

Project Proposal: Geocold Ray Tracer (Differentiable?) in C++

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Geocold

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Abstract

Ray tracing has a rich history in the history of computing and computer graphics. With this manuscript, we propose to build an offline ray tracing software using the Vulkan graphics/compute library in C++. Our renderer is supposed to work generically, as in take as input any file containing geometric data, perform a mesh render pass in order to render a mesh of the described scene and then perform ray tracing with a separate pass. In this paper, we cover the mathematical principles that we follow as we build our ray tracing software.

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1 Acknowledgement

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2 Objectives

- To understand the graphics pipeline.
- To become familiar with modern GPU architectures.
- To become familiar with GPU programming models and GPU computing (massively parallel computing).
- To understand and uncover existing ray tracing techniques.
- To gain a degree of familiarity with common graphics and GPU compute APIs, and understand their abstraction mechanisms.

3 Introduction

Rendering is the task of taking a scene composed of many geometric objects arranged in 3D space and computing a 2D image that shows the object as viewed from a particular viewpoint. The goal of our project Geocold is to implement an obj file loader which then creates a mesh of our scene, then finally we implement a ray tracer which will correctly color every object in the scene. Over the next few sections, we will try and set the mathematical basis/principles used in our project and the API that we have attempted to design based on those principles.

4 Mathematical Basis

4.1 On Basic Geometric Primitives

5 Existing Systems

The package is supposed to have the following directory structure:

```
Geocold
├── papers
├── src
├── testbench
└── external
```

5.1 System Block Diagram

The following is a block diagram of our system:

6 Project Scope

7 Project Schedule