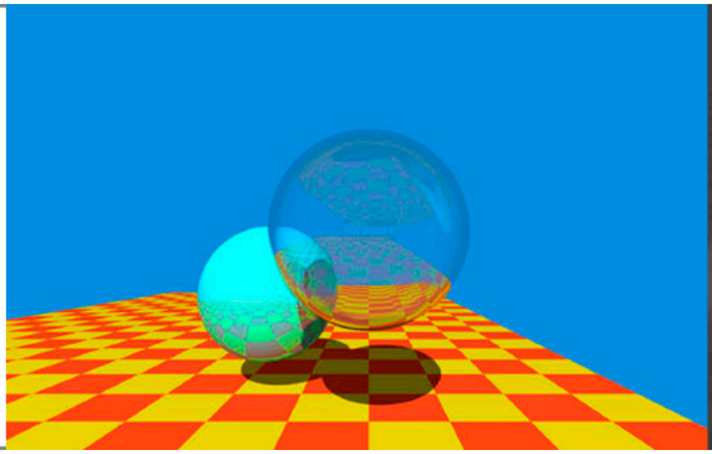
Introduction to Computer Graphics

GAMES101, Lingqi Yan, UC Santa Barbara

Lecture 6:
Rasterization 2
(Antialiasing and Z-Buffering)






http://www.cs.ucsb.edu/~lingqi/teaching/games101.html

Announcements

- Homework 1
  - Already 49 submissions so far!
  - In general, start early
- Today's topics are not easy
  - Having knowledge on Signal Processing is appreciated
  - But no worries if you don't

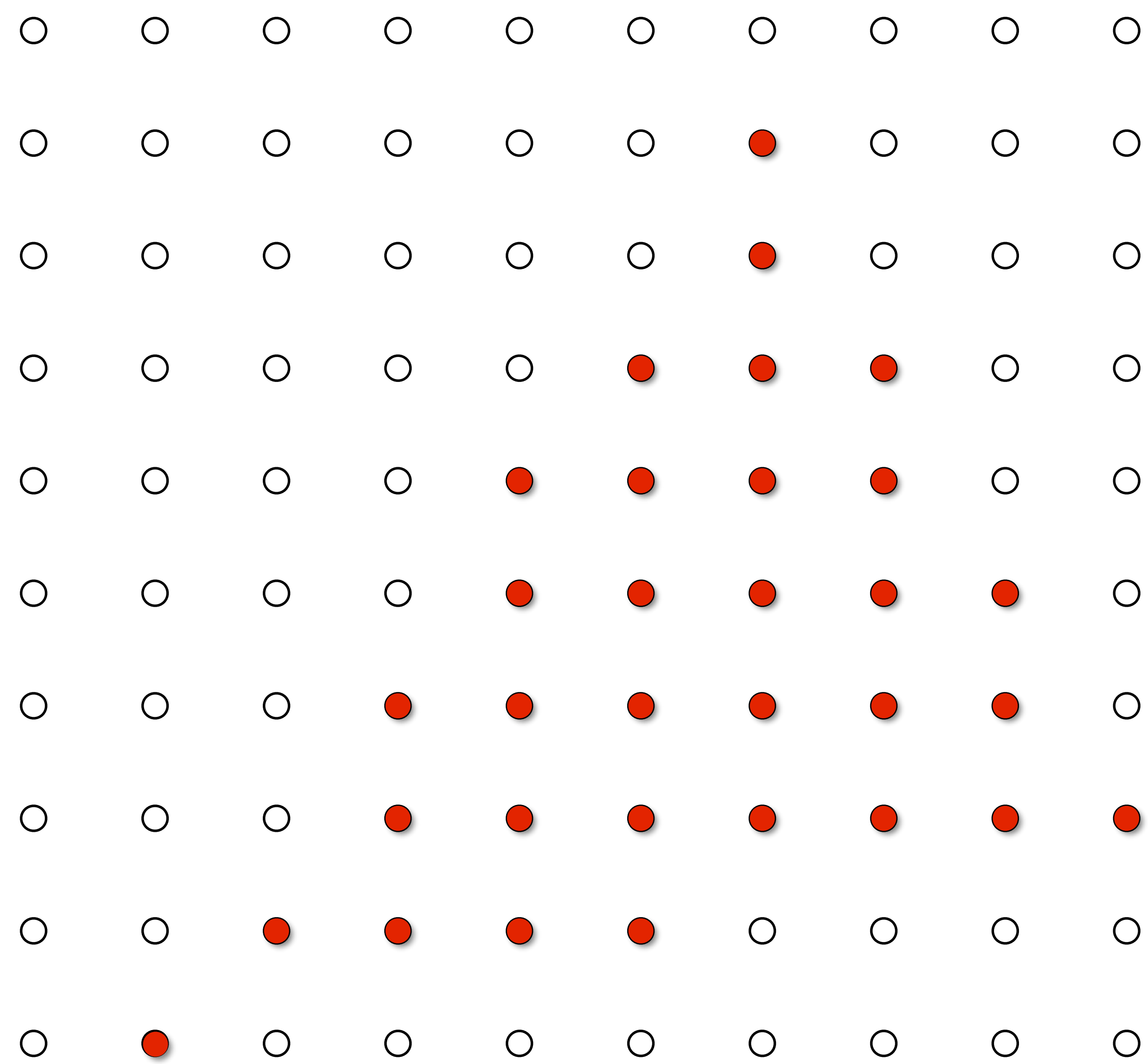
Last Lectures

- Viewing
  - View + Projection + Viewport
- Rasterizing triangles
  - Point-in-triangle test
  - Aliasing

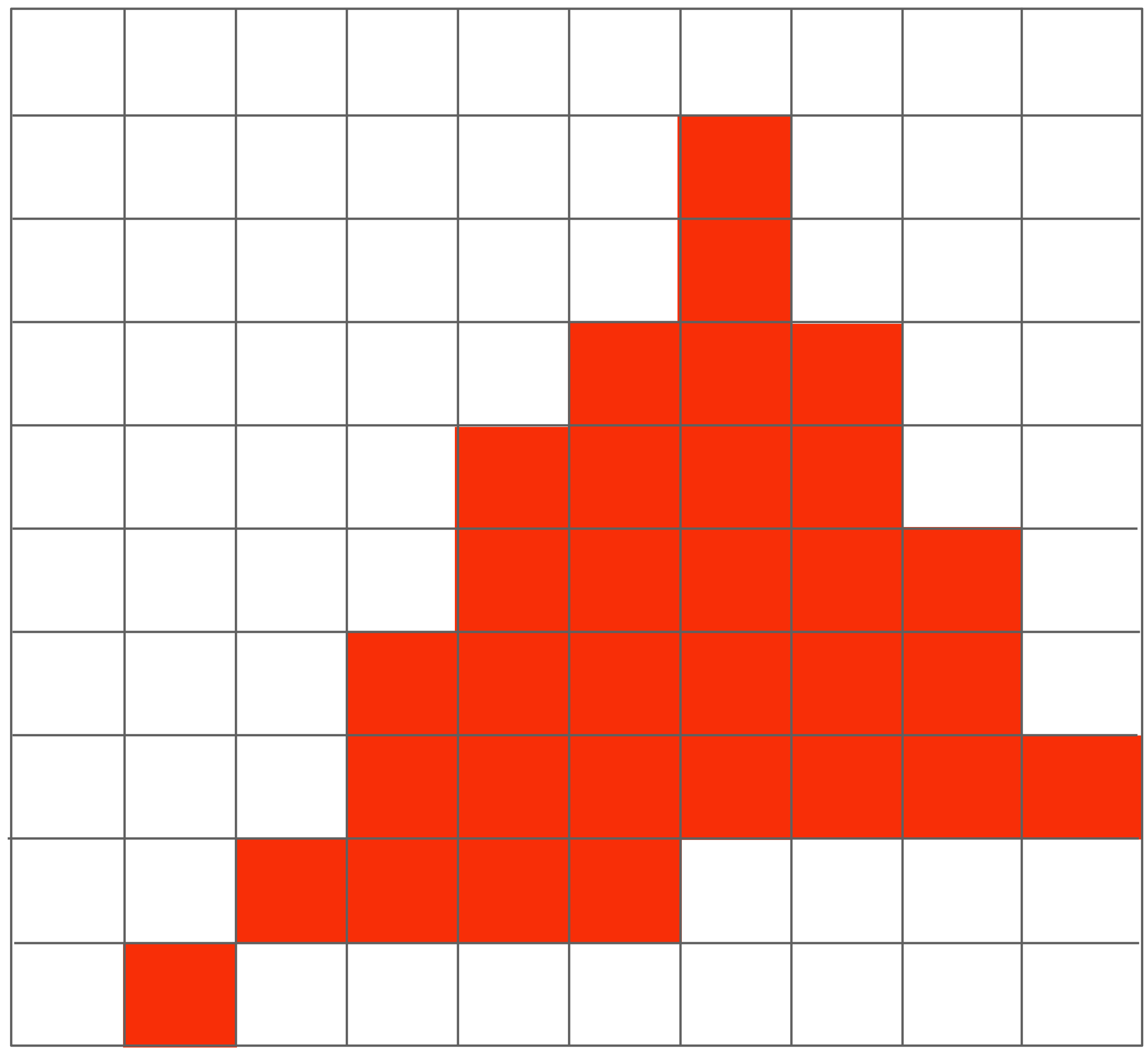
Today

- Antialiasing
  - Sampling theory
  - Antialiasing in practice
- Visibility / occlusion
  - Z-buffering

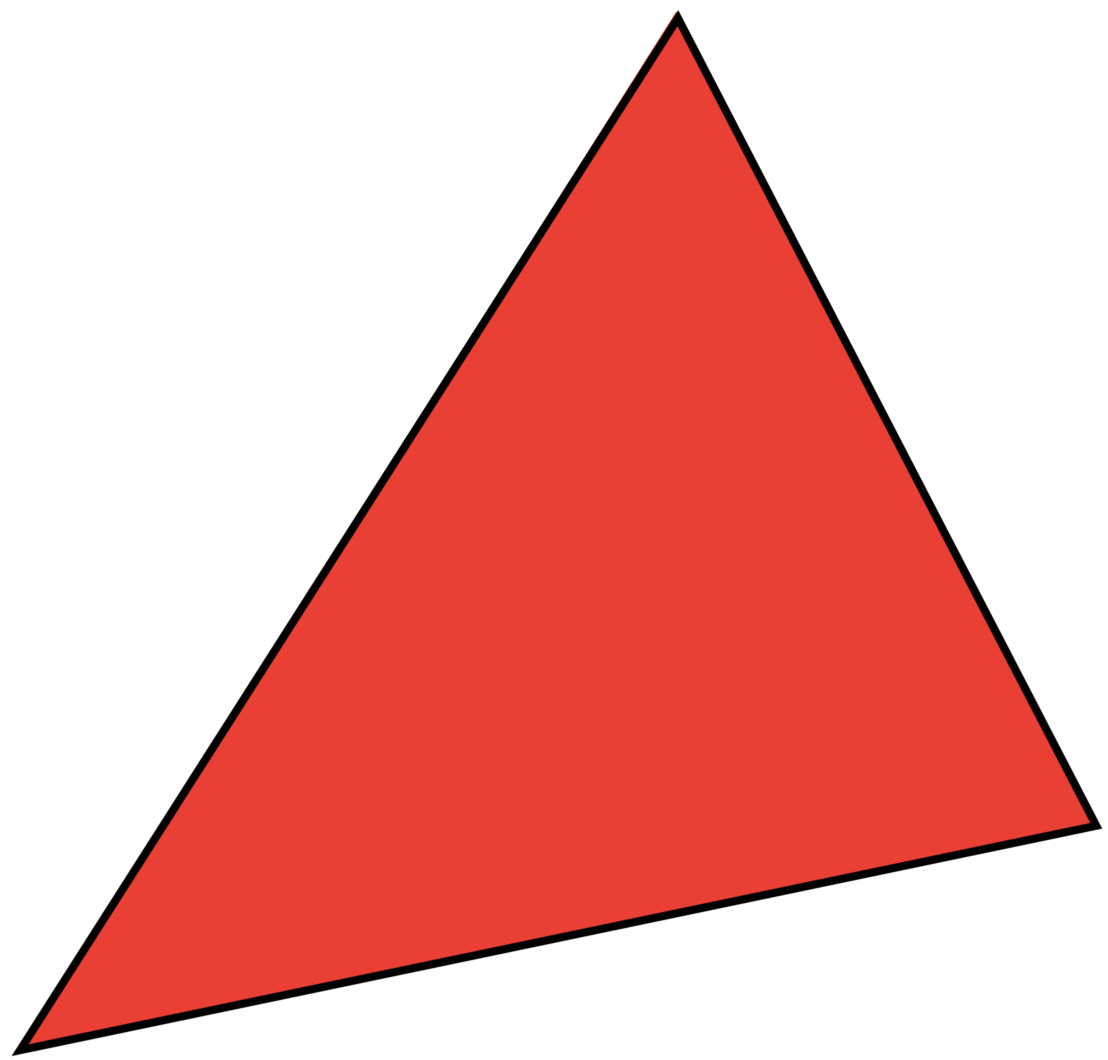
Recap: Testing in/out △ at pixels' centers



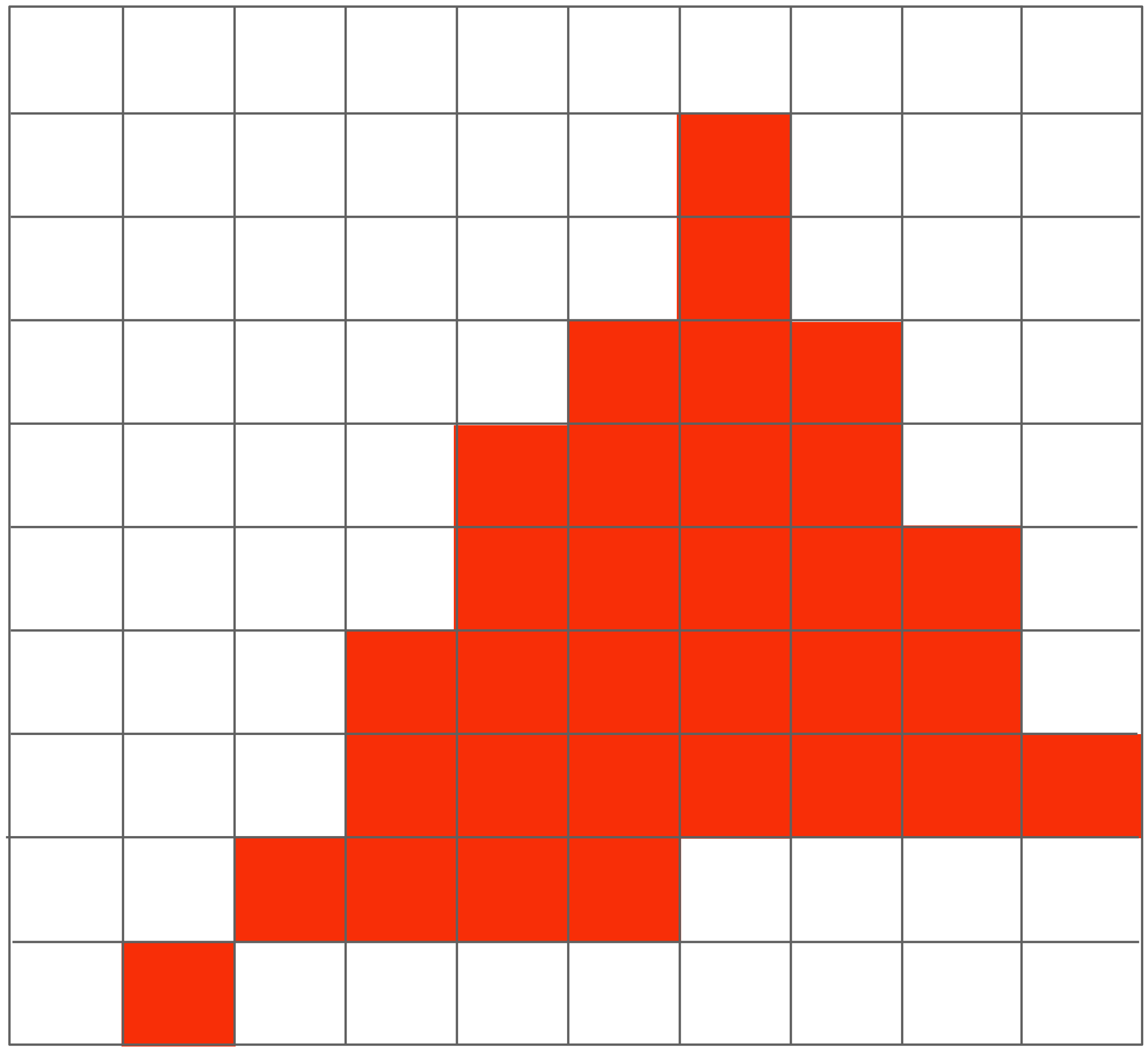
Pixels are uniformly-colored squares



Compare: The Continuous Triangle Function

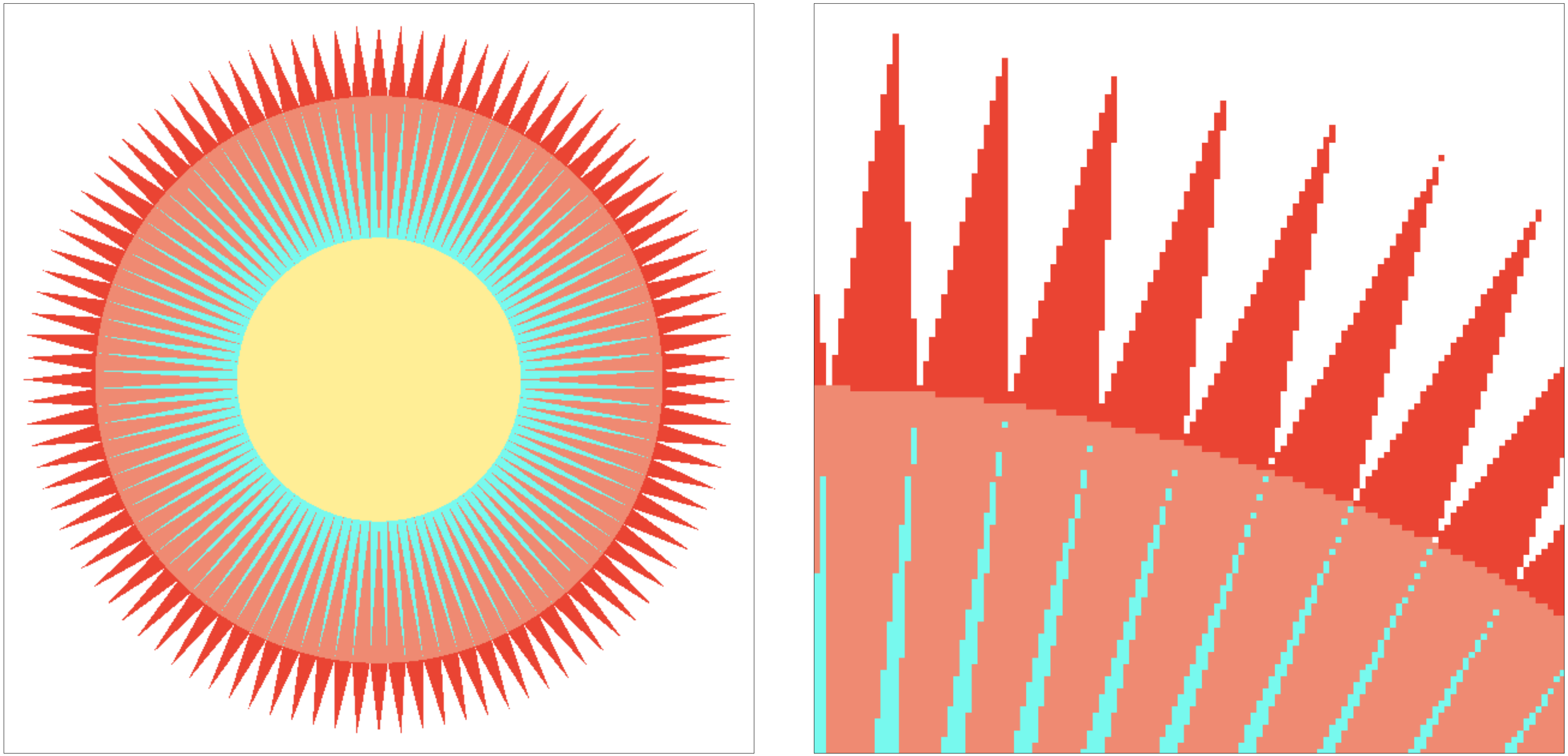


What's Wrong With This Picture?



Jaggies!

Aliasing

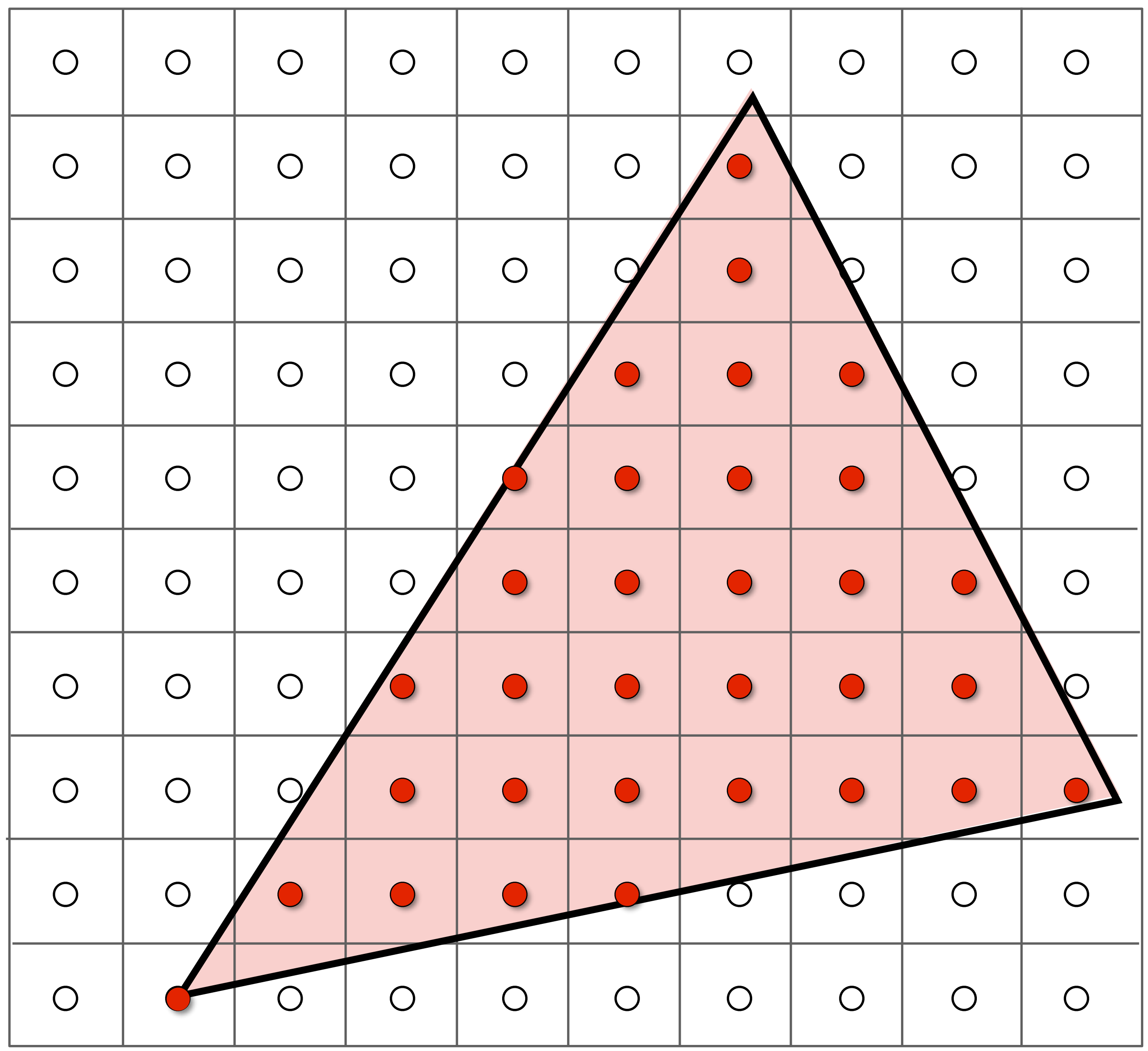


Is this the best we can do?

Slide courtesy of Prof. Ren Ng, UC Berkeley

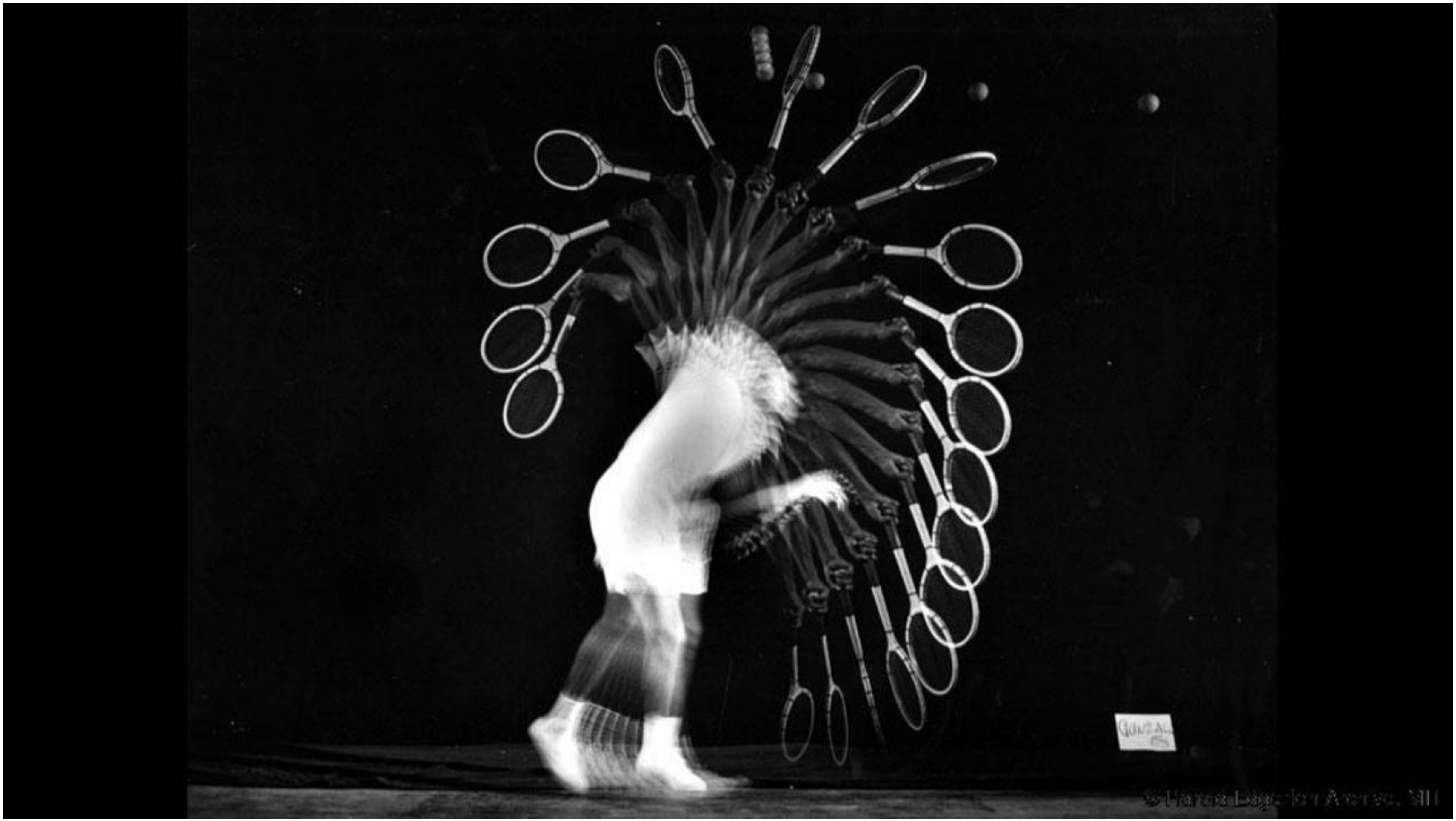
Sampling is Ubiquitous in Computer Graphics

Rasterization = Sample 2D Positions



Photograph = Sample Image Sensor Plane

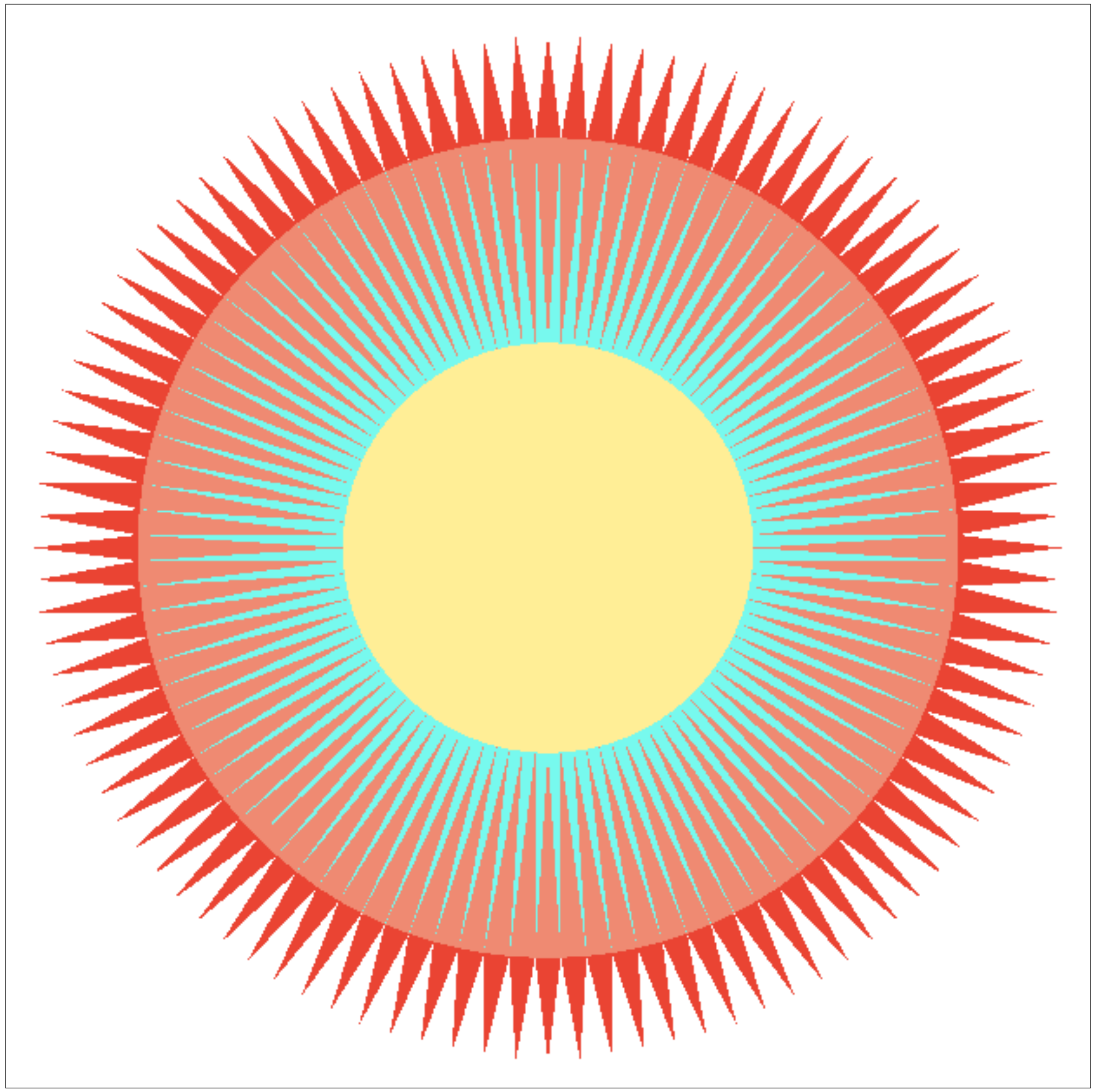
Video = Sample Time

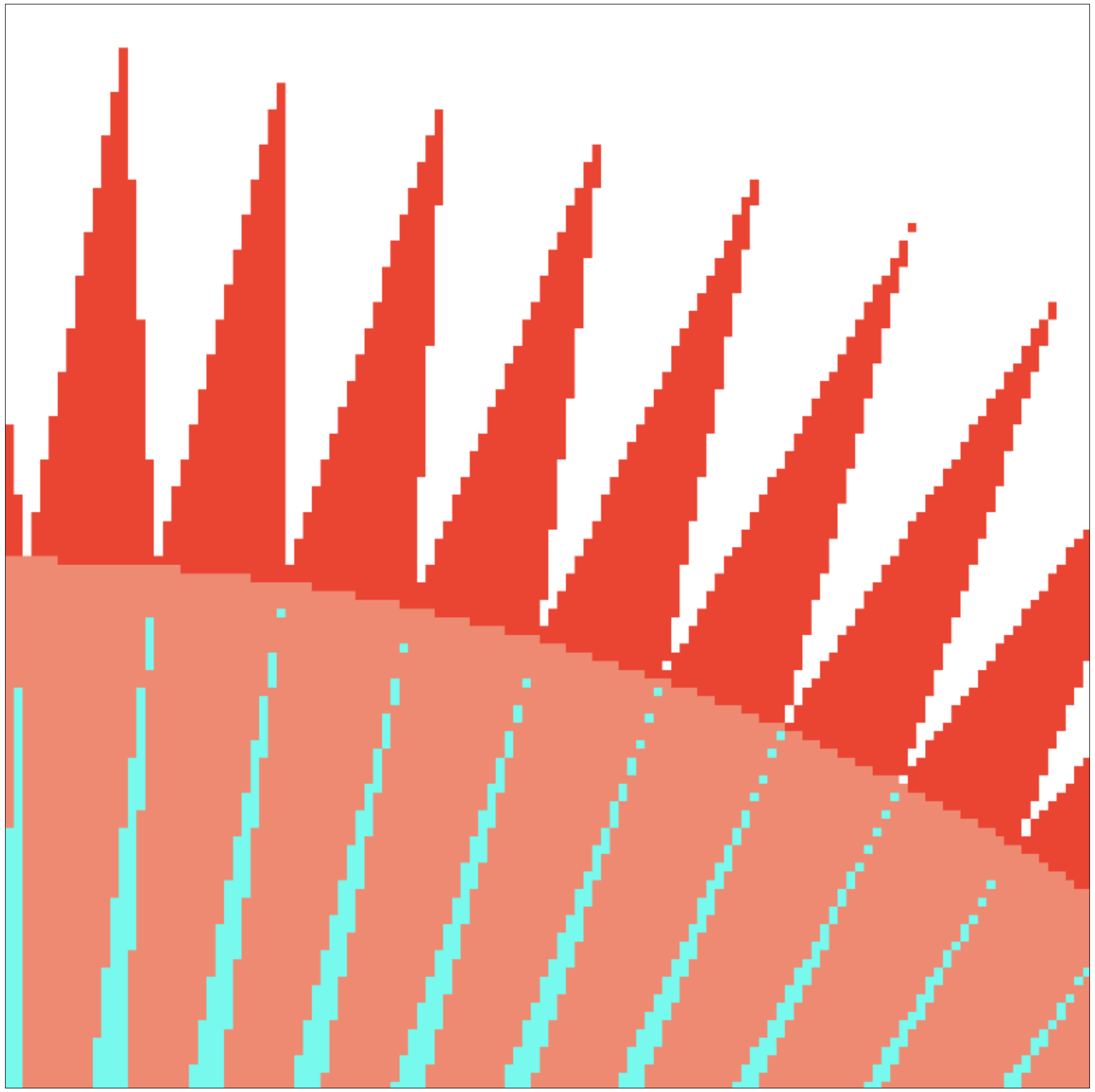


Harold Edgerton Archive, MIT

Sampling Artifacts
(Errors / Mistakes / Inaccuracies) in
Computer Graphics

Jaggies (Staircase Pattern)

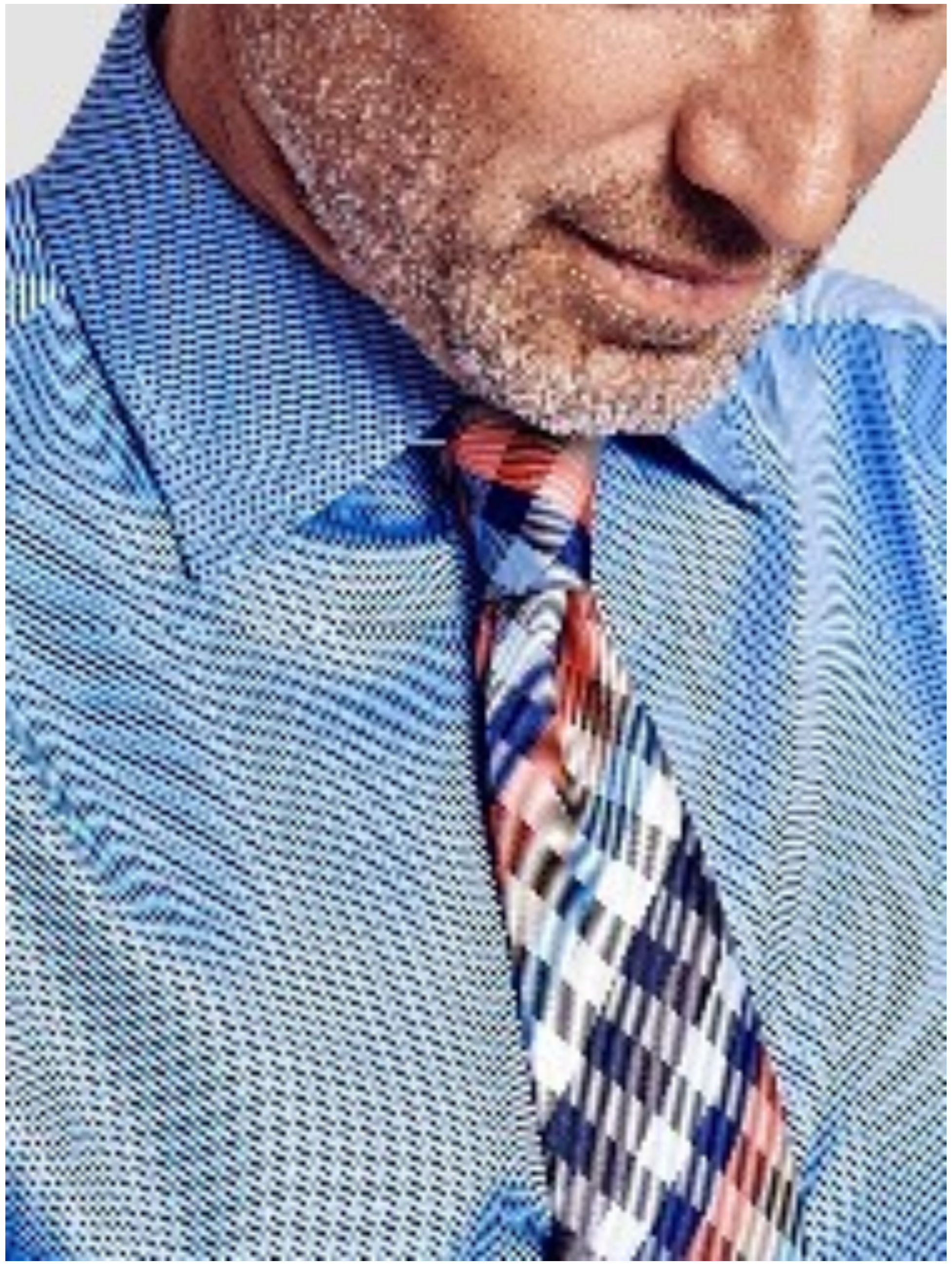




This is also an example of “aliasing” – a sampling error

Moiré Patterns in Imaging

[mwɑ:]



lystit.com

Skip odd rows and columns

Wagon Wheel Illusion (False Motion)

Sampling Artifacts in Computer Graphics

Artifacts due to sampling - "Aliasing"

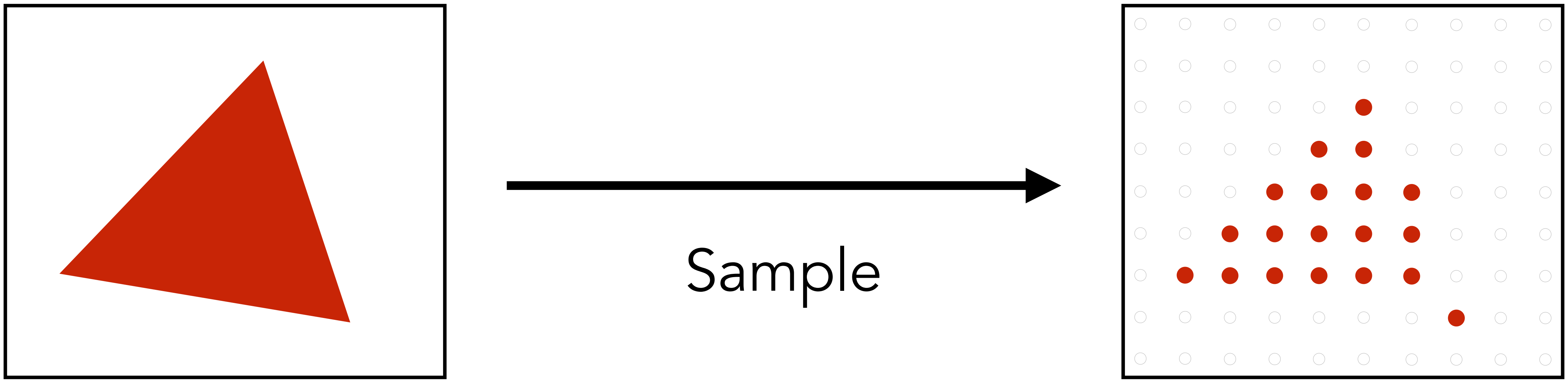
- Jaggies – sampling in space
- Moire – undersampling images
- Wagon wheel effect – sampling in time
- [Many more] …

Behind the Aliasing Artifacts

- Signals are changing too fast (high frequency), but sampled too slowly

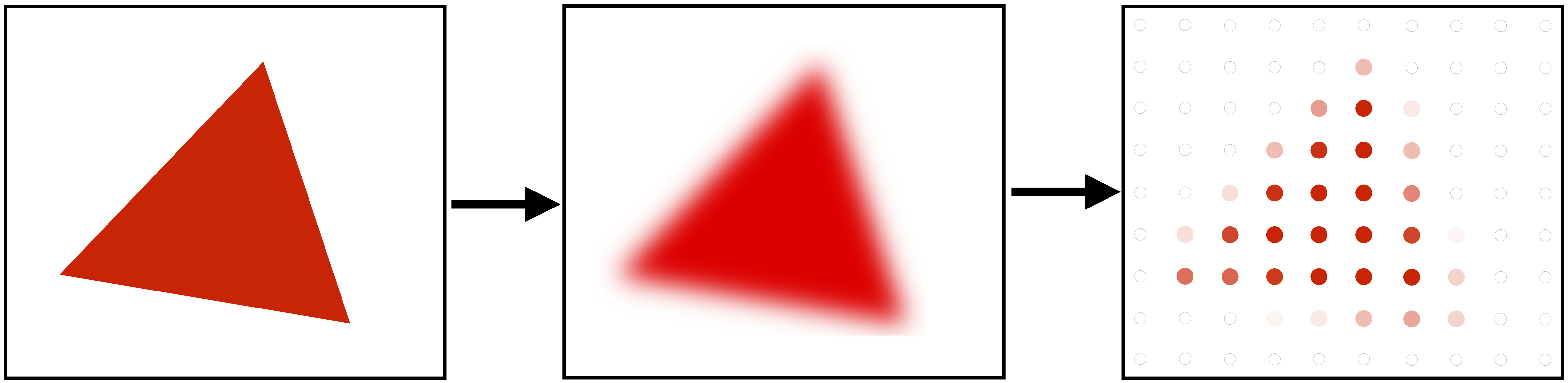
Antialiasing Idea:
Blurring (Pre-Filtering) Before Sampling

Rasterization: Point Sampling in Space



Note jaggies in rasterized triangle
where pixel values are **pure red or white**

Rasterization: Antialiased Sampling



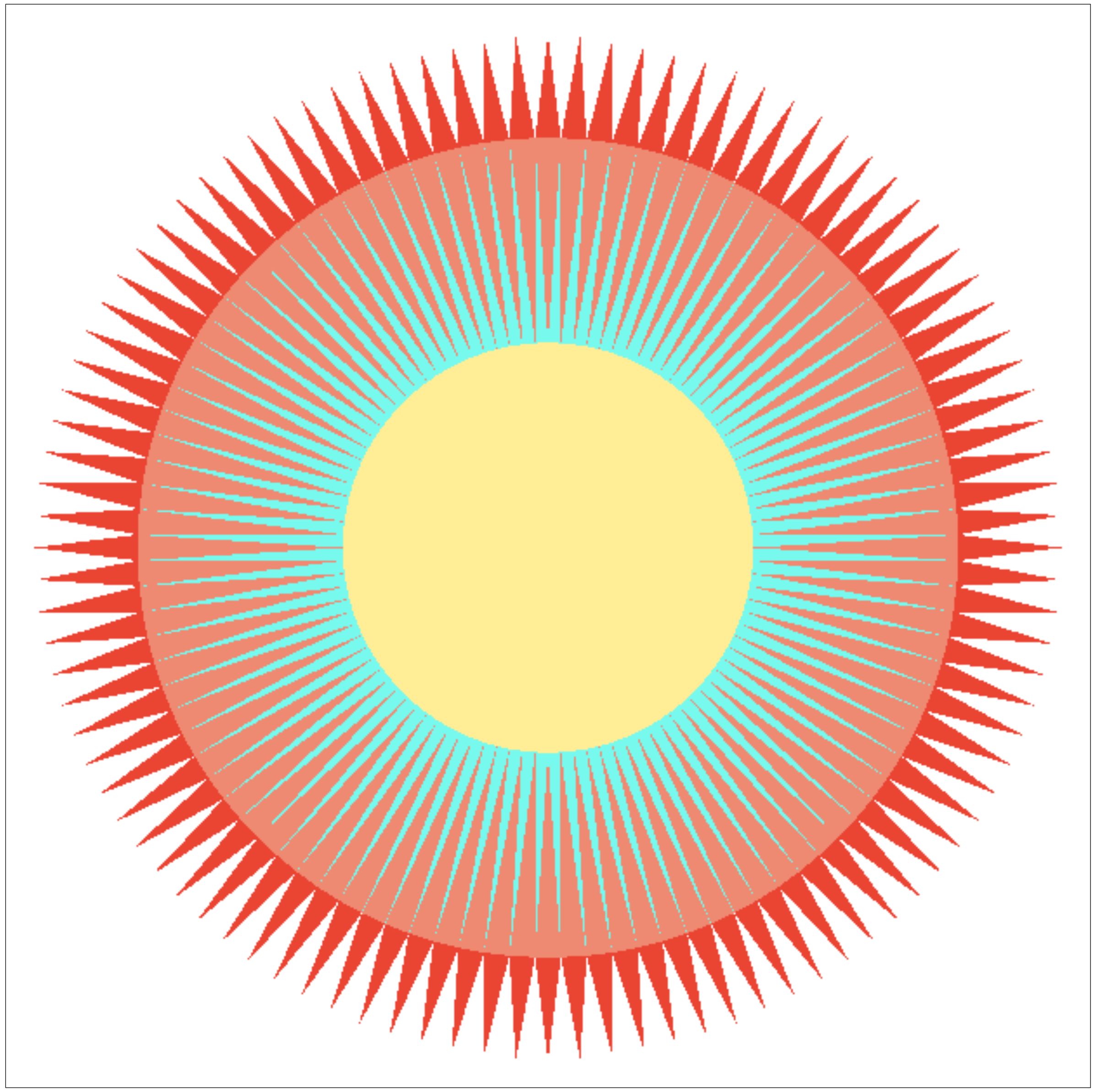
Pre-Filter

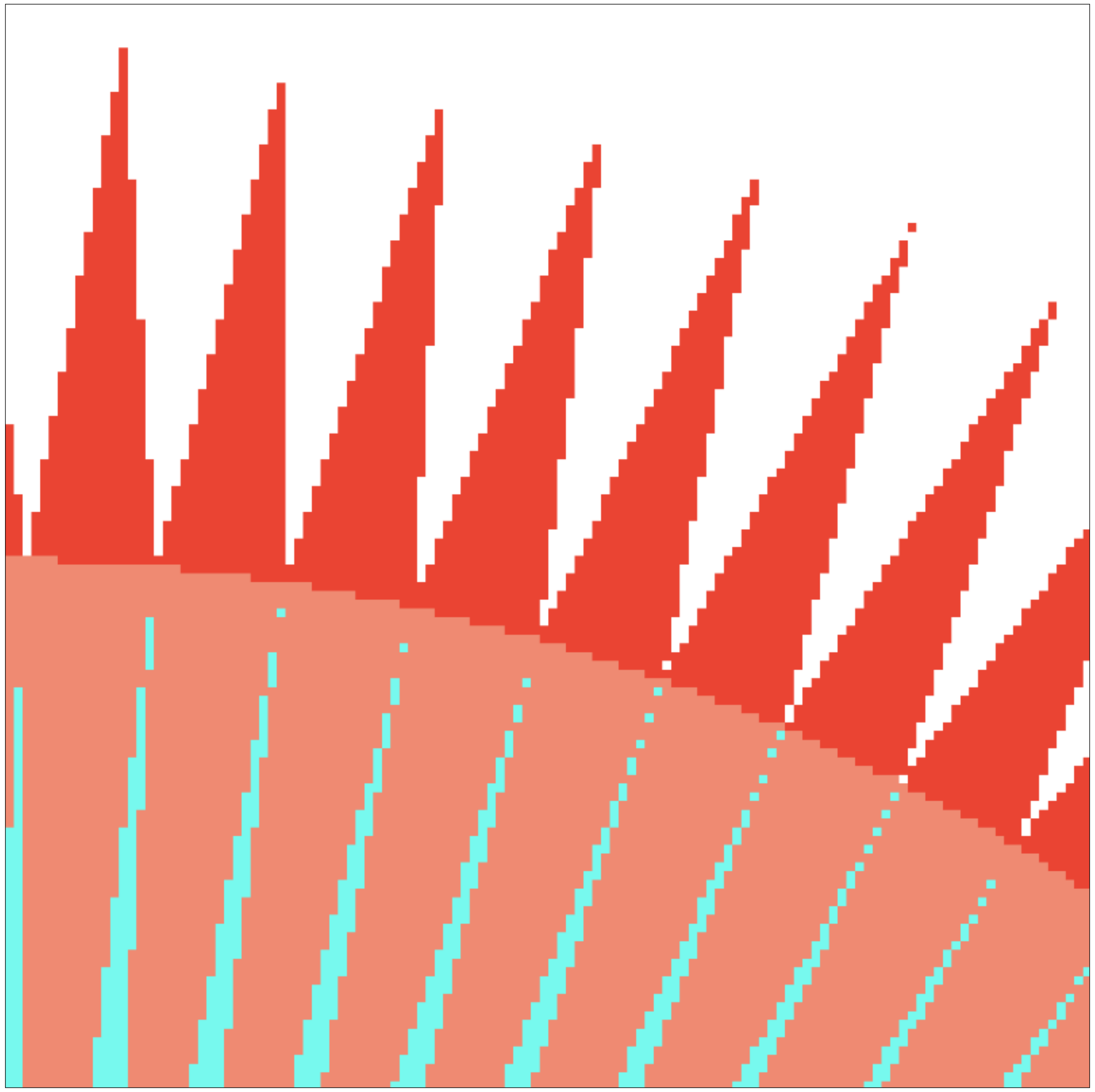
(remove frequencies above Nyquist) (?)

Sample

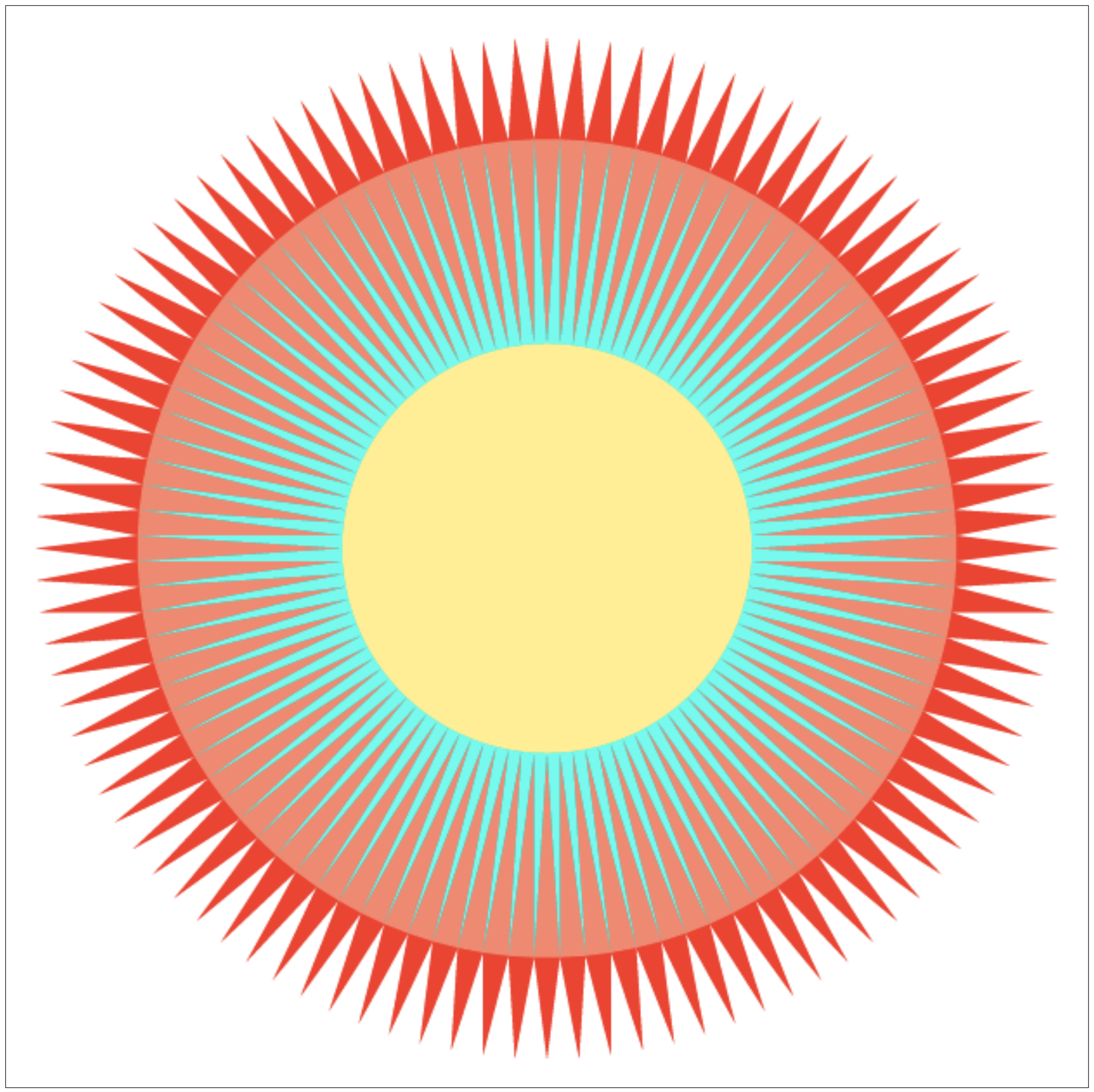
Note antialiased edges in rasterized triangle where pixel values take intermediate values

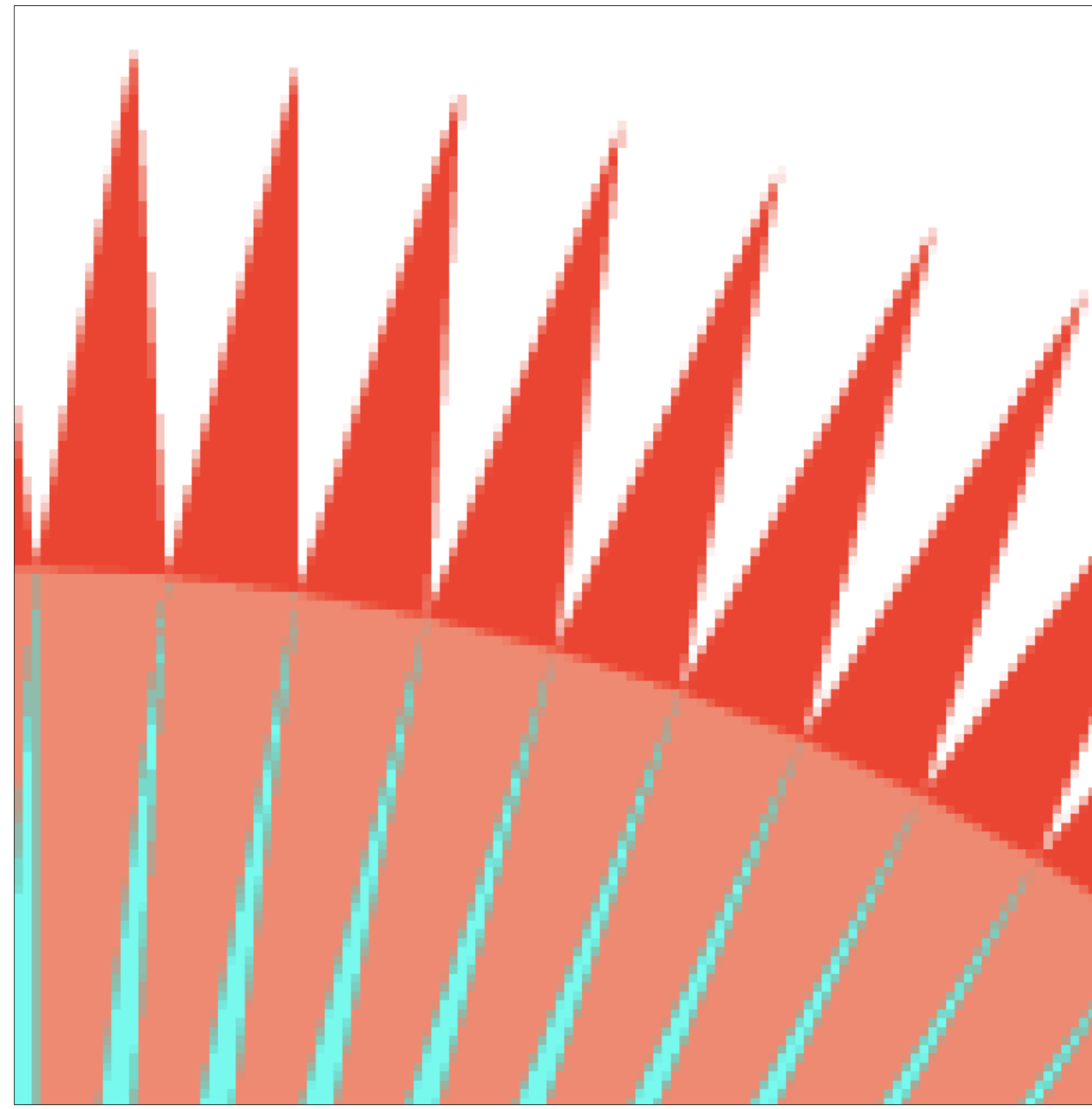
Point Sampling



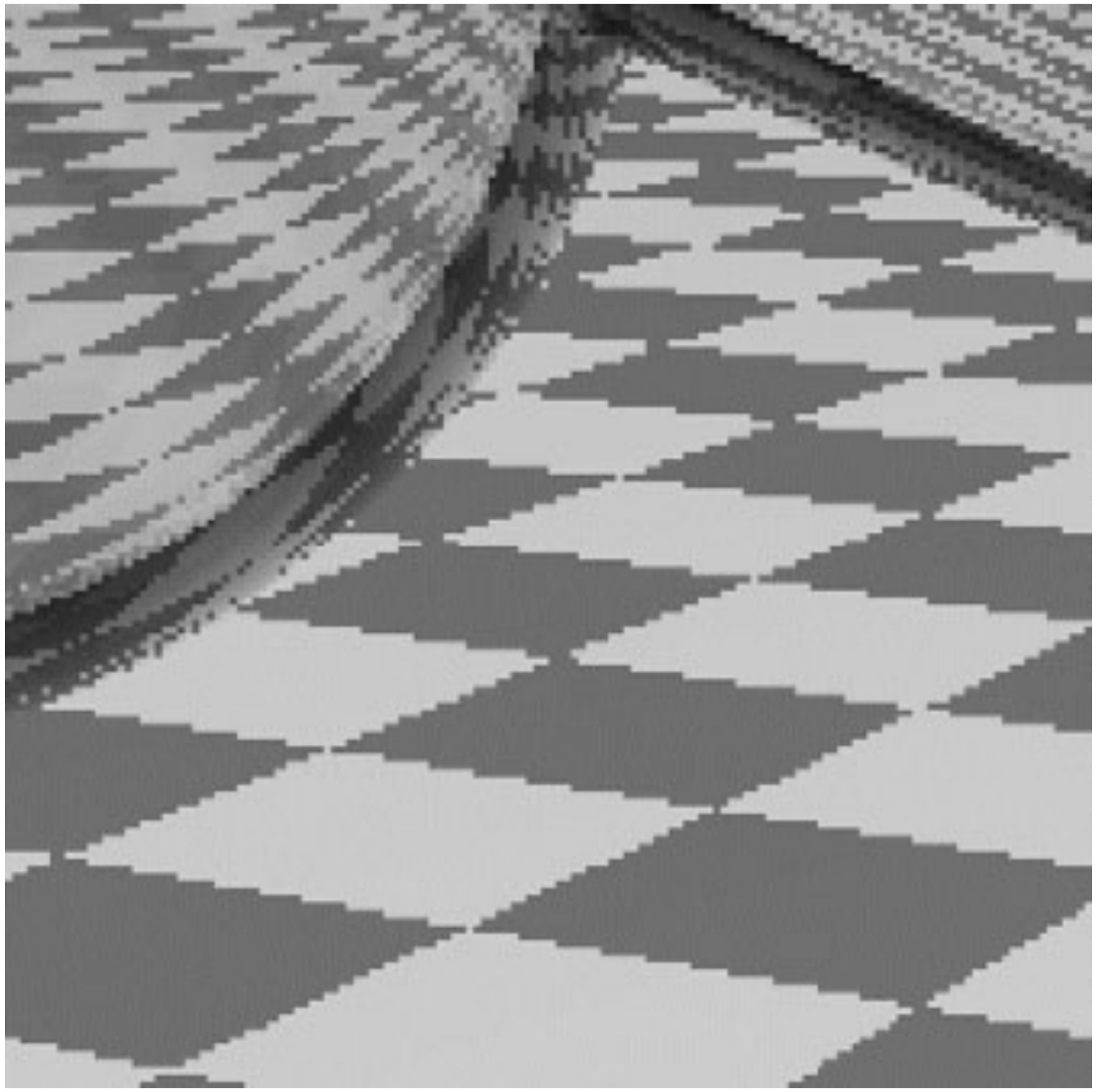


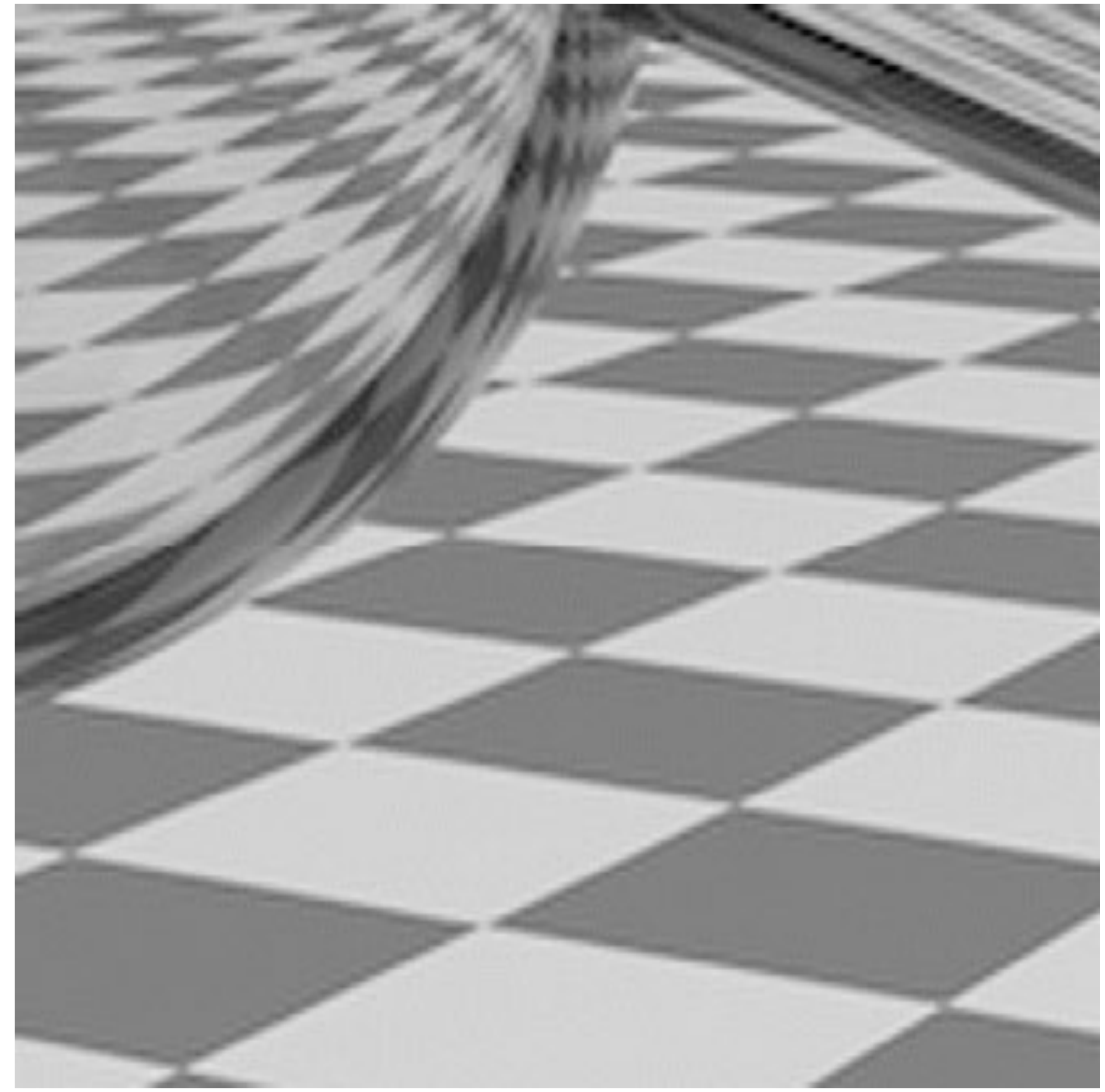
Antialiasing



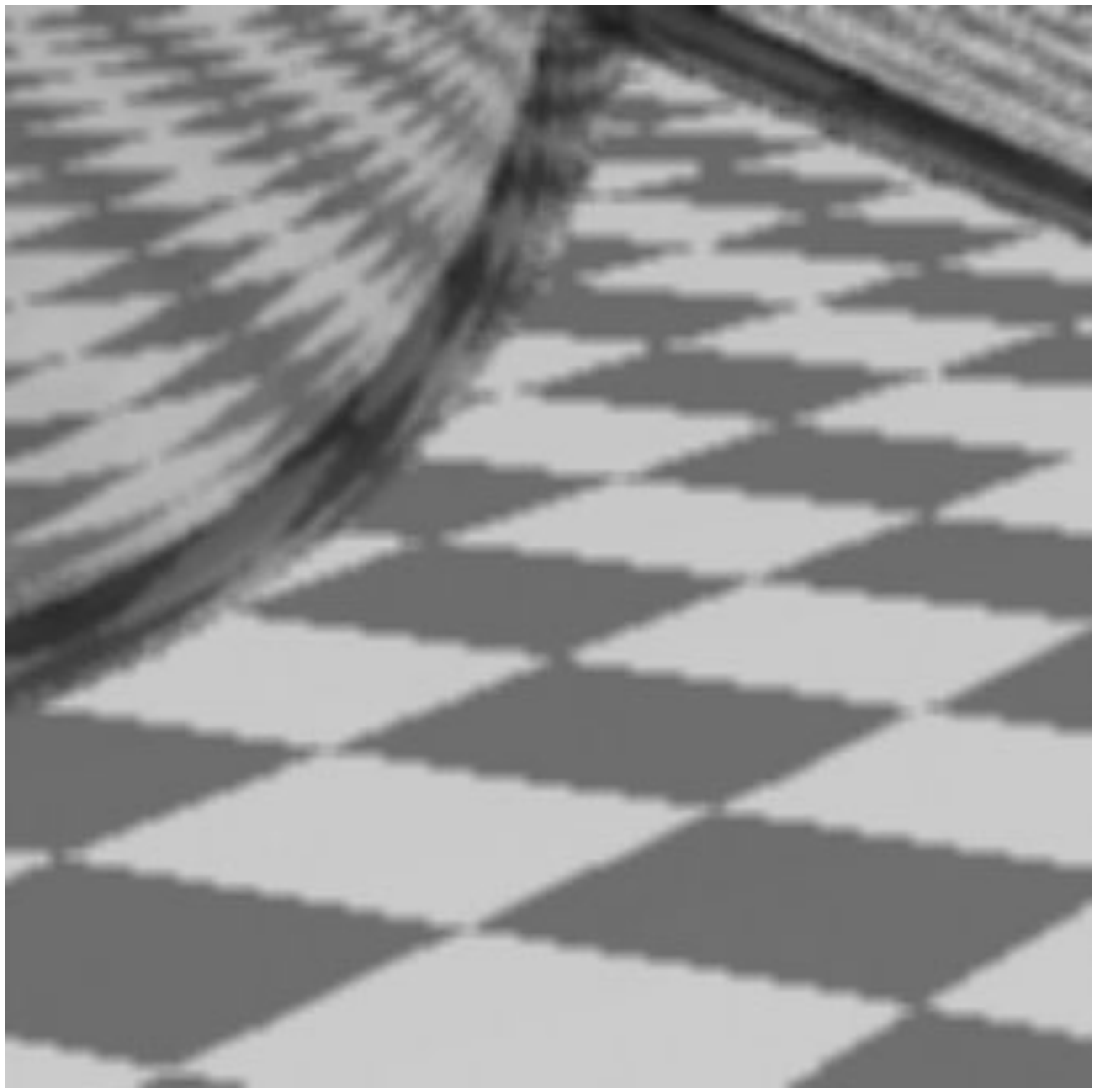


Point Sampling vs Antialiasing

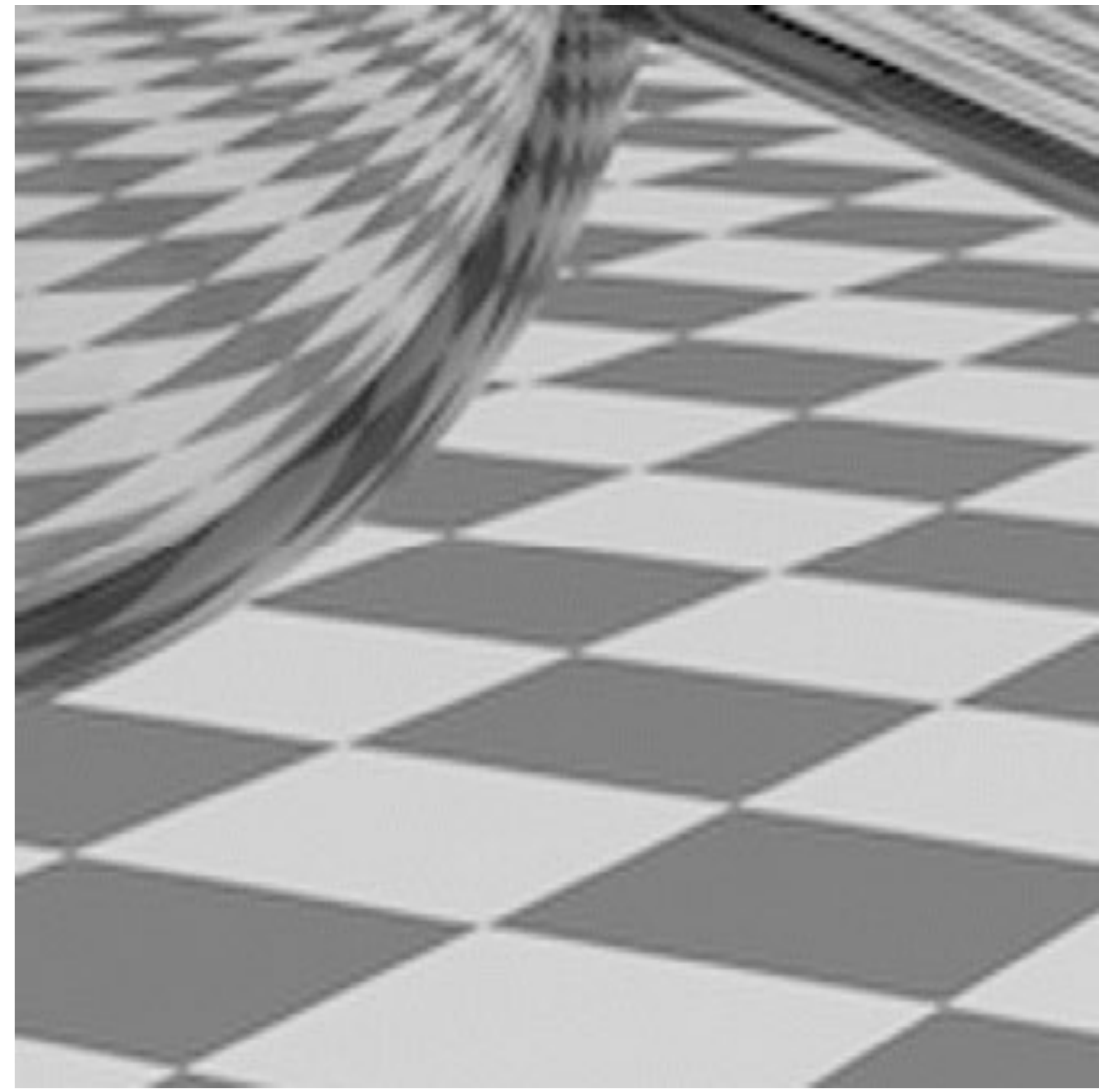




Antialiasing vs Blurred Aliasing



(Sample then filter, WRONG!)



(Filter then sample)

But why?

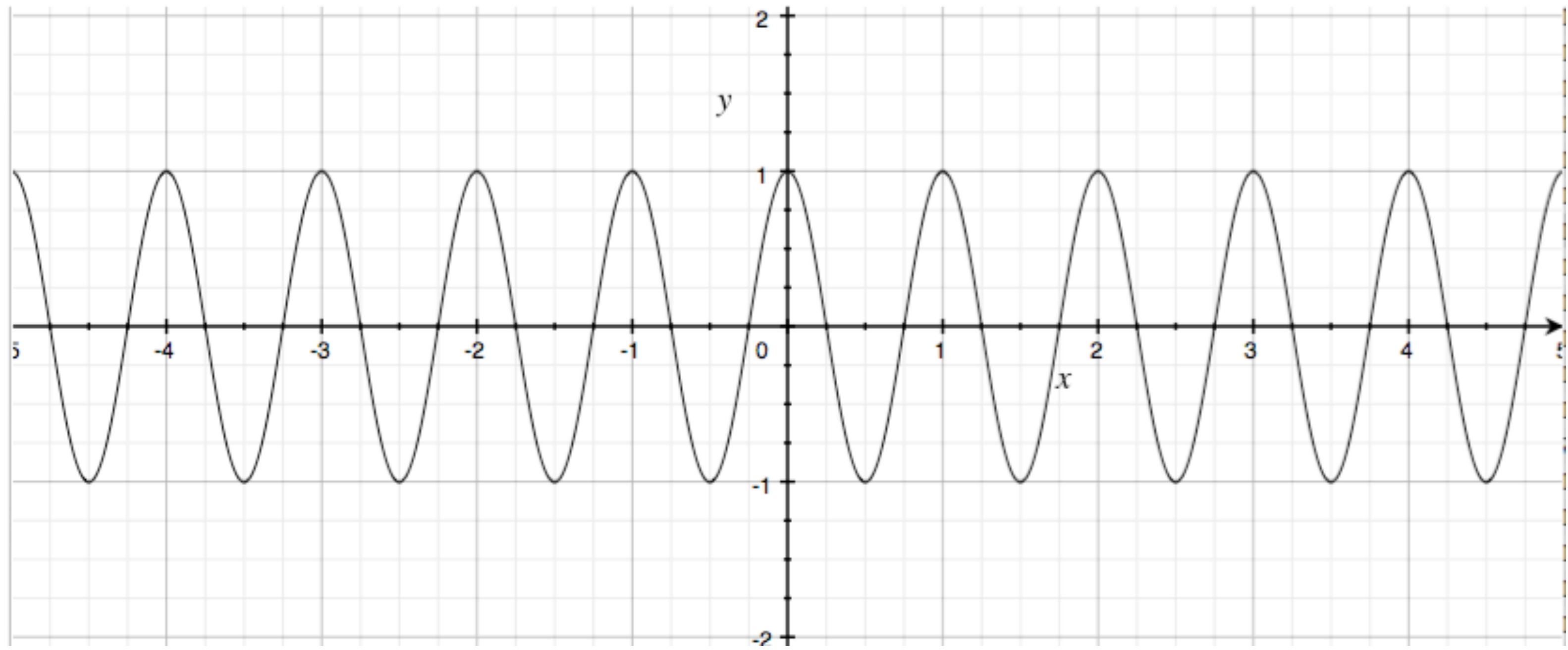
1. Why undersampling introduces aliasing?
2. Why pre-filtering then sampling can do antialiasing?

Let's dig into fundamental reasons

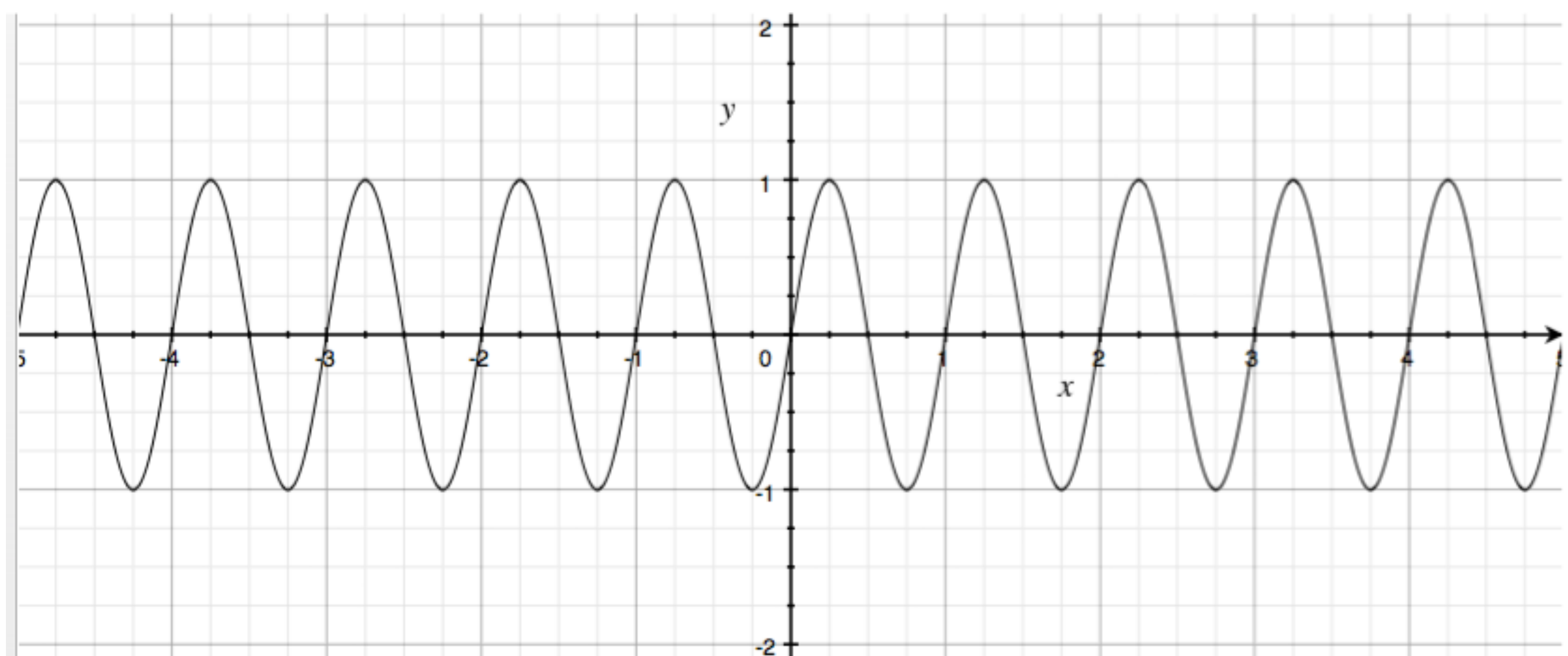
And look at how to implement antialiased rasterization

Frequency Domain

Sines and Cosines



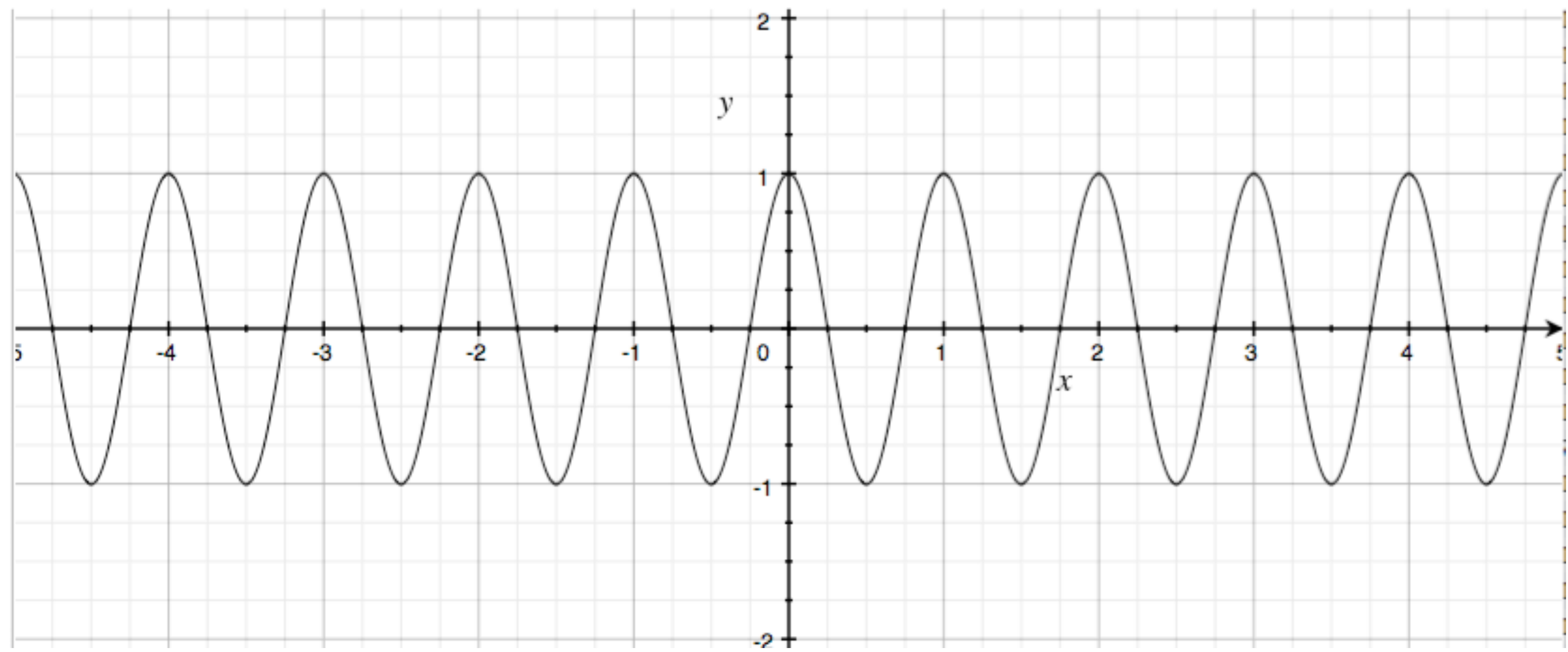
$\cos 2\pi x$



$\sin 2\pi x$

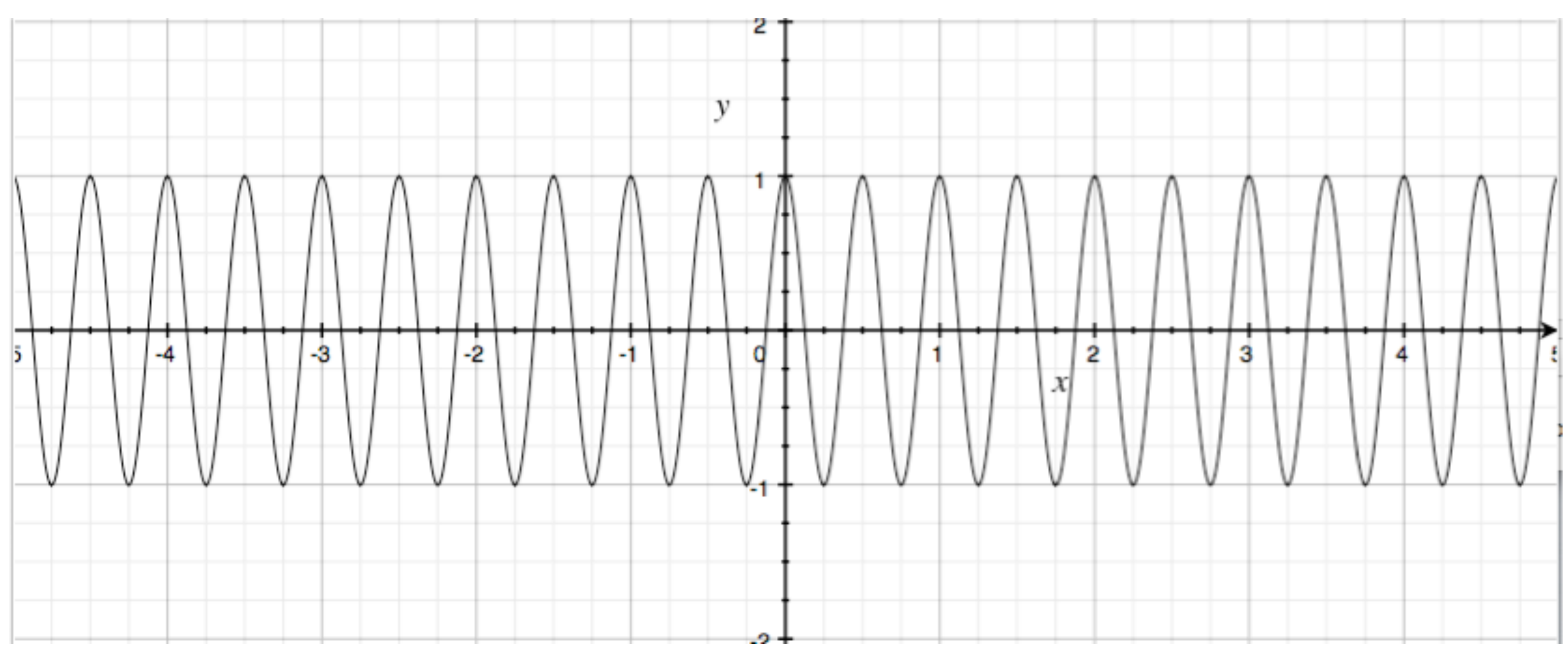
Frequencies $\cos 2\pi f x$

$$f = \frac{1}{T}$$



$f = 1$

$$\cos 2\pi x$$



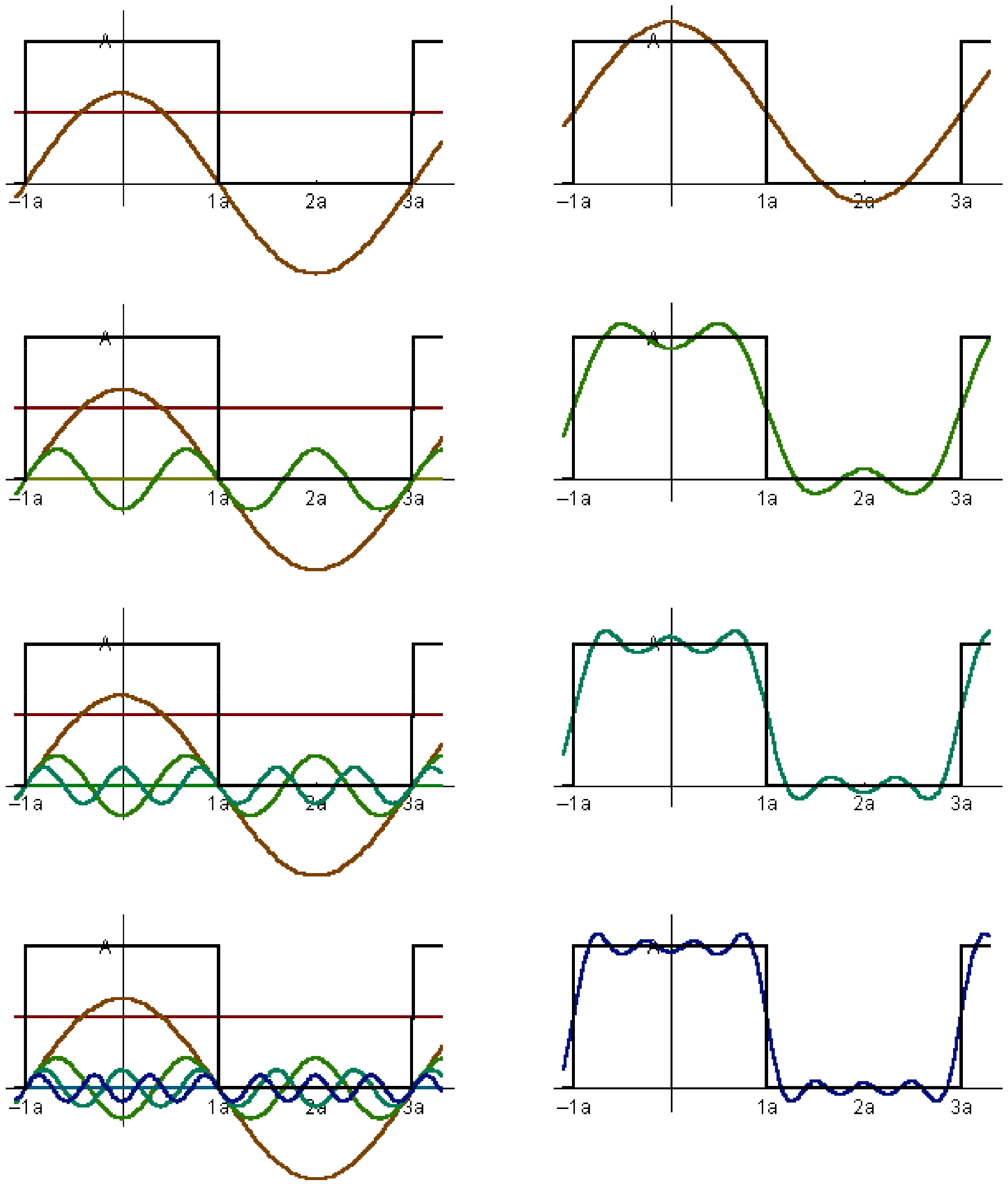
$f = 2$

$$\cos 4\pi x$$

Fourier Transform

Represent a function as a weighted sum of sines and cosines

Joseph Fourier 1768 - 1830



$$f(x) = \frac{A}{2} + \frac{2A\cos(t\omega)}{\pi} - \frac{2A\cos(3t\omega)}{3\pi} + \frac{2A\cos(5t\omega)}{5\pi} - \frac{2A\cos(7t\omega)}{7\pi} + \cdots$$

Fourier Transform Decomposes A Signal Into Frequencies

$$f(x) \qquad F(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{-2\pi i \omega x} dx \qquad F(\omega)$$

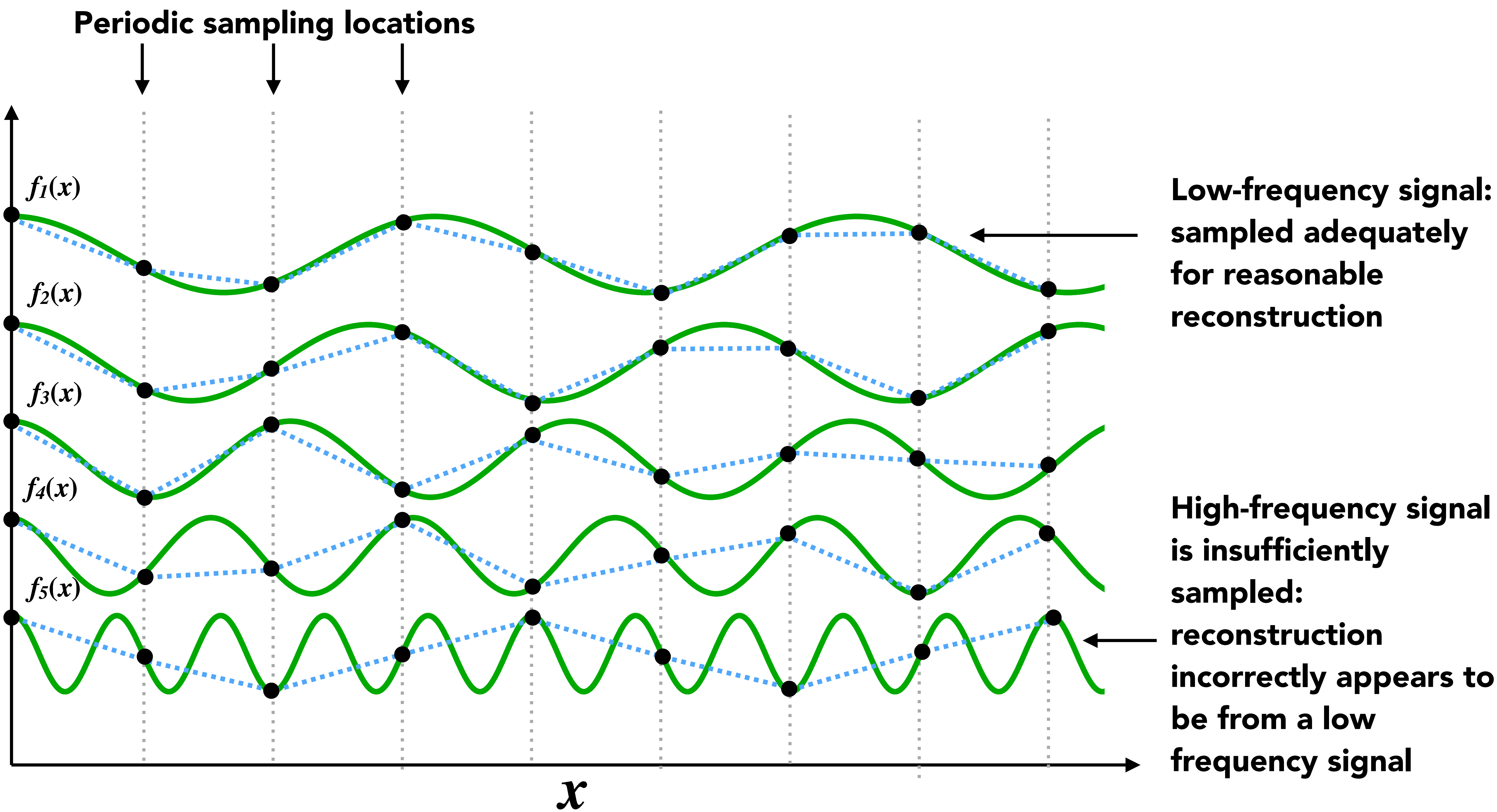
spatial domain → **Fourier transform** → **frequency domain**

spatial domain ← **Inverse transform** ← **frequency domain**

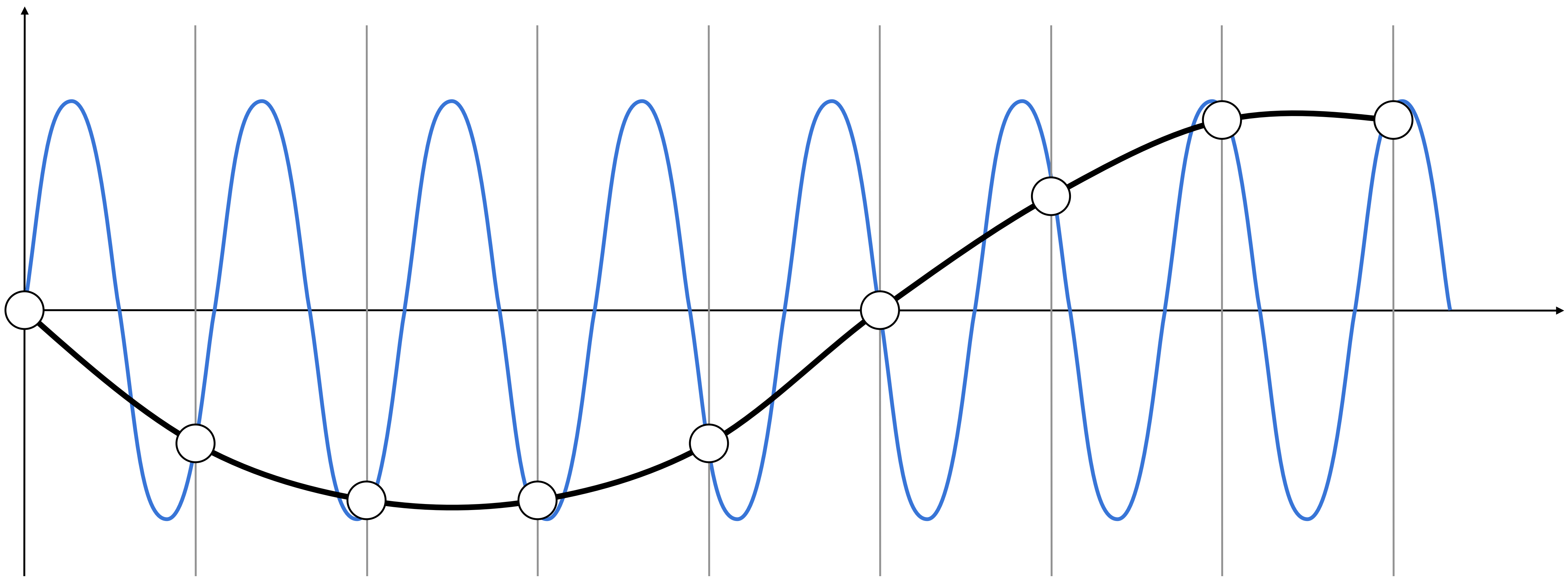
$$f(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(\omega) e^{2\pi i \omega x} d\omega$$

Recall $e^{ix} = \cos x + i \sin x$

Higher Frequencies Need Faster Sampling



Undersampling Creates Frequency Aliases

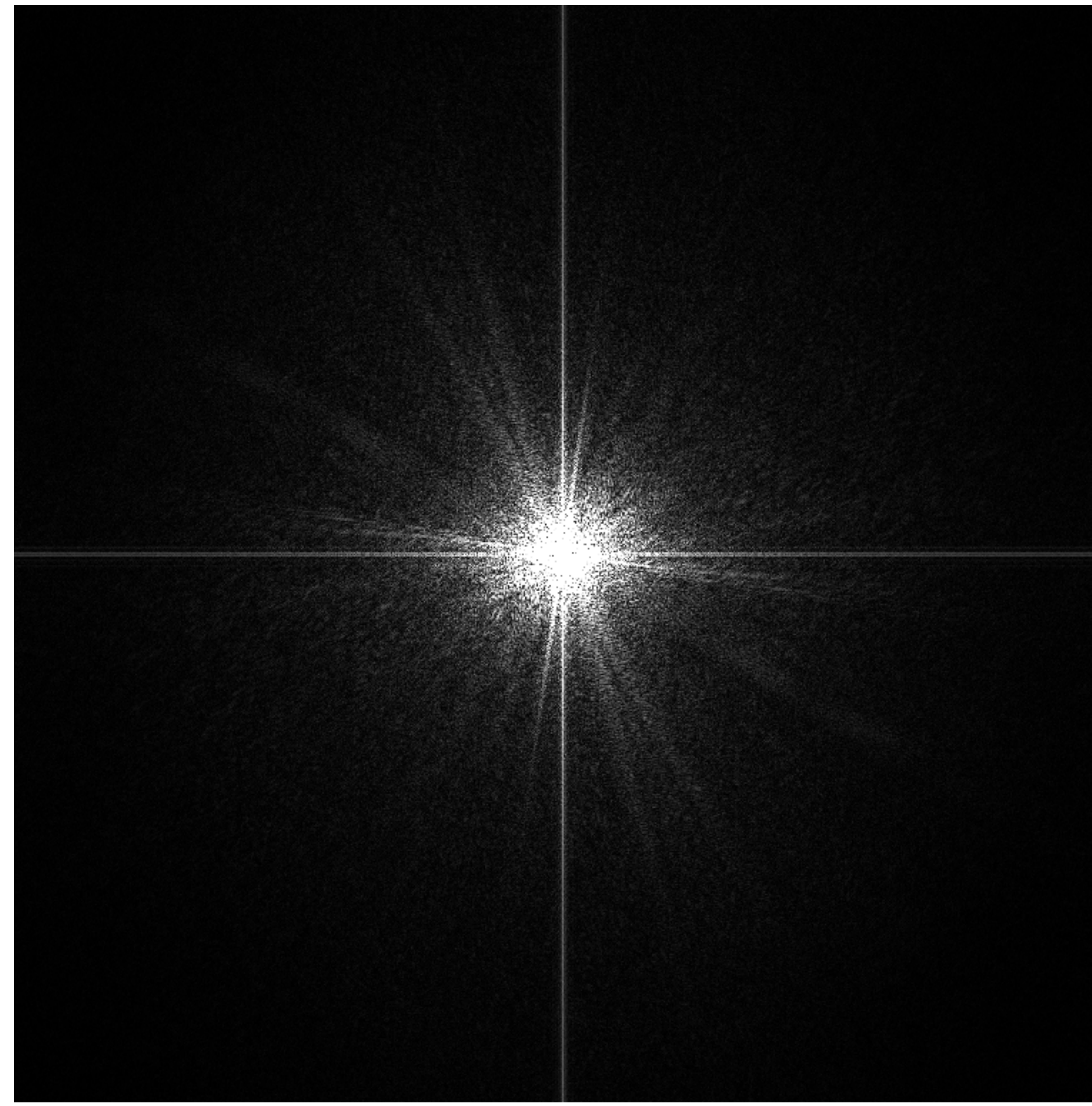


High-frequency signal is insufficiently sampled: samples erroneously appear to be from a low-frequency signal

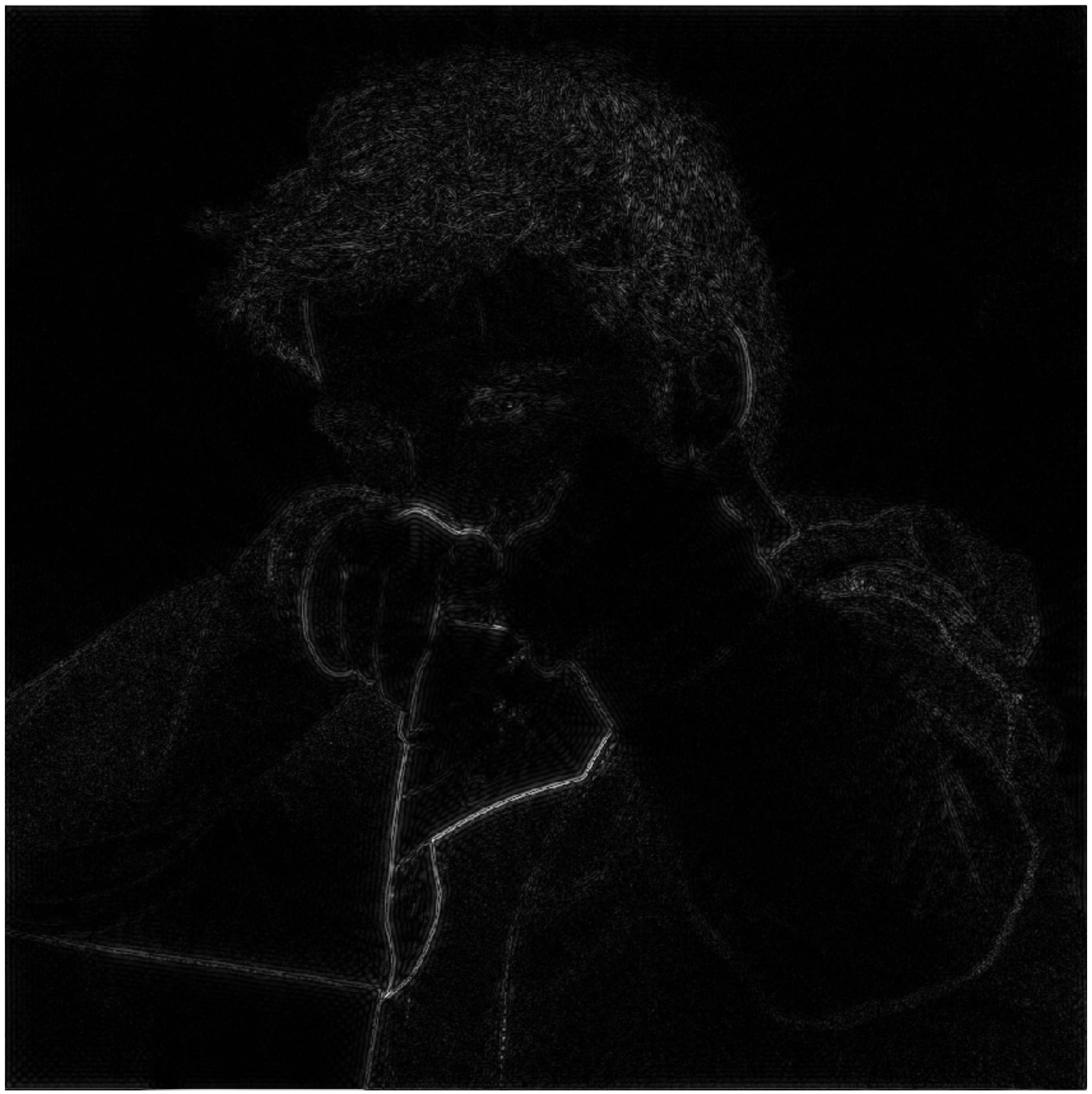
Two frequencies that are indistinguishable at a given sampling rate are called “aliases”

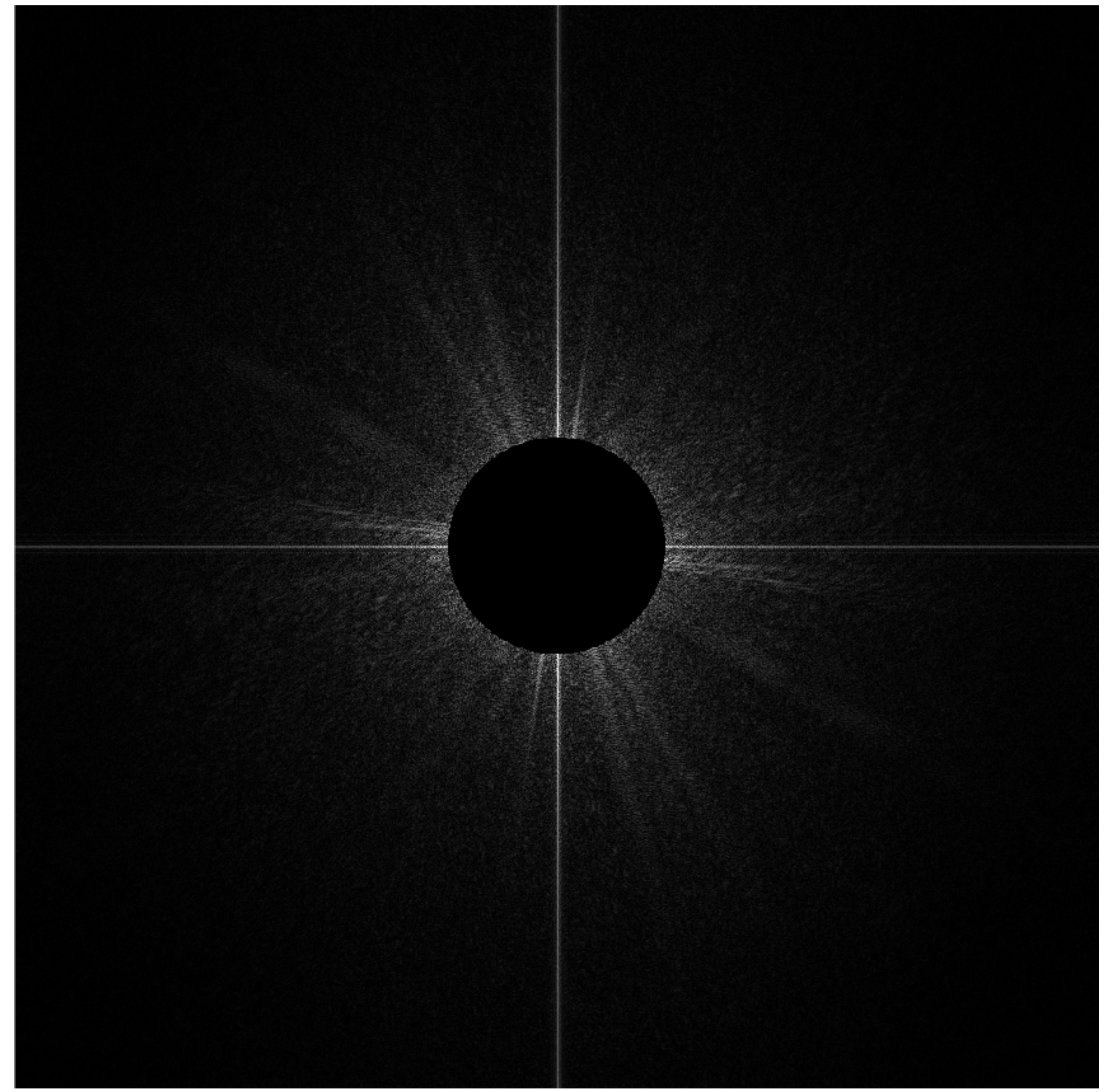
Filtering = Getting rid of certain frequency contents

Visualizing Image Frequency Content



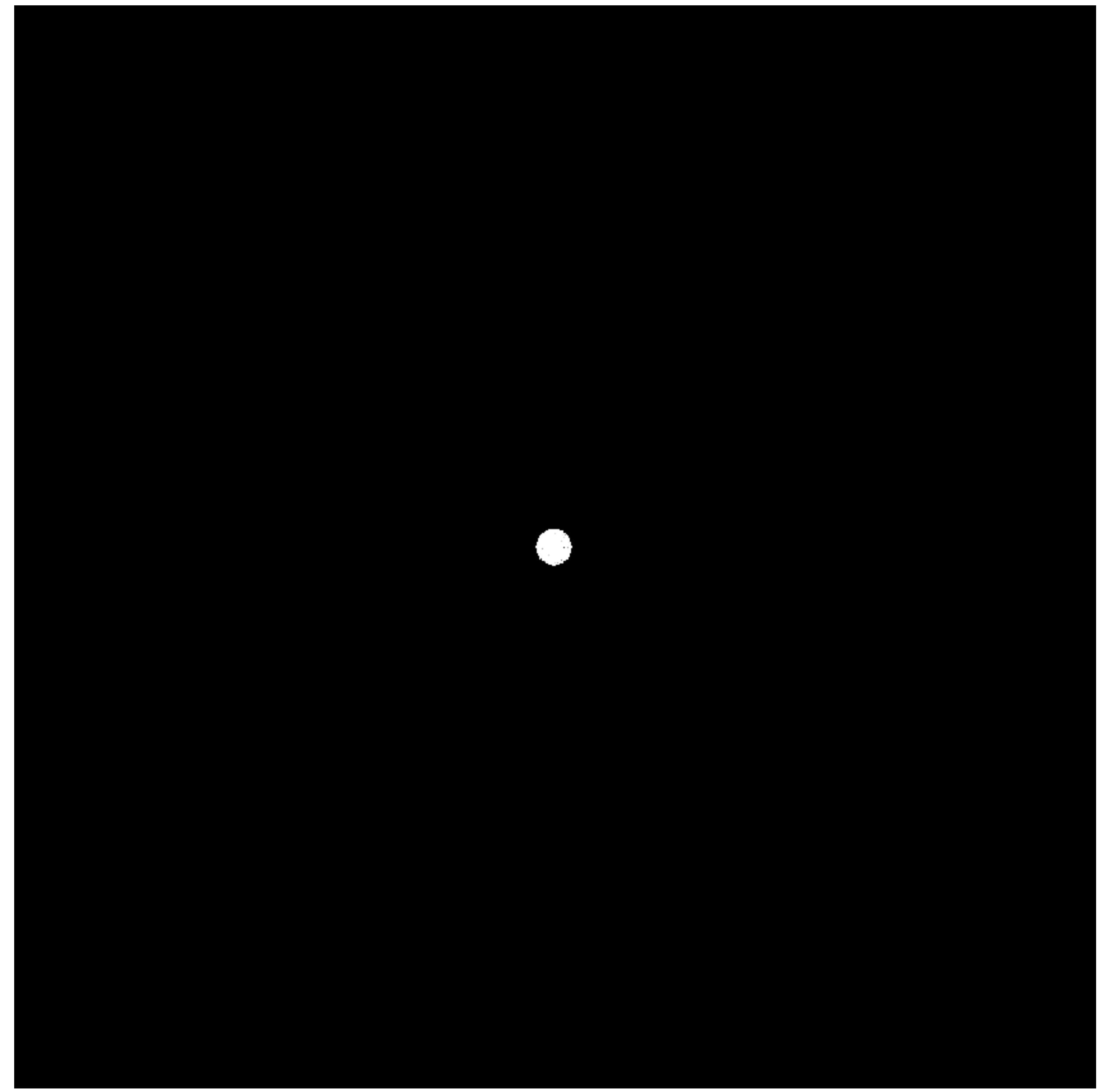
Filter Out Low Frequencies Only (Edges)





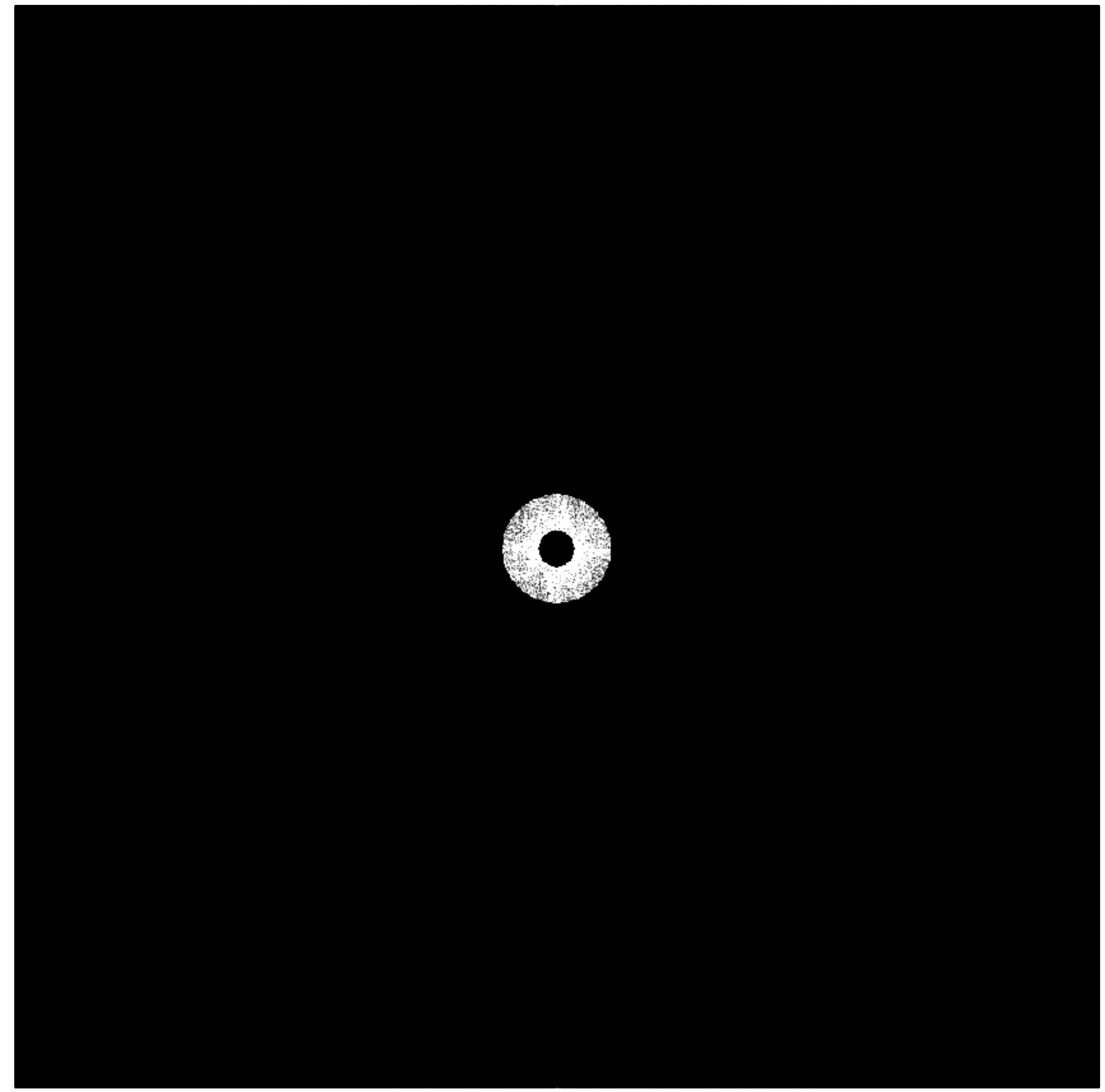
High-pass filter

Filter Out High Frequencies (Blur)

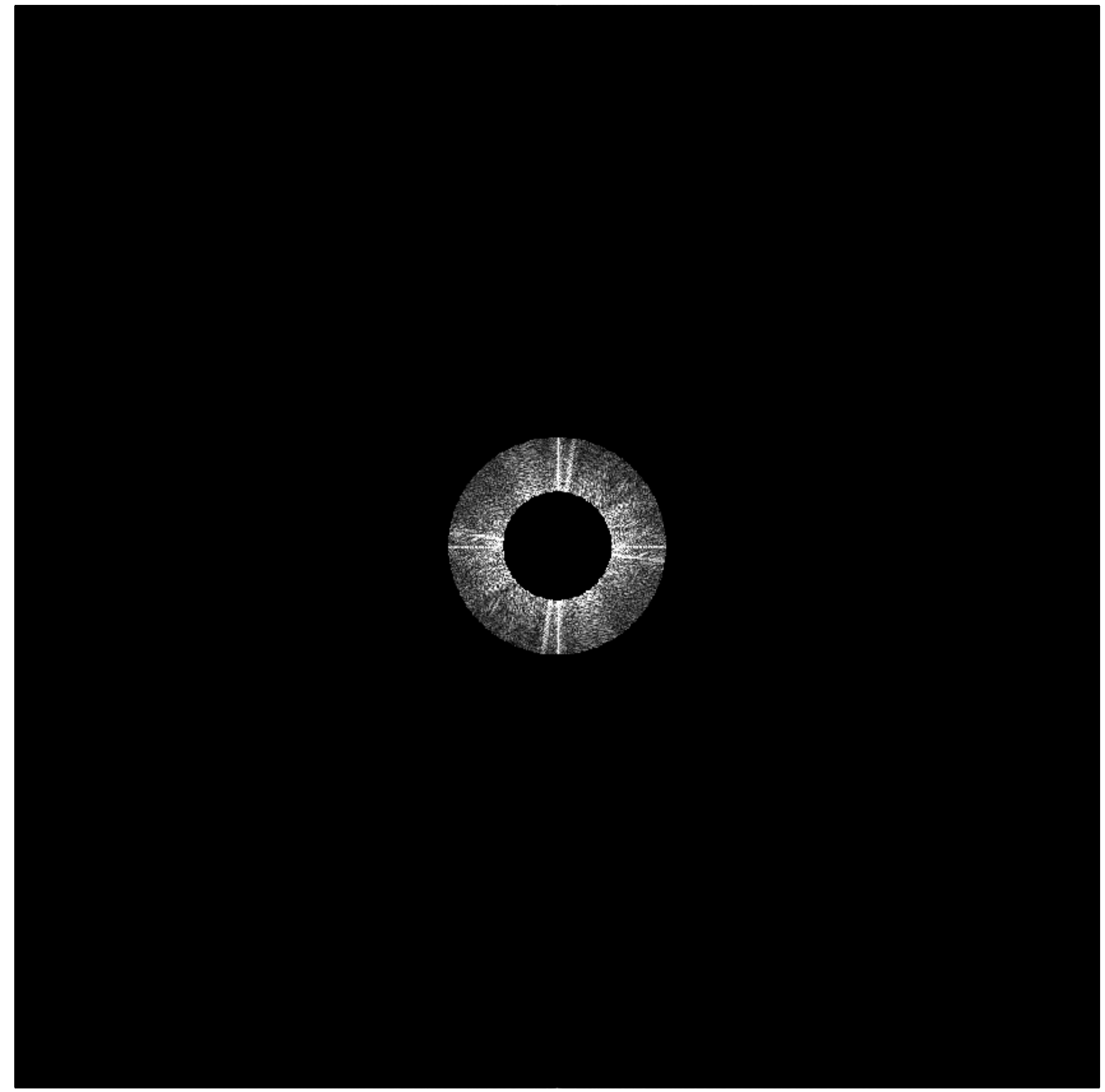


Low-pass filter

Filter Out Low and High Frequencies



Filter Out Low and High Frequencies



Filtering = Convolution

(= Averaging)

Convolution

Signal

1	3	5	3	7	1	3	8	6	4

Filter

1/4	1/2	1/4

Point-wise local averaging in a “sliding window”

Convolution

Signal

1	3	5	3	7	1	3	8	6	4

Filter

1/4	1/2	1/4

1 x (1/4) + 3 x (1/2) + 5 x (1/4) = 3

Result

	3								

Convolution

Signal

1	3	5	3	7	1	3	8	6	4

Filter

1/4	1/2	1/4

$$3 \times (1/4) + 5 \times (1/2) + 3 \times (1/4) = 4$$

Result

	3	4							

Convolution Theorem

Convolution in the spatial domain is equal to multiplication in the frequency domain, and vice versa

Option 1:

- Filter by convolution in the spatial domain

Option 2:

- Transform to frequency domain (Fourier transform)
- Multiply by Fourier transform of convolution kernel
- Transform back to spatial domain (inverse Fourier)

Convolution Theorem

Spatial Domain

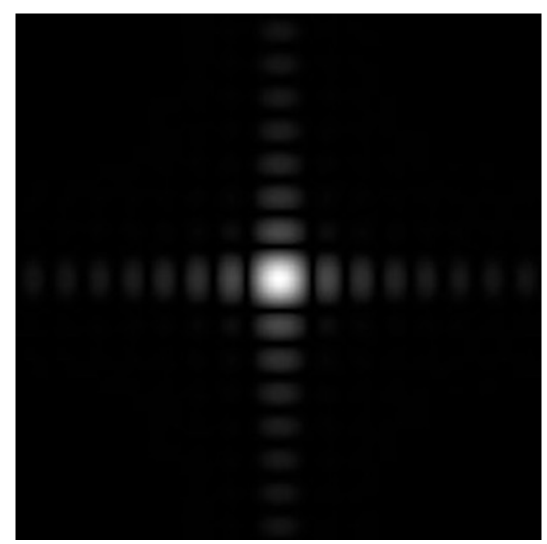
$$* \ \frac{1}{9}\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} =$$

Fourier Transform ↓ ↓

Inv. Fourier Transform ↑

Frequency Domain

x



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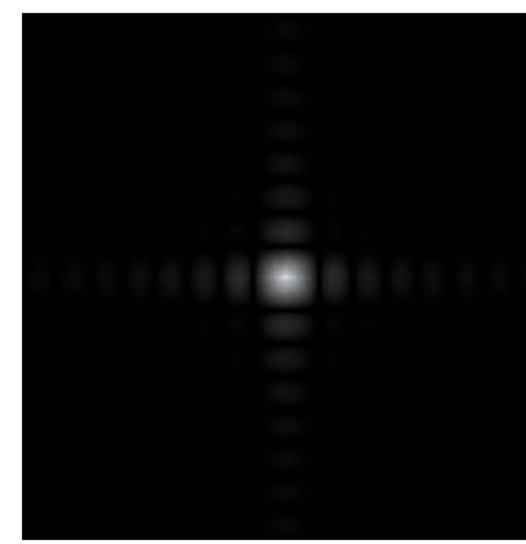
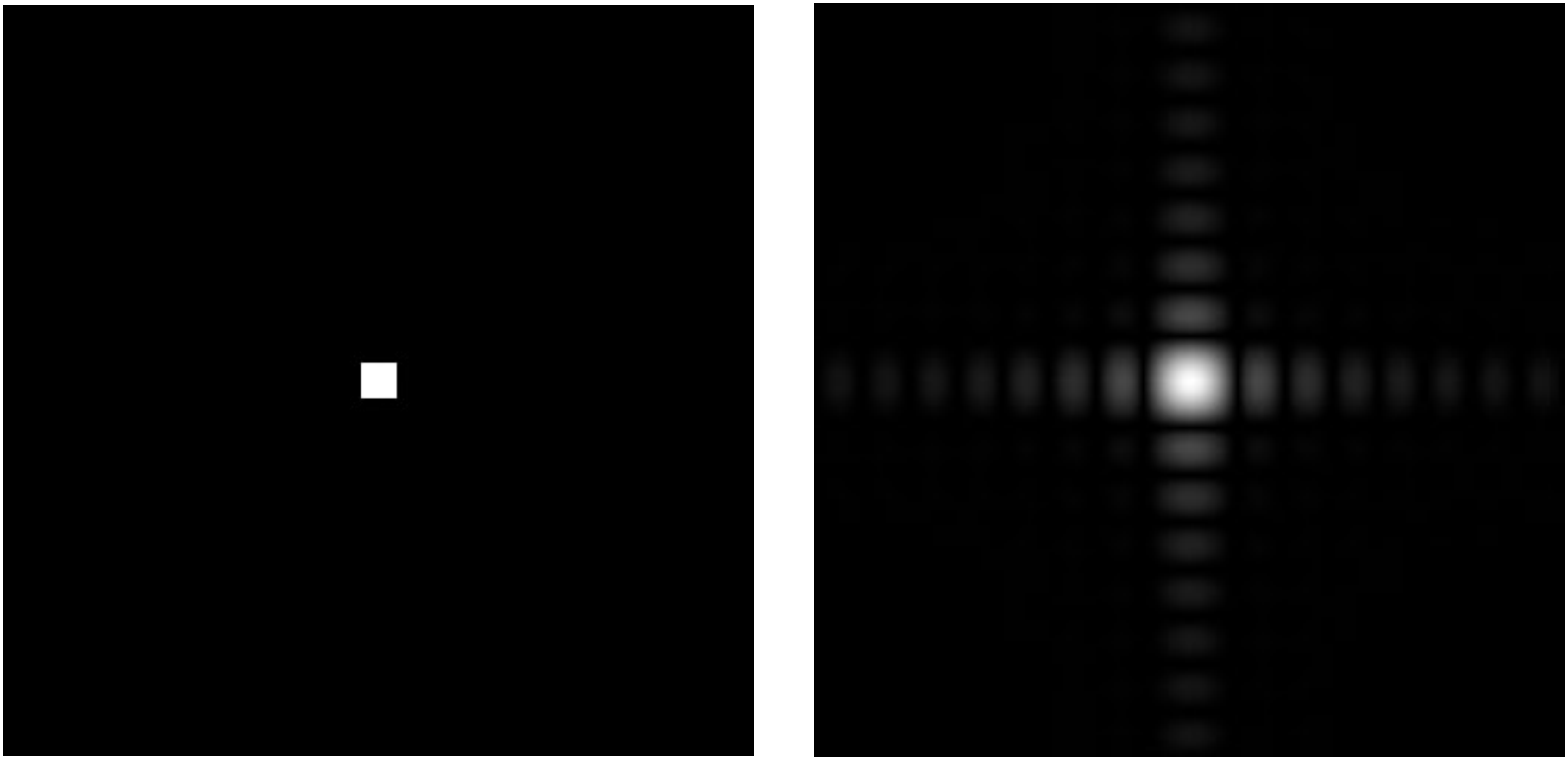


Box Filter

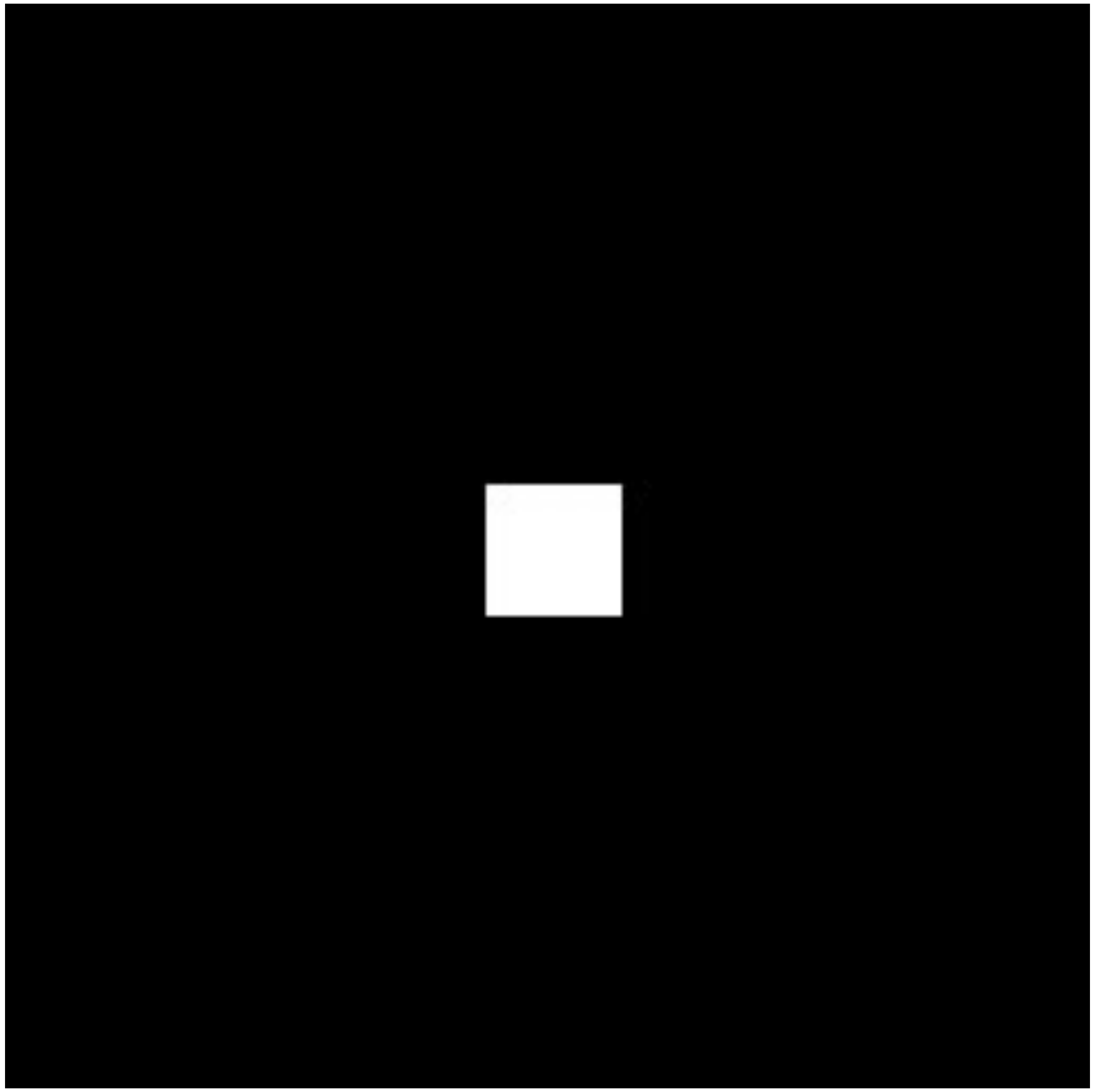
$$\frac{1}{9}\begin{bmatrix}1 & 1 & 1\\ 1 & 1 & 1\\ 1 & 1 & 1\end{bmatrix}$$

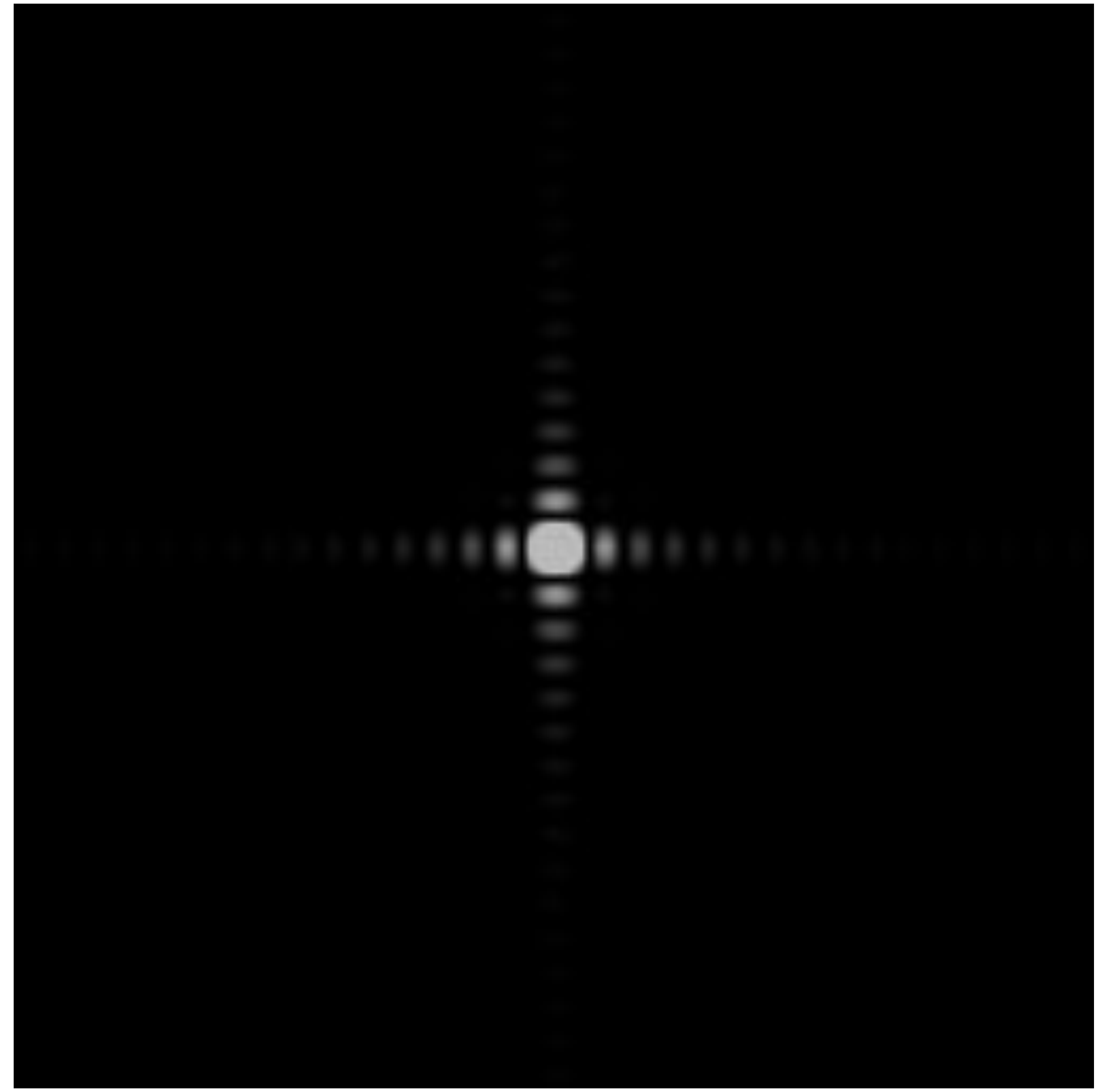
Example: 3x3 box filter

Box Function = "Low Pass" Filter



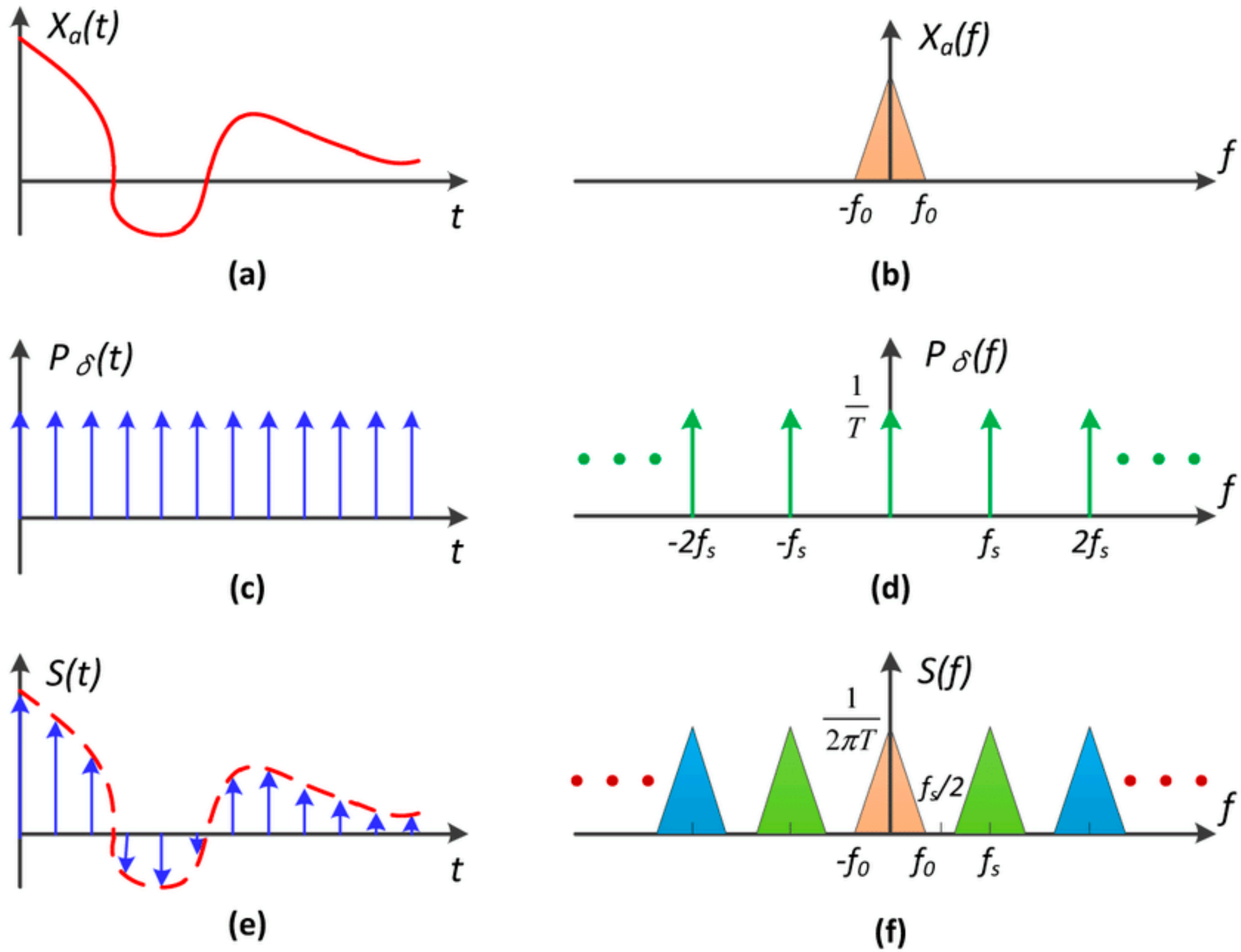
Wider Filter Kernel = Lower Frequencies





Sampling = Repeating Frequency Contents

Sampling = Repeating Frequency Contents

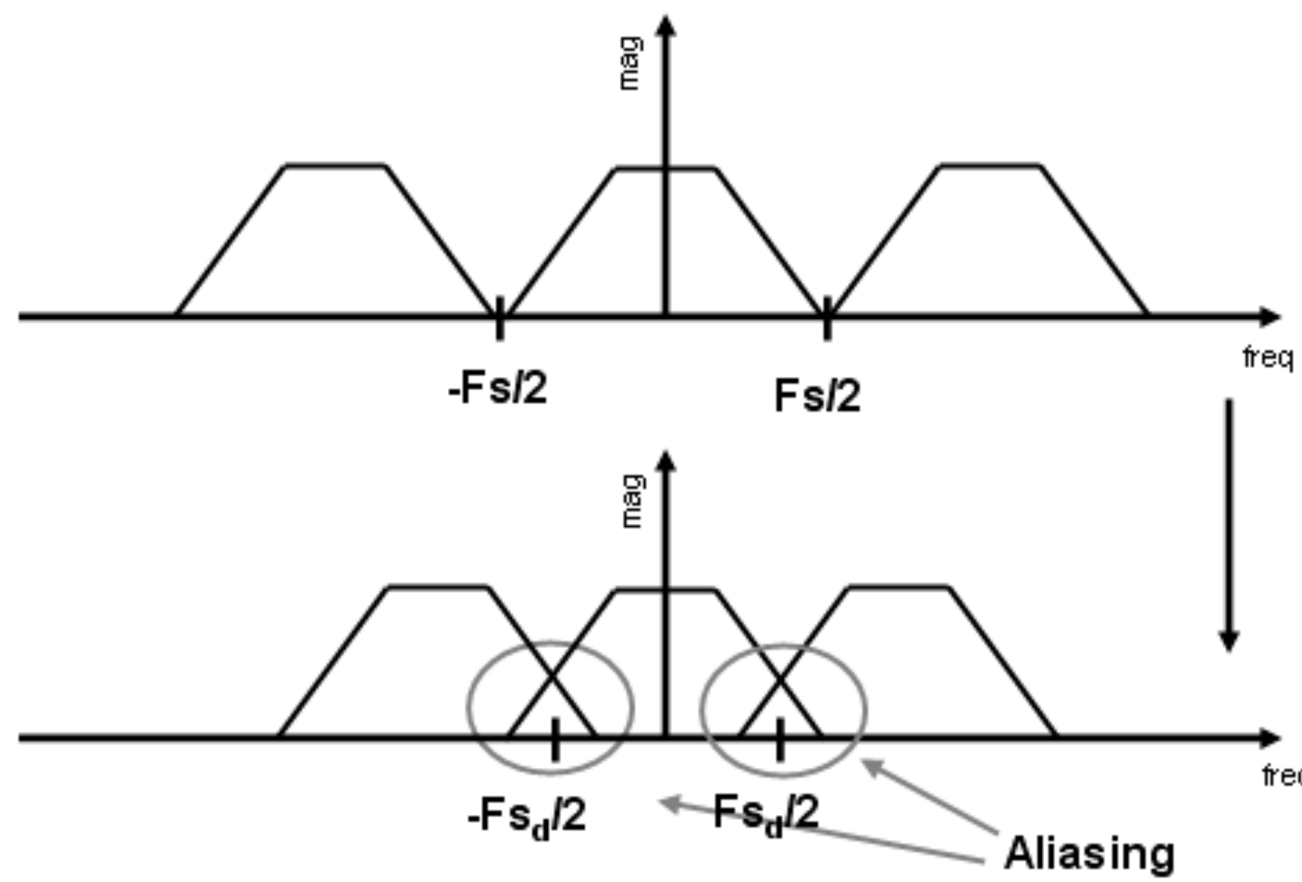


https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-evolution-of-sampling-theorem-a-The-time-domain-of-the-band-limited-signal-and-b_fig5_301556095

Aliasing = Mixed Frequency Contents

Dense sampling:

Sparse sampling:



Antialiasing

How Can We Reduce Aliasing Error?

Option 1: Increase sampling rate

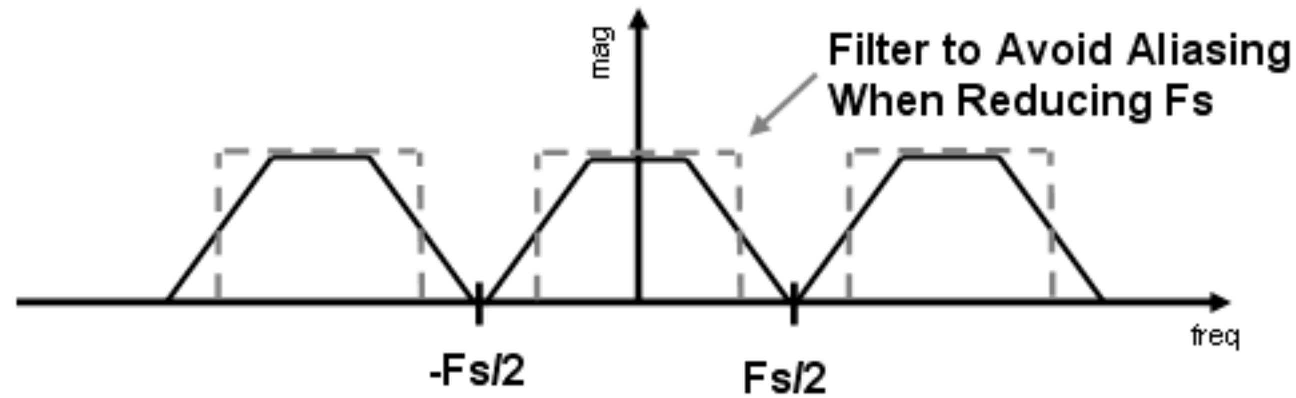
- Essentially increasing the distance between replicas in the Fourier domain
- Higher resolution displays, sensors, framebuffers…
- But: costly & may need very high resolution

Option 2: Antialiasing

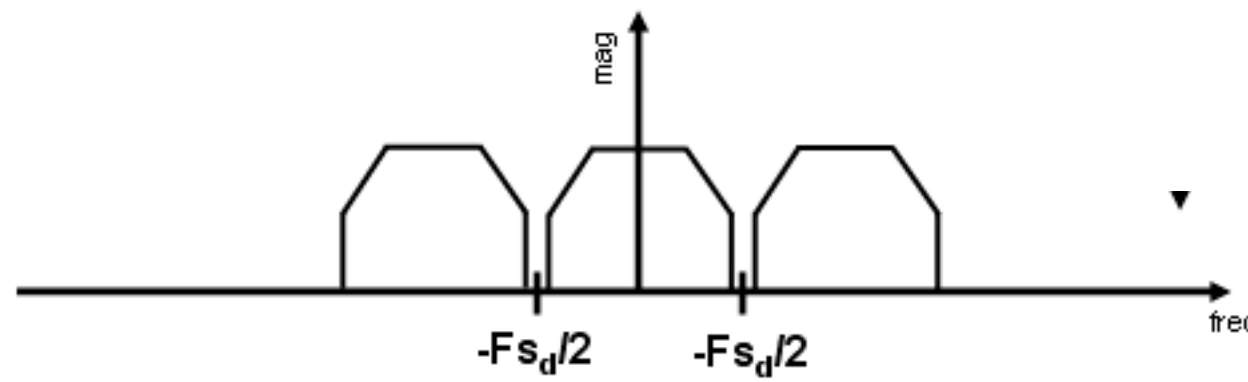
- Making Fourier contents "narrower" before repeating
- i.e. Filtering out high frequencies before sampling

Antialiasing = Limiting, then repeating

Filtering



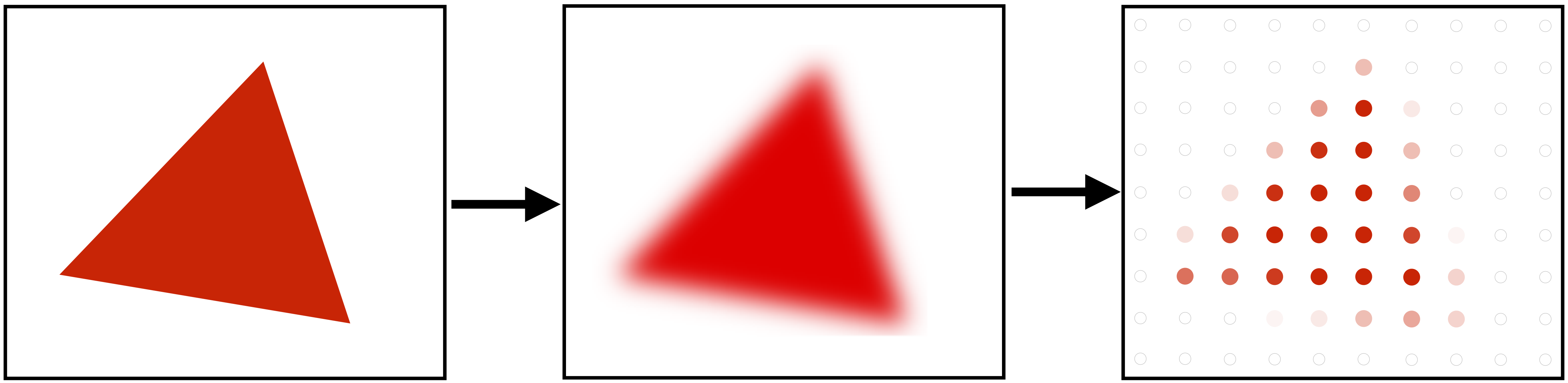
Then sparse sampling



Regular Sampling

Note jaggies in rasterized triangle
where pixel values are pure red or white

Antialiased Sampling



Pre-Filter

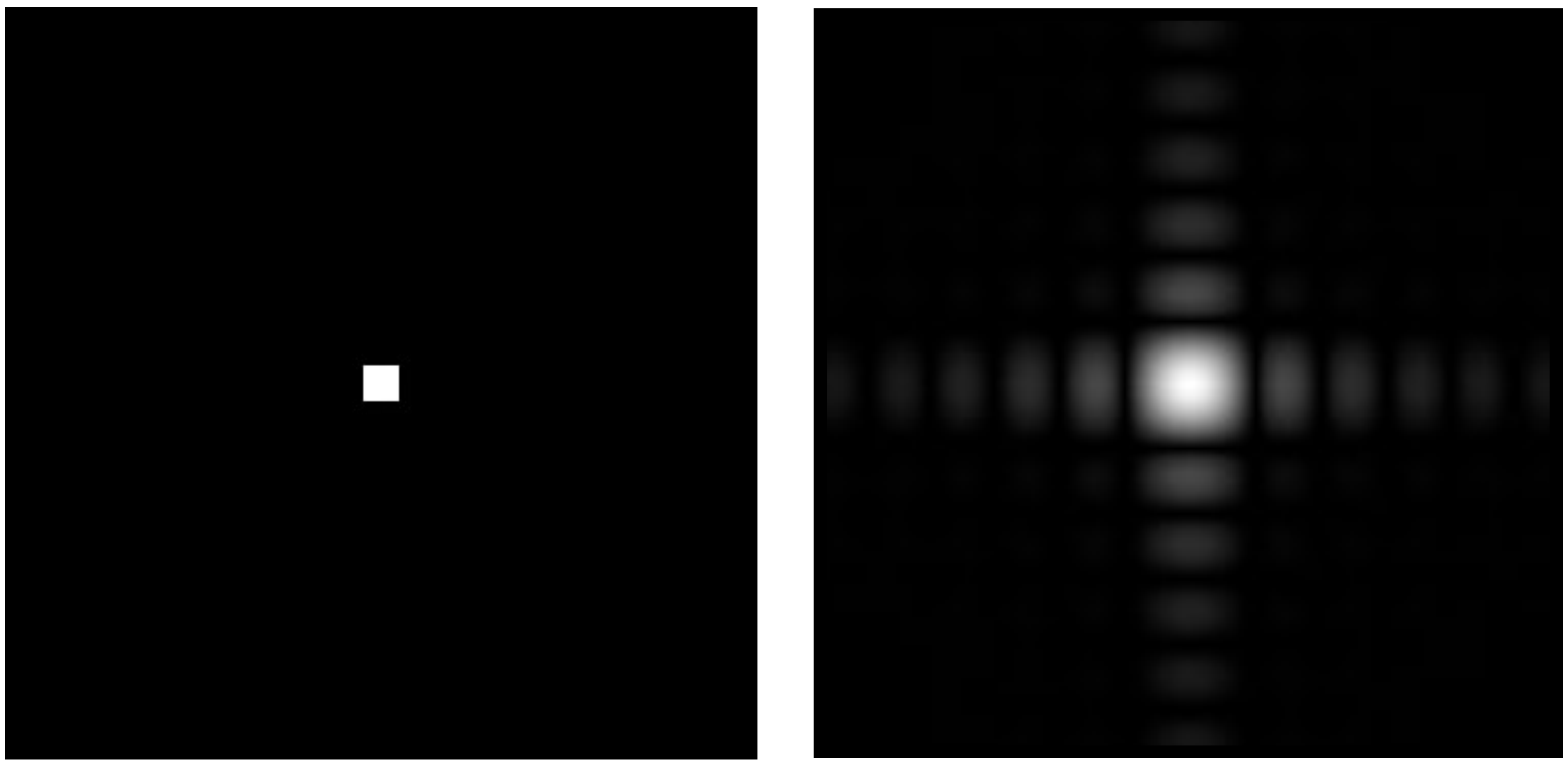
(remove frequencies above Nyquist)

Sample

Note antialiased edges in rasterized triangle
where pixel values take intermediate values

A Practical Pre-Filter

A 1 pixel-width box filter (low pass, blurring)



Spatial Domain Frequency Domain

Antialiasing By Averaging Values in Pixel Area

Solution:

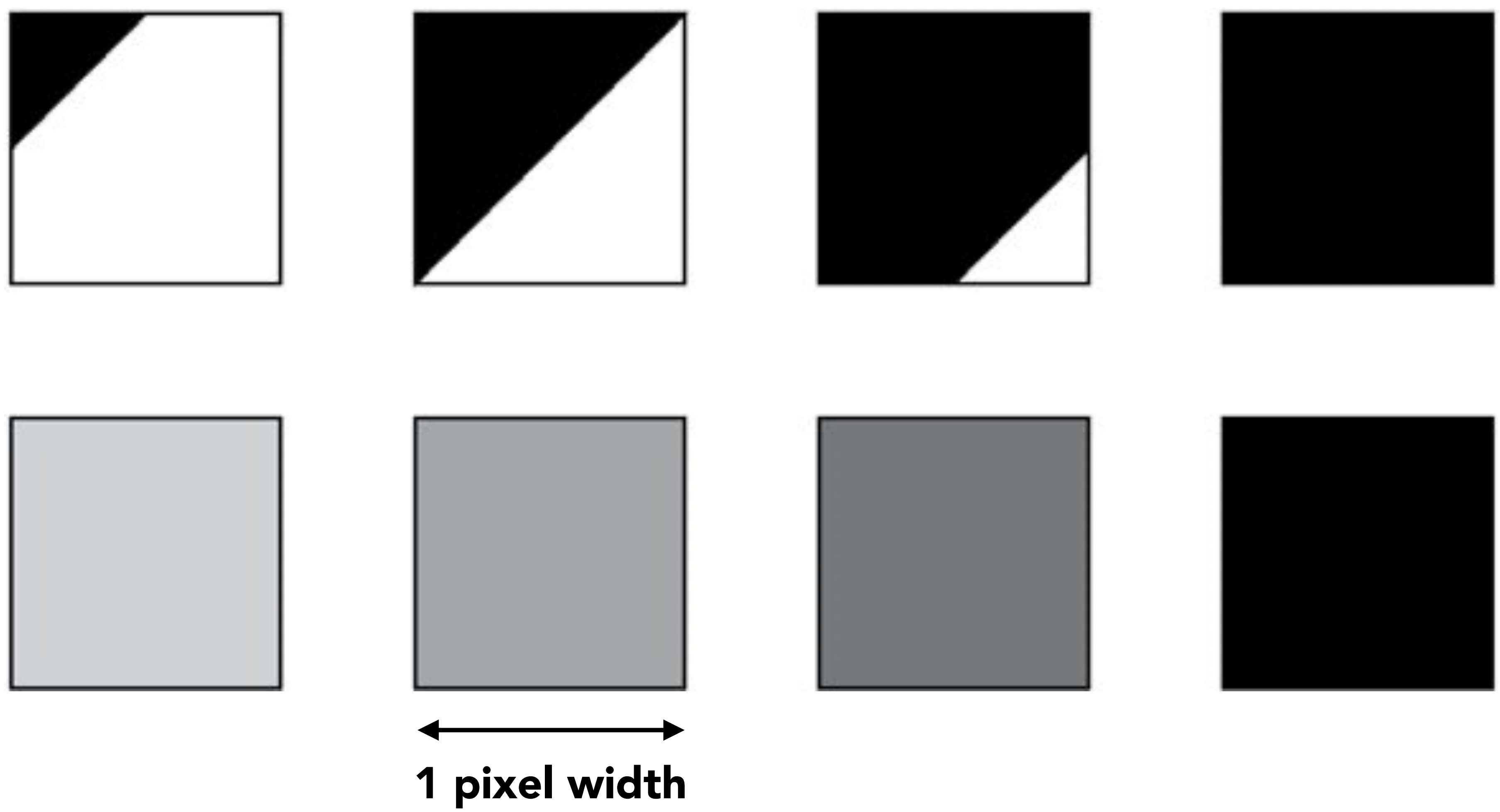
- **Convolve** f(x,y) by a 1-pixel box-blur
  - Recall: convolving = filtering = averaging
- **Then sample** at every pixel's center

Antialiasing by Computing Average Pixel Value

In rasterizing one triangle, the average value inside a pixel area of f(x,y) = inside(triangle,x,y) is equal to the area of the pixel covered by the triangle.

Original

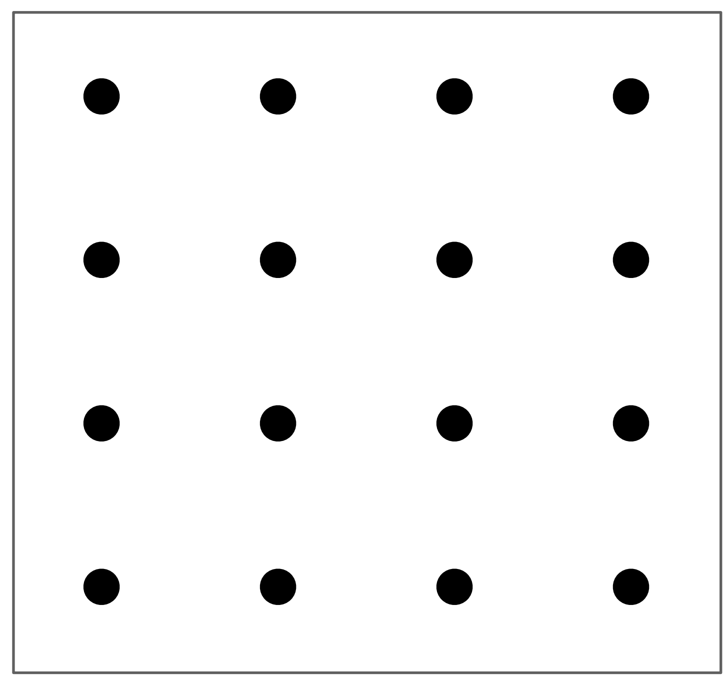
Filtered



Antialiasing By Supersampling (MSAA)

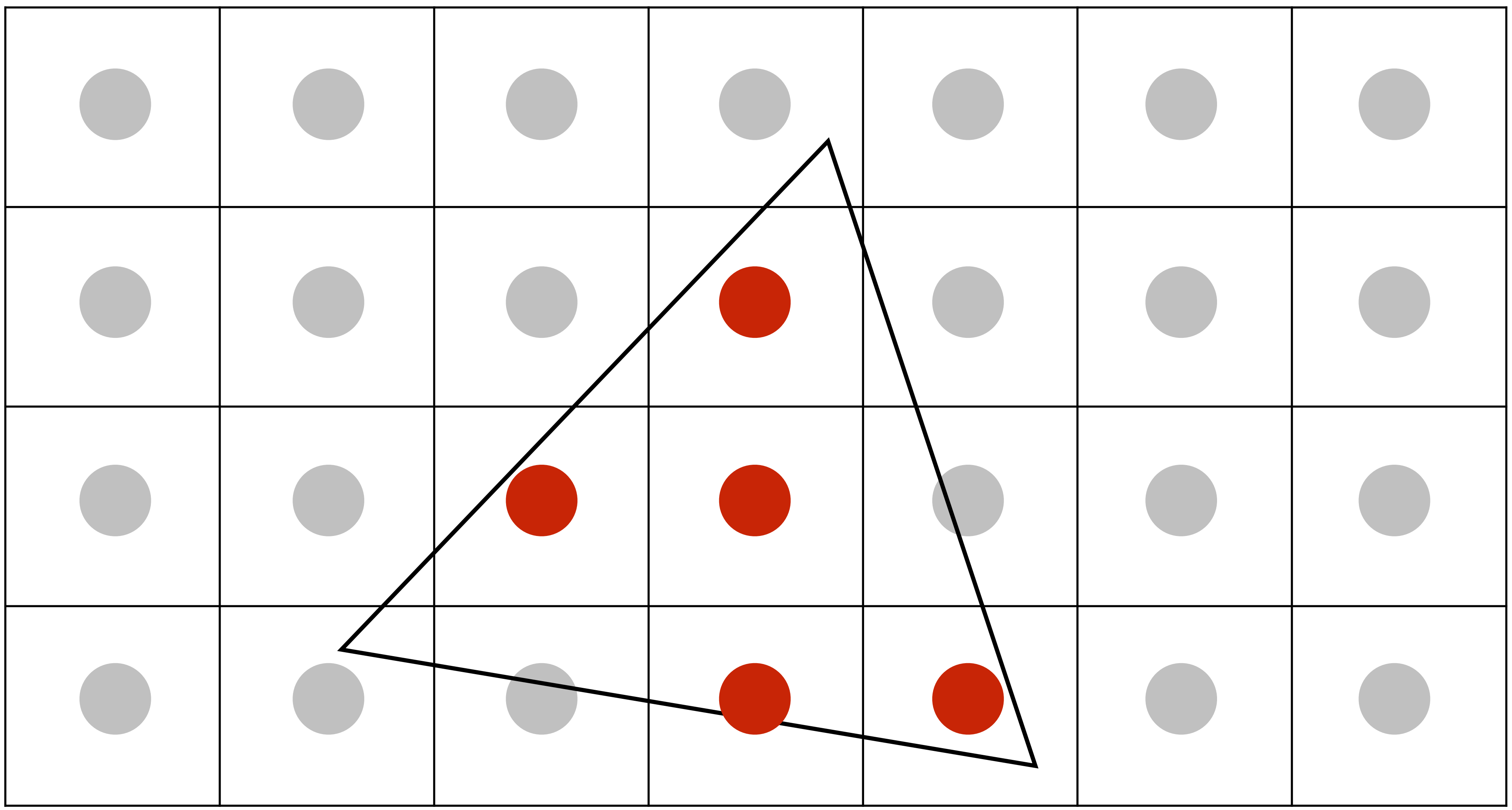
Supersampling

Approximate the effect of the 1-pixel box filter by sampling multiple locations within a pixel and averaging their values:



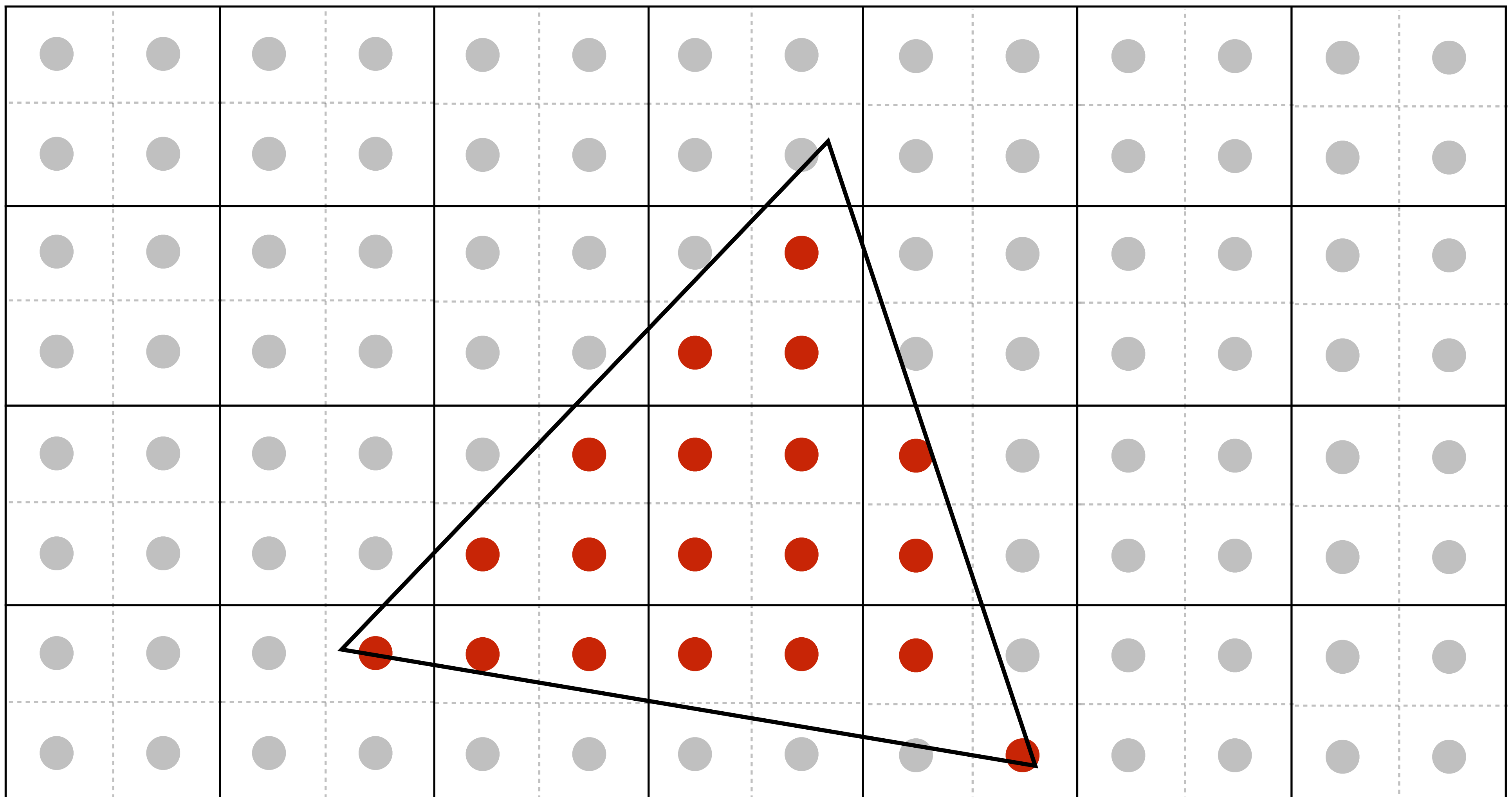
4x4 supersampling

Point Sampling: One Sample Per Pixel



Supersampling: Step 1

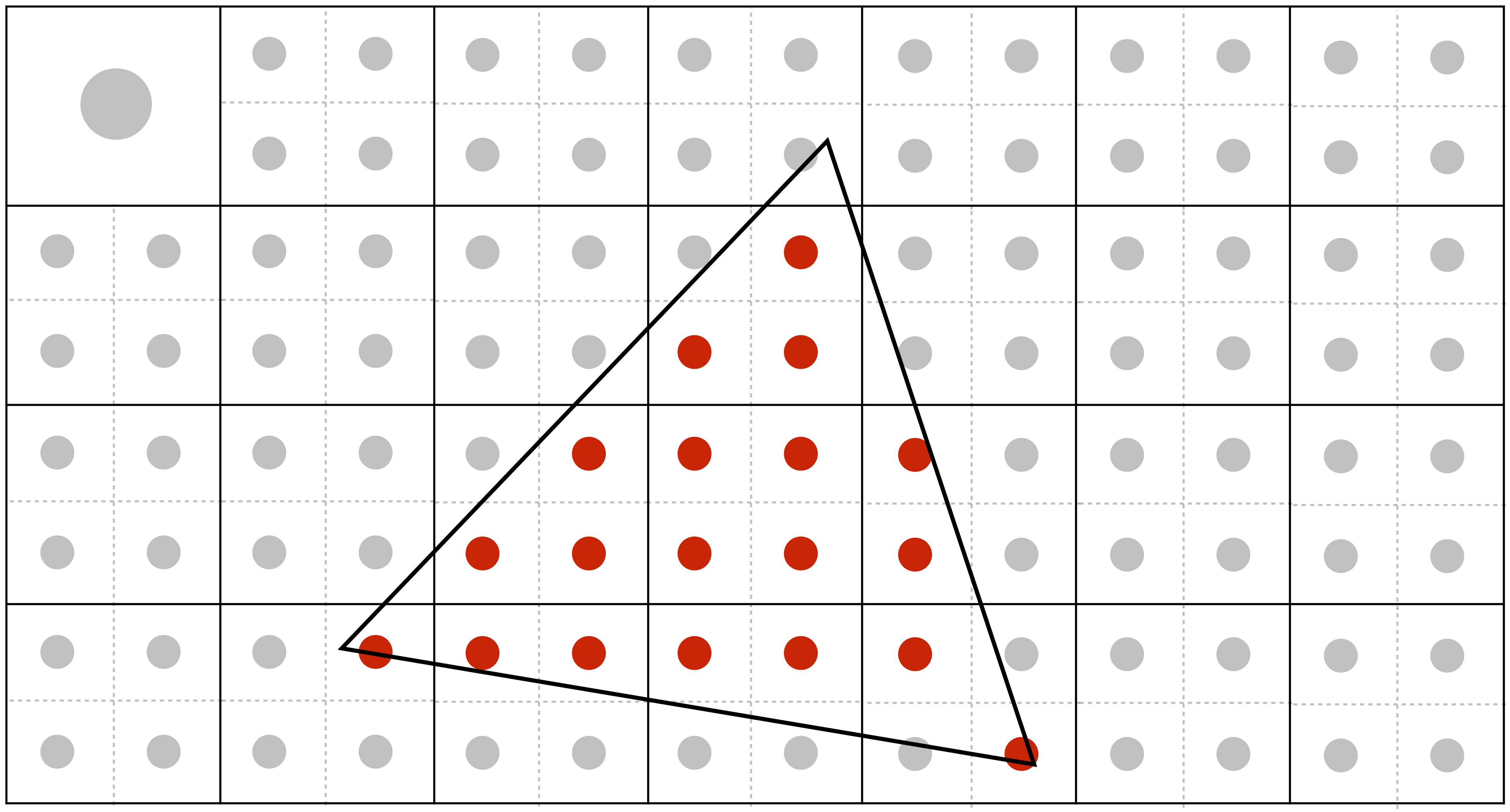
Take NxN samples in each pixel.



2x2 supersampling

Supersampling: Step 2

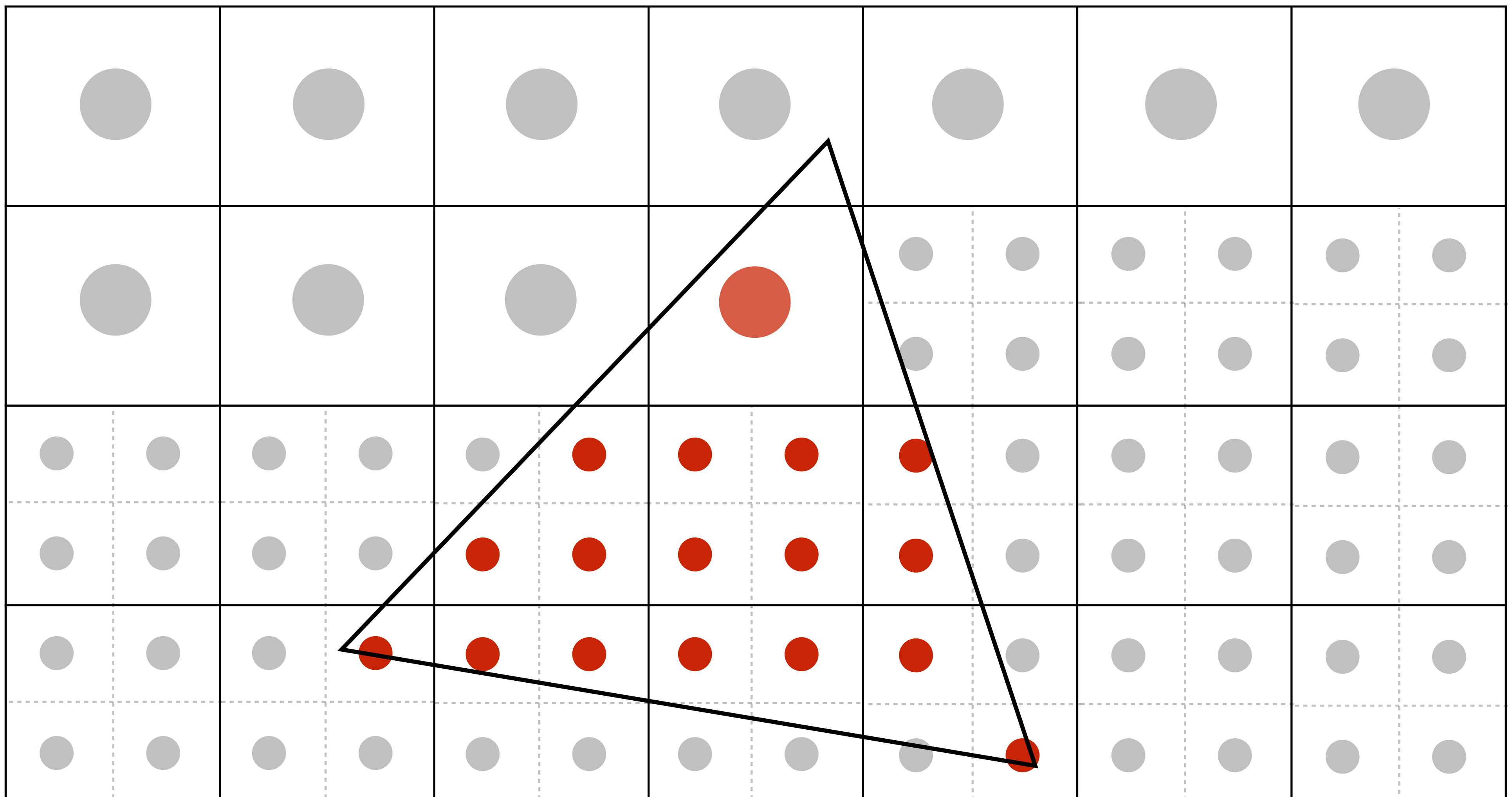
Average the NxN samples "inside" each pixel.



Averaging down

Supersampling: Step 2

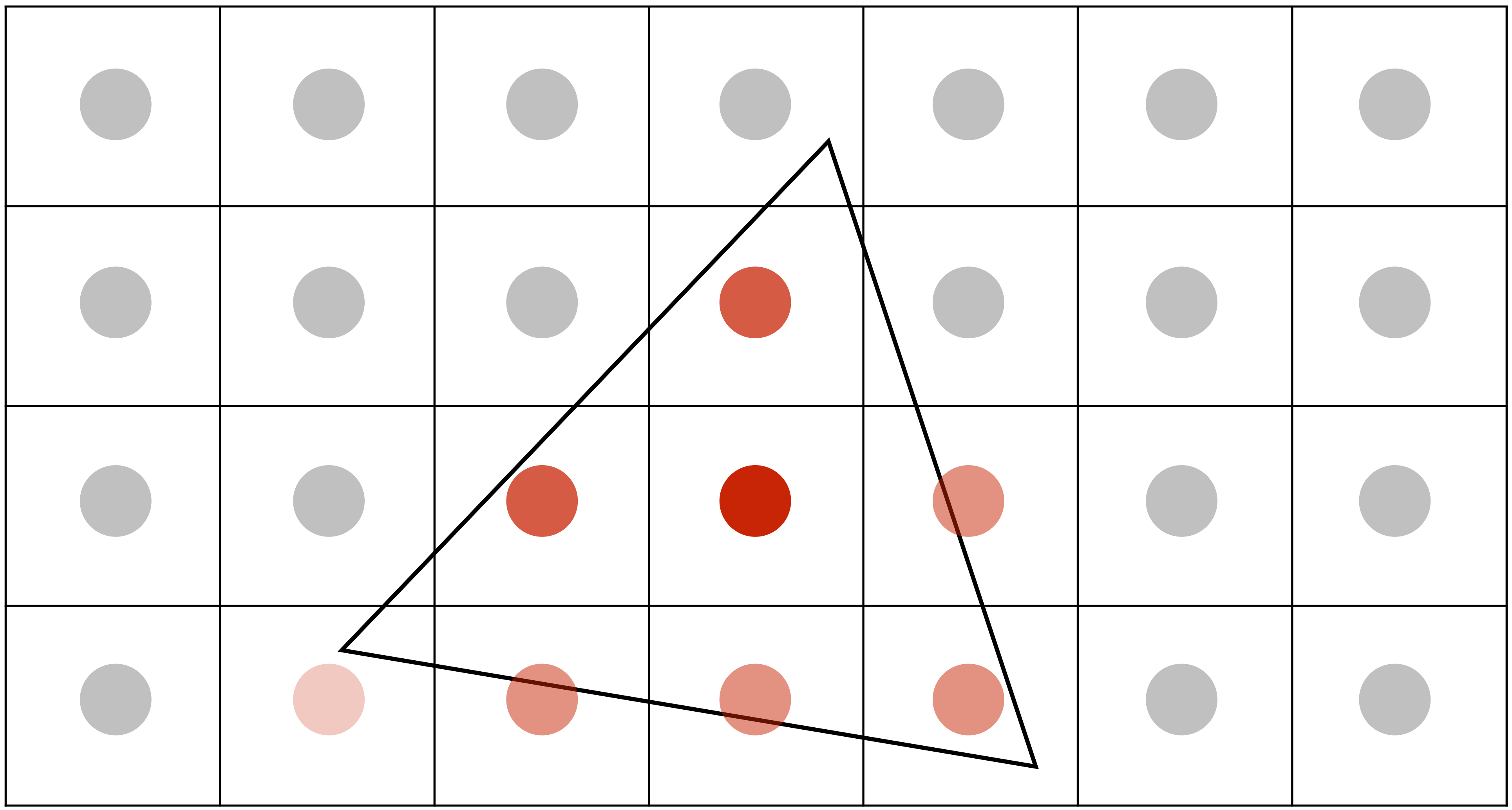
Average the NxN samples "inside" each pixel.



Averaging down

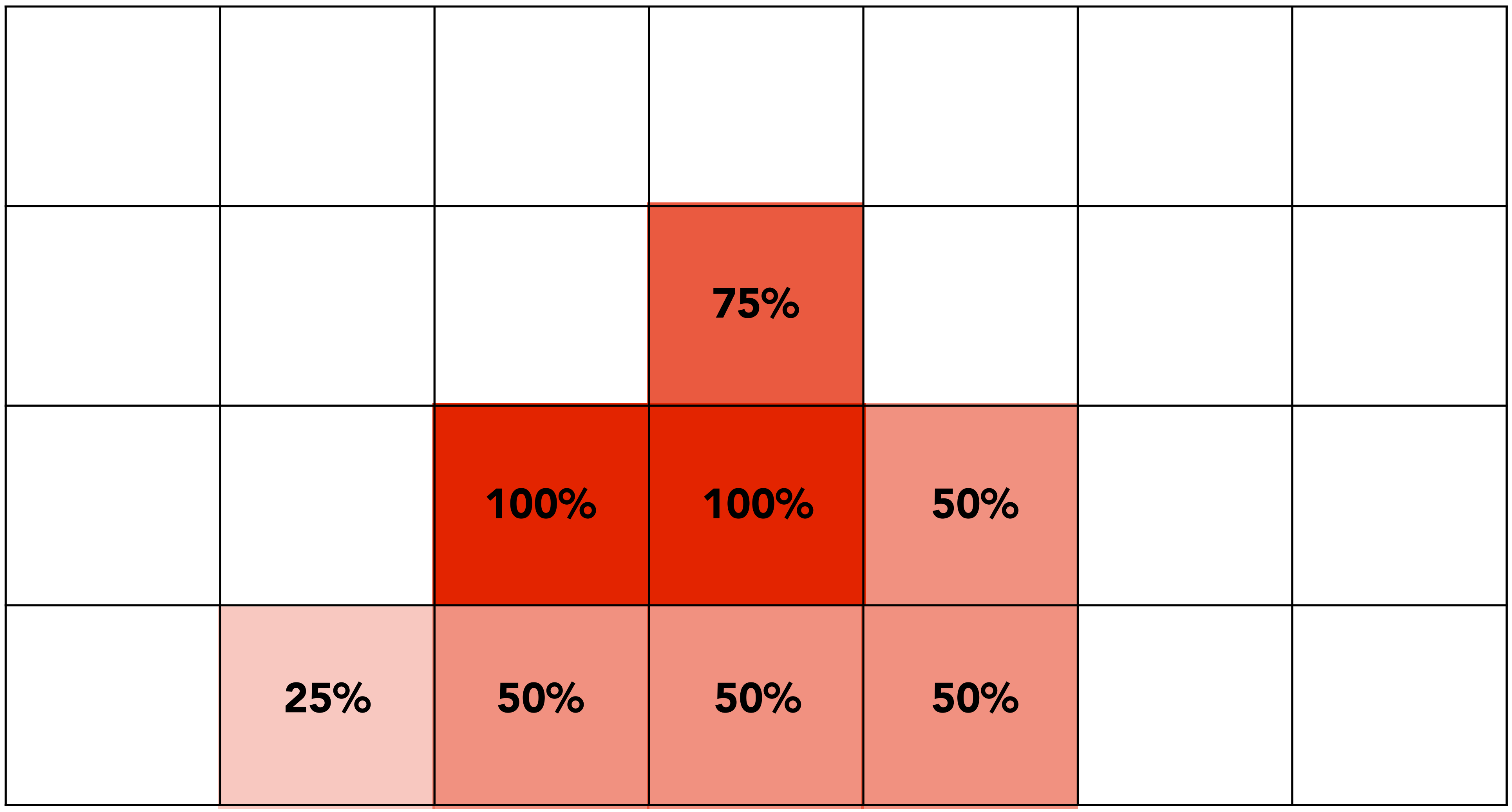
Supersampling: Step 2

Average the NxN samples "inside" each pixel.

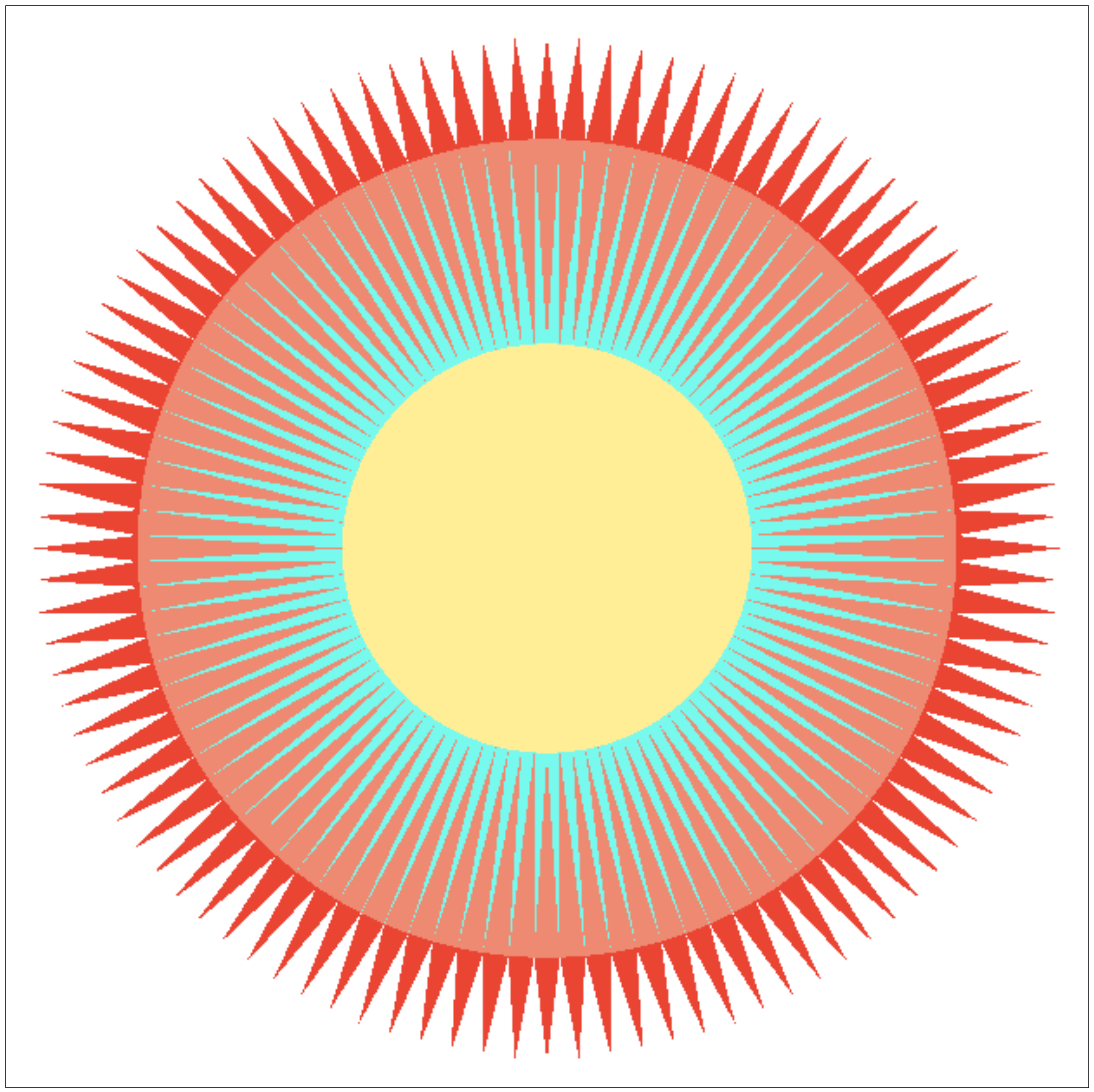


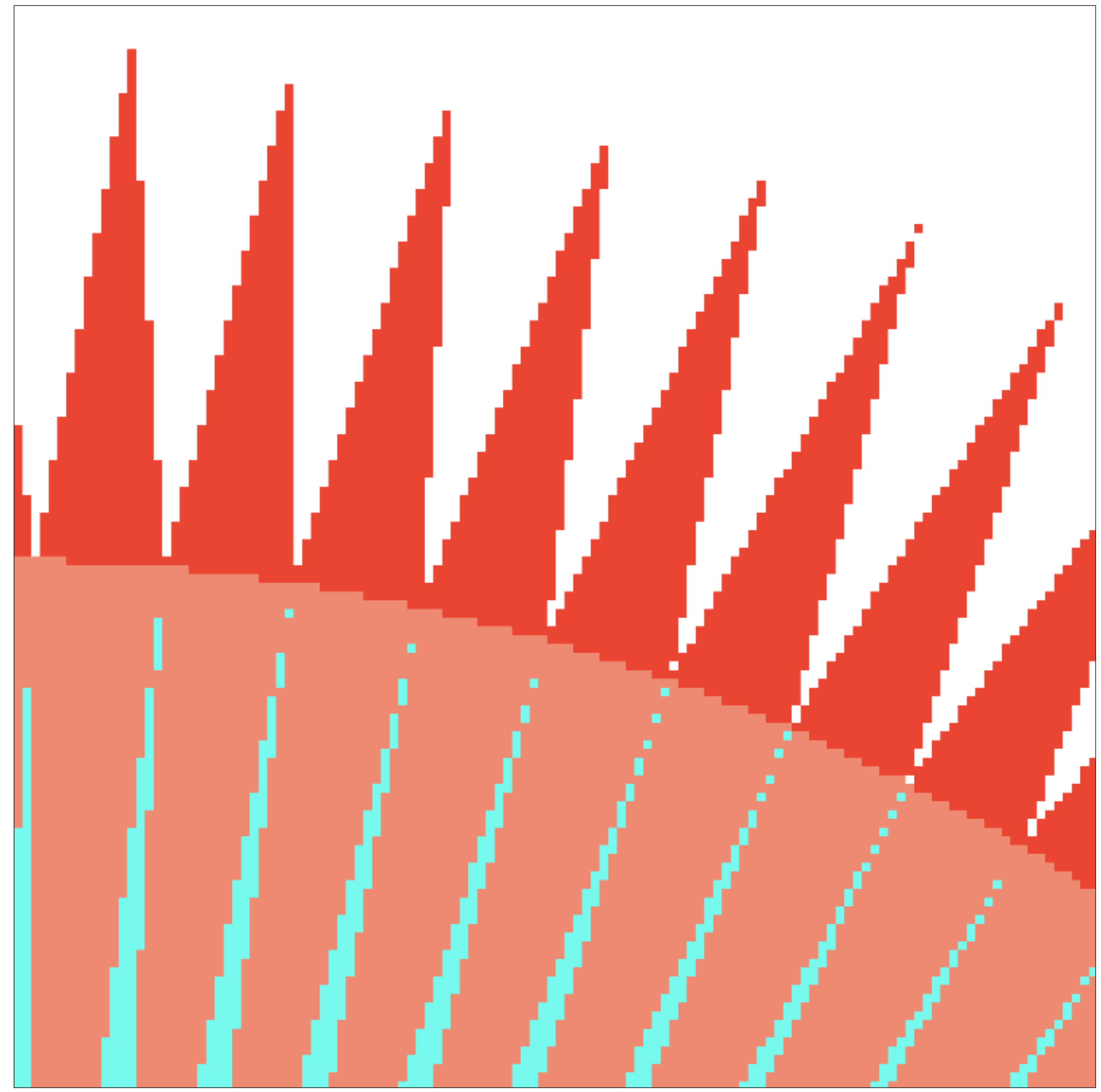
Supersampling: Result

This is the corresponding signal emitted by the display

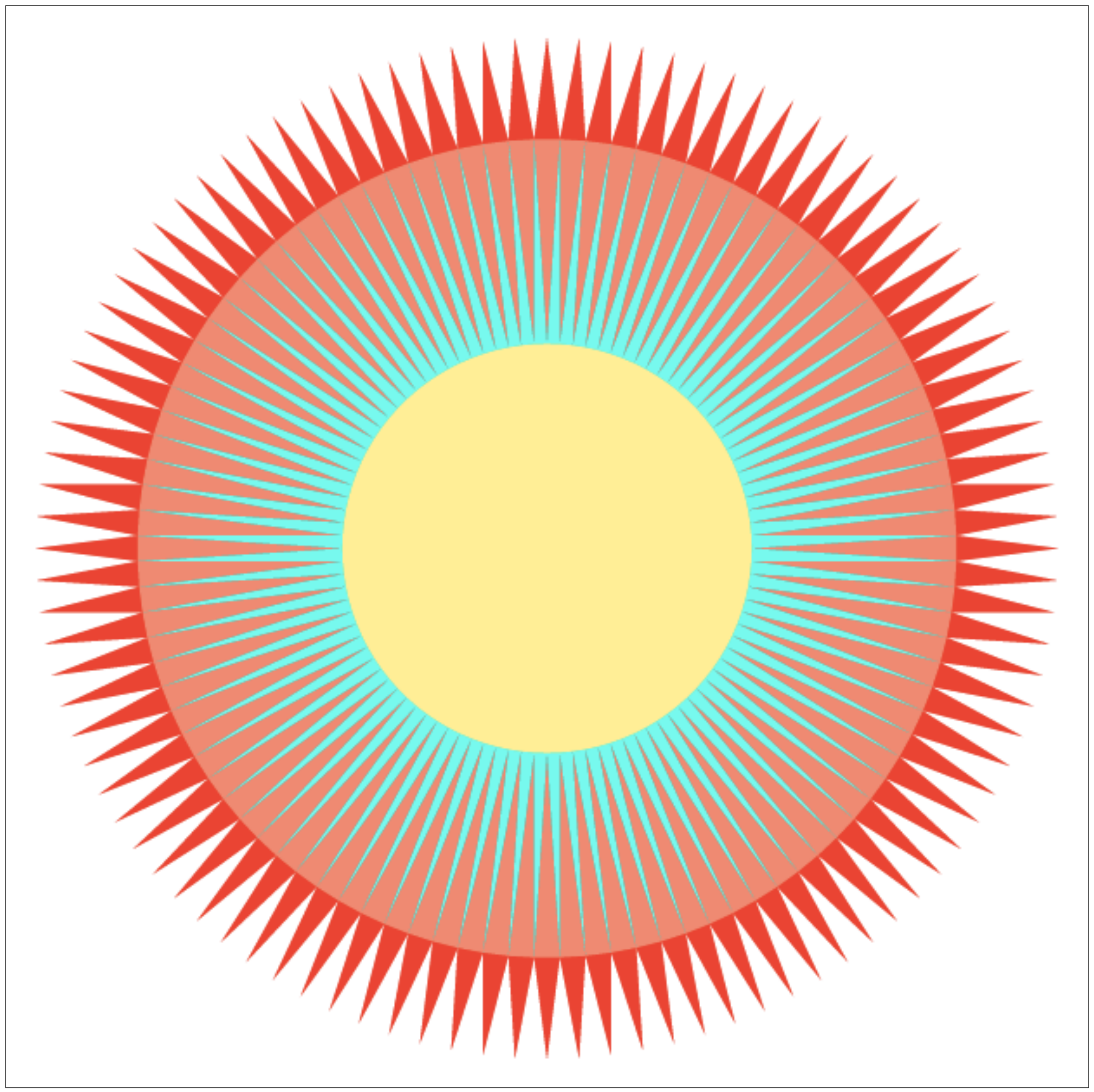


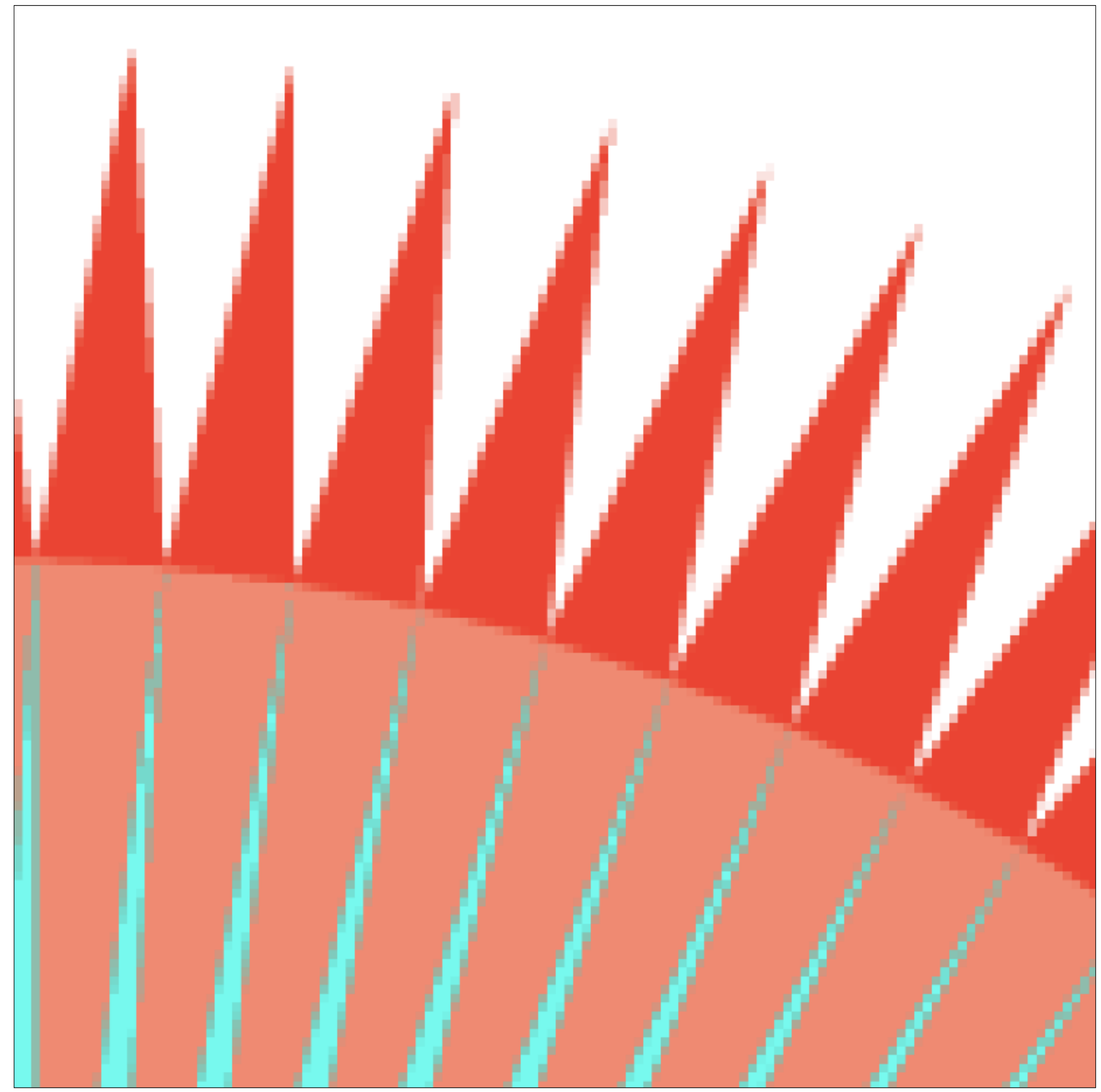
Point Sampling





4x4 Supersampling





Antialiasing Today

No free lunch!

- What's the cost of MSAA?

Milestones (personal idea)

- FXAA (Fast Approximate AA)
- TAA (Temporal AA)

Super resolution / super sampling

- From low resolution to high resolution
- Essentially still "not enough samples" problem
- DLSS (Deep Learning Super Sampling)

Thank you!