

RayStorm Documentation

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Chapter 1

RayStorm Documentation

1.1 indexnode

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TRANSLUC
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TRIANGLE
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WINTOFRONT
Wood

1.2 RayStorm Documentation

06 August 1995

R a y S t o r m v1.0
Demoversion
by Andreas Heumann and Mike Hesser

Introduction
Requirements
Features
Installation

ARexx interface
Examples

Textures

Legal Stuff
Register
Credits
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PC-Version

Future

1.3 Introduction

INTRODUCTION

RayStorm has been written to be as fast as possible, and use as less memory as possible. Thus we have implemented a octree algorithm, and optimized all calculations as much as we could.

It has been developed on Amiga and also on PC, therefore there also exists a PC-Version.

This demo version is limited to a resolution of 160x128, only 2 lightsources and only 17 objects.

The full version is unlimited.

FUNDAMENTALS ABOUT RAYTRACING

General
Octree
Antialiasing
Surfaces
Internals

1.4 General

GENERAL

Raytracing makes it possible to generate fotorealistic pictures of objects.

A raytracer casts a ray form the position of the viewer through a scene and calculates the intersections with the objects in that scene. If a intersection is found, the raytracer decides which color the object at this position has. If the object is reflective or transparent, the raytracer casts new rays from this positon and tests the intersections again and so on

To make the surfaces of the objects more realistic, textures which

simulate marble or clouds or water or other surfaces can be used.

1.5 Octree

OCTREE

Simple raytraces determine the intersections with objects by testing all objects. This can lead to long rendering times if there are a lot of objects in the scene.

One solution of this problem is the Octree algorithm. This algorithm divides the scene in eight childcells and every childcell again in eight cells and so on until there are less than one objects in the cell or the maximum depth of the tree is reached.

Octree division

```

          /| z
         /
    /-----/-----/|
   ^ y/      /      / |
   | / left  / right / b|
   |/       /       / |a| |
   |-----/-----| f|c|
   |         up      | r|k|
   |         |       | o| /
   |-----|-----| n|/
   |         |       | t|
   |         down    | / x
   |-----|-----|/-->

```

1.6 Antialiasing

ANTIALIASING

RayStorm uses a algorithm called 'Adaptive Supersampling' to do antialiasing. This algorithm cast for each pixel which has a high contrast against it's four neighbours new rays which are close to the ray used for the pixel itself. The new color of the pixel is calculated with the supersampled pixels and the gaussian filter.

Example:

Settings: squareroot of number of samples per pixel: 3

```

|-----|-----|-----|
| super- | super- | super- |
| sampled| sampled| sampled|
|         |         |         |
|-----|-----|-----|
| super- |         | super- |

```



```

| sampled| pixel  | sampled|
|         |         |         |
|-----|-----|-----|
| super- | super- | super- |
| sampled| sampled| sampled|
|         |         |         |
|-----|-----|-----|

|- Gaussian filter width  -|

```

The rendering time increases dramatically if you use antialiasing. The values below depend on the contrast of the picture.

Samplesetting	rendering time
1	x1
2	x4
3	x9
4	x16
...	...

Setting higher than 3 are not leading to significant better results.

1.7 Surfaces

SURFACES

Ambient (set with AMBIENT)

This determines the color of the object in sections, which are in shadow.

Diffuse reflection (set with DIFFUSE)

The diffuse reflection falls off as the cosine of the angle between the normal and the ray to the light. Diffuse reflection determines the main color of the object (color in Imagine).

Specularly reflected highlights (set with SPECULAR)

Specularly reflected highlights fall off as the cosine of the angle between the reflected ray and the ray to the light source (specular in Imagine)

Specular reflection exponent (set with REFPHONG)

Determines the size of the specularly reflected highlights, the higher the smaller the highlight (hardness in Imagine)

Diffuse transmission (set with DIFFTRANS)

Same as diffuse reflection, but only used if the lightsource is on opposite side of surface. Only applied if tranlucency is not 0.

Specular transmission (set with SPECTRANS)

Same as specular reflection, but only used if the lightsource is on

opposite side of surface. Only applied if tranlucency is not 0.

Specular transmission exponent (set with TRANSPHONG)

Same as specular reflection exponent, but only used if the lightsource is on opposite side of surface.

Specular transmittance (set with TRANSLUC)

Specular transmittance.

Transparency (set with TRANSPAR)

Transparent color (filter in Imagine).

Reflectivity (set with REFLECT)

Reflective color (reflect in Imagine).

Transmission attenuation (set with TRANSATTU)

(fog in Imagine).

Index of refraction (set with REFRINDEX)

Determines how the ray through transparent objects is refracted, the higher the more (index of refraction in Imagine).

Is calculated with the formula

$$\text{index} = \frac{\text{lightspeed in vacuum}}{\text{lightspeed in object}} .$$

1.8 Internals

INTERNALS

Memory requirements

Triangle:	142 Bytes (flat shaded)
	178 Bytes (Phong shaded)
Sphere:	58 Bytes
Plane:	66 Bytes
Surface:	118 Bytes + length of name
Screenbuffer:	4 Bytes per pixel

Memory requirements of the octree depends on the scene.

1.9 Requirements

REQUIREMENTS

- (1) You will need at least Kickstart 2.0 and a 68020 processor and a mathematical coprocessor (68881/882 or internal 68040/060 version).

The faster the better :-).

- (2) ShowObj was written using MUI . So you need muimaster.library V2.0+ or later to run ShowObj.

Tested with:

A2000 68040/30, 9MB, 250+250MB HD, Merlin Gfx-board

A2000 68030/14, 68882/20, 4MB, 720+52MB HD

1.10 Features

FEATURES

- Fast. About 20% faster than Imagine.
- ARexx-port. RayStorm can be used by all programs with the ARexx-port.
- Imagine compatible. RayStorm is designed to be almost compatible to Imagine. It can load Imagine objects and use Imagine textures.
- Octree algorithm used for rendering.
- Antialiasing possibility (adaptive supersampling).
- Image can be saved as 24Bit IFF-ILBM file.
- Three builtin object types: sphere, plane and triangle.
- Three light types: ambient, point and spot.
- Depth of field

1.11 Installation

INSTALLATION

There is a installation script included in the archive which uses the Commodore Installer. Run it to install RayStorm.

1.12 ARexx Interface

AREXX INTERFACE

Address

The ARexx-address of RayStorm is 'RAYSTORM'.

Parameter conventions:

/S - Switch.
/N - Number.
/A - Required.

All other numeric parameters are floating point numbers.

ARexx commands

General
Objects
Attributes
Animation
Errors

Alphabetically sorted

-A-
ALIGNMENT
AMBIENT
ANTIALIAS
-B-
BRUSH
BRUSHPATH
-C-
CLEANUP
-D-
DIFFTRANS
DIFFUSE
DISPLAY
-I-
IMTEXTURE
-L-
LOADOBJ
-M-
MAXFRAMES
-N-
NEWSURFACE
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REFEXP
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SAVEPIC
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```
SETWORLD
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SPOTLIGHT
STARTRENDER
-T-
TEXTUREPATH
TRANSATTU
TRANSEXP
TRANSLUC
TRANSPAR
TRIANGLE
-W-
WINTOFRONT
```

1.13 antialias

ANTIALIAS

```
Arguments:      SAMPLES/N/A      squareroot of number of samples per
                  pixel (max. 8)
                  WIDTH      width of gaussian filter
                  CONTR,CONTG,CONTB  max. allowed contrast
Description:    Sets antialiasing parameters (see Antialiasing)
Default:        ANTIALIAS 1 1.8 51 38 76
```

1.14 brushpath

BRUSHPATH

```
Arguments:      PATH/A      pathname
Description:    Defines the path where to search brushes.
```

1.15 cleanup

CLEANUP

```
Arguments:      none
Description:    Deletes all defined objects, lightsources and surfaces
```

1.16 display

DISPLAY

!!! CAUTION !!!

THIS COMMAND ISN'T RELEASED IN THIS VERSION YET
!!! CAUTION !!!

Arguments: FLOYD/S dither with Floyd-Steinberg algorithm
Description: Displays rendered pic on screen

1.17 objectpath

OBJECTPATH

Arguments: PATH/A pathname
Description: Defines the path where to search Imagine objects.

1.18 pointlight

POINTLIGHT

Arguments: POSX, POSY, POSZ position
COLR/N, COLG/N, COLB/N color
SHADOW/S cast shadows if keyword given
Description: Creates a point lightsource
Default: POINTLIGHT 0 0 0 255 255 255

1.19 quit

QUIT

Arguments: none
Description: Quits Raystrom

1.20 savepic

SAVEPIC

Arguments: NAME/A name of file to save
Description: Saves rendered pic as IFF-ILBM-file

1.21 setcamera

SETCAMERA

Arguments: POSX/A, POSY/A, POSZ/A position
VIEWX, VIEWY, VIEWZ viewpoint
VUPX, VUPY, VUPZ viewupvector
FOVX, FOVY field of view (in degree)

(20 degree creates camera like Imagine default camera)
 FOCALDIST distance from eye to focal plane
 APERTURE aperture width (0 == pinhole)
 Description: Sets the parameters of the camera
 Default: SETCAMERA 0 0 -10 0 0 0 0 1 0 45 45 1. 0.

1.22 setscreen

SETSCREEN

Arguments: RESX/N/A, RESY/N/A resolution
 COLORS/N number of colors (not yet implemented)
 Description: sets the screen parameters
 Default: SETSCREEN 128 128 32

1.23 setworld

SETWORLD

Arguments: BACKR/N/A, BACKG/N/A, BACKB/N/A backgroundcolor
 AMBR/N, AMBG/N, AMBB/N ambientcolor
 Description: Sets world parameters
 Default: SETWORLD 0 0 0 0 0 0

1.24 spotlight

SPOTLIGHT

Arguments: POSX, POSY, POSZ position
 COLR/N, COLG/N, COLB/N color
 DIRX, DIRY, DIRZ direction
 COEFF coefficient
 SHADOW/S cast shadows if keyword given
 Description: Creates a spot lightsource
 Default: SPOTLIGHT 0 0 0 255 255 255

1.25 startrender

STARTRENDER

Arguments: QUICK/S render quick (no shadows, reflections and
 transparency)
 DEPTH/N depth of generated octree (Default 3)
 Description: Starts rendering process

1.26 texturepath

TEXTUREPATH

Arguments: PATH/A pathname
Description: Defines the path where to search textures.

1.27 wintofront

WINTOFRONT

Arguments: none
Description: Brings RayStorm window in front

1.28 loadobj

LOADOBJ

Arguments: NAME/A filename
 POSX, POSY, POSZ position
 ALIGNX, ALIGNY, ALIGNZ alignment (in degrees)
 SCALEX, SCALEY, SCALEZ scaling
Description: Loads an Imagine TDDD-file object with attributes, brushes
 and textures

1.29 plane

PLANE

Arguments: SURF/A surface name
 POSX, POSY, POSZ position
 NORMX, NORMY, NORMZ normal
Description: Creates a plane
Default: PLANE ??? 0 0 0 0 1 0

1.30 sphere

SPHERE

Arguments: SURF/A surface name
 POSX/A, POSY/A, POSZ/A position
 RADIUS/A radius
Description: Creates a sphere

1.31 triangle

TRIANGLE

Arguments: SURF/A surface name
 P1X/A, P1Y/A, P1Z/A first point
 P2X/A, P2Y/A, P2Z/A second point
 P3X/A, P3Y/A, P3Z/A third point
 N1X, N1Y, N1Z first normal
 N2X, N2Y, N2Z second normal
 N3X, N3Y, N3Z third normal
 Description: Creates a triangle

1.32 newsurface

NEWSURFACE

Arguments: NAME/A
 Description: Creates a new surface with name 'NAME'

1.33 ambient

AMBIENT

Arguments: COLR/N/A, COLG/N/A, COLB/N/A color
 Description: Sets the ambient color of surface
 Default: AMBIENT 255 255 255

1.34 brush

BRUSH

Arguments: NAME/A name of brush file (IFF-ILBM)
 TYPE/A Brush type: valid strings
 COLOR, REFLECT, FILTER, ALTITUDE
 WRAP/A Brush wrapping method: valid strings
 FLAT, WRAPX, WRAPY, WRAPXY
 PX/A, PY/A, PZ/A position
 AX/A, AY/A, AZ/A alignment
 LX/A, LY/A, LZ/A length of each axis
 Description: Adds a brush to surface (only 24Bit-IFF-ILBM images are supported)

1.35 diffrans

DIFFTRANS

Arguments: COLR/N/A, COLG/N/A, COLB/N/A color
Description: Sets the diffuse transmission color of surface
Default: DIFFTRANS 0 0 0

1.36 diffuse

DIFFUSE

Arguments: COLR/N/A, COLG/N/A, COLB/N/A color
Description: Sets the diffuse color of surface
Default: DIFFUSE 255 255 255

1.37 imtexture

IMTEXTURE

Arguments: NAME/A name of Imagine texture file
PX, PY, PZ position
AX, AY, AZ alignment
LX, LY, LZ length of each axis
P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13,
P14, P15, P16 texture parameters
Description: Adds a Imagine texture to surface
Default: defaults are take from texture if not all paramters are given

1.38 refexp

REFEXP

Arguments: VALUE/A specular reflection exponent
Description: Sets the specular reflection exponent of surface
Default: REFEXP 12.

1.39 reflect

REFLECT

Arguments: COLR/N/A, COLG/N/A, COLB/N/A color
Description: Sets the specular reflectivity of surface
Default: REFLECT 0 0 0

1.40 refrindex

REFRINDEX

Arguments: VALUE/A index of refraction
 Description: Sets the index of refraction of surface
 Default: REFRINDEX 1.
 Examples: MATERIAL Index

 Vacuum 1.00000 (exactly)

 Air (STP)..... 1.00029
 Acetone 1.36
 Alcohol 1.329
 Amorphous Selenium 2.92
 Calspar1 1.66
 Calspar2 1.486
 Carbon Disulfide 1.63
 Chromium Oxide 2.705
 Copper Oxide 2.705
 Crown Glass 1.52
 Crystal 2.00
 Diamond 2.417
 Emerald 1.57
 Ethyl Alcohol 1.36
 Flourite 1.434
 Fused Quartz 1.46
 Heaviest Flint Glass 1.89
 Heavy Flint Glass 1.65
 Glass 1.5
 Ice 1.309
 Iodine Crystal 3.34
 Lapis Lazuli 1.61
 Light Flint Glass 1.575
 Liquid Carbon Dioxide 1.20
 Polystyrene 1.55
 Quartz 1 1.644
 Quartz 2 1.553
 Ruby 1.77
 Sapphire 1.77
 Sodium Chloride (Salt) 1 1.544
 Sodium Chloride (Salt) 2 1.644
 Sugar Solution (30%) 1.38
 Sugar Solution (80%) 1.49
 Topaz 1.61
 Water (20 C) 1.333
 Zinc Crown Glass 1.517

1.41 spectrans

SPECTRANS

Arguments: COLR/N/A, COLG/N/A, COLB/N/A color
 Description: Sets the specular transmission color of surface

Default: SETSPECTRANS 255 255 255

1.42 specular

SPECULAR

Arguments: COLR/N/A, COLG/N/A, COLB/N/A color
Description: Sets the specular color of surface
Default: SPECULAR 255 255 255

1.43 transattu

TRANSATTU

Arguments: VALUE/A specular transmission attenuation
Description: Sets the specular transmission attenuation of surface
Default: TRANSATTU 1.

1.44 transexp

TRANSEXP

Arguments: VALUE/A specular transmission exponent
Description: Sets the specular transmission exponent of surface
object
Default: TRANSEXP 12.

1.45 transluc

TRANSLUC

Arguments: VALUE/A diffuse transmittance
Description: Sets the specular transmittance of surface
Default: TRANSLUC 0

1.46 transpar

TRANSPAR

Arguments: COLR/N/A, COLG/N/A, COLB/N/A color
Description: Sets the diffuse transmittance of surface
Default: TRANSPAR 0 0 0

1.47 alignment

ALIGNMENT

!!! CAUTION !!!
THIS COMMAND ISN'T RELEASED IN THIS VERSION YET
!!! CAUTION !!!

Arguments: BEGIN/N,END/N begin and end of position
 ALIGNX/A, ALIGNY/A, ALIGNZ/A alignment
Description: Sets the alignment of the object

1.48 maxframes

MAXFRAMES

!!! CAUTION !!!
THIS COMMAND ISN'T RELEASED IN THIS VERSION YET
!!! CAUTION !!!

Arguments: FRAMES/N amount of frames
Description: Sets the amount of objects

1.49 newactor

NEWACTOR

!!! CAUTION !!!
THIS COMMAND ISN'T RELEASED IN THIS VERSION YET
!!! CAUTION !!!

Arguments: NAME name of new actor
Description: creates a new actor

1.50 position

POSITION

!!! CAUTION !!!
THIS COMMAND ISN'T RELEASED IN THIS VERSION YET
!!! CAUTION !!!

Arguments: BEGIN/N,END/N begin and end of position
 POSX/A, POSY/A, POSZ/A position
Description: Sets the position of the object

1.51 size

SIZE

!!! CAUTION !!!
THIS COMMAND ISN'T RELEASED IN THIS VERSION YET
!!! CAUTION !!!

Arguments: BEGIN/N,END/N begin and end of position
 SIZE/A,SIZEY/A,SIZEZ/A position
Description: Sets the size of the object

1.52 General ARexx-commands

GENERAL AREXX-COMMANDS

ANTIALIAS sets antialiasing parameters
BRUSHPATH sets brush path
CLEANUP cleans up scene
DISPLAY displays scene
OBJECTPATH sets object path
POINTLIGHT creates point lightsource
QUIT quits RayStorm
SAVEPIC saves scene as IFF-ILBM-file
SETCAMERA sets camera parameters
SETSCREEN sets screen parameters
SETWORLD sets world parameters
SPOTLIGHT creates spot lightsource
STARTRENDER starts rendering
TEXTUREPATH sets texture path
WINTOFRONT brings window to front

1.53 ARexx-commands for creating objects

AREXX-COMMANDS FOR CREATING OBJECTS

LOADOBJ loads an Imagine TDDD-file
PLANE creates a plane (ground in Imagine)
SPHERE creates a sphere
TRIANGLE creates a triangle

1.54 ARexx-commands for setting attributes

AREXX-COMMANDS FOR SETTING ATTRIBUTES

NEWSURFACE creates a new surface
AMBIENT sets ambient color
BRUSH adds a brush
DIFFTRANS sets diffuse transmission color

DIFFUSE	sets diffuse color
IMTEXTURE	adds a Imagine texture
REFEXP	sets the specular reflection exponent
REFLECT	sets the specular reflectivity
REFRINDEX	sets the index of refraction
SPECTRANS	sets the specular transmission
SPECULAR	sets the specular color
TRANSATTU	sets the specular transmission attenuation
TRANSEXP	sets the specular transmission exponent
TRANSLUC	sets the specular transmittance
TRANSPAR	sets the diffuce transmittance

1.55 ARexx-commands for animation control

AREXX-COMMANDS FOR ANIMATION CONTROL

ALIGNMENT	sets alignment
MAXFRAMES	sets amount of frames
NEWACTOR	creates a new actor
POSITION	sets position
SIZE	sets size

1.56 ARexx-errors

AREXX-ERRORS

10	Error in argumentstring
11	Unknown command
12	Error using Imagine texture
13	Not enough memory for this command
14	File not found
15	Error reading IFF-ILBM file
16	Error reading IFF-TDDD file
17	Surface not defined

1.57 Examples

EXAMPLES

There are several examples in the directories 'rexx' and 'examples'.

In the 'arexx' directory are examples scripts which show the usage of RayStorm with ARexx. Start them simply by typing 'rx ??? .ray' in a shell (??? .ray is the name of the script).

Attrrtest.ray

Several examples for attributes.

Attrrtest1.ray

Several examples for attributes.

Brush.ray

Demonstrates usage of brush mapping.

Bump.ray

Test of bump texture.

Chess.ray

Chess scene.

Dof.ray

Test of depth of field.

Eight.ray

Billard scene.

Im_texture.ray

Example for usage of Imagine textures.

Marble.ray

Test of marble texture.

Randomsphere.ray

Randomly colored sphere.

Supersample.ray

Demonstrates adaptptive supersampling.

Title.ray

Renders the RayStorm title.

Title1.ray

Renders the RayStorm title.

Wood.ray

Test of wood texture.

In the 'examples' directory are C-programms which show the usage of RayStorm directly with a program. They can only be run from a shell. These programs are producing a couple of pictures no animation, which must be glued together with a utility like MainActor.

Sphanim

Animation of several spheres which jump over a checker board. Camera follows them.

Worldanim

Rotating world.

1.58 Textures

TEXTURES

Textures are mathematical generated patterns which can be applied to the surface of a object.

There are several textures in the directory 'textures'.

Bump
Checker
Linear
Marble
Wood

1.59 Bump

BUMP

This texture applies a bumps to the surface.
Size of texture determines size of bumps.

Parameters:

X bump size - Y bump size - Z bump size
Sets the 'depth' of the bumps.

1.60 Checker

CHECKER

This texture applies a normal checks pattern to the surface.

Parameters:

Color Red - Color Green - Color Blue
Color of the checks, other color is taken from object.

Reflect Red - Reflect Green - Reflect Blue
Reflect color of the checks.

Filter Red - Filter Green - Filter Blue

Filter color of the checks.

1.61 Linear

LINEAR

This texture varies the color of the object in the y-direction of the texture.

Parameters:

Color Red - Color Green - Color Blue
Color to inerpolate to.

Reflect Red - Reflect Green - Reflect Blue
Reflect to inerpolate to.

Filter Red - Filter Green - Filter Blue
Filter to inerpolate to.

1.62 Wood

WOOD

This texture applies a wood like texture to the surface.
Size of texture determines size of wood.

Parameters:

Color Red - Color Green - Color Blue
Color. Other color is taken from object.

Reflect Red - Reflect Green - Reflect Blue
Reflect color.

Filter Red - Filter Green - Filter Blue
Filter color.

Octave

Than higher the octave than noisier are the wood rings.

Frequency

Than higher the frequency than smaller the wood rings.

1.63 Marble

Marble

This texture applies a marble like texture to the surface.
Size of texture determines size of bumps.

Parameters:

Color Red - Color Green - Color Blue
Color. Other color is taken from object.

Reflect Red - Reflect Green - Reflect Blue
Reflect color.

Filter Red - Filter Green - Filter Blue
Filter color.

Octave
Than higher the octave than noisier is the texture.

1.64 Legal Stuff

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MUI

1.65 MUI

This application uses

MUI - MagicUserInterface

(c) Copyright 1993/94 by Stefan Stuntz

MUI is a system to generate and maintain graphical user interfaces. With the aid of a preferences program, the user of an application has the ability to customize the outfit according to his personal taste.

MUI is distributed as shareware. To obtain a complete package containing lots of examples and more information about registration please look for a file called "muiXXusr.lha" (XX means the latest version number) on your local bulletin boards or on public domain disks.

If you want to register directly, feel free to send

DM 30.- or US\$ 20.-

to

Stefan Stuntz
Eduard-Spranger-Straße 7
80935 München
GERMANY

1.66 Credits

CREDITS

I want to thank the following person:

- Stephan Dorenkamp - for testing

1.67 Register

REGISTER

If you like RayStorm send me 20 DM or 15 US \$ and a empty disk and you get the full version of RayStorm.

1.68 Author

AUTHORS

For bug reports, comments, suggestions ... you can contact us at the following addresses.

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1.69 History of Changes

HISTORY

version 1.0 (09-July-95)
- first release.

1.70 PC-version

PC-VERSION

There is also a PC-version of RayStorm under development, but unfortunately it's not finished yet.

1.71 Future

FUTURE ADDITIONS

- more objects (torus, cylinder, ...)
 - real motion blur
 - JPEG-saver (use datatypes to load and save pics)
 - use Imagine staging files (animation possibility)
 - fog
-

- bright flag for objects
 - backdrop picture
 - global reflection map
 - TeX documentation
 - animation language
 - shadow caching
-