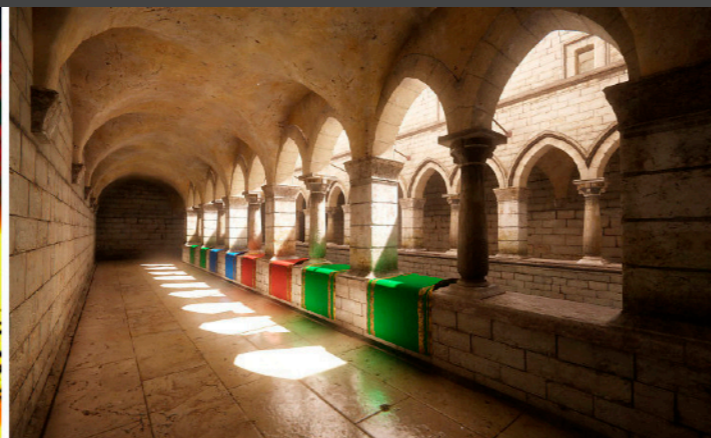


Real-Time High Quality Rendering

GAMES202, Lingqi Yan, UC Santa Barbara

Lecture 1: Introduction and Overview



Welcome!



Logo created by Junqiu Zhu

Welcome!



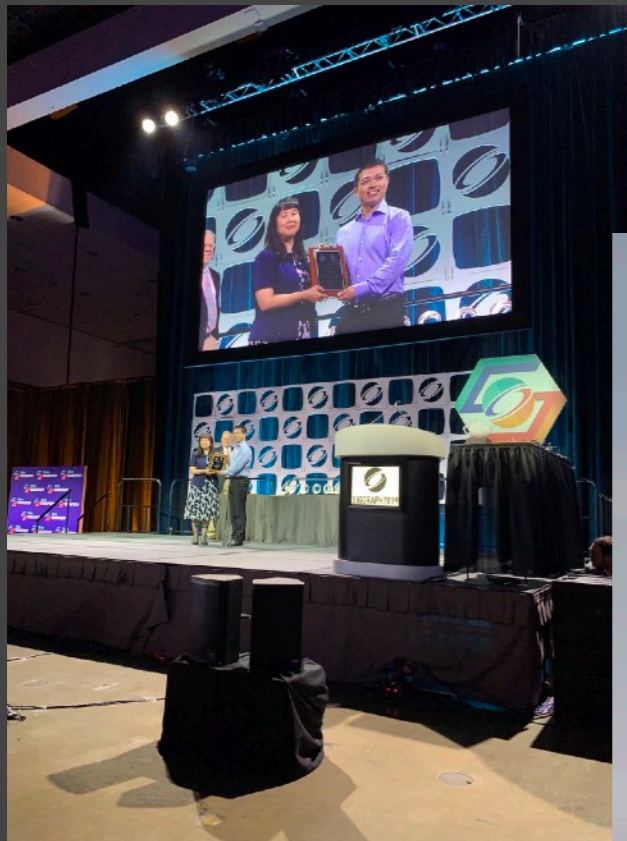
Cyberpunk 2077

Instructor

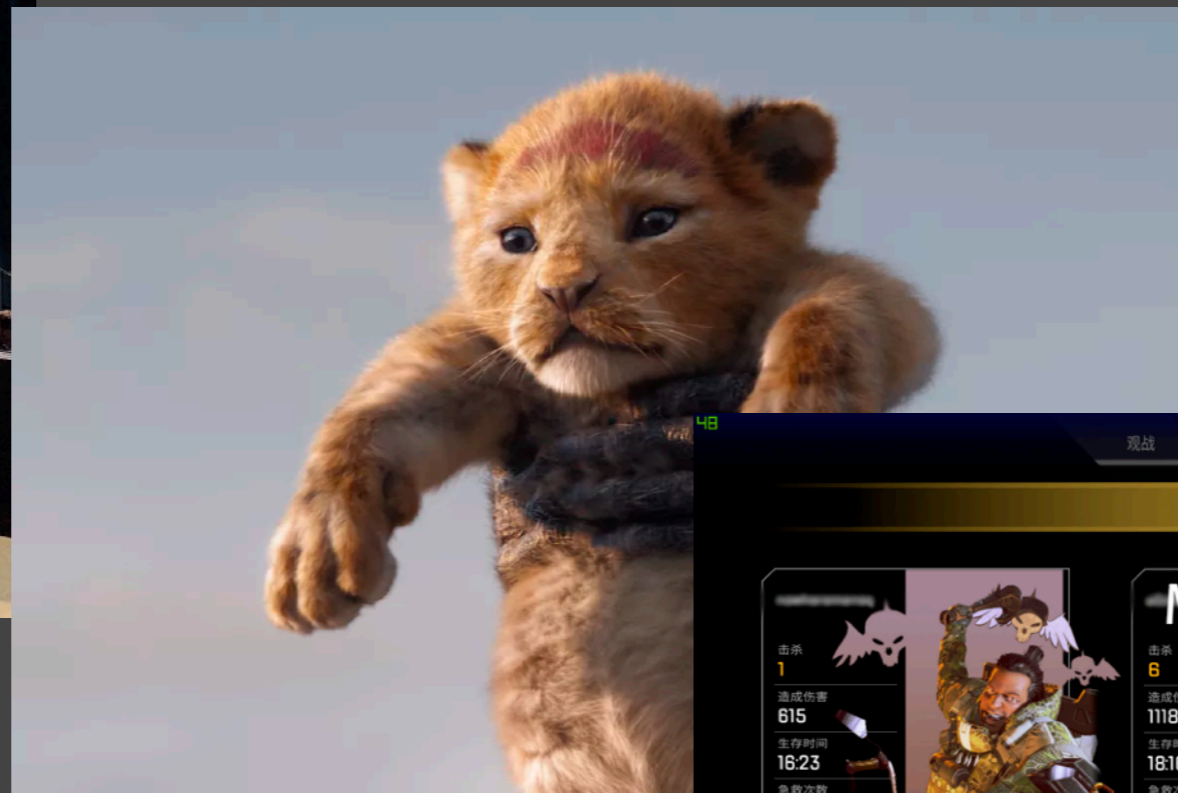
- Lingqi Yan
 - Assistant Professor @ UCSB
 - Web: www.cs.ucsb.edu/~lingqi/
Email: lingqi@cs.ucsb.edu
 - Research: Rendering in Computer Graphics
 - Hobbies: research, video games, piano, NBA, traveling, etc.



Instructor's Achievements



2019: ACM SIGGRAPH
Outstanding Doctoral
Dissertation Award



2019: Oscar Nominee
for Best Visual Effects



2019: six APEX Champions in one evening

Course Staff

- Teaching Assistants
 - 万健洲 (wanjianzhou@qq.com)
 - 周锦超 (zhoujinchao@buaa.edu.cn)
 - 邓俊辰 (junchendeng@gmail.com)
- More will be recruited **from current students** (based on need)

About this Course

What is GAMES202 about?

Real-Time High Quality Rendering

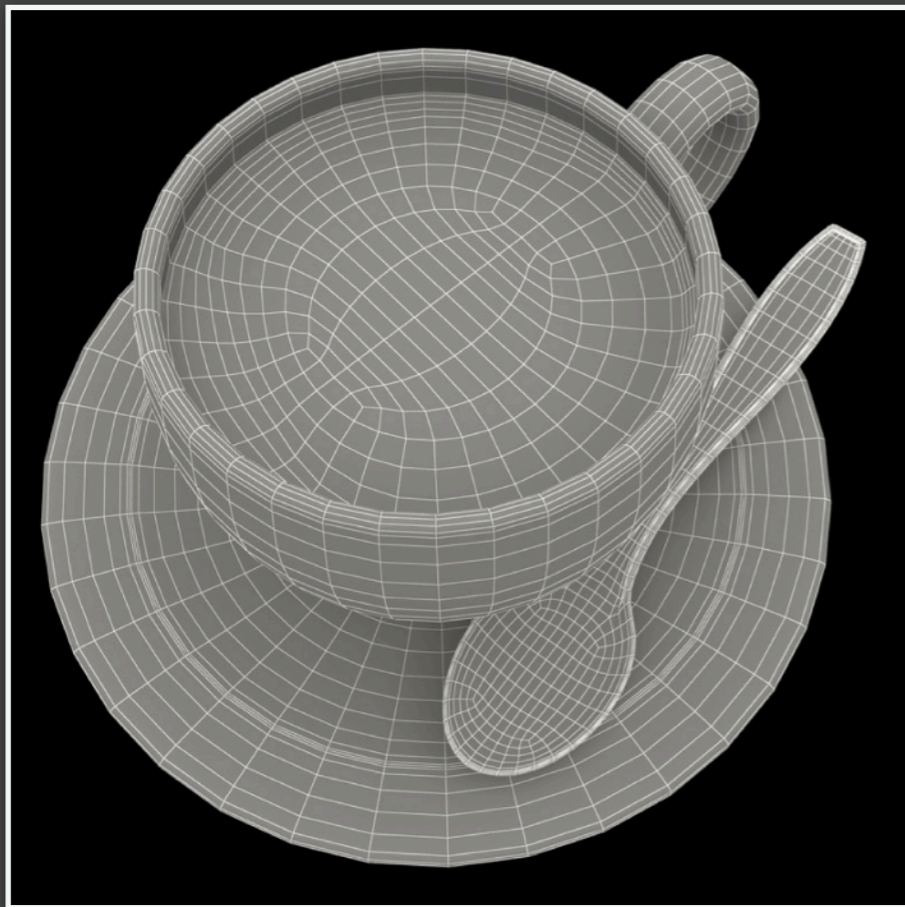
Intermediate level — connecting basic knowledge and research

What is GAMES202 about?

- **Real-Time High Quality Rendering**
 - Speed: more than **30 FPS** (frames per second), even more for Virtual / Augmented Reality (VR / AR): 90 FPS
 - Interactivity: Each frame generated **on the fly**
- **Real-Time High Quality Rendering**
 - Realism: advanced approaches to make rendering more realistic
 - Dependability: all-time **correctness (exact or approximate)**, no tolerance to (uncontrollable) failures

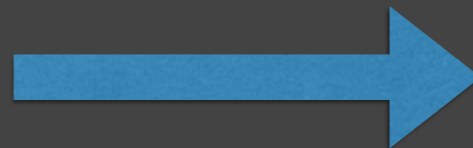
What is GAMES202 about?

- Real-Time High Quality **Rendering**
 - What is Rendering?



3D scene (meshes, lights, etc.)

Calculating
light -> eye



Image

What is GAMES202 about?

- Highest level: 4 different parts on real-time rendering

Shadows
(and env)



Global Illum.
(Scene/image space,
precomputed)



Physically-
based
Shading

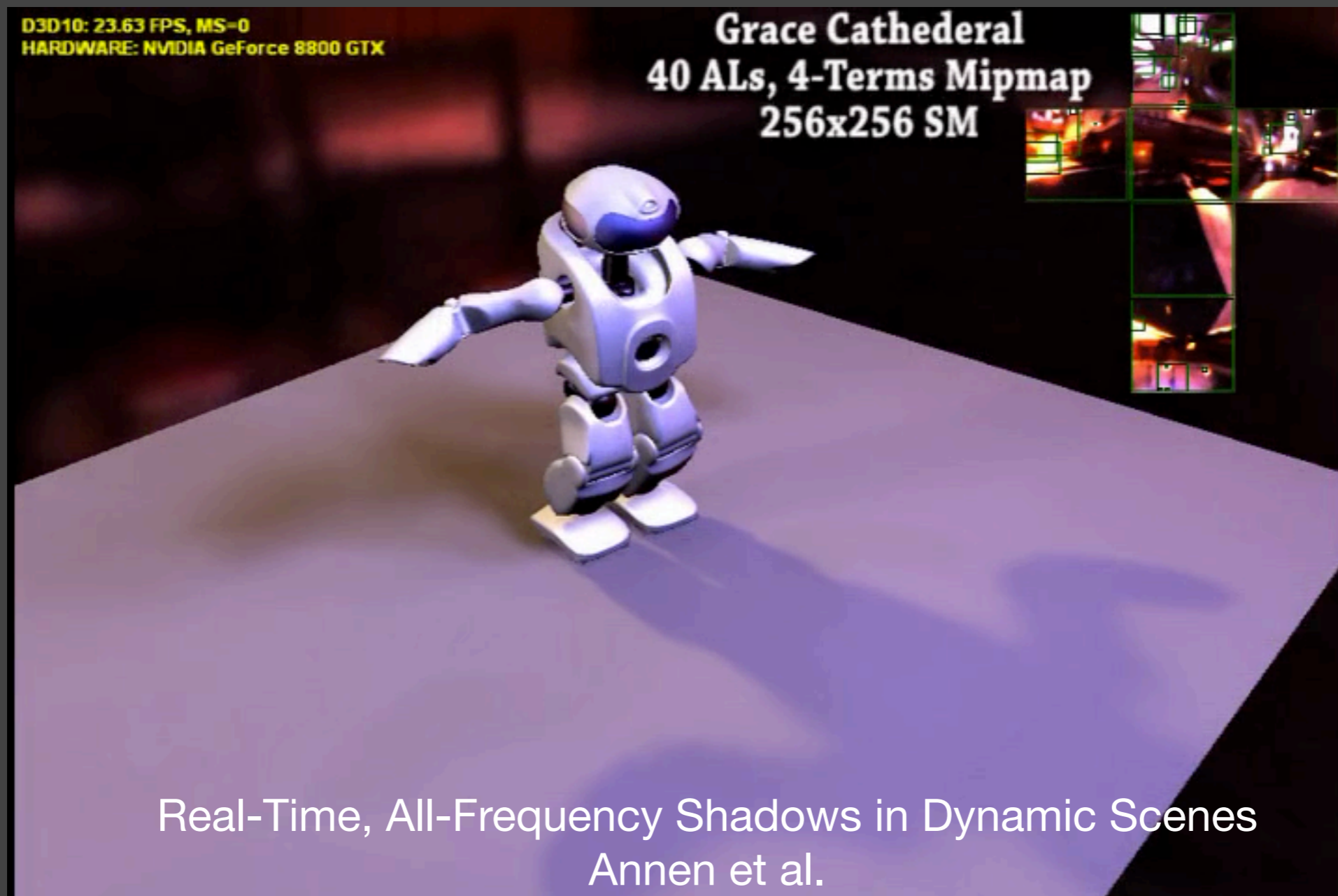


Real-time
ray tracing



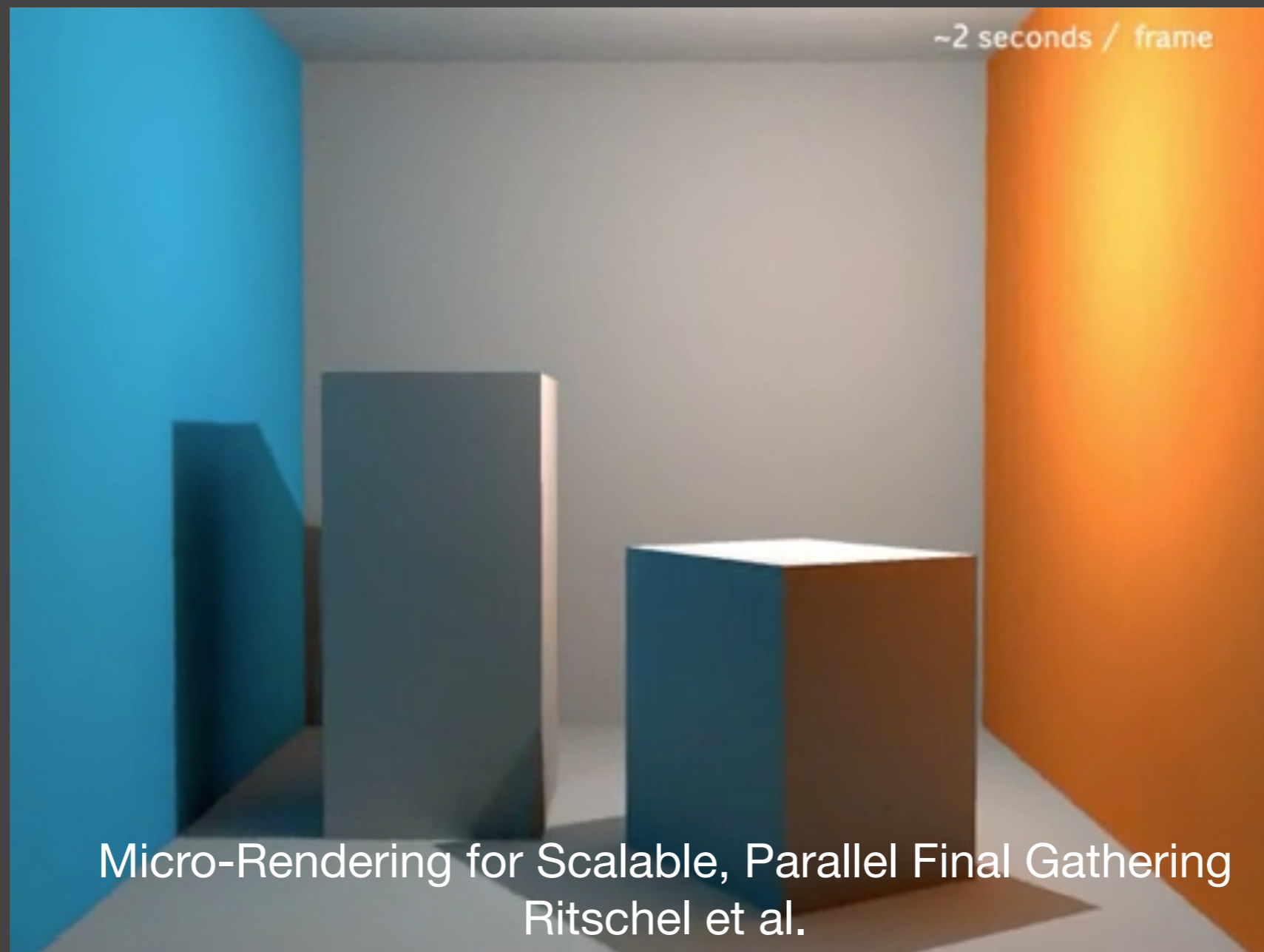
Course Topics

- Shadow and Environment Mapping



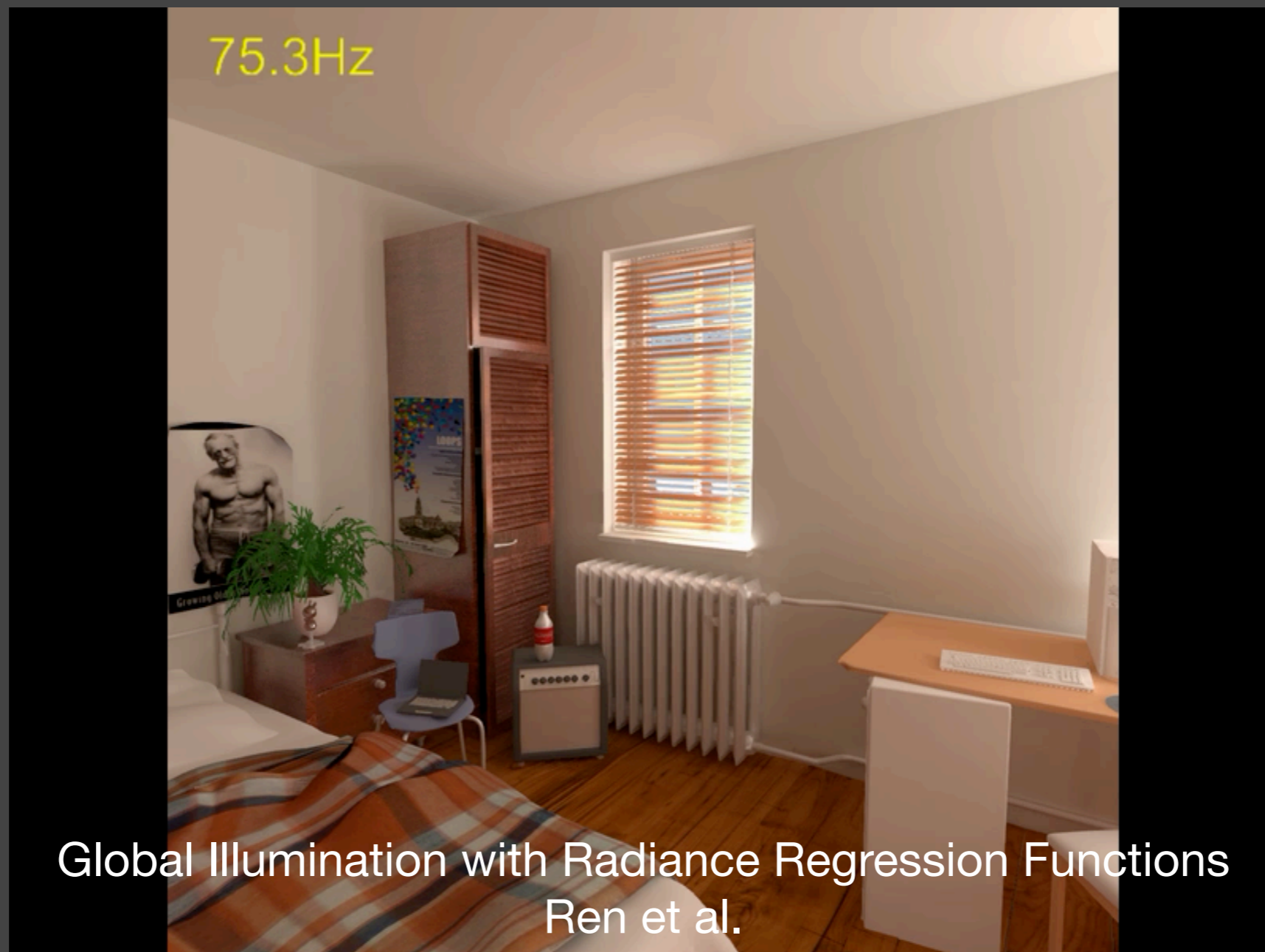
Course Topics

- Interactive Global Illumination Techniques



Course Topics

- Precomputed Radiance Transfer



Course Topics

- Real-Time Ray Tracing



Course Topics

- Participating Media Rendering, Image Space Effects, etc.



Single scattering



Image space reflection

Course Topics

- Non-Photorealistic Rendering
 - But will not be in depth / per game



Genshin Impact



Animal Crossing: New Horizons

Course Topics

- Antialiasing and supersampling



Course Topics

- Chatting about techs!

Unreal Engine 5 Demo

Course Topics

- Chatting about games!



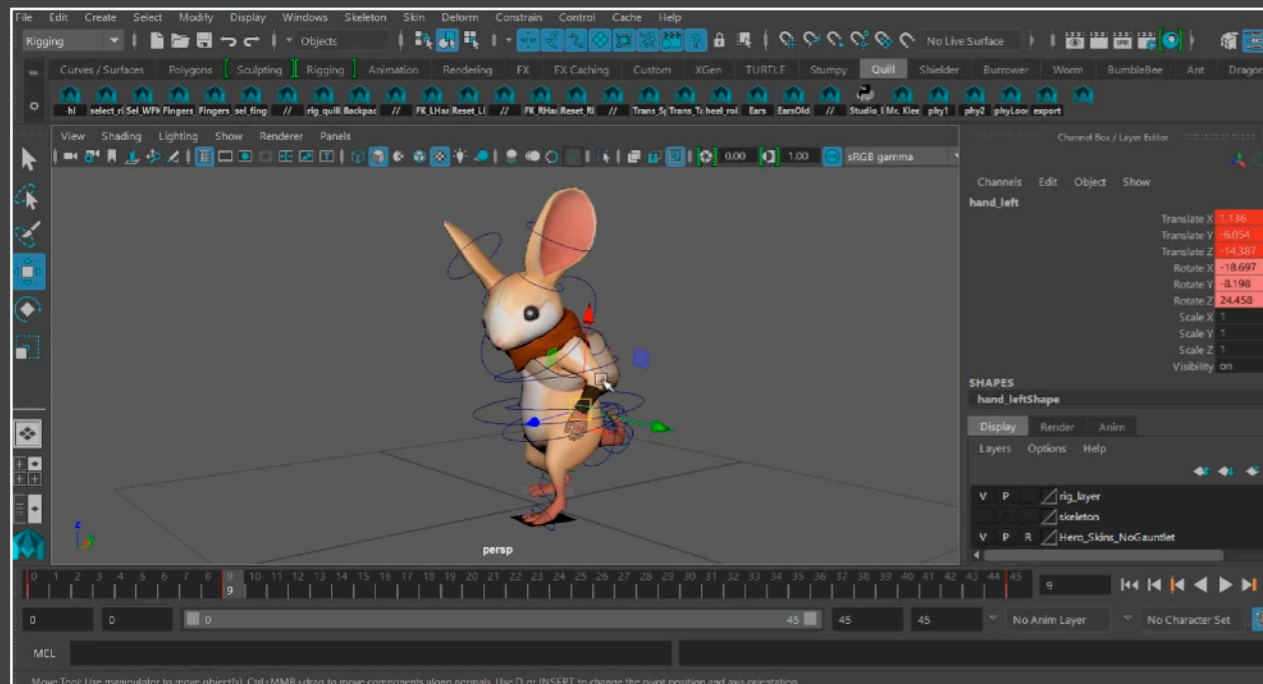
Golf II
The Last of Us Part II
(2020 Game of the Year)



Monster Hunter Rise
(2021)

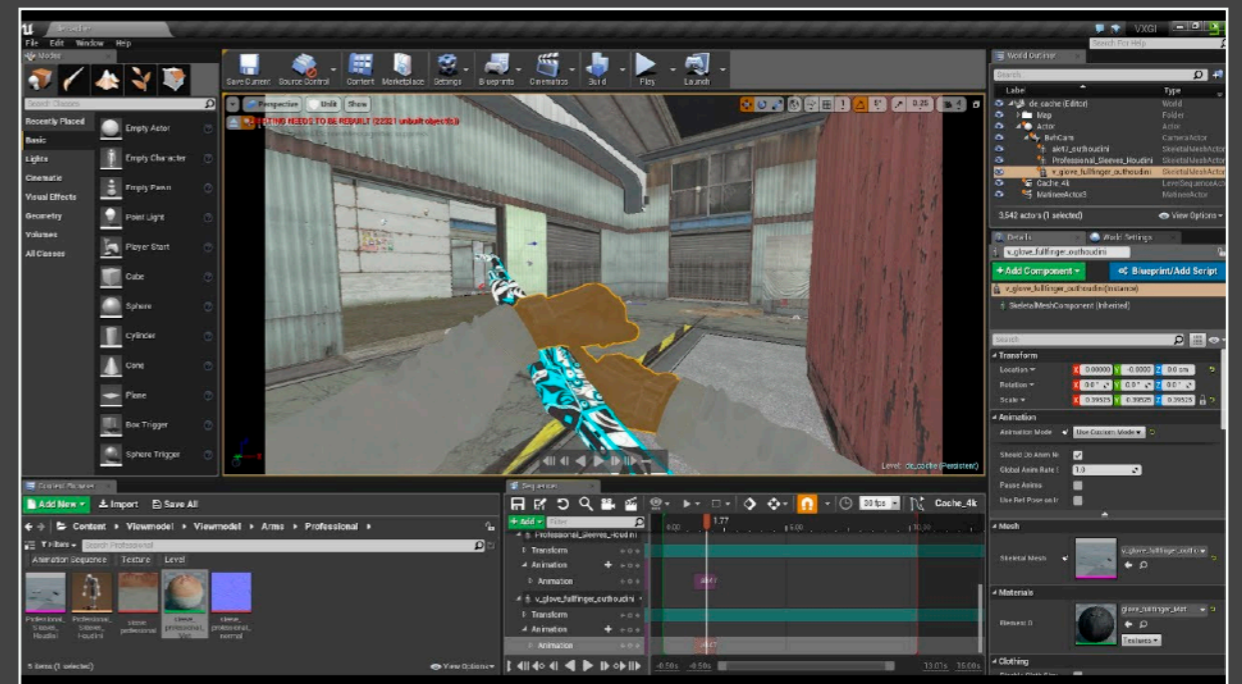
What is GAMES202 **NOT** about?

- 3D modeling or game development using Unreal Engine (where can I learn them?)



Modeling character animation in Maya

[<http://tutorials.cgrecord.net/2017/08/17-minute-animation-process-in-autodesk.html>]

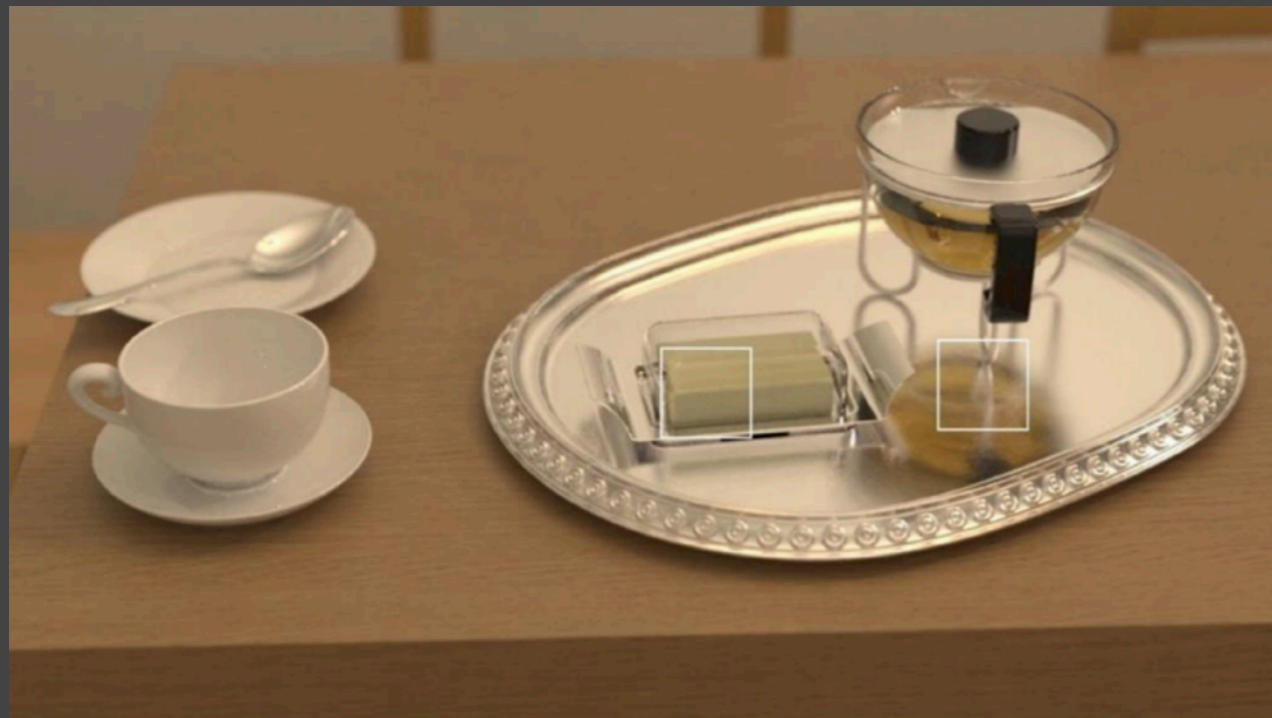


CSGO PoV Cam set up in Unreal Engine

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TQ18SmQSw0>]

What is GAMES202 **NOT** about?

- Expensive (but more accurate) light transport techniques in movies / animations (where can I learn this?)



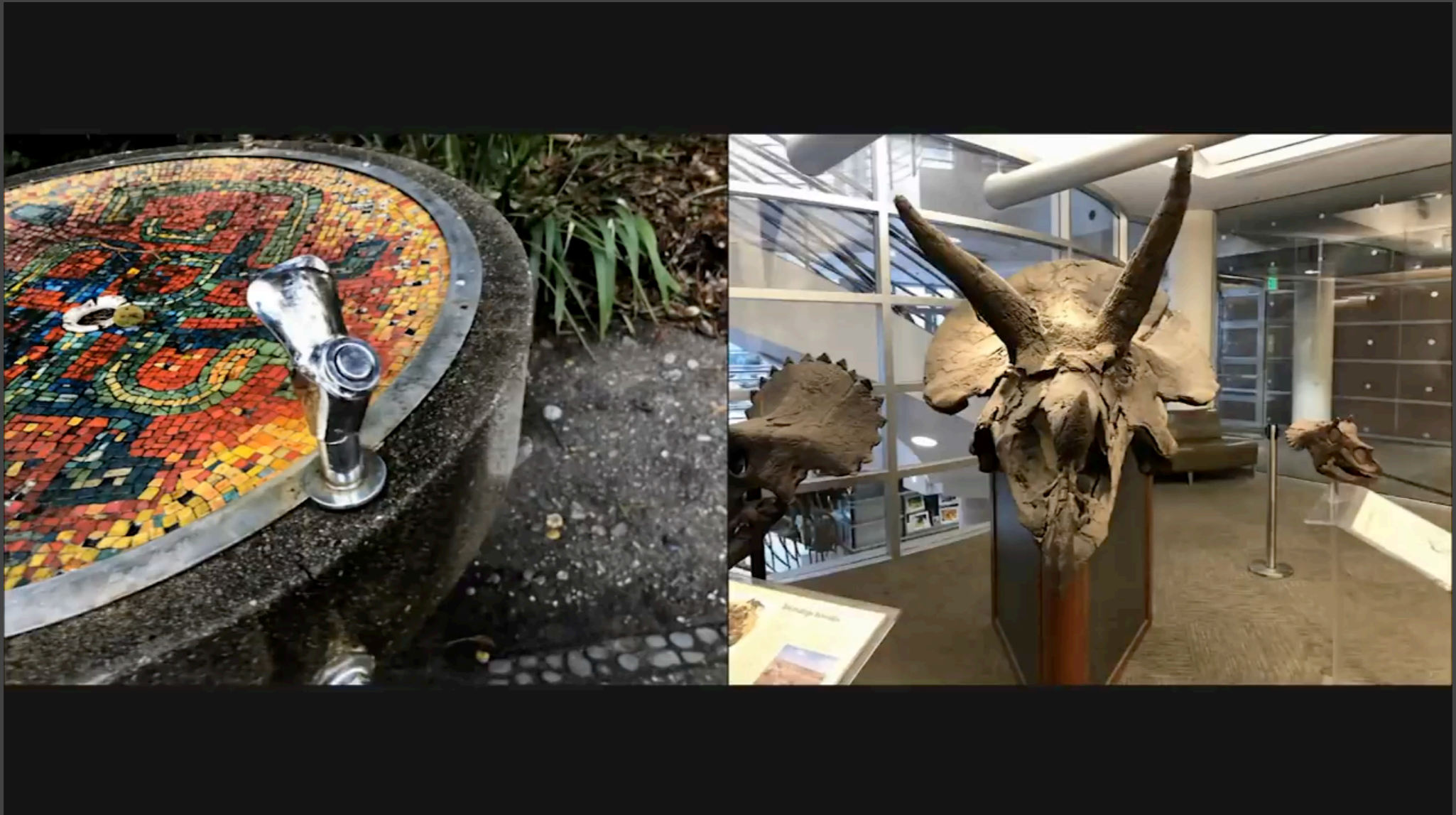
Manifold Metropolis Light Transport
Jakob et al.



Gradient Domain Path Tracing
Kettunen et al.

What is GAMES202 **NOT** about?

- Neural Rendering



NeRF: Representing Scenes as Neural Radiance Fields for View Synthesis
[Mildenhall et al.]

What is GAMES202 **NOT** about?

- Using OpenGL
- Scene / shader optimization
- Reverse engineering of shaders
- High performance computing
e.g. CUDA programming

Questions?

How to study GAMES202?

- Understand the difference between science and technology
 - Science \neq technology
 - Science \implies knowledge
 - Technology \implies engineering skills that turn science into product
- Real-time rendering = fast & approximate offline rendering + systematic engineering
- Fact: in real-time rendering technologies, the industry is way ahead of the academia
- Practice makes perfect

How to study GAMES202?

- If you are watching live streams of this course
 - Be active asking questions!
- If you are watching recordings
 - 1.25x - 1.5x playback speed is recommended!

Why study GAMES202?

Computer Graphics
is
AWESOME!

Course Logistics

Prerequisites

- **Strong interest** in Rendering, Graphics
- Computer Graphics experience
 - GAMES101 or equivalent
 - Basic calculus
- What else to be prepared?
 - Basic OpenGL Shader Language (GLSL)!
 - The next lecture will briefly review it
 - Assignment 0 (optional, will be released with the next lecture) will help you warm up quickly

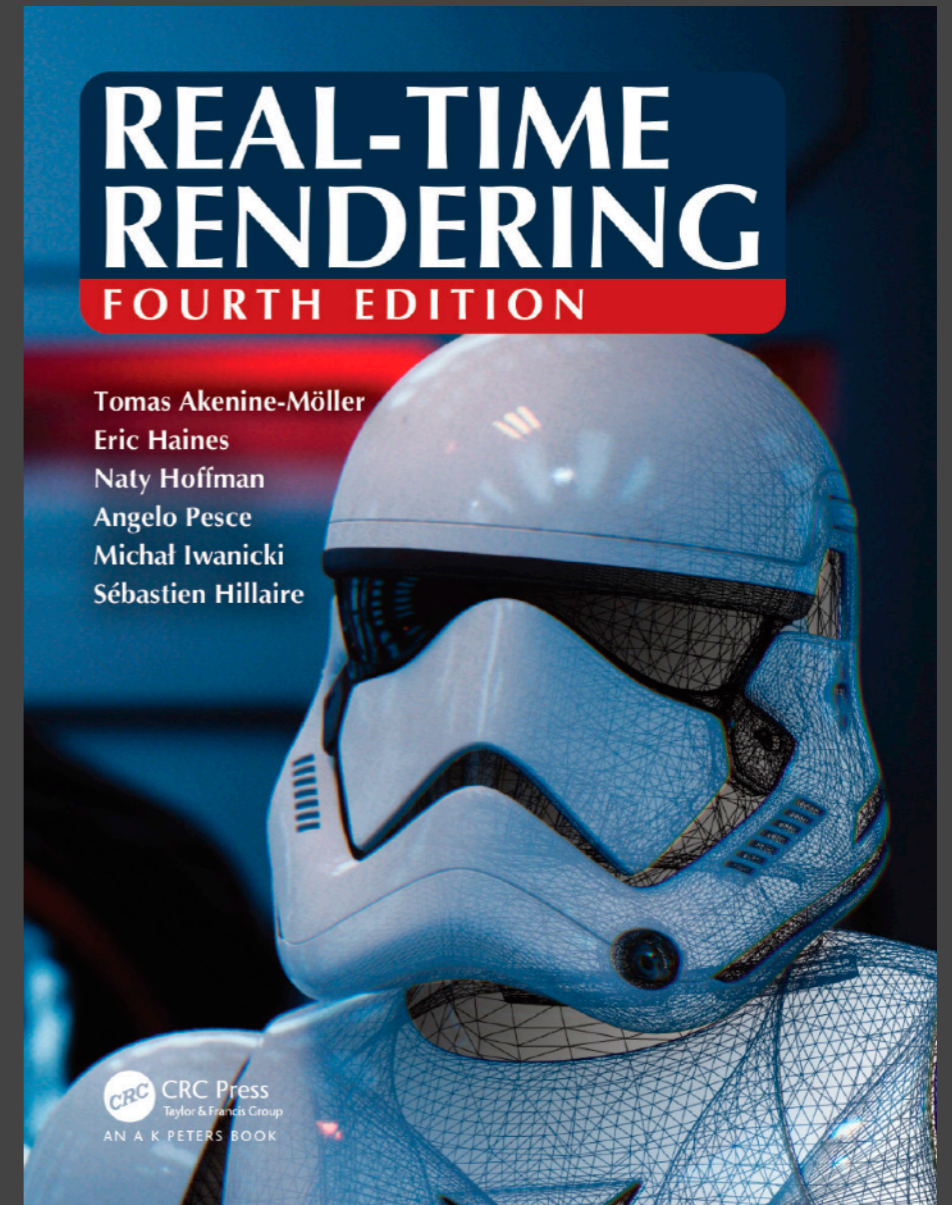
General Information

- Modern Course
 - Comprehensive but *no need to have extreme hardware!*
 - Pace / contents subject to change
- Course Website
 - <http://www.cs.ucsb.edu/~lingqi/teaching/games202.html>
 - *Has all the needed information*
 - Syllabus, slides, reading materials, etc.



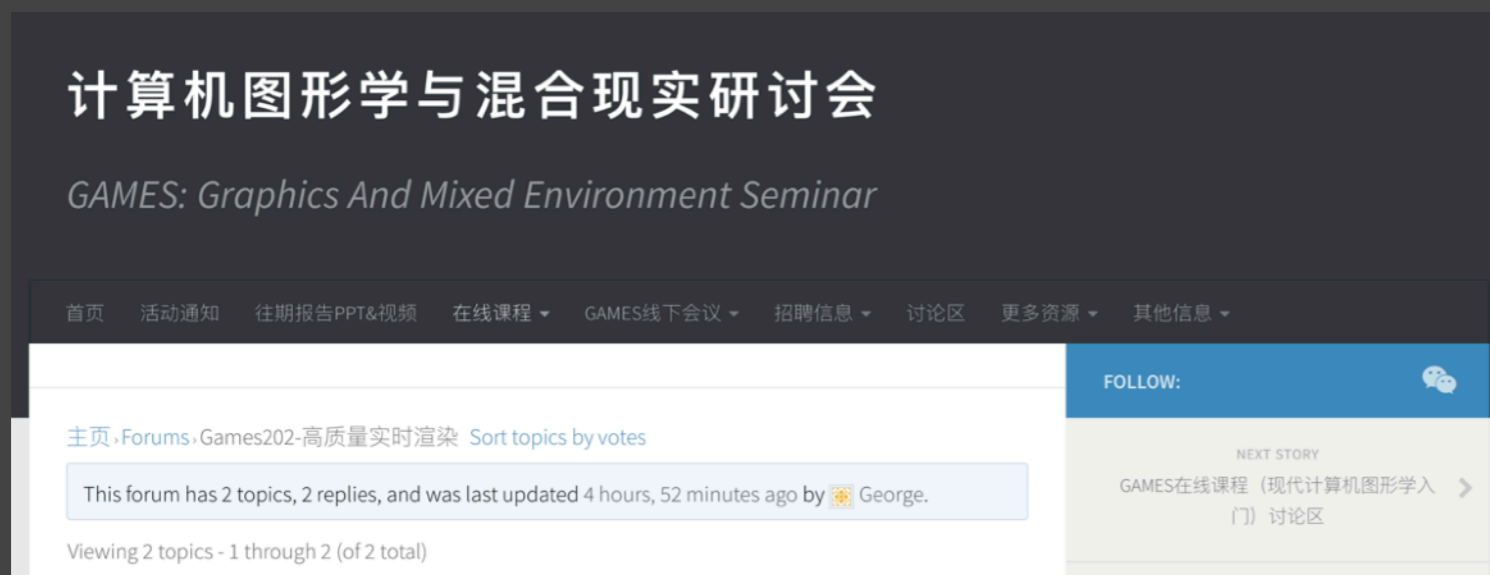
References

- No Required Textbooks
 - Reading materials (if any) will be available online before lectures
 - Mainly SIGGRAPH courses + engine design docs
 - Lecture slides will be available after class
- Possible reference
 - Akenine-Moller et al., "Real-time Rendering", 4th edition.
 - Still not quite related (unlike the tiger book to GAMES101)



Q & A

- Sign up on our BBS for discussion (<http://games-cn.org/forums/forum/games202/>)
- And QQ group!



Assignments

- Assignments
 - 5 programming assignments (excluding assignment 0)
 - About 1.5 week for each assignment
 - Language: OpenGL Shader Language (GLSL)
 - Code skeleton will be provided (Javascript + WebGL)
- Submission
 - Submit your project by 11:59PM AoE (Anywhere on Earth) on/before the due dates
 - Feedback will be provided in a week

Assignments

- A quick look at our assignment skeleton



Assignments

- Assignment Submission Website (<http://smartchair.org/GAMES202>)
- No Exams
- Course Project / Final Project
 - Starting midway of this course
 - References will be provided, but you decide the topic
 - Best work will be posted online for showing off



The screenshot shows the login interface for the SmartChair system. At the top left is the SmartChair logo and the text '思澈会议系统'. Below this is the title '登录系统进入 GAMES202'. There are two input fields: 'Email address' and 'Password'. A blue '登录' (Login) button is positioned below the password field. Underneath the button are three links: '请使用思澈会议系统(SmartChair)帐号登录系统注册相应会议及课程。关于思澈会议系统(SmartChair)帐号 (m)', '注册新的思澈会议系统(SmartChair)帐号 (→)', and '忘记密码? (→)'. At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled '高质量实时渲染' with the URL <https://sites.cs.ucsb.edu/~lingqi/teaching/games202.html> and the text '在线 2021年 3月10日 ~ 6月30日'. Below this, it says 'GAMES 202在线课程: 高质量实时渲染' and '主讲老师: 闫令琪, UCSB (<https://sites.cs.ucsb.edu/~lingqi>)'. The footer of the page includes '课程主页: <https://sites.cs.ucsb.edu/~lingqi/teaching/games202.html>'.

No Need to Use An IDE!

- IDE: Integrated Development Environment
- An IDE Helps you parse a entire project
 - And gives hints on syntax / usages of member functions, etc.
- Since you'll be focusing on writing shaders most of the times in this course
 - No need to use an IDE this time
 - A text editor is perfectly fine
 - Sublime Text, Vi / Vim, Emacs, etc.
 - Online text editors are also great

Academic integrity

- Work alone for regular assignments
 - no copy-pasting from any other sources
- Do not publish your code (on Github, etc.) for assignments using our skeleton code
- Do not post your solution online
 - Discussion / explanation is welcomed

Questions?

Today's Lecture

Outline

- Motivation
- Evolution of real-time rendering
- Technological and algorithmic milestones
 - Programmable graphics hardware
 - Precomputation-based methods
 - Interactive Ray Tracing

Motivation

- Today, Computer Graphics is able to generate **photorealistic** images
 - Complex geometry, lighting, materials, shadows
 - Computer-generated movies/special effects (difficult or impossible to tell real from rendered...)



[Artist: Teruyuki and Yuka]



[Artist:
Hyun Kyung]

Motivation

- But accurate algorithms (esp. ray tracing) are **very slow**
 - So they are called **offline rendering** methods
 - Remember how long it takes to render **1 frame** in Zootopia?



Zootopia, Disney Animation

Motivation

- With proper approximations, we can generate **plausible** results but runs much faster



Toyota 2000GT, from TurboSquid
(offline rendering)



Final Fantasy XV
(**real-time rendering**)

Evolution of Real-Time Rendering

- Interactive 3D graphics pipeline as in OpenGL
 - Earliest SGI machines (Clark 82) to today
 - Most of focus on more geometry, texture mapping
 - Some tweaks for realism (shadow mapping, accum. buffer)



SGI Reality Engine 93
(Kurt Akeley)

Evolution of Real-Time Rendering

- 20 years ago
 - Interactive 3D geometry with simple texture mapping, fake shadows (OpenGL, DirectX)



Final Fantasy VII
(1997)



Counter Strike
(1999)

Evolution of Real-Time Rendering

- 20 -> 10 years ago
 - A giant leap since the emergence of programmable shaders (2000)
 - Complex environment lighting, real materials (velvet, satin, paints), soft shadows



Assassin's Creed II
(2009)

DARK



Resident Evil 5
(2009)

OILY

Evolution of Real-Time Rendering

- Today
 - “Stunning graphics”



God of War (2018)

Evolution of Real-Time Rendering

- Today
 - Extended to Virtual Reality (VR) and even movies



Beat Saber, VR Game



Zafari, animation series rendered completely using Unreal game engine

Evolution of Real-Time Rendering

- Today



(2018) - Photorealistic Forests with Unreal Engine 4

Evolution of Real-Time Rendering

- Today



(2018) - Real-Time Ray Tracing Demo, NVIDIA

Evolution of Real-Time Rendering


- In the future



The Matrix (1999 movie)

Evolution of Real-Time Rendering

- In the future

A screenshot from the movie Ready Player One showing a futuristic interface. The text "COLUMBUS, OHIO" is displayed in a light blue, monospace font, with "2045" below it in a larger, bold, light blue font. The background is dark blue with some colorful, out-of-focus light streaks and bokeh effects, suggesting a virtual environment.

COLUMBUS, OHIO
2045

Ready Player One (2018 movie)

Technological and Algorithmic Milestones

- Programmable graphics hardware (shaders) (20 years ago)



A New Dawn demo, NVIDIA

<https://www.geforce.com/games-applications/pc-applications/a-new-dawn/videos>

Technological and Algorithmic Milestones

- Programmable graphics hardware (shaders)

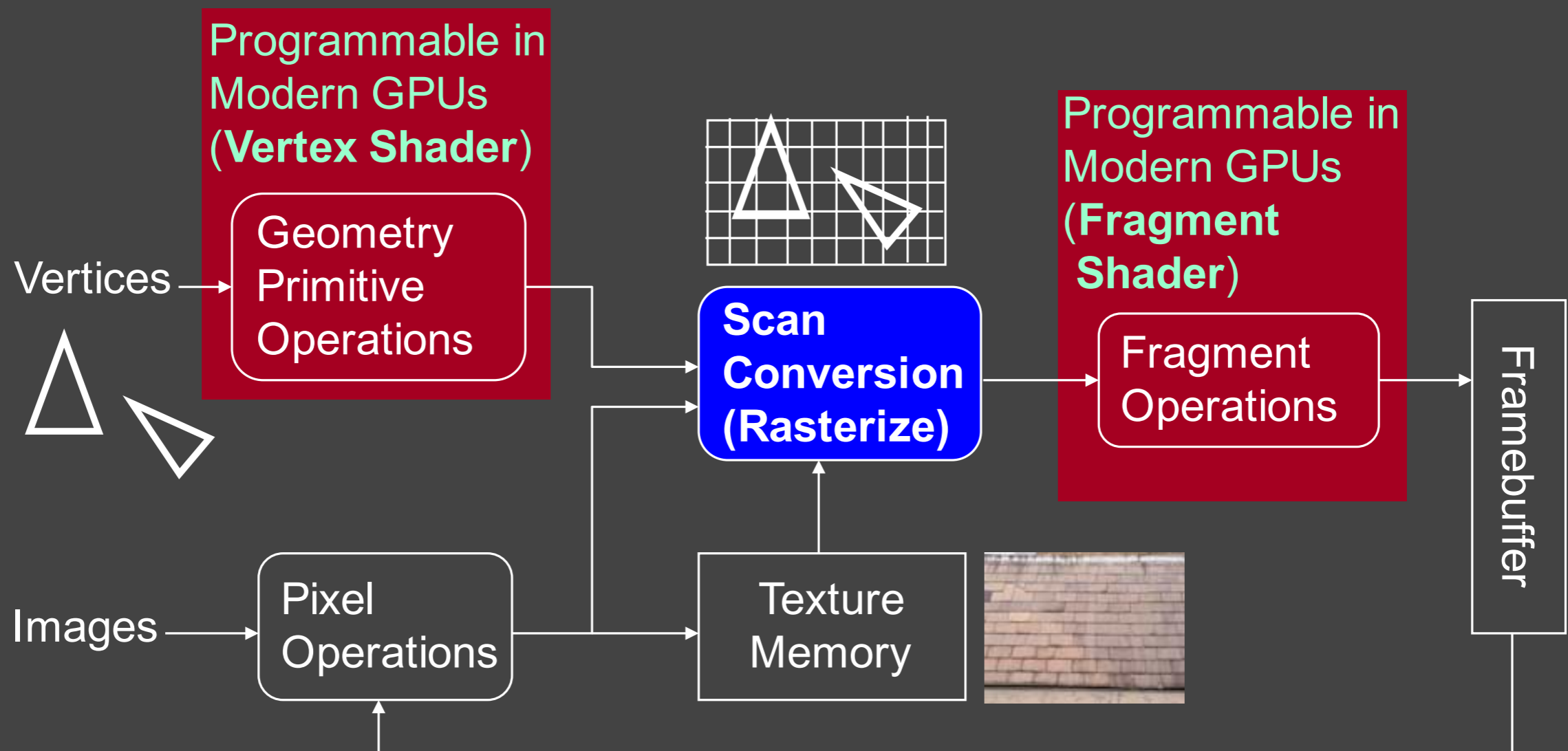


Image courtesy of Prof. Ravi Ramamoorthi

Technological and Algorithmic Milestones

- Precomputation-based methods (15 years ago)
 - Complex visual effects are (partially) **pre-computed**
 - Minimum rendering cost **at run time**

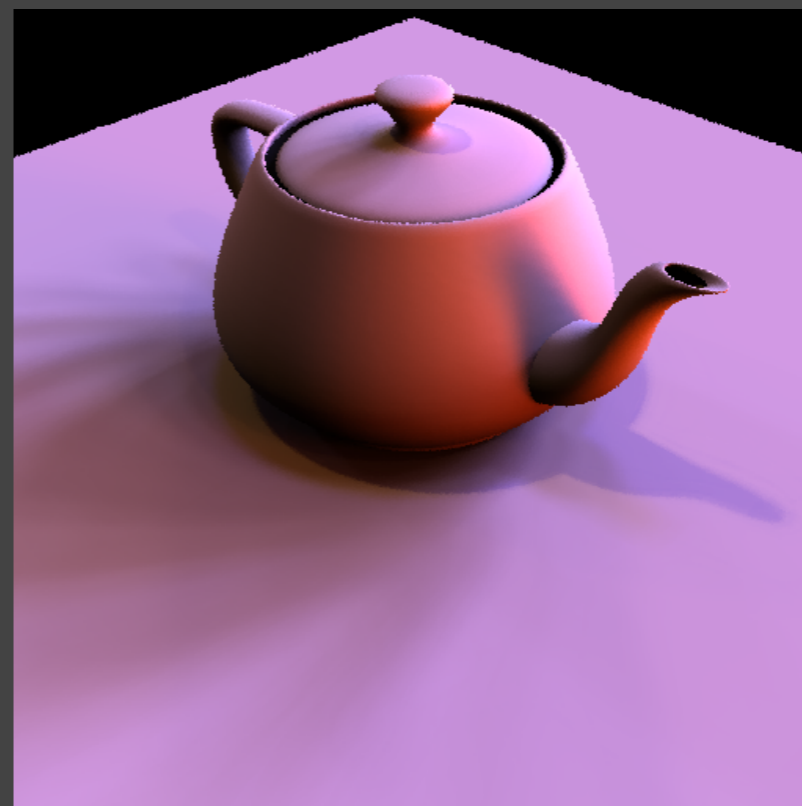
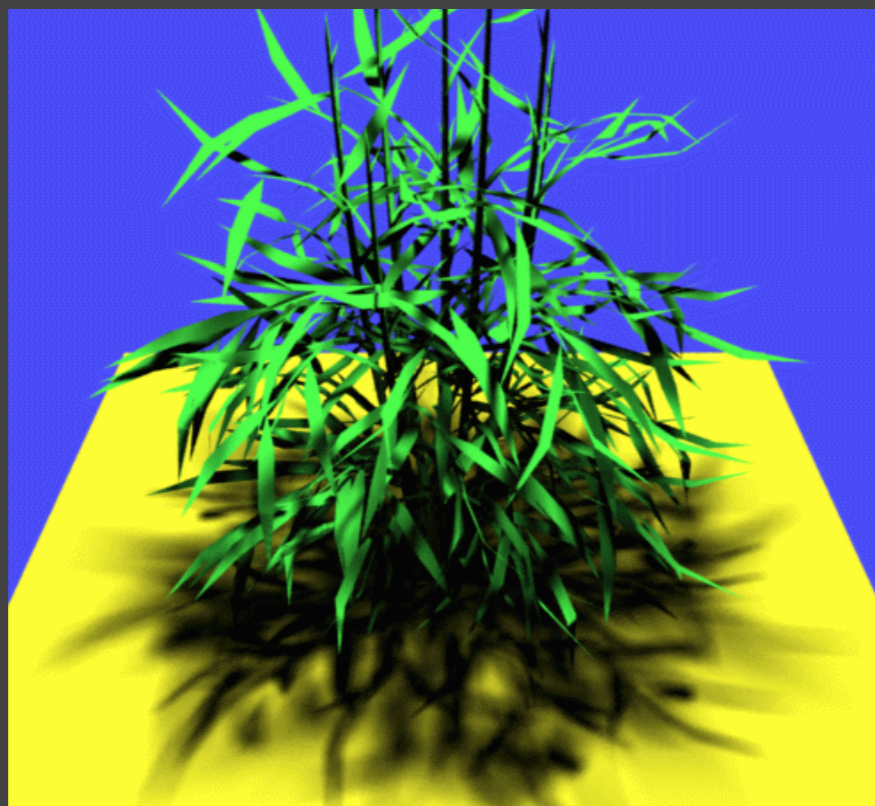


Image courtesy of Prof. Ravi Ramamoorthi

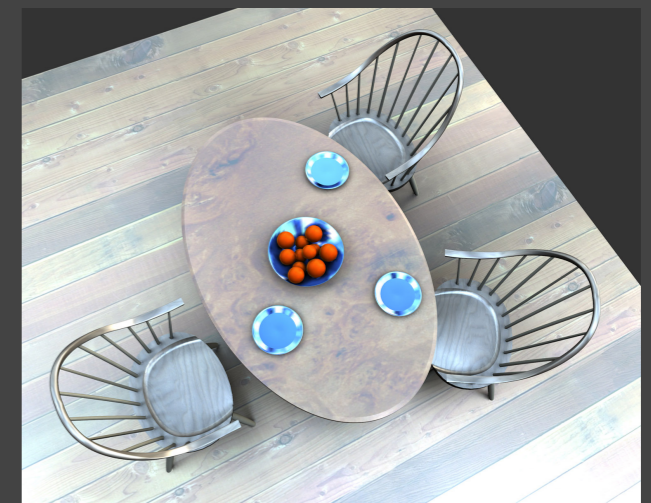
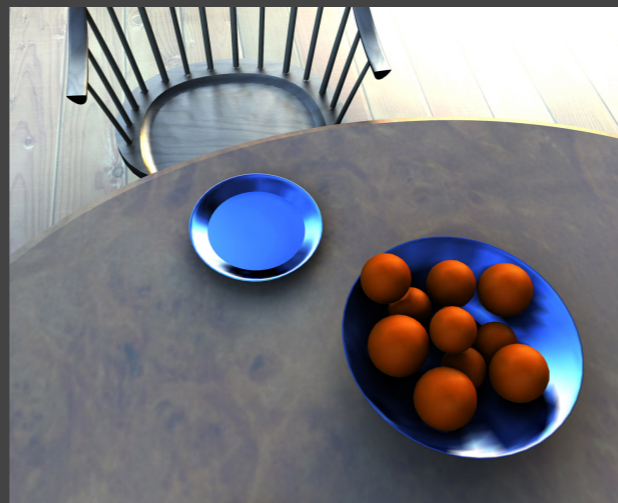
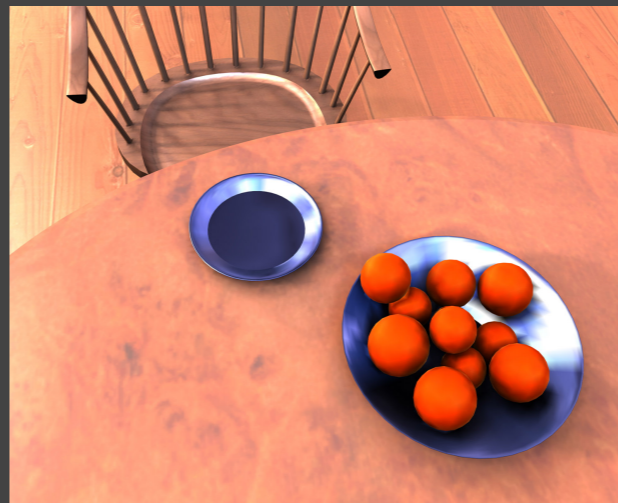
Technological and Algorithmic Milestones

- Precomputation-based methods



Technological and Algorithmic Milestones

- Precomputation-based methods: Relighting
 - Fix geometry
 - Fix viewpoint
 - Dynamically change lighting



[Ng, Ramamoorthi, Hanrahan 04]

Technological and Algorithmic Milestones

- Interactive Ray Tracing (8-10 years ago: CUDA + OptiX)
 - Hardware development allows ray tracing on GPUs at low sampling rates (~1 samples per pixel (SPP))
 - Followed by post processing to denoise



Car interactively rendered
using NVIDIA OptiX



Pixar's real-time
previewer

Questions?

Next Lecture

- A swift and brutal recap of some important concepts
 - Graphics Pipeline
 - Shader Language
 - Rendering Equation
 - Calculus
 - etc.

Thank you!