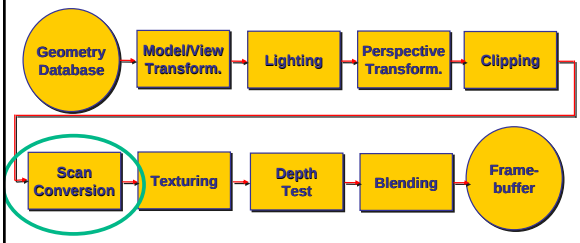
University of British Columbia

Chapter 7

Scan Conversion – Drawing on Raster Display (part 1 – Lines)

The Rendering Pipeline



University of British Columbia

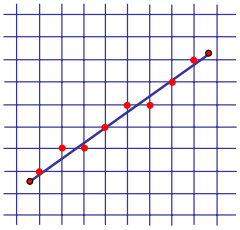
Scan Conversion - Rasterization

- Convert continuous rendering primitives into discrete fragments/pixels
  - Lines
    - Bresenham
  - Triangles
    - Flood Fill
    - Scanline
    - Implicit formulation

University of British Columbia

Scan Conversion - Lines

- Given segment equation fill in the pixels
  - In drawings below – grid points = centers of pixels



University of British Columbia

Lines and Curves

- Explicit - one coordinate as function of the others

$$y = f(x)$$
$$z = f(x,y)$$

line $y = mx + b$

$$y = \frac{(y_2 - y_1)}{(x_2 - x_1)}(x - x_1) + y_1$$

circle $y = \pm\sqrt{r^2 - x^2}$

University of British Columbia

Lines and Curves

- Parametric – all coordinates as functions of common parameter

$$(x,y) = (f_1(t), f_2(t))$$
$$(x,y,z) = (f_1(u,v), f_2(u,v), f_3(u,v))$$

line
$$x(t) = x_1 + t(x_2 - x_1)$$
$$y(t) = y_1 + t(y_2 - y_1)$$
$$t \in [0,1]$$

circle
$$x(\theta) = r\cos(\theta)$$
$$y(\theta) = r\sin(\theta)$$
$$\theta \in [0,2\pi]$$

University of British Columbia

Lines and Curves

- Implicit - define as "zero set" of function of all the parameters

$$\{(x,y): F(x,y)=0\}$$
$$\{(x,y,z): F(x,y,z)=0\}$$

- Defines partition of space

$$\{(x,y): F(x,y)>0\},\{(x,y): F(x,y)=0\},\{(x,y): F(x,y)<0\}$$

University of British Columbia

Lines and Curves - Implicits

line		circle	
$dy = y_2 - y_1$			
$dx = x_2 - x_1$			
$F(x,y) = (x-x_1)dy - (y-y_1)dx$		$F(x,y) = x^2 + y^2 - r^2$	
$F(x,y) = 0$	**(x,y) is on line**	$F(x,y) = 0$	**(x,y) is on circle**
$F(x,y) > 0$	**(x,y) is below line**	$F(x,y) > 0$	**(x,y) is outside**
$F(x,y) < 0$	**(x,y) is above line**	$F(x,y) < 0$	**(x,y) is inside**

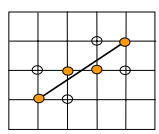
$$F(x,y) = xdy - ydx + (y_1 dx - x_1 dy)$$

University of British Columbia

Basic Line Drawing

Assume $x_1 < x_2$ & line slope absolute value is ≤ 1

```
Line ( x1, y1, x2, y2 )
begin
float dx, dy, x, y, slope ;
dx ⇐ x2 − x1;
dy ⇐ y2 − y1;
slope ⇐ dy/dx ;
y ⇐ y1
for x from x1 to x2 do
begin
    PlotPixel ( x, Round (y) );
    y ⇐ y + slope ;
end ;
end ;
```



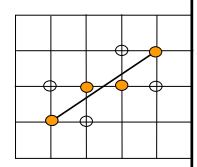
Questions:
Can this algorithm use integer arithmetic ?

University of British Columbia

Midpoint (Bresenham) Algorithm

- **Assumptions:**

$$x_2 > x_1, y_2 > y_1 \; and \; \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} < 1$$



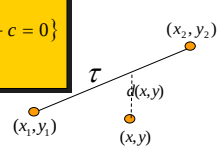
- **Idea:**
  - Proceed along the line incrementally
  - Have ONLY 2 choices
  - Select one that minimizes error (distance to line)

University of British Columbia

Bresenham Algorithm

Distance (error):

$$\tau = \{(x,y) ax + by + c = xdy - ydx + c = 0\}$$
$$d(x,y) = 2(xdy - ydx + c)$$

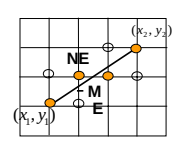


- Given point $P = (x,y), d(x,y)$ is signed distance of p to τ (up to normalization factor)
- d is zero for $P \in \tau$

University of British Columbia

Midpoint Line Drawing (cont'd)

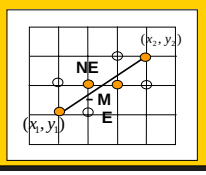
- Starting point satisfies $d(x_1, y_1) = 0$
- Each step moves right (east) or upper right (northeast)
- Sign of $d(x+1, y+\frac{1}{2})$ indicates if to move east or northeast



University of British Columbia

Midpoint Line Algorithm (version 1)

```
Line ( x1, y1, x2, y2 )
begin
int  x, y, dx, dy, d ;
x ⇐ x1 ;          y ⇐ y1 ;
dx ⇐ x2 − x1 ;    dy ⇐ y2 − y1 ;
PlotPixel ( x, y ) ;
while ( x < x2 ) do
    d = (2x + 2)dy - (2y + 1)dx + 2c; // 2((x + 1)dy - (y + .5)dx + c)
    if ( d < 0 ) then
    begin
        x ⇐ x + 1 ;
    end ;
    else begin
        x ⇐ x + 1 ;
        y ⇐ y + 1 ;
    end ;
    PlotPixel ( x, y ) ;
end ;
end ;
```

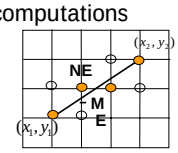


bresenham

University of British Columbia

Midpoint Line Drawing (cont'd)

- Insanely efficient version (less computations inside the loop)
  – compute d incrementally
- At (x_1, y_1)
  $d_{start} = d(x_1+1, y_1+\frac{1}{2}) = 2dy - dx$



- Increment in *d* (after each step)
  - If move east $\Delta_e = d(x+2, y+\frac{1}{2}) - d(x+1, y+\frac{1}{2}) =$
    $2((x+2)dy - (y+\frac{1}{2})dx + c)) - 2((x+1)dy - (y+\frac{1}{2})dx + c) = 2dy$
  - If move northeast $\Delta_{ne} = d(x_1+2, y_1+\frac{3}{2}) - d(x_1+1, y_1+\frac{1}{2}) =$
    $2((x+2)dy - (y+\frac{3}{2})dx + c)) - 2((x+1)dy - (y+\frac{1}{2})dx + c) = 2(dy - dx)$

University of British Columbia

Midpoint Line Algorithm

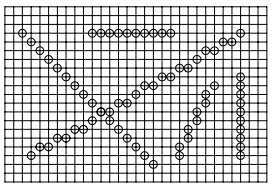
```
Line ( x1, y1, x2, y2 )
begin
int  x, y, dx, dy, d, Δe, Δne ;
x ⇐ x1 ;          y ⇐ y1 ;
dx ⇐ x2 − x1 ;    dy ⇐ y2 − y1 ;
d ⇐ 2 * dy − dx ;
Δe ⇐ 2 * dy ;     Δne ⇐ 2 * (dy − dx) ;
PlotPixel ( x, y ) ;
while ( x < x2 ) do
    if ( d < 0 ) then
    begin
        d ⇐ d + Δe ;
        x ⇐ x + 1 ;
    end ;
    else begin
        d ⇐ d + Δne ;
        x ⇐ x + 1 ;
        y ⇐ y + 1 ;
    end ;
    PlotPixel ( x, y ) ;
end ;
end ;
```

bresenham

University of British Columbia

Midpoint Examples

- Question: Is there a problem with this algorithm (horizontal vs. diagonal lines)?



- Comment: extends to higher order curves – e.g. circles

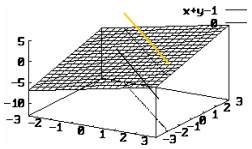
fineline

University of British Columbia

Error Function Intuition

- Error function d can be viewed as explicit surface:

d(x,y)=2(xdy-ydx+c)



University of British Columbia