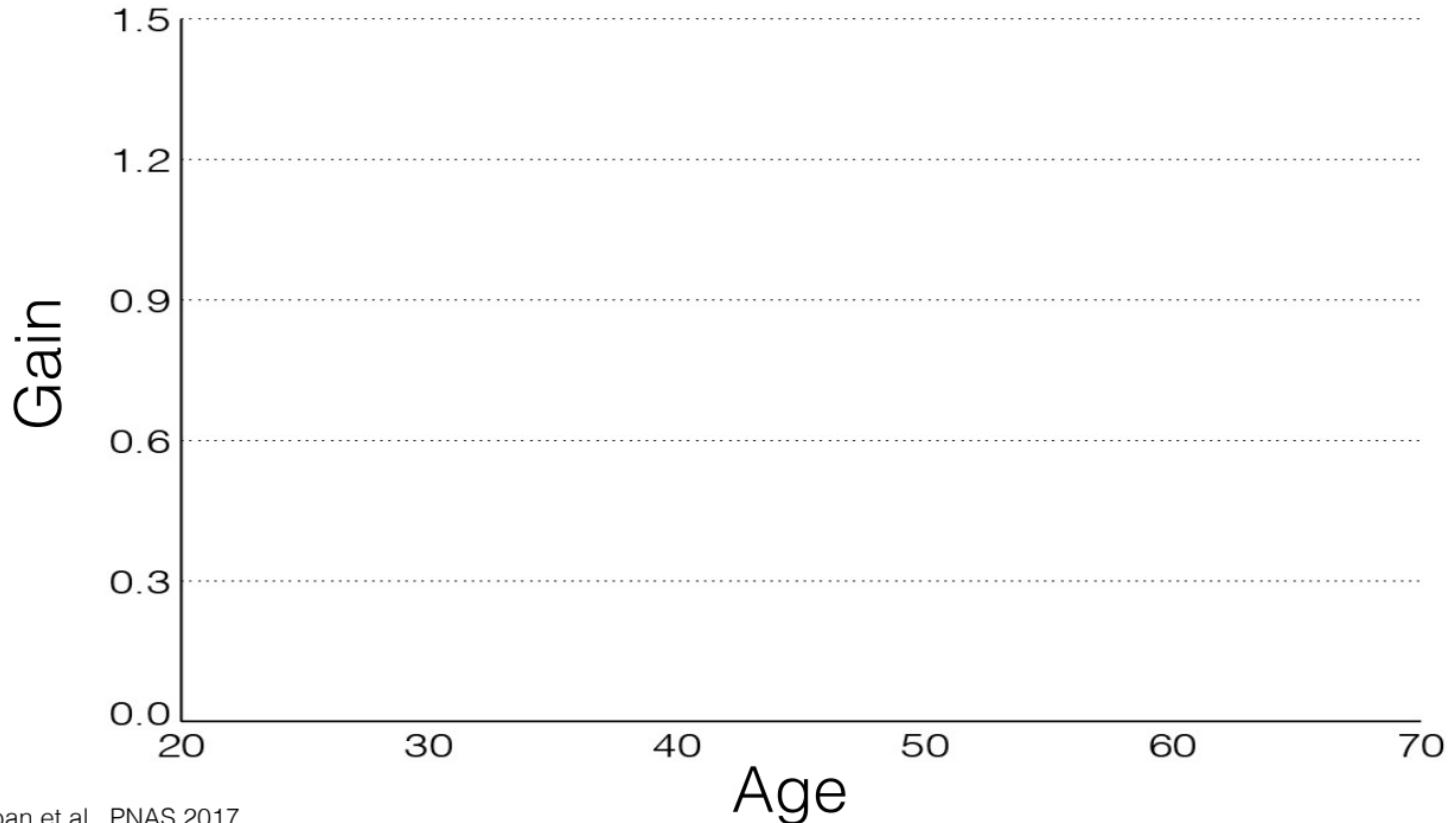
# Accommodative Response



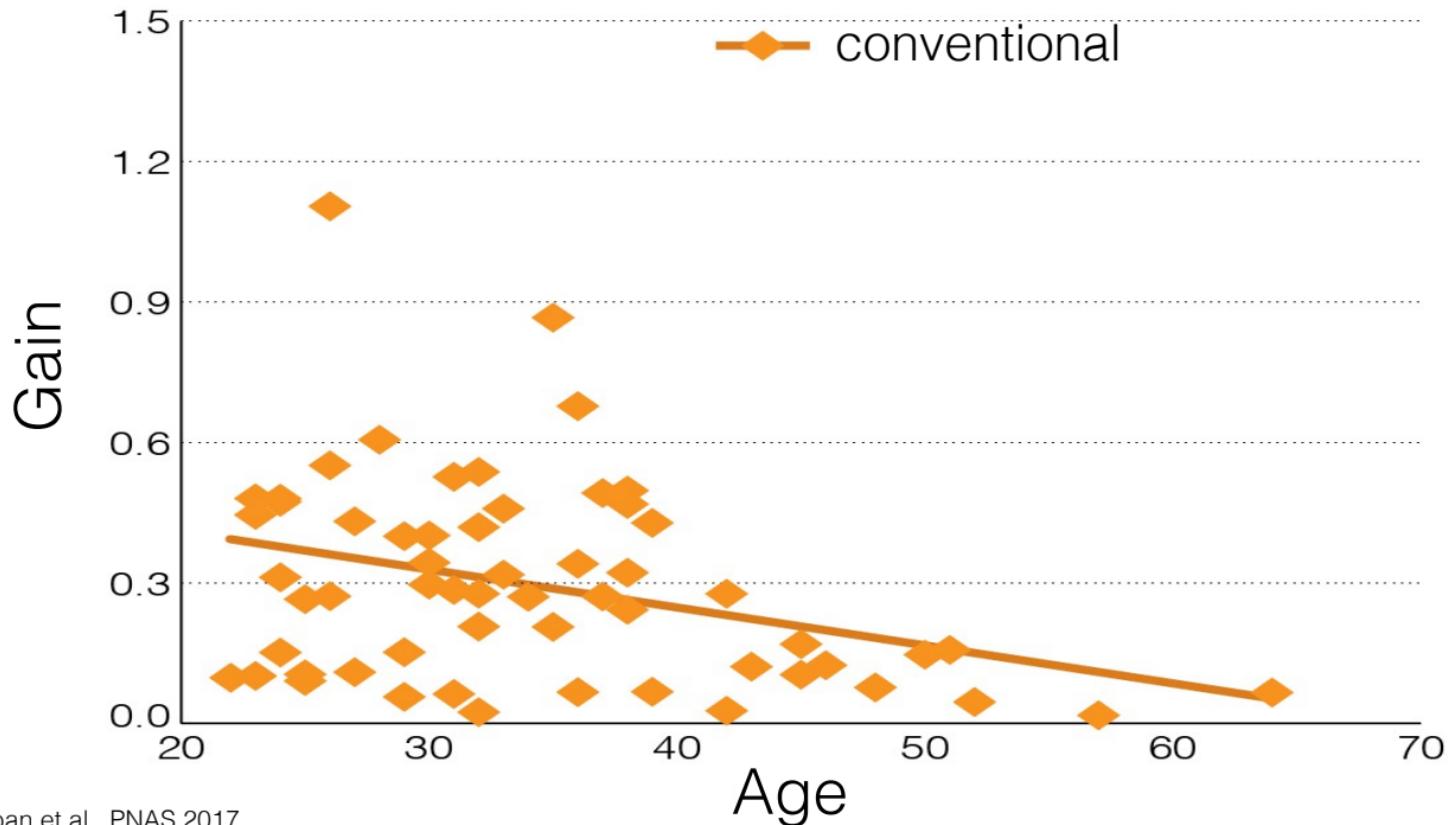
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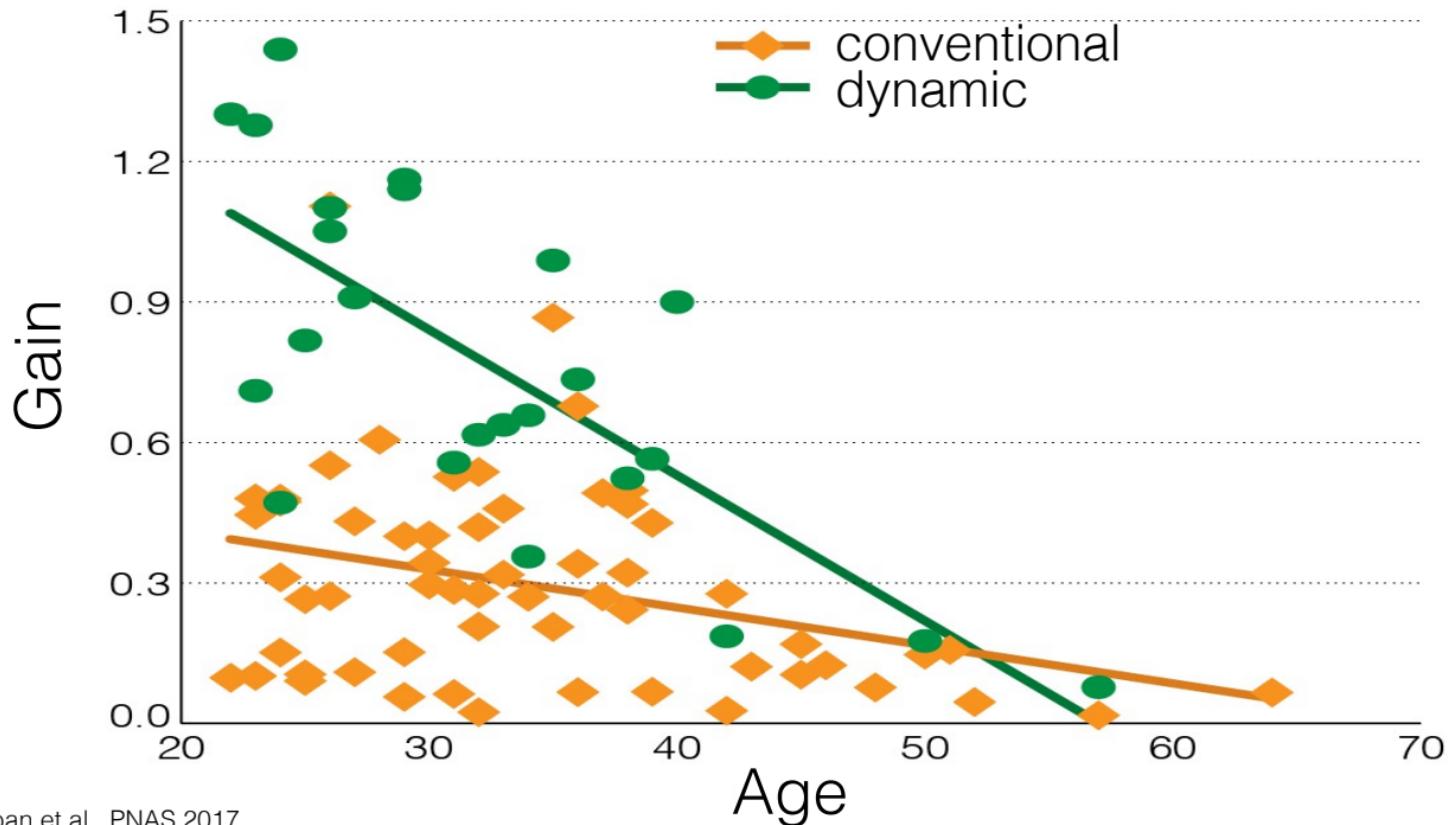
# Do Presbyopes Benefit from Dynamic Focus?



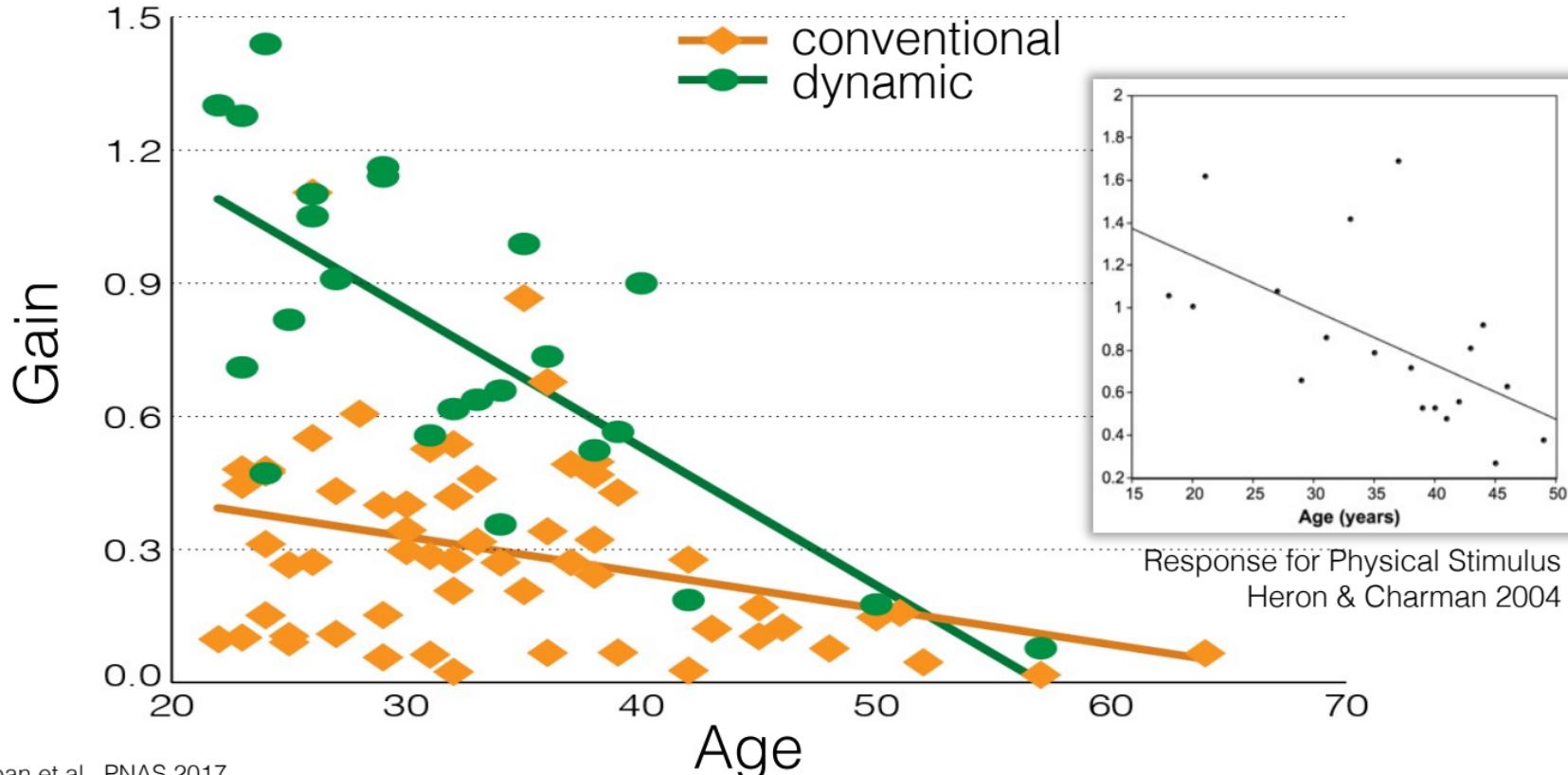
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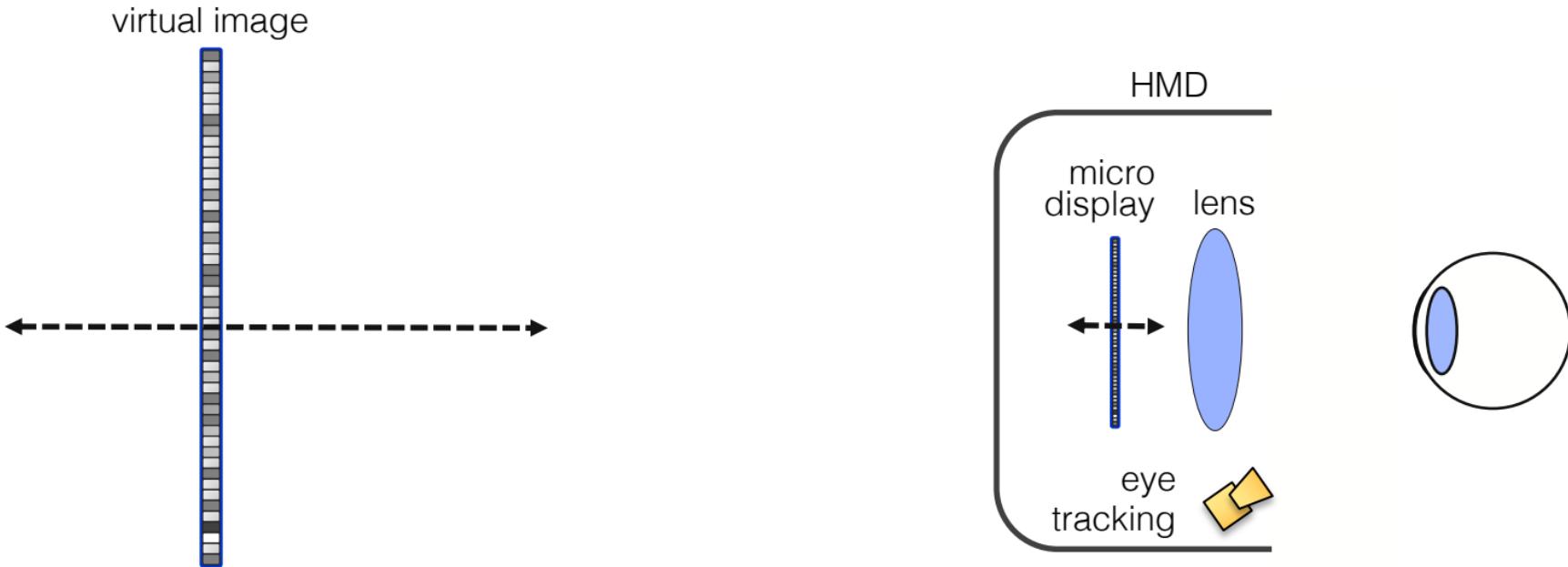


# Do Presbyopes Benefit from Dynamic Focus?

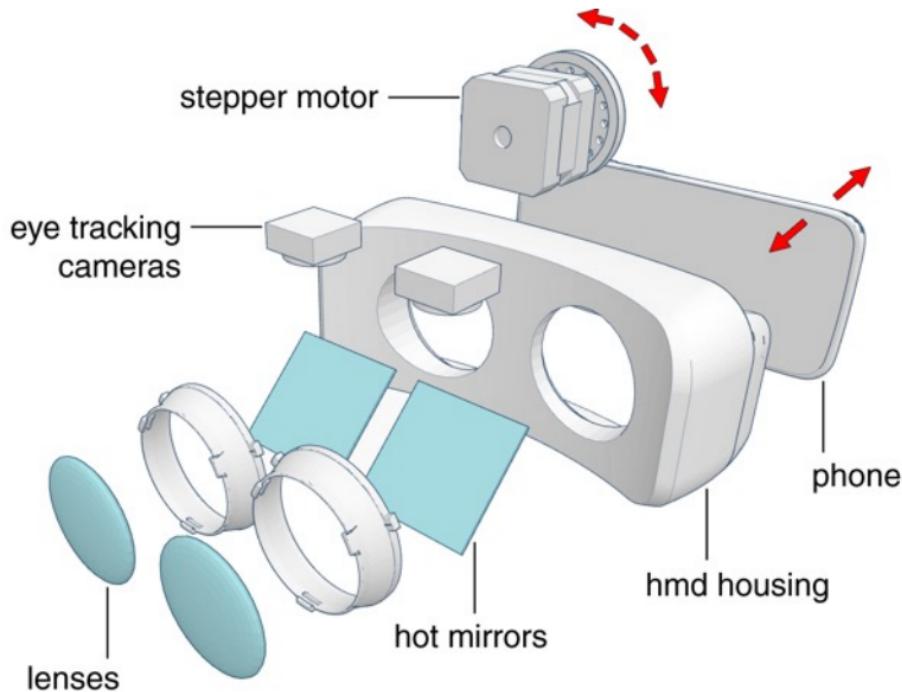


# Gaze-contingent Varifocal Displays

- non-presbyopes: adaptive focus is like real world, but needs eye tracking!



# Gaze-contingent Varifocal Displays



# Gaze-contingent Varifocal Displays



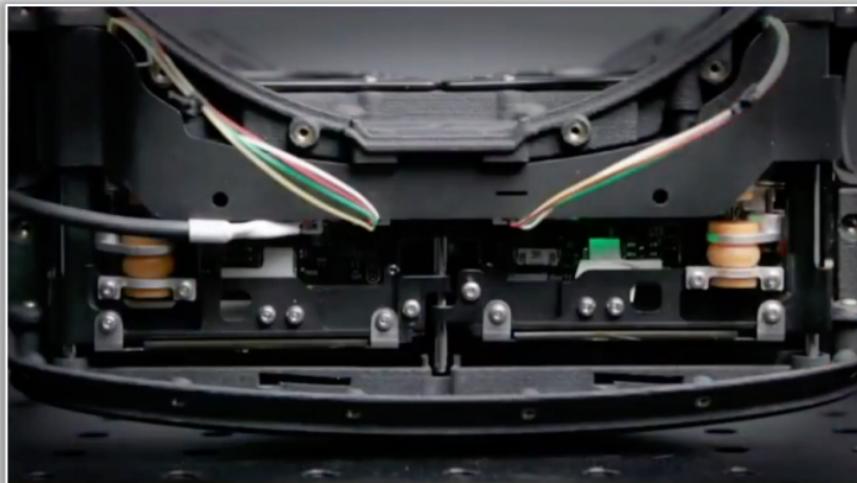
# Gaze-contingent Varifocal Displays





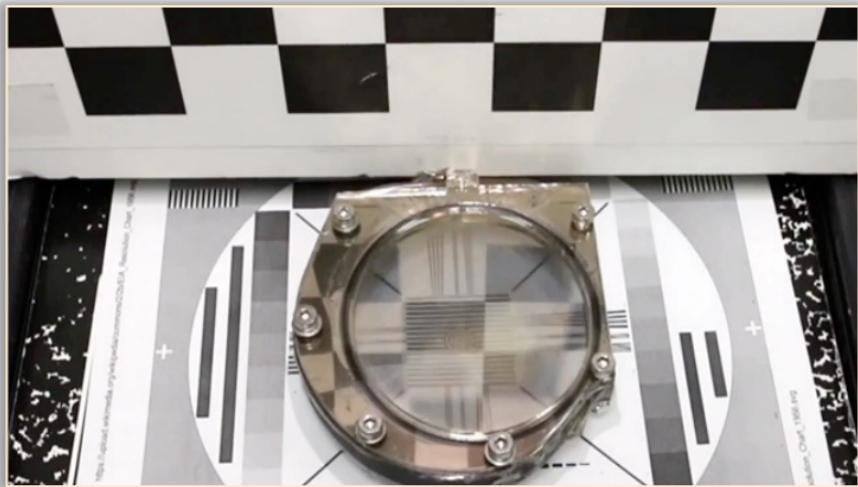
at ACM SIGGRAPH 2016

# Oculus Half Dome Prototype



Oculus announces gaze-contingent varifocal display at F8, 05/2018

# Varifocal AR Displays



Dunn et al. “Wide Field of View Varifocal Near-Eye Display using See-through Deformable Membrane Mirrors”, IEEE TVCG 2017

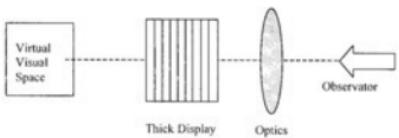
# Summary

- adaptive focus drives accommodation and can also correct for refractive errors (myopia, hyperopia)
- gaze-contingent focus gives natural focus cues for non-presbyopes, but require eyes tracking
- presbyopes require fixed focal plane with correction

# VR Displays with Focus Cues

## 2. Multiplane Displays

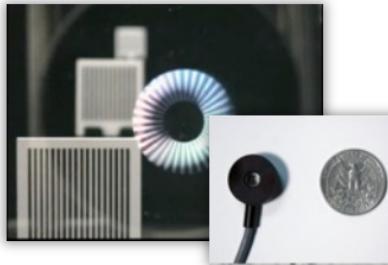
# Multiplane VR Displays



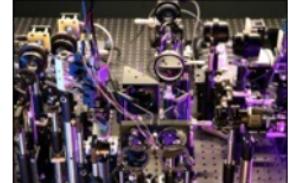
idea introduced  
Rolland et al. 2000



benchtop prototype  
Akeley 2004



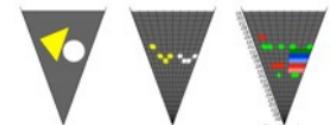
near-eye display prototype  
Liu 2008, Love 2009



Mercier et al. 2017



Chang et al. 2018



Rathinavel et al. 2018

- Rolland J, Krueger M, Goon A (2000) Multifocal planes head-mounted displays. *Applied Optics* 39
- Akeley K, Watt S, Girshick A, Banks M (2004) A stereo display prototype with multiple focal distances. *ACM Trans. Graph. (SIGGRAPH)*
- Waldkirch M, Lukowicz P, Tröster G (2004) Multiple imaging technique for extending depth of focus in retinal displays. *Optics Express*
- Schowengerdt B, Seibel E (2006) True 3-d scanned voxel displays using single or multiple light sources. *JSID*
- Liu S, Cheng D, Hua H (2008) An optical see-through head mounted display with addressable focal planes in *Proc. ISMAR*
- Love GD et al. (2009) High-speed switchable lens enables the development of a volumetric stereoscopic display. *Optics Express*
- ... many more ...

# Challenges of Multiplane VR Displays

- when implemented with focus-tunable optics & time-multiplexing in VR: *flicker*
- when implemented with multiple optically overlaid microdisplays in VR or multiple waveguides in AR: *system complexity and calibration*
- multifocal plane displays require image focal plane decomposition – computationally expensive
- decompositions are sensitive to eye position – also need eye tracking, so why not just do varifocal?

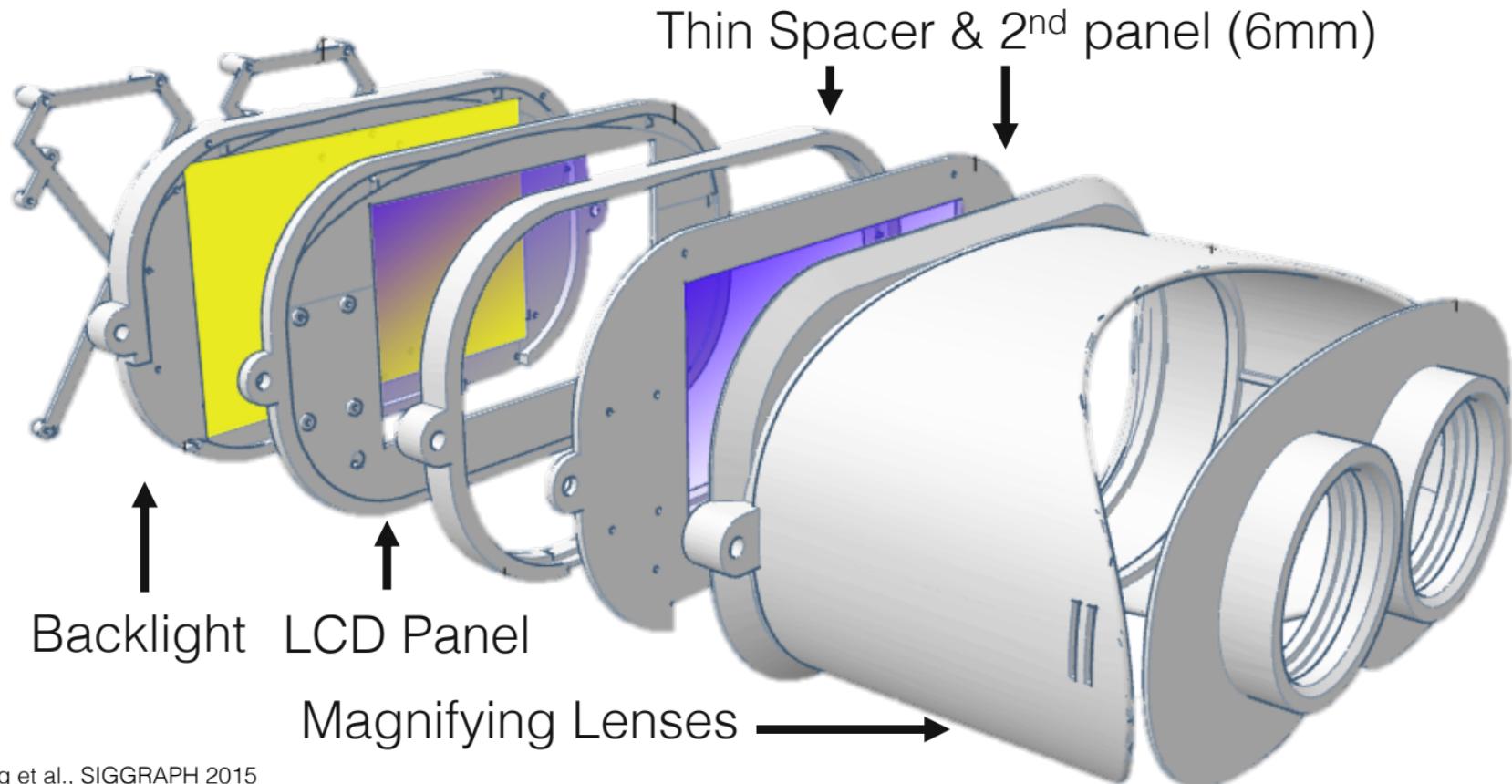
# VR Displays with Focus Cues

## 3. Light Field Displays

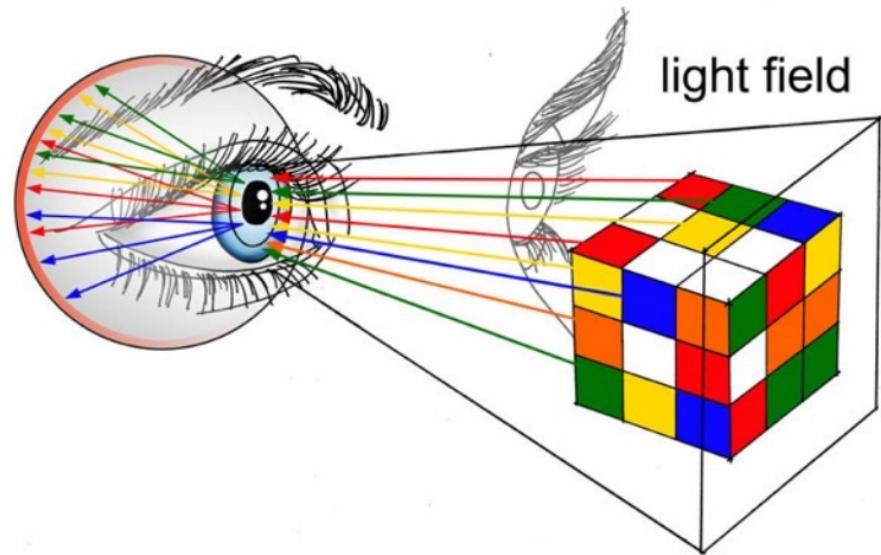
# Light Field Stereoscope



# Light Field Stereoscope



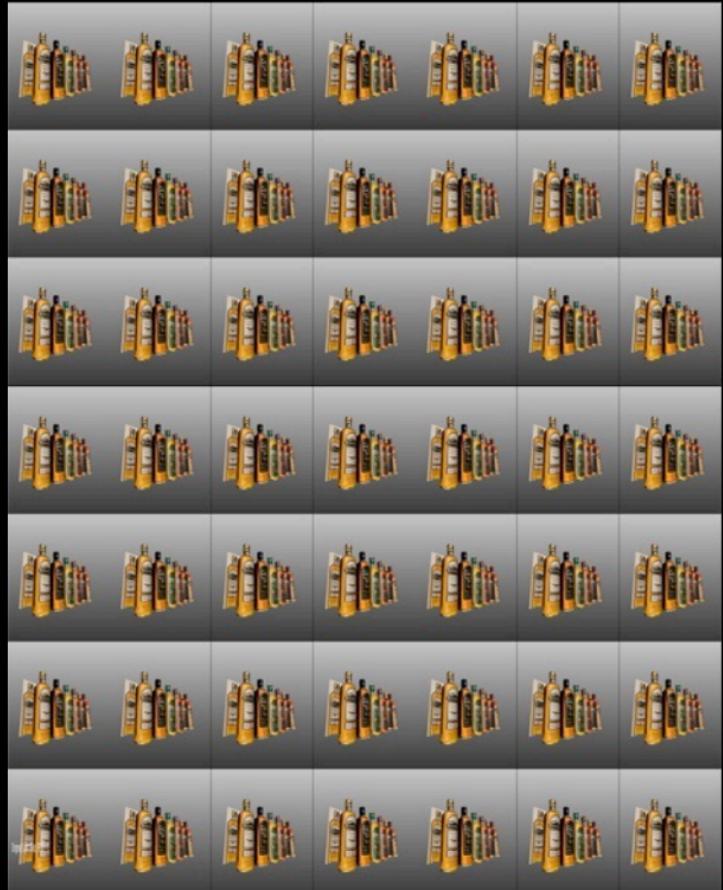
# Near-eye Light Field Displays



Idea: project multiple different perspectives into different parts of the pupil!

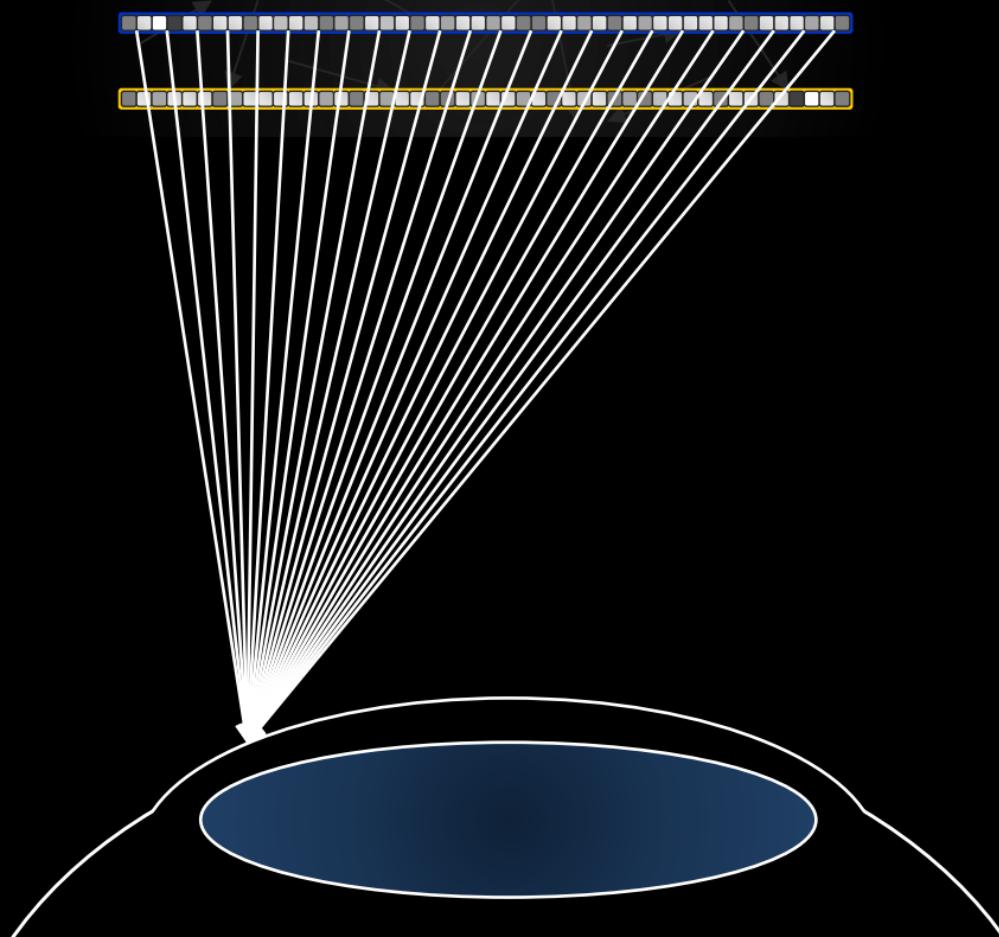
Target Light Field

Input: 4D light field for each eye

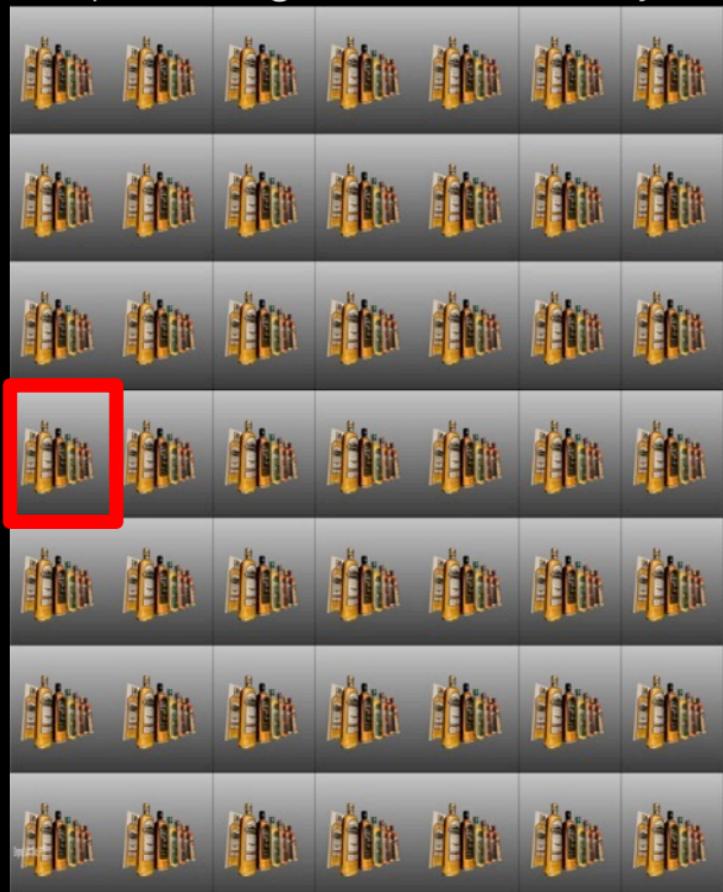


Model Courtesy of Bushmills Irish Whiskey

## Multiplicative Two-layer Modulation

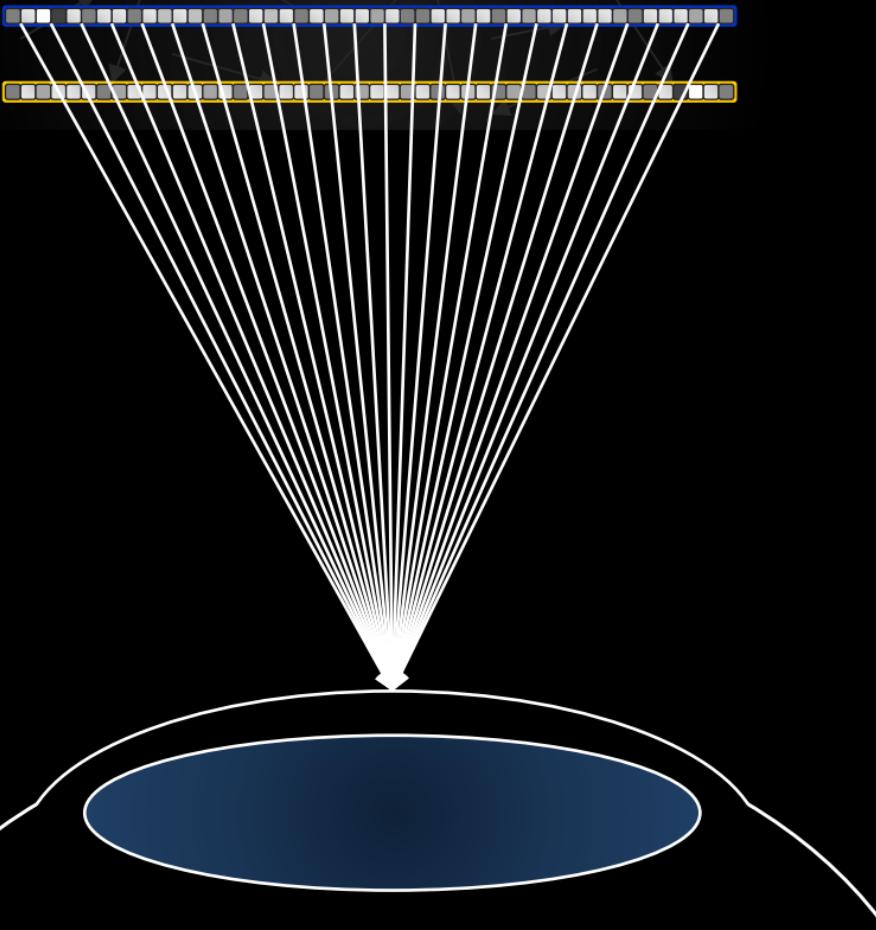


Input: 4D light field for each eye

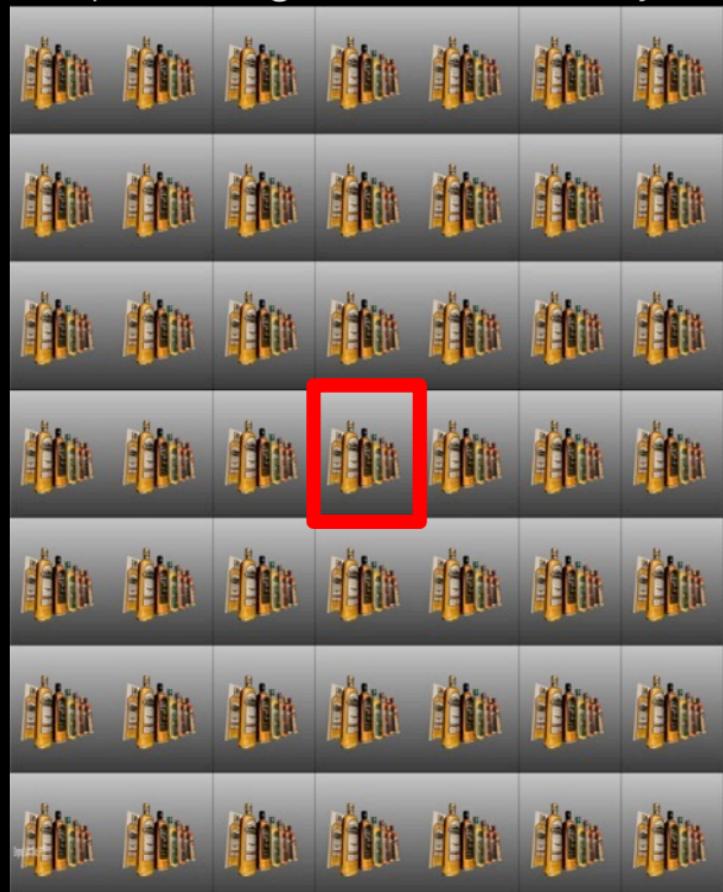


Model Courtesy of Bushmills Irish Whiskey

## Multiplicative Two-layer Modulation

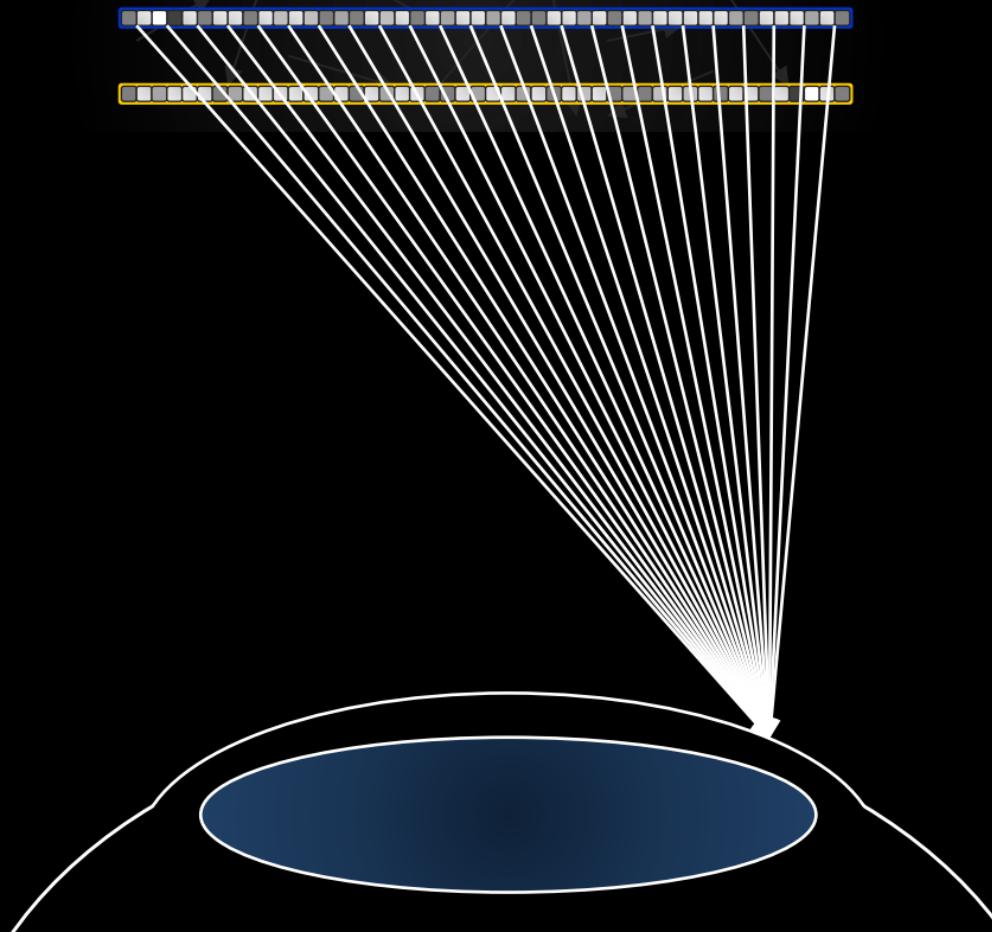


Input: 4D light field for each eye

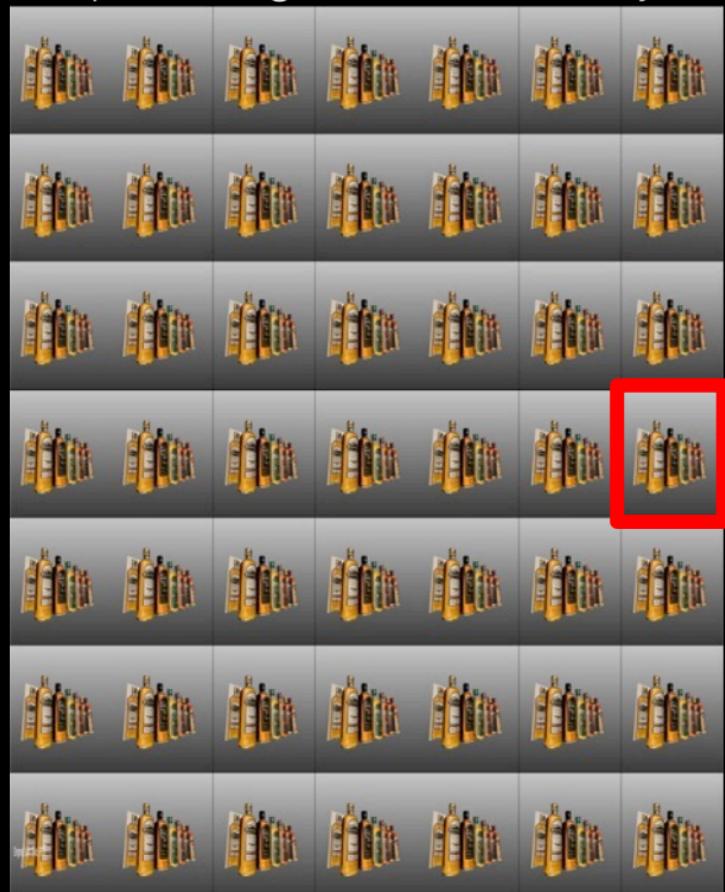


Model Courtesy of Bushmills Irish Whiskey

## Multiplicative Two-layer Modulation

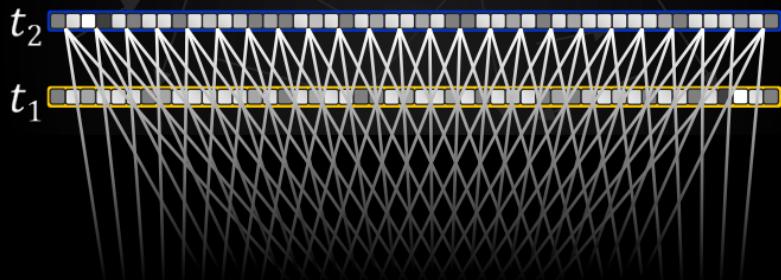


Input: 4D light field for each eye



Model Courtesy of Bushmills Irish Whiskey

## Multiplicative Two-layer Modulation

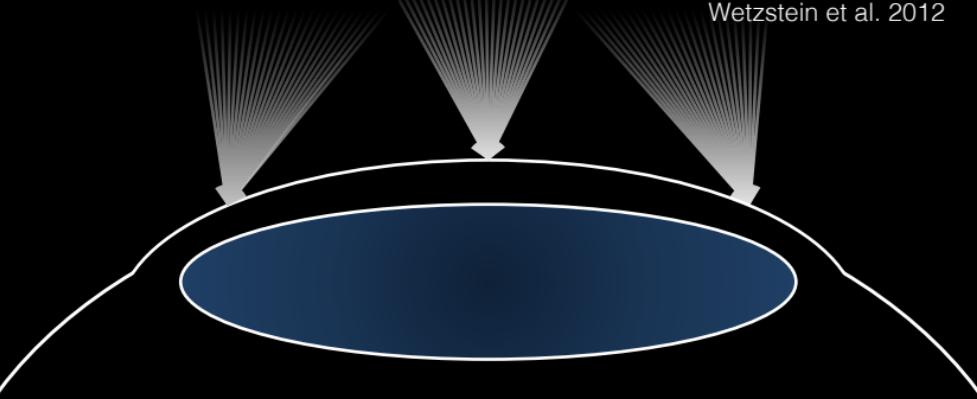


$$\underset{\{t_1, t_2\}}{\text{minimize}} \|\beta l - (\phi_1 t_1) o (\phi_2 t_2)\|^2 \\ \text{s.t. } 0 \leq t_1, t_2 \leq 1$$

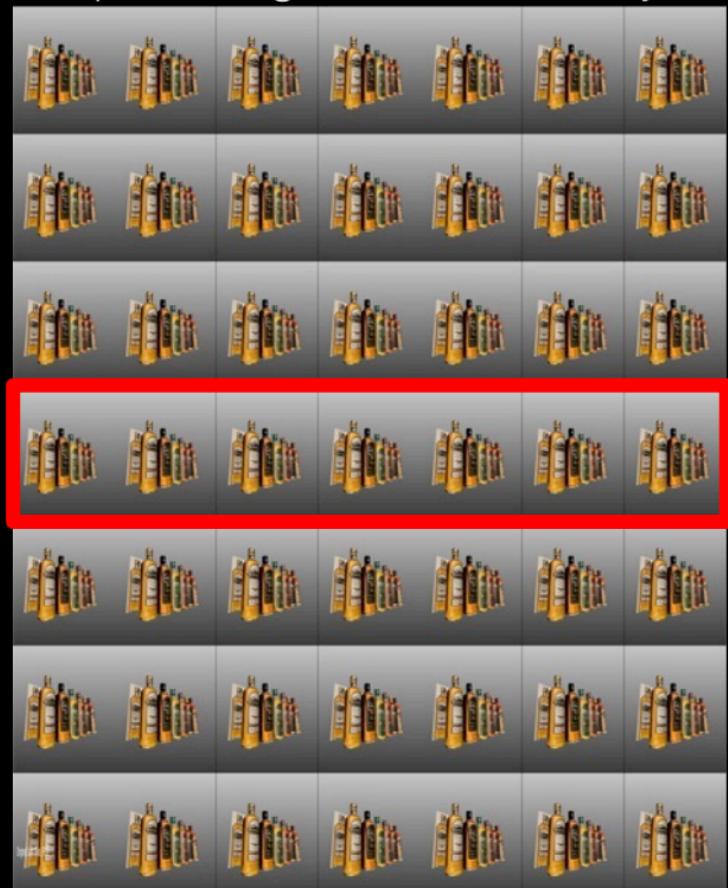
Reconstruction:

$$t_1 \leftarrow t_1 o \frac{\phi_1^T (\beta l o (\phi_2 t_2))}{\phi_1^T (\tilde{l} o (\phi_2 t_2)) + \epsilon} \quad \text{for layer } t_1$$

Tensor Displays,  
Wetzstein et al. 2012

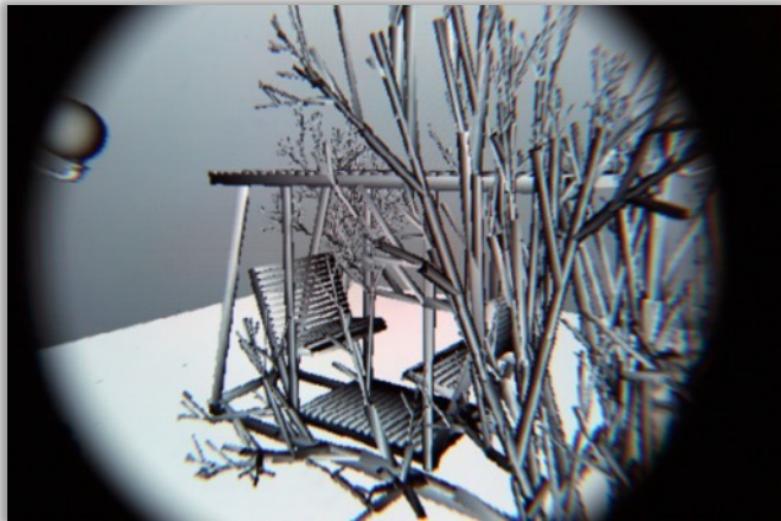


Input: 4D light field for each eye



Model Courtesy of Bushmills Irish Whiskey

# Light Field Stereoscope

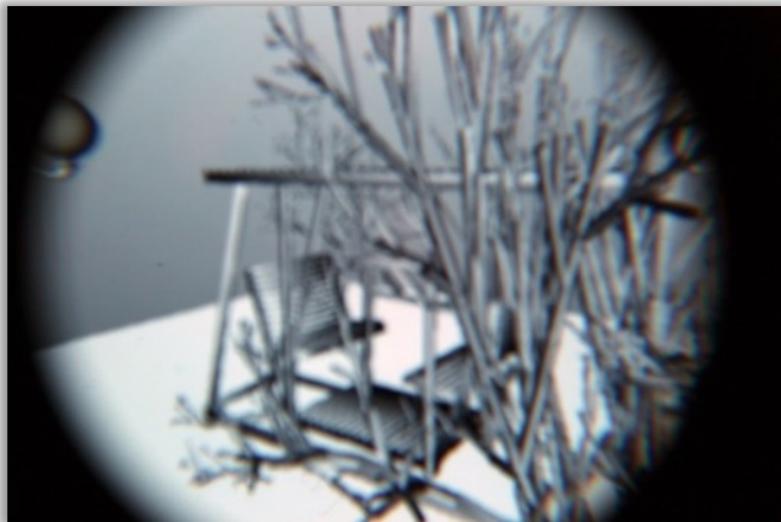


Traditional HMDs  
- No Focus Cues

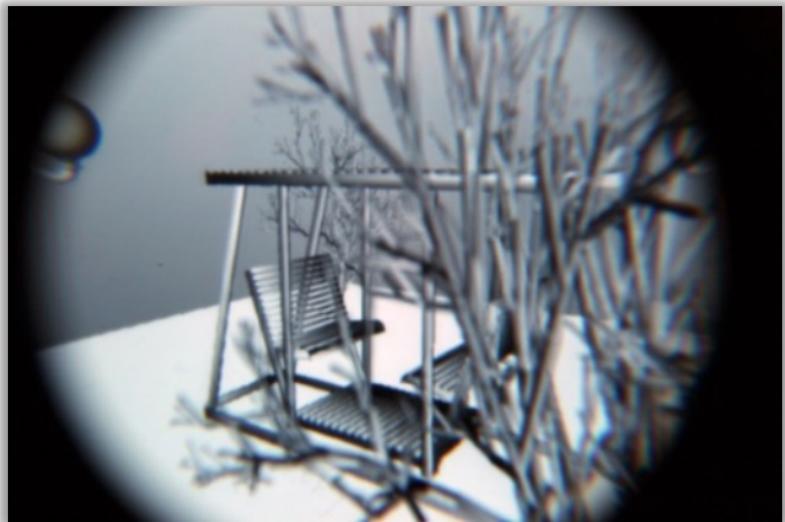


The Light Field HMD  
Stereoscope

# Light Field Stereoscope



Traditional HMDs  
- No Focus Cues



The Light Field HMD  
Stereoscope

# Light Field Stereoscope



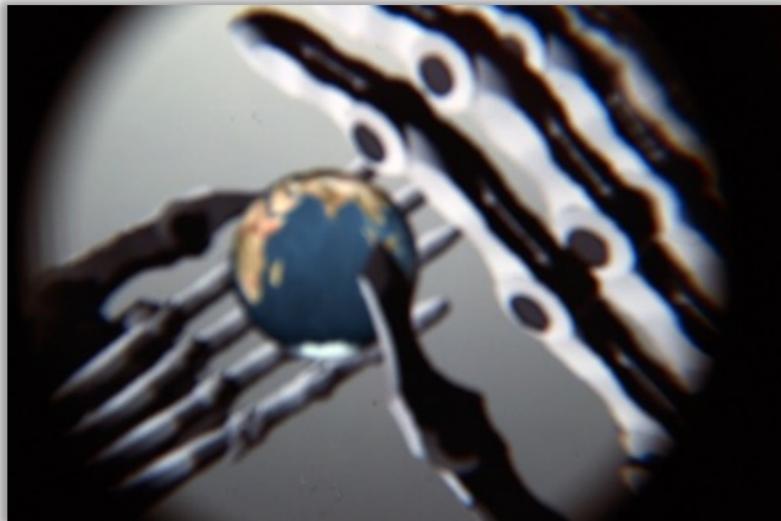
Traditional HMDs  
- No Focus Cues



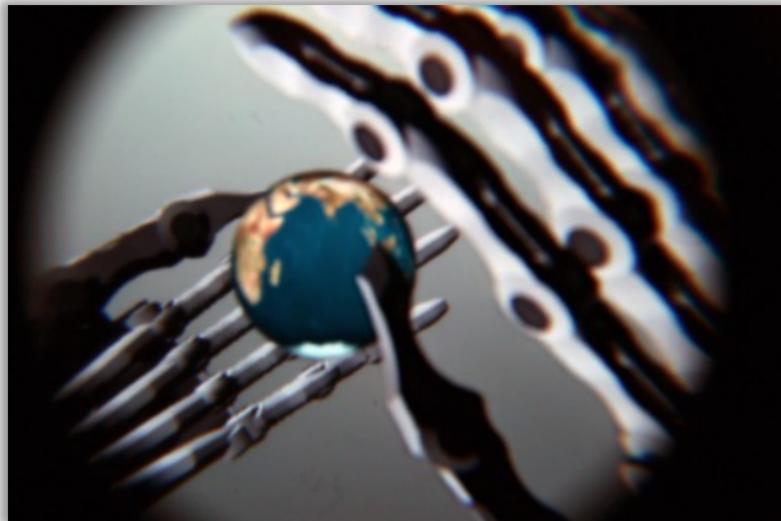
The Light Field HMD  
Stereoscope

Model Courtesy of Paul H. Manning

# Light Field Stereoscope



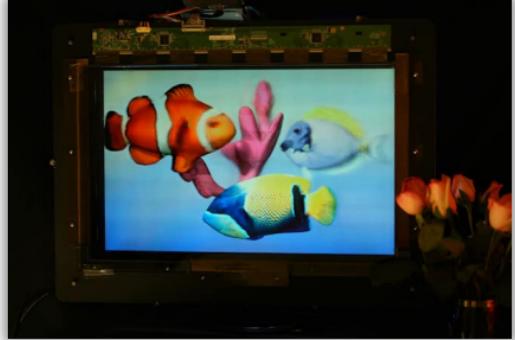
Traditional HMDs  
- No Focus Cues



The Light Field HMD  
Stereoscope

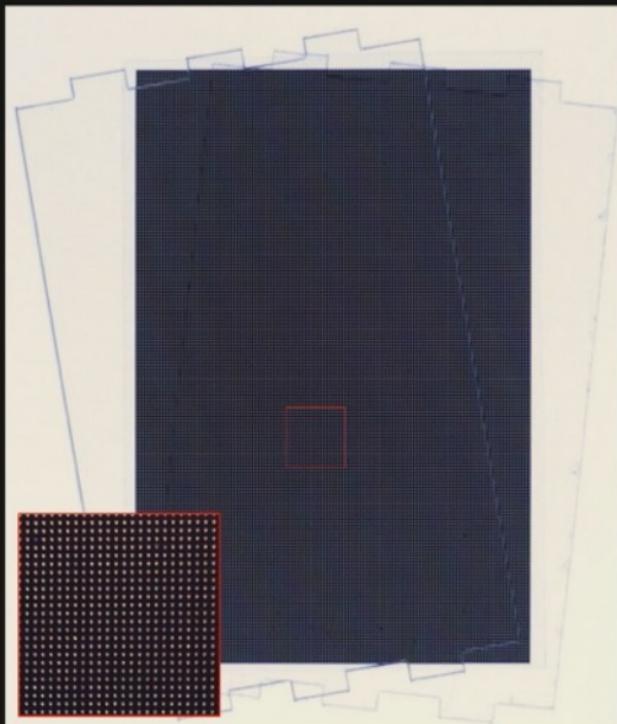
Model Courtesy of Paul H. Manning

# Tensor Displays

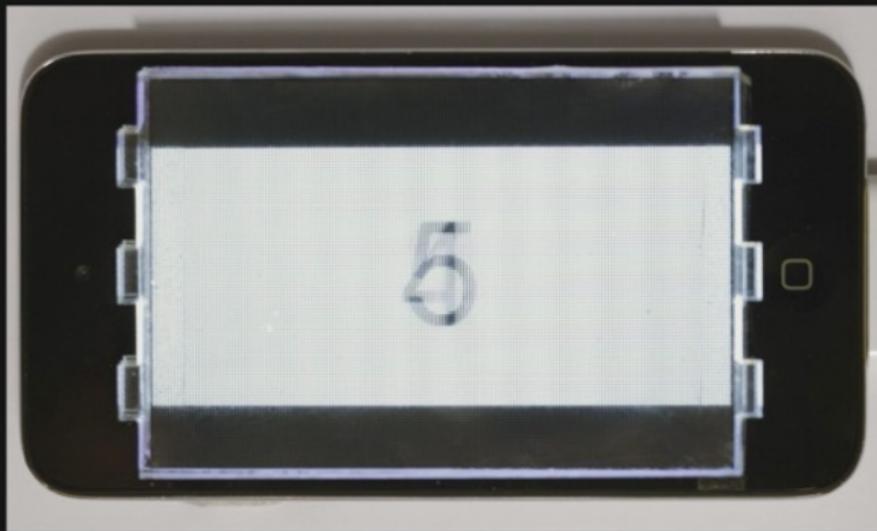


Wetzstein et al., SIGGRAPH 2012

# Vision-correcting Display



printed transparency



iPod Touch prototype



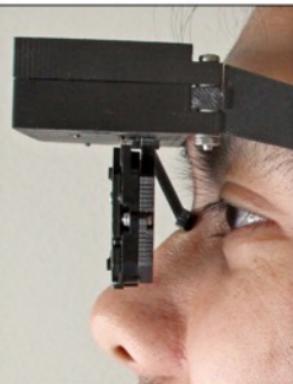
prototype



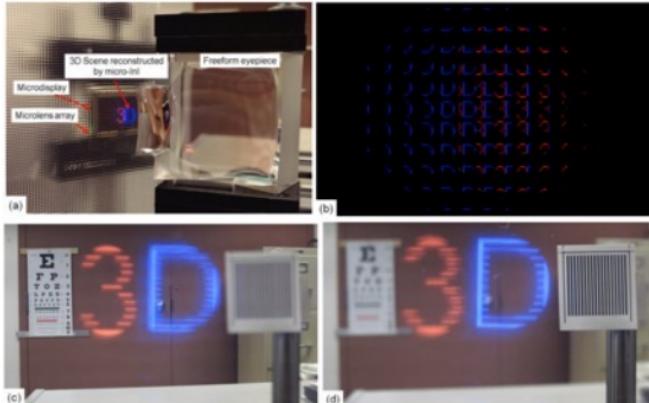
300 dpi or higher



# Microlens-based Near-eye Light Field Displays



Thin VR version:  
Lanman and Luebke, 2013



Optical see-through AR version:  
Hua and Javidi, 2014

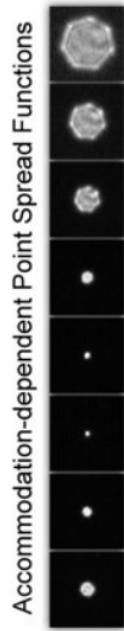
- biggest downside: usually low resolution
- limited by spatio-angular resolution tradeoff and, more fundamentally, also diffraction

# VR Displays with Focus Cues

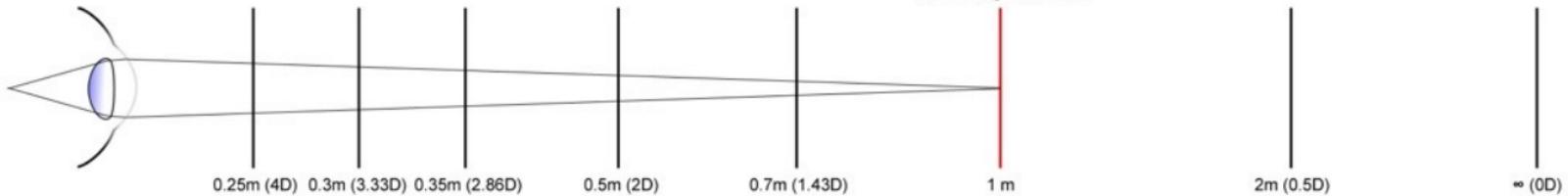
4. Maxwellian-type Displays

# Blur Gradient Driven Accommodation

Conventional Display



virtual image of screen



# PSF Engineering

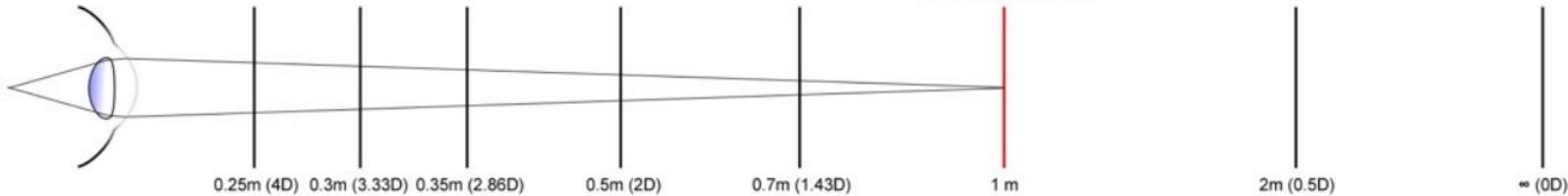
Conventional Display

Accommodation-invariant Display

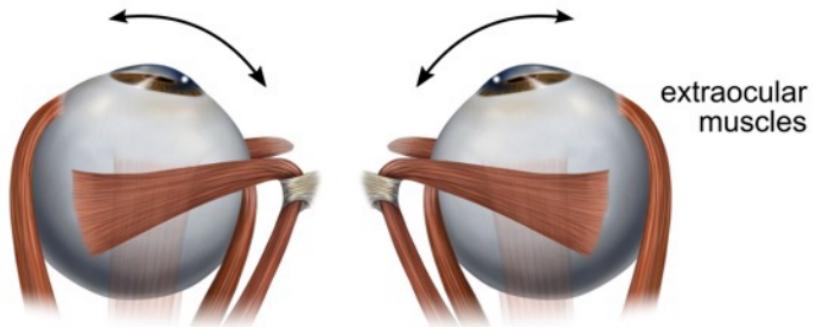
Accommodation-dependent Point Spread Functions



virtual image of screen



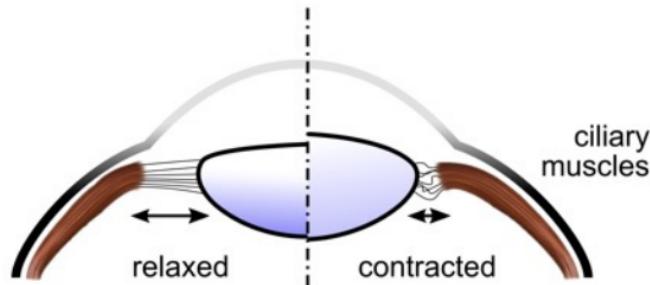
Q: can we drive accommodation with stereoscopic cues by optically removing the retinal blur cue?



Vergence



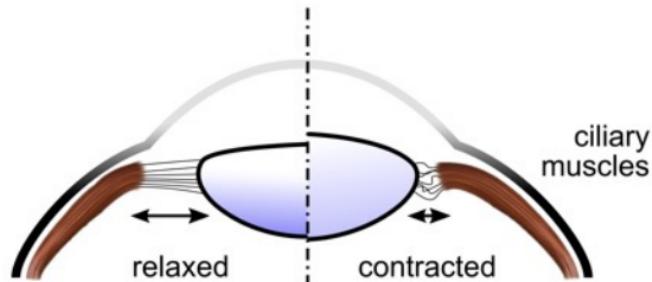
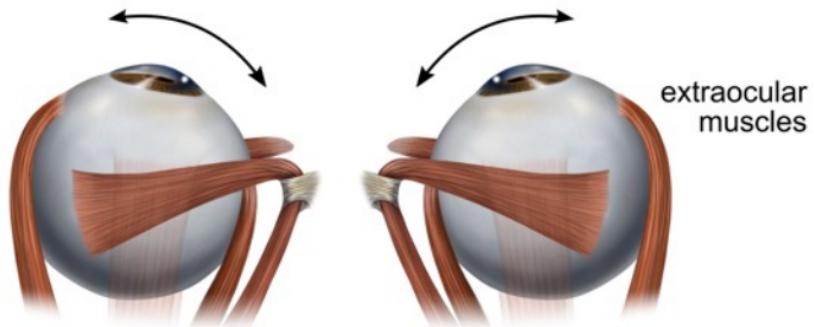
Binocular Disparity

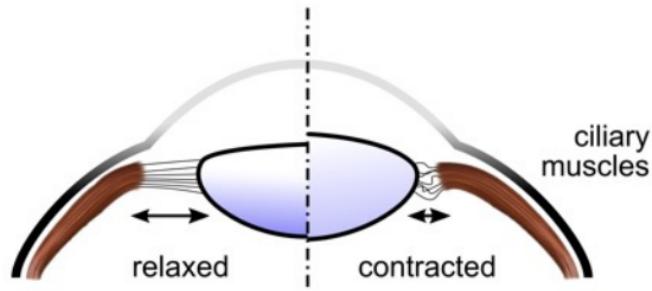
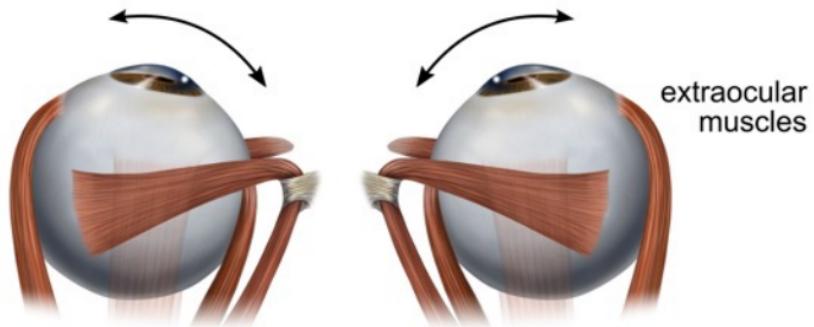


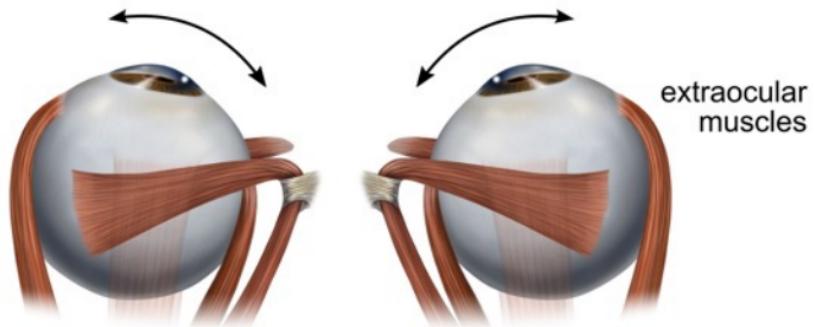
Accommodation



Retinal Blur



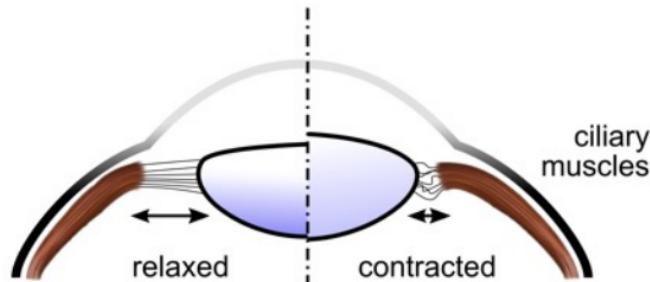




Vergence



Binocular Disparity



Accommodation



Retinal Blur

How do we remove the blur cue?

# Aperture Controls Depth of Field



Image courtesy of Concept One Studios

# Aperture Controls Depth of Field



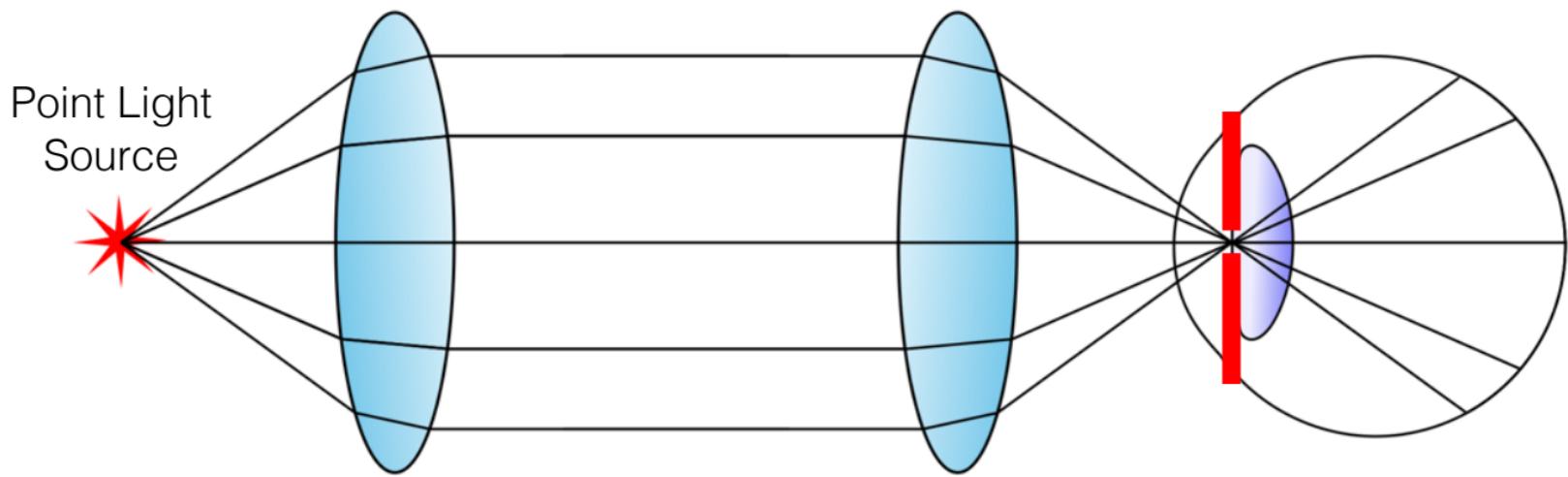
Image courtesy of Concept One Studios

# Aperture Controls Depth of Field

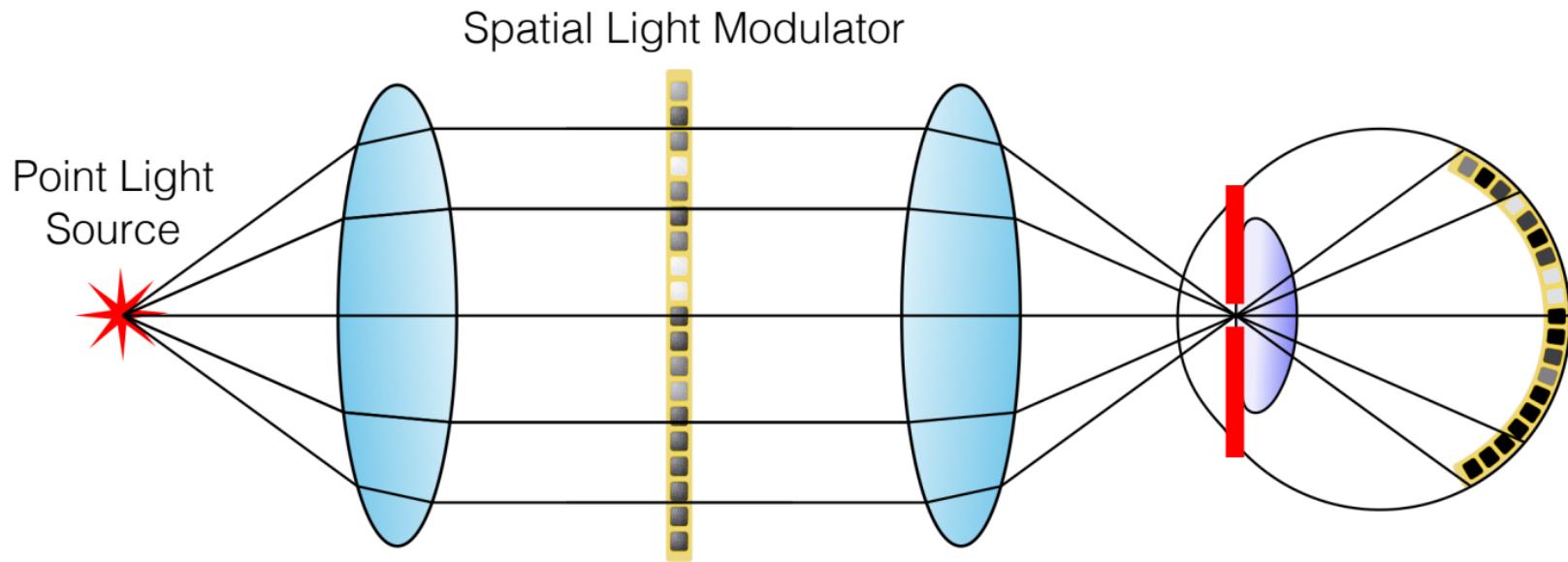


Image courtesy of Concept One Studios

# Maxwellian-type (pinhole) Near-eye Displays

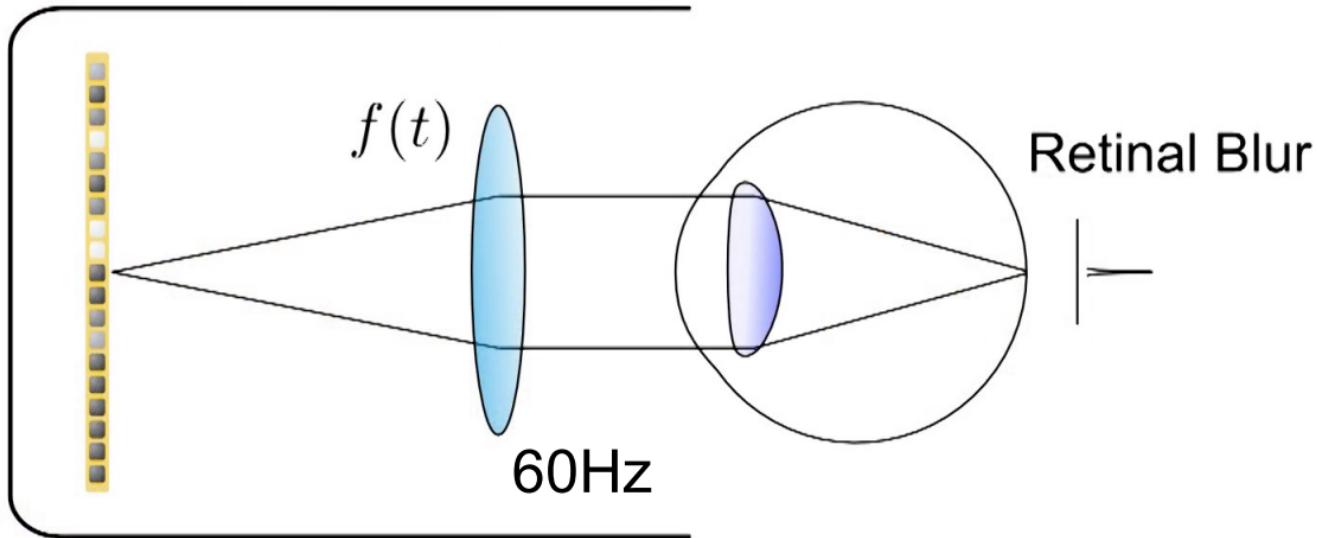


# Maxwellian-type (pinhole) Near-eye Displays



Severely reduces eyebox; requires dynamic steering of exit pupil

# Focal Sweep

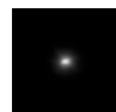
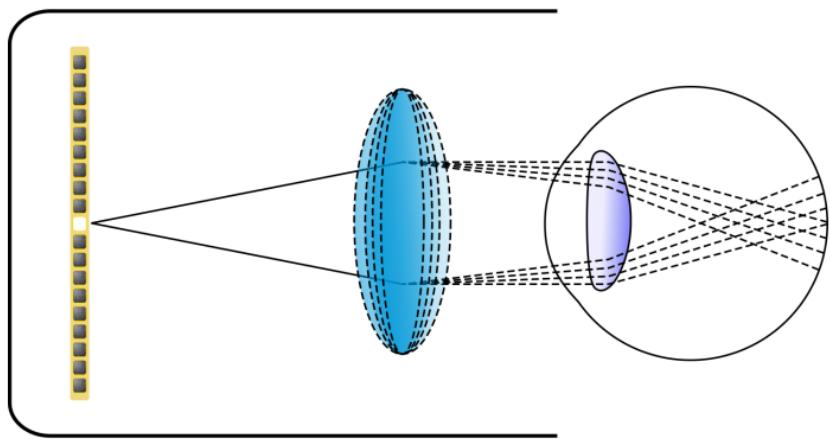


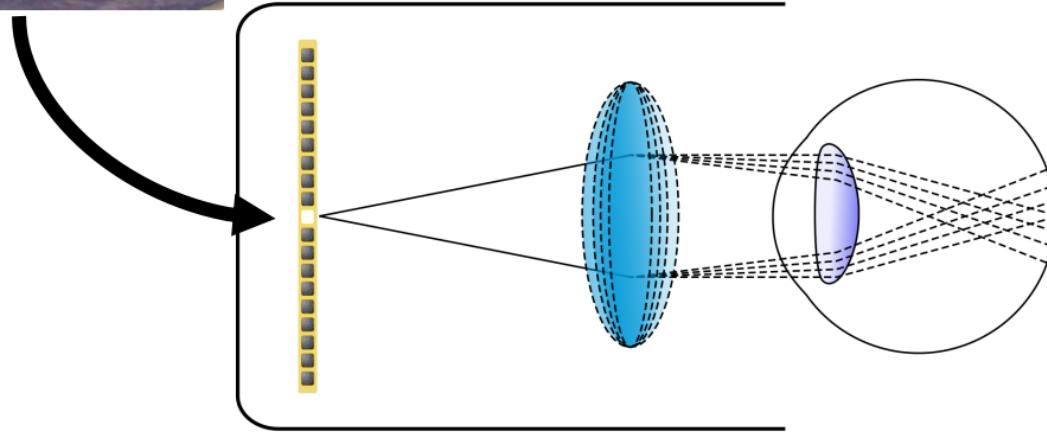
EDOF Cameras:

Dowski & Cathey, App. Opt. 1995

Nagahara et al., ECCV 2008

Cossairt et al., SIGGRAPH 2010

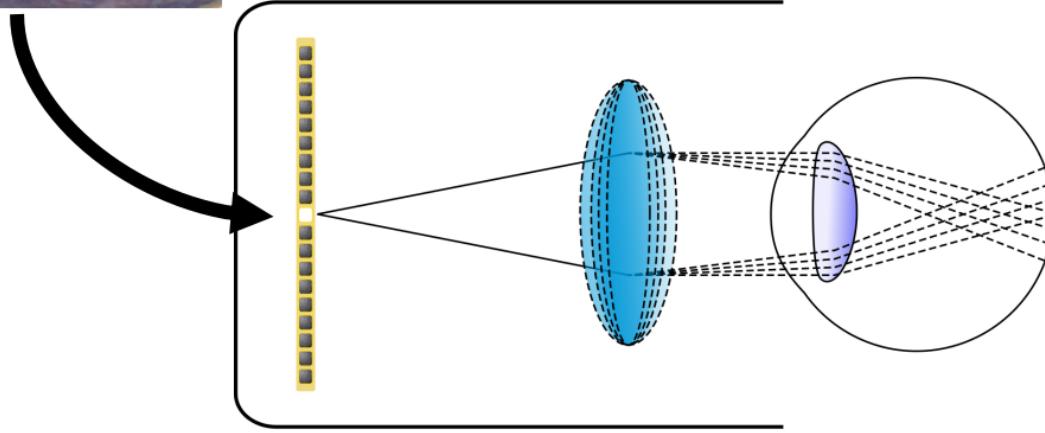




# Convolution



\*



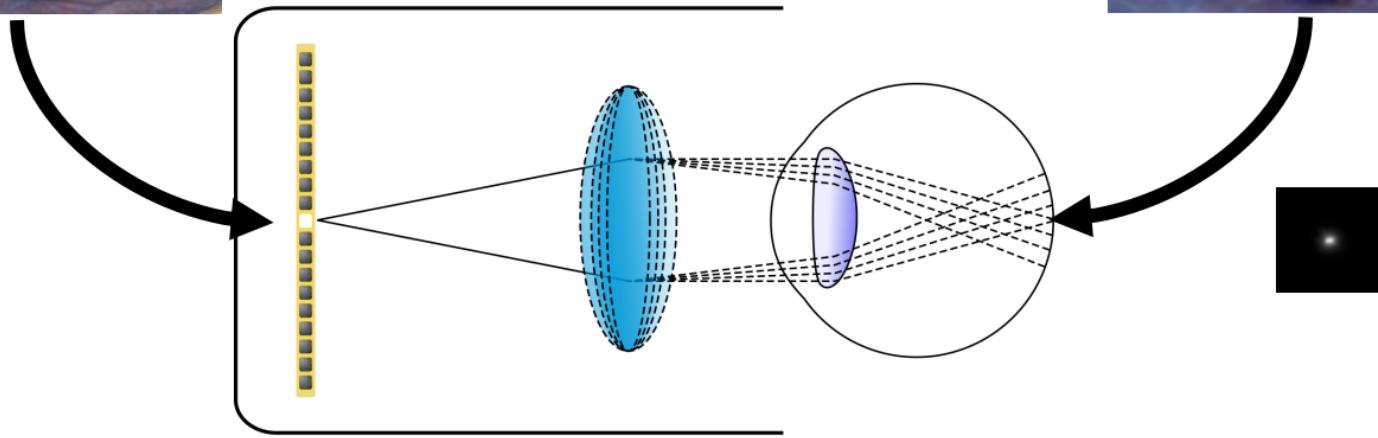
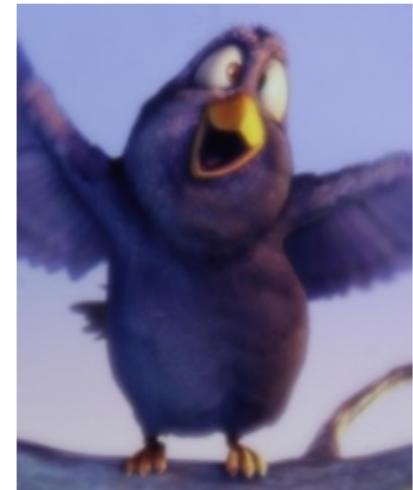
# Convolution



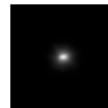
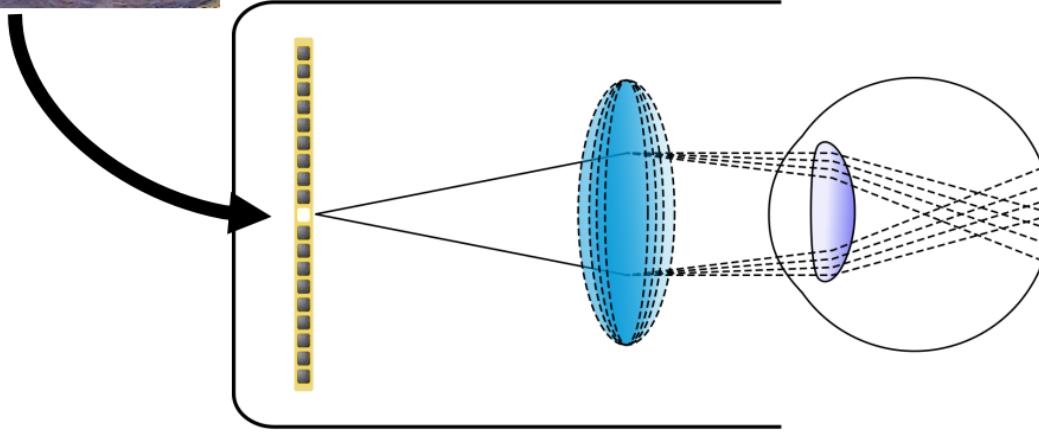
\*



=



# Deconvolution



Target



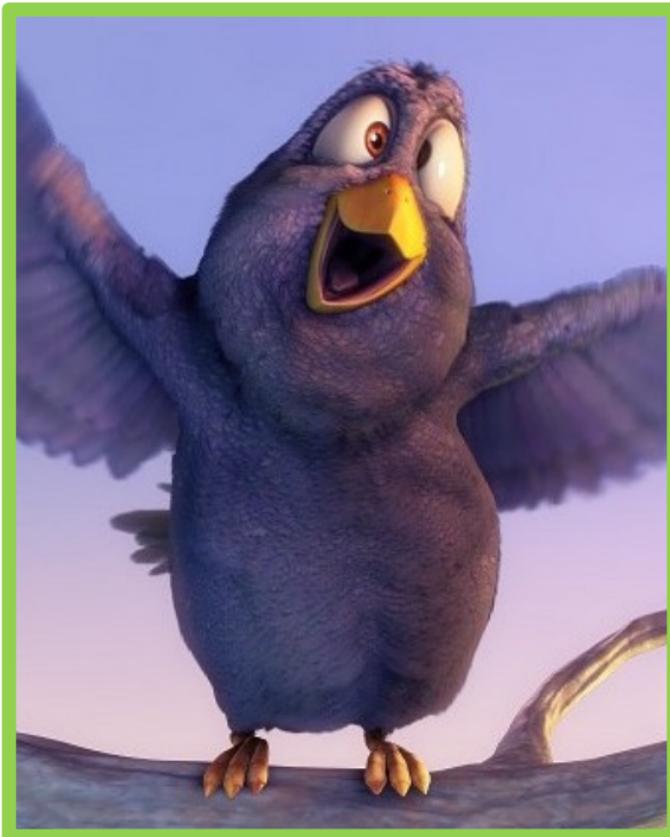
Target Image



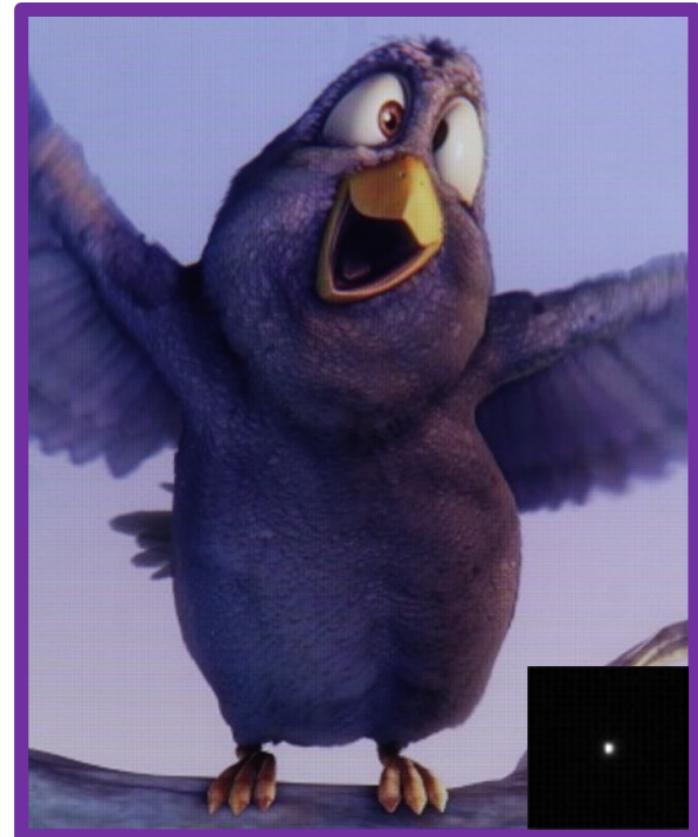
Target



Target Image



Conventional Display @ 1D



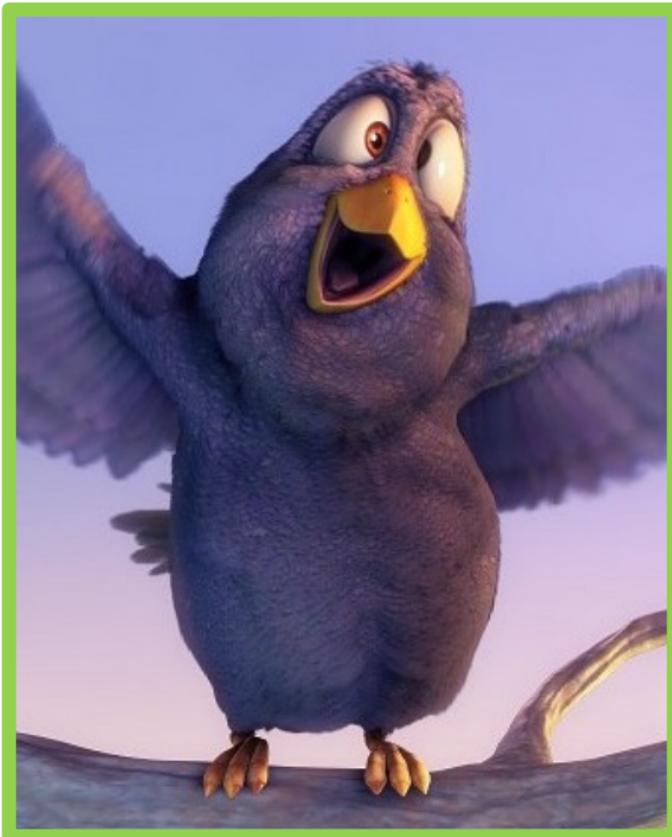
Conventional



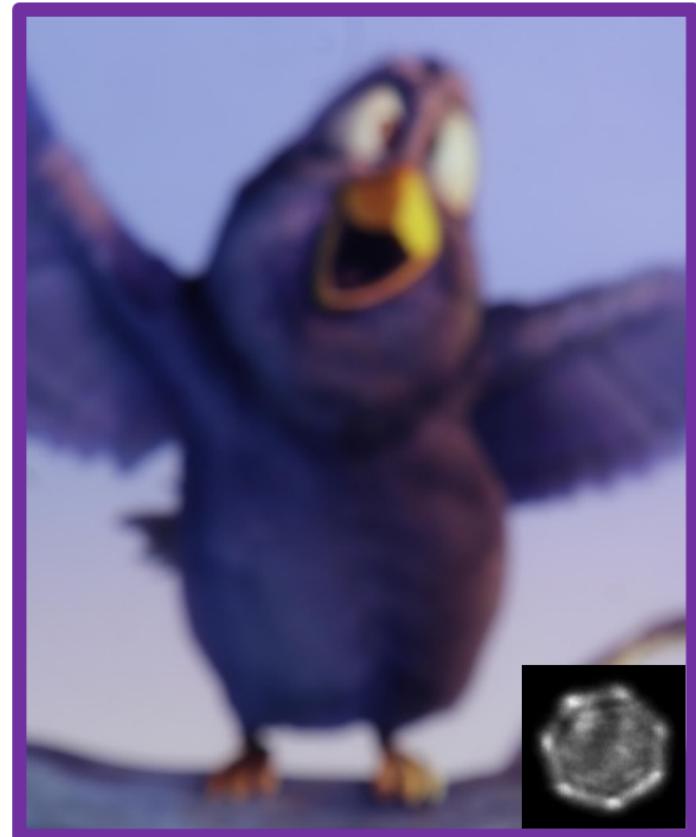
Target



Target Image



Conventional Display @ 3D



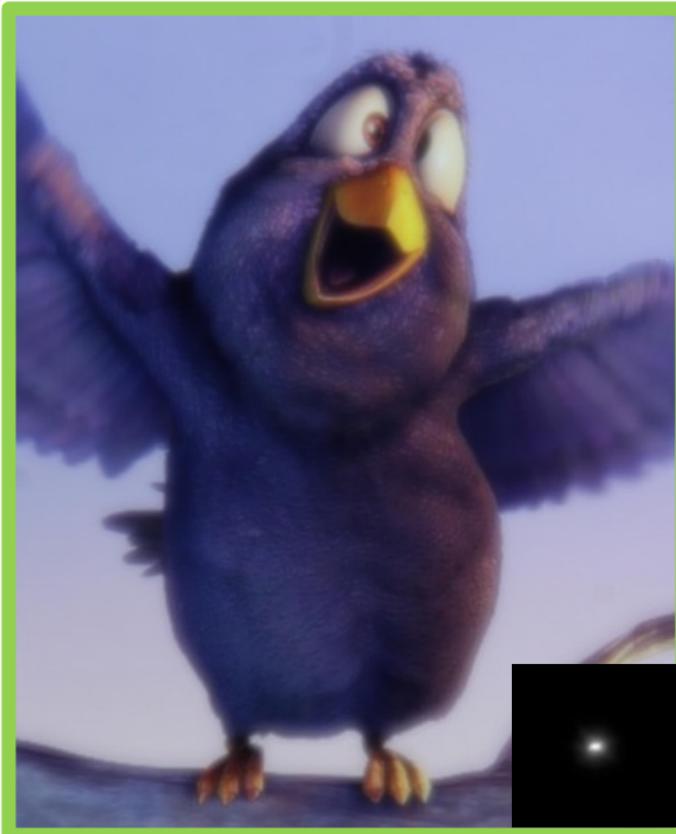
Conventional



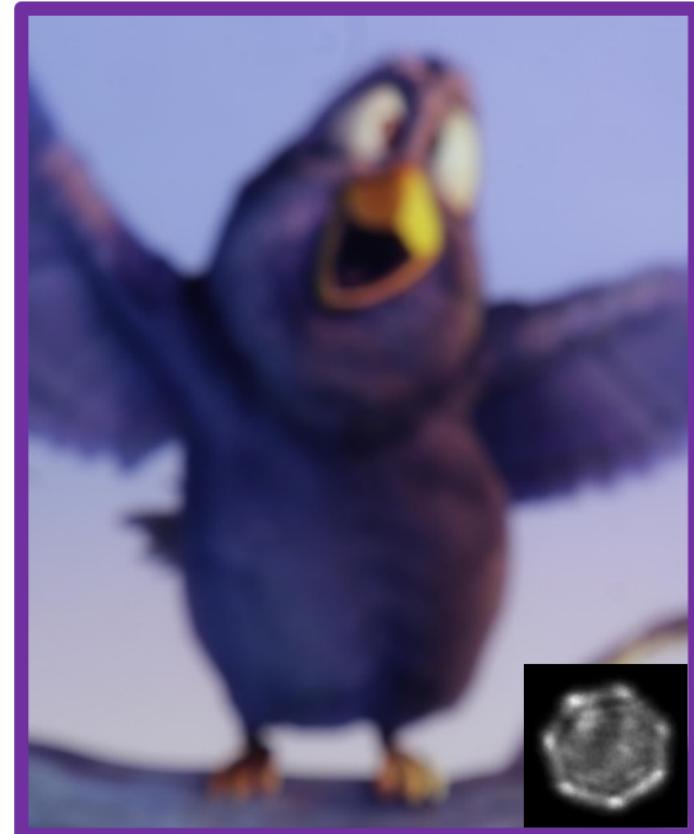
Target



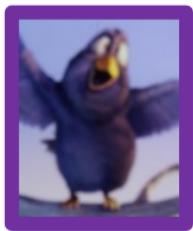
AI @ 3D



Conventional Display @ 3D



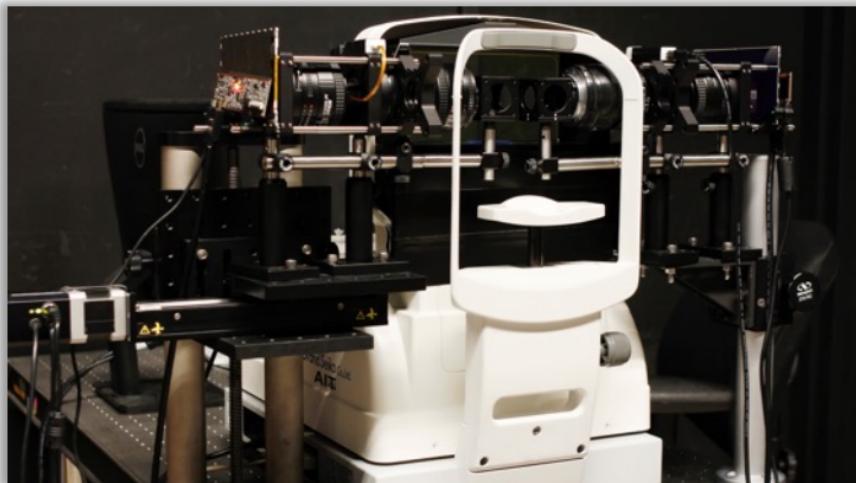
Conventional



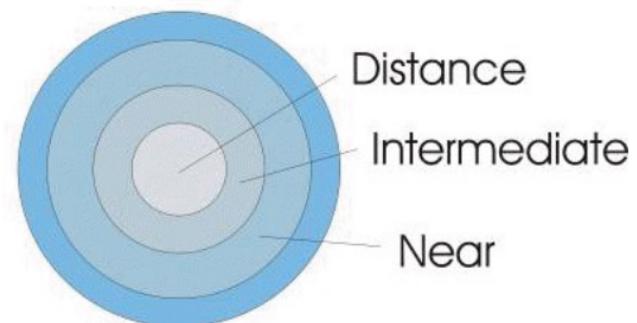
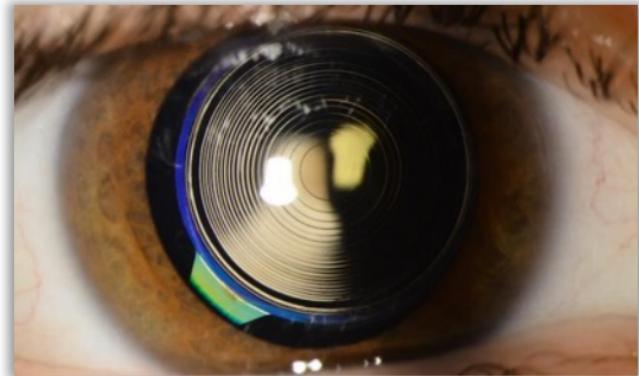
AI



Now: benchtop



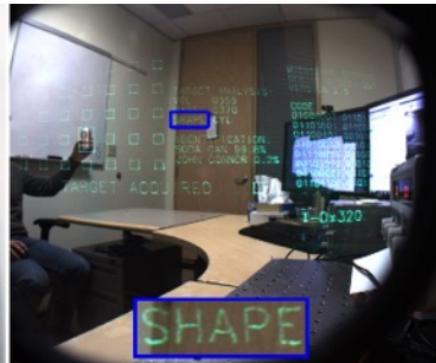
Future: multifocal lenses



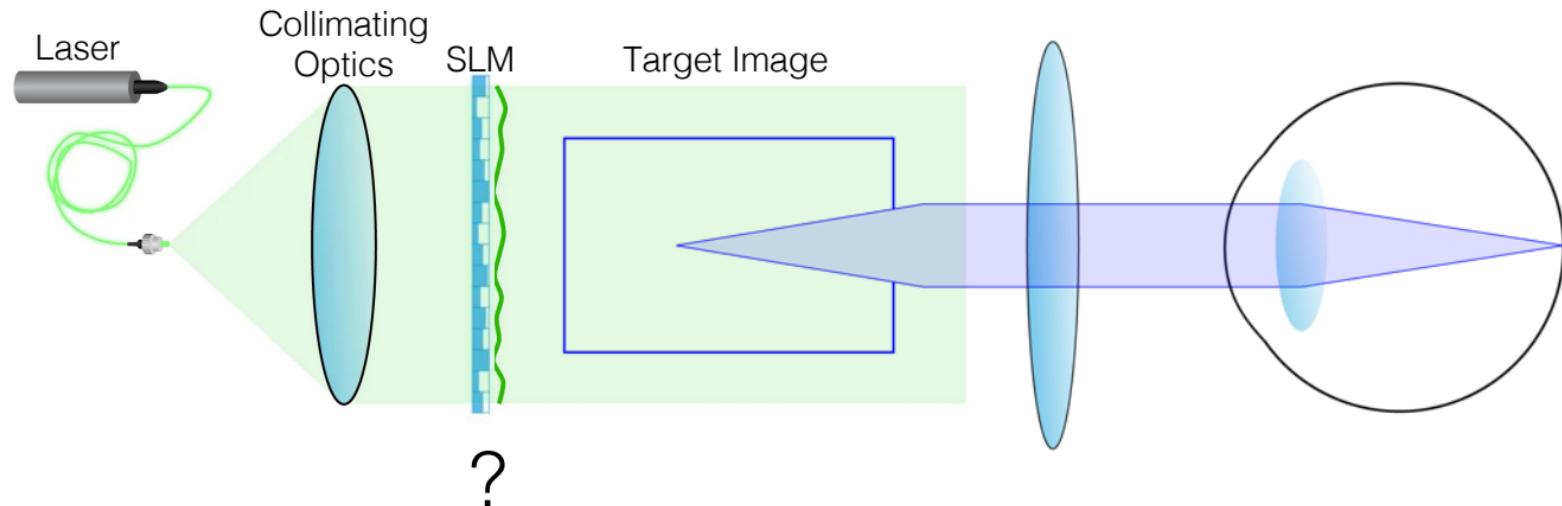
## 5. Holographic Near-eye Displays

# Holographic Near-eye Displays

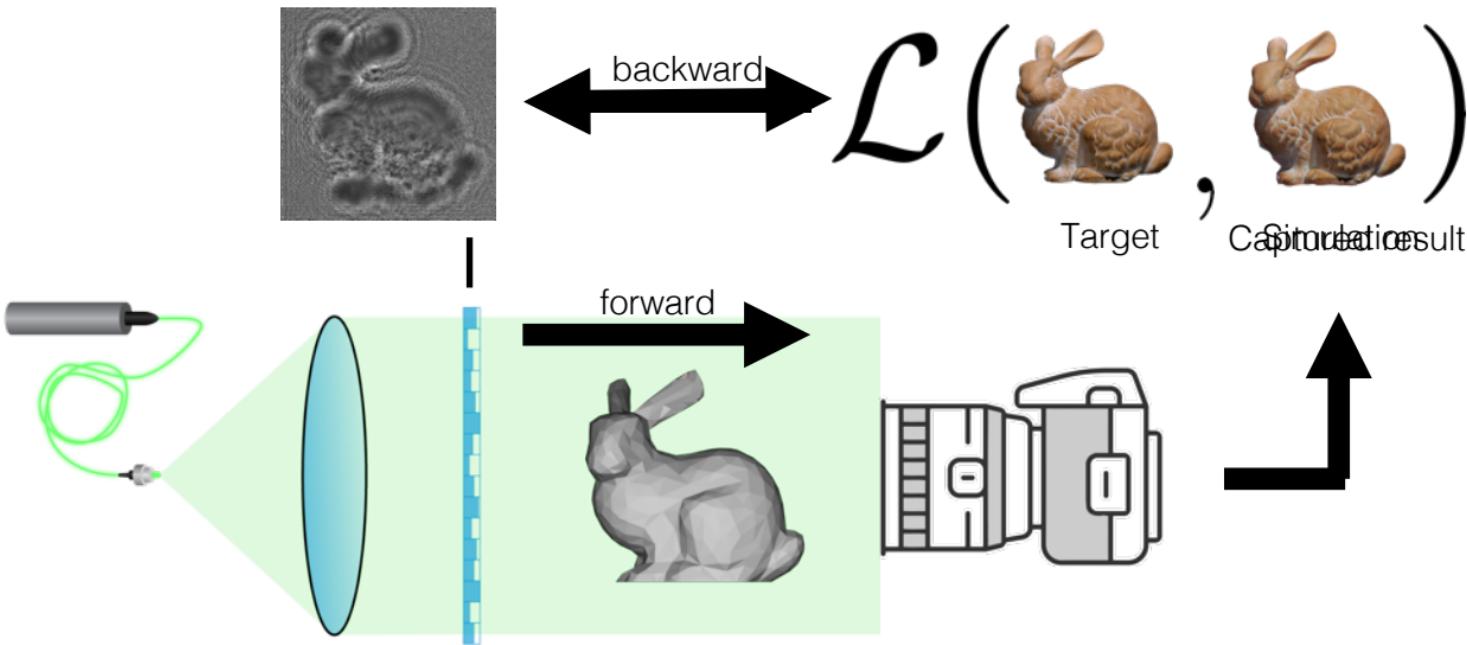
- recently great image quality demonstrated!
- limited by space-bandwidth product: either small field of view + “large-ish” eyebox or vice versa, but not both
- interference in users’ eyes may be a problem



# Holographic Near-eye Displays



# Camera-in-the-loop (CITL) Hologram Optimization



# Wirtinger Holography



Generated offline  
Captured in real-time

# Our Camera-in-the-loop Optimization



Generated offline  
Captured in real-time

# Summary of AR/VR Displays with Focus Cues

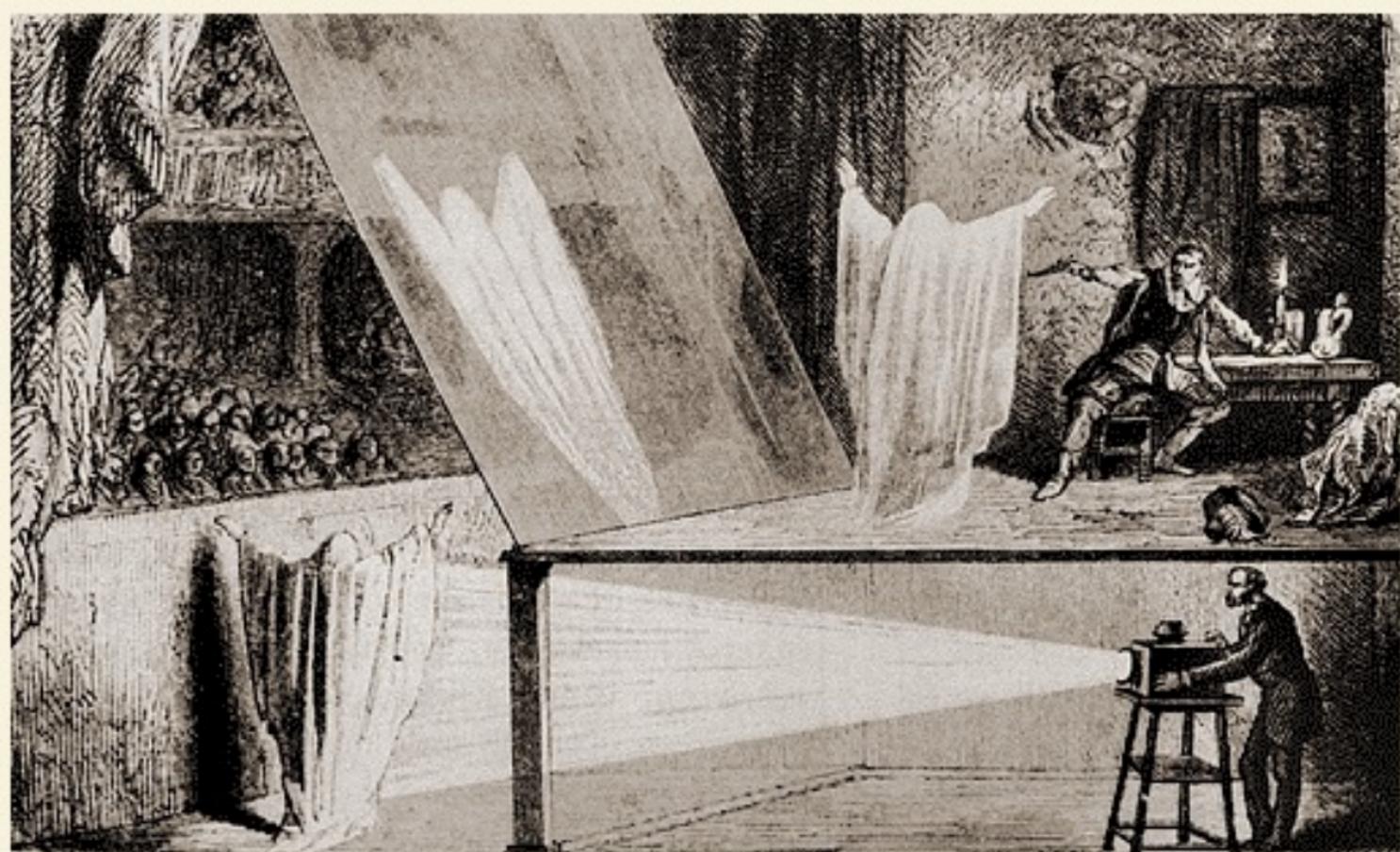
- focus cues in VR/AR are challenging
- adaptive focus can correct for refractive errors (myopia, hyperopia)
- gaze-contingent focus gives natural focus cues for non-presbyopes, but require eyes tracking
- presbyopes require fixed focal plane with correction
- multiplane displays require very high speed microdisplays or multiple optically overlaid displays
- Maxwellian-type displays can be interesting, but provide small eyebox
- light field and holographic displays may be “ultimate” displays in the longer-run → need to solve a few “issues” first

# Overview of Optical See-through AR Displays

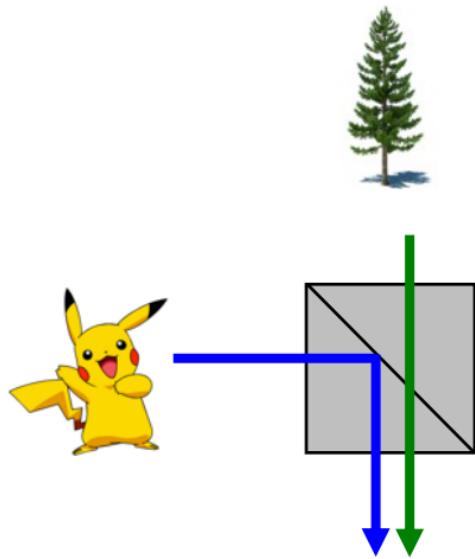


Ray Ban

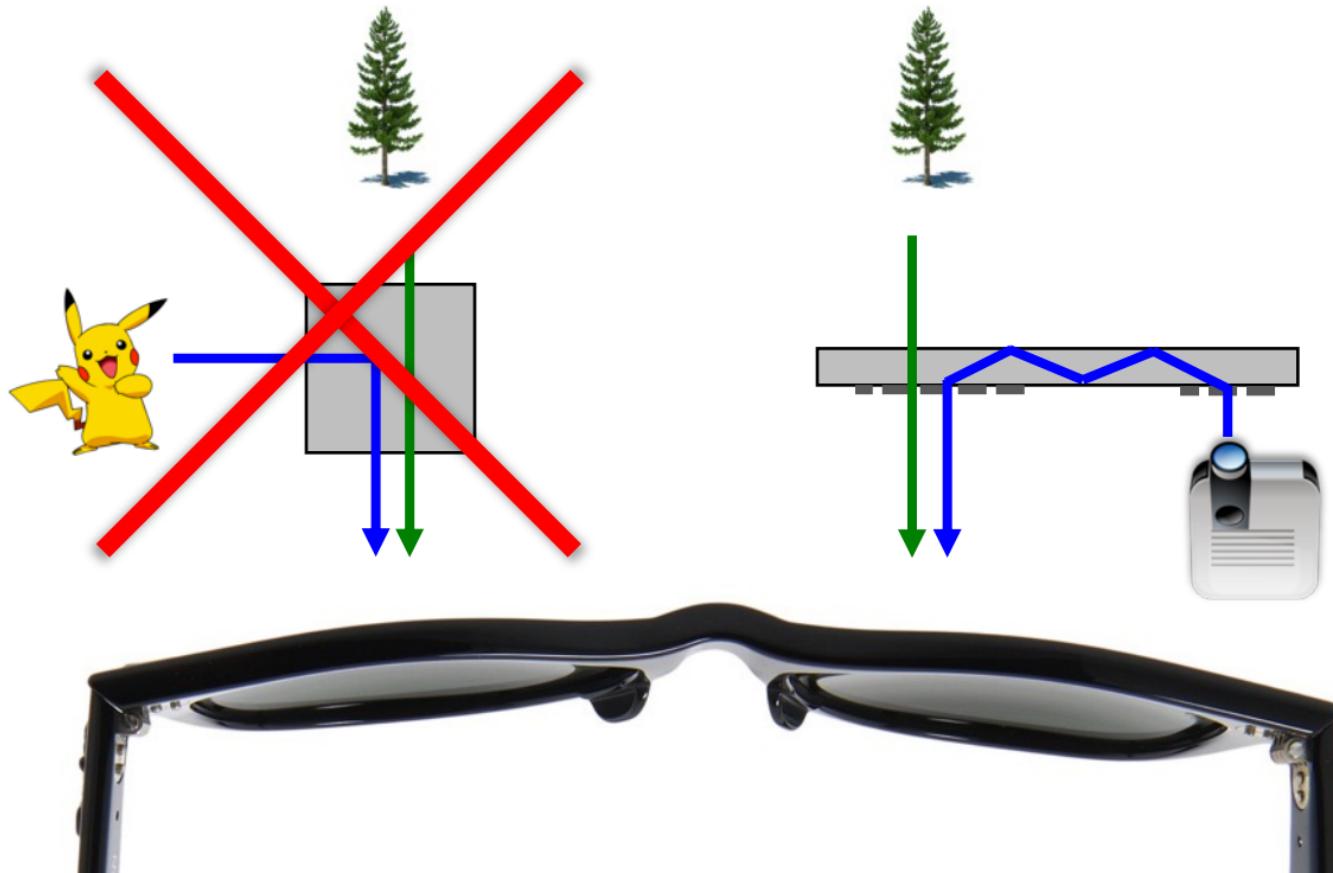
# Pepper's Ghost 1862



# Thin Beam Combiner?

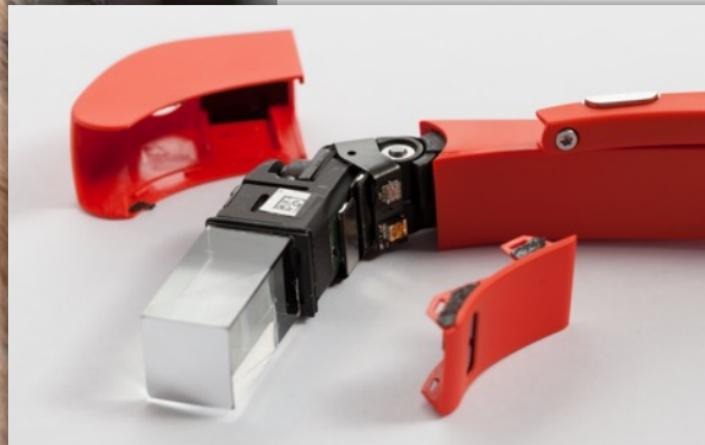


# Thin Beam Combiner!

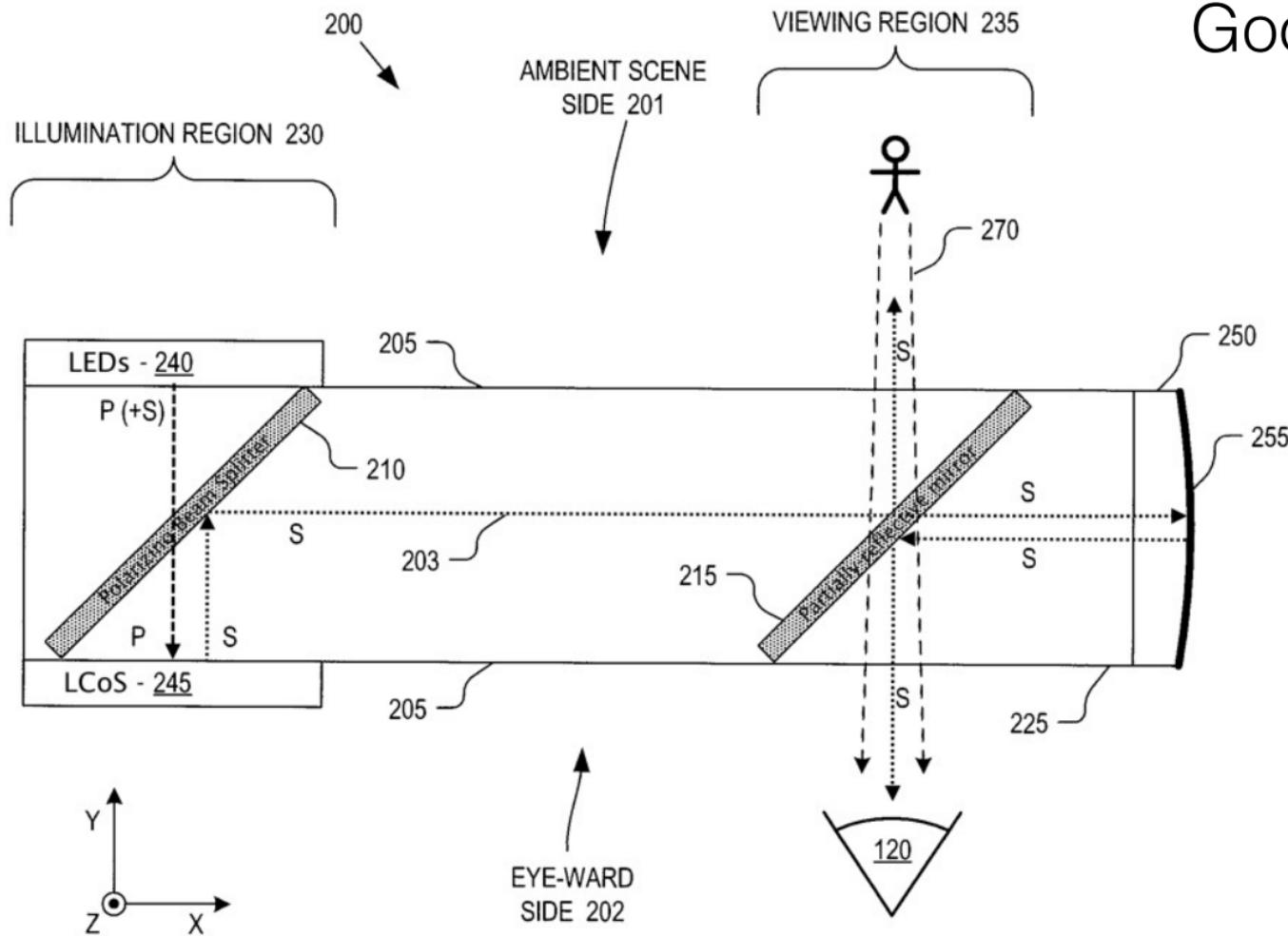


# OST AR - Case Studies

# Google Glass



# Google Glass



# Meta 2

- larger field of view (90 deg) than Glass
- also larger device form factor

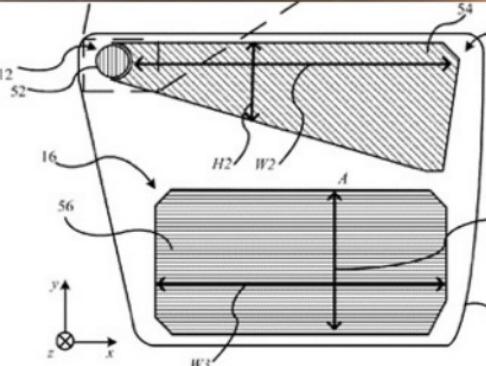
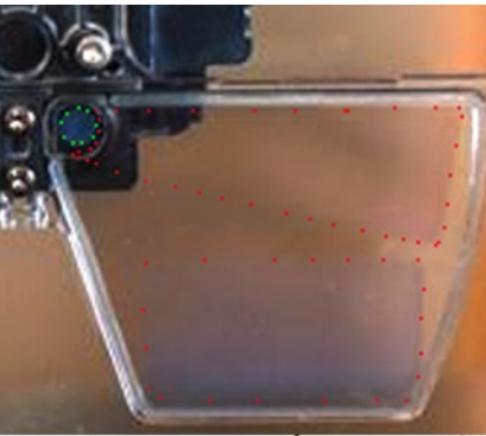


# Microsoft HoloLens



# Microsoft HoloLens

- diffraction grating
- small FOV (30x17), but very good image quality



US 2016/0231568

Fig. 3B

(16) United States

(21) Patent Application Publication

(30) Pub. No.: US 2016/0231568 A1

(41) Pub. Date: Aug. 11, 2016

(54) WAVEGUIDE

(52) U.S. CL.

(71) Applicant: Microsoft Technology Licensing, LLC,  
Redmond, WA (US)CPC — G02B 27/87(2013.01); G02B 6/40(2013.01);  
(2013.01); G02B 10/04(2013.01); G02B 27/87(2013.01);  
G02B 10/00(2013.01); G02B 27/87(2013.01)(72) Inventor: Paul Saarikko; Tapio (T1); Paul  
Kostamo; Tapio (T2)

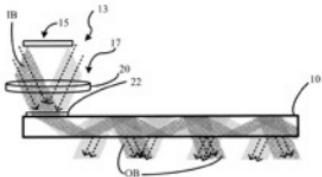
(67) ABSTRACT

(21) Appl. No.: 14/865,697

(73)

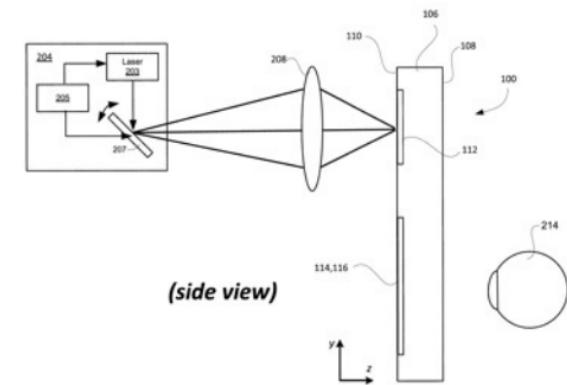
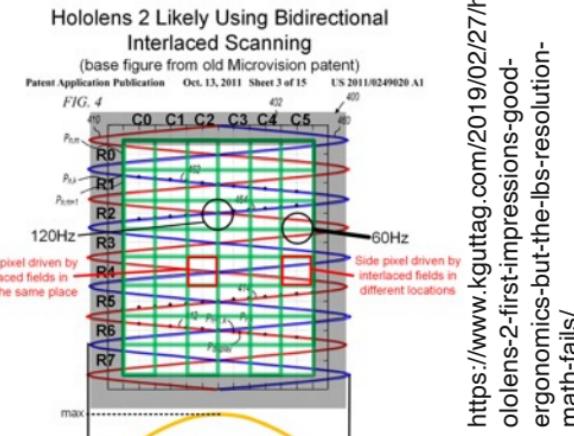
(22) Filed: Feb. 9, 2015

A waveguide has a front surface and a rear surface. The waveguide is for a display system and arranged to guide light from a light engine onto an eye of a user to make an image visible to the user. The waveguide includes a first portion of the front or rear surface and a second portion of the same surface which has a different structure which causes light to undergo phase shifting relative to light reflected from the first portion. A second portion of the same surface has a different structure which causes light to undergo phase shifting relative to the second portion by a second amount different from the first amount. The first portion is offset from the second portion by a distance which substantially matches the difference between the second amount and the first amount.

(51) Int.Cl.  
G02B 27/87(2006.01)  
G02B 10/04(2006.01)  
G02B 27/87(2006.01)

# Microsoft HoloLens 2

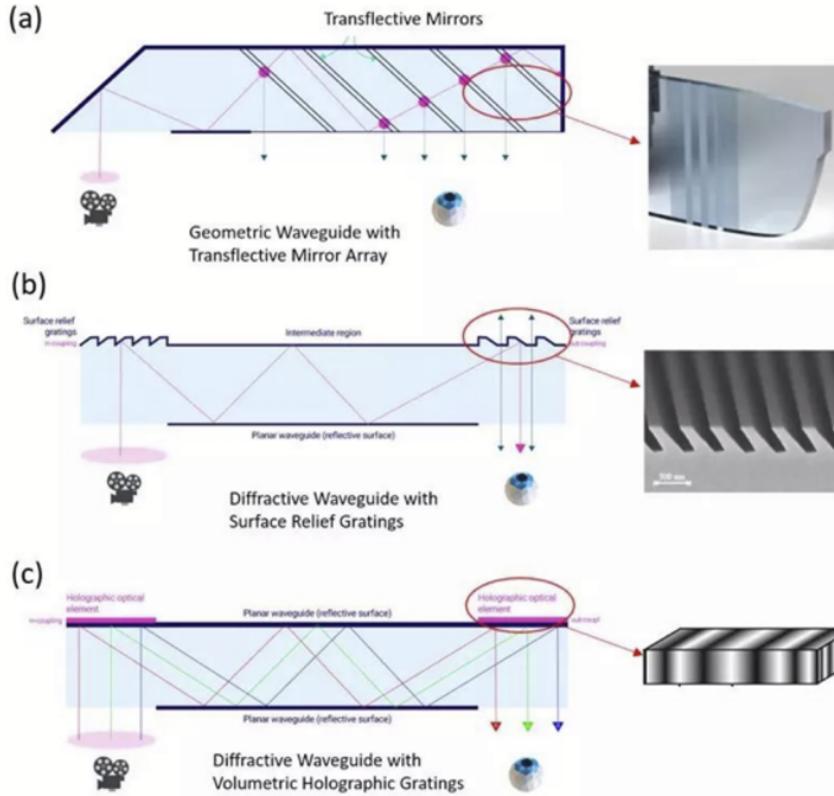
- laser-scanned waveguide display
- claimed 2K resolution per eye (2560x1440), probably via “interlaced” scanning
- field of view: 52° diagonally (3:2 aspect, 47 pixels per visual degree)



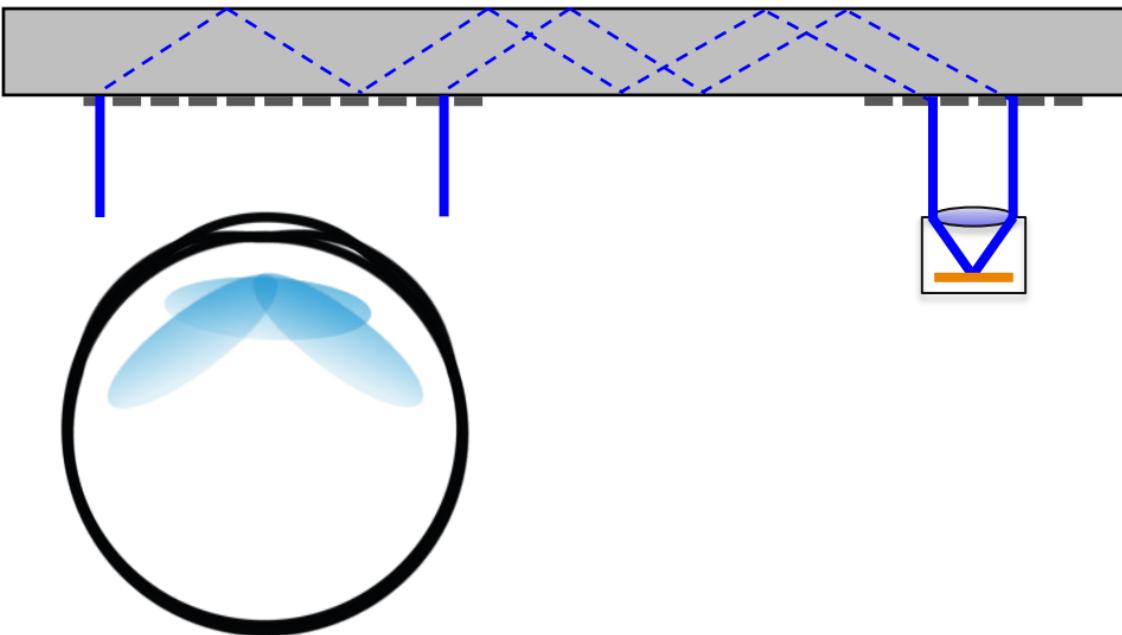
Wall et al. US 10,025,093 2018

<https://www.kguttag.com/2019/02/27/hololens-2-first-impressions-good-ergonomics-but-the-lbs-resolution-math-fails/>

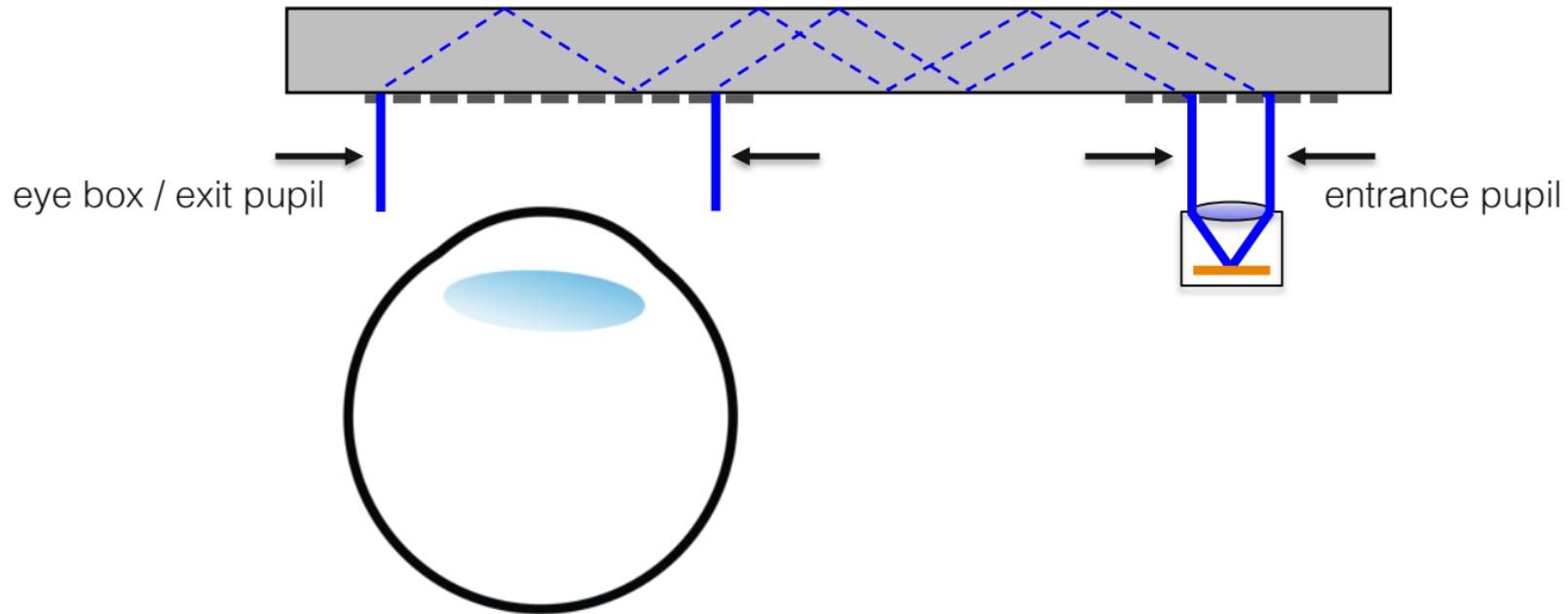
# AR Lightguides and Waveguides



# Challenges: Eye Box vs Field of View

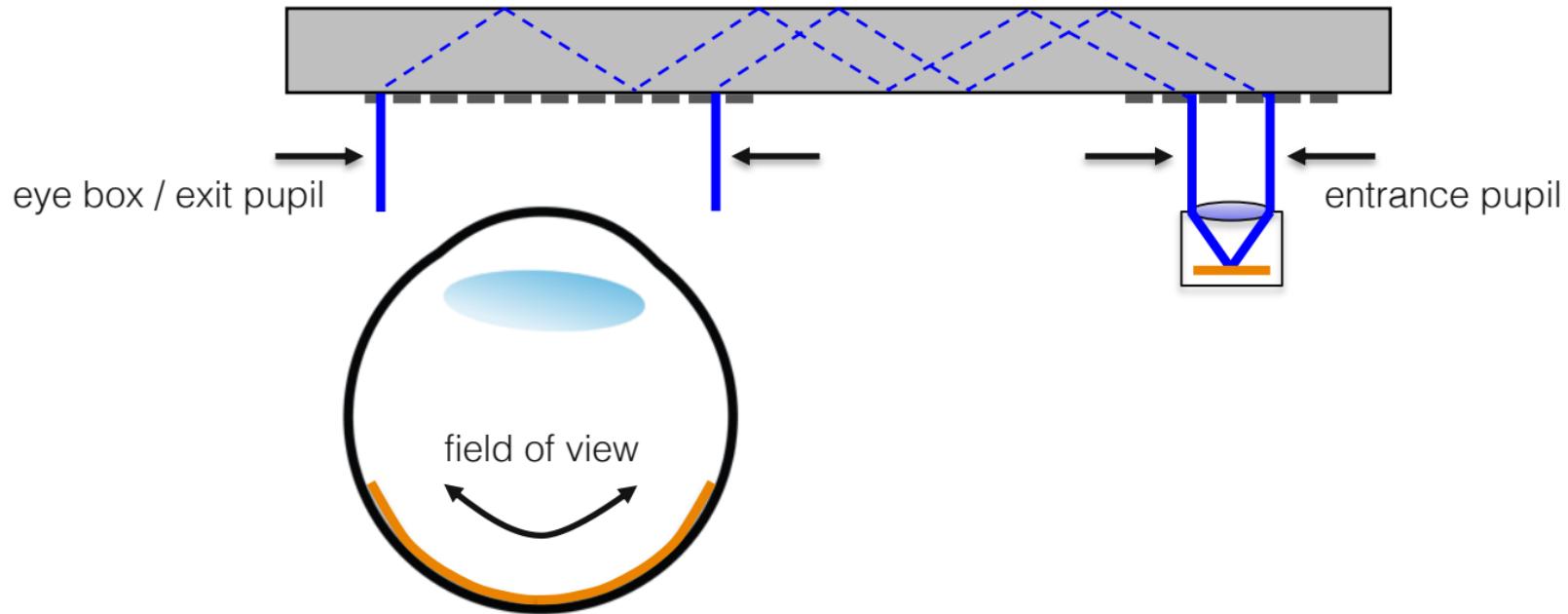


# Challenges: Eye Box vs Field of View



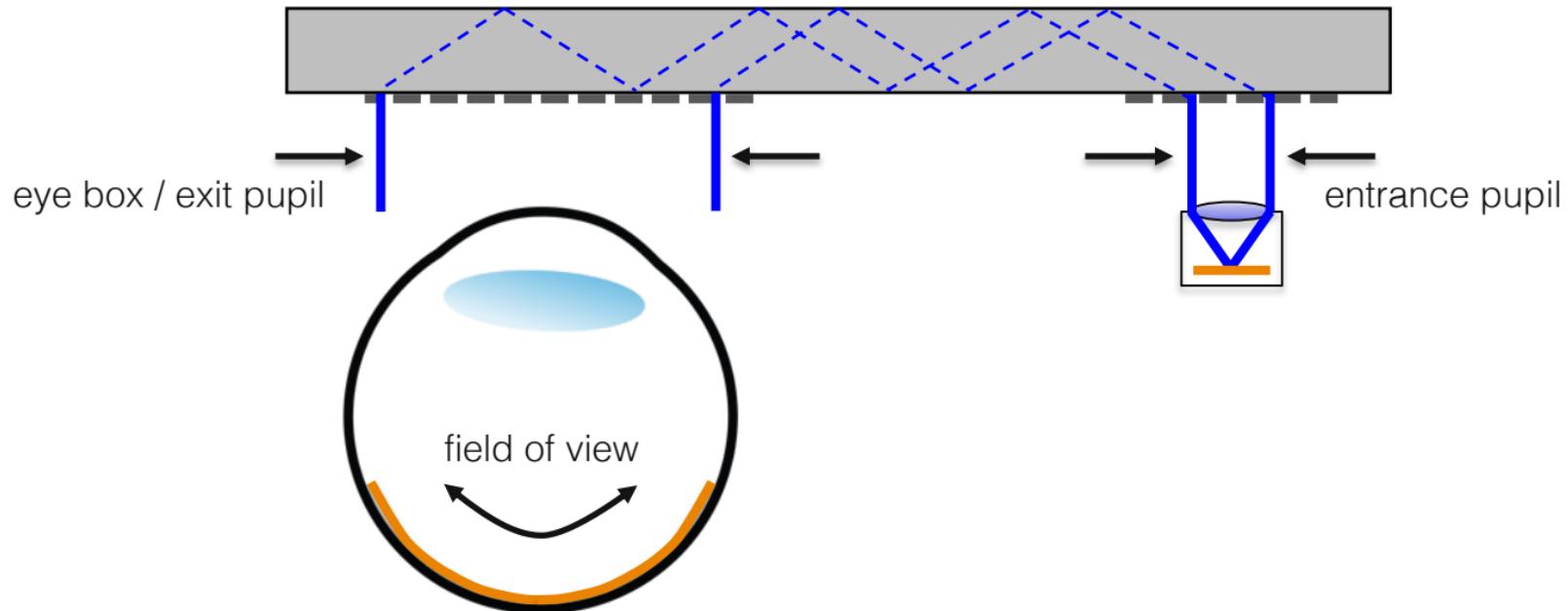
- need small entrance pupil (small device) and large exit pupil (large eye box) - pupil needs to be magnified

# Challenges: Eye Box vs Field of View



- need small display (small device) but large field of view – image needs to be magnified

# Challenges: Eye Box vs Field of View

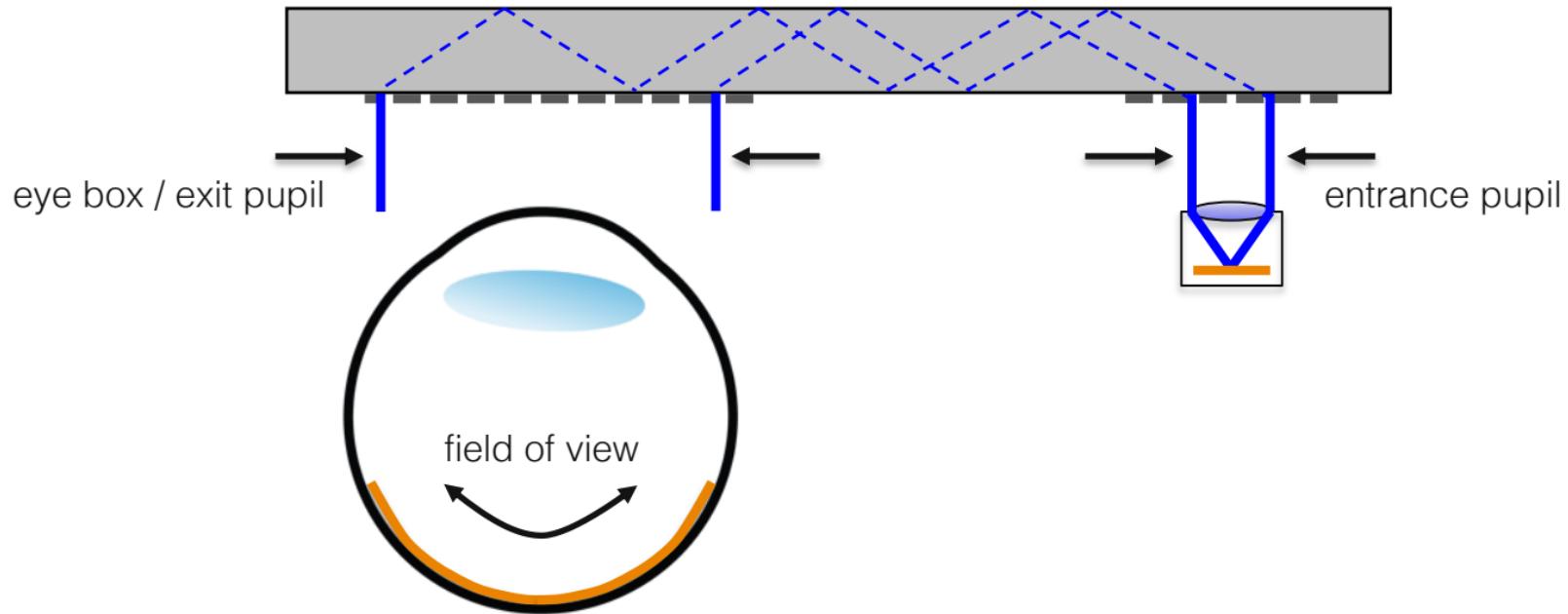


- pupil needs to be magnified
- image needs to be magnified



can't get both at the same time – etendue!

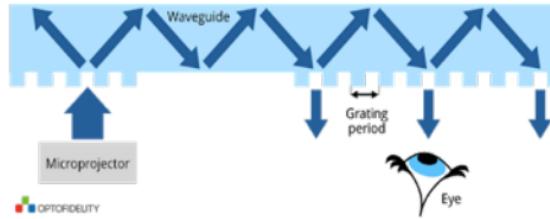
# Challenges: Eye Box vs Field of View



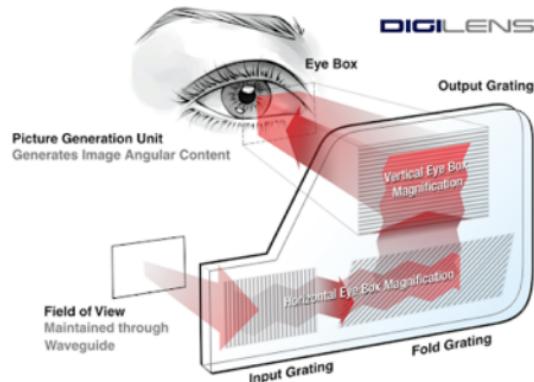
- possible solutions: exit pupil replication (loss of light), live with small FOV (not great), dynamically steer eye box (mechanically difficult), ..

# Exit Pupil Expansion

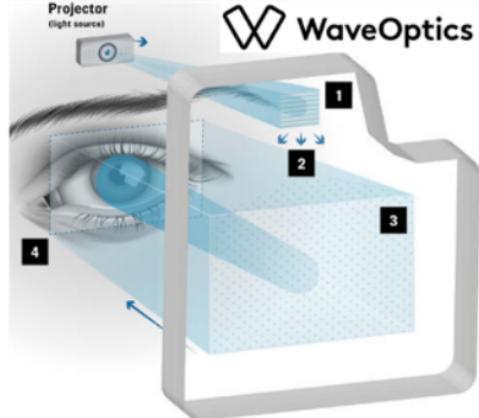
(a) 1D Pupil Expansion



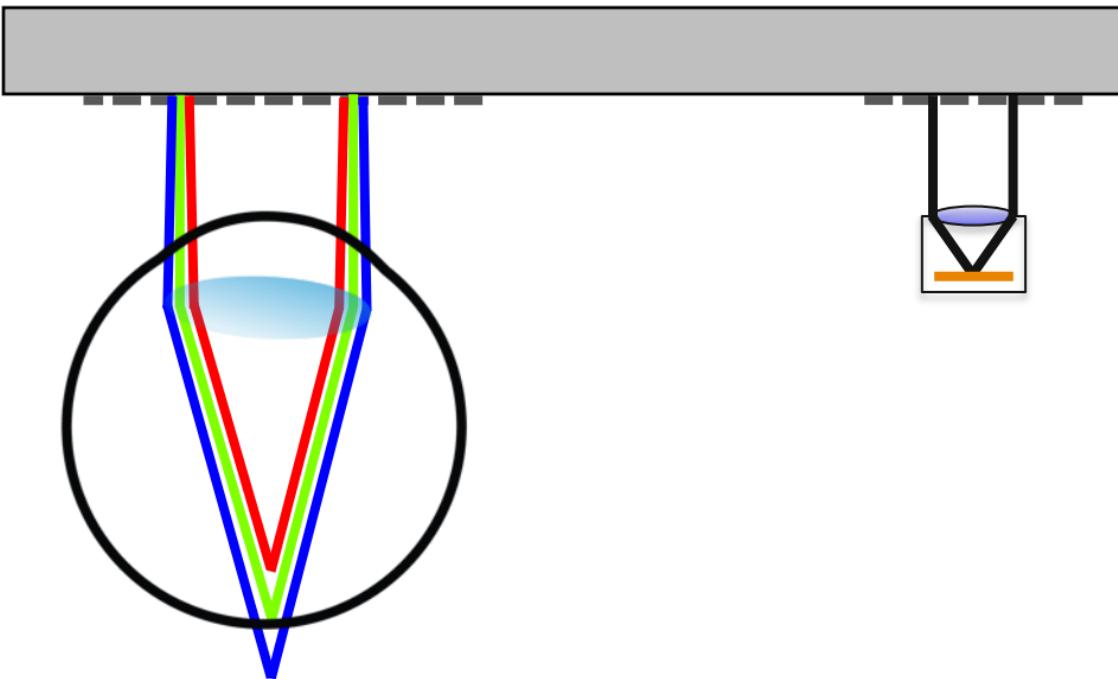
(b) 2D Pupil Expansion with Turn Grating



(c) 2D Pupil Expansion with 2D Grating



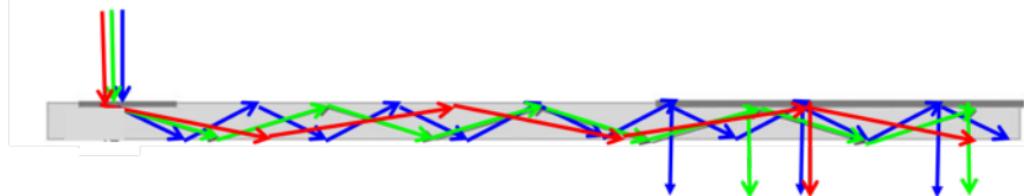
# Challenges: Chromatic Aberrations



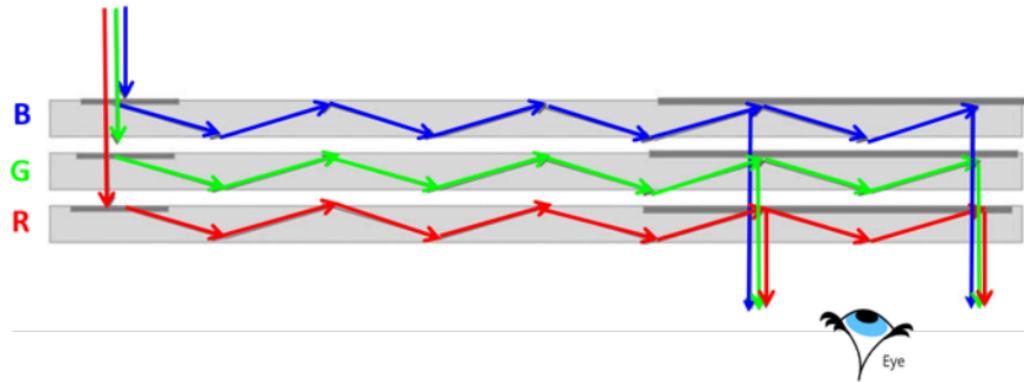
- thin grating couplers create chromatic aberrations

# Challenges: Chromatic Aberrations

(a) Single-layer Waveguide

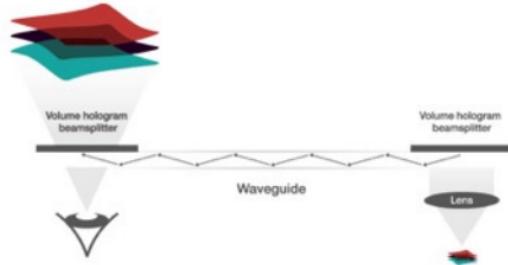


(b) Multi-layer Waveguide

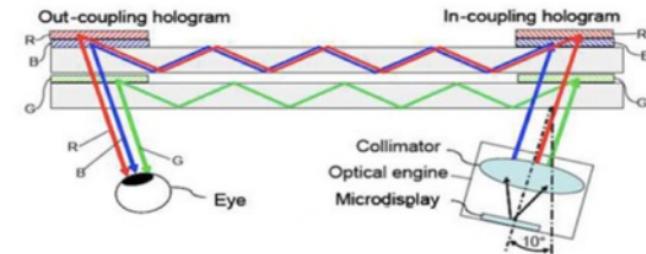


# Challenges: Chromatic Aberrations

volume holographic couplers,  
e.g. TruLife Optics

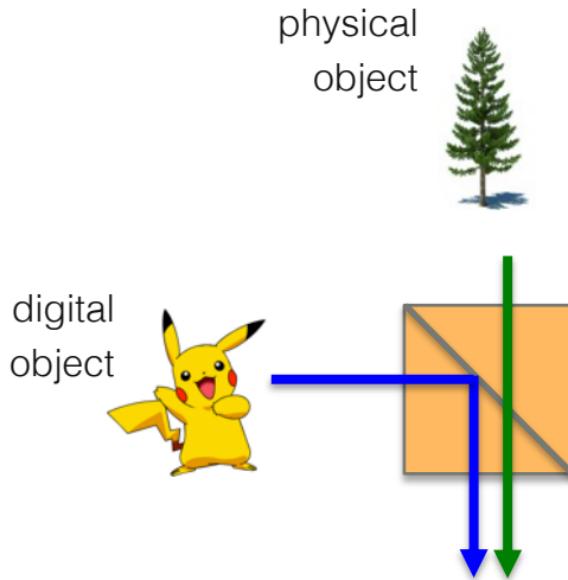


stacked waveguides



- all solutions have their own problems: ease of manufacturing, yield, robustness, cost, ...

# Occlusions



Case 1:  
digital in front of physical



Case 2:  
physical in front of digital

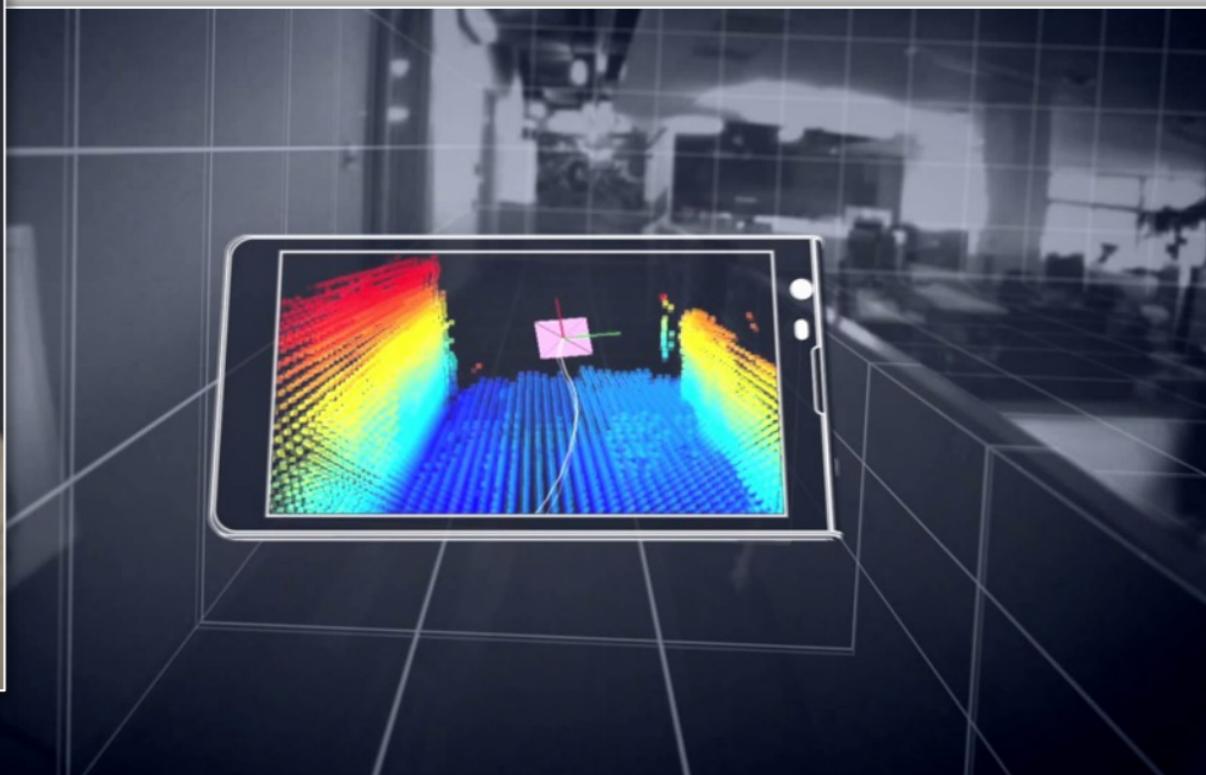
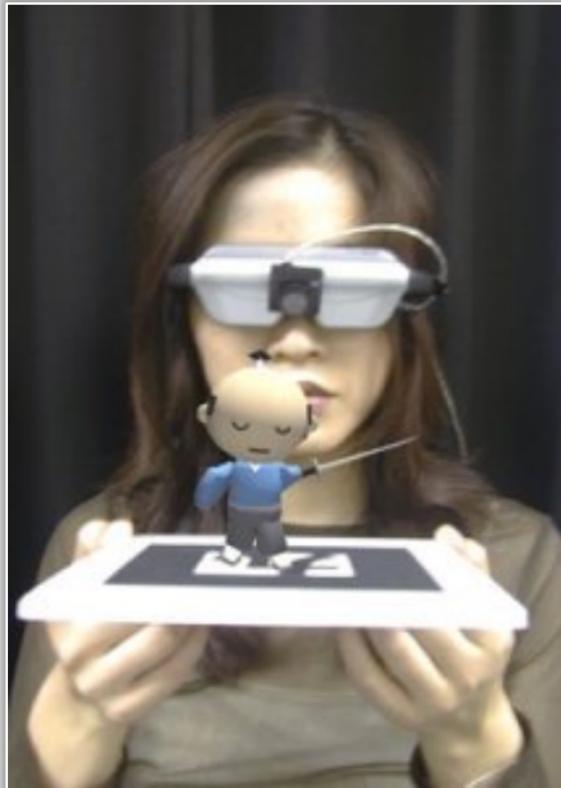


→ difficult: need  
to block real light!

→ easy: don't render  
digital object everywhere



# Video-based AR: ARCore, ARKit, ARToolKit, ...



# Next Lecture: Inertial Measurement Units I

- accelerometers, gyros, magnetometers
- sensor fusion
- head orientation tracking

