Aliasing and Multisampling

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Aliasing

“Aliasing” is a signal-processing term for “under-sampled compared with the frequencies in the signal.”

What the signal really is:
what we want

Sampling Interval

What we think the signal is:
too often, what we get

Aliasing

The Display We Want

Too often,
the Display We Get
Nyquist Criterion

“The Nyquist [sampling] rate is twice the maximum component frequency of the function [i.e., signal] being sampled.” -- Wikipedia

MultiSampling

MultiSampling is a computer graphics technique to improve the quality of your output image by looking inside every pixel to see what the rendering is doing there. There are two approaches to this:

1. Supersampling: Pick some number of unique sub-pixels within a pixel, render the image at each of these sub-pixels (including depth and stencil tests), then average them together.

2. Multisampling: Perform a single color render for the one pixel. Then, pick some number of unique sub-pixels within that pixel and perform depth and stencil tests there. Assign the single color to all the sub-pixels that made it through the depth and stencil tests.

Vulkan Distribution of Sampling Points within a Pixel
Consider Two Triangles Whose Edges Pass Through the Same Pixel

Supersampling

Multisampling
Setting up the Image

```
VkPipelineMultisampleStateCreateInfo vpmsci;
vpmsci.sType = VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_PIPELINE_MULTISAMPLE_STATE_CREATE_INFO;
vpmsci.pNext = nullptr;
vpmsci.flags = 0;
vpmsci.rasterizationSamples = VK_SAMPLE_COUNT_8_BIT;
vpmsci.sampleShadingEnable = VK_TRUE;
vpmsci.minSampleShading = 0.5f;
vpmsci.pSampleMask = (VkSampleMask *)nullptr;
vpmsci.alphaToCoverageEnable = VK_FALSE;
vpmsci.alphaToOneEnable = VK_FALSE;

VkGraphicsPipelineCreateInfo vgpci;
vgpci.sType = VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_GRAPHICS_PIPELINE_CREATE_INFO;
vgpci.pNext = nullptr;

result = vkCreateGraphicsPipelines( LogicalDevice, VK_NULL_HANDLE, 1, IN &vgpci,
PALLOCATOR, OUT pGraphicsPipeline );
```

Setting up the Image

```
VkAttachmentDescription vad[2];
vad[0].format = VK_FORMAT_B8G8R8A8_SRGB;
vad[0].samples = VK_SAMPLE_COUNT_8_BIT;
vad[0].loadOp = VK_ATTACHMENT_LOAD_OP_CLEAR;
vad[0].storeOp = VK_ATTACHMENT_STORE_OP_STORE;
vad[0].stencilLoadOp = VK_ATTACHMENT_LOAD_OP_DONT_CARE;
vad[0].stencilStoreOp = VK_ATTACHMENT_STORE_OP_DONT_CARE;
vad[0].finalLayout = VK_IMAGE_LAYOUT_PRESENT_SRC_KHR;
vad[0].flags = 0;

vad[1].format = VK_FORMAT_D32_SFLOAT_S8_UINT;
vad[1].samples = VK_SAMPLE_COUNT_8_BIT;
vad[1].loadOp = VK_ATTACHMENT_LOAD_OP_CLEAR;
vad[1].storeOp = VK_ATTACHMENT_STORE_OP_DONT_CARE;
vad[1].stencilLoadOp = VK_ATTACHMENT_LOAD_OP_DONT_CARE;
vad[1].stencilStoreOp = VK_ATTACHMENT_STORE_OP_DONT_CARE;
vad[1].finalLayout = VK_IMAGE_LAYOUT_DEPTH_STENCIL_ATTACHMENT_OPTIMAL;
vad[1].flags = 0;

VkAttachmentReference colorReference;
colorReference.attachment = 0;
colorReference.layout = VK_IMAGE_LAYOUT_COLOR_ATTACHMENT_OPTIMAL;

VkAttachmentReference depthReference;
depthReference.attachment = 1;
depthReference.layout = VK_IMAGE_LAYOUT_DEPTH_STENCIL_ATTACHMENT_OPTIMAL;

VkSubpassDescription vsd;
vsd.flags = 0;
vsd.pipelineBindPoint = VK_PIPELINE_BIND_POINT_GRAPHICS;
vsd.inputAttachmentCount = 0;
vsd.pInputAttachments = (VkAttachmentReference *)nullptr;
vsd.colorAttachmentCount = 1;
vsd.pColorAttachments = &colorReference;
vsd.pResolveAttachments = (VkAttachmentReference *)nullptr;
vsd.pDepthStencilAttachment = &depthReference;
vsd.pDepthStencilAttachmentRefinement = nullptr;
vsd.pPreserveAttachments = (uint32_t *)nullptr;

VkRenderPassCreateInfo vrpci;
vrpci.sType = VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_RENDER_PASS_CREATE_INFO;
vrpci.pNext = nullptr;
vrpci.attachmentCount = 2;  // color and depth/stencil
vrpci.pAttachments = vad;
vrpci.subpassCount = 1;
vrpci.pSubpasses = &vsd;
vrpci.dependencyCount = 0;
vrpci.pDependencies = (VkSubpassDependency *)nullptr;

result = vkCreateRenderPass( LogicalDevice, IN &vrpci, PALLOCATOR, OUT &RenderPass );
```
Resolving the Image:
Converting the multisampled image to a VK_SAMPLE_COUNT_1_BIT image

```
VDDOffset3D vo3;
vo3.x = 0;
vo3.y = 0;
vo3.z = 0;

VkExtent3D ve3;
ve3.width = Width;
ve3.height = Height;
ve3.depth = 1;

VkImageSubresourceLayers visl;
visl.aspectMask = VK_IMAGE_ASPECT_COLOR_BIT;
visl.mipLevel = 0;
visl.baseArrayLayer = 0;
visl.layerCount = 1;

VkImageResolve vir;
vir.srcSubresource = visl;
vk.srcOffset = vo3;
vk.dstSubresource = visl;
vk.dstOffset = vo3;
vk.extent = ve3;

vkCmdResolveImage(cmdBuffer, srcImage, srcImageLayout, dstImage, dstImageLayout, 1, &vir);
```

Resolving the Image:
Converting the multisampled image to a VK_SAMPLE_COUNT_1_BIT image