

CSCI 461: Computer Graphics

Middlebury College, Fall 2023

Lecture 01: Pixels

A note about masks.

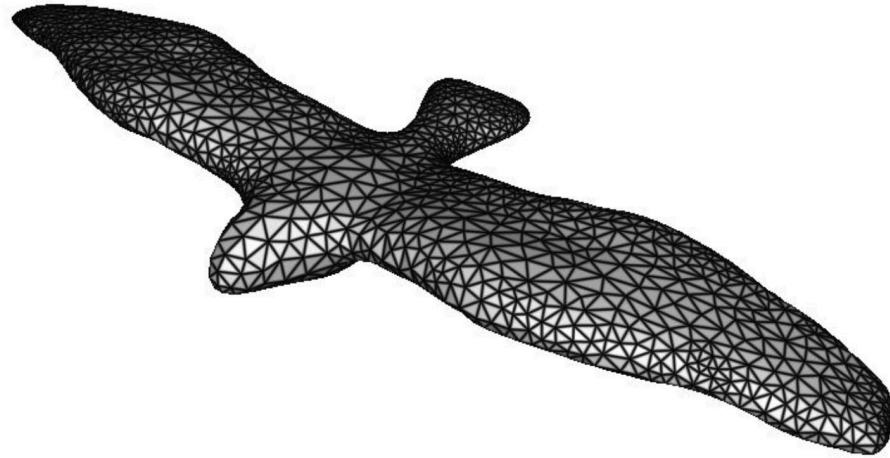
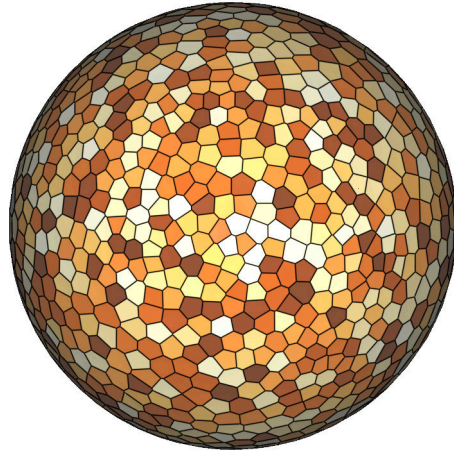
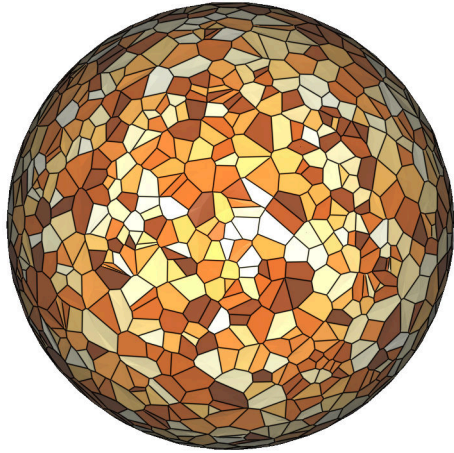
- Please wear a mask during my office hours.
- I'll wear a mask in class during the first few weeks of the semester.
- You are encouraged to wear a mask but free to decide whether or not to wear a mask in class.

A little about me...

- Please call me Philip.
- I'm from Montreal, went to graduate school in Boston.
- Recently worked for a startup in San Francisco (living in NH).
- My favorite hike around here is the Falls of Lana/Silver Lake trail.
- I have type 1 diabetes and may need sugar if I'm hypoglycemic.
- This is my dog Leila :)



 Things I am currently working on...



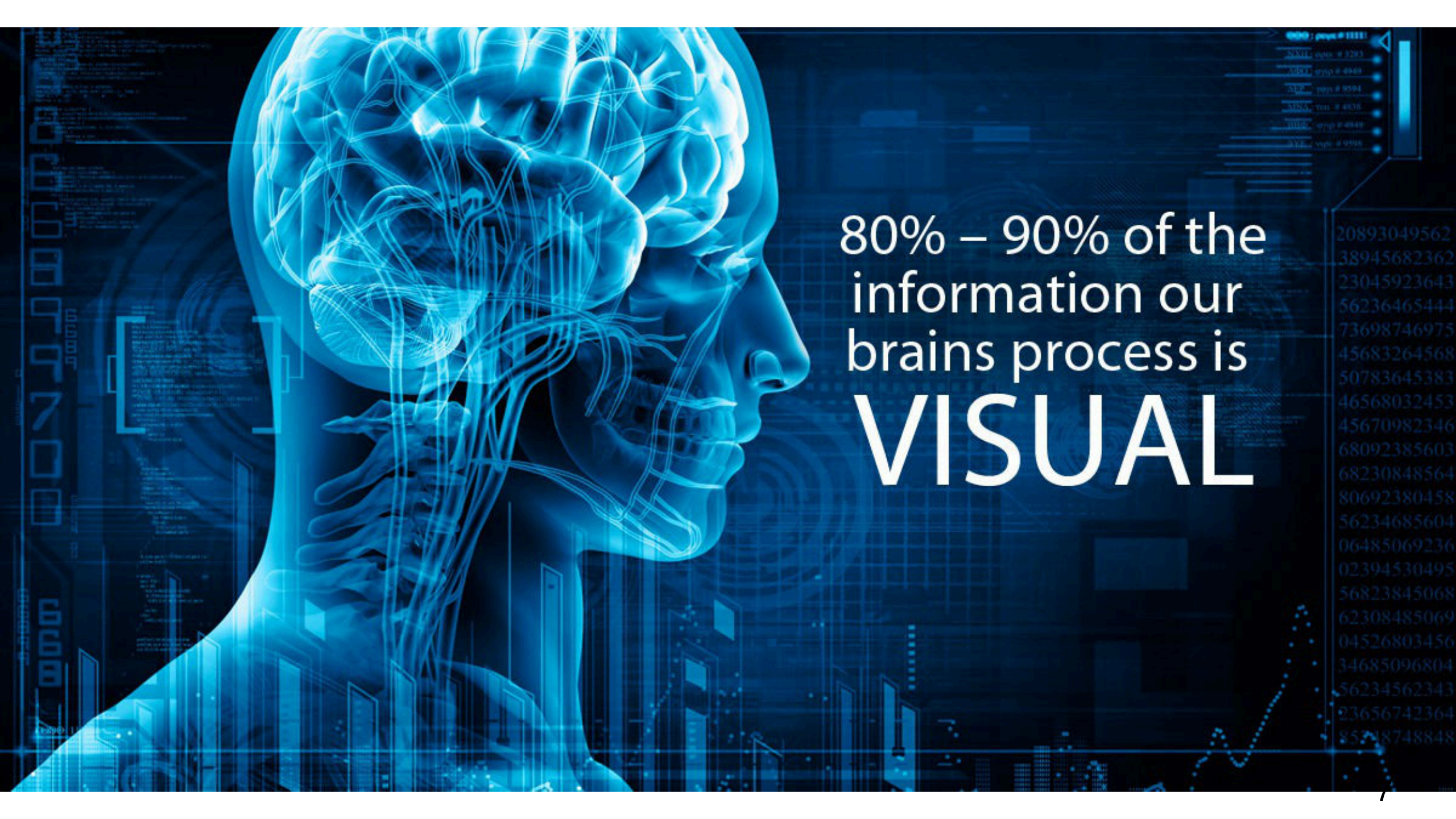
A little about you!

In groups of 3-4:

- Introduce yourselves!
- What is computer graphics about?

What is Computer Graphics about?

Computer graphics is about developing computer programs to create visual information.



80% – 90% of the
information our
brains process is
VISUAL

0002	page # 11111
0001	page # 3283
0004	page # 4949
0005	page # 9594
0006	page # 4838
0007	page # 4949
0008	page # 9598

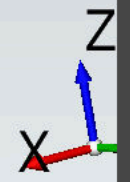
20893049562
38945682362
23045923643
56236465444
73698746975
45683264568
50783645383
4656803245
45670982346
68092385603
68230848564
80692380458
56234685604
06485069236
02394530495
56823845068
62308485069
04526803456
34685096804
56234562343
23656742364
85238748848

Trent 900 Step.stp

- Wireframe
- Smoothly Shaded
- Shaded with Edges

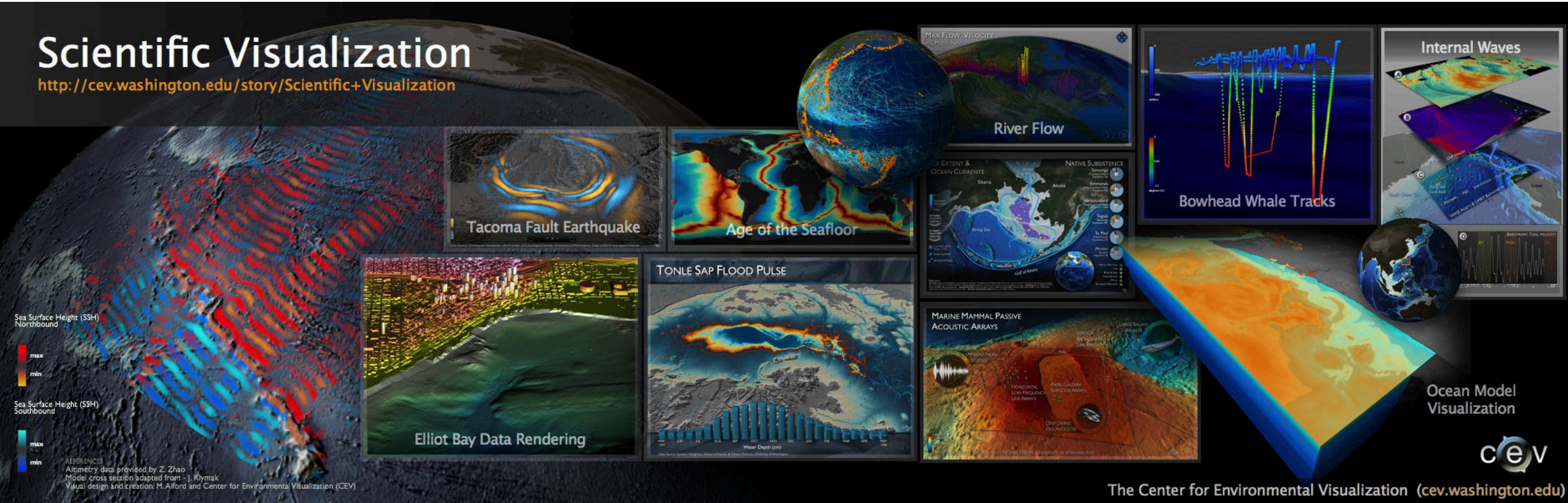
Yellow	Green	Cyan	Magenta	Blue
Red	Dark Blue	Teal	Light Green	Purple
Dark Red	Olive	Grey	Light Grey	Black

Drop and Hide icons



Scientific Visualization

<http://cev.washington.edu/story/Scientific+Visualization>



Sea Surface Height (SSH)
Northbound

max
min

Sea Surface Height (SSH)
Southbound

max
min

REFERENCES
Altimetry data provided by Z. Zhao
Model cross section adapted from [1], Klymak
Visual design and creation: M. Aiford and Center for Environmental Visualization (CEV)













What this course is NOT.



Your job is to develop the graphics technology that artists might need.



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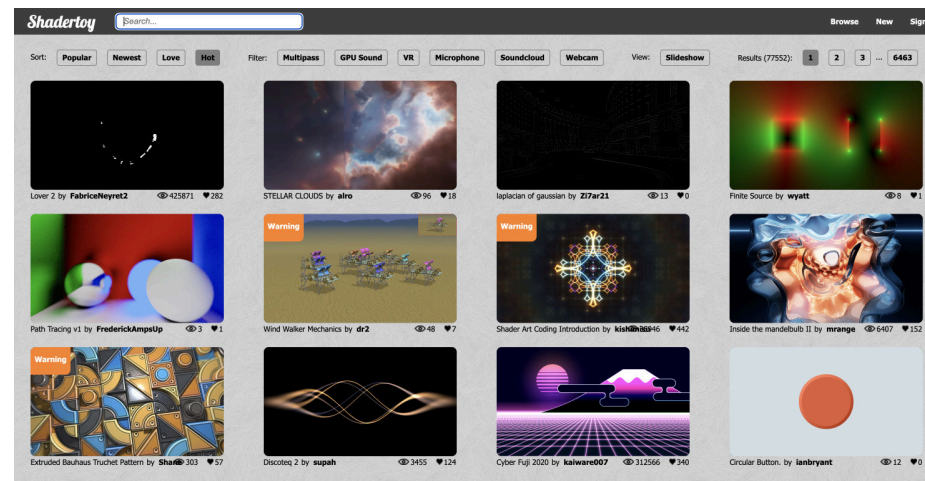
By the end of the course you will:

- develop your own ray tracer to render complex scenes and materials,
- display and manipulate three-dimensional models using rasterization techniques (with WebGL),
- animate three-dimensional objects and physical systems.



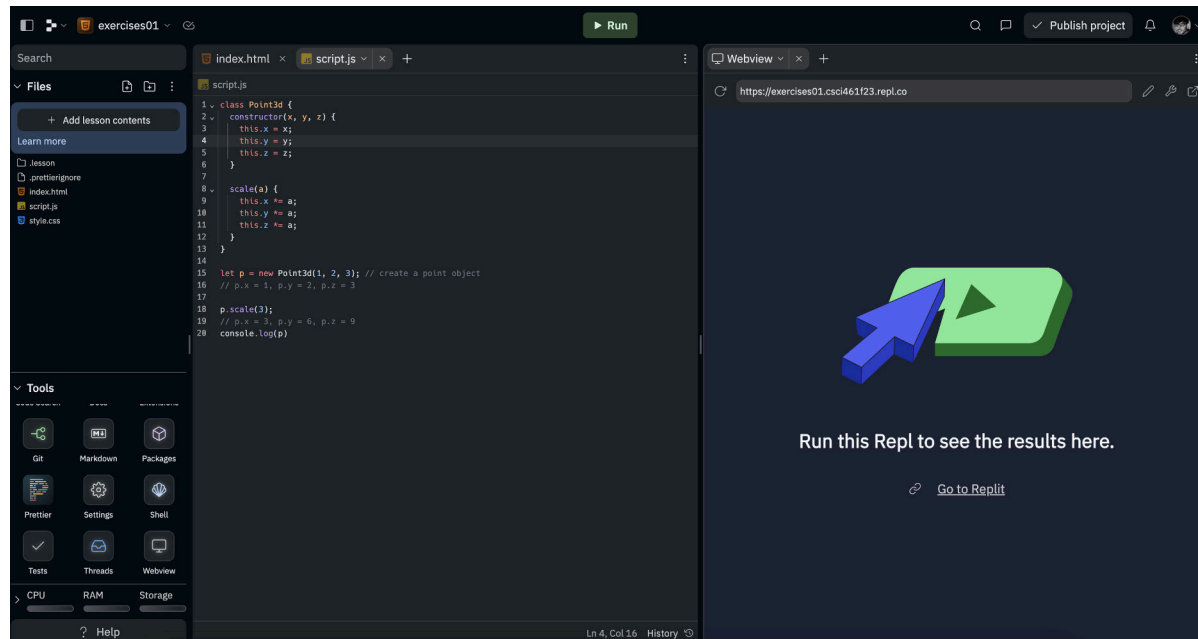
We will use a form of *specification grading*.

- 13 assignments in total: 11 labs + 2 reports.
- Reports (individual) are evaluated CR/NCR:
 - Report 1: reflection on discussion in week 5.
 - Report 2: ShaderToy dissection.
- Labs (groups of 2-3) evaluated using EMRN model:
 - (N)ot assessable: no modification to template or hard to follow.
 - (R)evisions required: error or bug.
 - (M)eets requirements: basic functionality works.
 - (E)xceeds expectations: extensions implemented, experimentation, discussion.



We will use Ed Discussion and repl.it.

- Join Ed Discussion here: <https://edstem.org/us/join/jNDvTh>
- Join replit team here:
<https://replit.com/teams/join/dwguipszohekapvtbpamcckqlbypopyx-csci461f23>

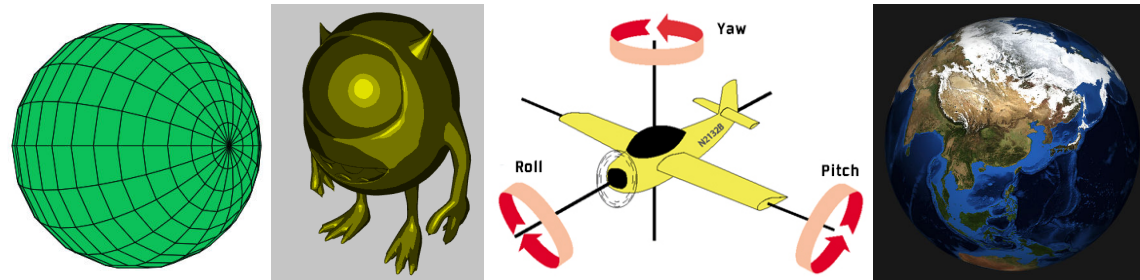
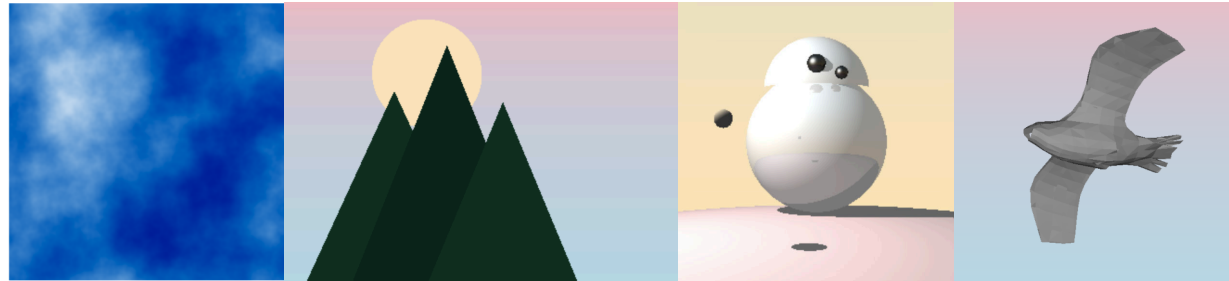


What to expect in this course...



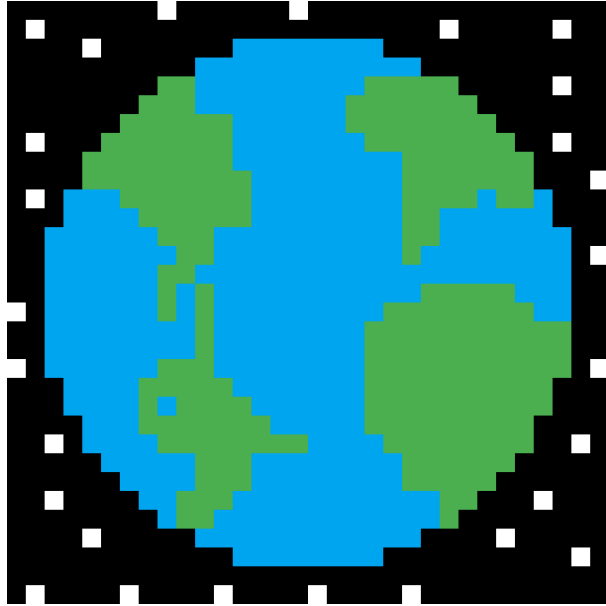
- lectures and exercises on Tuesdays,
- labs in groups on Thursdays, then 1 week to submit lab,
- feedback on current lab status (EMRN), then edit and resubmit,
- A LOT of debugging!
- have fun :)

Labs preview



Let's talk about pixels!

Our goal: assigning pixel colors.



Things to consider:

1. What is the **size** of the image?
2. How to represent **color**?
3. What is the **coordinate system** of the image?

We will often represent the color of a pixel using RGB values in between 0 - 1 (sometimes from 0 - 255).

Please join at slido.com at event #3677434!

☰ In an 8-bit image, there are 8 bits assigned to each pixel. How many possible colors are there for a single pixel? 24 👤

8

16

64

256

16, 777, 216

Voting as Anonymous

Send

Please join at slido.com at event #3677434!

☰ If a 1200×800 image is saved in 8-bit format, how much memory does the image use? Assume the image is not compressed.

23 👤

960 kB

960 MB

7.68 MB

7.68 GB

Voting as Anonymous

Send

Acceptable Use - Slido Privacy

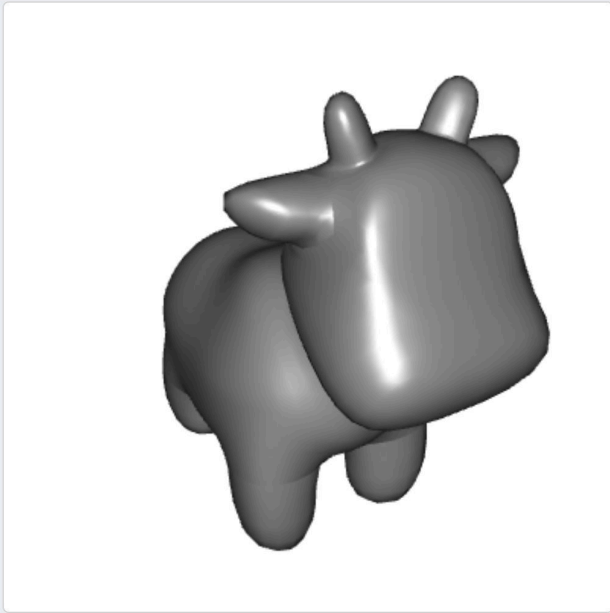
Let's practice with Spot the Cow.

[Click to open the shader editor.](#)

(we'll look at WebGL and GLSL later in the course)

Spot

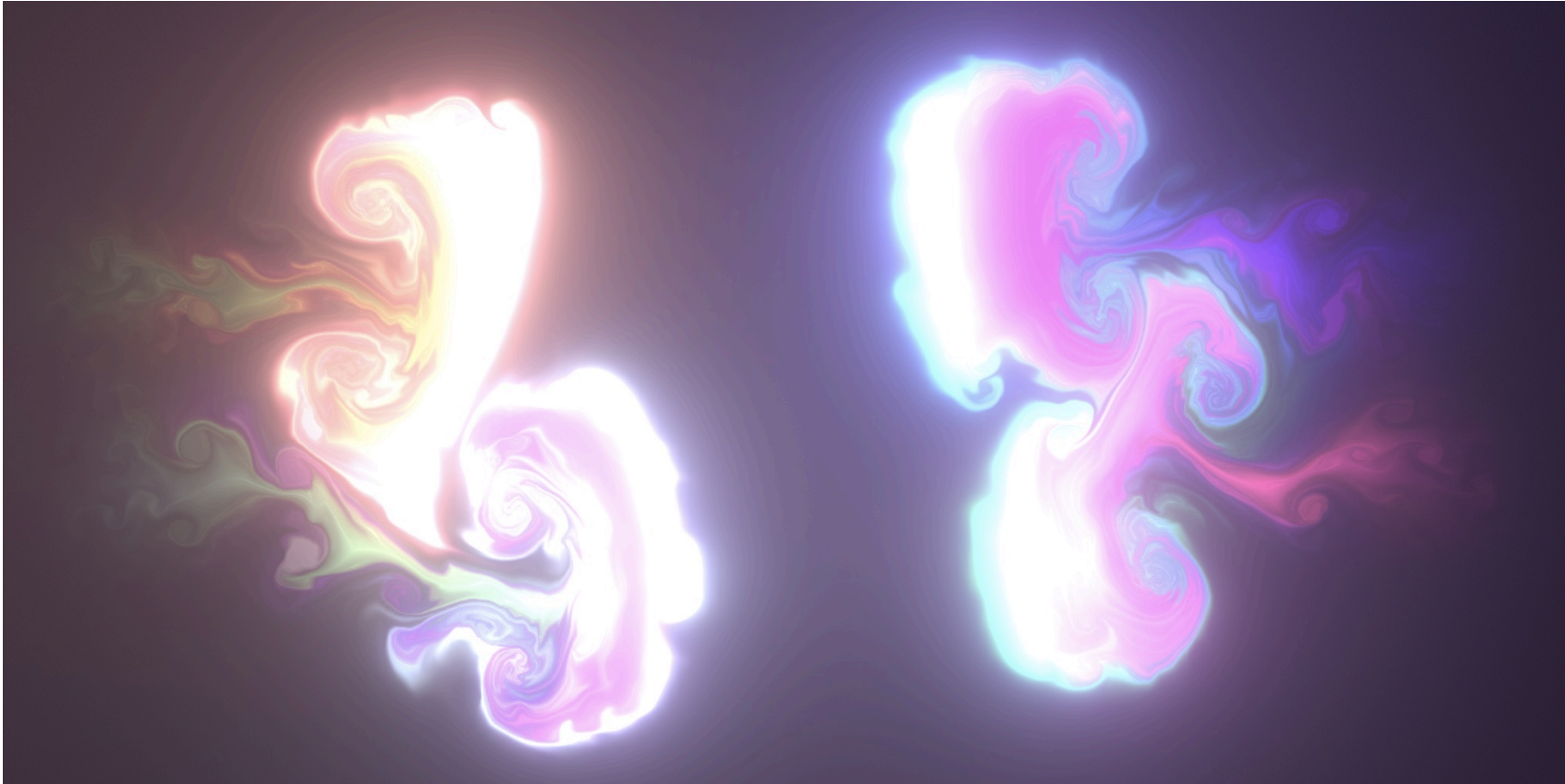
Vertex Shader **Fragment Shader**



```
1 precision mediump float;
2
3 // varyings
4 varying vec3 v_Normal;
5 varying vec3 v_Position;
6 varying vec3 v_Surface;
7
8 // exercise 1: change the RGB values
9 vec3 modelColor = vec3(0.5, 0.5, 0.5);
10
11 void main() {
12     // model coordinates
13     float x = v_Surface.x;
14     float y = v_Surface.y;
15     float z = v_Surface.z;
16
17     // exercise 2: type the flannel expression here!
18
19     // vectors used in lighting calculation (more on this later)
20     vec3 l = -normalize(v_Position);
21     vec3 n = normalize(v_Normal);
22     vec3 r = -reflect(l, n);
23
24     // compute ambient, diffuse and specular terms
```

Our goal: assigning pixel colors.

[Click to open the WebGL fluids demo.](#)



quickly!

JavaScript in one slide.

```
1 class Pixel {
2   constructor(r, g, b) {
3     this.r = r;
4     this.g = g;
5     this.b = b;
6   }
7
8   scale(a) {
9     this.r *= a;
10    this.g *= a;
11    this.b *= a;
12  }
13 }
14
15 Pixel.prototype.set = function(r, g, b) {
```


See you on Thursday!

- Please complete [Background Form](#),
- Familiarize yourself with syllabus, calendar, notes from today,
- Review JavaScript (see links in notes).