




Ray-Tracing

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Course News

Assignment 3 (project)

- Due April 1


Reading

- Chapter 10 (ray tracing), except 10.8-10.10
- Chapter 14 (global illumination)

Friday Lecture

- Out of town for program committee meeting
- Anika will continue discussion of ray-tracing

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Overview


So far

- Real-time/HW rendering w/ Rendering Pipeline
- Rendering algorithms using the Rendering Pipeline

Now

- Ray-Tracing
 - Simple algorithm for software rendering
 - Usually offline (e.g. movies etc.)
 - But: research on making this method real-time
 - Extremely flexible (new effects can easily be incorporated)

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Ray-Tracing

Basic Algorithm (Whithead):

```

for every pixel  $p_i$  {
  Generate ray  $r$  from camera position through pixel  $p_i$ 
   $p_i$  = background color
  for every object  $o$  in scene {
    if ( $r$  intersects  $o$  && intersection is closer than previously
      found intersections )
      Compute lighting at intersection point, using local
      normal and material properties; store result in  $p_i$ 
  }
}
  
```

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Ray-Tracing

Issues:

- Generation of rays
- Intersection of rays with geometric primitives
- Geometric transformations
- Lighting and shading
- Efficient data structures so we don't have to test intersection with every object

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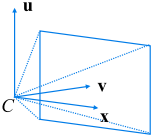
Ray-Tracing – Generation of Rays

Camera Coordinate System

- Origin: C (camera position)
- Viewing direction: v
- Up vector: u
- x direction: $x = v \times u$


Note:

- Corresponds to viewing transformation in rendering pipeline!
- See gluLookAt...



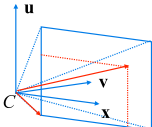
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Ray-Tracing – Generation of Rays



Other parameters:

- Distance of Camera from image plane: d
- Image resolution (in pixels): w, h
- Left, right, top, bottom boundaries in image plane: l, r, t, b



Then:


- Lower left corner of image: $O = C + d \cdot \mathbf{v} + l \cdot \mathbf{x} + b \cdot \mathbf{u}$
- Pixel at position i, j ($i=0..w-1, j=0..h-1$):

$$P_{i,j} = O + i \cdot \frac{r-l}{w-1} \cdot \mathbf{x} - j \cdot \frac{t-b}{h-1} \cdot \mathbf{u}$$

$$= O + i \cdot \Delta x \cdot \mathbf{x} - j \cdot \Delta y \cdot \mathbf{y}$$

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Ray-Tracing – Generation of Rays




Ray in 3D Space:

$$\mathbf{R}_{i,j}(t) = C + t \cdot (P_{i,j} - C) = C + t \cdot \mathbf{v}_{i,j}$$

where $t = 0 \dots \infty$

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Ray-Tracing




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Ray Intersections




Task:

- Given an object o , find ray parameter t , such that $\mathbf{R}_{i,j}(t)$ is a point on the object
 - Such a value for t may not exist
- Intersection test depends on geometric primitive

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Ray Intersections



Spheres at origin:


- Implicit function:

$$S(x, y, z) : x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = r^2$$
- Ray equation:

$$\mathbf{R}_{i,j}(t) = C + t \cdot \mathbf{v}_{i,j} = \begin{pmatrix} c_x \\ c_y \\ c_z \end{pmatrix} + t \cdot \begin{pmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \\ v_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_x + t \cdot v_x \\ c_y + t \cdot v_y \\ c_z + t \cdot v_z \end{pmatrix}$$

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Ray Intersections




To determine intersection:

- Insert ray $\mathbf{R}_{i,j}(t)$ into $S(x, y, z)$:

$$(c_x + t \cdot v_x)^2 + (c_y + t \cdot v_y)^2 + (c_z + t \cdot v_z)^2 = r^2$$
- Solve for t (find roots)
 - Simple quadratic equation

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Ray Intersections

Other Primitives:

- Implicit functions:
 - Spheres at arbitrary positions
 - Same thing
 - Conic sections (*hyperboloids, ellipsoids, paraboloids, cones, cylinders*)
 - Same thing (all are quadratic functions!)
 - Higher order functions (e.g. *tori and other quartic functions*)
 - In principle the same
 - But root-finding difficult
 - Not to resolve to numerical methods

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Ray Intersections

Other Primitives (cont)

- Polygons:
 - First intersect ray with plane
 - linear implicit function
 - Then test whether point is inside or outside of polygon (2D test)
 - For convex polygons
 - Suffices to test whether point in on the right side of every boundary edge
 - Similar to computation of outcodes in line clipping

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Ray-Tracing

Issues:

- Generation of rays
- Intersection of rays with geometric primitives
- **Geometric transformations**
- Lighting and shading
- Efficient data structures so we don't have to test intersection with every object

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Ray-Tracing – Geometric Transformations

Geometric Transformations:

- Similar goal as in rendering pipeline:
 - *Modeling scenes convenient using different coordinate systems for individual objects*
- Problem:
 - *Not all object representations are easy to transform*
 - This problem is fixed in rendering pipeline by restriction to polygons (affine invariance!)

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Ray-Tracing – Geometric Transformations

Geometric Transformations:

- Similar goal as in rendering pipeline:
 - *Modeling scenes convenient using different coordinate systems for individual objects*
- Problem:
 - *Not all object representations are easy to transform*
 - This problem is fixed in rendering pipeline by restriction to polygons (affine invariance!)
 - *Ray-Tracing has different solution:*
 - The ray itself is always affine invariant!
 - Thus: transform ray into object coordinates!

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Ray-Tracing – Geometric Transformations

Ray Transformation:

- For intersection test, it is only important that ray is in same coordinate system as object representation
- Transform all rays into object coordinates
 - *Transform camera point and ray direction by inverse of model/view matrix*
- Shading has to be done in world coordinates (where light sources are given)
 - *Transform object space intersection point to world coordinates*
 - *Thus have to keep both world and object-space ray*

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Ray-Tracing

Issues:

- Generation of rays
- Intersection of rays with geometric primitives
- Geometric transformations
- **Lighting and shading**
- Efficient data structures so we don't have to test intersection with every object

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Ray-Tracing Lighting and Shading

Local Effects:

- Local Lighting
 - Any reflection model possible
 - Have to talk about light sources, normals...
- Texture mapping
 - Color textures
 - Bump maps
 - Environment maps
 - Shadow maps

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Ray-Tracing Local Lighting

Light sources:

- For the moment: point and directional lights
- Later: are light sources
- More complex lights are possible
 - Area lights
 - Global illumination
 - Other objects in the scene reflect light
 - Everything is a light source!
 - Talk about this on Monday

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Ray-Tracing Local Lighting

Local surface information (normal...)


- For implicit surfaces $F(x,y,z)=0$: normal $\mathbf{n}(x,y,z)$ can be easily computed at every intersection point using the gradient

$$\mathbf{n}(x,y,z) = \begin{pmatrix} \partial F(x,y,z) / \partial x \\ \partial F(x,y,z) / \partial y \\ \partial F(x,y,z) / \partial z \end{pmatrix}$$

- Example: $F(x,y,z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - r^2$

$$\mathbf{n}(x,y,z) = \begin{pmatrix} 2x \\ 2y \\ 2z \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{Needs to be normalized!}$$

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Ray-Tracing Local Lighting

Local surface information

- Alternatively: can interpolate per-vertex information for triangles/meshes as in rendering pipeline
 - Phong shading!
 - Same as discussed for rendering pipeline
- Difference to rendering pipeline:
 - Interpolation cannot be done incrementally
 - Have to compute Barycentric coordinates for every intersection point (e.g plane equation for triangles)

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Ray-Tracing Texture Mapping

Approach:

- Works in principle like in rendering pipeline
 - Given s, t parameter values, perform texture lookup
 - Magnification, minification just as discussed
- Problem: how to get s, t
 - Implicit surfaces often don't have parameterization
 - For special cases (spheres, other conic sections), can use parametric representation
 - Triangles/meshes: use interpolation from vertices

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Ray-Tracing Lighting and Shading

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Global Effects

- Shadows
- Reflections/refractions

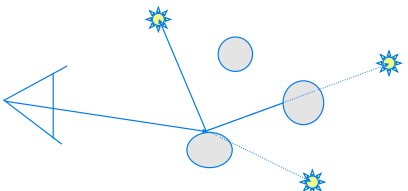
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Ray-Tracing Shadows

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Approach:

- To test whether point is in shadow, send out *shadow rays* to all light sources
 - If ray hits another object, the point lies in shadow



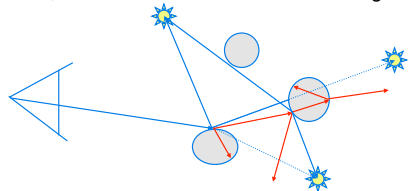
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Ray-Tracing Reflections/Refractions

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Approach:

- Send rays out in reflected and refracted direction to gather incoming light
- That light is multiplied by local surface color and Fresnel term, and added to result of local shading



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Recursive Ray Tracing

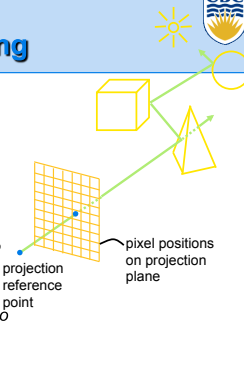
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Ray tracing can handle

- Reflection (chrome)
- Refraction (glass)
- Shadows

Spawn secondary rays

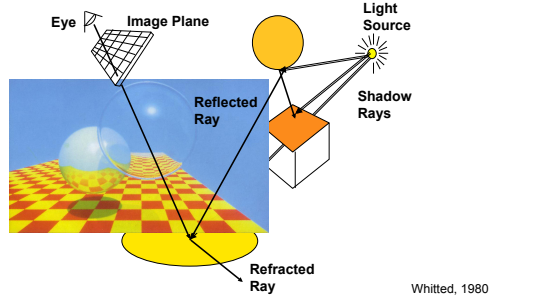
- Reflection, refraction
 - If another object is hit, recurse to find its color
- Shadow
 - Cast ray from intersection point to light source, check if intersects another object



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Recursive Ray-Tracing

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Whitted, 1980

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Recursive Ray-Tracing Algorithm


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```

RayTrace(r,scene)
obj := FirstIntersection(r,scene)
if (no obj) return BackgroundColor;
else begin
  if ( Reflect(obj) ) then
    reflect_color := RayTrace(ReflectRay(r,obj));
  else
    reflect_color := Black;
  if ( Transparent(obj) ) then
    refract_color := RayTrace(RefractRay(r,obj));
  else
    refract_color := Black;
  return Shade(reflect_color,refract_color,obj);
end;

```

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Algorithm Termination Criteria

Termination criteria

- No intersection
- Reach maximal depth
 - Number of bounces
- Contribution of secondary ray attenuated below threshold
 - Each reflection/refraction attenuates ray

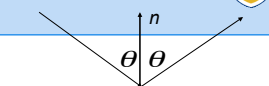
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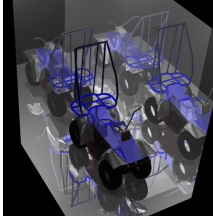
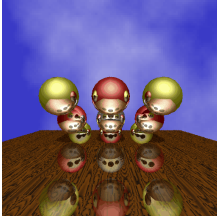


Reflection


Mirror effects

- Perfect specular reflection



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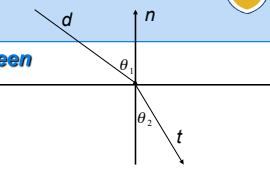
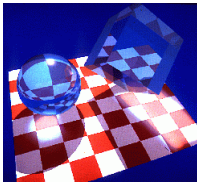
Refraction

Happens at interface between transparent object and surrounding medium


- E.g. glass/air boundary

Snell's Law

- $c_1 \sin \theta_1 = c_2 \sin \theta_2$
- Light ray bends based on refractive indices c_1, c_2

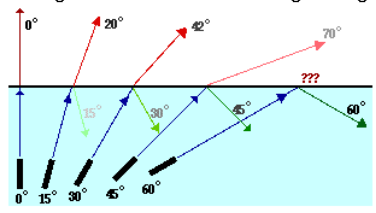



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Total Internal Reflection

As the angle of incidence increases from 0 to greater angles ...

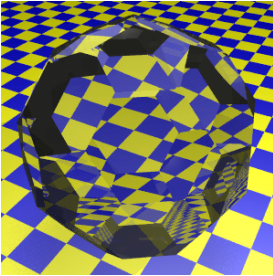
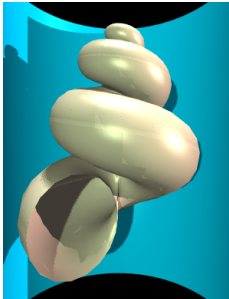


...the refracted ray becomes dimmer (there is less refraction)
 ...the reflected ray becomes brighter (there is more reflection)
 ...the angle of refraction approaches 90 degrees until finally a refracted ray can no longer be seen.


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Ray-Tracing Example Images

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Ray-Tracing Terminology


Terminology:

- Primary ray: ray starting at camera
- Shadow ray
- Reflected/refracted ray
- Ray tree: all rays directly or indirectly spawned off by a single primary ray

Note:

- Need to limit maximum depth of ray tree to ensure termination of ray-tracing process!

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Ray-Tracing

Issues:

- Generation of rays
- Intersection of rays with geometric primitives
- Geometric transformations
- Lighting and shading
- **Efficient data structures so we don't have to test intersection with every object**

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Ray Tracing

Data Structures

- Goal: reduce number of intersection tests per ray
- Lots of different approaches:
 - (Hierarchical) bounding volumes
 - Hierarchical space subdivision
 - Oct-tree, k-D tree, BSP tree

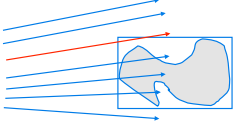
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Bounding Volumes

Idea:

- Rather than testing every ray against a potentially very complex object (e.g. triangle mesh), do a quick *conservative* test first which eliminates most rays
 - Surround complex object by simple, easy to test geometry (typically sphere or axis-aligned box)
 - Want to make bounding volume as tight as possible!



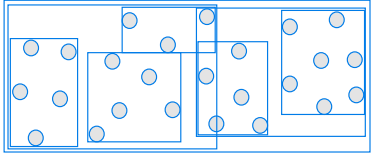
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Hierarchical Bounding Volumes

Extension of previous idea:

- Use bounding volumes for groups of objects



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Spatial Subdivision Data Structures


Bounding Volumes:

- Find simple object completely enclosing complicated objects
 - Boxes, spheres
- Hierarchically combine into larger bounding volumes

Spatial subdivision data structure:

- Partition the whole space into cells
 - Grids, oct-trees, (BSP trees)
- Simplifies and accelerates traversal
- Performance less dependent on order in which objects are inserted

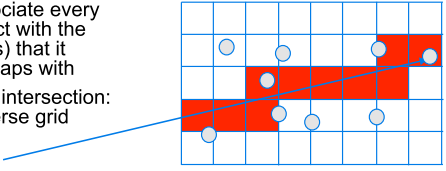
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
Regular Grid

Subdivide space into rectangular grid:


- Associate every object with the cell(s) that it overlaps with
- Find intersection: traverse grid



In 3D: regular grid of cubes (**voxels**):



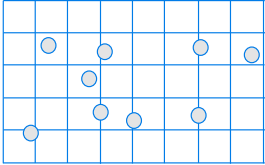
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Creating a Regular Grid

Steps:

- Find bounding box of scene
- Choose grid resolution in x, y, z
- Insert objects
- Objects that overlap multiple cells get referenced by all cells they overlap



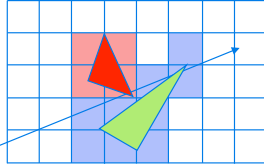
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Grid Traversal

Traversal:

- Start at ray origin
- While no intersection found
 - Go to next grid cell along ray
 - Compute intersection of ray with all objects in the cell
 - Determine closest such intersection
 - **Check if that intersection is inside the cell**
 - If so, terminate search



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Traversal

Note:

- This algorithm calls for computing the intersection points multiple times (once per grid cell)
- In practice: store intersections for a (ray, object) pair once computed, reuse for future cells

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Regular Grid Discussion


Advantages?

- Easy to construct
- Easy to traverse

Disadvantages?

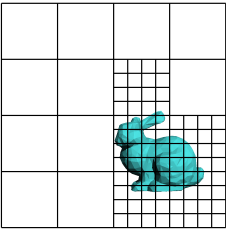
- May be only sparsely filled
- Geometry may still be clumped

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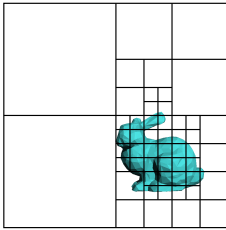


Adaptive Grids

- Subdivide until each cell contains no more than n elements, or maximum depth d is reached




Nested Grids



Octree/(Quadtree)

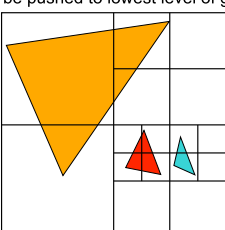
• This slide and the next are courtesy of Fredo Durand at MIT

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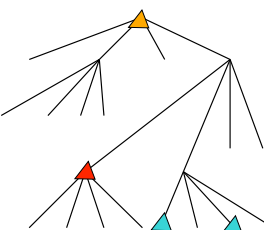


Primitives in an Adaptive Grid

- Can live at intermediate levels, or be pushed to lowest level of grid



Octree/(Quadtree)



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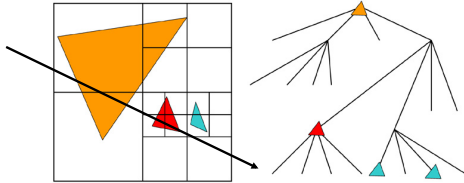
Adaptive Grid Discussion

Advantages

- Grid complexity matches geometric density

Disadvantages

- More expensive to traverse than regular grid



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Coming Up...

Friday:

- More ray-tracing (Anika)

Next Week:

- Global illumination

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