
CS482: Ray Tracing

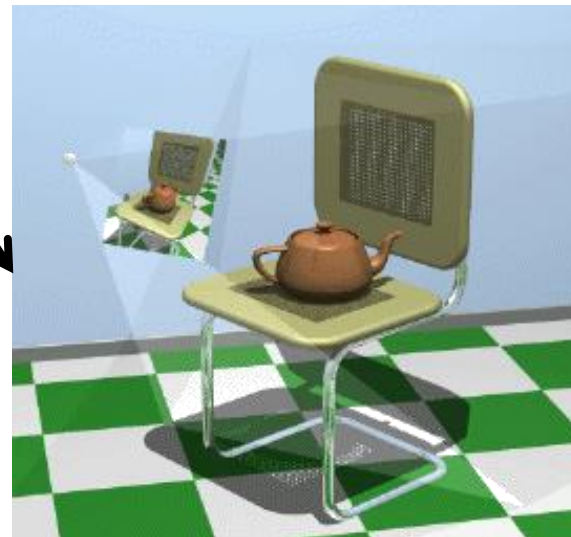
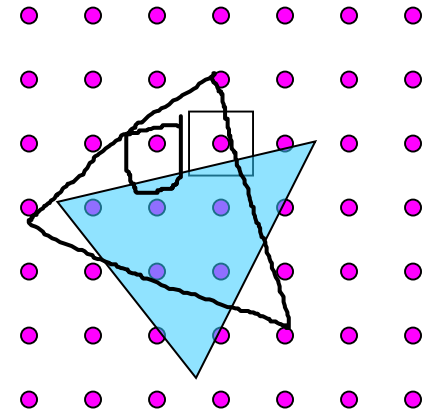
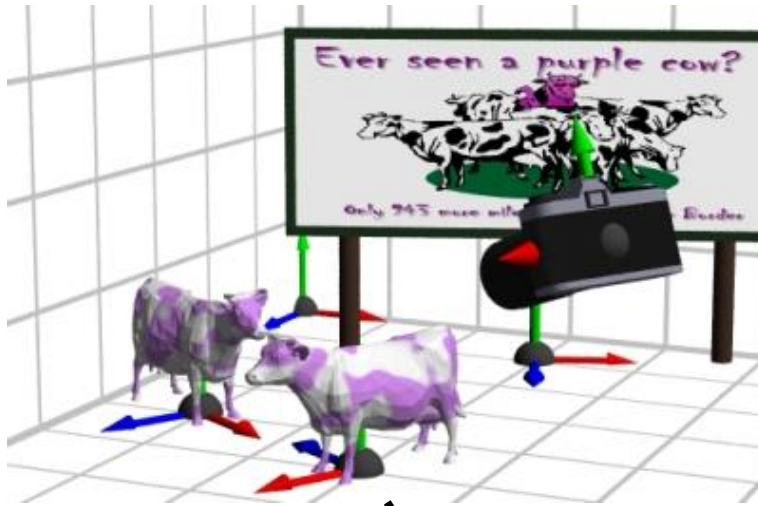
Sung-Eui Yoon
(윤성익)

Course URL:
<http://sglab.kaist.ac.kr/~sungeui/ICG/>

Class Objectives (Ch. 10)

- Understand a basic ray tracing
- Know its acceleration data structure and how to use it
- Rendering book
<https://sgvr.kaist.ac.kr/~sungeui/render/>

The Classic Rendering Pipeline

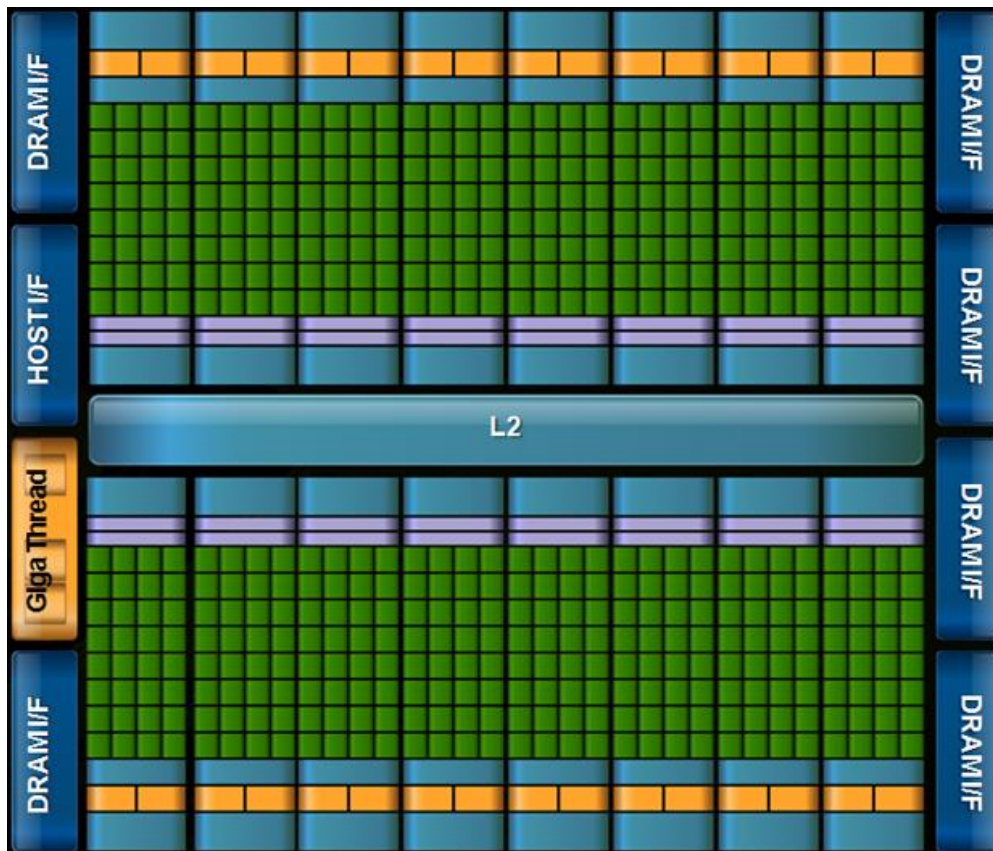


Why we are using rasterization?

- **Efficiency**
- **Reasonably quality**

Fermi GPU Architecture

16 SM (streaming processors)

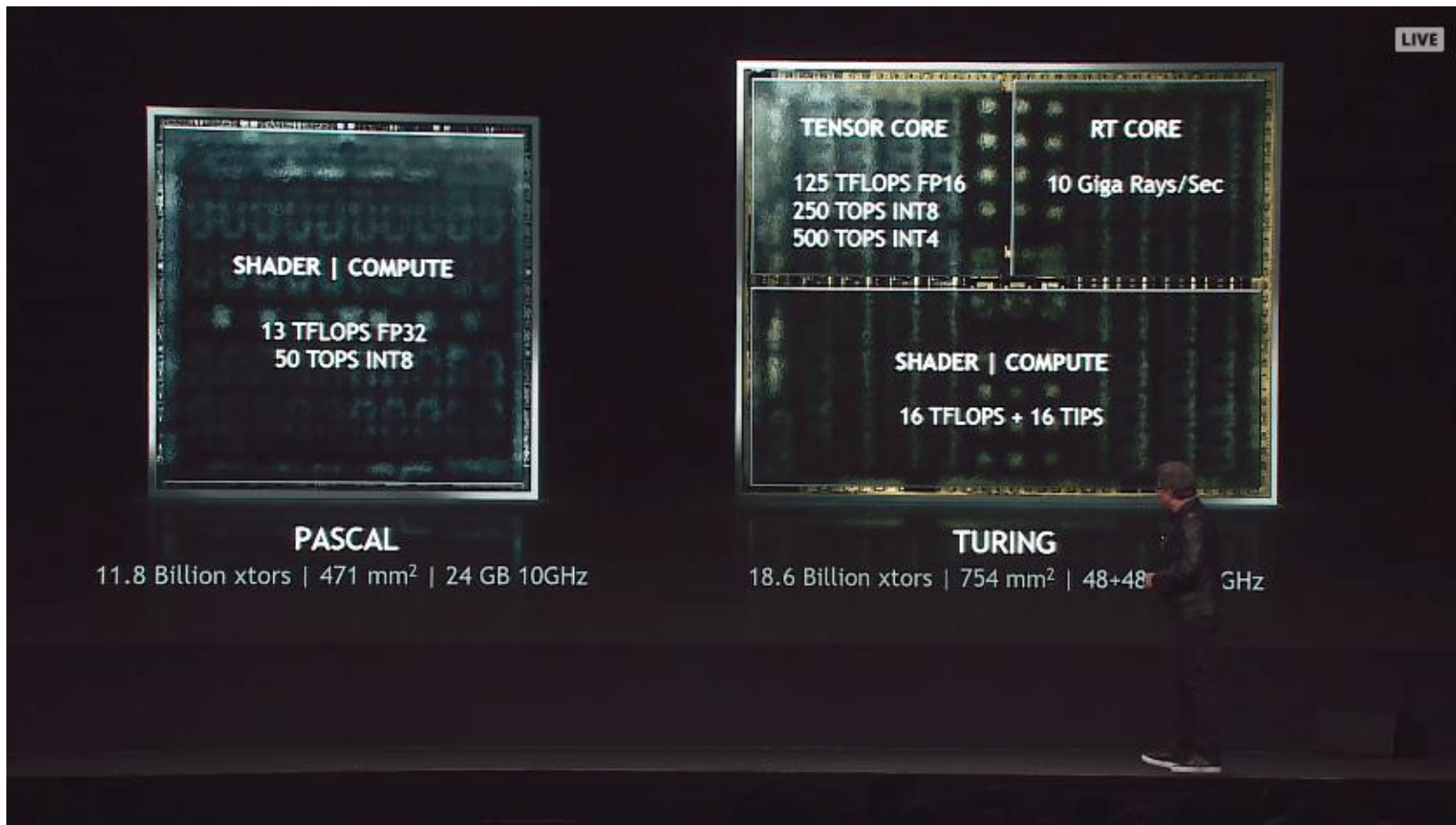


512 CUDA cores

Memory interfaces

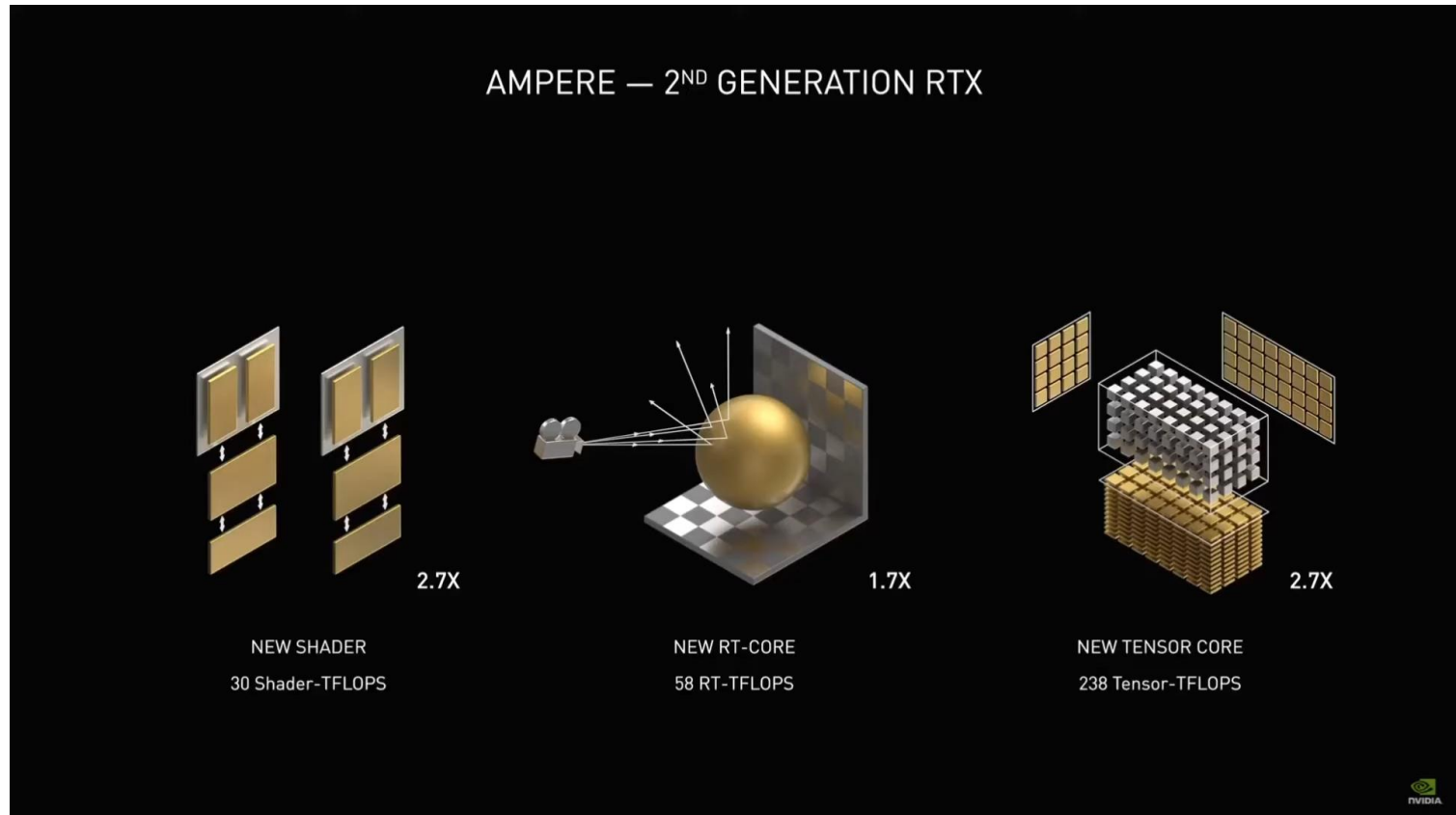
Turing Architecture, 2018

- Aims to combine shade, compute, ray tracing, and AI



Ampere Architecture, 2020

- **More cores, faster computation than Turing Architecture**



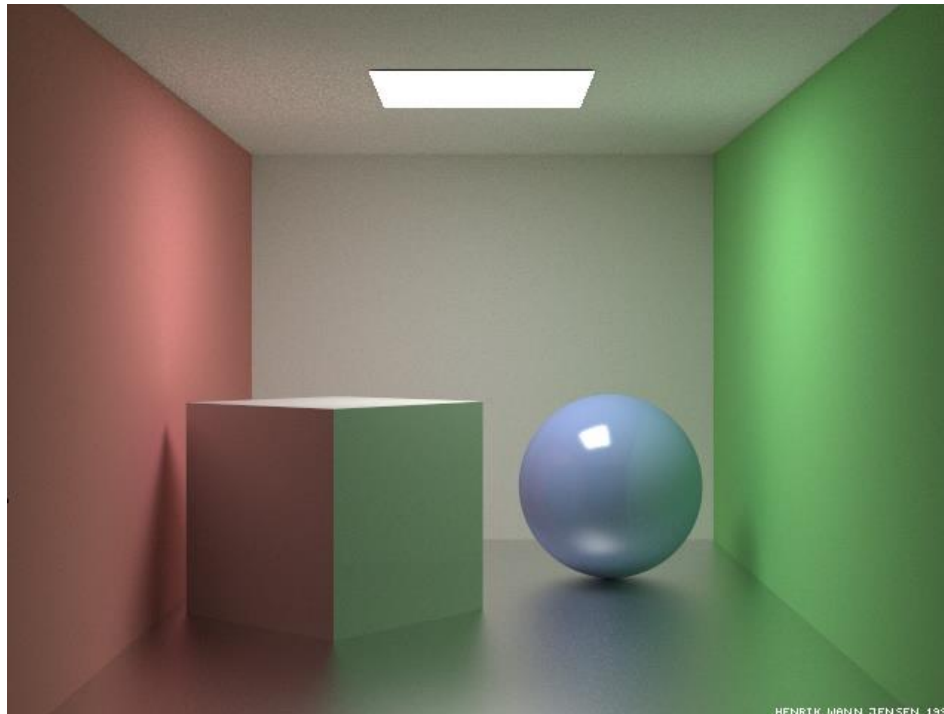
Where Rasterization Is



From Battlefield: Bad Company, EA Digital Illusions
CE AB

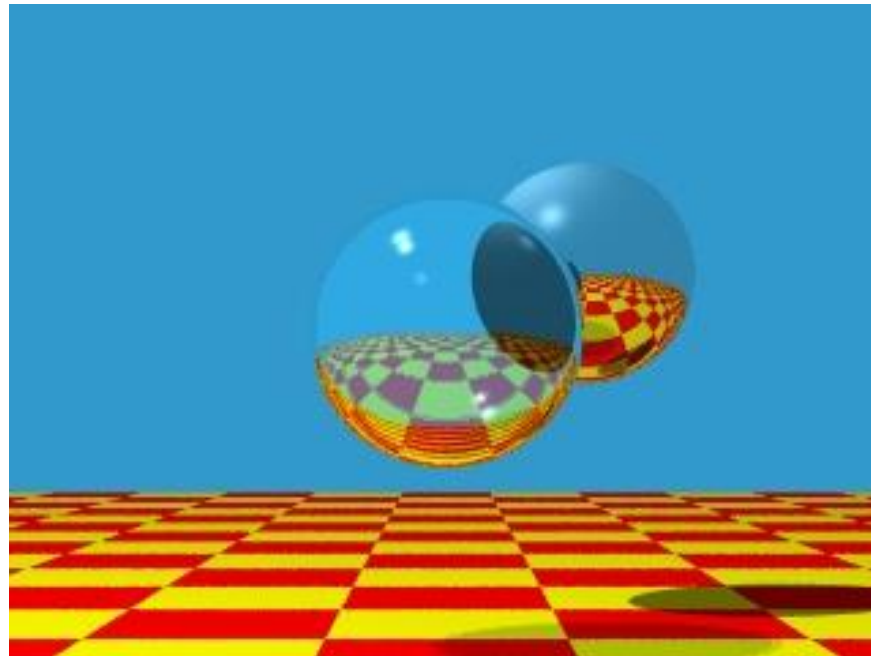
But what about other visual cues?

- **Lighting**
 - **Shadows**
 - **Shading: glossy, transparency**
- **Color bleeding, etc**



Recursive Ray Casting

- Gained popularity in when Turner Whitted (1980) recognized that *recursive* ray casting could be used for global illumination effects

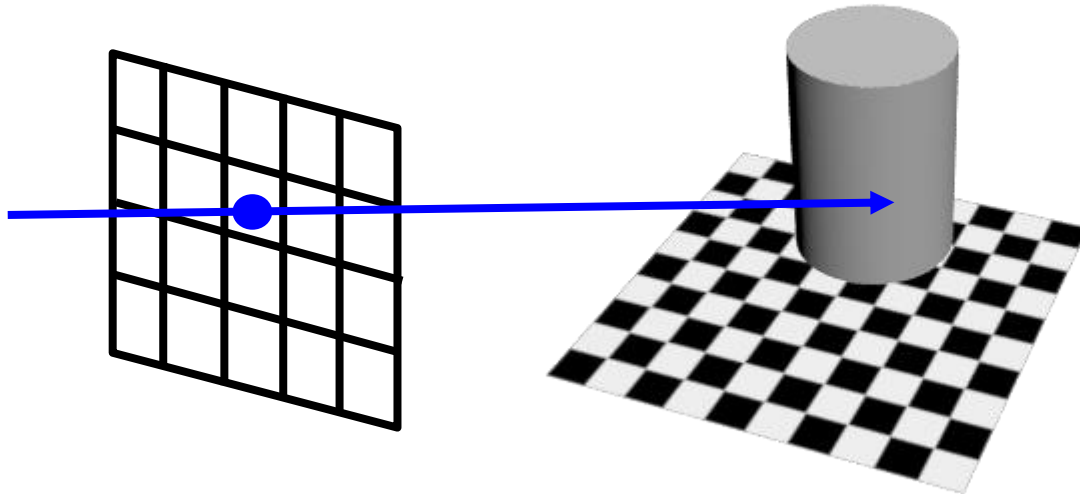


Ray Casting and Ray Tracing

- **Trace rays from eye into scene**
 - **Backward ray tracing**
- **Ray casting used to compute visibility at the eye**
- **Perform ray tracing for arbitrary rays needed for shading**
 - **Reflections**
 - **Refraction and transparency**
 - **Shadows**

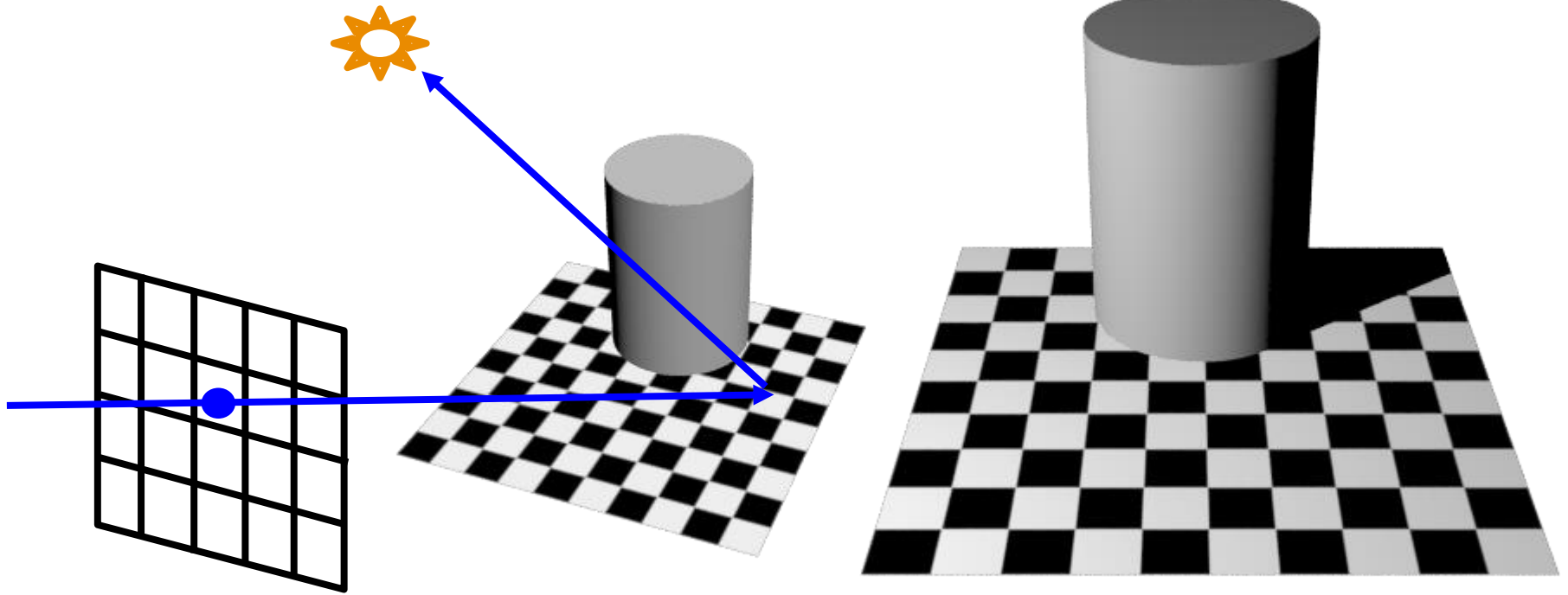
Basic Algorithms

- Rays are cast from the eye point through each pixel in the image



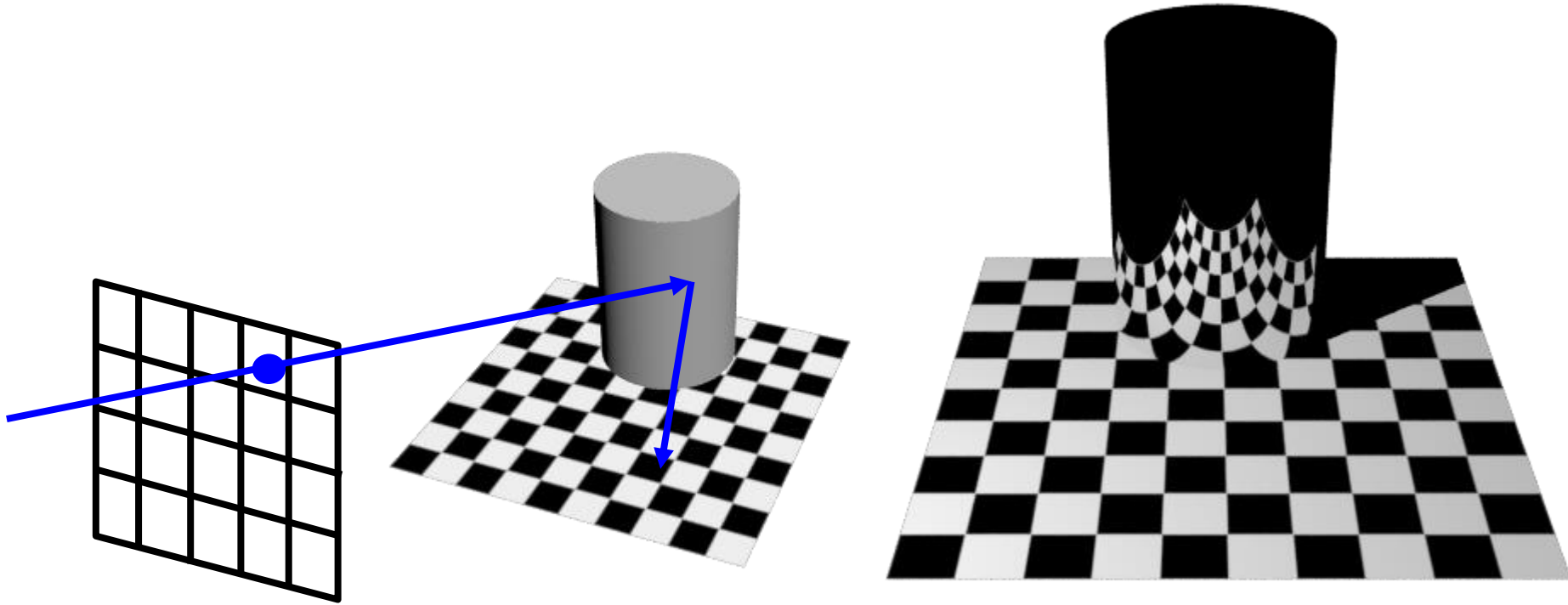
Shadows

- **Cast ray from the intersection point to each light source**
 - **Shadow rays**



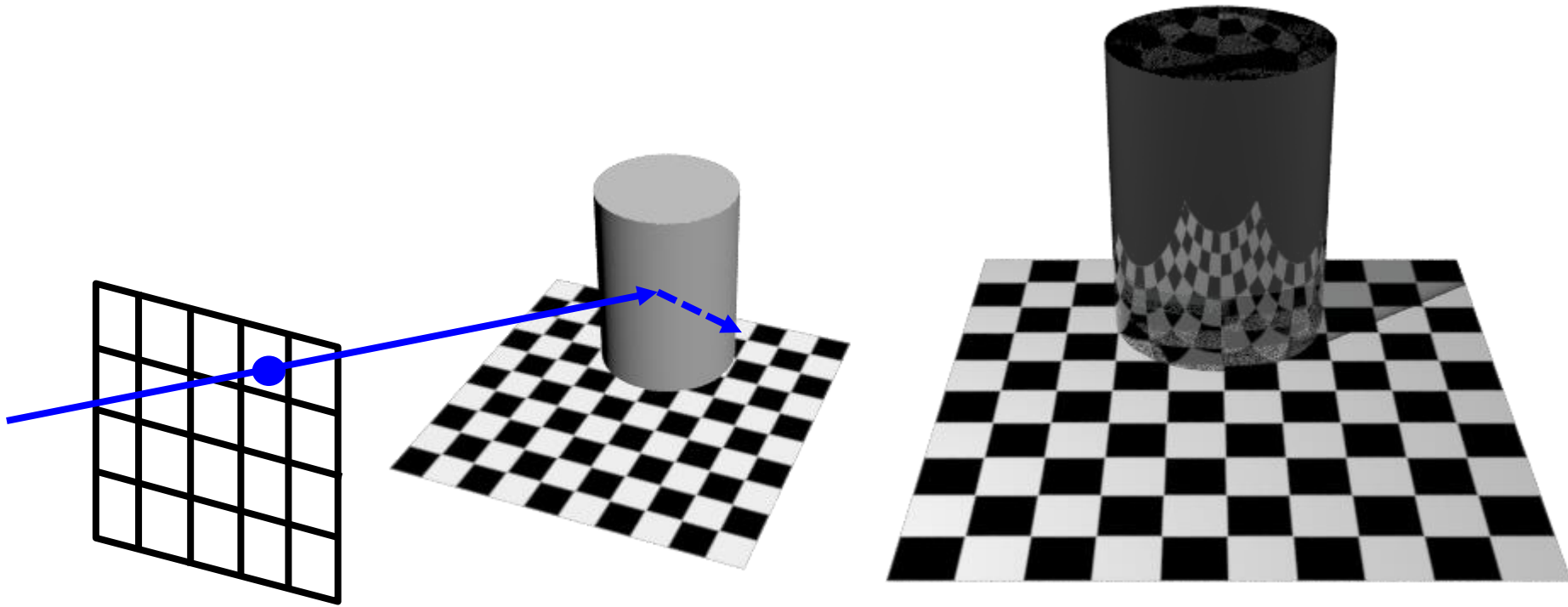
Reflections

- **If object specular, cast secondary reflected rays**



Refractions

- **If object transparent, cast secondary refracted rays**



An Improved Illumination Model [Whitted 80]

- Phong illumination model

$$I_r = \sum_{j=1}^{\text{numLights}} (k_a^j I_a^j + k_d^j I_d^j (\hat{N} \cdot \hat{L}_j) + k_s^j I_s^j (\hat{V} \cdot \hat{R})^{n_s})$$

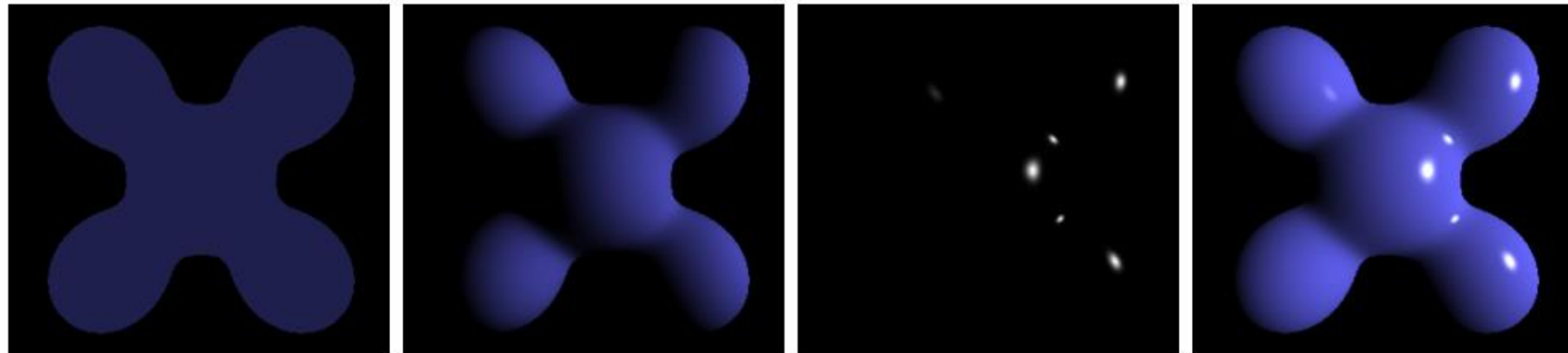
- Whitted model

$$I_r = \sum_{j=1}^{\text{numLights}} (k_a^j I_a^j + k_d^j I_d^j (\hat{N} \cdot \hat{L}_j)) + k_s S + k_t T$$

- S and T are intensity of light from reflection and transmission rays
- Ks and Kt are specular and transmission coefficient

OpenGL's Illumination Model

$$I_r = \sum_{j=1}^{\text{numLights}} (k_a^j I_a^j + k_d^j I_d^j \max(\hat{N} \cdot \hat{L}_j, 0) + k_s^j I_s^j \max(\hat{V} \cdot \hat{R})^{n_s}, 0)$$



Ambient

+

Diffuse

+

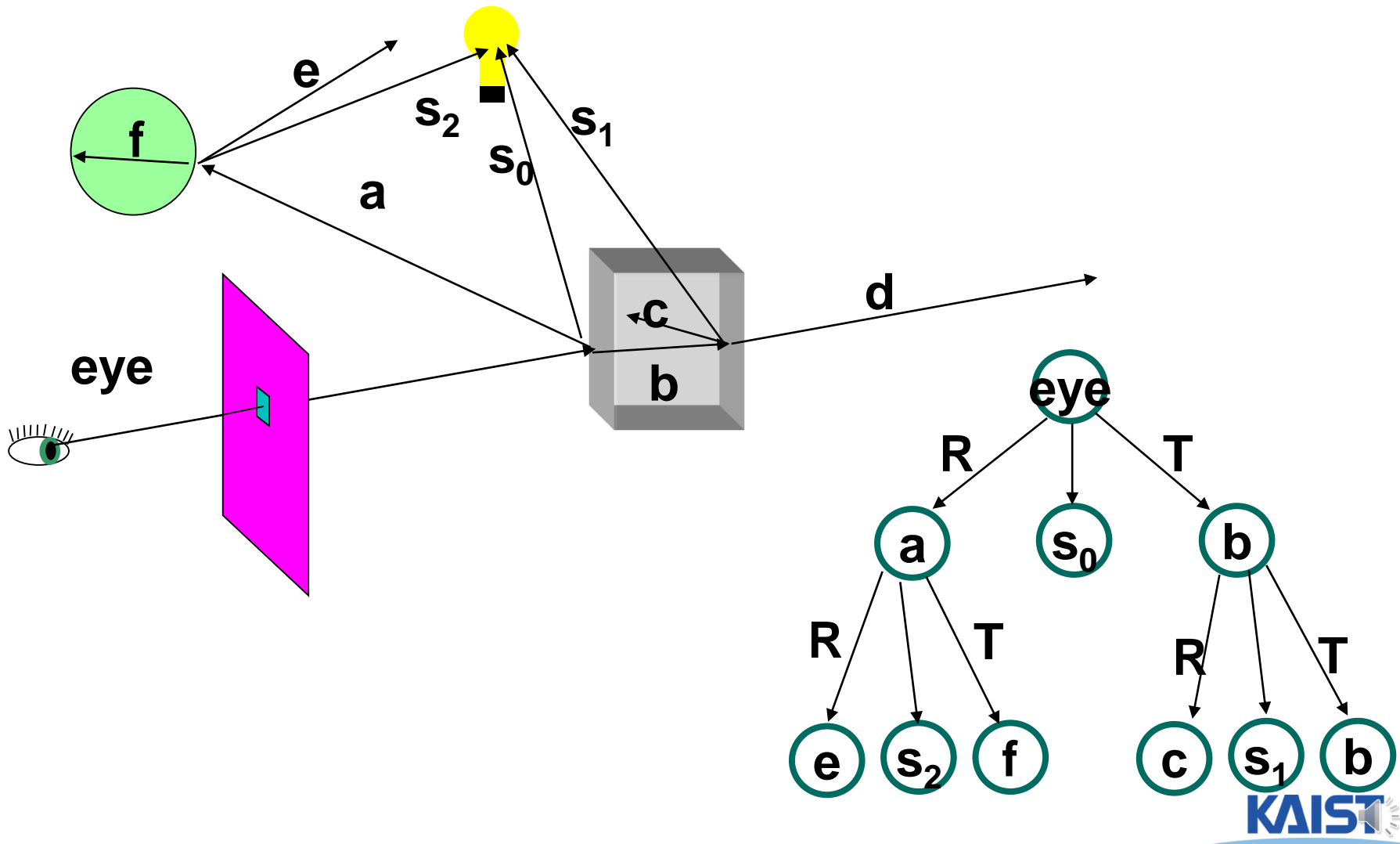
Specular

=

Phong Reflection

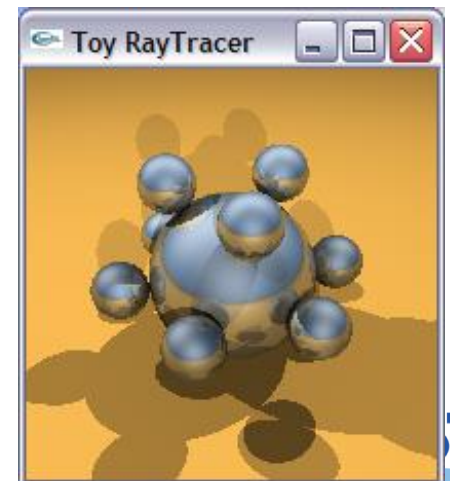
From Wikipedia

Ray Tree



Acceleration Methods for Ray Tracing

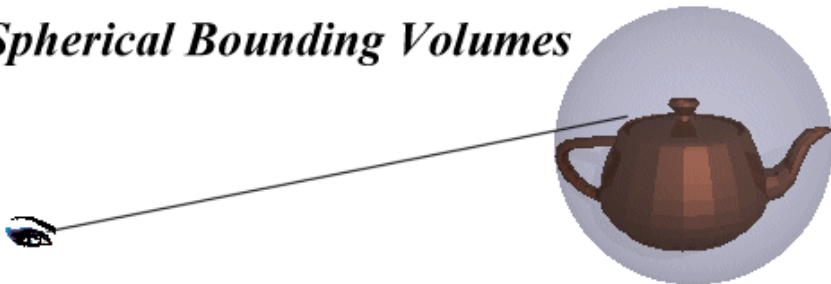
- **Rendering time for a ray tracer depends on the number of ray intersection tests per pixel**
 - The number of pixels X the number of primitives in the scene
- **Early efforts focused on accelerating the ray-object intersection tests**
 - Ray-triangle intersection tests
- **More advanced methods required to make ray tracing practical**
 - Bounding volume hierarchies
 - Spatial subdivision (e.g., kd-trees)



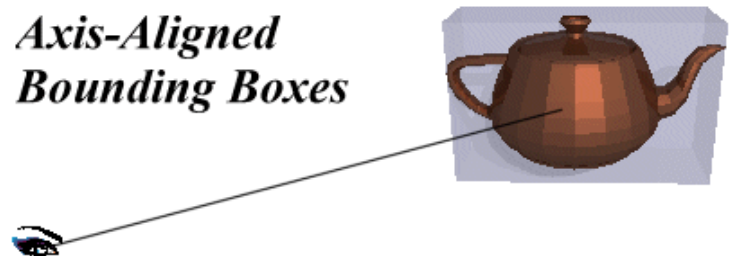
Bounding Volumes

- **Enclose complex objects within a simple-to-intersect objects**
 - If the ray does not intersect the simple object then its contents can be ignored
 - The likelihood that it will strike the object depends on how tightly the volume surrounds the object.
- **Spheres are simple, but not tight**
- **Axis-aligned bounding boxes often better**
 - Can use nested or hierarchical bounding volumes

Spherical Bounding Volumes



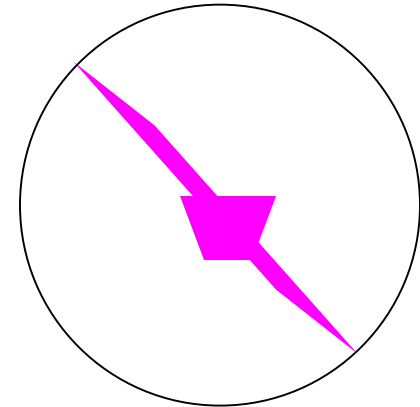
Axis-Aligned Bounding Boxes



Bounding Volumes

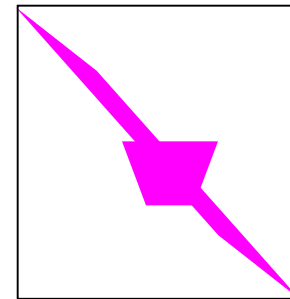
- **Sphere [Whitted80]**

- Cheap to compute
- Cheap test
- Potentially very bad fit



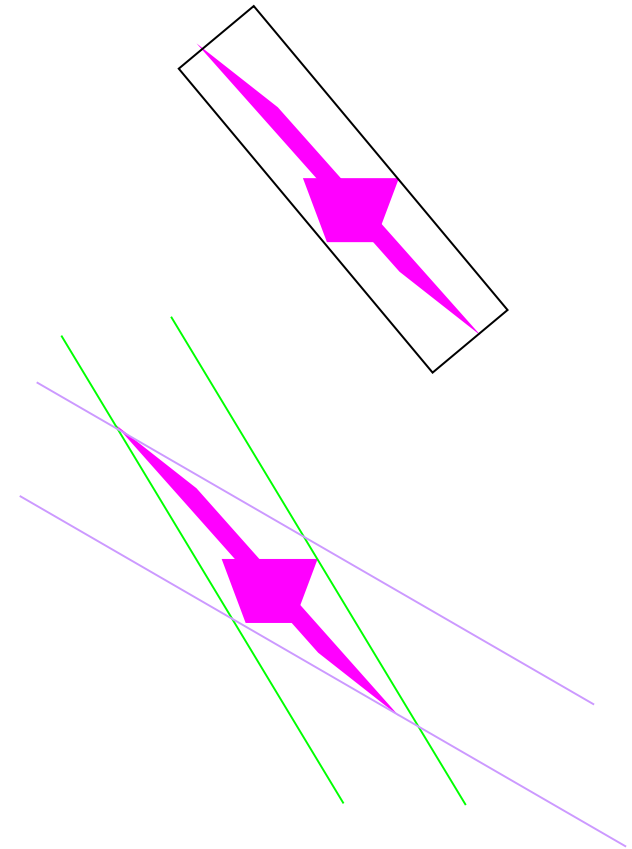
- **Axis-Aligned Bounding Box**

- Very cheap to compute
- Cheap test
- Tighter than sphere



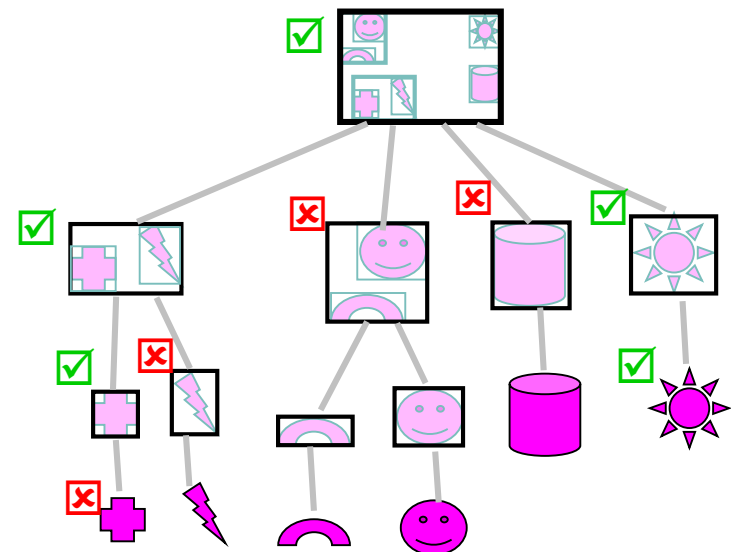
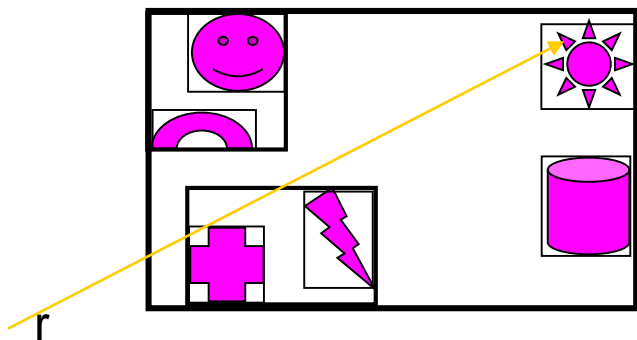
Bounding Volumes

- **Oriented Bounding Box**
 - Fairly cheap to compute
 - Fairly Cheap test
 - Generally fairly tight
- **Slabs / K-dops**
 - More expensive to compute
 - Fairly cheap test
 - Can be tighter than OBB



Bounding Volume Hierarchy (BVH)

- **Organize bounding volumes as a tree**
 - **Choose a partitioning plane and distribute triangles into left and right nodes**
- **Each ray starts with the scene BV and traverses down through the hierarchy**



Test-Of-Time 2006 Award

High-Performance Graphics 2015

Los Angeles, August 7-9, 2015

Home

Full Program

CFP

Registration

Accommodations

Venue

Submissions

Organization



RT-DEFORM: Interactive Ray Tracing of Dynamic Scenes using BVHs

Christian Lauterbach, [Sung-eui Yoon](#),
David Tuft, Dinesh Manocha

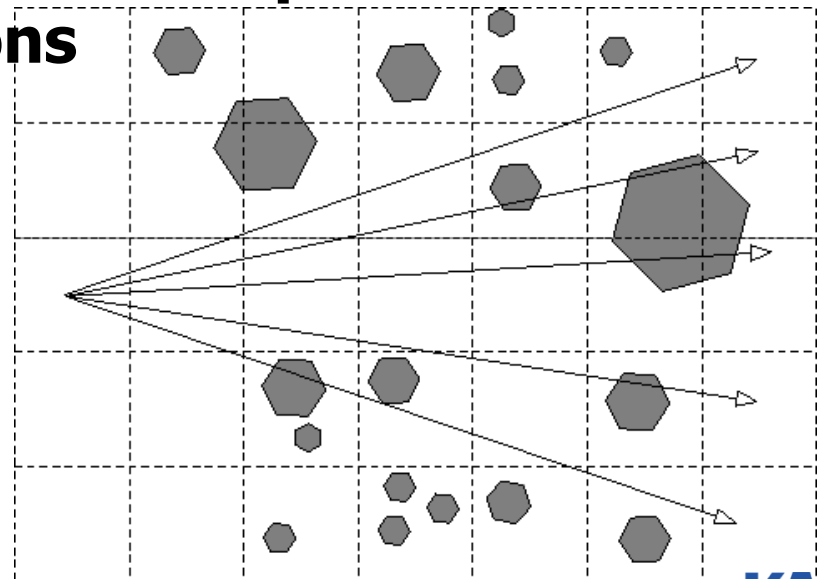
IEEE Interactive Ray Tracing, 2006



Spatial Subdivision

Idea: Divide space in to subregions

- **Place objects within a subregion into a list**
- **Only traverse the lists of subregions that the ray passes through**
- **“Mailboxing” used to avoid multiple test with objects in multiple regions**
- **Many types**
 - Regular grid
 - Octree
 - BSP tree
 - kd-tree



Classic Ray Tracing

- **Gathering approach**
 - From lights, reflected, and refracted directions
- **Pros of ray tracing**
 - Simple and improved realism over the rendering pipeline
- **Cons:**
 - Simple light model, material, and light propagation
 - Not a complete solution
 - Hard to accelerate with special-purpose H/W



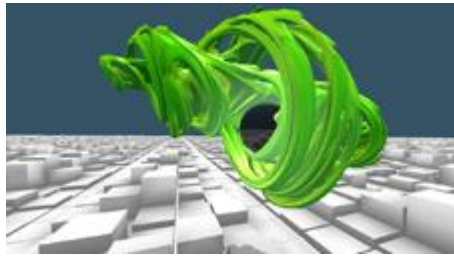
History

- **Problems with classic ray tracing**
 - Not realistic
 - View-dependent
- **Radiosity (1984)**
 - Global illumination in diffuse scenes
- **Monte Carlo ray tracing (1986)**
 - Global illumination for any environment

Interactive Ray Tracing Kernels

- **OptiX, Nvidia**

- Utilize GPU computing architectures and CUDA



- **Embree, Intel**

- Utilize CPUs (multi-threaded and SIMD)



PA1

- **Get to know OptiX or Embree**
 - **Download, and compile either one of those two methods**
 - **Or just use precompiled ones**
 - **Try out a few scenes**
 - **Upload images of those scenes in KLMS**
- **Deadline**
 - **Check the KLMS**
- **Note**
 - **Easy one, but start early**



Homework

- **Go over the next lecture slides before the class**
- **Watch 2 paper (or videos) and submit your summaries every Mon. class**
 - **Just one paragraph for each summary**

Example:

Title: XXX XXXX XXXX

Abstract: this video is about accelerating the performance of ray tracing. To achieve its goal, they design a new technique for reordering rays, since by doing so, they can improve the ray coherence and thus improve the overall performance.

Class Objectives were:

- **Understand a basic ray tracing**
- **Know its acceleration data structure and how to use it**

Next Time

- Radiosity

