

Choosing a camera

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Marc Levoy
Computer Science Department
Stanford University

Having an SLR is neither
necessary nor sufficient
for taking good photographs.



unretouched pictures from Nokia N95
(5 megapixels, Zeiss lens, auto-focus)









Choosing a camera

• for this course,
need manual control
over shutter and aperture

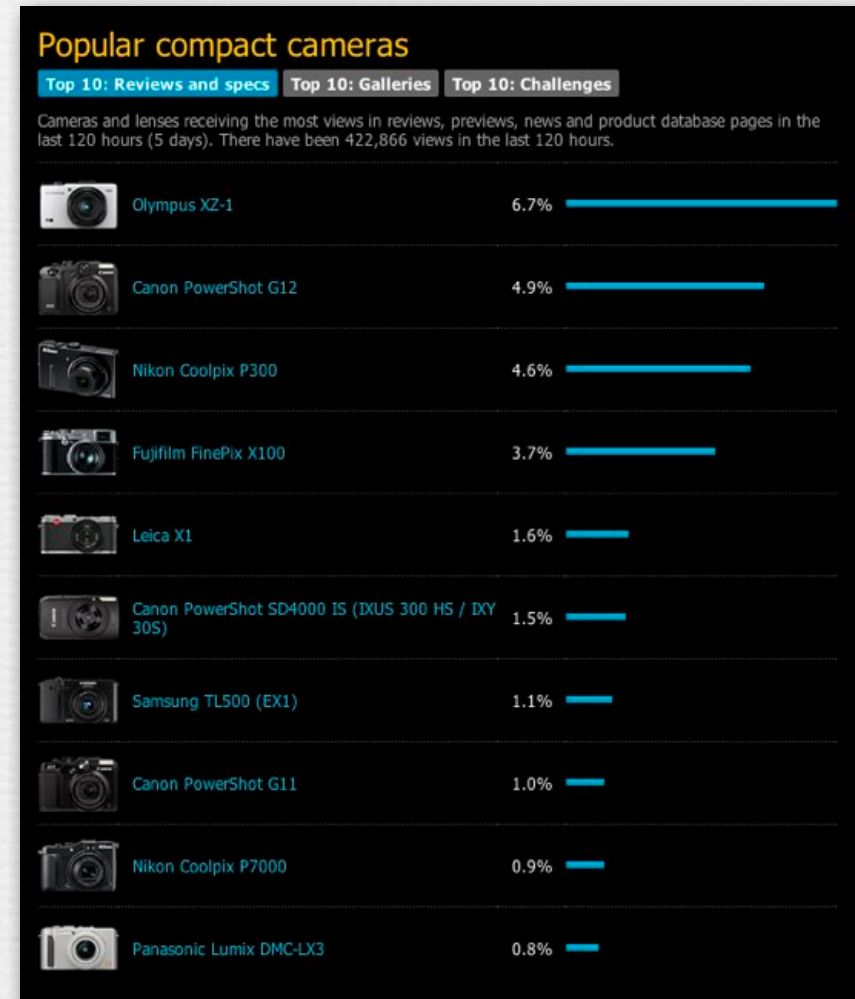
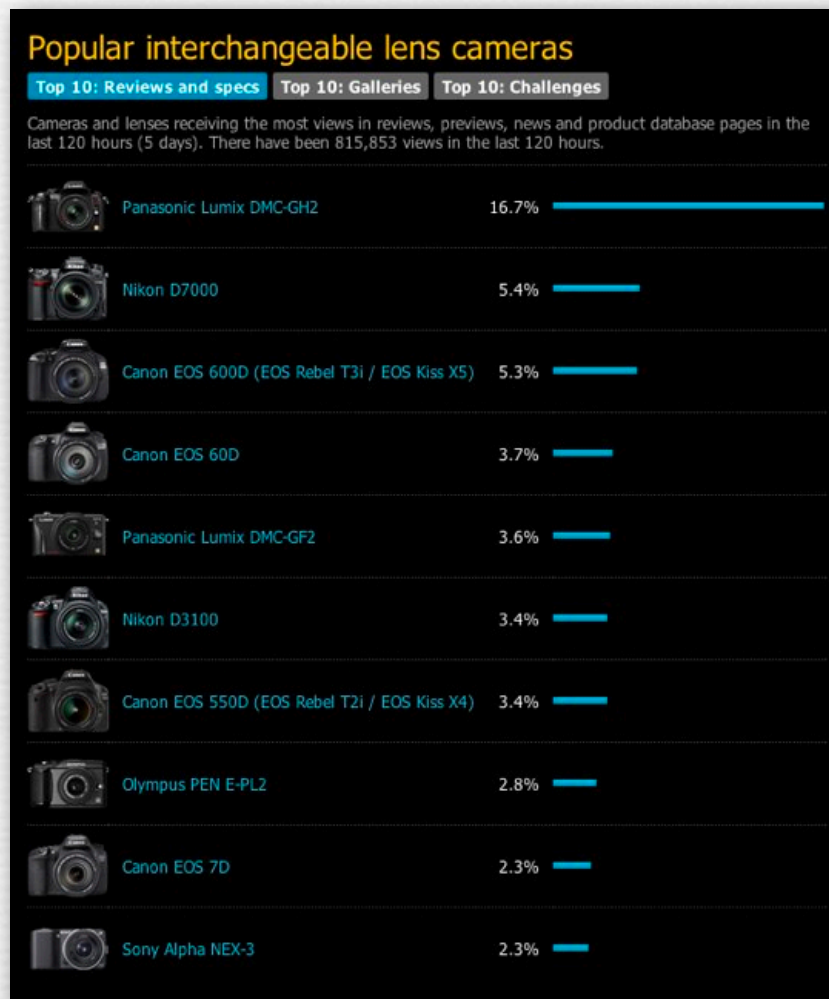
- ◆ if you have the money, get an SLR, not a point-and-shoot
 - larger sensor = less noise, especially in low light
 - larger aperture = more control over depth of field
- ◆ don't worry about
 - megapixels - most cameras have too many
 - brand - any major brand is good enough
 - body - inexpensive ones are fine (and lighter)
- ◆ worry about lenses
 - variable-zooms are convenient but the quality varies
 - avoid large focal ranges (18-250mm) - they're "soft"
 - maximum aperture (lowest f/stop) matters

Extra goodies

- ◆ 50mm f/1.8 “fast” “prime” lens for low-light work
- ◆ tripod
 - sturdy is good, but heavy to carry
 - look at mini-tripods, flexible tripods, etc.
- ◆ flash
 - external flash aimed at ceiling takes much better pictures than a built-in flash aimed at the subject
- ◆ video capability
- ◆ count on \geq \$500 for SLR + standard zoom + tripod
- ◆ CS 178 loaner cameras are
 - Canon A590 point-and-shoot (takes surprisingly good pictures!)
 - Nikon D40 (or D3000) with 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 (28-88mm equiv.)

Resources

◆ <http://dpreview.com>



Resources

- ◆ <http://dpreview.com>
- ◆ <http://www.the-digital-picture.com>
- ◆ <http://www.steves-digicams.com>
- ◆ <http://www.luminous-landscape.com>
- ◆ <http://www.kenrockwell.com>