

# GETTING STARTED WITH RAY TRACING AND NVIDIA'S RAY TRACING DEVELOPER TOOLS

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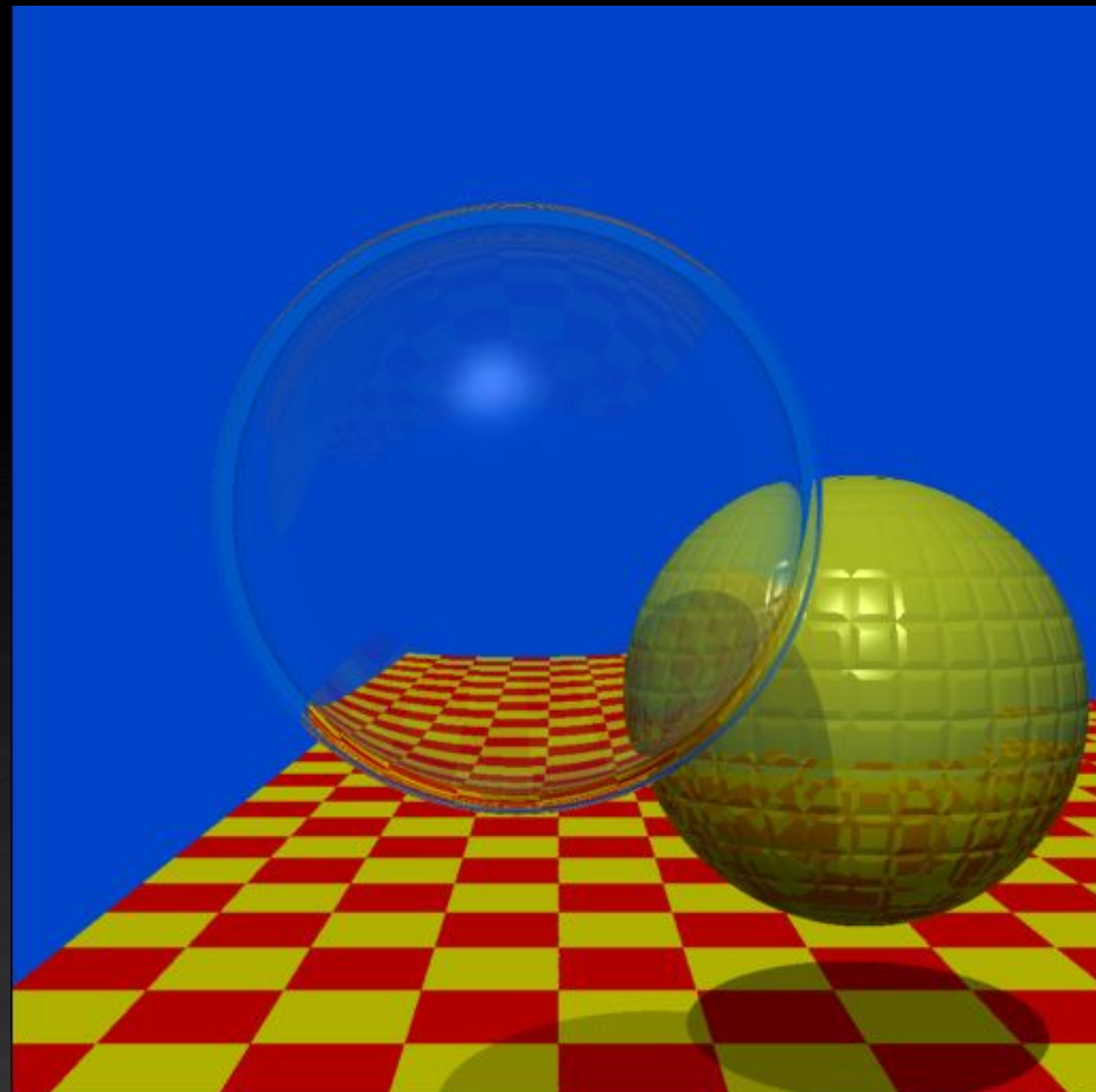


# REAL TIME RAY TRACING

A Technological Revolution



1979



2018



2021





# DEVELOPER TOOLS

We work to solve developer problems to make your lives better



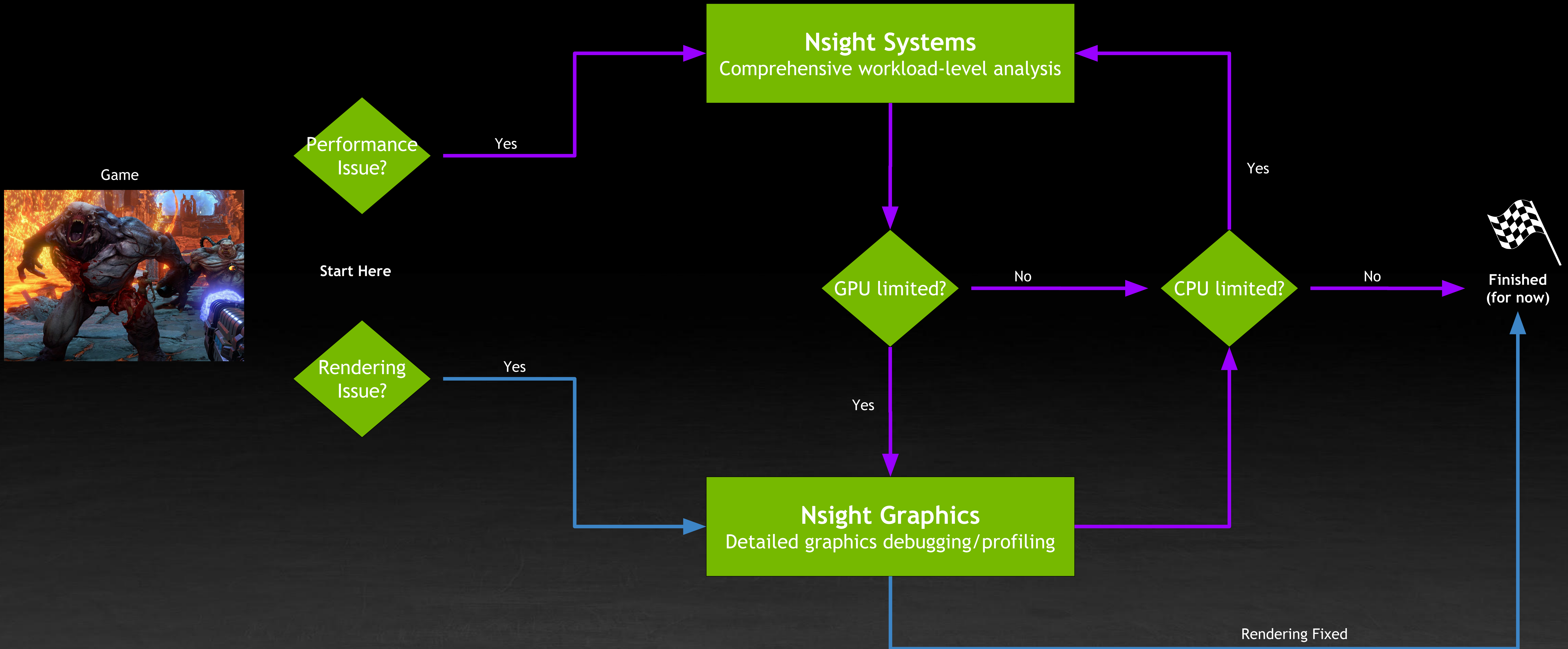






# PERFORMANCE TRIAGE WORKFLOW

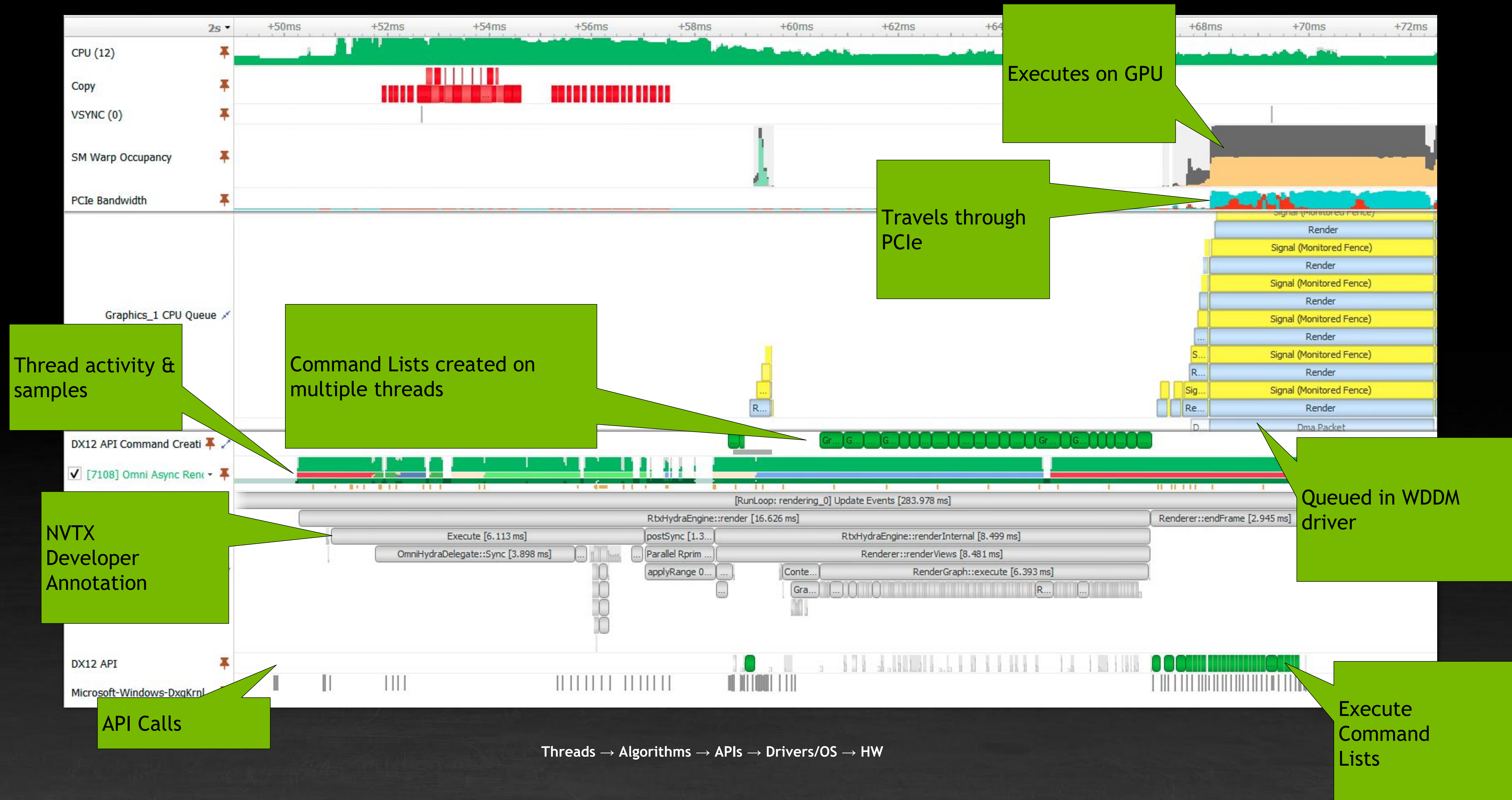
To help save you time and frustration





# NSIGHT SYSTEMS

Useful for investigating CPU/GPU Interactions





# NSIGHT GRAPHICS

Powerful debugging and profiling for advanced 3d graphics

## Debugging:

C++ Frame Serialization

Resource Viewer

Pixel History

API inspection

GPU Crashes

## Profiling:

Range Profiler

GPU Trace

Shader Profiler

The screenshot displays the NVIDIA Nsight Graphics interface, which is used for debugging and profiling 3D graphics. The interface is divided into several panels:

- Shader Profiler:** Shows a summary of shader usage, including a table of function summaries and hot spots. The function summary table lists various shaders and their performance metrics.
- GPU Trace:** Displays a timeline of GPU events, including Ray Trace, Post, and Draw calls. The trace shows the duration of each event and the GPU resources used.
- Resource Viewer:** Shows the state of GPU resources, including textures, buffers, and samplers. The resource viewer displays the name, revision, memory pool, size, dimension, image type, and format of each resource.
- Shader Editor:** Shows the source code of a shader, including GLSL code and shader parameters. The editor allows users to view and edit the shader code.
- GPU Trace Timeline:** Shows a detailed view of the GPU trace, including the duration of each event and the GPU resources used. The timeline is color-coded to show different types of events.

Type	Pipeline	Shader	Shader Type	Correlation	File Name	Samples
Session	-	-	-	-	-	100%
Shader	0x000002a8ed2d42f8	Internal	Ray Tracing	N/A	-	87%
Unattributed	-	-	-	-	-	12%
Shader	0x000002a8ed2d42f8	0x000002a8eb4d14e8	Miss	GLSL	raytraceShado	< 1%
Shader	0x000002a8ed2d42f8	Internal	Ray Tracing	N/A	-	< 1%
Shader	0x000002a8ed2d42f8	0x000002a8eb4d1348	Miss	GLSL	raytrace.rmiss	< 1%
Shader	0x000002a8ed2d42f8	Internal	Ray Tracing	N/A	-	< 1%

Item	File	Source	Samples	Top Stall #1	Top Stall #2	Top Stall #3
0x000002a8eb4d14e8	raytraceShadow.rmiss.12	shad...	0.34%	NOINST 50%	WAIT 26%	SELECT 21%
0x000002a8eb4d1348	raytrace.rmiss.106	prd...	0.04%	GSB 71%	SELECT 10%	WAIT 8%
0x000002a8eb4d1348	raytrace.rmiss.119	N/A	0.03%	WAIT 49%	SELECT 23%	SHRTSB 10%
0x000002a8eb4d1348	raytrace.rmiss.120	N/A	0.01%	NOINST 33%	SELECT 29%	WAIT 28%
0x000002a8eb4d1348	raytrace.rmiss.85	vec3...	< 0.01%	WAIT 50%	SELECT 26%	NOINST 14%
0x000002a8eb4d1348	raytrace.rmiss.94	if (... < 0.01%		WAIT 68%	SELECT 17%	NOTSEL 9%

Event	Marker	Description	GPU Duration
20	Ray Trace	void vkCmdTraceRaysKHR(0x000002a8ee3a8170, { .deviceAddress = 0x000000e0185e...	46.79 ms
22	Post	void vkCmdDraw(0x000002a8ee3a8170, 3, 1, 0, 0)	58.62 us
38		void vkCmdDrawIndexed(0x000002a8ee3a8170, 48, 1, 0, 0, 0)	8.00 us
40		void vkCmdDrawIndexed(0x000002a8ee3a8170, 8751, 1, 48, 0, 0)	5.60 us

Element	Descriptor Type	Uniform Type	Name
0	UNIFORM_BUFFER	struct*	cam

Name	Range	Data
pushC.clearColor	16	(0.49, 0.82, 1.00, 1.00)
pushC	0	{...}
pushC.lightPosition	12	(-83.30, 41.66, 85.70)

Windows

Linux

Android

LuminOS

x64

ARM (Coming Soon!)

D3D+11/12, DXR

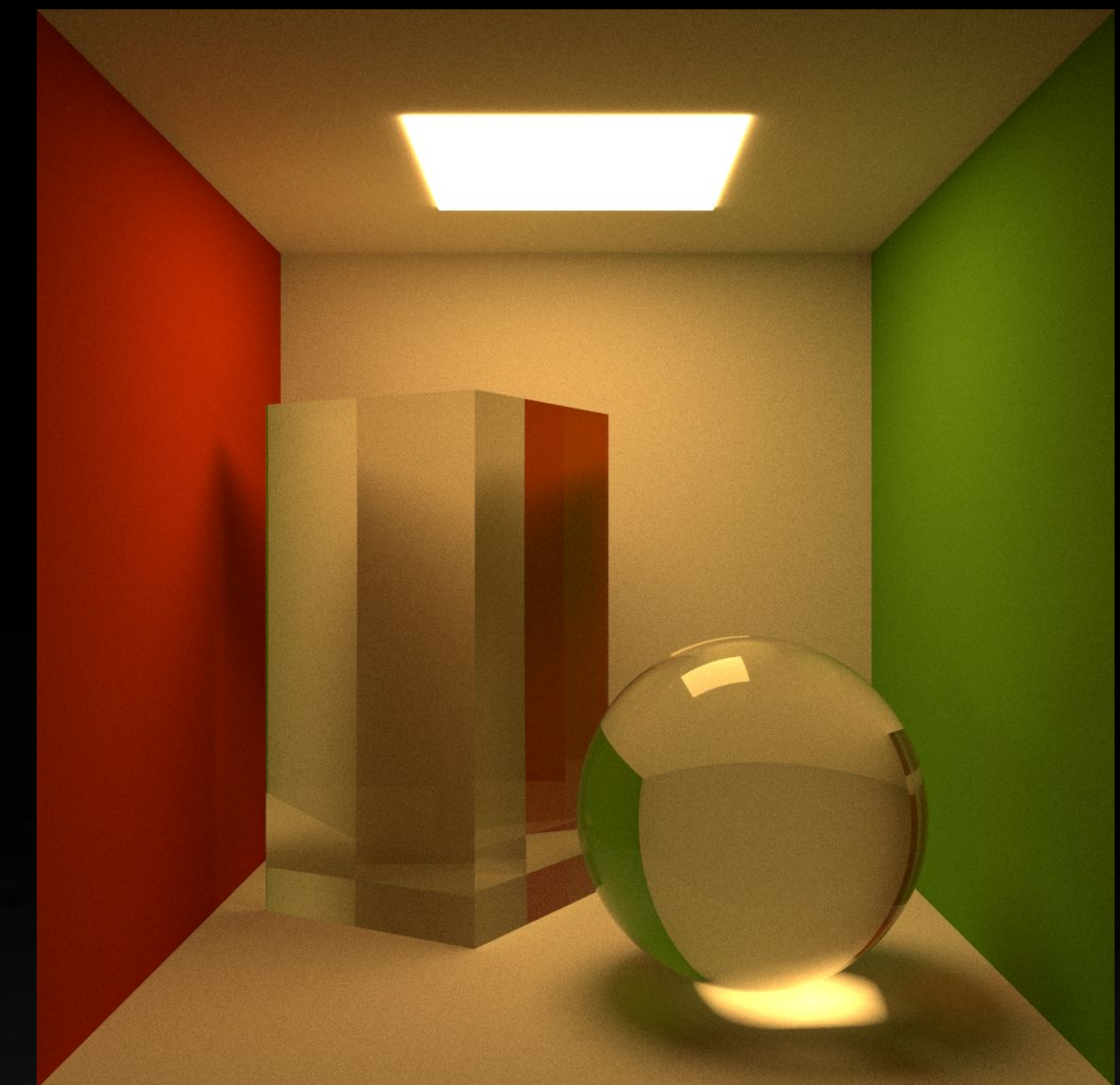
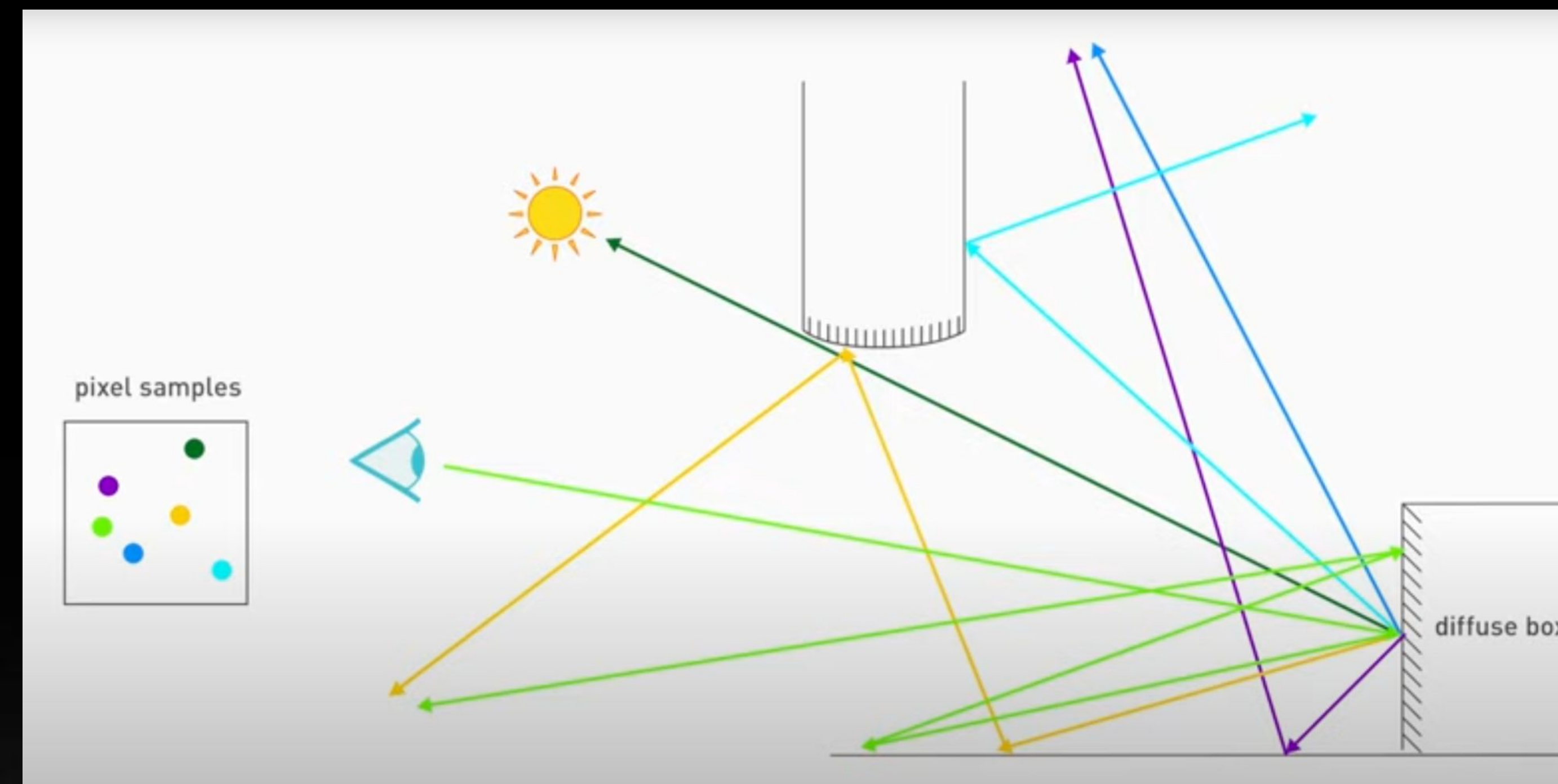
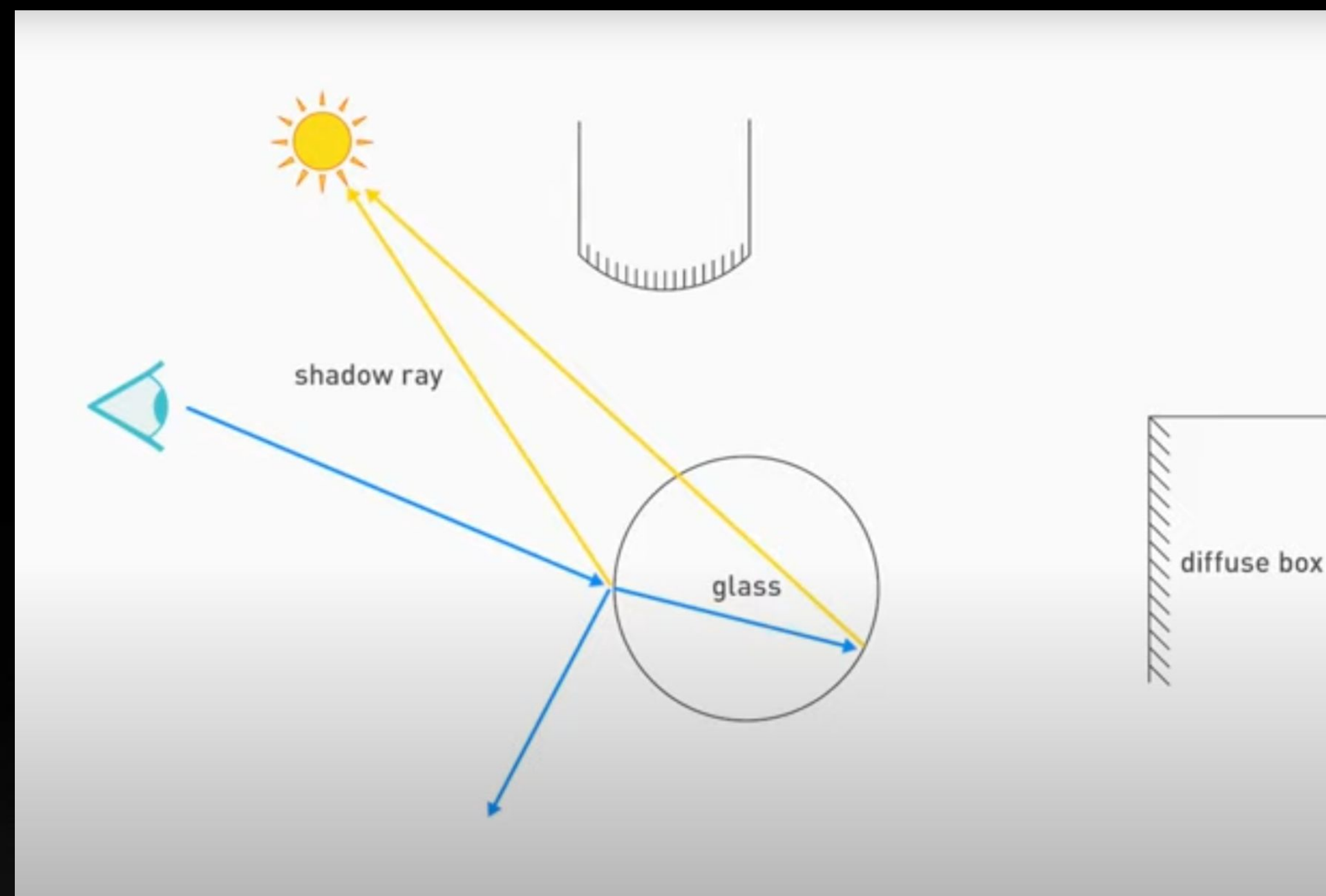
Vulkan 1.2, VRT

OpenGL 4.6



# RAY TRACING CONCEPTS

From concept to tool



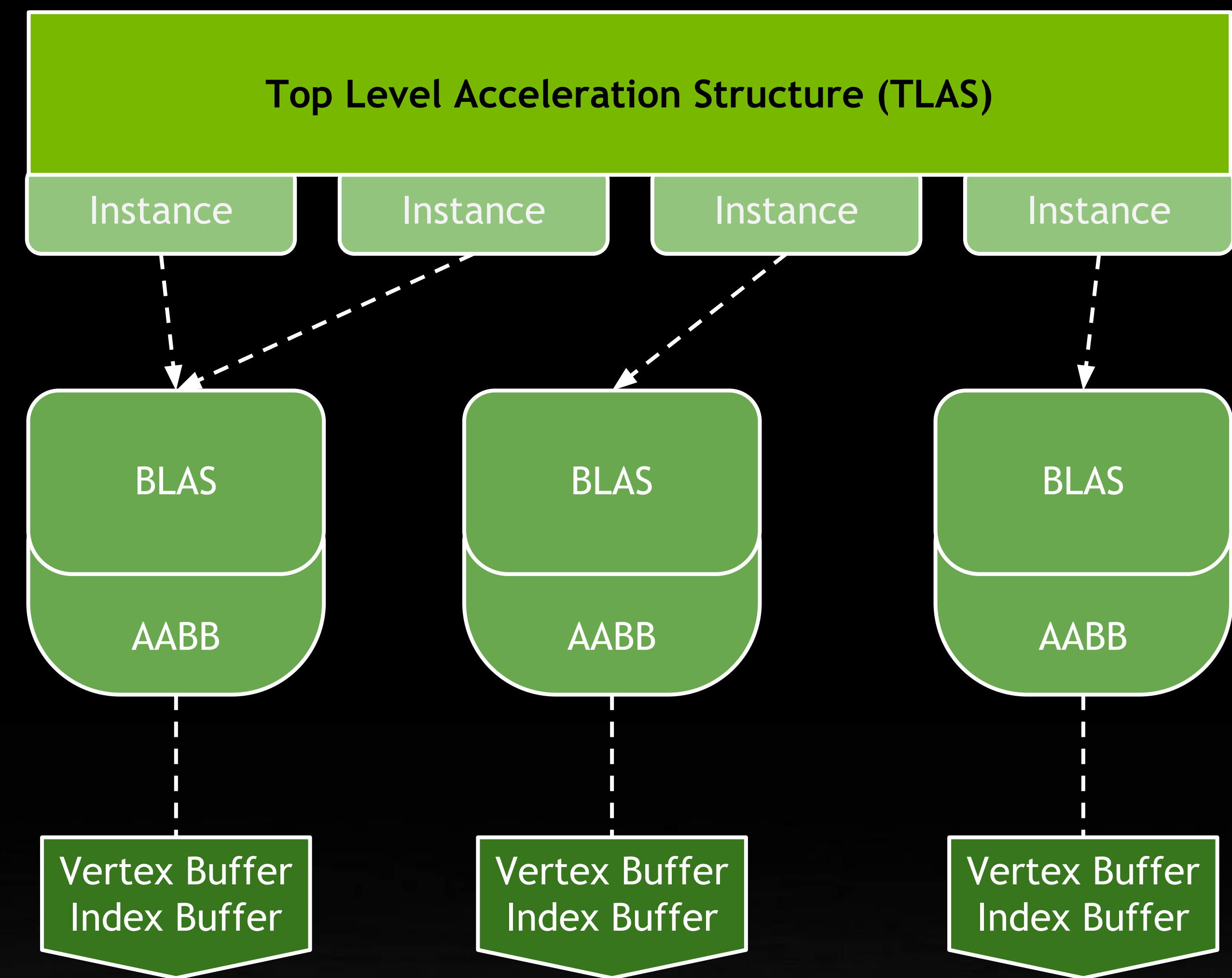
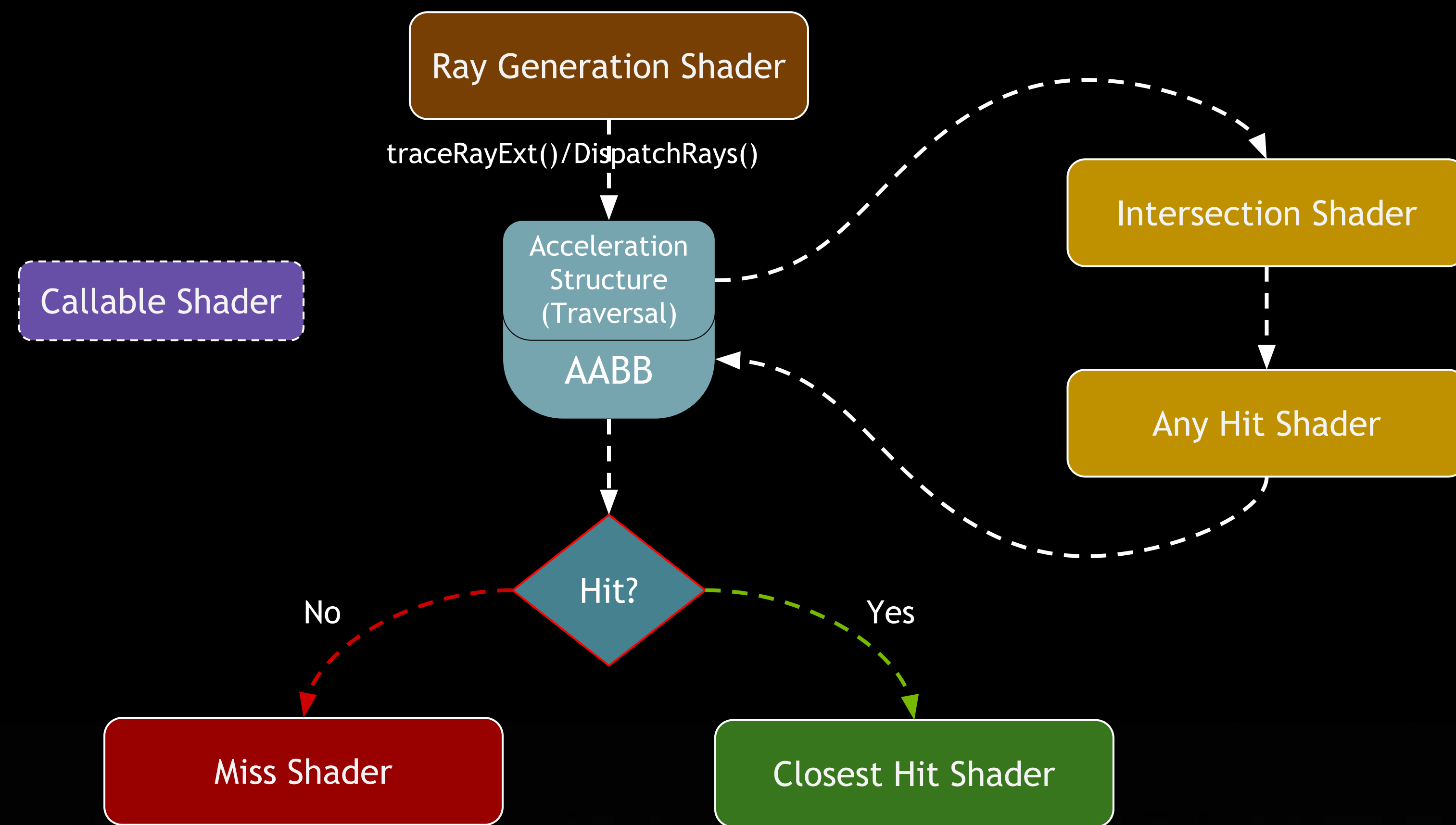
<https://blogs.nvidia.com/blog/2018/03/19/whats-difference-between-ray-tracing-rasterization/>

<https://youtu.be/gBPNO6ruevk>



# RAY TRACING CONCEPTS

And How They Map To The Tools



API Inspector

Event 20 - vkCmdTraceRaysKHR(VkCommandBuffer commandBuffer = '0x00000172321...')

Raytracing Pipeline

Shaders

Index	Type	Name	Hash	Correlation	File Name
0	Session	Session	-	-	-
1	Unattributed	Samples	-	-	-
2	Closest Hit Shader	0x0000025f9d932d70 - main	0x7720444ce7e37799	None	raytrace_rchit
3	Ray Generation Shader	0x0000025f9d933550 - main	0x092883730be47141	GLSL	raytrace_rgen
4	Instance	0xcef2d7d55189bd36	0xcef2d7d55189bd36	GLSL	sass
5	Instance	0x27b0c030897eca7f	0x27b0c030897eca7f	GLSL	sass
6	Miss Shader	0x0000025f9d931e90 - main	0xd4e3ea8f5c18cfdc	GLSL	raytraceShadow_rmiss
7	Ray Tracing Shader	Internal	-	N/A	-
8	Miss Shader	0x0000025f9d932050 - main	0x79c9f10ba5f2cd9d	None	raytrace_rmiss
9	Callable Shader	0x0000025f9d932ad0 - main	0x65b2ac9fcc94d0b4	GLSL	fog_basic_rcall
10	Callable Shader	0x0000025f9d933390 - main	0x61286c3165d58157	None	fog_scattering_rcall

Acceleration Structure Visualization

Name	# Prims	Surface Area	Size
TLAS	2823566	26320	12.125 KB
Instance[0]	18296	5290	-
Instance[1]	23870	8760	-
Instance[2]	23548	8230	-
Instance[3]	20780	11400	-
Instance[4]	18890	13190	-
Instance[5]	21432	12540	-
Instance[6]	113782	6487.5	-
Instance[7]	114824	8860	-
Instance[8]	82988	11737.5	-
Instance[9]	82832	12692.5	-
Instance[10]	90704	15827.5	-
Instance[11]	106888	15425	-
Instance[12]	163146	7217.5	-
Instance[13]	140722	9700	-
Instance[14]	100198	12345	-
Instance[15]	100206	14430	-
Instance[16]	95950	16337.5	-
Instance[17]	181482	11170	-
Instance[18]	163082	8762.5	-
Instance[19]	92444	14897.5	-
Instance[20]	92444	14897.5	6.183 MB
Instance[21]	120716	16732.5	-
Instance[22]	113824	19692.5	-
Instance[23]	108742	22612.5	-
Instance[24]	116292	9920	-
Instance[25]	110514	12640	-
Instance[26]	99024	17440	-
Instance[27]	96398	20460	-
Instance[28]	71702	21837.5	-
Instance[29]	146894	25880	-

Camera Controls

Position (X): 88.707  
Position (Y): 18.324  
Position (Z): 10.297  
Direction (X): 0.118  
Direction (Y): 0.238  
Direction (Z): 0.971  
Near Plane: 0.100  
Far Plane: 10000.000  
FOV: 45.000  
Speed: 1.000  
Up Direction: Y Axis  
Coordinates: LHS  
Reset Camera

Highlight

Opaque: Non-Opaque  
Cull Disabled: Front CCW  
Fast Build: Fast Trace  
Low Memory: Allow Update  
Allow Compaction: No Duplicate Any Hit Invocation

Rendering Options

Shading Mode: Flat Shading  
Color By: Random Per Geometry  
Disable Cut: Show Wireframe  
Show Geometry: Show AABBs

Bookmarks



# BVH ANALYSIS

## Instance Heatmap

The screenshot displays the NVIDIA OptiX Explorer interface for BVH analysis. The central visualization shows a 3D scene with a heatmap overlay, where colors range from blue (low complexity) to red (high complexity). The interface is divided into several panels:

- Acceleration Structure:** A table listing instances with their names, primitive counts, surface areas, and sizes.
- Instance: instance[19]:** A detailed view of a selected instance, showing its custom index, mask, offset, flags, BLAS, and transform.
- Performance Analysis:** Buttons for 'Instance Overlaps...' and 'Instance Heatmap...'.
- Camera Controls:** Settings for camera mode (Fly Camera), position (X, Y, Z), direction (X, Y, Z), near and far planes, FOV, and speed.
- Highlight:** A set of checkboxes for various rendering options like 'Opaque', 'Cull Disabled', 'Fast Build', 'Low Memory', 'Allow Compaction', 'No Duplicate Any Hit Invocation', 'Non-Opaque', 'Front CCW', 'Fast Trace', 'Allow Update', and 'Compacted'.
- Rendering Options:** Settings for 'Color By' (Instance Complexity), 'Instance AABB Mode' (Heatmap), 'AABB Heatmap Threshold' (16,000), and 'Anti-aliasing Mode' (MSAA 4x).
- Bookmarks:** A section for saving and managing scene bookmarks.

Name	# Prims.	Surface Area	Size
ILAS 1bee660000	4586494	2.05622E+12	1.11 MB
instance[2592]	85509	8.03994E+07	-
instance[19]	84194	59030.9	-
instance[2591]	35604	7.27741E+07	-
instance[3]	29541	374434	-
instance[878]	24297	126576	-
instance[879]	24297	123002	-
instance[901]	24297	121177	-
instance[902]	24297	114550	-
instance[922]	24279	175593	-
instance[923]	24279	164886	-
instance[939]	24279	165020	-
instance[1147]	24279	116876	-
instance[1148]	24279	157564	-
instance[1149]	24279	151079	-
instance[1150]	24279	113369	-
instance[1151]	24279	139323	-
instance[1152]	24279	143545	-
instance[1153]	24279	161917	-
instance[1154]	24279	135617	-
instance[1155]	24279	113363	-
instance[1156]	24279	148607	-
instance[1157]	24279	120212	-
instance[1158]	24279	125626	-
instance[1159]	24279	117945	-
instance[040]	23512	135594	-
instance[841]	23512	137154	-
instance[891]	23512	108474	-
instance[910]	23512	131999	-
instance[911]	23512	159755	-
instance[540]	23446	129344	-
instance[549]	23446	110316	-
instance[550]	23446	136514	-
instance[854]	23446	103565	-
instance[855]	23446	110351	-

**Instance: instance[19]**

Instance Custom Index: 1401  
Mask: 0b0001011  
Instance Offset: 56  
Flags: FRONT\_CCW  
BLAS: BLAS 1c01b70000  
1.000, 0.000, 0.000, 0.000  
0.000, 1.000, 0.000, 0.000  
0.000, 0.000, 1.000, 0.000

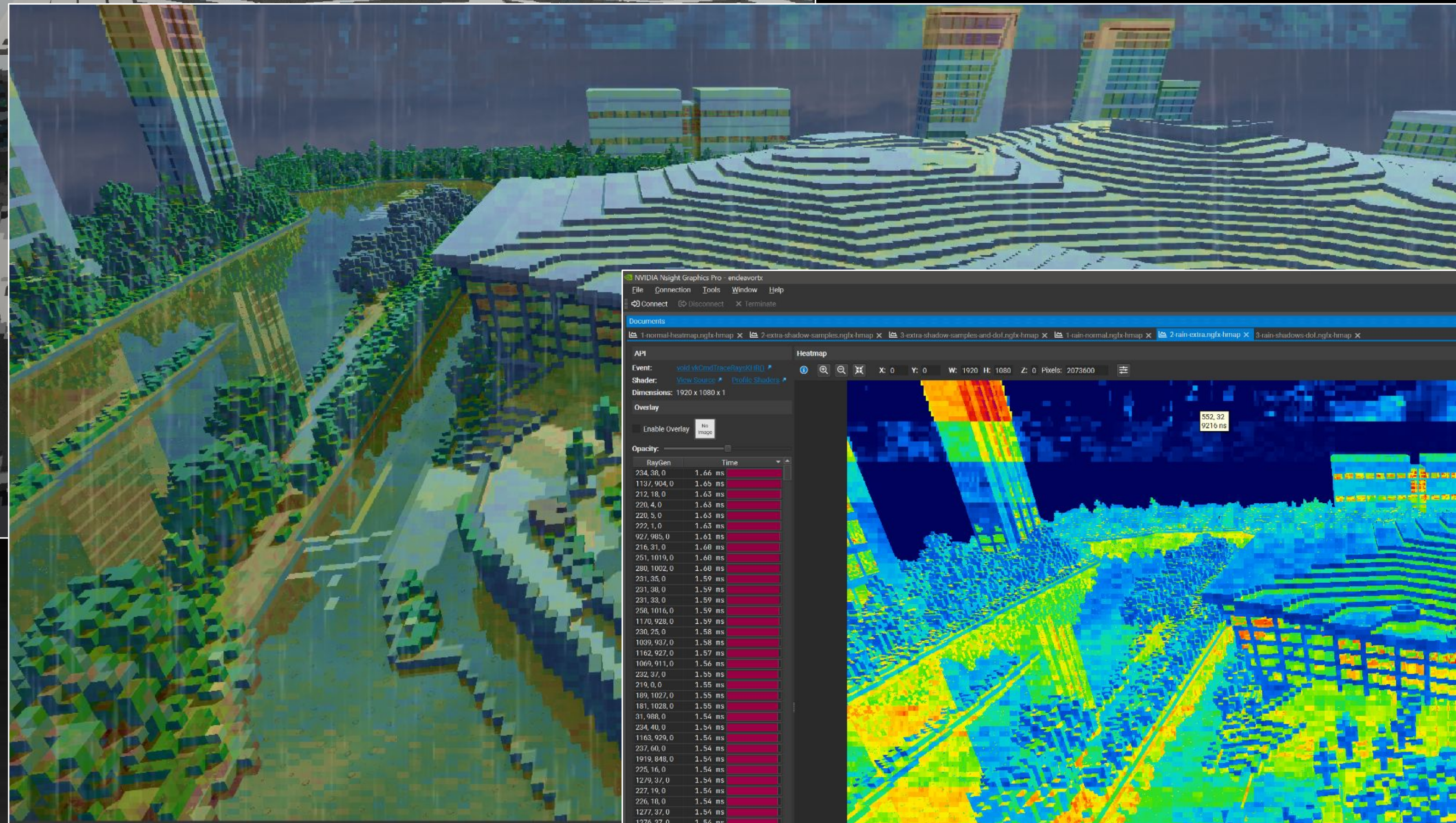
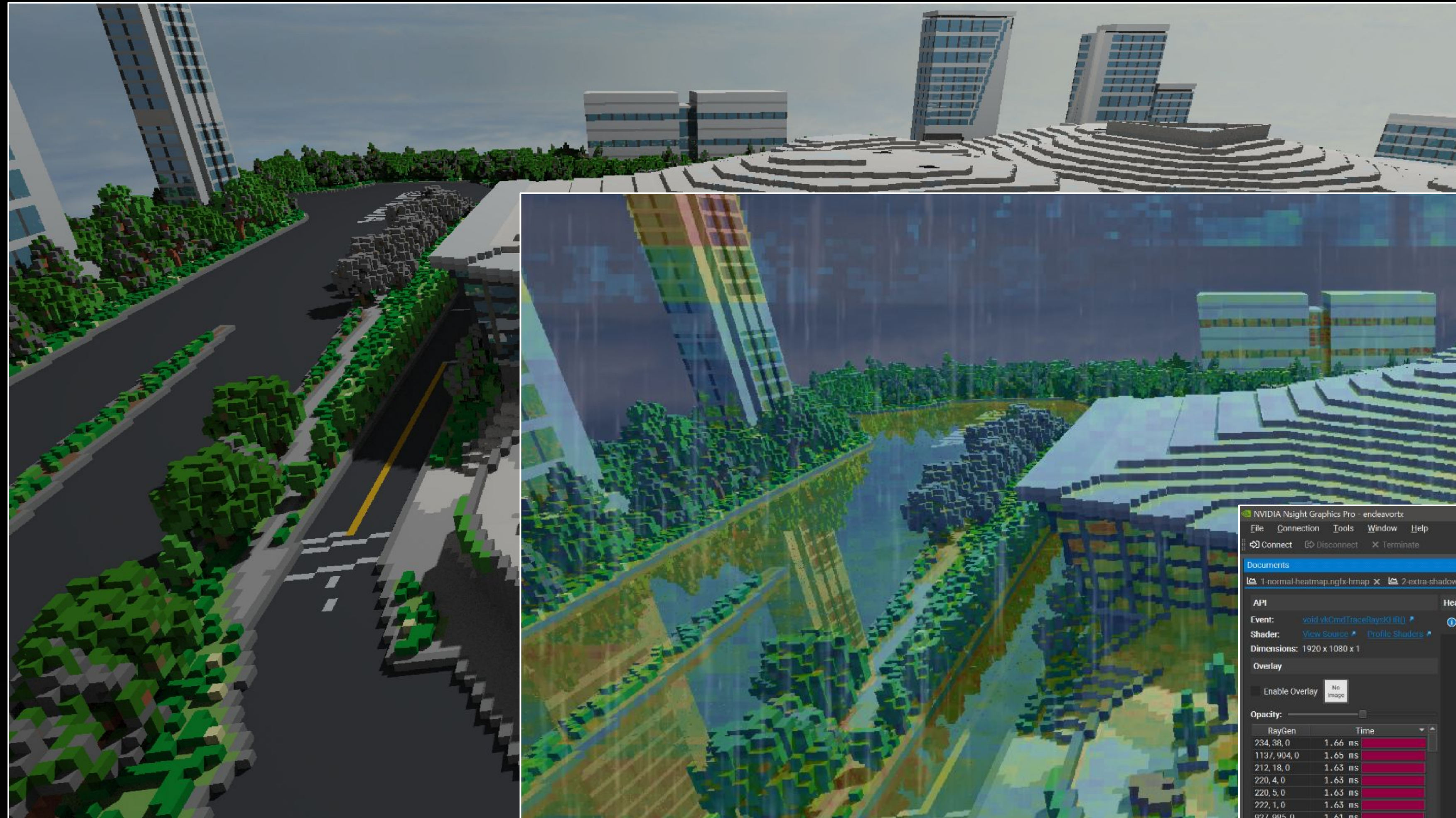
**Performance Analysis**

Instance Overlaps... Instance Heatmap...



# SHADER TIMING HEATMAP

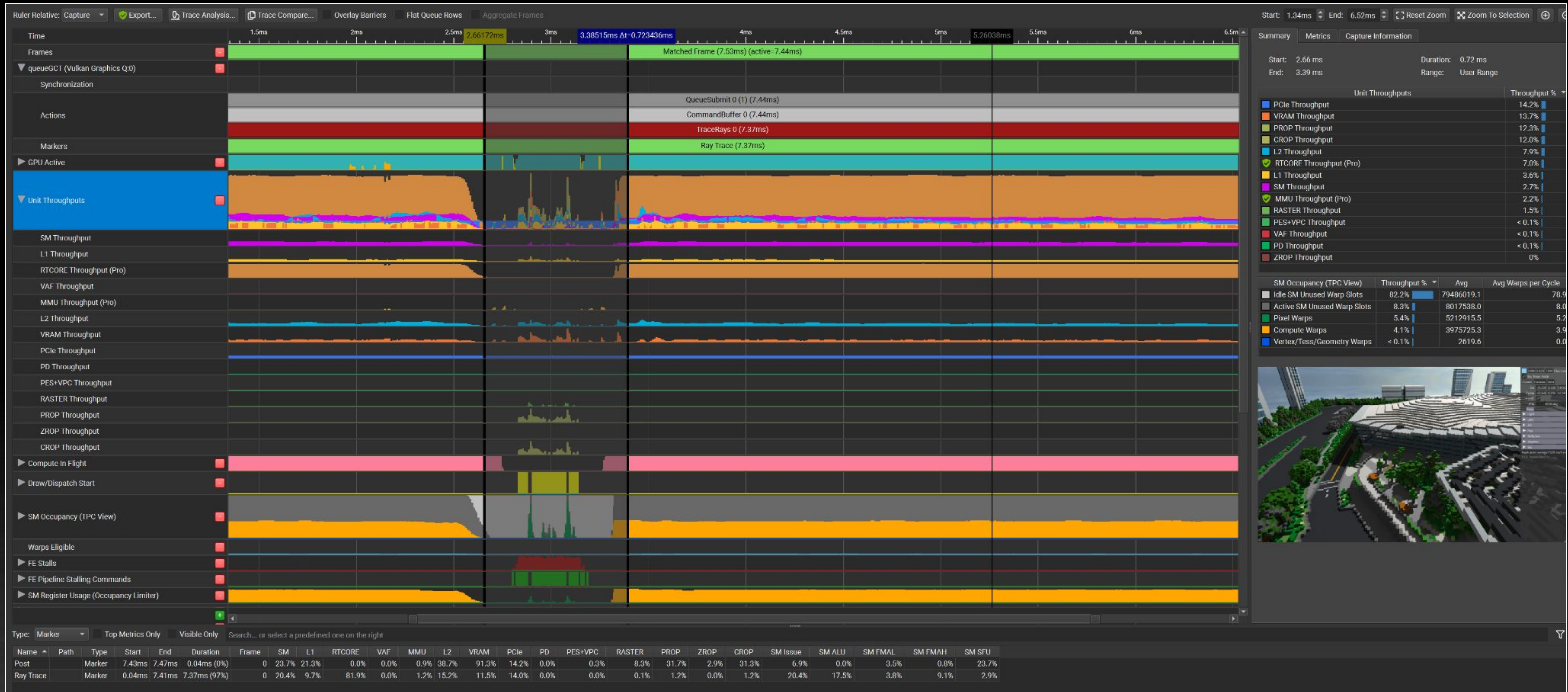
## Ray Tracing Hotspot Analysis





# GPU TRACE

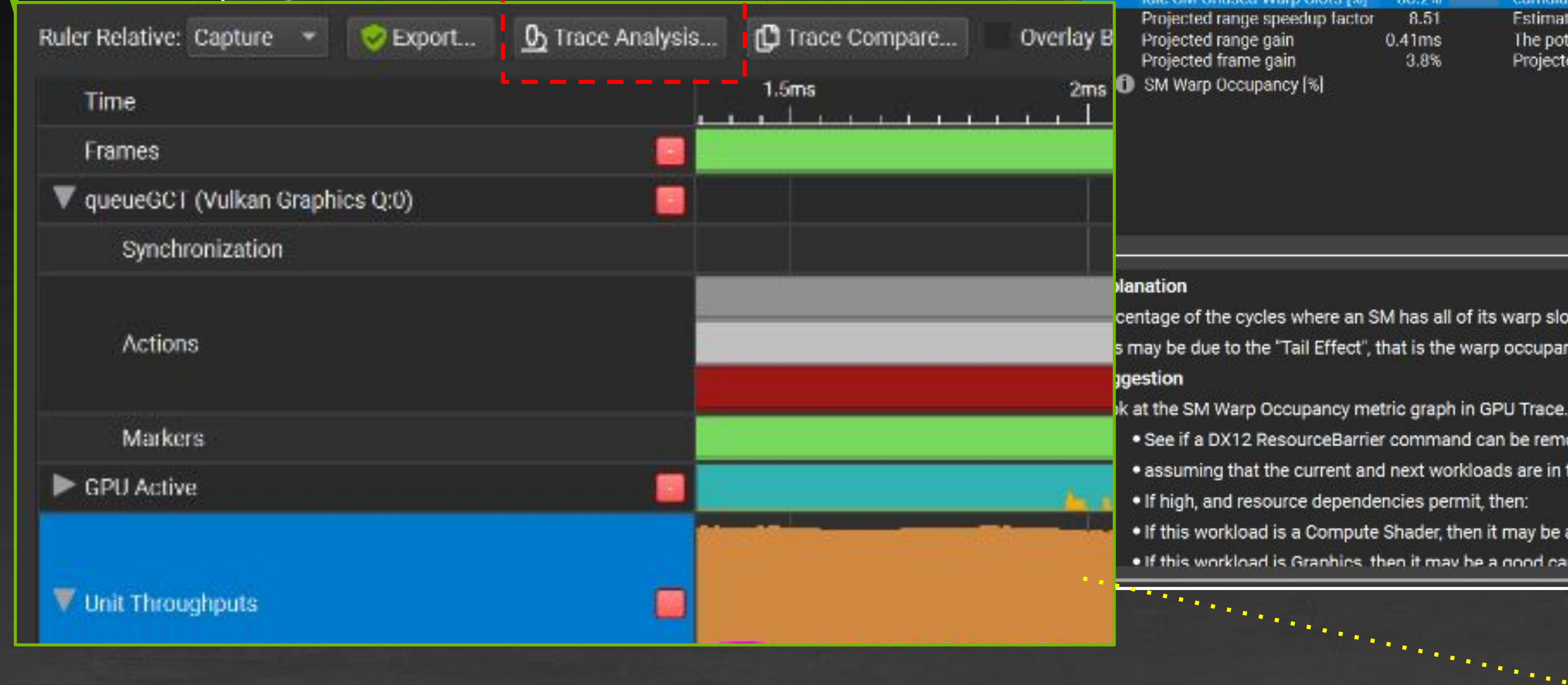
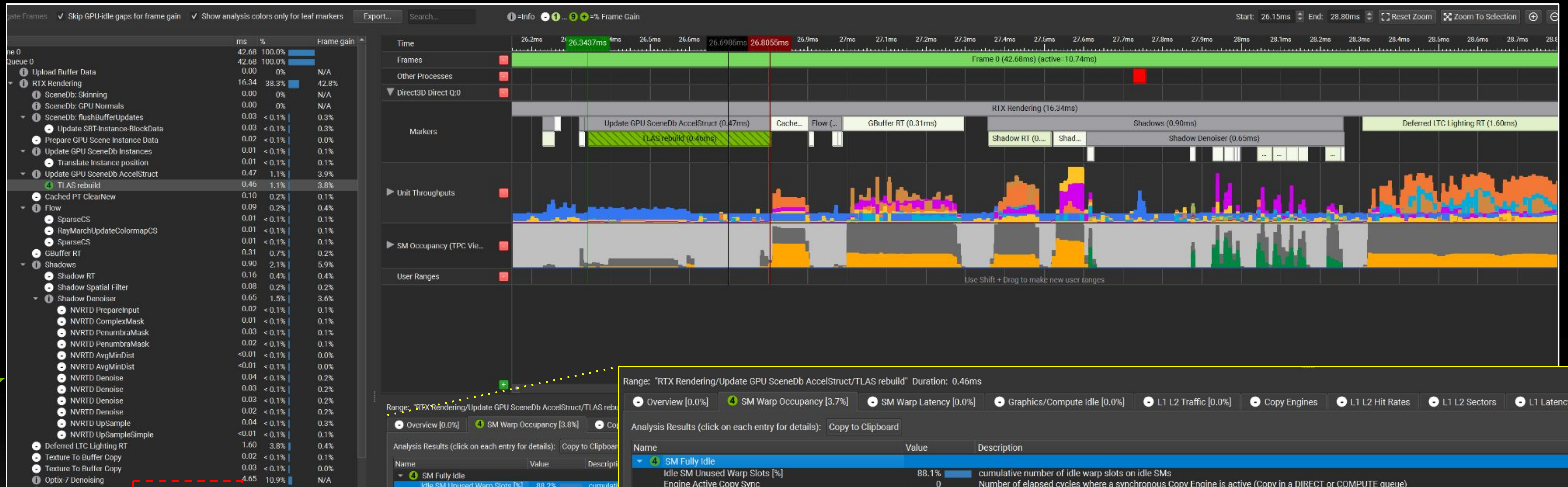
## Low-level Metrics Graph Profiler





# GPU TRACE

## Trace Analysis



Range: "RTX Rendering/Update GPU SceneDb AccelStruct/TLAS rebuild" Duration: 0.46ms

Overview [0.0%] 4 SM Warp Occupancy [3.7%] SM Warp Latency [0.0%] Graphics/Compute Idle [0.0%] L1 L2 Traffic [0.0%] Copy Engines L1 L2 Hit Rates L1 L2 Sectors L1 Latency

Analysis Results (click on each entry for details): Copy to Clipboard

Name	Value	Description
4 SM Fully Idle		
Idle SM Unused Warp Slots [%]	88.1%	cumulative number of idle warp slots on idle SMs
Engine Active Copy Sync	0	Number of elapsed cycles where a synchronous Copy Engine is active (Copy in a DIRECT or COMPUTE queue)
Engine Active Copy Async	0	Number of elapsed cycles where an asynchronous Copy Engine is active (Copy in a COPY queue)
Projected range speedup factor	8.40	Estimation of the ratio between the current GPU time for the range divided by the projected GPU time for the range (2.0 means the range may get 2x faster)
Projected range gain	0.40ms	The potential reduction in time for the range (based on the projected range speedup factor)
Projected frame gain	3.7%	Projected frame Gain in % based on the speedup factor of the current range, and the % of the GPU frame time that this range is taking (1.0% means the fr

1 Warp Launch Stalled by CS Register Count  
 0 Warp Launch Stalled by CS Warp Slots  
 0 Warp Launch Stalled by CS Shared-Memory Size  
 0 Warp Launch Stalled by CS Thread-Group Slots  
 1 Warp Launch Stalled by Reasons [Cycles]

**Explanation**  
 Percentage of the cycles where an SM has all of its warp slots empty (SM is fully idle).  
 This may be due to the "Tail Effect", that is the warp occupancy going down at the end of a SM workload before a Wait For Idle.

**Suggestion**  
 Look at the SM Warp Occupancy metric graph in GPU Trace. If a significant tail is there, then:

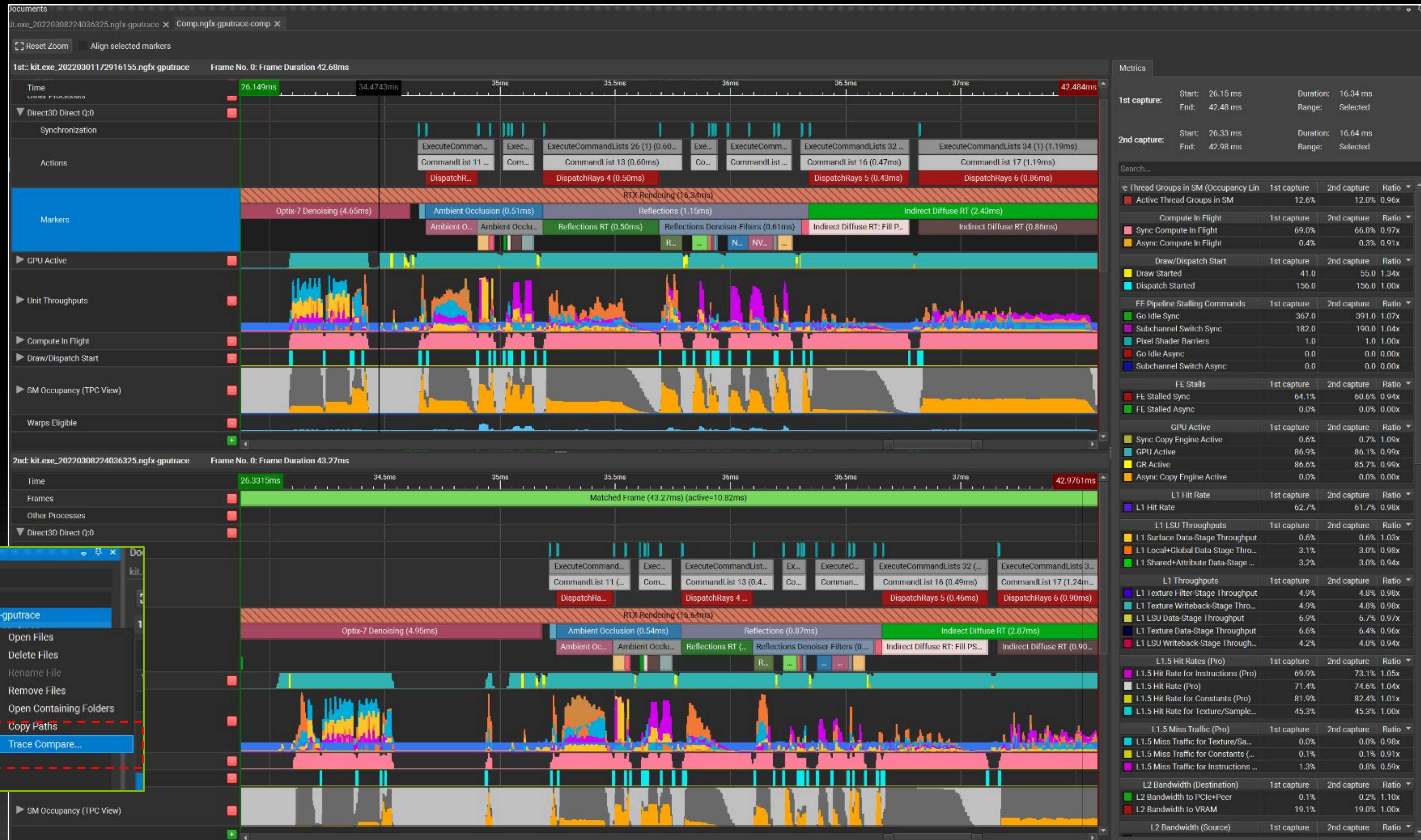
- See if a DX12 ResourceBarrier command can be removed at the end of the current workload, to let it execute concurrently with the next one,
- assuming that the current and next workloads are in the same subchannel (Graphics or Compute).
- If high, and resource dependencies permit, then:
- If this workload is a Compute Shader, then it may be a good candidate for being moved to an async-compute queue.
- If this workload is Graphics, then it may be a good candidate to be overlapped with async-compute work.

• See also: <https://devblogs.nvidia.com/the-peak-performance-analysis-method-for-optimizing-any-gpu-workload/#5.1.2>



# GPU TRACE

## Trace Compare



Project Explorer

Search project...

- omni marbles
- kit.exe\_20220301172916155.ngfx-gputrace
- kit.exe\_20220308224036325.n...

- Open Files
- Delete Files
- Rename File
- Remove Files
- Open Containing Folders
- Copy Paths
- Trace Compare...



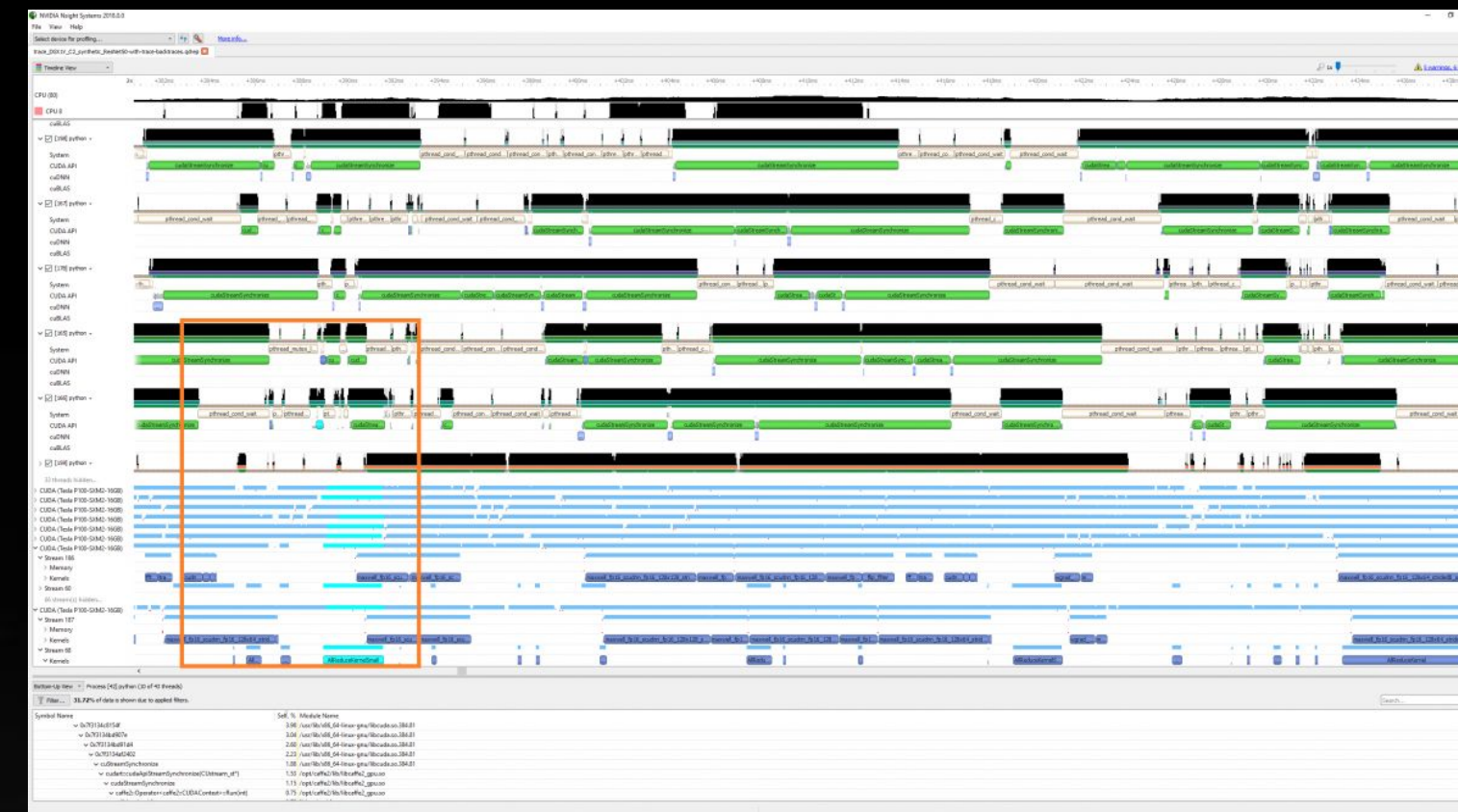
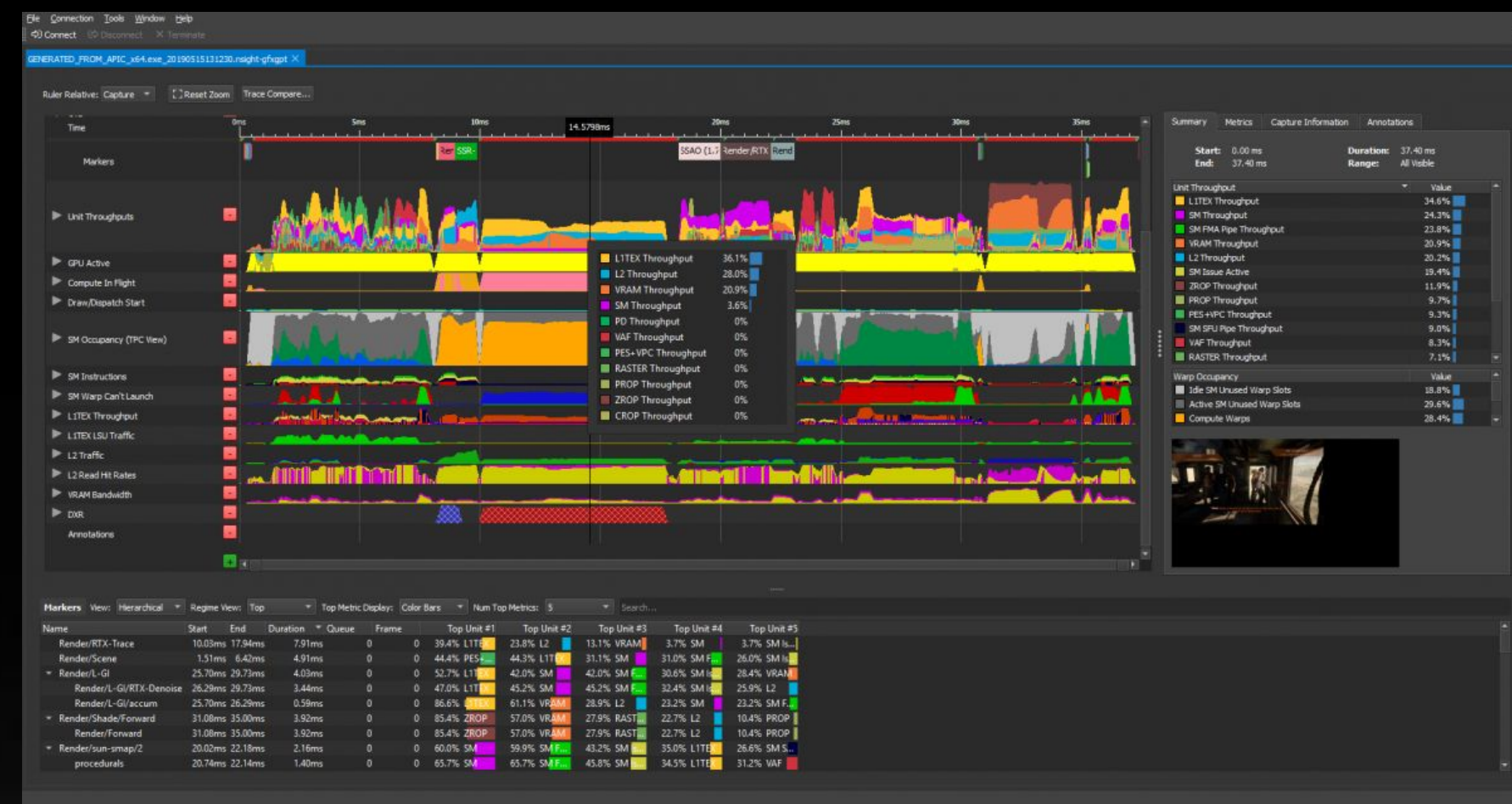




# NSIGHT PERF SDK

Understand performance more effectively

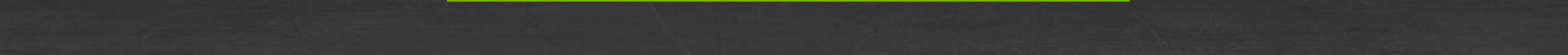
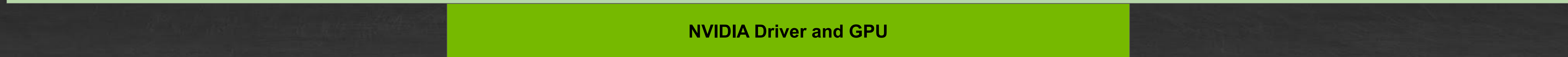
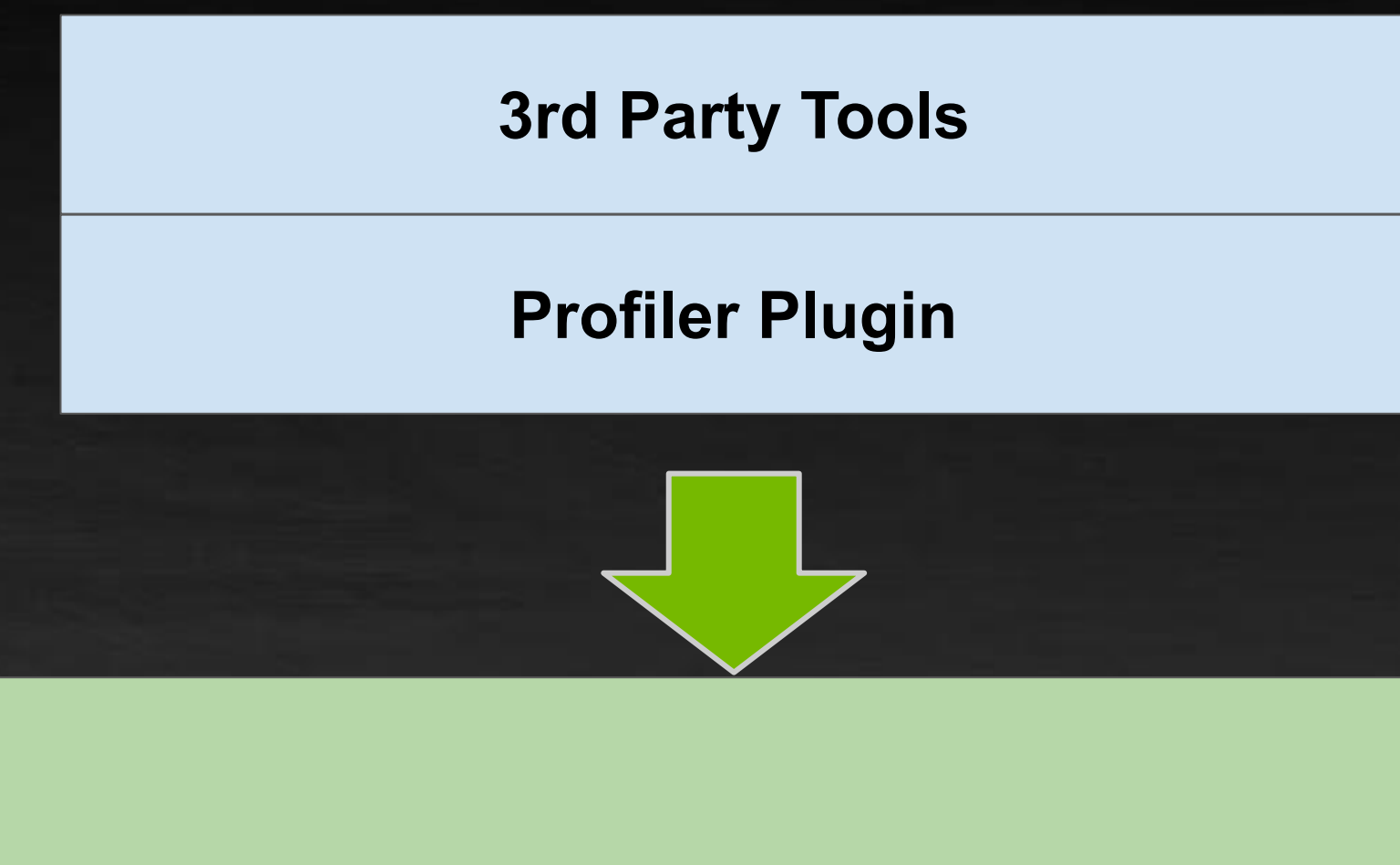
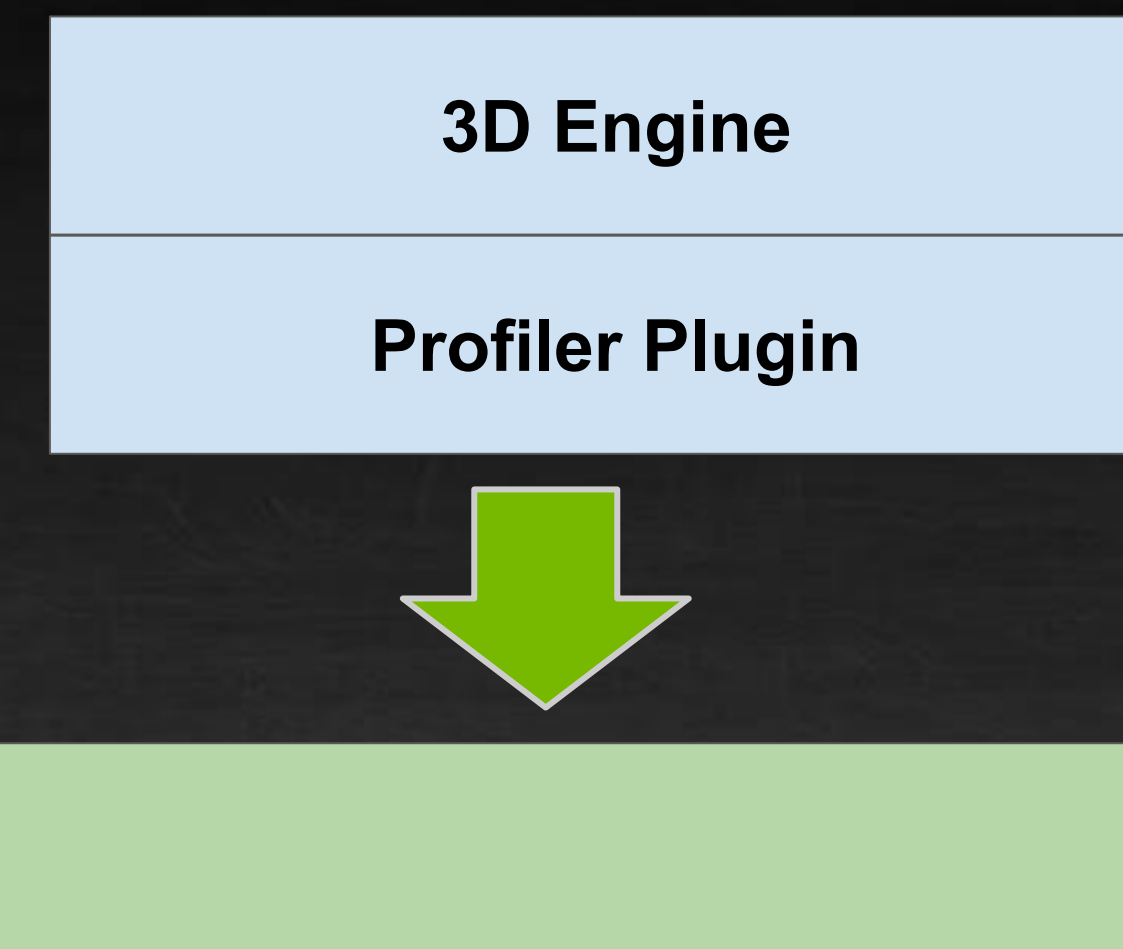
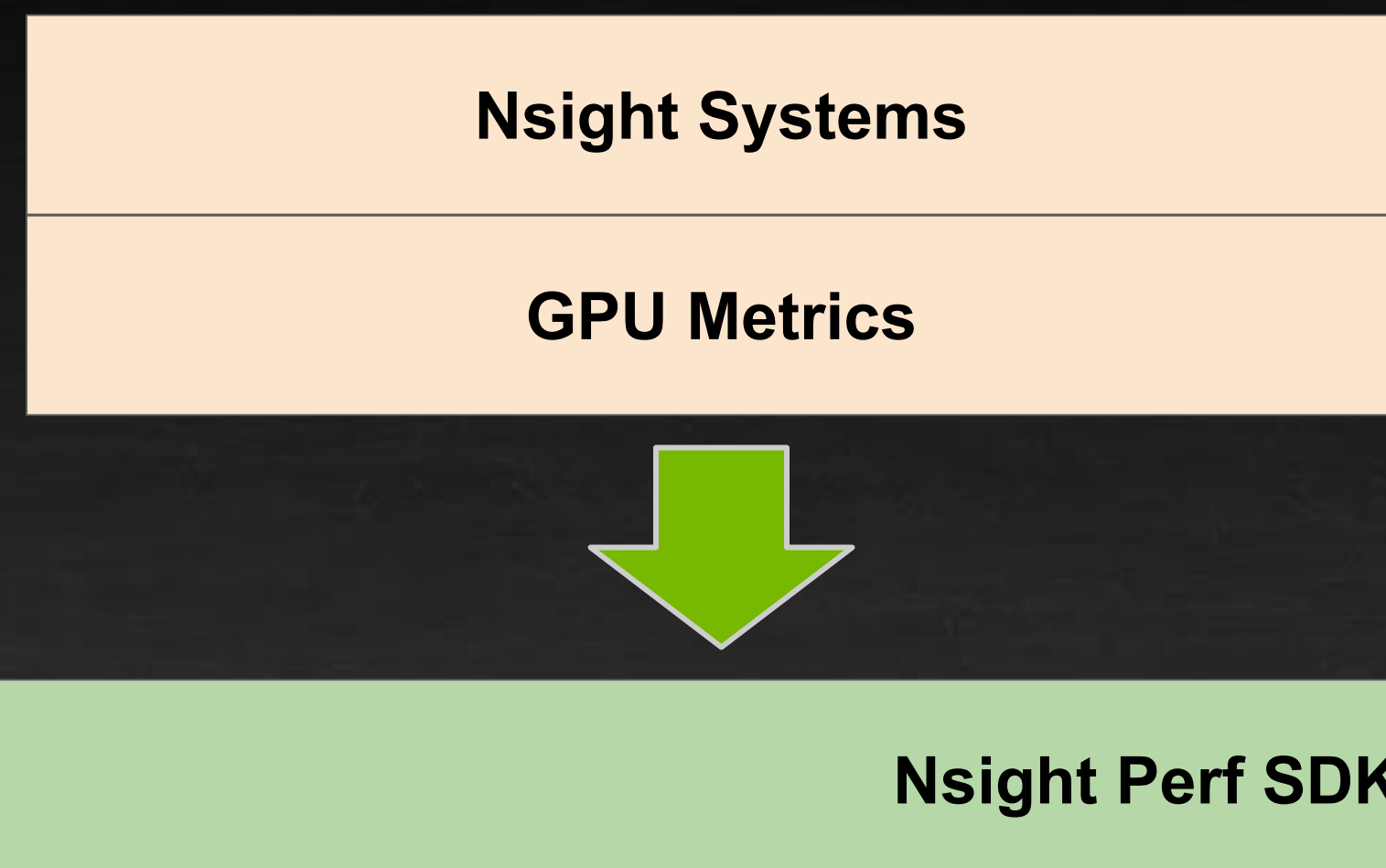
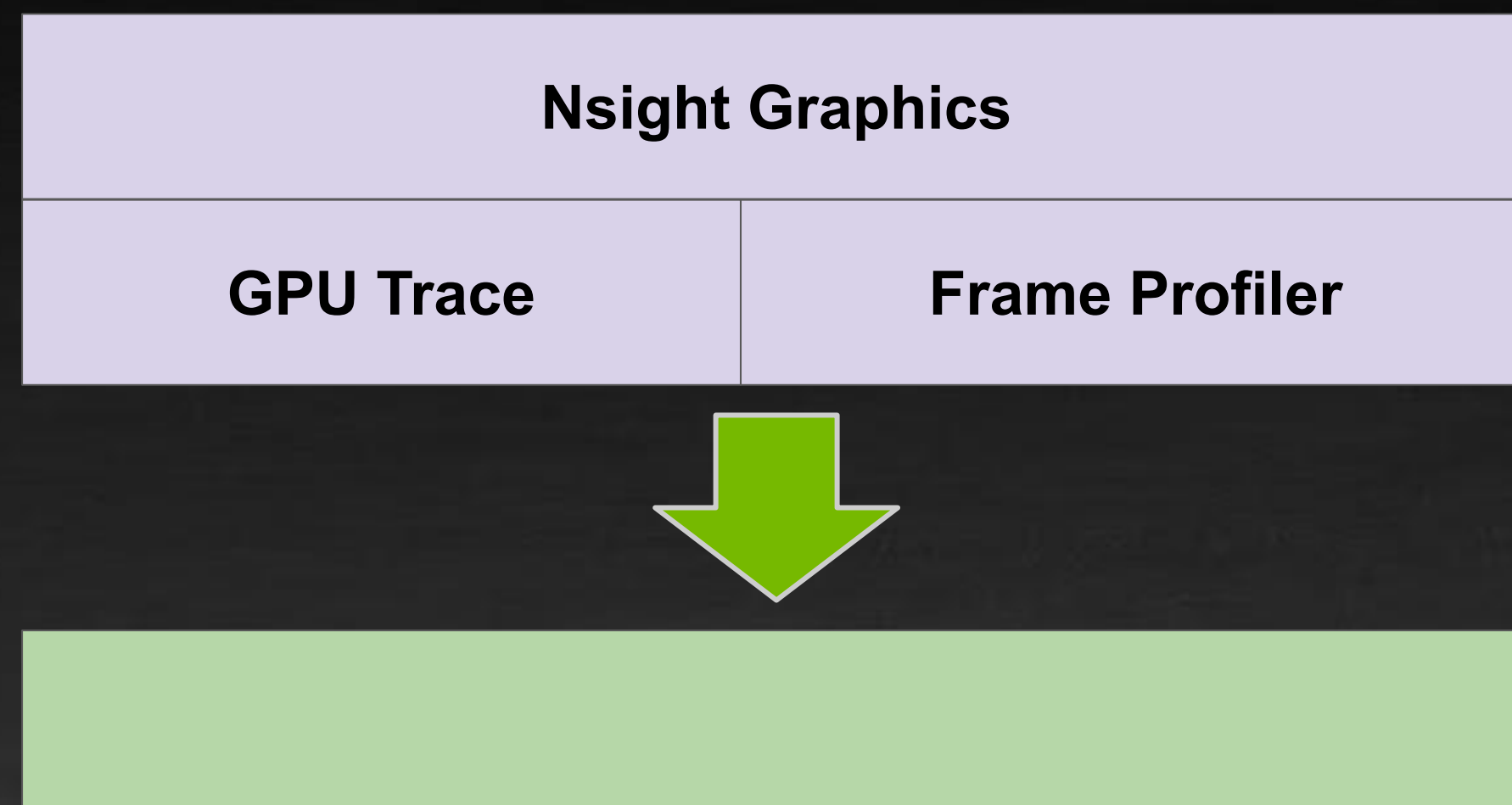
It's a library (& API) that enables games to Collect GPU Performance Counters  
Very Low CPU and GPU Overhead  
In-Application Integration via an intuitive API



Your  
Renderer  
Here!

A screenshot of the Nsight Perf SDK interface showing a table of GPU performance metrics. The table has columns for Queue ID, Global ID, Name, Duration (ms), EDP to EDP, raster, input, output, and cycles. The data is as follows:

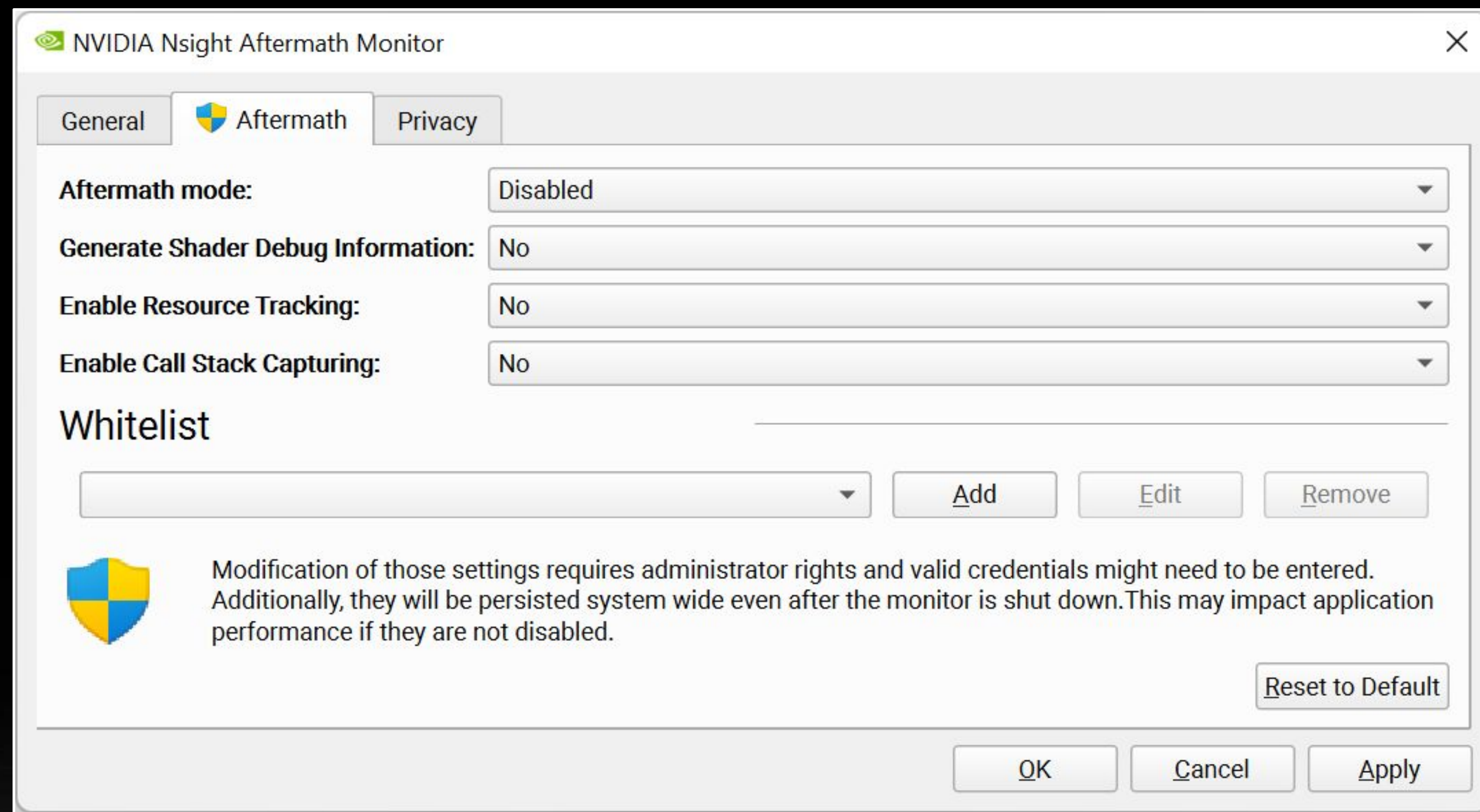
Queue ID	Global ID	Name	Duration (ms)	EDP to EDP	raster	input	output	cycles
0	1	RenderQueueData[0] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	15,852	0	0	0	0	0
0	2	RenderQueueData[1] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	3	RenderQueueData[2] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	1,693,214	2,527,152	181,991	0	7,480	0
0	4	RenderQueueData[3] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	112,764	0	0	0	0	0
0	5	RenderQueueData[4] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	38,341	0	0	0	0	0
0	6	RenderQueueData[5] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	186,493	0	0	0	0	0
0	7	RenderQueueData[6] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	151,472	0	0	0	0	0
0	8	RenderQueueData[7] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	48,288	0	0	0	0	0
0	9	RenderQueueData[8] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	2,432	0	0	0	0	0
0	10	RenderQueueData[9] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	66,288	0	0	0	0	0
0	11	RenderQueueData[10] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	872,888	2,525,888	52,364	0	0	0
0	12	RenderQueueData[11] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	66,288	0	0	0	0	0
0	13	RenderQueueData[12] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	2,888	0	0	0	0	0
0	14	RenderQueueData[13] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	5,128	0	0	0	0	0
0	15	RenderQueueData[14] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	186,354	0	0	0	0	0
0	16	RenderQueueData[15] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	793,454	2,523,361	89,968	0	0	0
0	17	RenderQueueData[16] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	2,888	0	0	0	0	0
0	18	RenderQueueData[17] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	25,728	0	0	0	0	0
0	19	RenderQueueData[18] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	32	4,274	361	0	0	0
0	20	RenderQueueData[19] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	39,424	24,128	3,084	0	0	0
0	21	RenderQueueData[20] (0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111, 0x11111111)	129,384	48,344	13,360	0	0	0





# NSIGHT AFTERMATH

## Multiple ways to use it

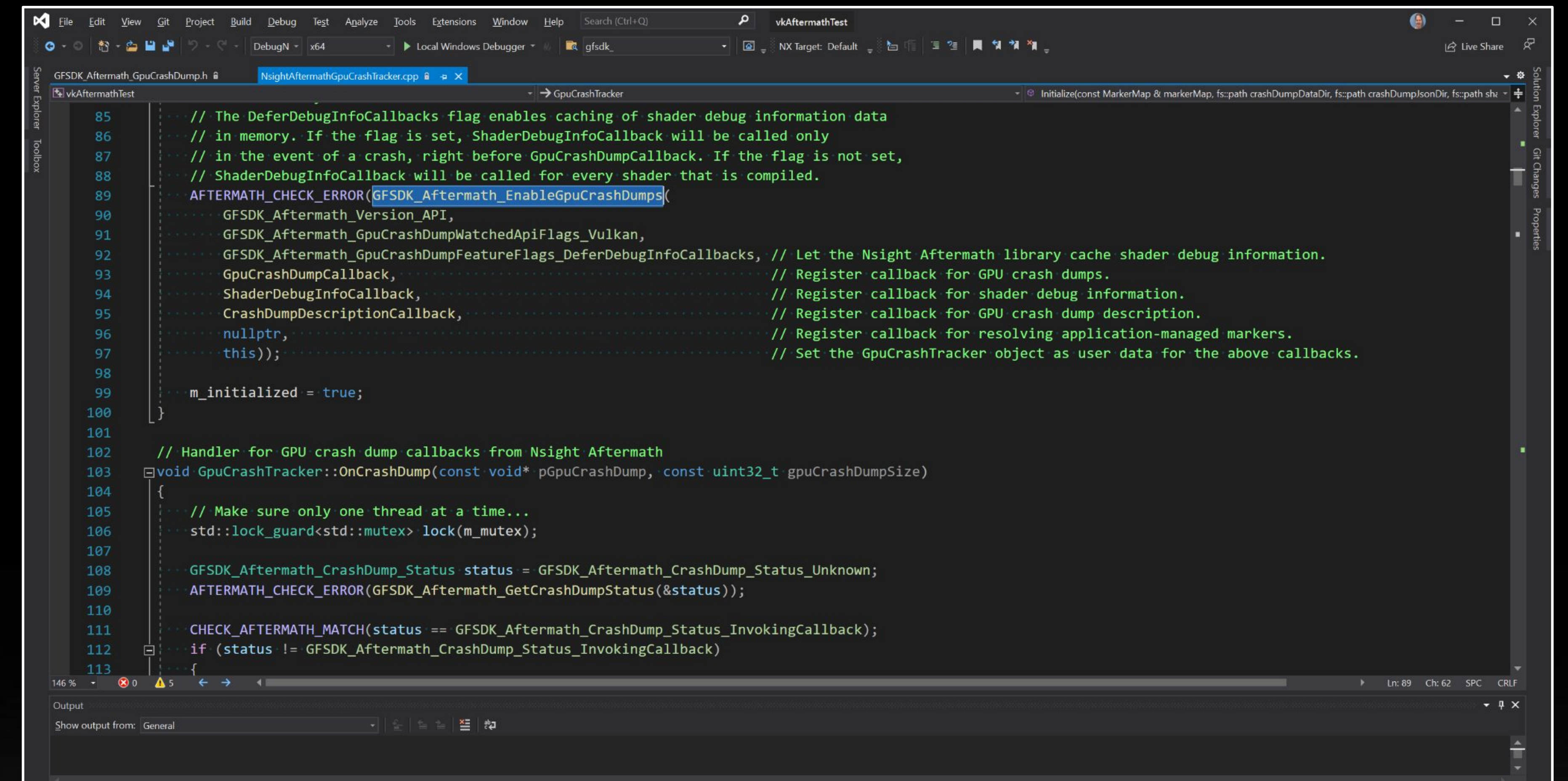


### Nsight Aftermath Monitor

Automatically save GPU crash dumps

No code changes necessary

Control over settings, paths, etc.



### Nsight Aftermath SDK

Full control over GPU crash dump serialization

Fine grained setup

User markers to narrow down faulting workload



# WE'RE HIRING!

[www.nvidia.com/en-us/about-nvidia/careers](http://www.nvidia.com/en-us/about-nvidia/careers)

GPU Debugging Tools Engineering Manager

GPU Debugging Tools Engineer

Game Console Developer Tools Engineer

GPU Profiling Tools Engineer

Shader Tools Engineer

Senior UX Designer

Product Manager

...and more!





# THANK YOU!

[developer.nvidia.com/tools-overview](https://developer.nvidia.com/tools-overview)

Contact us at [DevTools@nvidia.com](mailto:DevTools@nvidia.com)

