INSTITUT DE LA COMMUNICATION

Cours

Génération procédurale par l'exemple

Master 2 Programmation et Développement

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Génération procédurale

Plan :

- Application de la génération procédurale
- Génération de routes
- L-system :
  - Génération d'arbres
  - Génération d'une ville
- Génération de terrains

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-d2-PtK4F6Y

- Une introduction par Kate Compton

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WumyfLEa6bU

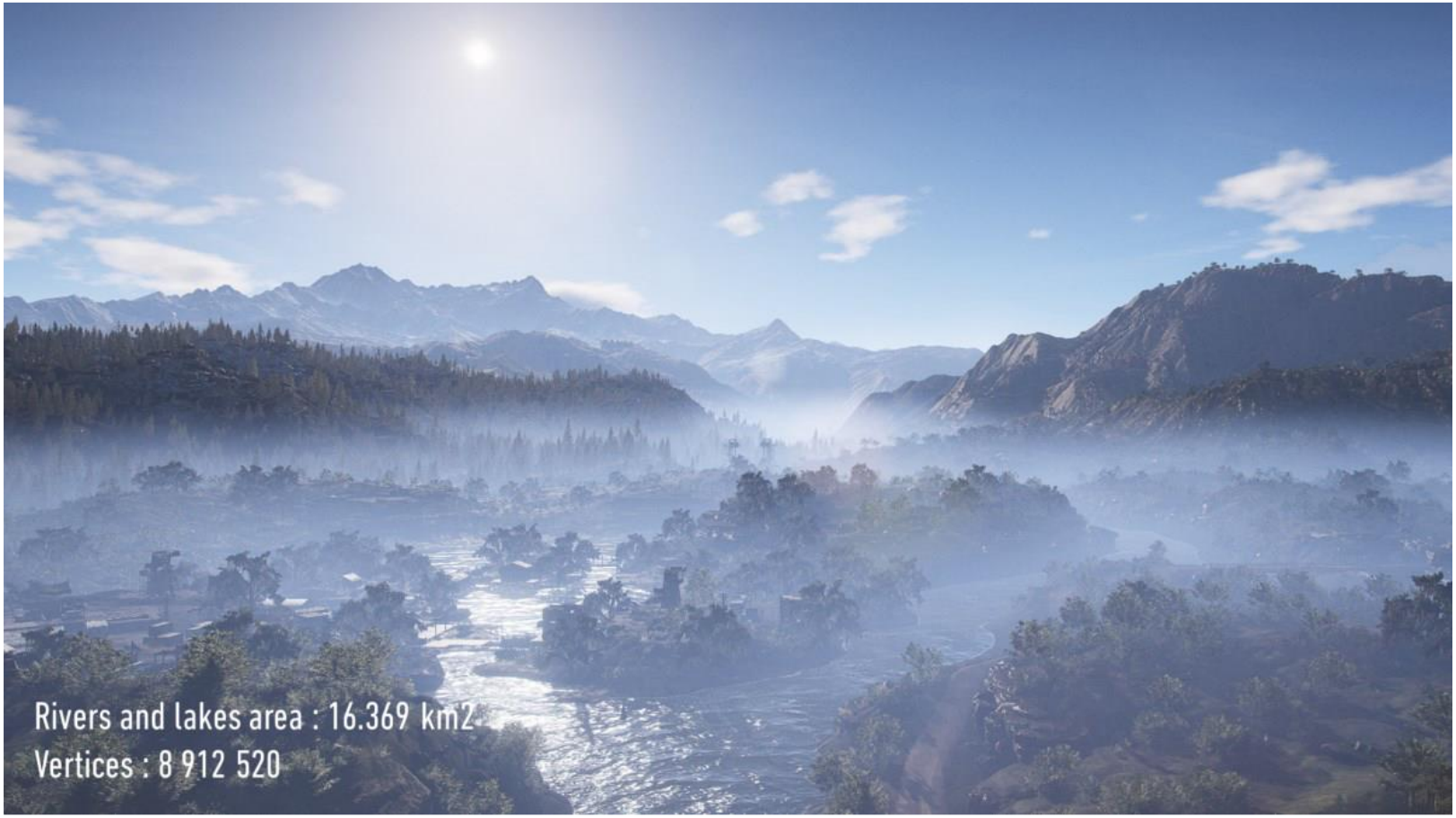
Exemple Ghost Recon Wildlands

https://www.gdcvault.com/play/1024029/-Ghost-Recon-Wildlands-Terrain

- GhostReconWildlands is the largest action adventure open world ever made at Ubisoft

The game is set in Bolivia
We have a lot of diversity in the game, 11 completely different biomes

- Rivers and lakes area



Lakes, rivers and streams over a surface of 16km2

- Végétation et rochers

It’s mostly a natural environment with many forests
Millions of trees, bushes and rocks

- Génération de routes

Roads : over 600km of roads and even more paths

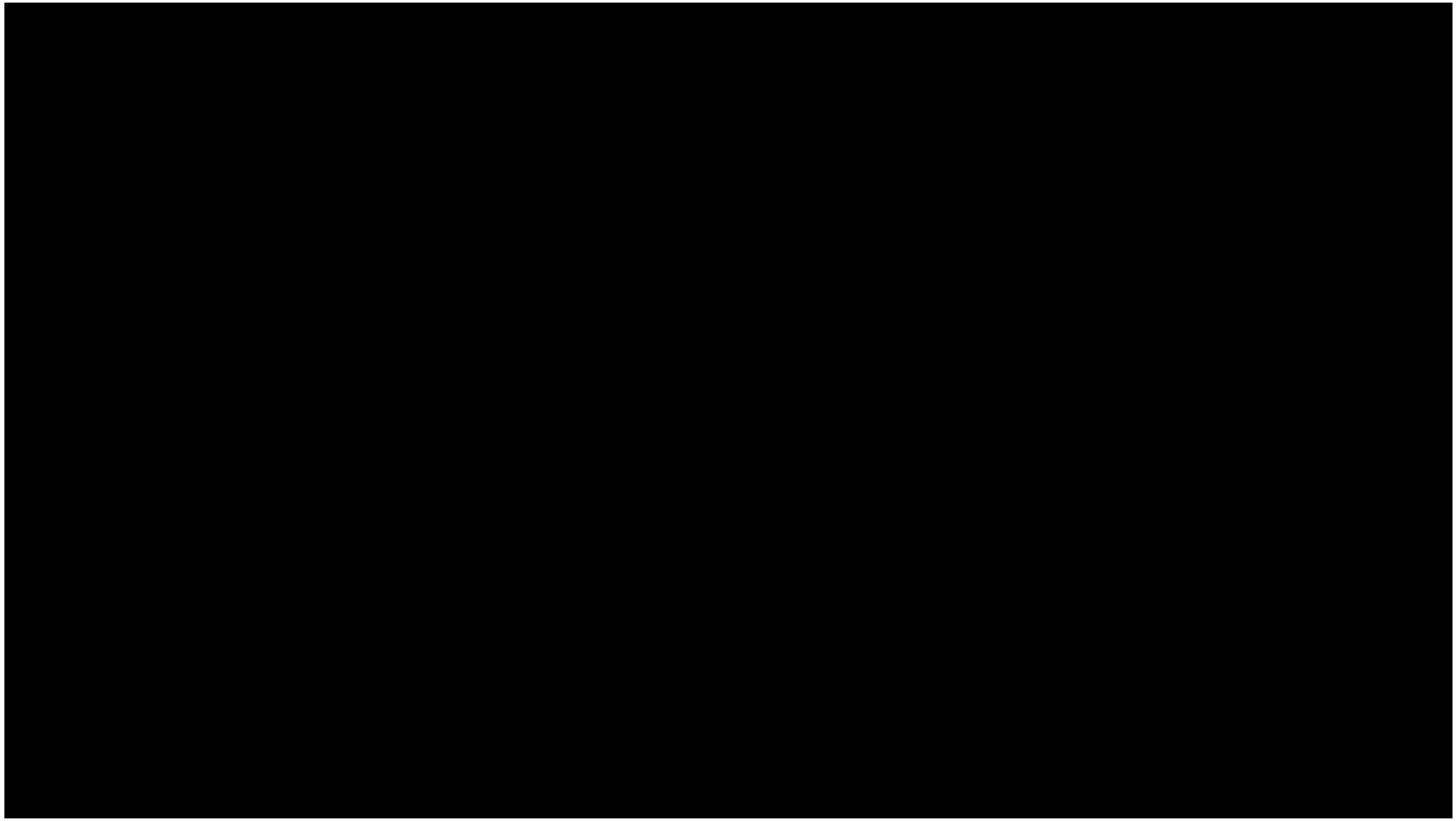
- Railway

A full railway network going across the world

- Villages generator

Over 200 specific locations in the game: camps, landmarks, outposts and 58 fully procedurally built villages

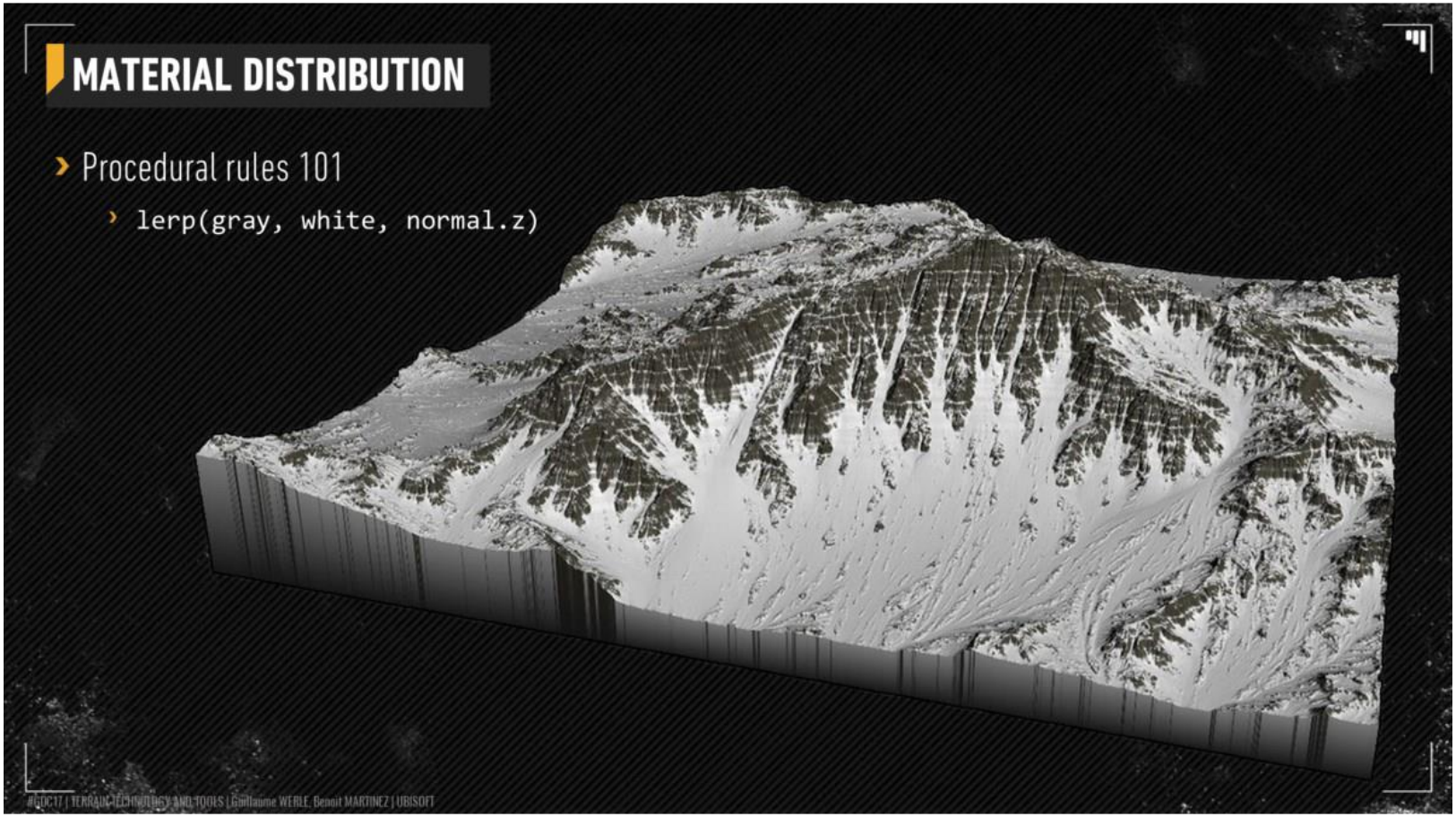
- Terrain modification



Base : real terrain
Editing terrain and sculpting tools; Possible to copy/ paste; Possible to erase

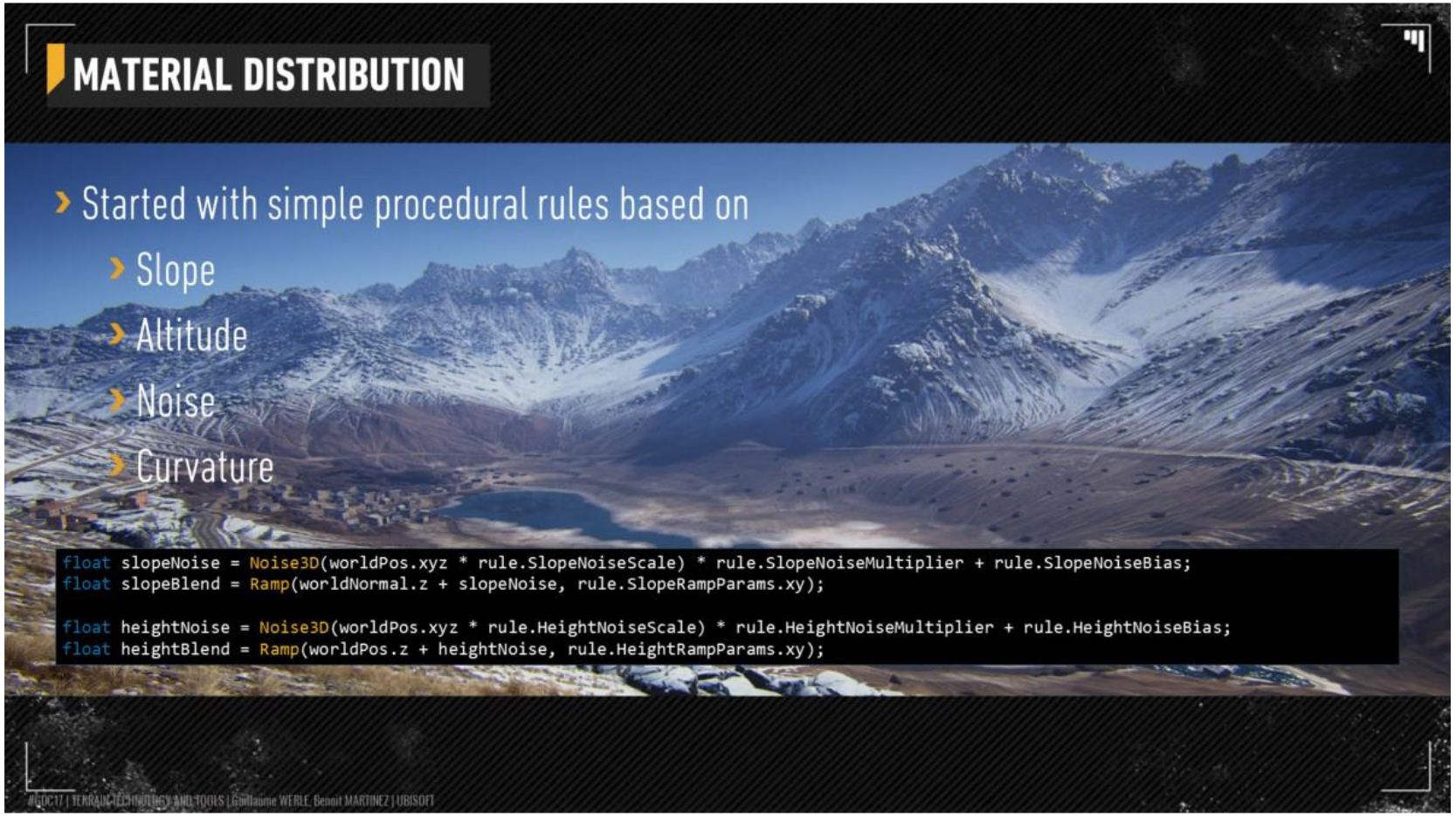
By looking at the size of the map led to the conclusion that painting everything manually was a terrible idea.
Need a semi automatic process.
=> Generate the material distribution procedurally

- Material distribution



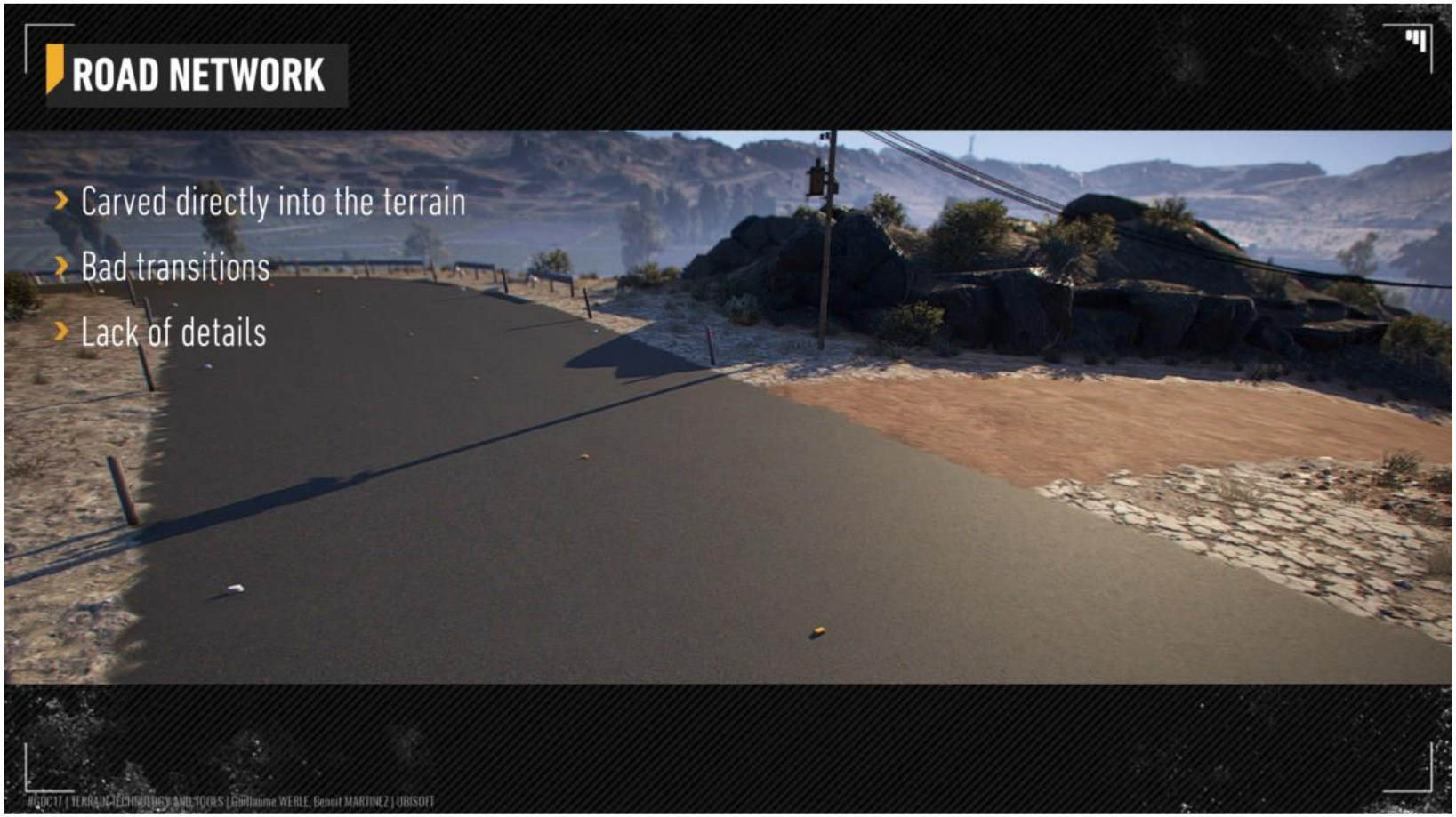
To give a better sense of the relief, the terrain editing tool was already tinting the heightmap depending on the normal direction.
When looking from far away, this simple rule is almost enough to generate a convincing mountain top

- Material distibution



Add several conditions based on the topology, noise or simple kernels that could be evaluated in real time in a pixel shader

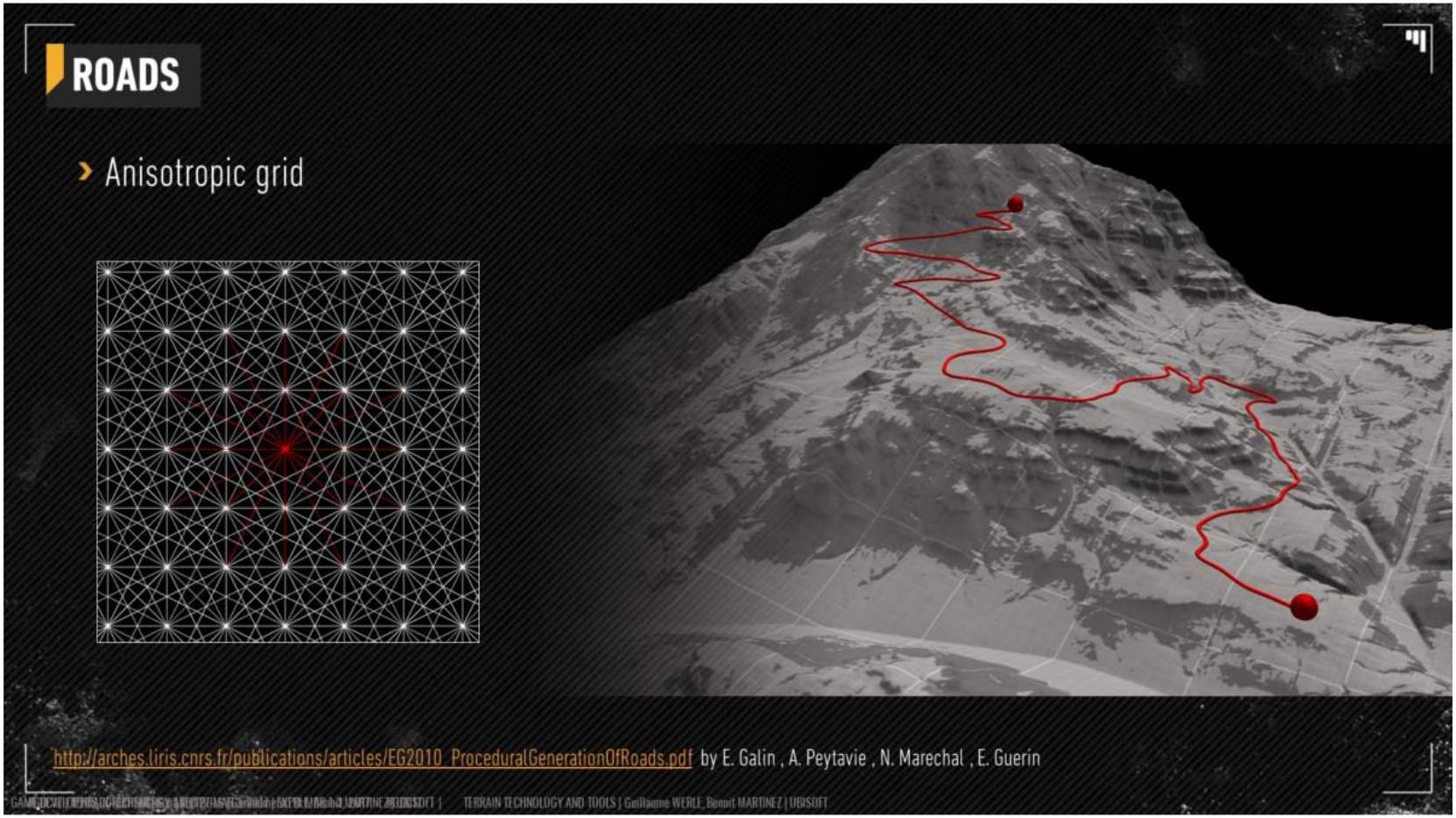
- Road network



Carve/ sculpt the road directly into the terrain instead of representing it with traditional geometry.
But this technique would raised a few issue like cheap material transition and an obvious lack of details.

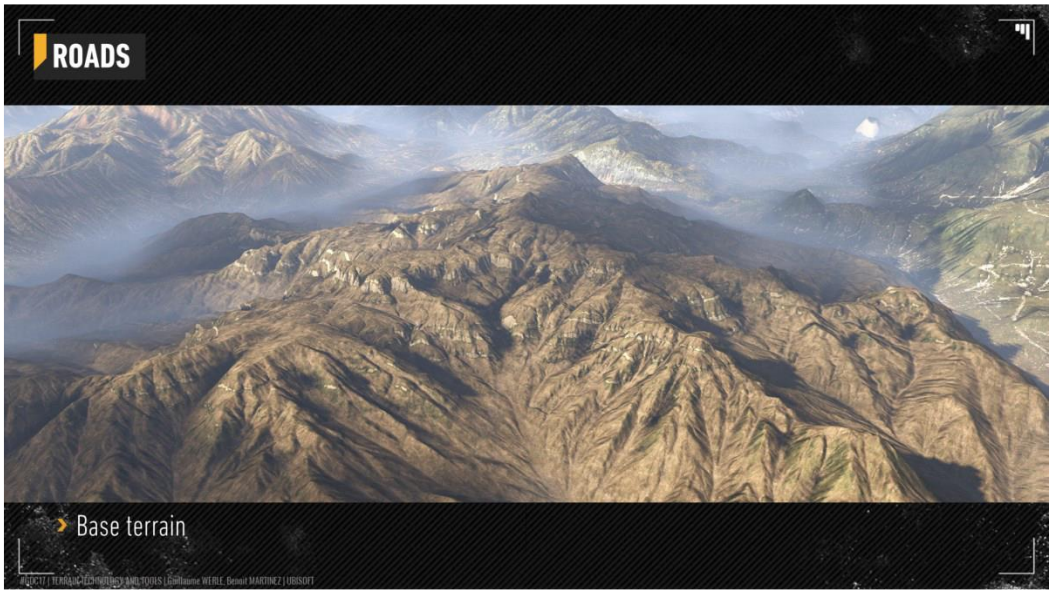
- Roads

- Roads



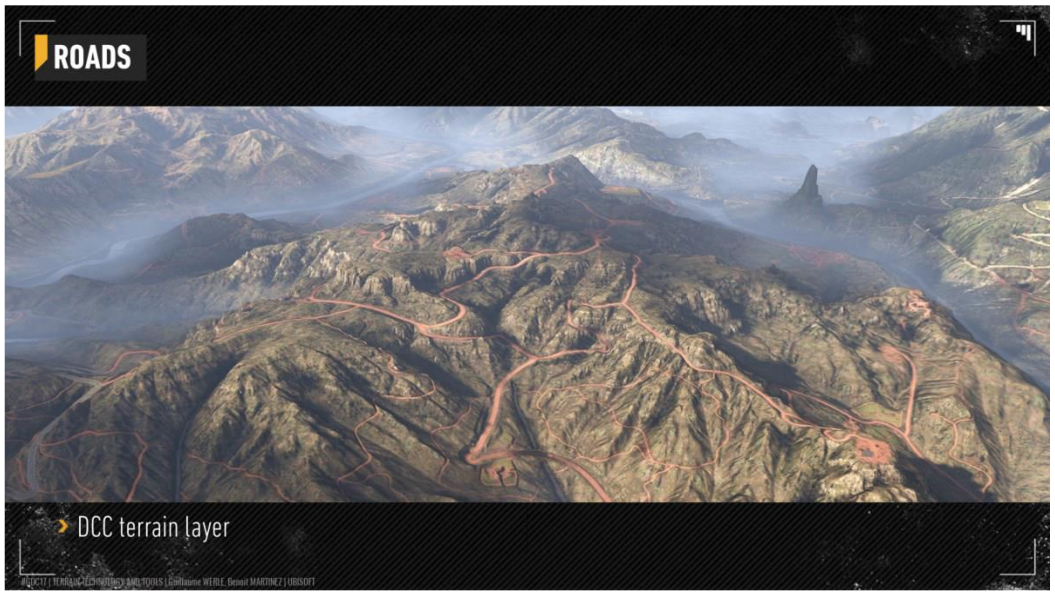
Using anisotropic shortest path algorithm.

- Roads network

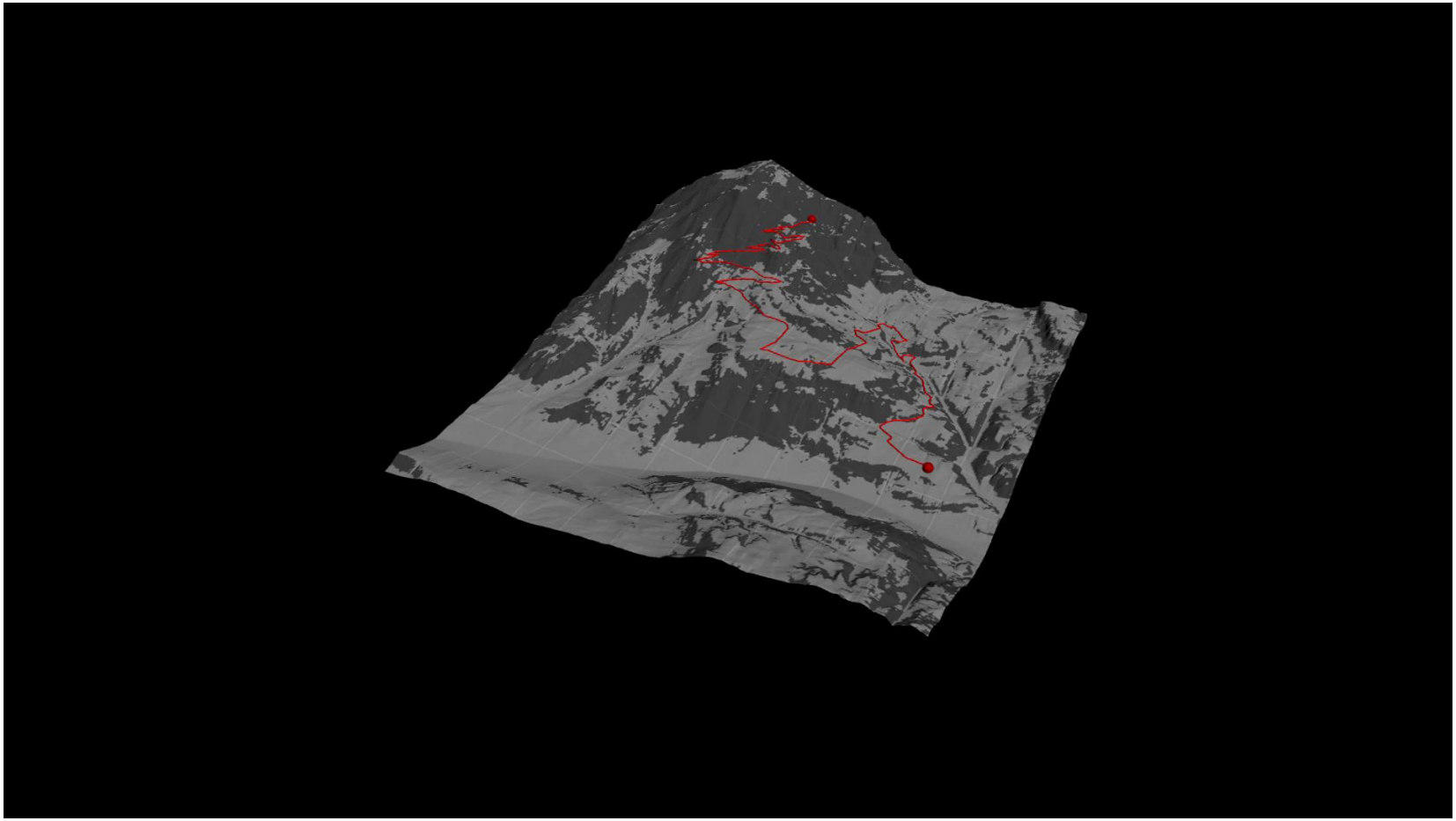


We obtain a consistent network with different types of roads and smallest paths.

Remember that it is all offline processed. Computing time is not (or not really) an issue (about 10minto compute a 2km*2km tile).



- Roads network



Video of the pathfindingover a tile of terrain and the full extent of road network (without small paths only main roads)

- Bridges and Tunnels

https://vimeo.com/207479400

As previously mentioned some tools, like the bridge tool here, can be used in standalone mode to manually create bridges or can be embedded in a bigger tool to automatically create content.
Note: The bridges and tunnels are made of modules. No new or specific geometry is created, its all just instancing.

All the presentation of Ubisoft guys is available here
https://www.gdcvault.com/play/1024029/-Ghost-Recon-Wildlands-Terrain

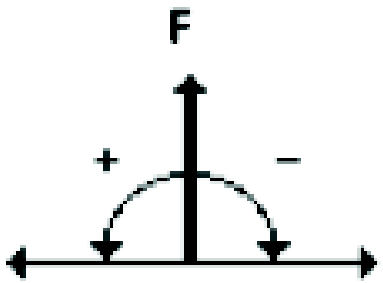
- Une définition extraite de la thèse de JD Genevaux
  - La génération procédurale de contenu (Procedural Content Generation ou PCG) est une famille de méthodes où, au lieu de stocker des objets 3D, on stocke les paramètres d'un algorithme de construction. Ces méthodes ont été très utilisées dans les années 70-80, à l'époque où les ordinateurs avaient peu de mémoire. Pour créer des univers très étendus, on s'appuyait généralement sur ces méthodes qui utilisent beaucoup la notion d'aléatoire.

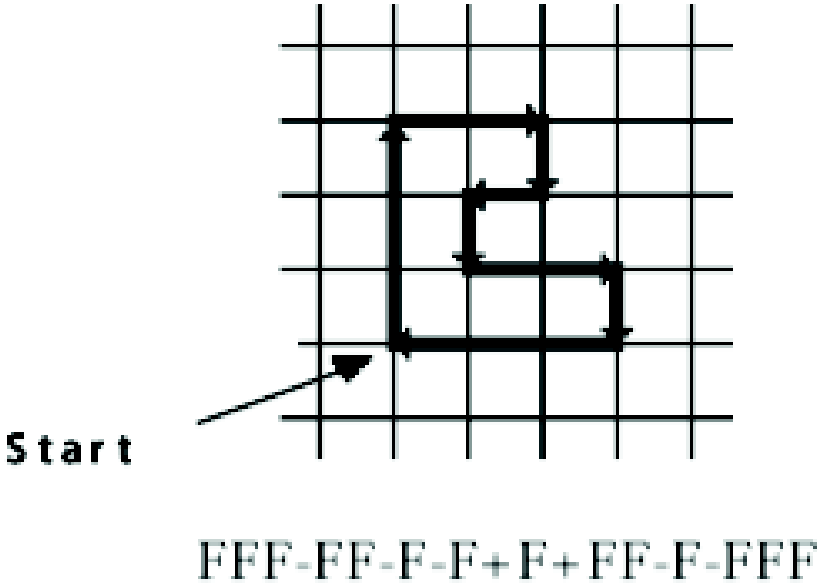
- Procedural content generation is attractive because it allows for significant database amplification
- Limited input data produces rich & varied output
  - ie: Perlin noise function + basic math gives fire, clouds, wood, etc.
- If it can be generated on the fly…
  - Level designer doesn't have to design it
  - Don't need to store/transmit it

L- Systems

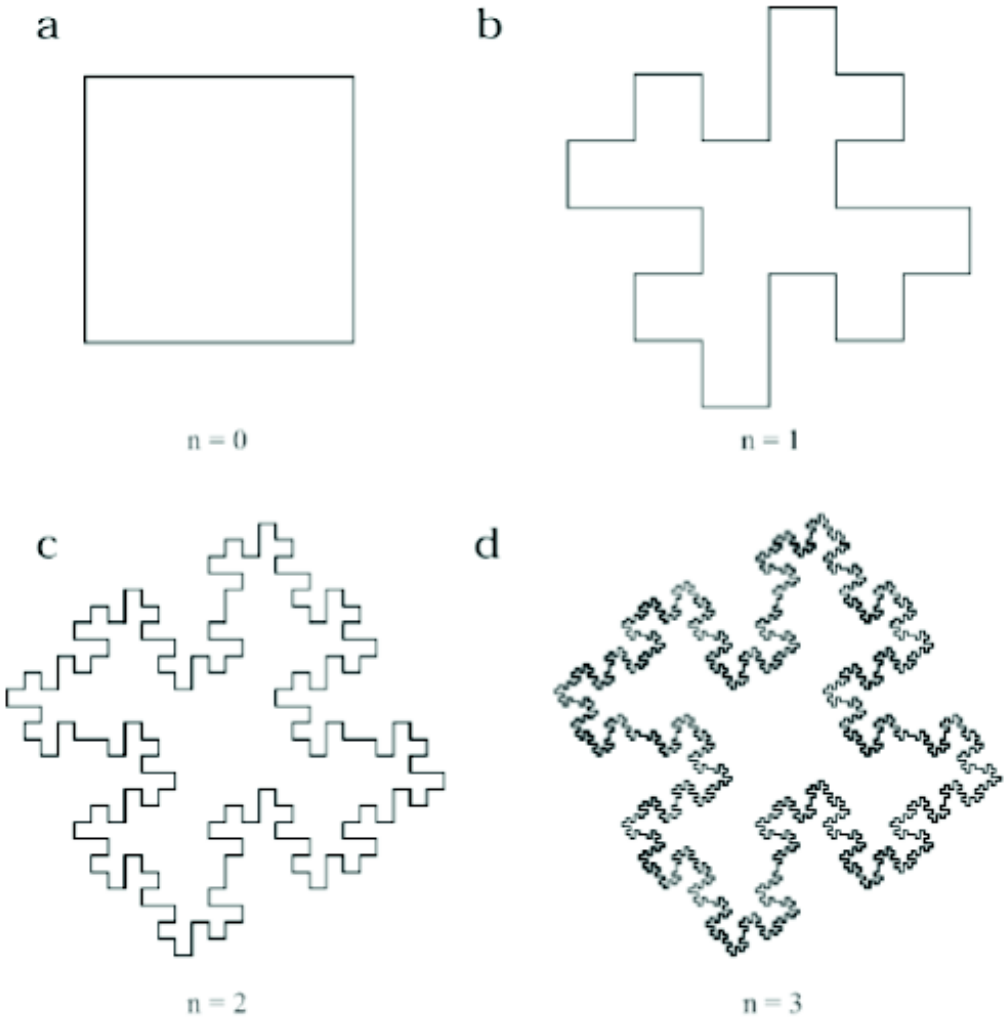
- Developed by Aristid Lindenmayer to model the development of plants
- Excellent for modelling organic objects and fractals
- Begin with a set of “productions” (replacement rules) and a “seed” axiom
- In parallel, all matching productions are replaced with their right-hand sides
- Ex:
  - Rules:
    - B -> ACA
    - A -> B
  - Axiom: AA
  - Sequence: AA, BB, ACAACA, BCBBCB, etc.
- Strings are converted to graphic representations via interpretation as turtle graphics commands

- Turtle Commands
  - F_x: move forward one step, drawing a line
  - f_x: move forward one step, without drawing a line
  - $+_x$: turn left by angle ∂
  - $-_x$: turn right by angle ∂

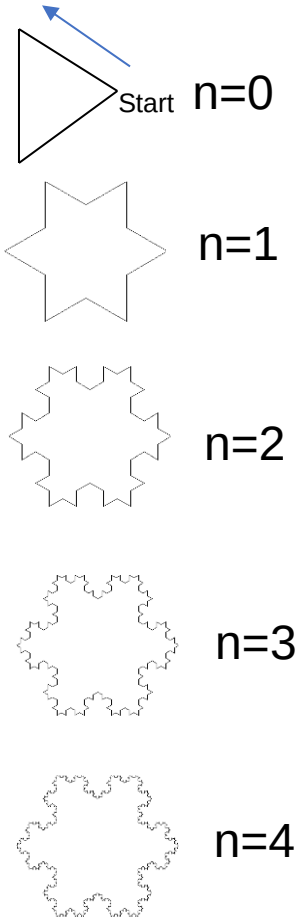




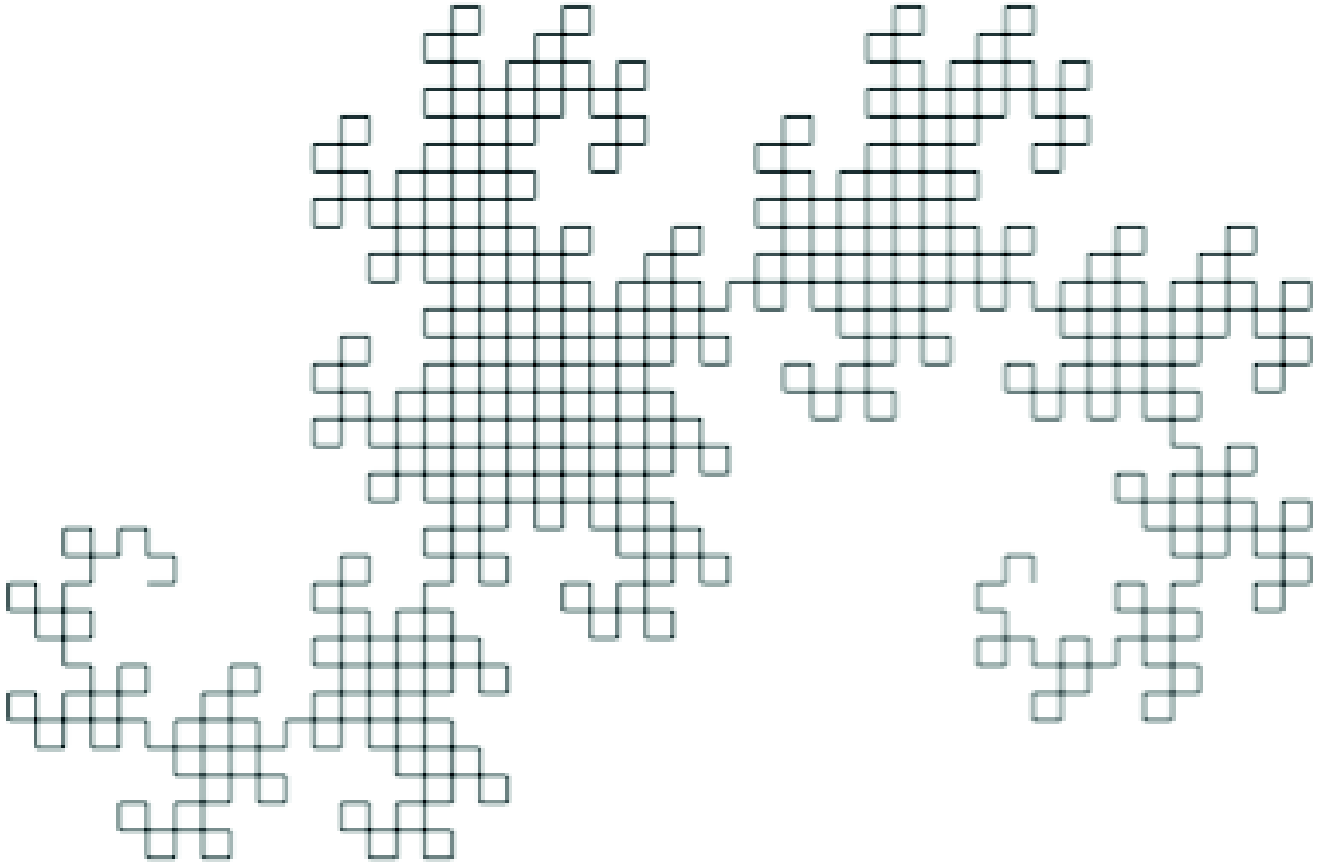
- Example: Koch Snowflake
  - Axiom: F-F-F-F ∂ :90 degrees
  - F -> F-F+F+FF-F-F+F



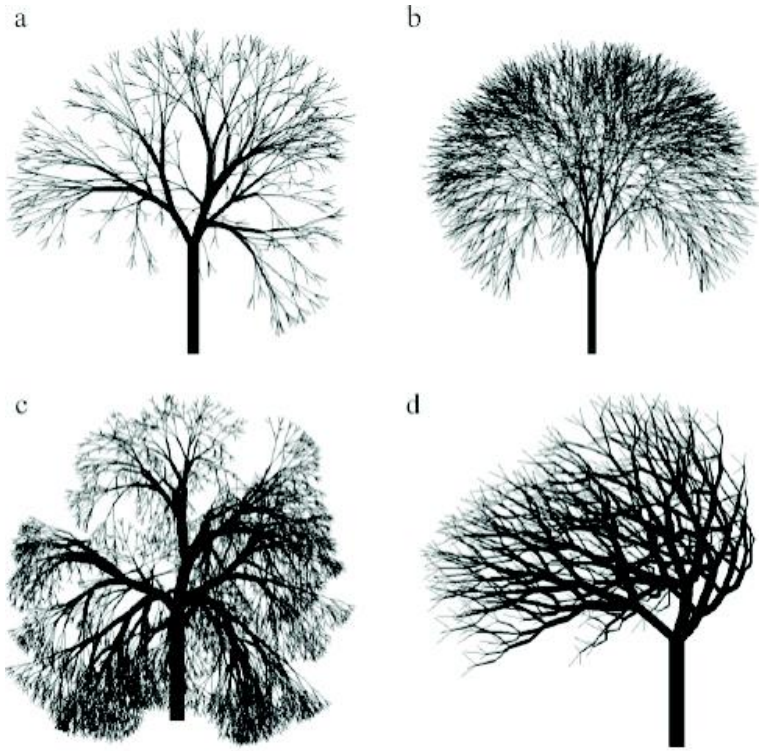
- Example : Koch Snowflakes
  - n=0 : f -- f -- f
  - n=1 : f + f -- f + f -- f + f -- f + f -- f + f -- f + f
  - n=2 : f + f -- f + f + f + f + f -- f + f -- f + f -- f + f + f + f -- f + f -- f + f -- f + f + f -- f + f -- f + f -- f + f + f + f + f -- f + f -- f + f -- f + f -- f + f + f + f -- f + f -- f + f + f + f -- f + f
  - Assign meaning to each component of the alphabet
    - f draw forwards
    - + turn 60 degrees right
    - -- turn 60 degrees left



- Example: Dragon Curve
  - Axiom:F_l ∂ :90 degrees n:10 iterations
  - F_l -> F_l+F_r+
  - F_r -> F_l-F_r-



- Grammar: Extensions
  - Basic L-Systems have inspired a large number of variations
  - Context sensitive: productions look at neighboring symbols
  - Bracketed: save/restore state (for branches)
  - Stochastic: choose one of n matching productions randomly
  - Parametric: variables can be passed between productions



- Others links
  - Algorithmic Botany
    - Covers many variants of L-Systems, formal derivations, and exhaustive coverage of different plant types.
    - http://algorithmicbotany.org/papers
  - PovTree
    - http://arbaro.sourceforge.net/
  - Trees construction : Soeren Pirk :
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HJSHJvlMFE

- Exemples

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1B4UoSQMFw&list=PLQu8TxiWYLxID80vTywVWjaloCyytE2gB&index=2

- Cities generator

- Start with a single street
- Branch & extend w/ parametric L-System
- Parameters of the string are tweaked by goals/constraints
- Goals control street direction, spacing
- Contraints allow for parks, bridges, road loops
- Once we have streets, we can form buildings with another L-System
- Building shapes are represented as CSG operations on simple shapes

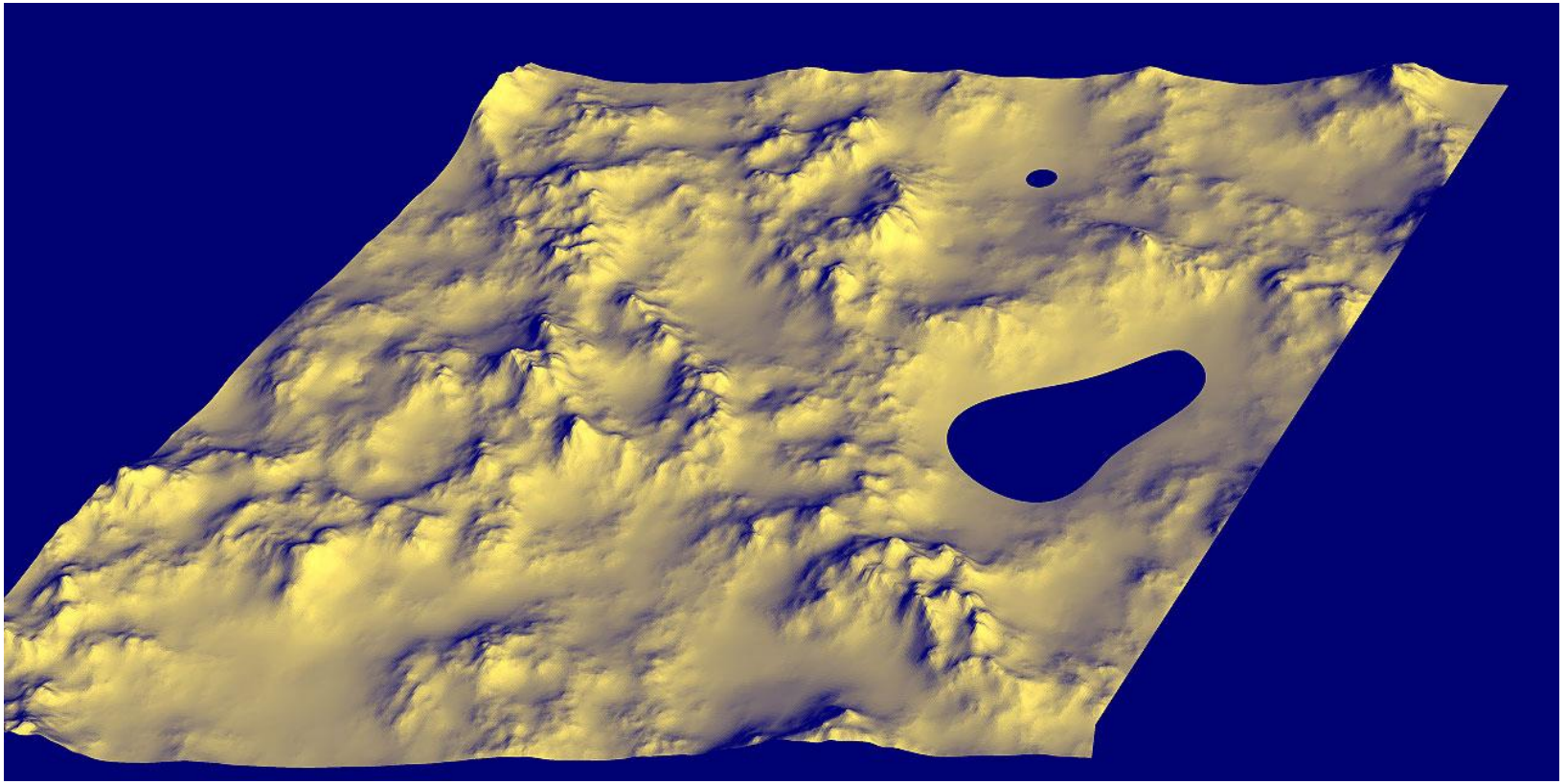
Procedural Modeling of Cities, Parish, Müller, 2001
https://cgl.ethz.ch/Downloads/Publications/Papers/2001/p_Par01.pdf)

- Noise Functions
  - Seeded pseudo-random number generator
  - Over R^n
  - Approximation to gaussian filtered noise
  - Implemented as a pseudo-random spline
  - The trick is to make it fast

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbpMiKiSKm8

- Using Perlin Noise in Unity
  - Noise : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WP-Bm65Q-1Y
  - Parameters :
    - Width / Height : taille de votre texture
    - Scale : l'echelle de votre texture
    - Octaves : le nombre d'appels à la fonction de de bruit
    - Persistance : correspond au facteur venant modifier l'amplitude de chaque fonction de bruit
    - Lacunarity : la fréquence entre chaque octave

- Adding water
  - Use an elevation threshold ($z < z_{water}$)

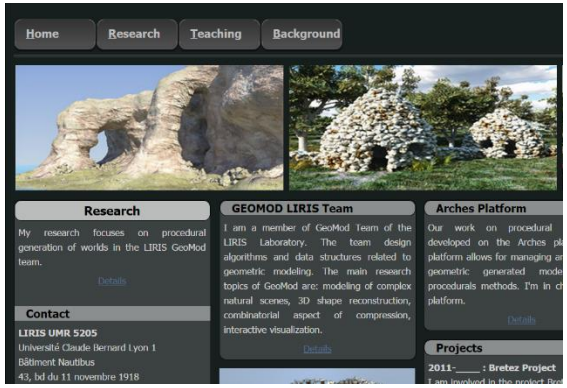


F.K. Musgrave

- http://martindevans.me/game-development/2015/12/11/Procedural-Generation-For-Dummies-Roads/
  - Road (with grid or randomized)
  - Buildings (differents buildings)
  - Vegetation with L-System
  - Terrain generation

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jsc3BQaJndQ (procedural generation of city in Unity)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGi0Hr-kNw0 (Procedurally Generated City And Creating A Grid System)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkuniXI3SEE (Generating a Procedural City with Unity 5 Part 1)
- https://marian42.de/article/wfc/ (Infinite procedurally generated city with the Wave Function Collapse algorithm)

- Génération d'objets à partir d'observation du monde réel…



http://arches.liris.cnrs.fr/

- Génération avec des données réelles