NeRF-like Approaches for Light Transport Algorithms

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NeRF and Volume Rendering

- What about other light transport algorithms?
- **Especially, what we learned in CS580?**

NeRF and Light Transport Algos.

- Neural Radiosity (SIGGRAPH ASIA 2021)
	- Path Tracing + **Radiosity** + NeRF

- Real-time Neural Radiance Caching for Path Tracing (SIGGRAPH 2021)
	- Path Tracing + **Radiance Caching** + NeRF

Neural Radiosity

Hadadan et al., SIGGRAPH Asia 2021

Main Contribution

Solving the Rendering Equation by Radiance-predicting Neural Network via Radiosity-like Training

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$$
L_o(x, \overrightarrow{w_o}) = L_e(x, \overrightarrow{w_o}) + \int_{\Omega} f_r(x, \overrightarrow{w_i}, \overrightarrow{w_o}) L_i(x, \overrightarrow{w_i}) (\overrightarrow{w_i} \cdot \overrightarrow{n}) d\overrightarrow{w_i}
$$

$$
\sim L_e(x, \overrightarrow{w_o}) + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^{N} \frac{f_r(x, \overrightarrow{w_i}, \overrightarrow{w_o}) L_i(x, \overrightarrow{w_i}) (\overrightarrow{w_i} \cdot \overrightarrow{n})}{p(\overrightarrow{w_i})}
$$

Solving rendering equation via Monte Carlo Integration

 $L_o(x, \overrightarrow{W_o}) = L_e(x, \overrightarrow{W_o}) +$ $\boldsymbol{\Omega}$ ${f}_r(x,{\overrightarrow{w_i}},{\overrightarrow{w_o}})L_i(x,{\overrightarrow{w_i}})({\overrightarrow{w_i}}\cdot{\overrightarrow{n}}\,)d{\overrightarrow{w_i}}$

 $\sim L_{\rho}(x, \overrightarrow{W_{\Omega}}) + L_{\theta}(x, \overrightarrow{W_{\Omega}})$

Solving rendering equation via Radiance-predicting Neural Network L_{θ}

- Generating ground truth is to solve the rendering equation \rightarrow Too much overhead!
- **How to train without the ground truth radiance?**

Radiosity: Recap

- Iteratively updating the radiosity of each polygon
	- Jacobi / Gauss-Seidel iteration

Radiosity: Recap

- Iteratively updating the radiosity of each polygon
	- Jacobi / Gauss-Seidel iteration
- Updating allows to consider further light bounces

• Minimize the difference between the directly estimated outgoing radiance (LHS) and calculated outgoing radiance from estimated incoming radiances(RHS)

• LHS: Outgoing radiance directly estimated by the network

- RHS: Outgoing radiance calculated from estimated incoming radiances
	- But we still have a rendering equation to solve…

- RHS: Outgoing radiance calculated from estimated incoming radiances
	- Use Monte Carlo Integration!
	- Estimate the incoming radiance of the sampled $\omega_{i,k}$, $x'_{k}(x, \omega_{i,k})$

Reducing the Residual Norm

• Residual norm $r_{\theta}(x, \omega_o)$

$$
r_{\theta}(x,\omega_o)
$$

= $L_{\theta}(x,\omega_o) - L_e(x,\omega_o) - \frac{1}{M} \sum_{k=1}^{M} \frac{f(x,\omega_o, \omega_{i,k}) L_{\theta}(x'_k(x, \omega_{i,k}), -\omega_{i,k})}{p(\omega_{i,k})}$
= $L_{\theta}(x, \omega_o) - L_e(x, \omega_o) - T\{L_{\theta}\}(x, \omega_o)$

•
$$
Loss(\theta) = ||r_{\theta}(x, \omega_o)||^2
$$

- Relative $Loss(\theta) =$ $r_{\theta}(x,\omega_o)$ $sg(m_\theta(x, \omega_o))+\varepsilon \, \mathsf{II}_2$ 2
	- For a stable training with high dynamic range radiances

•
$$
m_{\theta}(x, \omega_o) = \frac{1}{2} (L_{\theta}(x, \omega_o) + L_e(x, \omega_o) + T\{L_{\theta}\}(x, \omega_o))
$$

• $sg:$ stop gradient

Training with Neural Radiosity

• Now, we do not need to directly solve/approximate the rendering equation!

ALGORITHM 1: Minibatch stochastic gradient descent, learning rate η .

initialize network parameters θ ;

while not converged do sample a set of surface points $\{x_j | j = 1...N\}$ and outgoing directions $\{\omega_{o,j} | j = 1 \dots N\};$ for each $(x_j, \omega_{o,j})$, sample a set of incident directions $\{\omega_{i,j,k} | k = 1...M\};$ use the samples to evaluate the Monte Carlo estimate of $\nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(\theta)$ using Equations 6 and 8; $\theta = \theta - \eta \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(\theta);$ end

return θ ;

Training with Neural Radiosity

- **Training takes more time that Path Tracing**
	- 3~5 minutes per 1000 steps...
- But shows various applications once trained…

Main Contribution

Solving the Rendering Equation by Radiance-predicting Neural Network via Radiosity-like Training

 $L_o(x, \overrightarrow{W_o}) = L_e(x, \overrightarrow{W_o}) +$ $\boldsymbol{\Omega}$ ${f}_r(x,{\overrightarrow{w_i}},{\overrightarrow{w_o}})L_i(x,{\overrightarrow{w_i}})({\overrightarrow{w_i}}\cdot{\overrightarrow{n}}\,)d{\overrightarrow{w_i}}$

$$
\sim L_e(x, \overrightarrow{w_o}) + L_\theta(x, \overrightarrow{w_o})
$$

Solving rendering equation via Radiance-predicting Neural Network L_{θ}

NeRF: Representing Scenes as Neural Radiance Fields for View Synthesis, Mildenhall et al., ECCV 2020 Plenoxels: Radiance Fields without Neural Networks, Yu et al., CVPR 2022

Positional Encoding is not Enough

• Positional encoding like *NeRF* does not show better performance

$$
L_{\theta}(x,\omega_o) = MLP\left(\gamma(x)\right), \quad \gamma(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \sin(2^0 \pi x) \\ \cos(2^0 \pi x) \\ \vdots \\ \sin(2^{k-1} \pi x) \\ \cos(2^{k-1} \pi x) \end{pmatrix}
$$

- Instead, use a multi-resolution feature grid with trainable features!
	- Similar approach with *Plenoxels*, but with more scale

Multi-resolution Feature Grid

- Idea & Implementation borrowed from NGLOD
	- Neural Geometric Level of Detail, CVPR 2021
- Features of the query point as interpolated feature vectors of each level of voxel grids
- Allows better performance with using relatively shallow network

Multi-resolution Feature Grid

Training step

Results – Rendering

RHS/Truth Absolute Error

spp:

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Results – View Synthesis

• Trained network represents the entire radiance distribution of the scene \rightarrow Multi-view Synthesis!

Results – Material Support

- Good quality for various materials
	- Note that original radiosity method only supported diffuse effects!

Results – Dynamic Scenes

• Apply transfer learning for dynamic scenes instead of retraining

Results – Dynamic Scenes

• Apply transfer learning for dynamic scenes instead of retraining

MAPE: 0.257

0.044

 0.025

MAPE: 0.060

LHS (initial) RHS (initial) Residual (initial) LHS (finetuned) RHS (finetuned) Residual (finetuned) Ground Truth

Neural Radiosity: Wrap-up

- A radiosity-like training to learn the entire radiance distribution of the scene
- Multi-resolution feature grid for new positional encoding
- Applied to multi-view synthesis, rendering dynamic scenes via transfer learning

Real-time Neural Radiance Caching for Path Tracing

Muller et al. SIGGRAPH 2021
Main Contributions

Radiance Caching with Neural Radiance Field

Self-training with Fast Adaptation

Other Techniques for Real-time Path Tracing

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Radiance Caching with Neural Radiance Field

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Other Techniques for Real-time Path Tracing

Irradiance Caching: Recap

- **Biased GI algorithm**
- Cache the irradiance of the point

Irradiance Caching: Recap

- **Biased GI algorithm**
- Cache the irradiance of the point

Irradiance Caching: Recap

- **Biased GI algorithm**
- Cache the irradiance of the point
- Interpolate the irradiance of the query point

Radiance Caching for Efficient Global Illumination Computation, Krivanek et al., TVCG 2005 Plenoxels: Radiance Fields without Neural Networks, Yu et al., CVPR 2022

Radiance Caching

- Adding a directional information for caching
- Use Spherical Harmonics H_l^m like *Plenoxels*
	- $L_i(\theta, \phi) \approx \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} \sum_{m=-l}^{l} \lambda_l^m H_l^m(\theta, \phi)$
- Interpolate the coefficients λ_l^m

Radiance caching

Monte Carlo sampling

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Neural Radiance Cache

$$
L_o(x, \overrightarrow{w_o}) = L_e(x, \overrightarrow{w_o}) + \int_{\Omega} f_r(x, \overrightarrow{w_i}, \overrightarrow{w_o}) L_i(x, \overrightarrow{w_i}) (\overrightarrow{w_i} \cdot \overrightarrow{n}) d\overrightarrow{w_i}
$$

$$
\sim L_e(x, \overrightarrow{w_o}) + L_\theta(x, \overrightarrow{w_o})
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Solving rendering equation via Radiance-predicting Neural Network L_{θ}

Neural Radiance Cache

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$$

$$
\sim L_e(x, \overrightarrow{w_o}) + L_\theta(x, \overrightarrow{w_o})
$$

Train the neural network \rightarrow Cache, Estimate the radiance \rightarrow Interpolate

NeRF: Representing Scenes as Neural Radiance Fields for View Synthesis, Mildenhall et al., ECCV 2020 Neural Importance Sampling, Muller et al., SIGGRAPH 2019

Neural Radiance Cache

Inputs for Neural Radiance Cache

$$
req(x) = \begin{pmatrix} sin(2^{0}\pi x) \\ cos(2^{0}\pi x) \\ \vdots \\ sin(2^{k-1}\pi x) \\ cos(2^{k-1}\pi x) \end{pmatrix}
$$

Positional Encoding from *NeRF*

$$
ob(x) = Gaussian(x, \frac{1}{k})
$$

One-blob Encoding from *Neural Importance Sampling*

Rendering with Neural Radiance Caching

• Trace a short rendering path (x_0,x_1,x_2) where we used the cached(estimated) radiance in vertex x_2 $L_{\theta}(x_2, \overrightarrow{w_a})$

• When do we terminate?

Rendering with Neural Radiance Caching

• Terminate when the area spread $a(x_1 ... x_n)$ becomes large enough to blur the inaccuracy in trained cache a_0

•
$$
a(x_1 \dots x_n) > c \cdot a_0
$$

•
$$
a_0 = \frac{||x_0 - x_1||^2}{4\pi \cos \theta_1}, a(x_1 ... x_n) = \left(\sum_{i=2}^n \sqrt{\frac{||x_0 - x_1||^2}{p(\omega_i||x_{i-1}, \omega)|\cos \theta_i}}\right)^2
$$

A Custom Designed Density Estimation Method for Light Transport, Bekaert et al., Techinical Report 2003

Rendering with Neural Radiance Caching

• Heuristic termination helps to avoid using poorly cached radiances in the primary hit vertex

Rendering with Neural Radiance Caching

• Caculate the radiance using the estimated radiance

•
$$
L(x_1, \omega_1) = L_e(x_2, \omega_2) + \frac{L_{\theta}(x_2, \omega_2) f(x_1, w_2, w_1) \cos(\omega_1 \cdot n_1)}{p(-\omega_2)}
$$

Main Contributions

Radiance Caching with Neural Radiance Field

Self-training with Fast Adaptation

Other Techniques for Real-time Path Tracing

- Trace a short rendering path $(y_0y_1y_2)$
- Estimate the radiance of y_2 and calculate the radiance the sample

- Extend the rendering path with few vertices $\left(\cdots y_2y_3y_4\right)$
- **We use the same light sample for rendering & training!**

- Estimate the radiance in y_4 : $L_{\theta}(y_4, \omega_4)$
- Calculate the radiances on preceding vertices using the estimated radiance above
	- L_1, L_2, L_3

- Minimize the loss between the calculated radiances and the estimated radiances of the preceding vertices
- Loss = rell 2($L_1, L_0(y_1, \omega_1)$) + rell 2($L_2, L_0(y_2, \omega_2)$) + rell 2($L_3, L_0(y_3, \omega_3)$)

- No ground truth needed → **Self-training!**
	- Similar to Neural Radiosity

- High learning rate & Multiple gradient descent steps per frame with random subset of ray batches → **Fast Adaptation!**
	- One frame with 1spp, FHD \rightarrow Batch size 2^{12}
	- Iteratively done for each frames

Limitations of Self-training

- What if the training path hits the surface never reached?
	- Results in unstable training…
- What if the extended vertices are close together?
	- Cannot complete cover the global illumination effect

Limitations of Self-training

- For balancing two issues, extend every Nth sample which is terminated by Russian roulette.
	- Can construct more unbiased training paths

Main Contributions

Radiance Caching with Neural Radiance Field

Self-training with Fast Adaptation

Other Techniques for Real-time Path Tracing

Temporal Stability via EMA (Exponential Moving Average)

• Aggressive fast adaptation strategy might lead to overfitting, creating temporal artifacts like flickering

•
$$
\overline{W}_t = \frac{1-\alpha}{\eta_t} \cdot W_t + \alpha \cdot \eta_{t-1} \cdot \overline{W}_{t-1}, \eta_t = 1 - \alpha^t
$$

EMA weight $\alpha = 0.00$ EMA weight $\alpha = 0.90$ EMA weight $\alpha = 0.99$

Fully-Fused Network

• Reducing memory bottleneck highly increases training & inference speed

Efficient encoding for faster gradient computations

- Approximate the encoding functions into polynomial functions for faster gradient computations
- Buys 0.25ms per frame (1spp)

Spatiotemporal Reservoir Resampling for Real-time Ray Tracing with Dynamic Direct Lighting, Bitterli et al., SIGGRAPH 2020

Results – 1spp Video

Path tracing

Spatiotemporal Reservoir Resampling for Real-time Ray Tracing with Dynamic Direct Lighting, Bitterli et al., SIGGRAPH 2020

Results – 1spp Video

Spatiotemporal Reservoir Resampling for Real-time Ray Tracing with Dynamic Direct Lighting, Bitterli et al., SIGGRAPH 2020 Neural Temporal Adaptive Sampling and Denoising, Hasselgren et al., Computer Graphics Forum 2020

Results – With Image Denoiser

Results – Fast Adaptation

Visualization of NRC at the primary path vertex

Neural Radiance Cache: Wrap-up

- Introducing a radiance caching techinique by training a radiance-caching neural network
- Self-training with Fast Adaptation to achieve realtime for rendering & training
- Vast number of techniques to achieve real time

Appendices

Neural Radiosity

Rendering with Neural Radiosity

- Gather radiances estimated on the first bounce
- Gather radiances calculated with estimated incoming radiances into the first bounce

Rendering with Neural Radiosity

• Rendering with RHS shows better quality, but has more overhead due to the calculation

Multi-resolution Feature Grid

- Idea & Implementation borrowed by NGLOD
	- Neural Geometry Level of Details, CVPR 2021
- Originally for better representation of SDF

Multi-resolution Feature Grid

- Each level of voxel grids have trainable vectors
- Voxel Octree to implement multi-resolution voxel grids

Multi-resolution Feature Grid

- Features of the query point as interpolated feature vectors of each level of voxel grids
- Allows better performance with using relatively shallow network

$$
L_{\theta}(x,\omega_o) = MLP\left(\frac{x}{\omega_o}\right), \ \ G(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{0}^{n-1} trilinear(x, V_i[x])
$$

Appendices

Real-time Neural Radiance Caching for Path Tracing

One-blob Encoding

• Smoothes the one-hot vectors to reduce loss of information

Temporal Stability via EMA

- Aggressive self-training strategy might lead to overfitting, creating temporal artifacts like flickering
- To reduce such phenomenon, we average the network weights via EMA

•
$$
\overline{W}_t = \frac{1-\alpha}{\eta_t} \cdot W_t + \alpha \cdot \eta_{t-1} \cdot \overline{W}_{t-1}, \eta_t = 1 - \alpha^t
$$

• $\alpha = 0.99$

Temporal Stability via EMA

• Aggressive self-training strategy might lead to overfitting, creating temporal artifacts like flickering

•
$$
\overline{W}_t = \frac{1-\alpha}{\eta_t} \cdot W_t + \alpha \cdot \eta_{t-1} \cdot \overline{W}_{t-1}, \eta_t = 1 - \alpha^t
$$

EMA weight $\alpha = 0.00$ EMA weight $\alpha = 0.90$ EMA weight $\alpha = 0.99$

• A new GPU kernel that highly reduces the memory bottleneck between high-level memory(VRAM) and on-chip memory (low-level cahces, registers, etc…)

(a) Batched neural network evaluation

(b) Distribution of a batch over thread blocks

(c) Per-thread-block matrix multiplication

- Divide the large batch (2^{12} for FHD 1920x1080) into small minibatches (128)
	- Might differ by capacity of on-chip memory of GPU
- Each minibatch is used for training in each thread parallely
	- Divide the large batch (2^{12} for FHD 19. minibatches (128)
		- Might differ by capacity of on-chip memo
	- Each minibatch is used for training in ϵ

- The memory consumption of the matrix multiplication in each thread are set to perfectly fit the low-level memory
	- Specifically, multiplication of each row & column
	- For GTX 3090, minibatch of 128 and hidden layer of 64 fully utilizes its register

• Reducing memory bottleneck highly increases training & inference speed

- Reducing memory bottleneck highly increases training & inference speed
- Fast image learning with high resolution (3250x4333)

Reflectance Factorization

• Helps the network to focus on details by light transport rather than texture details
Visualization of factored neural radiance cache at primary vertex

Results – Numerical Results

Results – Volume Rendering

Dynamic Diffuse Global Illumination with Ray-traced Irradiance Fields, Majercik et al., JCGT 2019 Spatiotemporal Reservoir Resampling for Real-time Ray Tracing with Dynamic Direct Lighing, Bitterli et al., SIGGRAPH 2020

Results – Rendering Cost

