

Cutting-edge VR/AR Display Technologies

(Gaze-, Accommodation-, Motion-aware
and HDR-enabled)

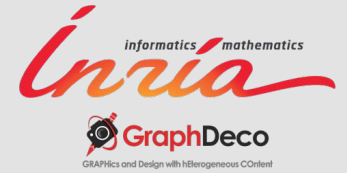
George-Alex
Koulieris

Kaan Akşit

Christian
Richardt

Rafał
Mantiuk

Katerina
Mania



Tutorial at a glance

- Understand current VR/AR display challenges
- Learn how challenges relate to visual perception
- What can we do about them?
- Discover the state-of-the-art in relevant research

Speakers

- Kaan Akşit, NVIDIA, USA
- Katerina Mania, Technical University of Crete, Greece
- Rafał Mantiuk, University of Cambridge, UK
- Christian Richardt, University of Bath, UK
- George-Alex Koulieris, Inria, France

Schedule

- 9:00 – 9:30: Introduction
- 9:30 – 10:15: Multi-focal displays
- 10:30 - 11:00: Coffee break
- 11:00 – 11:50: Near-eye varifocal AR
- 12:00 - 14:00: Lunch
- 14:00 – 14:40: HDR-enabled displays
- 14:45 – 15:25: Gaze-aware displays
- 15:30 – 16:00: Coffee break
- 16:00 – 16:50: Motion-aware displays
- 17:00 – 17:20: Panel



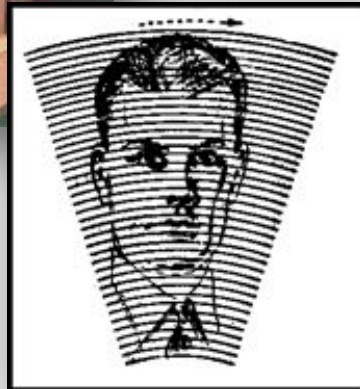
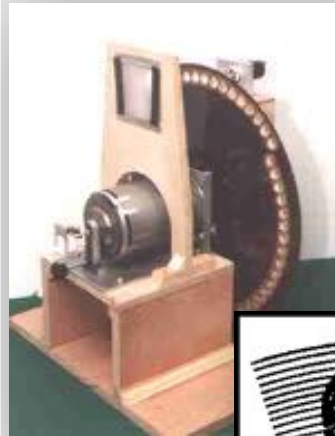
Let's get started

A Turing test for displays



Displays

- Displays are virtual windows to remote scenes
- We have gone far from the Nipkow disk ...



Virtual, augmented, mixed reality displays

- Collectively, near-eye displays
- Immersion into virtual/augmented world
- Response to head motion
- Allows object manipulation/interaction



VR/AR/MR applications

- Education
- Communication
- Healthcare
- Entertainment
- Manufacturing
- Aviation
- Business
- Design
- Gaming
- Marketing
- Shopping
- Sports
- Travel
- Therapy

Near-eye displays market explosion

- Top companies involved
- Market flooded with devices
- *"A billion people in virtual reality"*
Mark Zuckerberg, 2017
- Research surge:
SIGGRAPH, IEEE VR, ISMAR, ...



Microsoft

SONY

SAMSUNG



Before this
becomes
commonplace...



Current display challenges

- Ergonomic / Comfort
- Visual Quality issues
- Perceptual
- Technical
- Interaction

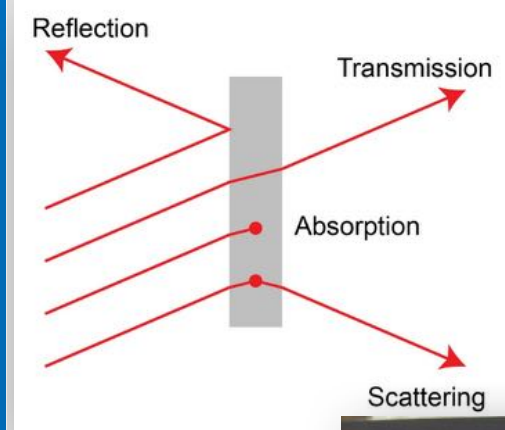
Exploiting knowledge from visual perception

- Display hardware and algorithms limited
- Produce different to natural light patterns
- Luckily, human visual system (HVS) limited
- Requirements restricted by HVS capabilities
- Visual perception as the optimizing function
- Achieve *perceptual effectiveness*
- Avoiding under-/over-engineering displays

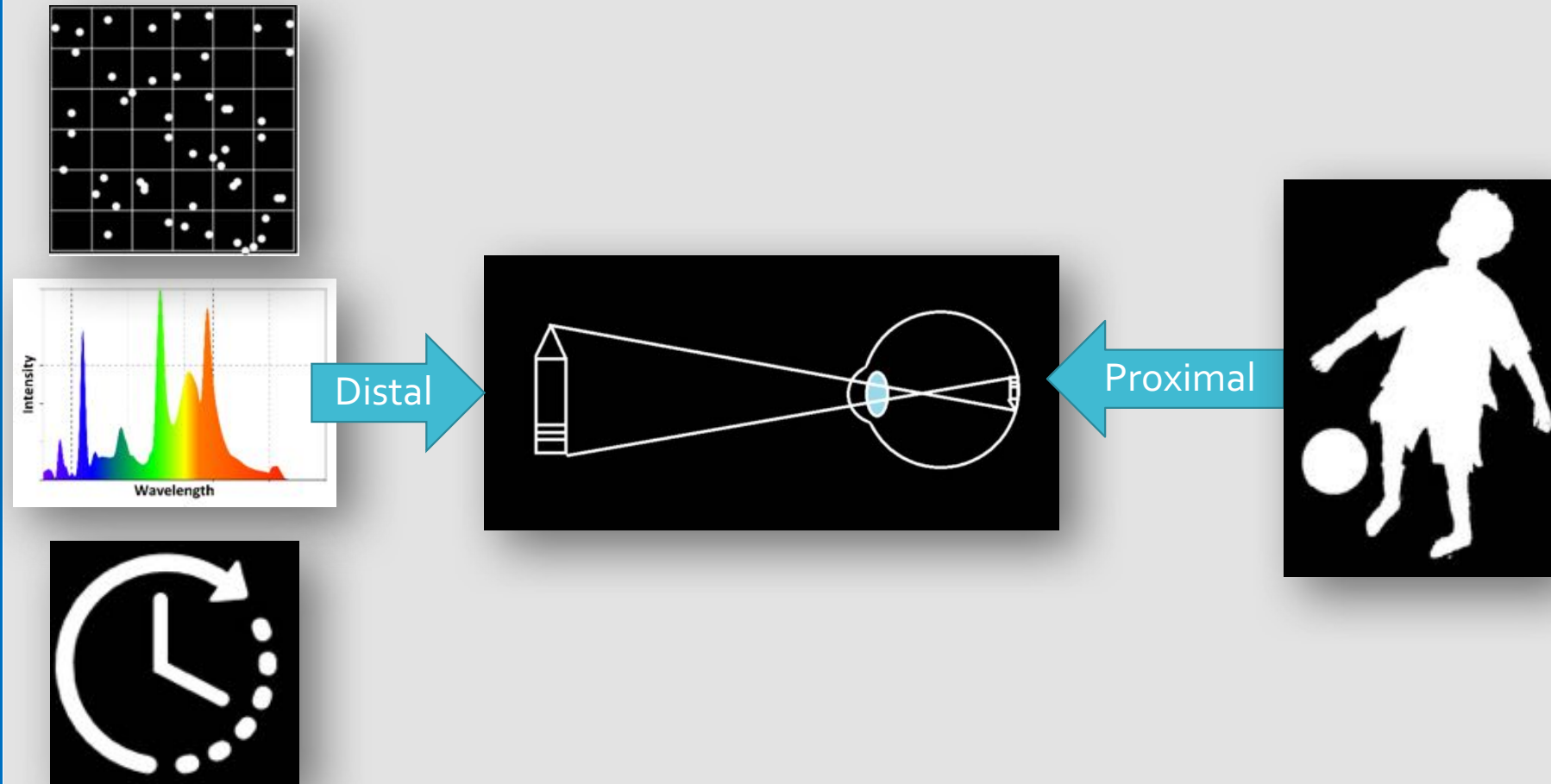


But how do we take knowledge from
visual perception into account?

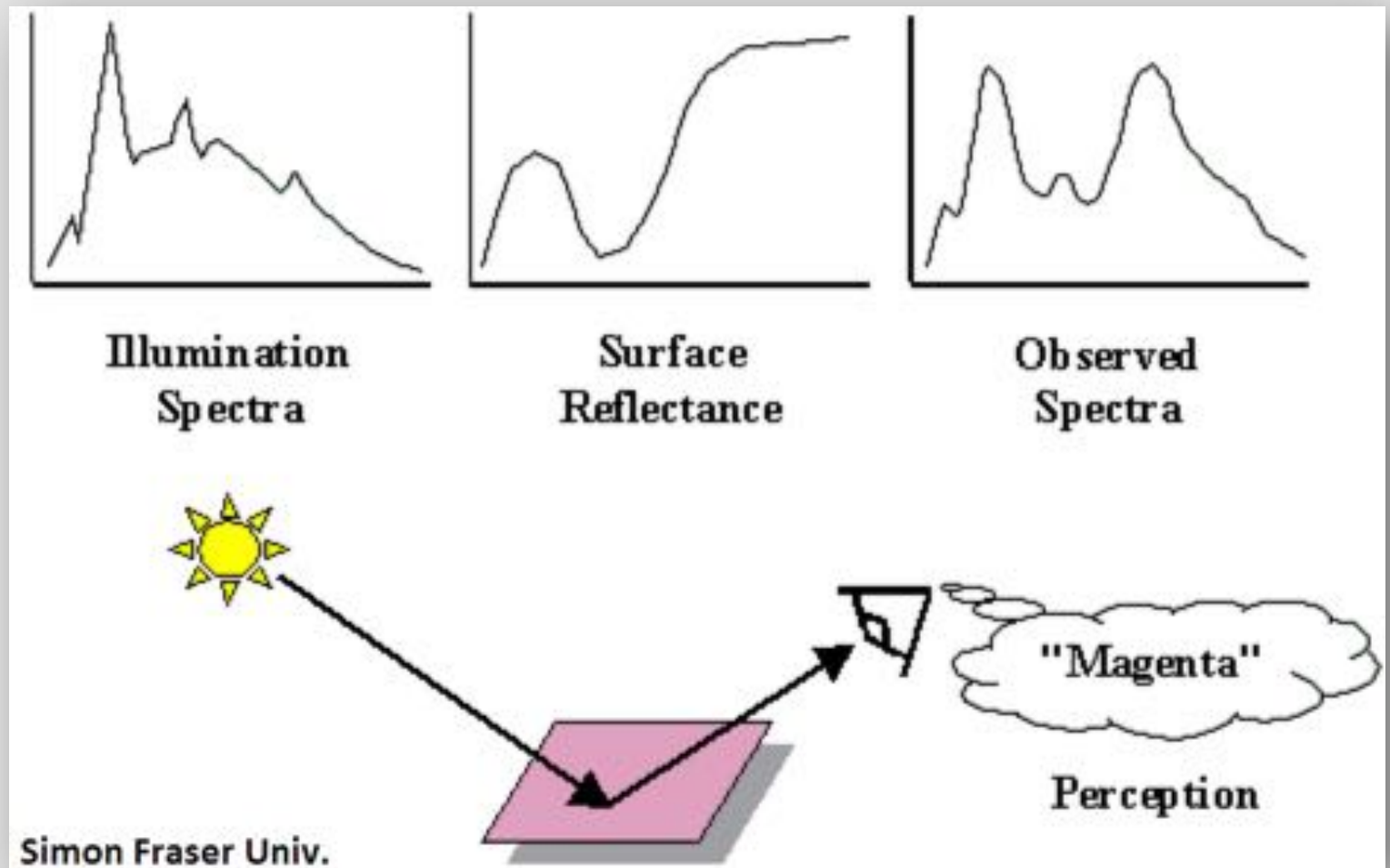
Human vision



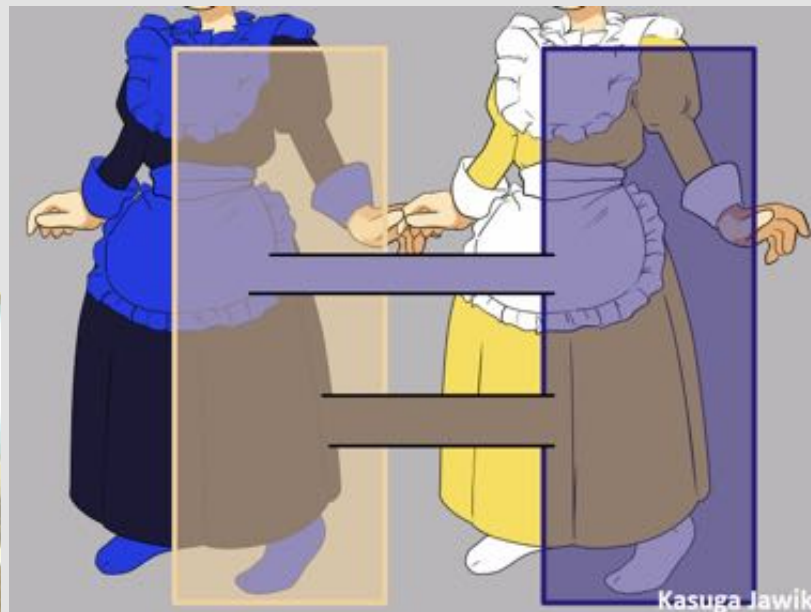
What visual perception does



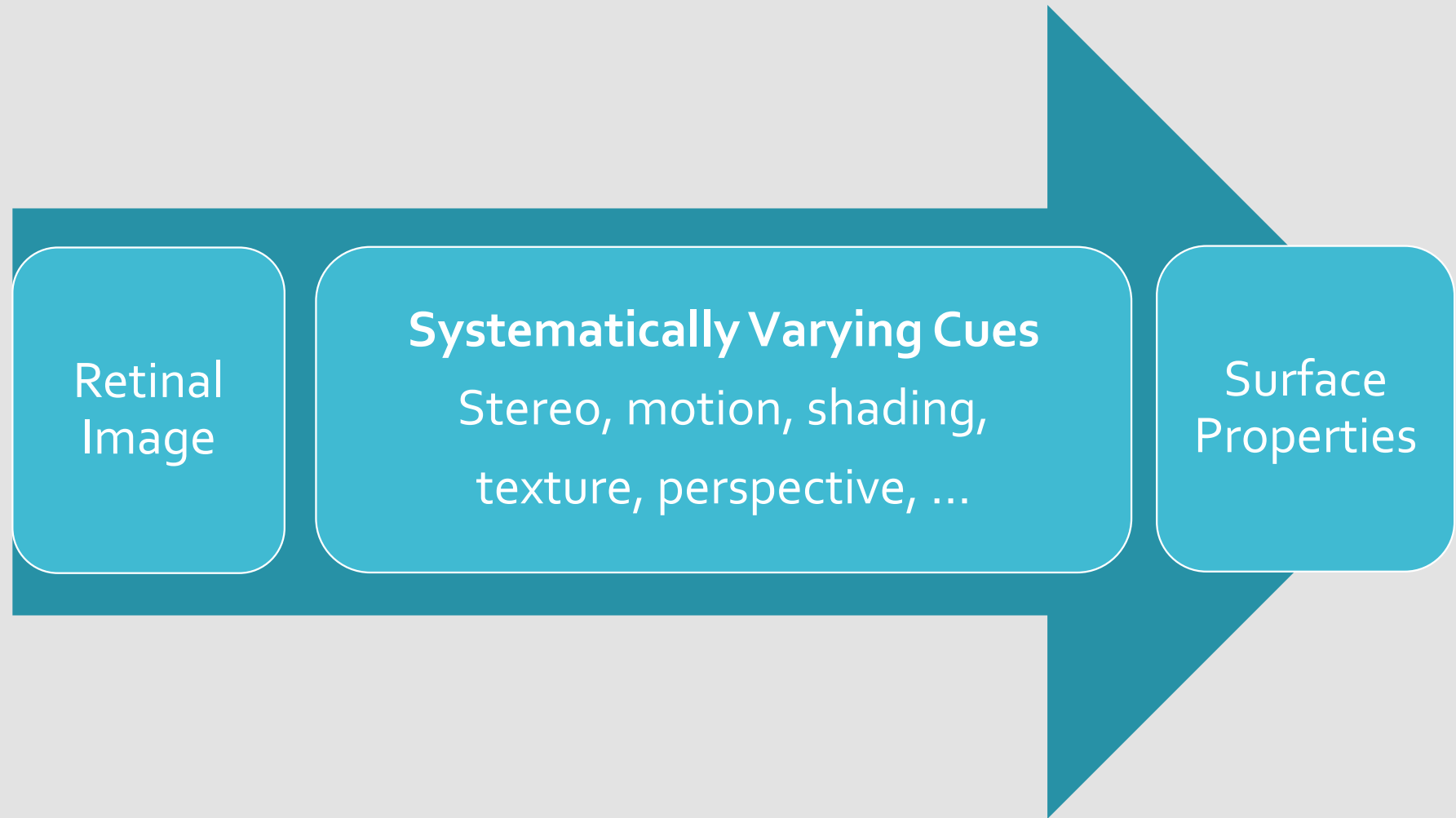
Proximal →
Distal: A
difficult, inverse
problem



#thedress

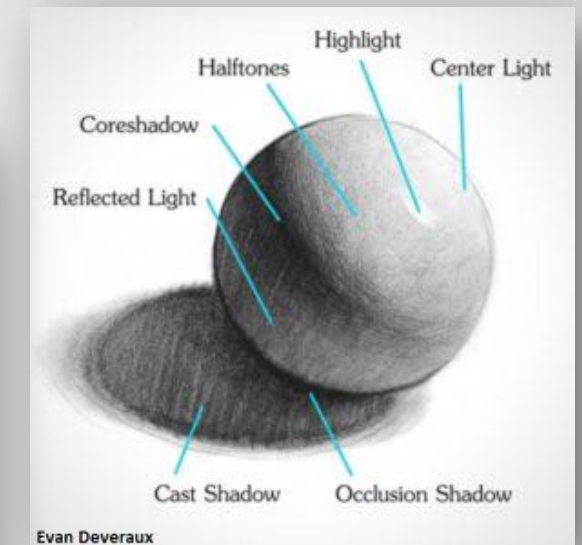
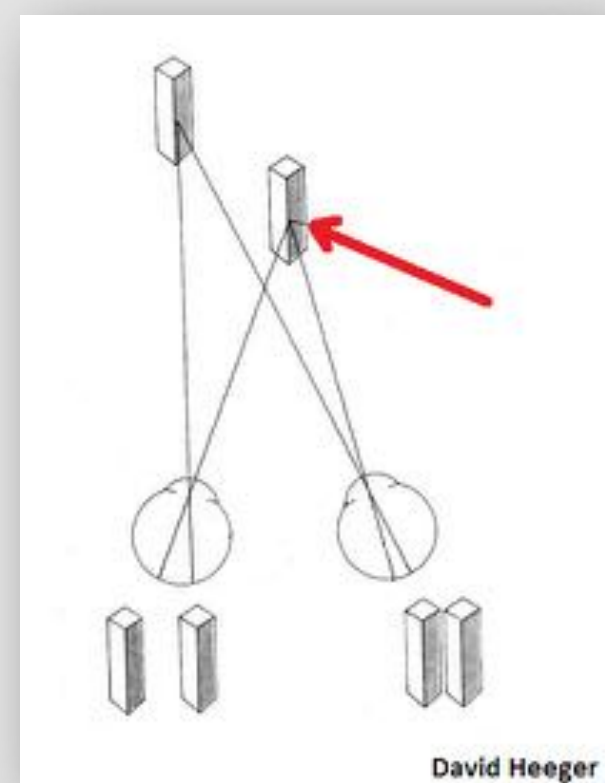


Visual perception and visual cues



Examples of visual cues

- Ocular-motor cues
 - eye position, focus
- Binocular disparity cues
- Motion cues
 - world, viewer
- Pictorial cues (monocular)
 - familiar size
 - relative size
 - shading
 - texture gradients
 - occlusion
 - ...



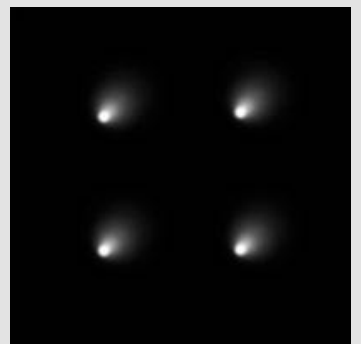
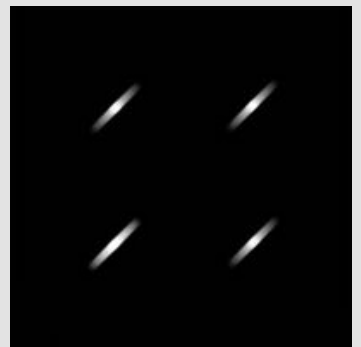
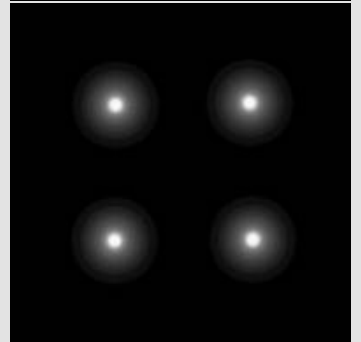
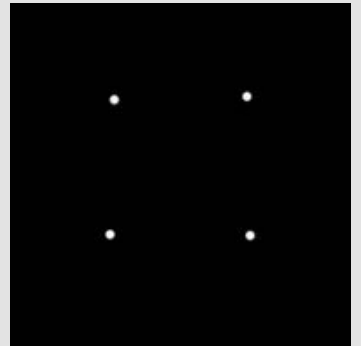
Cue integration



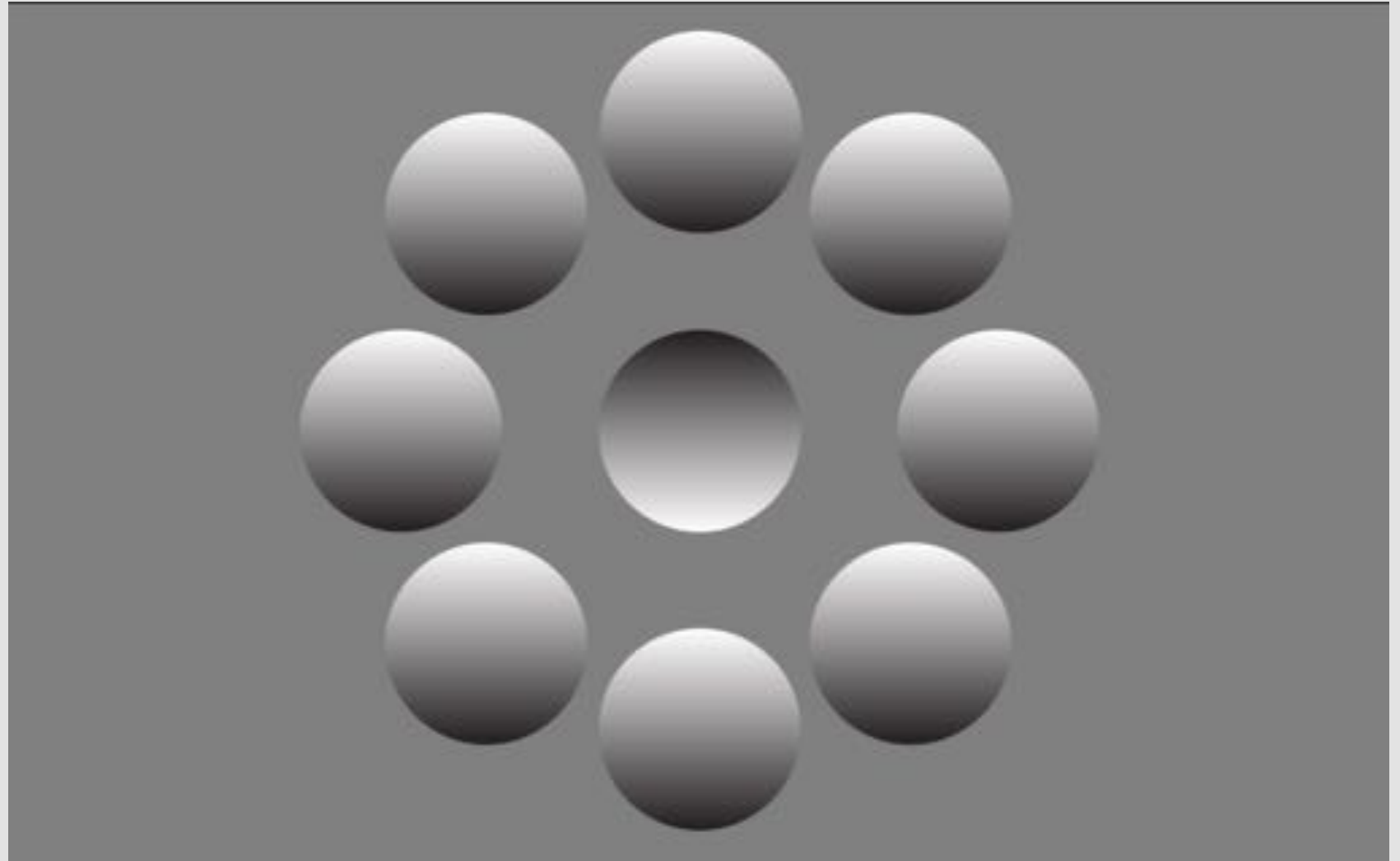
- Cues expected to **co-vary** for same environmental properties
- Expected consistent information overlap

Cue conflicts

- Cues often conflicting due to
 - VS errors
 - incomplete information (e.g., displays)
 - incorrect assumptions about the natural environment



Fun fact:
conflicting cues





How do we study visual perception?

Psychophysical methods of study (1)

1. Show visual stimuli
2. Ask simple questions
3. Vary stimuli
4. GOTO 1

Psychophysical methods of study (2)

- N-A Forced choice tasks
- Method of adjustment
- Ascending/descending limits
- Staircase
- Constant stimuli

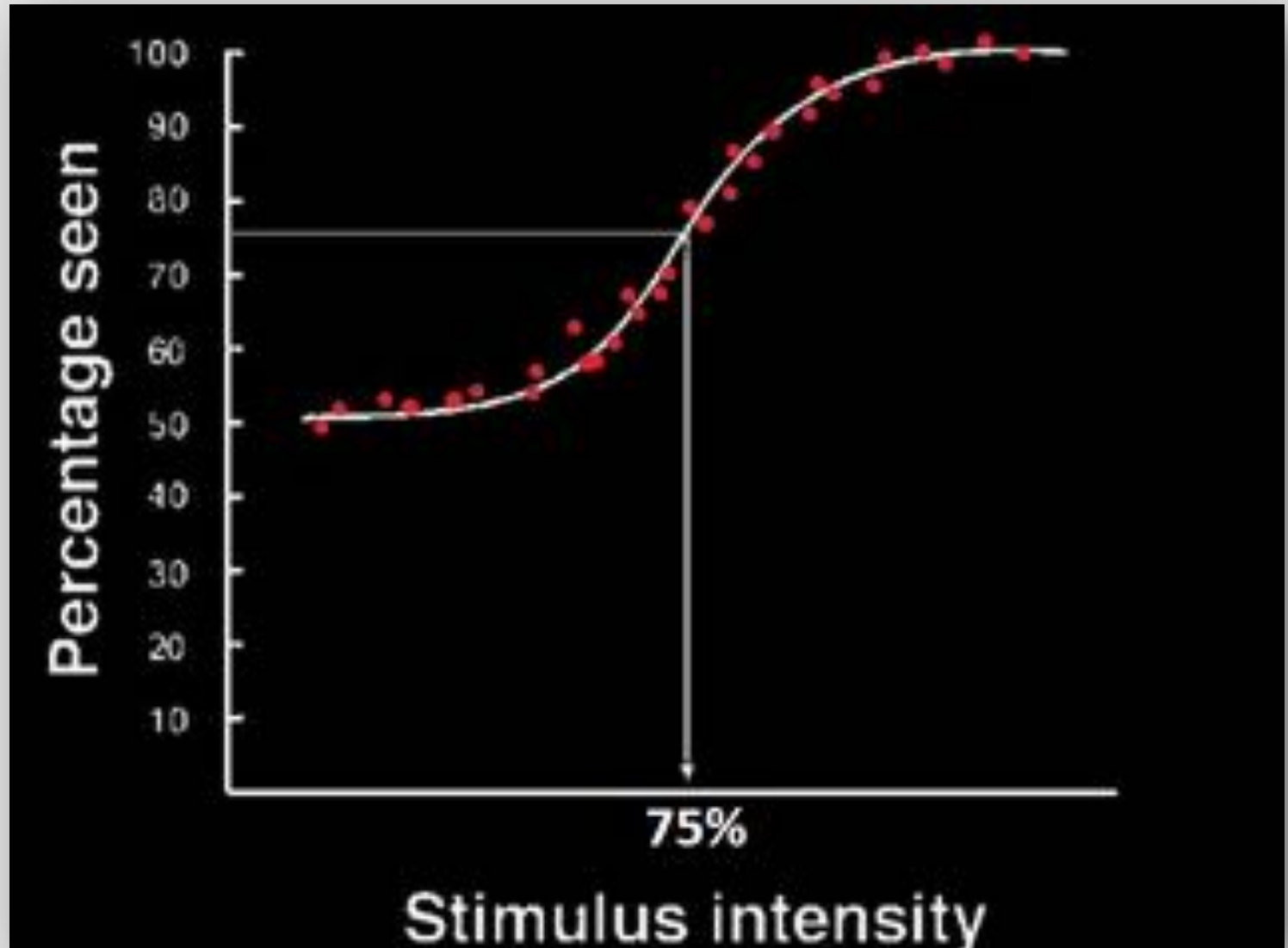


Example: luminance threshold detection



- zooms patch
- PRESENT / ABSENT ?

Psychometric functions



75% is half-way between chance
and perfect performance!



Course take-aways

Course take-aways (1)

Q: Why multifocal displays?

Q: Why varifocal AR?

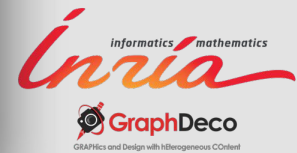
A: Eyes evolved to focus on objects.



Kaan
Akşit



George
Alex
Koulieris



Q: Why HDR-enabled displays?

A: Relates to the sensitivity of the eyes.

Course take-aways (2)



Rafał Mantiuk



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Q: Why gaze-aware displays?

A: Relates to the spatial acuity of the eyes.

Course take-aways (3)



Katerina Mania



Technical
University
of Crete

Q: Why motion-aware displays?

A: Eyes attached on moving bodies.

Course take-aways (4)



Christian
Richardt





Summary

- Near-eye displays are beneficial to society
- Addressing challenges yields tremendous gains
- Near-eye displays a hot area for years to come
- Improving quality of experience in near-eye displays is an inter-disciplinary effort

- Questions so far?

Multi-focal Displays

George Alex Koulieris



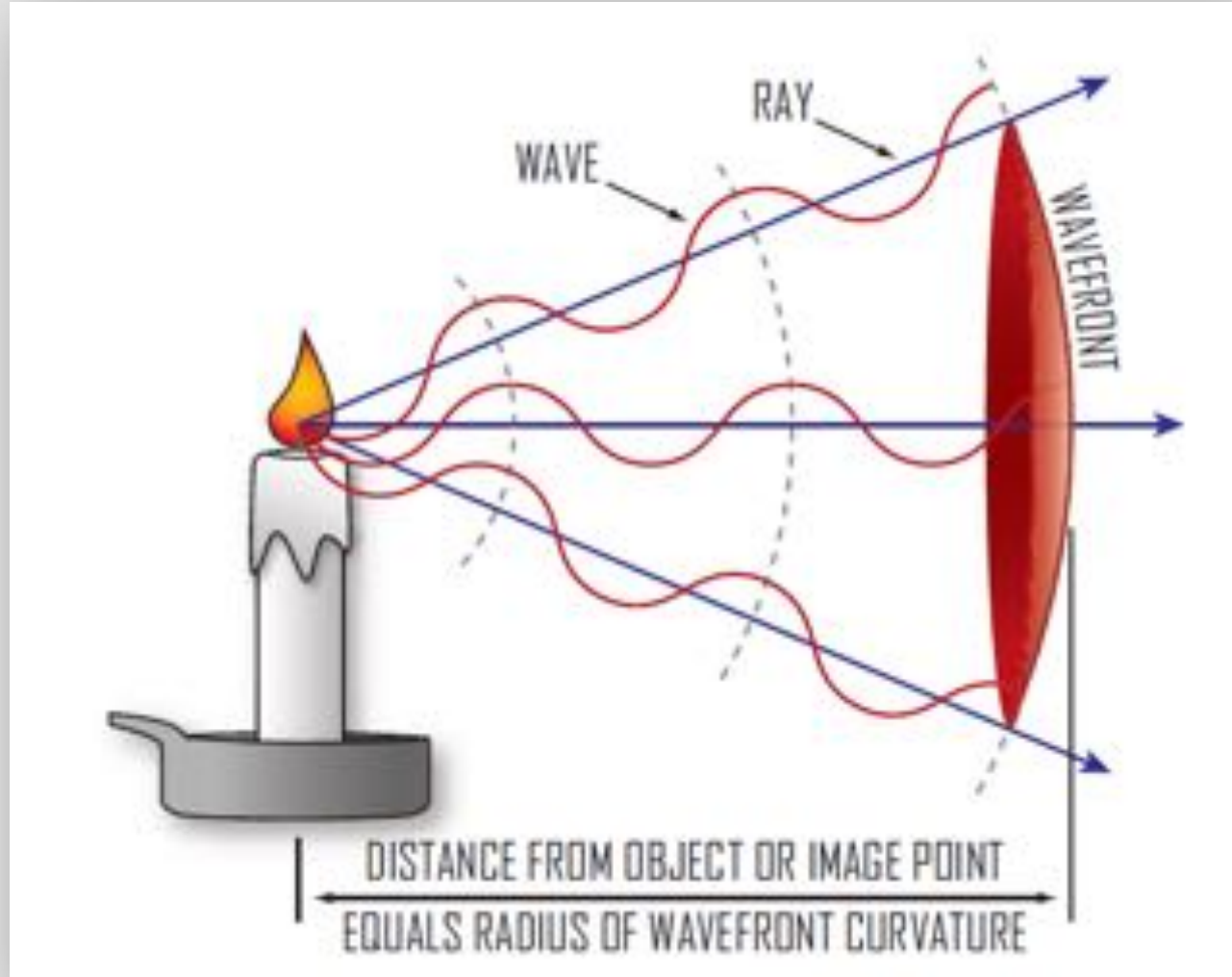
At a glance

- Part 1: basic optics, accommodation, VA conflict, discomfort, performance
- Part 2: multi-focal display technologies
- Part 3 (case study): delving deeper into the relationship of accommodation and comfort



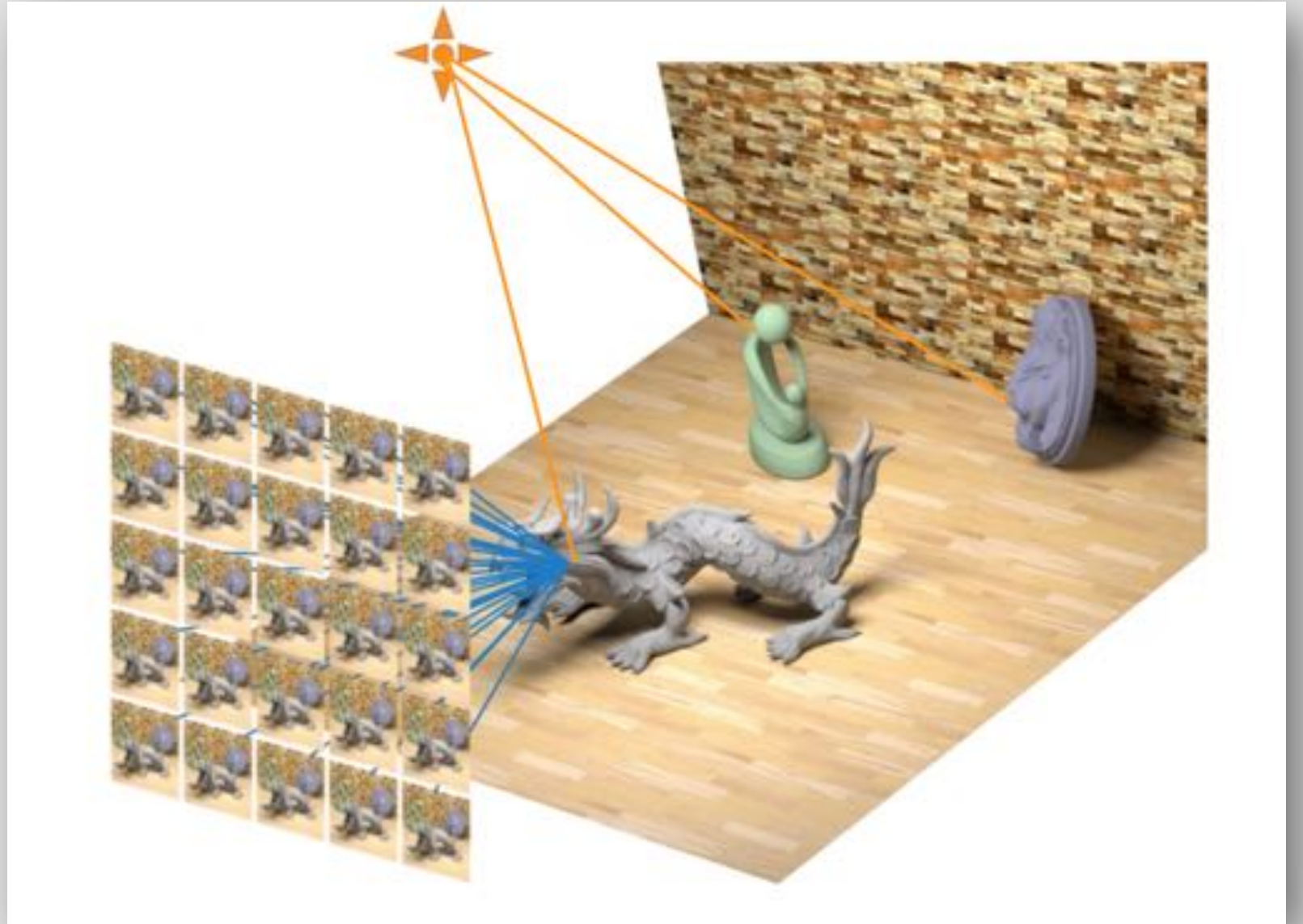
Part 1: The basics

Light wave-front

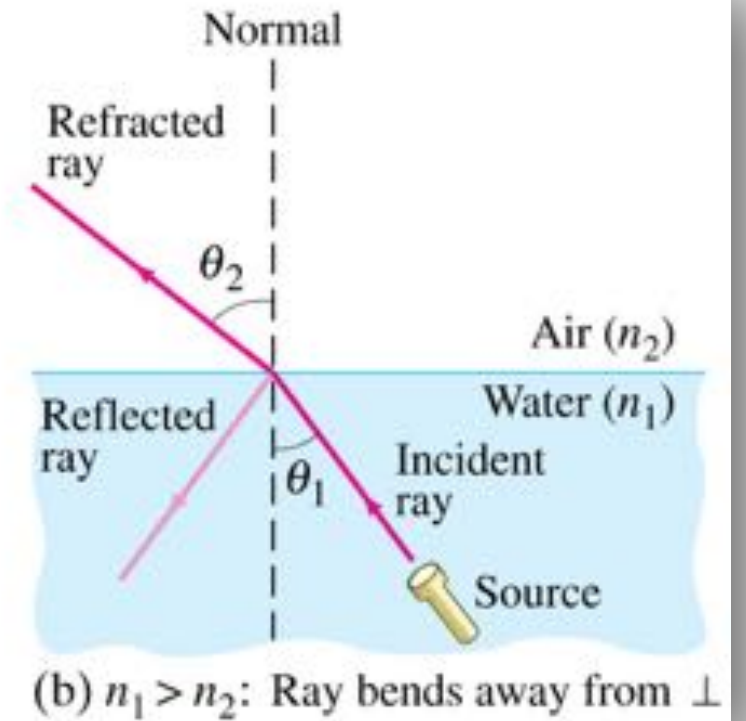
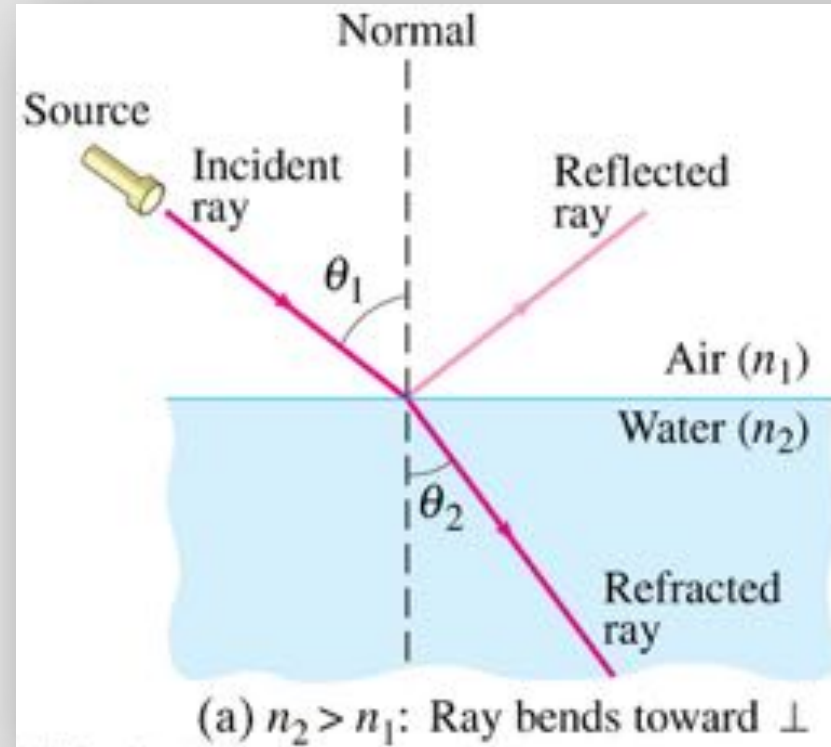


Charle Laas

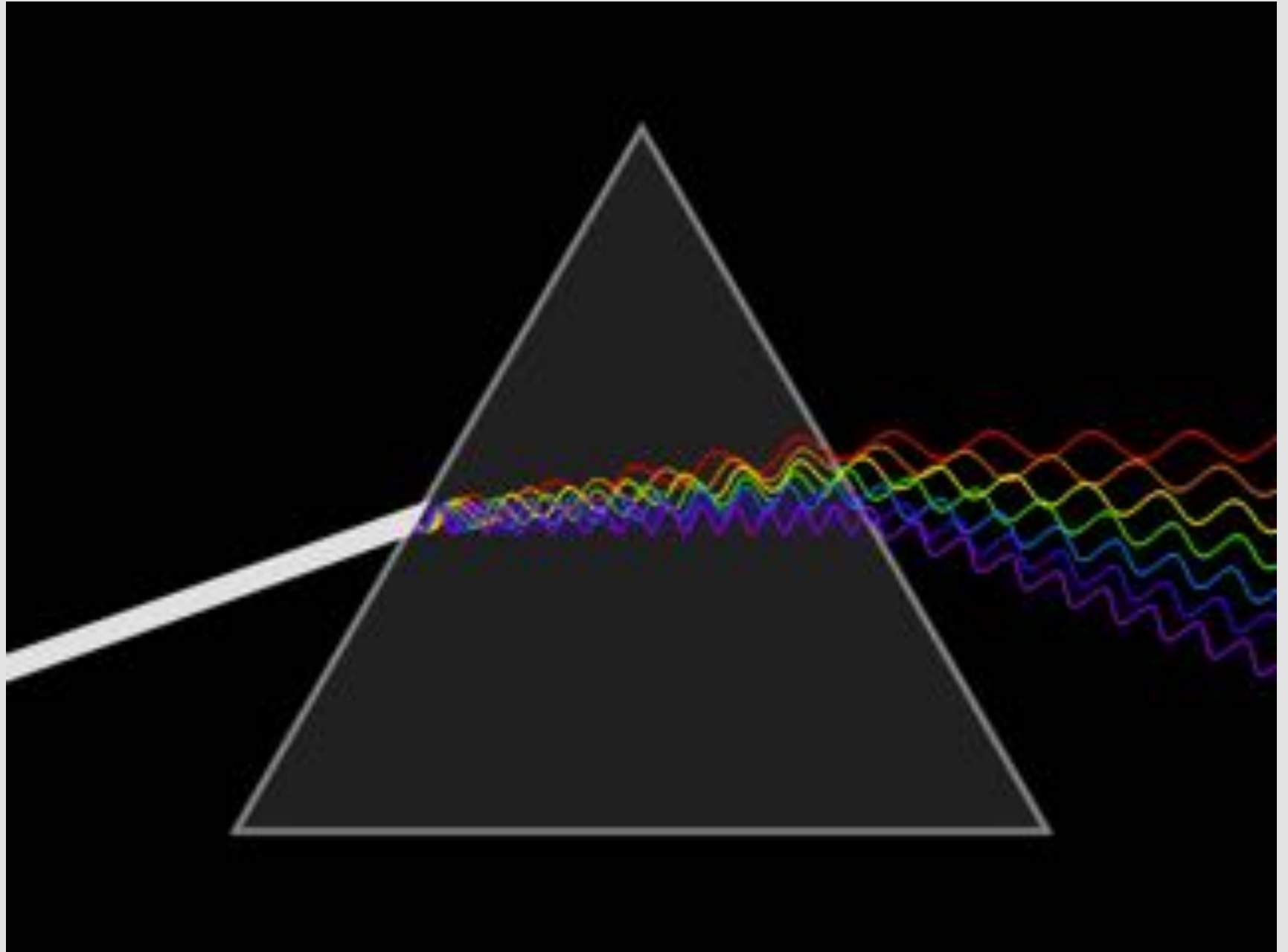
Natural light fields



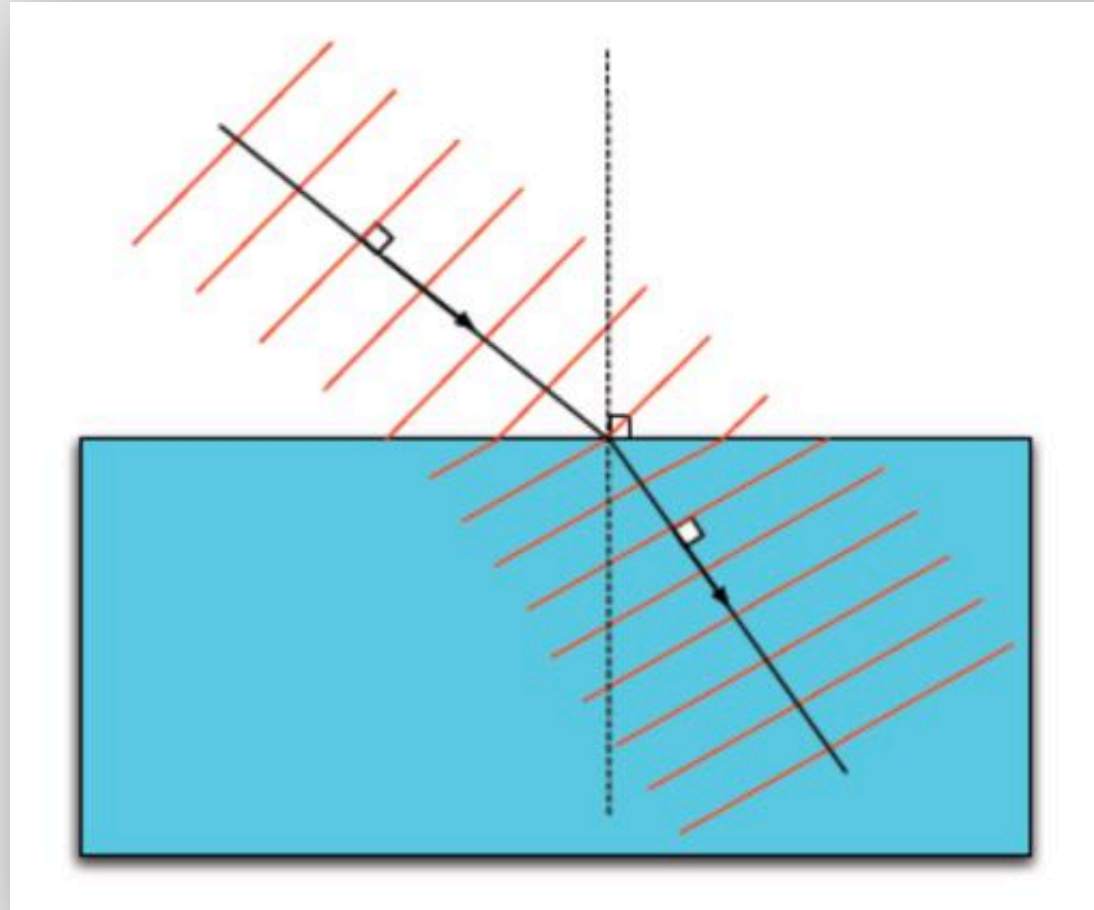
Refraction: Snell's law



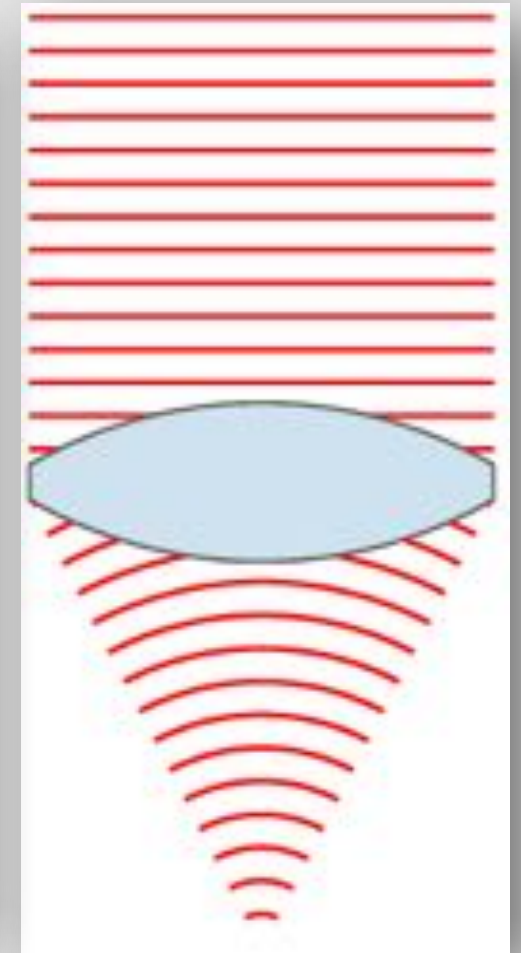
Wavelength dependent bending



Light wave-front interacting with a lens

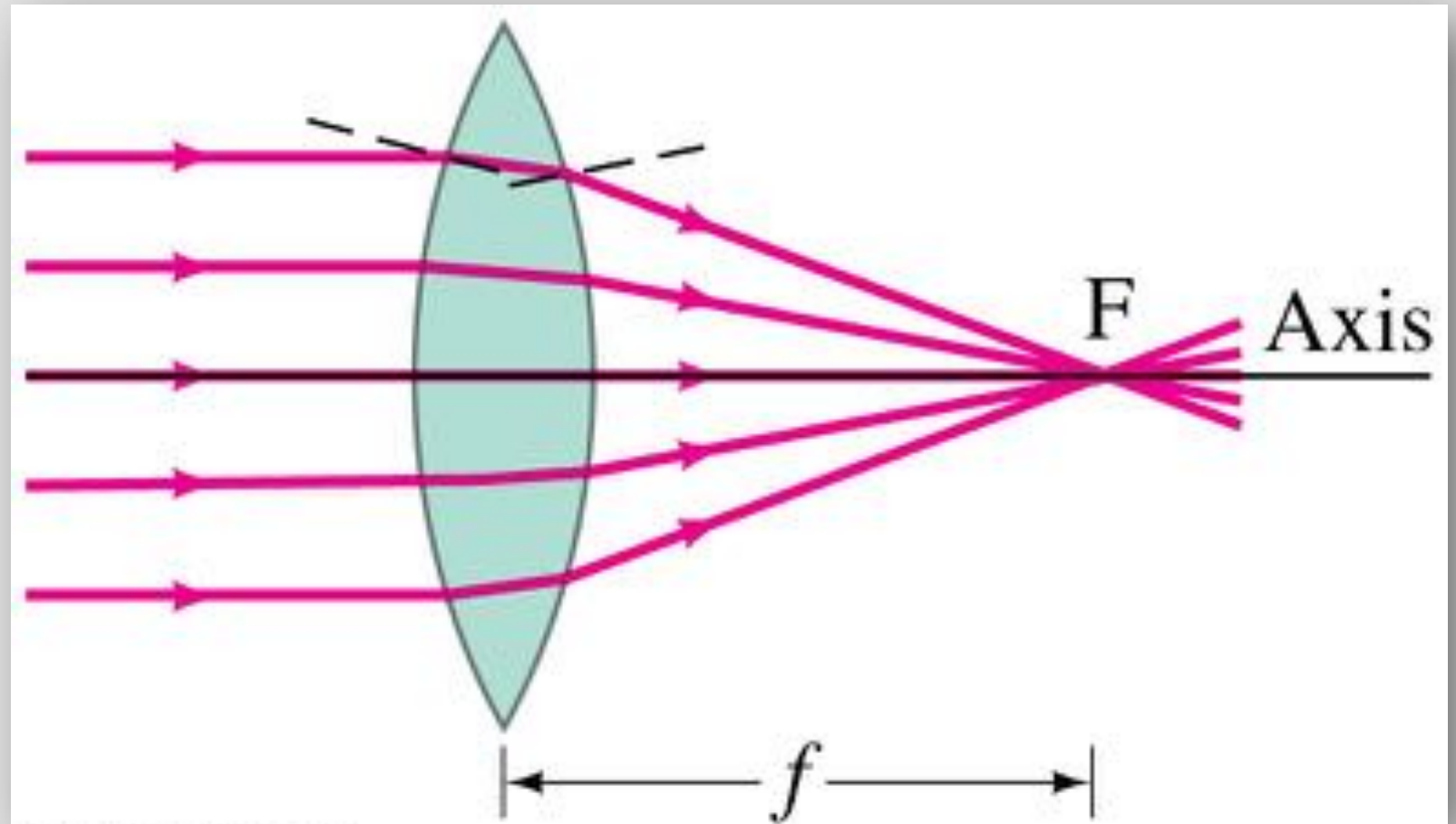


Libretexts

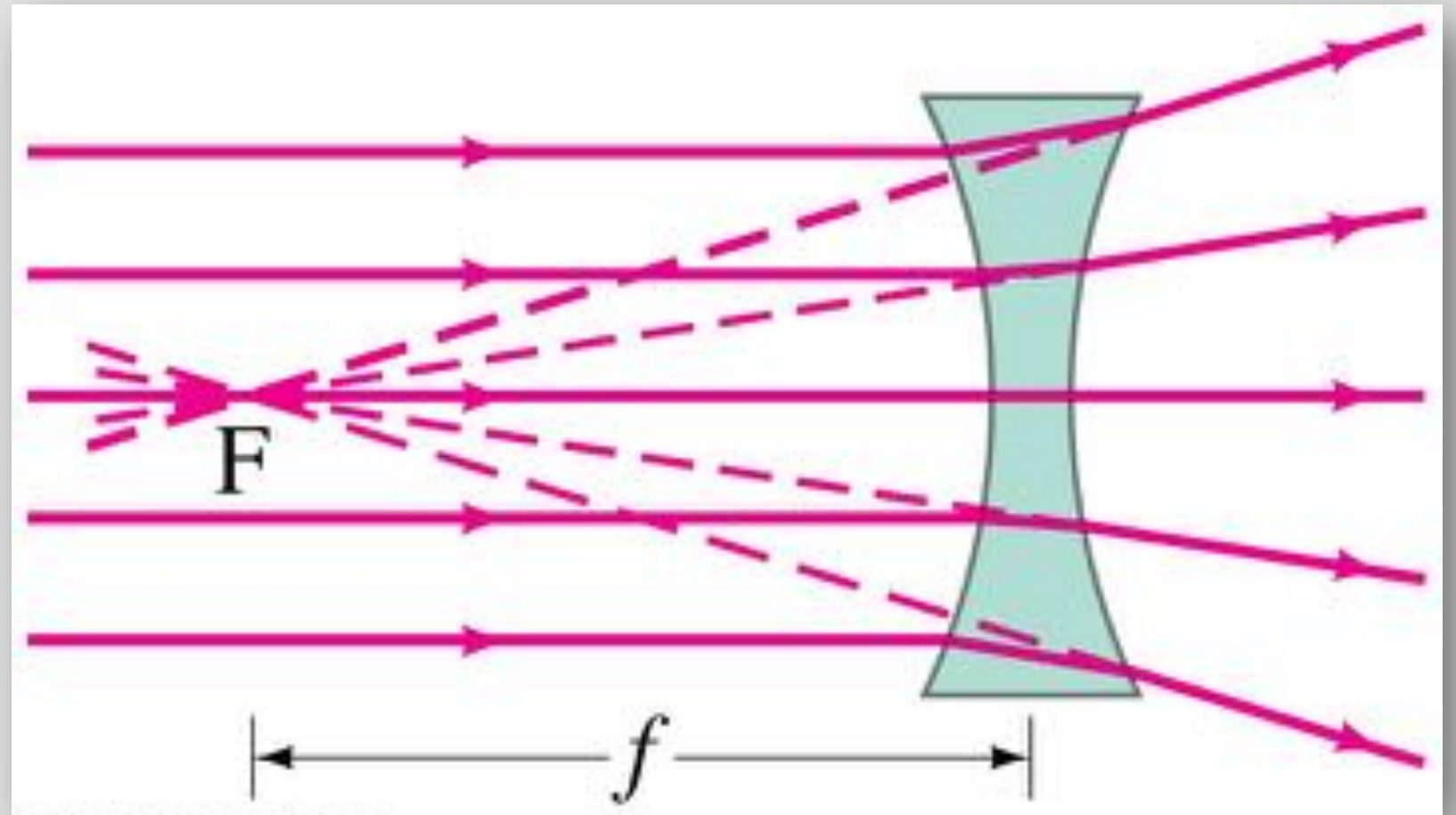


Oleg Alexandrov

Convex thin lenses



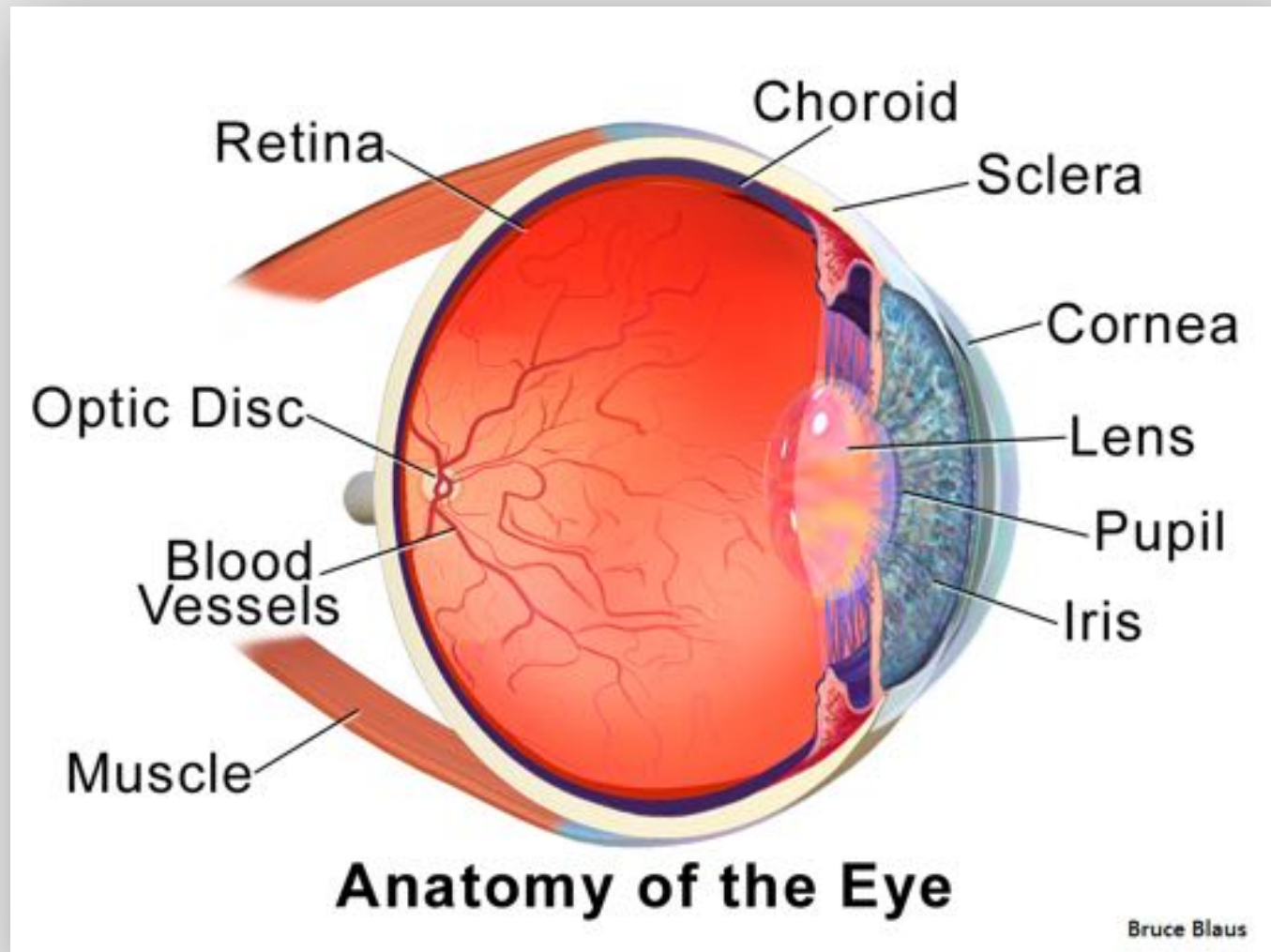
Concave thin lenses



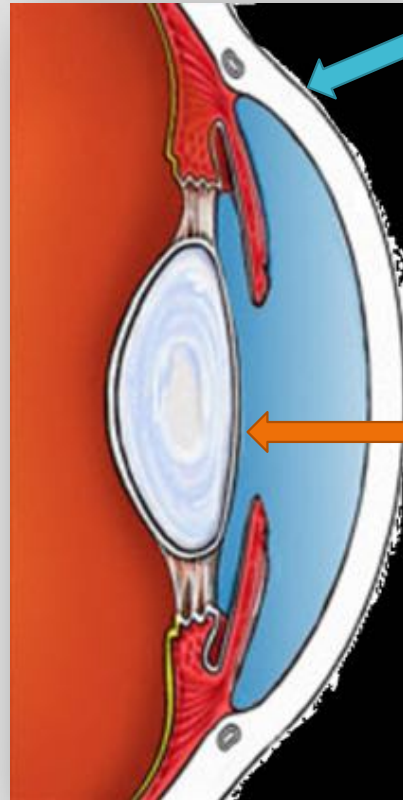
Dioptries

- Measurement unit of optical power
- Equal to the reciprocal of the focal length (in m)
- E.g., a 2-dioptre lens brings parallel rays of light to focus at $1 / 2$ meter.
- E.g., a flat window has optical power of 0-dioptres
 - does not converge or diverge light.

Anatomy of the eye

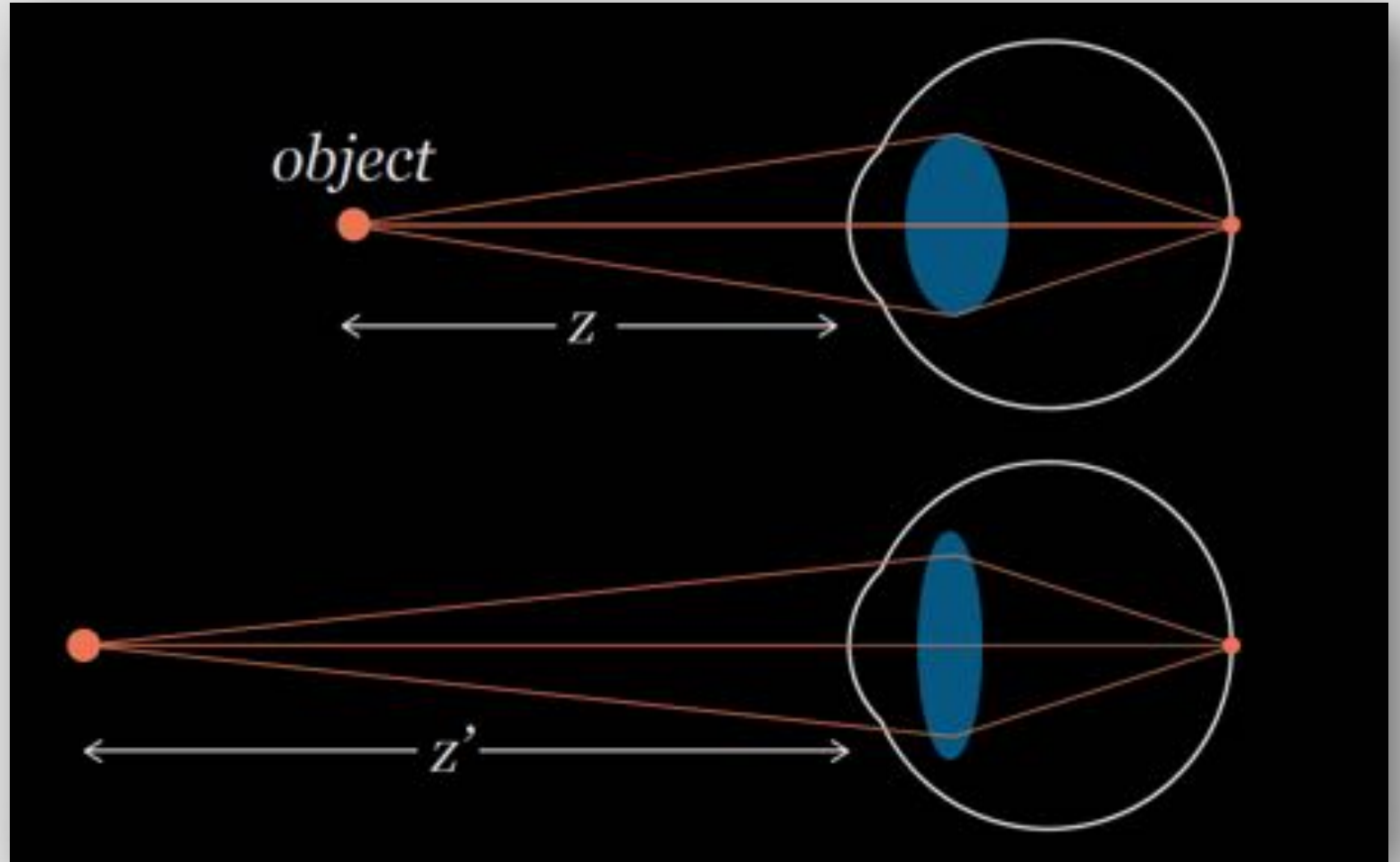


Two lenses in the eye

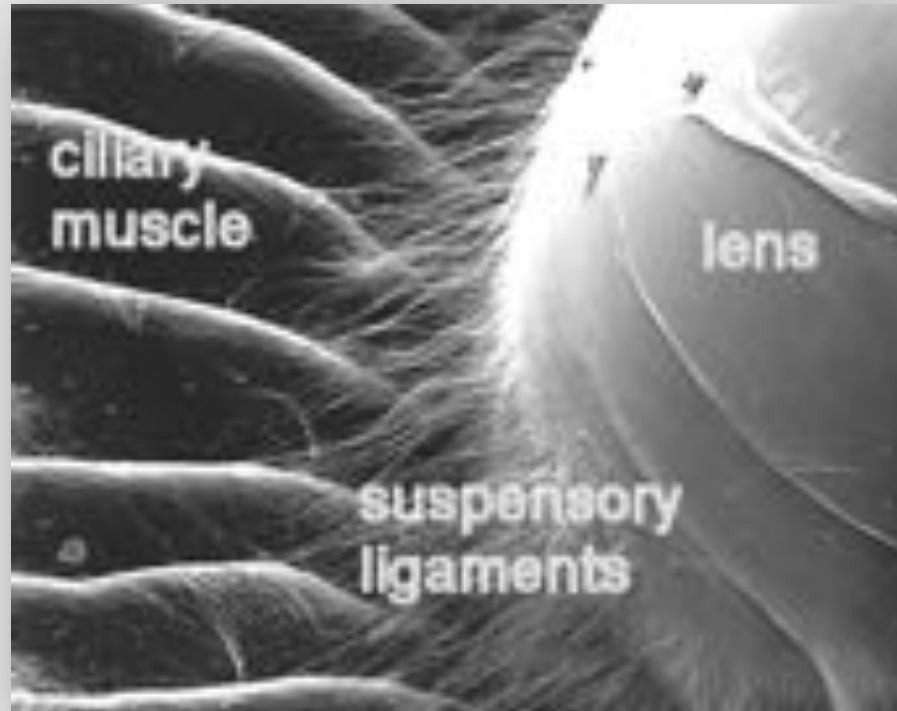


- Cornea
 - fixed power ~ 40 diopters
 - does most of the focusing
 - fun fact: focal length $\approx$ length of the eye
- Crystalline lens
 - variable up to ~ 20 diopters
 - power diminishes with age (presbyopia)
 - ~ 350 ms to change power

Accommodation



Fun fact: accommodation theories



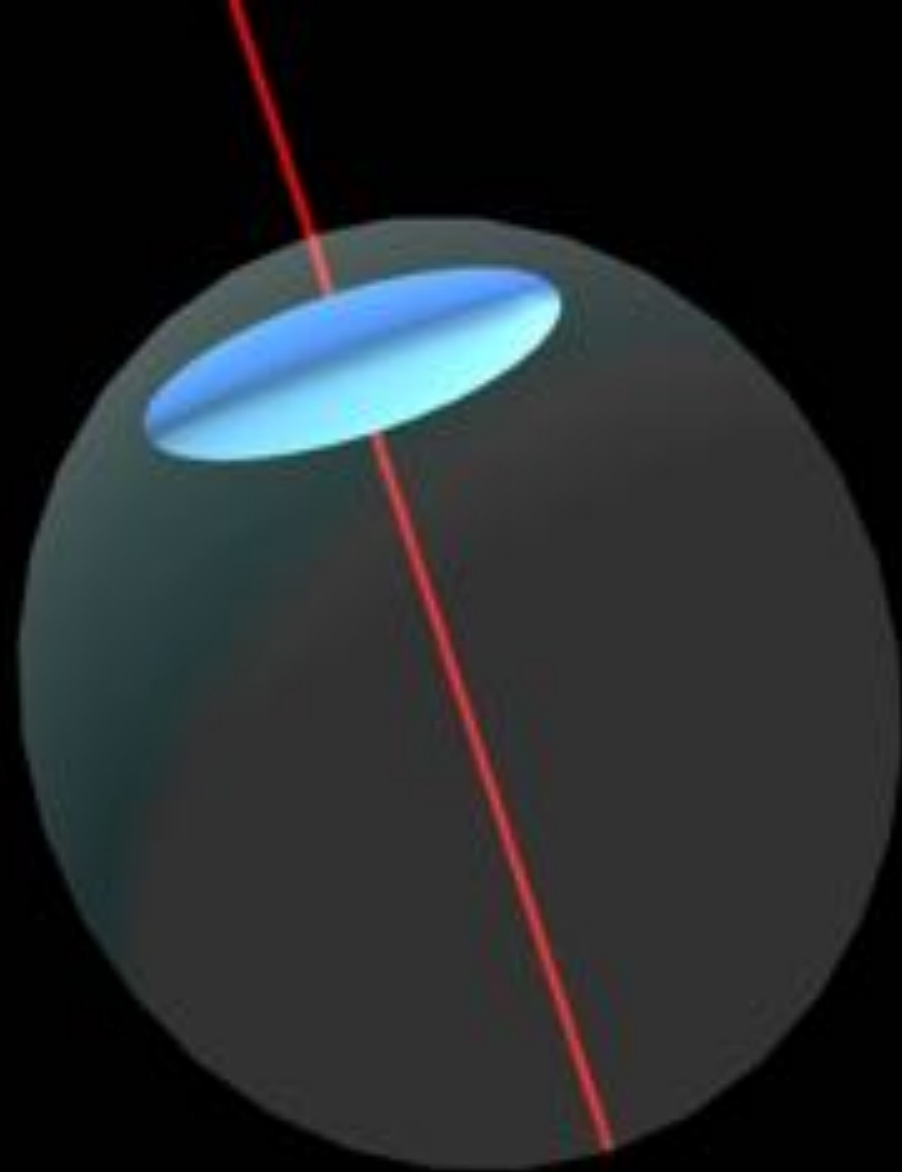
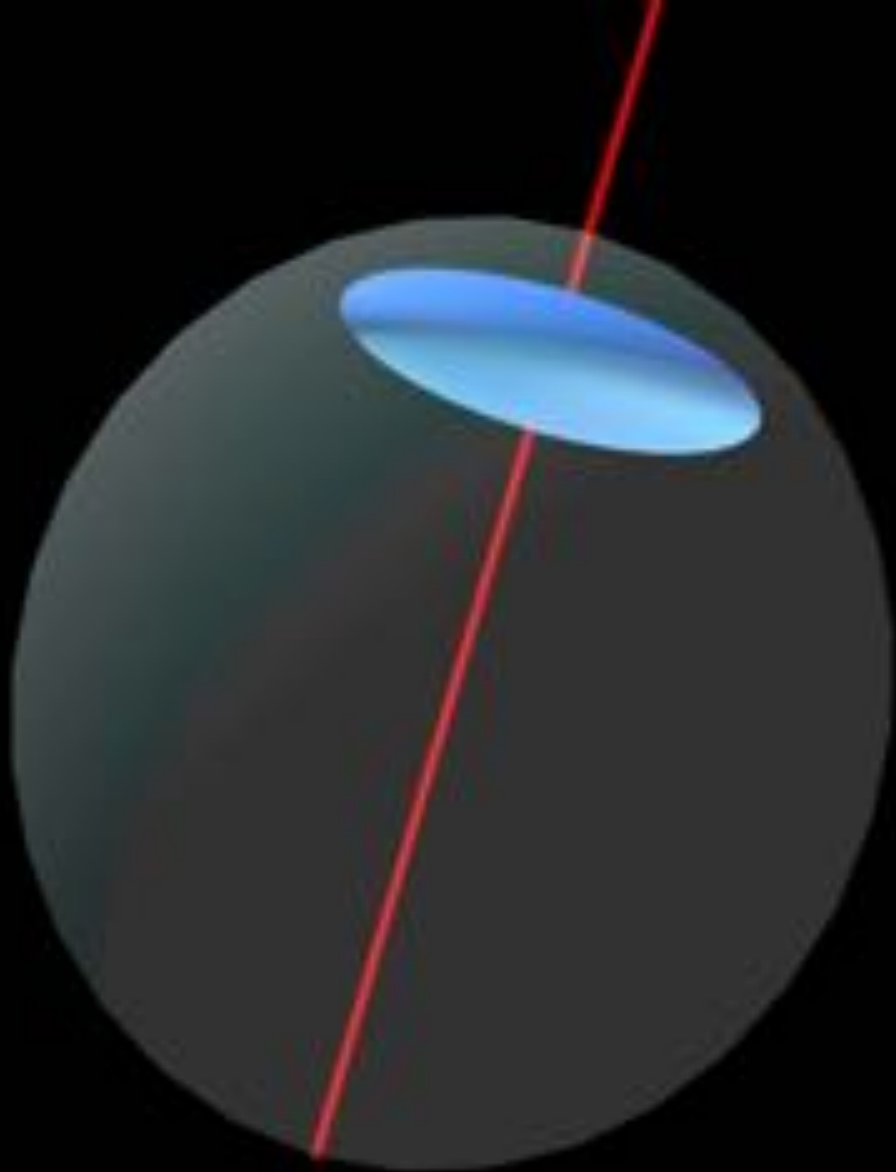
Helmholtz Theory

When fixating a near object:

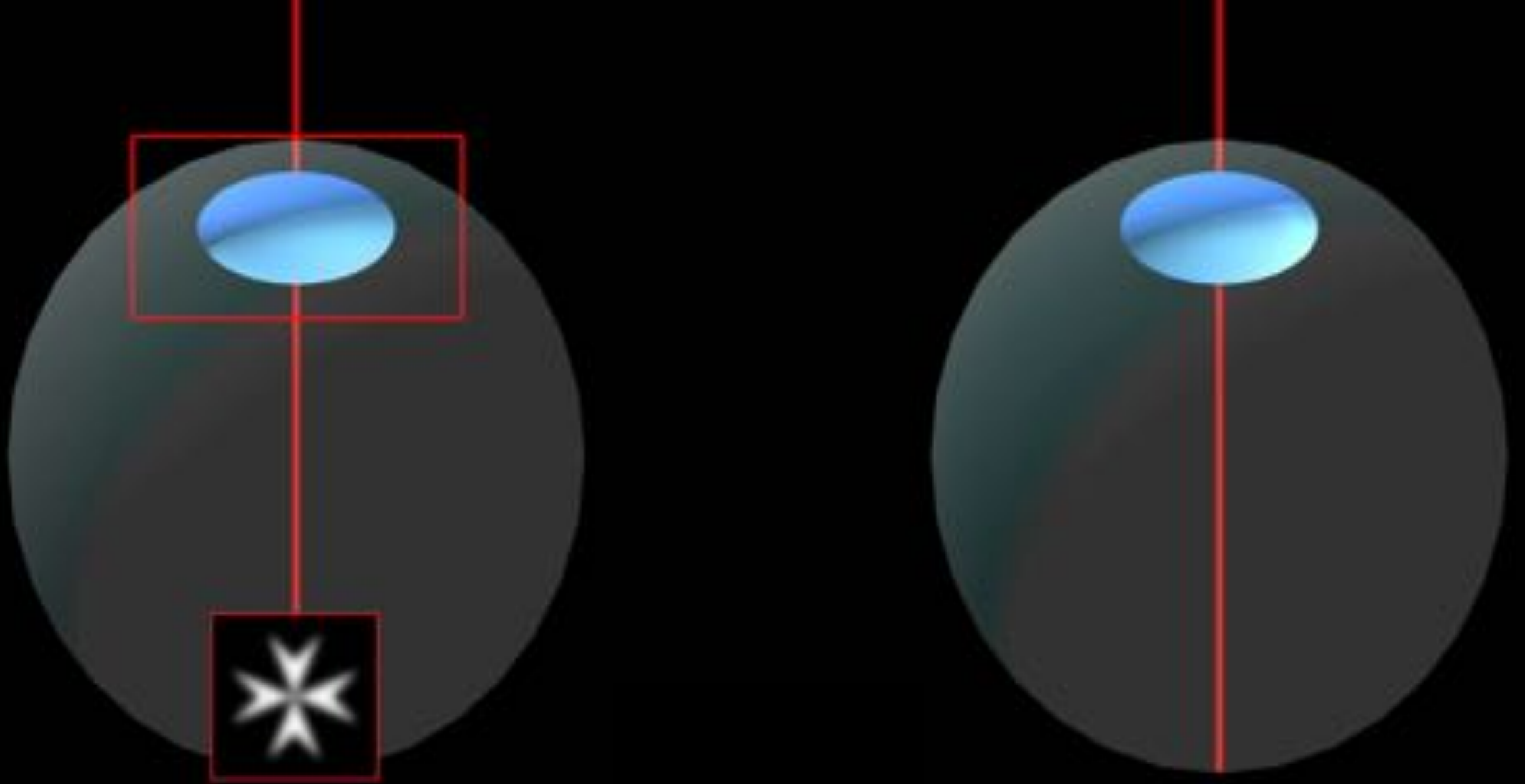
1. circularly arranged ciliary muscle contracts
2. lens zonules and suspensory ligaments relax
3. lens thickens



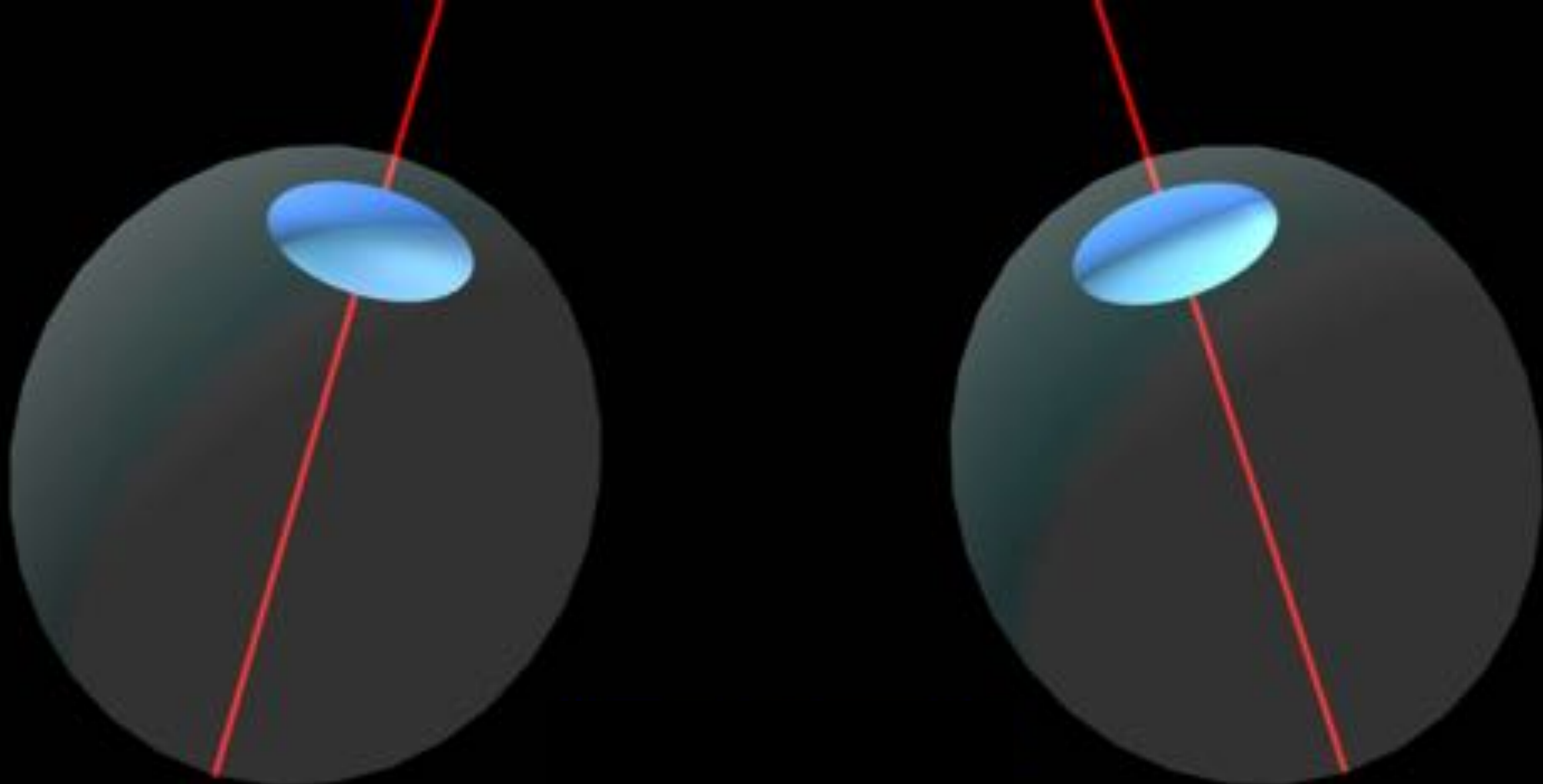
Now let us see how all this relate to a major source of discomfort in VR/AR



VERGENCE

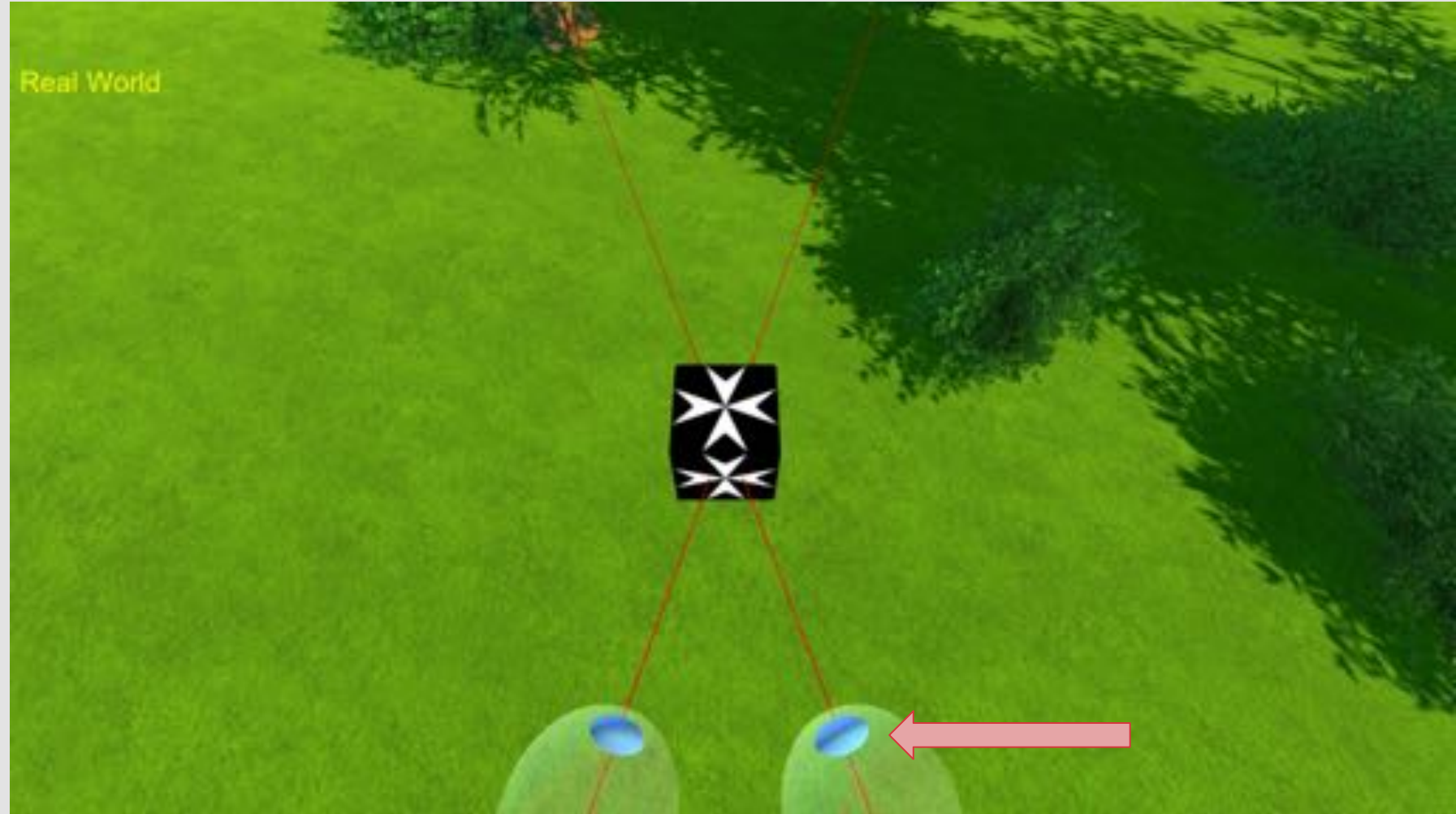


ACCOMMODATION

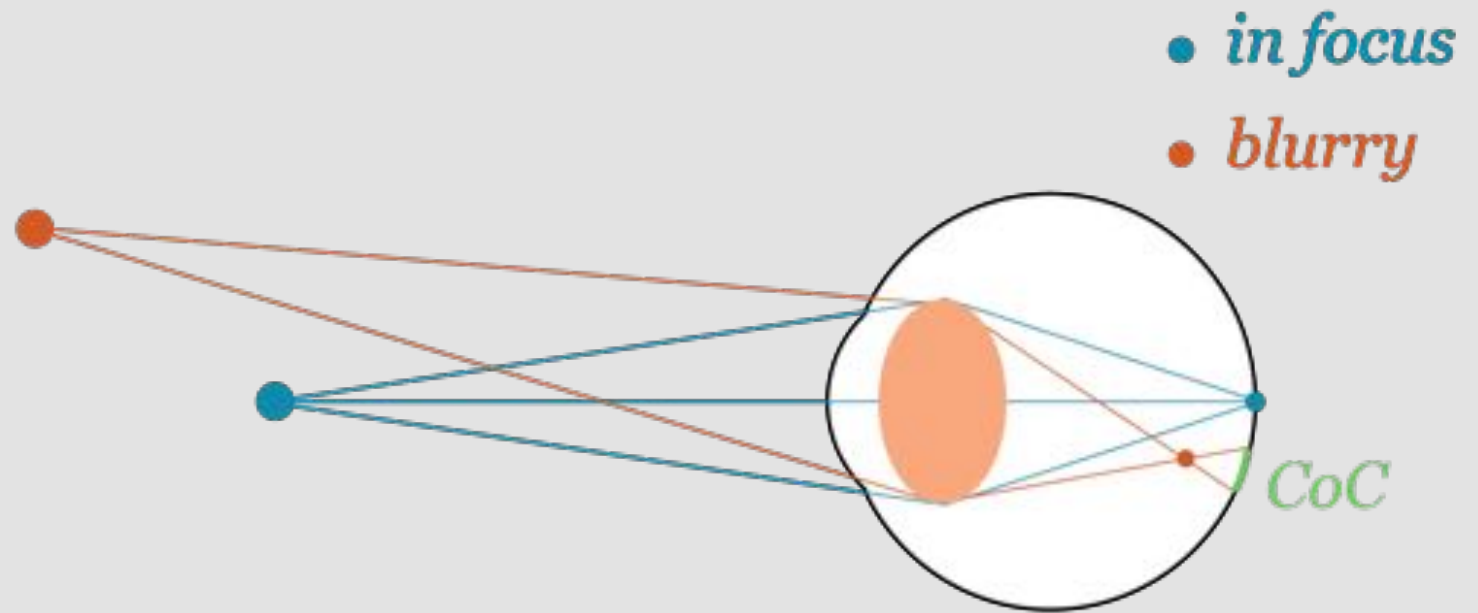


COUPLED

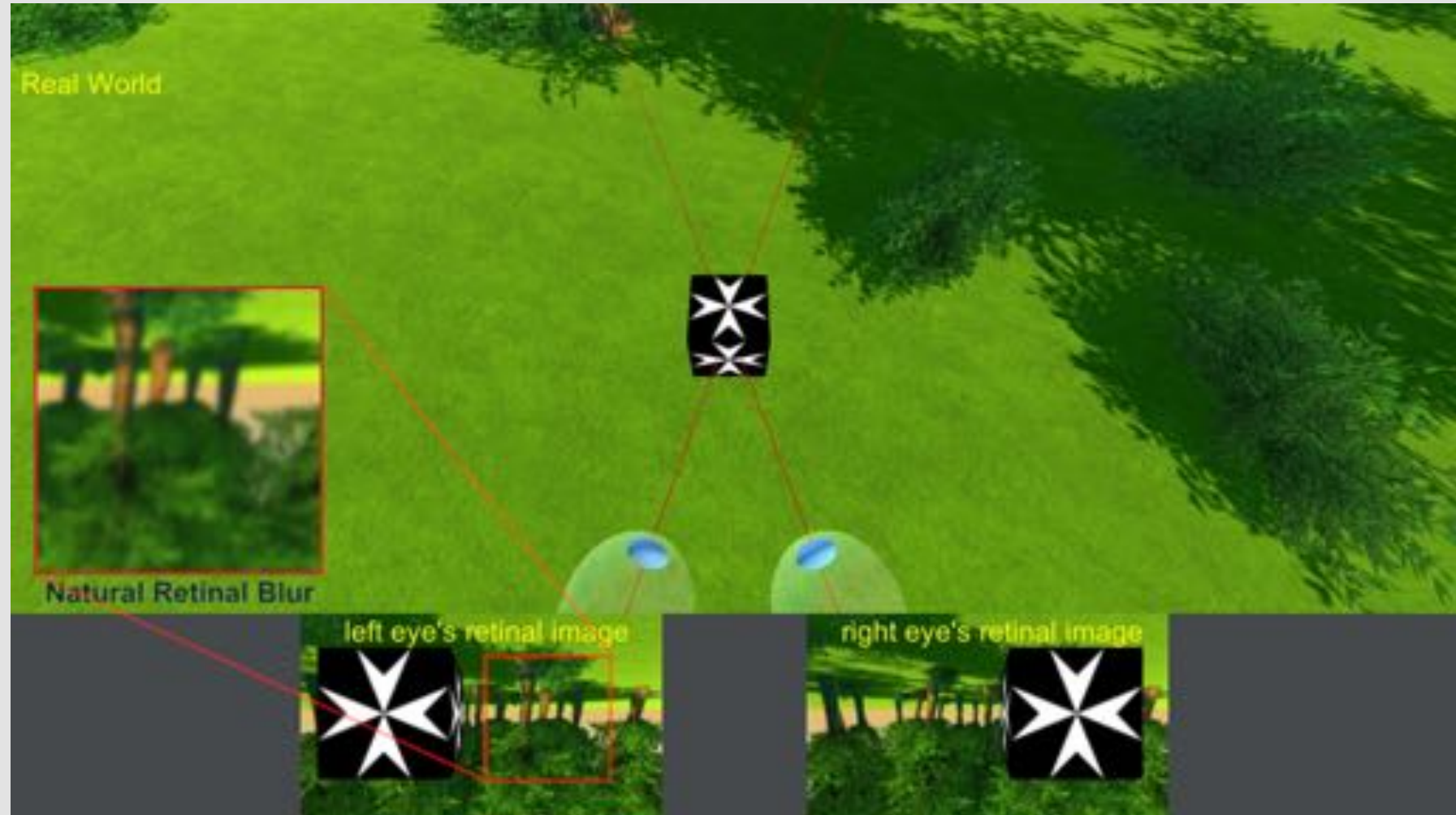
Vergence and accommodation in the real world



Blur in the real world

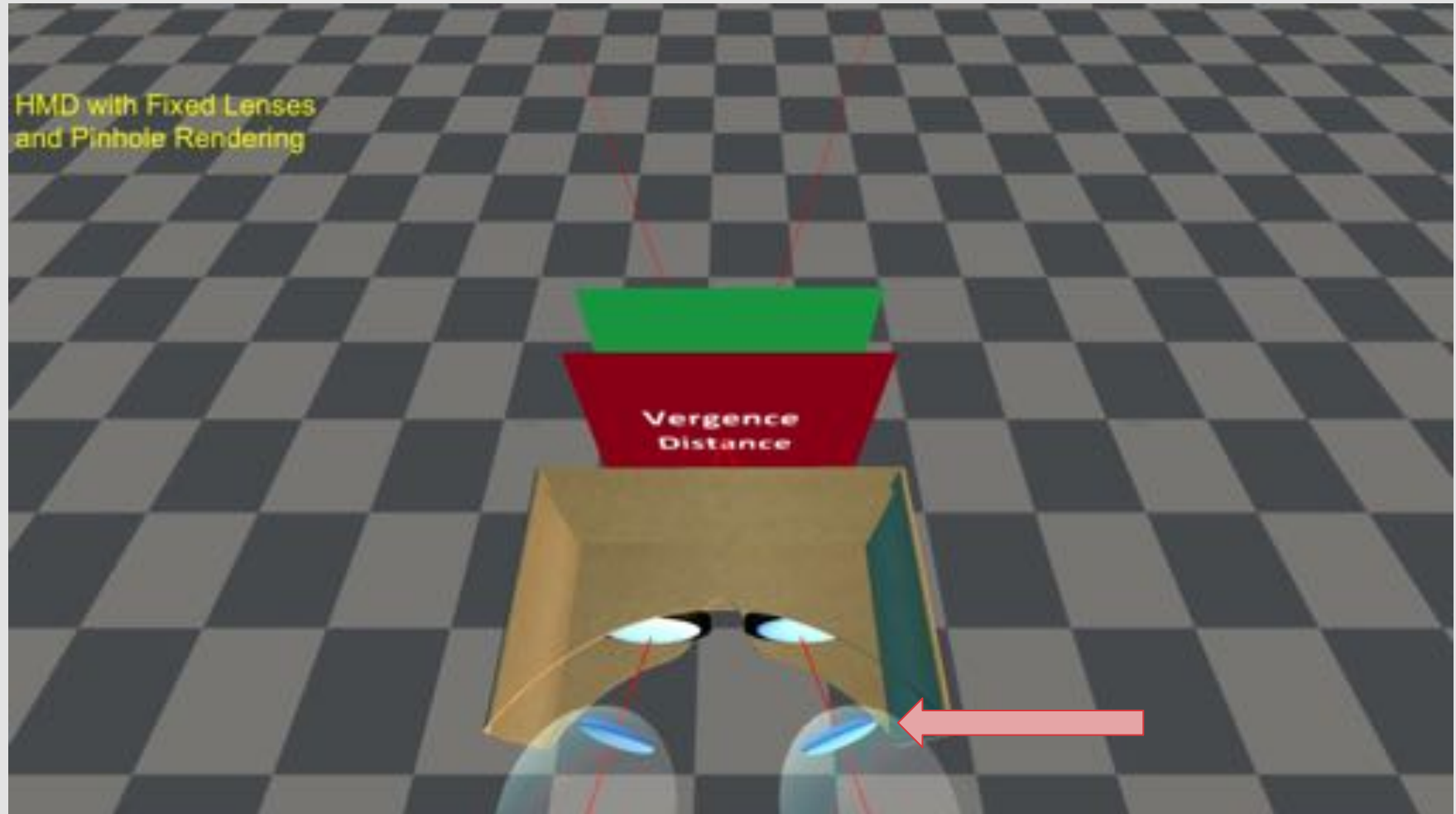


Blur in the real world

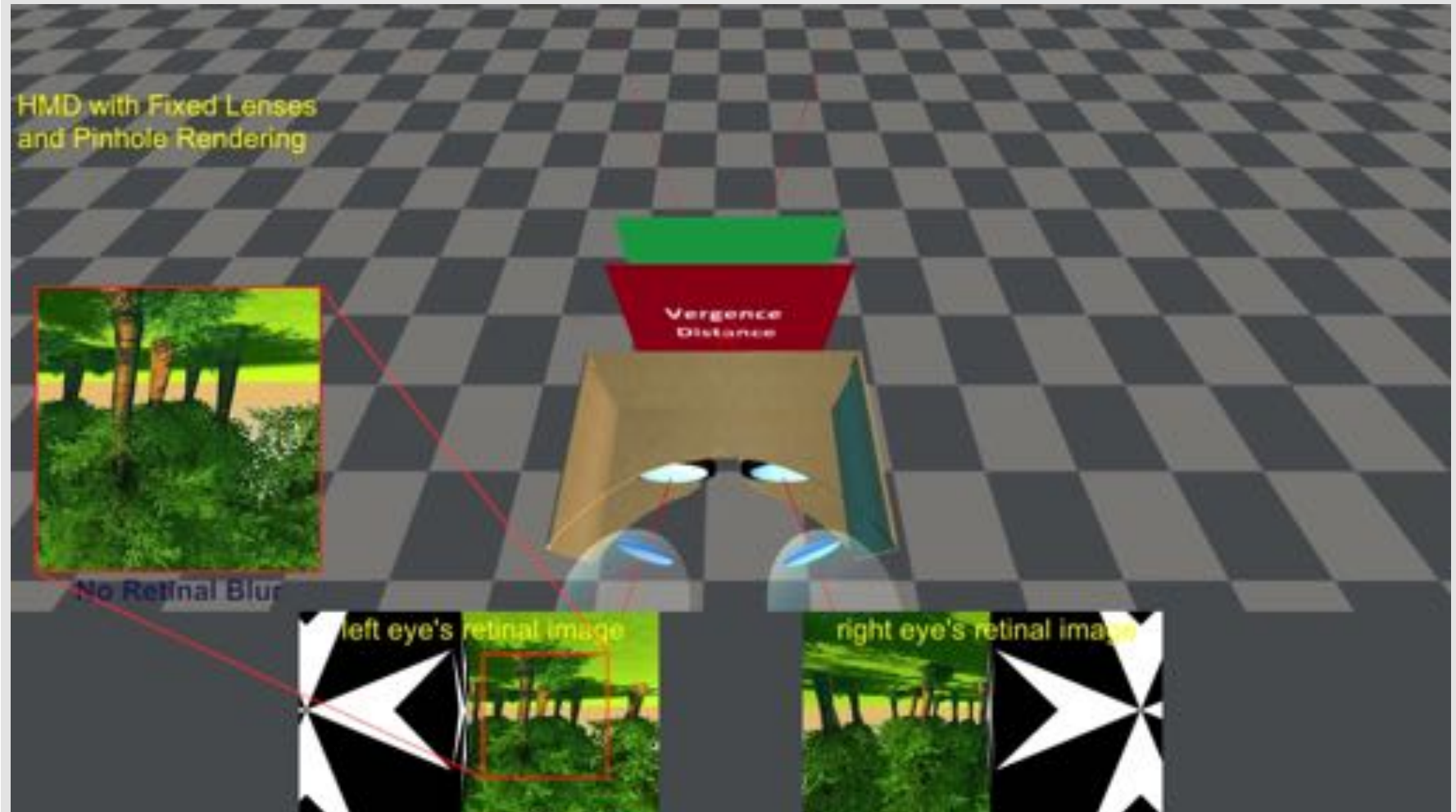


But what about stereo displays ?

Vergence and accommodation conflicting in near-eye displays



Blur non-existent in near-eye displays



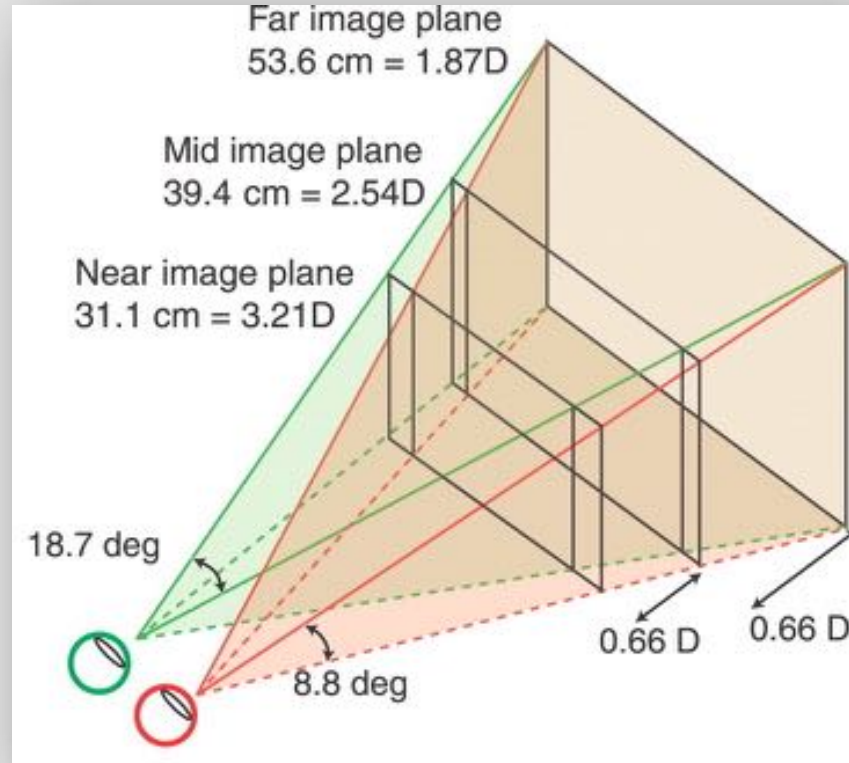
The VA conflict

1. No retinal blur
2. Accommodation generally does not match vergence



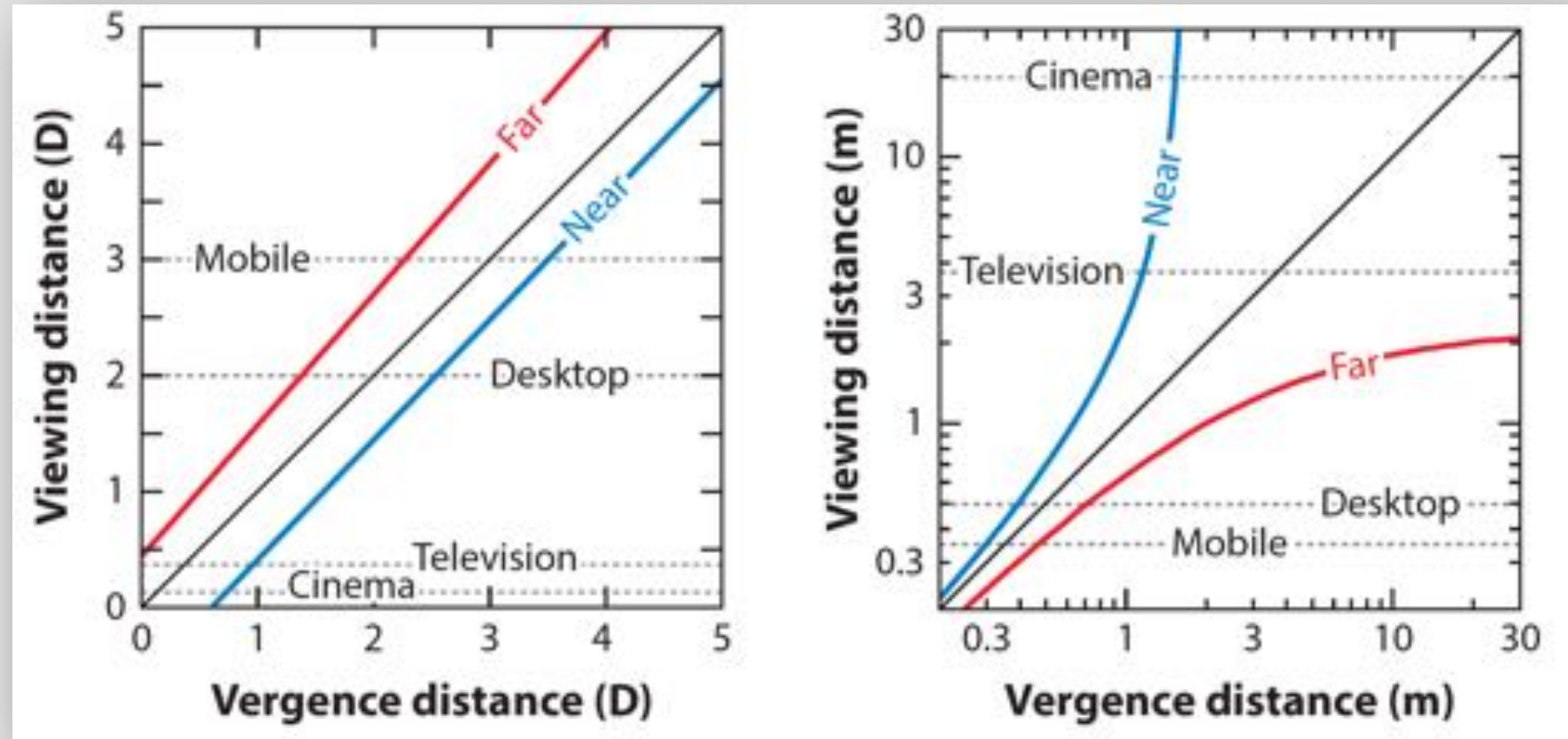
Viewer is required to fight against the natural coupling between accommodation and vergence which causes discomfort

VA conflict is a major source of discomfort



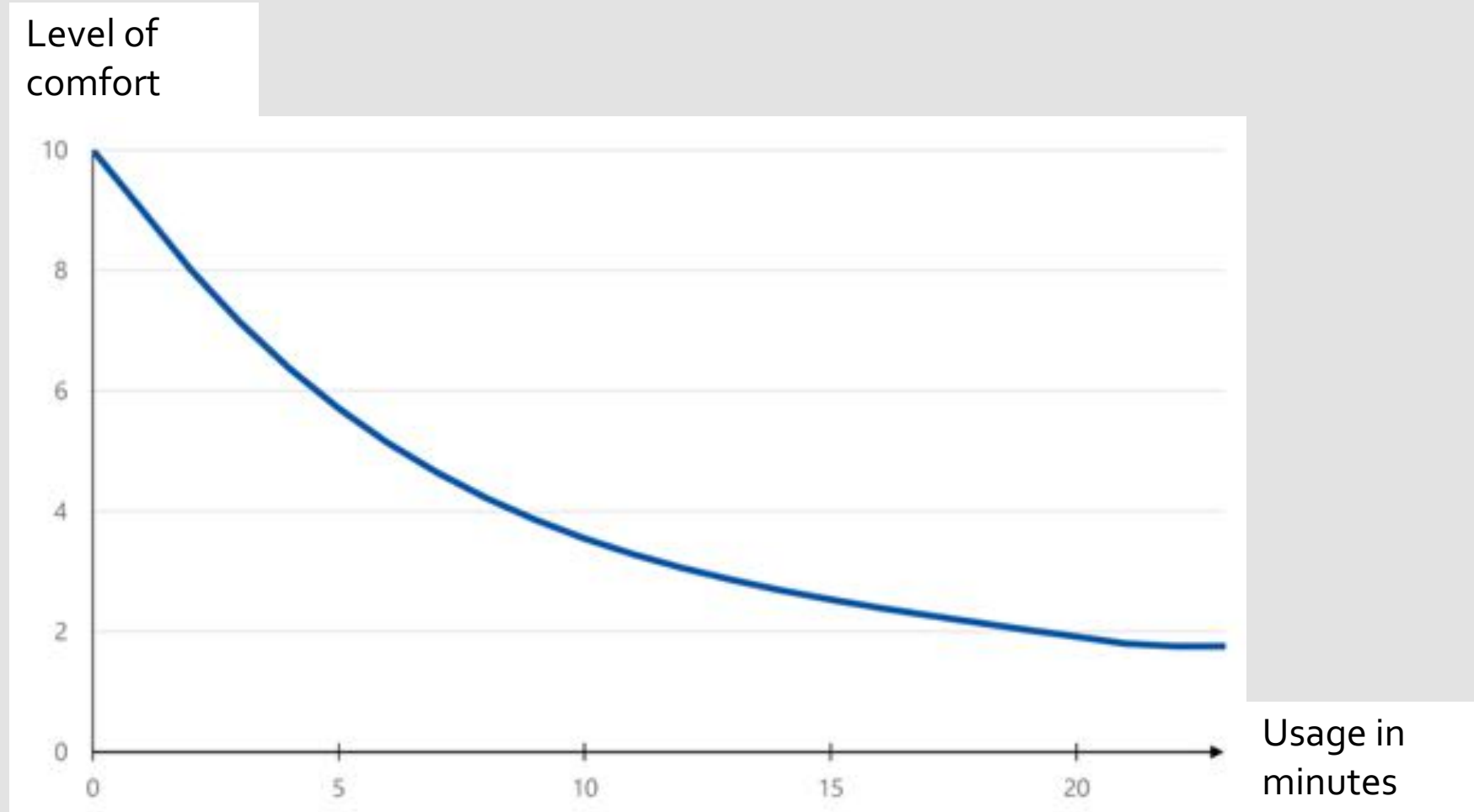
Hoffman, D. M., Girshick, A. R., Akeley, K., & Banks, M. S. (2008). Vergence–accommodation conflicts hinder visual performance and cause visual fatigue. *Journal of vision*, 8(3), 33-33.

VA conflict is a major source of discomfort

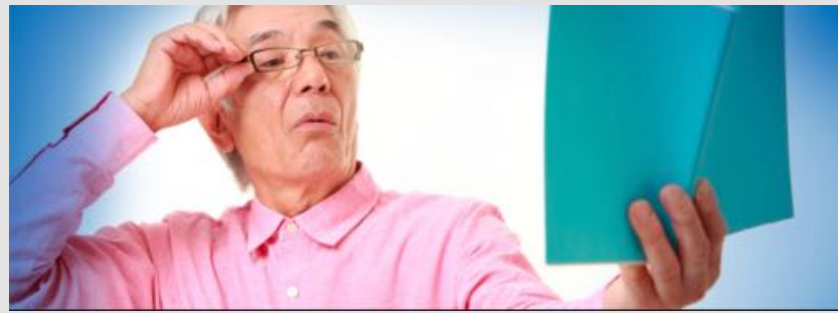


Shibata, T., Kim, J., Hoffman, D. M., & Banks, M. S. (2011). The zone of comfort: Predicting visual discomfort with stereo displays. *Journal of vision*, 11(8), 11-11.

Comfort in VR, today



Fernandes and Feiner, 2016



VA conflict in presbyopes

- Range of distances one can accommodate declines starting at the age of 40
- By 50/60 accommodative range is essentially zero
- Presbyopes are always in conflict → used to it!
- No VA conflict due to stereoscopic viewing

Lack of focus cues is not only affecting discomfort

- 3D shape perception
- Apparent scale of scenes
- Binocular performance

Buckley, D., & Frisby, J. P. (1993). Interaction of stereo, texture and outline cues in the shape perception of three-dimensional ridges. *Vision research*, 33(7), 919-933.

Watt, S. J., Akeley, K., Ernst, M. O., & Banks, M. S. (2005). Focus cues affect perceived depth. *Journal of vision*, 5(10), 7-7.

Focus cues affect perceived size of scenes

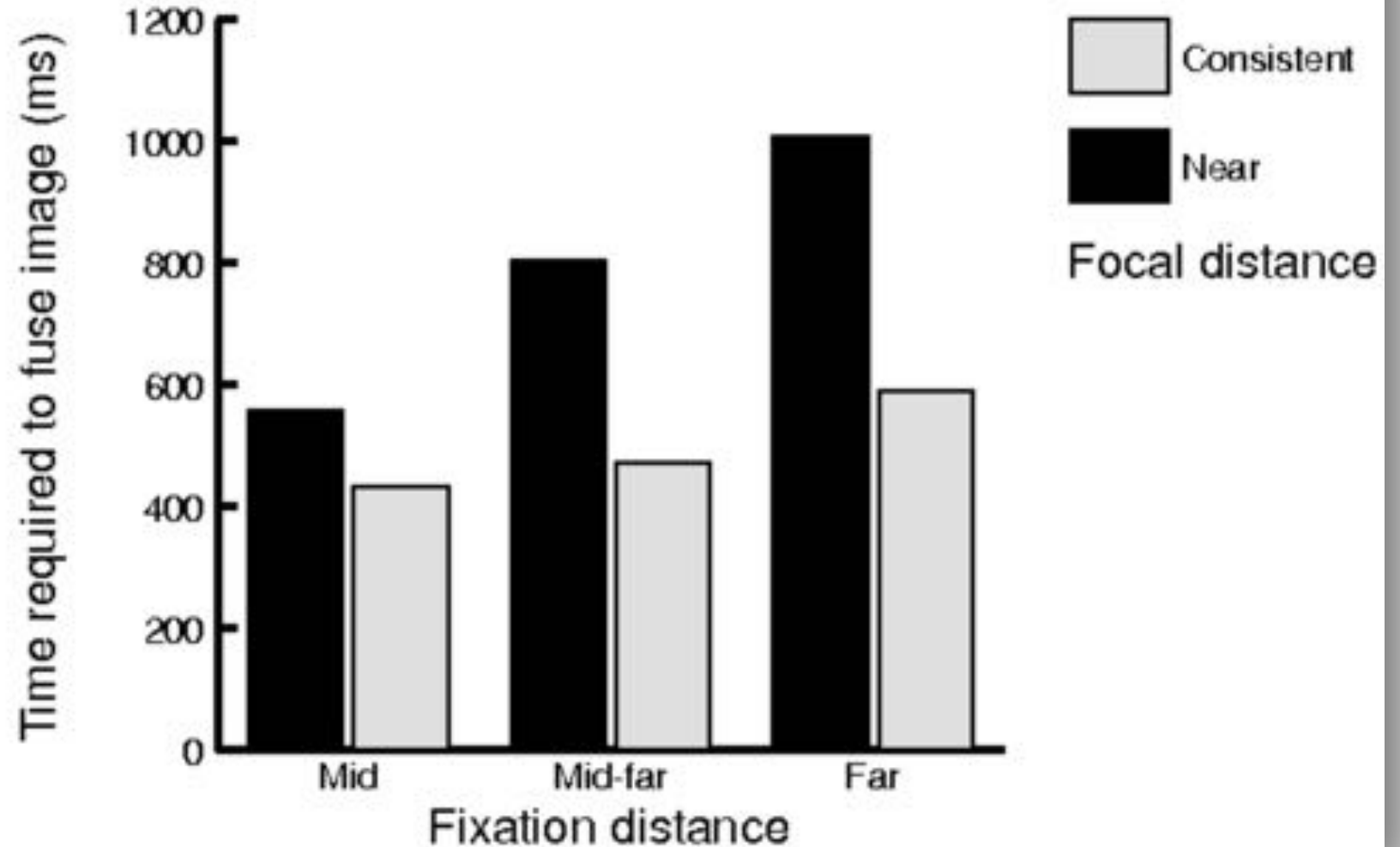


Held et al., 2010

Fielding R. 1985. Techniques of Special Effects Cinematography. Oxford, UK: Focal Press. 4th ed.

Held RT, Cooper EA, O'Brien JF, Banks MS. 2010. Using blur to affect perceived distance and size. ACM Trans. Graph. 29(2):19

Focus cues affect visual performance



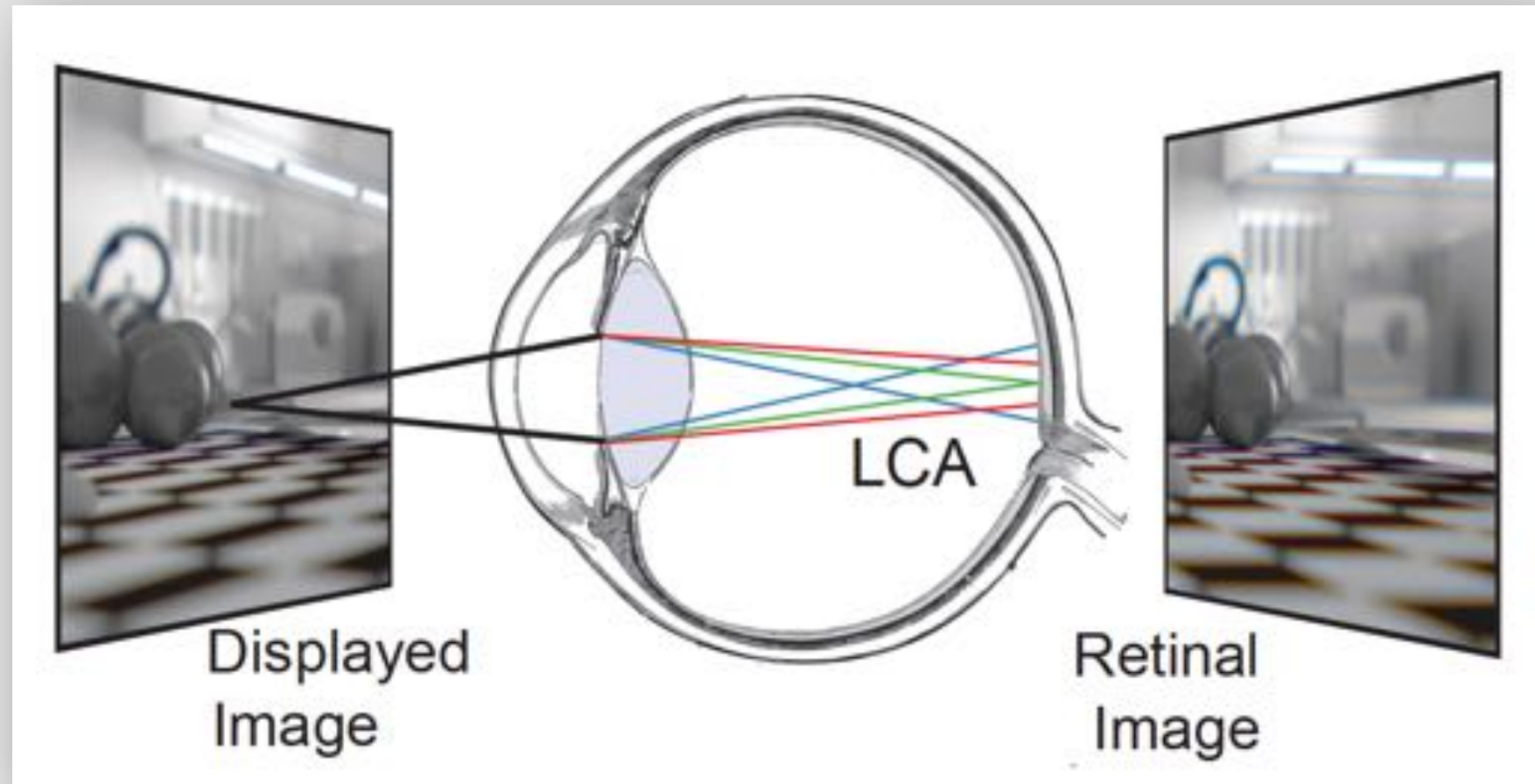
Akeley, K., Watt, S. J., Girshick, A. R., & Banks, M. S. (2004, August). A stereo display prototype with multiple focal distances. In *ACM transactions on graphics (TOG)* (Vol. 23, No. 3, pp. 804-813). ACM.

Fun facts: the iris



1. Reduces light by a factor of ~ 20
2. Constriction increases depth-of-field
3. Reduces spherical aberration by occluding outer parts of lens

Fun fact: accommodation and the retina



adapted from Cholewiak et al., 2017

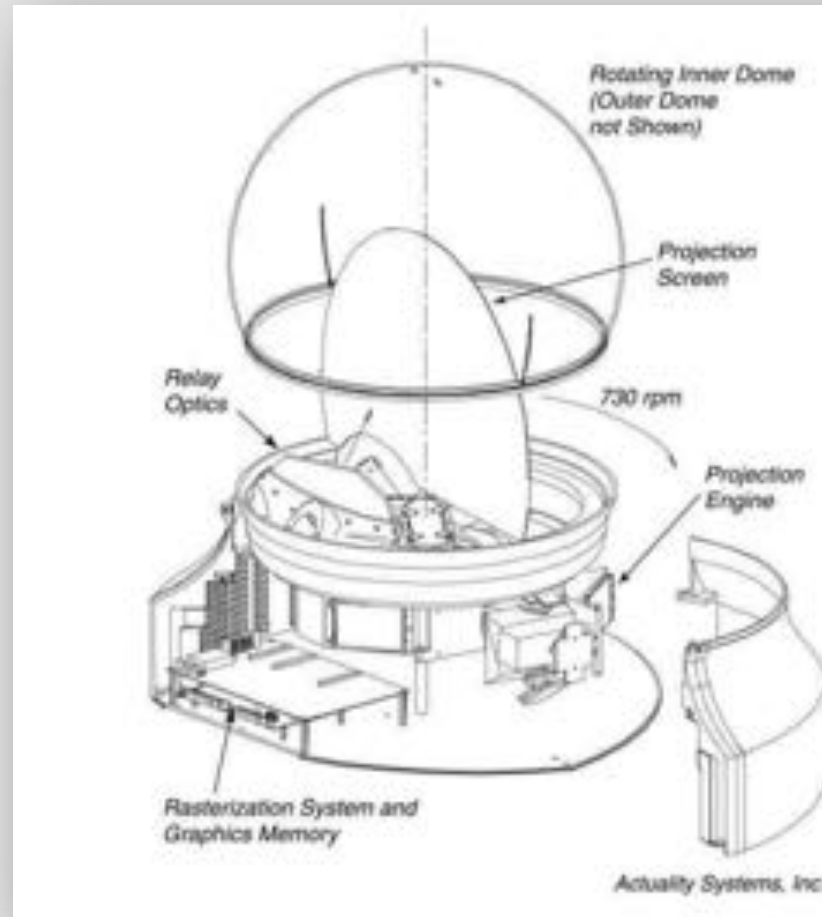
- Infinitesimal amount of S-Cones (“blue”) in the fovea
 - due to Longitudinal Chromatic Aberration?



Part 2:

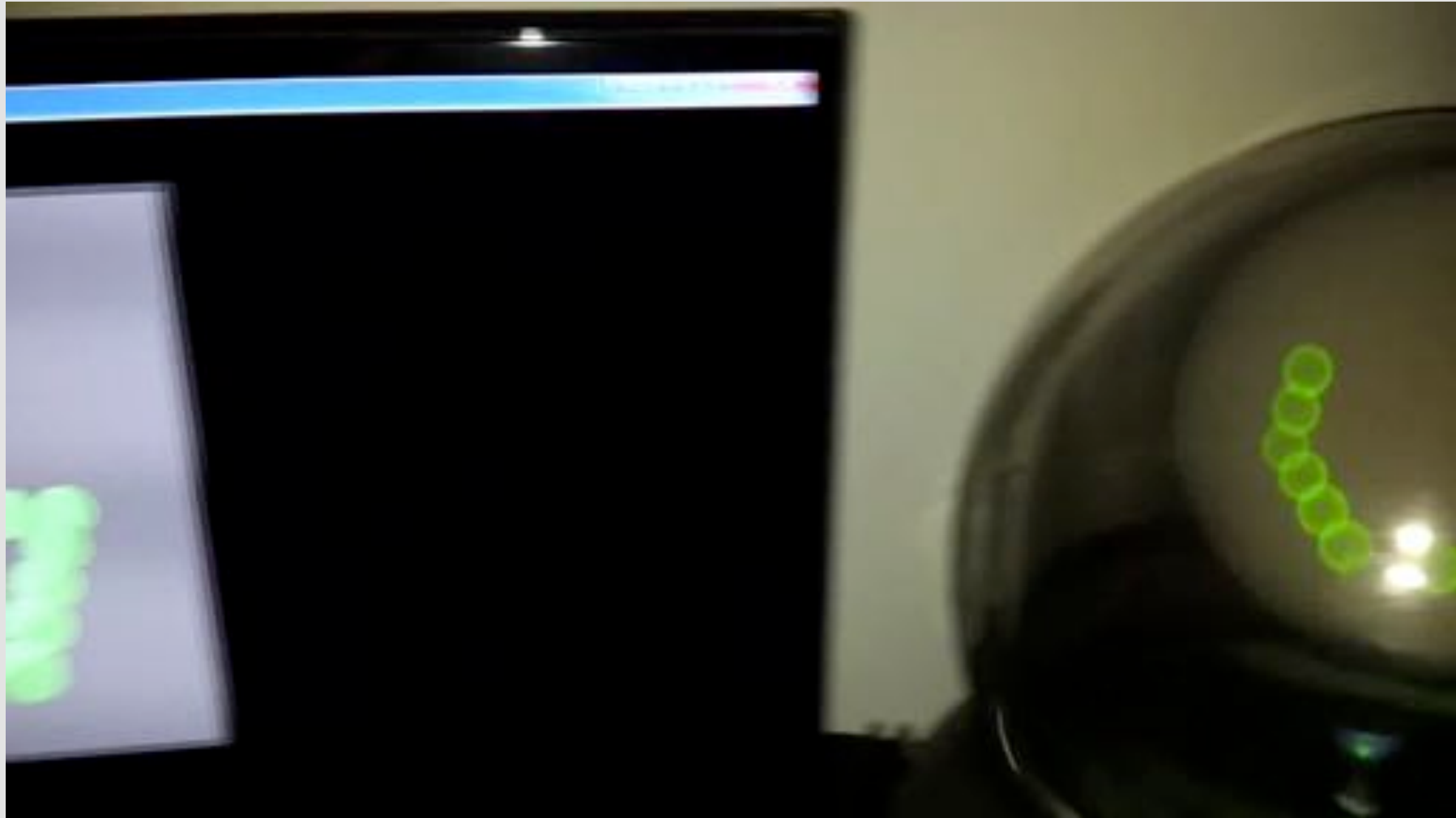
Multifocal displays

Swept-screen volumetric displays



Favalora, G. E., Napoli, J., Hall, D. M., Dorval, R. K., Giovinco, M., Richmond, M. J., & Chun, W. S. (2002, August). 100-million-voxel volumetric display. In *Cockpit Displays IX: Displays for Defense Applications* (Vol. 4712, pp. 300-313). International Society for Optics and Photonics.

Swept-screen volumetric displays



Abhijit Karnik

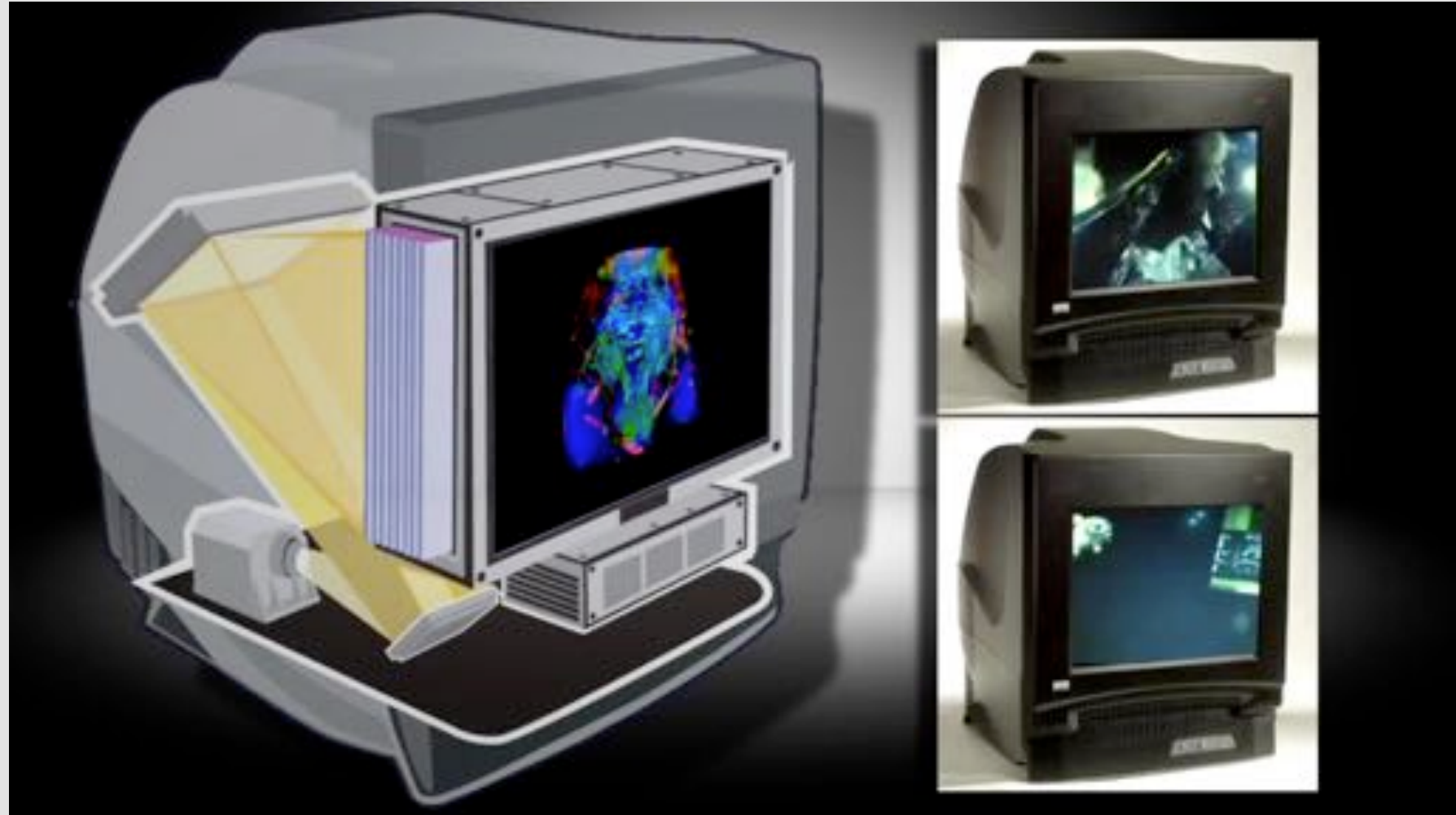
George-Alex Koulieris

Stacked-screen volumetric displays



Sullivan, A. (2004, May). DepthCube solid-state 3D volumetric display. In *Stereoscopic displays and virtual reality systems XI* (Vol. 5291, pp. 279-285). International Society for Optics and Photonics.

Stacked-screen volumetric displays

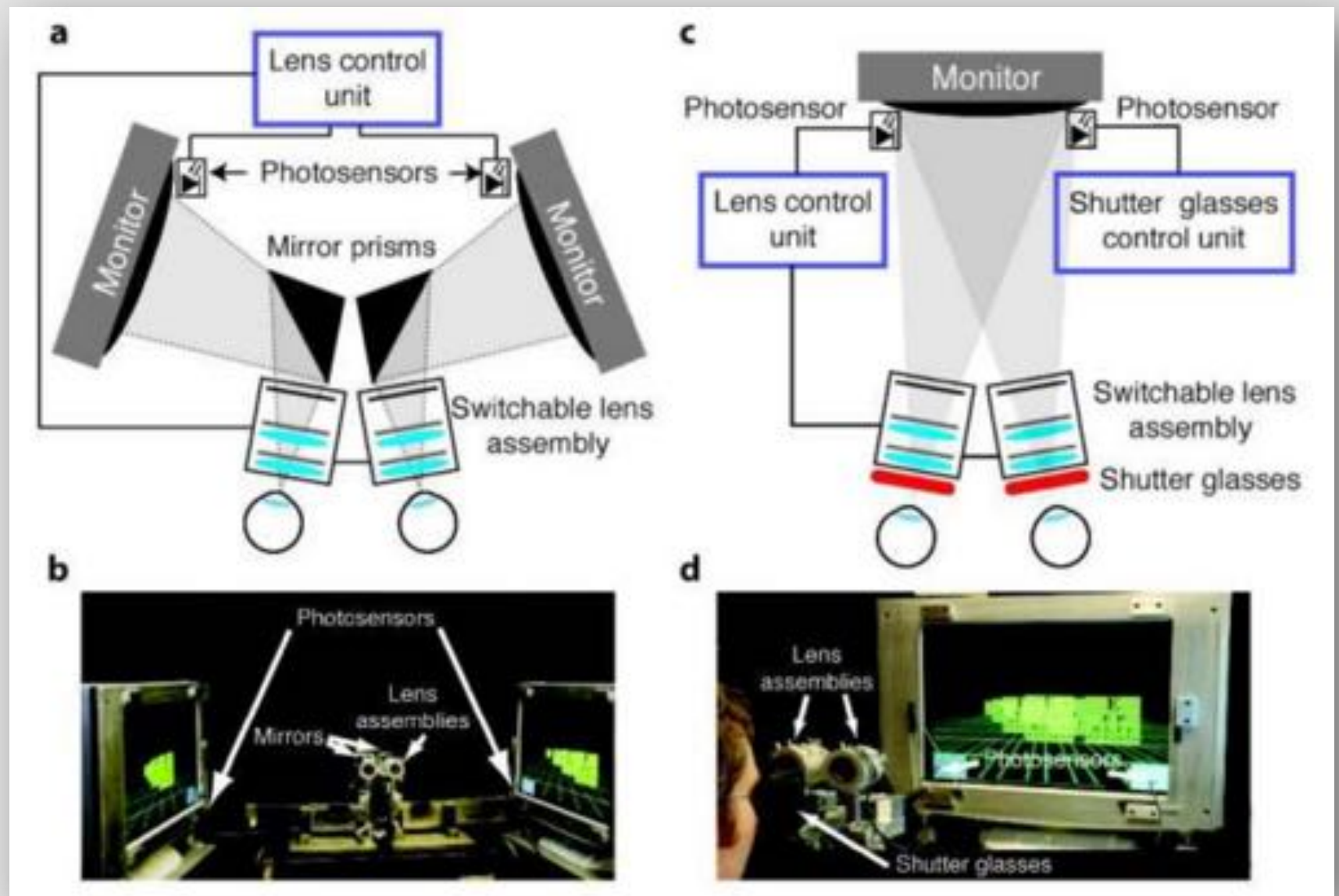


LightSpace Technologies

Advantages & disadvantages

- Present correct stereo, parallax and focus cues
- BUT
 - Displayed scene confined to display volume
 - Require computing and addressing a huge number of addressable voxels
 - Cannot reproduce occlusions and viewpoint-dependent effects (e.g., reflections)

Fixed view-point volumetric displays



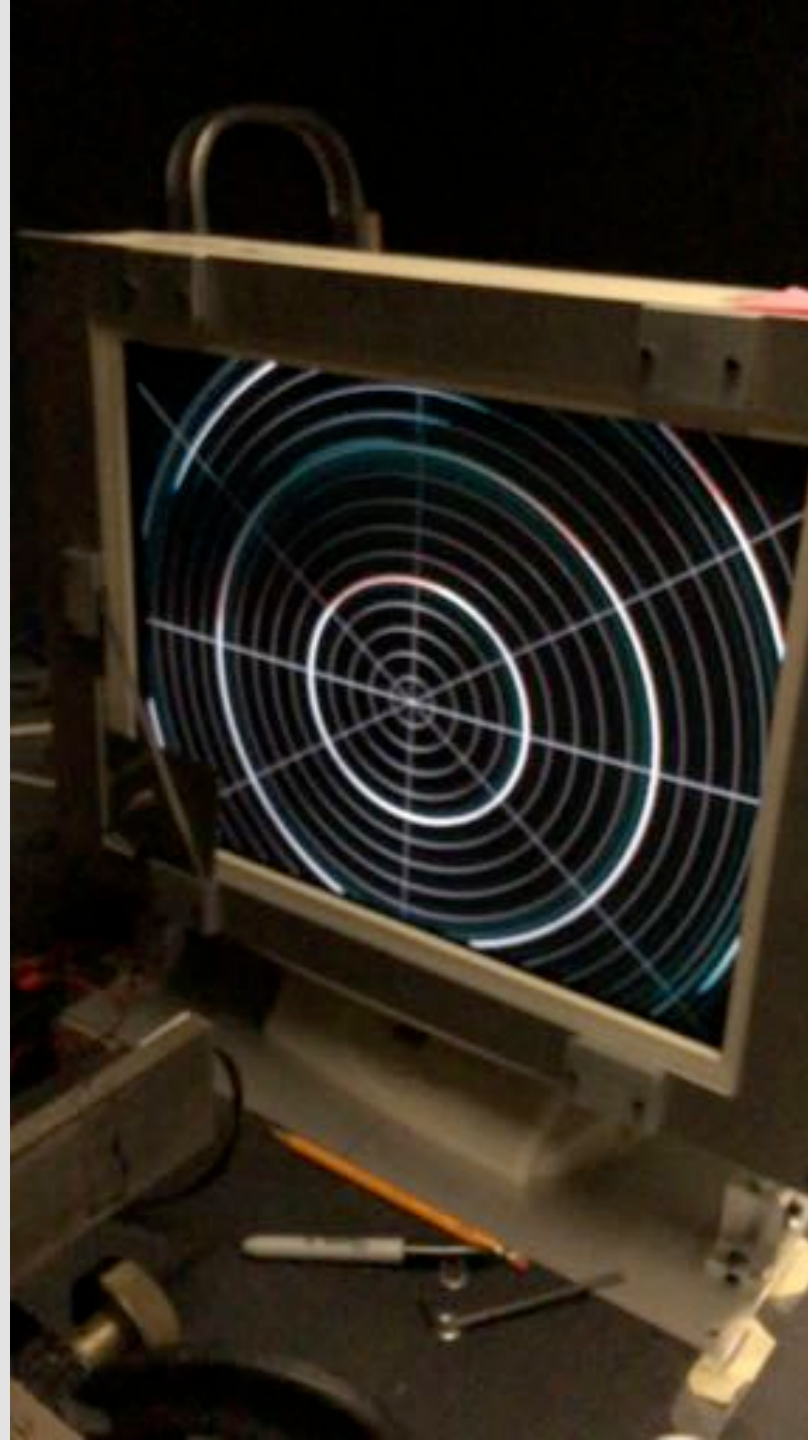
Love, G. D., Hoffman, D. M., Hands, P. J., Gao, J., Kirby, A. K., & Banks, M. S. (2009). High-speed switchable lens enables the development of a volumetric stereoscopic display. *Optics express*, 17(18), 15716-15725.

Fixed view-point volumetric displays

- Images drawn on presentation planes at different focal distances
- Superimposition of multiple presentation planes additively on the retina
- Special treatment of scene points in between depth planes

Operation

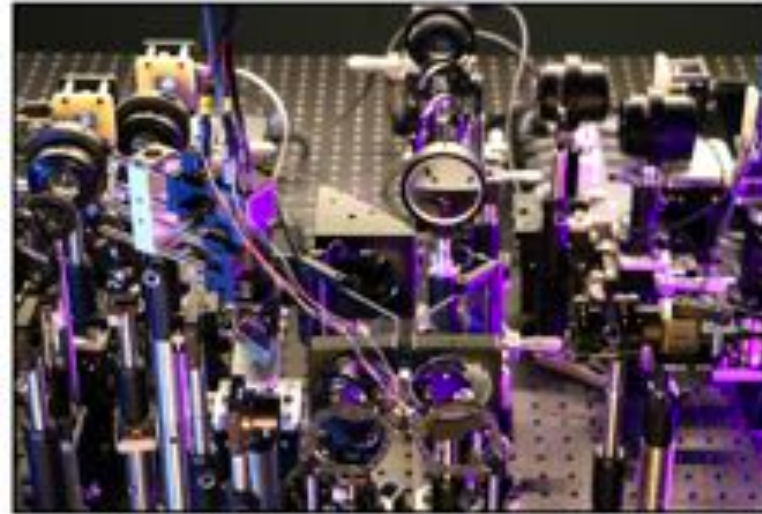
George-Alex Koulieris



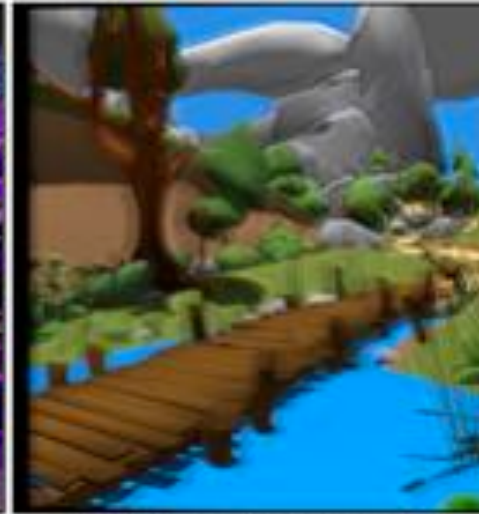
Advantages & disadvantages

- Very high resolution
- Accommodation cues
- Comfortable
- BUT
- Need to fixate head using bite-bars or other means

Fast gaze-contingent decomposition for multifocal displays



(a) Multifocal Testbed with Eye and Accommodation Tracking



(b) Eye Movement without Correction

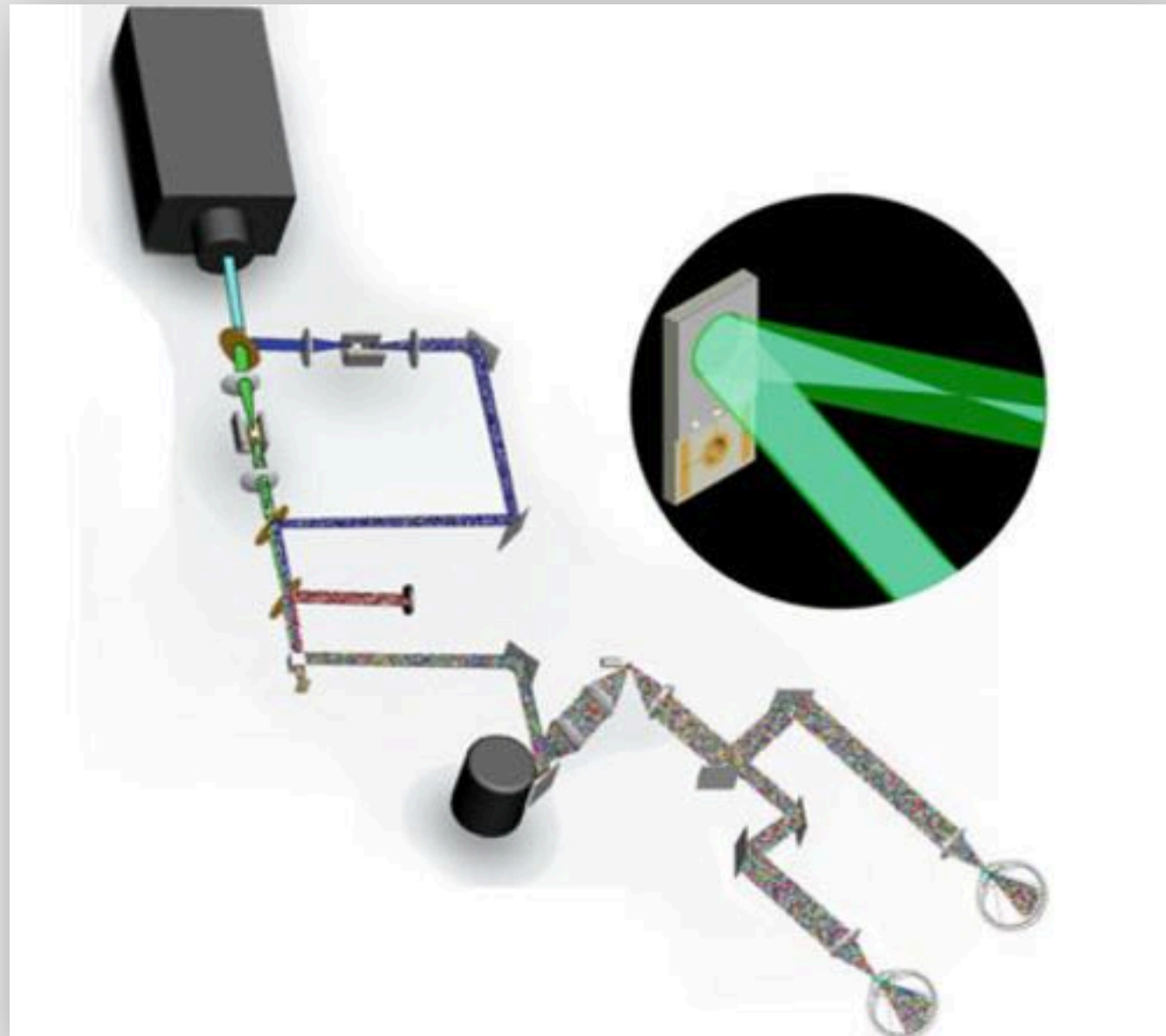


(c) Eye Movement with Correction

Mercier, O., Sulai, Y., Mackenzie, K., Zannoli, M., Hillis, J., Nowrouzezahrai, D., & Lanman, D. (2017). Fast gaze-contingent optimal decompositions for multifocal displays. *ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG)*, 36(6), 237.

Multifocal scanned voxel displays

George-Alex Koulieris

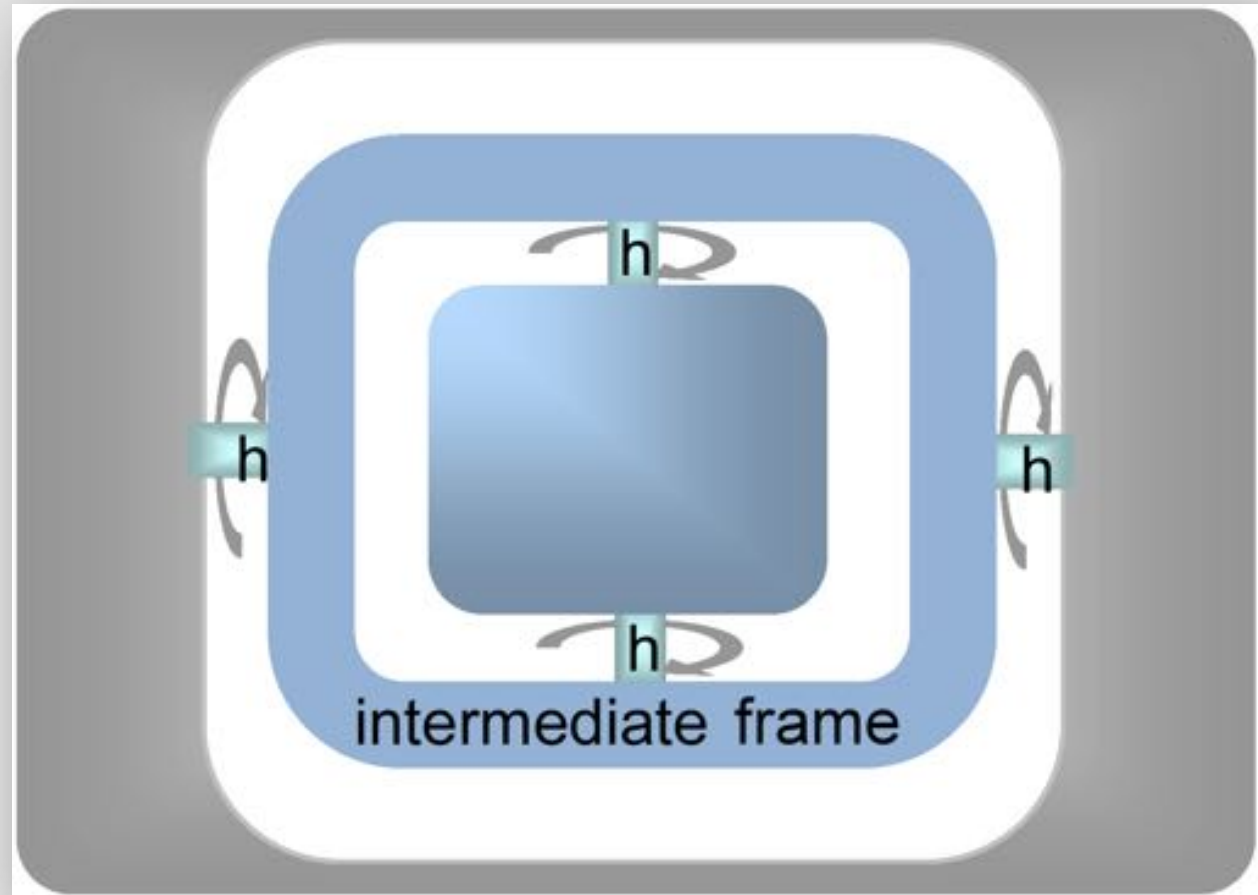


McQuaide, S. C., Seibel, E. J., Kelly, J. P., Schowengerdt, B. T., & Furness III, T. A. (2003). A retinal scanning display system that produces multiple focal planes with a deformable membrane mirror. *Displays*, 24(2), 65-72.

Dual axis scanning mirror



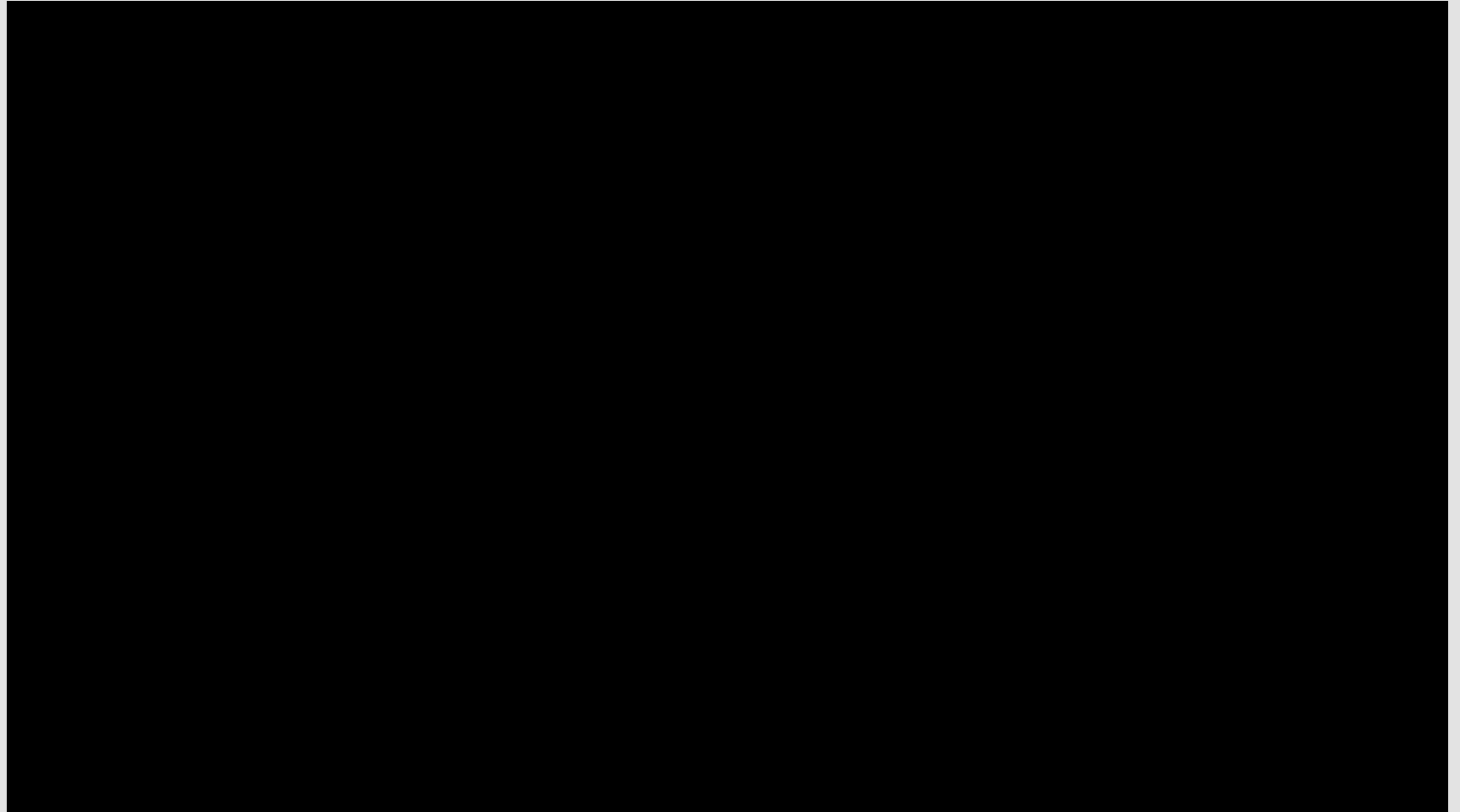
Principle of operation



Hainich & Bimber, 2017

Liquid lenses

George-Alex Koulieris



Optotune

Focusing at different distances



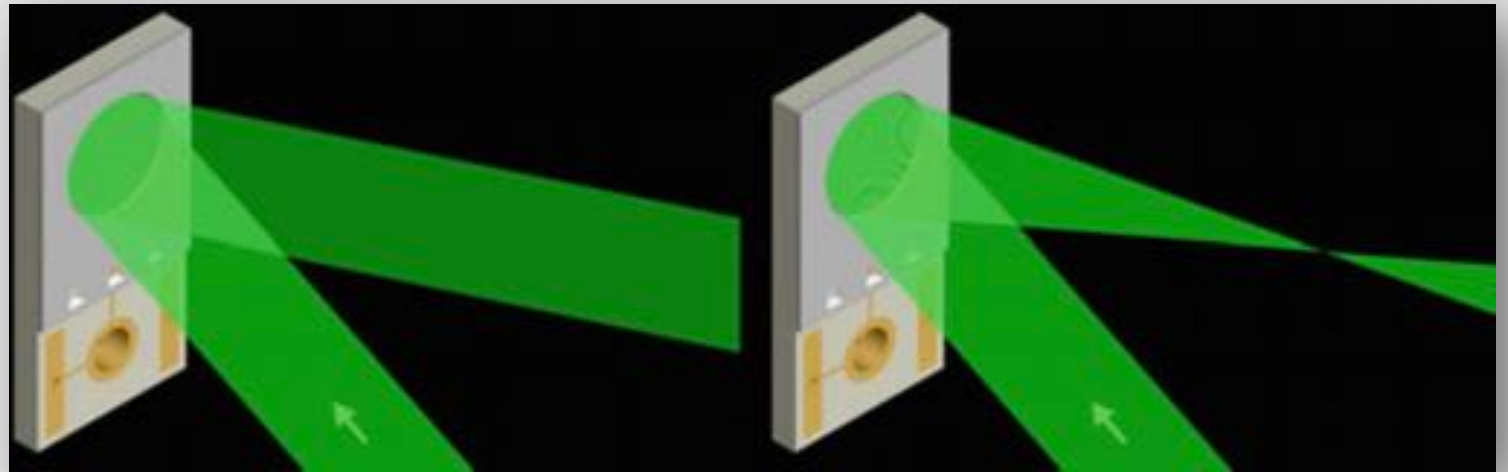
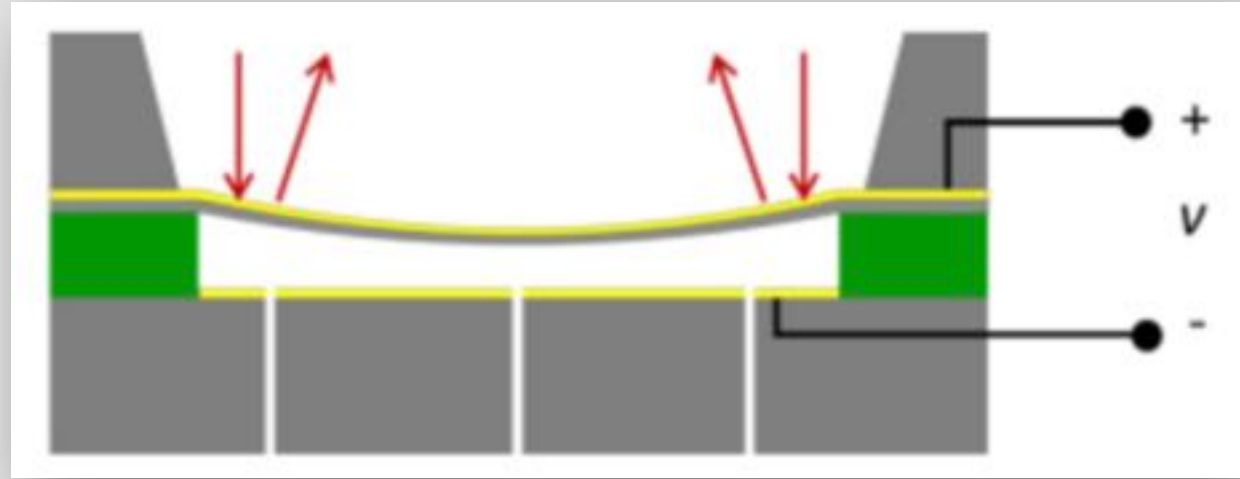
(a)



(b)

Xuan Wang

Deformable membrane mirrors

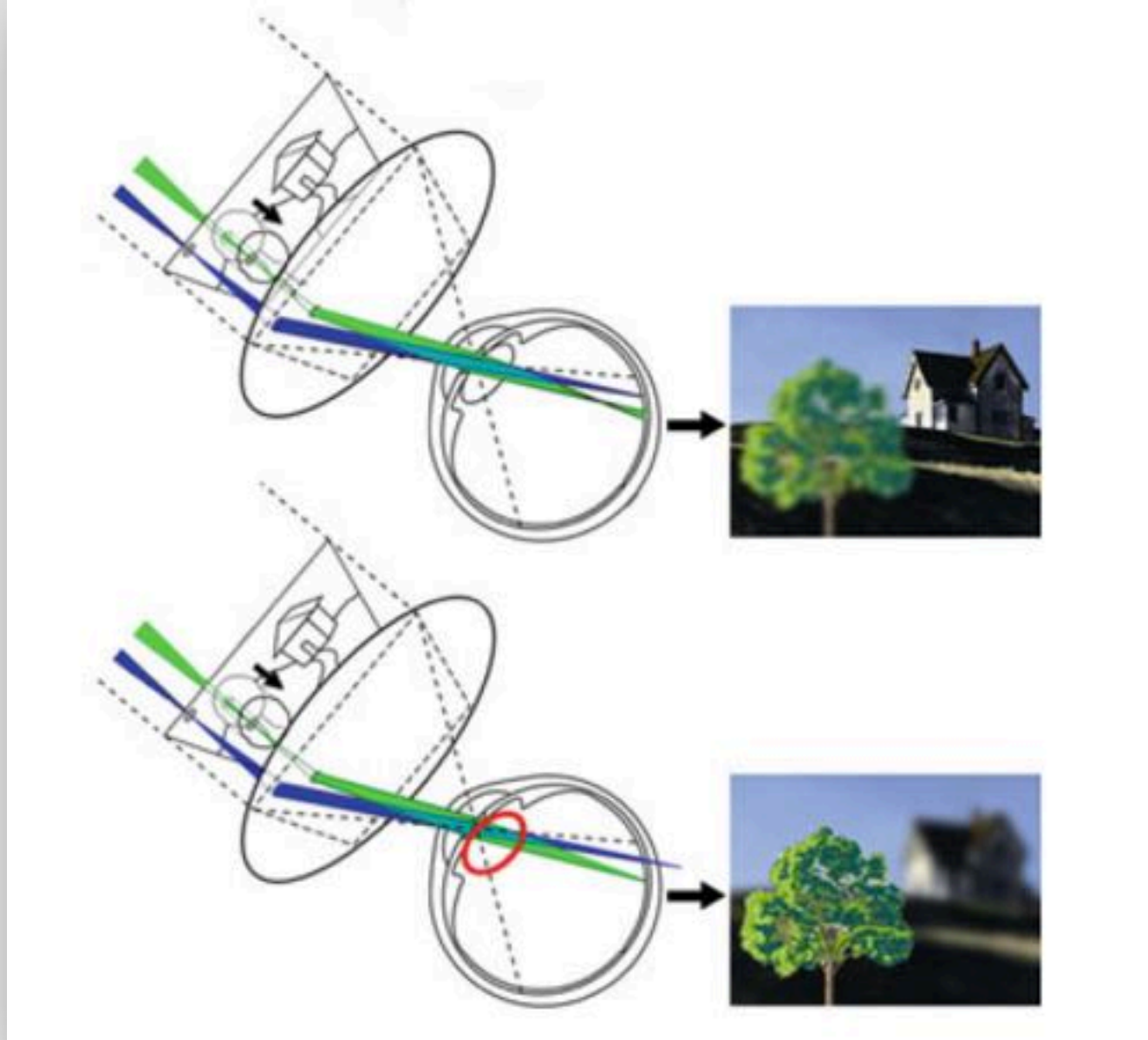


Schowengerdt & Seibel, 2012

McQuaide, S. C., Seibel, E. J., Kelly, J. P., Schowengerdt, B. T., & Furness III, T. A. (2003). A retinal scanning display system that produces multiple focal planes with a deformable membrane mirror. *Displays*, 24(2), 65-72.

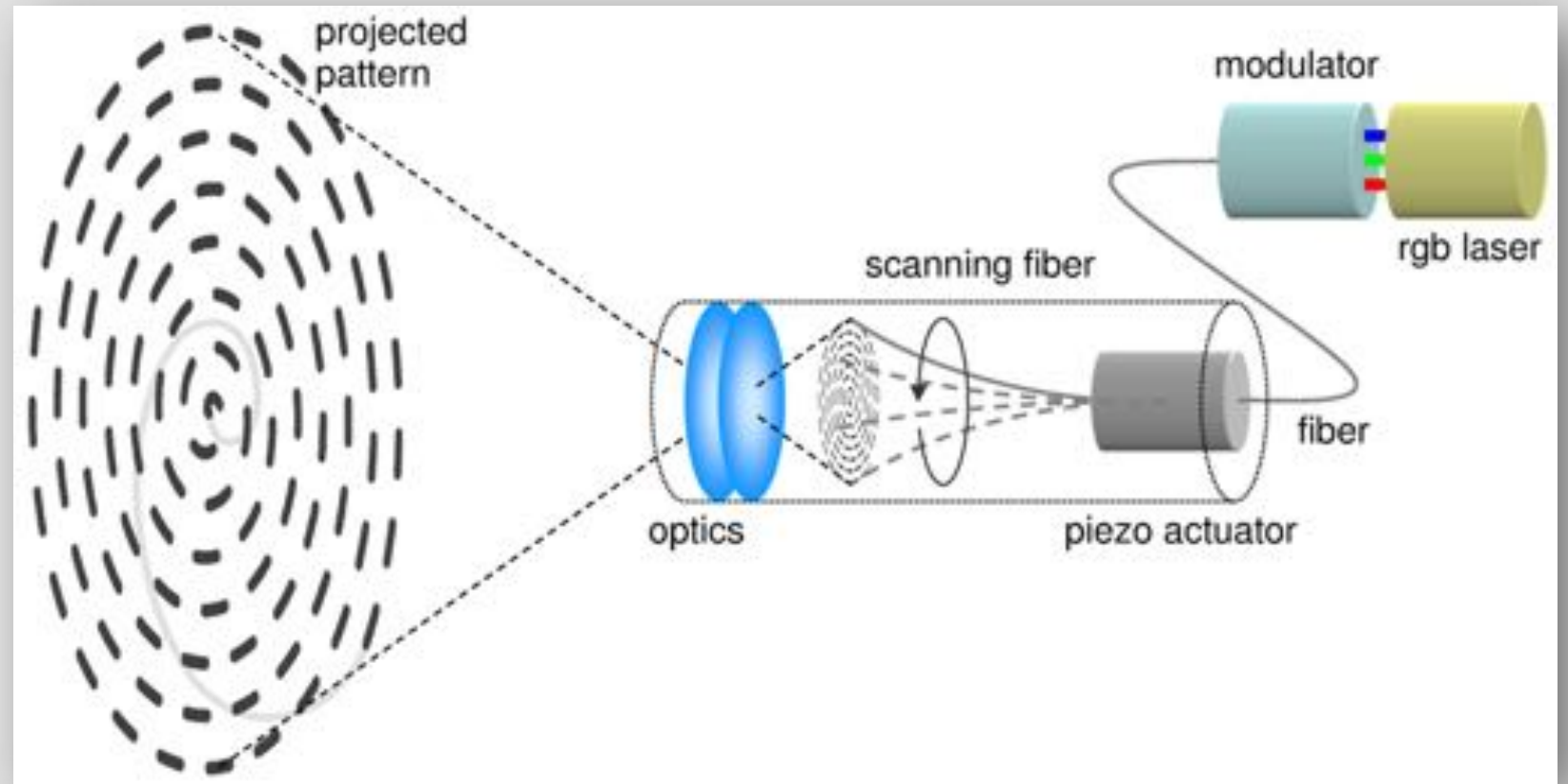
Multifocal scanned voxel displays

George-Alex Koulieris

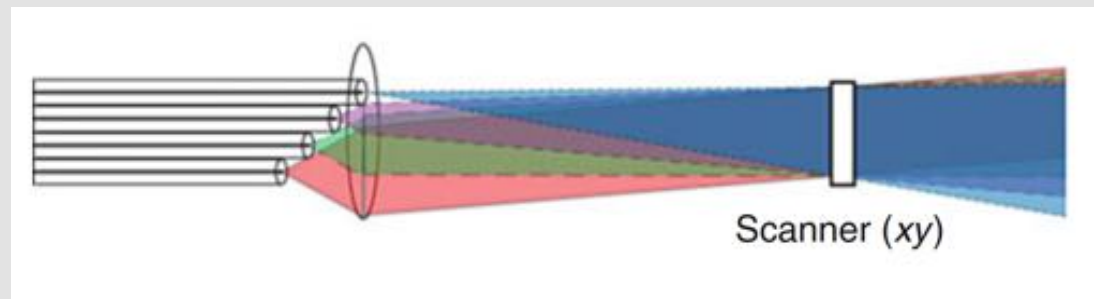


McQuaide, S. C., Seibel, E. J., Kelly, J. P., Schowengerdt, B. T., & Furness III, T. A. (2003). A retinal scanning display system that produces multiple focal planes with a deformable membrane mirror. *Displays*, 24(2), 65-72.

Scanning fiber projector



Hainich & Bimber, 2017



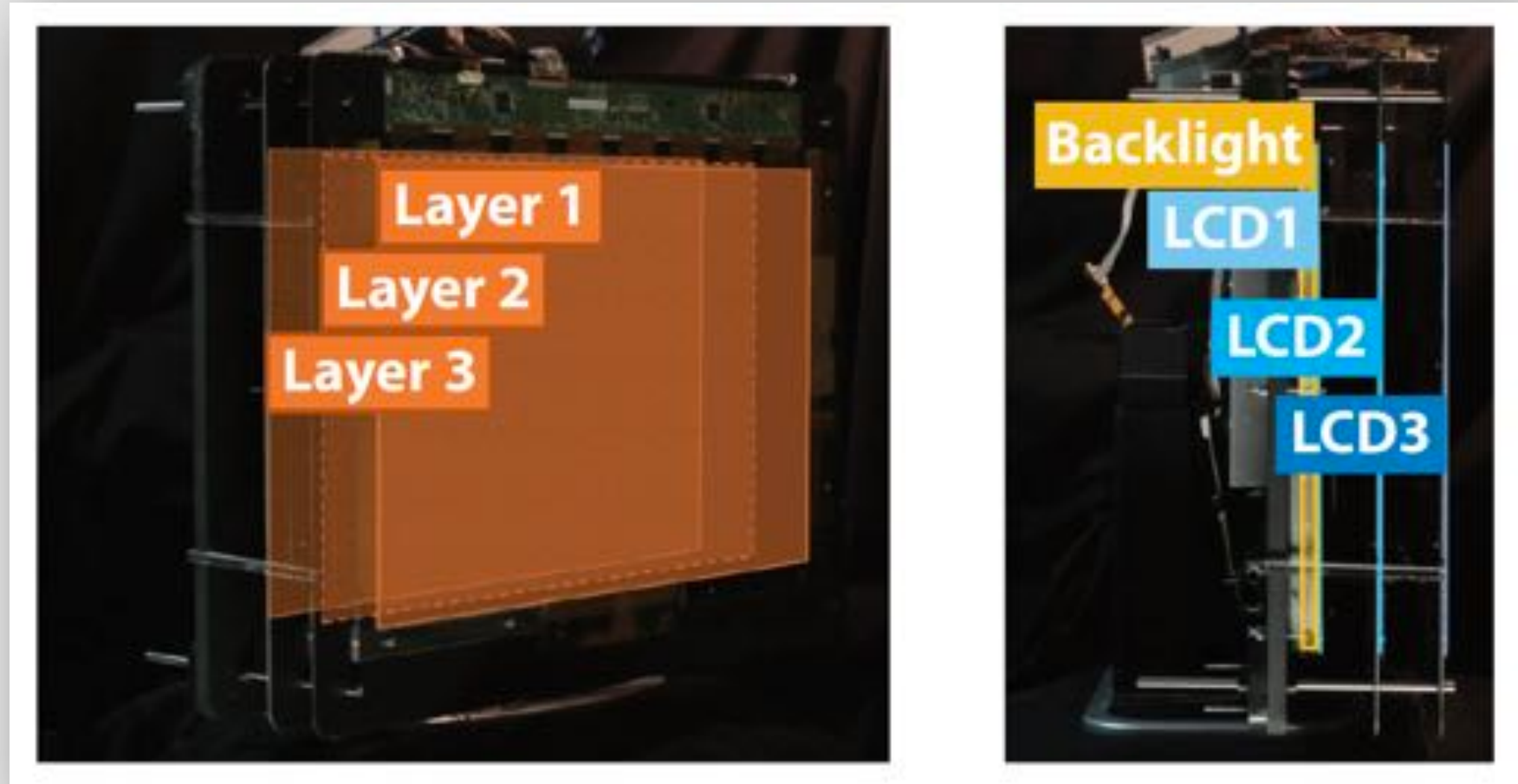
Schowengerdt & Seibel, 2012

Light field displays

- Emit a 4-dimensional distribution of light rays
 - 2D on the display
 - Another 2D horizontal & vertical angle of each pixel
- Each light ray carries radiance at some location into a specific direction

Lanman, D., Hirsch, M., Kim, Y., & Raskar, R. (2010, December). Content-adaptive parallax barriers: optimizing dual-layer 3D displays using low-rank light field factorization. In *ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG)* (Vol. 29, No. 6, p. 163). ACM.

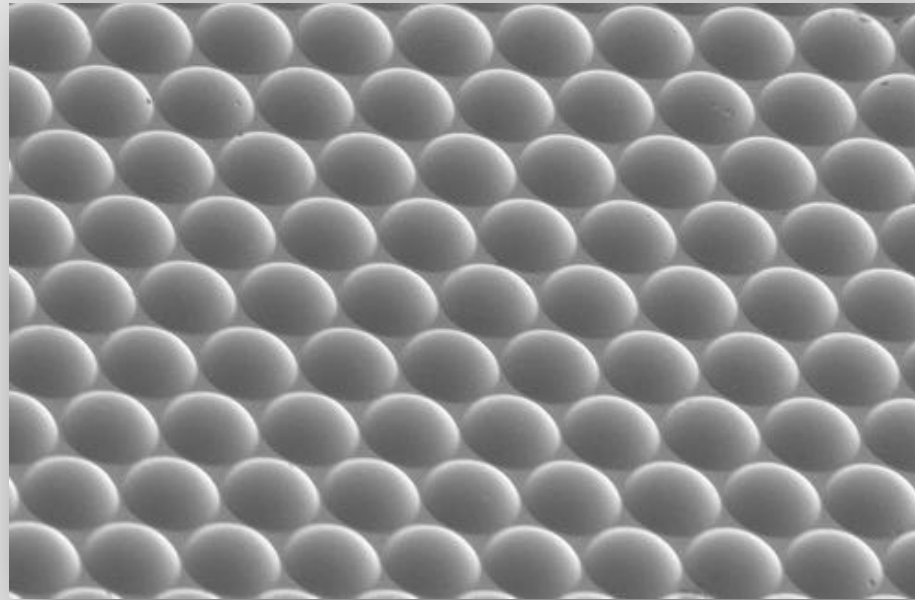
Light field displays



Wetzstein, G., Lanman, D., Hirsch, M., & Raskar, R. (2012). Tensor displays: compressive light field synthesis using multilayer displays with directional backlighting.

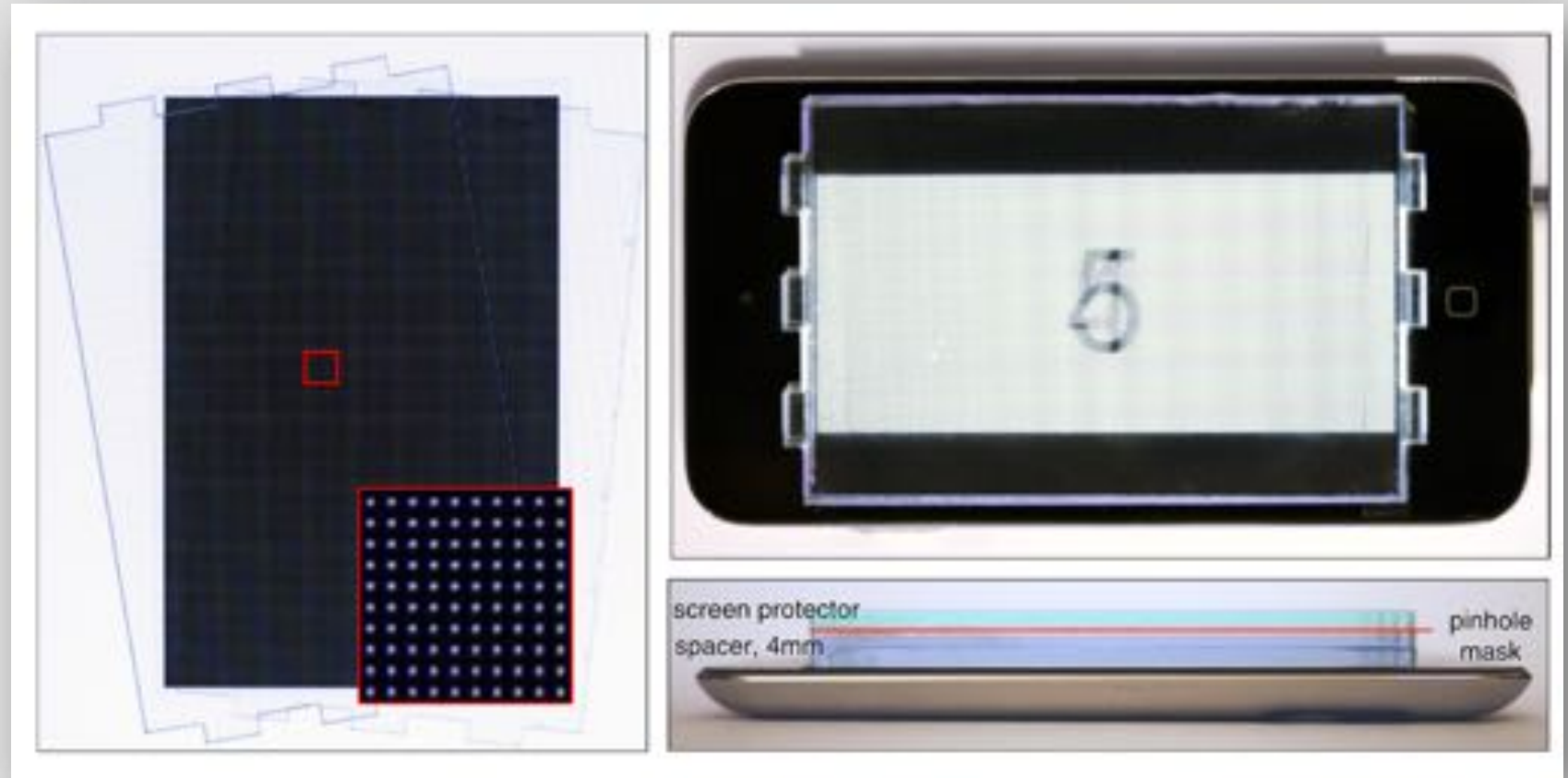
Example construction

- Sandwich a microlens array between an LCD-pair stack
- Perform light beam steering and modulation

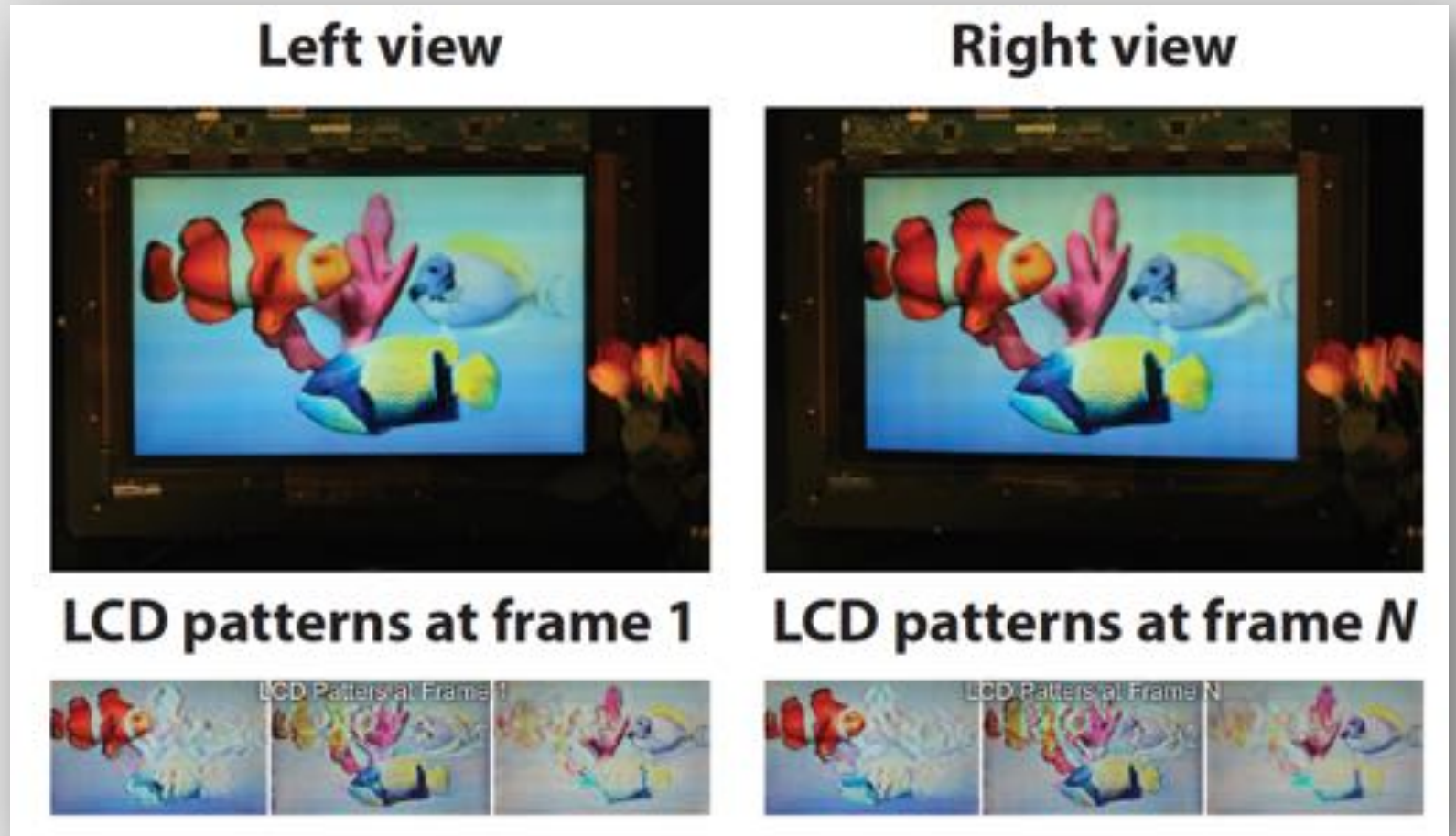


Pinhole parallax barrier

5x5 pixels under each pinhole

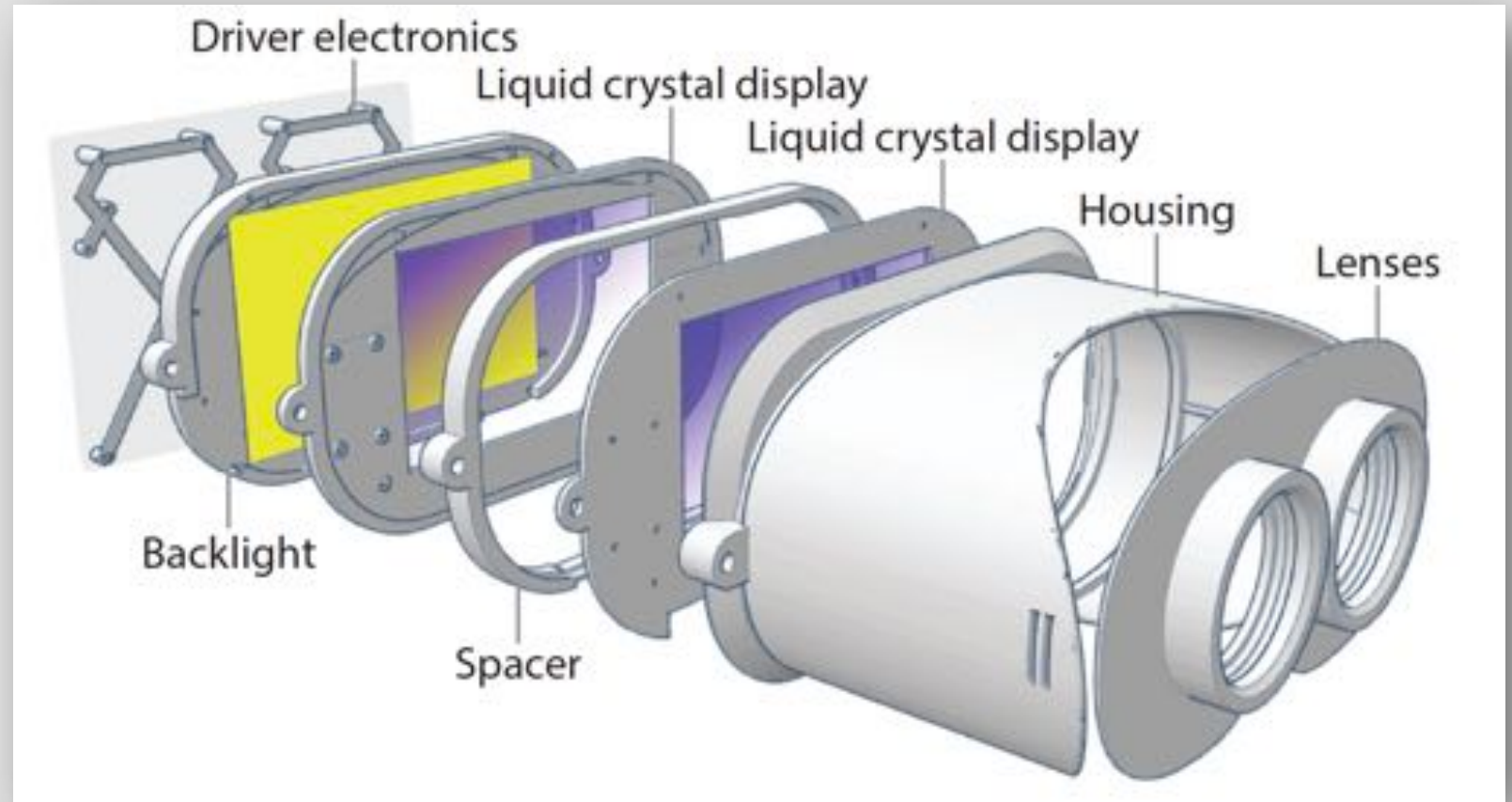


Light field displays



Wetzstein, G., Lanman, D., Hirsch, M., & Raskar, R. (2012). Tensor displays: compressive light field synthesis using multilayer displays with directional backlighting.

Wearable light field displays

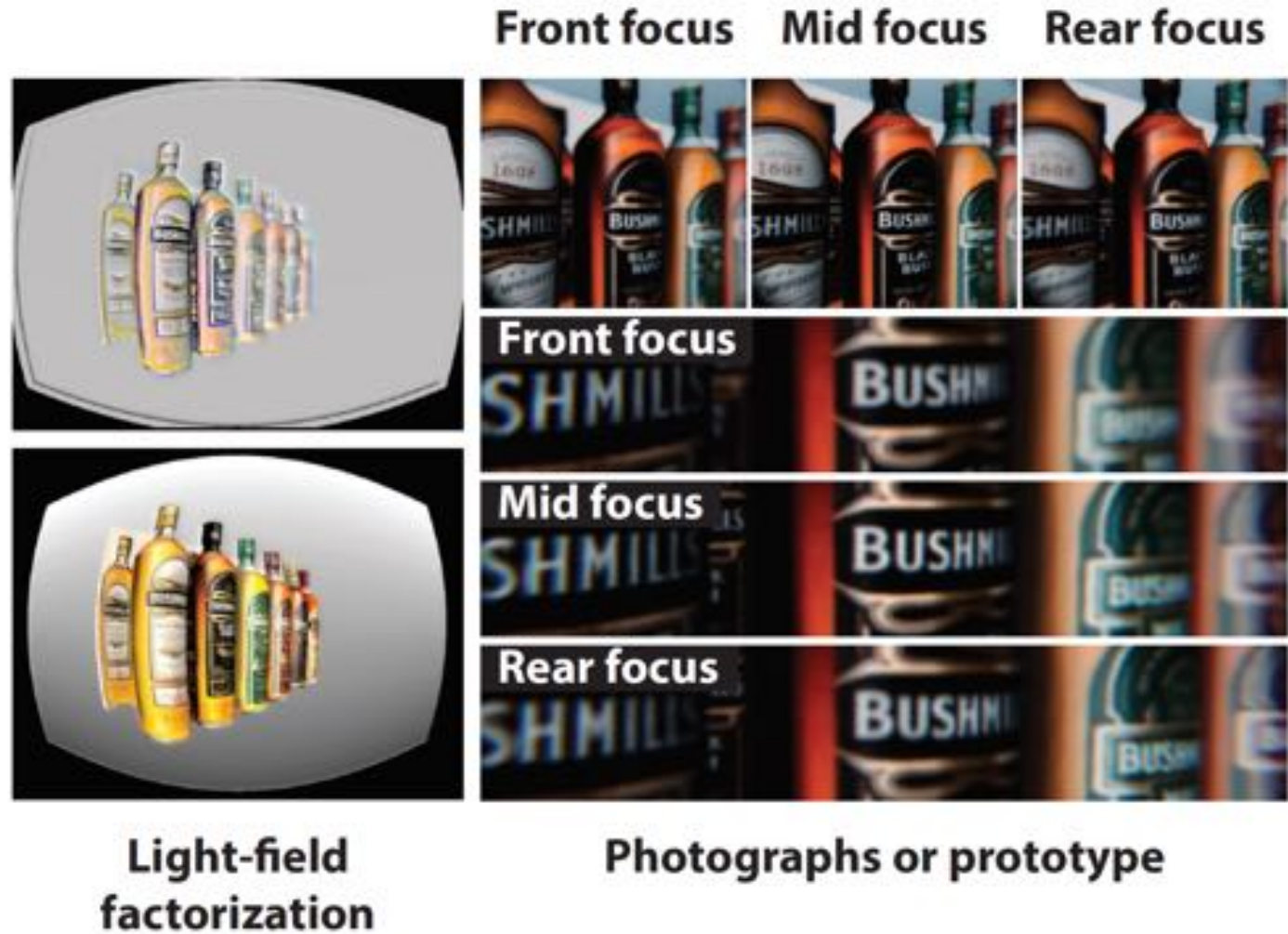


Huang et al., 2015

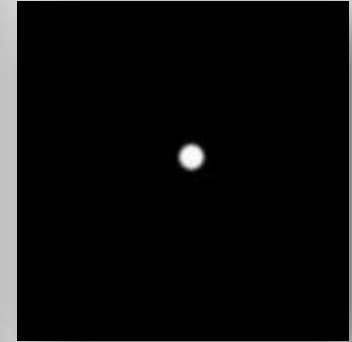
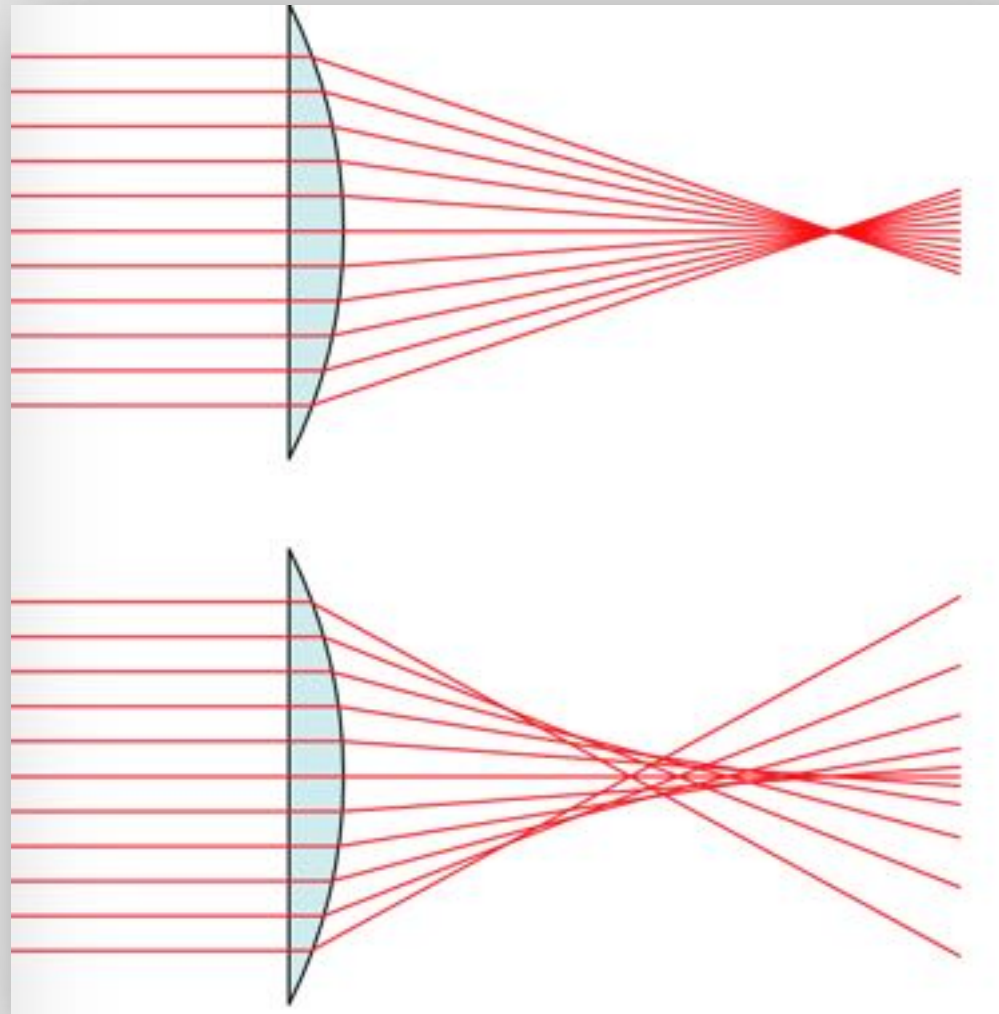
Lanman, D., & Luebke, D. (2013). Near-eye light field displays. *ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG)*, 32(6), 220.

Huang, F. C., Chen, K., & Wetzstein, G. (2015). The light field stereoscope: immersive computer graphics via factored near-eye light field displays with focus cues. *ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG)*, 34(4), 60.

Wearable light field displays

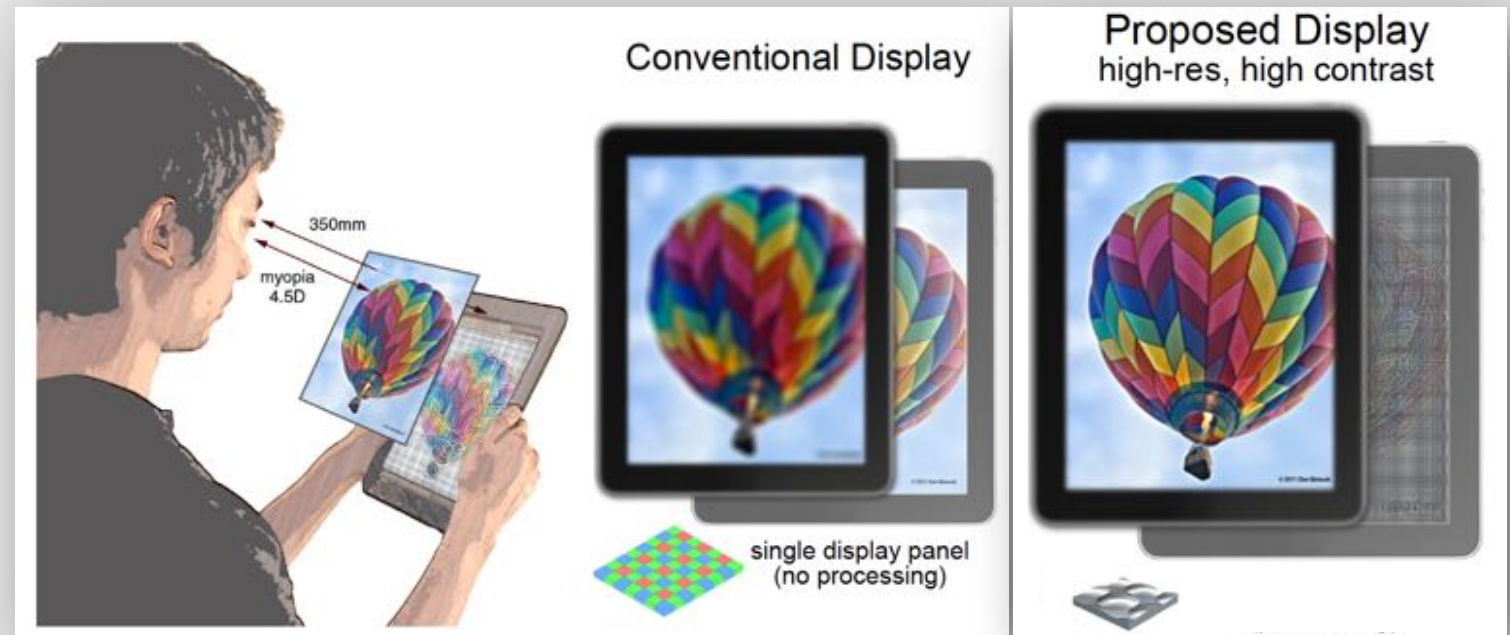


Spherical aberrations



Mglg

Pre-correcting aberrations with light field displays



Holography

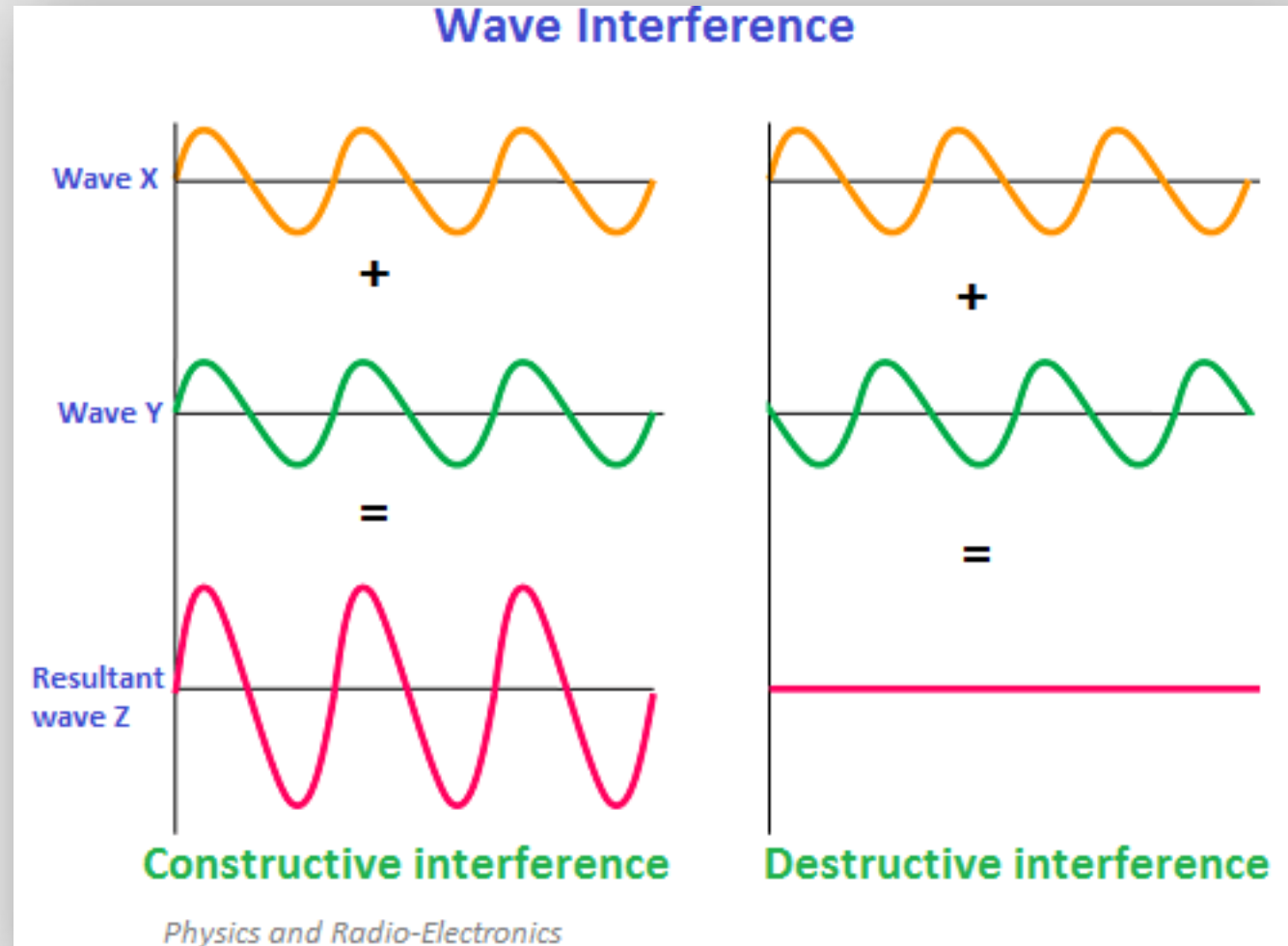
- The ultimate 3D image generation technique
- Exact wave-front reconstruction
- Holograms record and play all characteristics of light waves
 - phase, amplitude, wavelength

Holography

- Ideally no difference between real object and its hologram
- Recorded using lasers that exhibit coherent monochrome light with regular wave-fronts on photographic plates
- Can use 3 colored lasers for color reproduction
- Computer generated holograms very promising in the -far- future

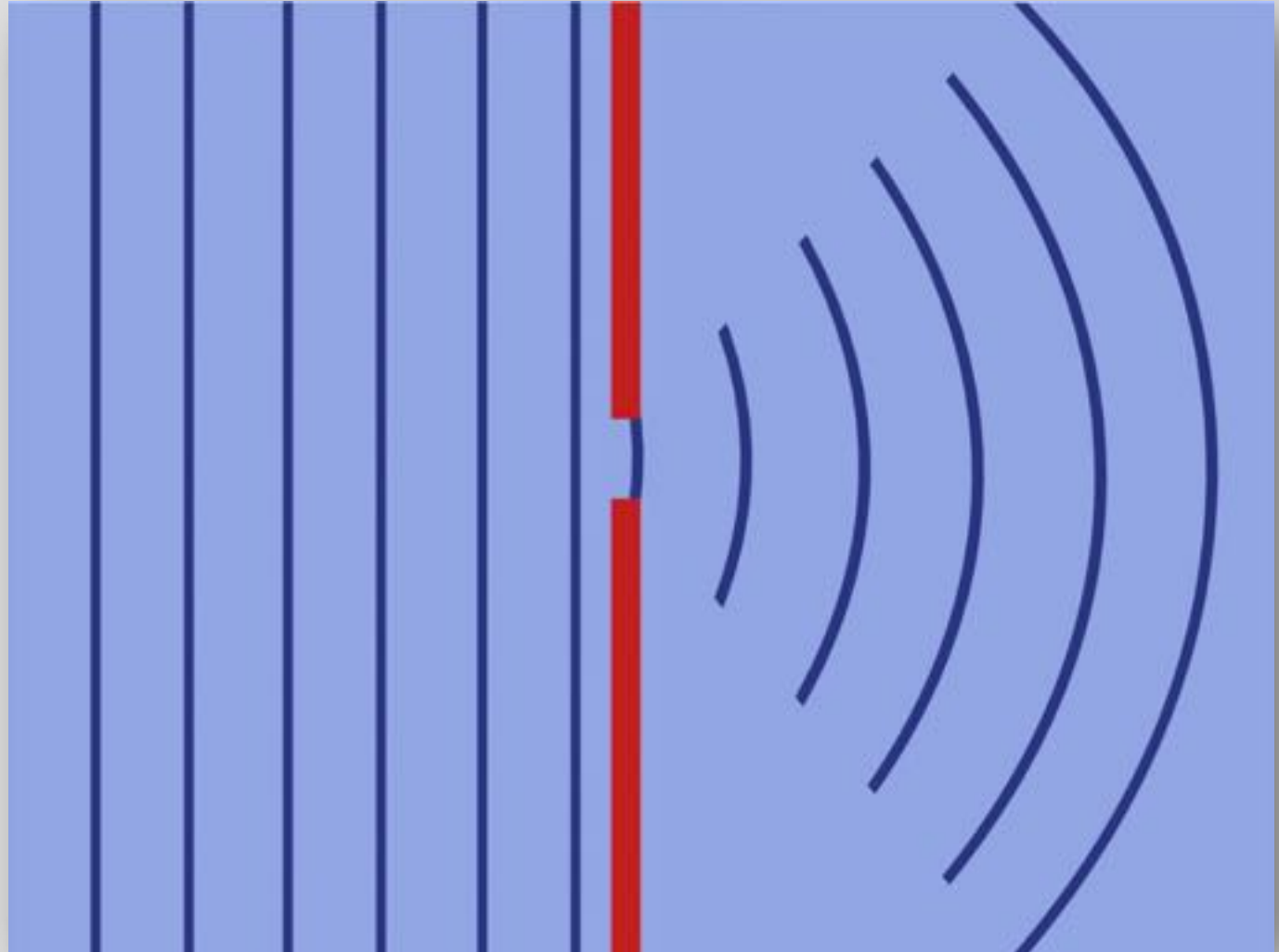
Principles

- Interference



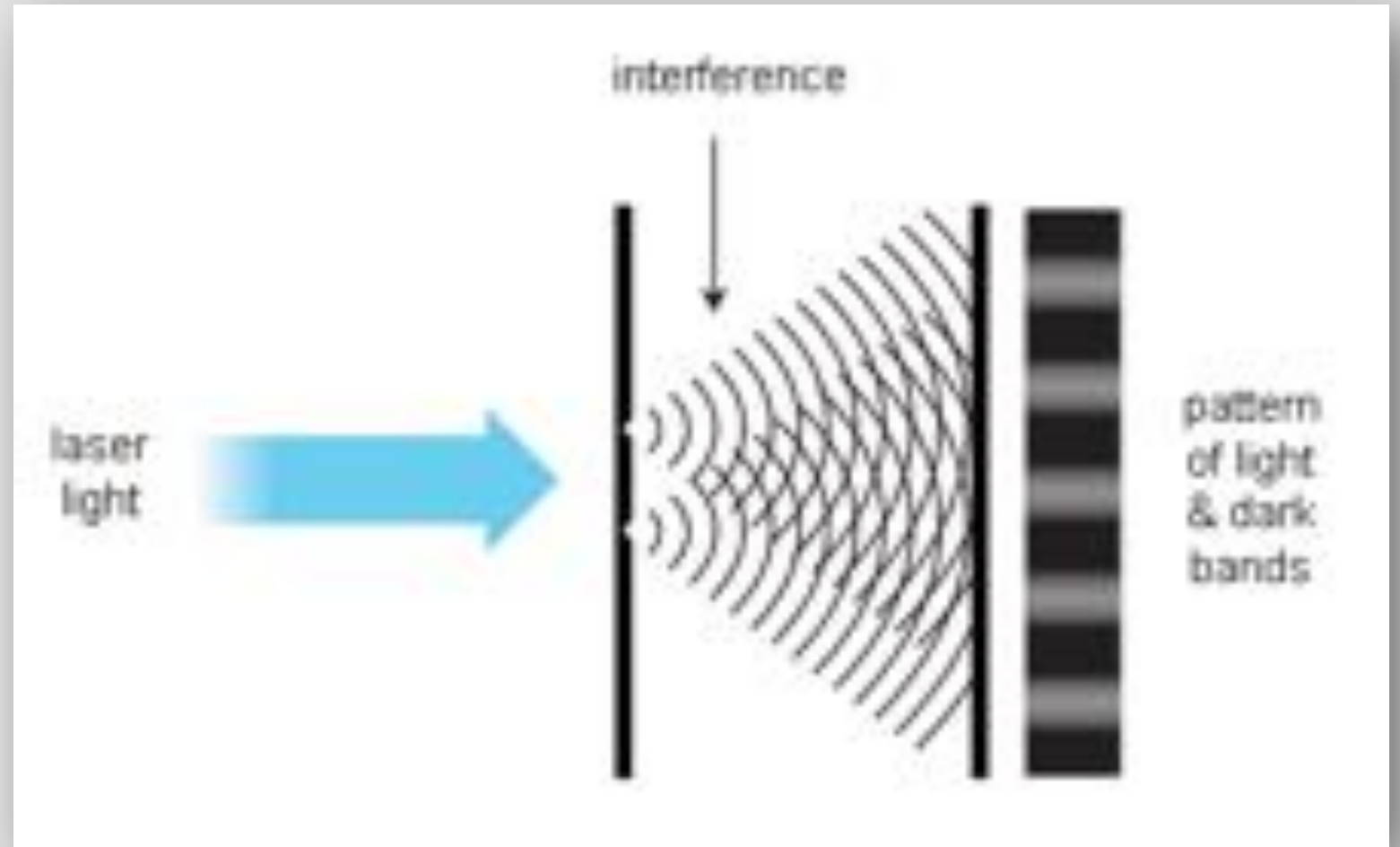
Principles

- Interference
- Diffraction

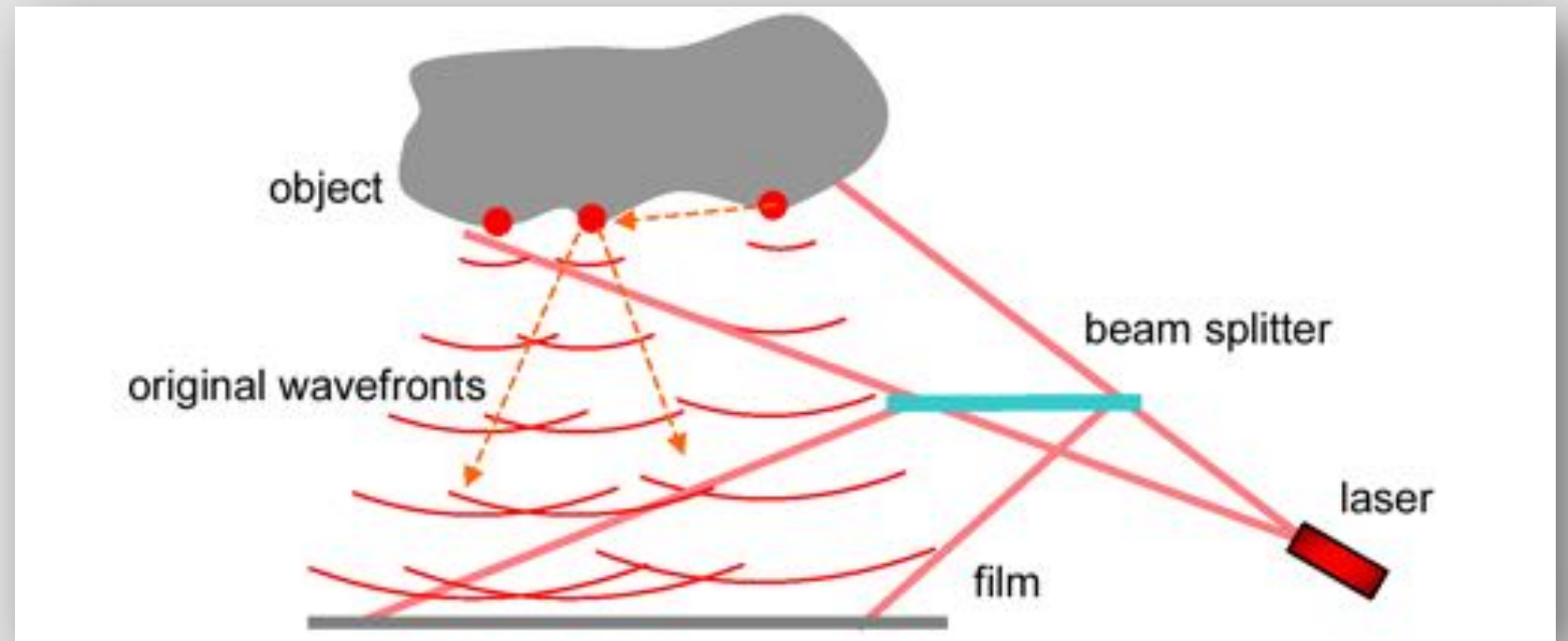


Principles

- Interference
- Diffraction
- Fringe pattern superposition

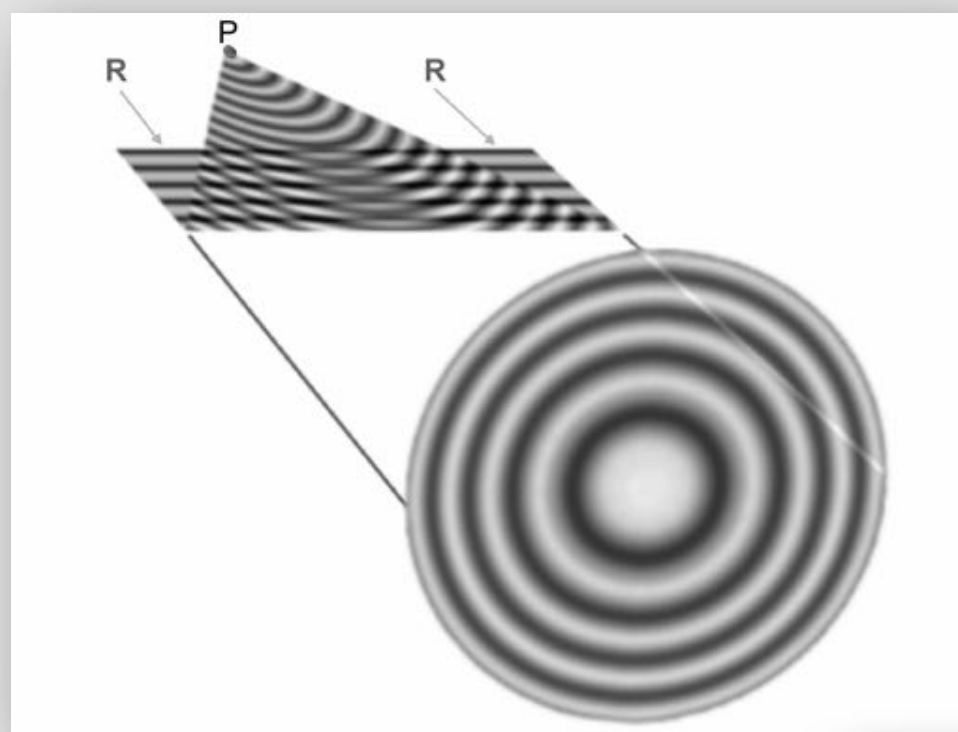


Recording holograms

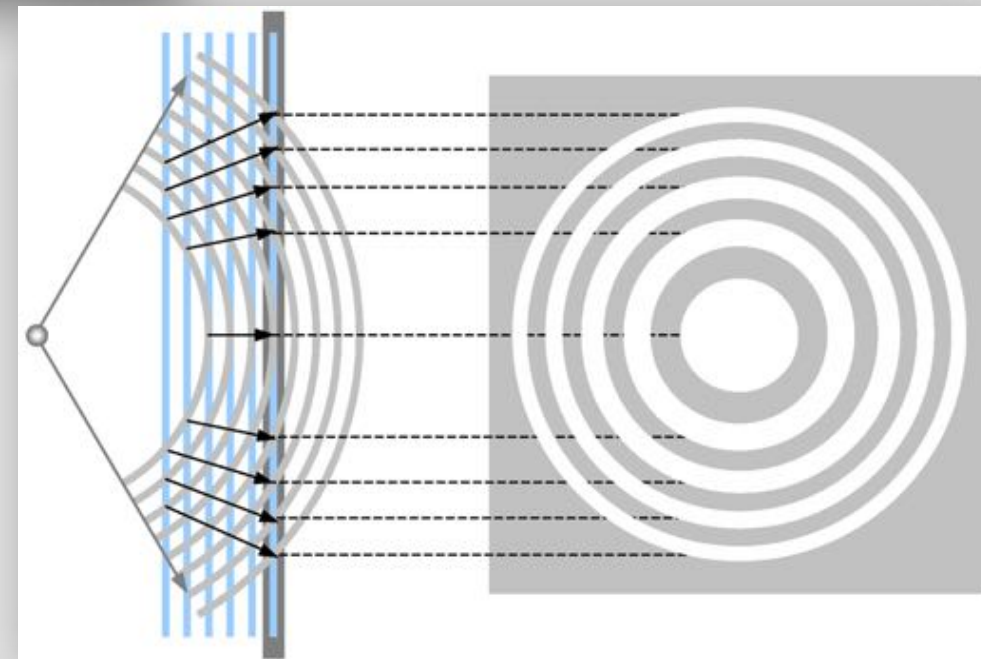


Hainich & Bimber, 2017

Recorded fringe patterns

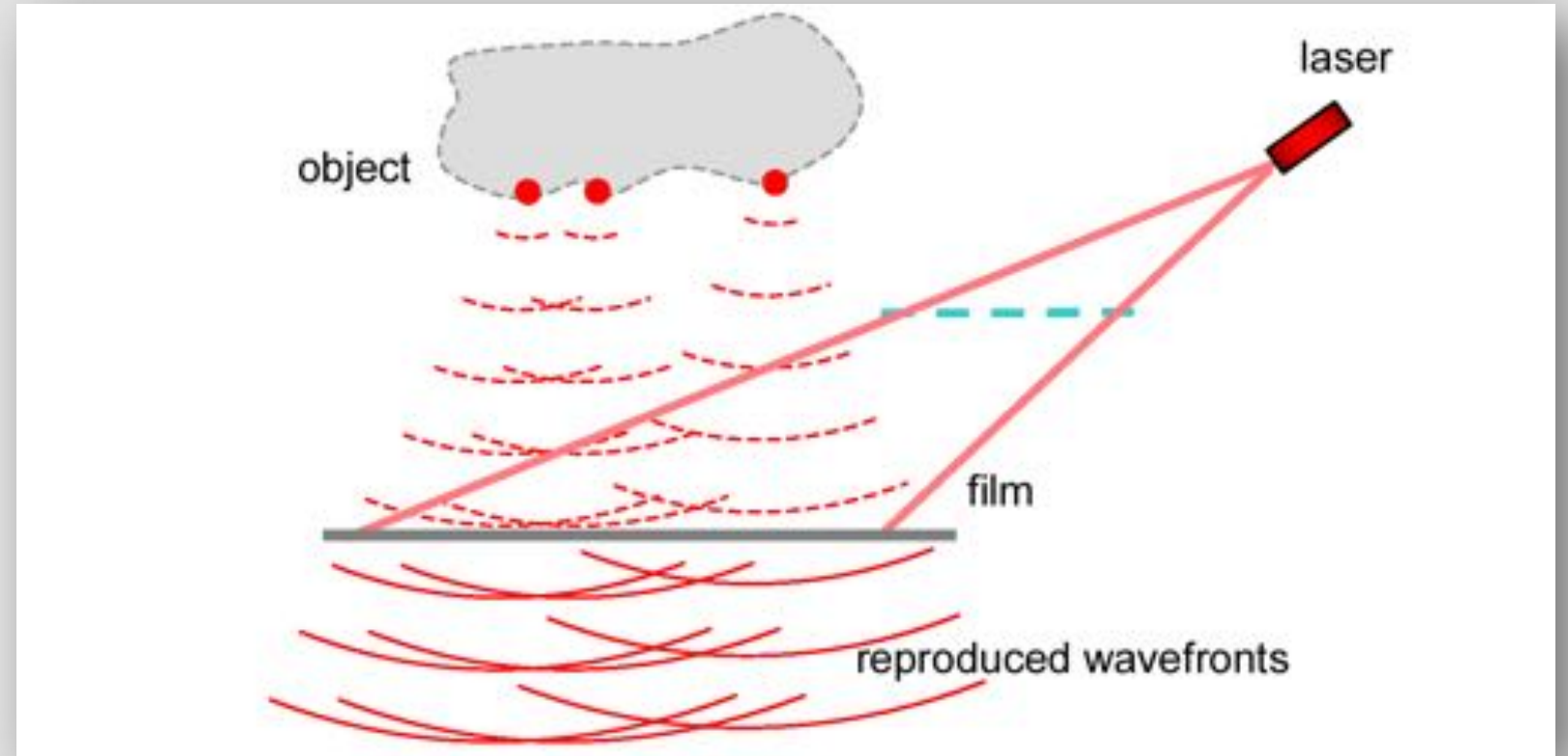


Hainich & Bimber, 2017



Hainich & Bimber, 2017

Playing-back holograms



Hainich & Bimber, 2017

Computer generated holograms

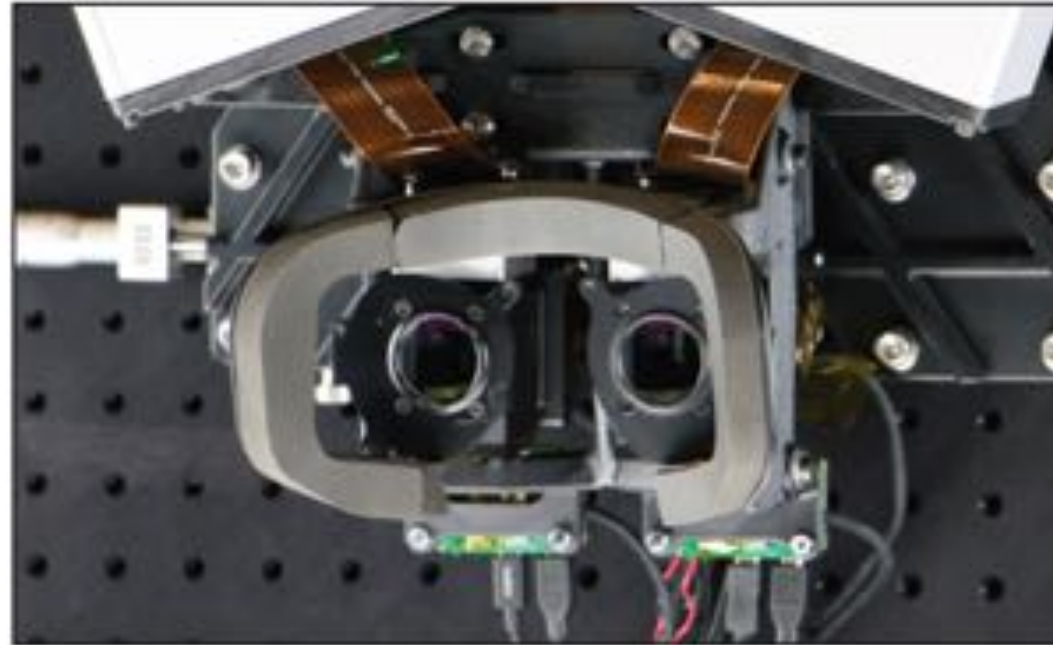
- Computer generated fringe patterns
- Use Spatial Light Modulators (SLMs) for display
- DMDs and F-LCDs often used

Holographic near-eye displays

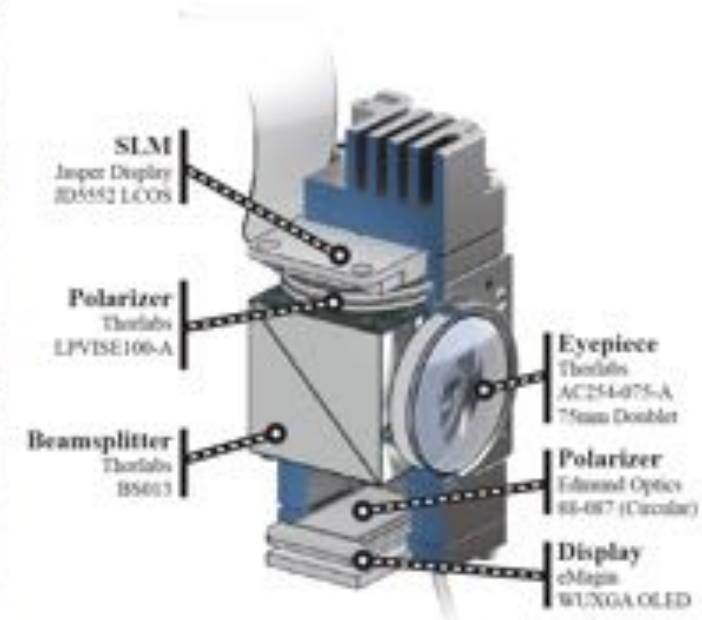


Maimone, A., Georgiou, A., & Kollin, J. S. (2017). Holographic near-eye displays for virtual and augmented reality. *ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG)*, 36(4), 85.

Focal surface displays



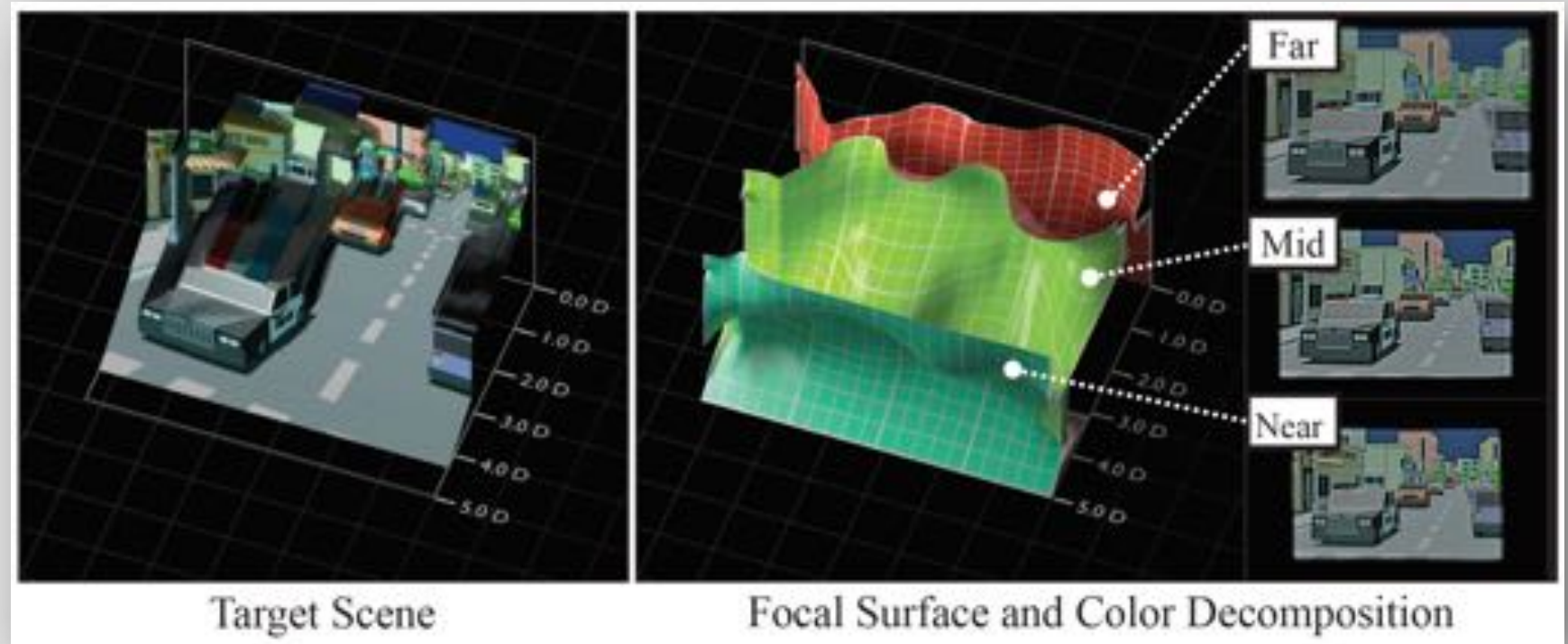
(a) Construction of the Prototype



(b) Arrangement of the Optical Components

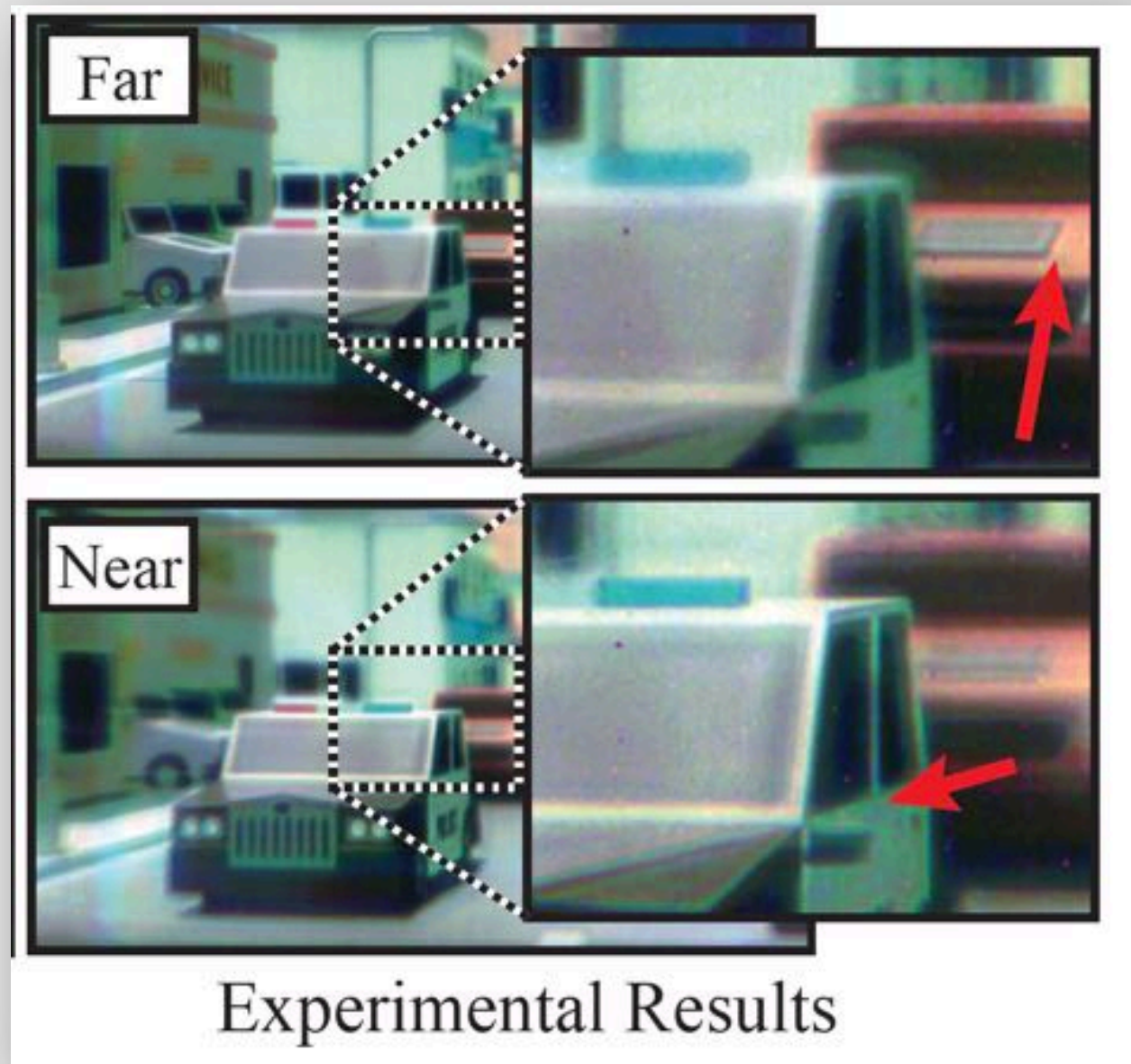
Matsuda, N., Fix, A., & Lanman, D. (2017). Focal surface displays. *ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG)*, 36(4), 86.

Focal surface displays

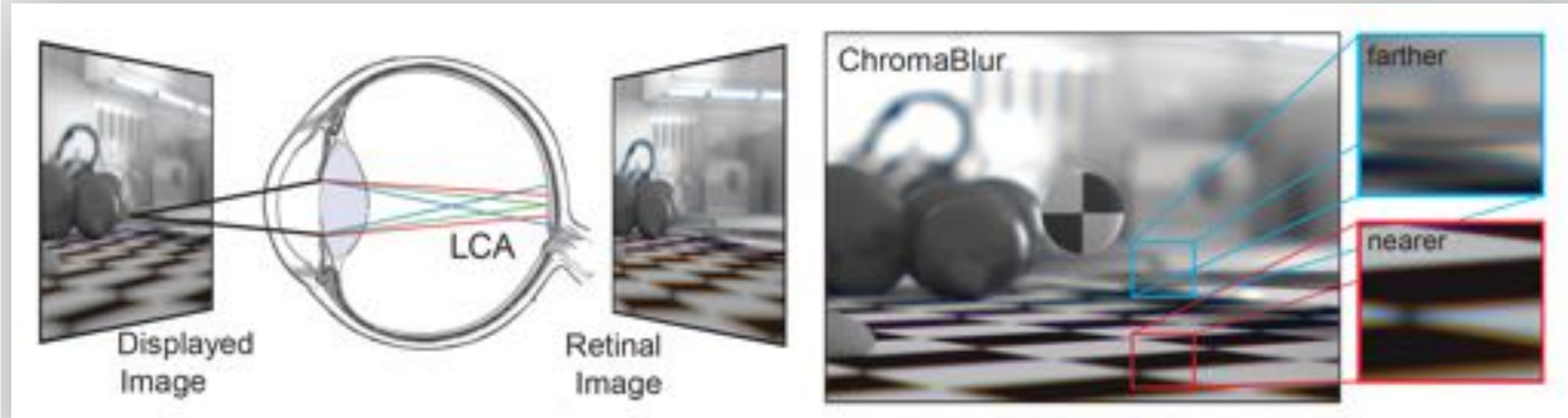


Matsuda, N., Fix, A., & Lanman, D. (2017). Focal surface displays. *ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG)*, 36(4), 86.

Focal surface displays

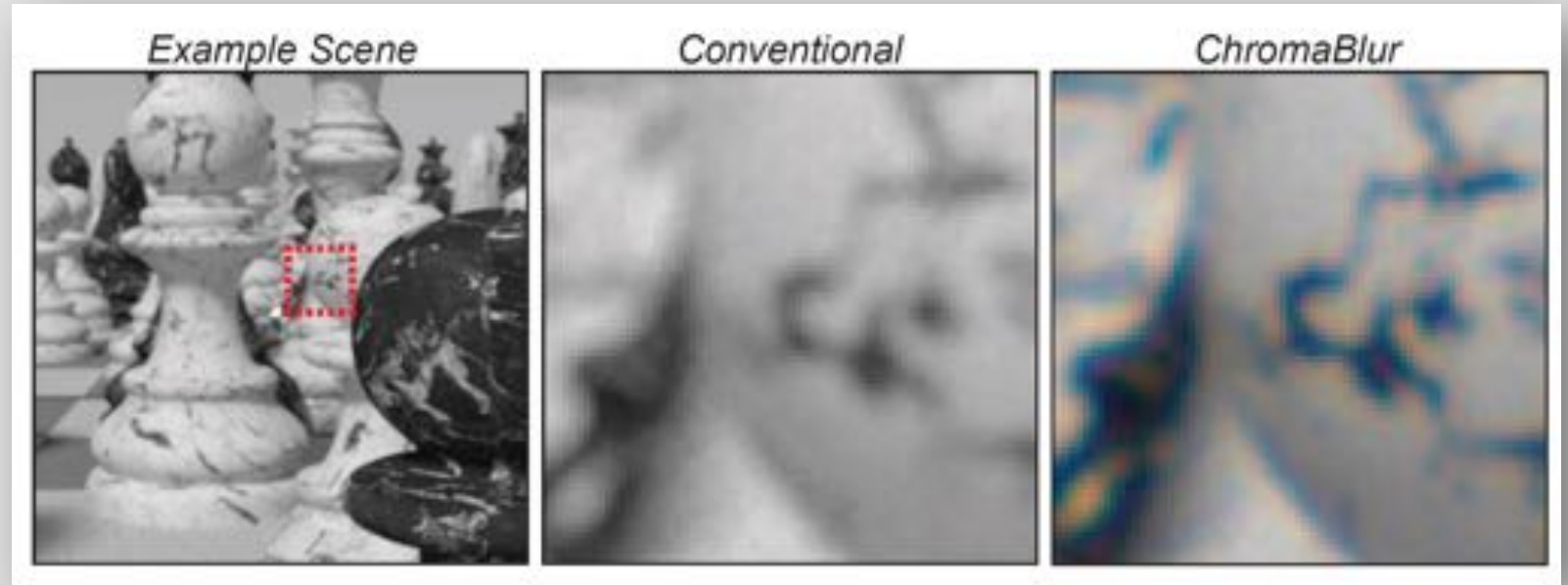


Rendering chromatic aberration



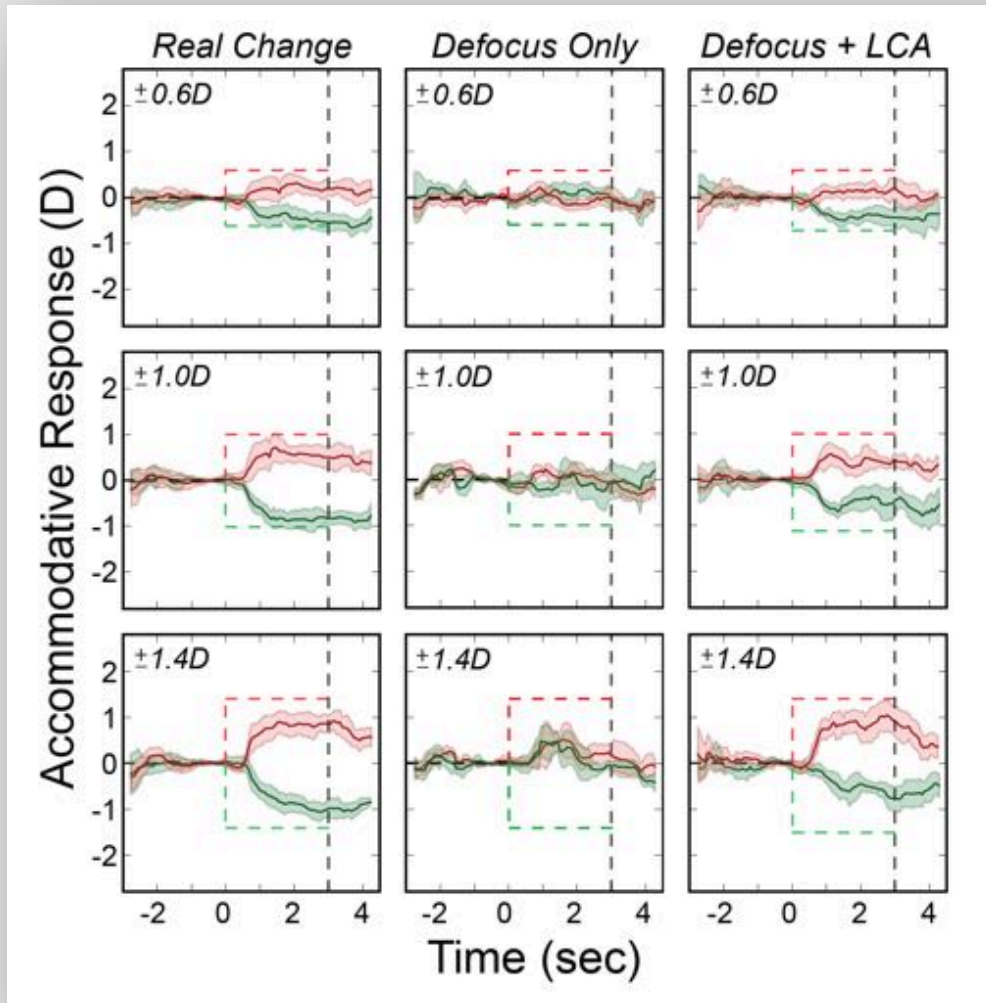
Cholewiak, S. A., Love, G. D., Srinivasan, P. P., Ng, R., & Banks, M. S. (2017). ChromaBlur: rendering chromatic eye aberration improves accommodation and realism. *ACM transactions on graphics.*, 36(6), 210.

Rendering chromatic aberration



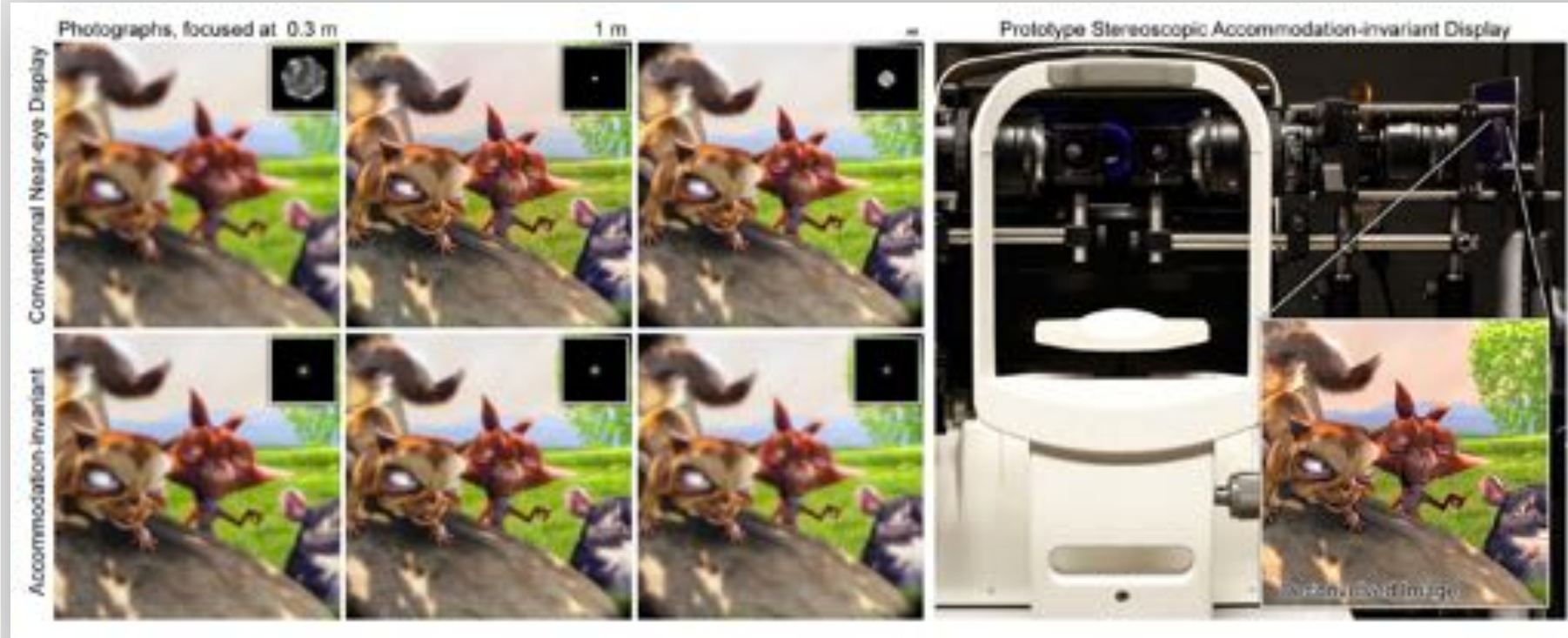
Cholewiak, S. A., Love, G. D., Srinivasan, P. P., Ng, R., & Banks, M. S. (2017). ChromaBlur: rendering chromatic eye aberration improves accommodation and realism. *ACM transactions on graphics.*, 36(6), 210.

Rendering chromatic aberration



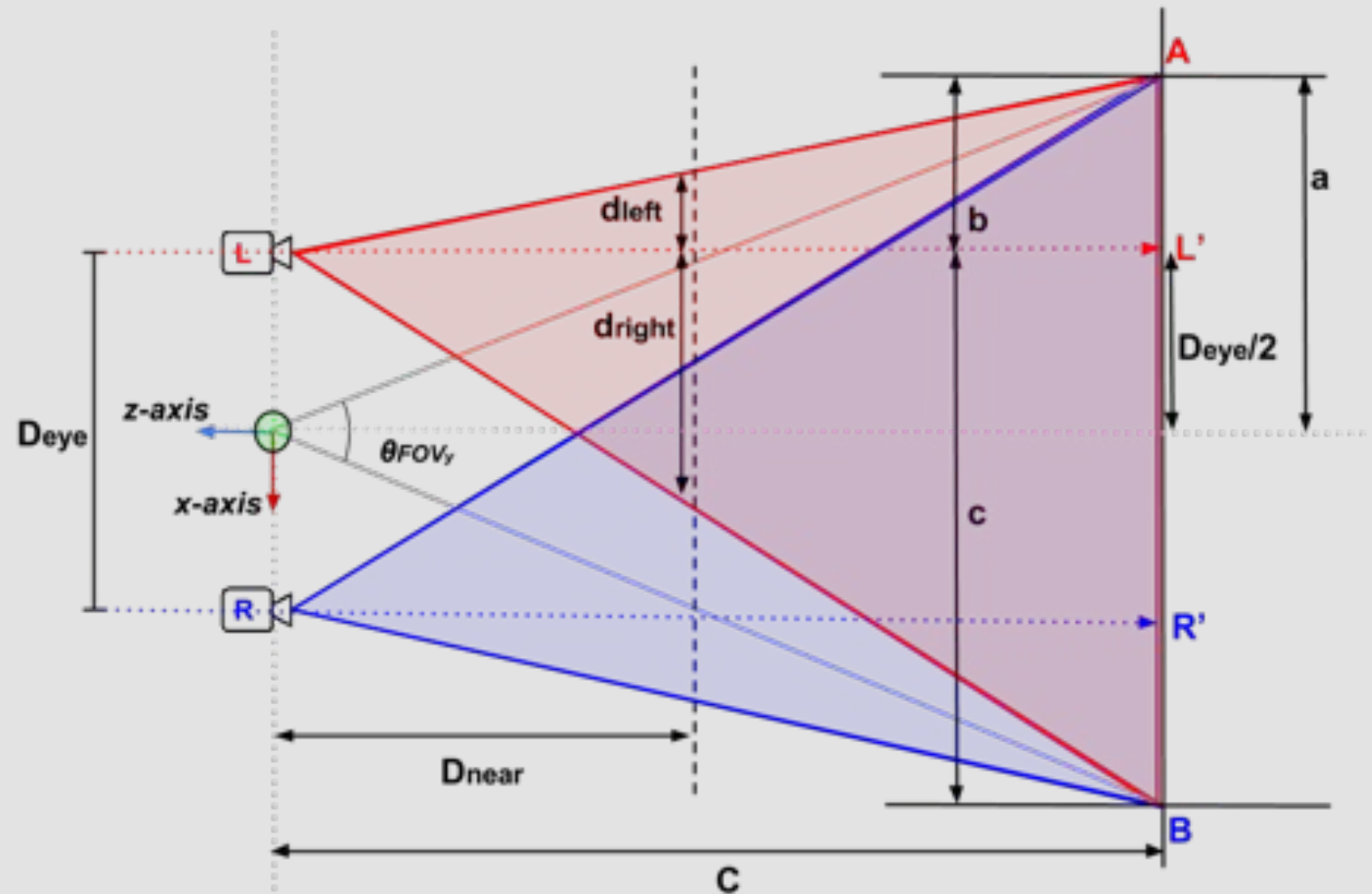
Cholewiak, S. A., Love, G. D., Srinivasan, P. P., Ng, R., & Banks, M. S. (2017). ChromaBlur: rendering chromatic eye aberration improves accommodation and realism. *ACM transactions on graphics.*, 36(6), 210.

Accommodation invariant displays



Konrad, R., Padmanaban, N., Molner, K., Cooper, E. A., & Wetzstein, G. (2017). Accommodation-invariant computational near-eye displays. *ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG)*, 36(4), 88.

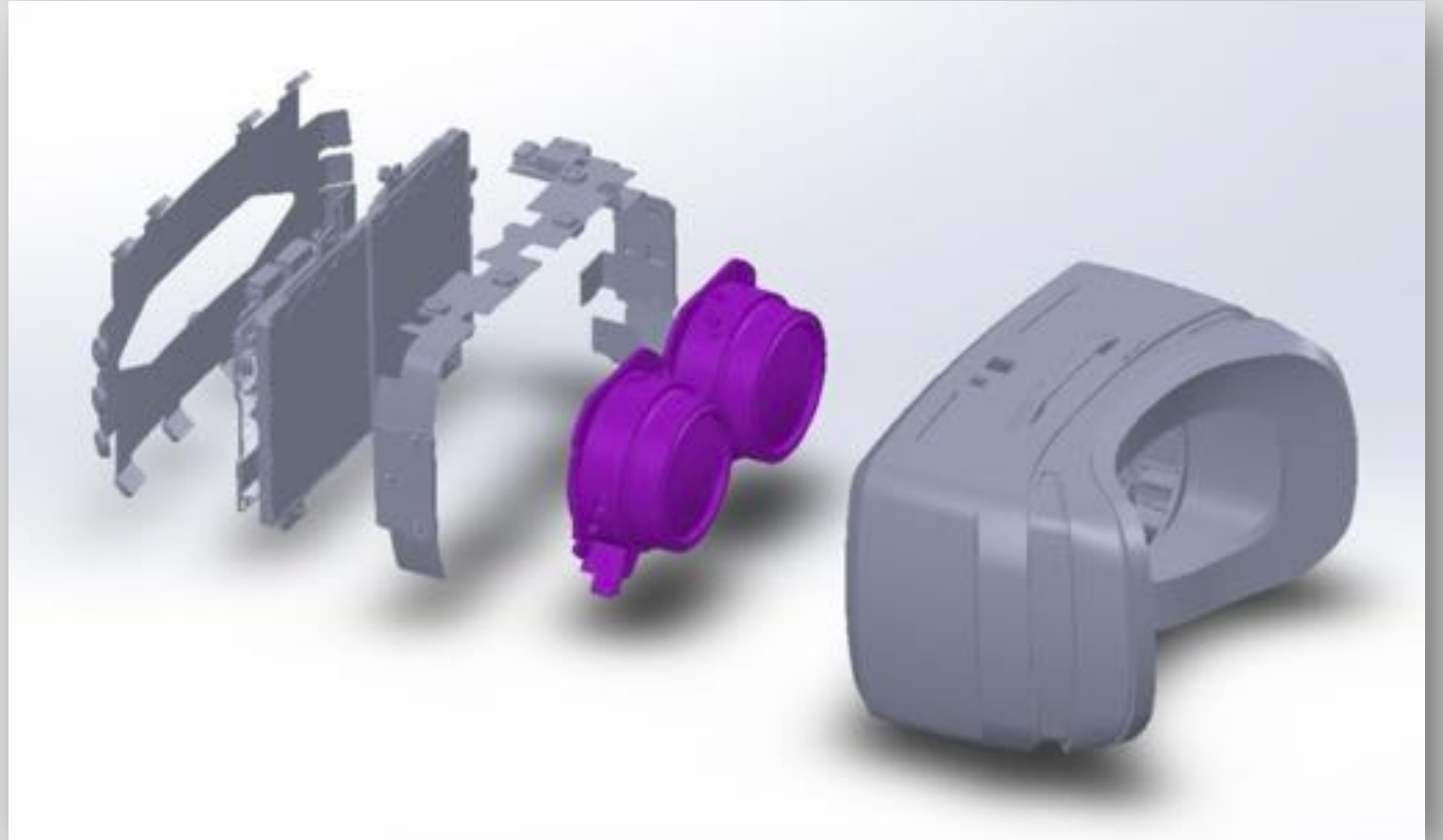
Software-only methods



Koulieris, G. A., Drettakis, G., Cunningham, D., & Mania, K. (2016, March). Gaze prediction using machine learning for dynamic stereo manipulation in games. In *Virtual Reality (VR), 2016 IEEE* (pp. 113-120). IEEE.



Lemnis Technologies





Part 3 (case study):
delving deeper into the relationship of
accommodation and comfort

Key, challenging ideas

- Evaluating previously proposed methods by validating if they actually drive accommodation and reduce discomfort
- Never been done before as measuring accommodation while looking through adjustable lenses is a hard problem

Investigating accommodation and comfort in head-mounted displays

1. Gaze-Contingent Depth-of-Field blur (GC DoF blur)
Mauderer et al. (2014)



HMD with Fixed Lenses and Gaze-Contingent DoF Blur



Rendered Retinal Blur

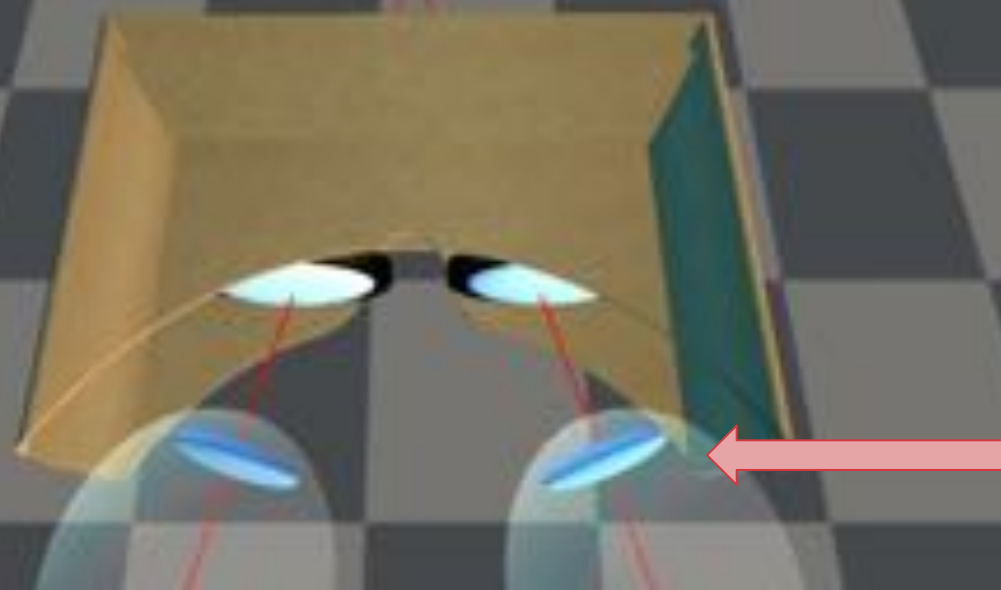


left eye's retinal image



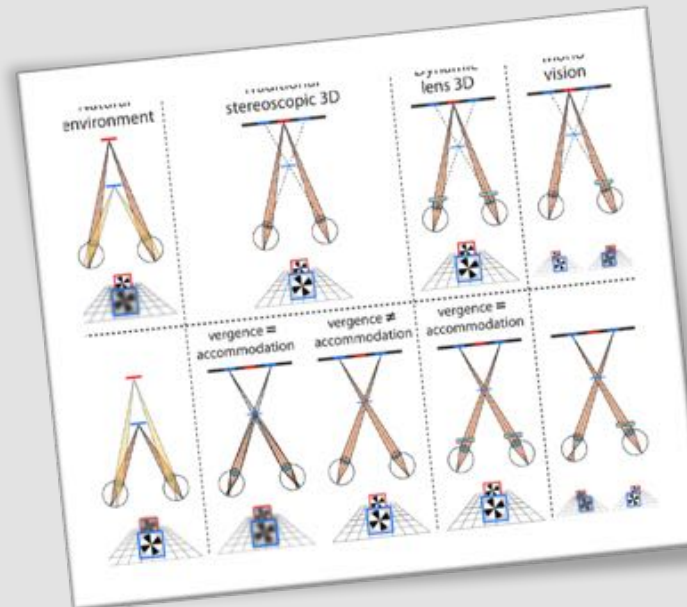
right eye's retinal image

HMD with Fixed Lenses
and Gaze-Contingent DoF Blur

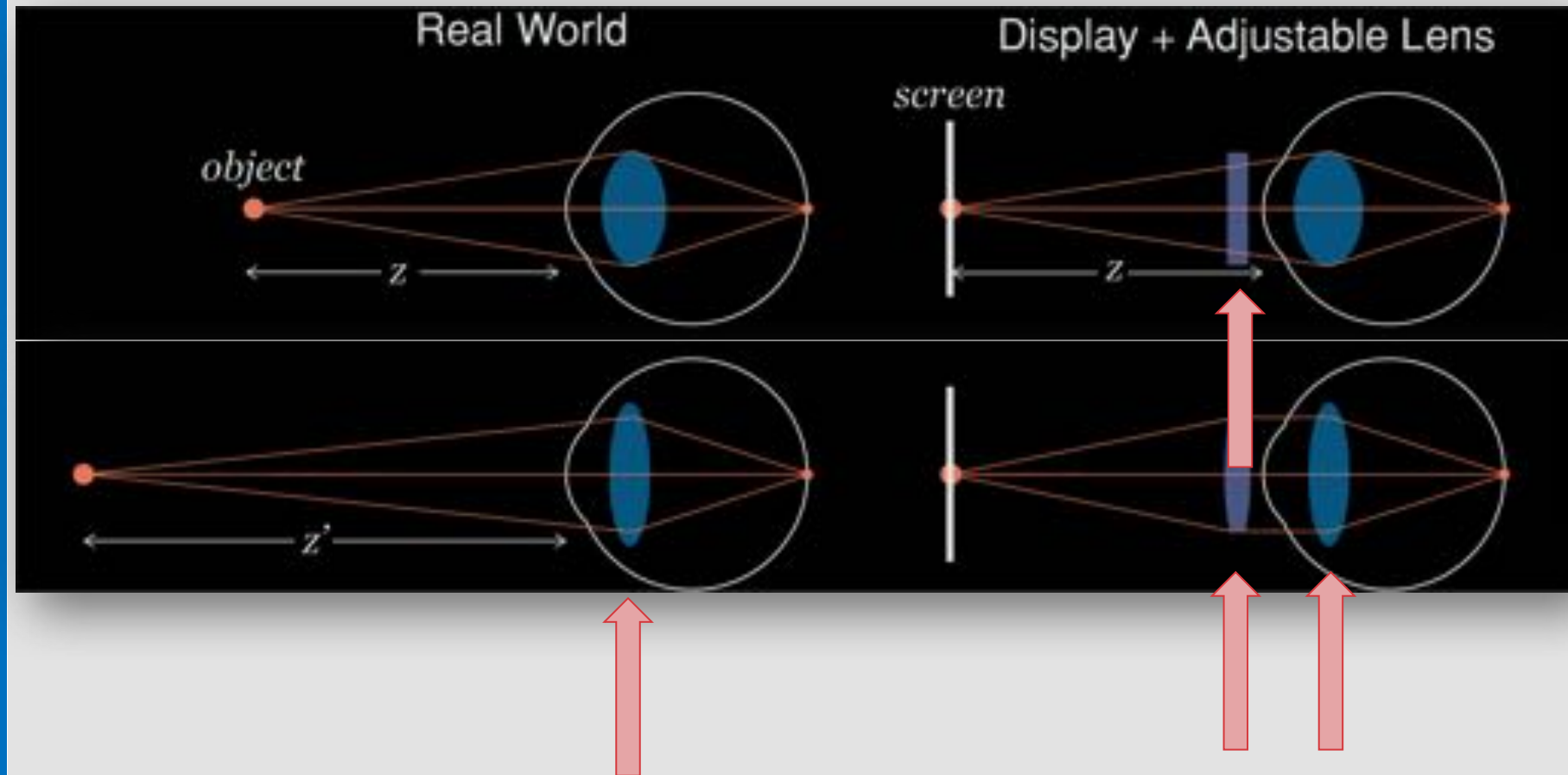


Investigating accommodation and comfort in head-mounted displays

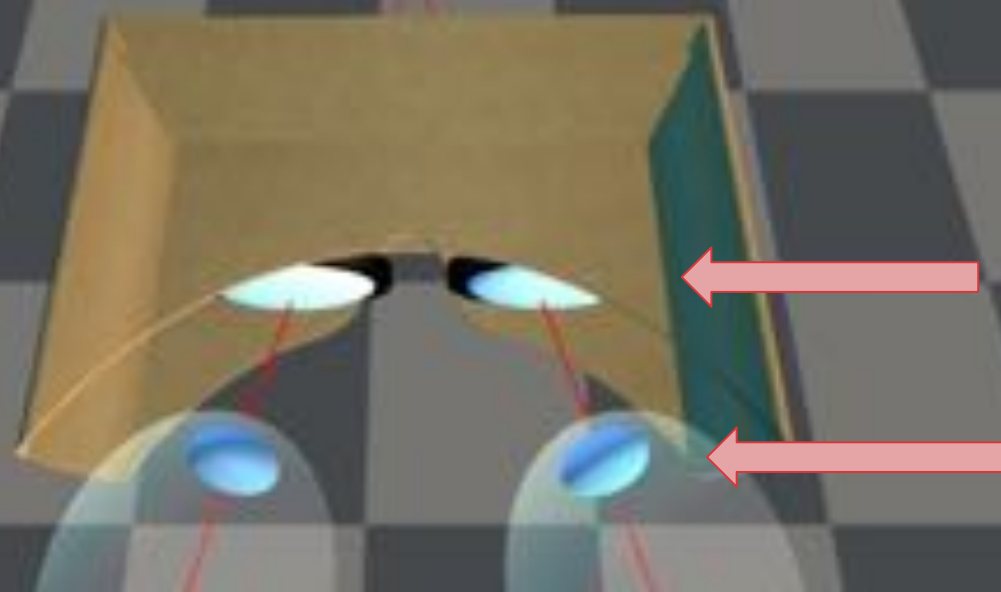
1. Gaze-Contingent Depth-of-Field blur (GC DoF blur)
Mauderer et al. (2014)
2. Focus-Adjustable lenses & GC DoF Blur
Johnson et al. (2016); Konrad et al. (2016)



Focus-adjustable lenses



HMD with Focus-Adjustable Lenses
and Gaze-contingent DoF Blur



HMD with Focus-Adjustable Lenses and Gaze-contingent DoF Blur

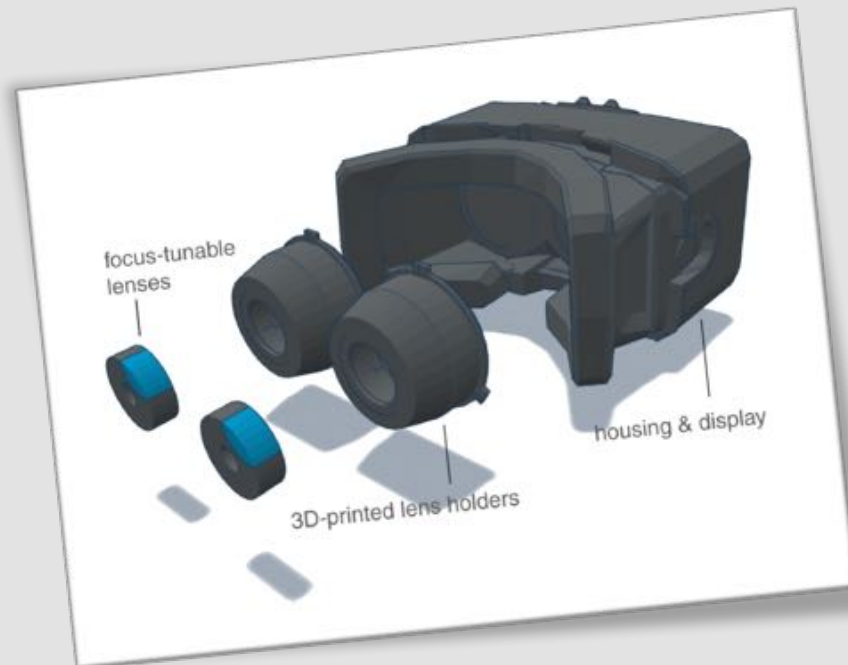


Rendered Retinal Blur

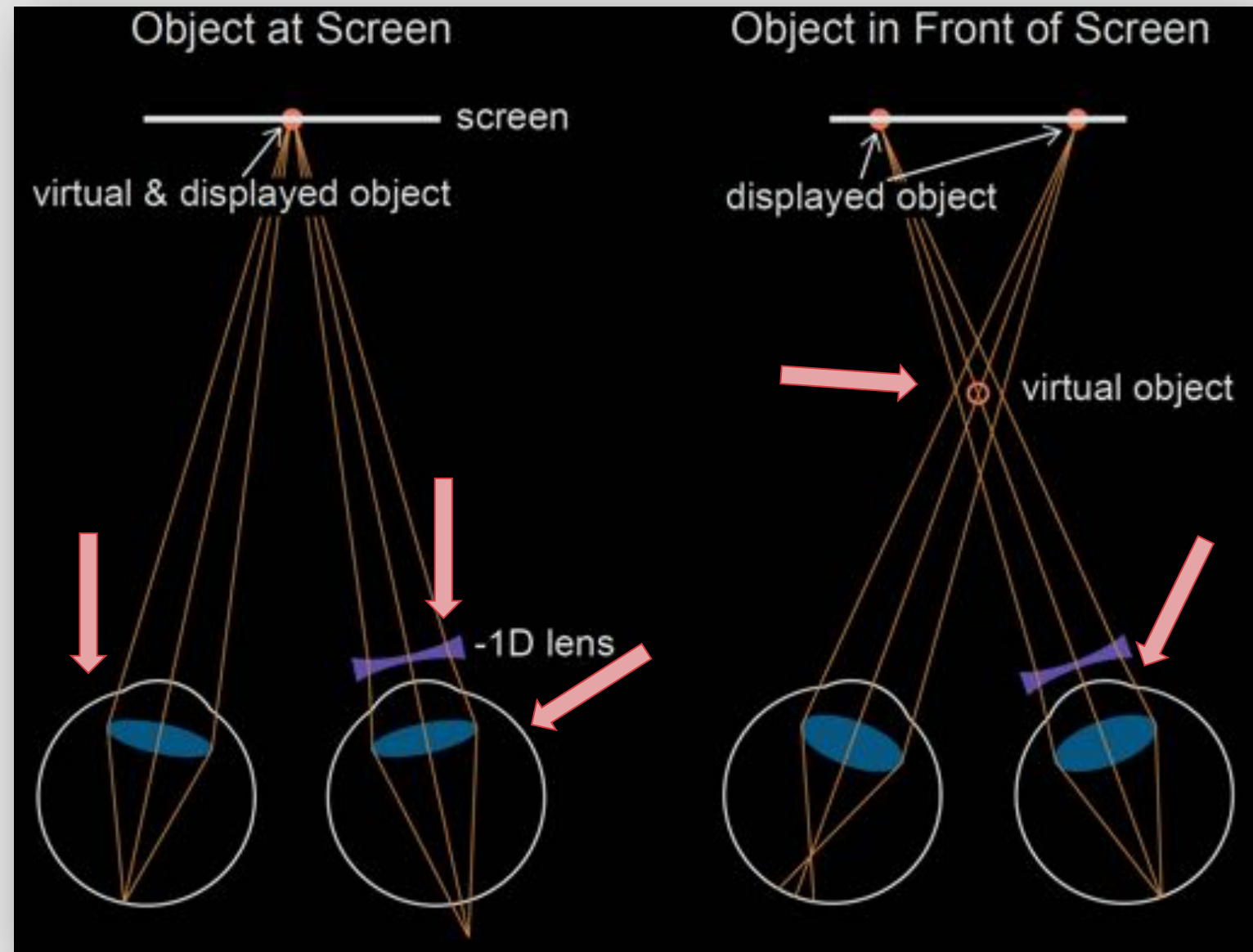


Investigating accommodation and comfort in head-mounted displays

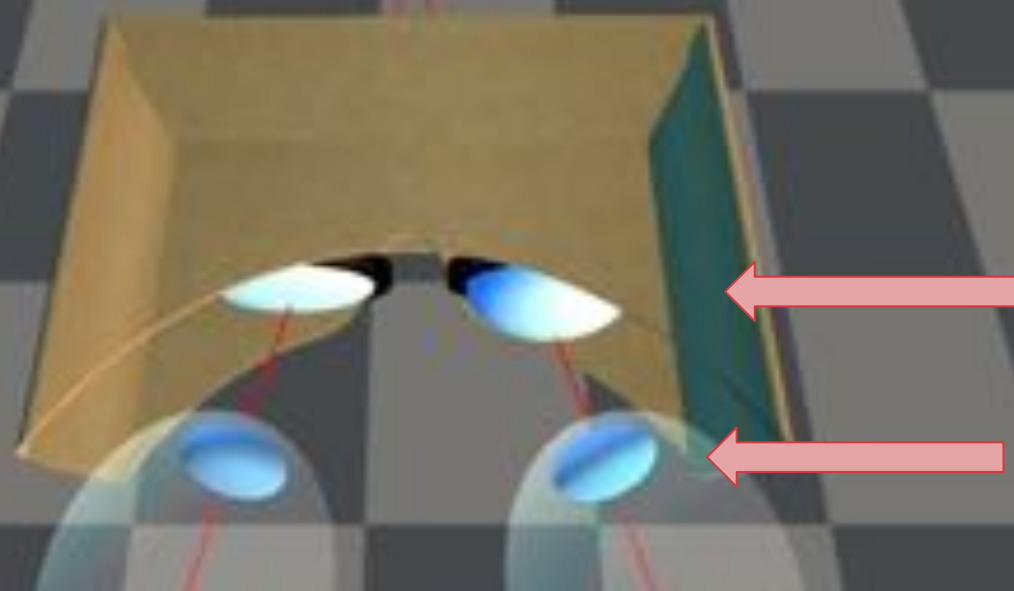
1. Gaze-Contingent Depth-of-Field blur (GC DoF blur)
Mauderer et al. (2014)
2. Focus-Adjustable lenses & GC DoF Blur
Johnson et al. (2016); Konrad et al. (2016)
3. Monovision
Johnson et al. (2016); Konrad et al. (2016)



Monovision



HMD with Monovision
and Gaze-contingent DoF Blur



HMD with Monovision
and Gaze-contingent DoF Blur



Hypotheses

Gaze-Contingent Depth-of-Field blur (GC DoF blur)

- Correct retinal blur
- Should not drive accommodation

Focus-Adjustable lenses & GC DoF blur

- Correct retinal blur
- Hypothesized to drive accommodation

Monovision

- Correct blur on one retina at a time
- Only two accommodation planes:
near/far

Evaluation of proposed configurations

1. Accommodation driven correctly?
2. Improved comfort?

The measurement device



The measurement device



The measurement device



The measurement device

George-Alex Koulieris



Experimental details

Fixed vs Focus-Adjustable lens conditions

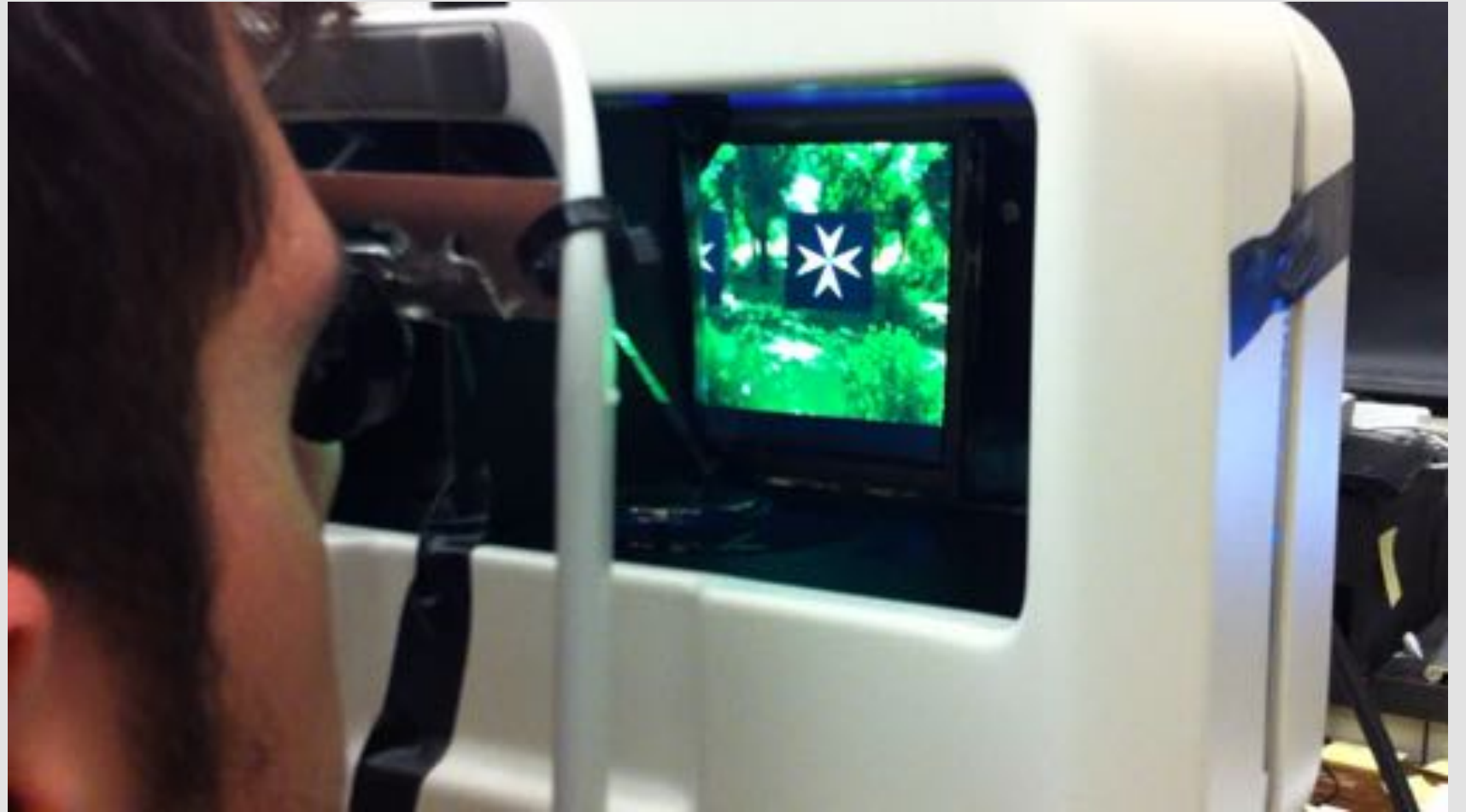
16 conditions, factorial combination of :

- depth-of-field
- focus-adjustable lenses
- target speed
- binocular/monocular

Monovision conditions

8 conditions

Accommodation measurements

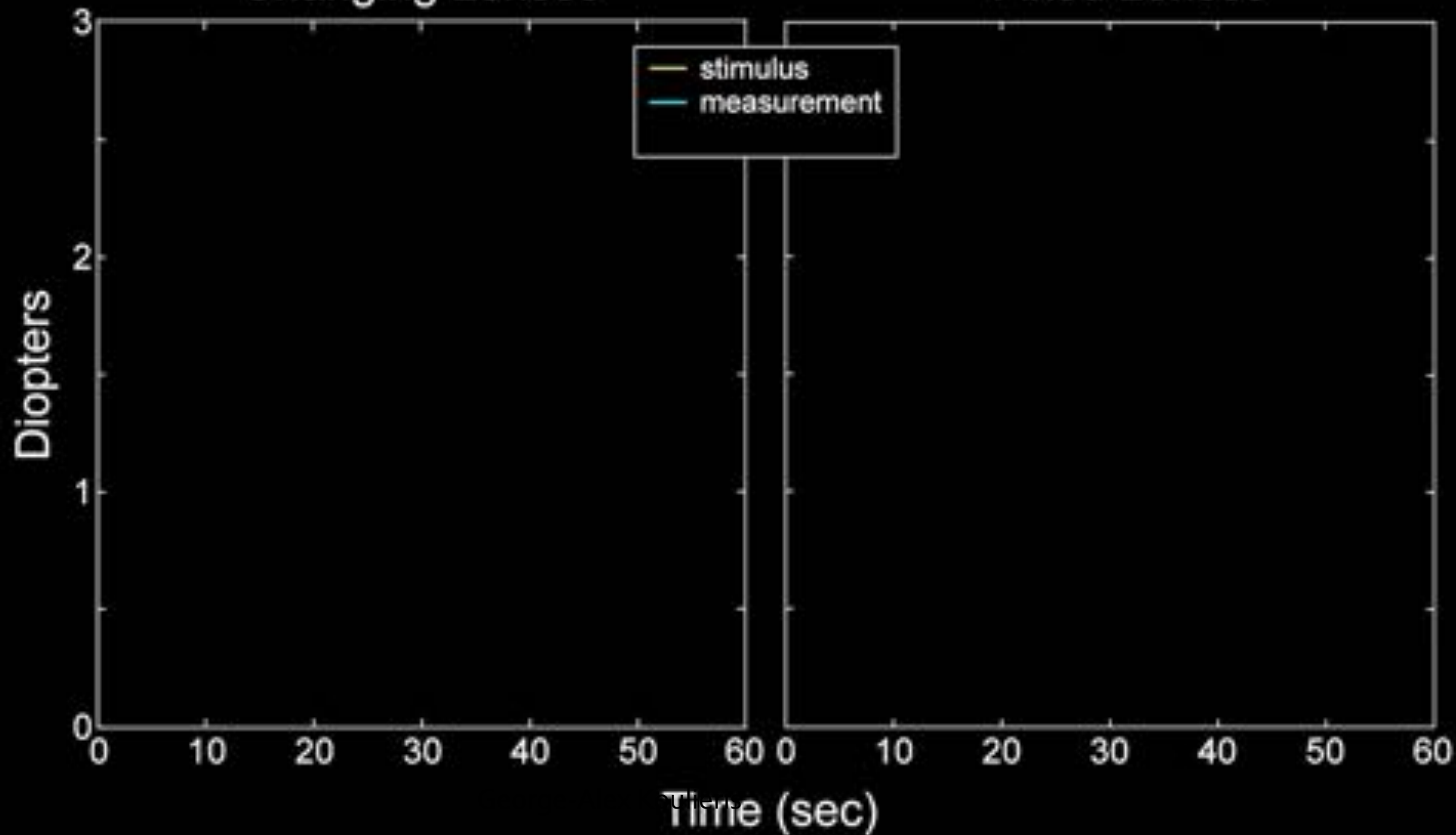


Accommodation measurements



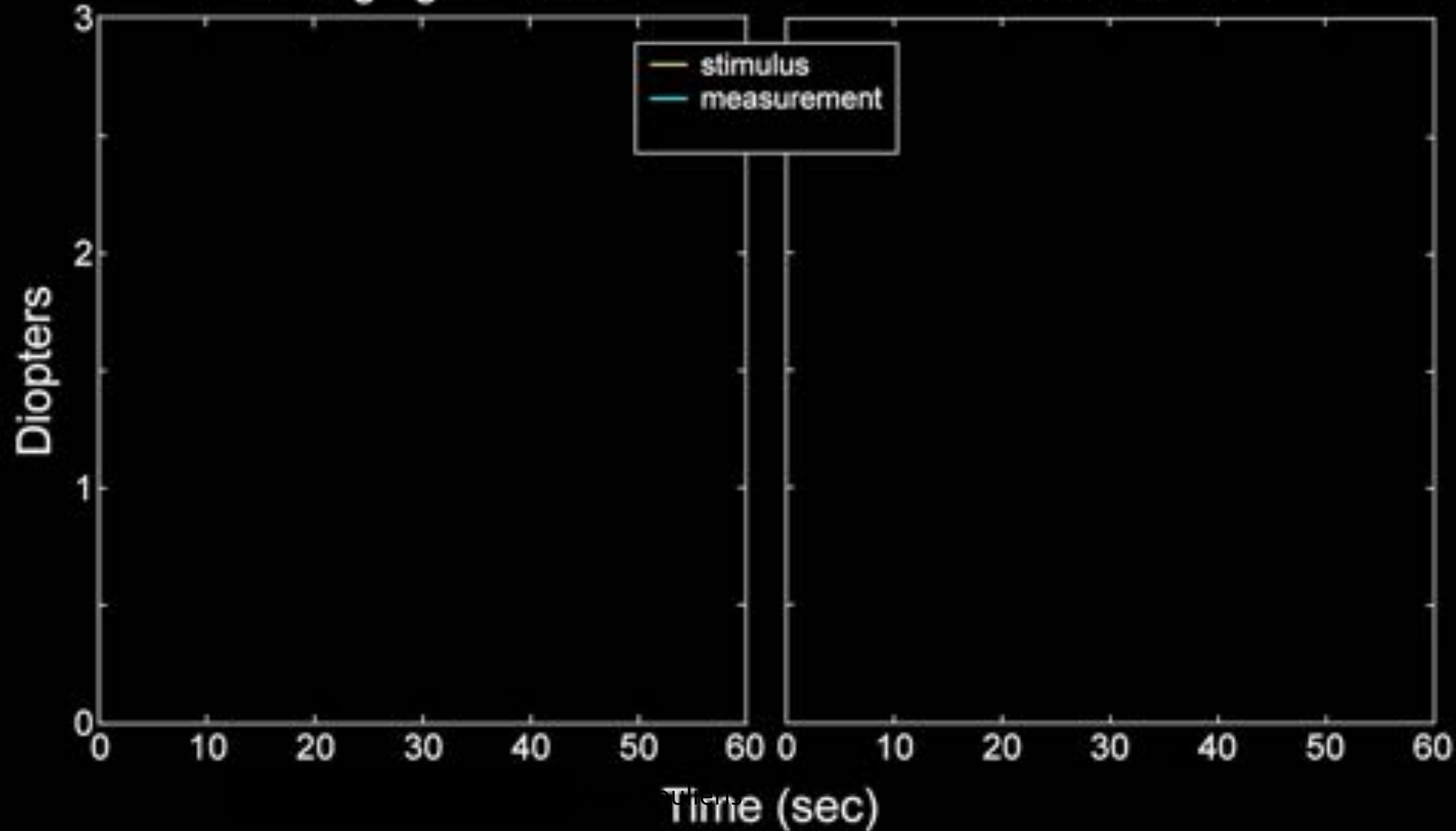
Changing Lenses

Fixed Lenses

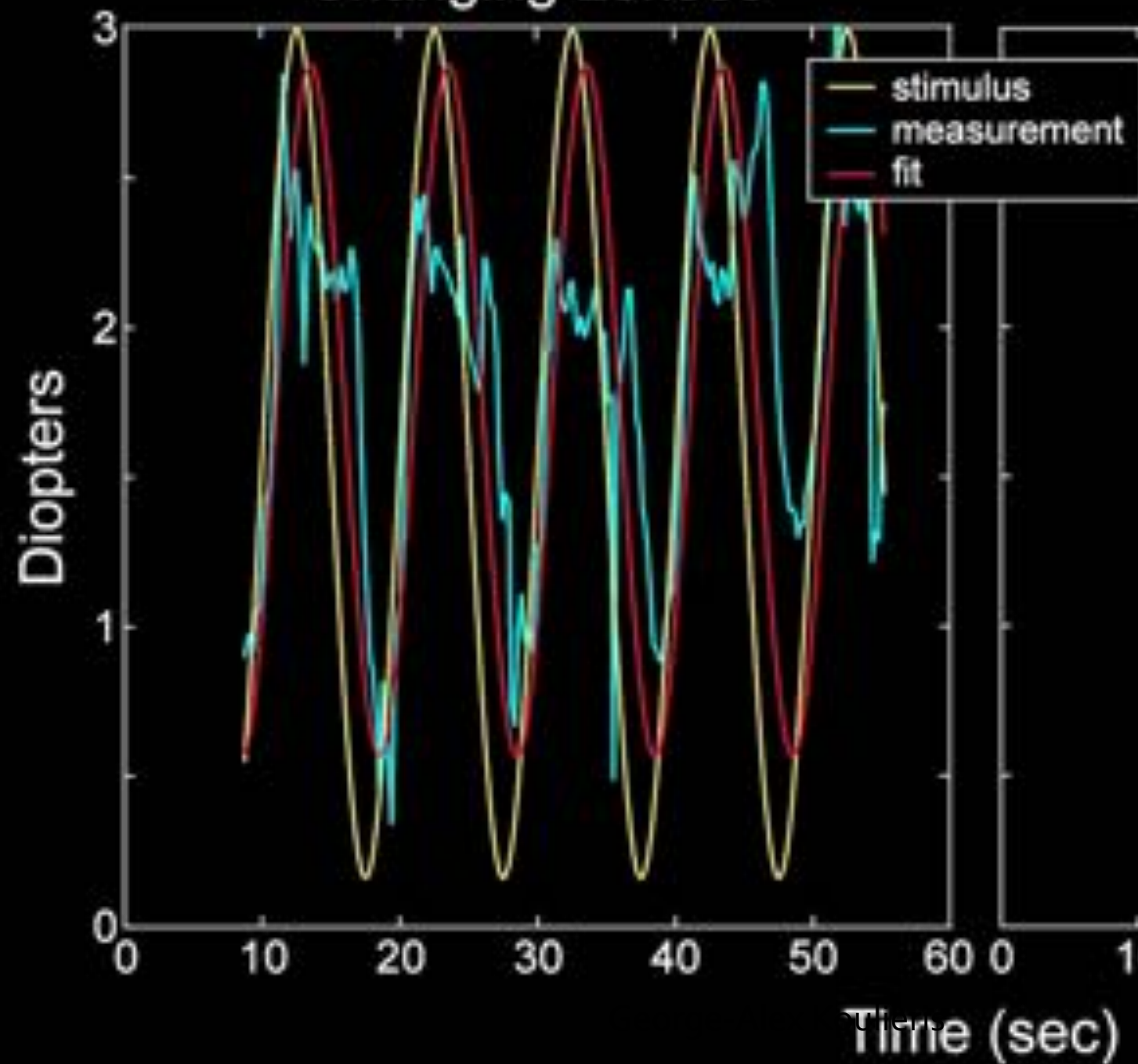


Changing Lenses

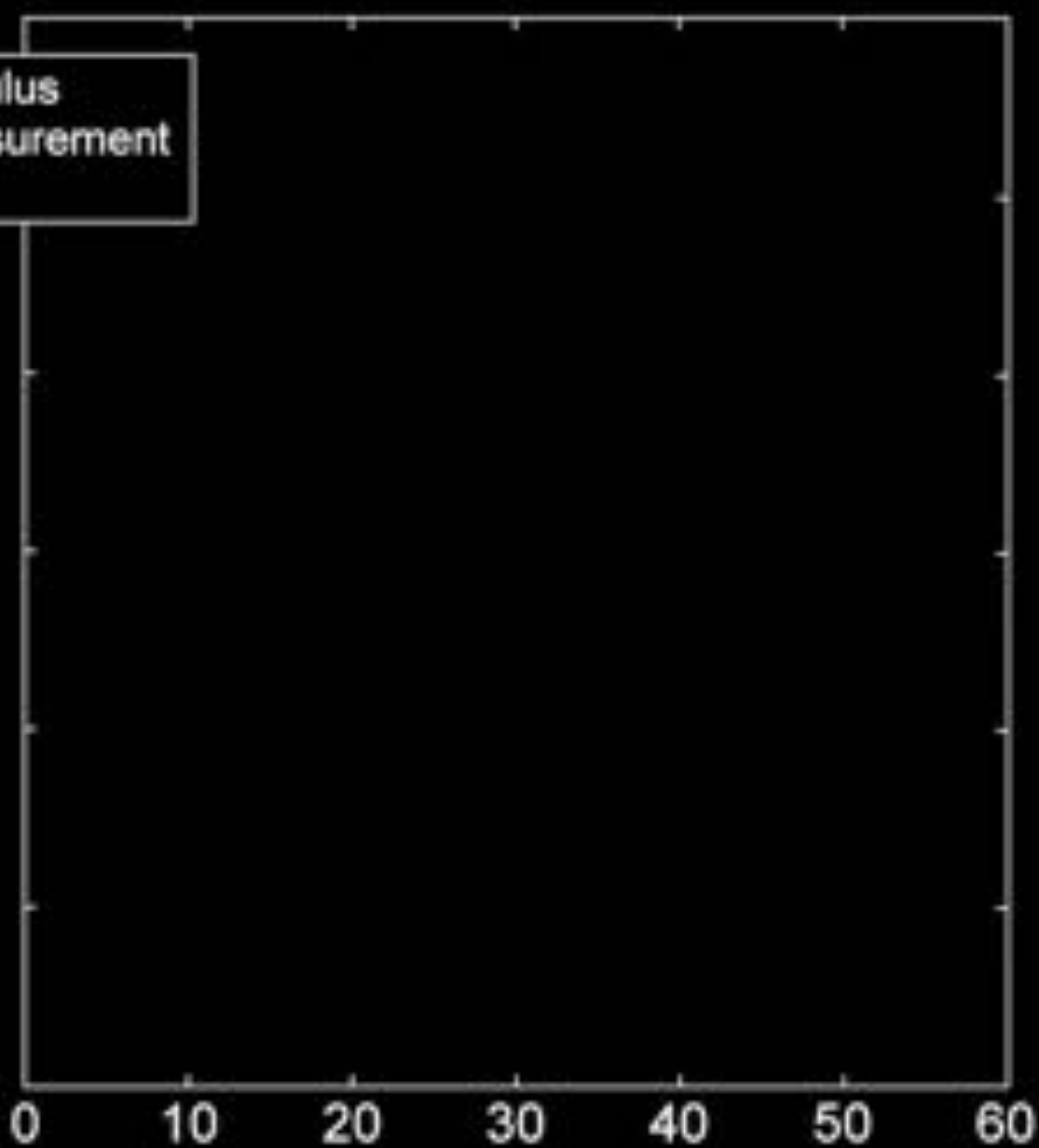
Fixed Lenses

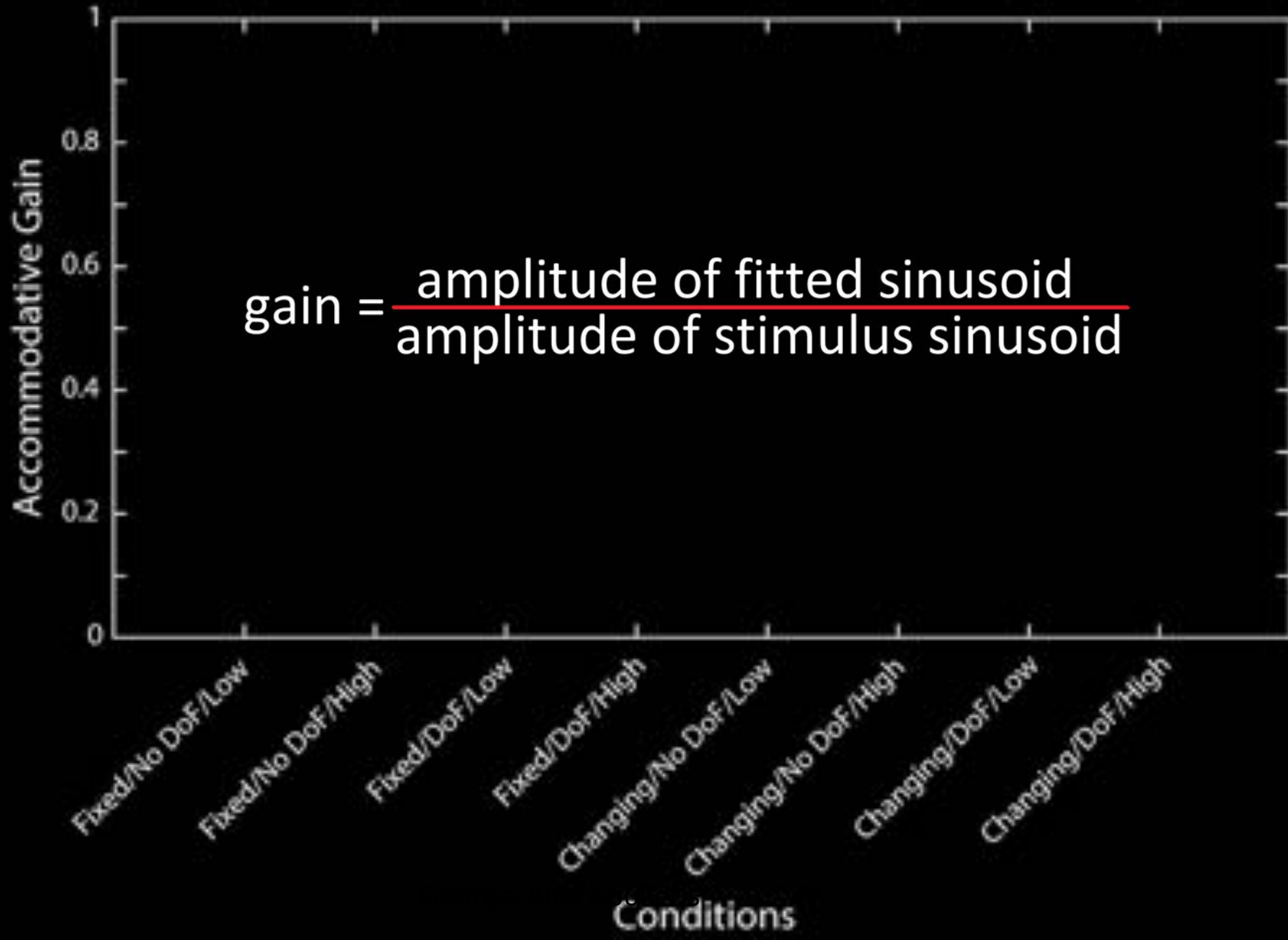


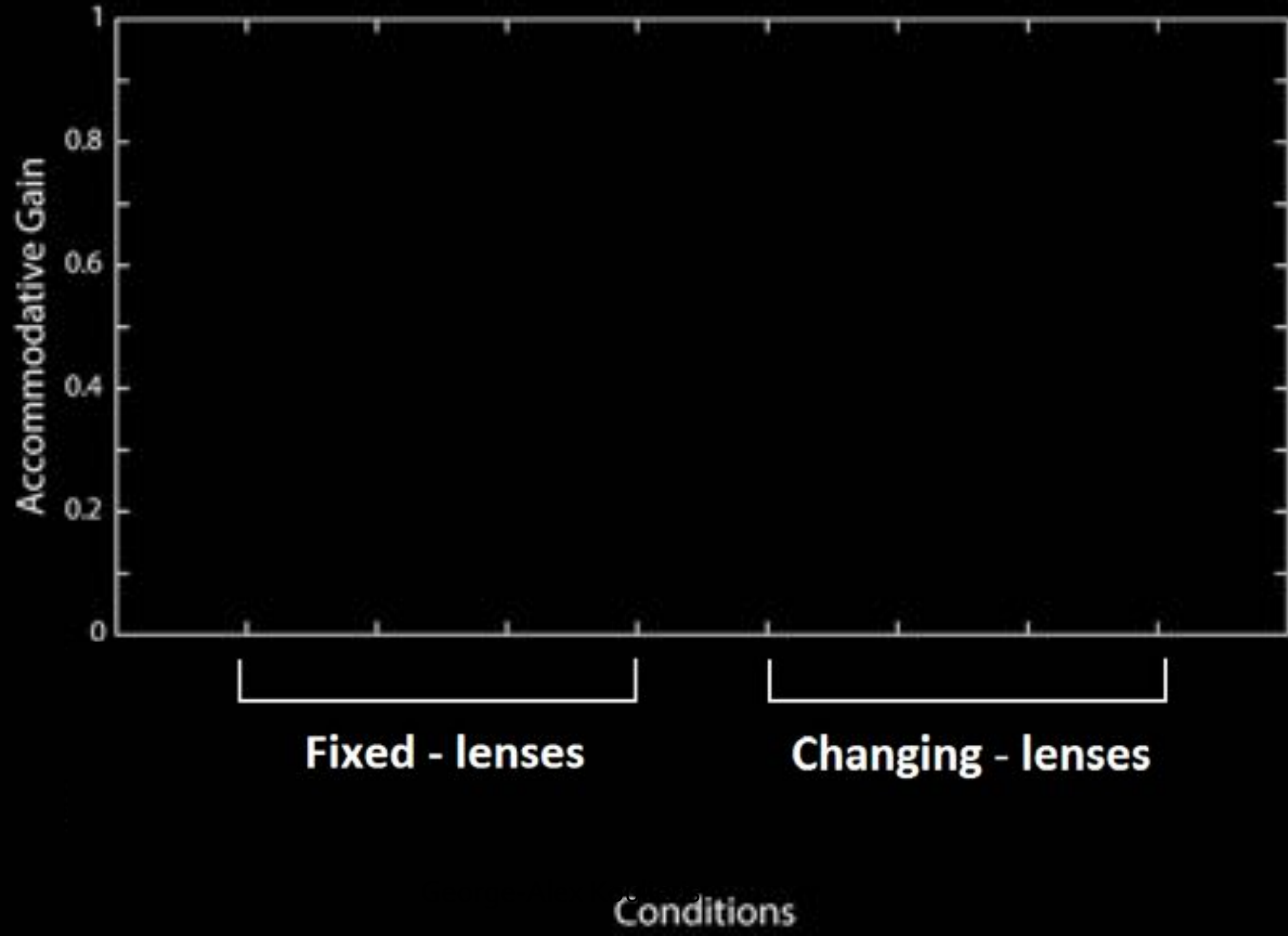
Changing Lenses

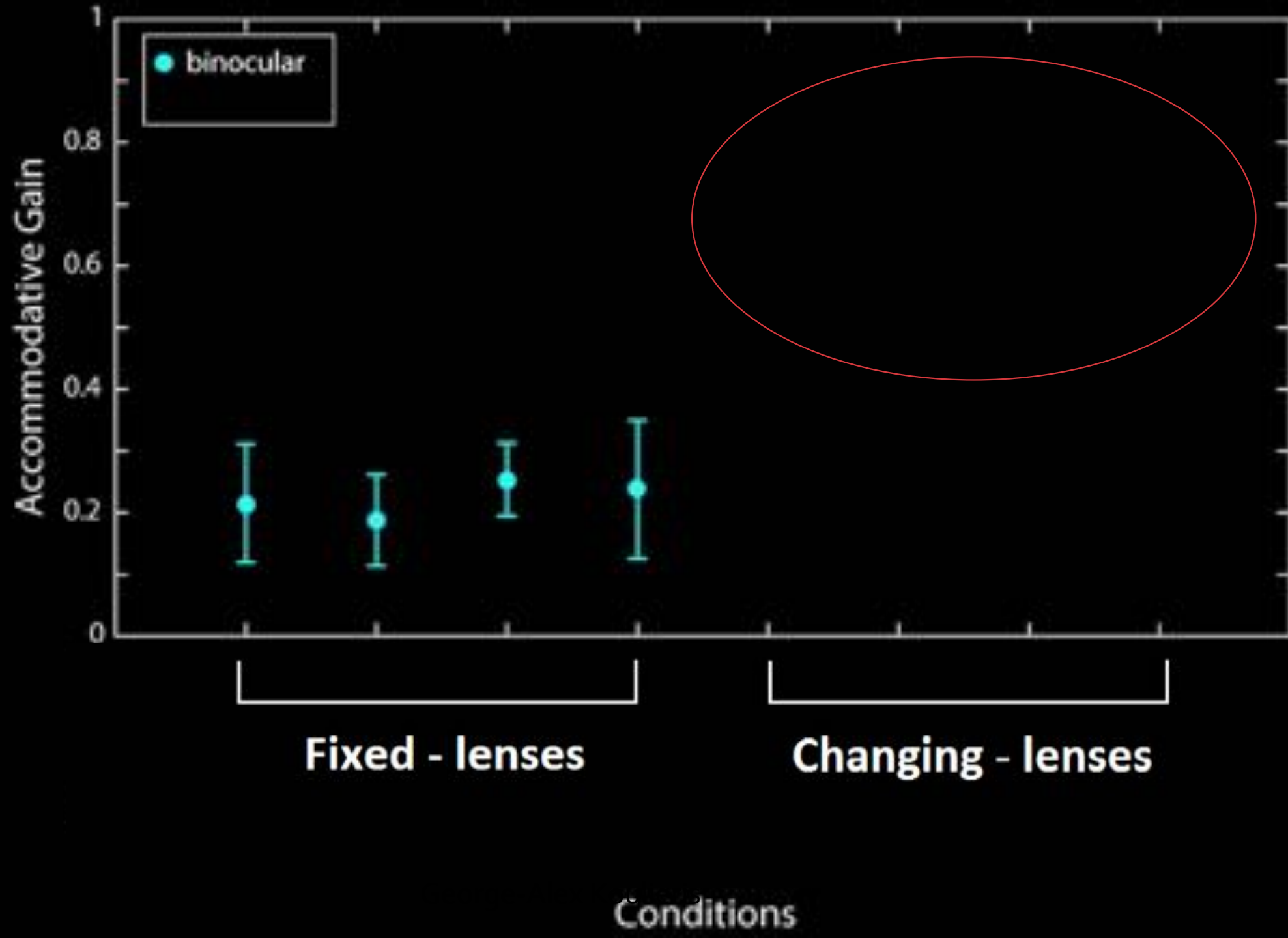


Fixed Lenses



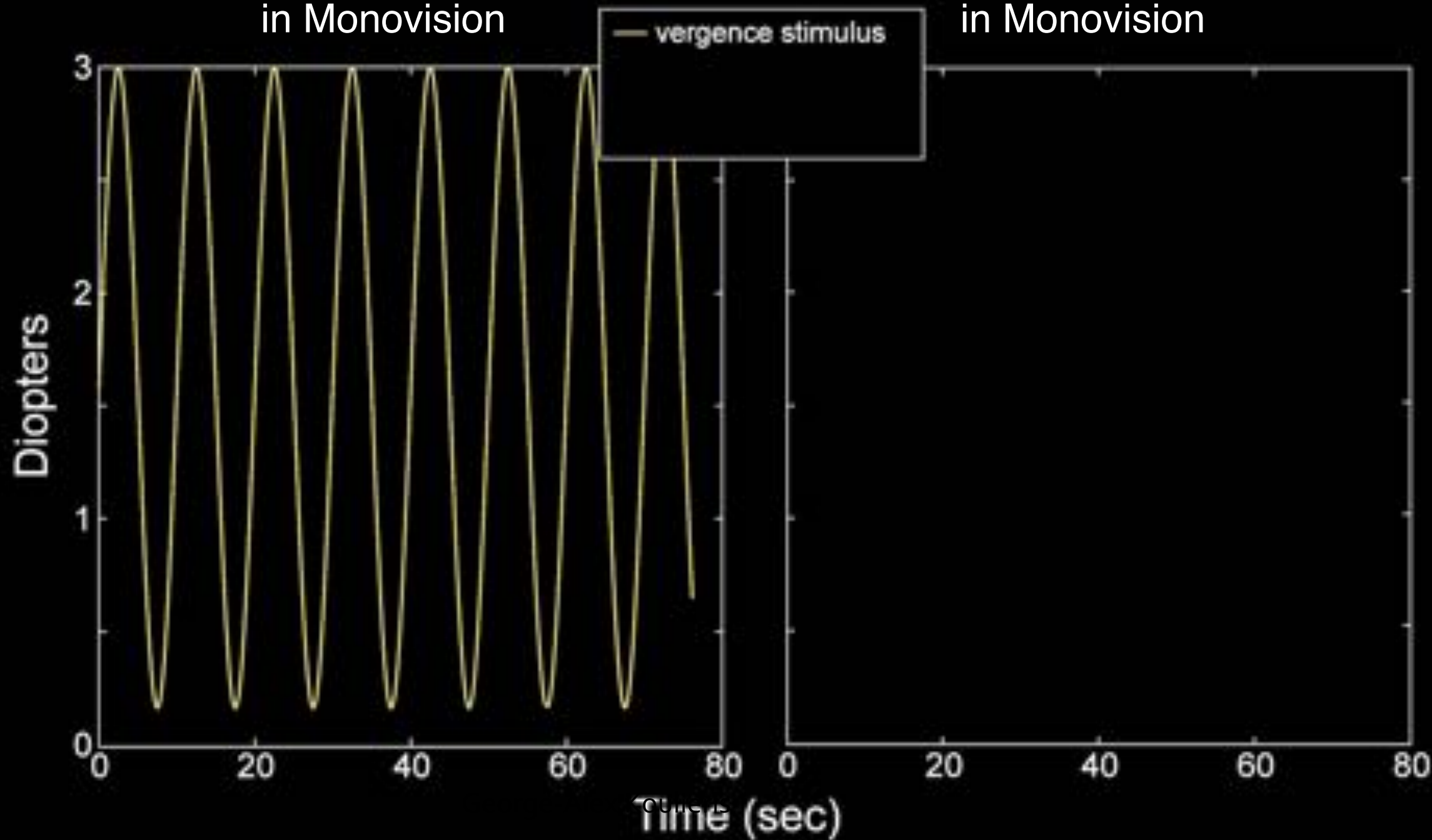


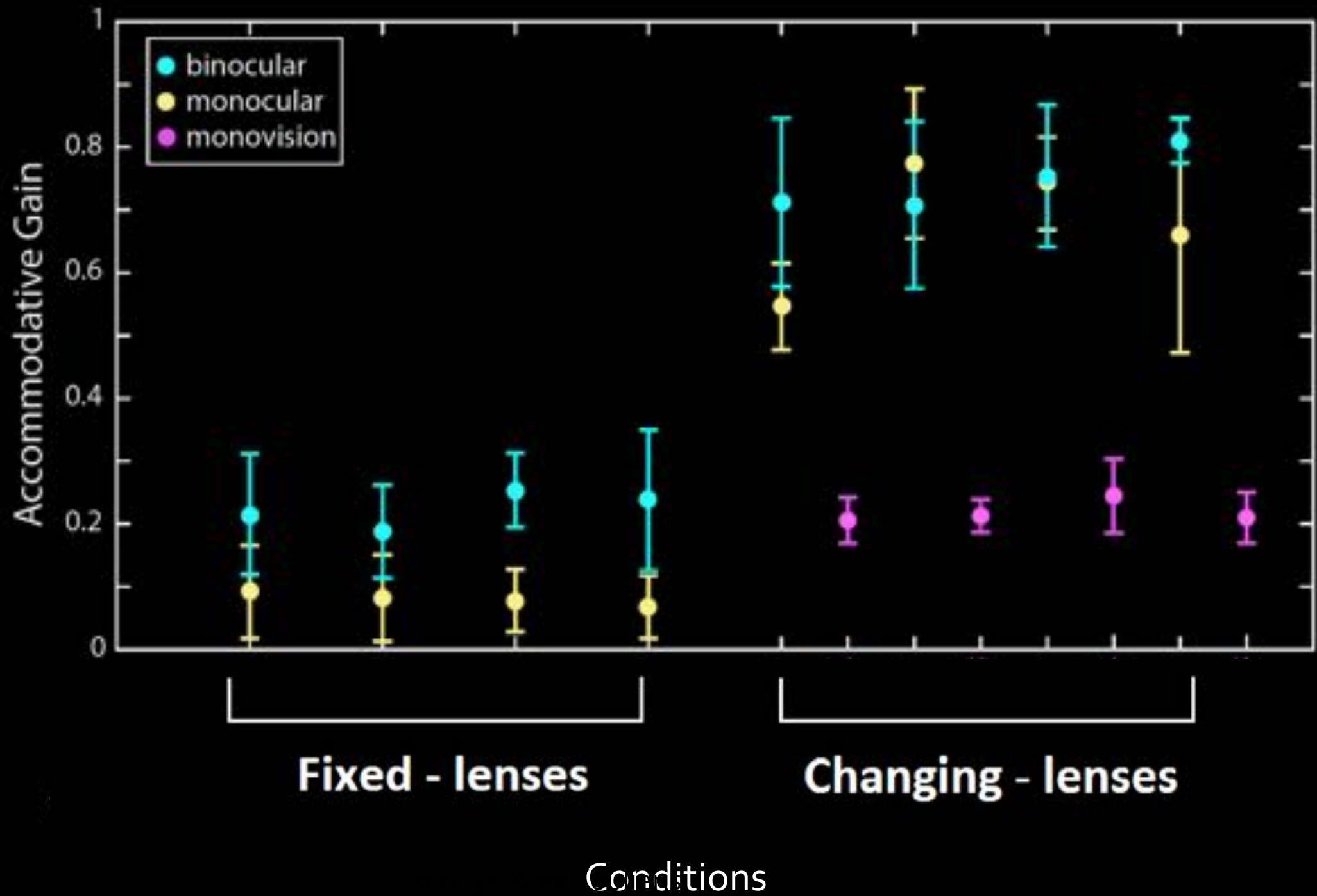


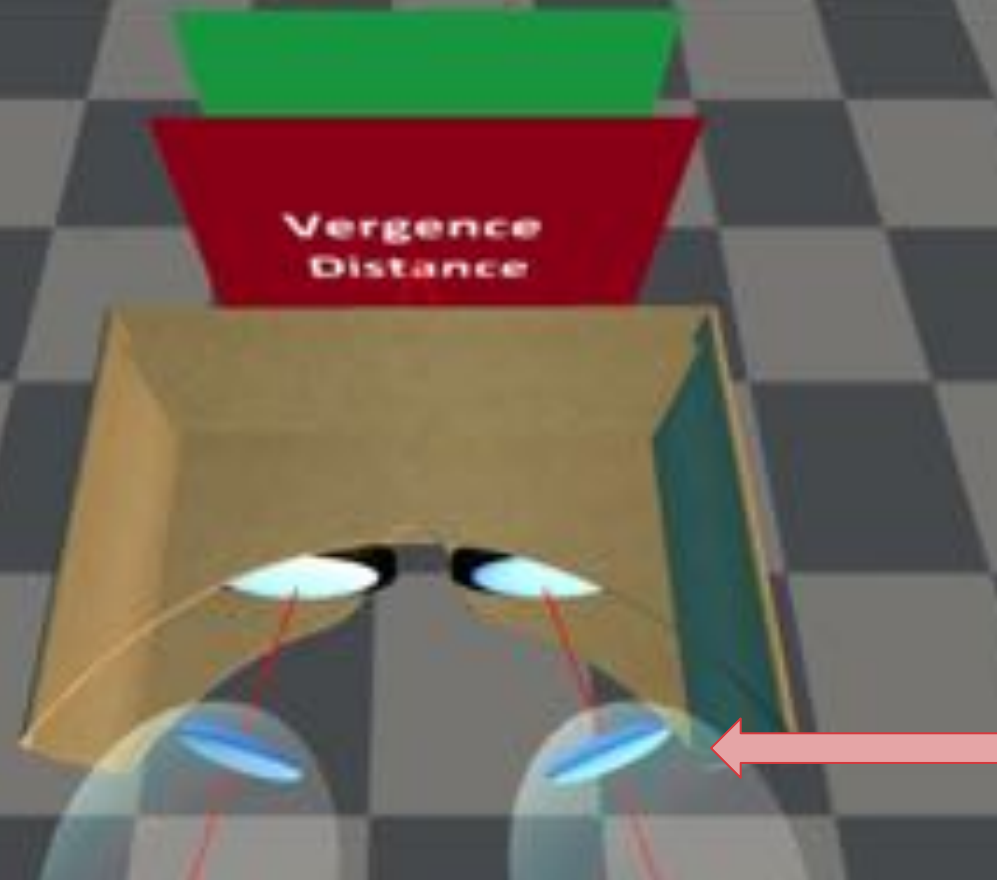


Stimulus & Expected Response
in Monovision

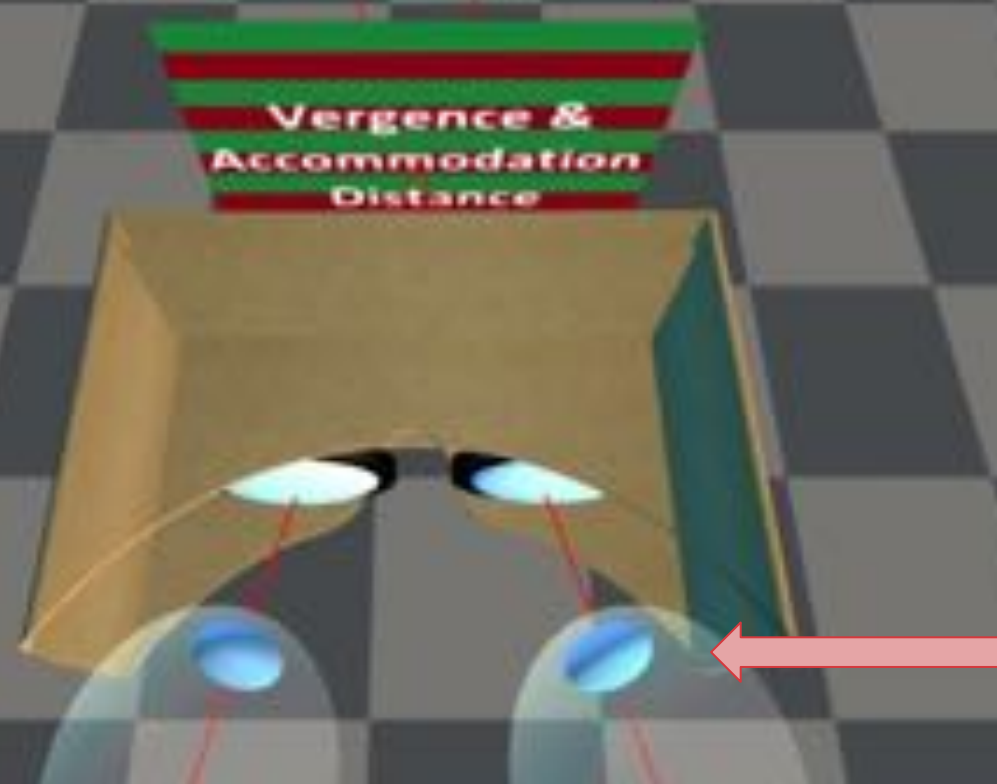
Stimulus & Measured Response
in Monovision



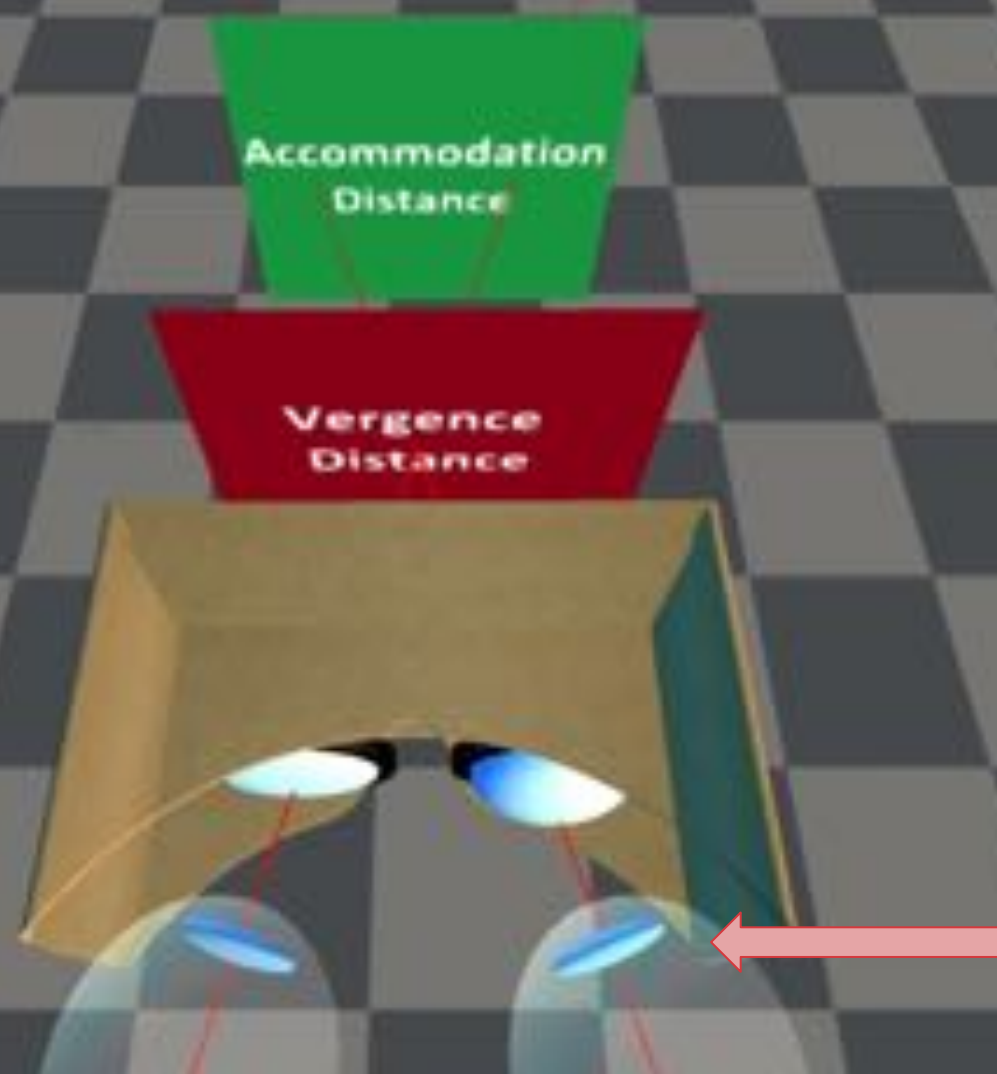


HMD with Fixed Lenses
and Gaze-Contingent DoF Blur

HMD with Focus-Adjustable Lenses
and Gaze-contingent DoF Blur



HMD with Monovision
and Gaze-contingent DoF Blur



Predictions from
the
accommodation
data

1. Changing-lens configuration → most comfortable
2. Monovision configuration → least comfortable

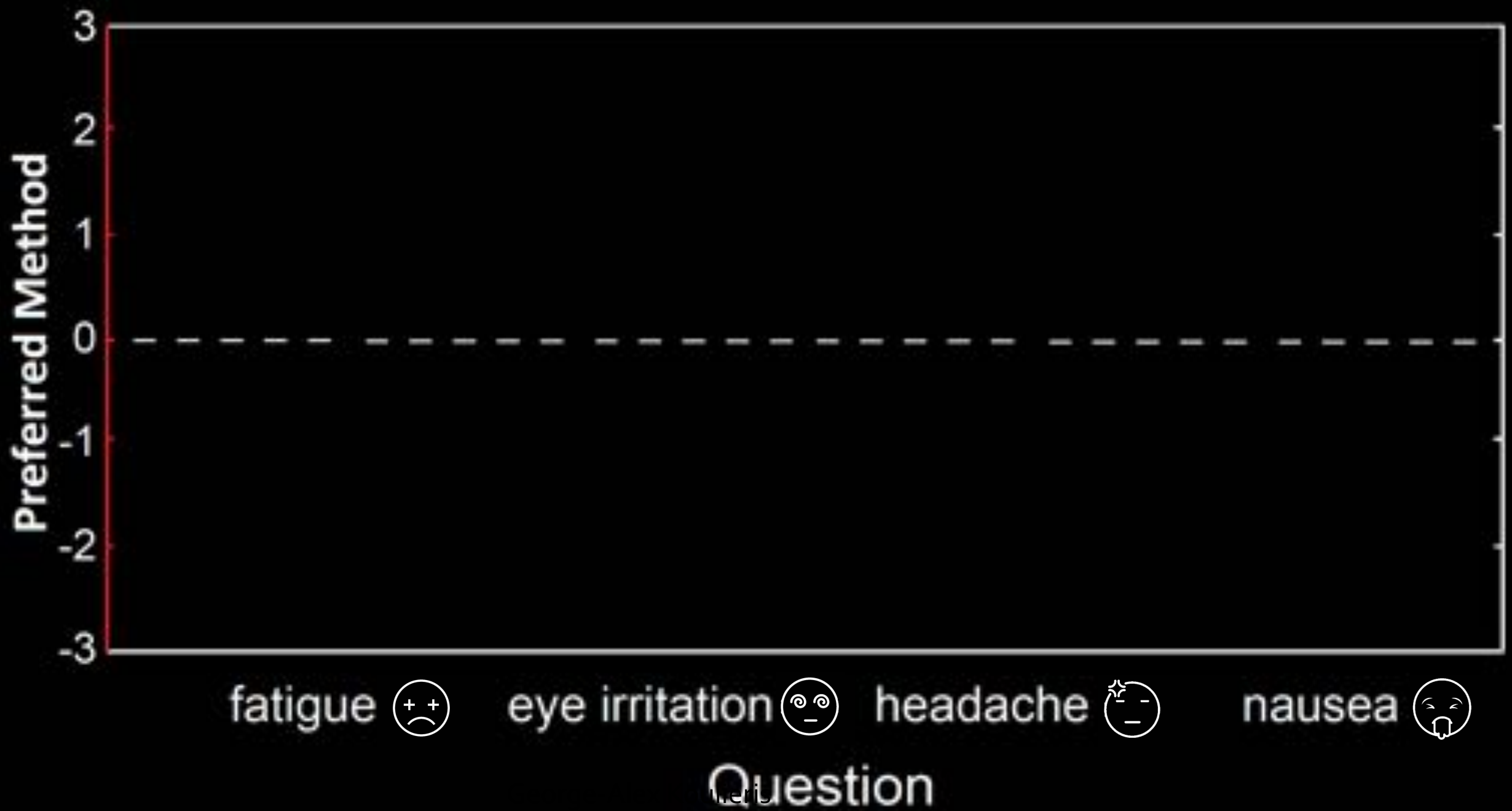
Discomfort study

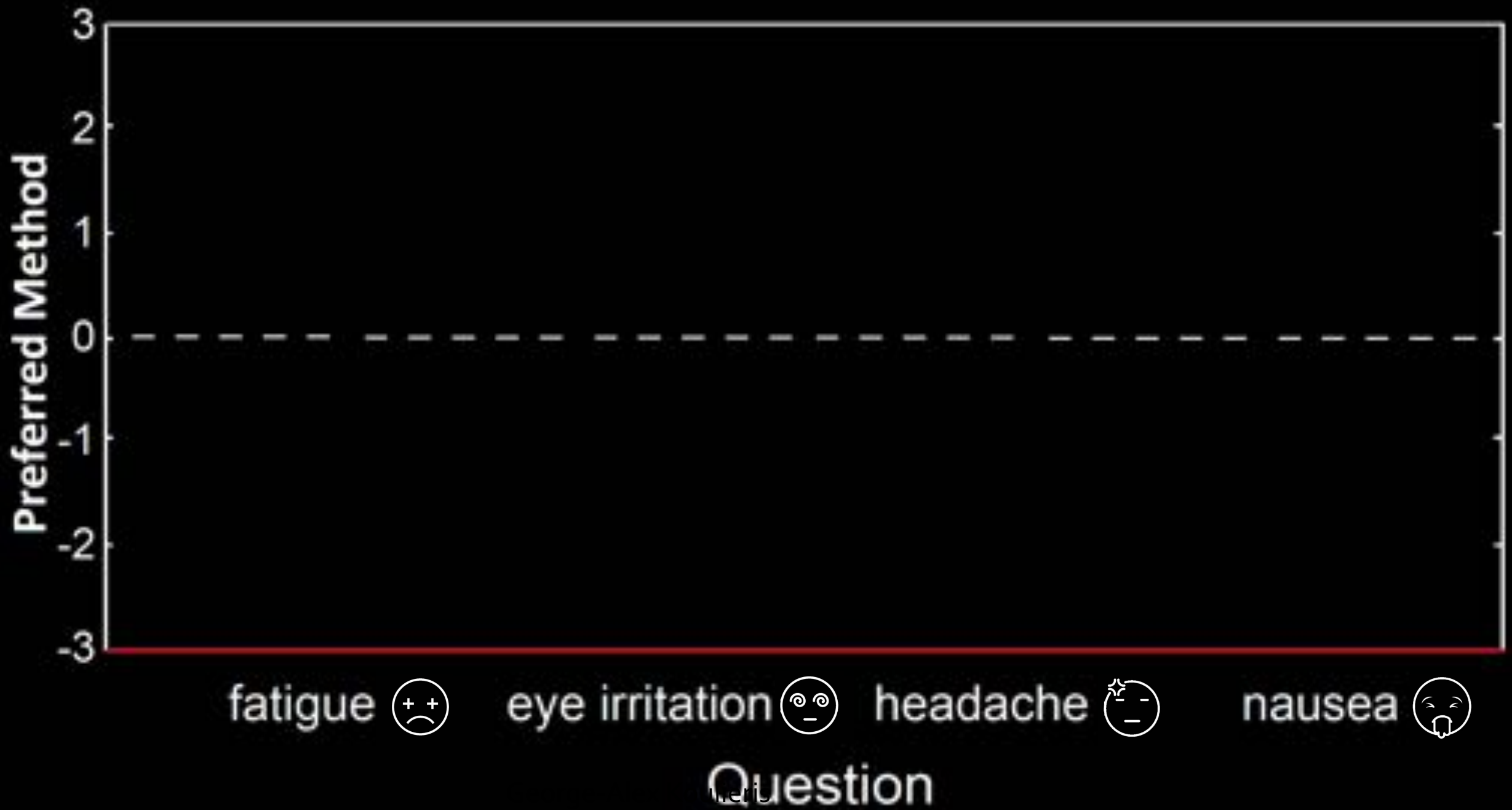
- Pair-wise comparison of display configurations
- Detection of the tumbling-E ensured correct fixation
- 30-minute trials !
- 16 subjects in each pairwise comparison



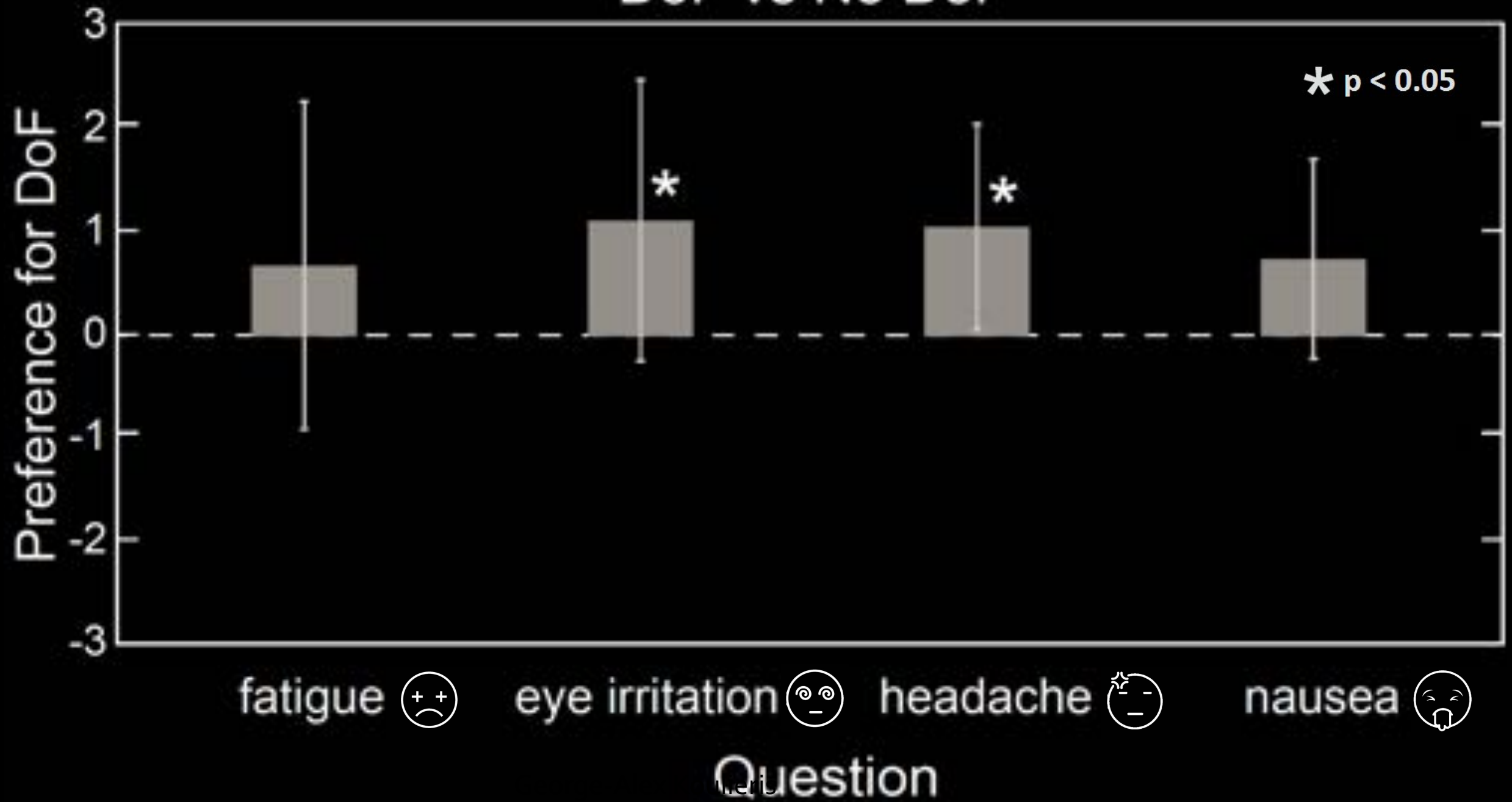


(the tumbling-E was much less discernible during the experiment)

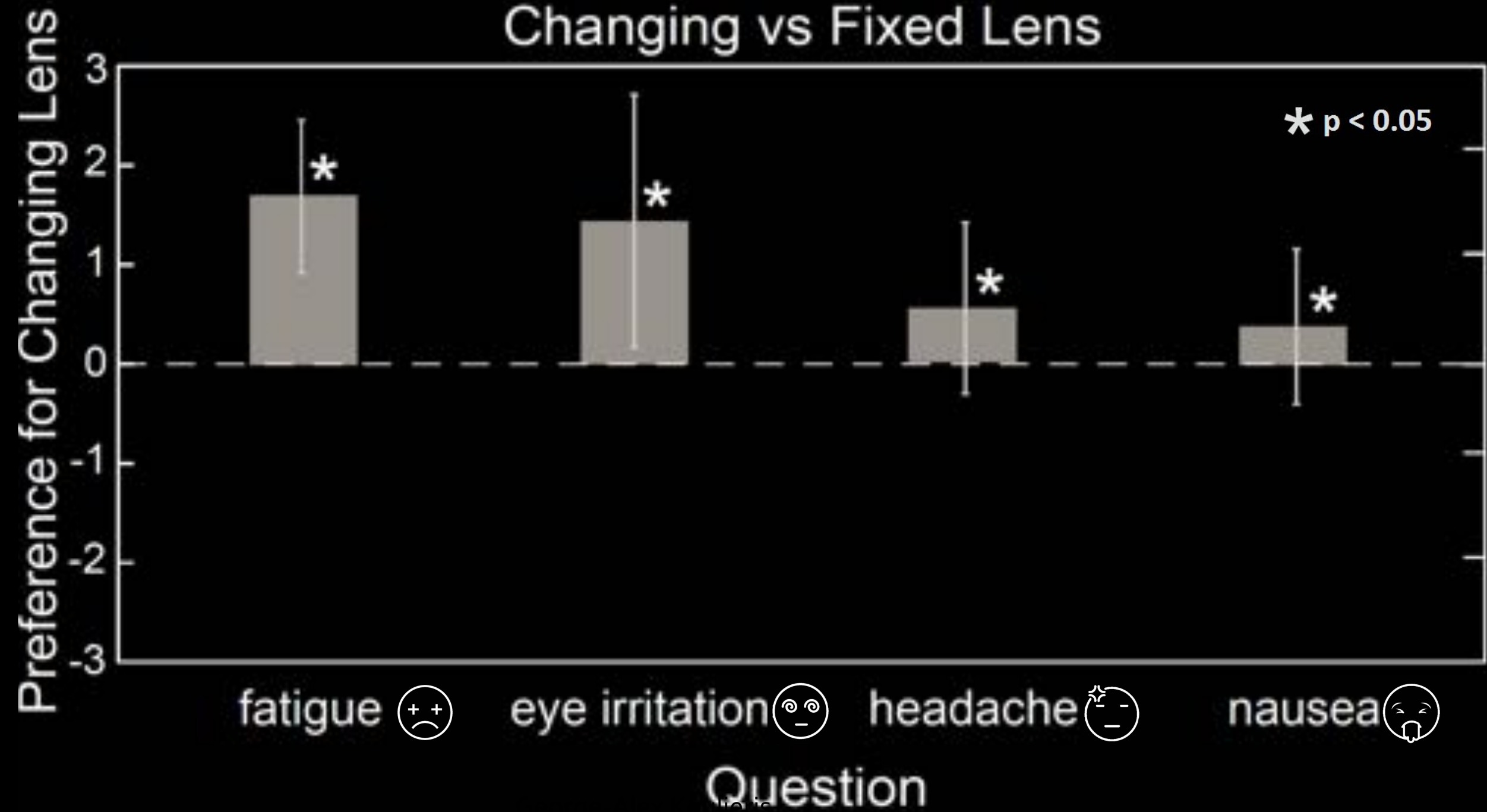




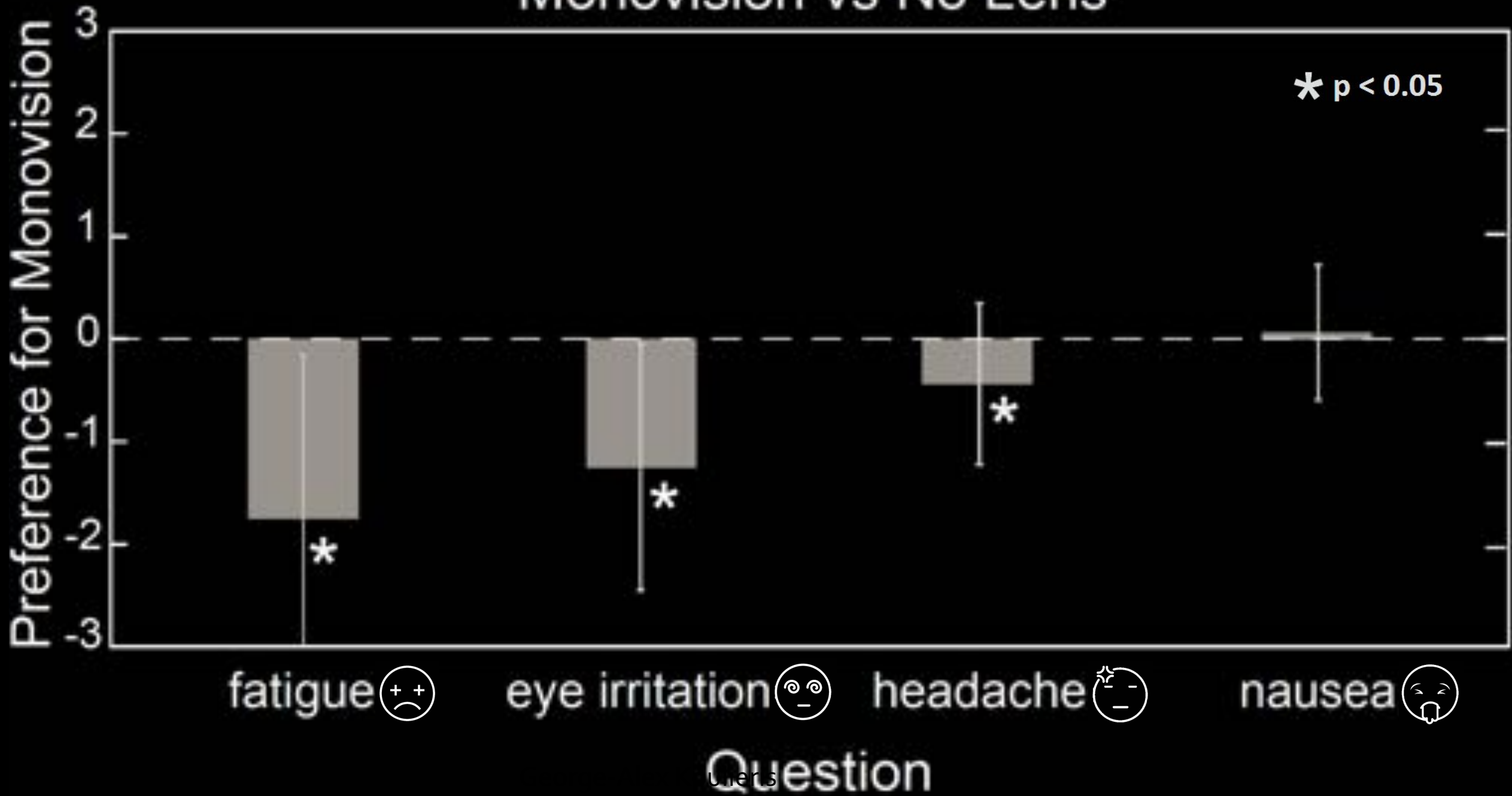
DoF vs No DoF



Changing vs Fixed Lens



Monovision vs No Lens



Summary



Monovision

- X Does not drive accommodation correctly
- ! Causes more discomfort than standard HMDs!



Gaze-Contingent DoF blur

- X Does not drive accommodation – as expected!
- ✓ More comfortable than standard HMDs



Focus-Adjustable lenses

- ✓ Drive accommodation correctly
- ✓ Significantly improve comfort



Take-home points

- Accommodation must be driven by correct focus cues
- Accommodation data yielded predictions about comfort
- Discomfort study results consistent with predictions
- Ground discomfort studies on objective measurements

Thank you

<https://vrdisplays.github.io/ieeever2018/>

george.koulieris@inria.fr

Schedule

- 9:00 – 9:30: Introduction
- 9:30 – 10:15: Multi-focal displays
- 10:30 - 11:00: Coffee break
- 11:00 – 11:50: Near-eye varifocal AR
- 12:00 - 14:00: Lunch
- 14:00 – 14:40: HDR-enabled displays
- 14:45 – 15:25: Gaze-aware displays
- 15:30 – 16:00: Coffee break
- 16:00 – 16:50: Motion-aware displays
- 17:00 – 17:20: Panel