

GDC



GDC

DirectX Raytracing

Matt Sandy
Program Manager
DirectX

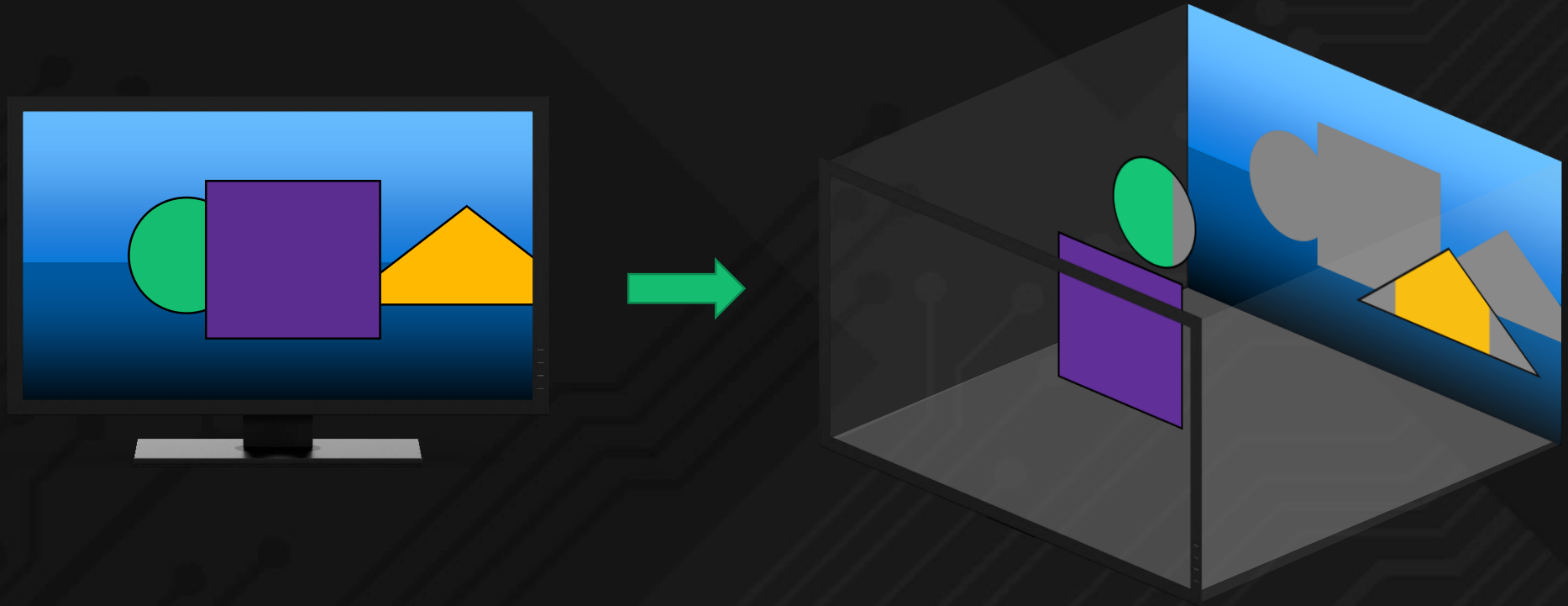


Agenda

- Why Raytracing?
- DXR Deep Dive
- Tools & Helpers
- Applied Raytracing (EA/SEED)
- Get Started

3D Graphics is a Lie

- Solving the Visibility Problem



Emergence of Exceptions

- Dynamic Shadows
- Environment Mapping
- Reflections
- Global Illumination

A Brief History of Pixels

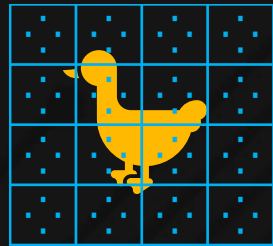
- 1999 – Hardware T&L
- 2000 – Simple Programmable Shaders
- 2002 – Complex Programmable Shaders
- 2008 – Compute Shaders
- 2014 – Asynchronous Compute
- 2018...

A Brief History of Pixels

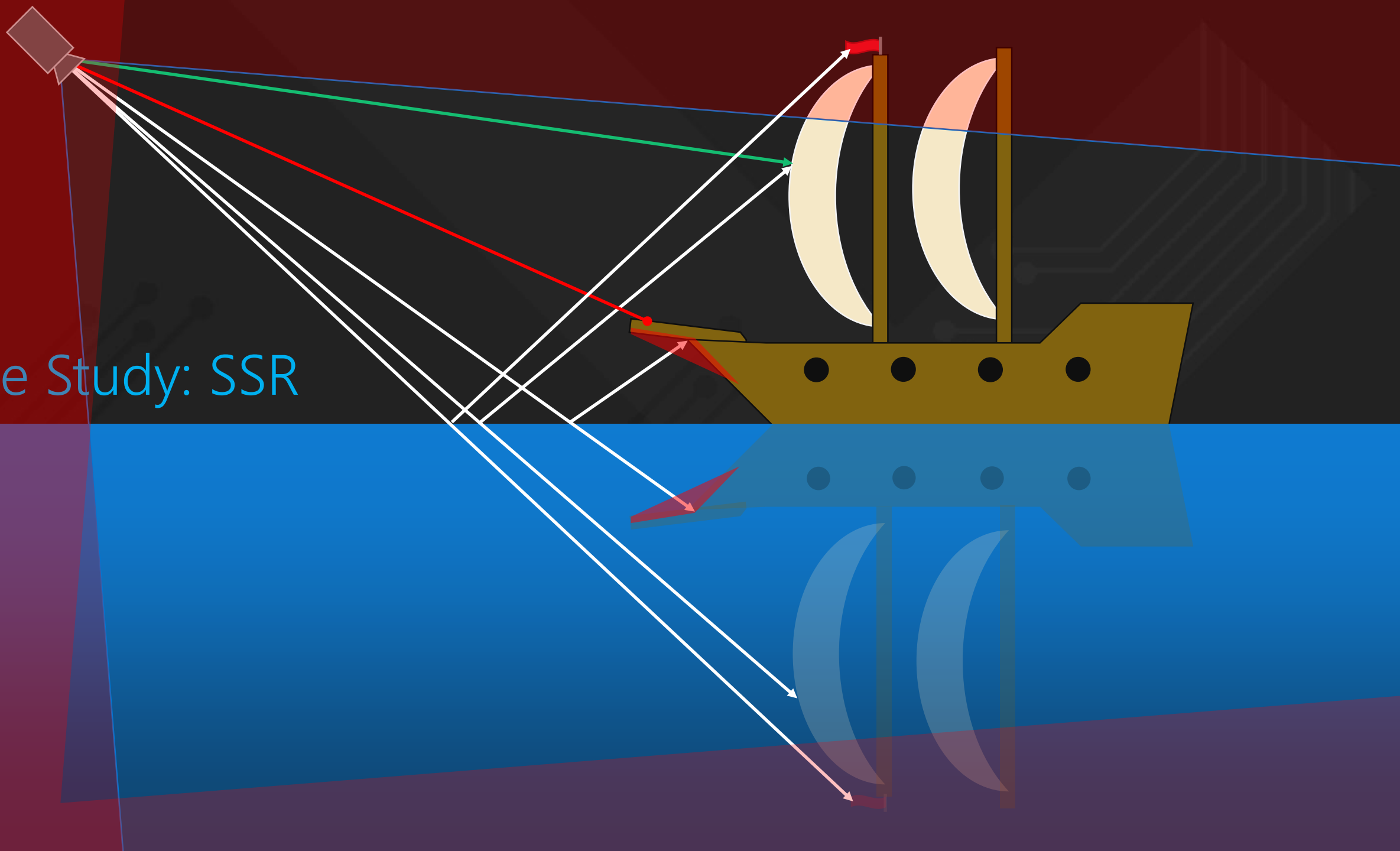
- 1999 – Hardware T&L
- 2000 – Simple Programmable Shaders
- 2002 – Complex Programmable Shaders
- 2008 – Compute Shaders
- 2014 – Asynchronous Compute
- 2018 – **DirectX Raytracing**

Raytracing 101

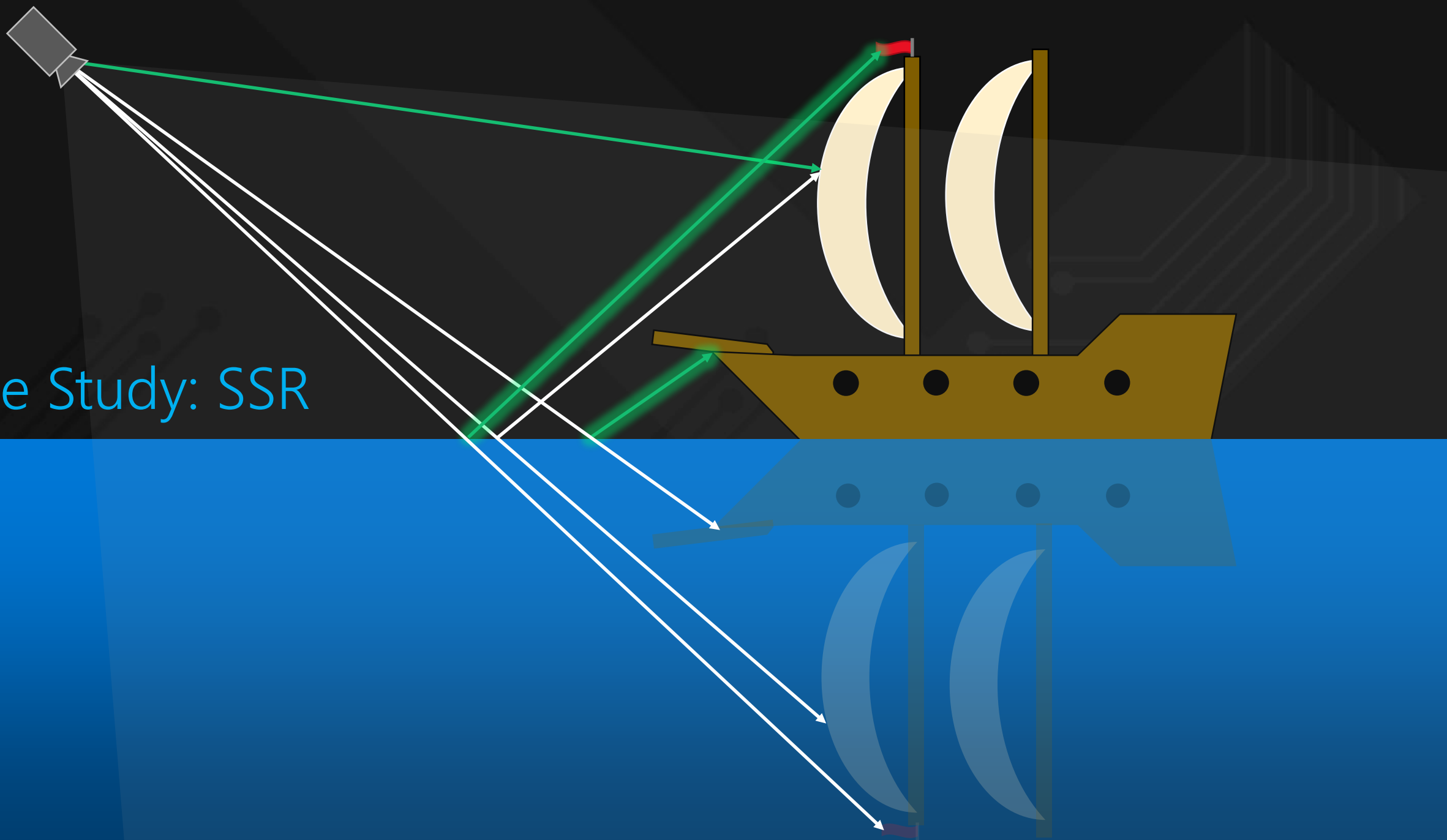
1. Construct a 3D representation of a scene.
2. Trace rays into the scene from a point of interest (e.g. camera).
3. Accumulate data about ray intersections.
4. Optional: go to step 2.
5. Process the accumulated data to form an image.



Case Study: SSR

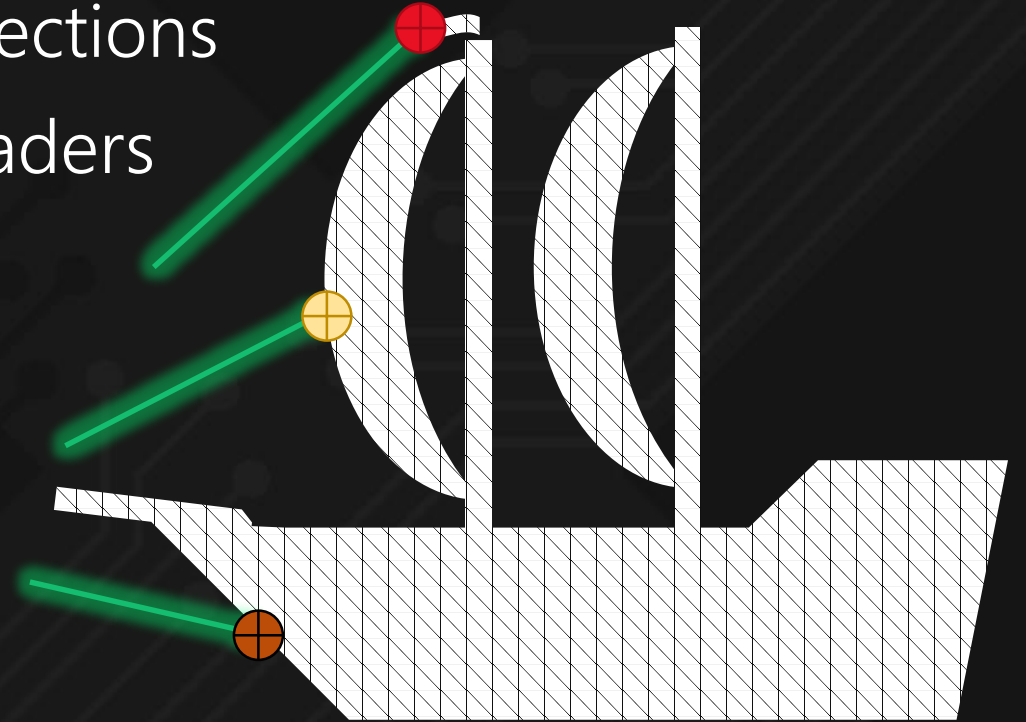


Case Study: SSR



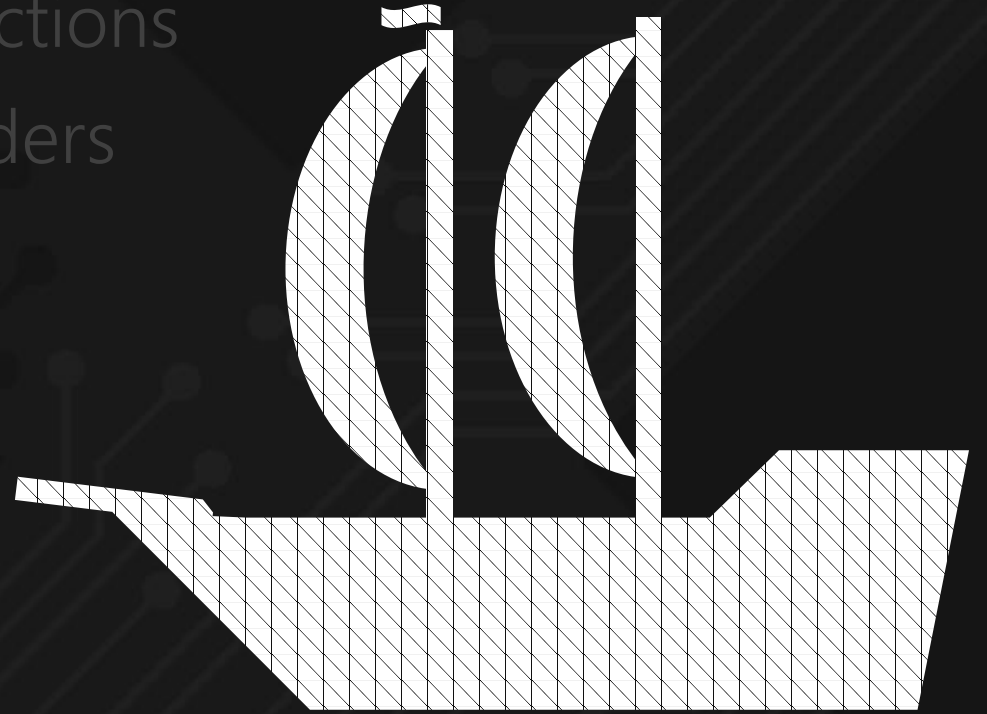
Raytracing Requirements

- Scene geometry representation
- Trace rays into scene and get intersections
- Determine and execute material shaders



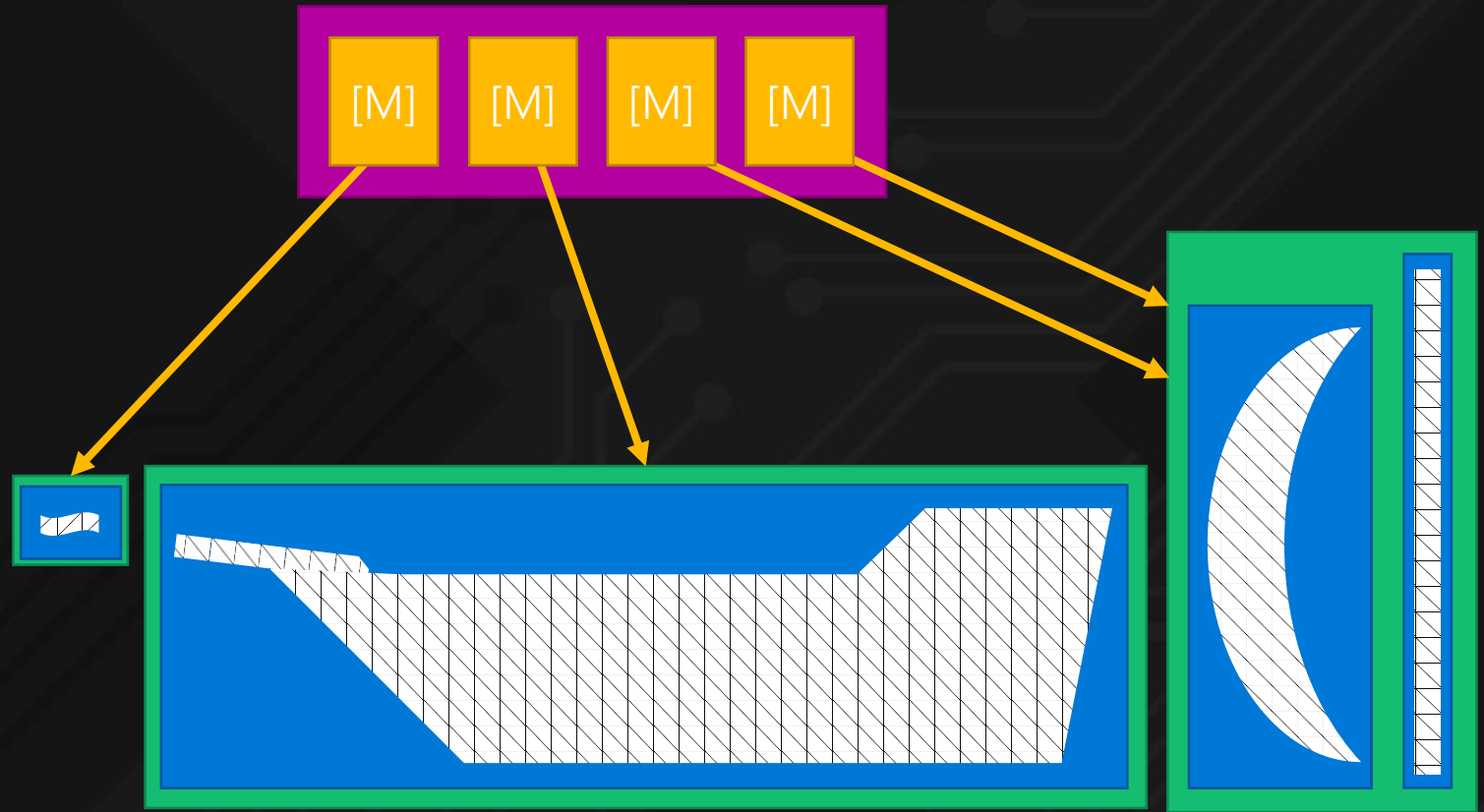
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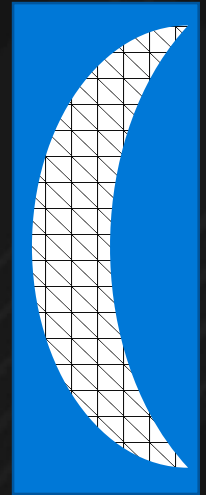
Acceleration Structures

- Opaque buffers that represent a scene
- Constructed on the GPU
- Two-level hierarchy



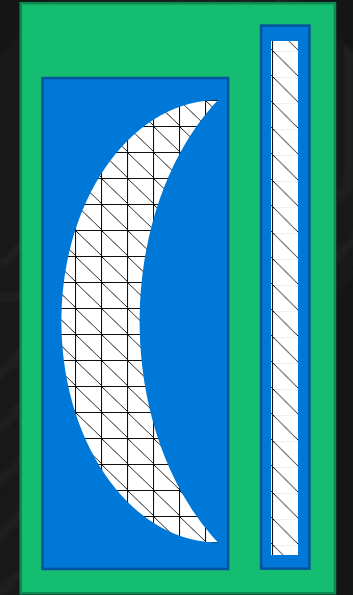
Geometries

- Triangles
 - Vertex Buffer (float16x3 or float32x3)
 - Index Buffer (uint16 or uint32)
 - Transformation matrix
- Programmable Geometry
 - Defined using shader code
 - Specify enclosing AABBs



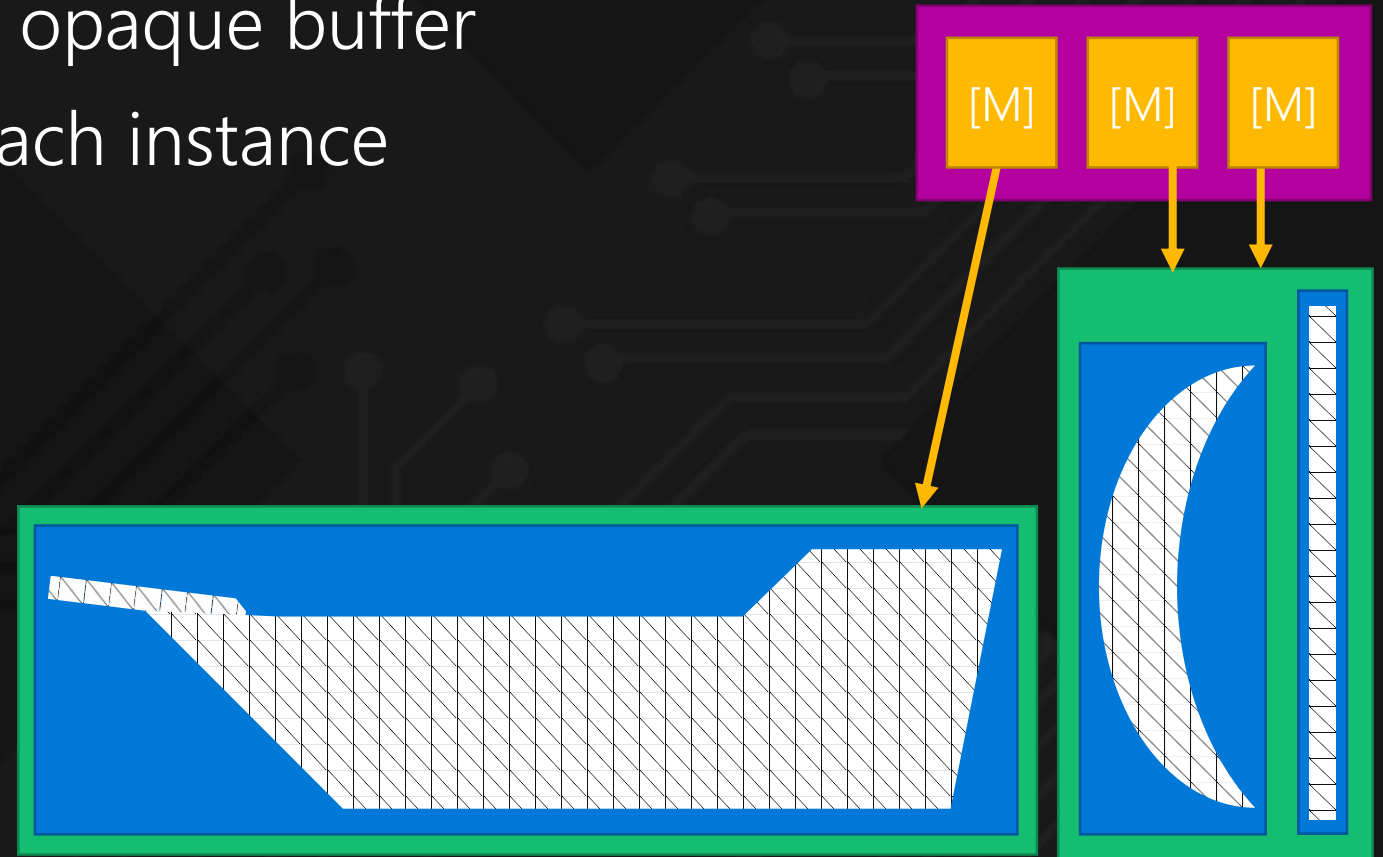
Bottom-Level Acceleration Structure

- Defined by a set of geometries
- Built on the GPU, written to opaque buffer



Top-Level Acceleration Structures

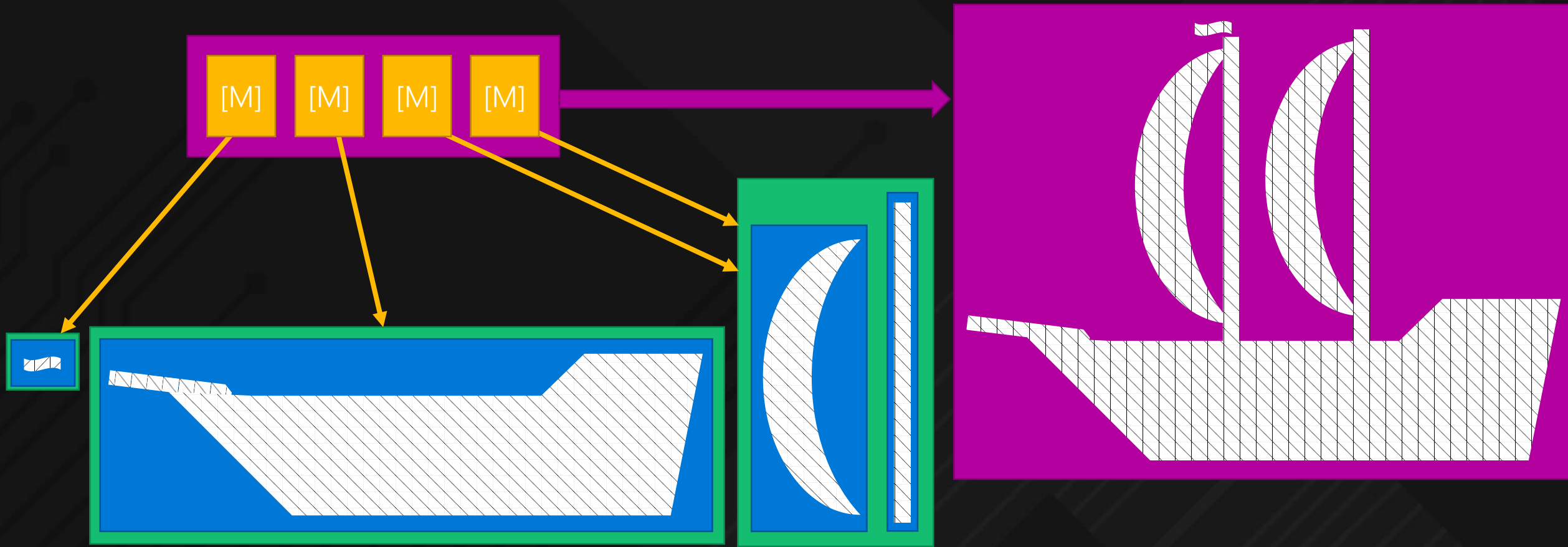
- Defined by a set of instances of bottom-level structures
- Built on the GPU, written to opaque buffer
- Transformation matrix for each instance



Acceleration Structure Details

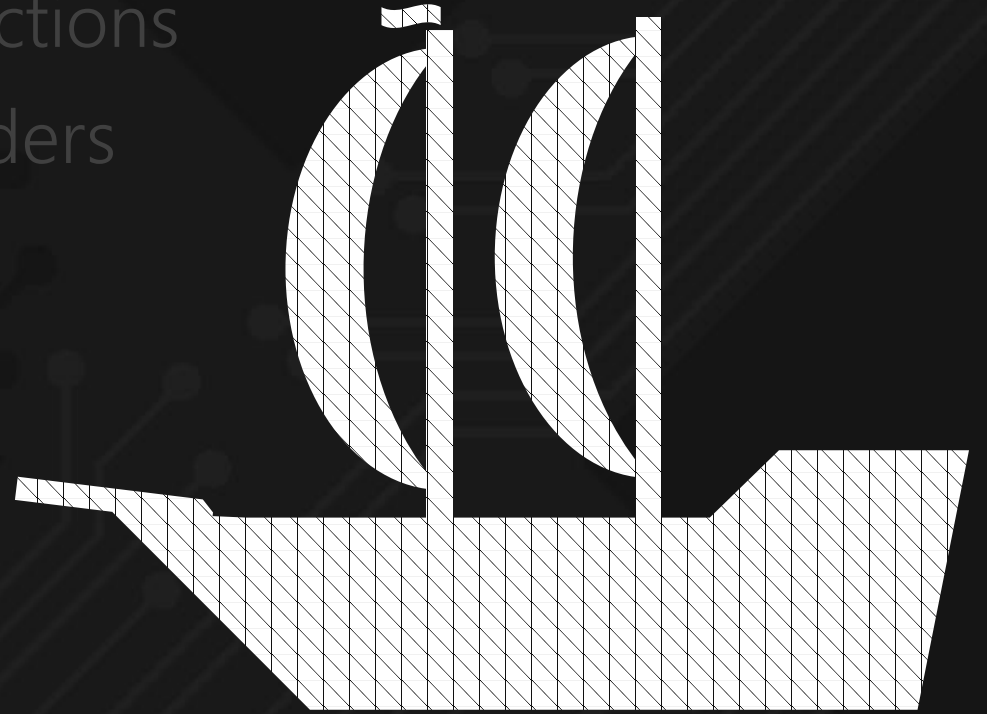
- Prebuild info
 - Query driver for allocation requirements
 - Returns conservative result and scratch sizes required
- Postbuild info available
 - Query compacted size for reallocation
- Updates supported
 - Incrementally update top/bottom level structs
 - Can do async full rebuild when drifting too far

Acceleration Structure Recap



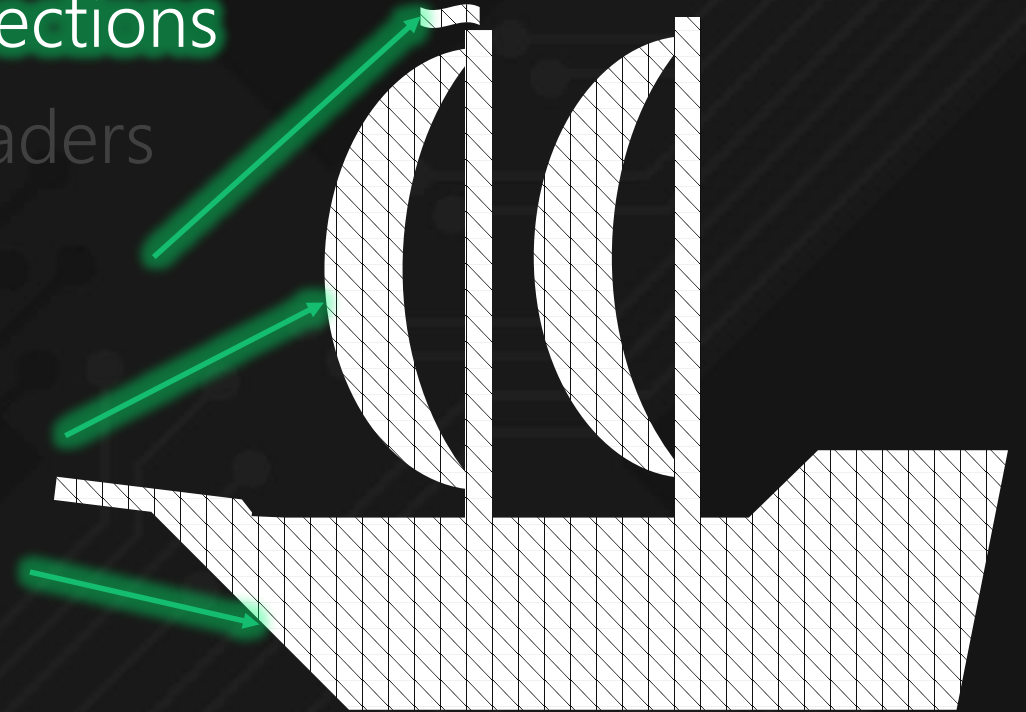
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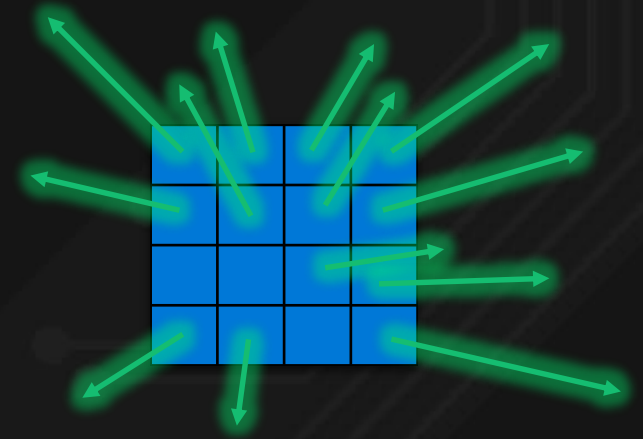
Raytracing Requirements

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Ray Generation Shader

- Invoked via `CommandList::DispatchRays()`
 - Specify 2D grid of threads
- Emit any number of rays per thread
 - Use `TraceRay` intrinsic
- Write traversal results to UAVs



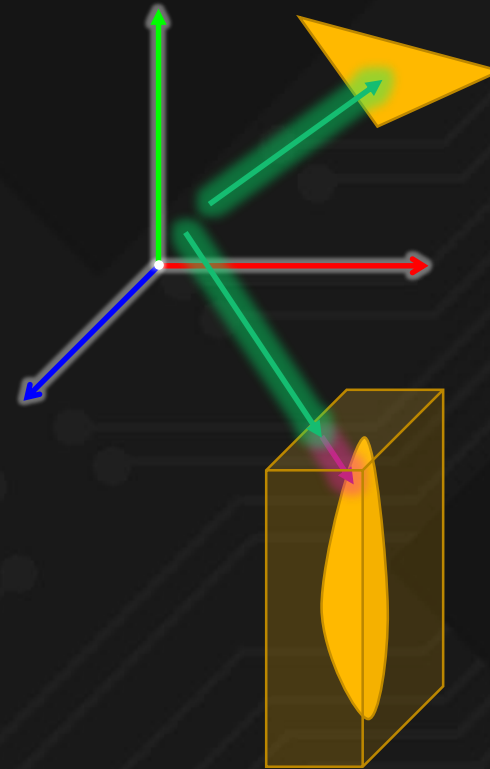
TraceRay Intrinsic

- Origin
- Direction
- TMin/TMax
- App-defined "payload"



Determining Intersections

- Triangle Geometry
 - Determination: Automatic
 - Attributes: Barycentrics
- Programmable Geometry
 - Determination: Intersection Shaders
 - Attributes: Application-defined

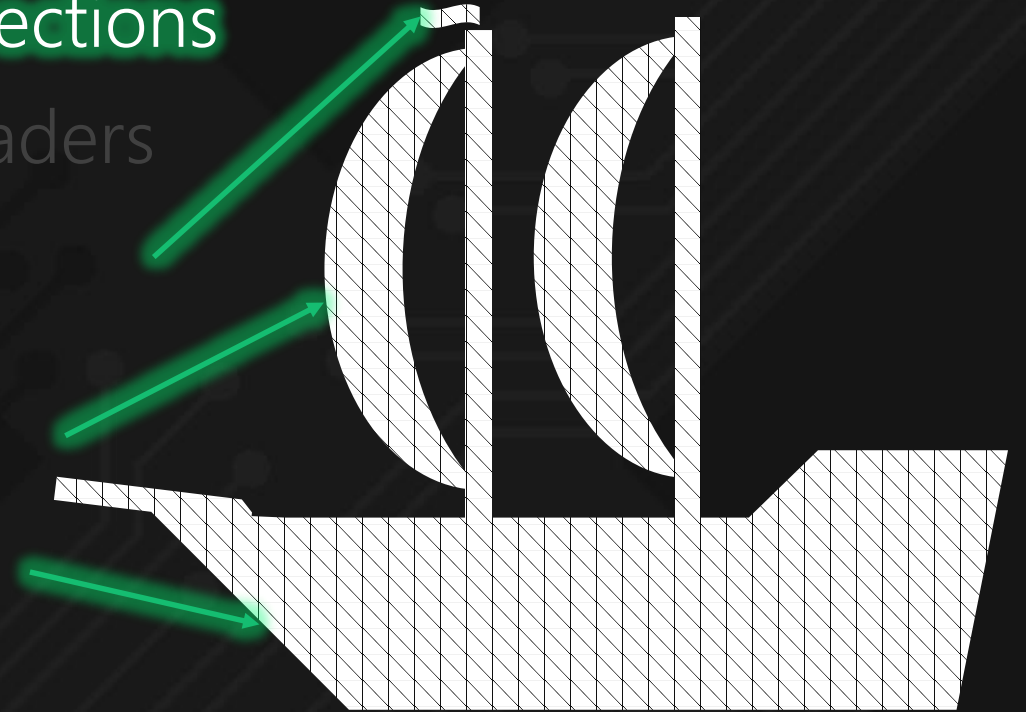


DXC / DXIL

- Everything new requires the DXIL compiler
 - ✓ dxc.exe / dxcompiler.dll
 - ✗ fxc.exe / d3dcompiler_47.dll
- Get it here: <http://aka.ms/HLSL>
 - For DXR, use the pre-built binary in the experimental SDK

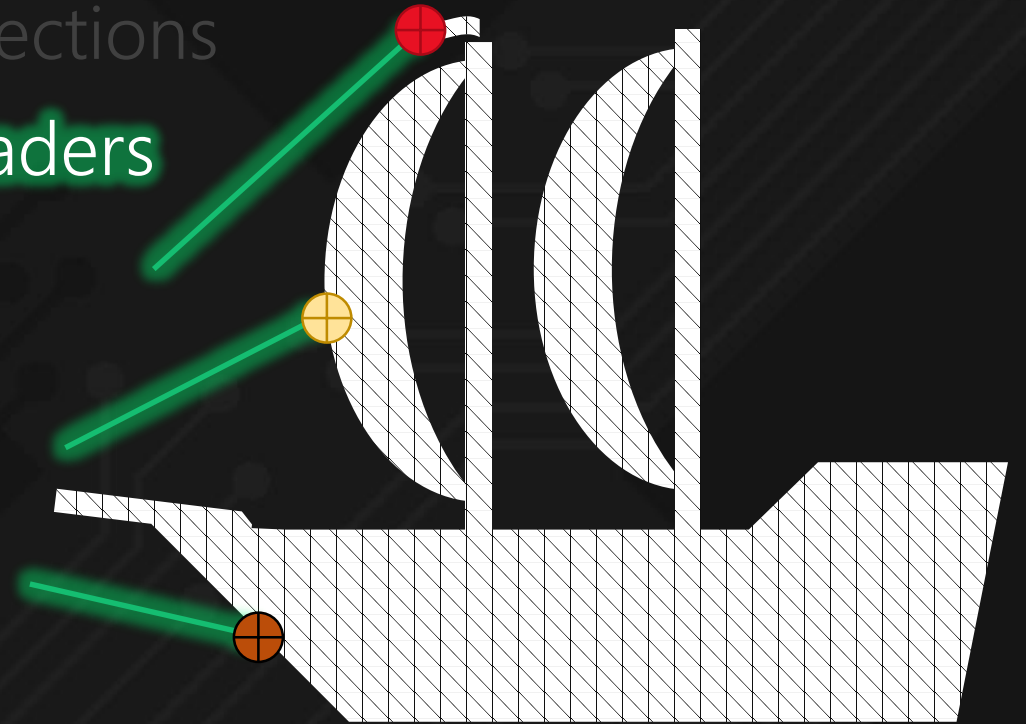
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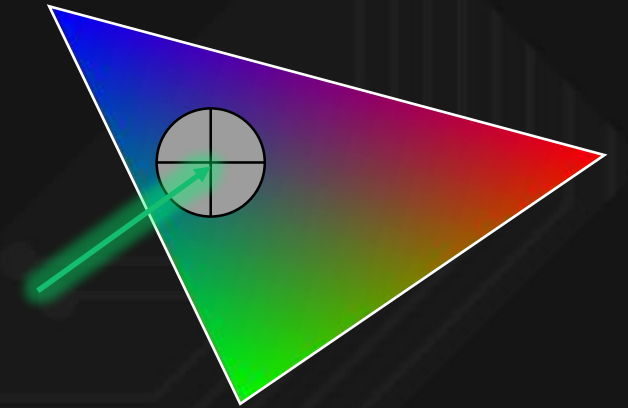
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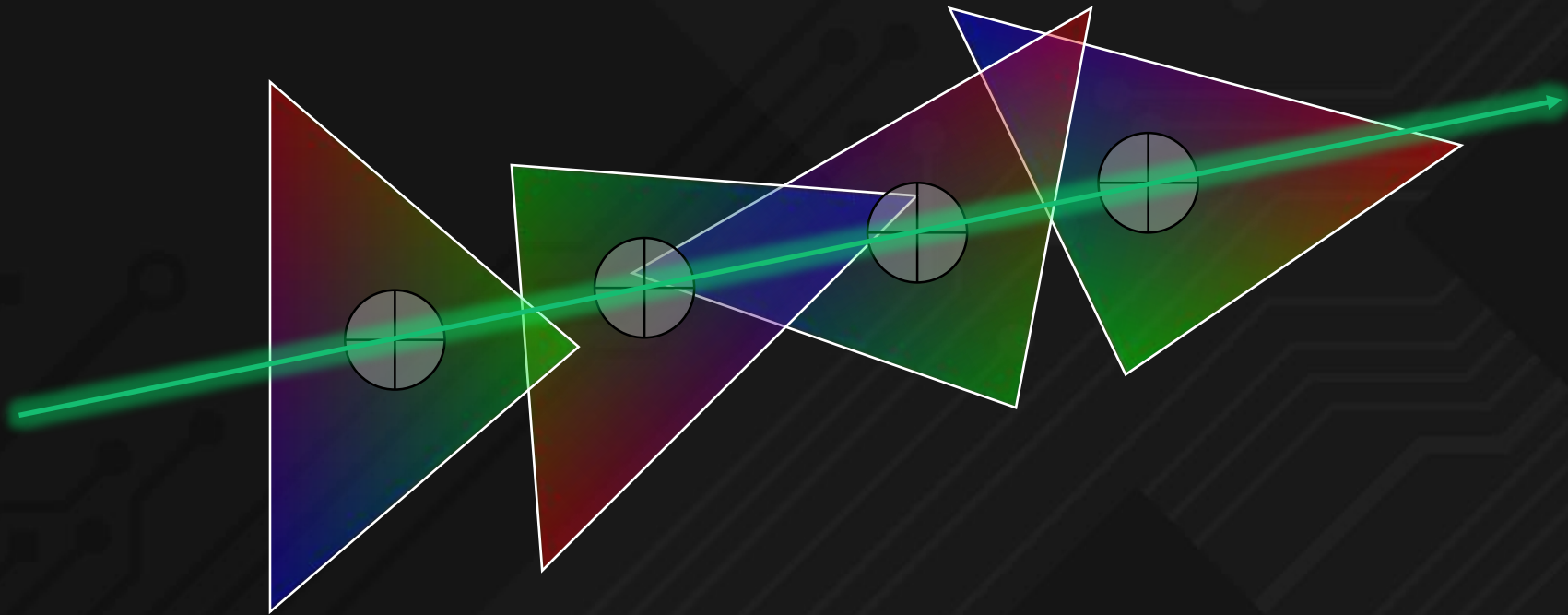
Hit Shaders

- Invoked at geometry intersection points
- Access to intersection attributes (tri: barycentrics)
- Read/write access to app-defined ray payload
- Call TraceRay() for recursive traversal



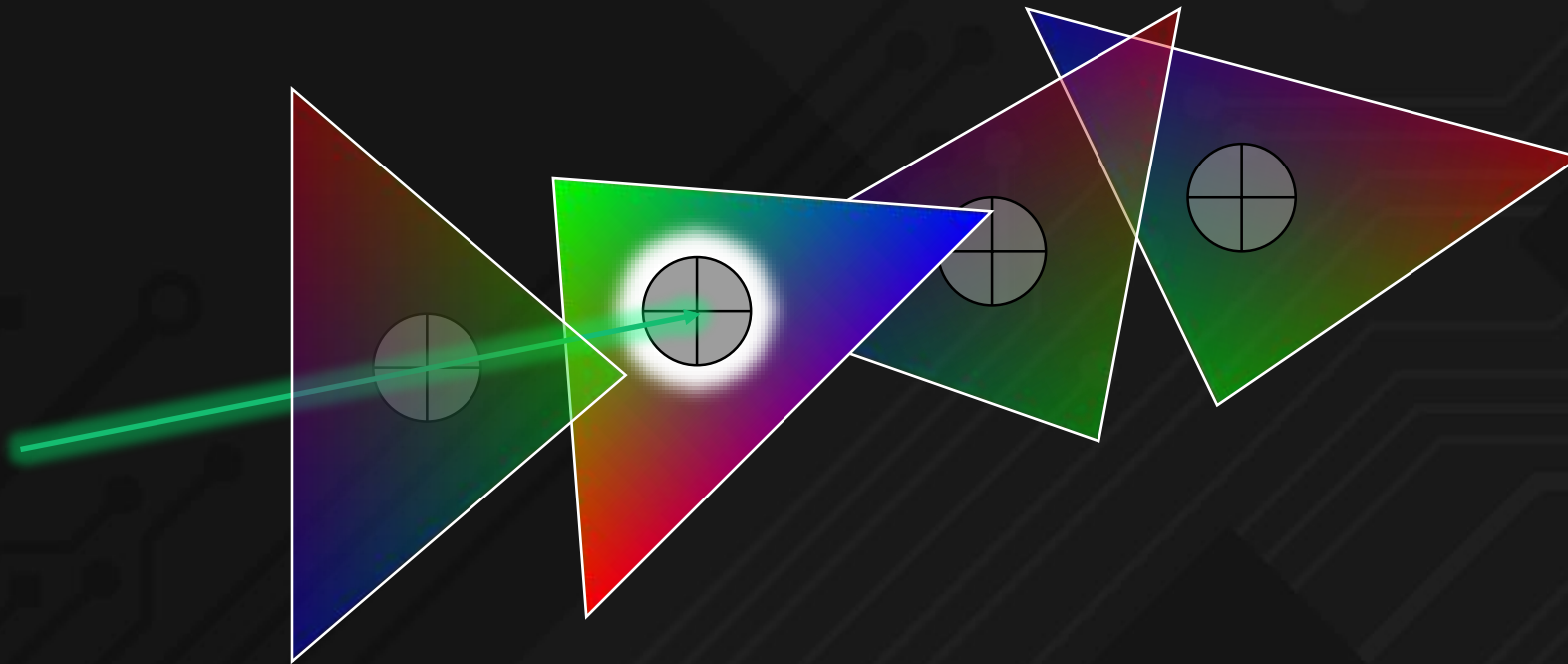
Any-Hit Shaders

- Invoked for all intersections along ray path
- Read attributes, modify ray payload for subsequent hit shaders
- May call IgnoreHit() / AcceptHitAndEndSearch()



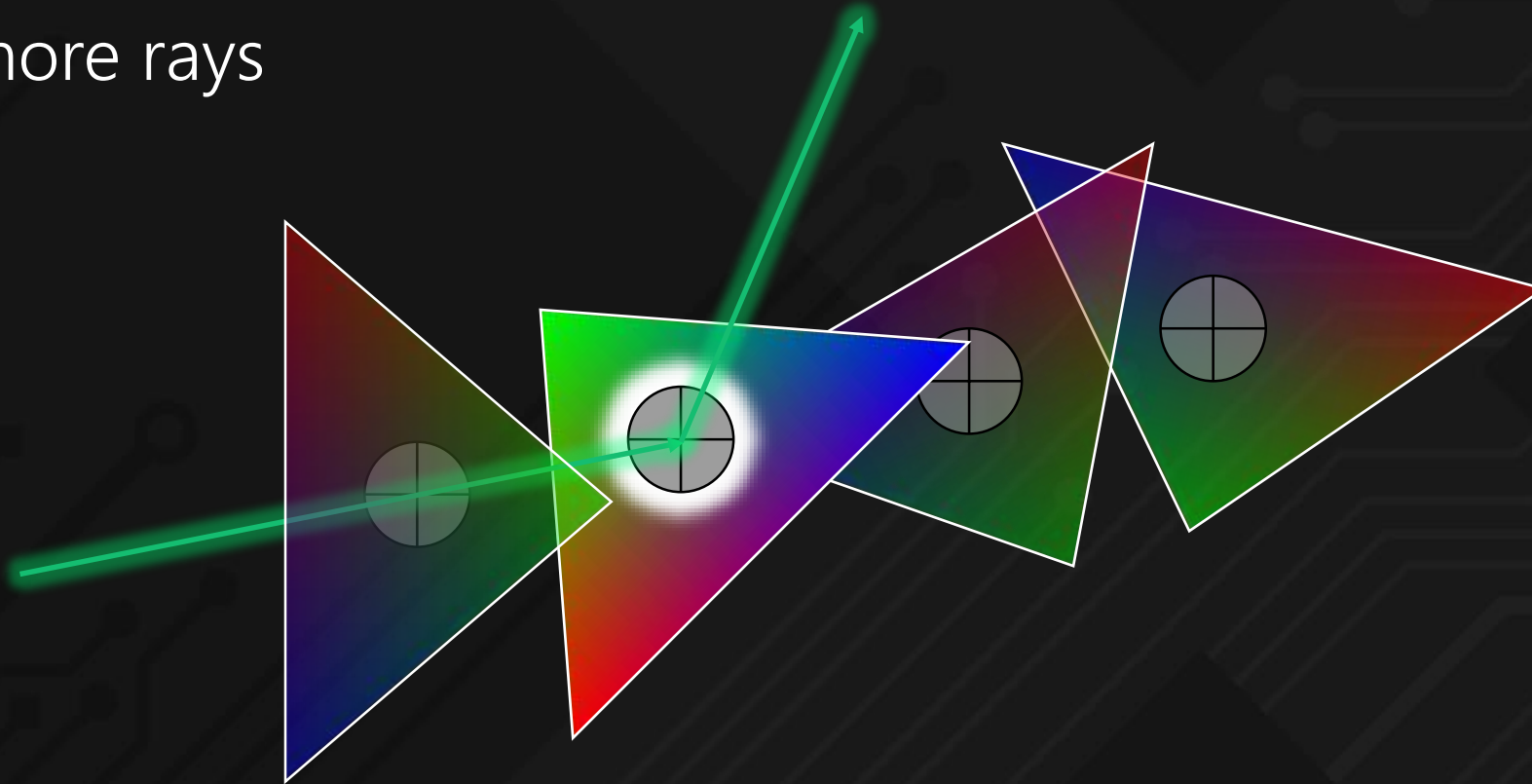
Closest-Hit Shaders

- Invoked for closest accepted intersection along ray path
- Read attributes, modify ray payload for TraceRay() caller



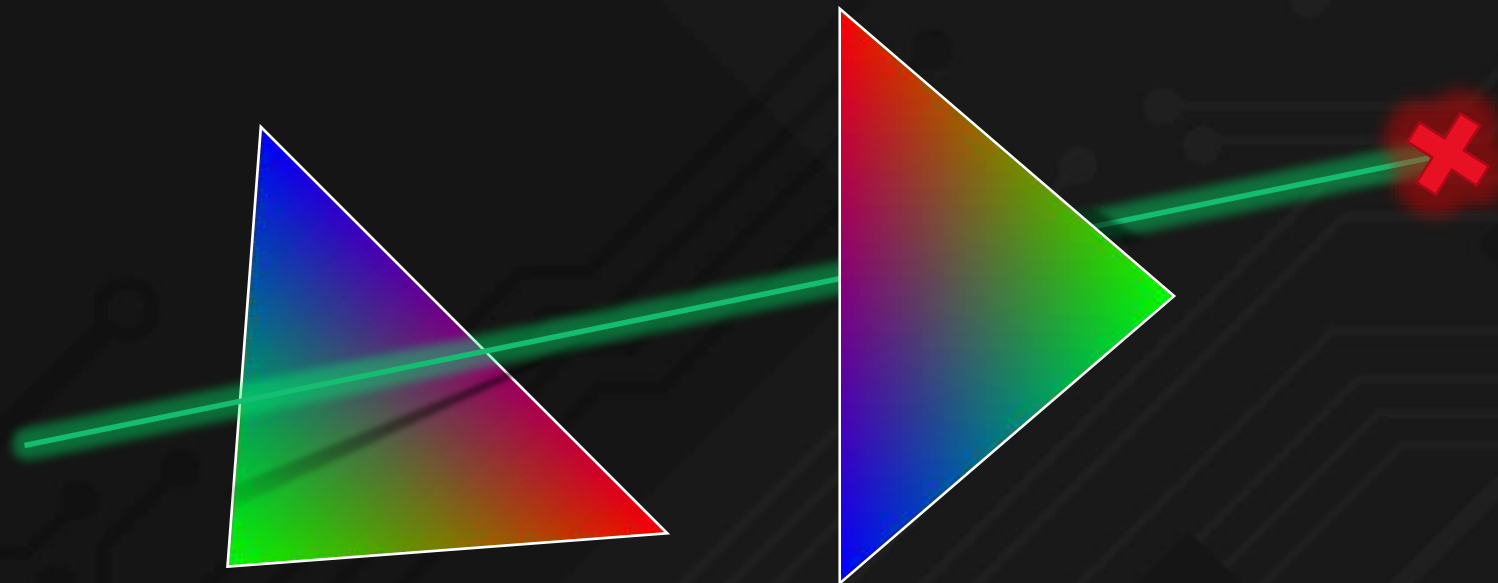
Closest-Hit Shaders

- Invoked for closest accepted intersections along ray path
- Read attributes, modify ray payload for TraceRay() caller
- Trace more rays



Miss Shader

- Invoked for rays with no accepted hits through TMax
- May trace more rays (e.g. into lower-LOD acceleration structure)
- Return transparent-black, sample skybox, etc.



Which Shaders to Run?

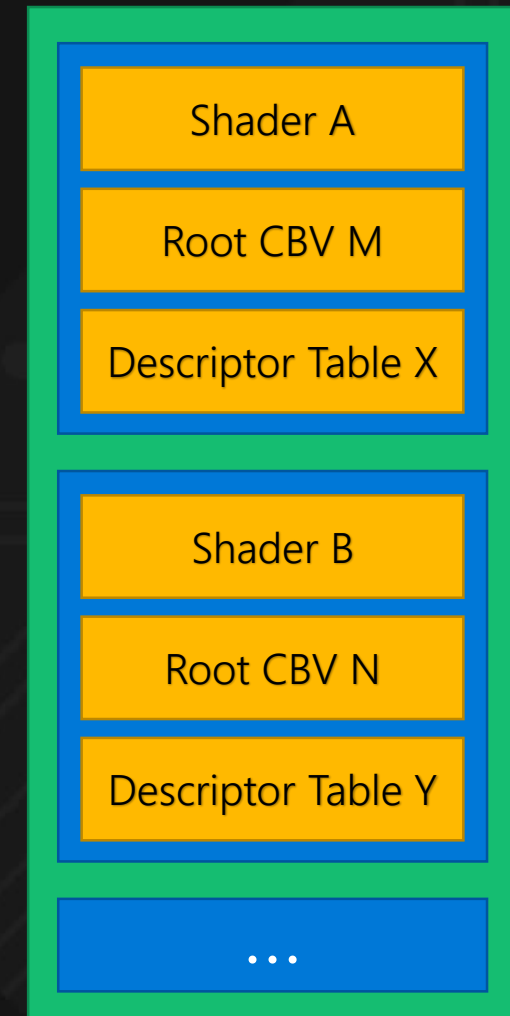
- Rays can intersect any geometry, need any shader, any resource
- ✓ Bindless resources (arbitrarily indexable table)
- ? Bindless shaders

Which Shaders to Run?

- Rays can intersect any geometry, need any shader, any resource
- ✓ Bindless resources (arbitrarily indexable table)
- ✓ Bindless shaders: **shader tables**

Shader Tables

- GPU buffer of “**shader records**”
 - Shader ID
 - Root arguments
- Flexible indexing in DXR
 - Instance properties
 - DispatchRays arguments
 - TraceRay arguments
- Shader IDs acquired from “**state objects**”



State Objects (PSOs v2)

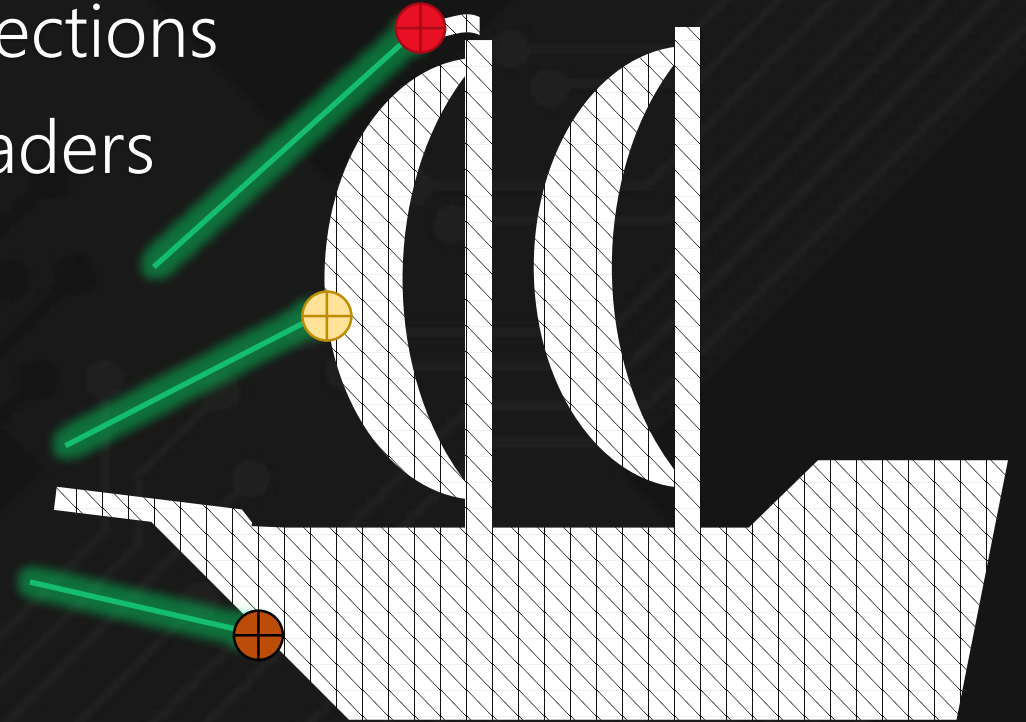
- Set of shaders and root signatures
- Associate root signatures with DXIL library exports
- Create pipeline-specific sub-objects and associations
- Flexibility to support future pipelines
- **State Object Properties** interface for post-compile information

Raytracing State Objects

- Configure maximum ray recursion depth
- Configure ray payload and attribute size
- Create “**hit groups**” from individual shaders
 - 0/1 intersection shader
 - 0/1 any-hit shader
 - 0/1 closest-hit shader
- Use state object properties interface to get:
 - Ray generation shader IDs
 - Miss shader IDs
 - Hit group IDs

Raytracing Requirements

- ✓ Scene geometry representation
- ✓ Trace rays into scene and get intersections
- ✓ Determine and execute material shaders



Putting it All Together

- Create state objects with set of potential material shaders
- Create top/bottom level acceleration structures
- Create shader tables with hit groups / root parameters
- Call DispatchRays
 - Invoke ray-generation shader, call TraceRay()
 - Execute hit shaders, write results into a UAV
- Incorporate UAV results into final scene render

Tools

- PIX support available now
 - See also: Direct3D Graphics Debugging and Optimization
 - Thursday 12:45 PM, Room 2009, West Hall (this room)
- Fallback layer
 - Open-source reference implementation
 - Compute shader based (requires DXIL support)
- VS/PS → Hit Group conversion
 - Reuse existing shader content
- Raytracing helper header
 - Very useful for building state objects

Events

Graphics Queue 0 (m_commandQueue) Aa .* !G Filter (Ctrl+E) Collect Timing Data Counters

Queue ID	Name	Global ID
3,232	ClearUnorderedAccessViewFloat(..., res#6, obj#40, ..., 0,)	2,058
3,233	DispatchRays(obj#1154, ...) {this->ID3D12CommandListR	2,059
3,234	ResourceBarrier(2, ...) {this->ID3D12GraphicsCommandL	2,060

State Event Details Resource Table API Object Table

All Filter (Ctrl+E)

Name	Value
Hit Group	HitGroup
Any Hit	AnyHitMain
Closest Hit	ClosestHitMain

Pipeline Filter (Ctrl+E) Global ID = 2059 Open a view pinned to Resource (id = 13). Refresh Show Resource History

RayGenMain

CBV 0 : SceneConstantBuffer
SRV 5 : scene
UAV Texture 1 : m_rtOutput : f

HitGroup (Record 0)

CBV 0 : SceneConstantBuffer
SRV Texture 0 : m_shadowTex
SRV Texture 1 : m_textures[0]
SRV Texture 2 : m_textures[1]
SRV Buffer 3 : m_indexBuffer :
SRV Buffer 4 : m_vertexBuffer
Static Sampler 0 : sampleWra
Static Sampler 1 : sampleClarr

HitGroup (Record 1)

CBV 0 : SceneConstantBuffer
SRV Texture 0 : m_shadowTex
SRV Texture 1 : m_textures[2]
SRV Texture 2 : m_textures[3]
SRV Buffer 3 : m_indexBuffer :
SRV Buffer 4 : m_vertexBuffer
Static Sampler 0 : sampleWra
Static Sampler 1 : sampleClarr

HitGroup (Record 2)

CBV 0 : SceneConstantBuffer
SRV Texture 0 : m_shadowTex
SRV Texture 1 : m_textures[2]
SRV Texture 2 : m_textures[3]
SRV Buffer 3 : m_indexBuffer :
SRV Buffer 4 : m_vertexBuffer
Static Sampler 0 : sampleWra
Static Sampler 1 : sampleClarr

HitGroup (Record 3)

Stream: 0 Offset: 0 Format: R32G32B32_FLOAT Ignore W channel Reset Position Parameters

Primitive=TRIANGLELIST, IndexCount=764211

Events

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State Object Trees

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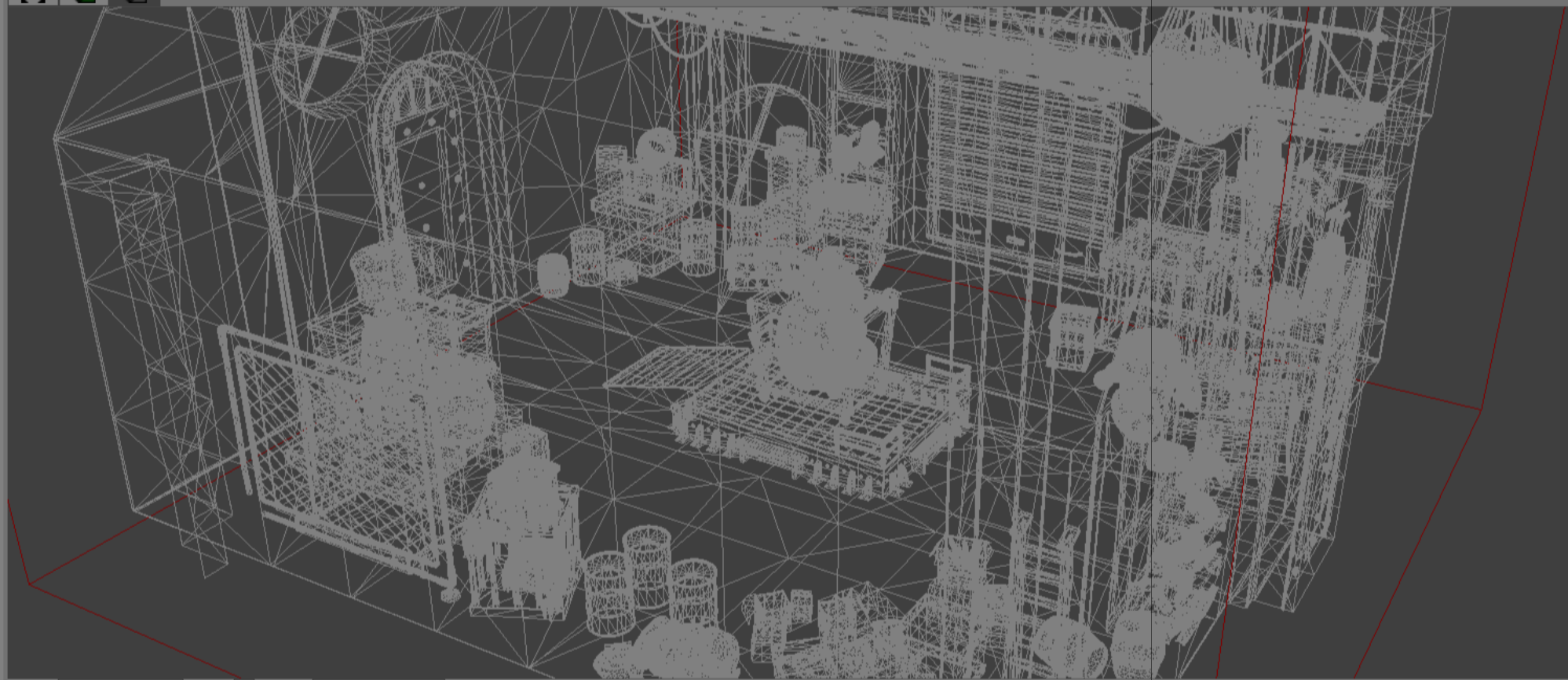
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HitGroup (Record 0)

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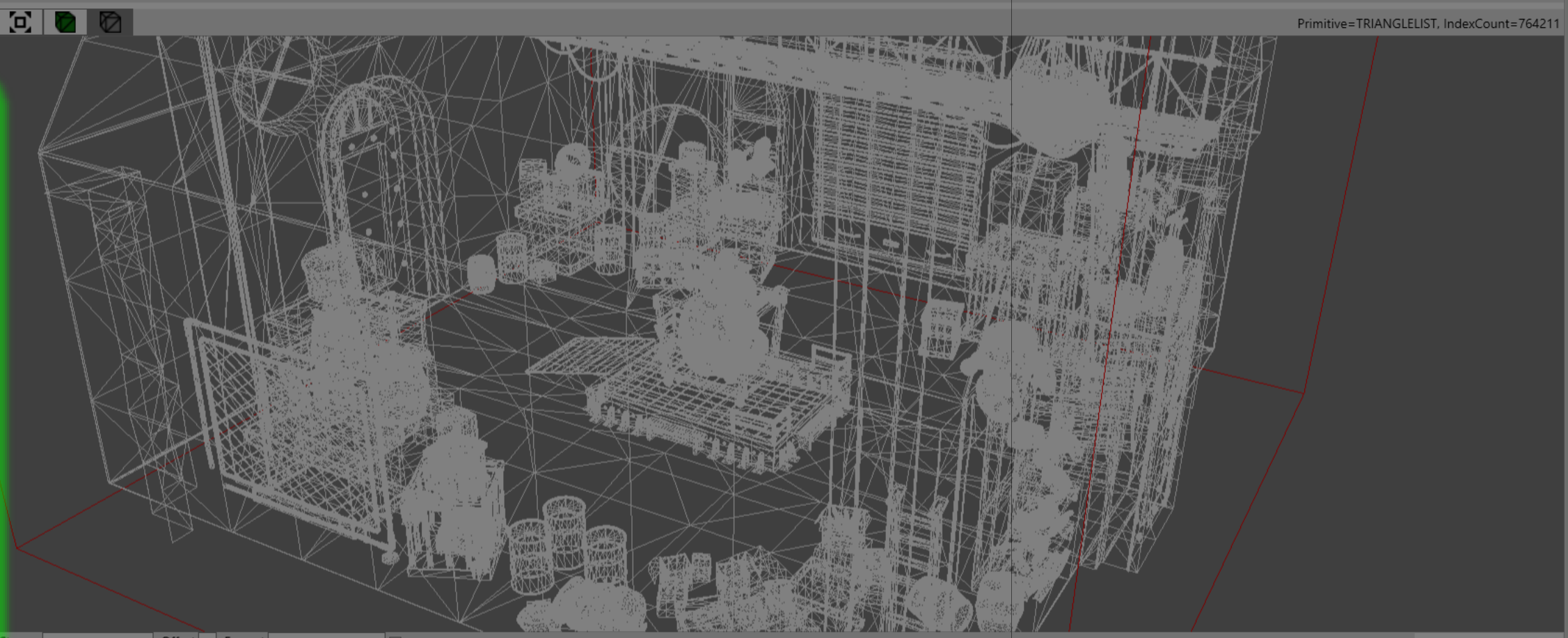
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HitGroup (Record 3)

Shader Tables



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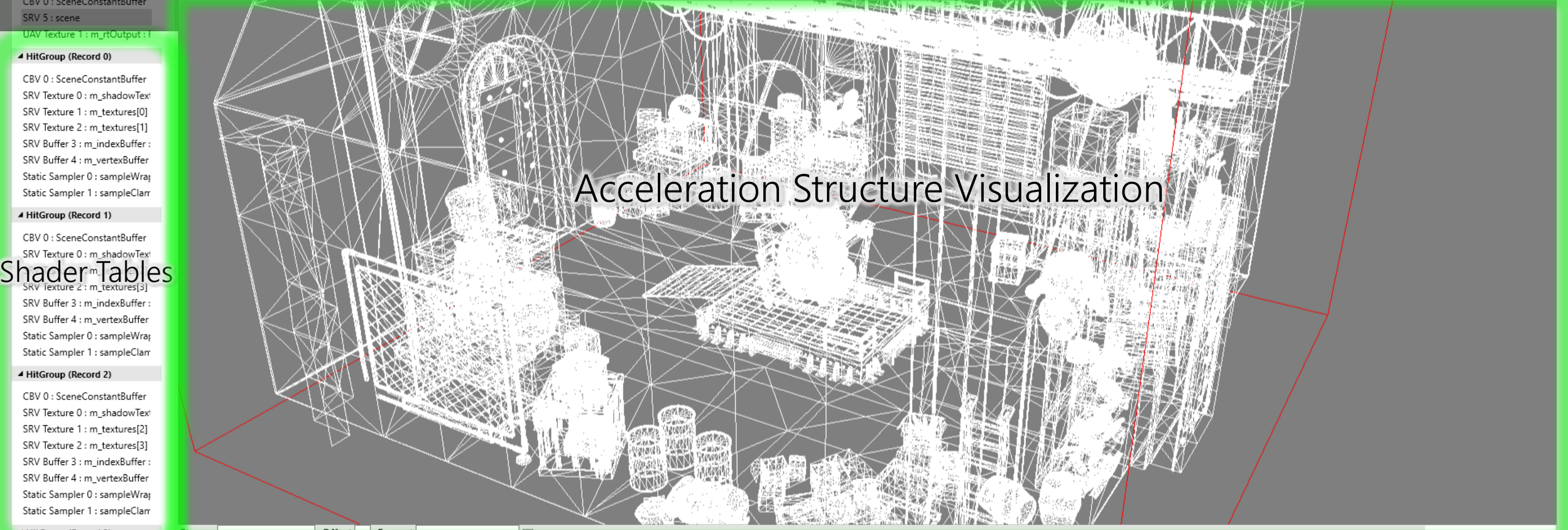
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Acceleration Structure Visualization

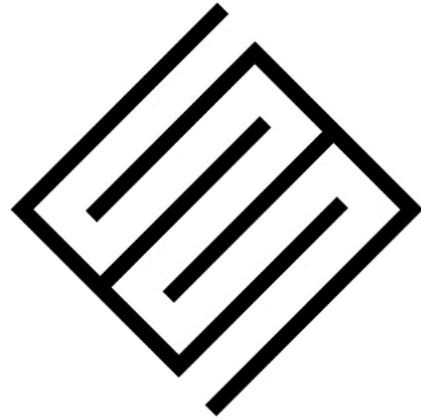
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- HitGroup (Record 2)
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- HitGroup (Record 3)



DirectX: Evolving Microsoft's Graphics Platform

Johan Andersson & Colin Barré-Brisebois
Electronic Arts

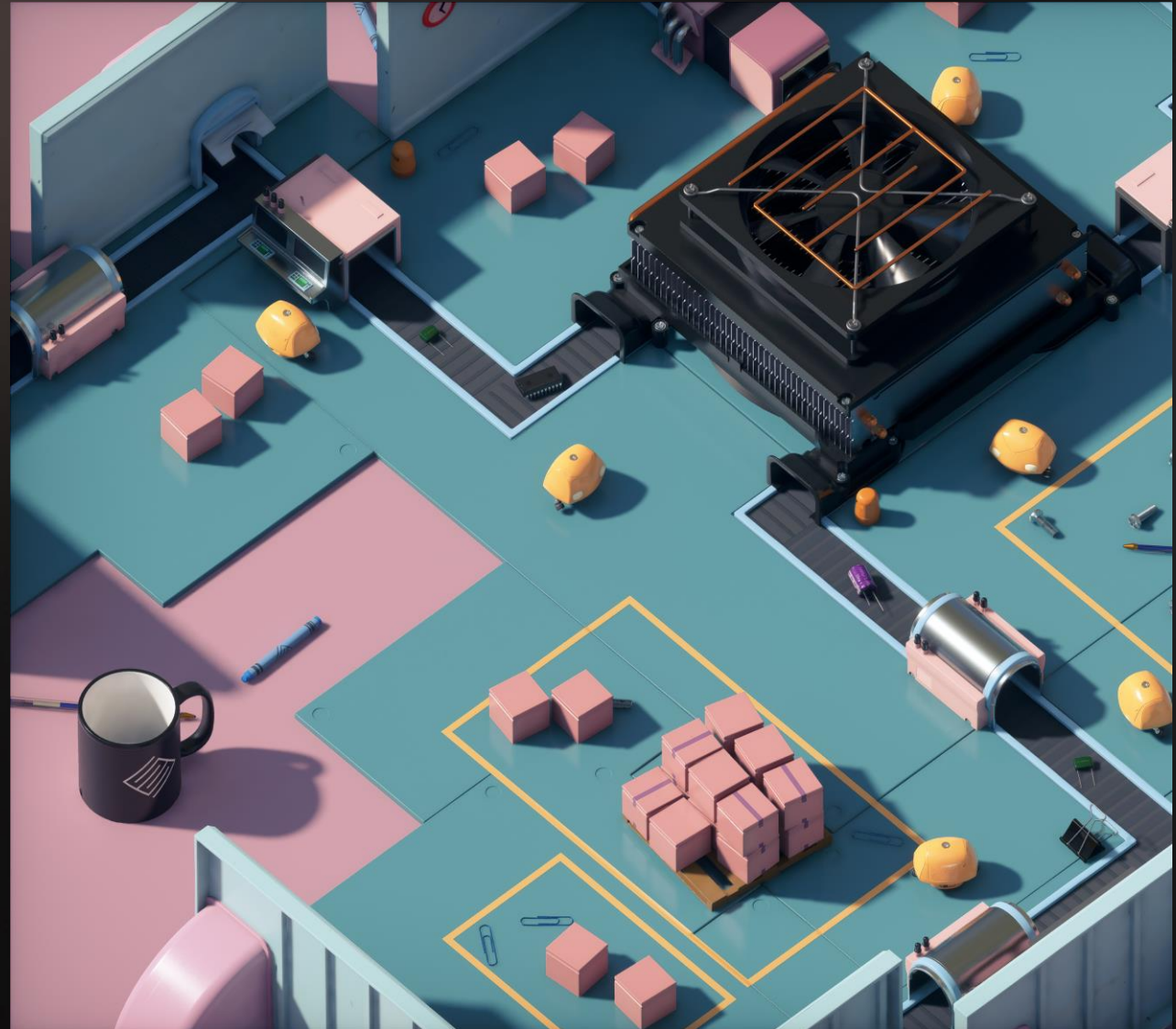


SEED

“PICA PICA”

Exploratory mini-game & world

- For our self-learning AI agents to play, not for humans 😊
- Uses SEED's *Halcyon* R&D engine
- Goals
 - Explore hybrid raytracing with DXR
 - Clean and consistent visuals
 - Procedurally-generated worlds
 - No precomputation

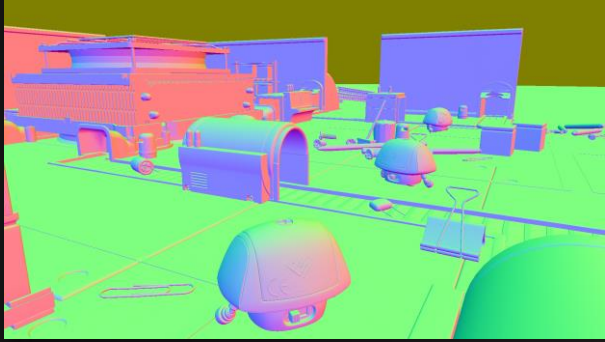


Why raytracing?

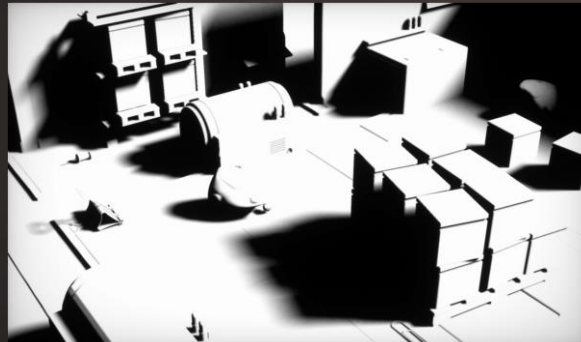
- Flexible new tool in the toolbox
- Solve sparse & incoherent problems
- Unified API + performance (DXR + RTX)
- Simple high quality - easy ground truth



Hybrid Rendering Pipeline



Deferred shading (**raster**)



Direct shadows
(**raytrace** or **raster**)



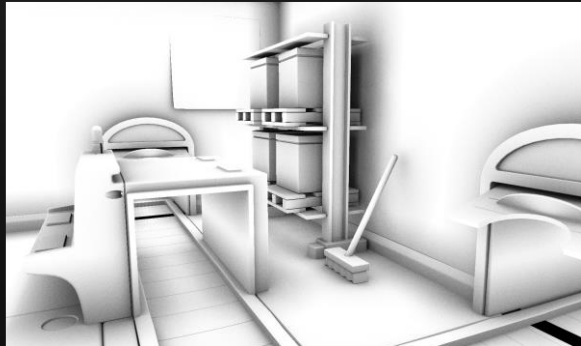
Direct lighting (**compute**)



Reflections (**raytrace**)



Global Illumination (**raytrace**)



Ambient occlusion
(**raytrace** or **compute**)



Transparency & Translucency
(**raytrace**)



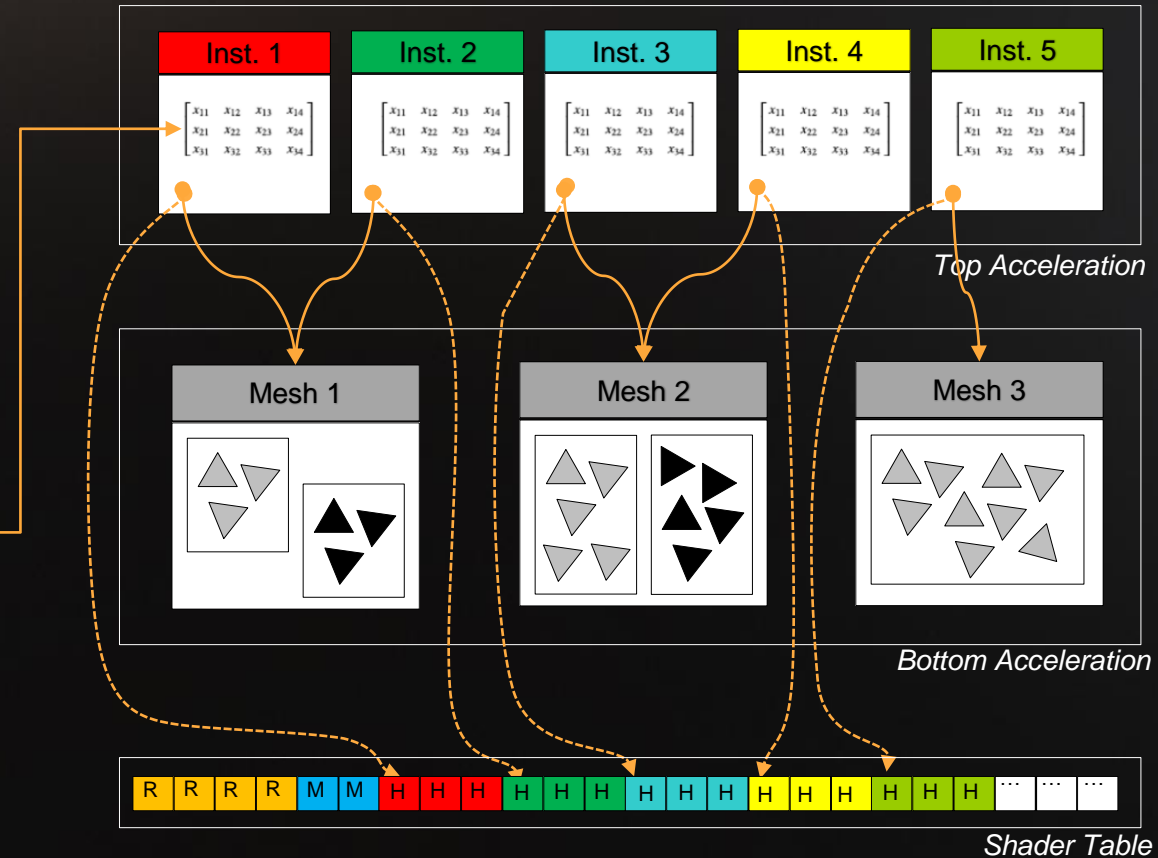
Post processing (**compute**)

Live demo

XII?

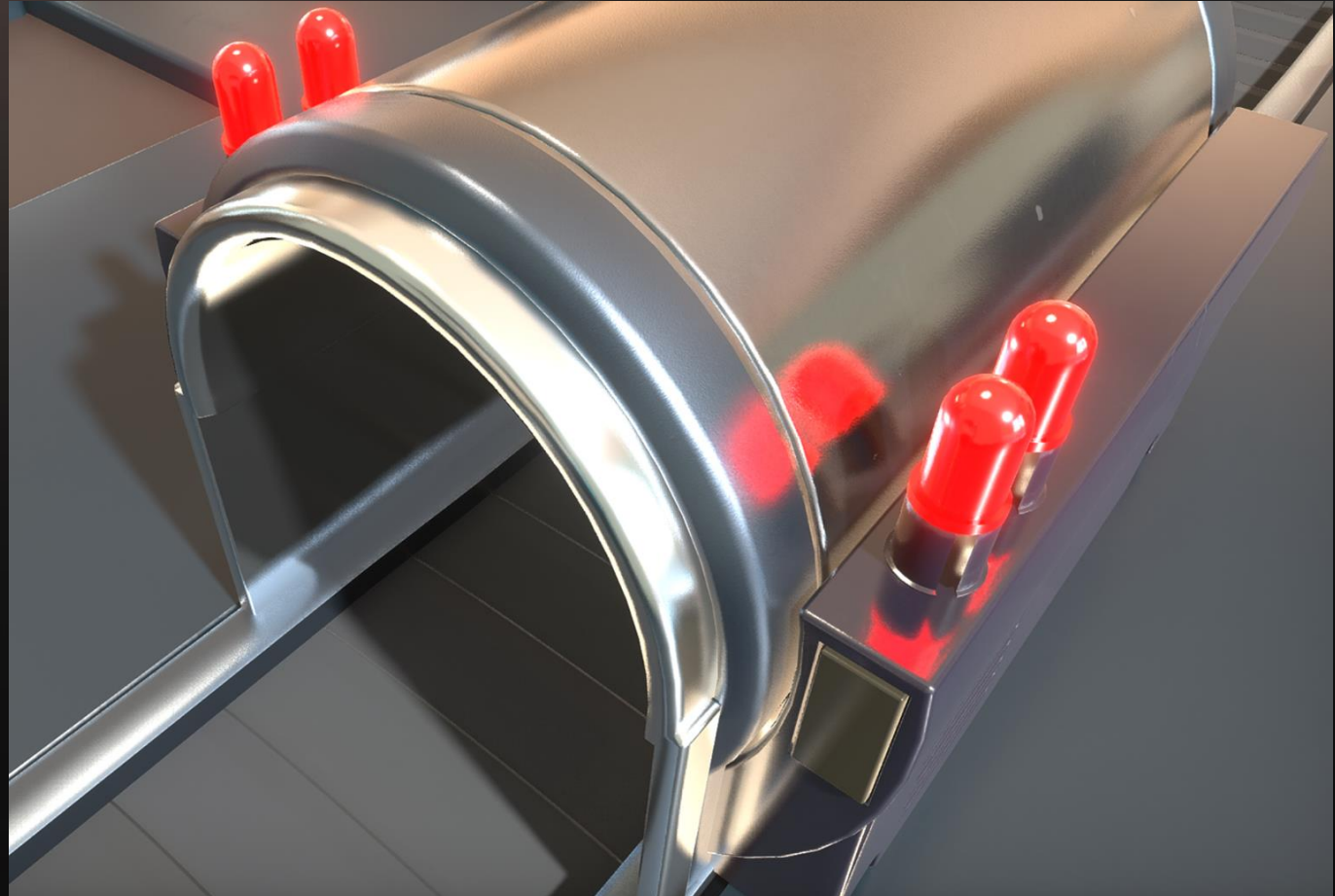


- **Spawn a Mesh?**
 - DXR: build its bottom acceleration structure
 - Multiple geometries for multiple materials
 - Triangles, AABBs, custom
 - Mesh instances specified in top acceleration
- **Move a Mesh?**
 - Update the instance's position/orientation in the top acceleration
- **Spawn [some] Rays?**
 - Multiple Hit and Miss shaders possible



Raytraced Reflections

- Rasterize primary visibility
- Launch rays from the G-Buffer
- Raytrace at half resolution
- Reconstruct at full resolution
 - Spatiotemporal filtering
- Works on both flat and curved surfaces



Raytraced Reflections

Reflection Rays

Let's launch some reflection rays:

1. Select one of the (2x2) pixels to trace
2. Reconstruct position and vectors
3. Initialize Halton & random number seq.
4. Initialize the payload
5. Prepare a new ray
6. Trace
7. Gather results from ray payload
 - Reflection Color, Direction, HitT, 1/pdf

```
RaytracingAccelerationStructure g_rtScene : register(t0, space0);
ConstantBuffer<RaytracingConstants> g_rt : register(b0, space0);
RWTexture2D<float4> g_tex0 : register(u0, space0);
RWTexture2D<float4> g_tex1 : register(u1, space0);

[shader("raygeneration")]
void reflectionRaygen()
{
    uint2 px = DispatchRaysIndex();
    uint2 launchDim = DispatchRaysDimensions();

    // Select one of the four full-res pixels to trace from
    const uint2 noiseCoord = (px / 2 + (g_rt.frameIndex / 2) * uint2(3, 7)) & 31;
    const uint subpixelIdx = g_blueNoise[noiseCoord.x + noiseCoord.y * 32] + g_rt.frameIndex;
    const uint2 gbufferPx = px * 2 + uint2(subpixelIdx & 1, (subpixelIdx >> 1) & 1);

    // Reconstruct position and the various vectors
    const Gbuffer gbuffer = loadGbuffer(gbufferPx, g_gbuffer);
    const float depth = g_depth[gbufferPx];
    float2 uvPos = (gbufferPx + 0.5f) / g_rt.viewDimensions.xy;
    float4 csPos = float4(uvToCs(uvPos), depth, 1.0f);
    float4 wsPos = mul(g_rt.clipToWorld, csPos);
    const float3 P = wsPos.xyz / wsPos.w;
    const float3 E = g_rt.eyeWorldPosition;
    const float3 V = normalize(E - position);
    const float3 N = gbuffer.normal;

    // Initialize the Halton sequence for each ray and random number generator to rotate the sequence
    Halton halton = haltonInit(px, g_rt.frameIndex, ...);
    uint seed = randomInit(px);

    // Initialize a new payload
    Payload payload = payloadInit(seed, halton);

    // Initialize a new ray
    RayDesc ray;
    ray.Origin = position + V * max(1, length(frame.position)) * 1e-4f; // epsilon
    ray.Direction = sampleDirectionFromBrdf(gbuffer, V, N, halton, seed); // stochastic BRDF
    ray.TMin = 0;
    ray.TMax = 1000; // perf: ray stops at 1000 meters

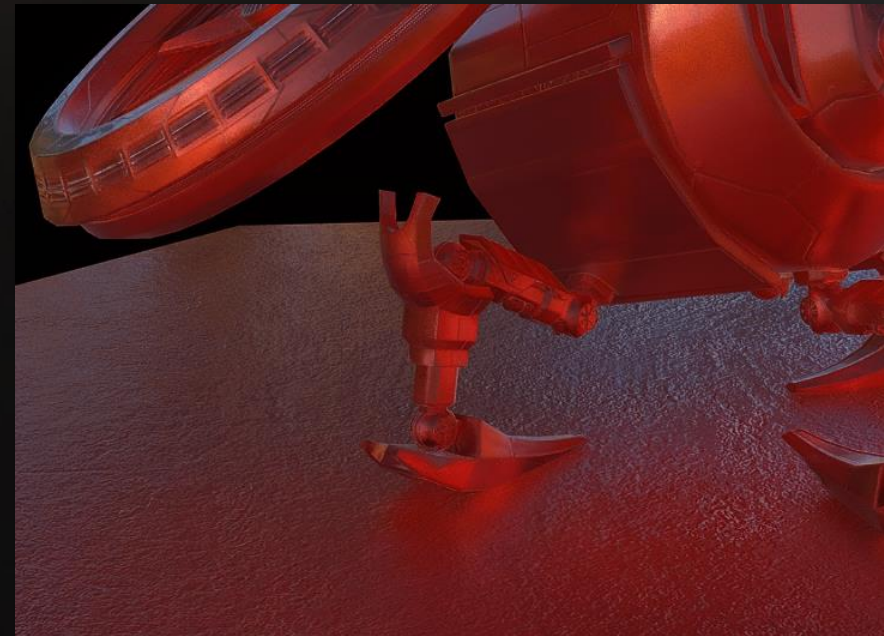
    // Launch the ray
    TraceRay(g_rtScene, RAY_FLAG_CULL_FRONT_FACING_TRIANGLES, RaytracingInstanceMaskAll,
            HitType_Primary, SbtRecordStride, MissType_Primary,
            ray, hitData);

    g_tex0[px] = float4(hitData.lighting.rgb, depth);
    g_tex1[px] = float4(ray.Direction * hitData.hitT, 1.0f / brdfSample.pdf);
}
```

Reflection Filtering

Inspired by *Stochastic Screen-Space Reflections* [Stachowiak 2015]

- For every full-res pixel, sample 16 pixels in half-res ray results
 - Blue Noise offsets, decorrelated every 2x2 pixels
- Build color bounding box of ray-hit results
 - Clamp temporal history to bounding box
- Followed by a variance-driven bilateral filter
 - Helps with rough reflections



Unfiltered (Top) and Filtered (Bottom) Results





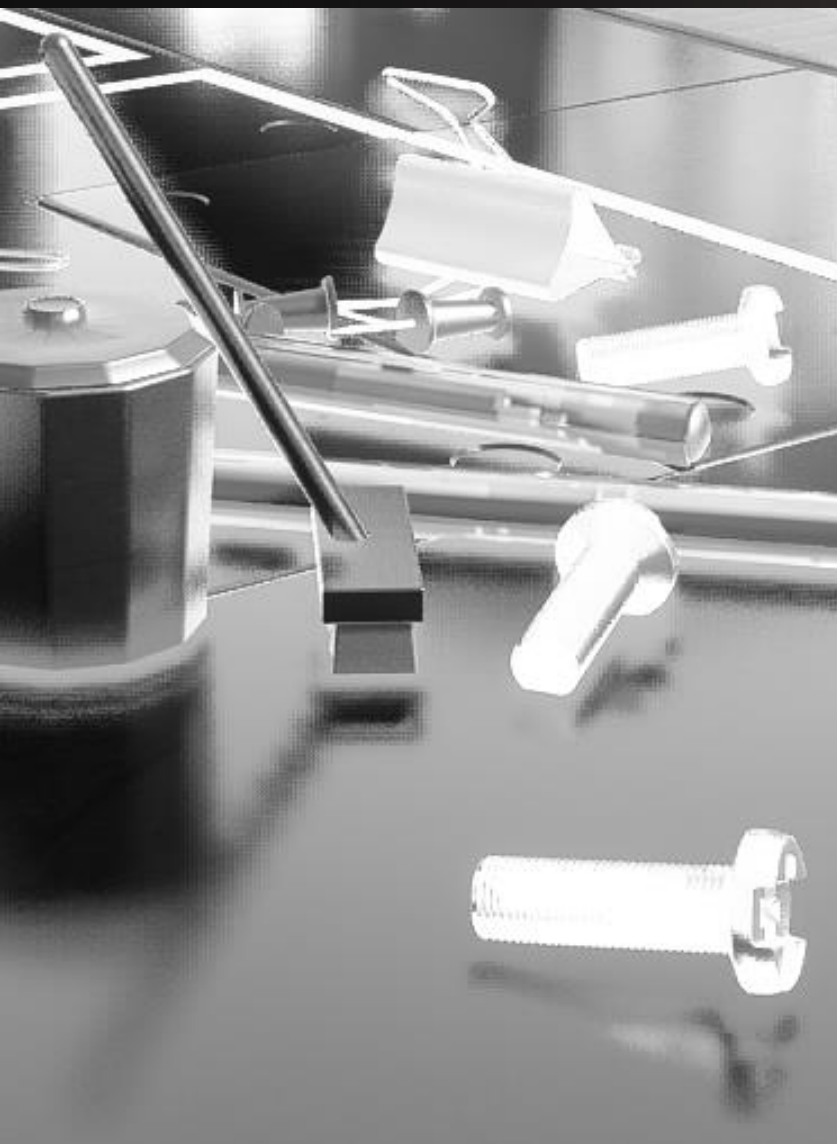
Screen-Space Reflections



G-Buffer Raytraced



Path Tracing Reference



Screen-Space Reflections



G-Buffer Raytraced

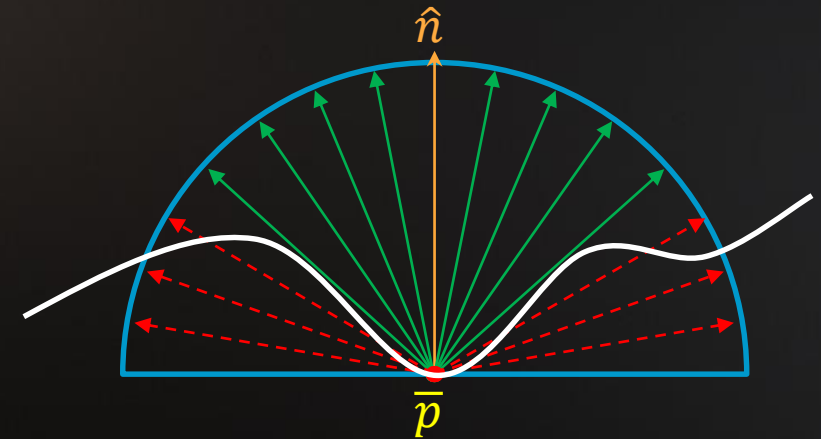


Path Tracing Reference

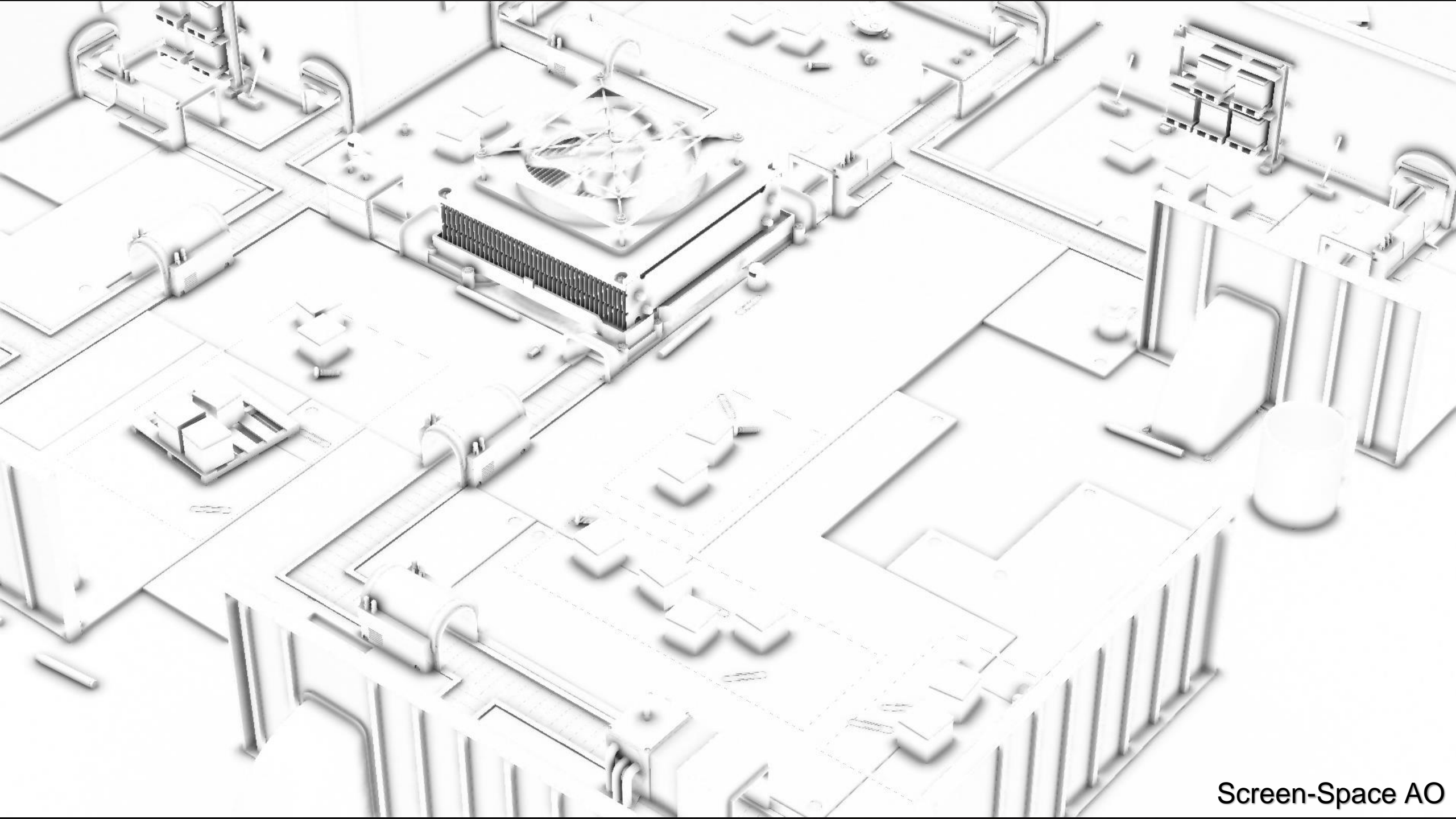
Ambient Occlusion

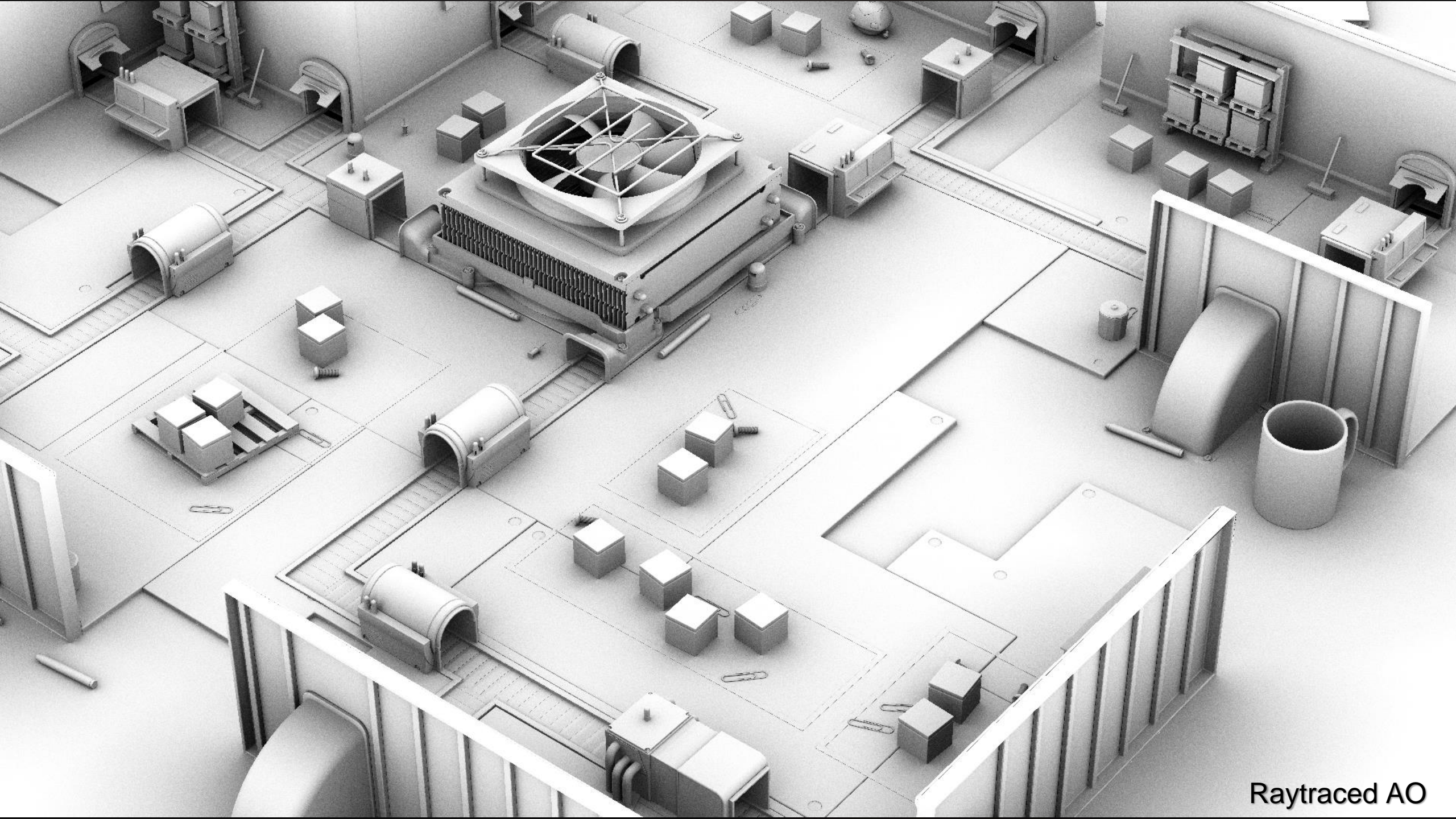
Ambient Occlusion (AO) [Langer 1994] [Miller 1994] maps and scales directly with real-time ray tracing:

- Integral of the **visibility** function over the hemisphere Ω for the point \bar{p} on a **surface** with normal \hat{n} with respect to the projected **solid angle**
- Games often approximate this in screen-space
- With RT, more grounded & improves visual fidelity!
 - Random directions \hat{w}
 - Can be temporally accumulated or denoised

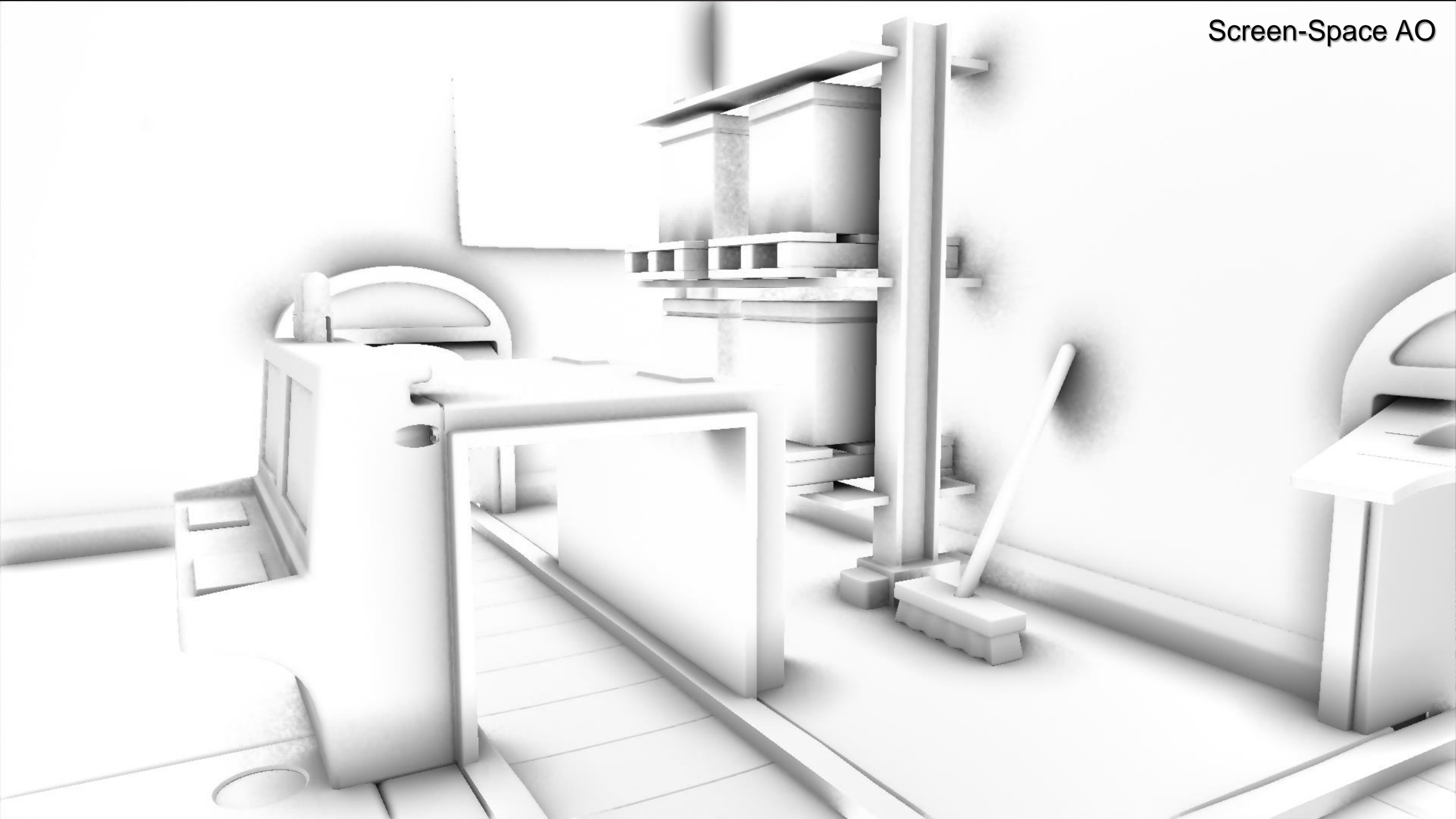


$$A_{\bar{p}} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\Omega} V_{\bar{p}, \hat{w}} (\hat{n} \cdot \hat{w}) d\omega$$

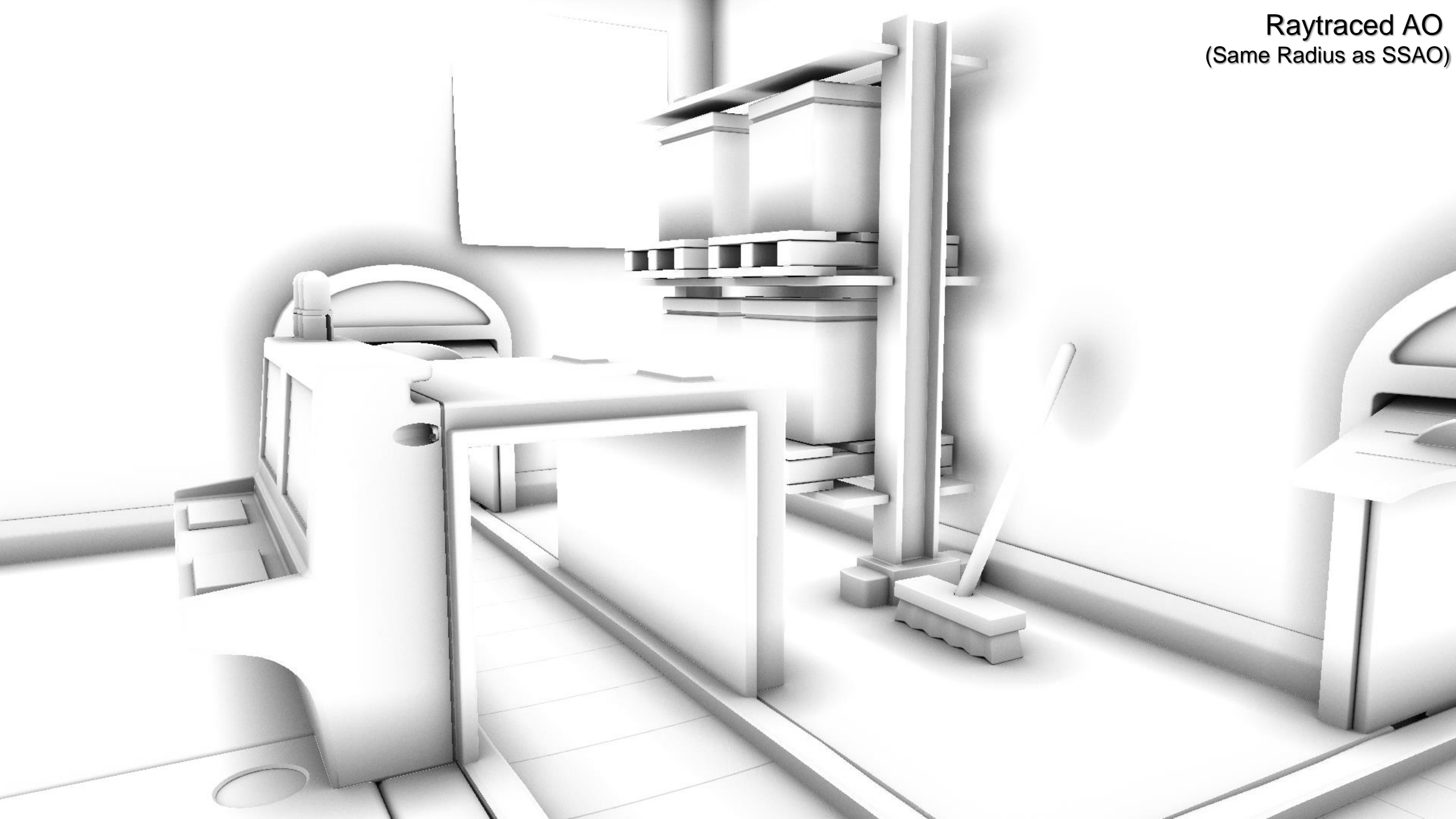




Raytraced AO



Raytraced AO
(Same Radius as SSAO)



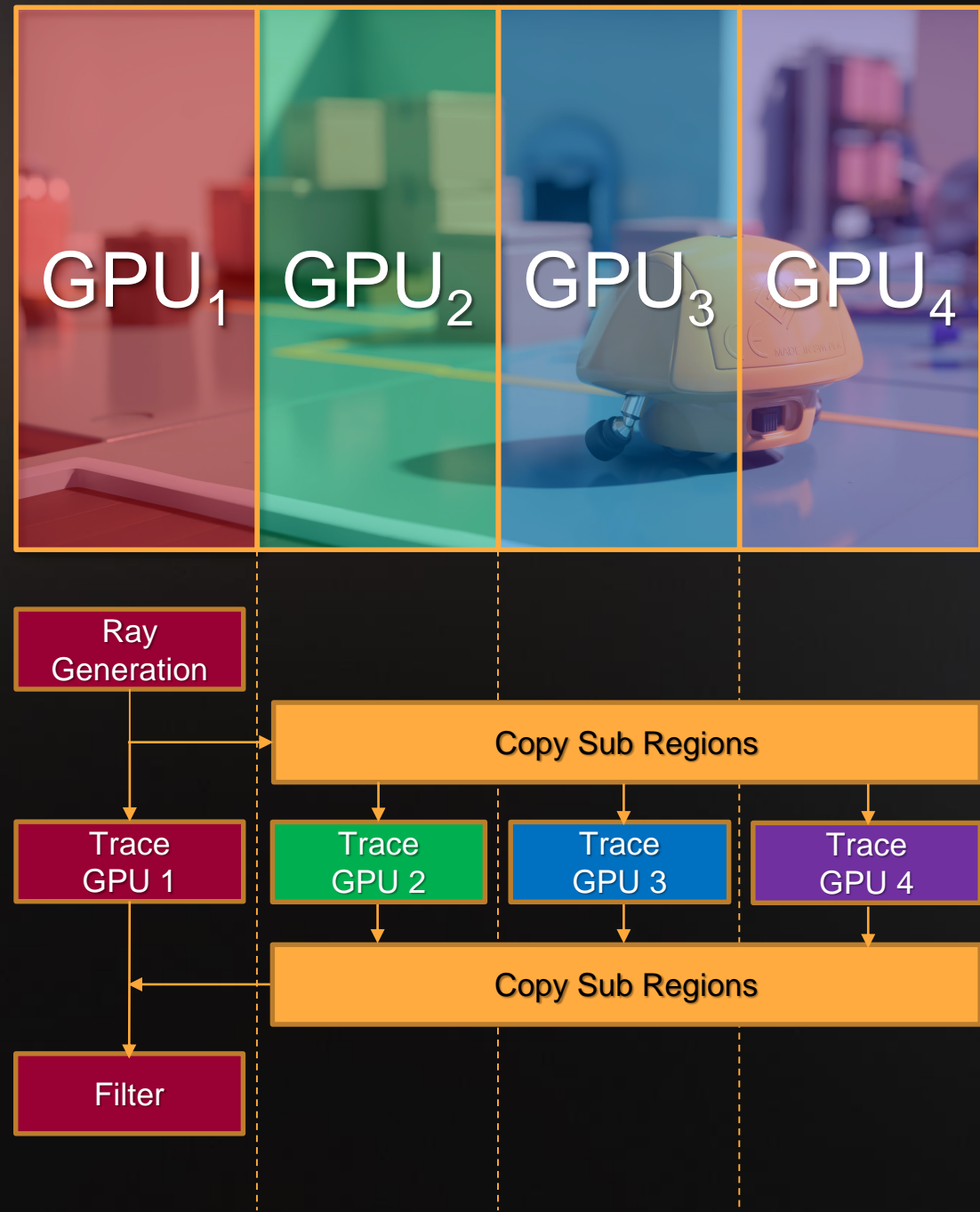
Raytraced AO
(Far-field)



mGPU

Explicit Heterogenous Multi-GPU

- Parallel Fork-Join Style
- Resources copied through system memory using copy queue
- Minimize PCI-E transfers
- Approach
 - Run ray generation on primary GPU
 - Copy results in sub-regions to other GPUs
 - Run tracing phases on separate GPUs
 - Copy tracing results back to primary GPU
 - Run filtering on primary GPU



Summary

- Just the beginning – important new tool going forward
- Unified API – easy to experiment and integrate
- Flexible but complex tradeoffs - noise vs ghosting vs perf
- Can enable very high quality cinematic visuals
- Lots more to explore – perf, raster vs trace, sparse render, denoising, new techniques



SEED @ GDC 2018

- **Shiny Pixels & Beyond: Rendering Research at SEED (presented by Nvidia)**
 - Johan Andersson and Colin Barré-Brisebois
 - Room 3022, West Hall, Wednesday, March 21st, 5:00pm - 6:00pm
- **Deep Learning - Beyond the Hype**
 - Magnus Nordin
 - Room 2016, West Hall, Thursday, March 22nd, 11:30am - 12:30pm
- **Creativity of Rules and Patterns: Designing Procedural Systems**
 - Anastasia Opara
 - GDC Show Floor, Thursday, March 22nd, 12:30PM-1:00PM and Friday, March 23rd @ 11:00AM-11:30AM



Thanks

SEED

- Jasper Bekkers
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- Dean Calver
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- Jenna Frisk
- Paul Greveson
- Henrik Halen
- Effeli Holst
- Andrew Lauritzen
- Magnus Nordin
- Niklas Nummelin

- Anastasia Opara
- Kristoffer Sjöo
- Tomasz Stachowiak
- Ida Winterhaven
- Graham Wihlidal

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- Chas Boyd
- Ivan Nevraev
- Amar Patel
- Matt Sandy

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- Jiho Choi
- Peter Harrison
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- Aaron Lefohn
- Ignacio Llamas
- Henry Moreton
- Martin Stich



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WE'RE HIRING!

How to get started

- Windows Insider Preview (RS4)
- Experimental SDK + spec: <http://aka.ms/DXRSDK>
- PIX-raytracing: <http://aka.ms/DXRPIX>
- DXR overview: <http://aka.ms/DXR>
- Give us feedback (really!): <http://forums.directxtech.com>

Ray Tracing Gems – Call for Papers

- A new book series with focus on real-time and interactive ray tracing for game development using the DXR API.
- We invite articles on the following topics:
Basic ray tracing algorithms, effects (shadows, reflections, etc.), non-graphics applications, reconstruction, denoising, & filtering, efficiency and best practices, baking & preprocessing, ray tracing API & design, rasterization and ray tracing, global illumination, BRDFs, VR, deep learning, etc.
- Important dates:
 - 15th of October 2018: submission deadline for full papers
 - GDC 2019: publication of Ray Tracing Gems (paper version + e-book)
- Eric Haines and Tomas Akenine-Möller will lead the editorial team
<http://developer.nvidia.com/raytracinggems/>



Questions?





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