

CSCI 4560/6560 Computational Geometry

<https://www.cs.rpi.edu/~cutler/classes/computationalgeometry/S22/>

# Lecture 21: Binary Space Partitions

# Outline for Today

- Homework 6 Posted
- Last Time: Periodic & Non-Periodic Tiling
- Line Drawings & Early Computer Vision / AI
- Hidden Line Drawing: z-Buffer
- Hidden Line Drawing: Painter's Algorithm
- Binary Space Partition
- Binary Space Partition Analysis
- Discussion & Comparison to Quad Tree & kD Tree
- Next Time: ?

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# Zellij - Mosaic Tilework

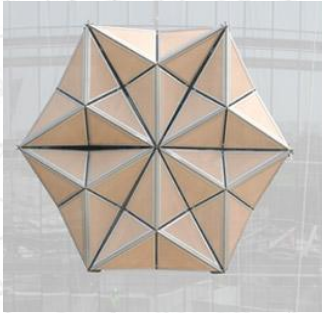


<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zellij>



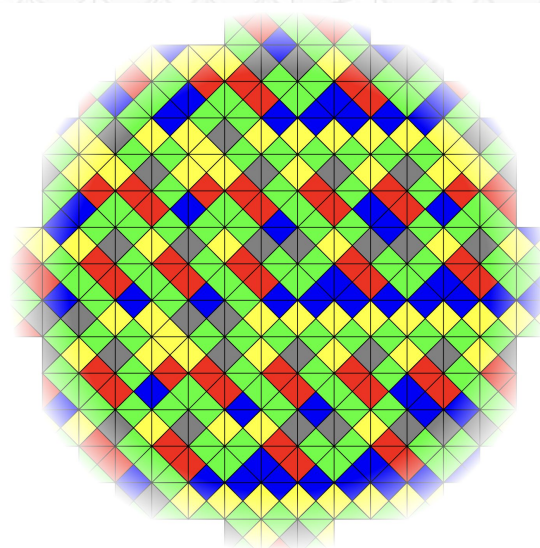
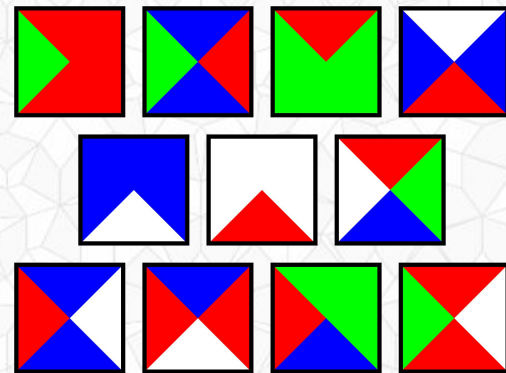
# Kinetic Architecture

Al Bahar Towers, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Aedas UK, Diar Consult, Arup, 2012



# Wang Tiles / Wang Dominoes

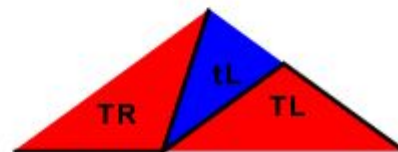
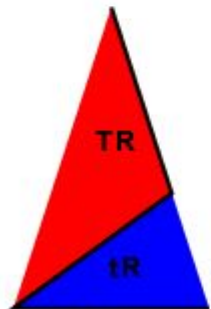
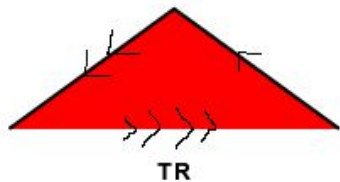
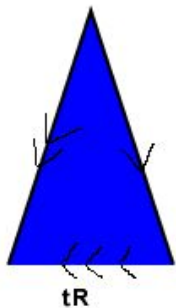
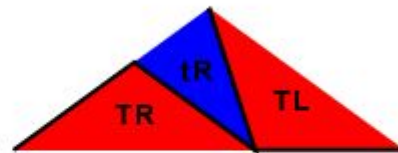
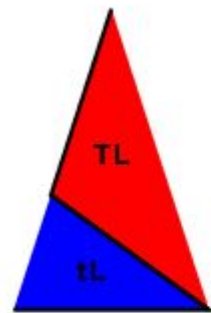
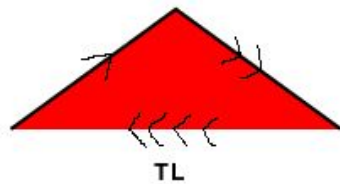
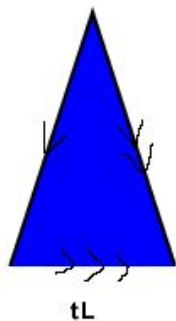
- Square tiles, edges labeled with colors, must be placed without rotation, with matching edges
- In 1961, Hao Wang conjectured that any finite set of tiles that could tile a plane infinitely, could be tiled periodically
- In 1966, Robert Berger proved that non-periodic Wang tile sets existed
- In 2015, Emmanuel Jeandel and Michael Rao proved that the smallest non-periodic Wang tile set was 11 tiles w/ 4 colors
- Applications: natural-looking, aperiodic synthesized texture, heightfields, & more





# Penrose Tilings Can be Subdivided

- *And conversely, this is how they are proved to be aperiodic!*



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# Motivation: Summer Vision Project

- “Summer Vision Project”  
1966  
10 undergraduate students  
at MIT were tasked with  
solving computer vision

*It was a “BHAG”:*

*Big Hairy Audacious Goal*

*Did they (professor/students)  
realize it at the time?*

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
PROJECT MAC

Artificial Intelligence Group  
Vision Memo. No. 100.

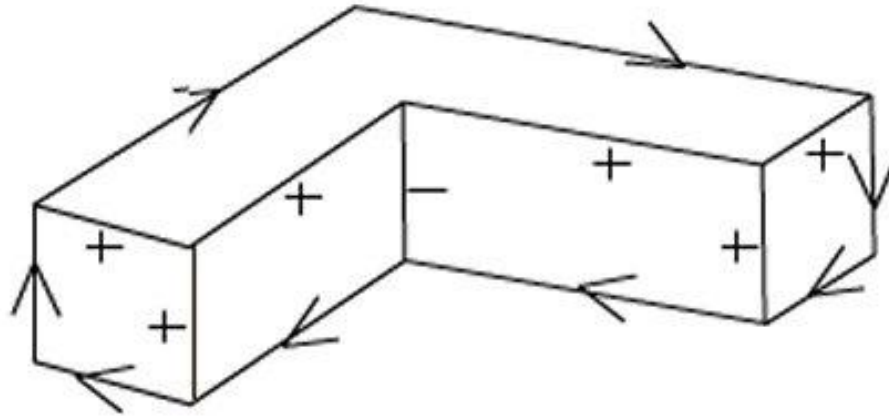
July 7, 1966

## THE SUMMER VISION PROJECT

Seymour Papert

The summer vision project is an attempt to use our summer workers effectively in the construction of a significant part of a visual system. The particular task was chosen partly because it can be segmented into sub-problems which will allow individuals to work independently and yet participate in the construction of a system complex enough to be a real landmark in the development of "pattern recognition".

# Motivation: Early AI & Early Computer Vision

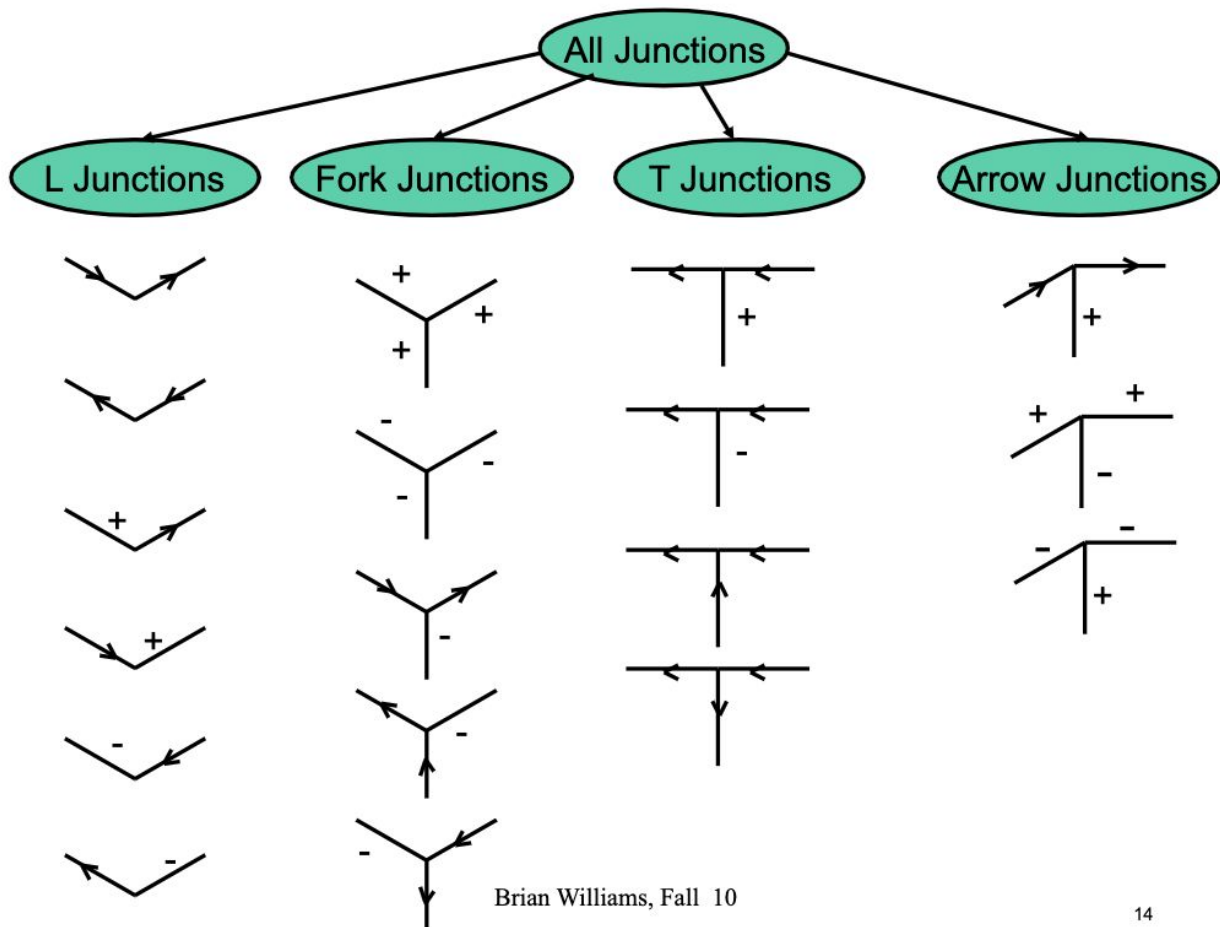




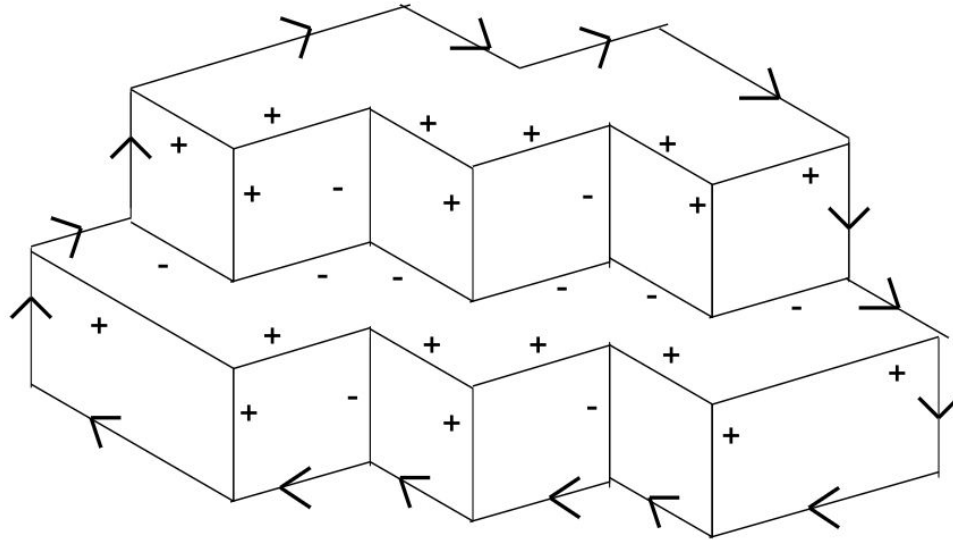
# Line Labeling Constraint Propagation

“Interpretation of  
opaque, trihedral solids  
with no surface marks”,  
Huffman & Clowes,  
1971

“Compute Labeling  
through Local  
Propagation”  
Waltz, 1972



# Motivation: Early AI & Early Computer Vision

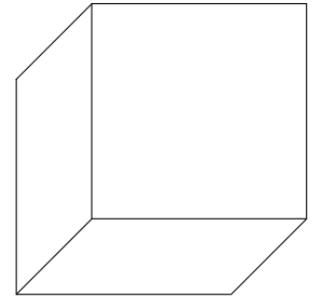
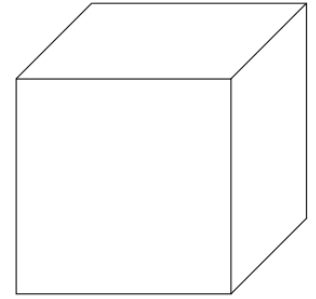
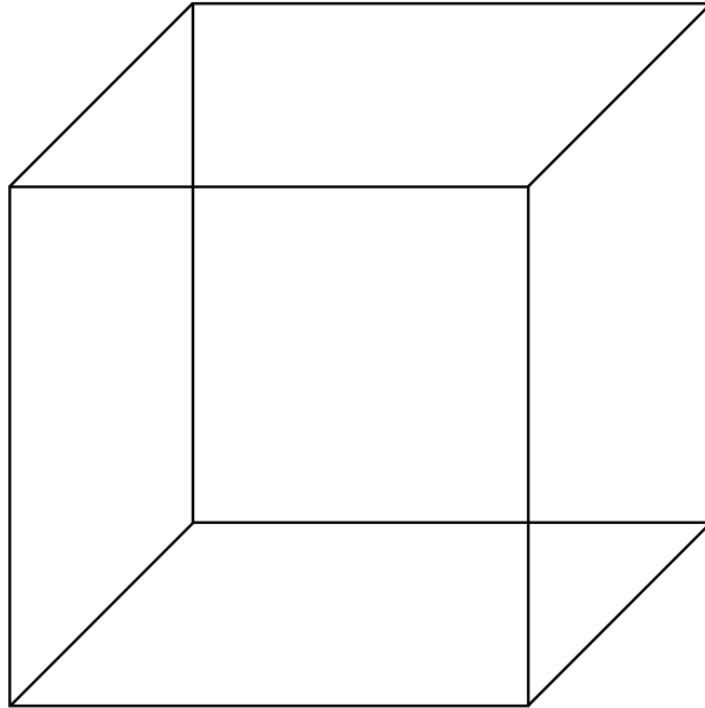


MIT 6.034 Artificial Intelligence, Fall 2010  
Open CourseWare  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-tzjenXrvI>



# Necker Cube

- A two dimensional representation of a three dimensional wire frame cube
- Viewer's perception can flip back and forth between equally possible perspectives

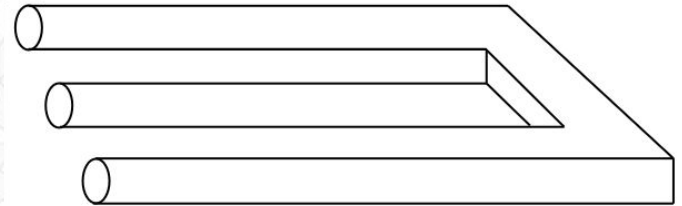
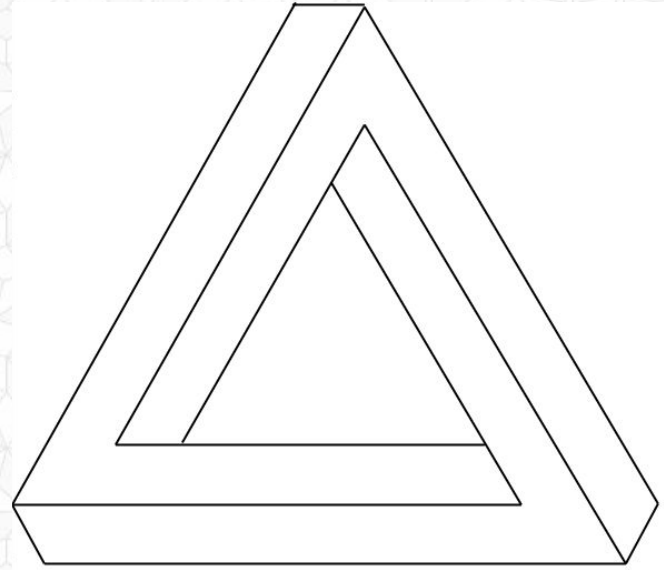


[https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/necker\\_cube](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/necker_cube)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Necker%27s\\_cube.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Necker%27s_cube.svg)

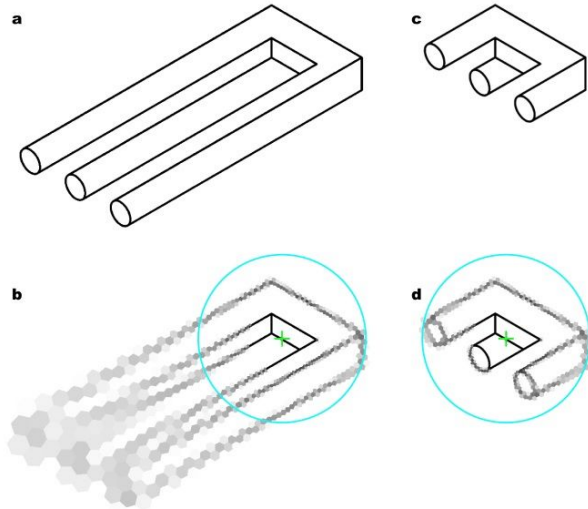
# Impossible Objects

- Penrose triangle
  
- Devil's tuning fork





# *Belvedere* M.C. Escher 1958



“Combining Deep Learning and Active Contours  
Opens The Way to Robust, Automated Analysis of  
Brain Cytoarchitectonics”, Thierbach et al, 2018



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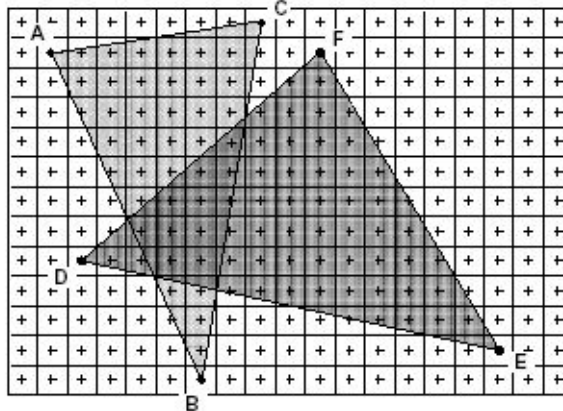
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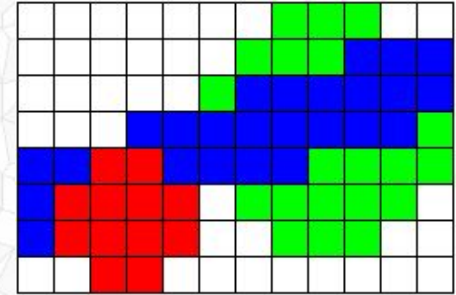
# Hidden Line Drawing / Depth Buffer (z-Buffer)

- Given a primitive's vertices & the color / illumination at each vertex:
- Figure out which pixels to "turn on" to render the primitive
- Interpolate the color / illumination values to "fill in" the primitive
- At each pixel, keep track of the closest primitive (depth buffer / z-buffer)

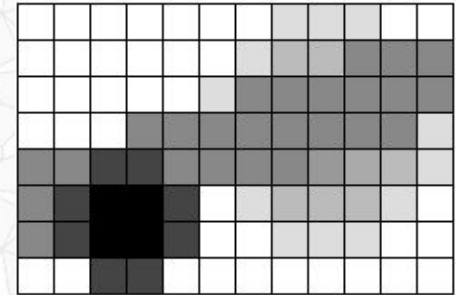
*Triangles can be in any order!  
A.k.a. "Polygon soup"*



```
glBegin(GL_TRIANGLES)
glNormal3f(...)
glVertex3f(...)
glVertex3f(...)
glVertex3f(...)
glEnd();
```



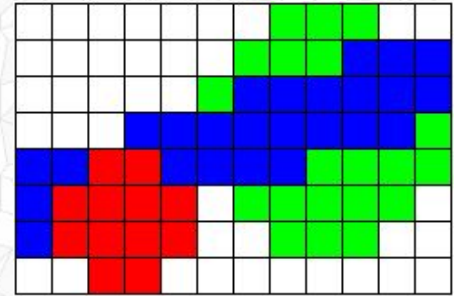
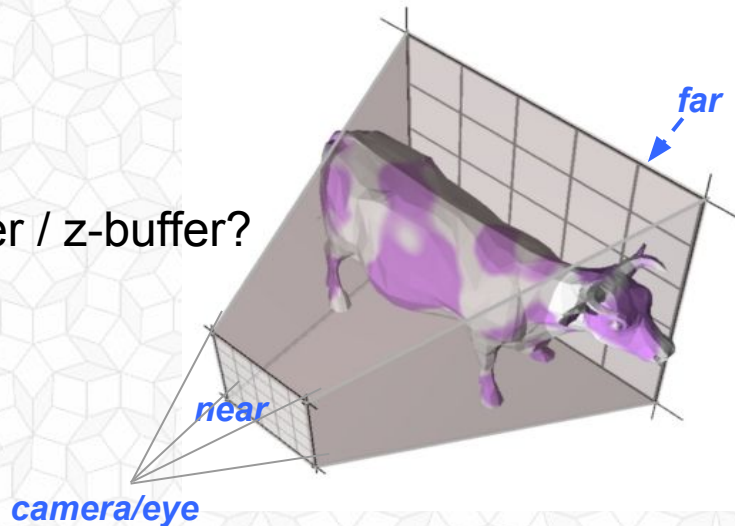
**frame buffer**



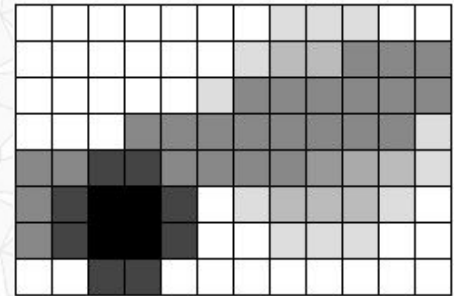
**depth buffer**

# Scan Conversion / Rendering Pipeline

- Running time of depth buffer / z-buffer?
- Extra memory use for depth buffer / z-buffer?
- Flaws with depth buffer / z-buffer?



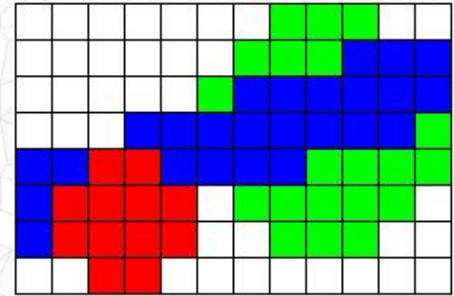
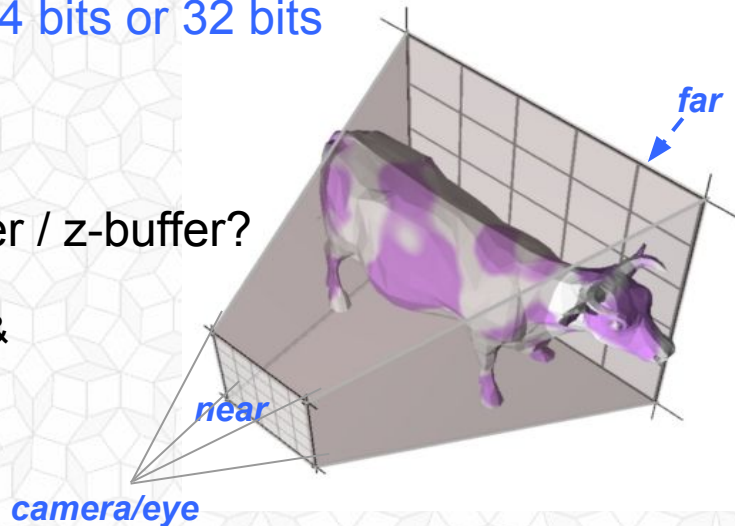
frame buffer



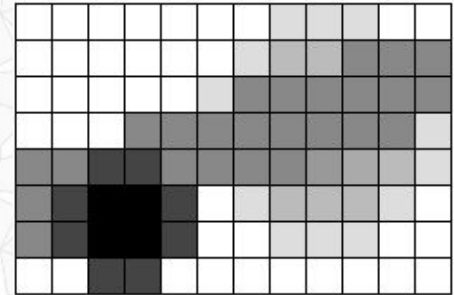
depth buffer

# Scan Conversion / Rendering Pipeline

- Running time of depth buffer / z-buffer?
  - $O(n * w * h)$  worst case large triangles
  - $O(n)$  in practice
- Extra memory use for depth buffer / z-buffer?
  - $O(w*h) * 8$  bits or 24 bits or 32 bits
  - In early graphics, this was too expensive to consider!*
- Flaws with depth buffer / z-buffer?
  - Limited precision
  - Need to choose near & far plane carefully



frame buffer



depth buffer



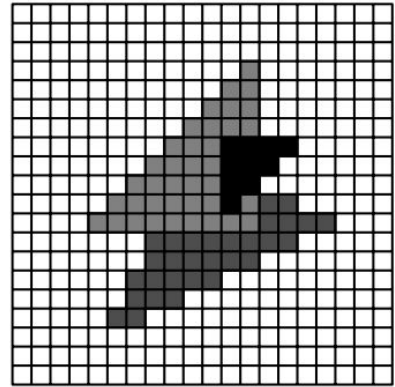
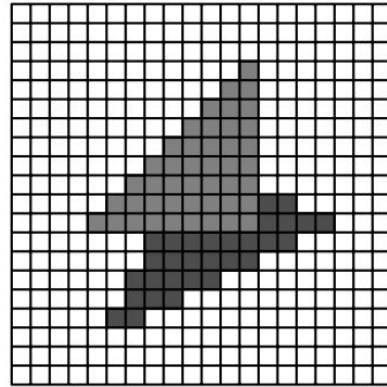
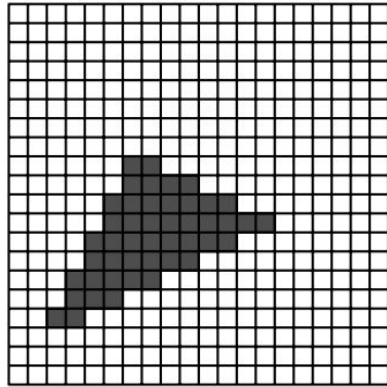
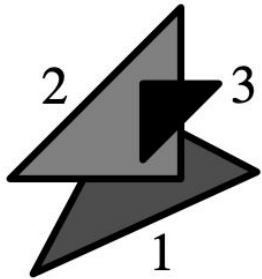
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# Hidden Line Drawing: Painter's Algorithm

- Let's order the primitives by how close they are to the camera
- Draw the primitives from back to front
- Then we don't need to keep track of the depth!

*Save memory!*





**Bob Ross -  
Peaceful Waters  
Season 3  
Episode 13**

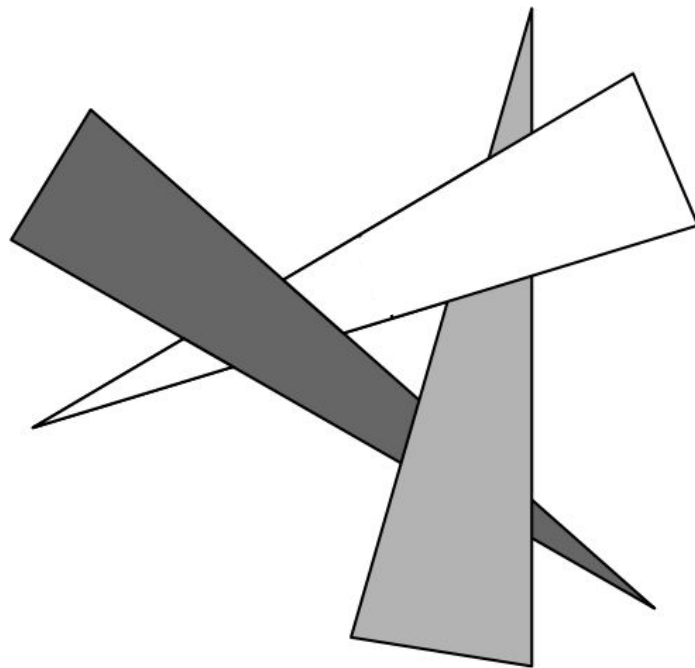


**[https://www.twoinchbrush.com/  
painting/peaceful-waters](https://www.twoinchbrush.com/painting/peaceful-waters)**



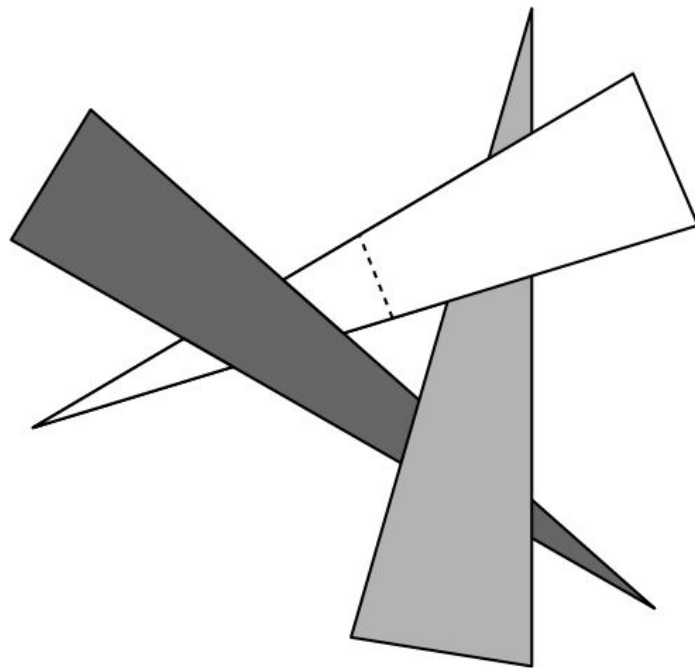
# Hidden Line Drawing: Painter's Algorithm

- Let's order the primitives by how close they are to the camera
- Draw the primitives from back to front



# Hidden Line Drawing: Painter's Algorithm

- Let's order the primitives by how close they are to the camera
- Draw the primitives from back to front
- **Warning: Object layering may be complex and have cycles**  
E.g.,  $a > b$ ,  $b > c$ ,  $c > a$
- **Solution: Split primitives as necessary to break cycles**



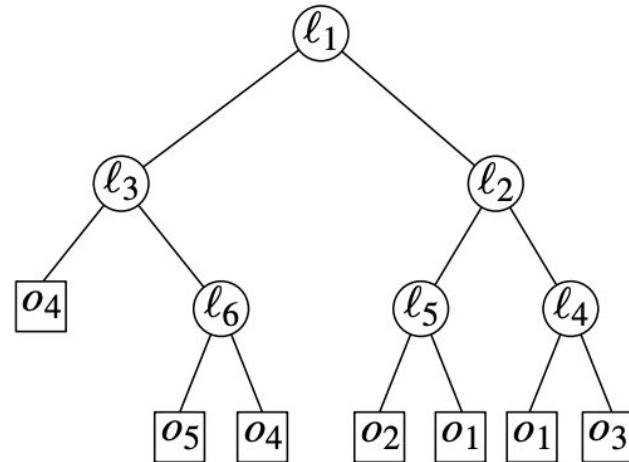
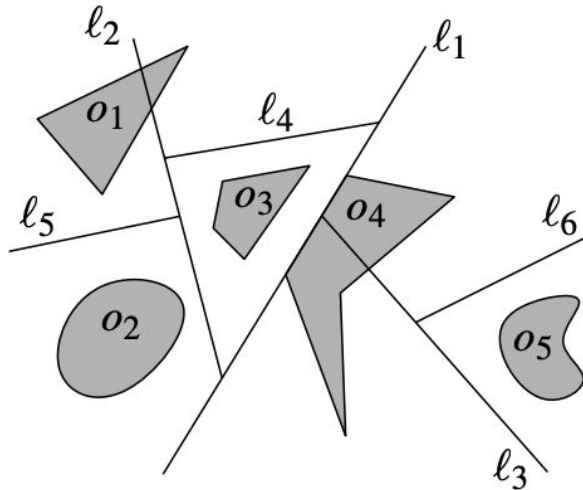
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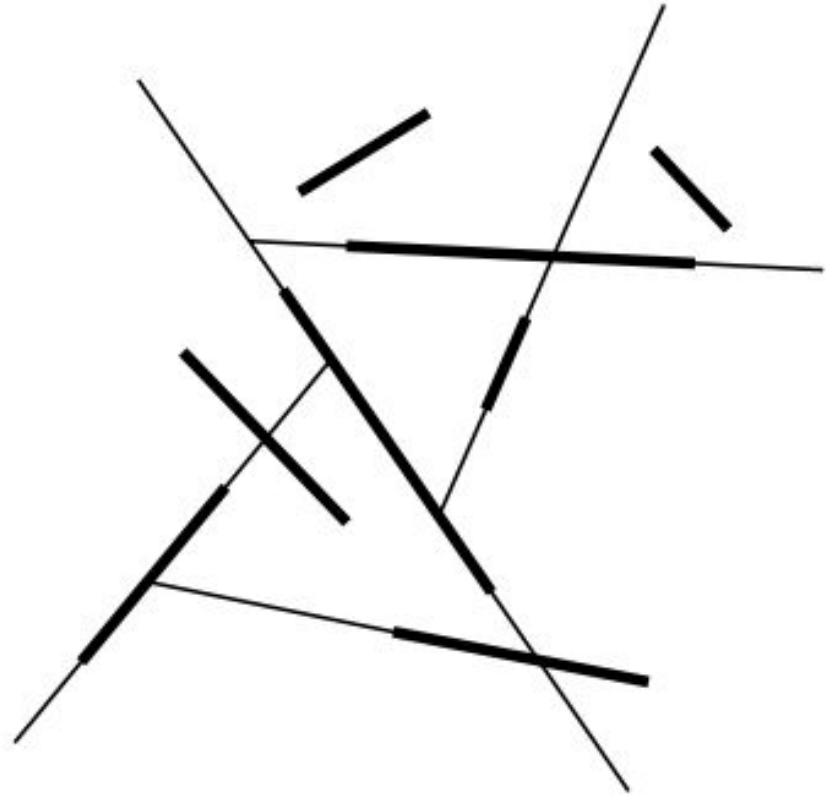
# Definition: Binary Space Partition

- Place items in a binary tree, each node stores a half plane
- Primitives that are collinear with the half plane are stored in the node
- Items overlapping a half plane are copied/split into two primitives
- We recurse until exactly one item is left, it is stored in the leaf



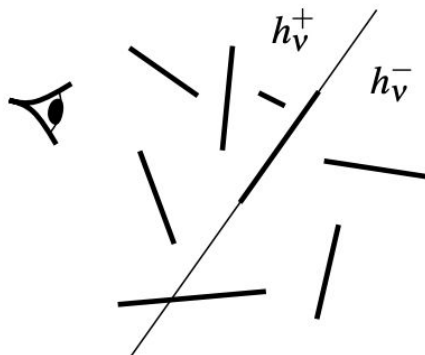
# Auto-Partition

- In practice, it is common to use the primitives as half-planes
- If a BSP only uses half-planes derived from the input data, it is called an auto-partition
- Primitive is stored at the node (rather than pushed down to a leaf)
  - So it will probably be smaller...
  - But the optimal partitioning (minimal # of nodes) may require hyperplanes that are not derived from the input!



# Using a BSP to Render via Painter's Algorithm

- If we're at a leaf,
  - Render items in current node
- Else if camera to **left** of current node hyperplane
  - **Recurse to right of current node**
  - Render items in current node
  - **Recurse to left of current node**
- Else if camera is to **right** of current node hyperplane
  - **Recurse to left of current node**
  - Render items in current node
  - **Recurse to right of current node**
- Else we're on the split plane  
(we can ignore items in current node)
  - **Recurse to left of current node**
  - **Recurse to right of current node**



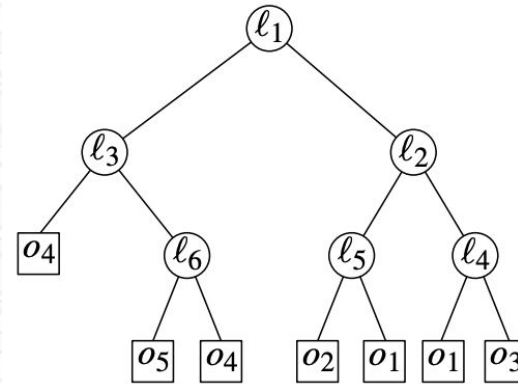
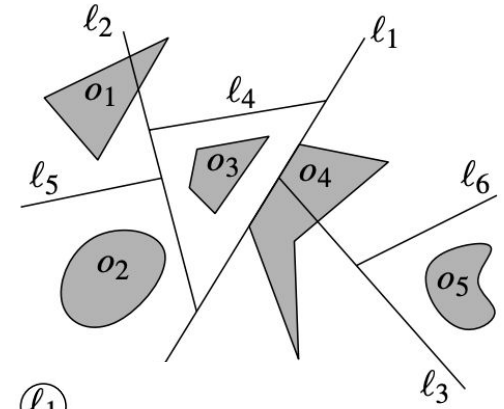


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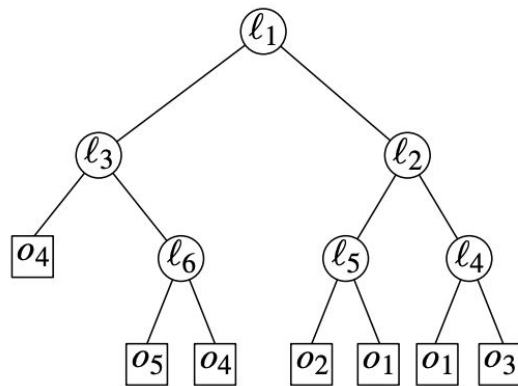
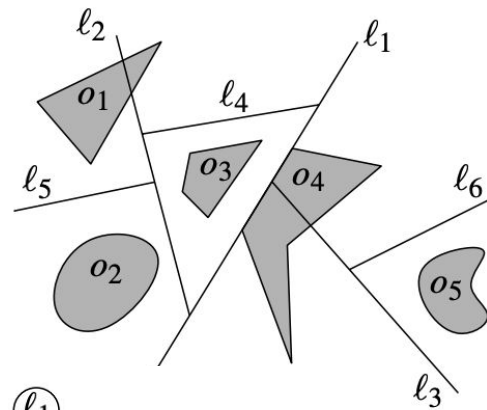
# Analysis: Using BSP for Painter's Algorithm

- For  $n$  non-intersecting primitives
- Best case:
- Worst case:
- Overall: Painter's algorithm



# Analysis: Using BSP for Painter's Algorithm

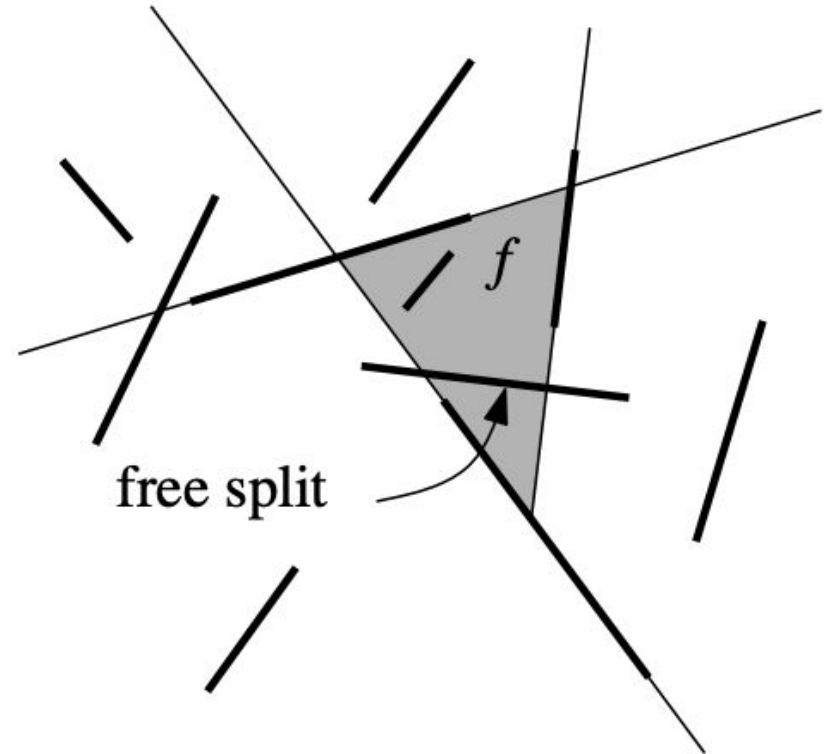
- For  $n$  non-intersecting primitives
- Best case:
  - No primitives are split
  - $O(n)$  nodes in the tree
  - Tree is perfectly balanced, height =  $O(\log n)$
- Worst case:
  - Every primitive is split by every plane
  - $O(n^2)$  nodes in the tree
  - Tree is unbalanced, height =  $O(n)$
- Overall: Painter's algorithm
  - $O(\# \text{ of nodes in the tree})$
  - (height is irrelevant!)
- **Can we do better than worst case??**





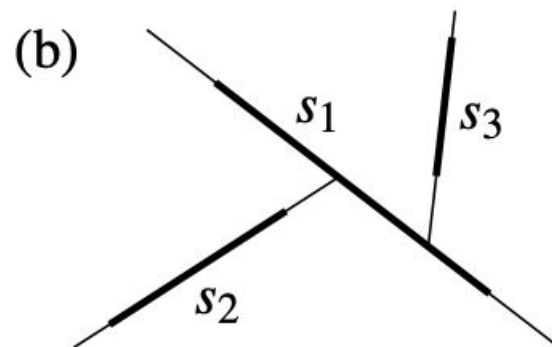
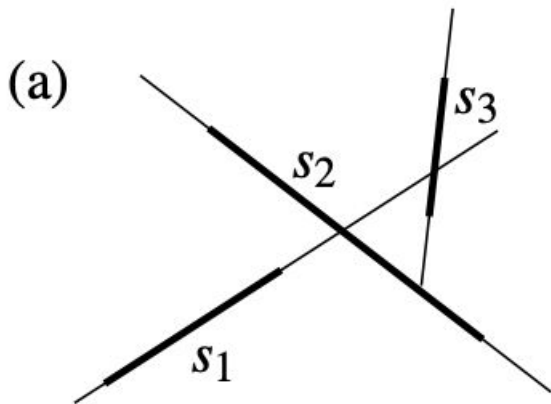
# Small Optimization: “Free Split”

- Our input primitives do not intersect
- If we can determine that both primitive endpoints are on the half plane boundaries of the current subtree
- Choosing that primitive as the next half plane node is guaranteed not to split any primitives



# Randomized Incremental Construction

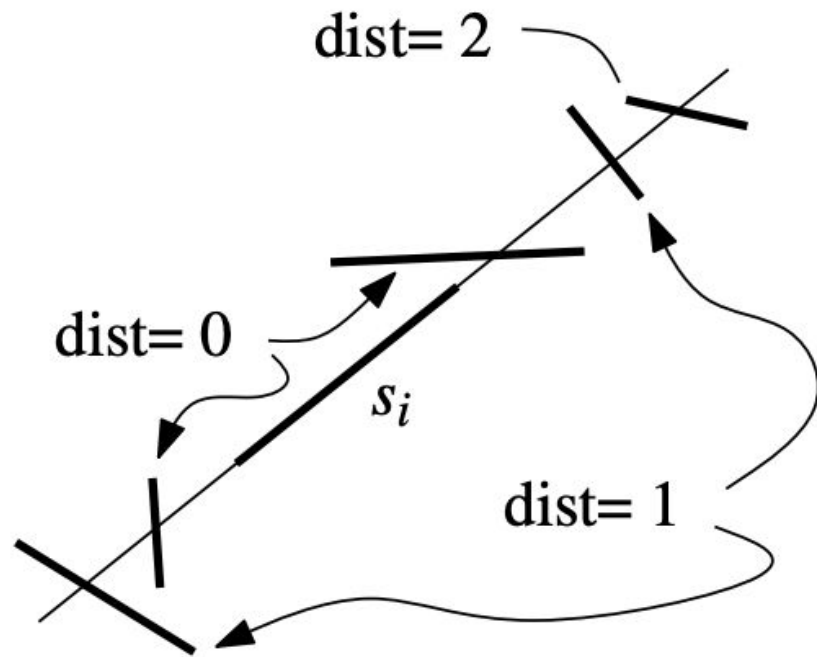
- Note: Some orderings are better than others:  
(result in fewer split primitives)



- *Let's randomize the order!*

# Randomized Incremental Construction

- Let's randomize the order!  
 $s_0, s_1, s_2, \dots, s_i, \dots, s_k, \dots$
- What's the chance that a primitive  $s_k$  will be split by the half plane derived from  $s_i$ ?
- If there are many other segments between  $s_i$  and  $s_k$  there is a good chance one of them will shield  $s_k$  from being split by  $s_i$



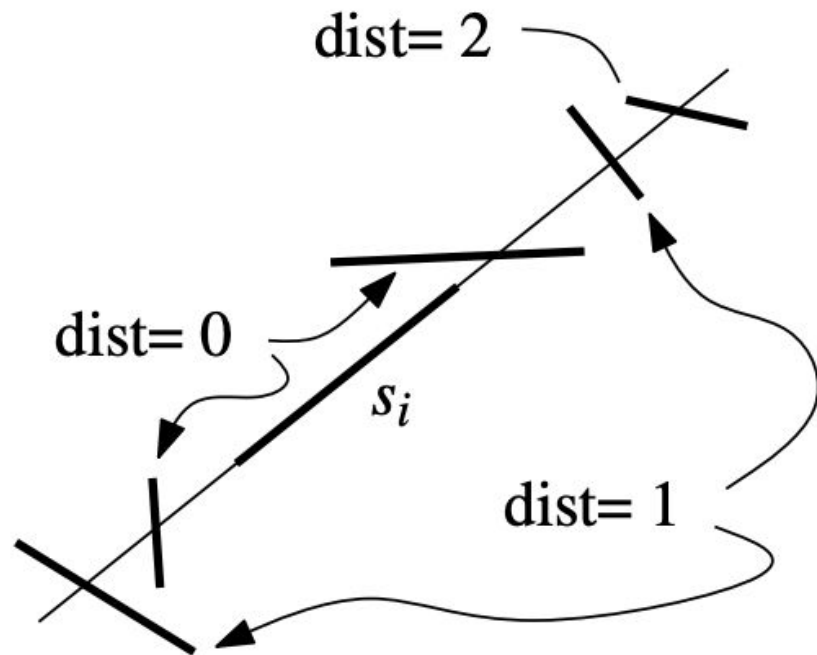


# Randomized Incremental Construction

- Let's randomize the order!

$s_0, s_1, s_2, \dots, s_i, \dots, s_k, \dots$

- Randomized BSP can be shown to be have  $O(n \log n)$  nodes
- And can be constructed in  $O(n^2 \log n)$
- *Which is better than our worst case  
But still doesn't seem great...*

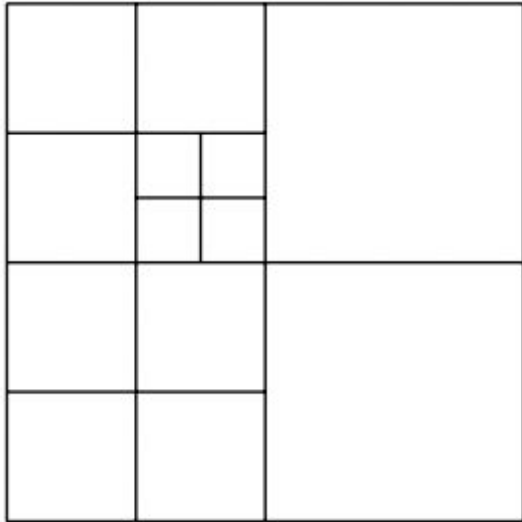


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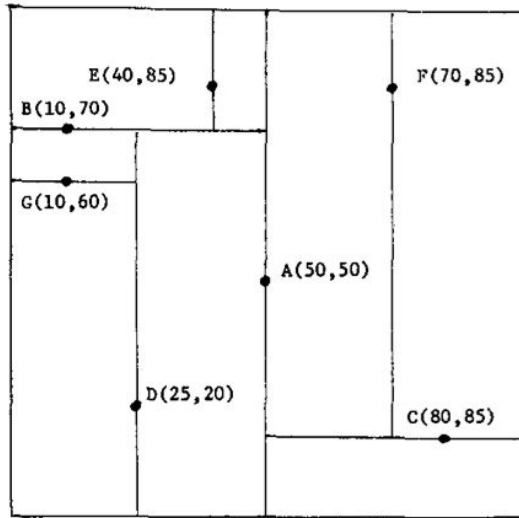
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# Discussion - Quad Tree, kD Tree, BSP

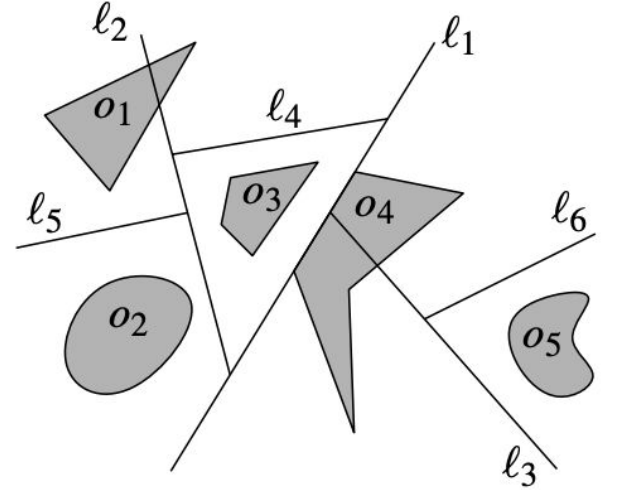
- k-D trees are a special case of BSP (where splits are always axis aligned)
- Quad trees are a special case of k-D trees (where splits are always at the midpoints)



Quad Tree



k-D Tree

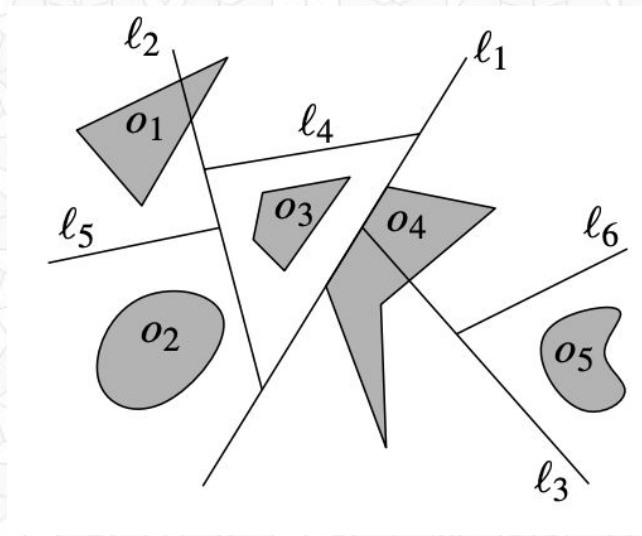


BSP



# Discussion - BSP & Low Density Scenes

- BSP are harder to visualize, and therefore perhaps harder to intuitively understand, debug, and analyze
- Usually the performance of a BSP is much better than the conclusion reached by randomized analysis.
- Why?
  - In practice most objects are relatively small
  - In practice density of objects in a scene is sparse
  - Therefore it is likely the objects can be separated by planes without requiring the expected worst case number of splits
- *For more details, see analysis in the book...*



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