SIGGRAPH2011

Rendering in Cars 2 Chris Hall

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Cars 2 Motivation

Different gameplay demands different technology

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1.2

Differences



Toy Story 3	Cars 2
Platforming	Racing
2 player split screen	4 player split screen
Average 30fps	Essential to maintain 30fps





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Toy Story 3	Cars 2
All dynamic lighting	Lightmaps, Light probes, limited dynamic
Dynamic cascaded shadow mapping	Simplified shadowmaps for dynamic only
SSAO, Depth of Field, Glow, God Rays, Sparkle, Bloom, Deferred Ambient	HDR, Bloom, Motion Blur, Color Correction





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Outline



- Light Probes
- HDR color precision
- Early stencil shadow culling
- PS3 Post Processing

Light Probes Chris Hall



Motivation

4 Players

Lightmaps for all world geometry
Real-time lighting didn't match

AAR

0.44-10



Light probes



- Capture light from a point in space
- Bounce lighting
- Environment Mapping



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Global probe

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- Used for bounce lighting for outdoors
- Either artist defined light rig or captured probe





Environment Map

Irradiance Map (SH)

Bounce lighting data



- Store as spherical harmonics
- Order 3 SH = 108 bytes per probe
- Can pack in direct lighting for free



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Probe Capture



- Render cubemaps on GPU
- Save as 16F for HDR
- Atlas for speed
- Bounced lighting
 - Cubemap to SH projection [Sloan], DirectX SDK



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Irradiance Volume

- Volume with a bunch of light probes
- Allows for varied bounced light throughout the world
- Very popular to use with lightmaps
 - [Greger 1998]
 - [Tatarchuk 2005]
 - [Mitchell, McTaggart and Green 2006]





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Volume choice

- Racing game
- 2-5 miles of track per world
- Mostly outside
- Lots of thin, curvy areas
- Coverage isn't essential







Uniform grid volume



- Box Volume
- Can be rotated and scaled to fit anywhere
- Box split with variable amount of slices (density x/y/z)
- Probes placed along the slices of the volume





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Grid Analysis

- Simple structure and easy to implement
- Entire data is saved into a continuous array
- Sample with box intersection tests
 - Can access each probe by an offset
 - O(1) to sample inside the grid
 - Cost is only spent inside volumes
- Wastes space





Fading Regions



- Blend between global probe and volume lighting
- Outer Fading Volume
- Inner Fading Volume
- Fading amount



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Invalid points



- Probes outside world have incorrect lighting
- How to detect

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- Replace with correct lighting
- [Kontkanen and Laine]



Volume Lookup



- We need some way to light our objects with them
- CPU Based
 - Assign/blend closest SH per mesh
 - Pass SH data through to GPU
- GPU Based
 - Per pixel or per vertex
 - Sample probes on the GPU

CPU Assignment



- For each mesh, sample the lighting at the mesh center
- Intersection tests
 - Create an OBB for each volume
 - Check if center point of mesh is inside
- Trilinear Interpolation



Shader constants

Per instance shader constants Calculate color in shader Breaks down for large objects Can break mesh apart with vertex color blending Same problem for world lighting

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Overlapping Volumes



Blending is challenging



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Time Averaging



- Blend % of the last frame's SH into the current SH
 - Artist adjustable per world
- Trilinear filtering substitute
- Avoid for first frame
- [Mitchell, McTaggart and Green]



Environment Maps

Probe without a volume Worked really well for road reflections Assign environment map probes to volumes



Assigning Environment Maps

Use volume's environment map if inside a volume Otherwise, use the global probe Switch based on the fading region Switch was a pop Overlapping volumes avoid pops by sharing cubemaps



Direct Lighting



- Pack direct lighting into probes
 - Can evaluate lighting in SH and add to bounce
- No extra performance cost
- Dependent on grid density





Bounced Lighting

Direct Lighting

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Lighting Overrides



- Directional and ambient lights added if inside volume
- Allows artists to control lighting
- 2d volume
- Id volume
- Area lights

Artist tricks



2d volume



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Single point volume



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Artist Tricks



Area lights



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Ending Thoughts



- Uniform grid is easy and fast
- Used little memory and scaled well for 4 players
- Lots of flexibility with artists
- Future ideas
 - GPU lookup of light probes

Trimming the GPU Pipeline Rob Hall

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Overview



- Reduce cost for HDR rendering
- Reduce shadow cost
 - Scale shadow maps for 4 player split screen
 - Use multi-resolution rendering for deferred shadow mask



HDR requirements



- If possible, use a 32 bits per pixel target format
- Support all hardware alpha blend states
- Limited range from [0,32] is acceptable
- Reduce banding as much as possible



Format Chart



Format	Range	Alpha Blend	Bilinear Filtering	Perf cost
sRGB	[0,1]	Yes	Yes	-
LogLuv [Larson]	[10^19, 10^19]	Limited	No	ALU
RGBM [Karis]	[0,6]	Limited	No, but works OK	ALU
7e3	[0, 31 7/8]	Yes	Yes	Alpha states double fill rate
R11G11B10	[0, 2^16]	Yes	Yes	-
16F	[-2^16, 2^16]	Yes*	Yes*	Double fill rate

* Except Xbox 360

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Sample Image 16F linear





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WAPLENPARAPITY I CONTRACTOR

- The

And other 16F linear images

-

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HDR format error





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Format Chart



Format	Range	Alpha Blend	Bilinear Filtering	Perf cost
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7e3	[0, 31 7/8]	Yes	Yes	Alpha states double fill rate
PS3 11B10	[0, 2^16]	Yes	Yes	-
16F	[-2^16, 2^16]	Yes*	Yes*	Double fill rate

* Except Xbox 360

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PS3 Luv



- Similar to LogLuv compresses 64 bpp to 32bpp
- Encode luminance with a sqrt instead of a log to avoid a costly exp2 operation on the SPU
- Store luminance in 16 bit fixed point, 3 int 13 frac format
- Range is $[0, -64] [0, (7 + \frac{8191}{8192})^2]$
- Code sample in Appendix A



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7e3 Banding

7e3 Banding



What's causing this?





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Tone Mapping





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Tone Mapping Components





Exposure

Target_Color = Scene_Color
*(Expected_Exposure /
Prev_Frame_Avg_Luminance)

Simplified Operator [Hable] [Reinhard]

Tone_Mapped_Color =
Target_Color / (1.0f +
Target_Color)

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Pre-exposed color





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No pre-exposed color

With pre-exposed color

No pre-exposed color

With pre-exposed color

Artifacts



Overall range is clamped



Clamped Image

Red = Error in Clamped Image

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HDR Results – Xbox 360

Used 7e3 with pre-exposed color No tiling needed on a Non-MSAA 720p target

HDR Results – PS3

Used higher bandwidth 16F format Cheaper than LogLuv or RGBM due to GPU being ALU bound

SPU benefitted from the PS3Luv encoding due to lower bandwidth and ALU costs

Shadows

Reduce shadow rendering time in half

CARS 2: THE VIDEO GAME

Disney / Pixar

Scaling shadows for multiple viewports siggraph2011

- Four viewports = 4x number of draw calls and geometry
- Cutting resolution only reduces fill rate



Scaling shadows for multiple viewports siggraph2011

- Four viewports = 4x number of draw calls and geometry
- Cutting resolution only reduces fill rate

Solution: Render less in the shadow maps

= 4x

Two types of objects



Static Objects – Things that never change position

Dynamic Objects – Those that can



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Light Map

Precalculates all the shadows for static objects

100



Dynamic objects

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- Need to also receive shadows from light map
- Only need coarse transitions when going in and out of shadow



Low Resolution Shadow Map

SIGGRAPH2011

- Use a 256x256 shadow map
- Super cheap ~0.1ms
- Use simple proxy geometry





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LightMap Only

-



With Low Resolution Shadow Map



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Dynamic Shadows

- Only draw the dynamic objects in two cascades
- Reduced shadow distance
- Reprojection artifacts
 OK since tracks are on a 2d plane





Lightmap and Low Res Shadow Map



With Dynamic shadows



Reducing deferred shadow mask



Reduce number of pixels processed



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Lower resolution

 Too visible to ignore

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Edge Artifacts

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Unavoidable artifacts





MLAA and Early Stencil Culling [Jimenez] SIGGRAPH2011



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Early Stencil Culling

- Culls fragments before hitting the pixel shader
- Supported on PS3, 360, and modern PC graphics cards
- PC is automatic, PS3 and 360 manually controlled

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Latency between writing and testing







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Deferred shadows with early stencil

- Render shadows at 1/16 resolution [Hutchinson]
- Fill full resolution early stencil with 1/16 shadow mask
- Re-render shadow edges at full resolution using early stencil test



SIGGRAPH2011

4x4 pixel block

What's good enough at low resolution? SIGGRAPH2011

- Shadow values that are 0 or 1
- Cascade selection
- Most pixels in cross bilateral filter



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1/16 Deferred shadow mask



Dilate edges



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Render at Full Resolution



- Point sample 1/16 target
- Turn on early stencil writes
- If it is inside the dilate region, then texkill



Pixels not yet filled



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Render high res shadow mask [Ownby]

- Turn on early stencil test
- Early stencil culls pixels filled in previous pass
- Only renders
 ~30% of the pixels



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Two pass bilateral blur



- Keep early stencil test on
- Only blurs ~30% of the pixels





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Early Stencil Culling

Without



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Edge Artifacts

- Early stencil is just a mask
- Dilate does not cover the blur regions
- Only happens at extreme closeups with a wide dilate

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- Pre-exposed color is very effective when rendering to limited precision targets
- Low res shadow map for dynamic objects is cheap
- Deferred shadow mask rendering time effectively cut in half



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SPU Post Processing David Edwards



Motivation and Background



- In Toy Story 3 PS3 GPU performance typically lagged behind the Xbox 360, some effects had to be simplified or dropped on PS3 version
- Nearly half of GPU time in Toy Story 3 on PS3 was related to post processing
- PS3 has a lot of power that wasn't being fully utilized

Cars 2 SPU Post Process Pipeline



- SPU post process executes concurrently with the GPU
- GPU rendering reduced by ~10 ms



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Cell Broadband Engine



- 6 SPUs available
- 3.2 GHz
- 128 vector registers
- 256KB Local Store



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SPU vs. PS3 GPU Pixel Shading



	SPU	GPU
Execution Speed	4 SPUs * 3.2 GHz = 12.8 GHz	24 pixels * 500 MHz = 12.0 GHz
Instructions	SIMD, General Purpose	SIMD, graphics centric (special math functions, texturing)
Data Model	Must prefetch into local store before use, no filtering	Texture cache, efficient threading model to hide latency, filtering

- For most effects SPU near same performance as GPU
- But runs concurrently, so, theoretically, we could nearly double performance of GPU
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 Advances in Real-Time Rendering in Games





GPU Code

FLOAT3 colorGradedColor = tex3D(samColorGradeLut, (OUT.Color1.rgb * lutScale) + lutOffset).rgb;

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SPU vs. PS3 GPU Pixel Shading



			17				
.macro LERP(result, a, b, t)		.reg	KLAISCALE	shufb	rInterp3, rInterp, rInterp, kShufWWWW	rotqbyi	x03, x00, 12
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.localreg	diff			shufb	bInterp3, bInterp, bInterp, kShufWWW	rotgbyi	x23, x20, 12
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fma	result, t, diff, a	ai	width, width, -4	.reg	col0, col1, row0, row1, depth0, depth1	rotqbyi	x43, x40, 12
		ai	color, color, 0x10	shlqbii	col0, r0, 4	rotabyi	x53, x50, 12
.endmacro				shlqbii	col1, r1, 4	rotabyi	x63, x60, 12
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		.reg	rInterp3, gInterp3, bInterp3	rotabyi	x61, x60, 4		
.reg	kShufXXXX, kShufYYYY, kShufZZZZ, kShufWWWW			rotabyi	x71, x70, 4		
il128	kShufXXXX, "AAAA"	shufb	rInterp0, rInterp, rInterp, kShufXXXX				
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SPU Post Processing Implementation SIGGRAPH2011

- SPU post processing adds some overhead
 - Source textures must reside in main memory
 - SPU can't (realistically) read from VRAM
 - Adds nearly 10 MB to main memory
 - Adds about 1.5 ms of GPU overhead
- Either SPU or GPU can copy back to VRAM so use whatever is not bottlenecked

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SPU Post Processing Effects



- Scene average log luminance
- Tonemapping
- Morphological antialiasing (This saves main scene GPU time too!)
- Motion blur
- Downsamples / Upsamples
- Highpass
- Gaussian Blurs
- Color correction
- Stereo 3D
- Screen space ambient occlusion (not used in Cars 2)
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1.15 ms – three picture in pictures

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1.4 ms – Average Log Luminance/Tonemap

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4.5 ms – Morphological Anti-aliasing

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3.2 ms – Downsample/Motion Blur/Composite

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2.0 ms – HDR Bloom/Composite

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Other SPU Jobs mixed in with Post Processing

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Stereo 3D



Cars 2 Stereo 3D



- Implemented as part of SPU post processing pipeline
- And hence was free!!
- No reduction in performance, graphics content, effects, and/or resolution

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Mono 3D





Stereo 3D





Stereo 3D

















Traditional Stereo 3D



- Render both stereo pairs fully including post processing effect.
- Performance Cost is 2x
- Can be optimized
 - Scene cull once, share results with both eyes
 - Reuse shadow map
 - Use lower resolution target, PS3 has hardware upscaling modes for 3D
 - Reduce content or effects

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Traditional Stereo 3D

- Traditional Stereo 3D in 4 player split screen game
 - Very high geometry cost (8x)
 - Reduced resolution in 4 player split screen would not be acceptable





Stereo 3D as Post Processing





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Stereo 3D as Post Processing






















- Other Issues
 - View dependent lighting, and reflections
 - Translucent objects (no depth value written)



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Stereo 3D as SPU Post Effect



SPU has some advantages over GPU for stereo 3D

	GPU	SPU
Gathered Reads	Really Good	Good
Scattered Writes	Complex/Inefficient	Good

- Scattered Writes is inverse of Gathered Reads
 - Gathered Reads: What texel should I sample for the current pixel?
 - Scattered Writes: What pixel should I write to for the current texel?

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Stereo 3D as SPU Post Effect



- Given a depth value, we can reproject the location for each left and right eye, allowing us to write the color value to the new location
- This is Scattered Writes, which can be done efficiently on the SPU
- However, the GPU cannot do this efficiently
 - A Gathered Reads approach ends up using approximated reprojections

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SASTRA SHEETEL

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8-1 P







- Human eyes are horizontal
- Stereo reprojection only shifts to the left or right
- We can process each scan line independently

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Item Buffer



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Step 1: Clear depth of each item in item buffer Step 2: Iterate over depth buffer and fill item buffer



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Step 3: Hole Filling

Item Buffer:



Two kinds of holes

© Disney/Pixar



Step 3: Hole Filling Item Buffer:

Rounding Holes

Two kinds of holes

© Disney/Pixar



Step 3: Hole Filling

Item Buffer:

Disocclusion Holes

Two kinds of holes

© Disney/Pixar



Rounding Holes

Item Buffer:



These are not real holes in the scene

Just fill in by interpolating the before and after items

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Disocclusion Holes





Disocclusion Holes

Item Buffer:





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Left Eye Showing Disocclusions



Left Eye With Disocclusions Filled







- For each output pixel
 - Interpolate item at each pixel center using the New X value
 - This gives us an interpolated Old X value
 - Use the interpolated Old X value to linear filter into the color buffer and output

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Conclusion



- Moving post processing onto SPU was a big win
- It also gave us
 Stereo 3D for free
- SPU is a good fit for Stereo 3D post processing

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Questions?





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Stereo 3D Post Processing Gotchas



- So clamped min Z
- Small TVs = Higher Pixel separation
 - Clamped distortion to ensure max pixel separation stayed within decent limit

SIGGRAPH2011

SPU Tips and Tricks



- Use SPA (SPU Pipelining Assember)
 - Optimizes loops by pipelining, to achieve maximum instruction throughput
 - In some cases this nearly speeds it up 2x
- Double buffer SPU input and output buffers, most SPU effects can run at near 100% CPU utilization, without any memory stalls

SPU Post Process Performance





Execution vs. DMA stalls

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Advances in Real-Time Rendering in Games

Stereo 3D issues



- Out of screen 3D is difficult
 - Windows violation

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- Uncomfortable eye positions/movements
 - 2D focuses only on screen (comfortable)
 - 3D focuses in front and behind
 - Can't focus on the whole screen at once
 - Quick depth focus change is hard
 - Going cross-eyed is uncomfortable

Appendix A - PS3 Luv sample code



GPU Encode: Modified function from LogLuv [Karis]:

```
const static float fx16Scale = 8192.0 / 65535.0;
vResult.zw = unpack_4ubyte( pack_2ushort( sqrt(Xp_Y_XYZp.y) * fx16Scale )).xy;
```

SPU Decode: cuflt = Convert Unsigned Integer To Float fm = Floating Point Multiply

cuflt lum, lum, 13 fm lum, lum, lum

