# NEW SURFACE REFLECTANCE MODEL WITH THE COMBINATION OF TWO CUBIC FUNCTIONS USAGE 

Oleksandr Romanyuk ${ }^{1}$, Yevhen Zavalniuk ${ }^{1}$, Sergii Pavlov ${ }^{1}$, Roman Chekhmestruk ${ }^{2}$, Zlata Bondarenko ${ }^{1}$, Tetiana Koval ${ }^{3}$, Aliya Kalizhanova ${ }^{4}$, Aigul Iskakova ${ }^{5}$

${ }^{1}$ Vinnytsia National Technical University, Vinnytsia, Ukraine, ${ }^{2}$ 3D GENERATION UA, Vinnytsia, Ukraine, ${ }^{3}$ Mykhailo Kotsiubynskyi State Pedagogical University, Vinnytsia Ukraine, ${ }^{4}$ University of Power Engineering and Telecommunications; Institute of Information and Computational Technologies MES CS RK, Almaty, Kazakhstan, ${ }^{5}$ Kazakh National Research Technical University named after K. I. Satpayev, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Abstract. In the article the model of light reflection based on the combination of two cubic bidirectional reflectance distribution functions is developed. The main components of color and the main requirements for reproducing the object's glares are analyzed. The usage characteristics of Cook-Torrance, Bagher, Oren-Nayar, coupled Shirley reflection models are described. The advantages and disadvantages of the highly productive Blinn-Phong model are considered. The necessity of approximating the Blinn-Phong model by a function of low degree is justified. The characteristics of the cubic polynomial approximation of the Blinn-Phong model are determined. It was established that the main drawback of this approximation is a significant deviation of the function from the reference function in the glare's attenuation zone. The combined function that combines two cubic functions is proposed. The first cubic function reproduces the glare's epicenter, and the second replaces the specified function in the attenuation zone. A system of equations for calculating the coefficients of the second function was created. The formula for the connection point of two cubic functions is obtained. A graph of the developed combined model based on cubic functions is obtained. For the combined and original cubic functions a comparison of the maximum relative errors in the glare's epicenter zone, the maximum absolute errors, and the relative errors at the inflection point was made. A three-dimensional plot of the absolute error of the combined cubic model from the Blinn-Phong model depending on the shininess and the angle value is built. Visualization results based on the combined and the original cubic functions are compared. It is confirmed that the proposed reflection model increases the realism of glare formation in the attenuation zone. The resulting combined reflection model provides a highly accurate approximation of the Blinn-Phong model and is highly efficient because the third power function is used.
Keywords: bidirectional reflectance distribution function, cubic function, reflectance model, shading, combined function

# NOWY MODEL ODBICIA ŚWIATŁA OD POWIERZCHNI WYKORZYSTUJĄCY KOMBINACJĘ DWÓCH FUNKCJI SZEŚCIENNYCH 

Streszczenie. W artykule opracowano model odbicia światta oparty na kombinacji dwóch sześciennych dwukierunkowych funkcji rozkładu odbicia. Przeanalizowano główne składniki koloru i główne wymagania dotyczące odtwarzania odblasków obiektu. Opisano charakterystyke użytkowania modeli odbicia Cooka-Torrance'a, Baghera, Orena-Nayara i Shirleya. Rozważono zalety i wady wysoce wydajnego modelu Blinn-Phong. Uzasadniono konieczność aproksymacji modelu Blinna-Phonga funkcja niskiego stopnia. Określono charakterystykę wielomianu sześciennego aproksymujacego model Blinna-Phonga. Ustalono, że główna wada tej aproksymacji jest znaczne odchylenie funkcji od funkcji odniesienia w strefie thumienia olśnienia. Zaproponowano funkcje kombinowana, która taczy dwie funkcje sześcienne. Pierwsza funkcja sześcienna odtwarza epicentrum olśnienia, a druga zastępuje określona funkcję w strefie tlumienia. Stworzono układ równań do obliczania wspótczynników drugiej funkcji. Uzyskano wzór na punkt połaczenia dwóch funkcji sześciennych. Uzyskano wykres opracowanego połaczonego modelu opartego na funkcjach sześciennych. Dla połaczonych $i$ oryginalnych funkcji sześciennych dokonano porównania maksymalnych błędów względnych w strefie epicentrum olśnienia, maksymalnych błędów bezwzględnych i blędów względnych w punkcie przegięcia. Zbudowano trójwymiarowy wykres blędu bezwzględnego połączonego modelu sześciennego $z$ modelu Blinna-Phonga w zależności od potysku i wartości kąta. Porównano wyniki wizualizacji oparte na połączonych $i$ oryginalnych funkcjach sześciennych. Potwierdzono, że proponowany model odbicia zwiększa realizm powstawania odblasków w strefie tlumienia. Wynikowy połączony model odbicia zapewnia bardzo dokładne przybliżenie modelu Blinna-Phonga i jest bardzo wydajny, ponieważ używana jest funkcja trzeciej potęgi.

Słowa kluczowe: dwukierunkowa funkcja rozkładu współczynnika odbicia, funkcja sześcienna, model współczynnika odbicia, cieniowanie, funkcja łączona

## Introduction

Modern three-dimensional rendering systems must meet the requirements of high performance and high realism. In order to create realistic three-dimensional graphic images, it is necessary to take into account the features of light reflection from the objects' surfaces in the scene. For this, during the surface shading, the three components of color [10, 11] are taken into account - ambient, diffuse and specular. The process of finding the specular [17] component of color is the most time-consuming, as it involves the calculation of normalized vectors to the observer, to the light source, and the normal vector. After this the lighting model, which has a high degree, is calculated and the color intensities for the RGB components are determined.

The main requirements for the reproduction of glares on the surfaces of objects are highly productive performance, highly accurate reproduction of the epicenter zone, and realistic reproduction of the attenuation zone. The existing models of light reflection do not comprehensively meet all the three requirements. Therefore, it is necessary to develop effective new models of the surface reflectivity, which provide a more highly productive implementation of rendering [15, 18].

## 1. Literature overview

The characteristics of the spatial reflection of light [14] from the surface are presented using the bidirectional reflectance distribution function (BRDF) [13]. BRDF is a function of the zenith and azimuthal angles (respectively, $\theta, \phi$ ) of the vectors to the light source and the observer (Fig. 1). In order to calculate the BRDF, the radiance of reflected light and the irradiance of light that fell on the surface are determined.


Fig. 1. Data for BRDF calculation [9]

BRDF is calculated according to the formula [14]

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{d L_{r}\left(\theta_{i}, \phi_{i}, \theta_{r}, \phi_{r}, \lambda\right)}{d E\left(\theta_{i}, \phi_{i}\right)} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $L_{r}$ - the radiance of light, $E$ - irradiance of light, $\lambda-$ the wave length.

BRDFs are divided into physically accurate and empirical.
Physically accurate [6, 7] BRDFs are more accurate and usually take into account the division of the object's surface into facets. The physically accurate BRDFs include the CookTorrance [5, 6], Bagher [1], Oren-Nayyar [6, 12], coupled Shirley [3, 6] models [1, 16, 19].

In the Cook-Torrance model [6] it is taken into account that the reflectivity of the surface is affected by micro-facets [6], oriented along the vector $\vec{H}=(\vec{L}+\vec{V}) /|\vec{L}+\vec{V}|$, where $\vec{L}$ and $\vec{V}$, respectively, are the vectors to the light source and the observer. The model includes a diffuse component, represented by Lambertian reflection, and a specular component. During the calculation of the specular component, the Fresnel factor $F$, the geometric shading factor $G$, and the distribution of micro-facets $D$ are used. The specular component of this BRDF is calculated according to the formula $[5,6]$

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{F D G}{\pi(\vec{N} \cdot \vec{L})(\vec{N} \cdot \vec{V})} \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

Bagher model [1] is an improvement of the Cook-Torrance model and lies in the usage of the SGD distribution (shifted gamma distribution) of micro-facets. Due to the usage of this distribution, compliance of the model with the measured characteristics of the most materials is ensured. SGD distribution is calculated according to the formula

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\chi[0 ; \pi / 2]\left(\theta_{m}\right)}{\pi \cos \left(\theta_{m}\right)^{4}}\left(\frac{\alpha^{p-1}}{\Gamma(1-p, \alpha)}\right)\left(\frac{e^{\frac{-\alpha^{2}+\tan \left(\theta_{m}\right)^{2}}{\alpha}}}{\left(\alpha^{2}+\tan \left(\theta_{m}\right)^{2}\right)^{p}}\right) \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\theta_{m}$ - the angle between surface and micro-facet normals, $\chi[0 ; \pi / 2]=1 \quad$ if $\quad \theta_{m}<\pi / 2, \quad \chi[0 ; \pi / 2]=0 \quad$ if $\quad \theta_{m}>=\pi / 2$, $\Gamma$ - incomplete gamma-function, $p-$ the parameter of model, $\alpha$ - the roughness.

The Oren-Nayard model $[6,12]$ is an improvement of the Lambert model. It is calculated according to the formula

$$
\begin{align*}
& \frac{\rho}{\pi}\left(\left(1-0.5 \frac{\alpha_{m}^{2}}{\alpha_{m}^{2}+0.33}\right)+\right. \\
& +0.45 \frac{\alpha_{m}^{2}}{\alpha_{m}^{2}+0.09} \max \left(0, \cos \left(\phi_{w_{i}}-\phi_{w_{o}}\right)\right)  \tag{4}\\
& \left.\cdot \sin \left(\max \left(\theta_{w_{o}}, \theta_{w_{i}}\right)\right) \tan \left(\min \left(\theta_{w_{o}}, \theta_{w_{i}}\right)\right)\right)
\end{align*}
$$

where $\alpha_{m}^{2}-$ object's surface rougness, $w_{i}, w_{o}$ - the light source and observer vectors respectively.

The coupled Shirley BRDF [3, 6] connects the diffuse and specular color components. The latter component is applied to polished surfaces of dielectrics. The model is energetically plausible. It is calculated according to the formula

$$
\begin{align*}
& {\left[R_{0}+\left(1-\cos \left(\omega_{o}\right)\right)^{5}\left(1-R_{0}\right)\right] f_{r, s}\left(w_{o}, w_{i}\right)+} \\
& +k R_{m}\left[1-\left(1-\cos \left(\omega_{o}\right)\right)^{5}\right]\left[1-\left(1-\cos \left(\omega_{i}\right)\right)^{5}\right] \tag{5}
\end{align*}
$$

where $k$ - normalization constant, $R_{m}$ - the reflectance of matte component, $R_{0}$ - parameter [0.03, 0.06].

The disadvantage of this group of BRDFs is significant computational costs, therefore, physically accurate BRDFs are rarely used in highly productive graphic systems.

Among the empirical models, characterized by high productivity and approximation accuracy of light reflection, the Blinn and Phong BRDFs are the most often used.

For the calculation of Phong BRDF [4], a vector to the observer and a specular reflection vector $\vec{R}$ are used. Phong BRDF is calculated by the formula $\cos (\psi)^{n}$, where $\psi-$ is the angle between $\vec{V}$ and $\vec{R}, n$ is the shininess coefficient of the surface.

One of the disadvantages of the model is the possibility of a larger $\psi$ value than $90^{\circ}$, which can lead to the appearance of image artifacts.

In the Blinn model [2] the angle $\gamma$ between the vectors $\vec{N}$ and $\vec{H}$, which does not exceed $90^{\circ}$, is used instead of $\psi$. $\vec{N}$ is a normal to the surface.

When the $n$ values are big the Blinn and Phong BRDFs do not meet the requirements of highly productive graphics systems. Therefore, for the Blinn-Phong model the approximating BRDFs are used.

For the Blinn-Fong model approximation by a cubic function [8] the calculated coefficients $A, B, C$, which depend on the shininess coefficient, are used.

The cubic model of light reflection is calculated according to the formula [8]

$$
\begin{equation*}
A \cos (\gamma)^{3}+B \cos (\gamma)^{2}+C \cos (\gamma) \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

The values of the $Q, G$ points of the ordinate axis are used to calculate the coefficients of the model. The point $Q$ is usually located near the level of the inflection point of the function. The point $G$ is located near the zero of the ordinate axis and is used to control the size of the glare's attenuation zone.

The coefficient $A$ is calculated according to the formula

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{L R(R-L)+G R(1-R)+L Q(L-1)}{L^{3}\left(R-R^{2}\right)+L^{2}\left(R^{3}-R\right)-L R^{2}(R-1)} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $R=\cos (t), L=\cos (u), t, u-\operatorname{abscissa}$ axis points that correspond to ordinate axis points $Q, G$.

The coefficient $B$ is calculated according to the formula

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{G R\left(R^{2}-1\right)+L R\left(L^{2}-R^{2}\right)+Q L\left(1-L^{2}\right)}{L^{3}\left(R-R^{2}\right)+L^{2}\left(R^{3}-R\right)-L R^{2}(R-1)} \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

The coefficient $C$ is calculated according to the formula

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{G R\left(R-R^{2}\right)+L^{2} Q(L-1)+L R\left(L R^{2}-L^{2} R\right)}{L^{3}\left(R-R^{2}\right)+L^{2}\left(R^{3}-R\right)-L R^{2}(R-1)} \tag{9}
\end{equation*}
$$

For this function it was established that the optimal $Q, G$ values are $0.5,1 / 18$ [8].

Fig. 2 shows the plot of $A, B, C$ coefficients values when $Q=0.5, G=1 / 18$ and $n \in[4,256]$.


Fig. 2. The plot of $A, B, C$ coefficients values

As shown in the figure, the coefficients $A$ and $C$ have similar values.

Let us denote the considered cubic function $F_{K U B 1}$, which is an approximation of the Blinn-Fong $\operatorname{BRDF}\left(F_{B}\right)$ ). Fig. 3 shows the graphs of $F_{K U B 1}$ and $F_{B}$ when $n=50$.


Fig. 3. The plots of $F_{B}, F_{K U B 1}$ when $n=50$
The disadvantage of $F_{K U B 1}$ is an insufficiently accurate approximation of $F_{B}$ in the attenuation zone, which leads to an unnatural reproduction of glare's attenuation. Therefore, the $F_{K U B 1}$ improvement is necessary to ensure a more accurate $F_{B}$ approximation.

## 2. Aim of the research

The aim of the paper is to develop the new lighting model through using the combination of two cubic BRDFs in order to provide the more accurate glare reproduction in the attenuation zone.

## 3. The development of combined BRDF based on polynomial cubic functions

To ensure a highly accurate $F_{B}$ approximation, we combine $F_{K U B 1}$ with another cubic function, which will allow us to more accurately reproduce the attenuation zone of the glare.

For the connection of $F_{K U B 1}$ with the new cubic function $F_{K U B 2}$, we will choose the level of the ordinate axis 0.5 , below which the values of $F_{K U B 1}$ and $F_{B}$ are noticeably different.

Let's determine the coefficient formulas for $F_{\text {KUB2 }}$ using a system of equations. The first equation corresponds to the level $\cos (E)^{n}=0.5$, the second equation corresponds to the level $\cos (t)^{n}=Q$, the third to the level $\cos (u)^{n}=G$, the fourth to the level $\cos (\pi / 2)^{n}=0$. The system of equations is defined as

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
A 2 \cdot \cos (E)^{3}+B 2 \cdot \cos (E)^{2}+C 2 \cdot \cos (E)+D 2=0.5 \\
A 2 \cdot \cos (t)^{3}+B 2 \cdot \cos (t)^{2}+C 2 \cdot \cos (t)+D 2=Q  \tag{10}\\
A 2 \cdot \cos (u)^{3}+B 2 \cdot \cos (u)^{2}+C 2 \cdot \cos (u)+D 2=G \\
D 2=0
\end{array}\right.
$$

where $E=a \cos \left(e^{-0.063 / n}\right)$.

From the system we find that the coefficient $A 2$ is calculated according to the formula

$$
\begin{equation*}
0.5 \frac{L R(R-L)+G R\left(2 E^{2}-R 2 E\right)+L Q\left(L 2 E-2 E^{2}\right)}{L^{3}\left(R E^{2}-R^{2} E\right)+L^{2}\left(R^{3} E-R E^{3}\right)-L R^{2}\left(R E^{2}-E^{3}\right)} \tag{11}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $E=e^{-0.693 / n}$.
$B 2$ is calculated according to the formula

$$
\begin{equation*}
0.5 \frac{G R\left(R^{2} 2 E-2 E^{3}\right)+L R\left(L^{2}-R^{2}\right)+Q L\left(2 E^{3}-L^{2} 2 E\right)}{L^{3}\left(R E^{2}-R^{2} E\right)+L^{2}\left(R^{3} E-R E^{3}\right)-L R^{2}\left(R E^{2}-E^{3}\right)} \tag{12}
\end{equation*}
$$

$C 2$ is calculated according to the formula
$0.5 \frac{G R\left(R 2 E^{3}-R^{2} 2 E^{2}\right)+L^{2} Q\left(L 2 E^{2}-2 E^{3}\right)+L R\left(L R^{2}-L^{2} R\right)}{L^{3}\left(R E^{2}-R^{2} E\right)+L^{2}\left(R^{3} E-R E^{3}\right)-L R^{2}\left(R E^{2}-E^{3}\right)}$

Fig. 4 shows the plots of $F_{K U B 2} A 2, B 2, C 2$ coefficients values when $Q=0.1, G=1 / 40$ and $n \in[4,256]$.


Fig. 4. The plots of A2, B2, C2 coefficients values
It is advisable to store the calculated $F_{K U B 1}$ and $F_{K U B 2}$ coefficients in a block of permanent memory, since they are the same for all cases of calculation of BRDF.

Fig. 5 shows the plots of $F_{K U B 2}, F_{K U B 1}$ and $F_{B}$ when $n=50$. The selected values for $Q, G \quad F_{K U B 2}$ are $0.1,1 / 40$.


Fig. 5. The plots of $F_{B}, F_{K U B 2}, F_{K U B 1}$ when $n=50$
As can be seen from the figure, the combination of $F_{K U B 2}$, $F_{K U B 1}$ at the point 0.5 provides a highly accurate approximation of $F_{B}$ in the epicenter and attenuation zones.

Let's find the abscissa of the connection point of $F_{\text {KUB1 }}$ and $F_{K U B 2}$. We equate the calculation formulas of $F_{K U B 1}$ and $F_{K U B 2}$

$$
\begin{align*}
& A \cdot \cos (x)^{3}+B \cdot \cos (x)^{2}+C \cdot \cos (x)= \\
& =A 2 \cdot \cos (x)^{3}+B 2 \cdot \cos (x)^{2}+C 2 \cdot \cos (x) \tag{14}
\end{align*}
$$

From the equation, we find the formula for the point of connection of $F_{\text {KUB1 }}$ and $F_{\text {KUB2 }} \operatorname{connect(}(n)$

$$
\begin{equation*}
\operatorname{connect}(n)=a \cos \left(e^{-0.693 / n}\right) \tag{15}
\end{equation*}
$$

With the usage of MS Excel the simplified calculation expressions of connect $(n)$ (connect_appr( $n$ )) depending on $n$ were obtained

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\left(\frac{1}{2^{9}}-\frac{1}{2^{12}}\right) n^{2}-\left(\frac{1}{2^{5}}+\frac{1}{2^{6}}+\frac{1}{2^{7}}\right) n+\left(\frac{1}{2^{1}}+\frac{1}{2^{2}}\right), n \geq 4 \wedge n \leq 16 \\
\left(\frac{1}{2^{15}}+\frac{1}{2^{16}}+\frac{1}{2^{18}}\right) n^{2}-\left(\frac{1}{2^{7}}-\frac{1}{2^{10}}\right) n+\left(\frac{1}{2^{2}}+\frac{1}{2^{3}}\right), n>16 \wedge n \leq 70 \\
\left(\frac{1}{2^{19}}-\frac{1}{2^{22}}\right) n^{2}-\left(\frac{1}{2^{10}}-\frac{1}{2^{13}}\right) n+\left(\frac{1}{2^{3}}+\frac{1}{2^{4}}\right), n>70 \wedge n \leq 256 . \tag{16}
\end{array}\right.
$$

Fig. 6 shows the plots of connect_appr( $n$ ) and connect ( $n$ ) depending on the values $n \in[4,256]$.


Fig. 6. The plots of original and approximated formulas of calculation of the cubic functions connection point

Therefore, a high-precision approximation of the original formula of the cubic functions connection point is ensured.

To ensure the smoothness of the connection of two cubic functions, a 0.5 level was chosen. Finding the derivatives of functions $F_{K U B 1}$ and $F_{\text {KUB2 }}$ is not necessary, since the values of functions are similar at a sufficiently large interval near connect ( $n$ ) (Fig. 7 shows the absolute deviation between $F_{\text {KUB1 }}$ and $F_{K U B 2}$ for $\left.n \in[50,200]\right)$.


Fig. 7. The plots of absolute deviation between $F_{K U B 1}$ and $F_{K U B 2}$ near their connection point

We denote the developed combined function as $F_{\text {KUB } 3}$.
Fig. 8 shows the graphs of $F_{K U B 1}, F_{K U B 3}$ and $F_{B}$ when $n=50$.


Fig. 8. The plots of $F_{K U B 1}, F_{K U B 3}$ and $F_{B}$ when $n=50$
Through using the combination of two cubic functions in $F_{K U B 3}$, an increase in the accuracy of the approximation of the glare's attenuation zone has been achieved.

Since the $F_{K U B 1}$ and $F_{K U B 3}$ coincide in the zone of the glare's epicenter, their maximum relative errors $\delta$ of $F_{B}$ approximation in the epicenter are equal (2.95\%, Fig. 9).


Fig. 9. The plots of maximum relative errors of $F_{K U B 1}$ and $F_{K U B 3}$ in glare's epicenter

Fig. 10 shows the plots of the relative errors of $F_{\text {KUB1 }}$ and $F_{\text {KUB } 3}$ from $F_{B}$ at the inflection point that is separating the epicenter and attenuation zones. The plot is built relative to the values of $n \in[4,256]$.


Fig. 10. The plots of relative errors of $F_{K U B 1}$ and $F_{K U B 3}$ at the $F_{B}$ inflection point
The maximum relative error of $F_{K U B 1}$ and $F_{K U B 3}$ from $F_{B}$ in its inflection point is $2.5 \%$.

Fig. 11 shows the plots of maximum absolute errors $\Delta$ of $F_{K U B 1}$ and $F_{K U B 3}$ from $F_{B}$ depending on $n \in[4,256]$.


Fig. 11. The plots of absolute errors of $F_{\text {KUB1 }}$ and $F_{\text {KUB3 }}$ from $F_{B}$
It is worth noting that the maximum absolute error of $F_{\text {KUB1 }}$ from the known function is 0.11 , it's unacceptable. Maximum absolute error of $F_{\text {KUB3 }}$ from $F_{B}$ is 0.035 . Therefore, $F_{\text {KUB3 }}$ in comparison with $F_{K U B 1}$ provides more accurate $F_{B}$ approximation.

Fig. 12 shows the plot of absolute errors between $F_{\text {KUB3 }}$ and $F_{B}$ depending on $n \in[4,256]$ and $x \in[0 ; \pi / 2]$ values.


Fig. 12. The plot of absolute errors between $F_{K U B 3}$ and $F_{B}$ depending on angle value and shininess

Based on $F_{K U B 1}$ and $F_{K U B 3}$ the test figure "Teapot" was visualized in BRDF Explorer. The visualization result is given in Fig. 13.

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Fig. 13 shows that $F_{K U B 3}$ provides a more realistic formation of the glare's attenuation zone.


Fig. 13. The visualized teapots based on $F_{K U B 1}$ and $F_{K U B 3}$

## 4. Conclusions

The article proposes a model of surface reflectance based on the combination of two cubic functions. The developed model is an improvement of a separate cubic model [8] and provides an increase in the accuracy of the approximation of the widely used Blinn-Fong model. The model combines the original cubic function and the new cubic function with calculated formulas of coefficients.

The developed combined model was compared to the original cubic model. It is shown that the developed model provides highly accurate reproduction of both the glare's epicenter and its attenuation.

The developed model is intended for use in highly realistic graphic systems.
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Prof. Oleksandr N. Romanyuk
e-mail: rom8591@gmail.com
Doctor of Technical Sciences, professor, Head of Department of Software Engineering of Vinnytsia National Technical University.
Research field: formation and processing of graphic images.
http://orcid.org/0000-0002-2245-3364

M.Sc. Yevhen K. Zavalniuk
e-mail: qq9272627@gmail.com
Ph.D. student, Department of Software Engineering of Vinnytsia National Technical University.
Research interests include formation and processing of graphic images.
http://orcid.org/0009-0005-1202-4653
Prof. Sergii Pavlov
e-mail: psv@vntu.edu.ua
Academician of International Applied Radioelectronic Science Academy, Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Optic-Electronic Systems Department, Vinnytsia National Technical University. Scientific direction - biomedical information optoelectronic and laser technologies for diagnostics and physiotherapy influence. Deals with issues of improving the distribution of optical radiation theory in biological objects, particularly through the use of electro-optical systems, and the development of intelligent biomedical optoelectronic diagnostic systems and standardized methods for reliably determining the main hemodynamic cardiovascular system of comprehensive into account scattering effects.
http://orcid.org/0000-0002-0051-5560

## PhD Roman Y. Chekhmestruk

e-mail: Rc.ua@3dgeneration.com
Candidate of Technical Sciences. Technical Director 3D GENERATION UA, research field: formation and processing of graphic images.


Ph.D. Zlata Bondarenko
e-mail : bondarenko@vntu.edu.ua
Associate professor of the Department of Higher Mathematics, Vinnytsia National Technical University.
Scientific direction - innovative technologies for training future specialists in technical specialties.
http://orcid.org/0000-0003-3339-0570
Ph.D. Tetiana Koval
e-mail: tanyabyzja@ukr.net
Candidate of Pedagogic Sciences, associate professor at the Department of Artistic Disciplines, Preschool and Elementary Education, Vinnytsia Mykhailo Kotsiubynskyi State Pedagogical University, Vinnytsia Ukraine
Research field: information technologies in pedagogic
http://orcid.org/0000-0002-3190-1181
Ph.D. Aliya Kalizhanova
e-mail: kalizhanova_aliya@mail.ru
Candidate of physical and mathematical sciences, professor at University of Power Engineering and Telecommunications, the chief researcher of the Institute of Information and Computational Technologies of the Ministry of Education and Science CS of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
Scientific interests of the leader: mathematical modeling of systems, models of transport systems network analysis, optimization methods, technologies for developing sensor systems for signals receive transmit, mathematical modeling of Bragg fiber
 gratings.
http://orcid.org/0000-0002-5979-9756

## M.Sc. Eng. Aigul Iskakova

e-mail: Iskakova1979@mail.ru
Lecturer of the Kazakh National Research Technical University named after K. I. Satpayev.
Total number of scientific and methodological developments and articles - more then 45.
http://orcid.org/0000-0001-8043-819X


