# Painter's Algorithm 

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## Painter's Algorithm

- Drawing to a buffer
- Video RAM, raster printer with a buffer
- Area filling
- Even with patterns
$\Rightarrow$ Drawing is back to front
- Overdrawing of earlier objects
- Determines visibility


## Simplified Versions

- Explicit drawing order
- E.g. as function of two variables: $\boldsymbol{z}=\mathrm{f}(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{y})$
- Depth-sort
- Sorting of objects (polygons) by $\mathbf{Z}$ coordinate (center)
- Works well for large amounts of small objects
- Does not work correctly for mixtures of large and small polygons (table-top with small objects on them)


## Correct Algorithm

- Scene is made up of planar geometry
- Faces may have common points only along the border (no intersections)



## Phase 1: Sorting

(1) Polygons are sorted by minimal $\boldsymbol{z}$ coordinate in ascending order - back to front - which generates an input list $S$


## Phase 2: Checking the Ordering

${ }^{(2)}$ From the beginning of the list $\boldsymbol{S}$ we take the polygon $\boldsymbol{P}$ - a candidate for drawing. We have to test other polygons against $\boldsymbol{P}$ whether there is a collision. The tested polygons are denoted Q


## Phase 2A: "minimax test"

- First we perform a very easy test - we compare the the bounding boxes of the two polygons. If there are no overlapping points, the testing of $\boldsymbol{Q}$ ends.
If not, we go on with further tests of $\boldsymbol{P}$ and $\boldsymbol{Q}$.



## Phase 2B: testing of $\boldsymbol{P}$ against $\boldsymbol{Q}$

(2) We then test whether $\boldsymbol{P}$ completely lies behind the plane of the polygon $\boldsymbol{Q}$. If this is the case, testing of $\boldsymbol{Q}$ ends.
If not, we go on with further tests of $\boldsymbol{P}$ and $\boldsymbol{Q}$.
$a \cdot x+b \cdot y+c \cdot z+d<0$


## Phase 2C: testing of $\boldsymbol{Q}$ against $\boldsymbol{P}$

(2) We then test whether $\boldsymbol{Q}$ completely lies before the plane of the polygon $\boldsymbol{P}$.
If this is the case, testing of $\boldsymbol{Q}$ ends.
If not, we go on with further tests of $\boldsymbol{P}$ and $\boldsymbol{Q}$.

$$
a \cdot x+b \cdot y+c \cdot z+d>0
$$



## Phase 2D: Complete Projection

© If the previous tests all failed, we have to run a complete intersection test of the polygons $\boldsymbol{P}$ and $\boldsymbol{Q}$ in projection. It is necessary to determine whether $\boldsymbol{Q}$ covers any part of $\boldsymbol{P}$. In this case, $\boldsymbol{P}$ has to be drawn before $\boldsymbol{Q}$ !


## Phase 2D: Complete Projection

- We test all edges of $\boldsymbol{P}$ and $\boldsymbol{Q}$ against each other. If we find intersections, we compare the $\boldsymbol{Z}$ coordinate. If any part of $\boldsymbol{P}$ is before $\boldsymbol{Q}$, the test of $\boldsymbol{Q}$ ends. In this case, it would not be possible to draw $\boldsymbol{P}$ before $\boldsymbol{Q}$ !



## Phase 2D: Complete Projection

$\Rightarrow$ But even if no intersections of $\boldsymbol{P}$ and $\boldsymbol{Q}$ exist, we have to check whether $\boldsymbol{P}$ does not lie completely inside $Q$, or vice versa.
We do this by comparing $\boldsymbol{z}$ coordinates.


## Phase 2: Re-Ordering

- If $\boldsymbol{P}$ cannot be drawn in front of $\boldsymbol{Q}$, we try to move $\boldsymbol{Q}$ to the beginning of the list $\boldsymbol{S}$ (even before P)
- $\boldsymbol{Q}$ will again undergo all tests of the 2nd phase (described for $\boldsymbol{P}$ )
- Tests between $\boldsymbol{Q}$ and $\boldsymbol{P}$ have already been done, you only need to do an inverted test on $\mathbf{B}$ and $\mathbf{C}$
- During loops each candidate has to be evaluated separately


## Phase 2: Cycle Removal



- If any candidate is tested more than once, there is a cycle
- A cycle can be eliminated by splitting some polygons (correct order is $\mathbf{A}_{1}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{A}_{2}$ )


## End

## Further information:

■ J. Foley, A. van Dam, S. Feiner, J. Hughes: Computer Graphics, Principles and Practice, 672675

- Jiří Žára a kol.: Počítačová grafika, principy a algoritmy, 302-304

