Previous generation – World War Z

	Render resolution	Target FPS
Xbox One / PS4	960x1080 – 1920x1080	30
Xbox One X	2880x2160 – 3840x2160	30
PS4 Pro	1920x1080 – 3200x1800	30

- We used fixed-height dynamic resolution on consoles
- TAA as an antialiasing solution without upscaling on consoles
- FXAA for low-preset settings on PC

- Much later we integrated FSR2 in the end of the frame, and it was a starting point of our AA/upscale journey on newer generation

Platforms

We use much more temporal techniques on different platforms now:

	FSR2	FSR3	FSR4	XESS*	DLSS	MFSR	TAA + FSR1
PC	✓	✓	AMD RDNA4	✓	NVIDIA 2000+ series		✓
XBOX SERIES X/S	✓						
PS5	✓						
PS5 PRO						✓	
Steam Deck	✓	✓					✓

TAA + FSR1 is intended as a cheap fallback solution. In practice, TAA is mostly used as an auxiliary temporal pass for several resources like circle of confusion, bloom mask, etc.
*XeSS is only in RoadCraft for now

Why we don’t use FXAA

TAA


▶ 170 errors, 17 warnings found! Press [F10] to see log, RMB to copy
CUBEMAPS
Some cubemaps are out of date(Rerender with non-debug shaders not available)

Resolution presets

Consoles

	Render resolution	Target resolution	Target FPS
Xbox Series X / PS5 **Quality** mode	1080p – 1440p	2160p	30
Xbox Series X / PS5 **Perf** mode	720p – 1440p	2160p	60
Xbox Series S	720p – 1080p	1440p	30
PS5 Pro **Quality** mode	1080p – 2160p	2160p	30
PS5 Pro **Perf** mode	1080p – 1440p	2160p	60

PC

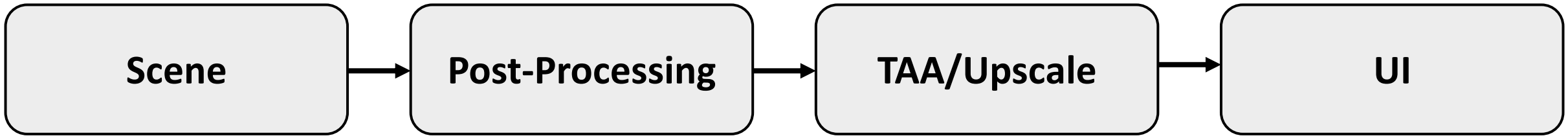
Mode	Resolution Scale
Native	1
Quality	1.5
Balanced	1.7
Performance	2
Ultra performance	3

XeSS

Mode	Resolution Scale
AA	1
Ultra quality	1.5
Quality	1.7
Balanced	2
Ultra performance	3

Temporal AA/Upscale in rendering pipeline

We tried to place it after post-proc like in WWZ, but rejected it



Pros:

- We win some performance in post-processing depending on resolution scale

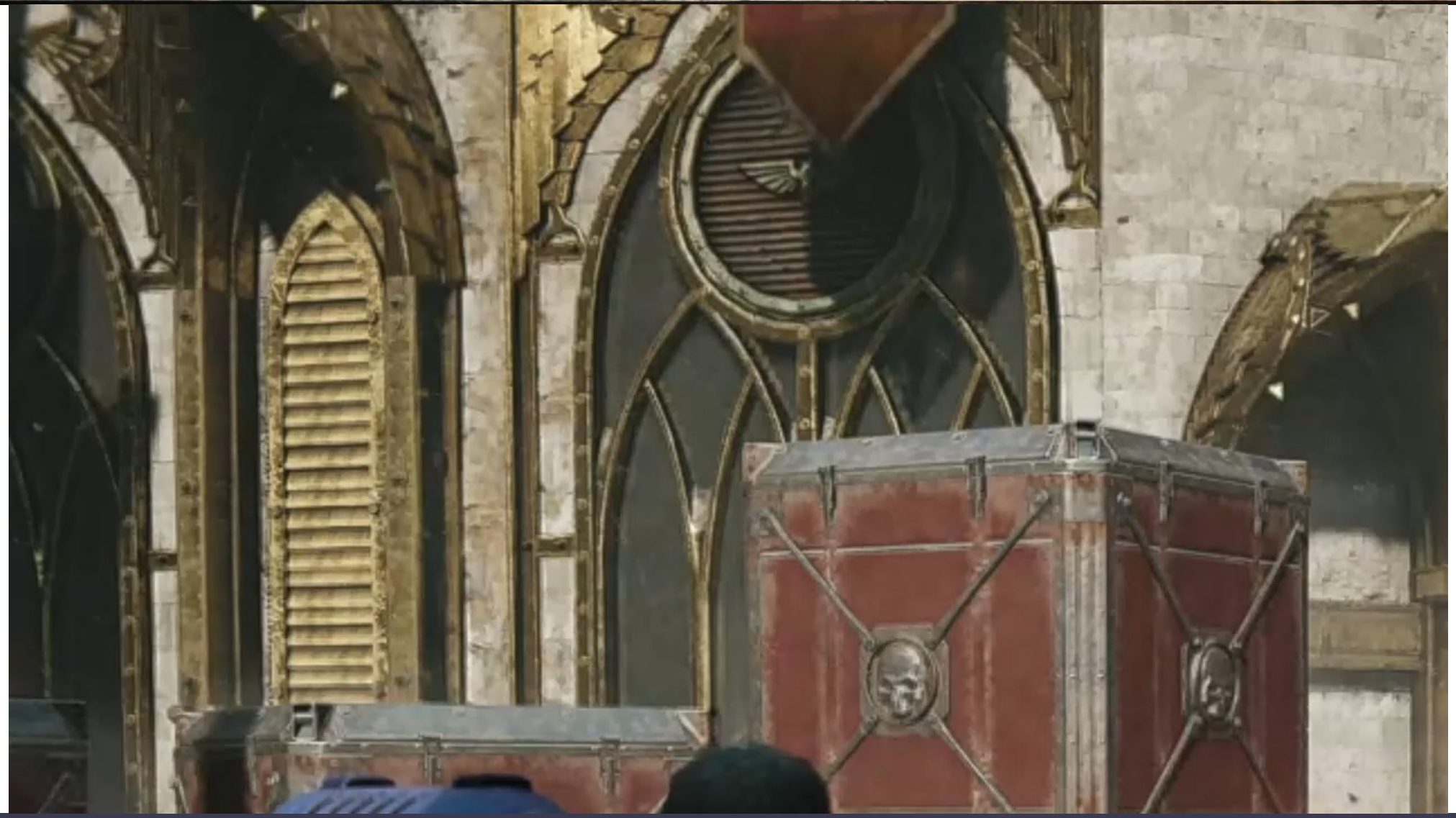
Cons:

- Post-processing effects such as **motion blur, depth of field, bloom, barrel distortion** change or distort color buffer, so we get ghosting due to mismatch between color and corresponding depth/velocity values.
- Some color details are lost + potential artifacts due to nonlinear LDR input

FSR before post-processing

FSR after post-processing

FSR after post-processing



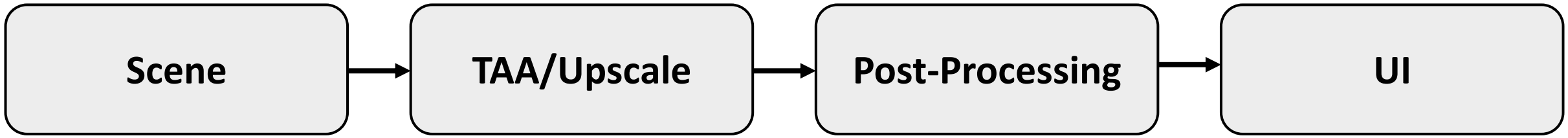
FSR before post-processing

FSR after post-processing

FSR before post-processing

Temporal AA/Upscale in rendering pipeline

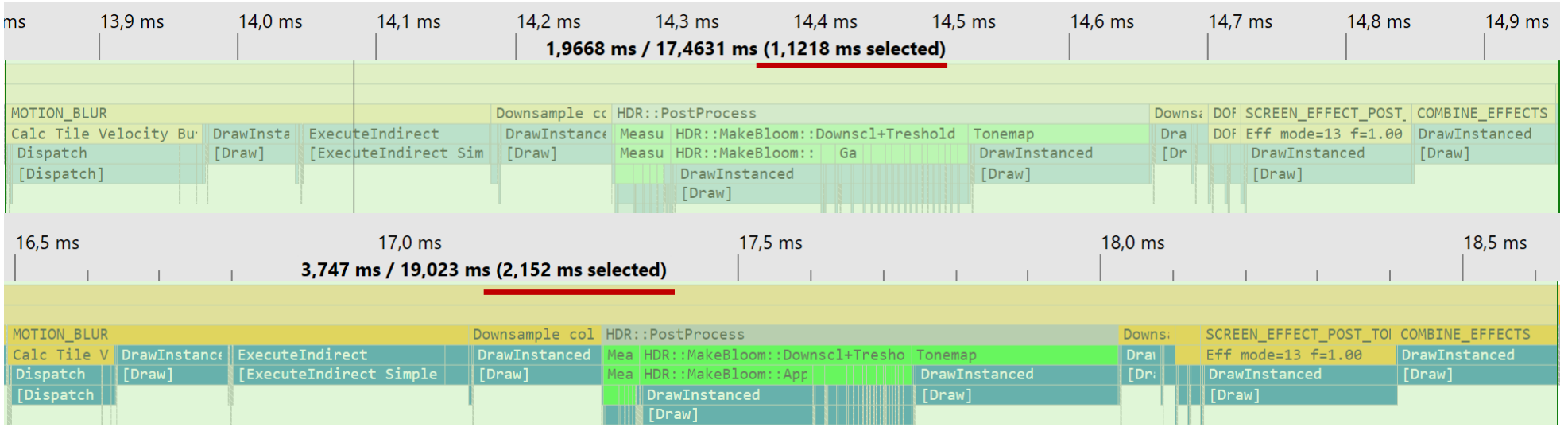
Standard practice – placing before post-process



But in this case we need to perform post-processing in upscaled resolution:

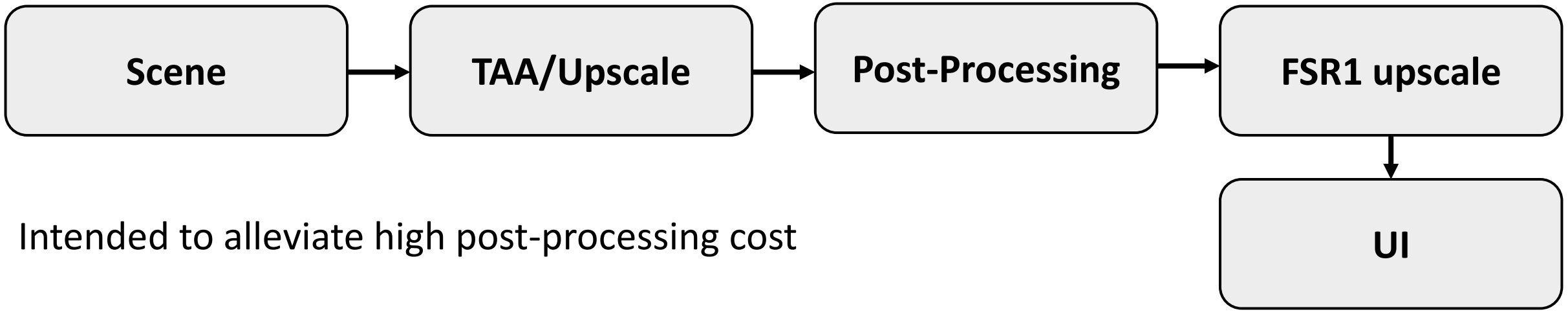
1.122 vs 2.152 ms

Xbox SX **quality mode**
(1440p -> 2160p)



Temporal AA/Upscale in rendering pipeline

Combined upscale: temporal + spatial in the end



Intended to alleviate high post-processing cost

Rejected due to:

- FSR1 makes sense only with small resolution scale like <= 1.1 otherwise there is a quality degradation compared to the classic temporal upscaling scheme
- With small FSR1 scale there is no performance win

Temporal problems

Main tools to deal with problems

<table>
<tr><th>Algorithm</th><th colspan="2">Masks</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">FSR</td><td>Transparency & composition mask</td><td>Narrows color clamping window, relaxes locks contribution and luminance instability factor</td></tr>
<tr><td>Reactive mask</td><td rowspan="4">Directly affects current frame weight when blending with history</td></tr>
<tr><td>XeSS</td><td>Responsive mask</td></tr>
<tr><td>MFSR</td><td>Reactive mask</td></tr>
<tr><td>TAA</td><td>Reactive mask</td></tr>
<tr><td>DLSS</td><td colspan="2">No masks</td></tr>
</table>

Mask values are integrated into material system – artists are able to control them

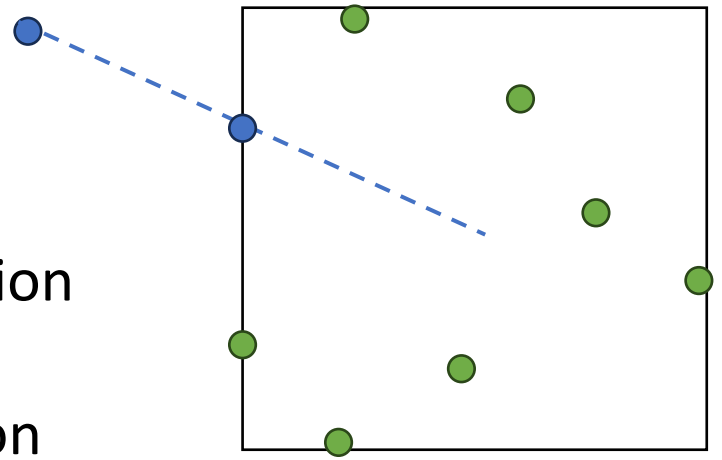
Transparency

VFXs that don’t write to velocity buffer

Here we rely on color clamping that clips history color if its significantly different from 3x3 neighborhood colors

- TAA – color clamping is enough to deal with it
- FSR – need VFXs to be written to transparency & composition mask
- XeSS – we write VFXs into responsive mask. Lower values on lower render resolution presets

Current frame neighborhood AABB and **history** clamping



Without transparency mask

With transparency mask

Particles

Fast particles that don’t write to velocity buffer

- Need to increase current frame weight to avoid ghosting and diminishing in size
- Color clamping still helps on noisy background

We locally increase current frame weight using reactive mask

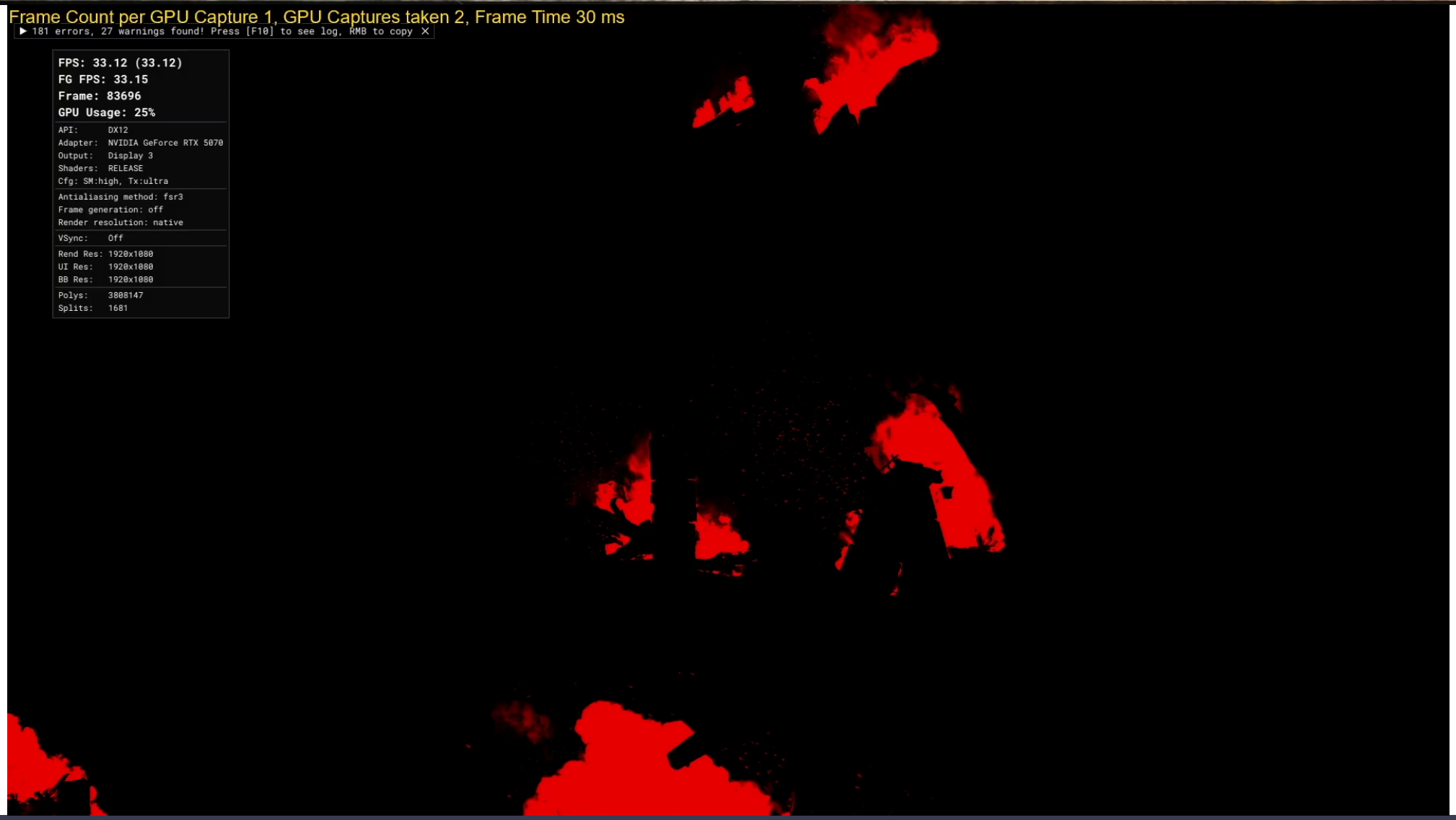
- TAA – particles write to reactive mask only
- FSR – particles write to reactive mask and transparency & composition to narrow color clamping AABB and relax locks for noisy background
- MFSR – same as FSR, plus we combine previous frame reactive mask with the current one
- XeSS – particles write to responsive mask

Without masks

With masks


Frame Count per GPU Capture 1, GPU Captures taken 2, Frame Time 29 ms
▶ 181 errors, 27 warnings found! Press [F10] to see log, RMB to copy ✕
FPS: 34.45 (34.45)
FG FPS: 34.54
Frame: 70267
GPU Usage: 21%
API: DX12
Adapter: NVIDIA GeForce RTX 5070
Output: Display 3
Shaders: RELEASE
Cfg: SM:high, Tx:ultra
Antialiasing method: fsr3
Frame generation: off
Render resolution: native
VSync: Off
Rend Res: 1920x1080
UI Res: 1920x1080
BB Res: 1920x1080
Polys: 3937804
Splits: 1918

Reactive mask



Trails

Since such objects are tiny and not written to depth and velocity

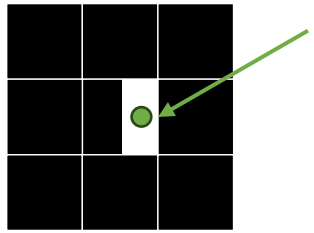
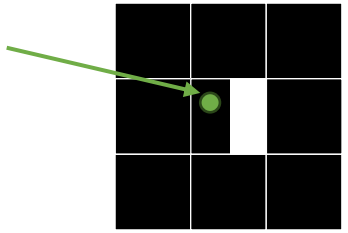
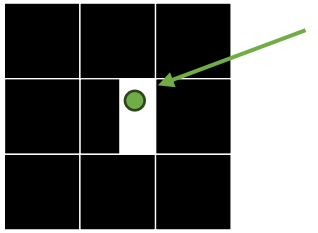
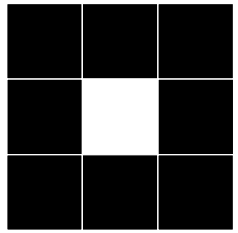
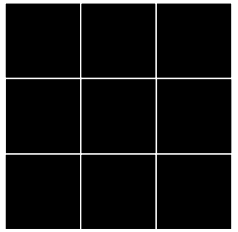
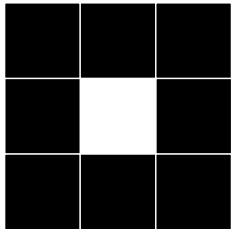
- Need to adaptively broaden trails to make them 1-2 pixel to avoid excessive blend with background
- Need to conservatively apply reactive mask just a little in case of moving trail to avoid ghosting

Lasers before fixes

Lasers after fixes

Subpixel shading details

Jitter + color clamping = flickering

	0-th frame	1-st frame	2-nd frame
Current jitter pos on original signal			
Current frame shading			
History sample			
Output			

History clamp!

Subpixel shading details

We can only alleviate this problem

- Relax color clamping – reduce mask values where possible
- Decrease resolution of normal maps for some grainy materials
- FSR specific – disable velocity factor (FFX_API_CONFIGURE_UPSCALE_KEY_FVELOCITYFACTOR)

Potential to-do:

- Introduce luminance aware filter to make fireflies less bright, currently we did it only in TAA

Velocity factor default

Velocity factor off

Luminance filter off

Luminance filter on

Jittered input problem

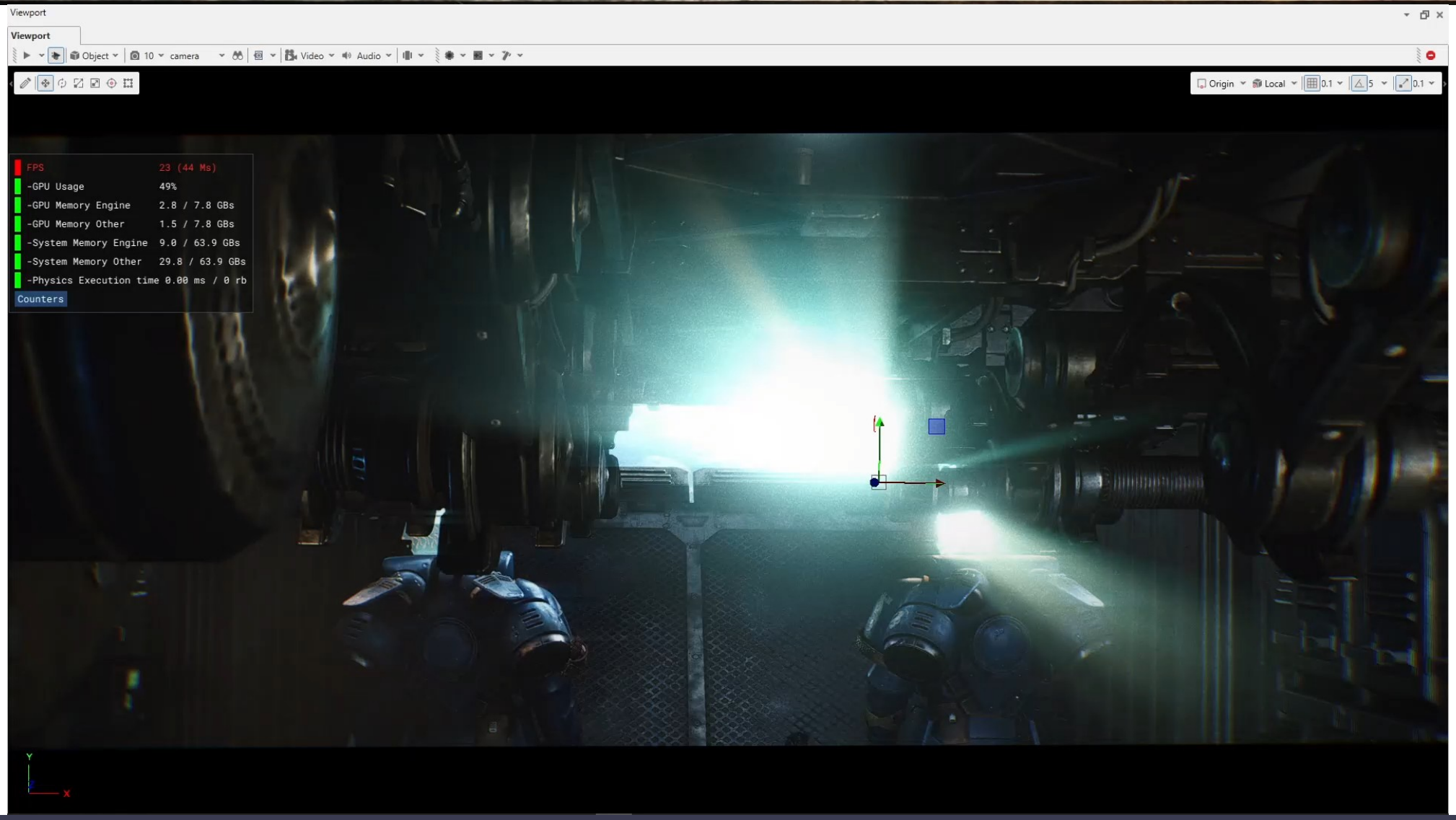
Common examples are depth and velocity and all resources that depend on it

Jitter and large effect's footprint caused flickering in:

- Screen-space artistic lightshafts due to depth
- Screen-space artistic flares due to depth
- Bloom due to artistic bloom mask – mask is written by geometry that needs artificial bloom
- Depth of field due to circle of confusion and half res color buffer

Solution: apply lightweight TAA or some hysteresis to depth-dependent resources

Lightshafts TAA on/off



Bloom mask TAA off

Bloom mask TAA off

Bloom mask TAA on

Sharpness

We use AMD RCAS everywhere

- Problem with different base sharpness level for each upscaler

  Solution: we've applied additional base sharpness for DLSS:

```
sharpness = upscaleFramegenPrms.sharpness + m3dLog(dbg_rcasAdditionalDlssSharpness) / 2.f;
```

  `dbg_rcasAdditionalDlssSharpness` – base sharpness to make up for less sharp output from DLSS and XeSS
  `upscaleFramegenPrms.sharpness` – sharpness from game settings

- Problem with dark pixels in some setups (sharpness close to 1)

  Solution: we've slightly patched limiters part of RCAS algorithm:

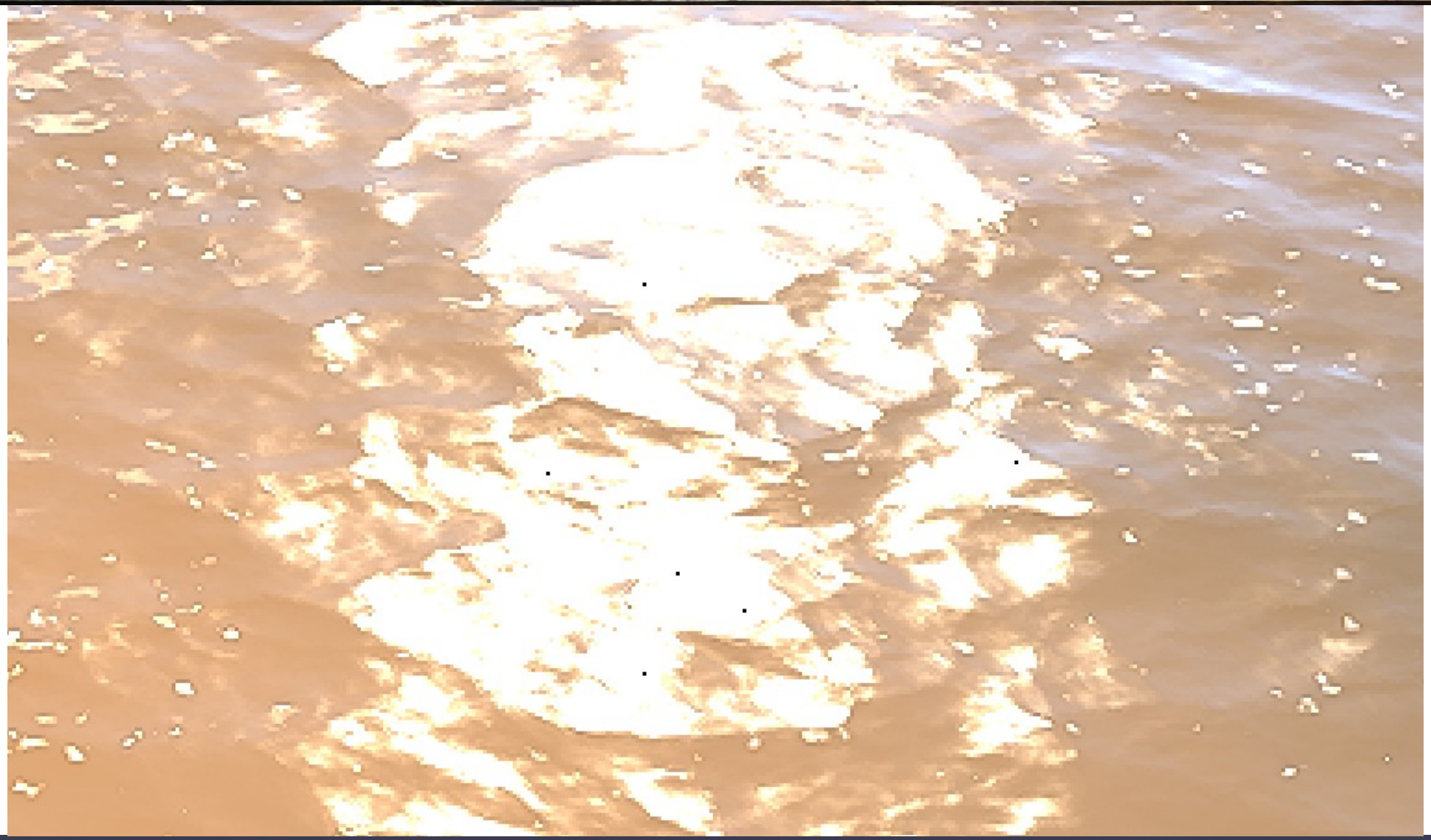
```
FfxFloat32 hitMinR = mn4R * rcp(FfxFloat32(4.0) * mx4R);
FfxFloat32 hitMinG = mn4G * rcp(FfxFloat32(4.0) * mx4G);

FfxFloat32 hitMinB = mn4B * rcp(FfxFloat32(4.0) * mx4B);
```

Idea: decrease lower limiter in cases when central pixel has lower value than any pixel from his 3x3 neighborhood to avoid negative results

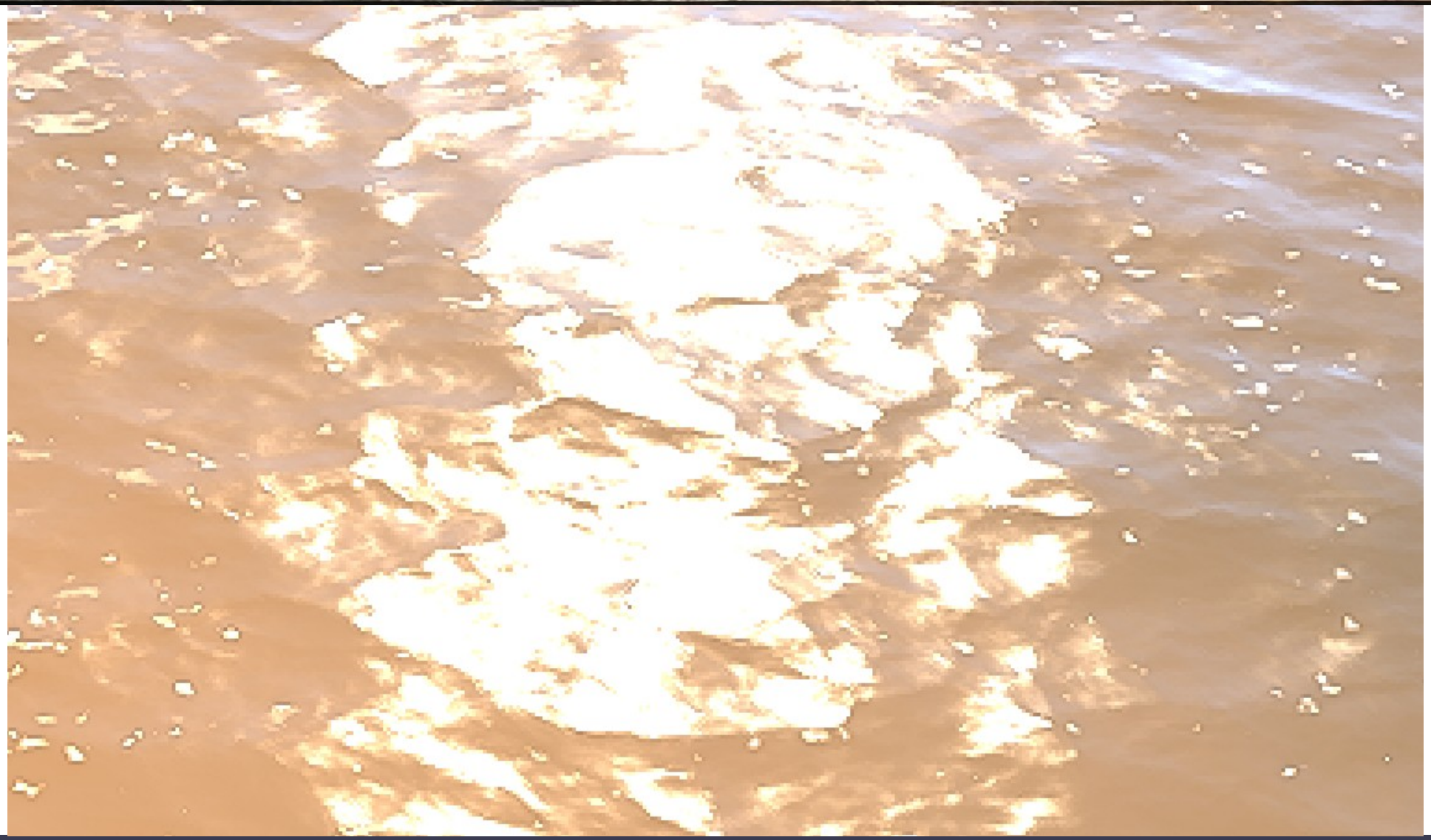
```
749 +       #ifdef FSR_RCAS_LOWER_LIMITER_COMPENSATION
750 +        const FfxFloat32 lowerLimiterMultiplier = ffxSaturate(eL / ffxMin(ffxMin3(bL, dL, fL), hL));
751 +       #else
752 +        const FfxFloat32 lowerLimiterMultiplier = 1.f;
753 +       #endif
754 +       FfxFloat32 hitMinR = mn4R * rcp(FfxFloat32(4.0) * mx4R) * lowerLimiterMultiplier;
755 +       FfxFloat32 hitMinG = mn4G * rcp(FfxFloat32(4.0) * mx4G) * lowerLimiterMultiplier;
756 +       FfxFloat32 hitMinB = mn4B * rcp(FfxFloat32(4.0) * mx4B) * lowerLimiterMultiplier;
```

Sharpness black dots

Sharpness black dots



After lower limiter fix



Ghosting due to sudden changes

Sometimes there are situations when some object suddenly disappears or appears again
For example, armor/weapon change in inventory menu

We don’t use `reset` flag available in each upscalers because it completely resets history and produce unpleasant convergence effect just after applying

Reactive mask is ideal choice for a partial history reset.

When armor/weapon changes game logic script triggers writing to the reactive mask there are no any ghosting.

Weapon switch before

Weapon switch before

Weapon switch after

Frame generation

Our Frame generation integration

Algorithms and platforms:

- FSR3 FG – anywhere on PC
- DLSS FG – NVIDIA, from 4000 series

Integration is standard except for:

- We use render-rate UI, since our UI is static and we can save some performance
- We use distortion mask to avoid make up for mismatch between final color and depth & velocity introduced by some post-effects

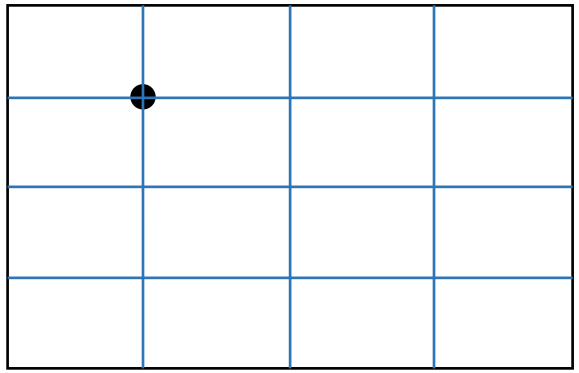
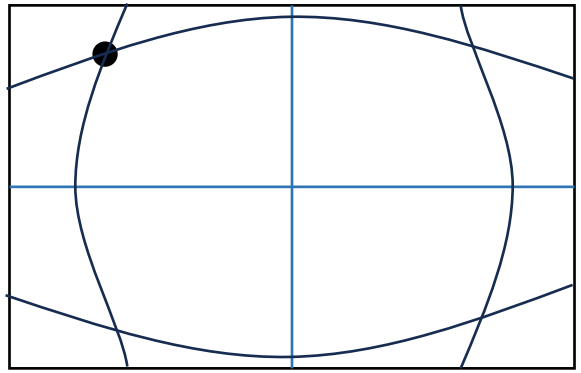
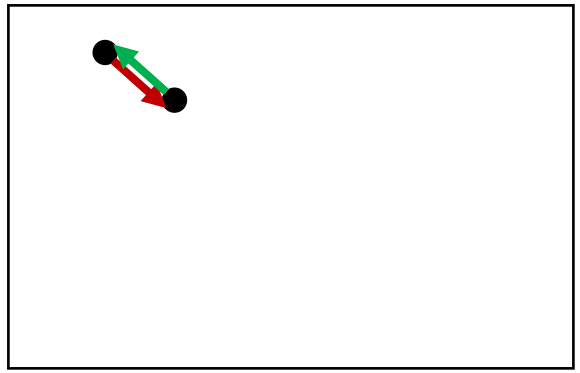
Barrel distortion effect: before

Barrel distortion effect: after

Distortion mask

We need to reflect distortion effect in distortion mask, which stores:

- Backward distortion vector – to restore original pixel pos
- Forward distortion vector – to apply distortion again

Before distortion	After distortion	Distortion mask
		

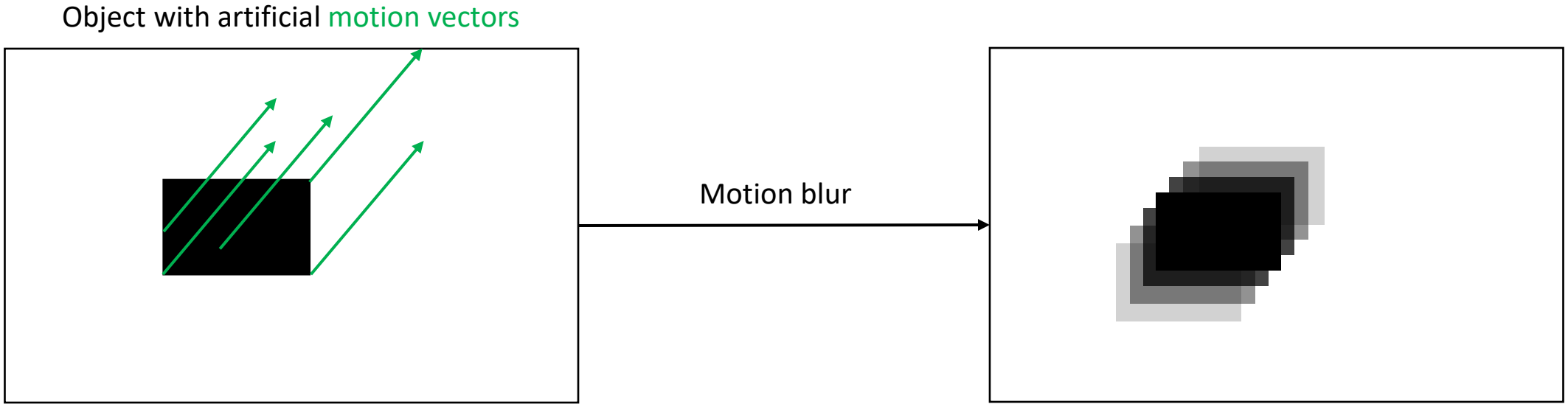
Distortion mask off

Distortion mask on

Distortion mask

Special VFXs

For some VFXs we explicitly change motion vectors for artistic purposes, so that motion blur later would directionally blur it



Solution: decrease amplitude of these effects

Reference (without FG)

FG without fixes

Lower amplitude

Third-party tweaks

With DLSS-FG Transparent UI caused strobing and flickering

- We tweak UI alpha channel
- We turn on autodetect UI option when transparent UI covers almost all screen

With FSR-FG vignette caused artifacts near screen borders

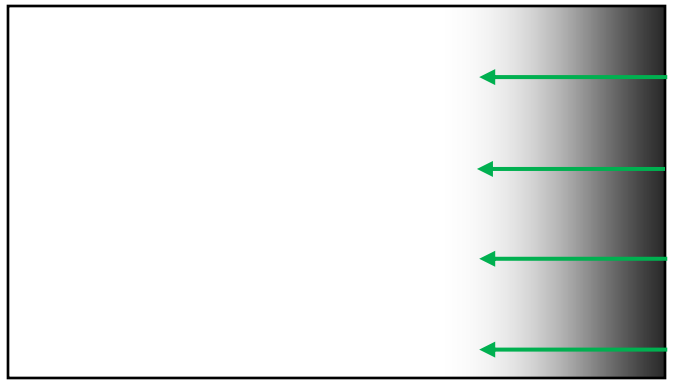
- We had to significantly lower vignette effect with FSR on
- Alternative: move vignette to FSR-FG post-process

FSR3 FG vignette bug

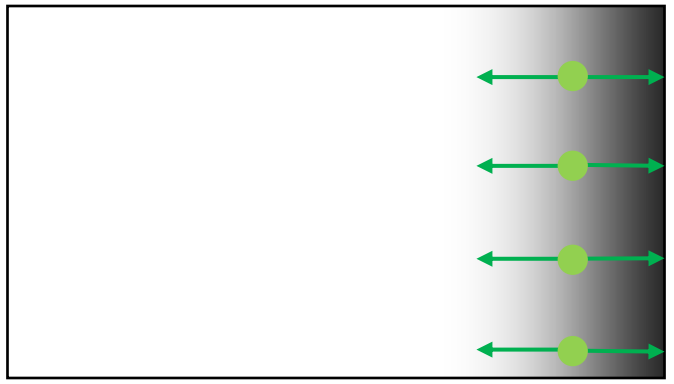
FSR3 FG vignette bug

FSR3 FG vignette bug explanation

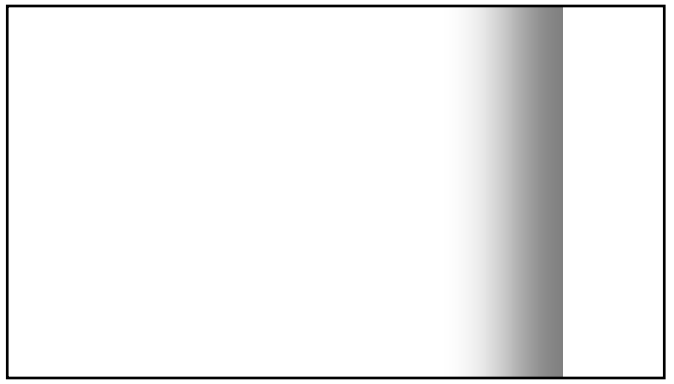
Current frame motion vectors



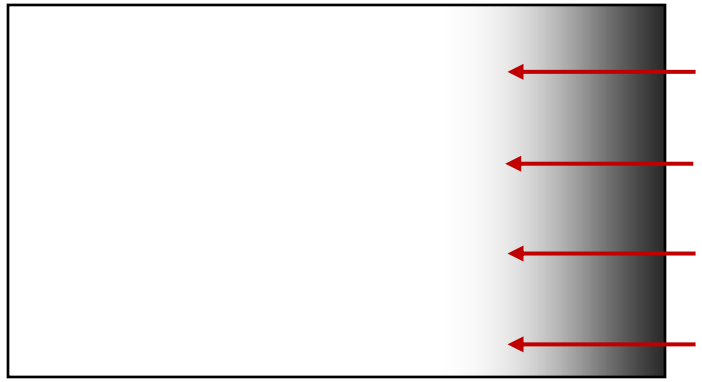
Interpolated frame motion vectors



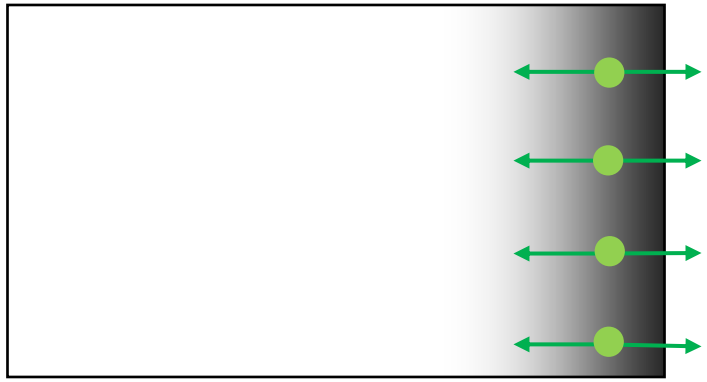
We have two samples, so far so good…



We cannot get outside motion vectors



FSR3 guesses that they are similar



Right sample is outside! FSR3 takes only left ☹

Lower intensity

Thank you!