



Light Fields

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Course 600.456: Rendering Techniques, Professor: Jonathan Cohen



Light Fields

By Levoy and Hanrahan, SIGGRAPH 96

Representation for sampled plenoptic function

- **stores data about visible light at various positions and directions**

Created from set of images

Resamplings employ data from lots of different images



Light Field Dimensionality

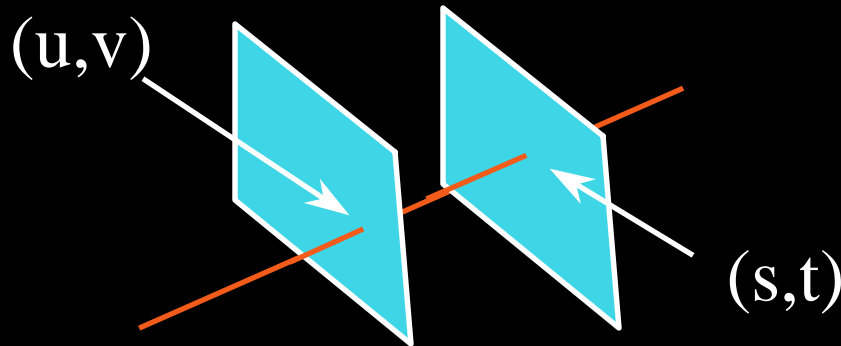
Position and direction for each sample is a 5D space

For empty space (no occlusion), space reduced to 4D

- **sample is constant along a line**
- **light field defined on 4D space of directed lines**



Slab Representation



Define two parallel planes

- uv -plane and st -plane

Light field defined as $L(u,v,s,t)$

- (r,g,b) for each (u,v,s,t) tuple

Use multiple slabs to cover larger space



Sampling

**Typically create regular sampling of uv -
and st -planes**

Place eye point at (u,v) on the uv -plane

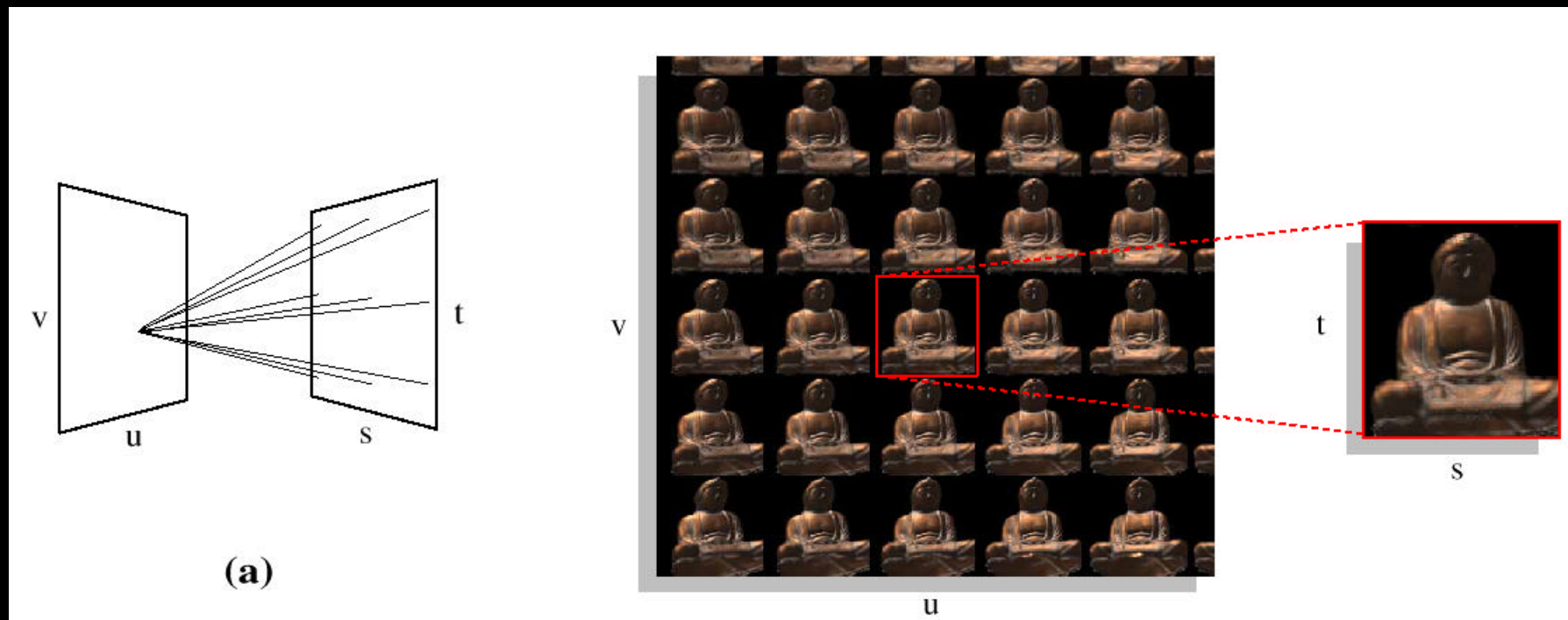
**Generate image with each corresponding to
a point on the st -plane**

- **each pixel for image (u,v) supplies sample (u,v,x,y)**
- **using skewed perspective matrix, $(x,y) = (s,t)$**

Data looks like 2D array of 2D images



Visualization of Light Field



from Levoy and Hanrahan, "Light Field Rendering," *Proceedings of SIGGRAPH 96*, page 34.



Generating Samples

Using rendered images

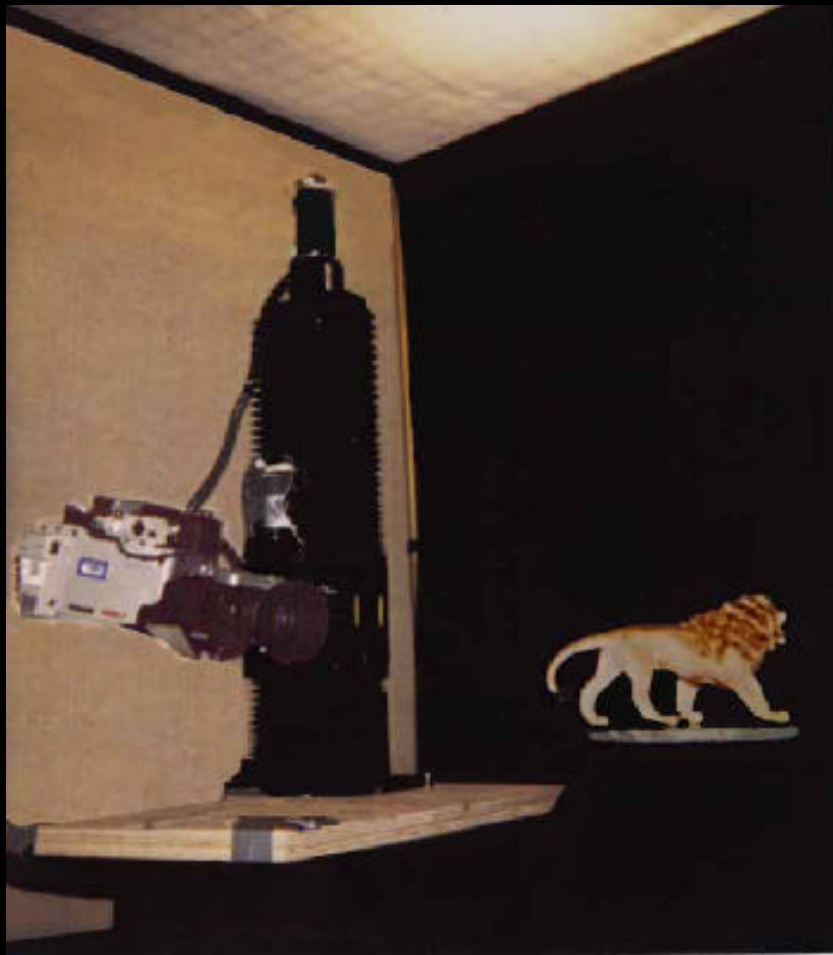
- Place eye at (u,v)
- Skew projection to cover proper (s,t) range
- Generate image

Using real photographs (looking inward)

- Computer-controlled camera on planar gantry
 - Camera tilts to center on object
 - (s,t) resampled from (x,y)
 - Object platform (and lighting) rotates to capture different slabs
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Stanford Light Field Gantry



from Levoy and Hanrahan, "Light Field Rendering," *Proceedings of SIGGRAPH 96*, page 36.



Resampling

Foreach pixel in the rendered image

- **compute line coordinates (intersections with uv- and st-planes**
- **Apply nearest neighbor, bilinear, or quadrilinear sampling to generate value of pixel from nearby lines in light field**



Computing Line Parameters

Possible using ray/plane intersection

Faster using “texture mapping” to take advantage of plane coherence

- **Store (u,v) coordinates in texture map**
- **Render uv -plane as textured rectangle**
- **Look up (u,v) coordinates for each pixel**
- **Repeat for (s,t) coordinates**



Anti-aliasing

Pre-filter data to remove aliases

**Integrate over range of eye points to filter
(u, v)**

Apply lens aperture to filter (s, t)

**Filter size should be consistent with sample
spacing**



Compression

Light fields can be BIG (gigabytes)

Want to transmit over internet

Want to fit in memory

Need random access during reconstruction

**Compression can be slow, decompression
must be fast**



Two Stage Compression/Decompression

Lossy vector quantization (VQ) compression

- **Decompose data into small chunks, described as vector**
- **Train with data to generate codebook (containing codewords to represent)**
- **Store index of best codeword for each vector**

Lossless entropy coding (using gzip)



Decompression

Decompress entropy coding (gunzip) on loading to memory

- entropy coding doesn't allow random access

Decompress vector quantization (fast lookup) for each line sample on the fly

May compress 24:1 for VQ, 5:1 for gzip, total of 120:1



Videos

- **Levoy and Hanrahan.** “**Light Field Rendering.**” *Proceedings of SIGGRAPH 96.*
- **Sloan, Cohen, and Gortler.** “**Time Critical Lumigraph Rendering.**” *Proceedings of 1997 Symposium on Interactive 3D Graphics.*