Working with Metal—Fundamentals

Session 604
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GPU Software Engineer

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Metal Fundamentals

Building a Metal application

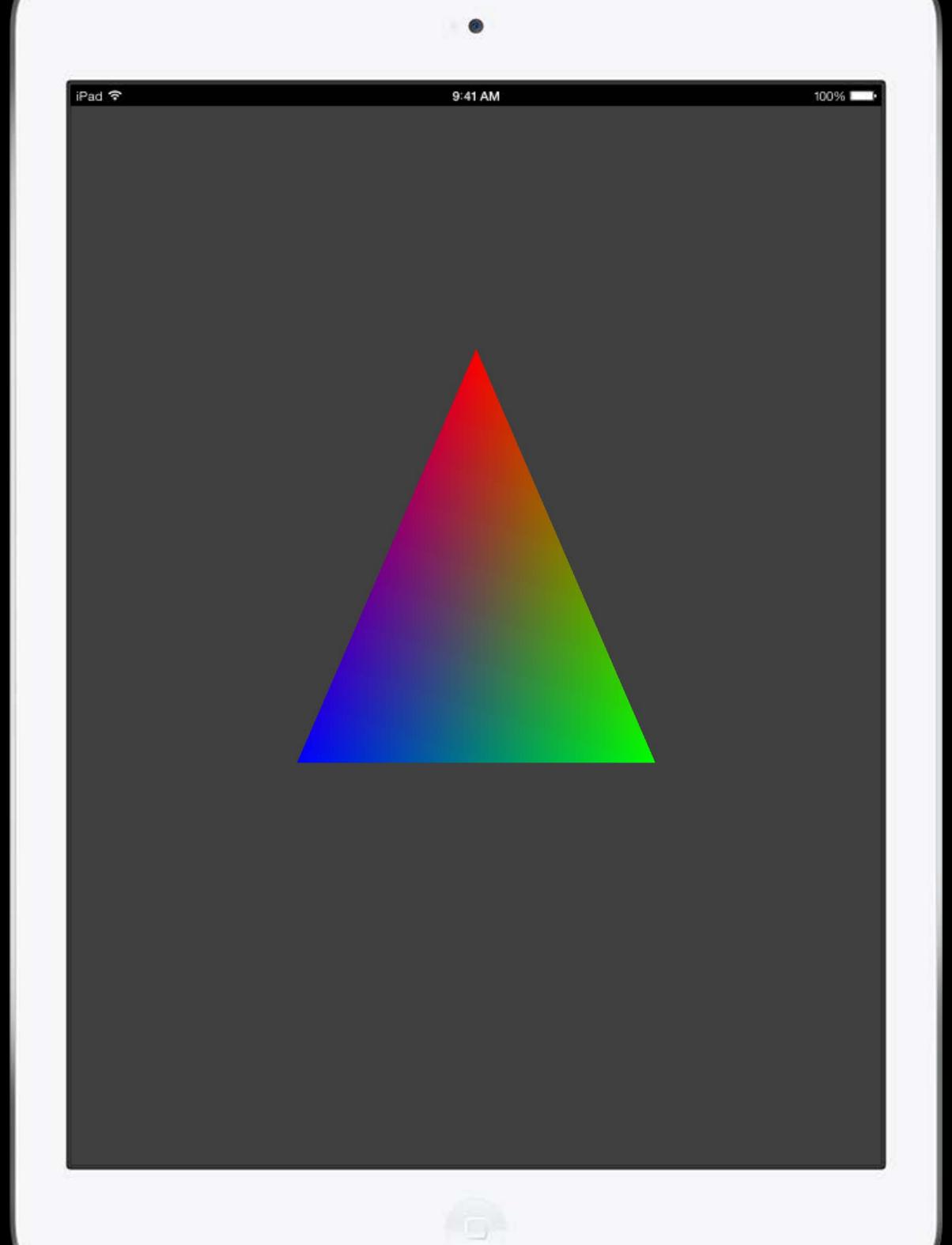
- Initialization
- Drawing
- Uniforms and synchronization

Metal shading language

- Writing shaders in Metal
- Data types in Metal
- Shader inputs, outputs, and matching rules

Building a Metal Application

Richard Schreyer
GPU Software



Building a Metal Application

- 1. Get the Device
- 2. Create a CommandQueue
- 3. Create Resources (Buffers and Textures)
- 4. Create RenderPipelines
- 5. Create a View

Metal Device API

@end

```
@protocol MTLDevice

- (id <MTLCommandQueue>)newCommandQueue...
- (id <MTLBuffer>)newBuffer...
- (id <MTLTexture>)newTexture...
- (id <MTLSampler>)newSamplerState...
- (id <MTLRenderPipelineState>)newRenderPipelineState...
// and much more
```

```
// Get the device
id <MTLDevice> device = MTLCreateSystemDefaultDevice();
```

```
// Get the device
id <MTLDevice> device = MTLCreateSystemDefaultDevice();

// Create a CommandQueue
id <MTLCommandQueue> commandQueue = [device newCommandQueue];
```

```
Get the device
  <MTLDevice> device = MTLCreateSystemDefaultDevice();
   Create a CommandQueue
id <MTLCommandQueue> commandQueue = [device newCommandQueue];
   Create my Vertex Array
struct Vertex vertexArrayData[3] = { ... };
  <MTLBuffer> vertexArray =
        [device newBufferWithBytes: vertexArrayData
                            length: sizeof(vertexArrayData)
                           options: 0];
```

Render Pipeline Descriptors

MTLRenderPipelineDescriptor

Vertex Layout Descriptor

Vertex Shader

Rasterizer Coverage

Fragment Shader

Blending

Framebuffer Formats

Render Pipeline Descriptors

MTLRenderPipelineDescriptor

Vertex Layout Descriptor

Vertex Shader

Rasterizer Coverage

Fragment Shader

Blending

Framebuffer Formats

compiles to

MTLRenderPipelineState

Create a RenderPipeline

```
MTLRenderPipelineDescriptor* desc = [MTLRenderPipelineDescriptor new];

// Set shaders
id <MTLLibrary> library = [device newDefaultLibrary];
desc.vertexFunction = [library newFunctionWithName: @"myVertexShader"];
desc.fragmentFunction = [library newFunctionWithName: @"myFragmentShader"];
```

Create a RenderPipeline

```
MTLRenderPipelineDescriptor* desc = [MTLRenderPipelineDescriptor new];

// Set shaders
id <MTLLibrary> library = [device newDefaultLibrary];
desc.vertexFunction = [library newFunctionWithName: @"myVertexShader"];
desc.fragmentFunction = [library newFunctionWithName: @"myFragmentShader"];

// Set framebuffer pixel format
desc.colorAttachments[0].pixelFormat = MTLPixelFormatBGRA8Unorm;
```

Create a RenderPipeline

```
MTLRenderPipelineDescriptor* desc = [MTLRenderPipelineDescriptor new];
    Set shaders
id <MTLLibrary> library = [device newDefaultLibrary];
desc.vertexFunction = [library newFunctionWithName: @"myVertexShader"];
desc.fragmentFunction = [library newFunctionWithName: @"myFragmentShader"];
   Set framebuffer pixel format
desc.colorAttachments[0].pixelFormat = MTLPixelFormatBGRA8Unorm;
    Compile the RenderPipelineState
id <MTLRenderPipelineState> renderPipeline =
        [device newRenderPipelineStateWithDescriptor: desc error: &error];
```

Shader Input and Output

```
struct Vertex {
    float4 position;
    float4 color;
};

struct VertexOut {
    float4 position [[position]];
    float4 color;
};
```

Shader Input and Output

```
struct Vertex {
    float4 position;
    float4 color;
};

struct VertexOut {
    float4 position [[position]];
    float4 color;
};
```

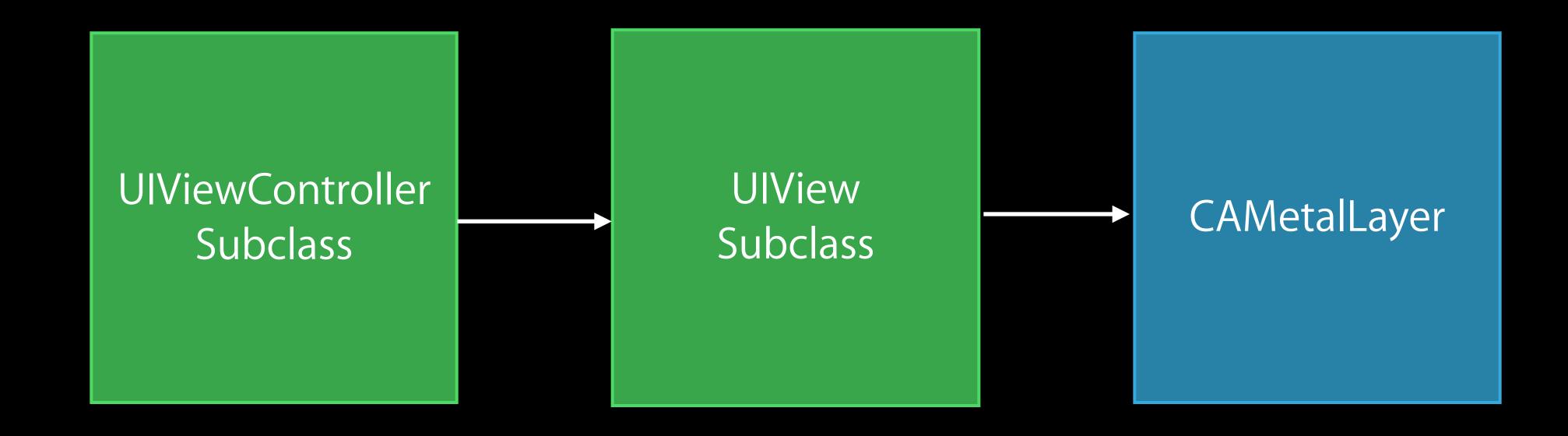
```
vertex VertexOut myVertexShader(
   const global Vertex* vertexArray [[ buffer(0) ]],
                                     [[vertex_id]])
   unsigned int vid
   VSOut out;
   out.position = vertexArray[vid].position;
   out.color = vertexArray[vid].color;
   return out;
fragment float4 myFragmentShader(
   VertexOut interpolated [[stage_in]])
   return interpolated.color;
```

```
vertex VertexOut myVertexShader(
   const global Vertex* vertexArray [[ buffer(0) ]],
                                    [[vertex_id]])
   unsigned int vid
   VSOut out;
   out.position = vertexArray[vid].position;
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   return out;
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   VertexOut interpolated [[stage_in]])
   return interpolated.color;
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   out.position = vertexArray[vid].position;
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   return out;
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```

```
vertex VertexOut myVertexShader(
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                                     [[vertex_id]])
   unsigned int vid
   VSOut out;
   out.position = vertexArray[vid].position;
   out.color = vertexArray[vid].color;
   return out;
fragment float4 myFragmentShader(
   VertexOut interpolated [[stage_in]])
   return interpolated.color;
```

Creating a Metal View



Creating a Metal View

```
@interface MyView : UIView
@end

@implementation MyView

+ (id)layerClass {
    return [CAMetalLayer class];
}
@end
```

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Building a Metal Application

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Building a Metal Application Drawing

- 1. Get a command buffer
- 2. Start a Render Pass
- 3. Draw
- 4. Commit the command buffer

Get a Command Buffer

```
// Get an available CommandBuffer
commandBuffer = [queue commandBuffer];
```

Render Pass Configuration

MTLRenderPassDescriptor

Color Attachment 0

Color Attachment 1

Color Attachment 2

Color Attachment 3

Depth Attachment

Stencil Attachment

Render Pass Configuration

```
// Get this frame's target drawable
drawable = [metalLayer nextDrawable];
```

Render Pass Configuration

```
// Get this frame's target drawable
drawable = [metalLayer nextDrawable];

// Configure the Color0 Attachment
renderDesc = [MTLRenderPassDescriptor new];
renderDesc.colorAttachments[0].texture = drawable.texture;
renderDesc.colorAttachments[0].loadAction = MTLLoadActionClear;
renderDesc.colorAttachments[0].clearValue = MTLClearValueMakeColor(...);
```

Render Pass Configuration

```
// Get this frame's target drawable
drawable = [metalLayer nextDrawable];
   Configure the Color0 Attachment
renderDesc = [MTLRenderPassDescriptor new];
renderDesc.colorAttachments[0].texture = drawable.texture;
renderDesc.colorAttachments[0].loadAction = MTLLoadActionClear;
renderDesc.colorAttachments[0].clearValue = MTLClearValueMakeColor(...);
   Start a Render command
id <MTLRenderCommandEncoder> render =
    [commandBuffer renderCommandEncoderWithDescriptor: renderDesc];
```

Drawing a Triangle

```
render = [commandBuffer renderCommandEncoderWithDescriptor: renderDesc];
[render setRenderPipelineState: renderPipeline];
[render setVertexBuffer: vertexArray offset: 0 atIndex: 0];
[render drawPrimitives: MTLPrimitiveTypeTriangle vertexStart:0 vertexCount:3];
[render endEncoding];
```

Committing a CommandBuffer

Committing a CommandBuffer

```
// Tell CoreAnimation when to present this drawable
[commandBuffer addPresent: drawable];
```

Committing a CommandBuffer

```
// Tell CoreAnimation when to present this drawable
[commandBuffer addPresent: drawable];

// Put the command buffer into the queue
[commandBuffer commit];
```

- 1. Get a command buffer
- 2. Start a Render Pass
- 3. Draw
- 4. Commit the command buffer

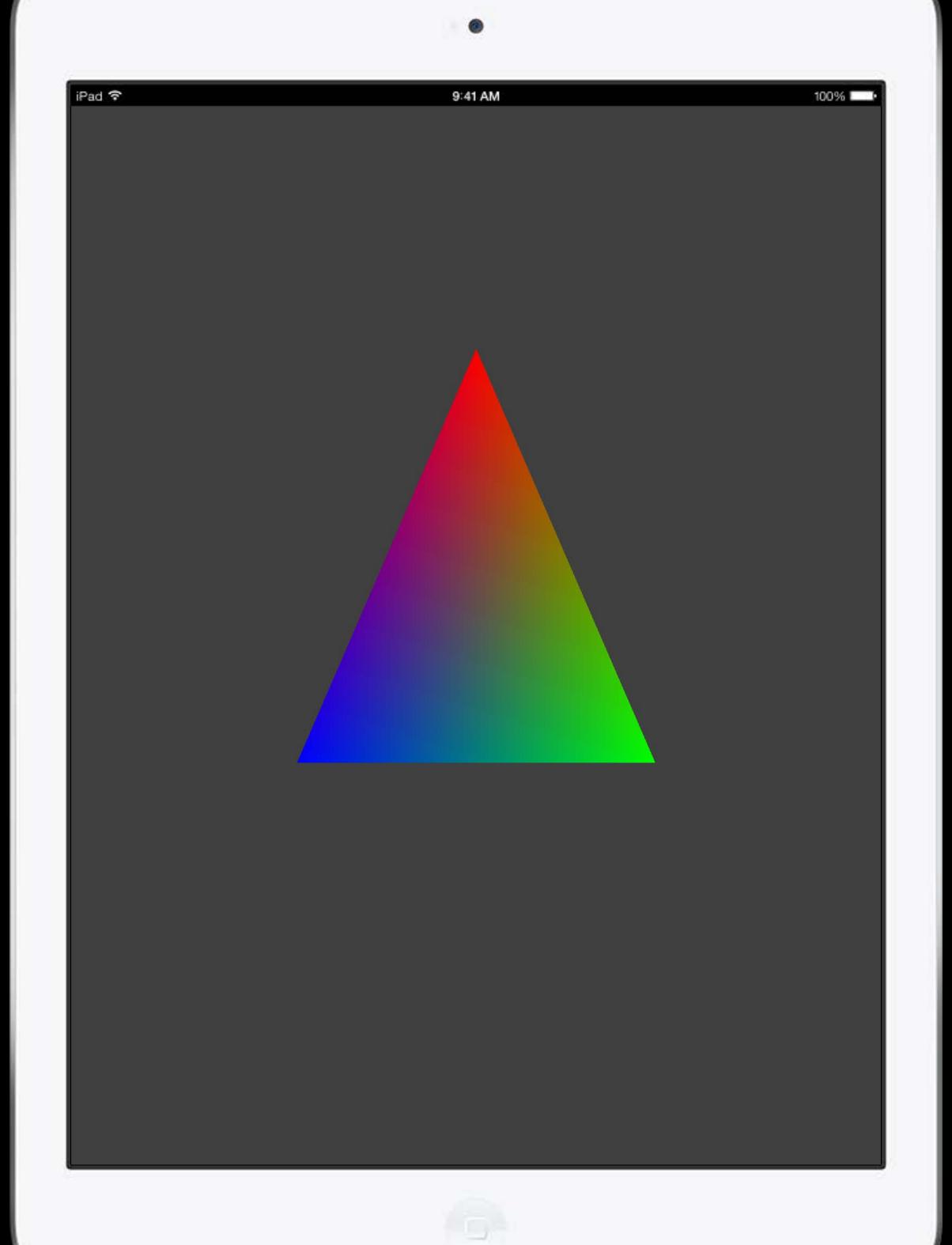
- 1. Get a command buffer
- 2. Start a Render Pass
- 3. Draw
- 4. Commit the command buffer

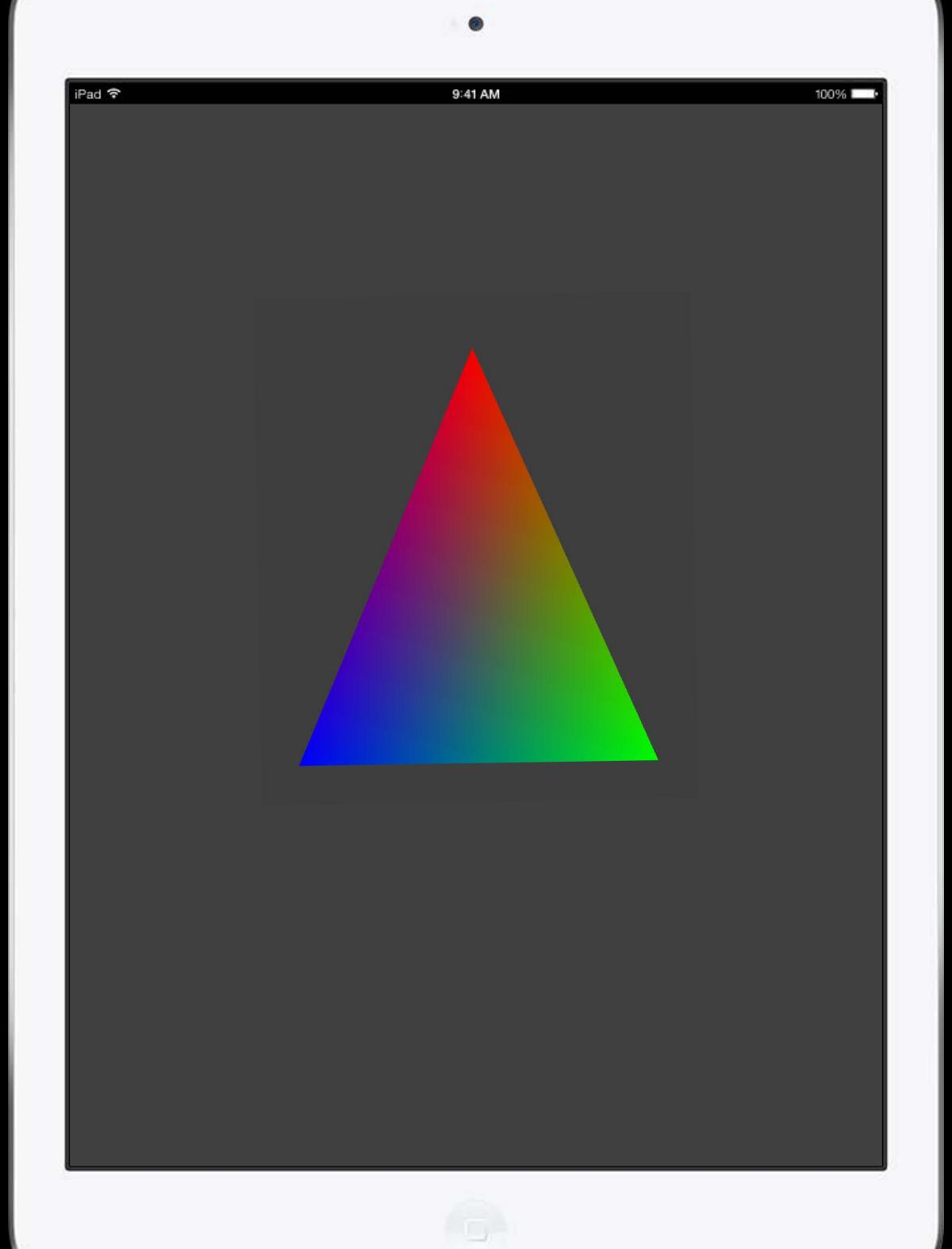
- 1. Get a command buffer
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- 1. Get a command buffer
- 2. Start a Render Pass
- 3. Draw
- 4. Commit the command buffer

Uniforms and Synchronization





Vertex Shader with Uniforms

```
struct Uniforms {
   float4x4 mvp_matrix;
};
vertex VSOut vertexShader(
   const global Vertex* vertexArray [[ buffer(0) ]],
   constant Uniforms& uniforms [[ buffer(1) ]],
   unsigned int vid [[ vertex_id]])
    VSOut out;
    out_position = uniforms.mvp_matrix * vertexArray[vid].position;
    out.color = half4(vertexArray[vid].color);
    return out;
```

Vertex Shader with Uniforms

```
struct Uniforms {
   float4x4 mvp_matrix;
};
vertex VSOut vertexShader(
   const global Vertex* vertexArray [[ buffer(0) ]],
   constant Uniforms& uniforms [[ buffer(1) ]],
   unsigned int vid [[ vertex_id]])
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    out_position = uniforms.mvp_matrix * vertexArray[vid].position;
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    return out;
```

Vertex Shader with Uniforms

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struct Uniforms {
   float4x4 mvp_matrix;
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vertex VSOut vertexShader(
   const global Vertex* vertexArray [[ buffer(0) ]],
   constant Uniforms& uniforms
                                     [[ buffer(1) ]],
   unsigned int vid [[ vertex_id]])
    VSOut out;
    out_position = uniforms.mvp_matrix * vertexArray[vid].position;
    out.color = half4(vertexArray[vid].color);
    return out;
```

Render Command with Uniforms

```
struct Uniforms* uniforms = [uniformBuffer contents];
uniforms->mvp_matrix = ...;

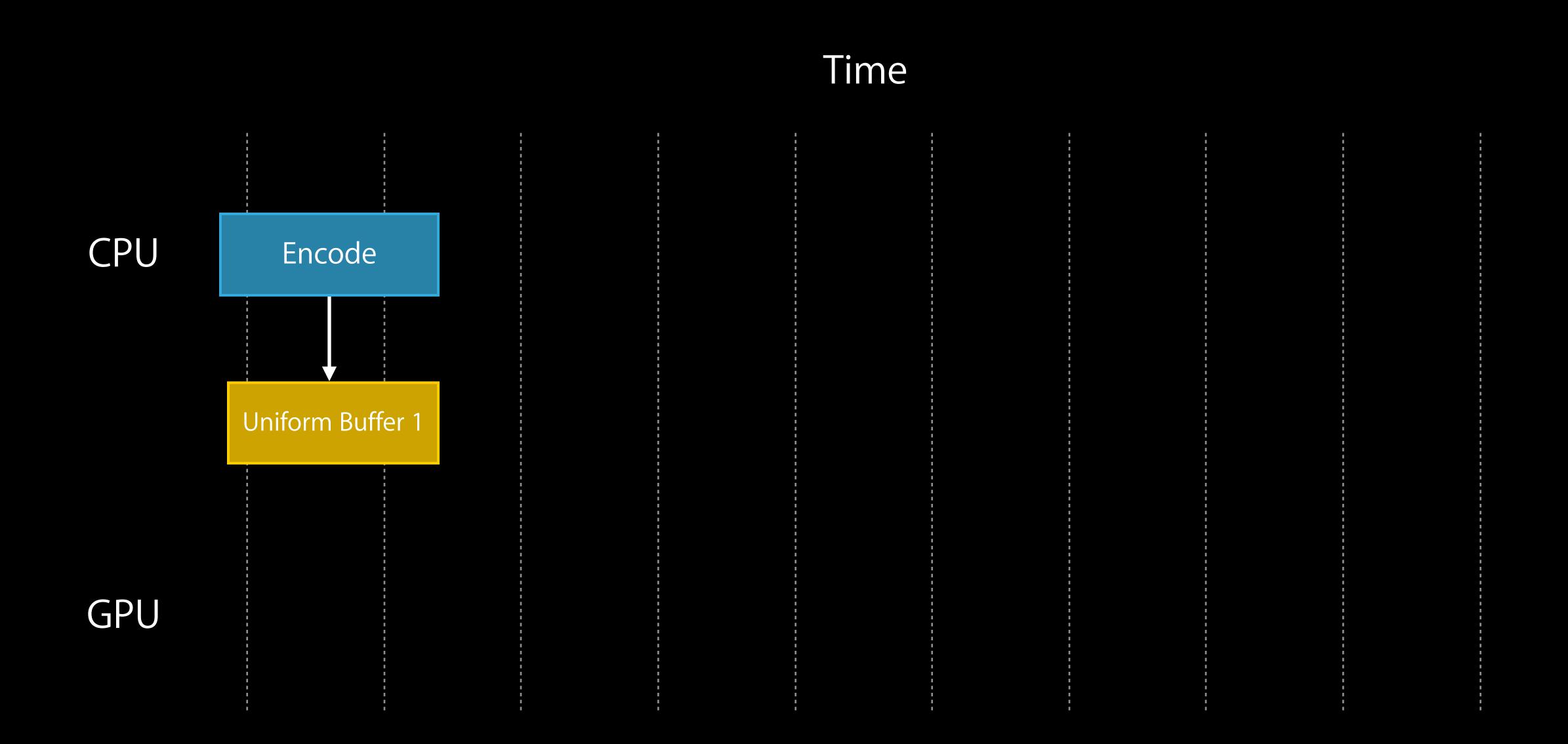
[render setRenderPipelineState: renderPipeline];
[render setVertexBuffer: vertexArray offset: 0 atIndex: 0];
[render setVertexBuffer: uniformBuffer offset: 0 atIndex: 1];
[render drawPrimitives:MTLPrimitiveTypeTriangle vertexStart:0 vertexCount:3];
```

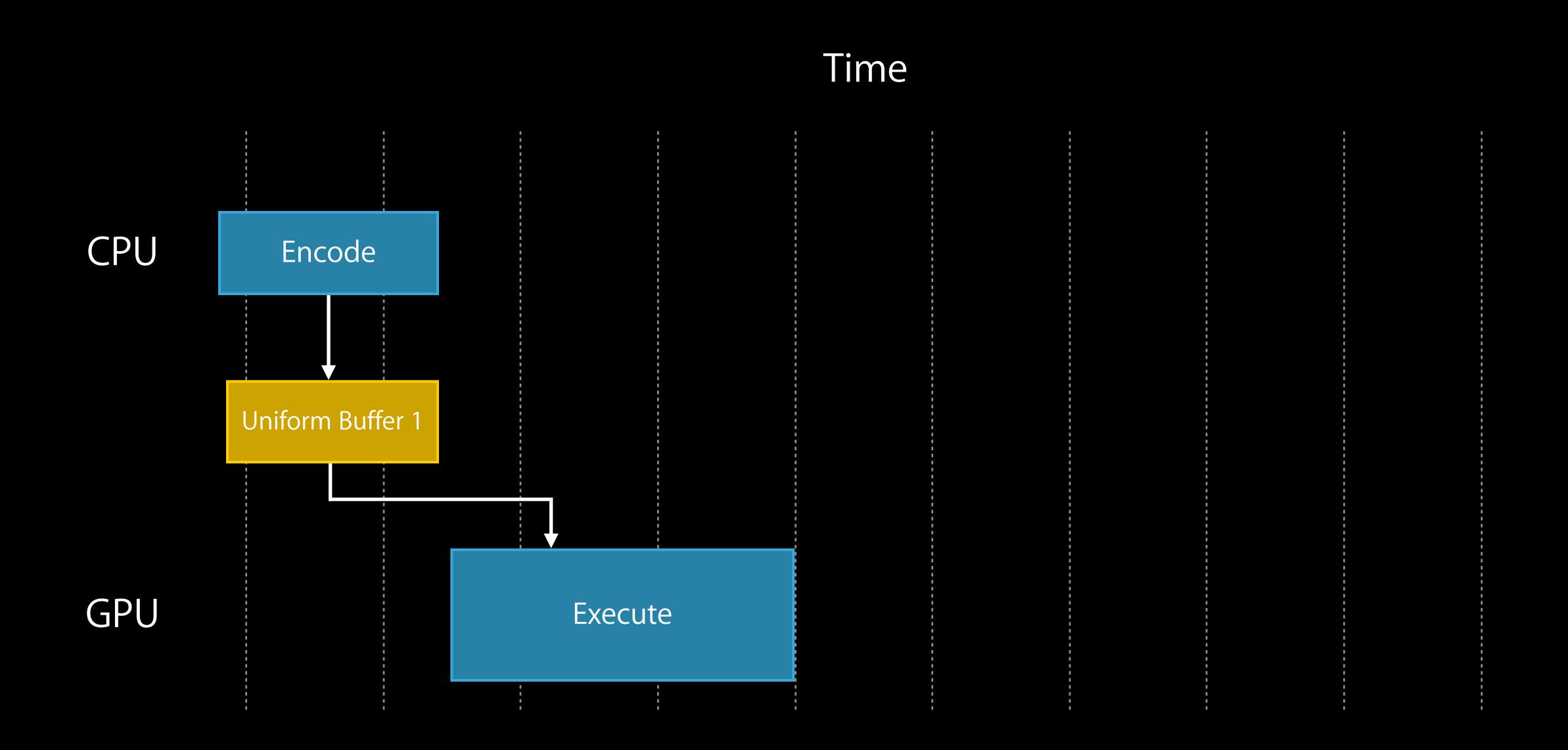
Render Command with Uniforms

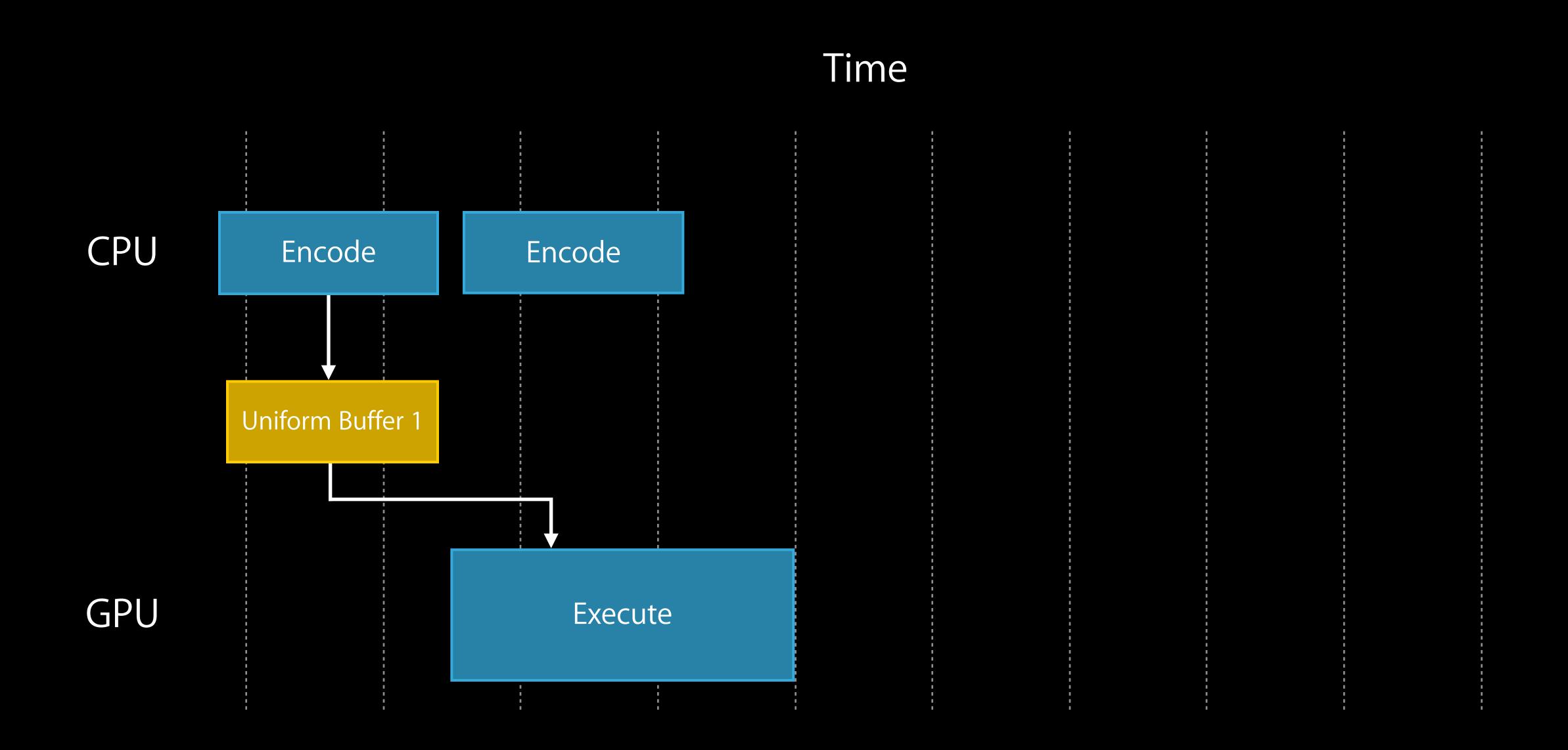
```
struct Uniforms* uniforms = [uniformBuffer contents];
uniforms->mvp_matrix = ...;

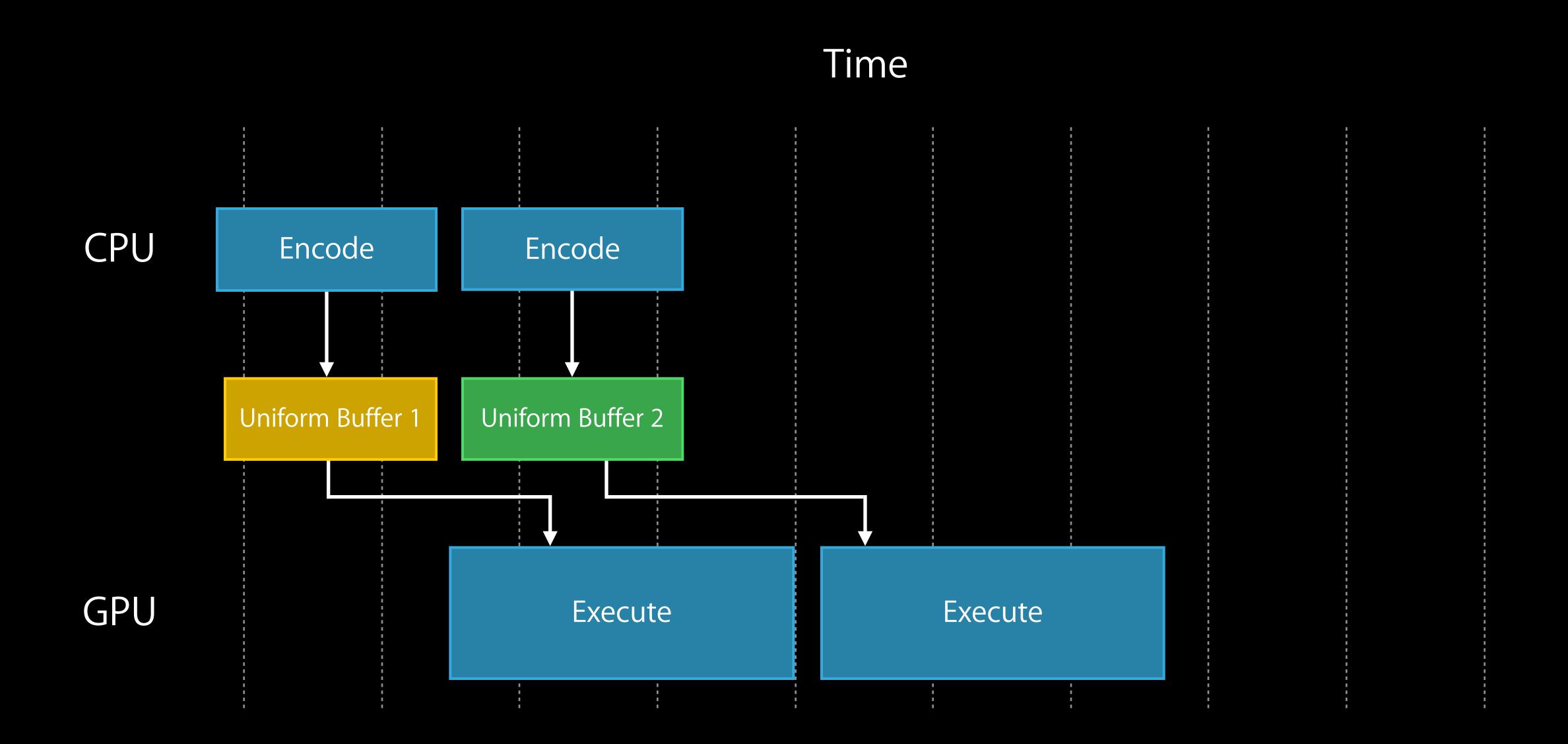
[render setRenderPipelineState: renderPipeline];
[render setVertexBuffer: vertexArray offset: 0 atIndex: 0];
[render setVertexBuffer: uniformBuffer offset: 0 atIndex: 1];
[render drawPrimitives:MTLPrimitiveTypeTriangle vertexStart:0 vertexCount:3];
```

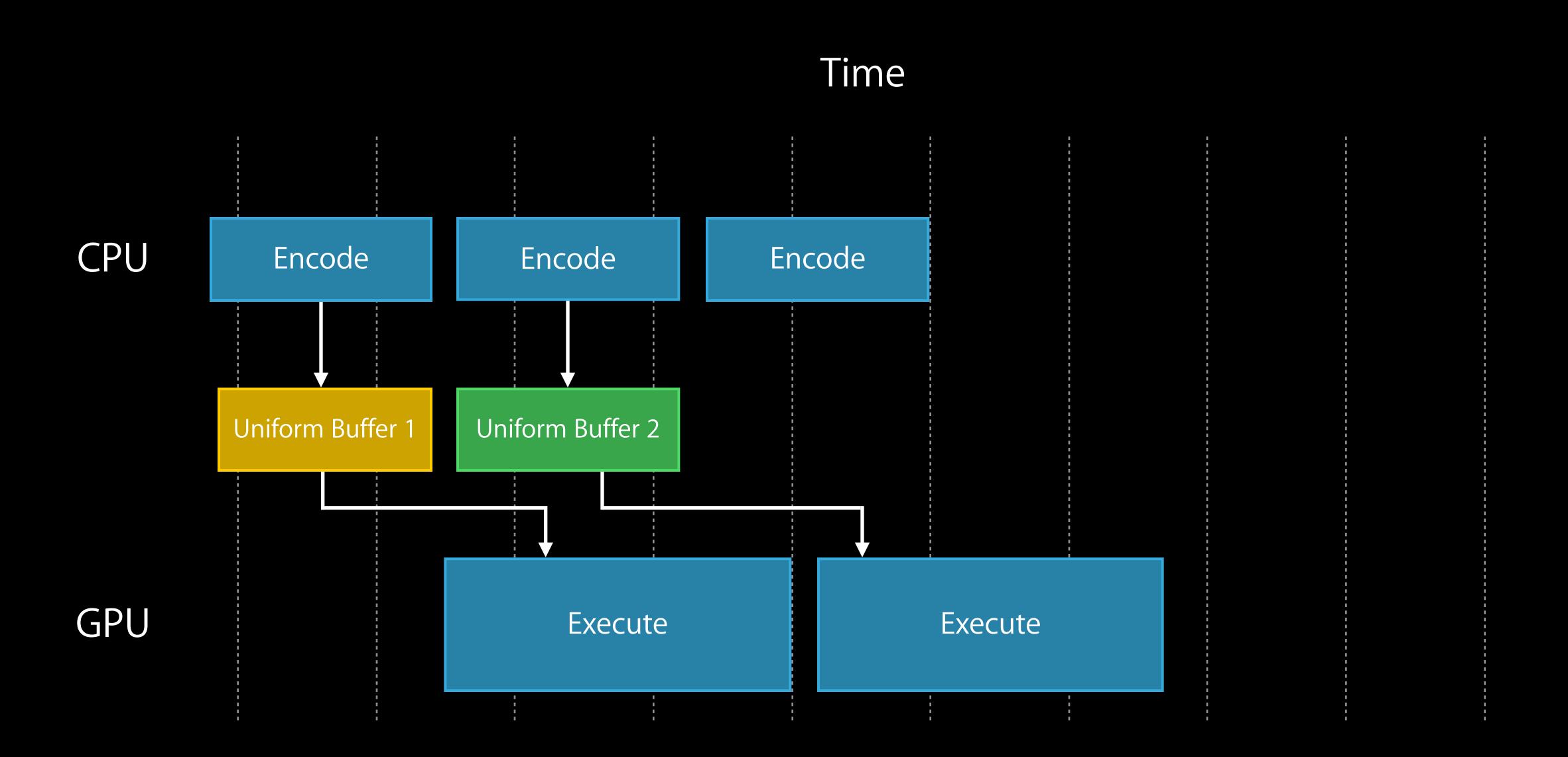
	Time									
CPU										
GPU										

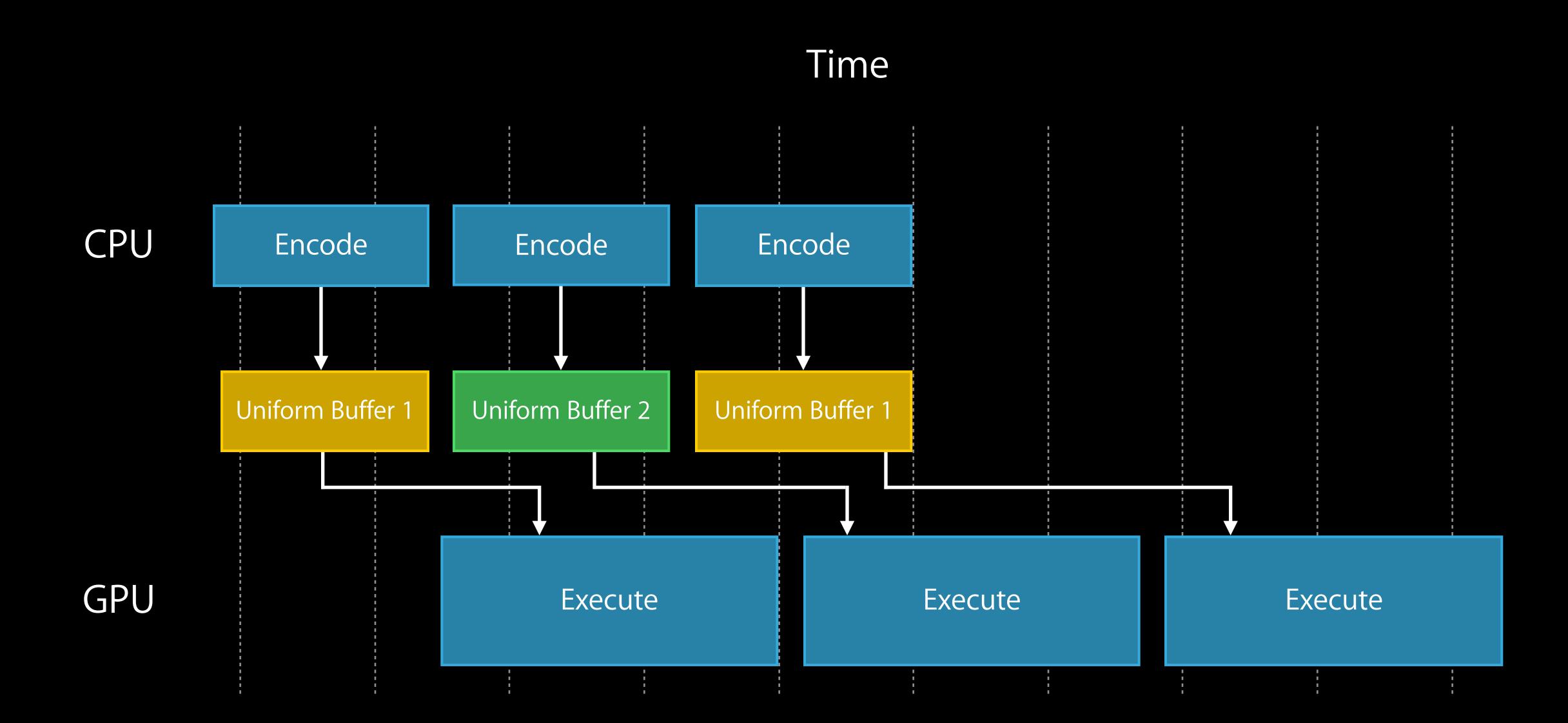


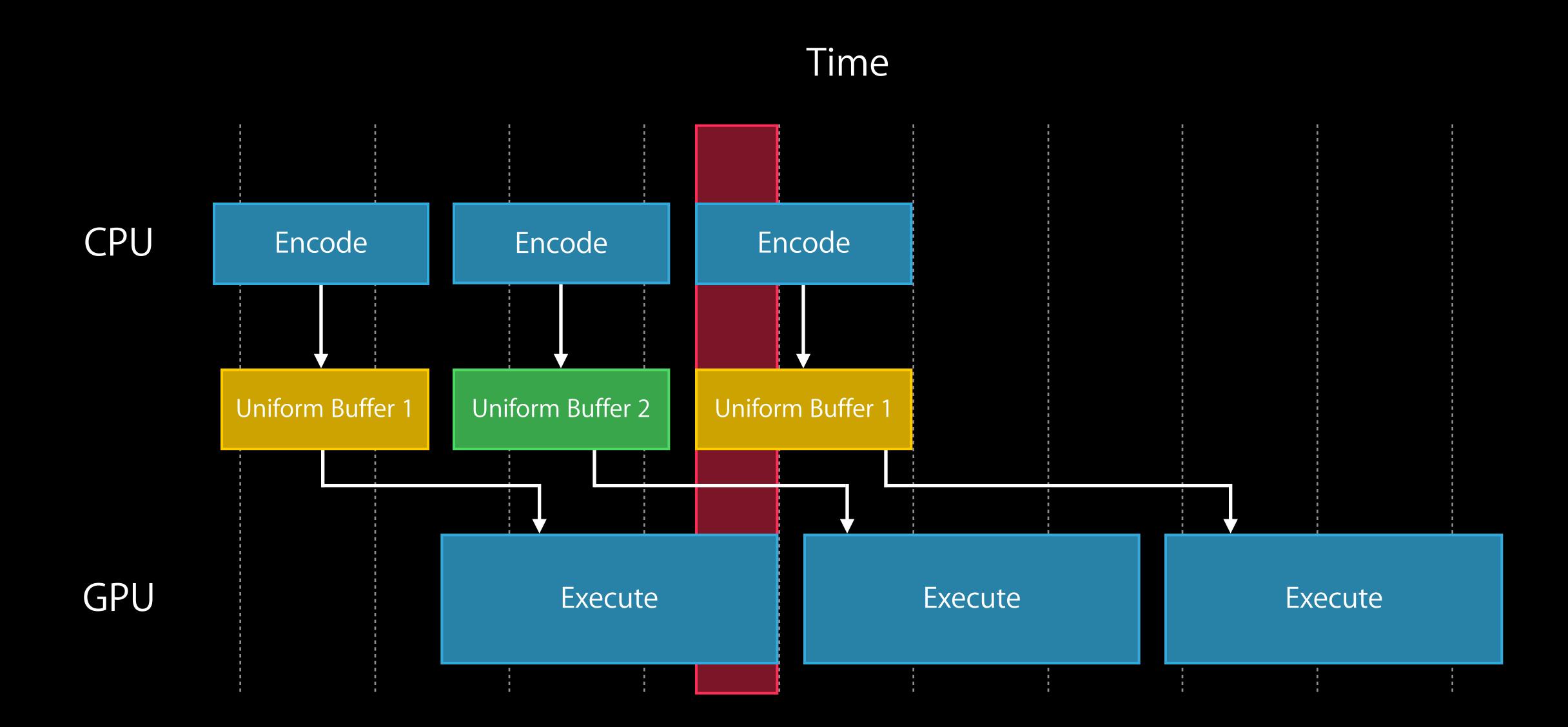


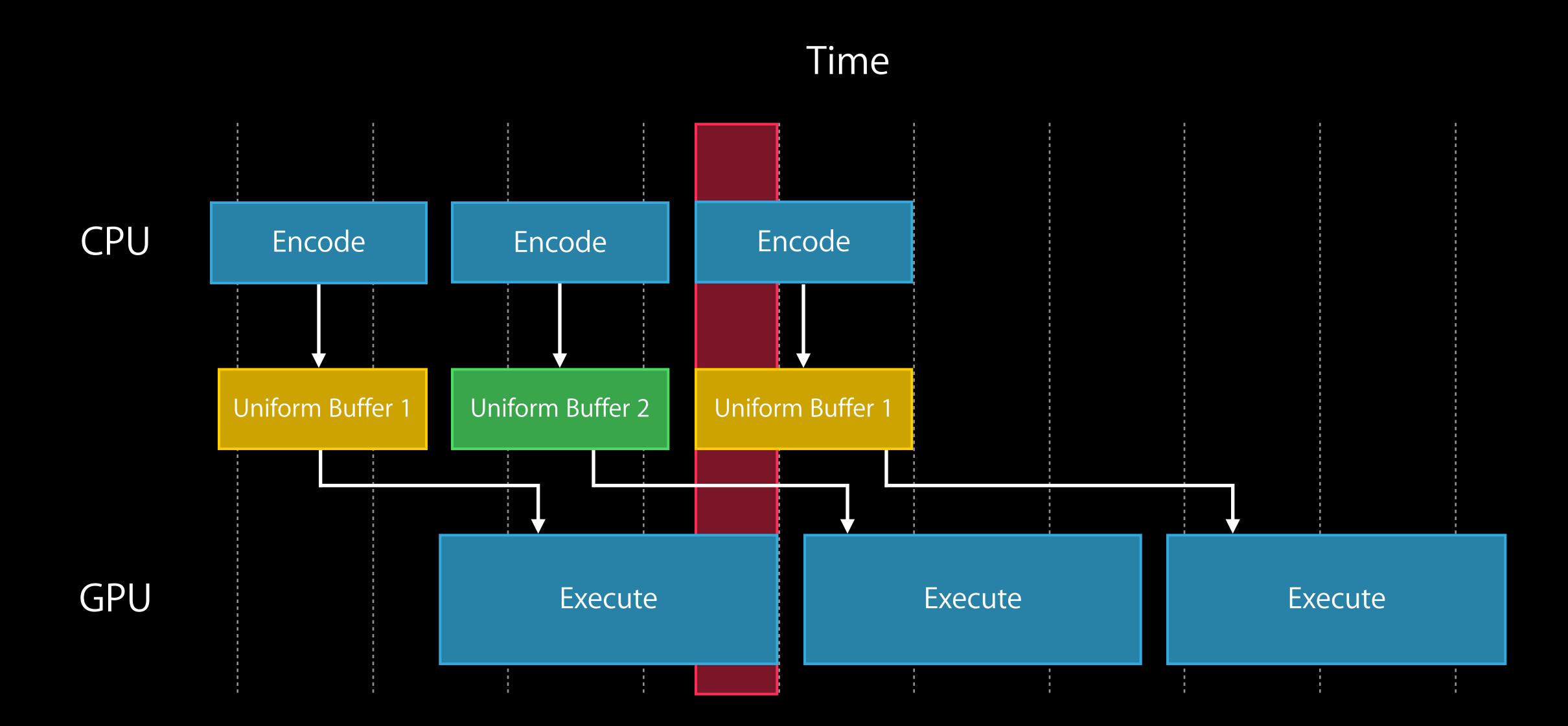


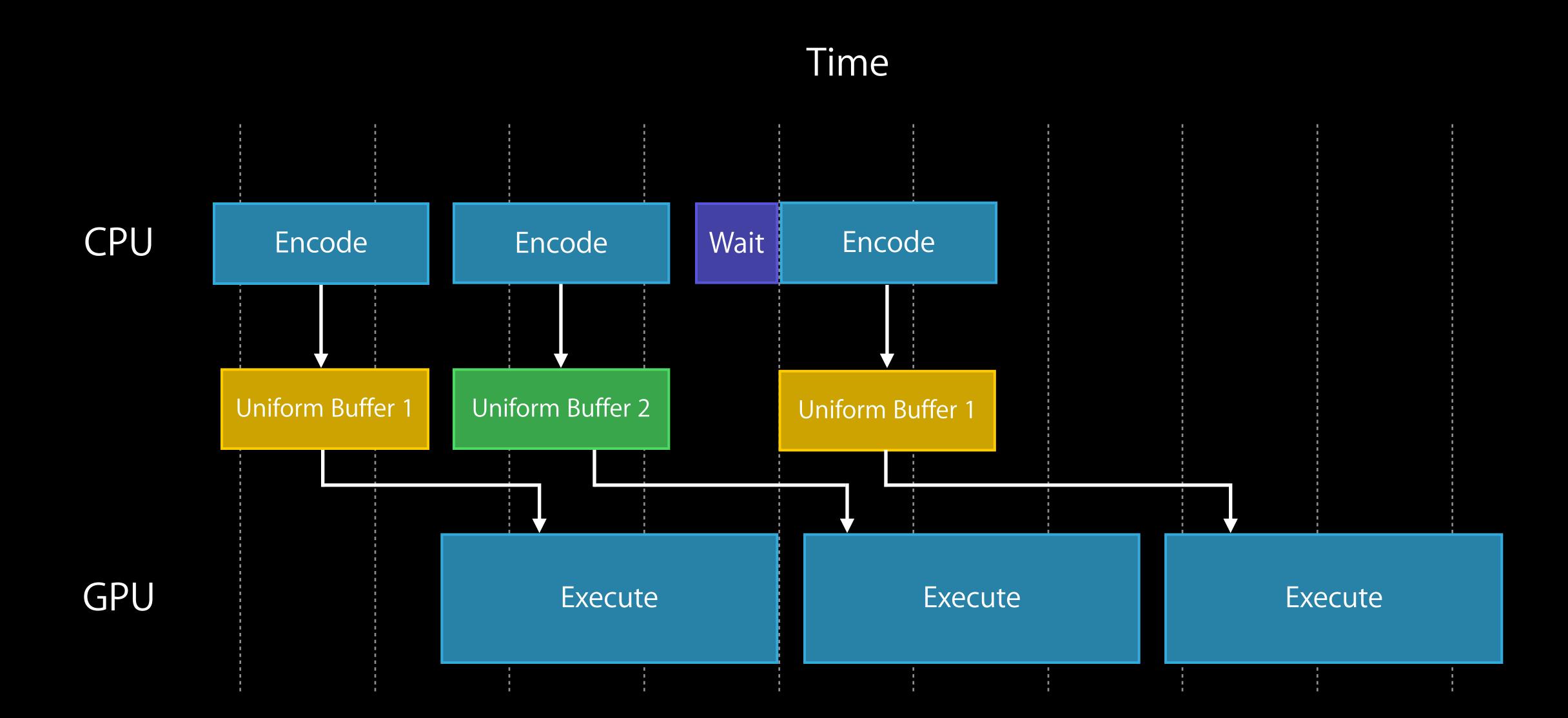












```
// Initialization
available_resources = dispatch_semaphore_create(3);
```

Initialization

```
available_resources = dispatch_semaphore_create(3);
    Per frame
       Build a CommandBuffer
   [commandBuffer commit];
```

```
Initialization
available_resources = dispatch_semaphore_create(3);
    Per frame
   dispatch_semaphore_wait(available_resources, DISPATCH_TIME_FOREVER);
       Build a CommandBuffer
   [commandBuffer commit];
```

```
Initialization
available_resources = dispatch_semaphore_create(3);
    Per frame
   dispatch_semaphore_wait(available_resources, DISPATCH_TIME_FOREVER);
       Build a CommandBuffer
       Register a completion callback, unblock any waiting threads
   [commandBuffer addCompletedHandler:^(id<MTLCommandBuffer> cb) {
      dispatch_semaphore_signal(available_resources);
   }];
   [commandBuffer commit];
```

Metal Fundamentals

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- Drawing
- Uniforms and synchronization

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- Writing shaders in Metal
- Data types in Metal
- Shader inputs, outputs, and matching rules

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Metal Shading Language A unified language for graphics and compute

Aaftab Munshi GPU Software Engineer

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Writing Shaders in Metal

```
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos [[ position ];
    float2 uv;
};
VertexOutput
texturedQuadVertex(const float4* vtx_data,
                   const float2* uv_data,
                   uint vid)
    VertexOutput v_out;
    v_out.pos = vtx_data[vid];
    v_out.uv = uv_data[vid];
    return v_out;
```

```
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos [[ position ];
    float2 uv;
};
VertexOutput
texturedQuadVertex(const float4* vtx_data,
                   const float2* uv_data,
                   uint vid
    VertexOutput v_out;
    v_out.pos = vtx_data[vid];
    v_out.uv = uv_data[vid];
    return v_out;
```

```
#include <metal_stdlib>
using namespace metal;
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos [[ position ];
    float2 uv;
};
VertexOutput
texturedQuadVertex(const float4* vtx_data,
                   const float2* uv_data,
                   uint vid)
    VertexOutput v_out;
    v_out.pos = vtx_data[vid];
    v_out.uv = uv_data[vid];
    return v_out;
```

```
#include <metal_stdlib>
using namespace metal;
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos [[ position ];
    float2 uv;
};
vertex VertexOutput
texturedQuadVertex(const float4* vtx_data,
                   const float2* uv_data,
                   uint vid)
    VertexOutput v_out;
    v_out.pos = vtx_data[vid];
    v_out.uv = uv_data[vid];
    return v_out;
```

```
#include <metal_stdlib>
using namespace metal;
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos [[ position ];
    float2 uv;
};
vertex VertexOutput
texturedQuadVertex(const global float4* vtx_data, [[ buffer(0) ]],
                   const global float2* uv_data, [[ buffer(1) ]],
                   uint vid)
    VertexOutput v_out;
    v_out.pos = vtx_data[vid];
    v_out.uv = uv_data[vid];
    return v_out;
```

Metal Vertex Shader

```
#include <metal_stdlib>
using namespace metal;
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos [[ position ];
    float2 uv;
};
vertex VertexOutput
texturedQuadVertex(const global float4* vtx_data, [[ buffer(0) ]],
                   const global float2* uv_data, [[ buffer(1) ]],
                   uint vid [[ vertex_id ]])
    VertexOutput v_out;
    v_out.pos = vtx_data[vid];
    v_out.uv = uv_data[vid];
    return v_out;
```

Metal Vertex Shader

```
#include <metal_stdlib>
using namespace metal;
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos [[ position ];
    float2 uv;
};
vertex VertexOutput
texturedQuadVertex(const global float4* vtx_data, [[ buffer(0) ]],
                   const global float2* uv data, [[ buffer(1) ]],
                   uint vid [[ vertex_id ]])
    VertexOutput v_out;
    v_out.pos = vtx_data[vid];
    v_out.uv = uv_data[vid];
    return v_out;
```

Pseudo Code for a Fragment Shader

```
#include <metal_stdlib>
using namespace metal;
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos [[ position ];
    float2 uv;
float4
texturedQuadFragment(VertexOutput frag_input,
                   texture2d<float> tex [[ texture(0) ]],
                   sampler s [[ sampler(0) ]]
   return tex.sample(s, frag_input.uv);
```

Pseudo Code for a Fragment Shader

```
#include <metal_stdlib>
using namespace metal;
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos [[ position ];
    float2 uv;
fragment float4
texturedQuadFragment(VertexOutput frag_input,
                   texture2d<float> tex [[ texture(0) ]],
                   sampler s [[ sampler(0) ]]
   return tex.sample(s, frag_input.uv);
```

Metal Fragment Shader

```
#include <metal_stdlib>
using namespace metal;
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos [[ position ];
    float2 uv;
fragment float4
texturedQuadFragment(VertexOutput frag_input, [[ stage in ]],
                   texture2d<float> tex [[ texture(0) ]],
                   sampler s [[ sampler(0) ]]
   return tex.sample(s, frag_input.uv);
```

Metal Fragment Shader

```
#include <metal_stdlib>
using namespace metal;
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos [[ position ];
    float2 uv;
fragment float4
texturedQuadFragment(VertexOutput frag_input, [[ stage_in ]],
                   texture2d<float> tex [[ texture(0) ]],
                   sampler s [[ sampler(0) ]]
   return tex.sample(s, frag_input.uv);
```

Data Types

Scalars, vectors, matrices, and atomics

C++11 scalar types

C++11 scalar types

The half type

C++11 scalar types

The half type

Use the half type wherever you can

More than just a big scalar

More than just a big scalar

Vectors

- Two-, three-, and four-component integer and floating-point types
- char2, int3, float4, half2, etc.

More than just a big scalar

Vectors

- Two-, three-, and four-component integer and floating-point types
- char2, int3, float4, half2, etc.

Matrices

- floatnxm, halfnxm
- Column major order

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- Two-, three-, and four-component integer and floating-point types
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Vector and Matrix Constructors and Operators

Similar to GLSL

More than just a big scalar

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- char2, int3, float4, half2, etc.

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- floatnxm, halfnxm
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Vector and Matrix Constructors and Operators

Similar to GLSL

Types defined by simd/simd.h

More than just a big scalar

Vectors

- Two-, three-, and four-component integer and floating-point types
- char2, int3, float4, half2, etc.

Matrices

- floatnxm, halfnxm
- Column major order

Vector and Matrix Constructors and Operators

Similar to GLSL

Types defined by simd/simd.h

Use the halfn and halfnxm types wherever you can

Vectors Aligned at vector length

```
struct Foo {
    float a;
    float2 b;
    float4 c;
};
```

Aligned at vector length

Aligned at vector length

Aligned at vector length

```
struct Foo {
    float a;
    float pad;
    float2 b;
    float4 c;
};
```

Potential impact to both allocation size and memory b/w

Aligned at vector length

```
struct Foo {
    float a;
    float pad; ←— generated by compiler
    float2 b;
    float4 c;
};
```

Potential impact to both allocation size and memory b/w

Aligned at vector length

Potential impact to both allocation size and memory b/w

Aligned at vector length

What if we declare them in order of decreasing size?

```
struct Foo {
   float4 c;
   float2 b;
   float a;
};
```

Aligned at vector length

What if we declare them in order of decreasing size?

```
struct Foo {
    float4 c;
    float2 b;
    float a;
};
sizeof(Foo) is still 32 bytes
```

Packed vector types

Vectors Packed vector types

packed_float3, packed_char4, ...

Vectors Packed vector types

packed_float3, packed_char4, ...

Packed vector types

```
packed_float3, packed_char4, ...
```

```
struct Foo {
    float a;
    packed_float2 b;
    packed_float4 c;
};
```

Packed vector types

```
packed_float3, packed_char4, ...
```

```
struct Foo {
    float a;
    packed_float2 b; ← alignment = 4 bytes
    packed_float4 c; ← alignment = 4 bytes
};
```

Packed vector types

```
packed_float3, packed_char4, ...
```

```
struct Foo {
    float a;
    packed_float2 b; 	 alignment = 4 bytes
    packed_float4 c; 	 alignment = 4 bytes
};

sizeof(Foo) = 28 bytes
```

Packed vector types

```
packed_float3, packed_char4, ...
```

Always aligned at scalar type length

```
struct Foo {
    float a;
    packed_float2 b; ← alignment = 4 bytes
    packed_float4 c; ← alignment = 4 bytes
};

sizeof(Foo) = 28 bytes
```

Not a good fit for CPU as CPUs prefer aligned vector types

Atomic

Atomic

Supported atomic types

atomic_int and atomic_uint

Atomic

Supported atomic types

atomic_int and atomic_uint

Operations on atomic types are race-free

- Subset of C++11 atomic functions
- Guaranteed to be performed without interference from other threads

Data Types

Textures, samplers, and buffers

Template parameters

Template parameters

- Color type
 - Float, half, int, or uint

Template parameters

- Color type
 - Float, half, int, or uint
- Access mode
 - Sample, read, or write

Template parameters

- Color type
 - Float, half, int, or uint
- Access mode
 - Sample, read, or write

Separate type for depth textures

```
fragment FragOutput
my_fragment_shader(
    texture2d<float> tA [[ texture(0) ]],
    texture2d<half, access::write> tB [[ texture(1) ]],
    depth2d<float> tC [[ texture(2) ]],
    ...)
{
}
```

```
fragment FragOutput
my_fragment_shader(
    texture2d<float> tA [[ texture(0) ]],
    texture2d<half, access::write> tB [[ texture(1) ]],
    depth2d<float> tC [[ texture(2) ]],
    ...)
{
}
```

```
fragment FragOutput
my_fragment_shader(
    texture2d<float> tA [[ texture(0) ]],
    texture2d<half, access::write> tB [[ texture(1) ]],
    depth2d<float> tC [[ texture(2) ]],
    ...)
{
}
```

```
fragment FragOutput
my_fragment_shader(
    texture2d<float> tA [[ texture(0) ]],
    texture2d<half, access::write> tB [[ texture(1) ]],
    depth2d<float> tC [[ texture(2) ]],
    ...)
{
}
```

Samplers independent from textures

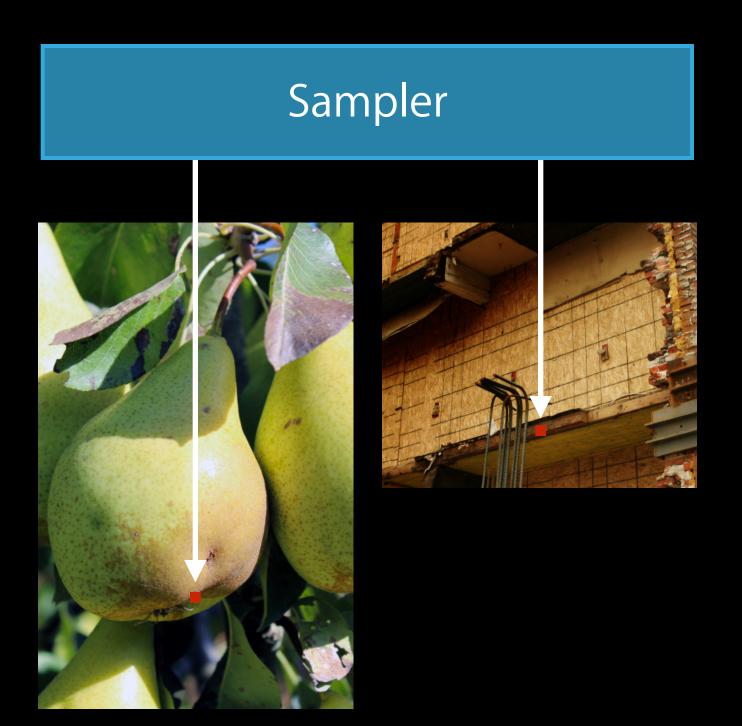
Samplers independent from textures

One sampler, multiple textures

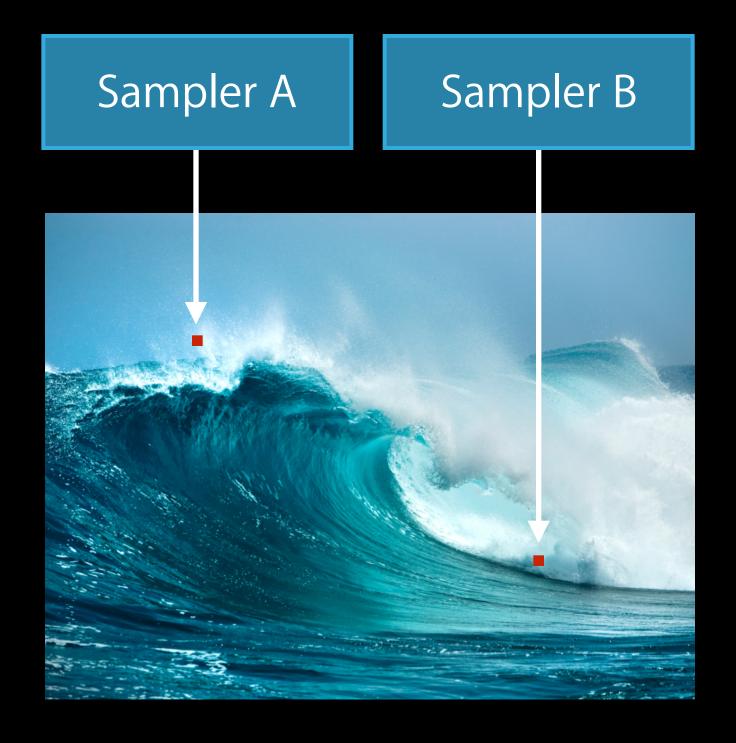


Samplers independent from textures

One sampler, multiple textures



Multiple samplers, one texture



Argument to a graphics or kernel function

Argument to a graphics or kernel function

Declared in Metal source

Declared in Metal source

Declared in Metal source

Buffers

Show me the memory

Buffers Show me the memory

A pointer or a reference to a type

Buffers Show me the memory

A pointer or a reference to a type Must be declared in an address space

- global
- constant

Buffers

When to use global

Buffers When to use global

When buffers are indexed dynamically such as with:

- vertex ID
- global ID

Buffers

When to use constant

Buffers

When to use constant

Should be used when multiple instances index the same location

Buffers

When to use constant

Should be used when multiple instances index the same location For data structures such as:

- Light descriptors, material properties
- Skinning matrices
- Filter weights

Buffers

When to use constant

Should be used when multiple instances index the same location

For data structures such as:

- Light descriptors, material properties
- Skinning matrices
- Filter weights

Pass by reference

```
vertex VertexOutput
my_vertex(const float3* position_data [[ buffer(0) ]],
           const float3* normal_data [[ buffer(1) ]],
           TransformMatrices& matrices [[ buffer(2) ]],
           uint vid [[ vertex_id ]])
    VertexOutput out;
    float3 n_d = normal_data[vid];
    float3 transformed_normal = matrices.normal_matrix * n_d;
    float4 p_d = float4(position_data[vid], 1.0f);
    out.position = matrices.modelview_projection_matrix * p_d;
    float4 eye_vector = matrices.modelview_matrix * p_d;
    return out;
```

```
vertex VertexOutput
my_vertex(const float3* position_data [[ buffer(0) ]],
           const float3* normal_data [[ buffer(1) ]],
           TransformMatrices& matrices [[ buffer(2) ]],
           uint vid [[ vertex_id ]])
    VertexOutput out;
    float3 n_d = normal_data[vid];
    float3 transformed_normal = matrices.normal_matrix * n_d;
    float4 p_d = float4(position_data[vid], 1.0f);
    out_position = matrices_modelview_projection_matrix * p_d;
    float4 eye_vector = matrices.modelview_matrix * p_d;
    return out;
```

```
vertex VertexOutput
my_vertex(const float3* position_data [[ buffer(0) ]],
           const float3* normal_data [[ buffer(1) ]],
           TransformMatrices& matrices [[ buffer(2) ]],
           uint vid [[ vertex_id ]])
    VertexOutput out;
    float3 n_d = normal_data[vid];
    float3 transformed_normal = matrices.normal_matrix * n_d;
    float4 p_d = float4(position_data[vid], 1.0f);
    out.position = matrices.modelview_projection_matrix * p_d;
    float4 eye_vector = matrices.modelview_matrix * p_d;
    return out;
```

```
vertex VertexOutput
my_vertex(const global float3* position_data [[ buffer(0) ]],
           const global float3* normal_data [[ buffer(1) ]],
           TransformMatrices& matrices [[ buffer(2) ]],
           uint vid [[ vertex_id ]])
    VertexOutput out;
    float3 n_d = normal_data[vid];
    float3 transformed_normal = matrices.normal_matrix * n_d;
    float4 p_d = float4(position_data[vid], 1.0f);
    out.position = matrices.modelview_projection_matrix * p_d;
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```

```
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```

```
vertex VertexOutput
my_vertex(const global float3* position_data [[ buffer(0) ]],
           const global float3* normal_data [[ buffer(1) ]],
           constant TransformMatrices& matrices [[ buffer(2) ]],
           uint vid [[ vertex_id ]])
    VertexOutput out;
    float3 n_d = normal_data[vid];
    float3 transformed_normal = matrices.normal_matrix * n_d;
    float4 p_d = float4(position_data[vid], 1.0f);
    out_position = matrices_modelview_projection_matrix * p_d;
    float4 eye_vector = matrices.modelview_matrix * p_d;
    return out;
```

Per-Vertex Inputs

Two methods for reading vertex data

Vertex data layout is known by the shader

Per-Vertex Inputs—Option One Vertex data layout is known by the shader

Pass pointers to vertex input buffers in global address space Use vertex ID and instance ID to index into vertex buffers

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Decouple vertex input data from type used in shader

Good match to OpenGL's Vertex Array API

Decouple vertex input data from type used in shader

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A vertex descriptor for fetching data in the API

- Data type in shader can be different from the input data format
- One or more buffers can be used to describe vertex inputs

Decouple vertex input data from type used in shader

Good match to OpenGL's Vertex Array API

A vertex descriptor for fetching data in the API

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Per-vertex inputs to shader

- Declared as a struct
- Described with the [[stage_in]] qualifier

Decouple vertex input data from type used in shader

Good match to OpenGL's Vertex Array API

A vertex descriptor for fetching data in the API

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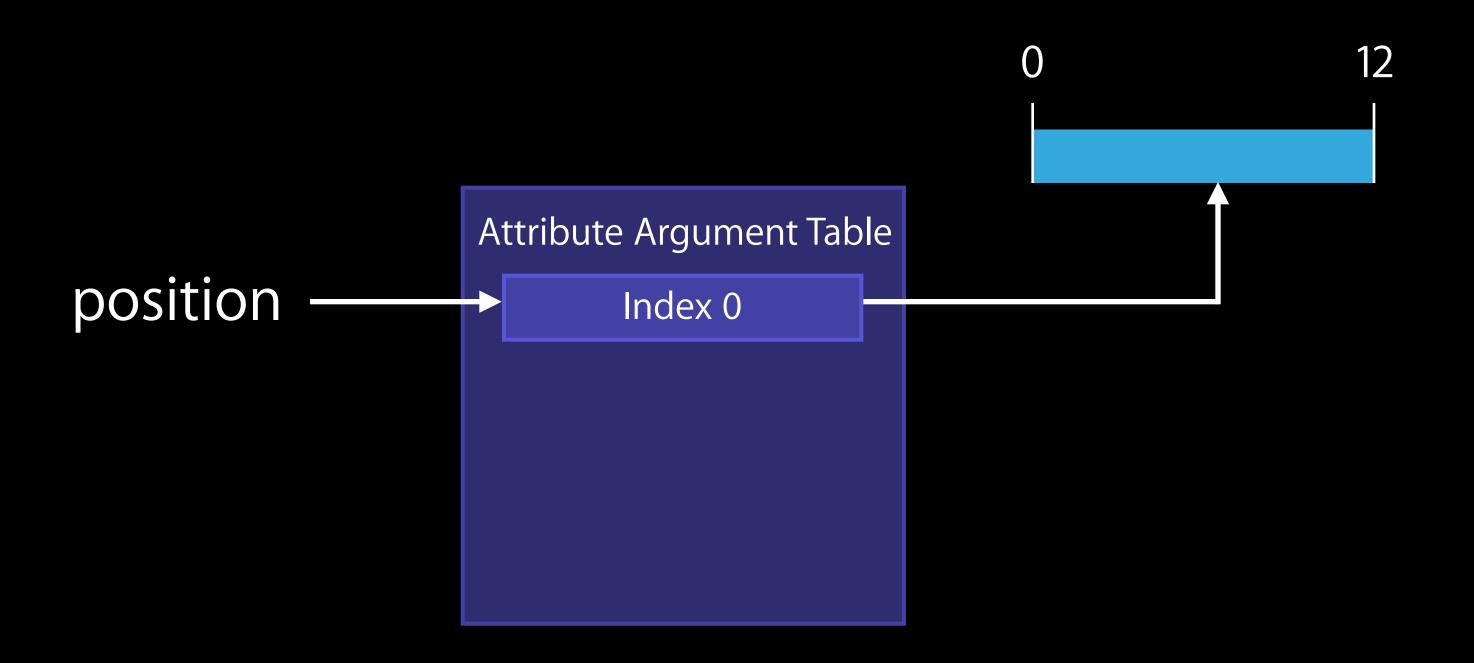
Per-vertex inputs to shader

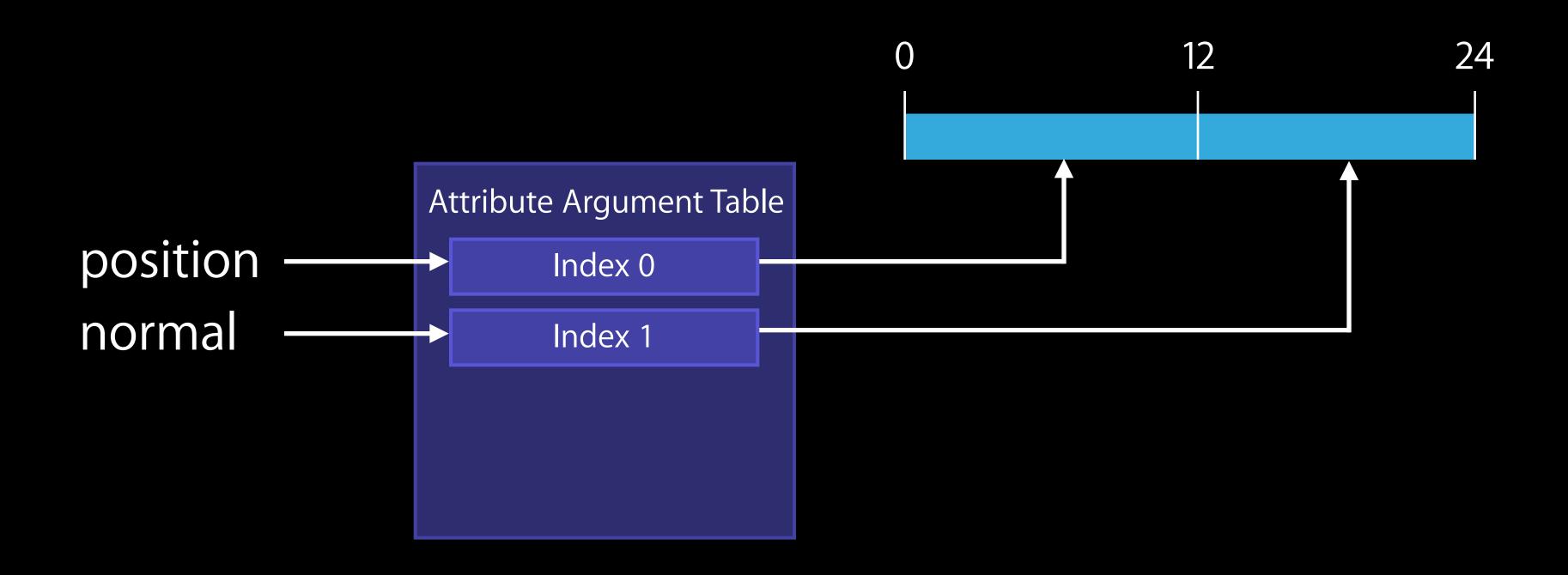
- Declared as a struct
- Described with the [[stage_in]] qualifier

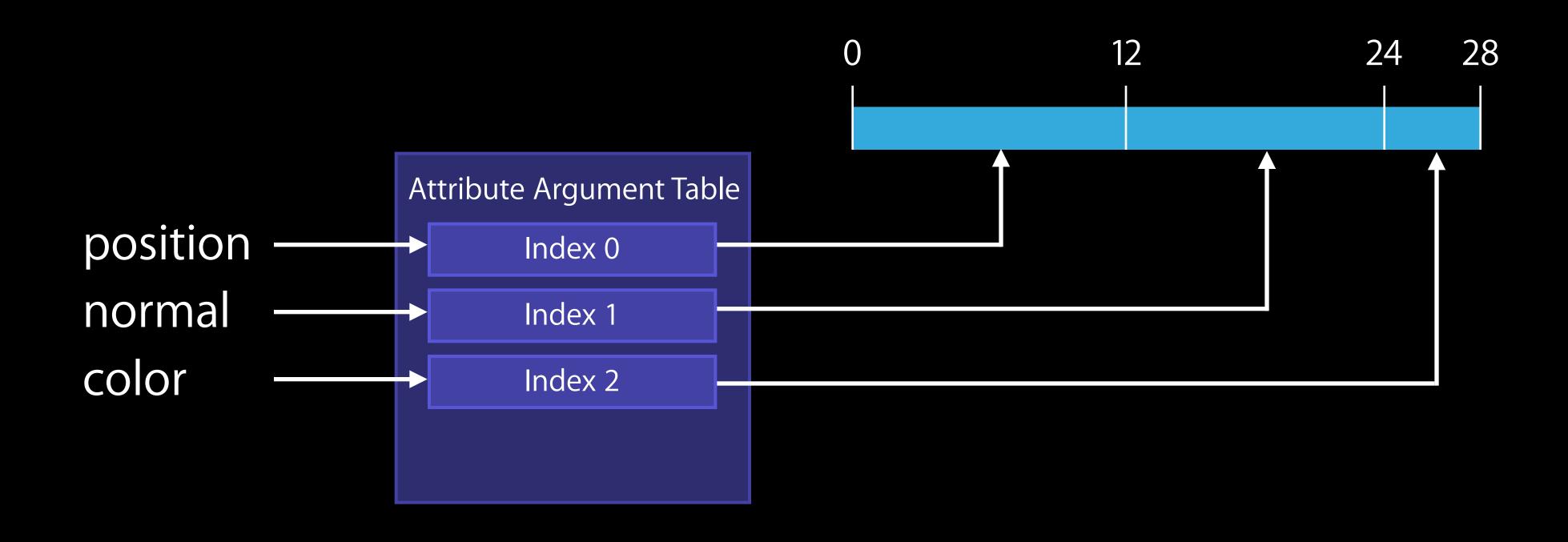
Attribute index to identify each vertex input

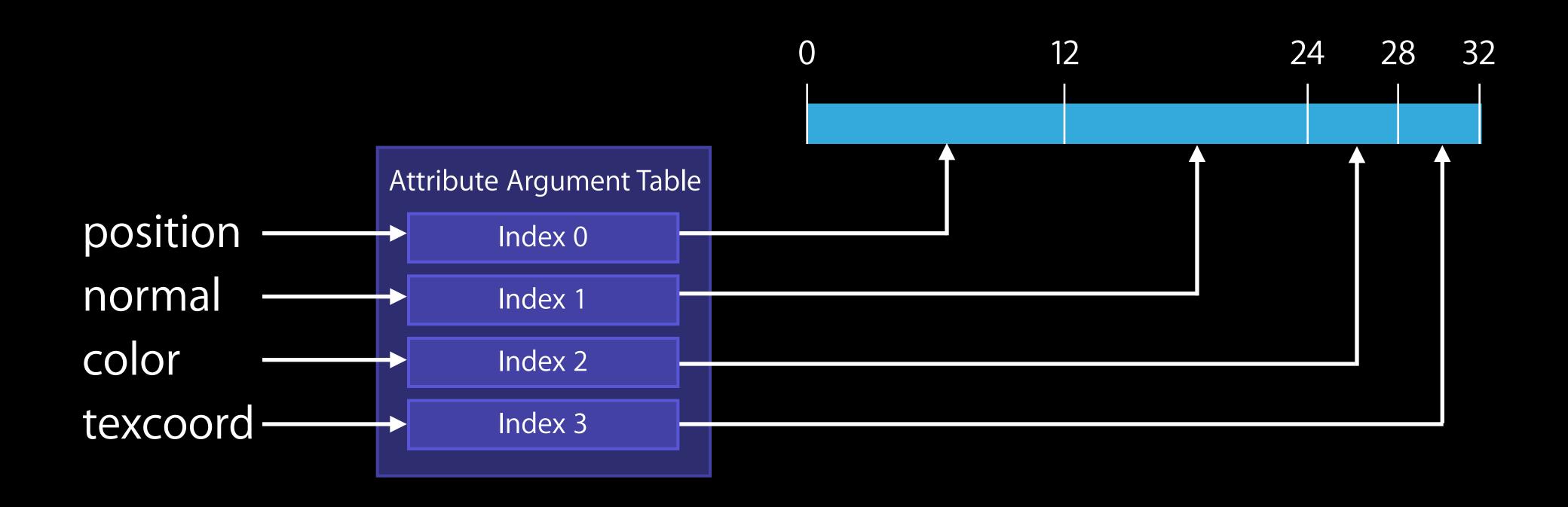
Decouple vertex input data from type used in shader

Attribute Argument Table









Specifying vertex attribute indices in a shader

```
struct VertexInput {
    float4 position [[ attribute(0) ]];
    float3 normal [[ attribute(1) ]];
    half4 color [[ attribute(2) ]];
    half2 texcoord [[ attribute(3) ]];
};
vertex VertexOutput
my_vertex_shader(VertexInput v_in [[ stage_in ]], ...)
```

Specifying vertex attribute indices in a shader

```
struct VertexInput {
    float4 position [[ attribute(0) ]];
    float3 normal [[ attribute(1) ]];
    half4 color [[ attribute(2) ]];
    half2 texcoord [[ attribute(3) ]];
};
vertex VertexOutput
my_vertex_shader(VertexInput v_in [[ stage_in ]], ...)
```

```
MTLVertexDescriptor* vertexDesc = [[MTLVertexDescriptor alloc] init];
[vertexDesc setVertexFormat:MTLVertexFormatFloat3
                 offset:0 vertexBufferIndex:0 atAttributeIndex:0]
[vertexDesc setVertexFormat:MTLVertexFormatFloat3
                 offset:12 vertexBufferIndex:0 atAttributeIndex:1
[vertexDesc setVertexFormat:MTLVertexFormatUChar4Normalized
                 offset:24 vertexBufferIndex:0 atAttributeIndex:2]
[vertexDesc setVertexFormat:MTLVertexFormatUShort2Normalized
                 offset:28 vertexBufferIndex:0 atAttributeIndex:3];
[vertexDesc setStride:32 atVertexBufferIndex:0];
// add vertex descriptor to the MTLRenderPipelineDescriptor
pipelineDescriptor.vertexDescriptor = vertexDesc;
```

Per-Vertex Outputs

Two methods for writing vertex data

Return type of vertex shader

A float4 or a user-defined struct

A float4 or a user-defined struct Elements of a user-defined struct

A float4 or a user-defined struct Elements of a user-defined struct

A scalar, vector, or matrix type

A float4 or a user-defined struct Elements of a user-defined struct

- A scalar, vector, or matrix type
- Built-in variables

```
[[ position ]]
[[ point_size ]]
[[ clip_distance ]]
```

A float4 or a user-defined struct Elements of a user-defined struct

- A scalar, vector, or matrix type
- Built-in variables

```
[[ position ]]
[[ point_size ]]
[[ clip_distance ]]
```

Position must always be returned

Return type of vertex shader

```
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos [[ position ]];
    half4 color;
    float pt [[ point_size ]];
    float2 texcoord;
}

vertex VertexOutput
my_vertex_shaderA(...)
{
}
```

Anyway you want, just the way you need...to write

Output to a buffer(s) using your vertex ID

```
Output to a buffer(s) using your vertex ID
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos;
    half4 color;
    float2 texcoord;
};
vertex void
my_vertex_shaderA(global VertexOutput* output_buffer [[ buffer(0) ]],
                  uint vid [[ vertex_id ]], ...)
    VertexOutput v_out;
    output_buffer[vid] = v_out;
```

```
Output to a buffer(s) using your vertex ID
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos;
    half4 color;
    float2 texcoord;
};
vertex void
my_vertex_shaderA(global VertexOutput* output_buffer [[ buffer(0) ]],
                  uint vid [[ vertex_id ]], _...)
    VertexOutput v_out;
    output_buffer[vid] = v_out;
```

```
Output to a buffer(s) using your vertex ID
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos;
    half4 color;
    float2 texcoord;
};
vertex void
my_vertex_shaderA(global VertexOutput* output_buffer [[ buffer(0) ]],
                  uint vid [[ vertex_id ]], ...)
    VertexOutput v_out;
    output_buffer[vid] = v_out;
```

```
Output to a buffer(s) using your vertex ID
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos;
    half4 color;
    float2 texcoord;
};
vertex void
my_vertex_shaderA(global VertexOutput* output_buffer [[ buffer(0) ]],
                  uint vid [[ vertex_id ]], ...)
    VertexOutput v_out;
    output_buffer[vid] = v_out;
```

```
Output to a buffer(s) using your vertex ID
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos;
    half4 color;
    float2 texcoord;
};
vertex void
my_vertex_shaderA(global VertexOutput* output_buffer [[ buffer(0) ]],
                  uint vid [[ vertex_id ]], ...)
    VertexOutput v_out;
    output_buffer[vid] = v_out;
```

Per-Fragment Inputs and outputs

Per-Fragment Inputs Output of a vertex shader

Declared with the [[stage_in]] qualifier

Per-Fragment Inputs Output of a vertex shader

Declared with the [[stage_in]] qualifier
Built-in variables generated by the rasterizer

- Front facing
- Point coordinate
- Sample ID and sample mask

Per-Fragment Inputs Output of a vertex shader

Declared with the [[stage_in]] qualifier
Built-in variables generated by the rasterizer

- Front facing
- Point coordinate
- Sample ID and sample mask

Frame-buffer color values

For programmable blending

Per-Fragment Outputs

Return type of fragment shader

A scalar, vector, or user-defined struct

A scalar, vector, or user-defined struct Color, depth, or sample mask

A scalar, vector, or user-defined struct Color, depth, or sample mask Identified with attributes

- [[color(m)]]
- [[depth(qualifier)]]
- [[sample_mask]]

Per-Fragment Outputs

Return type of fragment shader

```
fragment float4
my_fragment_shader(...)
```

Per-Fragment Outputs

Return type of fragment shader

```
fragment float4
my_fragment_shader(...)
struct MyFragmentOutput {
    half4 clrA [[ color(0)]];
    int4 clrB [[ color(2) ]];
    uint4 clrC [[ color(1) ]];
};
fragment MyFragmentOutput
my_fragment_shader(...)
    MyFragmentOutput v;
    return v;
```

Shader Signature Matching

A match made in heaven

Shader Signature Matching

Types match

Shader Signature Matching Types match

```
struct VertexOutput {
    float4 pos [[ position ]];
    float3 normal;
    float2 texcoord;
};
```

Types match

```
struct VertexOutput {
  float4 pos [[ position ]];
  float3 normal [[ user(N)]];
  float2 texcoord [[ user(T) ]];
};
struct FragmentInput {
    float4 pos [[ position ]];
    float2 texcoord [[ user(T) ]];
};
```

```
struct VertexOutput {
   float4 pos [[ position ]];
   float3 normal [[ user(N)]];
   float2 texcoord [[ user(T) ]];
};
struct FragmentInput {
   float4 pos [[ position ]];
   float2 texcoord [[ user(T) ]];
};
```

```
struct VertexOutput {
  float4 pos [[ position ]];
  float3 normal [[ user(N)]];
  float2 texcoord [[ user(T) ]];
};
struct FragmentInput {
    float4 pos [[ position ]];
  float2 texcoord [[ user(T) ]];
};
```

```
struct VertexOutput {
                                 struct FragmentInput {
                                   float4 pos [[ position ]];
 float4 pos [[ position ]];
                                   float2 texcoord [[ user(T) ]];
  float3 normal [[ user(N)]];
  float2 texcoord [[ user(T) ]]; };
};
vertex VertexOutput
                     fragment float4
                     my_fragment_shader(FragmentInput frag_in [[ stage_in ]],...)
my_vertex_shader(...)
    VertexOutput v;
                         float4 f;
    return f;
    return v;
```

Math in Shaders

Fast or precise, maybe both

By default, all math operations in fast mode

By default, all math operations in fast mode Why would you want to choose precise mode?

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- Handling of NaNs is undefined in fast mode
 - e.g., how should clamp (NaN, min, max) behave?

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 Compiler option -fno-fast-math to change default to precise math

By default, all math operations in fast mode Why would you want to choose precise mode?

- Handling of NaNs is undefined in fast mode
 - e.g., how should clamp (NaN, min, max) behave?
- Math functions only operate over a limited range in fast mode Compiler option -fno-fast-math to change default to precise math
- · Be careful as this may impact performance of your shader

Precise math in fast mode

Precise math in fast mode

Nested name spaces—metal::precise and metal::fast

Precise math in fast mode

Nested name spaces—metal::precise and metal::fast
Use explicit math function name

precise::clamp, precise::sin

Metal Standard Library

Quite a nice list of functions if I do say so myself

Metal Standard Library Functions

Metal Standard Library Functions

Pack Functions contd... Math Functions contd... Geometric Functions contd... **Common Functions** ushort pack_float_to_unorm565(float3 x) T clamp(T x, T minval, T maxval) T atanh(T x) T_s length(Tx) uint pack_half_to_unorm10a2(half4 x) T ceil(T x) T_s length_squared(T x) T mix(T x, T y, T a)ushort pack_half_to_unorm565(half3 x) T saturate(T x) T copysign(T x, T y) T normalize(T x)**Atomic Functions** T sign(T x)T cos(T x)T reflect(T I, T N) void atomic_store_explicit(...) T smoothstep(T edge0, T edge1, T x) $T \cosh(T x)$ T refract(T I, T N, T_s eta) void atomic_load_explicit(...) T step(T edge, T x)**Compute Functions** $T \exp(T x)$ void atomic_exchange_explicit(...) **Integer Functions** void work_group_barrier(mem_flags) $T \exp 2(T x)$ void atomic_compare_exchange_weak_explicit(...) Fragment Functions - Derivatives T abs(T x) $T \exp 10(T x)$ void atomic_fetch_key_explicit(...) T fabs(T x)T dfdx(T p) T_u absdiff(T x, T y) **Texture Functions** T addsat(T x, T y) T abs(T x)T dfdy(T p) T_v sample(sampler s, float n coord, int n offset=0) T clamp(T x, T minval, T maxval) T fdim(T x, T y)T fwidth(T p) T_v sample(sampler s, float*n* coord, uint array, int*n* offset=0) T clz(T x)T floor(T x) **Fragment Functions - Samples** T_v sample(sampler s, float n coord, T ctz(T x)T fmax(T x, T y)uint get_num_samples() lod_options options, intn offset=0) T hadd(T x, T y) $T \max(T x, T y)$ float2 get_sample_position(uint indx) T_v sample(sampler s, float n coord, uint array, T madhi(T a, T b, T c)T fmin(T x, T y)Fragment Functions - Flow Control lod_options options, intn offset=0) T madsat(T a, T b, T c) $T \min(T x, T y)$ void discard_fragment(void) T_v read(uint*n* coord, uint lod=0) $T \max(T x, T y)$ $T \operatorname{fmod}(T x, T y)$ **Unpack Functions** T_v read(uint*n* coord, uint array, uint lod=0) float4 unpack_unorm4x8_to_float(uint x) $T \min(T x, T y)$ T fract(T x) void write $(T_v \text{ color, uint } n \text{ coord, uint lod} = 0)$ T mulhi(T x, T y)float4 unpack_snorm4x8_to_float(uint x) T frexp(T x, Ti& exponent) void write(T_v color, uint*n* coord, uint array, uint lod=0) half4 unpack_unorm4x8_to_half(uint x) T popcount(T x) Ti ilogb(T x) T_v gather(sampler s, floath coord, T rhadd(T x, T y)half4 unpack_snorm4x8_to_half(uint x) T Idexp(T x, Ti k) int2 offset=0, component c=component::x) float4 unpack_unorm4x8_srgb_to_float(uint x) T rotate(T v, T i) $T \log(T x)$ T_v gather(sampler s, float2 coord, uint array, T subsat(T x, T y) $T \log 2(T x)$ half4 unpack_unorm4x8_srgb_to_half(uint x) int2 offset=0, component c=component::x) float2 unpack_unorm2x16_to_float(uint x) **Relational Functions** $T \log 10(T x)$ T sample_compare(sampler s, float2 coord, bool all($T_b x$) T modf(T x, T& intval) float2 unpack_snorm2x16_to_float(uint x) float compare-val, int2 offset=0) bool any $(T_b x)$ $\Gamma pow(Tx,Ty)$ half2 unapck_unorm2x16_to_half(uint x) T sample_compare(sampler s, float2 coord, T_b isfinite(T x) half2 unpack_snorm2x16_to_half(uint x) T powr(T x, T y)float compare-val, lod_options options, T_b isinf(T x) T rint(T x) float4 unpack_unorm10a2_to_float(uint x) int2 offset=0) T round(T x)float3 unpack_unorm565_to_float(ushort x) T_b isnan(T x) T sample_compare(sampler s, float2 coord, uint array, T_b isnormal(T x) $T \operatorname{rsqrt}(T x)$ half4 unpack_unorm10a2_to_half(uint x) float compare-val, int2 offset=0) T_b isordered(T x, T y) $T \sin(T x)$ half3 unpck_unorm565_to_half(ushort x) T sample_compare(sampler s, float2 coord, uint array, T_b isunordered(T x, T y) T sincos(T x, T& cosval) **Pack Functions** float compare-val, lod_options options, uint pack_float_to_unorm4x8(float4 x) T sinh(T x) $T_b not(T_b x)$ int2 offset=0) T select(T a, T b, T $_b$ c) uint pack_float_to_snorm4x8(float4 x) $T \operatorname{sqrt}(T x)$ T_v gather_compare(sampler s, float2 coord, T_i select(T_i a, T_i b, T_b c) T tan(T x)uint pack_half_to_unorm4x8(half4 x) float compare_val, int2 offset=0) uint pack_half_tosnorm4x8(half4 x) T_b signbit(T x) T tanh(T x)T_v gather_compare(sampler s, float2 coord, uint array, **Math Functions** uint pack_float_to_srgb_unorm4x8(float4 x) T trunc(T x)float compare_val, int2 offset=0) **Geometric Functions** T acos(T x) uint pack_half_to_srgb_unorm4x8(half4 x) uint get_width(uint lod=0)

Metal Fundamentals

Building a Metal application

- Initialization
- Drawing
- Uniforms and synchronization

Metal shading language

- Writing shaders in Metal
- Data types in Metal
- Shader inputs, outputs, and matching rules

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Call to action

- Amaze us with how you use Metal
- Let us know how we can improve Metal

More Information

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Documentation http://developer.apple.com

Apple Developer Forums http://devforums.apple.com

Related Sessions

 What's New in the Accelerate Framework 	Nob Hill	Tuesday 10:15AM
 Working with Metal—Overview 	Pacific Heights	Wednesday 9:00AM
 Working with Metal—Advanced 	Pacific Heights	Wednesday 11:30AM

Labs

 Metal Lab 	Graphics and Games Lab A	Wednesday 2:00PM
 Metal Lab 	Graphics and Games Lab B	Thursday 10:15AM

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