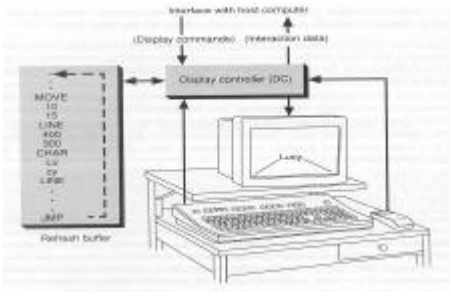
Development of Computer Graphics

- 1951
  - Whirlwind, Jay Forrester (MIT)
  - CRT displays
- mid 1950s
  - SAGE air defense system
  - command & control CRT, light pens
- late 1950s
  - Computer Art, James Whitney Sr.
  - Visual Feedback loops
- 1962
  - Sketchpad, Ivan Sutherland
  - data structures, light pen for drawing and choices

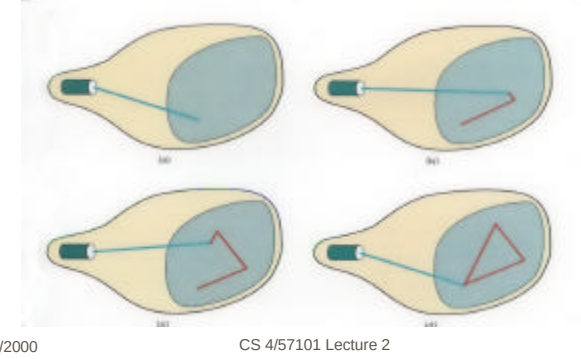
Development of Computer Graphics

- Early display devices (mid-60s):
- Vector, stroke, line drawing, calligraphic displays
- Architecture of Vector Display



Development of Computer Graphics

- Architecture of a vector display - random scan
  - vector generator converts digital coordinates to beam deflections

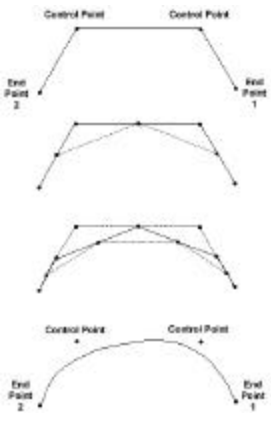


Development of Computer Graphics

- 1964
  - CAD and CAM
  - General Motors DAC, Itek Digitek for Lens Design
- 1964-1970s
  - Photorealism at University of Utah
  - Sutherland, Evans, Catmull, Blinn
- 1968
  - Evans & Sutherland
  - commercial company - flight simulators
  - 3D vector pipeline, matrix multiplier, clipping
- 1969
  - First SIGGRAPH

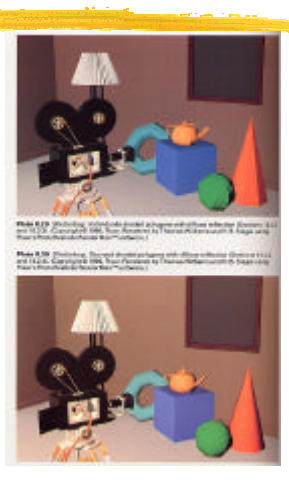
Development of Computer Graphics

- 1970
  - Pierre Bezier - Bezier curves



Development of Computer Graphics

- 1971:
  - Gouraud Shading

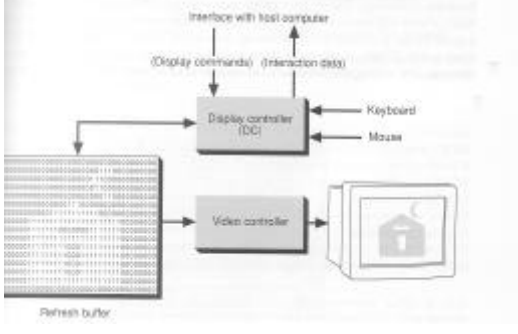


Development of Computer Graphics

- 1974-1977
  - Catmull - Z-buffer
  - Bui-Toung Phong creates Phong Shading (Utah)
  - Martin Newell's teapot (Utah)
  - Computer graphics at NYIT - computer animation
  - Raster Graphics (Xerox PARC, Shoup)

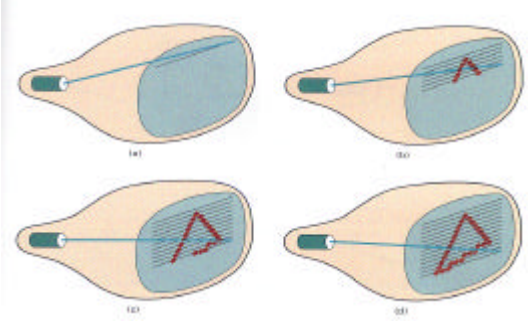
Development of Computer Graphics

- Architecture of a raster display



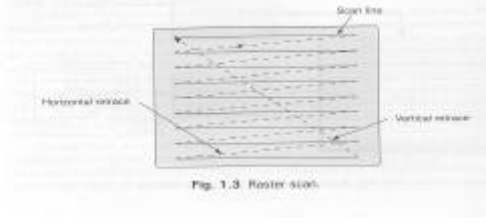
Development of Computer Graphics

- Architecture of a raster display - raster scan
  - beams (3 beams) intensity set to reflect pixel intensity
  - scan speed: originally 30Hz now 60Hz



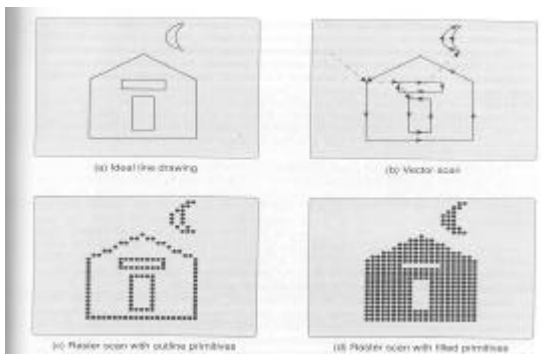
Development of Computer Graphics

- Raster Scan
  - need to store whole image
  - 1024 x1024 x n - n bits per pixel
  - mono 1 bit, color 8 (256 color), 24 (16 million)
  - 32 to 96 bits used (*double buffering, z-buffering*)
  - 1280x1024x24 needs only 3.75 MB video RAM



Development of Computer Graphics

- Random Scan versus Raster Scan
  - note ragged lines



Development of Computer Graphics

- Random Scan versus Raster Scan
- Raster advantages:
  - low cost, superior fill ability, refresh rate independent of complexity, 70Hz sufficient to avoid flicker
- Raster disadvantages:
  - discrete nature of pixel representation, need for scan conversion in software or RIP chips
    - real-time dynamics more demanding
  - approximation of lines by sequence of pixels
    - *aliasing* - jaggies or staircasing
    - manifestation of sampling error in signal processing
    - need for *anti-aliasing*

Development of Computer Graphics

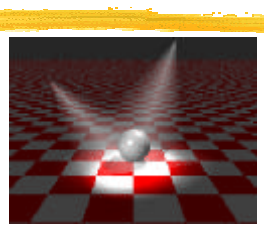
- 1976
  - Image and texture mapping (Blinn)
- 1977
  - 3D Core Graphics System,
  - first “standard” for device independent graphics package
  - allowed portable graphics programming
  - ACM SIGGRAPH committee including Foley, Van Dam, Feiner
  - baseline specification - many implementations

Development of Computer Graphics

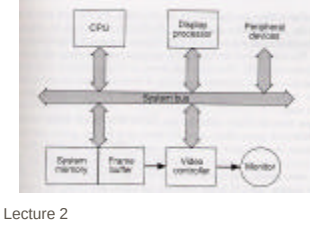
- 1982
  - Clarke, Geometry Engine
    - hardware support for transforms (matrix-vector multiplies), clipping (variant of Sutherland-Hodgman algorithm)
  - IRIS - Integrated Raster Imaging System, SGI
    - high-end workstation
    - hardware acceleration of graphics pipeline
- 1982
  - TRON, Star Trek - Genesis Effect

Development of Computer Graphics

- 1982
  - Ray Tracing, Turner Whitted

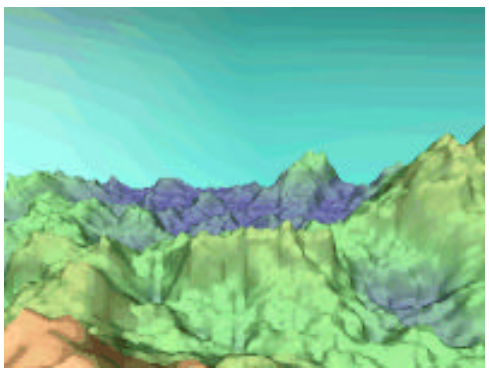


- 1983
  - VRAM, Video random access memory, Texas Instruments
    - can read out all pixels in one memory cycle



Development of Computer Graphics

- 1983
  - Fractals



Development of Computer Graphics

- 1985
  - Radiosity, Don Greenberg (Cornell)
  - GKS, Graphical Kernel System
    - first ANSI standard
    - elaborated cleaned up version of CORE but only 2D
- 1986
  - Renderman
- 1988
  - GKS, Graphical Kernel System - 3D version

Development of Computer Graphics

- 1988
  - PHIGS, PHIGS+
  - Programmer’s Hierarchical Interactive Graphics System
  - More complex than CORE

PHIGS v GKS

- GKS allowed grouping of primitives into “segments”
  - no nesting of segements
- PHIGS allowed nested hierarchical grouping of 3D primitives into “structures”
  - all primitives subject to geometric transformations
  - editable database of structures
  - auto-update of screen when database altered
- PHIGS+
  - extension for pseudo-realistic rendering on raster devices
- PHIGS, PHIGS+ large packages
  - run best with hardware support of transforamtions, clipping and rendering

Development of Computer Graphics

- 1993
  - OpenGL - Open Graphics Library
  - derived from SGI’s GL library
- 1993
  - Open Inventor, OO layer on OpenGL
- 1995
  - QuickDraw 3D, Apple
- 1995
  - Direct3D, Microsoft, game playing API

Development of Computer Graphics

- Input Devices
  - early light pens to modern mice
  - data tablet
  - touch sensitive screens
  - 3D input devices (spaceballs etc.)
  - button and dial boxes