## Algorithms for GIS:

## Space filling curves

## Z-order

visit quadrants recursively in this order: NW, NE, SW, SE


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| $2 \boxed{Z 2} 2$ |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| V3 $23 / \sqrt{3}$ | 23 23 |
|  | V |
|  |  |
| Vレレ | V2 |
|  |  |
|  | 込 |
|  |  |
| L2 | 込 |
|  | 吸兂 |
|  | V |
|  |  |
|  | V $2 \square$ |
| प6， $2 \sqrt{3}$ | TRマR TR |
|  |  |

## Z－order

visit quadrants recursively in this order：NW，NE，SW，SE

|  | $2 \pi \sqrt{2} 2$ |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | VZZ |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| पZQZ $2 \square \square \square$ | 二及， |
| \乙 $2 \square$ | $2 \sqrt{2}$ 亿 |
| URLZ Un | पद ZR UR Z |
| \ূ |  |
| $\triangle \angle \mathbb{Z}$ |  |
| ， |  |
| UR प马 UR Z |  |
|  | \n $\triangle \sqrt{2} \sqrt{2}$ |
| 2 | TマR |
|  | $v \sqrt{n z} \sqrt{n z}$ |
| UZ | TRQZ पZ口乙 |
| ที乙 | \® |

－At the limit，it will reach all points in the square＝＝＞space filling curve

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Where is the very first point visited?

| $2322 \pi 22 \pi$ | $23282 \pi 23$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| 212R |  |
|  | $\frac{\square Z}{V Z} \frac{\square}{\Sigma Z}$ |
| VR2R3R~ |  |
| $\leqslant \square \leqslant z \leqslant \square \leqslant \square$ | $\Sigma \square \leqslant z \leqslant \square \leqslant z$ |
|  |  |
| V |  |
|  | 二2, 2 |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  | $\sum \square \sum \Delta \sqrt{n z}$ |
| VR2RZR/ |  |
| V $\triangle \square \geq \square \sum \square$ | Vn |
|  |  |
| ที入 | ทีป |

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- Every point in the square will be visited by this curve
- $2 \mathrm{D}==>1 \mathrm{D}$


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- Every canonical square corresponds to an interval of the z-order curve


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- Two canonical squares are non-intersecting, or one included in the other


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- Any two points can be compared: compare their Z-indices


## Z-order


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- Any two points can be compared: compare their Z-indices
- If point a comes before point $b$ on the Z-order curve, it's said that $a<b$


## Computing the Z-index

Z_index: R ${ }^{2} \longrightarrow R$
For simplicity assume points with integer coordinates on $k$ bits

- What is the largest integer representable on k bits?



## Computing the Z-index

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { For simplicity assume points with integer coordinates on } k \text { bits } \\
& \qquad p=\left(x_{1} x_{2} x_{3} \ldots x_{k}, y_{1} y_{2} y_{3} \ldots y_{k}\right) \\
& \quad Z \text { index : }\left\{0, \ldots, 2^{k}-1\right\} \times\left\{0, \ldots, 2^{k}-1\right\} —\left\{0, \ldots, 2^{2 k}-1\right\} \\
& \quad \text { Z_index }(p)=x_{1} y_{1} x_{2} y_{2} \ldots x_{k} y_{k}
\end{aligned}
$$



What is the largest value representable on 2 k bits?

## Computing the Z-index

```
For simplicity assume points with integer coordinates on k bits
    p = ( }\mp@subsup{x}{1}{}\mp@subsup{x}{2}{}\mp@subsup{x}{3}{}\ldots\mp@subsup{x}{k}{},\mp@subsup{y}{1}{}\mp@subsup{y}{2}{}\mp@subsup{y}{3}{}\ldots\mp@subsup{y}{k}{}
    Z_index:{0,..,\mp@subsup{2}{}{k}-1}\times{0,..,2k-1}—>{0,..,2k
```




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    Z_index : {0,..,2*-1} x {0,..,2k}-1}\longrightarrow>{0,..,2k-1
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& Z_{-} \text {index }(p)=x_{1} y_{1} x_{2} y_{2} \ldots x_{k} y_{k}
\end{aligned}
$$



Find the Z-order!

## Computing the Z-index

- Consider an $x$-coordinate $x_{1} x_{2} x_{3}$ in the square $[0, \ldots 8)$
- $x_{1}=0$ means the point will reside in the first half
- $x_{1}=1$ means the point will reside in the second half



## Computing the Z-index

- Consider an y-coordinate $y_{1} у_{2} у_{3}$ in the square $[0, \ldots 8)$
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## Z-order

- other Z-orders can be obtained similarly


- Can be extended to work with decimal numbers in $[0,1$ )
- make values positive (add smallest value)
- divide all values by max value
- ==> now we got values in $[0,1) p=(.1100, .0101)$


## Space-filling curves

- Z-order curves are a special type of space-filling curves
- First SFC were described by Peano and Hilbert



## Peano curve

## Hilbert curve



## Spatial locality

Spatial applications usually have spatial locality in their access to data, i.e. they are likely to access together points that are close to each other in space


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We would like points "close" in 2D to be stored "close" to each other in the data structure

## Spatial locality


grid in default row-major order


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Does this layout have good spatial locality?

- points $(r, c)(r, c+/-1)$ : how far are they in the array?
- points $(r, c),(r+1, c)$ : how far are they in the array?


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## Spatial locality

Arranging data in order of a space-filling curve improves spatial locality

- points that are close together in space, will be stored close to each other

grid in default row-major order

grid stored in Z-order


## Spatial locality

- Big-Oh analysis does not have the final word
- Two algorithms that have the same big-Oh can differ a lot in performance depending on their cache efficiency
- To analyze and fine tune the algorithm we need to look at the performance across all levels of the memory hierarchy

http://classconnection.s3.amazonaws.com/149/flashcards/3088149/png/memory_hierarchy 1367201501848.png


## MEMORY HIERARCHY



Indicated are approximate numbers of clock cycles to access the various elements of the memory hierarchy

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- At all levels, data is organized and moved in blocks/pages
- Each level acts as a "cache" for the next level: stores most recently used blocks
- Applications that access data that's stored in a "recent" block will find it in cache
- 1 ns vs 100 ns $<-$ SIGNIFICANT!


## Spatial locality

- Arranging data in order of a space-filling curve improves spatial locality
- points that are close together in space, will be stored close to each other
=> data will be in the same blocks as previous data
==> data will be found in cache
==> improvements at all levels of the memory hierarchy

- Hilbert curve has better locality than z-order, but slower to compute
- Z-order used with Strassen's algorithm —> speedups (2002)


## SFC in art

Don Relyea, artist futurist and tehnologist

- http://www.donrelyea.com/site2015/space-filling-curve-art-2004-2014-wide-format/


