


# History of computer graphics

CS 248 - Introduction to Computer Graphics  
Autumn quarter, 2006  
Slides for September 26 lecture

Marc Levoy

## Ivan Sutherland (1963) - SKETCHPAD

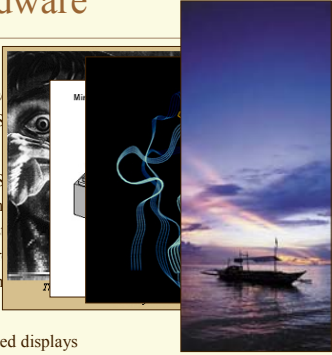


pop-up menus  
constraint-based drawing  
hierarchical modeling

Marc Levoy

## Display hardware

- vector displays
  - 1963 - modified oscilloscope
  - 1974 - Evans and Sutherland
- raster displays
  - 1975 - Evans and Sutherland
  - 1980s - cheap frame buffers
  - 1990s - liquid-crystal displays
  - 2000s - micro-mirrors
  - 2010s - high dynamic range
- other
  - stereo, head-mounted displays
  - autostereoscopic displays




Marc Levoy

## Input hardware

2D


- light pen, tablet, mouse, joystick, track ball, touch panel, etc.
- 1970s & 80s - CCD analog image sensor + frame grabber



Marc Levoy

## Input hardware

2D



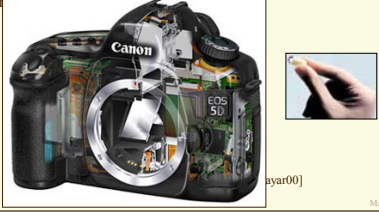
Marc Levoy

## Input hardware

2D

- light pen, tablet, mouse, joystick, track ball, touch panel, etc.
- 1970s & 80s - CCD analog image sensor + frame grabber
- 1990s & 2000's - CMOS digital sensor + in-camera processing

→ high



Marc Levoy

negative film = 130:1 (7 stops)  
 paper prints = 46:1  
 [Debevec97] = 250,000:1 (18 stops)




Marc Levoy

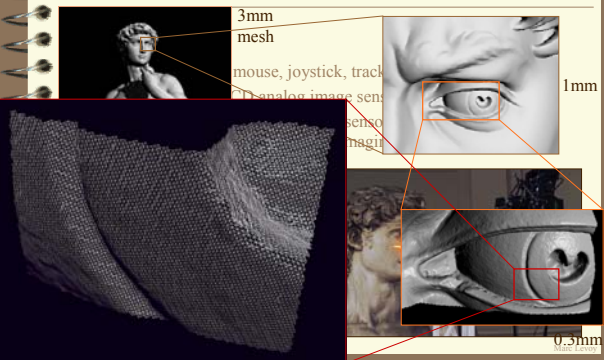
## Input hardware

3mm mesh

mouse, joystick, track ball, touch panel, etc.

1mm

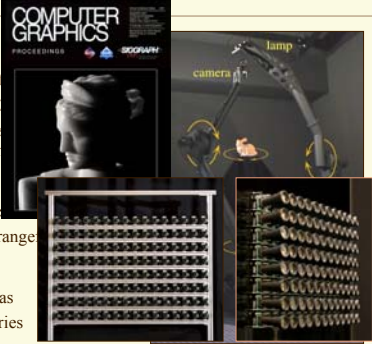
0.5mm



Marc Levoy

## Input hardware

- 2D
  - light pen, tablet
  - 1970s & 80s - digitizers
  - 1990s & 2000s - touchscreens, high-dynamic range displays
- 3D
  - 1980s - 3D trackballs
  - 1990s - active range cameras
- 4D and higher
  - multiple cameras
  - multi-arm gantries




Marc Levoy

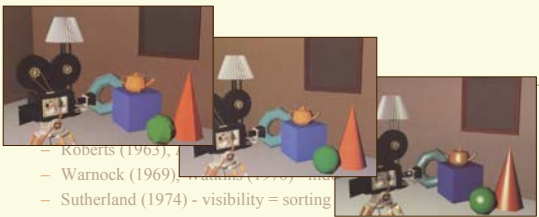
## Rendering

### 1960s - the visibility problem

- Roberts (1963), Appel (1967) - hidden-line algorithms
- Warnock (1969), Watkins (1970) - hidden-surface algorithms
- Sutherland (1974) - visibility = sorting



Marc Levoy

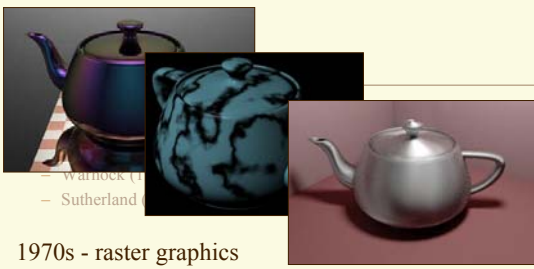


- Roberts (1963)
- Warnock (1969)
- Sutherland (1974) - visibility = sorting

### 1970s - raster graphics

- Gouraud (1971) - diffuse lighting
- Phong (1974) - specular lighting
- Blinn (1974) - curved surfaces, texture
- Crow (1977) - anti-aliasing

Marc Levoy



- Warnock (1969)
- Sutherland (1974)

### 1970s - raster graphics

- Gouraud (1971) - diffuse lighting
- Phong (1974) - specular lighting
- Blinn (1974) - curved surfaces, texture
- Catmull (1974) - Z-buffer hidden-surface algorithm
- Crow (1977) - anti-aliasing

Marc Levoy

early 1980s - global illumination


- Whitted (1980) - ray tracing
- Goral, Torrance et al. (1984), Cohen (1985) - radiosity
- Kajiya (1986) - the rendering equation



Matt Levoy

late 1980s - photorealism

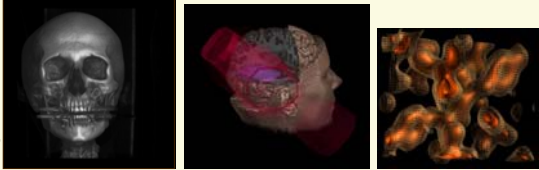
- Cook (1984) - shade trees
- Perlin (1985) - shading languages
- Hanrahan and Lawson (1990) - RenderMan  
→ shaders



Matt Levoy

early 1990s - non-photorealistic rendering

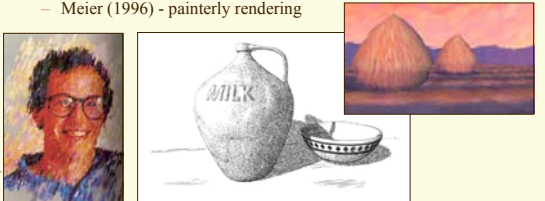
- Drebin et al. (1988), Levoy (1988) - volume rendering
- Haeberli (1990) - impressionistic paint programs
- Salesin et al. (1994-) - automatic pen-and-ink illustration
- Meier (1996) - painterly rendering



Matt Levoy

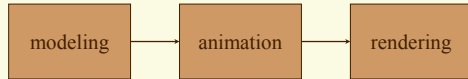
early 1990s - non-photorealistic rendering

- Drebin et al. (1988), Levoy (1988) - volume rendering
- Haeberli (1990) - impressionistic paint programs
- Salesin et al. (1994-) - automatic pen-and-ink illustration
- Meier (1996) - painterly rendering



Matt Levoy

## The graphics pipeline



Marc Levoy

## Modeling

- polygons
- constructive solid geometry
- parametric surfaces
- implicit surfaces
- subdivision surfaces
- particle systems
- volumes

Marc Levoy

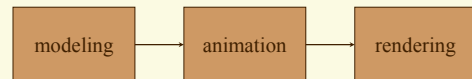
## Animation

- scripted
- key-frame interpolation
- inverse kinematics
- dynamics

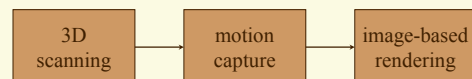
Marc Levoy

## The graphics pipeline

the traditional pipeline



the new pipeline



Marc Levoy

early 1990s - non-photorealistic rendering

- Drebin et al. (1988), Levoy (1988) - volume rendering
- Haeberli (1990) - impressionistic paint programs
- Salesin et al. (1994-) - automatic pen-and-ink illustration
- Meier (1996) - painterly rendering

late 1990s - image-based rendering

- Chen and Williams (1993) - view interpolation
- McMillan and Bishop (1995) - plenoptic modeling
- Levoy and Hanrahan (1996) - light field rendering

Mark Levoy