

DIGITAL TYPOGRAPHY

N. ROUGIER (INRIA) & B. ESFAHBOD (GOOGLE)

INTRODUCTION

- Digital Typography
- Font Types & Formats
- Text Rendering Pipeline

PART I : TEXTURE BASED

- Rasterization
- Fast & Versatile (but ugly)
- Fast & Beautiful (but only 2D)

PART II : DISTANCE BASED

- Signed Distance Fields
- Single Channel
- Arc approximation
- Multiple Channels

PART III : GEOMETRY BASED

- Bézier curves & glyphs
- GPU friendly
- GPU only

CONCLUSION

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DIGITAL TYPOGRAPHY

25 years of text rendering in computer graphics



GENERATIONS
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INTRODUCTION

Typography is *the art of arranging type to make written language legible, readable, and appealing when displayed.*

However, for the neophyte, typography is mostly apprehended as the juxtaposition of characters displayed on the screen while for the expert, typography means typeface, scripts, unicode, glyphs, ascender, descender, tracking, hinting, kerning, shaping, weight, slant, etc.

Typography is actually much more than the mere rendering of glyphs and involves many different concepts.

A specimen sheet of typefaces and languages, by William Caslon I, letter founder; dated 1734.

A S P E C I M E N

By WILLIAM CASLON, Letter-Founder, in Chifv

DOUBLE PICA ROMAN. *Double Pica Italic*
 Quousque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor iste tuus eludet? quem ad finem sese effrenata jac-
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOP

GREAT PRIMER ROMAN. *Great Primer Italic*
 Quousque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor iste tuus eludet? quem ad finem sese effrenata jac-
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS

ENGLISH ROMAN. *English Italic*
 Quousque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor iste tuus eludet? quem ad finem sese effrenata jac-
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS

FRENCH CANNON.
 Quousque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor iste tuus eludet? quem ad finem sese effrenata jac-
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS

PICA ROMAN. *Pica Italic*
 Melius, novis rebus studentem, manu sua occidit. Fuit, fuit ista quondam in hac repub. virtus, ut viri fortes acrioribus supplicis civem perniciosum, quam acerbissimum hostem coercerent. Habemus enim feracissimum in te, Catilina, vehemens, & grave: non deest reip. consilium, neque auctoritas hujus ordinis: nos, nos, disco aperte, consules dicimus. De-
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS

SMALL PICA ROMAN. No 1. *Small Pica Italic. No 1.*
 At nos viginti jam diem patitur hebetere aciem horum autoritatis. habemus enim hujusmodi senatusconsultum, verumtamen inclusum in tabulis, tanquam gladium in vagina reconditum: quo ex senatusconsulto consilium interfectum te esse, Catilina, convenit. Vivis: & vis non ad deponendam, sed ad confirmandam aulam. Cupio, P. C., me esse clementem: cupio in tantis reip. periculis non diffidendum.

SMALL PICA ROMAN. No 2. *Small Pica Italic. No 2.*
 At nos viginti jam diem patitur hebetere aciem horum autoritatis. habemus enim hujusmodi senatusconsultum, verumtamen inclusum in tabulis, tanquam gladium in vagina reconditum: quo ex senatusconsulto consilium interfectum te esse, Catilina, convenit. Vivis: & vis non ad deponendam, sed ad confirmandam aulam. Cupio, P. C., me esse clementem: cupio in tantis reip. periculis non diffidendum.

LONG PRIMER ROMAN. No 1. *Long Primer Italic. No 1.*
 Verum ego hoc, quod jampidem factum esse oportuit, certa de causa nondum adducor ut faciam. tam denique interfectum te, cum jam nemo tam improbus, tam periculosus, tam tui familiae inventus poterit, qui id non jure factum esse fateatur. Quamdiu quisquam erit qui te defendere audeat, vivis: & vis, ita ut nunc vis, multis meis & firmis praesidiis obstitas, ne commovere te contra reipub. possit. multorum te etiam oculi & aures non sentientem, sicut adhuc fecerant, fovebuntur, atque custodiant. Etiam quid est, Catilina? ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

LONG PRIMER ROMAN. No 2. *Long Primer Italic. No 2.*
 Verum ego hoc, quod jampidem factum esse oportuit, certa de causa nondum adducor ut faciam. tam denique interfectum te, cum jam nemo tam improbus, tam periculosus, tam tui familiae inventus poterit, qui id non jure factum esse fateatur. Quamdiu quisquam erit qui te defendere audeat, vivis: & vis, ita ut nunc vis, multis meis & firmis praesidiis obstitas, ne commovere te contra reipub. possit. multorum te etiam oculi & aures non sentientem, sicut adhuc fecerant, fovebuntur, atque custodiant. Etiam quid est, Catilina? ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

TWO LINES ENGLISH. *Two Lines English.*
 Quousque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor iste tuus eludet? quem ad finem sese effrenata jac-
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS

BEVER ROMAN. *Bever Roman.*
 Nemo, C. Manlius aulicis seditione atque adulatione sua? non me scilicet, Catilina, non modo non amicum, sed etiam inimicum, verum, si quid malis magis est amandam, dia? Dixi ego idem in senatu, eadem te optulimus consilium in ante diem 7 Kalend. Novemb. tam cum multi principes civitatis Rom. non tam sui confidendum, quam morem condonum reprehendunt oculis perferunt. cum interfecti potes, ut ille ipse die meo praesidiis, nos diligenter circumdantem, commovere te contra reipub. non potestis: cum te dicitis uterentur, nostra tamen, qui remanentem, cada constant te esse dicitis? Quid? cum te ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

LONG PRIMER SAXON. *Long Primer Saxon.*
 Da he tu aub gnumman? tate peggum ruceo ppp? he ealle þa ppu? he lum tannoye xepjkebbe. J ggepcece pppjvyrane abop þa

PICA SAXON. *Pica Saxon.*
 Da he tu aub gnumman? tate peggum ruceo ppp? he ealle þa ppu? he lum tannoye xepjkebbe. J ggepcece pppjvyrane abop þa

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NOPE, NOT ARABIC!

From “Nope, not Arabic” tumbler (<https://nopenotarabic.tumblr.com/>)



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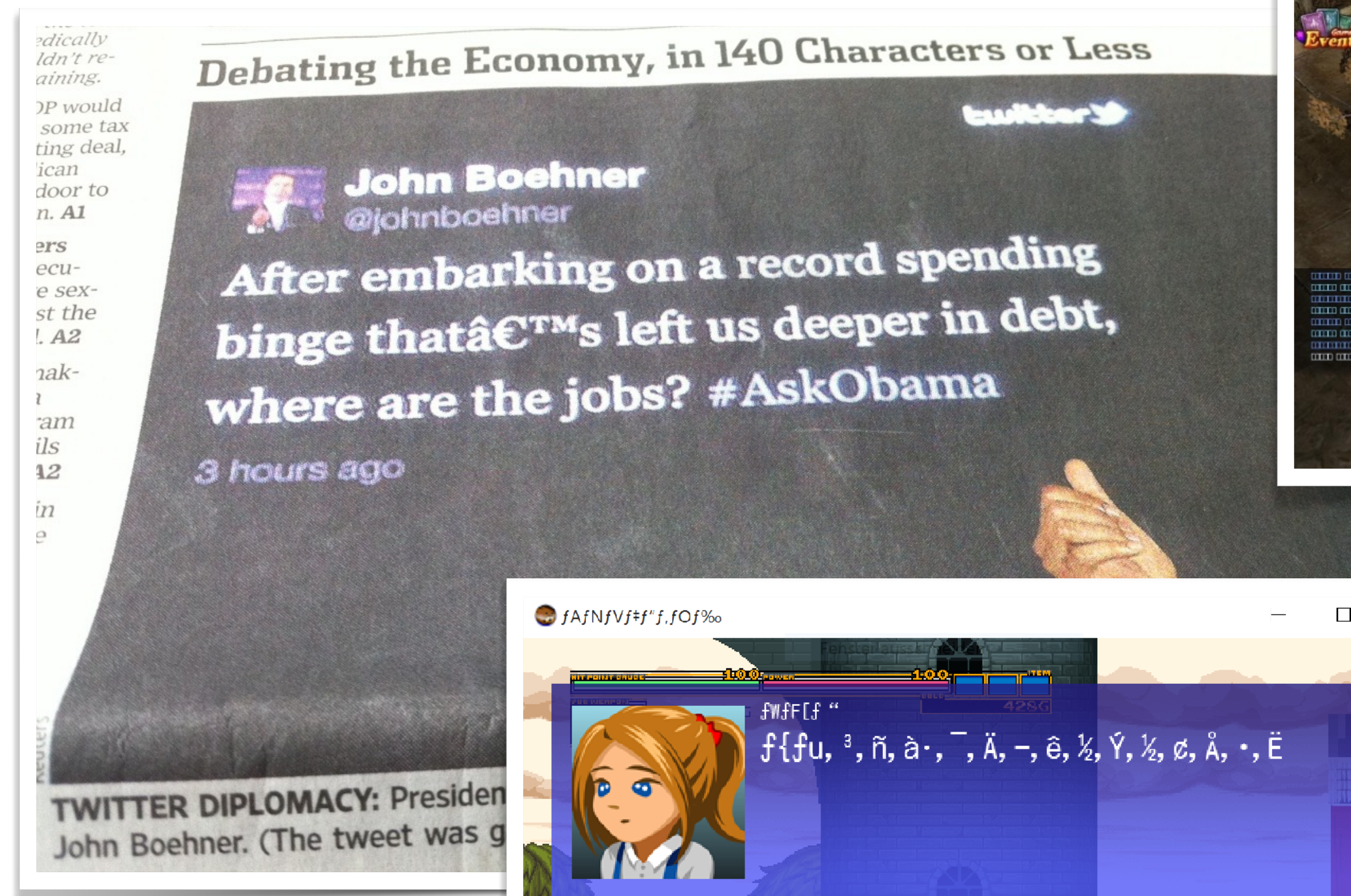
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I ? UNICODE



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BAD KERNING (keming)

Disaster is a space away... (FLICK, click, CLINT, FINAL)

Rockstar game removed the extra space ←



click versus dick



Apple added an extra space



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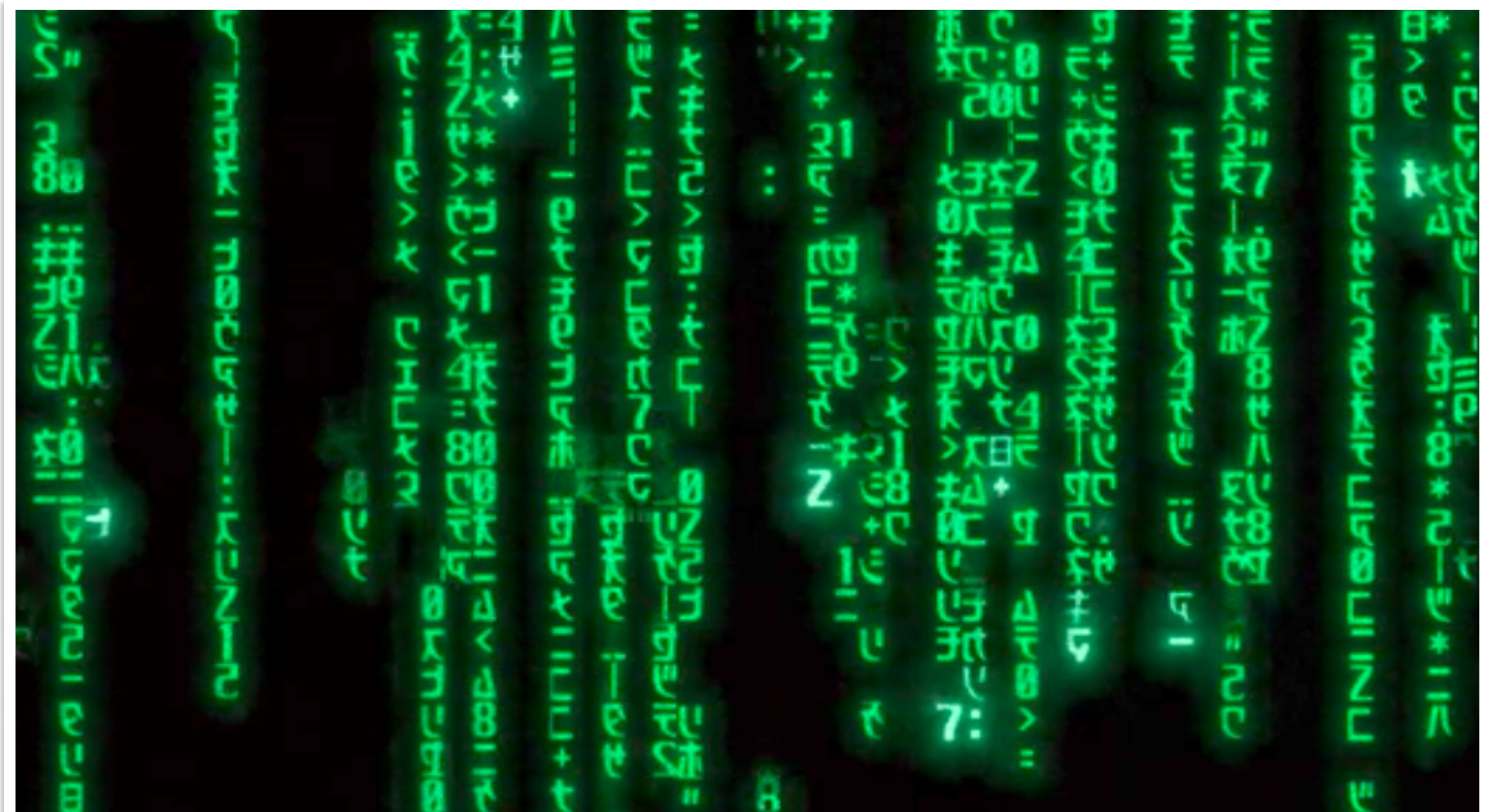
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GIBBERISH CAN BE PRETTY...

The Matrix code is actually a sushi recipe...



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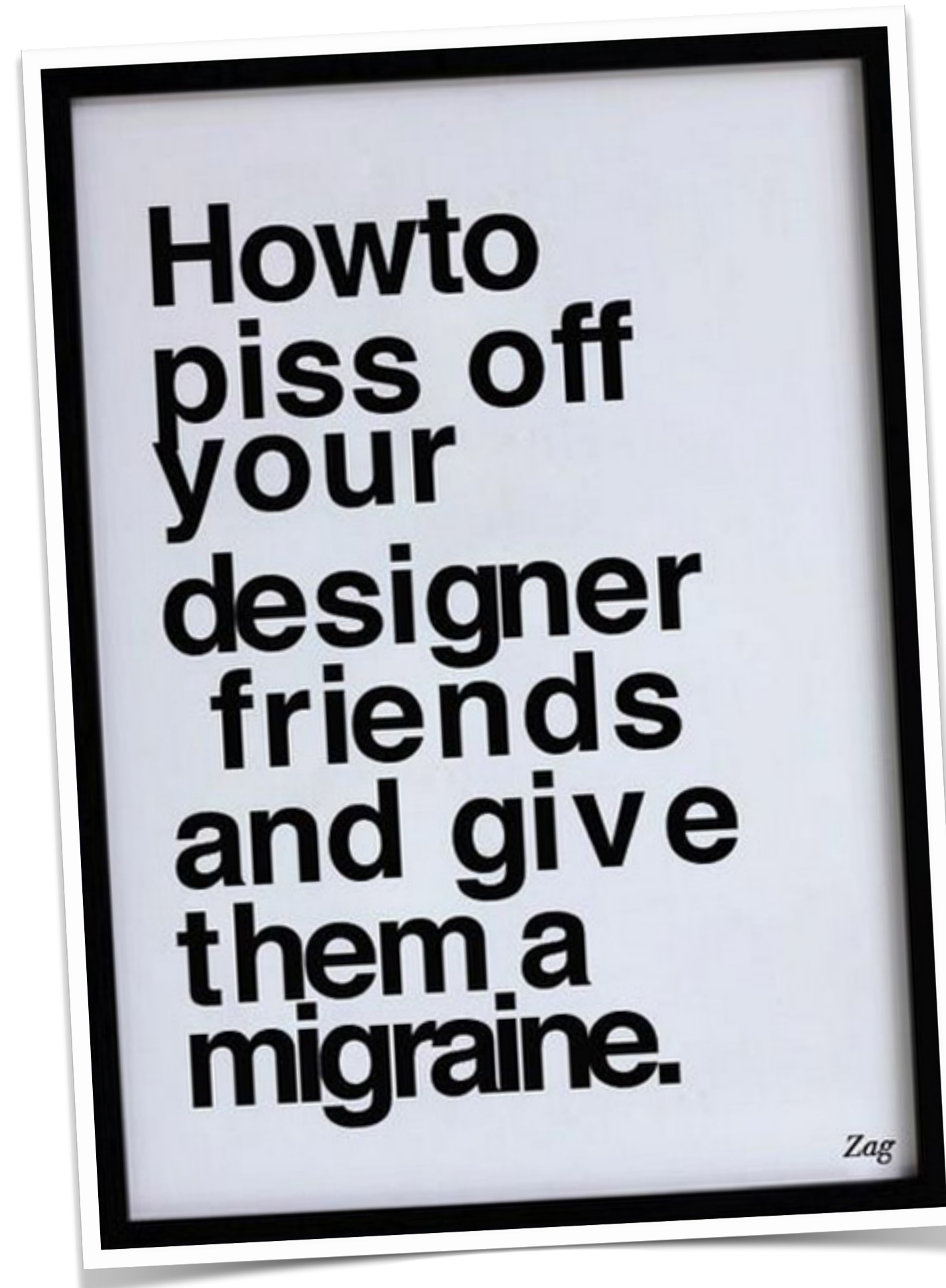
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DIGITAL TYPOGRAPHY

Typography is a vast and complex domain with many rules. You might consider to enforce some basic rules.



Canva

The Anatomy of Typography

Stroke	Stem	Swash	Foot
any linear element	main vertical stroke	decorative stroke	bottom of stem, rests on baseline
Arm	Ascender	Descender	Shoulder
horizontal stroke not connected to stem on at least one end	rises above the x-height	extends below the baseline	curved stroke attached to stem
Serif	Arc of Stem	Leg	Joint
short line/stroke on open ends of letters	curved stroke continuous with stem	short, downward stroke	where a stroke meets a stem
Apex/Vertex	Counter (Open/Closed)	Bowl	
the top and bottom points where two strokes meet	Open: partially enclosed interior white space	Closed: fully enclosed interior white space	closed, round/oval curve
Terminal	Ball Terminal	Aperture	Cross Stroke
end of a stroke that's not a serif	terminal that is circular in shape	opening at the end of an open counter	extends across a stem
Bar/Crossbar & Ligature	Gadzook		
enclosed horizontal stroke	two or more letters joined as one character	embellishment that connects a ligature	

Created for Canva by Janie Kliever

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FAMOUS FONTS

<p>Garamond</p> <p>Aa Qq Rr </p> <p><i>Aa Qq Rr</i></p> <p>TRIANON</p> <p>abcdefghijklm nopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789</p> <p>1495</p>	<p>Caslon</p> <p>Aa Ee Rr </p> <p><i>Aa Ee Rr</i></p> <p> <i>Facquard</i></p> <p>abcdefghijklm nopqrstuvwxyz 1234567890 1234567890</p> <p>1734</p>	<p>Baskerville</p> <p>Aa Bb Cc </p> <p>Xx Yy Zz</p> <p><i>Nutgarden</i></p> <p>abcdefghijklm nopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789</p> <p>1757</p>	<p>Bodoni</p> <p>Aa Qq Rr </p> <p><i>Aa Qq Rr</i></p> <p> HORATIUS </p> <p>abcdefghijklm nopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789</p> <p>1798</p>
<p>Gill Sans</p> <p>Aa Qq Rr </p> <p><i>Aa Qq Rr</i></p> <p>COLLEGIUM</p> <p>abcdefghijklm nopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789</p> <p>1926</p>	<p>Times New Roman</p> <p>Aa Ee Rr </p> <p><i>Aa Ee Rr</i></p> <p>Publisher</p> <p>abcdefghijklm nopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789</p> <p>1931</p>	<p>Helvetica</p> <p>Aa Ee Rr </p> <p>Aa Ee Rr</p> <p>Kunsthalle</p> <p>abcdefghijklm nopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789</p> <p>1957</p>	<p>Arial</p> <p>Aa Ee Rr </p> <p><i>Aa Ee Rr</i></p> <p>Deliverable</p> <p>abcdefghijklm nopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789</p> <p>1982</p>



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ONE FONT TO RULE'EM ALL

When text is rendered by a computer, sometimes characters are displayed as “tofu”. They are little boxes to indicate your device doesn’t have a font to display the text. Google has been developing a font family called Noto, which aims to support all languages with a harmonious look and feel. Noto is Google’s answer to tofu.

Noto Serif

Noto Sans

Aa Gg Yy

Aa Gg Yy

Ankunft

a b c d e f g h i j k l m
n o p q r s t u v w x y z
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

思源黑体 思源黑體 源ノ角ゴシック 본고딕

Source Han Sans

	简体中文 Simplified Chinese	正體中文 Traditional Chinese	日本語 Japanese	한국어 Korean
ExtraLight	天地玄黄	律召調陽	色は匂へど	키스의고
Light	宇宙洪荒	雲騰致雨	散りぬるを	유조건은
Normal	日月盈昃	露結為霜	我が世誰ぞ	입술끼리
Regular	辰宿列张	金生麗水	常ならむ	만나야하
Medium	寒来暑往	玉出崑岡	有為の奥山	고특별한
Bold	秋收冬藏	劍號巨闕	今日越えて	기술은필
Heavy	闰余成岁	珠稱夜光	浅き夢見じ	요치않다

ITSY BITSY BITMAP FONTS

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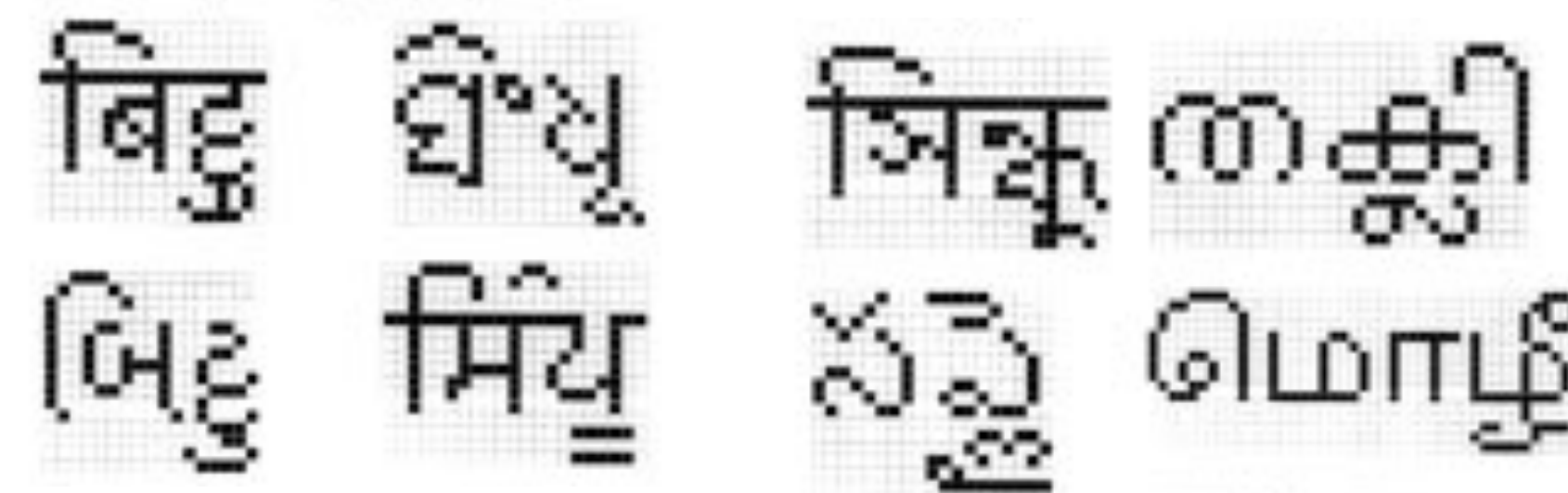
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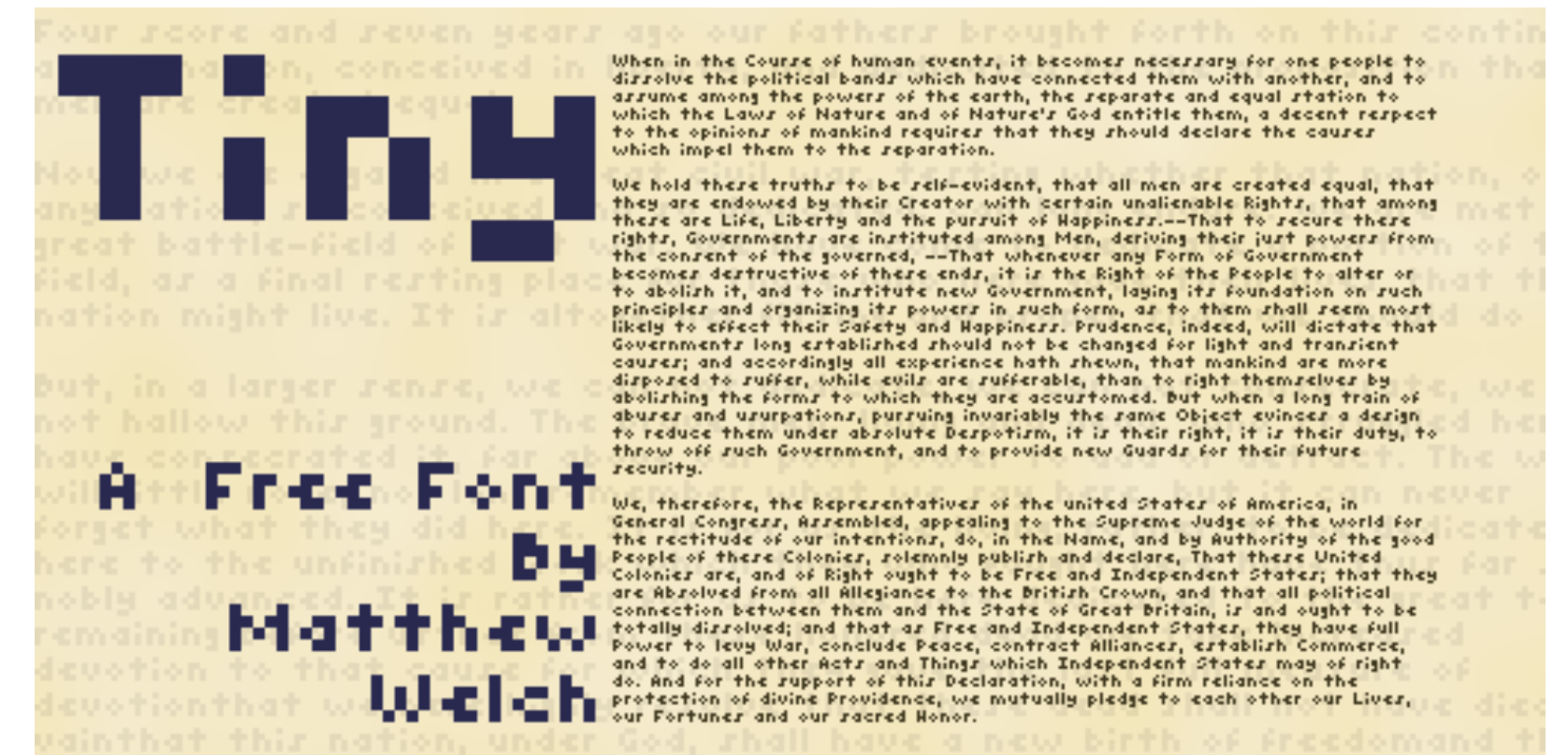
Ibn al-Arabi interpreted by Lebanese calligrapher and art critic Samir Sayegh



One of the great Sufis of the Middle Ages



whose life and writings are shown nowadays to have deeply penetrated the thought of East & West alike



永和九年，歲在癸丑，暮春之初，會於會稽山陰之蘭亭，脩禊（禊）事也。羣賢畢至，少長咸集。此地有崇山峻嶺（嶺），茂林脩竹；又有清流激湍，映帶左右，引以為流觴曲水，列坐其次。雖無絲竹管弦之盛，一觴一詠，亦足以暢敘幽情。是日也，天朗氣清，惠風和暢。仰觀宇宙之大，俯察品類之盛。所以遊目騁懷，足以極視聽之娛，信可樂也。夫人之相與，俯仰一世，或取諸懷抱，悟言一室之內；或因寄所託，放浪形骸之外。雖趣（取/趨）舍萬殊，靜躁不同，當其欣於所遇，暫得於己，快然自足，不知老之將至；及其所之既倦，情隨事遷，感慨係之矣。向之所欣，俯仰之間，已為陳迹，猶不能不以之興懷；況脩短隨化，終期於盡。古人云：「死生亦大矣。」豈不痛哉！每覽（覽）昔人興感之由，若合一契，未嘗不臨文嗟悼，不能喻之於懷。固知一死生為虛誕，齊彭殤為妄作。後之視今，亦由（猶）今之視昔，悲夫！故列敘時人，錄其所述，雖世殊事異，所以興懷，其致一也。後之覽（覽）者，亦將有感於斯文。



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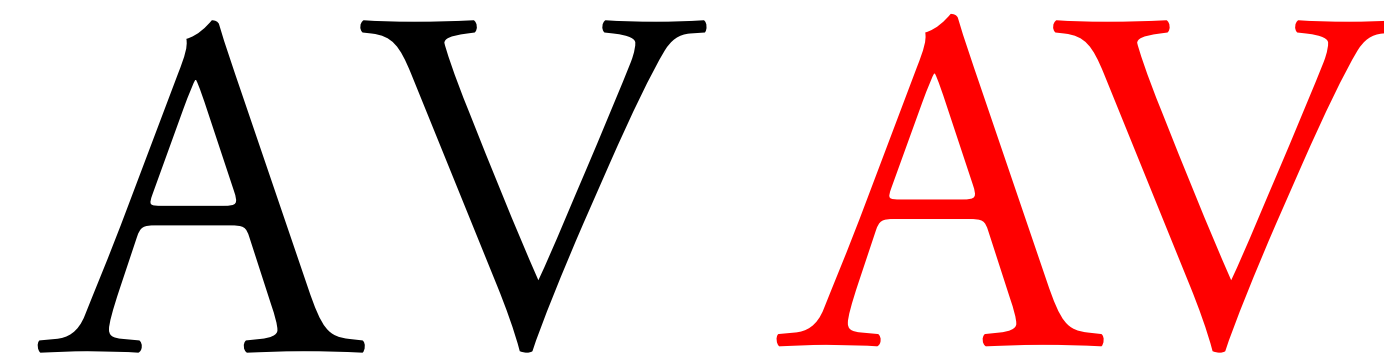
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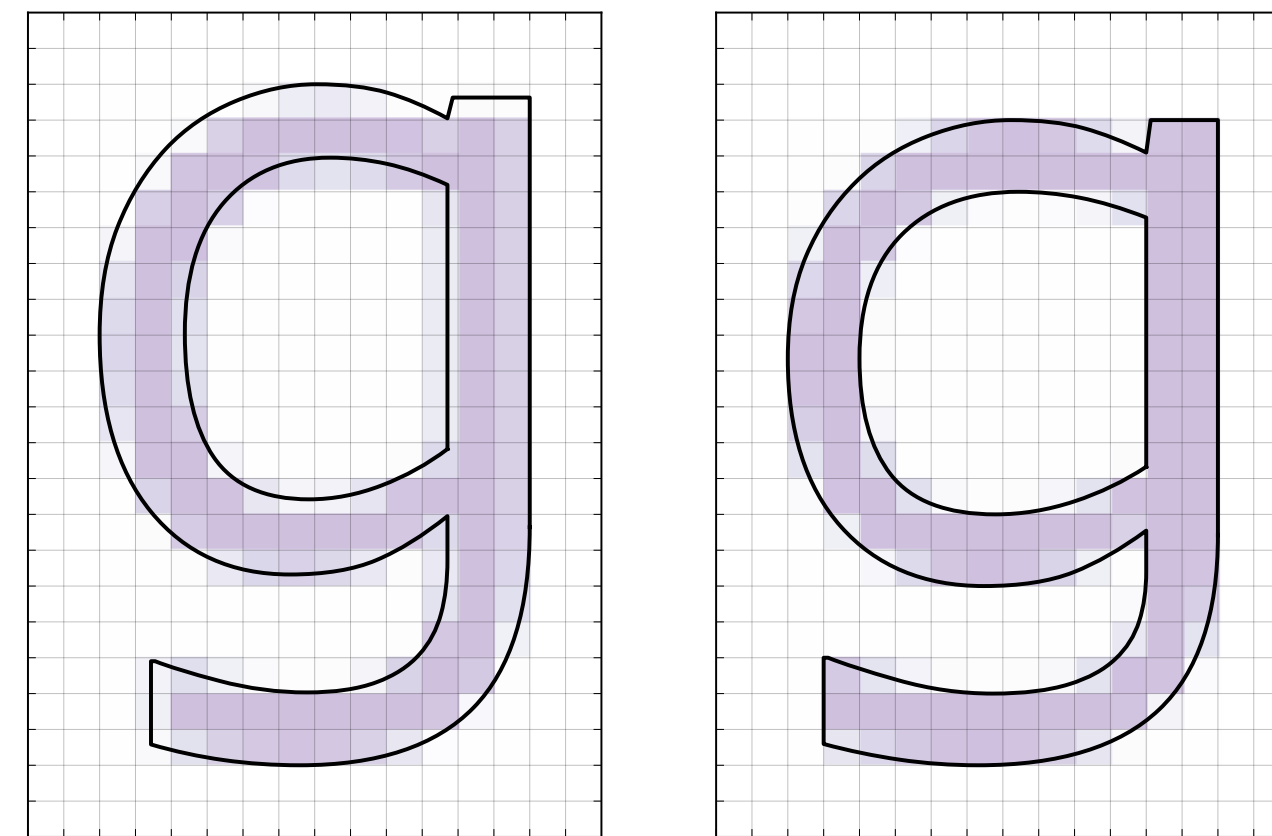
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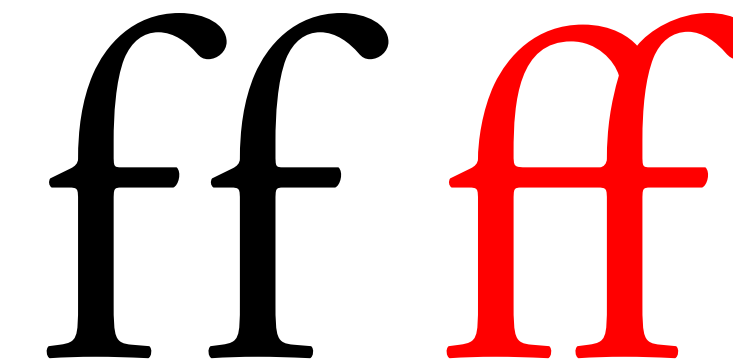
BASIC TYPOGRAPHY



Kerning is the process of adjusting the spacing between characters in a proportional font.



Hinting is the use of instructions to adjust the display of a font so that it lines up with a rasterized grid.



A ligature occurs where two or more graphemes or letters are joined as a single glyph.



A diacritic mark is a glyph added to a letter, or basic glyph.



A various number of face metrics are defined for all glyphs in a given font.

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ADVANCED TYPOGRAPHY

العربية
العرابية

Text shaping is the process of converting Unicode text to glyph indices and positions.

Zapfino *Zapfino*

Stylistic alternate allows to replace a glyph by some variant.

The title is **مفتاح معايير الويب** in Arabic.

The set of rules applied to produce the correct order at the time of display are described by the Unicode Bidirectional Algorithm.

द ् ध ्र ्य
दध्र्य

Complex text layout (CTL) refers to the typesetting of writing systems in which the shape or positioning of a grapheme depends on its relation to other graphemes (wikipedia).

Etc.

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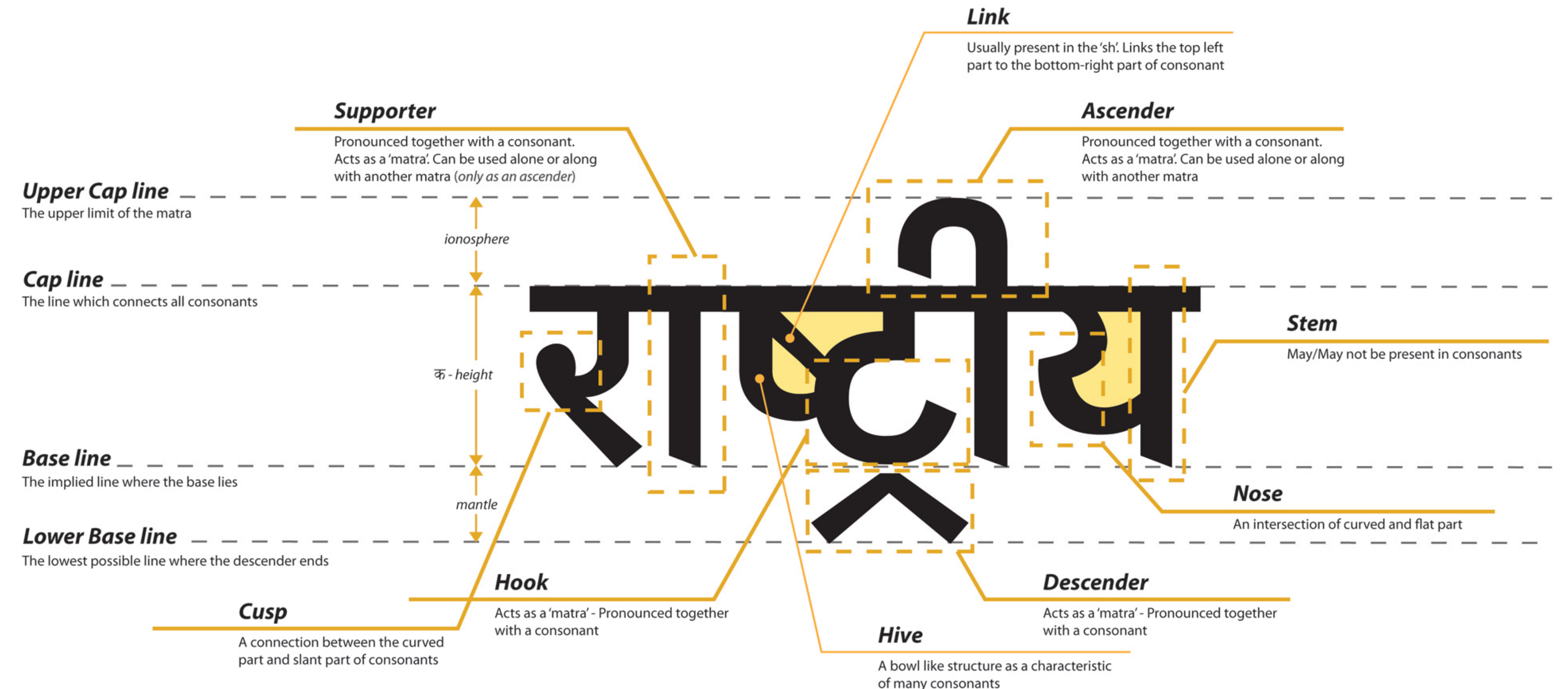
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ADVANCED TYPOGRAPHY

Anatomy of the Hindi Font by Aditya Dipankar.



Language **Hindi** / Script **Devanagari**

 Counter Space

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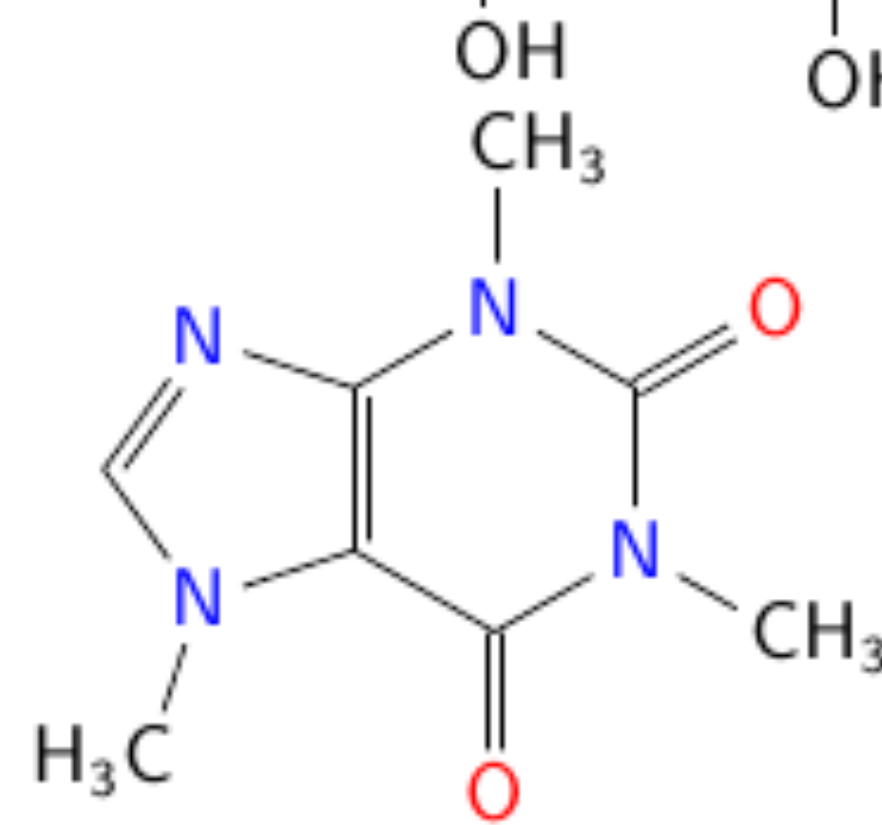
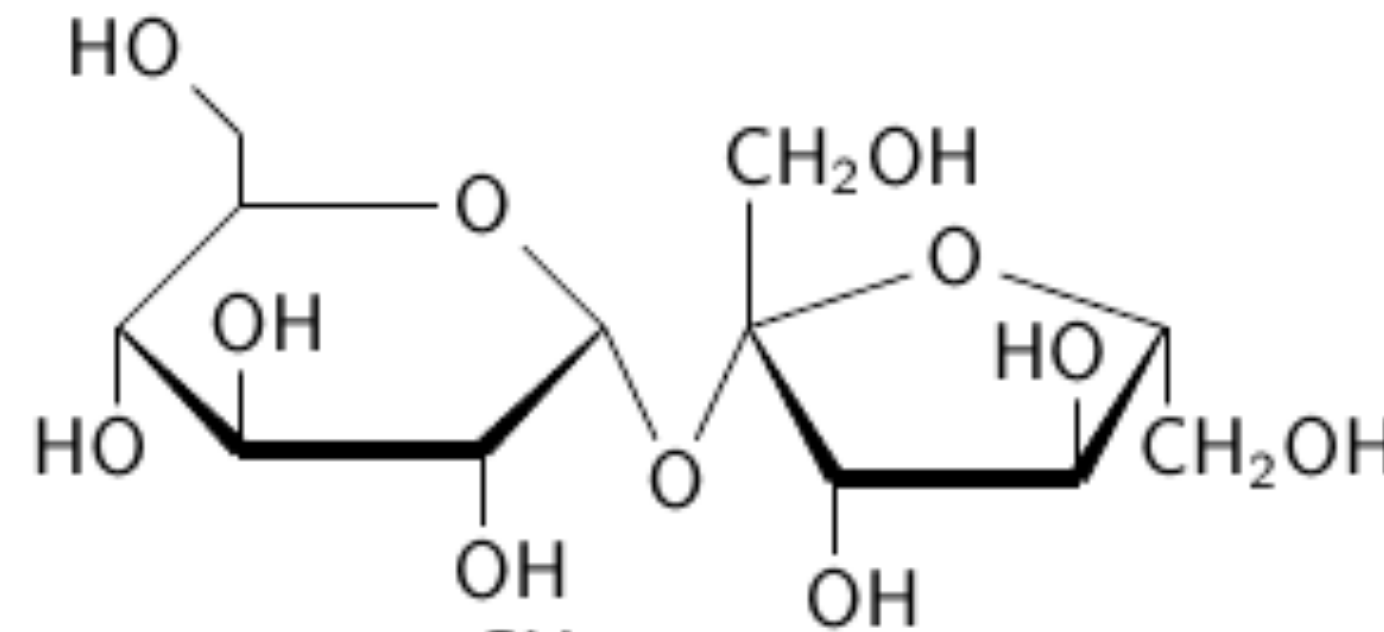
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OTHER FORMS OF COMPLEX LAYOUT



Piano

$$\sum_{n=1}^k \frac{1}{n} > \int_1^{k+1} \frac{1}{x} dx = \ln(k+1)$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{2n+1} = 1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} + \dots = \frac{\pi}{4}$$

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = F(b) - F(a)$$

$$f'(a) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$$

$$\overline{(z/w)} = \bar{z}/\bar{w}$$

$$r = |z| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

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FONT FORMATS

Types

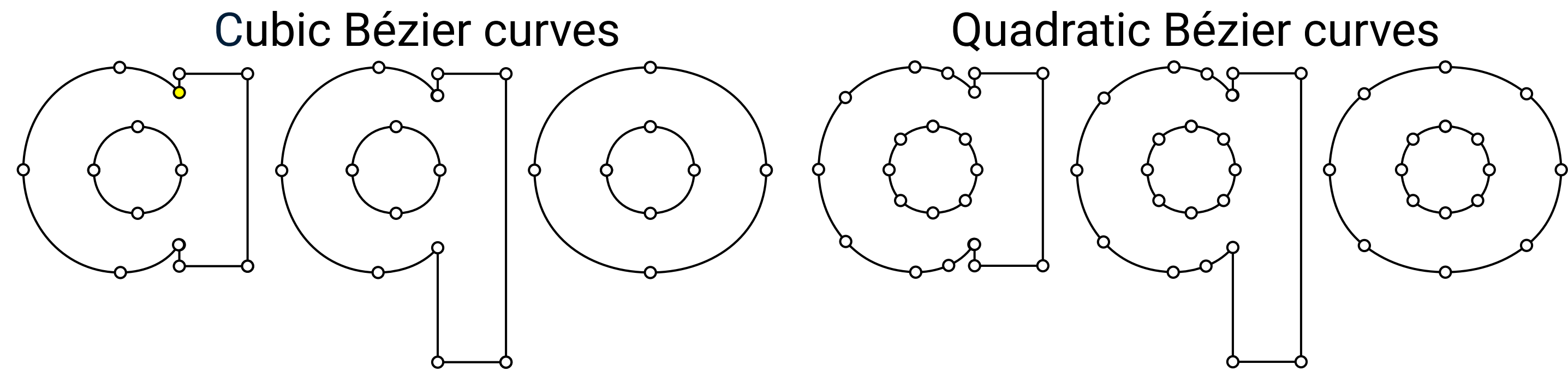
Type 1 (.pfm, .pfb): glyphs are described with cubic Bézier curves

True Type (.ttf): glyphs are described with quadratic Bézier curves

Open Type (.otf): glyphs are described with quadratic or cubic Bézier curves

Web Open Font (.woff): compressed TrueType or Open Type

And many more actually...



PostScript Outlines TrueType Outlines

TTF

OTF

WOFF

SVG

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A PRIMER ON BÉZIER CURVES

Pomax (2017) A primer on Bézier curves

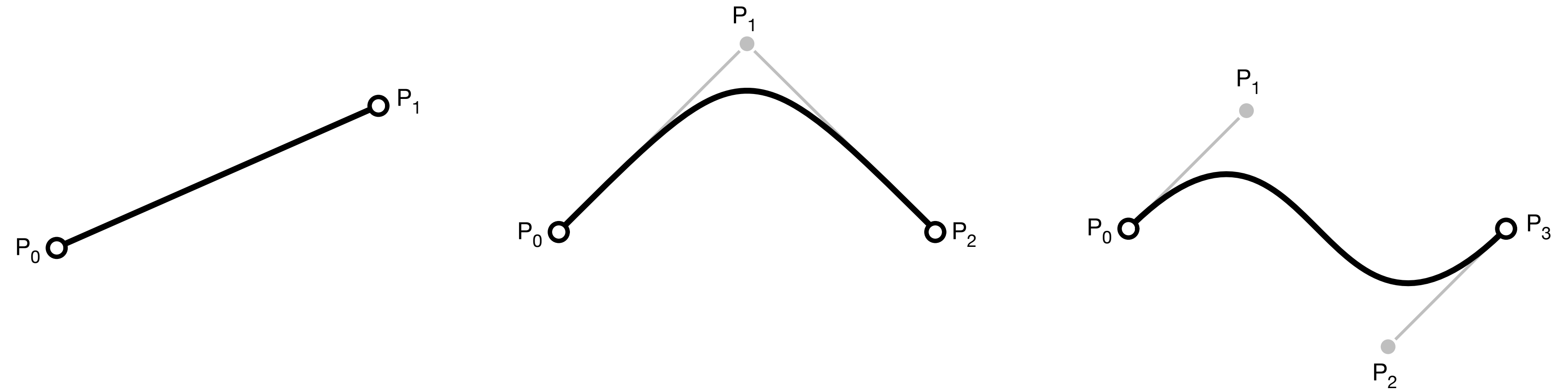
Sergei Natanovich Bernstein (1912) / Paul de Casteljaou (1959) / Pierre Bézier (1962)

A Bézier curve is defined by a set of control points P_0 through P_n , where n is called its order. The first and last control points are always the end points of the curve.

Linear ($n=1$): $B_{P_0/P_1}(t) = (1-t)P_0 + tP_1$

Quadratic ($n=2$): $B_{P_0/P_1/P_2}(t) = (1-t)B_{P_0/P_1}(t) + tB_{P_1/P_2}(t)$

Cubic ($n=3$): $B_{P_0/P_1/P_2/P_3}(t) = (1-t)B_{P_0/P_1/P_2}(t) + tB_{P_1/P_2/P_3}(t)$



Some related problems: signed distance, thick curves, subdivision, bounding box, linear speed, self-intersection, curve splitting, arc length, approximation of a cubic with quadratics, etc.

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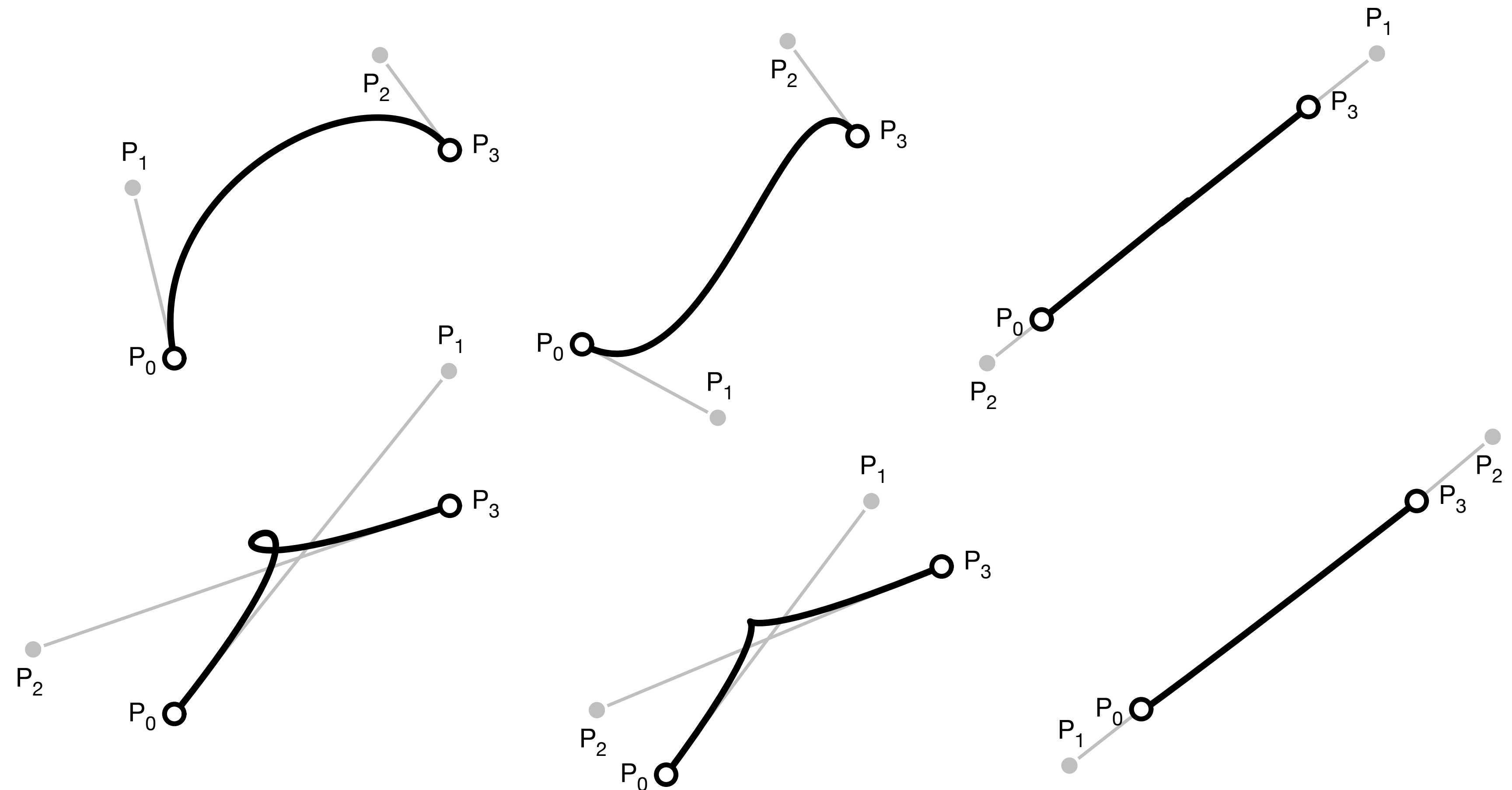
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A PRIMER ON BÉZIER CURVES

Pomax (2017) A primer on Bézier curves

Cubic Bézier curves have a lot of corner cases: inflection points, cusp, loop, overlap



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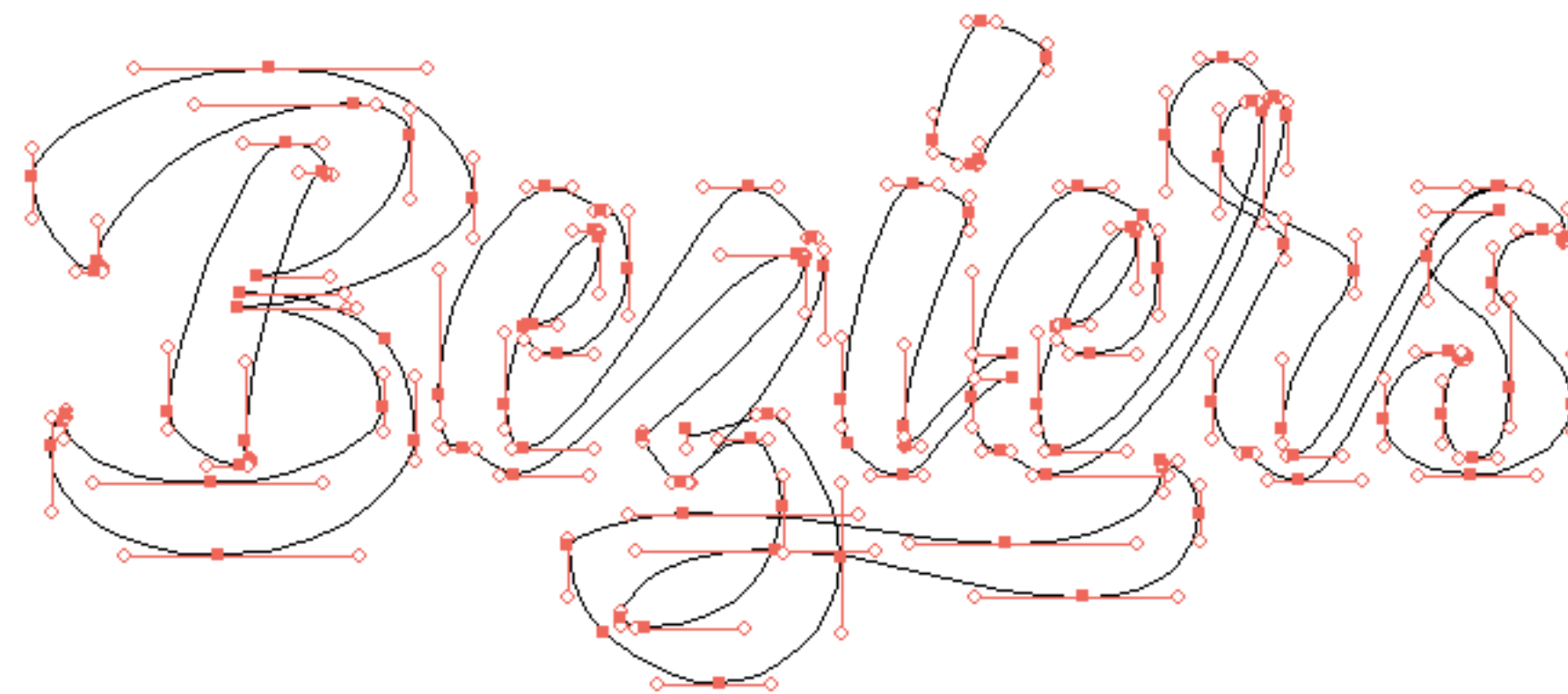
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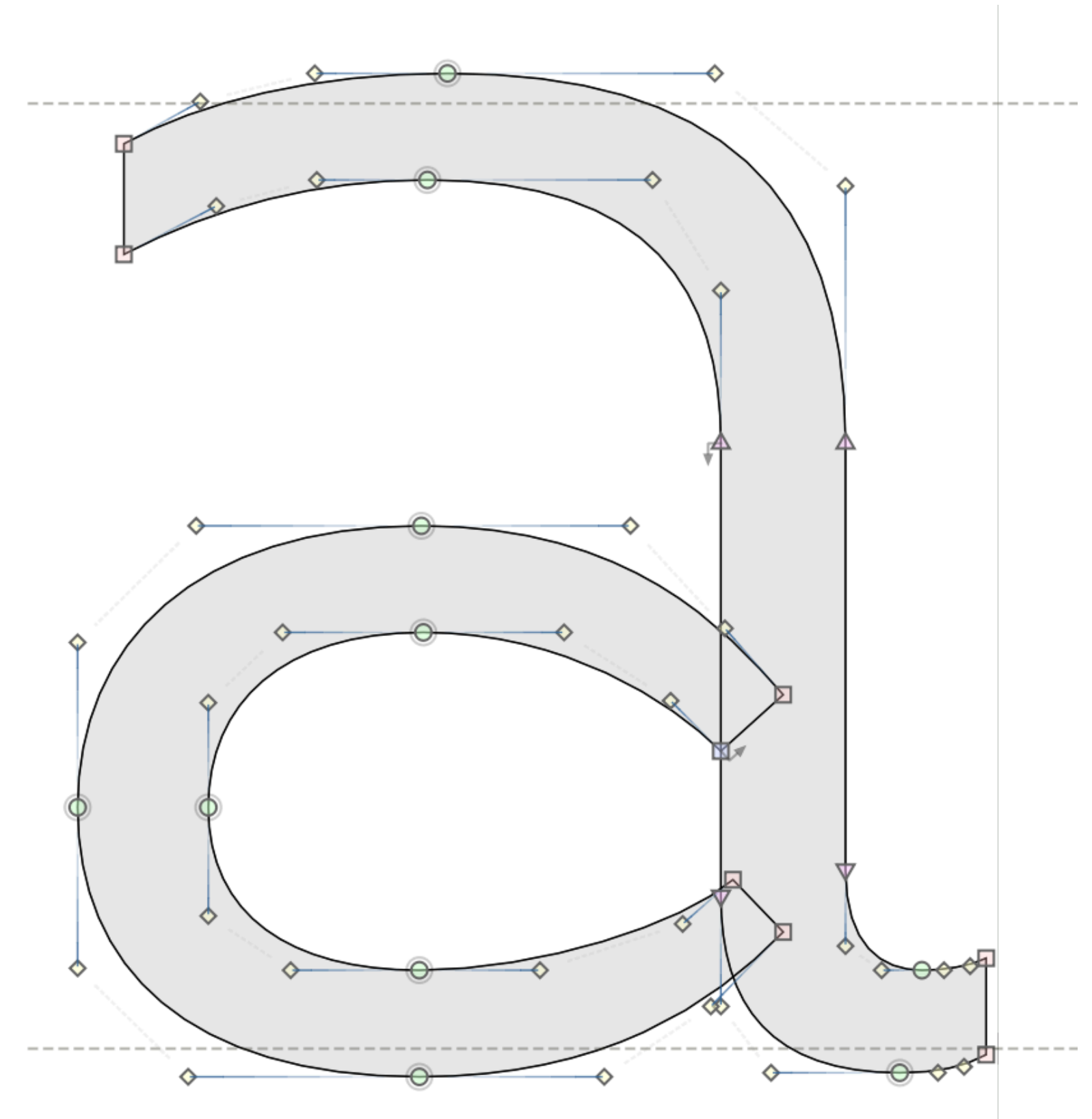
ANATOMY OF A GLYPH

Vector fonts are collections of vector images, consisting of lines and curves defining the boundary of glyphs (wikipedia). Type 1 and Type 3 Postscript fonts are described with cubic Bézier curves. Truetype fonts are described with quadratic Bézier curves.

Beziérs



Images by The Australian Graphic Supply Co



Images by FontLab

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FONT TABLES

Open Type Tables

BASE: Baseline data

CMAP: Character to glyph mapping

GDEF: Glyph definition data

GSUB: Glyph substitution data

Single: Replaces one glyph with one glyph.

Multiple: Replaces one glyph with more than one glyph.

Alternate: Replaces one glyph with one of many glyphs.

Ligature: Replaces multiple glyphs with one glyph.

Context: Replaces one or more glyphs in context.

Chaining: Replaces one or more glyphs in chained context.

GPOS: Glyph positioning data

JSTF: Justification data

and many more...

Libraries

STB_truetype (single header file, basic support)

→ <https://github.com/nothings/stb>

FreeType (standard support without text shaping)

→ <https://www.freetype.org>

HarfBuzz (advanced support with text shaping)

→ <https://harfbuzz.github.io>



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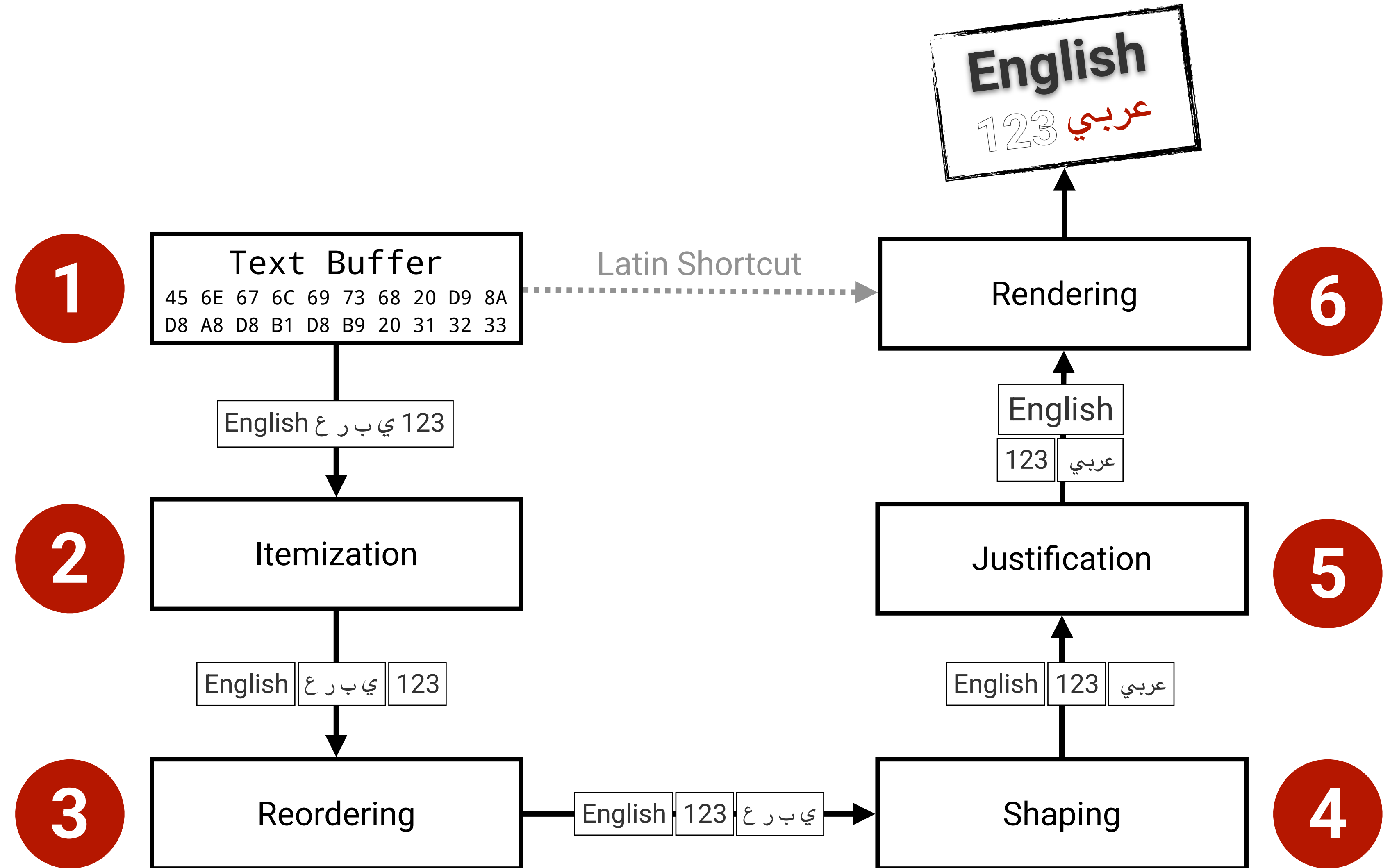
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TEXT RENDERING PIPELINE



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PART I

Near the end of the last century (1997), Mark Kilgard introduced a simple OpenGL-based API for texture mapped text.

The method packed many rasterized glyphs into a single alpha-only texture map and used a lookup table to assign texture coordinates to a quadrilateral to extract a glyph when rendering.



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2D RASTERIZATION

Same input, different outputs

コンピュータによる CJKV (中国語、日本語、韓国語、ベトナム語) テキスト処理は、多くの謎や複雑な仕組み (intrigue) に包まれている。そこにはたしかにたくらみ (intrigue) があることは認めるが、それよりも謎の多いことのほうが問題である。

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Cras sit amet dui. Nam sapien. Fusce vestibulum ornare metus. Maecenas ligula orci, consequat vitae, dictum nec, lacinia non, elit. Aliquam iaculis molestie neque. Maecenas suscipit felis ut pede convallis malesuada. Aliquam erat volutpat. Nunc pulvinar condimentum nunc. Donec ac sem vel leo bibendum aliquam. Pellentesque habitant

FreeType Native CFF Rasterizer

コンピュータによる CJKV (中国語、日本語、韓国語、ベトナム語) テキスト処理は、多くの謎や複雑な仕組み (intrigue) に包まれている。そこにはたしかにたくらみ (intrigue) があることは認めるが、それよりも謎の多いことのほうが問題である。

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FreeType Light Auto Hint Rasterizer

コンピュータによる CJKV (中国語、日本語、韓国語、ベトナム語) テキスト処理は、多くの謎や複雑な仕組み (intrigue) に包まれている。そこにはたしかにたくらみ (intrigue) があることは認めるが、それよりも謎の多いことのほうが問題である。

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FreeType using the New Adobe CFF Rasterizer (2013)

Quartz Rendering

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ClearType Rendering

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2D RASTERIZATION

GDI rendering of FacitWeb (above) and Minion Pro (below) with no antialiasing.
(Source Adobe Typekit Blog)



abcefghijop 123 A

The five boxing wizards jump
Brawny gods just flocked up to
Waltz, bad nymph, for quick jig
Vamp fox held quartz duck just

five boxing

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abcefghijop 123 A

The five boxing wizards jump qu
Brawny gods just flocked up to q
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GDI rendering of FacitWeb (above) and Minion Pro (below) with standard antialiasing.
(Source Adobe Typekit Blog)



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Core text rendering of FacitWeb (above) and Minion Pro (below).
(Source Adobe Typekit Blog)



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2D RASTERIZATION

DirectWrite rendering of FacitWeb (above) and Minion Pro (below).
(Source Adobe Typekit Blog)



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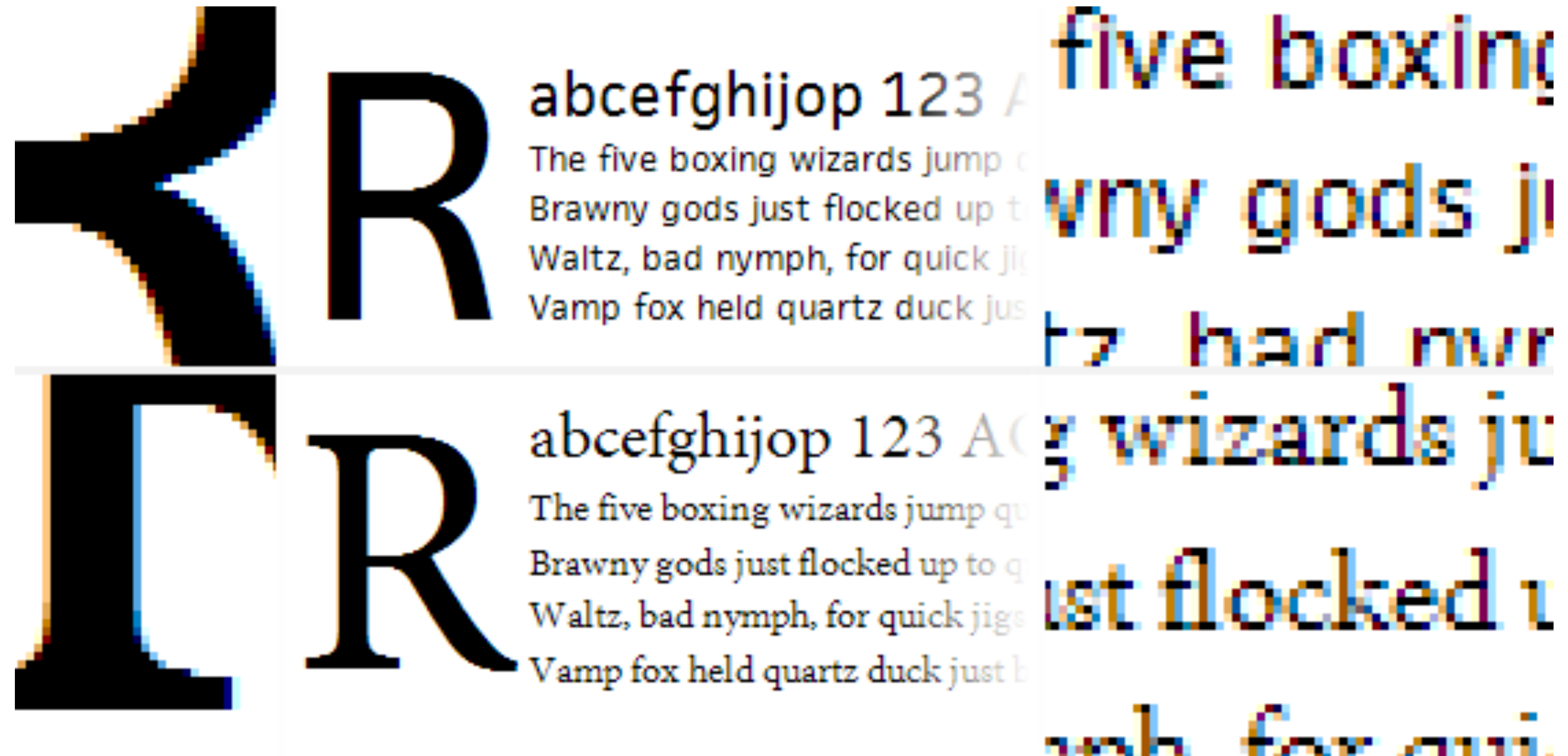
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2D RASTERIZATION

GDI rendering of FacitWeb (above) and Minion Pro (below) with ClearType enabled.
(Source Adobe Typekit Blog)



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TEXTURE FONT I

Kilgard (1997) A Simple OpenGL-based API for Texture Mapped Text

Texture mapping is well suited for rendering text because textures can be rendered quickly with current 3D hardware and even via clever programming of today's fast CPUs. Textures can be stretched, rotated, scaled, and even projected (assuming the texture mapping is perspective correct) so that texture mapped text looks reasonable in 3D scenes.



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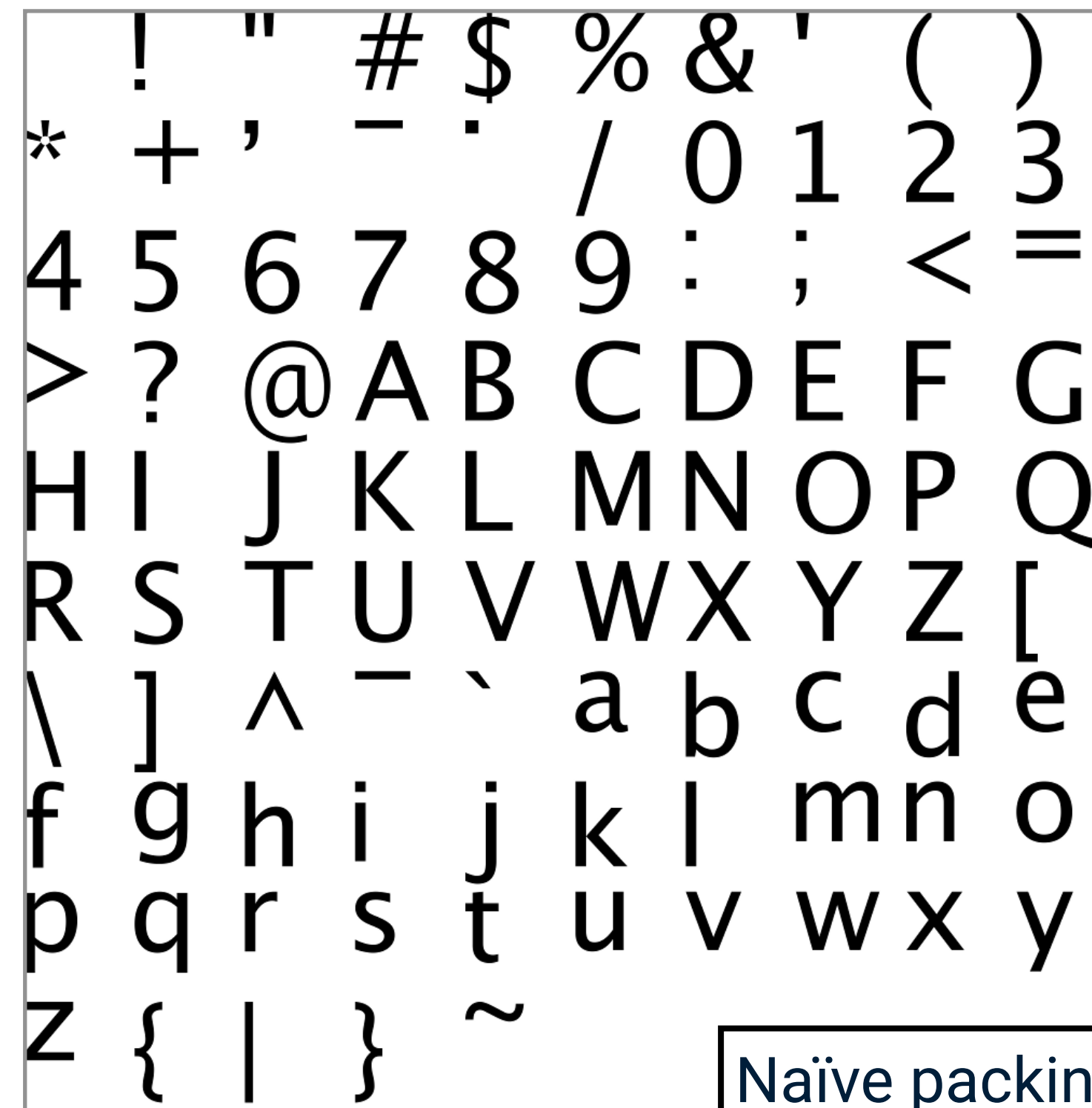
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BIN PACKING ALGORITHMS

Jylänky (2010) A Thousand Ways to Pack the Bin

Several algorithms that can be used to solve the problem of packing rectangles into two-dimensional finite bins. Most of the algorithms have well been studied in literature, but some of the variants are less known and some are apparently regarded as "folklore" and no previous reference is known. Different variants are presented and compared.



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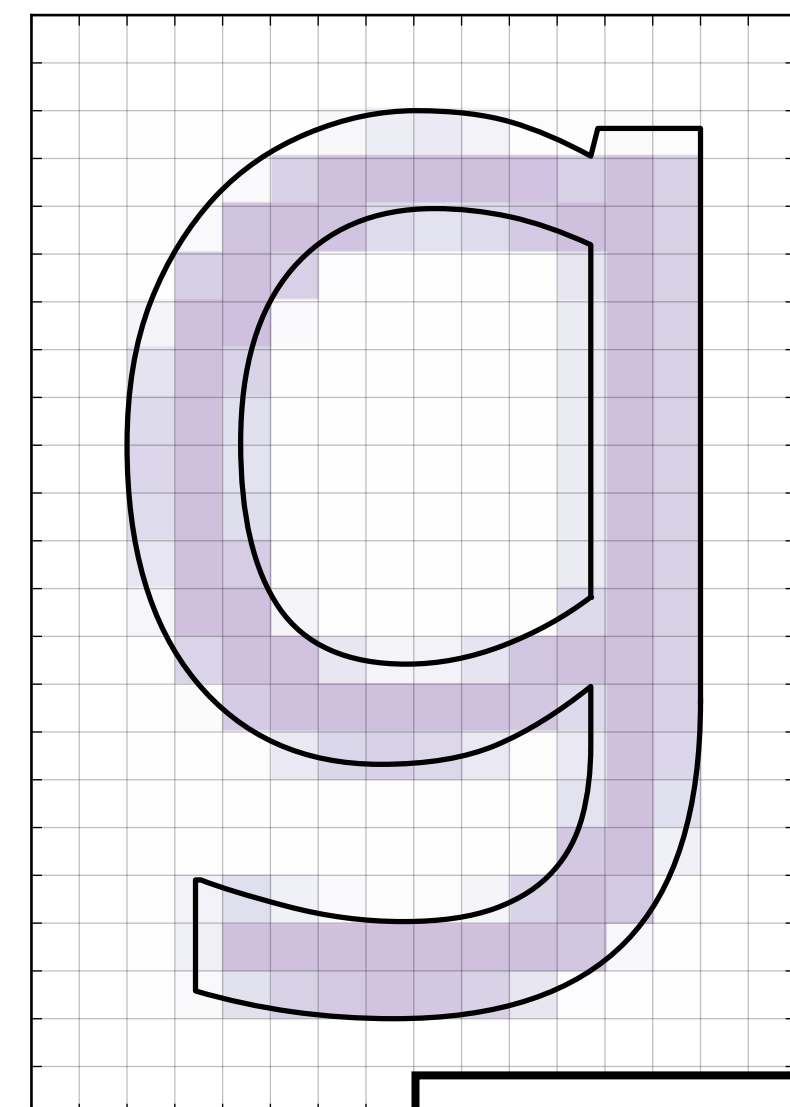
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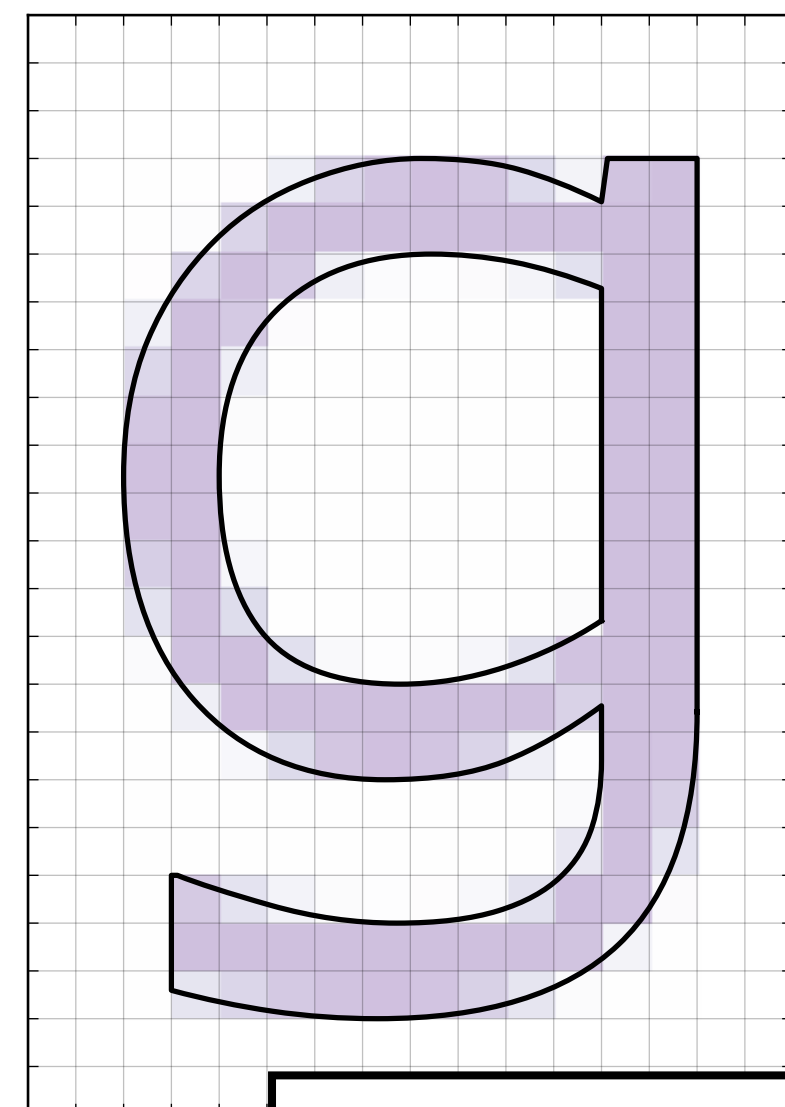
TEXTURE FONT II

Rougier (2013) Higher Quality 2D Text Rendering

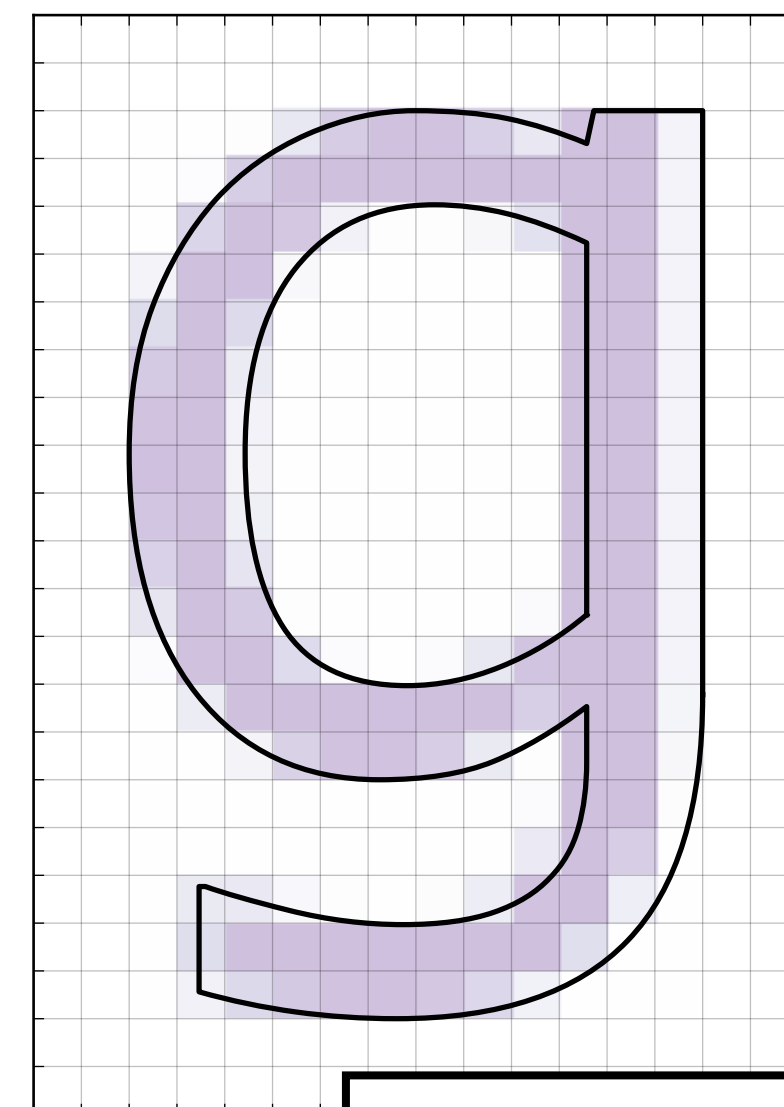
When displaying text on low-resolution devices ($DPI < 150$), one typically has to decide if one wants to respect the pixel grid (e.g., ClearType technology / Microsoft / native hinting) for crisp rendering or, to privilege glyph shapes (Quartz technology / Apple / no hinting) at the cost of blurring. There is, however, a third way that may combine the best of the two technologies (vertical hinting).



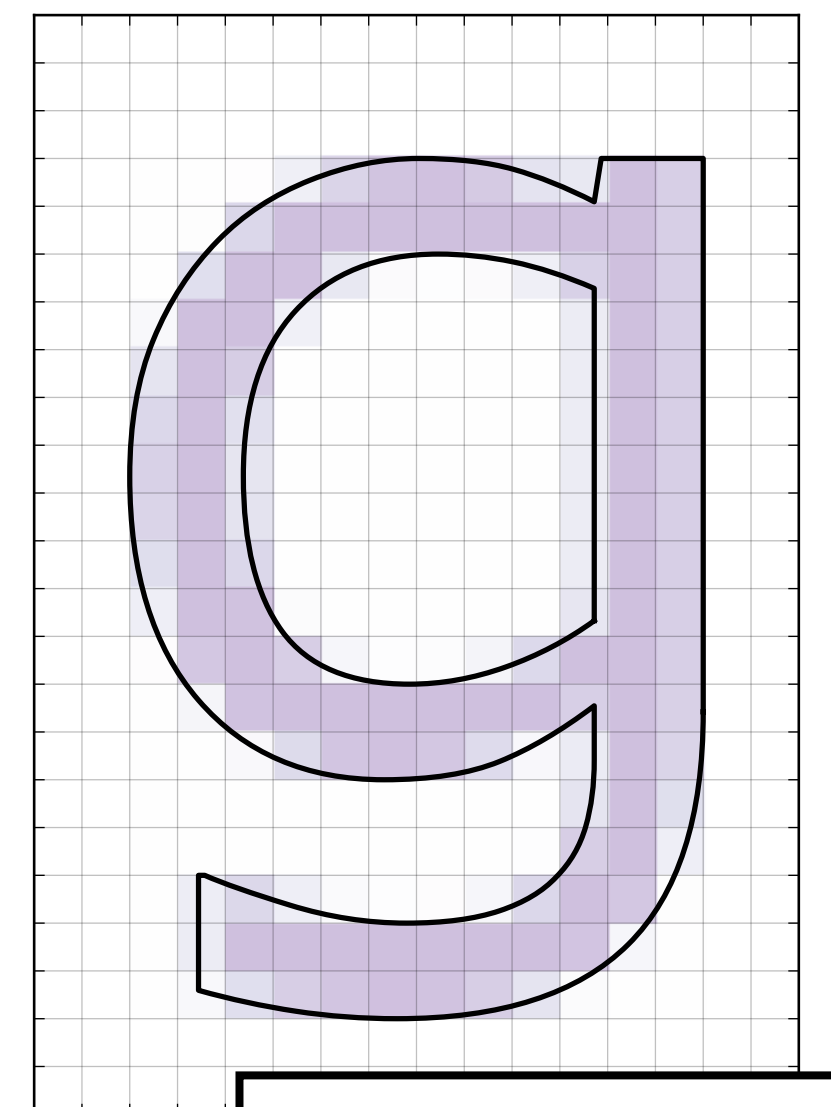
No hinting



Native hinting



Auto hinting



Vertical hinting

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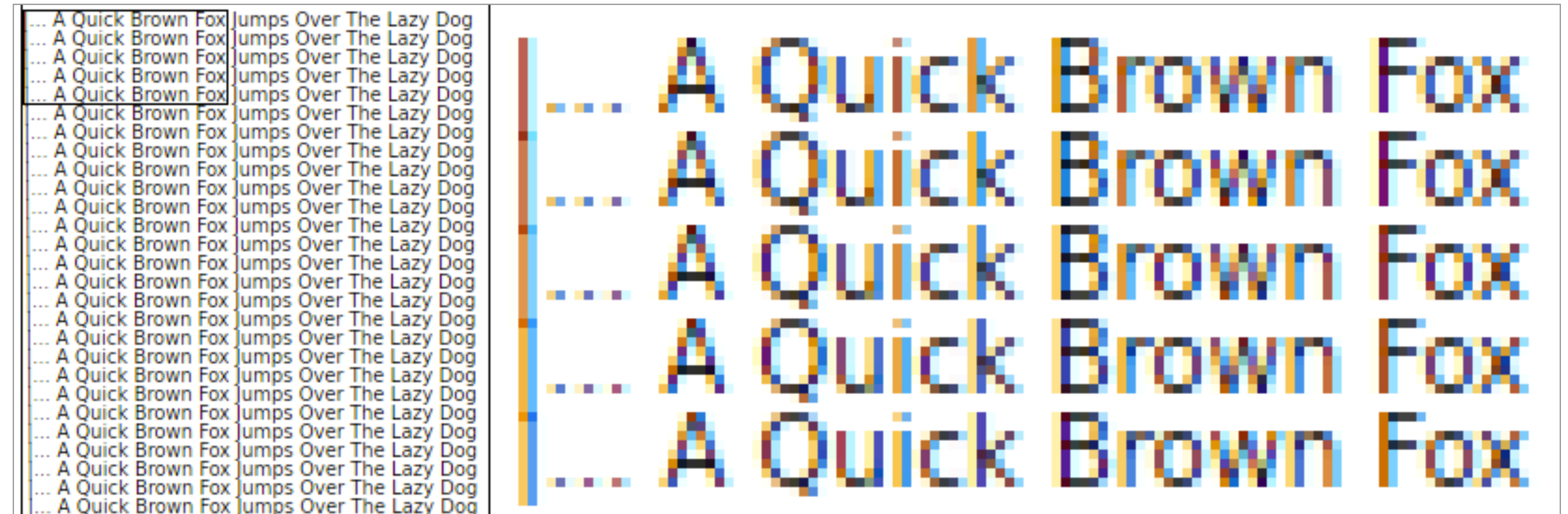
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TEXTURE FONT II

Rougie (2013) Higher Quality 2D Text Rendering

- Use horizontal RGB sub-pixel anti-aliasing for LCD flat panels.
- Use vertical hinting only and completely discard the horizontal one.
- Use accurate glyph advance values from unhinted glyph
- Use accurate, high resolution values from the kerning table.



DIGITAL TYPOGRAPHY

N. ROUGIER (INRIA) & B. ESFAHBOD (GOOGLE)

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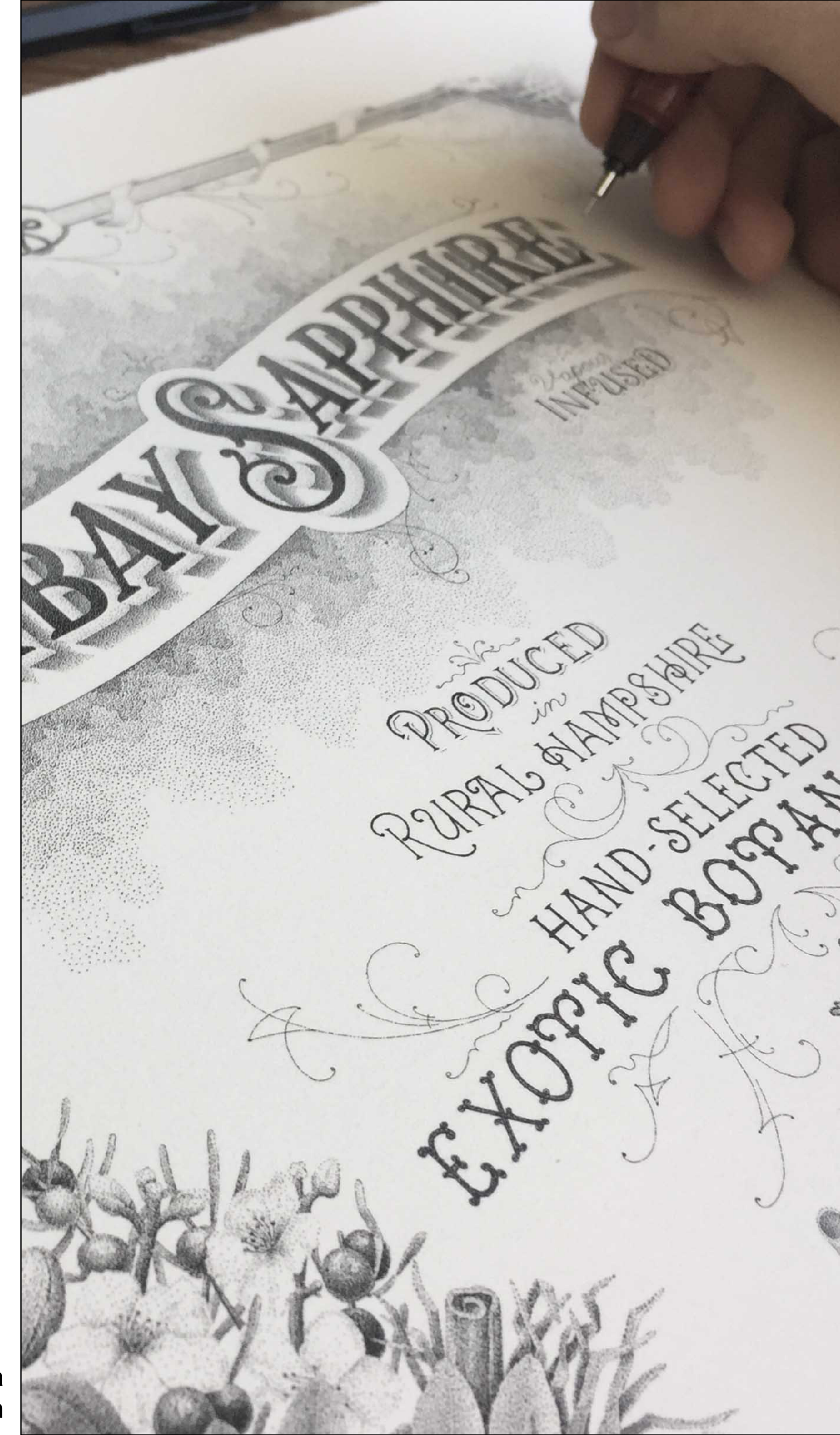


GENERATIONS
SIGGRAPH2018

PART II

Distance based rendering takes advantage of a signed distance function (that can be approximated) to compute the individual coverage for each pixel.

The coverage can be selected to implement various effects (stroke, thinner, thicker, shadow, etc)



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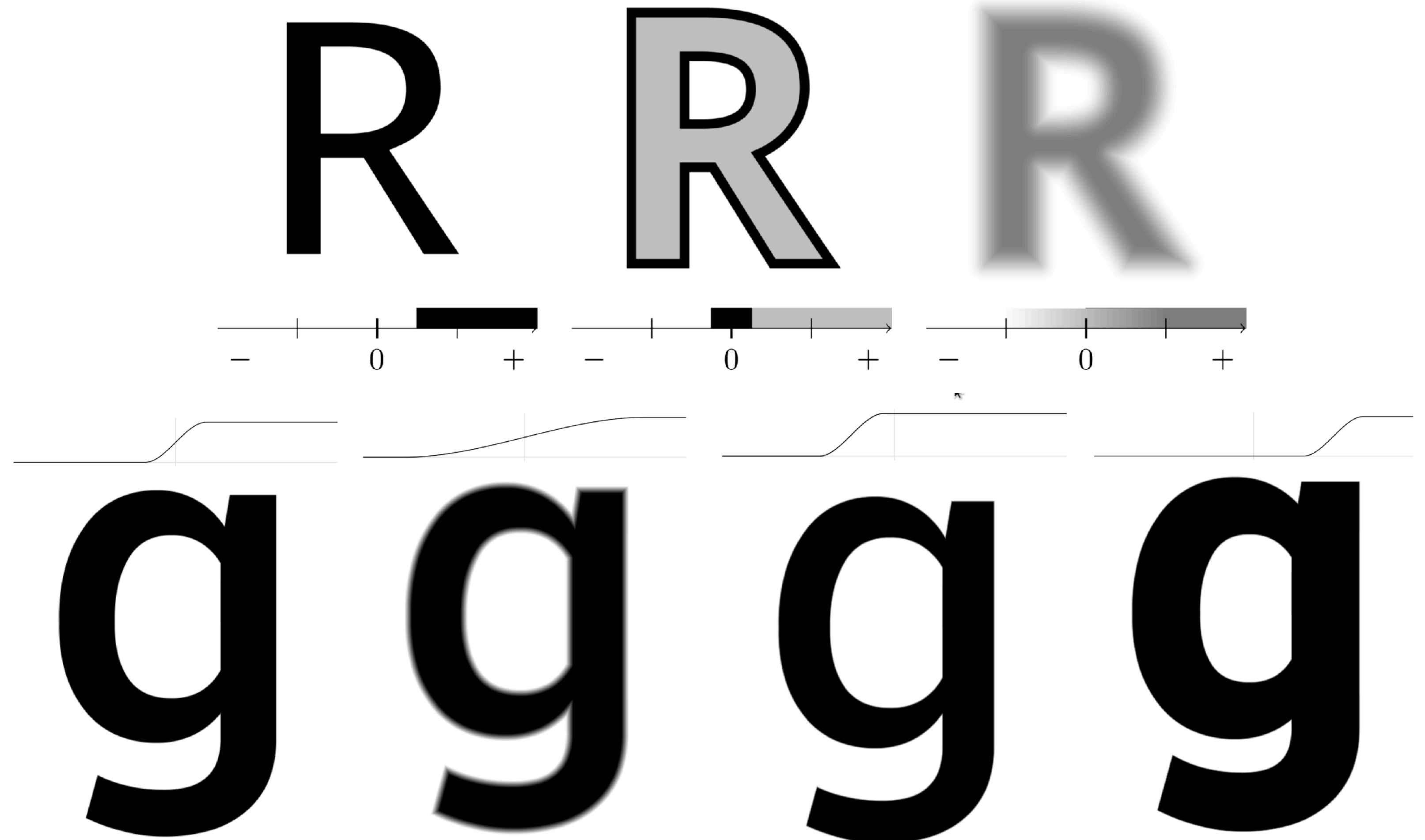
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DISTANCE BASED RENDERING

Distance based rendering takes advantage of a signed distance function (that can be approximated) to compute the individual coverage for each pixel. The coverage can be selected to implement various effects (stroke, thinner, thicker, shadow, etc)



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COMPUTING SDF

Gustavson & Strand (2011) Anti-Aliased Euclidean distance transform

We present a modified distance measure for use with distance transforms of anti-aliased, area sampled grayscale images of arbitrary binary contours. The modified measure can be used in any vector-propagation Euclidean distance transform. Our test implementation in the traditional SSE8 algorithm shows a considerable improvement in accuracy and homogeneity of the distance field compared to a traditional binary image transform.

See also <http://contourtextures.wikidot.com>



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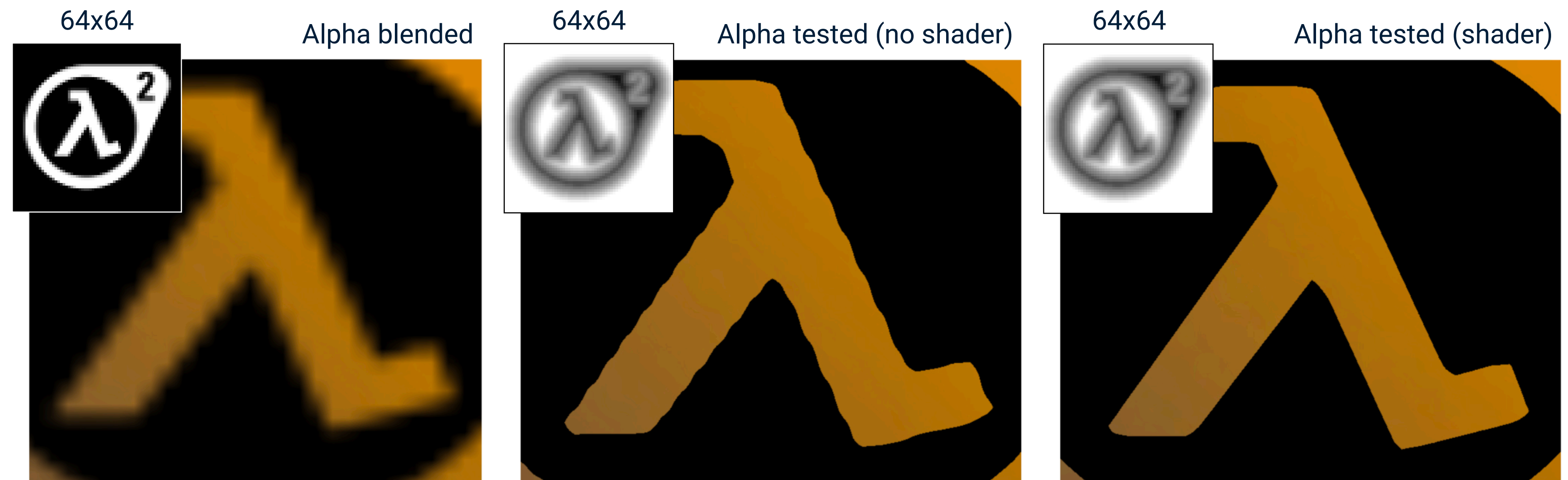
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SINGLE CHANNEL SDF

Green (2007) Improved Alpha-Tested Magnification for Vector Textures

A distance field is generated from a high resolution image, and then stored into a channel of a lower-resolution texture. In the simplest case, this texture can then be rendered simply by using the alpha-testing and alpha-thresholding feature of modern GPUs, without a custom shader. This allows the technique to be used on even the lowest-end 3D graphics hardware. With the use of programmable shading, the technique is extended to perform various special effect renderings, including soft edges, outlining, drop shadows, multi-colored images, and sharp corners.



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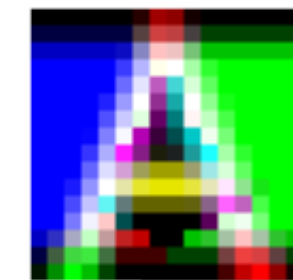
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SDF: MULTIPLE CHANNELS

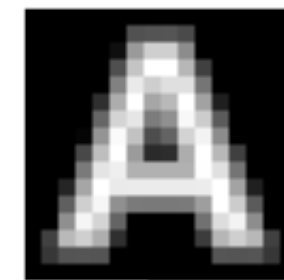
Chlumsky (2015) Shape Decomposition for Multi-channel Distance Fields



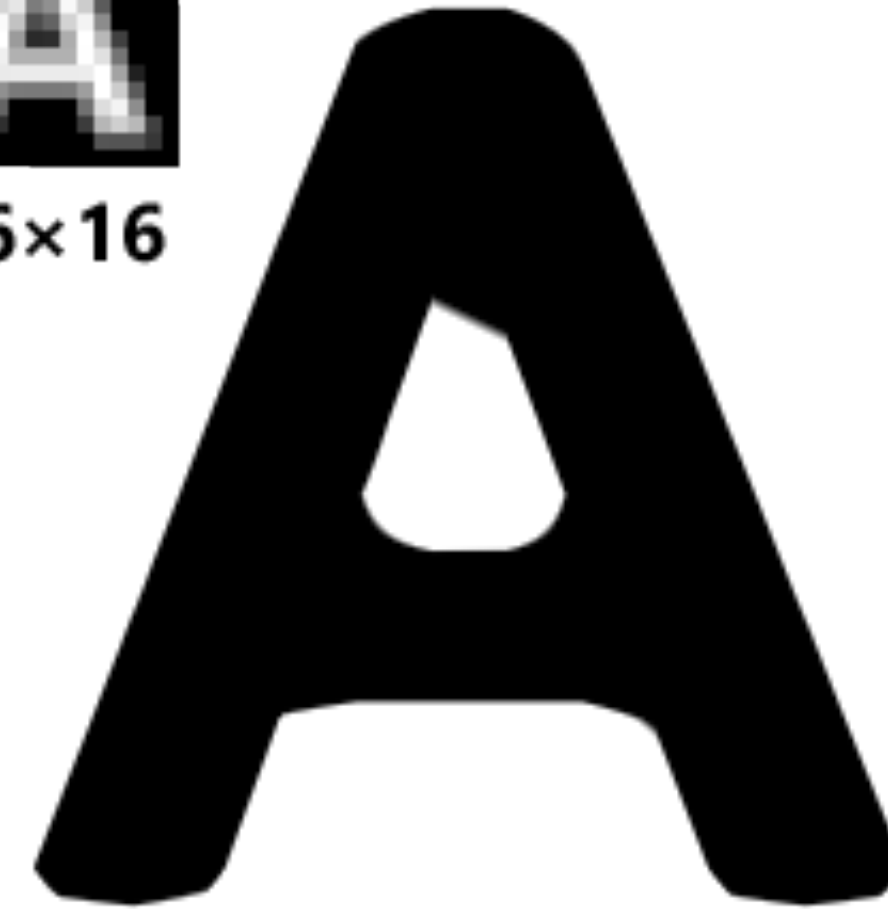
16x16



Edge Coloring



16x16



Plane partitioning



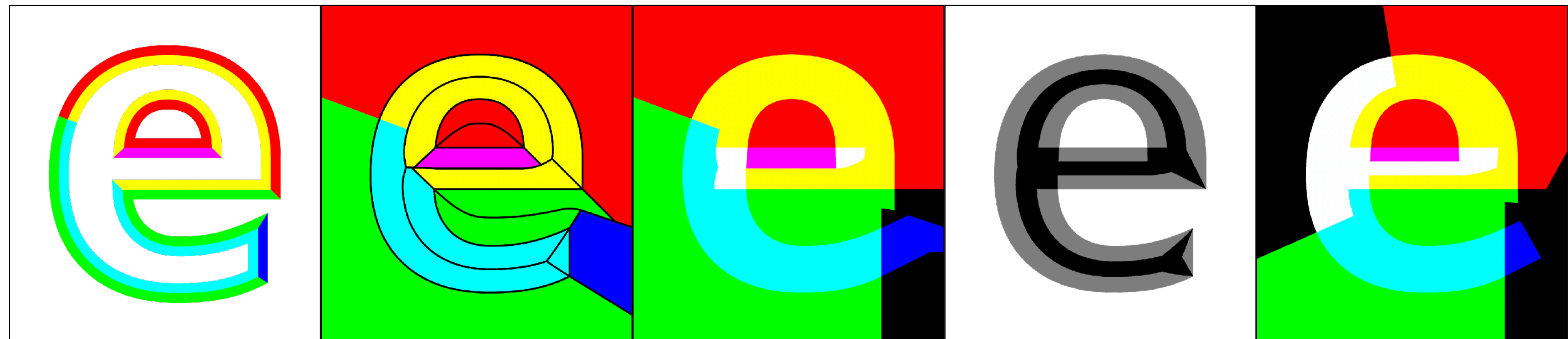
32x32



Decomposition

Inner padding

Padded Decomposition



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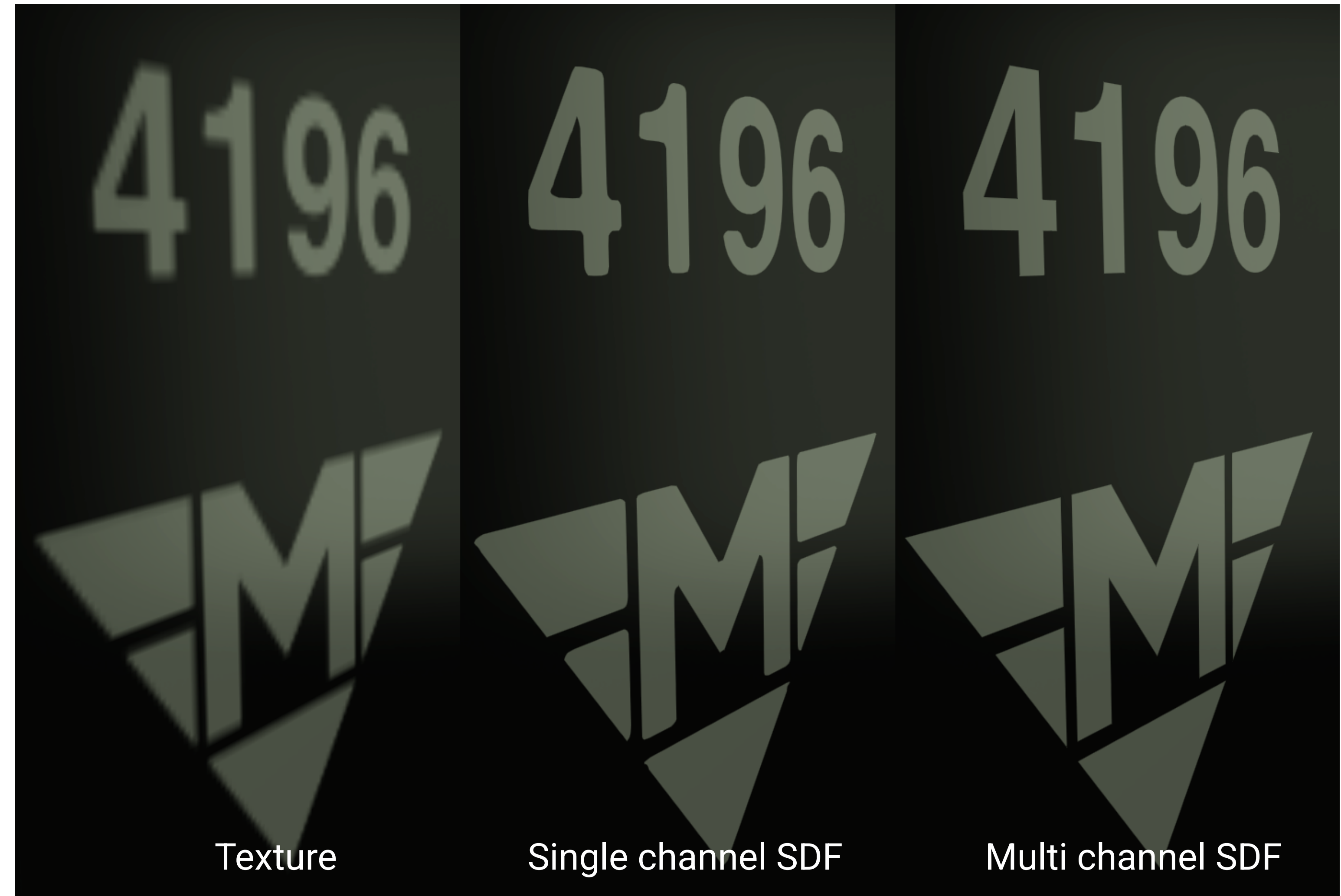
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SDF: MULTIPLE CHANNELS

Chlumsky (2015) Shape Decomposition for Multi-channel Distance Fields



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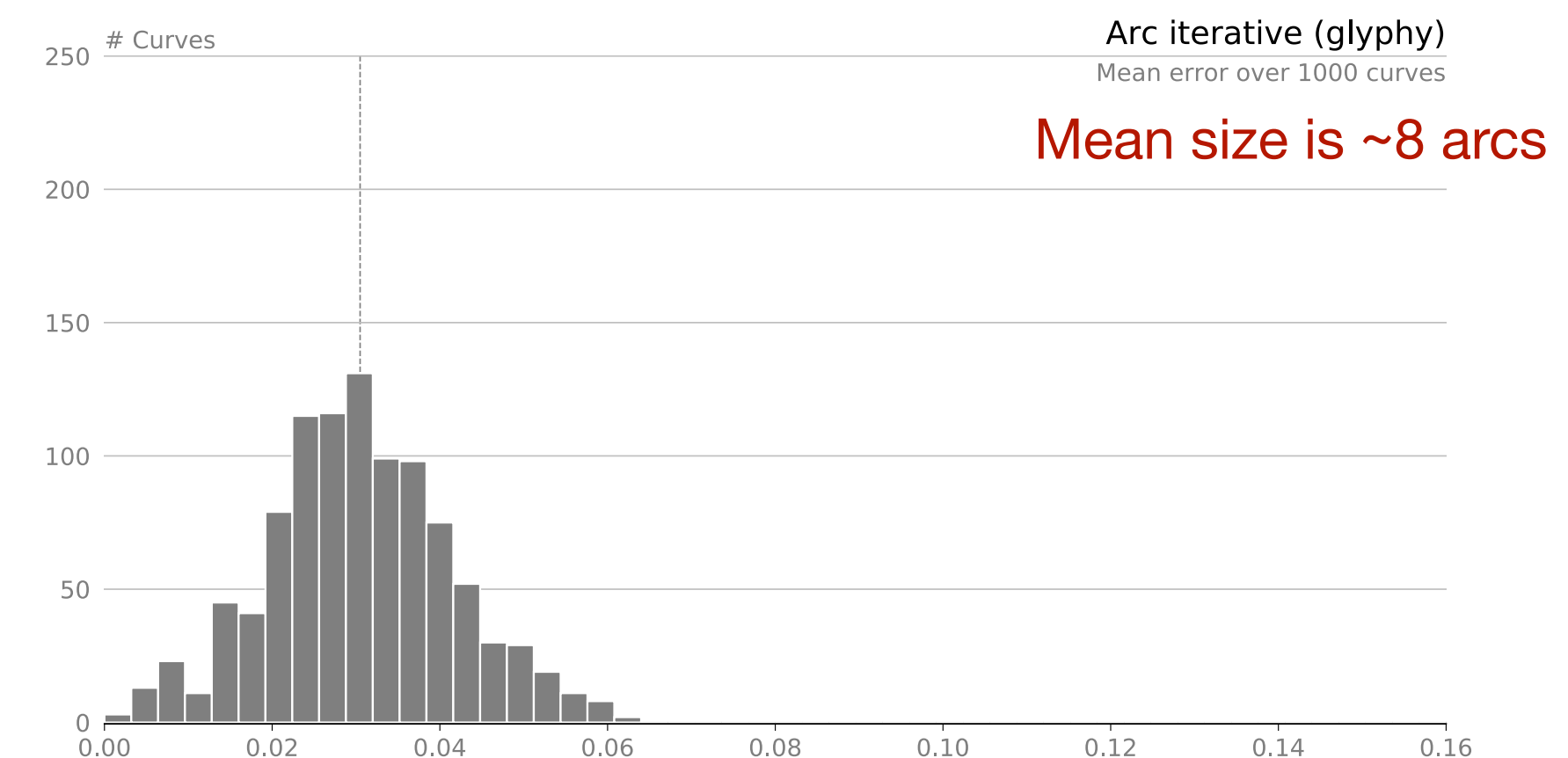
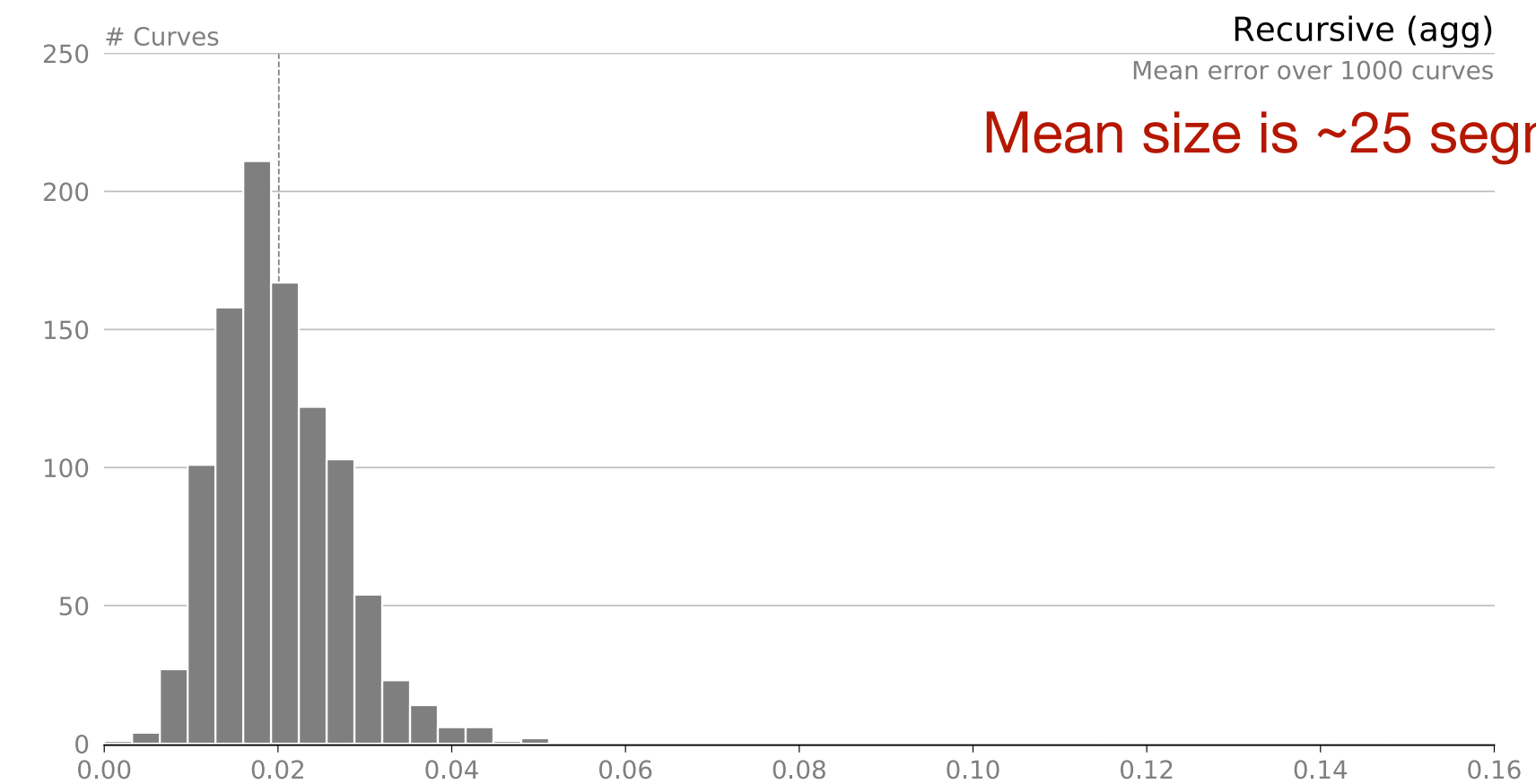
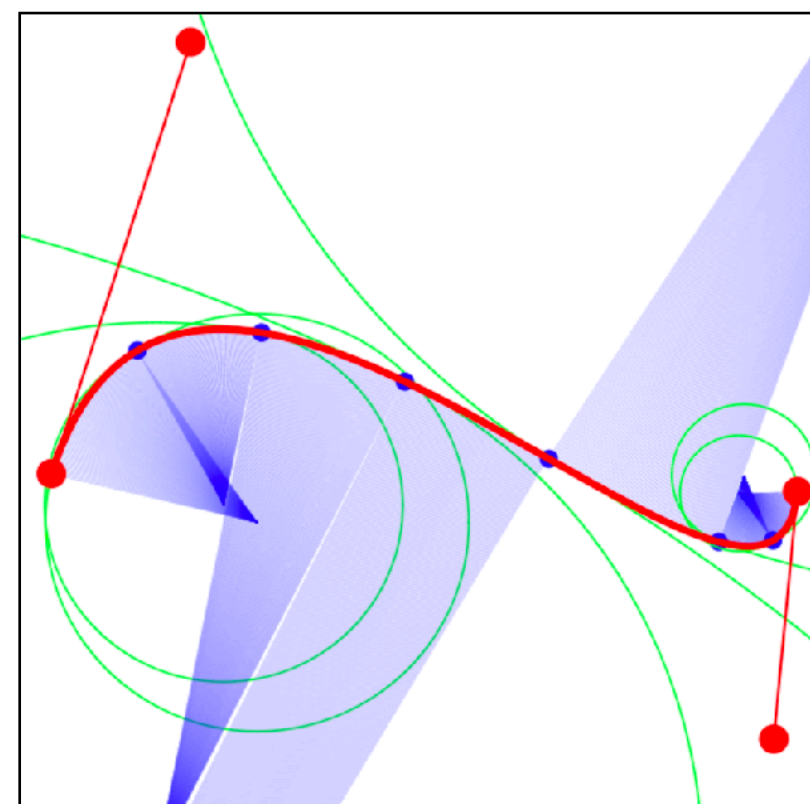
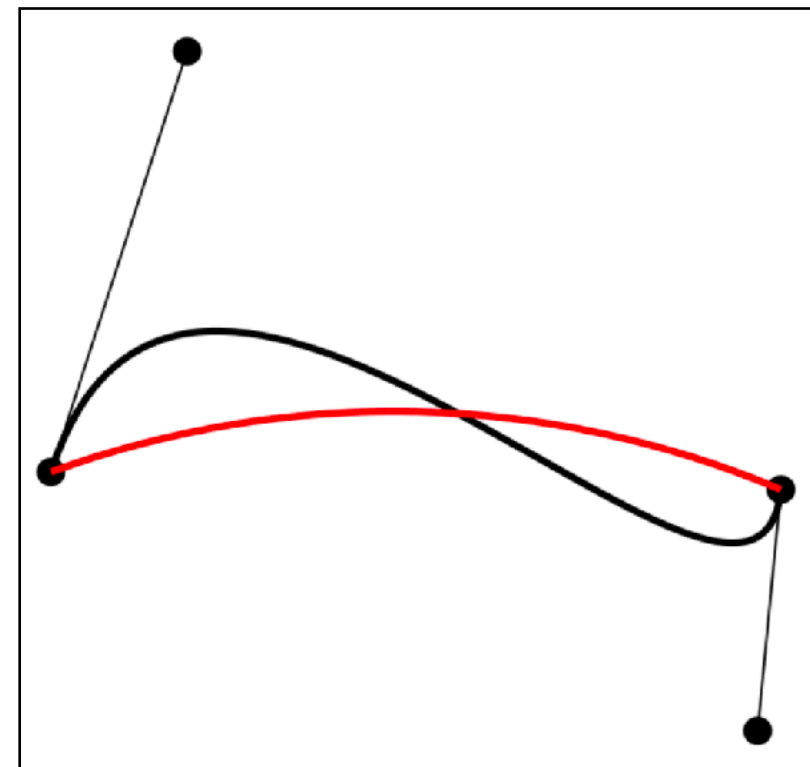
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ARC APPROXIMATION

Esfahbod (2012) Glyphy

Since distance to arbitrary Bézier curves is hard, we can instead first convert a glyph into (approximated) circular arc splines and upload this converted vector glyph to the GPU. Distance are then computed onto the GPU. Corner cases are overlapping contours, tangent arcs and float precision.



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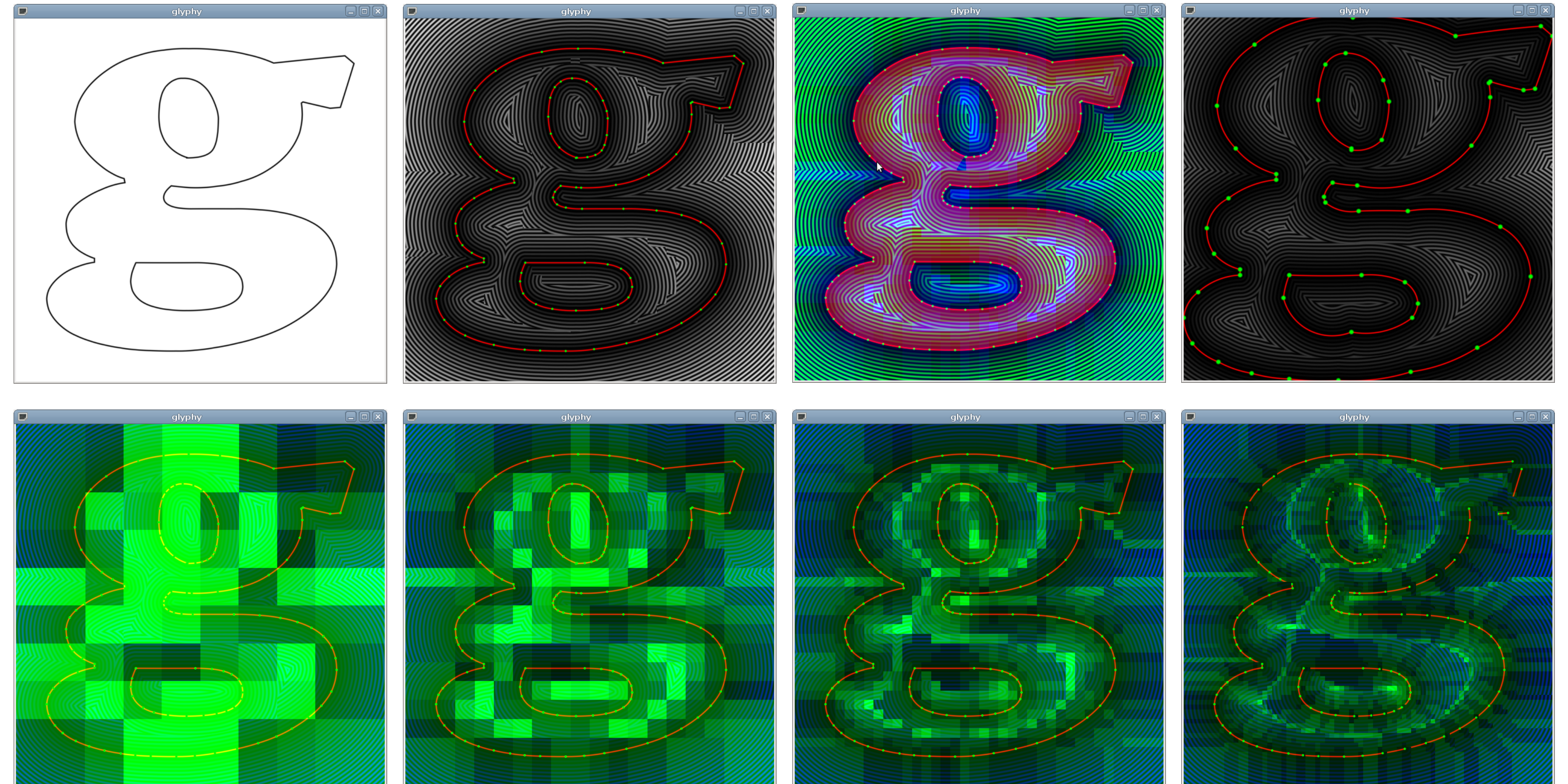
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ARC APPROXIMATION

Esfahbod (2012) Glyphy

SDF-based antialiasing + subpixel positioning + random access (coarse grid).



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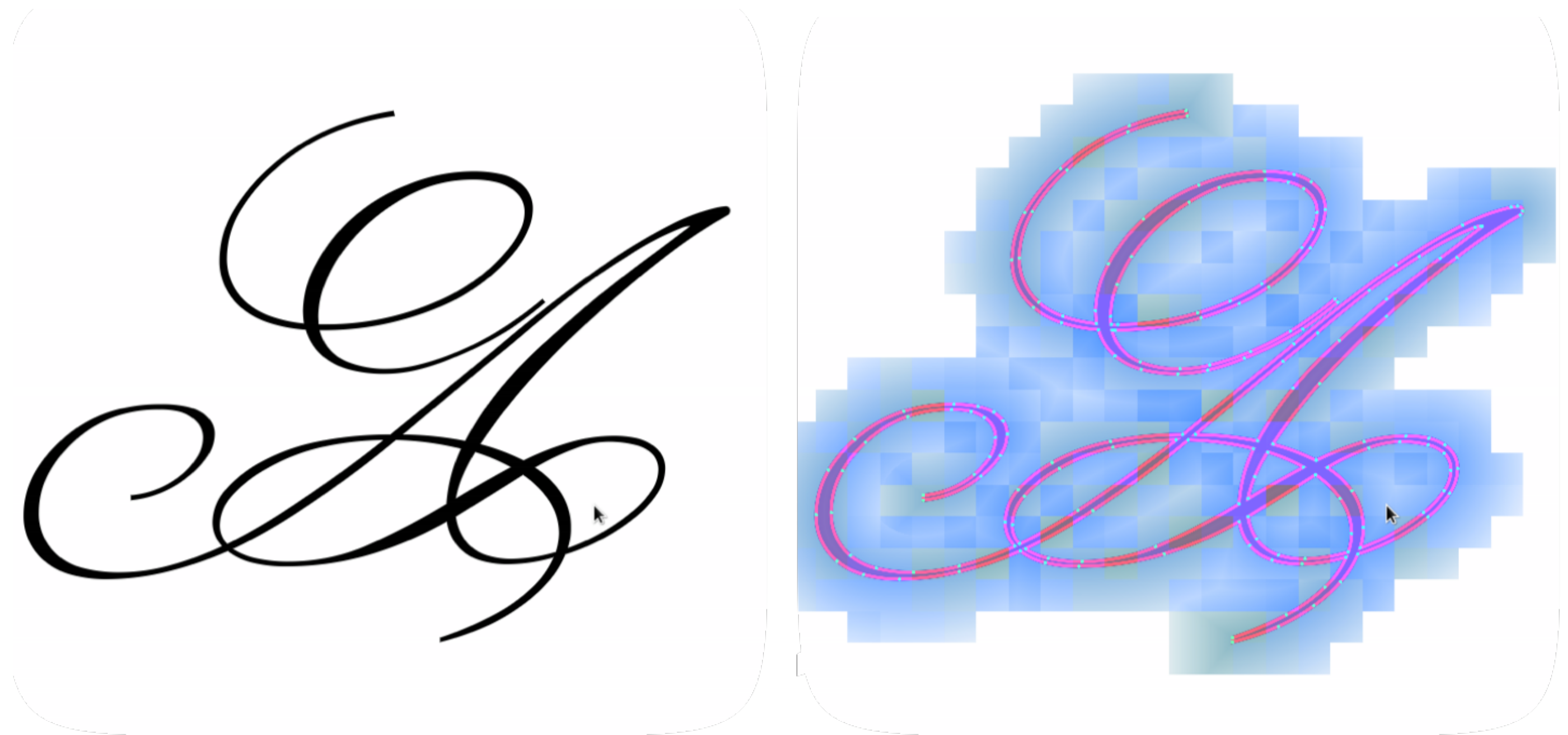
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ARC APPROXIMATION

Esfahbod (2012) Glyphy

Drawback: Memory and speed are font dependent



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PART III

Charles Loop and Jim Blinn introduced in 2005 a new approach for resolution-independent rendering of quadratic and cubic spline curves.

By tessellating a glyph the proper way, they offered de facto a method for resolution independent rendering of a glyph with good rendering quality.



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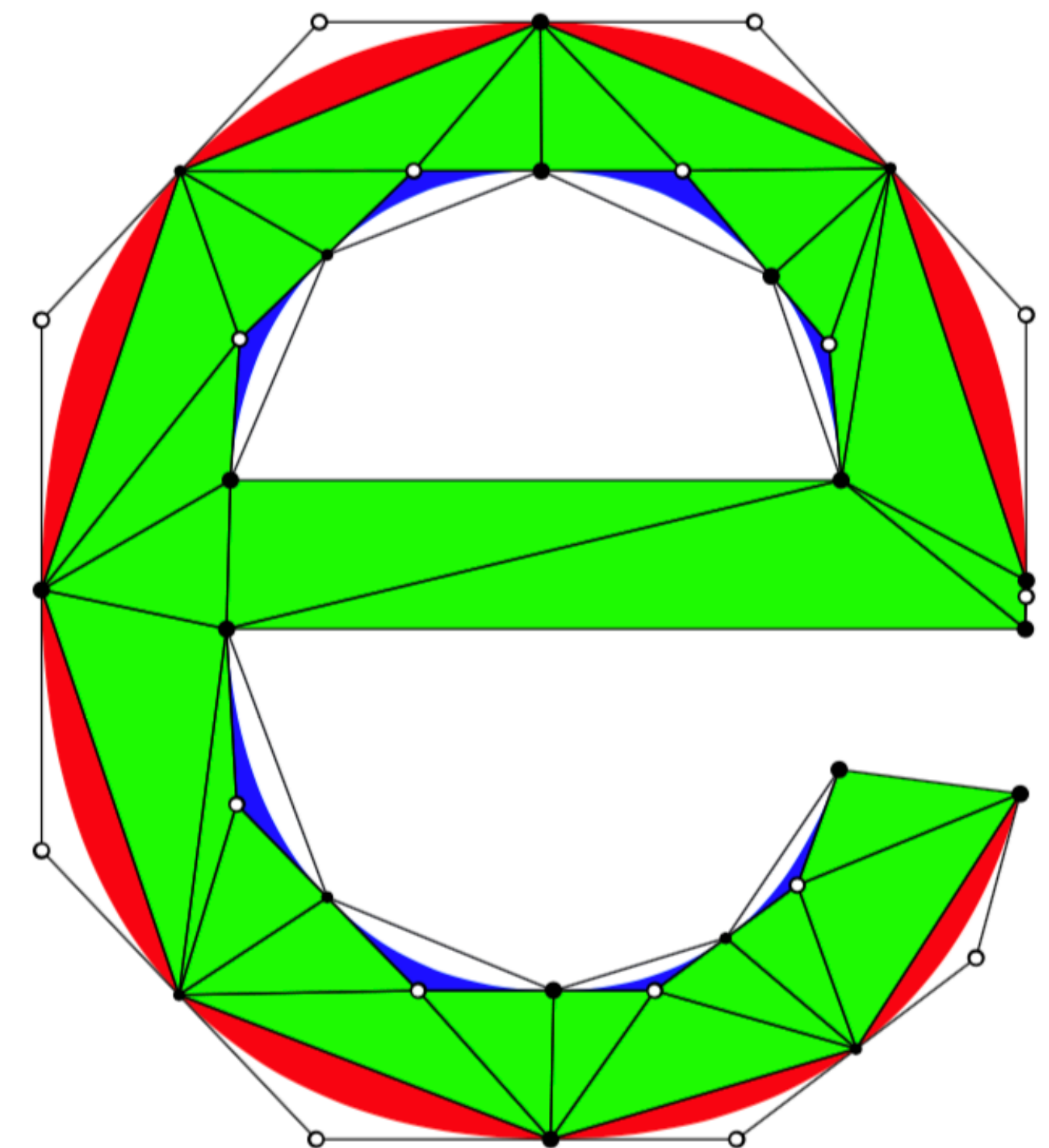
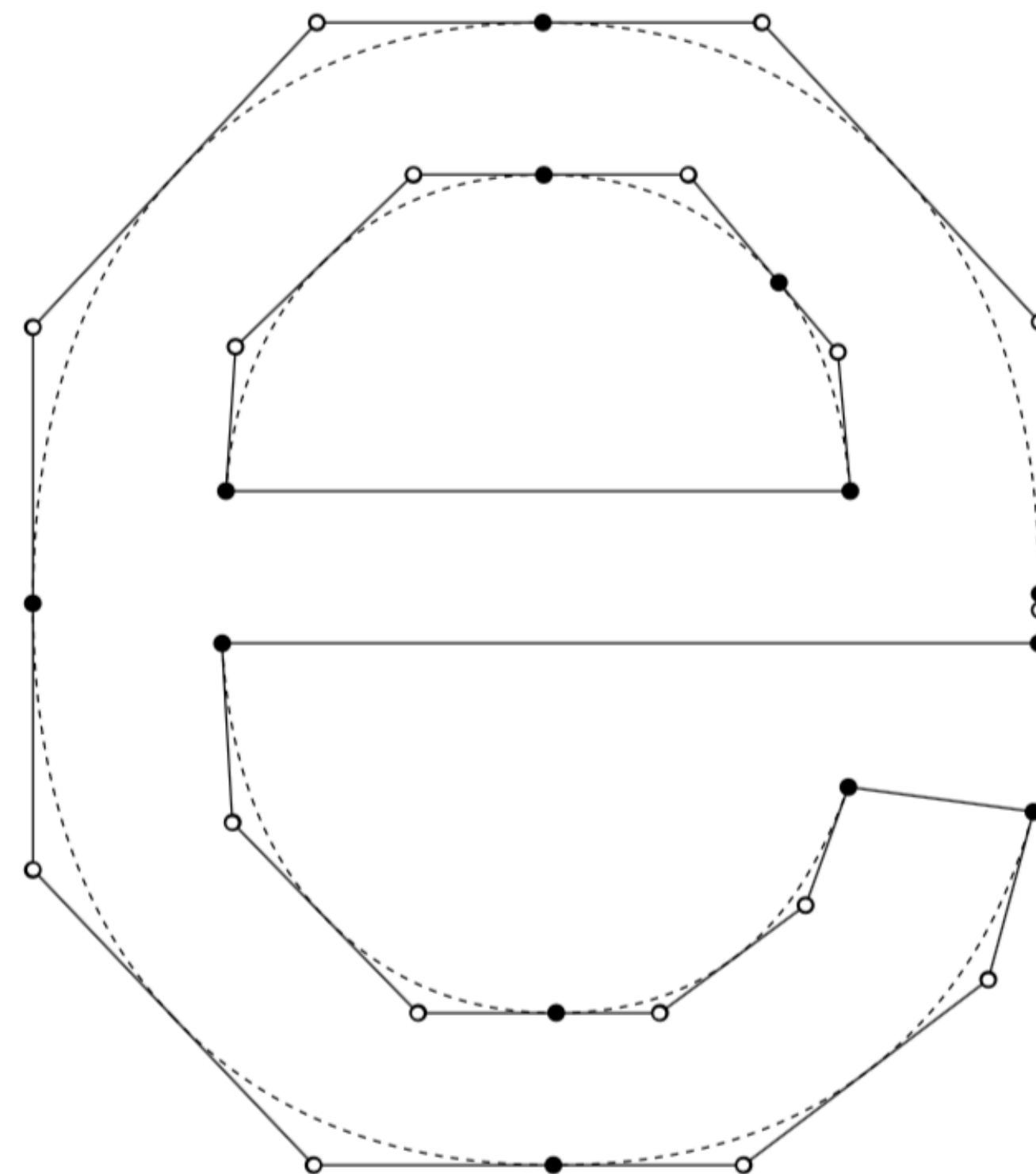
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GPU FRIENDLY

Loop & Blinn (2005) Resolution Independent Curve Rendering

We present a method for resolution independent rendering of paths and bounded regions, defined by quadratic and cubic spline curves, that leverages the parallelism of programmable graphics hardware to achieve high performance. Our result is a mechanism for rendering vector geometry that has the following properties: resolution independence, compact geometric representation, high performance.



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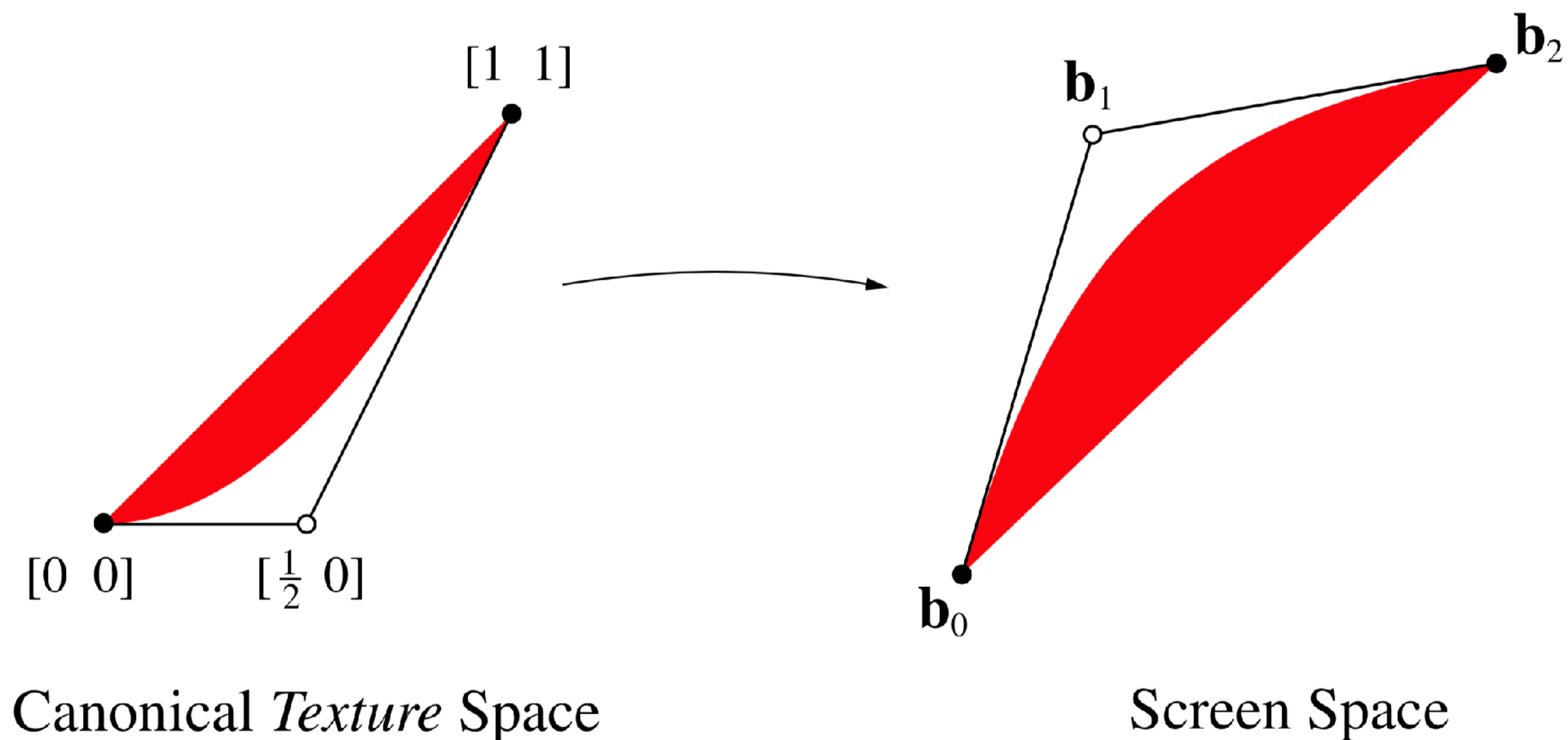
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GPU FRIENDLY

Loop & Blinn (2005) Resolution Independent Curve Rendering

We determine if the pixel is inside or outside the curve by evaluating $f(u, v) = u^2 - v$ in a pixel shader program. If $f(u, v) < 0$ then the pixel is inside the curve, otherwise it is outside.



See also

["Rendering Vector Art on the GPU"](#) (Charles Loop & Jim Blinn, GPU Gems 3, Chapter 25)

["Easy Scalable Text Rendering on the GPU"](#) (Evan Wallace Medium)

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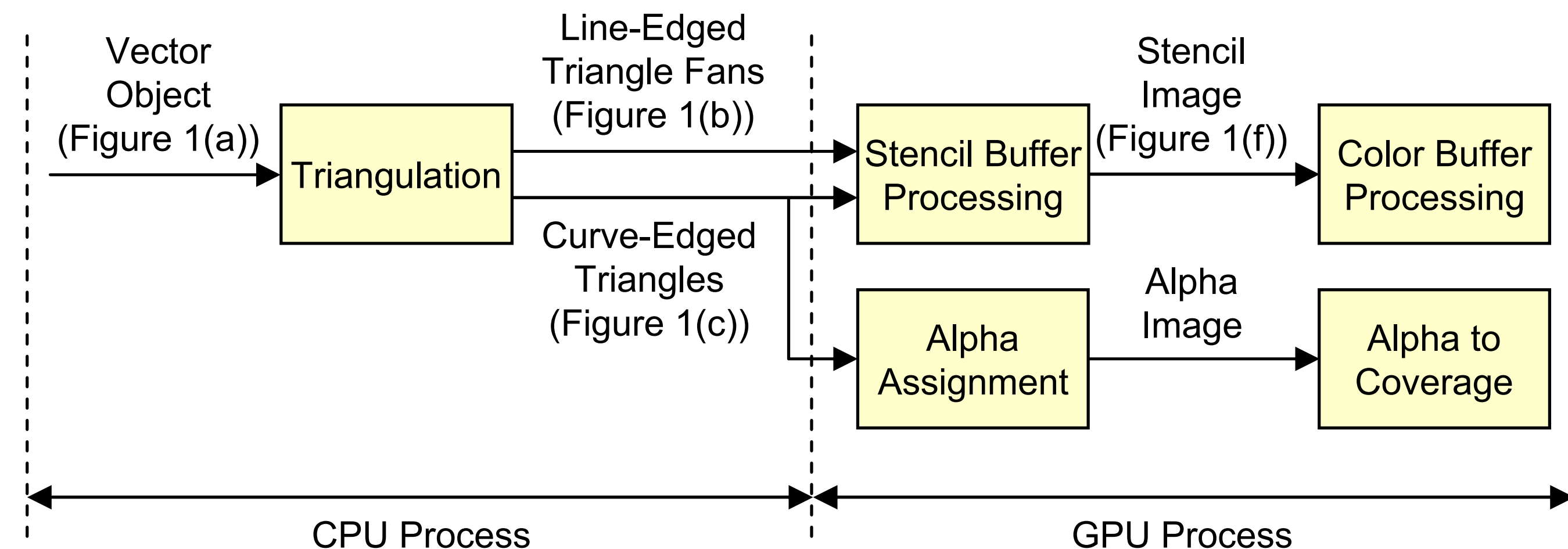
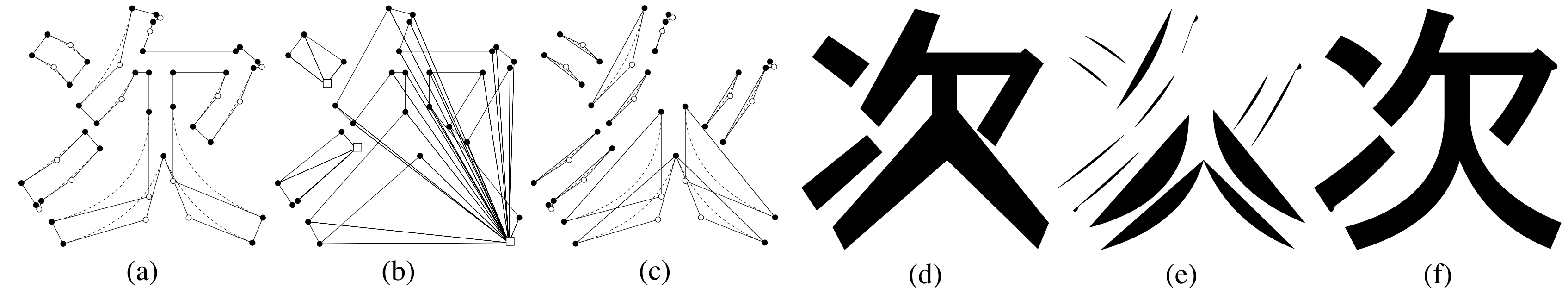
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GPU FRIENDLY

Kokojima et al (2006) Resolution Independent Rendering of Deformable Vector Objects

This sketch presents a new method for resolution independent rendering of vector images suitable for programmable graphics hardware. We have enhanced a previous method [Loop and Blinn 2005] by using a stencil buffer and transparency multisampling.



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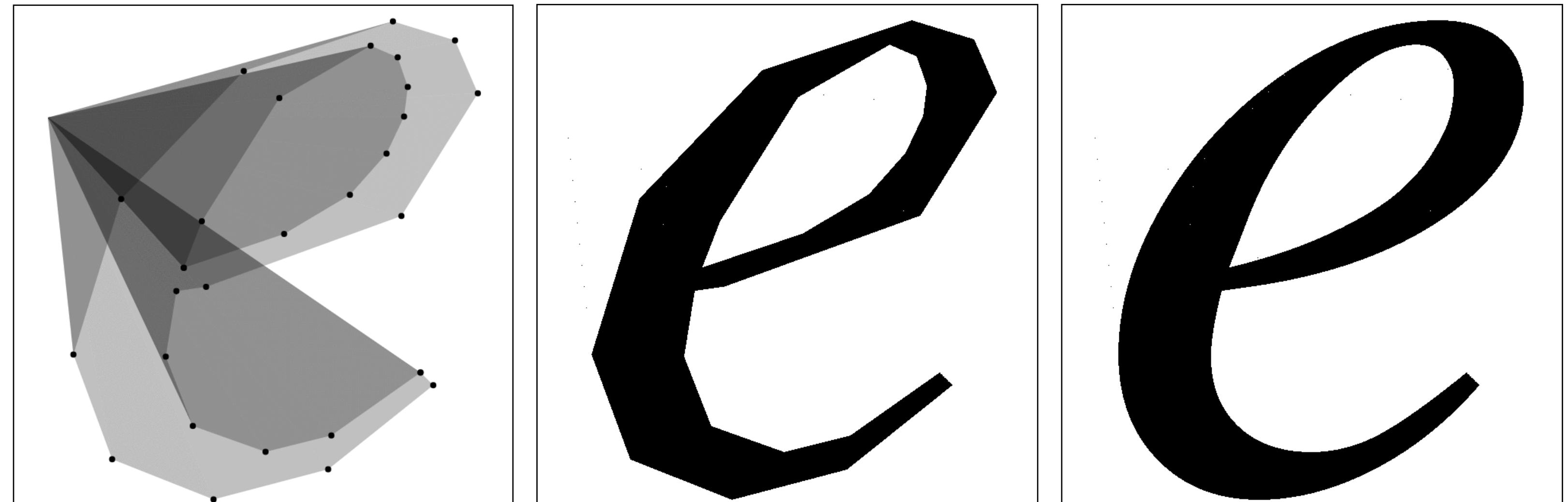
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Animations by Evan Wallace (Easy Scalable Text Rendering on the GPU)

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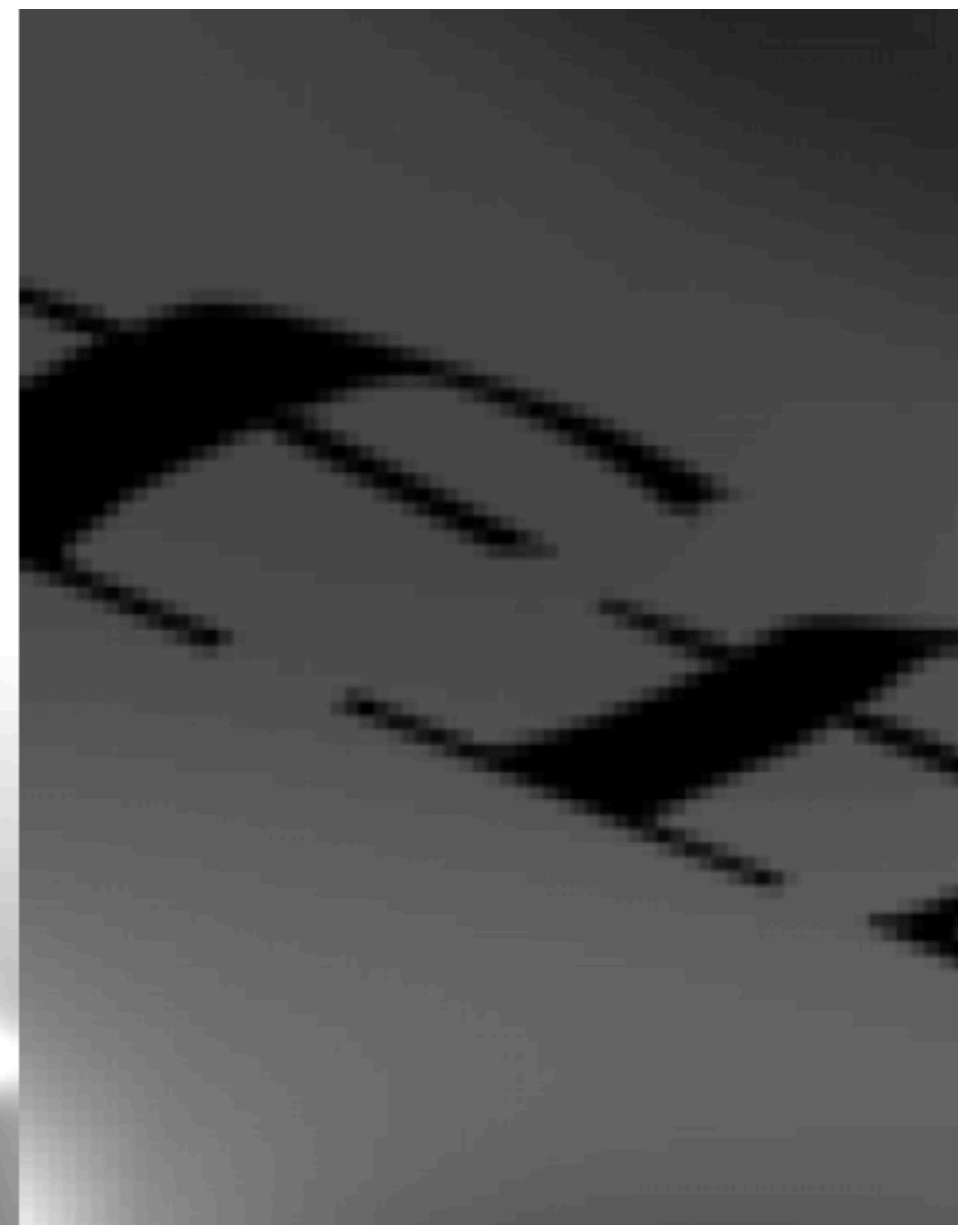
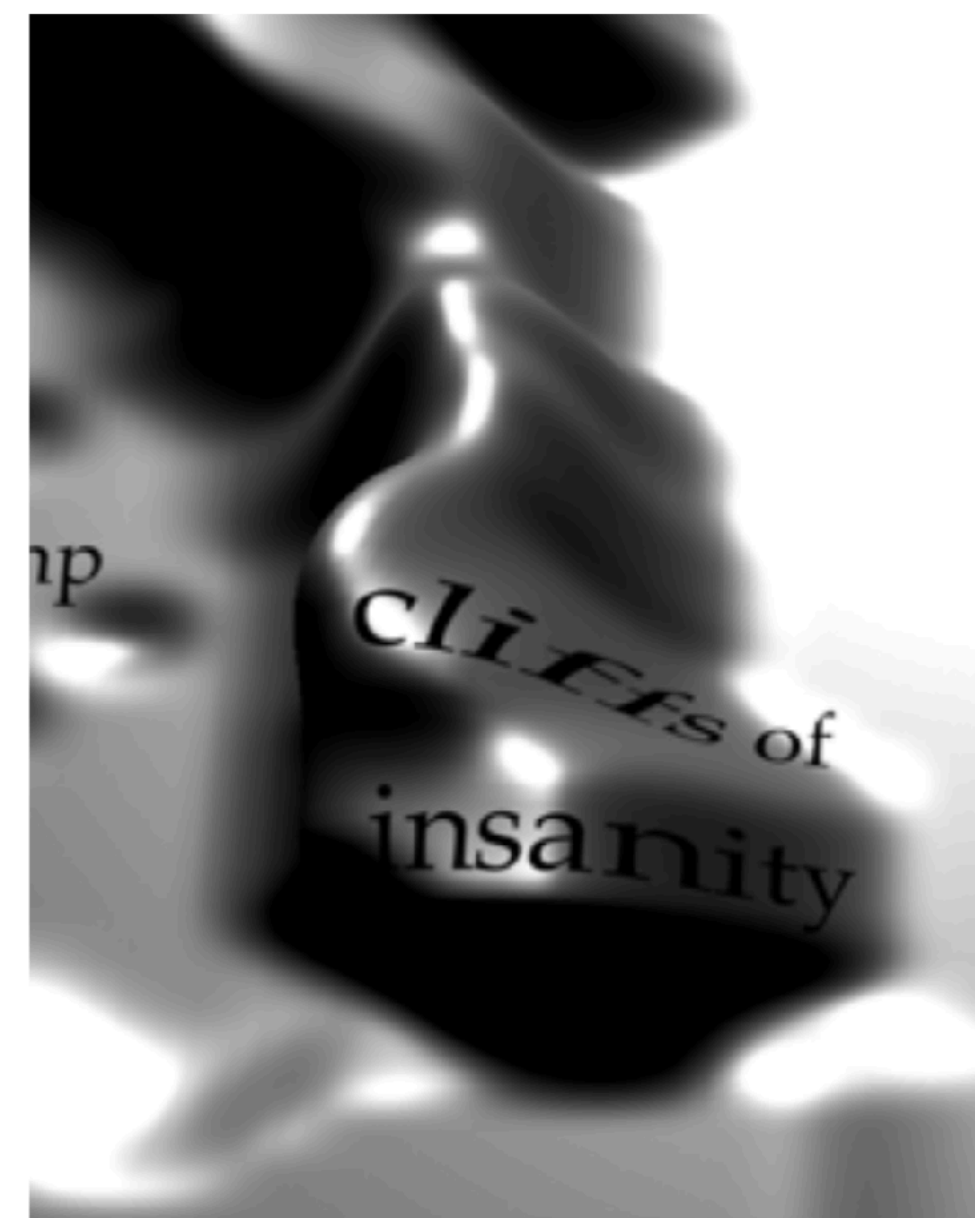


GPU FRIENDLY

Qin et al (2006) Real-Time Texture-Mapped Vector Glyphs

We present a vector graphics representation suitable for real-time rendering on GPUs. Our representation can be used in place of a texture map, and renders precise antialiased edges at any magnification. A combination of texture data and procedural computation is used to evaluate an exact signed distance to a contour and its gradient.

Anisotropic antialiasing technique + GPU-based representation of contours + Packed grid accelerator structure based + Sprite mapping technique + Special effects



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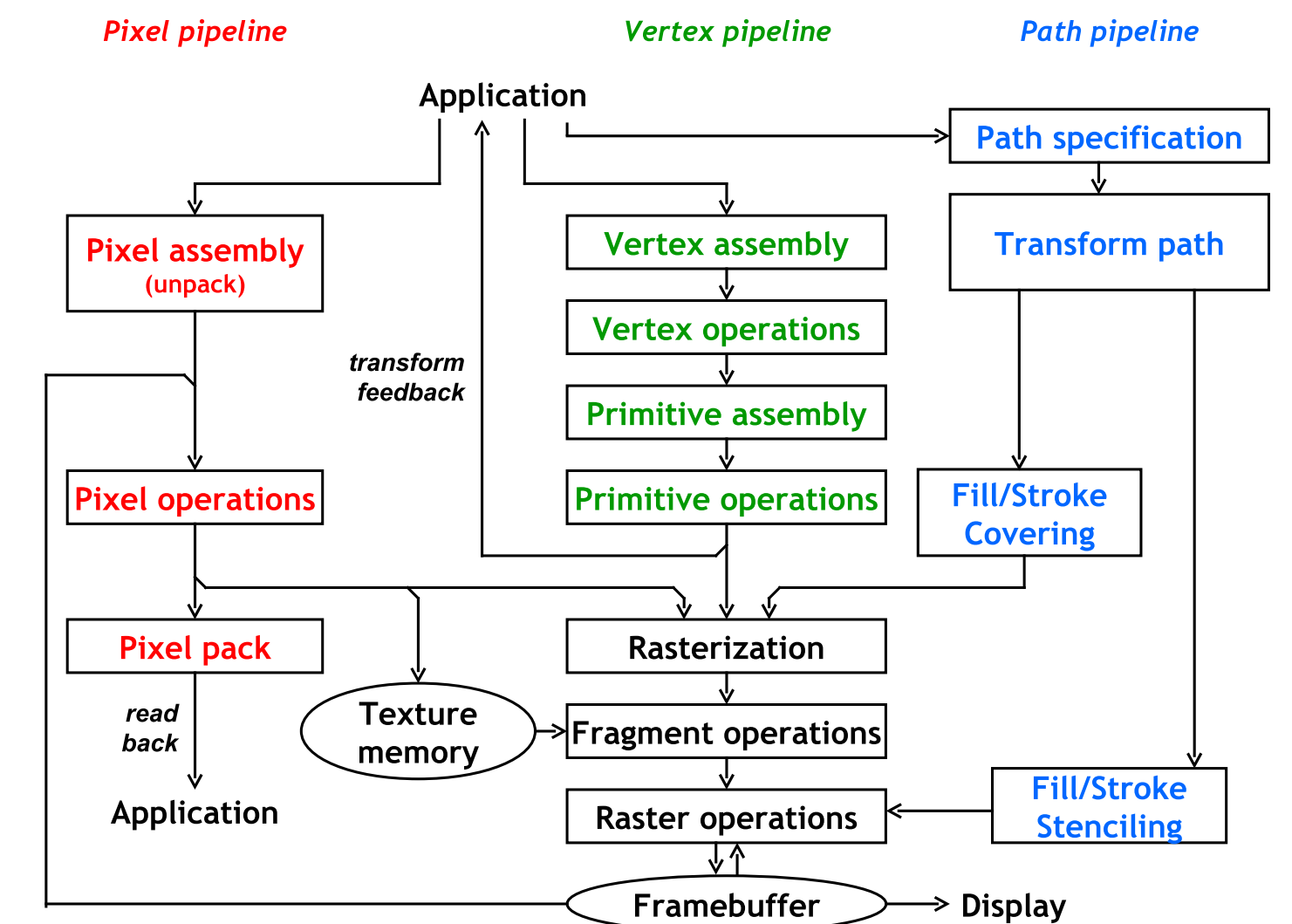
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GPU FRIENDLY

Kilgard & Bolz (2012) GPU-accelerated Path Rendering

We introduce a two-step “Stencil, then Cover” (StC) programming interface. Our GPU-based approach builds upon existing techniques for curve rendering using the stencil buffer, but we explicitly decouple in our programming interface the stencil step to determine a path’s filled or stroked coverage from the subsequent cover step to rasterize conservative geometry intended to test and reset the coverage determinations of the first step while shading color samples within the path.



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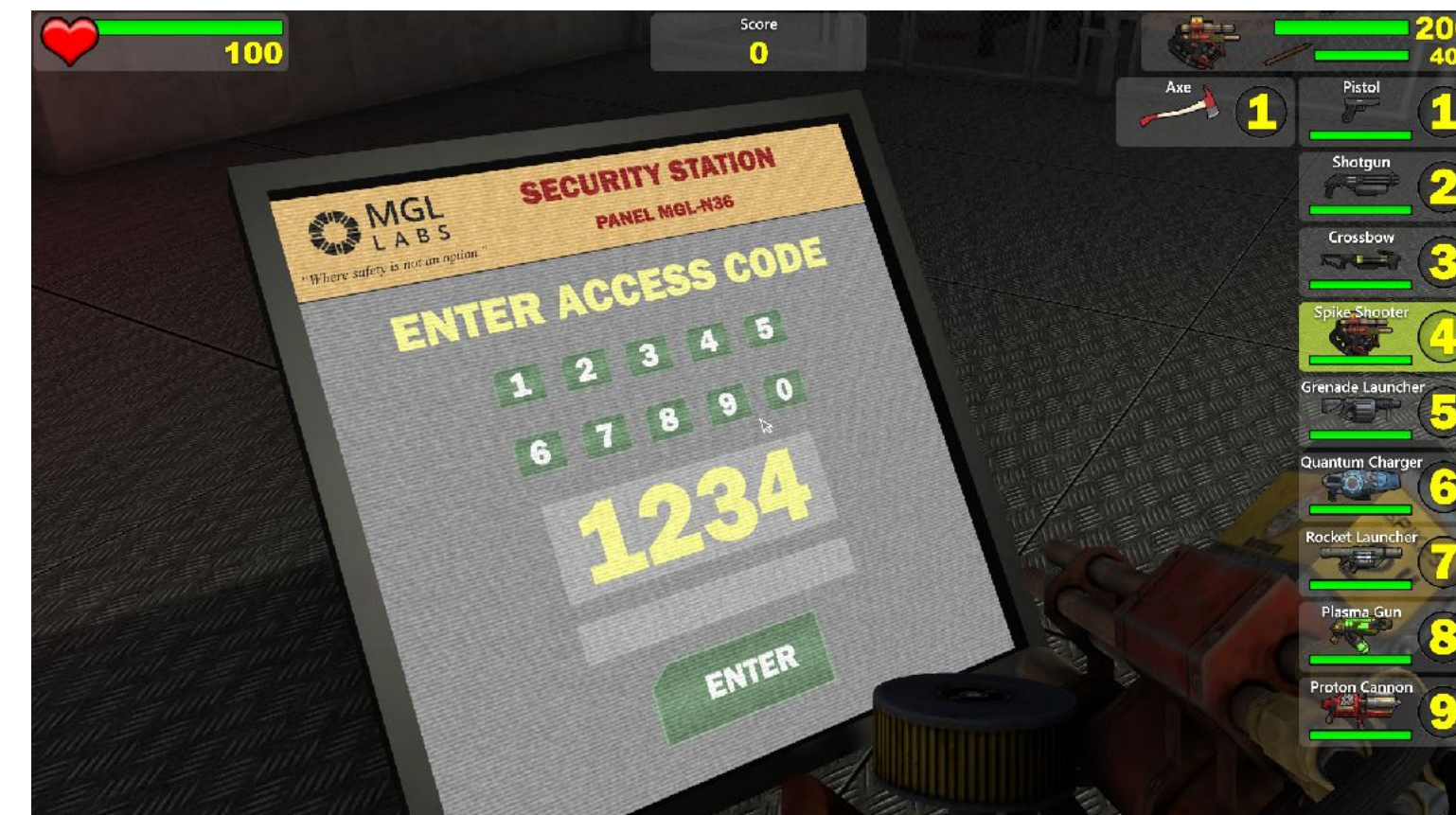
GPU ONLY

Lengyel (2017) GPU-Centered Font Rendering Directly from Glyph Outlines

This paper describes a method for rendering antialiased text directly from glyph outline data on the GPU without the use of any precomputed texture images or distance fields. This capability is valuable for text displayed inside a 3D scene because, in addition to a perspective projection, the transform applied to the text is constantly changing with a dynamic camera view. Our method overcomes numerical precision problems that produced artefacts in previously published techniques and promotes high GPU utilization with an implementation that naturally avoids divergent branching.

See demo at sluglibrary.com

See also [GPU-Centered font rendering](#) & [GPU font rendering](#)



Font	Sample	Complexity	Time
Arial	ABCDEFGFG	20	1.1 ms
Centaur	ABCDEFGFG	48	1.3 ms
Halloween	ABCDEFGFG	72	3.8 ms
Wildwood	ABCDEFGFG	546	13.3 ms

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GPU ONLY

Walton (2017) Pathfinder, a fast GPU-based font rasterizer in Rust

“Today I’m pleased to announce Pathfinder, a Rust library for OpenType font rendering. The goal is nothing less than to be the fastest vector graphics renderer in existence, and the results so far are extremely encouraging. Not only is it very fast according to the traditional metric of raw rasterization performance, it’s practical, featuring very low setup time (end-to-end time superior to the best CPU rasterizers), best-in-class rasterization performance even at small glyph sizes, minimal memory consumption (both on CPU and GPU), compatibility with existing font formats, portability to most graphics hardware manufactured in the past five years (DirectX 10 level), and security/safety.”

LOREM IPSUM DO

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DRAW 1 349MS / 19 547US GLYPH ACCUM 0 274MS / 3 977US GLYPH COMPOSITE 0 283MS / 4 045US GLYPH

The screenshot shows a Wikipedia article titled "Pathfinder (Star Trek: Voyager)". The article is marked as having multiple issues, including a lack of citations and a plot summary. The article text states that "Pathfinder" is the tenth episode of the sixth season of the science fiction television series Star Trek: Voyager, the 130th episode overall. It features the characters Reginald Barclay and Deanna Troi from Star Trek: The Next Generation.

"Pathfinder"	
Episode no.	Season 6 Episode 10

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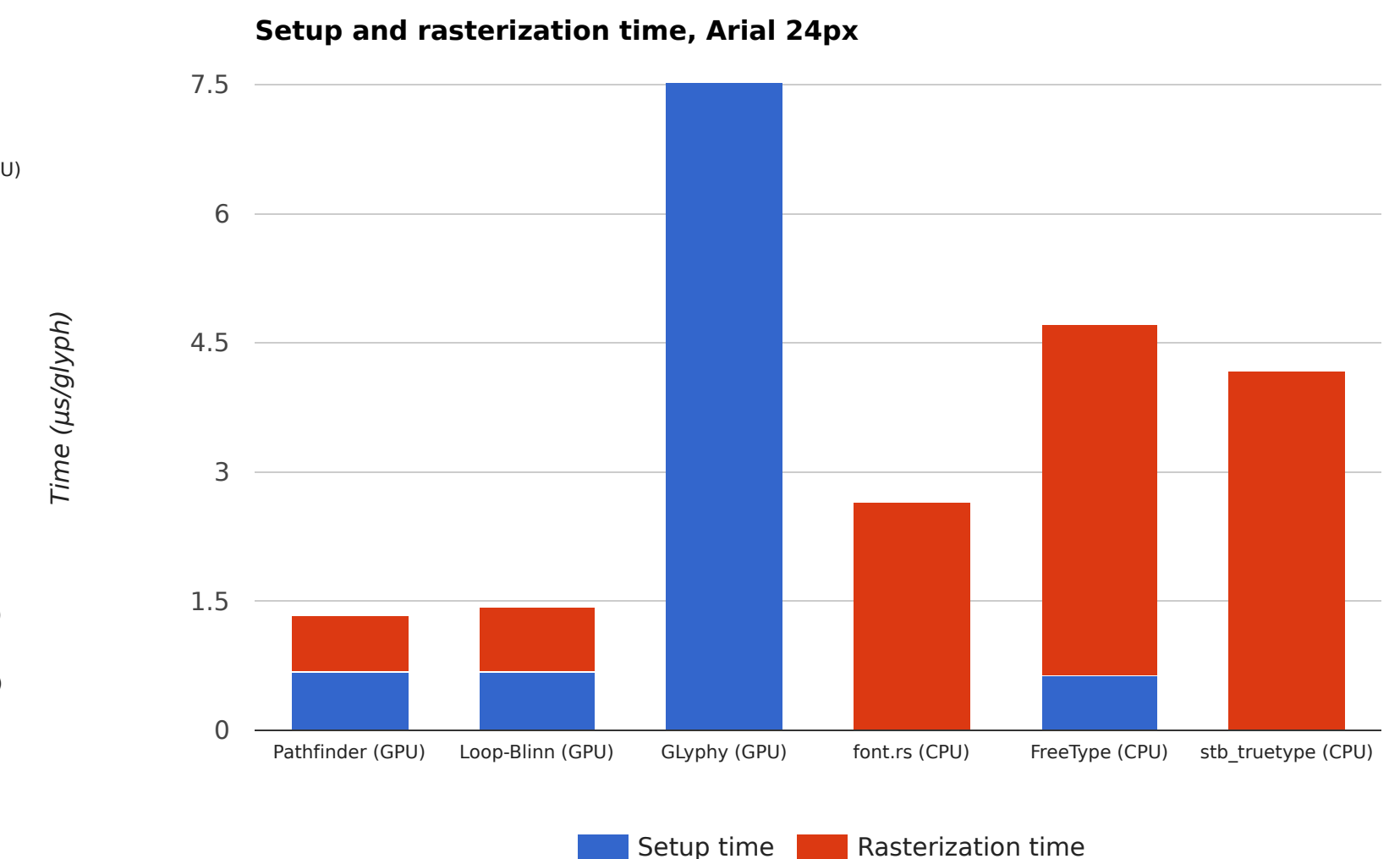
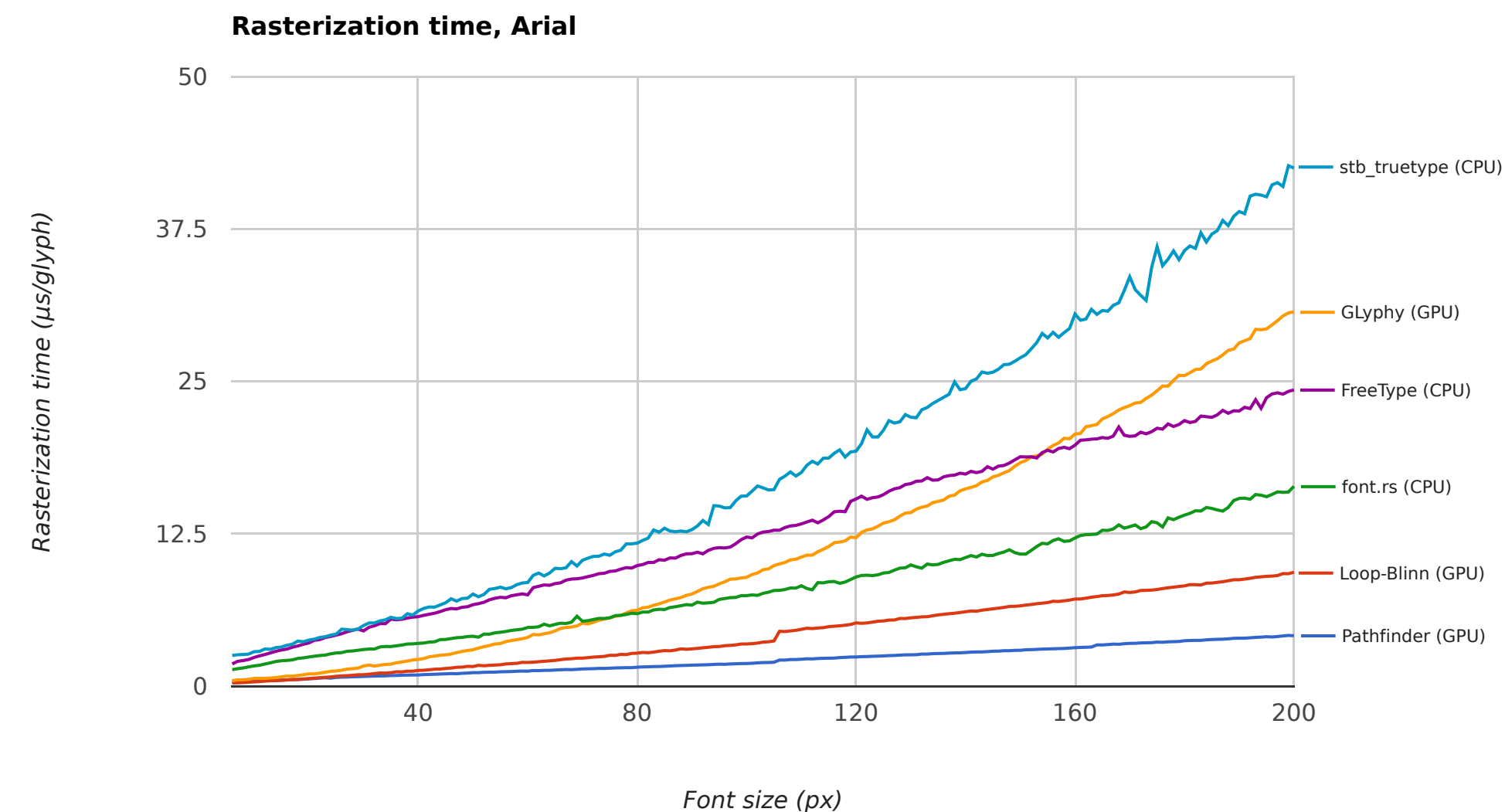


GPU ONLY

Walton (2017) Pathfinder, a fast GPU-based font rasterizer in Rust

PathFinder algorithm takes advantage of compute shaders (GL 4.3) & post-transform cache and rasterization occurs on the fly on the GPU. CPU setup time is minimal. Subpixel antialiasing & positioning, 2D, 3D, outline, etc.

It is mostly a (highly efficient) translation of CPU rasterization onto the GPU.



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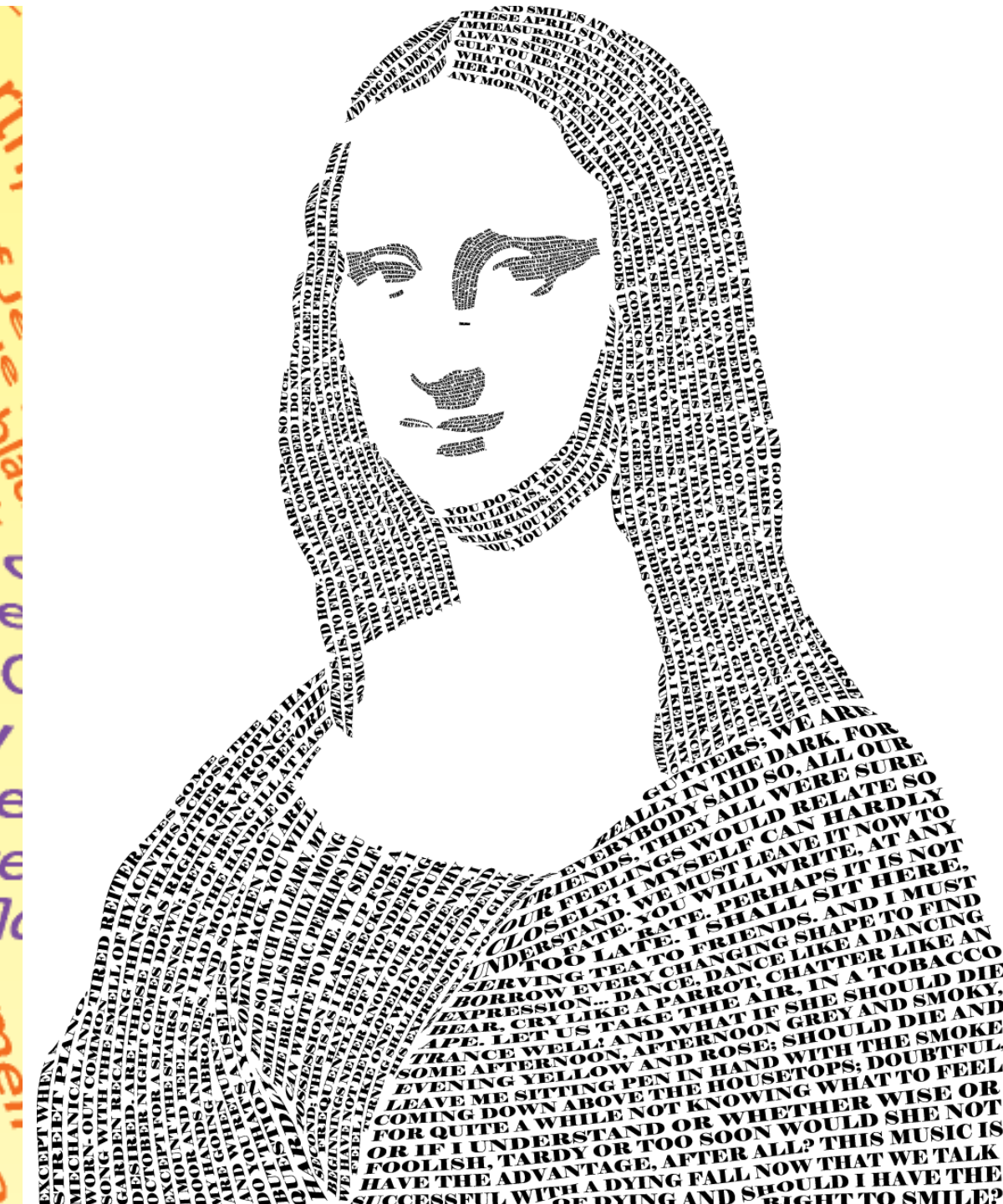
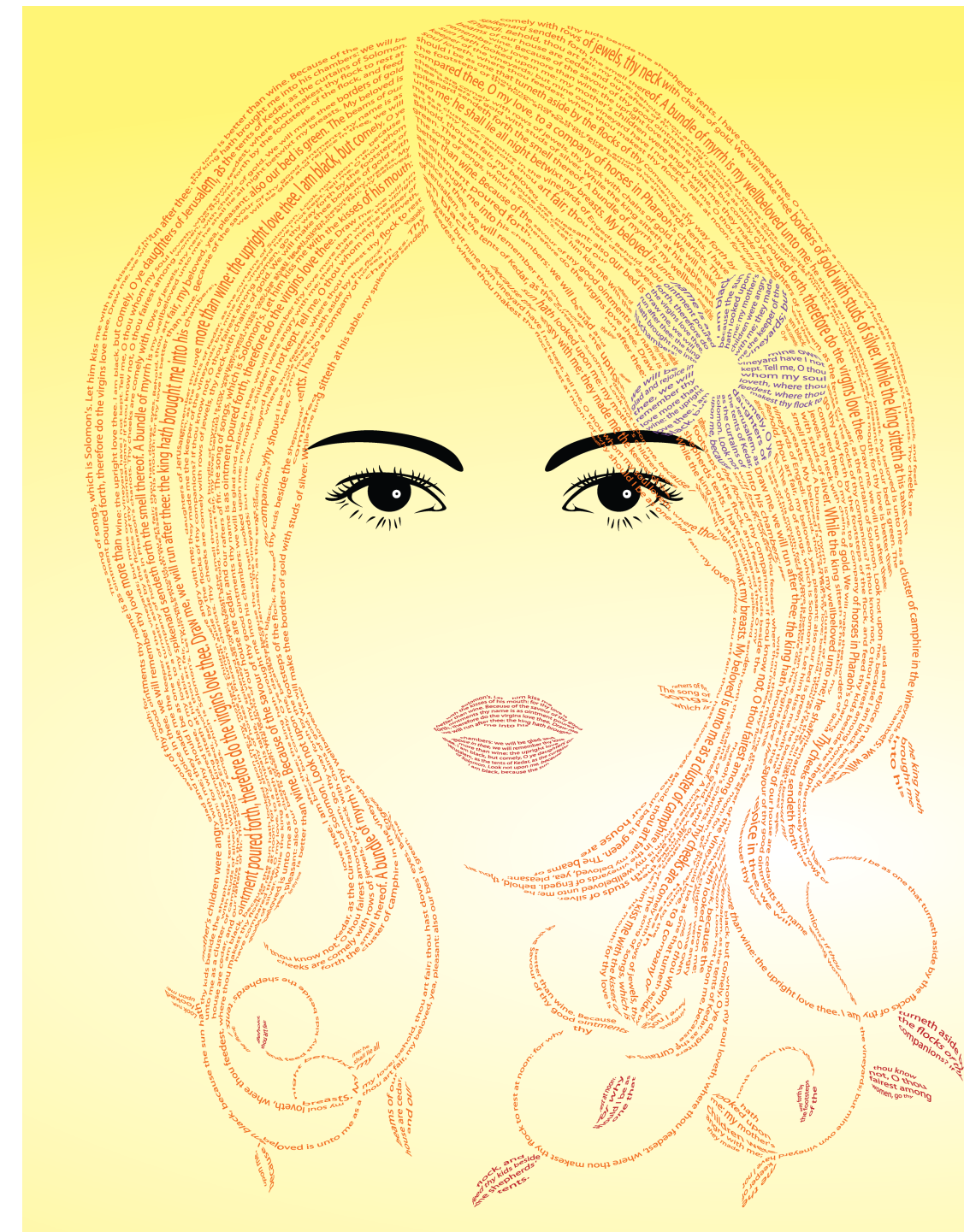


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BEYOND MERE GEOMETRY

Maharik et al (2011) Digital Micrography

We present an algorithm for creating digital micrography images, or micrograms, a special type of calligrams created from minuscule text. These attractive text-art works successfully combine beautiful images with readable meaningful text.



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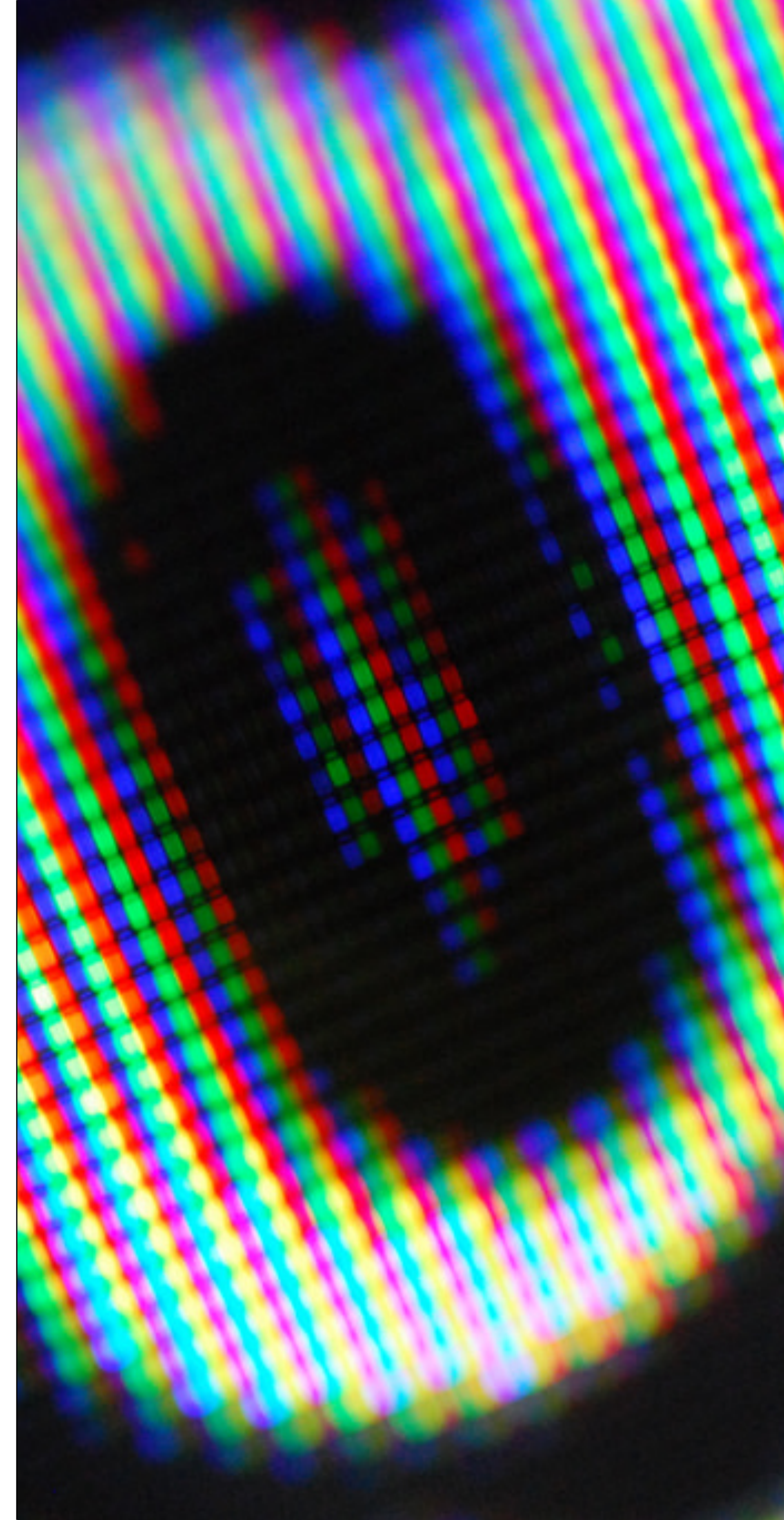
Many available techniques. Choice is dependent of usage (2D or 3D, dynamic or static, memory vs speed vs accuracy, etc).

PathFinder and Slug library seem to be the main players in 2018. Loop & Blinn still competitive.

Hinting and anti-aliasing still needed until we (all) get screen with dpi > 600.

Complex text layout is (really, really) difficult, you don't want to do it yourself: github.com/HOST-Oman/libraqm

Lot of patents around !



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FURTHER READING

Web

- [Texts Rasterization Exposures](#) - Maxim Shemanarev (2006)
- [The Technology of Text](#) - Kevin Larson (2007)
- [Treatise on Font Rasterisation](#) - Freddie Witherden (2010)
- [State of Text Rendering](#) - Behdad Esfahbod (2012)
- [CS 354 Typography](#) - Mark Kilgard (2012)
- [High-DPI, Subpixel Text Positioning, Hinting](#) - Behdad Esfahbod (2012)
- [Android's Font Renderer](#) - Romain Guy (2014)
- [Complex Text on Simple Devices](#) - Pedro Navarro (2016)
- [Introducing DirectWrite](#) - Microsoft (2017)
- [A Primer on Bézier curves](#) - Pomax (2017)

Papers

- Mark Kilgard. A Simple OpenGL-based API for Texture Mapped Text (1997)
- Sarah F. Frisken, et al. Adaptively sampled distance fields (2000)
- Charles Loop and Jim Blinn. Resolution Independent Curve Rendering (2005)
- Zhipei Qin et al, Real-Time Texture-Mapped Vector Glyphs (2006)
- Chris Green. Improved Alpha-Tested Magnification for Vector Textures and Special Effects (2007)
- Behdad Esfahbod. Glyphy (2011)
- Ron Maharik et al. Digital Micrography (2011)
- Stefan Gustavson. 2D Shape Rendering by Distance Fields (2012)
- Mark Kilgard and Jeff Bolz. GPU-Accelerated Path Rendering (2012)
- Nicolas P. Rougier. Higher Quality 2D Text Rendering (2013)
- Viktor Chlumsky. Shape Decomposition for Multi-channel Distance Fields (2015)
- Eric Lengyel. GPU-Centered Font Rendering Directly from Glyph Outlines (2017)
- Patrick Walton. Path Finder (2017)

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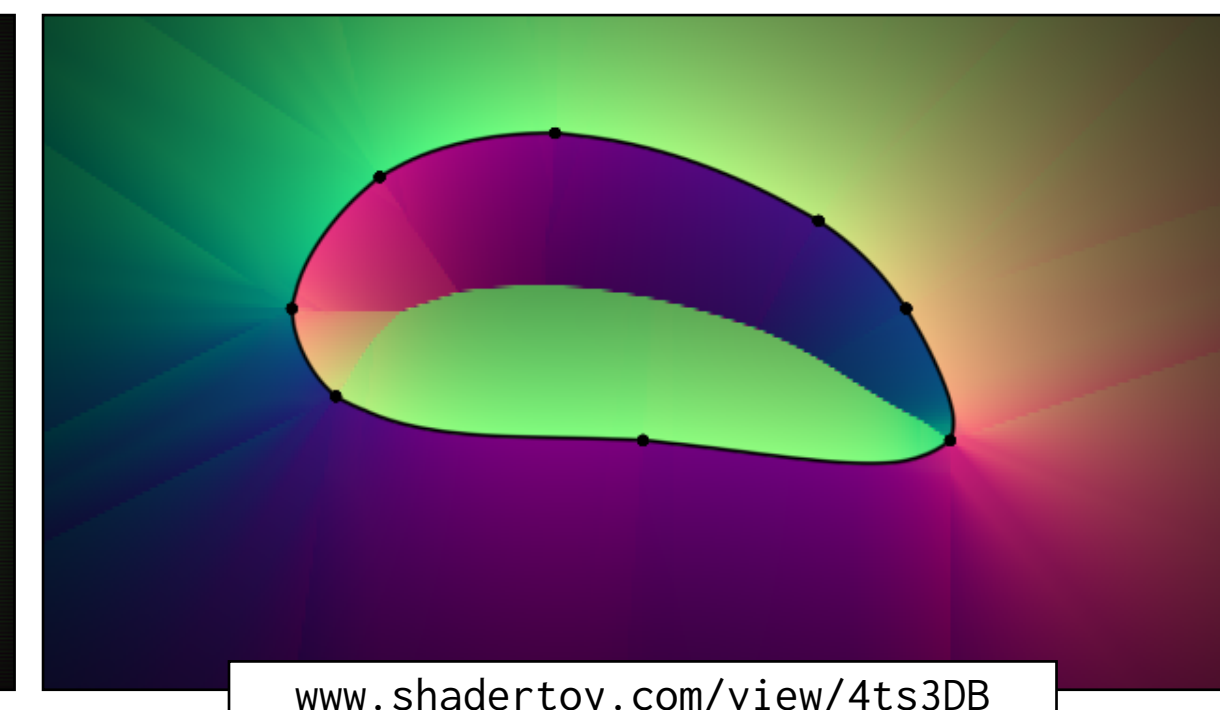
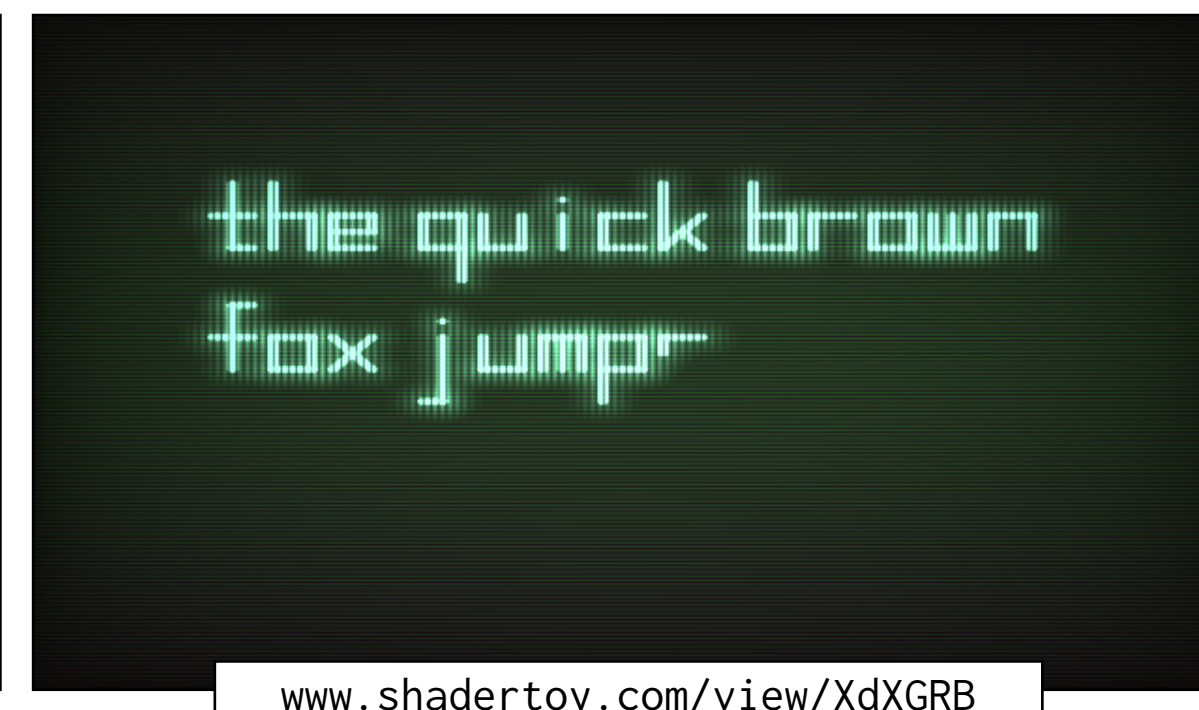
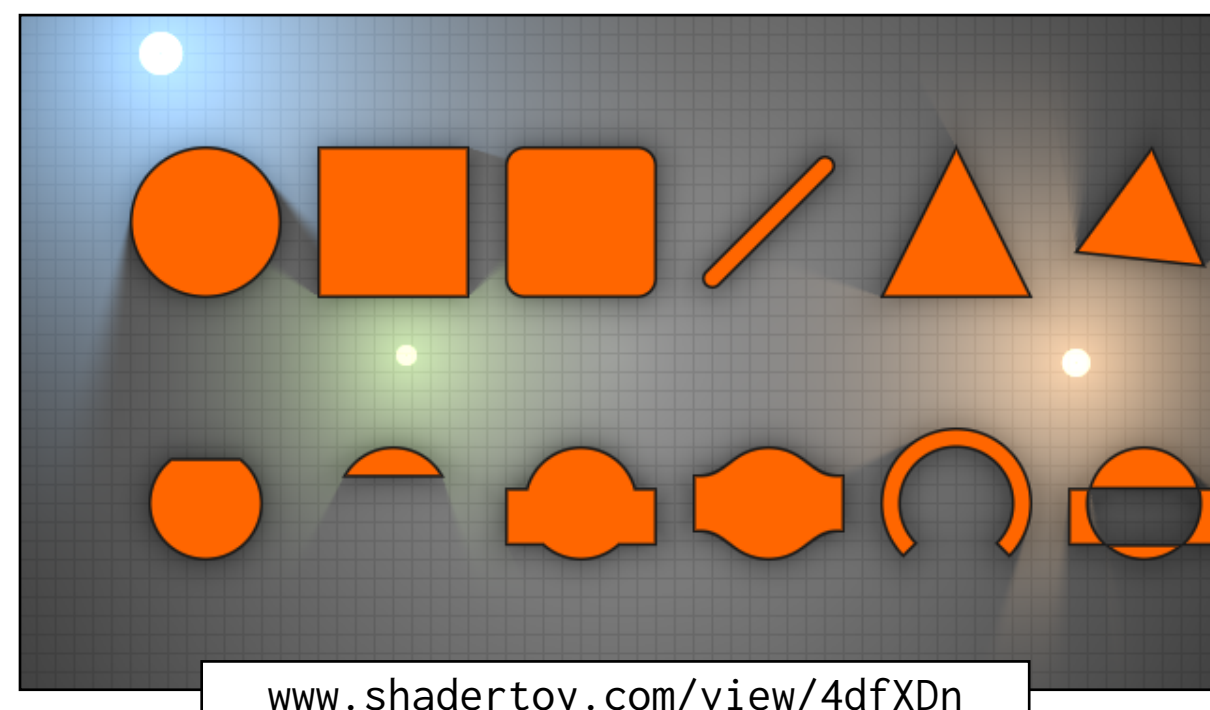
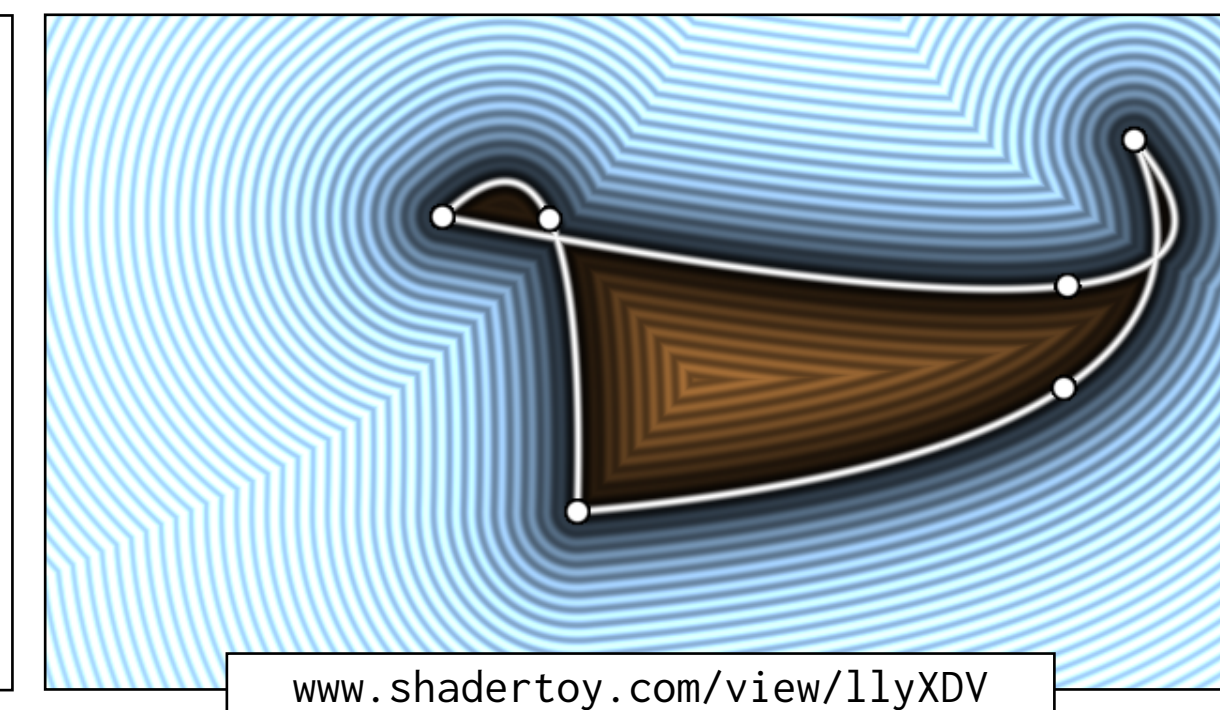
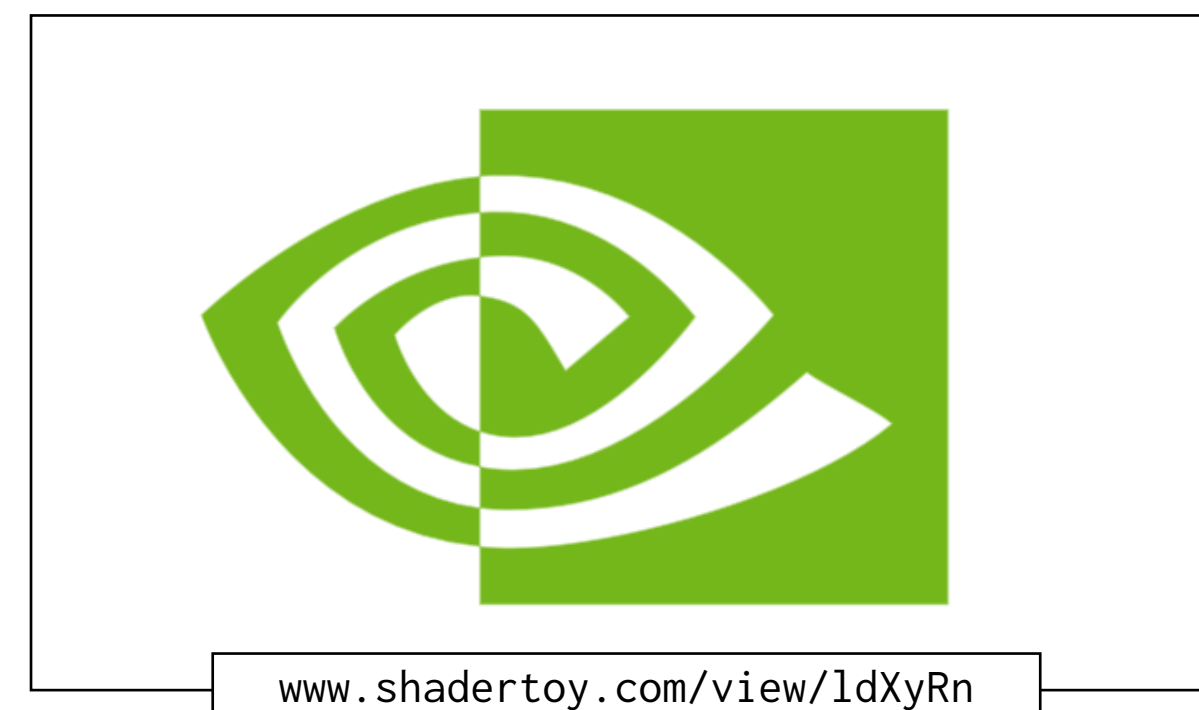
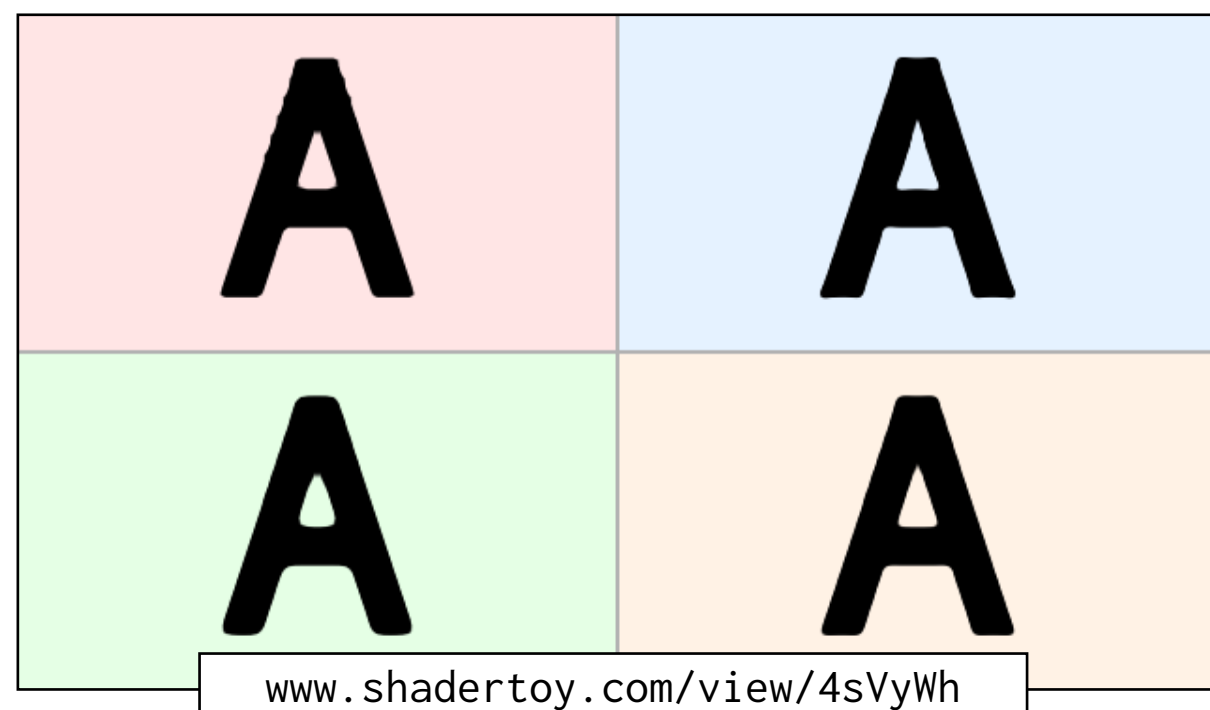
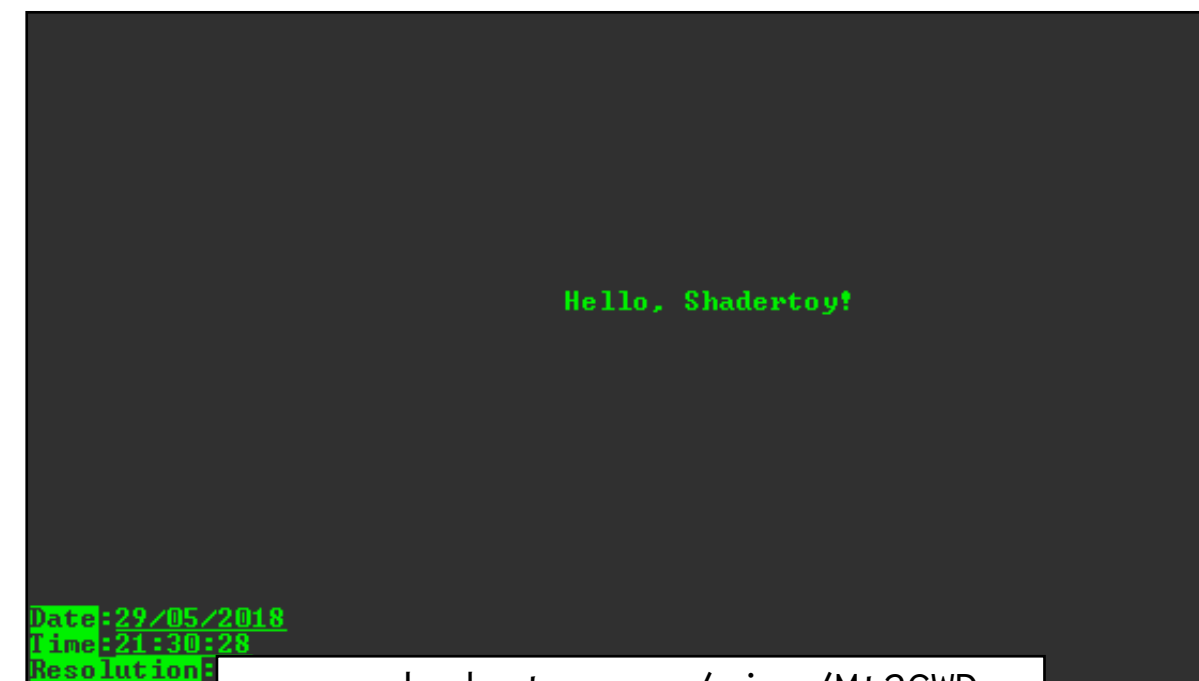
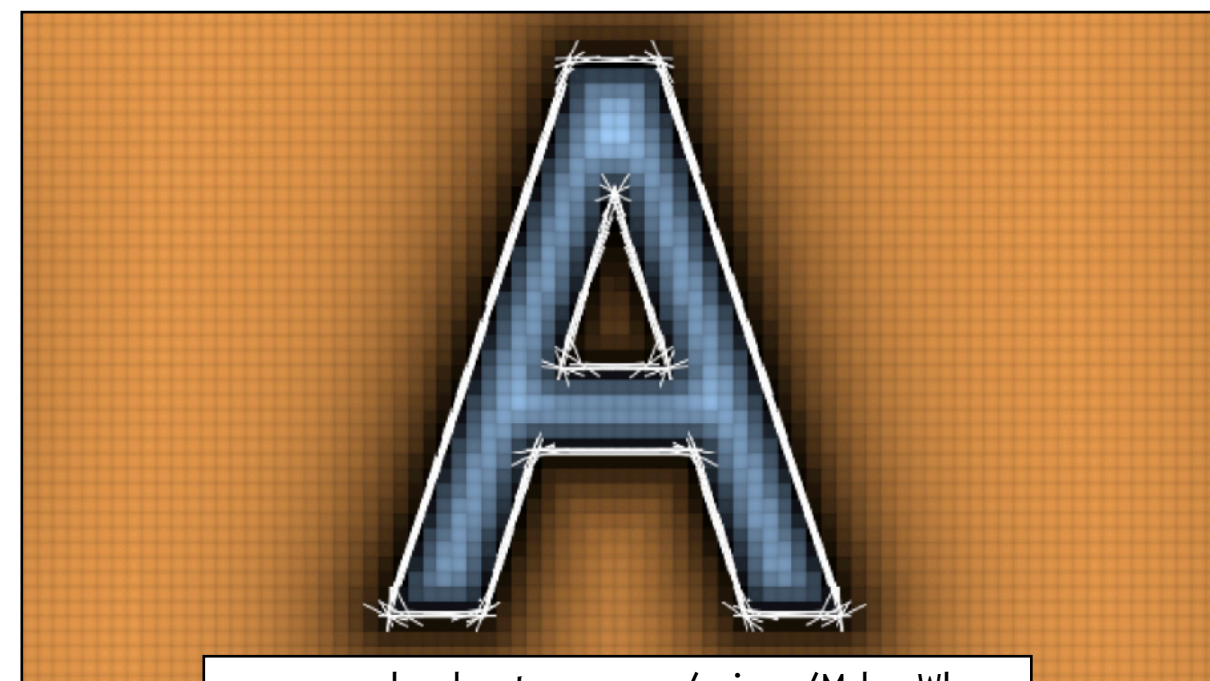
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RELATED SHADERTOYS



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QUESTIONS?

- Where to find good fonts? dafont.com, fontquirrel.com
- When does cleartype patent end ? Not clear (ha ha)
- Are hinting and aliasing still needed? [Yes](#)
- What are the most complete font families? [Noto](#), [DejaVu](#)
- How many languages in the world? Around 7000
- How many scripts in latest unicode (11.0)? 146
- How many characters in latest unicode (11.0)? 137,439
- Is there any forthcoming support for text in Vulkan ? No
- Should I tell my colleagues I love Comic Sans? No
- Are there any open source tools to design fonts? [FontForge](#)
- Why “ff” & “fi” disappear when I copy text ? [Ligatures](#)
- Should I apply AA before or after gamma correction? [Before](#)
- Should I stay or should I go? stay (a few more minutes)

Any other questions?

should i use comic sans?

will your document be viewed by the public?

yes

no



don't use comic sans!

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DIGITAL TYPOGRAPHY

Between art & design.



Gary Hustwit



Raghd Abu Hamdan



Unknown artist



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