

# Designing multi-projector VR systems: from bits to bolts

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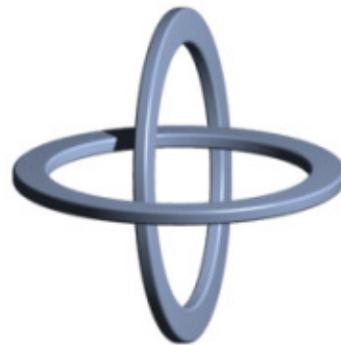
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Instituto Superior de Ciências  
do Trabalho e da Empresa



**Tecgraf**  
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# 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

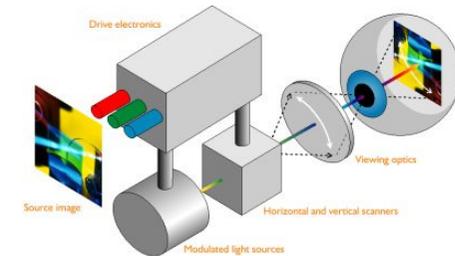
# *Displays Systems*



ePaper - Flexible, full-color OLED (Sony)

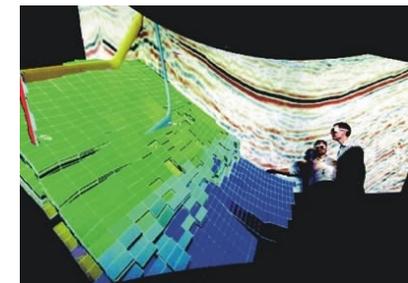
# Personal Systems

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



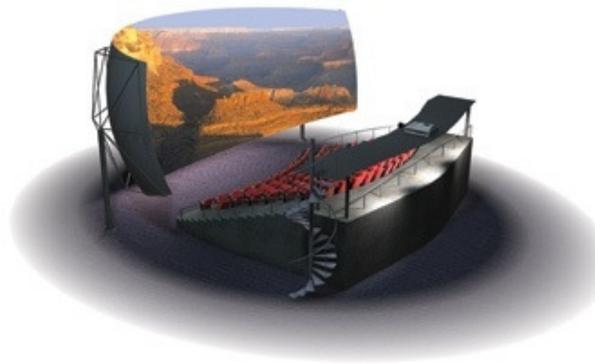
# Multi-user Displays

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



# Crowd Displays

- Large-Scale Displays

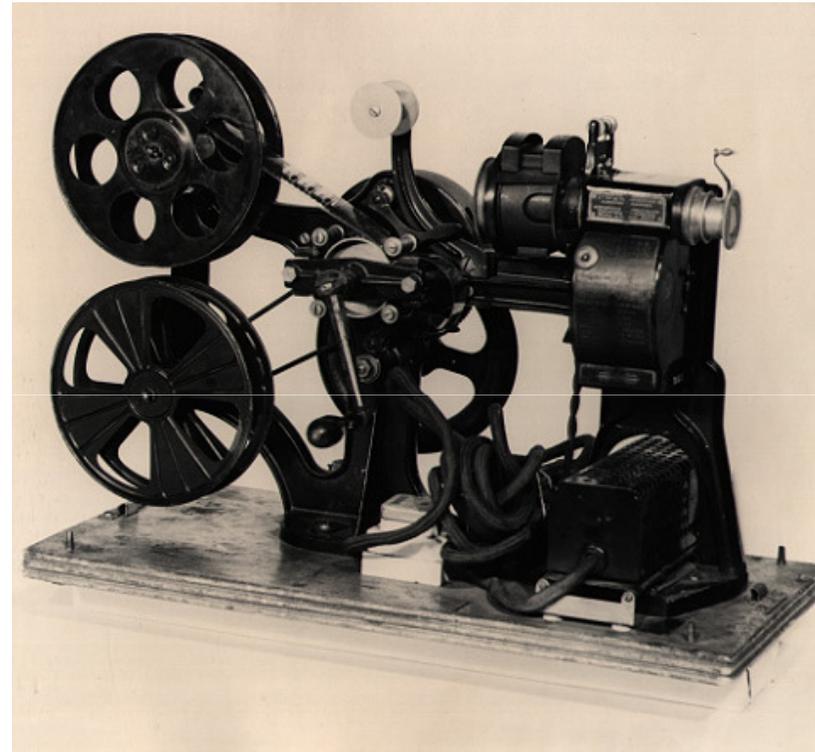


- Spatially Augmented Displays



# Projection Technologies

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



# Brightness

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

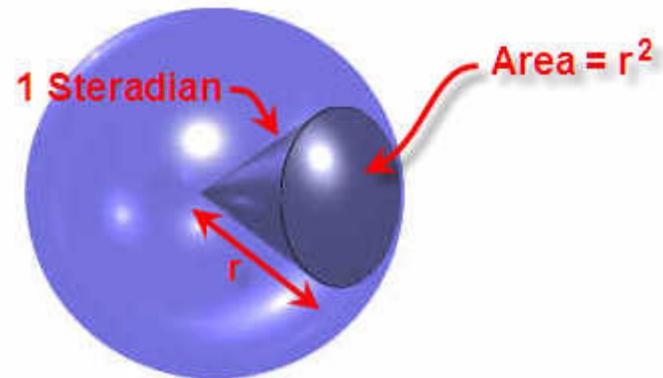
# What is Lumen?

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

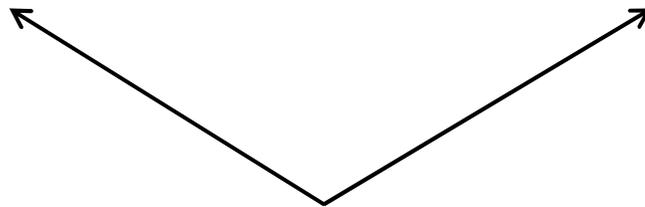


# How to Choose the Brightness ?

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

# Contrast

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



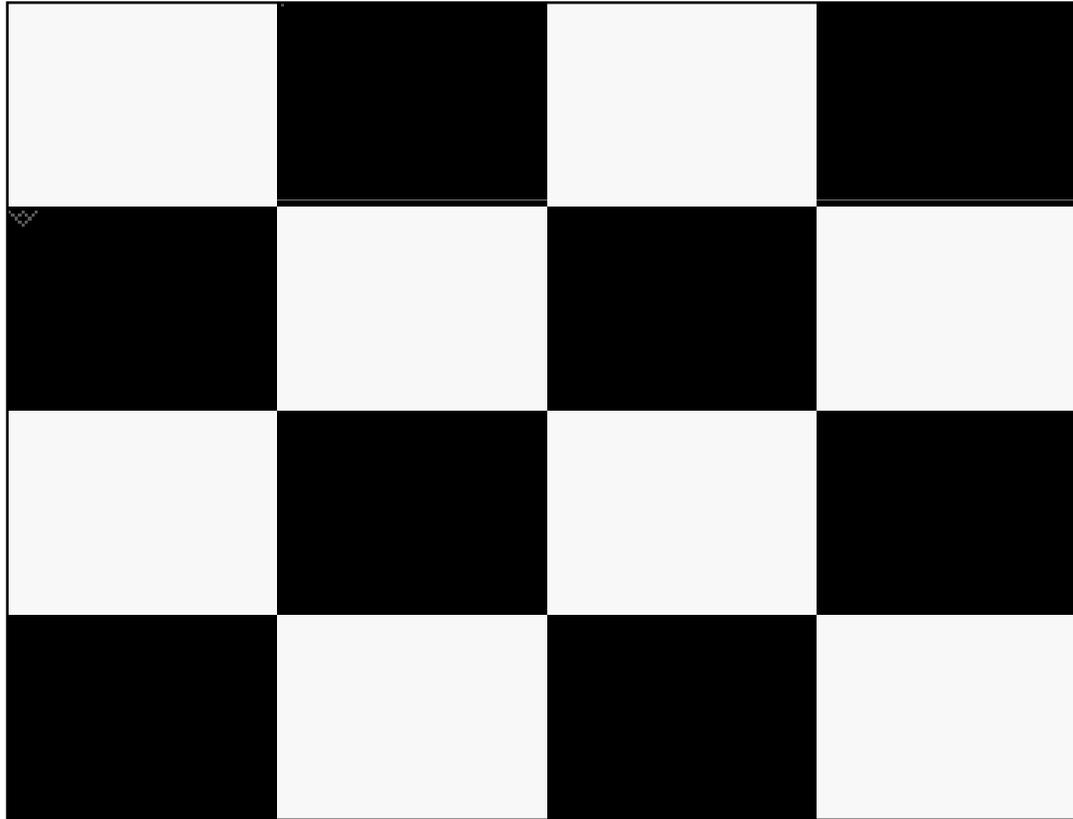
**500,000:1**



Zorro

# Contrast

- On/Off contrast X ANSI contrast



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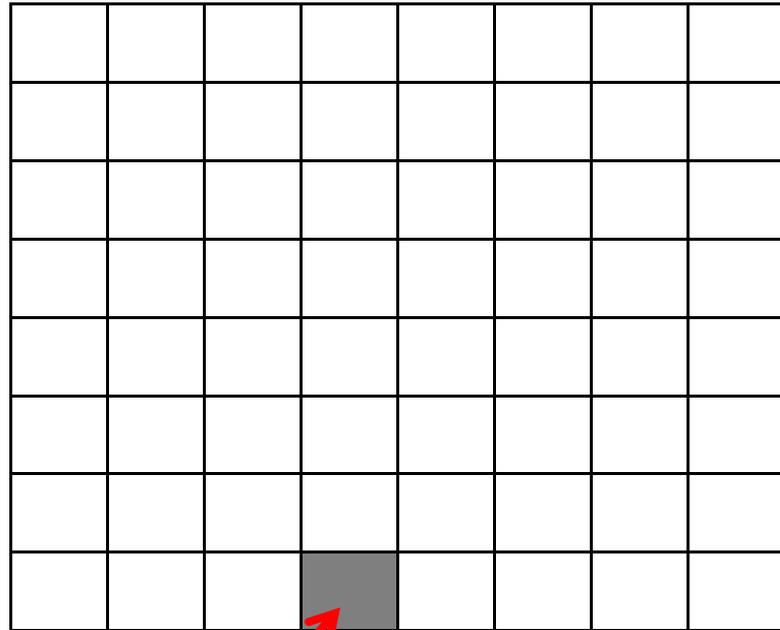
# Dynamic Iris

- 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.

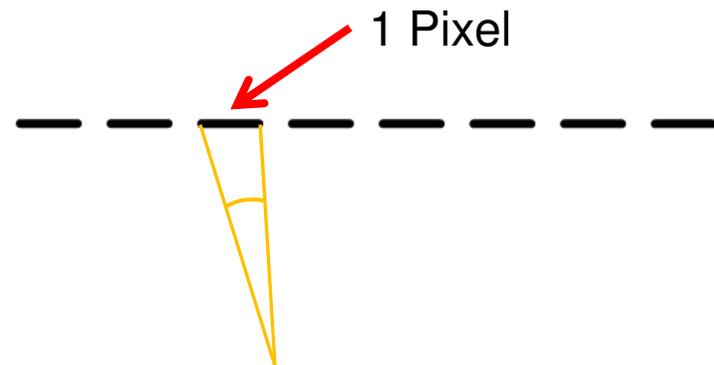
# Resolution

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

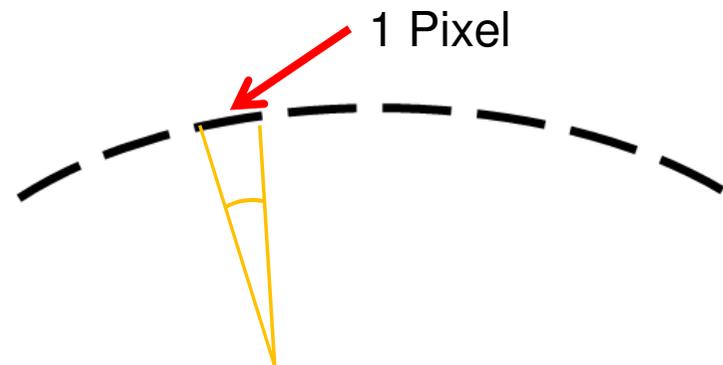
# Pixel Size



1 Pixel



1 Pixel



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

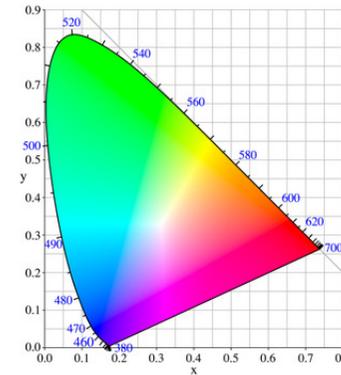
Throw Distance = Screen Width X Lens Throw Ratio

$$5\text{m (500cm)} = \text{Horizontal } 384\text{cm} * 1.3:1$$

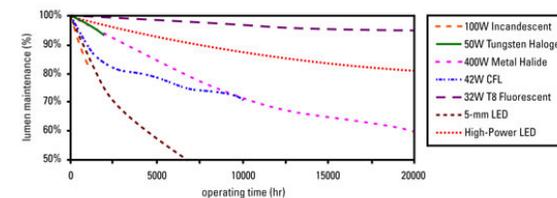
$$5\text{m (500cm)} = \text{Horizontal } 625\text{cm} * 0.8:1$$

# Lamps Characteristics

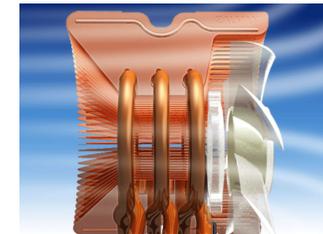
- Well suited spectrum;
- Long life;
  - over 10 000 h.
- Lumen maintenance;
- noisy cooling solutions.



Typical Lumen Maintenance Values for Various Light Sources

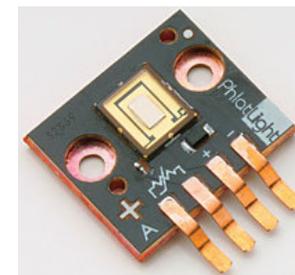


Source: Adapted from Bullough, J.D. 2003. *Lighting Answers: LED Lighting Systems*. Troy, NY: National Lighting Product Information Program, Lighting Research Center, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



# Lamps

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

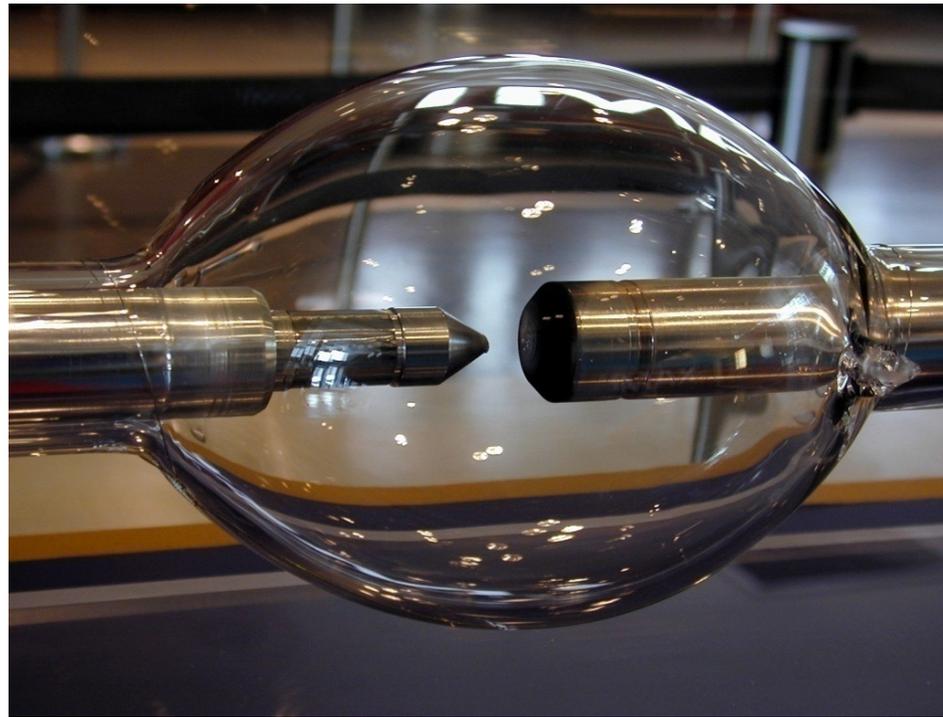


# UHP

- 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  $< 1400\text{ K}$

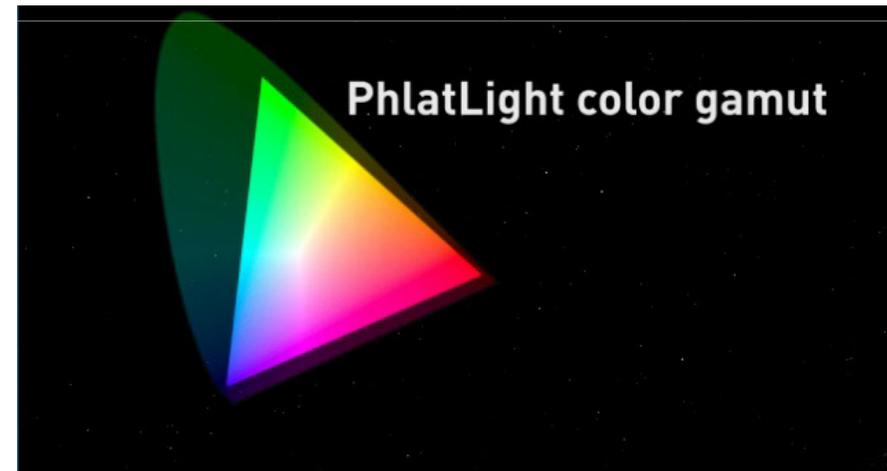
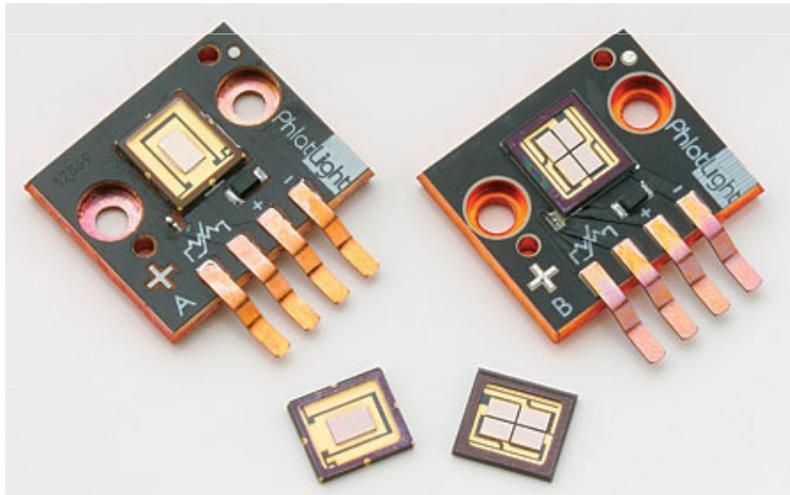
# Xenon Lamp

- 15 kW Xenon short-arc lamp



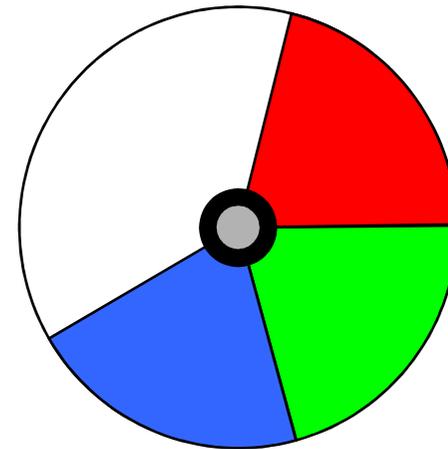
# LED light

- Phlatlight - PHotonic LATtice (Samsung)



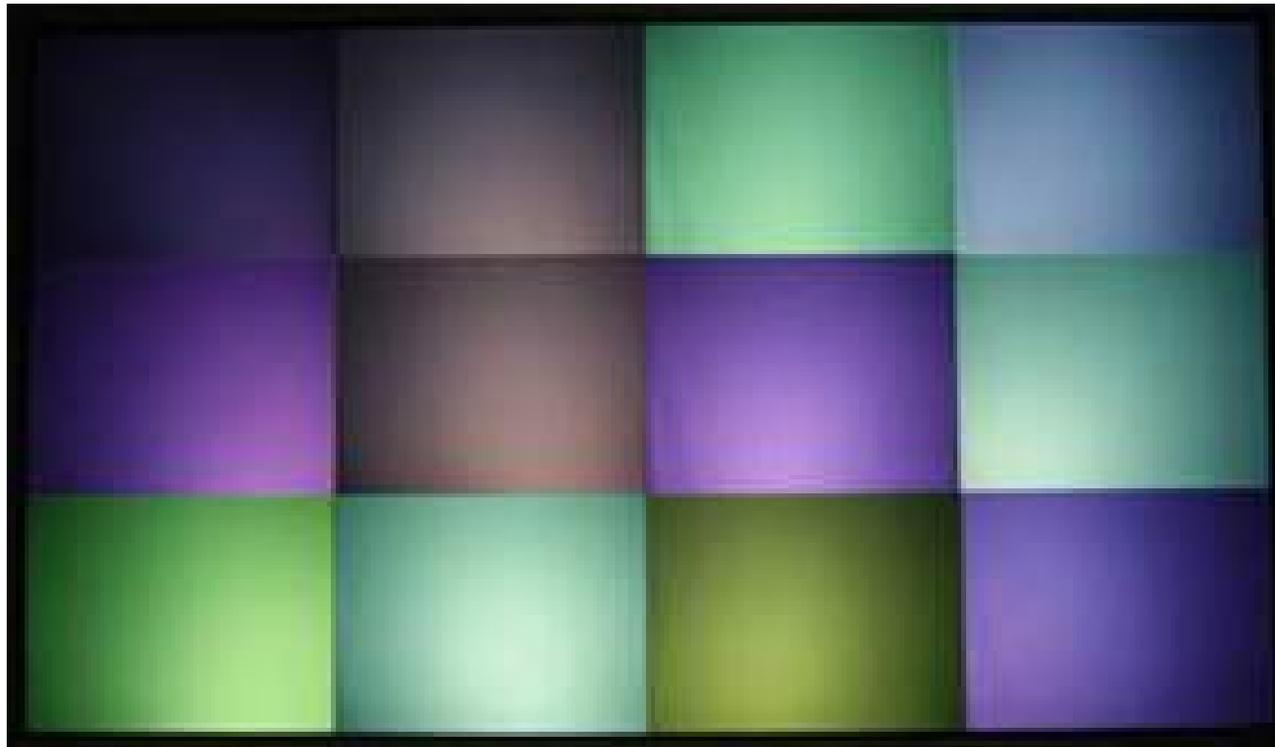
# Problems

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



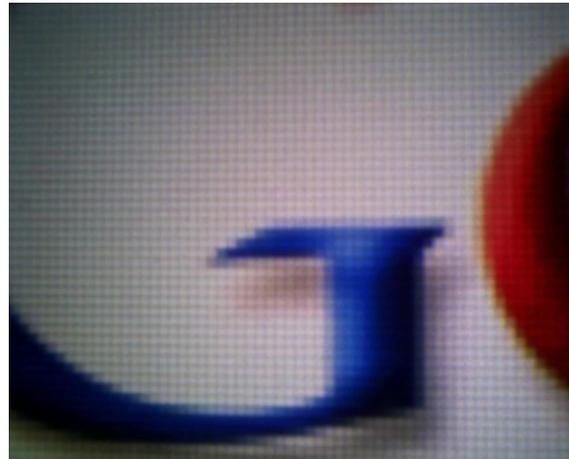
# Color sample

- 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



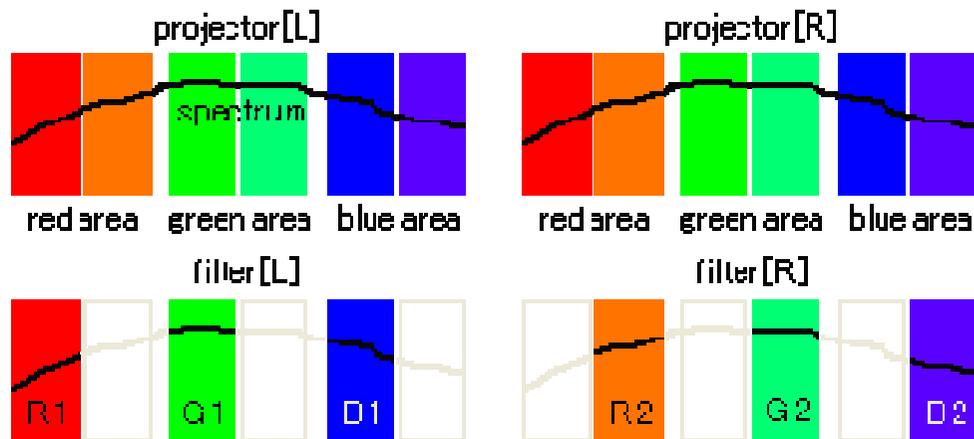
# Active Stereoscropy

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



# Infitec

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

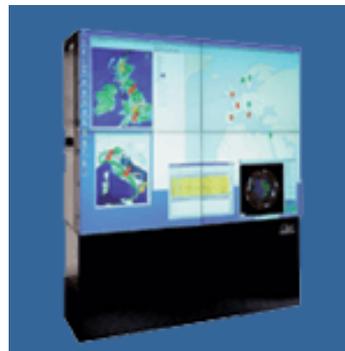
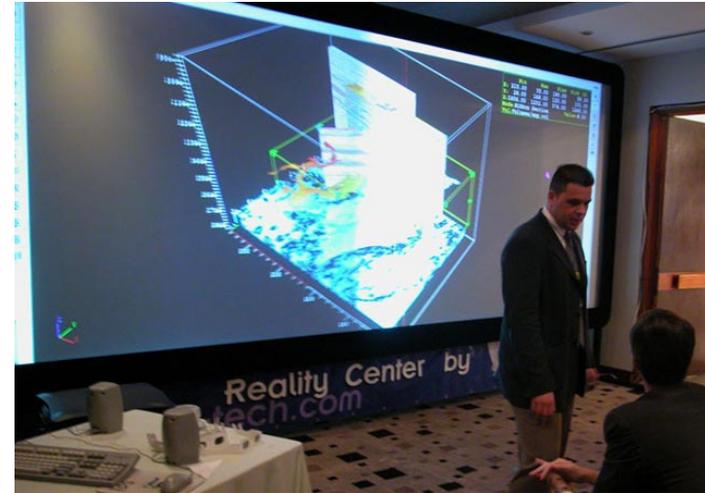


# Projection and Screen Geometries

- 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



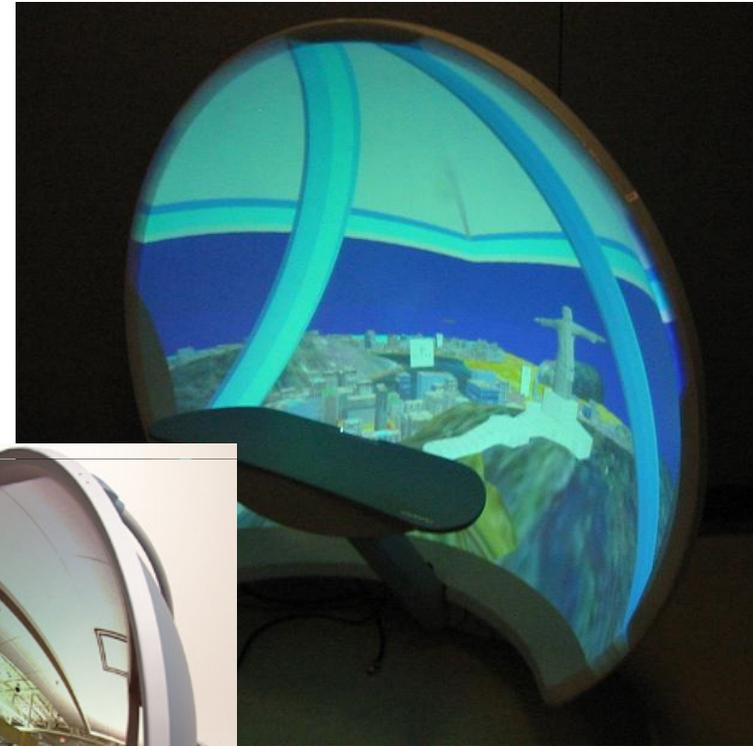
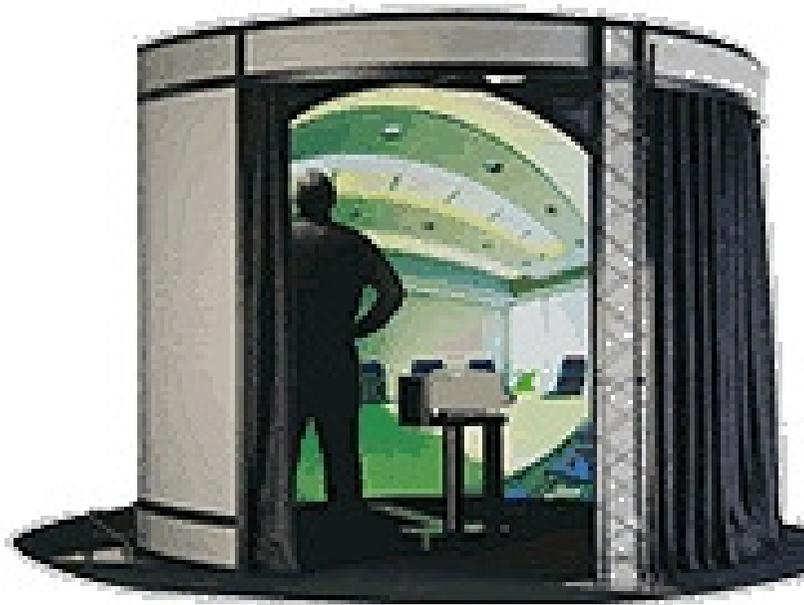
# Cylindrical

- Large Audience
- Projection Overlap
- Requires Blending



# Spherical

- Large Field of View
- Deformation Correction



# Alternative Solutions

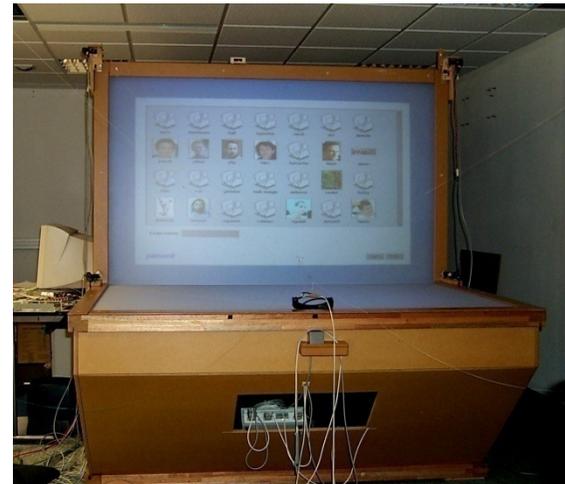
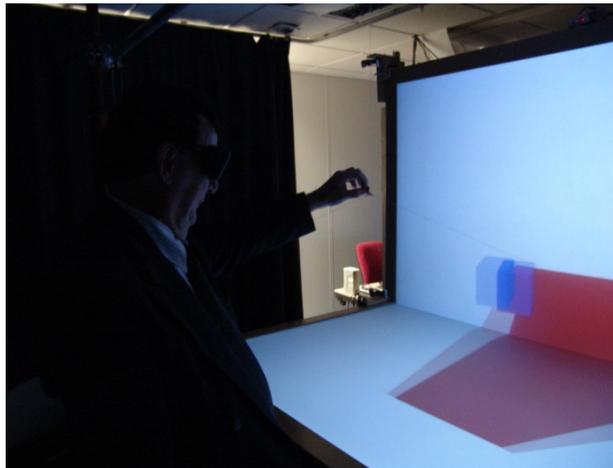
## Hang-glider



## Thorus

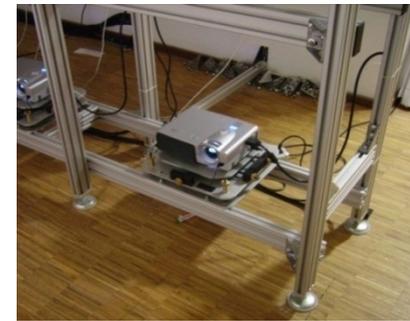
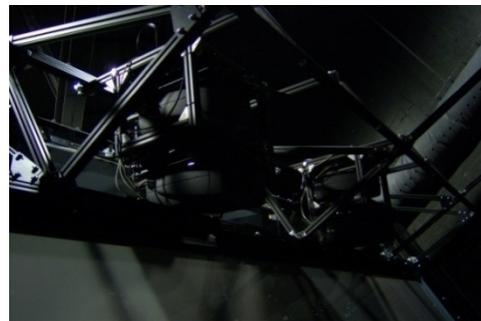


## WorkBench



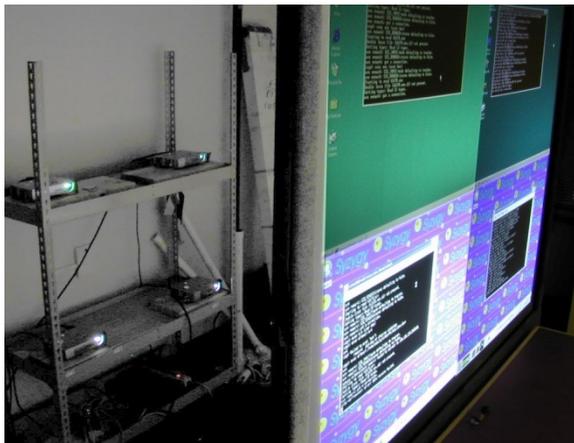
# Multi-Projector Structure

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



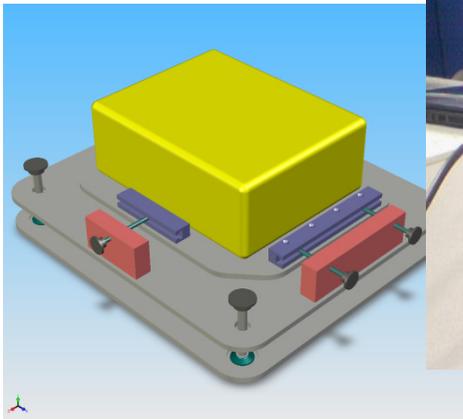
# Projector Arrays

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



# Projector Mounts

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

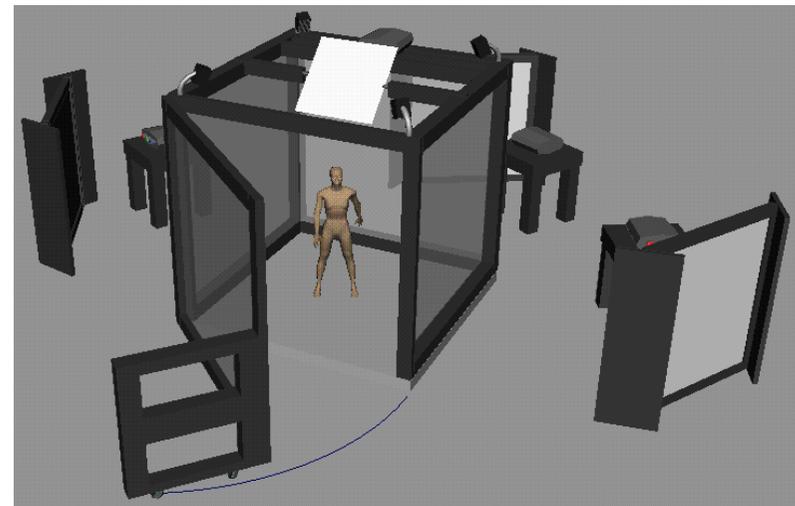


# Planar Mirrors

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



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



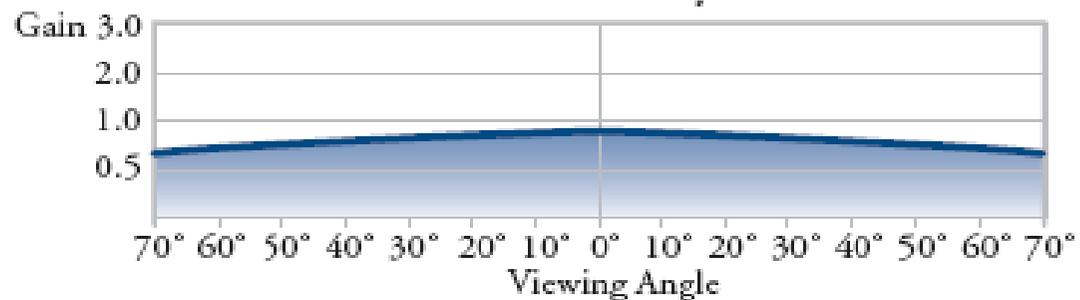
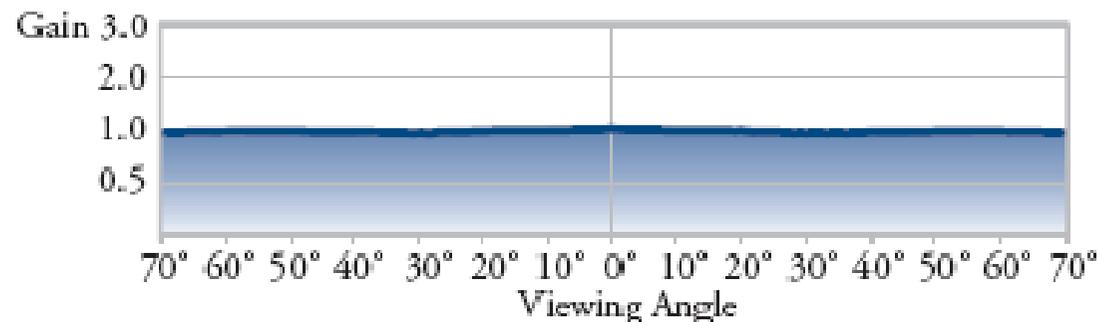
# Projection Issue: Homogeneous Brightness and Hot Spots

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



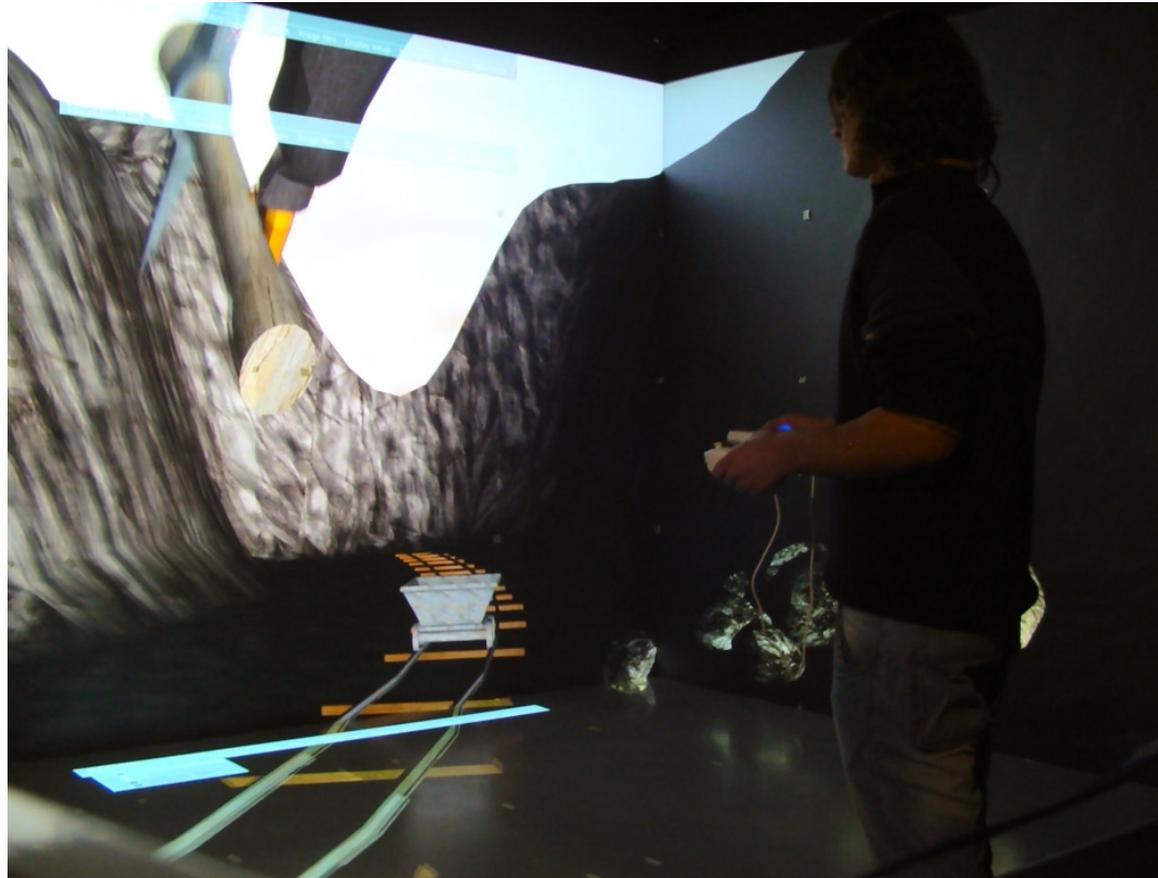
# Projection Issue: Viewing Angle

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



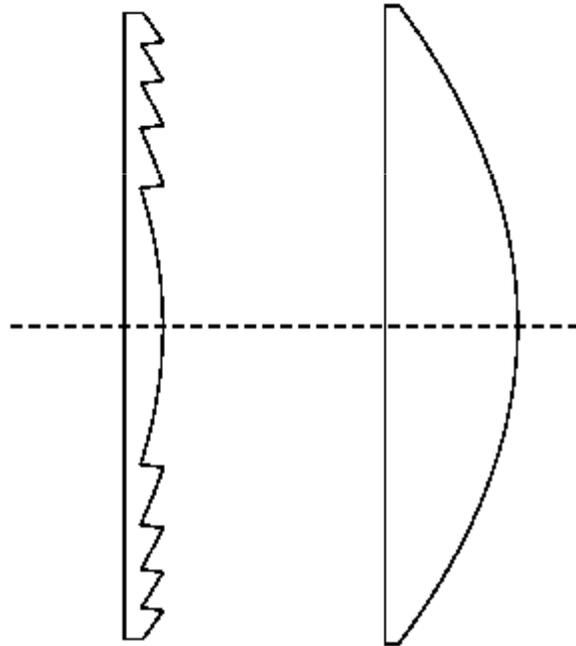
# Projection Issue: Inter-reflection

- Cave: Light from other screens



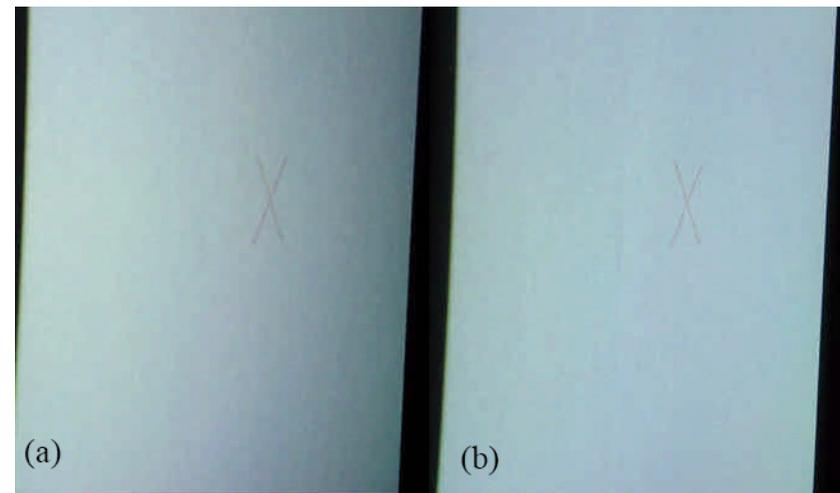
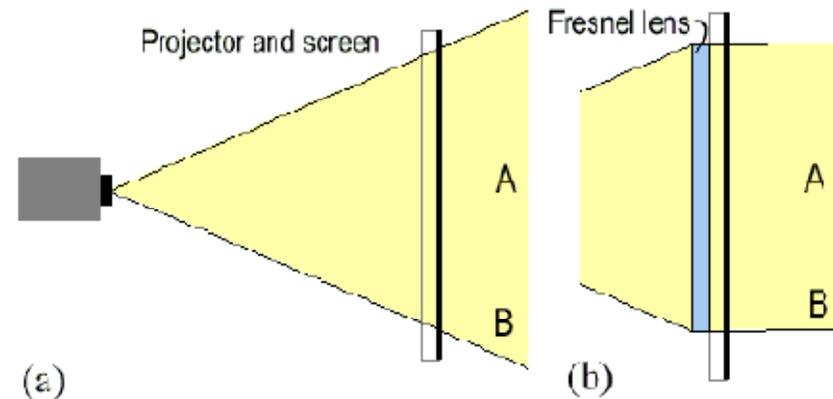
# Redirecting Light: Fresnel Lens

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



# How to use Fresnel Lens

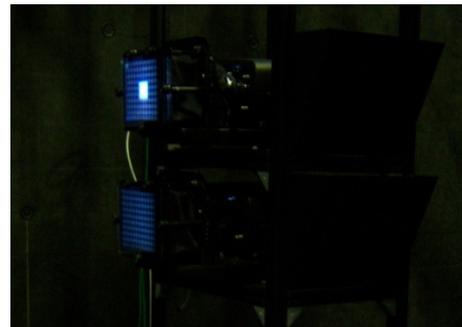
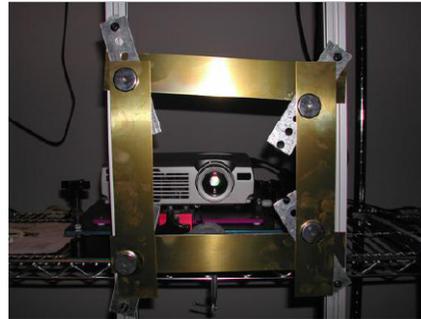
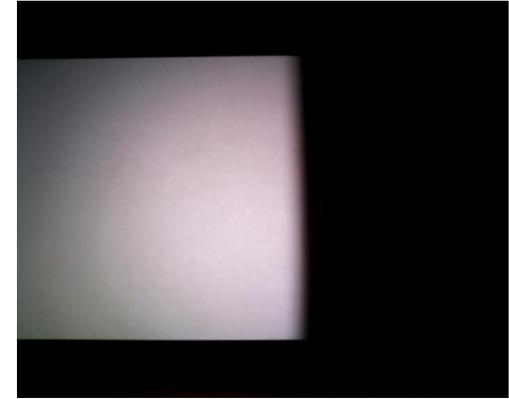
- Correct Projector rays
- Lens Size = Tile Size
- Minimum Space between tile  $> 0$



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

# Edge-blending

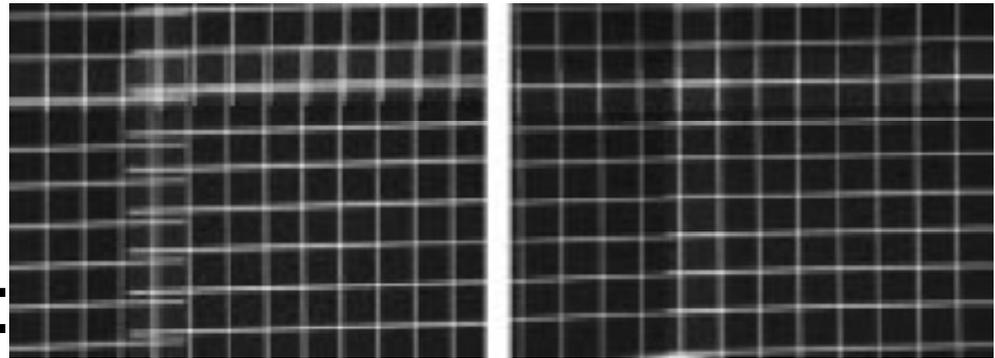
- Seamless edge blending
- Light Leak
- Small Overlap
- Almost aligned Scenarios
- Solutions:
  - Physical
  - Software Mask
  - Hardware Projector



# Geometry Calibration and Warping

- Inter Projector Calibration

- Remove Seams

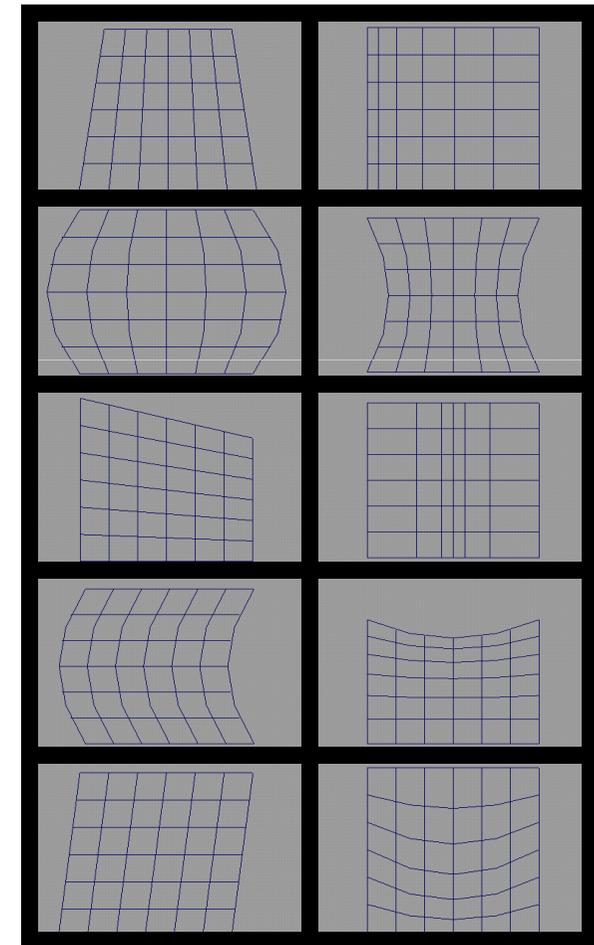
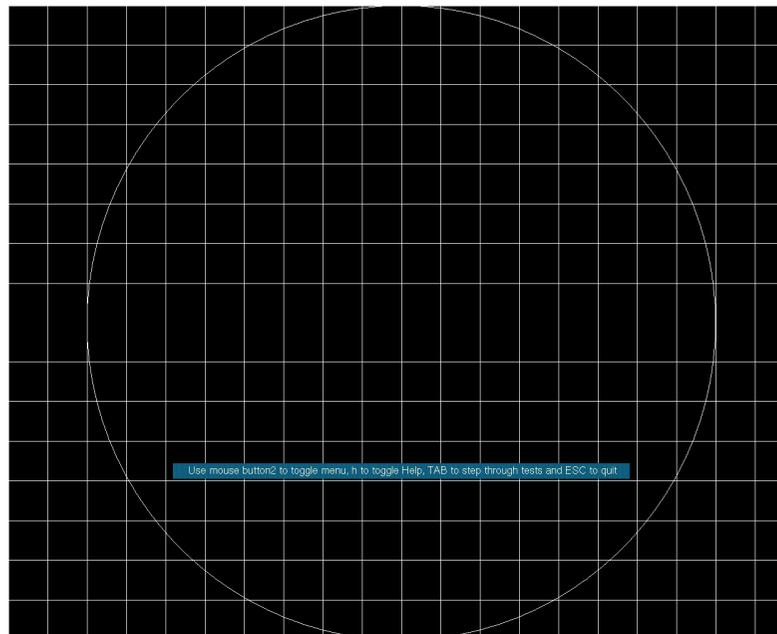


- Popular Technique:

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

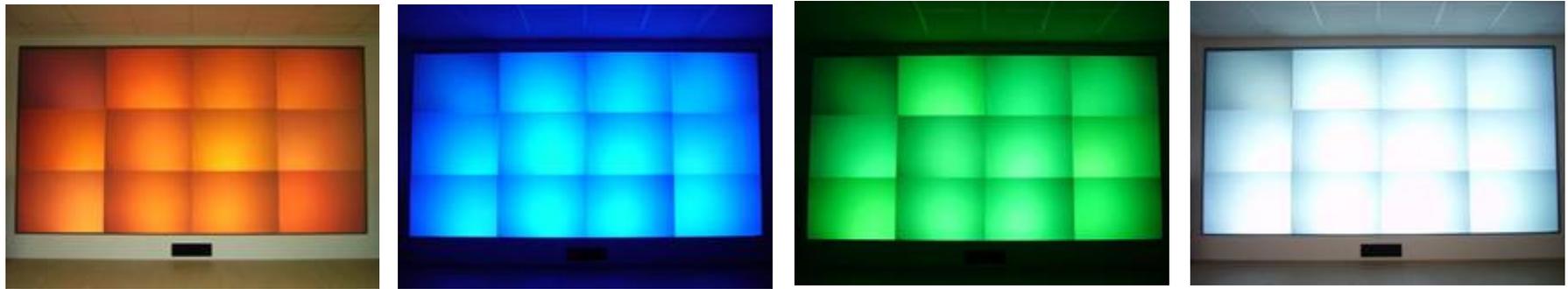
# Geometric Calibration

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



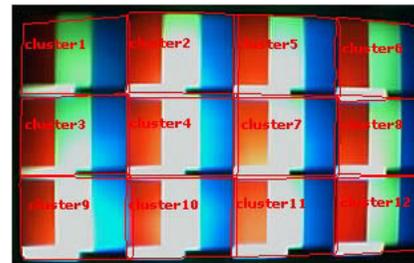
# Color Calibration

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



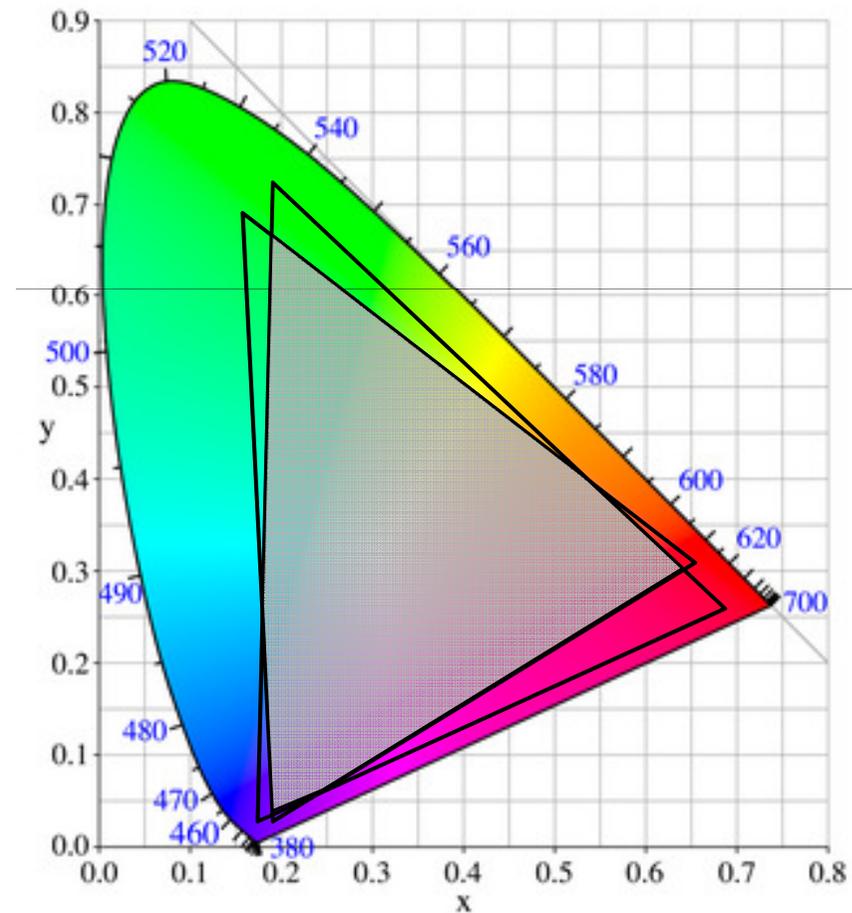
# How to achieve the color calibration?

- 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

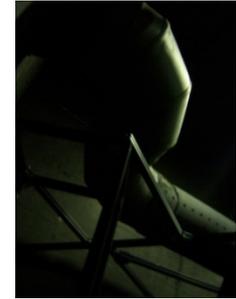
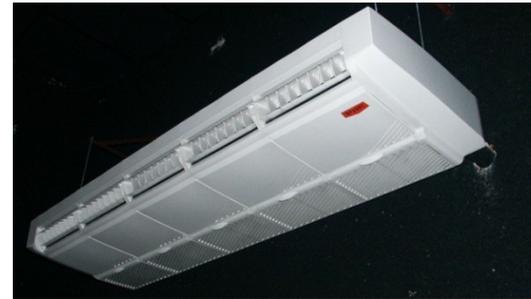
- Test card / Test pattern
- Vectorscope
- SMPTE Color Bars 16x9
- Usefull for Calibration evaluation



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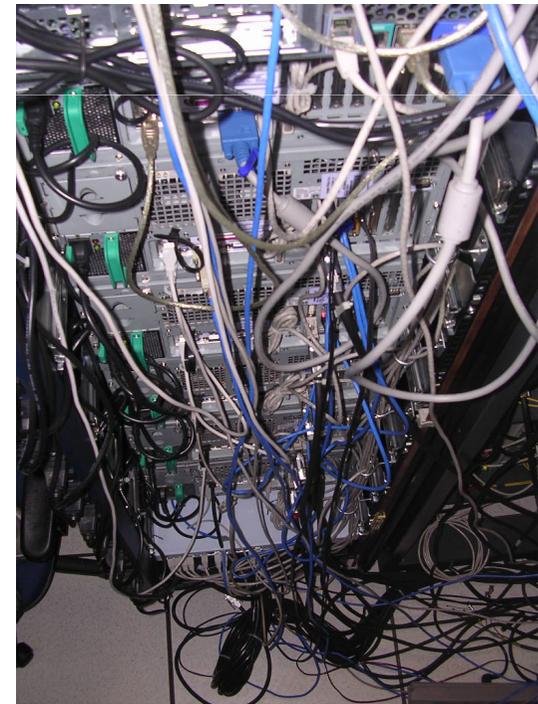
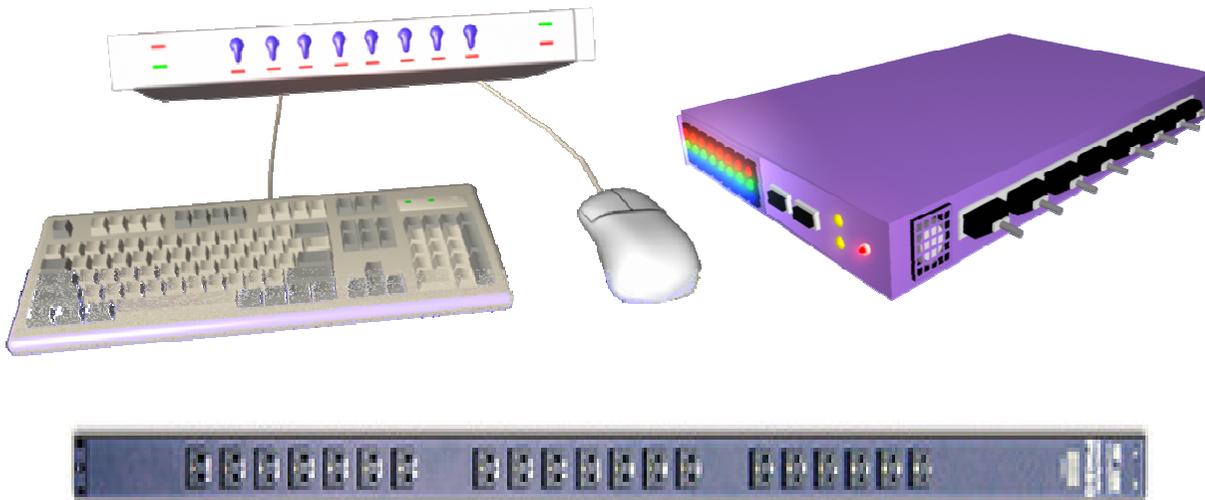
# Site preparation

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



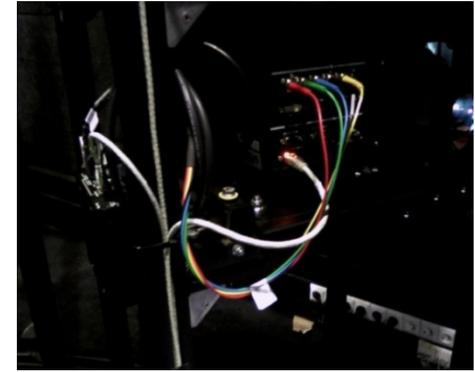
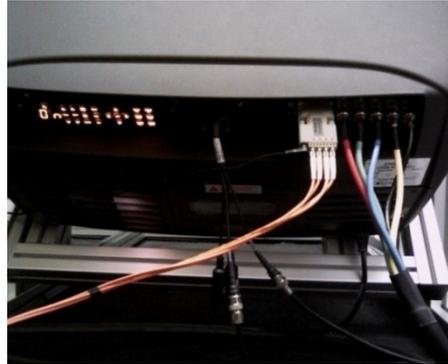
# Control and Automation solutions

- 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)



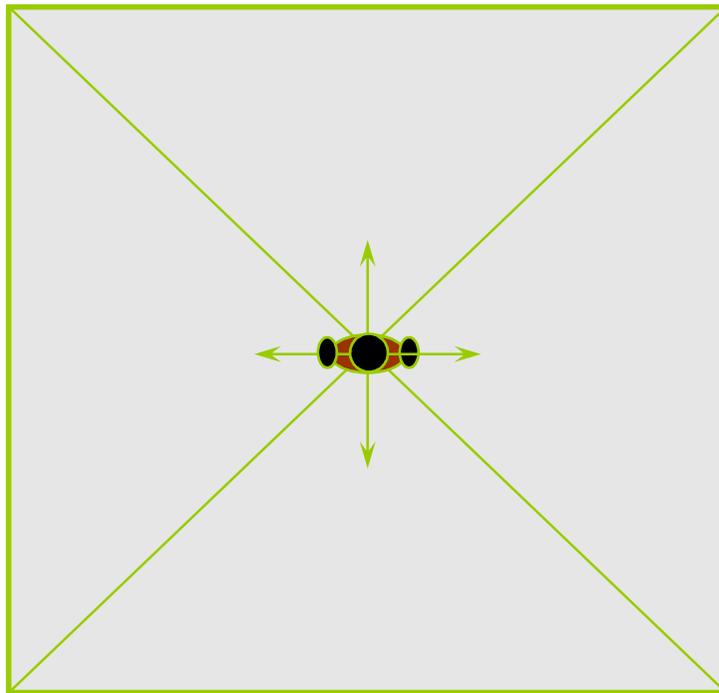
- Video Matrix
  - Extron
  - Miranda



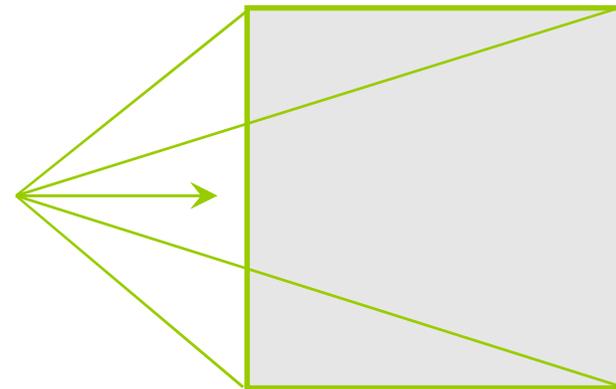
# Section II: I/O

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

# Why User Tracking



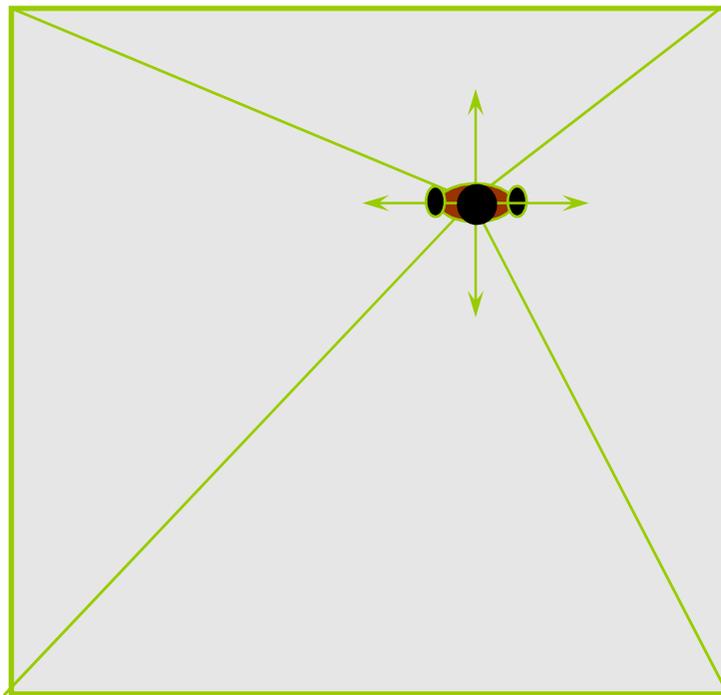
Top view



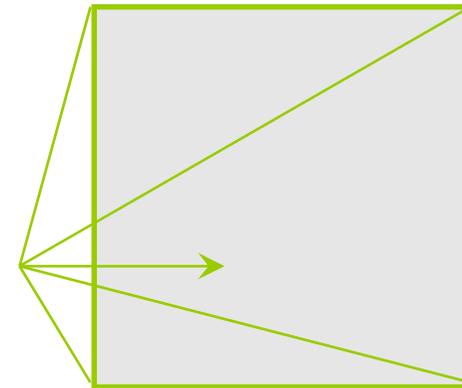
Frustum

# Why User Tracking

Dynamic adjustment of viewpoints and view frustums



Top view



Frustum

# User Tracking

## **Technologies:**

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

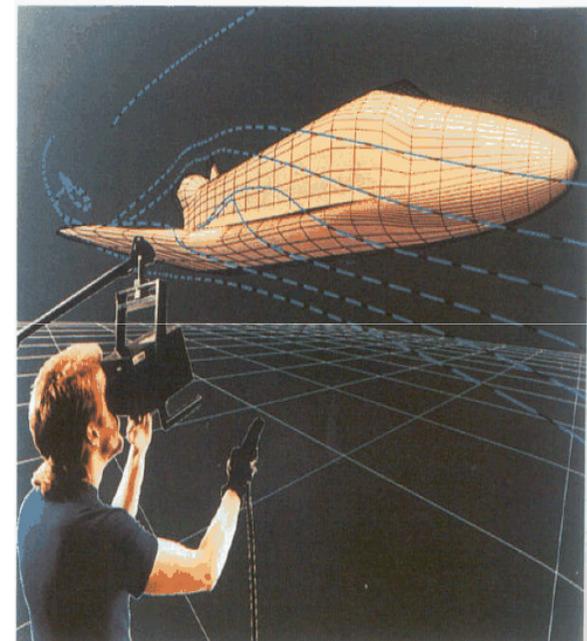
# User Tracking

## 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  $10^{\circ}$  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

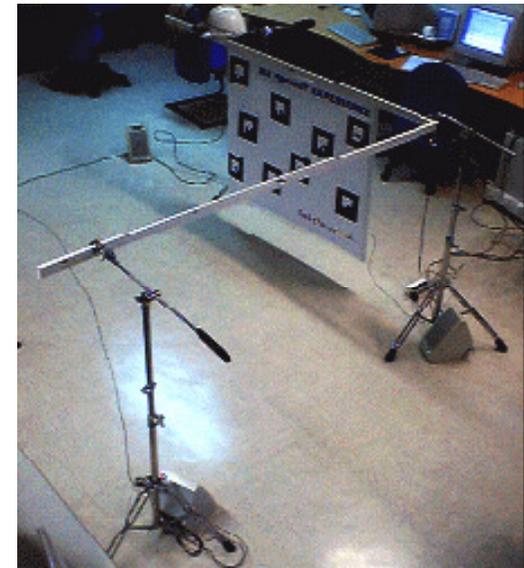
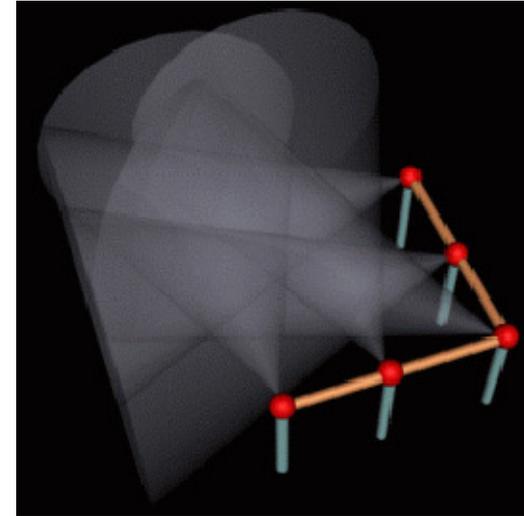
## Acoustic Tracking Devices:

- 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)

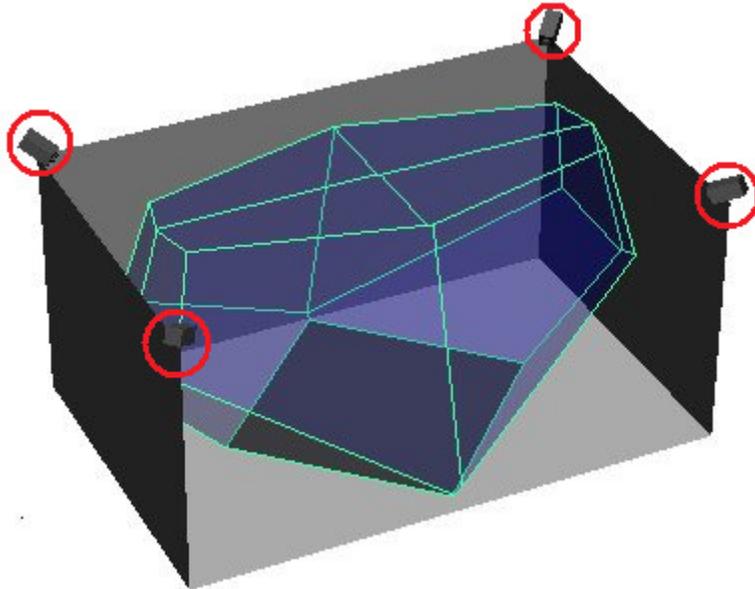
## **Chosen: Infrared Tracking System**

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

# User Tracking

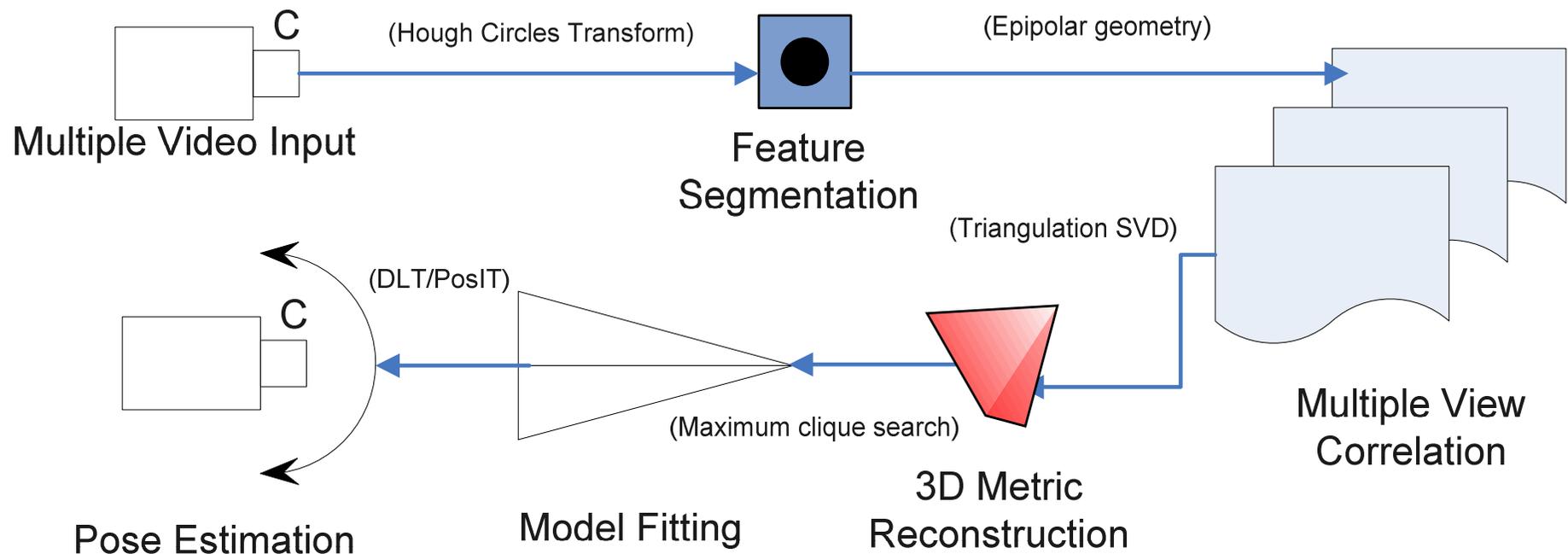
## Hardware Setup:

- 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

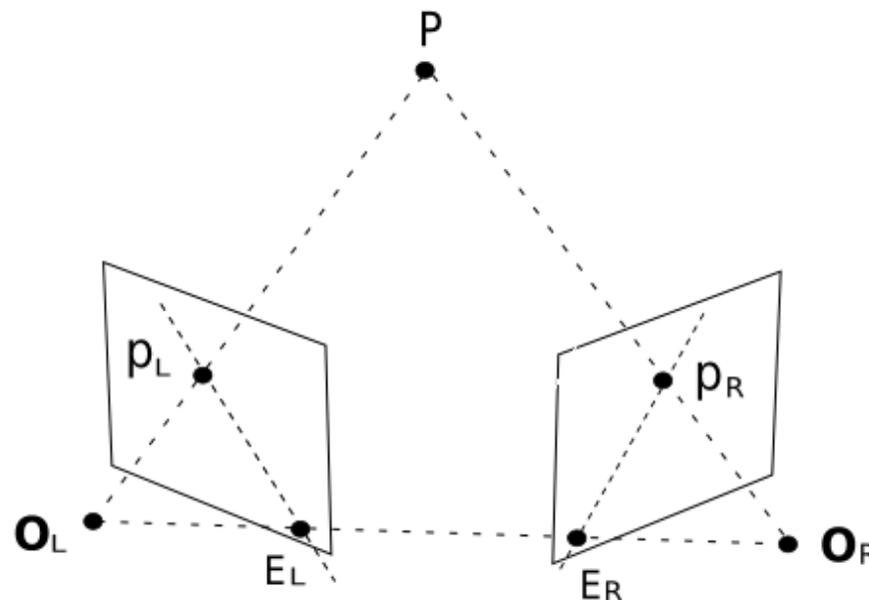
Hough Transform



# Infrared Tracking System Algorithm

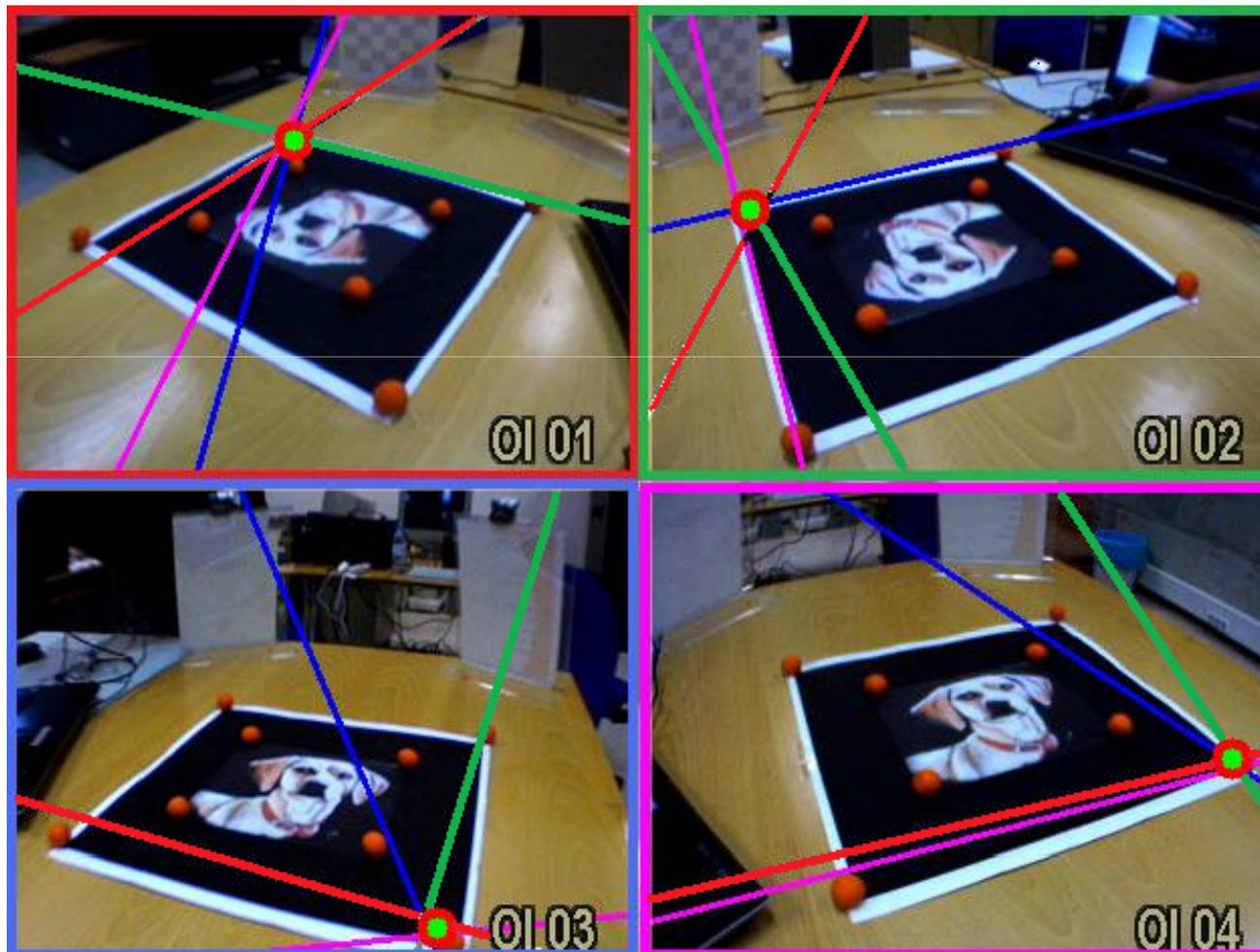
## 3. Multiple View Correlation via Epipolar Geometry (I)

- 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

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

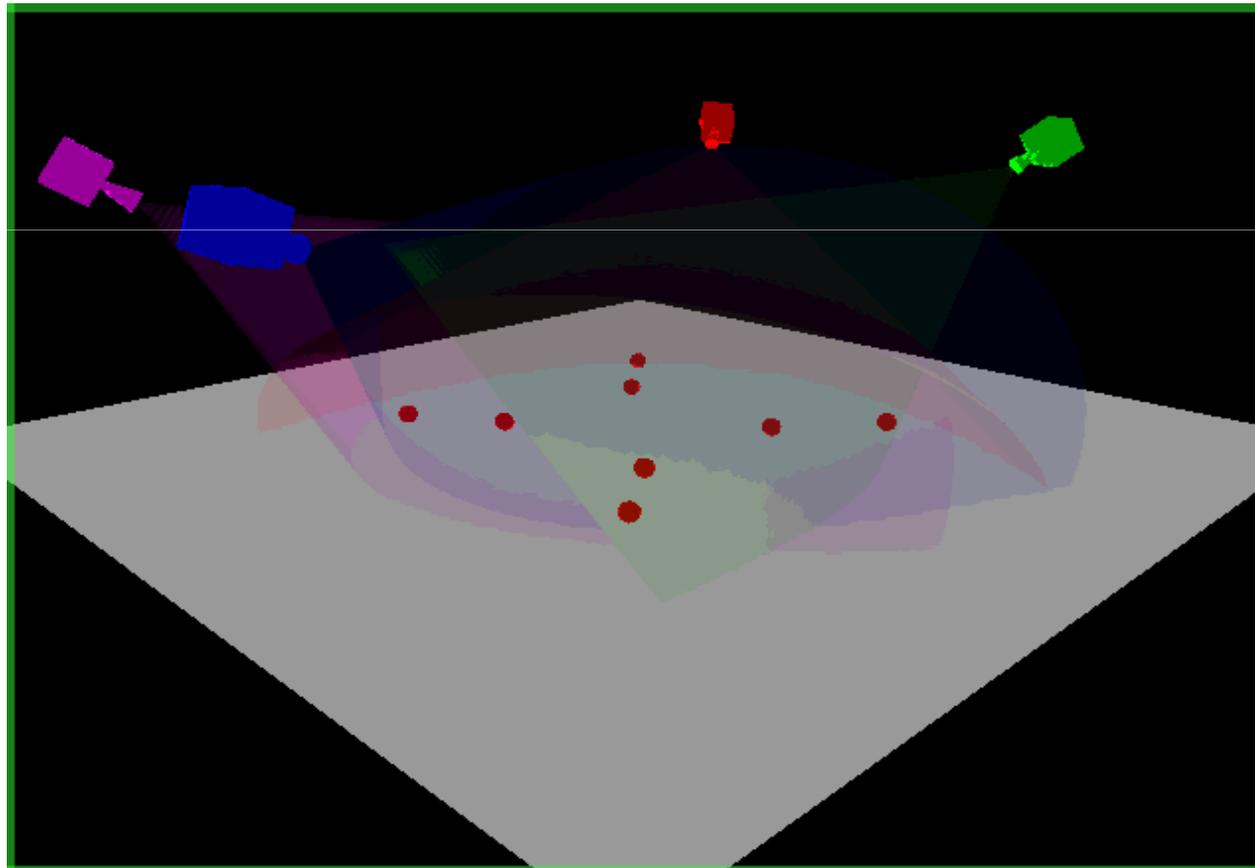
$$K_{int} = \begin{bmatrix} f_x & 0 & c_x & 0 \\ 0 & f_y & c_y & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

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

# Infrared Tracking System Algorithm

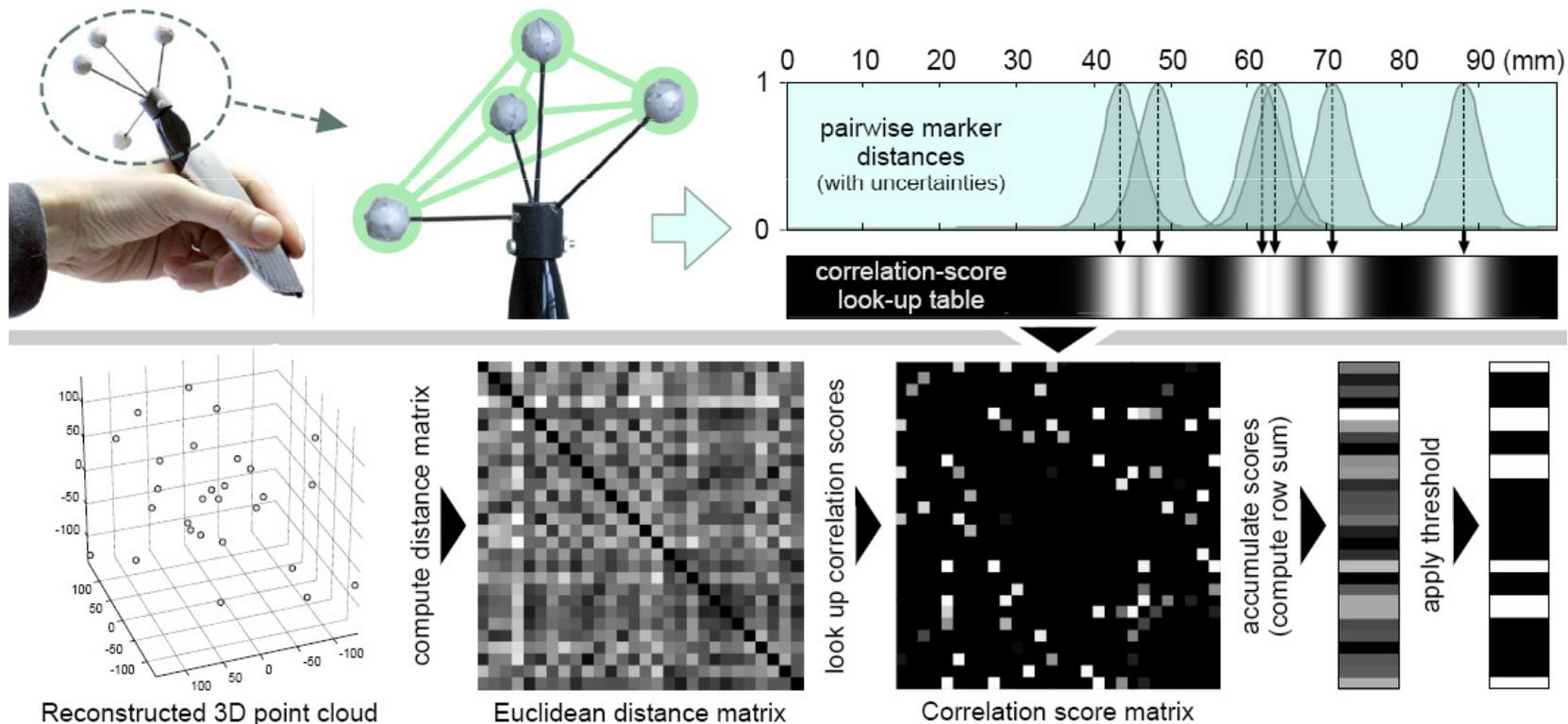
## 4. 3D Metric Reconstruction via Singular Value Decomposition Triangulation (II)



# 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



# 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

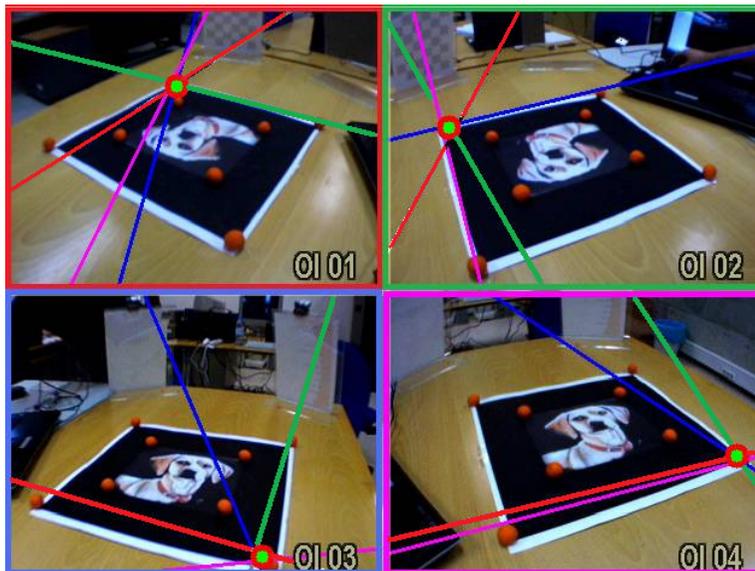
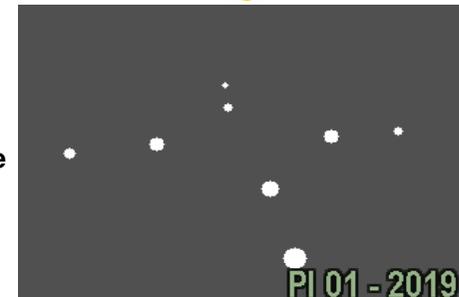
## Synthesis



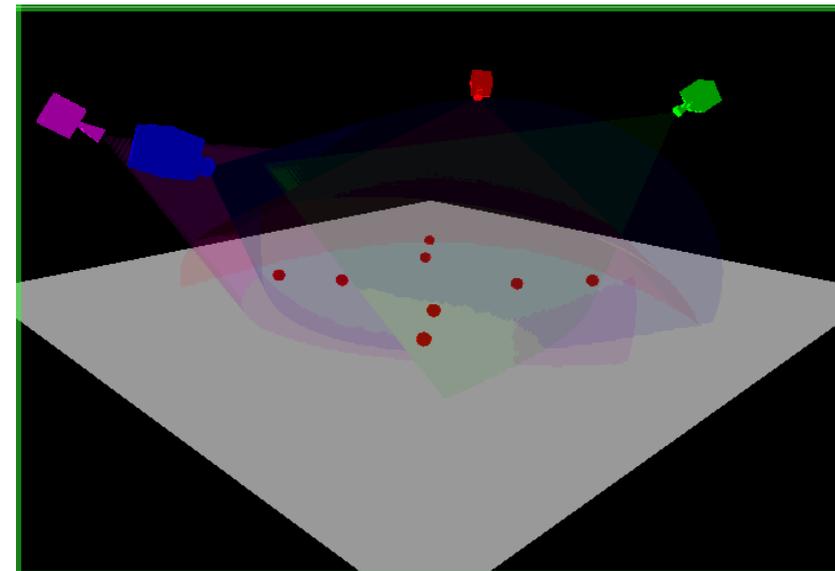
Segmentation



Hough Circle Transform



Multiple View  
Correlation

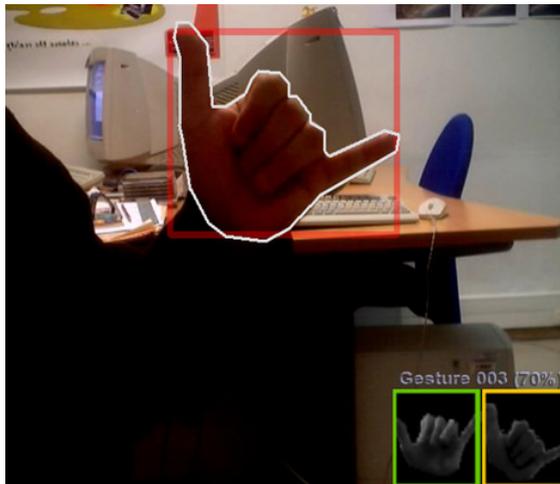


3D Metric  
Reconstruction

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:

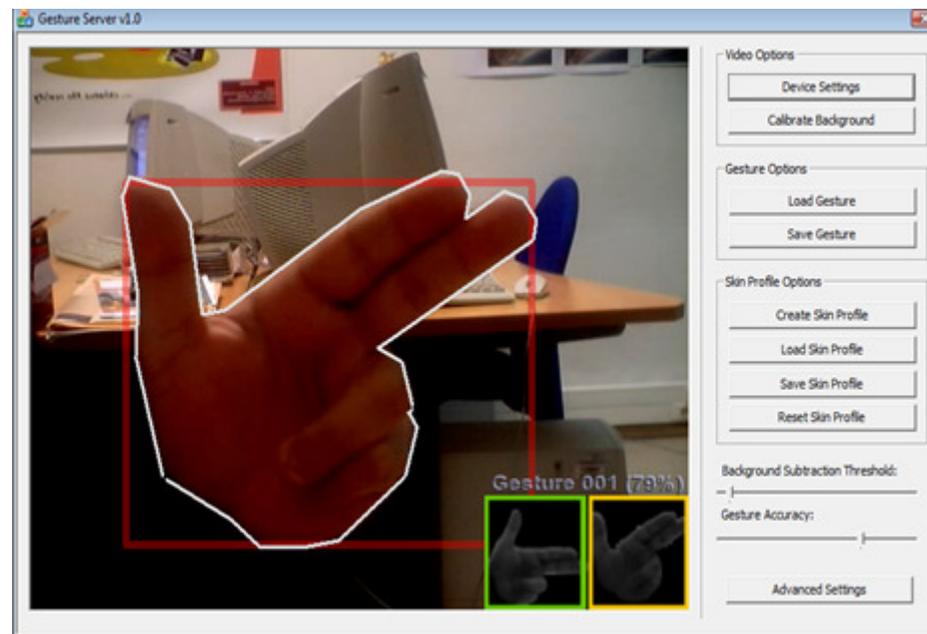
- 2 buttons
- Analog Stick
- 3 DOF + 3 Accelerations



# Multimodal Interfaces

## Gestures:

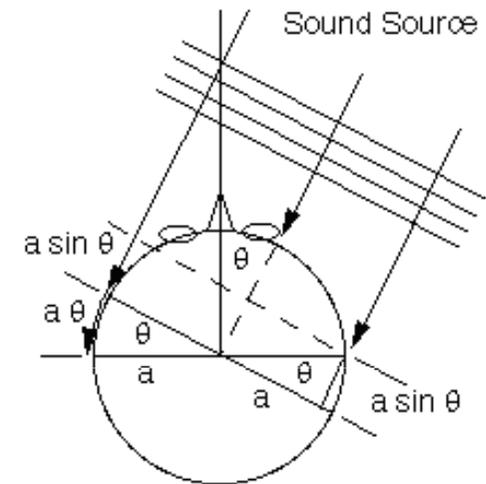
- Can be used to perform simple actions
- Invariant to rotation and scaling
- Based on a networked Gesture Server (client-server)



# 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

# 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



NEC SX-9

- Scalar Processors:
  - Several processors in several dataExamples: SGI, SUN



SGI Onyx 3000

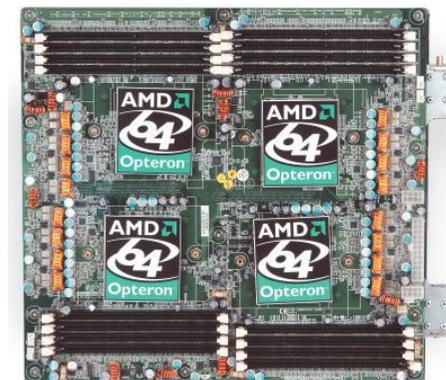
VR2008

# 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



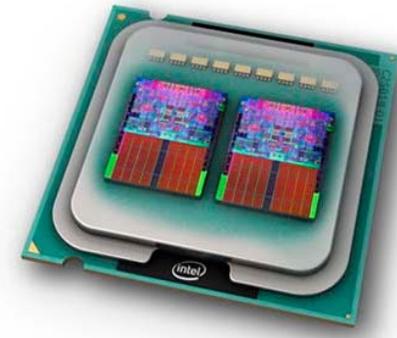
Cluster



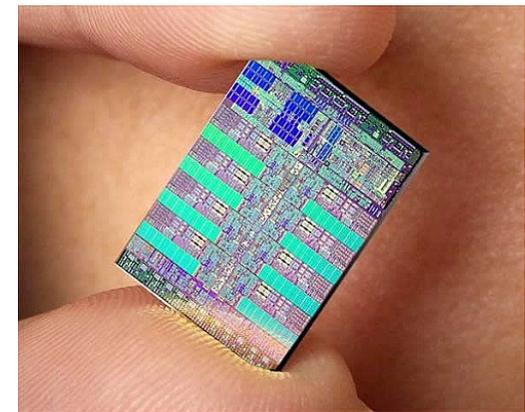
8-way Opteron

# 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

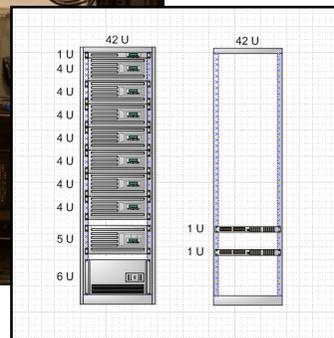
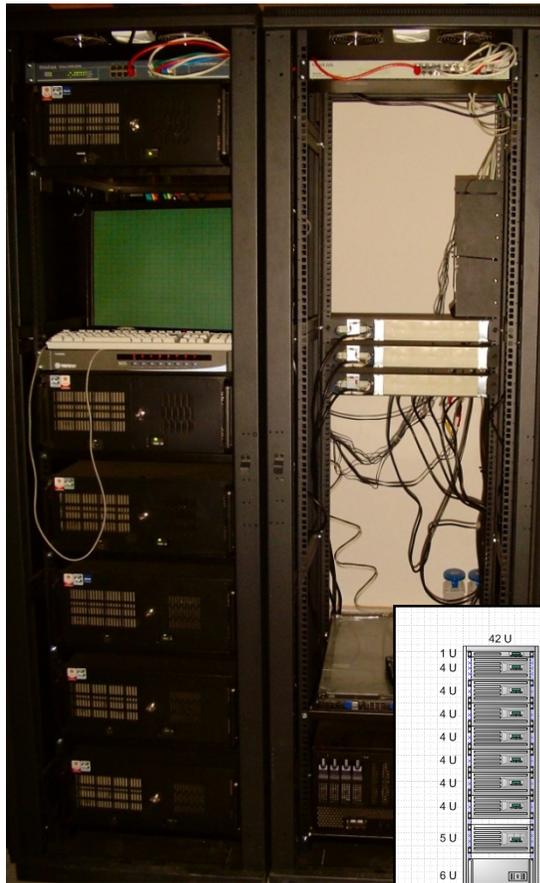
- *Single instruction, single data stream (SISD)*
- *Multiple instruction, single data stream (MISD)*
- *Single instruction, multiple data streams (SIMD)*
- *Multiple instruction, multiple data streams (MIMD)*
  
- *Single Program, multiple data streams (SPMD)*

# PC Clusters

- Low cost, because they are mainly built of commodity components produced for a mass market;
- Modularity that enables to built 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**

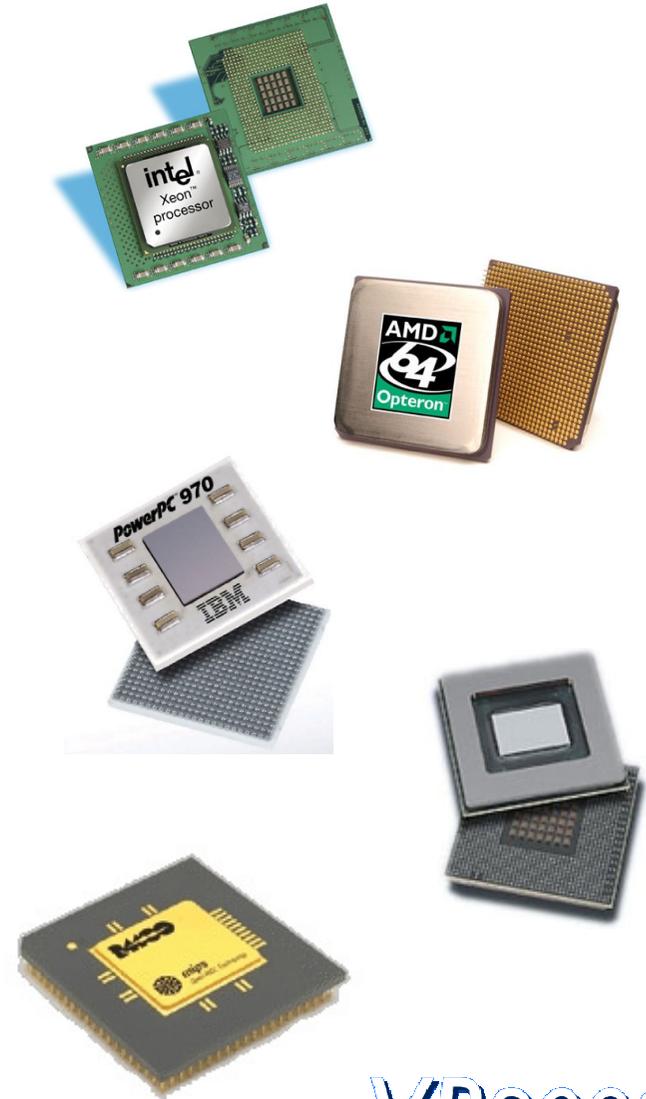


**Shelf**



# Numerical Processing

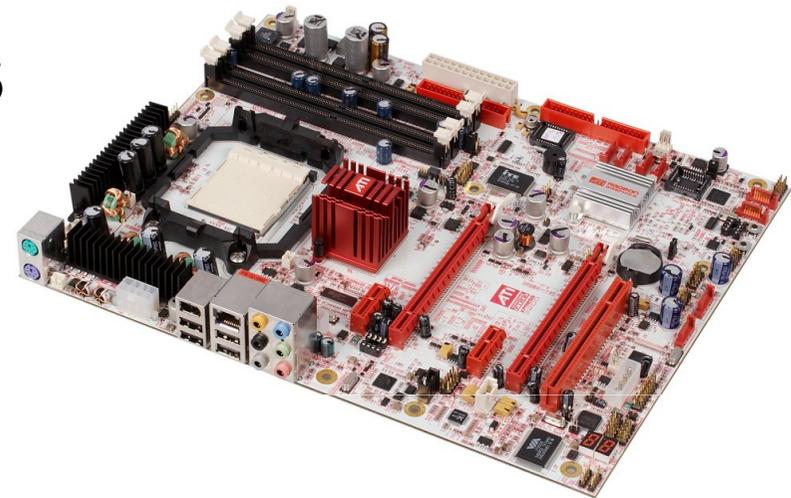
- Intel
- AMD
- PowerPC/Cell
  - Apple-IBM-Motorola
  - IBM-Toshiba-Sony
- MIPS



# 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

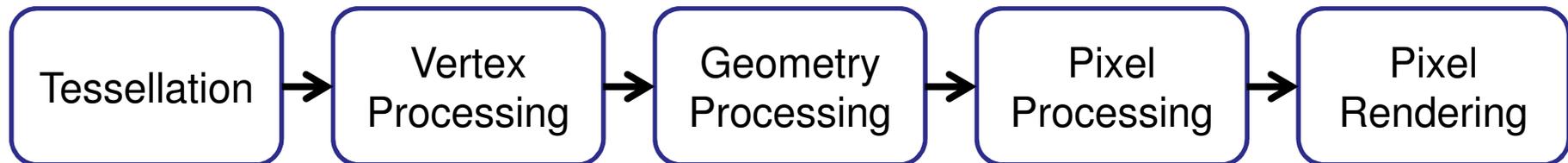
- Graphical parallelism can be achieved by:
  - More modern graphic cards (more *pixel shaders* and *fragment shaders*)
  - Combining graphic cards (SLI ou Crossfire)
  - *Clusters*
  - *Compositing Hardware*

# Techniques

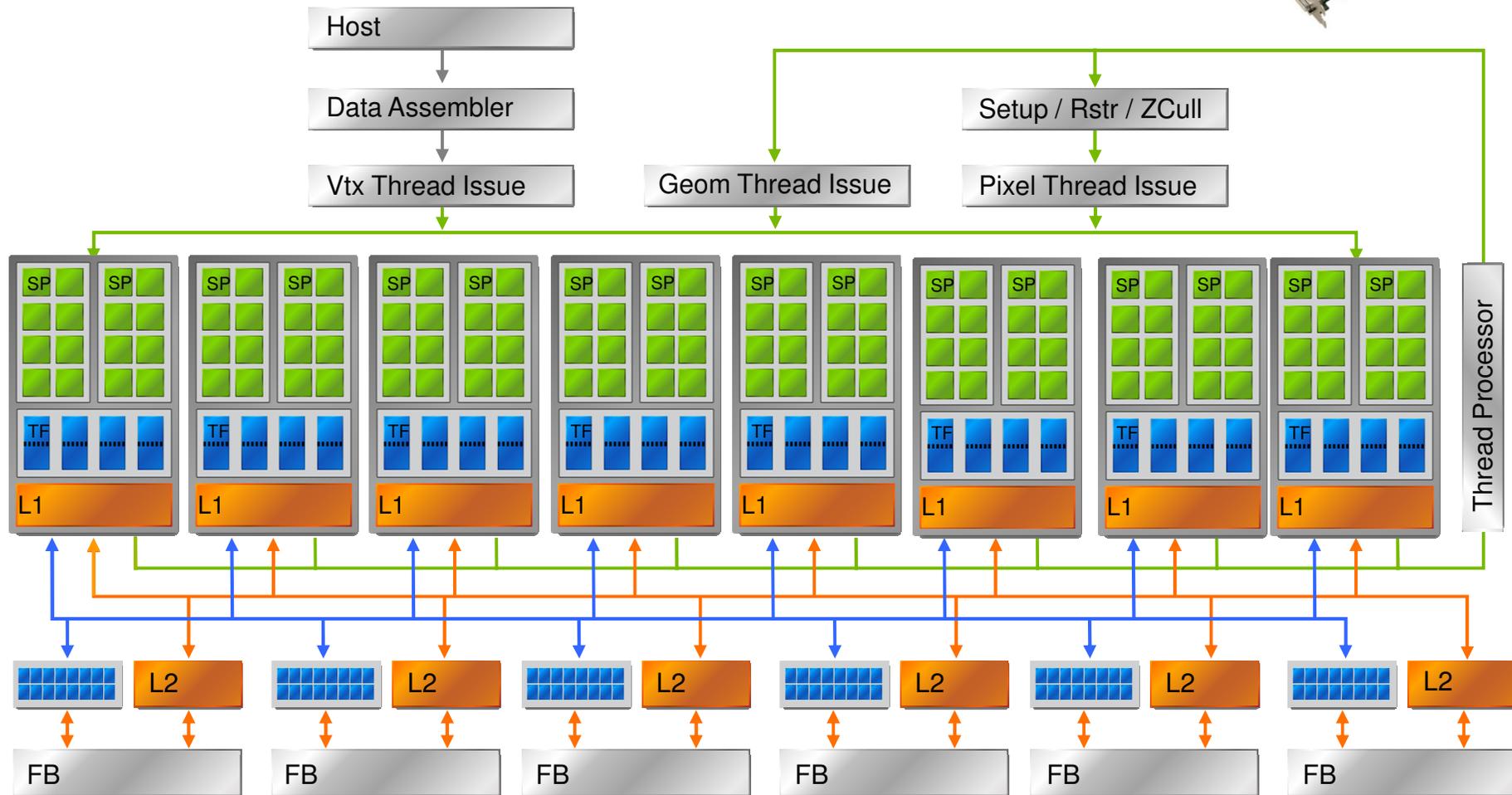
- Sample division
- Time division
- Image division
  - Static partitioning
  - Interleaved
  - Dynamic partitioning
- Eye division
- Scene division
- Volume division
- Operational Decomposition

# Graphic Cards

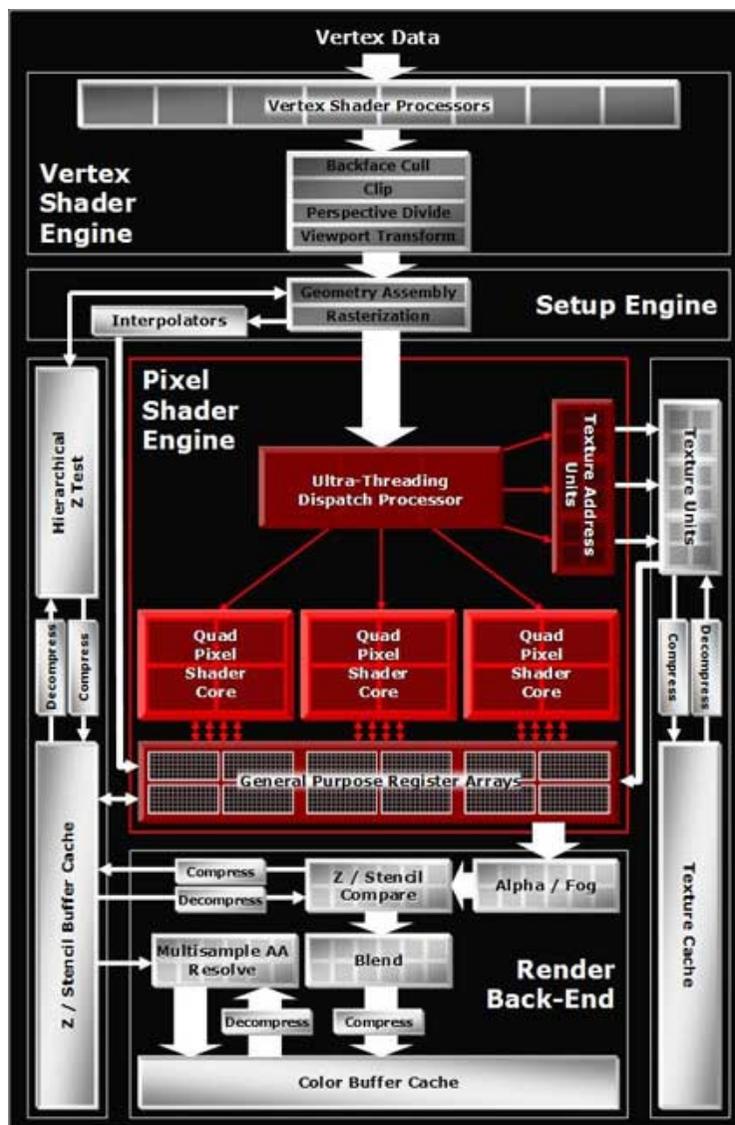
- Implements several graphical *pipelines*:
  - Nvidia (programmable)
  - ATI (programmable)
  - SGI (not programmable)



# Nvidia pipeline model



# ATI / AMD



VR2008

# Graphic Cards Parallelism

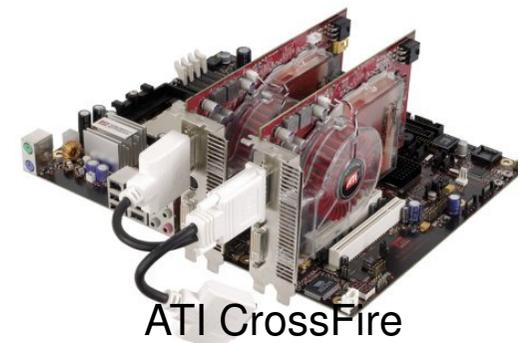
- Voodoo(1996)
  - Each board draws half of the entire screen.
- Split Frame Rendering (SFR)
- Alternative Frame Rendering (AFR)
- Anti-aliasing



Quantum 3D



Nvidia SLI



ATI CrossFire

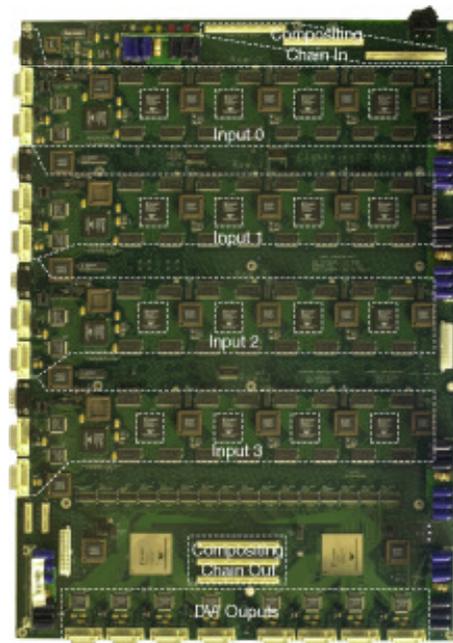
# High Density Multi GPU

- 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

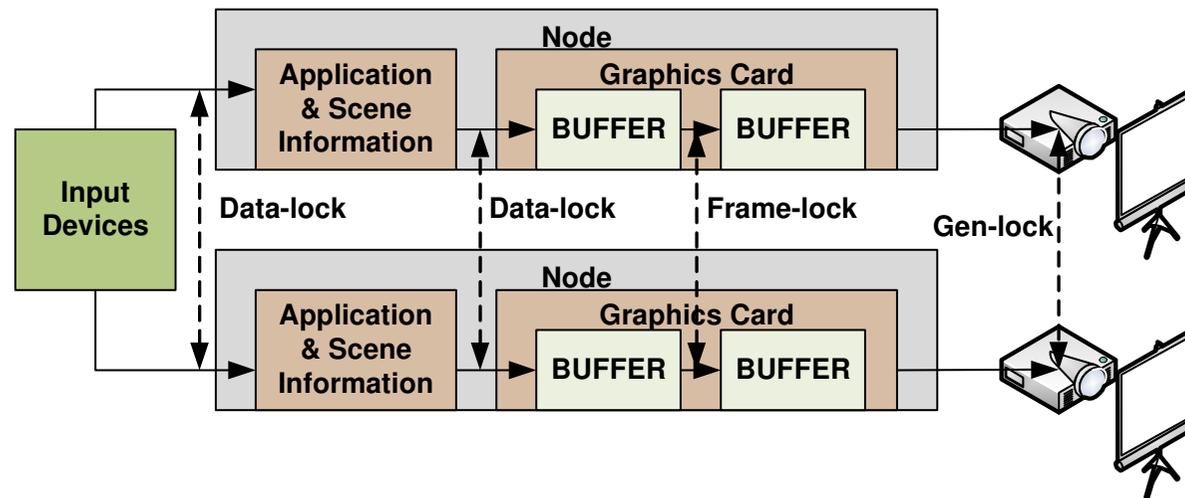
# Display Managers

- 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 Symulation

- 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
					<b>Total</b>	<b>1071,4</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>\$13.256.142,86</b>
					<b>Racks</b>	<b>57,00</b>		
<b>x86-64 CPU with Tesla Acceleration</b>								
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
					<b>Total</b>	<b>119,7</b>	<b>158,46</b>	<b>\$ 1.865.430,00</b>
					<b>Racks</b>	<b>6,00</b>		

# Graphics Data Organization

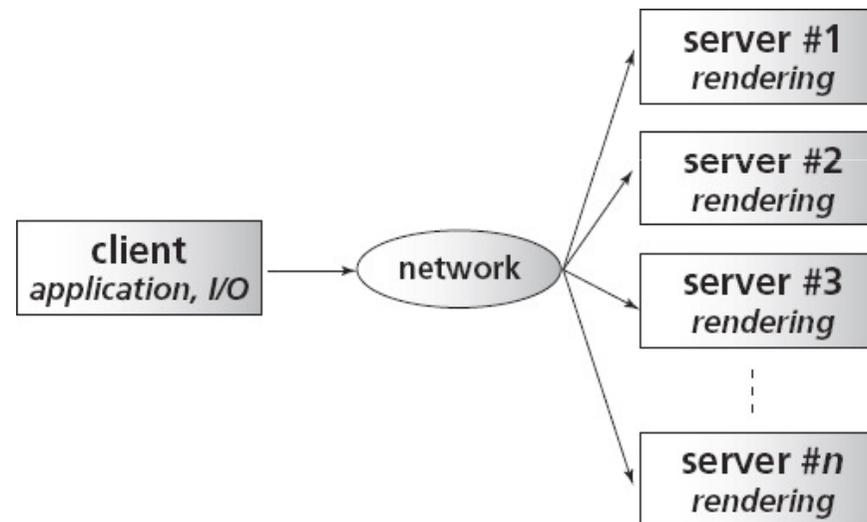
- Scene Graph X3D Example

The screenshot displays a software window titled "C:\tmp>HelloX3dAuthors.x3d (mod)". The main area shows an XML scene graph structure. The root element is an X3D document with a DOCTYPE declaration. The scene graph includes a "Scene" container with several nodes: "WorldInfo" (title: Hello X3D Authors, info: an introductory scene), "Viewpoint" (description: Hello, world, position: 0 0 -8, orientation: 0 1 0 3.14159), "NavigationInfo" (type: "EXAMINE" "ANY"), "Transform" (DEF: EarthCoordinateSystem), "Group" (DEF: MiniWorld), "Shape" (containing "Appearance" with "ImageTexture" url: "earth-topo.png" and a "Sphere"), "TouchSensor" (DEF: Trigger, description: touch globe to start animation), another "Transform" (DEF: SimpleGeoStationarySatellite, translation: 0 0 5, rotation: 1 0 0 .3, scale: 0.1 0.3 0.1), a second "Shape" (containing "Appearance" with "Material" diffuseColor: 0.9 0.1 0.1 and "Text" string: Hello World, FontStyle: size: 3), "TimeSensor" (DEF: OrbitalTimeInterval, cycleInterval: 12.0, loop: true), and several "ROUTE" nodes connecting these elements.

On the right side of the window, there is a 3D preview window showing a black background with the text "Hello World" in a red, stylized font next to a blue and white globe representing Earth.

# Graphics Data Distribution in Multi-Projection Systems

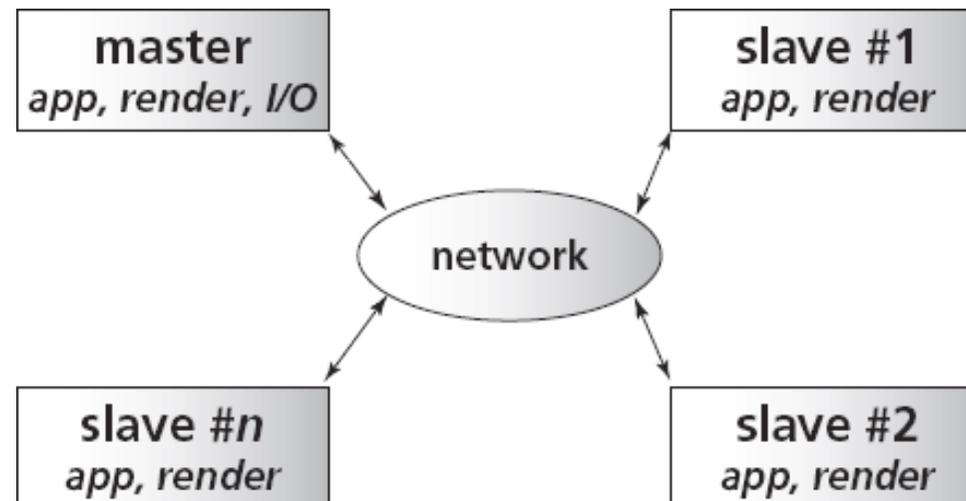
## Client-Server (Centralized)



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*

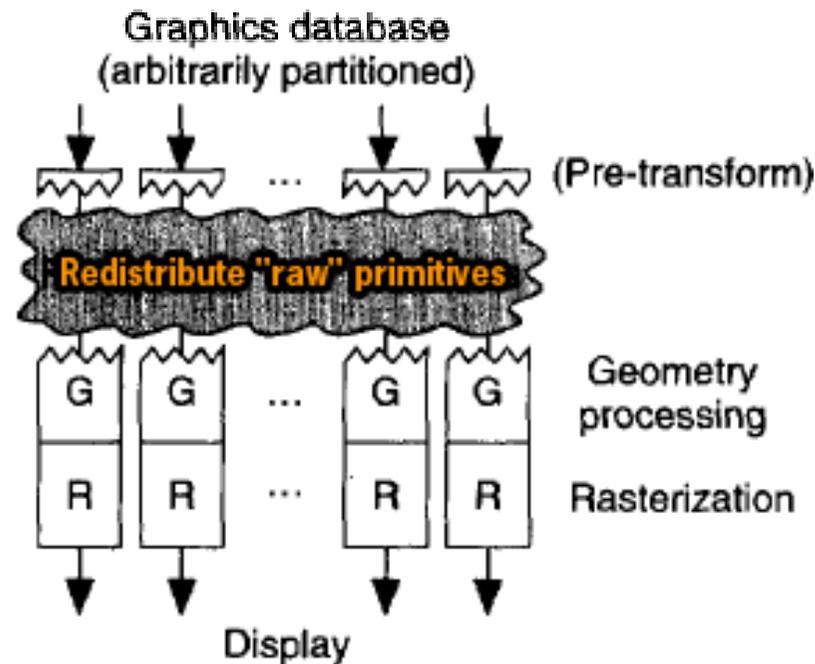
*Sort-Last*

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

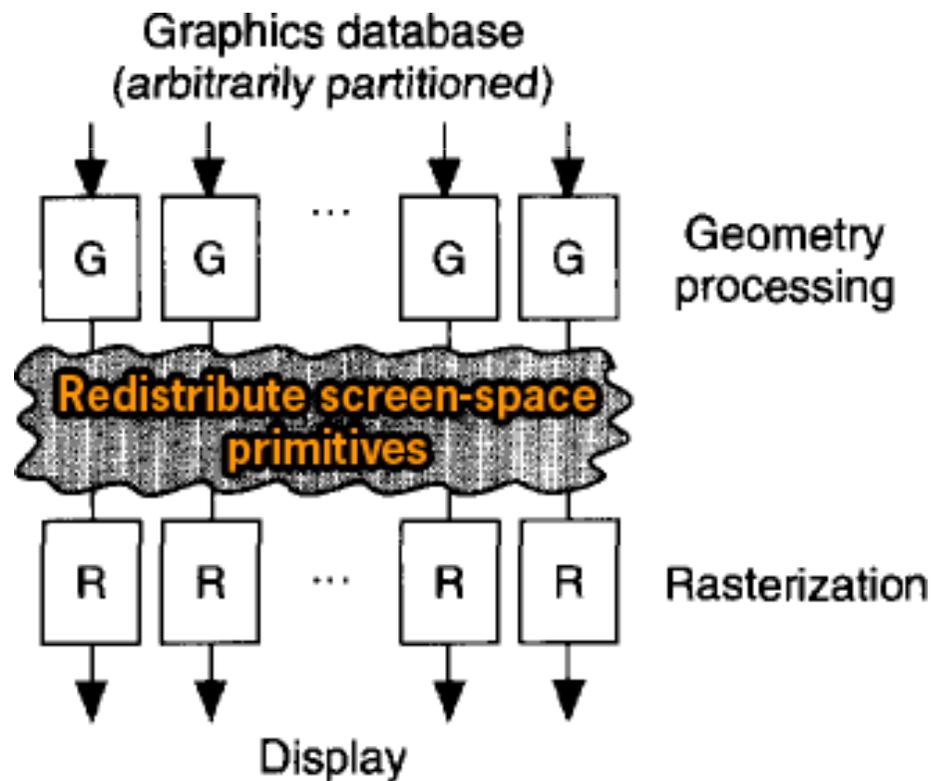
# Sort-First

- 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



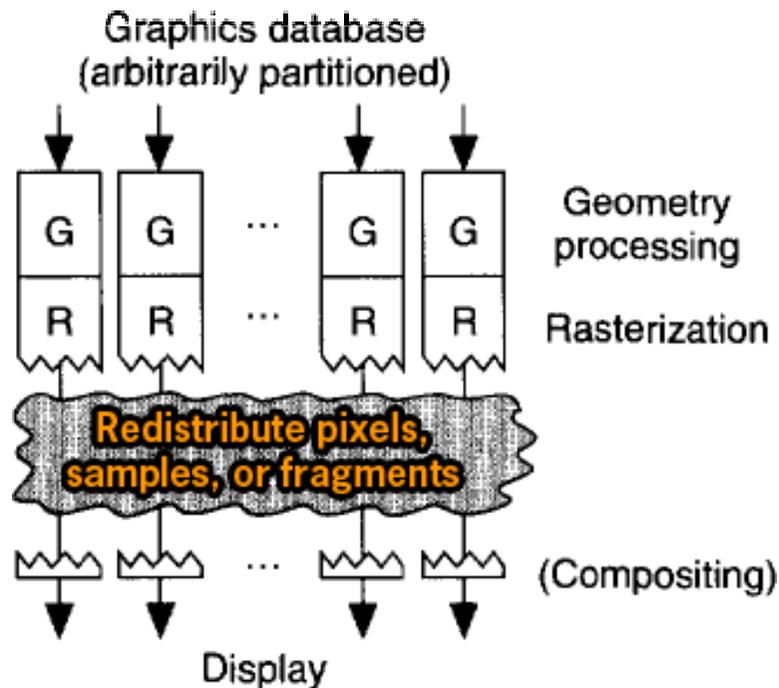
# Sort-Middle

- 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

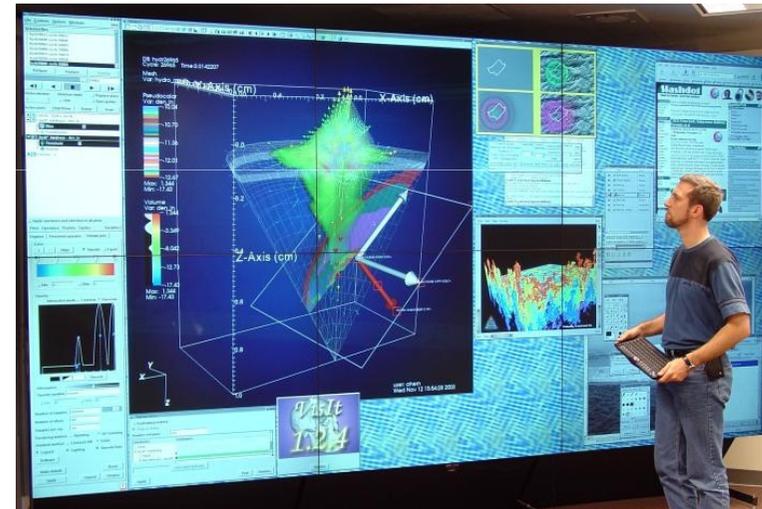


# Available Open Source VR Software for Graphics Data Organization, Distribution and Visualization

- 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/>

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# Syzygy

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

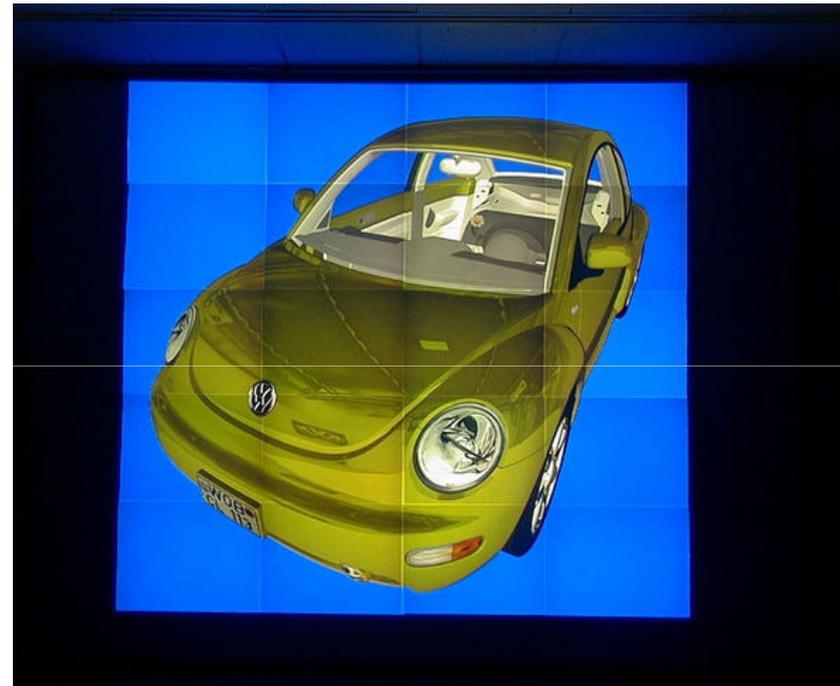


## Source

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

# 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* – Stadt, 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/>



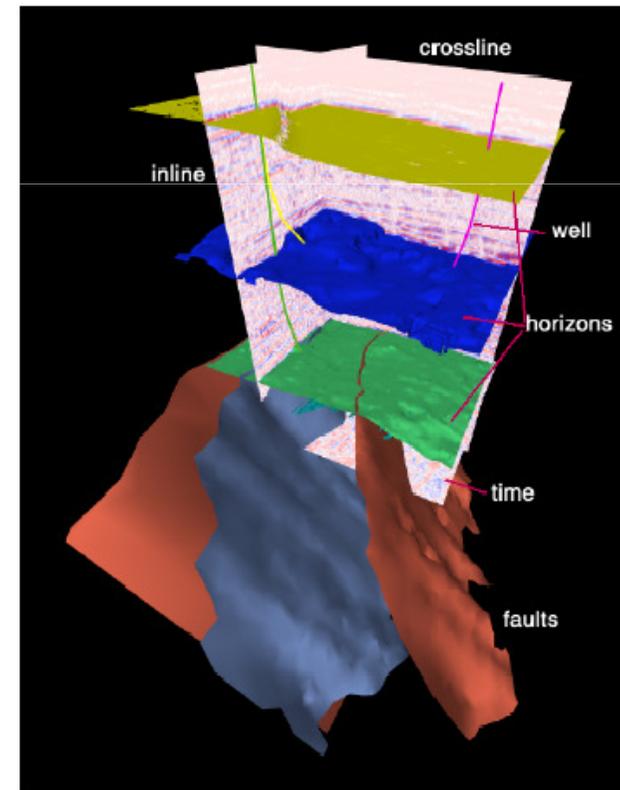
# VRJuggler

- 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](http://www.vrjuggler.org)



# Avango

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

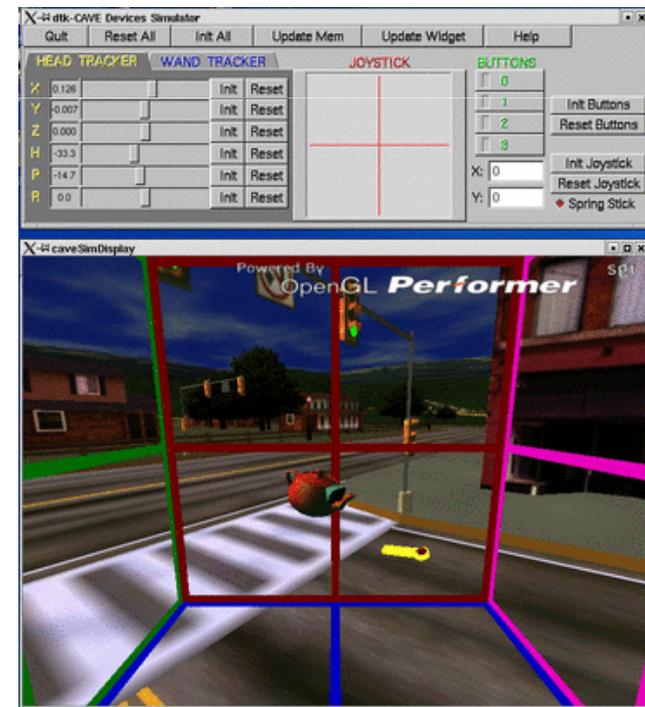


<http://www.avango.org/>

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# Diverse

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

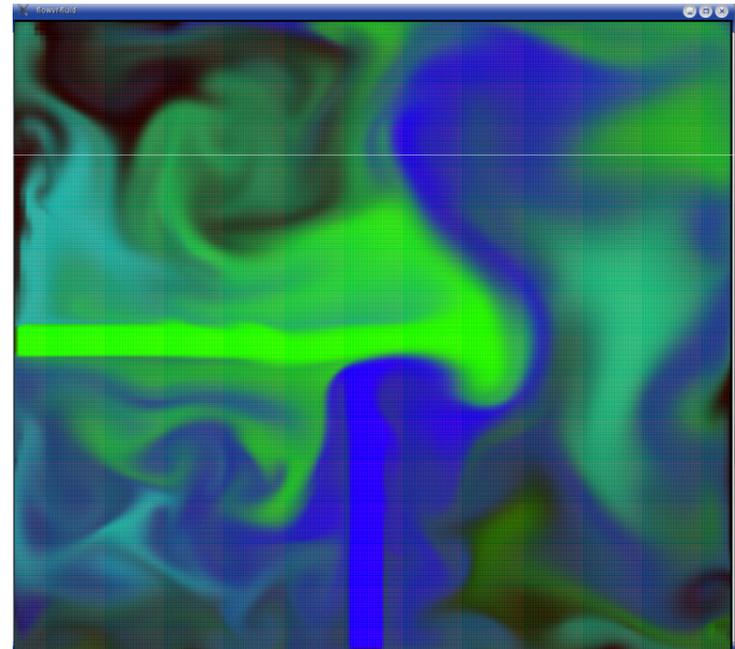


<http://diverse-vr.org/>

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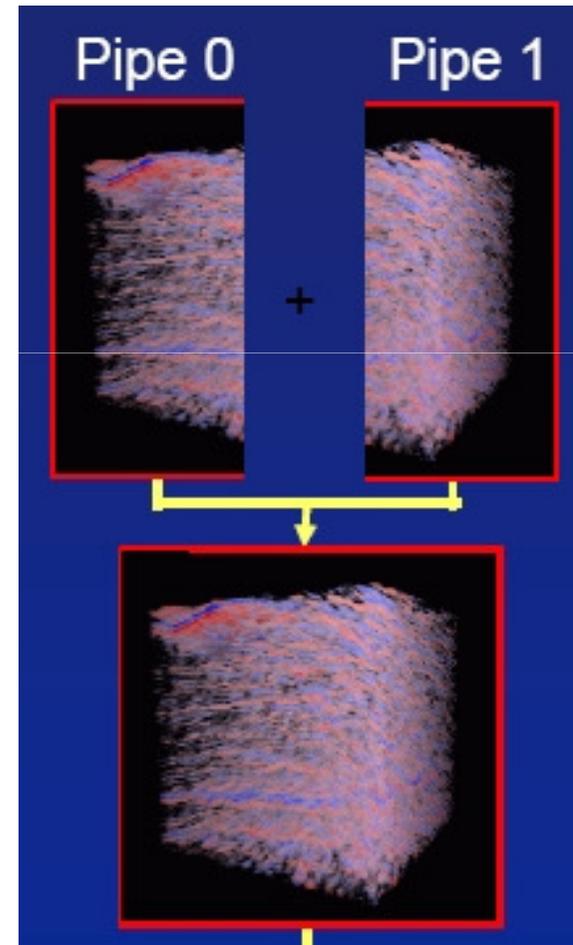
# FlowVR

- 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

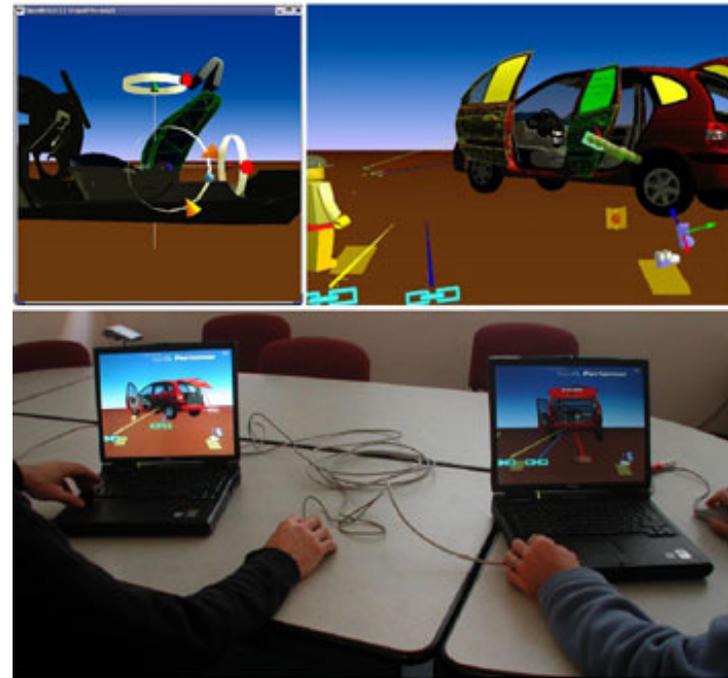


<http://www.sgi.com/products/software/multipipe>

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# 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)

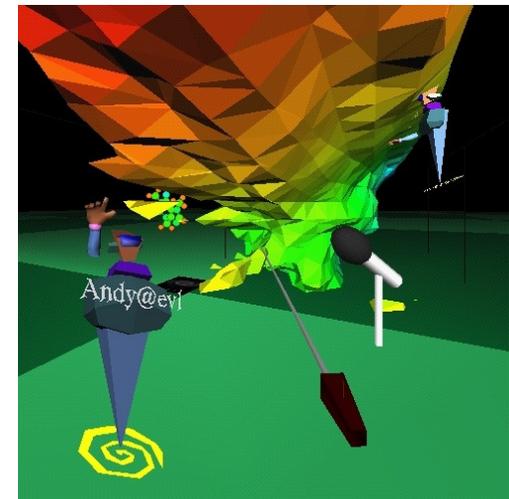


# Commercial Tools

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

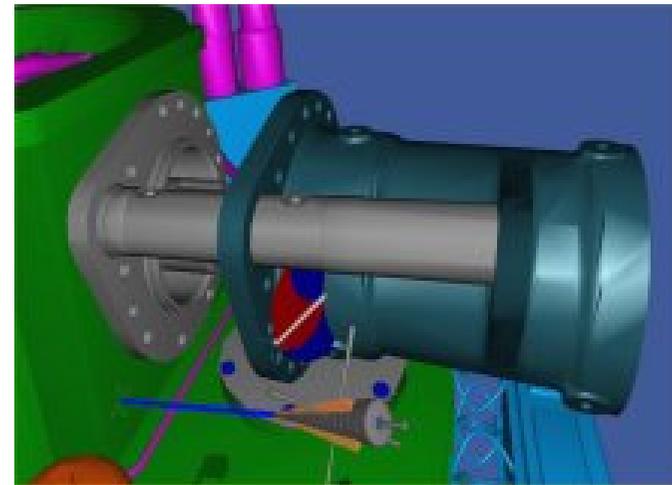
# CaveLib

- 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



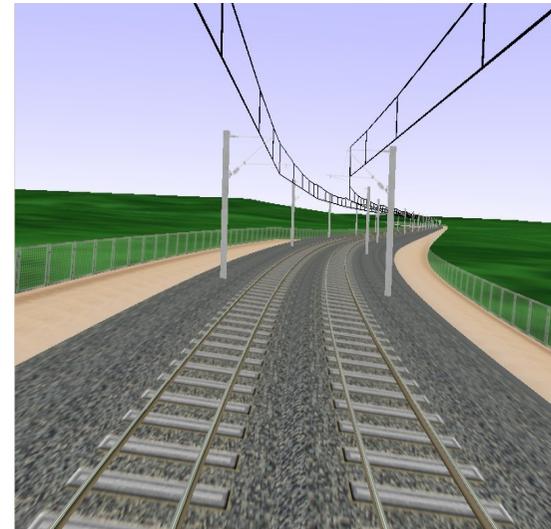
# DeltaGen

- 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/>

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# Basho

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

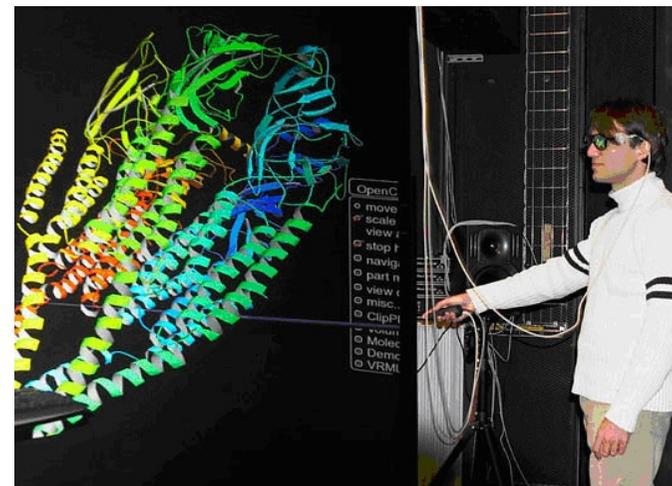


<http://cg.inf.fh-brs.de/basho.php>

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# Covise

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



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

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# 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

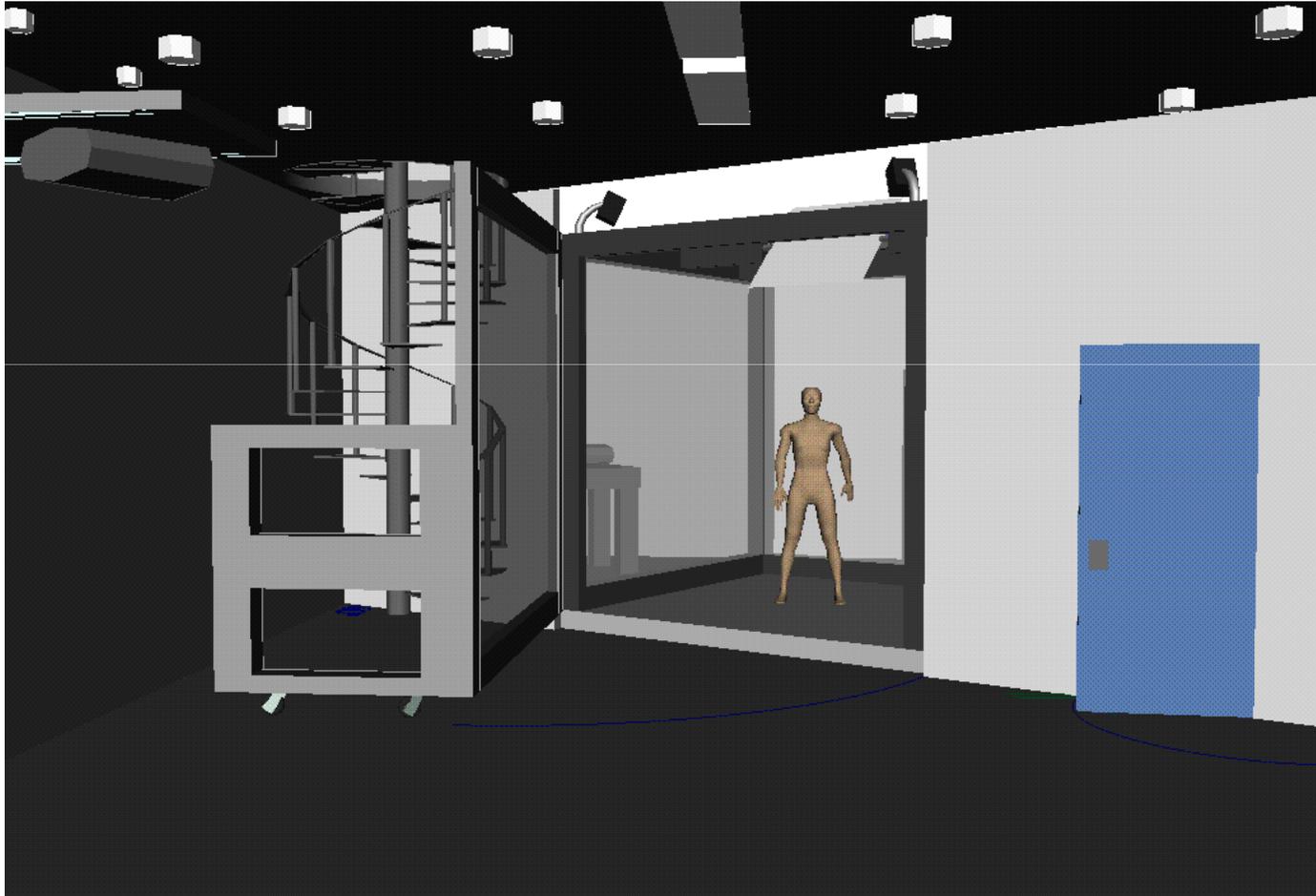
- Caverna Digital at University of São Paulo, Brazil
- Beckman Cube / ALICE at UIUC, USA
- Grimage at INRIA, France
- (CENPES and Others) at Petrobras, Brazil
- Leme at Instituto Superior Técnico, Portugal
- Lousal at Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa, Portugal

# Caverna Digital at University of São Paulo, Brazil

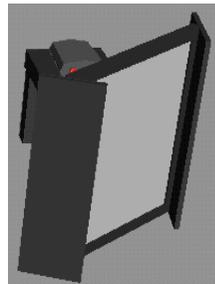
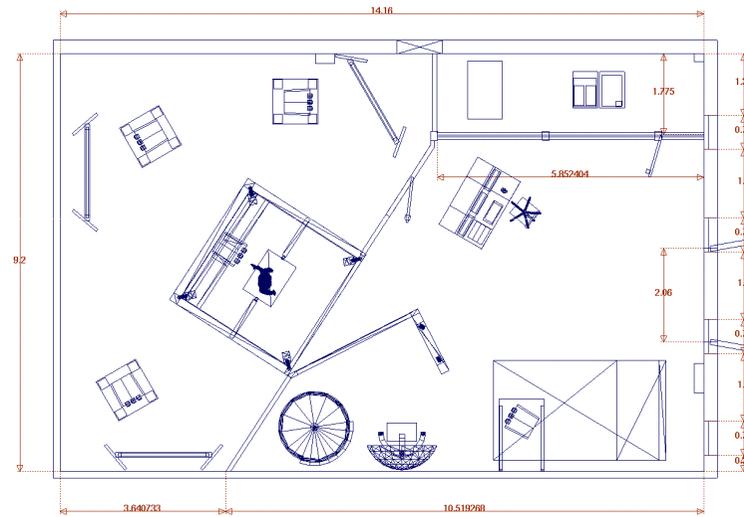
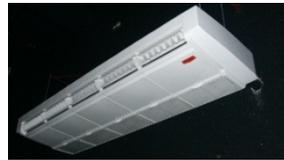
- 5 sided CAVE
- Projectors: 5 CRTs (active stereo)
- Tracking: Electromagnetic
- Installed: 2001



# CAVERNA Digital Virtual Model

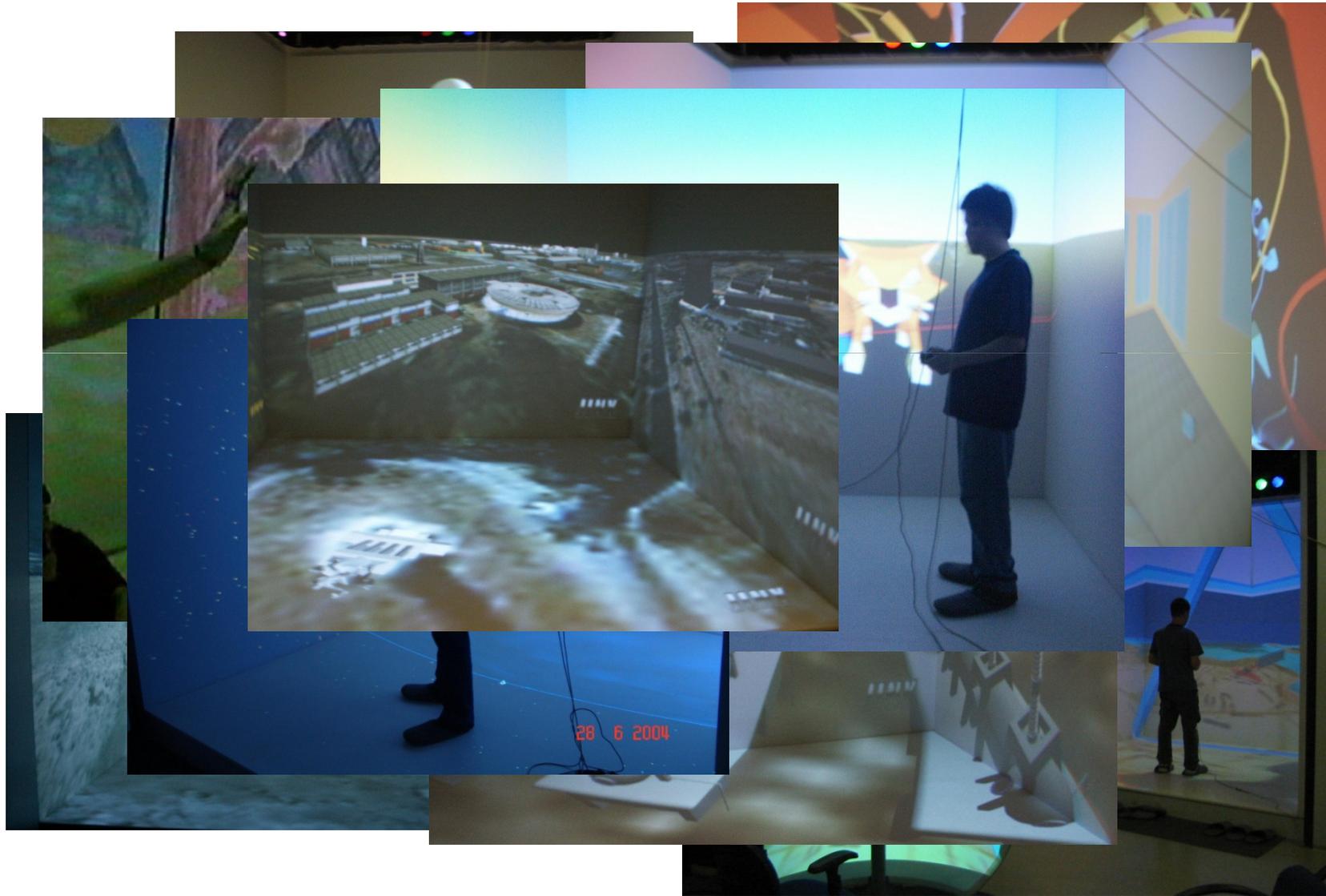


# CAVERNA Digital Physical Project



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# Applications



# Evolution



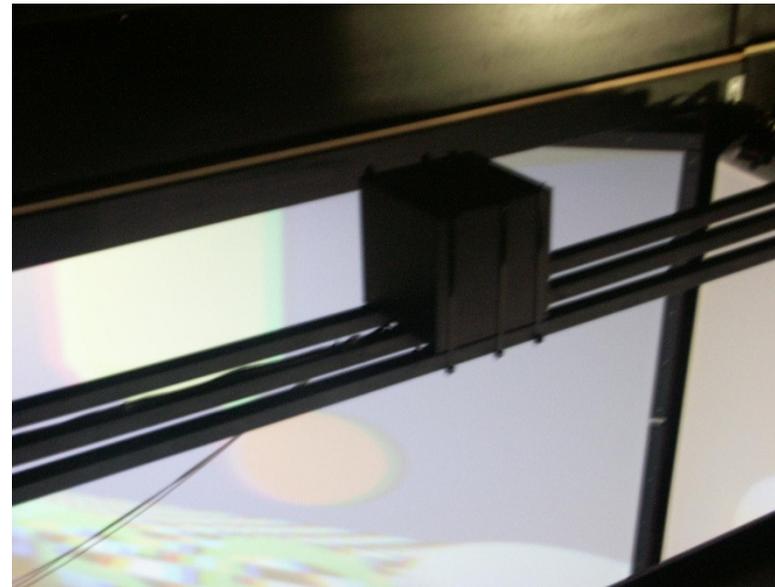
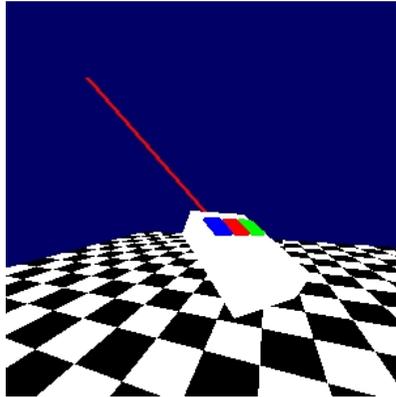
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# JINX

- 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

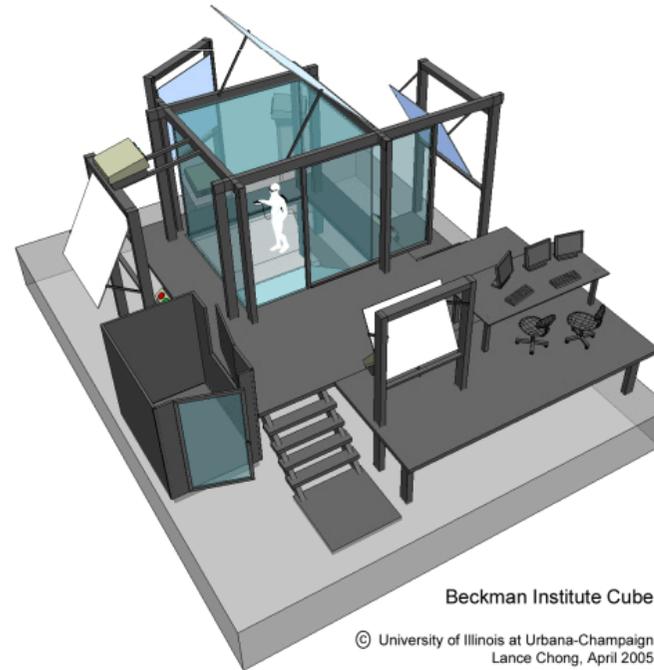
- Electro Magnetic
  - Emitter in the ceiling
  - Around 3m coverage
  - Device with buttons



# Beckman Cube / ALICE

## Integrated Systems Laboratory/UIUC,USA

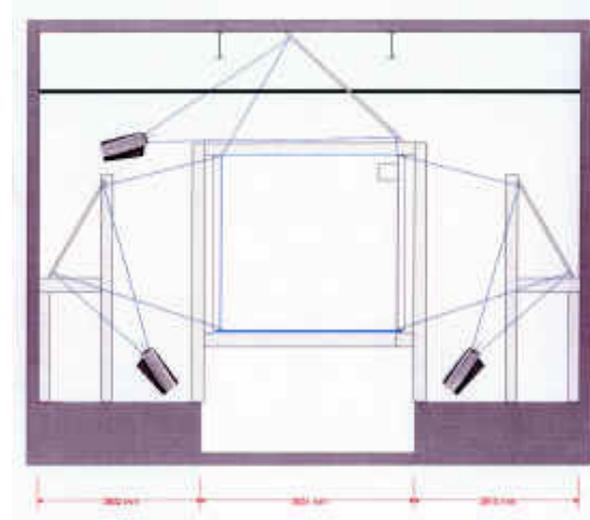
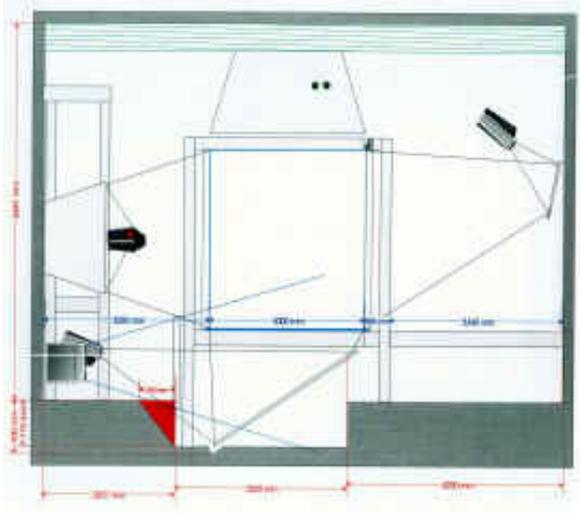
- 6 sided CAVE
- Projectors: 6 CRTs (active stereo)
- Tracking: Electromagnetic wireless
- Installed: 2001



Beckman Institute Cube

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

# Beckman Cube

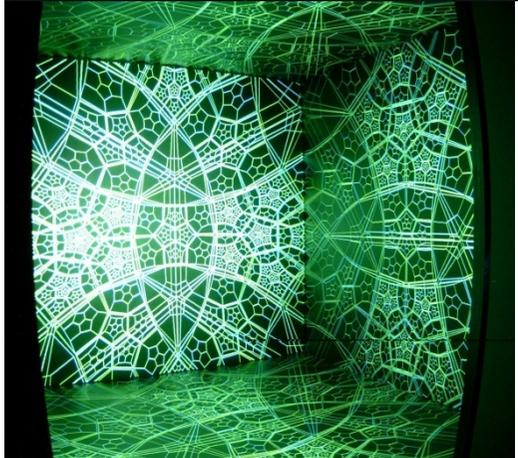
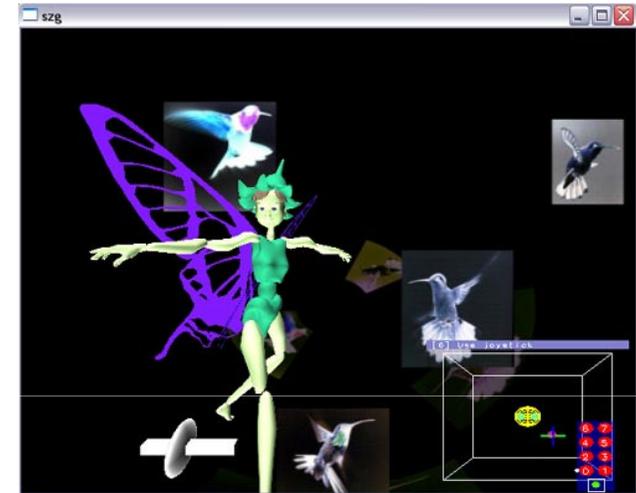
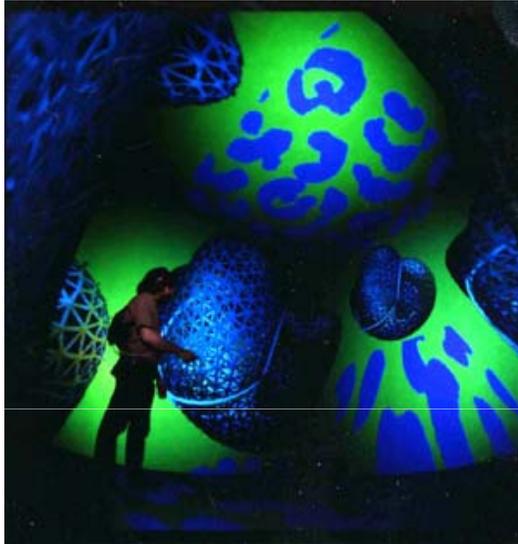


# Beckman Cube



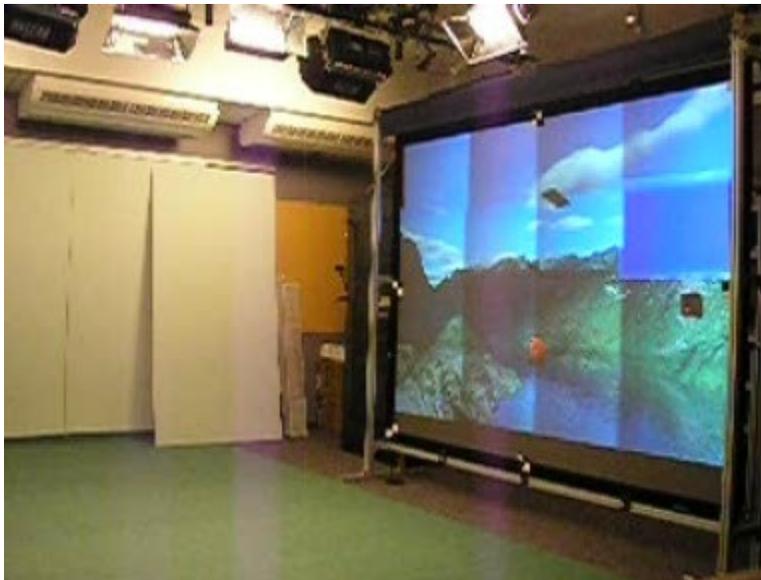
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# Syzygy



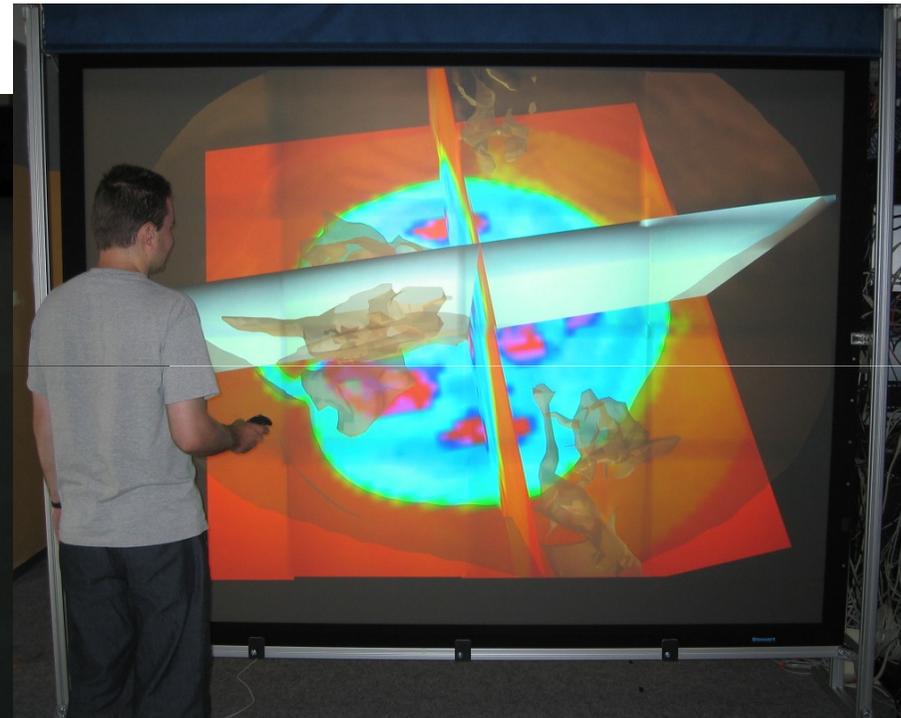
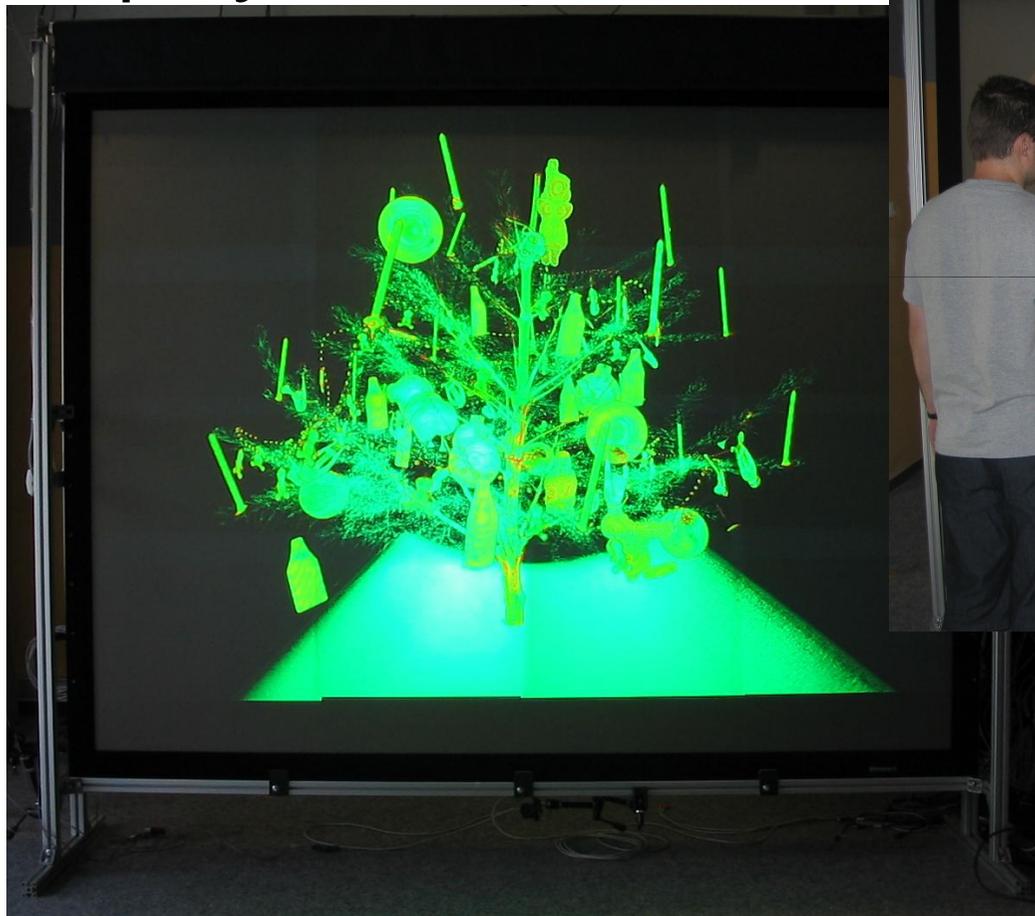
# Grimage / INRIA Grenoble - France

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



# VTK/ FlowVR / FlowVR Render

Mplayer video



VTK flowvr

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# Tecgraf – PUC-Rio

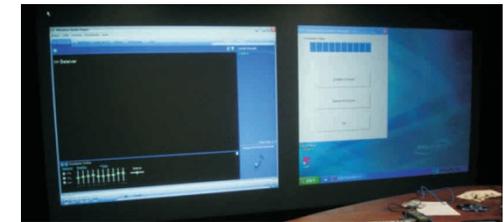
## Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

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



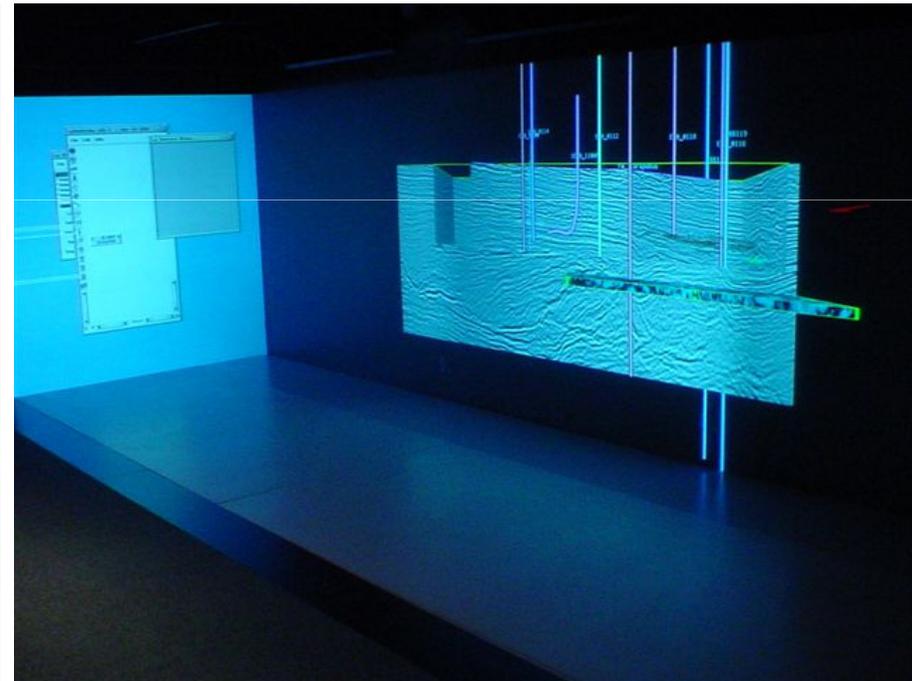
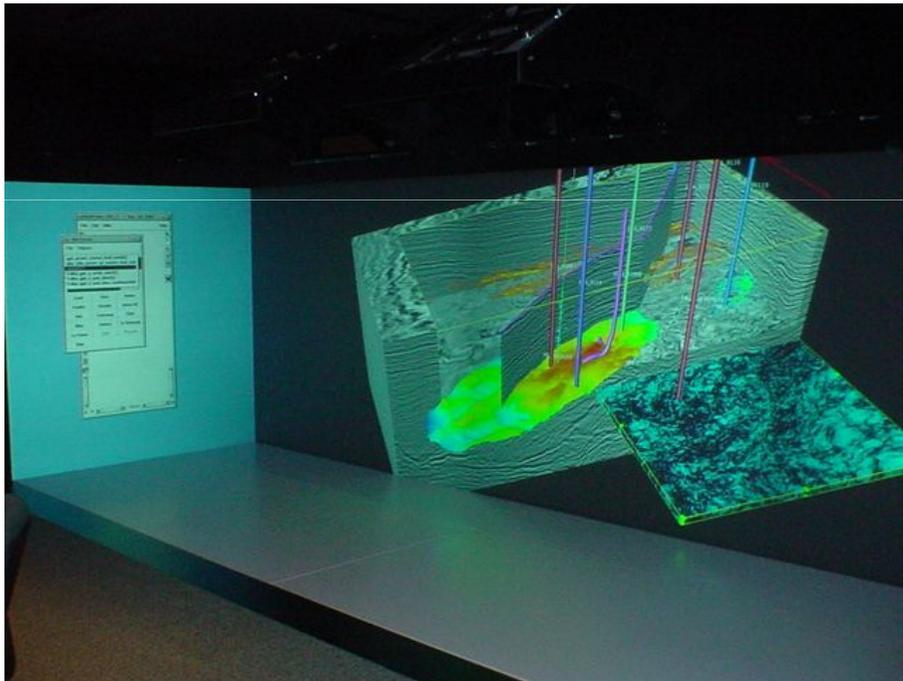
# Petrobras

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



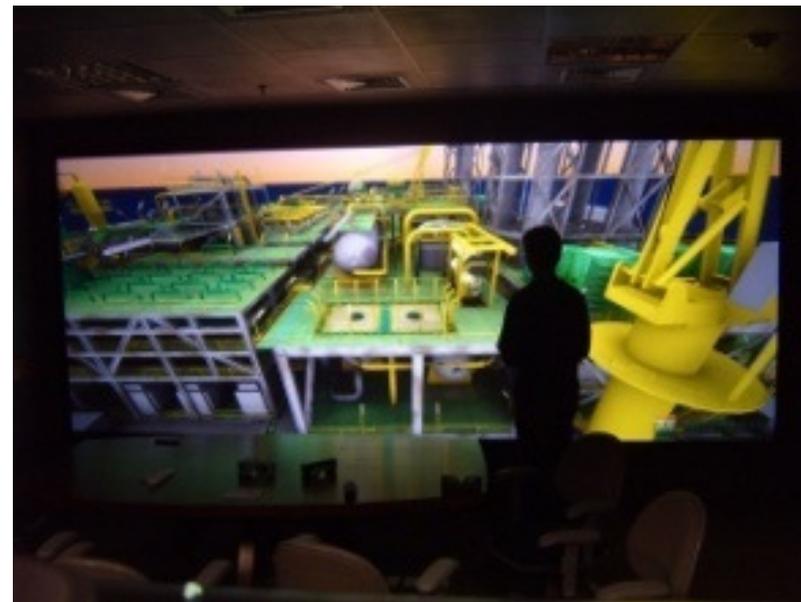
# Petrobras cont.

- EDISE (HollowSpace)



# CENPES / MC

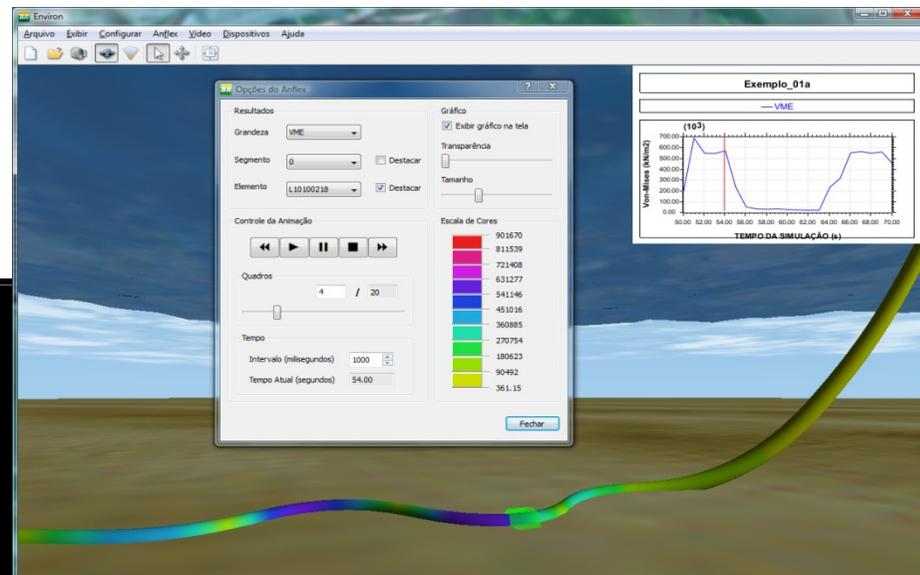
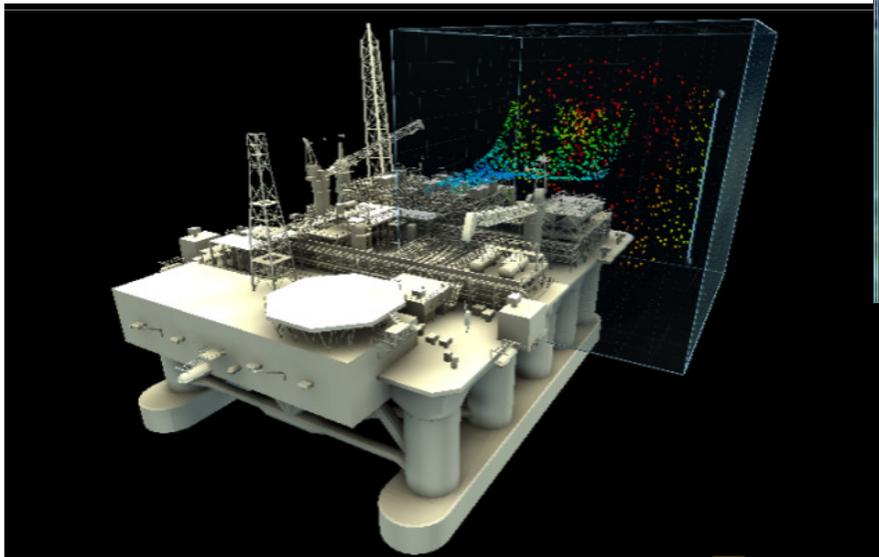
- PowerWall
- Projectors: 2 DLPs (active stereo)
- Tracking: Optical
- Installed: 2006 (Original CRT installation 2001)





# Environ

- Massive Models Visualization
- Simulations
- Effects



# LEMeWall at Instituto Superior Técnico, Portugal

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

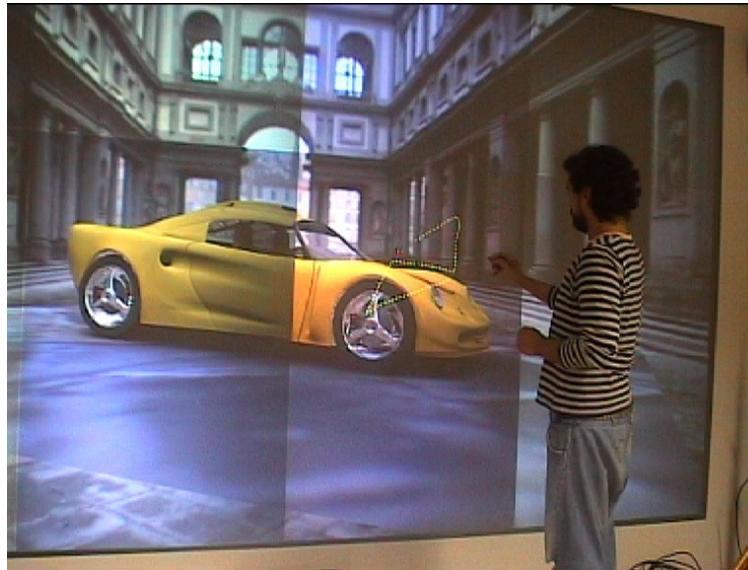


# *LEMeWall*

- *Instituto Superior Tecnico* , Technical University of Lisbon
- TagusPark Campus
- LEMe: Laboratory for Excellence in Mobile and Ubiquitous 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

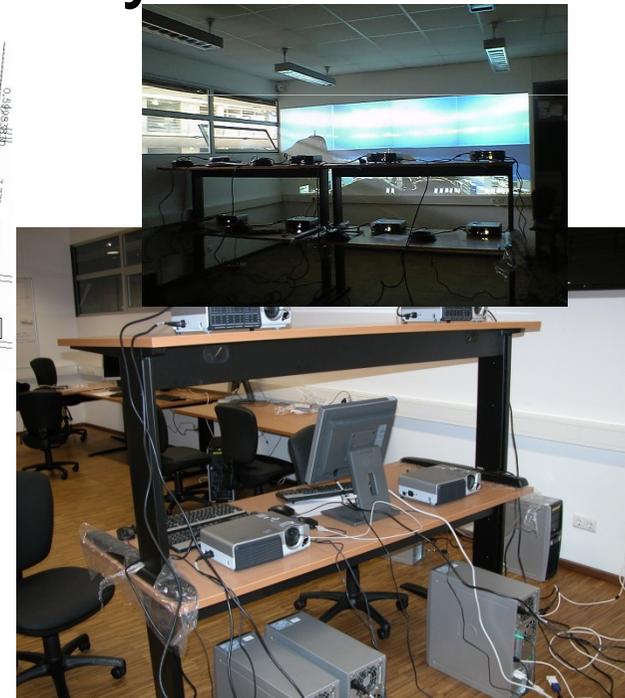
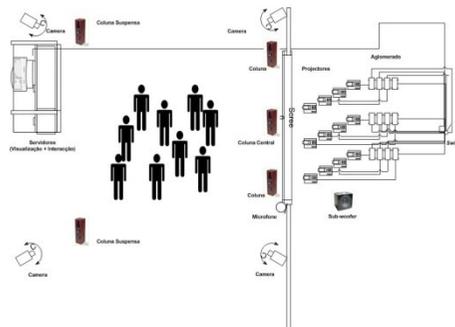
- **Cluster 12 Workstation HP xw4100**
  - Pentium 4 (800 FSB) 3.00GHz
  - 2 GB RAM (PC3200)
  - NVIDIA Quadro FX3000 (AGP 8x)
- **Cluster Server Workstation HP xw8000**
  - Pentium 4 Xeon 3.06 GHz
  - 4 GB RAM
  - NVIDIA Quadro FX3000 (AGP 8x)
- **12 Projectors HP VP6120**
  - DLP
  - 2000 Lumens
  - 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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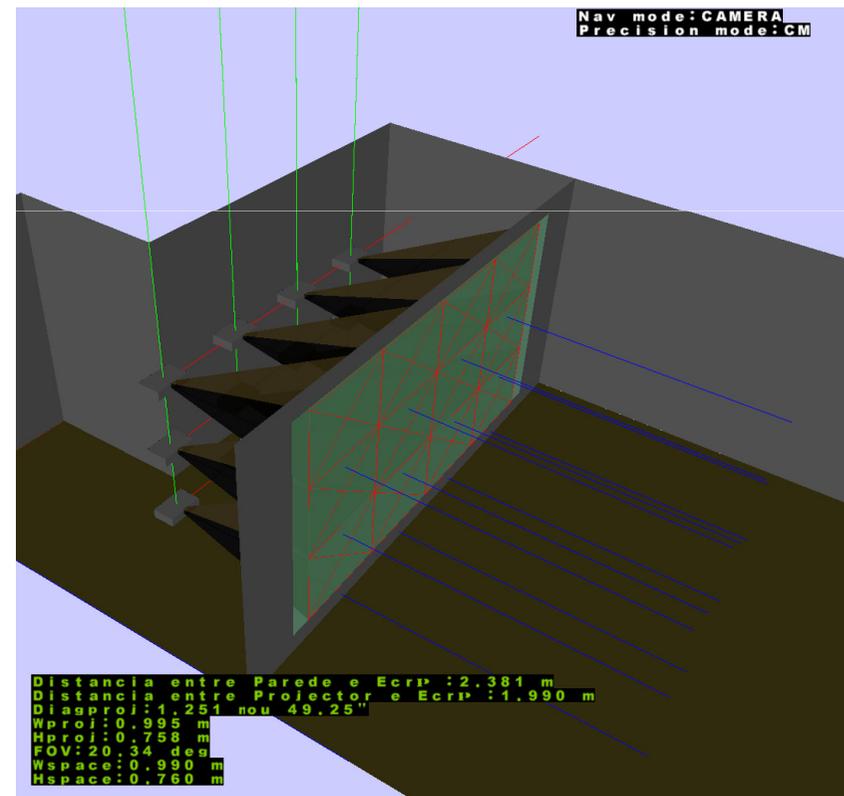
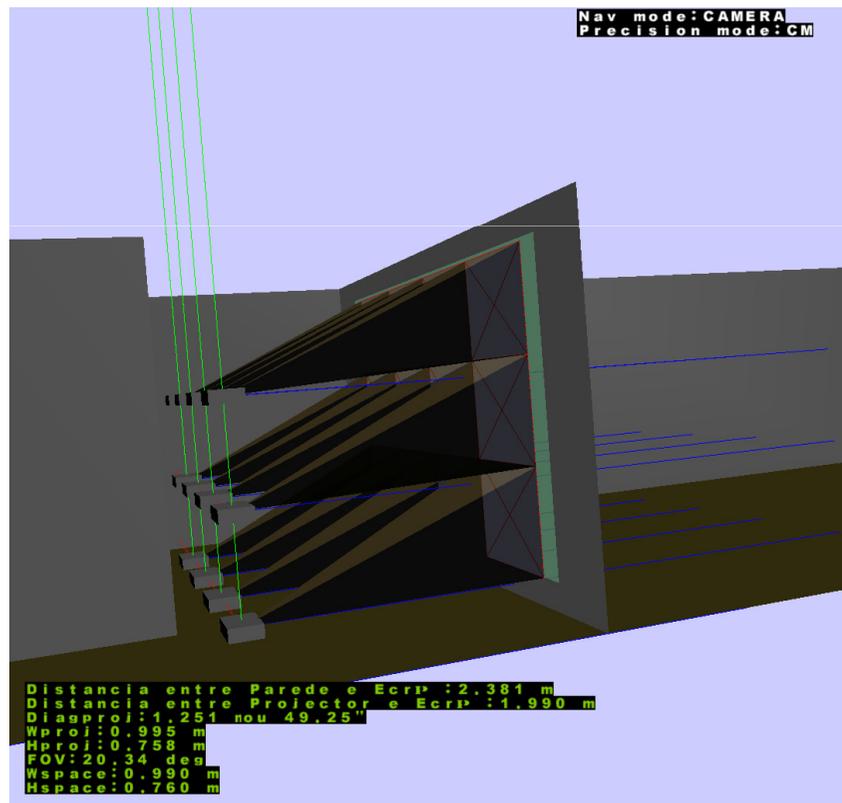
# Starting Point

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



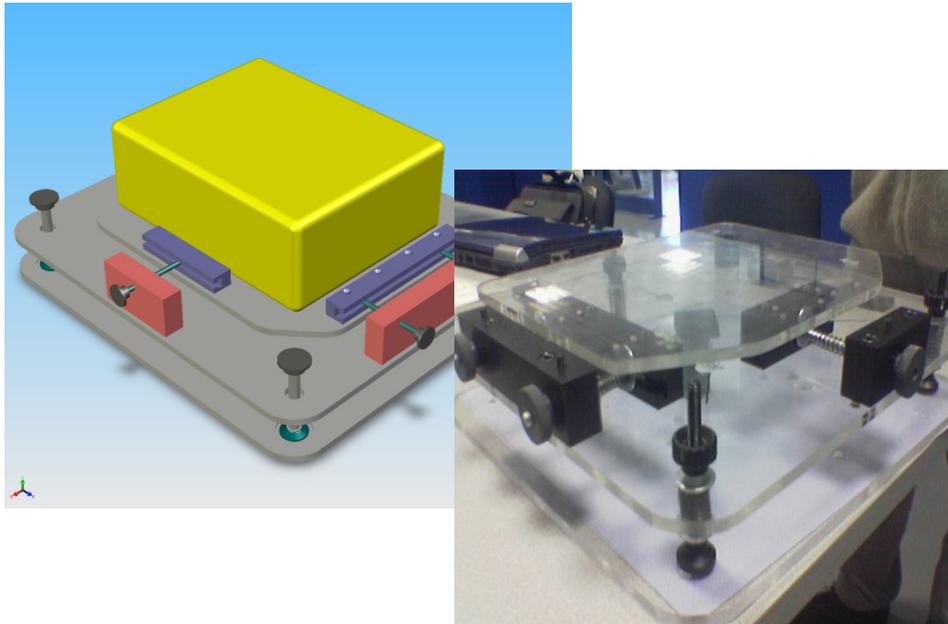
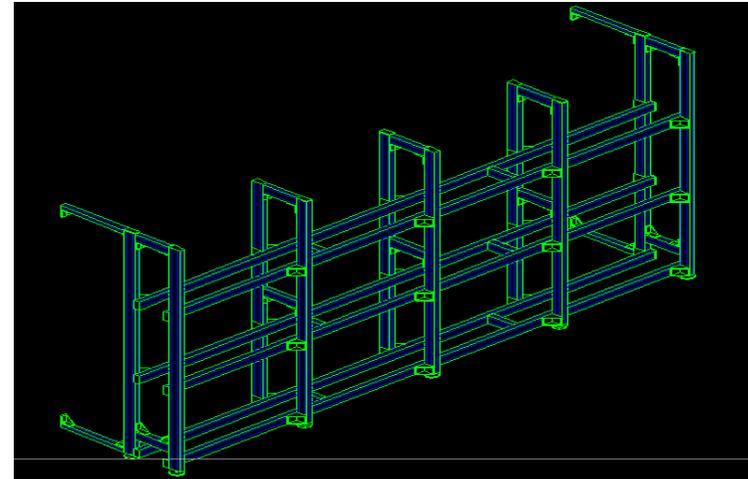
# LEMeWall Simulator

- Projector and Array
- Screen and Wall Distance Computation



# *Projector Array and Mounts*

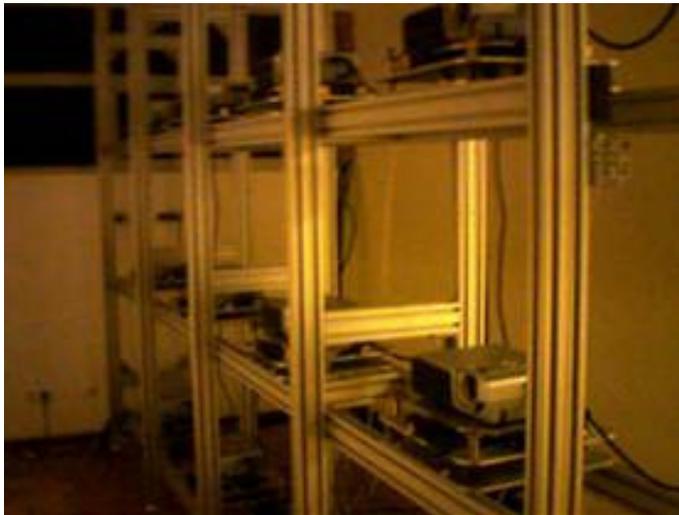
- Aluminum Frame for 12 projector (4m x 2,25m x 0,5 m)
- Modular Array ready for future extension



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

# *Infra-Structure Projection Setup*

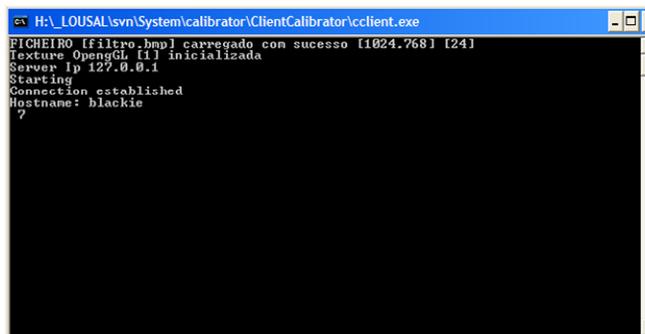
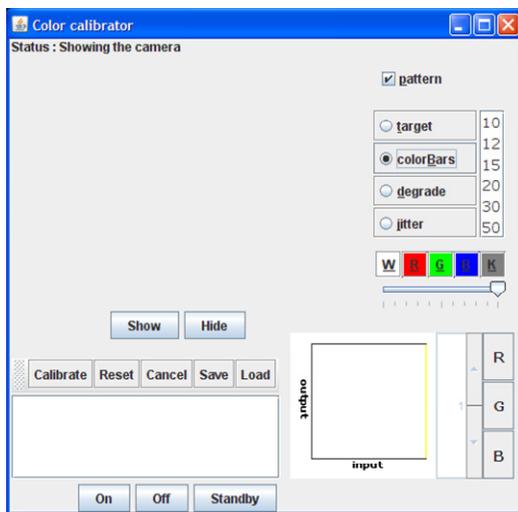
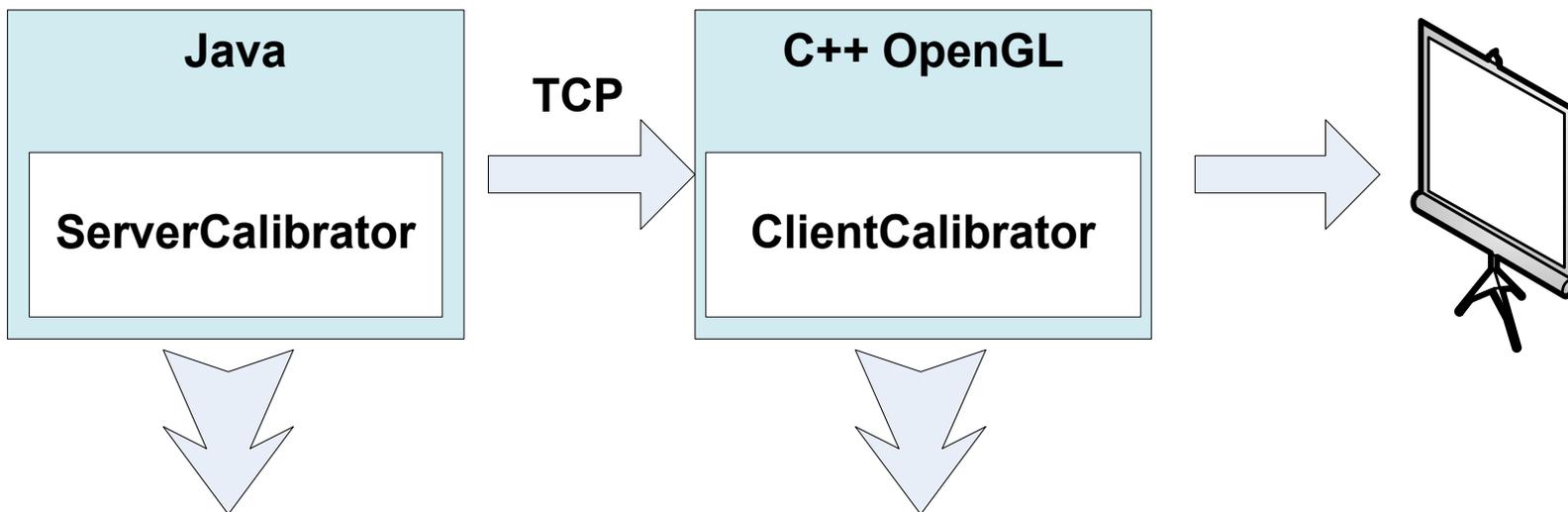
- Cooling System
- Light Control
- Geometric alignment



# LEMeWall / IST

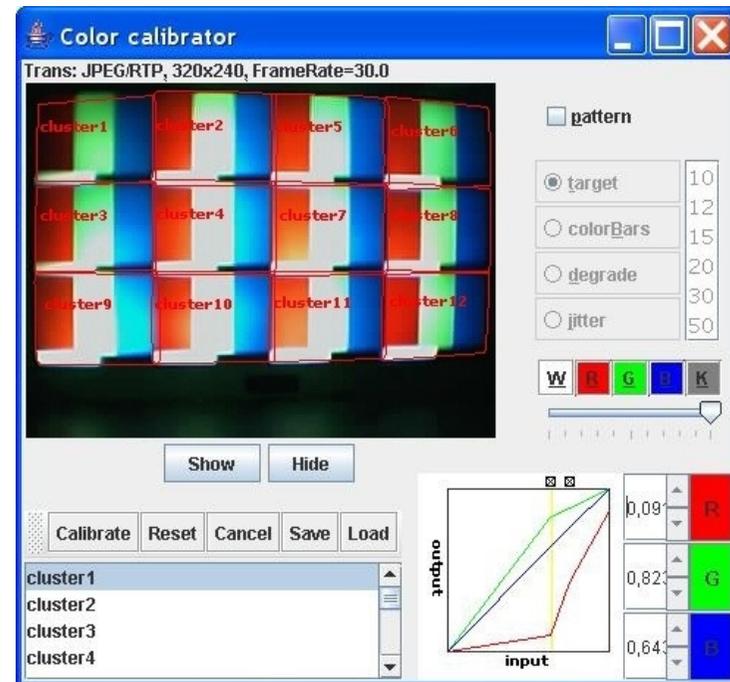
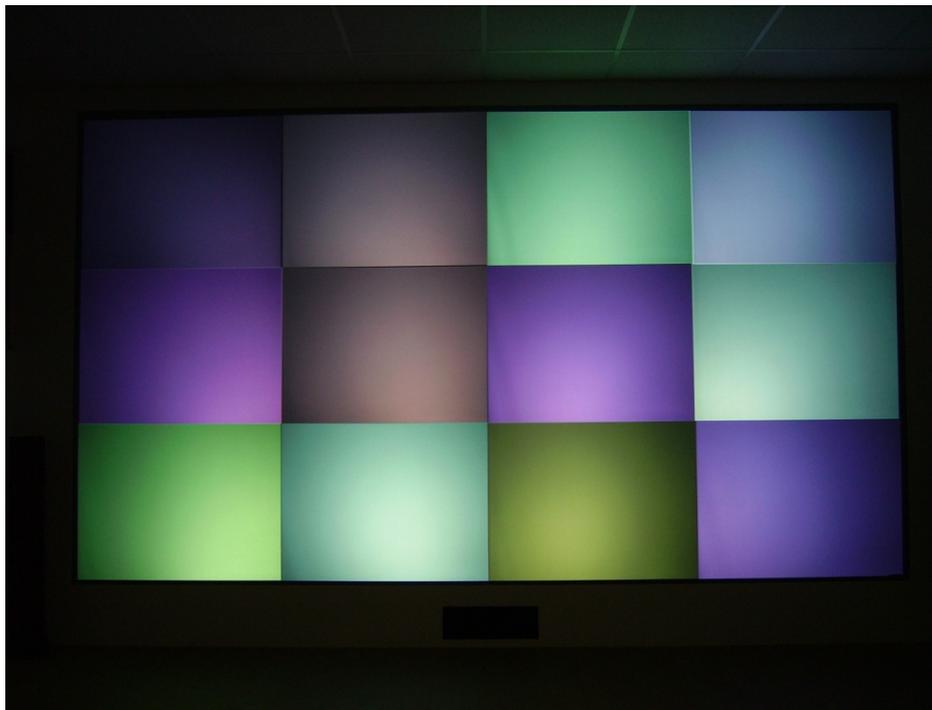


# Projection Calibration and Control



# Color calibration

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



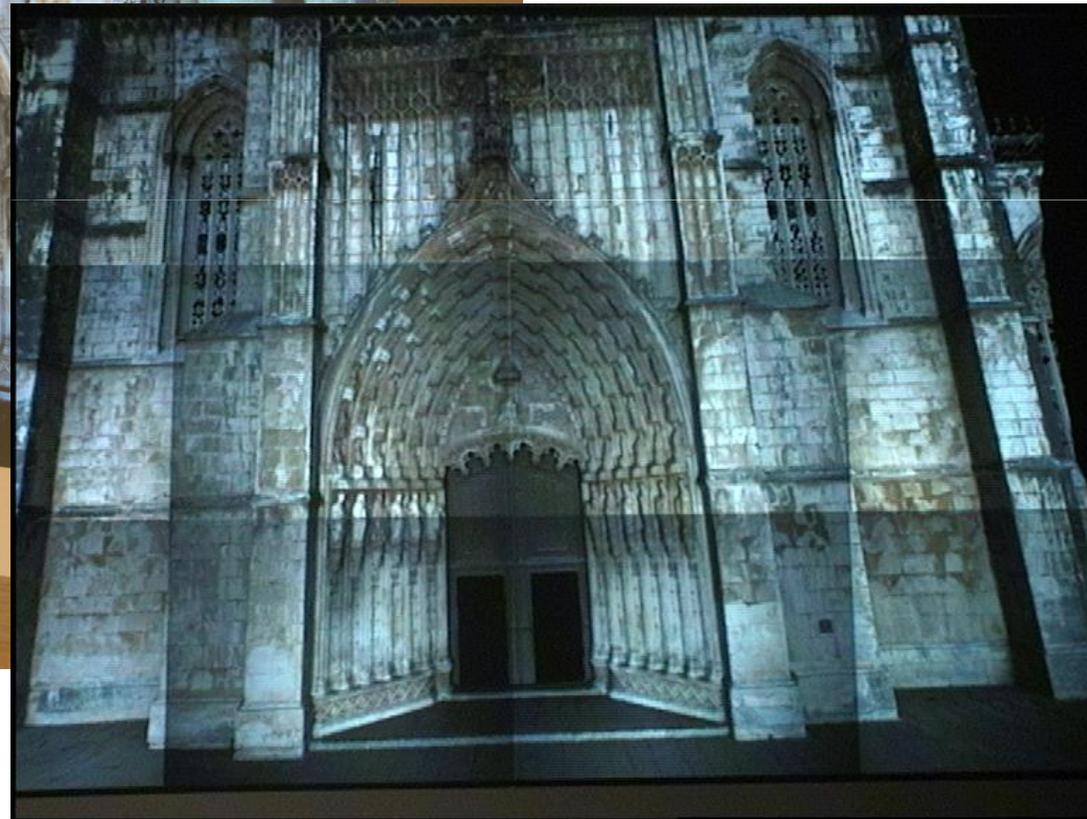
# *Automation and Control*

- 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*



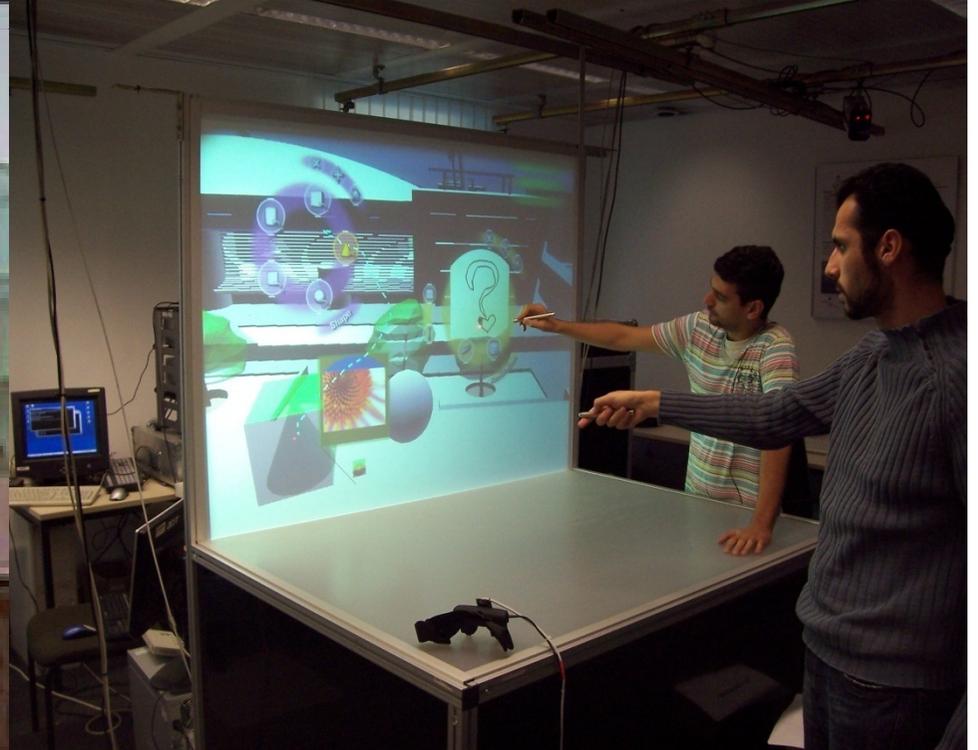
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# *Demos Running at the LEMeWall*



# *LemeWall Interactions*

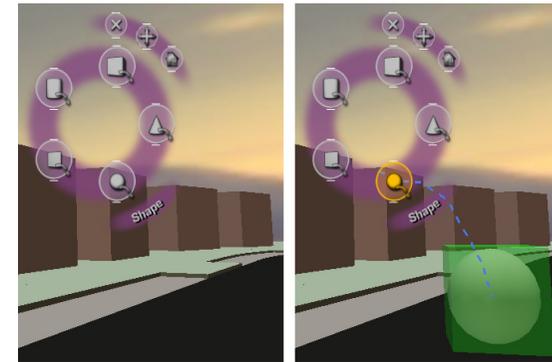
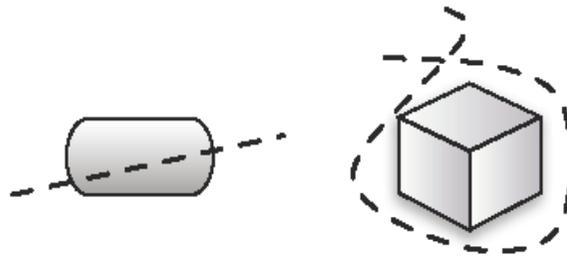
- Interaction Metaphors
  - Stroke based interaction (laser/PowerWall 3DPen Mouse/Pen)
  - Tracking/Body Gesture based interaction
  - Voice based interaction
- Input Devices
  - Laser
  - Mobile Computing (PDA)
- New User Interface (Advanced GUI)
- Multi-user and Multimodal Framework



# Stroke based Interaction

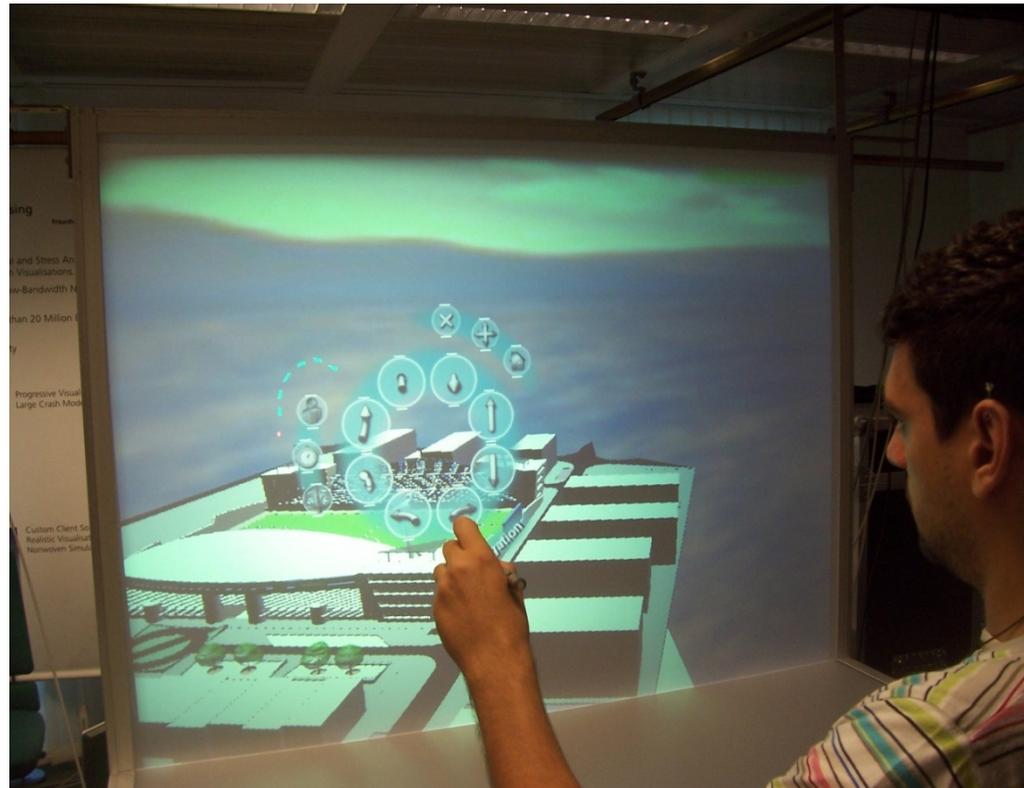
- Stroke

- Line / Sketch
- Path
- Gesture



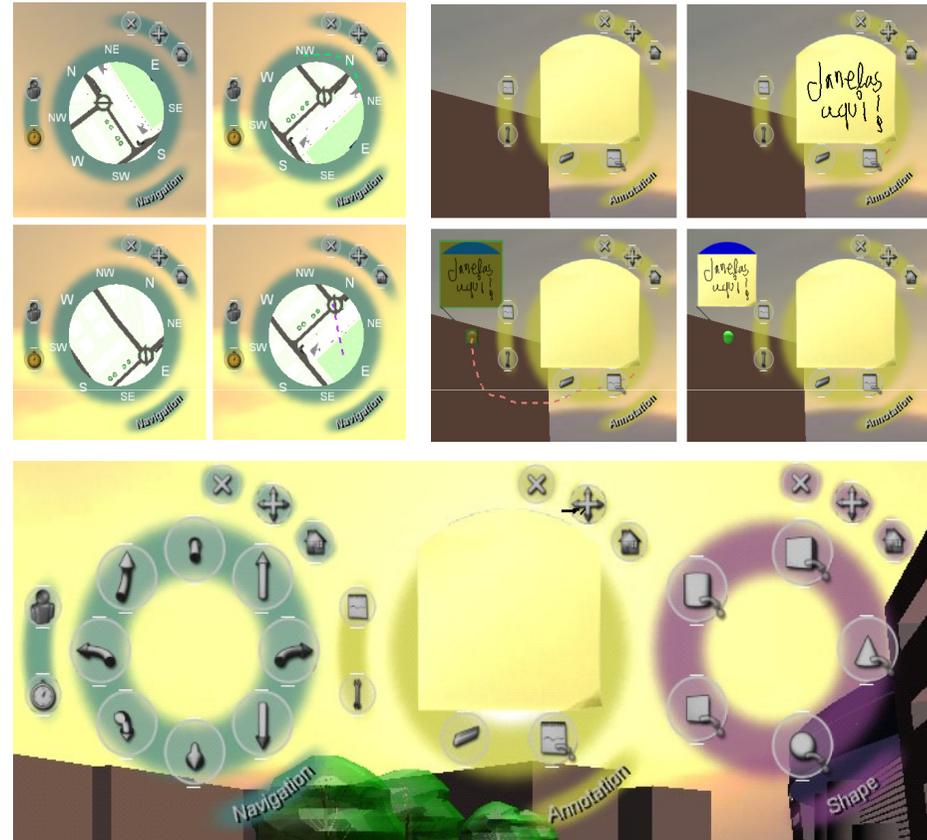
- Main metaphors

- Crossing
- Lasso selection
- Pointing
- Circular Menus



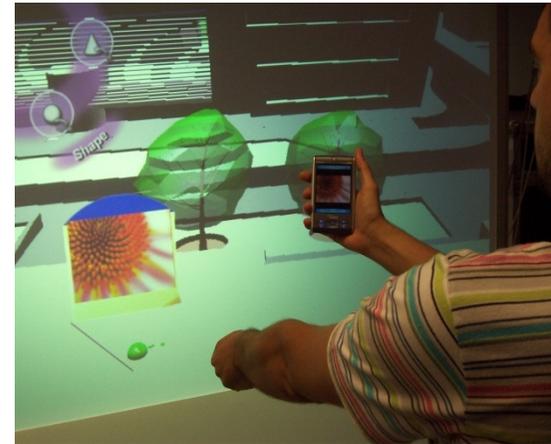
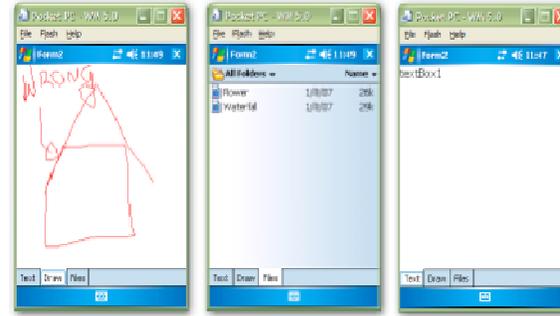
# GUI for Large Scale display

- 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

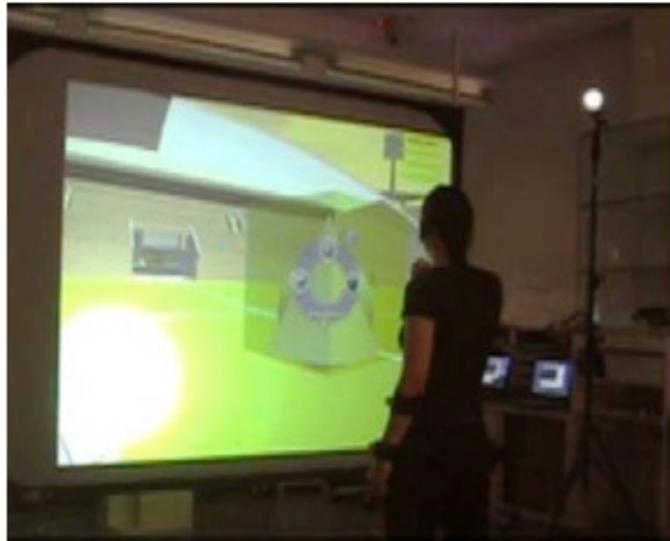
## Speech Recognized

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

## Used in conjunction with

- Laser
- Menus
- Body Tracking

## Microsoft Speech SDK



# Tracking Based Interaction

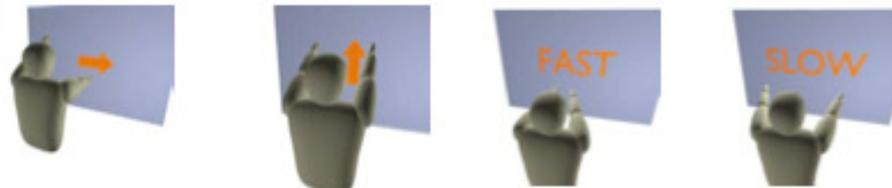
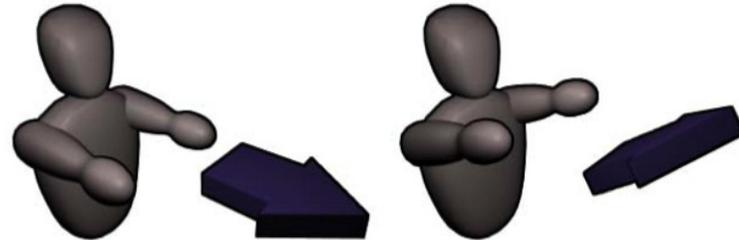
## Two arm tracking

- Gestures
- Pointing
- Composition with voice



## Functionality

- Navigation
- Dragging objects
- Scaling
- Rotation



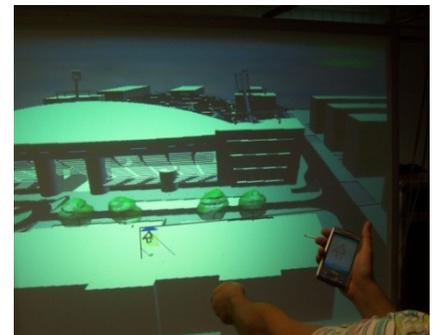
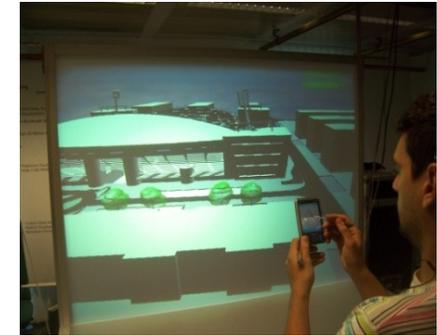
# Multimodal Interaction

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

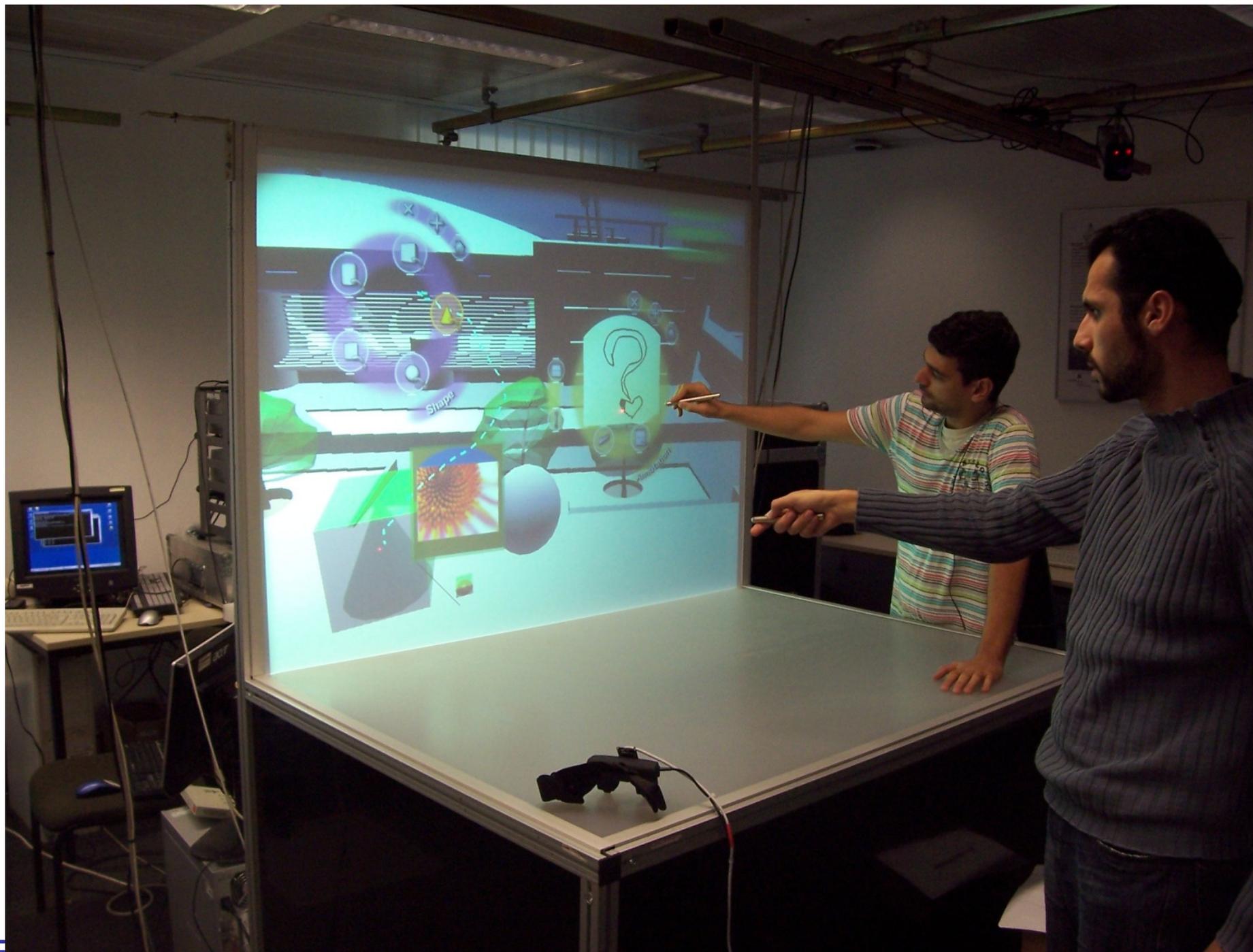
- Token, Context, Objects

### Inference system.

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

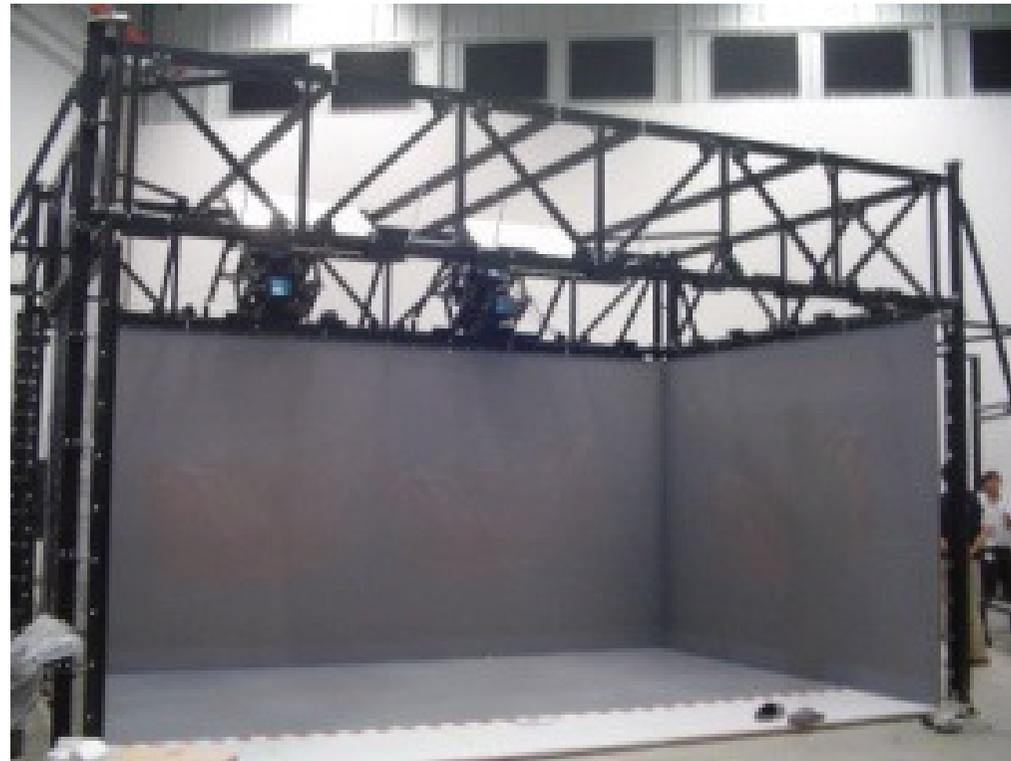
## **Multi-User Support**

- 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



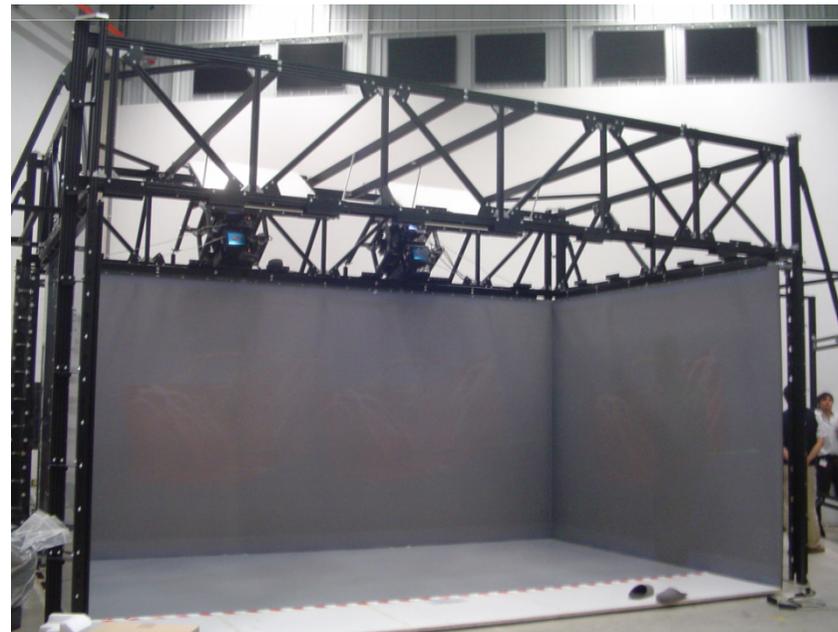
# CAVE-HOLLOWSPACE of Lousal

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



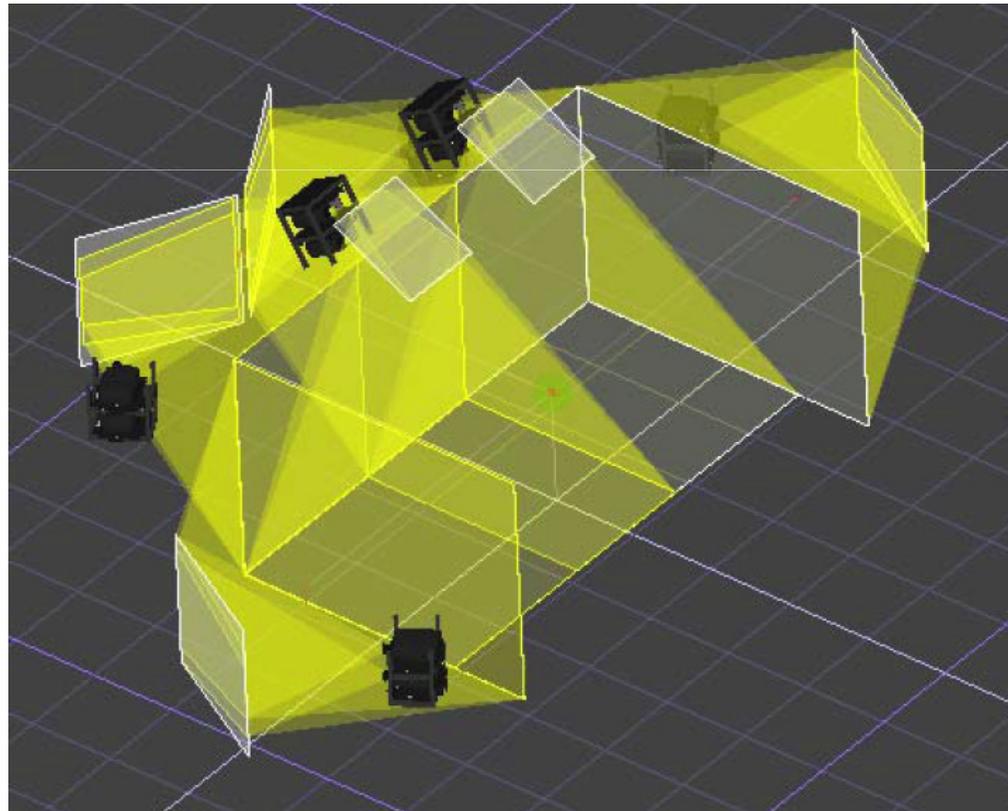
# CaveH of Lousal

- 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 Stereoscropy



# Projection Studies

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

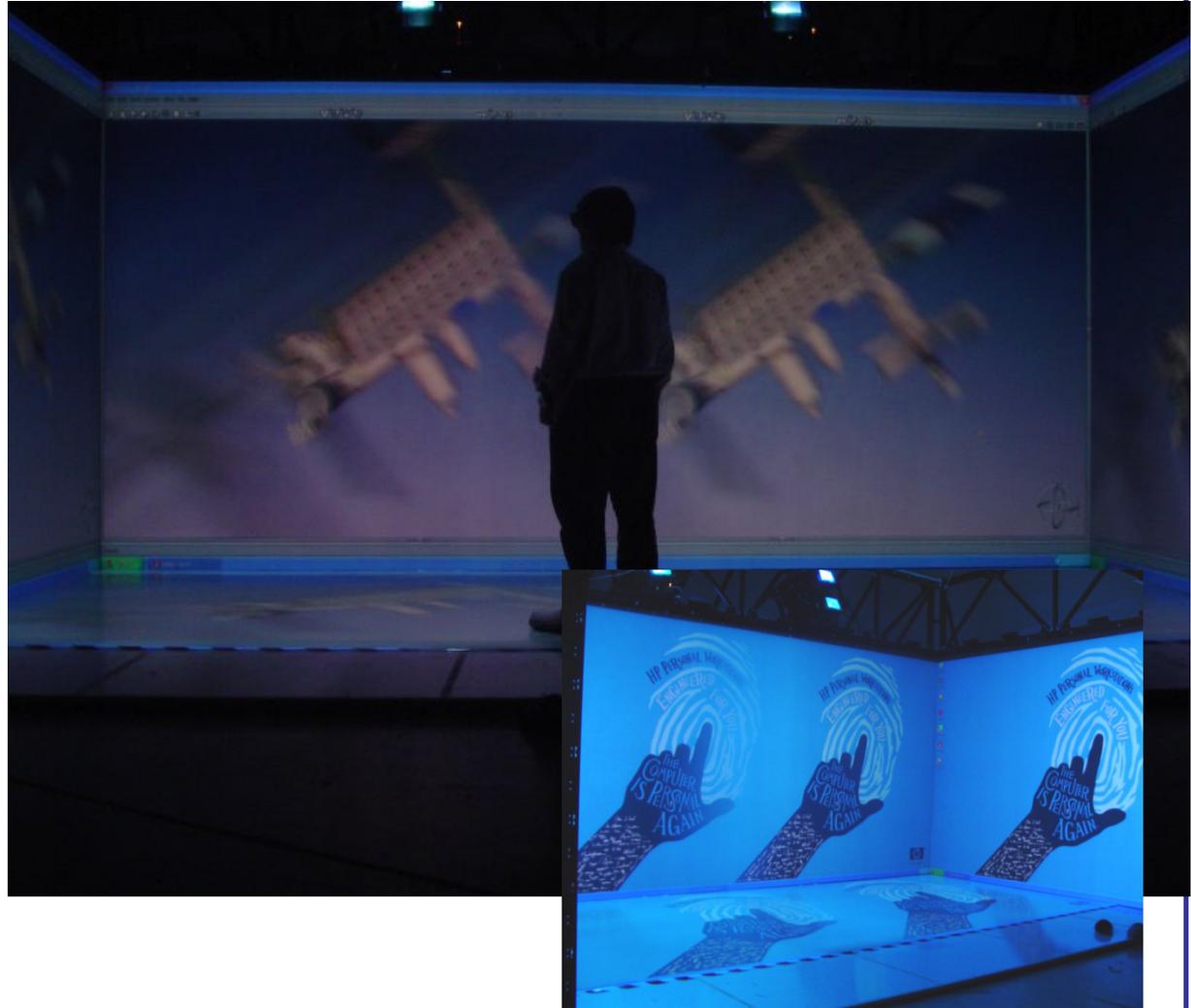
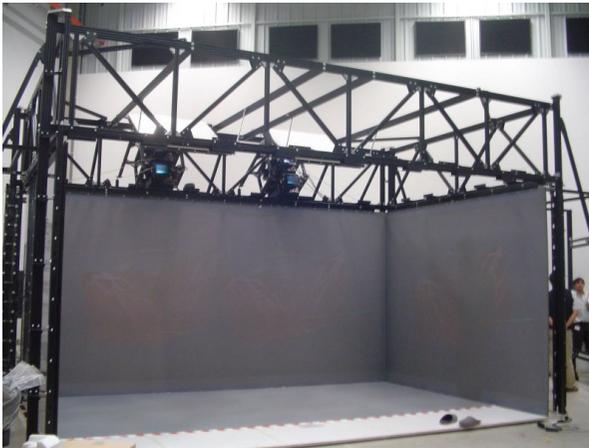
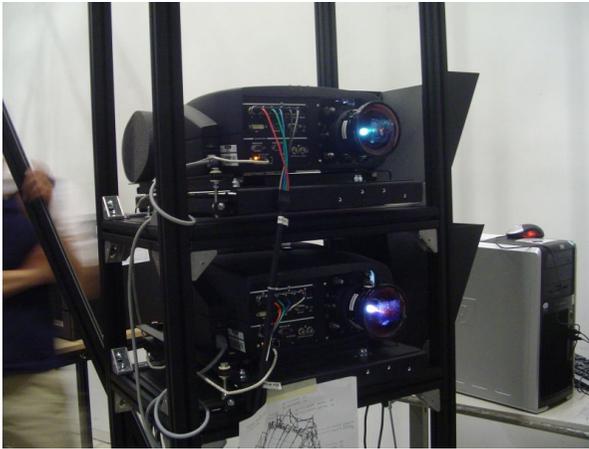


# Main Objectives

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

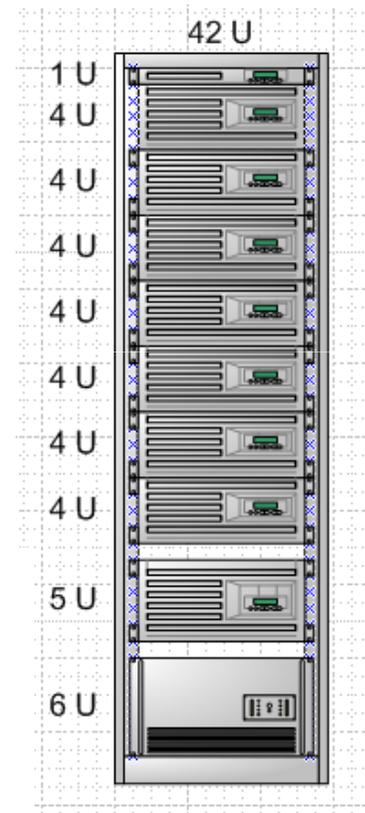
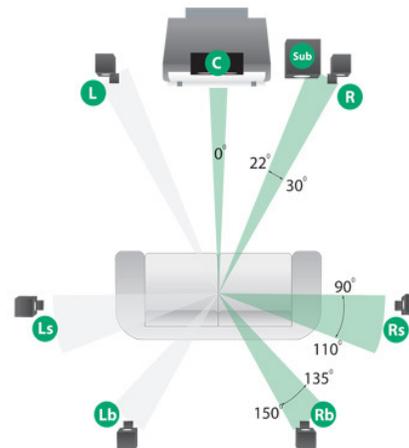
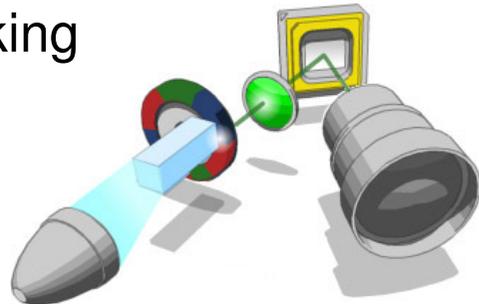


# Preliminary tests at factory



# 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

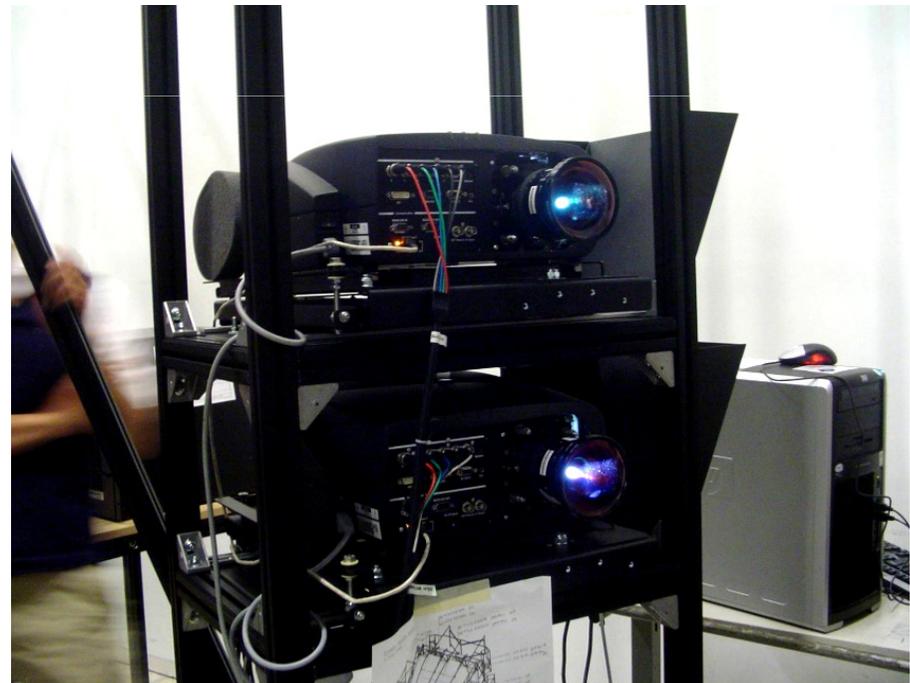
**Technology** = Single chip DLP

**Resolution** = SXGA+ (1400 x 1050 pixels)

**Brightness** = 4000 Lumens

**Contrast** = 1:2000

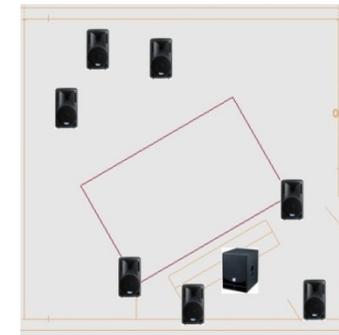
**Infitec stereo**



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# Surround Sound 7.1

- Spatially positioned
  - 7 High quality speakers and 1 subwoofer



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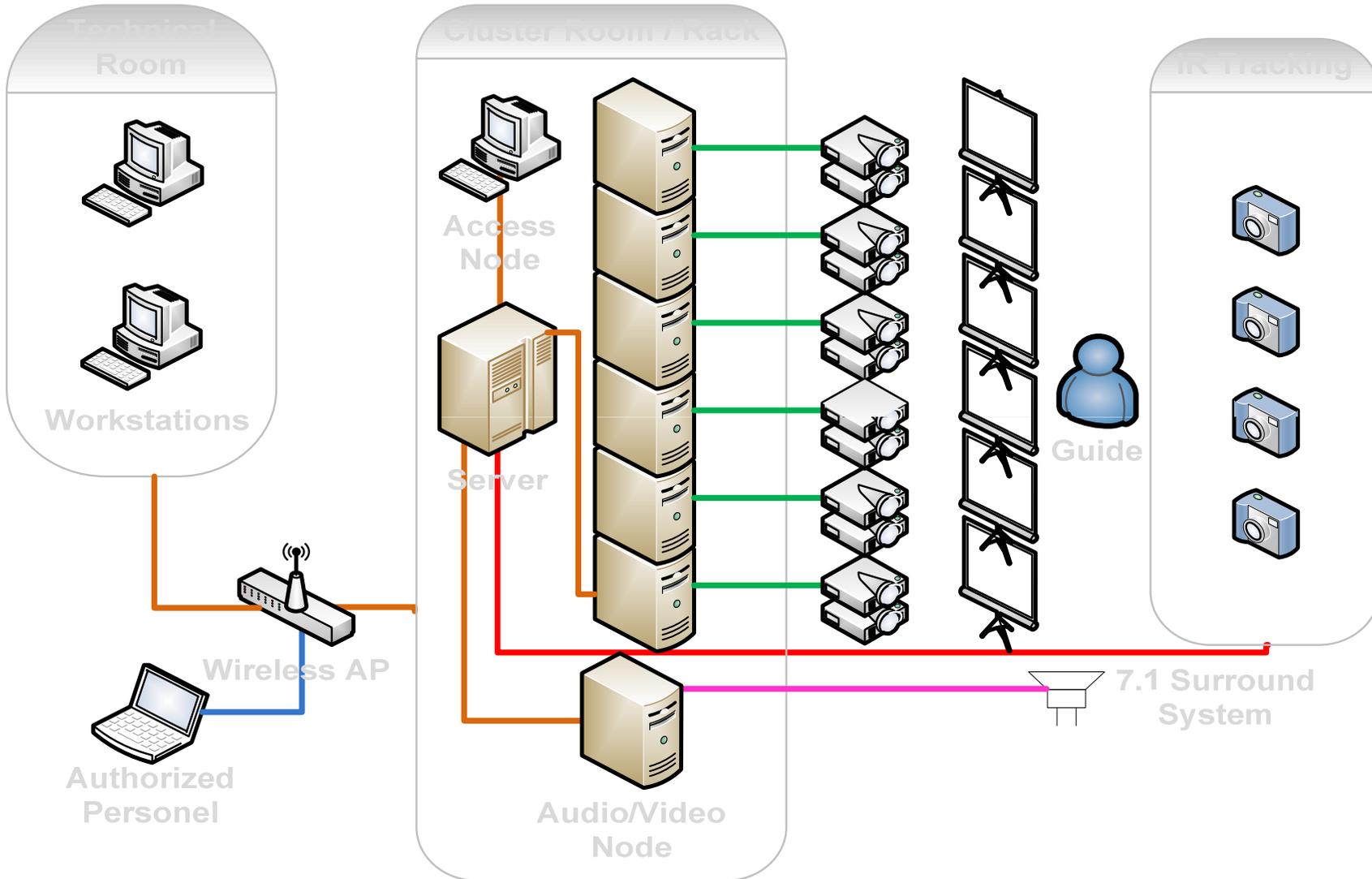
# Computing Cluster

- 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



gigabit

wireless

video

firewire

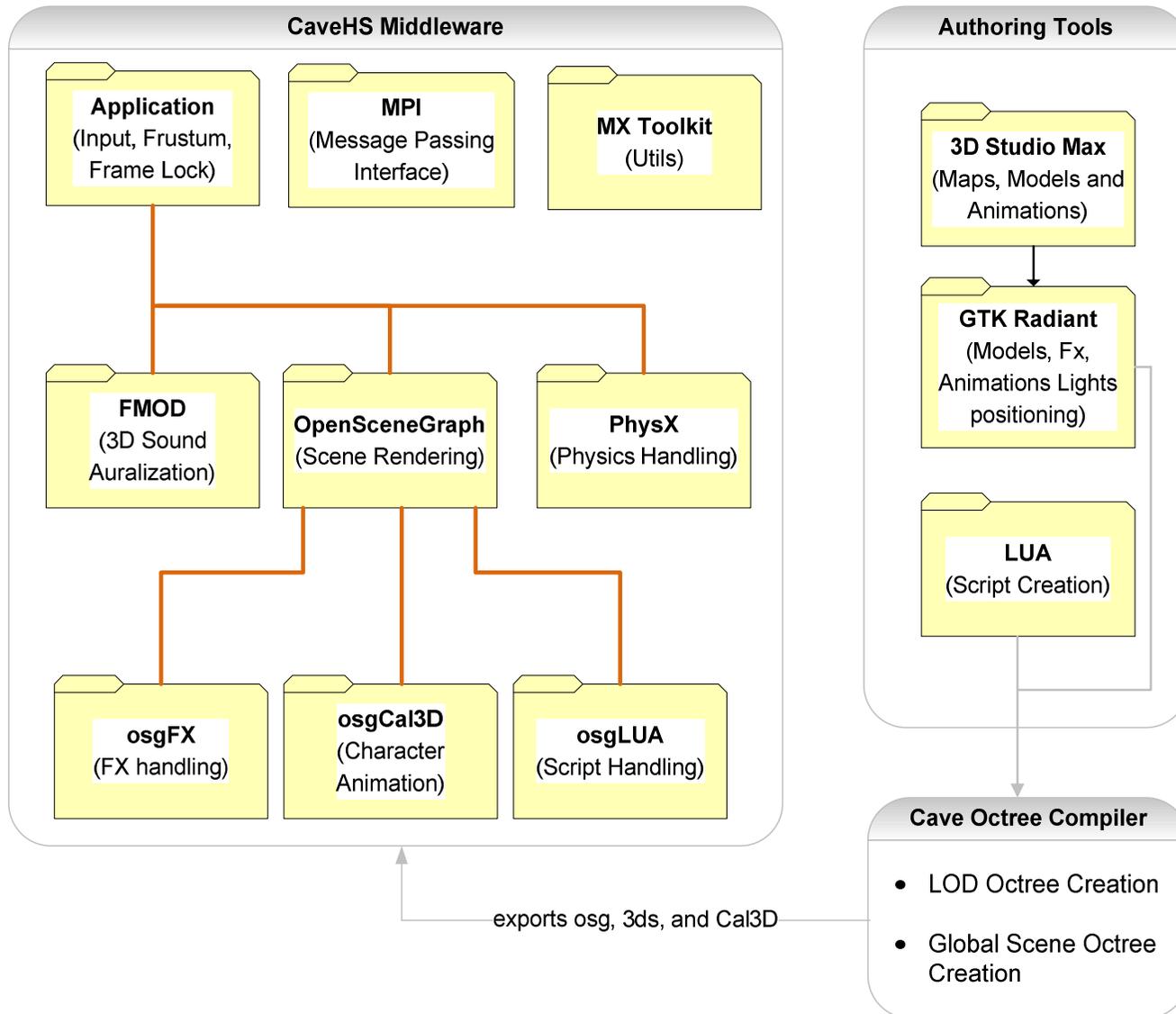
audio

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# VR Middleware Choice

- SceneGraph: OpenSceneGraph
- C++
- 3D Audio: FMOD music & soundeffects system ([www.fmod.org](http://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

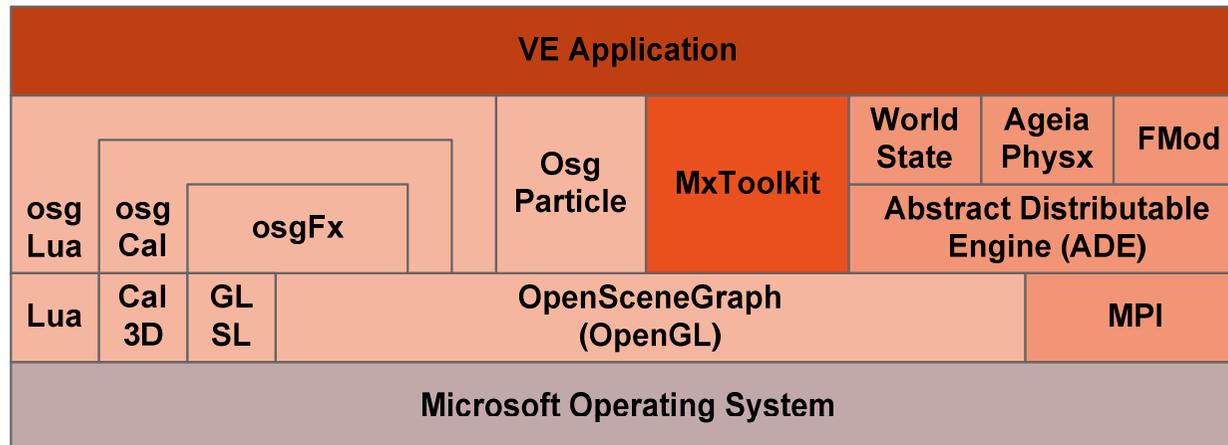
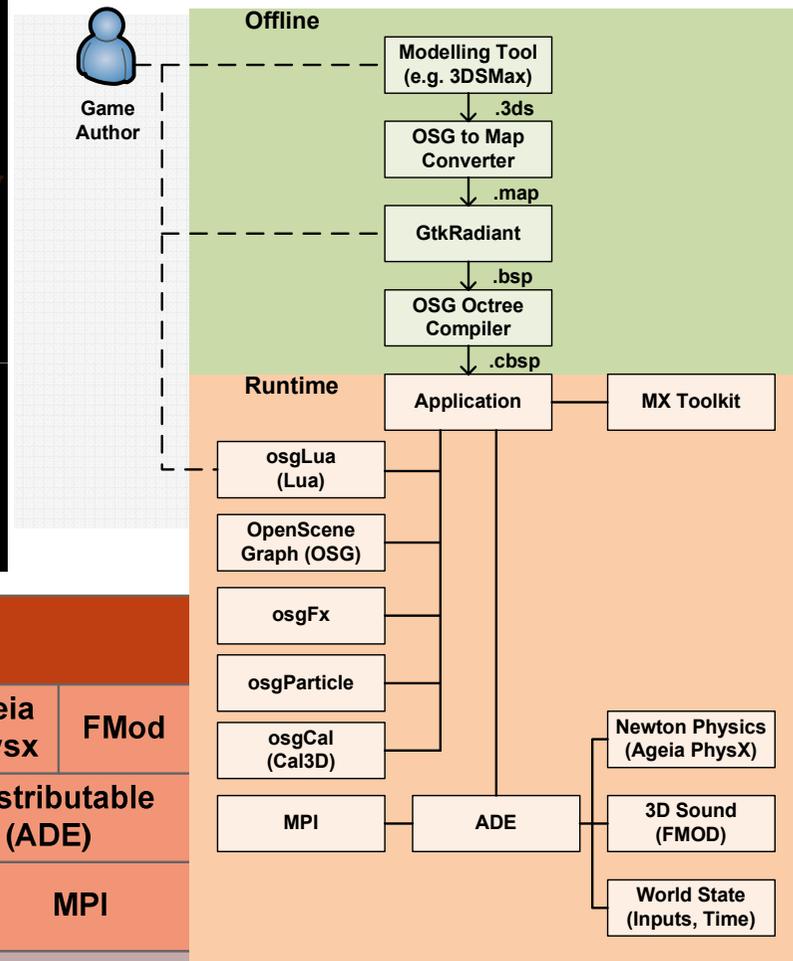
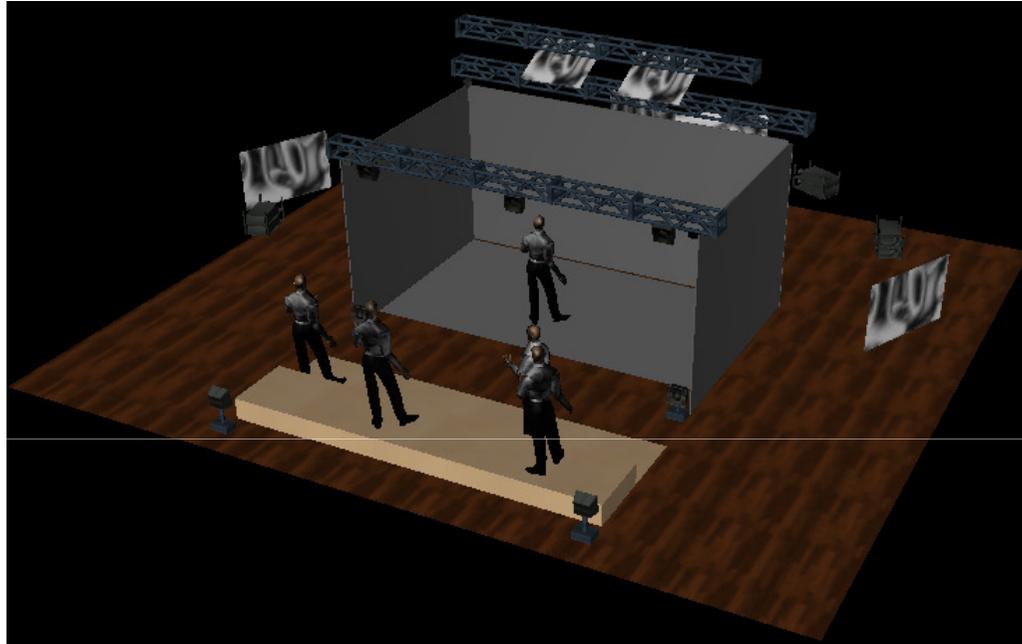
# External development tools

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

# Internal development

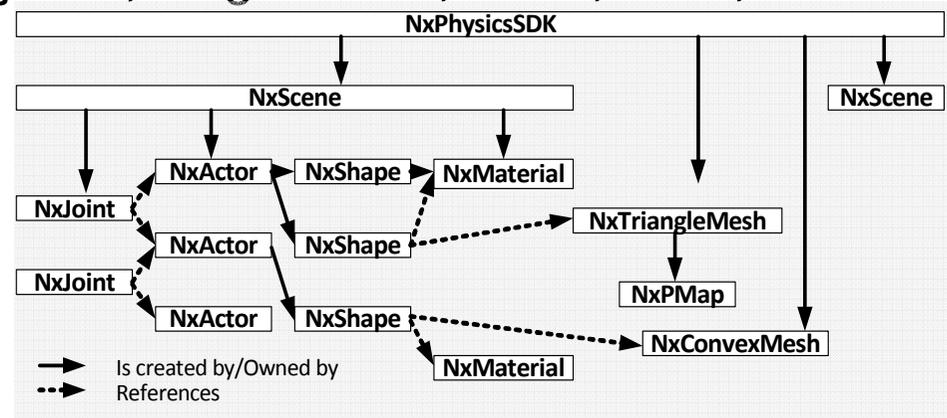
- MX-Toolkit
- Abstract Distributed Engine - ADE

# CaveH Middleware Architecture



# 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

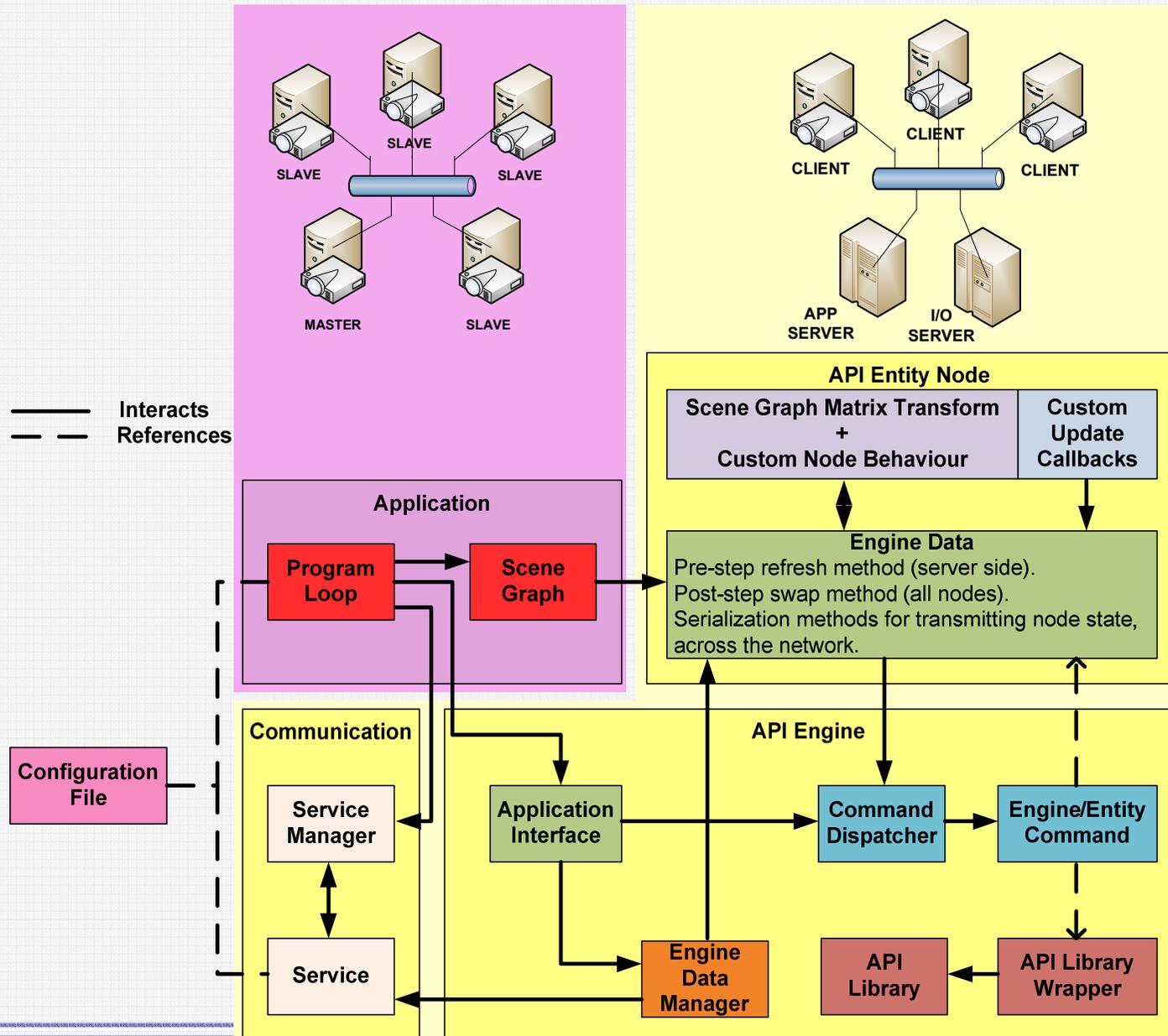


- Internal structure:
  - Scenes are independent worlds
  - Actors are the basic simulation entities. Each actor is defined as being static (for static scene elements), cinematic (for movable scene elements), or dynamic (subject of Newton physics simulation)
  - They can be physically linked through 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

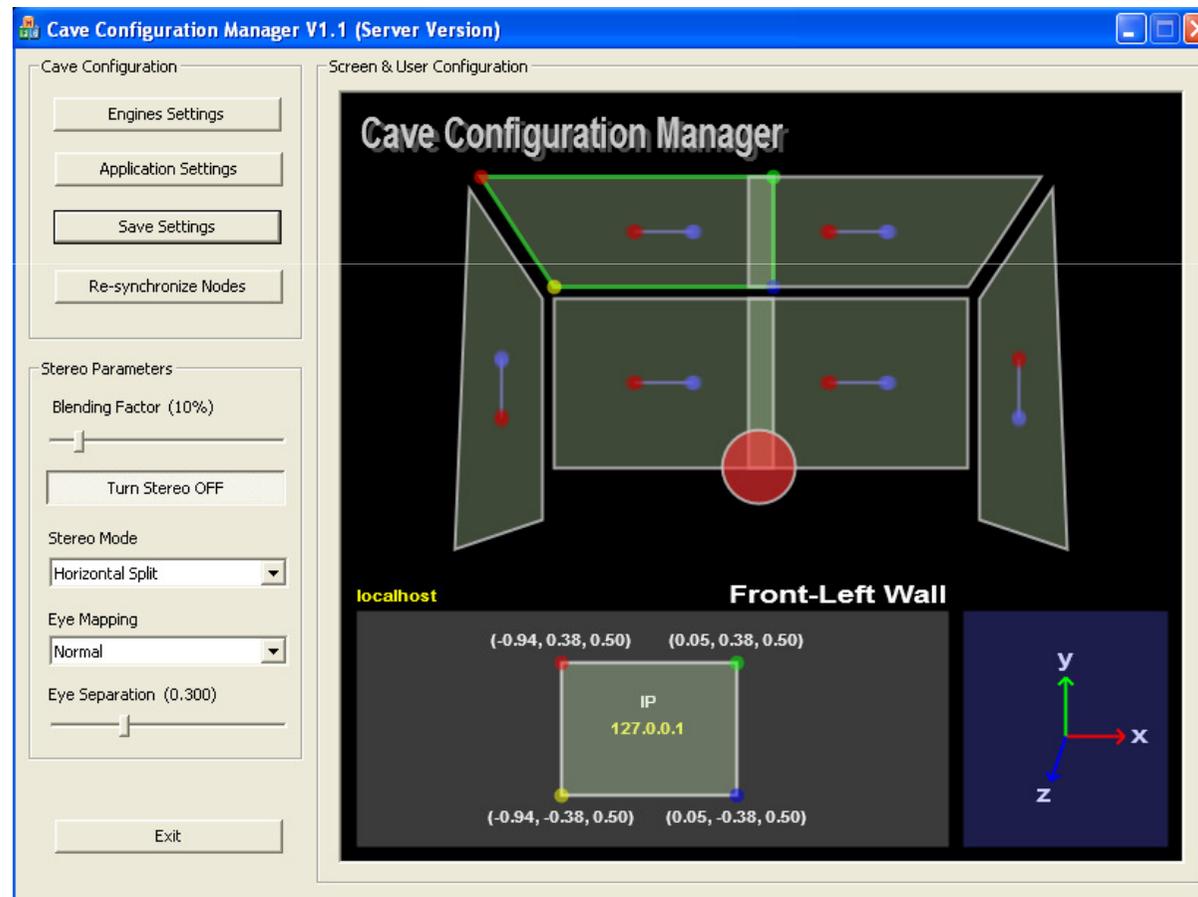


# Newton Physics Engine

- 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

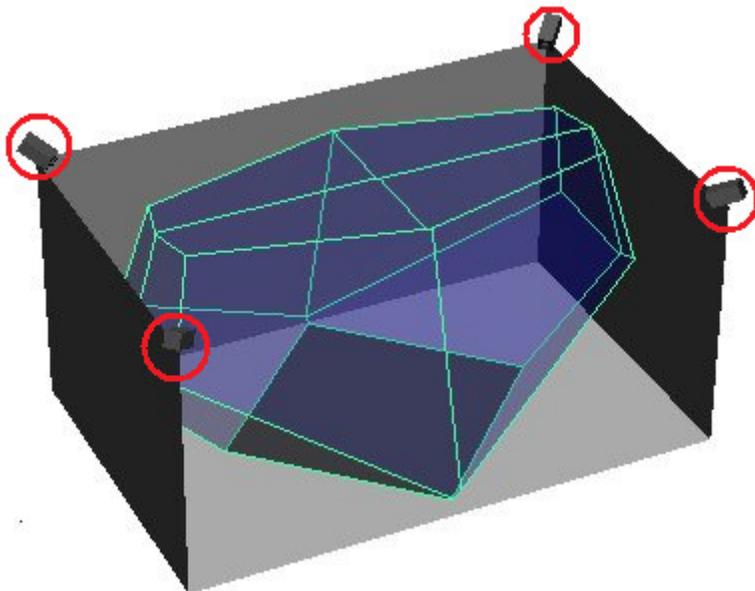
- User interface



# User Tracking for CaveH

## Hardware Setup:

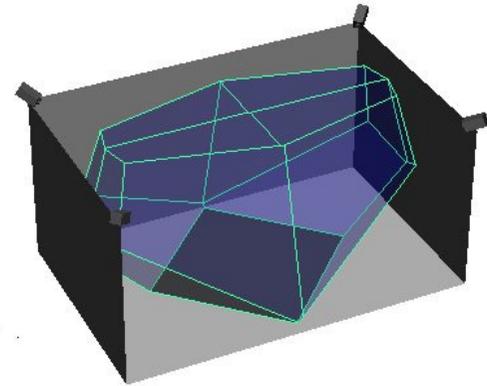
- 4 AVT Firewire Pike Cameras (640x480, 205 fps)
- 4 LED ring array emitters
- 1 Shutter Controller
- Several retro-reflective markers



# Lens Analyses

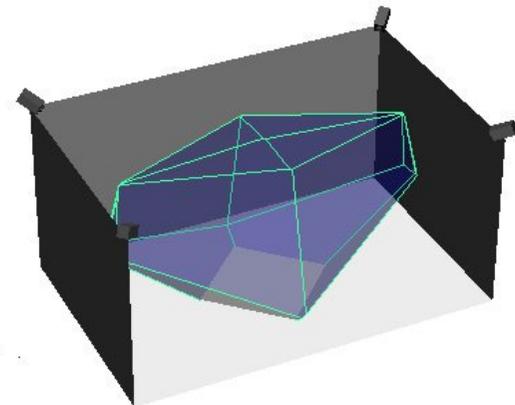
## Lens: 3.5mm

- 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



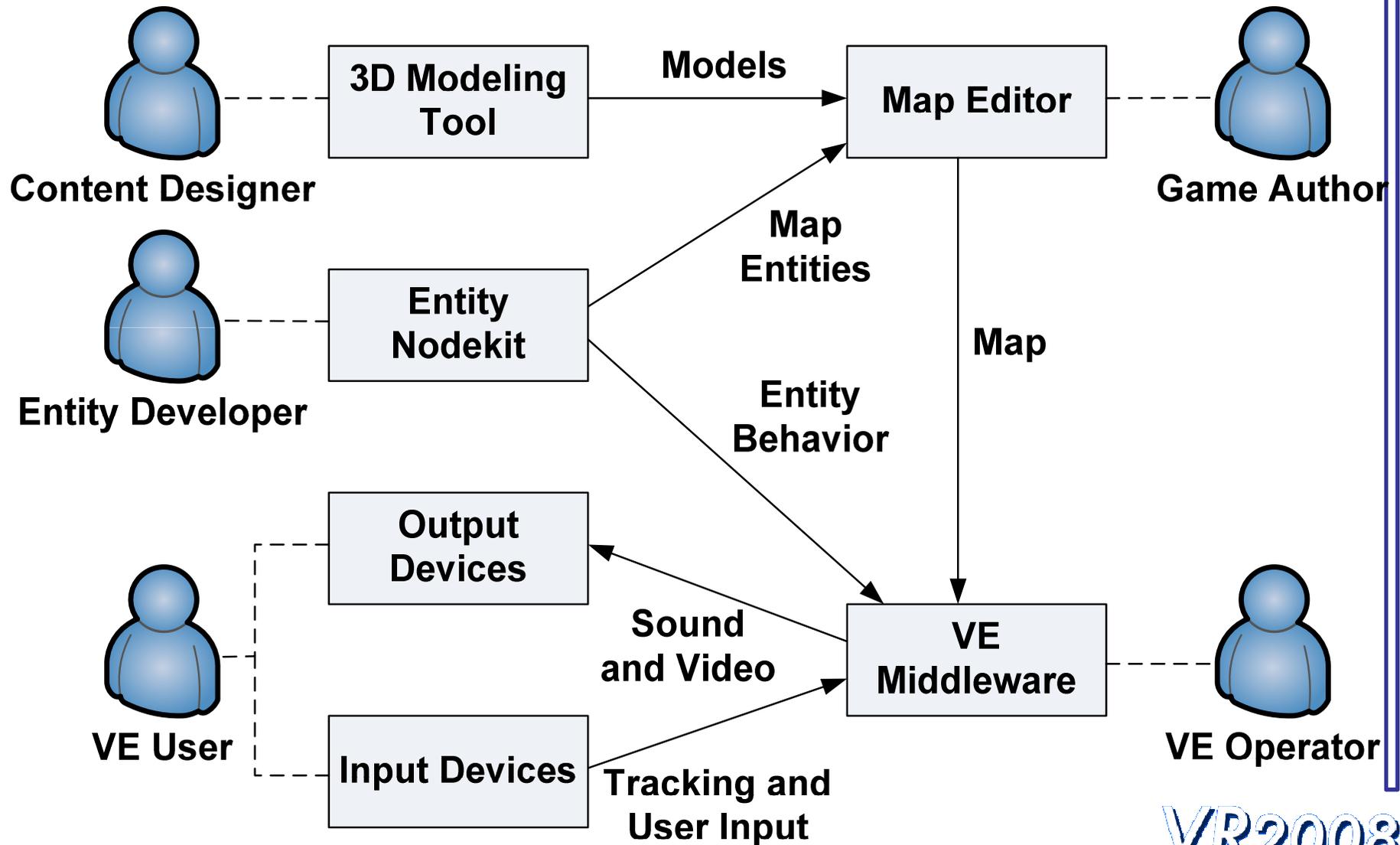
# Scripting Language

- 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

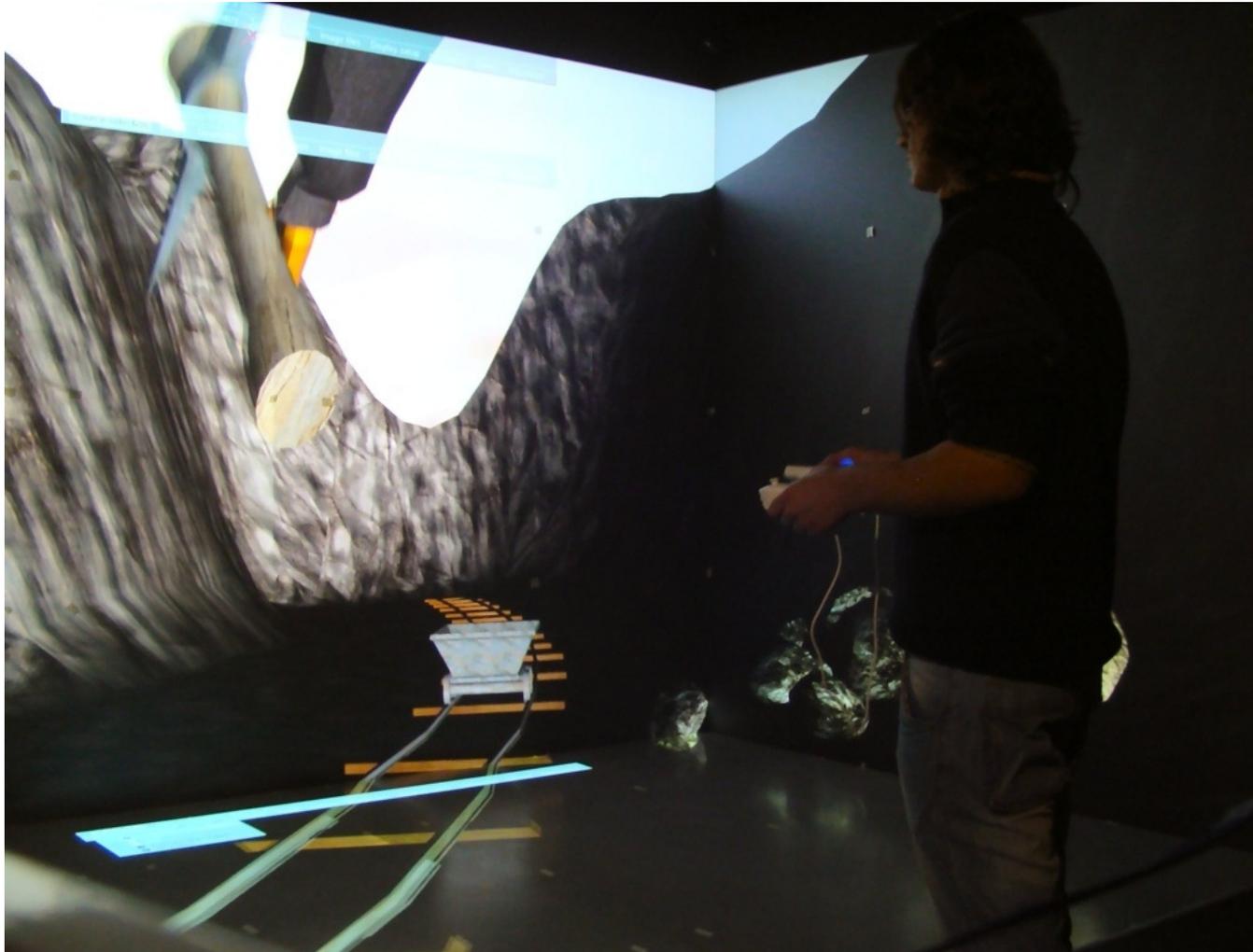
Autodesk®



- 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](http://www.tecgraf.puc-rio.br/~lpsoares/ieeevr08)



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