Lighting Research at Bungie

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Trends

- Pipeline quality == graphics quality
- Artistic style over photo-realism
- Real time lighting is getting more GI
- GPGPU is tangible and real







Two Research Directions



Real-Time Lighting





Sky and Atmosphere





Previous Model



- [PSS99][PreethamHoffman03]
- Offline pre-computed sky texture
- Real-time scattering
- Single scattering only
- Viewable from ground only



Current Model

- [BrunetonNeyret2008]
- Single and multiple scattering
- Pre-computation on the GPU
- Viewable from space
- Light shafts





Raleigh Scattering O SIGGRAPH2009

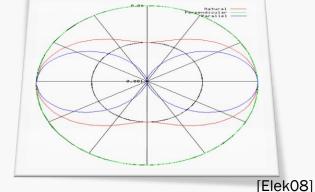
Raleigh Scattering

- Small particles scattering (air): $x = \frac{2\pi r}{\lambda}$ where x << 1
- Chromatic dependency:

$$\beta_R^S(h,\lambda) = \frac{8\pi^3(n^2-1)^2}{3N\lambda^4}e^{-\frac{h}{H_R}}$$

$$P_R(\mu) = \frac{3}{16\pi} (1 + \mu)^2 \text{ where } \mu = \cos \Theta$$









Mie Scattering







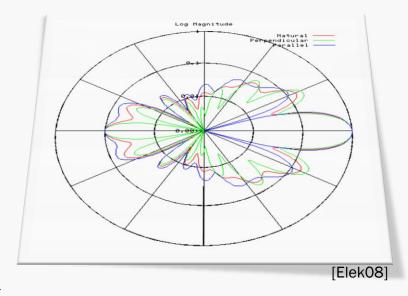
Mie Scattering

- Light scattering on larger particles
 - Achromatic λ-independence
- Phase function is strongly anisotropic
- Analytical approximation by Cornette-Shanks:

$$\beta_M^S(h,\lambda) = \beta_M^S(0,\lambda)e^{-\frac{h}{H_M}}$$

$$P_M(\mu) = \frac{3}{8\pi} \frac{(1-g^2)(1+\mu^2)}{(2+g^2)(1+g^2-2g\mu)^{3/2}}$$

$$x \ge 1$$







Rendering Equation for the Atmosphere

$$L(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{s}) = (L_0 + R[L] + S[L])(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{s})$$

- x viewer, v view direction, s sun direction
- Account for:
 - Direct sun light L₀
 - Reflected light at point being shaded $(x_0) R[L]$
 - Inscattered light S[L] (toward the viewer)
- Accurate solution is non-trivial to compute in real-time still





Direct Sun Light Computation

$$L_0(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{s}) = T(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_0) L_{sun}, \text{ or } 0$$

- Direct sunlight is attenuated by transmittance function before reaching the viewer
- Accounts for occlusions





Reflected Light

$$R[L](\mathbf{x},\mathbf{v},\mathbf{s}) = T(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{x}_0)I[L](\mathbf{x}_0,\mathbf{s})$$

- Reflected light is attenuated by the transmittance
- Depends on the light I[L] reflected at x₀
- Reflected light is null on the top atmosphere boundary





Inscattered Light

$$S[L](\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{s}) = \int_{\mathbf{x}}^{\mathbf{x}_0} T(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) J[L](\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{s}) dy$$

- Light scattered towards the viewer between the point being shaded and the viewer
- Depends on the transmittance T and the radiance J of light scattered toward the viewer

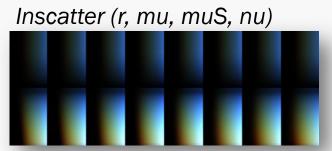




Pre-computation

- Store pre-computed look-up tables as textures
- Use GPU to generate the textures





Irradiance (r, muS)





Different Atmospheres



Time Of Day



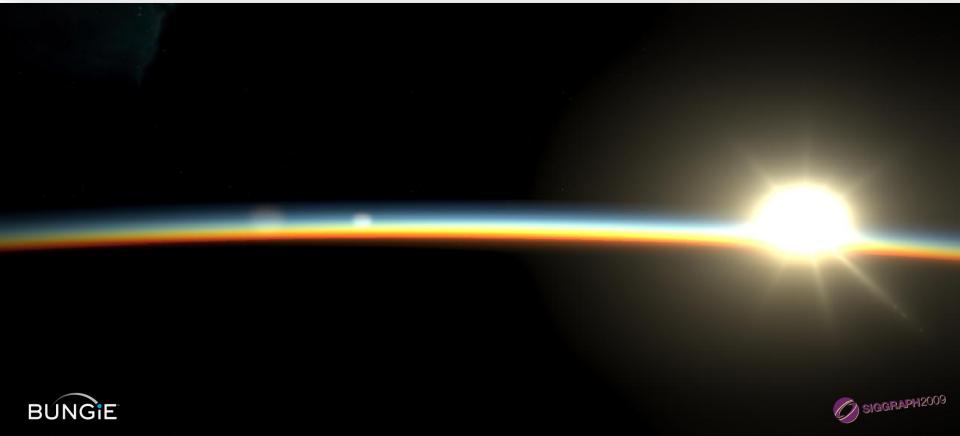








Atmosphere Seen From Space



Sky Light

- [BrunetonNeyret2008] used a single color for sky irradiance
 - For distant mountains / objects, just use that
- Better approximation for close-up geometry:
 - Use CIE sky luminance distribution
 - Scale by the pre-computed irradiance
 - Project to SH per azimuth angle
 - Fit the coefficients with a polynomial
 - Render with PRT for GI look





CIE Standard Luminance Distribution

Гурє	Gradation	Indikatrix	a	b	C	d	e	Description of luminance distribution
1	I	1	4.0	-0.70	0	-1.0	0.00	CIE Standard Overcast Sky, alternative form Steep luminance gradation towards zenith, azimuthal uniformity
2	I	2	4.0	-0.70	2	-1.5	0.15	Overcast, with steep luminance gradation and slight brightening towards the sun
3	II	1	1.1	-0.8	0	-1.0	0.00	Overcast, moderately graded with azimuthal uniformity
4	II	2	1.1	-0.8	2	-1.5	0.15	Overcast, moderately graded and slight brightening towards the sun
5	III	1	0.0	-1.0	0	-1.0	0.00	Sky of uniform luminance
6	III	2	0.0	-1.0	2	-1.5	0.15	Partly cloudy sky, no gradation towards zenith, slight brightening towards the sun
7	III	3	0.0	-1.0	5	-2.5	0.30	Partly cloudy sky, no gradation towards zenith, brighter circumsolar region
8	III	4	0.0	-1.0	10	-3.0	0.45	Partly cloudy sky, no gradation towards zenith, distinct solar corona
9	IV	2	-1.0	-0.55	2	-1.5	0.15	Partly cloudy, with the obscured sun
10	IV	3	-1.0	-0.55	5	-2.5	0.30	Partly cloudy, with brighter circumsolar region
11	IV	4	-1.0	-0.55	10	-3.0	0.45	White-blue sky with distinct solar corona
12	V	4	-1.0	-0.32	10	-3.0	0.45	CIE Standard Clear Sky, low illuminance
								turbidity
13	V	5	-1.0	-0.32	16	-3.0	0.30	CIE Standard Clear Sky, polluted atmosphere
14	VI	5	-1.0	-0.15	16	-3.0	0.30	,
15	VI	6	-1.0	-0.15	24	-2.8	0.15	White-blue turbid sky with broad solar corona







CIE Sky Illumination in SH





Shadows





Shadow Mapping in Games

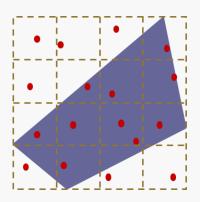
- Shadow mapping is now fairly common in latest video games
- A number of practical production issues remain for high quality stable shadows:
 - Managing aliasing due to resolution and projection
- Open-world scenarios now frequently resort to a variant of cascade shadow mapping
 - Used for resolution management
 - Unfortunately, cascading doesn't solve projection, or sampling, aliasing artifacts





Sampling Aliasing

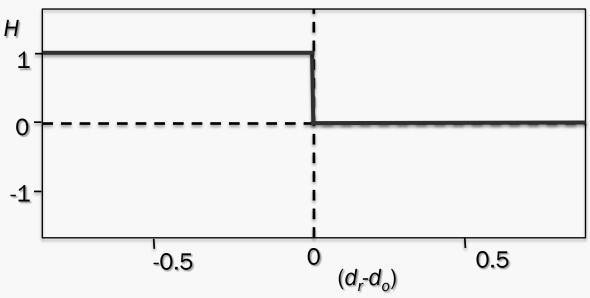
- Currently, sampling approached are typically resolved via PCF [Reeves et al. 1987] for soft shadows results
 - Filter shadow test results
 - Often combined with a rotated Poisson disk filter
- Expensive at run-time
 - Requires a lot of samples to hide visible structure patterns
 - Linear in cost in terms of # of samples







Shadow Mapping [RECET]



- Heaviside step function: $H(d_r d_o)$ where d_r is the receiver depth, and d_o is the occluder depth.
- 1 means no shadows (fully lit) and 0 means completely in shadow.





Shadow Prefiltering

- Linearly filterable shadow test
 - Reformulate shadow filtering test to support pre-filtering
- A number of recent techniques designed to address this:
 - Variance Shadow Maps [Donnelly / Lauritzen 06]
 - Convolution Shadow Maps [Annen et al 2007]
 - Exponential Shadow Maps [Annen et al 2008]
 [Salvi 2008]











Shadow Test Reformulation

- Separate the terms for occluder and receiver
 - Thus we can pre-filter occluder terms with hardware mipmapping and with image-space blurs for soft shadows
- Depth bias no longer necessary to alleviate 'shadow acne'
 - Due to the changed shadow test





Probabilistic Shadow Test

- Inspired by the Deep Shadow Maps [LocovicVeach2000]
- Probability that a given sample is in shadow, given current receiver & occluder depths

$$f(d_r) = \Pr(d_o \ge d_r)$$

- d_o becomes a random variable
 - Represents the occluder depth distribution function
- *d_r* is the current receiver depth



SIGGRAPH2009



Variance-Based Shadow Test

- Binary test becomes a probability distribution function
 - Probability current fragment is in shadow
- $Pr(d_o \ge d_r)$ is derived from two moments:

$$\mu = E(d_o)$$
 and $\sigma^2 = E(d_o^2) - E(d_o)^2$



Variance-Based Shadow Test

 Use Chebyshev's inequality as upper bound for the test:

$$\Pr(d_o \ge d_r) \le p_{\max}(d_r) = \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + (\mu - d_r)^2}$$





Variance Shadow Map Approach Pros

- Image-space & hardware filtering for soft shadows
- Alleviates depth bias artifacts for polygons that span depth ranges
 - Especially when filtering





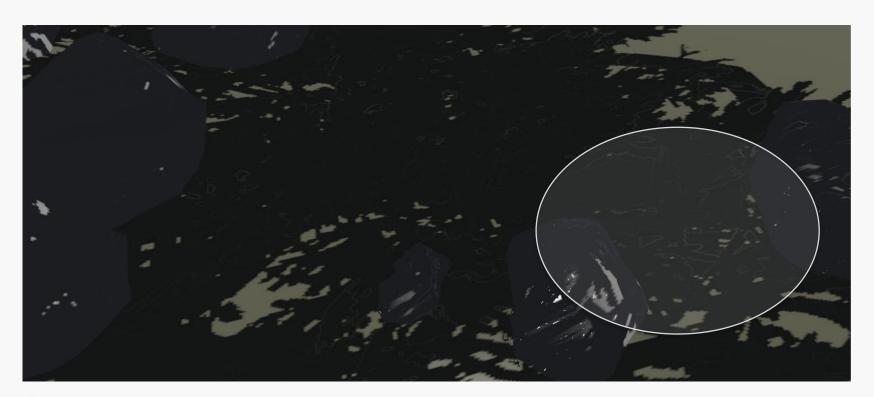
Variance Shadow Map Approach Cons

- Twice the memory of the regular shadow map
- Light bleeding in areas of high depth complexity
- Exacerbated by filtering with large kernels
 - Variance is increased with large blurs





Variance Shadow Maps: Light Bleeding







Light Bleeding Fix-up

- All shadow test results below some minimum variance p_{min} get clamped to 0
- The rest of the range rescaled to [0..1]
- Removes light bleeding
 - But similarly to dilation, this 'fattens' up shadows
 - Especially when applying large blurs





Can We Do Better?

- Two moments simply do not provide enough information to fully reconstruct the shadow test
 - We don't know the distribution function a priori
- Recall that nth moment can be expressed as

$$\mu_n = E\big[x^n\big] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^n$$
 • However, we don't want to just render n moments

- - 2 channels of 16F or 32F textures is hurtful enough



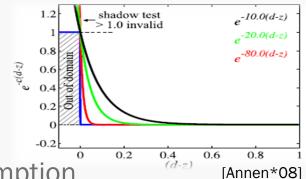


Exponential Shadow Map Test

- Assume $d_r \ge d_o$
- Shadow test becomes $f(d_o, d_r) = \lim_{\alpha \to \infty} e^{-\alpha(d_o, d_r)}$
- Approximate by using a large positive constant c:

$$f(d_o,d_r) = e^{-c(d_o-d_r)}$$

 Clamp result to [0..1] range to ensure correct results



Fixes up some regions where the assumption does not hold





Exponential Shadow Map Prefiltering

• Separate terms which depend on occluder and receiver depths: $f(d_o, d_v) = e^{-c(d_o - d_r)} = e^{-cd_o}e^{cd_r}$

$$f(d_o, d_r) = f(d_o)f(d_r)$$

• Convolving $f(d_o, d_r)$ with a filter kernel:

$$w \cdot f(d_o, d_r) = w \cdot (e^{-c(d_o - d_r)}) = w \cdot e^{-cd_o} \cdot e^{cd_r}$$

Allows filtering of only the occluder terms == prefiltering





Exponential Shadow Map Benefits

1. Extremely easy to implement:

- a) Render the exponential of occluder depth
- b) Prefilter
- c) Using mip maps and/or applying separable Gaussian blurs
- d) Reconstruct ESM test at run-time





ESM Shadow Test Computation

```
float ComputeESM (float2 vShadowMapUVs, float fReceiverDepth,
                  float fCascadeIndex )
   // Filtered look up using mip mapping
   float fOccluderExponential = tCascadeShadowMaps.Sample(
                                 sShadowLinearClamp,
                                 float3 (vShadowMapUVs, fCascadeIndex)).r;
   float fReceiverExponential = exp( -fESMExponentialMultiplier *
                                     fReceiverDepth );
   float fESMShadowTest = fOccluderExponential * fReceiverExponential;
   return saturate(fESMShadowTest);
```





Exponential Shadow Map Benefits

- 2. Solves biasing problems ('shadow acne') that exist with regular shadow maps
- 3. Excellent soft shadows visual results with even small filters
 - a) For example, a 5x5 separable Gaussian





Exponential Shadow Map Benefits

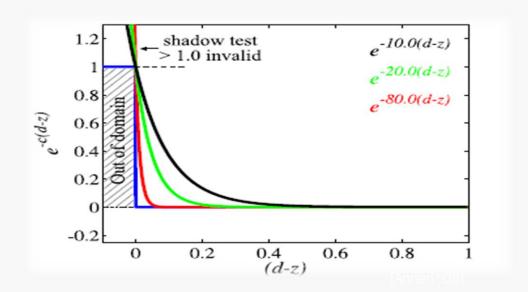
- 4. Only uses a single channel texture
- 5. Deals well with scene depth complexity
 - Not based on variance
 - Thus light bleeding due to depth variance doesn't show up
 - Doesn't get exacerbated with wider filter kernels





Thought We're Done?

- Not yet, unfortunately.
- Let's look at the shadow test again:





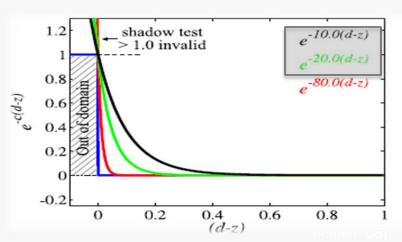


Thought We're Done?

Small values for c only work in scenes with low

depth complexity

 Otherwise we see a lot of light leaking artifacts







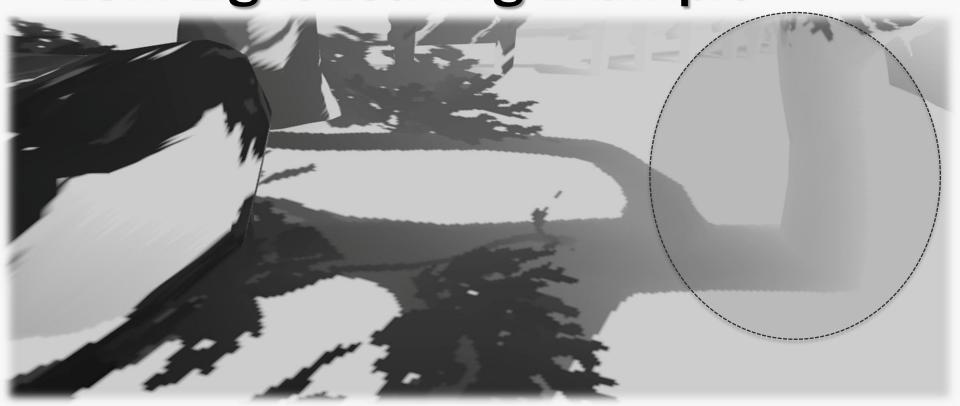
Thought We're Done?

- However, larger values of c such as c = 80 demand high precision floating-point buffers
 - c ~= 88 is the maximum value for 32F; otherwise overflow





ESM Light Leaking Example







- Render linear depth instead of the exponential
- Filter in log space
- Let's expand the filtering operation on occluder depths:

$$w \cdot f(d_o) = \sum_{i=0}^{N} w_i e^{cd_{o_i}} = w_0 e^{cd_{o_0}} + w_1 e^{cd_{o_1}} + \dots + w_N e^{cd_{o_N}}$$





For 3 samples, we have:

$$w_0 e^{cd_{o_0}} + w_1 e^{cd_{o_1}} + w_2 e^{cd_{o_2}} = e^{cd_{o_0}} \left(w_0 + w_1 e^{c(d_{o_1} - d_{o_0})} + w_2 e^{c(d_{o_2} - d_{o_0})} \right)$$

• Since $e^{\ln p} = p$ we can write:

$$w \cdot f(d_o) = e^{cd_{o_0}} e^{\ln\left(w_0 + w_1 e^{c\left(d_{o_1} - d_{o_0}\right)} + w_2 e^{c\left(d_{o_2} - d_{o_0}\right)}\right)}$$





Generalizing to N samples:

Generalizing to N samples:
$$w \cdot f(d_o) = e^{cd_{o_0}} e^{\ln\left(w_0 + \sum_{i=1}^N w_i e^{c\left(d_{o_i} - d_{o_0}\right)}\right)}$$

- This replaces the standard Gaussian or box filter summation
 - Weights are from the Gaussian filter kernel
 - Instead of regular summation, compute the result above, summing over the samples





- Allows us to use 16F texture format with high values for c
 - During the actual filtering operation we have at least 24 bit precision (on consoles) and 32 bit on most recent PC hardware
- Every little bit helps
 - Pun intended!





Thought We're Done?™

Furthermore, ESM shadow test has the following limitation:

$$f(d_o, d_r) = \lim_{\alpha \to \infty} e^{-\alpha(d_o, d_r)}$$

- As $d_o \rightarrow d_t$ $f(d_o, d_r) \rightarrow 1$
- Thus we see contact light leaking with ESM
 - In places where the occluder is near the receiver
 - Turns out this is a fairly frequent occurrence





-10.0(d-z)

0.8

[Annen*08]

0.4

Contact Leaking Reduction

 A brute-force solution is to over-darken the results of shadow test based on occluder-receiver proximity





ESM Over Darkening

 That works fine – so long as we do not prefilter shadows







ESM Over Darkening with Filtering

Results in "fat & stylized shadows"







Cascade Shadow Maps & Prefiltered Shadow Formulations

- At first glance, cascade shadow maps are orthogonal to prefiltered shadow maps
 - One manages shadow map resolution, the other filtering / sampling
- However, in practice we encounter the need for additional fix-ups for using VSM / ESM with cascades
 - Specifically with regards to selection of cascade frustum





Typical Cascade Frustum Selection

```
int GetInitialFrustumIndex( float3 vPositionWS )
  float fPosZ = -mul( mCascadeViewMatrix, float4(vPositionWS,1.0f)).z;
   int nFrustumIndex= 0;
   if ( fPosZ <= vFarBounds[0] )</pre>
      nFrustumIndex = 0;
  else if ( fPosZ <= vFarBounds[1] )</pre>
      nFrustumIndex = 1;
  else if ( fPosZ <= vFarBounds[2] )</pre>
      nFrustumIndex = 2;
  else
      nFrustumIndex = 3;
  nFrustumIndex = min( nFrustumIndex, NUM CASCADES );
  return nFrustumIndex:
```





Prefiltered Shadow Cascade Selection

- Need to make sure that every fragment in a pixel quad chooses the same cascade frustum
- This is required so that derivatives are meaningful and mip selection is correct
 - Necessary for ESM / VSM whenever we use mip mapping
- Want to select the same frustum index for all fragments in the same quad





Artifacts Due to Incorrect Cascade Selection with Prefiltered Shadows

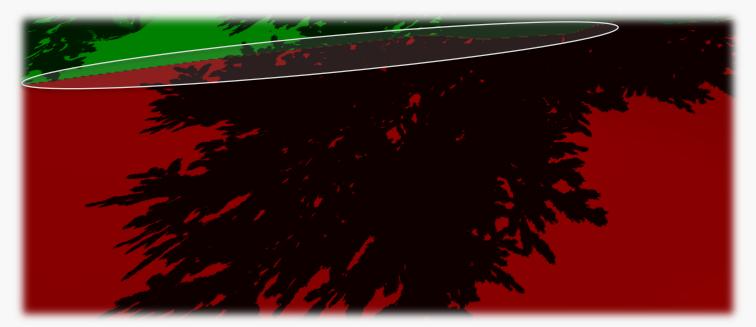


A "traveling" line of 'flipped' shadow test result along the boundary of cascade frustums





Artifacts Due to Incorrect Cascade Selection with Prefiltered Shadows



A "traveling" line of 'flipped' shadow test result along the boundary of cascade frustums





Prefiltered Shadow Cascade Selection

```
float4 ComputePrefilteredCascadesShadowPositionAndFrustumIndex ( float3 vPosWS )
   int nFrustumIndex = GetInitialFrustumIndex( vPositionWS );
   const int aLog2LUT[8] = { 0, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, 3 };
   int n2PowFrustumIndex = 1 << nFrustumIndex;</pre>
   // Now determine the difference across pixels in the quad:
   int nFrustumIndexDX = abs( ddx( n2PowFrustumIndex ));
   int nFrustumIndexDY = abs( ddy( n2PowFrustumIndex ));
   int nFrustumIndexDXDY = abs( ddx( nFrustumIndexDY ));
   // This quantity will be the same for all pixels across the quad,
   // which is what allows us to consistently select frustum index for
   // all pixels in the quad:
   int nMaxDifference = max( nFrustumIndexDXDY, max( nFrustumIndexDX,
                                                      nFrustumIndexDY ) );
   // If the derivatives are zero across the quad, we can simply use the original
   // frustum index. If there are differences, we will recover the desired
   // frustum index by looking up into the log table:
   nFrustumIndex = nMaxDifference > 0 ? aLog2LUT[nMaxDifference-1]:nFrustumIndex;
   return ComputeCascadeSamplingParameters ( vPositionWS, nFrustumIndex )
                                                                       SIGGRAPH2009
```

Let's Fix Contact Leaking – Round 2

- Another thing we can try is to have tighter depth range for each cascade
 - Clamp the depth / z range to the bounding volume of the cascade frustum in light space
 - What happen to occluders outside the bounds?





Let's Make Pancakes – Shadow Pancakes, Of Course!

As we clamp, the occluders
 outside of the bounding volume
 are flattened onto the near / far
 plane of the frustum bounding
 box

Aka the 'shadow pancakes'





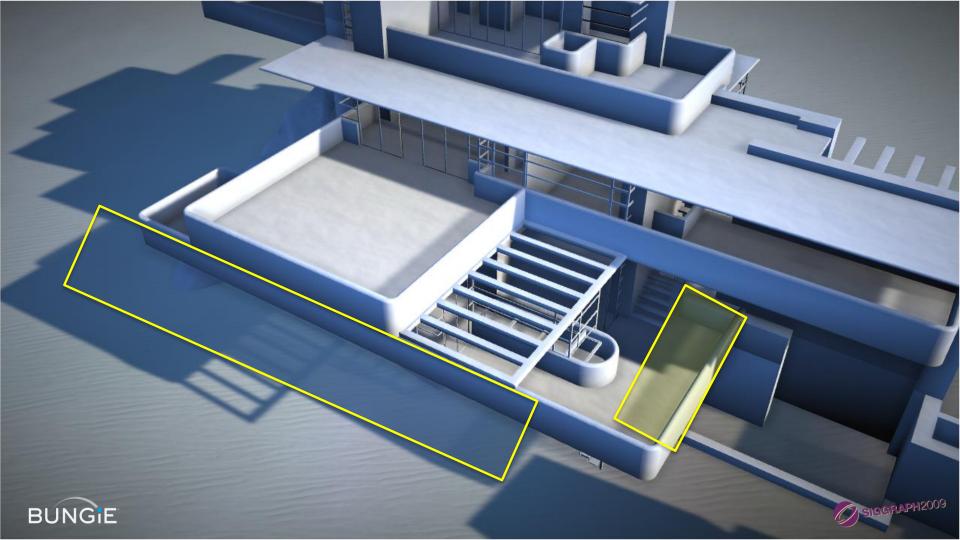


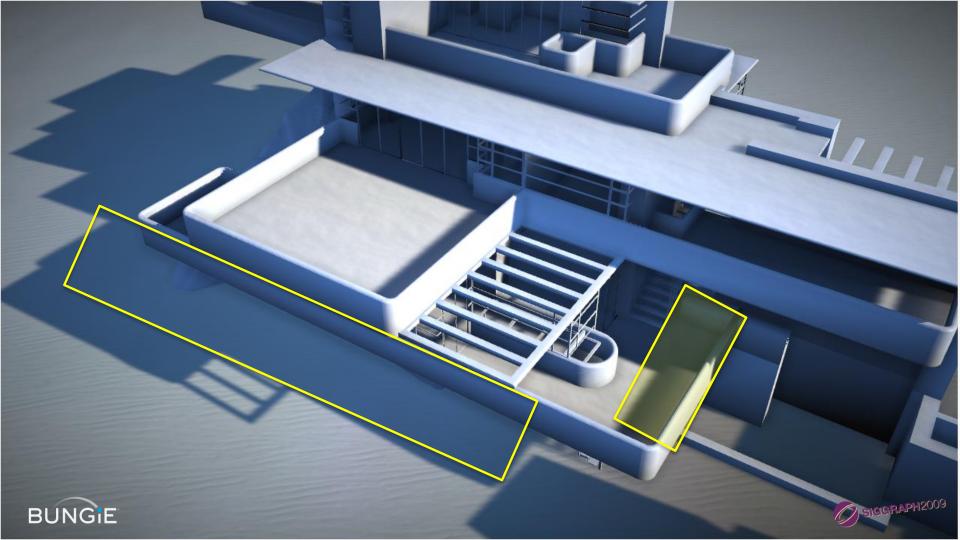
Let's Make Pancakes – Shadow Pancakes, Of Course!

- When the occluder object is outside the viewing frustum we don't care about the actual depth of the occluder
- Just need to know its effect on the rest of the scene
 - Is it going to shadow the objects within the cascade frustum?
 - Can't see these occluders any way

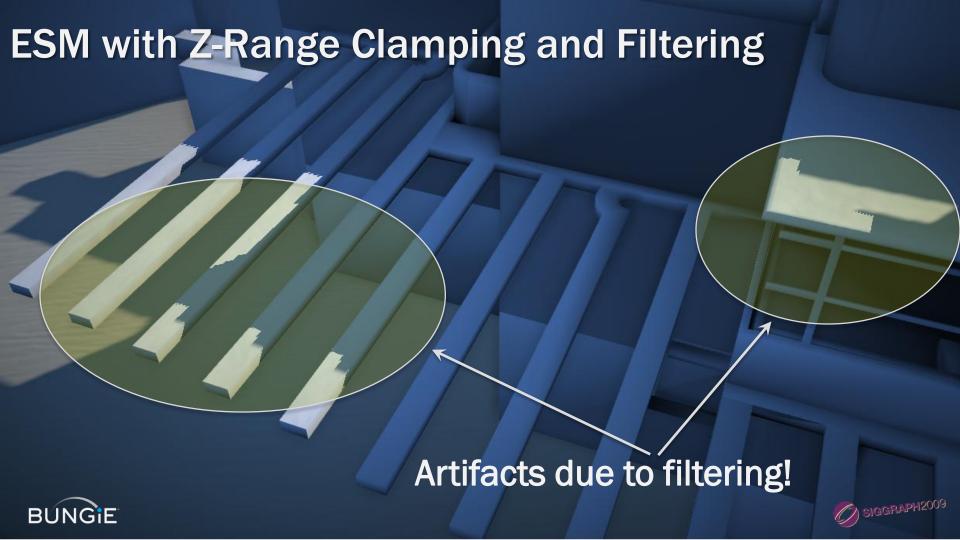












EVSM with Depth Warps

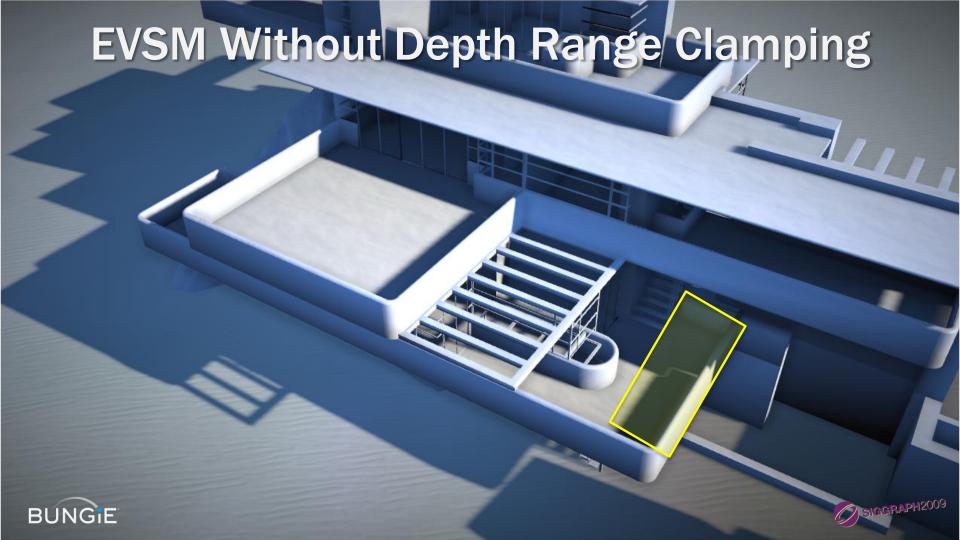
- Can we do better? Yes, we can using Exponential Variance Shadow Maps (EVSM)
 - Combines the benefits of ESM and VSM
- Significantly alleviates contact leaking artifacts
 - At increased memory cost (4X!)
- Light bleeding at high variance areas re-appears
 - However, this can be easily reduced (especially as compared to VSMs)
- No need to clamp the depth range

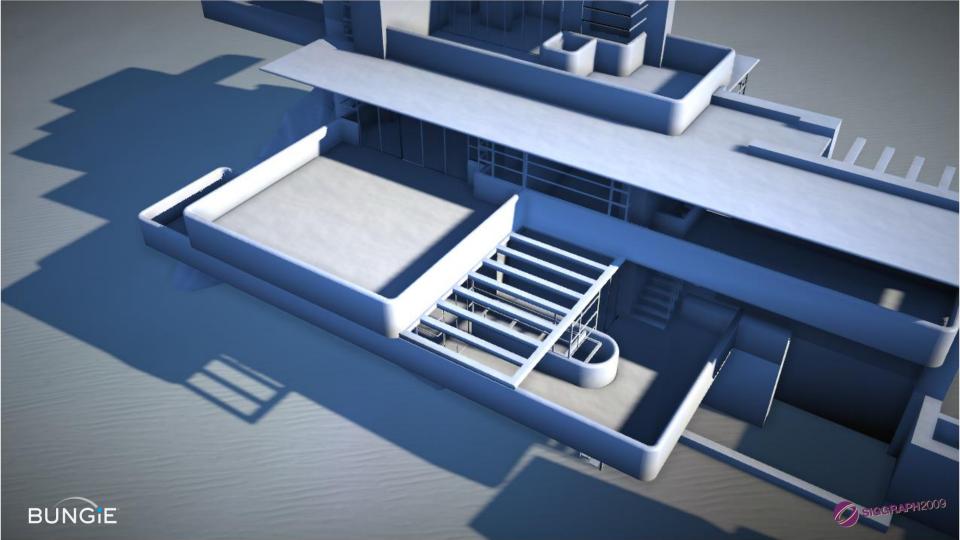




EVSM

```
float ComputeEVSM( float2 vShadowMapUVs, float fReceiverDepth, float fCascadeIndex ) {
  //depth should be 0 to 1 range.
  float2 warpedDepth = WarpDepth(fReceiverDepth);
  float posDepth = warpedDepth.x;
  float negDepth = warpedDepth.v;
  float4 occluder = tCascadeShadowMaps.Sample( sShadowLinearClamp,
                             float3( vShadowMapUVs, fCascadeIndex ));
  float2 posMoments = occluder.xz;
  float2 negMoments = occluder.yw;
  // compute derivative of the warping function at depth of pixel and use it to scale min
  // variance
  float posDepthScale = fESMExponentialMultiplier * posDepth;
  float posMinVariance = VSM MIN VARIANCE * posDepthScale * posDepthScale;
  float negDepthScale = fESMExponentialMultiplier2 * negDepth;
  float negMinVariance = VSM MIN VARIANCE * negDepthScale * negDepthScale;
  //compute two Chebyshev bounds, one for positive and one for negative, and takes the
  // minimum
  float shadowContrib1= ComputeChebyshevBound(posMoments.x, posMoments.y, posDepth,
                                                posMinVariance);
  float shadowContrib2= ComputeChebyshevBound (negMoments.x, negMoments.y, negDepth,
                                               negMinVariance);
  return min (shadowContrib1, shadowContrib2);
                                                                                     SIGGRAPH2009
```





Conclusions on Shadows

- No perfect and inexpensive solution exists at the moment (at least not yet)
- Presented a grab-bags of techniques pick and choose to suit the needs of your game
- Tried to provide the intuition behind the solutions and hacks





GPU Pre-computed Lighting





Motivation

- Exploit massive parallelism of GPU architecture
- Take advantage of GPGPU advances
- Integrated workflow
- High quality global illumination
- Possible path to the future





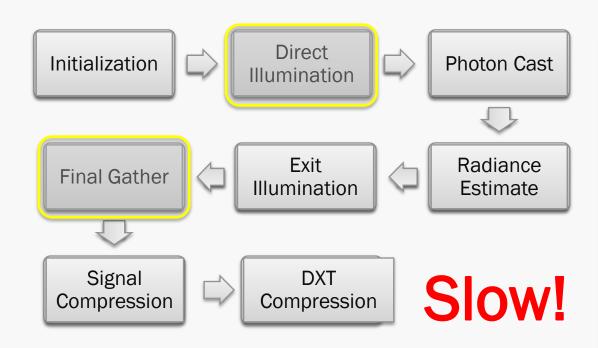
Goals/Requirements

- Handle large scenes (5 to 7 million triangles)
- Support all kinds of light sources
- Fast performance
- Real time preview
- User controlled quality-time tradeoff
- General purpose





CPU Photon Mapping Farm









Speeding up the slow parts

Direct Illumination

Fast ray-cast using GPU KD tree

Final Gather

- Fast ray-cast using GPU KD tree
- Photon Illumination Cut
- Cluster sample points for indirect illumination

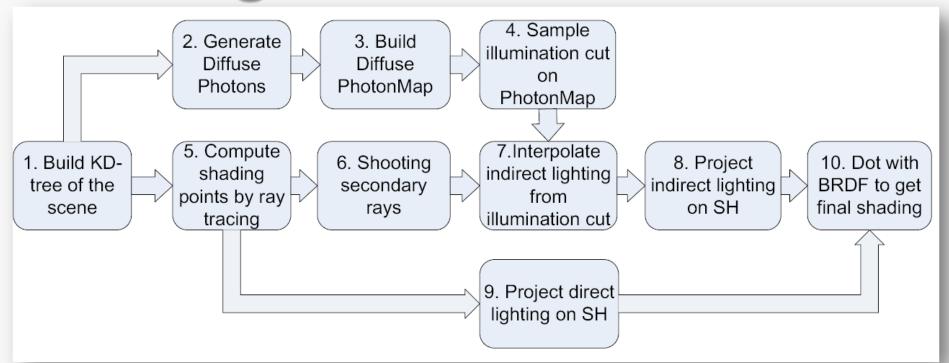








Core Algorithm







GPU K-D Tree Construction

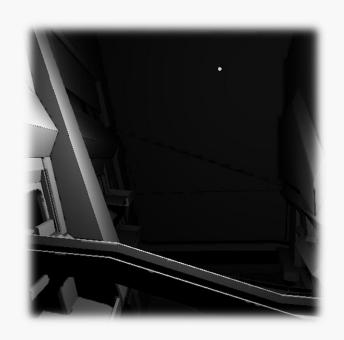
- [Zhou2008]: General purpose KD tree in GPU
 - Fast
 - High quality
 - High Peak Memory
- [Zhou2009]: Memory scalable KD-Tree
 - Bounded memory usage





Direct Illumination

- Generate shading points
 - For preview, ray trace
 - For light map, use texels
- Cast shadow rays towards light source
 - Area light source
 - Multiple rays per light

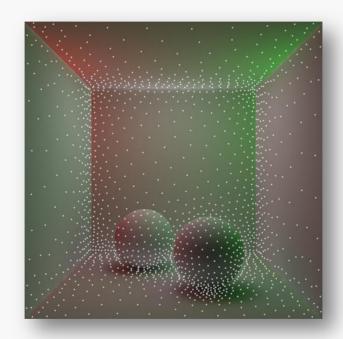






Indirect Illumination Sampling

- Indirect Illumination is low frequency
 - Don't need to sample at every shading point
- Cluster samples using geometry and normal variation
- Sample at cluster center
- Coarse to fine interpolation



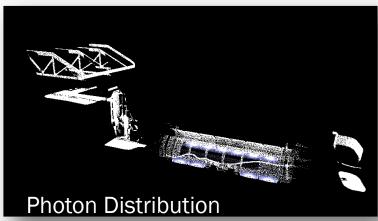
[WZPB2009]

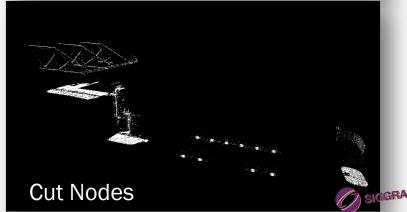




Photon Illumination Cuts

- Similar to light cuts
- Estimate irradiance at each node of photon tree
- Compute "cut" through the tree
- Interpolate using RBF basis

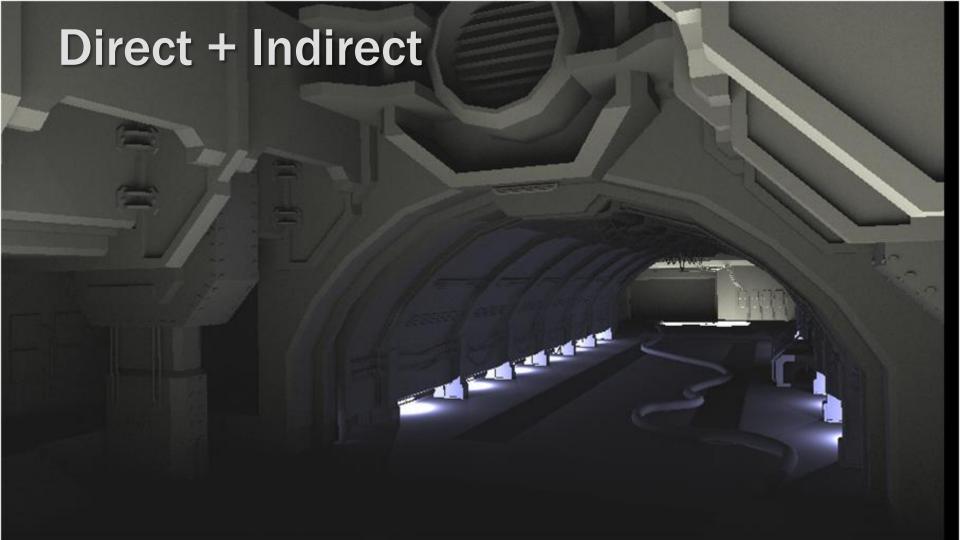




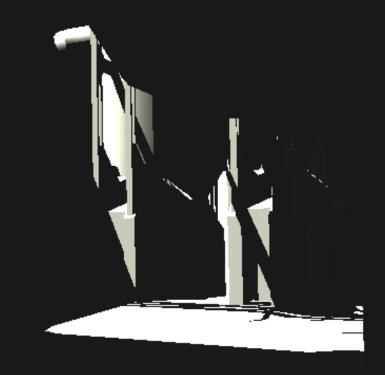


Direct Only





Direct Only





Direct + Indirect

Result

Light number: 12

Photon number: 700k

Triangles: 253911

Vertices: 761733

Time:

Scene KD-tree	Photon Tracing	Compute direct	Illumination cut	Irradiance cache	Interpolation	
175.11ms	293.12ms	144.80ms	3177.03ms	117.8ms	680.97ms	





Conclusions

- Direct illumination is still not a "solved" problem
- Gap closing up on interactive global illumination
 - Different methods converging towards that goal
- Choose right technique for the right job





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Thank you!

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