

Overview

- Demo engine overview
- Procedural shading for aging effects in "Time Machine"
- Depth of field and post processing effects in "Toys"
- Subdivision surfaces and ambient occlusion shading in "Ogre"
- Advanced skin and hair rendering in "Dawn"
- Questions





NVIDIA spends a lot of money on demos

At launch there usually aren't many applications that take full advantage of the hardware

We are aware demos are not representative of games (often a single character, simple background).

Games have long development cycles, need to support a wide range of hardware

We have very early access to hardware

It's easy to do shaders on teapots, using real models is more complicated.





Goals of Time Machine

Show the potential of a new architecture

- More data
 - I6 texture inputs
 - 8 texture coordinate interpolators
- Higher precision (128 bits)
- More instructions (up to 1024)
 - Shading done in a single pass
- Faster pixel processing
 - Higher clock speed
- Greater data access & faster processing

A truck ?

○ Old pick-up trucks have a wide variety of surfaces.

- Paint and rusting and oxidizing
- Wood splintering and fading
- Chromes being damaged and dirty

And more...









A Simple "aging shader" : Chrome

○ Aging shaders are multi-layered shaders

- Several stand-alone effects blended together by a function of time & space
- Case study : chrome
 - 2 layers :
 - Ohrome (shiny) layer
 - Rust layer
 - Both are fully lit, bumped and shadowed
 - Each would barely fit on a DX8-class shader



Chrome : getting older

- Chrome still shines over the years
- Reflection fades slightly (dust, dirt, small damages)
- [◯] Bum<u>ps, scratches & rust shows</u>up



Chrome: aging snapshots



- Bumpy reflection using EMBM, for performance
- "Reveal" texture pinpoints the rust location







Time Machine Effects : Paint



Specular color shift







Bubbling Rusting 60 Pixel Shader instructions, 11 textures Paint textures: •Paint Color •Rust LUT •Shadow map •Spotlight mask •Light Rust Color* •Deep Rust Color* •Ambient Light* •Bubble Height* •Reveal Time* •New Environment* •Old Environment* (* = artist created)



Procedural or Not?

Procedural shading normally replaces textures with functions of several variables.

- Time Machine uses textures liberally.
- The only parameter to our shaders is time.
- Artists love sliders when finding a look, but hate sliders when creating one.
 - Demos (and games) are art-driven don't sacrifice image quality to satisfy technical interests.
- Turning everything into math is expensive
- Time Machine's solution
 - Give artist direct control (textures) over final image, use functions to control transitions











Performance Concerns

Executing large shaders is expensive.

- First rule of optimization: Keep inner loops tight
- Shaders are the inner loop, run >1M times per frame.
- But graphics cards have many parallel units
 - Vertex, fragment, and texture units
 - Modern GPUs do a great job of hiding texture latency
 - Bandwidth is unimportant in long shaders
 - Time Machine runs at virtually the same framerate on a 500/500 GeForceFX as it does on a 500/400 or 500/550
 - So not using textures is wasting performance!

Performance Concerns...

Convert arithmetic expressions into textures

- ♀ If ...
 - 8 (RGBA) or 16 (HILO) bit precision sufficient
 - Approximately linear, above some resolution
 - Depends on a limited number of variables
- LUTs = 2x performance in Time Machine
 - Rust Interpolation
 - Computes the normalized difference of reveal maps.
 - Dependent on current and reveal time, blends 2 textures.
 - Surround Maps
 - Recomputing the normal requires heights of neighbors
 - Each height is only 1 8-bit component
 - Instead of 4 dependent fetches, we can pack
 - S(s,t) = [H(s-1, t), H(s+1, t), H(s,t-1), H(s,t+1)]



Performance Concerns...

Defer common operations

○ Lighting for each effect layer is $(K_s^*(N.H)^b + K_d^*(N.L))^*v$

Compute normal, select K_s, b, and K_d based on the perpixel layer, and light once (don't call pow() more times than absolutely necessary!).

Invisible results don't need to be correct.

Example: The texture coordinates for the specular color-shift don't matter once the paint has rusted

Summary

- We aren't limited to vertex animation anymore
- Shaders should provide artists the inputs they need to create the effects they want
 - Start and end points are critical to overall quality
 - In-betweens are less-so, and more tedious to paint
- Once you have the right effect, look for shortcuts
 - 500 arithmetic instructions will not run in real-time
 - On't be afraid of textures
- Be creative programmable hardware has nearlimitless effect and optimization opportunities.

Further Reading

- M. McCool, J. Ang and A. Ahmad, "Homomorphic Factorization of BRDFs for High-Performance Rendering, Computer Graphics (Proceedings of SIGGRAPH 01), pp. 171-178 (August 2001, Los Angeles, California).
- P. Hanrahan and J. Lawson, "A Language for Shading and Lighting Calculations", Computer Graphics (Proceedings of SIGGRAPH 90), 24 (4), pp. 289-298 (September 1990, Dallas, Texas).
- Simon Rusinkiewicz, "A New Change of Variables for Efficient BRDF Representation," Rendering Techniques (Proceedings of Eurographics Workshop on Rendering 98).

Further Reading

- NVIDIA Developer Website
 - http://www.nvidia.com/developer
- Cornell University Program of Computer Graphics Light Measurement Laboratory
 - http://graphics.cornell.edu/online/measurements



What is Depth of Field?

- In computer graphics, it's easier to pretend we have a perfect pinhole camera, with no lens or film artifacts.
- Real lenses have area, and therefore only focus properly at a single depth.
- Anything in front of this or behind this appears blurred, due to light rays from this point not focusing on a single point on the film.
- For a circular lens, each point in space projects to a circle on the film, called the circle of confusion.





Noise vs. Interpolation Artifacts

With Noise

Without Noise



Artifacts: Depth Discontinuities

- Near-ground (blurry) pixels don't properly blend out over top of mid-ground (sharp) pixels
- Easy solution: Cheat!
 - Either don't let objects get too far in front of the plane in focus, or blur everything a little more when they do – soft edges help hide this fairly well.
- Harder solution: Depth imposters.
 - For plane-like objects, you can render an imposter extended to the extents of the blur, use a color texture of just that object, and the depth of the imposter, and then apply the simple technique


Artifacts: Pixel Bleeding

- Mid-ground (sharp) pixels bleed into back- and fore-ground (blurry) pixels
- Solution: integrate standard layers technique
 - Split the scene into layers, and render each separately into its own color and depth texture
 - Then blend these layers on top of each other, using the simple depth of field technique
 - Fortunately, this tends not to be much of a problem except in artificial situations



Advanced Depth of Field

- Auto-mipmap generation vs. intelligent mipmaps
 - It may be possible to generate "smart" mipmaps that blur with their neighbors based upon their coc.
 - It feels slightly easier to split the scene into behind and in front of the plane in focus, but not much...
- Splatting and forward warping techniques
 - This is probably the most intuitive way of thinking about depth of field, but the least hardware-friendly.
 - You could render a particle per pixel of the color texture, sized based upon its coc, and blend them
 - PDR and vertex programs help, but it's still a LOT of particles!

Fun With Color Matrices

- Since we're already rendering to a full-screen texture, it's easy to muck with the final image.
- To color shift, rotate around the vector (1,1,1)
- To (de)saturate, scale in the plane (1,1,1,d)
- To change brightness, scale around black: (0,0,0)
- To change contrast, scale around midgrey: (.5,.5,.5)
- These are all matrices, so compose them together, and apply them as 3 dot products in the shader













Overview

- Introduction
- Subdivision surfaces
- Shading
- Ambient occlusion
- Out-takes

The "Ogre" Demo

A real-time preview of Spellcraft Studio's inproduction short movie "Yeah! The Movie"

- Created in 3DStudio MAX
- Character Studio used for animation, plus Stitch plug-in for cloth simulation
- Original movie was rendered in Brazil with global illumination
- Available at: <u>www.yeahthemovie.de</u>
- Our aim was to recreate the original as closely as possible, in real-time







Why Use Subdivision Surfaces?

Content

- Characters were modeled with subdivision in mind (using 3DS MAX "MeshSmooth" modifier)
- Scalability
 - wanted demo to be scalable to lower-end hardware
- "Infinite" detail
 - Can zoom in forever without seeing hard edges
- Animation compression
 - Just store low-res control mesh for each frame
- Test bed for future hardware support

Realtime Adaptive Tessellation

Brute force subdivision is expensive

- Generates lots of polygons where they aren't needed
- Number of polygons increases exponentially with each subdivision

Adaptive tessellation

- subdivides based on screen-space flatness test
- Guaranteed crack-free
- Generates normals and tangents on the fly
- Culls off-screen and back-facing patches
- CPU-based (uses SSE were possible), GPU assisted
- Written by Michael Bunnell of NVIDIA
- We will release this as a library soon



Control mesh is mainly four-sided faces, with some five and three sided. Output is quads









University of Waterloo

Self occlusion is the main reason why hard to reach areas, such as the corners of rooms, tend to be darker.









Porcelain shader

Future Work

- Displacement mapped subdivision surfaces
- Optimize subdivision
- Bent normals
- Spherical harmonic lighting

Acknowledgements

- Special thanks to:
 - Vadim Pietrzynski and Matthias Knappe of Spellcraft Studio
 - Michael Bunnell
 - Eugene D'Eon

References

- http://graphics.cs.ucdavis.edu/CAGDNotes/
- http://www.subdivision.org
- "Production-Ready Global Illumination", Hayden Landis, Industrial Light & Magic, Siggraph 2002 Renderman Course Notes http://www.renderman.org/RMR/Books/index.html

Outtakes



Bumpy shiny test



Shadow test (high noon)



Transform bug









- Content created in Alias/Wavefront Maya
 - Modeling, texturing, and animation
 - Character setup directly from Maya
- Hair created in Simon Green's hair combing tool
- Occlusion generated using Eugene D'Eon's tool
- Motion capture performed by House of Moves
- Realtime engine is in-house "Demo Engine"
 - Vertex and Fragment shaders read as data
 - Vertex shaders procedurally generated
 - Code for engine and art path available














a: blood pass-thru based on VdotNcompPow



Skin Simplification and Generalization

- O Diffuse, Specular, and Hilight can be computed
- Diffuse bump in tangent space was heavy
 - 9 move instructions in vertex shader
 - 3 dot3's in fragment shader
 - Can do simpler bumpmapping in tangent space
- Blood term could just interpolate constant color
- Normalization cubemap optional (but cheap)
- Second specular map optional
- Hilight map optional









