A new approach to dome projection

Paul Bourke
Swinburne University
Current options

- Multiple tiled CRT projectors.
- Multiple tiled digital projectors.
- Fisheye lens and digital projector (single or twin)

Multiple tiled and edge blended projectors are not suited to portable domes and have a high cost of ownership for small fixed planetariums.
Fisheye lens

- Simple setup and alignment.
- No special computer hardware requirements.
- Play back existing fisheye content directly.
- For pixel efficiency they generally use truncated fisheye images, don’t cover the whole dome.

Fisheye lens and projector are offered by a number of companies but these are mostly all sourced from one company, elumenati.
Spherical mirror

Replace the fisheye lens with a spherical mirror!
Advantages over fisheye

- Cost.
- The center of the dome can be used by the audience.
- Flexibility to choose and upgrade projectors based on personal preferences (brightness, contrast, resolution).
- Flexibility to vary the area of the dome that is projected onto.
- Longer projector life span.
Converting movie content

- Planetarium movies generally exist as fisheye projected frames.
- Extract frames, warp fisheye, build new movie.
- Includes correction for intensity variation.

Fisheye

uvxy warp map file

Warped
Interactive content

- Warp using xyuv mapping files.
- Two approaches, cubic texture and geometry warping.
Pixel efficiency and dome coverage

Full fisheye
59%

Truncated fisheye
84%

Mirror: All pixels are used (100%) but not equally efficiently. The exact coverage is adjustable.
### Projector options

- Must be able to focus on a small image area.
- Require a good depth of focus.
- Contrast: 2000:1
- Brightness: > 2000 ANSI

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BIG – sample warped movie