



Ερευνητικό Κέντρο Αθηνά  
Athena Research Center

Ερευνητικό Κέντρο Καινοτομίας στις Τεχνολογίες  
της Πληροφορίας, των Επικοινωνιών, της Γνώσης

Research and Innovation Center in Information,  
Communication and Knowledge Technologies

# 3D DIGITIZATION THEORY

*Current state of the art techniques*

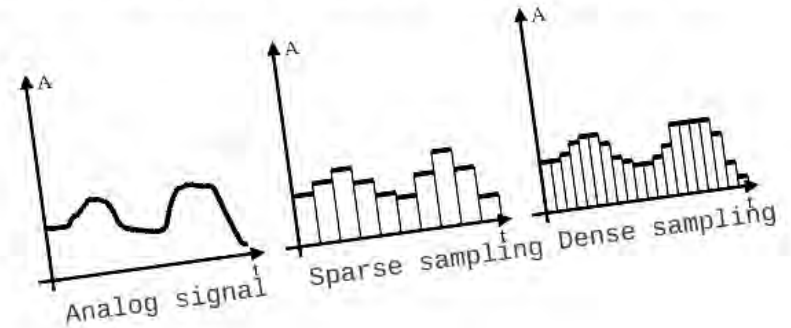
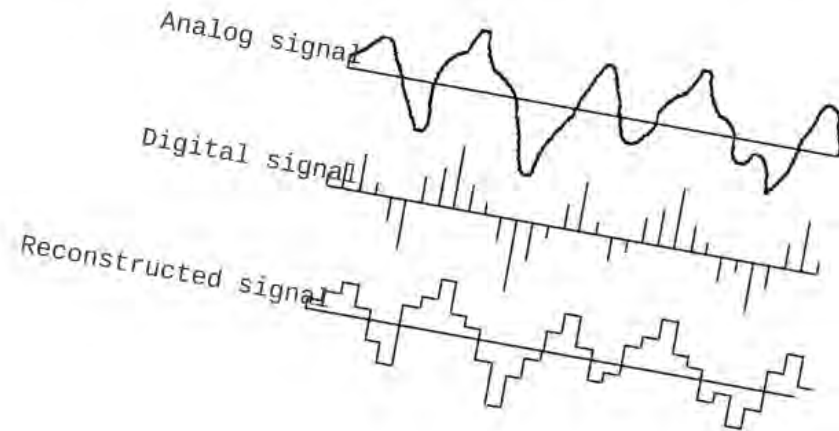
Anestis Koutsoudis  
Associate Research Fellow

George Pavlidis  
Research Director

# GRAPHICS AND 3D DIGITIZATION TECHNIQUES

## Digitization

- Yet, another recording technique with benefits...
- Refers to the transformation of the real (analog) world to a virtual (digital) world
- Is based on sampling - can be dense or sparse - which relates to the 'fidelity' of a digital signal
- NOTE THAT: a digital replica is not a 'complete' replica of the real
  - the digital can be a good approximation under special conditions but it is always a subset of reality



DIGITIZATION OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE?

Well yes indeed! Both in 2D and 3D...



## DIGITIZATION IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE?

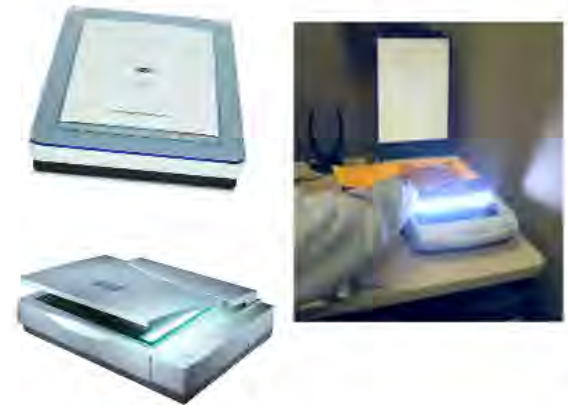
Well yes indeed! Both in 2D and 3D...



# 2D DIGITIZATION

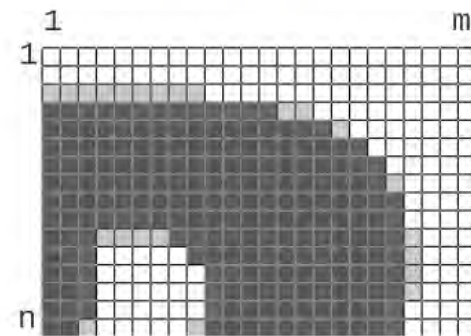
## 2D SCANNER

- A typical desktop tool
- One-button operation (automation)
- Robust technology - high quality outcome



## STRUCTURE OF 2D IMAGE DATA

- Bitmap images
- Matrix of  $N \times M$  dimensions (resolution)
- Pixel (picture element) is a matrix cell
- 3 chromatic components for each pixel (R,G,B)



**WORLD WIDE WEB**



# 3D DIGITIZATION

- Becomes a common practice in cultural heritage
- Google Scholar search:
  - query keywords:  
3D digitisation, 3D reconstruction, 3D artefact,  
virtual heritage, cultural heritage
  - query response:  
About 1590 results  
>350 (case studies) related to 3D digitization of cultural  
heritage  
A growing trend



# 3D DIGITIZATION

## Why is it important?

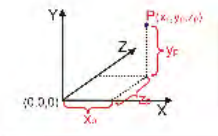
- Access to 3D information for scientists, researchers, and the laymen
- Dissemination through digital technologies and the Web
- Usage of the 3D replica in VR applications and interactive scientific visualizations
- Creation of digital collections with advanced functionality (such as content-based)
- 3D printing for conservation, dissemination

# 3D DATA STRUCTURES

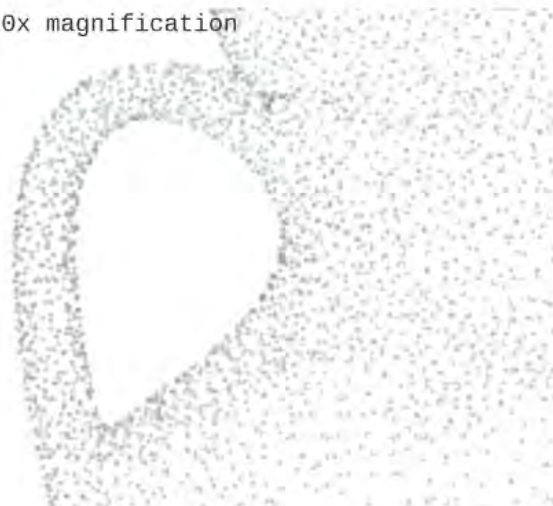
## Point Cloud

- Set of points (vertices) that share the same Cartesian coordinate system

Without color information  
Three (3) coordinates X,Y,Z only  
spatial



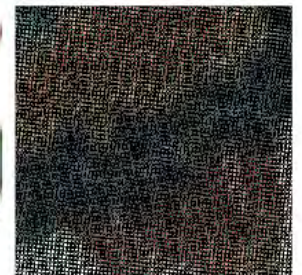
20x magnification



Including color information  
Six (6) coordinates  
X,Y,Z spatial and R,G,B color



20x magnification

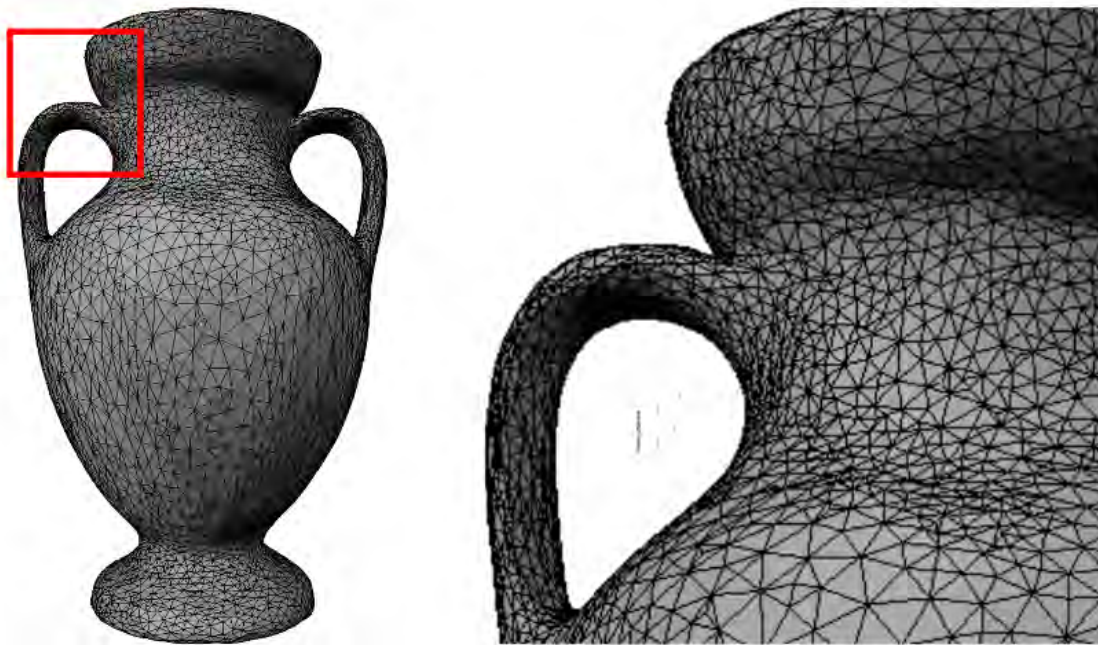


30x magnification

# 3D DATA STRUCTURES

## Triangular mesh

- Most widespread technique to represent 3D data
- Triangles are enough to determine a plane in 3D
- Finite number of triangles can approximate any 3D object with specific accuracy



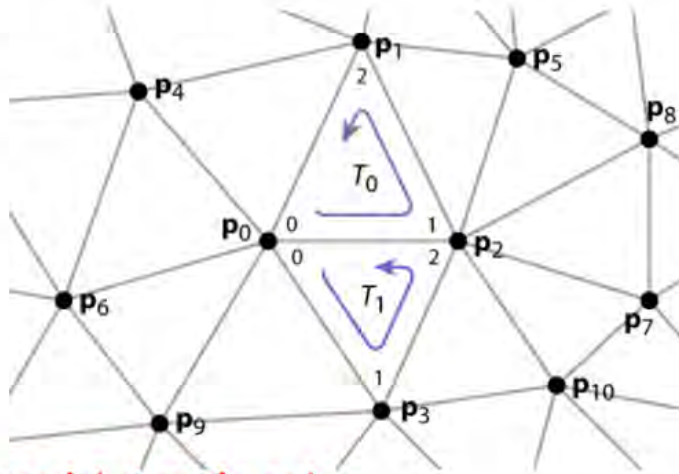
X	Y	Z
123, 234, 154		
145, 225, 178		
167, 200, 140		
123, 231, 189	1, 2, 3	
...	3, 4, 5	
230, 250, 130	...	
	128, 129, 130	



# VARIOUS DEFINITIONS

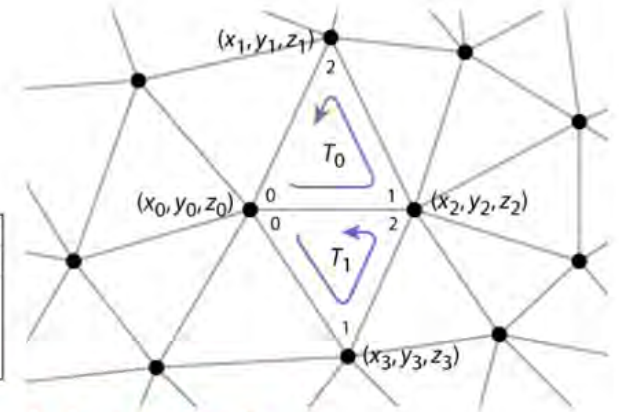
verts[0]	$x_0, y_0, z_0$
verts[1]	$x_1, y_1, z_1$
	$x_2, y_2, z_2$
	$x_3, y_3, z_3$
	⋮

tInd[0]	0, 2, 1
tInd[1]	0, 3, 2
	⋮



indexed triangle set

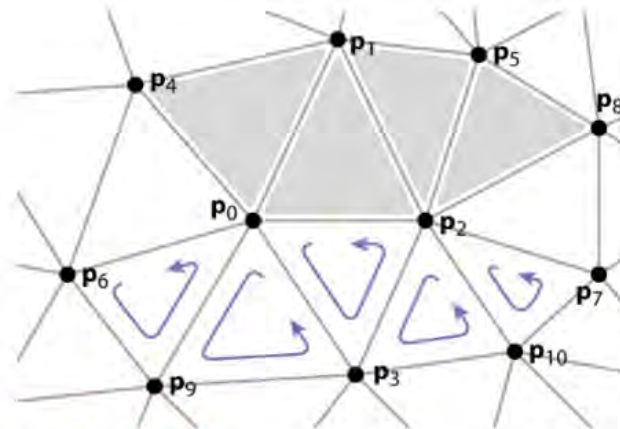
	[0]	[1]	[2]
tris[0]	$x_0, y_0, z_0$	$x_2, y_2, z_2$	$x_1, y_1, z_1$
tris[1]	$x_0, y_0, z_0$	$x_3, y_3, z_3$	$x_2, y_2, z_2$
	⋮	⋮	⋮



Separate triangle set

verts[0]	$x_0, y_0, z_0$
verts[1]	$x_1, y_1, z_1$
	$x_2, y_2, z_2$
	$x_3, y_3, z_3$
	⋮

tStrip[0]	4, 0, 1, 2, 5, 8
tStrip[1]	6, 9, 0, 3, 2, 10, 7
	⋮

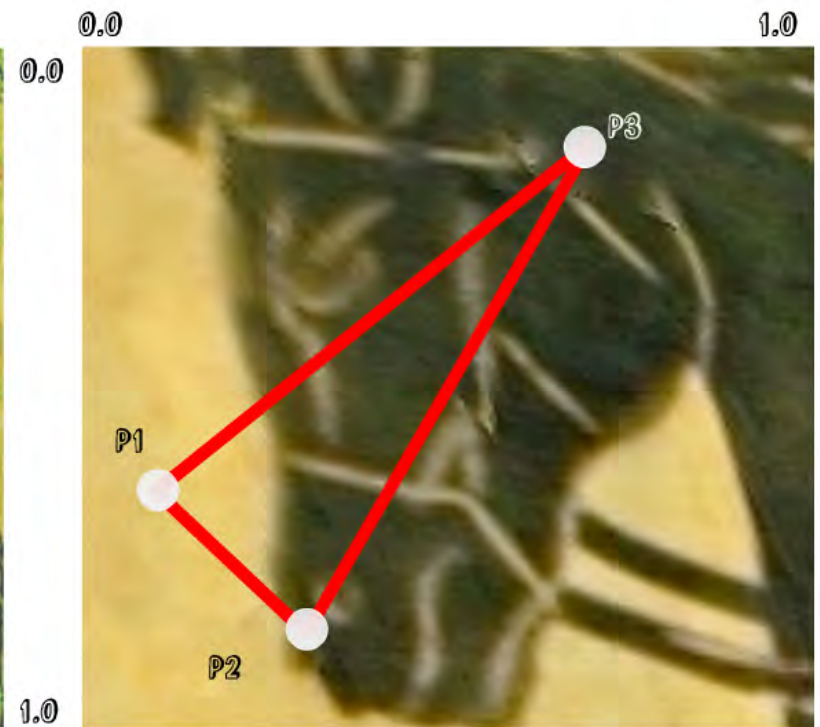


Triangle strips

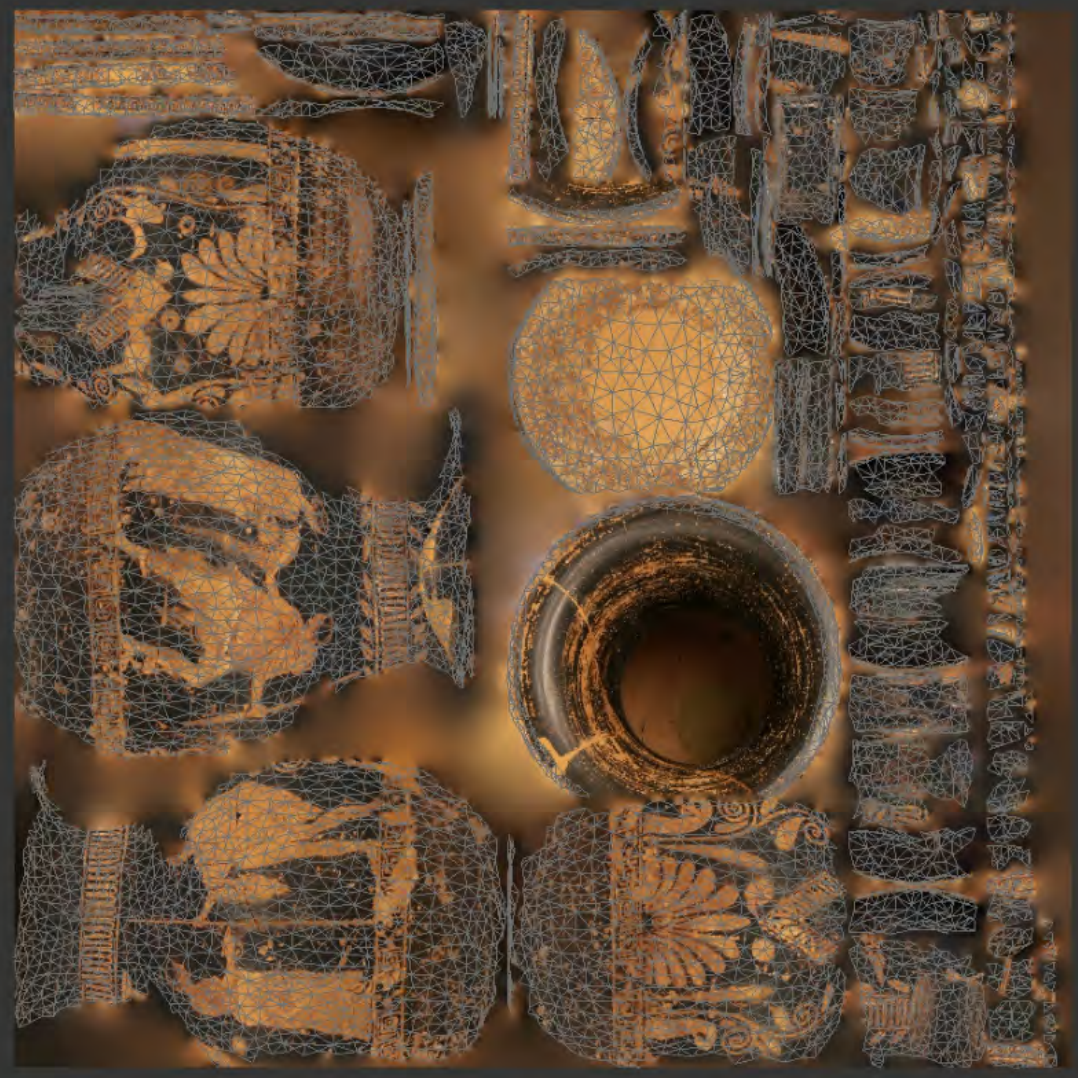
# 3D DATA STRUCTURES

## Triangular mesh

- UV-mapping: Mapping of raster data on the surface defined by triangles
- Most widespread technique for realistic texture representation



UV SPACE



# METHODS FOR 3D DIGITIZATION

- Two major categories
- Some have already produced market-ready technologies



Optical



Active

- Laser scanning
- Range scanning
- Structured light
- Photometry
- Shading
- Shadow



Non-optical

- Topographic
- Empirical
- Touch-sensing



Passive

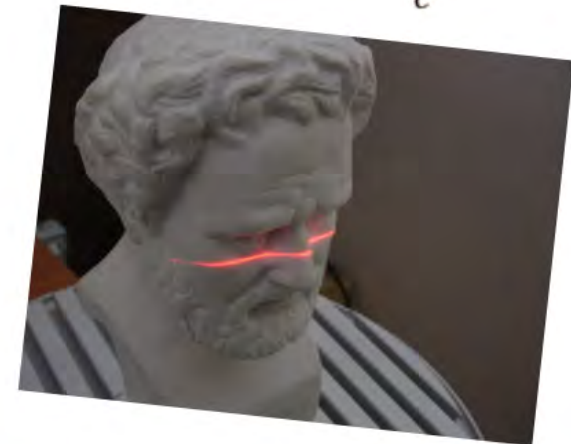
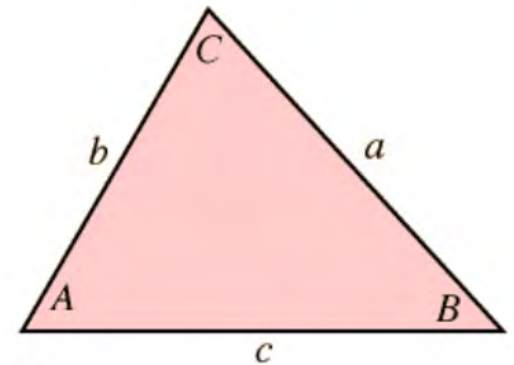
- Photogrammetry
- Shape/Structure-from-X
  - silhouette
  - stereo
  - motion/video
  - texture
  - zoom in/out

# LASER TRIANGULATION

- Trigonometry - Law of sines and properties of similar triangles



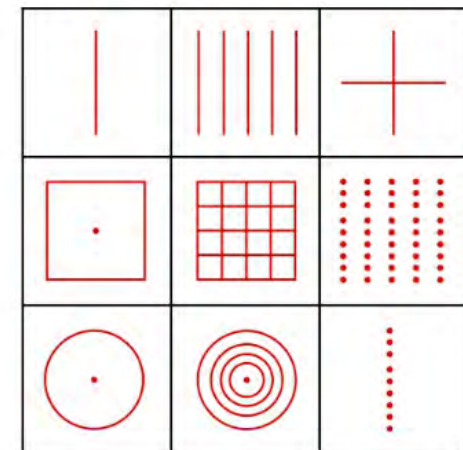
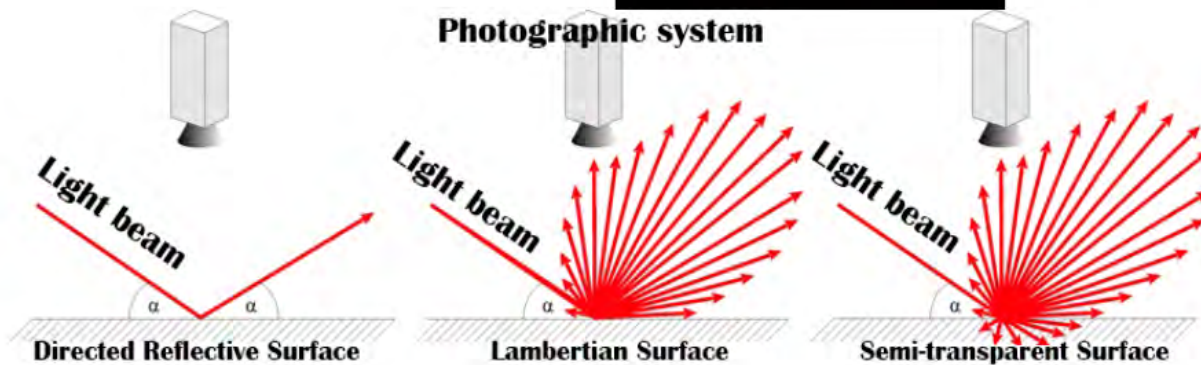
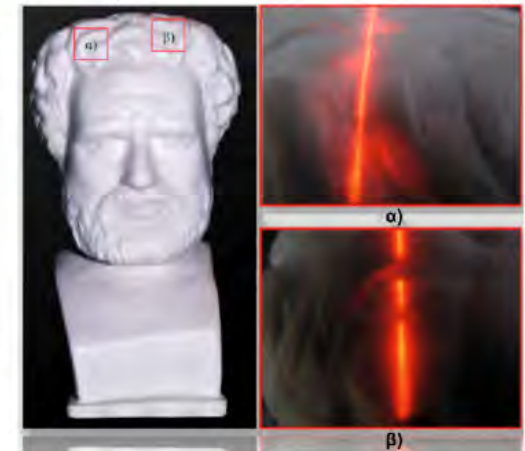
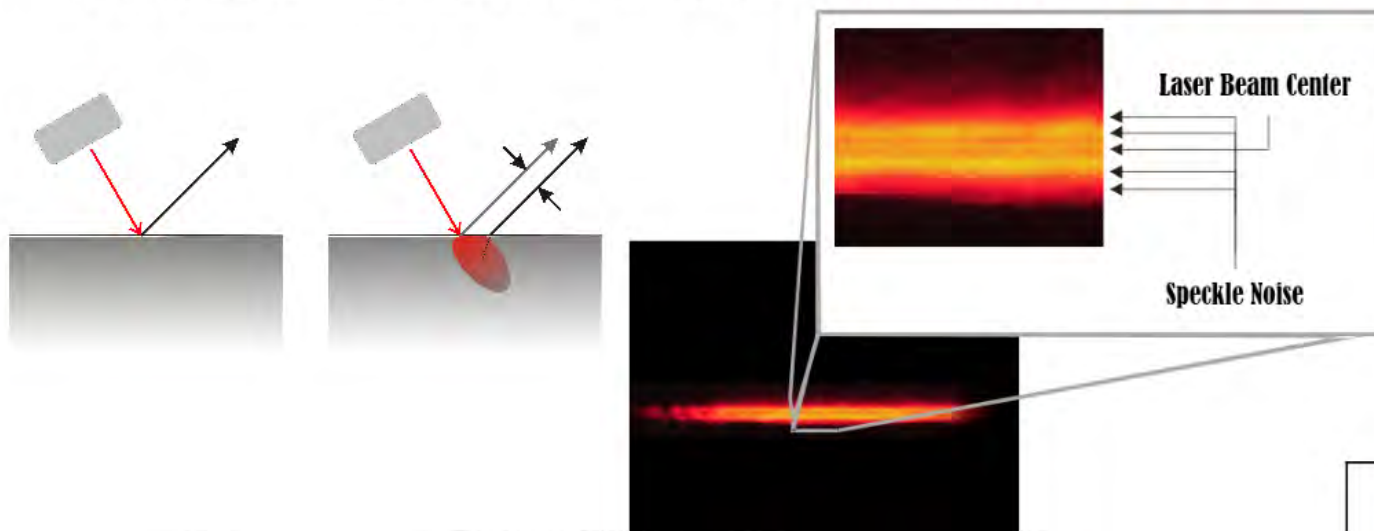
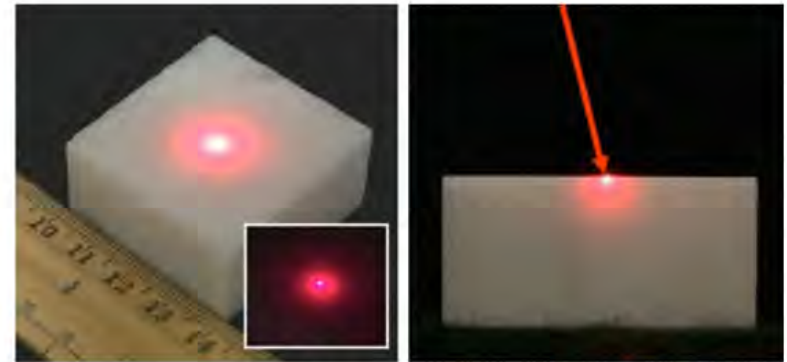
$$\frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{b}{\sin B} = \frac{c}{\sin C}$$



# LASER TRIANGULATION

## Characteristics and issues

- Various patterns can be used
- Diffusion - Measurement uncertainty
- Reflection - Erroneous distance measurement
- Refraction - Erroneous distance measurement



# LASER TRIANGULATION

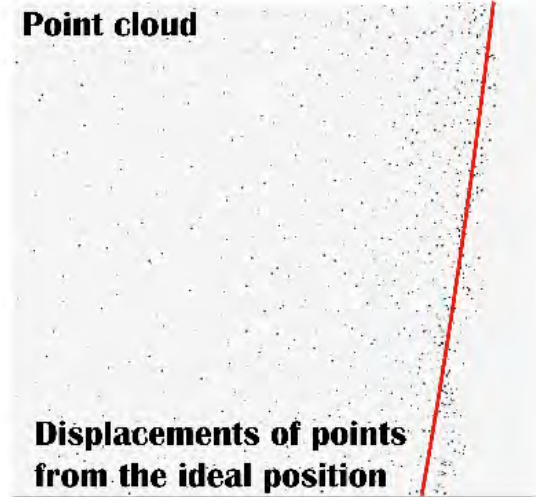
Noise in the data

- Displacement of the points in the 3D space
- Surface 'anomalies'

Triangular mesh



Point cloud

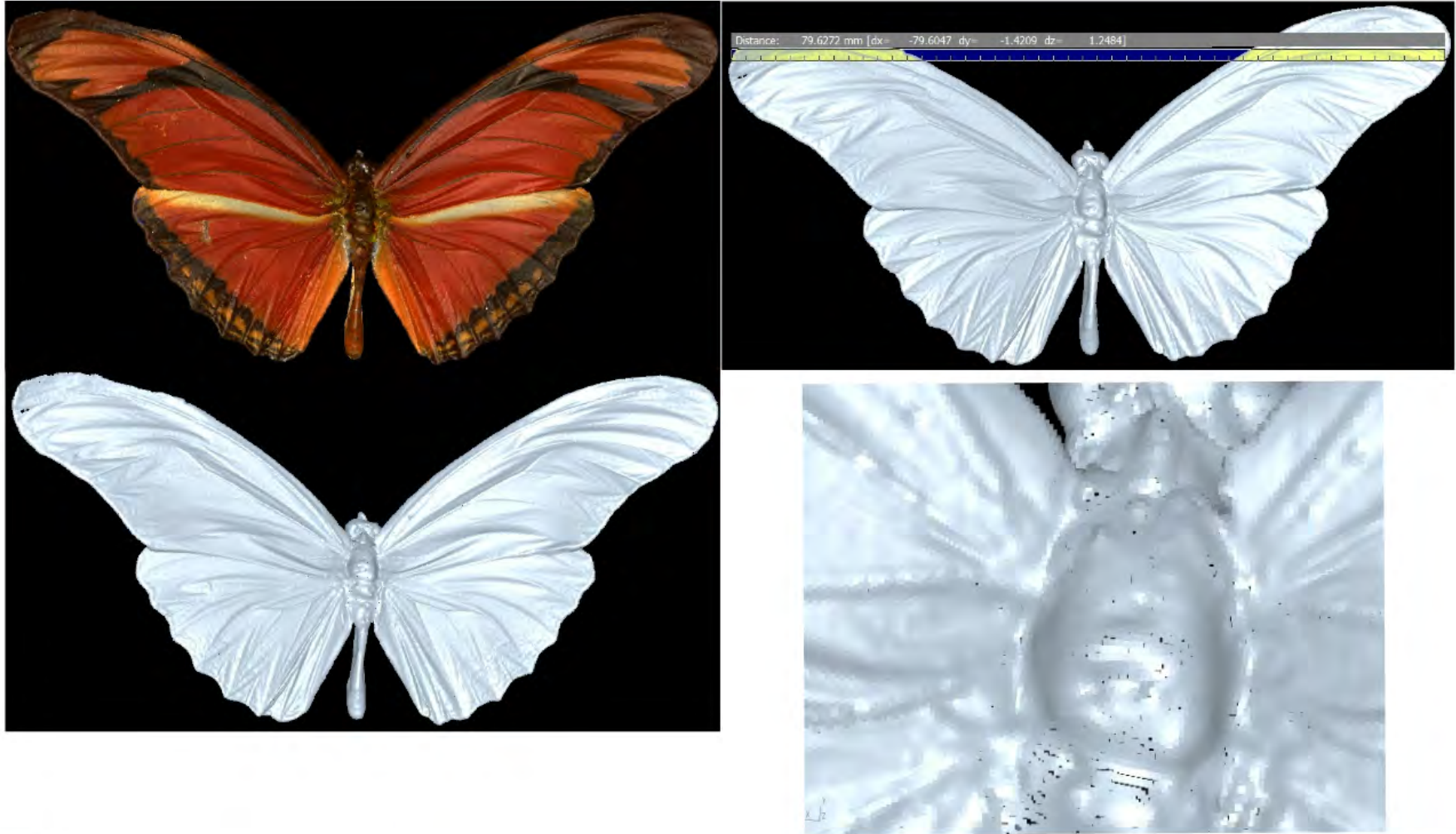


Triangular mesh



# LASER TRIANGULATION

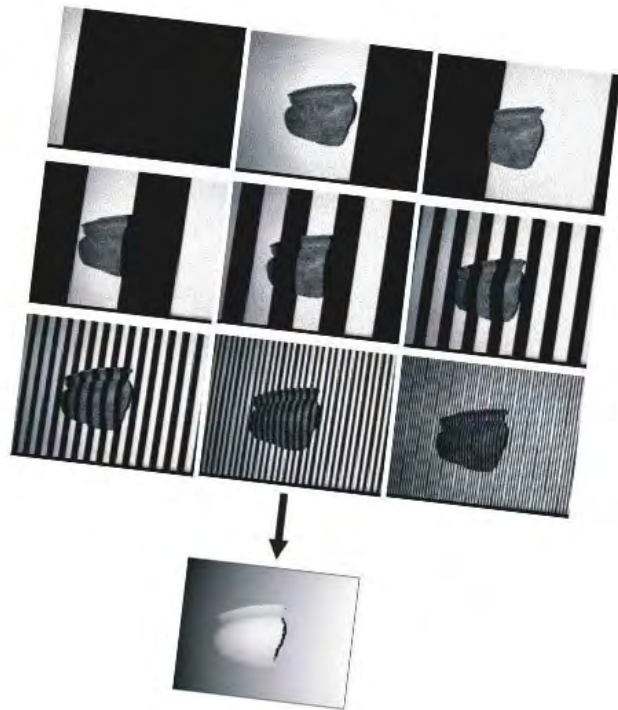
Dense sampling (resolution) and high accuracy





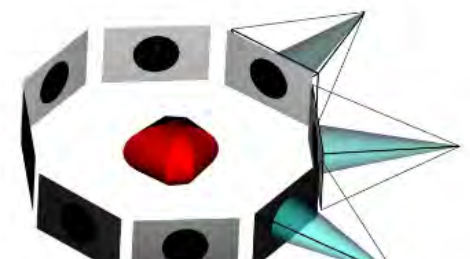
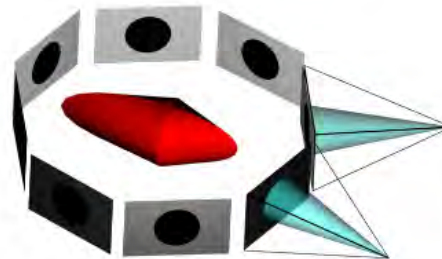
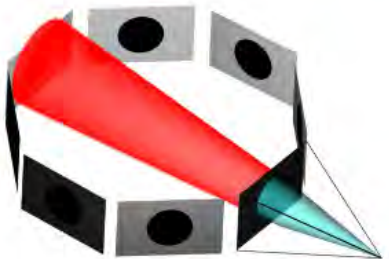
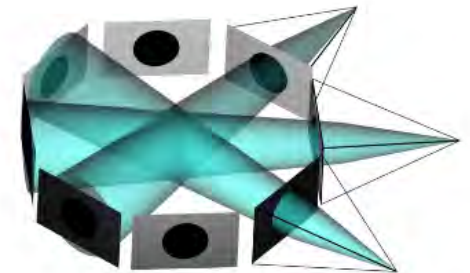
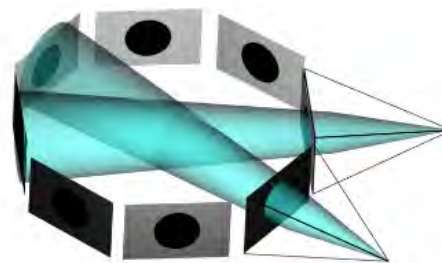
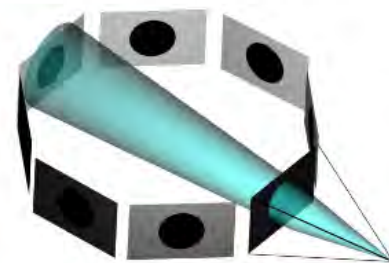
# STRUCTURED LIGHT

- Projection of a pattern on the surface of the object
- Detection of the pattern distortions
- Additional photos provide data for the texture



# SHAPE FROM SILHOUETTE

- Multiple-view photography of a still object
  - usually from fixed positions
- A turn-table is used in most cases
- The morphology of an object is extracted from the photographed silhouettes
- Texture mapping using additional photos



# SHAPE FROM SILHOUETTE

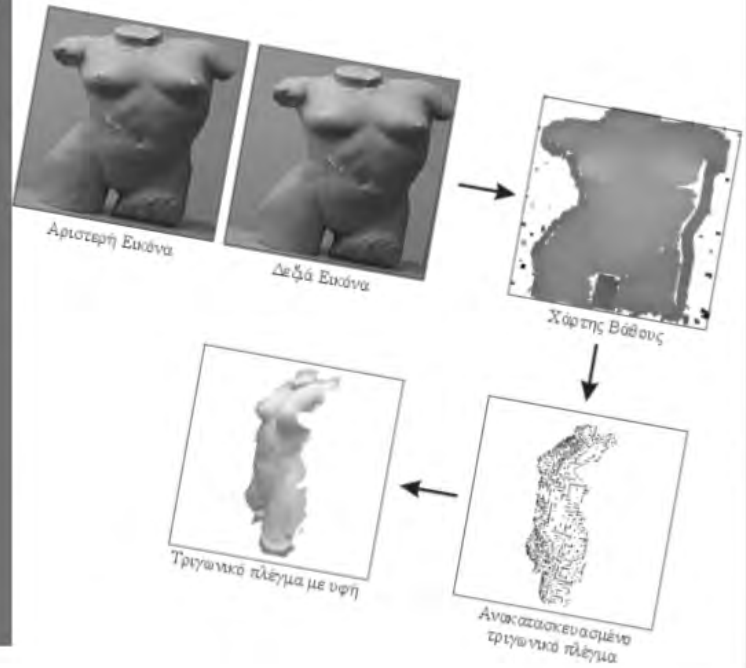
## Characteristics and issues

- High-degree of process automation
- High productivity
- Issues in reconstructing the cavities that do not appear in silhouettes



# STEREO-PHOTOGRAPHY

- Usage of stereo-pairs for the extraction of geometry
- Requires stereo-pair photography
  - Either by two cameras or by a stereo-pair
- Simulation of the human visual system



# STRUCTURE FROM MOTION

- Generalization (somehow) of stereo-photography (two-view photography) into multiple-view
- Recording of sequences of photos using a moving camera
- Requires a static scene (the object should be still)
- Based on the recognition of salient points (corners, edges, etc) and their matching in a set of images
- Provides solution to the relative location of points in 3D space
- Provides solution to the camera tracking problem

t1



t2



t3



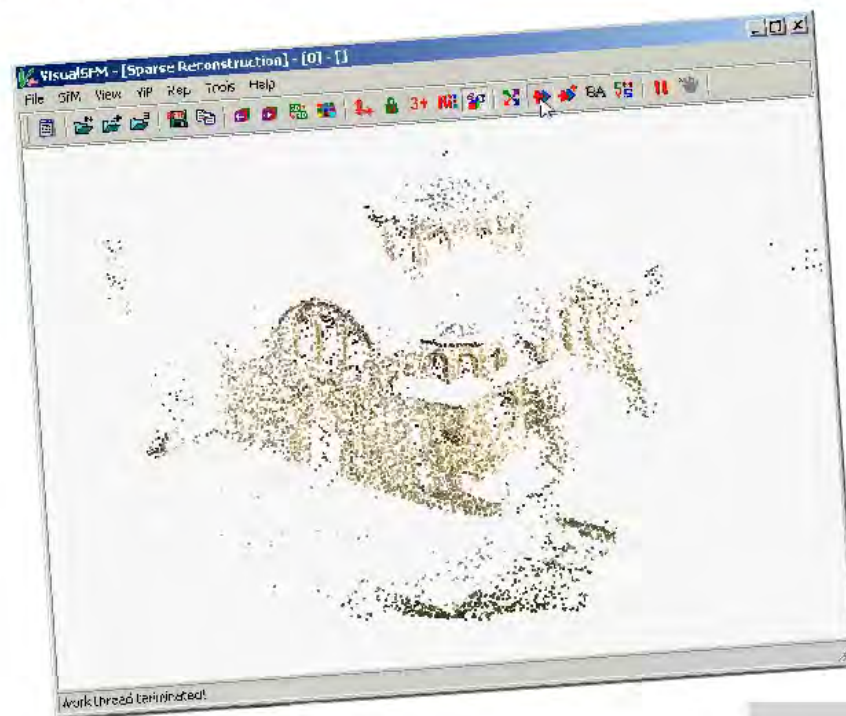
t4



t5



t6



VisualSFM - [Sparse Reconstruction] - [0] - []

File SfM View VIP Rep Tools Help

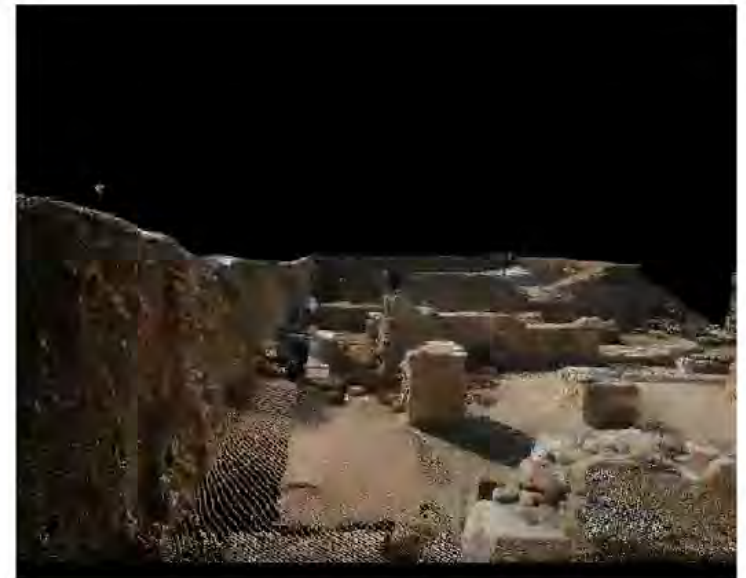


Work thread terminated!

# RANGE SCANNING

Time of Flight

- Transmission of laser pulses to the measured surface
- Computation of the time the laser pulses take to be detected by the scanner after surface reflection
  - Distance =  $c \cdot t / 2$
- The resolution of the system is a function of the distance
- Typical characteristics
  - Min distance 3m
  - Max distance 1.5Km
  - Sampling rate 2500 points/sec
  - Accuracy of measurement 3mm@100m
  - Diameter of pulse 29mm@100m
  - Laser wavelength 1500nm, Class 1
  - Angular range horizontal 360 deg.
  - Angular range vertical 90 deg.

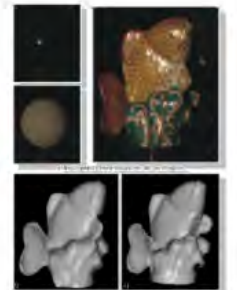
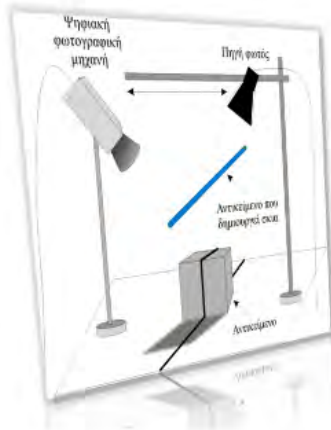
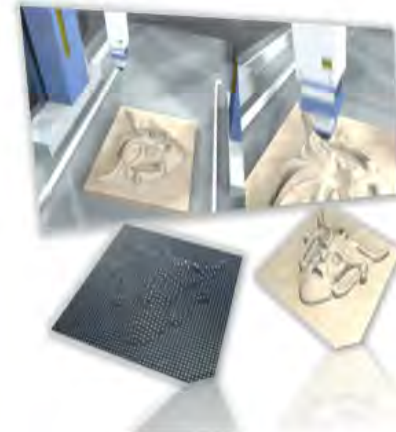
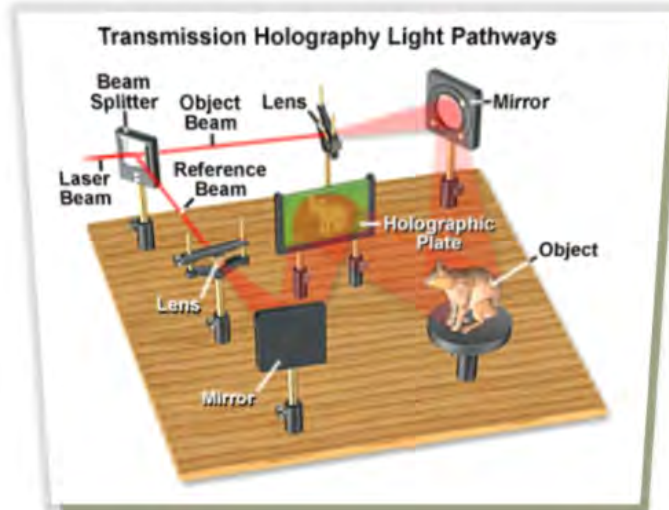






# OTHER METHODS

- Shape from
  - Shading
  - Photometry
  - Zoom in/out
  - Shadow
- Touch probing
- Holography
- . . . .



# 3D DIGITIZATION IN PRACTICE

## Characteristics of cultural objects

- Morphological characteristics: **Size and shape**
  - Enormous range of sizes and shapes



Coins  
Tools and wooden  
objects  
Ceramics  
Jewelry  
Pottery  
Sculpture  
Figurines  
Clothing  
Furniture  
Wall decorations  
Signs  
tombstones  
Busts  
Arms  
Musical instruments  
Objects  
ecclesiastical art  
Paintings

# 3D DIGITIZATION IN PRACTICE

## Characteristics of cultural objects

Morphological complexity: Level of detail



# 3D DIGITIZATION IN PRACTICE

## Characteristics of cultural objects

Diversity of materials

- Surface properties such as transparency, reflectivity, diffraction, color and texture



# 3D DIGITIZATION IN PRACTICE

## Other factors that influence the system selection

- Required geometric accuracy
  - depends on the goal
- Additional restrictions
  - Size and position of subject
  - Accessibility
  - Protection and security issues
  - Budget
  - Human/machine resources

# 3D DIGITIZATION IN PRACTICE

## More challenges in 3D digitization

- "Non-cooperative" surfaces --> glass, dark colors
- Blocking of the visual field of the scanner --> can only scan what it sees
- Digitization of large objects with high accuracy
- Management and handling of large amounts of data
- Digital archiving and storage of large amounts of data

# 3D DIGITIZATION IN PRACTICE

## Basic 3D digitization processes

- Recording geometric and color data
- Filtering of data (noise removal, etc)
- Alignment of partial scans
- Transformation in various 3D data structures
- Decimation of 3D data for various goals (ex. web)



# 3D DIGITIZATION IN PRACTICE

## Basic 3D digitization processes

Recording of geometric and color data

- Transportation of equipment at the site
- Almost always we end up with a number of partial scans



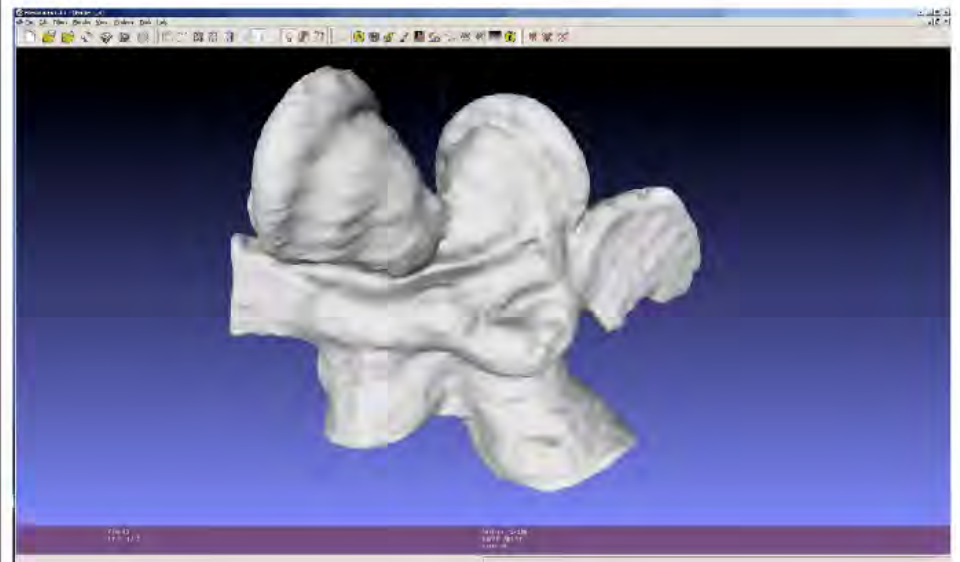
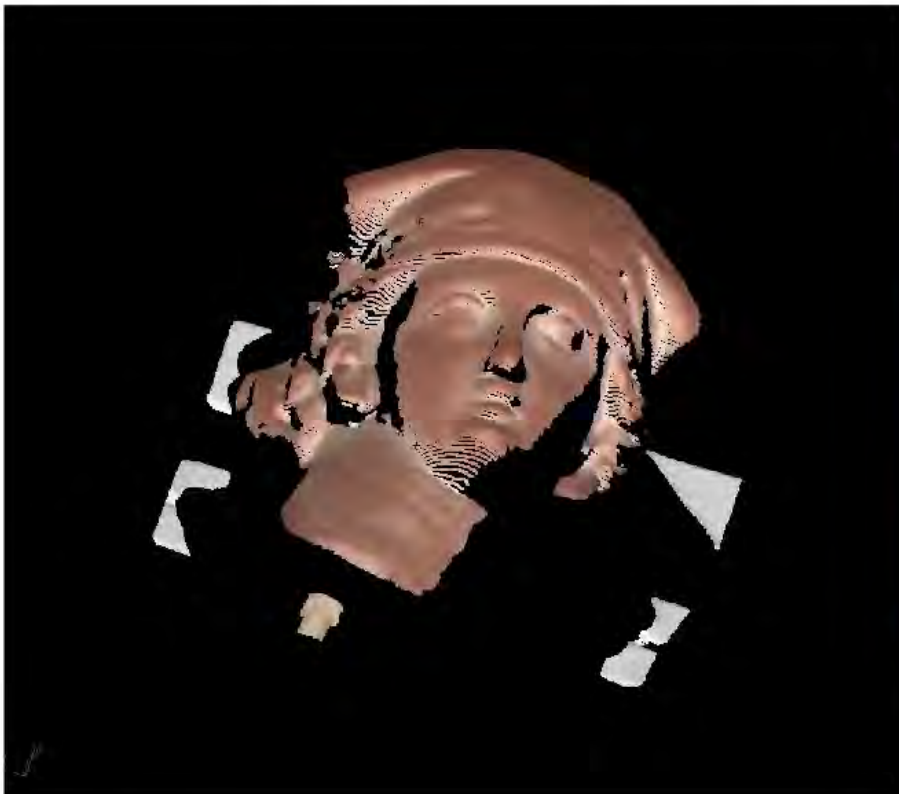


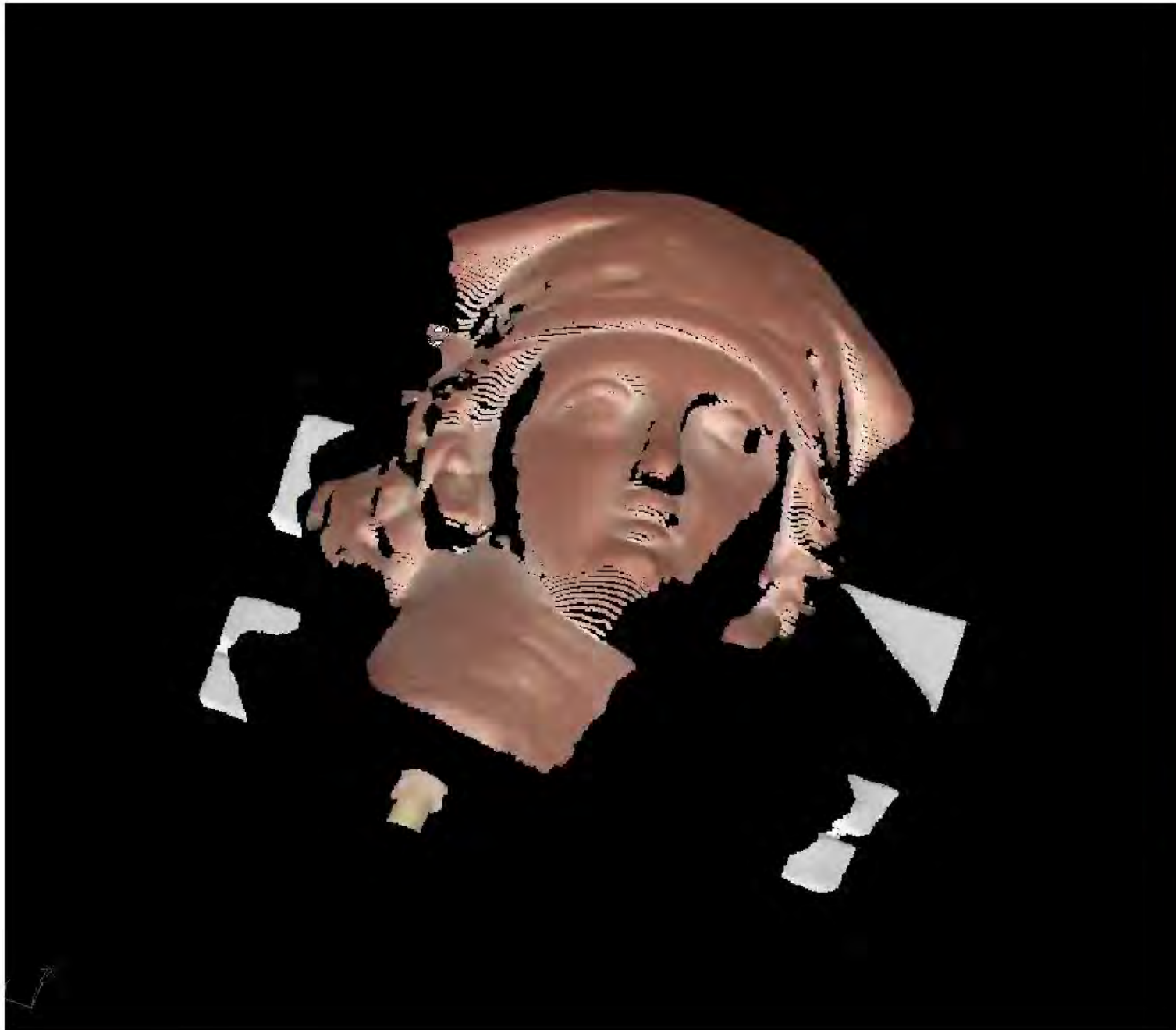
# 3D DIGITIZATION IN PRACTICE

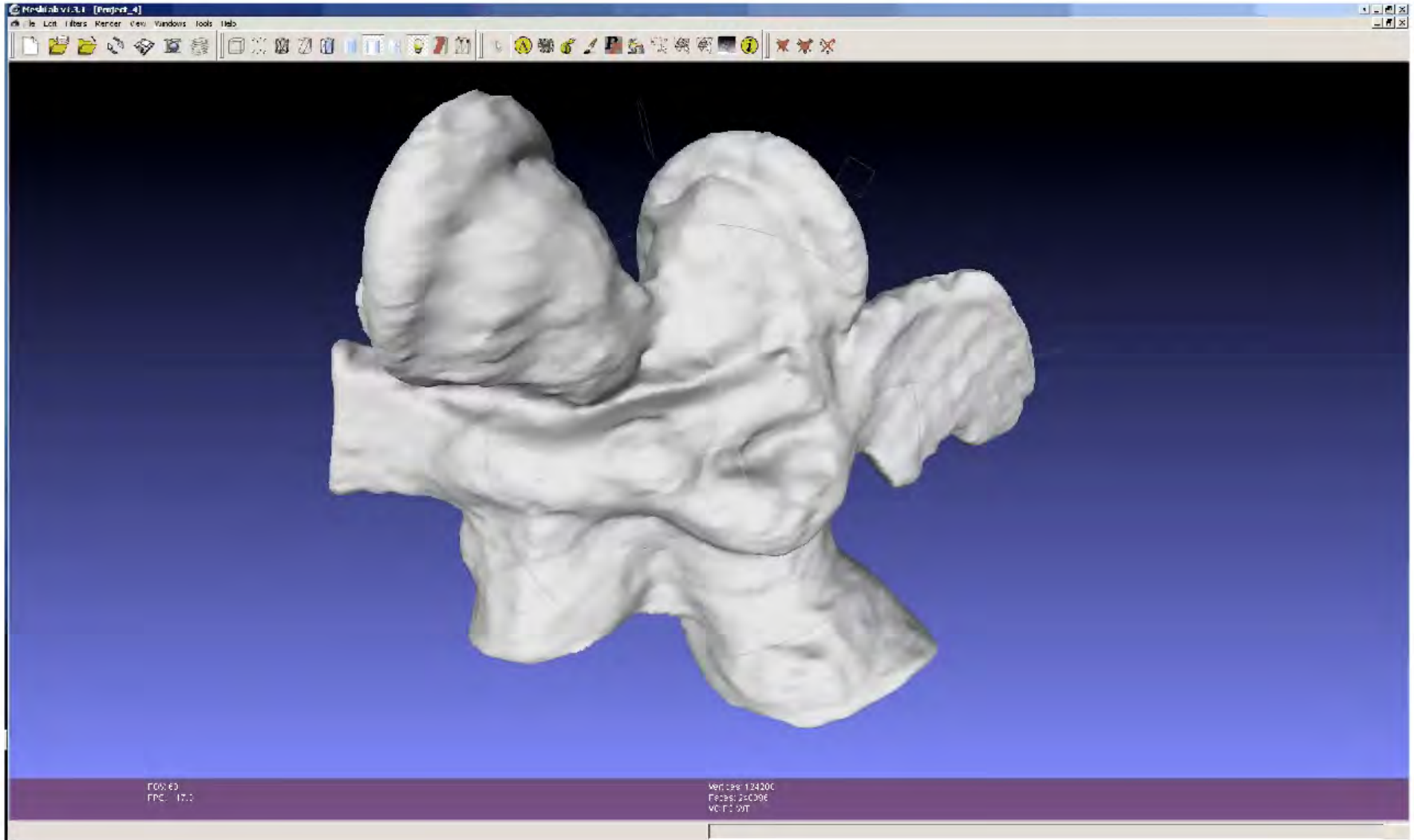
## Basic 3D digitization processes

Filtering of geometric data

- Discard of parts not belonging to the object
- Noise reduction (could result in data loss)





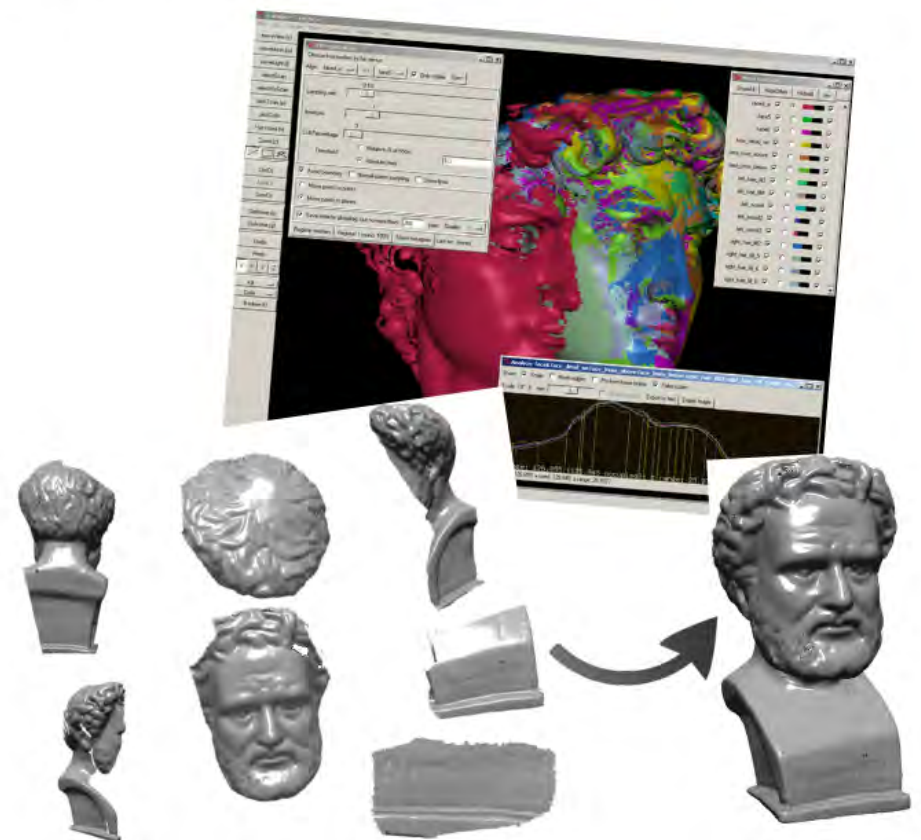
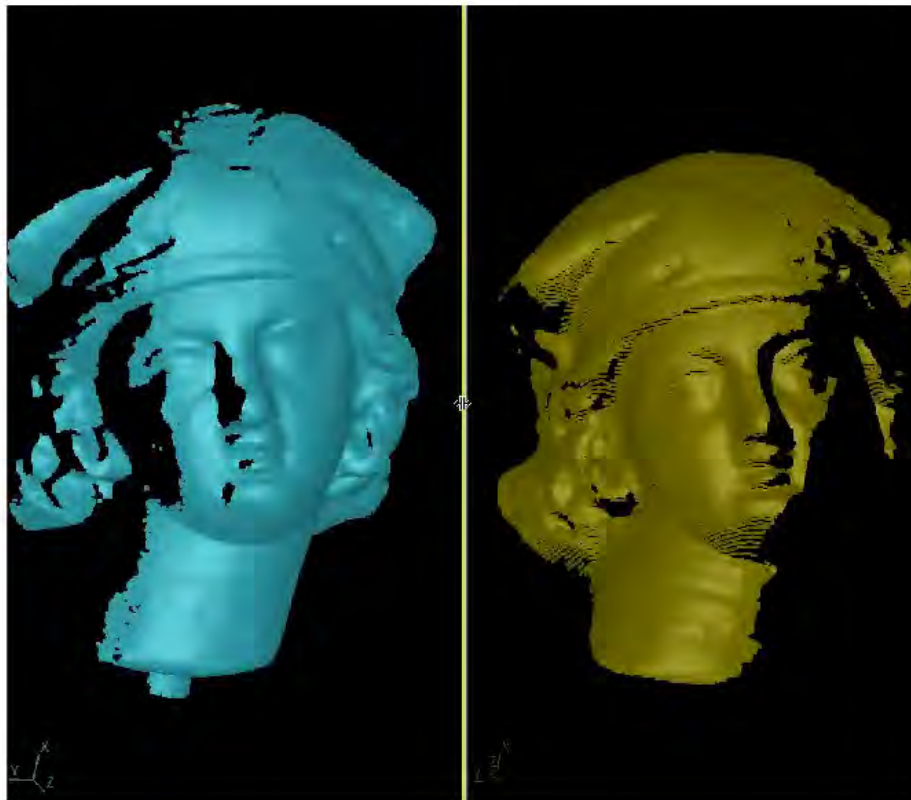


# 3D DIGITIZATION IN PRACTICE

## Basic 3D digitization processes

Alignment and integration of partial scans

- Requires overlapping between the partial scans

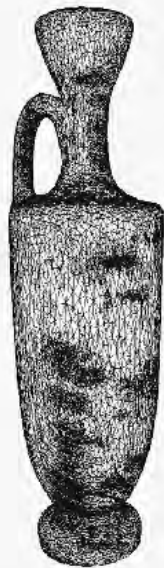




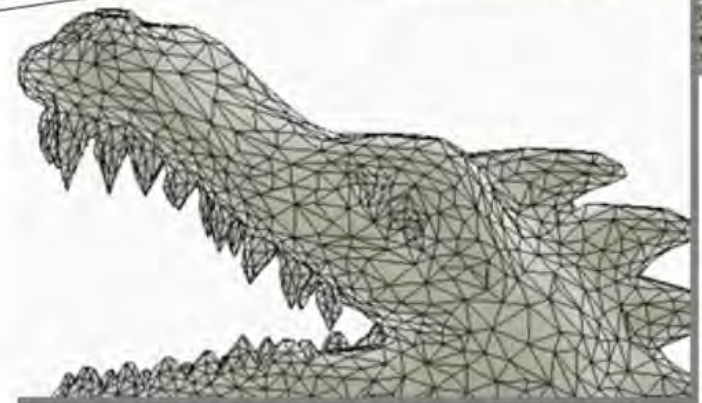
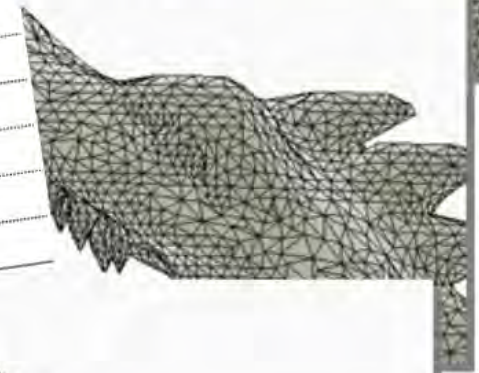
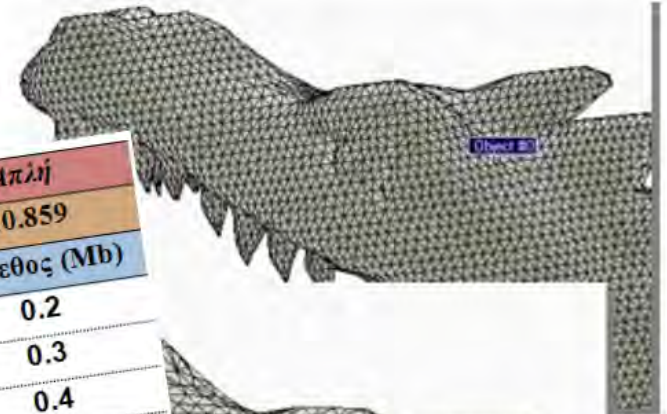
# 3D DIGITIZATION IN PRACTICE

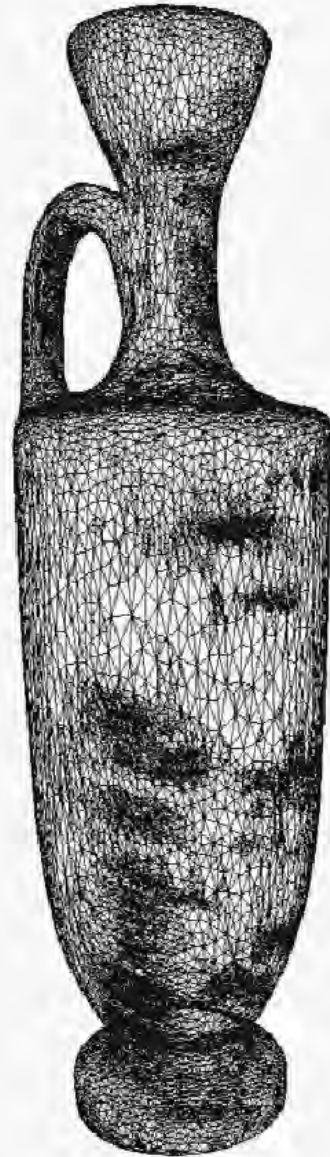
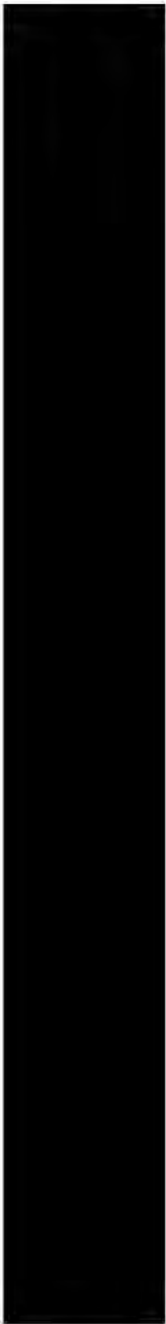
## Basic 3D digitization processes

Decimation of data for web applications



Γεωμετρία	Λεπτομερής	Μέση	Απλή
Τρίγωνα	108.588	54.294	10.859
Αρχείο	Μέγεθος (Mb)	Μέγεθος (Mb)	Μέγεθος (Mb)
3ds	2	1	0.2
Off	3	1.5	0.3
Obj	3.5	2	0.4
X	8	4	0.8
Raw	6.5	3.5	0.8
Asc	12	6	1.2
Dxf	23	11.5	2.3





Αρχείο	Μέγεθος
3ds	
Off	
Obj	
X	
Raw	
Asc	
Dxf	

# 3D DIGITIZATION IN PRACTICE

## Some conclusions

- 3D digitization is a multi-dimensional process that depends upon
  - Morphological characteristics of the objects
  - The envisaged usage of the 3D data
- There is not one solution that covers all digitization projects
  - Optimal results require a combination of methods
- Data collection time < Data processing time
- There are numerous digitization systems available in the market
- There is a continuous development of 3D technologies
  - Better data quality scanning systems
  - Better 3D visualization/processing hardware and software
  - Better 3D printing techniques



# 3D DIGITIZATION IN PRACTICE

## DIY 3D digitization

- **Laser triangulation**

- David 3D - <http://www.david-laserscanner.com>

- **Structured light**

- David 3D - <http://www.david-laserscanner.com>

- **Shape from silhouette**

- 3D SOM - <http://www.3dsom.com>

- **Shape from stereo**

- StereoScan - <http://www.agisoft.ru/products/stereoscan>

- **Structure from motion**

- Autodesk 123D Catch - <http://www.123dapp.com/catch>

- 3D ARC Automatic Reconstruction Conduit - <http://www.arc3d.be>

- VisualSFM - <http://www.cs.washington.edu/homes/ccwu/vsfm>

- **3D data processing**

- Meshlab - <http://meshlab.sourceforge.net>

- **3D processing and photorealism - Animation**

- Blender - <http://www.blender.org>



# 3D DIGITIZATION IN PRACTICE

## Some examples

David - Michelangelo - Digital Michelangelo Project - Stanford University

Goal: The recording of the footprint of the chisel on the marble

### STATUE FACTS

Height: 5.17 m  
Surface: 19 m<sup>2</sup>  
Volume: 2.2 m<sup>3</sup>  
Weight: 5800 kg

### ADDITIONAL DATA

Digitization personel: 22  
Num of persons at the  
museum: 3/avg  
Time: 360 hours/30 days  
Man-hours: 1080  
Man-hours proc.: 1500

### DIGITIZATION DATA

Polygons: 2 billion  
Photos: 7000  
Compressed data: 32 GB

Sampling (resolution) 0.25 mm  
Accuracy 0.50 mm



# 3D DIGITIZATION IN PRACTICE

## Some (more humble) examples

3D digitization of pottery for web applications

- Average 3D model size: 3 MB



# 3D DIGITIZATION IN PRACTICE

## Some (not so humble) examples

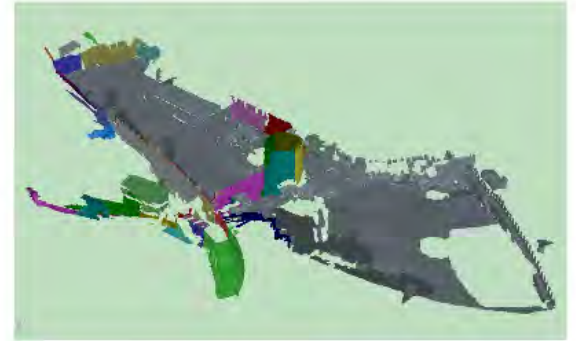
Byzantine Castle at the city of Kavala,  
Northern Greece

Goal: Web dissemination as a virtual tour

Digitization time (time on site): 3 days

Data processing time: 1.5 months

Team: 2 highly skilled professionals



Internal parts of the Castle:  
14 partial scans

Raw data:

Colored point cloud 36 M XYZRGB

Final web version: 17 MB

2 MB geometry

15 MB texture



professionals

:

RGB



