



OpenGL 4.4 Scene Rendering Techniques

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Scene Rendering

- Scene complexity increases
 - Deep hierarchies, traversal expensive
 - Large objects split up into a lot of little pieces, increased draw call count
 - Unsorted rendering, lot of state changes
- CPU becomes bottleneck when rendering those scenes
- Removing SceneGraph traversal:
 - http://on-demand.gputechconf.com/gtc/2013/presentations/S3032-Advanced-Scenegraph-Rendering-Pipeline.pdf



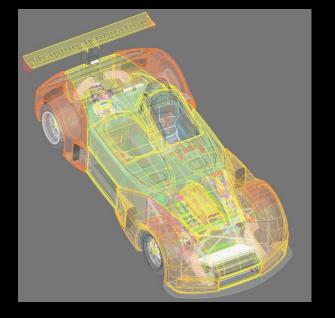
Challenge not necessarily obvious



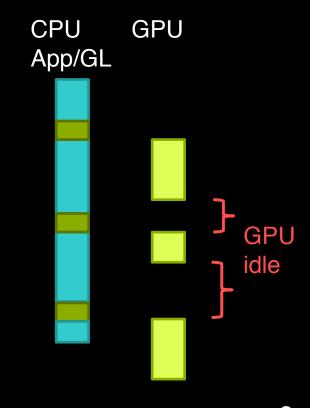
Harder to render "Graphicscard" efficiently than "Racecar"



- 650 000 Triangles
- 68 000 Parts
- ~ 10 Triangles per part



- 3 700 000 Triangles
- 98 000 Parts
- ~ 37 Triangles per part



Enabling GPU Scalability



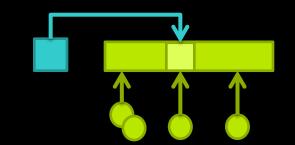
- Avoid data redundancy
 - Data stored once, referenced multiple times
 - Update only once (less host to gpu transfers)

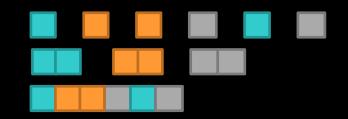


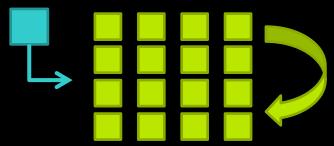
- Further cuts API calls
- Less driver CPU work



- Allow GPU to update its own data
- Low API usage when scene is changed little
- E.g. GPU-based culling







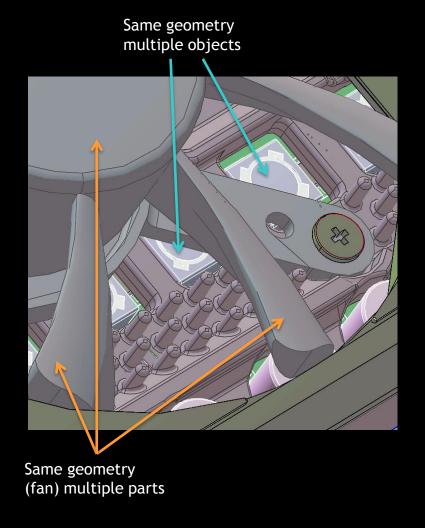
Rendering Research Framework



- Avoids classicSceneGraph design
- Geometry
 - Vertex & Index-Buffer (VBO & IBO)
 - Parts (CAD features)
- Material
- Matrix Hierarchy
- Object

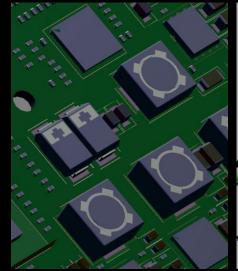
References Geometry,

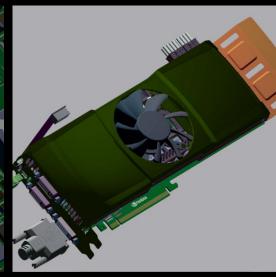
Matrix, Materials



Performance baseline

- Benchmark System
 - Core i7 860 2.8Ghz
 - Kepler Quadro K5000
 - Driver upcoming this summer





110 geometries, 66 materials 2500 objects

- Showing evolution of techniques
 - Render time basic technique 32ms (31fps), CPU limited
 - Render time best technique 1.3ms (769fps)
 - Total speedup of 24.6x

Basic technique 1: 32ms CPU-bound



- Classic uniforms for parameters
- VBO bind per part, drawcall per part, 68k binds/frame

```
foreach (obj in scene) {
   setMatrix (obj.matrix);
   // iterate over different materials used
   foreach (part in obj.geometry.parts)
       setupGeometryBuffer (part.geometry); //
                                               sets vertex and index buffer
       setMaterial if changed (part.material);
       drawPart (part);
```

Basic technique 2: 17 ms CPU-bound



- Classic uniforms for parameters
- VBO bind per geometry, drawcall per part, 2.5k binds/frame

```
foreach (obj in scene) {
   setupGeometryBuffer (obj.geometry); // sets vertex and index buffer
   setMatrix (obj.matrix);
   // iterate over parts
   foreach (part in obj.geometry.parts) {
      setMaterial_if_changed (part.material);
       drawPart (part);
```

Drawcall Grouping



- Combine parts with same state
 - Object's part cache must be rebuilt based on material/enabled state

```
Parts with different materials in geometry
```















```
b+c
```



Grouped and "grown" drawcalls

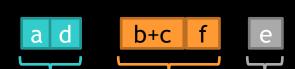
```
foreach (obj in scene) {
    // sets vertex and index buffer
    setupGeometryBuffer (obj.geometry);
    setMatrix (obj.matrix);

// iterate over material batches: 6.8 ms ③ -> 2.5x
    foreach (batch in obj.materialCache) {
        setMaterial (batch.material);
        drawBatch (batch.data);
    }
}
```

glMultiDrawElements (GL 1.4)



 glMultiDrawElements supports multiple index buffer ranges







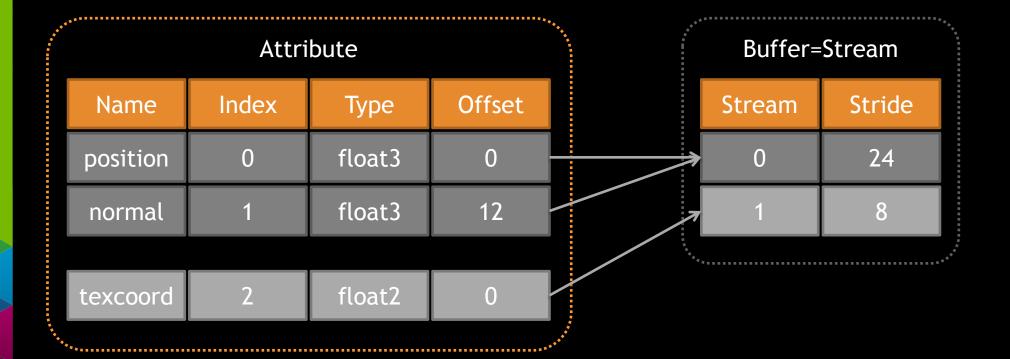
```
foreach (obj in scene) {

    setupGeometryBuffer (obj.geometry);
    setMatrix (obj.matrix);

    // iterate over different materials used
    foreach (batch in obj.materialCache) {
        setMaterial (batch.material);
        drawBatch (batch.geometry);
    }
}
```







Vertex Setup VBO (GL 2.1)



- One call required for each attribute and stream
- Format is being passed when updating ,streams
- Each attribute could be considered as one stream

```
void setupVertexBuffer (obj) {
   glBindBuffer (GL_ARRAY_BUFFER, obj.positionNormal);
   glVertexAttribPointer (0, 3, GL_FLOAT, GL_FALSE, 24, 0); // pos
   glVertexAttribPointer (1, 3, GL_FLOAT, GL_FALSE, 24, 12); // normal

glBindBuffer (GL_ARRAY_BUFFER, obj.texcoord);
   glVertexAttribPointer (2, 2, GL_FLOAT, GL_FALSE, 8, 0); // texcoord
}
```

Vertex Setup VAB (GL 4.3)



ARB_vertex_attrib_binding separates format and stream

```
void setupVertexBuffer(obj) {
```

```
if formatChanged(obj) {
   glVertexAttribFormat (0, 3, GL_FLOAT, false, 0); // position
   glVertexAttribFormat (1, 3, GL_FLOAT, false, 12); // normal
   glVertexAttribFormat (2, 2, GL_FLOAT, false, 0); // texcoord
   glVertexAttribBinding (0, 0); // position -> stream 0
   glVertexAttribBinding (1, 0); // normal -> stream 0
   glVertexAttribBinding (2, 1); // texcoord -> stream 1
}
```

```
// stream, buffer, offset, stride
glBindVertexBuffer (0 , obj.positionNormal, 0 , 24 );
glBindVertexBuffer (1 , obj.texcoord , 0 , 8 );
```





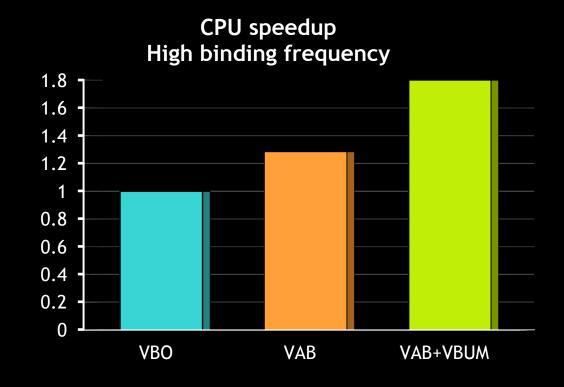
NV_vertex_buffer_unified_memory uses buffer addresses

```
glEnableClientState (GL_VERTEX_ATTRIB_UNIFIED_NV); // enable once
void setupVertexBuffer(obj) {
 if formatChanged(obj) {
   glVertexAttribFormat (0, 3, . . .
      stream, buffer, offset, stride
   glBindVertexBuffer (0, 0, 0, 24); // dummy binds
   glBindVertexBuffer (1, 0, 0, 8); // to update stride
 // no binds, but 64-bit gpu addresses
                                               stream
 glBufferAddressRangeNV (GL_VERTEX_ARRAY_ADDRESS_NV, 0, addr0, length0);
 glBufferAddressRangeNV (GL_VERTEX_ARRAY_ADDRESS_NV, 1, addr1, length1);
```





- Framework uses only one stream and three attributes
- VAB benefit depends on vertex buffer bind frequency







```
foreach (obj in scene) {
   setupGeometryBuffer (obj.geometry);
   setMatrix (obj.matrix); // once per object
   // iterate over different materials used
   foreach (batch in obj.materialCaches) {
       setMaterial (batch.material); // once per batch
       drawBatch (batch.geometry);
```





- Group parameters by frequency of change
- Generate GLSL shader parameters

```
Effect "Phong" {
 Group "material" {
    vec4 "ambient"
    vec4 "diffuse"
    vec4 "specular"
 Group "object" {
    mat4 "world"
   mat4 "worldIT"
  Group "view" {
    vec4 "viewProjTM"
   Code ...
```



- OpenGL 2 uniforms
- OpenGL 3.x, 4.x buffers

Uniform



- glUniform (2.x)
 - one glUniform per parameter (simple)
 - one glUniform array call for all parameters (ugly)

```
// matrices
uniform mat4 matrix_world;
uniform mat4 matrix_worldIT;

// material
uniform vec4 material_diffuse;
uniform vec4 material_emissive;
...

// material fast but "ugly"
uniform vec4 material_data[8];
#define material_diffuse material_data[0]
...
```

Uniform



```
foreach (obj in scene) {
   glUniform (matrixLoc, obj.matrix);
   glUniform (matrixITLoc, obj.matrixIT);
   // iterate over different materials used
   foreach ( batch in obj.materialCaches) {
       glUniform (frontDiffuseLoc, batch.material.frontDiffuse);
       glUniform (frontAmbientLoc, batch.material.frontAmbient);
       glUniform (...)
       glMultiDrawElements (...);
```

BufferSubData



```
glBindBufferBase (GL_UNIFORM_BUFFER, 0, uboMatrix);
glBindBufferBase (GL_UNIFORM_BUFFER, 1, uboMaterial);
foreach (obj in scene) {
   glNamedBufferSubDataEXT (uboMatrix, 0, maSize, obj.matrix);
   // iterate over different materials used
   foreach ( batch in obj.materialCaches) {
       glNamedBufferSubDataEXT (uboMaterial, 1, mtlSize, batch.material);
```

```
glMultiDrawElements (...);
}
```

Uniform to UBO transition



- Changes to existing shaders are minimal
 - Surround block of parameters with uniform block
 - Actual shader code remains unchanged
- Group parameters by frequency

```
// matrices
uniform mat4 matrix_world;
uniform mat4 matrix_worldIT;

// material
uniform vec4 material_diffuse;
uniform vec4 material_emissive;
...
```

```
layout(std140,binding=0) uniform matrixBuffer {
  mat4 matrix_world;
  mat4 matrix_worldIT;
};

layout(std140,binding=1) uniform materialBuffer {
  vec4 material_diffuse;
  vec4 material_emissive;
  ...
};
```





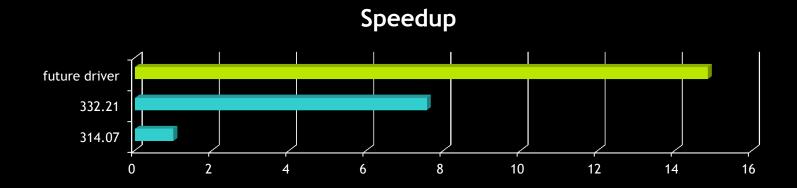
- Good speedup over multiple glUniform calls
- Efficiency still dependent on size of material

Technique	Draw time		
Uniform	5.2 ms		
BufferSubData	2.7 ms 1.9x		

BufferSubData



- Use glBufferSubData for dynamic parameters
- Restrictions to get effcient path
 - Buffer only used as GL_UNIFORM_BUFFER
 - Buffer is <= 64kb</p>
 - Buffer bound offset == 0 (glBindBufferRange)
 - Offset and size passed to glBufferSubData be a multiple of 4





BindBufferRange

```
UpdateMatrixAndMaterialBuffer();
foreach (obj in scene) {
   glBindBufferRange (UBO, 0, uboMatrix, obj.matrixOffset, maSize);
   // iterate over different materials used
   foreach ( batch in obj.materialCaches) {
     glBindBufferRange (UBO, 1, uboMaterial, batch.materialOffset, mtlSize);
     glMultiDrawElements (...);
```





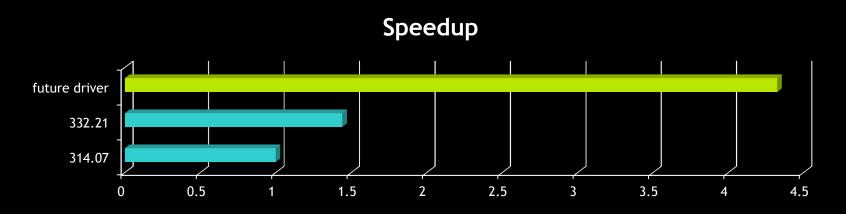
- glBindBufferRange speed independent of data size
 - Material used in framework is small (128 bytes)
 - glBufferSubData will suffer more with increasing data size

Technique	Draw time		
glUniforms	5.2 ms		
glBufferSubData	2.7 ms 1.9x		
glBindBufferRange	2.0 ms 2.6x		

BindRange



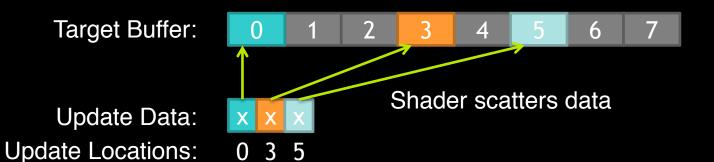
- Avoid expensive CPU -> GPU copies for static data
- Upload static data once and bind subrange of buffer
 - glBindBufferRange (target, index, buffer, offset, size);
 - Offset aligned to GL_UNIFORM_BUFFER_OFFSET_ALIGNMENT
 - Fastest path: One buffer per binding index







Incremental Buffer Updates



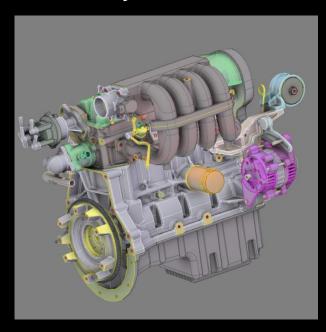
- Buffer may be large and sparse
 - Full update could be ,slow' because of unused/padded data
 - Too many small glBufferSubData calls
- Use Shader to write into Buffer (via SSBO)
 - Provides compact CPU -> GPU transfer

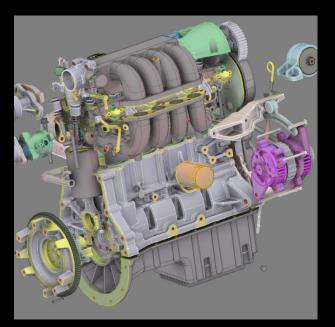
Transform Tree Updates





- All matrices stored on GPU
 - Use ARB_compute_shader for hierarchy updates ☺
 - Send only local matrix changes, evaluate tree



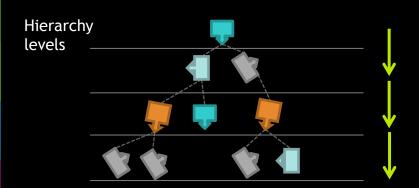


Transform Tree Updates



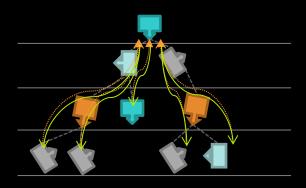


- Update hierarchy on GPU
 - Level- and Leaf-wise processing depending on workload
 - world = parent.world * object



Level-wise waits for previous results

Risk of little work per level



Leaf-wise runs to top, then concats path downwards per thread

Favors more total work over redundant calculations

Indexed



- TextureBufferObject(TBO) for matrices
- UniformBufferObject (UBO) with array data to save binds
- Assignment indices passed as vertex attribute or uniform
- Caveat: costs for indexed fetch

```
in vec4 oPos;
uniform samplerBuffer matrixBuffer;
uniform materialBuffer {
  Material materials[512];
};
in ivec2 vAssigns;
flat out ivec2 fAssigns;
// in vertex shader
  fAssigns = vAssigns;
  worldTM = getMatrix (matrixBuffer,
                       vAssigns.x);
 wPos = worldTM * oPos;
// in fragment shader
  color = materials[fAssigns.y].color;
```

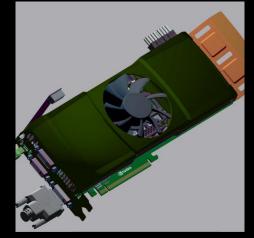
Indexed



```
setupSceneMatrixAndMaterialBuffer (scene);
foreach (obj in scene) {
   setupVertexBuffer (obj.geometry);
   // iterate over different materials used
   foreach ( batch in obj.materialCache ) {
       glVertexAttribI2i (indexAttr, batch.materialIndex, matrixIndex);
       glMultiDrawElements (GL_TRIANGLES, batch.counts, GL_UNSIGNED_INT ,
                             batch.offsets,batched.numUsed);
```

Indexed

Scene and hardware dependent benefit





avg 55 triangles per drawcall

avg 1500 triangles per drawcall

Timer	Graphicscard		Racecar	
Hardware	K5000	K2000	K5000	K2000
BindBufferRange GPU	2.0 ms	3.3 ms	2.4 ms	7.4 ms
Indexed GPU	1.6 ms 1.25x	3.6 ms 0.9x	2.5 ms 0.96x	7.7 ms 0.96x
BindBufferRange CPU	2.0 ms		0.5 ms	
Indexed CPU	1.1 ms 1.8x		0.3 ms 1.6x	

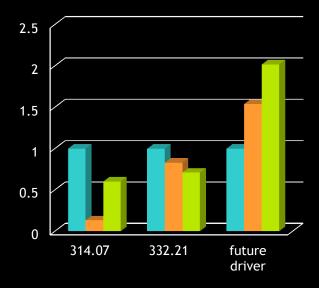
NVIDIA

Recap



- glUniform
 - Only for tiny data (<= vec4)</p>
- glBufferSubData
 - Dynamic data
- glBindBufferRange
 - Static or GPU generated data
- Indexed
 - TBO/SSBO for large/random access data
 - UBO for frequent changes (bad for divergent access)

Speed relative to glUniform



- glUniform
- glBufferSubData
- glBindBufferRange

Multi Draw Indirect



- Combine even further
 - Use MultiDrawIndirect for single drawcall
 - Can store array of drawcalls on GPU



Grouped and "grown" drawcalls



Single drawcall with material/matrix changes

```
DrawElementsIndirect
{
   GLuint count;
   GLuint instanceCount;
   GLuint firstIndex;
   GLint baseVertex;
   GLuint baseInstance;
}
encodes material
```

encodes material/matrix assignment

Multi Draw Indirect



- Parameters:
 - TBO and UBO as before
 - ARB_shader_draw_parameters for gl_BaseInstanceARB access
 - Caveat:
 - Currently slower than vertexdivisor technique shown GTC 2013 for very low primitive counts (improvement being investigated)

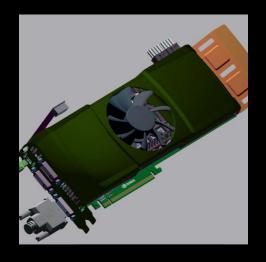
```
uniform
        samplerBuffer matrixBuffer;
uniform materialBuffer {
  Material materials[256];
// encoded assignments in 32-bit
ivec2 vAssigns =
   ivec2 (gl_BaseInstanceARB >> 16,
          gl BaseInstanceARB & 0xFFFF);
flat out ivec2 fAssigns;
// in vertex shader
  fAssigns = vAssigns;
  worldTM = getMatrix (matrixBuffer,
                       vAssigns.x);
// in fragment shader
  color = materials[fAssigns.y].diffuse...
```





Performance

Multi Draw Indirect (MDI)
 is primitive dependent



avg 55 triangles per drawcall

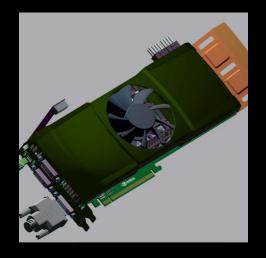


avg 1500 triangles per drawcall

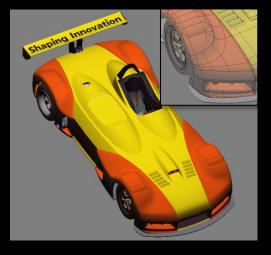
Timer	Graphicscard	Racecar
Indexed GPU	1.6 ms	2.5 ms
MDI w. gl_BaseInstanceARB	2.0 ms 0.8x	2.5 ms
MDI w. vertex divisor	1.3 ms 1.5x	2.5 ms
Indexed CPU	1.1 ms	0.3 ms
MDI	0.5 ms 2.2x	0.3 ms

Performance

Multi Draw Indirect (MDI)
 is great for non-material batched case



68.000 drawcommands



98.000 drawcommands













Timer	Graphicscard	Racecar
Indexed (not batched) GPU	6.3 ms	8.7 ms
MDI w. vertex divisor (not batched)	2.5 ms 2.5x	3.6 ms 2.4x
Indexed (not batched) CPU	6.4 ms	8.8 ms
MDI w. vertex divisor (not batched)	0.5 ms 12.8x	0.3 ms 29.3 x





NV_bindless_multidraw_indirect

DrawIndirect combined with VBUM

```
DrawElementsIndirect
  GLuint
                count;
                instanceCount;
  GLuint
  GLuint
                firstIndex;
  GLint
                baseVertex;
  GLuint
                baseInstance;
BindlessPtr
  Gluint
                index;
  Gluint
                reserved;
  GLuint64
                address:
  GLuint64
                length;
```

```
MyDrawIndirectNV
{
    DrawElementsIndirect cmd;
    GLuint reserved;
    BindlessPtr index;
    BindlessPtr vertex; // for position, normal...
}
```

Caveat:

- more costly than regular MultiDrawIndirect
- Should have > 500 triangles worth of work per drawcall



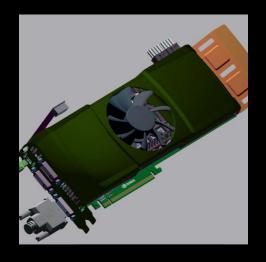


NV_bindless_multidraw_indirect

```
// enable VBUM vertexformat
glBindBuffer (GL_DRAW_INDIRECT_BUFFER, scene.indirectBuffer)
// draw entire scene one go ☺
// one call per shader
glMultiDrawElementsIndirectBindlessNV
  (GL_TRIANGLES, GL_UNSIGNED_INT,
   scene->indirectOffset, scene->numIndirects,
  sizeof(MyDrawIndirectNV),
  1 // 1 vertex attribute binding);
```

Performance

NV_bindless_multi... is primitive dependent



avg 55 triangles per drawcall



avg 1500 triangles per drawcall

Timer	Graphicscard	Racecar
MDI w. gl_BaseInstanceARB GPU	2.0 ms	2.5 ms
NV_bindless	2.3 ms 0.86x	2.5 ms
MDI w. gl_BaseInstanceARB CPU	0.5 ms	0.3 ms
NV_bindless	0.04 ms 12.5x	0.04 ms 7.5x

- Scalar data batching is "easy", how about textures?
 - Test adds 4 unique textures per material
 - Tri-planar texturing, no additional vertex attributes





ARB_multi_bind aeons in the making, finally here (4.4 core)

```
// NEW ARB multi bind
glBindTextures (0, 4, textures);
// Alternatively EXT_direct_state_access
glBindMultiTextureEXT ( GL TEXTURE0 + 0, GL TEXTURE 2D, textures[0]);
glBindMultiTextureEXT ( GL_TEXTURE0 + 1, GL_TEXTURE_2D, textures[1]);
// classic selector way
glActiveTexture (GL TEXTURE0 + 0);
glBindTexture
                (GL TEXTURE 2D, textures[0]);
glActiveTexture (GL_TEXTURE0 + 1 ...
```



- NV/ARB_bindless_texture
 - Manage residency

```
uint64 glGetTextureHandle (tex) {
glMakeTextureHandleResident (hdl)
```

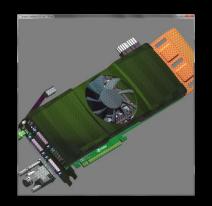
Faster binds

```
glUniformHandleui64ARB (loc, hdl)
```

store texture handles as 64bit
 values inside buffers

```
// NEW ARB bindless texture stored inside
buffer!
struct MaterialTex {
  sampler2D tex0; // can be in struct
  sampler2D tex1;
uniform materialTextures {
  MaterialTex texs[128];
};
// in fragment shader
flat in ivec2 fAssigns;
color = texture ( texs[fAssigns.y] .tex0,
                  uv);
```

- CPU Performance
 - Raw test, VBUM+VAB,
 batched by material



~11.000 x 4 texture binds 66 x 4 unique textures



NVIDIA

~2.400 x 4 texture binds 138 x 4 unique textures

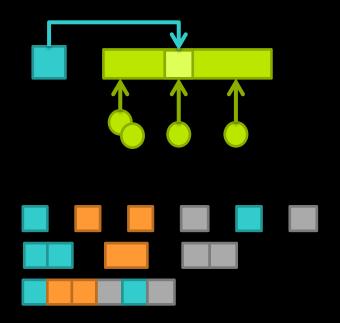
Timer	Graphicscard		Racecar
glBindTextures	6.7 ms	(CPU-bound)	1.2 ms
glUniformHandleui64 (BINDLESS)	4.3 ms 1.5x	(CPU-bound)	1.0 ms 1.2x
Indexed handles inside UBO (BINDLESS)	1.1 ms 6.0x		0.3 ms 4.0x

Recap



- Share geometry buffers for batching
- Group parameters for fast updating
- MultiDraw/Indirect for keeping objects independent or remove additional loops
 - BaseInstance to provide unique index/assignments for drawcall

Bindless to reduce validation overhead/add flexibility



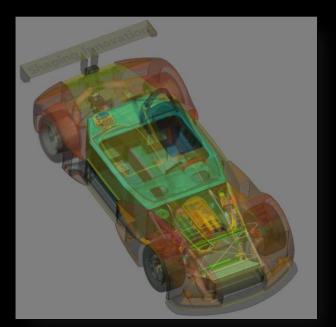


Occlusion Culling



- Try create less total workload
- Many occluded parts in the car model (lots of vertices)





GPU Culling Basics





- GPU friendly processing
 - Matrix and bbox buffer, object buffer
 - XFB/Compute or "invisible" rendering
 - Vs. old techniques: Single GPU job for ALL objects!



- "Readback" GPU to Host
 - Can use GPU to pack into bit stream
- "Indirect" GPU to GPU
 - Set DrawIndirect's instanceCount to 0 or 1

```
bjects!
```

```
0,1,0,1,1,1,0,0,0

buffer cmdBuffer{
   Command cmds[];
};
...
cmds[obj].instanceCount = visible;
```

Occlusion Culling

depth buffer

- OpenGL 4.2+
 - Depth-Pass
 - Raster "invisible" bounding boxes
 - Disable Color/Depth writes
 - Geometry Shader to create the three visible box sides
 - Depth buffer discards occluded fragments (earlyZ...)
 - Fragment Shader writes output: visible[objindex] = 1



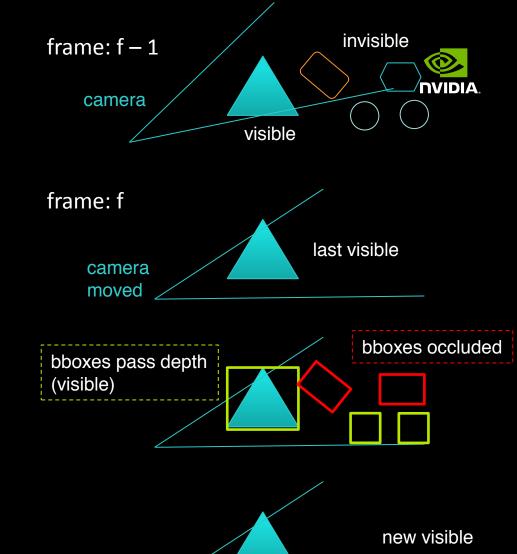


Passing bbox fragments enable object

```
// GLSL fragment shader
// from ARB shader image load store
layout(early_fragment_tests) in;
buffer visibilityBuffer{
  int visibility[];
                      // cleared to 0
};
flat in int objectID; // unique per box
void main()
  visibility[objectID] = 1;
  // no atomics required (32-bit write)
```

Temporal Coherence

- Few changes relative to camera
- Draw each object only once
 - Render last visible, fully shaded (last)
 - Test all against current depth: (visible)
 - Render newly added visible:
 none, if no spatial changes made
 (~last) & (visible)
 - (last) = (visible)







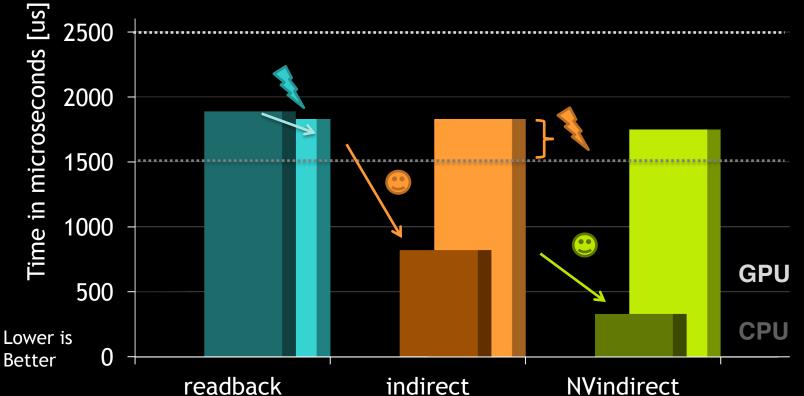
Culling Readback vs Indirect



For readback results, CPU has to wait for GPU idle, and GPU may remain idle until new work



Indirect not yet as efficient to process "invisible" commands



GPU time without culling

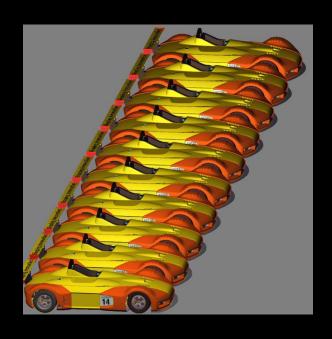
GPU time optimum with culling

Will it scale?



- 10 x the car: 45 fps
 - everything but materials duplicated in memory, NO instancing
 - 1m parts, 16k objects, 36m tris, 34m verts

- Readback culling: 145 fps 3.2x
 - 6 ms CPU time, wait for sync takes 5 ms
- Stall-free culling: 115 fps 2.5x
 - 1 ms CPU time using
 NV_bindless_multidraw_indirect





Temporal culling

Culling Results

- very useful for object/vertex-boundedness
- Readback vs Indirect
 - Readback should be delayed so GPU doesn't starve of work
 - Indirect benefit depends on scene (#VBOs and #primitives)
 - "Graphicscard" model didn't benefit of either culling on K5000
- Working towards GPU autonomous system
 - (NV_bindless)/ARB_multidraw_indirect, ARB_indirect_parameters as mechanism for GPU creating its own work

glFinish();



■ Thank you!

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Glossary

- VBO: vertex buffer object to store vertex data on GPU (GL server), favor bigger buffers to have less binds, or go bindless
- IBO: index buffer object, GL_ELEMENT_ARRAY_BUFFER to store vertex indices on GPU
- VAB: vertex attribute binding, splits vertex attribute format from vertex buffer
- VBUM: vertex buffer unified memory, allows working with raw gpu address pointer values, avoids binding objects completely
- UBO: uniform buffer object, data you want to access uniformly inside shaders
- TBO: texture buffer object, for random access data in shaders
- SSBO: shader storage buffer object, read & write arbitrary data structures stored in buffers
- MDI: Multi Draw Indirect, store draw commands in buffers