Project Plan

Our Project Plan remains identical to our initial proposal. The plan in brief is as follows:

- Three friends is in the midst of a hiking trip late in the day, one of which is the cameraman(/woman).
- They note a close-flying meteor overhead
- They rush in the direction of the meteor, anticipating impact.
- They film the initial impact as the meteor strikes the ground.
- They are struck by a shockwave/debris, one of them is injured in the ensuing chaos, and the camera deactivates as they flee the site.
- Camera (now abandoned on ground) switches on and focuses on a burnt tree overhead.
- As nights and days pass in fast forward, the tree gradually regenerates/regrows its foliage.
- The camera is picked up by one of the three who returned to the site
- As he marvels at the camera, the camera briefly films the surroundings, restored to greenery.

Tasks Completed

Filming

While we haven't filmed any of the action footages, we have travelled around with a camera in search of, and to take pictures and footages of, potential filming sites. Our primary purpose was to gather site photographs with which we could use to do early experiments on how well we can apply desired effects on each.

Trial video footages can be downloaded from here.

Effect 1: The Meteor Strike

"experiment.avi" in the zip archive is an initial trial effect video for this scene.

The video is mostly an experiment with how best to create an explosive impact effect. I plan to eventually move the impact further into the distance (modifying the background footage, or changing it, to accomodate this) to allow more room for playing with debris and smoke. I have also been experimenting with creating a realistic looking meteor in Blender, without much to show for it at the moment. After the particle systems lecture I think I have a better idea now how I might have to do it.

Effect 2 : Regenerating Tree

From an original picture of a tree, a series of tree pictures are created.

Reducing the canopy of the tree results in the final result of a bare tree, and the process of which is captured, and displayed in reverse, to produce the effect of a regenerating tree. The series of pictures have already been produced, and could be seen joined together in an initial regeneration sequence video in "Movie.wmv" (again inside the zip archive).

Difficulties

Complete lack of foreknowledge on the technologies involved (Maya, Blender, AfterEffects) is making initial progress slow. This is smoothing out as we become more familiar with them though.

Remaining Work

- Filming the actual action footage on selected sites
- Incorporating results of our experimentation into those footage
- Acquiring footage of skies going from dawn to dusk
- Putting everything together in one seamless video

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