CSE 167:
Introduction to Computer Graphics
Lecture #11: Performance Optimization

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Announcements

- Homework 5 due tomorrow at 1pm
- Homework 6 due next Friday

Lecture Overview

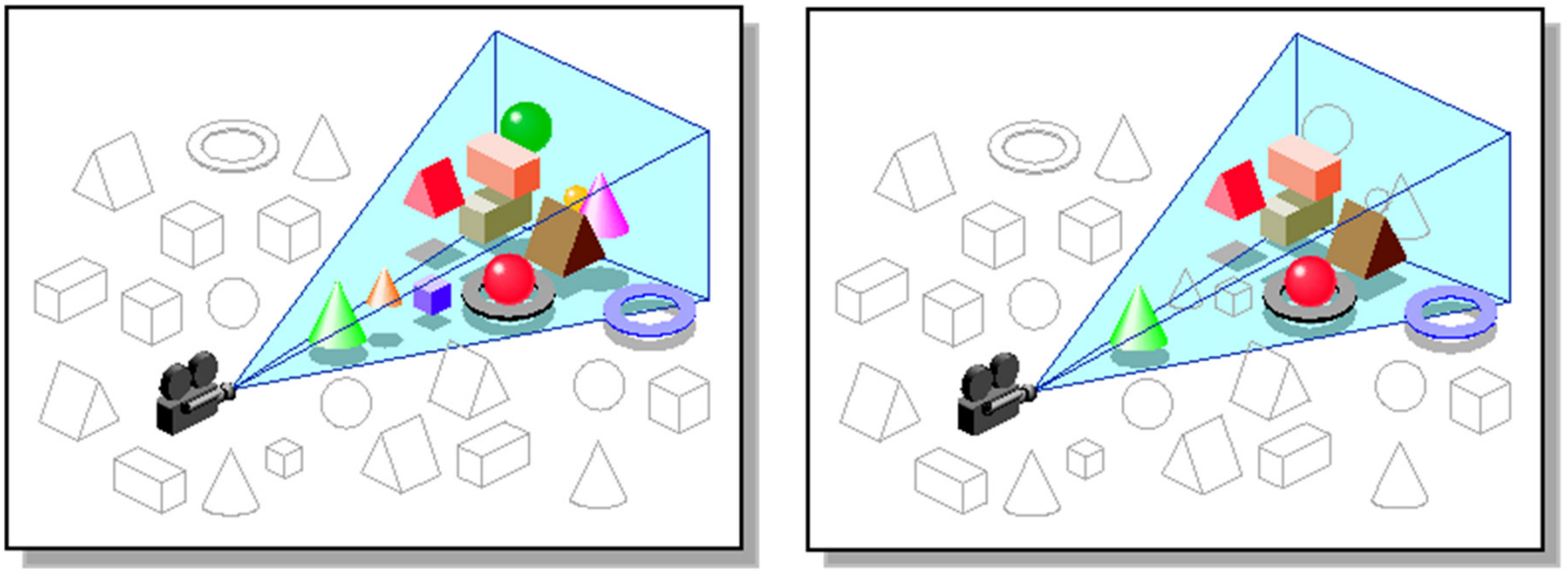
- Performance Optimization
  - Culling
  - Level of Detail Techniques

Culling

- Goal:
  Discard geometry that does not need to be drawn to speed up rendering
- Types of culling:
  - View frustum culling
  - Occlusion culling
  - Small object culling
  - Backface culling
  - Degenerate culling

Occlusion Culling

- Geometry hidden behind occluder cannot be seen
  - Many complex algorithms exist to identify occluded geometry



Images: SGI OpenGL Optimizer Programmer's Guide

Video

- Umbra 3 Occlusion Culling explained
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5h4QgDBwQhc

Small Object Culling

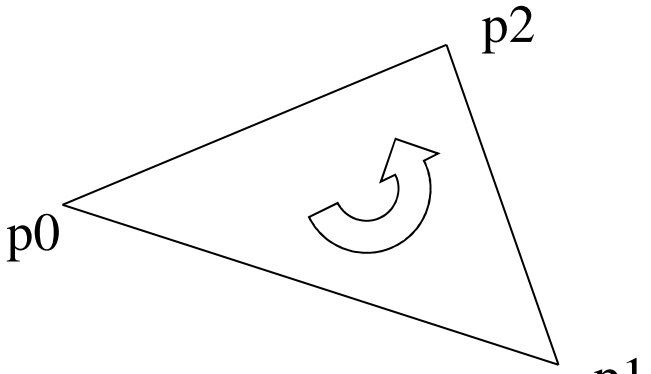
- Object projects to less than a specified size
  - Cull objects whose screen-space bounding box is less than a threshold number of pixels

Backface Culling

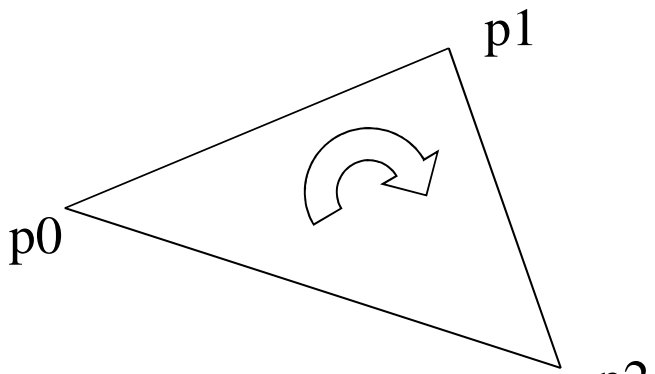
- Consider triangles as "one-sided", i.e., only visible from the "front"
- Closed objects
  - If the "back" of the triangle is facing the camera, it is not visible
  - Gain efficiency by not drawing it (culling)
  - Roughly 50% of triangles in a scene are back facing

Backface Culling

- Convention:
  Triangle is front facing if vertices are ordered counterclockwise



Front-facing



Back-facing

- OpenGL allows one- or two-sided triangles
  - One-sided triangles:
    glEnable(GL_CULL_FACE); glCullFace(GL_BACK)
  - Two-sided triangles (no backface culling):
    glDisable(GL_CULL_FACE)

Backface Culling

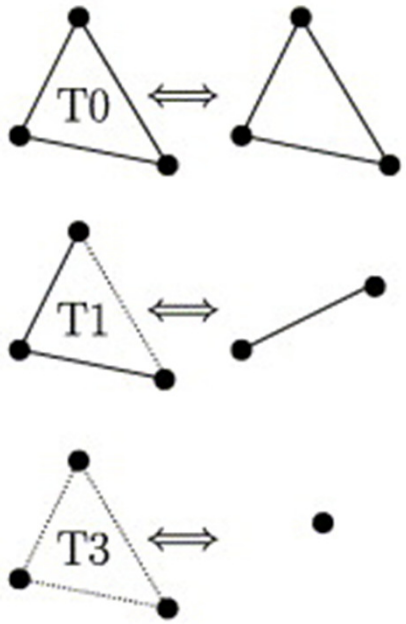
- Compute triangle normal after projection (homogeneous division)

$$\mathbf{n} = (\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_0) \times (\mathbf{p}_2 - \mathbf{p}_0)$$

- Third component of $\mathbf{n}$ negative: front-facing, otherwise back-facing
  - Remember: projection matrix is such that homogeneous division flips sign of third component

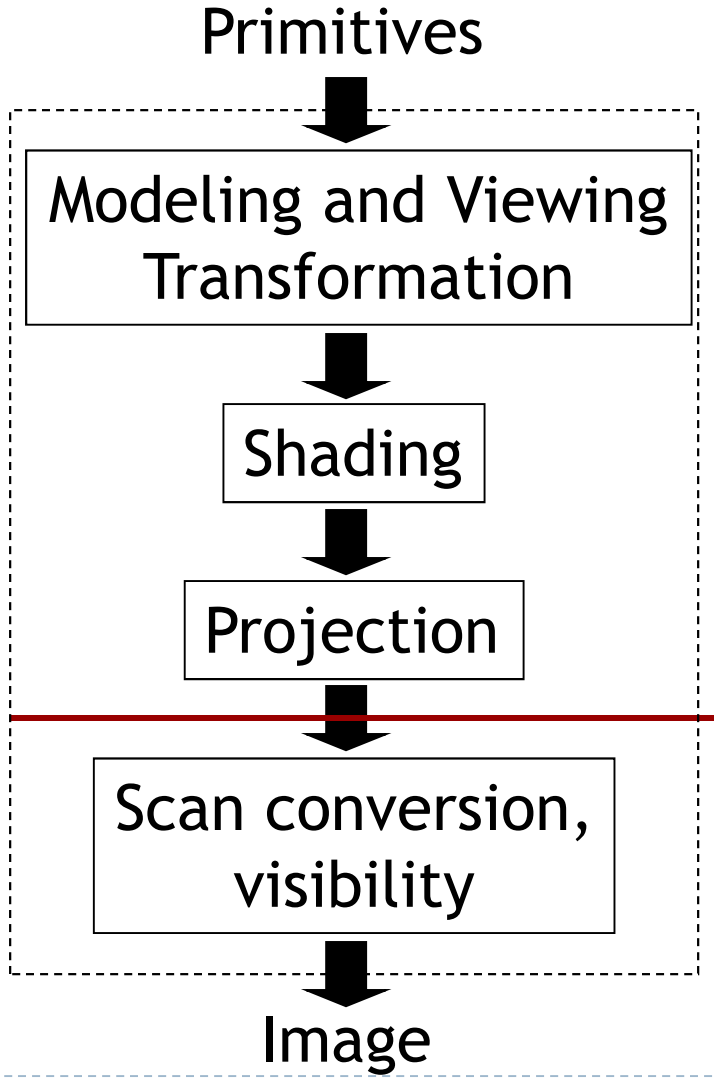
Degenerate Culling

- Degenerate triangle has no area
  - Vertices lie in a straight line
  - Vertices at the exact same place
  - Normal $\mathbf{n}=0$



Source: Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering, Volume 194, Issues 48–49

Rendering Pipeline



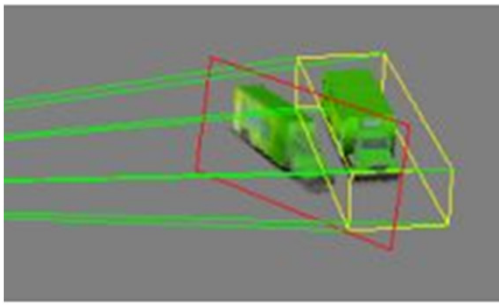
Culling, Clipping

- Discard geometry that will not be visible

UCSD

Level-of-Detail Techniques

- Don't draw objects smaller than a threshold
  - Small feature culling
  - Popping artifacts
- Replace 3D objects by 2D impostors
  - Textured planes representing the objects



Impostor generation

- Adapt triangle count to projected size

Original vs. impostor

Size dependent mesh reduction
(Data: Stanford Armadillo)