

CSCI 420 Computer Graphics
Lecture 13

Rasterization

Scan Conversion

Antialiasing

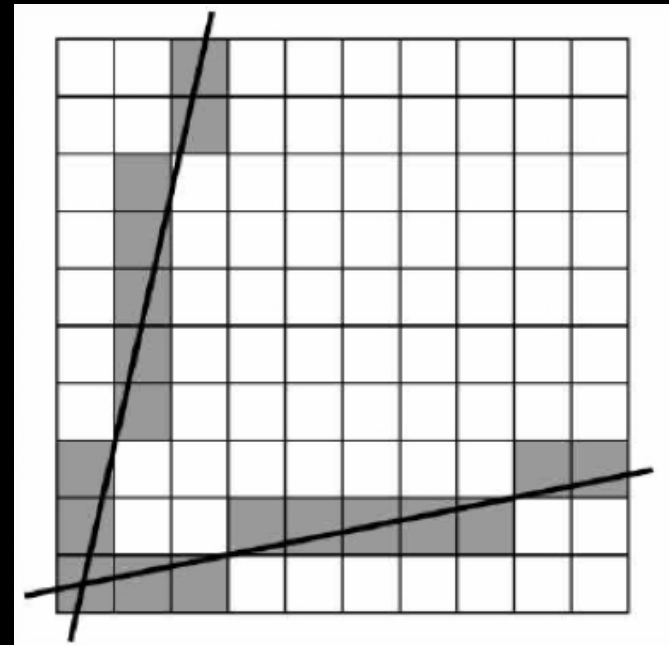
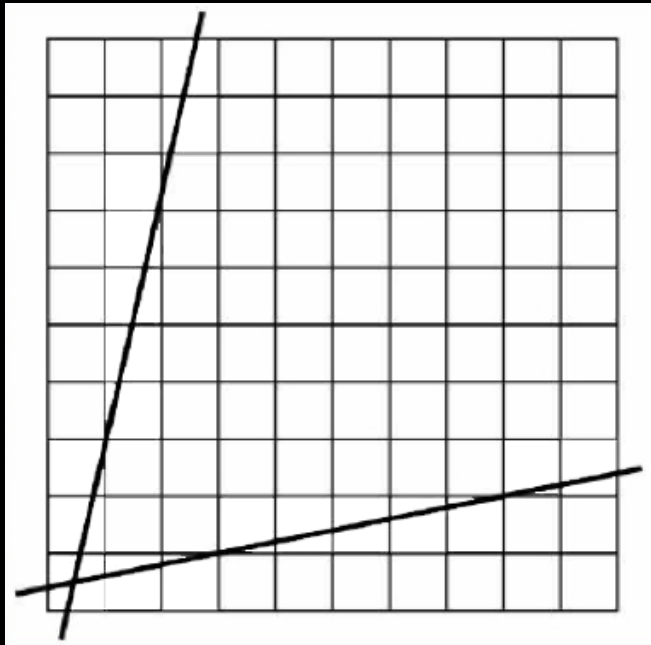
[Ch 7.8-7.11, 8.9-8.12]

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Rasterization (scan conversion)

- Final step in pipeline: rasterization
- From screen coordinates (float) to pixels (int)
- Writing pixels into frame buffer
- Separate buffers:
 - depth (z-buffer),
 - display (frame buffer),
 - shadows (stencil buffer),
 - blending (accumulation buffer)

Rasterizing a line

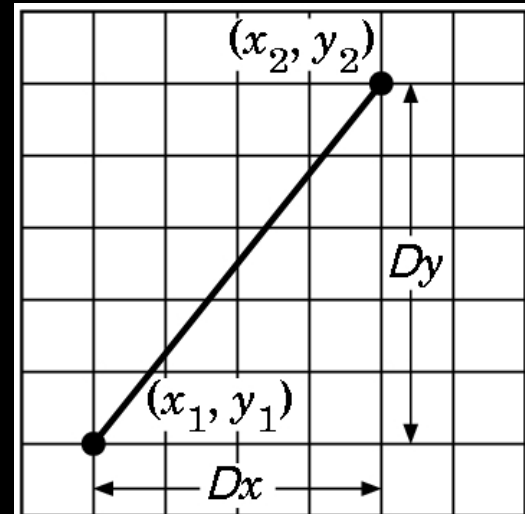


Digital Differential Analyzer (DDA)

- Represent line as

$$y = mx + h \quad \text{where} \quad m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$$

- Then, if $\Delta x = 1$ pixel, we have $\Delta y = m \Delta x = m$

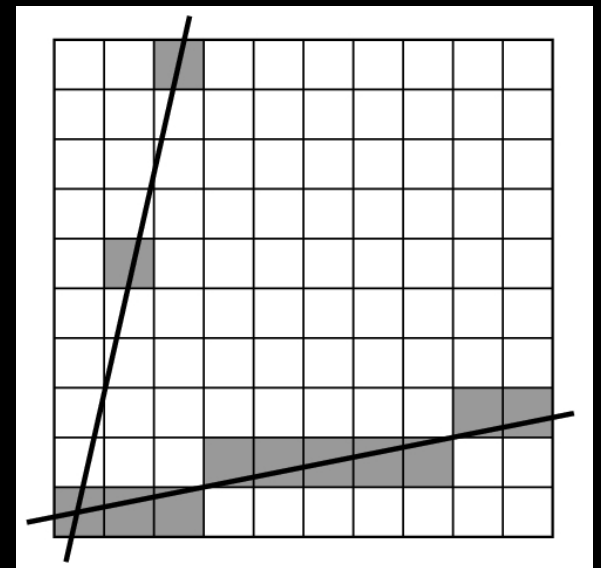


Digital Differential Analyzer

- Assume `write_pixel(int x, int y, int value)`

```
for (i = x1; i <= x2; i++)  
{  
    y += m;  
    write_pixel(i, round(y), color);  
}
```

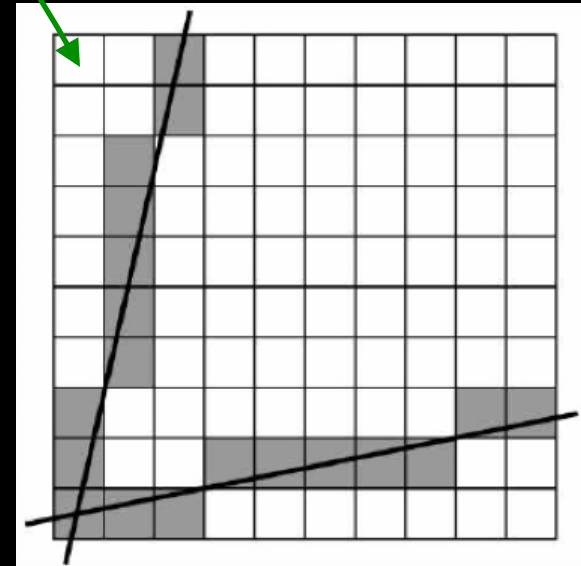
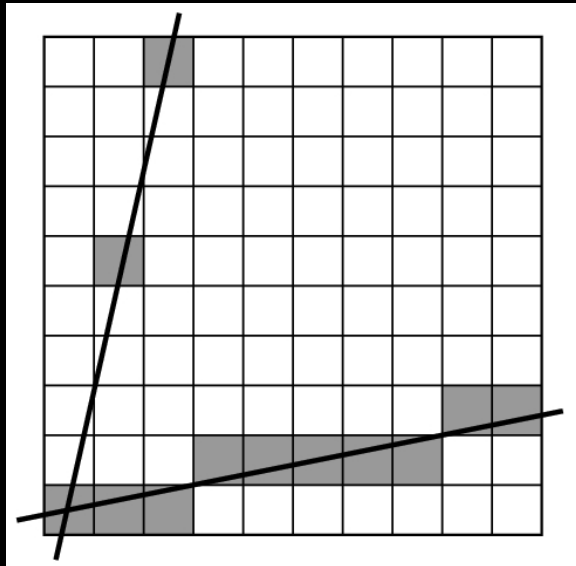
- Problems:
 - Requires floating point addition
 - Missing pixels with steep slopes: slope restriction needed



Digital Differential Analyzer (DDA)

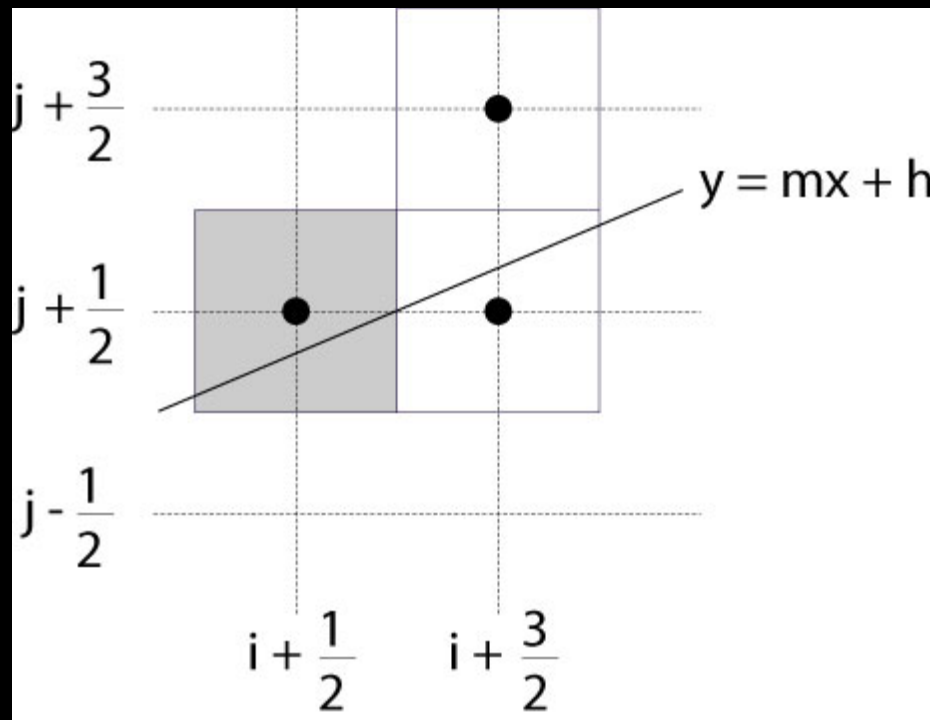
- Assume $0 \leq m \leq 1$
- Exploit symmetry
- Distinguish special cases

But still requires floating point additions!



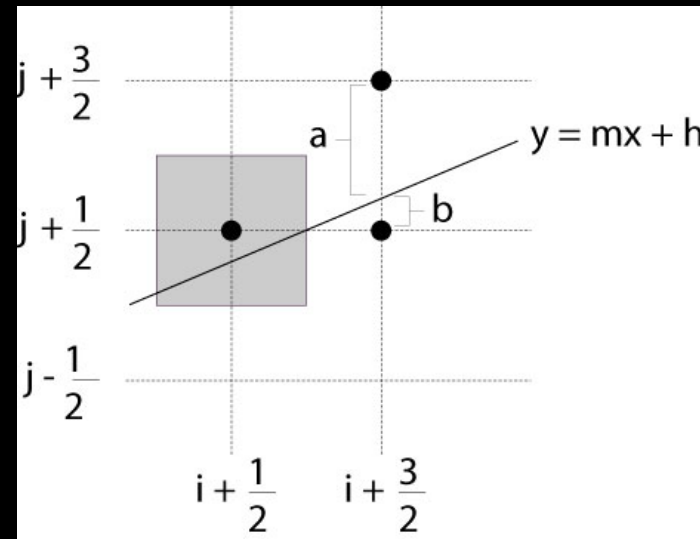
Bresenham's Algorithm I

- Eliminate floating point addition from DDA
- Assume again $0 \leq m \leq 1$
- Assume pixel centers halfway between integers



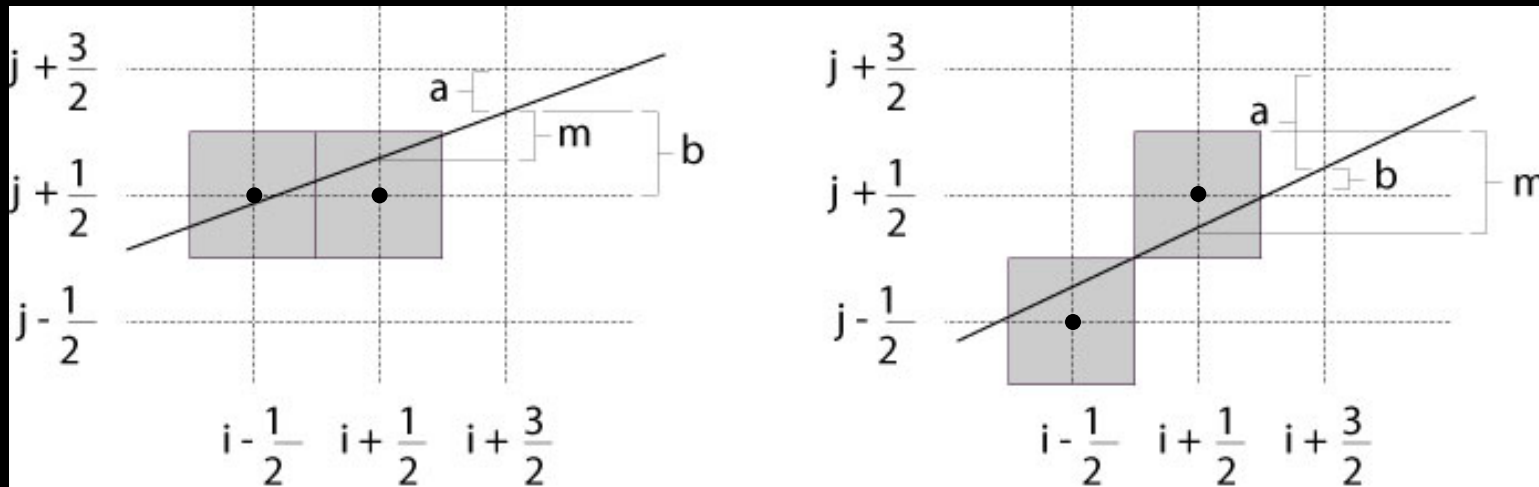
Bresenham's Algorithm II

- Decision variable $a - b$
 - If $a - b > 0$ choose lower pixel
 - If $a - b \leq 0$ choose higher pixel
- Goal: avoid explicit computation of $a - b$
- Step 1: re-scale $d = (x_2 - x_1)(a - b) = \Delta x(a - b)$
- d is always integer



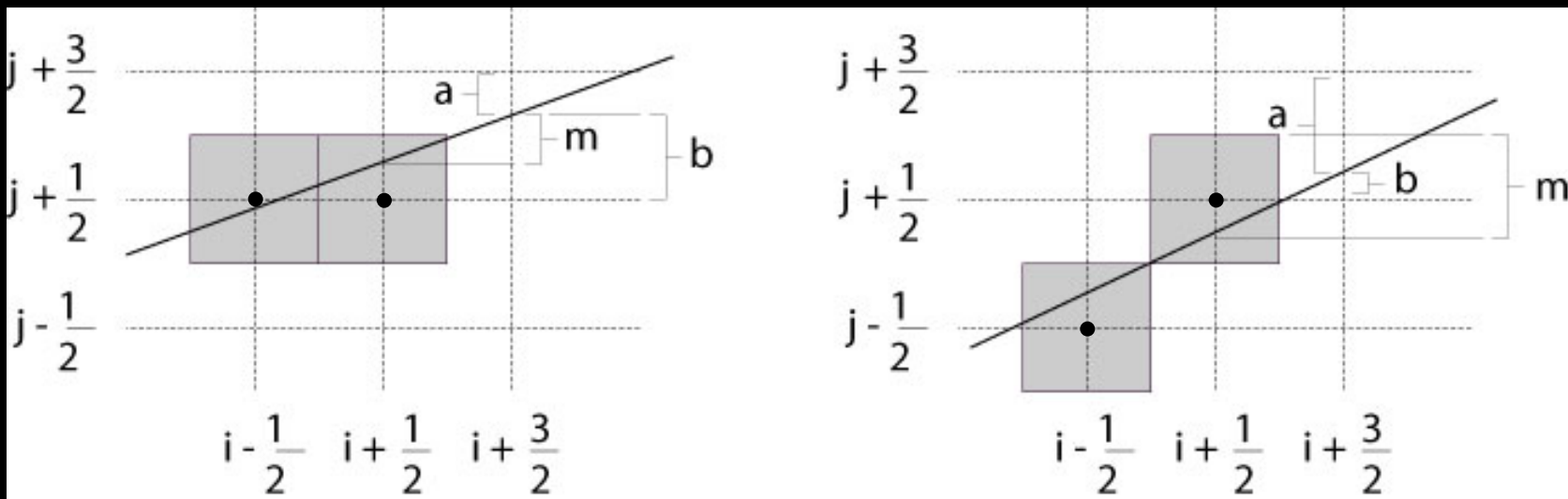
Bresenham's Algorithm III

- Compute d at step $k + 1$ from d at step k !
- Case: j did not change ($d_k > 0$)
 - a decreases by m , b increases by m
 - $(a - b)$ decreases by $2m = 2(\Delta y/\Delta x)$
 - $\Delta x(a-b)$ decreases by $2\Delta y$



Bresenham's Algorithm IV

- Case: j did change ($d_k \leq 0$)
 - a decreases by $m-1$, b increases by $m-1$
 - $(a - b)$ decreases by $2m - 2 = 2(\Delta y/\Delta x - 1)$
 - $\Delta x(a-b)$ decreases by $2(\Delta y - \Delta x)$



Bresenham's Algorithm V

- So $d_{k+1} = d_k - 2\Delta y$ if $d_k > 0$
- And $d_{k+1} = d_k - 2(\Delta y - \Delta x)$ if $d_k \leq 0$
- Final (efficient) implementation:

```
void draw_line(int x1, int y1, int x2, int y2) {  
    int x, y = y0;  
    int dx = 2*(x2-x1), dy = 2*(y2-y1);  
    int dydx = dy-dx, D = (dy-dx)/2;  
  
    for (x = x1 ; x <= x2 ; x++) {  
        write_pixel(x, y, color);  
        if (D > 0) D -= dy;  
        else {y++; D -= dydx;}  
    }  
}
```

Bresenham's Algorithm VI

- Need different cases to handle $m > 1$
- Highly efficient
- Easy to implement in hardware and software
- Widely used

Outline

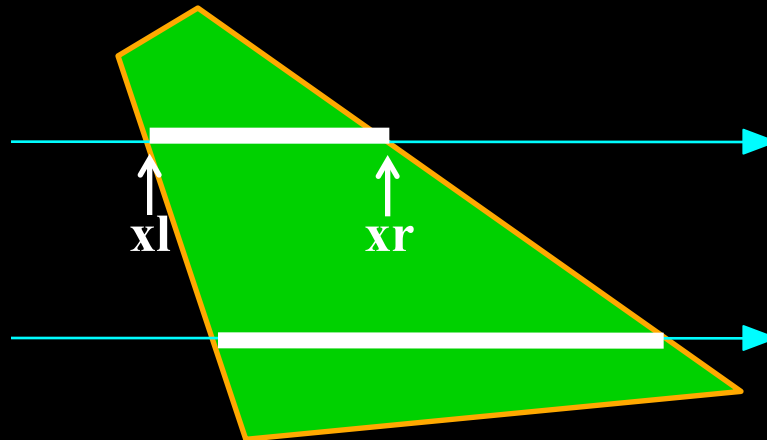
- Scan Conversion for Lines
- **Scan Conversion for Polygons**
- Antialiasing

Scan Conversion of Polygons

- Multiple tasks:
 - **Filling polygon** (inside/outside)
 - **Pixel shading** (color interpolation)
 - **Blending** (accumulation, not just writing)
 - **Depth values** (z-buffer hidden-surface removal)
 - **Texture coordinate interpolation** (texture mapping)
- Hardware efficiency is critical
- Many algorithms for filling (inside/outside)
- Much fewer that handle all tasks well

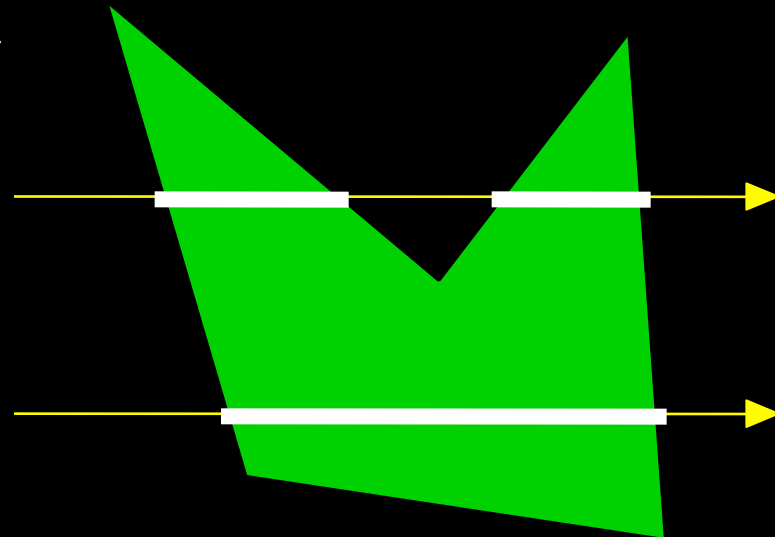
Filling *Convex* Polygons

- Find top and bottom vertices
- List edges along left and right sides
- For each scan line from bottom to top
 - Find left and right endpoints of span, x_l and x_r
 - Fill pixels between x_l and x_r
 - Can use Bresenham's algorithm to update x_l and x_r



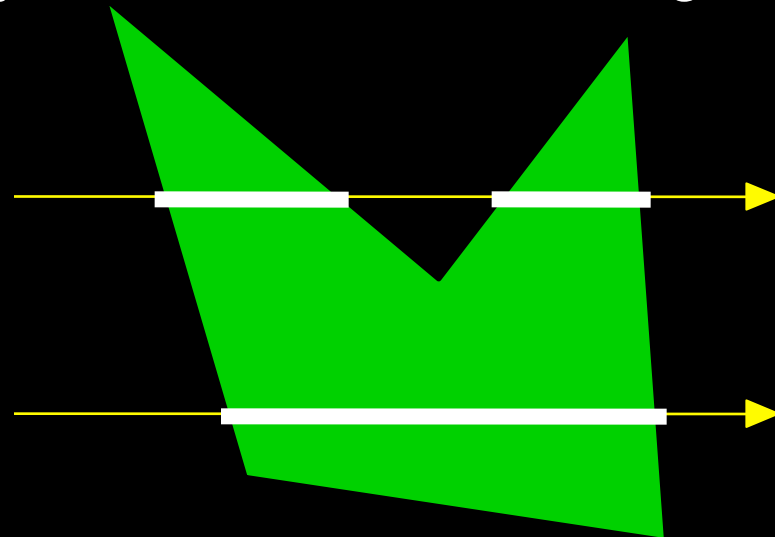
Concave Polygons: Odd-Even Test

- Approach 1: odd-even test
- For each scan line
 - Find all scan line/polygon intersections
 - Sort them left to right
 - Fill the **interior spans** between intersections
- Parity rule: inside after an odd number of crossings



Edge vs Scan Line Intersections

- Brute force: calculate intersections explicitly
- Incremental method (Bresenham's algorithm)
- Caching intersection information
 - Edge table with edges sorted by y_{\min}
 - Active edges, sorted by x-intersection, left to right
- Process image from smallest y_{\min} up

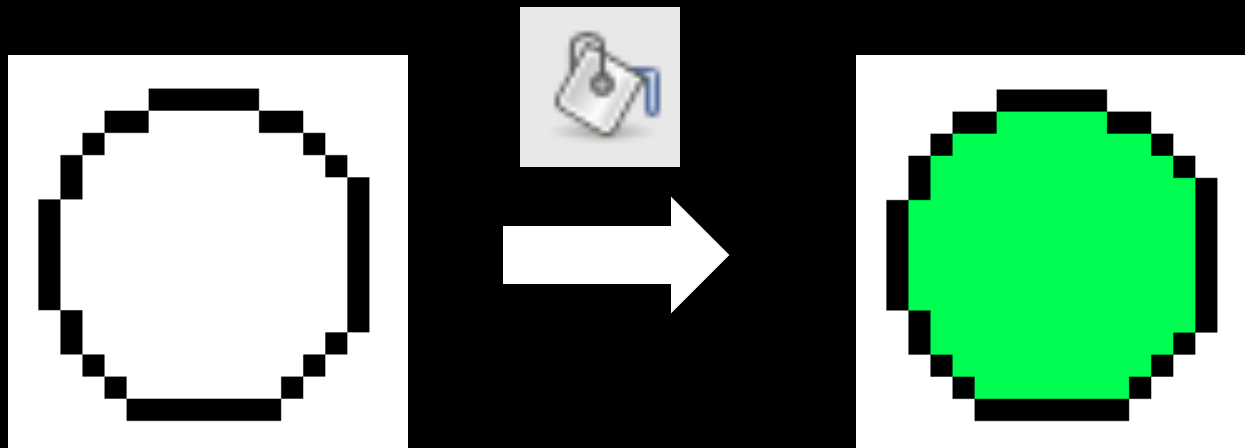


Concave Polygons: Tessellation

- Approach 2: divide non-convex, non-flat, or non-simple polygons into triangles
- OpenGL specification
 - Need accept only simple, flat, convex polygons
 - Tessellate explicitly with **tessellator objects**
 - Implicitly if you are lucky
- Most modern GPUs scan-convert only triangles

Flood Fill

- Draw outline of polygon
- Pick color seed
- Color surrounding pixels and recurse
- Must be able to test boundary and duplication
- More appropriate for drawing than rendering

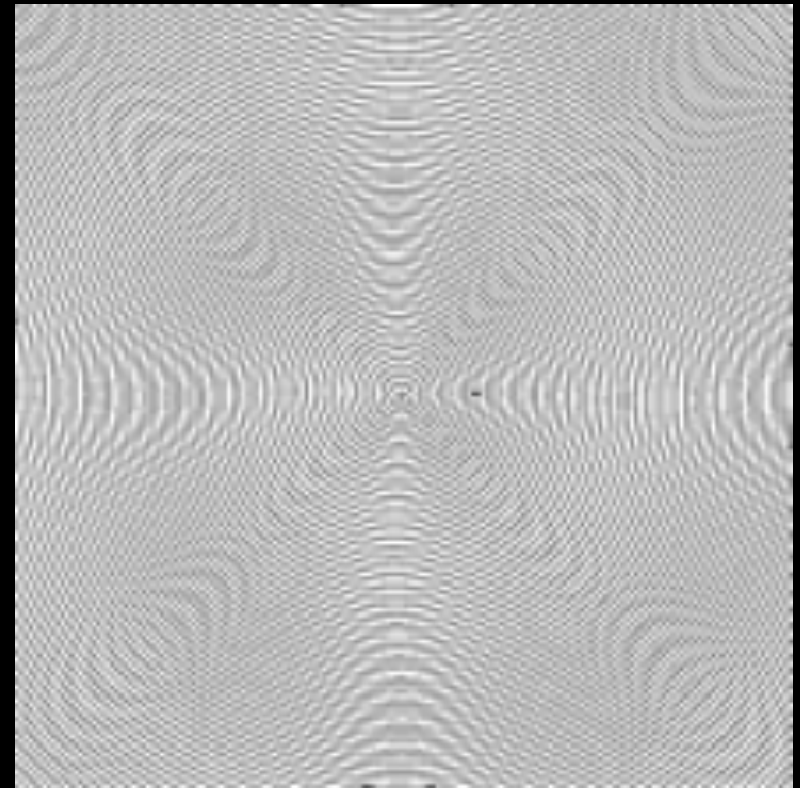


Outline

- Scan Conversion for Lines
- Scan Conversion for Polygons
- **Antialiasing**

Aliasing

- Artifacts created during scan conversion
- Inevitable (going from continuous to discrete)
- Aliasing (name from digital signal processing): we sample a continuous image at grid points
- Effect
 - Jagged edges
 - Moire patterns



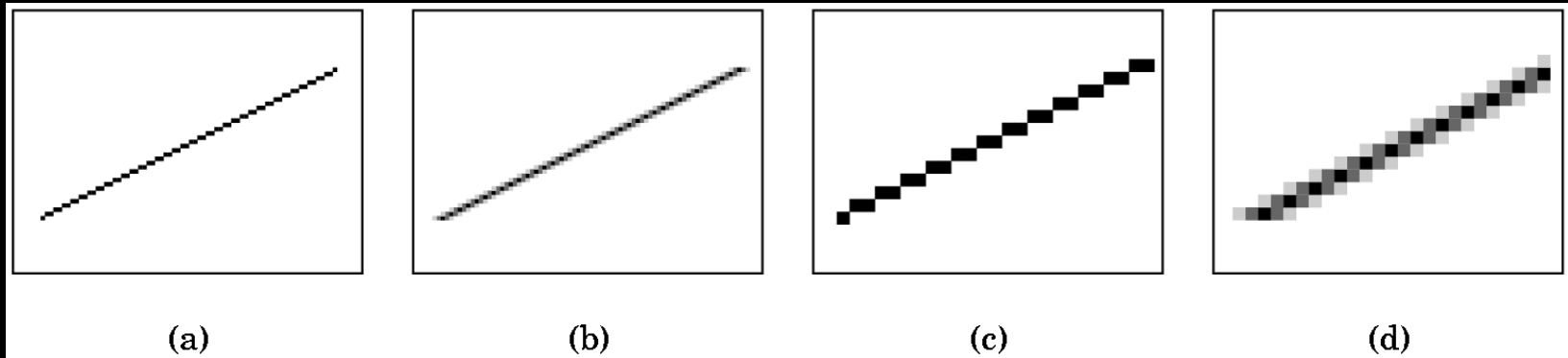
Moire pattern from
sandlotscience.com

More Aliasing



Antialiasing for Line Segments

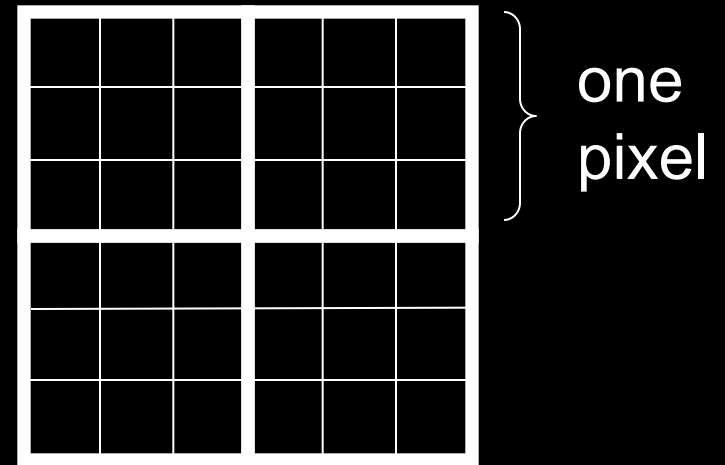
- Use area averaging at boundary



- (c) is aliased, magnified
- (d) is antialiased, magnified

Antialiasing by Supersampling

- Mostly for off-line rendering (e.g., ray tracing)
- Render, say, 3x3 grid of mini-pixels
- Average results using a filter
- Can be done adaptively
 - Stop if colors are similar
 - Subdivide at discontinuities



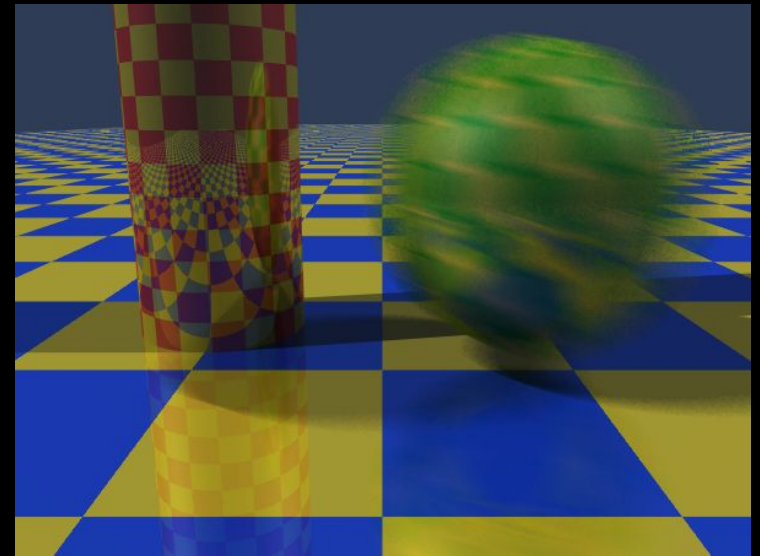
Supersampling Example



- Other improvements
 - Stochastic sampling: avoid sample position repetitions
 - Stratified sampling (jittering) : perturb a regular grid of samples

Temporal Aliasing

- Sampling rate is frame rate (30 Hz for video)
- Example: spokes of wagon wheel in movies
- Solution: supersample in time and average
 - Fast-moving objects are blurred
 - Happens automatically with real hardware (photo and video cameras)
 - Exposure time is important (shutter speed)
 - Effect is called motion blur



Motion blur

Wagon Wheel Effect



Source: YouTube

Motion Blur Example

Achieve by
stochastic
sampling in
time



T. Porter, Pixar, 1984
16 samples / pixel / timestep

Summary

- Scan Conversion for Polygons
 - Basic scan line algorithm
 - Convex vs concave
 - Odd-even rules, tessellation
- Antialiasing (spatial and temporal)
 - Area averaging
 - Supersampling
 - Stochastic sampling