



CS 112 - Compositing Techniques

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The Alpha Channel

- In addition to RGB, the fourth alpha channel
- Alpha blending
- Application can control the value of alpha at every pixel

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Compositing Functions

- *Source* a - associated with the triangle
- *Destination* a – associated with a pixel in the frame buffer
- $S = [s_r, s_g, s_b, s_a]$, $D = [d_r, d_g, d_b, d_a]$
- $D' = f_s(s_a, d_a)S + f_d(s_a, d_a)D$
 $= s_a S + (1-s_a)D$ - Transparency

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Transparency

- $D' = s_a S + (1-s_a)D$
- Color of the triangle being rendered is attenuated by s_a
- Color existing in the framebuffer attenuated by $(1-s_a)$
- These colors are added to create the new color in the framebuffer

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Transparency

- $D' = s_a S + (1-s_a)D$
- Opaque triangle has $s_a = 1$
 - Framebuffer gets overwritten
- Transparent triangle has $s_a = 0$
 - Framebuffer remains unchanged
- Translucent triangle has $0 < s_a < 1$
 - Color gets blended

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Transparency



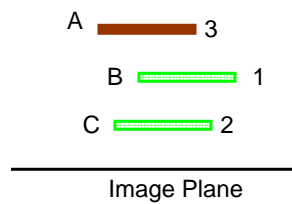
Chicken = 1, Egg = 0 Chicken = 0.5, Egg = 0.5 Chicken = 0, Egg = 1

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Problems

- Will show only A - Wrong

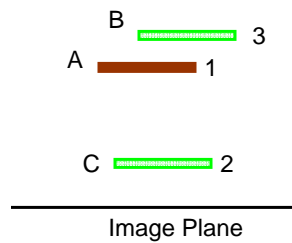


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Problems

- Will have contribution from B – Wrong
- Depends on the order of rendering



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How to solve this?

- Order triangles back to front and render
- Order-dependent rendering
 - Very Expensive

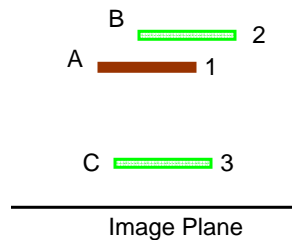


Optimizations

- Render opaque objects first (occlusion resolved)
- Order translucent objects back to front
- Render them back to front

Problems

- This does not solve this problem



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Optimizations

- Render opaque objects first (occlusion resolved)
- Set z-buffer to read only
 - Retains the depth of opaque objects only
- Order translucent objects back to front
- Render them back to front
 - Only if they pass the z-buffer test
 - Only if no opaque objects are in-front of it

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Results



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Accumulation Buffer

- Compositing images in framebuffer
- Limited color resolution
- Clamping and washed out appearance
- Accumulation buffer – floating point colors
 - Higher *color* resolution
- Do weighted accumulation
 - Transfer the result to framebuffer
 - Greater *color* precision

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Anti-aliasing

- Say we have a frame buffer of 100x100
- And our scene has frequencies till 100 Hz
- Approach
 - Render the scene in a 200x200 framebuffer
 - Sufficient sampling and hence no artifacts
 - Filter it to 100x100 to remove the higher frequencies
 - Suitable for 100x100 and hence **anti-aliased**

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Anti-aliasing

- Say we have a frame buffer of 100x100
- And our scene has frequencies till 100 Hz
- Approach
 - **Super-sample** the scene at a higher resolution
 - **Filter** it to a lower resolution
- How to achieve this if your framebuffer has a limited *spatial* resolution?
 - Say, cannot have a framebuffer of more than 100x100 resolution

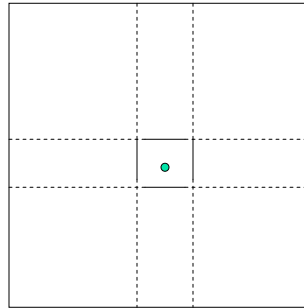
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Use Accumulation buffer

- Each pixel generated is a point sample of the scene
- Rendering is a process of generating the point samples



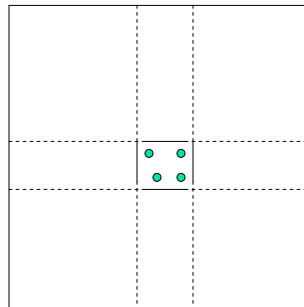
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Use Accumulation buffer

- If we can generate more than one sample per pixel
- Average the samples
- Same effect



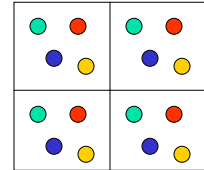
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Jittering the view point

- Jitter the view point
- The projected screen coordinate jitter should be less than a pixel
- Keep accumulating with appropriate weight
- Can achieve the effect with a low *spatial* resolution accumulation buffer



$\frac{1}{4}$ of green + $\frac{1}{4}$ of red
+ $\frac{1}{4}$ of blue + $\frac{1}{4}$ of orange