idc15

Imagination Developers Connection

PowerVR Graphics - Latest Developments and Future Plans

Latest Developments and Future Plans

A brief introduction

- **Joe Davis**
  - Lead Developer Support Engineer, PowerVR Graphics
  - With Imagination's PowerVR Developer Technology team for ~6 years

- **PowerVR Developer Technology**
  - SDK, tools, documentation and developer support/relations (e.g. this session ☺)

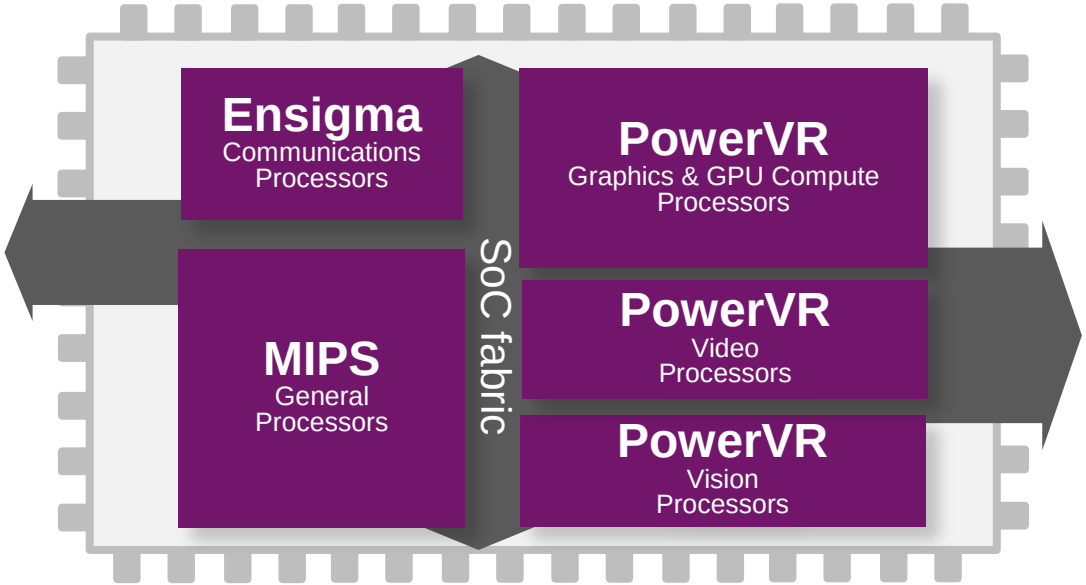
Company overview

About Imagination

Multimedia, processors, communications and cloud IP

Driving IP innovation with unrivalled portfolio

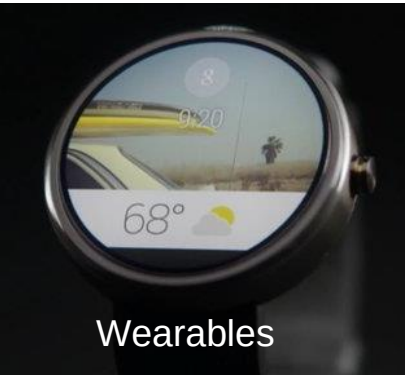
- Recognised leader in graphics, GPU compute and video IP
- #3 design IP company world-wide*



* source: Gartner

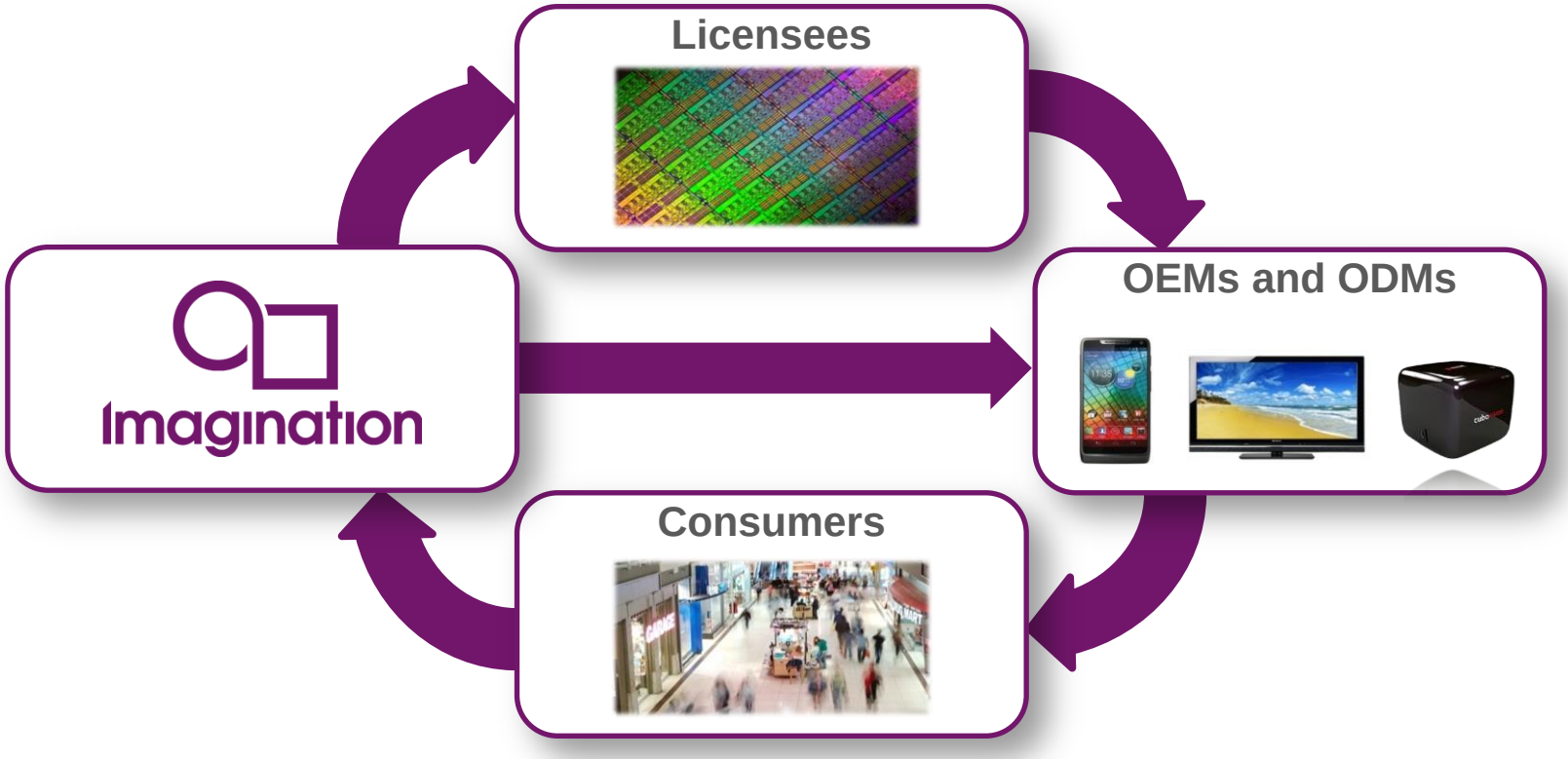
About Imagination

Our IP plus our partners' know-how combine to drive and disrupt



About Imagination

Business model



About Imagination

Our licensees and partners drive our business

PowerVR Rogue Hardware

PowerVR Rogue

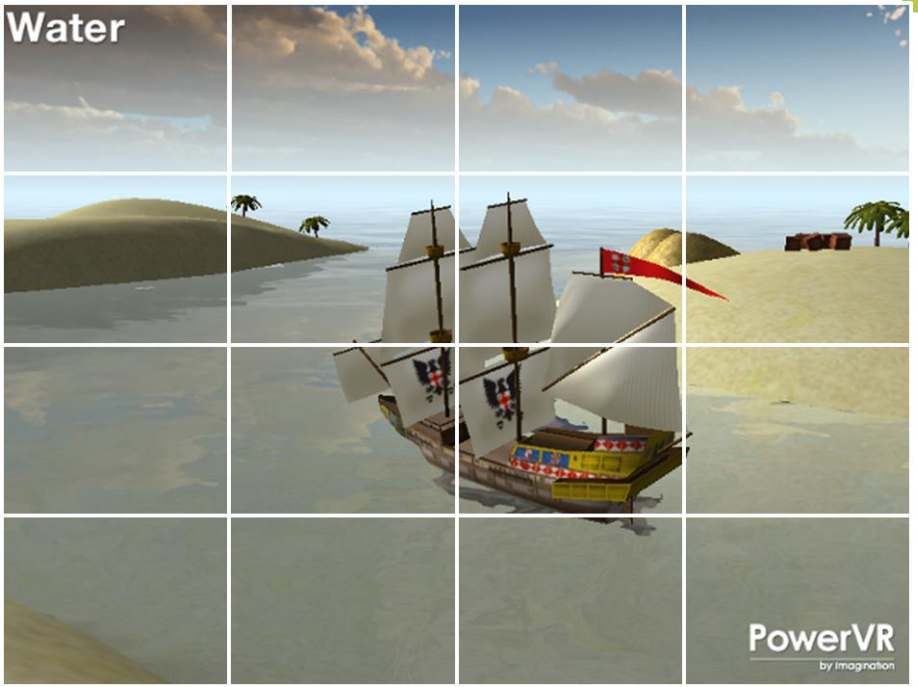
Recap

- **Tile-based deferred renderer**
  - Building on technology proven over 5 previous generations
- **Formally announced at CES 2012**
- **USC - Universal Shading Cluster**
  - New scalar SIMD shader core
  - General purpose compute is a first class citizen in the core …
  - … while not forgetting what makes a shader core great for graphics

TBDR

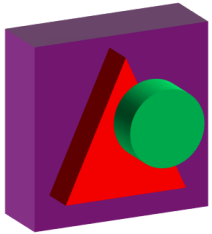
Tile-based

- **Tile-based**
  - Split each render up into small tiles (32x32 for the most part)
  - Bin geometry after vertex shading into those tiles
  - Tile-based rasterisation and pixel shading
  - Keep all data access for pixel shading on chip



TBDR

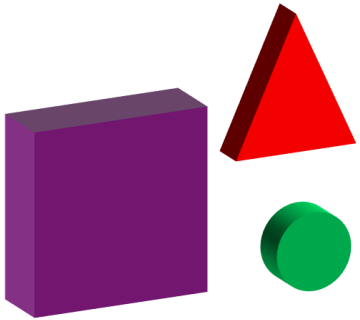
Deferred



- **Deferred rasterisation**
  - Don’t actually get the GPU to do any pixel shading straight away
  - HW support for fully deferred rasterisation and then pixel shading
  - Rasterisation is pixel accurate

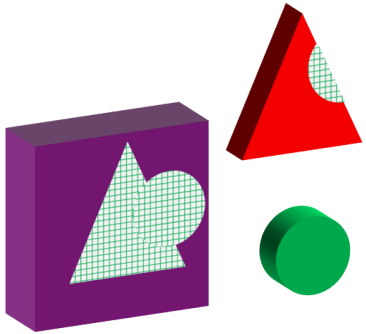
Conventional GPUs

All surfaces filled



PowerVR GPUs

Only visible surfaces filled



TBDR

Bandwidth savings

- **Bandwidth savings across all phases of rendering**
  - Only fetch the geometry needed for the tile
  - Only process the visible pixels in the tile
- **Efficient processing**
  - Maximize available computational resources
  - Do the best the hardware can with bandwidth

TBDR

Power savings

- **Maximizing core efficiency**
  - Lighting up the USC less often is always going to be a saving
- **Minimizing bandwidth**
  - Texturing less is a fantastic way to save power
  - Geometry fetch and binning is often more than 10% of per-frame bandwidth
  - Saves bandwidth for other parts of your render

Rogue USC

Architectural Building Block

- **Unified Shading Cluster**
  - Basic building block of the Rogue architecture
  - Laid out in pairs, with a shared TPU
- **1, 0.5 and 0.25 USC designs are special**
  - Different balance in the design
  - Tend to find their way into non-gaming applications

Rogue USC

Shader Architecture

- **16-wide in hardware**
- **32-wide branch granularity**
  - We run half a task/warp per clock
- **Scalar SIMD**
- **Optimized ALU pipeline**
  - Mix of F32, F16, integer, floating point specials, logic ops

Rogue USC

Pipeline datapaths

- **Configurable in the IP core**
  - F16 paths were sometimes optional, thankfully not any more
  - F16 paths performance increased significantly after the first generation
- **Performance in your shader**
  - F32 paths are dual FMAD
  - F16 paths can do different things per cycle depending on shader
  - ISA is available for you to interrogate though, with disassembling compilers

Rogue USC

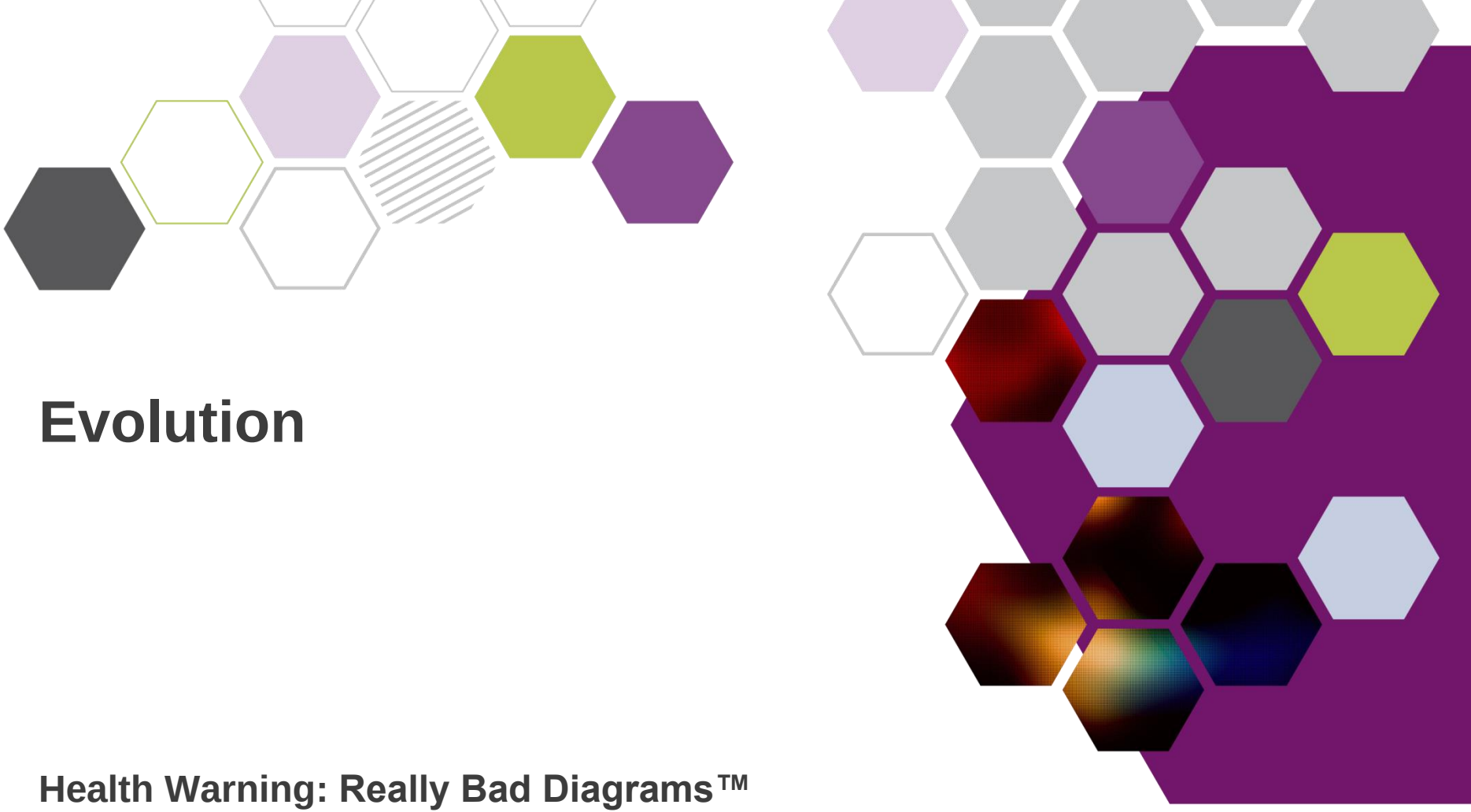
Scalar

- **Scalar ALUs**
  - Hard to understate what a benefit this is
  - Seems obvious to do, right?
  - Vector architectures are just hard to program well
  - Scalar isn't a free lunch
  - Makes performance a lot more predictable for you

Rogue USC

Programmable output registers

- **The pixel output registers in the ISA are read/write**
- **One per pixel**
- **Width depends on IP core**
- **We expose it programmatically with Pixel Local Storage**
  - Worked closely with ARM (thanks, Jan-Harald!)

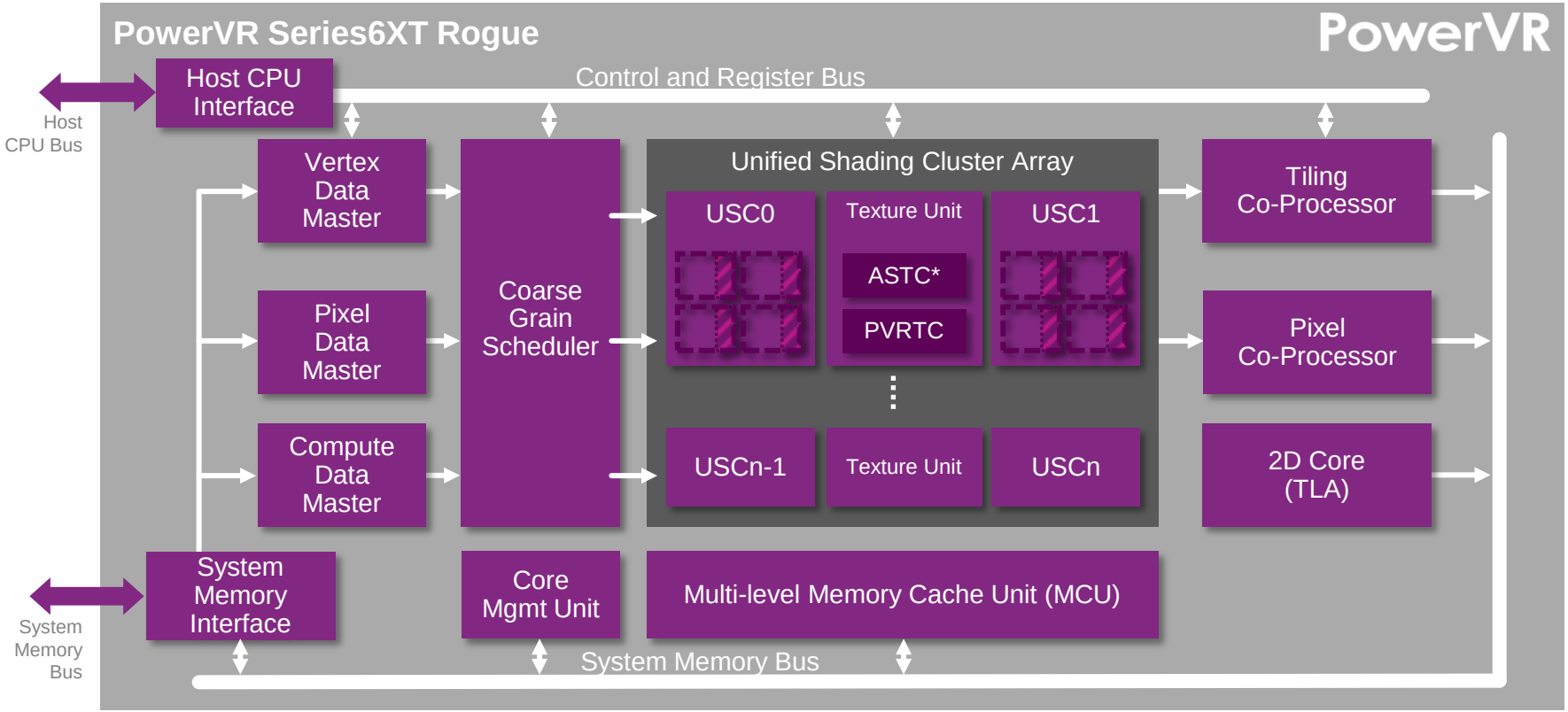


Evolution

Health Warning: Really Bad Diagrams™

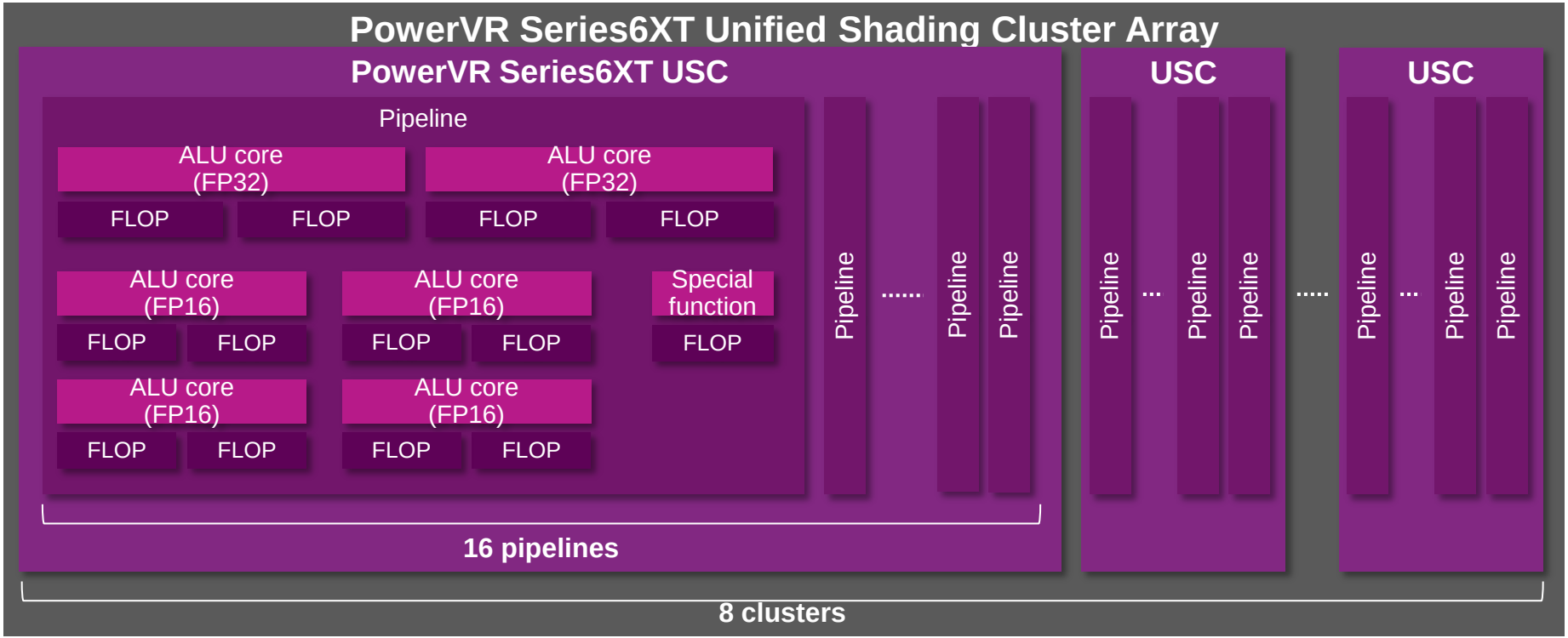
Rogue Evolution

- Architecture has changed quite a bit over time
- Rogue in 2010 still mostly looks like a Rogue today
- Significant evolutionary changes across the architecture
- Lots of it driven by developers before the IP is baked
- Lots of it driven by also analysing your stuff anyway



Extra low power GFLOPS

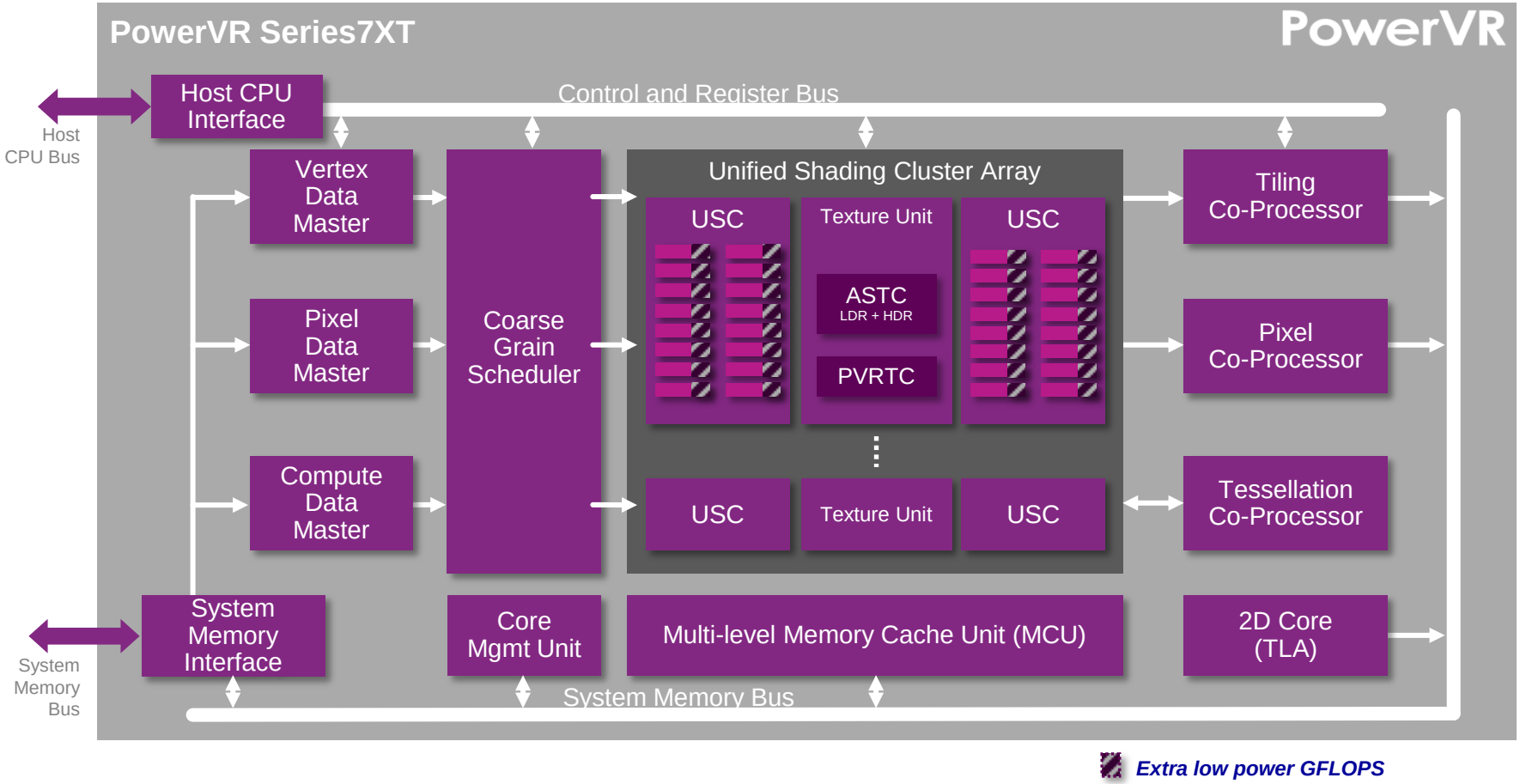
* *Supports both LDR and HDR ASTC formats*

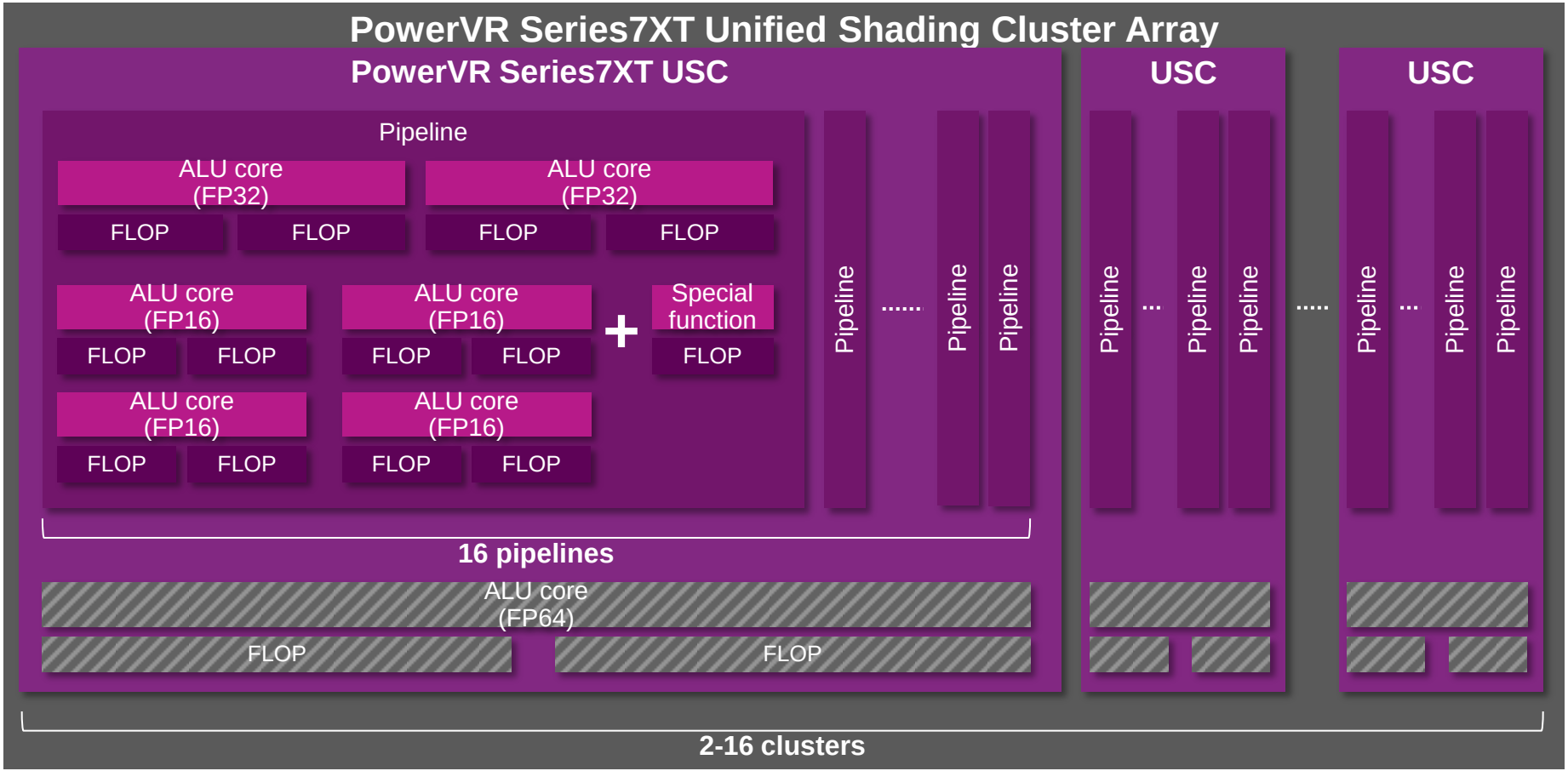

PowerVR Series6XT Unified Shading Cluster Array
PowerVR Series6XT USC
Pipeline
ALU core (FP32)
ALU core (FP32)
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
ALU core (FP16)
ALU core (FP16)
Special function
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
ALU core (FP16)
ALU core (FP16)
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
Pipeline
.....
Pipeline
Pipeline
16 pipelines
USC
Pipeline
...
Pipeline
Pipeline
.....
USC
Pipeline
...
Pipeline
Pipeline
8 clusters

Series6 to Series6XT

Lots of lessons learned

- Improved scheduler
- Streamlined ISA
- Improved compute task efficiency
- Completely new F16 datapath
- Improved front-end for sustained geometry performance
- ASTC


PowerVR Series7XT
PowerVR
Host CPU Bus
Host CPU Interface
Control and Register Bus
Vertex Data Master
Pixel Data Master
Compute Data Master
Coarse Grain Scheduler
Unified Shading Cluster Array
USC
Texture Unit
USC
ASTC
LDR + HDR
PVRTC
USC
Texture Unit
USC
Tiling Co-Processor
Pixel Co-Processor
Tessellation Co-Processor
2D Core (TLA)
System Memory Bus
System Memory Interface
Core Mgmt Unit
Multi-level Memory Cache Unit (MCU)
System Memory Bus
Extra low power GFLOPS


PowerVR Series7XT Unified Shading Cluster Array
PowerVR Series7XT USC
Pipeline
ALU core (FP32)
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Special function
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
ALU core (FP16)
ALU core (FP16)
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
Pipeline
.....
Pipeline
Pipeline
16 pipelines
ALU core (FP64)
FLOP
FLOP
USC
Pipeline
...
Pipeline
Pipeline
.....
USC
Pipeline
...
Pipeline
Pipeline
2-16 clusters
Optional

Series6XT to Series7XT

Adding features and smoothing off rough edges

- **Changed how the architecture scales**
- **Improved USC**
- **Streamlined ISA**
- **Features**
  - Hardware tessellation
  - DX11-compliant USC (precision mainly)
  - FP64

Into the future

- **Exciting changes being worked on across the architecture**
  - USC
  - Front-end
  - Scaling
  - Stuff you want!

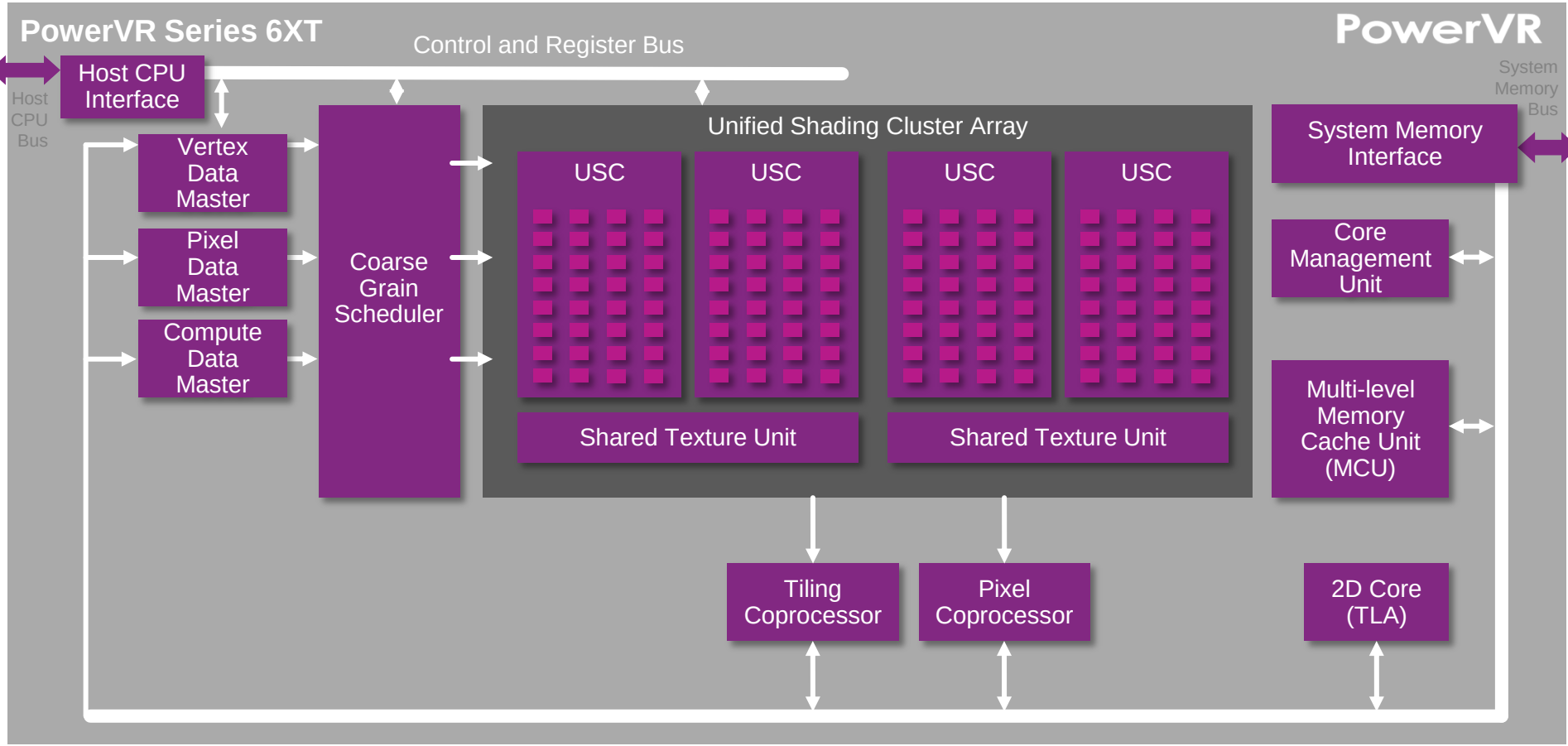
- **You can help**
  - We love feedback about the architecture and how it could best fit what you're doing
  - Don't be shy

PowerVR Wizard
Ray Tracing Update

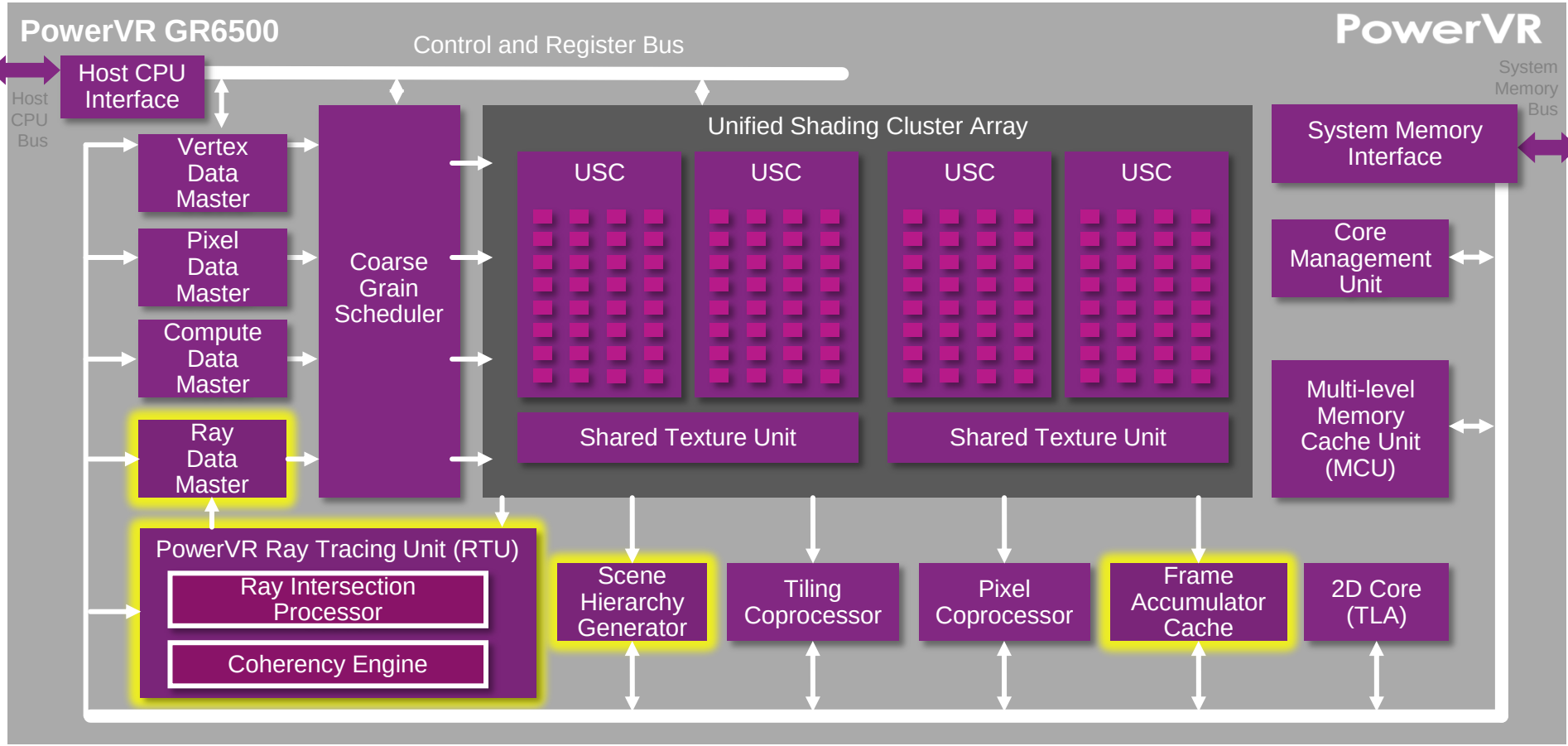
What is Ray Tracing?

Ray tracing is the ability for the shader program for one object to be aware of the geometry of other objects.

PowerVR Architecture



PowerVR Graphics Wizard Architecture

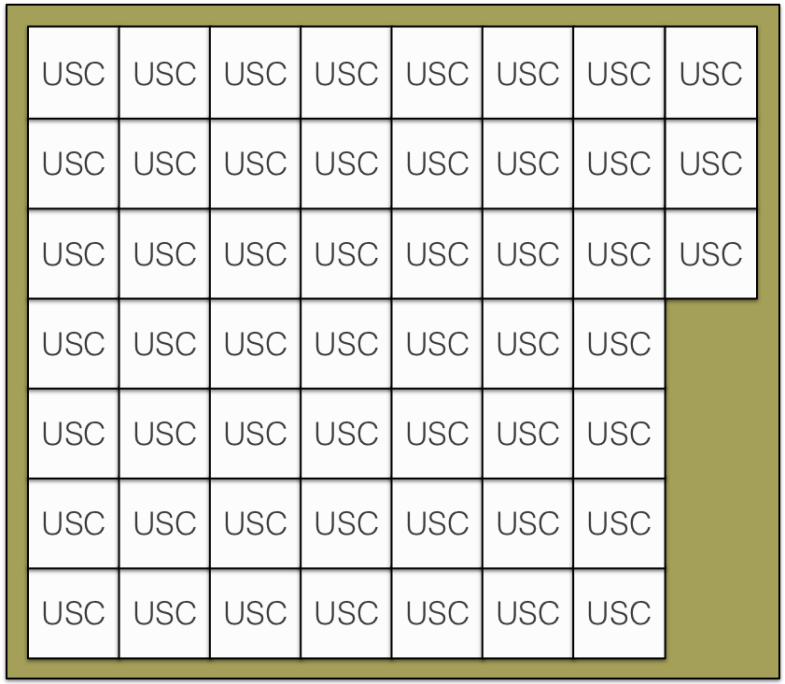


3 Unique Features of Wizard

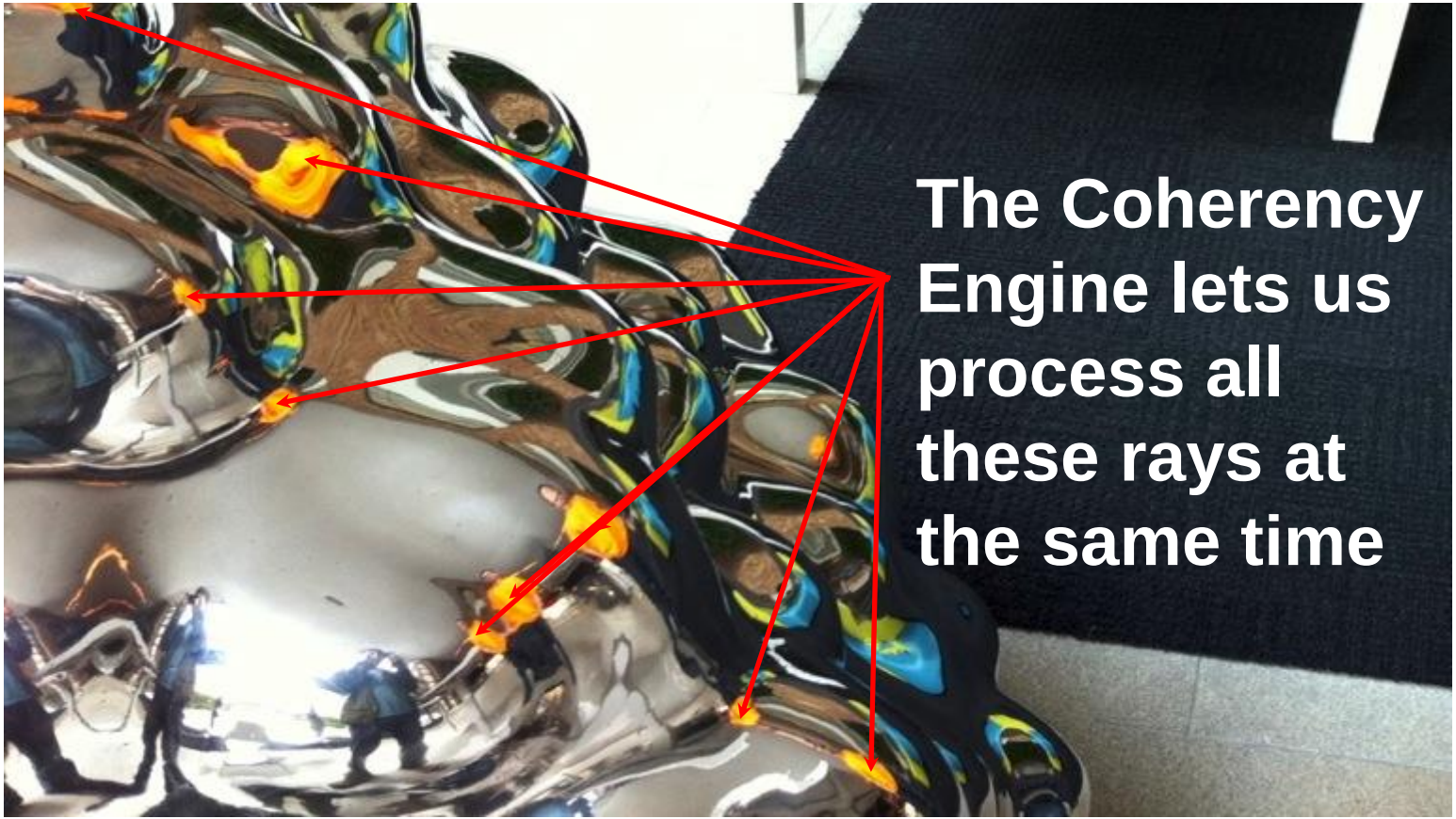
- Fixed-function Ray-Box and Ray-Triangle testers
- Coherence-Driven Task-Forming and Scheduling
- Streaming Scene Hierarchy Generator

Fixed-Function Ray-Box and Ray-Triangle Testers

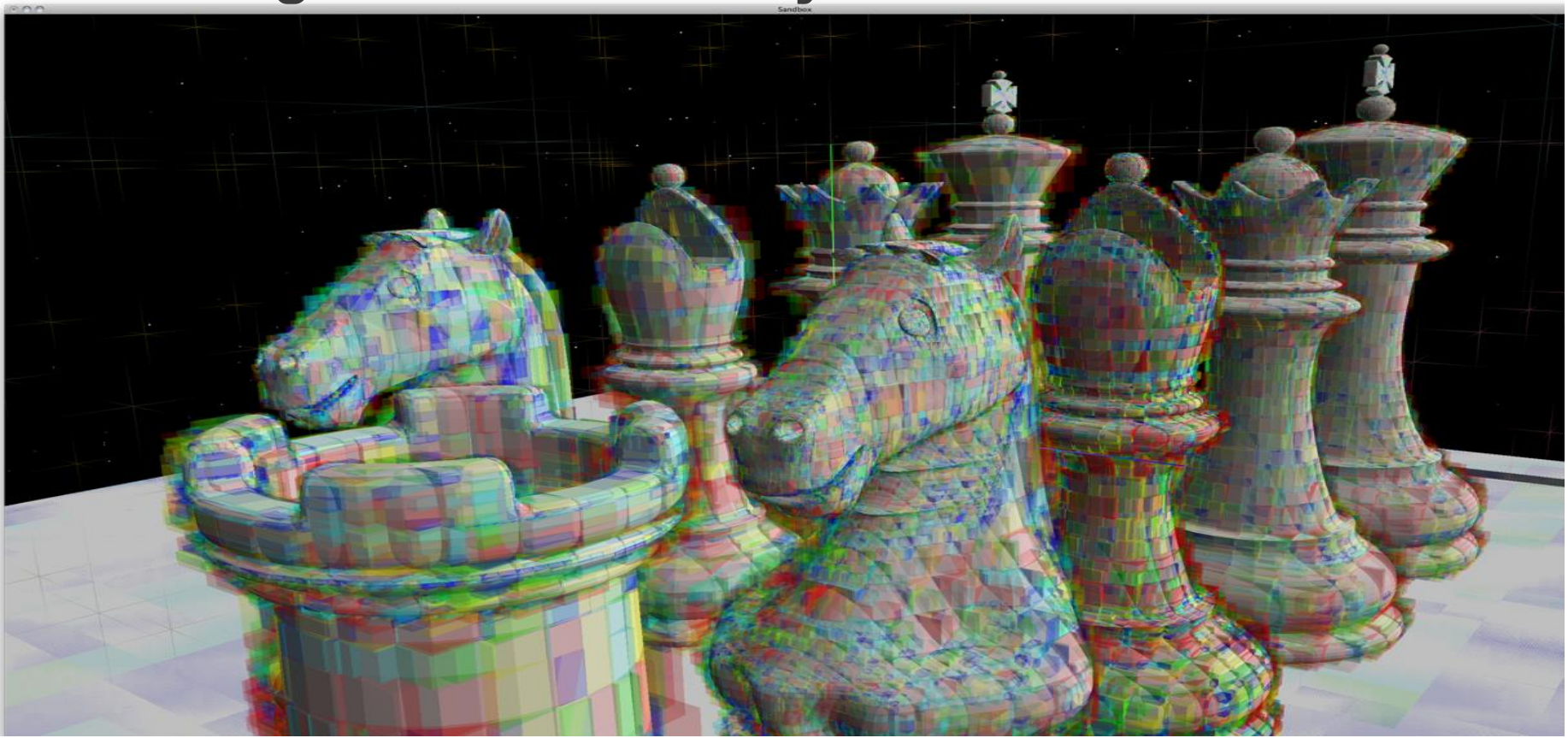
44x Less Area for Box Testing



Coherence-Gathering



Streaming Scene Hierarchy Generator



What is Ray Tracing?

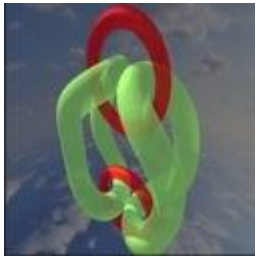
Ray tracing is the ability for the shader program for one object to be aware of the geometry of other objects.

Just a few use cases

Hybrid Shadows, Reflections, etc.

Augmented Reality

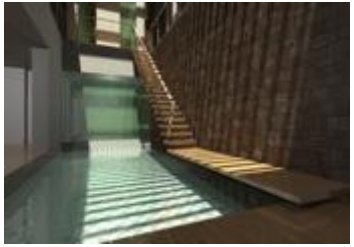
Production-Quality Renders



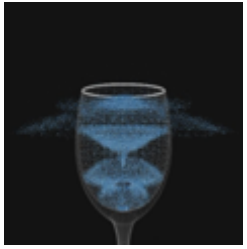
Order-Independent Transparency

Ambient Occlusion

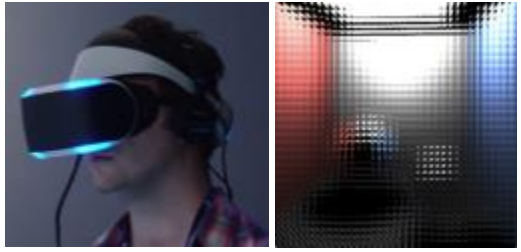
Asset creation / compression



Global Illumination



Physics & Collision Detection



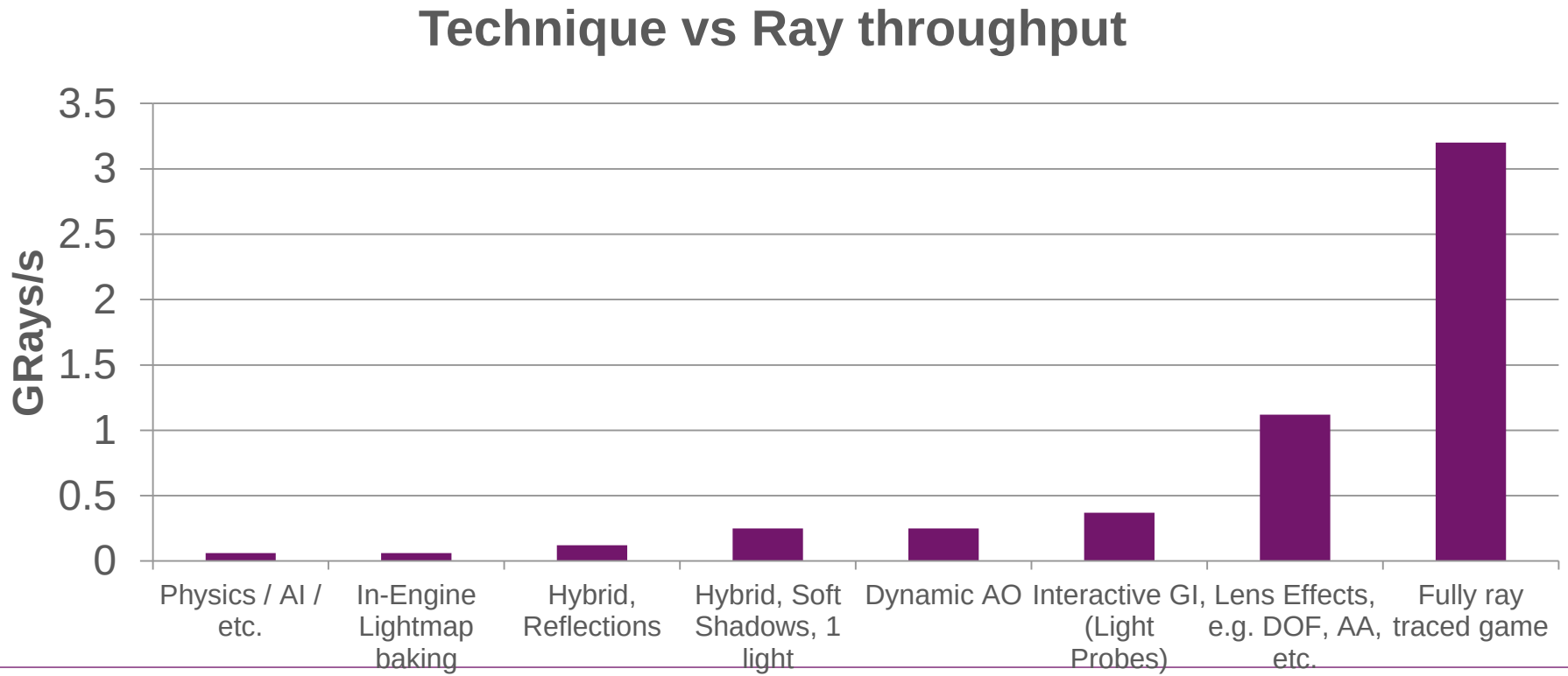
Virtual Reality
Lens correction, Ultra-low latency rendering, Lenticular Displays

A.I. & Line of Sight Calculations

Rapid photo-quality output

Ray Tracing Requirements

Sustained Ray Throughput at 1080p, 60fps



PowerVR developer tools

PowerVR Tools

Asset Optimization

+

PVRGeoPOD
PVRTexTool

Development

+

PVRVFrame
PVRShaderEditor
PVRShaman

Debugging and Profiling

+

PVRTune
PVRTrace
PVRMonitor

PowerVR Tools

Release schedule

- **PowerVR Tools release process**
  - Minor revision roughly every 6 months

- **Recent/upcoming releases**
  - 3.5 SDK (April 2015)
  - 4.0 SDK (due September 2015)

PVRTrace

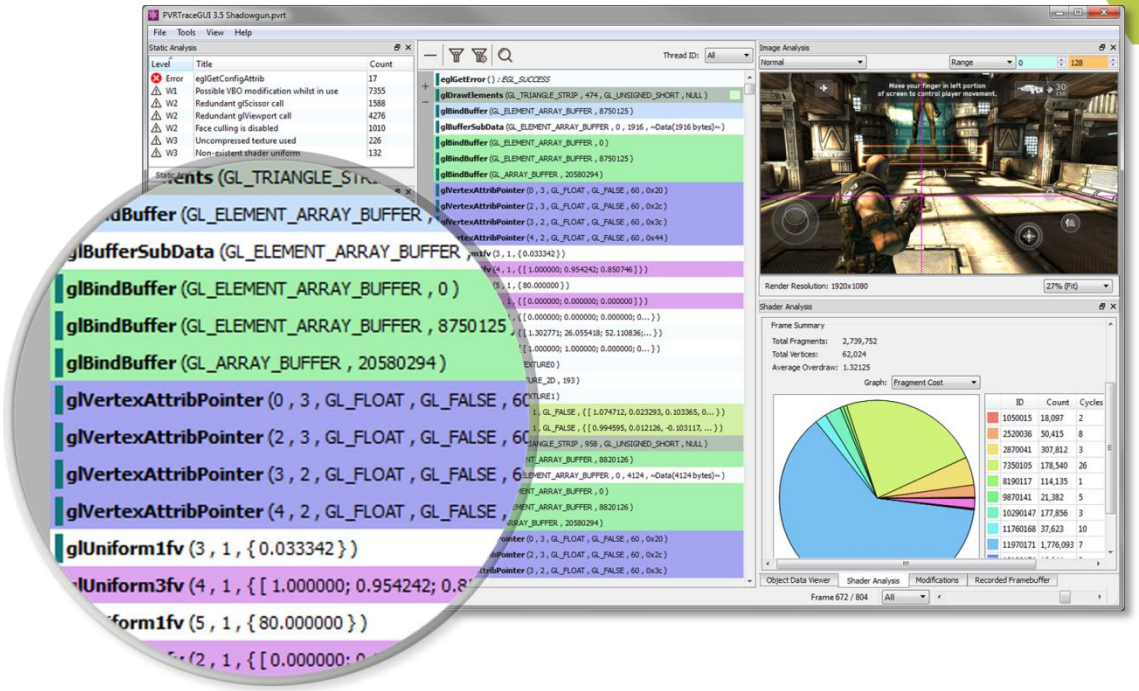
What is PVRTrace?

OpenGL ES API tracer

- OpenGL ES 1.x, 2.0 and 3.x recording libraries
- GUI for analysis

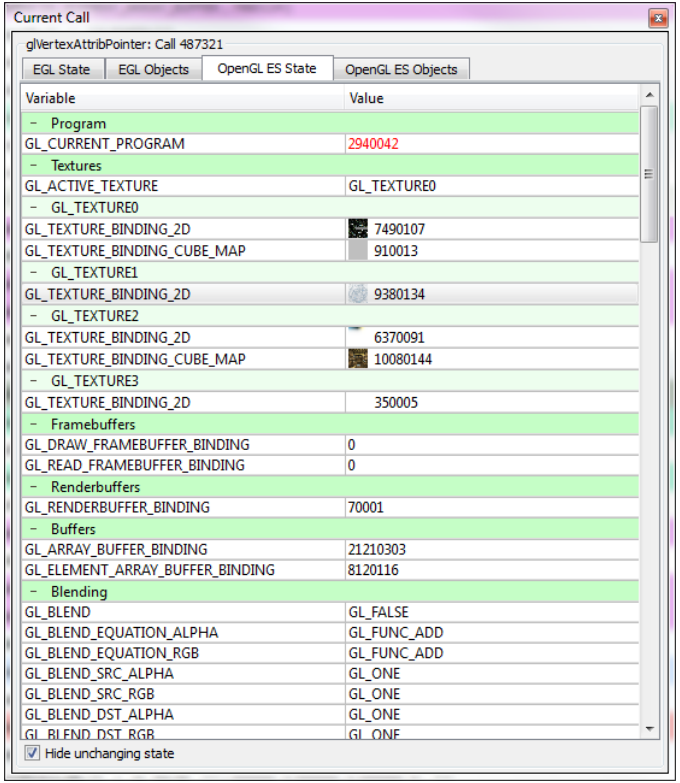
Features

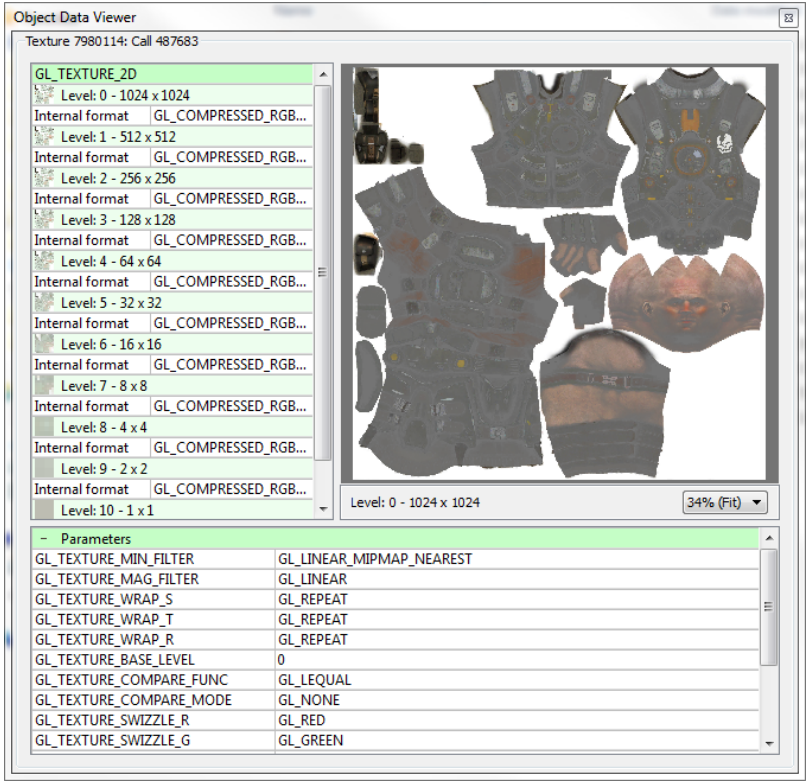
- Inspect, analyse and playback captured data



PVRTrace

New render state & data inspectors





PVRTune

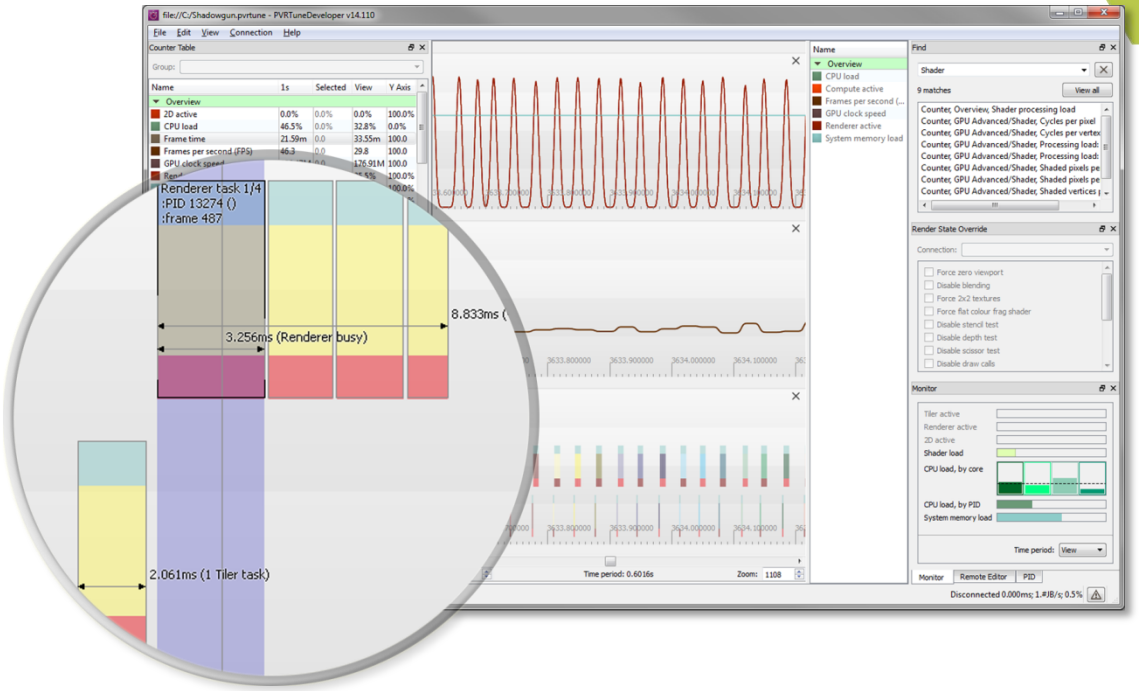
What is PVRTune?

PowerVR graphics core performance analyser

- GUI for analysis
- On-device server

Features

- Real-time performance data



PVRTune

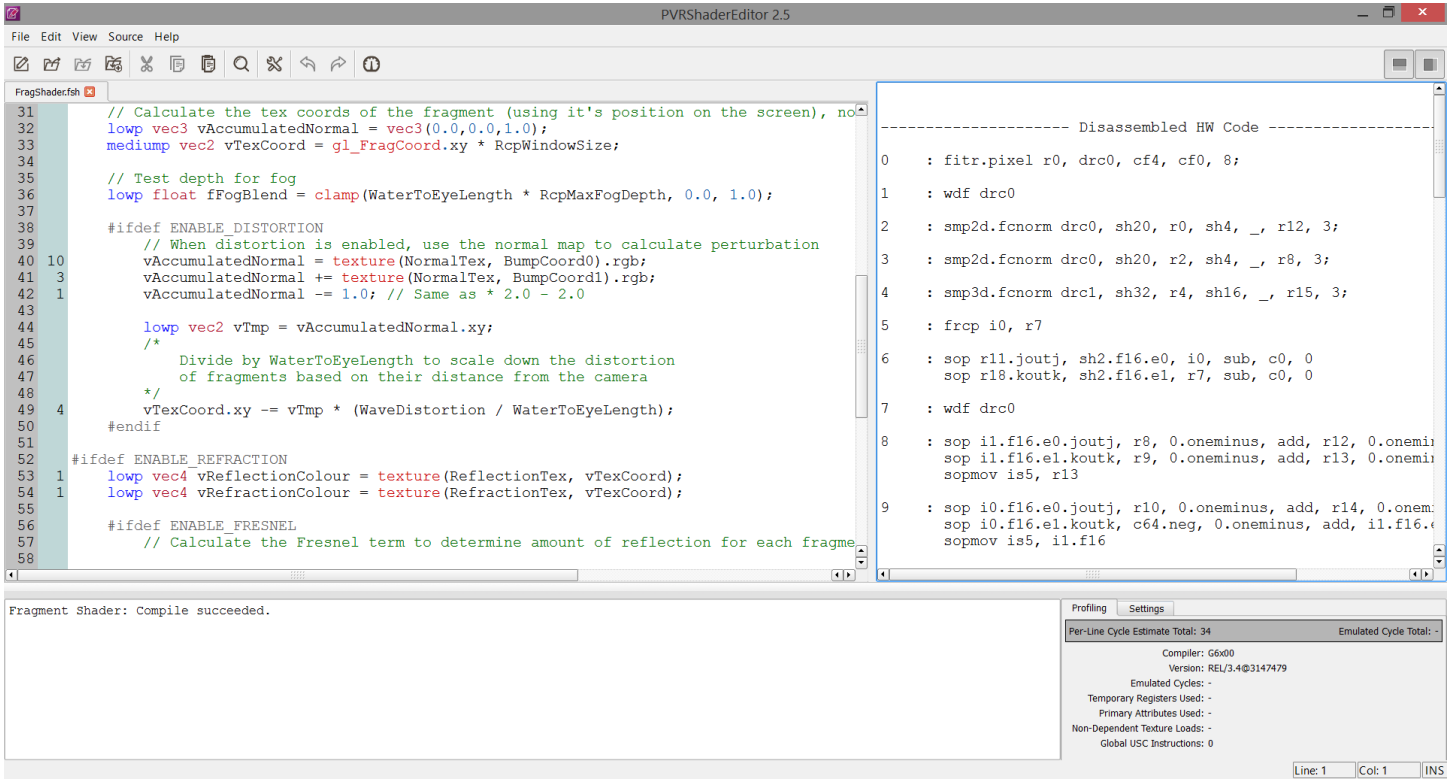
Real-time GPU profiler

- **New counters**
  - GPU clock speed, triangles culled, Hidden Surface Removal efficiency, SLC memory reads/writes and more

- **GUI changes**
  - Simplified setup and navigation
  - Graphics and Compute modes
  - Tree view for counters (Overview, Tiler, Renderer etc.)

PVRShaderEditor

Shader editor & offline profiler (with disassembly!)



Rogue graphics driver

Rogue graphics driver

Release schedule

- **DDK (Driver Development Kit) release process**
  - Reference driver source code released to PowerVR IP licensees
  - Minor revision roughly every 6 months
  - Top-tier customers engage early. Drivers in products shortly after official DDK release

Rogue graphics driver

1.4 DDK

- **Release date**
  - Q4 2014 (release 1)
  - Q1 2015 (release 2)

- **OpenGL ES: Key features (release 1)**
  - OpenGL ES 3.1
    - Compute shaders, shader storage buffer objects, draw indirect and more

- **OpenGL ES: Key features (release 2)**
  - Android Lollipop support

Rogue graphics driver

1.5 DDK

- **Release date**
  - Q2/Q3 2015

- **OpenGL ES: Key features**
  - Android Extension Pack (AEP)
    - ASTC, blend equation advanced, GPU shader model 5 and more
  - sRGB PVRTC
  - Pixel local storage
    - 128/256 bits per-pixel on-chip

Rogue graphics driver

1.6 DDK

- **Release date**
  - Q4 2015

- **OpenGL ES: Key features**
  - Bicubic texture filtering
  - Shader group vote
  - Polygon offset clamp
  - Pixel local storage 2
    - Simultaneously write to pixel local storage and a framebuffer attachment


Vulkan
TM

Vulkan

About

- **What is Vulkan?**
  - New open standard API developed by the Khronos group
  - Designed for high-efficiency access to graphics and compute on modern GPUs

- **Key features**
  - Minimizes driver overhead and enables multi-threaded GPU command preparation
  - Designed for mobile, desktop, console and embedded platforms
  - Designed for all GPUs - tile based GPUs are first-class citizens!
  - SPIR-V – binary intermediate language for shaders

Vulkan

PowerVR driver status

- **PowerVR Vulkan driver**
  - Driver development on-going
  - Working with key partners on initial content bring up
  - More details at SIGGRAPH 2015
    - Khronos BoF: Vulkan, OpenGL, OpenGL ES - 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

PowerVR Graphics

Future roadmaps

- **What drives our roadmaps?**
  - Market analysis
  - Customer feedback
  - Developer feedback

Upcoming events

idc-UK

- **Imagination Developers Connection 2015 UK**
  - 1st October, SOHO Hotel, London UK
  - Register here: http://imgtec.com/idc/idc15-uk/

- **Agenda**
  - A full developer day including optimization tips, how to use ray tracing with raster graphics and more
  - Also includes guest talks from Google and Digital Legends

Questions?

www.imgtec.com/idc