

# GDC



Microsoft



XBOX



Windows

# GDC

## DirectX Raytracing

Matt Sandy  
Program Manager  
DirectX



Microsoft



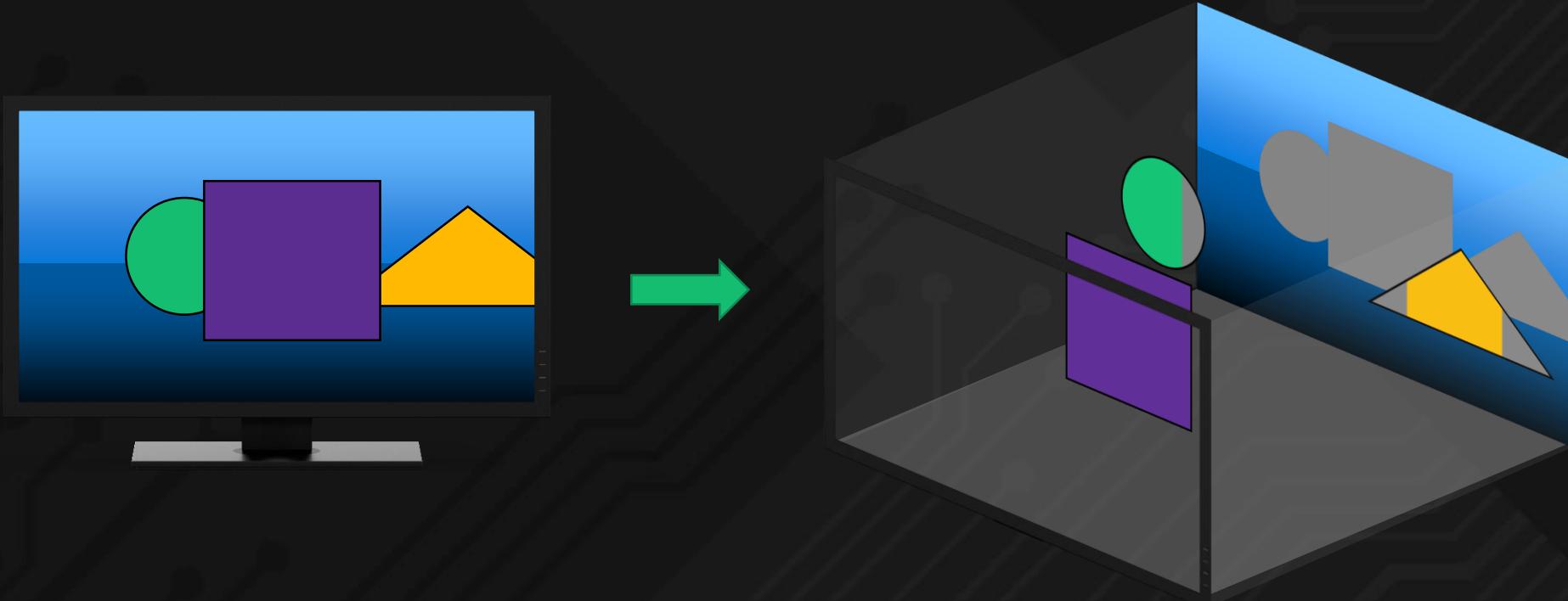
Windows

# 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

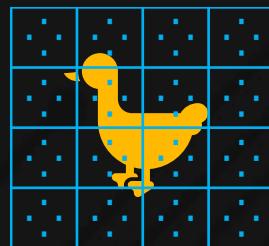
- 1999 – Hardware T&L
- 2000 – Simple Programmable Shaders
- 2002 – Complex Programmable Shaders
- 2008 – Compute Shaders
- 2014 – Asynchronous Compute
- 2018...

# A Brief History of Pixels

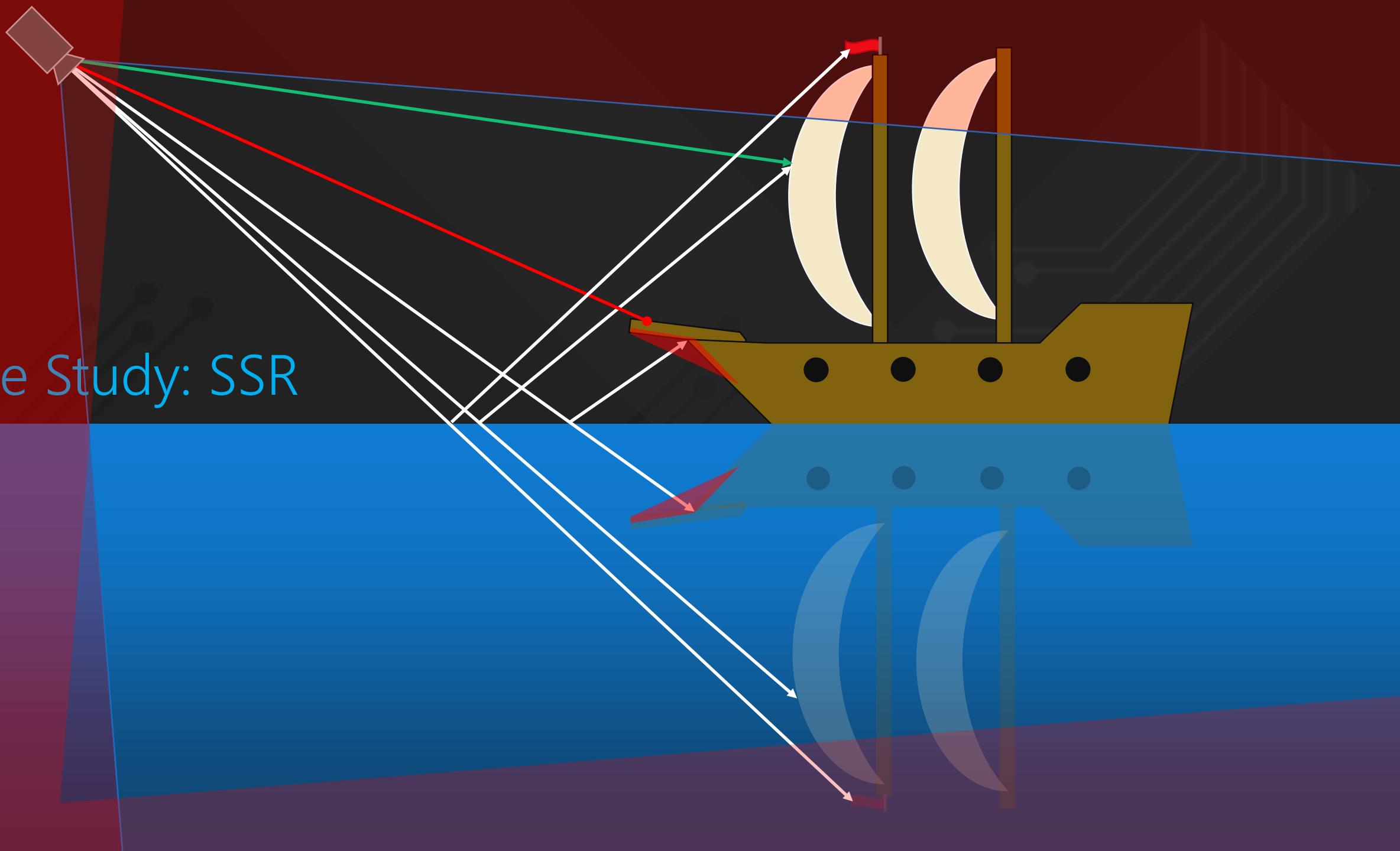
- 1999 – Hardware T&L
- 2000 – Simple Programmable Shaders
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- 2008 – Compute Shaders
- 2014 – Asynchronous Compute
- 2018 – **DirectX Raytracing**

# Raytracing 101

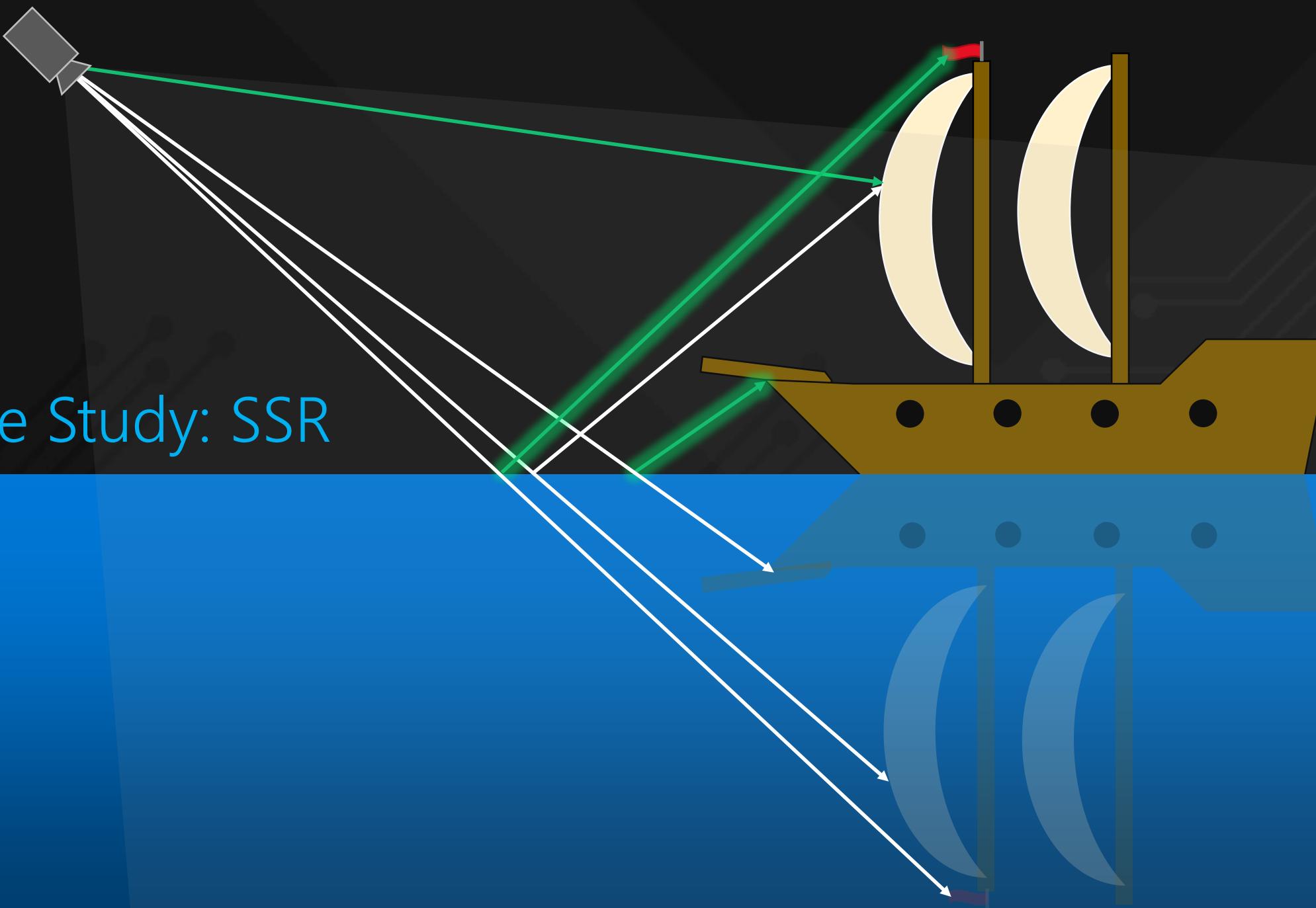
1. Construct a 3D representation of a scene.
2. Trace rays into the scene from a point of interest (e.g. camera).
3. Accumulate data about ray intersections.
4. Optional: go to step 2.
5. Process the accumulated data to form an image.



# Case Study: SSR

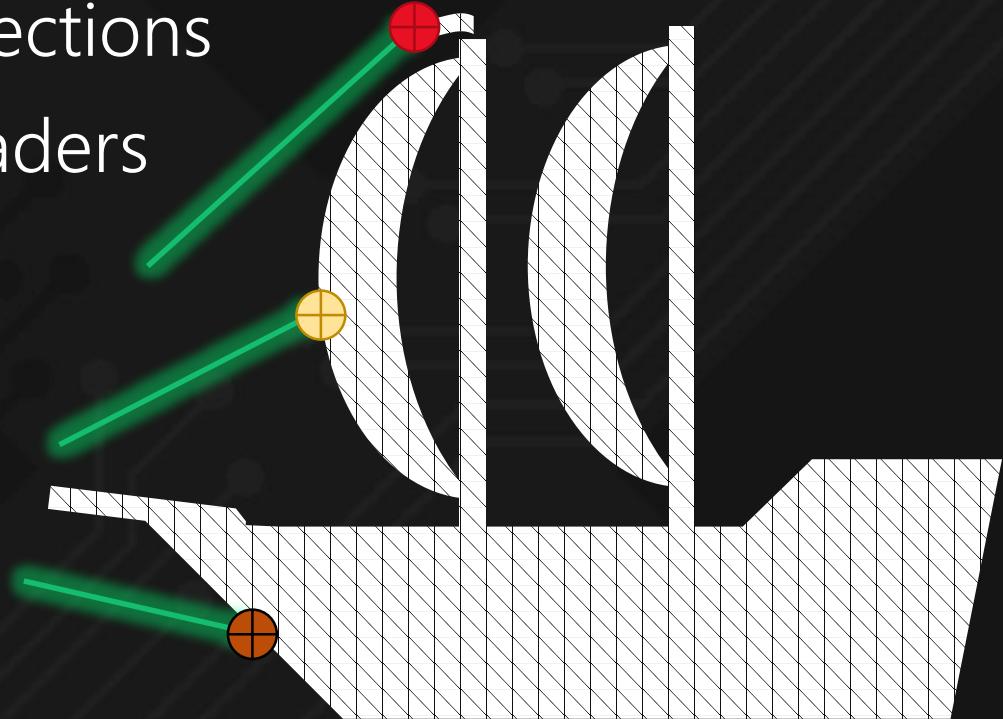


## Case Study: SSR



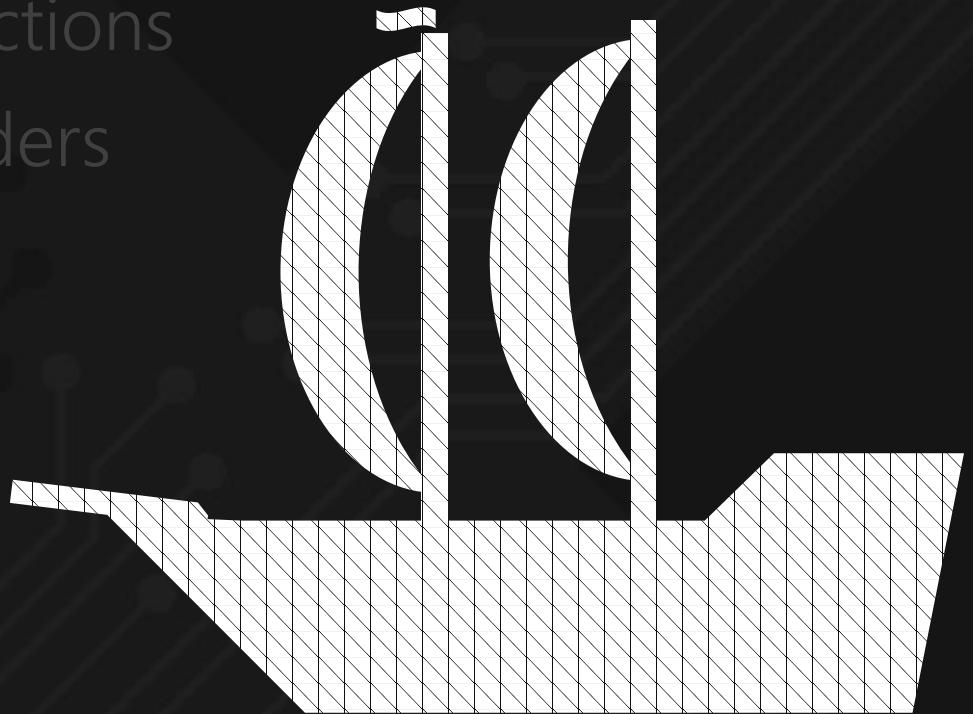
# Raytracing Requirements

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



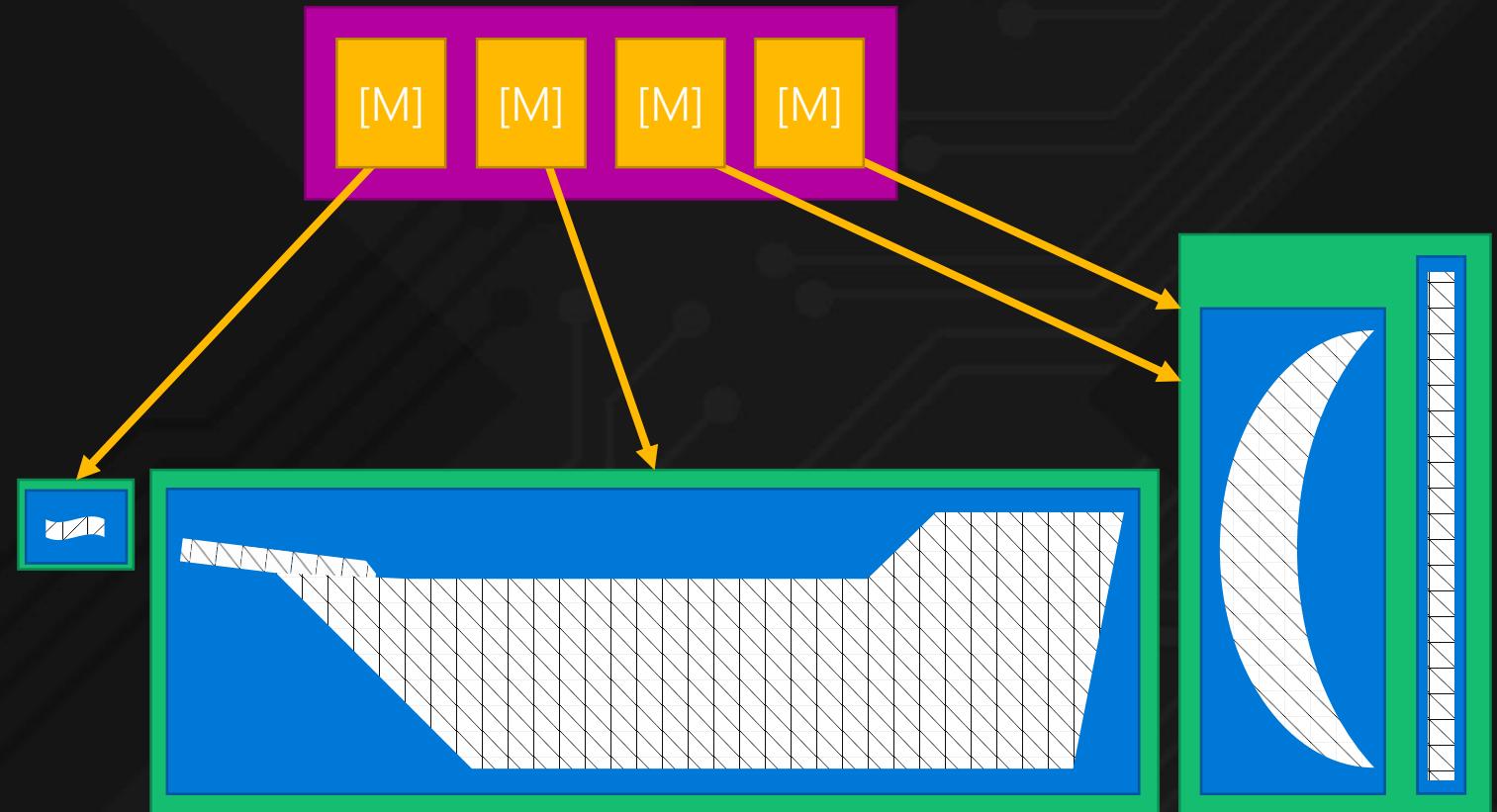
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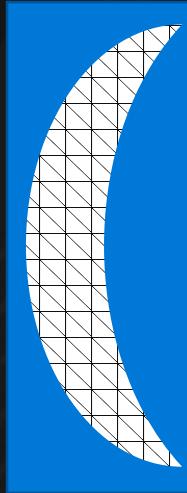
# Acceleration Structures

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



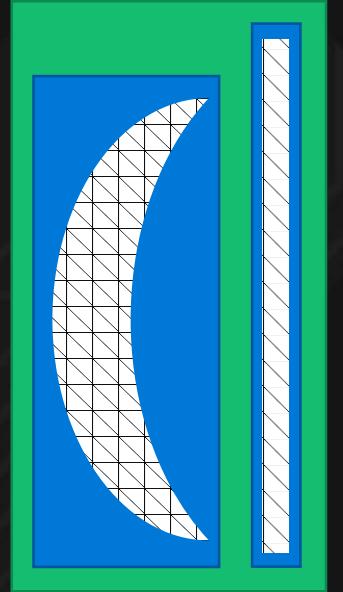
# Geometries

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



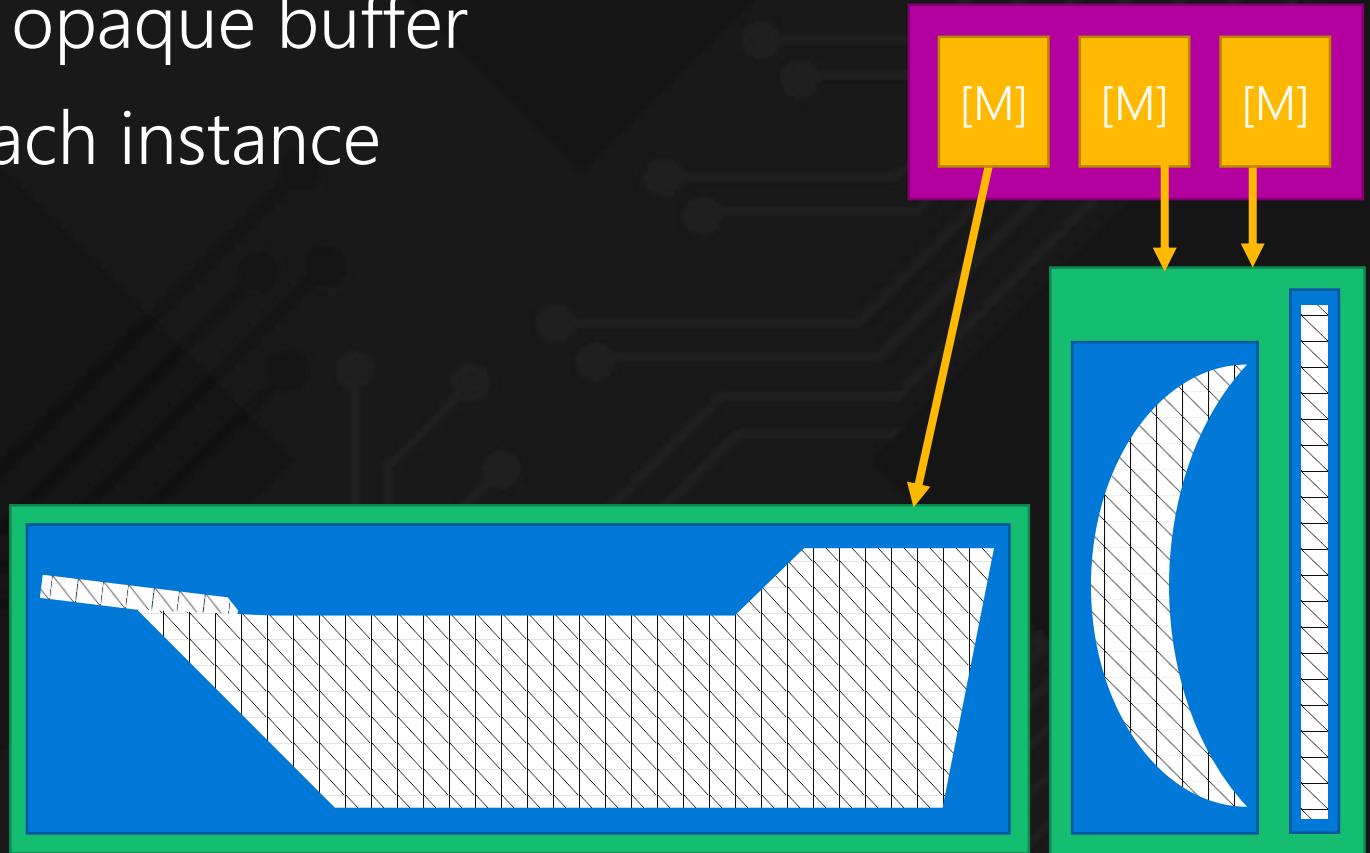
# Bottom-Level Acceleration Structure

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



# Top-Level Acceleration Structures

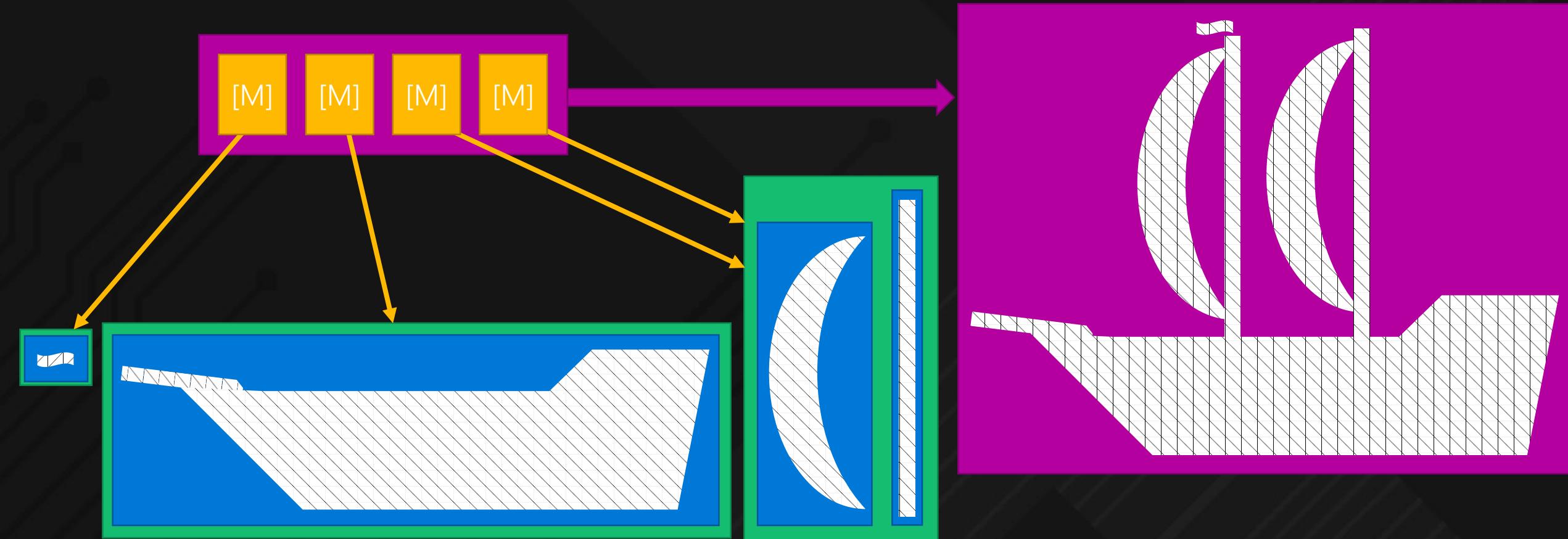
- Defined by a set of instances of bottom-level structures
- Built on the GPU, written to opaque buffer
- Transformation matrix for each instance



# Acceleration Structure Details

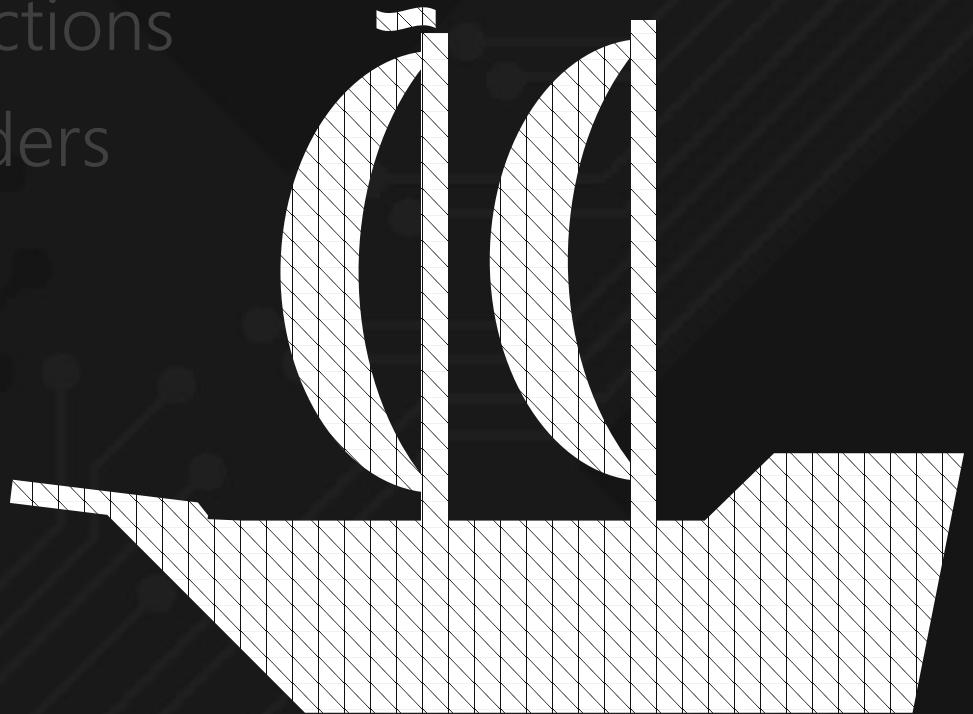
- Prebuild info
  - Query driver for allocation requirements
  - Returns conservative result and scratch sizes required
- Postbuild info available
  - Query compacted size for reallocation
- Updates supported
  - Incrementally update top/bottom level structs
  - Can do async full rebuild when drifting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

# Acceleration Structure Recap



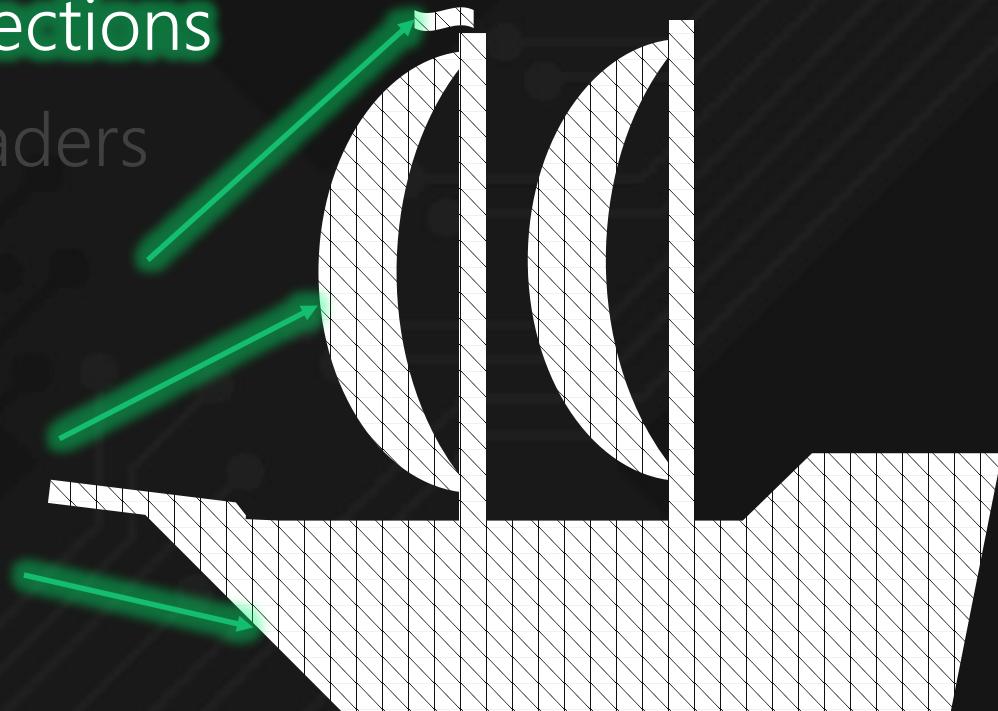
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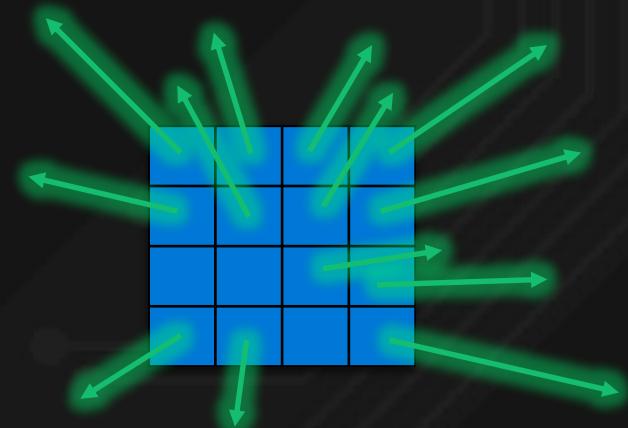
# Raytracing Requirements

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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



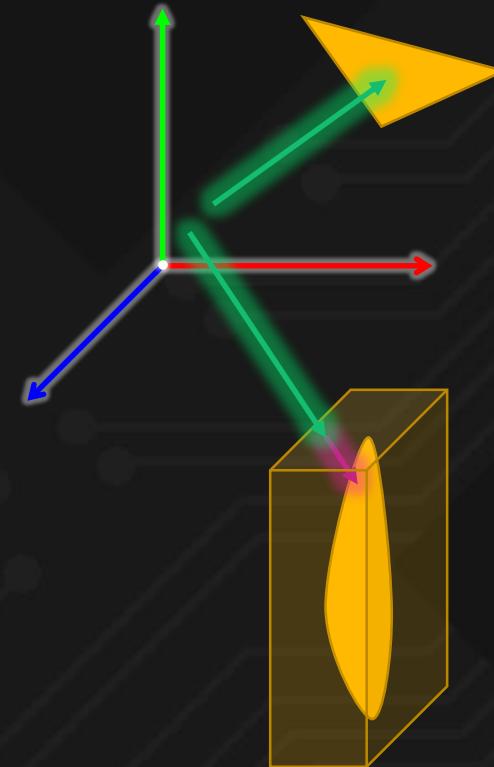
# TraceRay Intrinsic

- Origin
- Direction
- TMin/TMax
- App-defined “payload”



# Determining Intersections

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

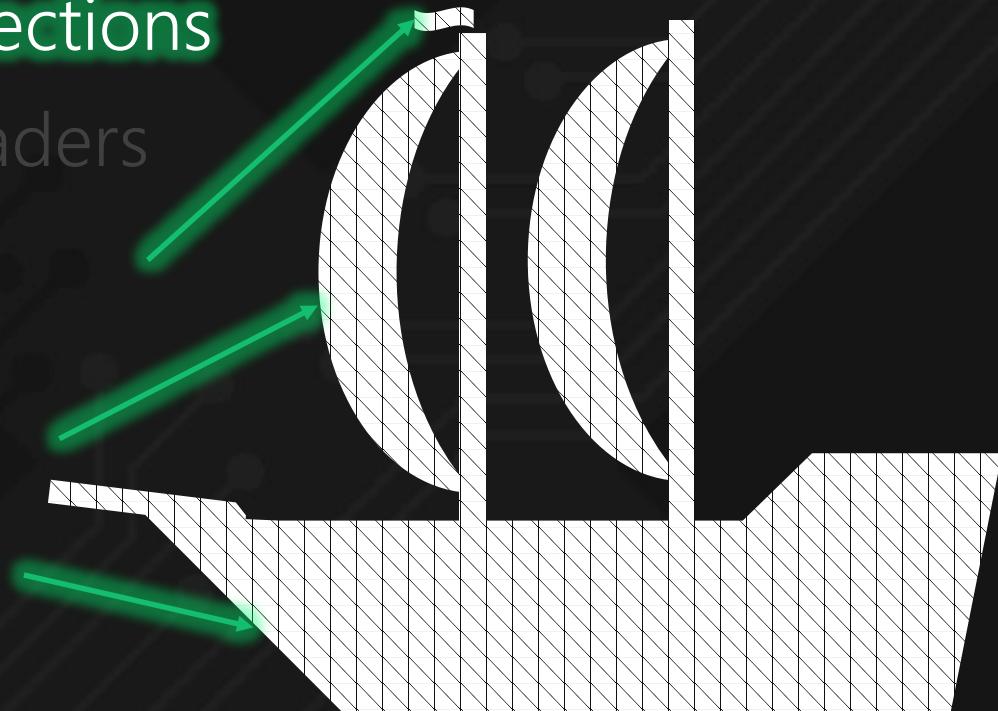


# DXC / DXIL

- 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

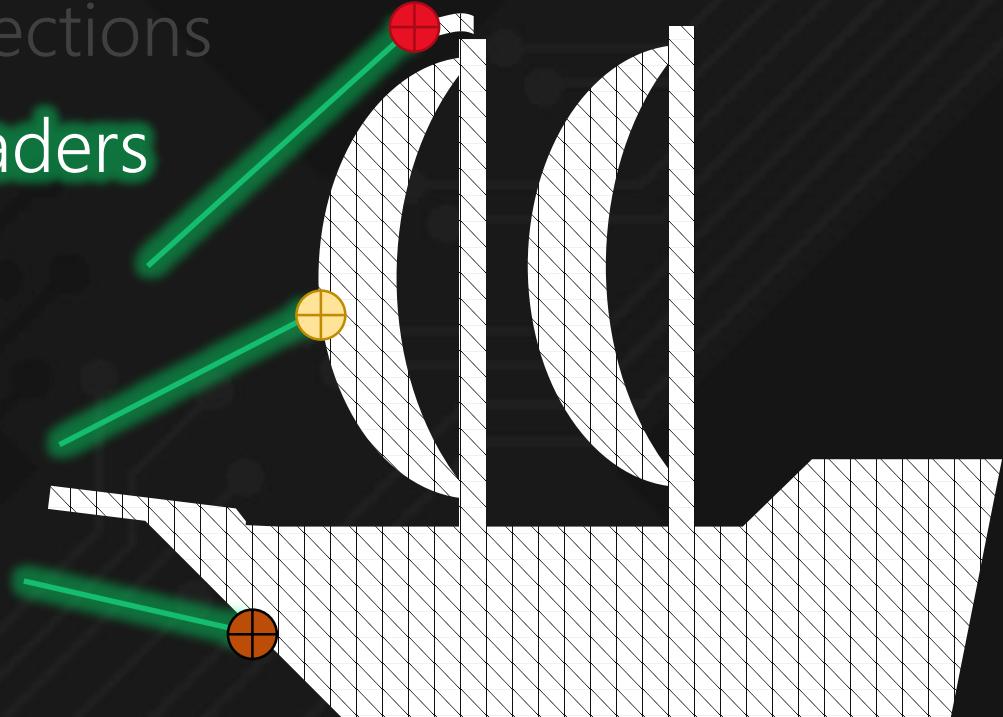
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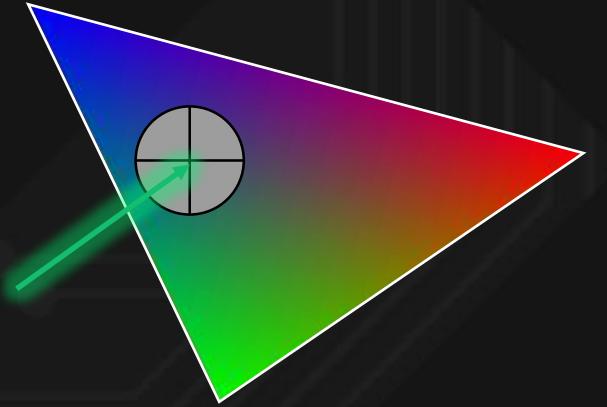
# Raytracing Requirements

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- Determine and execute material shaders



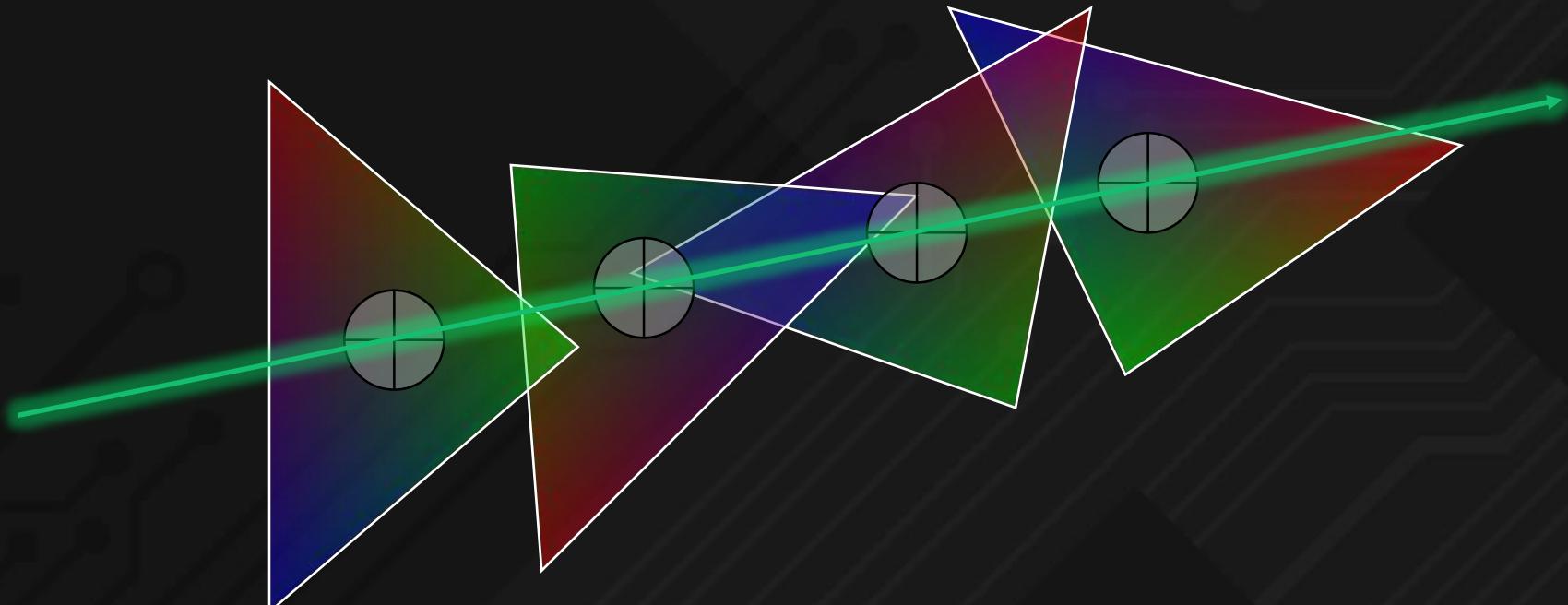
# Hit Shaders

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



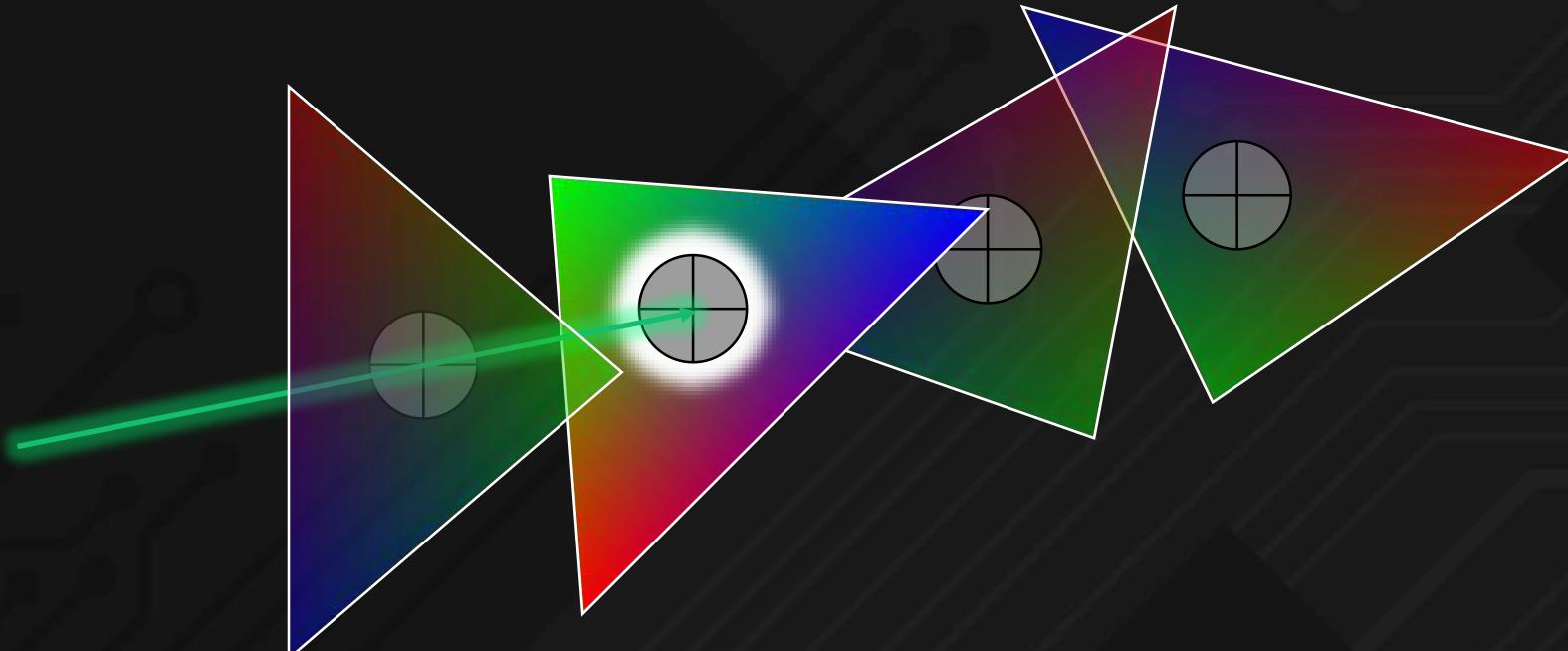
# Any-Hit Shaders

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



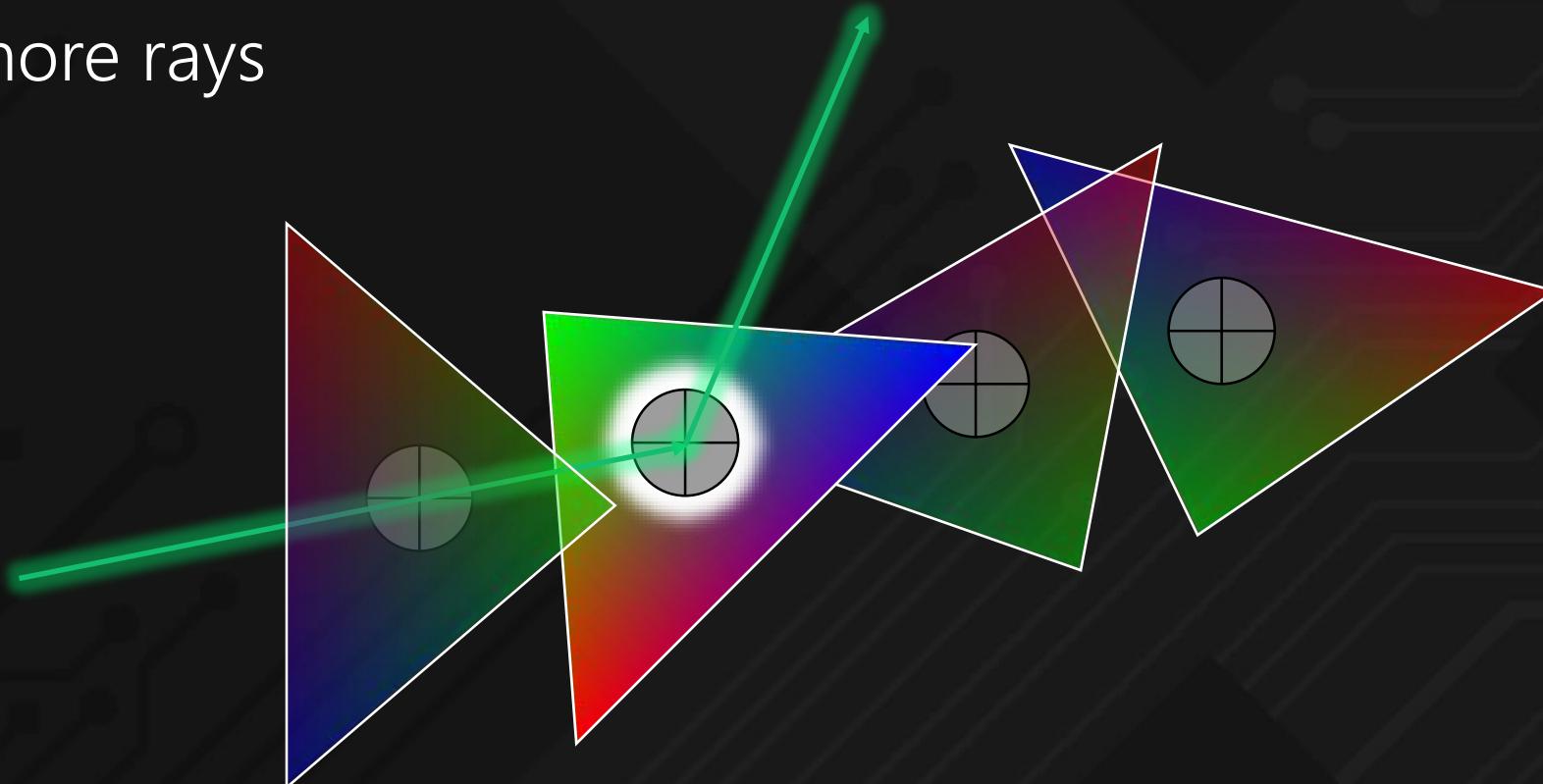
# Closest-Hit Shaders

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



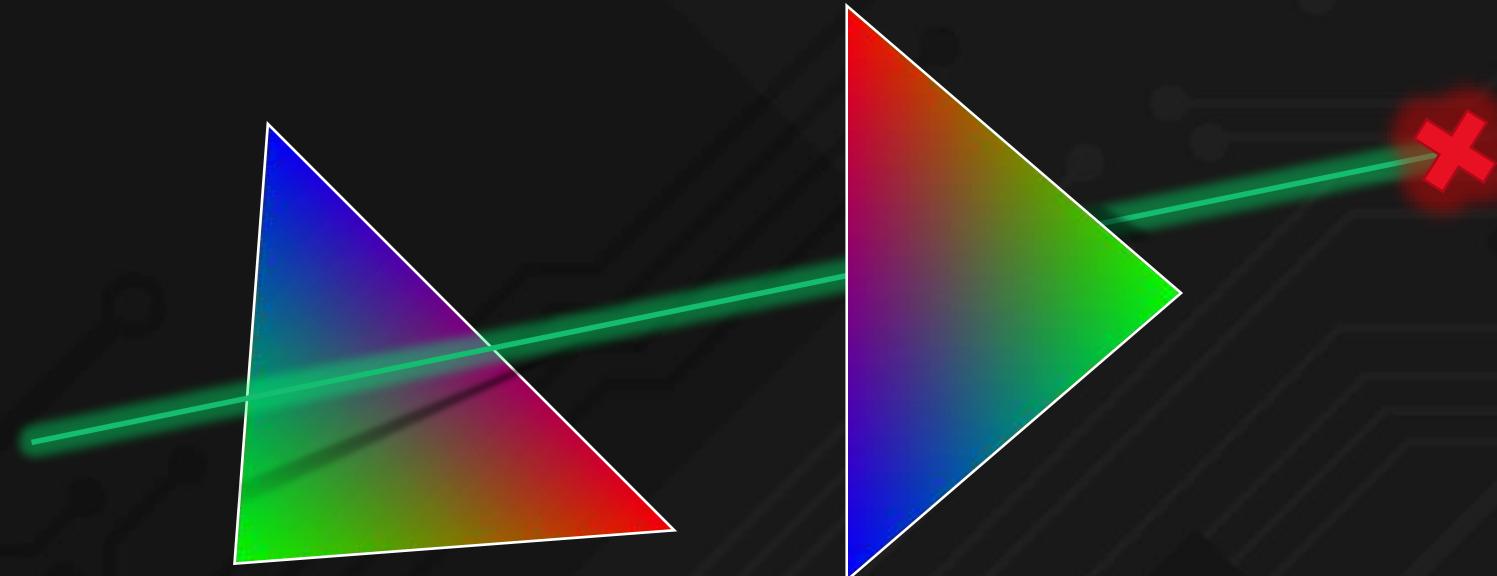
# Closest-Hit Shaders

- 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)

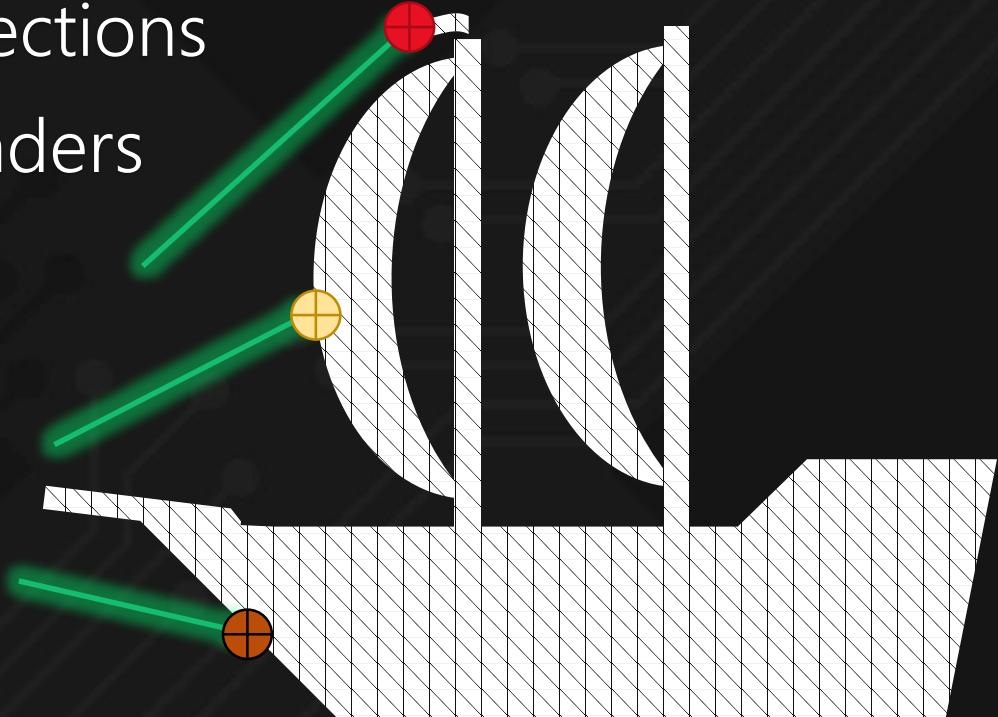
- Set of shaders and root signatures
- Associate root signatures with DXIL library exports
- Create pipeline-specific sub-objects and associations
- Flexibility to support future pipelines
- **State Object Properties** interface for post-compile information

# 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

MultithreadingSample.pix3 - PIX

Home Overview Pipeline Tools Debug Stop Local Machine (localhost) Views

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

API Object Table

Name	Value
Hit Group	HitGroup
Any Hit	AnyHitMain
Closest Hit	ClosestHitMain

Pipeline

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 : I

HitGroup (Record 0)

CBV 0 : SceneConstantBuffer  
SRV Texture 0 : m\_shadowTexture  
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 : sampleWrap  
Static Sampler 1 : sampleClamp

HitGroup (Record 1)

CBV 0 : SceneConstantBuffer  
SRV Texture 0 : m\_shadowTexture  
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 : sampleWrap  
Static Sampler 1 : sampleClamp

HitGroup (Record 2)

CBV 0 : SceneConstantBuffer  
SRV Texture 0 : m\_shadowTexture  
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 : sampleWrap  
Static Sampler 1 : sampleClamp

HitGroup (Record 3)

Stream: 0 Offset: 0 Format: R32G32B32\_FLOAT Ignore W channel

Primitive=TRIANGLELIST, IndexCount=764211

Reset Position Parameters

9:55 PM 3/20/2018

## Events

Graphics Queue 0 (m\_commandQueue) ▾

Queue ID	Name	Global ID
3,232	ClearUnorderedAccessViewFloat(...,res#6,obj#40,...,0,...)	2,05
3,233	DispatchRays(obj#1154,...) {this->ID3D12CommandListR...	2,05
3,234	ResourceBarrier(2,...) {this->ID3D12GraphicsCommandL...	2,06

Event Details		Resource Table	API Object Table
All	Filter (Ctrl+E)		
Name	Value		
Hit Group	HitGroup		
Any Hit	AnyHitMain		
Closest Hit	ClosestHitMain		

## State Object Trees

## Pipeline

 Filter (Ct)

Global ID = 2059. Open a view pinned to Resource (id = 1)

Refresh Show Resource History

Primitive: TRIANGLELIST, IndexCount: 364311

A detailed 3D wireframe model of an industrial facility, possibly a refinery or chemical plant. The model features a complex network of pipes, structures, and storage tanks. A prominent feature is a large vertical tower on the left. In the center, there is a large circular structure, likely a reactor or distillation column, with multiple levels and walkways. To the right, there are several large rectangular buildings and more storage tanks. The entire model is rendered in white wireframes on a dark background, providing a clear view of the facility's layout and architecture.

stream: 0  Offset: 0 Format: R32G32B32 FLOAT   Ignore W channel

### Reset Position Parameters

MultithreadingSample.pix3 - PIX

Home Overview Pipeline Tools Debug Stop Local Machine (localhost) Views

Events

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

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Pipeline

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RayGenMain

- CBV 0 : SceneConstantBuffer
- SRV 5 : scene
- UAV Texture 1 : m\_rtOutput : 1
- HitGroup (Record 0)
  - CBV 0 : SceneConstantBuffer
  - SRV Texture 0 : m\_shadowText
  - 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 : sampleWrap
  - Static Sampler 1 : sampleClamp
- HitGroup (Record 1)
  - CBV 0 : SceneConstantBuffer
  - SRV Texture 0 : m\_shadowText
  - SRV Texture 2 : m\_textures[3]
  - SRV Buffer 3 : m\_indexBuffer
  - SRV Buffer 4 : m\_vertexBuffer
  - Static Sampler 0 : sampleWrap
  - Static Sampler 1 : sampleClamp
- HitGroup (Record 2)
  - CBV 0 : SceneConstantBuffer
  - SRV Texture 0 : m\_shadowText
  - SRV Texture 1 : m\_textures[2]
  - SRV Texture 2 : m\_textures[3]
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  - SRV Buffer 3 : m\_indexBuffer
  - SRV Buffer 4 : m\_vertexBuffer
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  - Static Sampler 1 : sampleClamp

Shader Tables

Stream: 0 Offset: 0 Format: R32G32B32\_FLOAT Ignore W channel Reset Position Parameters

API Object Table

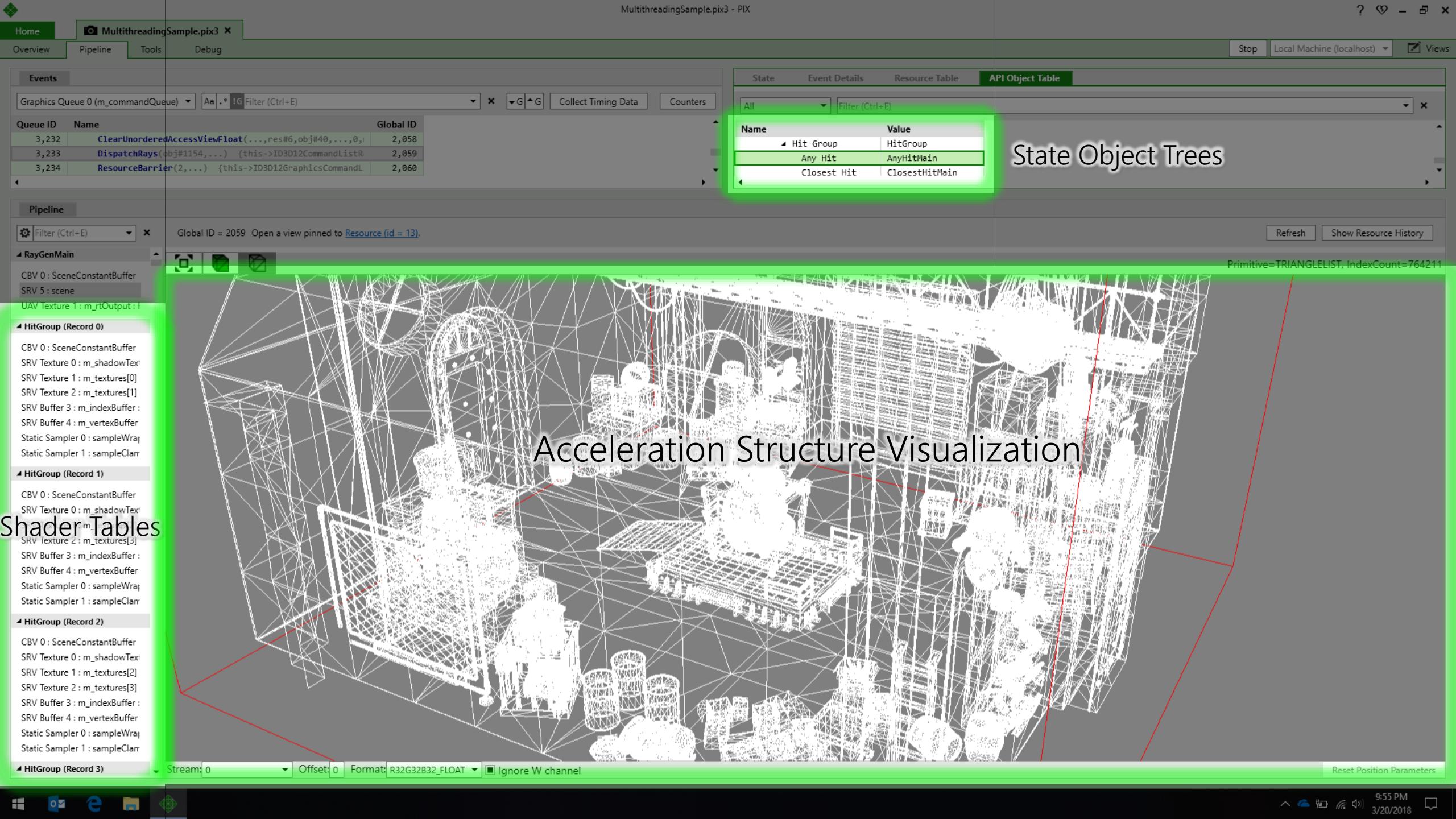
All Filter (Ctrl+E)

Name	Value
Hit Group	HitGroup
Any Hit	AnyHitMain
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State Object Trees

Primitive=TRIANGLELIST, IndexCount=764211

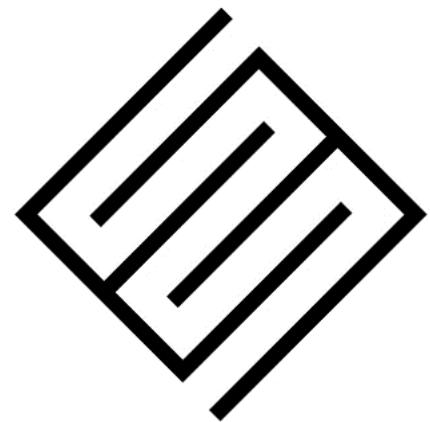
9:55 PM 3/20/2018





# DirectX: Evolving Microsoft's Graphics Platform

Johan Andersson & Colin Barré-Brisebois  
Electronic Arts



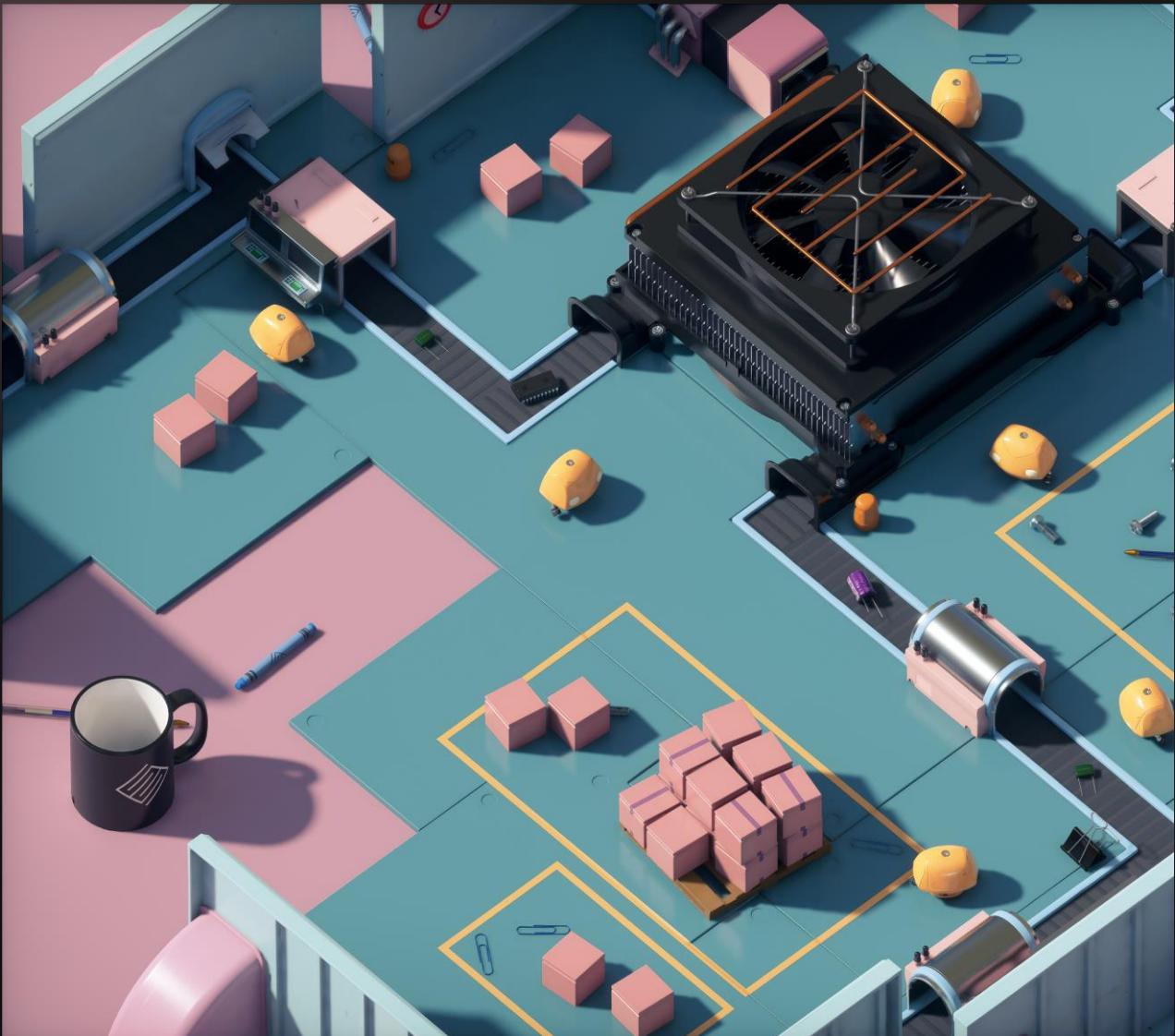
SEED



# “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

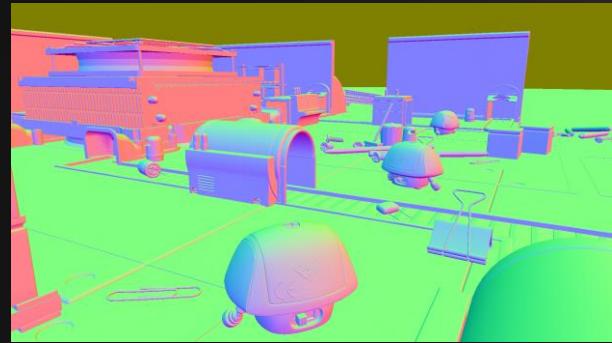


# Why raytracing?

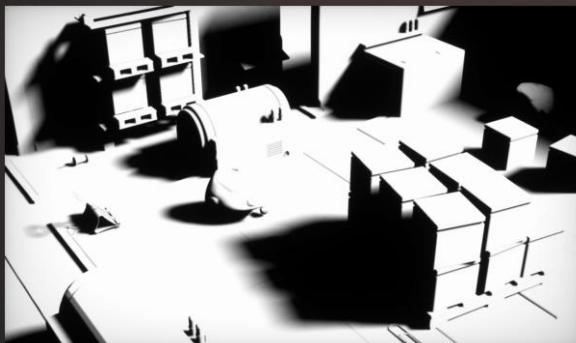
- Flexible new tool in the toolbox
- Solve sparse & incoherent problems
- Unified API + performance (DXR + RTX)
- Simple high quality - easy ground truth



# 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)

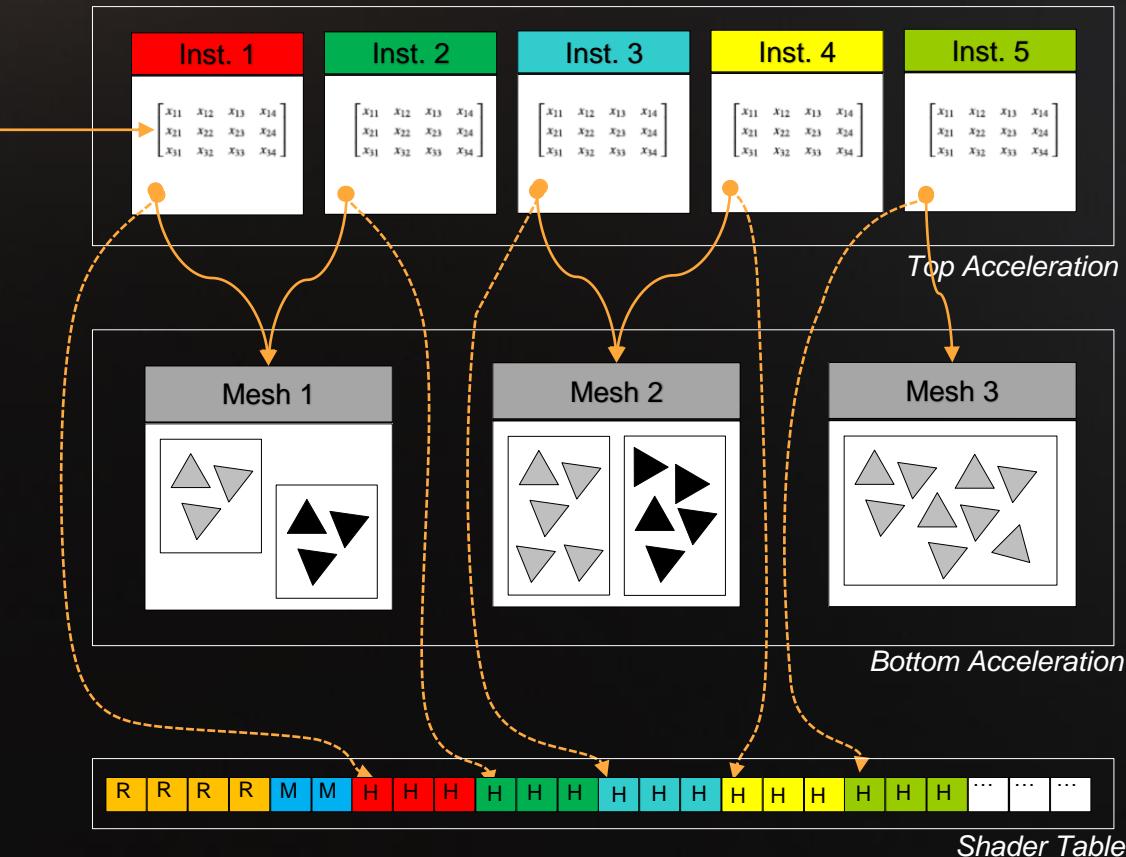


Post processing (compute)

Live demo

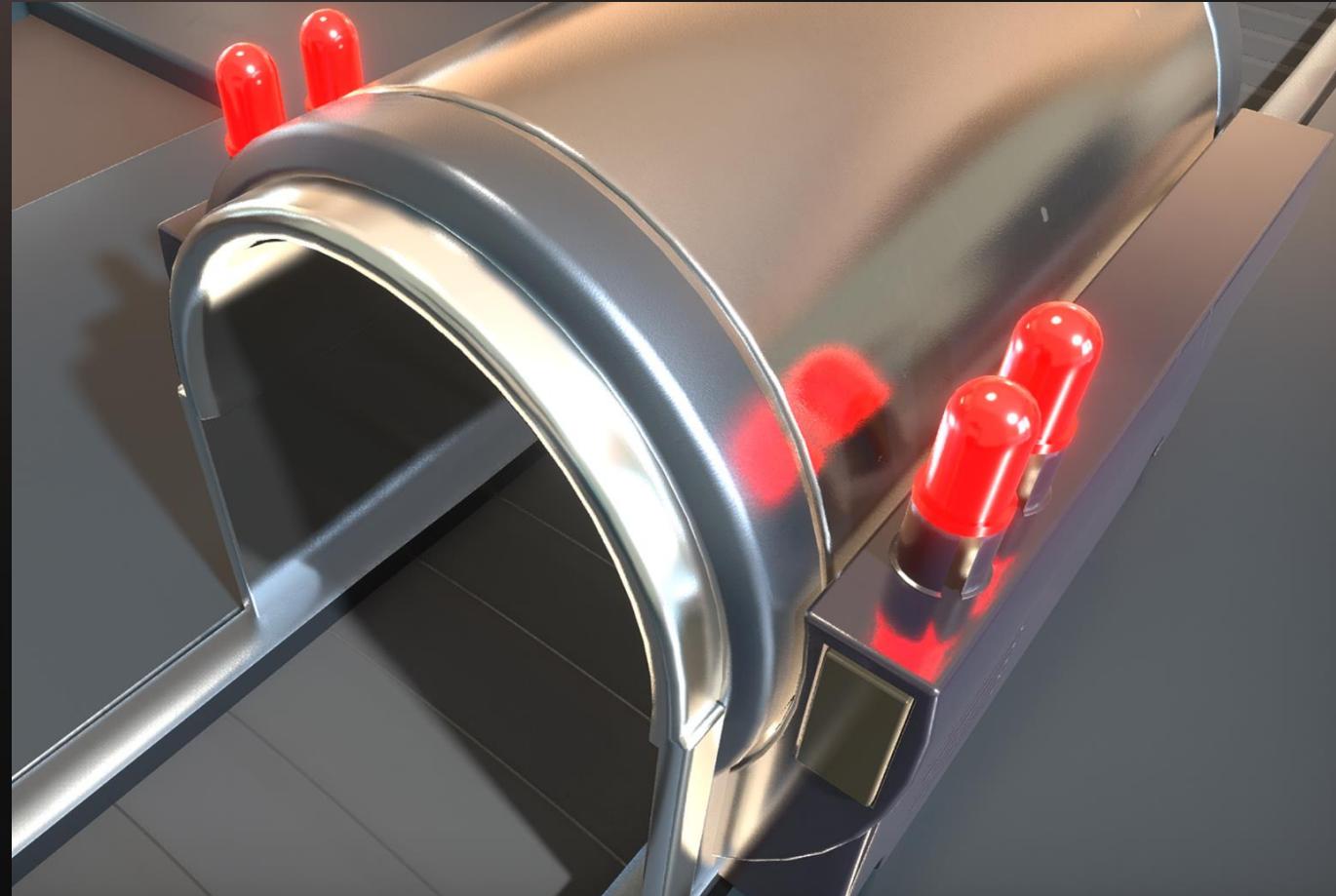


- **Spawn a Mesh?**
  - DXR: build its bottom acceleration structure
  - Multiple geometries for multiple materials
    - Triangles, AABs, custom
  - Mesh instances specified in top acceleration
- **Move a Mesh?**
  - Update the instance's position/orientation in the top acceleration
- **Spawn [some] 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);
}

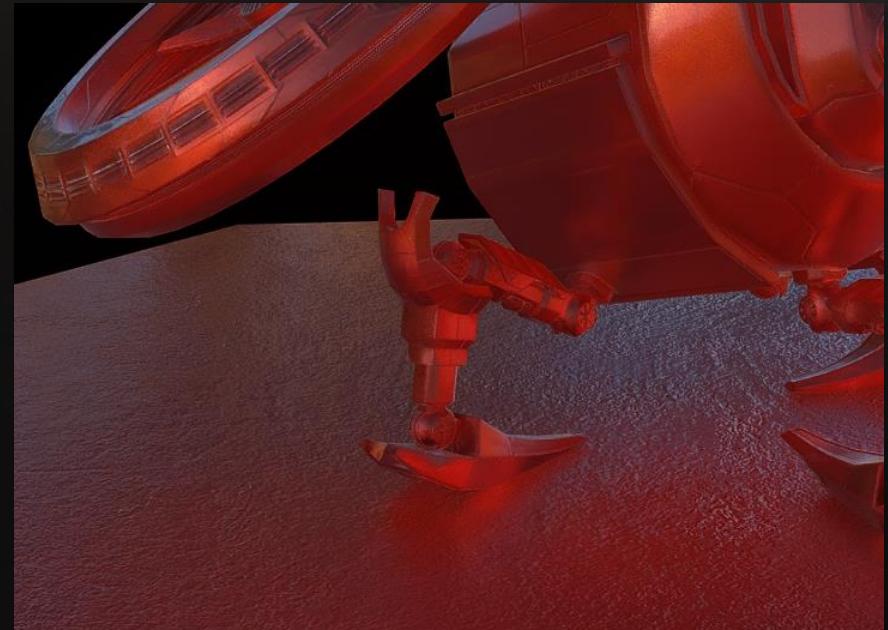
```

Reflections Raytracing HLSL Pseudo-Code

# 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





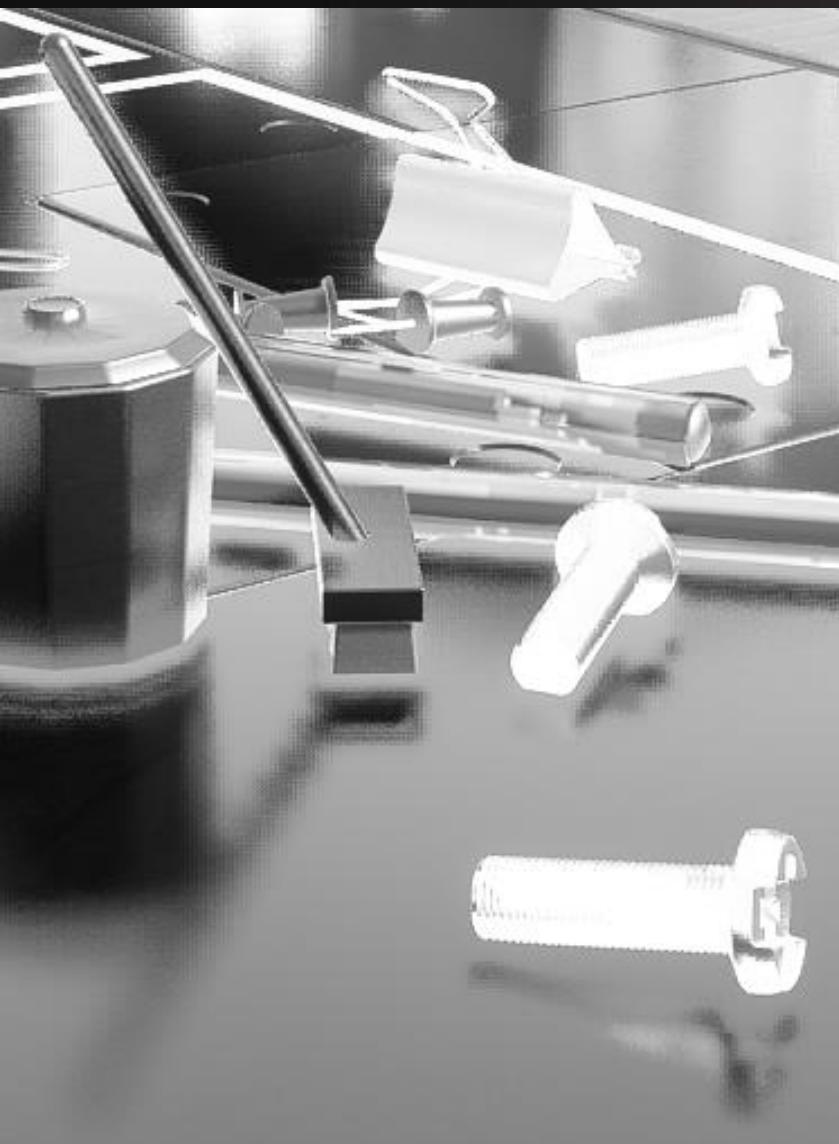
*Screen-Space Reflections*



*G-Buffer Raytraced*



*Path Tracing Reference*



*Screen-Space Reflections*



*G-Buffer Raytraced*

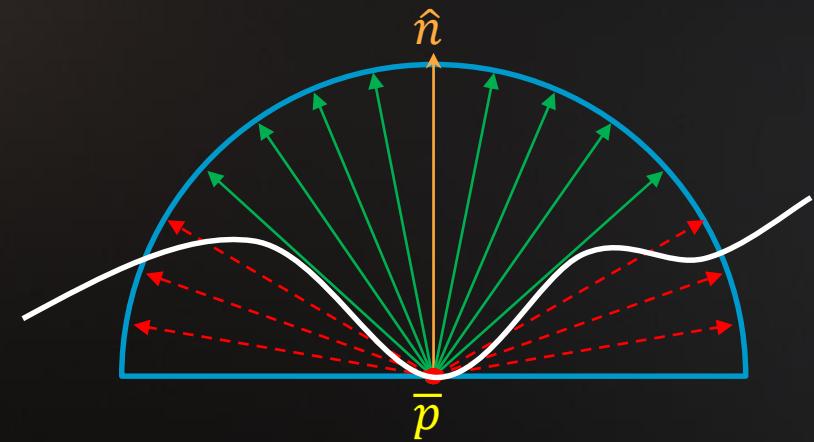


*Path Tracing Reference*

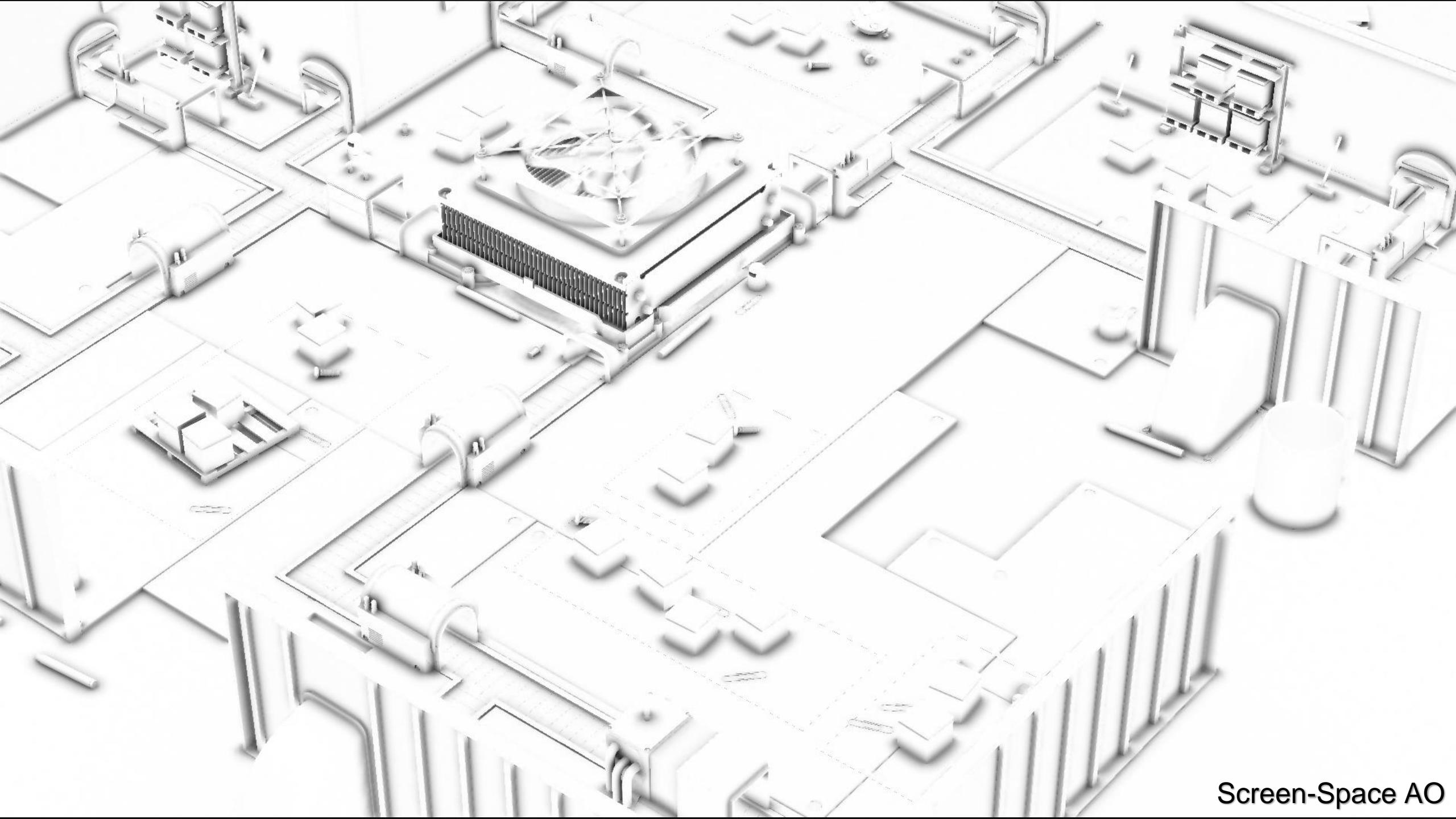
# Ambient Occlusion

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

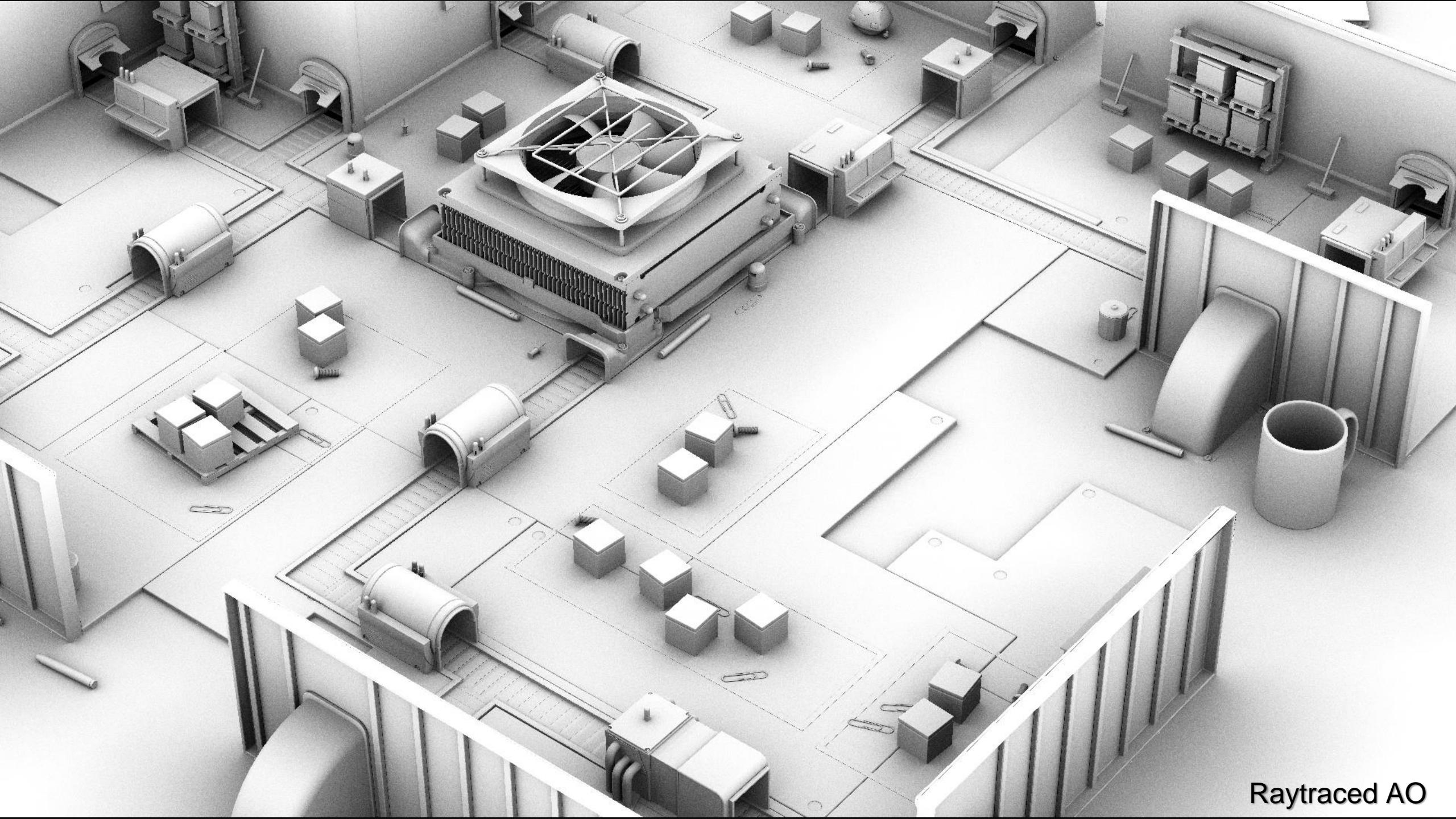
- Integral of the **visibility** function over the hemisphere  $\Omega$  for the point  $\bar{p}$  on a **surface** with normal  $\hat{n}$  with respect to the projected solid angle
- Games often approximate this in screen-space
- With RT, more grounded & improves visual fidelity!
  - Random directions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



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

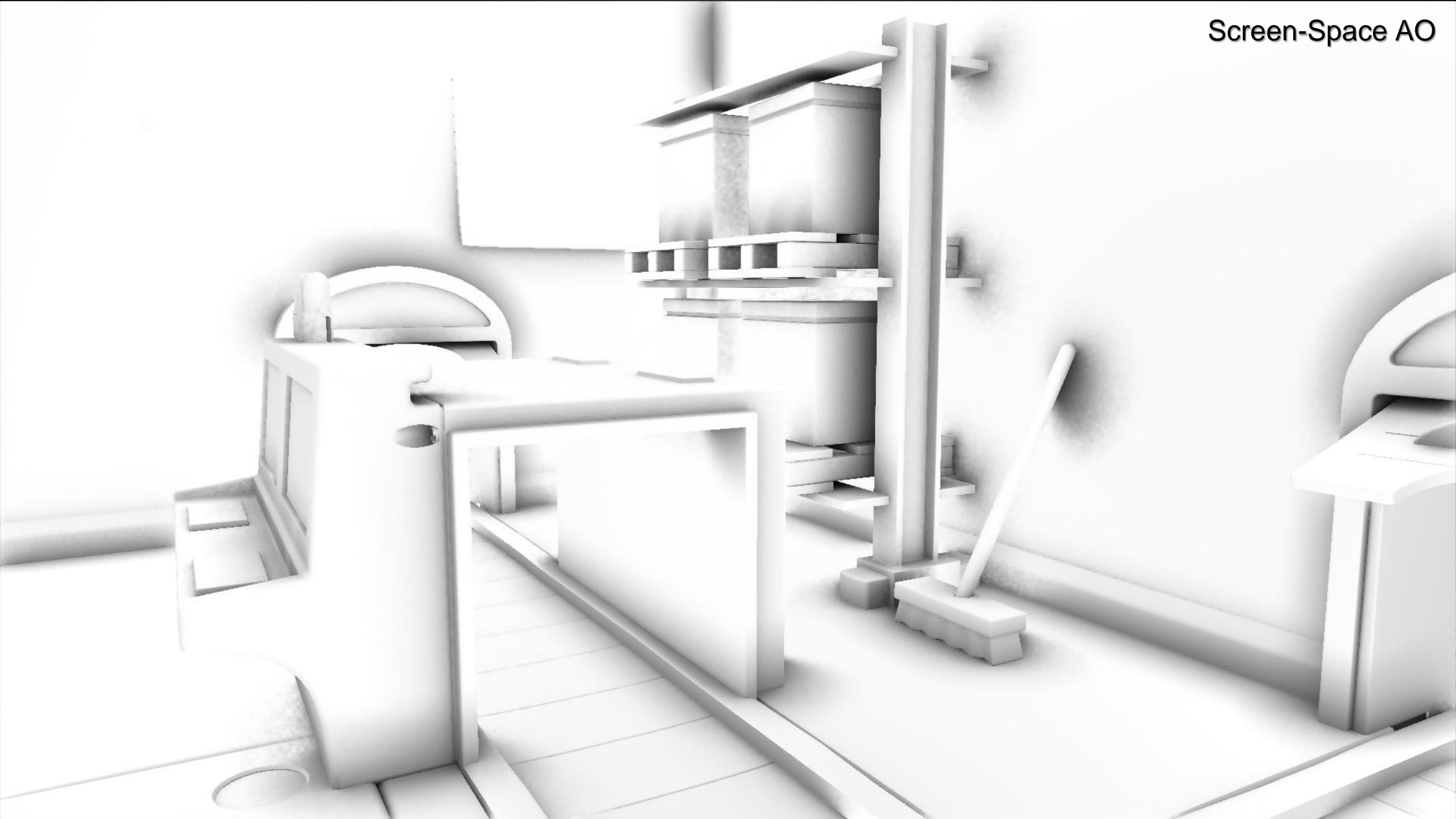


Screen-Space AO

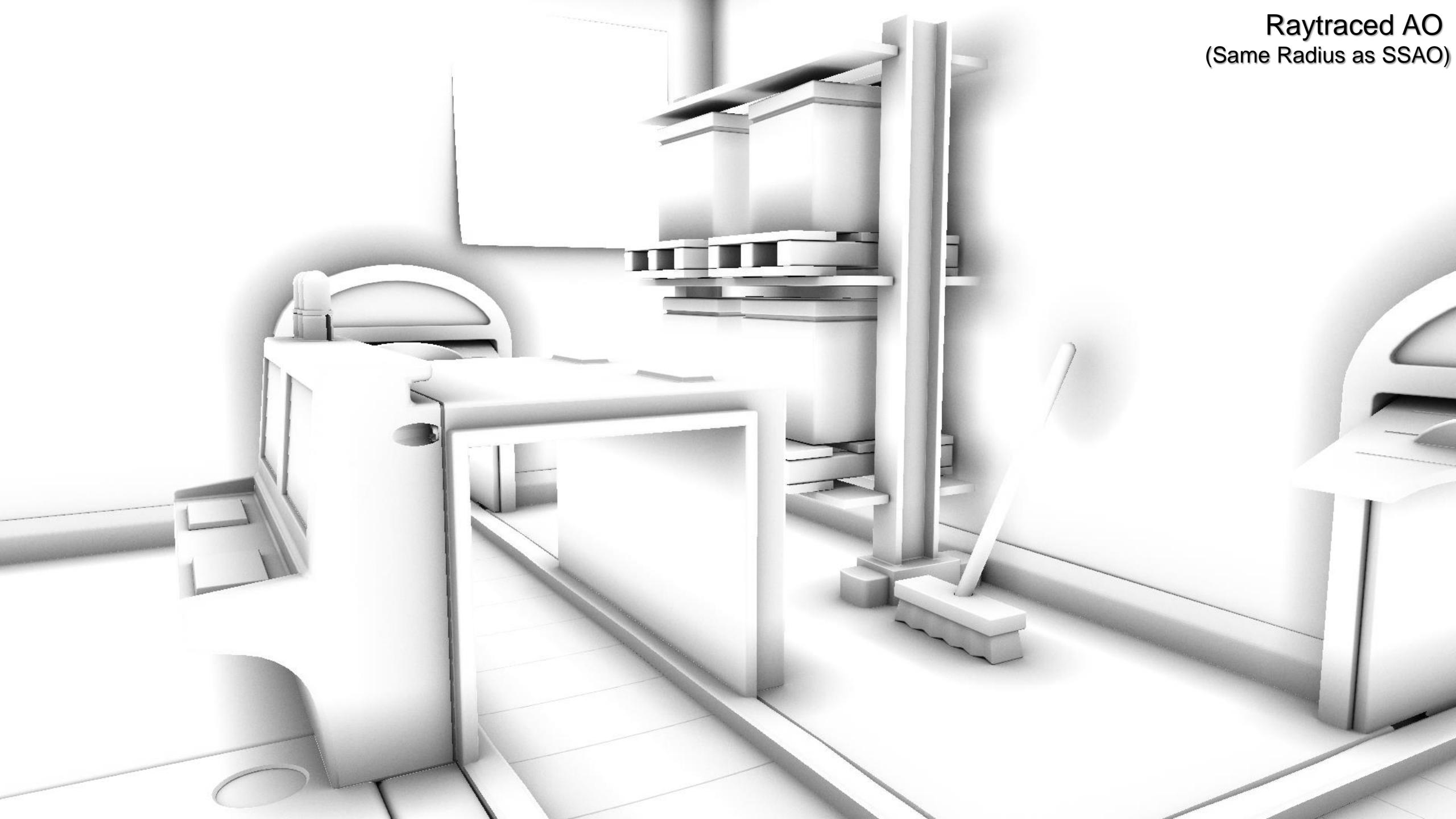


Raytraced AO

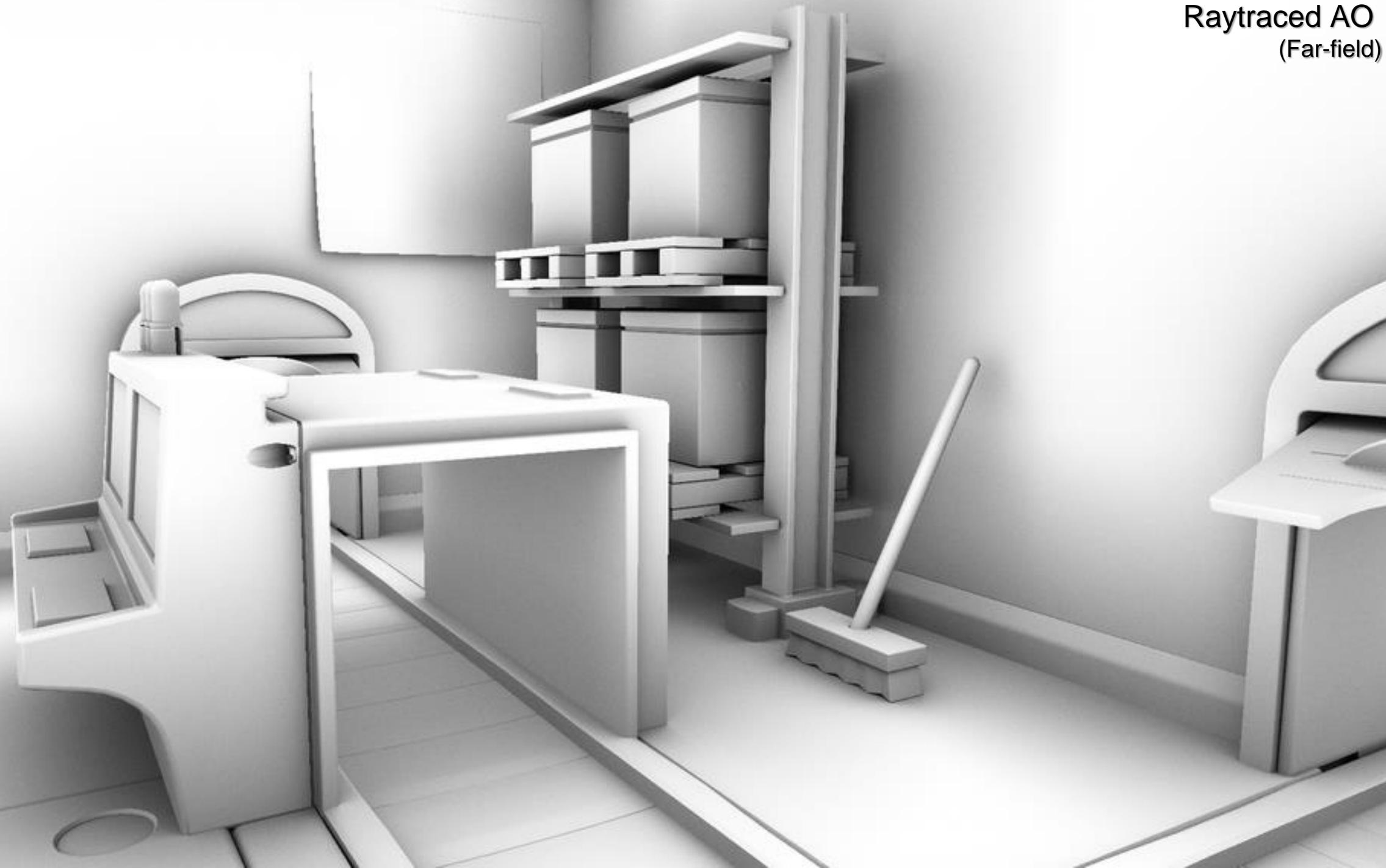
Screen-Space AO



Raytraced AO  
(Same Radius as SSAO)



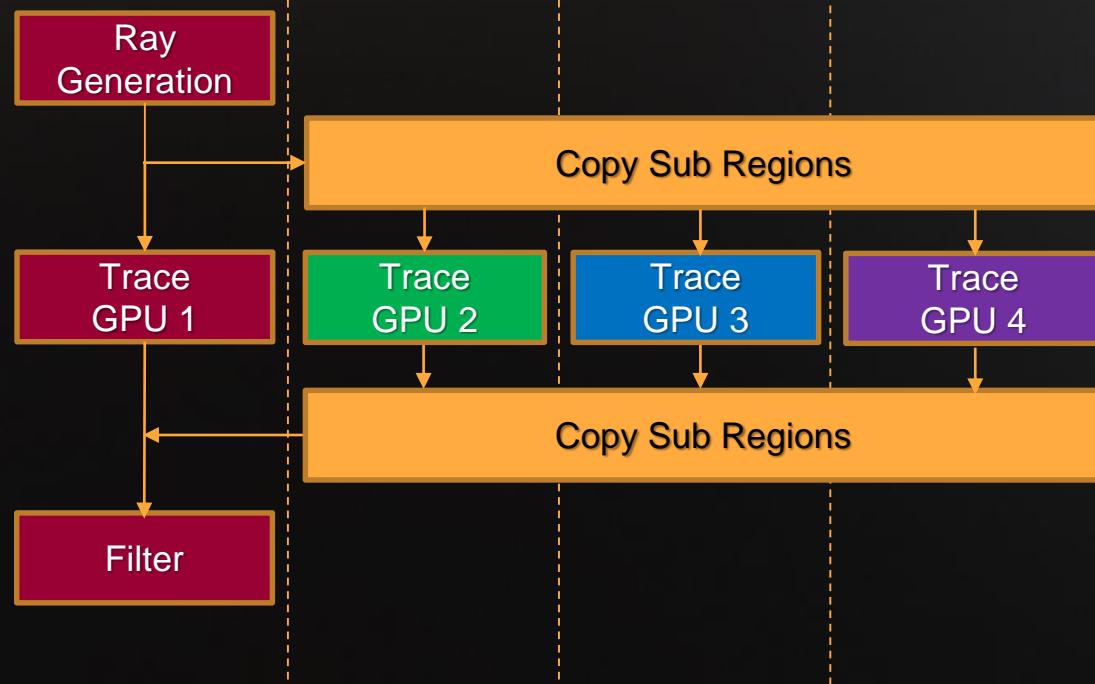
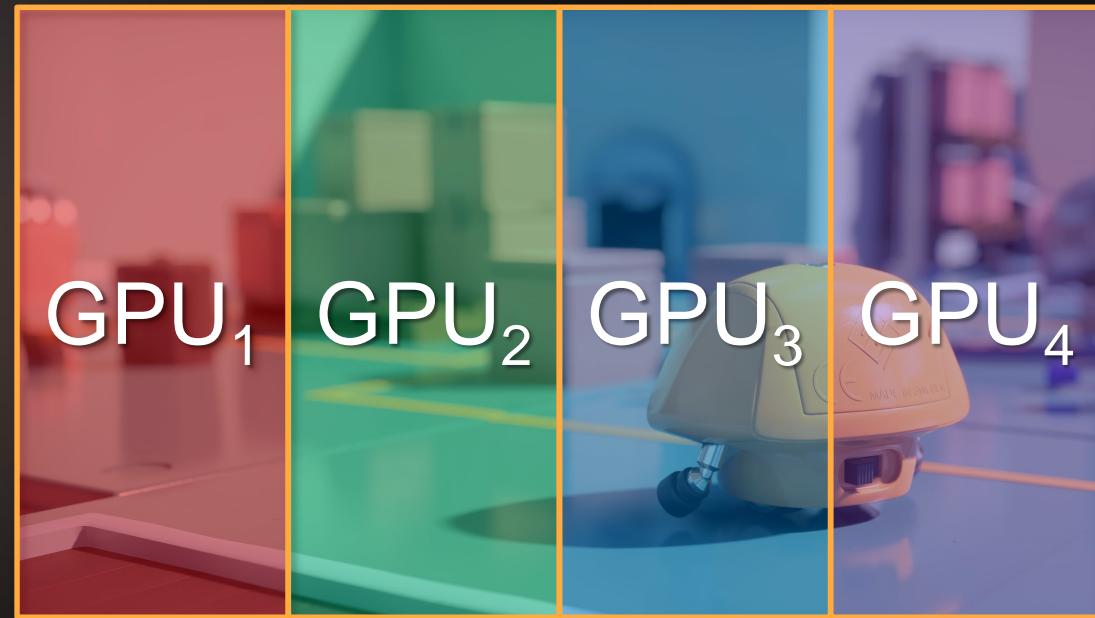
Raytraced AO  
(Far-field)



# 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
- Joakim Bergdahl
- Ken Brown
- Dean Calver
- Dirk de la Hunt
- Jenna Frisk
- Paul Greveson
- Henrik Halen
- Effeli Holst
- Andrew Lauritzen
- Magnus Nordin
- Niklas Nummelin

- **Microsoft**

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

- **NVIDIA**

- Tomas Akenine-Möller
- Nir Benty
- Jiho Choi
- Peter Harrison
- Alex Hyder
- Jon Jansen
- 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?



Microsoft



Windows



# Microsoft

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