GPU Programming for Video Games

Texturing & Blending

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Textures

- Rendering tiny triangles is slow
- Players won't even look at some certain details
  - Sky, clouds, walls, terrain, wood patterns, etc.
- Simple way to add details and enhance realism
- Use 2D images to map polygons
- Images are composed of 2D "texels"

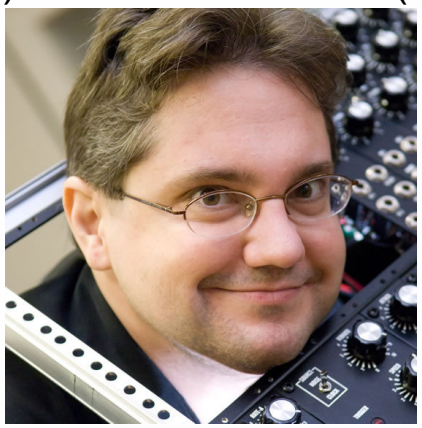
Texture coordinates

- Introduce one more component to geometry
  - Position coordinates
  - Normal vector
  - Color (may not need now)
  - Texture coordinates

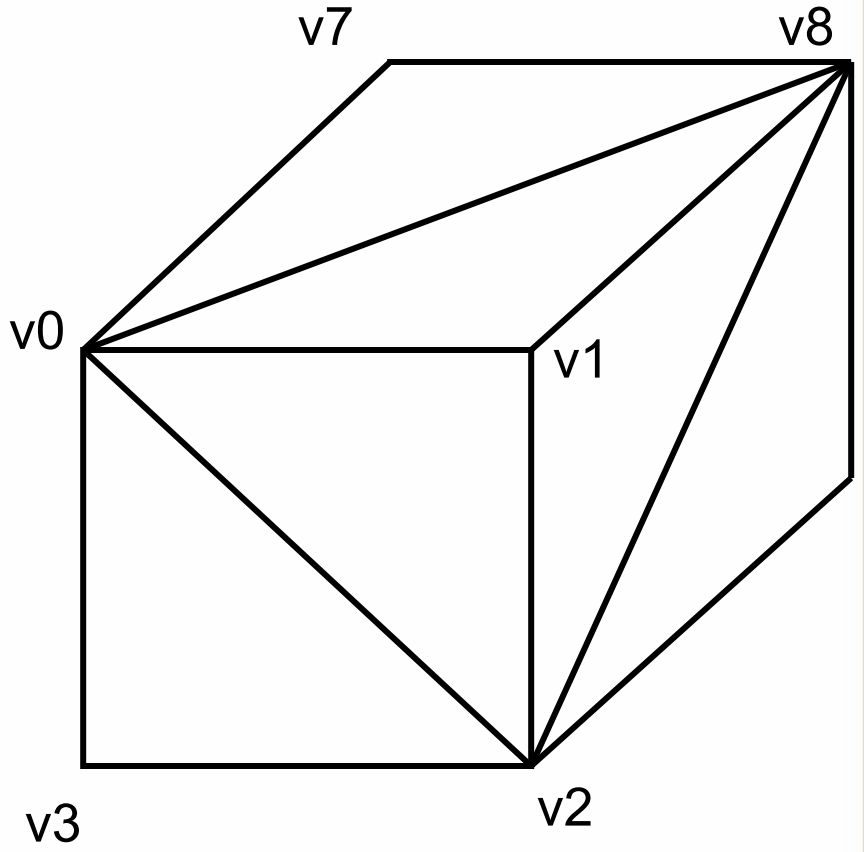
Texture coordinate conventions

- Direct3D/XNA texture convention
  - (u, v) coordinates for each vertex
  - (0,0) = upper left corner
  - (1,1) = lower right corner
- OpenGL/Unity texture convention
  - (s, t)/(u, v) coordinates for each vertex
  - (0,0) = bottom left corner
  - (1,1) = upper right corner

Texture mapping example (1)

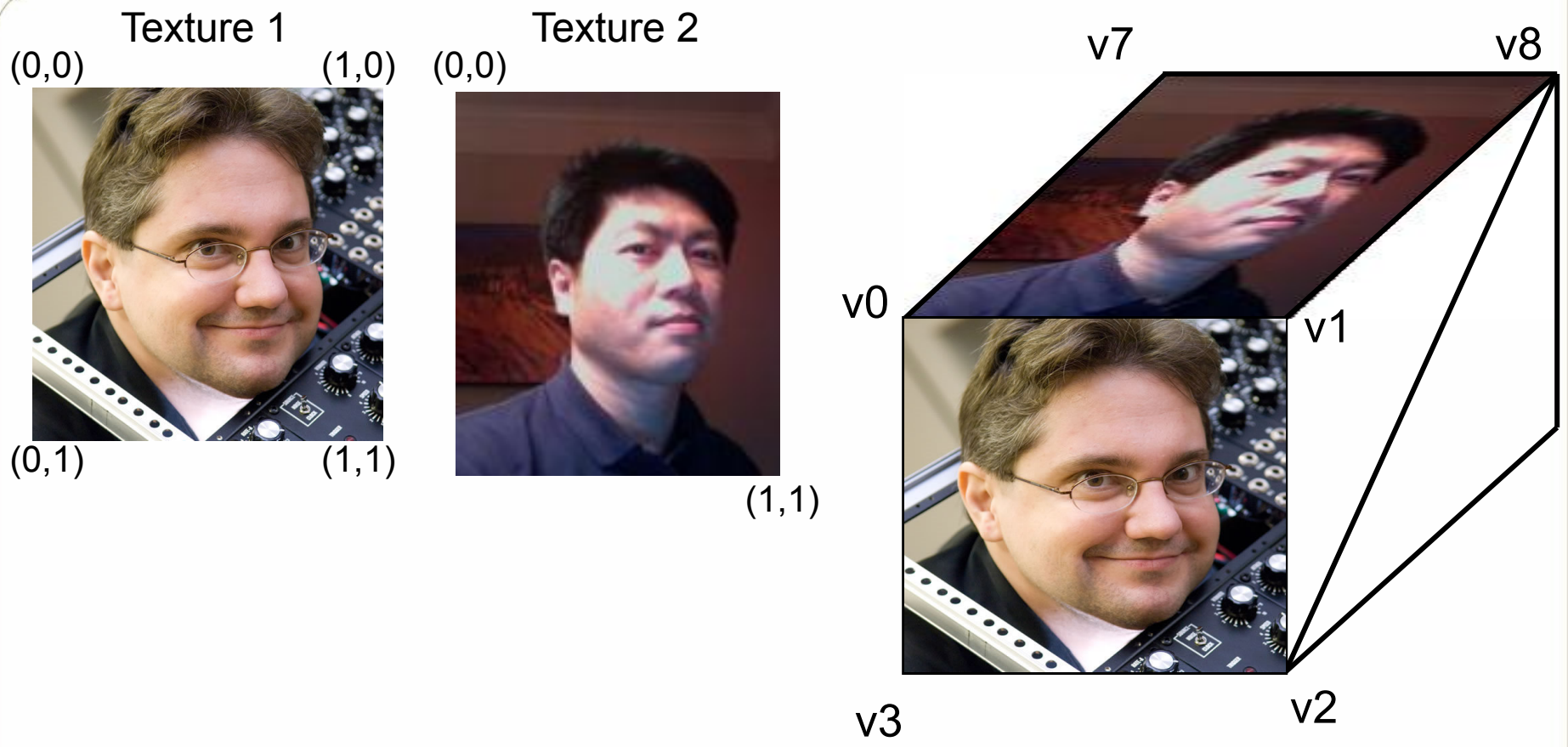


Direct3D/XNA convention

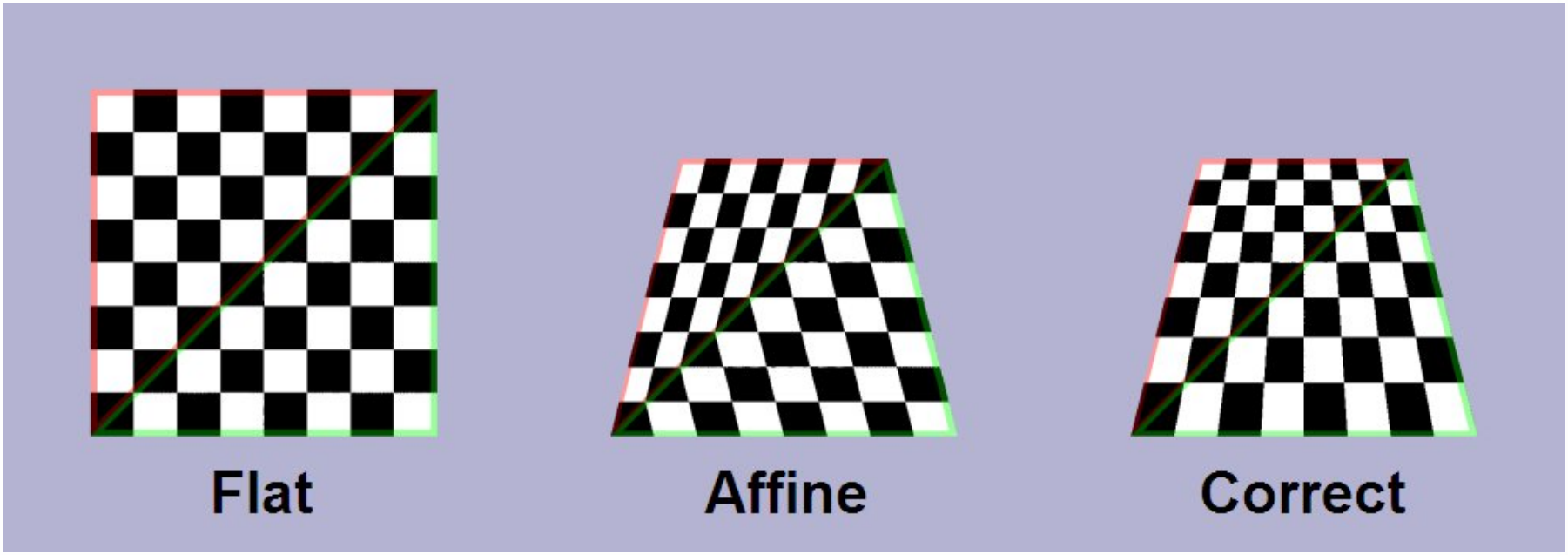



```
                                    u   v
                                    ↓   ↓
{v1.x, v1.y, v1.z, …, 1, 0},
{v2.x, v2.y, v2.z, …, 1, 1},
{v0.x, v0.y, v0.z, …, 0, 0},
{v3.x, v3.y, v3.z, …, 0, 1},
```

Texture mapping example (2)

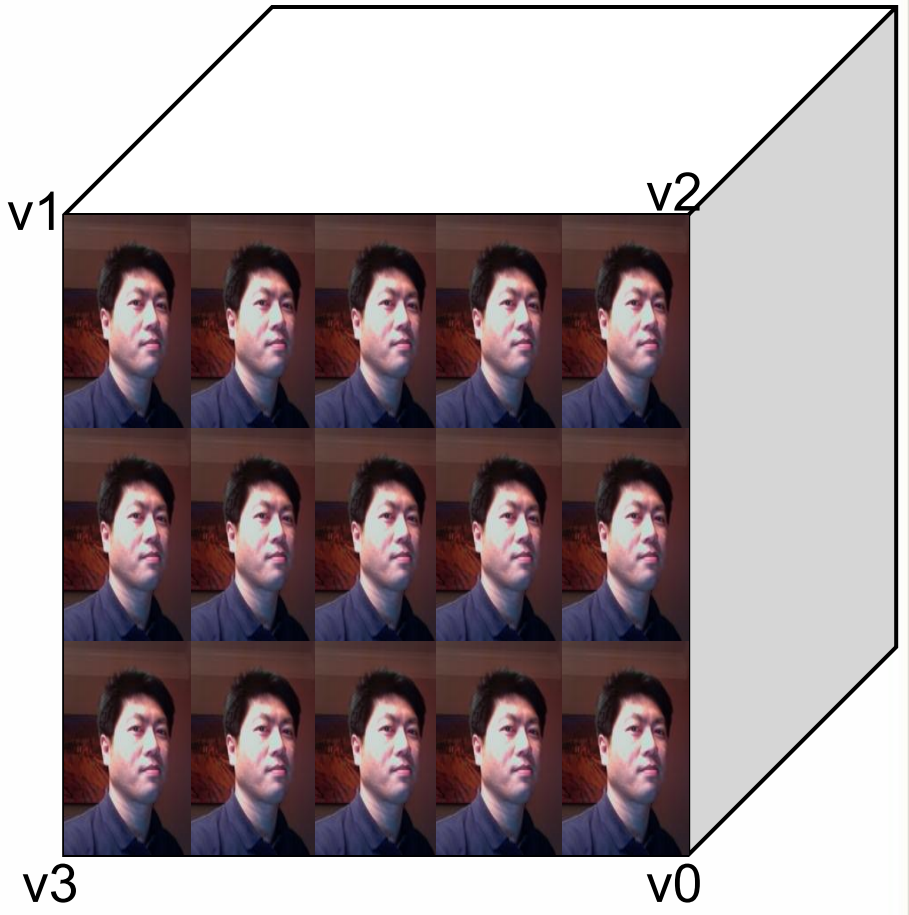


“Perspective correct” texture mapping



From http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texture_mapping

Repeated textures




```
                                        u   v
                                        ↓   ↓
{v1.x, v1.y, v1.z, …, 0, 0},
{v2.x, v2.y, v2.z, …, 5, 0},
{v0.x, v0.y, v0.z, …, 5, 3},
{v3.x, v3.y, v3.z, …, 0, 3},
```

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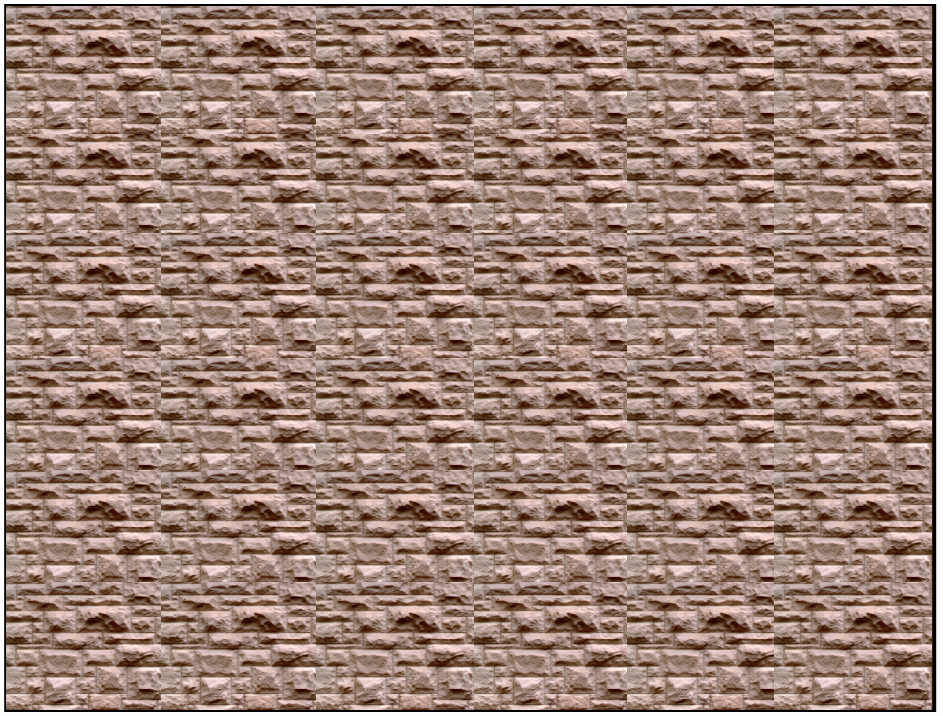
Repeated brick texture



u v

```
{v1.x, v1.y, v1.z, …, 0, 0},
{v2.x, v2.y, v2.z, …, 6, 0},
{v0.x, v0.y, v0.z, …, 6, 6},
{v3.x, v3.y, v3.z, …, 0, 6},
```

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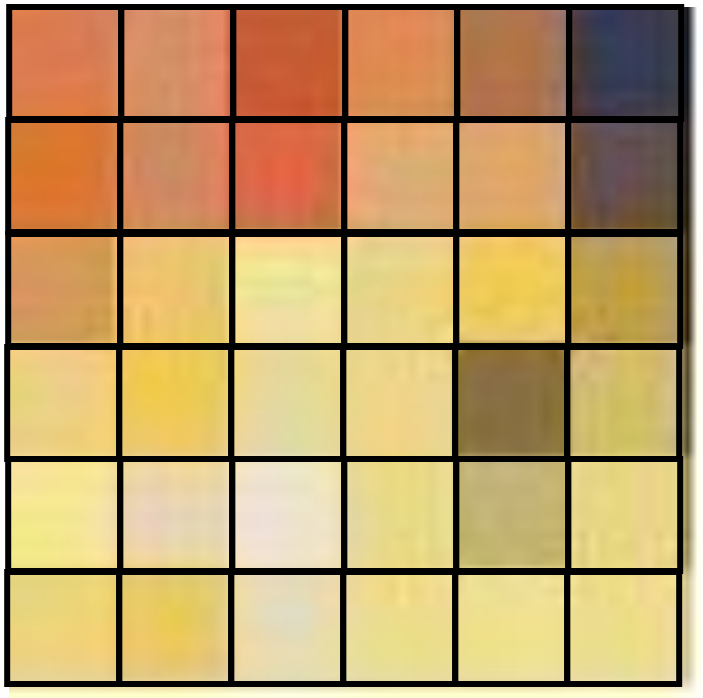
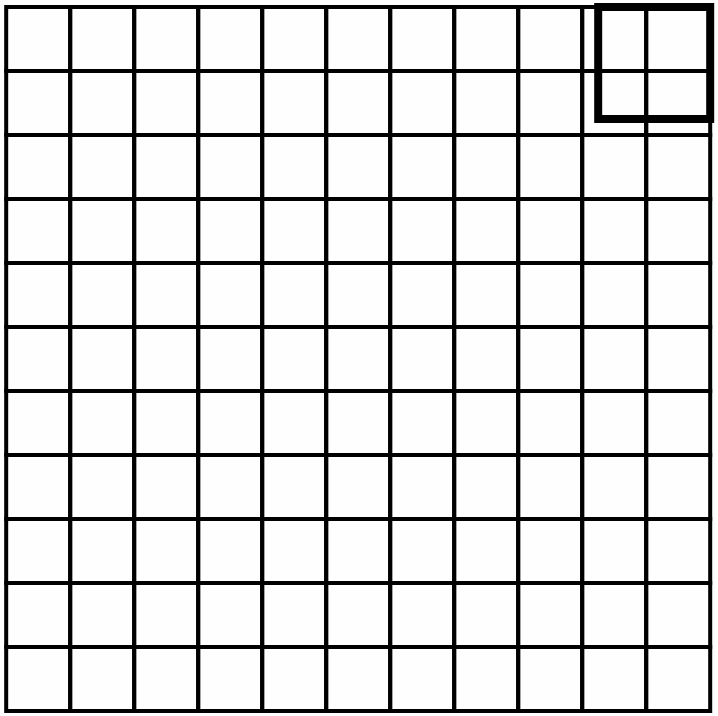
Magnification



Texels



Pixels on screen

- Texel and pixel mapping is rarely 1-to-1
- Mapped triangle is very close to the camera
- One texel maps to multiple pixels

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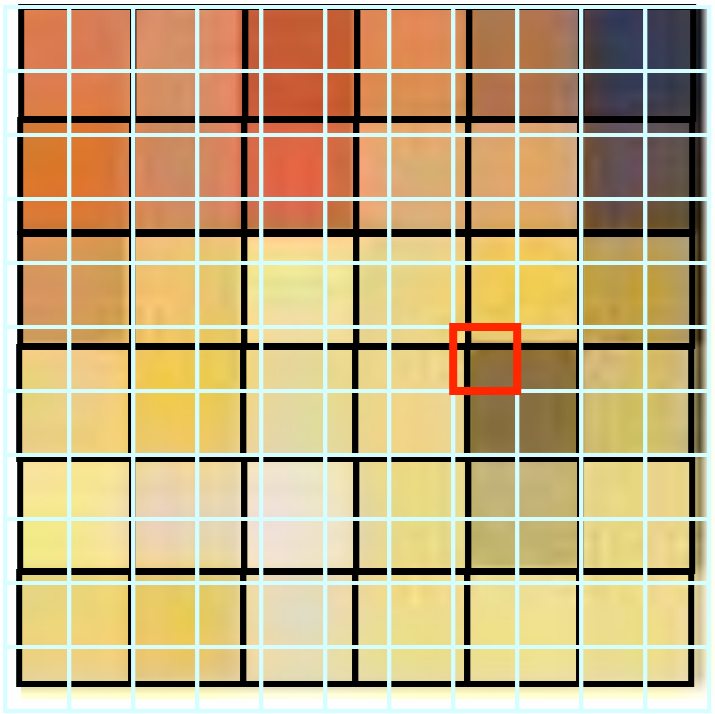
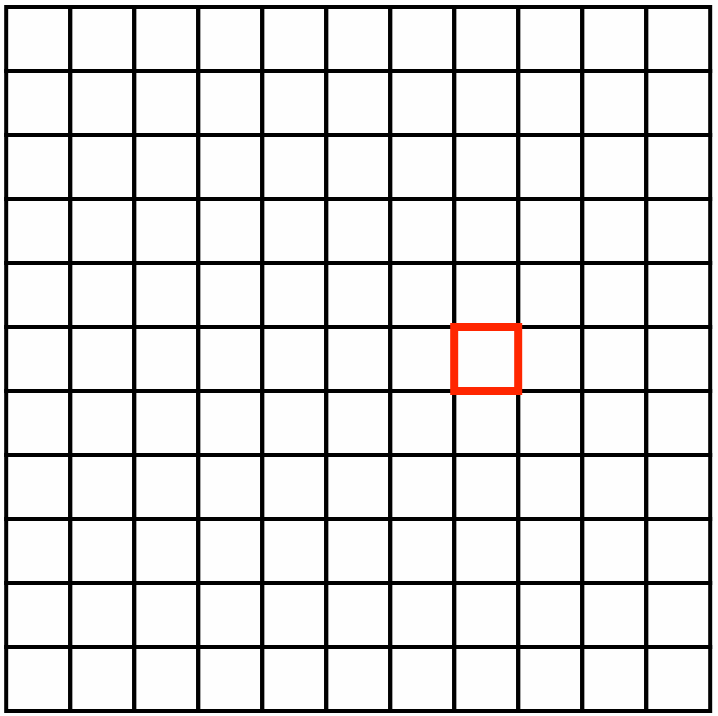
Nearest point sampling (for magnification)



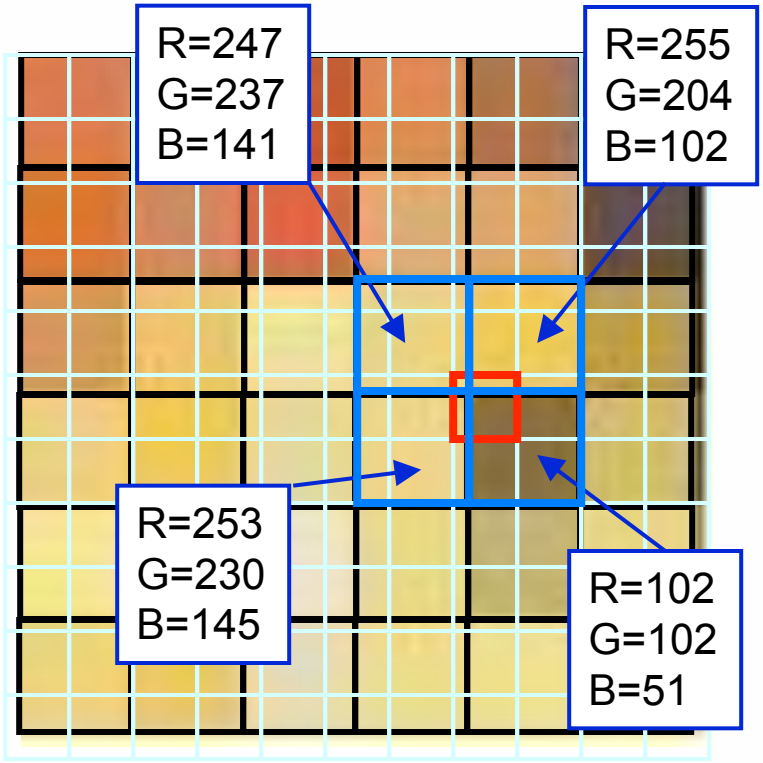
Texels



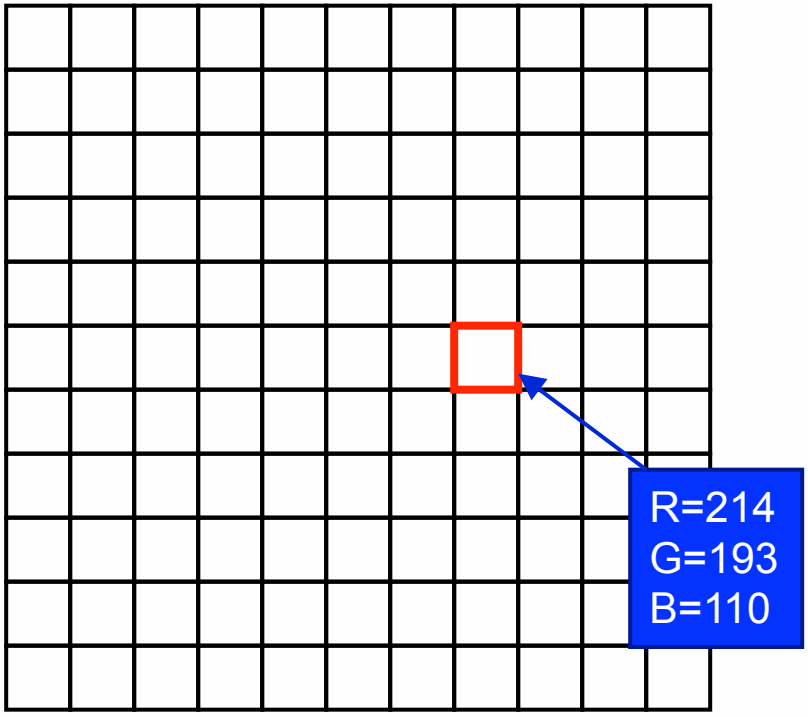
Pixels on screen

- Choose the texel nearest the pixel's center

Averaging (for magnification)



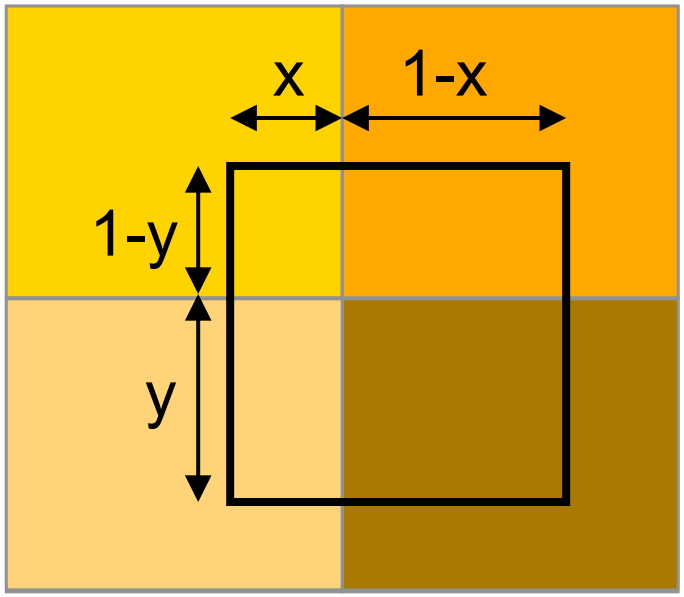
Texels

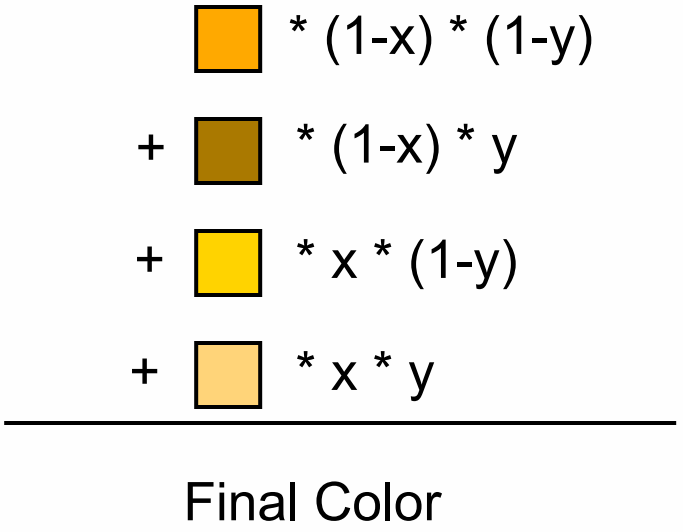


Pixels on screen

- Average the 2x2 texels surrounding a given pixel

Bilinear filtering (for magnification)

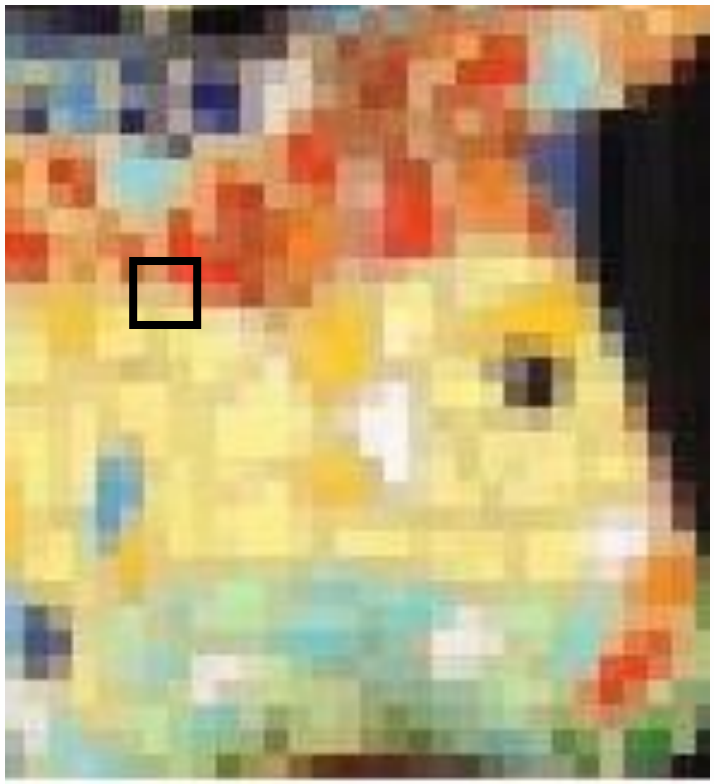




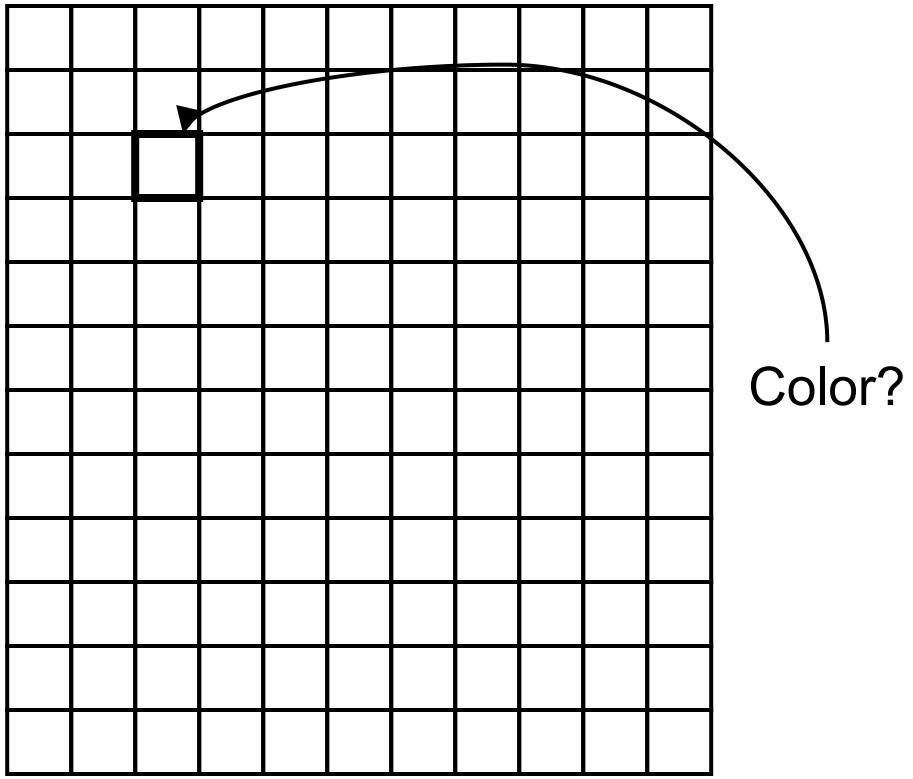
: pixel enclosed by 4 texels

- Or take the weighted color values for the 2x2 texels surrounding a given pixel

Minification



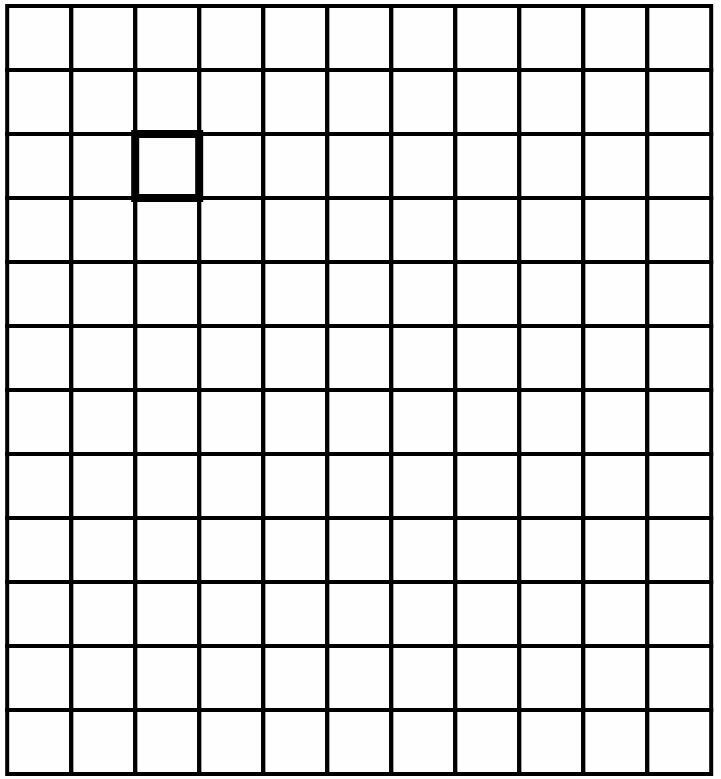
Texels



Pixels on screen

- Texel and pixel mapping is rarely 1-to-1
- Multiple texels map to one pixel

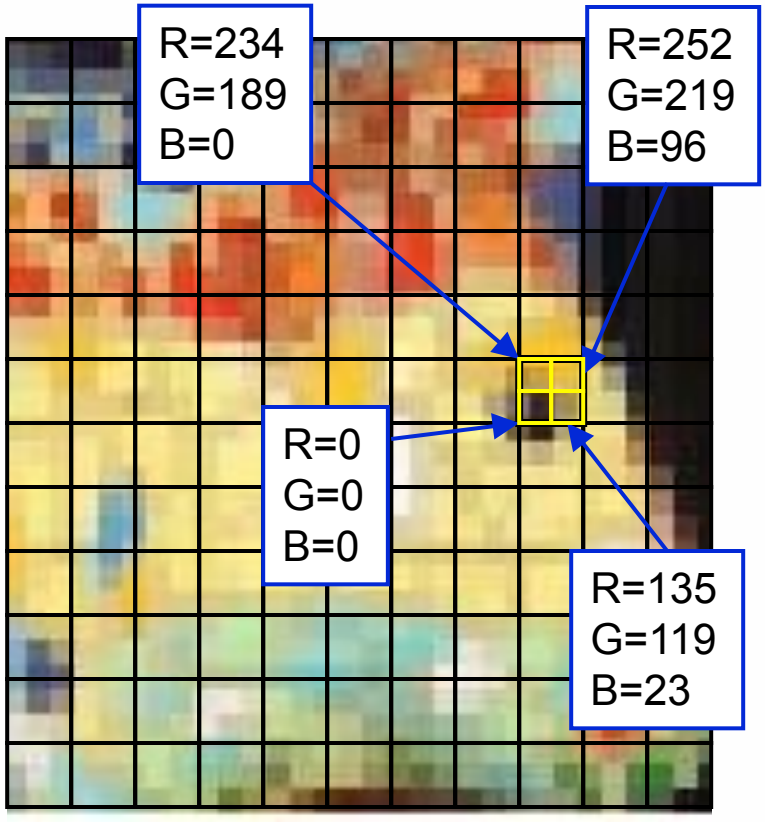
Nearest point sampling (for minification)

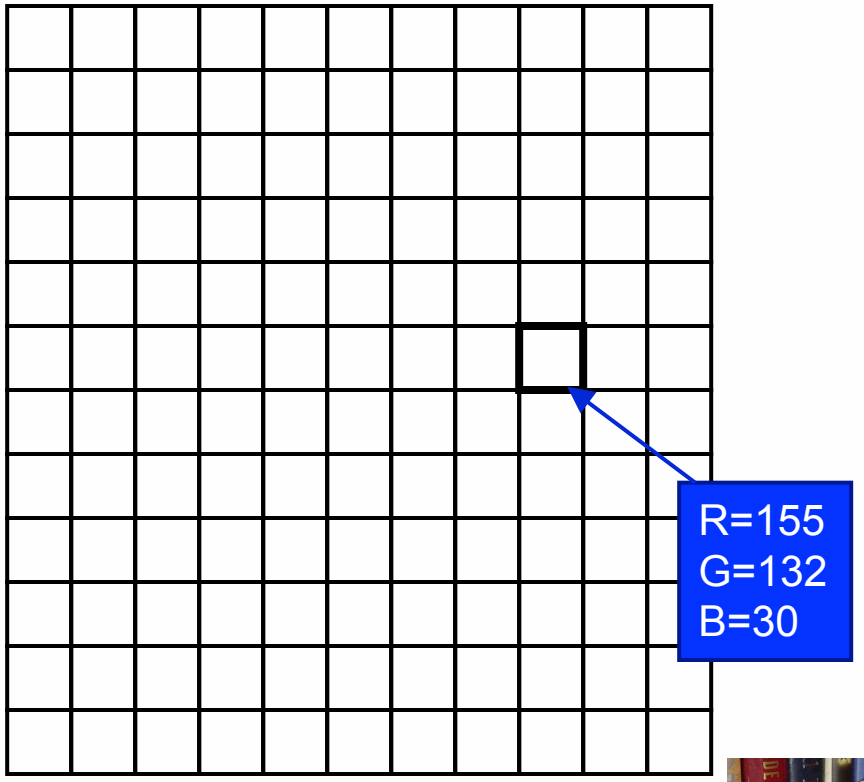


Pixels on screen

- Choose the texel nearest the pixel's center

Averaging (for minification)





Pixels on screen

- Average for the 2x2 texels corresponding to a given pixel

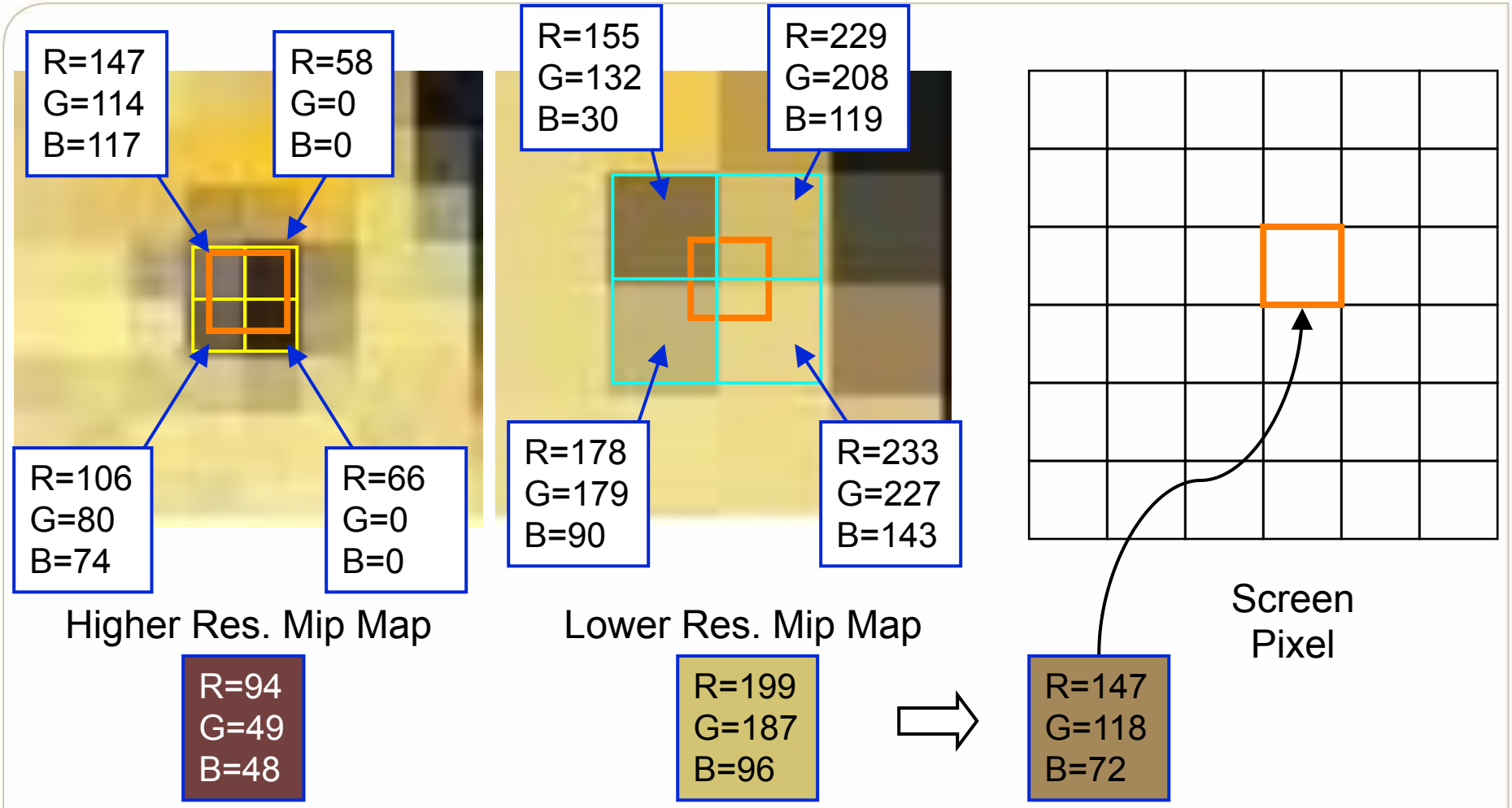
Mip-mapping (1)

- Multiple versions are provided for the same texture
- Different versions have different levels of details
  - E.g., 7 LOD maps: 256x256, 128x128, 64x64, 32x32, 16x16, 8x8, 4x4
  - Choose the closest maps to render a surface
- Maps can be automatically generated by 3D API

Mip-mapping (2)

- API or hardware can
  - Choose the right one for the viewer
    - Good performance for far triangles
    - Good LOD for close-by objects
  - Trilinearly interpolate

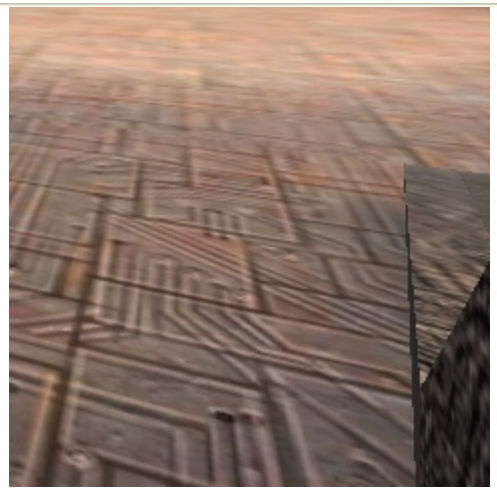
Tri-linear filtering using mipmaps



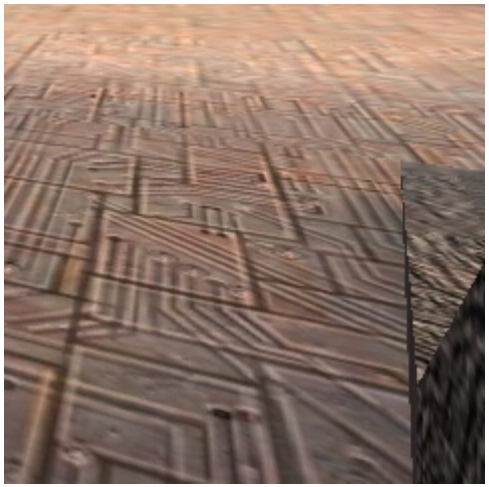
- Interpolate between mipmaps

Anisotropic filtering

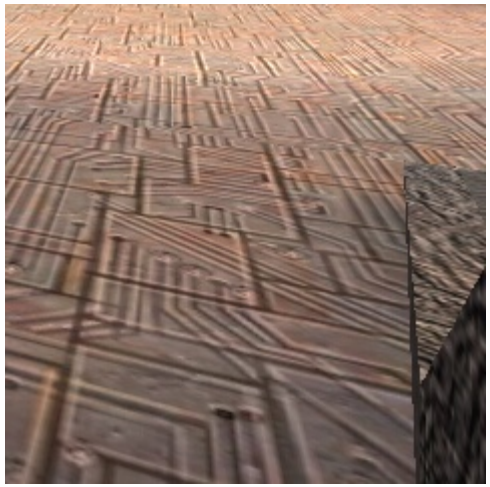
Bilinear filtering



Trilinear filtering



16x Anisotropic filtering



64x Anisotropic filtering

- Not isotropic
- Preserves details for oblique viewing angles (non-uniform surface)
- AF calculates the "**shape**" of the surface before mapping
- The number of pixels sampled depends on the distance and view angles relative to the screen
- Very expensive

Source: nvidia

Color blending and alpha blending

- Transparency effect (e.g. water, glasses, etc.)
- Source color blended with destination color
- Several blending methods
  - Additive

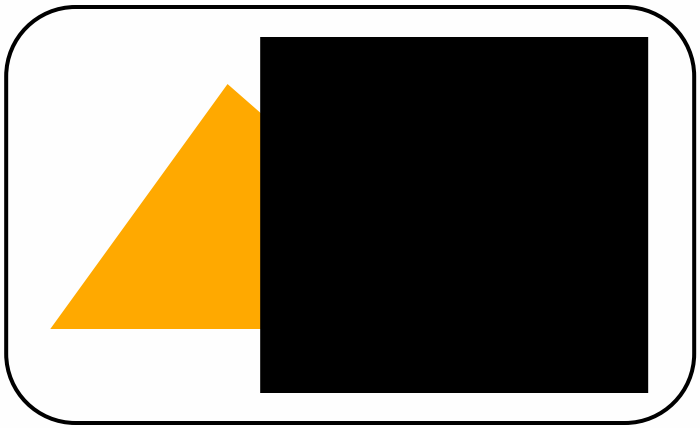
    C = SrcPixel $\otimes$ (1,1,1,1) + DstPixel $\otimes$ (1,1,1,1) = SrcPixel + DstPixel
  - Subtractive

    C = SrcPixel $\otimes$ (1,1,1,1) — DstPixel $\otimes$ (1,1,1,1) = SrcPixel — DstPixel
  - Multiplicative

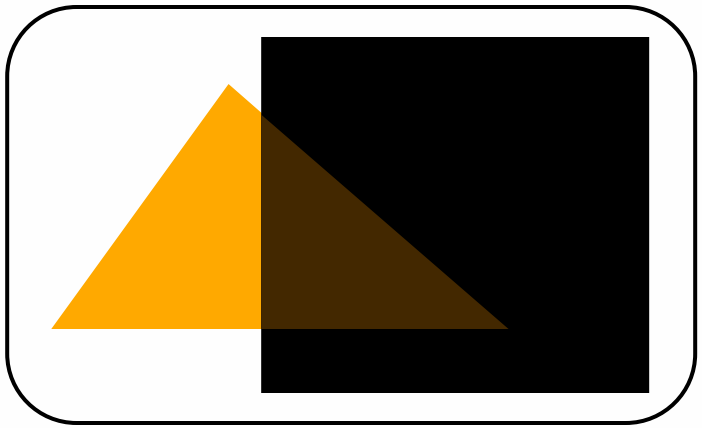
    C = DstPixel $\otimes$ SrcPixel
  - Using Alpha value in the color (Alpha blending)

    C = SrcPixel $\otimes$ (α,α,α,α) + DstPixel $\otimes$ (1-α,1-α,1-α,1-α)
  - And many more in the API …

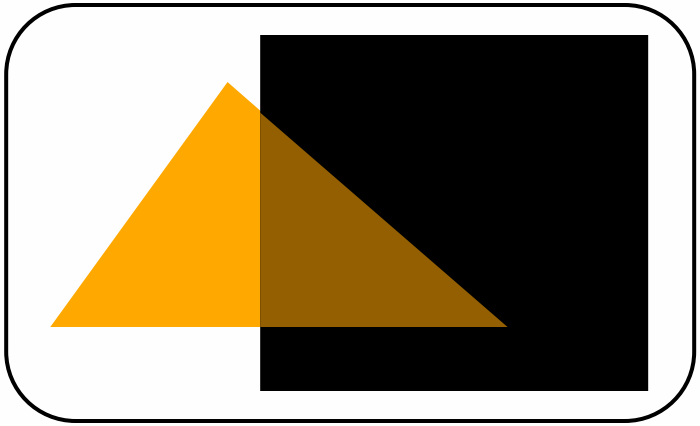
Alpha blending (inverse source form)



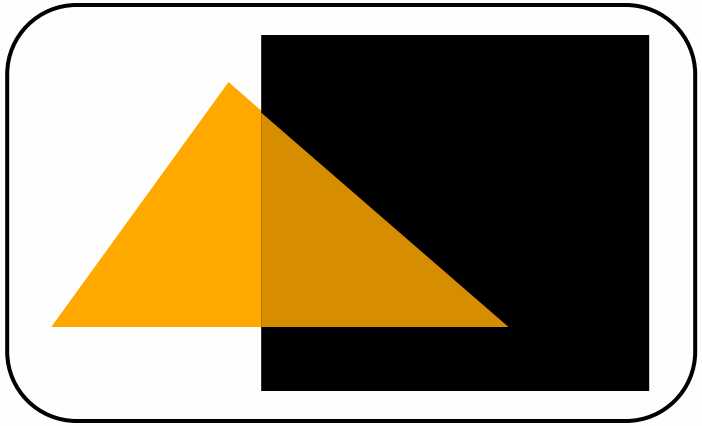
No transparency



Src=0.2 (triangle)
Dest=0.8 (square)

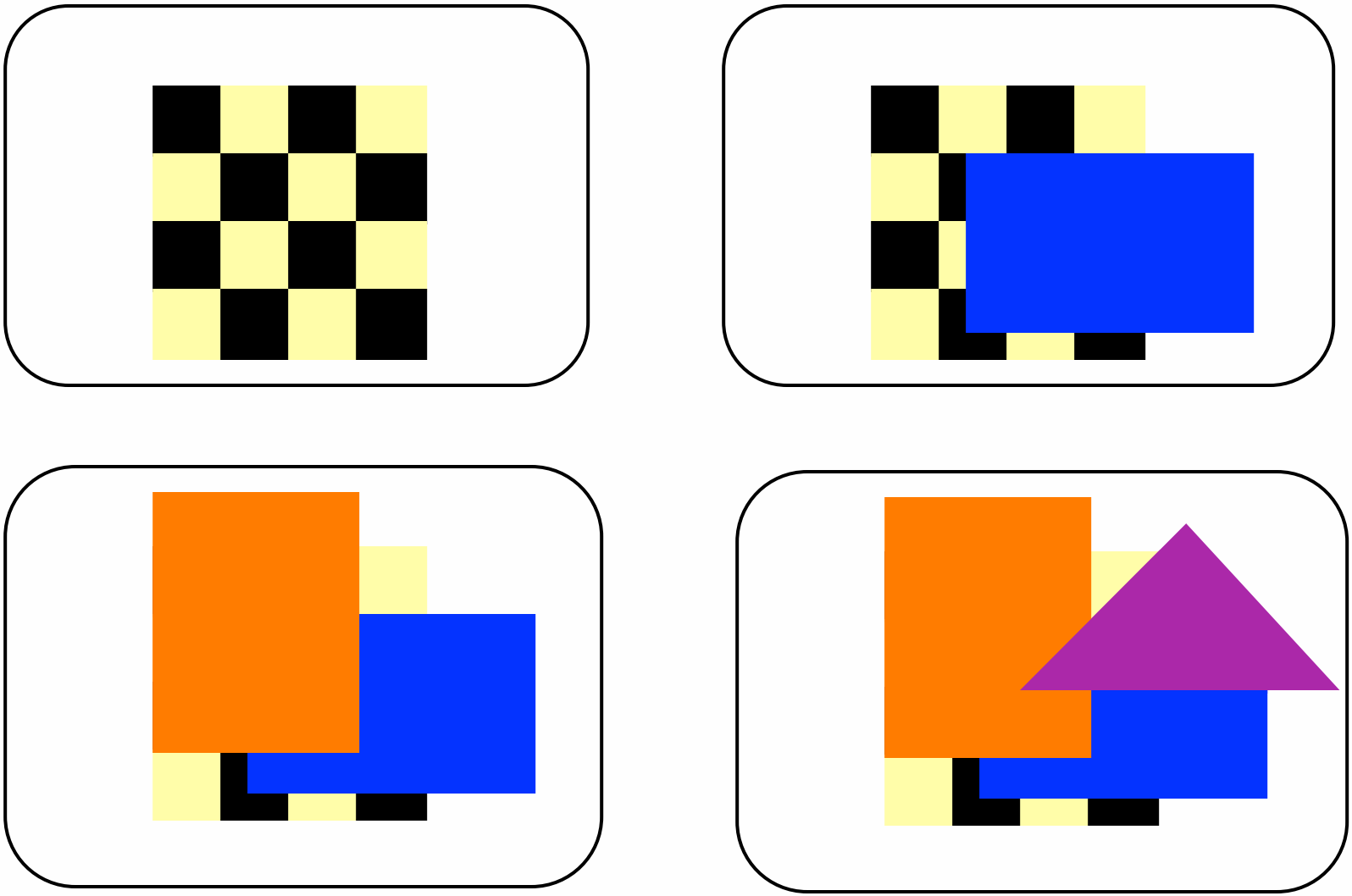


Src=0.5 (triangle)
Dest=0.5 (square)

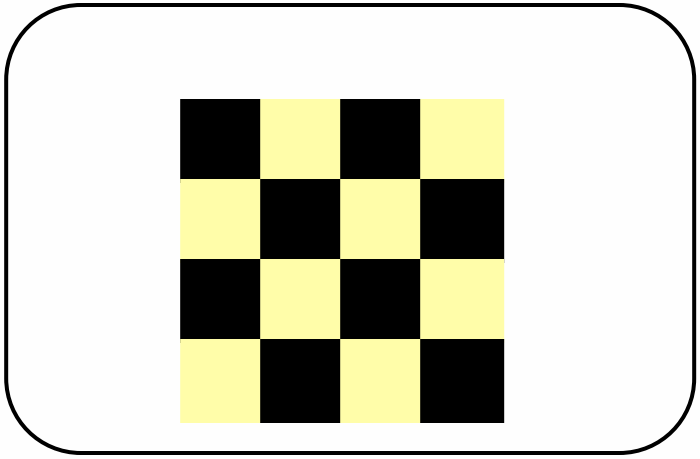


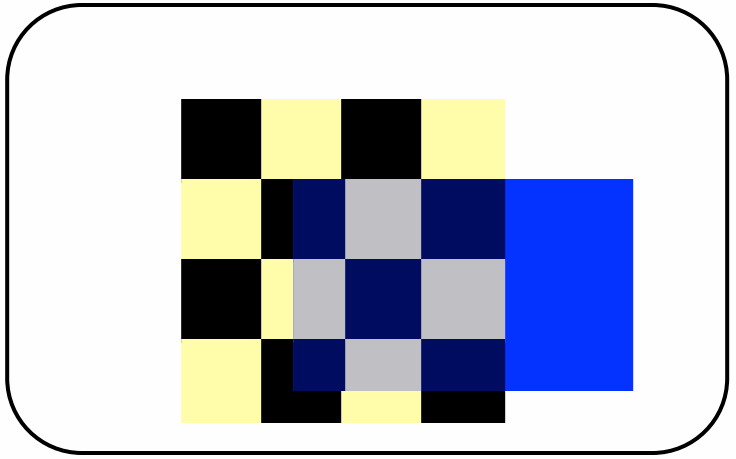
Src=0.8 (triangle)
Dest=0.2 (square)

Another example w/out transparency

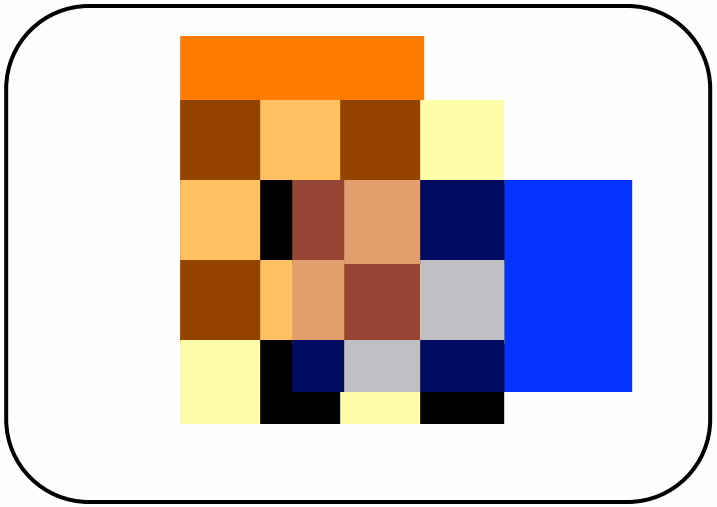


Another alpha blending example

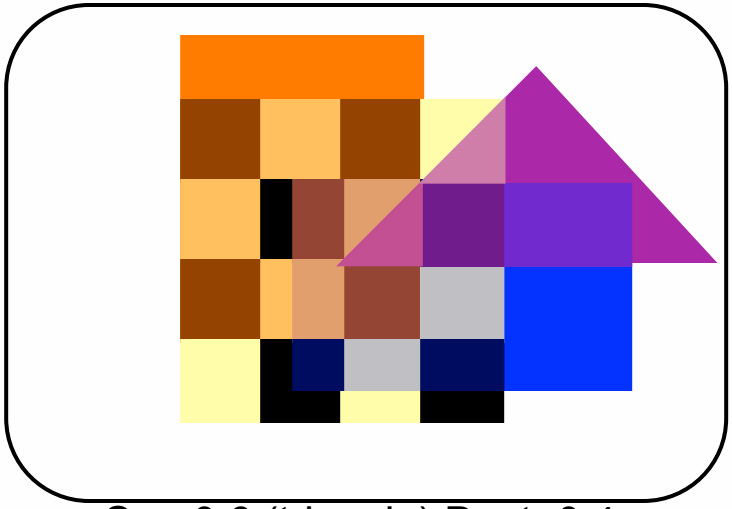




Src=0.3 (rect) Dest=0.7 (checker)

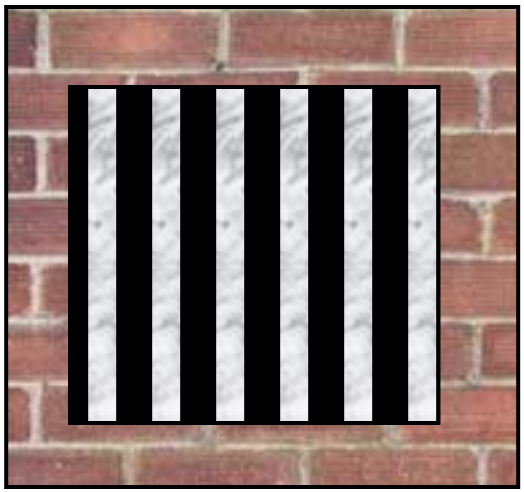


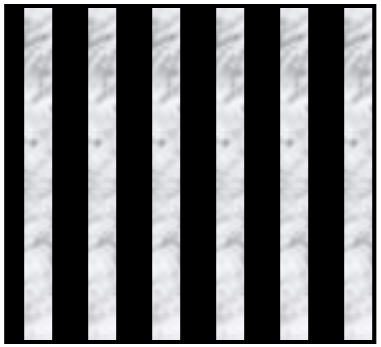
Src=0.5 (orange rect) Dest=0.5



Src=0.6 (triangle) Dest=0.4

Alpha test





Texture: bar.jpg

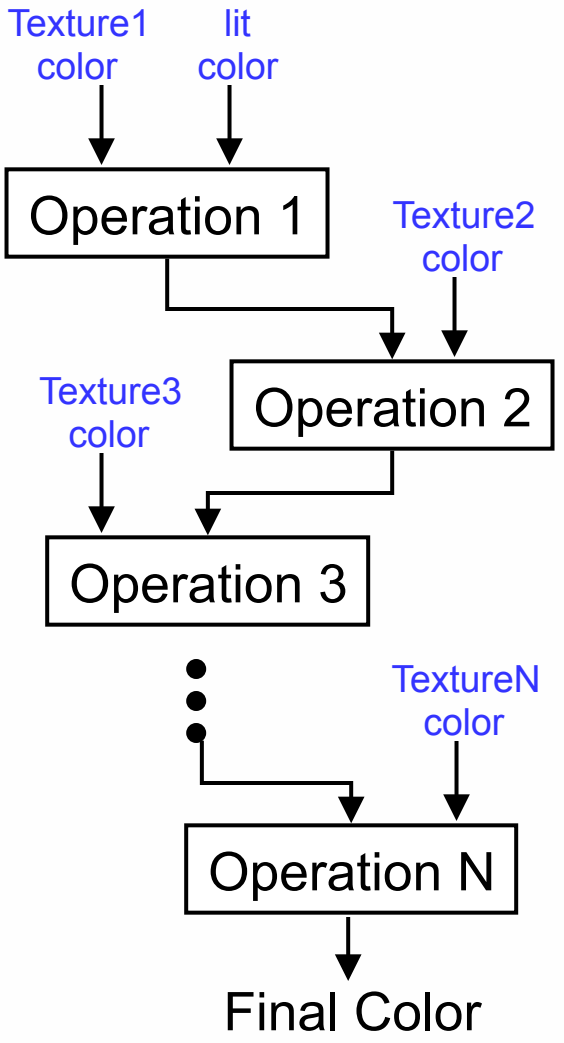
Straightforward texture mapping

```
if (α op val)
   reject pixel
else
   accept pixel
```

- Reject pixels by checking their alpha values
- Model fences, chicken wires, etc.

Multitexturing

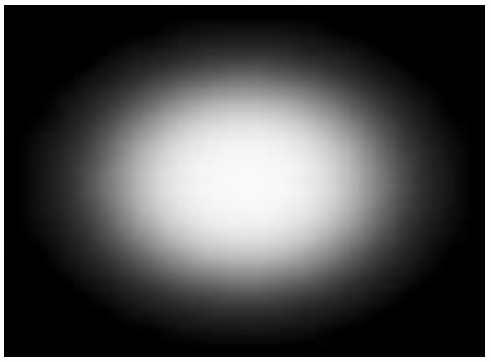
- Map multiple textures to a polygon
  - Common APIs support 8 textures
- Performance will be reduced
- Multiple texturing stages in the pipeline
- Texture color will be calculated by
  - Multiplication
  - Addition
  - Subtraction



Multi-texturing example: light mapping

Some crumpled paper texture

⊗



A spotlight map

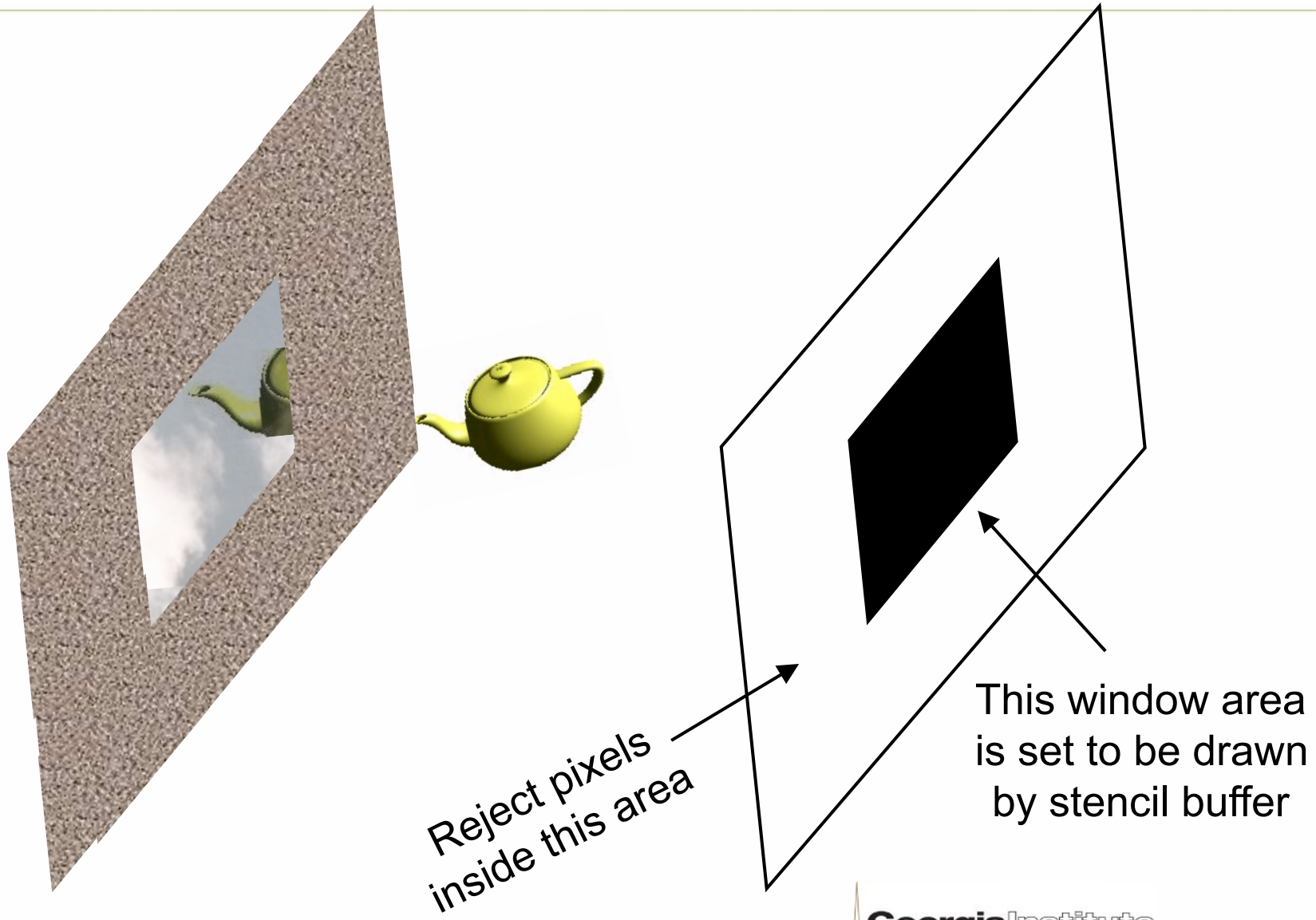
Different alpha blending

Stenciling

- Stencil buffer
  - To reject certain pixels to be displayed
  - To create special effect similar to alpha test
    - Mask out part of the screen
  - Set together with Z-buffer in 3D API
  - Perform prior to Z-buffer test

```
if ((stencil ref & mask)
       op (pixel val & mask))
  accept pixel
else
  reject pixel
```

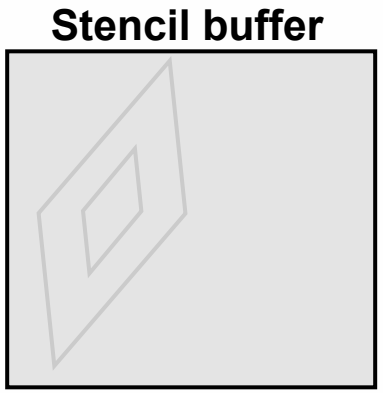
Stencil buffer example



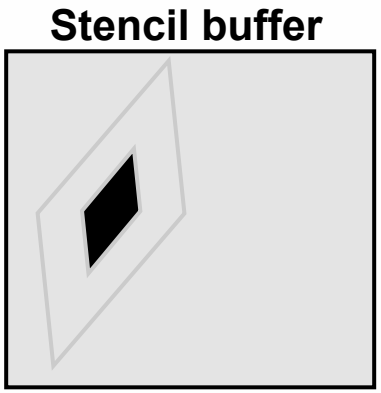
From http://www.ziggyware.com/readarticle.php?article_id=116

Mirror effect (1)

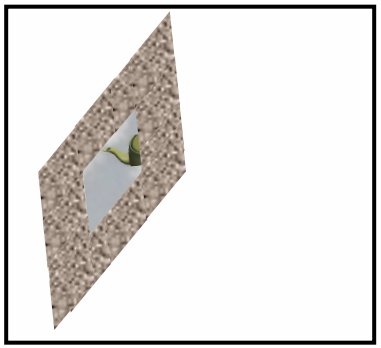
1. Render the entire scene as normal (no reflection yet)
2. Clear the entire stencil buffer to ‘0’ (i.e., mirror’s fragments)
3. Render the mirror primitives and set the corresponding stencil buffer fragment to ‘1’
4. Render the reflected objects only if stencil test passes (i.e., value==1)
   - Using a “reflection matrix” for world transformation (Draw the scene as if they are seen in the mirror)



Clear stencil buffer



Set stencil buffer for mirror object



Render the reflected objects w/ stencil test

From http://www.ziggyware.com/readarticle.php?article_id=116

Mirror effect (2)

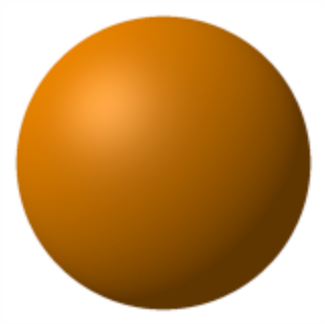
Can be done in a reverse order

1. Render the reflected image of the scene using a "reflection matrix" for world transformation (draw the scene as if they are seen in the mirror)
2. Render non-reflected with stencil buffer accept/reject test to prevent the reflected image being drawn over

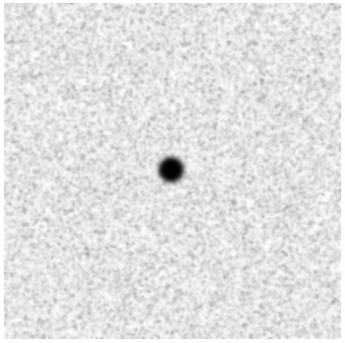
From http://www.ziggyware.com/readarticle.php?article_id=116

Bump mapping (1)

- **Per-fragment lighting** using bump map (normal map) to perturb surface normal
- No geometry tessellation, avoid geometry complexity
- Store normal vectors rather than RGB colors for bump map
- Apply per-pixel shading (w/light vector, e.g., Phong shading)



Shaded sphere



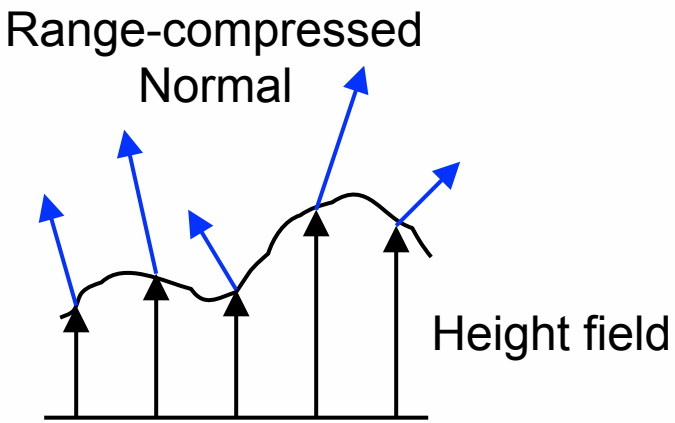
Bump map

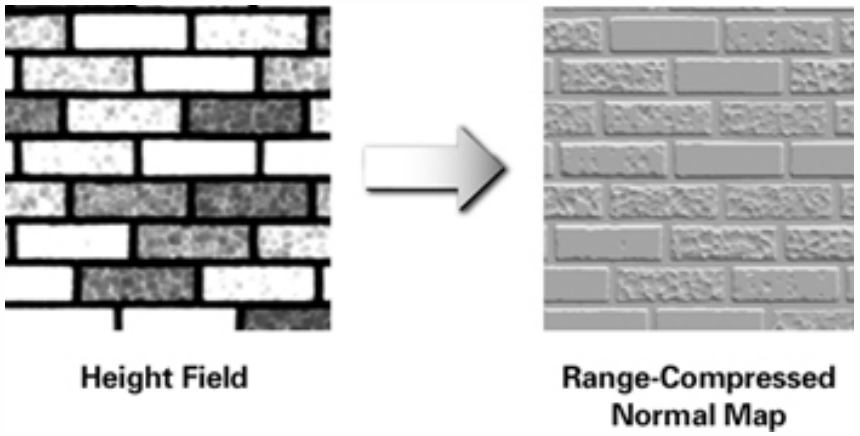
Bump mapped sphere

Source: wikipedia

Bump mapping (2)

- Normal map was derived from a height field map
  - Height field stores the “elevation” for each texel
  - Sample texel’s height as well as texels to the right and above





Environment mapping (1)

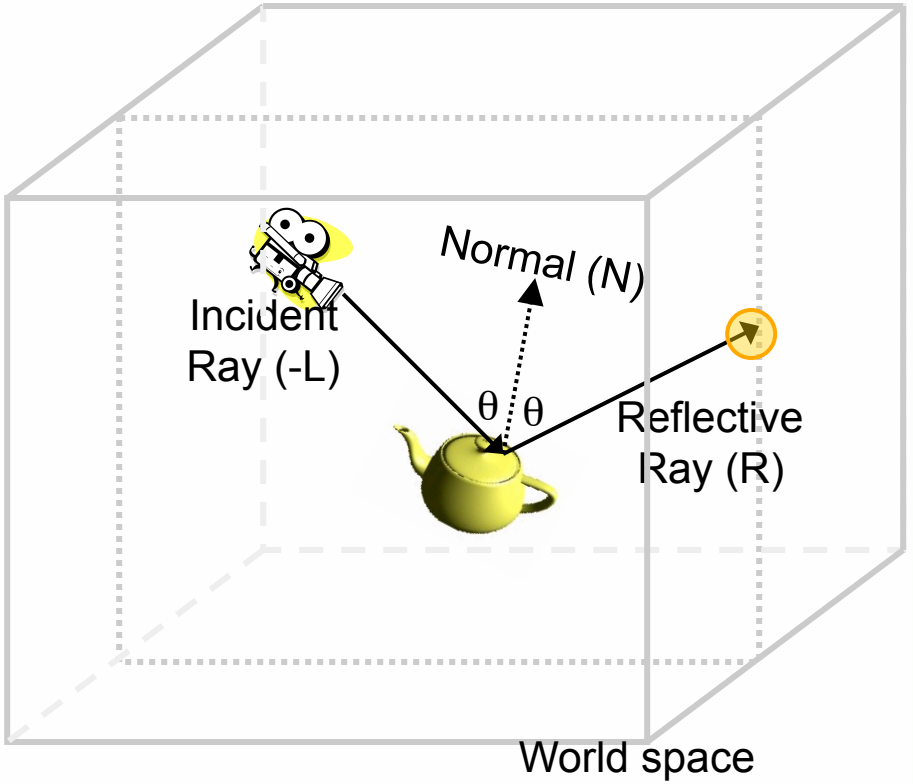
- Cube Map Textures (in **World coordinate**)
- Each face encodes 1/6 of the panoramic environment

Source: Game Creators, Ltd.

Environment mapping (2)

Source: zabur.smz.sk

- Look up the environment map
- Add reflection to a fragment's final color

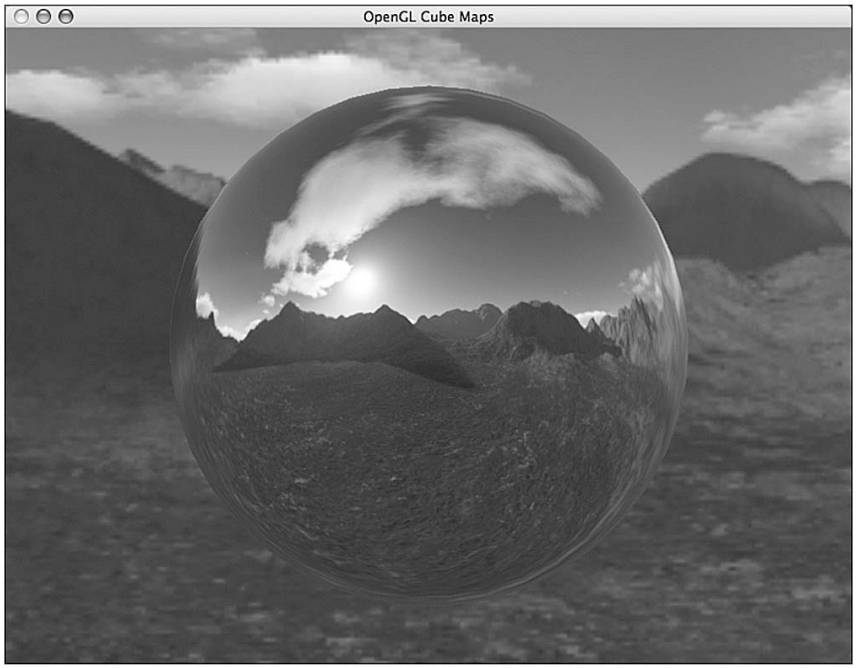


Function texCUBE() is provided for sampling the texel in cube map

R = 2*(dot(N, L))*N - L

Environment mapping (3)

Cube texture map



Rendered image

Source: Game Creators, Ltd.