



Alpha Blending Double Buffering

Wolfgang Heidrich

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Course News

Assignment 2

- Due Monday!

Quiz 2 MOVED!

- Friday, March 13 (instead of Wed, March 11)
- Office hours on Wednesday, Thursday (Mar 11/12)
- Out of town Mon, Mar 9
 - Office hour canceled
 - Lecture *will* take place

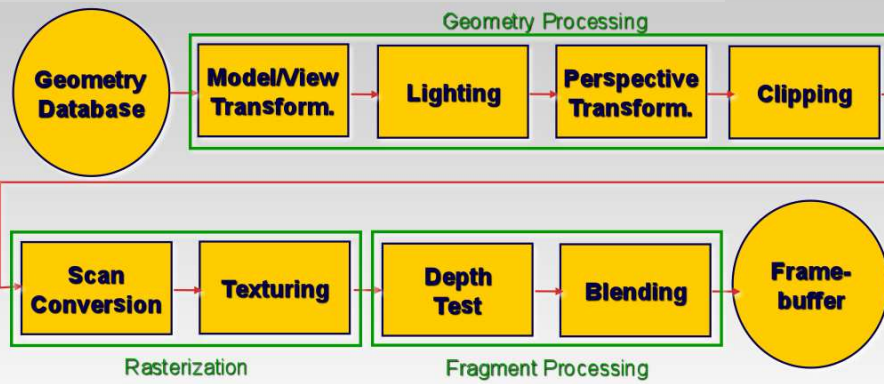
Reading

- No new reading this week

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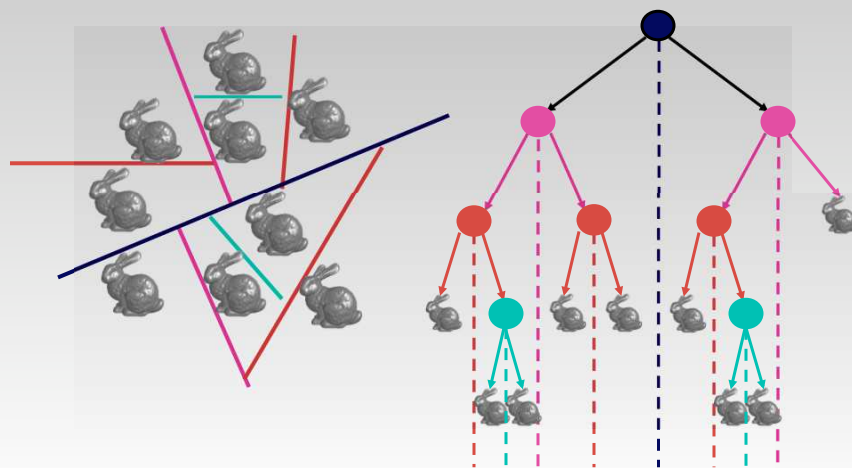
The Rendering Pipeline



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Creating BSP Trees: Objects



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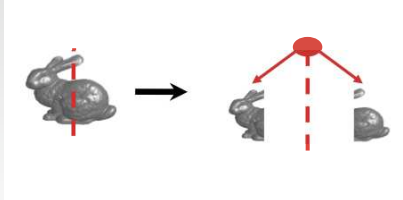


Splitting Objects

No bunnies were harmed in previous example

But what if a splitting plane passes through an object?

- Split the object; give half to each node



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Traversing BSP Trees

Tree creation independent of viewpoint

- Preprocessing step

Tree traversal uses viewpoint

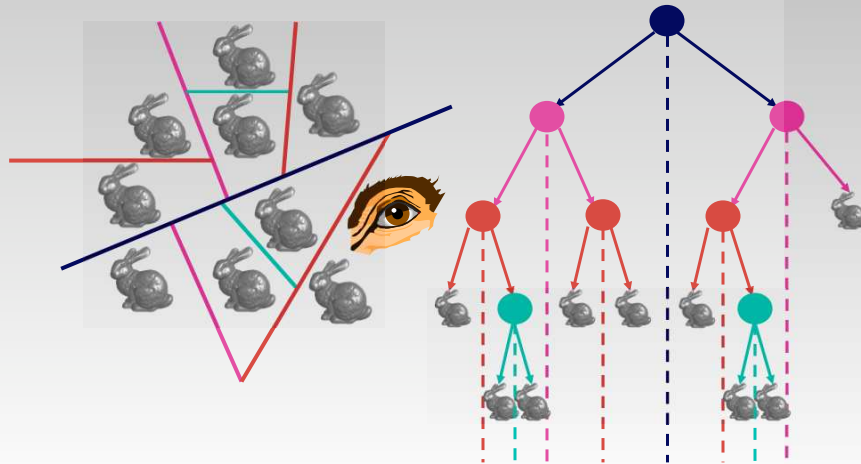
- Runtime, happens for many different viewpoints

Each plane divides world into near and far

- For given viewpoint, decide which side is near and which is far
 - Check which side of plane viewpoint is on independently for each tree vertex
 - Tree traversal differs depending on viewpoint!
- Recursive algorithm
 - Recurse on far side
 - Draw object
 - Recurse on near side

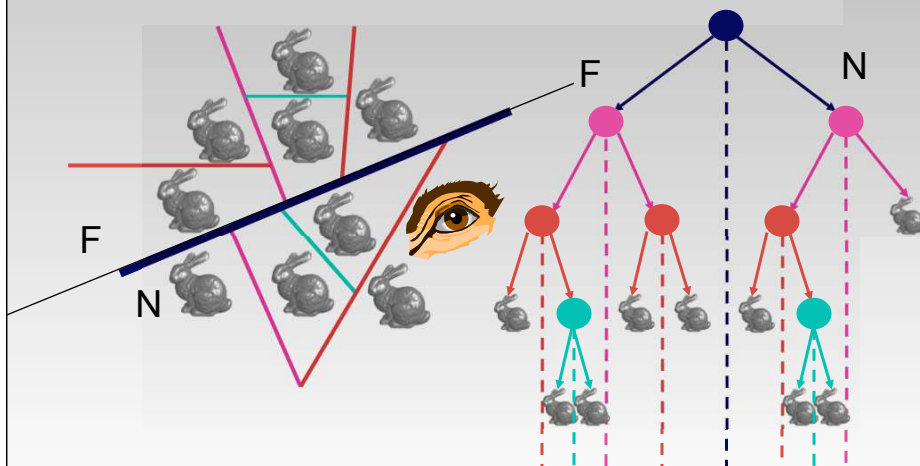
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BSP Trees : Viewpoint A



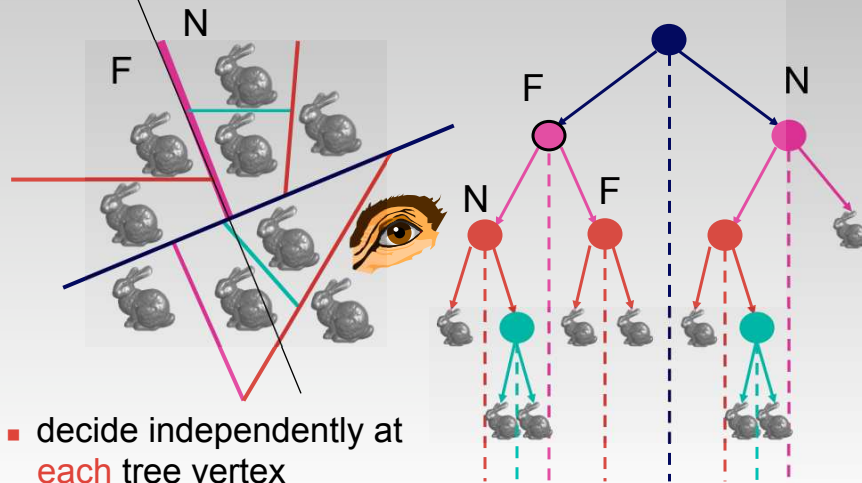
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BSP Trees : Viewpoint A



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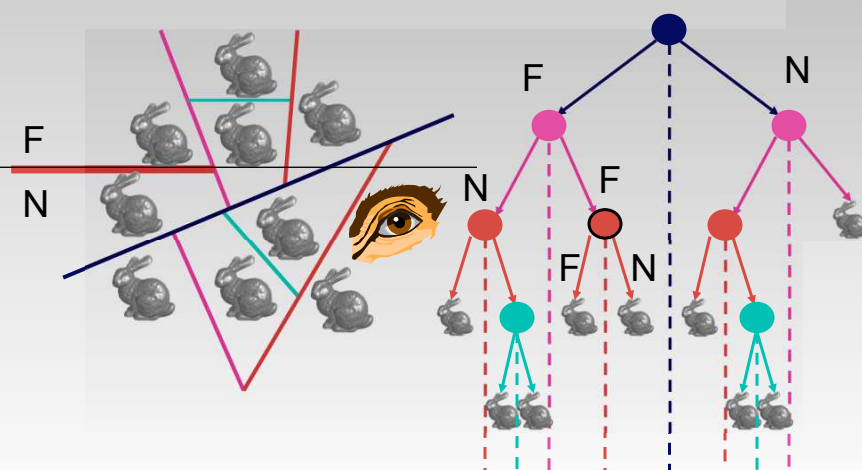
BSP Trees : Viewpoint A



- decide independently at each tree vertex
- not just left or right child!

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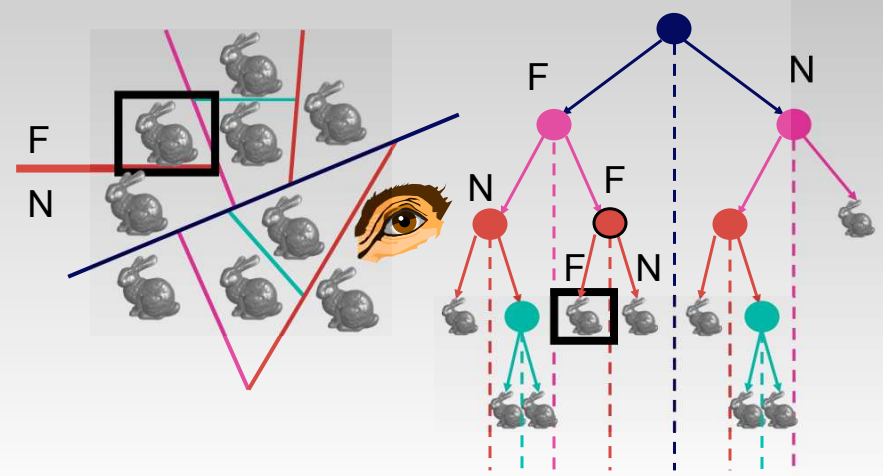
BSP Trees : Viewpoint A



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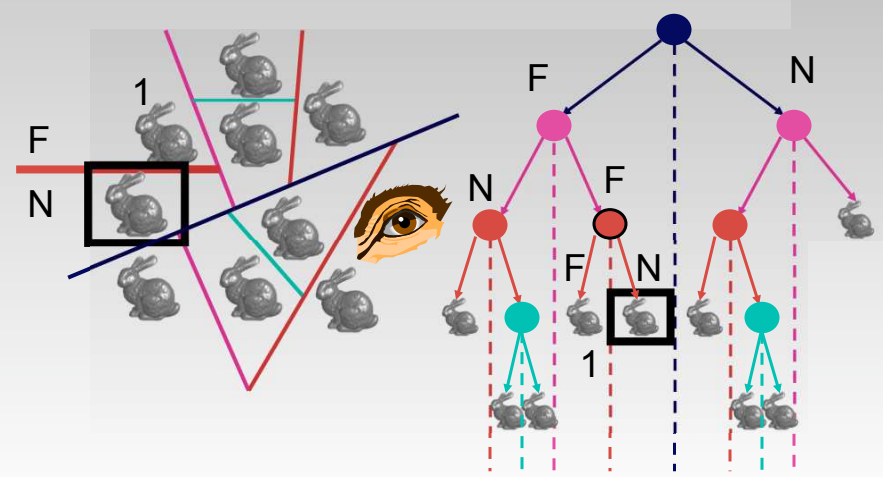
BSP Trees : Viewpoint A



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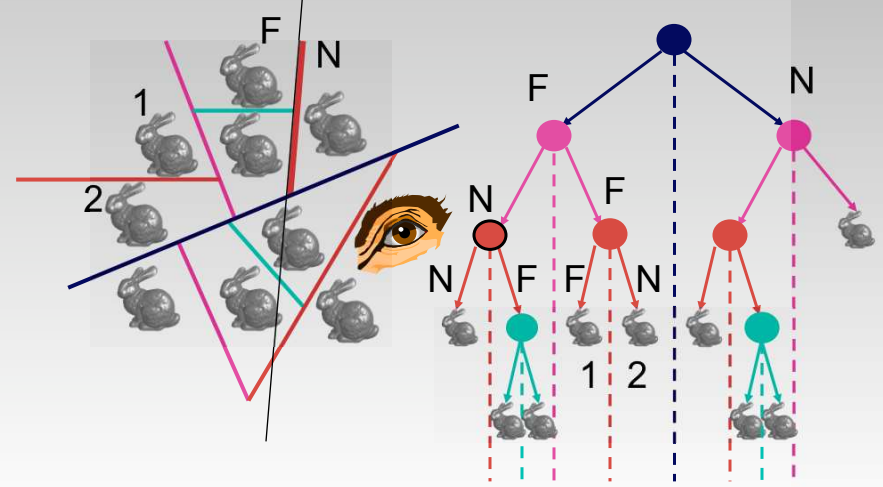
BSP Trees : Viewpoint A



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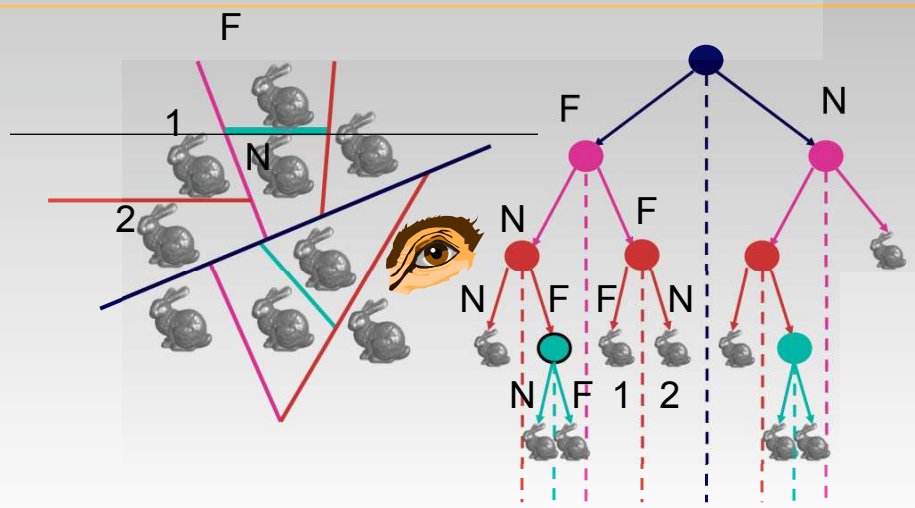
BSP Trees : Viewpoint A



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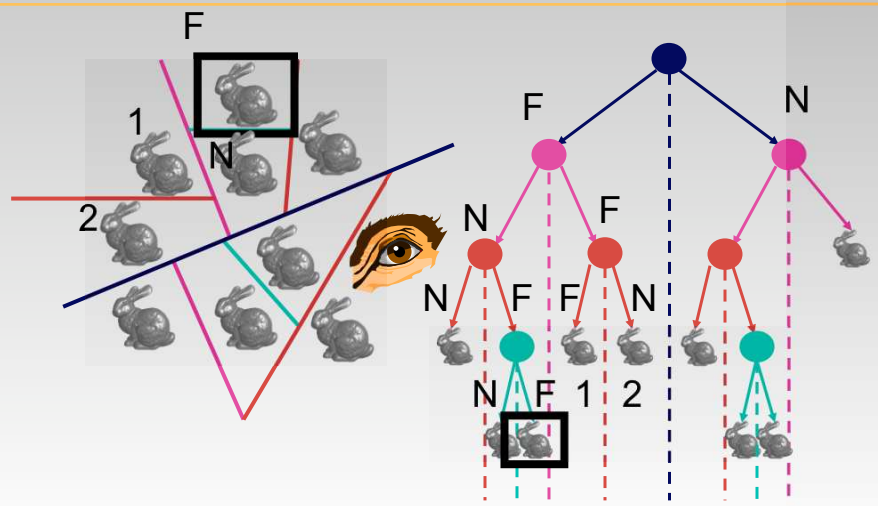


BSP Trees : Viewpoint A



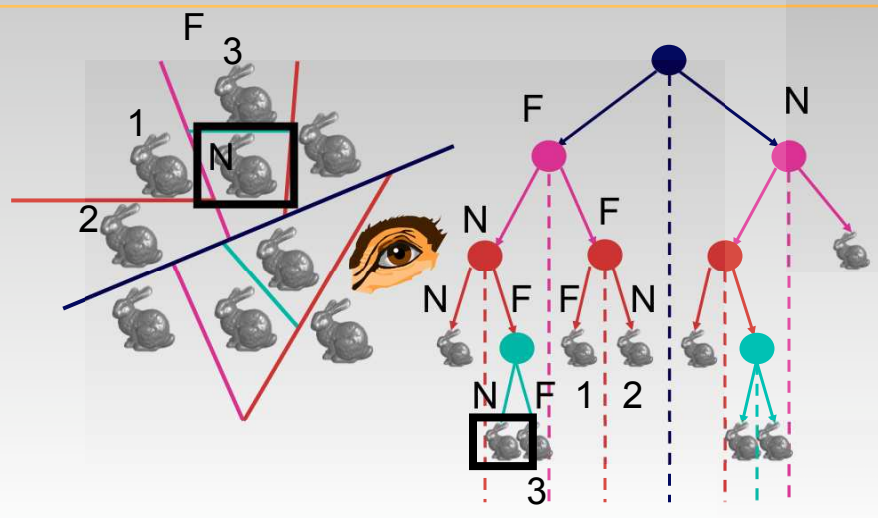
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BSP Trees : Viewpoint A



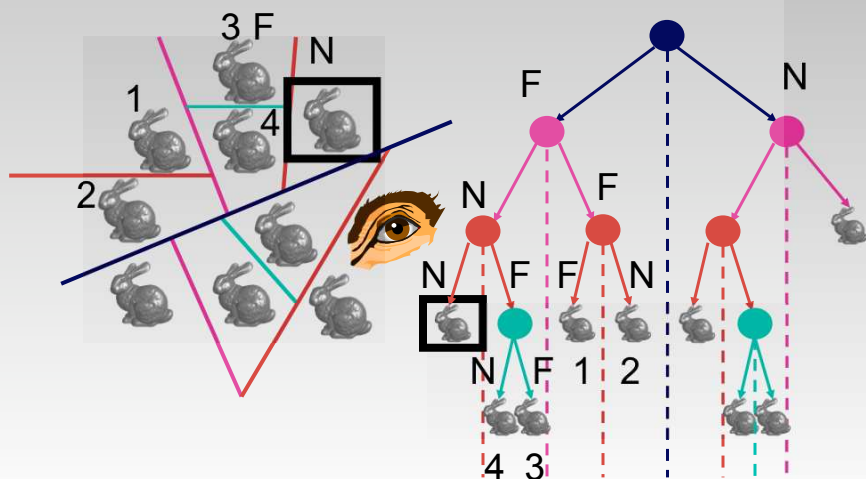
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BSP Trees : Viewpoint A



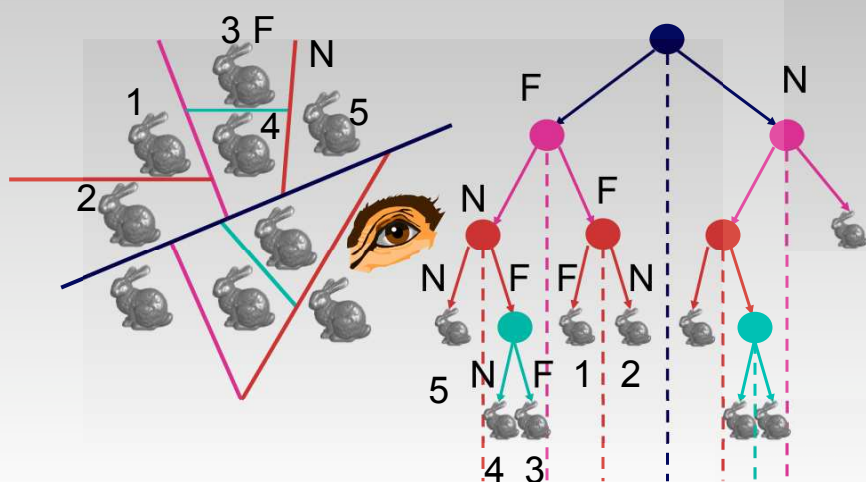
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BSP Trees : Viewpoint A



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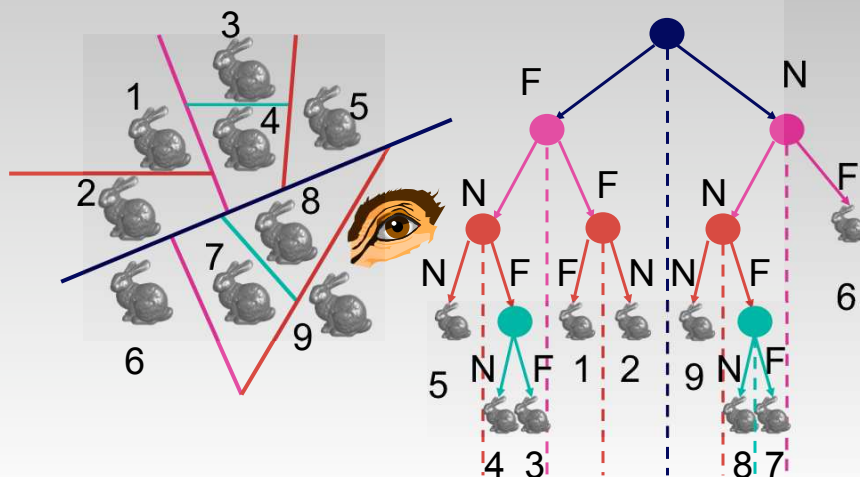
BSP Trees : Viewpoint A



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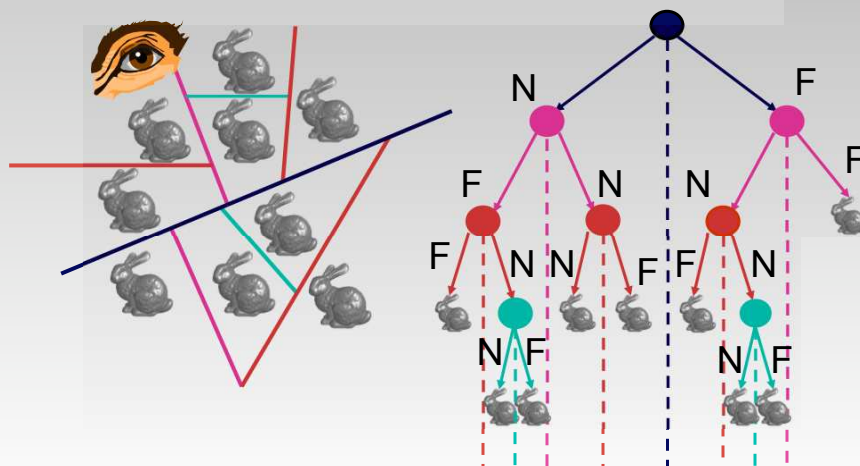
BSP Trees : Viewpoint A



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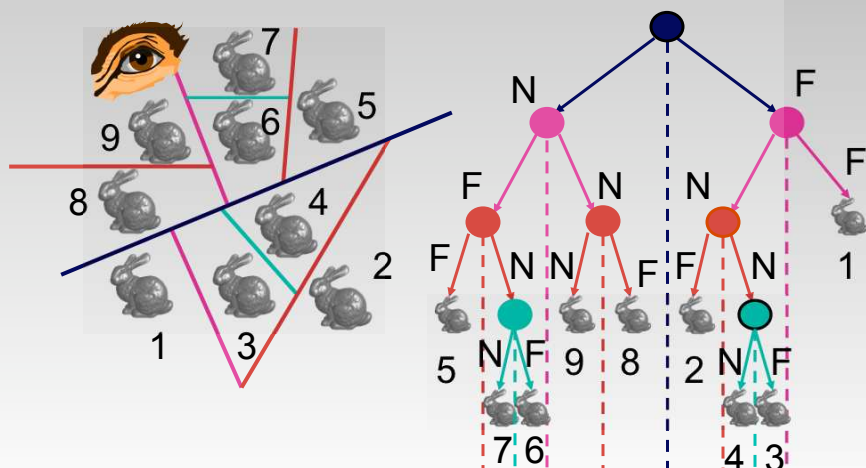


BSP Trees : Viewpoint B



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BSP Trees : Viewpoint B



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BSP Tree Traversal: Polygons

- Split along the plane defined by any polygon from scene
- Classify all polygons into positive or negative half-space of the plane
 - *If a polygon intersects plane, split polygon into two and classify them both*
- Recurse down the negative half-space
- Recurse down the positive half-space

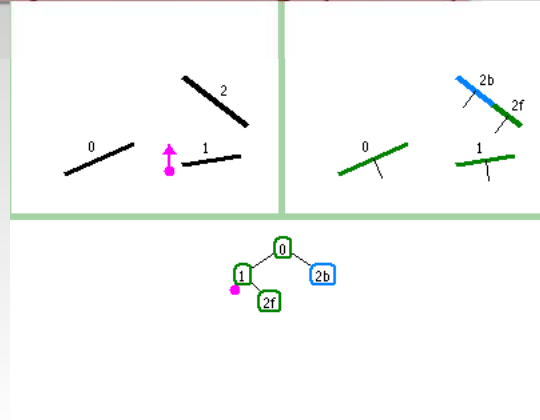
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BSP Demo

Useful demo:

<http://symbolcraft.com/graphics/bsp>



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Summary: BSP Trees

Pros:

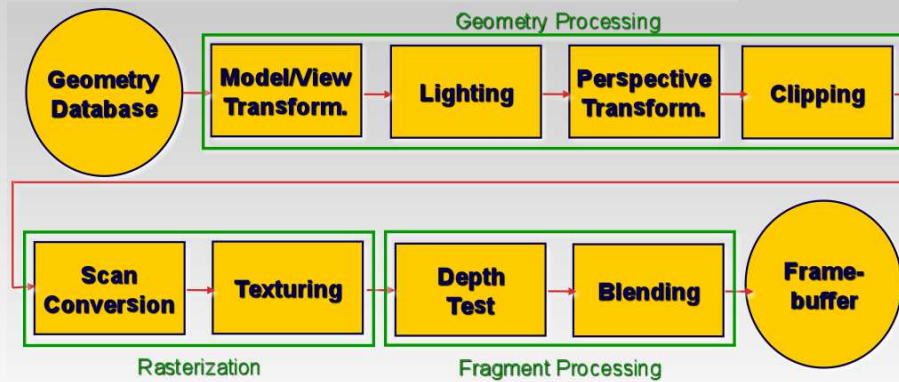
- Simple, elegant scheme
- Correct version of painter's algorithm back-to-front rendering approach
- Still very popular for video games (but getting less so)

Cons:

- Slow(ish) to construct tree: $O(n \log n)$ to split, sort
- Splitting increases polygon count: $O(n^2)$ worst-case
- Computationally intense preprocessing stage restricts algorithm to static scenes

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The Rendering Pipeline

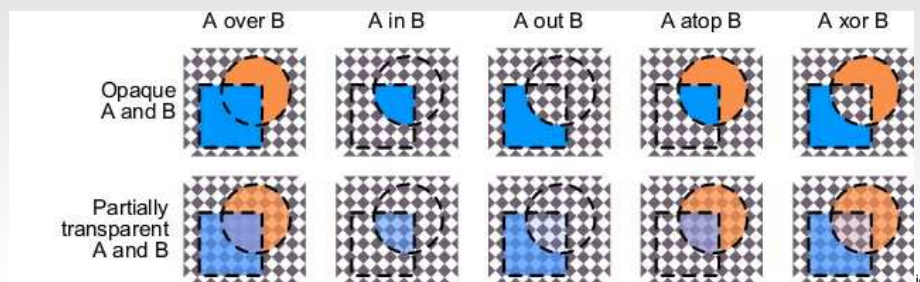


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Blending

How might you combine multiple elements?

- New color **A**, old color **B**





Alpha Blending (OpenGL)

Parameters:

- s = source color
- d = destination color
- b = source blend factor
- c = dest blend factor
- $d' = bs + cd$

Where

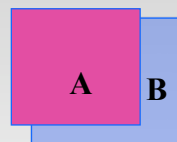
- "Source" means "color/alpha of currently rendered primitive"
- "Destination" means framebuffer value

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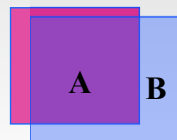


Over operator

- $d' = \alpha_s s + (1-\alpha_s)d$
- Examples: $\alpha_A=1$ $\alpha_B=0.4$



$$\text{A over B: } d' = 1 * C_A + (1-1) * C_B$$



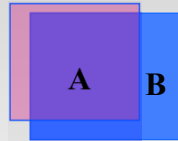
$$\text{B over A: } d' = 0.4 * C_B + (0.6) * C_A$$

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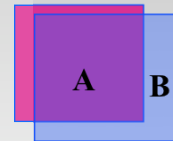


Over operator

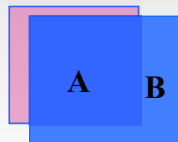
- $d' = \alpha_s s + (1-\alpha_s)d$
- Examples: $\alpha_A=0.4$ $\alpha_B=1.0$



$$\text{A over B: } d' = 0.4 * C_A + (0.6) * C_B$$



Comparison from previous



$$\text{B over A: } d' = 1 * C_B + (0) * C_A$$

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Over operator

- $d' = \alpha_s s + (1-\alpha_s)d$
- $\alpha' = \alpha_s \alpha_s + (1-\alpha_s) \alpha_d$

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OpenGL Blending

In OpenGL:

- Enable blending
 - `glEnable(GL_BLEND)`
- Specify alpha channel for colors
 - `glColor4f(r, g, b, alpha)`
- Specify blending function
 - E.g: `glBlendFunc(GL_SRC_ALPHA, GL_ONE_MINUS_SRC_ALPHA)`
 - $C = \alpha_{\text{new}} * C_{\text{new}} + (1 - \alpha_{\text{new}}) * C_{\text{old}}$

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OpenGL Blending

Caveats:

- Note: alpha blending is an order-dependent operation!
 - *It matters which object is drawn first AND*
 - *Which surface is in front*
- For 3D scenes, this makes it necessary to keep track of rendering order explicitly
 - *Possibly also viewpoint-dependent!*
 - E.g. always draw “back” surface first
- Also note: interaction with z-buffer

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Double Buffer

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Double Buffering

Framebuffer:

- Piece of memory where the final image is written
- Problem:
 - *The display needs to read the contents, cyclically, while the GPU is already working on the next frame*
 - *Could result in display of partially rendered images on screen*
- Solution:
 - *Have TWO buffers*
 - Currently displayed (front buffer)
 - Render target for the next frame (back buffer)



Double Buffering

Front/back buffer:

- Each buffer has both color channels and a depth channel
 - *Important for advanced rendering algorithms*
 - *Doubles memory requirements!*

Switching buffers:

- At end of rendering one frame, simply exchange the pointers to the front and back buffer
- GLUT toolkit: glutSwapBuffers() function
 - *Different functions under windows/X11 if not using GLUT*

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Triple Buffering

Used by some game consoles

- Why?

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Coming Up:

Friday / next week

- Texture mapping