

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



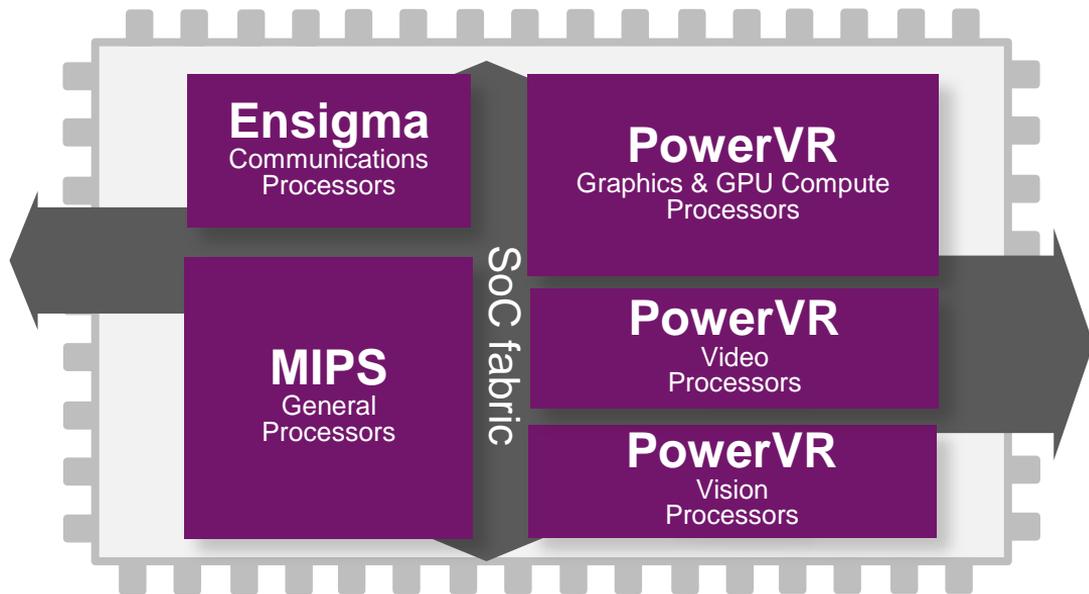
About Imagination

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*



About Imagination

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



Wearables



Advanced Automotive



Smart Security



Gaming & VR/AR



Retail



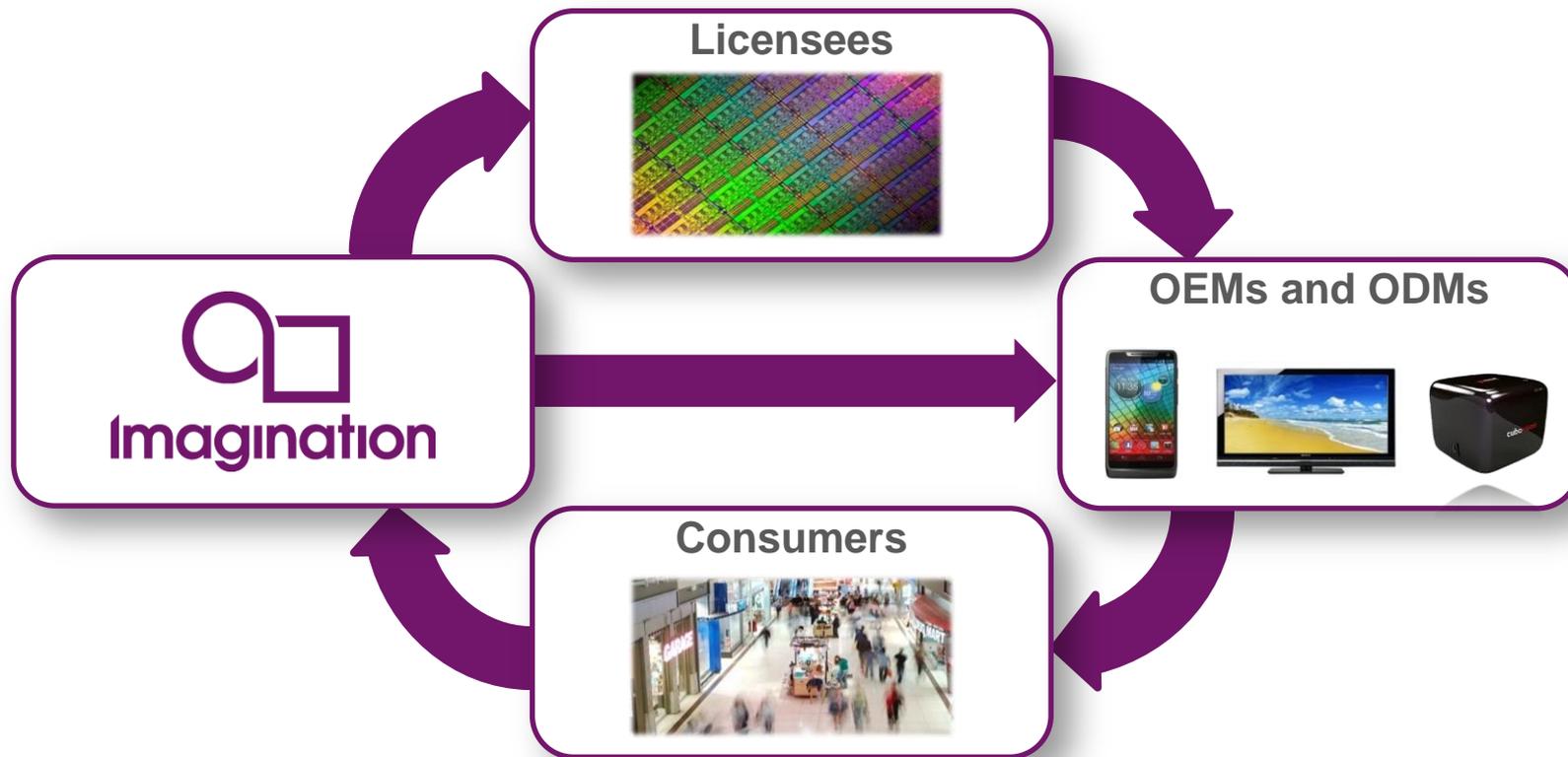
Smart homes



eHealth

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

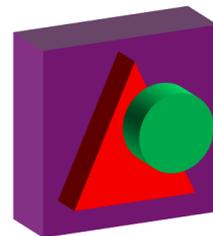


TBDR

Deferred

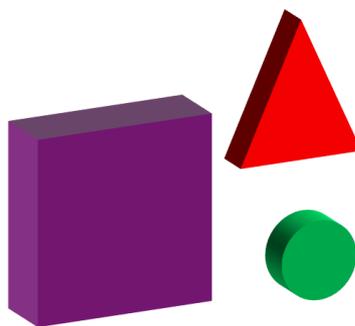
- **Deferred rasterisation**

- 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



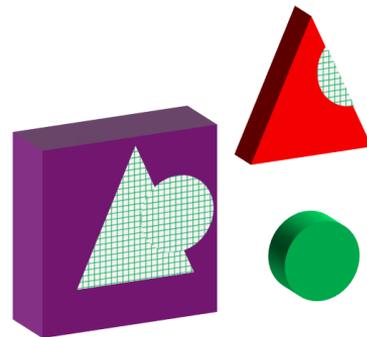
Conventional GPUs

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™



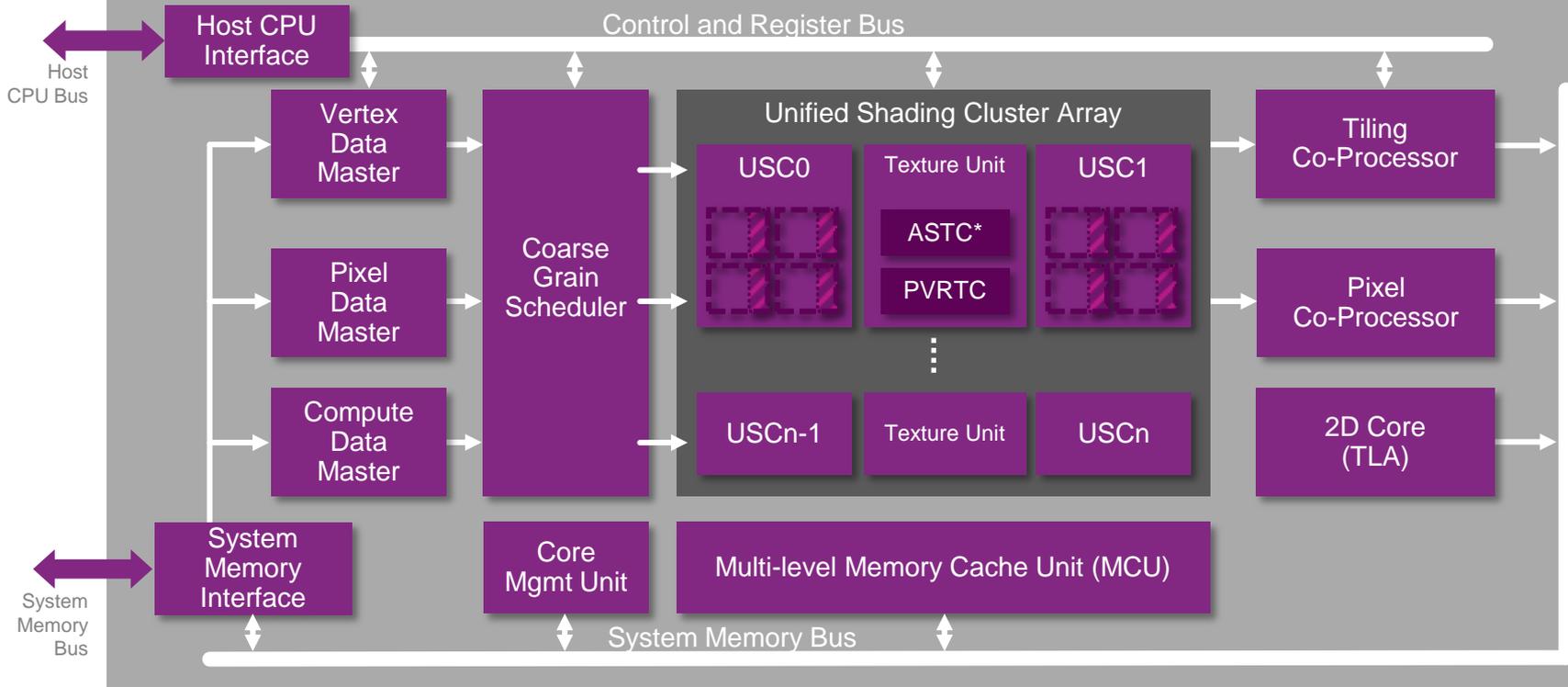
Rogue Evolution



- **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**

PowerVR Series6XT Rogue

PowerVR



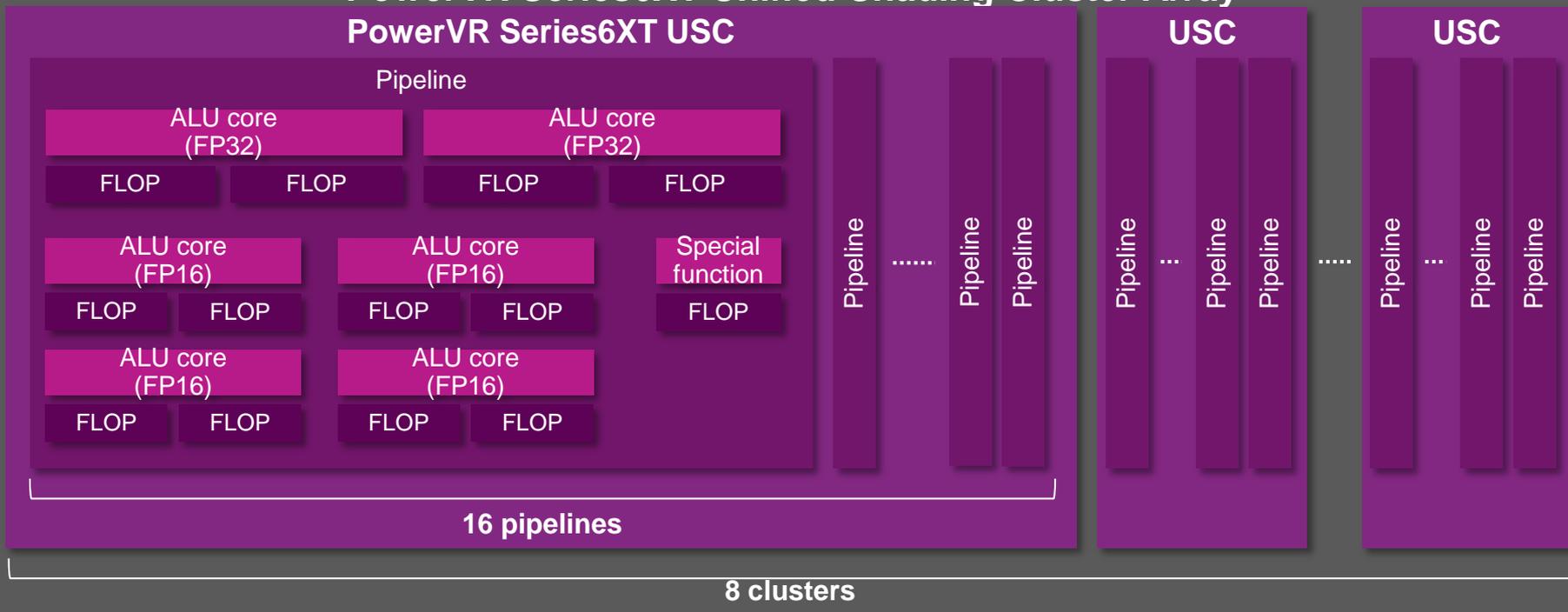
Extra low power GFLOPS

*

Supports both LDR and HDR ASTC formats

PowerVR Series6XT Unified Shading Cluster Array

PowerVR Series6XT USC

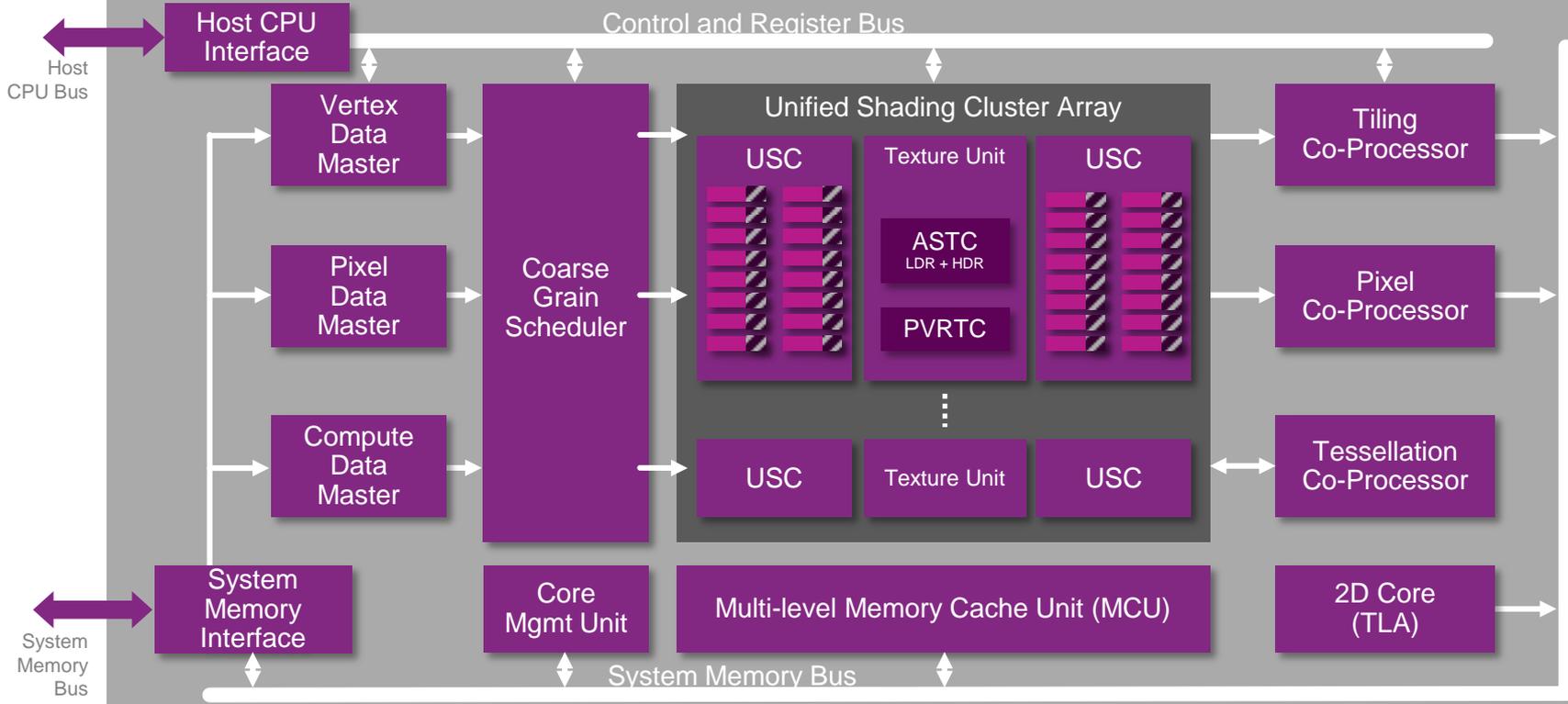


Series6 to Series6XT

Lots of lessons learned

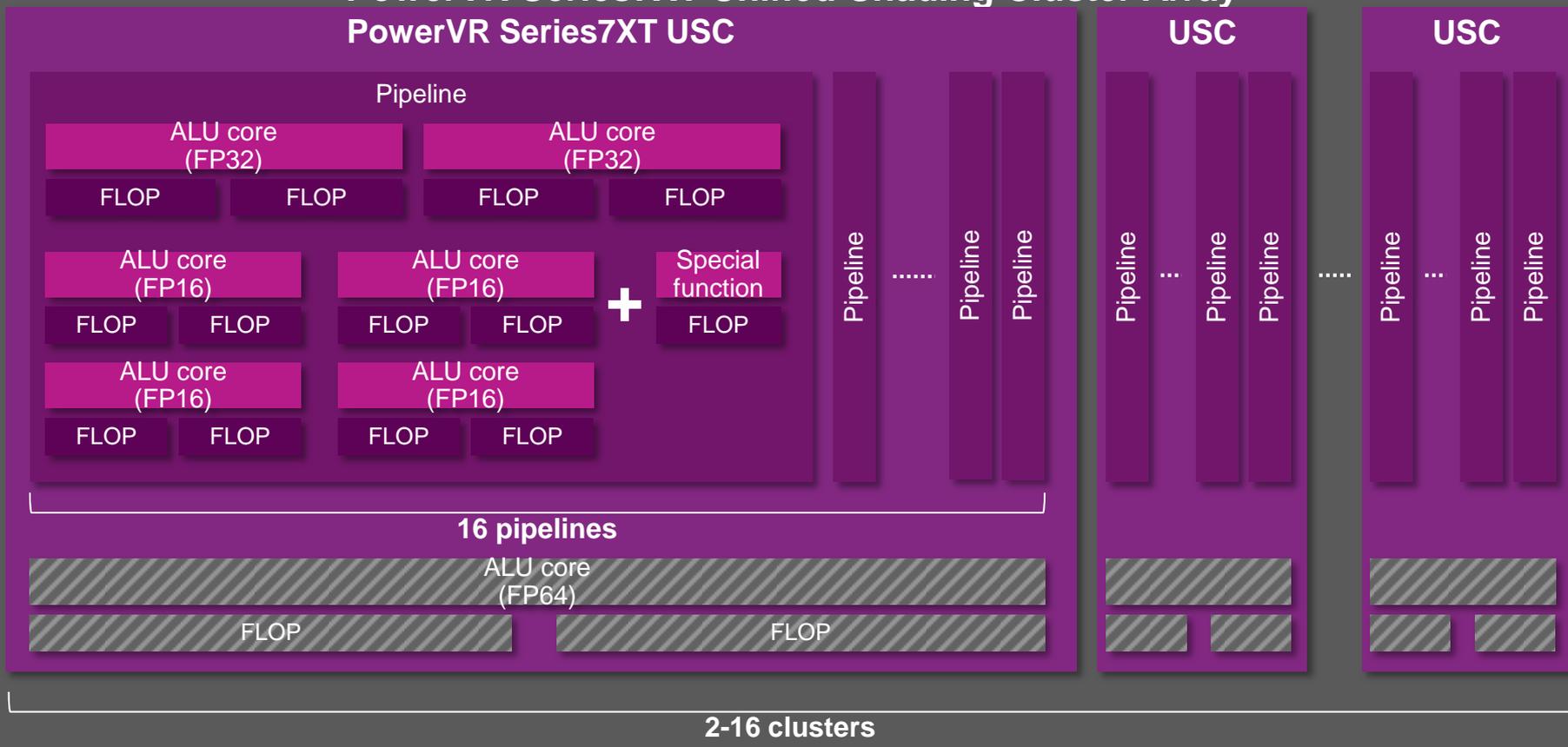
- Improved scheduler
- Streamlined ISA
- Improved compute task efficiency
- Completely new F16 datapath
- Improved front-end for sustained geometry performance
- ASTC





PowerVR Series7XT Unified Shading Cluster Array

PowerVR Series7XT USC



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

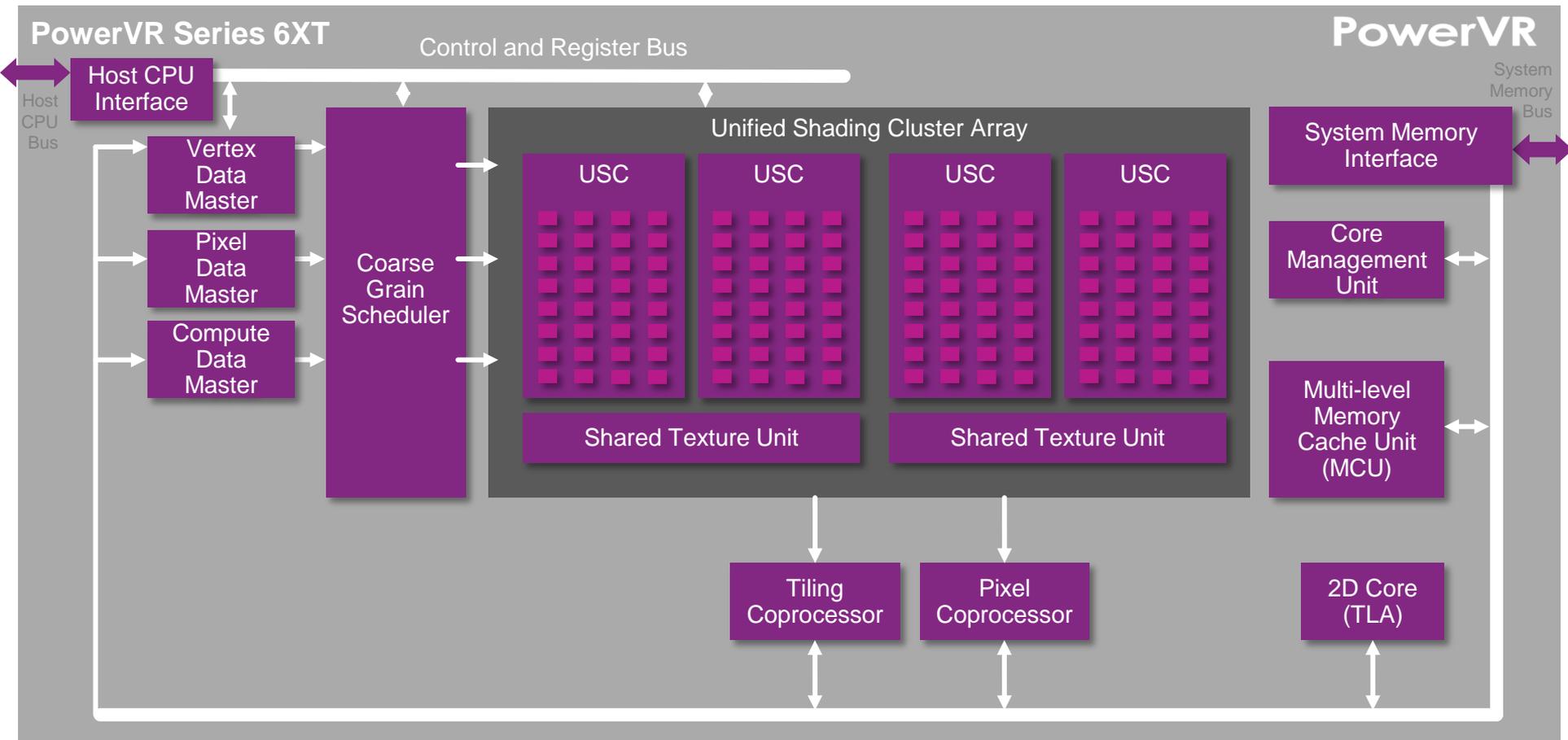


What is Ray Tracing?

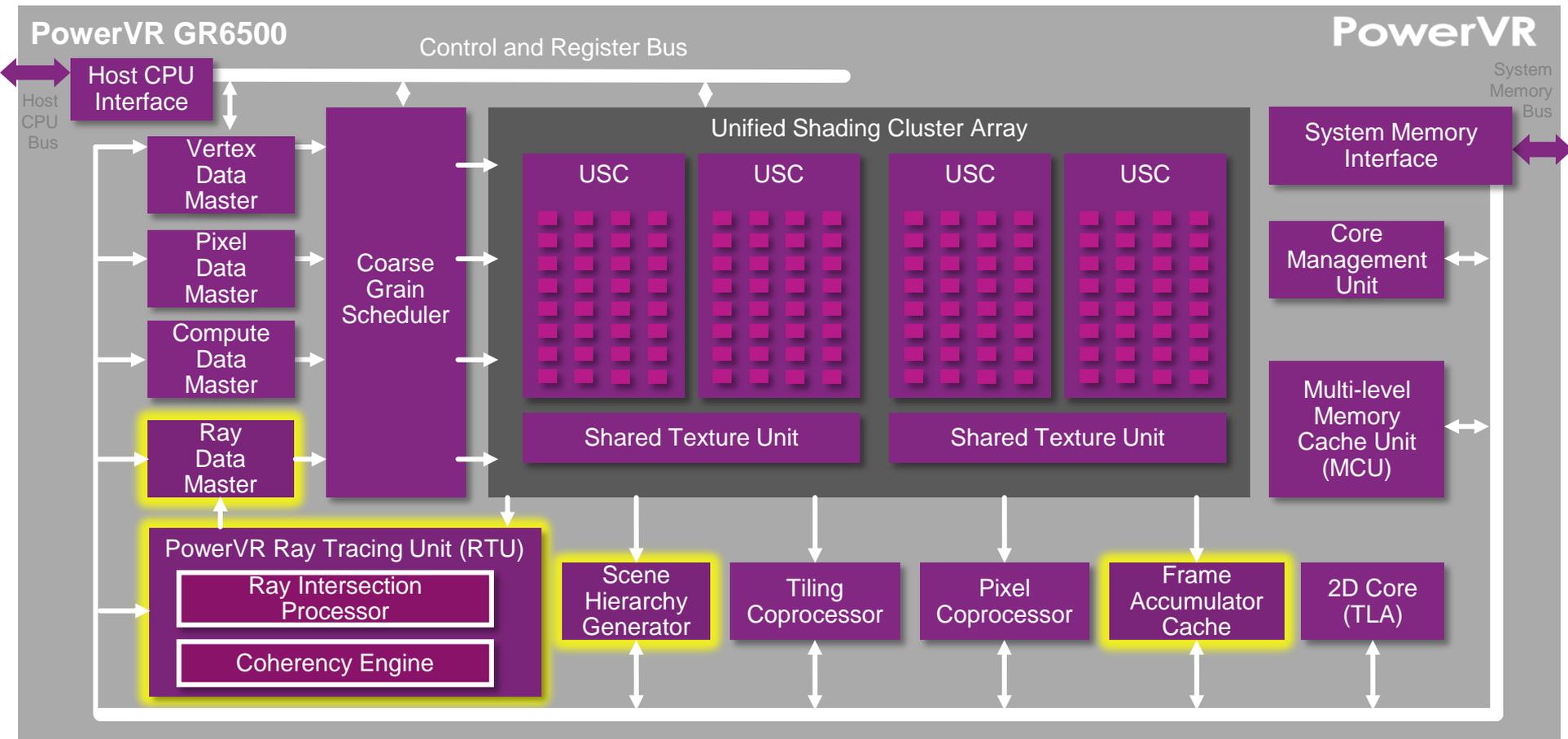


Ray tracing is the ability for the shader program for one object to be aware of the geometry of other objects.

PowerVR Architecture



PowerVR Graphics Wizard Architecture

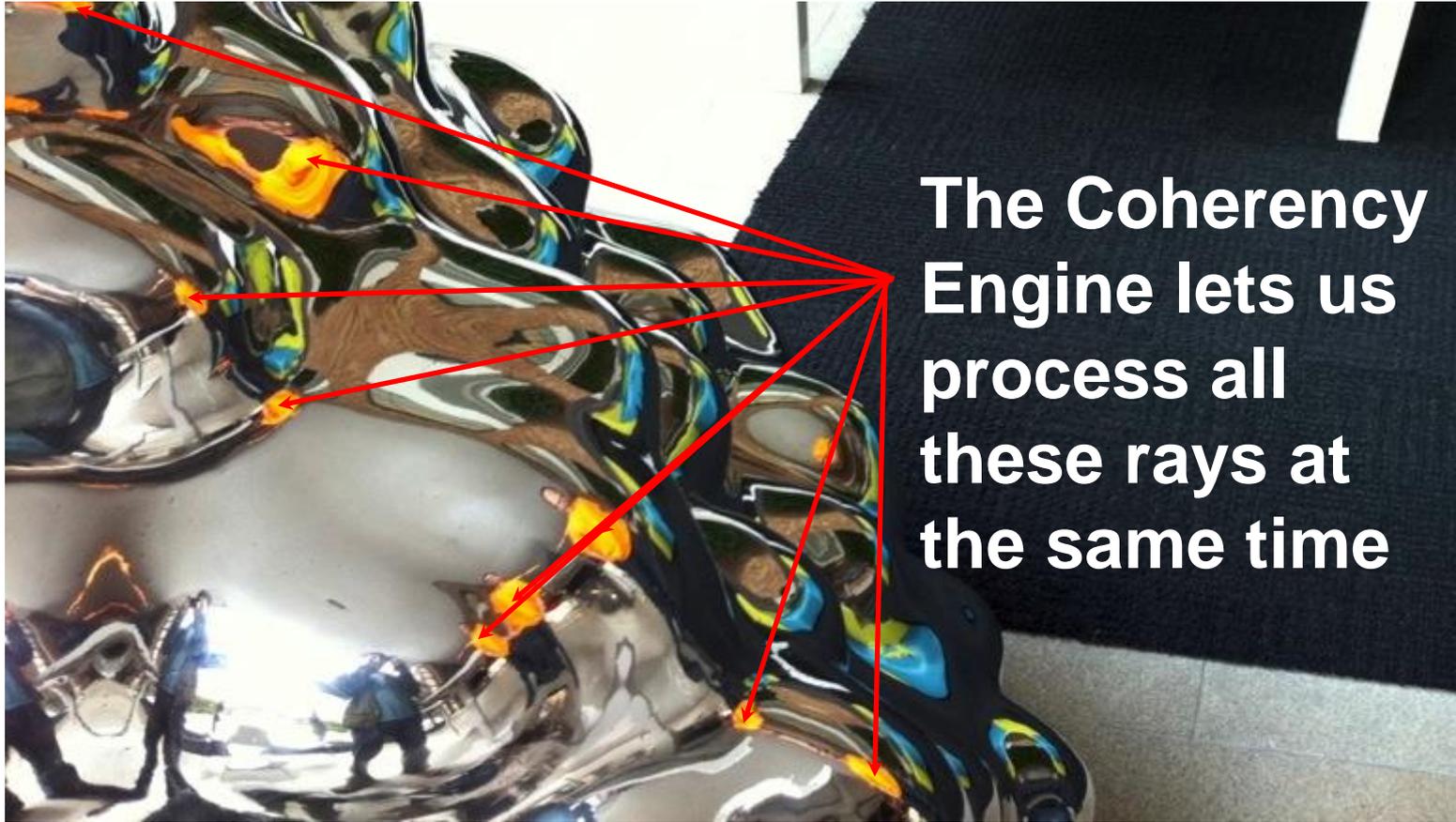


3 Unique Features of Wizard



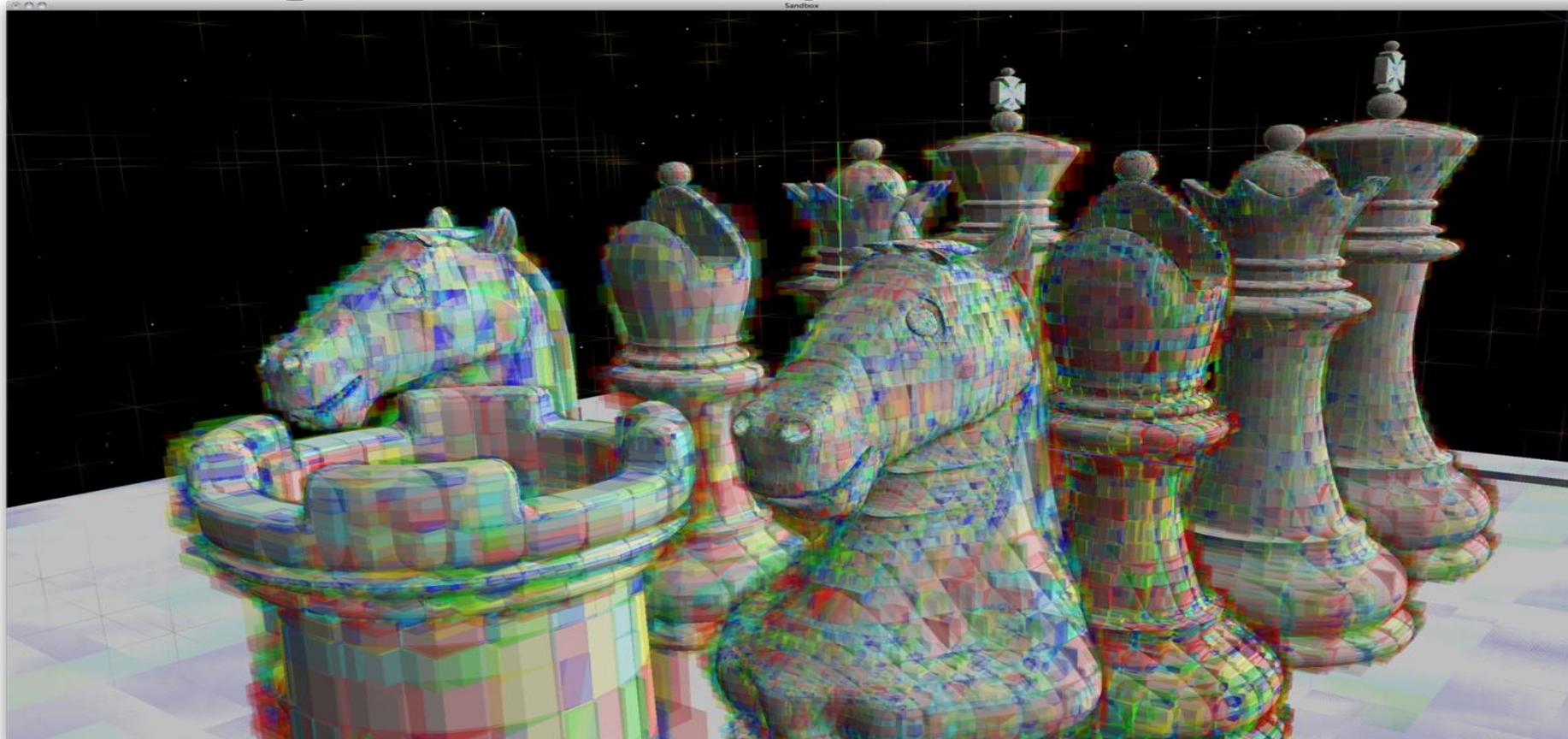
- **Fixed-function Ray-Box and Ray-Triangle testers**
- **Coherence-Driven Task-Forming and Scheduling**
- **Streaming Scene Hierarchy Generator**

Coherence-Gathering



The Coherency Engine lets us process all these rays at the same time

Streaming Scene Hierarchy Generator

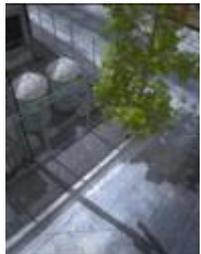


What is Ray Tracing?



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



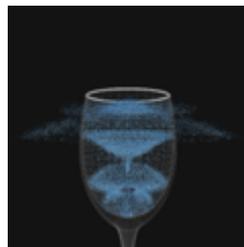
Ambient
Occlusion



Asset creation /
compression



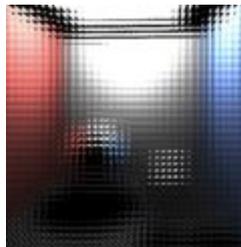
Global Illumination



Physics &
Collision
Detection



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



A.I. & Line of
Sight
Calculations



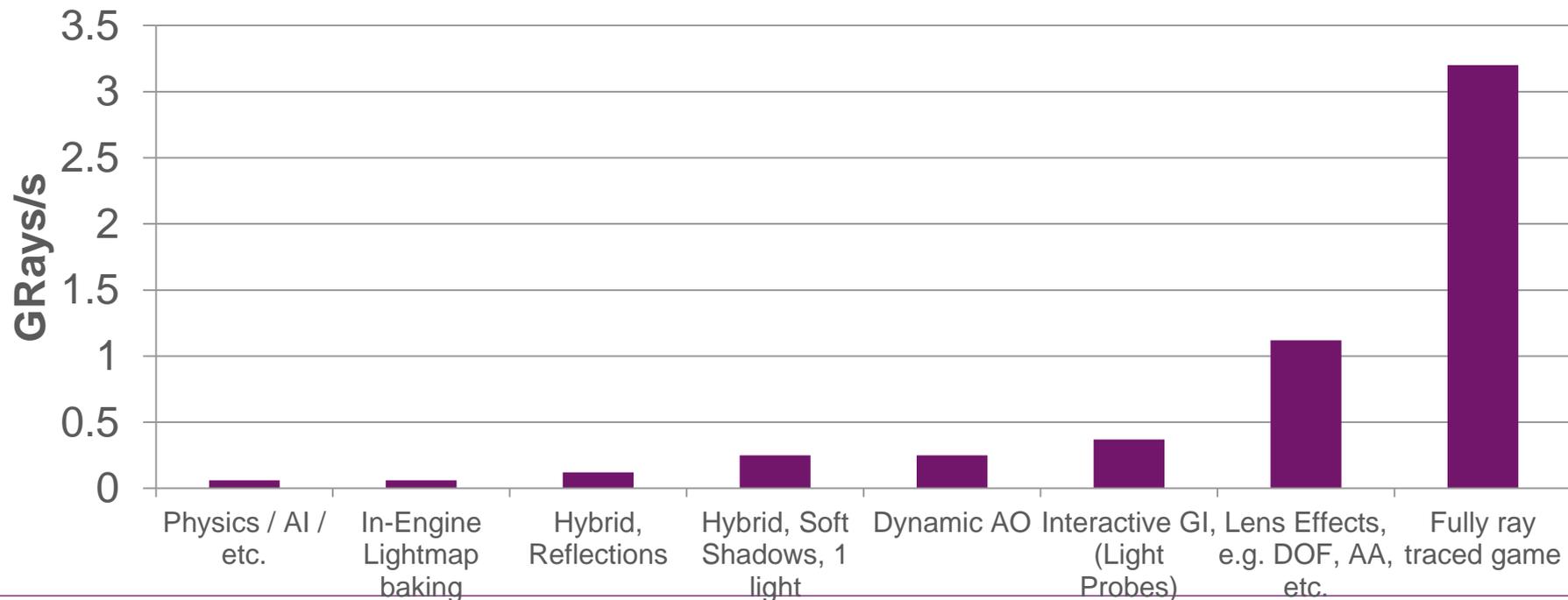
Rapid photo-
quality output

Ray Tracing Requirements

Sustained Ray Throughput at 1080p, 60fps



Technique vs Ray throughput





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

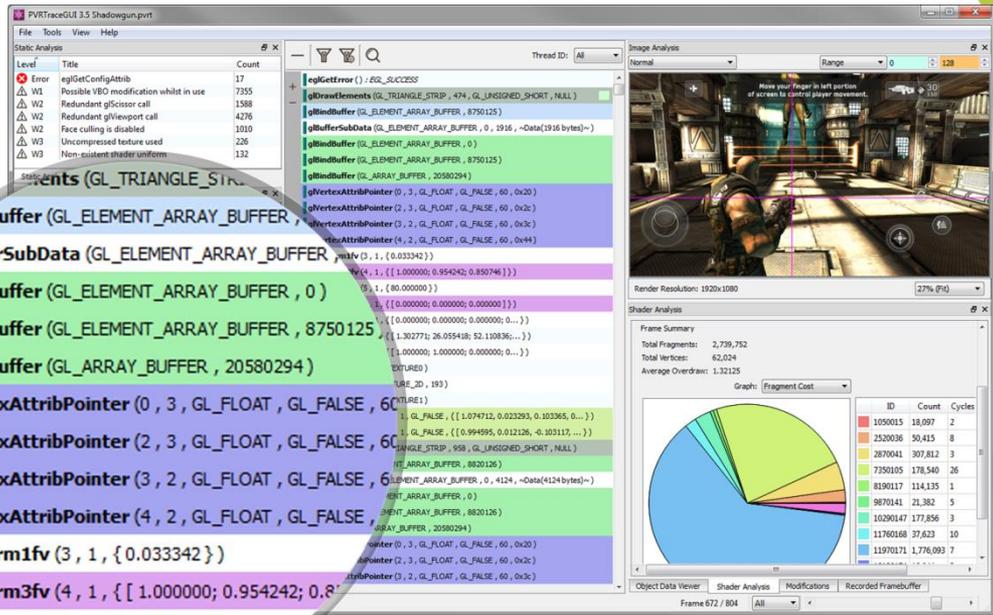
What is PVRTrace?

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



Current Call

glVertexAttribPointer: Call 487321

EGL State	EGL Objects	OpenGL ES State	OpenGL ES Objects
Variable		Value	
- Program			
GL_CURRENT_PROGRAM		2940042	
- Textures			
GL_ACTIVE_TEXTURE		GL_TEXTURE0	
- GL_TEXTURE0			
GL_TEXTURE_BINDING_2D		7490107	
GL_TEXTURE_BINDING_CUBE_MAP		910013	
- GL_TEXTURE1			
GL_TEXTURE_BINDING_2D		9380134	
- GL_TEXTURE2			
GL_TEXTURE_BINDING_2D		6370091	
GL_TEXTURE_BINDING_CUBE_MAP		10080144	
- GL_TEXTURE3			
GL_TEXTURE_BINDING_2D		350005	
- Framebuffers			
GL_DRAW_FRAMEBUFFER_BINDING		0	
GL_READ_FRAMEBUFFER_BINDING		0	
- Renderbuffers			
GL_RENDERBUFFER_BINDING		70001	
- Buffers			
GL_ARRAY_BUFFER_BINDING		21210303	
GL_ELEMENT_ARRAY_BUFFER_BINDING		8120116	
- Blending			
GL_BLEND		GL_FALSE	
GL_BLEND_EQUATION_ALPHA		GL_FUNC_ADD	
GL_BLEND_EQUATION_RGB		GL_FUNC_ADD	
GL_BLEND_SRC_ALPHA		GL_ONE	
GL_BLEND_SRC_RGB		GL_ONE	
GL_BLEND_DST_ALPHA		GL_ONE	
GL_BLEND_DST_RGB		GL_ONE	

Hide unchanging state

Object Data Viewer

Texture 7980114: Call 487683

GL_TEXTURE_2D	
Level: 0 - 1024 x 1024	
Internal format	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
Level: 1 - 512 x 512	
Internal format	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
Level: 2 - 256 x 256	
Internal format	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
Level: 3 - 128 x 128	
Internal format	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
Level: 4 - 64 x 64	
Internal format	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
Level: 5 - 32 x 32	
Internal format	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
Level: 6 - 16 x 16	
Internal format	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
Level: 7 - 8 x 8	
Internal format	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
Level: 8 - 4 x 4	
Internal format	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
Level: 9 - 2 x 2	
Internal format	GL_COMPRESSED_RGB...
Level: 10 - 1 x 1	



Level: 0 - 1024 x 1024 34% (Fit)

- Parameters	
GL_TEXTURE_MIN_FILTER	GL_LINEAR_MIPMAP_NEAREST
GL_TEXTURE_MAG_FILTER	GL_LINEAR
GL_TEXTURE_WRAP_S	GL_REPEAT
GL_TEXTURE_WRAP_T	GL_REPEAT
GL_TEXTURE_WRAP_R	GL_REPEAT
GL_TEXTURE_BASE_LEVEL	0
GL_TEXTURE_COMPARE_FUNC	GL_LEQUAL
GL_TEXTURE_COMPARE_MODE	GL_NONE
GL_TEXTURE_SWIZZLE_R	GL_RED
GL_TEXTURE_SWIZZLE_G	GL_GREEN

PVRTune

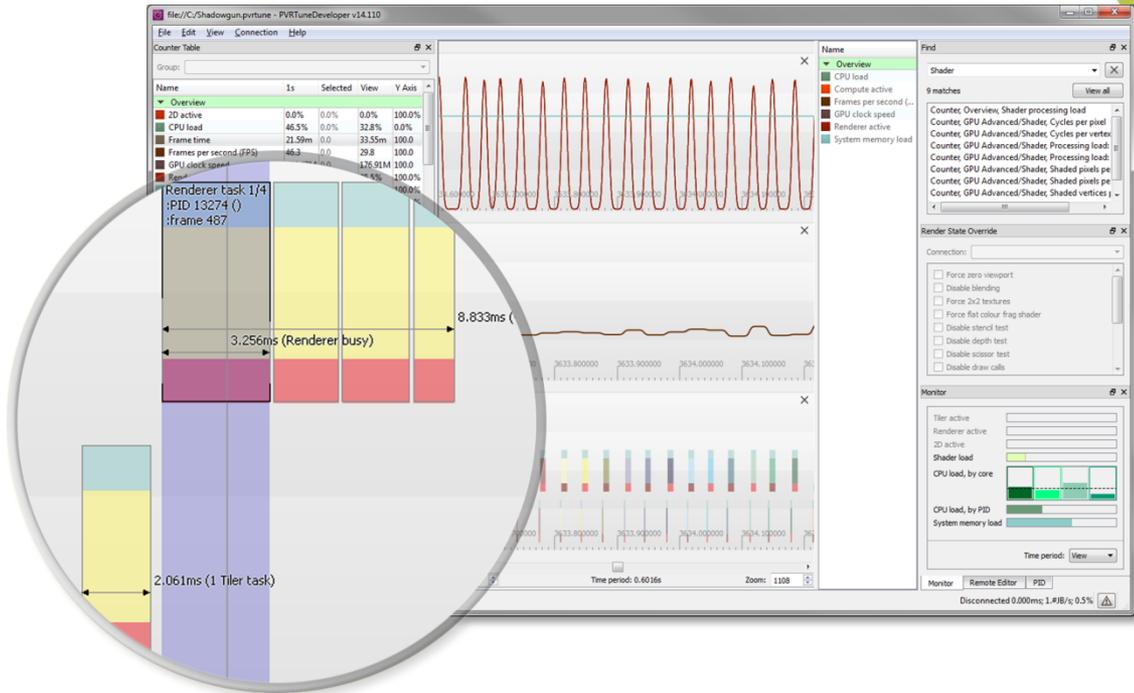
What is PVRTune?

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!)

The screenshot displays the PVRShaderEditor 2.5 application window. The main editor area is split into two panes. The left pane shows GLSL source code for a fragment shader, including logic for texture coordinate calculation, fog blending, distortion, and refraction. The right pane shows the corresponding disassembled hardware code, which is a sequence of instructions for a GPU pipeline, such as texture lookups and arithmetic operations. Below the code panes, a status bar indicates 'Fragment Shader: Compile succeeded.' The bottom right corner features a 'Profiling' and 'Settings' panel with various performance metrics and compiler information.

```

// Calculate the tex coords of the fragment (using it's position on the screen), no
lowp vec3 vAccumulatedNormal = vec3(0.0,0.0,1.0);
mediump vec2 vTexCoord = gl_FragCoord.xy * RcpWindowSize;

// Test depth for fog
lowp float fFogBlend = clamp(WaterToEyeLength * RcpMaxFogDepth, 0.0, 1.0);

#ifdef ENABLE_DISTORTION
// When distortion is enabled, use the normal map to calculate perturbation
vAccumulatedNormal = texture(NormalTex, BumpCoord0).rgb;
vAccumulatedNormal += texture(NormalTex, BumpCoord1).rgb;
vAccumulatedNormal -= 1.0; // Same as * 2.0 - 2.0

lowp vec2 vTmp = vAccumulatedNormal.xy;
/*
Divide by WaterToEyeLength to scale down the distortion
of fragments based on their distance from the camera
*/
vTexCoord.xy -= vTmp * (WaveDistortion / WaterToEyeLength);
#endif

#ifdef ENABLE_REFRACTION
lowp vec4 vReflectionColour = texture(ReflectionTex, vTexCoord);
lowp vec4 vRefractionColour = texture(RefractionTex, vTexCoord);

#ifdef ENABLE_FRESNEL
// Calculate the Fresnel term to determine amount of reflection for each fragme

```

```

----- Disassembled HW Code -----
0 : fitr.pixel r0, drc0, cf4, cf0, 8;
1 : wdf drc0
2 : smp2d.fcnorm drc0, sh20, r0, sh4, _, r12, 3;
3 : smp2d.fcnorm drc0, sh20, r2, sh4, _, r8, 3;
4 : smp3d.fcnorm drcl, sh32, r4, sh16, _, r15, 3;
5 : frcp i0, r7
6 : sop r11.joutj, sh2.f16.e0, i0, sub, c0, 0
   sop r18.koutk, sh2.f16.e1, r7, sub, c0, 0
7 : wdf drc0
8 : sop il.f16.e0.joutj, r8, 0.oneminus, add, r12, 0.onemin
   sop il.f16.el.koutk, r9, 0.oneminus, add, r13, 0.onemin
   sopmov is5, r13
9 : sop i0.f16.e0.joutj, r10, 0.oneminus, add, r14, 0.onem
   sop i0.f16.el.koutk, c64.neg, 0.oneminus, add, il.f16.
   sopmov is5, il.f16

```

Fragment Shader: Compile succeeded.

Profiling Settings
Per-Line Cycle Estimate Total: 34 Emulated Cycle Total: -
Compiler: G6x00
Version: REL/3.4@3147479
Emulated Cycles: -
Temporary Registers Used: -
Primary Attributes Used: -
Non-Dependent Texture Loads: -
Global USC Instructions: 0

Line: 1 Cot: 1 INS



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™

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?





Imagination

www.imgtec.com/idc