

Step 1 Render a collection of particles from the viewer's perspective.

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Step 2 No need to worry about particles outside the viewer's perspective.



Step 3 The goal is to obtain



the fluid surface from a set of particles as shown by the green curve.

Step 4

Instead of rendering points, render the particles as point sprites. A point sprite is a square texture which is always oriented toward the viewer.





Step 5 Next, all obstructed point sprites are removed because the viewer can not see them and therefore should not spend time to render them.



Step 6 Now turn the points sprites into spheres (more accurately hemispheres), that are oriented toward the viewer.





Step 7 Next, use Gaussian blur to smooth the depths of the spheres. The effect produces a more continuous surface.

Figure 4: The final image with the smoothed depth values and lighting effects.









Figure 2: The depth map output from Step 6. The darker values represent objects closer to the viewer.







