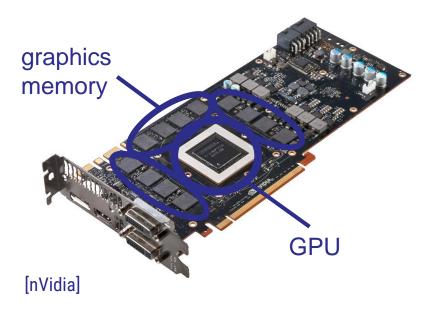
# **Computer Graphics**

### **Scan Conversion**

# **Computer Graphics Principles**

 fastest-possible & most effective technique desired, best use of available resources

 → quality only to the level really wanted
 → often: we trade one thing for another

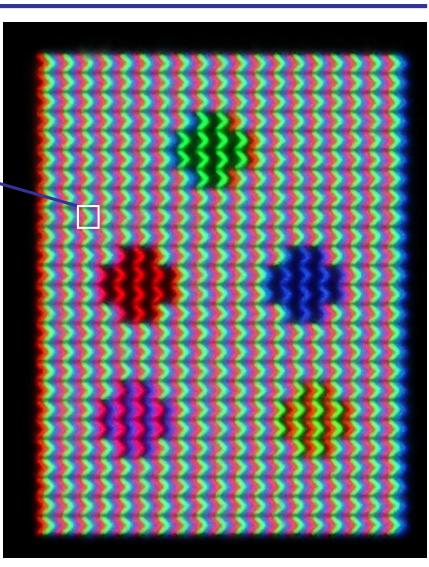


#### **Scan Conversion Introduction**

Basic Problem Line Representations Naïve Algorithm

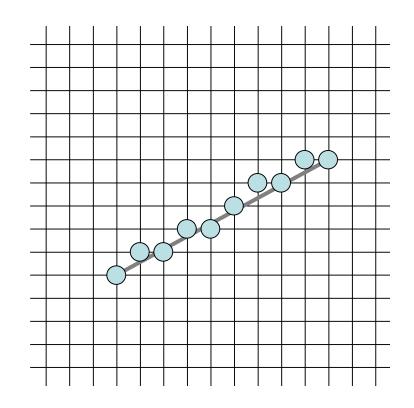
# **Computer Screens: Raster Displays**

- pixel rasters
  - (usually)
     square pixels ~
  - rectangular raster
  - evenly cover
     the image
  - colors of pixels
     give impression
     of shapes
     (here: circles/dots)



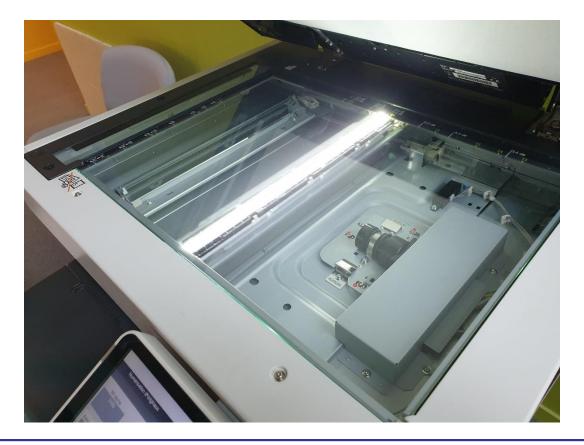
# **Computer Screens: Raster Displays**

- problems
  - no such things such as "lines", "circles", etc.
    need scan conversion
- yields pixel graphic
- non-raster display or printing technologies exist as well (plotter)



#### **Scan Conversion**

- to scan: get the right pixels, line by line
- like an image being scanned by a scanner



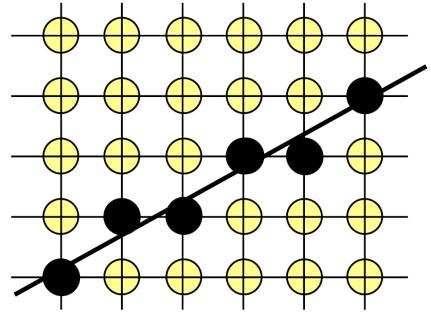
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#### **Scan Conversion**

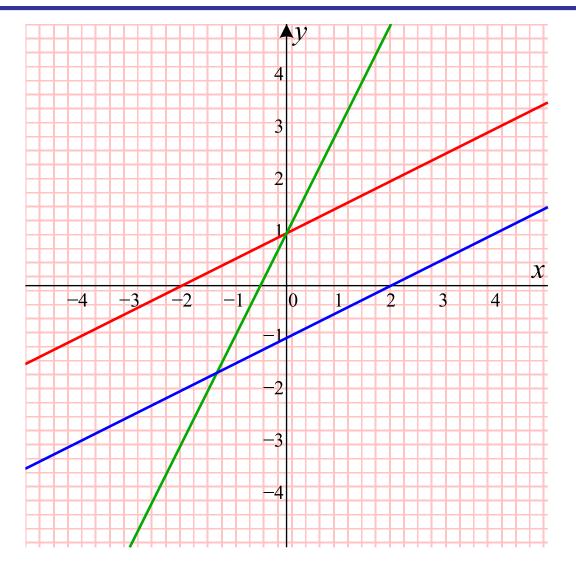
# **Goal: Draw Graphic Primitives**

- graphic primitives: lines, circles, ellipsoids
- requirements:
  - efficiency
  - quality
- problem: how to show lines?



- task: determine
   the pixels to draw in black
- first: how to draw straight lines

## **Scan Conversion: Straight Lines**



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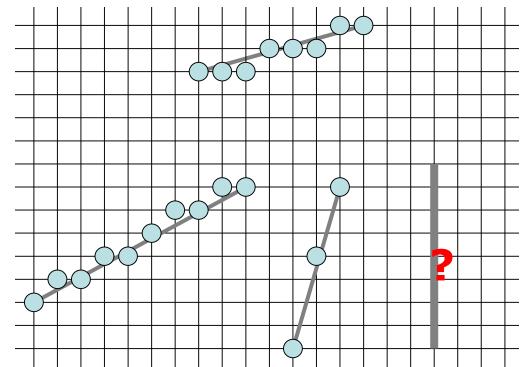
#### **Scan Conversion**

#### **Lines: Mathematical Descriptions**

- input:  $P_1(x_1, y_1)$  and  $P_2(x_2, y_2)$  $\Delta x = x_2 - x_{1;} \Delta y = y_2 - y_{1;} m = \Delta y / \Delta x$
- explicit equation: f(x) = mx + nm =  $\Delta y / \Delta x$ ; n: intersection with *y*-axis
- parametric description: using parameter t  $x = x_1 + t(x_2-x_1) = x_1 + t\Delta x$  $y = y_1 + t(y_2-y_1) = y_1 + t\Delta y$
- implicit equation : F(x, y) = ax + by + c = 0
   → advantage for raster conversion

# Naïve Algorithm

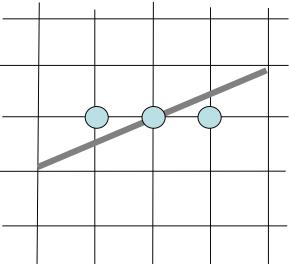
- use explicit equation f(x) = mx + n and iterate
- problems:
  - accuracy
     (floating point computations)
  - efficiency (multiplications)
  - rounding



- sometimes missing pixels or not defined at all

# Implicit Line Equation: Advantage

- not only defines the line but tells us if a pixel is on the line or not
- F(x, y) = ax + by + c
- $F(x, y) > 0 \rightarrow$  below the line
- $F(x, y) = 0 \rightarrow on the line$
- $F(x, y) < 0 \rightarrow above the line$
- we can determine on which side of the (mathematical) line a (discreet) pixel lies!



# **Implicit Line Equation: Getting there**

- F(x, y) = ax + by + c = 0
- determining a, b, (and c)
  - $f(x) = mx + n; m = \Delta y / \Delta x$ 
    - y = mx + n
    - 0 = mx y + n
    - $0 = \Delta y \ x \Delta x \ y + n'$
  - $F(x, y) = \Delta y x \Delta x y + n' = 0$

$$\rightarrow$$
 a =  $\Delta y$ ; b = - $\Delta x$ 

(c = n' can be determined using one point but we won't really need it)

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#### **Bresenham's Midpoint Algorithm**

for Lines

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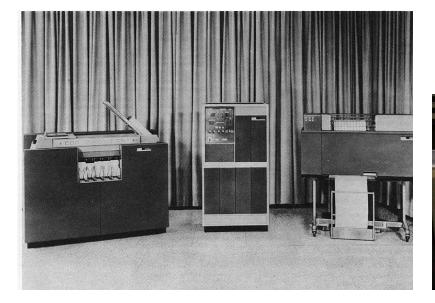
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**Scan Conversion** 

# **Bresenham Midpoint Algorithm**

- by Jack Bresenham (1965) for controlling a plotter:
  - Integer arithmetic (fast, precise)
  - no division, as few multiplications as possible





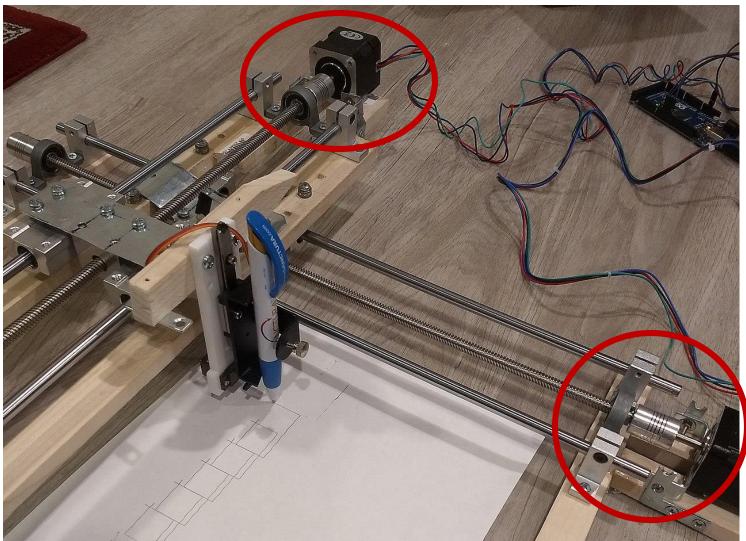


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#### **Scan Conversion**

### **Pixel Graphics for Vector Plotters?**



stepper motors essentially driven on a (fine) pixel raster

image by Wikipedia user Chiffre01

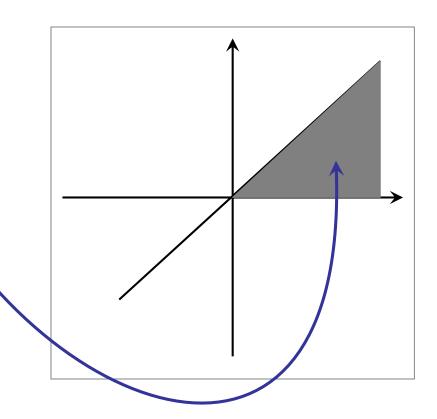
#### **Scan Conversion**

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# **Bresenham Midpoint Algorithm**

- constraints:
  - slope (m) between 0 and 1
    - $\rightarrow$  one octant
  - all pixels on Integer raster
  - this also means rounding start and end point

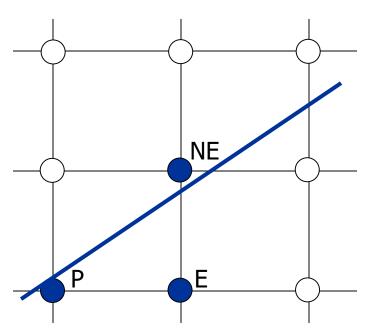


• later:

generalize to other octants

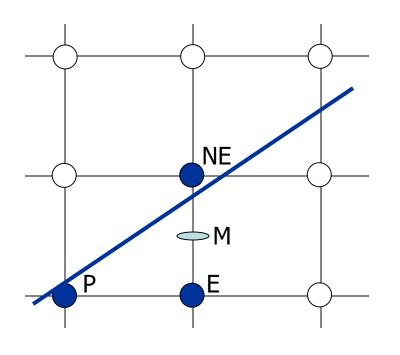
# **Bresenham Midpoint Algorithm**

- general idea: iterative positioning of pixels
- previous pixel: P
- next pixels: NE or E
- decision depending on whether line intersection closer to NE or E
- iterate!

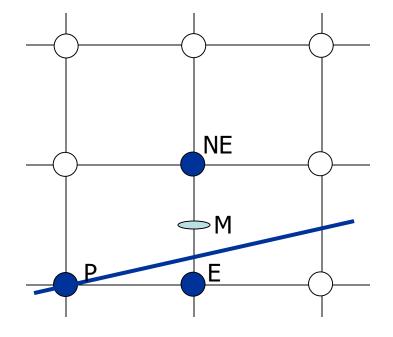


- implicit equation revisited
- easier to determine whether midpoint (M) is above or below the line  $\rightarrow$  F(M) current pixel: P(x, y) midpoint M(x+1, y+1/2)

$$F(M) = F(x+1,y+\frac{1}{2})$$



if F(M) < 0
 <ul>
 → midpoint above line
 → E next pixel

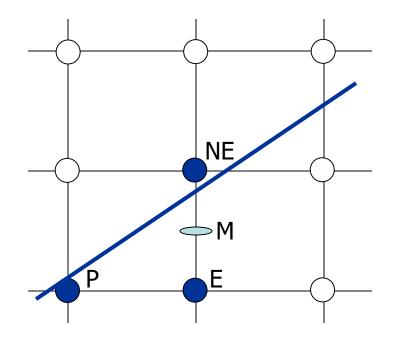


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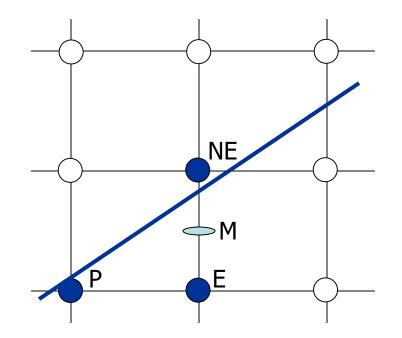
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**Scan Conversion** 

- if F(M) < 0
   <ul>
   → midpoint above line
   → E next pixel
  - if F(M) ≥ 0 → midpoint below line → NE next pixel



- if F(M) < 0
   <ul>
   → midpoint above line
   → E next pixel
  - if F(M) ≥ 0 → midpoint below line → NE next pixel
- decision variable:  $d = F(M) = F(x+1,y+\frac{1}{2})$



- BUT: we do not re-compute d each time
- INSTEAD: we compute how it changes!

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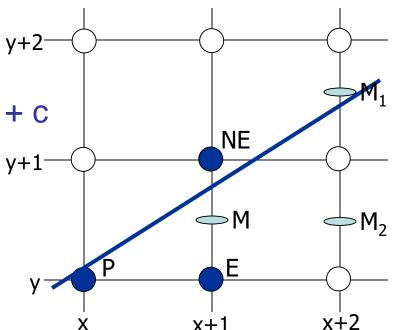
## **Bresenham: Iteration, Case 1**

NE is next pixel and M<sub>1</sub> next midpoint

• 
$$F(M) = F((x+1), (y+\frac{1}{2}))$$
  
  $= a(x+1) + b(y+\frac{1}{2}) + c$   
•  $F(M_1) = F((x+2), (y+\frac{3}{2}))$  y  
  $= F((x+1+1), (y+\frac{1}{2}+1))$   
  $= a(x+1+1) + b(y+\frac{1}{2}+1) + b(y+\frac{1}{2}+1) + b(y+\frac{1}{2}+1)$ 

• 
$$F(M_1) - F(M) = a + b$$
  
 $F(M_1) = F(M) + a + b$ 

• we know:  $a = \Delta y$ ;  $b = -\Delta x$   $F(M_1) = F(M) + \Delta y - \Delta x$   $d' = d + \Delta y - \Delta x$  $\Delta d_{NE} = \Delta y - \Delta x$ 

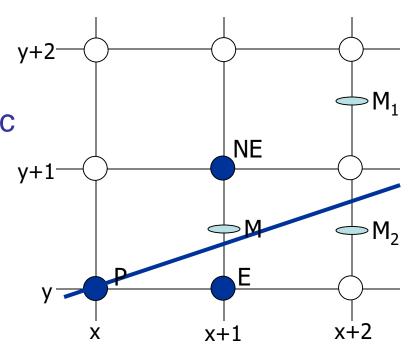


### **Bresenham: Iteration, Case 2**

E is next pixel and M<sub>2</sub> next midpoint

• 
$$F(M) = F((x+1), (y+\frac{1}{2}))$$
  
=  $a(x+1) + b(y+\frac{1}{2}) + c$   
•  $F(M_2) = F((x+2), (y+\frac{1}{2}))$   
=  $F((x+1+1), (y+\frac{1}{2}))$   
=  $a(x+1+1) + b(y+\frac{1}{2}) + c$ 

- $F(M_2) F(M) = a$  $F(M_2) = F(M) + a$
- we know:  $a = \Delta y$ ;  $F(M_2) = F(M) + \Delta y$   $d' = d + \Delta y$  $\Delta d_E = \Delta y$



# **Bresenham: Algorithm**

- algorithm overview
  - first pixel = line starting point (rounded)
  - compute d = F(M)
    - select E or NE accordingly
    - set pixel
    - update d according to choice
    - increment x and iterate
  - terminate when  $x_2$  is reached
- how to compute d<sub>0</sub>?

# **Bresenham: Computing d**<sub>0</sub>

• line starts at 
$$P_1(x_1, y_1)$$
  
 $\rightarrow d_0 = F(M_1)$   
 $= F((x_1+1), (y_1+1/2))$   
 $= a(x_1+1) + b(y_1+1/2) + c$   
 $= ax_1 + a + by_1 + 1/2b + c$   
 $= F(x_1, y_1) + a + 1/2b$ 

- $P_1$  lies on the line  $\rightarrow F(x_1, y_1) = 0$  $\rightarrow d_0 = a + \frac{1}{2}b$
- problem: we want Integer values!

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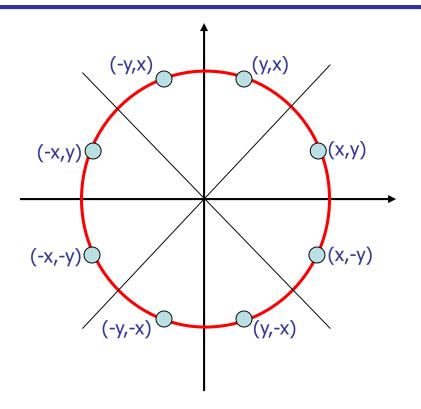
# **Bresenham: Computing d**<sub>0</sub>

- we are only interested in sign of d!
   → multiply everything by 2!
- multiplication without effect on the sign  $\rightarrow d_0 = 2a + b$   $= 2\Delta y - \Delta x (a = \Delta y; b = -\Delta x)$  $\rightarrow \Delta d_F = 2\Delta y$

$$\rightarrow \Delta d_{NE} = 2\Delta y - 2\Delta x$$

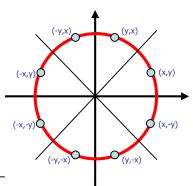
# **Bresenham: Extension to All Slopes**

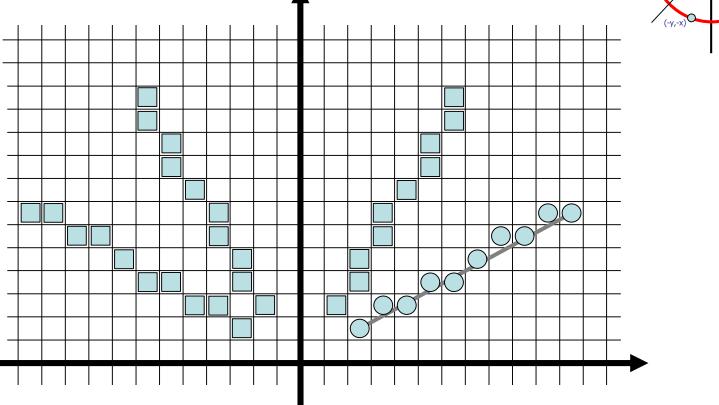
- use of symmetry:
  - compute line as before
  - changing signs of x and/or y before drawing a pixel
  - switching x and y
  - combinations of these



### **Bresenham: Extension to All Slopes**

 examples for using symmetry to draw lines with other slopes

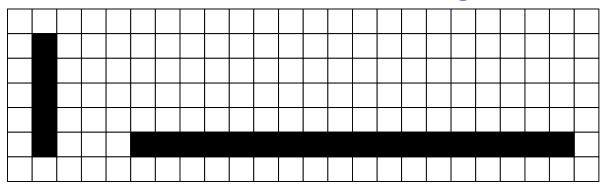




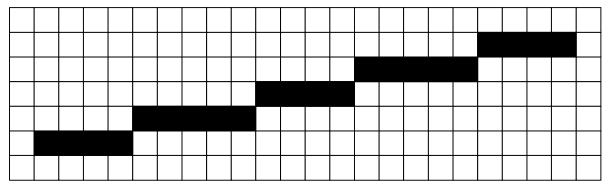
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#### **Bresenham: Possible Extensions**

• special cases for lines along axes



looking for patterns in lines (when/why?)



 $\rightarrow$  slope **m** is always a **rational number** 

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### **Bresenham-Lines: Summary**

- incremental algorithm
- using only Integer arithmetic
- using only additions during iterations
- multiplications only for setup
- using symmetry to extend to all octants
- FAST!!!

#### **Bresenham's Midpoint Algorithm**

#### for Circles

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**Scan Conversion** 

#### Let's Have More Fun: Circles!

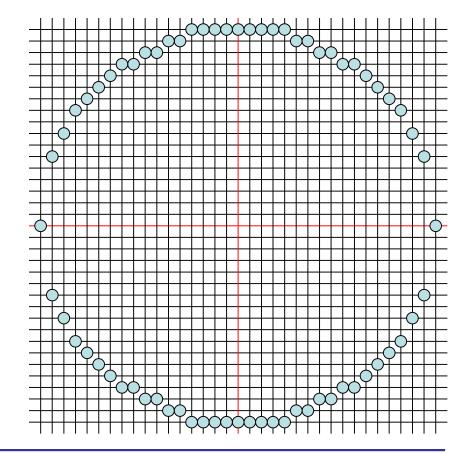
- input: center point  $C(x_c, y_c)$  and radius r
- circle equation: F(x,y) = x<sup>2</sup> + y<sup>2</sup> = r<sup>2</sup>
   if C = (0, 0)
- general:  $F(x,y) = (x-x_c)^2 + (y-y_c)^2 = r^2$
- naïve approach to draw circle: solve for y

$$y=\pm\sqrt{r^2-x^2}$$

#### and iterate over x

# **Problems with Naïve Algorithm**

- expensive computations
  - square roots
  - powers of 2
  - inaccurate!
  - sloooow!
- incomplete pixels where |x| ≈ r
- we need something better!



### **Parametric Approach for Circles**

- use parametric equation:  $x = r \cos \varphi$  and  $y = r \sin \varphi$
- iterate over  $\phi$
- no problems with holes at  $|x| \approx r$  anymore
- but: trigonometric functions expensive to compute
- still not efficient enough!

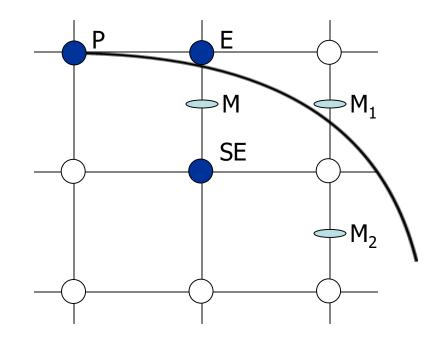
# **Bresenham Midpoint for Circles**

- use same idea as with lines: implicit function and decision point
- F(x,y) = x<sup>2</sup> + y<sup>2</sup> r<sup>2</sup>

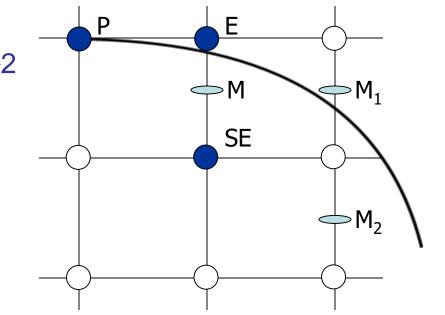
   0 for points on the circle
   0 for points within the circle
   0 for points outside of the circle
   (assuming the circle centered at 0,0)

# **Bresenham Midpoint for Circles**

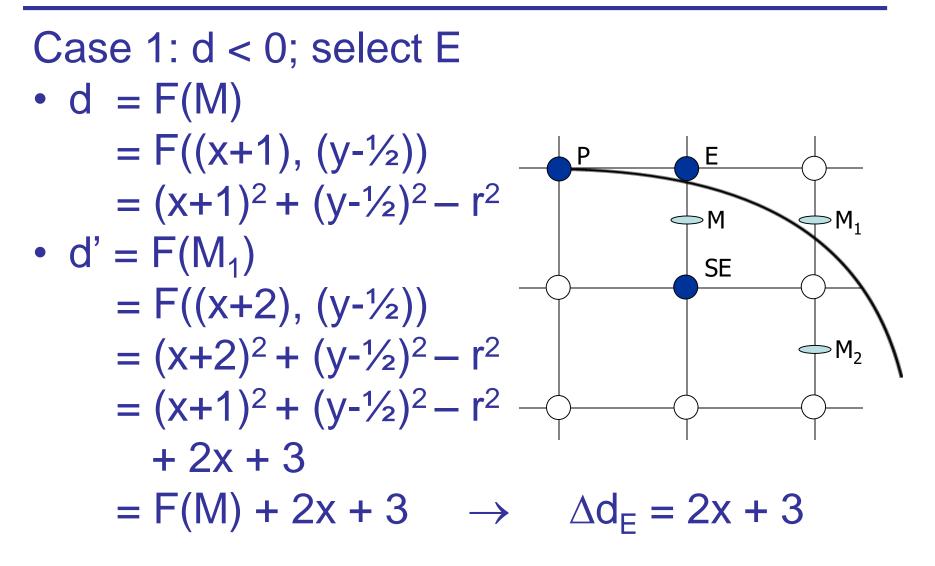
- use only one octant again
- from pixel P decide between E and SE
- based on midpoint's position to circle
- goals (again):
  - use incremental algorithm
  - avoid divisions
     and multiplications

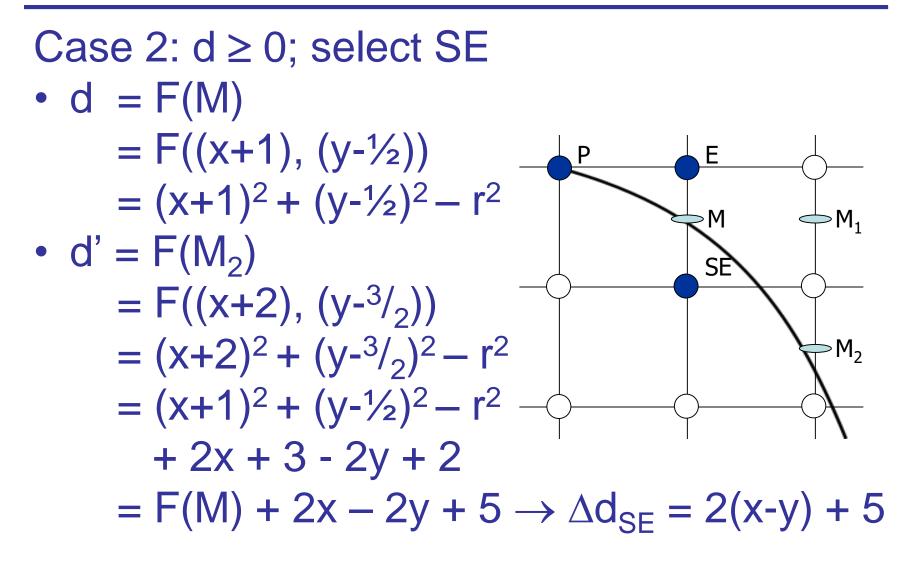


- midpoint  $M(x+1,y-\frac{1}{2})$
- decision variable d = F(M)  $= (x+1)^{2} + (y-\frac{1}{2})^{2} - r^{2}$
- select E if d < 0 (circle is above M)
- select SE if d ≥ 0 (circle on or below M)



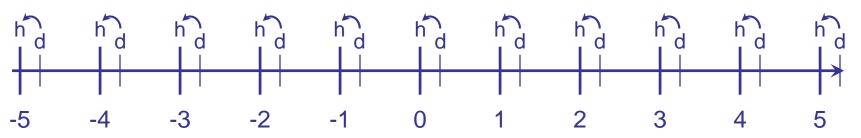
 we now need to compute the increments of d again



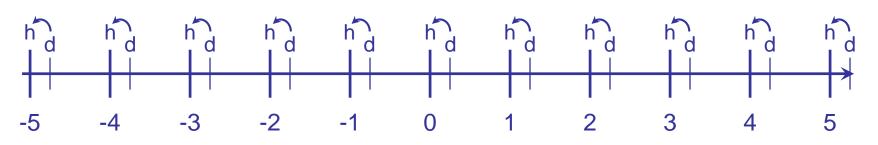


#### Initial value of d

- first pixel P(0, r)  $\rightarrow$  first midpoint M(1, r-1/2) d<sub>0</sub> = F(1, r-1/2) = 1<sup>2</sup> + (r-1/2)<sup>2</sup> - r<sup>2</sup> = 5/4 - r
- d<sub>0</sub> is not Integer!
- but any d is only ¼ away from an Integer
- mathematical trick: new decision variable  $h ::= d \frac{1}{4}$  such that  $h_0 = 1 r$



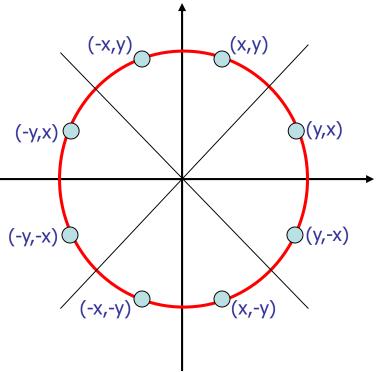
- h ::=  $d \frac{1}{4}$  such that  $h_0 = 1 r$
- decision d < 0 turns into  $h < -1/_4$
- but: computation of h uses only Integers
  - we don't care about actual values, we only care about positive or negative
     → we can test h < 0</li>
  - computationally equivalent!



# **Bresenham Circle Symmetry**

- similar to line octants:

   changing signs of x and/or y before drawing pixel
   switching x and y
  - combinations of these
- set all eight pixels at the same time
- for circles not centered at (0, 0): offset pixels



### **Bresenham Circle Summary**

- efficient algorithm
  - incremental and Integer arithmetic
  - $-1/_{8}$  of the circle only
- still multiplications needed for increments
  - $\Delta d_E = 2x + 3$  and  $\Delta d_{SE} = 2(x-y) + 5$
  - line algorithm had constant increments
  - can we do this here, too?
- the fun goes on: second order differences
  - idea: compute increments of increments
  - how: consider two steps in advance

#### **Bresenham's Midpoint Algorithm**

#### for Circles (and other quadratic curves): Second Order Differences

#### **Second Order Differences**

#### Case 1: E was selected

- pixel was (x, y) and becomes (x+1, y)
- increments change as well  $\begin{array}{c|c} \text{old} & \text{new} \\ \hline \Delta d_{\text{E}} = 2x + 3 & \Delta d_{\text{E}} = 2(x+1) + 3 \\ \Delta d_{\text{SE}} = 2x - 2y + 5 & \Delta d_{\text{SE}} = 2(x+1) - 2y + 5 \end{array}$
- differences of the increments  $\Delta^{E}\Delta d_{E} = 2$  $\Delta^{E}\Delta d_{SE} = 2$

#### **Second Order Differences**

Case 2: SE was selected

- pixel was (x, y) and becomes (x+1, y-1)
- increments change as well  $\begin{array}{c|c} old & new \\ \hline \Delta d_E &= 2x + 3 & \Delta d_E &= 2(x+1) + 3 \\ \Delta d_{SE} &= 2x - 2y + 5 \\ \Delta d_{SE} &= 2(x+1) - 2(y-1) + 5 \end{array}$
- differences of the increments  $\Delta^{SE}\Delta d_E = 2$  $\Delta^{SE}\Delta d_{SE} = 4$

# **Application of 2<sup>nd</sup> Order Differences**

slightly adjusted algorithm:

- setup  $h_0 ::= d_0 \frac{1}{4} = 1 r$
- setup  $\Delta d_{E_0} = 2x_0 + 3$  and  $\Delta d_{SE_0} = 2(x_0 y_0) + 5$
- iterate until we reach  $x = x_1$ :
  - if  $h \le 0$  (i.e.,  $h \le -1/4$  or  $d \le 0$ ): select E as next pixel
    - update h with  $\Delta d_E$
    - update  $\Delta d_E$  with  $\Delta^E \Delta d_E$  (i.e.,  $\Delta d_E$  += 2)
    - update  $\Delta d_{SE}$  with  $\Delta^{E} \Delta d_{SE}$  (i.e.,  $\Delta d_{SE}$  += 2)
  - else (h > 0; i.e., h >  $-1/_4$  or d > 0): select SE as next pixel
    - update h with  $\Delta d_{SE}$
    - update  $\Delta d_E$  with  $\Delta^{SE} \Delta d_E$  (i.e.,  $\Delta d_E$  += 2)
    - update  $\Delta d_{SE}$  with  $\Delta^{SE} \Delta d_{SE}$  (i.e.,  $\Delta d_{SE}$  += 4)

#### **Bresenham's Midpoint Algorithm**

for other curves

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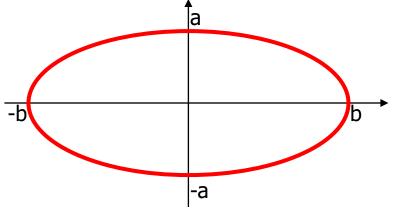
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**Scan Conversion** 

... or any other curves – the fun never stops

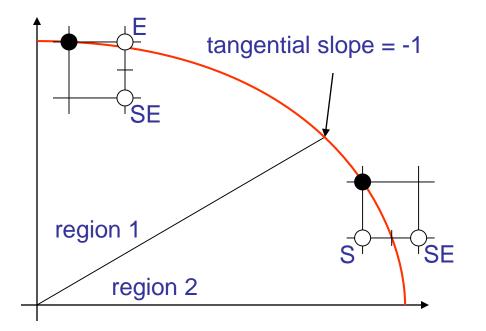
- similar as before: use simple case of implicit equation  $F(x,y) = a^2x^2 + b^2y^2 - a^2b^2 = 0$
- only consider axis-aligned ellipses
- consider 1<sup>st</sup> quadrant (not octant this time)





#### **Bresenham: Ellipses**

- additional difficulty: 2 regions per quadrant
- change of selection mode during rastering
  - first: E or SE
  - then: S or SE
- change when slope changes from > -1 to < -1</li>
- for first pixel where  $a^2(x+1) \ge b^2(y-\frac{1}{2})$



#### **Bresenham: Ellipses**

Region 1: selection of E or SE M(x+1,  $y-\frac{1}{2}$ )

- $d = F(M) = a^2(x+1)^2 + b^2(y-\frac{1}{2})^2 a^2b^2$
- selecting E, new midpoint  $M_1(x+2, y-\frac{1}{2})$ d' =  $a^2(x+2)^2 + b^2(y-\frac{1}{2})^2 - a^2b^2$ =  $a^2(x+1)^2 + b^2(y-\frac{1}{2})^2 - a^2b^2 + a^2(2x+3)$
- selecting SE, new midpoint  $M_2(x+2, y-3/_2)$ d' =  $a^2(x+2)^2 + b^2(y-3/_2)^2 - a^2b^2$ =  $a^2(x+1)^2 + b^2(y-1/_2)^2 - a^2b^2$ +  $a^2(2x + 3) + b^2(-2y + 2)$ =  $d + a^2(2x + 3) + b^2(-2y + 2)$
- region 2 analogously

#### **Bresenham: Ellipses**

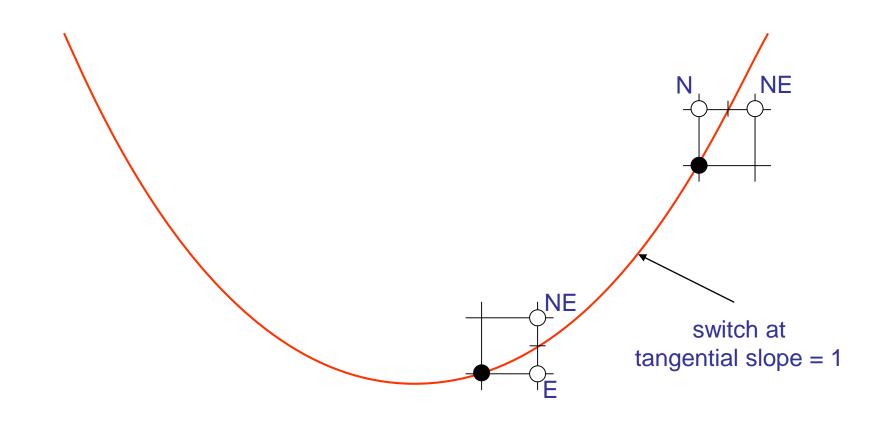
- $d_0$  based on 1<sup>st</sup> pixel (0,a)  $\rightarrow$  M(1, a-1/2)  $d_0 = F(M) = a^2 1^2 + b^2 (a - 1/2)^2 - a^2 b^2$   $= a^2 + a^2 b^2 - ab^2 + 1/4 b^2 - a^2 b^2$  $= a^2 - b^2 (1/4 - a)$
- when changing regions compute new d<sub>0</sub>!
- rest similar to circle
- second order differences possible
- use symmetry, draw four pixels at a time
- move ellipse by offsetting drawn pixels

#### **Bresenham: Yet Other Curves**

- similar to circle and ellipse
- e.g., parabola  $y = x^2$
- derive implicit form  $F(x, y) = x^2 - y = 0$
- compute d and d' and derive increments
- use n<sup>th</sup> order differences for curves of degree n
- e.g.,  $2^{nd}$  order difference for  $y = x^2$

#### **Bresenham: Regions for Parabolas**

change regions if slope crosses 1 or -1



# **Bresenham Midpoint Algorithms**

#### Summary

- fast and simple because
  - incremental technique using Integer arithmetic
  - avoiding multiplications/divisions
- possible extensions
  - many other curves (implicit equations needed)
  - curves not axis-aligned

#### **Anti-Aliasing**

#### For Lines And other Techniques

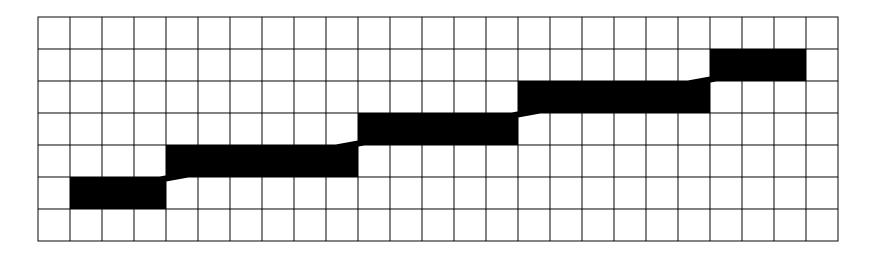
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**Scan Conversion** 

#### **Anti-Aliasing for Lines**

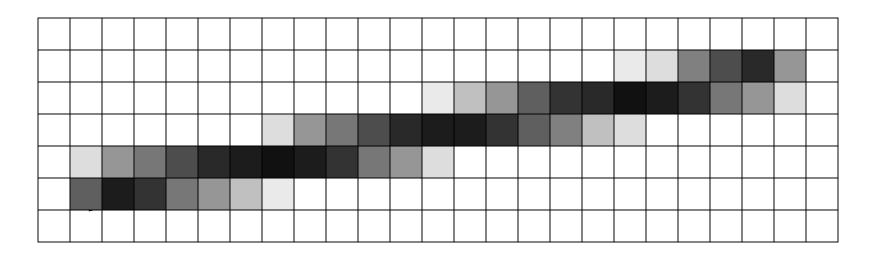
- Bresenham's midpoint algorithm:
  - jaggy shape due to discrete pixels
  - perceived width varies
    - (e.g., diagonal vs. horizontal or vertical)



**Computer Graphics** 

#### **Anti-Aliasing for Lines**

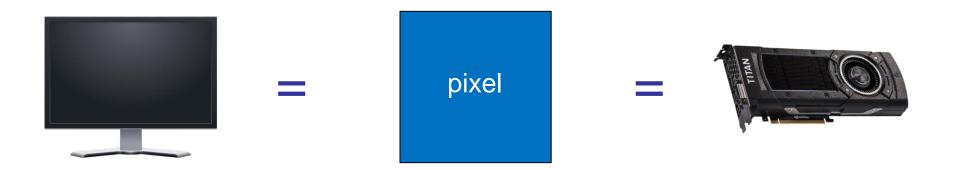
- 1 pixel wide line assumed
  - gray values from pixel coverage
  - derived from midpoint value
- OpenGL: glEnable(GL\_LINE\_SMOOTH) plus a glHint() call for quality control



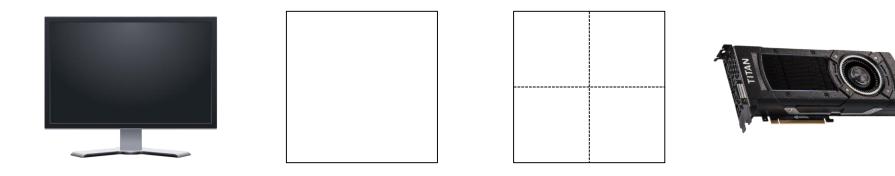
**Computer Graphics** 

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• on the 2D pixel image level (FSAA)

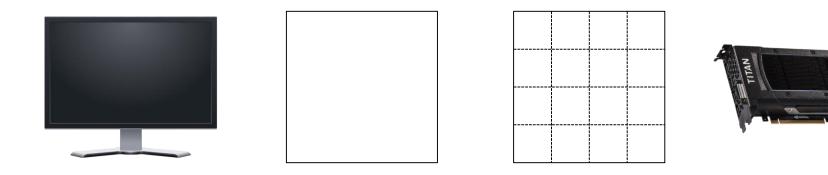


on the 2D pixel image level (FSAA)
 – super-sampling (2×2, 4×4, etc.)



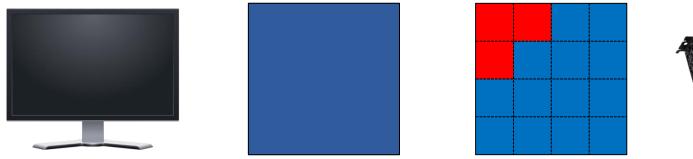
– pixel color = (Σ subpixel colors) / N
– memory & rendering time grow exponentially!

on the 2D pixel image level (FSAA)
 – super-sampling (2×2, 4×4, etc.)



– pixel color = (Σ subpixel colors) / N
– memory & rendering time grow exponentially!

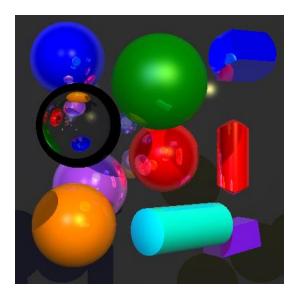
on the 2D pixel image level (FSAA)
 – super-sampling (2×2, 4×4, etc.)



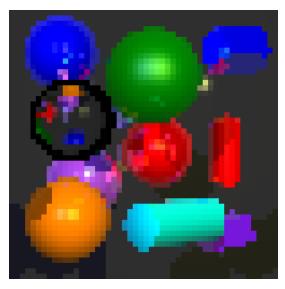


# – pixel color = (Σ subpixel colors) / N – memory & rendering time grow exponentially!

- on the 2D pixel image level (FSAA)
  - example for 2×2 and 4×4:



- on the 2D pixel image level (FSAA)
  - example for 2×2 and 4×4:



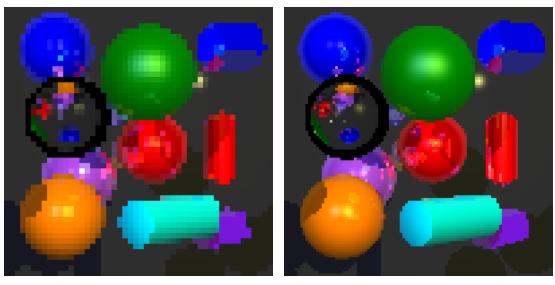
50×50 pixel grid

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**Tobias Isenberg** 

**Scan Conversion** 

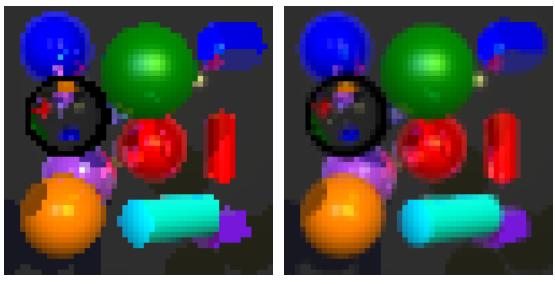
- on the 2D pixel image level (FSAA)
  - example for 2×2 and 4×4:



50×50 pixel grid

2x2 super-sampling

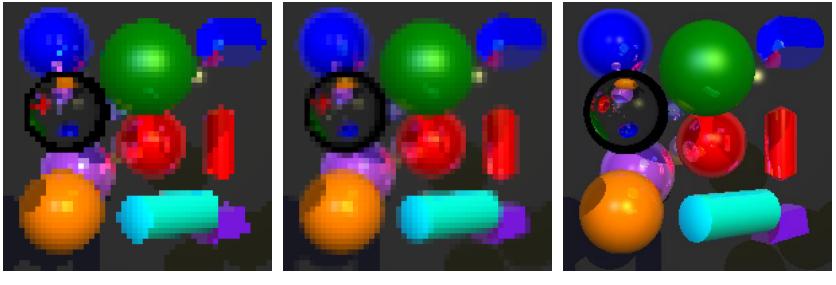
- on the 2D pixel image level (FSAA)
  - example for 2×2 and 4×4:



50×50 pixel grid

2x2 super-sampling

- on the 2D pixel image level (FSAA)
  - example for 2×2 and 4×4:

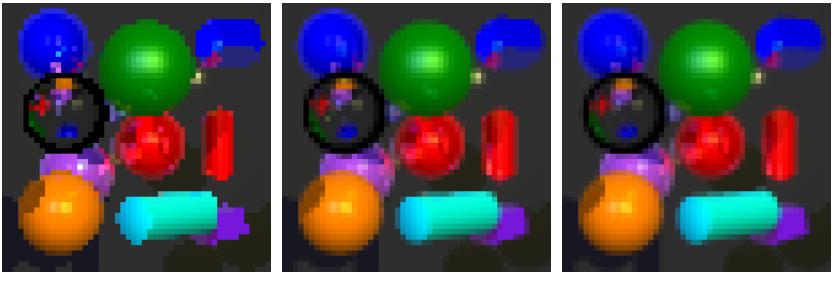


50×50 pixel grid

2x2 super-sampling

4x4 super-sampling

- on the 2D pixel image level (FSAA)
  - example for 2×2 and 4×4:



50×50 pixel grid

2x2 super-sampling

4x4 super-sampling

#### • example: no AA 2×2, and 4×4



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**Scan Conversion** 

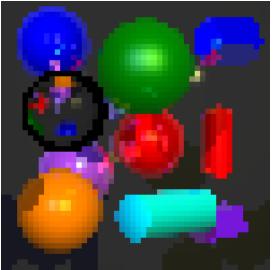
• example: no AA, 2×2, and 4×4



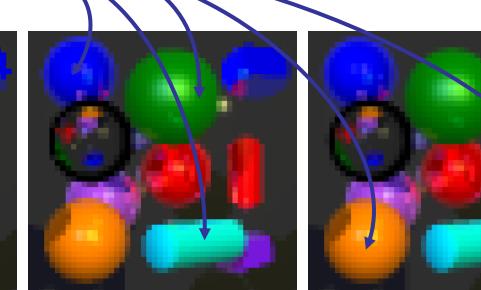
• example: no AA, 2×2, and 4×4



- super-sampling is very expensive
- lots of computations where more detail is not needed



50×50 pixel grid



2x2 super-sampling

4x4 super-sampling

**Tobias Isenberg** 

- less expensive technique: multi-sampling
  - special case (optimization) of super-sampling
  - only z-value (from z-buffer) is truly super-sampled
  - HSR aliasing removed, but not other aliasing



4x4 super-sampling

4x4 multi-sampling

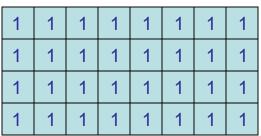
**Computer Graphics** 

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**Scan Conversion** 

- Loren Carpenter (1984)
- first used in Star Trek II's Genesis effect
- goals:
  - similarly effective and simple as *z*-buffer
  - anti-aliasing of image
  - correct handling of transparency
  - only modest performance decrease
- idea:
  - subdivide each pixel using a bit mask

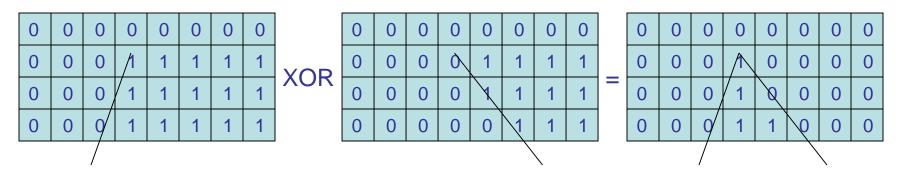
 8x4 bit mask to store sub-pixel fragments



- each regular pixel stores
   a list of fragments that it comprises
- each fragment contains its parameters (area, color, opacity,  $z_{min}$  and  $z_{max}$ ) and a bit mask for its coverage
- final pixel value by considering coverage area and color/transparency values of all fragments using the bit mask

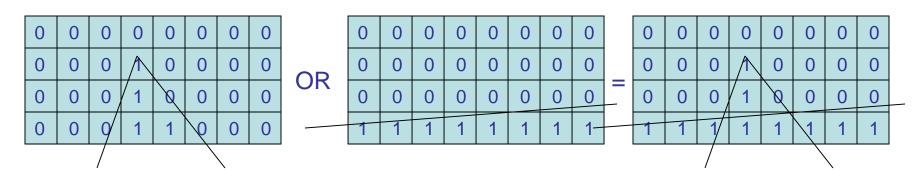
**Computer Graphics** 

- first: computing bit mask for one fragment:
  - polygon clipped to pixel borders  $\rightarrow$  fragment
  - bits right of each fragment's edge are set to 1
  - both bit masks are XORed to obtain final bit mask of fragment:



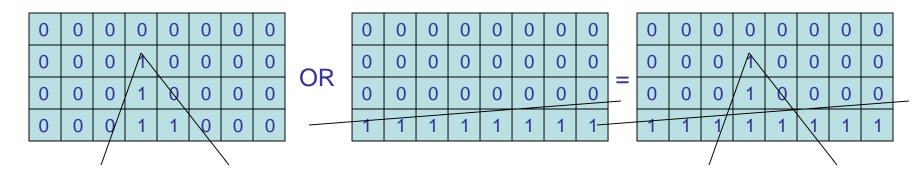
done for all polygons to obtain all fragments

- second: computing a pixel's color by traversing fragment list
  - inside and outside regions
  - processing of fragments front-to-back
  - successive computation of inside mask until pixel covered or fragment list processed
  - pixel color computed w.r.t. to covered region



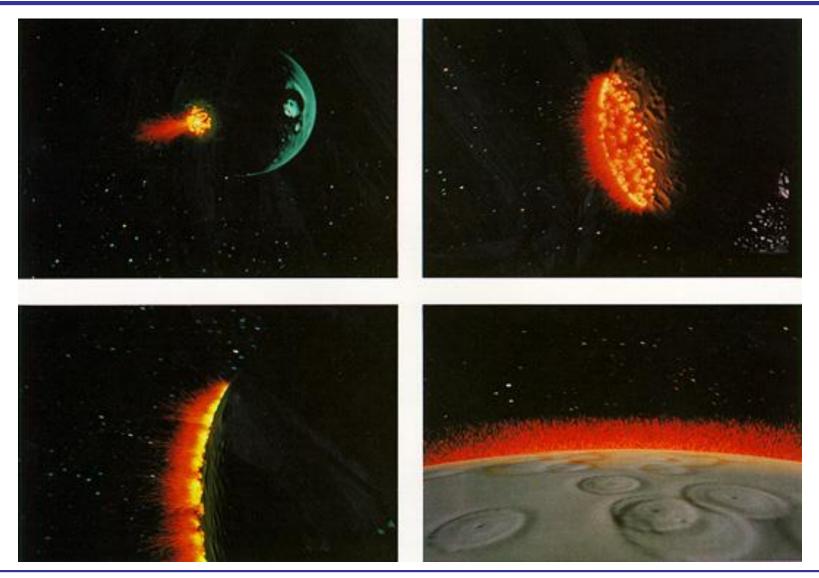
**Computer Graphics** 

- second: computing a pixel's color by traversing fragment list
  - fragments are considered only if overlap mask
  - only contribution from the part that is different from current inside mask (AND operation of new fragment's mask with outside mask)
  - transparency: recursion with transparent part



**Computer Graphics** 

#### **Genesis Effect by ILM/Lucasfilm '82**



#### **Computer Graphics**

**Tobias Isenberg** 

#### **Scan Conversion**

## **Summary Scan Conversion**

- most display are pixel-based
- need pixel representations for mathematical elements: lines, curves, ...
- need to carry out many times
- fastest-possible realization needed, even for today's fast rendering hardware
- Bresenham's midpoint algorithm for line primitives

#### **Summary Scan Conversion**

- later also other shapes: triangles, polygons, etc.
- also need to understand perception: aliasing effects and anti-aliasing methods
- dedicated anti-aliasing of lines
- general anti-aliasing through super-sampling (i.e., computation of sub-pixels)
- balance of speed and quality

# **Summary CG Principles**

- fastest & most effective technique desired
  - avoid expensive operations
  - avoid unnecessary operations
  - avoid numerical problems
  - mathematical tricks to get needed information
- quality only to the level really wanted
   never compute more than needed
- often: we trade one thing for another
  - more complex math for fewer final operations
  - more computation for better quality

**Computer Graphics** 

**Tobias Isenberg**