

# Vectorized Production Path Tracing

Mark Lee

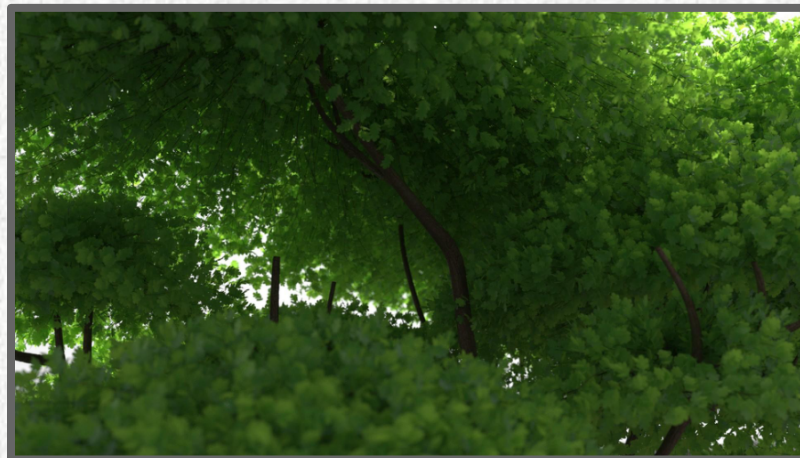
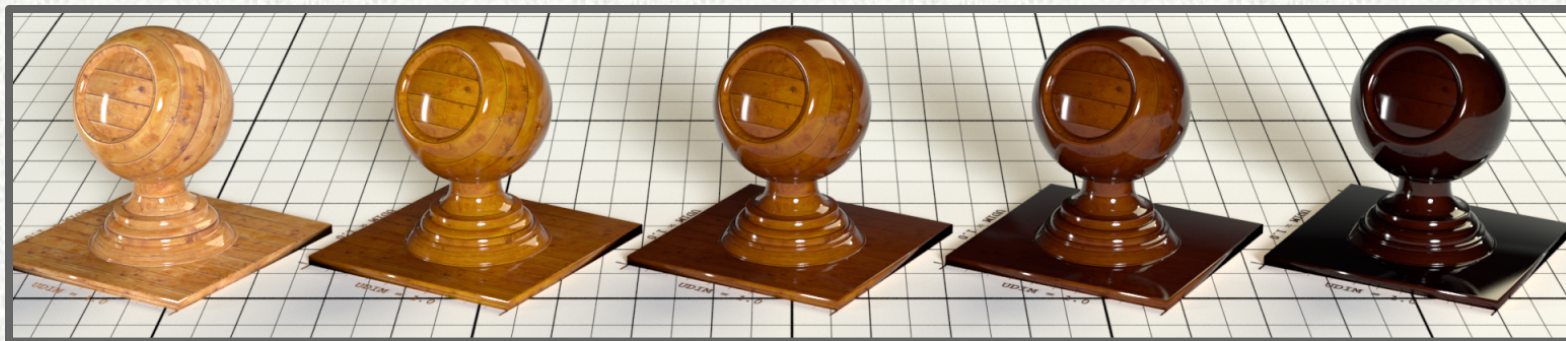
Brian Green

Feng Xie

Eric Tabellion

**DreamWorks Animation**

# Hello MoonRay







# Hello MoonRay





# MoonRay Overview

- Single executable with internal scalar and vectorized code paths
- Both code paths produce identical output images

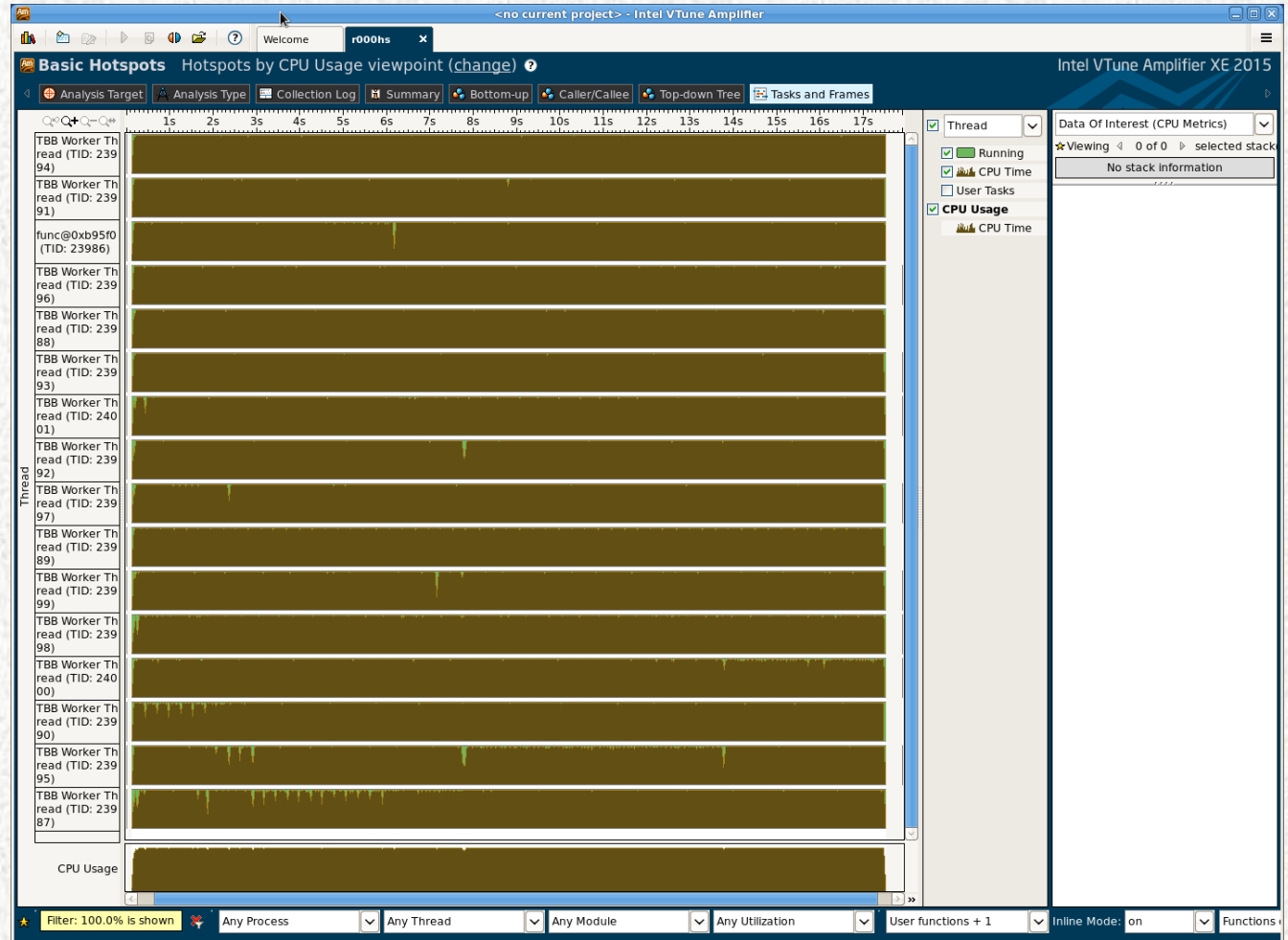
# Data Oriented Design

- Nothing new, AAA game studios have always done this
- Approach the problem from the point of view of the hardware
  - ... which means caring greatly about data access patterns
- Lower level data structures are flat and uncomplicated

*How would it change your approach to coding if main memory access was 10x slower?*



# Threading



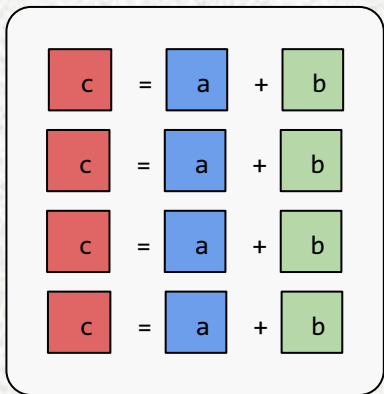
*Keep all vector lanes of all cores busy all the time  
with meaningful work!*

# Keep all vector lanes busy....

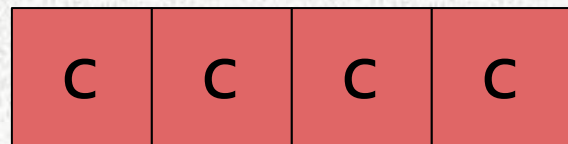
- How can we use the vector hardware effectively?
- How can we gather batches of work effectively?
- How can we minimize control flow divergence in vector code?
- How can we access memory effectively?



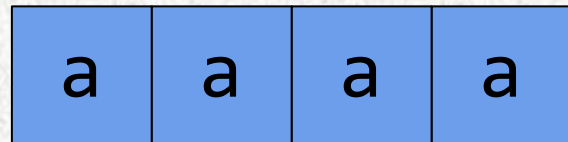
*Will the performance gains outweigh the  
additional work?*



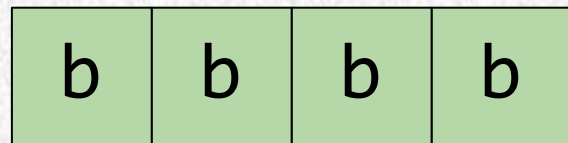
AOS Format



=



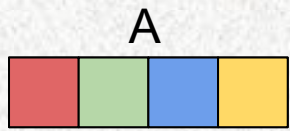
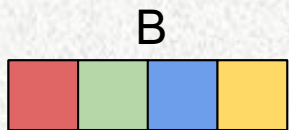
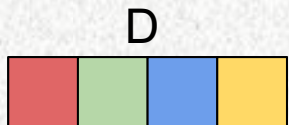
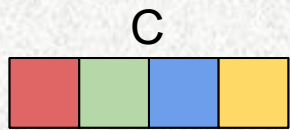
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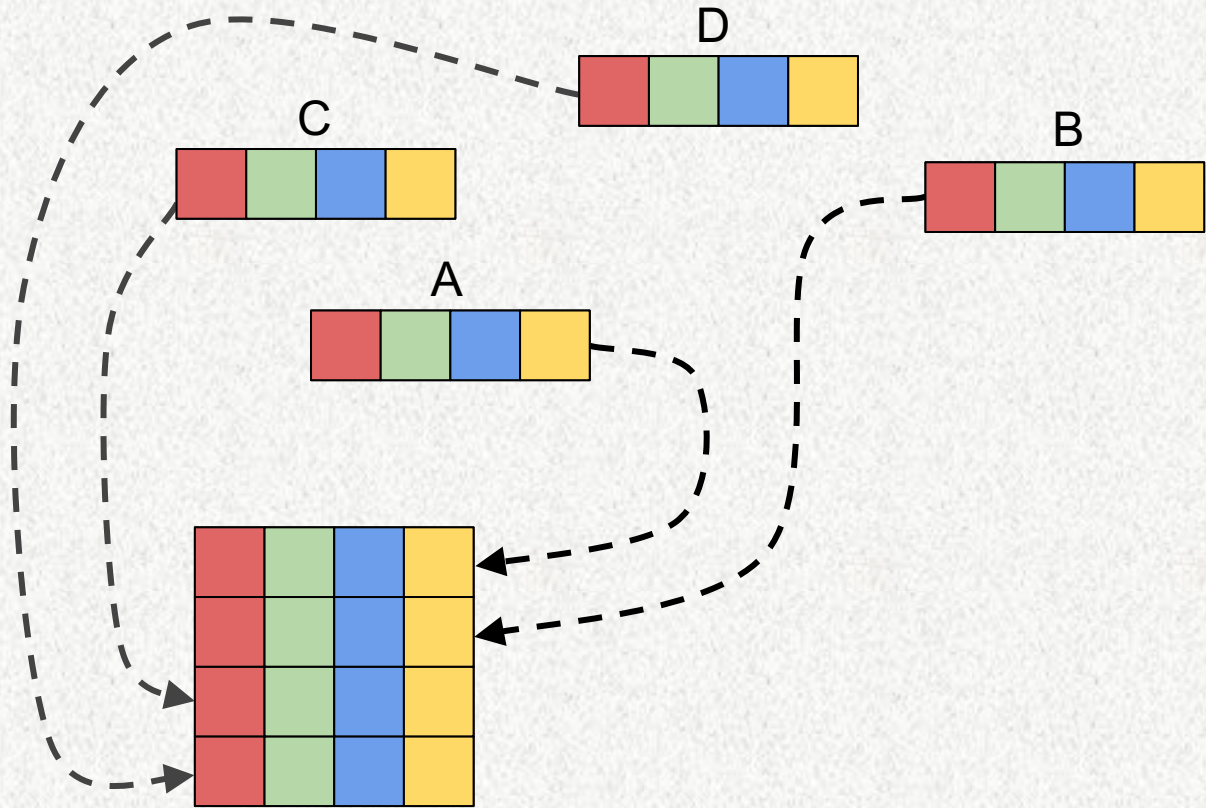


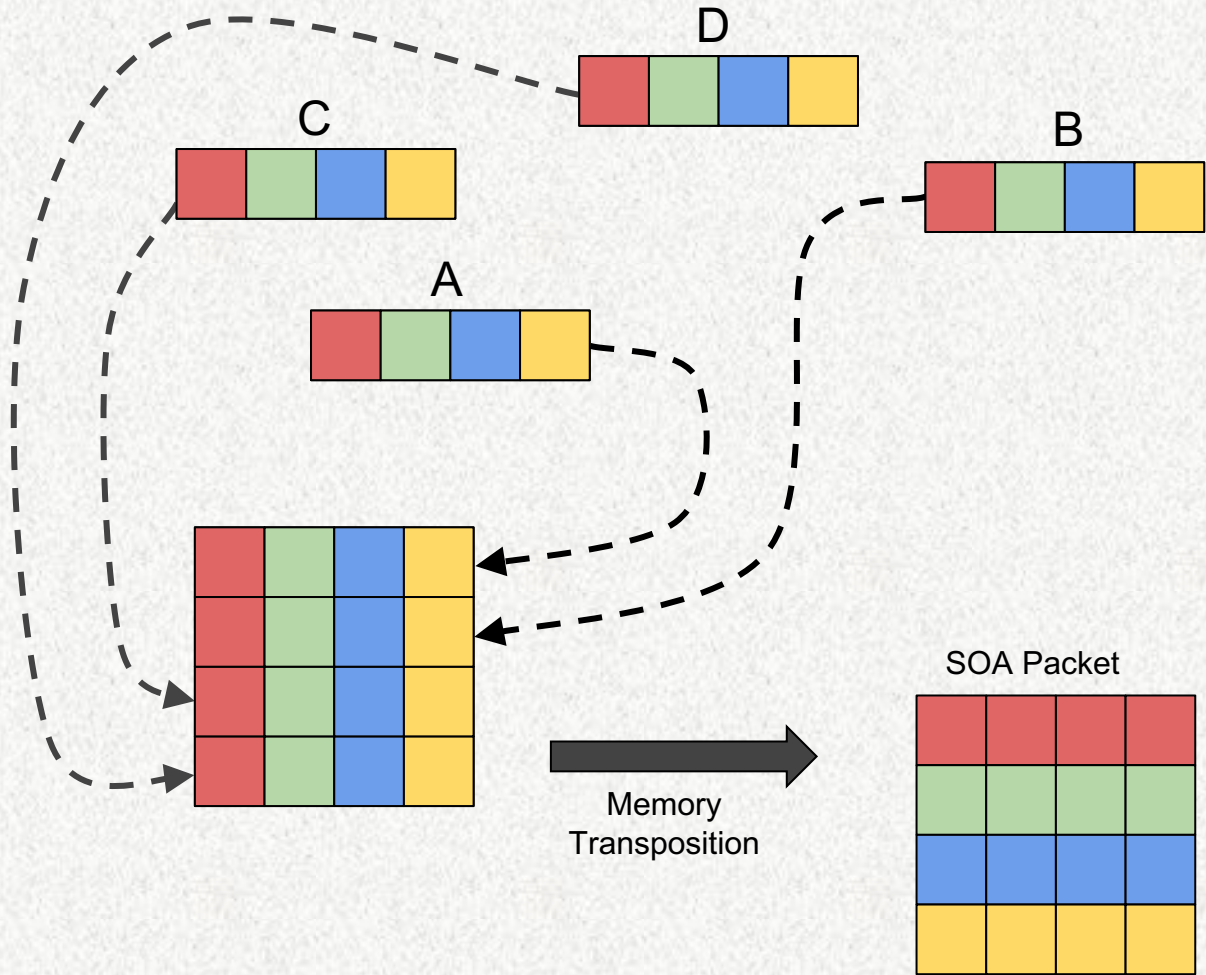
SOA Format

# AOS to SOA Conversion











# ISPC

- ISPC = Intel SPMD Program Compiler
- Can target multiple vector architectures, e.g. SSE, AVX, AVX512
- Automatic masking
- C like syntax

# Queuing

- Strategy - use “queues” to build up large coherent batches of work
- Queues entries typically consist of a 32-bit index and a 32-bit “sort key”
- Each queue has an associated handler to process entries

*When a queue becomes full,  
the thread which filled it flushes it*

# Scalar Path Tracing

# Scalar Path Tracing

Generate primary  
rays

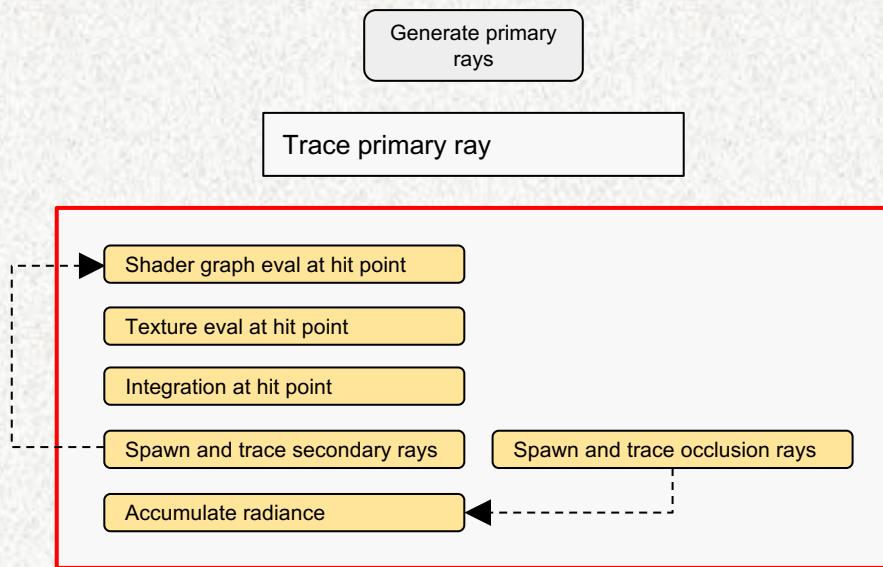


# Scalar Path Tracing

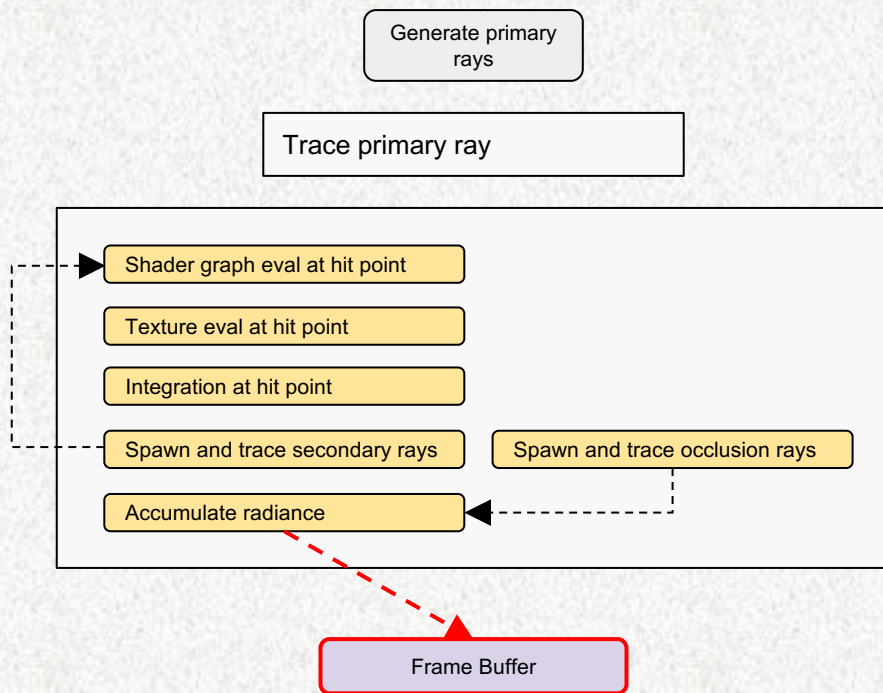
Generate primary  
rays

Trace primary ray

# Scalar Path Tracing



# Scalar Path Tracing



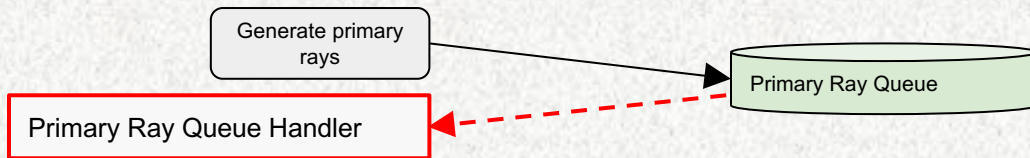
# Vectorized Path Tracing

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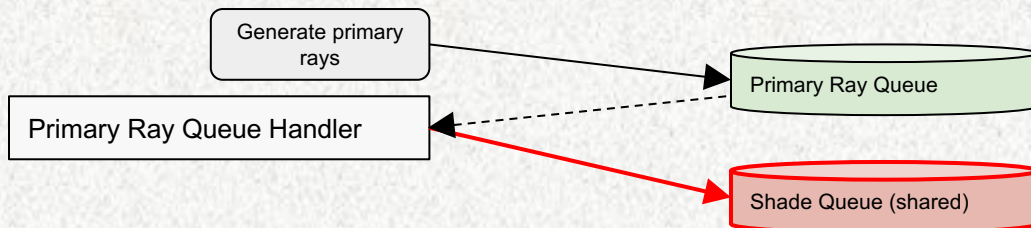




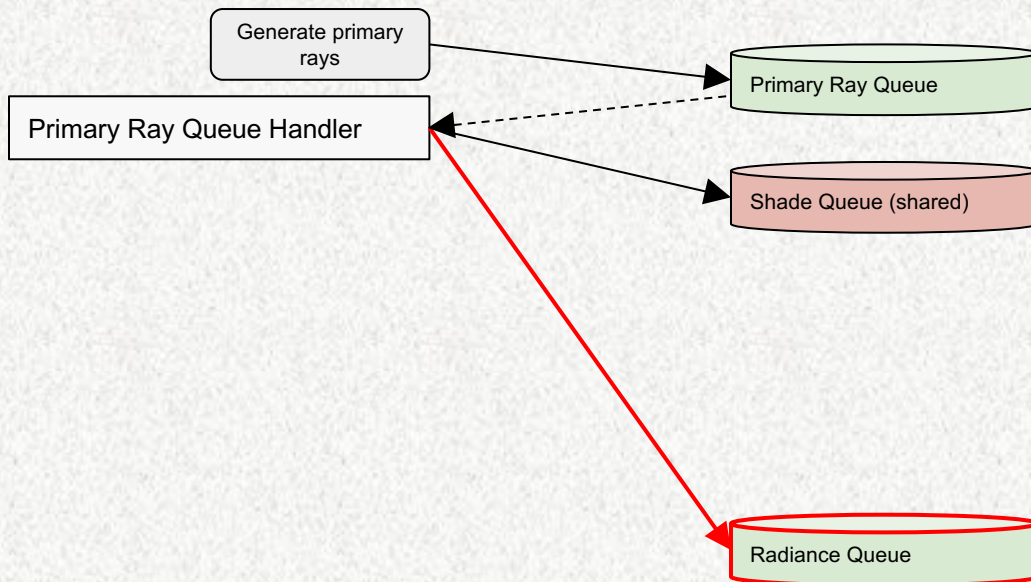
# Vectorized Path Tracing



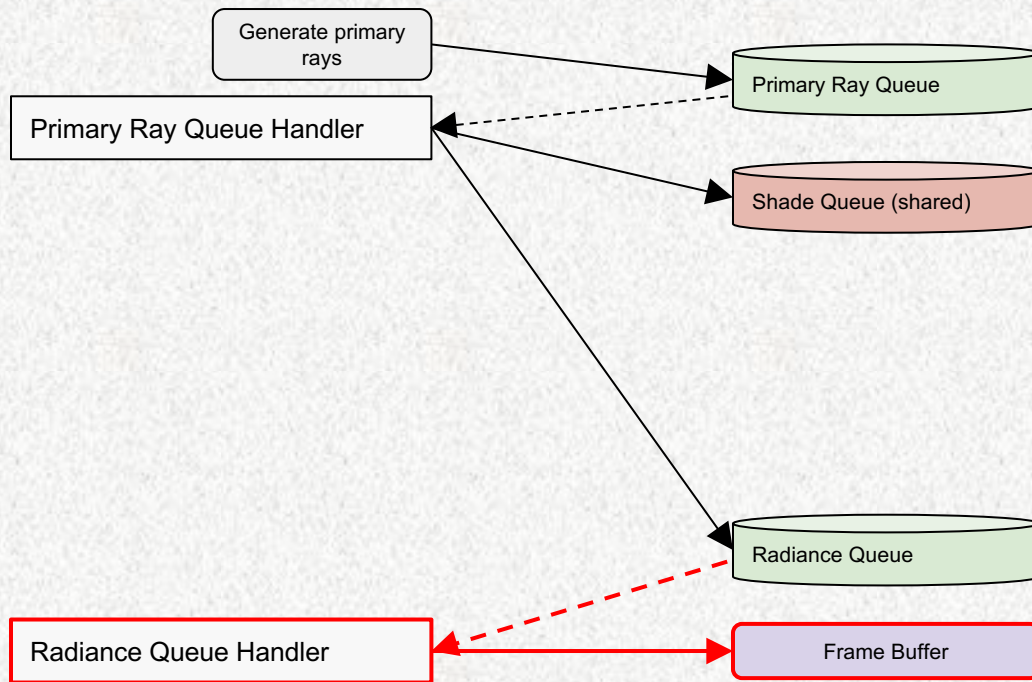
# Vectorized Path Tracing



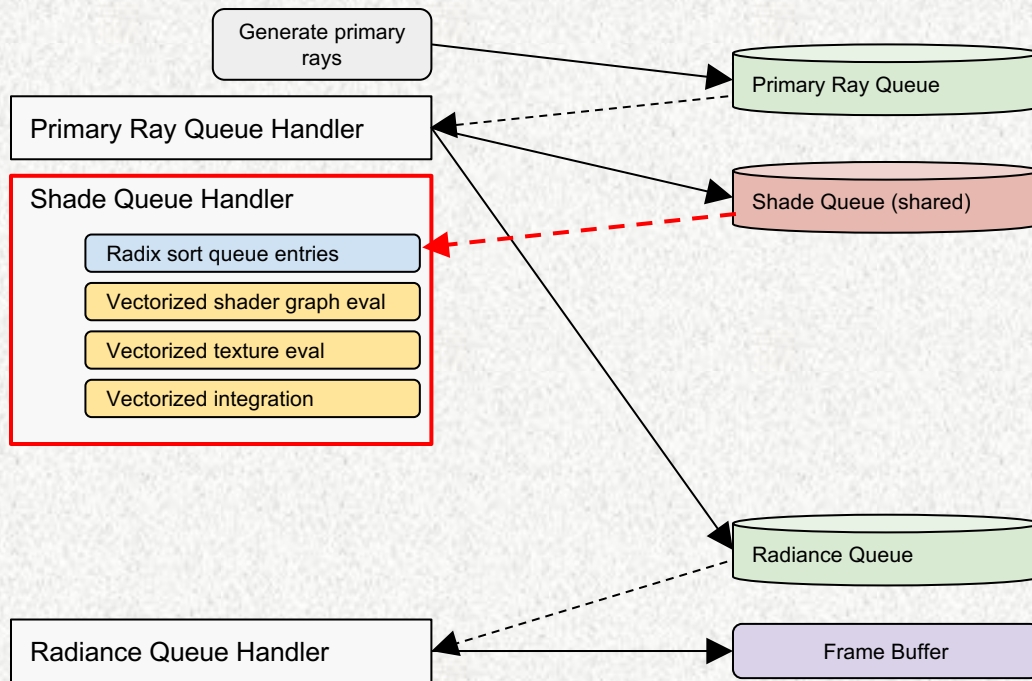
# Vectorized Path Tracing



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# Vectorized Path Tracing





## Shade Queue Handler

Radix sort queue entries

Vectorized shader graph eval

Vectorized texture eval

Vectorized integration

## Shade Queue Handler

Radix sort queue entries

Transform AOS entries to SOA

Vectorized shader graph eval

Vectorized texture eval

Vectorized integration

Transform SOA entries back to AOS

## Shade Queue Handler

Radix sort queue entries

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Transform SOA entries back to AOS

## Entry sort criteria

1. UDIM tile
2. Mip-level
3. Uv coordinates

## Shade Queue Handler

Radix sort queue entries

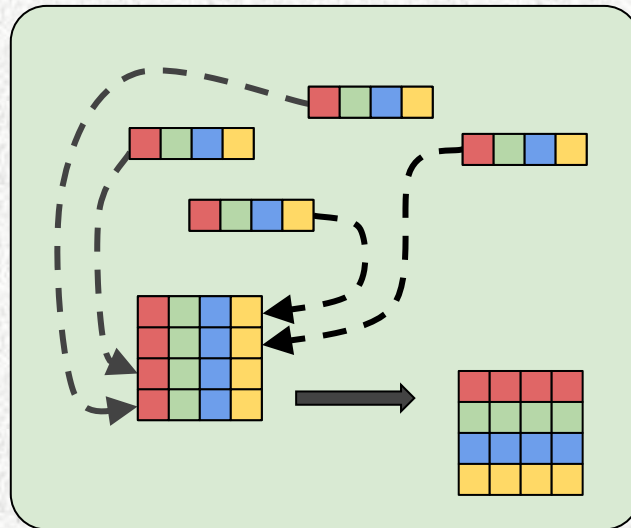
Transform AOS entries to SOA

Vectorized shader graph eval

Vectorized texture eval

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Transform SOA entries back to AOS



## Shade Queue Handler

Radix sort queue entries

Transform AOS entries to SOA

Vectorized shader graph eval

Vectorized texture eval

Vectorized integration

Transform SOA entries back to AOS

- 100% ISPC code
- Optional JIT compilation via LLVM
- Returns a shader closure in SOA format

## Shade Queue Handler

Radix sort queue entries

Transform AOS entries to SOA

Vectorized shader graph eval

Vectorized texture eval

Vectorized integration

Transform SOA entries back to AOS

- Custom OIIO vectorized texture sampler
- Custom set-associative cache built on top of main OIIO tile cache



## Shade Queue Handler

Radix sort queue entries

Transform AOS entries to SOA

Vectorized shader graph eval

Vectorized texture eval

Vectorized integration

Transform SOA entries back to AOS

- Ability to add to arbitrary queues
- Supports arbitrary ray spawning

## Shade Queue Handler

Radix sort queue entries

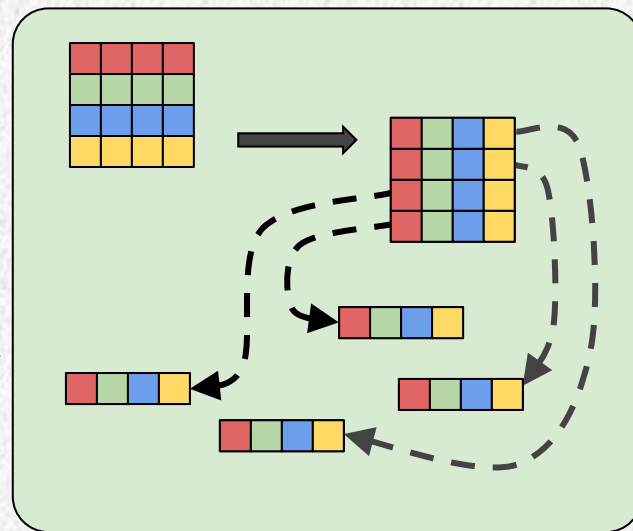
Transform AOS entries to SOA

Vectorized shader graph eval

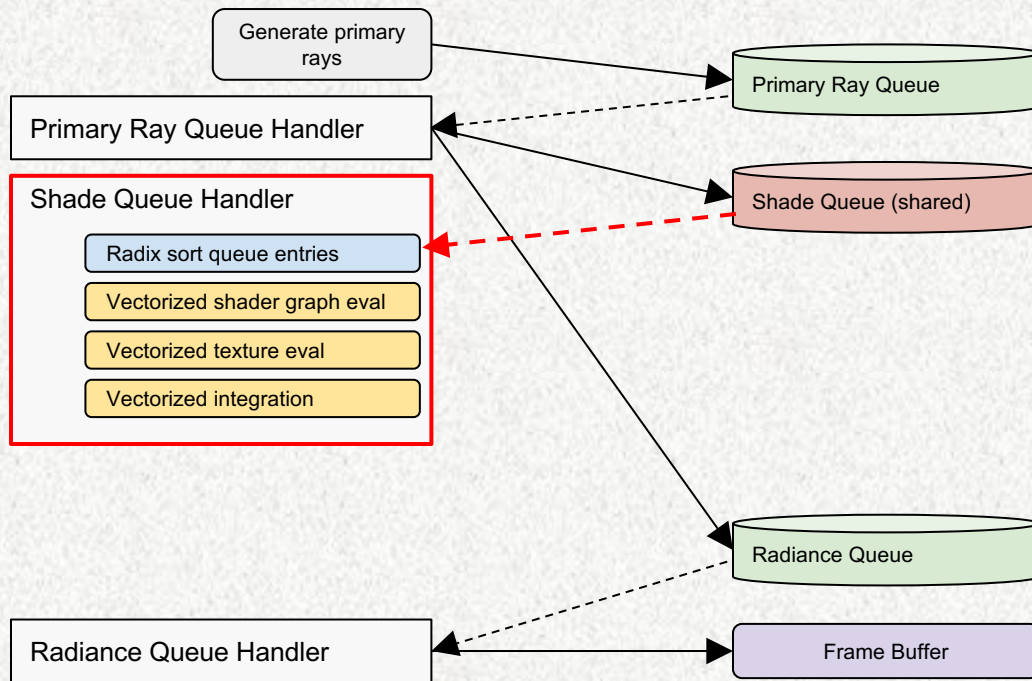
Vectorized texture eval

Vectorized integration

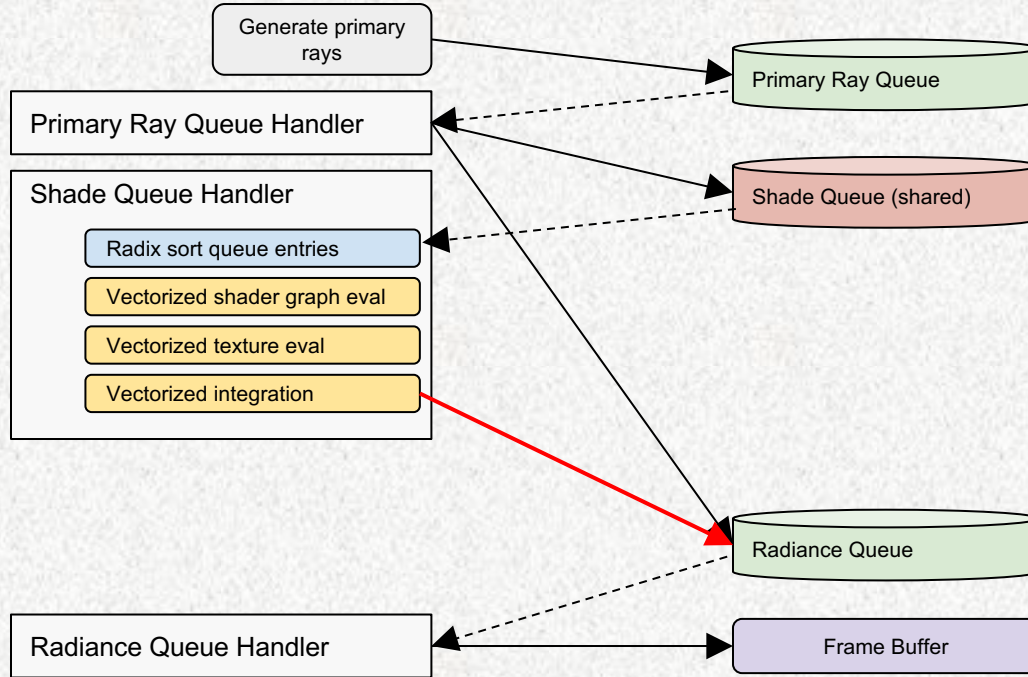
Transform SOA entries back to AOS



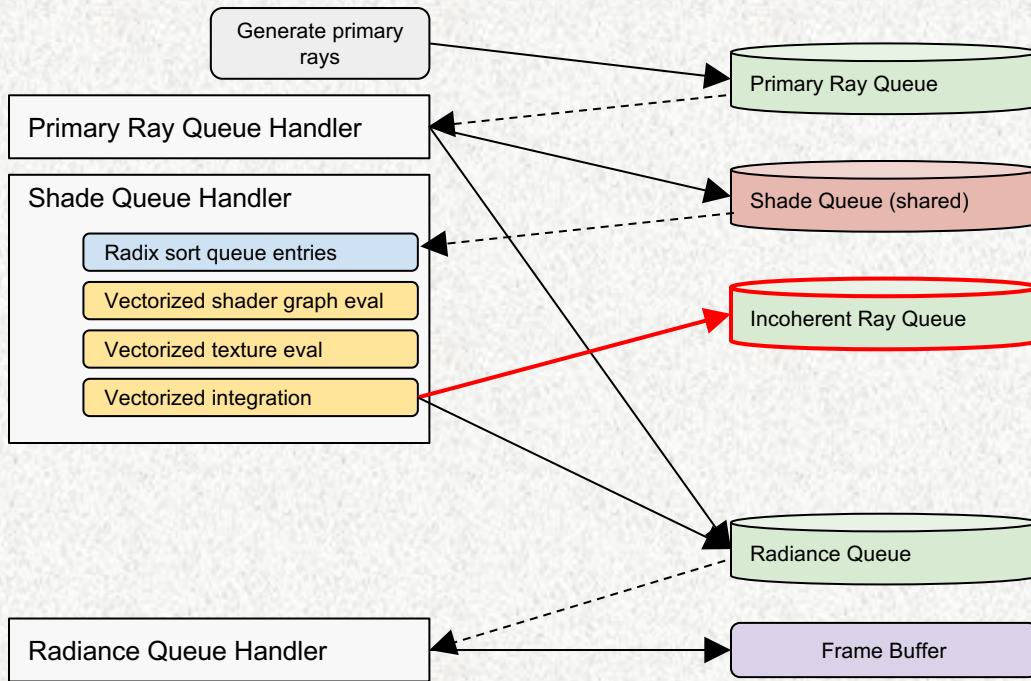
# Vectorized Path Tracing



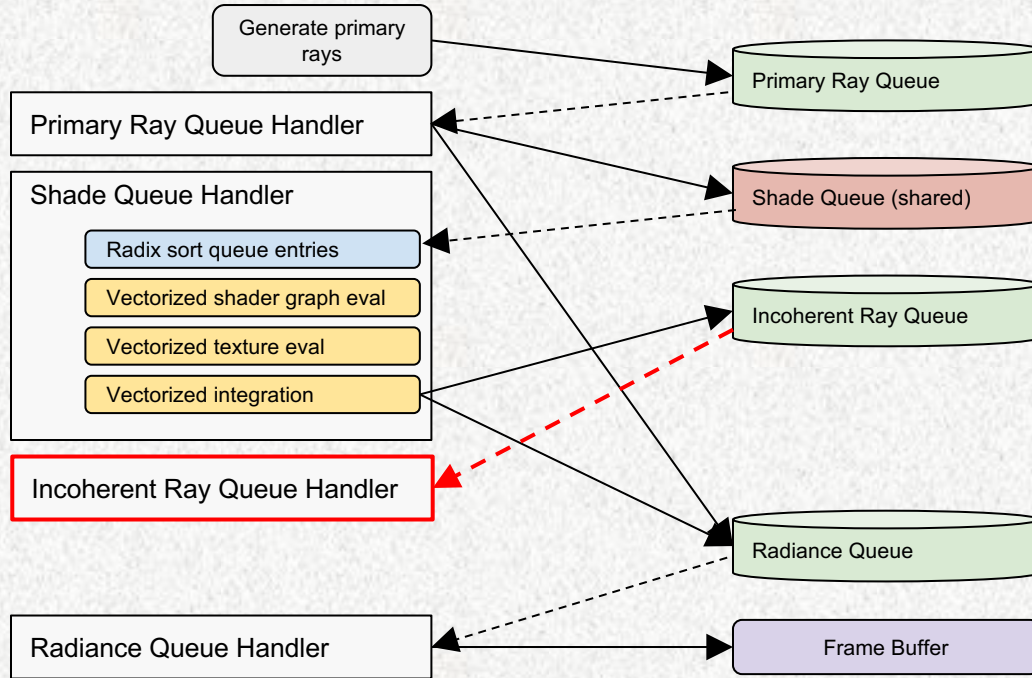
# Vectorized Path Tracing



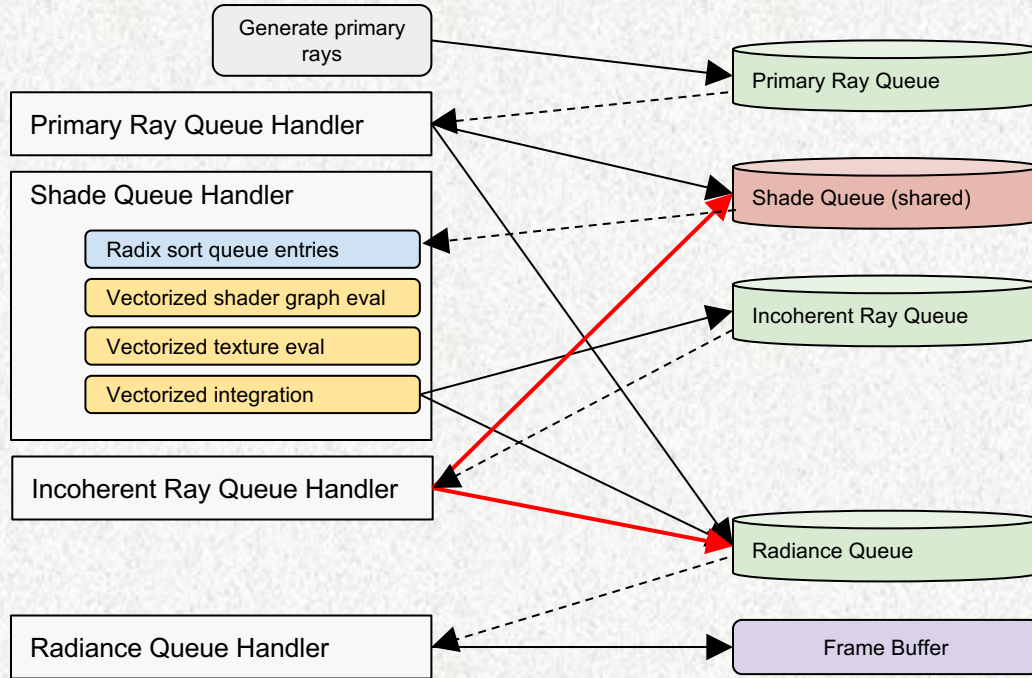
# Vectorized Path Tracing



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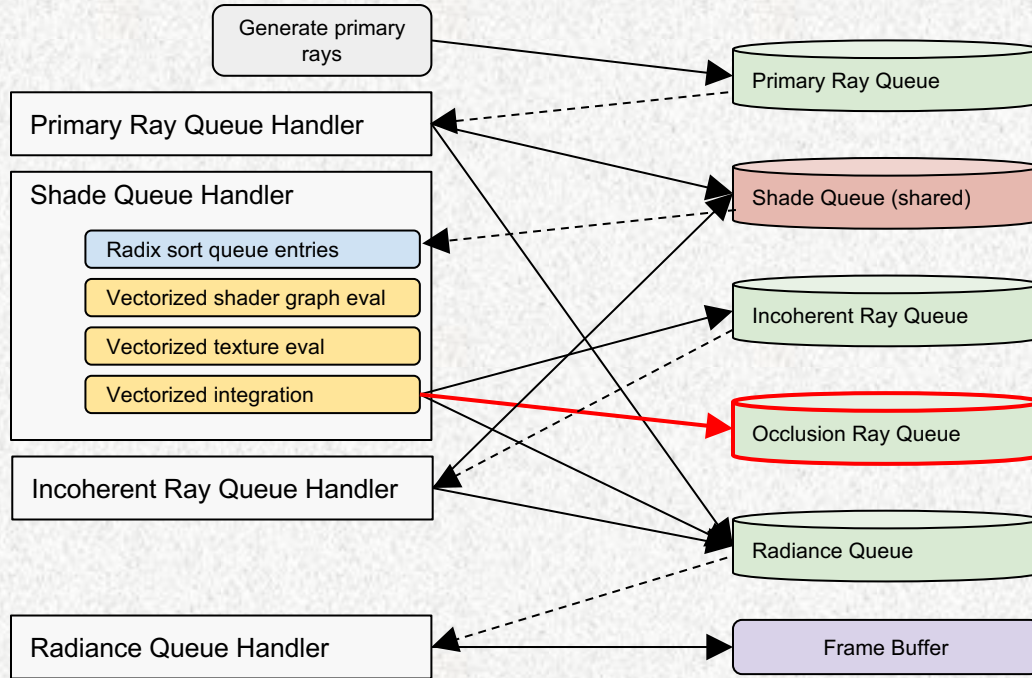


# Vectorized Path Tracing

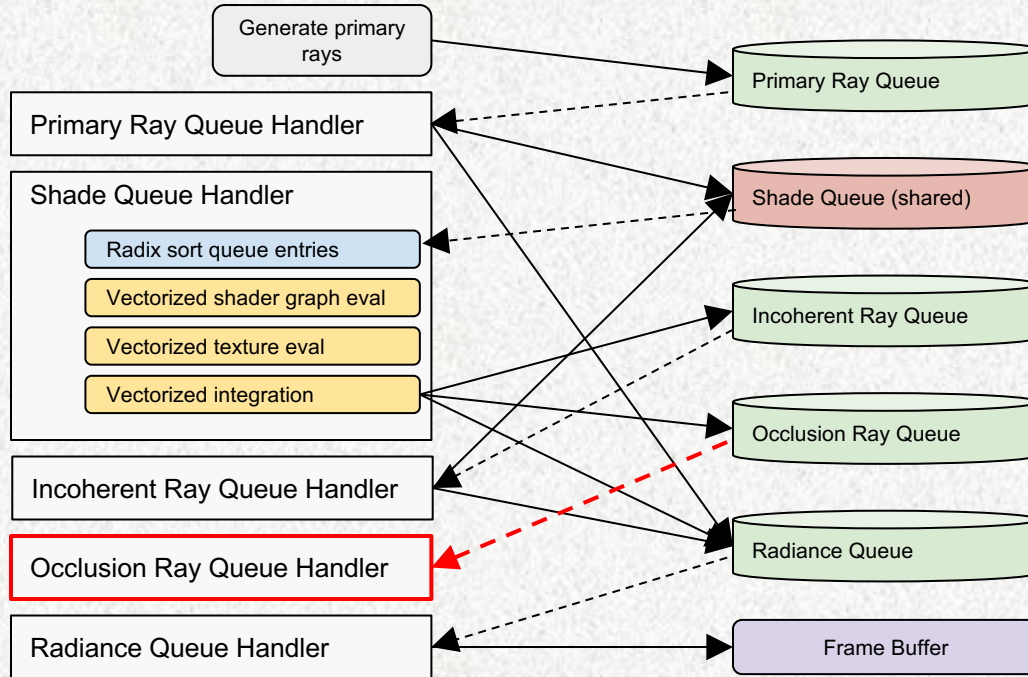




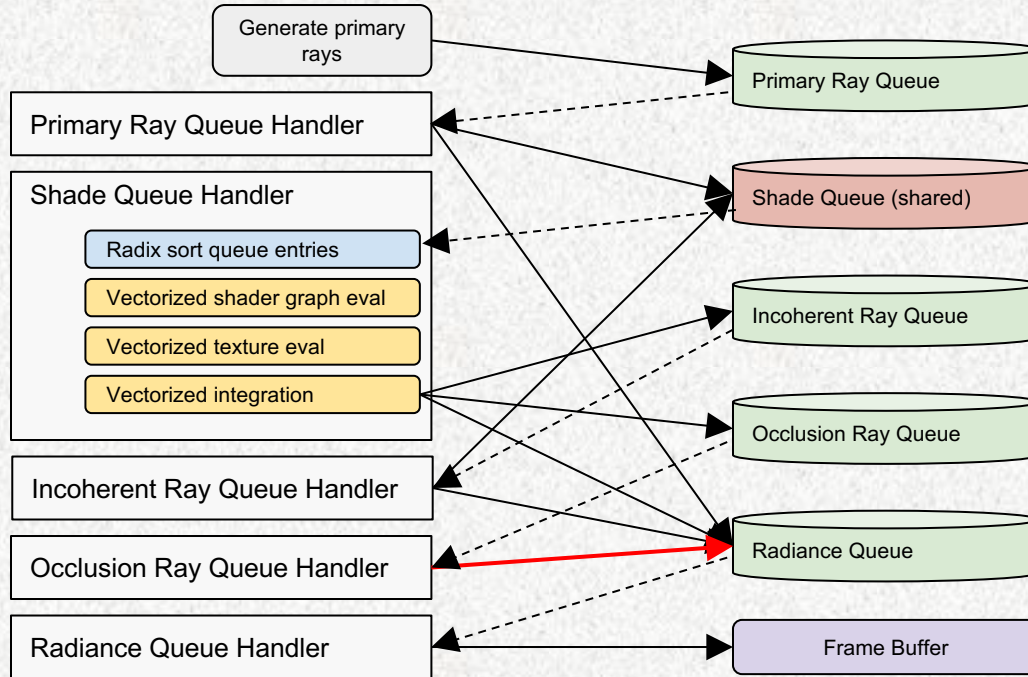
# Vectorized Path Tracing



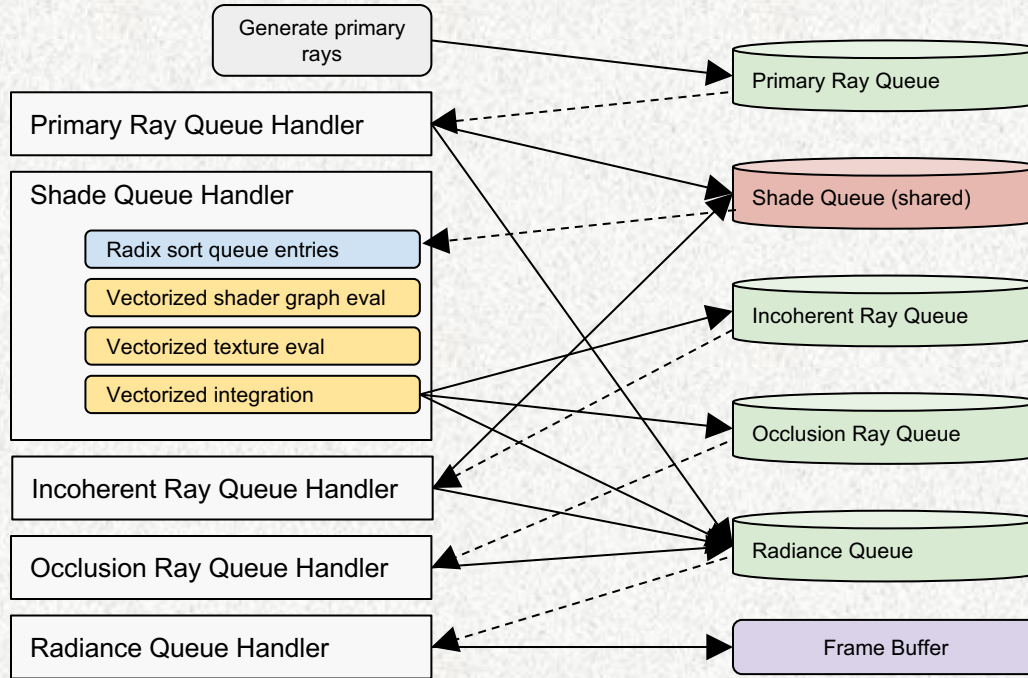
# Vectorized Path Tracing



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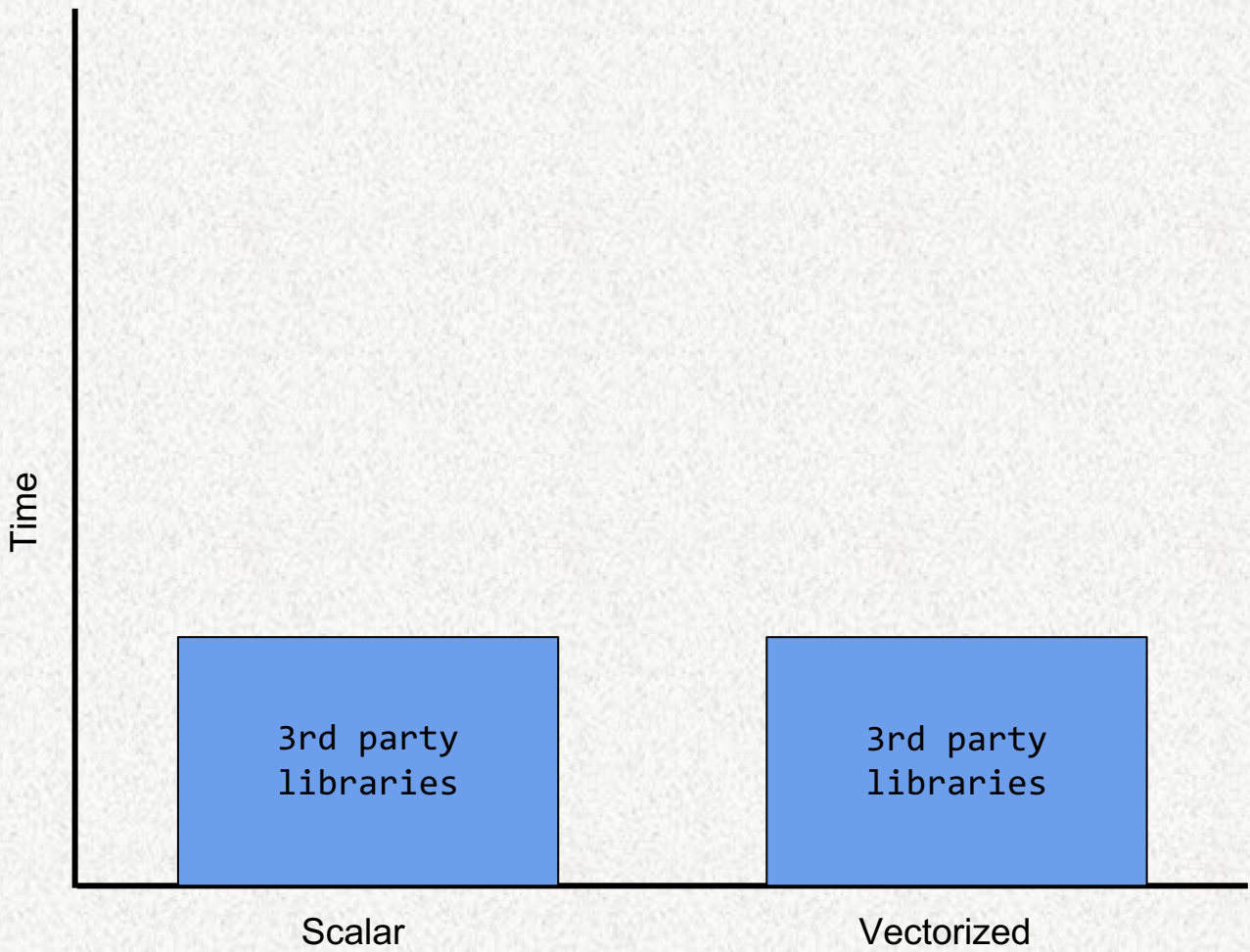
*Will the performance gains outweigh the  
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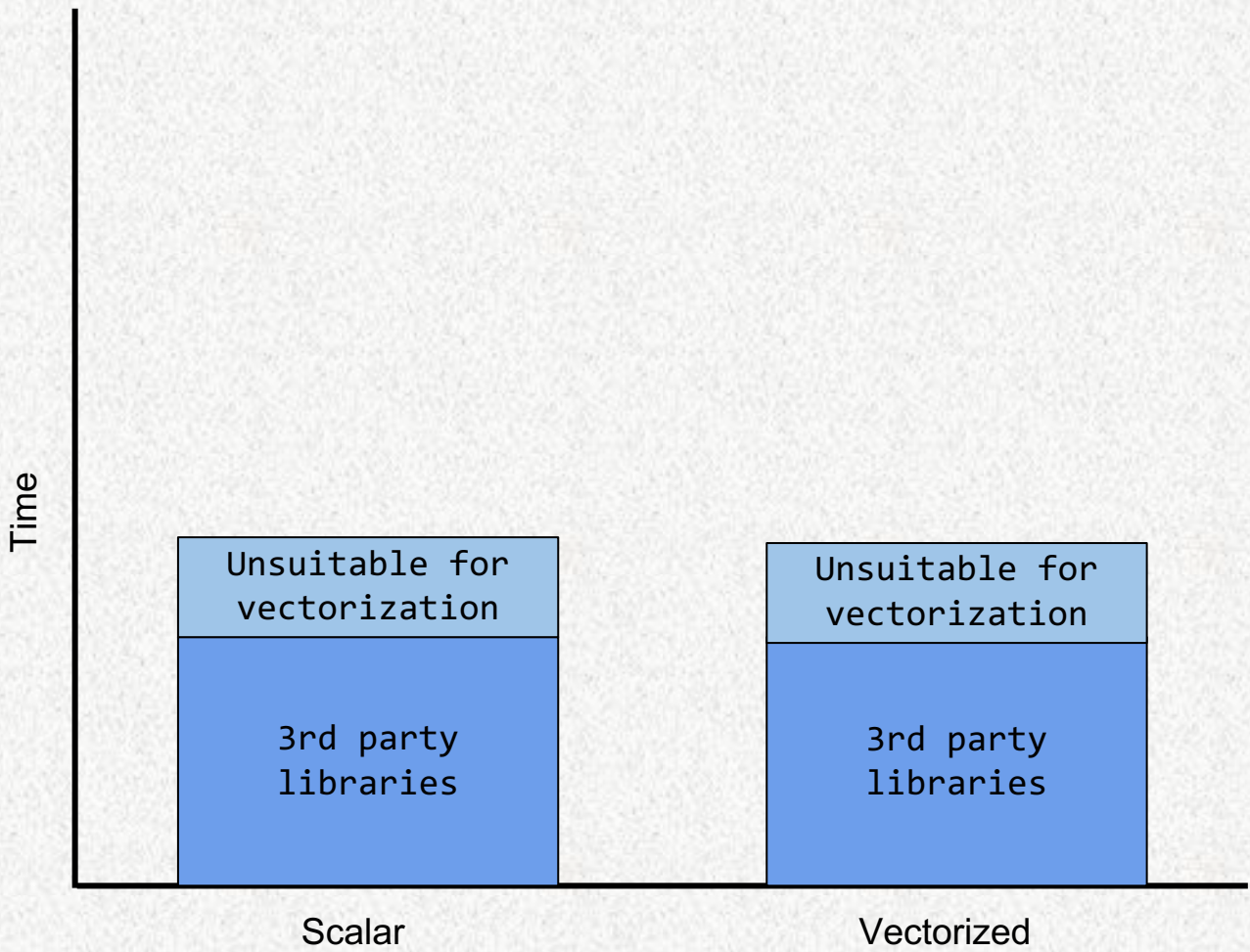
Time

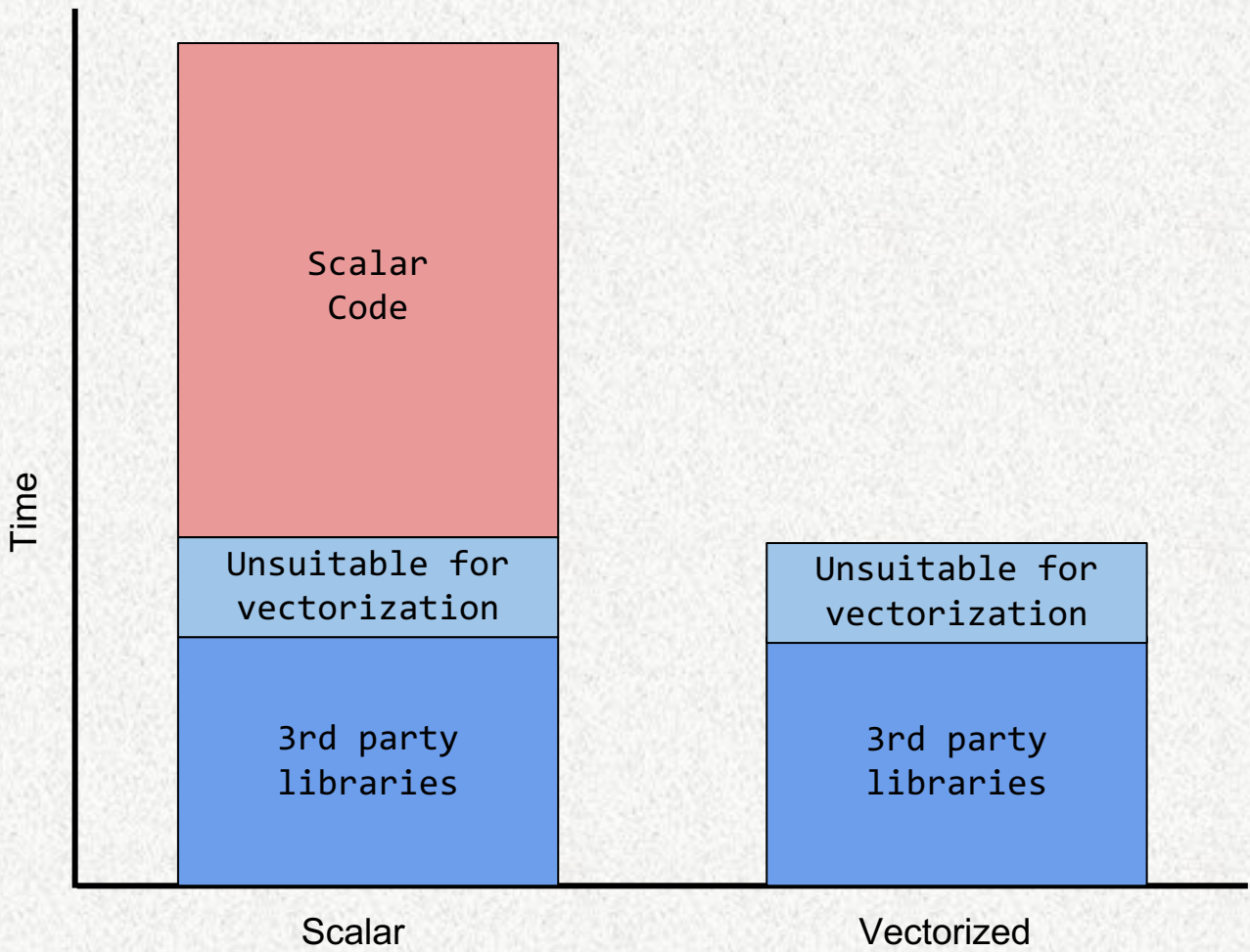
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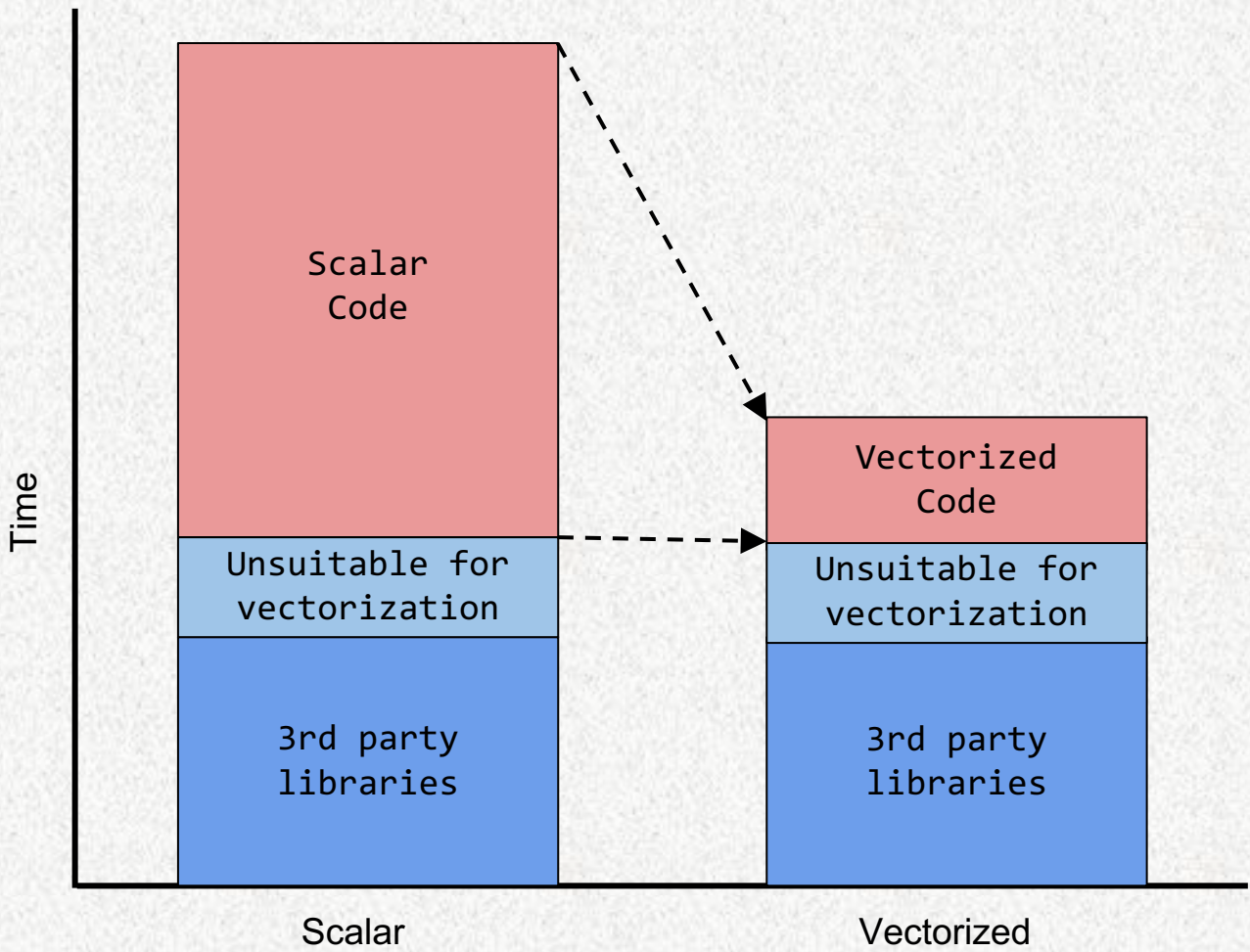
Vectorized

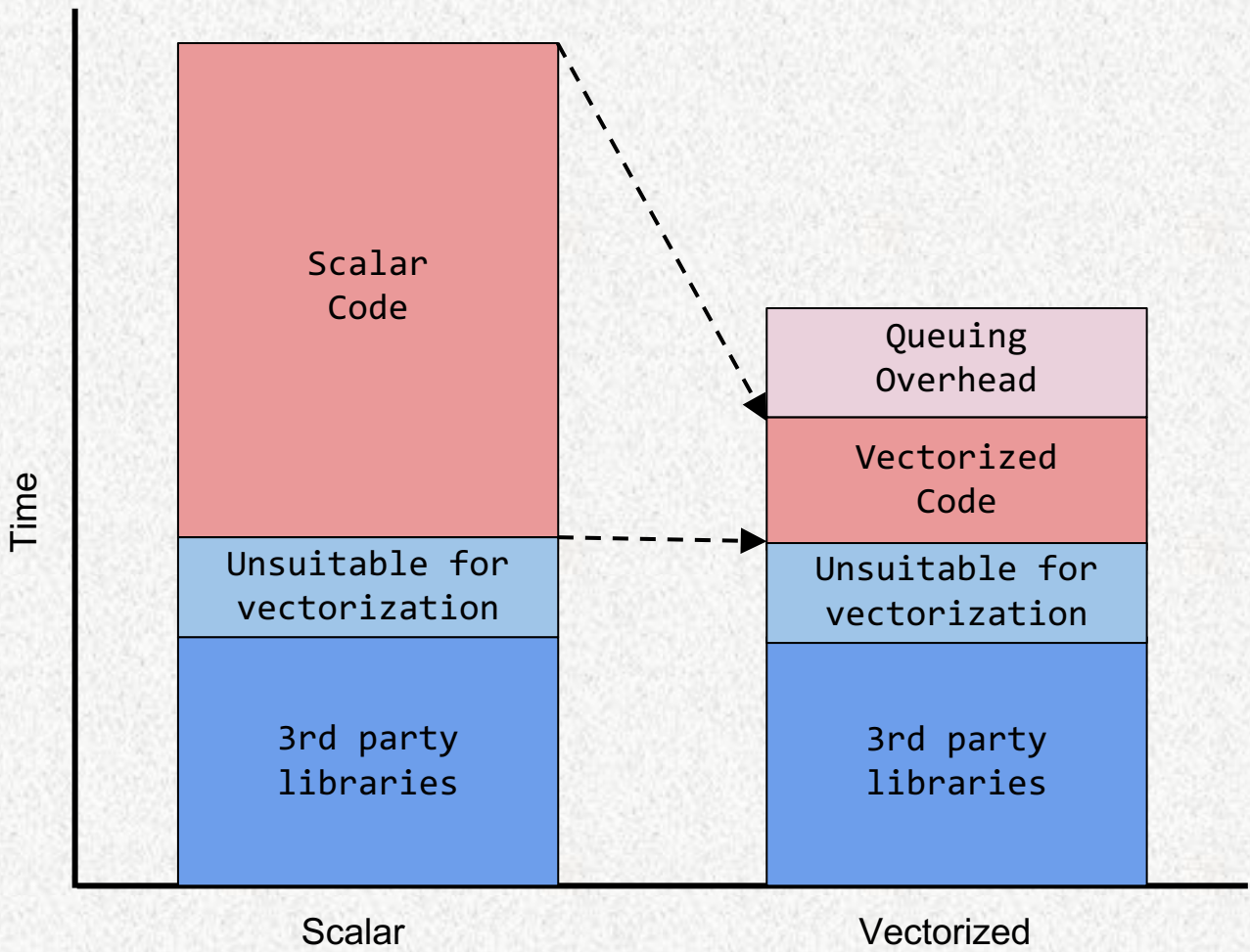


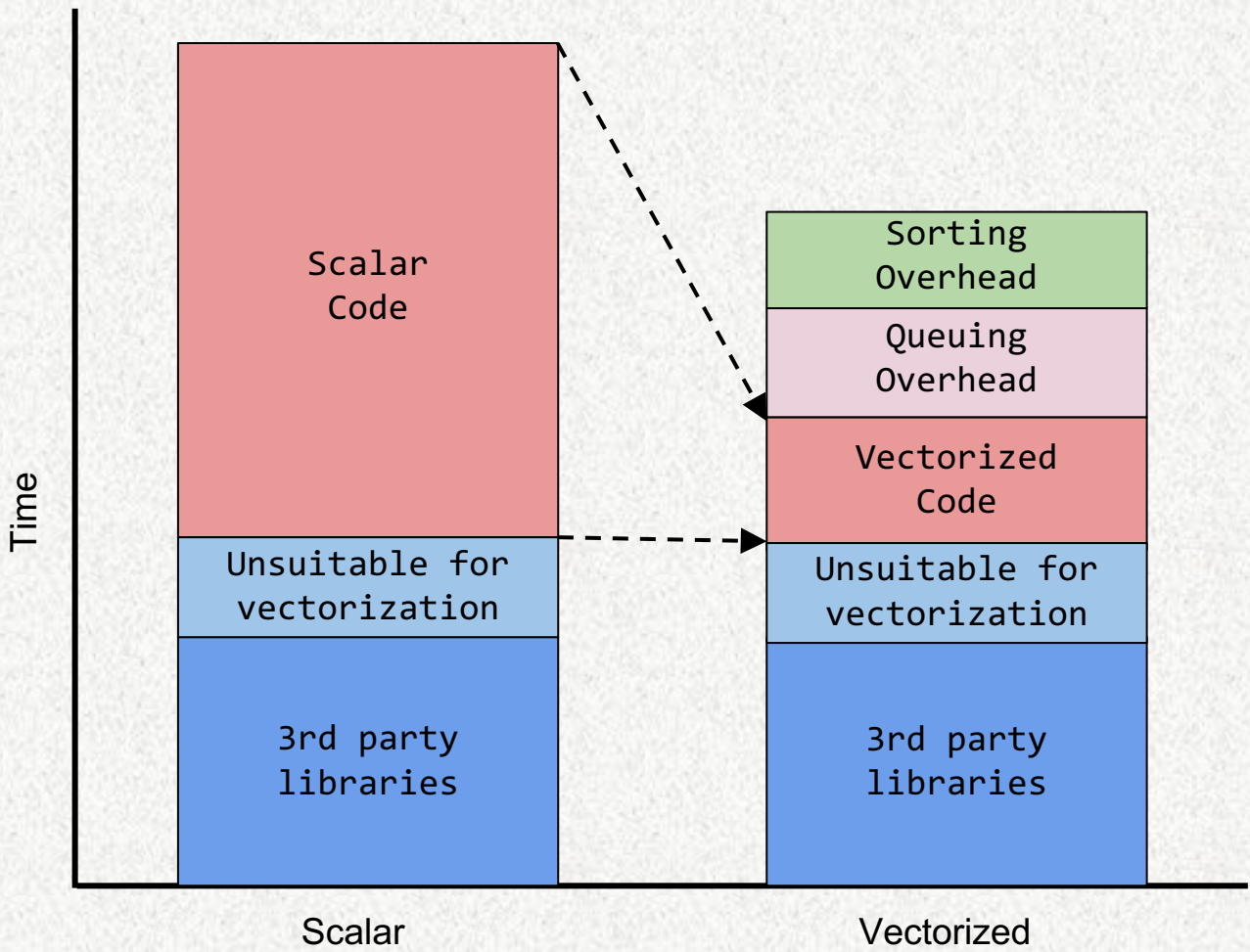


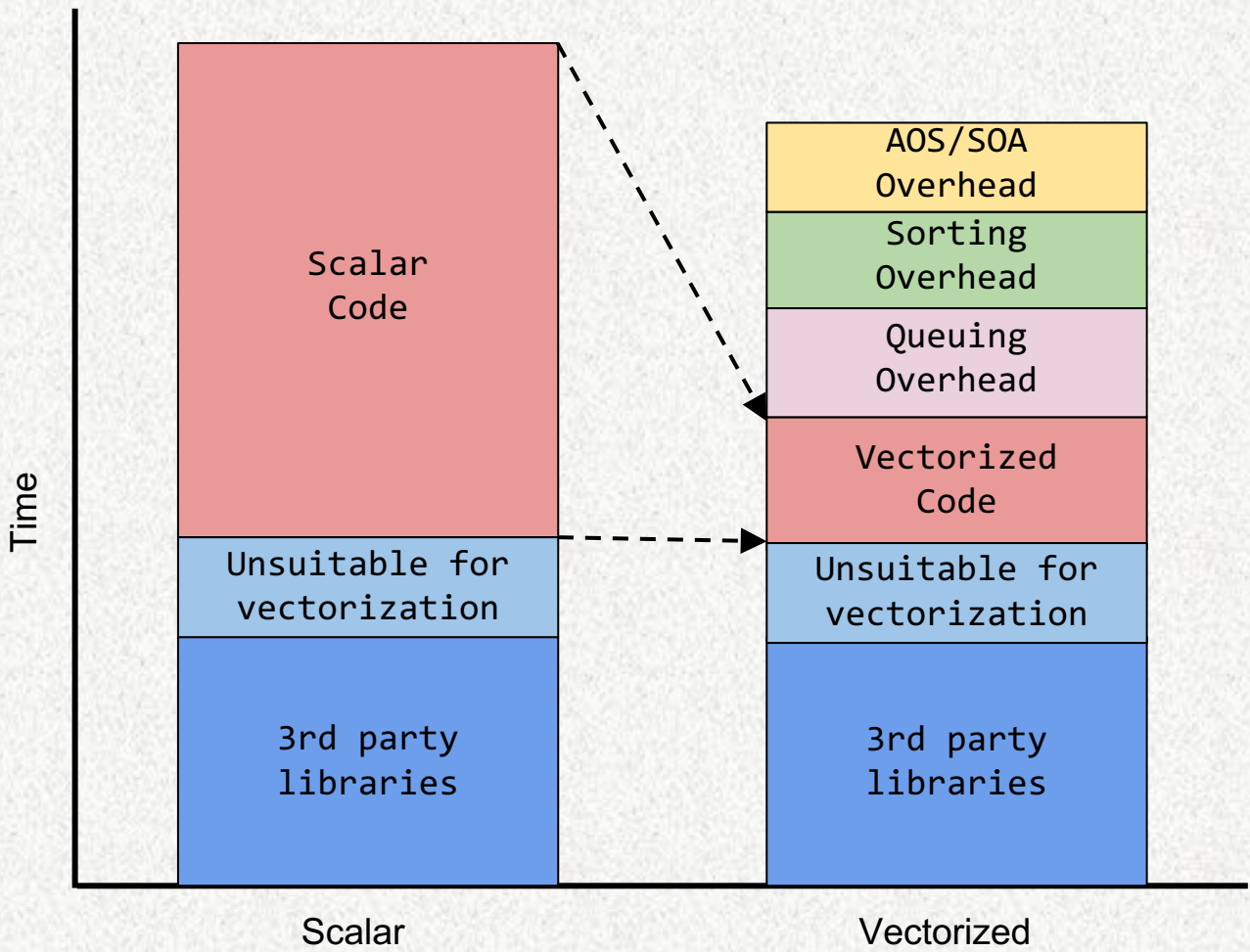










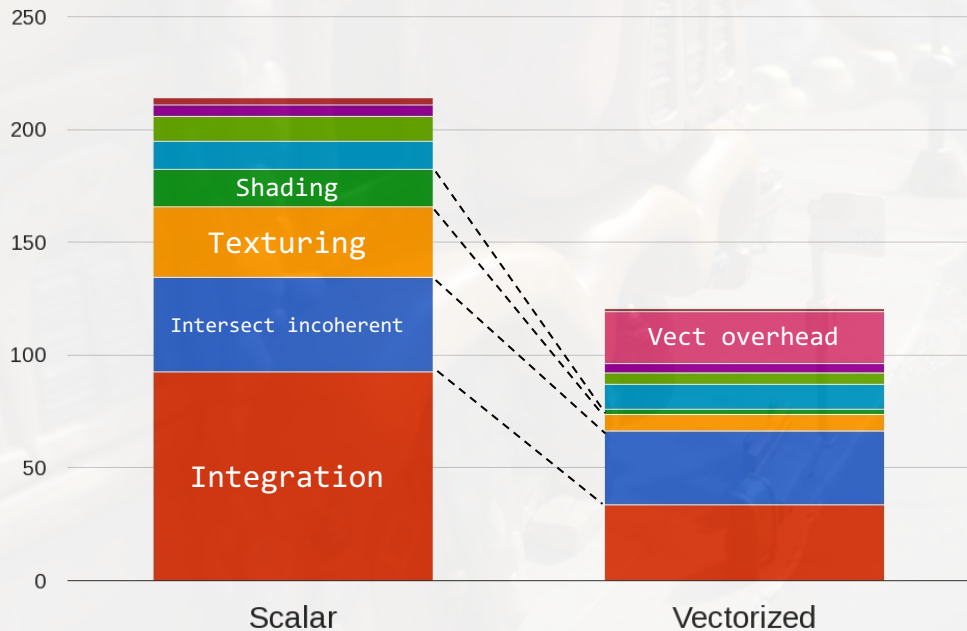


# Results





## Bergen Town



- Embree rtcIntersect primary
- Other
- Differential geometry
- Vectorization overhead
- Embree rtcOccluded
- Shading (excl. texturing)
- Texturing
- Integration
- Embree rtcIntersect incoherent

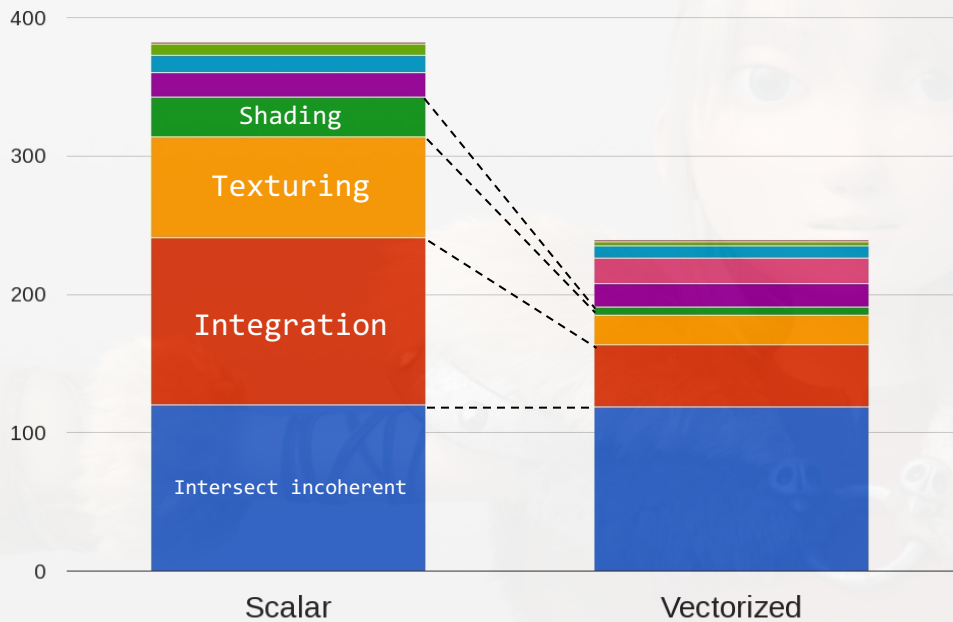
# Bergen Town Vectorization Speedups

Ray intersection subsystem speedup	1.20x
Shading subsystem speedup	<b>6.19x</b>
Texturing subsystem speedup	4.24x
Integration subsystem speedup	2.75x
Overall speedup	1.77x





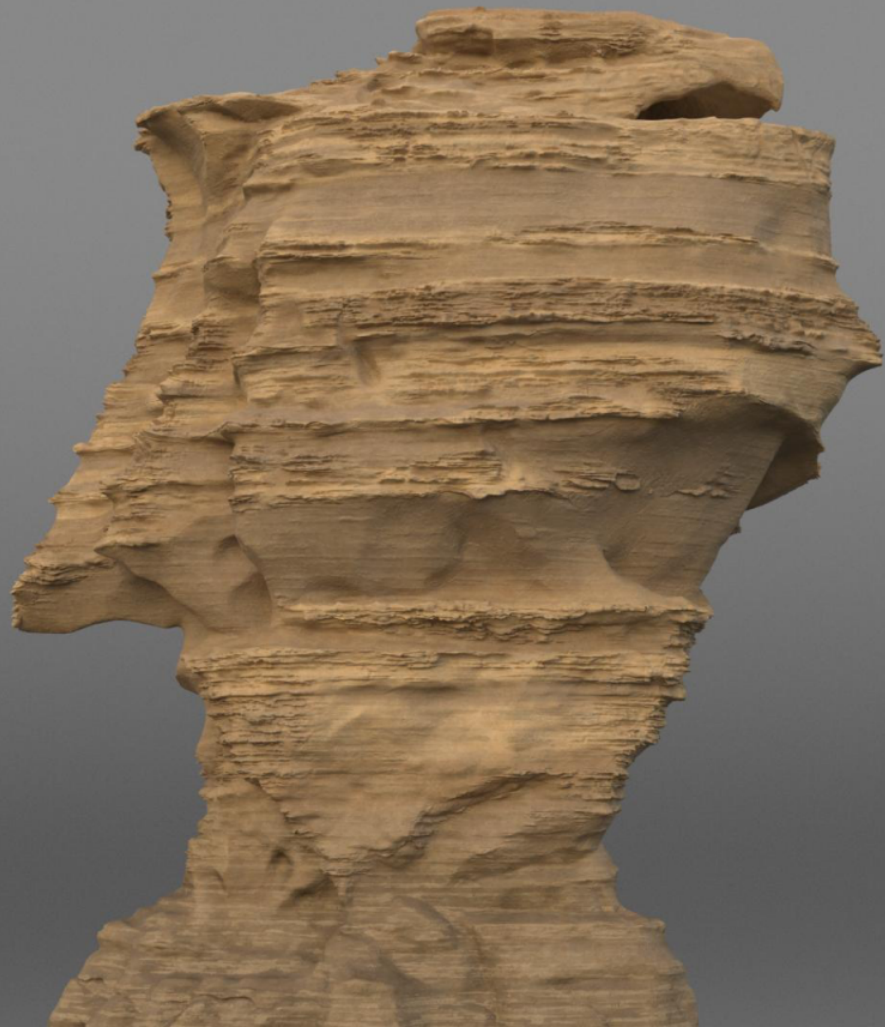
# Astrid



- Embree rtcIntersect primary
- Other
- Differential geometry
- Vectorization overhead
- Embree rtcOccluded
- Shading (excl. texturing)
- Texturing
- Integration
- Embree rtcIntersect incoherent

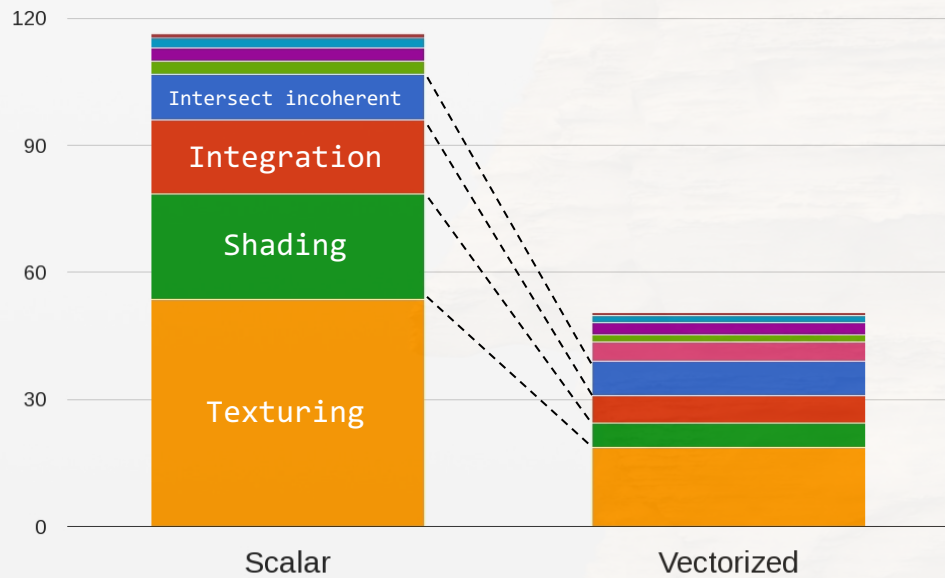
# Astrid Vectorization Speedups

Ray intersection subsystem speedup	1.00x
Shading subsystem speedup	<b>4.54x</b>
Texturing subsystem speedup	3.43x
Integration subsystem speedup	2.68x
Overall speedup	1.60x





## Hotspur



- Embree rtcIntersect primary
- Other
- Differential geometry
- Vectorization overhead
- Embree rtcOccluded
- Shading (excl. texturing)
- Texturing
- Integration
- Embree rtcIntersect incoherent

# Hotspur Vectorization Speedups

Ray intersection subsystem speedup	1.14x
Shading subsystem speedup	<b>4.20x</b>
Texturing subsystem speedup	2.90x
Integration subsystem speedup	2.72x
Overall speedup	2.31x

# Conclusion

- Significant speedups over scalar mode in all scenes tested
- Vectorization speedup is scene dependent
- Future looking architecture
  - Linear scaling with increased core counts
  - Non-trivial speedups with increased vector lane counts
  - Suitable for GPU hardware

*Good Luck MoonRay!*

Acknowledgements: We'd like to thank the MoonRay and MoonShine teams at DWA, and the open source community

# Questions?

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Full paper is available at: [research.dreamworks.com](http://research.dreamworks.com)