

Introducing Metal 2

Session 601

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Richard Schreyer, GPU Software Engineer



Make expensive things happen once

GPU in the driving seat

New experiences



VR with Metal 2

Hall 3

Wednesday 10:00AM



Using Metal 2 for Compute

Grand Ballroom A

Thursday 4:10PM



Using Metal 2 for Compute

Grand Ballroom A

Thursday 4:10PM

The screenshot displays the Xcode GPU Frame Debugger interface. On the left, a list of GPU commands is shown, including various CommandBuffer and RenderCommandEncoder operations. The central panel shows a table of resources used by the selected frame, categorized into Vertex and Fragment stages. The right panel shows a 3D scene with a house and a circular selection on the ground, with a color picker tool visible. The bottom panel compares the render pipeline state for two frames, showing details for RenderPipelineState, RenderPipeline Performance, and various buffers and textures.

Label	Type	Size	Details
Vertex			
Buffer 0x108f18f90	Index	256 bytes	Offset: 0xc
Buffer 0x2f7f88990	Buffer 0	32 MB	Offset: 0x5b8e00
Buffer 0x2f7f88990	Buffer 30	32 MB	Offset: 0x5b8f00
Vertex Attributes	Vertex Attributes		
Main	Vertex Function		Library 0x108b720...
Fragment			
Tonemap	Texture 0	1400 x 876	BGRA8Unorm
Texture 0x21ce37b10	Texture 1	1400 x 876	Depth24Unorm_Ste...
Texture 0x17b0c5860	Color 0	1400 x 875	BGRA8Unorm
Buffer 0x2f7f88990	Buffer 0	32 MB	Offset: 0x5b7f00
Buffer 0x2f7f88990	Buffer 1	32 MB	Offset: 0x5b8d00
Buffer 0x2f7f88990	Buffer 2	32 MB	Offset: 0x5b8c00
Buffer 0x2f7f88990	Buffer 3	32 MB	Offset: 0x5b8700
Sampler 0x10bceaa50	Sampler 0		
Sampler 0x10bceaa50	Sampler 1		
Main	Fragment Function		Library 0x11fb3a...

Introducing Metal 2

Agenda

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Argument Buffers

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Agenda

Argument Buffers

Raster Order Groups

Introducing Metal 2

Agenda

Argument Buffers

Raster Order Groups

ProMotion Displays

Introducing Metal 2

Agenda

Argument Buffers

Raster Order Groups

ProMotion Displays

Direct to Display

Introducing Metal 2

Agenda

Argument Buffers

Raster Order Groups

ProMotion Displays

Direct to Display

Everything Else

Argument Buffers

Material Example

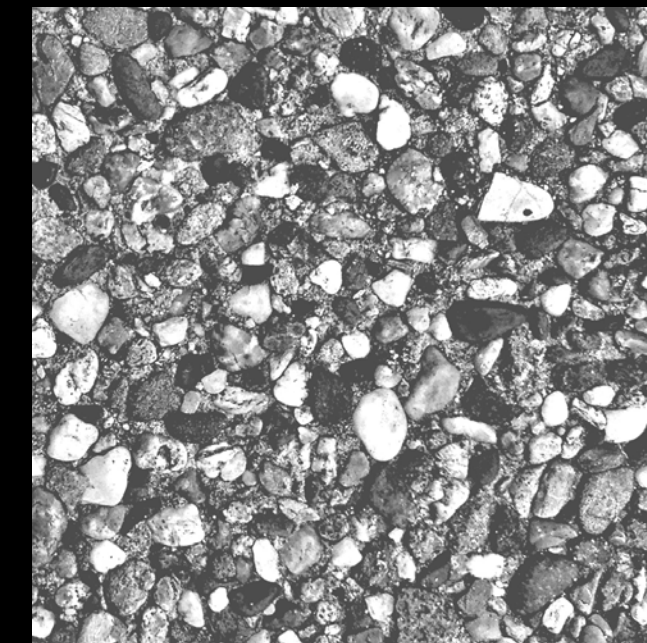
roughness : **0.6**

intensity : **0.3**

surfaceTexture

specularTexture

sampler



Material Example

roughness

intensity

surfaceTexture

specularTexture

sampler

Traditional Argument Model

roughness

intensity

surfaceTexture

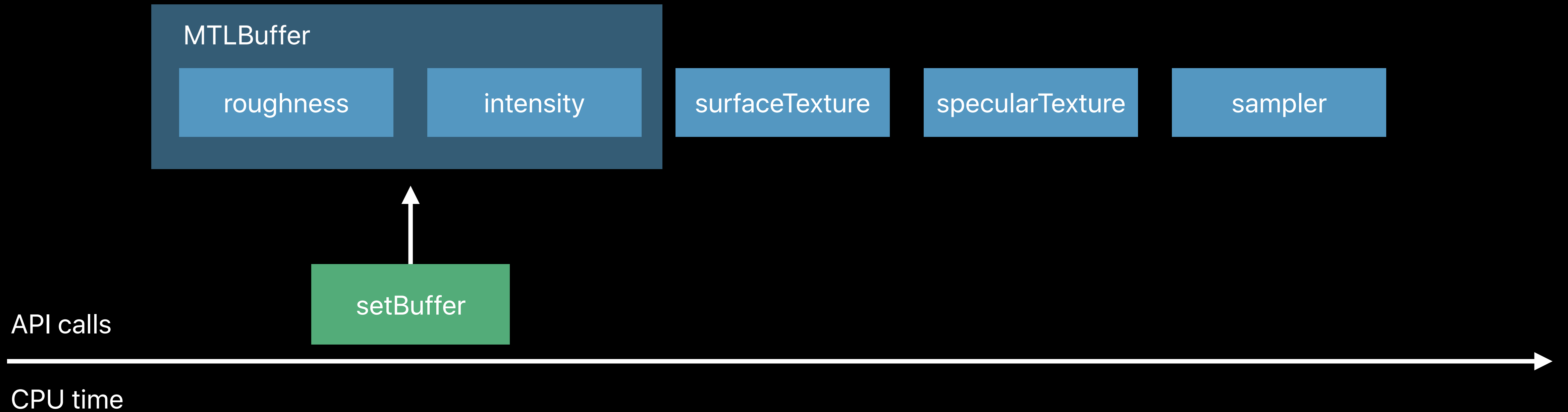
specularTexture

sampler

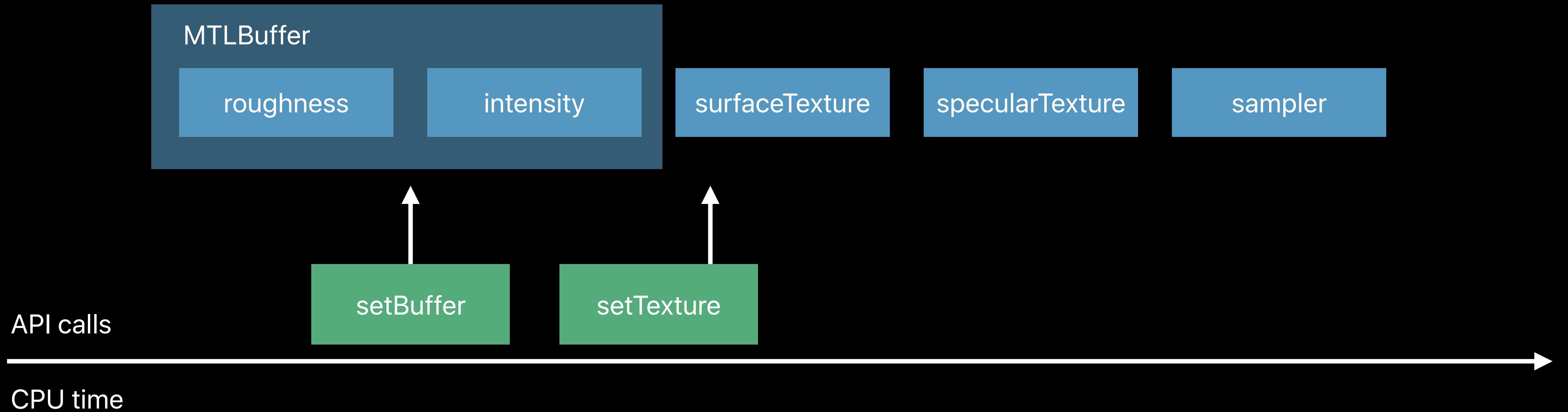
Traditional Argument Model



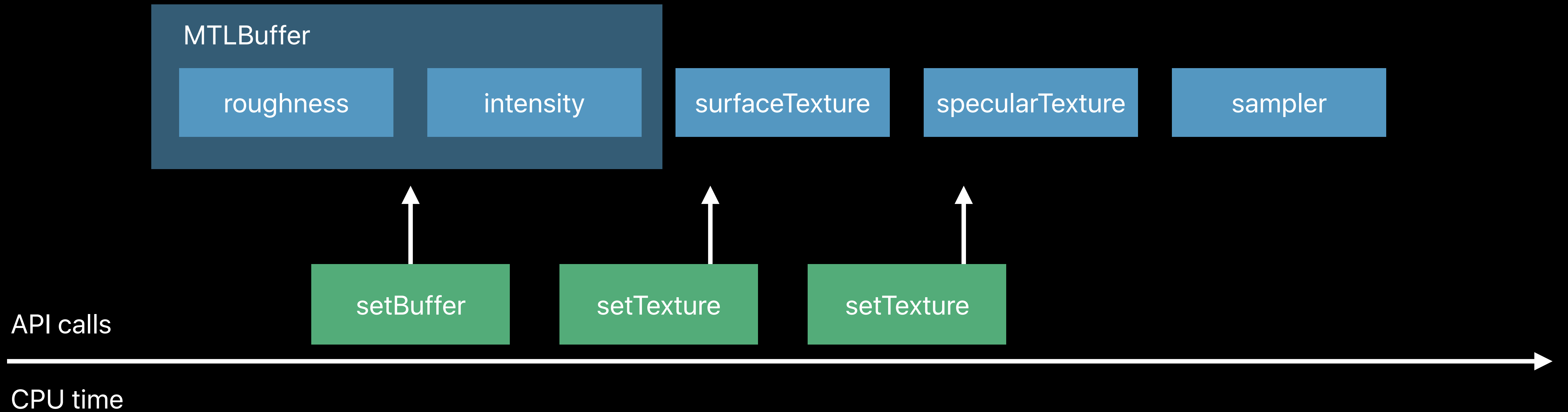
Traditional Argument Model



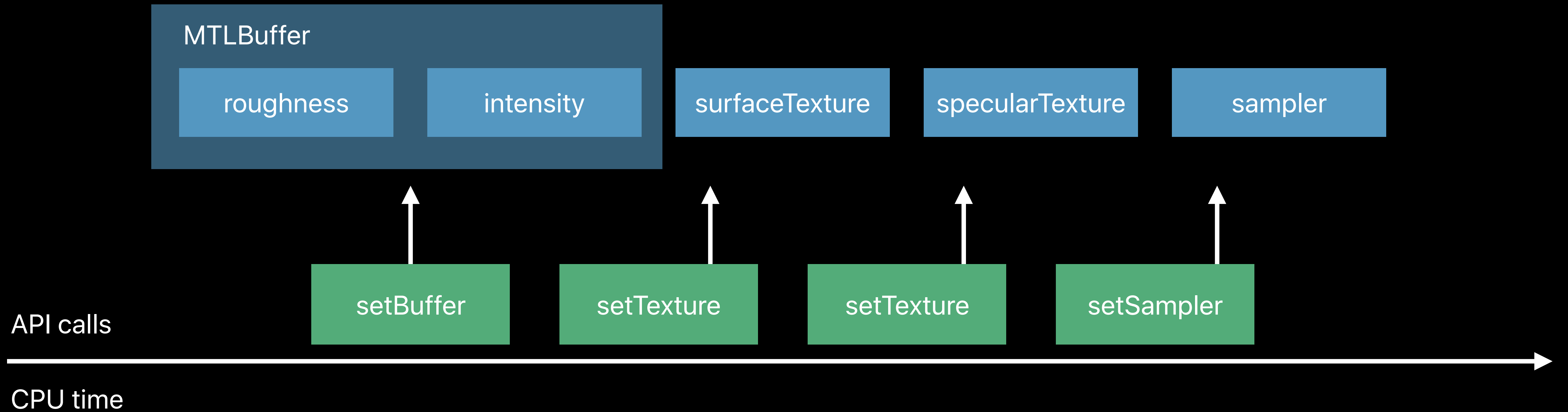
Traditional Argument Model



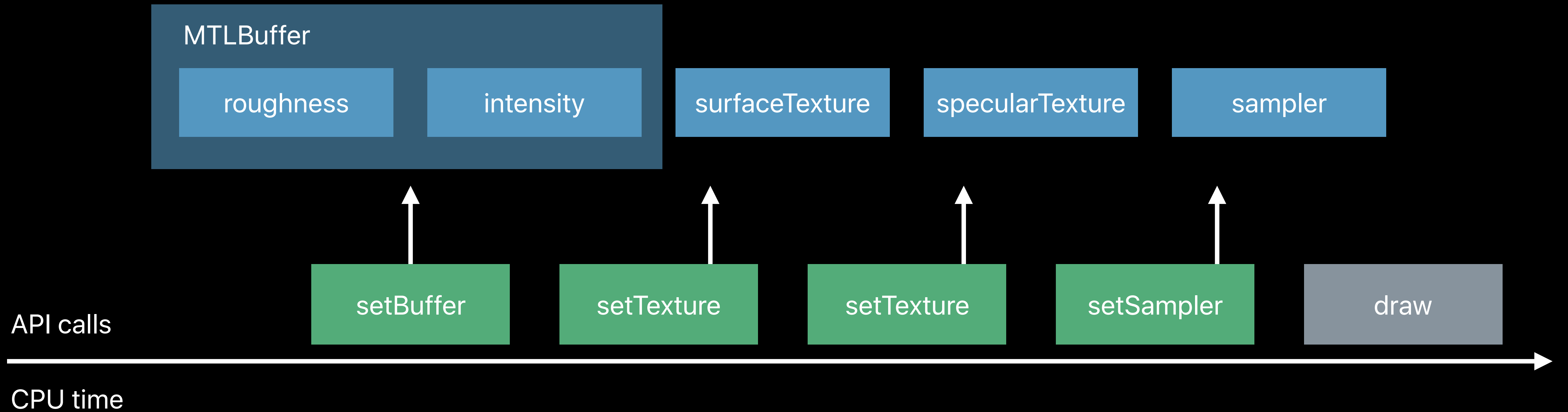
Traditional Argument Model



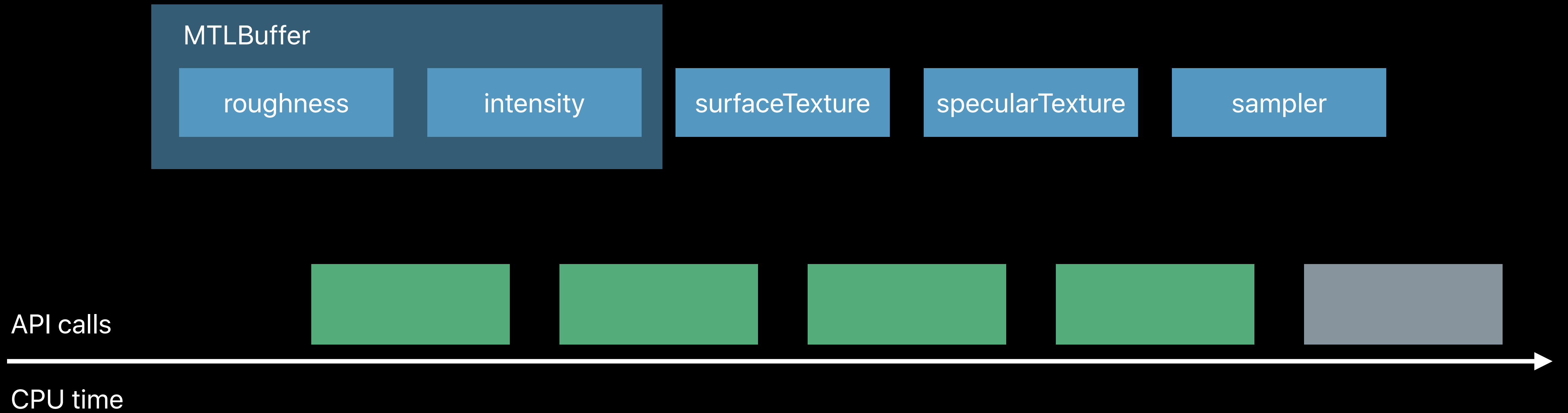
Traditional Argument Model



Traditional Argument Model



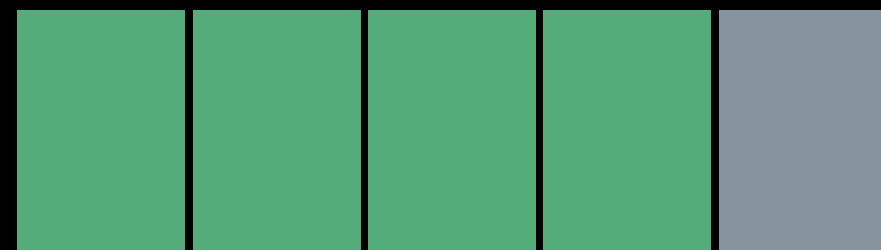
Traditional Argument Model



Traditional Argument Model



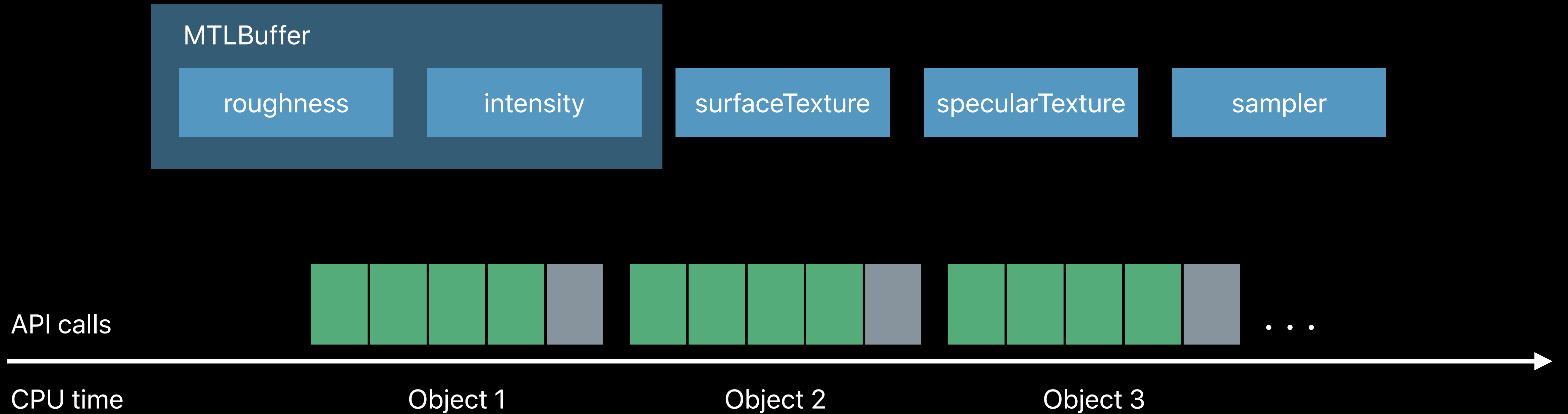
API calls



CPU time



Traditional Argument Model



Argument Buffers



Argument Buffers

MTLBuffer

roughness

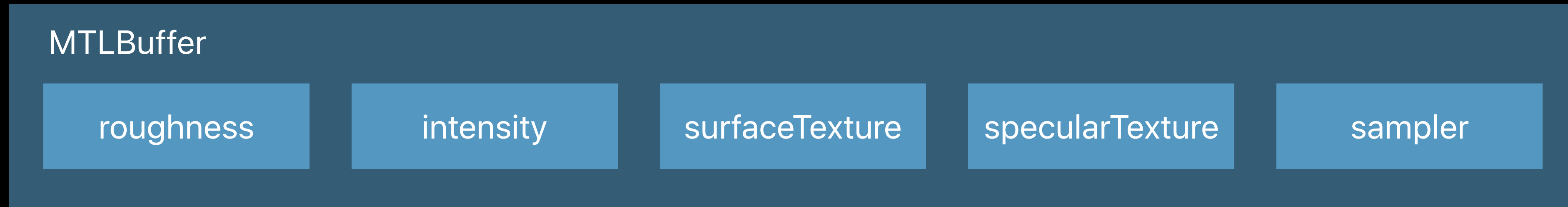
intensity

surfaceTexture

specularTexture

sampler

Argument Buffers

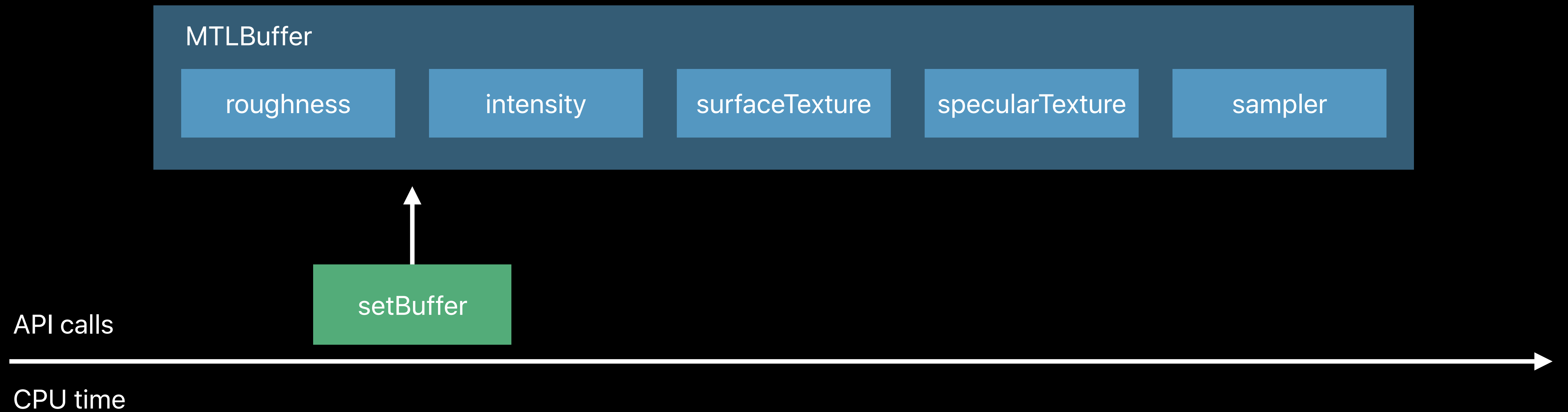


API calls

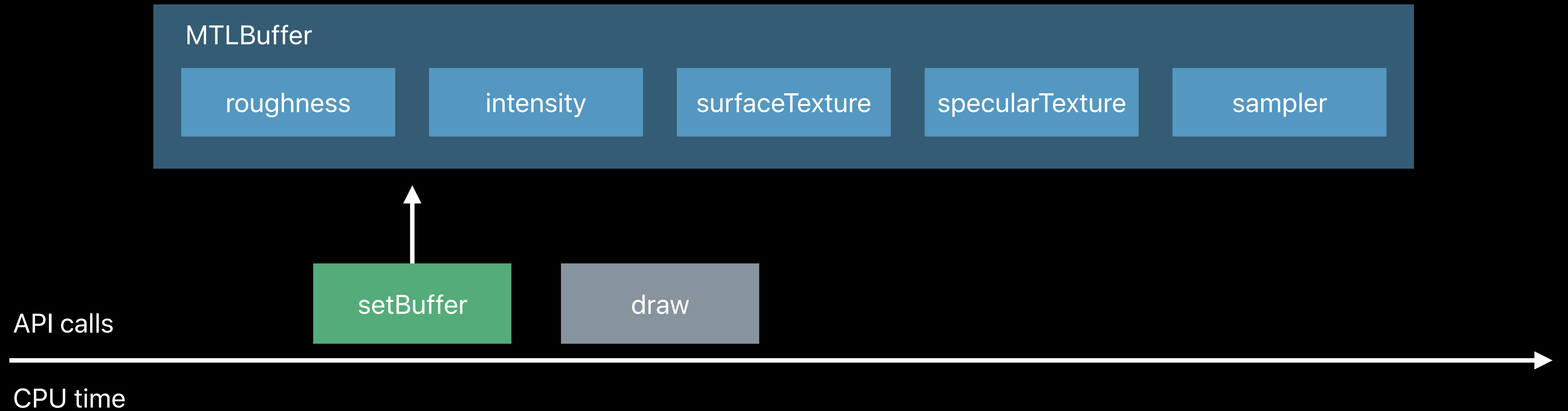


CPU time

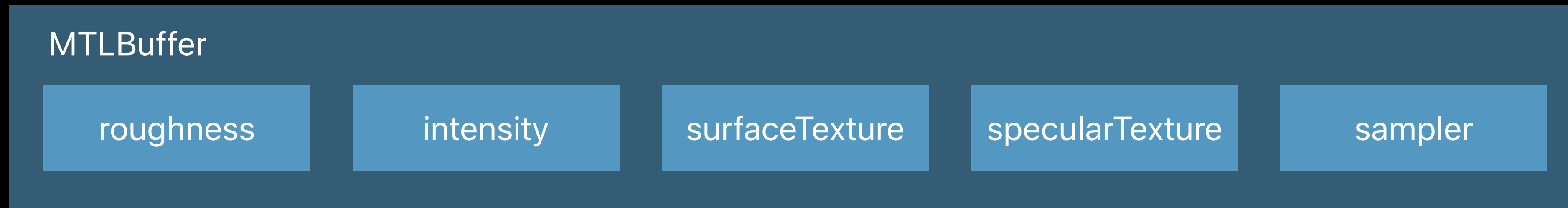
Argument Buffers



Argument Buffers



Argument Buffers



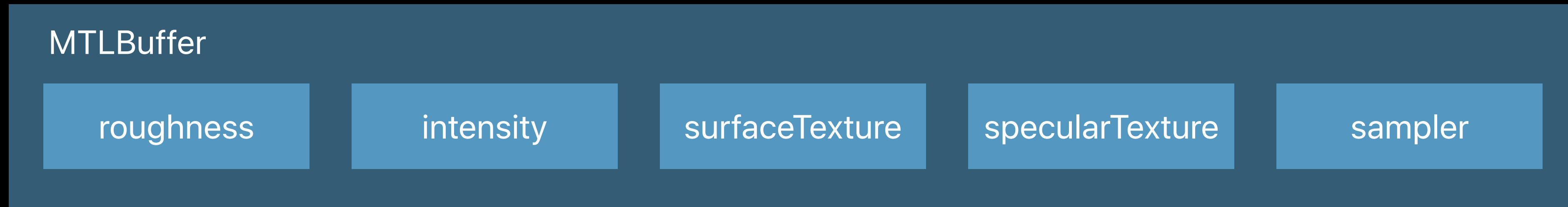
API calls



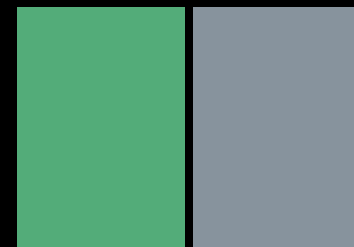
CPU time



Argument Buffers



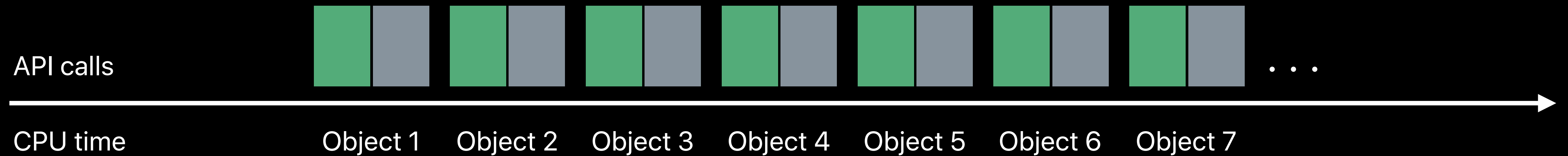
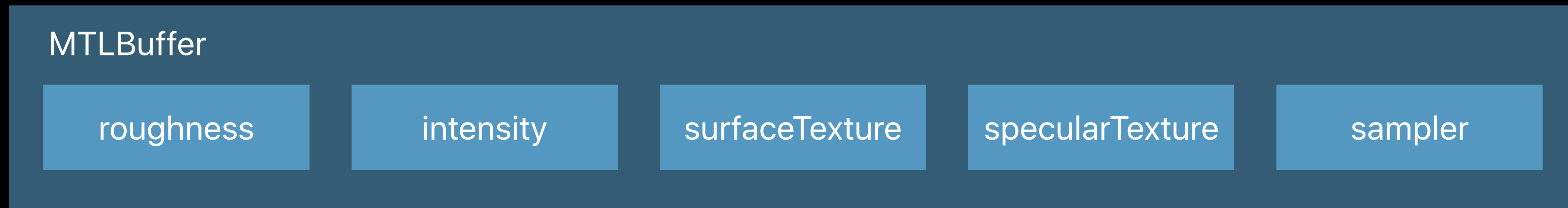
API calls



CPU time



Argument Buffers



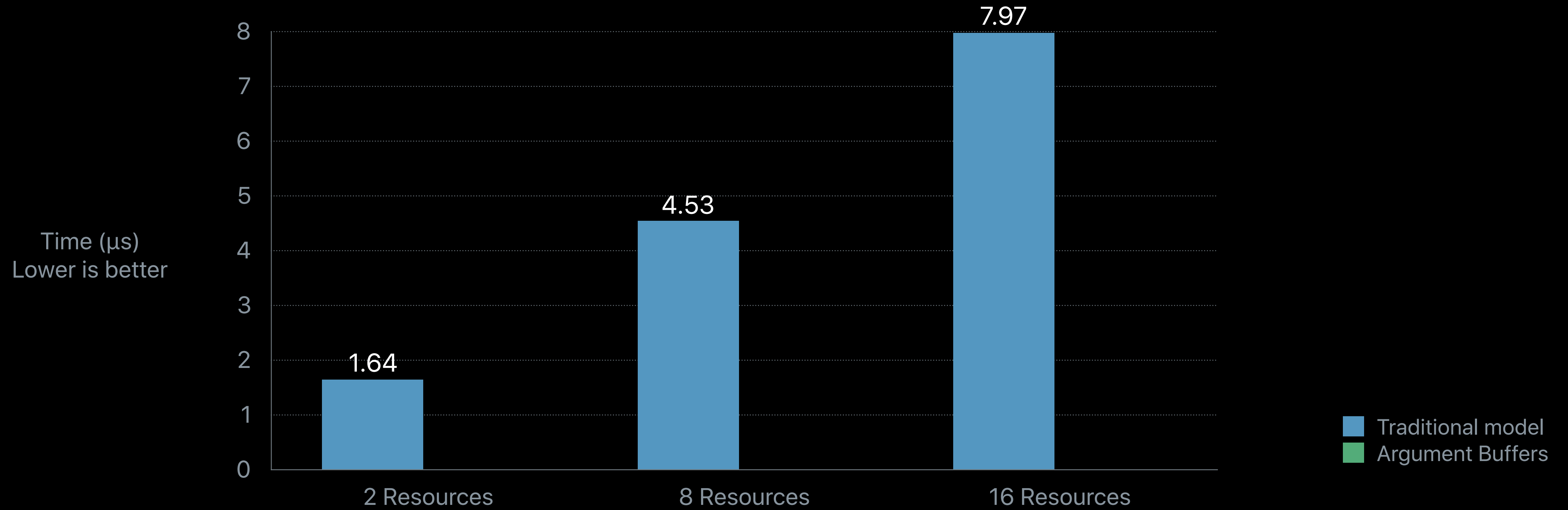
Reduced CPU Overhead

iPhone 7



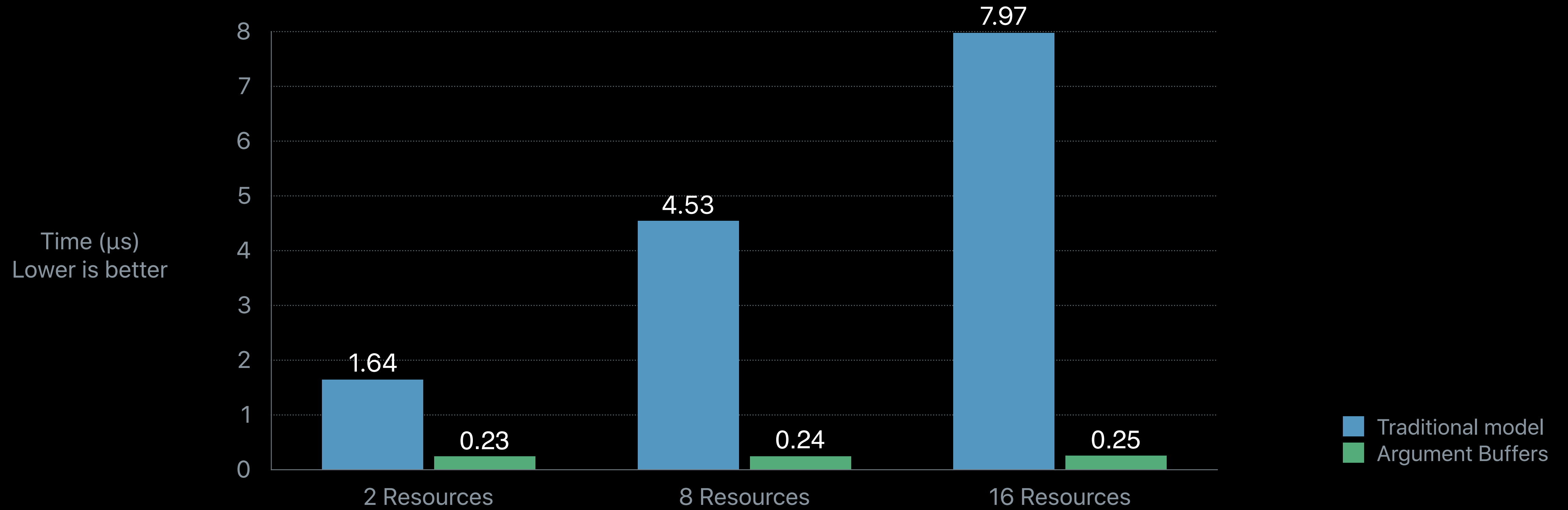
Reduced CPU Overhead

iPhone 7



Reduced CPU Overhead

iPhone 7



Argument Buffers

Benefits

Improve performance

Enable new use cases

Easy to use

Argument Buffers

Shader example

```
struct Material
{
    float          roughness;
    float          intensity;
    texture2d<float> surfaceTexture;
    texture2d<float> specularTexture;
    sampler        textureSampler;
};

kernel void my_kernel(constant Material &material [[buffer(0)]])
{
    ...
}
```

Argument Buffers

Shader example

```
struct Material
{
    float          roughness;
    float          intensity;
    texture2d<float> surfaceTexture;
    texture2d<float> specularTexture;
    sampler        textureSampler;
};

kernel void my_kernel(constant Material &material [[buffer(0)]])
{
    ...
}
```

Dynamic Indexing

Crowd rendering

Dynamic Indexing

Crowd rendering

MTLBuffer

position

height

...

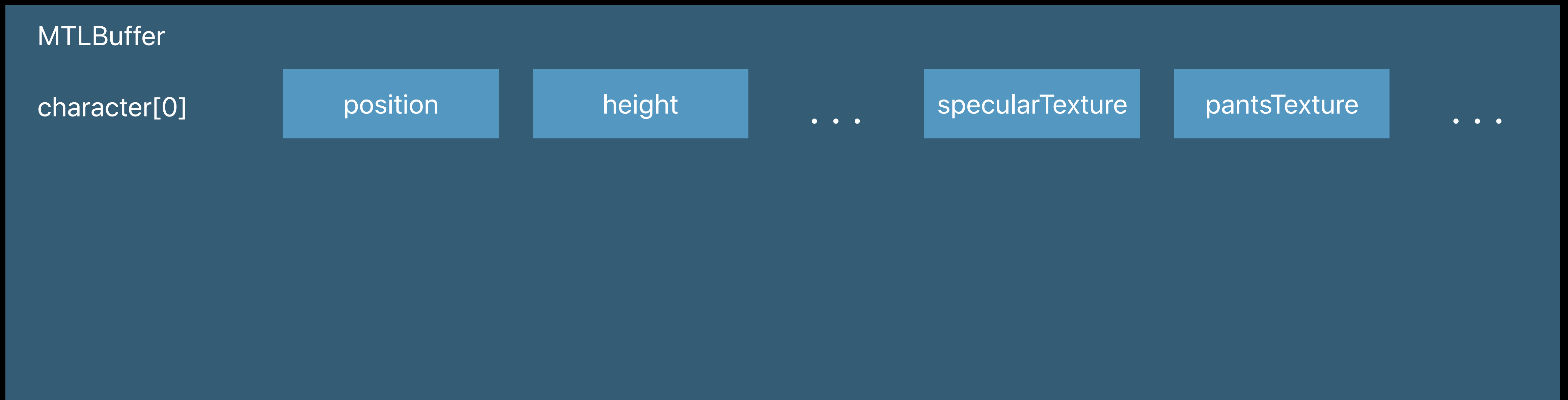
specularTexture

pantsTexture

...

Dynamic Indexing

Crowd rendering



CPU

GPU



Dynamic Indexing

Crowd rendering



CPU

GPU



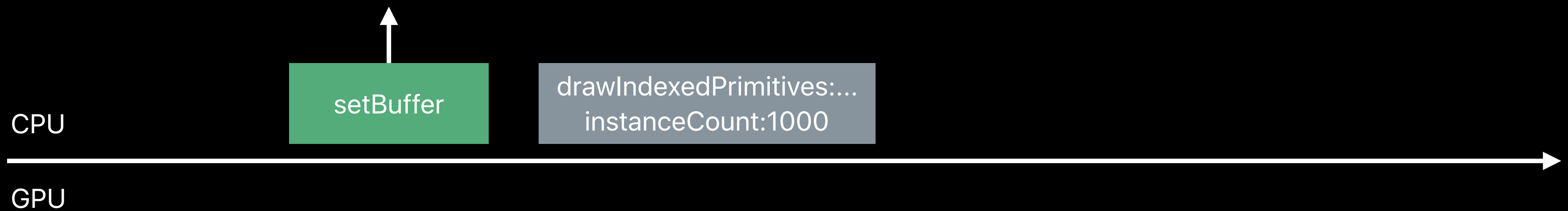
Dynamic Indexing

Crowd rendering



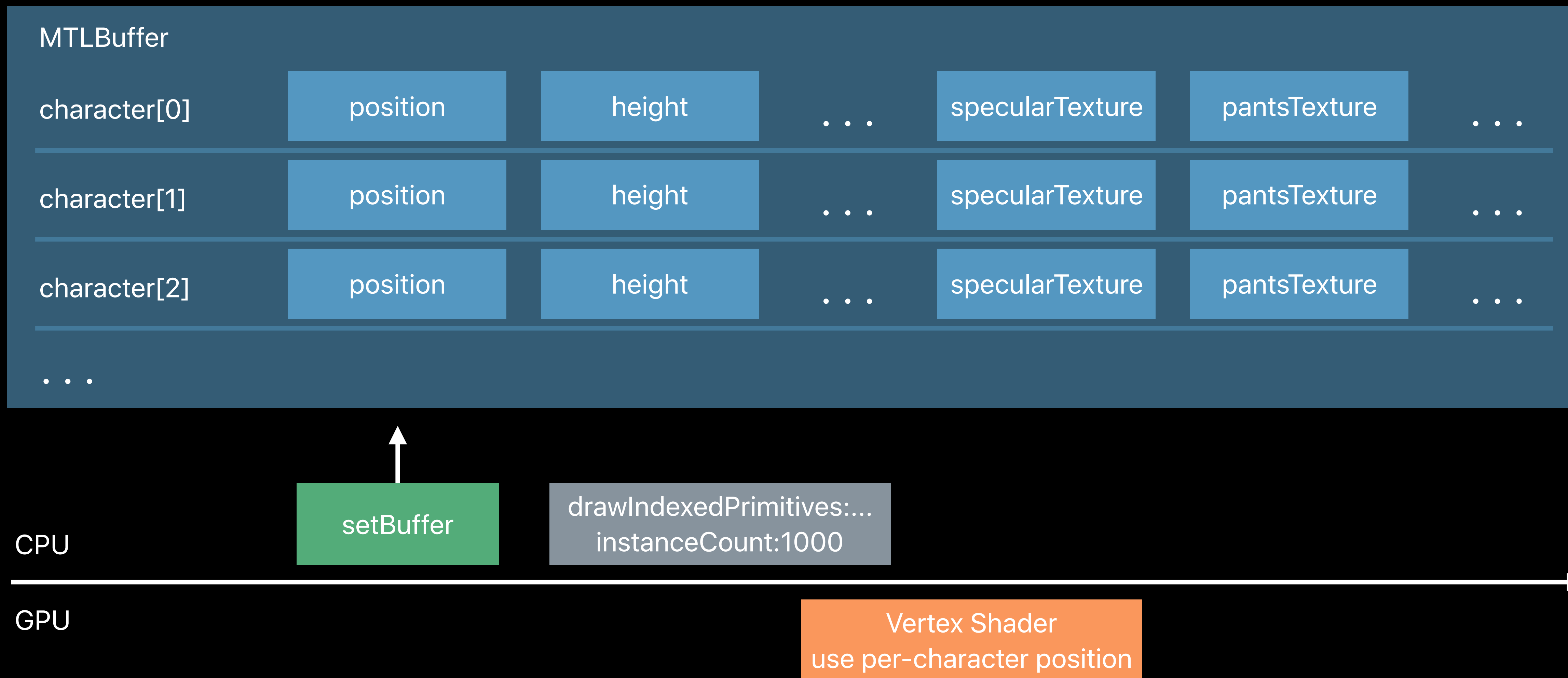
Dynamic Indexing

Crowd rendering



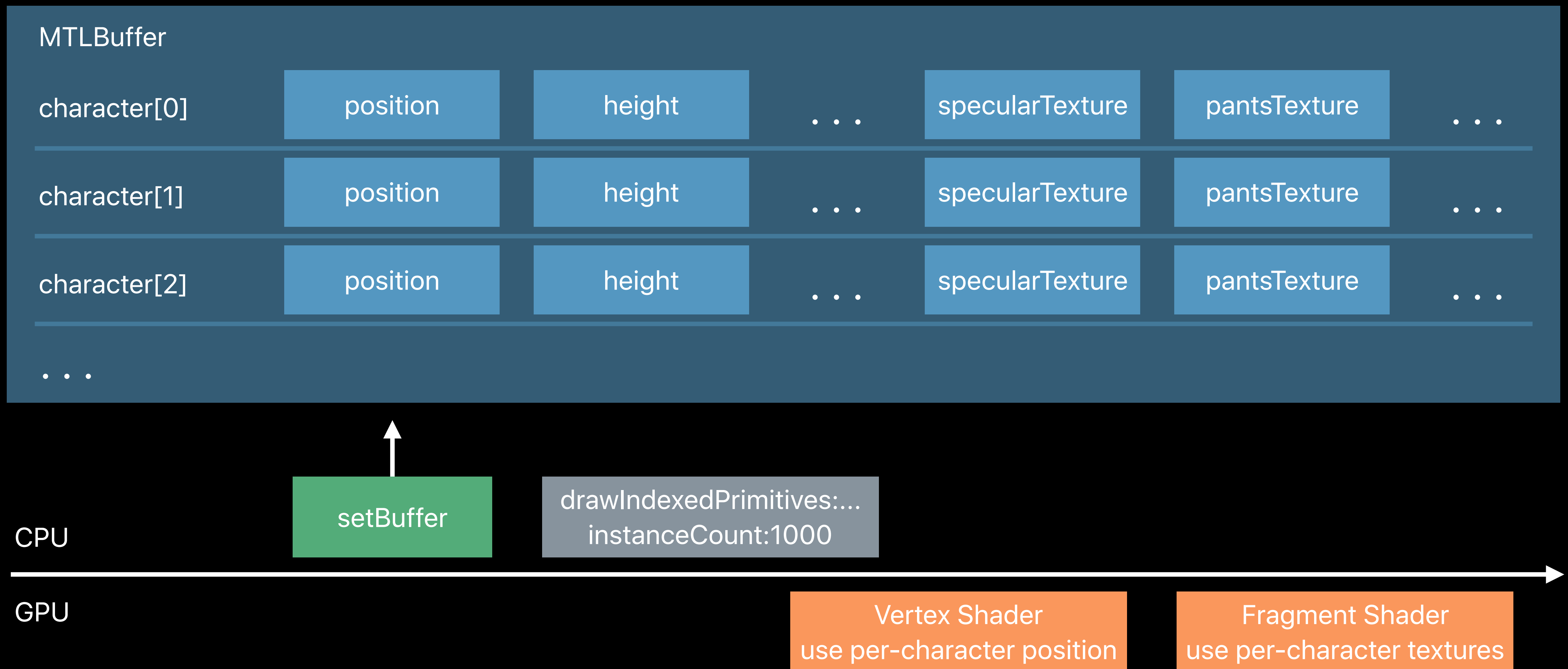
Dynamic Indexing

Crowd rendering



Dynamic Indexing

Crowd rendering



Dynamic Indexing

Vertex shader

```
vertex VertexOutput instancedShader(uint          id          [[instance_id]],  
                                   constant Character *crowd [[buffer(0)]])  
{  
    // Dynamically pick the character for given instance index  
    constant Character &obj = crowd[id];  
  
    return transformCharacter(obj);  
}
```


Dynamic Indexing

Vertex shader

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}
```

Set Resources on GPU

Particle simulation

Set Resources on GPU

Particle simulation

MTLBuffer

particle[0]

orientation

...

material

particle[1]

orientation

...

material

particle[2]

orientation

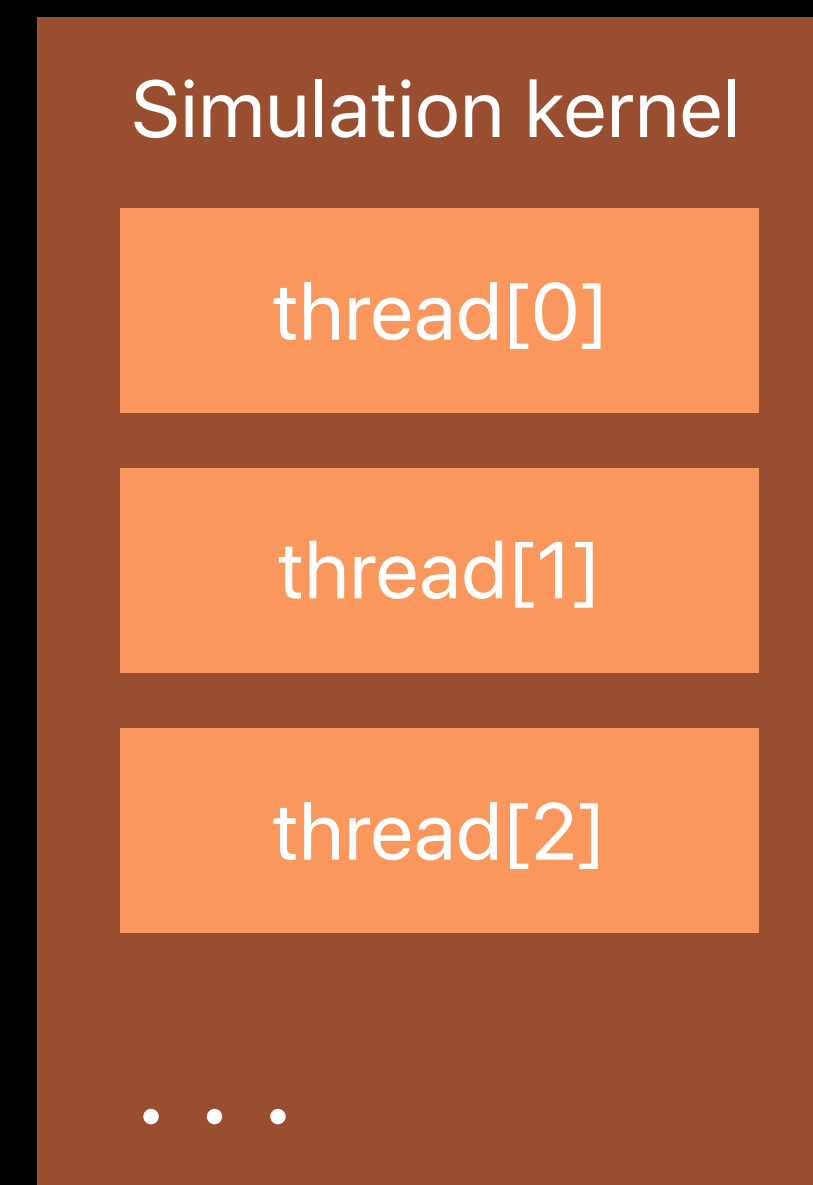
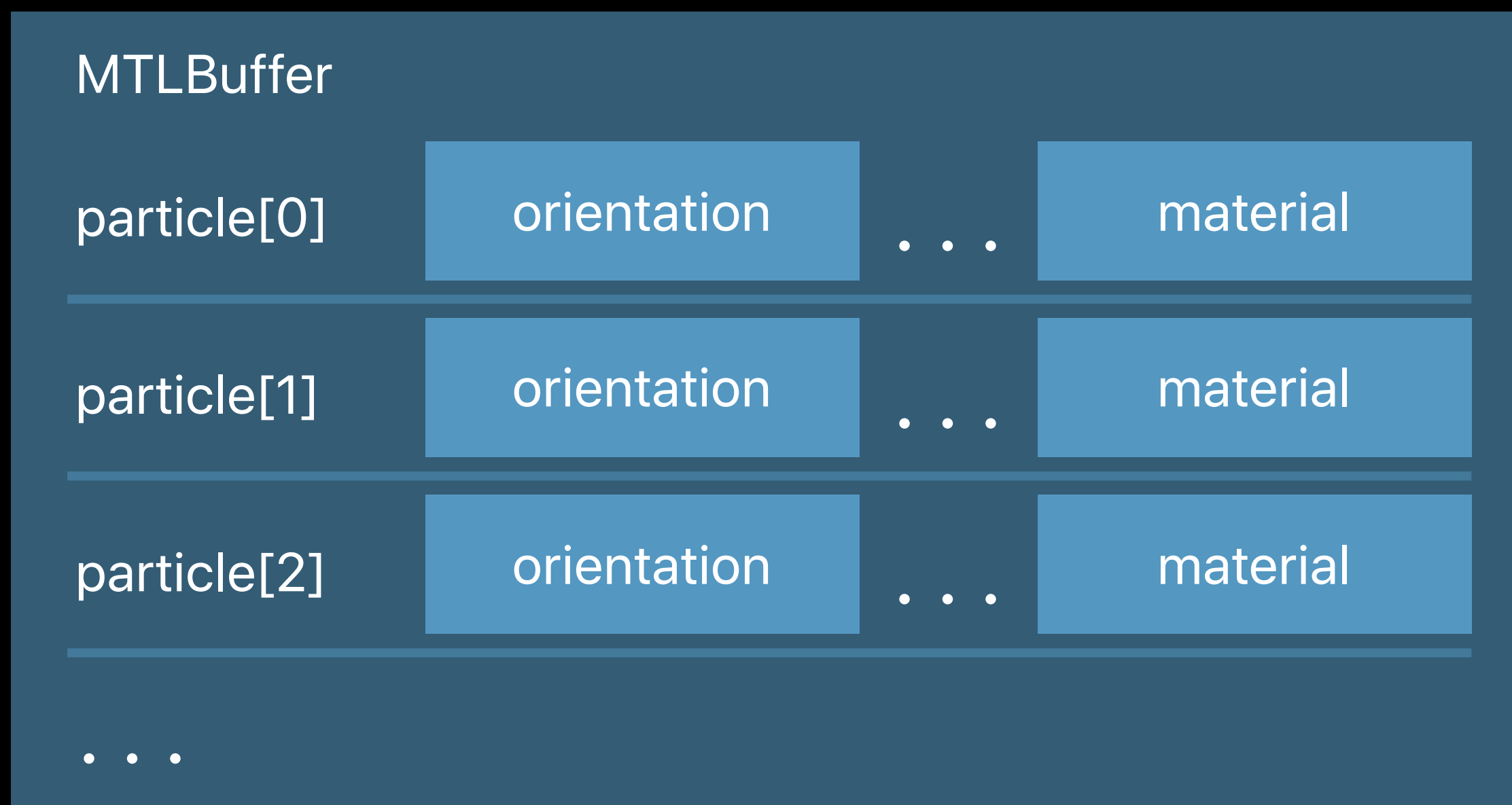
...

material

...

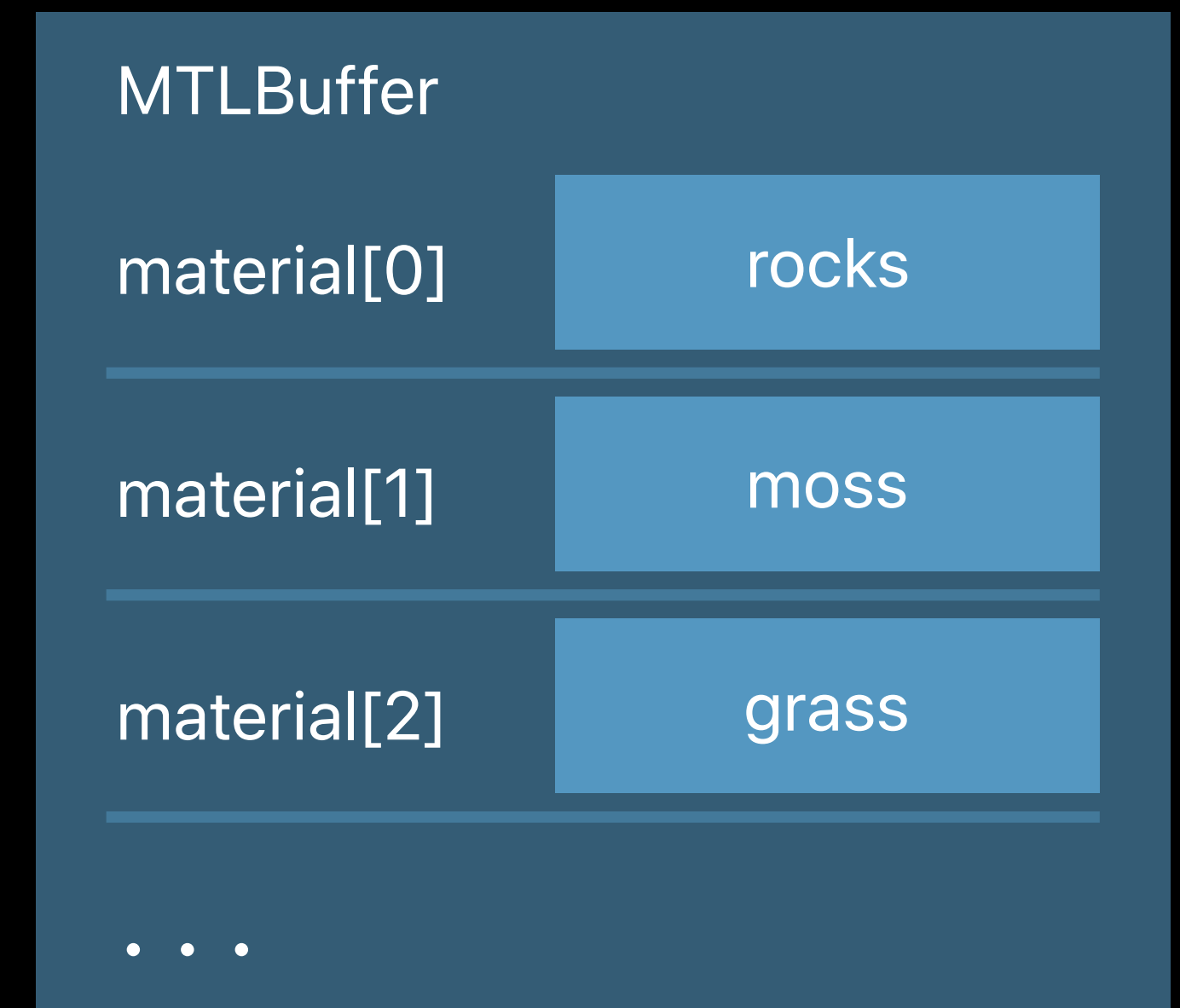
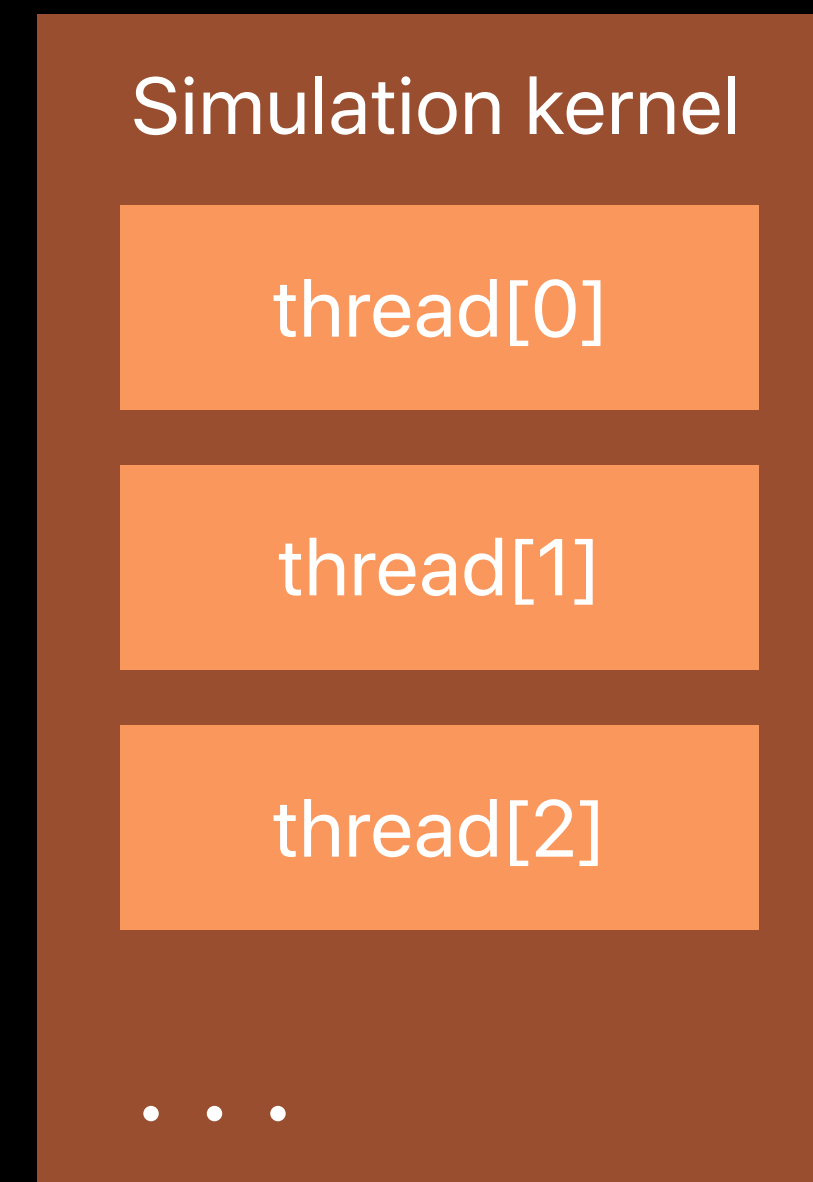
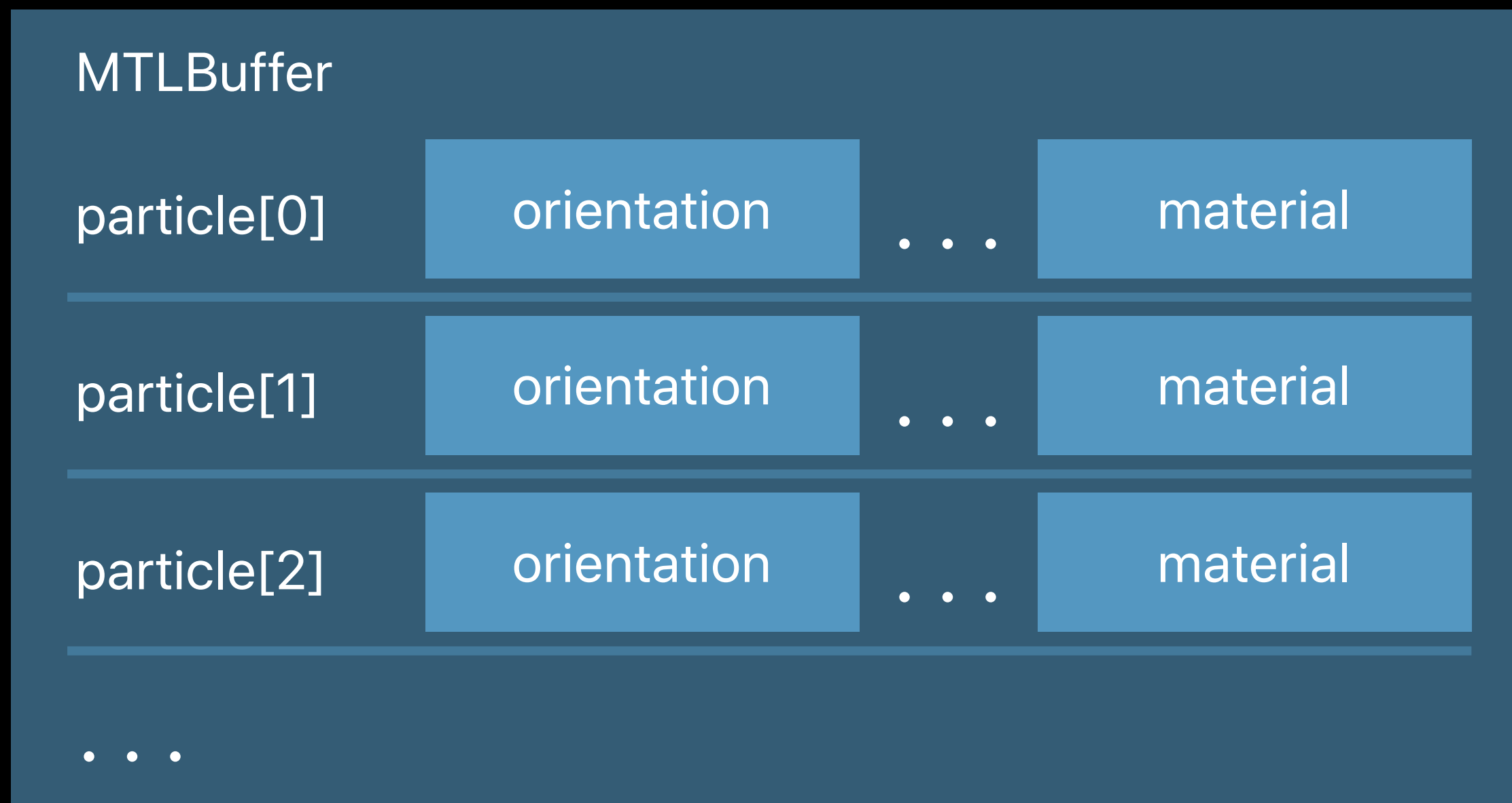
Set Resources on GPU

Particle simulation



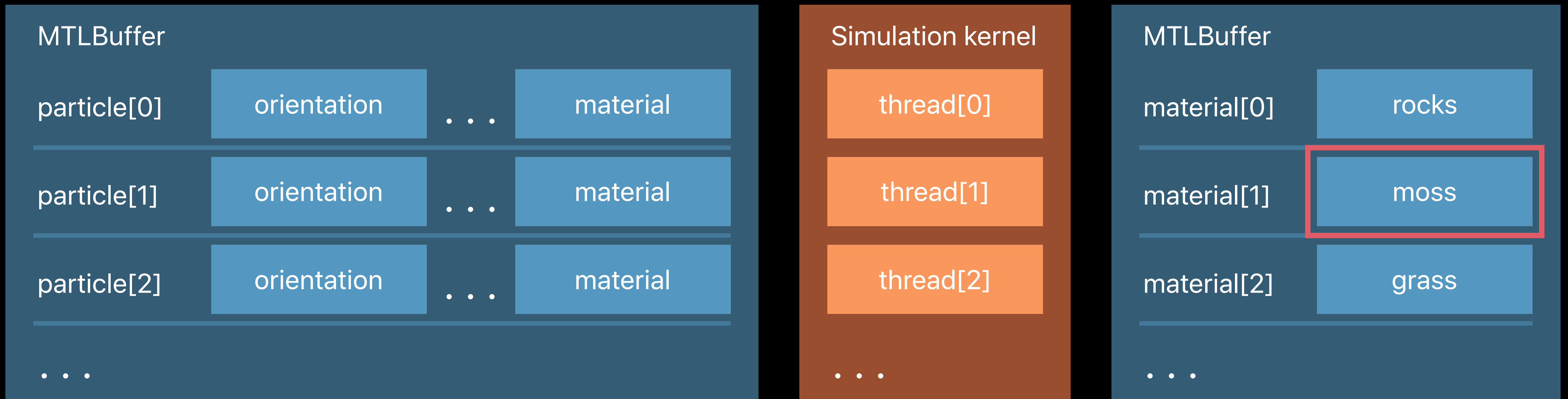
Set Resources on GPU

Particle simulation



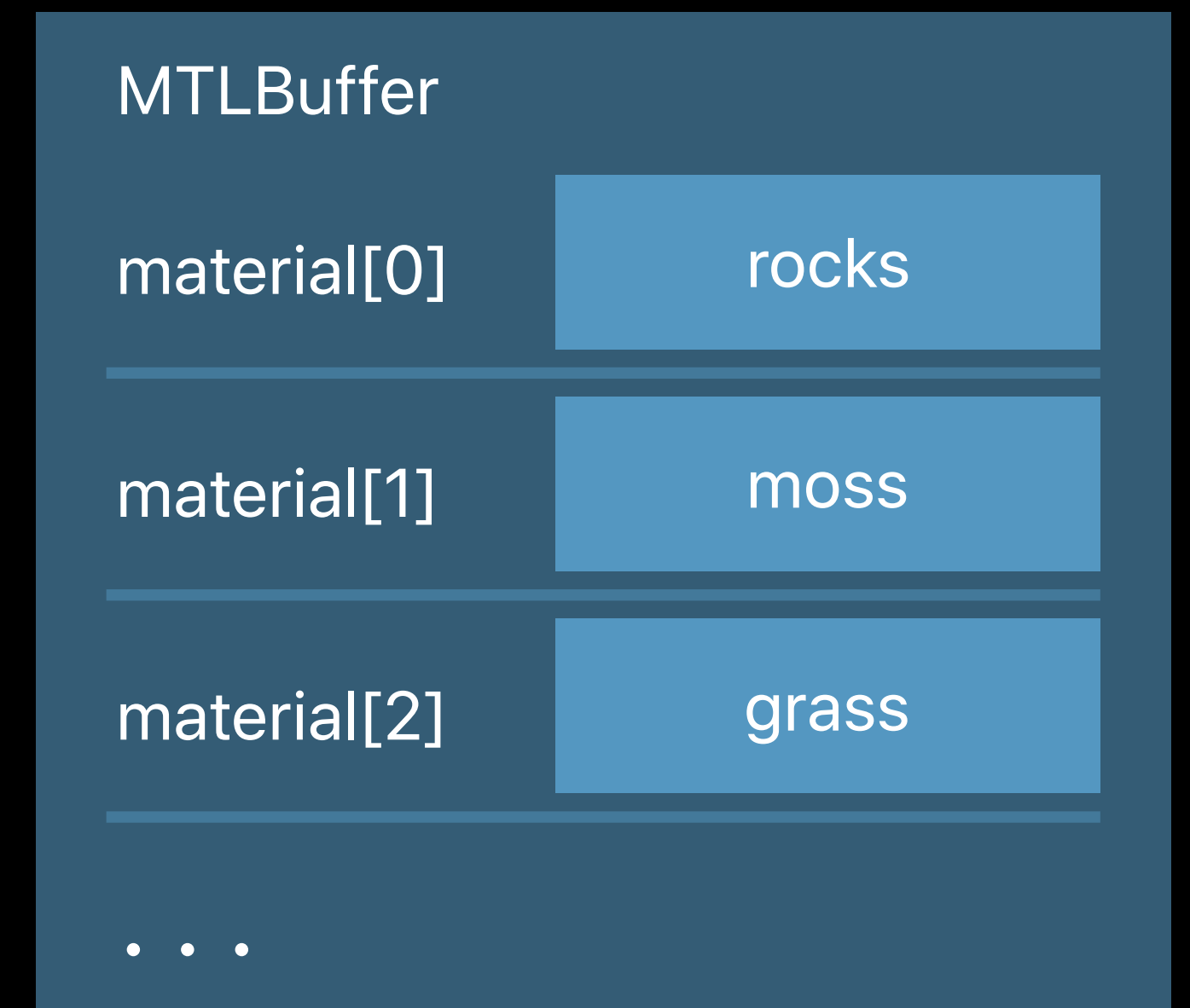
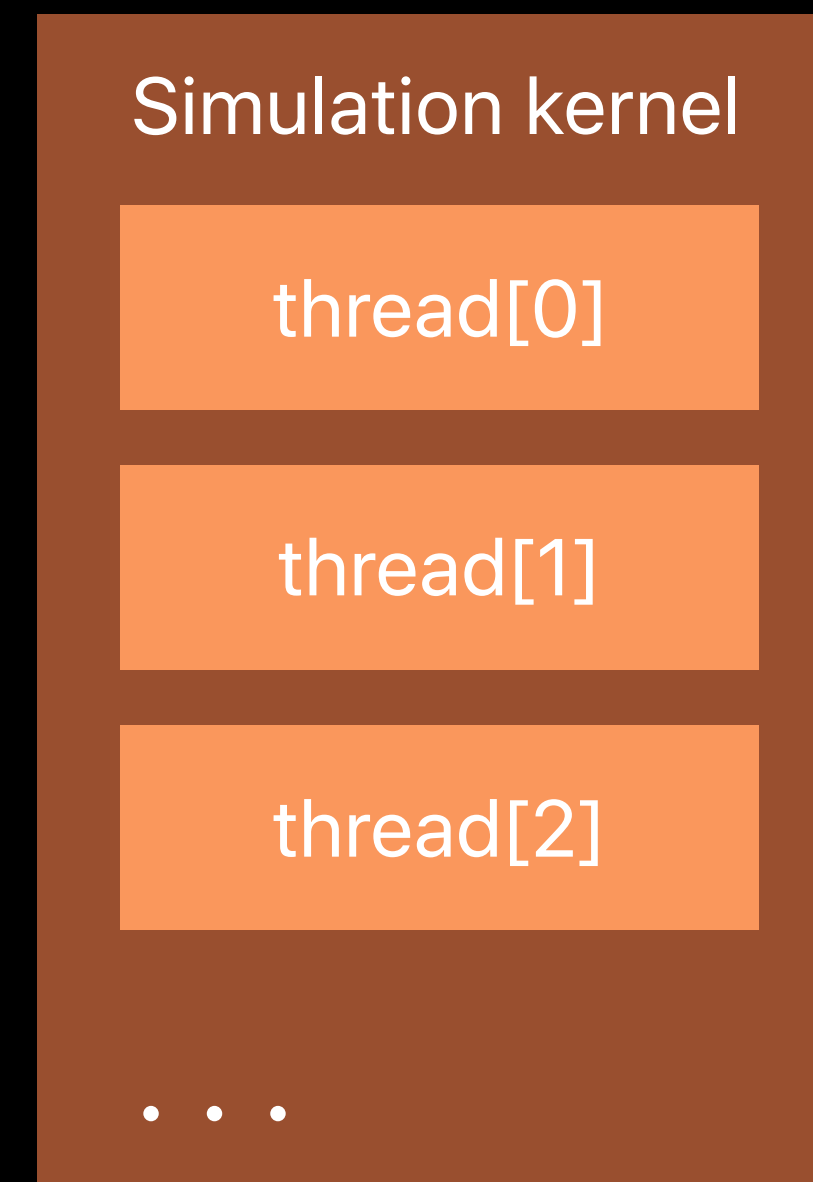
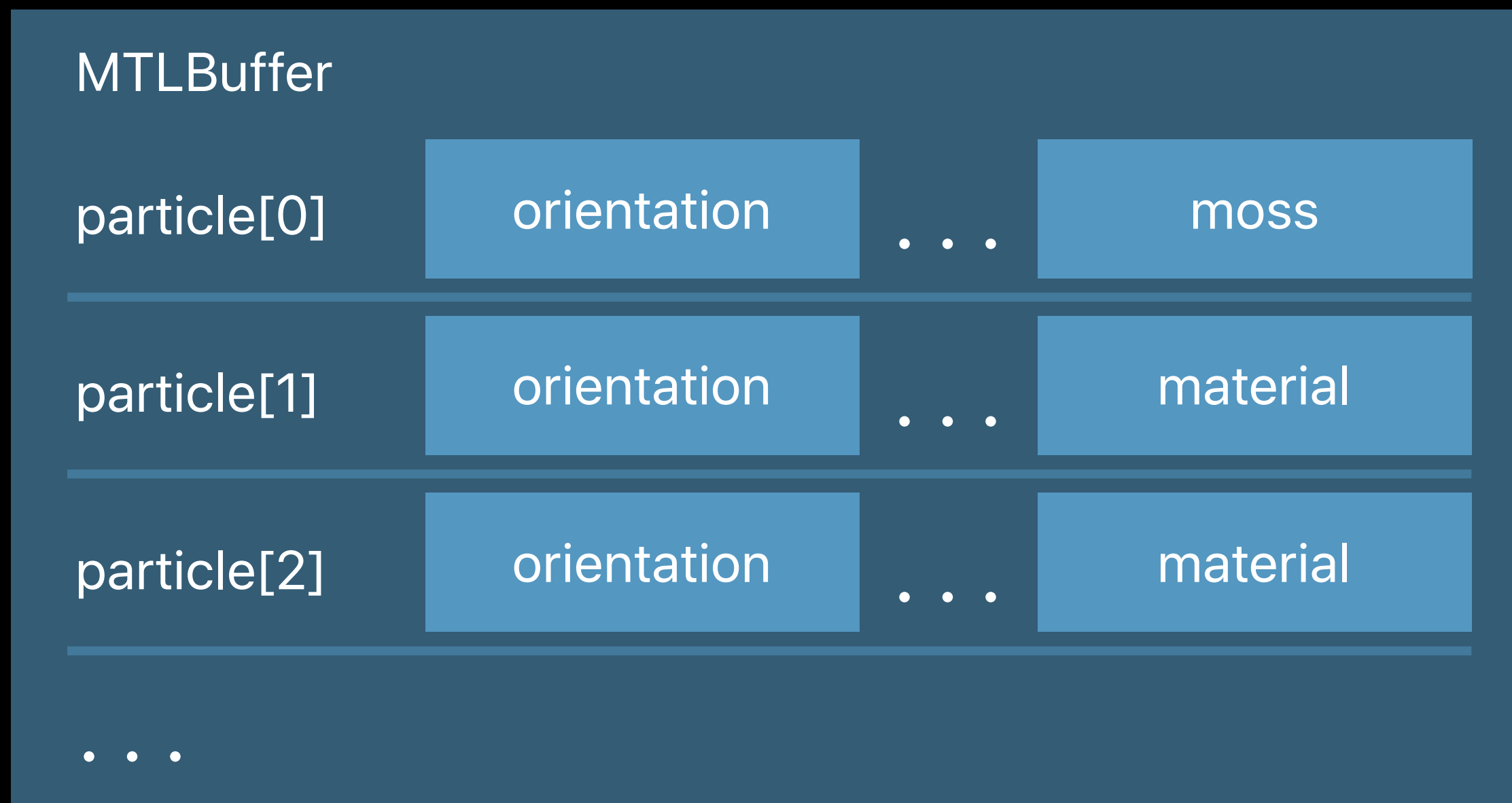
Set Resources on GPU

Particle simulation



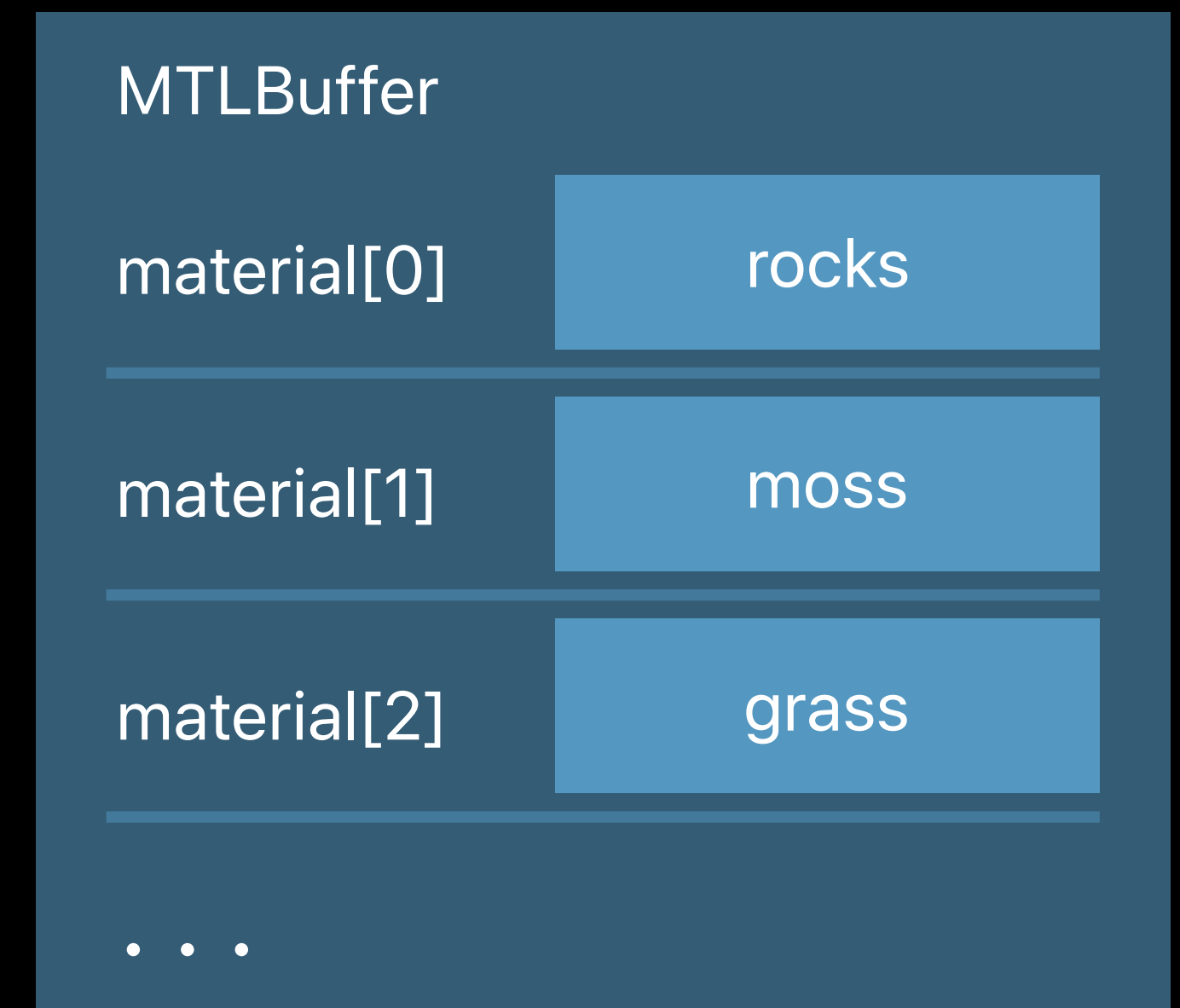
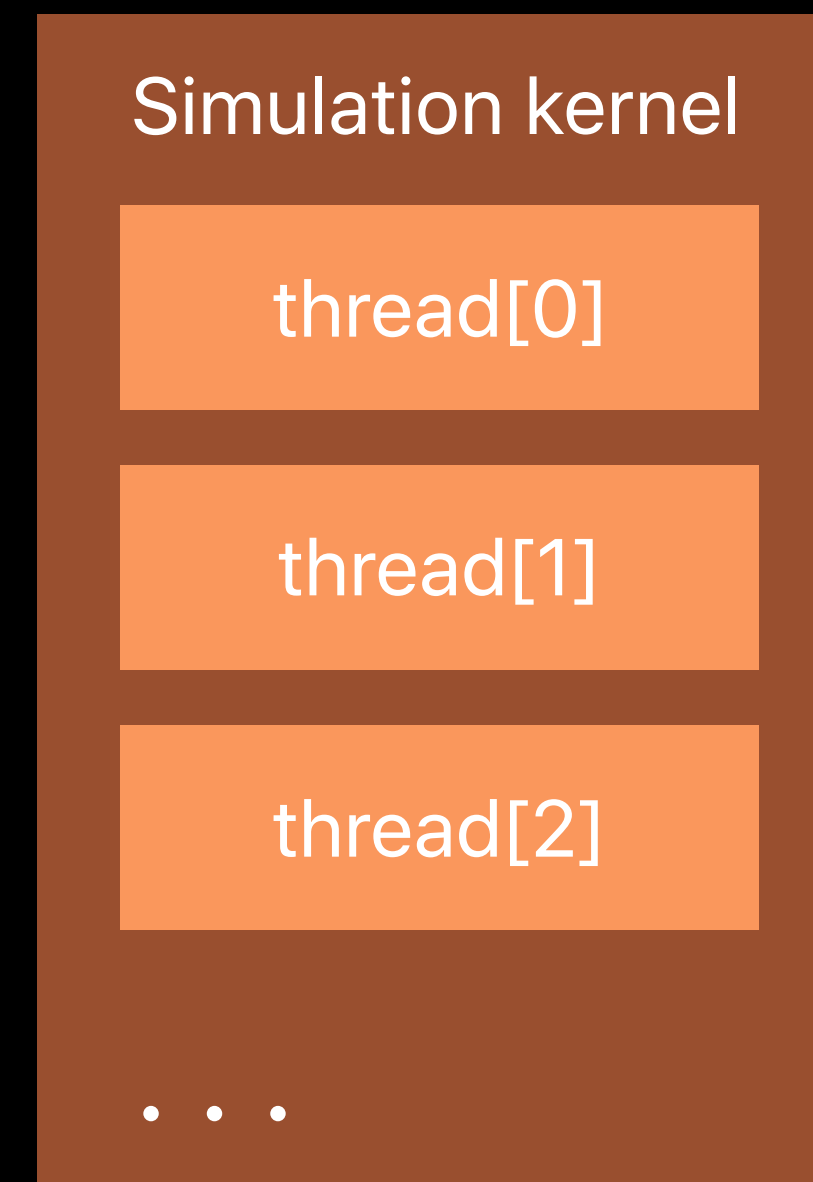
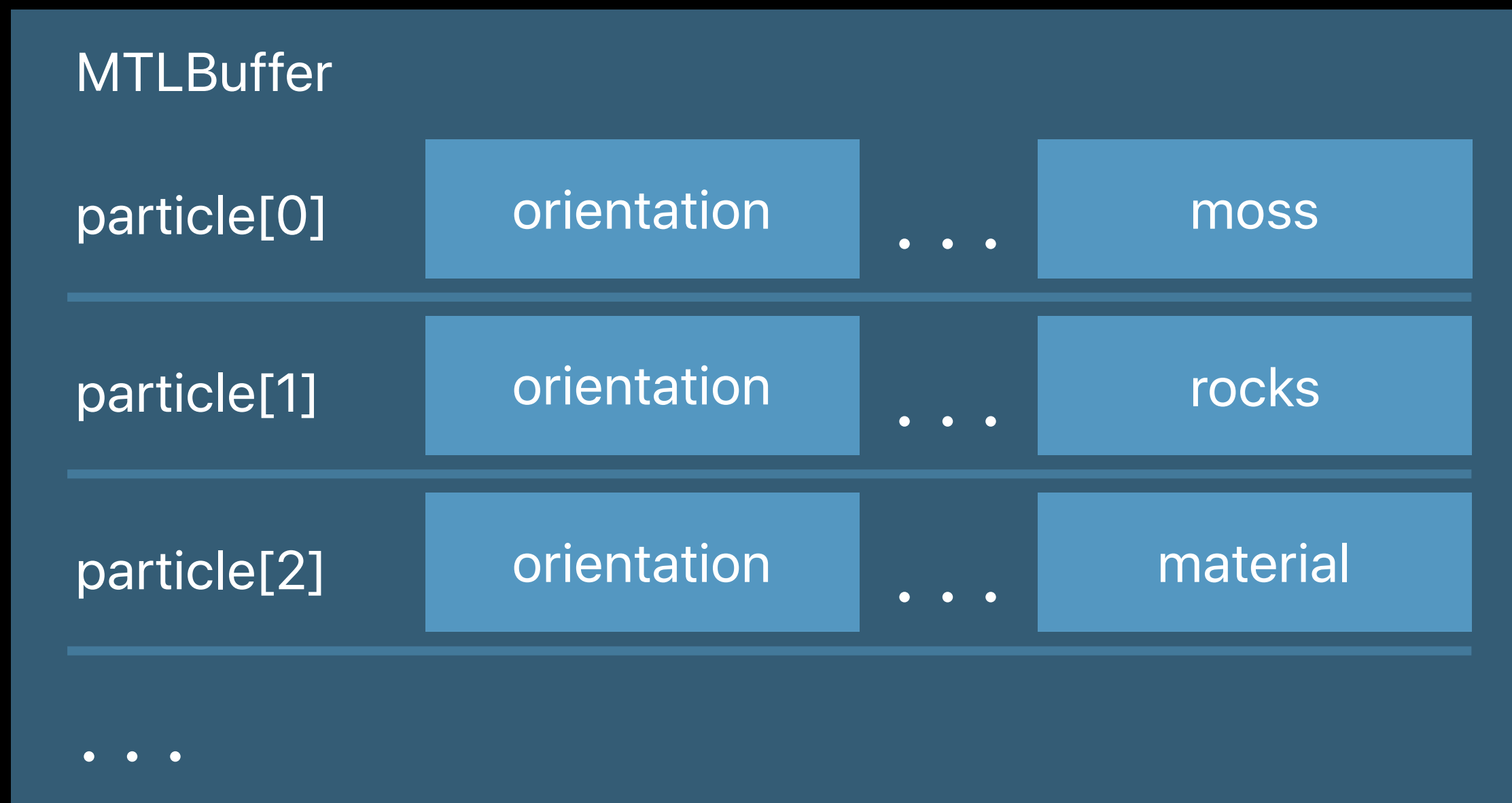
Set Resources on GPU

Particle simulation



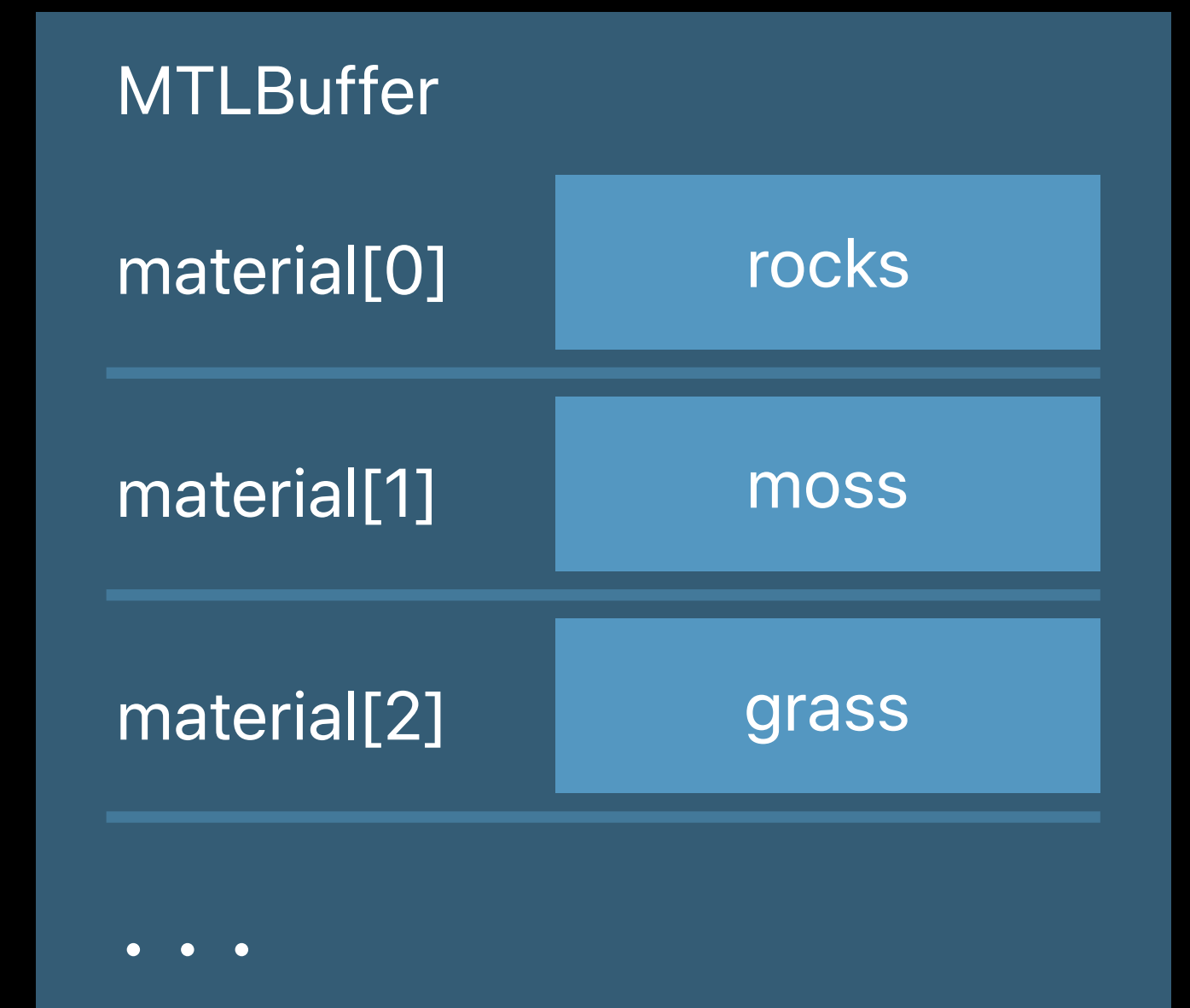
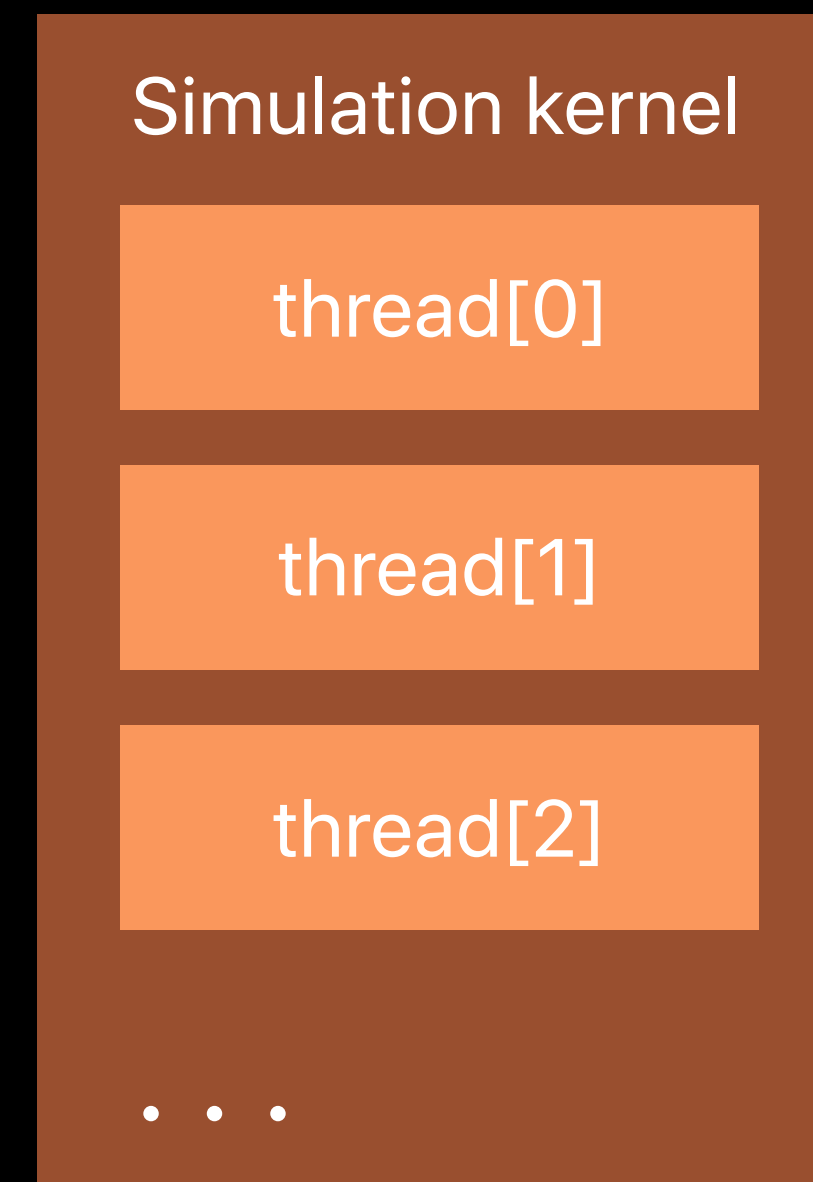
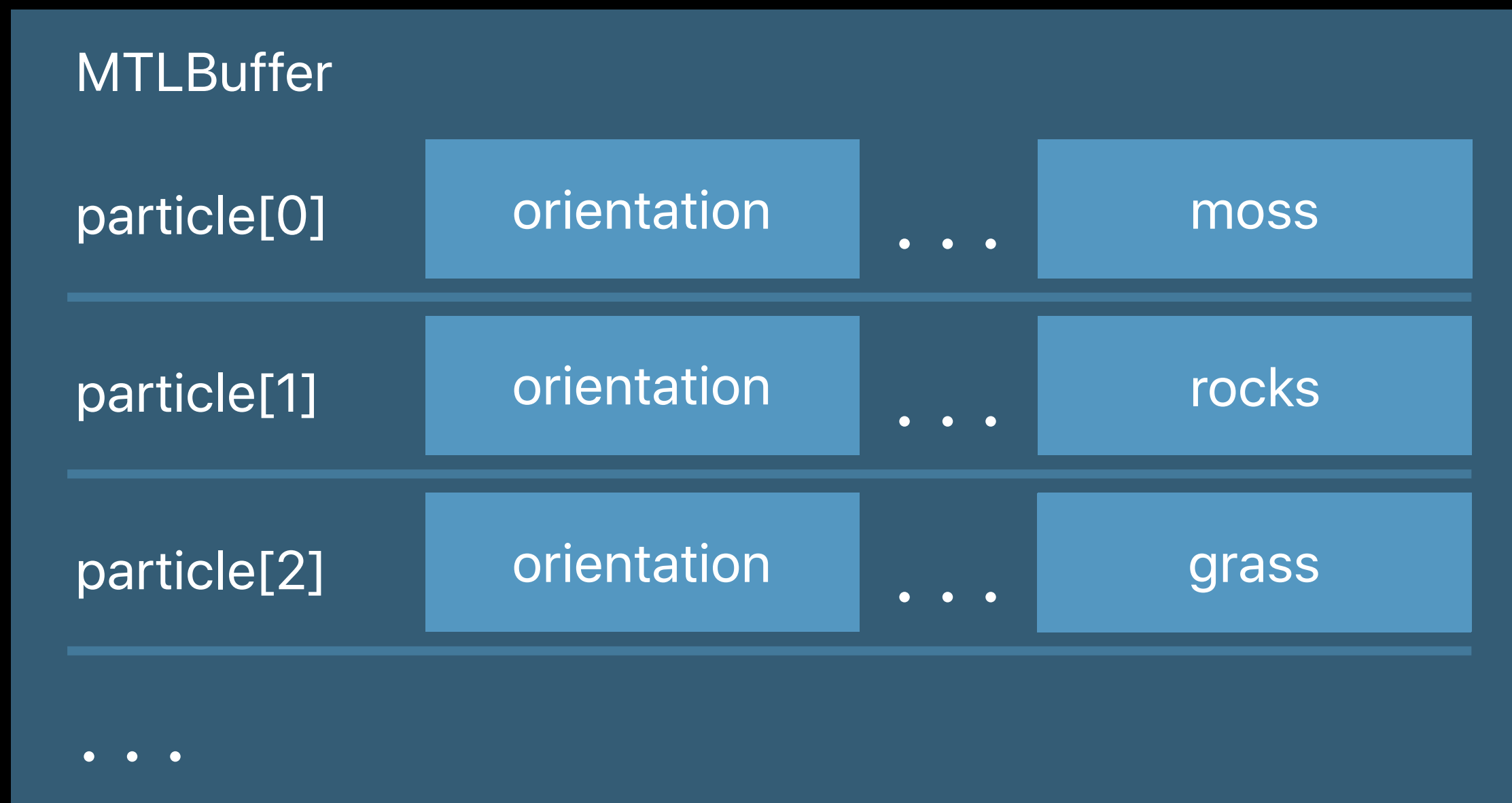
Set Resources on GPU

Particle simulation



Set Resources on GPU

Particle simulation



Set Resources on GPU

Shader example

```
struct Data {
    texture2d<float> tex;
    float          value;
};

kernel void copy(constant Data &src [[buffer(0)]],
                device Data &dst [[buffer(1)])
{
    dst.value = 1.0f;    //< Assign constants
    dst.tex   = src.tex; //< Copy just a texture
    dst       = src;    //< Copy entire structure
}
```

Set Resources on GPU

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```

Multiple Indirections

Argument Buffers can reference other Argument Buffers

Create and reuse complex object hierarchies

```
struct Object {
    float4          position;
    device Material *material;    ///< Many objects can point to the same material
};

struct Tree {
    device Tree    *children[2];
    device Object *objects;      ///< Array of objects in the node
};
```


Multiple Indirections

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Support Tiers

CPU overhead reduction

Set resources on GPU

Multiple indirections

Arrays of Argument Buffers

Resources per draw call

Support Tiers

Tier 1

CPU overhead reduction	Yes
Set resources on GPU	No
Multiple indirections	No
Arrays of Argument Buffers	No
Resources per draw call	Unchanged

Support Tiers

	Tier 1	Tier 2
CPU overhead reduction	Yes	Yes
Set resources on GPU	No	Yes
Multiple indirections	No	Yes
Arrays of Argument Buffers	No	Yes
Resources per draw call	Unchanged	500,000 textures and buffers

Argument Buffers

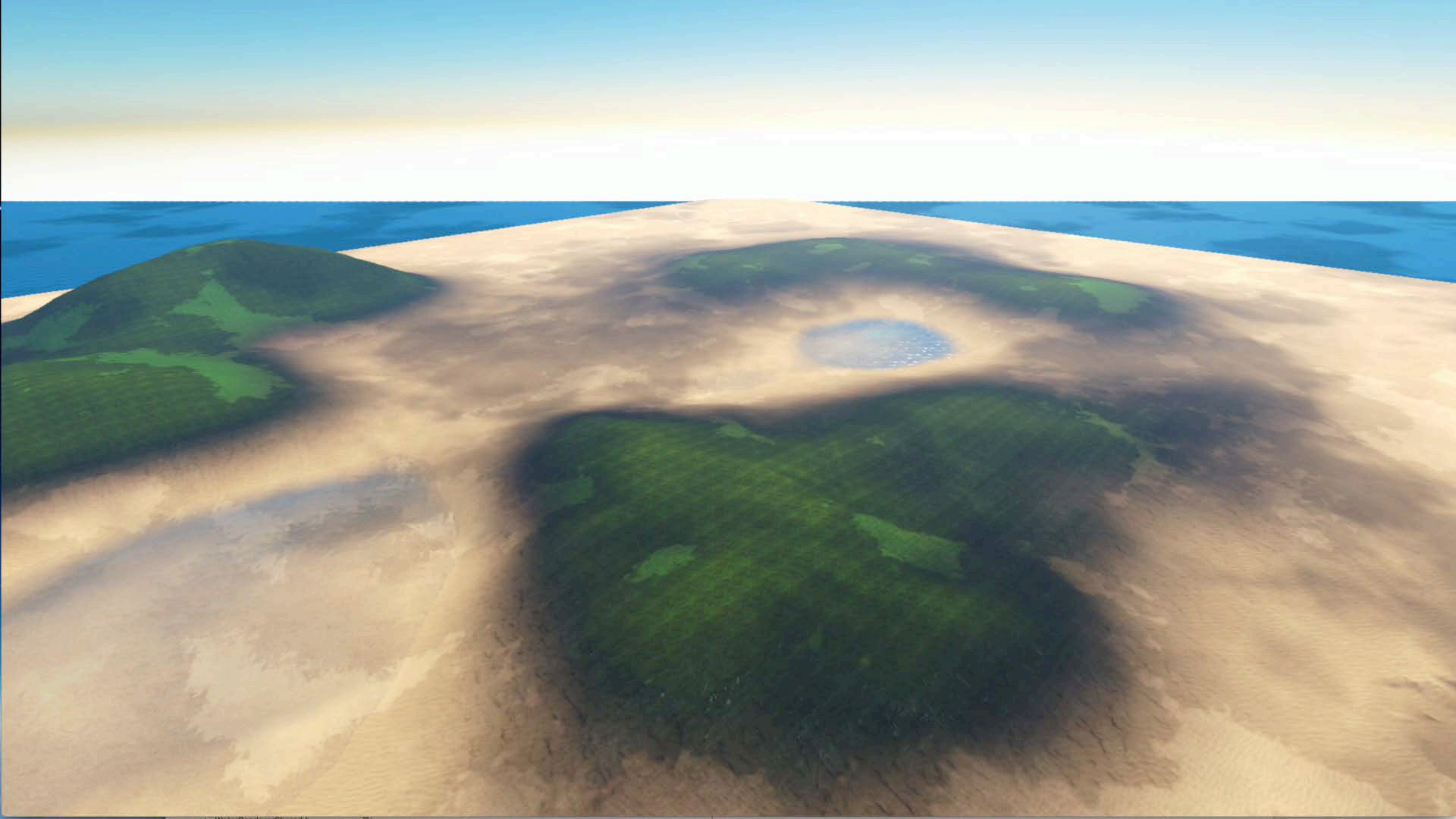
Terrain rendering

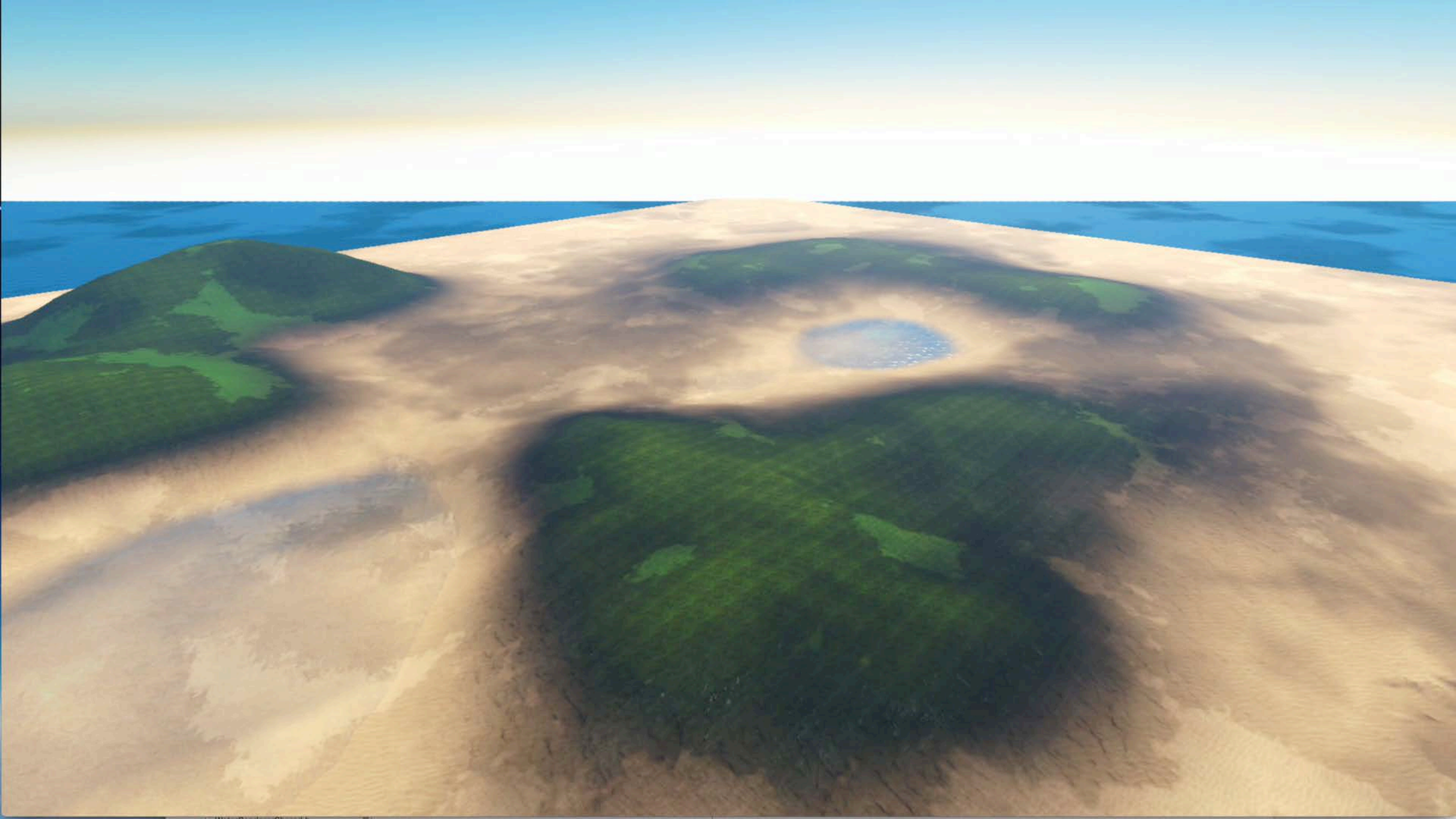
Material changes with terrain

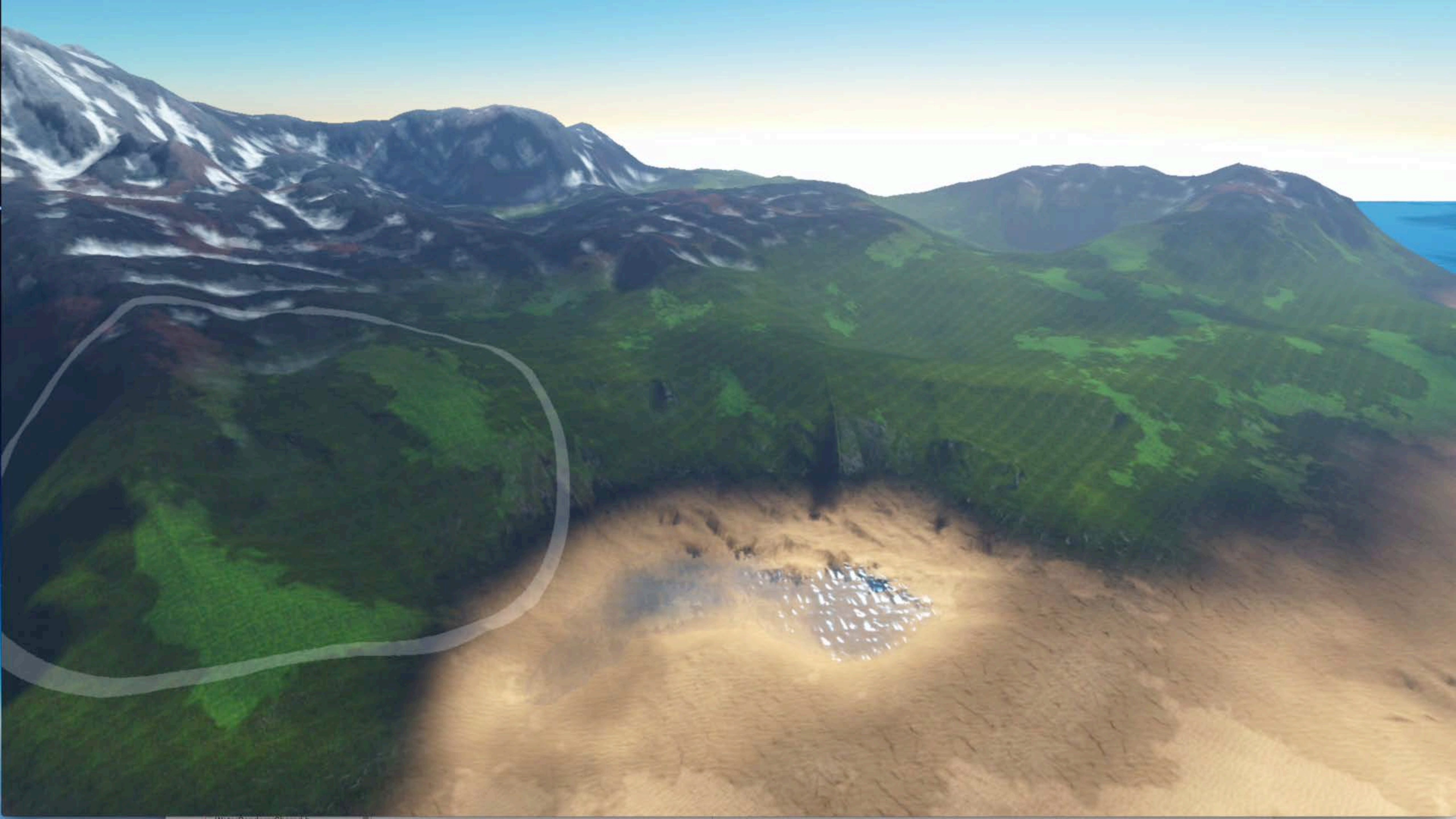
Trees placed by GPU

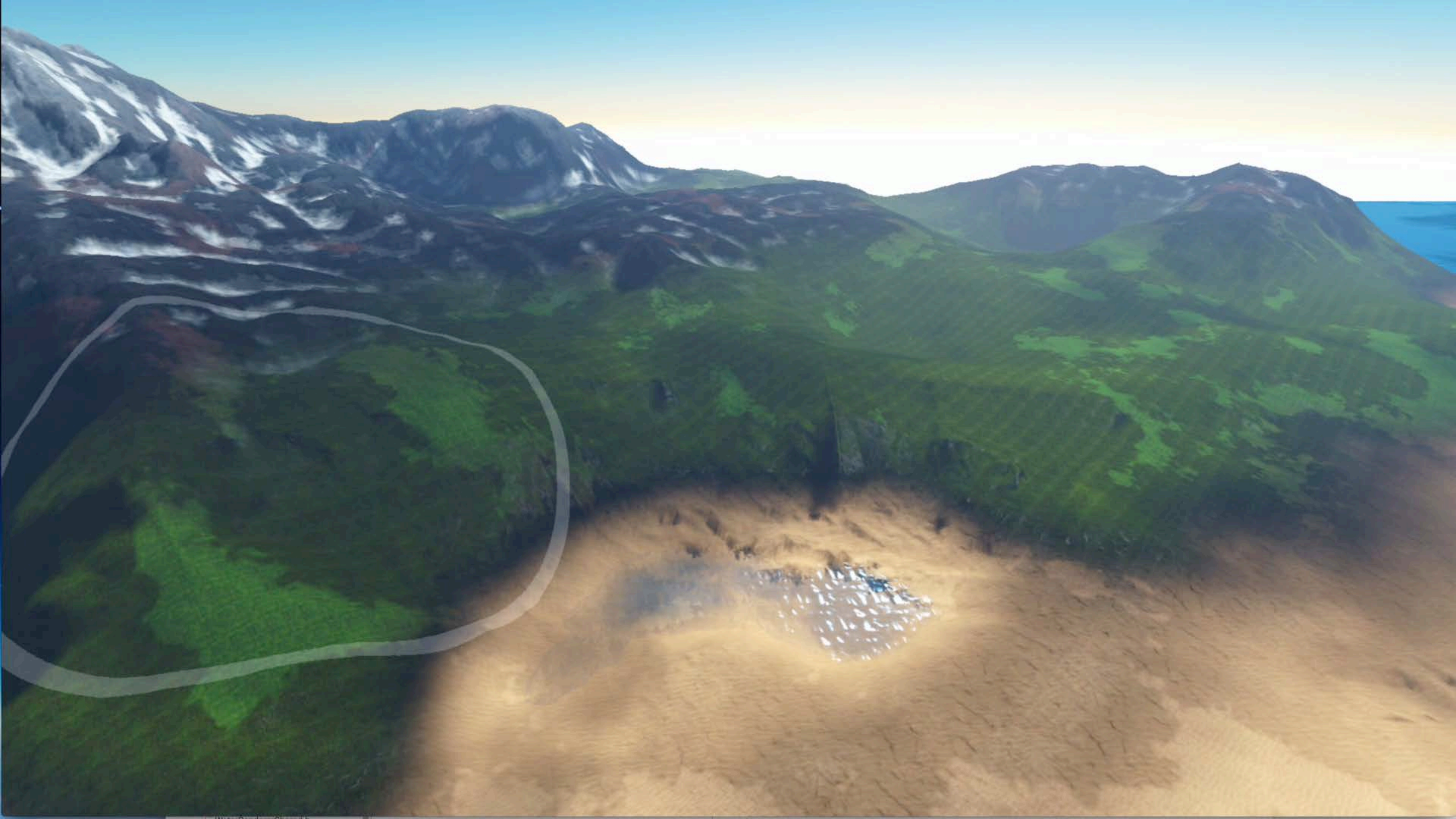
Particle materials generated by GPU

Available as sample code

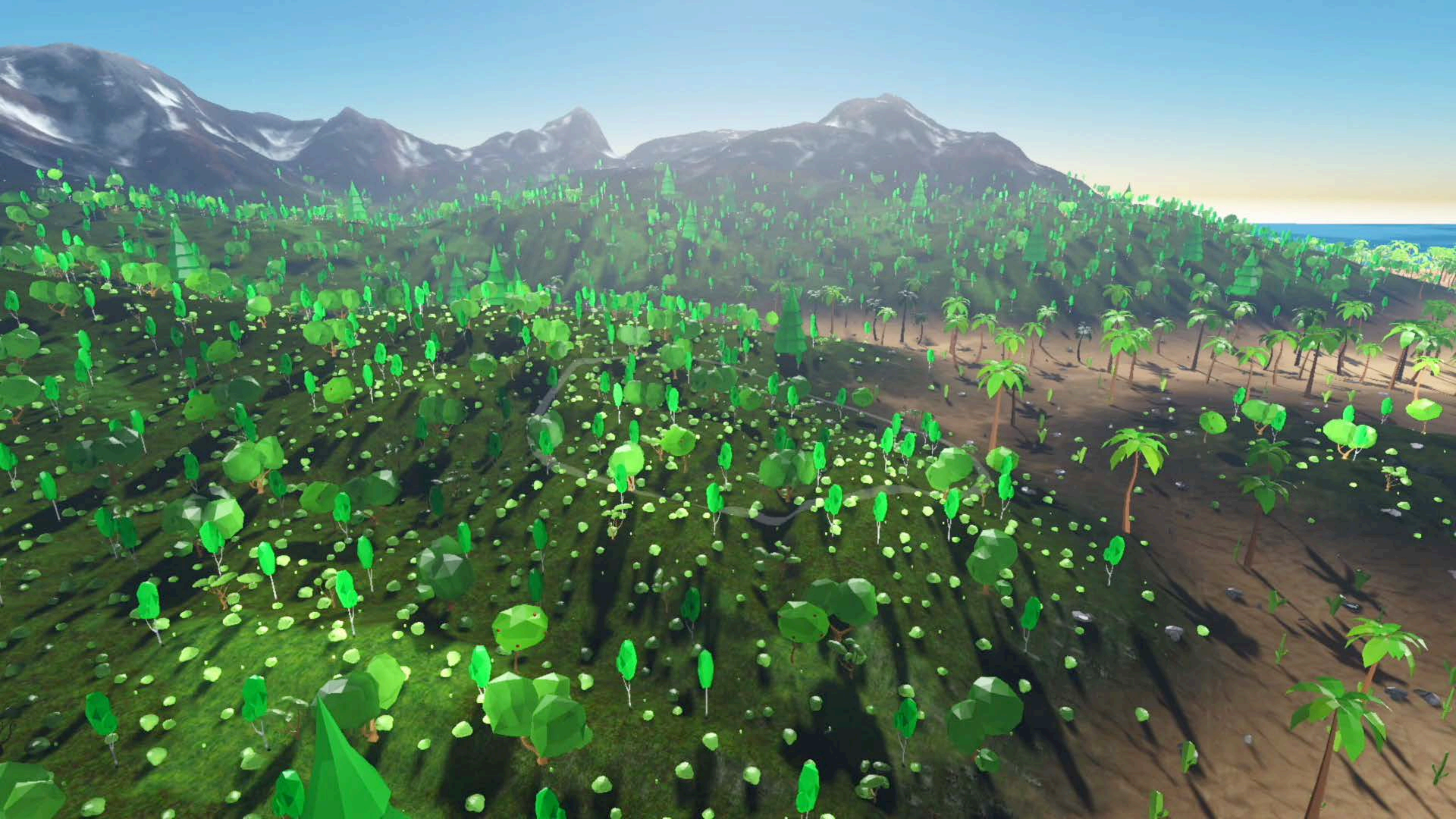


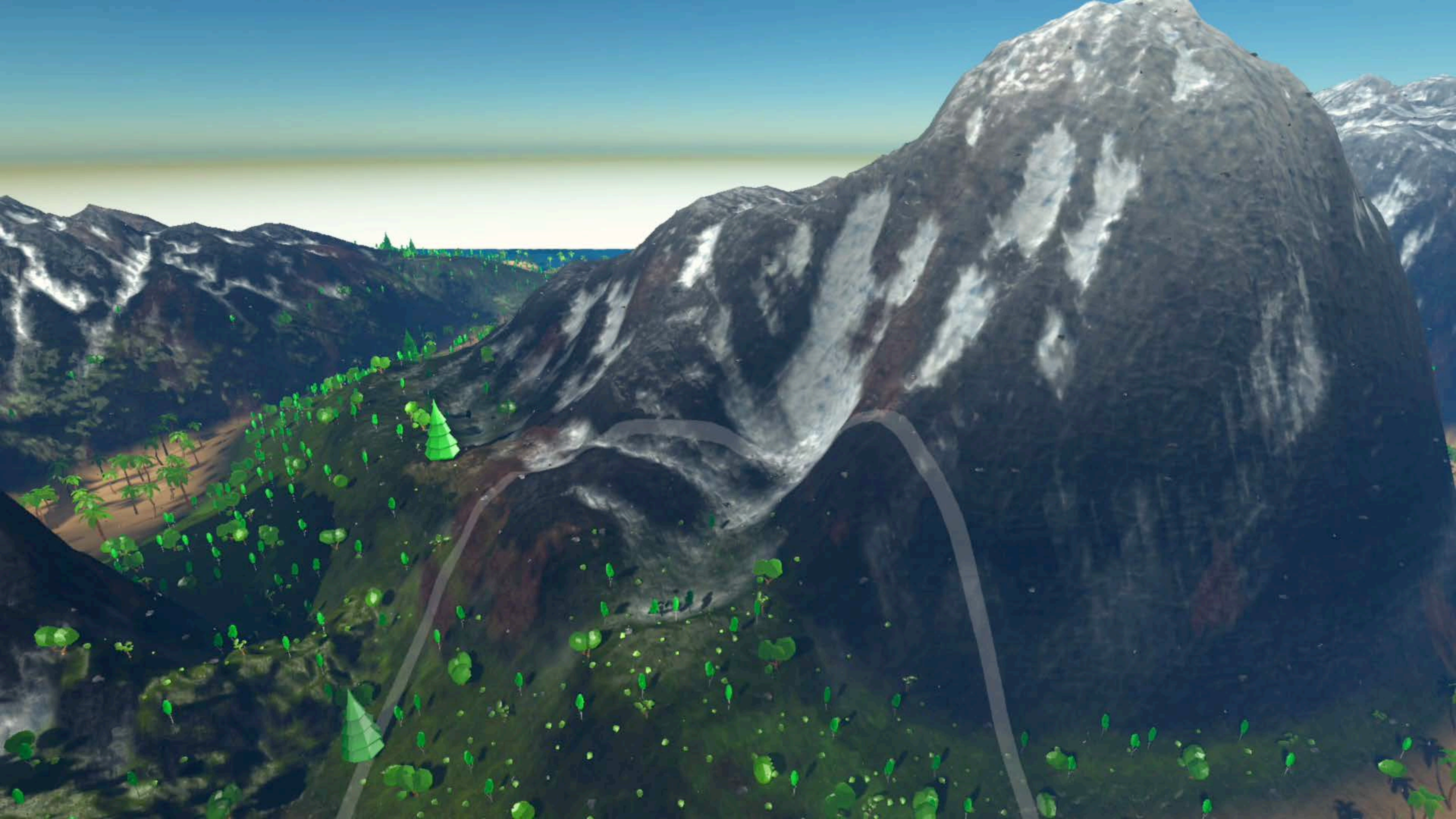


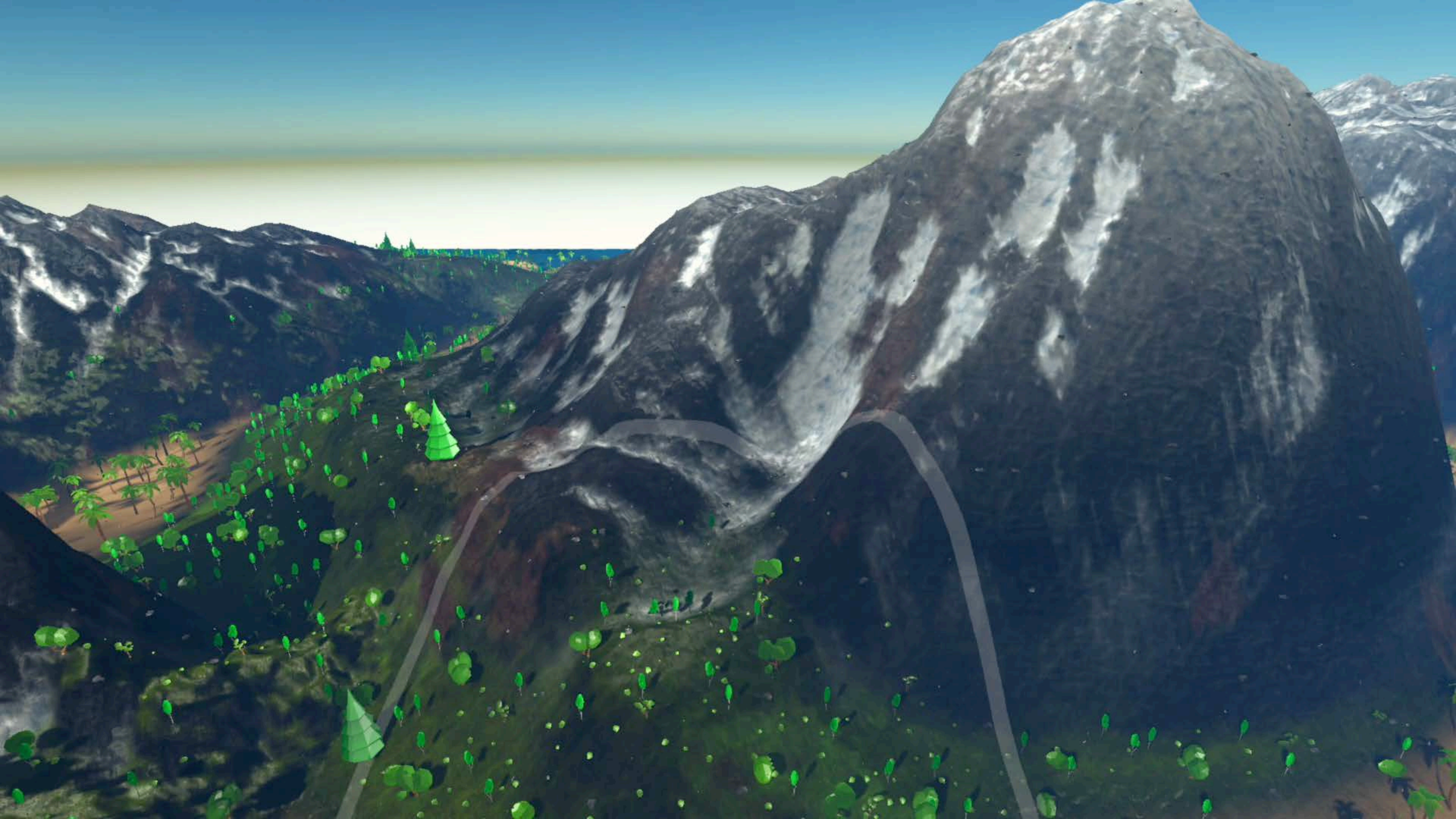












API Highlights

Argument Buffers are stored in plain `MTLBuffer`

Use `MTLArgumentEncoder` to fill Indirect Argument Buffers

Abstracts platform differences behind simple interface

Up to eight Argument Buffers per stage

```
// Shader syntax
struct Particle {
    texture2d<float> surface;
    float4          position;
};

kernel void simulate(constant Particle &particle [[buffer(0)]]) { ... }
```



```
// Shader syntax
```

```
struct Particle {  
    texture2d<float> surface;  
    float4           position;  
};
```

```
kernel void simulate(constant Particle &particle [[buffer(0)]]) { ... }
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// Shader syntax
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// Create encoder for first indirect argument buffer in Metal function 'simulate'
let simulateFunction = library.makeFunction(name:"simulate")!
let particleEncoder = simulateFunction.makeArgumentEncoder(bufferIndex: 0)
```

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let simulateFunction = library.makeFunction(name:"simulate")!
let particleEncoder = simulateFunction.makeArgumentEncoder(bufferIndex: 0)

// API calls to fill the indirect argument buffer
particleEncoder.setTexture(mySurfaceTexture, at: 0)
particleEncoder.constantData(at: 1).storeBytes(of: myPosition, as: float4.self)
```

```
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    texture2d<float> surface;
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```

Managing Resource Usage

Tell Metal what resources you plan to use

Use Metal Heaps for best performance

```
// Use for textures with sample access or buffers  
commandEncoder.use(myTextureHeap)
```

```
// Used for all render targets, views or read/write access to texture  
commandEncoder.use(myRenderTarget, usage: .write)
```


Managing Resource Usage

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Use Metal Heaps for best performance

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// Use for textures with sample access or buffers
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```
commandEncoder.use(myTextureHeap)
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// Used for all render targets, views or read/write access to texture
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commandEncoder.use(myRenderTarget, usage: .write)
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Managing Resource Usage

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commandEncoder.use(myTextureHeap)
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```

Best Practices

Organize based on usage pattern

- Per-view vs. per-object vs. per-material
- Dynamically changing vs. Static

Favor data locality

Use traditional model where appropriate

Raster Order Groups

Richard Schreyer

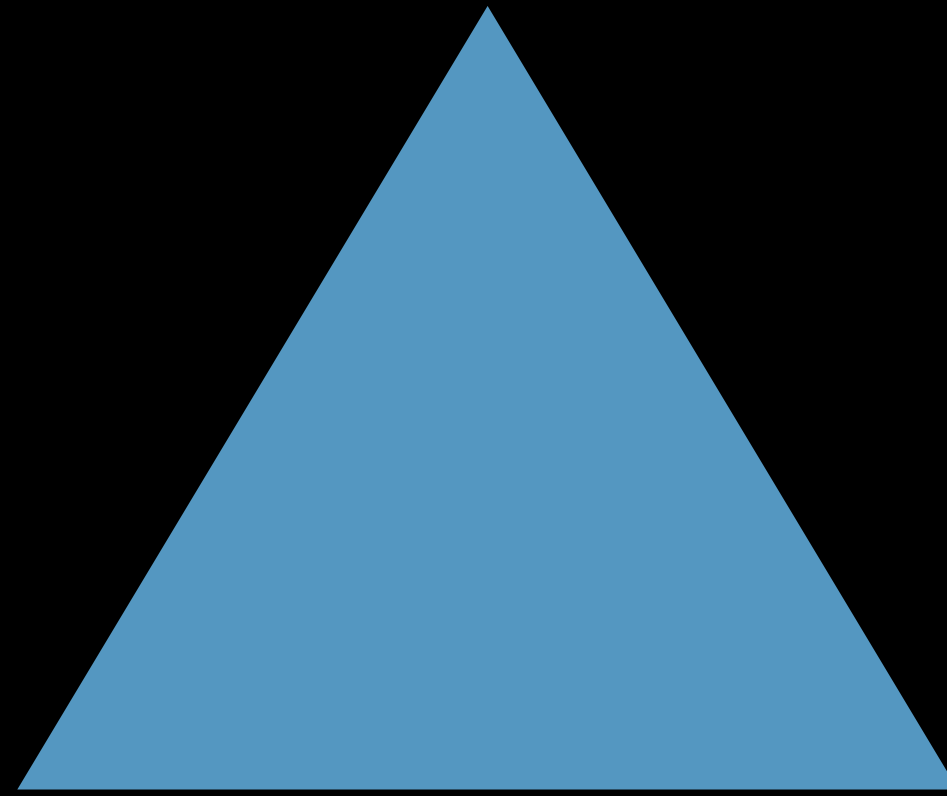
Raster Order Groups

Ordered memory access from fragment shaders

Enables new rendering techniques

- Order-independent transparency
- Dual-layer GBuffers
- Voxelization
- Custom blending

Fragment Shaders with Blending

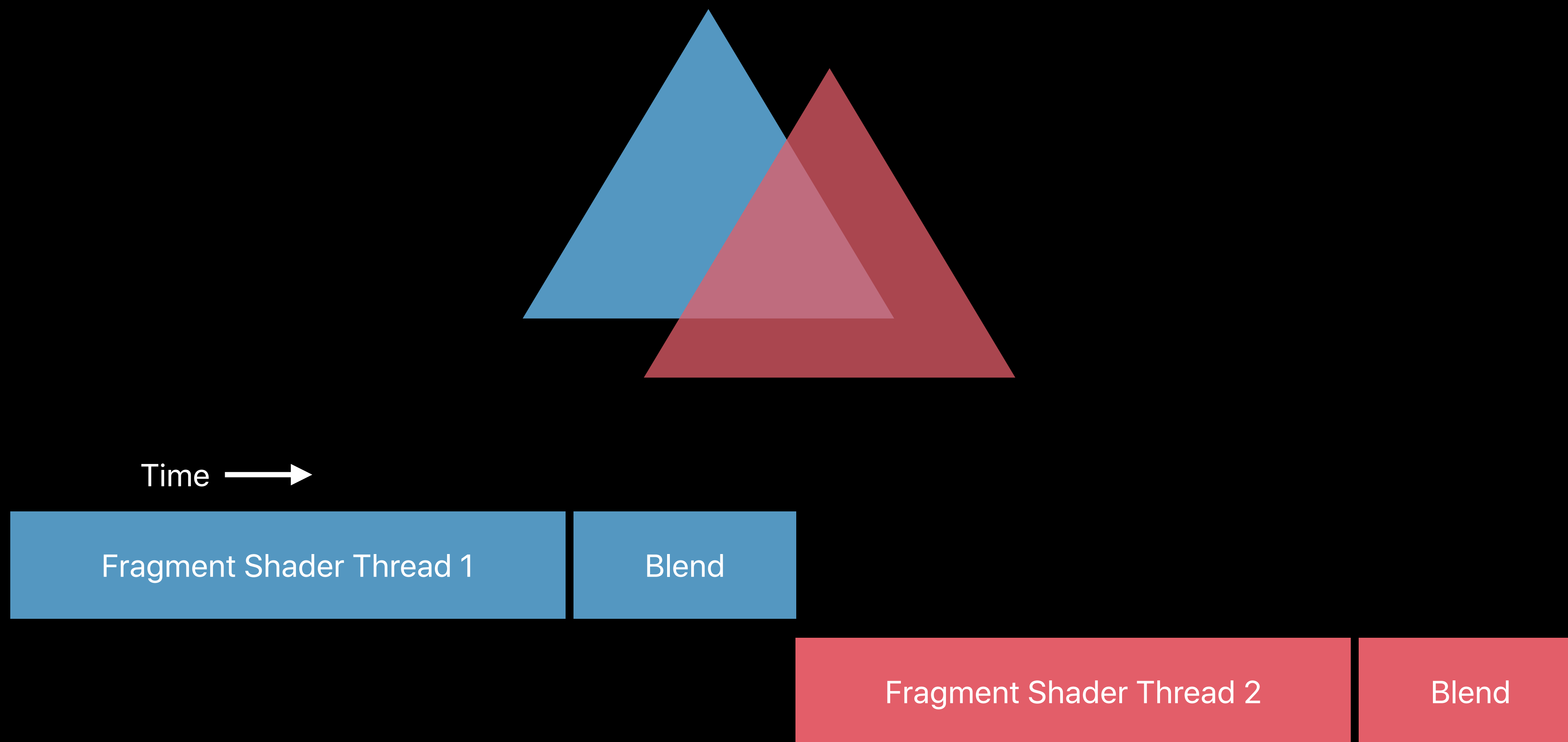


Time →

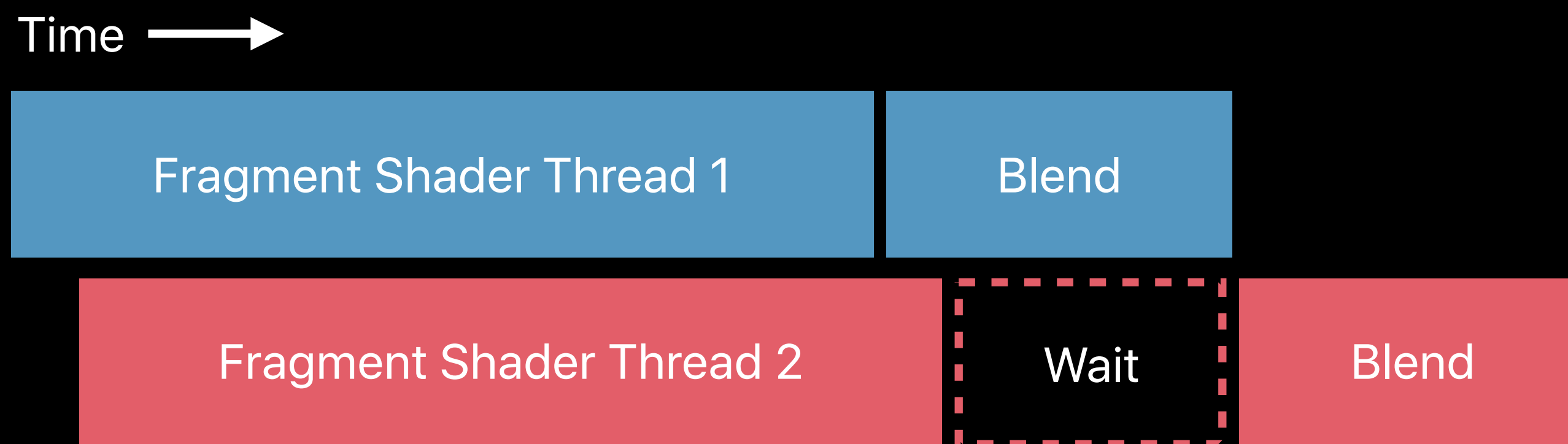
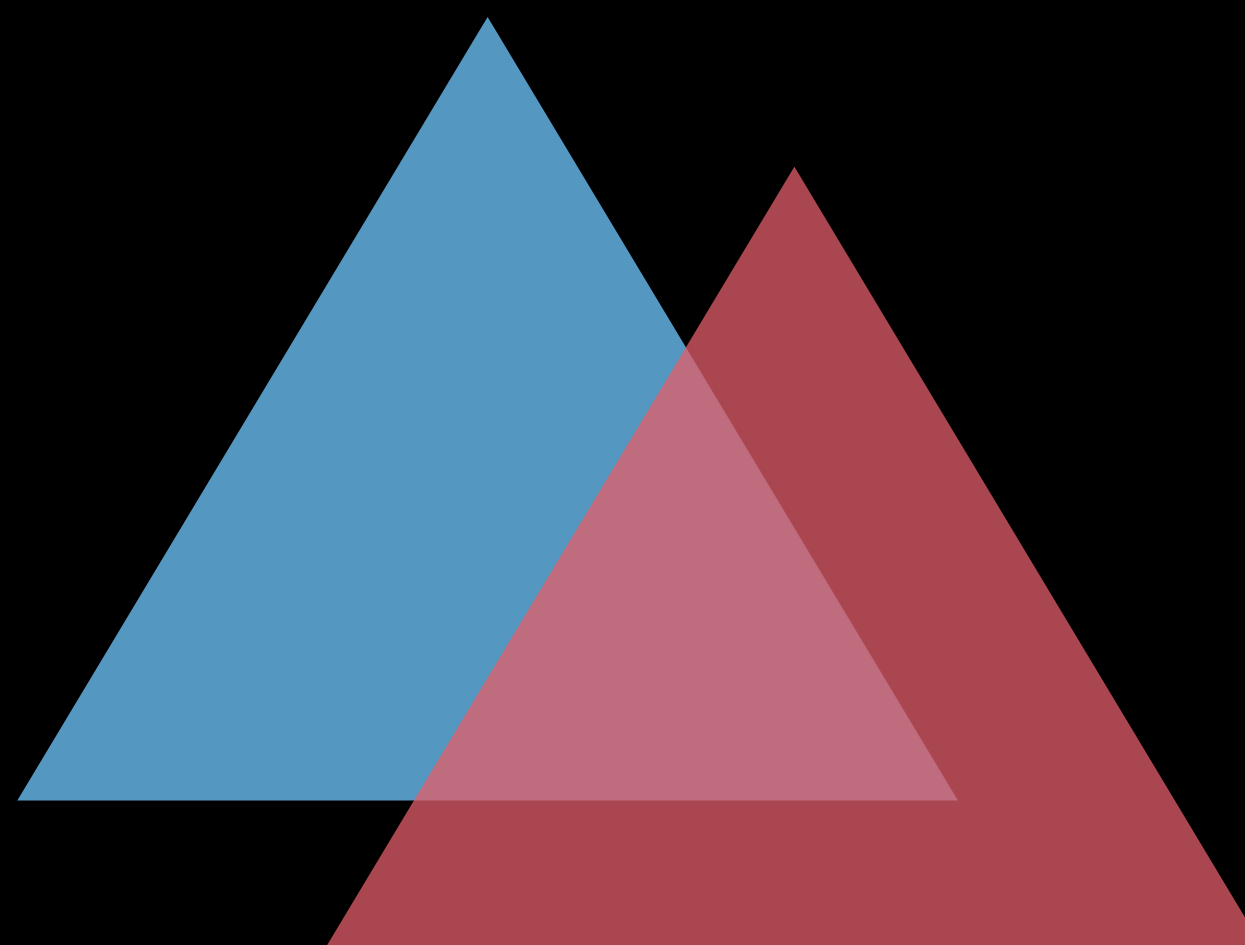
Fragment Shader Thread 1

Blend

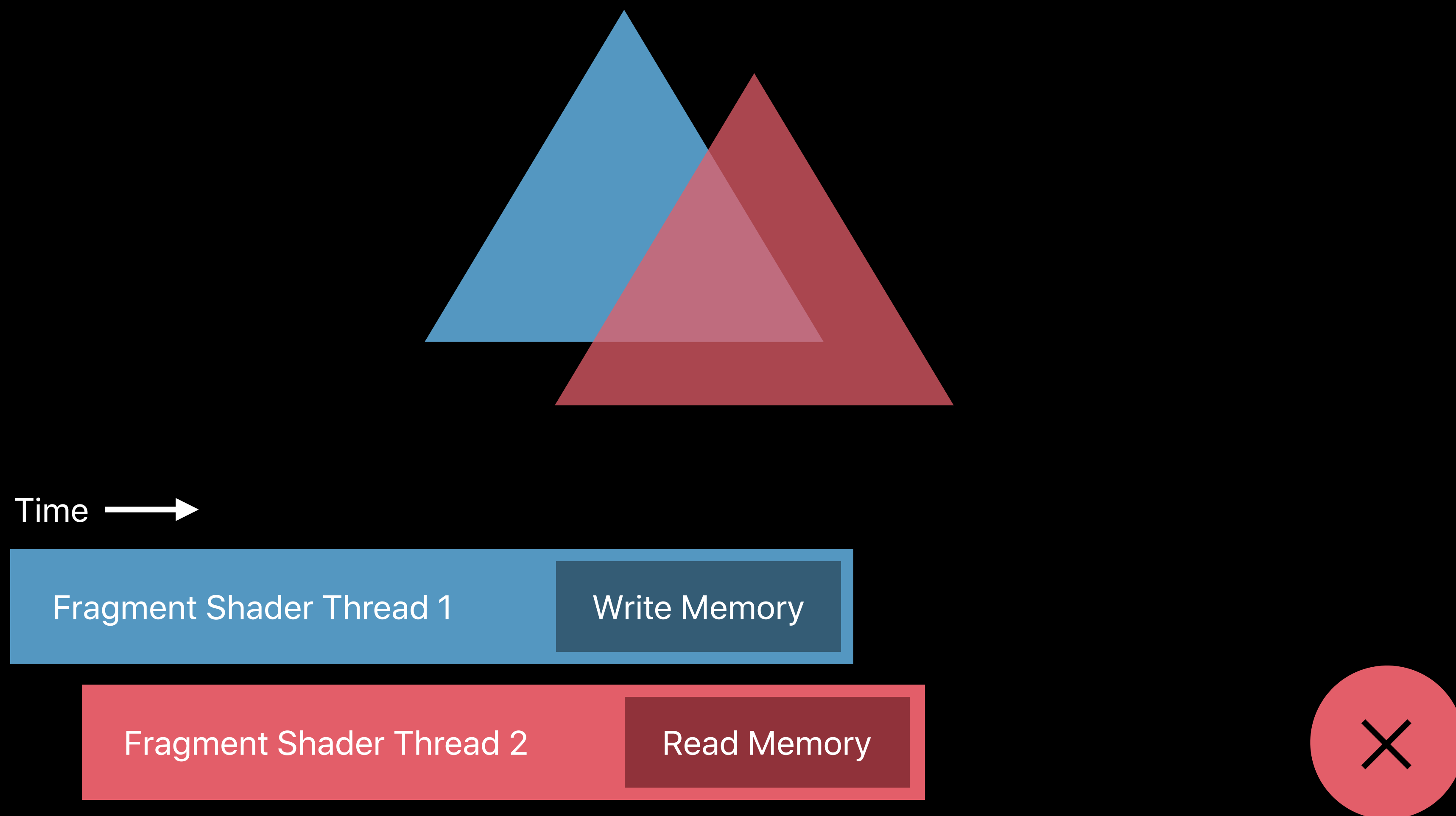
Fragment Shaders with Blending



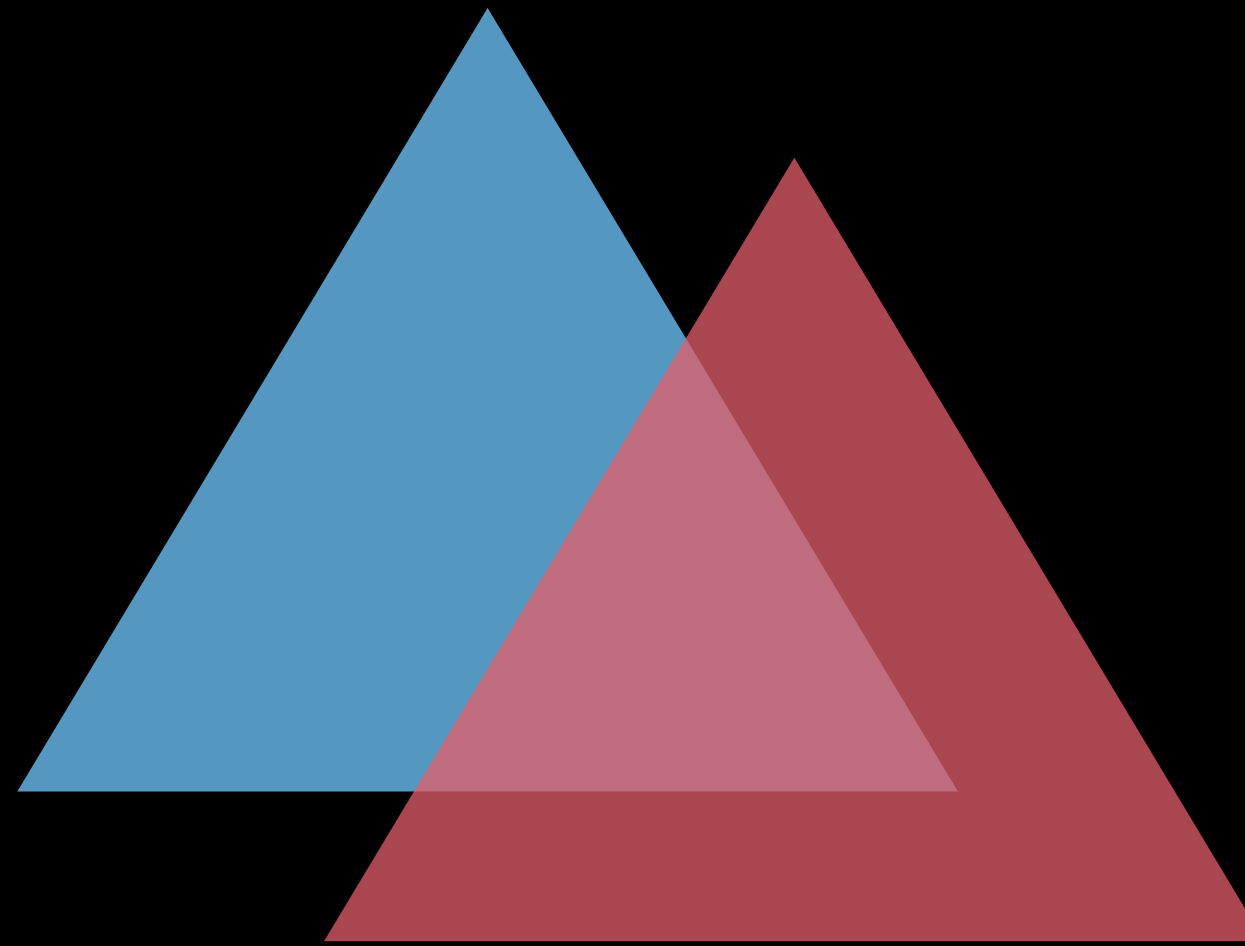
Fragment Shaders with Blending



Mid-Shader Memory Access



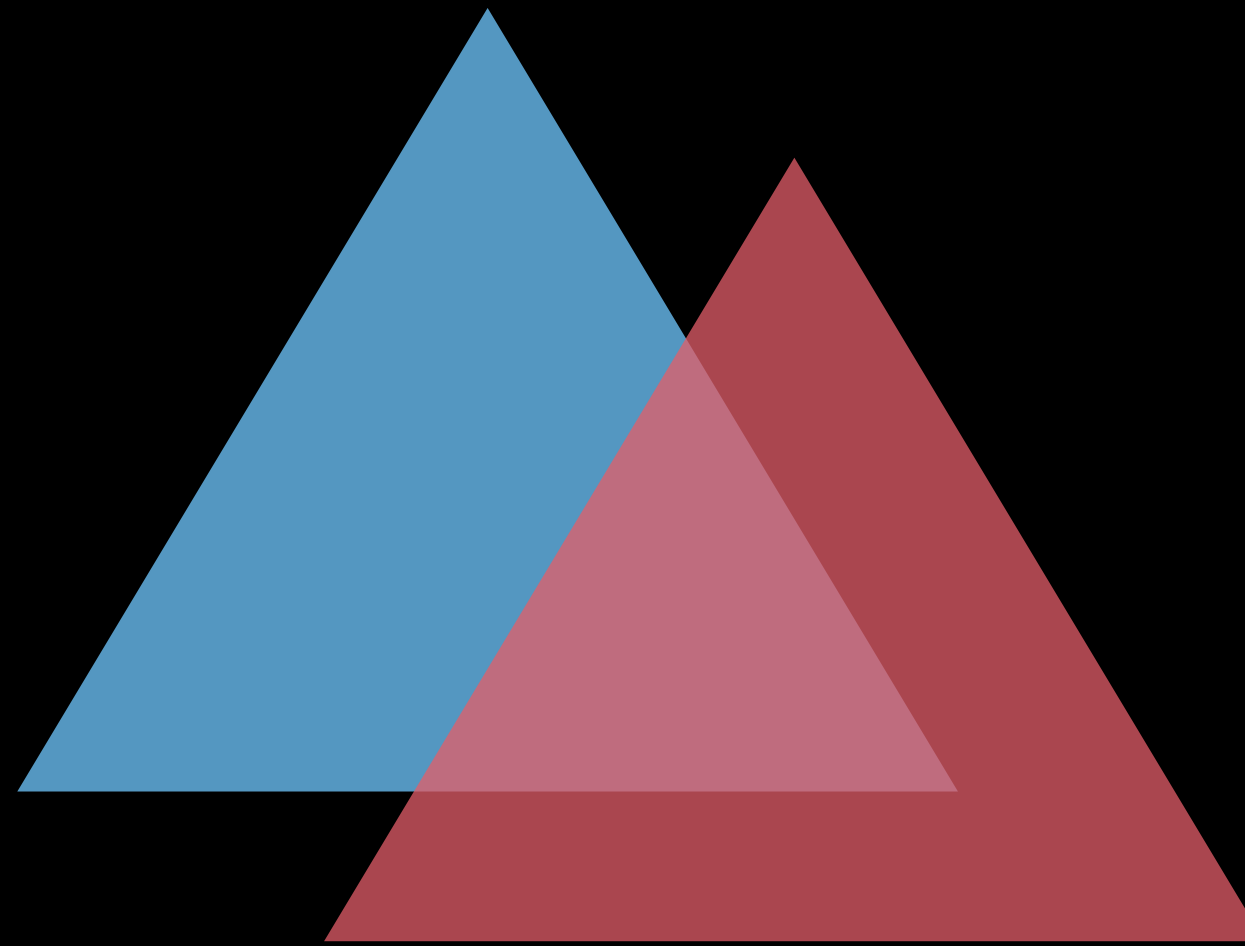
With Raster Order Groups



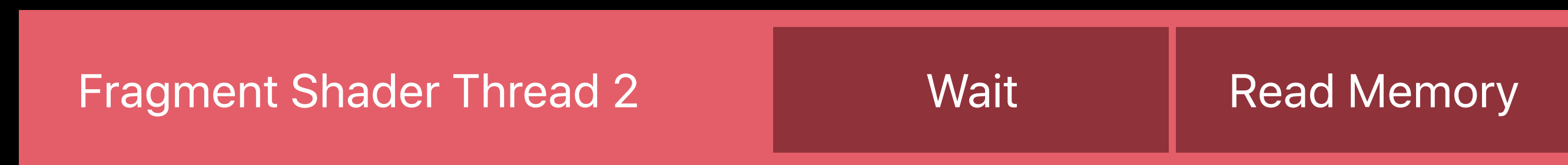
Time →



With Raster Order Groups



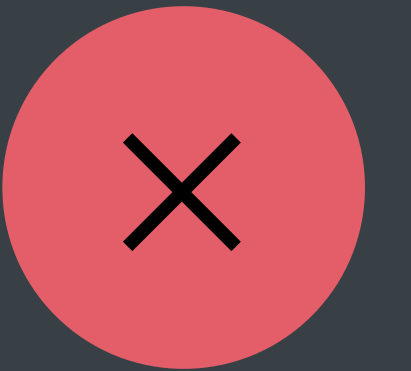
Time →



```
// Blending manually to a pointer in memory
fragment void BlendSomething(
    texture2d<float, access::read_write> framebuffer [[texture(0)]] {

    float4 newColor = ...

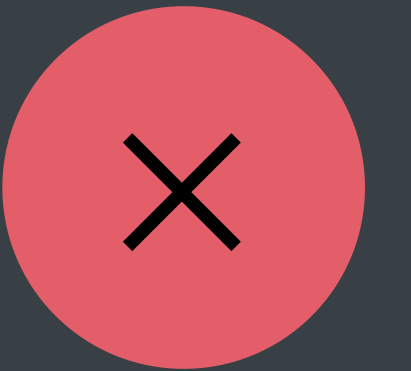
    // Non-atomic access to memory without synchronization
    float4 priorColor = framebuffer.read(framebufferPosition);
    float4 blended = custom_blend(newColor, priorColor);
    framebuffer.write(blended, framebufferPosition);
}
```



```
// Blending manually to a pointer in memory
fragment void BlendSomething(
    texture2d<float, access::read_write> framebuffer [[texture(0)]] {

    float4 newColor = ...

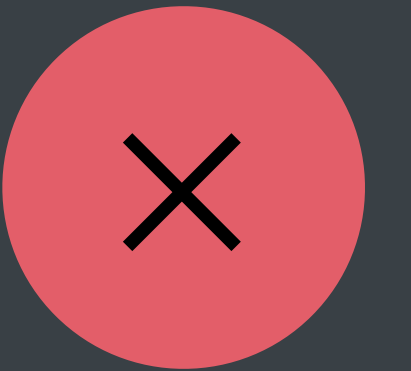
    // Non-atomic access to memory without synchronization
    float4 priorColor = framebuffer.read(framebufferPosition);
    float4 blended = custom_blend(newColor, priorColor);
    framebuffer.write(blended, framebufferPosition);
}
```



```
// Blending manually to a pointer in memory
fragment void BlendSomething(
    texture2d<float, access::read_write> framebuffer [[texture(0)]] {

    float4 newColor = ...

    // Non-atomic access to memory without synchronization
    float4 priorColor = framebuffer.read(framebufferPosition);
    float4 blended = custom_blend(newColor, priorColor);
    framebuffer.write(blended, framebufferPosition);
}
```



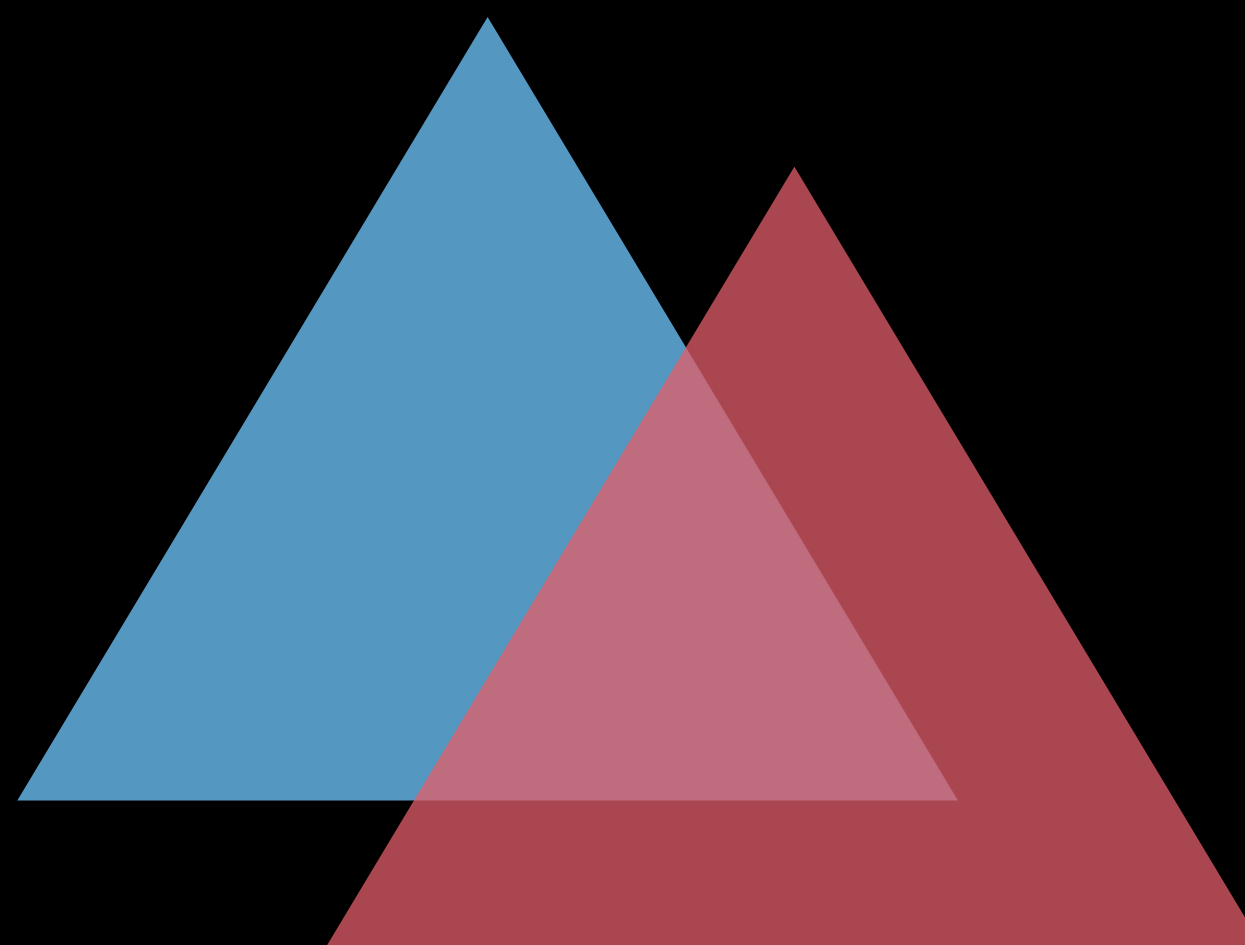
```
// Blending manually to a pointer in memory
fragment void BlendSomething(
    texture2d<float, access::read_write> framebuffer [[texture(0), raster_order_group(0)]] {

    float4 newColor = ...

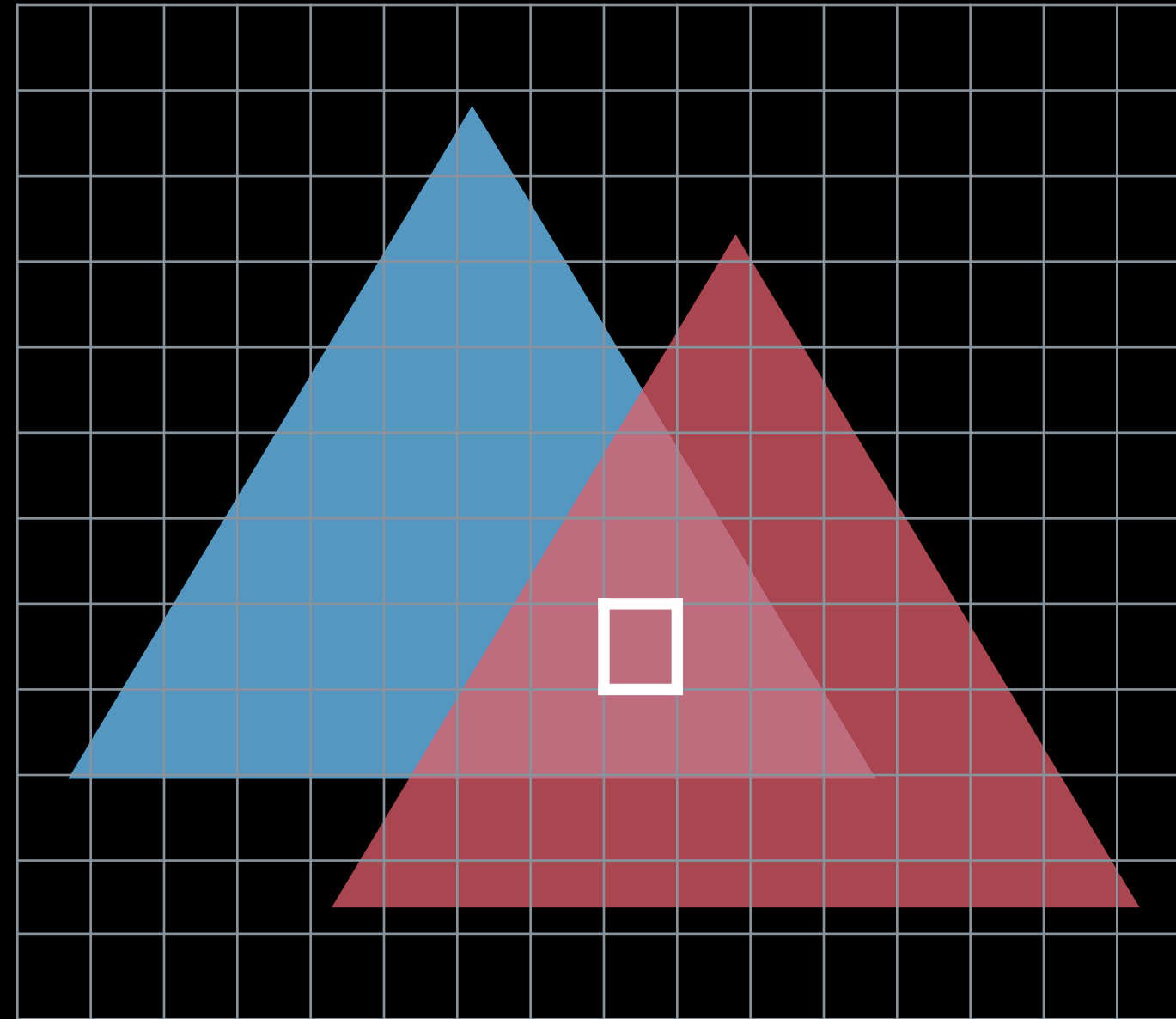
    // Hardware waits on first access to raster ordered memory
    float4 priorColor = framebuffer.read(framebufferPosition);
    float4 blended = custom_blend(newColor, priorColor);
    framebuffer.write(blended, framebufferPosition);
}
```



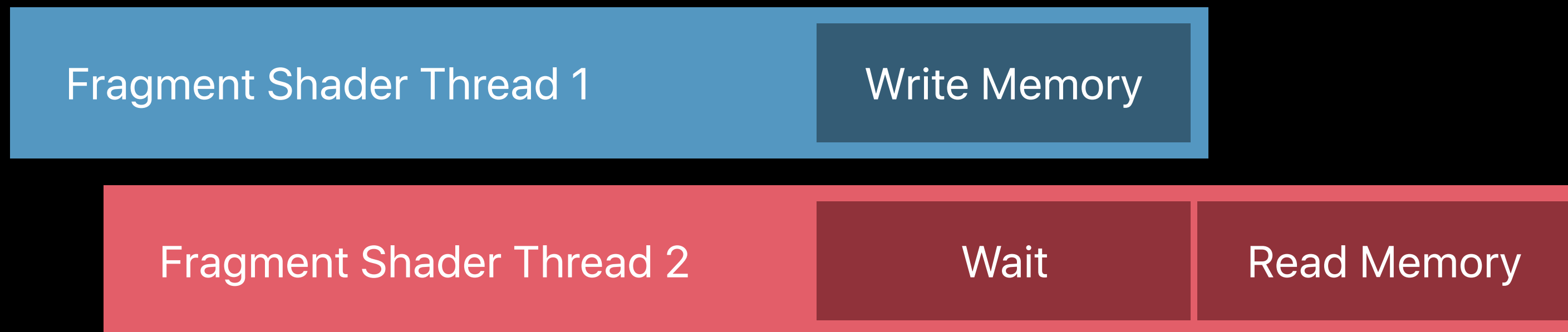
With Raster Order Groups



With Raster Order Groups



Time →



Raster Order Groups

Summary

Synchronization between overlapping fragment shader threads

Check for support with `MTLDevice.rasterOrderGroupsSupported`

ProMotion Displays

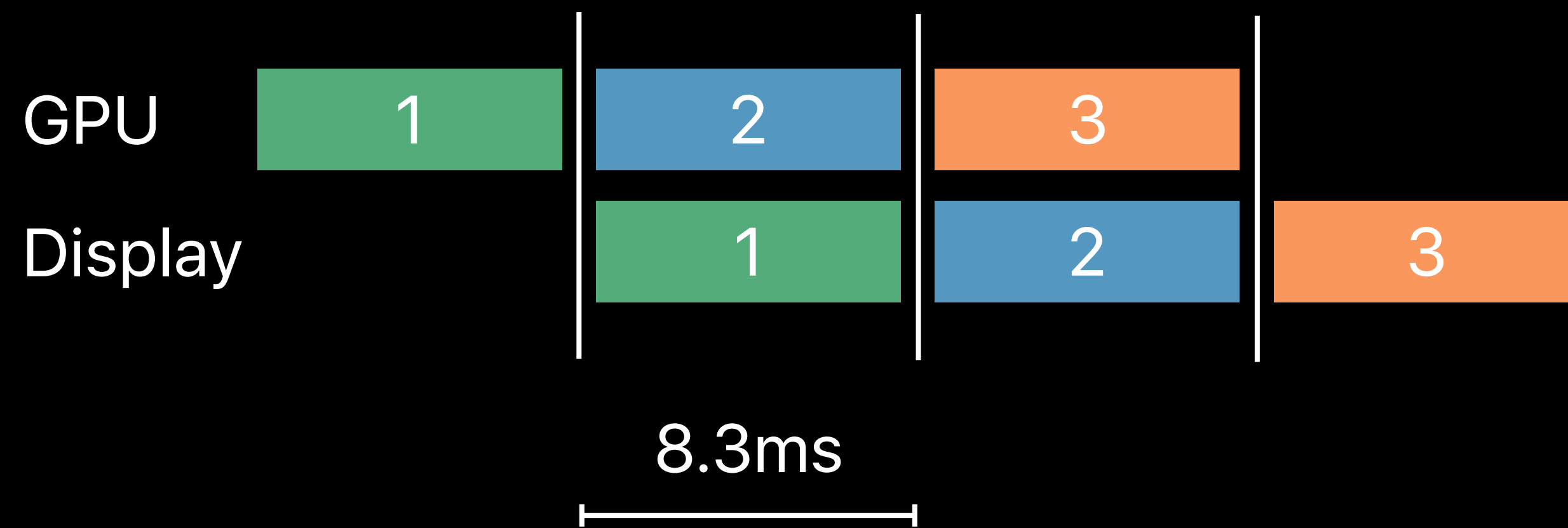
Without ProMotion

60 FPS



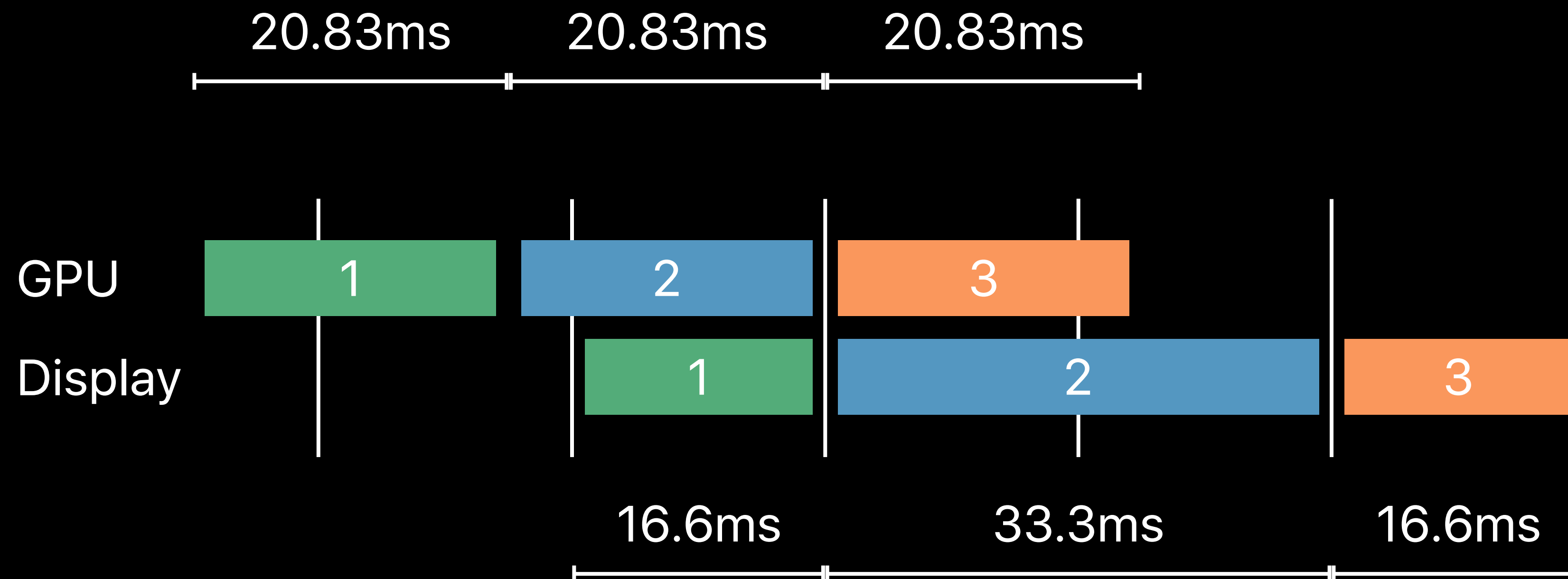
With ProMotion

120 FPS



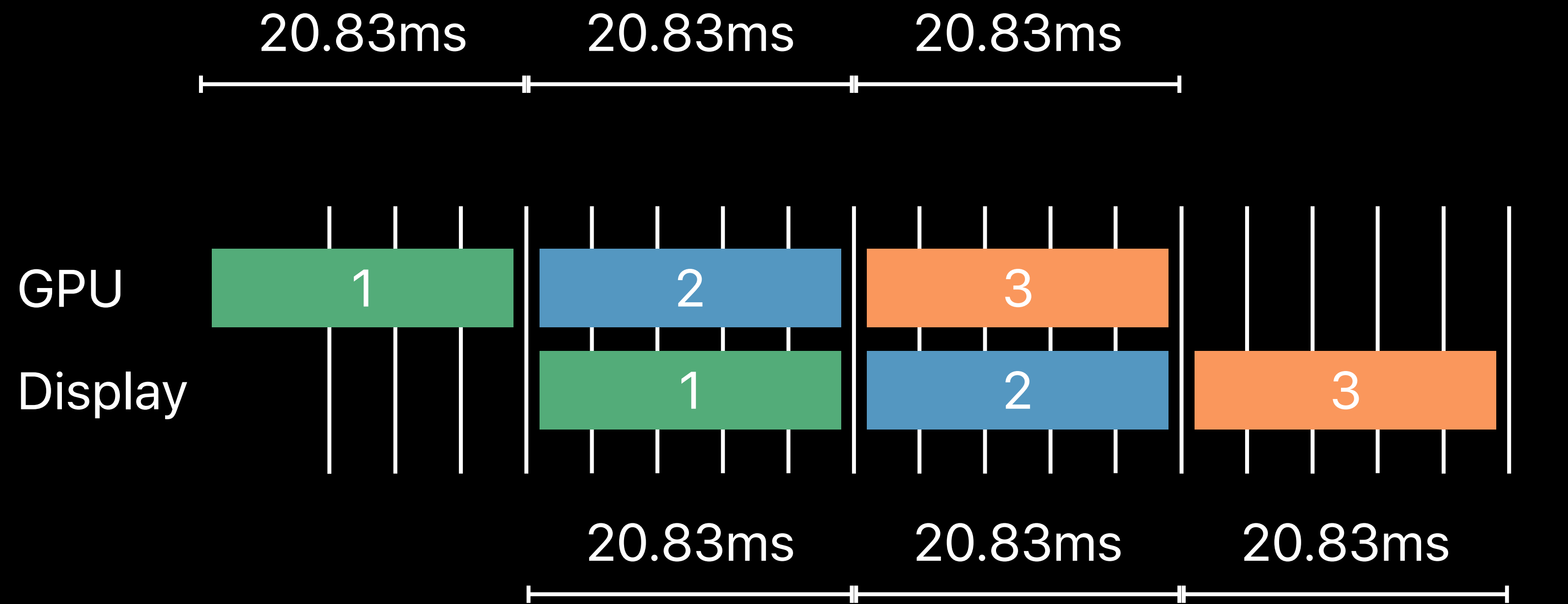
Without ProMotion

48 FPS



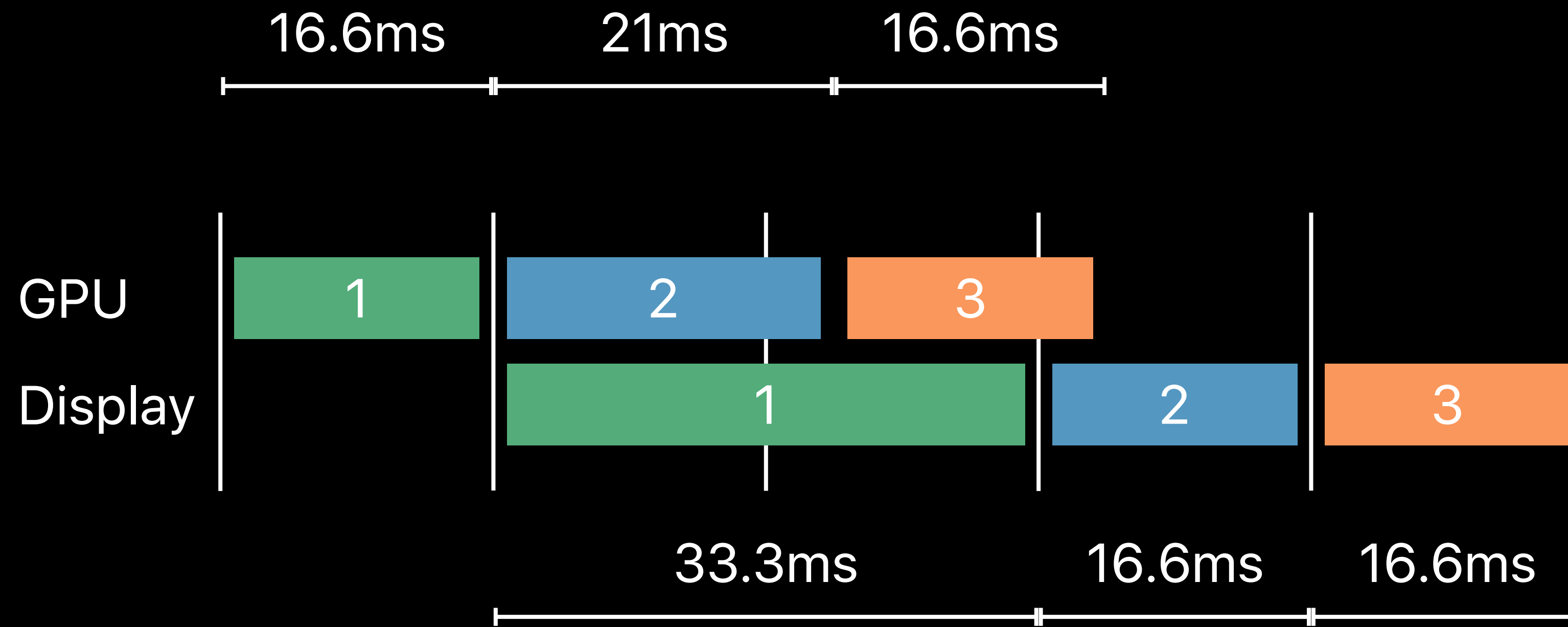
With ProMotion

48 FPS



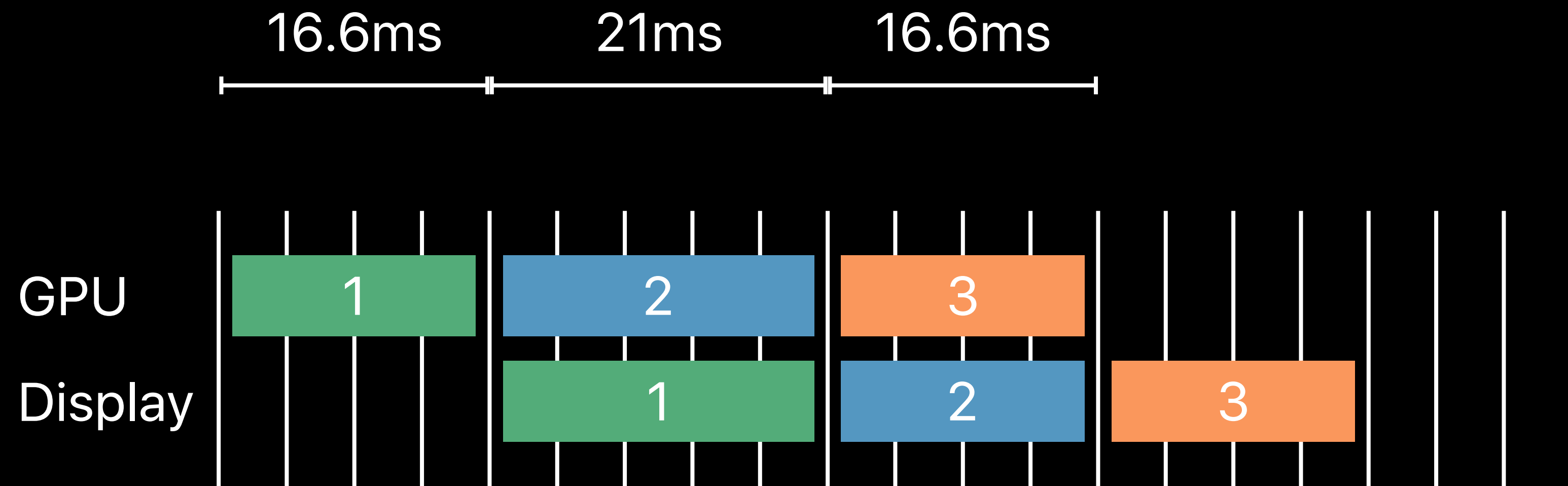
Without ProMotion

Dropped frame



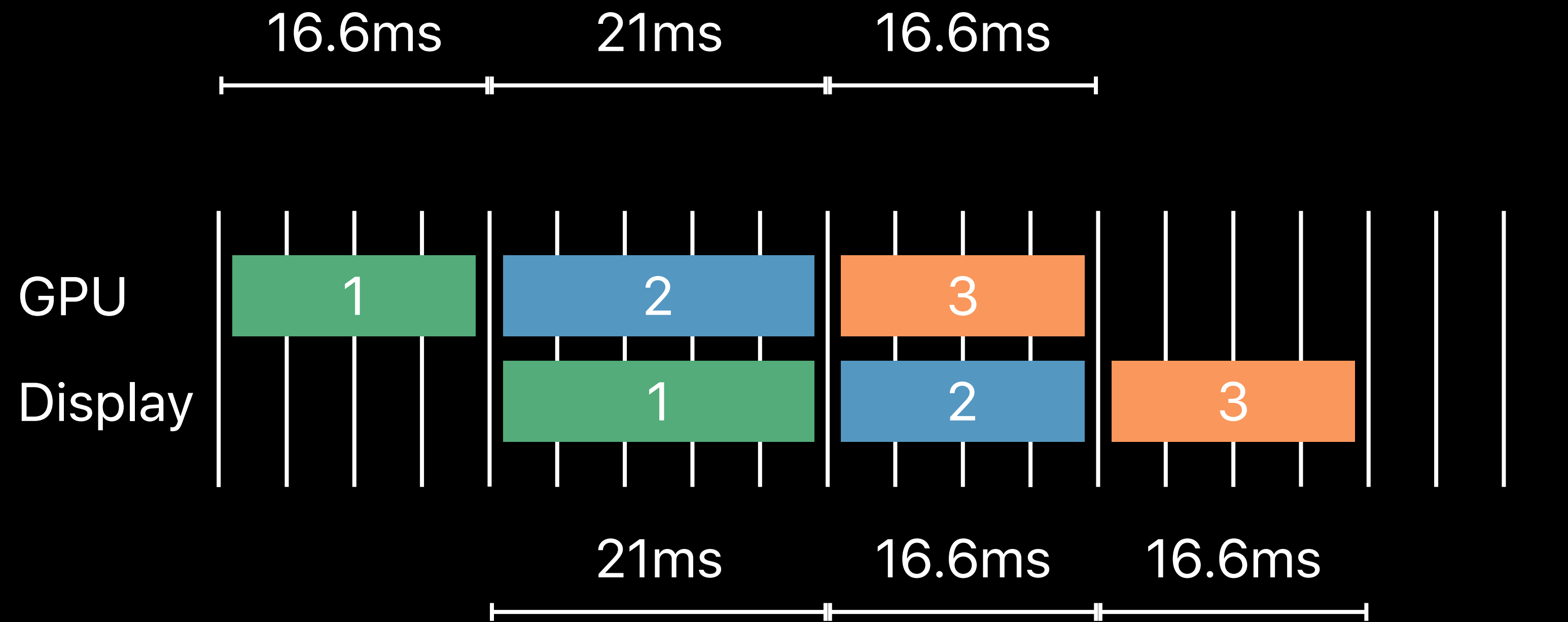
With ProMotion

Dropped frame



With ProMotion

Dropped frame



Opting in to ProMotion

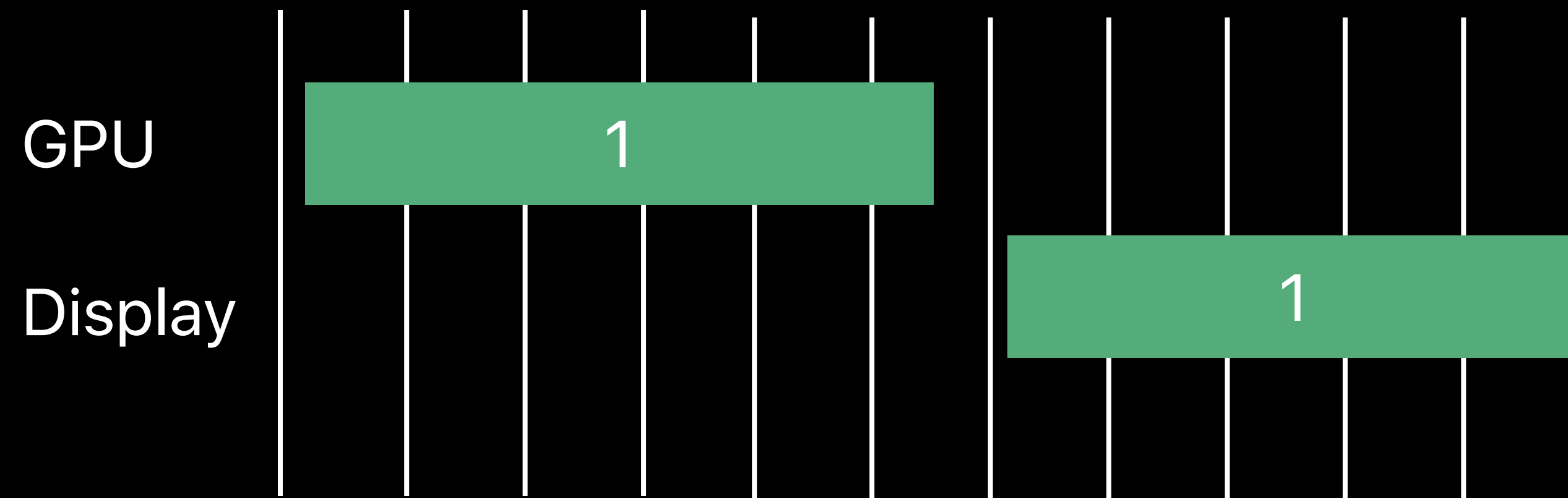
UIKit animations use ProMotion automatically

Metal views require opt-in with Info.plist key

```
<key>CADisableMinimumFrameDuration</key>  
<true/>
```

Metal Presentation APIs

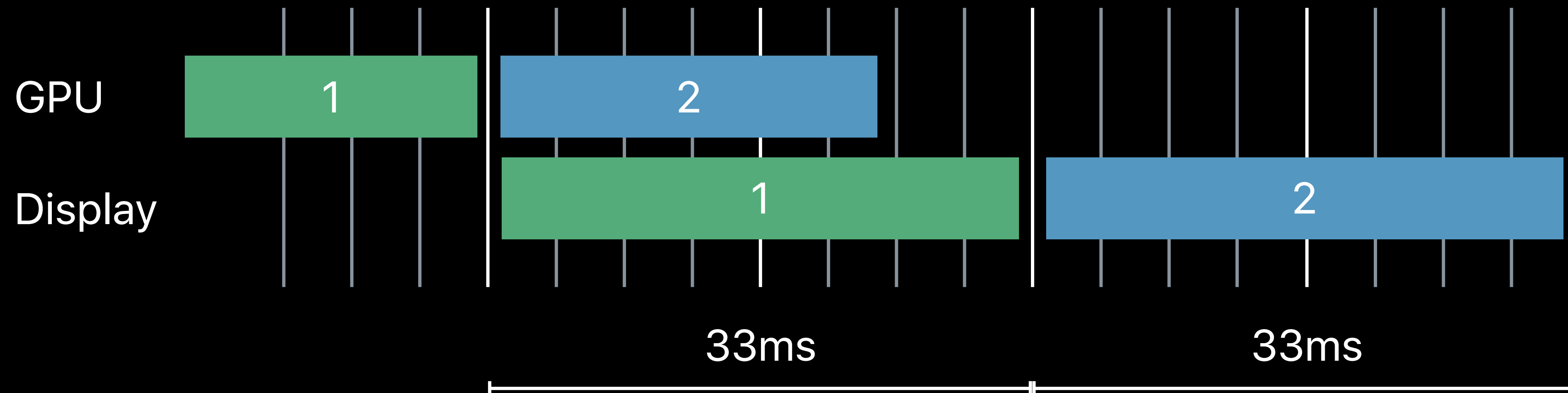
Present immediately



```
present(drawable)
```

Metal Presentation APIs

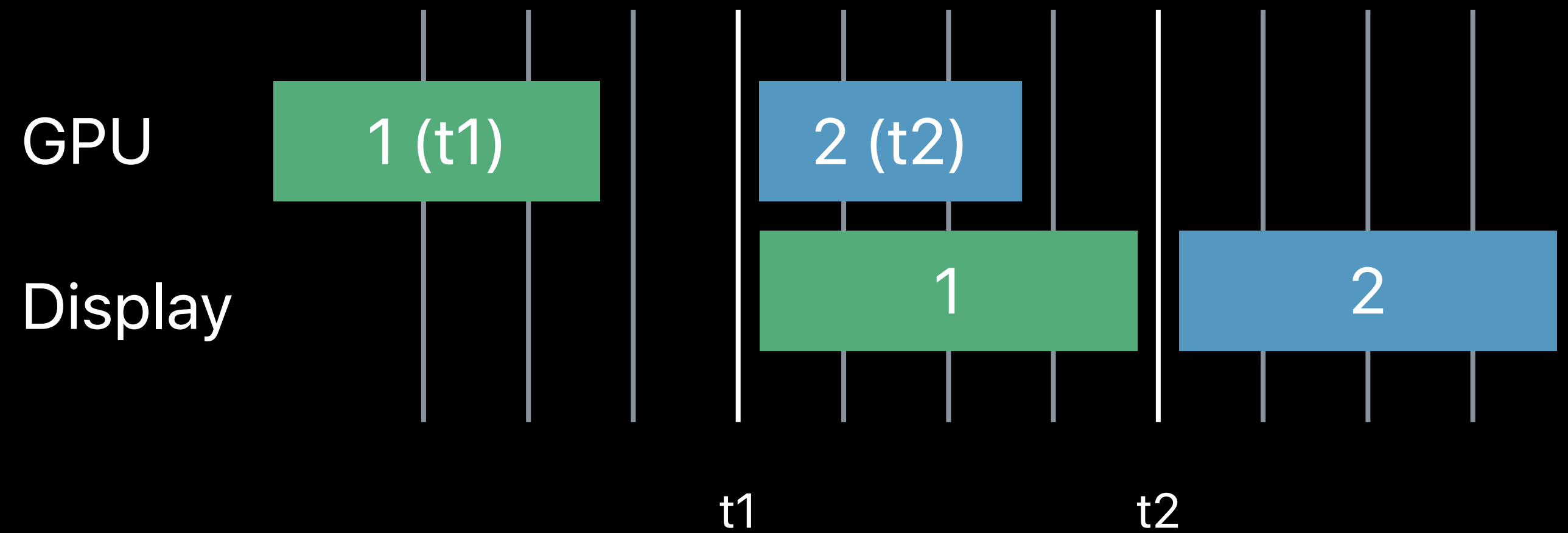
Present after minimum duration



```
present(drawable, afterMinimumDuration: 1000.0 / 30.0)
```

Metal Presentation APIs

Present at specific time



```
let time : CTimeInterval = projectNextDisplayTime();  
present(drawable, atTime: time)
```

```
let targetTime = // project when intend to display this drawable
// render your scene into a command buffer for 'targetTime'
let drawable = metalLayer.nextDrawable()
commandBuffer.present(drawable, atTime: targetTime)
```

```
// after a frame or two...
```

```
let presentationDelay = drawable.presentedTime - targetTime
// Examine presentationDelay and adjust future frame timing
```

ProMotion Displays

Summary

120 FPS

Reduced latency

Improved framerate consistency

Reduced stuttering from missed display deadlines

Direct to Display

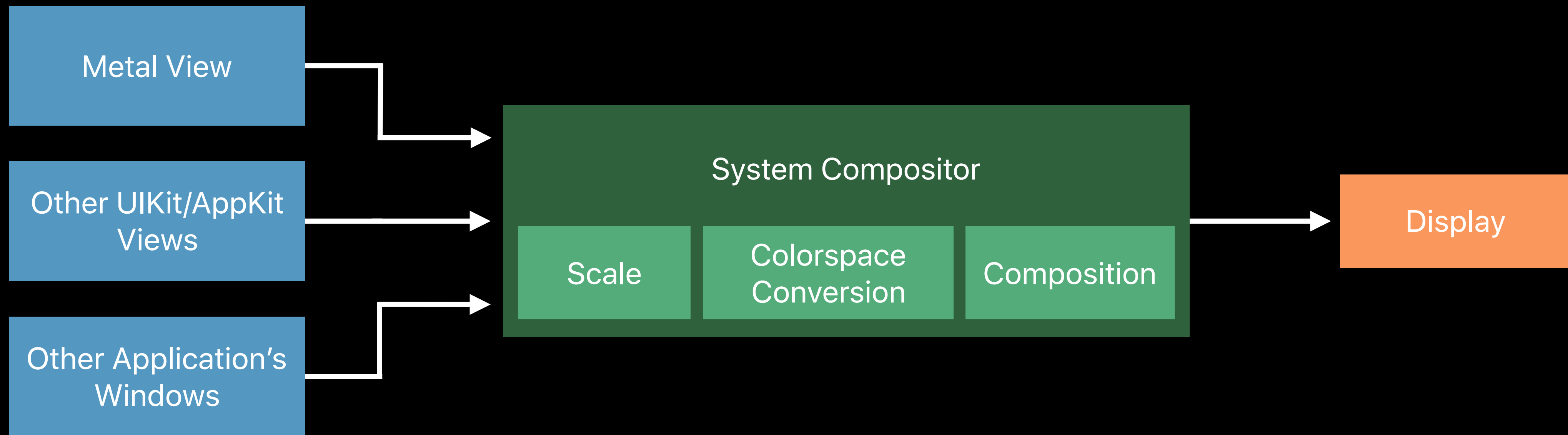
Displaying Metal Content

Two paths

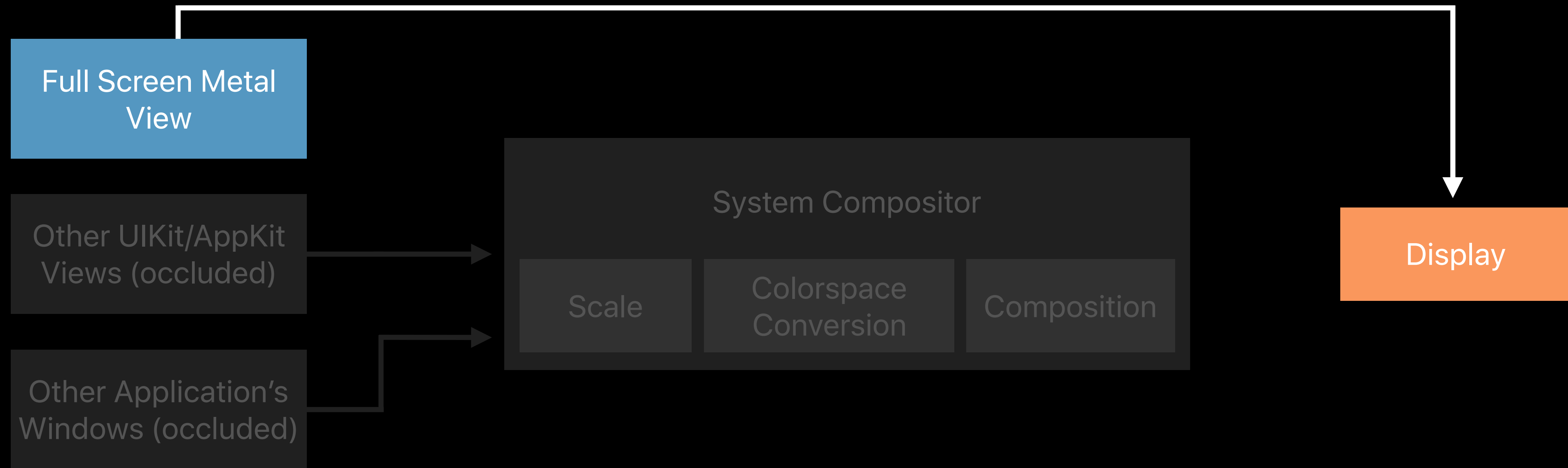
GPU Composition

Direct to Display

GPU Composition



Direct to Display



Direct to Display Requirements

Direct to Display Requirements



Opaque Layer

Direct to Display Requirements

- ✓ Opaque Layer
- ✓ No masking, rounded corners, and so on

Direct to Display Requirements

- ✓ Opaque Layer
- ✓ No masking, rounded corners, and so on
- ✓ Full screen (or with “black bars” via an opaque black background color)

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- ✓ Dimensions matching the display or smaller

Direct to Display Requirements

- ✓ Opaque Layer
- ✓ No masking, rounded corners, and so on
- ✓ Full screen (or with "black bars" via an opaque black background color)
- ✓ Dimensions matching the display or smaller
- ✓ Color Space and Pixel Format compatible with the display

Colorspace Requirements

Color Space	Metal Pixel Format	P3 Display	sRGB Display
sRGB	bgra8Unorm_srgb	Direct	Direct

Colorspace Requirements

Color Space	Metal Pixel Format	P3 Display	sRGB Display
sRGB	bgra8Unorm_srgb	Direct	Direct
Display P3 (macOS)	bgr10a2Unorm	Direct	GPU Composited

Colorspace Requirements

Color Space	Metal Pixel Format	P3 Display	sRGB Display
sRGB	bgra8Unorm_srgb	Direct	Direct
Display P3 (macOS)	bgr10a2Unorm	Direct	GPU Composited
Extended sRGB (iOS)	bgr10_xr_srgb	Direct	GPU Composited

Colorspace Requirements

Color Space	Metal Pixel Format	P3 Display	sRGB Display
sRGB	bgra8Unorm_srgb	Direct	Direct
Display P3 (macOS)	bgr10a2Unorm	Direct	GPU Composited
Extended sRGB (iOS)	bgr10_xr_srgb	Direct	GPU Composited
Linear Extended sRGB, or Display P3	rgba16Float	GPU Composited	GPU Composited

Detecting P3 Display Gamut

UIKit

```
UITraitCollection.displayGamut == .P3
```

AppKit

```
NSScreen.canRepresent(.p3)
```

Instruments4

Richard's iPad Air (11.0) > MetalApp (353) Run 13 of 13 | 00:00:02

Track Filter: All Instruments Threads CPUs

Metal Application

Metal User Callbacks

Graphics Driver Activity

Fragment

Vertex

Display

Metal Application > Metal Encoder Hierarchy

Process / Frame / Command Buffer (In...	Creation	Submission
▼ * All *	00:00.060.494	00:02.296.309
▶ backboardd (53)	00:00.062.562	00:02.296.309
▶ MetalApp (353)	00:00.060.494	00:02.294.632

No Detail

Input Filter: Instrument Detail

Instruments4

Richard's iPad Air (11.0) > MetalApp (353)

Run 13 of 13 | 00:00:02

Track Filter: All Instruments Threads CPUs

Metal Application

Metal User Callbacks

Graphics Driver Activity

Fragment

Vertex

Display

Metal Application > Metal Encoder Hierarchy

Process / Frame / Command Buffer (In...	Creation	Submission
* All *	00:00.060.494	00:02.296.309
▶ backboardd (53)	00:00.062.562	00:02.296.309
▶ MetalApp (353)	00:00.060.494	00:02.294.632

No Detail

Input Filter: Instrument Detail

Instruments4

Richard's iPad Air (11.0) MetalApp (346) Run 11 of 11 | 00:00:04

Track Filter: All Instruments Threads CPUs

Timeline: 00:01.780 00:01.790 00:01.800 00:01.810 00:01.820 00:01.830 00:01.840 00:01.850 00:01.860

Tracks:

- Metal Application
- Metal User Callbacks
- Graphics Driver Activity
- Fragment (Selected)
- Vertex
- Display

GPU Hardware Summary

Event / State	Count	Total Durat...	Min Duration	Avg Duration	Max Durati...	Std Dev Du...
* All *	1,044	8.80 s	401.08 μs	8.43 ms	66.67 ms	7.43 ms
Fragment	522	4.40 s	2.44 ms	8.44 ms	66.67 ms	6.42 ms
Vertex	522	4.40 s	401.08 μs	8.43 ms	66.03 ms	8.32 ms

No Detail

Input Filter: Instrument Detail

Direct to Display

Summary

Eliminate compositor usage of GPU

Useful for full-screen scenes

Supported on iOS, tvOS, and macOS

Use Metal System Trace to verify

Everything Else

Memory Usage Queries

New APIs to query memory usage per allocation

```
MTLResource.allocatedSize
```

```
MTLHeap.currentAllocatedSize
```

Query total GPU memory allocated by the device

```
MTLDevice.currentAllocatedSize
```

SIMDGroup-scoped Data Sharing

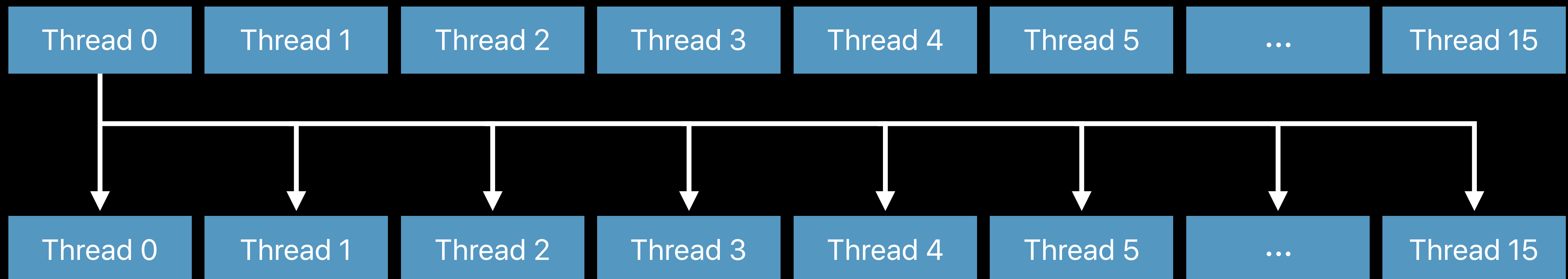
Share data across a SIMDGroup

```
simd_broadcast(data, simd_lane_id)  
simd_shuffle(data, simd_lane_id)  
simd_shuffle_up(data, simd_lane_id)  
simd_shuffle_down(data, simd_lane_id)  
simd_shuffle_xor(data, simd_lane_id)
```

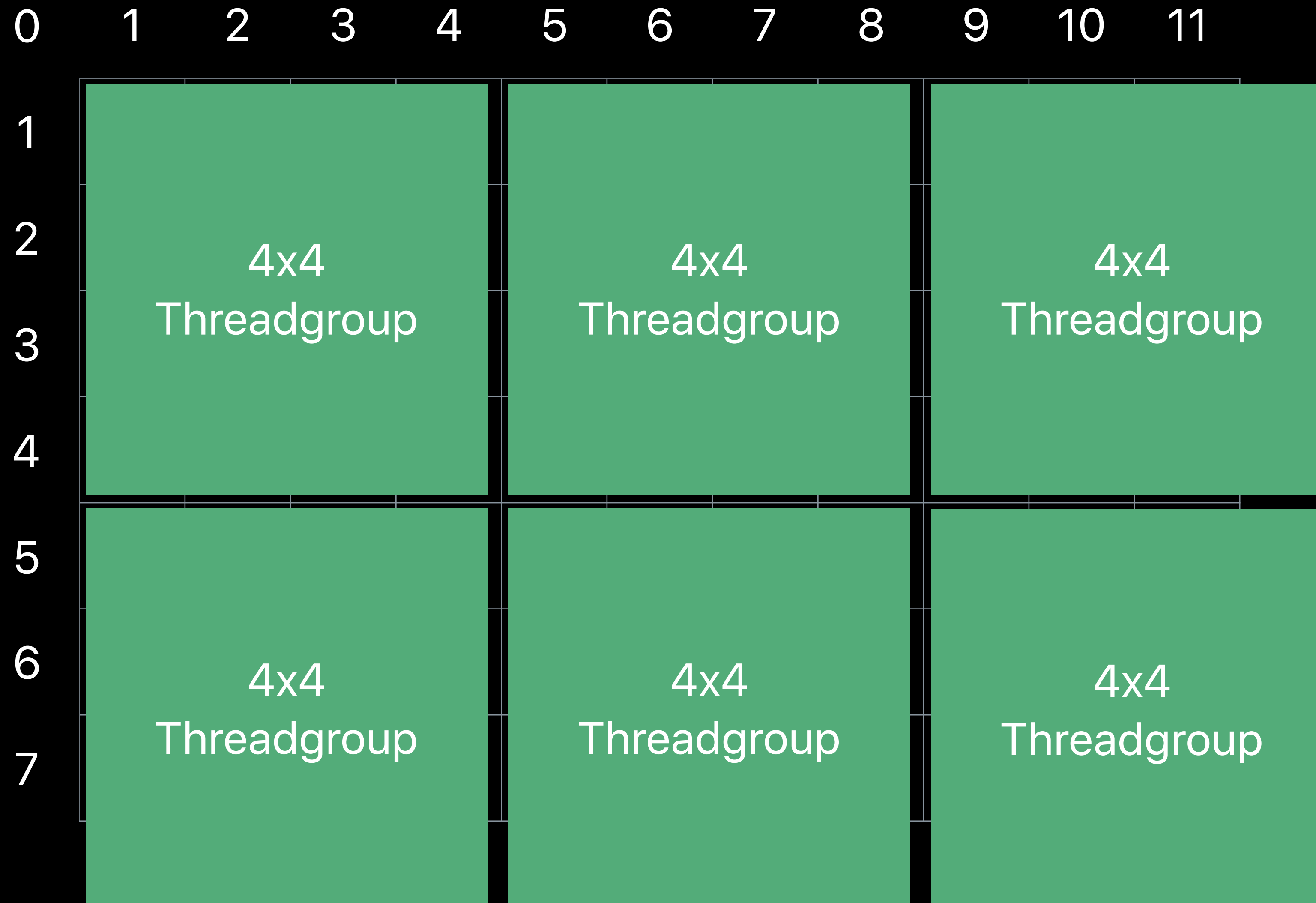
SIMDGroup-scoped Data Sharing

Share data across a SIMDGroup

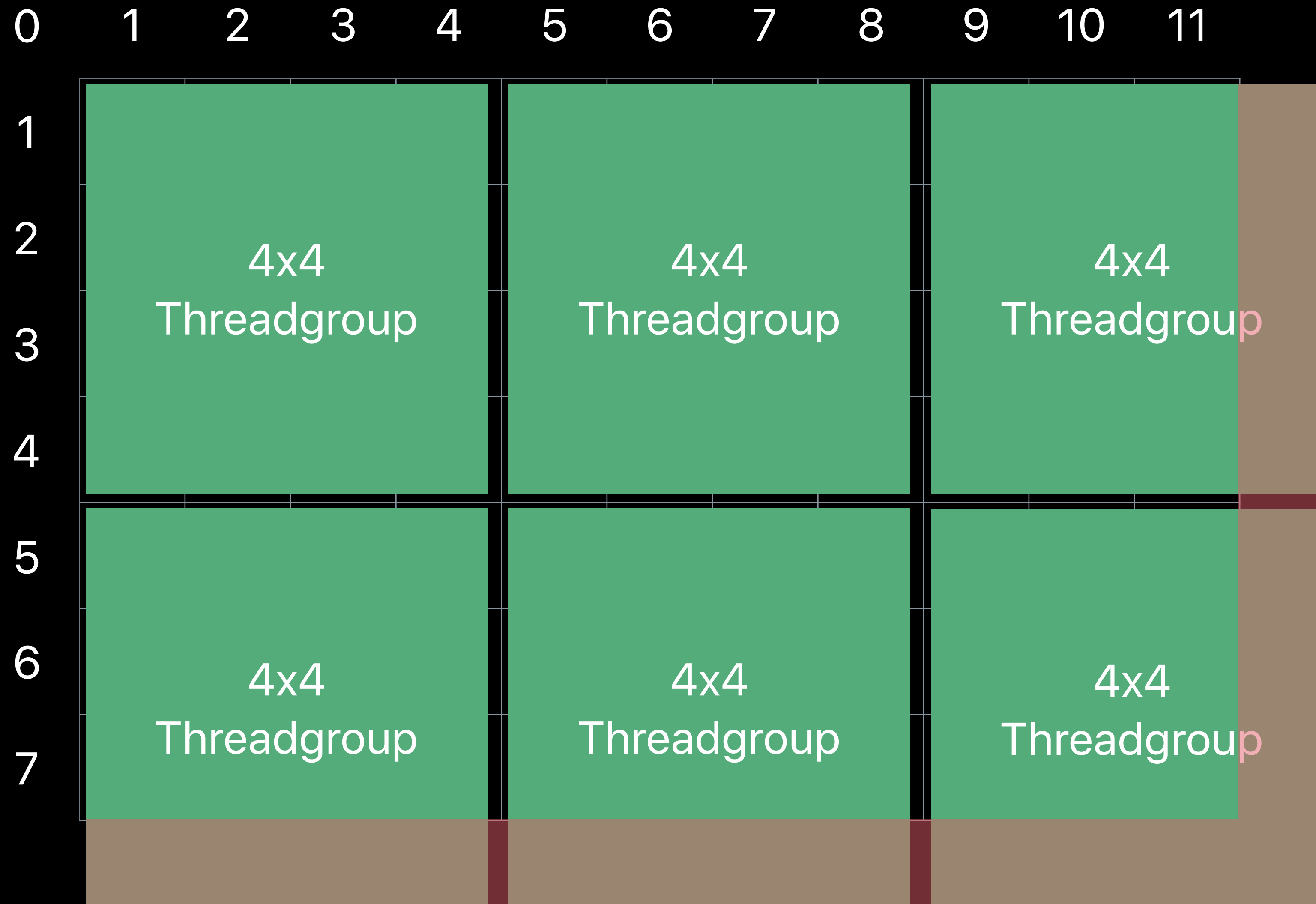
```
simd_broadcast(data, simd_lane_id)  
simd_shuffle(data, simd_lane_id)  
simd_shuffle_up(data, simd_lane_id)  
simd_shuffle_down(data, simd_lane_id)  
simd_shuffle_xor(data, simd_lane_id)
```



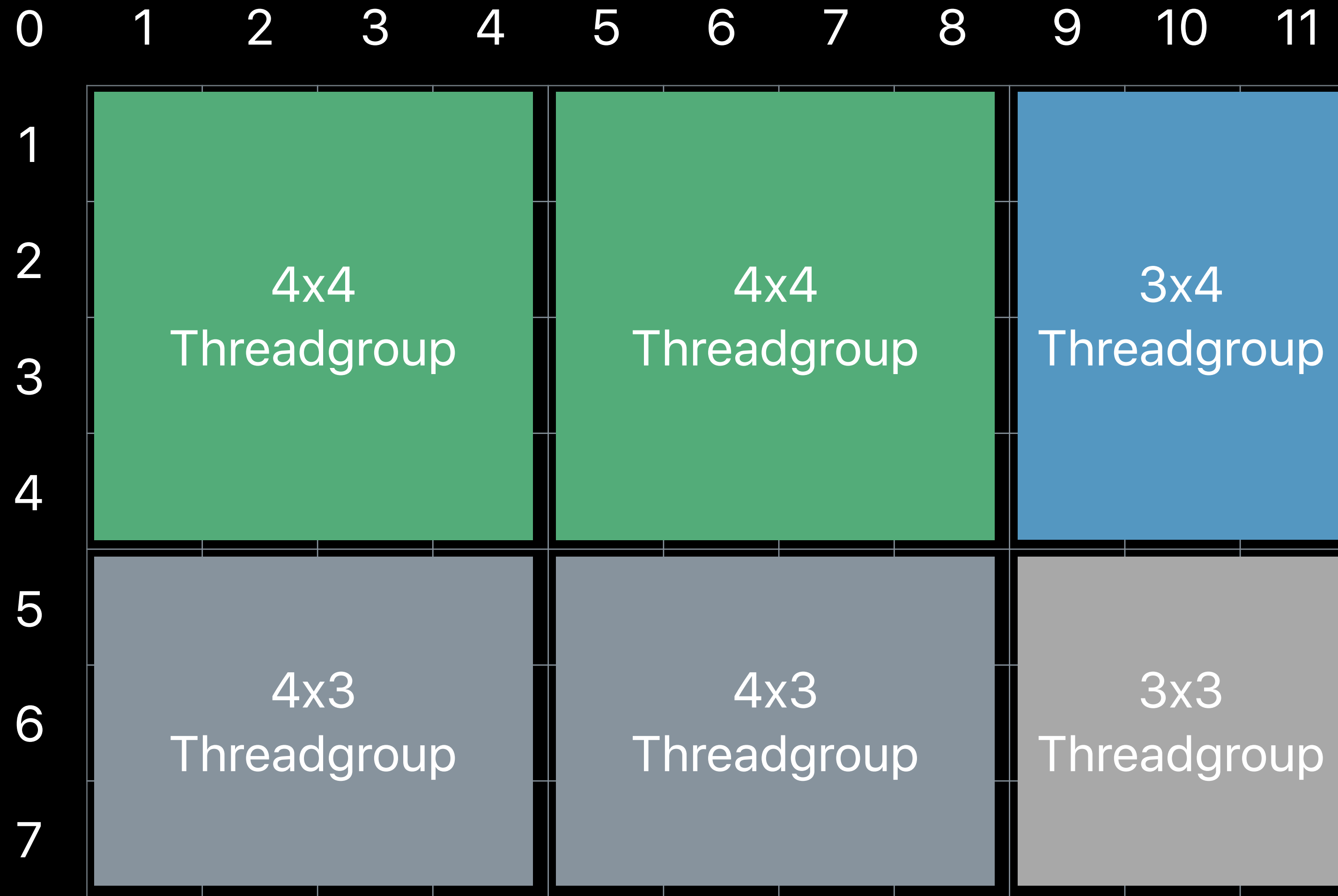
Non-Uniform Threadgroup Sizes



Non-Uniform Threadgroup Sizes



Non-Uniform Threadgroup Sizes



Viewport Arrays

Vertex Function selects which viewport

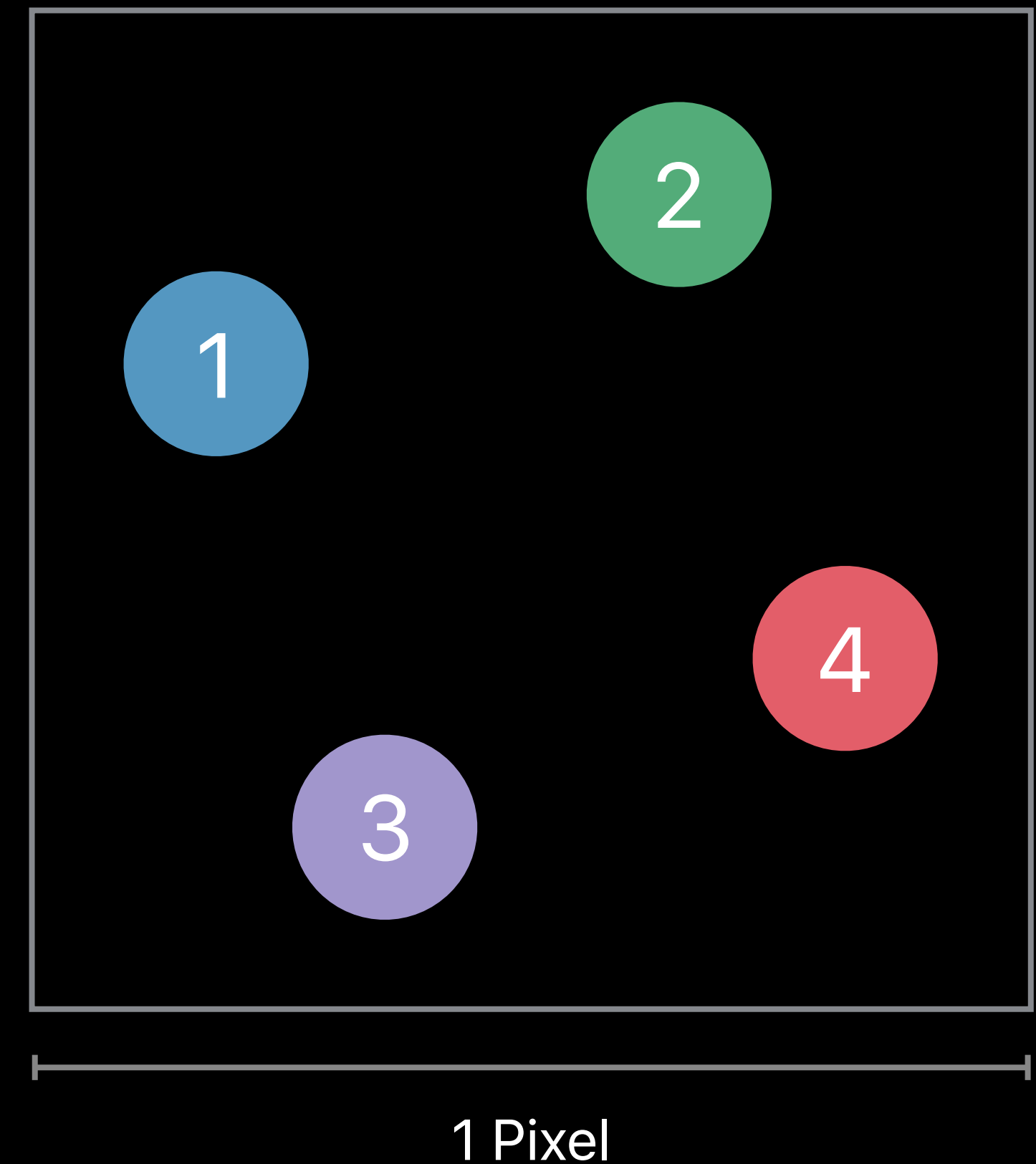
Useful for VR when combined with instancing



Multisample Pattern Control

Select where within a pixel the MSAA
Sample Patterns are located

Useful for custom anti-aliasing

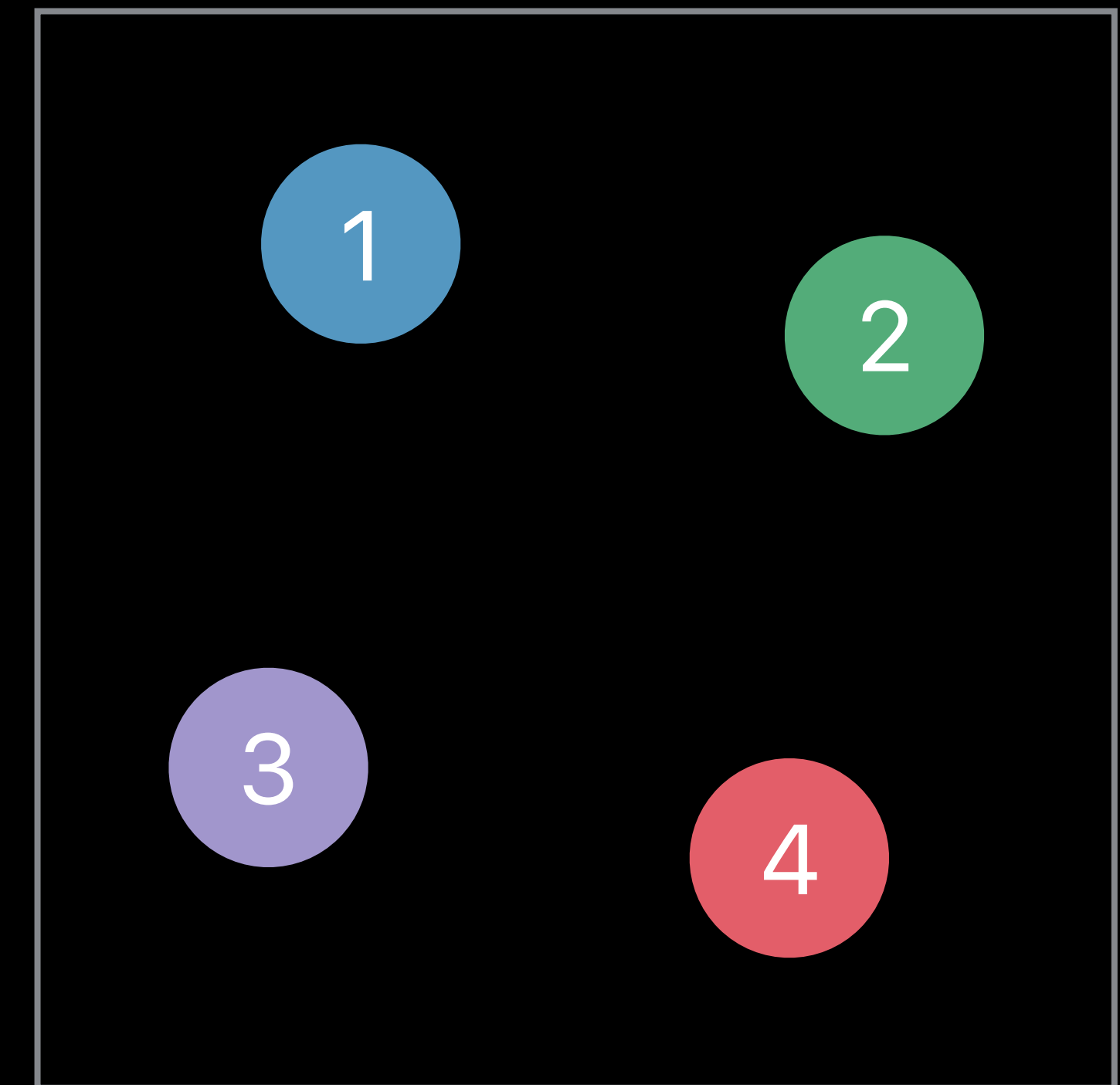


Multisample Pattern Control

Select where within a pixel the MSAA
Sample Patterns are located

Useful for custom anti-aliasing

Toggle sample locations



1 Pixel

Resource Heaps

Now available on macOS

Control time of memory allocation

Fast reallocation and aliasing of resources

Group related resources for faster binding

Resource Heaps

Memory Allocation for A

Texture A

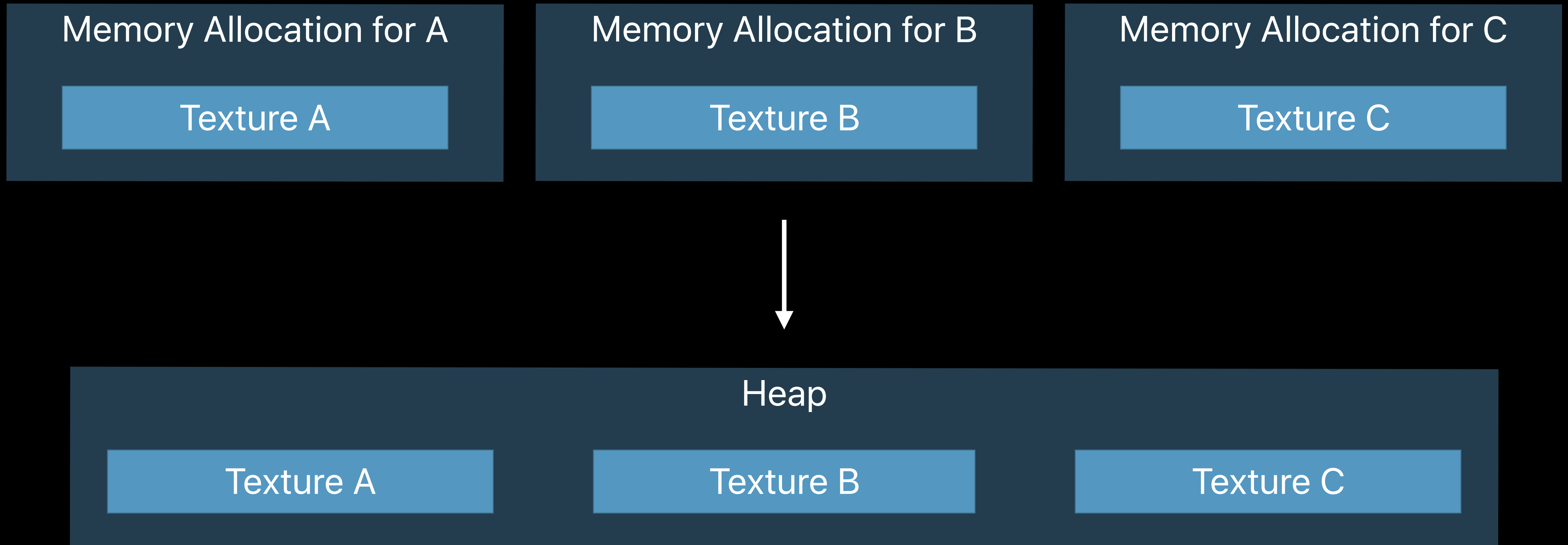
Memory Allocation for B

Texture B

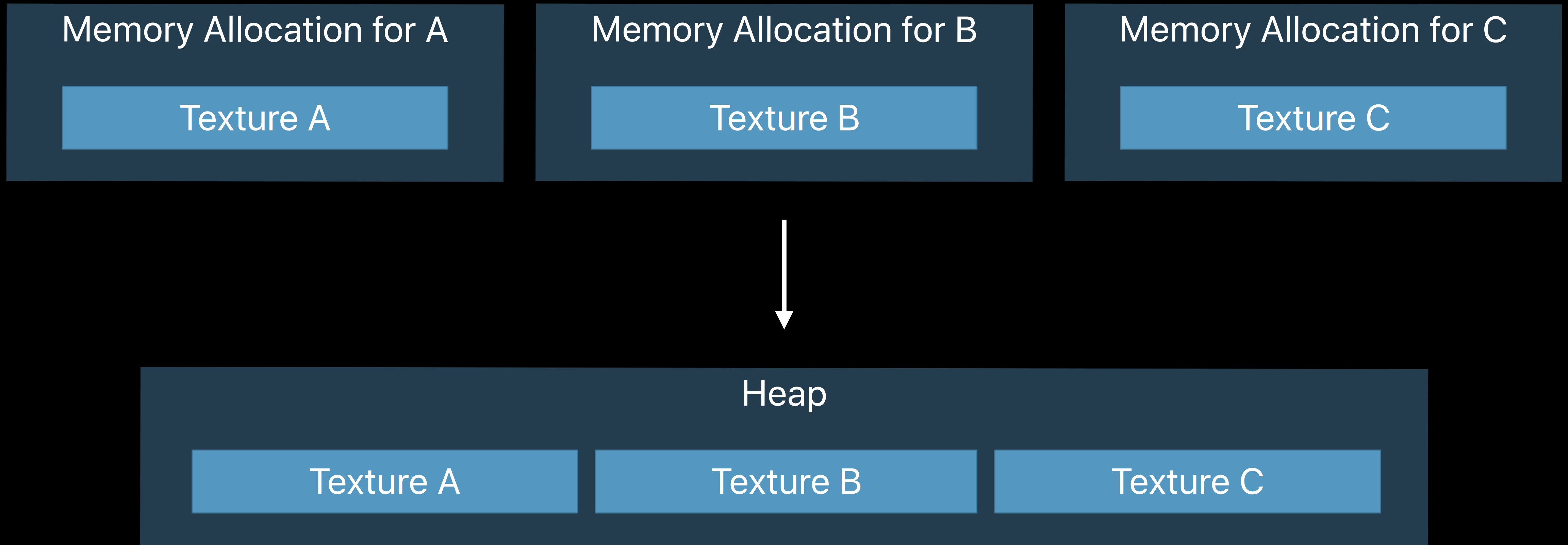
Memory Allocation for C

Texture C

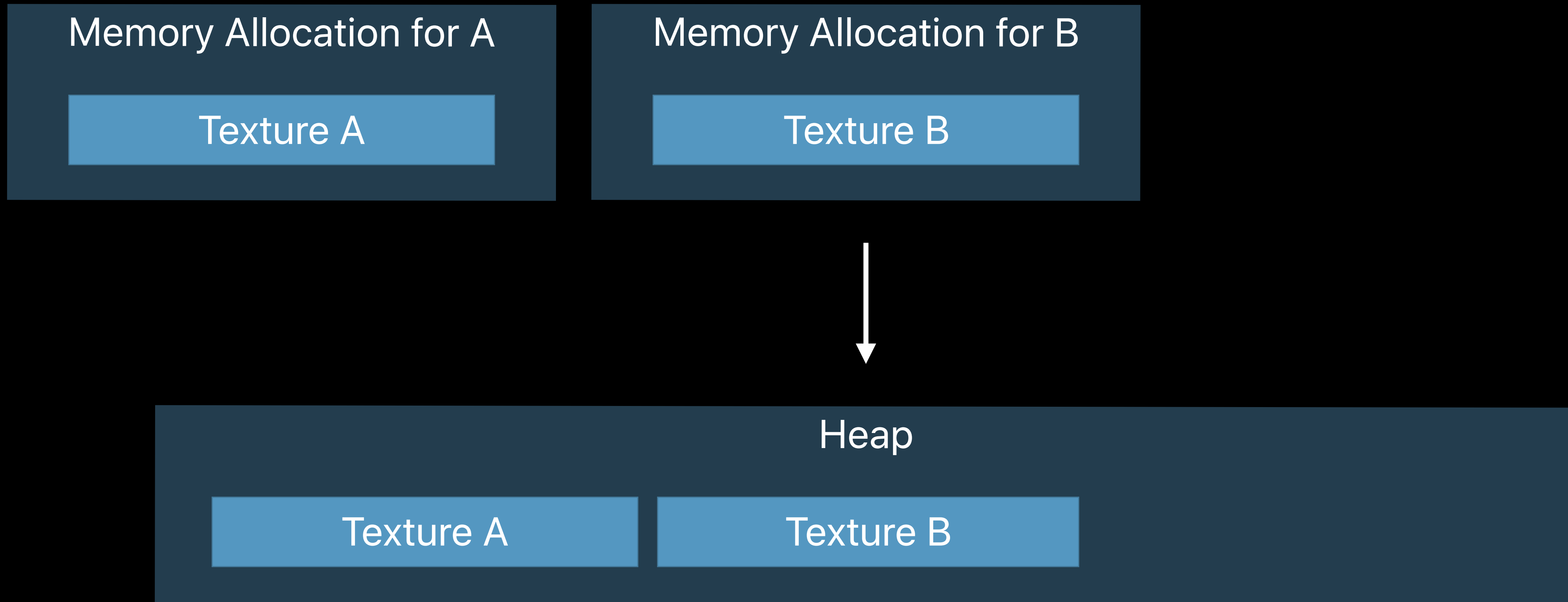
Resource Heaps



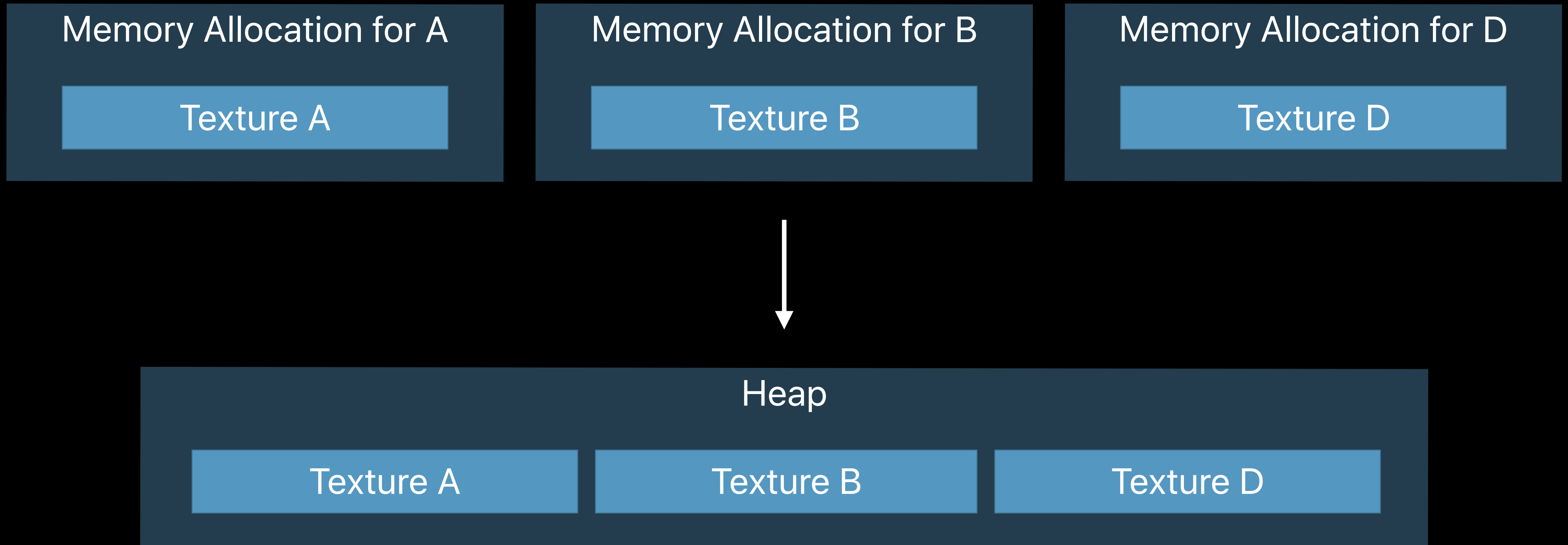
Resource Heaps



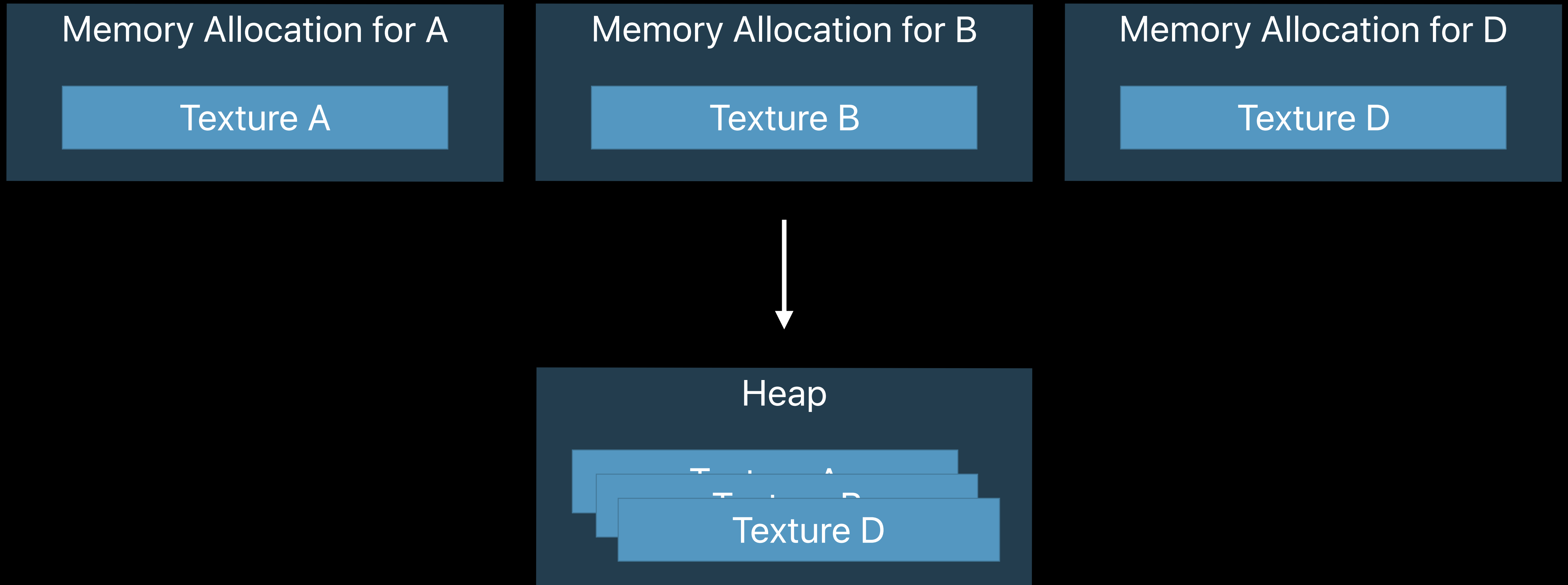
Resource Heaps



Resource Heaps



Resource Heaps



Other Features

Feature

Summary

Other Features

Feature

Summary

Linear Textures

Create textures from a MTLBuffer without copying

Other Features

Feature

Summary

Linear Textures

Create textures from a MTLBuffer without copying

Function Constant for Argument Indexes

Specialize bytecodes to change the binding index for shader arguments

Other Features

Feature	Summary
Linear Textures	Create textures from a MTLBuffer without copying
Function Constant for Argument Indexes	Specialize bytecodes to change the binding index for shader arguments
Additional Vertex Array Formats	Add some additional 1 component and 2 component vertex formats, and a BGRA8 vertex format

Other Features

Feature	Summary
Linear Textures	Create textures from a MTLBuffer without copying
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IOSurface Textures	Create MTLTextures from IOSurfaces on iOS

Other Features

Feature	Summary
Linear Textures	Create textures from a MTLBuffer without copying
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Additional Vertex Array Formats	Add some additional 1 component and 2 component vertex formats, and a BGRA8 vertex format
IOSurface Textures	Create MTLTextures from IOSurfaces on iOS
Dual Source Blending	Additional blending modes with two source parameters

Summary

Argument Buffers

Raster Order Groups

ProMotion Displays

Direct to Display

Everything Else

More Information

<https://developer.apple.com/wwdc17/601>

Related Sessions

[VR with Metal 2](#)

Hall 3

Wednesday 10:00AM

[Metal 2 Optimization and Debugging](#)

Executive Ballroom

Thursday 3:10PM

[Using Metal 2 for Compute](#)

Grand Ballroom A

Thursday 4:10PM

Previous Sessions

What's New in Metal, Part 1

WWDC 2016

Working with Wide Color

WWDC 2016

Labs

Metal 2 Lab

Technology Lab A

Tues 3:10–6:10PM

VR with Metal 2 Lab

Technology Lab A

Wed 3:10–6:00PM

Metal 2 Lab

Technology Lab F

Fri 9:00AM–12:00PM

