Neural Radiance Fields to Implementation

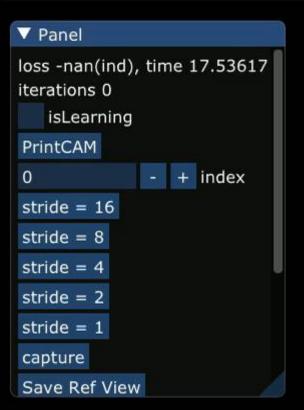
IF YOU ONLY KNEW THE POWER OF THE DARK SIDE

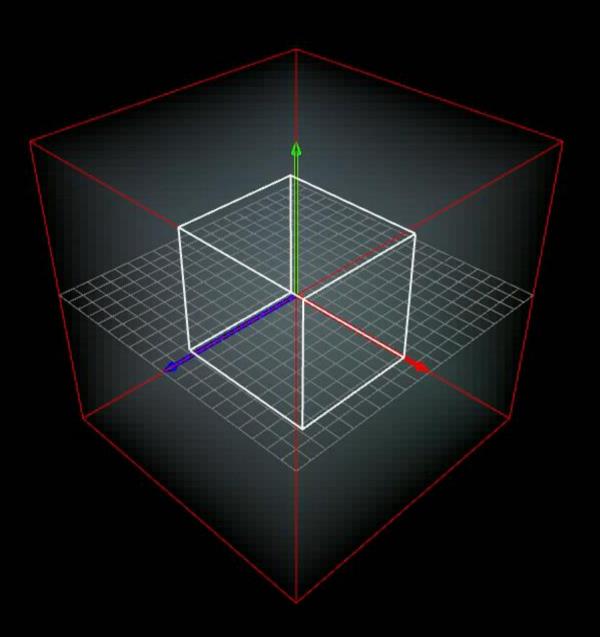
What's Neural Radiance Fields?

- A novel volumetric scene representation
 - Location(X, Y, Z) and Direction(θ , ϕ) to Radiance and volume density (R, G, B, σ)
 - Neural-based volume encoding fully-connected neural network
- Constructed from sparse reference inputs such as photos
- View synthesizing via volume ray marching

Inputs

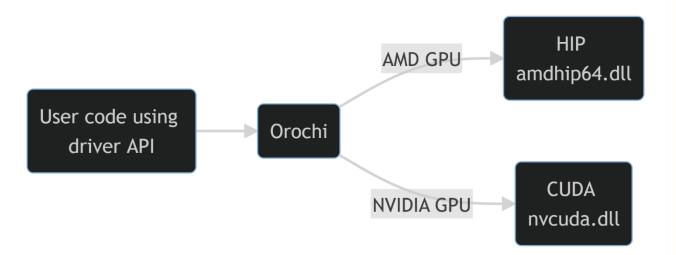






Environment

- Radeon Pro W6800 GPU
- CUDA (HIP via Orochi)
- Windows
- Works also on NV GPU

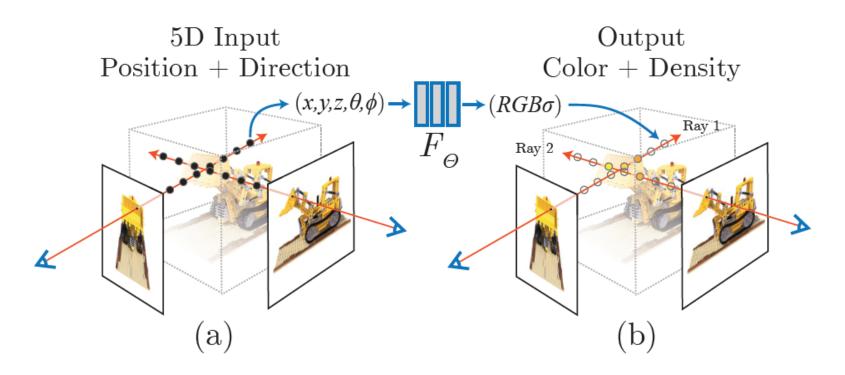


https://gpuopen.com/learn/introducing-orochi/ https://github.com/GPUOpen-LibrariesAndSDKs/Orochi

Deep dive into NeRF

Scene Representation as Volume

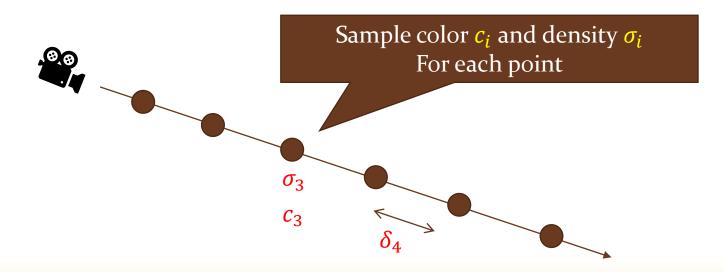
- A fancy function F Location (X, Y, Z) and Direction (θ , ϕ) to Radiance and volume density (R, G, B, σ)
- F is a fully-connected neural network!



Volume Rendering

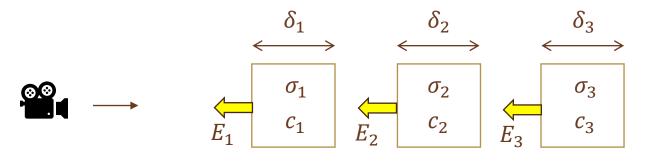
- Ray marching sample generation
 - Arbitrary sample strategy is applicable
 - Uniform
 - Proportional to a distance from its camera
 - NDC(normalized device coordinates)

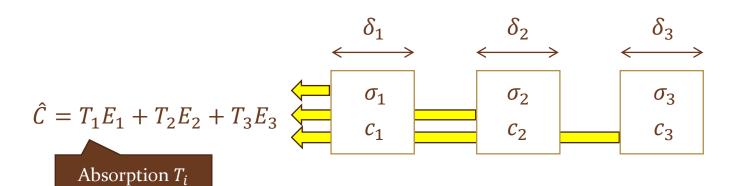
Still not sure what's the best So let me skip this topic for now



Volume Rendering

• Each subvolume emits some radiance & absorbed by the front subvolume



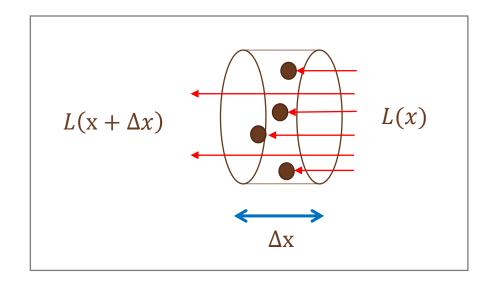


Absorption

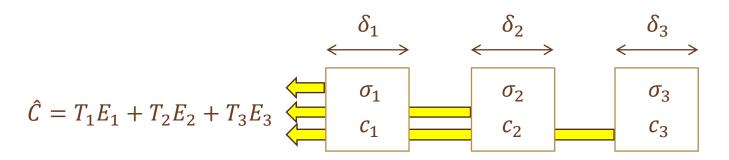
$$\frac{L(x + \Delta x) - L(x)}{\Delta x} = -\sigma L(x)$$



$$\frac{dL(x)}{dx} = -\sigma L(x)$$
$$L(x) = \exp(-\sigma x)L(0)$$



Absorption



$$T_1 = 1$$

$$T_2 = \exp(-\sigma_1 \delta_1)$$

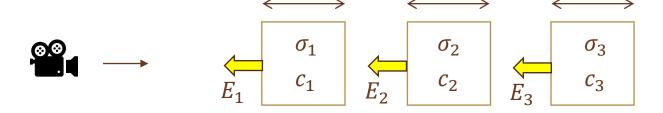
$$T_3 = \exp(-\sigma_1 \delta_1) \exp(-\sigma_2 \delta_2) = \exp(-\sigma_1 \delta_1 - \sigma_2 \delta_2)$$



$$T_i = \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} \exp(-\sigma_i \delta_i) = \exp(-\sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \sigma_i \delta_i)$$

Emission

• What about E_i ?



Emission

$$\frac{E(\mathbf{x} + \Delta x) - E(\mathbf{x})}{\Delta x} = \sigma c$$

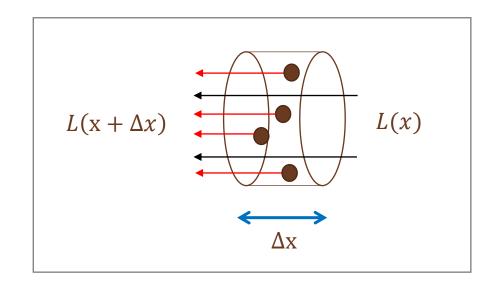


$$E = \int_0^x \sigma c \exp(-\sigma x) dx$$

$$= \sigma c \int_0^x \exp(-\sigma x) dx$$

$$= \sigma c (\frac{1 - \exp(-\sigma x)}{\sigma})$$

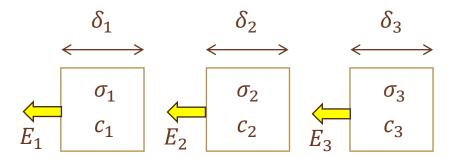
$$= c (1 - \exp(-\sigma x))$$



Emission

• What about E_i ?





$$E_1 = c_1(1 - \exp(-\sigma_1 \delta_1))$$

$$E_2 = c_2(1 - \exp(-\sigma_2 \delta_2))$$

$$E_3 = c_3(1 - \exp(-\sigma_3 \delta_3))$$



$$E_i = c_i(1 - \exp(-\sigma_i \delta_i))$$

Volume Rendering

• The final form

$$\hat{C} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} T_i \underbrace{(1 - \exp(-\sigma_i \delta_i)) c_i}_{\text{Emission}}$$

$$T_i = \exp(-\sum_{i=1}^{l-1} \sigma_i \delta_i)$$
Absorption



NeRF paper, Eq.3

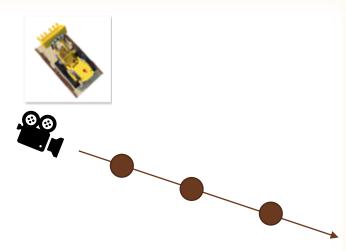
results in the MLP being evaluated at continuous positions over the course of optimization. We use these samples to estimate $C(\mathbf{r})$ with the quadrature rule discussed in the volume rendering review by Max $\boxed{26}$:

$$\hat{C}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} T_i (1 - \exp(-\sigma_i \delta_i)) \mathbf{c}_i, \text{ where } T_i = \exp\left(-\sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \sigma_j \delta_j\right),$$
 (3)

where $\delta_i = t_{i+1} - t_i$ is the distance between adjacent samples. This function for calculating $\hat{C}(r)$ from the set of (a, τ) values is trivially differentiable and

Training

• Loss function \mathcal{L} is based on the color difference



Example) Simple squared error:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} (\hat{C}_r - C_r)^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\hat{C}_g - C_g)^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\hat{C}_b - C_b)^2$$

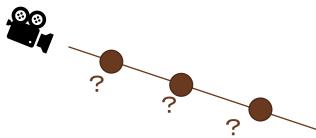
$$\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\hat{C}_r} = \hat{C}_r - C_r \qquad \frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\hat{C}_g} = \hat{C}_g - C_g \qquad \frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\hat{C}_b} = \hat{C}_b - C_b$$

Remark:

Instant NGP repository uses "Huber Loss" and it is more stable and faster to converge.

σ_1

Training

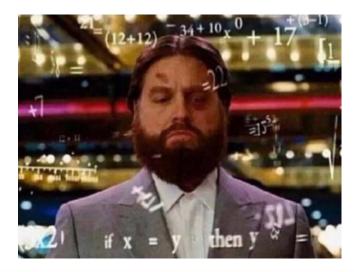


- We need all derivatives of the learnable parameters
 - However, we only know $\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\hat{c}_r}$, $\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\hat{c}_g}$, $\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\hat{c}_b}$, not the derivatives of these parameters

Known derivatives	\longleftrightarrow	$\stackrel{\delta_2}{\longleftrightarrow}$	\longleftrightarrow	
	σ_1	σ_2	σ_3	
$\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\hat{\mathcal{C}}_r}, \frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\hat{\mathcal{C}}_g}, \frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\hat{\mathcal{C}}_b}$	<i>c</i> ₁	<i>c</i> ₂	<i>c</i> ₃	Then, you can apply chain rule
J. T.	$\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\sigma_1}$	$\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\sigma_2}$	$\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\sigma_3}$	$ \frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\sigma_i} = \frac{d\hat{C}_r}{d\sigma_i} \frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\hat{C}_r} + \frac{d\hat{C}_g}{d\sigma_i} \frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\hat{C}_g} + \frac{d\hat{C}_b}{d\sigma_i} \frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\hat{C}_b} $
But we needs	$rac{d\mathcal{L}}{dc_1}$	$rac{d\mathcal{L}}{dc_2}$	$\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dc_3}$	$\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dc_i} = \frac{d\hat{C}}{dc_i} \frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\hat{C}}$

$$\hat{C}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} T_i (1 - \exp(-\sigma_i \delta_i)) \mathbf{c}_i, \text{ where } T_i = \exp\left(-\sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \sigma_j \delta_j\right),$$
 (3)

where $\delta_i = t_{i+1} - t_i$ is the distance between adjacent samples. This function for calculating $\hat{C}(\mathbf{r})$ from the set of (\mathbf{c}_i, σ_i) values is trivially differentiable and reduces to traditional alpha compositing with alpha values $\alpha_i = 1 - \exp(-\sigma_i \delta_i)$.



NeRF paper – Eq. 3

Me when seeing that the paper explains it as trivial

Derivative $\frac{d\hat{c}}{dc_i}$

$$\hat{C} = T_1(1 - \exp(-\sigma_1 \delta_1))c_1 + T_2(1 - \exp(-\sigma_2 \delta_2))c_2 + T_3(1 - \exp(-\sigma_3 \delta_3))c_3$$

Fortunately, these derivatives are trivial indeed as follows:

$$\frac{d\hat{C}}{dc_1} = T_1(1 - \exp(-\sigma_1 \delta_1))$$

$$\frac{d\hat{C}}{dc_2} = T_2(1 - \exp(-\sigma_2 \delta_2))$$

$$\frac{d\hat{C}}{dc_3} = T_3(1 - \exp(-\sigma_3 \delta_3))$$

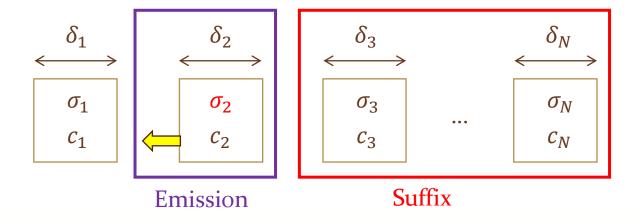
Derivative $\frac{d\hat{C}}{d\sigma_i}$

• The derivative consists of 3 major elements

Let's focus
$$\sigma_2$$

$$T_3 = \exp(-\sigma_1 \delta_1) \exp(-\sigma_2 \delta_2) \qquad T_i = \prod_{j=1}^{\ell-1} \exp(-\sigma_i \delta_i)$$

$$\hat{C} = T_1 (1 - \exp(-\sigma_1 \delta_1)) c_1 + T_2 (1 - \exp(-\sigma_2 \delta_2)) c_2 + T_3 (1 - \exp(-\sigma_3 \delta_3)) c_3 + \dots T_N (1 - \exp(-\sigma_N \delta_N)) c_N$$
 Constant. Emission



Derivative $\frac{d\hat{c}}{d\sigma_i}$ - Suffix

• Let's define suffix S_i

$$T_{3} = \exp(-\sigma_{1}\delta_{1})\exp(-\sigma_{2}\delta_{2}) \qquad T_{i} = \prod_{j=1}^{t-1} \exp(-\sigma_{i}\delta_{i})$$

$$\hat{C} = T_1(1 - \exp(-\sigma_1 \delta_1))c_1 + T_2(1 - \exp(-\sigma_2 \delta_2))c_2 + \frac{\dot{T}_3(1 - \exp(-\sigma_3 \delta_3))c_3 + \dots T_N(1 - \exp(-\sigma_N \delta_N))c_N}{c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + \cdots + c_N}$$

Suffix
$$S_2$$

$$S_{2} = T_{3}(1 - \exp(-\sigma_{3}\delta_{3}))c_{3} + \dots T_{N}(1 - \exp(-\sigma_{N}\delta_{N}))c_{N}$$

$$S_{j} = \sum_{i=j+1}^{N} T_{i}(1 - \exp(-\sigma_{i}\delta_{i}))c_{i}$$

Key insight:

All terms in S_2 contains just an $\exp(-\sigma_2 \delta_2)$ term inside T. Thus, the derivative is

$$S_2 = \exp(-\sigma_2 \delta_2)(Constant)$$

$$\frac{dS_2}{d\sigma_2} = -\delta_2 \exp(-\sigma_2 \delta_2)(Constant) = -\delta_2 S_2$$

Derivative $\frac{d\hat{C}}{d\sigma_i}$ - Suffix

• Suffix S_i is cheaply available via \hat{C}

```
float3 color = make_float3( 0.0f, 0.0f, 0.0f );
for( int yi = eval_beg; yi < eval_end; yi++ )</pre>
    float dt = ...;
    float sigma = ...
    float3 c = \dots
    float a = 1.0f - exp(-sigma * dt);
    float coefficient = T * a;
    color += coefficient * c;
    T *= (1.0f - a);
    float3 S = C hat - color;
```

Derivative $\frac{d\hat{c}}{d\sigma_i}$ - Emission

• Almost trivial to get the derivative of the emission

$$\hat{C} = T_1(1 - \exp(-\sigma_1 \delta_1))c_1 + \frac{T_2(1 - \exp(-\sigma_2 \delta_2))c_2}{Emission} + \frac{T_3(1 - \exp(-\sigma_3 \delta_3))c_3 + \dots + T_N(1 - \exp(-\sigma_N \delta_N))c_N}{Emission}$$

$$\hat{C}_{emission} = T_2 (1 - \exp(-\sigma_2 \delta_2)) c_2 = T_2 c_2 - T_2 c_2 \exp(-\sigma_2 \delta_2)$$

$$\frac{d\hat{C}_{emission}}{d\sigma_2} = T_2 c_2 \delta_2 \exp(-\sigma_2 \delta_2) = T_3 c_2 \delta_2$$

$$\uparrow$$

$$T_{i+1} = T_i \exp(-\sigma_i \delta_i)$$

Derivative of σ_i - Complete Form

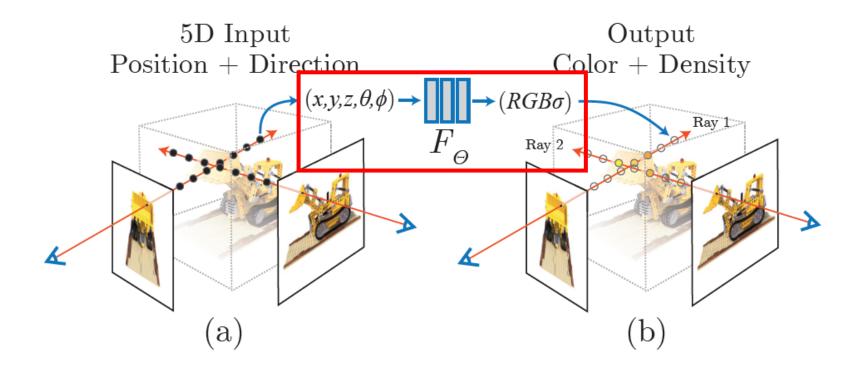
• Simple and very easy to evaluate ©

$$\frac{d\hat{C}}{d\sigma_i} = \delta_i (T_{i+1}c_i - S_i)$$
 Propagate this to the neural network

Intuitive explanation

Operation	Result
Increase σ	Make it more opaque then suppress the subsequent color contributions.
Decrease σ	Make it more transparent then take more contributions from the subsequent colors.

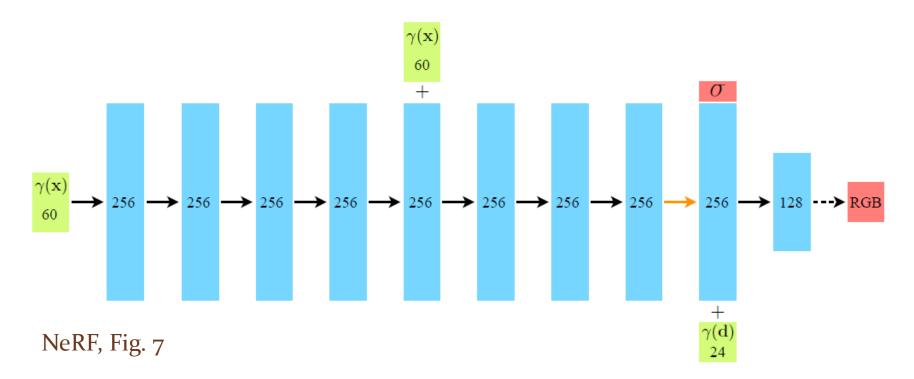
Neural network



NeRF paper - Fig. 2

Neural network – the original proposal

- 256 dimension, 9 layers + 128 dim layer
- Expensive to evaluate and train

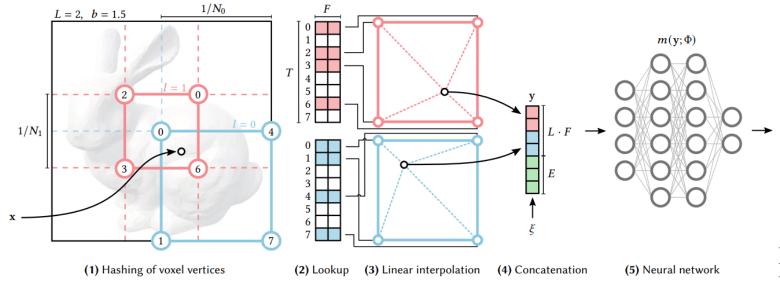


Neural network – Instant Neural Graphics Primitives with a Multiresolution Hash Encoding

- A novel input preprocess technique for neural network
- Reduce network size without sacrificing quality
 - Produce even better quality
- Simple to implement

The idea

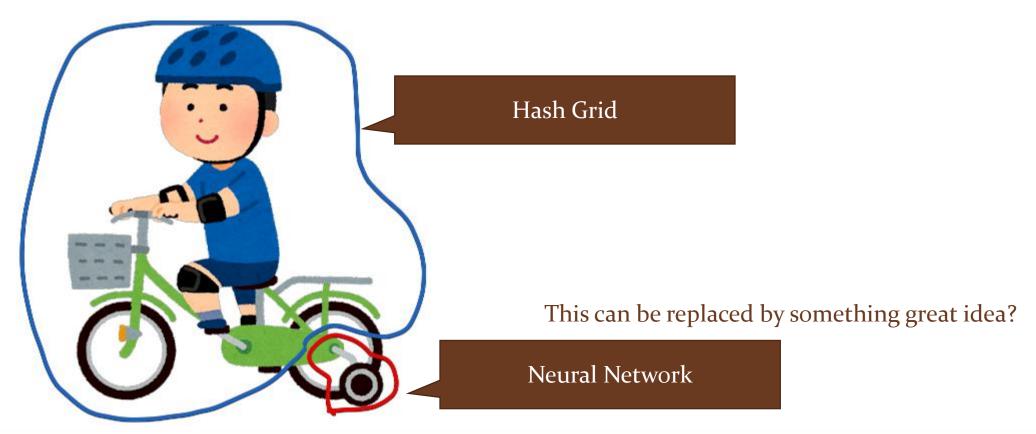
- Define grids with different resolutions for the input space
- Each grid corner is assigned to elements on the hash table
- Feed the linearly interpolated value to the neural network



Instant NGP, Fig. 3

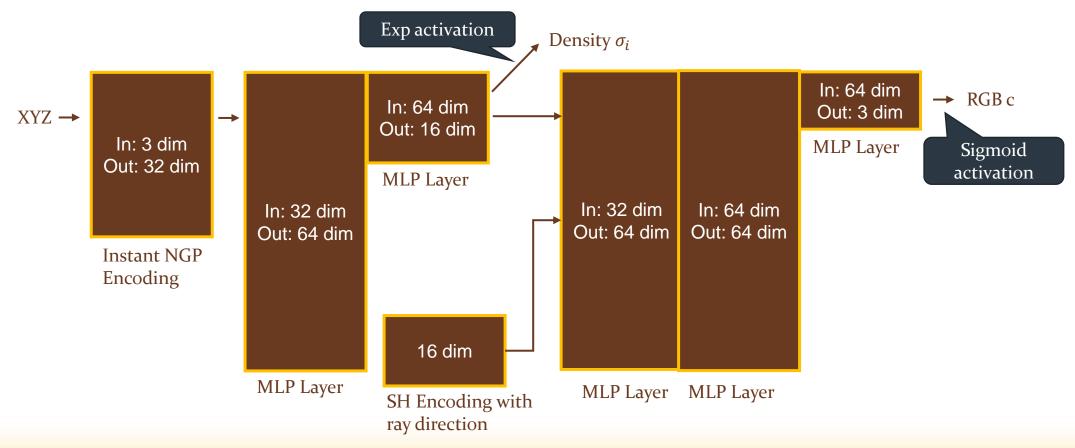
Random thoughts

Then, the role of the Neural Network is just a tiny adjustment?



The network architecture

• https://github.com/NVlabs/instant-ngp



GPU implementation

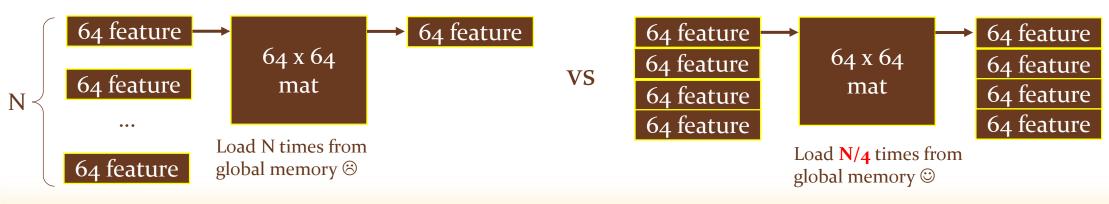
- Almost of the calculation can be done with matrix multiplications
- A smaller network architecture such as for NeRF is suitable for the GPU

Thread-group matrix multiplications

Explained at "Real-time Neural Radiance Caching for Path Tracing"

But why?

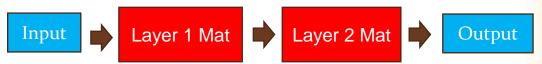
- Feature vectors and weighting matrix such as 64 wide consume too many vector registers ⁽³⁾
- Batch multiplications can reduce the bandwidth for weighting matrix ©
 - Weighting matrix can be large



Goal:
$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} \\ x_{31} & x_{32} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} w_{11} & w_{12} & w_{13} \\ w_{21} & w_{22} & w_{23} \end{pmatrix} =$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{11}w_{11} + x_{12}w_{21} & x_{11}w_{12} + x_{12}w_{22} & x_{11}w_{13} + x_{12}w_{23} \\ x_{21}w_{11} + x_{22}w_{21} & x_{21}w_{12} + x_{22}w_{22} & x_{21}w_{13} + x_{22}w_{23} \\ x_{31}w_{11} + x_{32}w_{21} & x_{31}w_{12} + x_{32}w_{22} & x_{31}w_{13} + x_{32}w_{23} \end{pmatrix}$$

Note:

Feature Vector is on shared memory
Weighting Matrix is on global memory



1. The output matrix is separately assigned to threads

Thread 0	Thread 1	Thread 2
0	0	0
0	0	0
0	0	0

Goal:
$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} \\ x_{31} & x_{32} \end{pmatrix} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} w_{11} & w_{12} & w_{13} \\ w_{21} & w_{22} & w_{23} \end{pmatrix}}_{ w_{21} = 1} =$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{11}w_{11} + x_{12}w_{21} & x_{11}w_{12} + x_{12}w_{22} & x_{11}w_{13} + x_{12}w_{23} \\ x_{21}w_{11} + x_{22}w_{21} & x_{21}w_{12} + x_{22}w_{22} & x_{21}w_{13} + x_{22}w_{23} \\ x_{31}w_{11} + x_{32}w_{21} & x_{31}w_{12} + x_{32}w_{22} & x_{31}w_{13} + x_{32}w_{23} \end{pmatrix}$$

2. Load a weight from the global memory for each thread

Thread 0	Thread 1	Thread 2
0	0	0
0	0	0
0	0	0

 w_{11} w_{12} w_{12}

Goal:
$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} \\ x_{31} & x_{32} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} w_{11} & w_{12} & w_{13} \\ w_{21} & w_{22} & w_{23} \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{11}w_{11} + x_{12}w_{21} & x_{11}w_{12} + x_{12}w_{22} & x_{11}w_{13} + x_{12}w_{23} \\ x_{21}w_{11} + x_{22}w_{21} & x_{21}w_{12} + x_{22}w_{22} & x_{21}w_{13} + x_{22}w_{23} \\ x_{31}w_{11} + x_{32}w_{21} & x_{31}w_{12} + x_{32}w_{22} & x_{31}w_{13} + x_{32}w_{23} \end{pmatrix}$$

3. Load a column of the feature vectors from shared memory, and do multiply-add operations

Thread 0	Thread 1	Thread 2
$x_{11}w_{11}$	$x_{11}w_{12}$	$x_{11}w_{13}$
$x_{21}w_{11}$	$x_{21}w_{12}$	$x_{21}w_{13}$
$x_{31}w_{11}$	$x_{31}w_{12}$	$x_{31}w_{13}$
w_{11}	W_{12}	w_{12}

Goal:
$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} \\ x_{31} & x_{32} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} w_{11} & w_{12} & w_{13} \\ w_{21} & w_{22} & w_{23} \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{11}w_{11} + x_{12}w_{21} & x_{11}w_{12} + x_{12}w_{22} & x_{11}w_{13} + x_{12}w_{23} \\ x_{21}w_{11} + x_{22}w_{21} & x_{21}w_{12} + x_{22}w_{22} & x_{21}w_{13} + x_{22}w_{23} \\ x_{31}w_{11} + x_{32}w_{21} & x_{31}w_{12} + x_{32}w_{22} & x_{31}w_{13} + x_{32}w_{23} \end{pmatrix}$$

4. Load a weight from the global memory for each thread

 W_{21}

Thread 0	Thread 1	Thread 2
$x_{11}w_{11}$	$x_{11}w_{12}$	$x_{11}w_{13}$
$x_{21}w_{11}$	$x_{21}w_{12}$	$x_{21}w_{13}$
$x_{31}w_{11}$	$x_{31}w_{12}$	$x_{31}w_{13}$
	<u> </u>	

 W_{22}

 W_{22}

Goal:
$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} \\ x_{31} & x_{32} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} w_{11} & w_{12} & w_{13} \\ w_{21} & w_{22} & w_{23} \end{pmatrix} =$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{11}w_{11} + x_{12}w_{21} & x_{11}w_{12} + x_{12}w_{22} & x_{11}w_{13} + x_{12}w_{23} \\ x_{21}w_{11} + x_{22}w_{21} & x_{21}w_{12} + x_{22}w_{22} & x_{21}w_{13} + x_{22}w_{23} \\ x_{31}w_{11} + x_{32}w_{21} & x_{31}w_{12} + x_{32}w_{22} & x_{31}w_{13} + x_{32}w_{23} \end{pmatrix}$$

5. Load a column of the feature vectors from shared memory, and do multiply-add operations

Thread 0		Thread 2
$x_{11}w_{11} + x_{12}w_{21}$	$x_{11}w_{12} + x_{12}w_{22}$	$x_{11}w_{13} + x_{12}w_{23}$
$x_{21}w_{11} + x_{22}w_{21}$	$x_{21}w_{12} + x_{22}w_{22}$	$x_{21}w_{13} + x_{22}w_{23}$
$x_{31}w_{11} + x_{32}w_{21}$	$x_{31}w_{12} + x_{32}w_{22}$	$x_{31}w_{13} + x_{32}w_{23}$

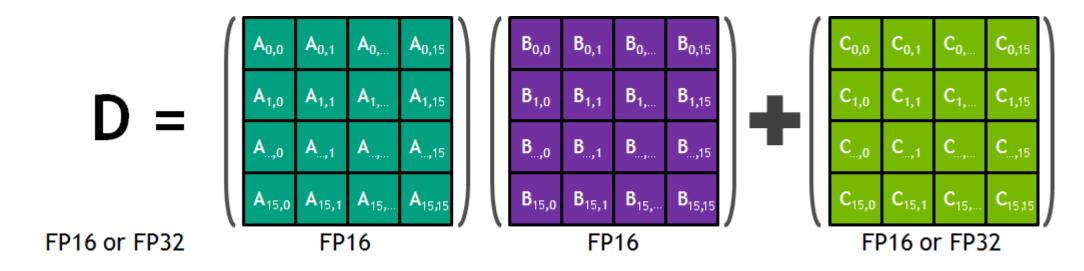
Done!

Roughly $4x \sim 5x$ faster than the naive "an item per thread" approach.

Vector register allocation is modest ©

Thread 0
$$x_{11}w_{11} + x_{12}w_{21} \\ x_{21}w_{11} + x_{22}w_{21} \\ x_{31}w_{11} + x_{32}w_{21} \\ x_{31}w_{12} + x_{32}w_{22} \\ x_{31}w_{12} + x_{32}w_{22} \\ x_{31}w_{13} + x_{32}w_{23} \\ x_{32}w_{13} + x_{32}w_{23} \\ x_{31}w_{13} + x_{32}w_{23} \\ x_{32}w_{13} + x_{32}w_{23} \\ x_{31}w_{13} + x_{32}w_{23} \\ x_{32}w_{13} + x_{32}w_{23} \\ x_{31}w_{13} + x_{32}w_{$$

- WMMA on NV platform
- Fixed size matrix multiplications for each warp e.g. 16x16 matrix



https://developer.nvidia.com/blog/programming-tensor-cores-cuda-9/

The idea is simple:

• Separate a matrix multiplication into smaller matrix multiplications

Step 1
$$\begin{bmatrix}
x_{11} & x_{12} \\
x_{21} & x_{22}
\end{bmatrix}
\xrightarrow{x_{13}}
\xrightarrow{x_{14}}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
x_{13} & x_{14} \\
x_{21} & x_{22}
\end{bmatrix}
\xrightarrow{x_{23}}
\xrightarrow{x_{24}}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
w_{11} & w_{12} \\
w_{21} & w_{22} \\
w_{41} & w_{42}
\end{bmatrix}
\xrightarrow{w_{33}}
\xrightarrow{w_{34}}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
w_{11} & w_{12} \\
w_{21} & w_{22}
\end{bmatrix}
\xrightarrow{w_{33}}
\xrightarrow{w_{34}}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
w_{11} & w_{12} \\
w_{41} & w_{42}
\end{bmatrix}
\xrightarrow{w_{43}}
\xrightarrow{w_{44}}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
w_{11} & w_{12} \\
w_{21} & w_{22}
\end{bmatrix}
\xrightarrow{w_{23}}
\xrightarrow{w_{24}}$$

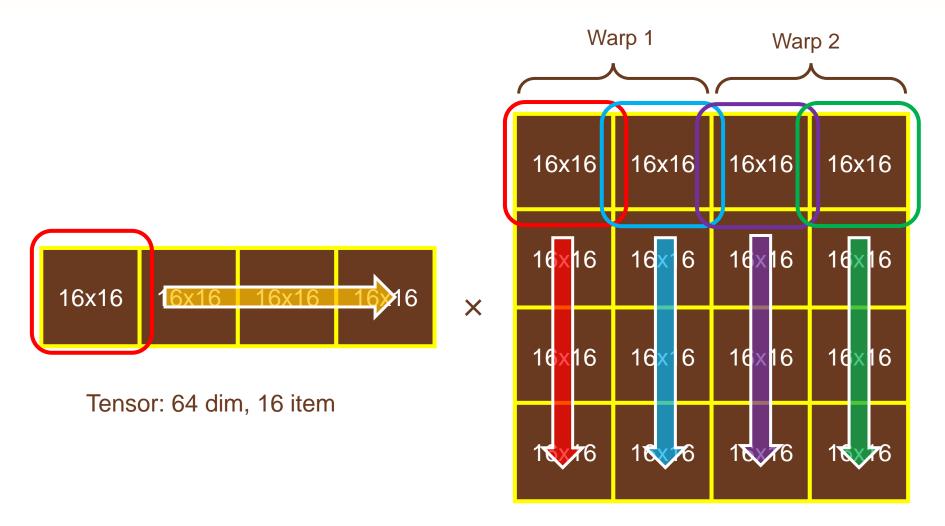
$$\begin{bmatrix}
w_{11} & w_{12} & w_{13} & w_{14} \\
w_{21} & w_{22} & w_{23} & w_{24} \\
w_{31} & w_{32}
\end{bmatrix}
\xrightarrow{w_{33}}
\xrightarrow{w_{34}}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
w_{11} & w_{12} & w_{13} & w_{14} \\
w_{21} & w_{22} & w_{23} & w_{24} \\
w_{31} & w_{32}
\end{bmatrix}
\xrightarrow{w_{33}}
\xrightarrow{w_{34}}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
w_{11} & w_{12} & w_{13} & w_{14} \\
w_{21} & w_{22} & w_{23} & w_{24} \\
w_{31} & w_{32}
\end{bmatrix}
\xrightarrow{w_{33}}
\xrightarrow{w_{34}}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
w_{11} & w_{12} & w_{13} & w_{14} \\
w_{21} & w_{22} & w_{23} & w_{24} \\
w_{31} & w_{32}
\end{bmatrix}
\xrightarrow{w_{33}}
\xrightarrow{w_{34}}$$

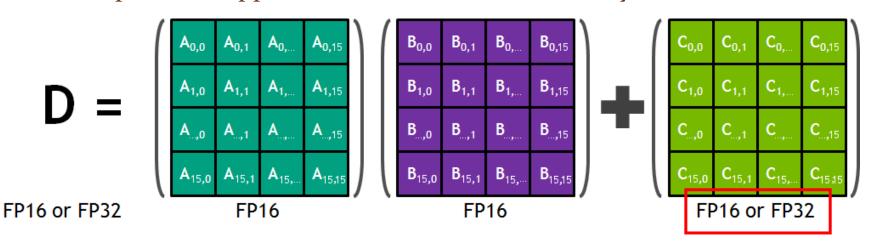
$$\begin{bmatrix}
w_{11} & w_{12} & w_{13} & w_{14} \\
w_{21} & w_{22} & w_{23} & w_{24} \\
w_{31} & w_{32} & w_{33} & w_{34} \\
w_{41} & w_{42}
\end{bmatrix}
=
\begin{bmatrix}
\dots + x_{13}w_{31} + x_{14}w_{41} & \dots + x_{13}w_{12} + x_{14}w_{22} & \dots \\
\dots + x_{23}w_{31} + x_{24}w_{41} & \dots + x_{23}w_{32} + x_{24}w_{42} & \dots \end{bmatrix}$$



Weighting Matrix 64x64

Remark

- Roughly 1.3x faster than the software on my nerf implementation
 - Not significant, because hash grid encoding is also bottleneck
 - May need more investigations
- The accumulation can be done with FP32
 - Depends on applications, but I couldn't find any numerical issue



Summary

- The volume formulation on NeRF is simple and powerful
 - The implementation is not rocket science
- GPU implementation makes sense
 - Thread-group matrix multiplications achieve great performance
 - Even without dedicated HW
 - WMMA can improve more
 - You have any ideas? Please let me know

Questions?

References

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