Ray Tracing Extensions

Reading

Foley *et al.*, 15.10 and 16.12

Optional:

- Glassner, An introduction to Ray Tracing, Academic Press, Chapter 1.
- T. Whitted. "An improved illumination model for shaded display". *Communications of the ACM*} 23(6), 343-349, 1980.

Goodies

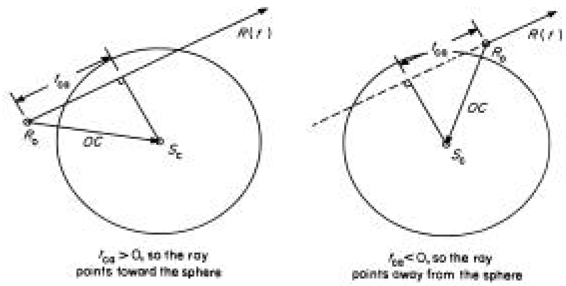
- There are some advanced ray tracing feature that self-respecting ray tracers shouldn't be caught without:
  - Acceleration techniques
  - Antialiasing
  - Distribution ray tracing
  - CSG

Acceleration Techniques

- Problem: ray-object intersection is very expensive
  - make intersection tests faster
  - do fewer tests

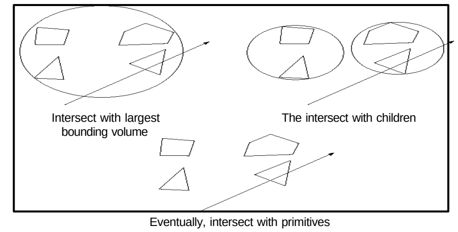
Fast Failure

- We can greatly speed up ray-object intersection by identifying cheap tests that guarantee failure
- Example: if origin of ray is outside sphere and ray points away from sphere, fail immediately.



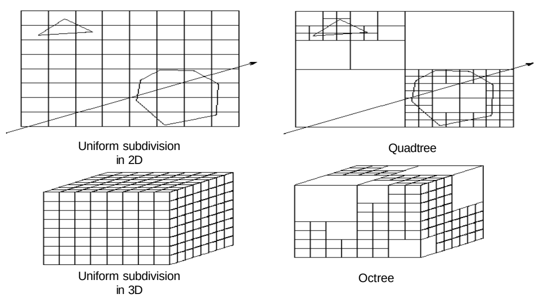
- Many other fast failure conditions are possible!

Hierarchical Bounding Volumes



- Arrange scene into a tree
  - Interior nodes contain primitives with very simple intersectiontests (e.g., spheres). Each node's volume contains all objects in subtree
  - Leaf nodes contain original geometry
- Like BSP trees, the potential benefits are big but the hierarchy is hard to build

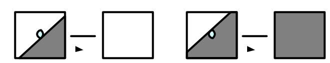
Spatial Subdivision



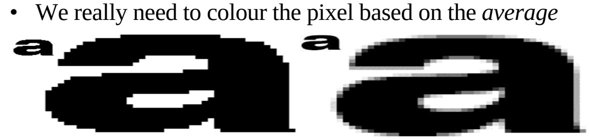
- Divide up space and record what objects are in each cell
- Trace ray through **voxel** array

Antialiasing

- So far, we have traced one ray through each pixel in the final image. Is this an adequate description of the contents of the pixel?

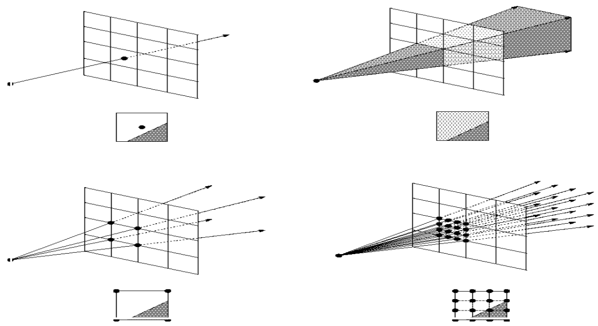


- This quantization through inadequate sampling is a form of **aliasing**. Aliasing is visible as "jaggies" in the ray-traced image.
- We really need to colour the pixel based on the *average*



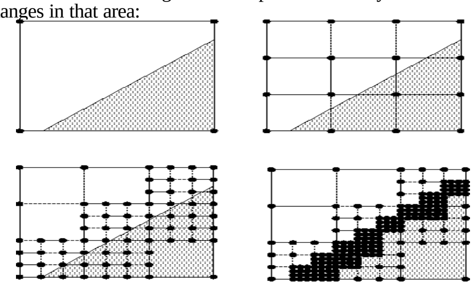
Supersampling

- We can approximate the average colour of a pixel's area by firing multiple rays and averaging the result.



Adaptive Sampling

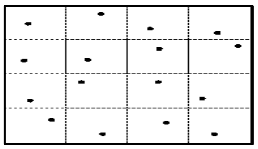
- Uniform supersampling can be wasteful if large parts of the pixel don't change much.
- So we can subdivide regions of the pixel's area only when the image changes in that area:



- How do we decide when to subdivide?

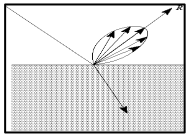
Distribution Ray Tracing

- Usually known as "distributed ray tracing", but it has nothing to do with distributed computing
- General idea: instead of firing one ray, fire multiple rays in a jittered grid

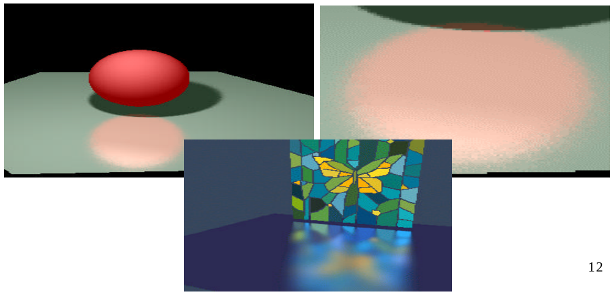


- Distributing over different dimensions gives different effects
- Example: what if we distribute rays over pixel area?

Distributing Reflections



- Distributing rays over reflection direction gives:



Disrtibuted ray tracing pseudocode

1. Partition pixel into 16 regions assigning them id 1-16
2. Partition the reflection direction into 16 angular regions and assign an id (1-16) to each
3. Select sub pixel m=1
4. Cast a ray through m, jittered within its region
5. After finding an intersection, reflect into sub-direction m, jittered within that region
6. Add result to current pixel total
7. Increment m and if m<= 16, go to step 4
8. Divide by 16, store result and move on to next pixel.

13

DRT pseudocode

TraceImage() looks basically the same, except now each pixel records the average color of jittered sub-pixel rays.

```
function traceImage (scene):
    for each pixel (i, j) in image do
        I(i, j) ← 0
        for each sub-pixel id in (i,j) do
            s ← pixelToWorld(jitter(i, j, id))
            p ← COP
            d ←(s - p).normalize()
            I(i, j) ← I(i, j) + traceRay(scene, p, d, id)
        end for
        I(i, j) ← I(i, j)/numSubPixels
    end for
end function
```

A typical choice is numSubPixels = 4*4.

14

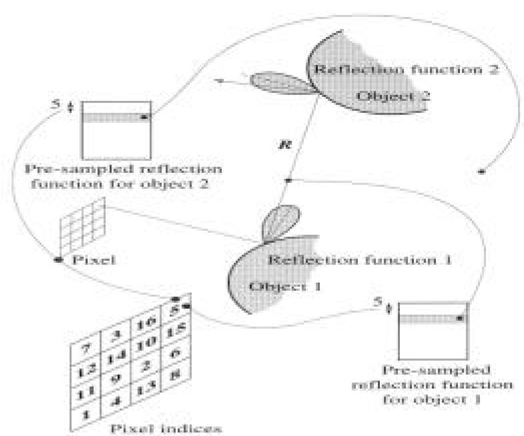
DRT pseudocode (cont'd)

Now consider *traceRay*(), modified to handle (only) opaque glossy surfaces:

```
function traceRay(scene, p, d, id):
    (q, N, material) ← intersect (scene, p, d)
    I ← shade(…)
    R ← jitteredReflectDirection(N, -d, id)
    I ← I + material.k_r * traceRay(scene, q, R, id)
    return I
end function
```

15

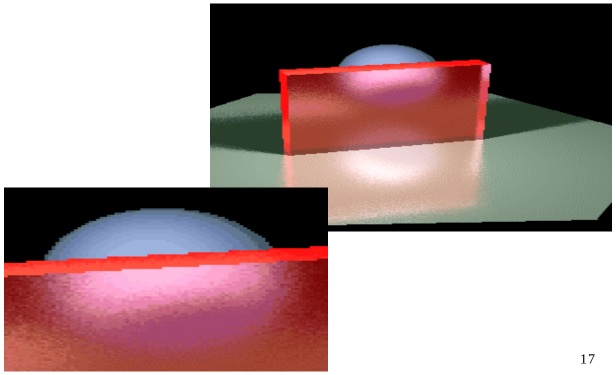
Pre-sampling glossy reflections



16

Distributing Refractions

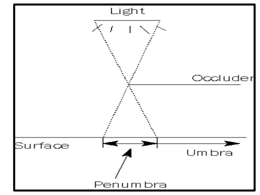
- Distributing rays over transmission direction gives:

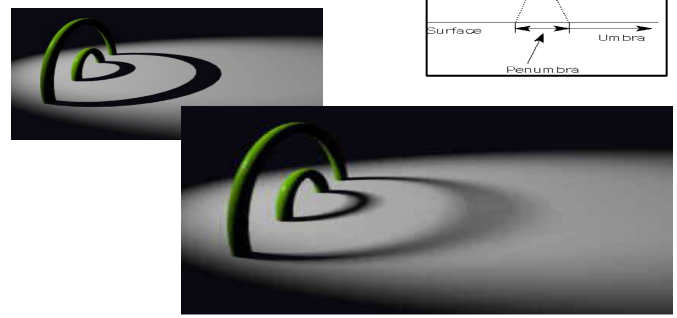


17

Distributing Over Light Area

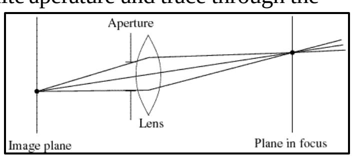
- Distributing over light area gives:

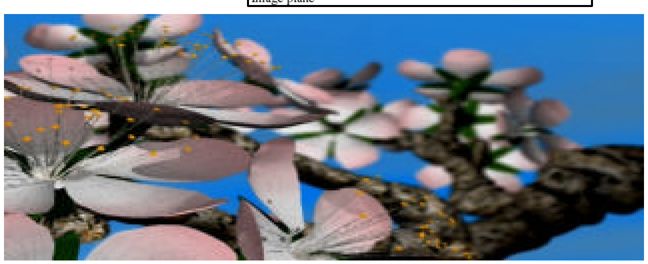




Distributing Over Aperature

Choose a point on a finite aperature and trace through the "in-focus point".

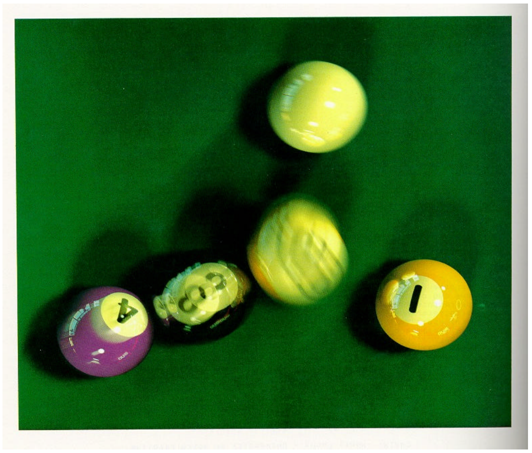




Distributing Over Time

- We can endow models with velocity vectors and distribute rays over *time.* this gives:

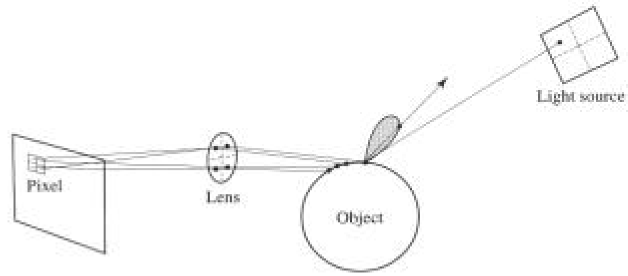
20



21

Chaining the ray id's

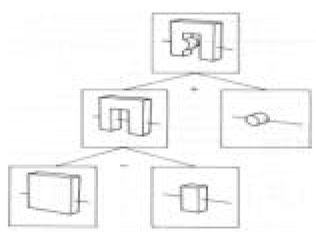
In general, you can trace rays through a scene and keep track of their id's to handle *all* of these effects:



22

CSG

- CSG (constructive solid geometry) is an incredibly powerful way to create complex scenes from simple primitives.

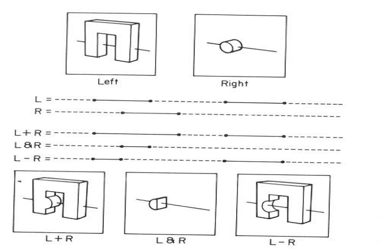


- CSG is a modeling technique; basically, we only need to modify ray-object intersection.

23

CSG Implementation

- CSG intersections can be analyzed using "Roth diagrams".
  - Maintain description of *all intersections* of ray with primitive
  - Functions to combine Roth diagrams under CSG operations



- An elegant and extremely slow system

24