Ray Tracing in Video Games(It's important) By: Ahmed Krubally

Ray tracing is a rendering technique used in computer graphics to generate realistic images. It simulates the behavior of light by tracing the path of light rays as they interact with objects in a scene. The algorithm works by shooting a ray from the camera through each pixel of the image, and calculating how the beam interacts with the objects in the scene. The color of each pixel is then calculated based on the light that reaches it through that ray.

The basic steps involved in the ray tracing algorithm are:

- 1. For each pixel on the screen, create a ray that starts at the camera and passes through that pixel.
- Test if the ray intersects any object in the scene. If it does, calculate the point of intersection.
- 3. Determine the amount of light that reaches that point from all the light sources in the scene.
- 4. Calculate the color of the pixel based on the properties of the material at that point, the angle between the incoming light and the surface normal, and other factors.

The time complexity of the ray tracing algorithm can vary depending on the scene complexity, the number of light sources, and the number of pixels in the image. In general, it is considered to be an expensive algorithm, with a time complexity of O(N^2), where N is the number of objects in the scene. However, modern techniques such as spatial partitioning and parallel processing can be used to reduce the time complexity to O(log N) or even O(1) in some cases.

The space complexity of the ray tracing algorithm is also dependent on the scene complexity and the number of pixels in the image. It requires storing information about the objects in the scene, such as their position, size, material properties, and information about the rays being traced. This can result in a high space complexity, but memory optimizations can be used to reduce the amount of memory required.

Overall, ray tracing is a powerful algorithm that allows for realistic and visually stunning graphics in video games and other applications. However, it can be computationally expensive and requires careful optimization to achieve real-time performance.