3D Gaussian Splatting for Real-Time Radiance Field Rendering

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Bernhard Kerbl*, Georgios Kopanas*, Thomas Leimkühler, George Drettakis In SIGGRAPH 2023

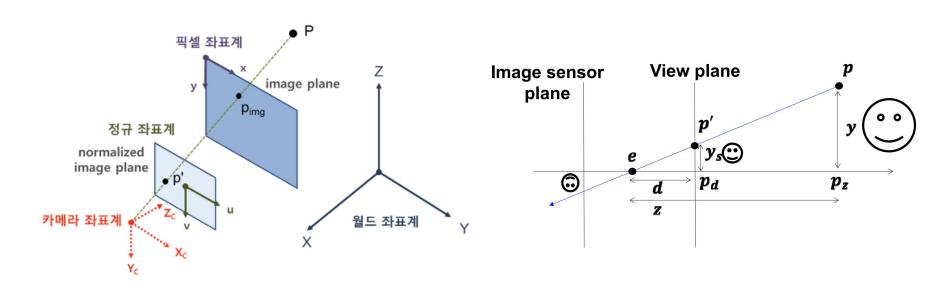
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1. Background

Rasterization



1. Background

Ray Casting

 For each pixel, find closest object along the ray and shade pixel accordingly

Advantages

- Conceptually simple
- Can be extended to handle global illumination effects

Disadvantages

- Renderer must have access to entire retained model
- Hard to map to special-purpose hardware
- Less efficient than rasterization in terms of utilizing spatial coherence

1. Background

NeRF (Neural Radiance Fields): Ray-marching

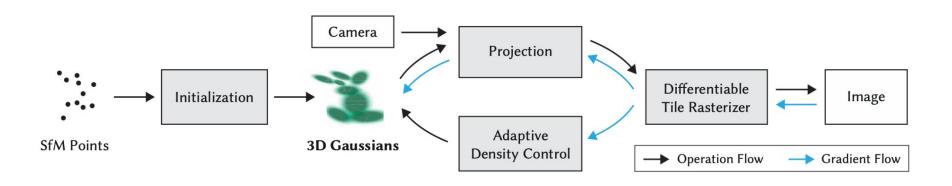


2. Contribution

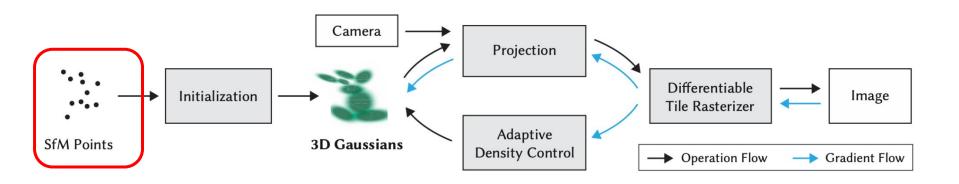
3D Gaussians

- 1. preserve **continuous** properties
- 2. avoid unnecessary computation in **empty space**
- 3. **rasterization**-based rendering

Overview

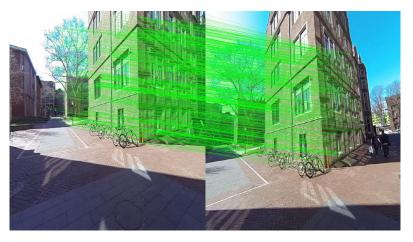


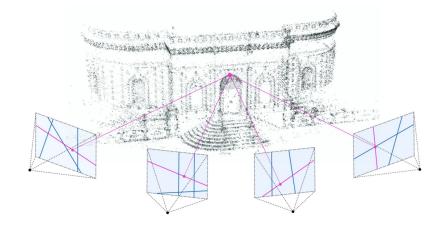
Structure-from-Motion



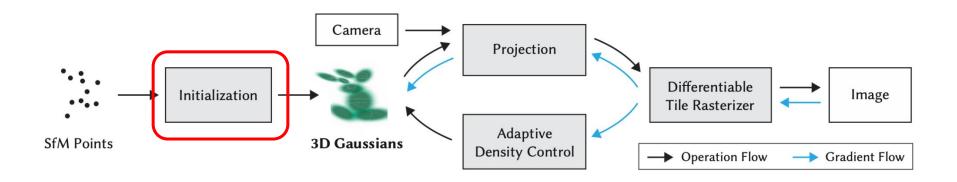
Structure-from-Motion

Camera calibration for in-the-wild NeRF.

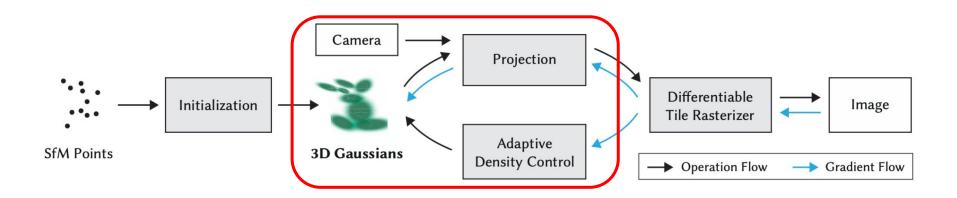




Initial spare point cloud



3D Gaussians



3D Gaussian Splatting - Geometry

3D Gaussian

$$\mathcal{G}(\mathbf{x} - \mu) = rac{1}{2\pi\Sigma(\mathbf{x})^{rac{1}{2}}} \exp(-rac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x} - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1}(\mathbf{x}))$$

• 2D projection, where **W** is viewing transformation, and **J** is the Jacobian of affine projective transformation.

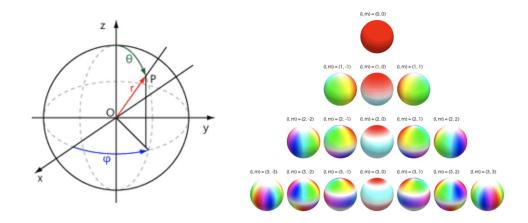
$$\Sigma' = JW\Sigma W^TJ^T$$

Positive semi-definite covariance, where S is scale and R is rotation matrix.

$$\Sigma = RSS^TR^T$$

3D Gaussian Splatting - Opacity and Color

- Opacity a
- Color Spherical Harmonics (SH) coefficients

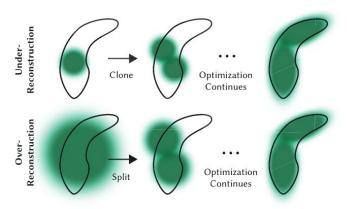


3D Gaussian Optimization

- Position (mean) p
- Covariance Σ
- Opacity a
- Color Spherical Harmonics (SH) coefficients
 - → Gradient Descent
 - There is no neural networks to optimize!

Adaptive Control of Gaussians

- Clone 3D gaussians: Under-reconstruction (missing geometric features)
- **Split** 3D gaussians: Over-reconstruction (covering large area)
- Remove 3D gaussians: Opacity is lower than threshold



Optimization

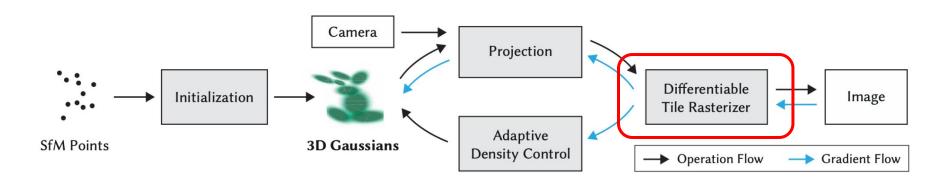


3D Gaussian Splatting for Real-Time Radiance Field Rendering





Tile-based Rasterizer



Split Image to 16x16 Tiles

- Parallelize within GPU cores.
- 2. Avoid the expense of depth sorting per pixel.

Rasterization

For NeRF,
$$C(\mathbf{r})=\int_{t_n}^{t_f}T(t)\sigma(\mathbf{r}(t))\mathbf{c}(\mathbf{r}(t),\mathbf{d})dt$$
 , where $T(t)=\exp(-\int_{t_n}^t\sigma(\mathbf{r}(s))ds)$

For 3D Gaussian Splatting, the color and opacity *a* are accumulated per pixel from the closest to farthest gaussian until opacity threshold

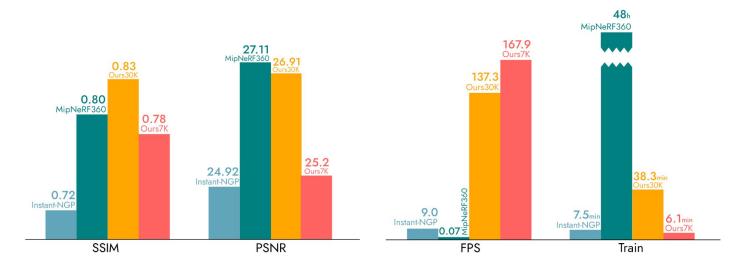
Evaluation Metrics

- PSNR (Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio) ↑
- SSIM (Structural Similarity Index Measure) ↑
- 3. LPIPS (Learned Perceptual Image Patch Similarity) ↓
- 4. FPS (Frame Per Seconds for inference rendering with A6000) ↑
- 5. Train (training time for A6000) ↓

Model Variations

- 1. Ours7K: 7K iterations
- 2. Ours30K: 30K iterations

- 1. State of the Art Quality (Equivalent to MipNerf360)
- 2. Real-Time Rendering (More than 100 FPS)
- 3. Fast Training (Less than 1h)



Qualitative Evaluation



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Quantitative Evaluation

Dataset	Mip-NeRF360					Tanks&Temples					Deep Blending							
Method Metric	SSIM [↑]	$PSNR^{\uparrow}$	$LPIPS^{\downarrow}$	Train	FPS	Mem	SSIM [↑]	$PSNR^{\uparrow}$	$LPIPS^{\downarrow}$	Train	FPS	Mem	SSIM [↑]	$PSNR^{\uparrow}$	$LPIPS^{\downarrow}$	Train	FPS	Mem
Plenoxels	0.626	23.08	0.463	25m49s	6.79	2.1GB	0.719	21.08	0.379	25m5s	13.0	2.3GB	0.795	23.06	0.510	27m49s	11.2	2.7GB
INGP-Base	0.671	25.30	0.371	5m37s	11.7	13MB	0.723	21.72	0.330	5m26s	17.1	13MB	0.797	23.62	0.423	6m31s	3.26	13MB
INGP-Big	0.699	25.59	0.331	7m30s	9.43	48MB	0.745	21.92	0.305	6m59s	14.4	48MB	0.817	24.96	0.390	8m	2.79	48MB
M-NeRF360	0.792	27.69 [†]	0.237	48h	0.06	8.6MB	0.759	22.22	0.257	48h	0.14	8.6MB	0.901	29.40	0.245	48h	0.09	8.6MB
Ours-7K	0.770	25.60	0.279	6m25s	160	523MB	0.767	21.20	0.280	6m55s	197	270MB	0.875	27.78	0.317	4m35s	172	386MB
Ours-30K	0.815	27.21	0.214	41m33s	134	734MB	0.841	23.14	0.183	26m54s	154	411MB	0.903	29.41	0.243	36m2s	137	676MB

PSNR scores for Synthetic NeRF

	Mic	Chair	Ship	Materials	Lego	Drums	Ficus	Hotdog	Avg.
Plenoxels	33.26	33.98	29.62	29.14	34.10	25.35	31.83	36.81	31.76
INGP-Base	36.22	35.00	31.10	29.78	36.39	26.02	33.51	37.40	33.18
Mip-NeRF	36.51	35.14	30.41	30.71	35.70	25.48	33.29	37.48	33.09
Point-NeRF	35.95	35.40	30.97	29.61	35.04	26.06	36.13	37.30	33.30
Ours-30K	35.36	35.83	30.80	30.00	35.78	26.15	34.87	37.72	33.32

5. Conclusion

They proposed new radiance field rendering methods using **3D** gaussian as volumetric representation for **real-time rendering** while preserving **state-of-the-art quality**.

References

Author's project page and video

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