

EGSR 2008

# Exploiting Visibility Correlation in Direct Illumination

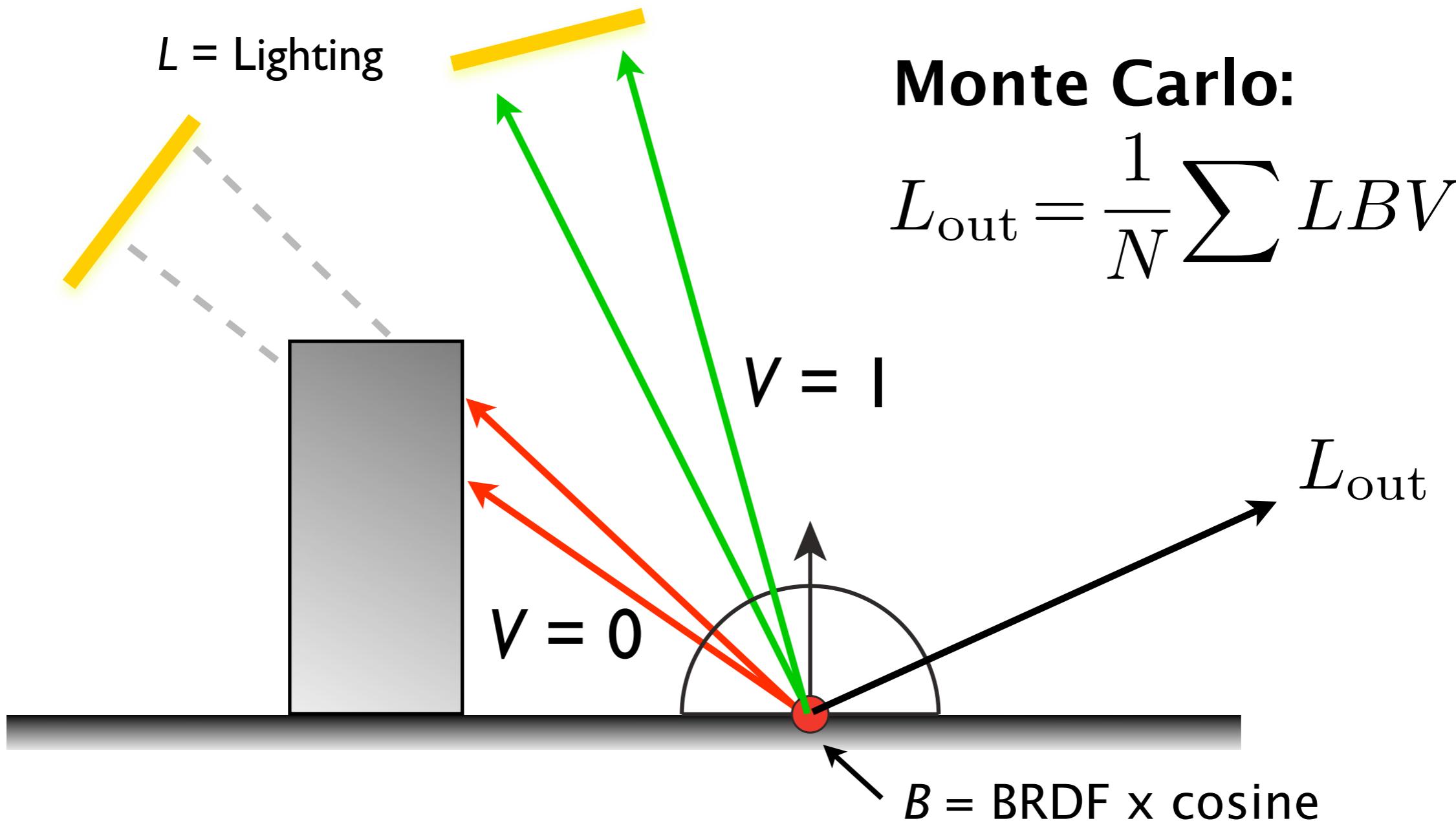
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Lund University  
Sweden

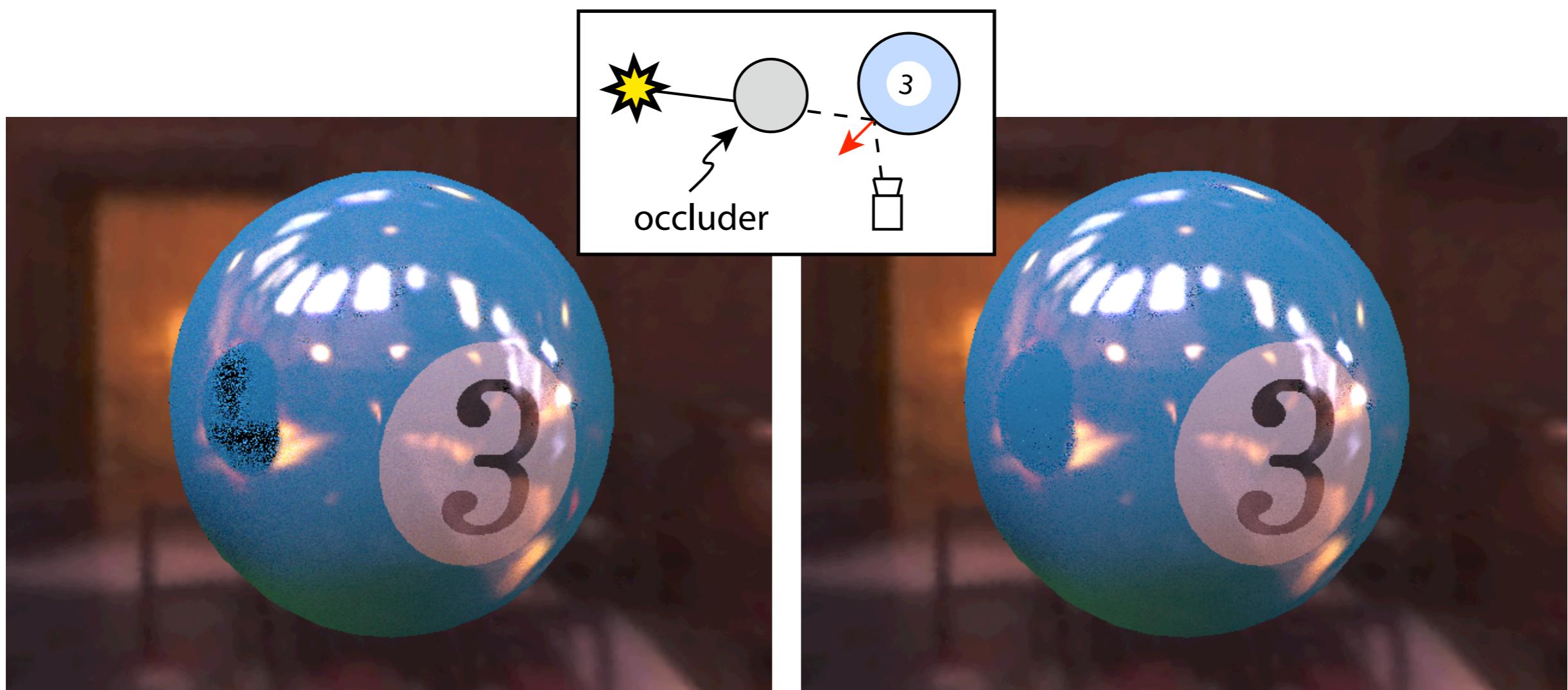
# Direct Illumination

**Rendering equation:**  $L_{\text{out}} = \int_{\Omega} L B V d\omega$   
[Kajiya86]



# Importance Sampling

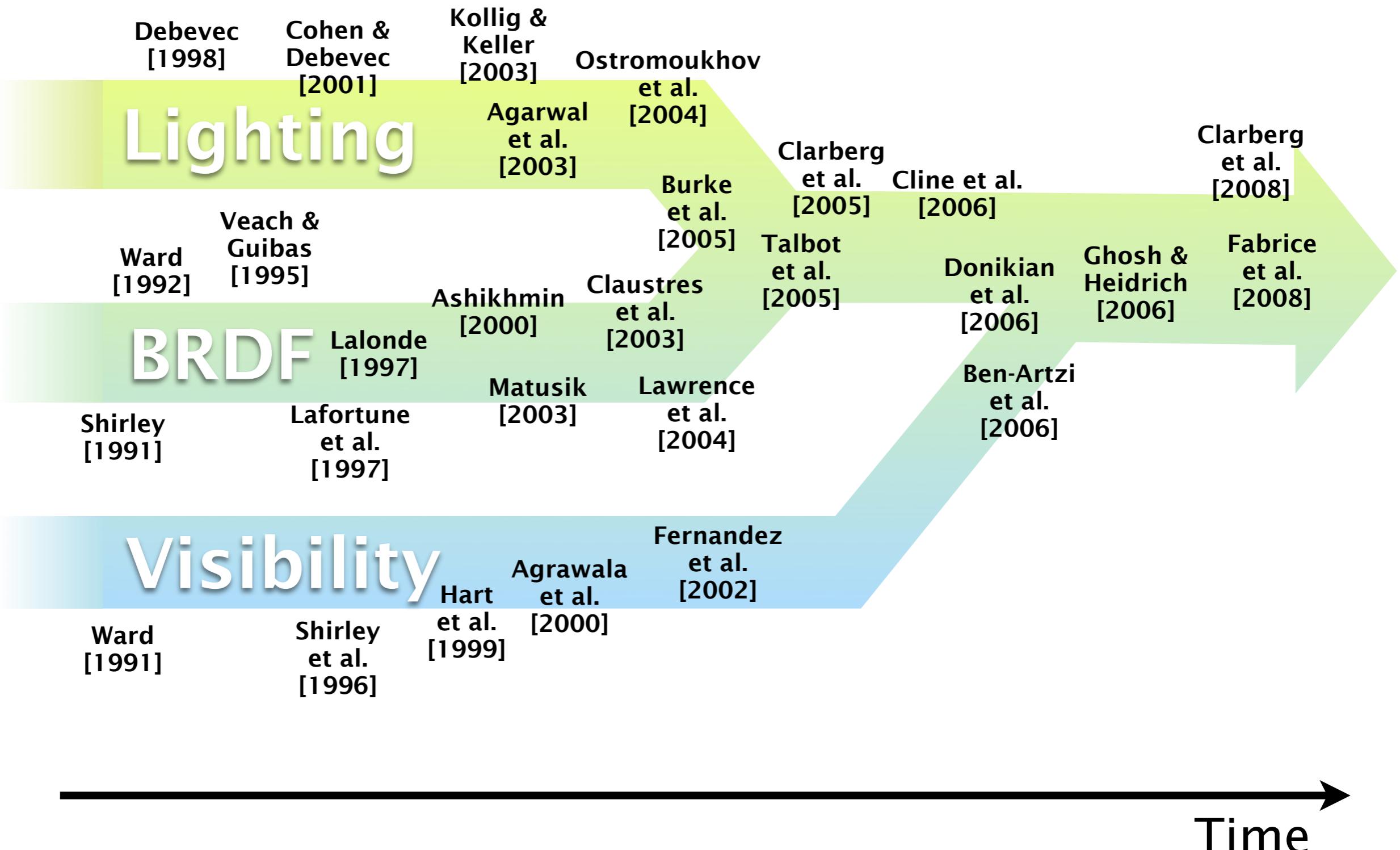
Send rays in directions with large  $LBV$   
But,  $V$  is unknown so hard to include in sampling



$LB$  (Light x BRDF) sampling

Our algorithm

# Related Work



# Outline

## 1. Visibility Measurements

Statistical correlation of the visibility function

## 2. The Visibility Cache

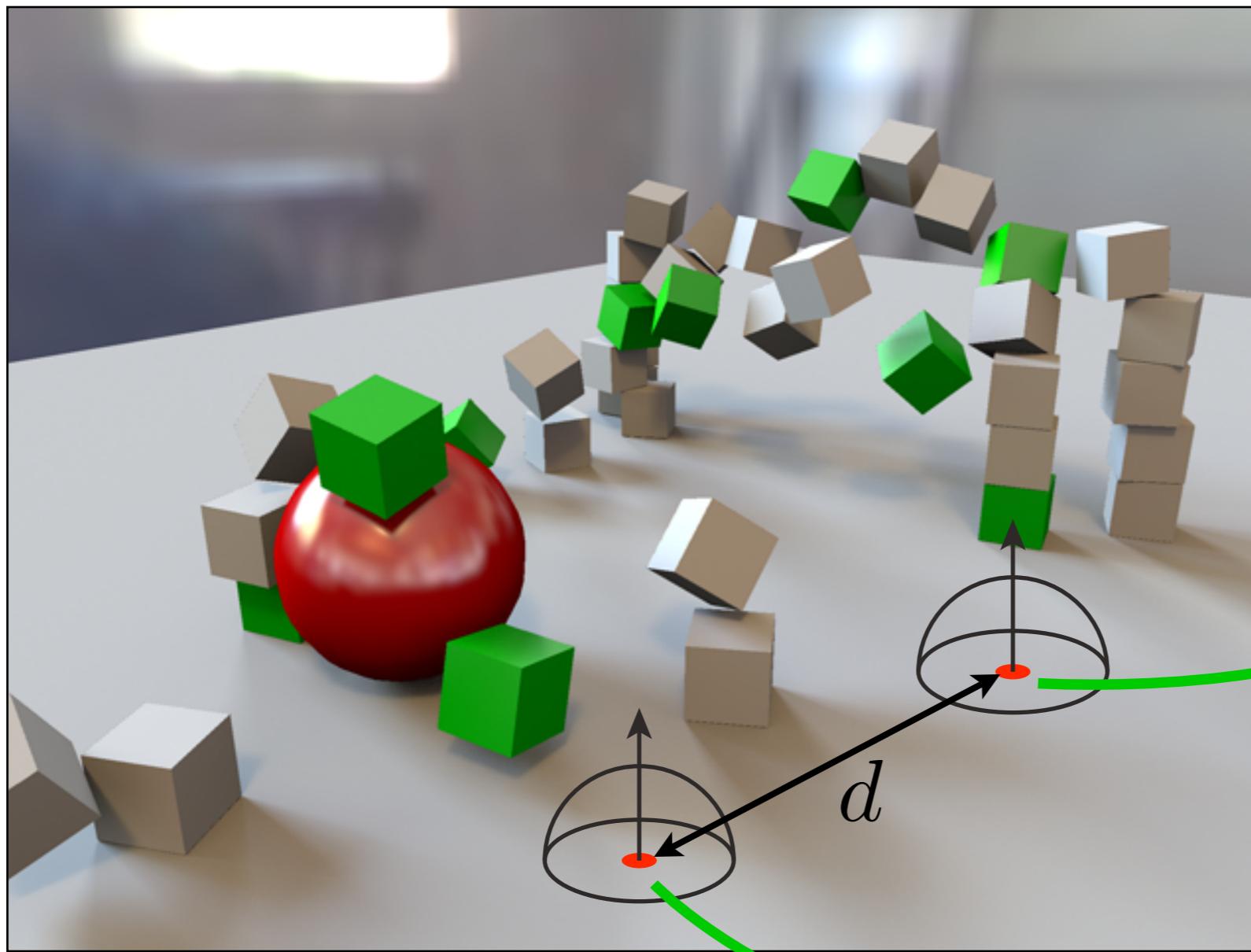
Similar to radiance caching, but for visibility

Applications:

- Reduce noise in Monte Carlo ray tracing
- Ambient occlusion
- Fast lighting preview (aka PRT)

# 1. Measurements

Large number of random pairs of positions

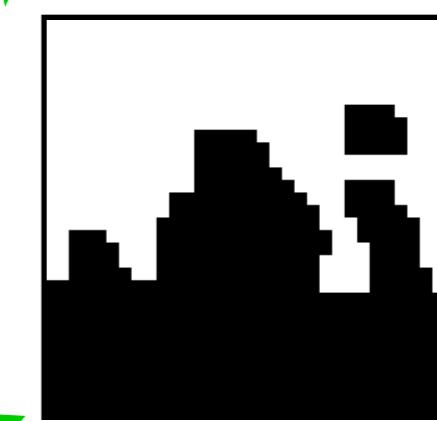


$d$  = Distance

$\theta$  = Normal difference



$Y$



$X$

# Visibility Correlation

We see the visibility maps as distributions

Compute the correlation coefficient:  $\rho_{X,Y}$   
(Pearson's product-moment coeff.)

Examples:

$$\rho \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{[Visibility Map 1]} \\ , \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{[Visibility Map 2]} \end{array} \right) = 1$$

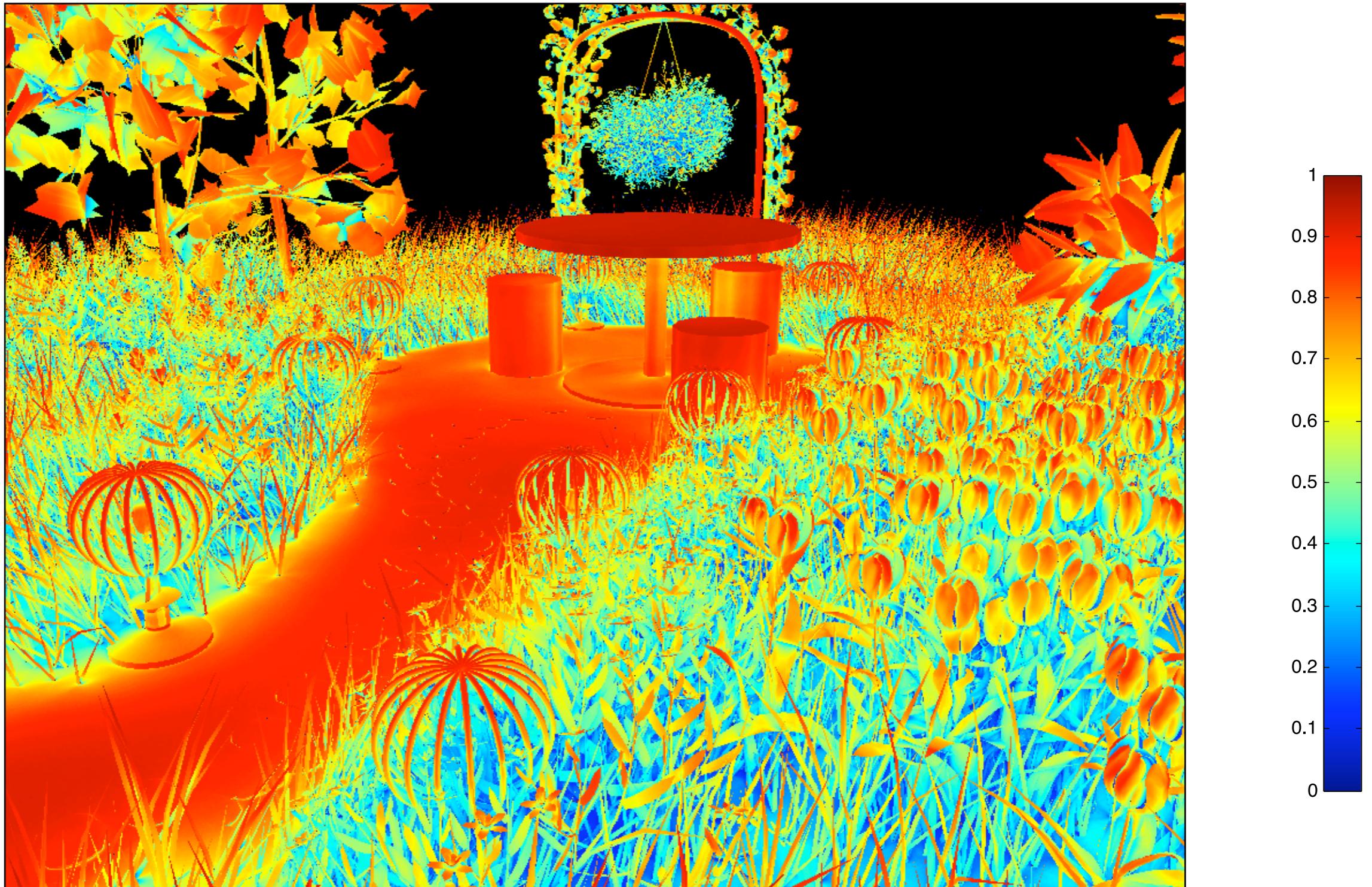
$$\rho \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{[Visibility Map 1]} \\ , \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{[Visibility Map 2]} \end{array} \right) = -1$$

$$\rho \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{[Visibility Map 1]} \\ , \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{[Visibility Map 2]} \end{array} \right) = 0.861$$

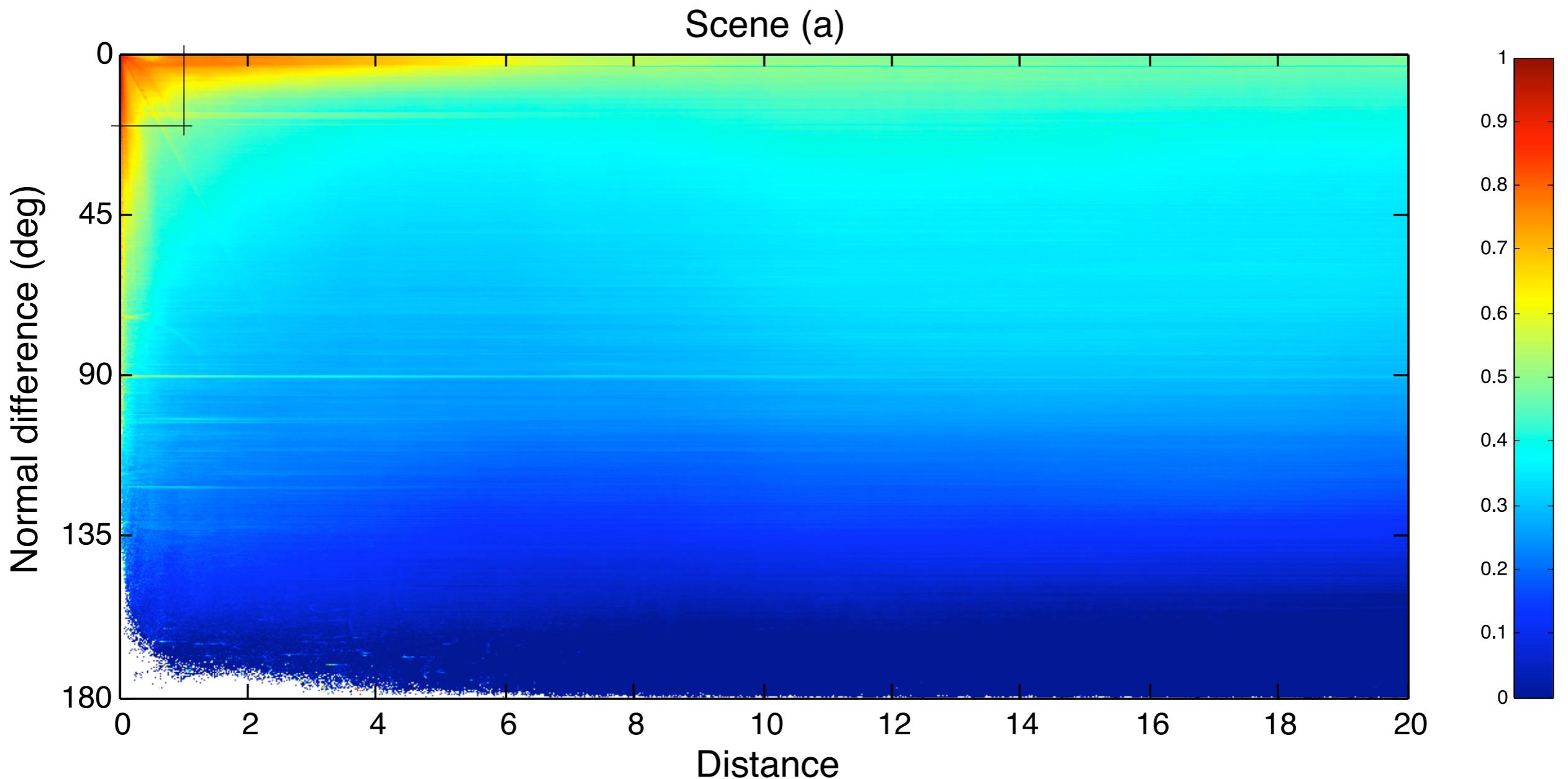
# Scene (a)



# Correlation



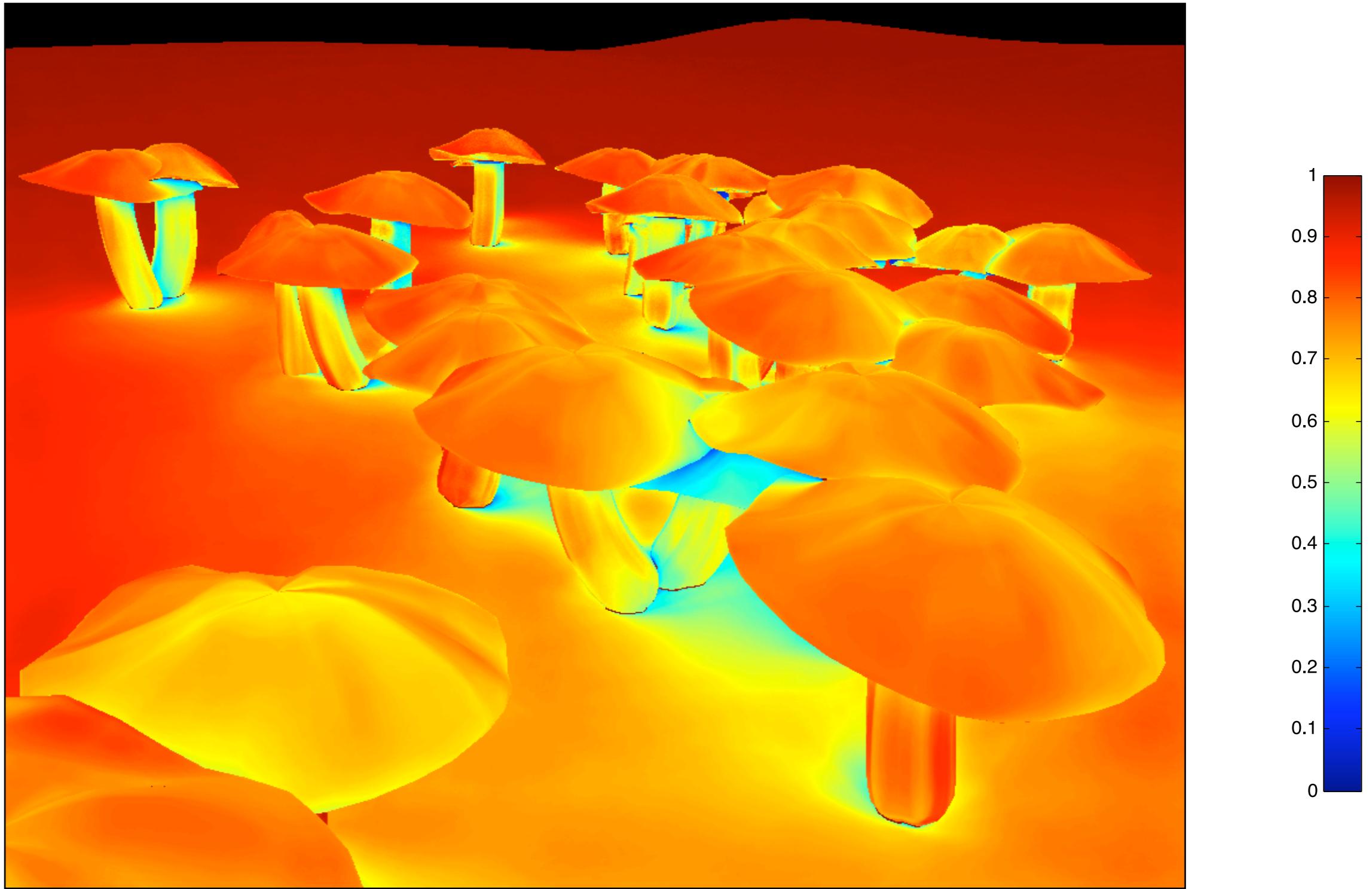
# Correlation



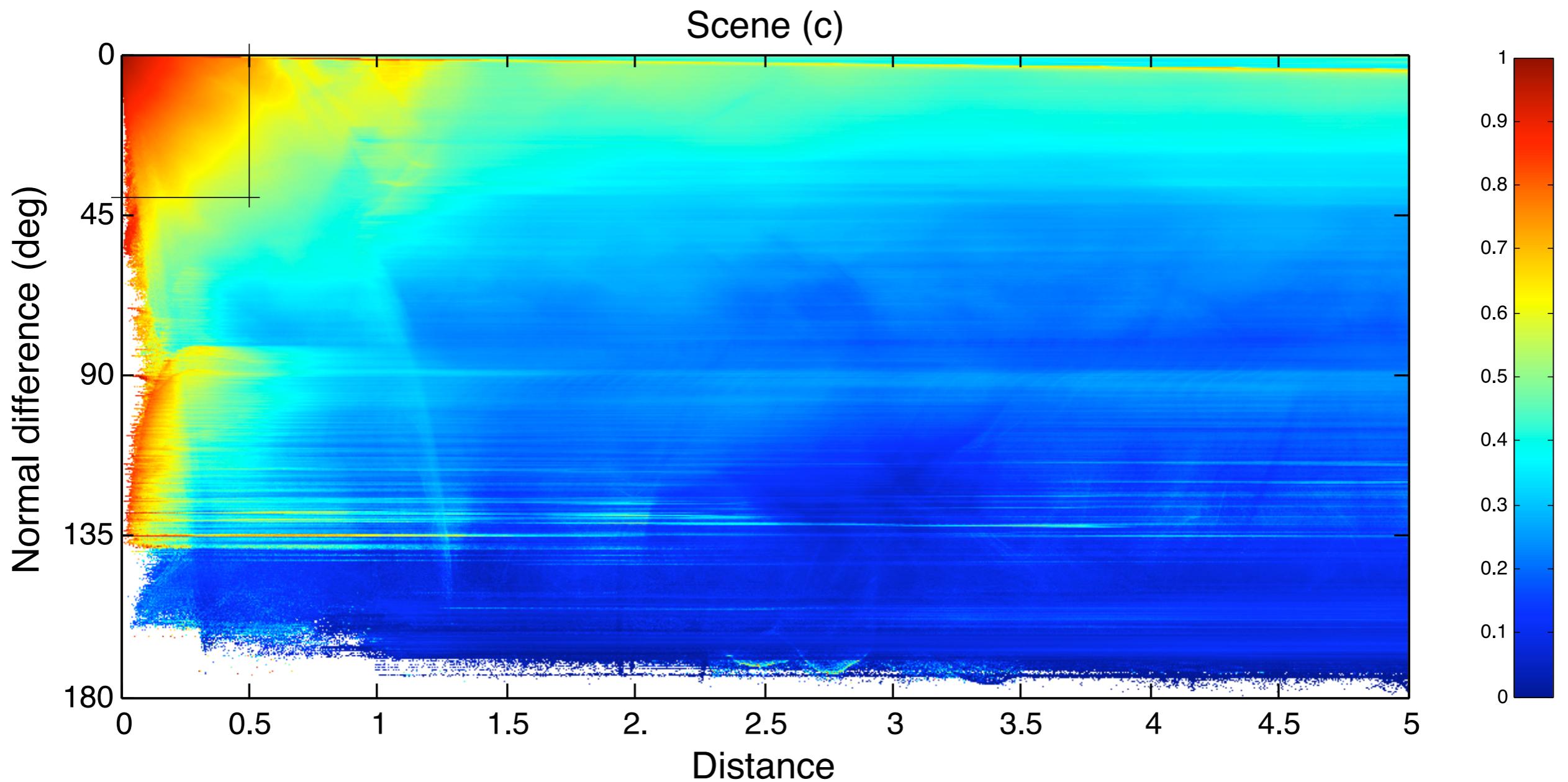
# Scene (c)



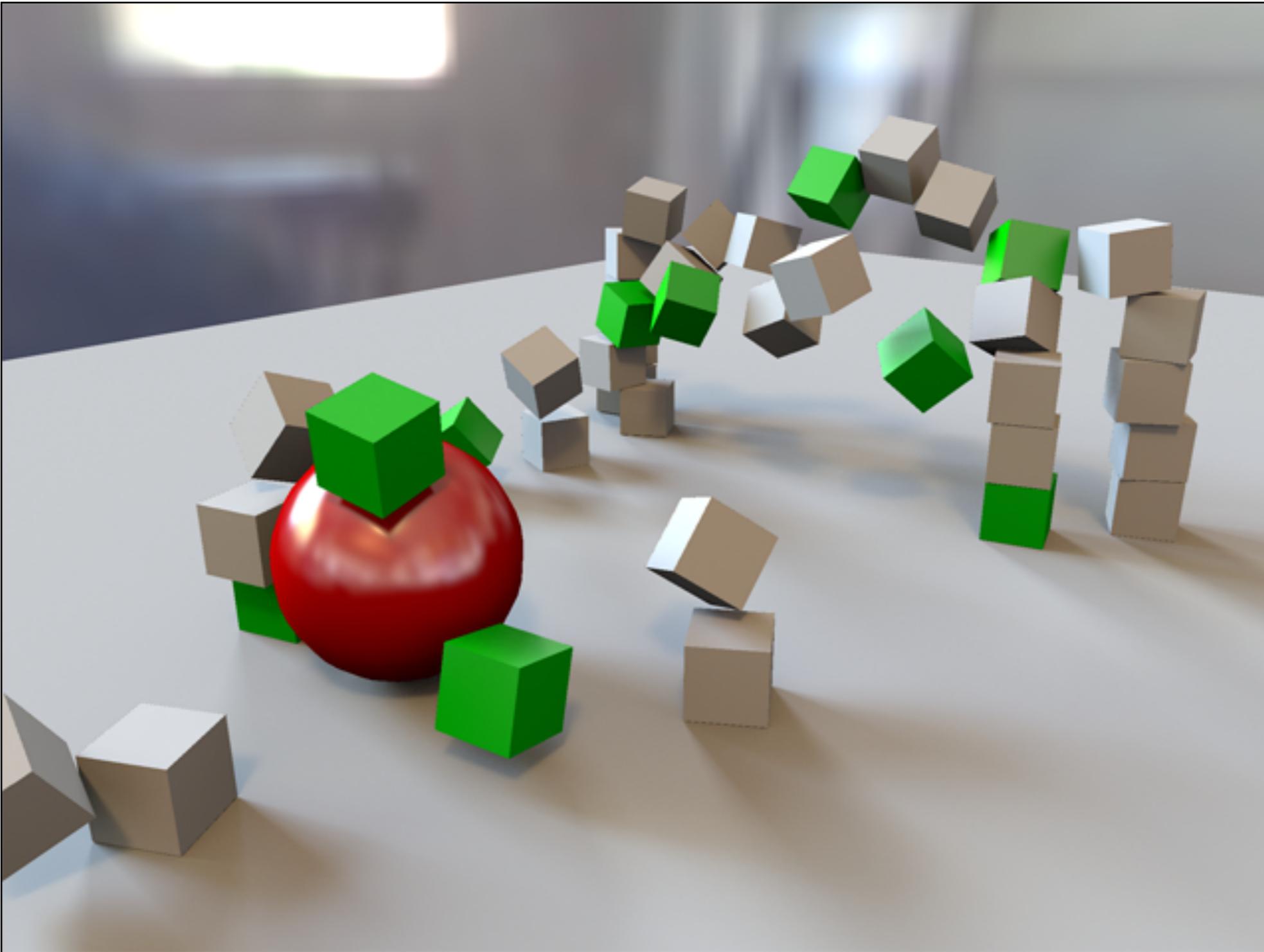
# Correlation



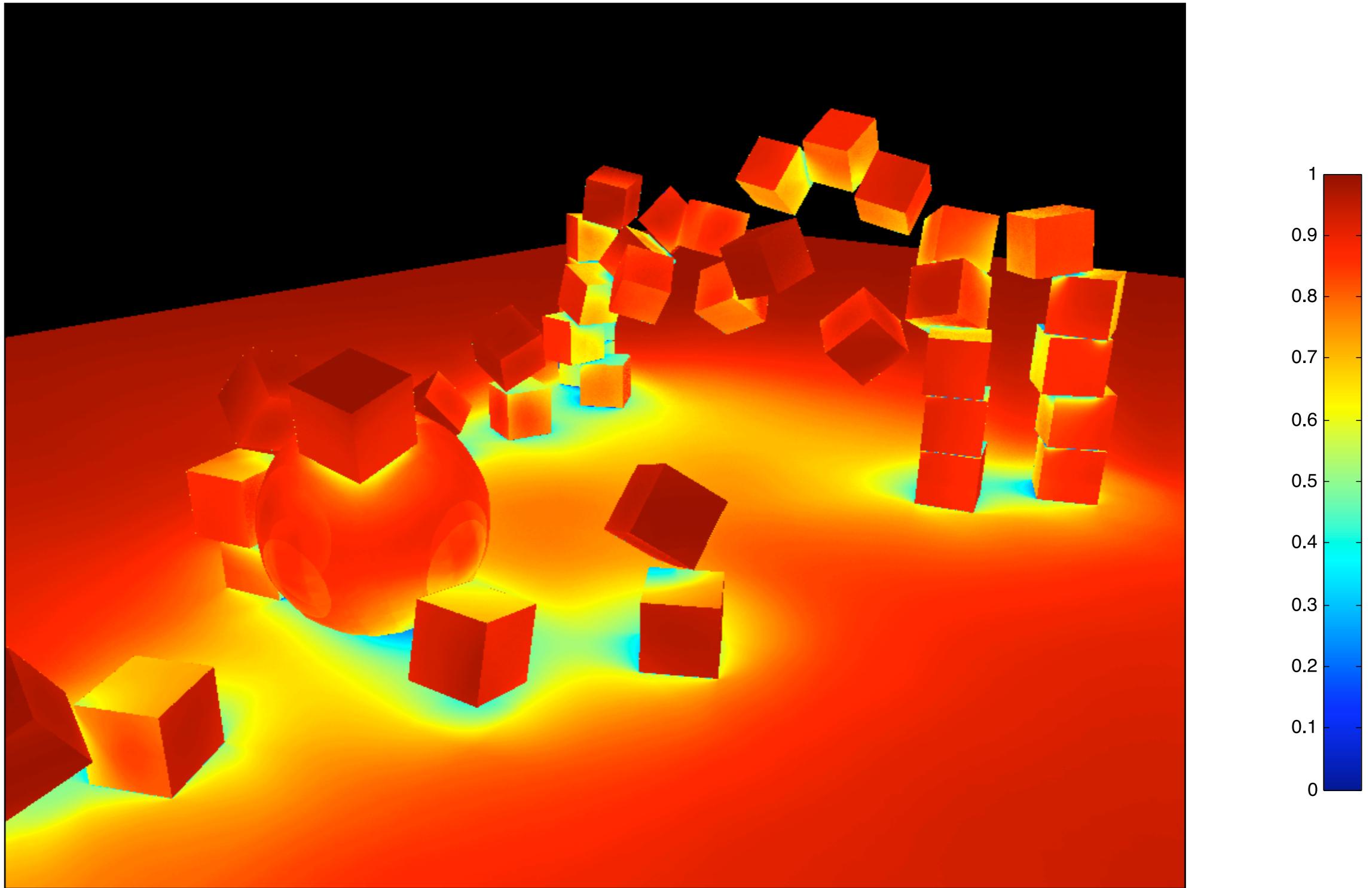
# Correlation



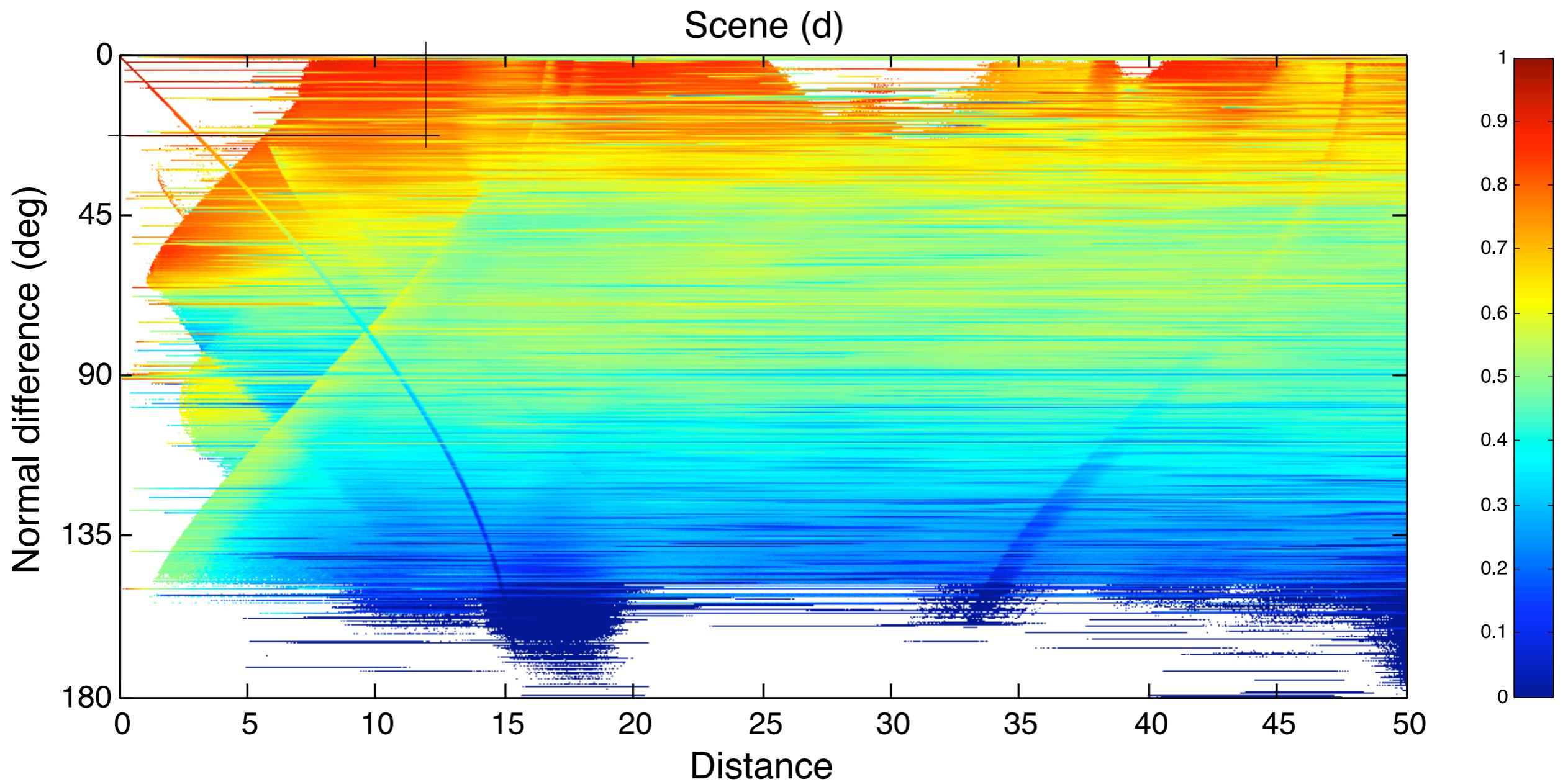
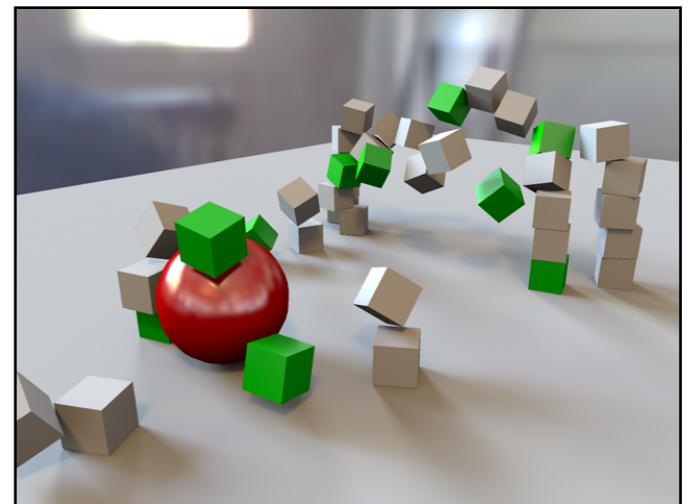
# Scene (d)



# Correlation

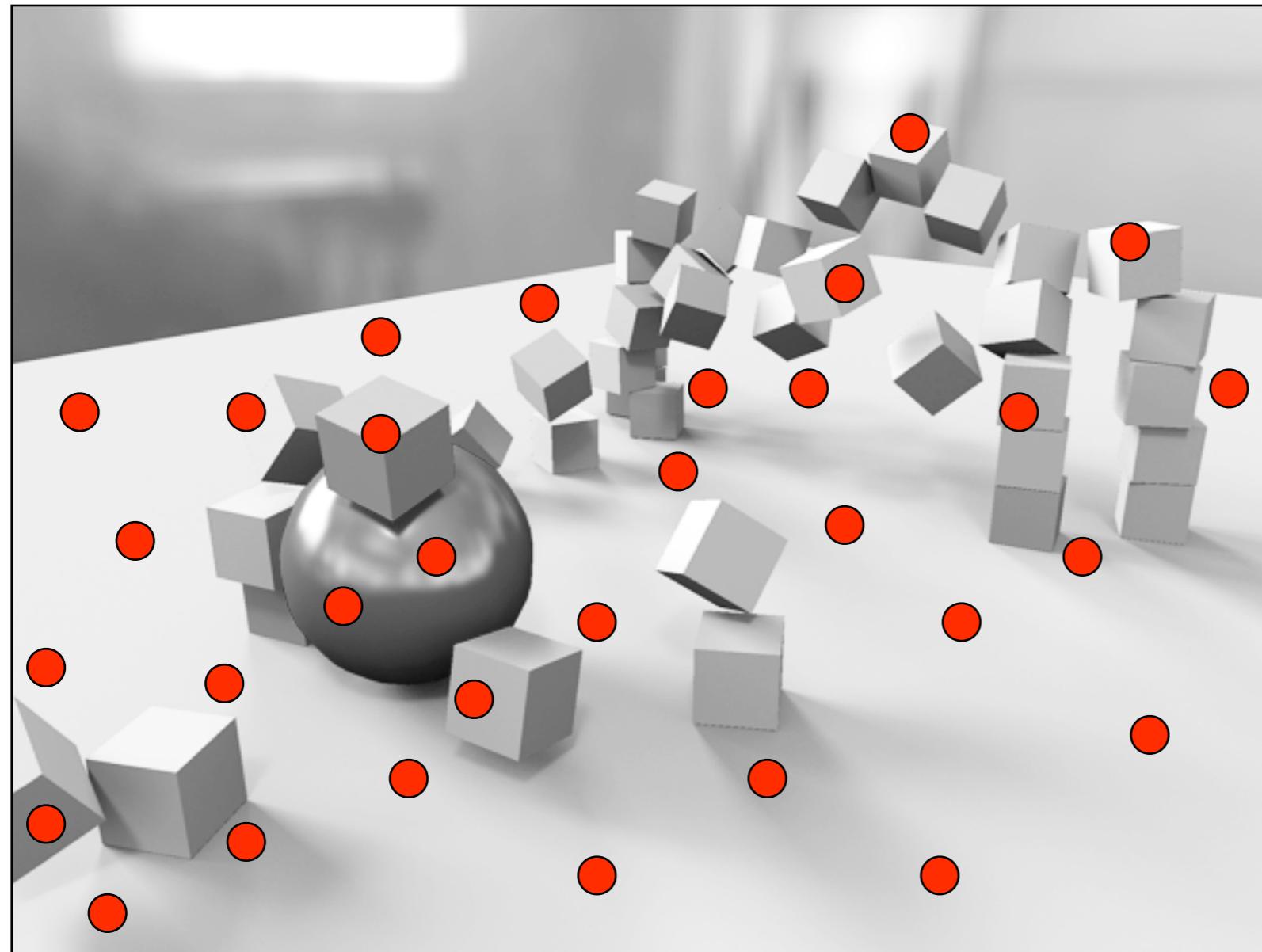


# Correlation



## 2. The Visibility Cache

During rendering, insert cache records:



Each record is a  
low-res visibility  
map (e.g. 32x32)

Typically scene:  
10k - 20k records

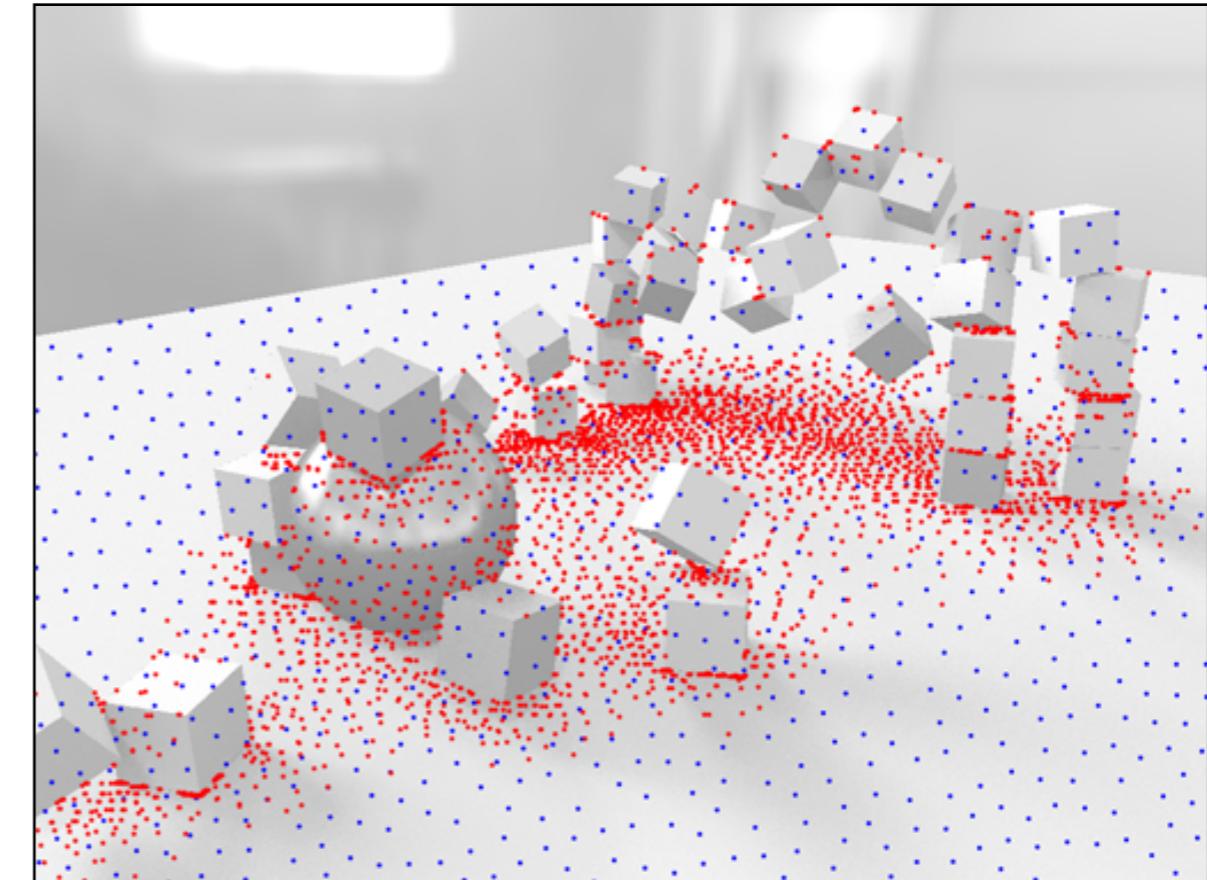
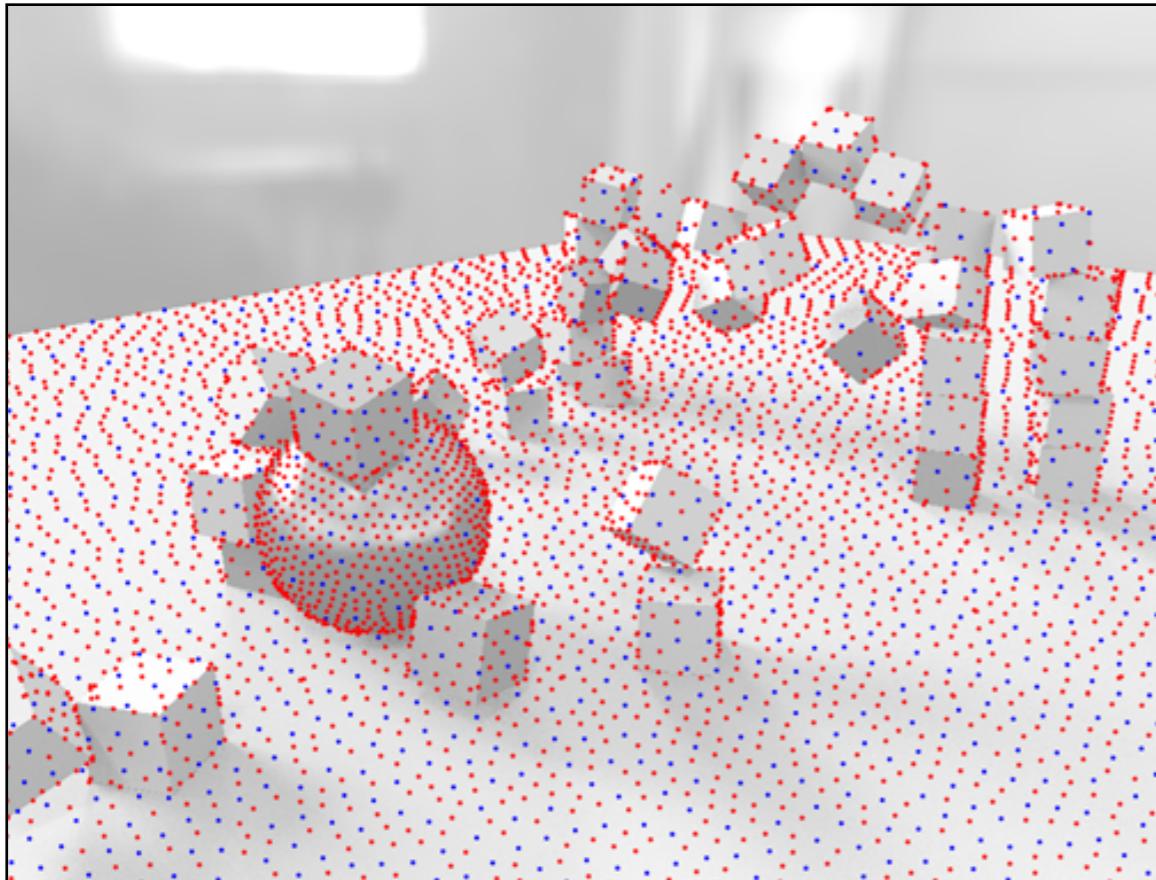
⇒ 5-10 M rays

# Where to place records?

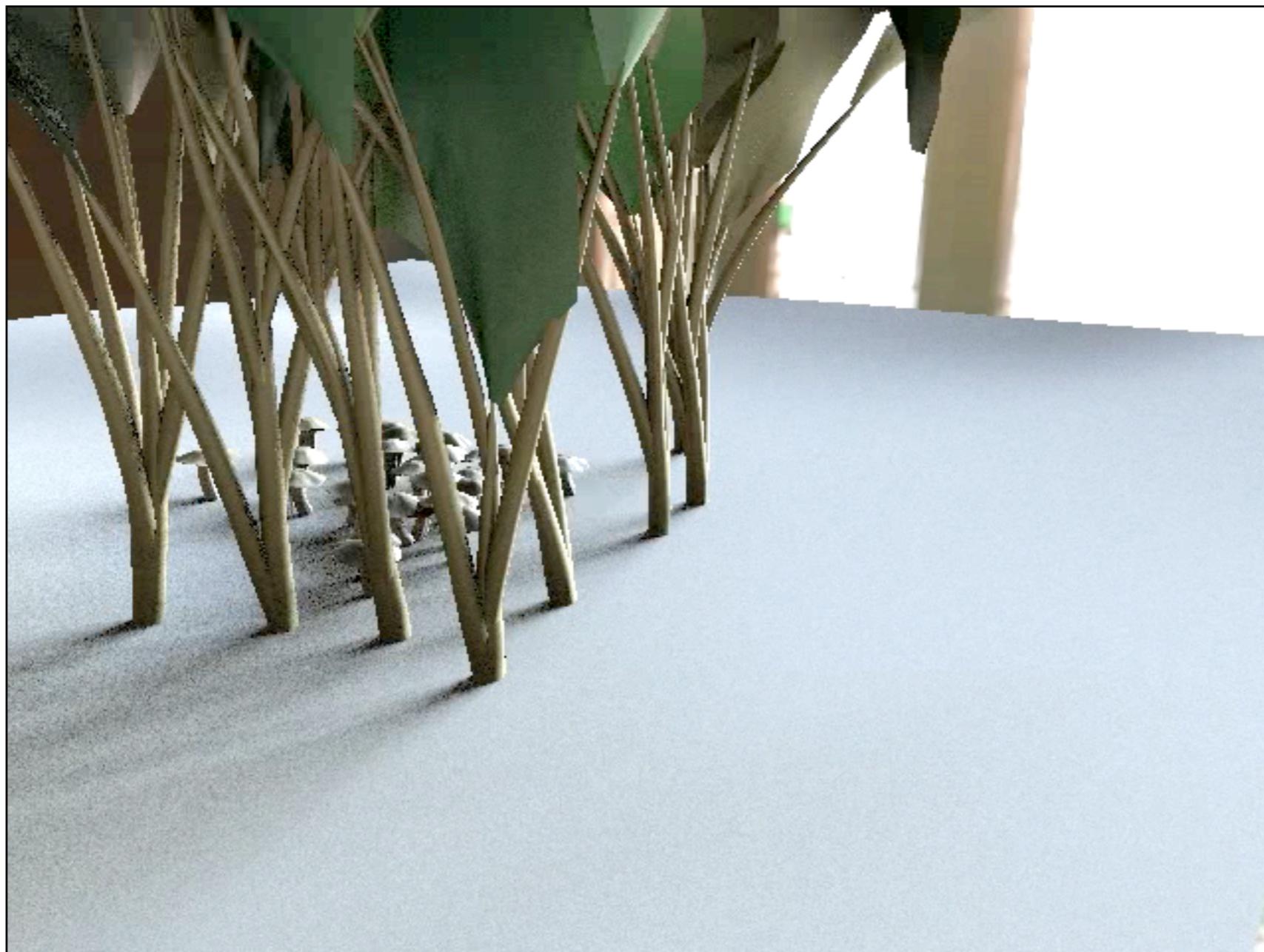
## Several heuristics based on measurements

- Geometric
- Average visibility difference
- Max number of wrong visibility queries

Details in  
the paper

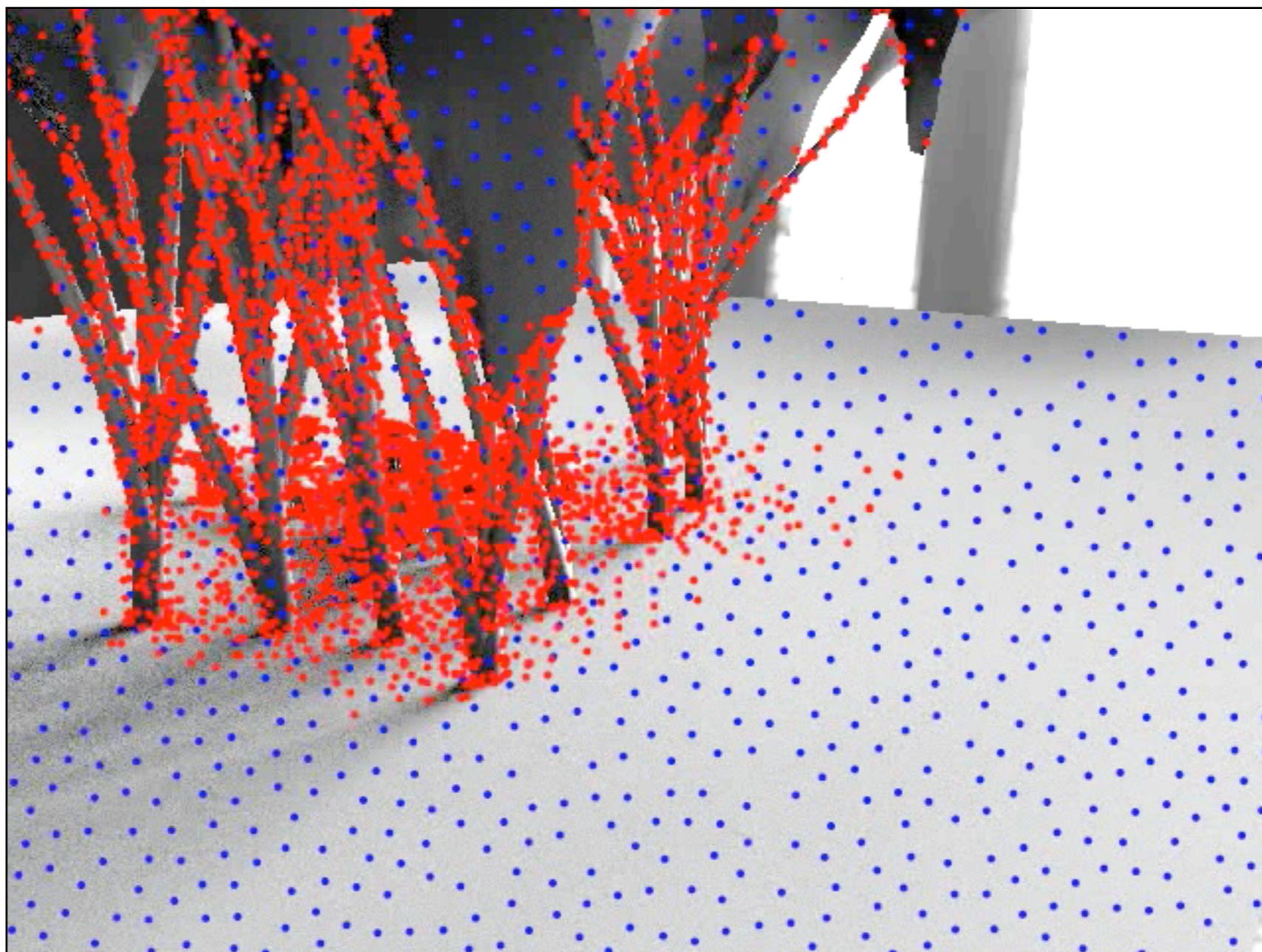


# Example: Static Scene



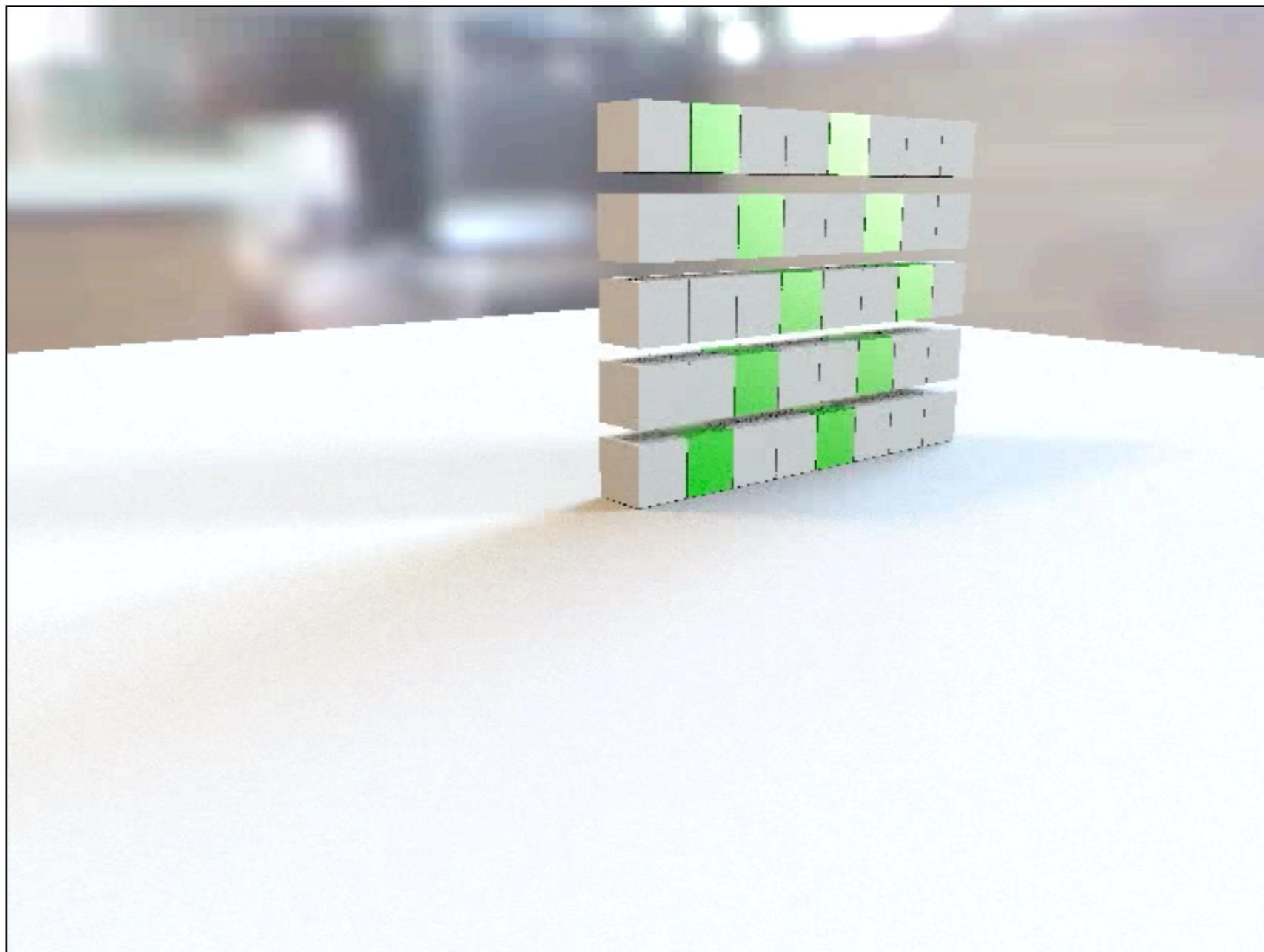
Video

# Example: Static Scene



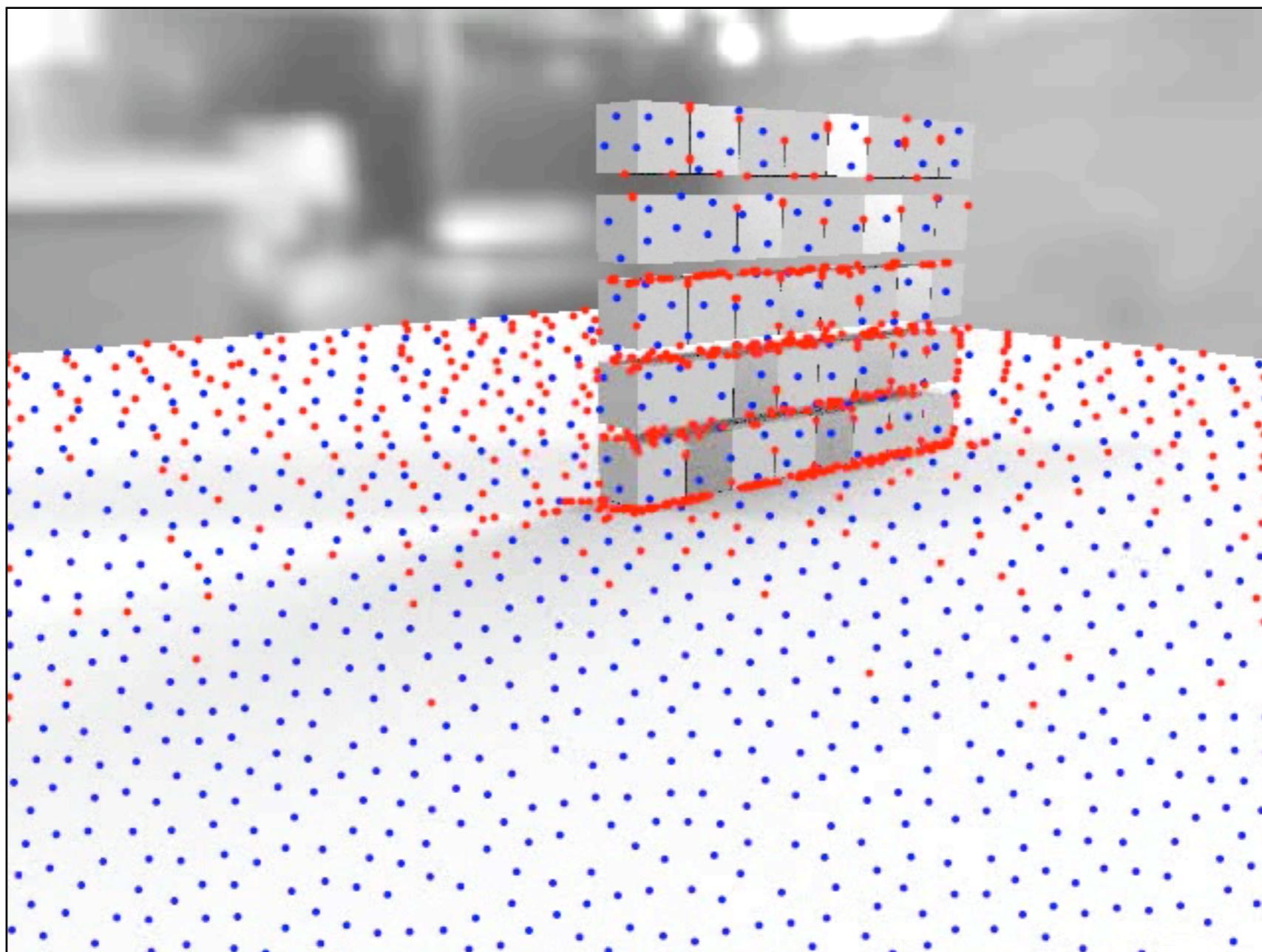
Video

# Example: Dynamic Scene



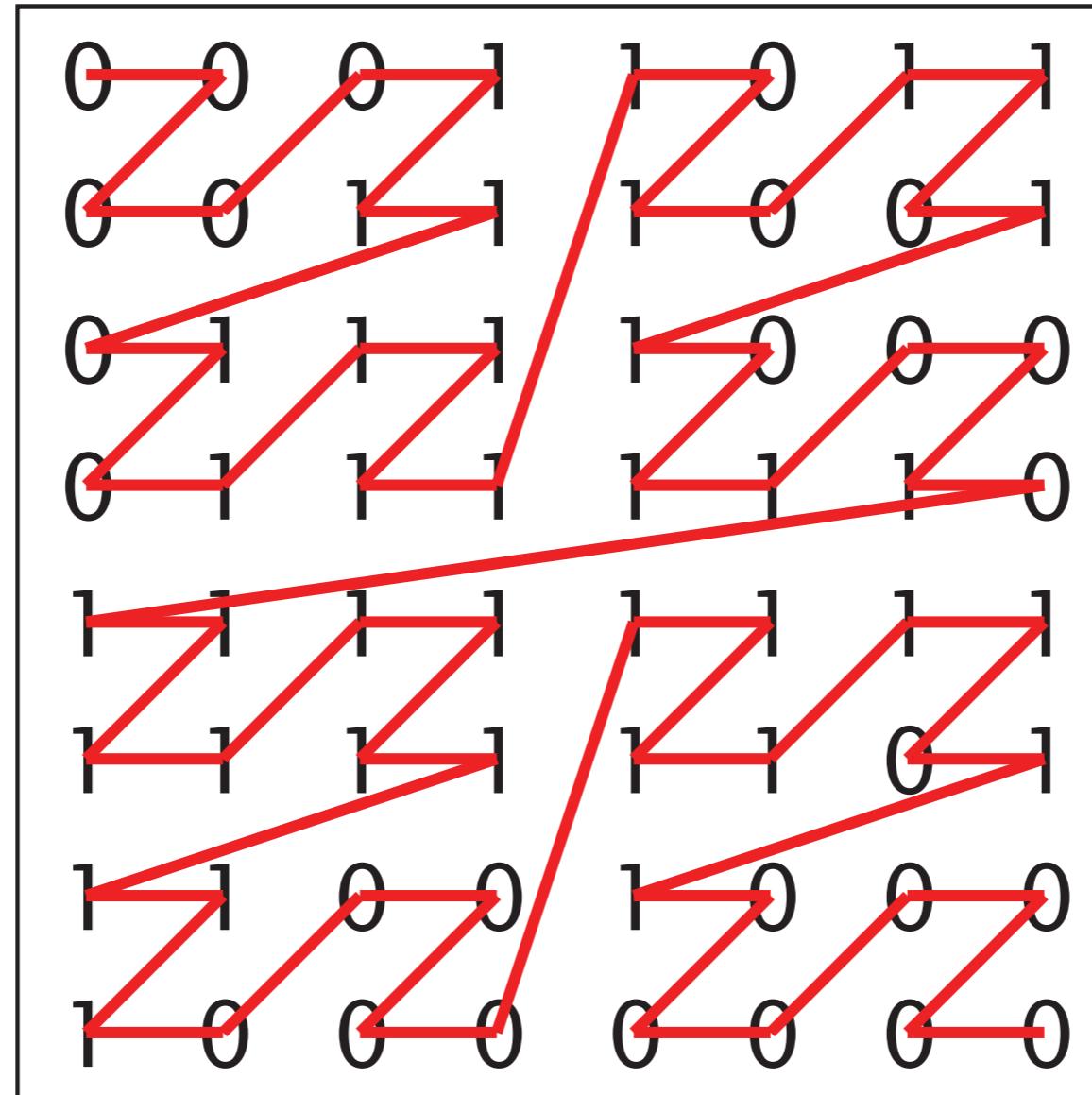
Video

# Example: Dynamic Scene



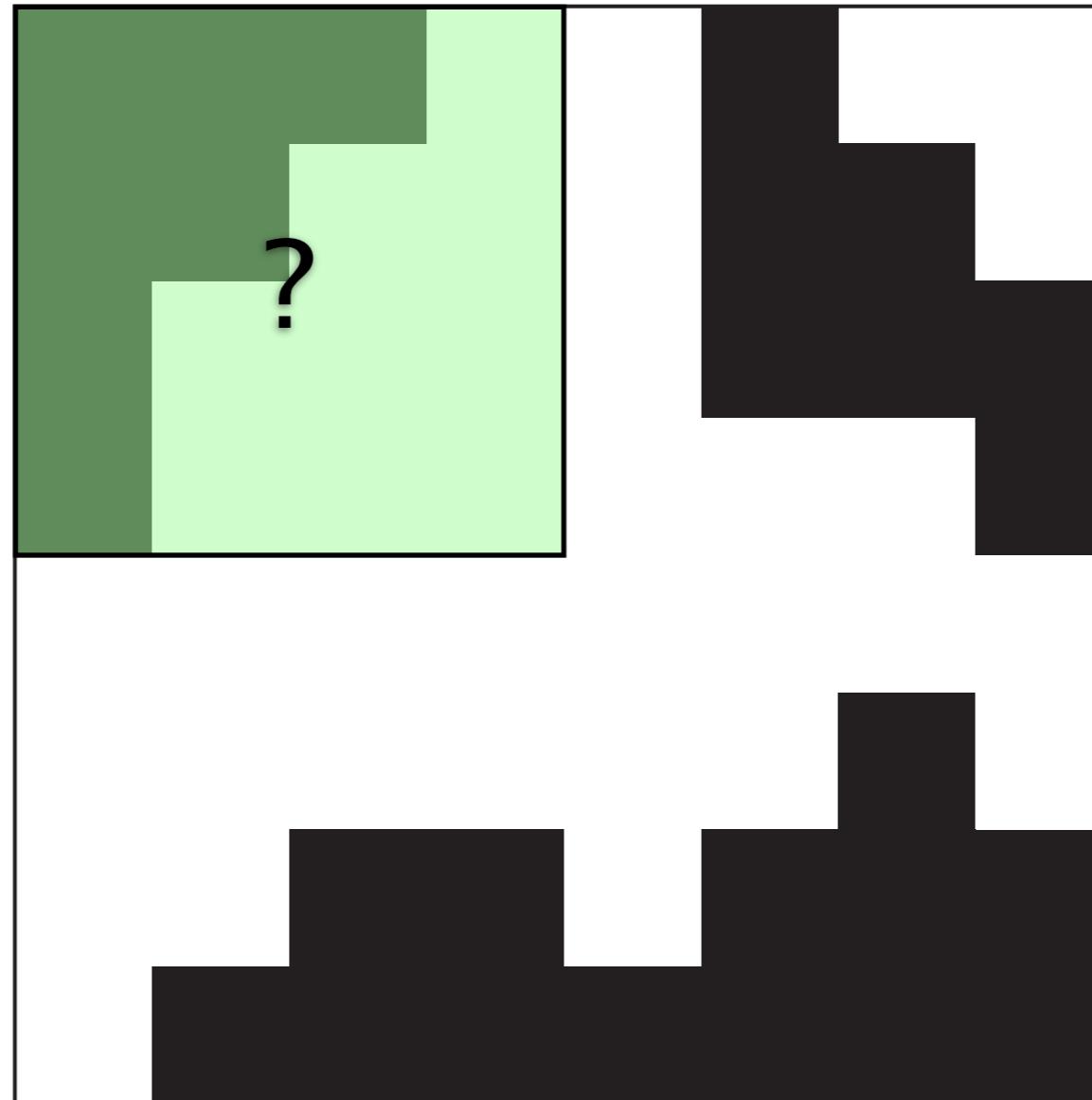
Video

# Implementation



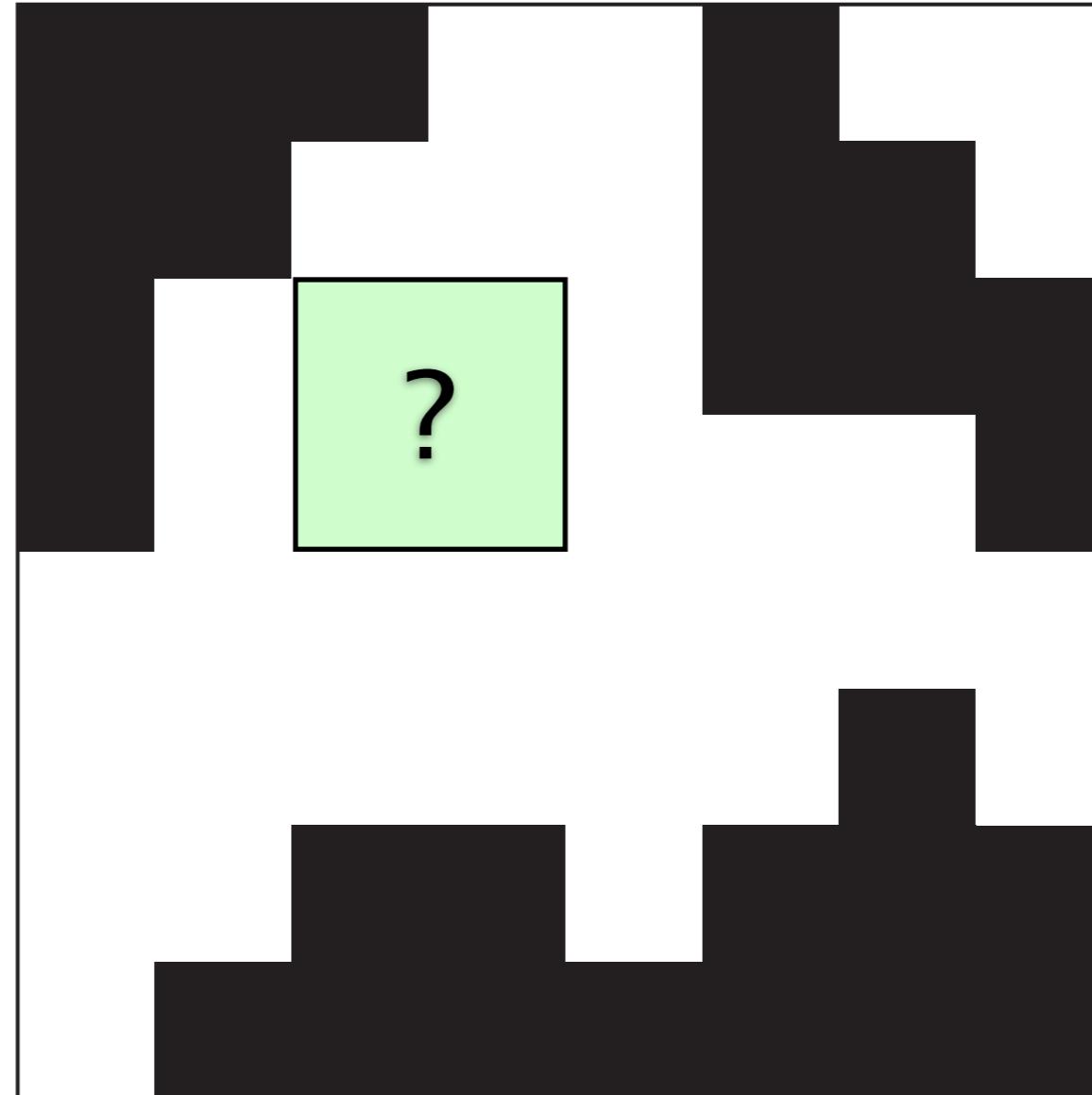
0000011101011111010110110...10110000000

# Implementation



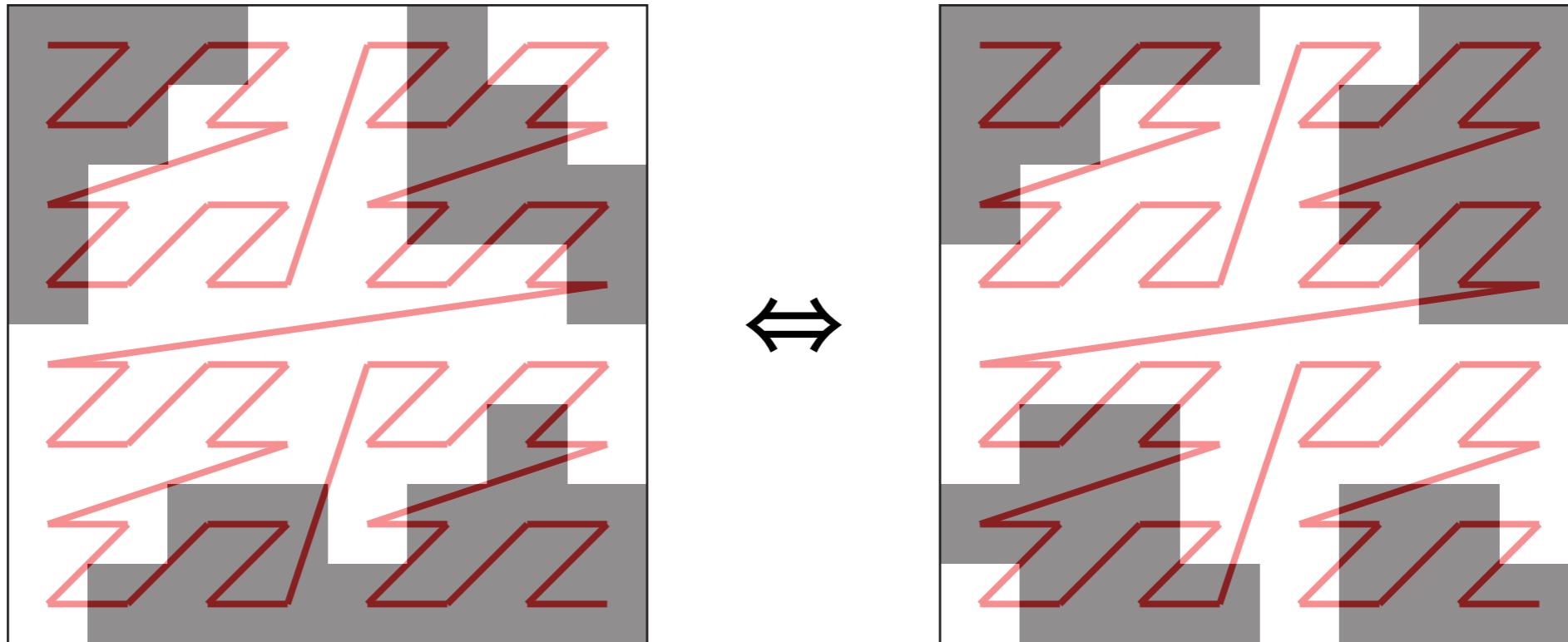
00000111010111111010110110...10110000000

# Implementation



00000111010111111010110110...10110000000

# Visibility Difference



00000111010111110101101100101111111100000111111011000000  
00000011011111110000010110000111011010010011111110100100

---

0000010000100000010011010000001000010010110001000000001000100100

1) XOR

2) Count bits  $\Rightarrow 15 \Rightarrow 23.4\%$  difference

SSE: 128 bits at the time

also using SSE

# Memory Use

## Example

Visibility map size: 32x32 pixels

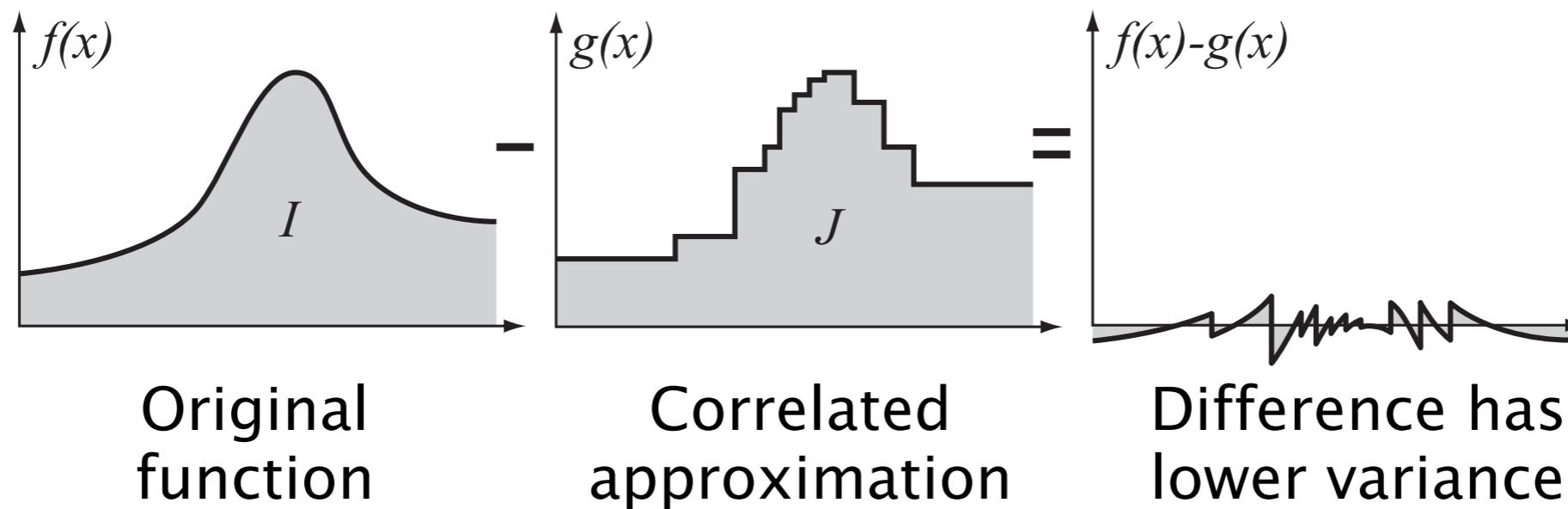
1 bit/pixel  $\Rightarrow$  128 bytes + 44 bytes book-keeping

Number of cache records: 11,900

Total memory use: 2 MB (fits in CPU's L2 cache)

# App #1 Monte Carlo

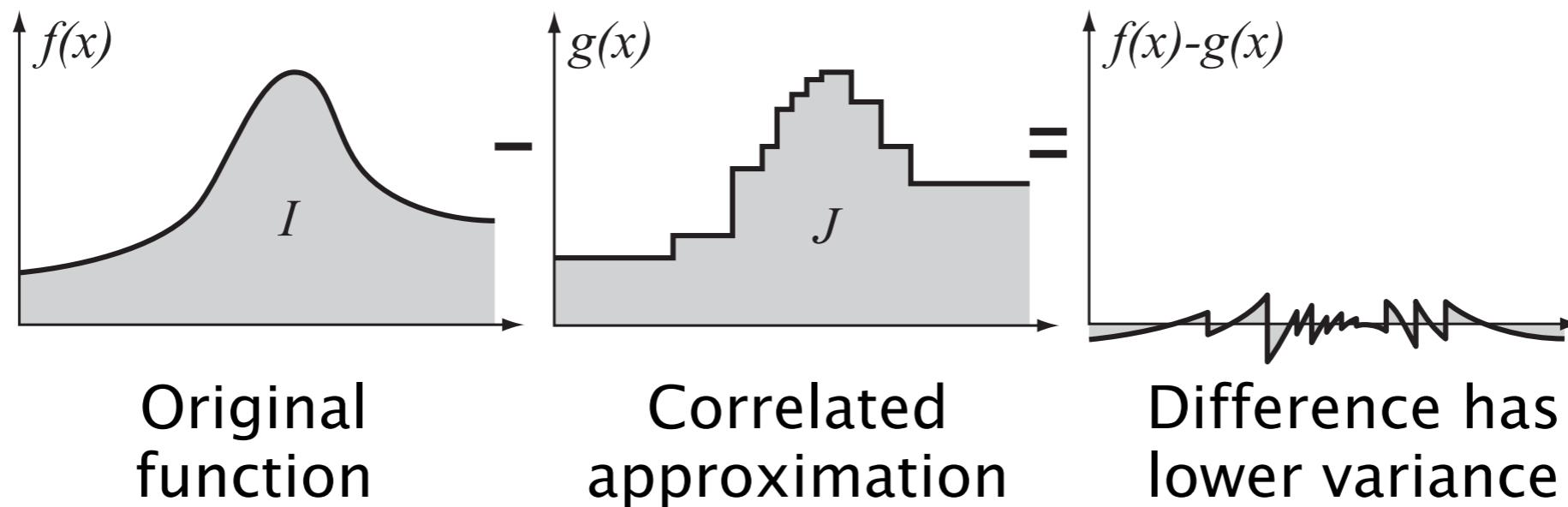
Use Control Variates to reduce noise:



$$L_{\text{out}} = \int LBV d\omega = \int LBV - L\tilde{B}\tilde{V} d\omega + \int L\tilde{B}\tilde{V} d\omega$$

# App #1 Monte Carlo

Use Control Variates to reduce noise:



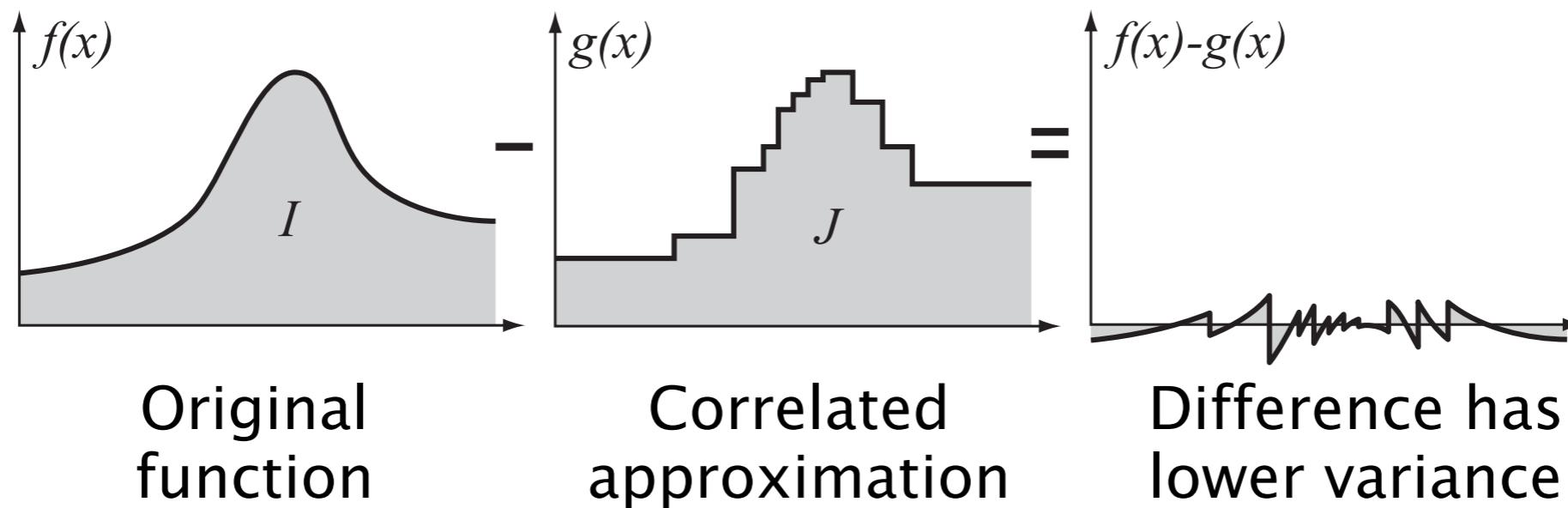
$$L_{\text{out}} = \int LBV d\omega = \int LBV - L\tilde{B}\tilde{V} d\omega + \int L\tilde{B}\tilde{V} d\omega$$

Given by Visibility Cache

Arrows point from the terms  $L\tilde{B}\tilde{V}$  in the equation to the text "Given by Visibility Cache".

# App #1 Monte Carlo

Use Control Variates to reduce noise:

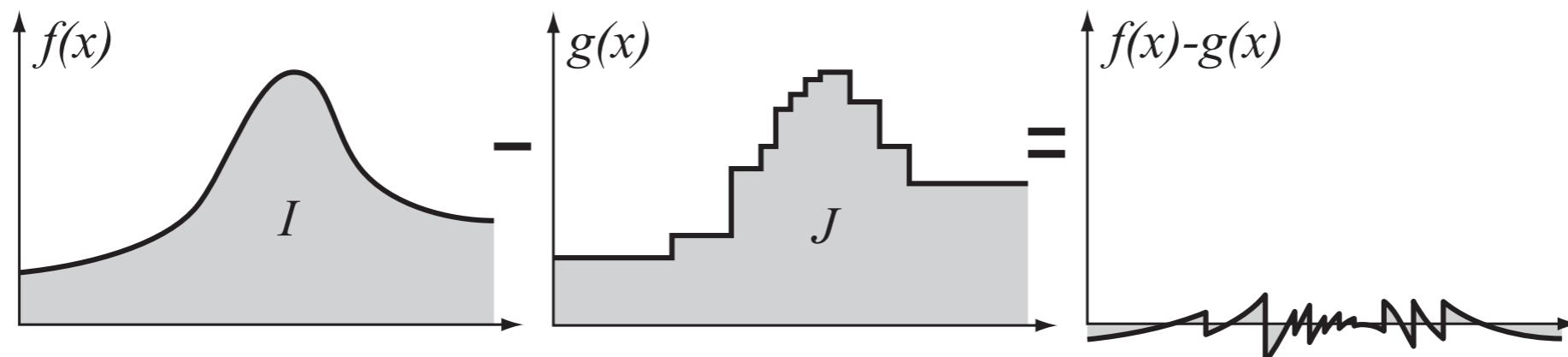


$$L_{\text{out}} = \int LBV d\omega = \int LBV - L\tilde{B}\tilde{V} d\omega + \int L\tilde{B}\tilde{V} d\omega$$

Given by existing product sampling algorithms  
[Cline et al. 2006, Clarberg et al. 2008]

# App #1 Monte Carlo

Use Control Variates to reduce noise:



Original  
function

Correlated  
approximation

Difference has  
lower variance

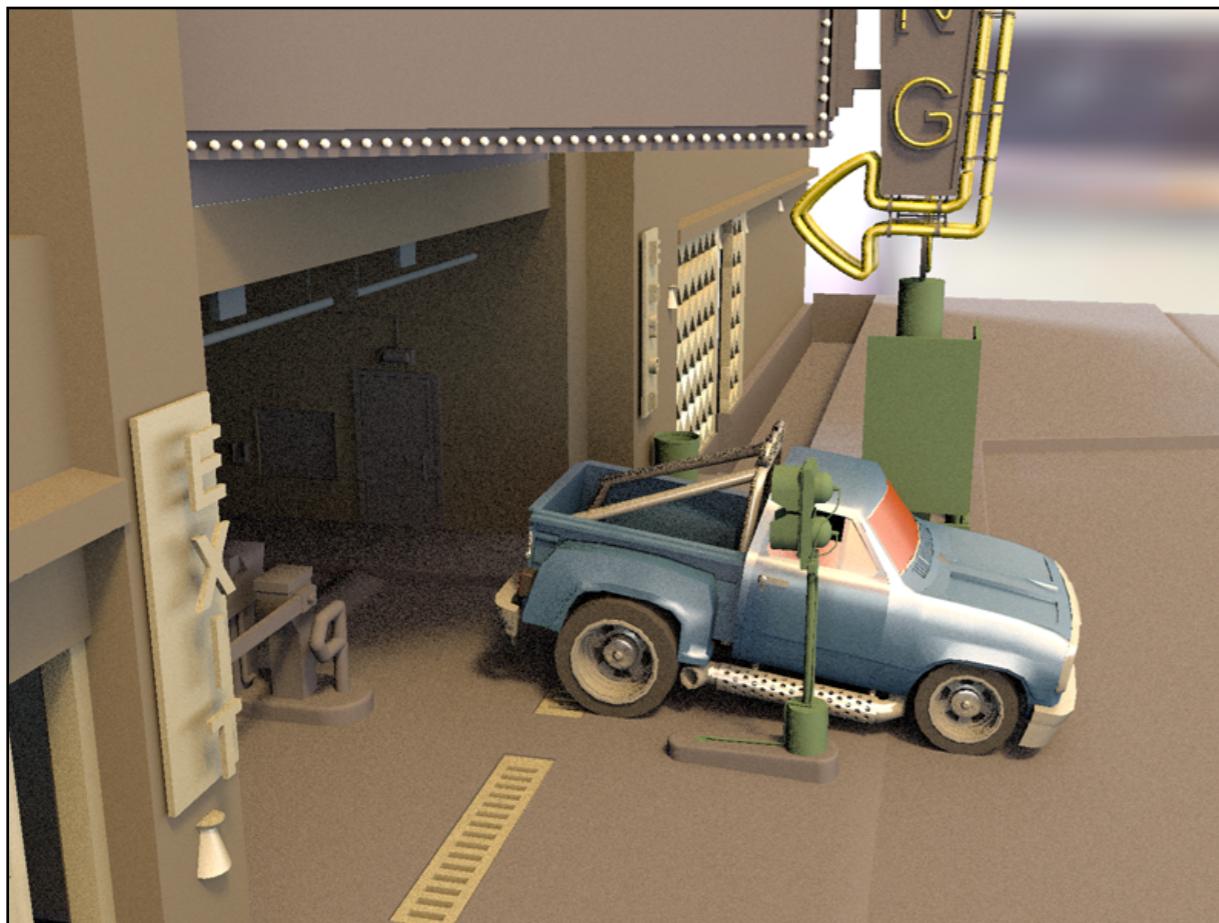
**Unbiased !**

$$L_{\text{out}} = \int LBV d\omega = \int LBV - L\tilde{B}\tilde{V} d\omega + \int L\tilde{B}\tilde{V} d\omega$$

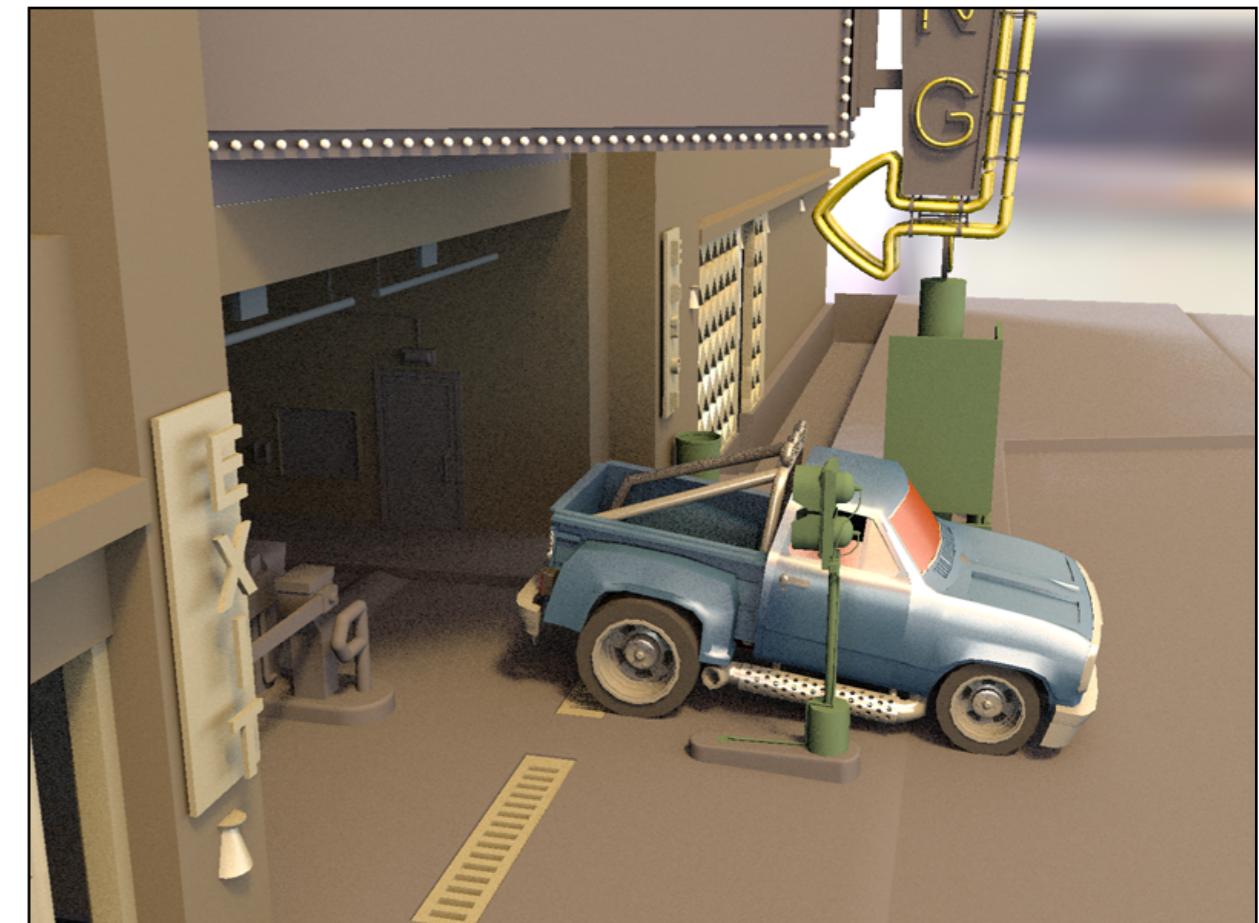
Evaluated using  
importance sampling

Given by quick  
quadtree product

# Equal-Time Results

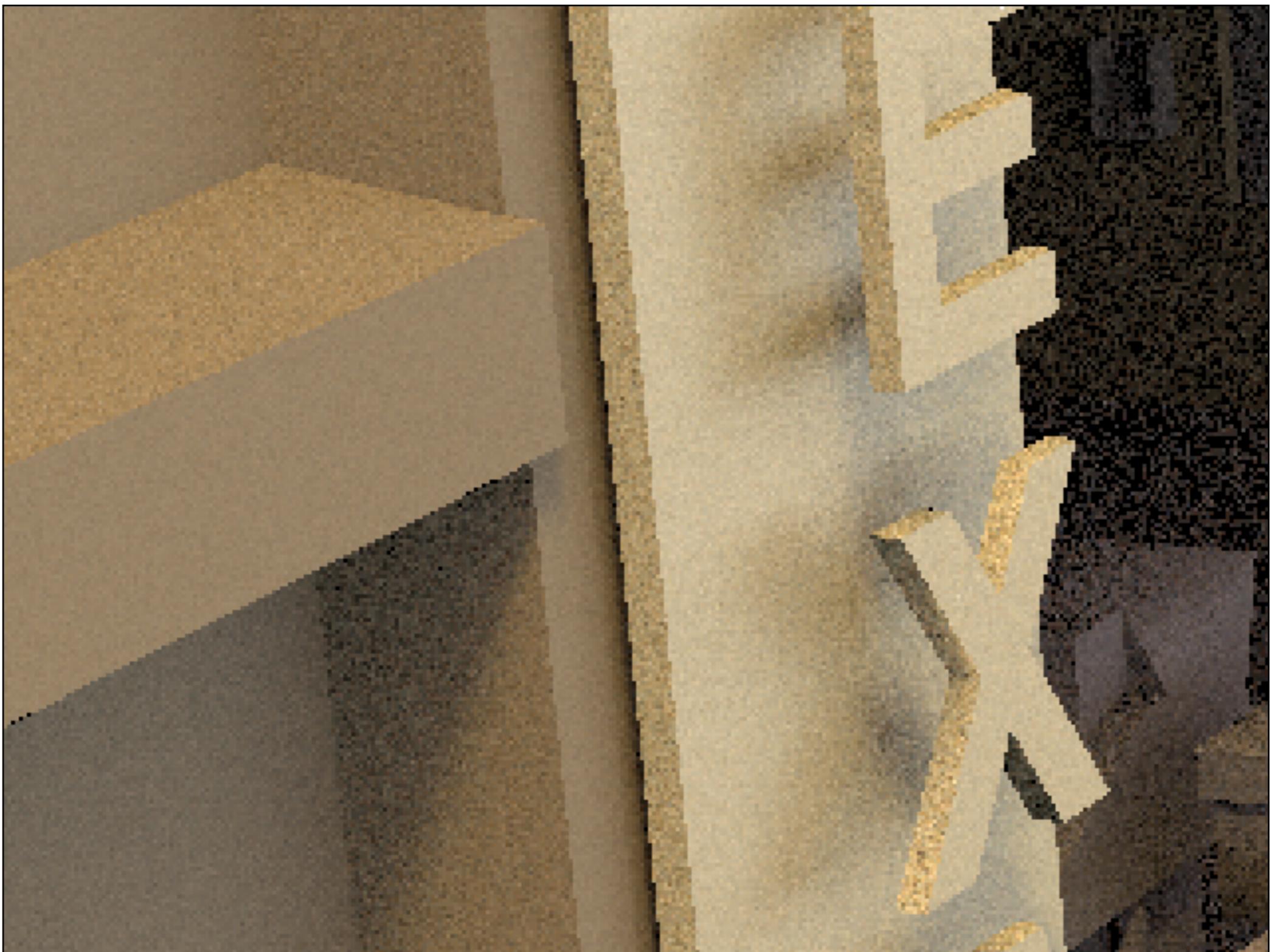


State-of-the-art  
product sampling  
(39 samples/pixel)



Our algorithm  
(30 samples/pixel)

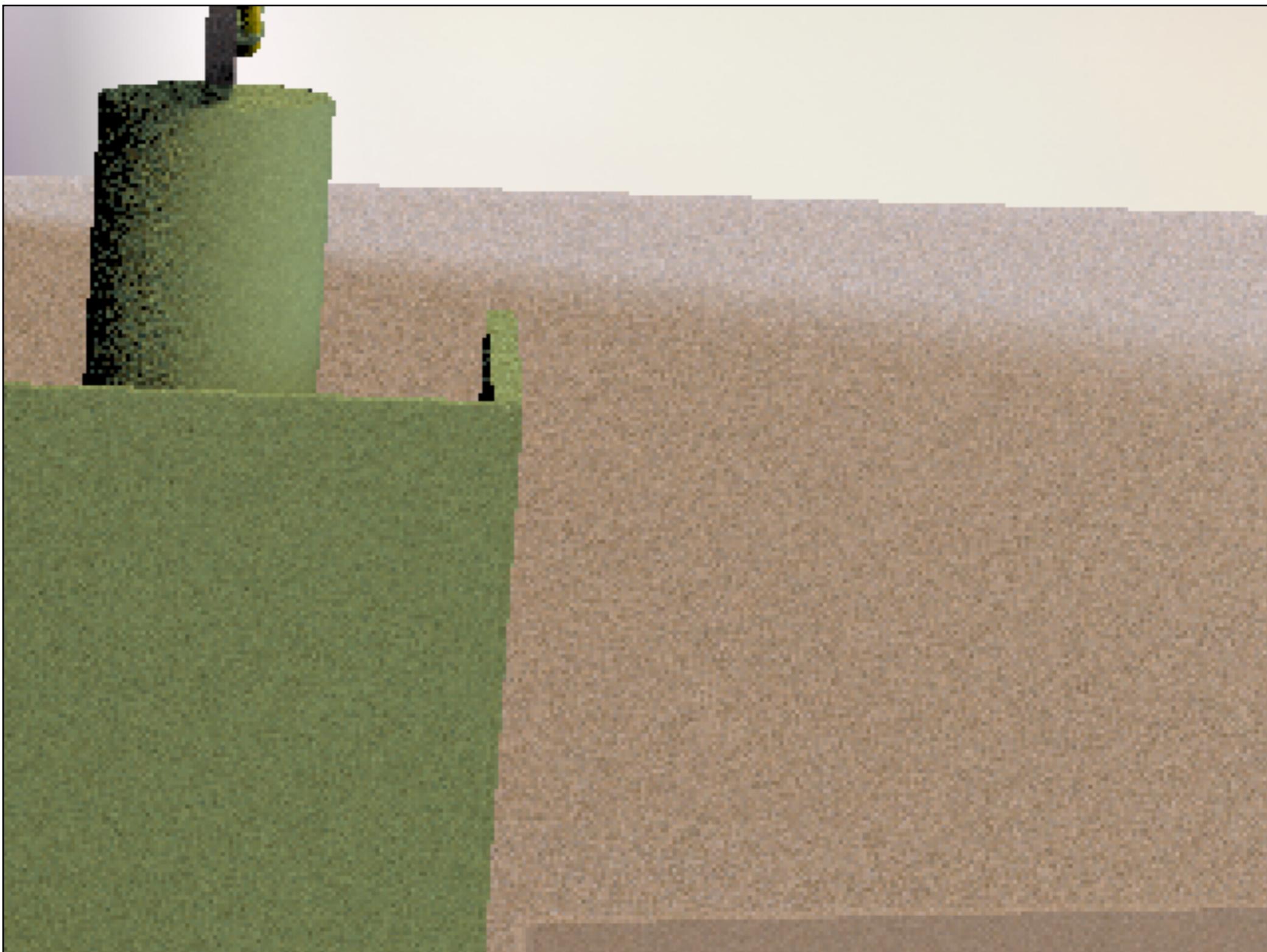
# Product Sampling



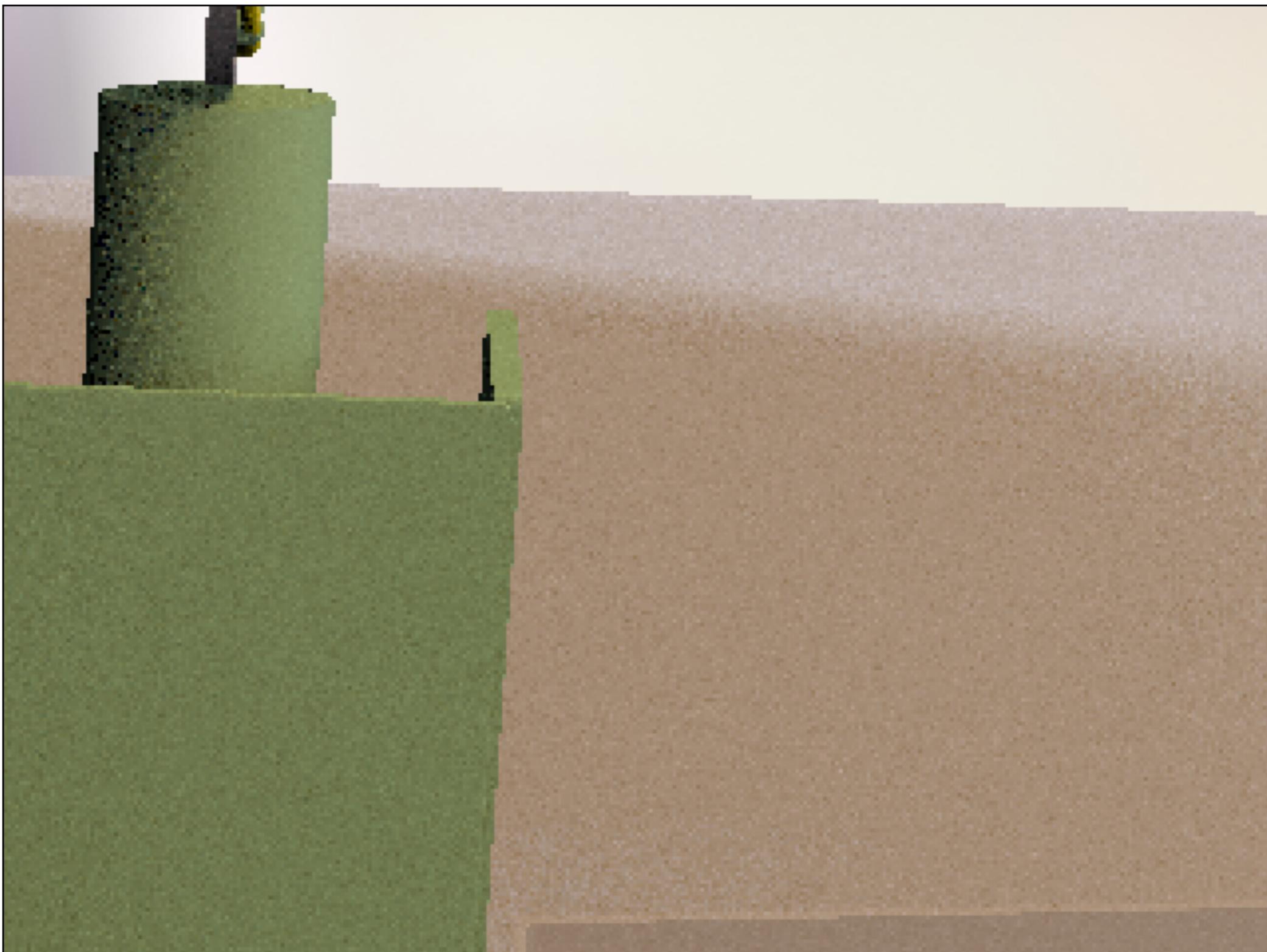
# Our Algorithm



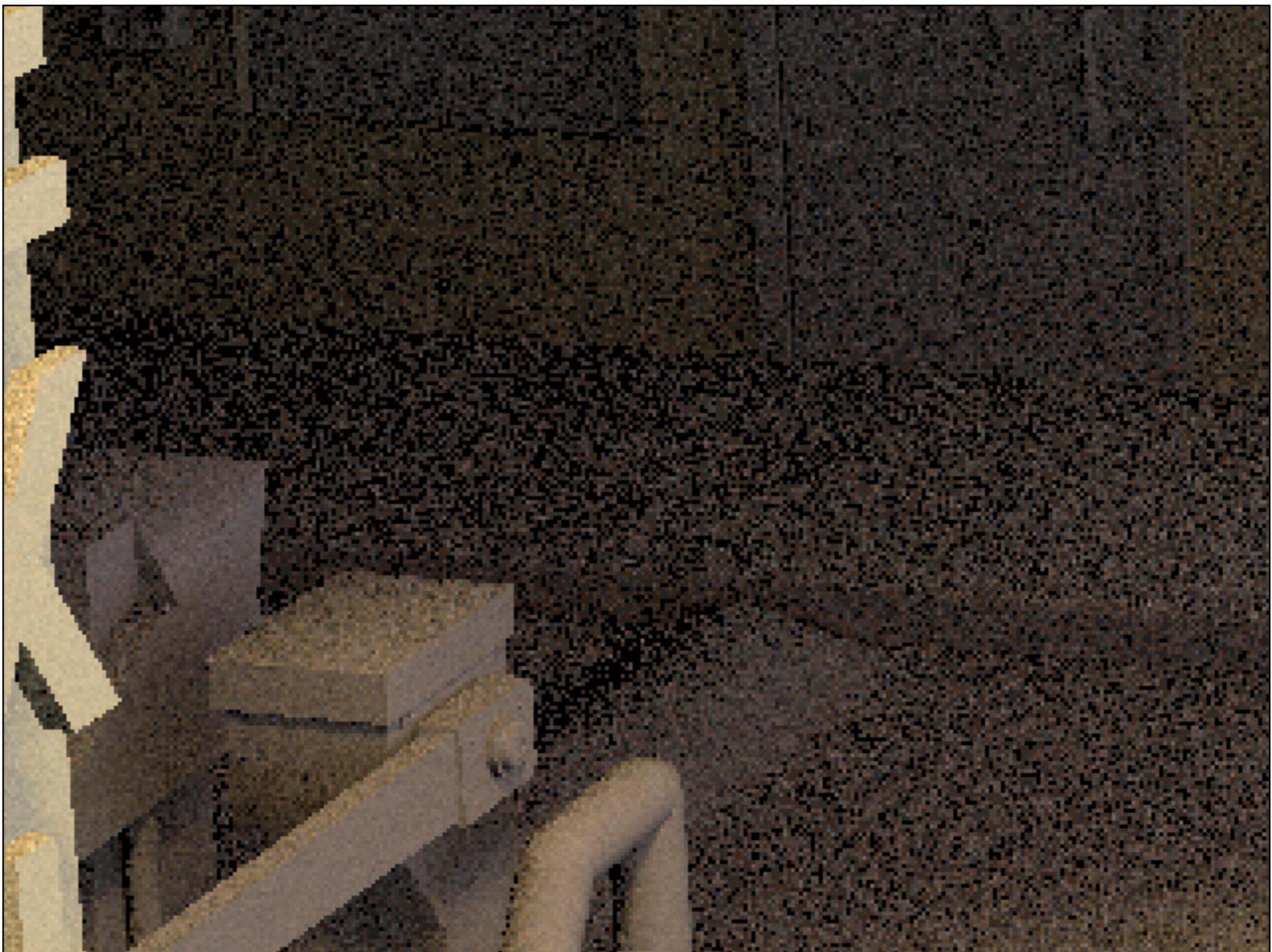
# Product Sampling



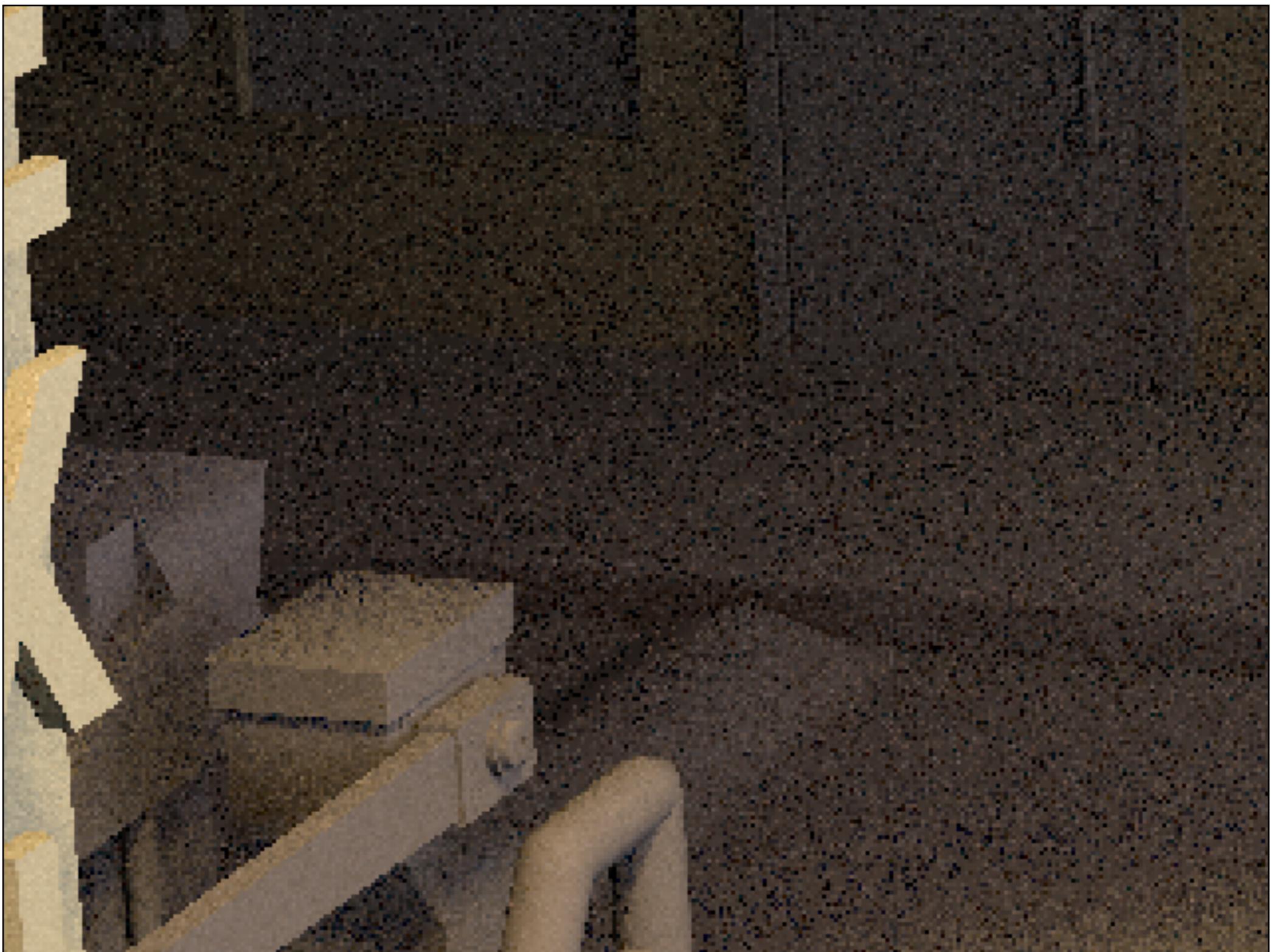
# Our Algorithm



# Product Sampling



# Our Algorithm



# App #1 Summary

**Good use of control variates (finally)**

Unbiased even if visibility approximation is off

Animations: Re-use over time without lagging

**Up to 5x variance reduction**

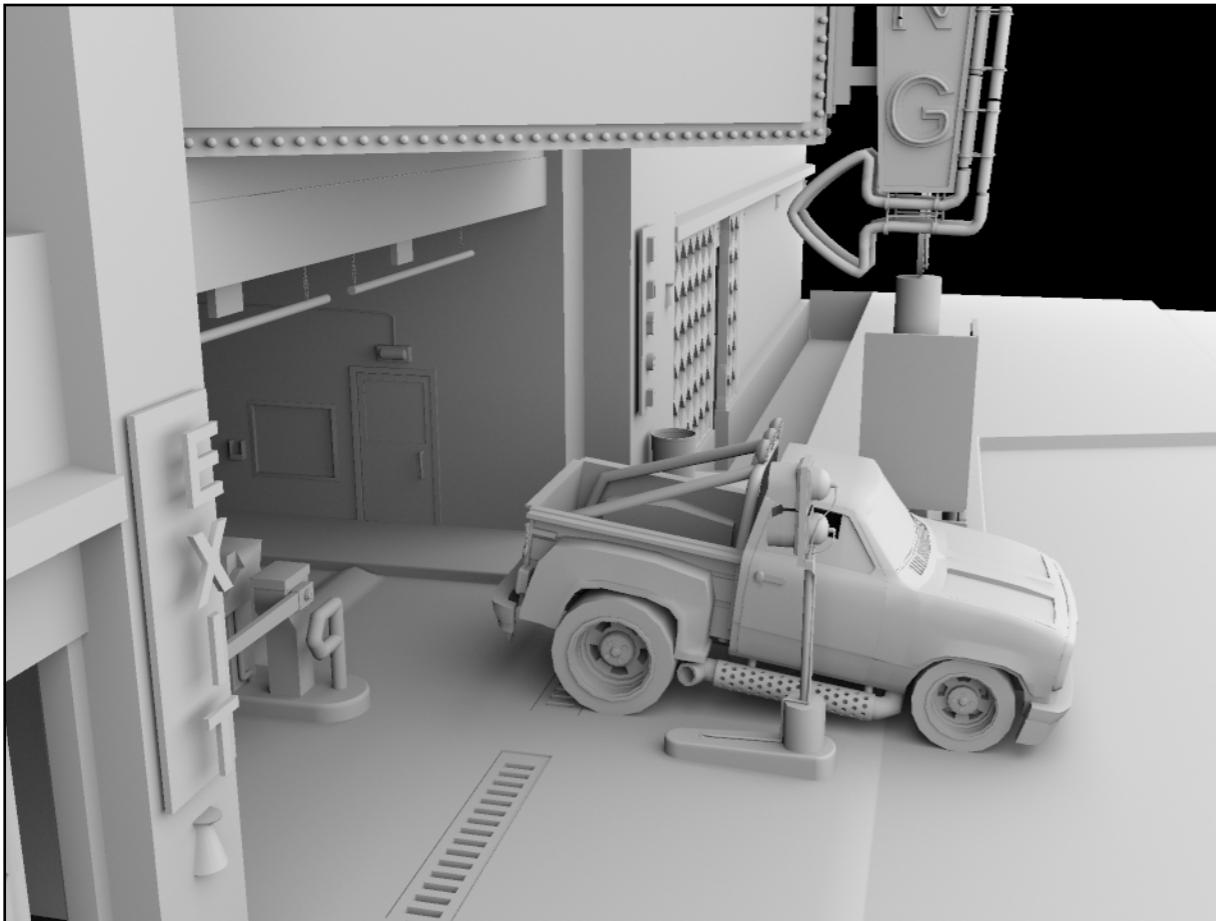
Depends on scene complexity

- Some scenes have too low visibility correlation
- Largest improvement is in shadow regions

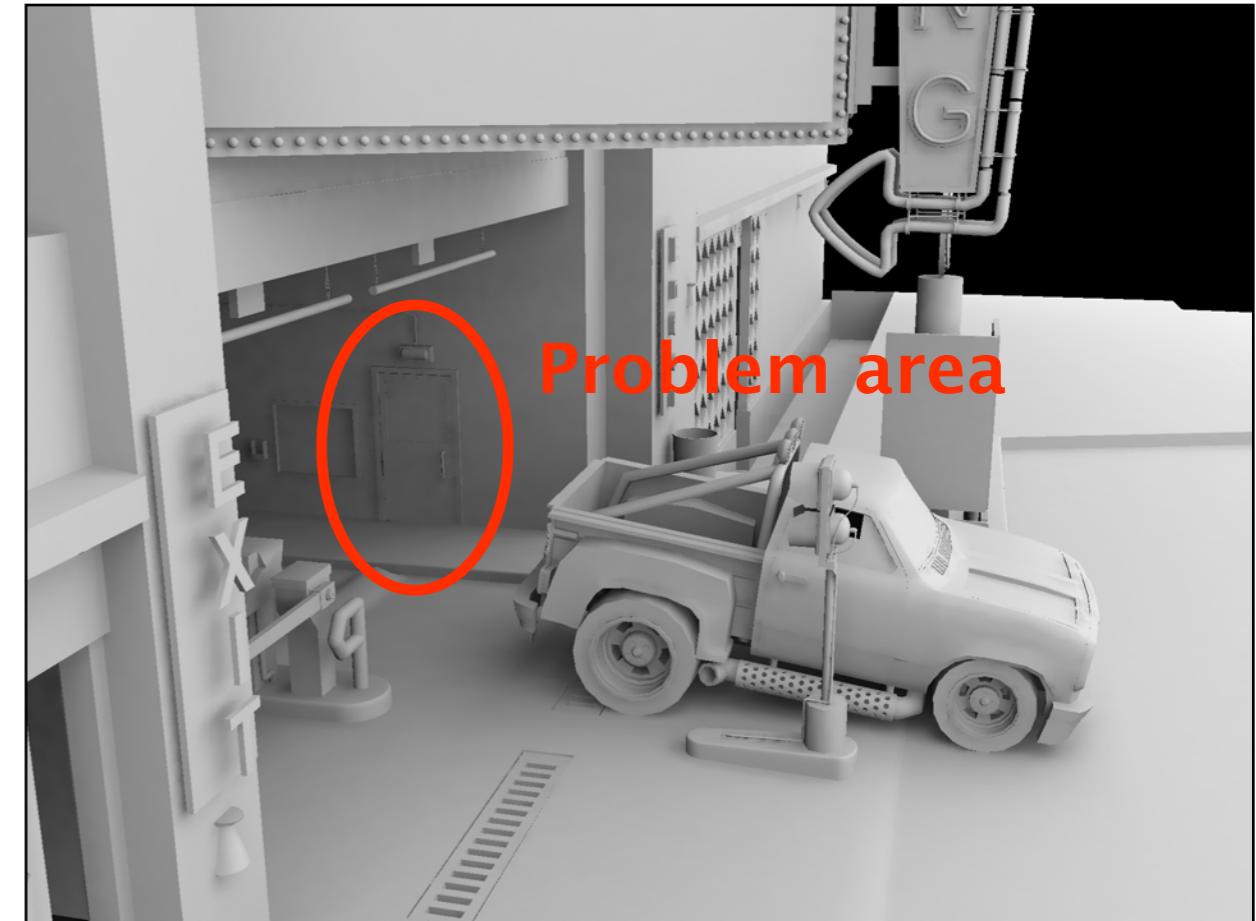
# App #2 Ambient Occlusion

Pre-integrate records:  $A_j = \int_{\Omega} V_j(\ ) (n \cdot \ ) d$

Approximate as weighted sum:  $A(x) = \sum_i w_i A_i$



Reference (1024 rays)



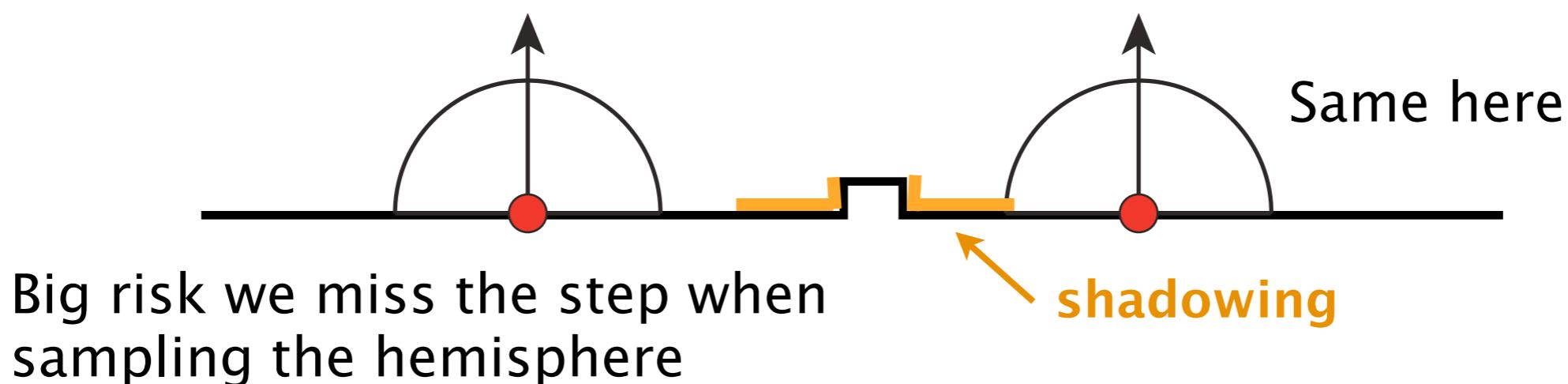
Using cache (average 17.7 rays)

> 60x speedup

# Issues

Amortized cost per pixel is very low,  
but the quality is not (yet) perfect

Hard to detect small geometric features:



# Issues

**Amortized cost per pixel is very low,  
but the quality is not (yet) perfect**

Hard to detect small geometric features:

- We use minimum hit distance [Tabellion & Lamorlette 2004]



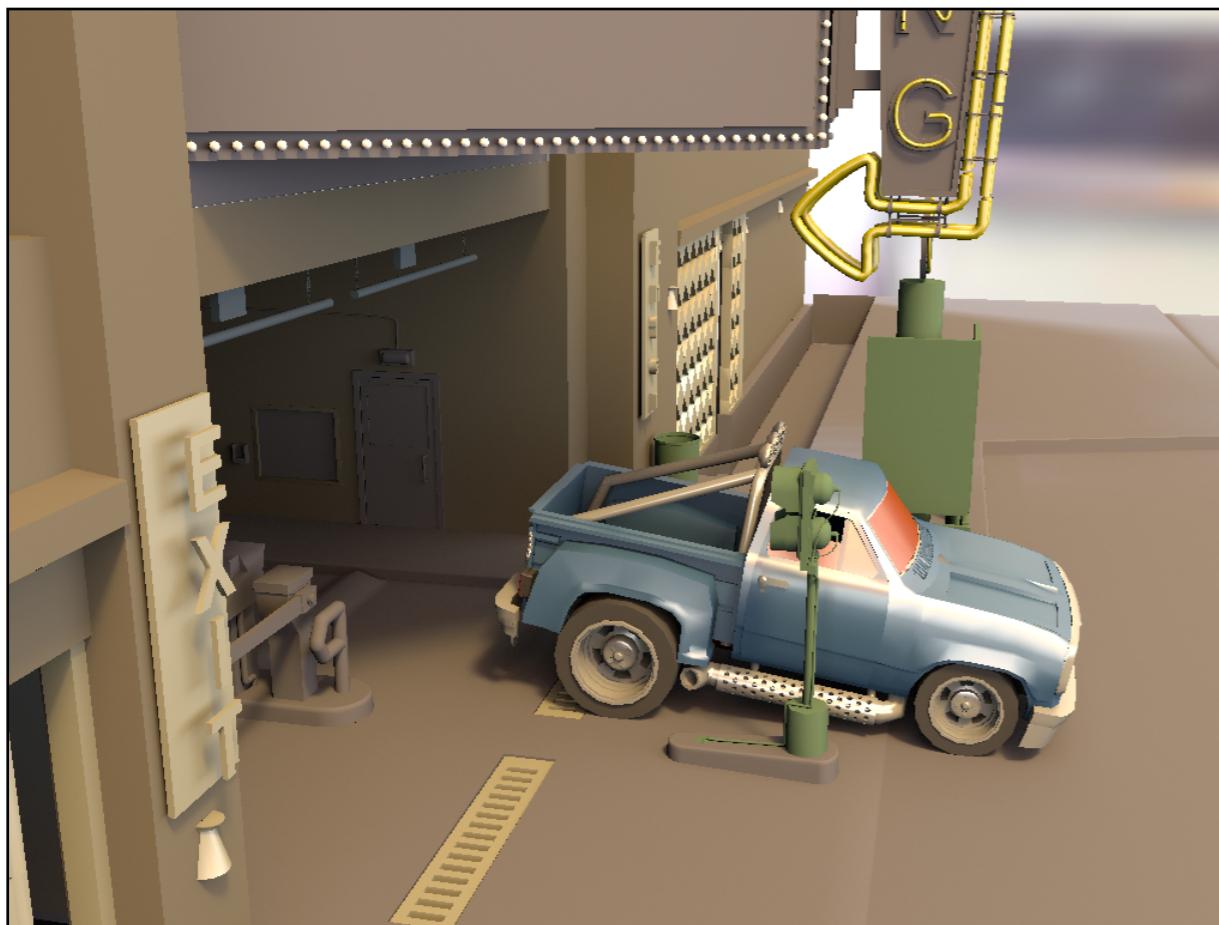
Exaggerated blurring due to filtering, some blotchiness

- We expect “visibility gradients” ( $\sim$  irradiance gradients) to help

# App #3 Fast Lighting Preview

Similar to Precomputed Radiance Transfer

Cost: One sparse quadtree traversal / pixel



Reference



Preview using visibility cache

# Conclusion

**Visibility is often strongly correlated**  
But, some scenes are just too complex (e.g. grass)

## Visibility Caching

Store compact visibility maps sparsely in the scene

Interpolate and use for:

- Monte Carlo rendering using control variates
- Ambient occlusion
- Lighting design
- ...

# Thank You

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Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research

Intel Corporation 

## Acknowledgements

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Lund University Graphics Group (LUGG)

Anonymous reviewers!

# Questions?

Please send to:

- Petrik Clarberg <[petrik@cs.lth.se](mailto:petrik@cs.lth.se)>