

Designing multi-projector VR systems: from bits to bolts

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VR2008

Main Topics

- Infrastructure (Projectors and Solutions)
- I/O (Tracking and Audio)
- Clusters (Hardware and Software)
- Cases

Section I: Infrastructure

- displays systems
- projection technologies
- stereoscopy
- projection geometries
- calibration issues
- site preparation
- control and automation

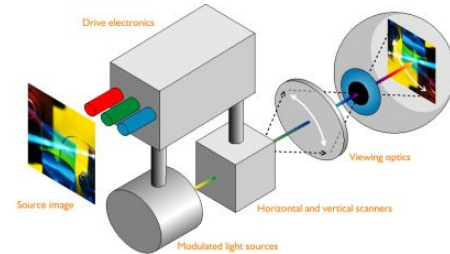
Displays Systems



ePaper - Flexible, full-color OLED (Sony)

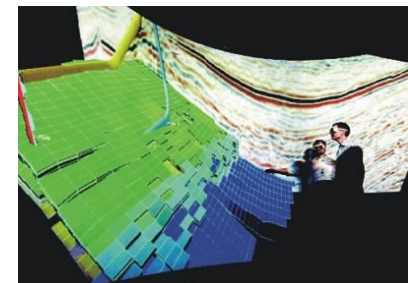
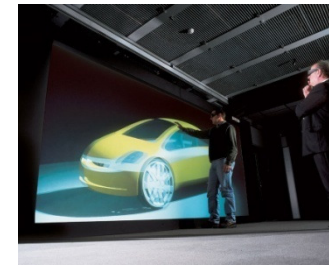
Personal Systems

- Desktop Display
- Domes
- Head-Mounted Displays
- Virtual Retinal Displays



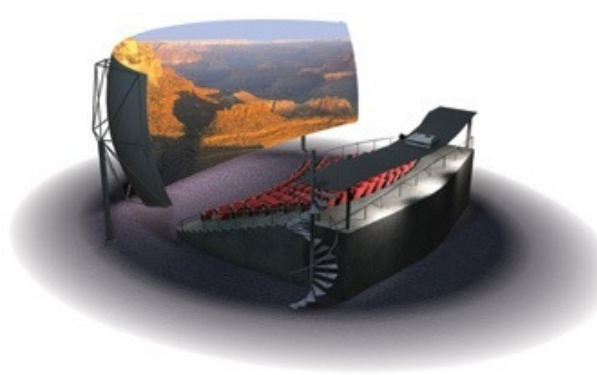
Multi-user Displays

- Collaborative Desks
- Display Walls
- Rectilinear Displays
- Wrap-around Screens

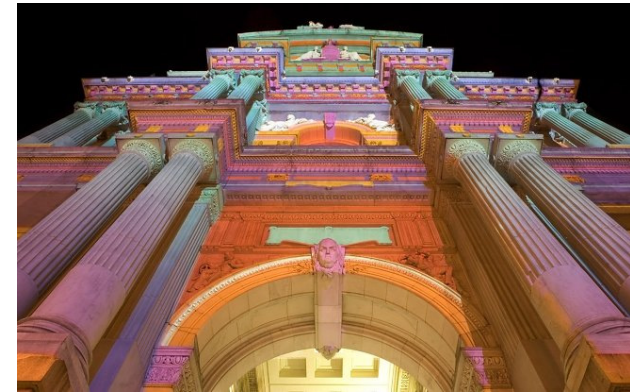


Crowd Displays

- Large-Scale Displays

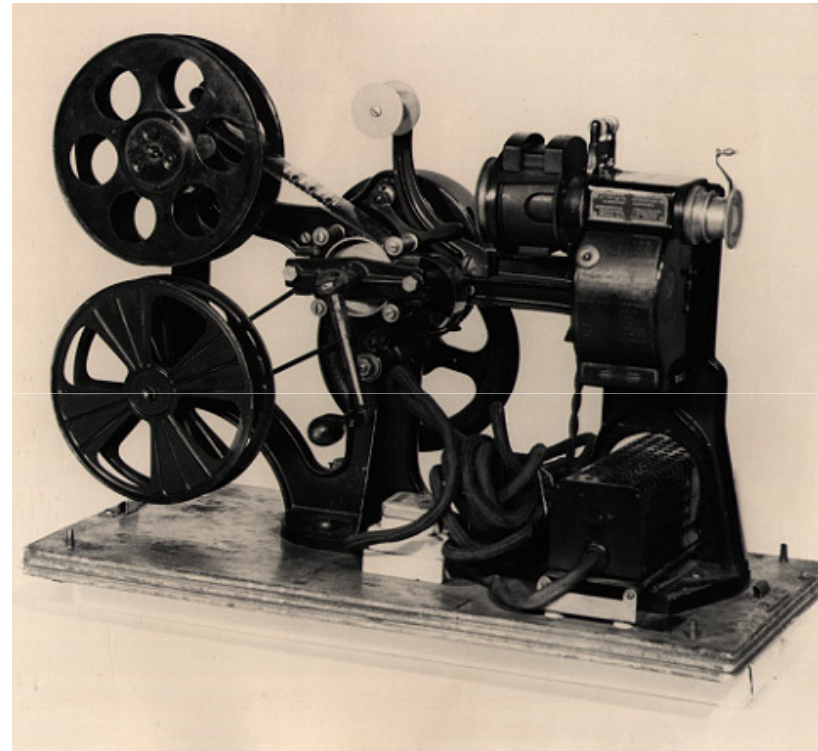


- Spatially Augmented Displays



Projection Technologies

- Several Solutions
- Several Parameters
 - Brightness
 - Contrast
 - Resolution
 - Refresh Rate



Brightness

- What is Lumen?
- How to measure?
- How to choose?

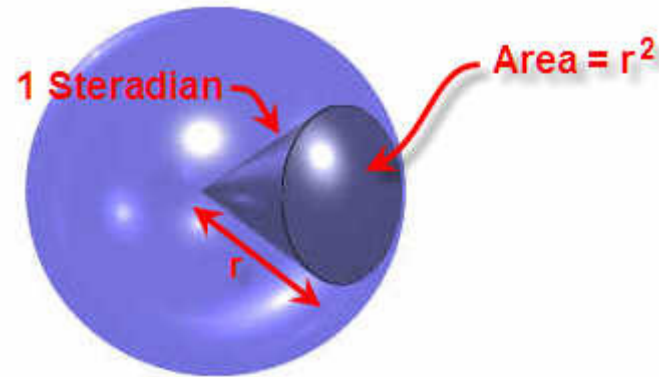
What is Lumen?

Lumen is the SI unit of luminous flux.

Formula : $1 \text{ lm} = 1 \text{ cd \cdot sr}$



*



How to measure?

- Several ways
 - ANSI lumens
- Dividing a square meter image into 9 equal rectangles

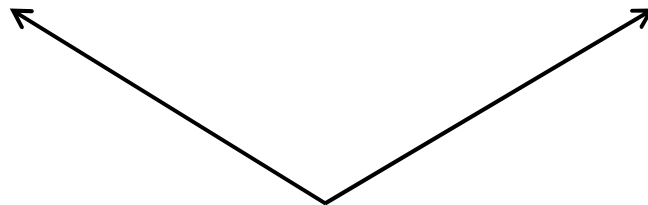


How to Choose the Brightness ?

- Depends on several factors:
 - Ambient light
 - Screen size
 - Stereoscopy
 - Subject

Contrast

- Expressed as a ratio between the brightest and darkest areas of the image.



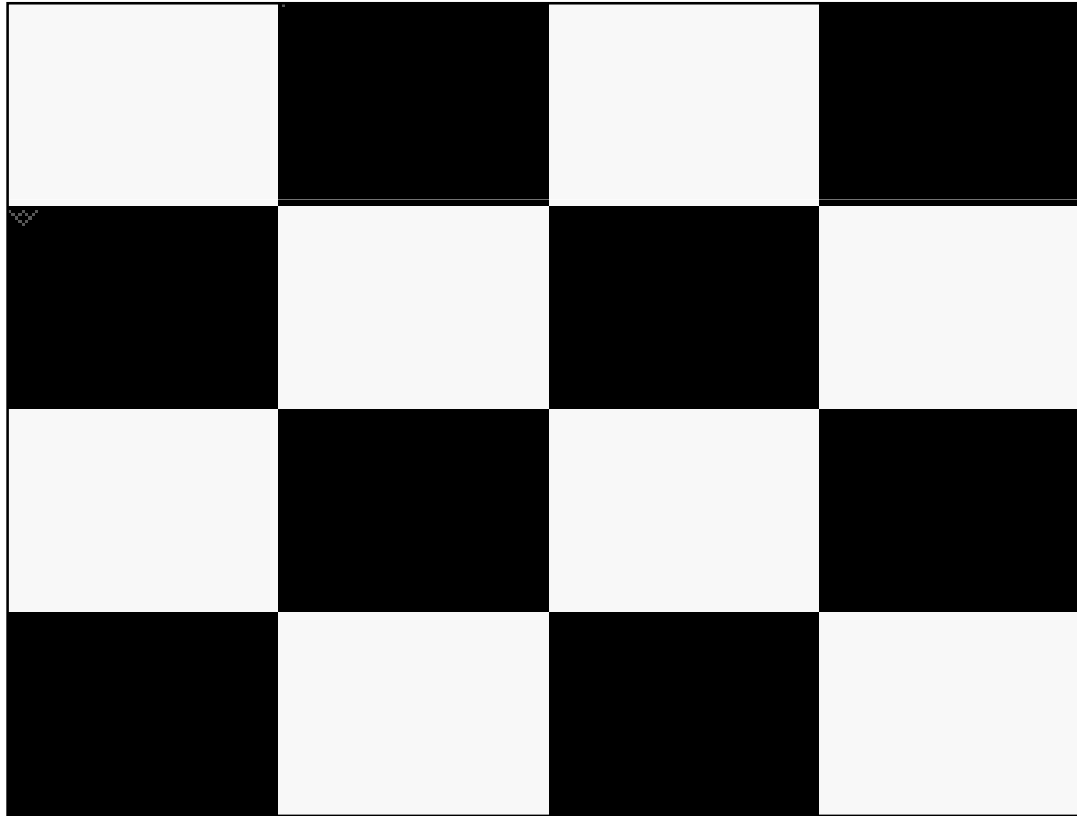
500,000:1



Zorro

Contrast

- On/Off contrast X ANSI contrast



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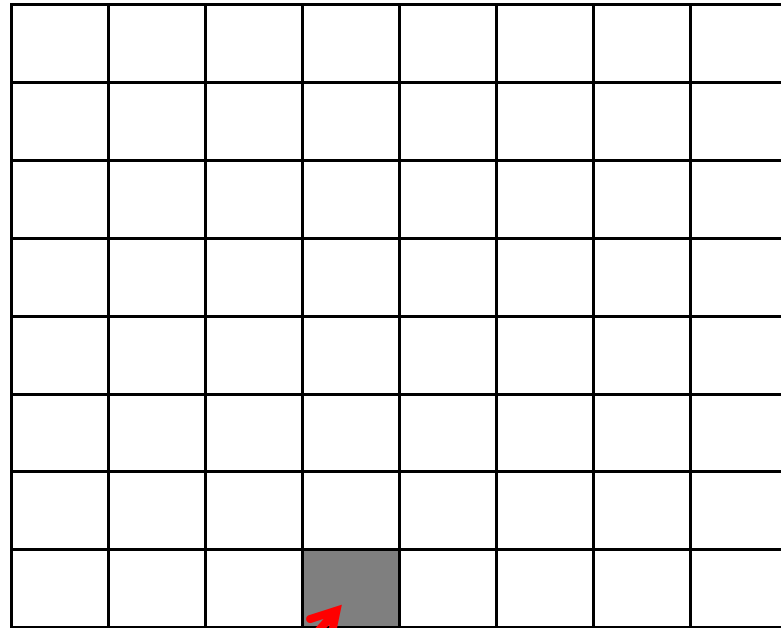
Dynamic Iris

- A dynamic iris is a device built into some projectors that sits between the lamp and the lens. Many times per second, the projector evaluates the overall brightness of the image being projected at the moment, and then opens or closes the iris to allow more or less light through.

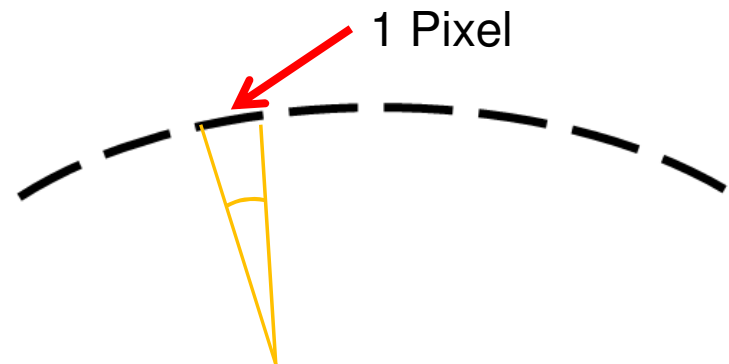
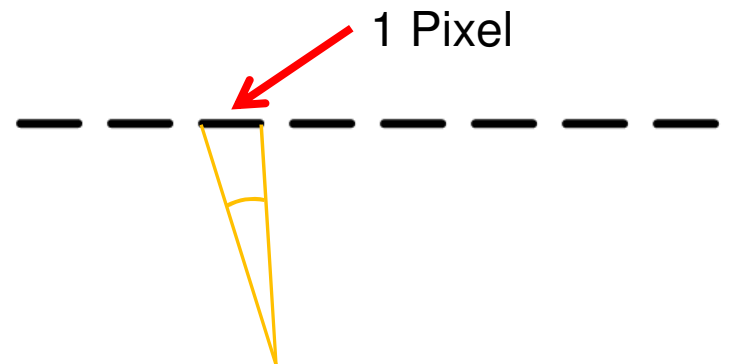
Resolution

Standard	Resolution <i>(pixel dimensions)</i>	Aspect Ratio	Pixels
VGA	640x480	4:3	307,200
SVGA	800x600	4:3	480,000
XGA	1024x768	4:3	786,432
SXGA	1280x1024	5:4	1,310,720
SXGA+	1400x1050	4:3	1,470,000
WUXGA	1920x1200	16:10	2,304,000

Pixel Size



1 Pixel



Scan Rate / Display Frequency

- Frequency:
 - Bandwidth (MHz)
 - Horizontal frequency range (KHz)
 - Vertical frequency range (Hz)
- Some projectors compress or change the source frequency.

Common Projection Technologies

- CRT



Brightness : about 250 lumens
Contrast : about 2500:1
Resolution : about 2500x2048 pixels
Scan : about 180Hz

- LCD



Brightness : about 6500 lumens
Contrast : about 400:1
Resolution : about 1024x768 pixels
Scan : about 120Hz

- DLP



Brightness : about 14000 lumens
Contrast : about 1500:1
Resolution : about 1400x1050 pixels
Scan : about 120Hz

- LCOS



Brightness : about 10000 lumens
Contrast : about 10,000:1
Resolution : about 4096x2160 pixels
Scan : about 120Hz

* Approximated values

CRT (Cathode Ray Tubes)

- Based on 3 independent tubes (Red, Green, Blue)
- Advantages: calibration flexibility, high refresh rate ($> 120\text{MHz}$), anti-aliasing
- Disadvantages: low brightness, noise signals



LCD (Liquid Crystal Displays)

- Based on liquid crystal technologies
- Advantages: low cost, compact, just one lens.
- Disadvantages: low refresh rates usually $< 80\text{MHz}$, low geometric calibration control, aliasing (door effect), need accurate positioning, short live cycle



DLP (Digital Lighting Processing)

- Based on Digital Micromirror Devices - DMD
- Advantages: high brightness, just one lens
- Disadvantages: low refresh rate (maximum 120Hz), low calibration control, aliasing, positioning



LCOS (Liquid Crystal On Silicon)

- Based on reflexive liquid crystal
- Advantages: high resolution, high brightness, high contrast.
- Disadvantages: low refresh rate $< 80\text{MHz}$, low calibration control, positioning



Other Points to Evaluate

- Aspect Ratio
- Color and Geometric Alignment
- Weight
- Data and video inputs
- Powered Lens
 - Lens Shift
 - Zoom Lens

Lens

- Short throw, Fish Eye x Tele(photo) zoom
- Motorized x Fixed
- Focal length
- Throw ratio

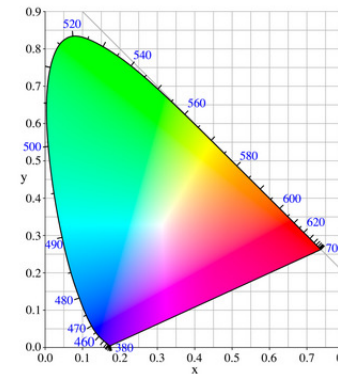
Throw Distance = Screen Width X Lens Throw Ratio

5m (500cm) = Horizontal 384cm * 1.3:1

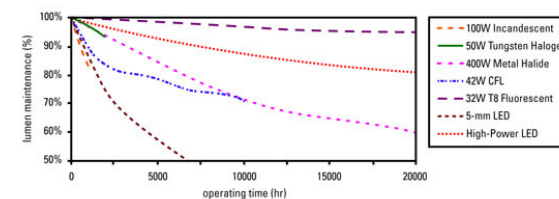
5m (500cm) = Horizontal 625cm * 0.8:1

Lamps Characteristics

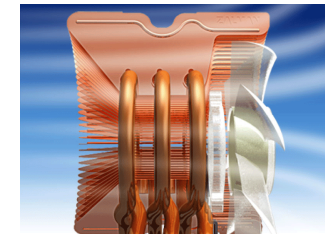
- Well suited spectrum;
- Long life;
 - over 10 000 h.
- Lumen maintenance;
- noisy cooling solutions.



Typical Lumen Maintenance Values for Various Light Sources

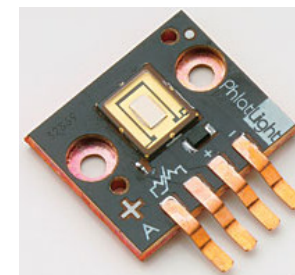
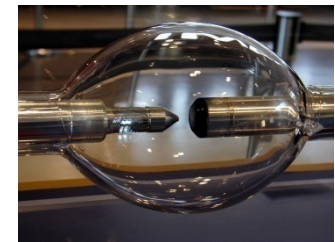


Source: Adapted from Bullough, J.D. 2003. *Lighting Answers: LED Lighting Systems*. Troy, NY: National Lighting Product Information Program, Lighting Research Center, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



Lamps

- Incandescent
- Arc-lamps / Gas discharge
 - UHP - Ultra-High Performance
 - Xenon arc lamps
- LED - light-emitting diode

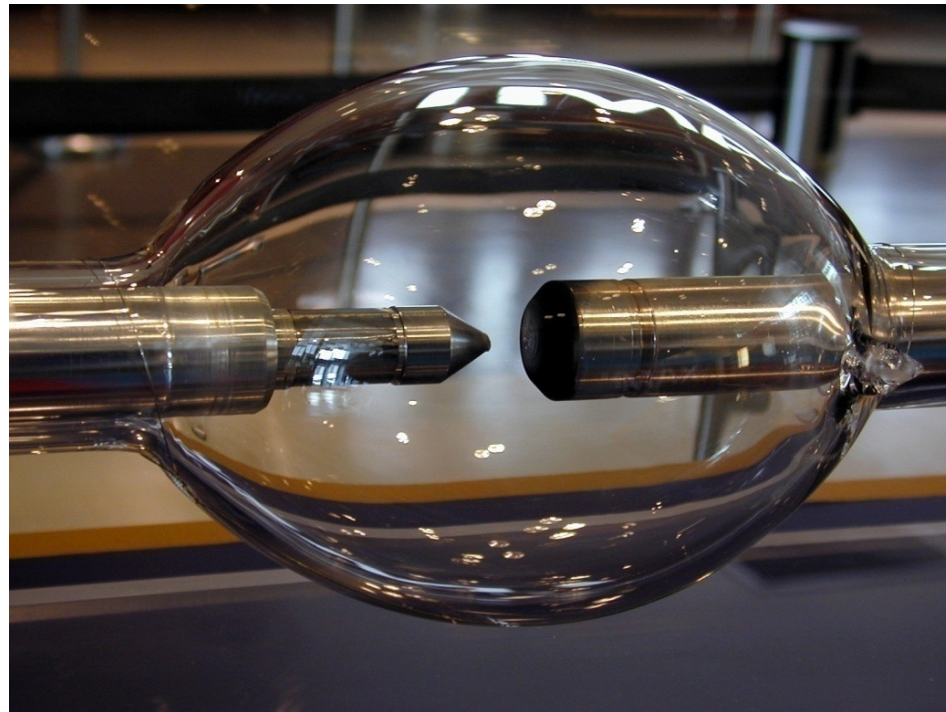


UHP

- The Hg pressure inside the lamp has to be higher than 200 bar to allow for good color quality and high efficiency. This requires bulb temperatures above 1190K at the coldest spot inside the lamp.
- At the same time the hottest parts of the quartz envelope have to stay $< 1400\text{ K}$

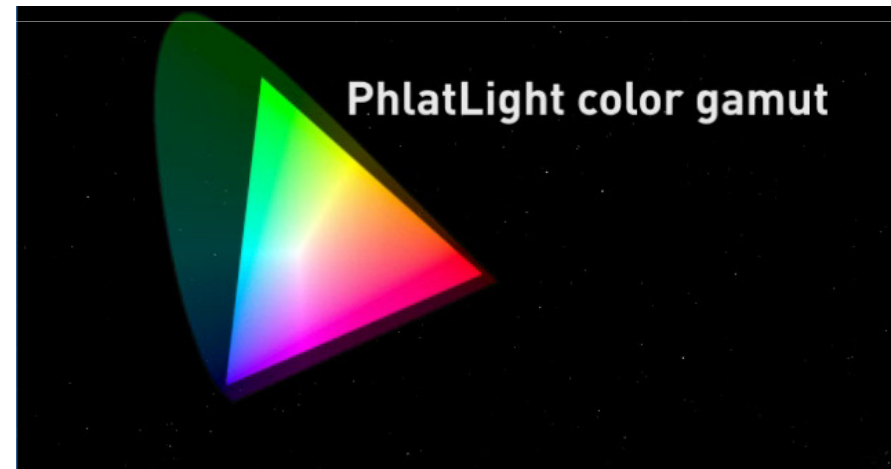
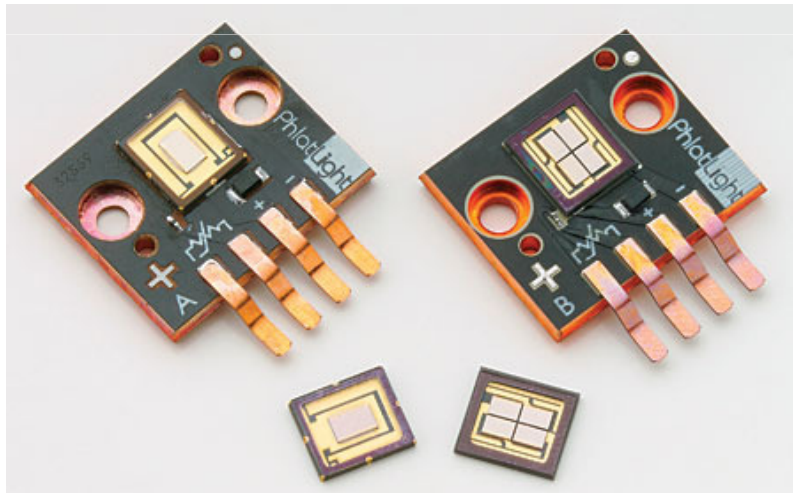
Xenon Lamp

- 15 kW Xenon short-arc lamp



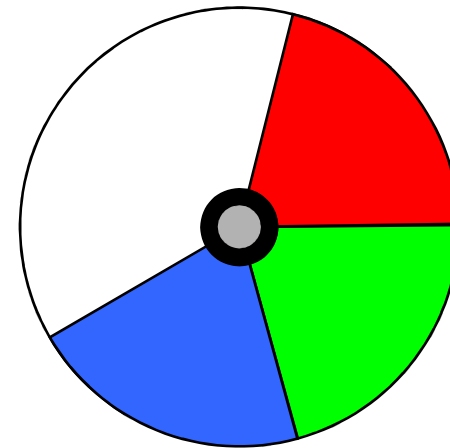
LED light

- Phlatlight - PHotonic LATtice (Samsung)



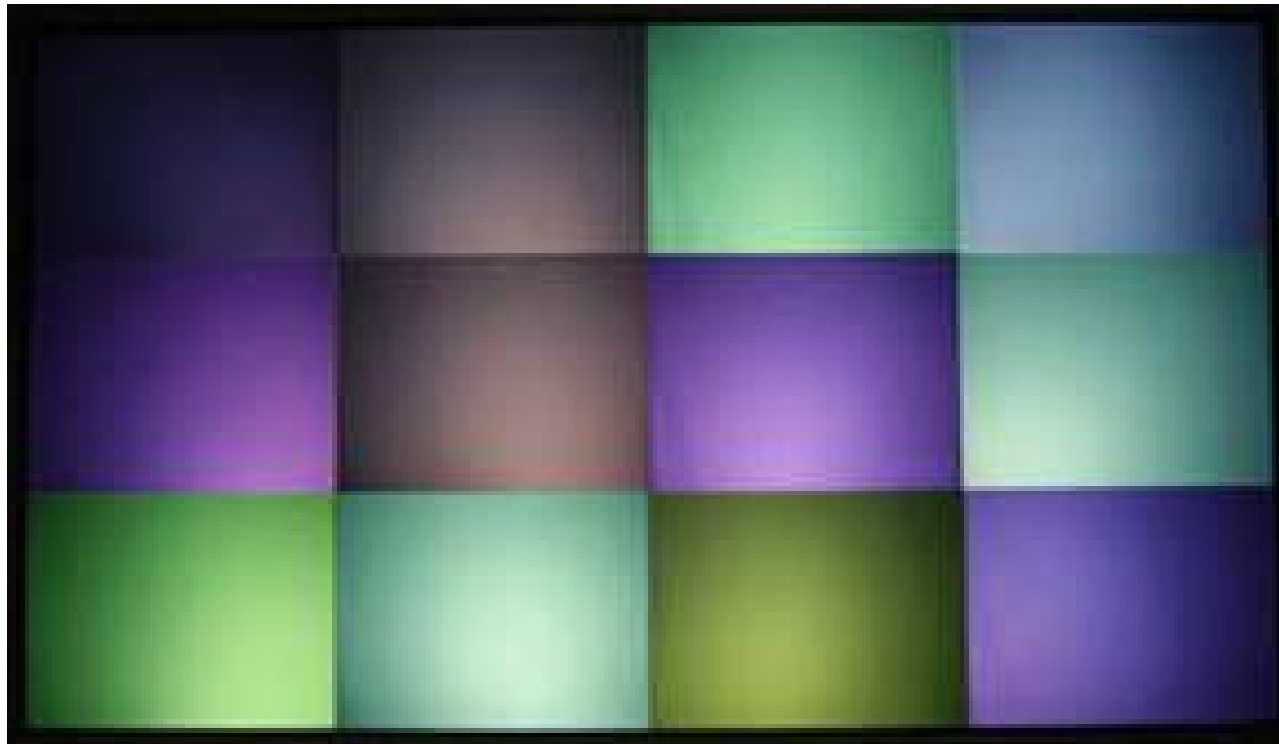
Problems

- Color wheel
- Color filters can vary
- Screens prism effect
- High gain screen
- Age differently



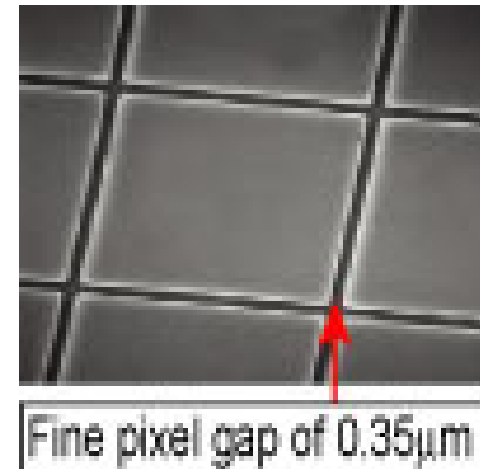
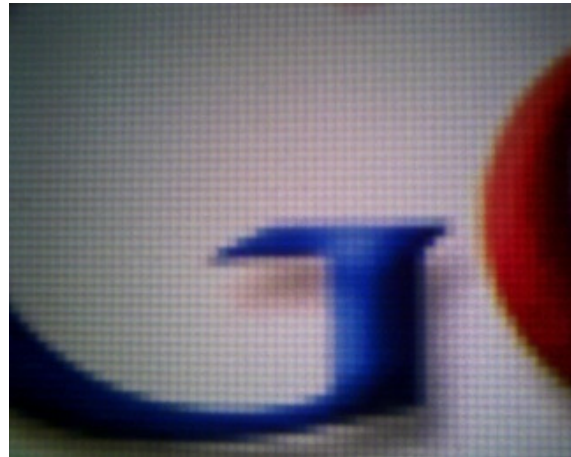
Color sample

- Low exposure
- Due to color wheel cycle



Problems

- Screen door effect or Fixed Pattern Noise
- rainbow effect can appear around bright on-screen objects.



D-ILA

Stereoscopy

- Shutter Glasses (active)
 - Electronic controls
- Passive Filters
 - Anaglyph (red x blue)
 - Linear & Circular Polarization
 - Diffraction
 - Infitec
- HMDs (Head Mounted Displays)
- Auto-stereoscopy



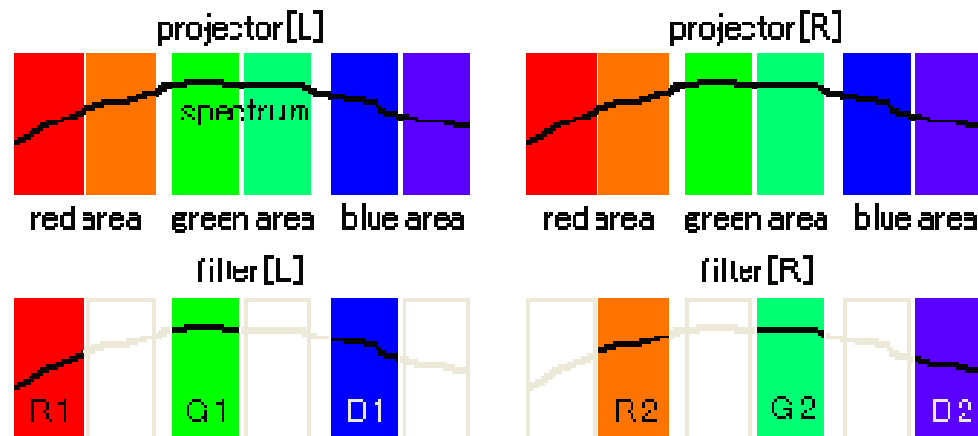
Active Stereoscopy

- Shutter (active);
 - Do not need screens to maintain polarization
 - Needs high frequency video sources
 - Ideally 120Hz
 - Needs batteries



Infitec

- Split the color spectrum
- All colors are presented
- Good Separation
- Reduce Brightness

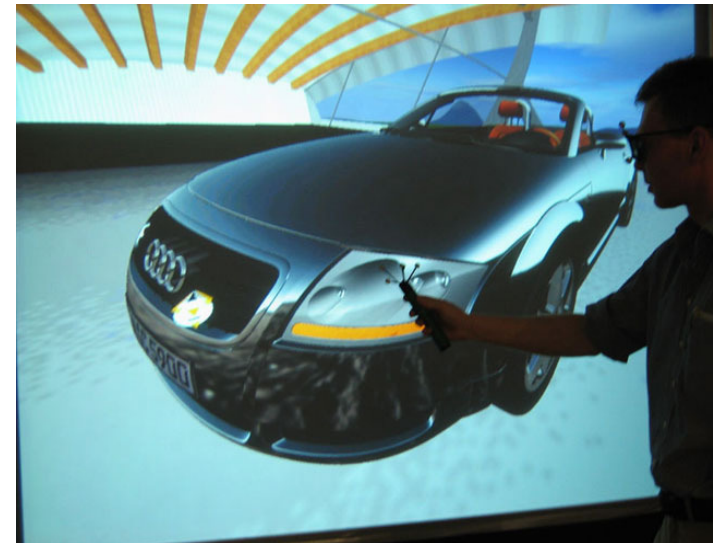
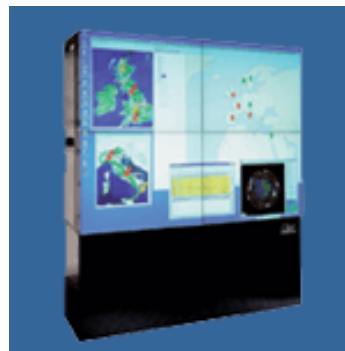
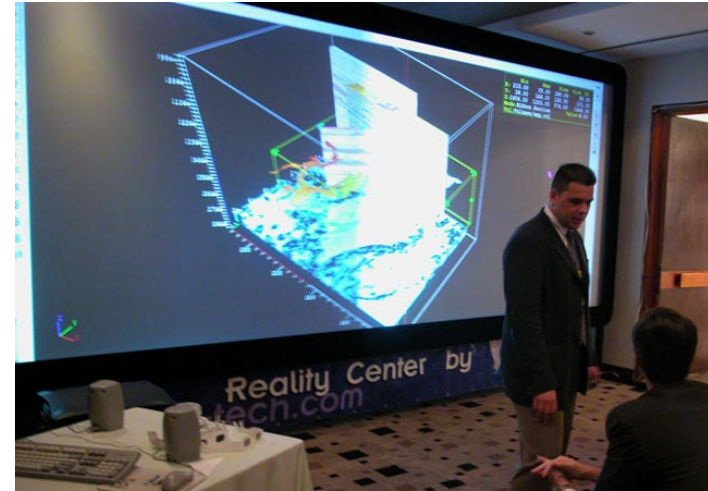


Projection and Screen Geometries

- Planes (PowerWall, InfinityWall, Panorama, etc)
- CAVEs
- Irregular (Workbenches)
- Cilindric, Conics, Torus
- Spherics
- Domes

Plane - Display Wall

- Simple solution
- Similar to a big monitor
- Application Port simpler
- Less Immersive
- Medium Audience
- Large Market Choice



CAVEs

- Famous solution
- Highly Immersive
- Different types:
 - 4, 5 or 6 sides
- One User



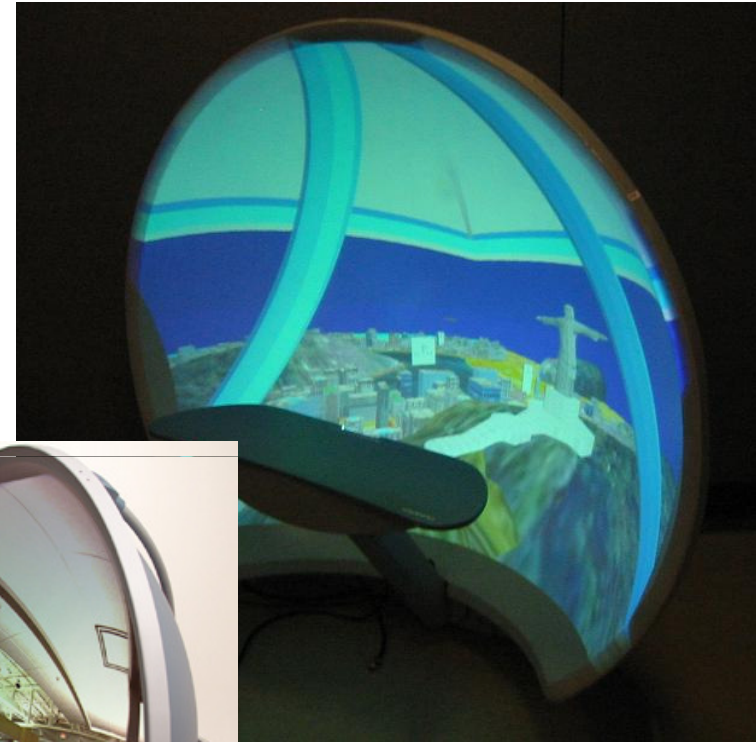
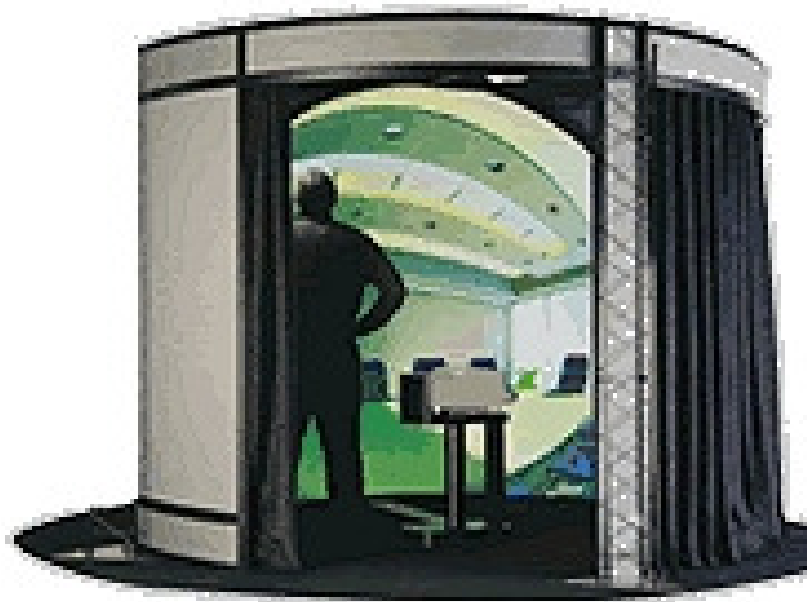
Cylindrical

- Large Audience
- Projection Overlap
- Requires Blending



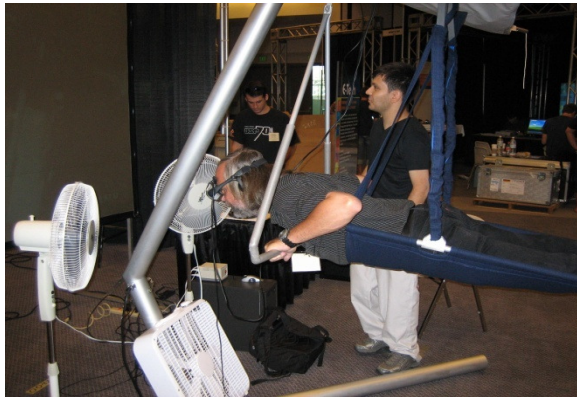
Spherical

- Large Field of View
- Deformation Correction

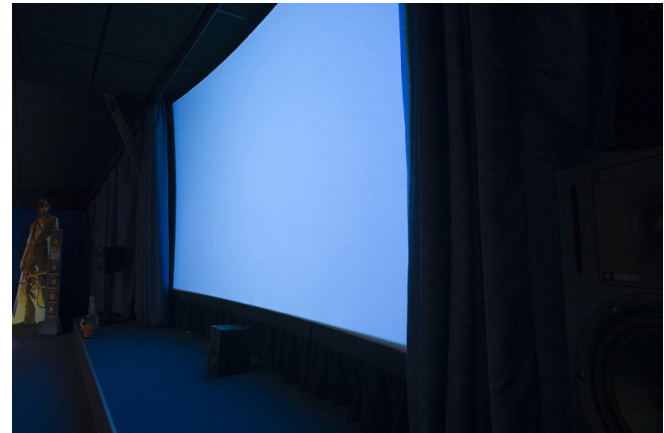


Alternative Solutions

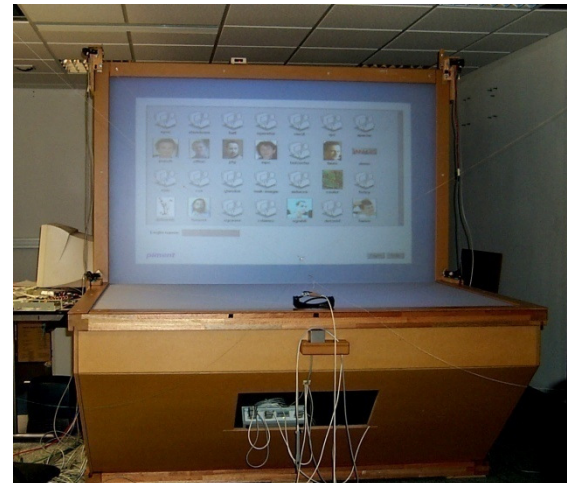
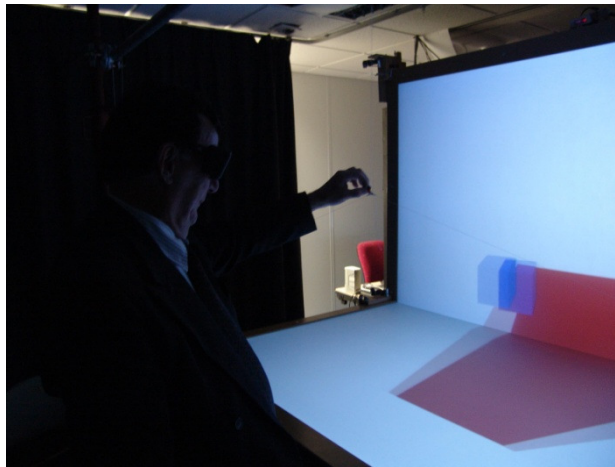
Hang-glider



Thorus



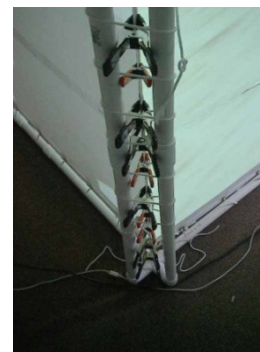
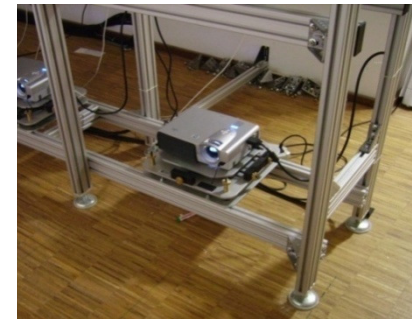
WorkBench



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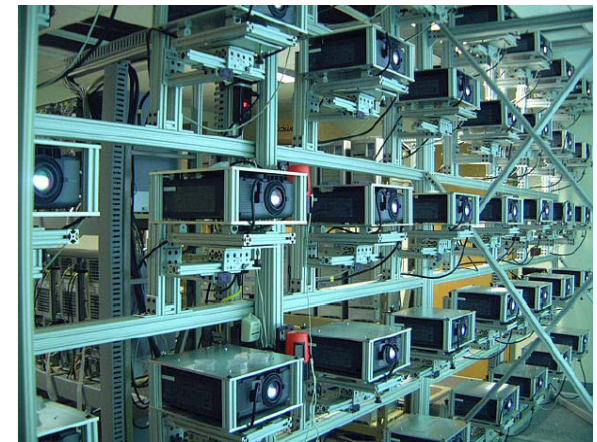
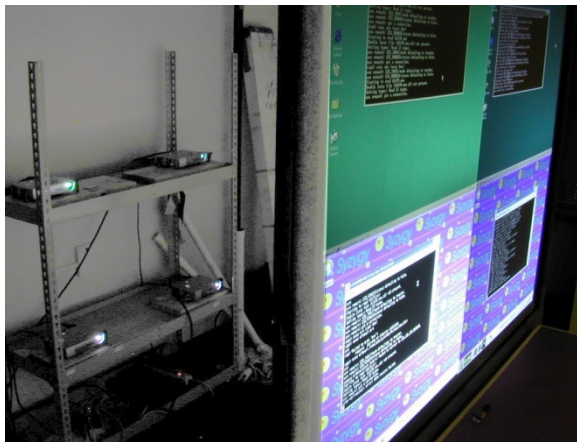
Multi-Projector Structure

- Screen Frames
 - Projector Mount and Arrays
 - Possible Materials
 - Wood
 - Aluminum
 - Plastic Pipes
- (<http://planetjeff.net/ut/CUTCave.html>)
- Special Cares
 - Weight
 - Magnetic Interference
 - Vibrations



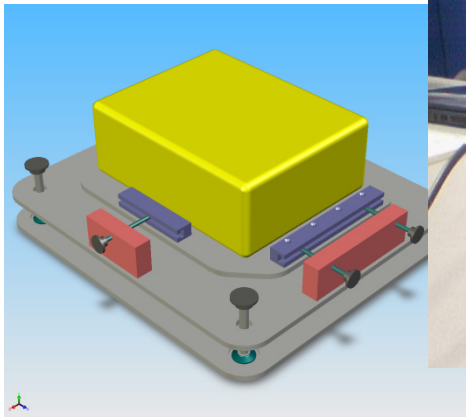
Projector Arrays

- Aluminum Frames
- Scalable and Modular
- Stereo or Mono Bays
- 6 DOF projector mounts



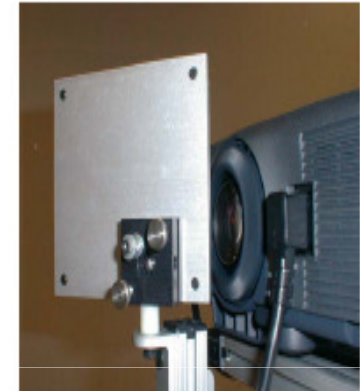
Projector Mounts

- 6 DOF projector mounts
- Sub-millimeter control
- Absorb Vibration

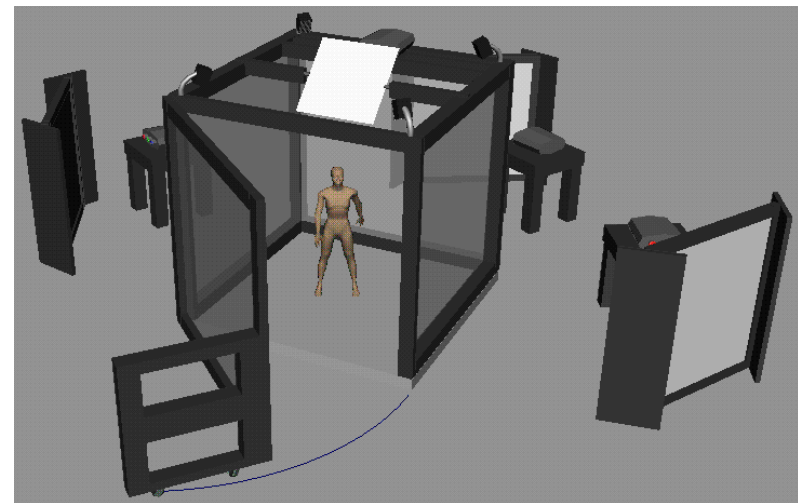


Planar Mirrors

- Complementing Projector Mount
- Shorter Projection Distance
- *WorkBench*



- Front Surface Mirrors/First Surface Mirror
 - **for Polarized Light**
 - Frontal reflection
- Reflection over 99.99%
- **Plastic Substrates**



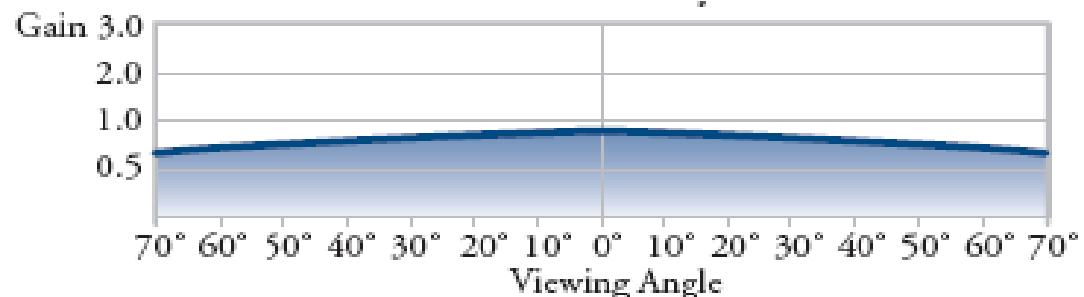
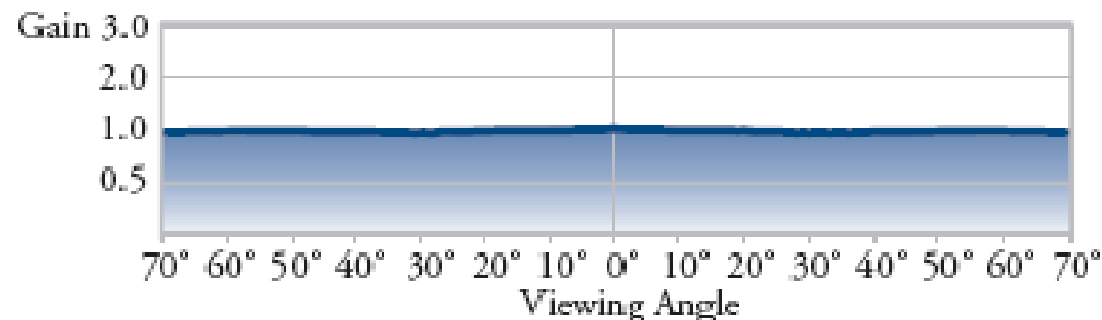
Projection Issue: Homogeneous Brightness and Hot Spots

- Oblique Light rays vs Viewing Direction
- Translucent Screen
- Bulb source



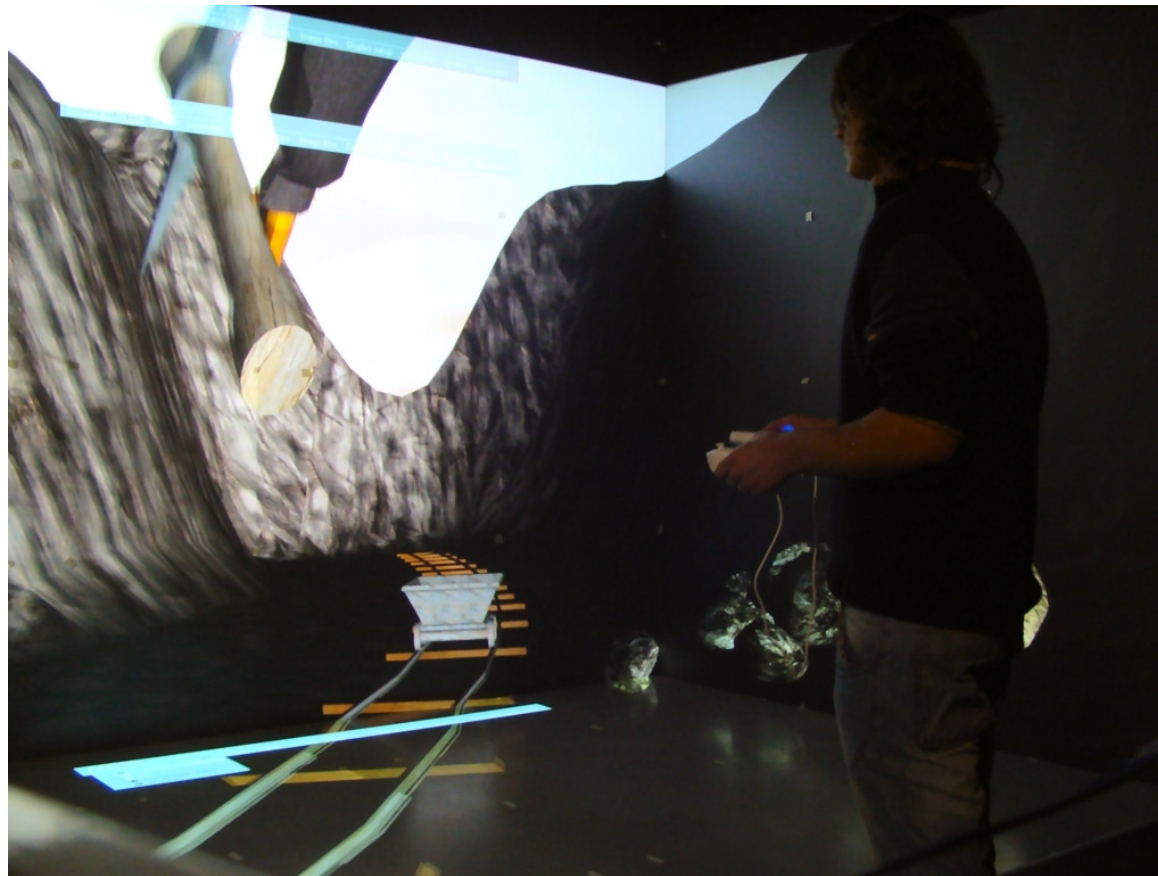
Projection Issue: Viewing Angle

- Screens with gain usually have a narrow field of view, losing brightness when viewed from an angle
- Flexible or Rigid Screen



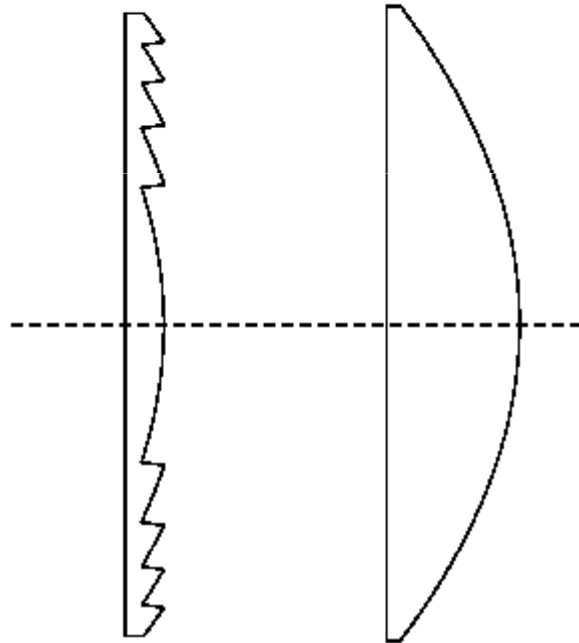
Projection Issue: Inter-reflection

- Cave: Light from other screens



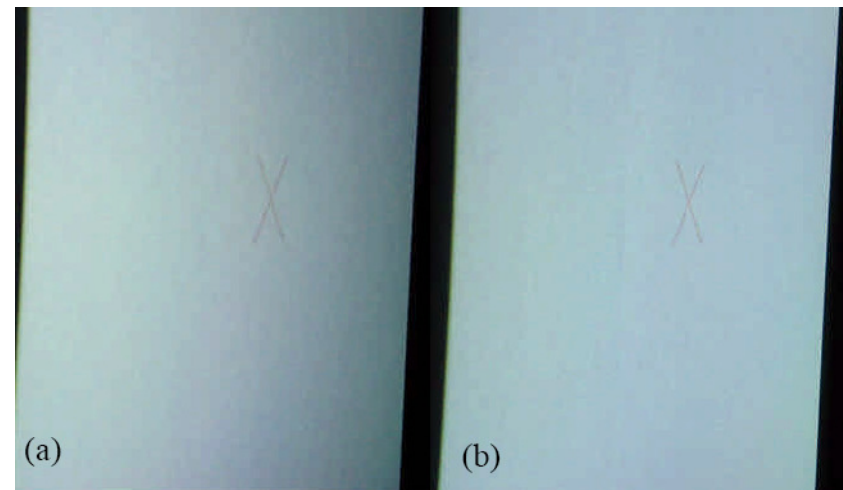
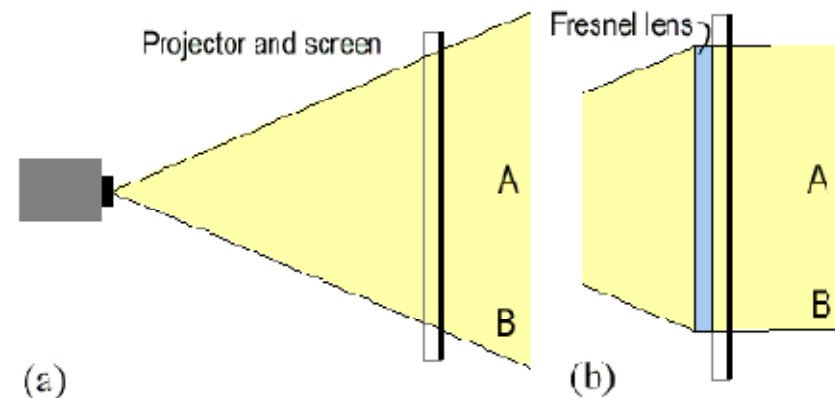
Redirecting Light: Fresnel Lens

- To guarantee constant angle between viewing direction and protected light rays



How to use Fresnel Lens

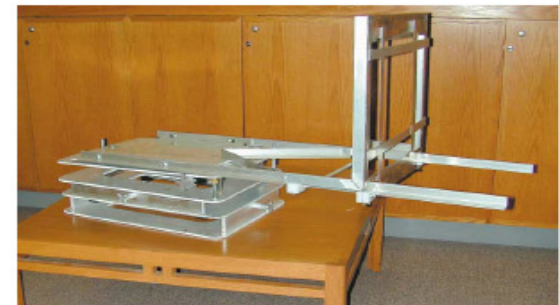
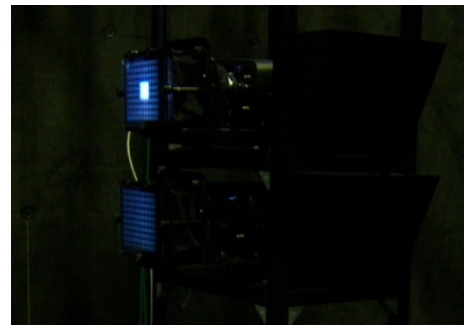
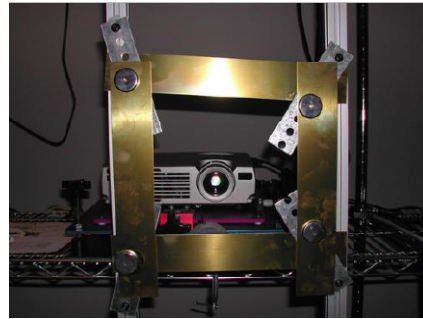
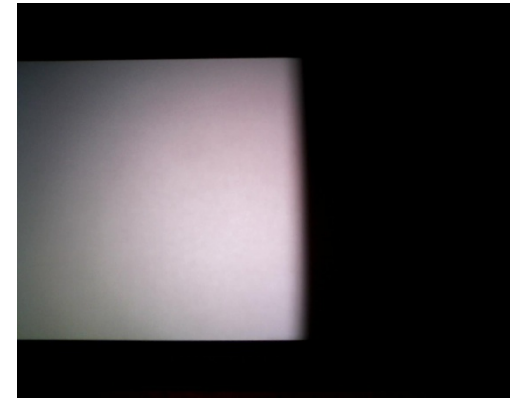
- Correct Projector rays
- Lens Size = Tile Size
- Minimum Space between tile > 0



Stone, "Color and Brightness Appearance Issues in Tiled Displays", 2001

Edge-blending

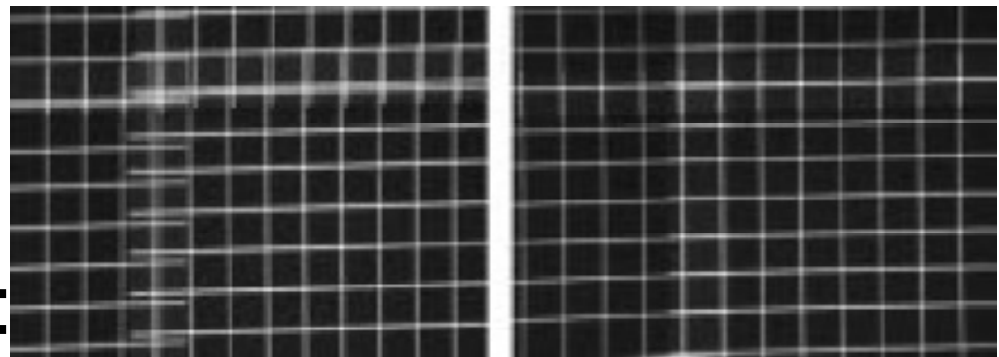
- Seamless edge blending
- Light Leak
- Small Overlap
- Almost aligned Scenarios
- Solutions:
 - Physical
 - Software Mask
 - Hardware Projector



Geometry Calibration and Warping

- Inter Projector Calibration

- Remove Seams

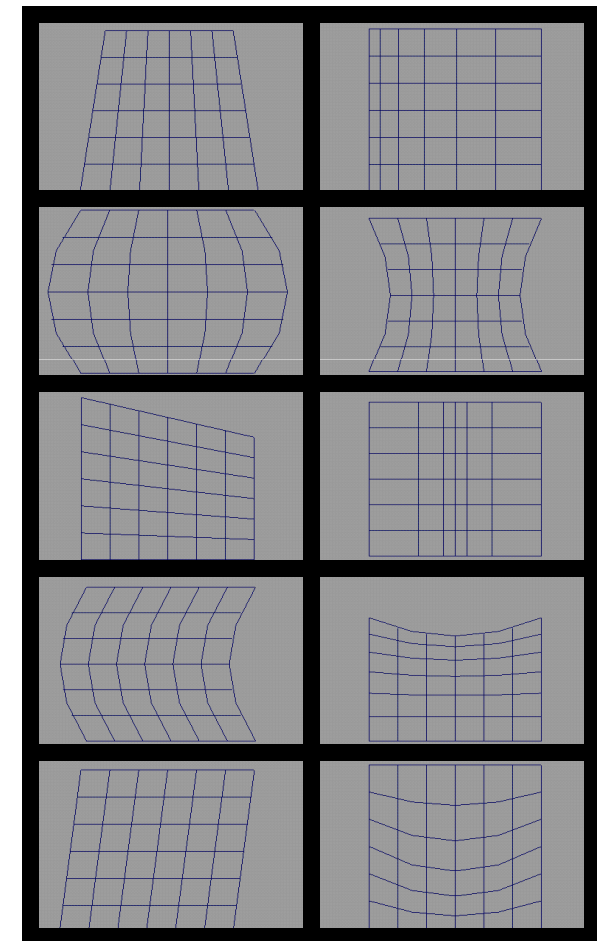
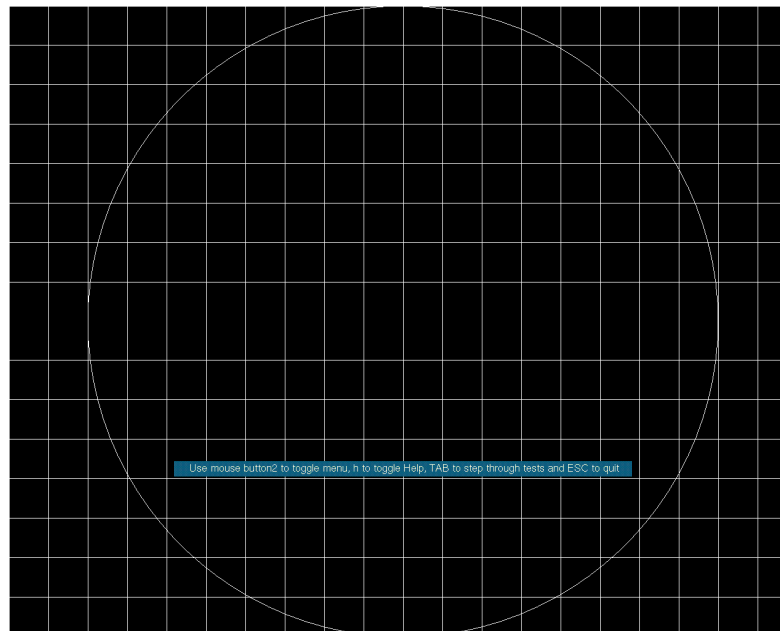


- Popular Technique:

- Camera based Projector Registering
- 2D Warping Map (Mesh)
- Intensity Correction (Alpha-> Seams area)

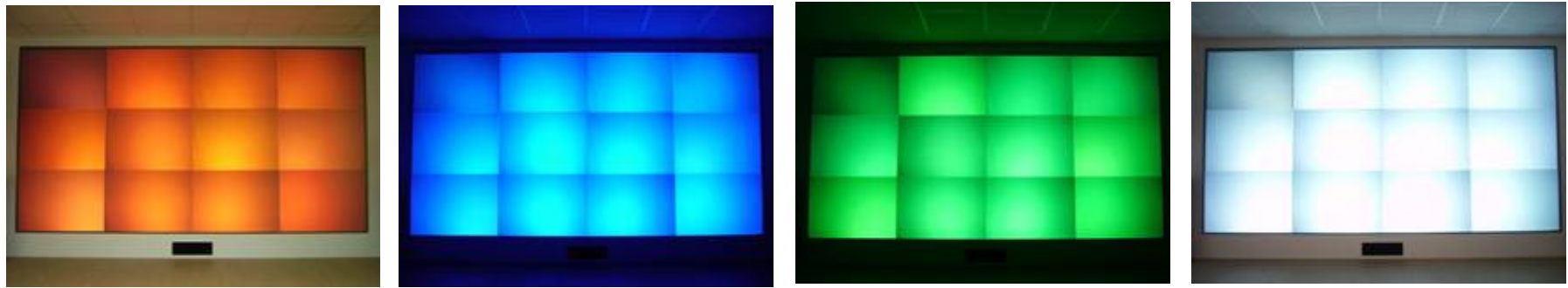
Geometric Calibration

- Projector Registering
- Pattern Lines or Circle Dots
- Lens Distortion



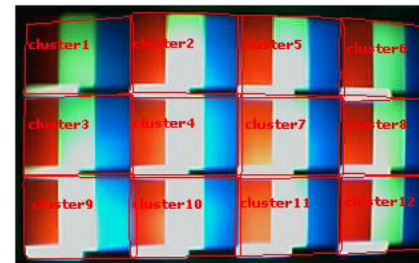
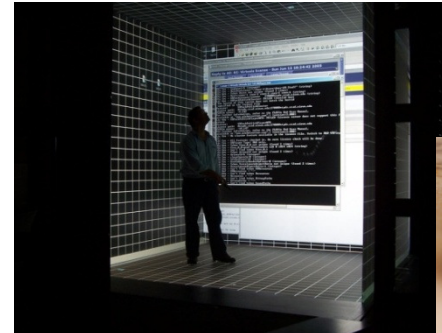
Color Calibration

- Hot spot created by the camera
- Not aligned with projection direction
- No linear response to input
- Luminance more perceptive than chrominance



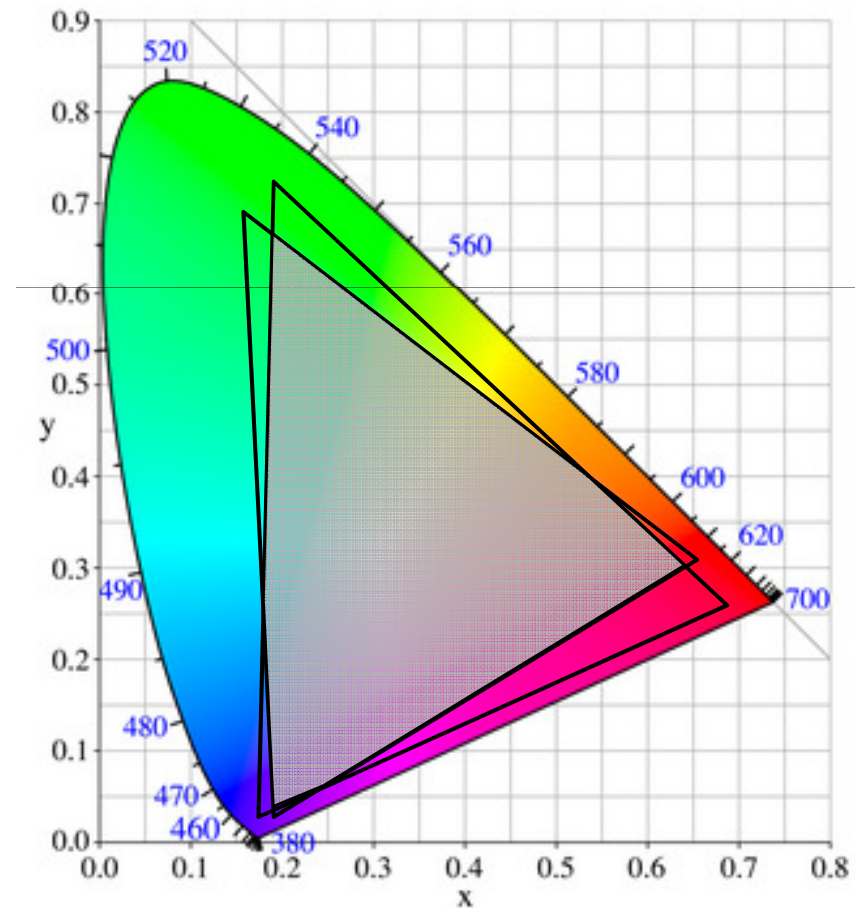
How to achieve the color calibration?

- Eye
- Spectroradiometer
- Digital Camera or Webcam



Color calibration

- Find a common gamut
- Change gamma curve in the graphic card
- Final
 - Color Lookup Table
 - Can be applied via PShader
 - Already support by cluster scenegraph such as OpenSG



Color Calibration

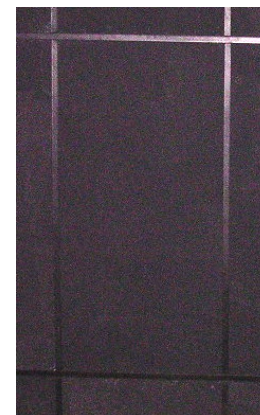
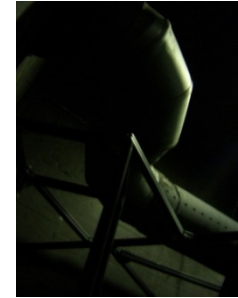
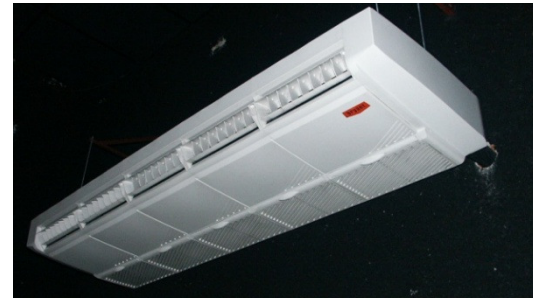
- Test card / Test pattern
- Vectorscope
- SMPTE Color Bars 16x9
- Usefull for Calibration evaluation



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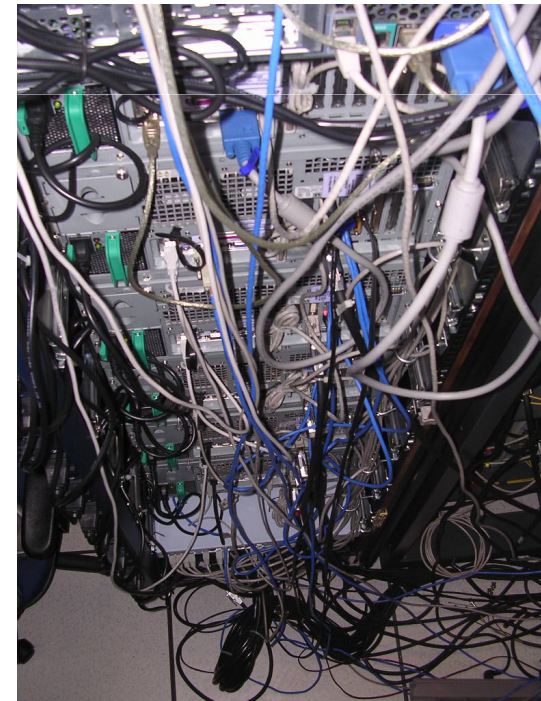
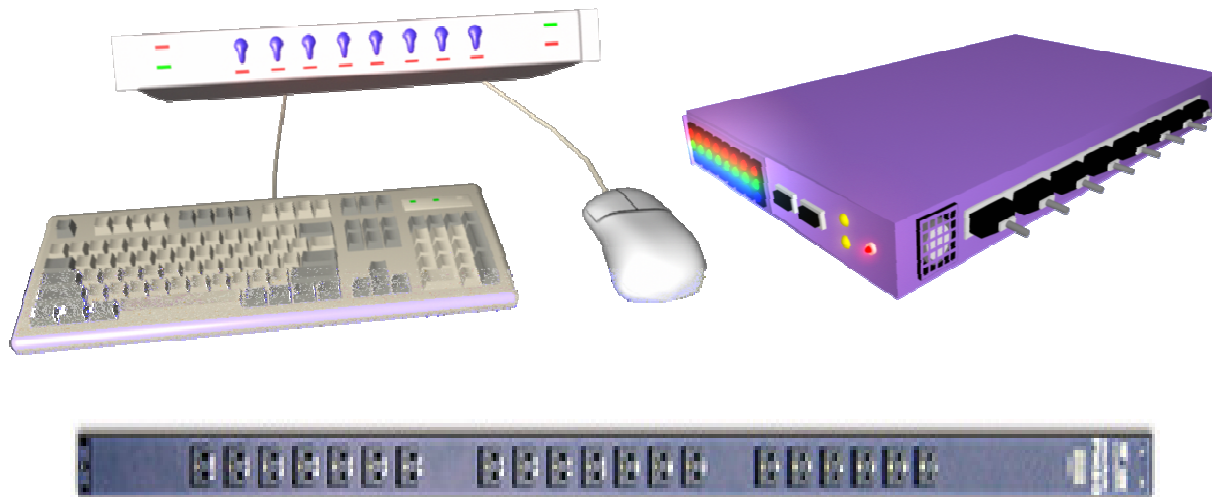
Site preparation

- Cooling System
 - Stable Temperature
 - Particle Clean
- Power and Cabling
 - Video
 - Network
- Controlled Environment
 - Light (Filters, Black wall)
 - Soundproofing, Vibrations



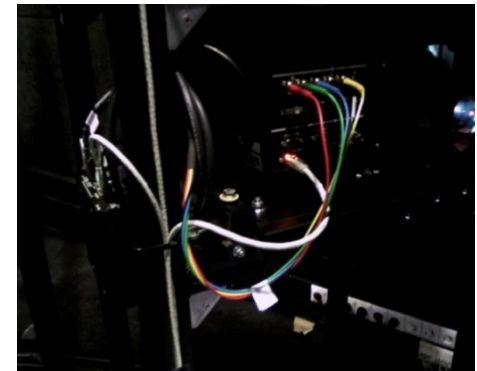
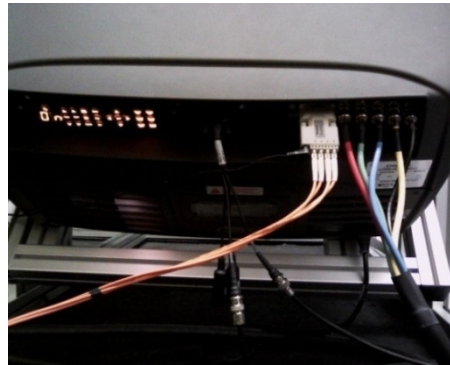
Control and Automation solutions

- Multi-Use Rooms
 - Light, Media Manager (ex: Creston, Lutron)
- Remote Power Control
- KVM Switch



Video Transmission and Control

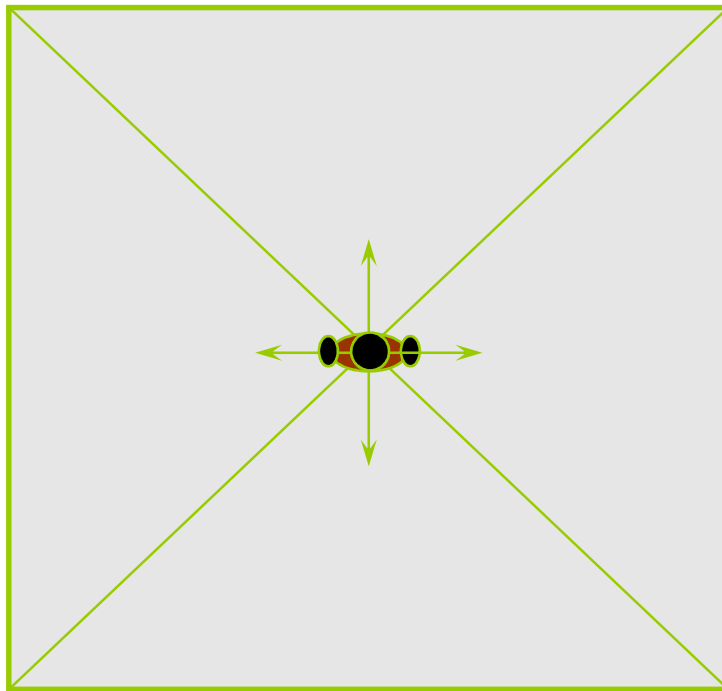
- Cable Length Pb.
 - AutoPatch (VGA)
 - EyeViz (DVI)
- Video Matrix
 - Extron
 - Miranda



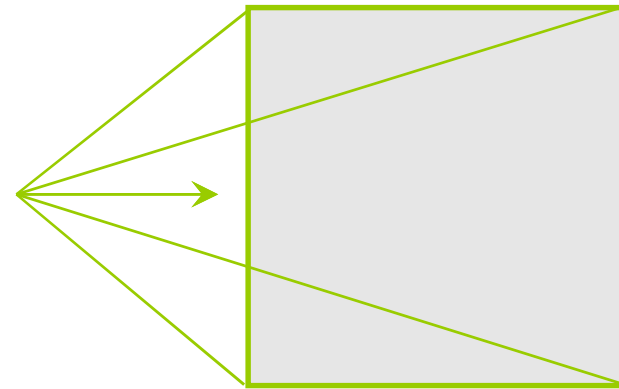
Section II: I/O

- tracking hardware and techniques
 - infrared (optical) tracking
- multimodal interfaces
- audio

Why User Tracking



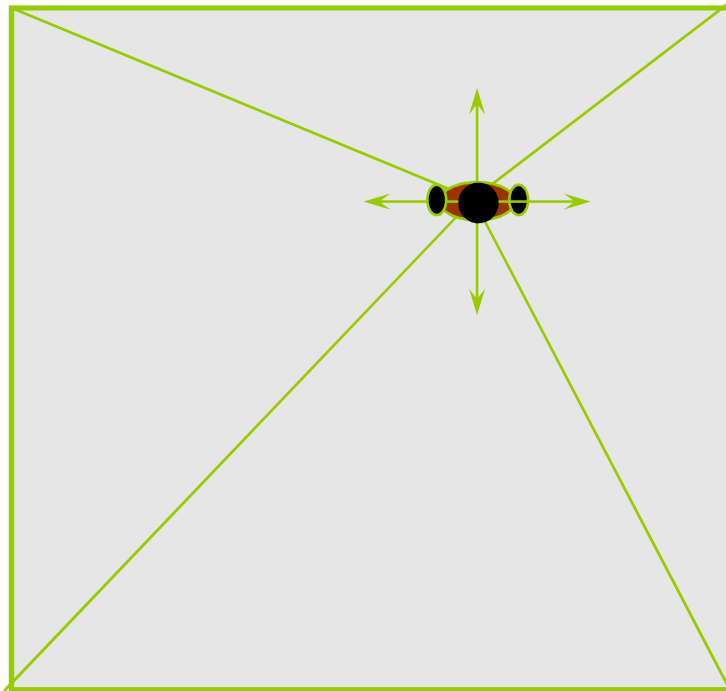
Top view



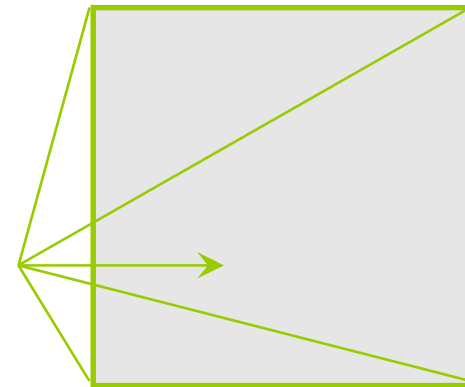
Frustum

Why User Tracking

Dynamic adjustment of viewpoints and view frustums



Top view



Frustum

User Tracking

Technologies:

- Mechanical
- Inertial
- Electromagnetic
- Acoustic
- Optical
 - example

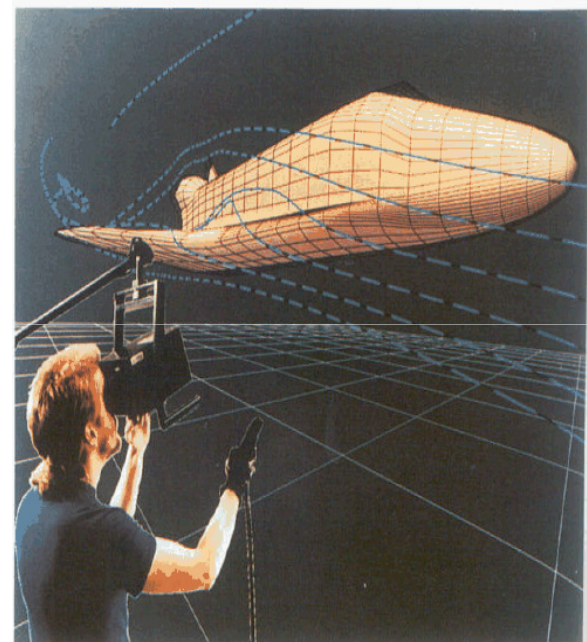
User Tracking

Mechanical Tracking Devices:

- Track Position and Orientation (6DOF)
- Mechanical arm paradigm
- Lag of less than 5msec, 300 Hz
- Very accurate

Problems:

- Motion constrained by the mechanical arm



Example: Boom by Fake Space Labs

User Tracking

Inertial Tracking Devices:

- Orientation (3DOF) – conservation of the angular momentum
- Measures orientation changes using gyroscopes
- Fast and accurate, and only limited by cabling



Problems:

- Drift between actual and reported values is accumulated over time (can reach 10° per minute)

Example: InertiaCube by Intersense

User Tracking

Electromagnetic Tracking Devices:

- Track Position and Orientation (6DOF)
- Measures the strength of the generated magnetic fields (3 perpendicular wire coils)
- Lag of 5msec



Problems:

- Interference in the presence of other magnetic fields (metal objects, office furniture, CRTs)



Example: Fastrak by Polhemus

User Tracking

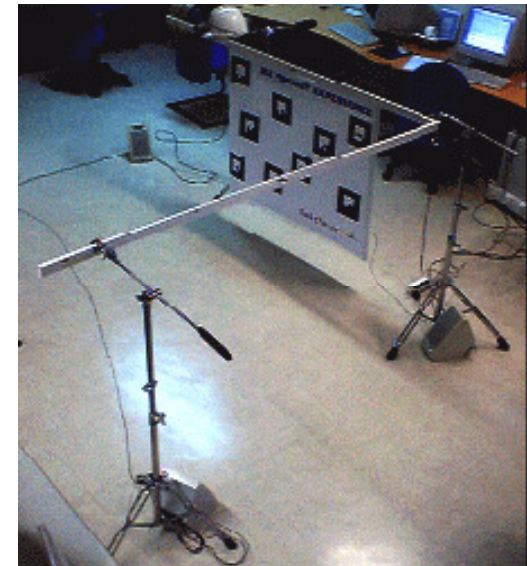
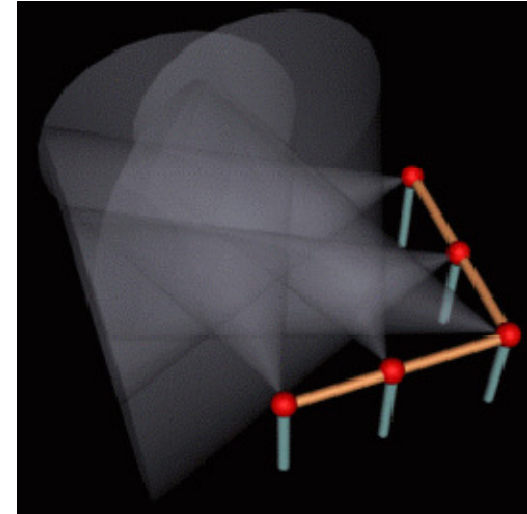
Acoustic Tracking Devices:

- Track Position and Orientation (6DOF)
- Measures the time-of-flight or the phase coherence of ultrasonic waves
- Lag of 5msec

Problems:

- Phase coherence systems are subject to error accumulation
- Time-of-flight systems suffer from low update rate, and body occlusions

Example: Arena by ADETTI



User Tracking

Optical Tracking Devices:

- Track Position and Orientation (6DOF)
- Outside-in (fixed receivers and mobile emitters)
- Inside-out (mobile receivers and fixed emitters)
- Lag of 20-80msec, 2 mm and 0.1° precision

Problems:

- Line of sight, ambient light and infrared radiation problem



Example: ARTrack by A.R.T

User Tracking

Wanted system:

- Without motion constraints
- No drift
- Without error accumulation
- Robust to interference
- Real-time update rate (> 30 Hz)

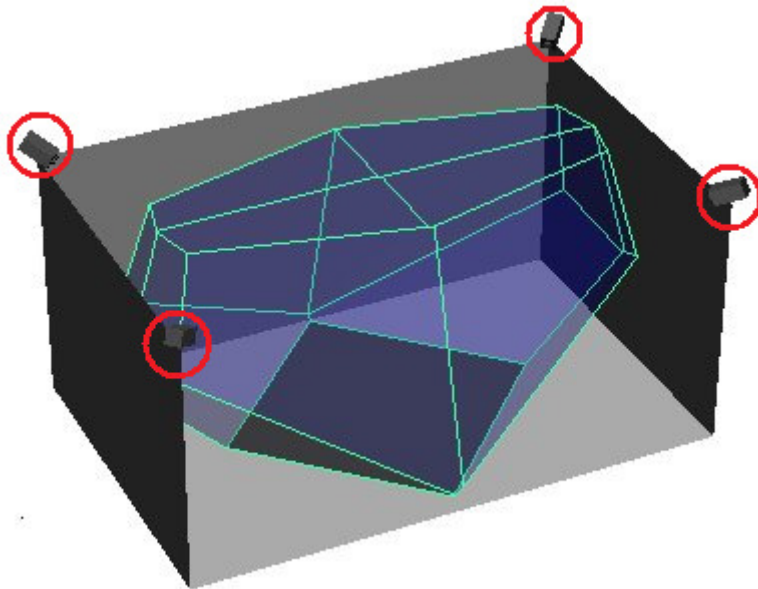
Chosen: Infrared Tracking System

- **Problems:** Line of sight and infrared radiation problem
- **Minimization:** 4 cameras setup and controlled environment

User Tracking

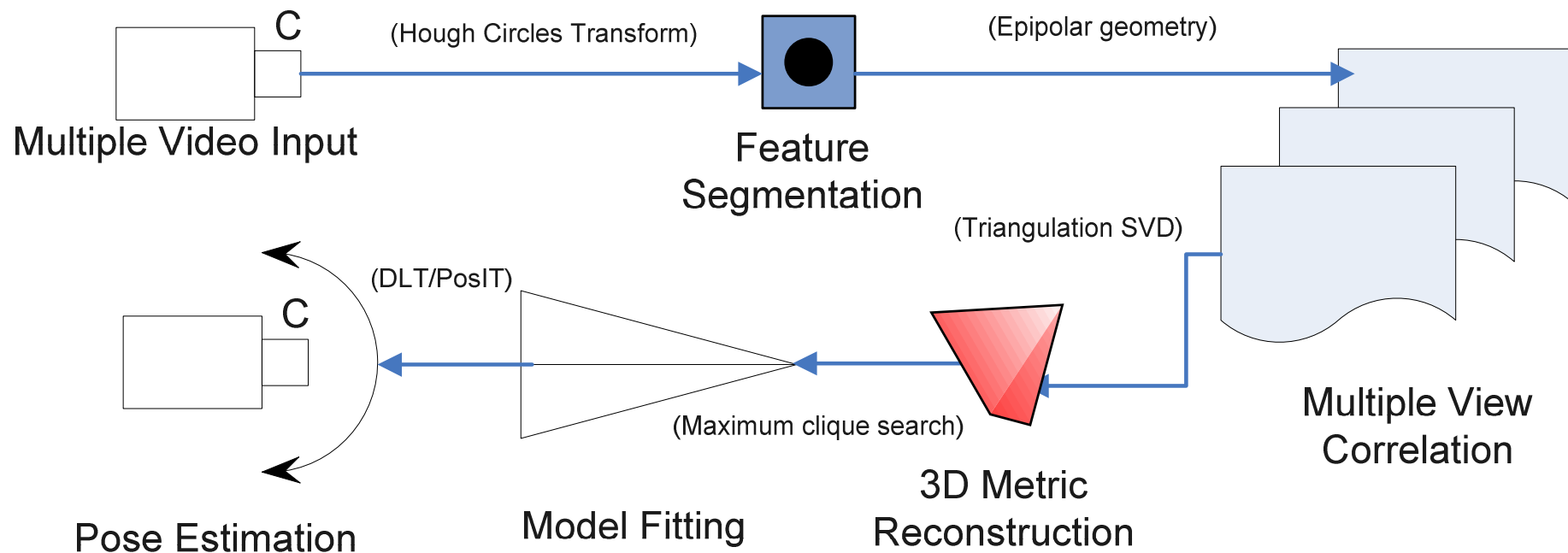
Hardware Setup:

- 4 AVT Firewire Pike Cameras (640x480, 205 fps)
- 4 LED ring array emitters
- 1 Shutter Controller
- Several retroreflective markers



User Tracking

Infrared Tracking System Traditional Algorithm:



Infrared Tracking System Algorithm

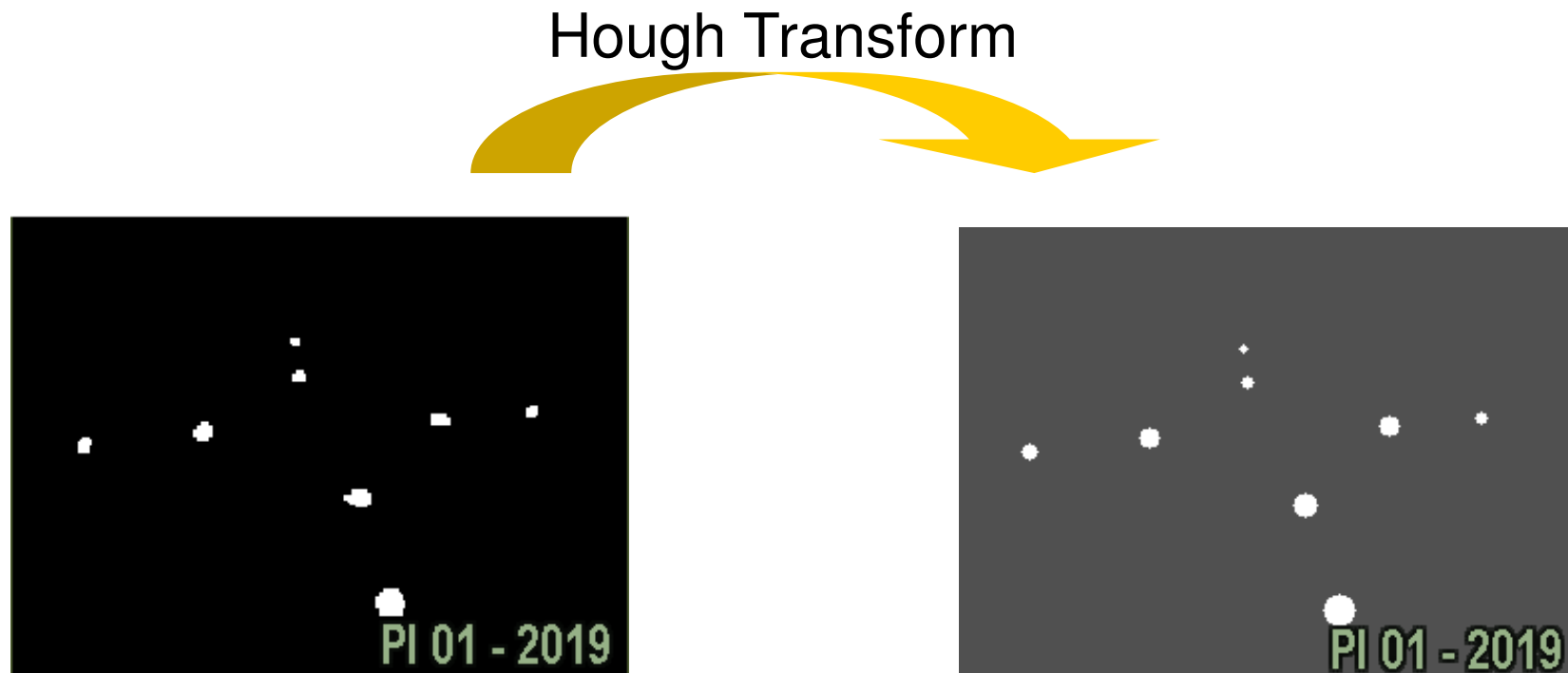
1. Feature Segmentation

threshold



Infrared Tracking System Algorithm

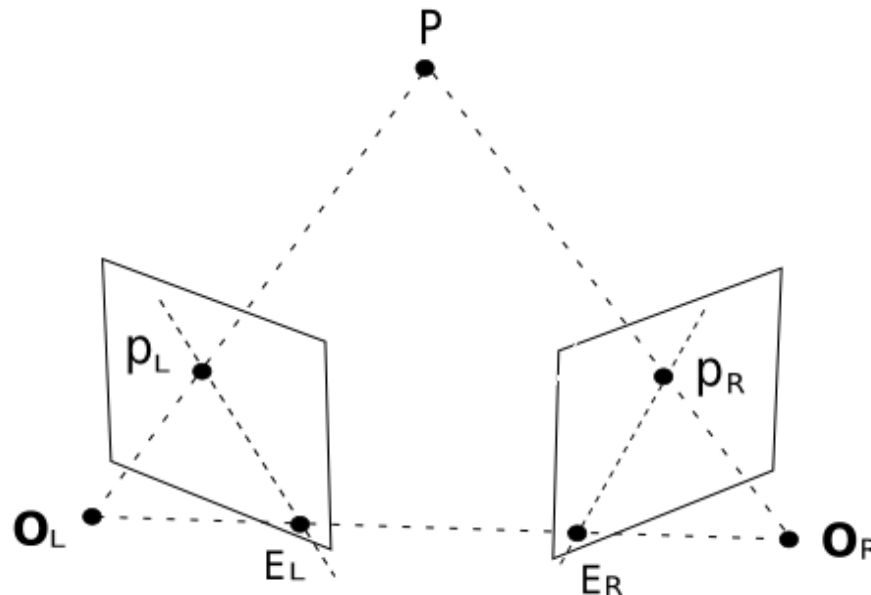
2. Feature Identification



Infrared Tracking System Algorithm

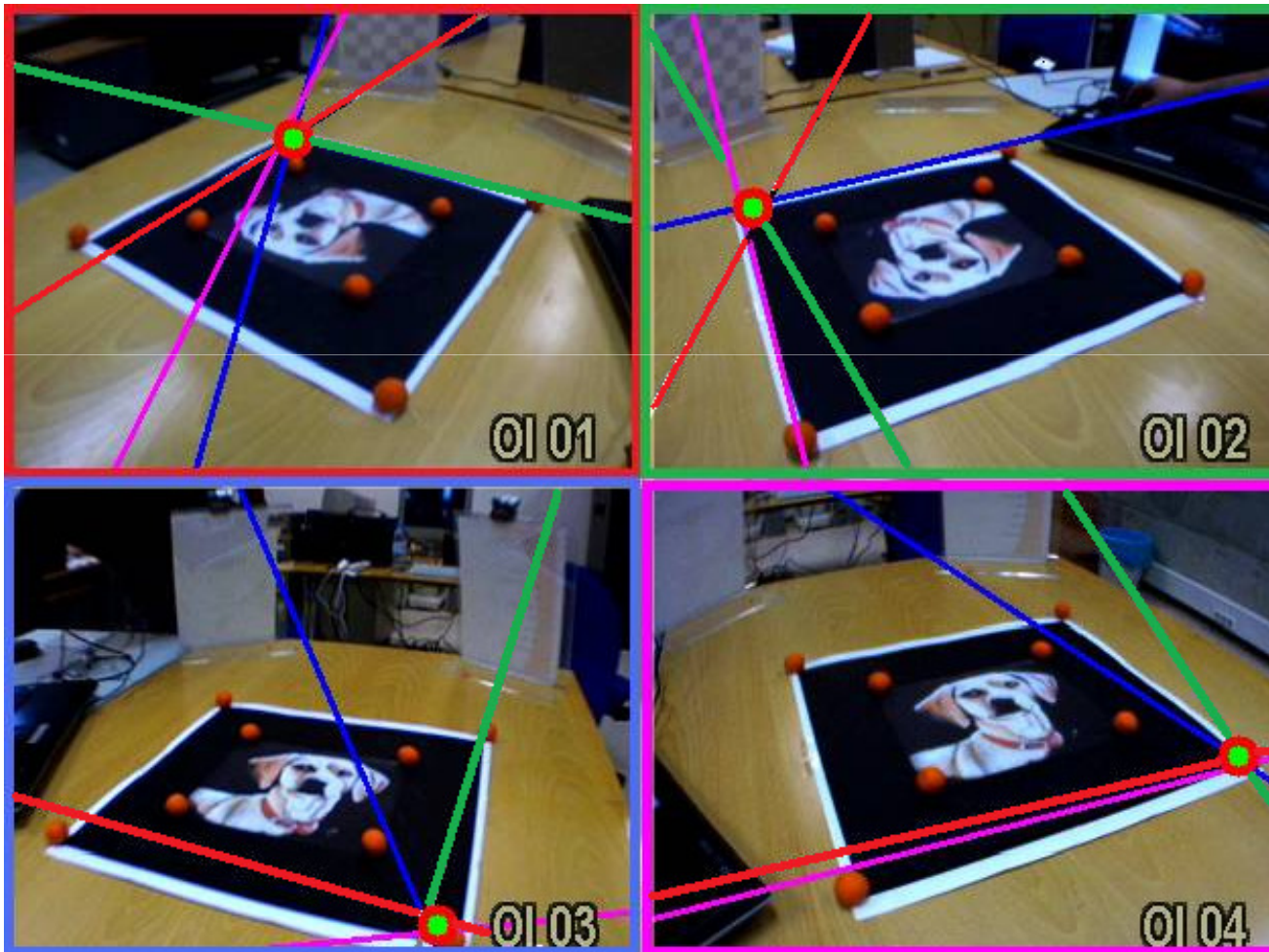
3. Multiple View Correlation via Epipolar Geometry (I)

- Epipolar geometry theory describes that a 3D point can be extracted through triangulation, from the projections on two different planes



Infrared Tracking System Algorithm

3. Multiple View Correlation via Epipolar Geometry (II)



Infrared Tracking System Algorithm

4. 3D Metric Reconstruction via Singular Value Decomposition Triangulation (I)

- Using each camera's intrinsic (K) and extrinsic parameters (M), stack into matrix A the existing information for each view i (2D point location – $x(i)$, $y(i)$)
- Solve the A matrix by SVD, retaining the last row of the V matrix

$$M_{ext} = \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & r_{13} & t_x \\ r_{21} & r_{22} & r_{23} & t_y \\ r_{31} & r_{32} & r_{33} & t_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

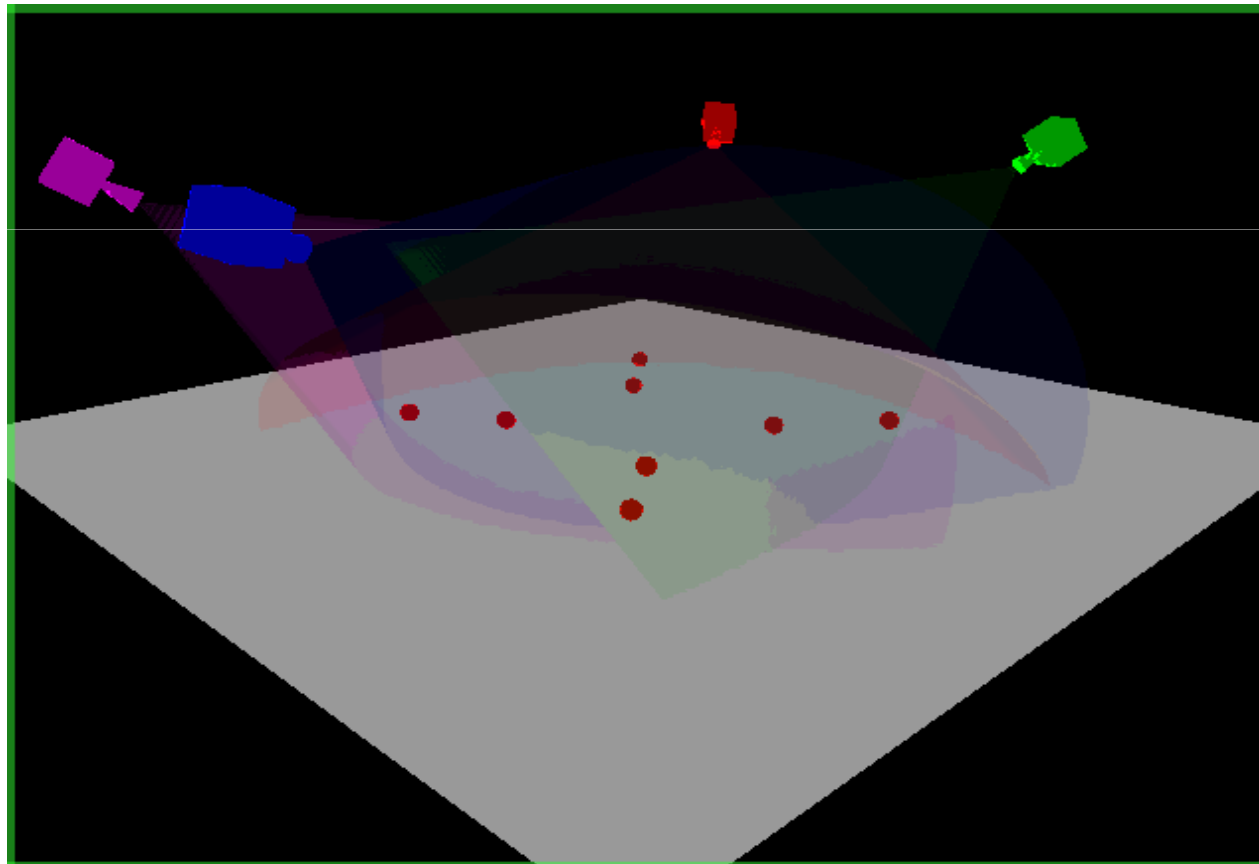
$$K_{int} = \begin{bmatrix} f_x & 0 & c_x & 0 \\ 0 & f_y & c_y & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P_{mat} = K_{int} \times M_{ext}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} P(i)_{31} \times x(i) - P(i)_{11} & P(i)_{32} \times x(i) - P(i)_{12} & P(i)_{33} \times x(i) - P(i)_{13} & P(i)_{34} \times x(i) - P(i)_{14} \\ P(i)_{31} \times y(i) - P(i)_{21} & P(i)_{32} \times y(i) - P(i)_{22} & P(i)_{33} \times y(i) - P(i)_{23} & P(i)_{34} \times y(i) - P(i)_{24} \\ P(i+1)_{31} \times x(i+1) - P(i+1)_{11} & P(i+1)_{32} \times x(i+1) - P(i+1)_{12} & P(i+1)_{33} \times x(i+1) - P(i+1)_{13} & P(i+1)_{34} \times x(i+1) - P(i+1)_{14} \\ P(i+1)_{31} \times y(i+1) - P(i+1)_{21} & P(i+1)_{32} \times y(i+1) - P(i+1)_{22} & P(i+1)_{33} \times y(i+1) - P(i+1)_{23} & P(i+1)_{34} \times y(i+1) - P(i+1)_{24} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix}$$

Infrared Tracking System Algorithm

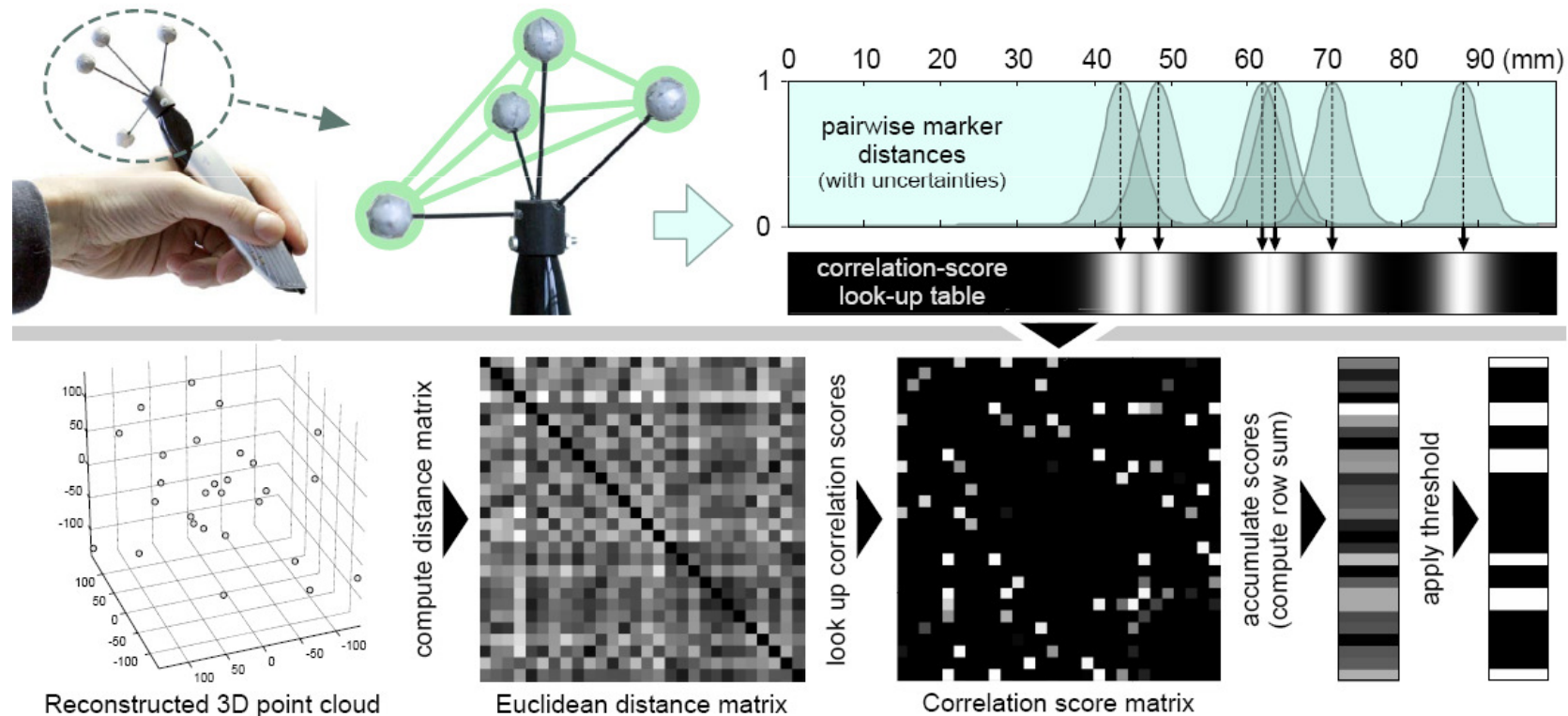
4. 3D Metric Reconstruction via Singular Value Decomposition Triangulation (II)



Infrared Tracking System Algorithm

5. Candidate Evaluation (Pintaric & Kaufmann)

- For each artifact construct a lookup table with pairwise marker distances
- At each frame create an Euclidean distance matrix and a correlation score matrix



Thomas Pintaric, Hannes Kaufmann, "Affordable Infrared-Optical Pose-Tracking for Virtual and Augmented Reality", in Proceedings of "Trends and Issues in Tracking for Virtual Environments" Workshop, IEEE VR 2007, Charlotte, NC, USA, March 2007

VR2008

Infrared Tracking System Algorithm

7. Pose Retrieval

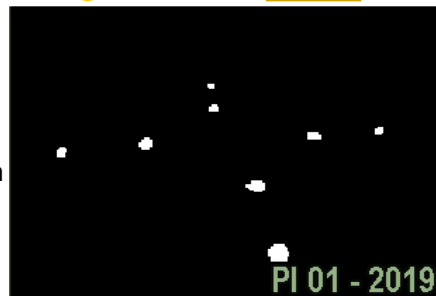
- When more than 3 are reconstructed and matched use DLT (Direct Linear Transformation) algorithm
- When only 3 features are reconstructed and matched, use PosIT (Pose from Orthography and Scaling in Iterations) algorithm
- If less than 3 features are reconstructed and matched, the tracking fails!

Infrared Tracking System Algorithm

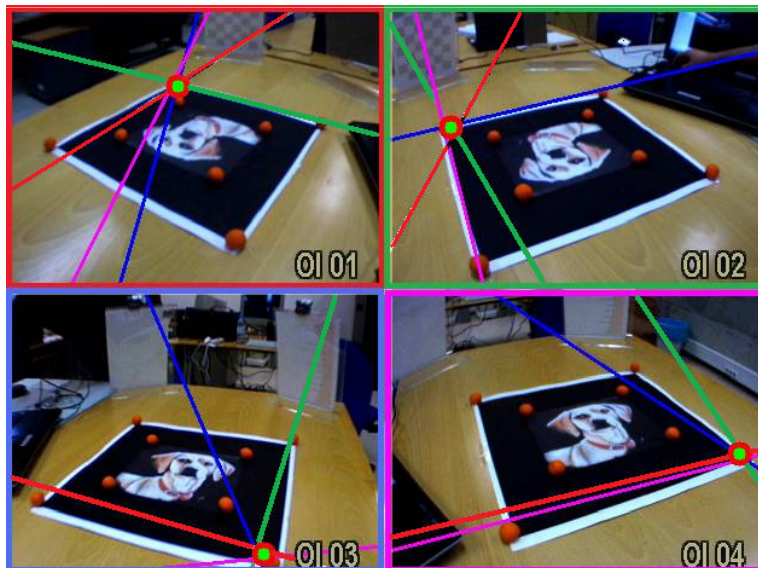
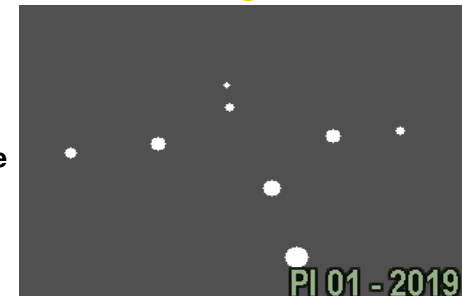
Synthesis



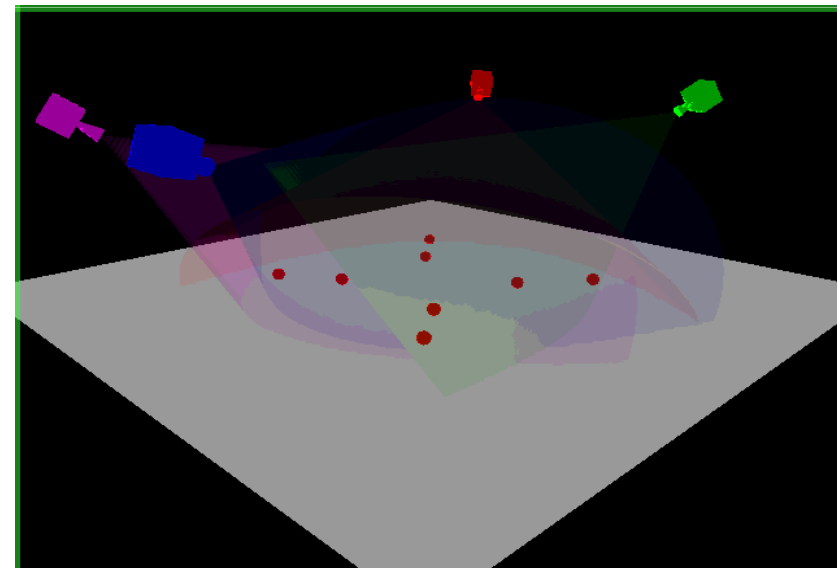
Segmentation



Hough Circle Transform



Multiple View
Correlation



3D Metric
Reconstruction

VR2008

Multimodal Interfaces

- Speech
- Tangible Interface: Wiimote & Nunchuk
- Gestures



Multimodal Interfaces

Speech:

- Command & control
- Can be used to start, pause and stop the simulation, control the navigation in VR, and choose gadgets
- Supports Portuguese Language (pt-pt and pt-br), developed by Microsoft Language Development Center, as well English, Spanish, Japanese, etc
- Commands are interpreted using XML format



Multimodal Interfaces

Wiimote:

- 11 buttons
- IR Sensor (at front)
- Rumble (vibration)
- Speaker (4200Hz)
- 3 DOF + 3 Accelerations



Nunchuk:

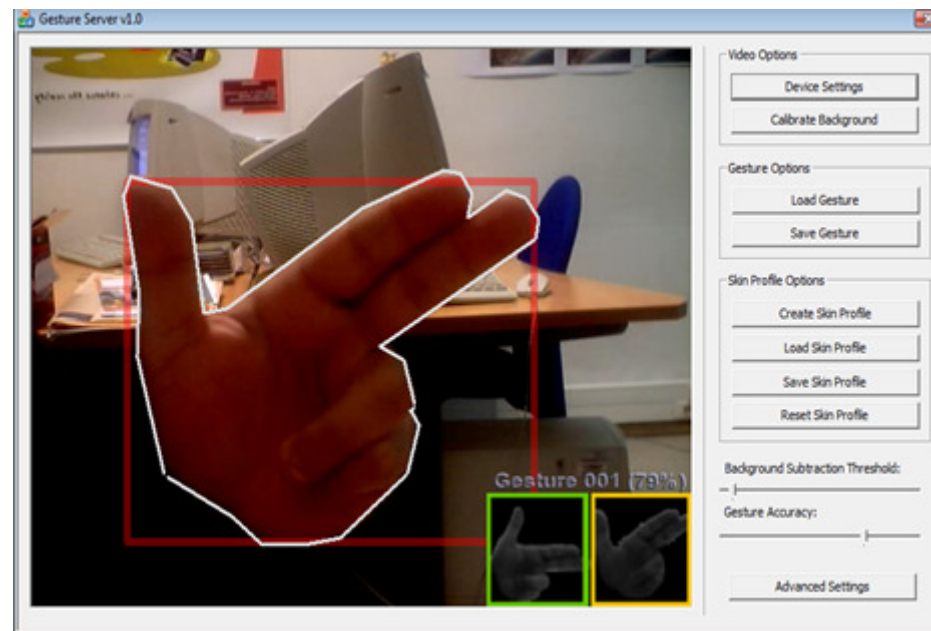
- 2 buttons
- Analog Stick
- 3 DOF + 3 Accelerations



Multimodal Interfaces

Gestures:

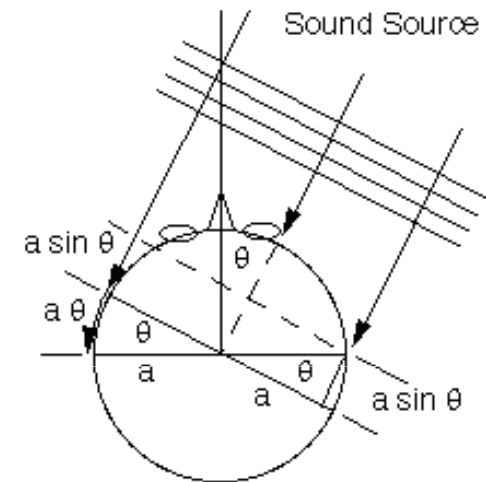
- Can be used to perform simple actions
- Invariant to rotation and scaling
- Based on a networked Gesture Server (client-server)



Audio

Sound Localization Perception:

- Lord Rayleigh's *Duplex Theory*:
 - Inter-aural Time Difference (ITD).
 - Inter-aural Level Distance (ILD).
- Pinna Filtering (Batteau): due to the ear's morphology, a sound arrives to it with different distortions, depending on its position
- Other Clues:
 - Movement of the head
 - Visual confirmation and disambiguation
 - Early echo response and reverberation



Audio

Sound Auralization:

- Auralization is the concern of creating the sensation of spatial sound.
- Adrian Willaert XVIth century's Antiphons.
- *"Basic Principles of Stereophonic Sound"* (William Snow): sound auralization can only be achieved with at least 2 speakers (depending on dimensions of the hall).
- Two major approaches: binaural and fixed set of speakers
- Implementation of such systems must take special care with hall reflections and occlusions

Audio

Binaural Techniques:

- Headphones and tracking system.
- 6 Degrees-of-Freedom (DOF).
- Low cost.
- Pinna Filtering:
 - Requires previous filtering of sounds to simulate the effects of the pinna.
 - Head Related Transfer Functions (HRTF) represent a transfer function of a filter with the same impulse response than the pinna.
 - Each person has his own HRTF.
- Inapt for collaborative environments.

Audio

Fixed Set of Speakers Techniques:

- More comfortable and, usually, of better quality
- Harder to implement due to reflections and occlusions, and more expensive
- Vector-Based Amplitude Panning (VBAP) Techniques:
 - They use vector algebra for assigning to each speaker a different amplitude for a sound
 - Some posterior corrections were made to this model (Speaker-Placement Correction Amplitude Panning and Multiple Direction Amplitude Panning)
- Wave Field Synthesis:
 - Huygens Principle states that any point of a front of a wave can be represented by secondary wave sources.
 - Large (and expensive) array of speakers.



Audio

Commodity 3D Sound:

- Multichannel technologies:
 - Planar configurations: 7.1 surround sound.
 - Multi-planar configurations: 10.2 (2 planes), 22.2 (3 planes).
- Audio libraries:
 - Allow the 3D positioning of sound sources and the listener.
 - Handle the sound sent to speakers, accordingly to their topology.
 - Free libraries: DirectSound3D and OpenAL (Open Source).
 - Commercial libraries: FMOD Ex Sound System

Audio

Audio Libraries:

- Free libraries (DirectSound3D and OpenAL):
 - Low-level libraries that allow simple operations, such as the positioning of sound sources and listener
 - In virtual environments with many sound sources, the programmer needs to manage the limited PCM buffers of the sound cards
 - Open Source nature of OpenAL makes it the preferred choice for custom sound kernels
- FMOD Ex Sound System:
 - Gaming sound library with geometry processing, for sound reverberation and occlusion effects
 - Spatial organization, sound prioritization and sound mixing for managing hardware resources
 - Internal DSP functionality for sound pre-processing
 - In Windows, it uses DirectSound3D for its final output

Audio

Audio Implementation Example:

- FMOD Ex Sound System
- Engine for audio simulation and sound source updates
- Sound source as a scene graph node
- Map node, for reverberation and occlusion effects
- During the simulation step
 - Sound source position are updated
 - The engine receives a step command with a listener position, and advances the simulation of the audio library
 - The engine sends new audio state to all nodes for data consistency

Section III: Clusters

- evolution of computers
- commodity hardware
- frame-locking, gen-lock and data-lock
- configure a cluster,
- open source and commercial solutions

Computers architectures

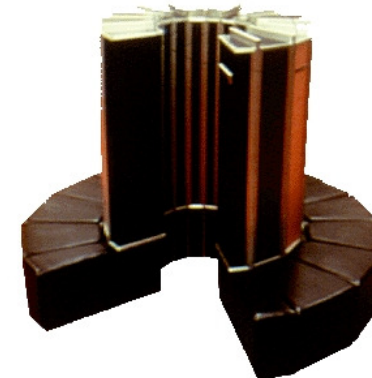
- Mainframes
- Mini-computers
 - Supermini
- Supercomputers



IBM zSeries



HP3000



Cray 1

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Supercomputers

- Vector x Scalar Processing
- Shared x Distributed Memory
- Symmetric x Asymmetric Architecture

Vector x Scalar

- Vector Processors:
 - One instruction in several dataExamples: Cray, NEC
- Scalar Processors:
 - Several processors in several dataExamples: SGI, SUN



NEC SX-9

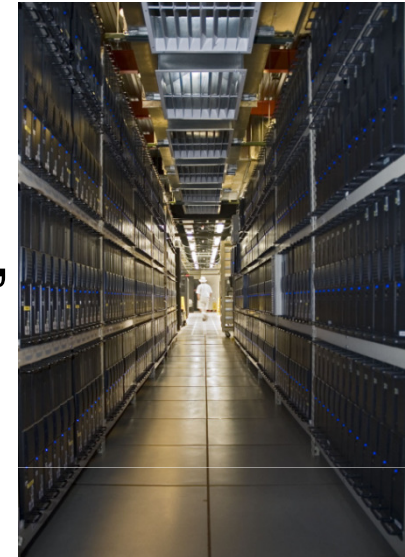


SGI Onyx 3000

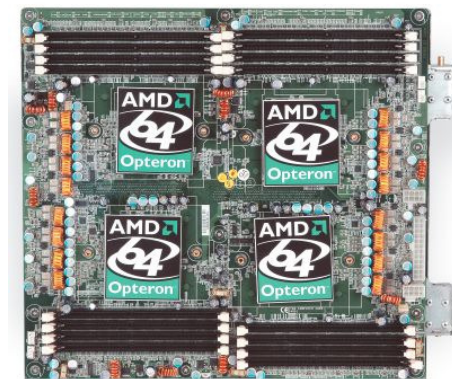
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Memory Access

- Distributed Memory
 - Each processing unit is independent, has its own operating system and memory
 - Examples: basically *Clusters*
- Shared Memory (SMP)
 - All processors work over the same operational system, all the memory is accessible by any processor
 - Examples: SGI, multicore



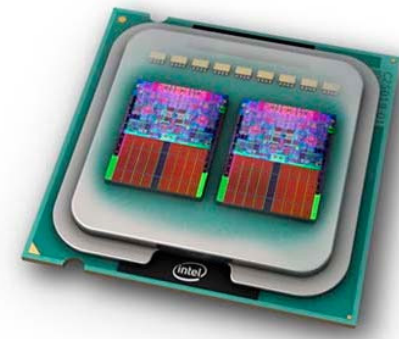
Cluster



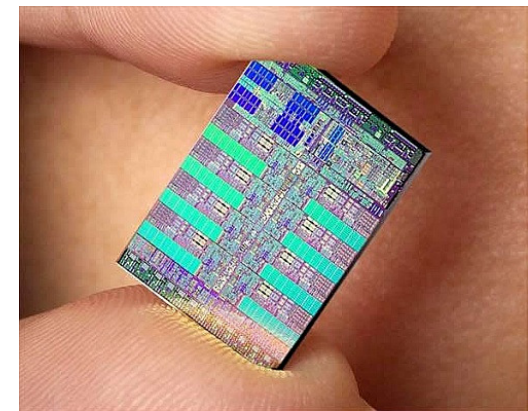
8-way Opteron

Symmetric x Asymmetric

- Symmetric Multiprocessing
 - Every processor is capable to run the operating system
- Asymmetric Multiprocessing
 - Dedicated processors for different tasks



Intel Core 2 Quad



Cell

Parallelism Taxonomy

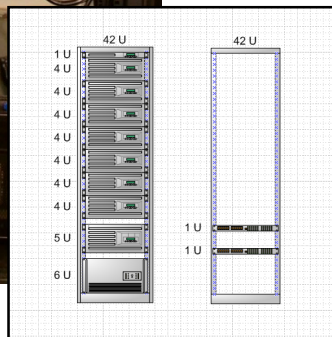
- *Single instruction, single data stream (SISD)*
 - *Multiple instruction, single data stream (MISD)*
 - *Single instruction, multiple data streams (SIMD)*
 - *Multiple instruction, multiple data streams (MIMD)*
-
- *Single Program, multiple data streams (SPMD)*

PC Clusters

- Low cost, because they are mainly built of commodity components produced for a mass market;
- Modularity that enables to build a cluster adapted to the user's need regarding components, size or performance;
- Compliance with standards, that favors software and hardware interoperability;
- Upgradeability, since the commodity marked produce new and more powerful devices often;
- Availability of a large range of open source software solutions that enables to customize, if required, a given software layer.

Organization

Rack

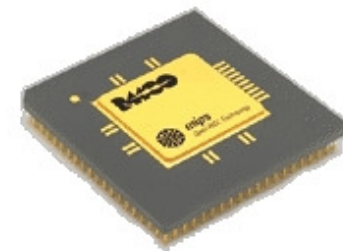
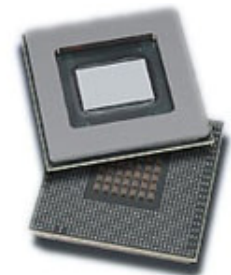
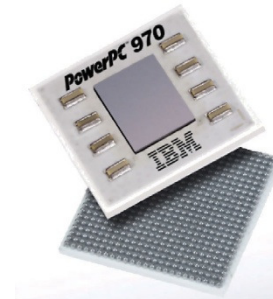
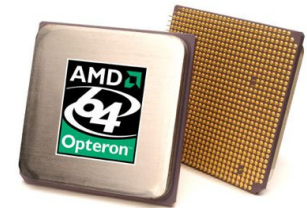
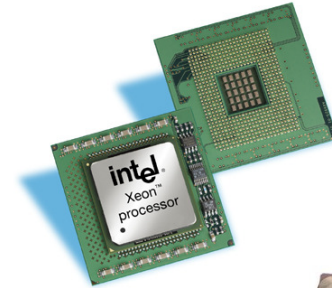


Shelf



Numerical Processing

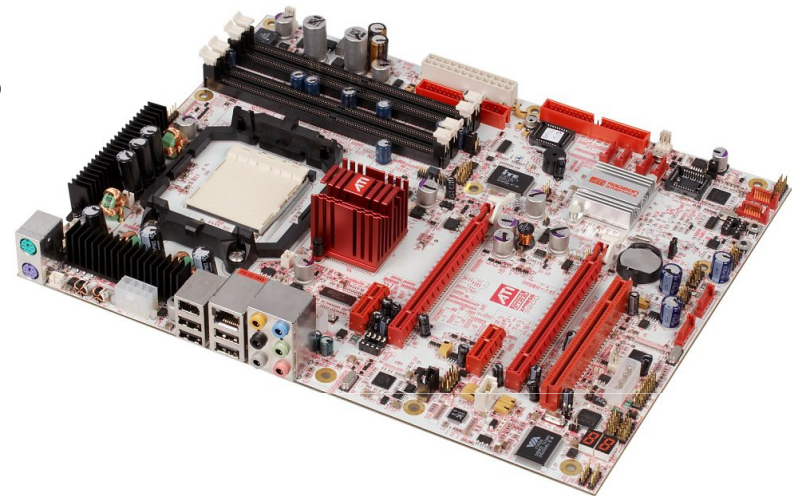
- Intel
- AMD
- PowerPC/Cell
 - Apple-IBM-Motorola
 - IBM-Toshiba-Sony
- MIPS



Chipsets

- ATI Crossfire Xpress and AMD 7-Series

- Processor:
AMD64 and Intel
- *Slots* for graphics:
up to 3 x16 PCIE slots
PCI Express 2.0 support



- Nvidia nForce

- Processor:
AMD64 and Intel
- *Slots* for graphics:
up to 3 x16 PCIE slots
PCI Express 2.0 support



Network connection Communication Latency

Network	Latency
InfiniPath (InfiniBand)	1.31 microseconds
Cray RapidArray	1.63 microseconds
Quadrics	4.89 microseconds
NUMALink	5.79 microseconds
Myrinet	19.00 microseconds
Gigabit Ethernet	42.23 microseconds
Fast Ethernet	603.15 microseconds

Source: HPC Challenge

Graphical Parallelism

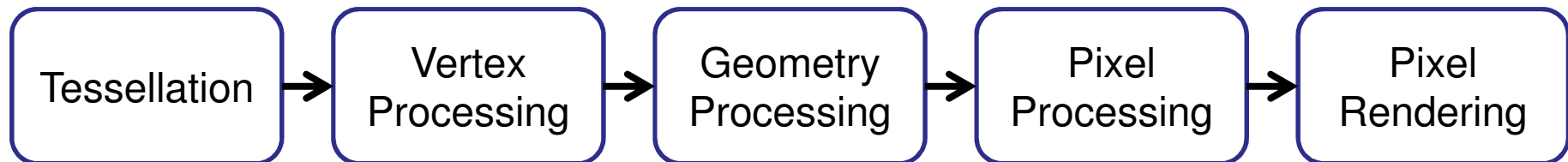
- Graphical parallelism can be achieved by:
 - More modern graphic cards (more *pixel shaders* and *fragment shaders*)
 - Combining graphic cards (SLI ou Crossfire)
 - *Clusters*
 - *Compositing Hardware*

Techniques

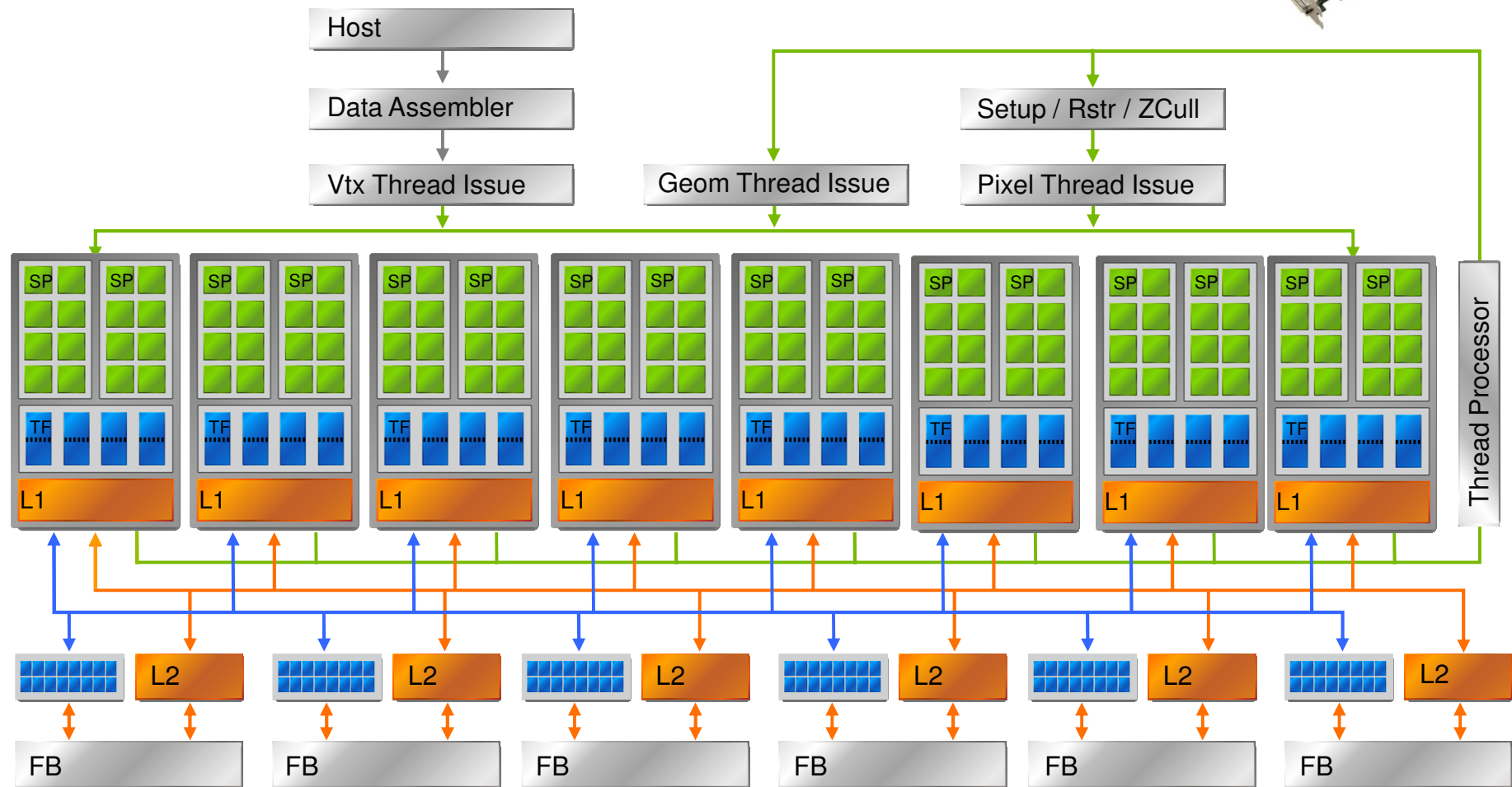
- Sample division
- Time division
- Image division
 - Static partitioning
 - Interleaved
 - Dynamic partitioning
- Eye division
- Scene division
- Volume division
- Operational Decomposition

Graphic Cards

- Implements several graphical *pipelines*:
 - Nvidia (programmable)
 - ATI (programmable)
 - SGI (not programmable)

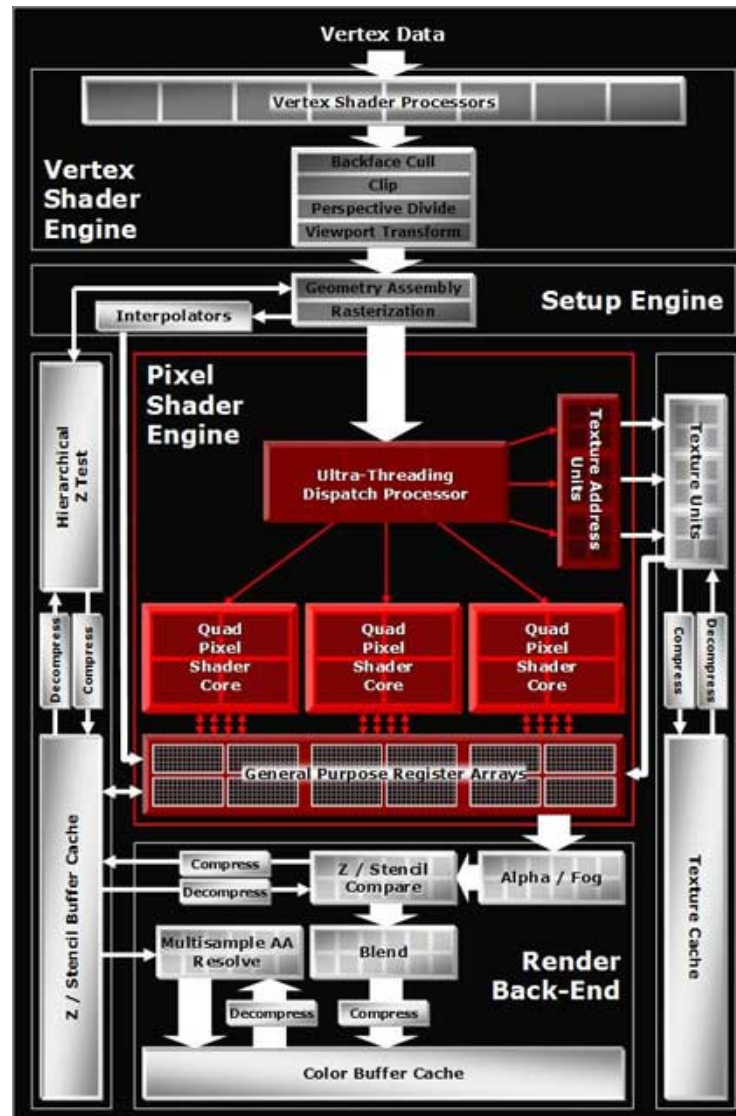


Nvidia pipeline model



VR2008

ATI / AMD



VR2008

Graphic Cards Parallelism

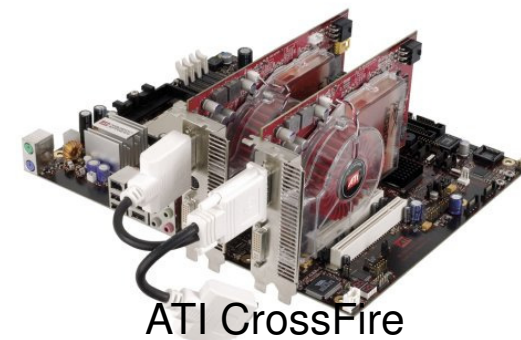
- Voodoo(1996)
 - Each board draws half of the entire screen.
- Split Frame Rendering (SFR)
- Alternative Frame Rendering (AFR)
- Anti-aliasing



Quantum 3D



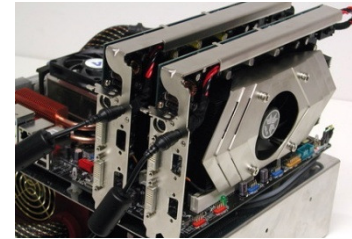
Nvidia SLI



ATI CrossFire

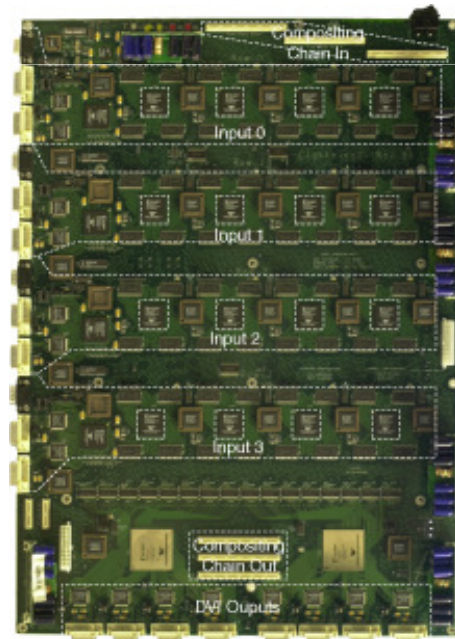
High Density Multi GPU

- 2 x NVidia 7800 GT (ASUS)
 - 2 x PCI-Express x32
- NVIDIA Quadro Plex
 - 4 GPUs per Box
- 3-way SLI NVIDIA
- 4-way Crossfire



Lightning2 & Sepia

- Two systems for *Sort-last*, they have a dedicated hardware for video compositing from several processing nodes.



Lightning2



Sepia-2

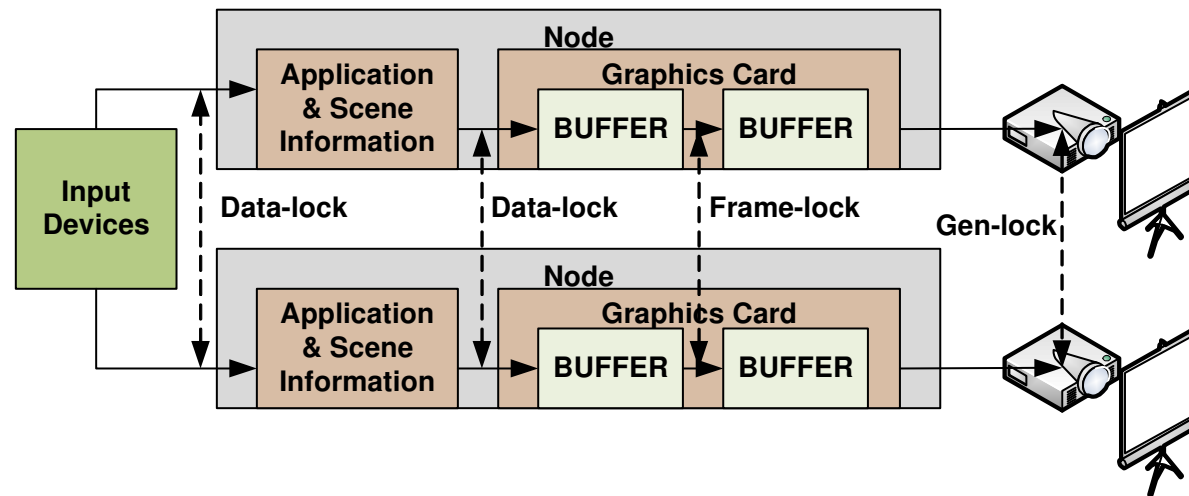
Display Managers

- Cyviz: active stereo to passive stereo and vice-versa
- OpenWARP: *Chroma Key, edge-blending, image-warp*
- ORAD DVG: several compositing resources, such as time or space
- XDS-1000: Embedded Windows XP interface, PIP, ultra-high bandwidth
- NetPix: All types of multiple display source, PIP



Cluster Synchronization

- gen-lock: projector level
- frame-lock (or swap-lock): graphics processor level
- data-lock: application level

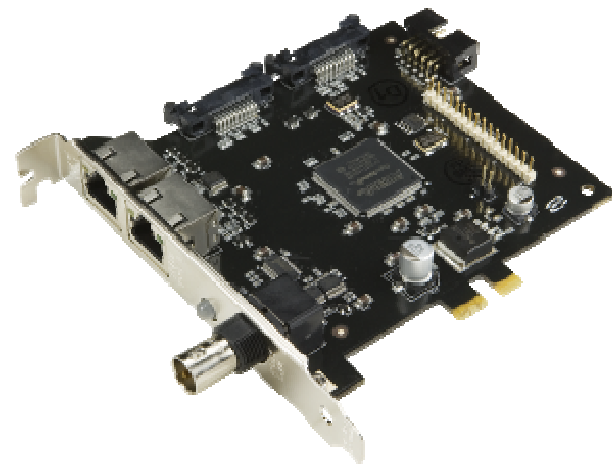


Graphical Clusters

- Computers that compute graphics together
- Synchronization is mandatory



SoftGenLock



NVIDIA Quadro G-Sync Board

Physical Simulation

- Very fast physical processor.
- It works quite well in VR scenarios.
 - Collision Detection
 - Particles
- PhysX AGEIA



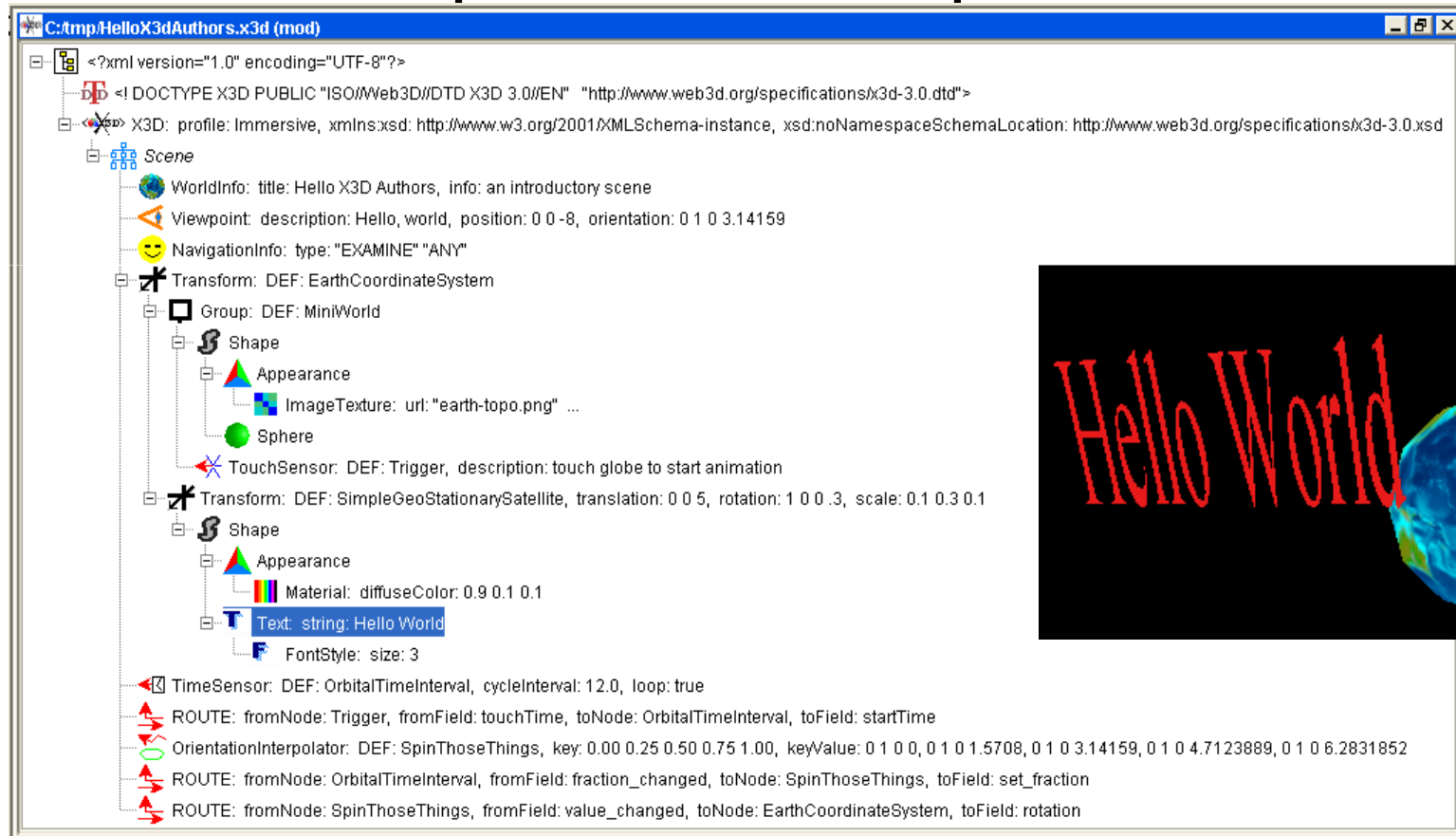
GPGPU on Clusters

- CUDA (Compute Unified Device Architecture Nvidia)
- CTM (Close To Metal ATI/AMD)

Product	Core/GPU	TFlop/Device	MSRP/Device	Max Power	Quantity Required	Power (KW)	TF Total	Cost Total
2S 1U Server	4	0,07	\$6.000,00	500	2143	1071	150	\$12.857.142,86
Cisco 48 port GigE Switch			\$7.000,00		57			\$399.000,00
					Total	1071,4	150	\$13.256.142,86
					Racks	57,00		
x86-64 CPU with Tesla Acceleration								
Product	Core/GPU	TFlop/Device	MSRP/Device	Max Power	Quantity Required	Power (KW)	TF Total	Cost Total
2S 1U Server	4	0,07	\$6.000,00	500	114	57	7,98	\$684.000,00
Tesla S870	4	1,32	\$9.995,00	550	114	62,7	150,48	\$1.139.430,00
Cisco 48 port GigE Switch			\$7.000,00		6			\$42.000,00
					Total	119,7	158,46	\$ 1.865.430,00
					Racks	6,00		

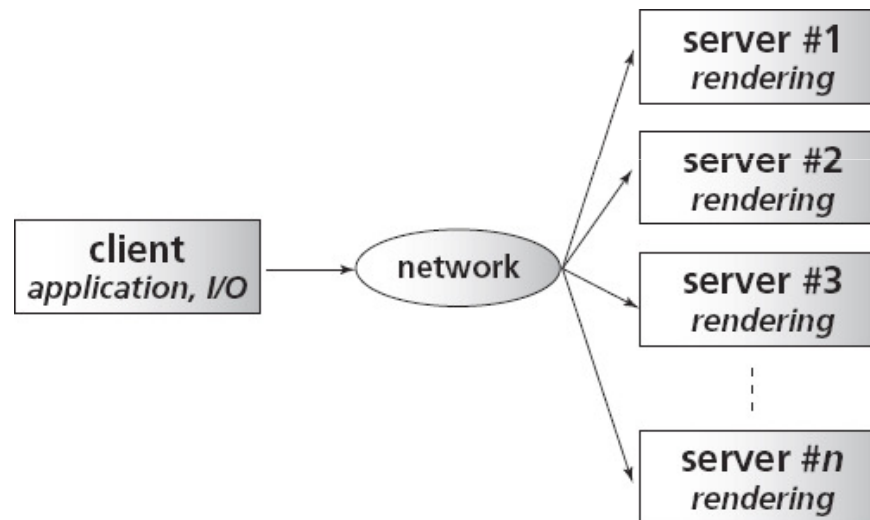
Graphics Data Organization

- Scene Graph X3D Example



Graphics Data Distribution in Multi-Projection Systems

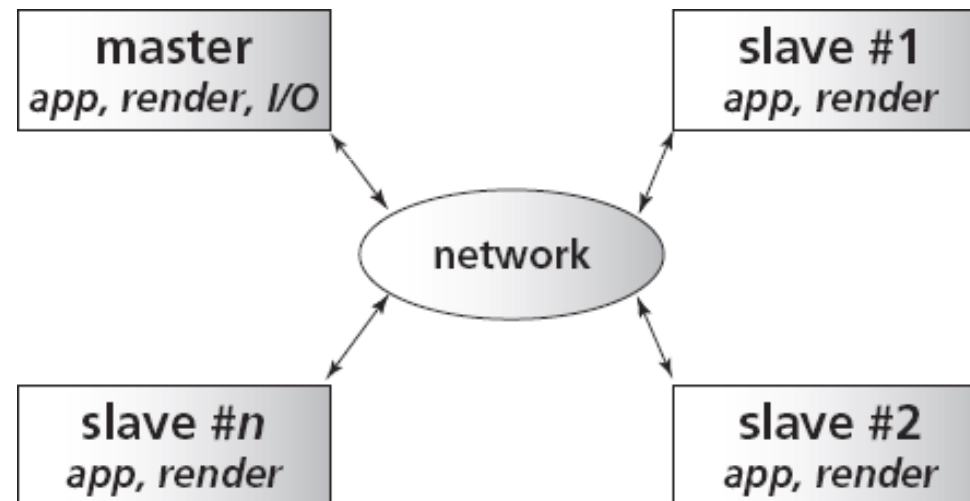
Client-Server (Centralized)



Source: *A Survey and Performance Analysis of Software Platforms for Interactive Cluster Based Multi-Screen Rendering* – Stadt, Walker, Nuber, Hamann

Graphics Data Distribution in Multi-Projection Systems

Master-Slave (Replicated)



Fonte: *A Survey and Performance Analysis of Software Platforms for Interactive Cluster Based Multi-Screen Rendering* – Stadt, Walker, Nuber, Hamann

Graphics Visualization in Multi-Projection Systems

It's a sorting problem:

Sort-First

Sort-Middle

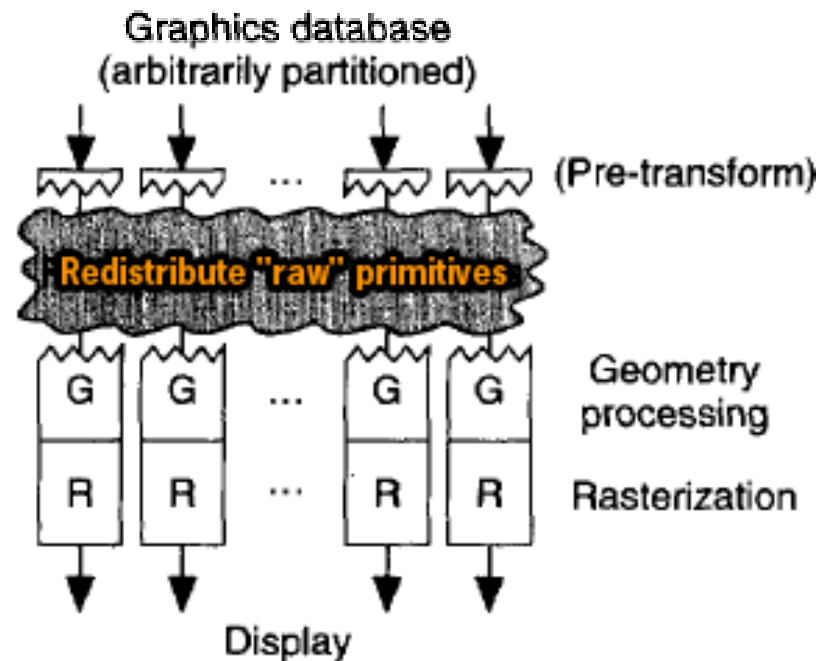
Sort-Last

Sources:

1. *Cinerealismo em Arquitecturas Paralelas de Uso Geral* - João Pereira
2. *A Sorting Classification of Parallel Rendering* - Molnar, Cox, Elisworth e Fuchs
3. *Sort-First Parallel Rendering with a Cluster of PCs* - Samanta, Funkhouser, Li e Singh

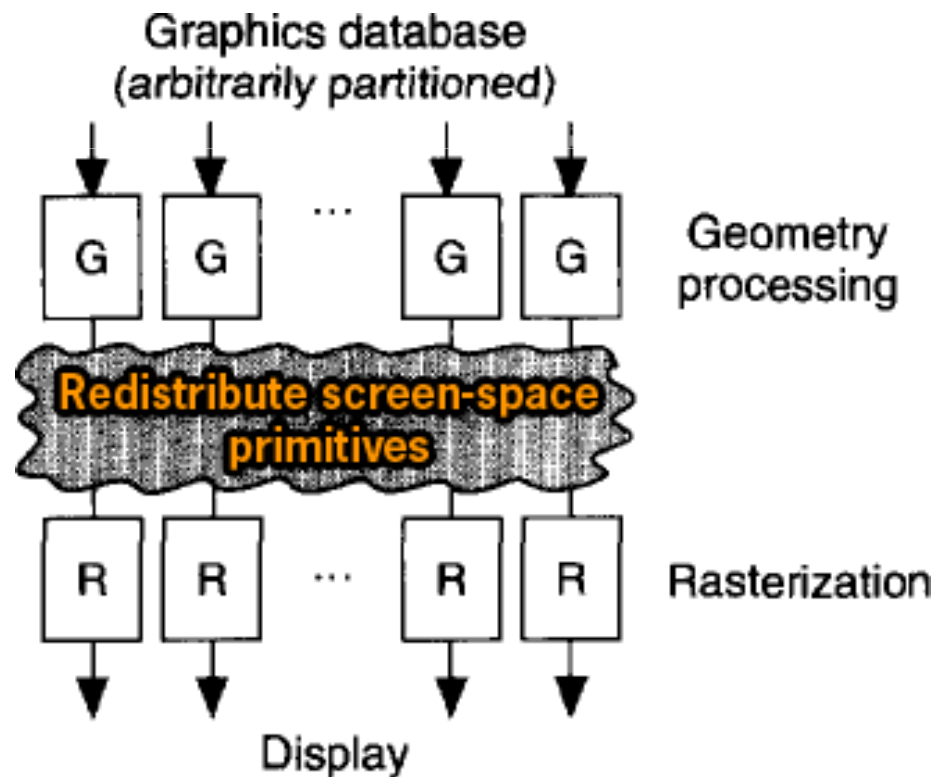
Sort-First

- The visualization area is divided in rectangles
- Graphics primitives are randomly distributed through cluster nodes, which find whose view volumes they intersect
- Graphics primitives are redistributed for the nodes dedicated to those view volumes



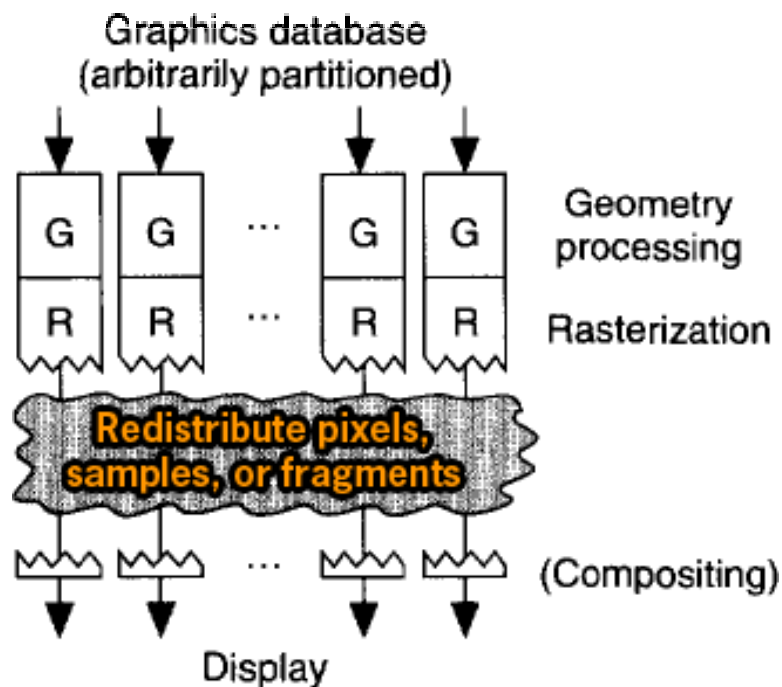
Sort-Middle

- Graphics primitives are randomly distributed through cluster nodes, that perform 3D pipeline transformation
- Projected geometry is redistributed for rasterization



Sort-Last

- Graphics primitives are randomly distributed through cluster nodes, that perform 3D pipeline transformation and rasterization
- Image fragments (R, G, B, A, Z) are sent to the dedicated nodes to update their frame buffers
- Frame lock and genlock ensure that a complete image is composed

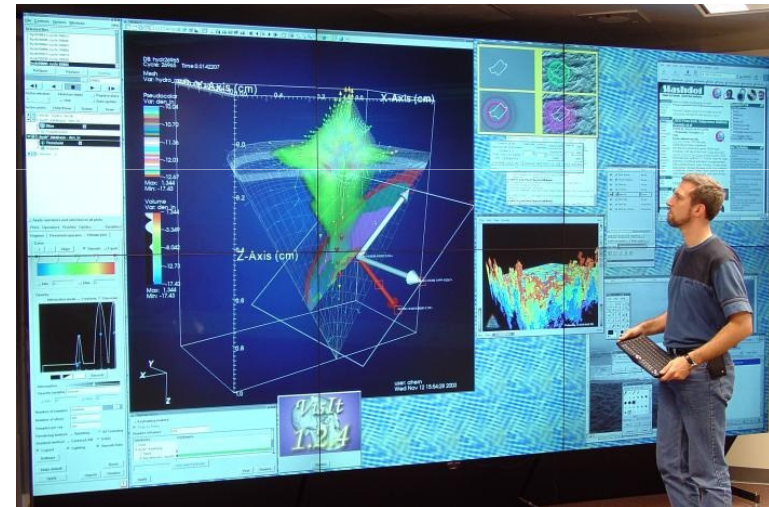


Available Open Source VR Software for Graphics Data Organization, Distribution and Visualization

- Options:
 - Chromium (WireGL)
 - Syzygy
 - OpenSG
 - Performer
 - OpenSceneGraph
 - VRJugler
 - Avango
 - Diverse
 - FlowVR
 - OpenGL Multipipe
 - OpenMask

Chromium (WireGL)

- University of Stanford
- Sort-first and sort-last for visualization
- Client-Server distribution
- Multi-platform
- C, C++
- Supports OpenGL only
- BSD license



Source

1. *A Survey and Performance Analysis of Software Platforms for Interactive Cluster Based Multi-Screen Rendering* – Stadt, Walker, Nuber, Hamann
2. *Plataformas de Suporte para Visualização Interactiva no Sistema Display Wall do Tagus* - Sérgio Cabrita, Dora Esteves

<http://chromium.sourceforge.net/>

VR2008

Syzygy

- University of Illinois
- Scene Graph: Myriad
- Client-Server or Master-Slave distribution
- Audio and device support
- C++ or Python
- Multi-platform
- Illinois Open Source License



Source

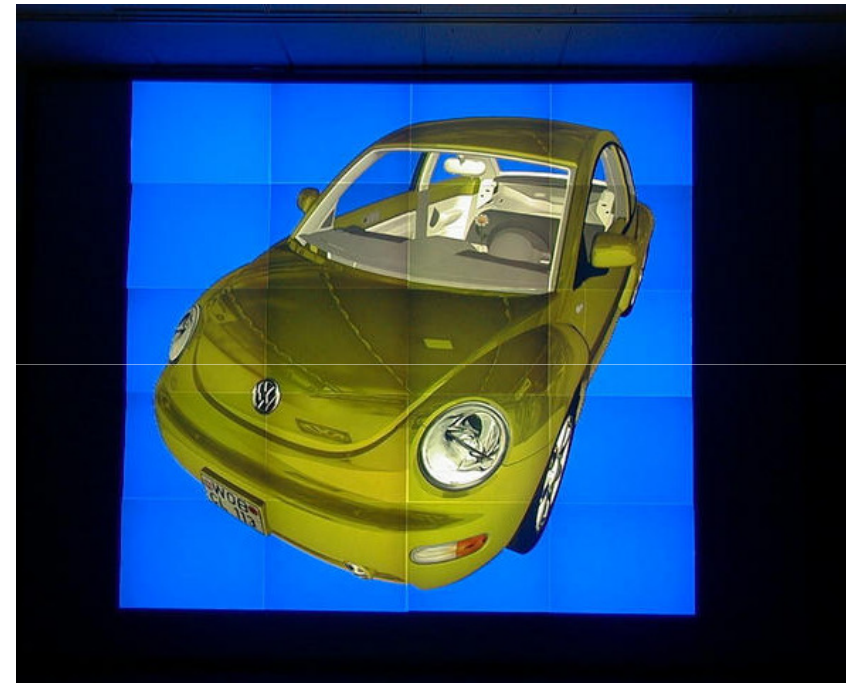
1. *A Survey and Performance Analysis of Software Platforms for Interactive Cluster Based Multi-Screen Rendering* – Staadt, Walker, Nuber, Hamann
2. *Syzygy: Native PC Cluster VR* - Schaeffer, Goudeseune

<http://www.isl.uiuc.edu/syzygy.htm>

VR2008

OpenSG

- German Institution (IGD)
- Own Scene Graph
- Client-Server distribution
- Sort-first and sort-last
- C++
- Multi-platform
- LGPL License



<http://opensg.vrsource.org/>

1. *A Survey and Performance Analysis of Software Platforms for Interactive Cluster Based Multi-Screen Rendering* – Staadt, Walker, Nuber, Hamann
2. *A Multi-thread Safe Foundation for Scene Graphs and its Extension to Clusters* - Voß, Behr, Reiners e Roth

OpenGL Performer

- OpenGL Performer™ is a powerful and comprehensive programming interface for developers creating real-time visual simulation and other professional performance-oriented 3D graphics applications



OpenSceneGraph



- Influenced by Performer
- International Community
- Own Scene Graph
- Highly optimized for large model simulation, terrain visualization, games, virtual reality, scientific visualization
- Supports a large set of 3D file formats
- Incipient support for cluster visualization
- C++, Python, Java
- Oriented to Master-Slave distribution
- Multi-platform
- LGPL License

<http://www.openscenegraph.org/>



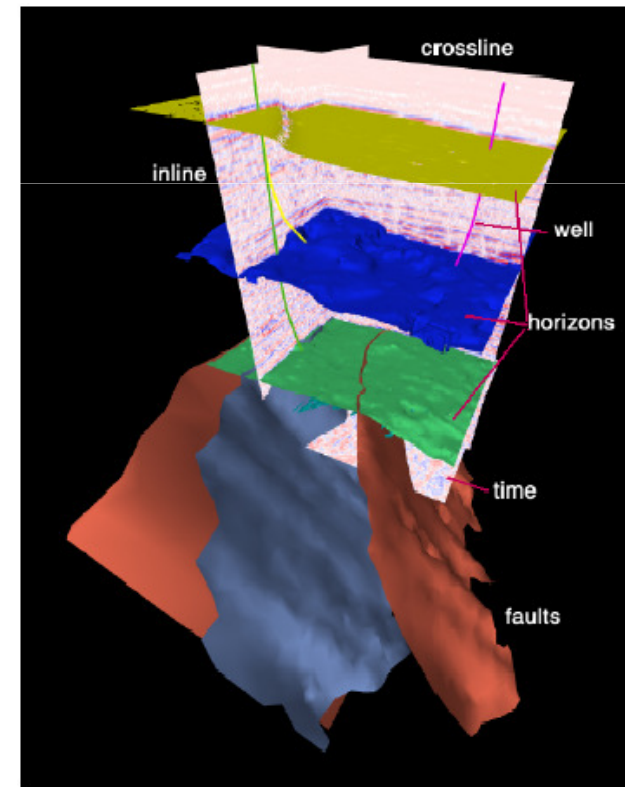
VRJuggler

- Middleware for VR application development
 - Supports different projection geometries
 - Master-Slave architecture and distribution
 - Scene Graph: OpenSG or OpenSceneGraph
 - 3D Audio
 - Input distribution and synchronization (buggy behaviour) with Net Juggler and Cluster Juggler
 - C++, Python, Java
 - Multi-platform
 - LGPL license
- www.vrjuggler.org



Avango

- Based in a shared scene graph
- Supports different projection geometries
- Supports data replication
- Based in OpenGL Performer

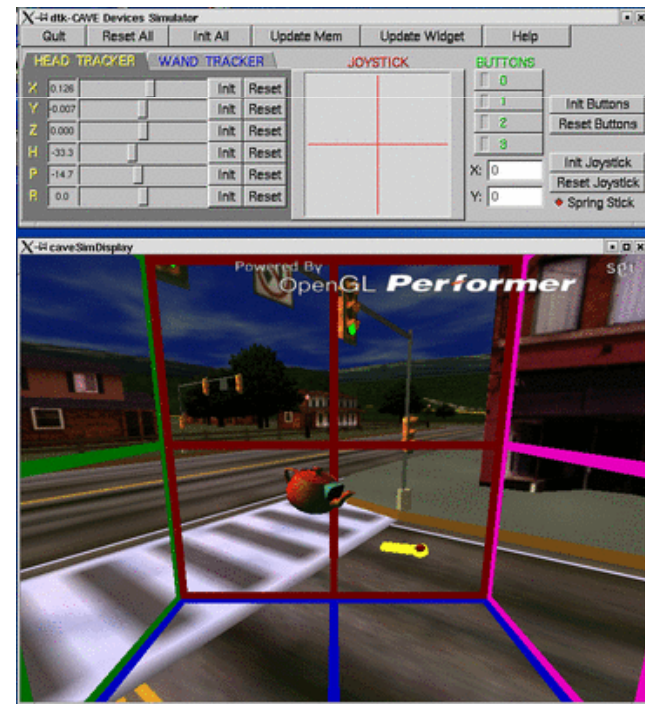


<http://www.avango.org/>

VR2008

Diverse

- Middleware for device independent VR application development
- Supports different projection geometries
- Supports data replication
- Based in OpenGL Performer

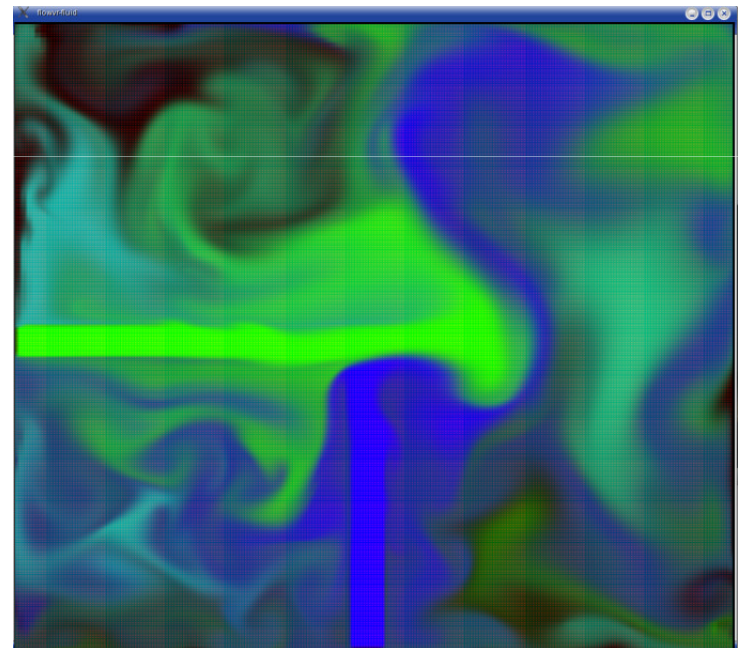


<http://diverse-vr.org/>

VR2008

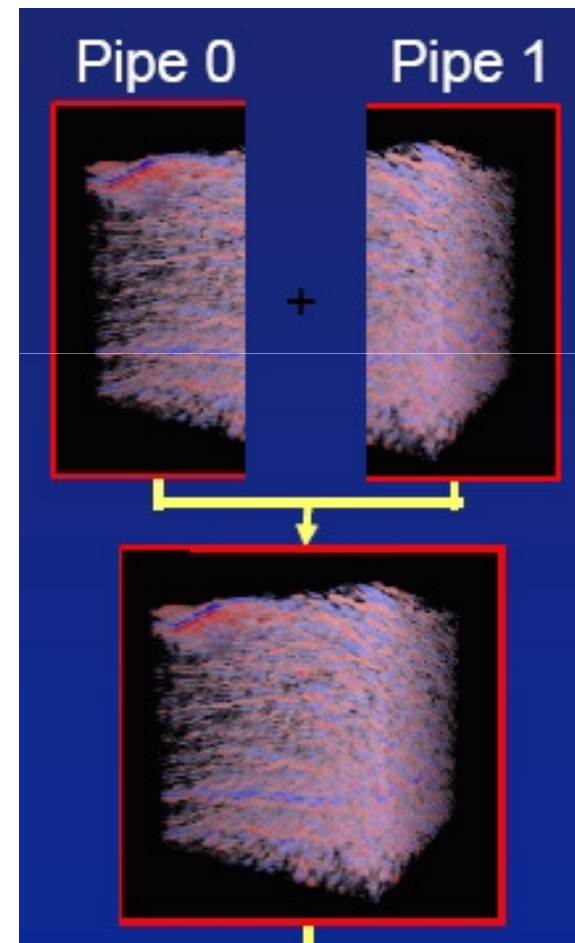
FlowVR

- Middleware for VR application development, based in data flows and modules which communicate
- *Daemons* handle the data transfer between modules
- Easy integration in high performance computing clusters
- Supports data replication



OpenGL Multipipe

- OpenGL API with resources for the real-time compositing of images in multi-projection systems
- Client-server distribution
- Sort-first and Sort-last for cluster visualization
- Automatically detects the best way to parallelize the graphical resources
- Supports different operating systems

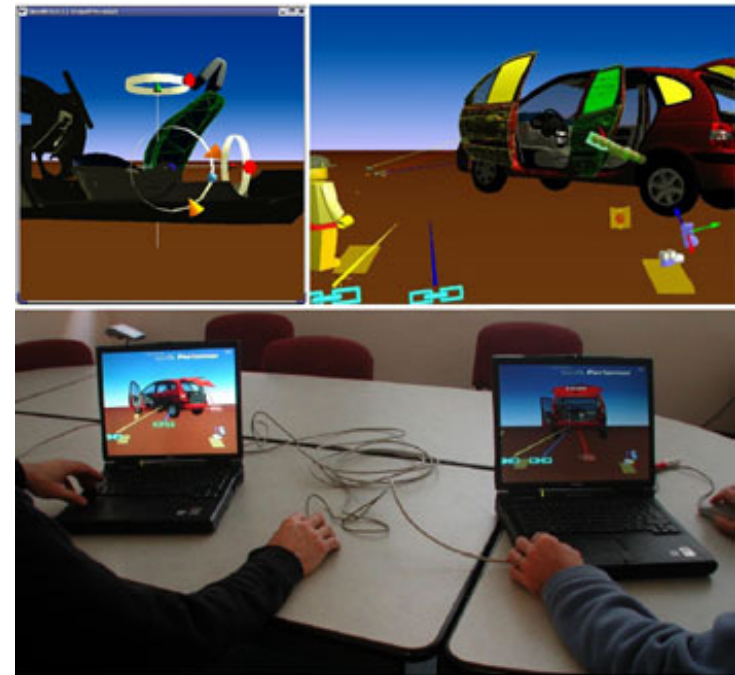


<http://www.sgi.com/products/software/multipipe>

VR2008

OpenMask

- API for application development, which are distributed and multi-threaded
- Includes resources for simulation and animation
- Parallel rendering provided by an external system (OpenSG)

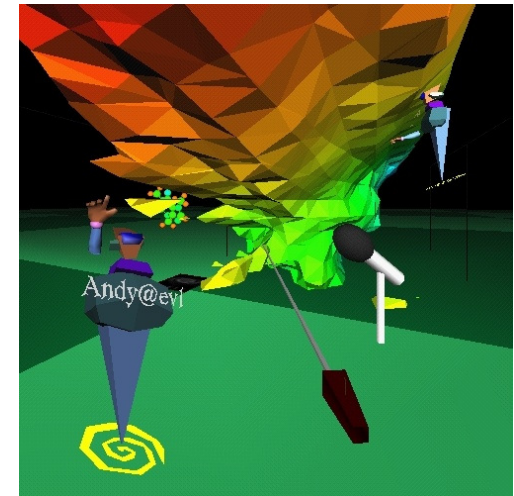


Commercial Tools

- CAVELib
- IC:IDO
- DeltaGen
- VGP
- Avalon
- Basho
- Covise

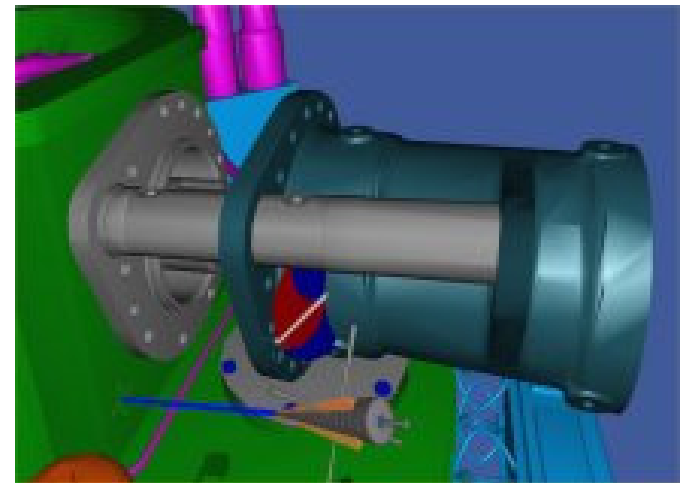
CaveLib

- Developed at EVL (Electronic Visualization Lab) for the first CAVE
- Originally for SGI computer clusters
- Several examples available
- Data replication



IC:IDO

- Intuitive Interface coupling with CAD tools
(Catia, Unigraphics, Autocad, Pro/ENGINEER, Solid Designer, Intergraph e Nemetschek)
- Optimizations for Massive models



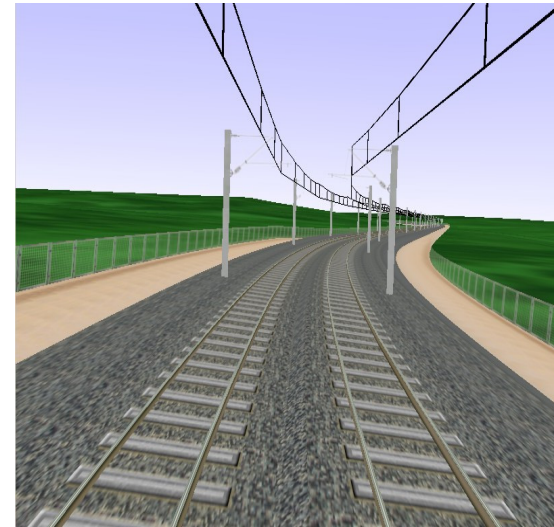
DeltaGen

- Intuitive Interface and interaction with CAD
(WIRE, Catia, Parasolid, Pro/E, IGES, JT, STEP, VDA)
- Optimized for visual effects:
 - reflections
 - textures
- RTT Powerwall for clusters



Avalon

- API to develop application in X3D/VRML
- Extensions X3D/VRML
- OpenSG
- 3D Sound



<http://www.zgdv.de/avalon/>

VR2008

Basho

- Retained mode
- AVANGO e Performer
- Several rendering techniques
- Image Compositing in cascade (2 by 2 nodes)

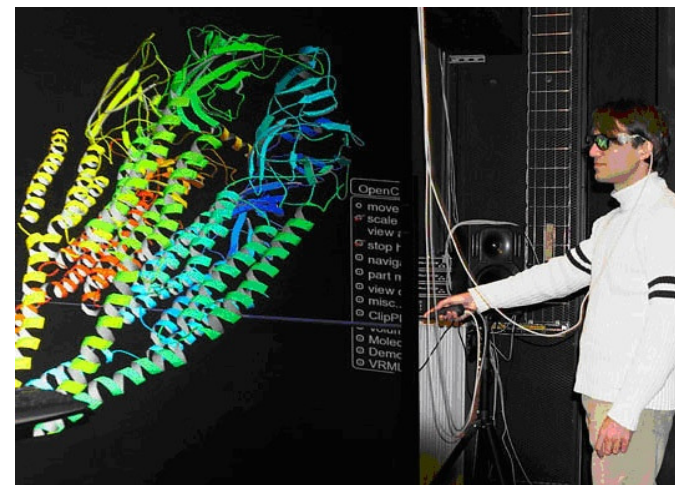


<http://cg.inf.fh-brs.de/basho.php>

VR2008

Covise

- Data-flow model distributed in cluster
- Collaborative solution
- Volume rendering
- Fast sphere rendering



<http://www.hlrs.de/organization/vis/covise/>

VR2008

Multigen Paradigm

- Extends the Multigen Vega library, a visual simulation toolkit
- Master/slave
- Default configuration is to transmit input events. But this can be disabled to accept data from a simulation host.
- Uses TCP and UDP (via the ACE framework)

Section IV: Cases

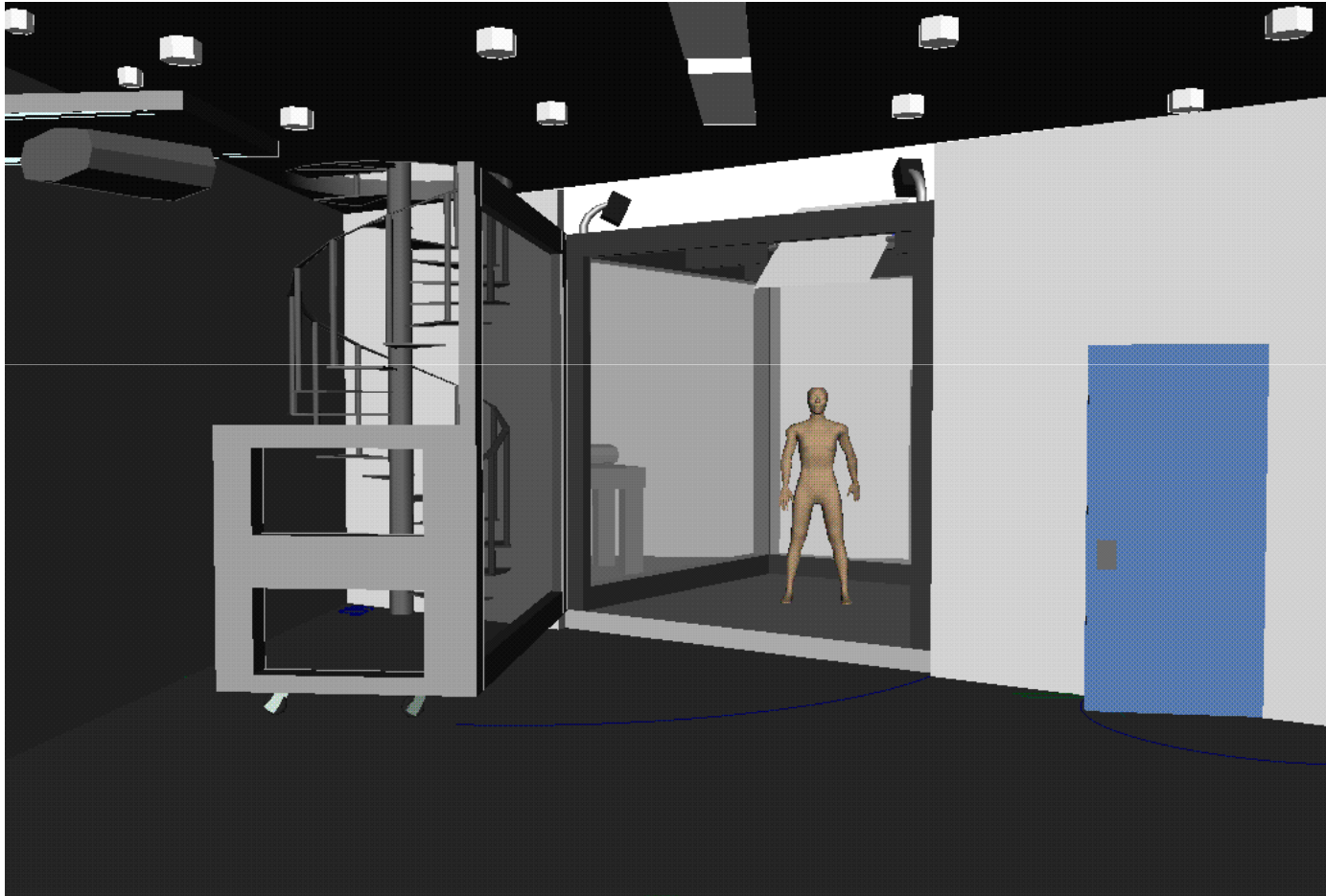
- Caverna Digital at University of São Paulo, Brazil
- Beckman Cube / ALICE at UIUC, USA
- Grimage at INRIA, France
- (CENPES and Others) at Petrobras, Brazil
- Leme at Instituto Superior Técnico, Portugal
- Lousal at Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa, Portugal

Caverna Digital at University of São Paulo, Brazil

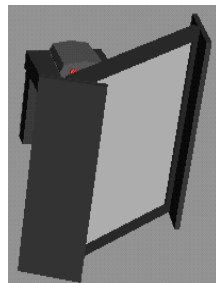
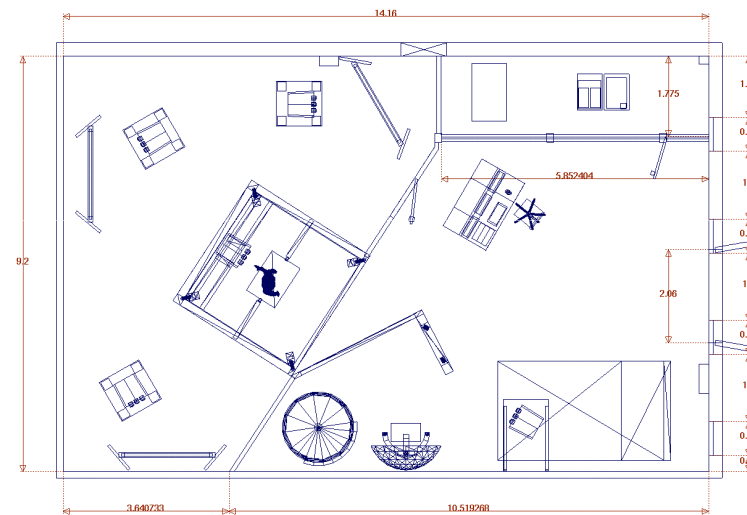
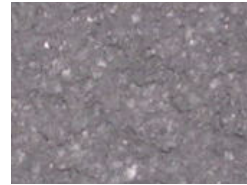
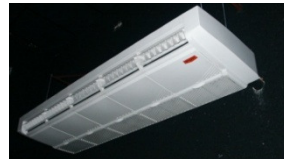
- 5 sided CAVE
- Projectors: 5 CRTs (active stereo)
- Tracking: Electromagnetic
- Installed: 2001



CAVERNA Digital Virtual Model



CAVERNA Digital Physical Project



VR2008

Applications



Evolution



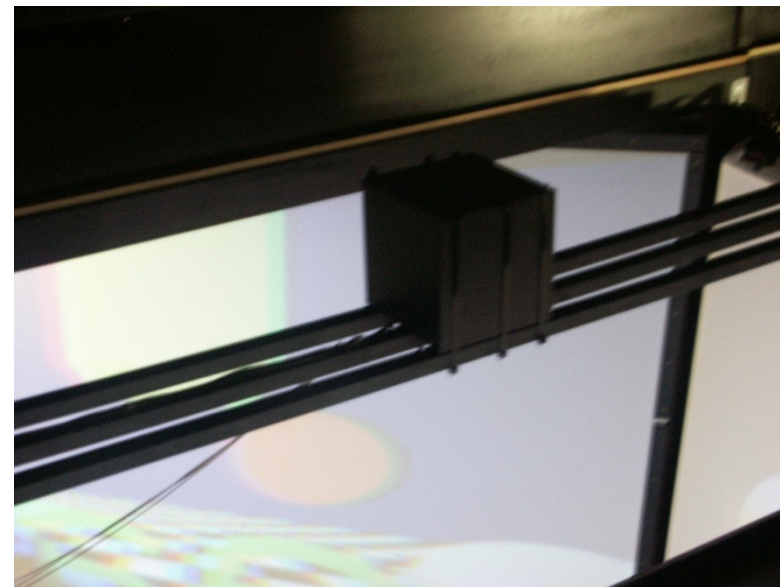
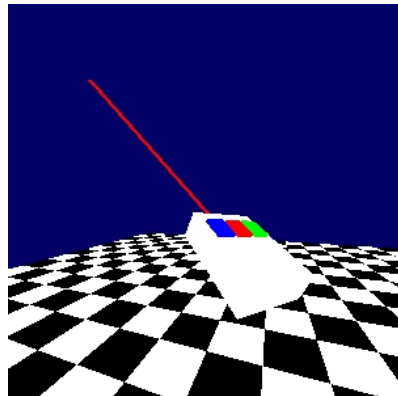
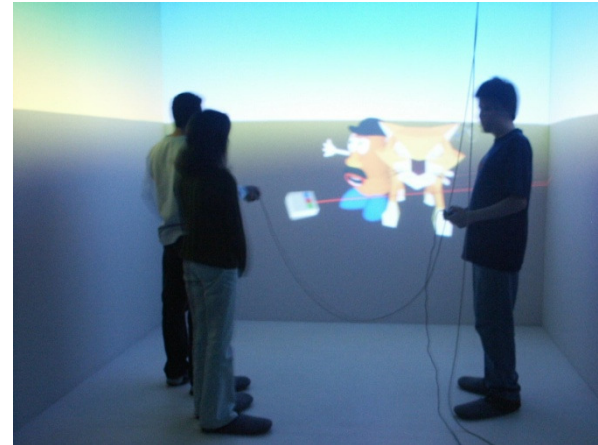
VR2008

JINX

- X3D Browser
- Clusters
 - Commodity PC (Linux)
 - SGI (Irix)
- Based in MPI and Pthreads
 - Also supports Sockets
- Internally uses XML
 - For configuration file
 - Transfer data from devices

Tracking in Caverna Digital

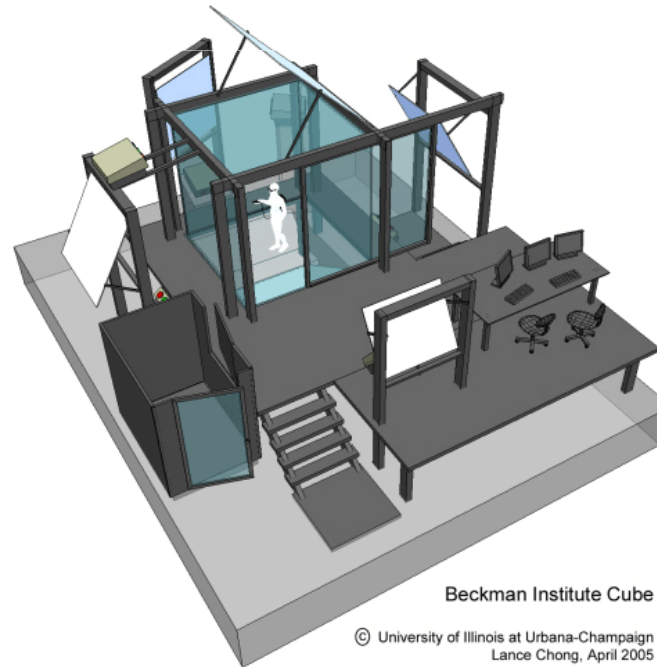
- Electro Magnetic
 - Emitter in the ceiling
 - Around 3m coverage
 - Device with buttons



Beckman Cube / ALICE

Integrated Systems Laboratory/UIUC,USA

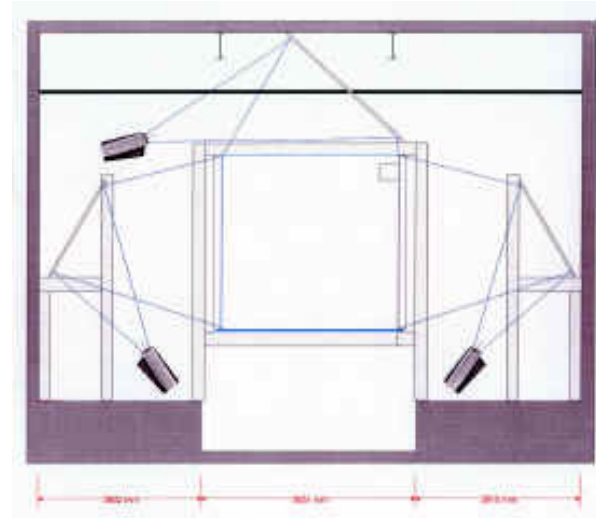
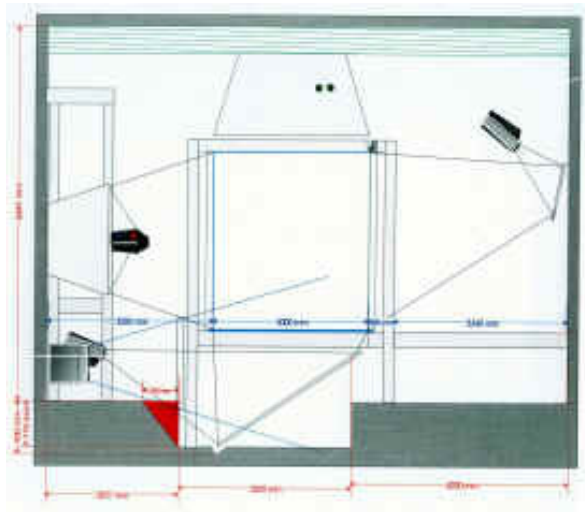
- 6 sided CAVE
- Projectors: 6 CRTs (active stereo)
- Tracking: Electromagnetic wireless
- Installed: 2001



Beckman Institute Cube

© University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Lance Chong, April 2005

Beckman Cube



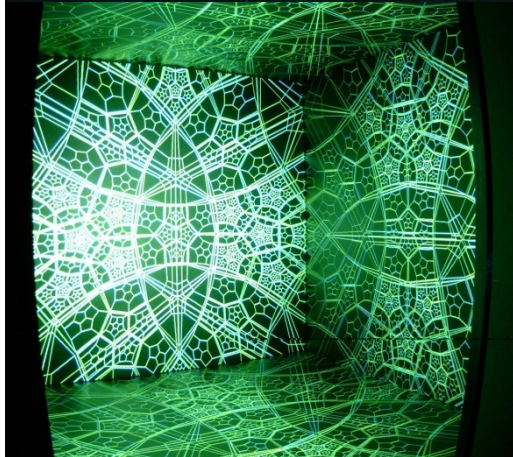
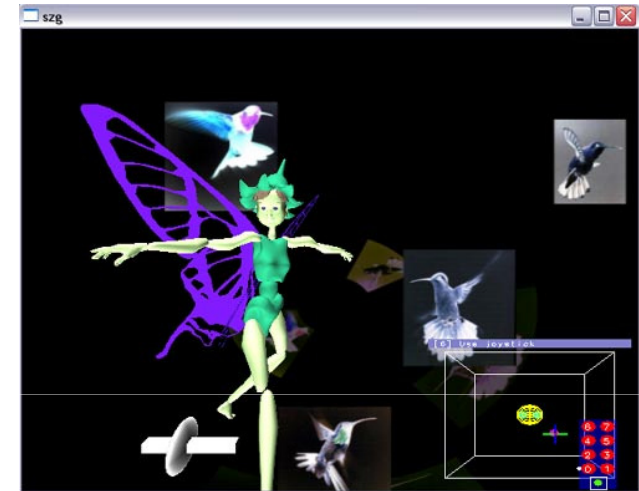
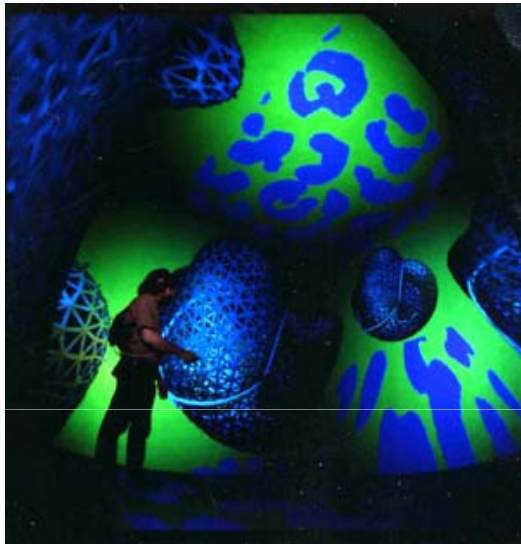
VR2008

Beckman Cube



VR2008

Syzygy



VR2008

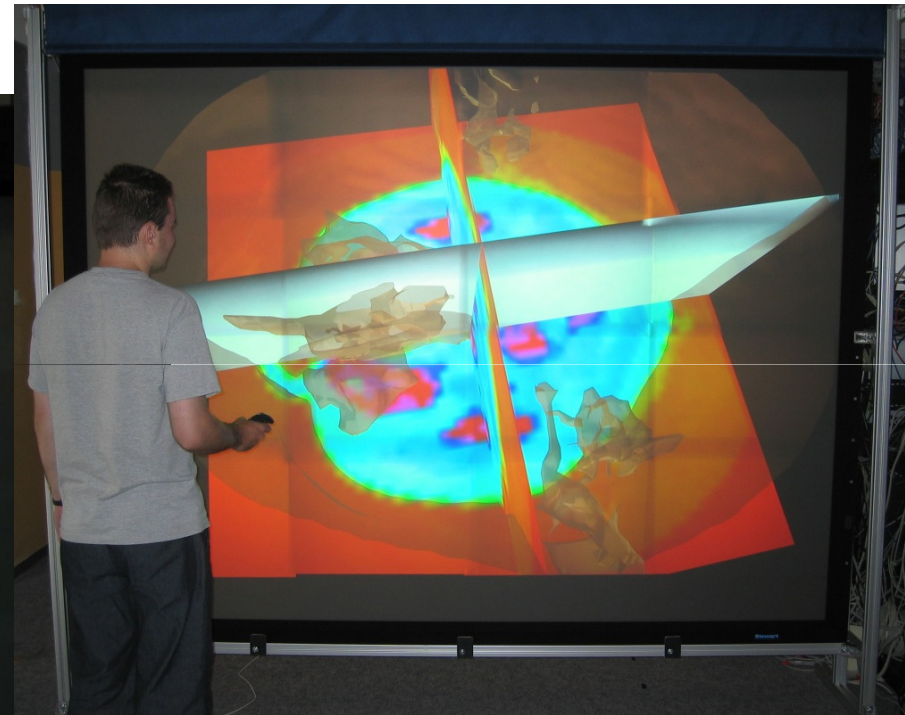
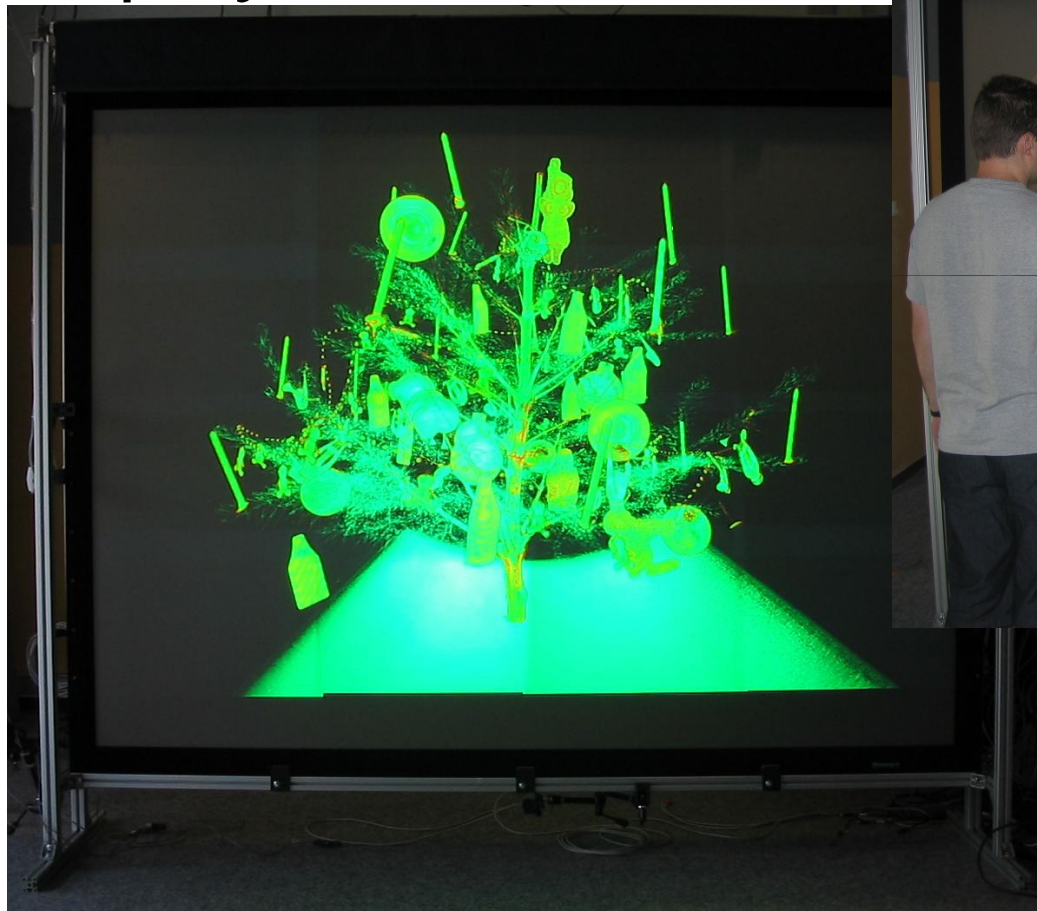
Grimage / INRIA Grenoble - France

- Power Wall
- Projectors: 16 DLP (Possible Passive Stereo)
- Tracking: Color Cameras
- Installed: 2003



VTK/ FlowVR / FlowVR Render

Mplayer video



VTK flowvr

VR2008

Tecgraf – PUC-Rio

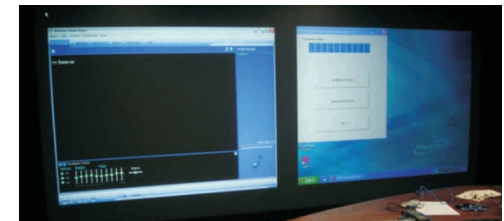
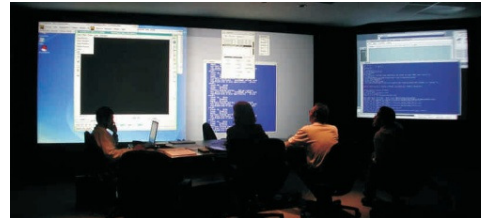
Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

- Single Stereo Projection
- Projectors: 2 DLPs (passive linear stereo)
- Tracking: Camera tracking
- Installed: 2007



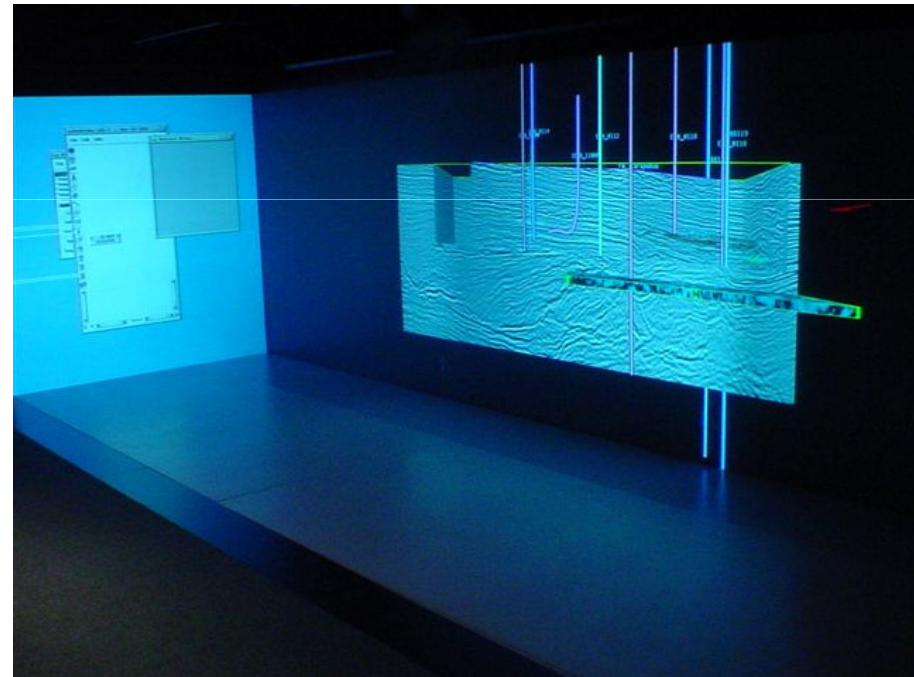
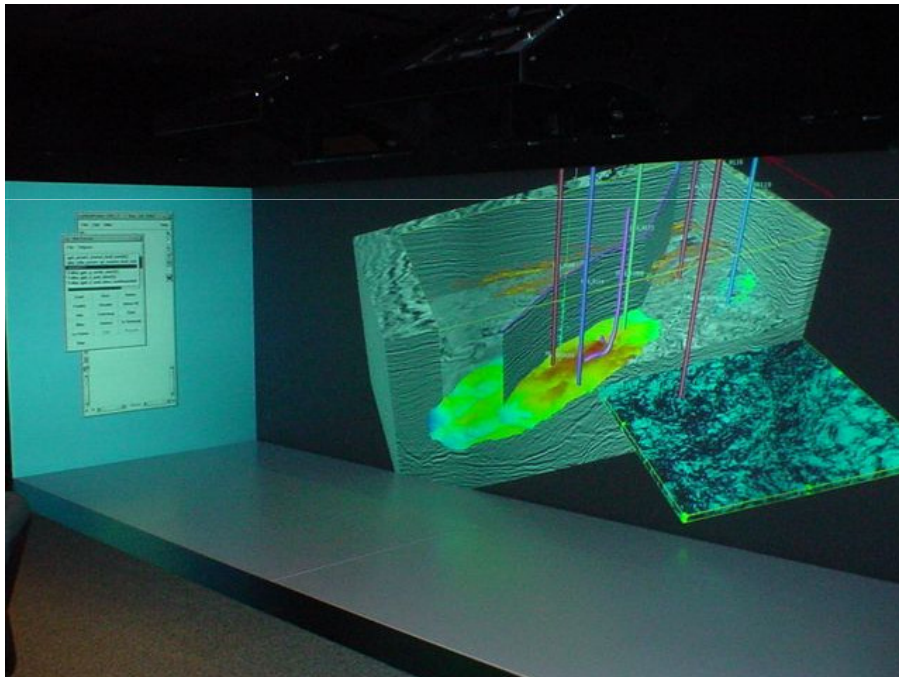
Petrobras

- UN-SEAL
- UN-BA
- REVAP
- ETEG
- ABAST
- ABAST
- 14 Floor
- UN-BC



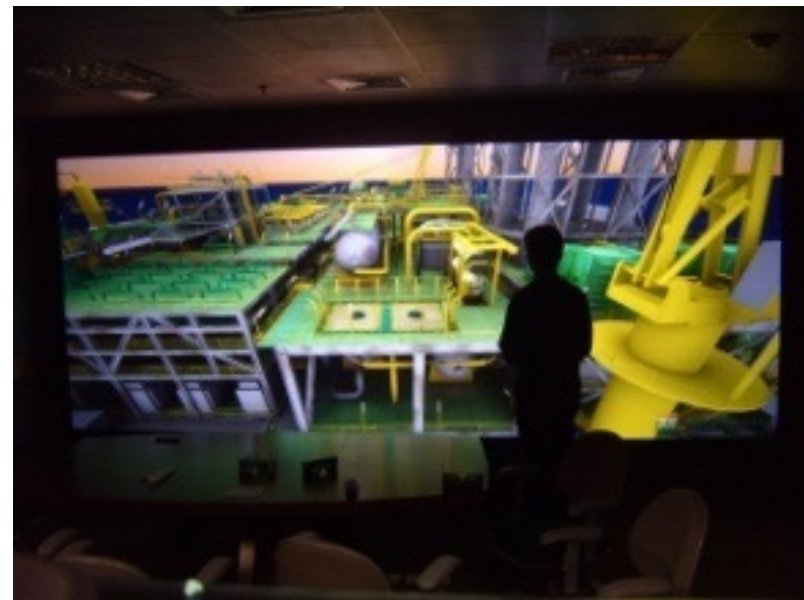
Petrobras cont.

- EDISE (HollowSpace)

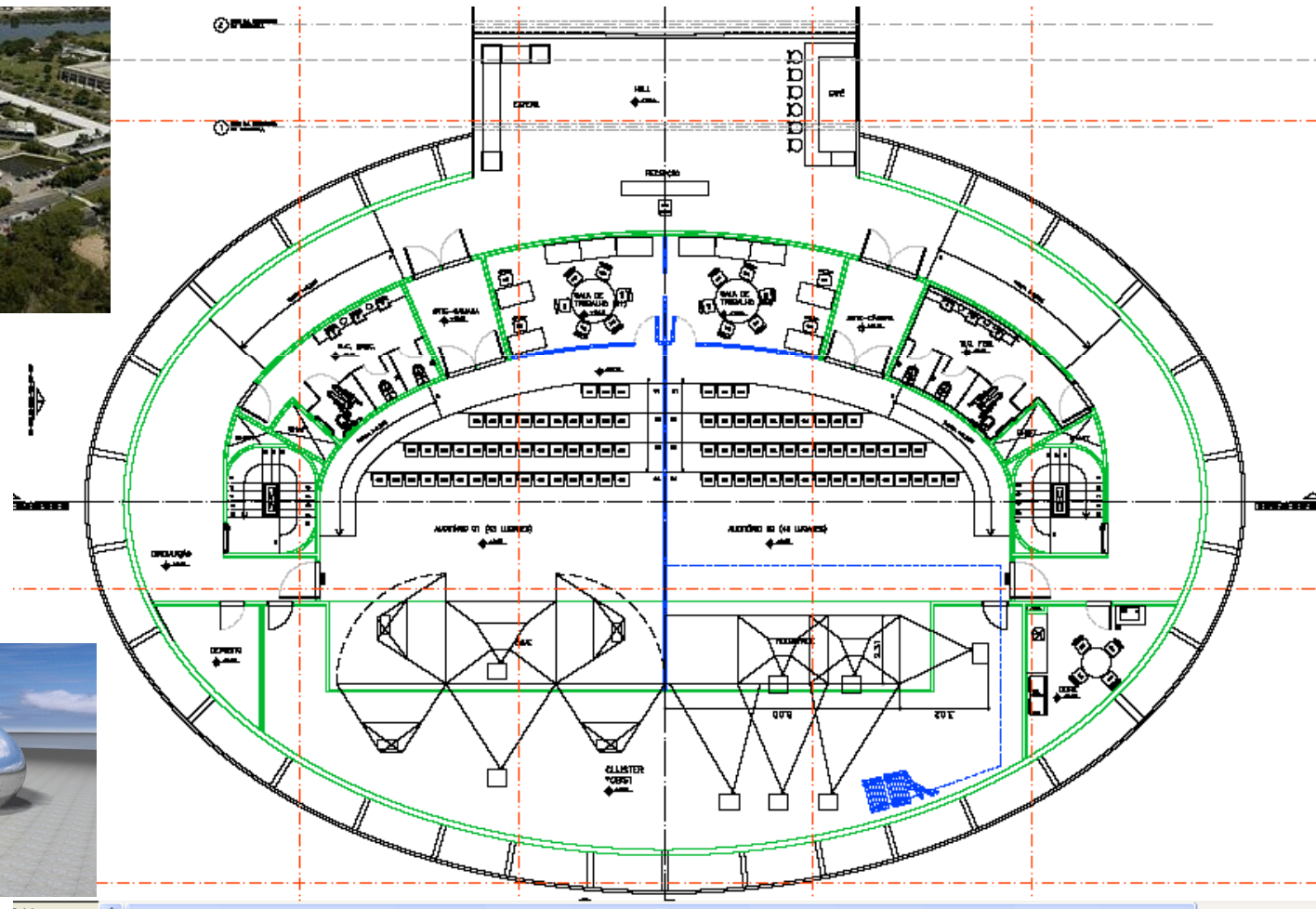
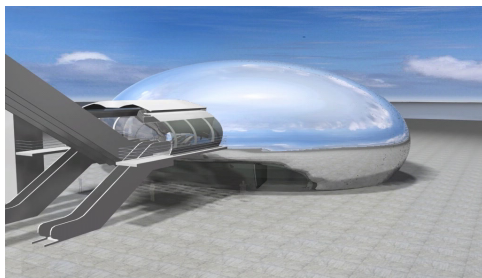


CENPES / MC

- PowerWall
- Projecotors: 2 DLPs (active stereo)
- Tracking: Optical
- Installed: 2006 (Original CRT installation 2001)

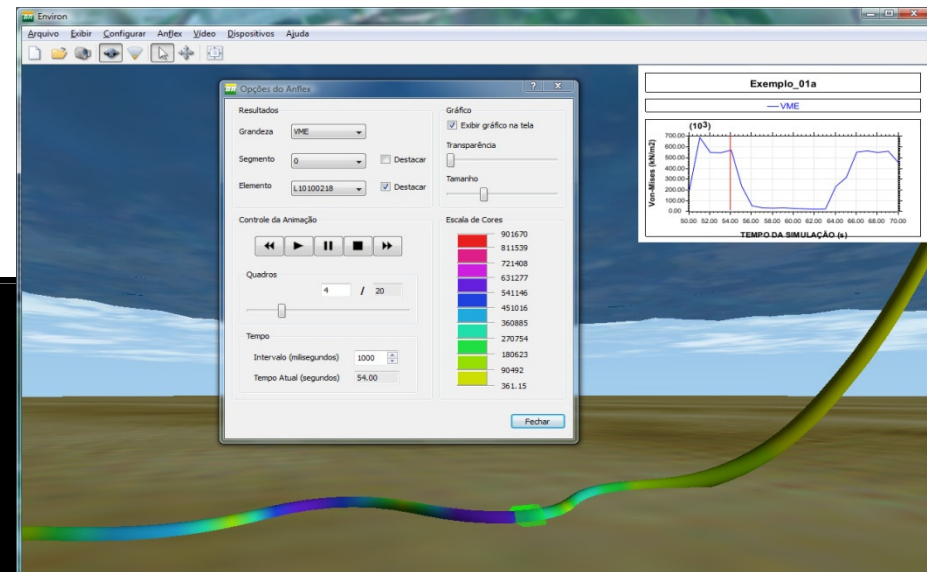
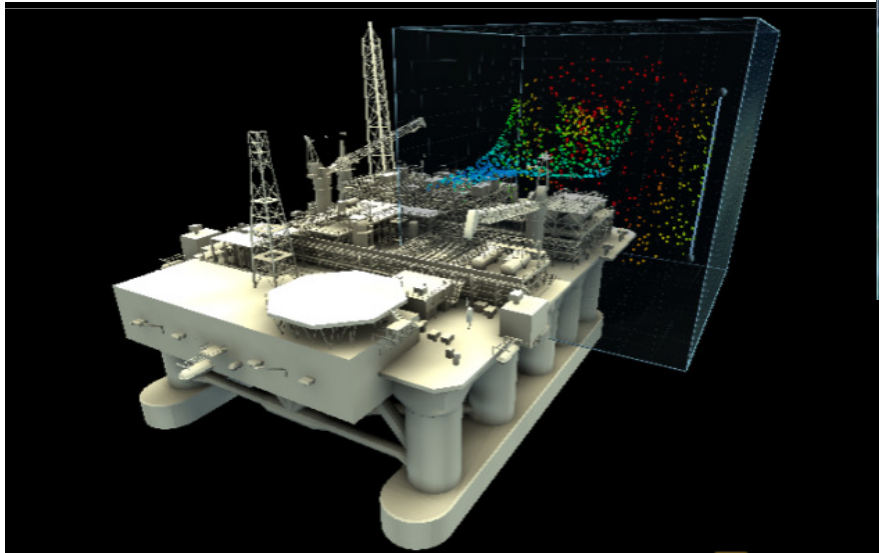


CENPES CRV (Future)



Environ

- Massive Models Visualization
- Simulations
- Effects



VR2008

LEMeWall at Instituto Superior Técnico, Portugal

- PowerWall
- Projectors: 12 DLPs (mono)
- Tracking: Laser pointer + US Sensors + Optical
- Installed: 2005

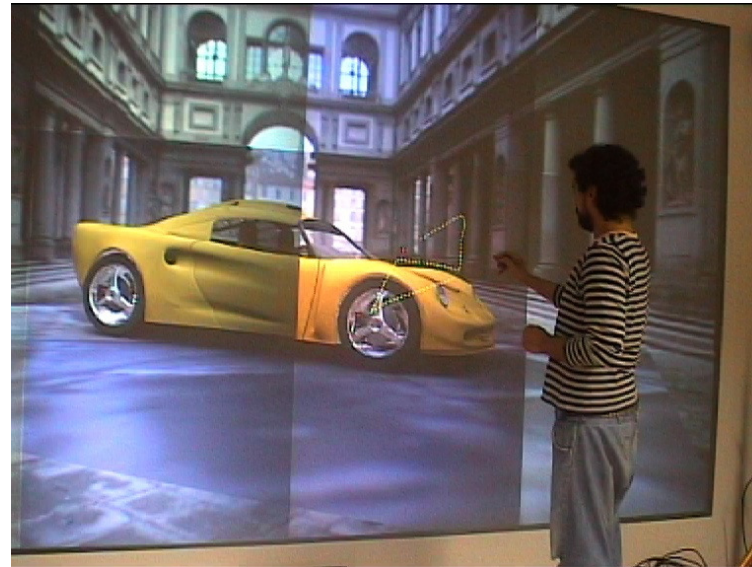


LEMeWall

- *Instituto Superior Tecnico* , Technical University of Lisbon
- TagusPark Campus
- LEMe: Laboratory for Excellence in Mobile and Ubiquous Computing
- Retro-projection system using 12 DLP projectors
- Intelligent Environment enriched with a 5.1 Sound System, Microphones, US Sensor Network and Network Cameras for Optical Tracking
- PC Cluster of 13 Computers dedicated to graphics running Gentoo Linux Distribution
- Network of 6 Computers for interaction and applications

Display Characteristics

- Flexible Screen
- Screen Size: 4 m X 2,25 m
- 8,5 MPixeis (native) to 15 MPixeis (ext)
- Mono 4 by 3 configuration Array
- Graphic Cluster Boards Nvidia Quadro FX 3000 4:3



Hardware

- **Cluster 12 Workstation HP xw4100**
 - Pentium 4 (800 FSB) 3.00GHz
 - 2 GB RAM (PC3200)
 - NVIDIA Quadro FX3000 (AGP 8x)
- **Cluster Server Workstation HP xw8000**
 - Pentium 4 Xeon 3.06 GHz
 - 4 GB RAM
 - NVIDIA Quadro FX3000 (AGP 8x)
- **12 Projectors HP VP6120**
 - DLP
 - 2000 Lumens
 - 1024x768 (Nat.)/ 1280x1024
- **5 Cameras Canon VC-C4**
 - PAL
 - Pan/Tilt/Zoom remote control
- **Sound System (AudioPhysic/ Denon)**
 - 4 periph. channel + 1 central
 - 1 Sub-woofer
 - Tuner AV
- **2 Microphones AKG SE300B**



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Starting Point

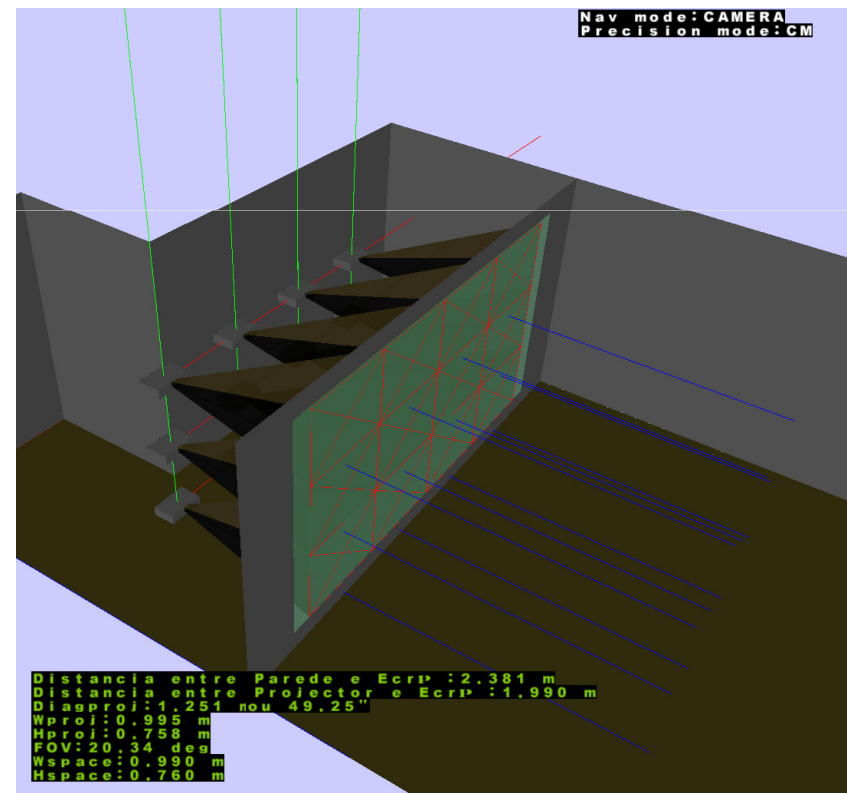
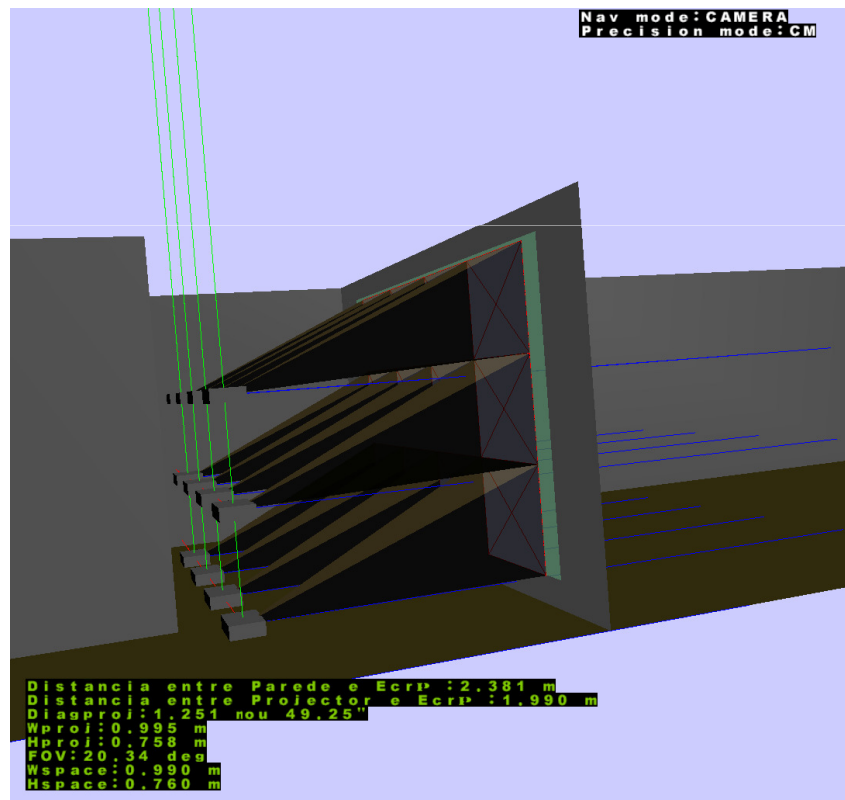
- 12 Off-the-shell XGA DLP projectors (<1700\$ /unit)
- Cluster using Off-the-shell computer
- University Computer Laboratory



VR2008

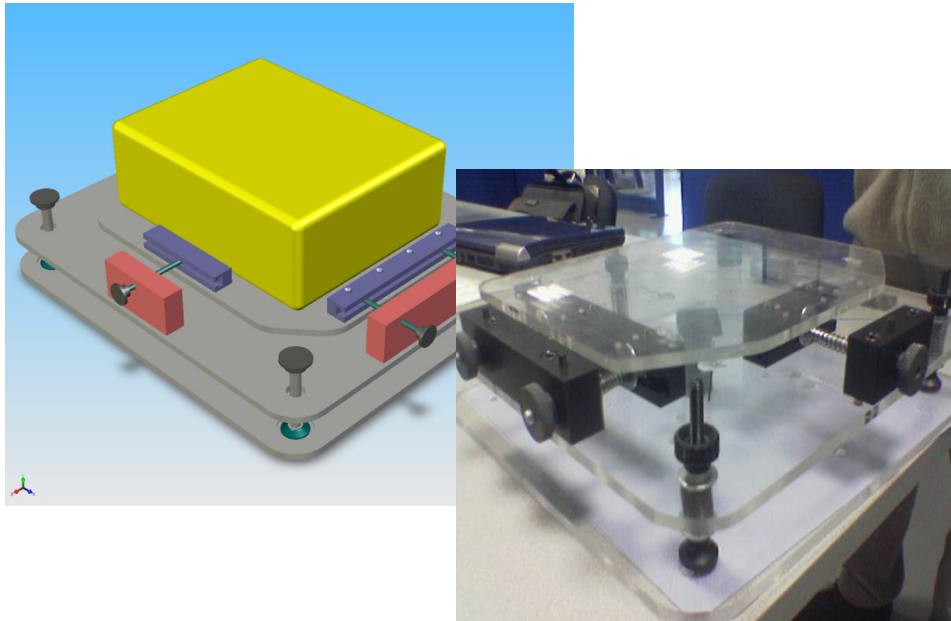
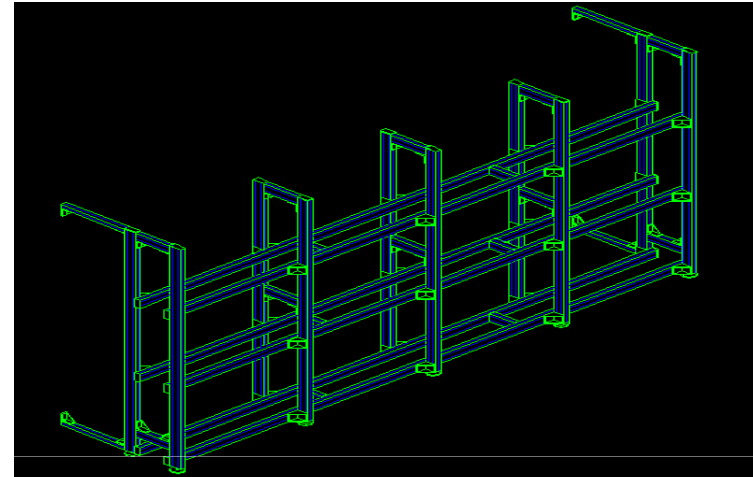
LEMeWall Simulator

- Projector and Array
- Screen and Wall Distance Computation



Projector Array and Mounts

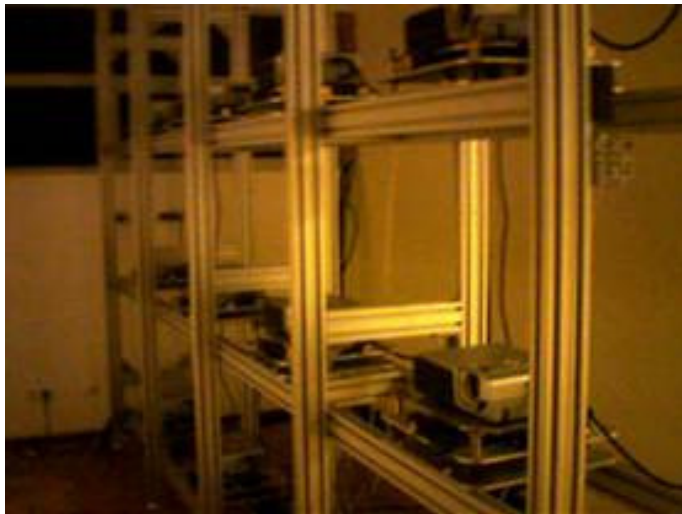
- Aluminum Frame for 12 projector (4m x 2,25m x 0,5 m)
- Modular Array ready for future extension



- 6DOF Aluminum Mount
- Sub-millimeter precision
- Two floor design (1T+1R)

Infra-Structure Projection Setup

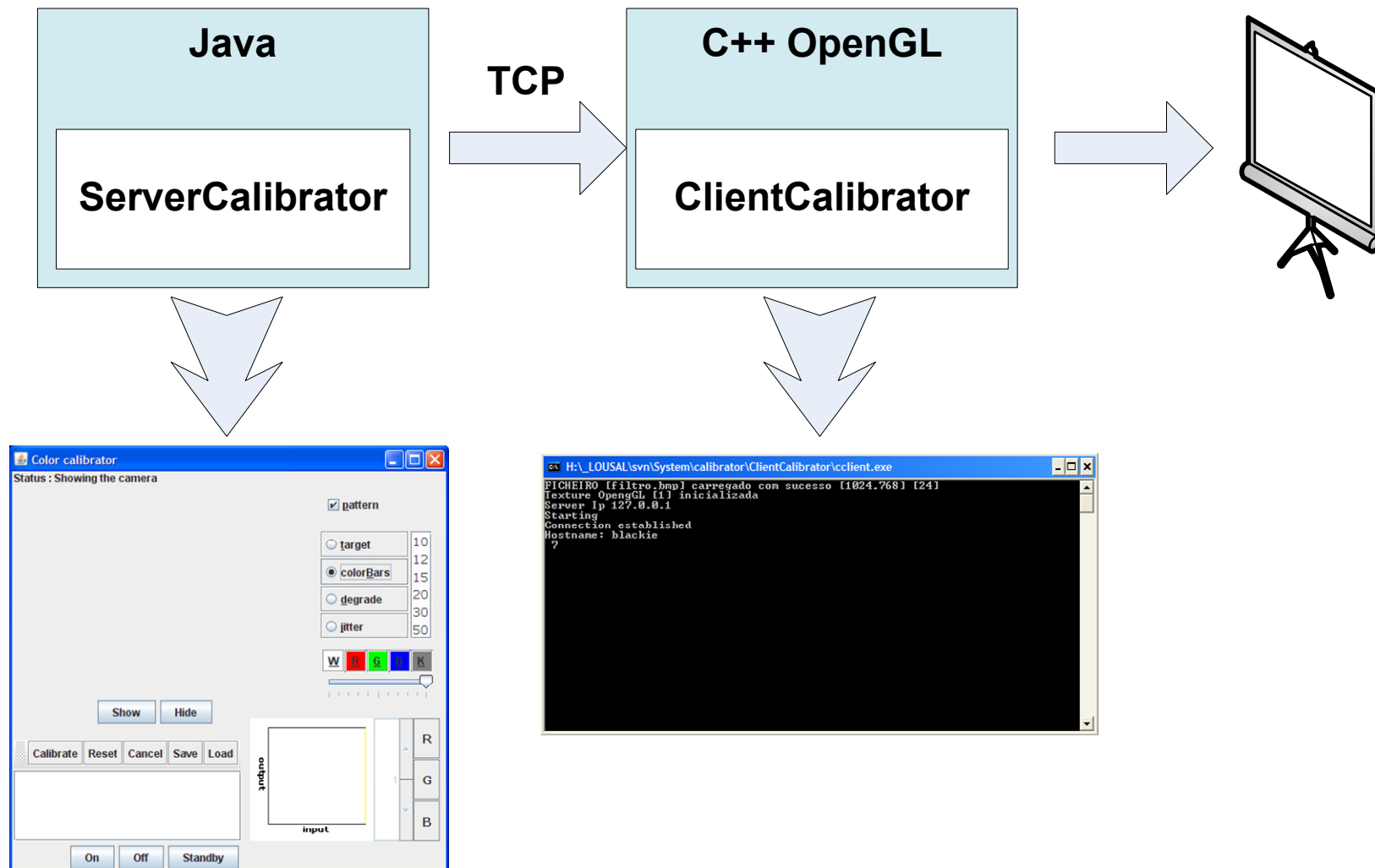
- Cooling System
- Light Control
- Geometric alignment



LEMeWall / IST

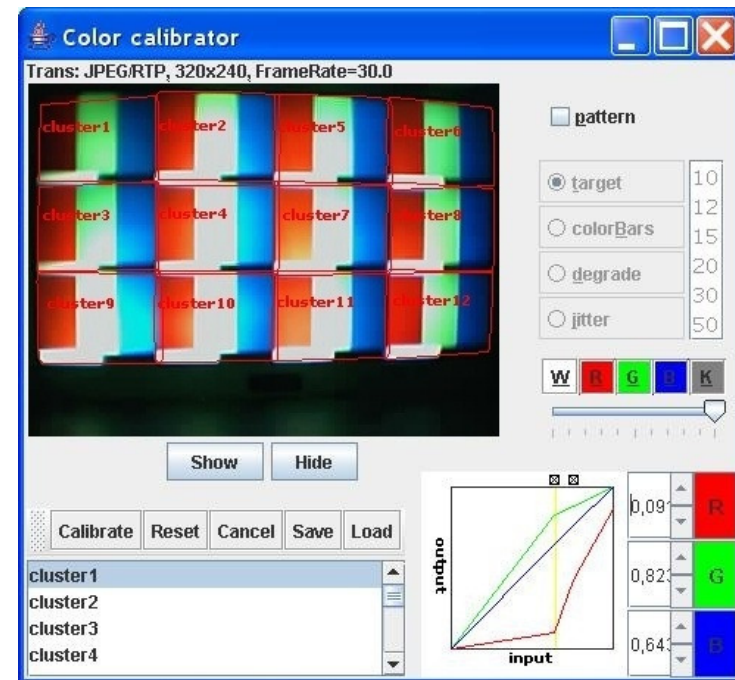


Projection Calibration and Control



Color calibration

- Non-Rigid Screen
- Color can shift among similar projectors
- Camera Based Gama Correction Software



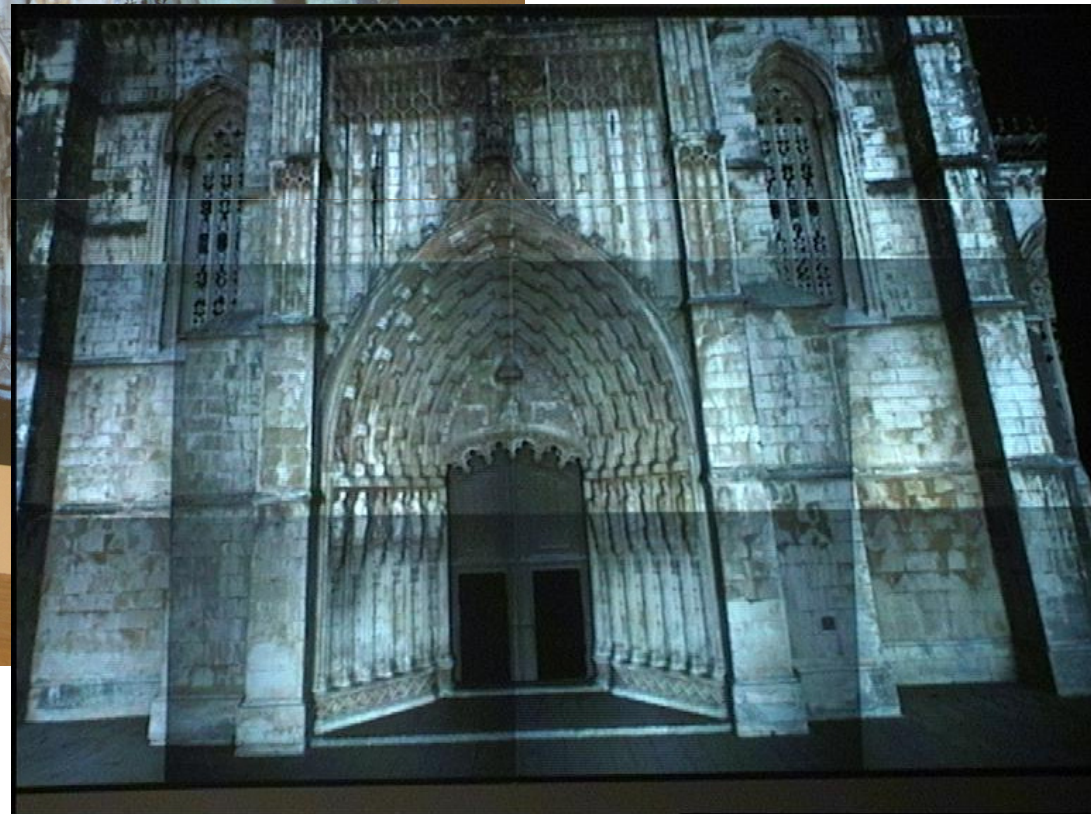
Automation and Control

- Projectors connected to computers via VGA+Serial
- Linux Cluster Access (SSH, Rsync)
- Scripts for cluster control and Demo Launch
- Python based Tool (GUI GTK)
 - Avoid KVM HW to access computers
 - Script Launcher
 - Centralized Graphical Projector Control
 - Computer Cluster Monitoring (CPU,RAM,Network)

Application and Rendering Software

- Several VR system setup :
 - VR Juggler, OpenSG, Chromium, Jinx, Syzygy
- LEMeWall VR MiddleWare
 - OpenSG (Windows/Linux Applications)
 - Chromium (OpenGL Wrapper, Windows/Linux)
- On Going: New VR Support Framework
 - OpenIVI: OpenSG+OpenTracker+OSGA+MM

Demos Running at the LEMeWall



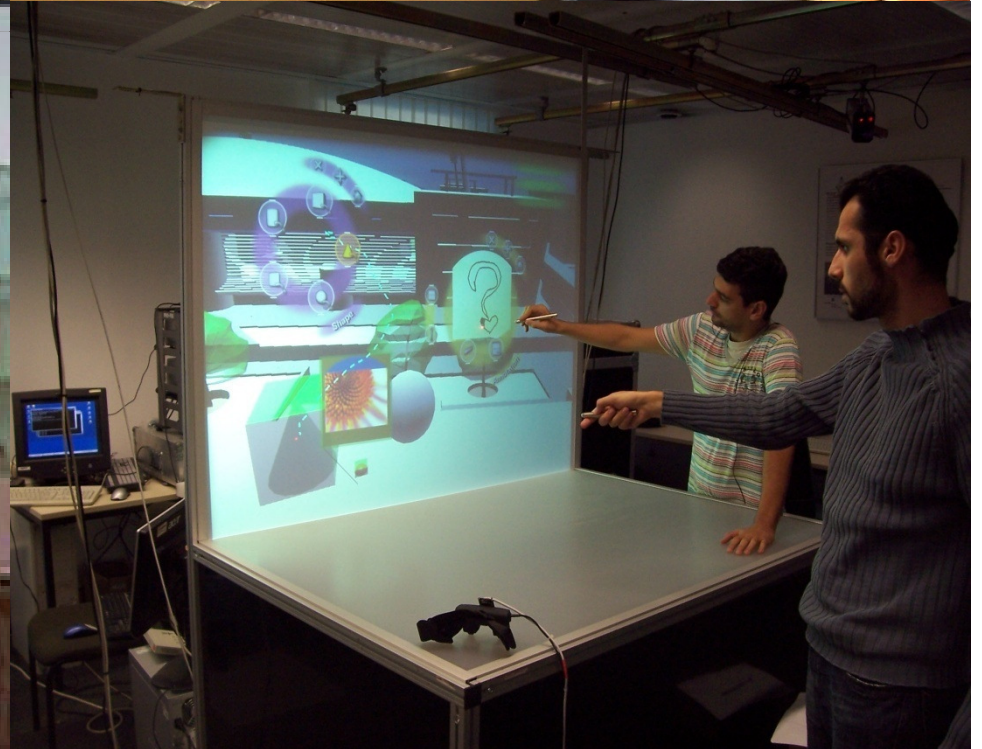
VR2008

Demos Running at the LEMeWall



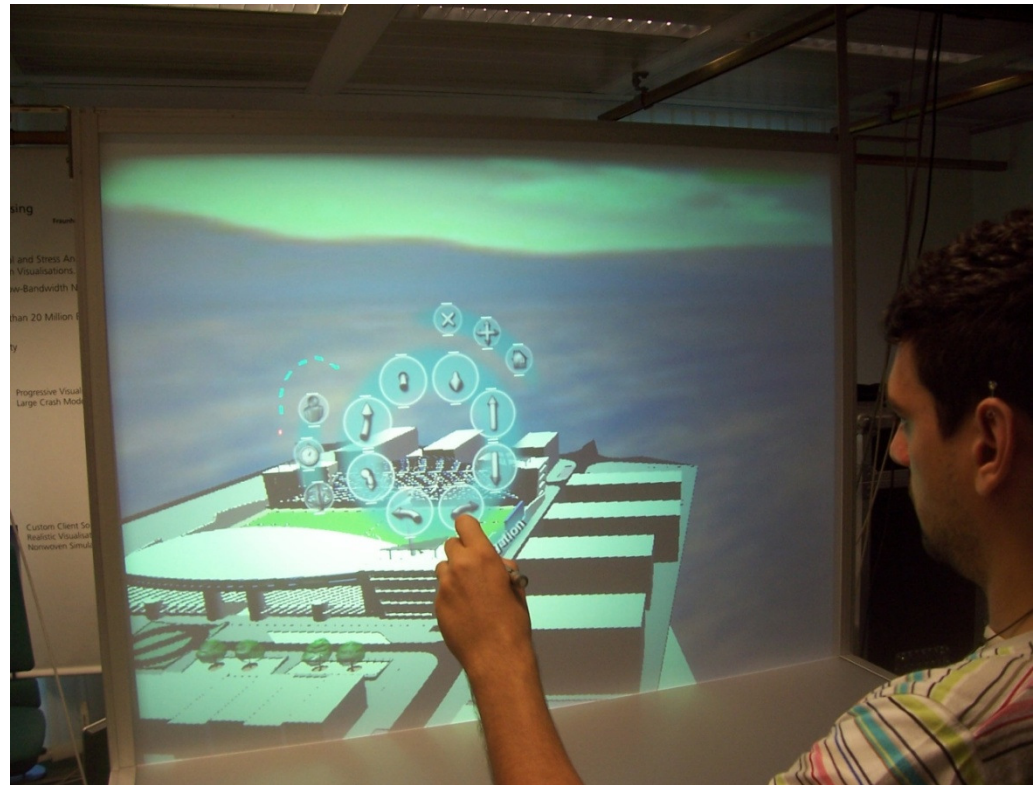
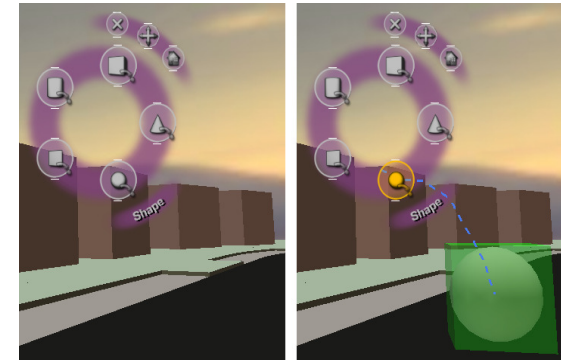
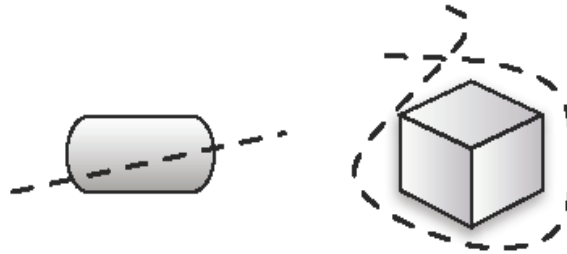
LemeWall Interactions

- Interaction Metaphors
 - Stroke based interaction (laser/PowerWall 3DPen Mouse/Pen)
 - Tracking/Body Gesture based interaction
 - Voice based interaction
- Input Devices
 - Laser
 - Mobile Computing (PDA)
- New User Interface (Advanced GUI)
- Multi-user and Multimodal Framework



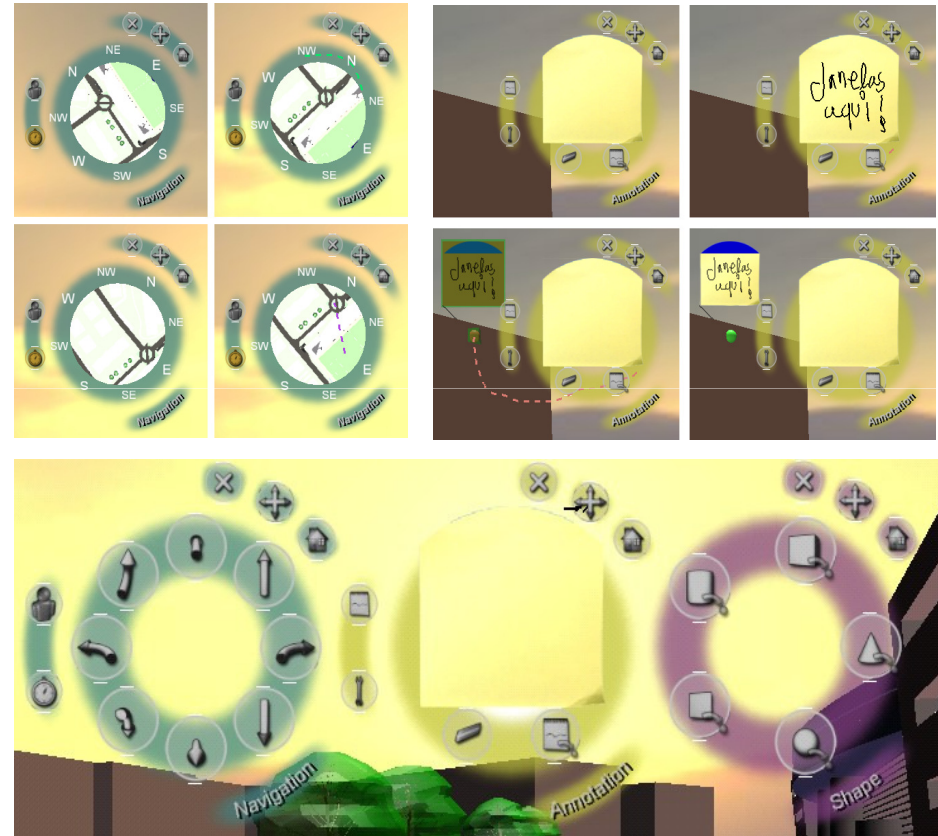
Stroke based Interaction

- Stroke
 - Line / Sketch
 - Path
 - Gesture
- Main metaphors
 - Crossing
 - Lasso selection
 - Pointing
 - Circular Menus



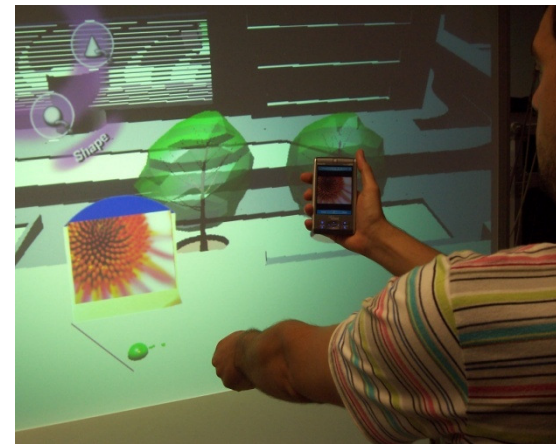
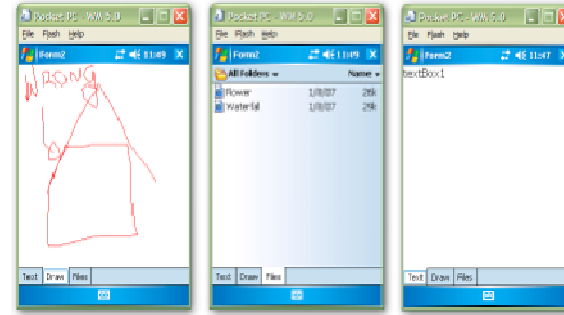
GUI for Large Scale display

- Circular Menu
 - Only 2 Levels
 - Gate Activation by Crossing
 - Lasso bring up the context menu
 - Menus belong to an user
- Functionality using Menu
 - Annotations
 - Navigation
 - Shape Creation
 - Transformation
 - Rendering and Light Options



Supported Input Devices

- Laser Pointer
 - Enable Stroke Interaction
 - Supports multi-users
 - Large Area tracked
 - One-One relation with the content
- PDA
 - Allows us to share data
 - Sketch, Images, Text
- Other devices
 - Mouse, Pen3D, Tablet PC



Speech based Interaction

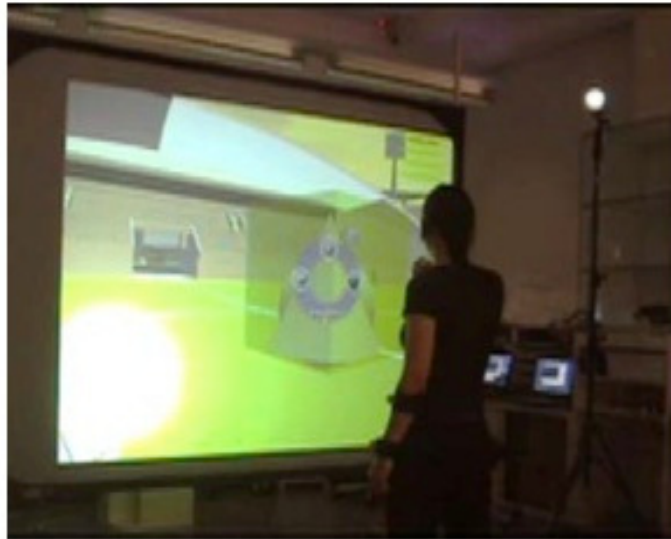
Speech Recognized

- Global Functionality shortcuts
- Menu Interaction
- Objects
- Controlling Navigation

Used in conjunction with

- Laser
- Menus
- Body Tracking

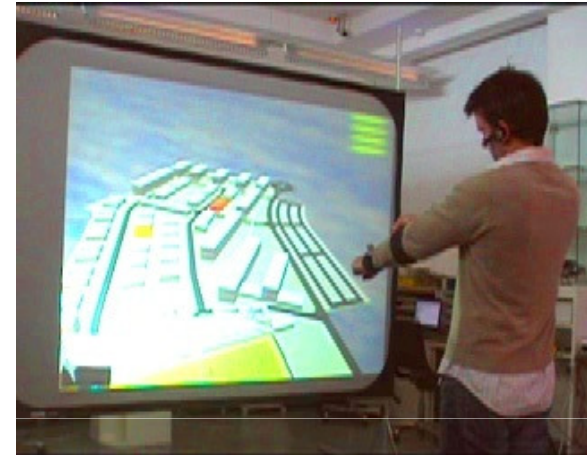
Microsoft Speech SDK



Tracking Based Interaction

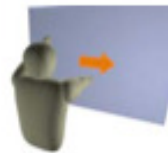
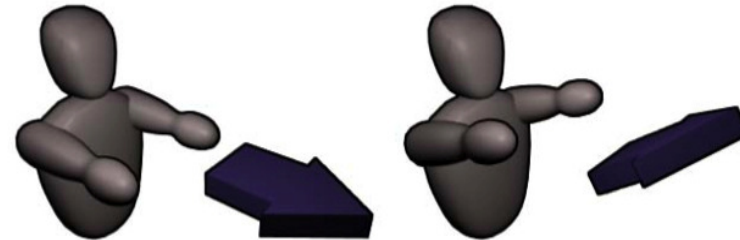
Two arm tracking

- Gestures
- Pointing
- Composition with voice



Functionality

- Navigation
- Dragging objects
- Scaling
- Rotation



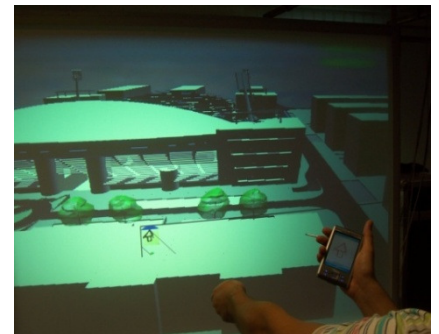
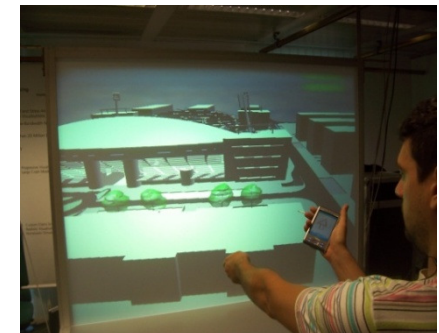
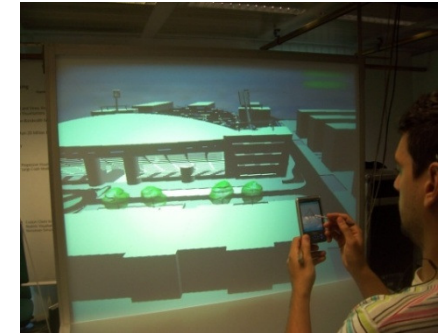
Multimodal Interaction

Further enhance the interaction

- PDA + Pointing
- Voice + Menu
- Voice + Pointing
- Tracking + Voice

Examples

- Delete an object using : “Delete This”
- Open a navigation menu and select an option with: “Turn left”
- Enter scale mode with “Begin Scale” and use Body Tracking to scale the object



Multimodal and MultiUser

Multimodal interaction reacts to an Knowledge Base System:

Actuators

- Rules with preconditions that represent sequences of interaction

Preconditions

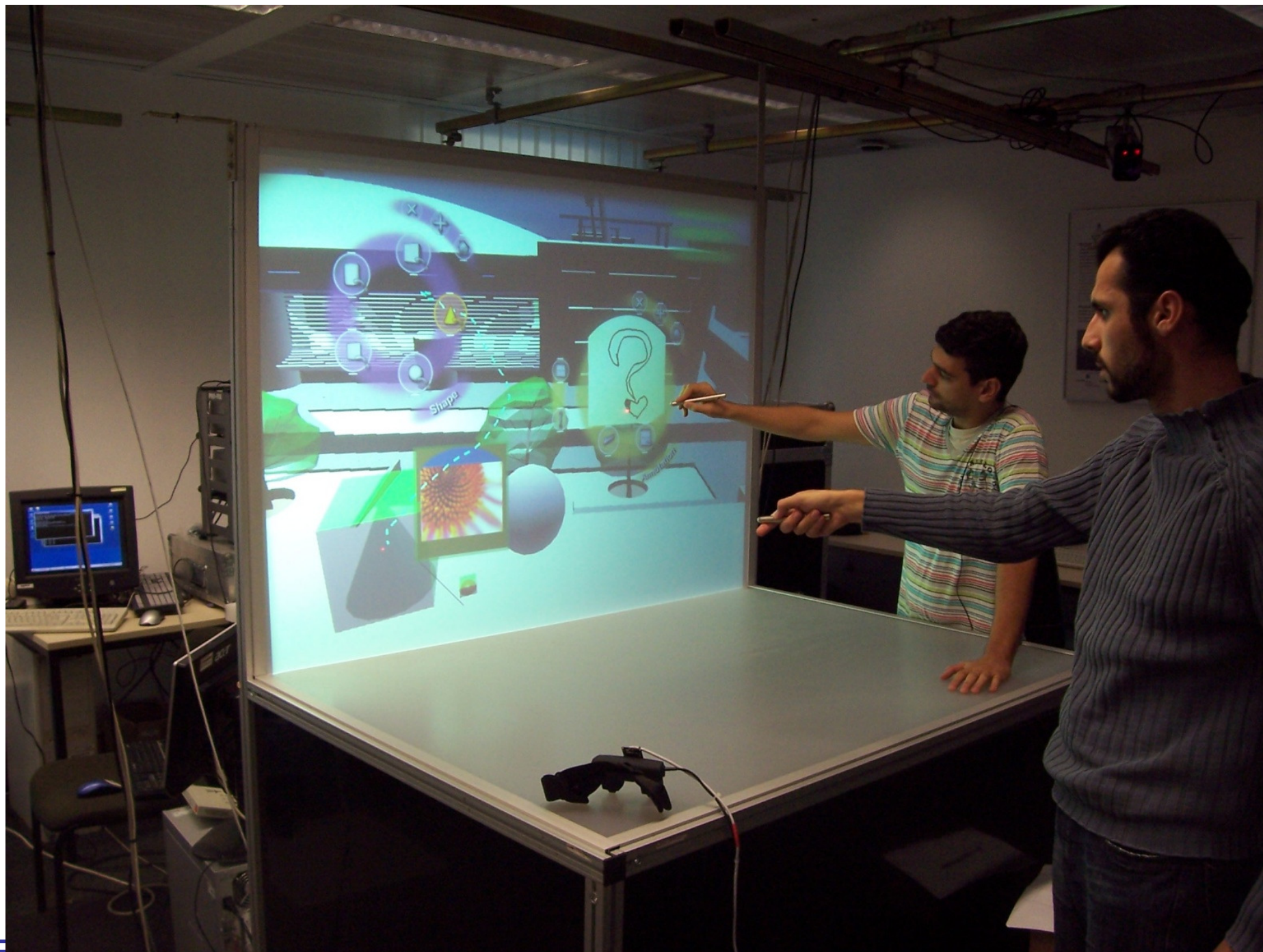
- Token, Context, Objects

Inference system.

- When preconditions are satisfied, the correspondent actions are activated.
- Ambiguities are solved using a More Recent Token politic

Multi-User Support

- Can take advantage of several modalities
- Several devices supported
- Uses the knowledge definition for support



Lousal at Fundação Frederic Velge, Grândola, Portugal

- 4 sided CAVE
- 12 DLP Projectors with passive stereo INFITEC
- Optical Tracking
- Installed: 2007



Live Science Center at Lousal

- Center for the dissemination of Science for the population
- At Minas do Lousal – closed during the eighties
- Fundação Frederic Velge is the owner
- Project co-funded by MCTES and FEDER for the Centros de Ciência Viva Network
- Under Relousal



Live Science Center at Lousal

*“Exploring Science,
Exploiting Knowledge”*



Live Science Center at Lousal

Mine of Science – Live Science Center of Lousal will be part of the already existing Portuguese Network of Live Science Centers

The general objectives of this network have been defined by the National Agency for Scientific and Technological Culture:

Education for Science and Technology
Divuligation of Science and Technology

The Centers should be designed for a large-spectrum audience (e.g., age, education, social or geographic origin, etc.)

Lousal Mine



Lousal Mine



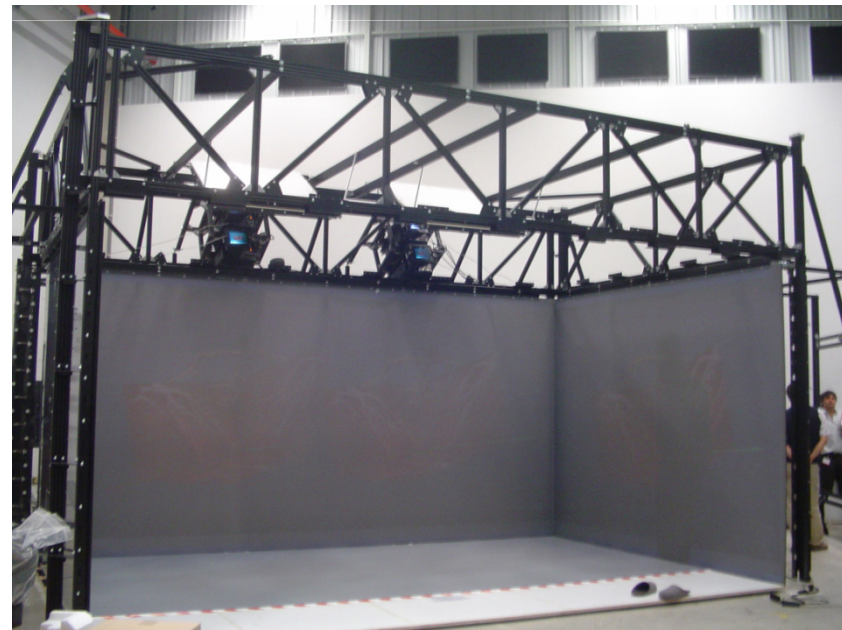
CAVE-HOLLOWSPACE of Lousal

- First large scale immersive environment in Portugal
 - High resolution > 8 M Pixel
 - Wide field of view
 - Stereoscopy.



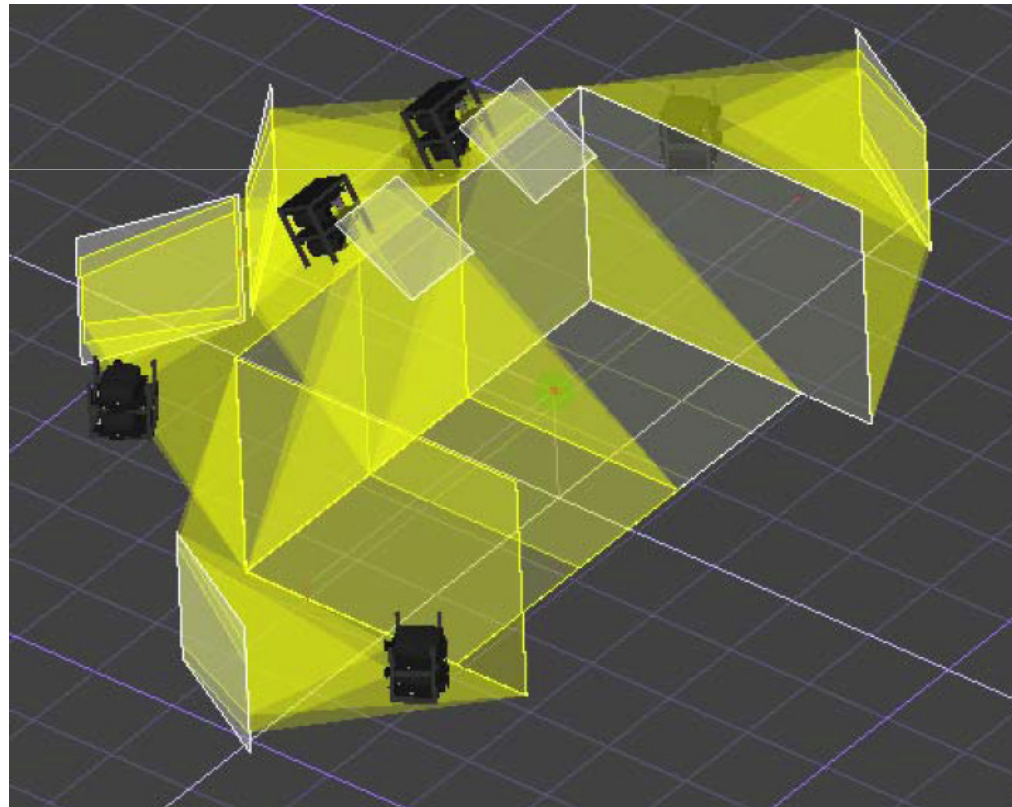
CaveH of Lousal

- First large scale immersive virtual environment in Portugal
 - 12 x single chip DLP™ projector with SXGA+ (1400x1050)
 - U topology, retro-projected: 5.6 m x 2.7 m x 3.4 m
 - High resolution: up to 8 295 000 pixel
 - Wide field of view: more than 180°
 - INFITEC Stereoscopy



Projection Studies

- CaveH
- 4 Sided extended (Overlapping and 90°)

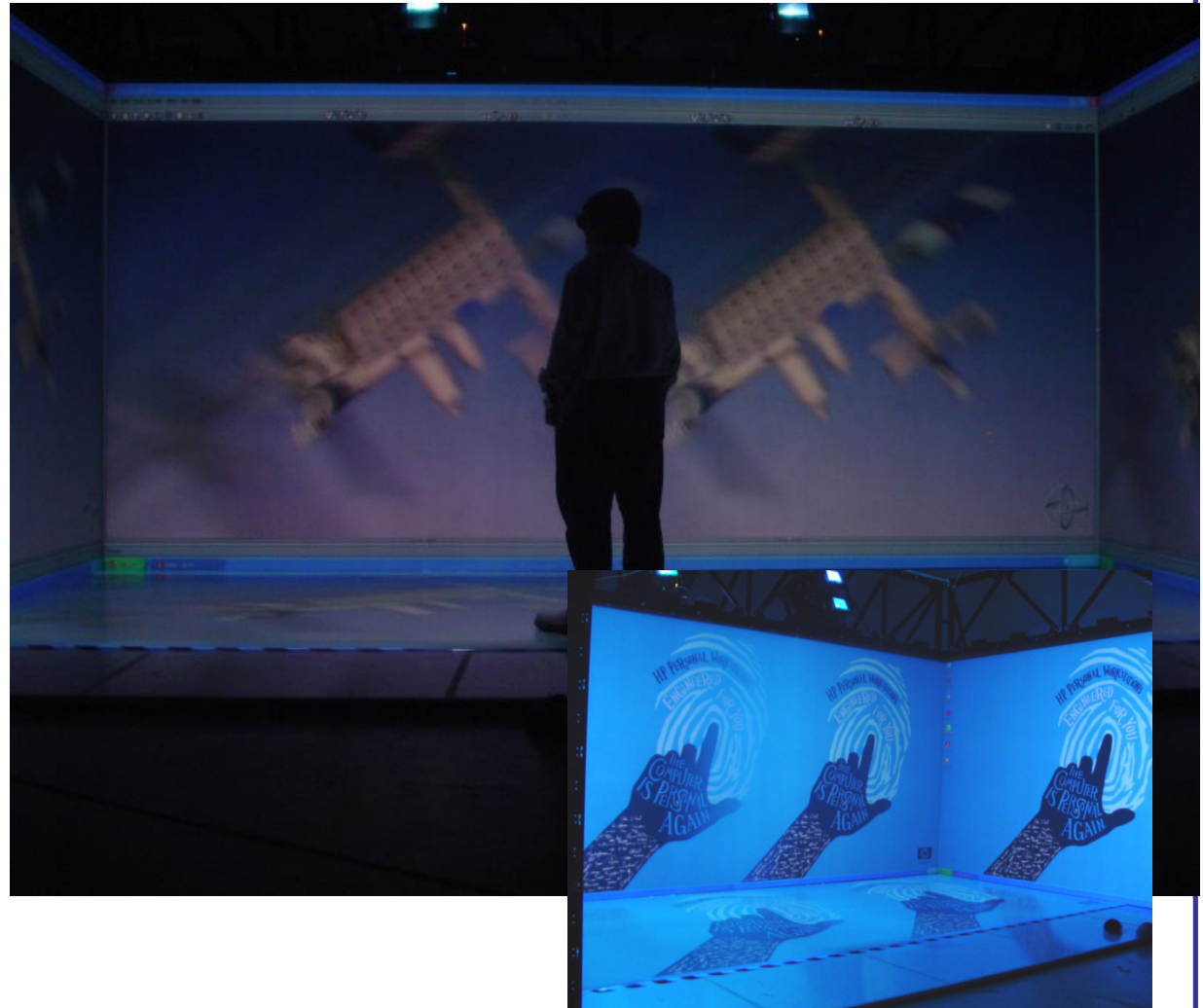
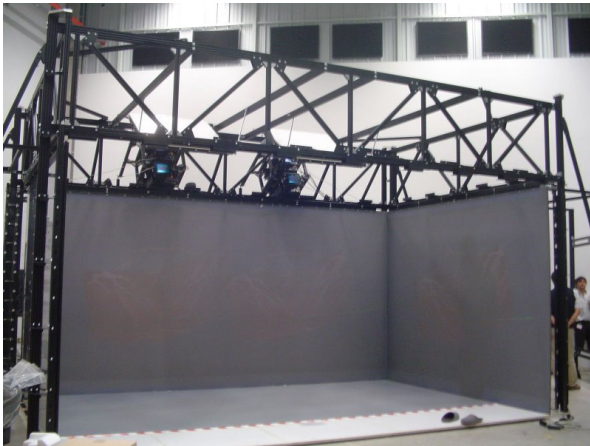
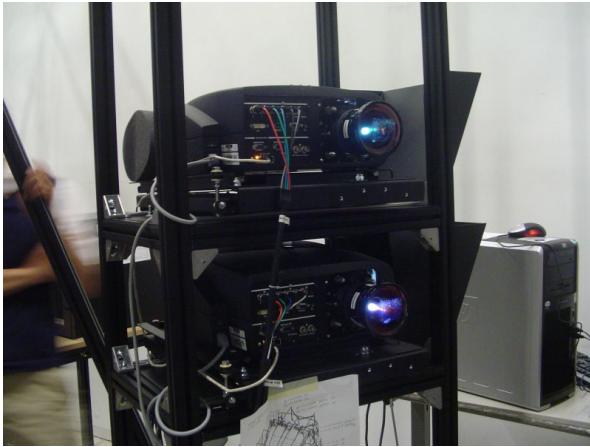


Main Objectives

- Simulate realistic mining procedures
- Information about geology and mining
- Entertainment with mining environments
- Academic research and education
- Service to the Portuguese industry

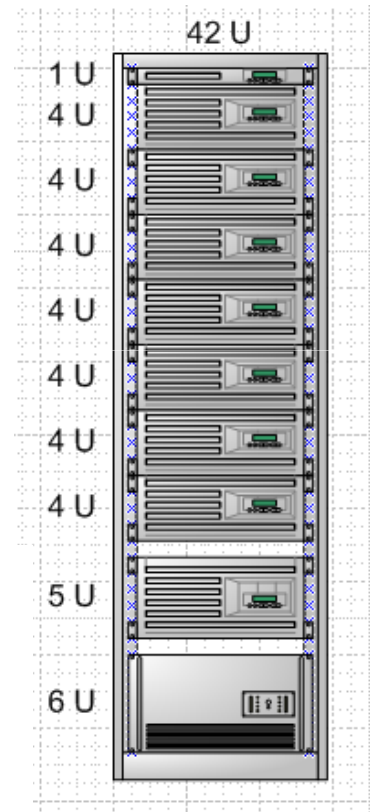
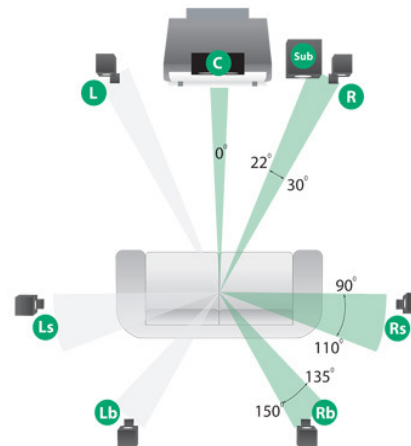
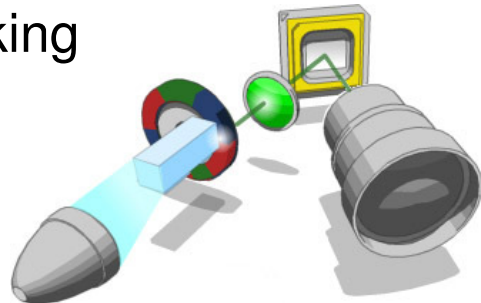


Preliminary tests at factory



CaveH Main Points

- High-end projection systems: 8M pixel at 60 Hz
- State-of-the-art large semi-rigid screens
- Distributed 3D Audio “surround” 7:1
- Computer cluster and Gigabit ETHERNET
- High-performance computing server and 3D graphics: over 3M poly at 60 Hz
- In-house developed data synchronization middleware ensuring data-lock and frame-lock in master-slave distribution
- In-house developed high-res optical tracking



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Projectors

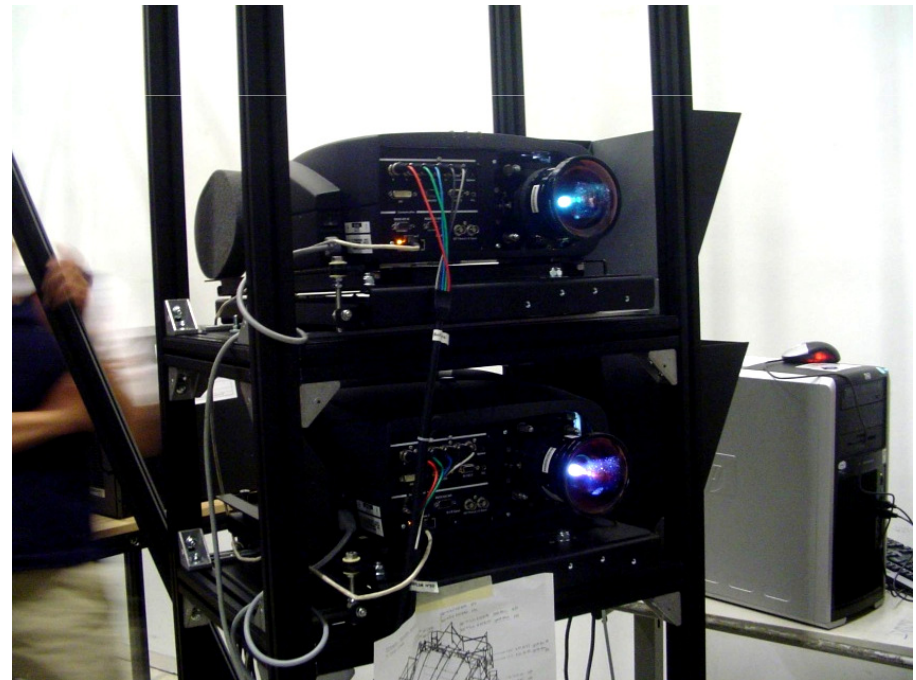
Technology = Single chip DLP

Resolution = SXGA+ (1400 x 1050 pixels)

Brightness = 4000 Lumens

Contrast = 1:2000

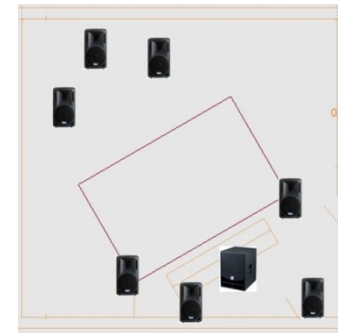
Infitec stereo



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Surround Sound 7.1

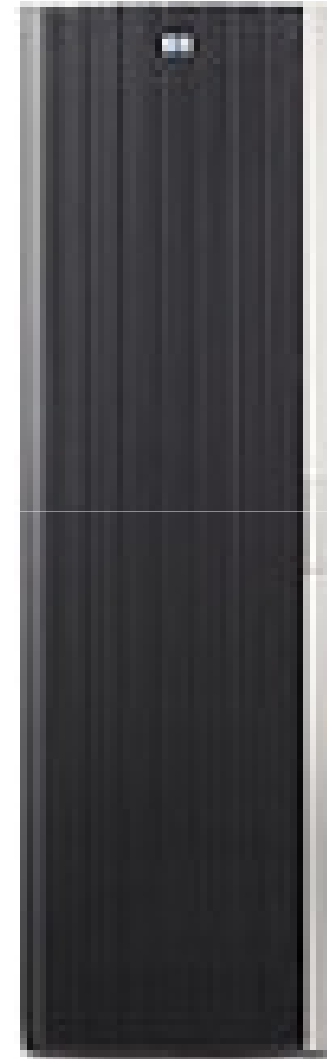
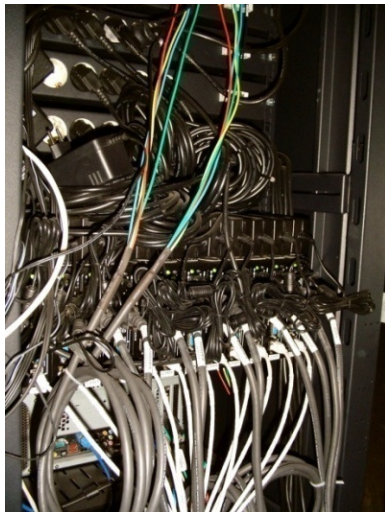
- Spatially positioned
 - 7 High quality speakers and 1 subwoofer



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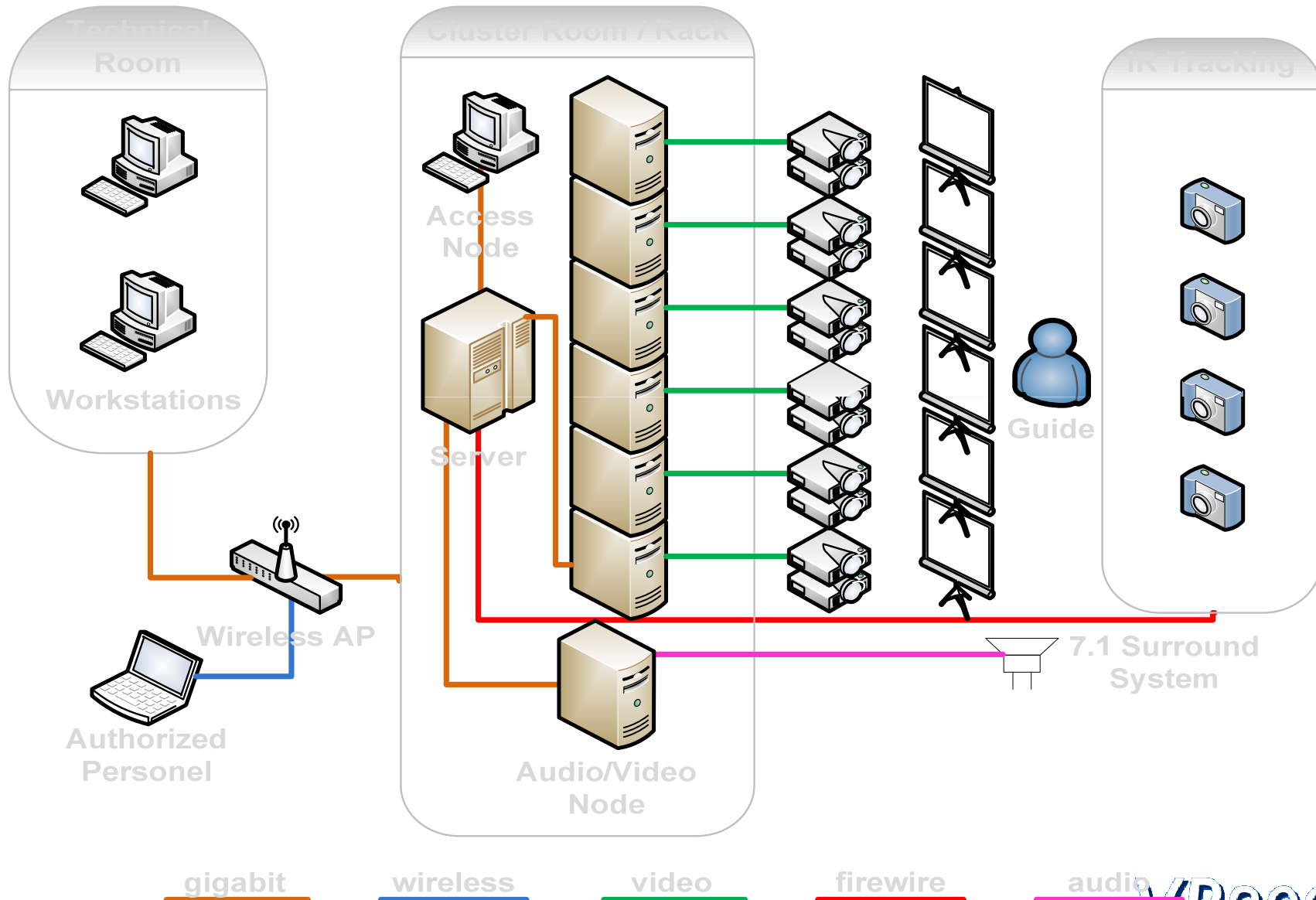
Computing Cluster

- 6 dual core Graphic Nodes
- 1 Audio/Video Node
- 1 Server Node (16 CPUs)
- 1 Access Node
- 1 KVM (Keyboard, Video and Mouse)
- 1 Cluster Switch
- 1 Projectors Switch
- 2 Displays



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Hardware Architecture

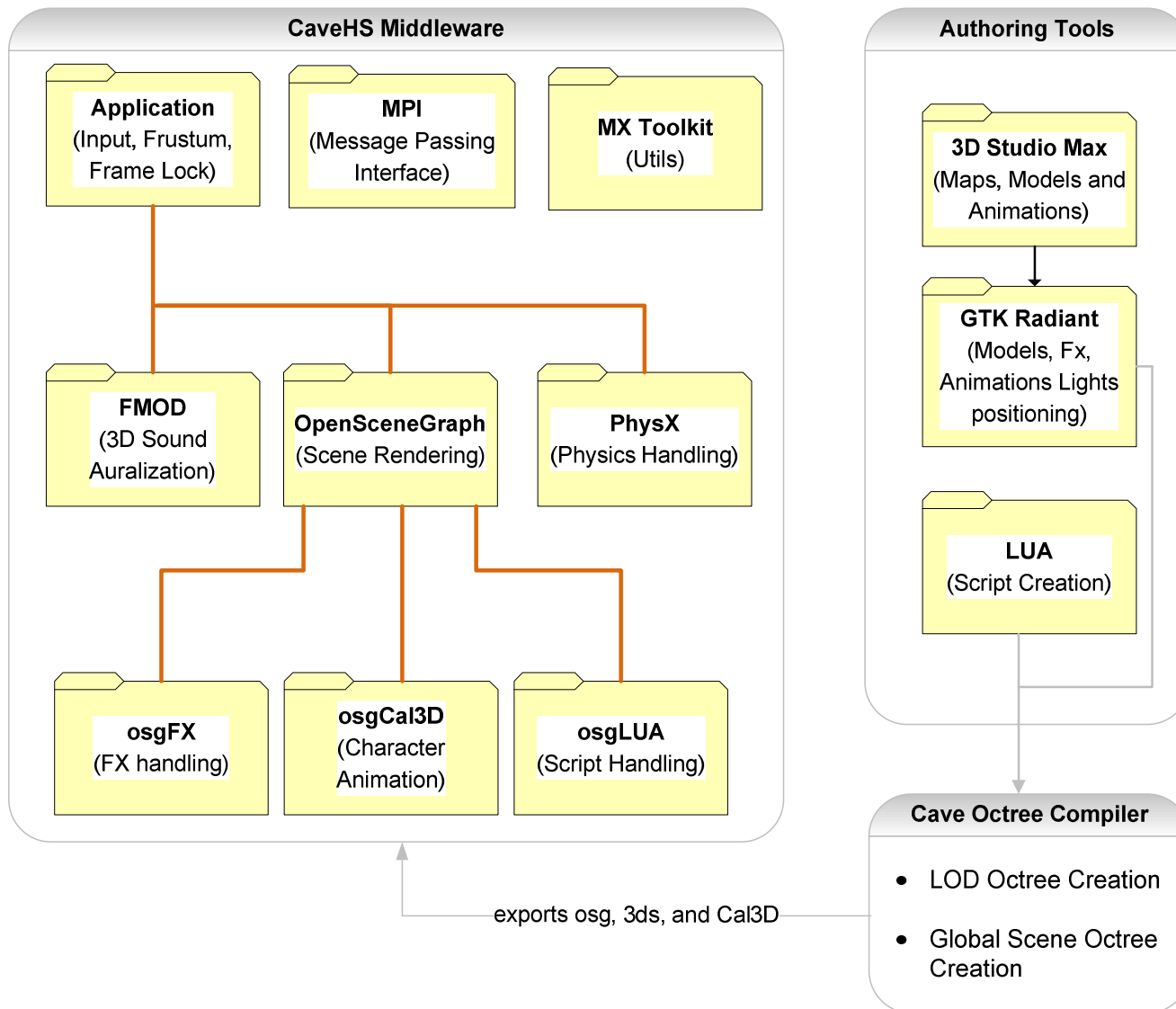


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VR Middleware Choice

- SceneGraph: OpenSceneGraph
- C++
- 3D Audio: FMOD music & soundeffects system (www.fmod.org)
- Our own graphics data distribution system supporting both Master-Slave and Client-Server: ADE – Abstract Distributed Engine
- No Visualization Distribution technique
 - ADE guarantees Data-lock over the replicated scenegraphs across all Cluster nodes
- Microsoft Windows platform
- Other external libraries to be presented later

CaveH Middleware



CaveH Middleware

- Produce high complex realistic real-time images;
 - GPU
 - Global and local illumination
 - Cinematic and Dynamic Collision detection
 - Rigid body dynamic simulation
- Spatialized 3D Audio
- Precise Synchronization among computers
- Latency and bandwidth control
- Content
 - 3D Modeling (support several 3D formats)
 - Character animation (*key-frame* and dynamic)
 - *scripting*
 - Immersive Environments Authoring

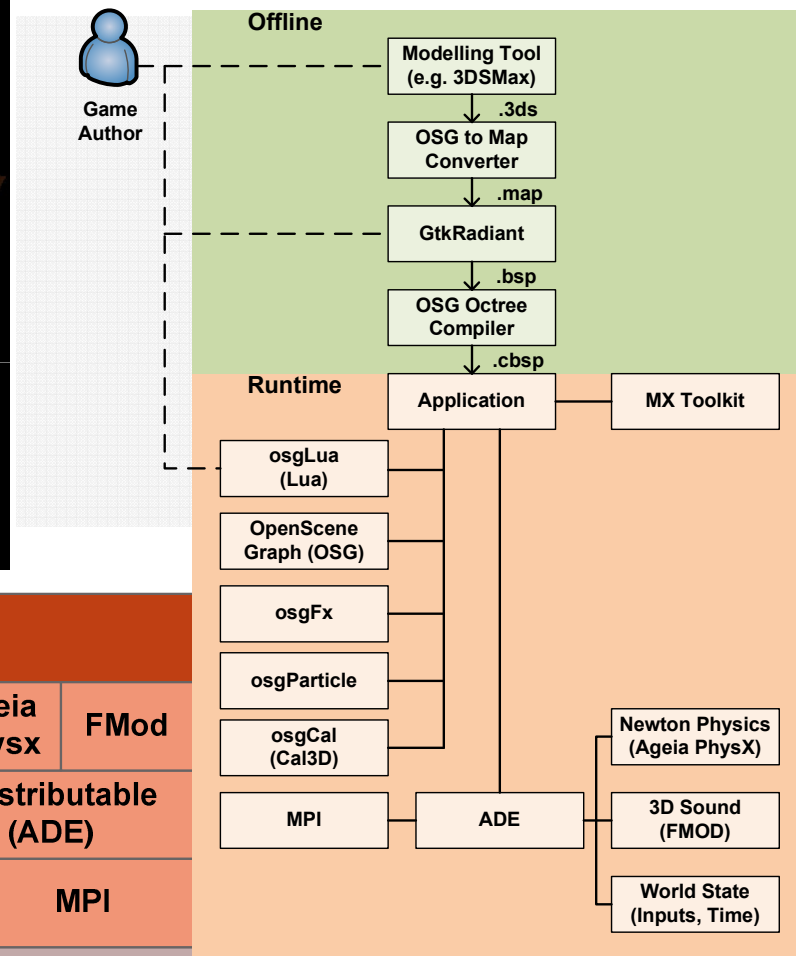
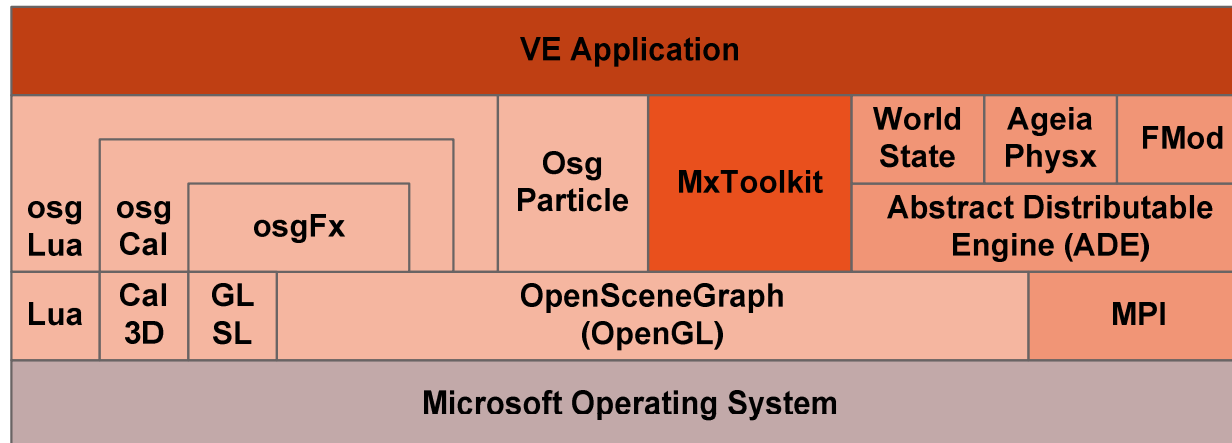
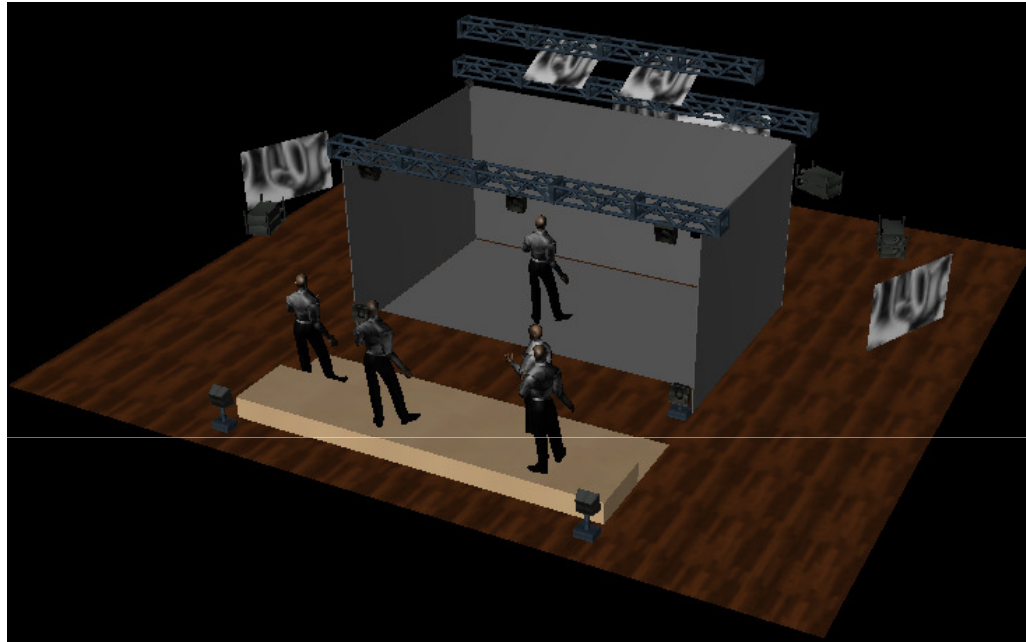
External development tools

- OpenSceneGraph (OSG)
- OpenGL
- Cal 3D
- Lua
- GL-SL
- Ageia PhysX
- FMOD Ex Sound Server
- MPI

Internal development

- MX-Toolkit
- Abstract Distributed Engine - ADE

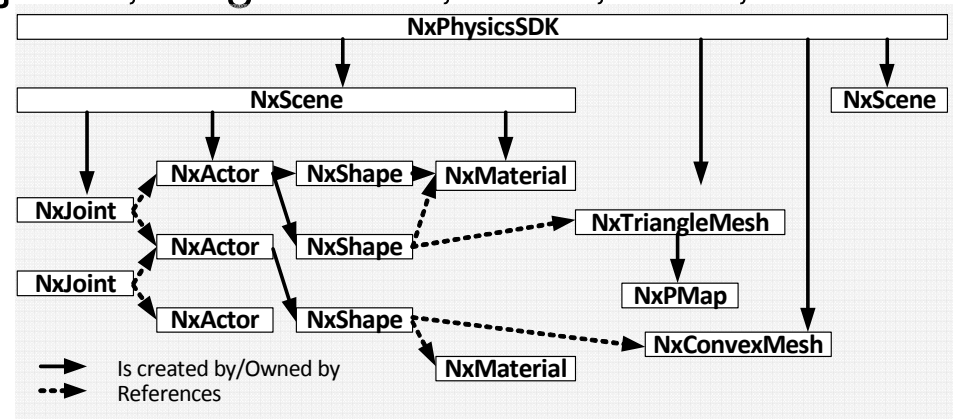
CaveH Middleware Architecture



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Newton Physics

- Selected a robust and mechanical precise physics engine: **Ageia PhysX** (free license)
- Supports rigid and soft bodies, joints, height fields, fluids, cloth, particle systems, vehicles, and character controller

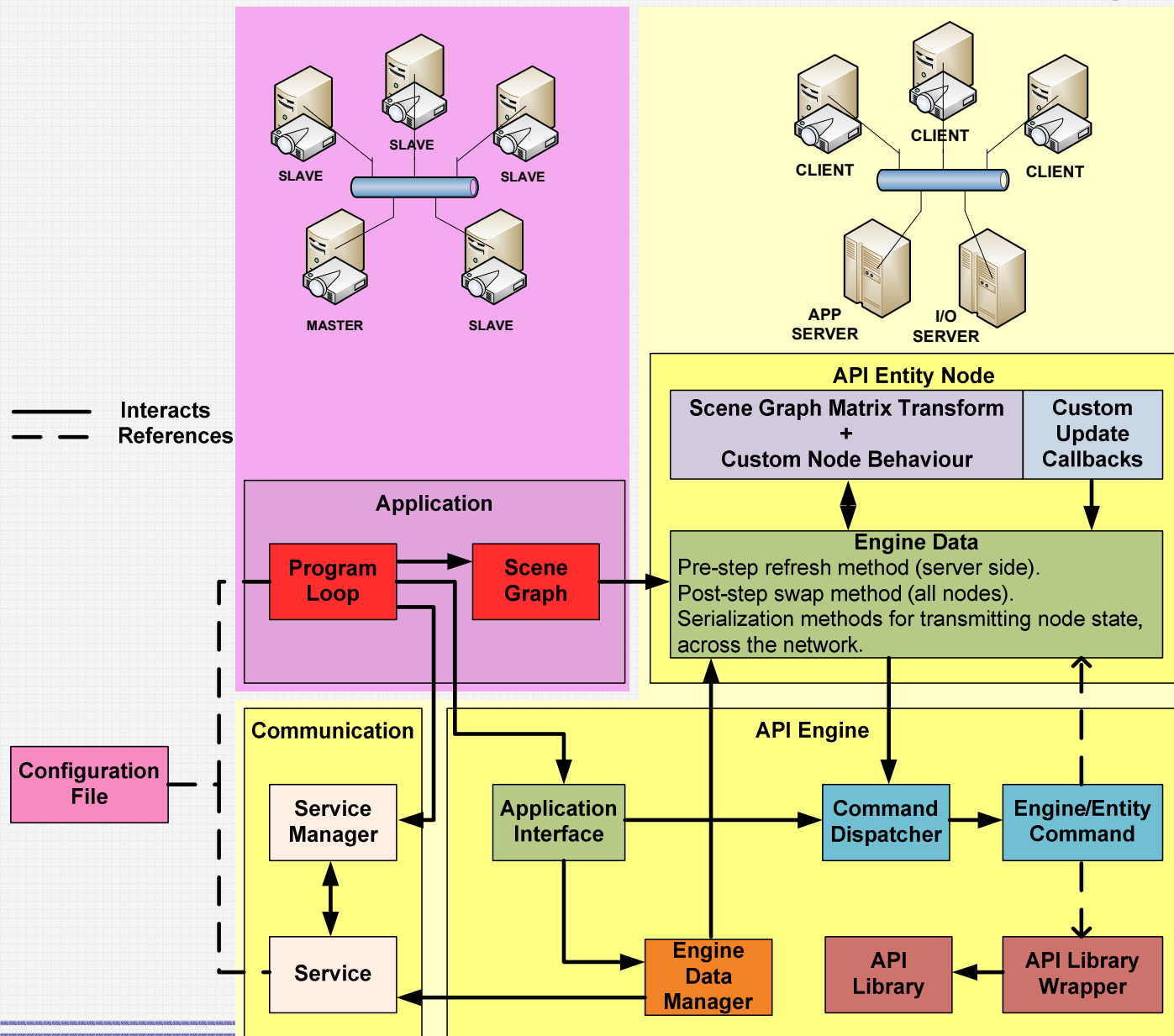


- Internal structure:
 - Scenes are independent worlds
 - Actors are the basic simulation entities. Each actor is defined as being static (for static scene elements), cinematic (for movable scene elements), or dynamic (subject of Newton physics simulation)
 - They can be physically linked through joints (Ageia PhysX supports 9 predefined joints and an additional 6DOF-customizable joint)
 - They can have many shapes. The library offers many representations: box, sphere, capsule, plane, triangle meshes, and convex meshes
 - The shapes must have a material, which defines the shape's static and dynamic (isotropic and anisotropic) friction, and its restitution

Collision Detection and Response

- The collision detection is performed by the PhysX API
- Kinematics' collision response:
 - Collide-And-Slide algorithm
- Dynamic collision response:
 - Dynamic Object –Dynamic Object: PhysX API solver
 - Avatar-Dynamic Object: Collide-And-Slide algorithm for the avatar and apply an impulse, using a derived force, to the contact point of the dynamic object

CaveH Middleware Logic



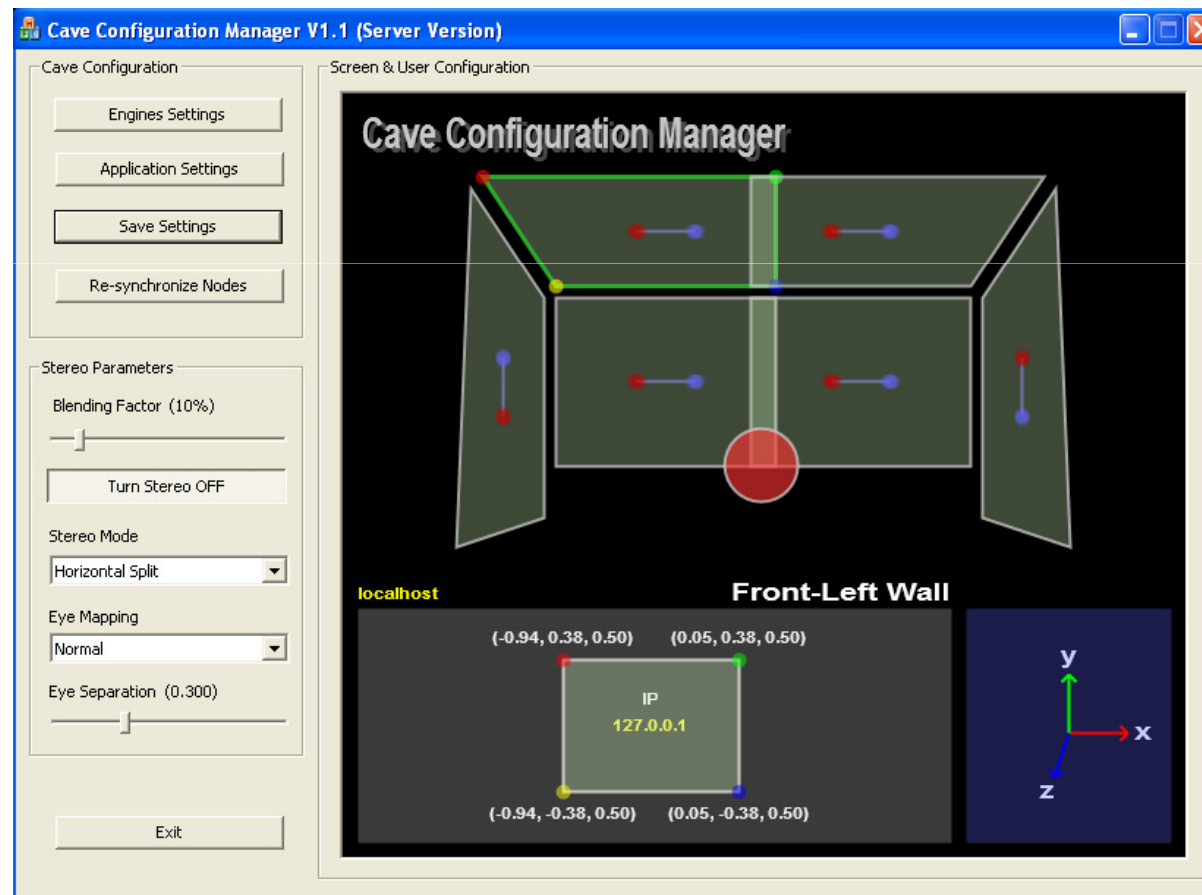
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Newton Physics Engine

- Three entity nodes: static, cinematic, and dynamic
- At each simulation step, the application transverse the scene graph:
 - The cinematic nodes and the character update their (world) pose for that step
 - On step, the physics engine applies the forces on dynamic entities, and calculates the actor and character collisions.
 - Next, it sends to client nodes the updated character and dynamic entities poses
 - On all nodes of the cluster, the new dynamic and character state are propagated to the scene graph and application

Projection and CaveH middleware Configuration

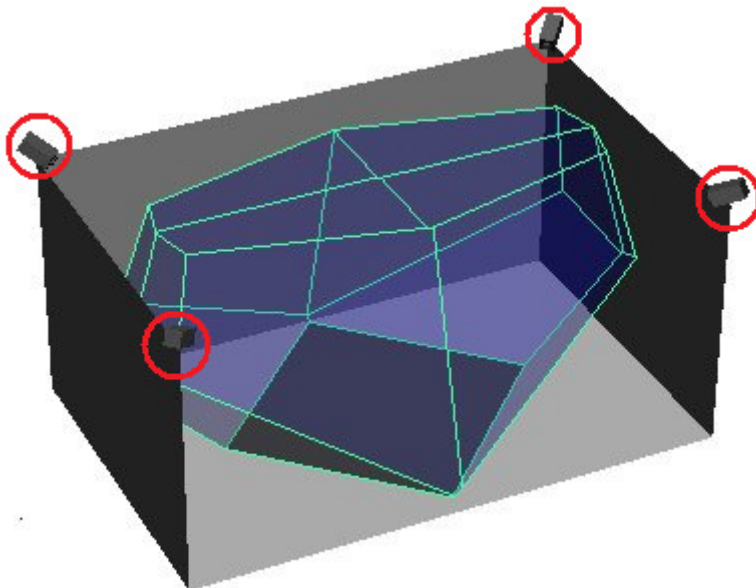
- User interface



User Tracking for CaveH

Hardware Setup:

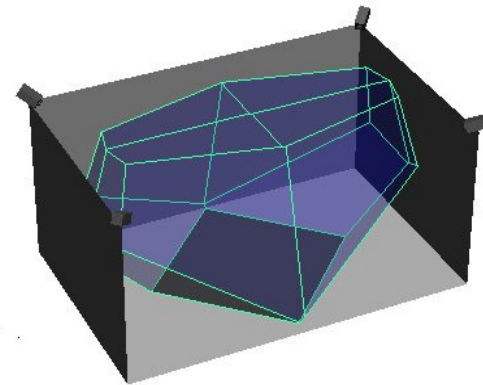
- 4 AVT Firewire Pike Cameras (640x480, 205 fps)
- 4 LED ring array emitters
- 1 Shutter Controller
- Several retro-reflective markers



Lens Analyses

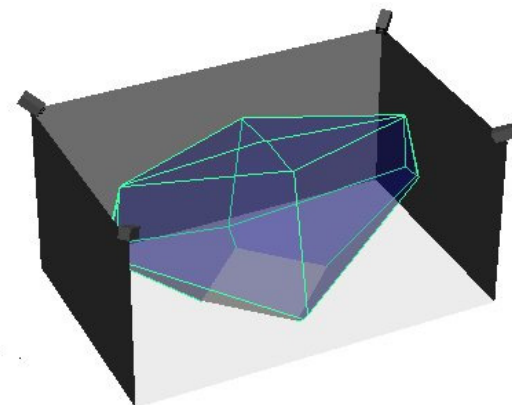
Lens: 3.5mm

- Field of View = $81,2^{\circ}$
- Resolution at the center = 3,52mm



Lens: 4.5mm

- Field of View = $67,4^{\circ}$
- Resolution at the center = 2,74mm



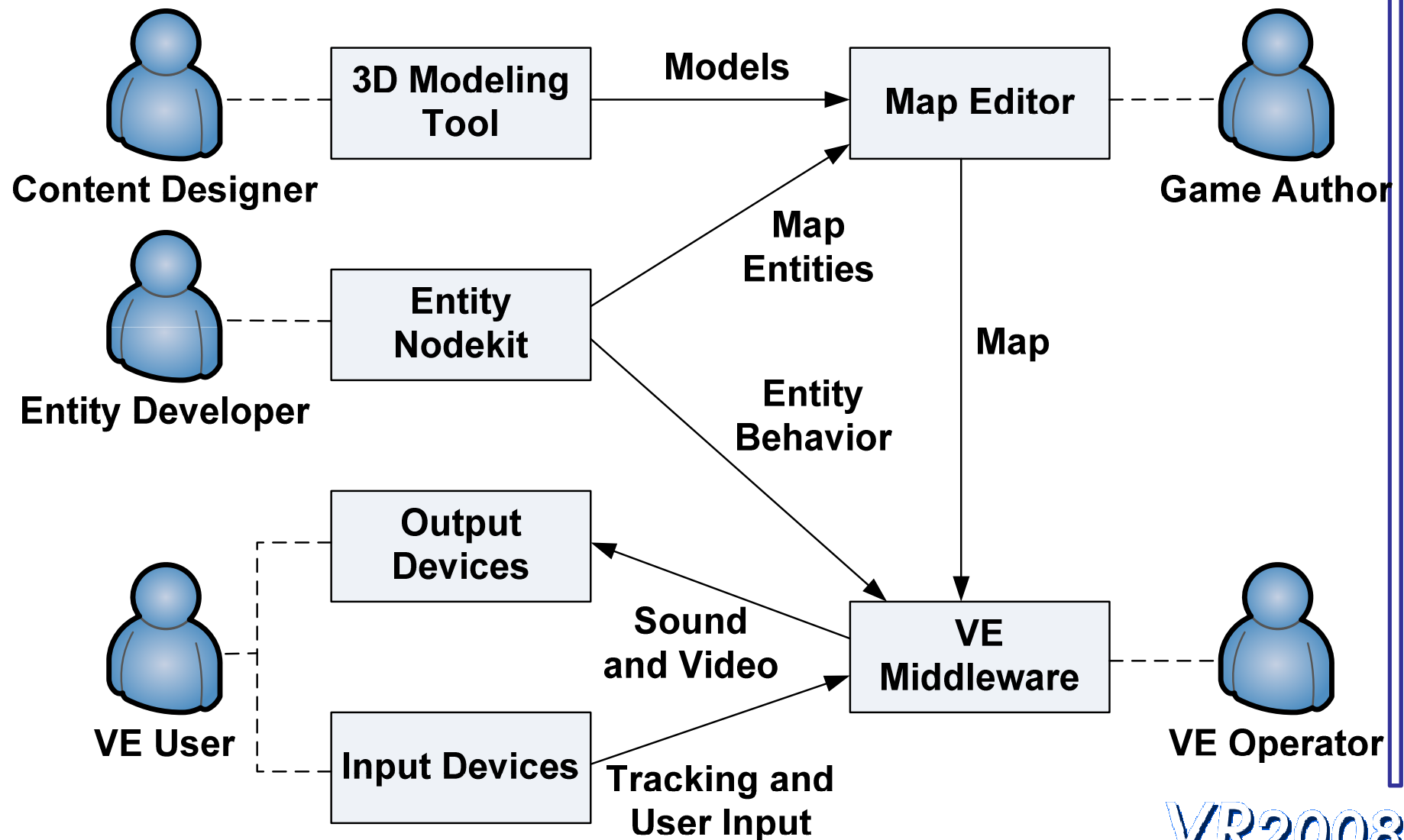
Scripting Language

- Allows programming behaviors for certain objects/entities, in a complete independent Cave environment
- The used scripting language is **LUA** (from PUC Brasil)
- Scripts are integrated with the application using the node kit **OsgLua**

Content Authoring

- 3D Modeling
 - 3D Studio, Maya, Blender
- Character Animation (Cinematic and Hierarchical)
- Scripting Languages
 - Lua
- 3D Scenario Development (Maps)
- 3D Audio

Content Authoring Flow



Content Authoring

- **3D Studio Max** for model and map (3D scenario) geometry creation as well as characters and animations
- **GtkRadiant** is used for content integration authoring

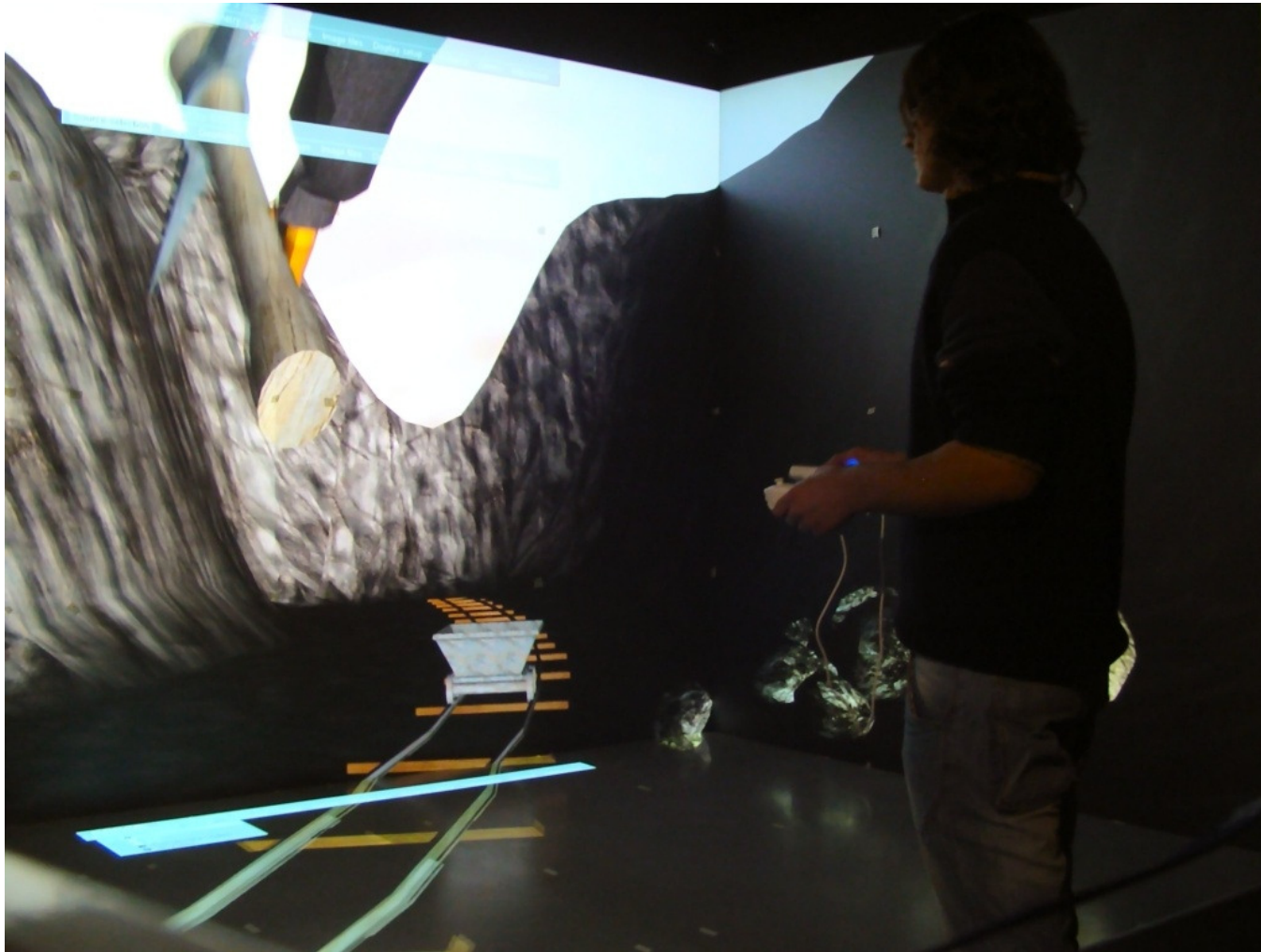
Autodesk®



- 3D Studio Max for map modeling

- Used in game maps creation (i.e. Quake)
- Allows map entities to be edited in a single authoring environment

Virtual Mine Visit

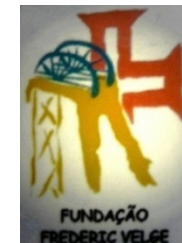


Special Thanks

www.tecgraf.puc-rio.br/~lpsoares/ieeevr08



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