

GO PROFILING

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CALLISTA
— ENTERPRISE —

AGENDA

- Introduction
- Go profiling with pprof
- Case study
- Summary

INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

- Erik Lupander
- Architect & Developer at Callista
- 15+ years of Java EE & Spring
- Started coding Go in 2015
 - Full time Go projects for the last year
 - » And it's my language of choice!



WHAT'S PROFILING ANYWAY?

- Dynamic program analysis
- Runtime analysis
 - Memory use / allocations / gc
 - Freq / duration of calls
 - On a very fine-granular level
- Used for optimization and troubleshooting
 - Waiting for IO ;)

PROFILING THROUGH CODE INSTRUMENTATION

- Compiles or runtime-injects measurement code into your application
- Allows fine-grained study of code-paths, allocations etc.
 - May have performance impact or require agents on servers etc.
- Exists for many languages

GO TOOL PPROF

IPROF

- Tool authored by Google for visualization and analysis of profiling data
- Based around profiling samples stored in a protobuf format
 - A sample "describes a program call stack and a number or weight of samples collected at a location"



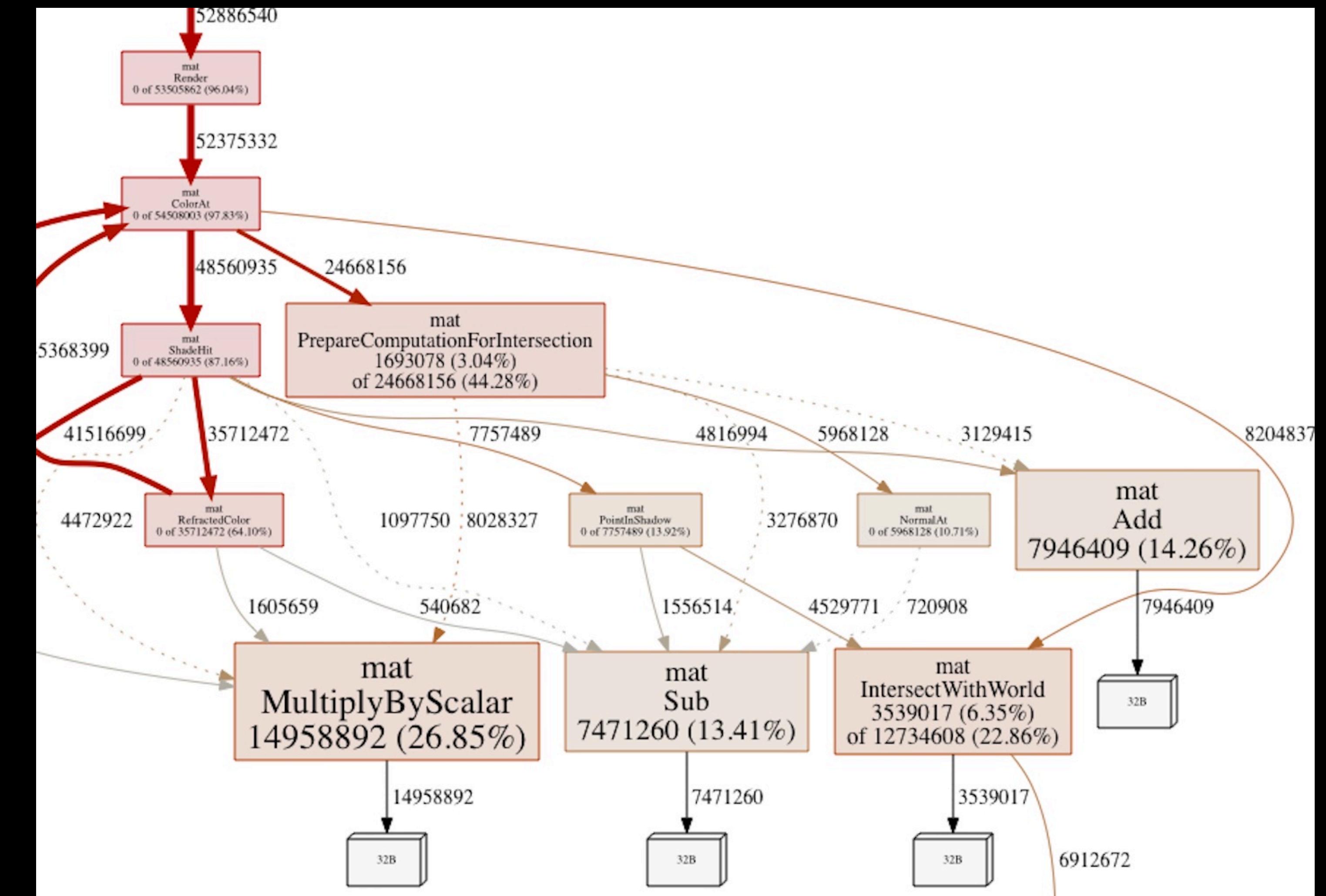
PPROF - VISUALIZATIONS

- What:
 - Interactive console UI

```
~/pprof> go tool pprof pprof.samples.cpu.021.pb.gz
Type: cpu
Time: Jan 30, 2020 at 2:55pm (CET)
Duration: 30s, Total samples = 6.61s (22.03%)
Entering interactive mode (type "help" for commands, "o" for options)
(pprof) top
Showing nodes accounting for 6310ms, 95.46% of 6610ms total
Dropped 26 nodes (cum <= 33.05ms)
Showing top 10 nodes out of 35
      flat  flat%  sum%      cum  cum%
2830ms 42.81% 42.81% 2830ms 42.81% crypto/sha256.block
1660ms 25.11% 67.93% 1660ms 25.11% crypto/md5.block
  570ms  8.62% 76.55%   570ms  8.62% runtime.memmove
   500ms  7.56% 84.11%   500ms  7.56% runtime.nanotime
   240ms  3.63% 87.75%  3160ms 47.81% crypto/sha256.(*digest).Write
    140ms  2.12% 89.86%   140ms  2.12% runtime.usleep
    110ms  1.66% 91.53%   110ms  1.66% runtime.memclrNoHeapPointers
     100ms  1.51% 93.04%  1440ms 21.79% crypto/sha256.(*digest).checkSum
      80ms  1.21% 94.25%  1740ms 26.32% crypto/md5.(*digest).Write
      80ms  1.21% 95.46%  3370ms 50.98% crypto/sha256.Sum256
(pprof)
```

PPROF - VISUALIZATIONS

- What:
 - Interactive console UI
 - Viz-based visualizations

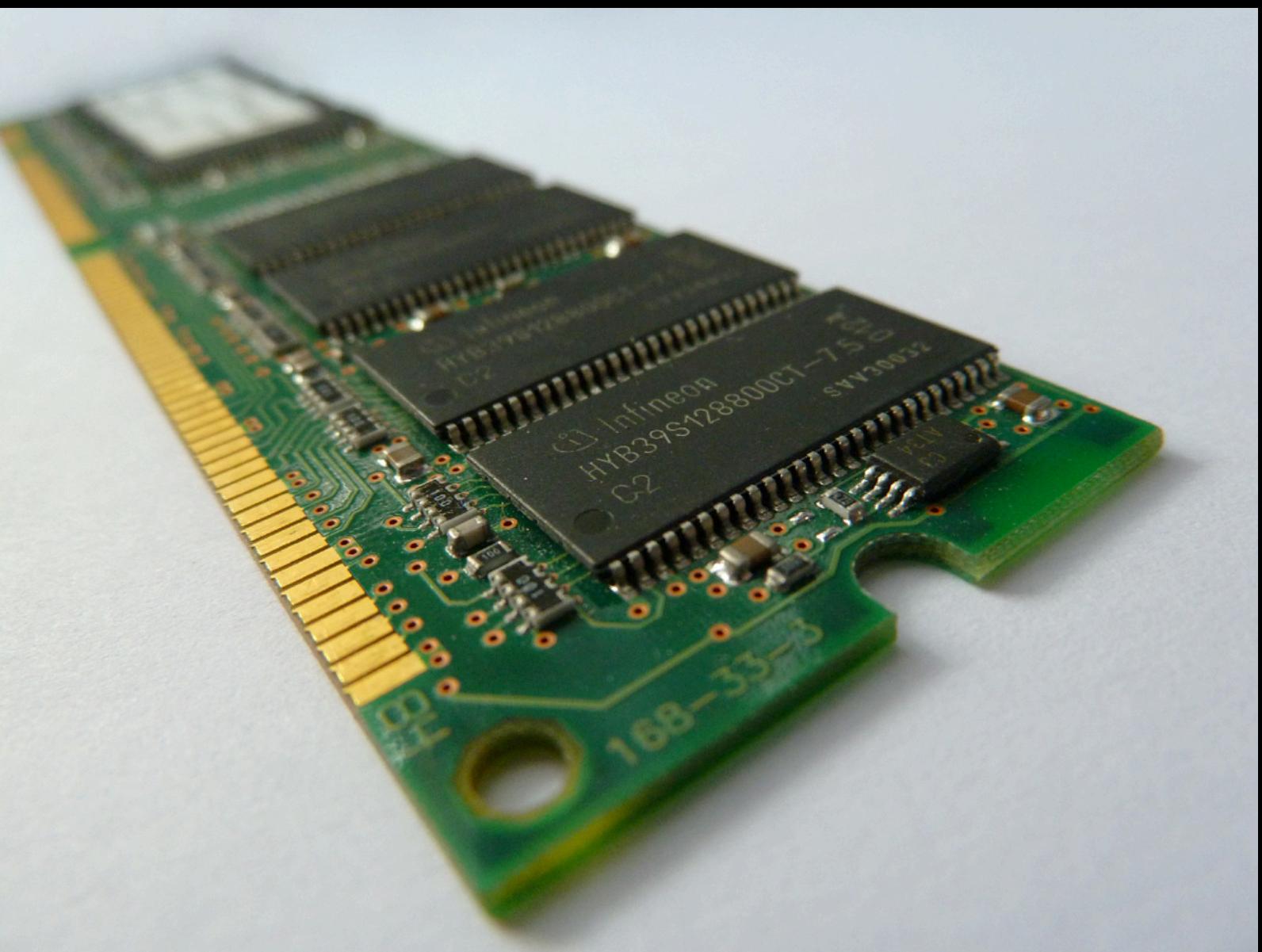
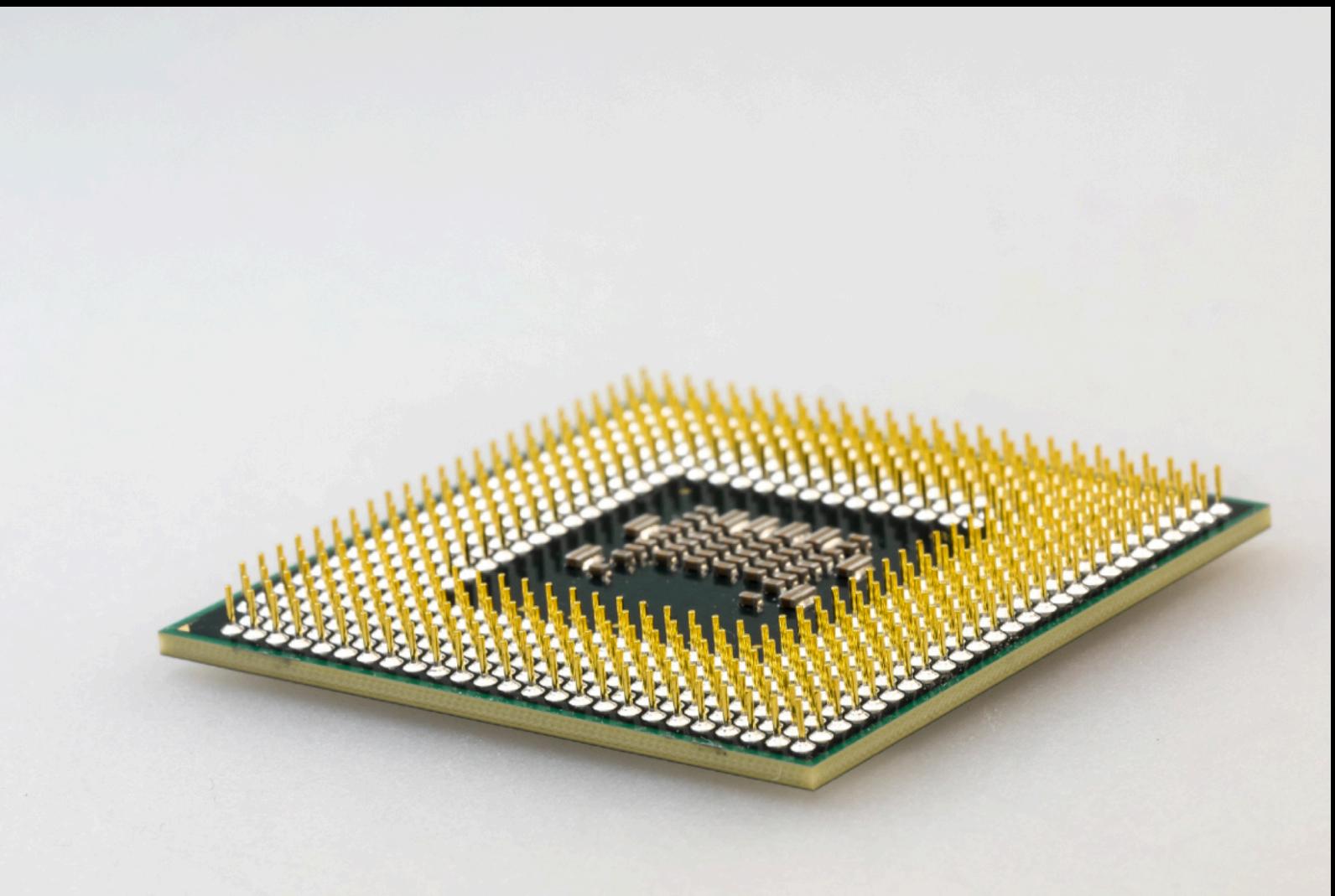


PPROF - VISUALIZATIONS

- What:
 - Interactive console UI
 - Viz-based visualizations
 - Listings (text / web)

PROFILING TYPES

- /debug/pprof/profile
 - CPU, time spent in file/func/line
 - » But not invocations counts!
- /debug/pprof/heap
 - in-use objects and space
 - allocs objects and space
- /debug/pprof/block
 - Blocked goroutines
- /debug/pprof/mutex
 - Holders of contended mutexes
- /debug/pprof/trace



WIKIPEDIA

HOW TO ADD PROFILING TO YOUR GO CODE?

- Very easy:
 - The HTTP way or the Programmatic way

HOW TO ADD PROFILING TO YOUR GO CODE?

```
package main

import (
    "log"
    "net/http"
    - "net/http/pprof"
)

func main() {
    go func() {
        log.Println(http.ListenAndServe("localhost:6060", nil))
    }()
}

// rest of your program
}
```

CAPTURE A PROFILE - GO TOOL

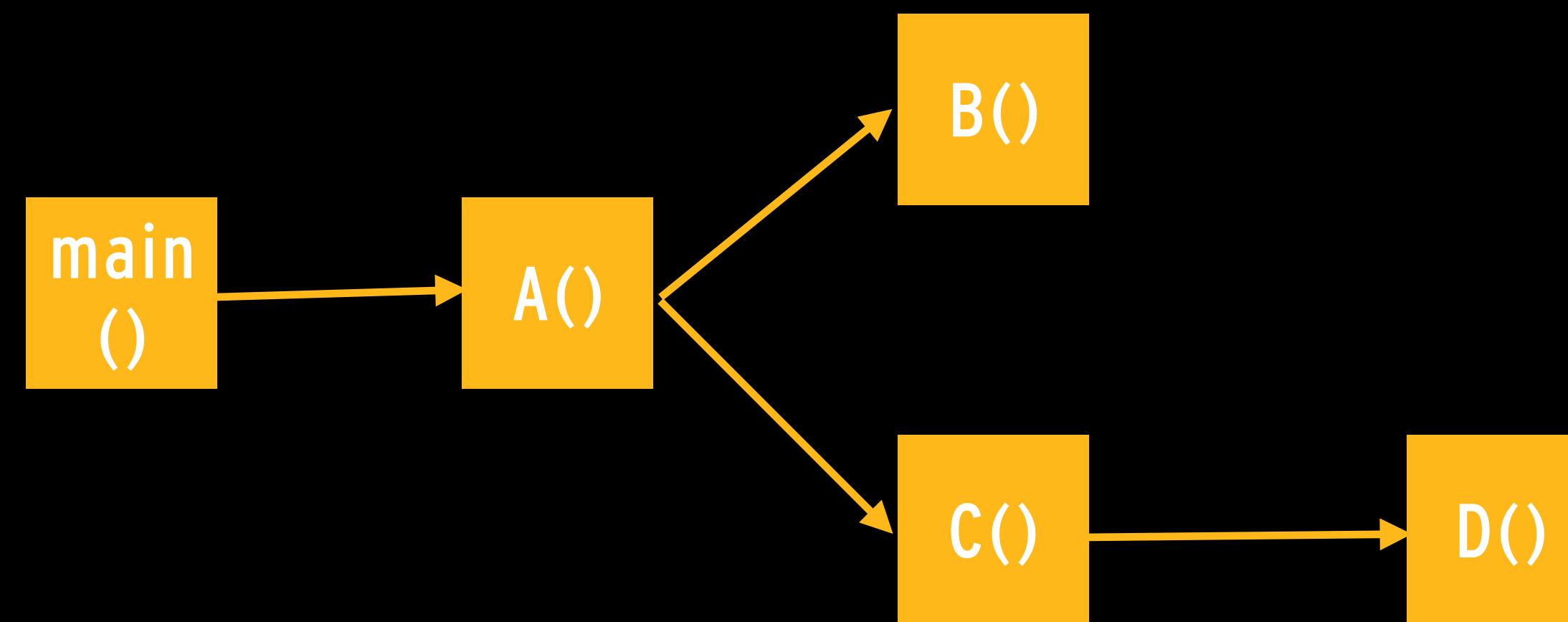
- While your program is executing, run:
 - go tool pprof <http://localhost:6060/debug/pprof/profile>
 - » Opens the pprof console with the produced profile loaded
 - go tool pprof -png <http://localhost:6060/debug/pprof/profile> > profile.png
 - » Produces a viz graph in PNG format
 - Both saves a .pprof file to disk into ~/pprof (on my mac)
- One can also do a HTTP GET from curl / web browser and the result will be downloaded

THE PPROF CONSOLE

```
~/pprof> go tool pprof pprof.samples.cpu.021.pb.gz
Type: cpu
Time: Jan 30, 2020 at 4:58pm (CET)
Duration: 30s, Total samples = 5.61s (18.70%)
Entering interactive mode (type "help" for commands, "o" for options)
(pprof) help
Commands:
  callgrind      Outputs a graph in callgrind format
  comments       Output all profile comments
  disasm        Output assembly listings annotated with samples
  dot            Outputs a graph in DOT format
  eog            Visualize graph through eog
  evince         Visualize graph through evince
  gif             Outputs a graph image in GIF format
  gv              Visualize graph through gv
  kcachegrind   Visualize report in KCachegrind
  list           Output annotated source for functions matching regexp
  pdf            Outputs a graph in PDF format
  peek           Output callers/callees of functions matching regexp
  png             Outputs a graph image in PNG format
  proto          Outputs the profile in compressed protobuf format
  ps              Outputs a graph in PS format
  raw             Outputs a text representation of the raw profile
  svg             Outputs a graph in SVG format
  tags            Outputs all tags in the profile
  text            Outputs top entries in text form
  top             Outputs top entries in text form
  topproto        Outputs top entries in compressed protobuf format
  traces          Outputs all profile samples in text form
  tree            Outputs a text rendering of call graph
  web             Visualize graph through web browser
  weblist         Display annotated source in a web browser
  o/options       List options and their current values
  quit/exit/^D   Exit pprof
```

THE DEMO PROGRAM

- Toy program that calculates prime numbers to simulate load in interdependent functions



PPROF CONSOLE - TOP

```
(pprof) top
```

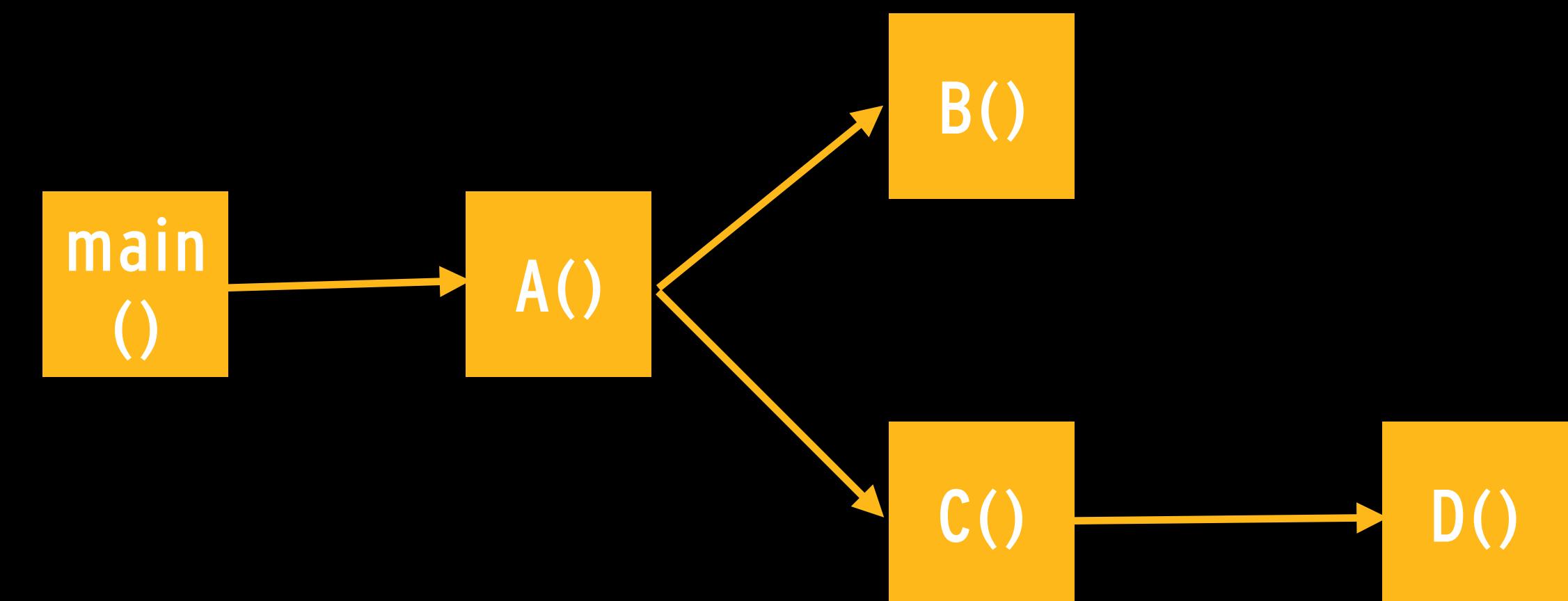
```
Showing nodes accounting for 6530ms, 99.85% of 6540ms total
```

```
Dropped 4 nodes (cum <= 32.70ms)
```

flat	flat%	sum%	cum	cum%	
3150ms	48.17%	48.17%	3150ms	48.17%	github.com/eriklupander/profiling/cpu.prime
2190ms	33.49%	81.65%	2190ms	33.49%	github.com/eriklupander/profiling/cpu.SumRoots
810ms	12.39%	94.04%	3000ms	45.87%	github.com/eriklupander/profiling/cpu.CPULoader
310ms	4.74%	98.78%	310ms	4.74%	runtime.nanotime
70ms	1.07%	99.85%	6220ms	95.11%	github.com/eriklupander/profiling/cpu.CPU
0	0%	99.85%	6230ms	95.26%	main.main
0	0%	99.85%	6230ms	95.26%	runtime.main
0	0%	99.85%	310ms	4.74%	runtime.mstart
0	0%	99.85%	310ms	4.74%	runtime.mstart1
0	0%	99.85%	310ms	4.74%	runtime.sysmon

PROFILER BASICS

- Measurements:
 - flat => time spent in own function
 - flat % => percentage of program time spent in own function
 - cum => cumulative time spent in self + all child functions
 - cum % => cumulative % spent in self + all child functions
 - sum % => sum of flat



PPROF CONSOLE - TOP

```
(pprof) top
```

```
Showing nodes accounting for 6530ms, 99.85% of 6540ms total
```

```
Dropped 4 nodes (cum <= 32.70ms)
```

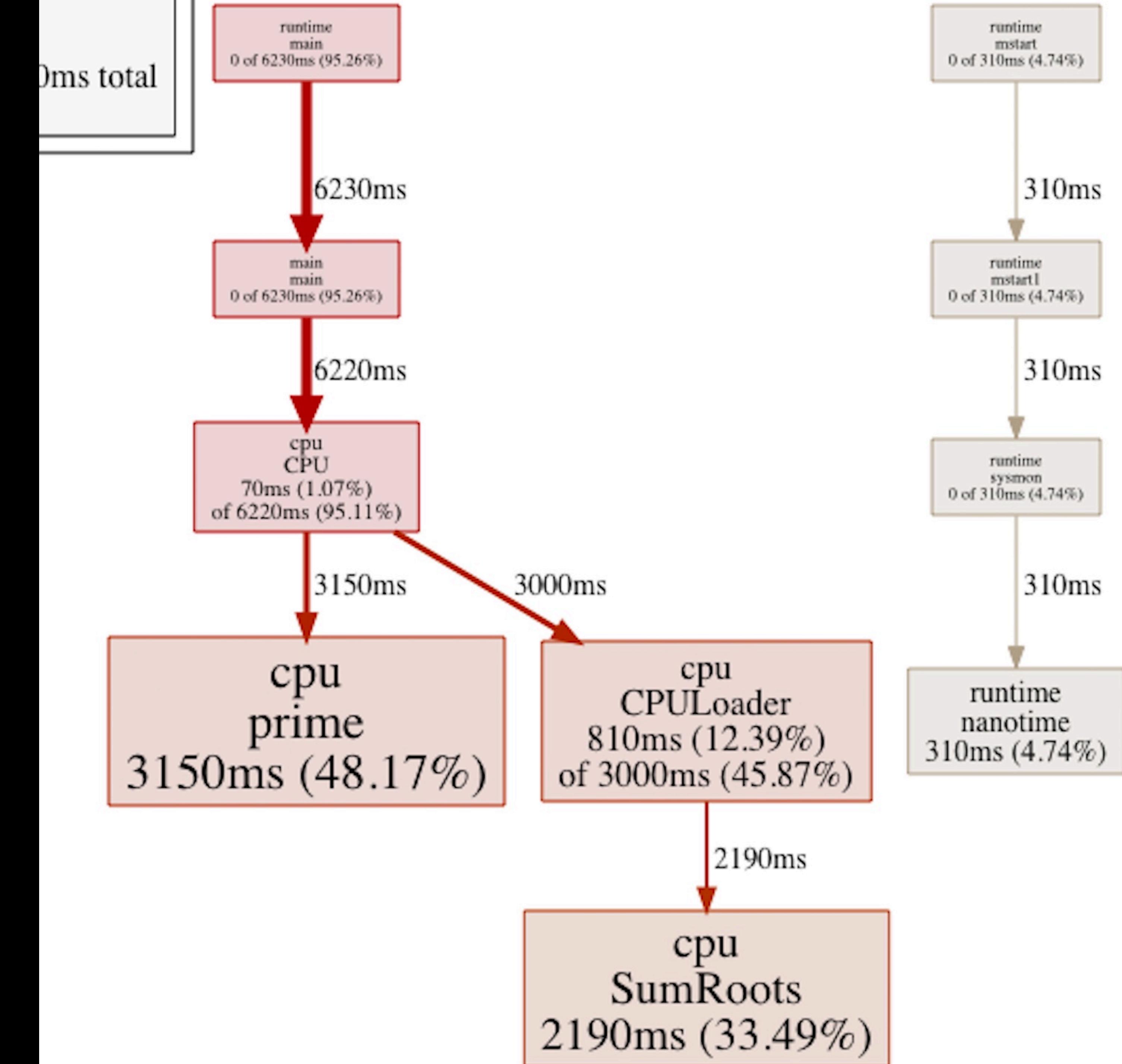
flat	flat%	sum%
3150ms	48.17%	48.17%
2190ms	33.49%	81.65%
810ms	12.39%	94.04%
310ms	4.74%	98.78%
70ms	1.07%	99.85%
0	0%	99.85%
0	0%	99.85%
0	0%	99.85%
0	0%	99.85%
0	0%	99.85%

cum	cum%
3150ms	48.17%
2190ms	33.49%
3000ms	45.87%
310ms	4.74%
6220ms	95.11%
6230ms	95.26%
6230ms	95.26%
310ms	4.74%
310ms	4.74%
310ms	4.74%

```
github.com/eriklupander/profiling/cpu.prime
github.com/eriklupander/profiling/cpu.SumRoots
github.com/eriklupander/profiling/cpu.CPULoader
runtime.nanotime
github.com/eriklupander/profiling/cpu.CPU
main.main
runtime.main
runtime.mstart
runtime.mstart1
runtime.sysmon
```

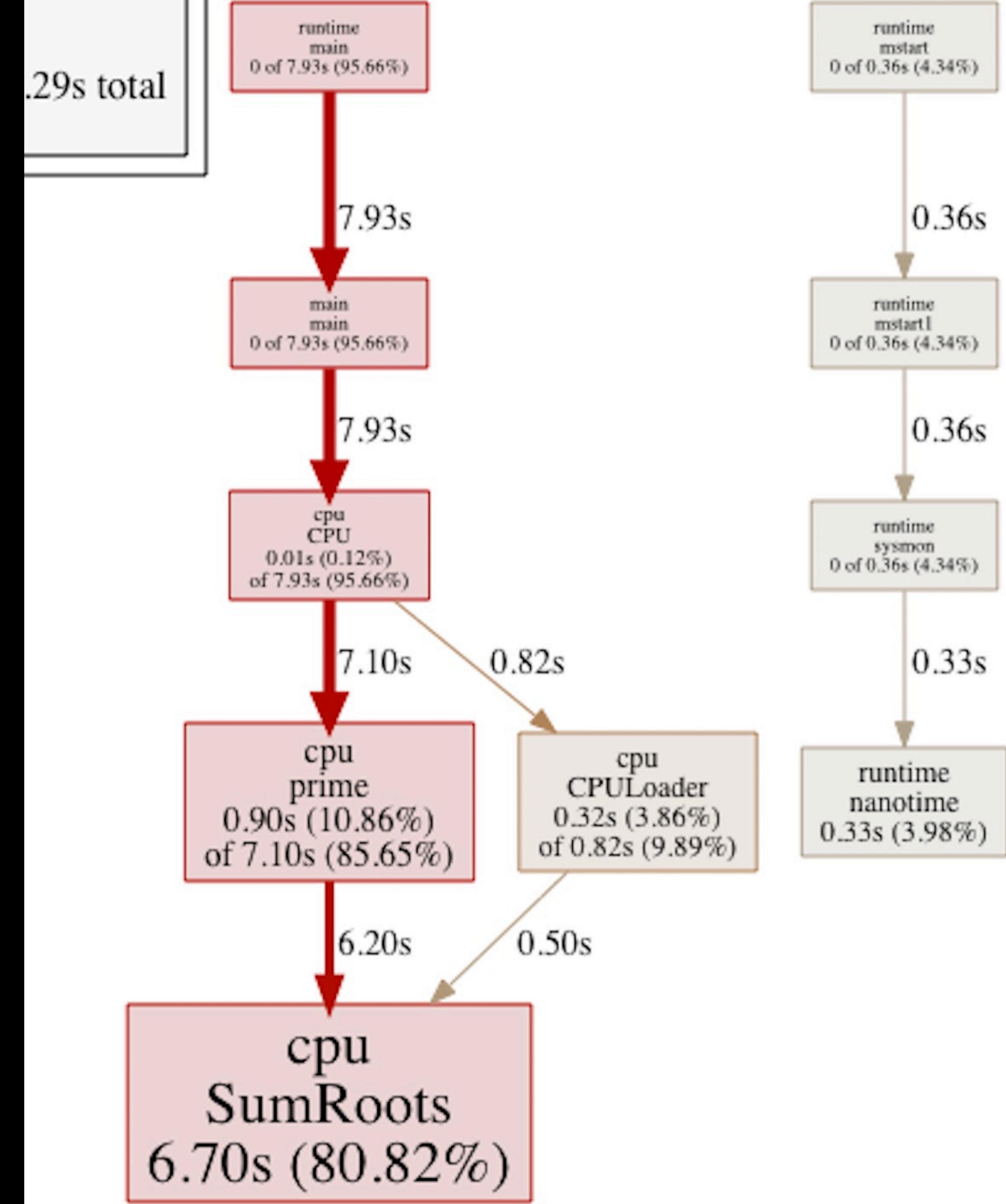
PPROF - VIZ GRAPHS

- Bigger boxes or thicker arrows means more time spent
- Shows call hierarchies
- Numbers:
 - profile / mutex / blocks: time in ms
 - heap: memory size in MB
 - heap allocs: number of allocs



PPROF - VIZ GRAPHS

- Bigger boxes or thicker arrows means more time spent
- Shows call hierarchies
- Numbers:
 - profile / mutex / blocks: time in ms
 - heap: memory size in MB
 - heap allocs: number of allocs
- Many-to-one

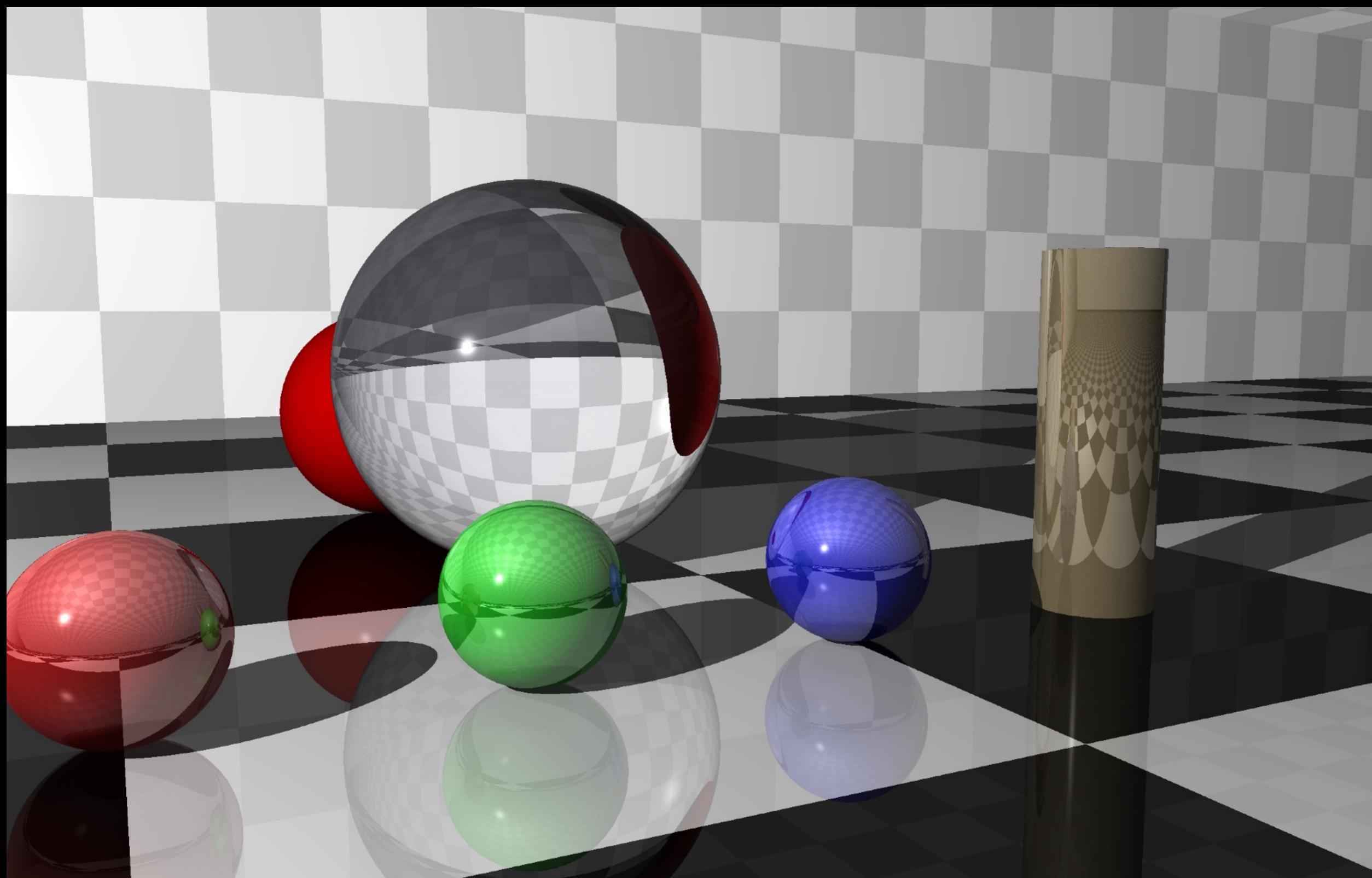


PPROF CONSOLE - LISTING

```
(pprof) list CPULoader
Total: 6.54s
ROUTINE ===== github.com/eriklupander/profiling/cpu.CPULoader in /Users/eriklupander/privat/profiling/cpu/load.go
  810ms      3s (flat, cum) 45.87% of Total
    .          23:func CPULoader(times int) []int {
    .          . 24:    // Keeps it to a 32 bit int
    .          . 25:    //num := 40
    .          . 26:    var r []int
    .          . 27:    result := false
  50ms      50ms  28:    for n := 0; n < times*200; n++ {
    .          . 29:        if n%1 != 0 {
    .          . 30:            result = false
    .          . 31:        } else if n <= 1 {
    .          . 32:            result = false
    .          . 33:        } else if n <= 3 {
    .          . 34:            result = true
    .          . 35:        } else if n%2 == 0 {
    .          . 36:            result = false
    .          . 37:
  290ms     290ms  38:        dl := int(math.Sqrt(float64(n)))
  330ms     330ms  39:        for d := 3; d <= dl; d += 2 {
    .          . 40:            if n%d == 0 {
    .          . 41:                result = false
    .          . 42:
    .          . 43:
    .          . 44:            result = true
    .          . 45:
  2.19s     46:        sum := SumRoots(result)
    .          . 47:        if int(sum) % 1000 == 0 {
    .          . 48:            fmt.Println(".")
    .          . 49:
    .          . 50:    return r
    .          . 51:}
```

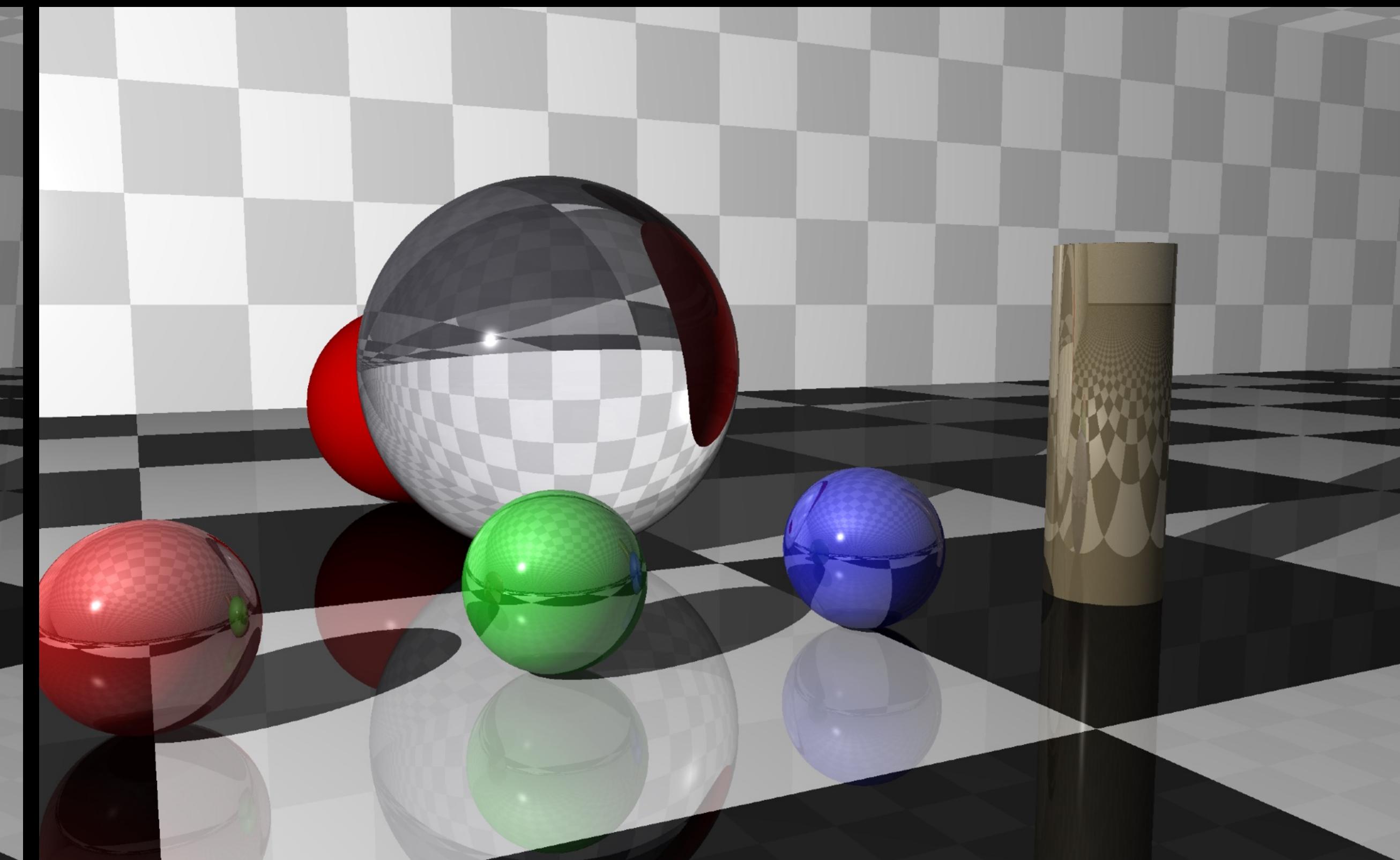
MY PET-PROJECT PPROF USE-CASE

FIND THE DIFFERENCE



RENDER #1

3 min 14sec

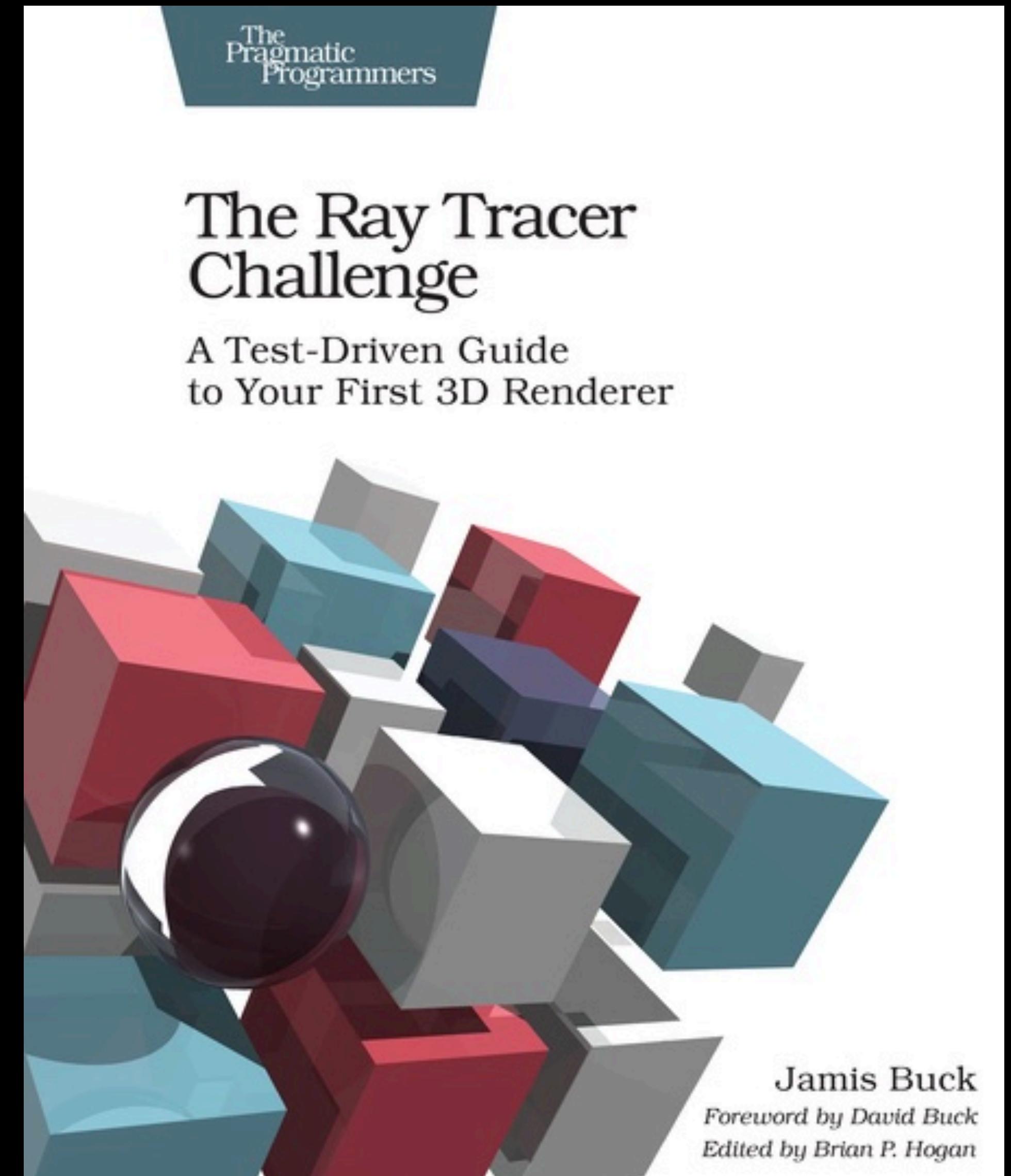


RENDER #2

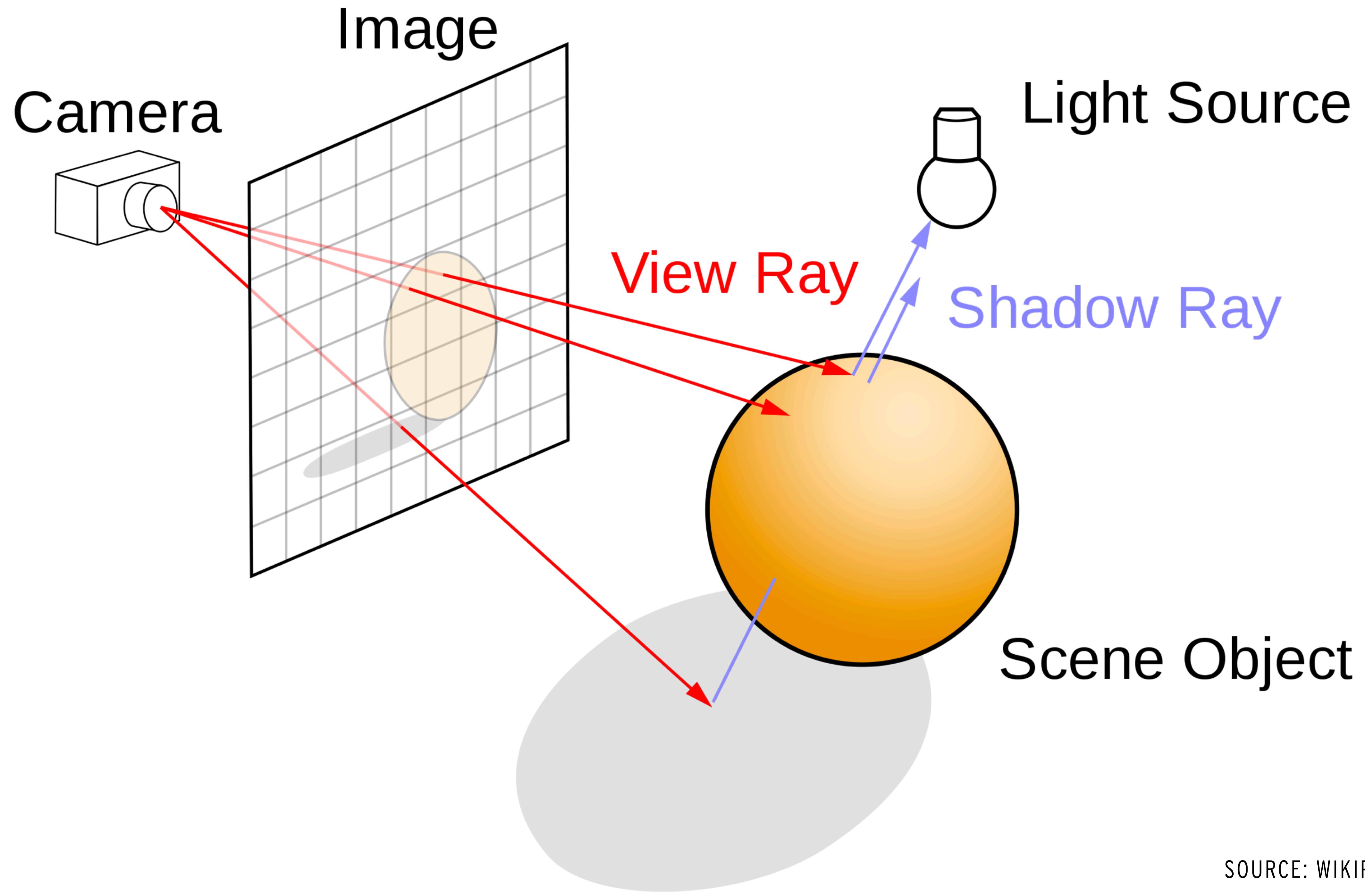
1.6 sec

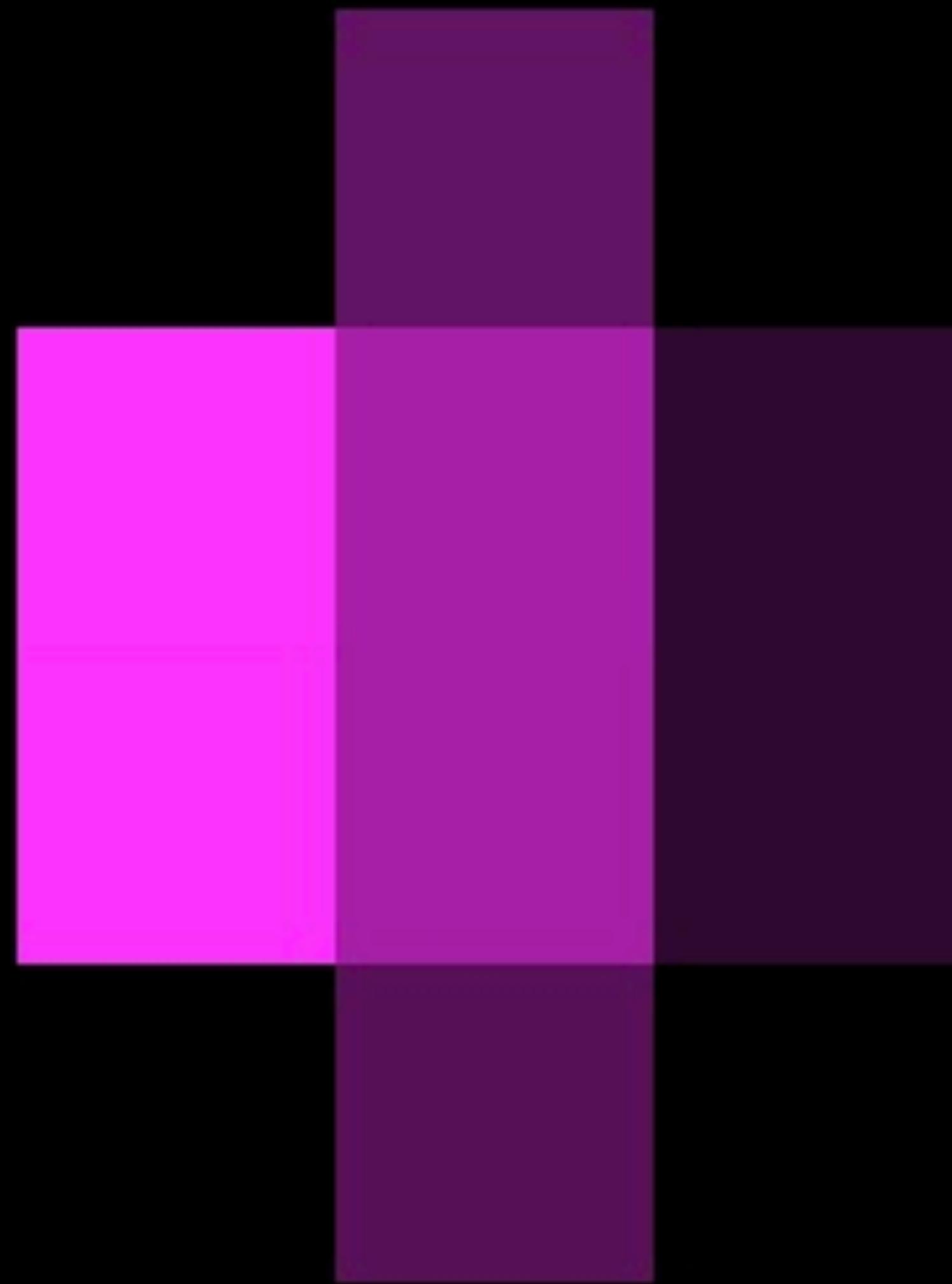
WHY RAY-TRACING?

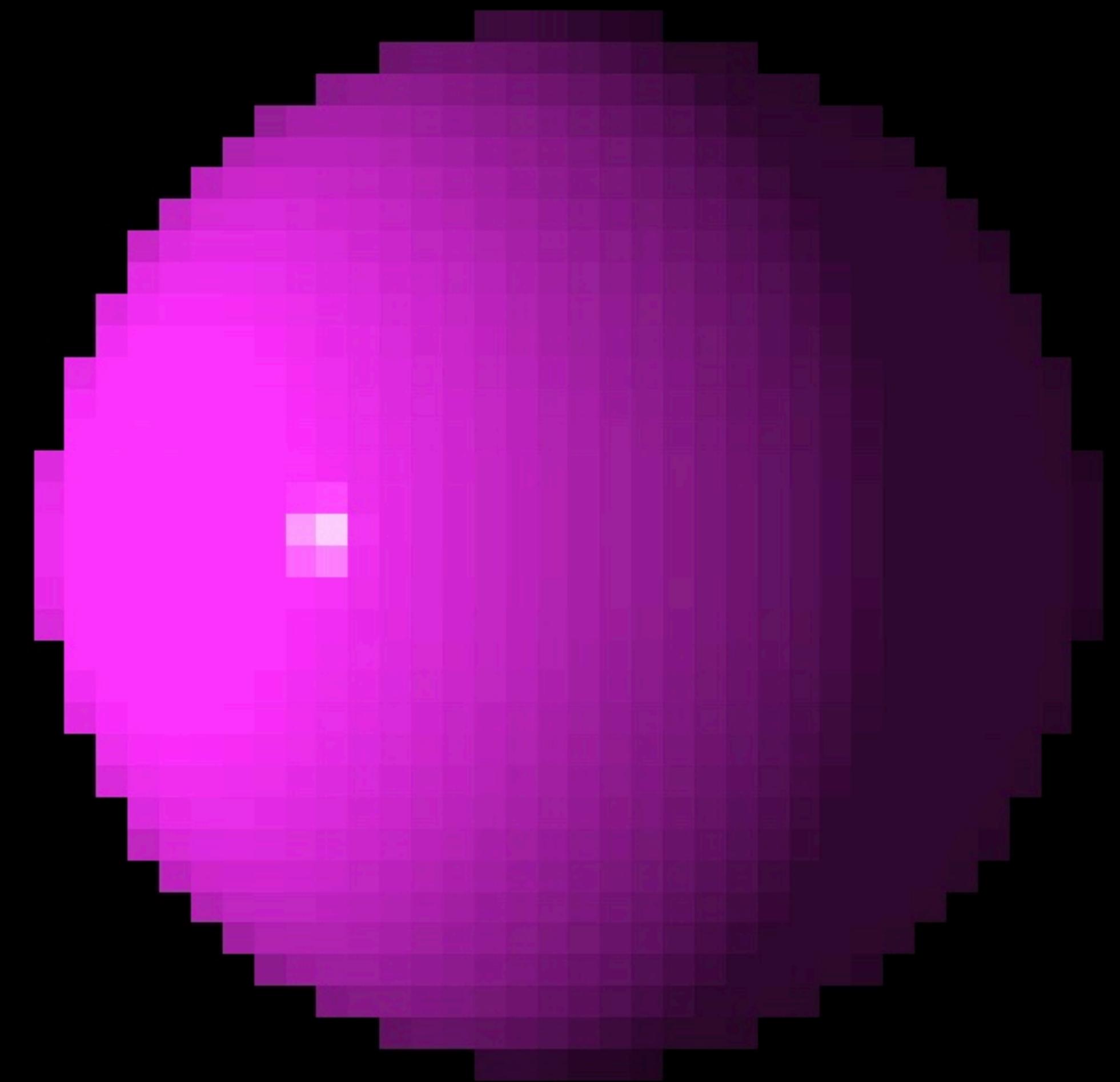
- Just for fun!
- Book: "The Ray Tracer challenge"
- Relatively simple renderer
- CPU intensive task, good fit for profiling

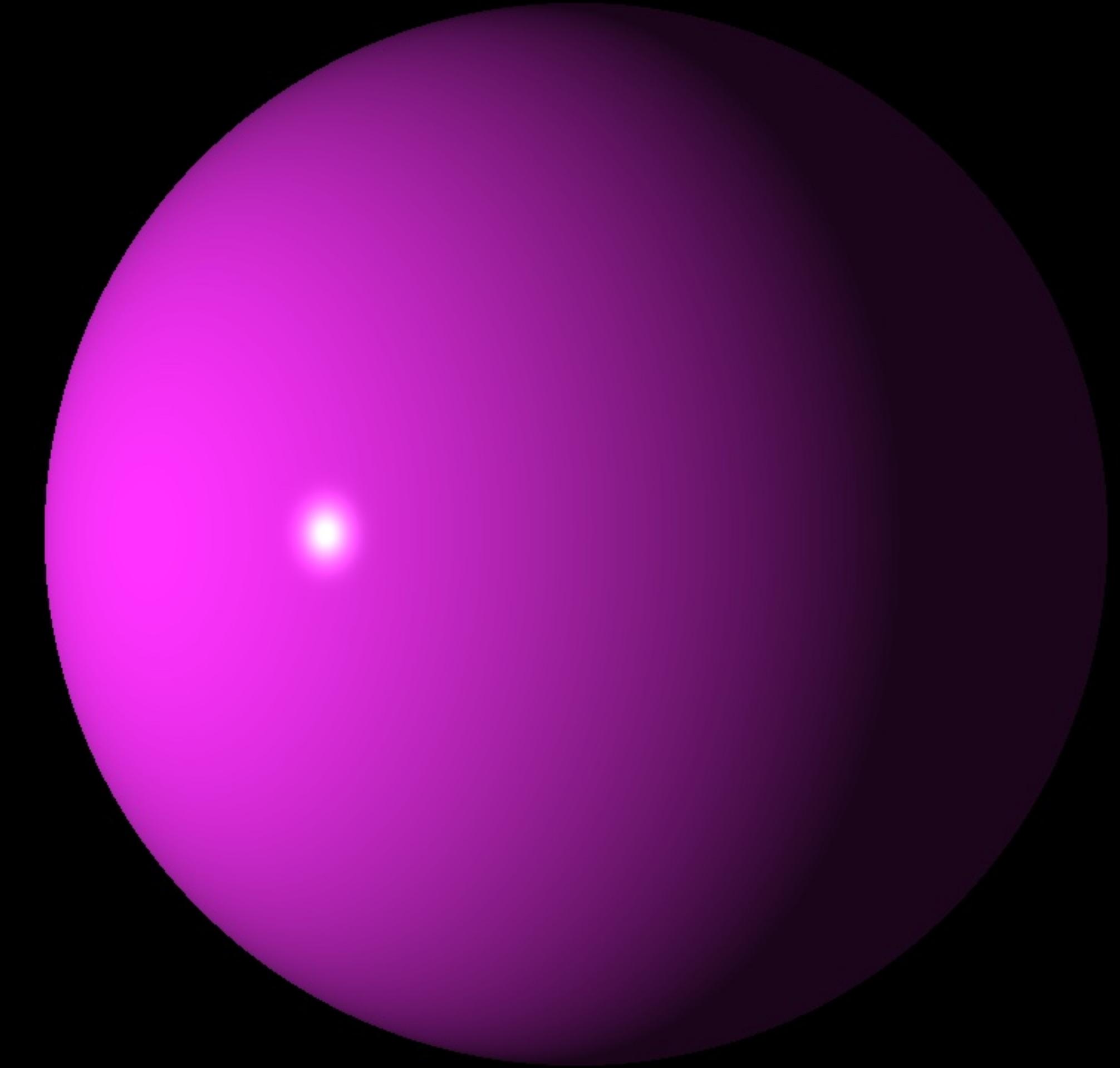


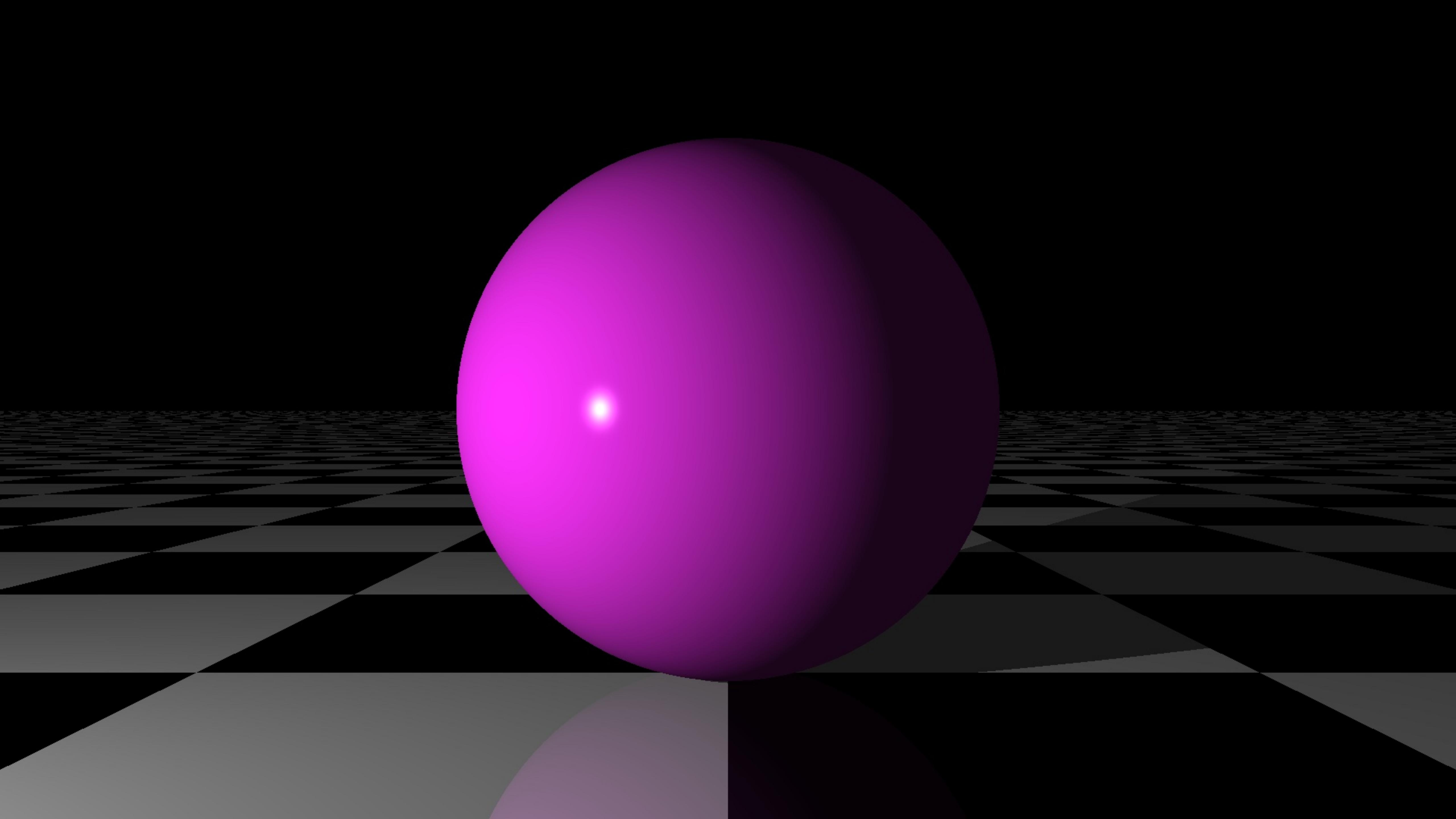
RAY-TRACING IN 3 MINUTES

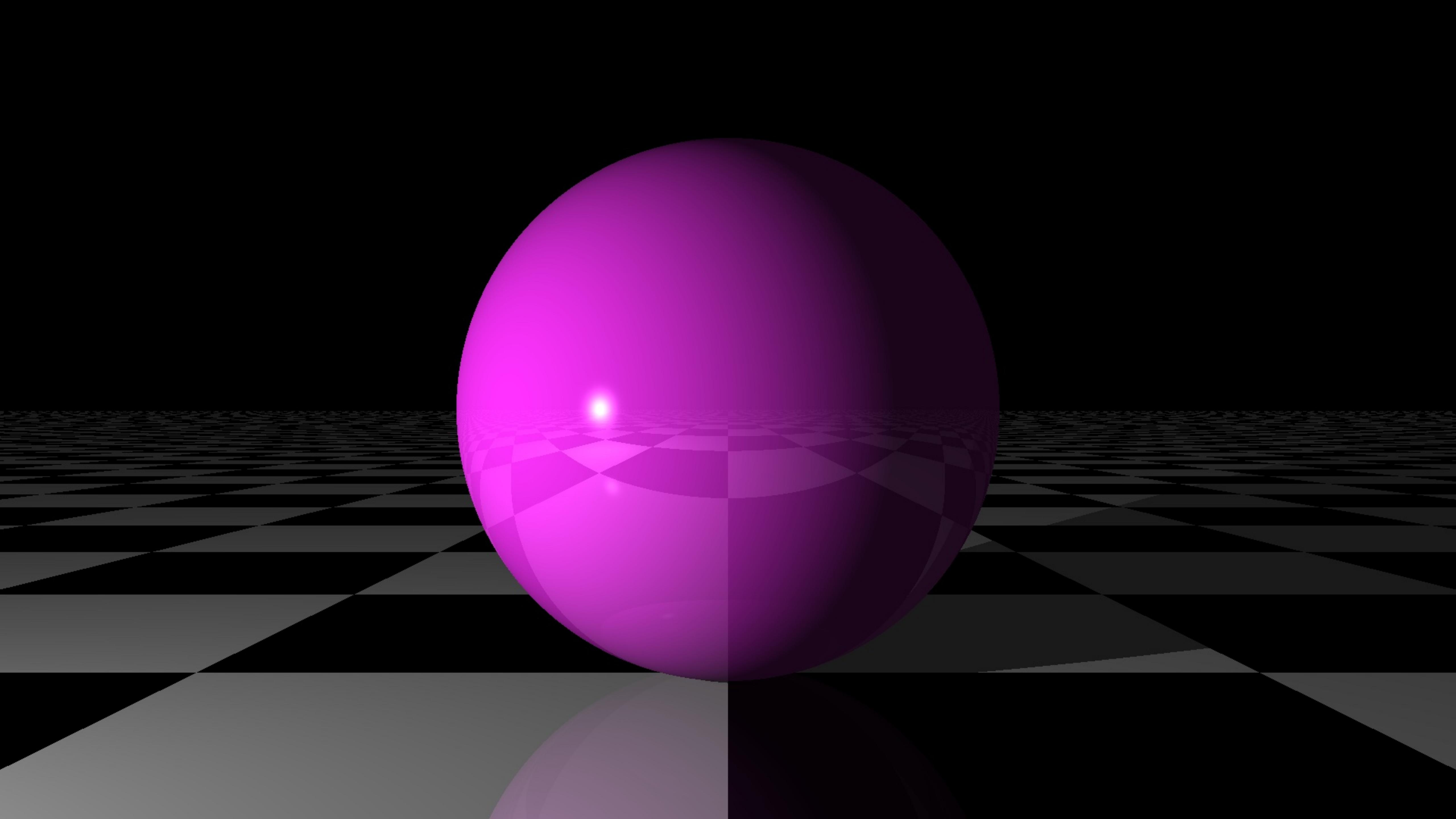


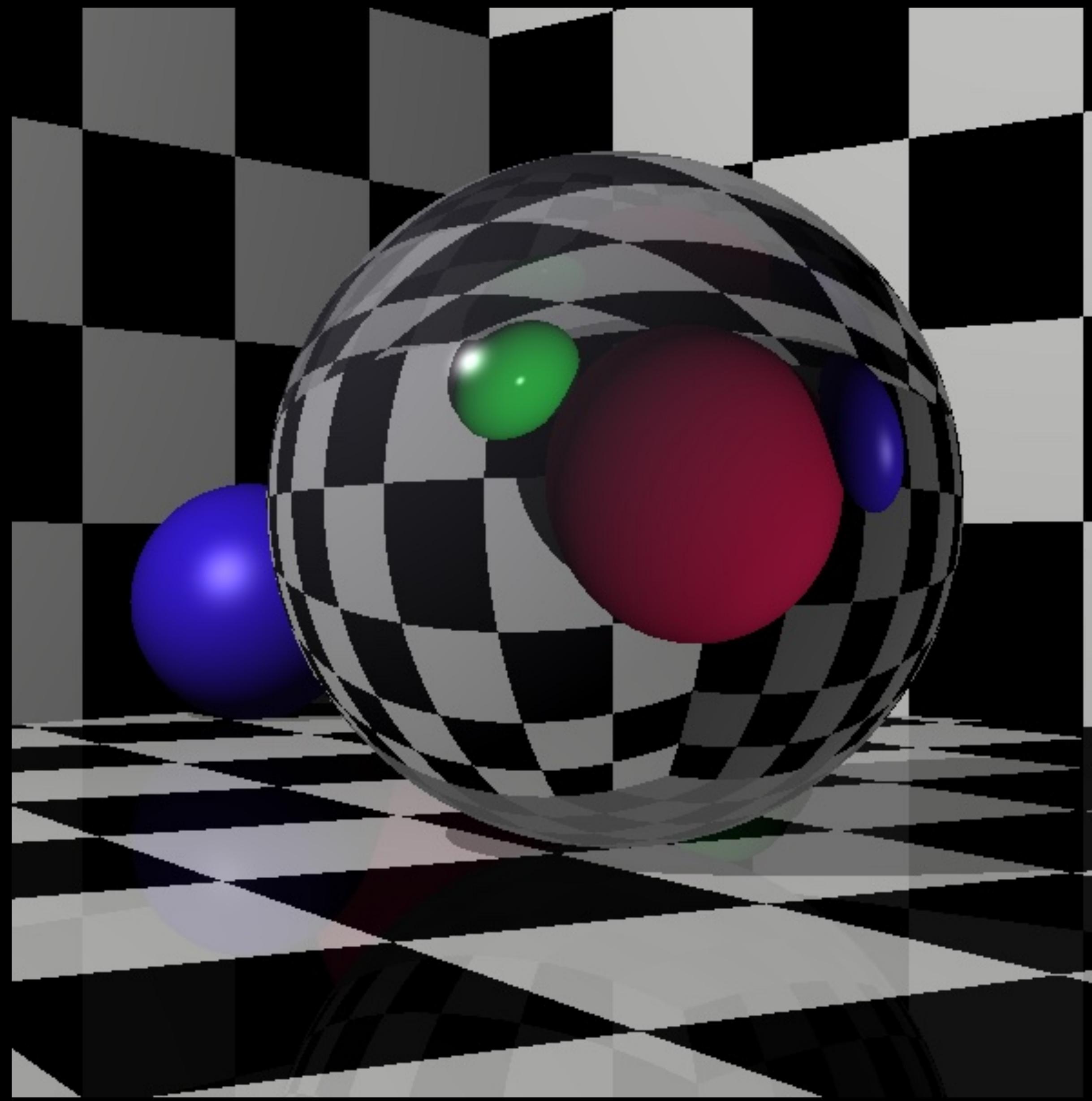






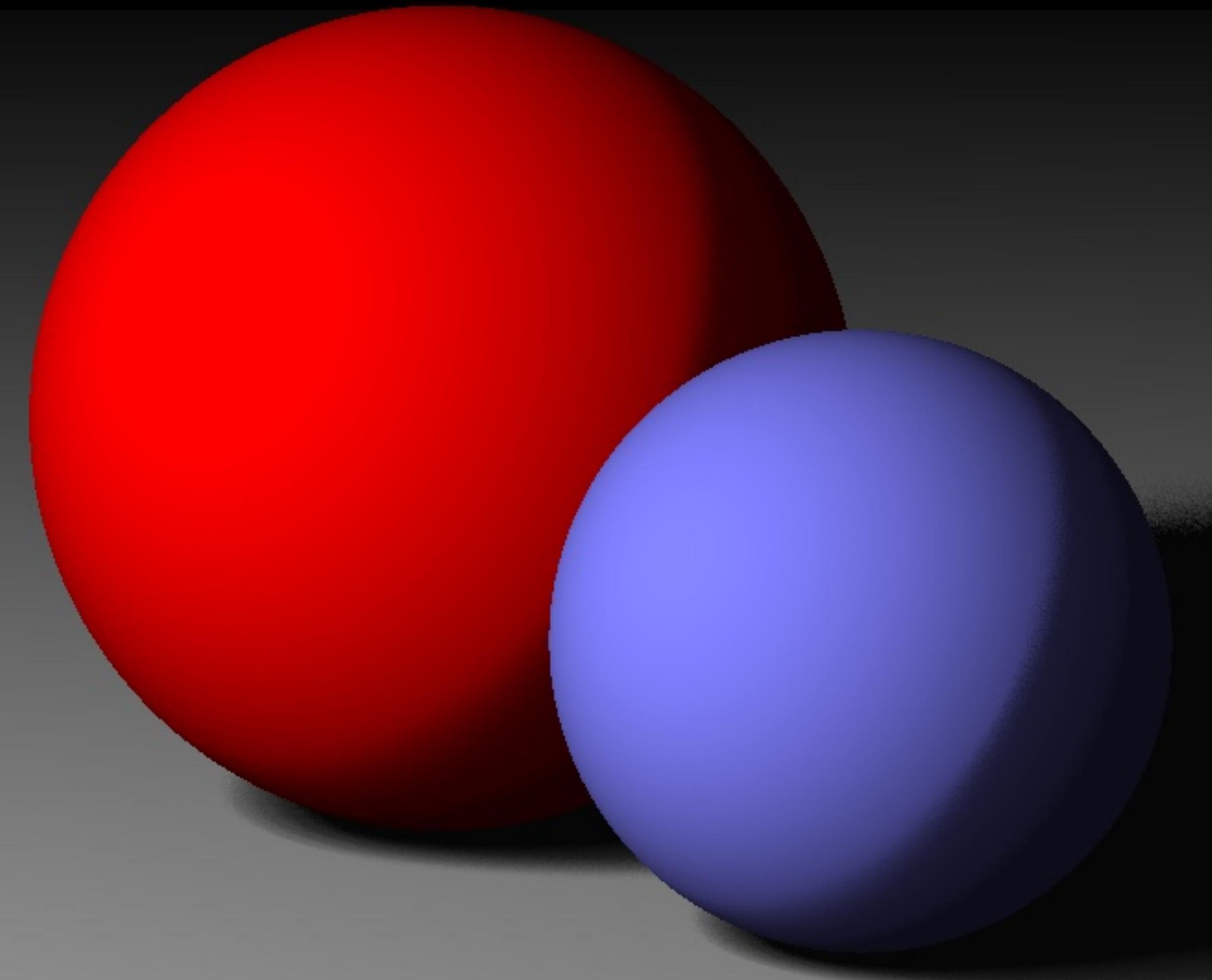


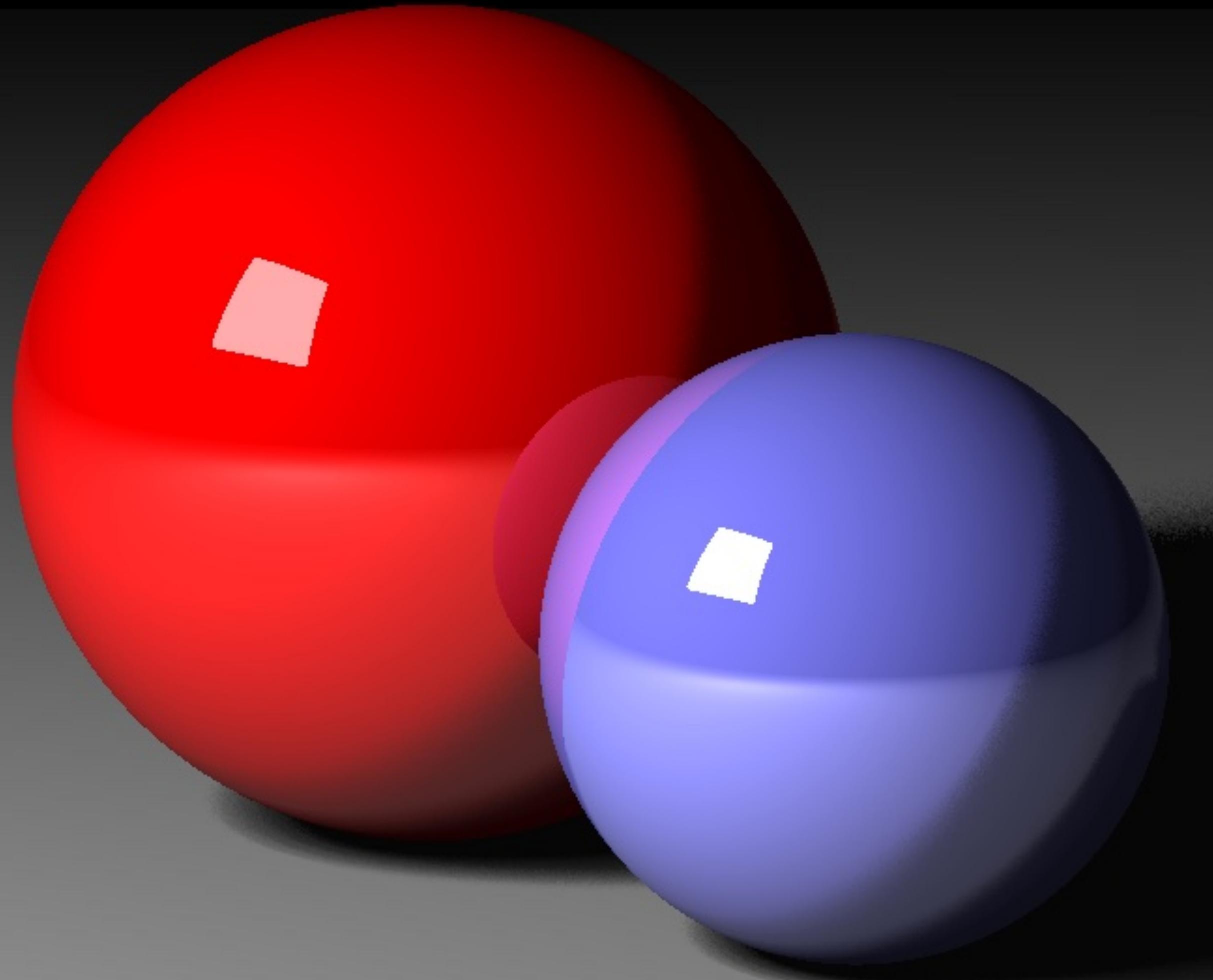


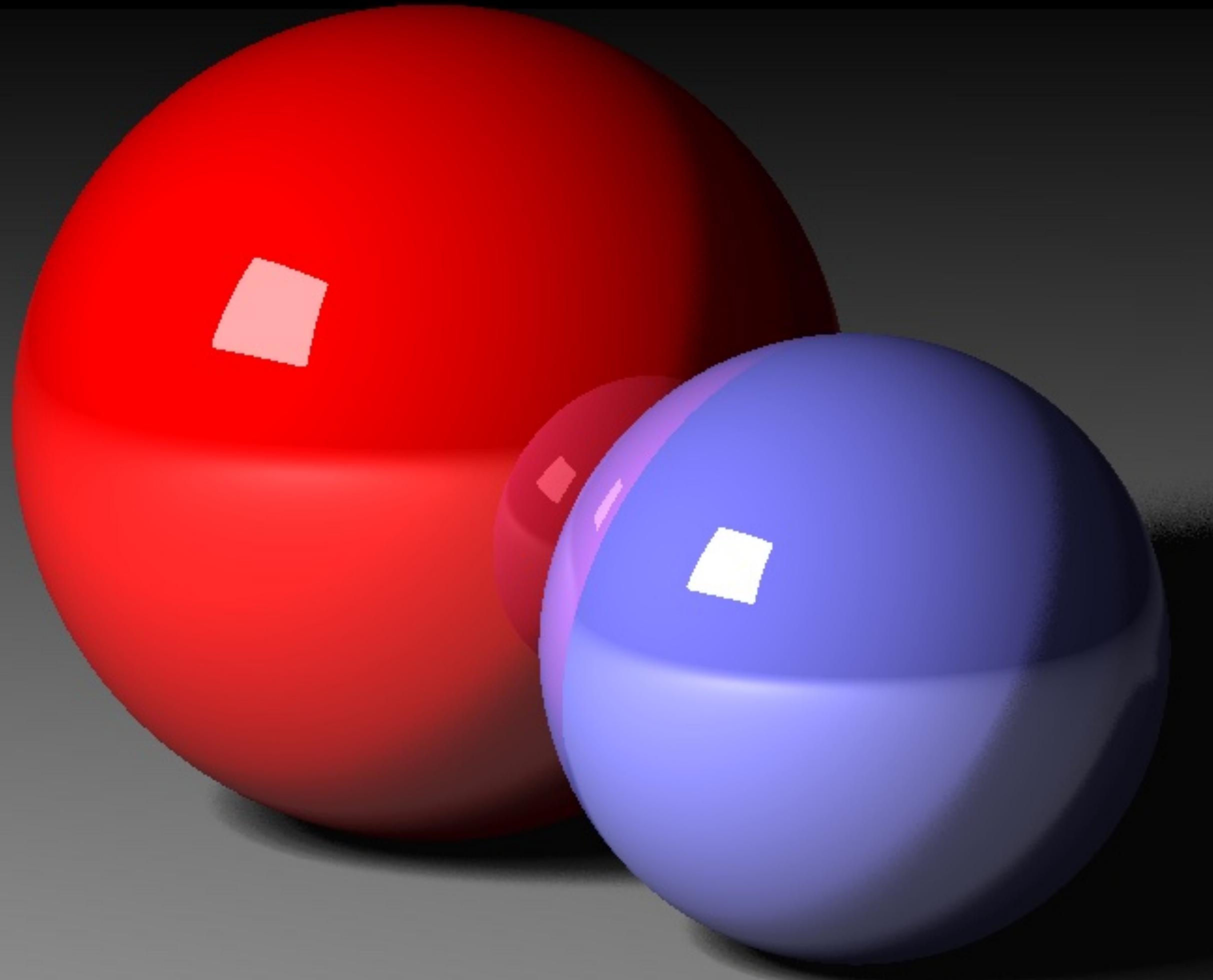


IT'S ALL ABOUT THE COLOR

OF EVERY SINGLE PIXEL

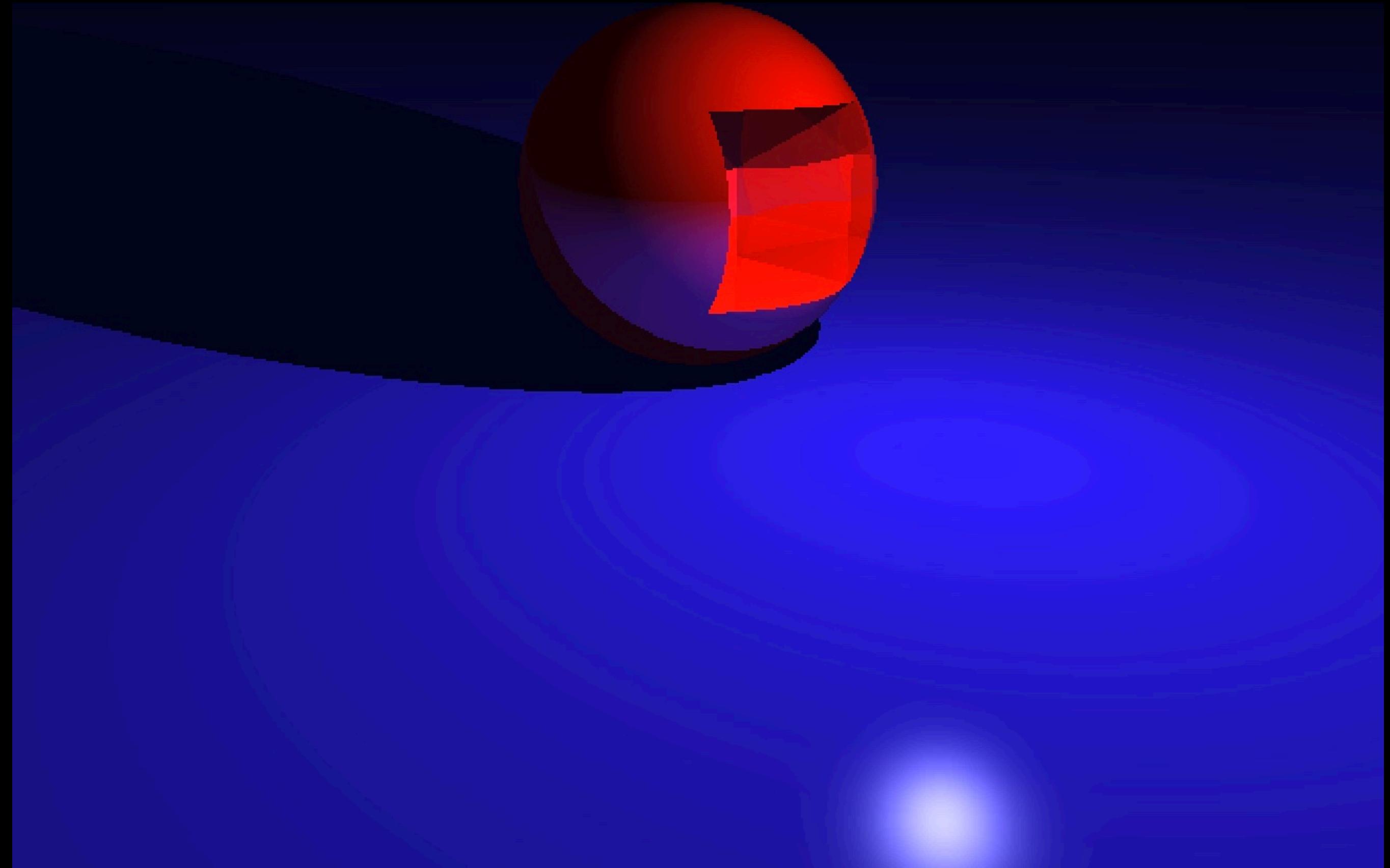






WHY PROFILING?

- Once the book was finished, rendering was rather slow.

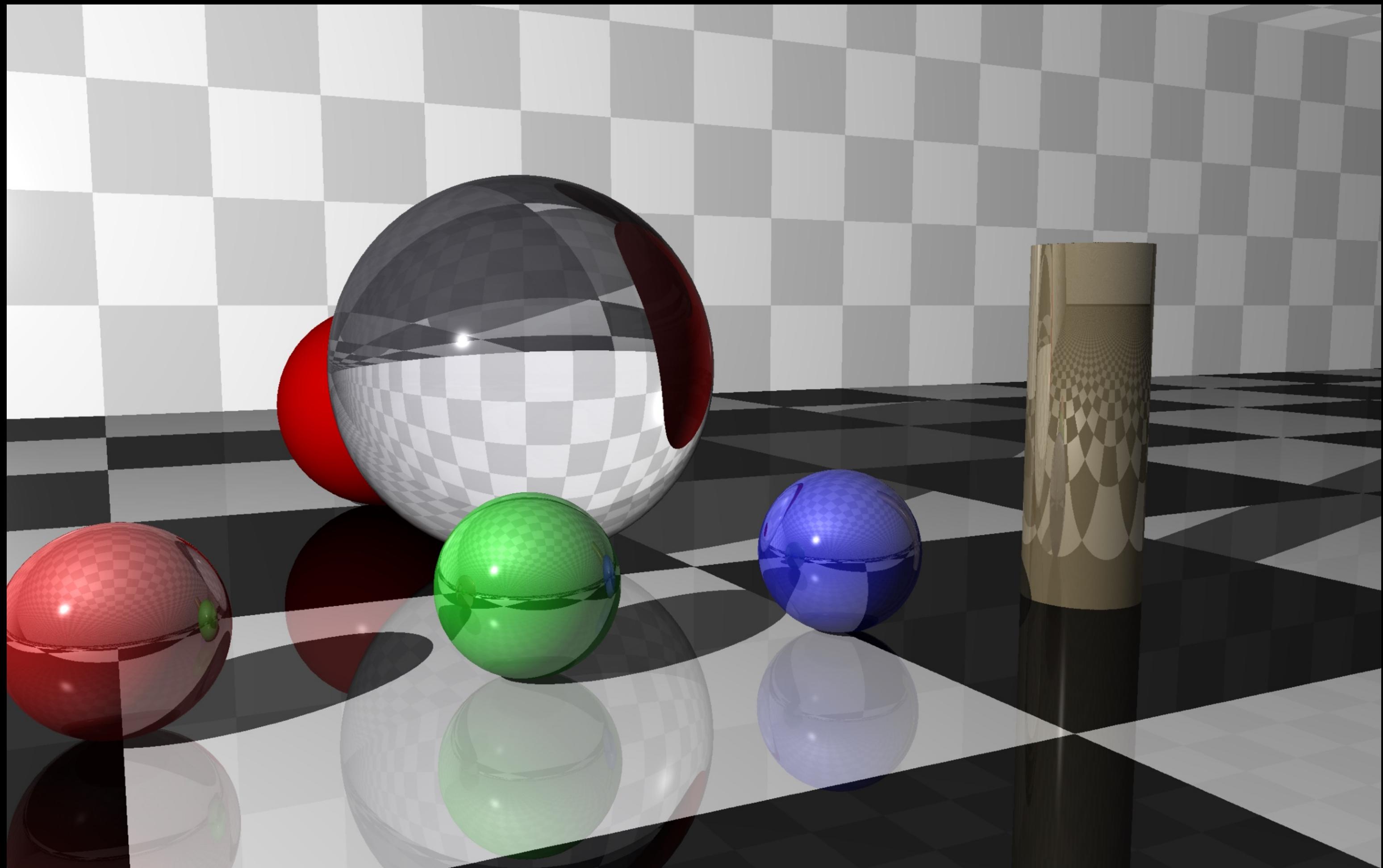


■ NAIIVE IMPLEMENTATION

- Single-threaded
- Plain Go code
 - No 3rd party libraries for math etc.
- Correctness over premature optimization
 - No caching, prefer immutability
 - "... never-ending series of headaches..."

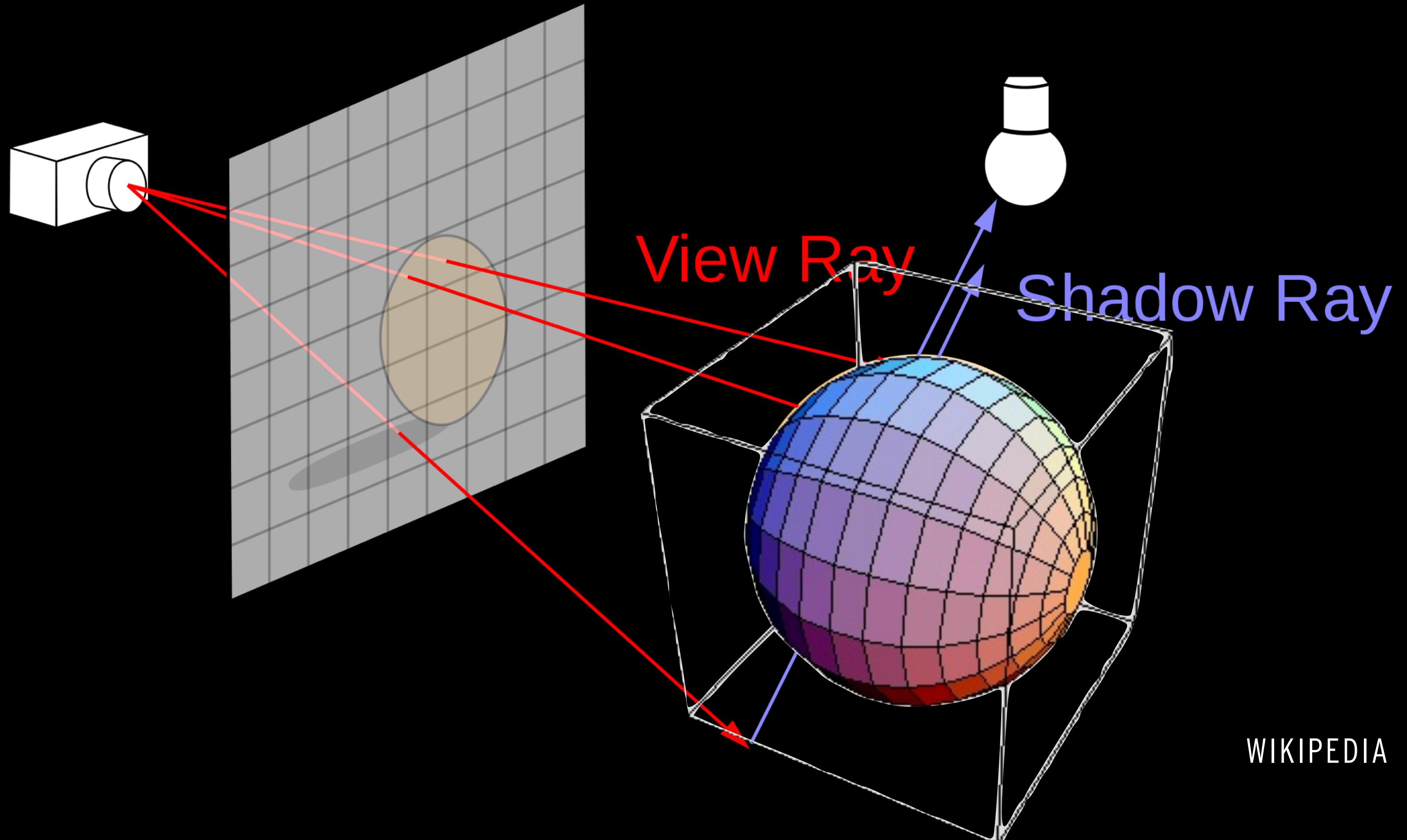
REFERENCE IMAGE

- Reference image
 - 9 primitives
 - Reflection and refraction
- At 640x480:
 - 307 200 pixels
 - Limited recursion depth
 - » Max 5 reflections and 5 refractions per ray



I TWO OPTIMIZATION ROUTES

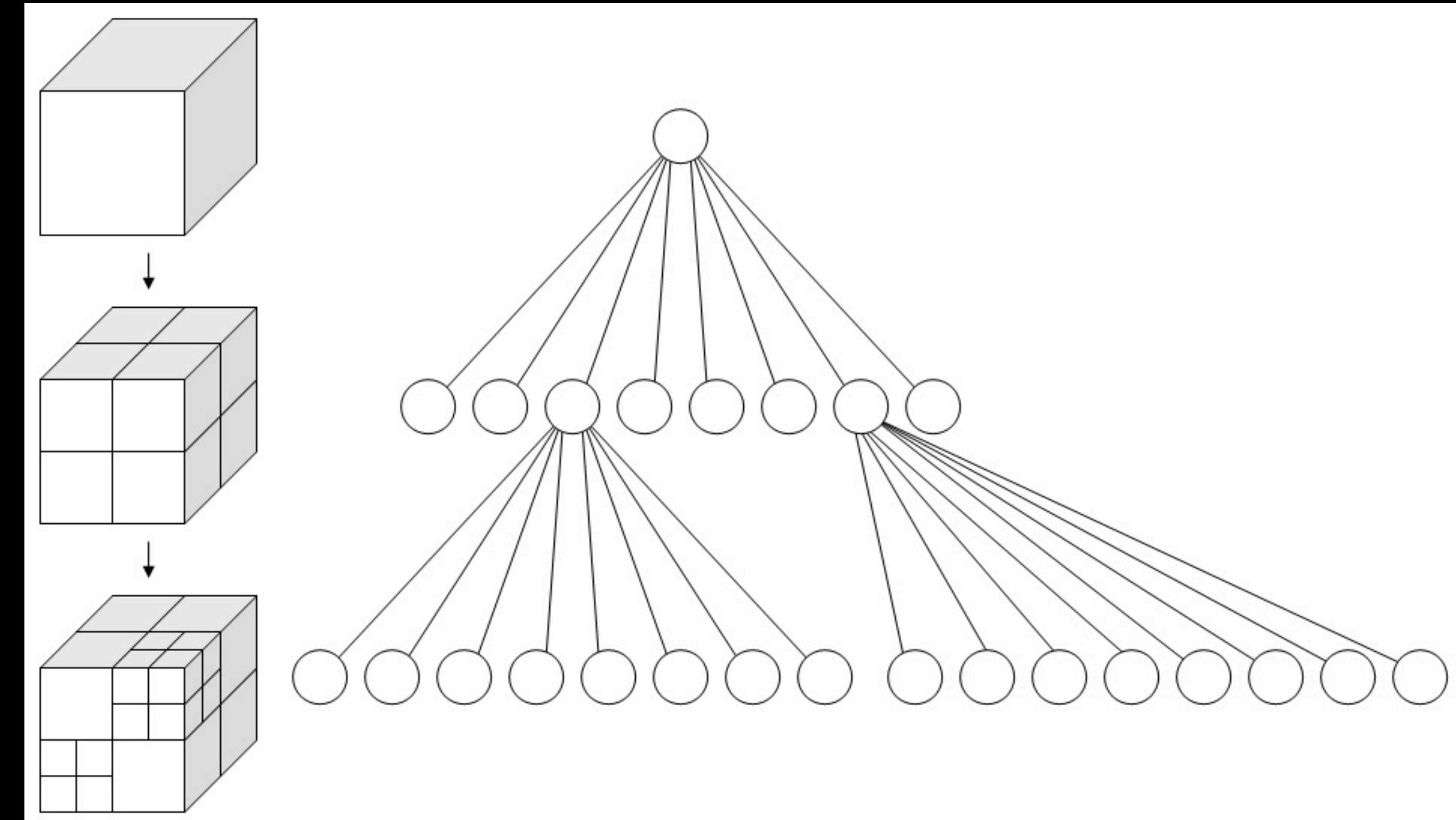
- Algorithm specific:
 - "Do Less Work"
 - » Bounding boxes



WIKIPEDIA

I TWO OPTIMIZATION ROUTES

- Algorithm specific:
 - "Do Less Work"
 - » Bounding boxes
 - ▶ BVH
 - Reduce number of intersection checks
 - Implementation specific:
 - Use Go profiling tools to find bottlenecks and optimize accordingly



WIKIPEDIA

STEP 1 - MULTI-THREADING

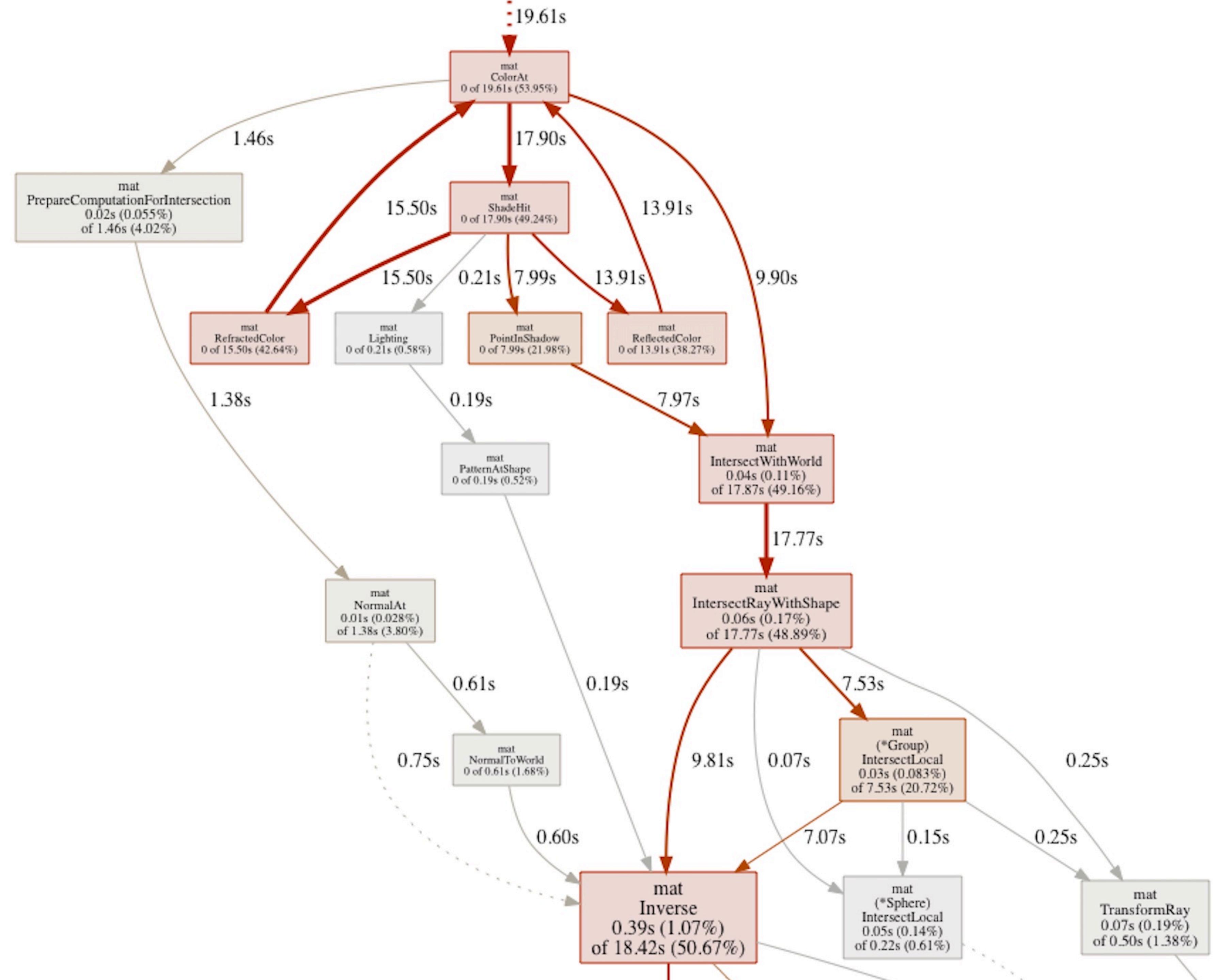
- "Embarrassingly parallel problem"
- Worker-pool implementation
- 1 -> 8 threads
- Performance improved performance by:

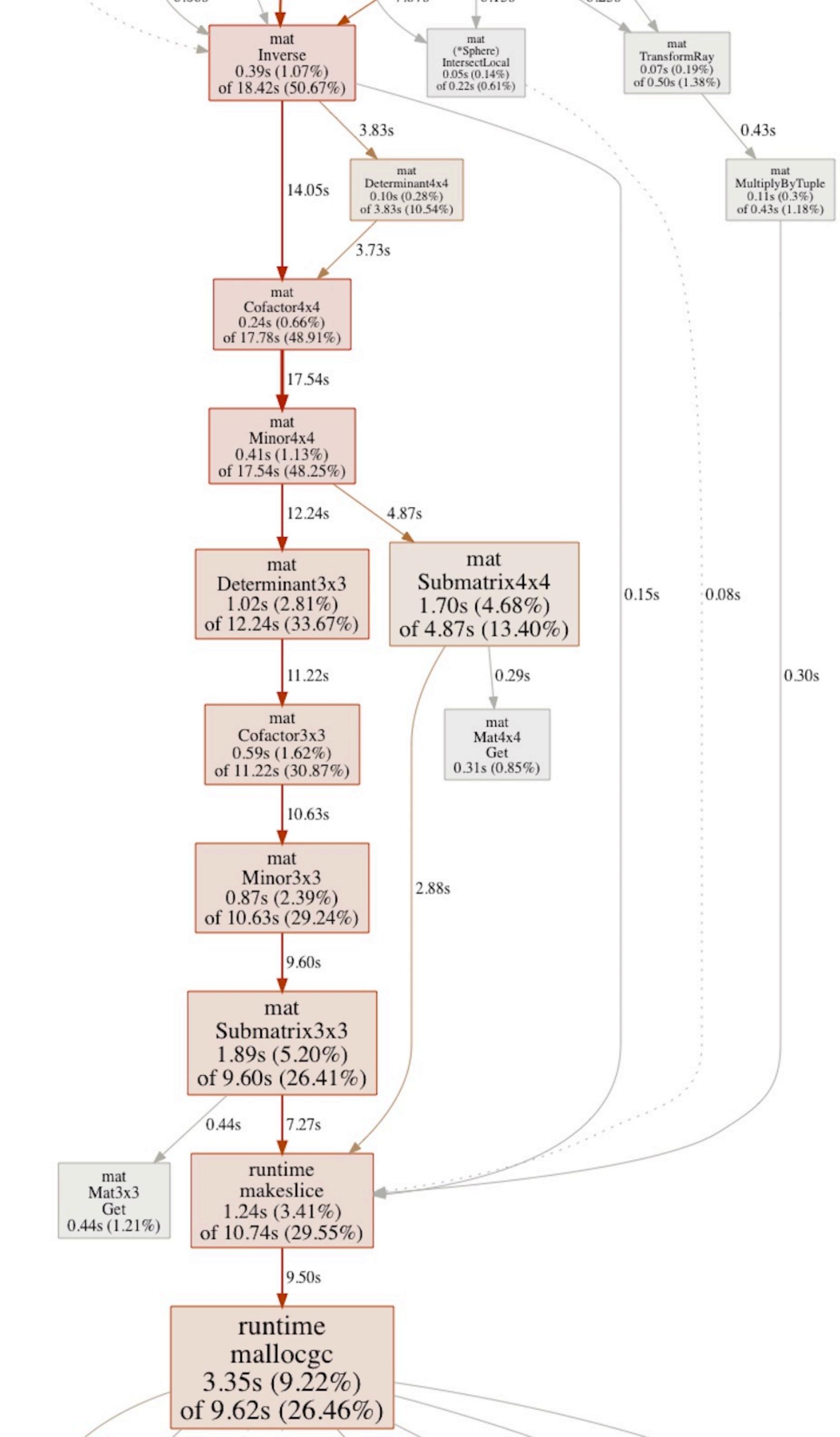
2.25x

~1 min 30sec

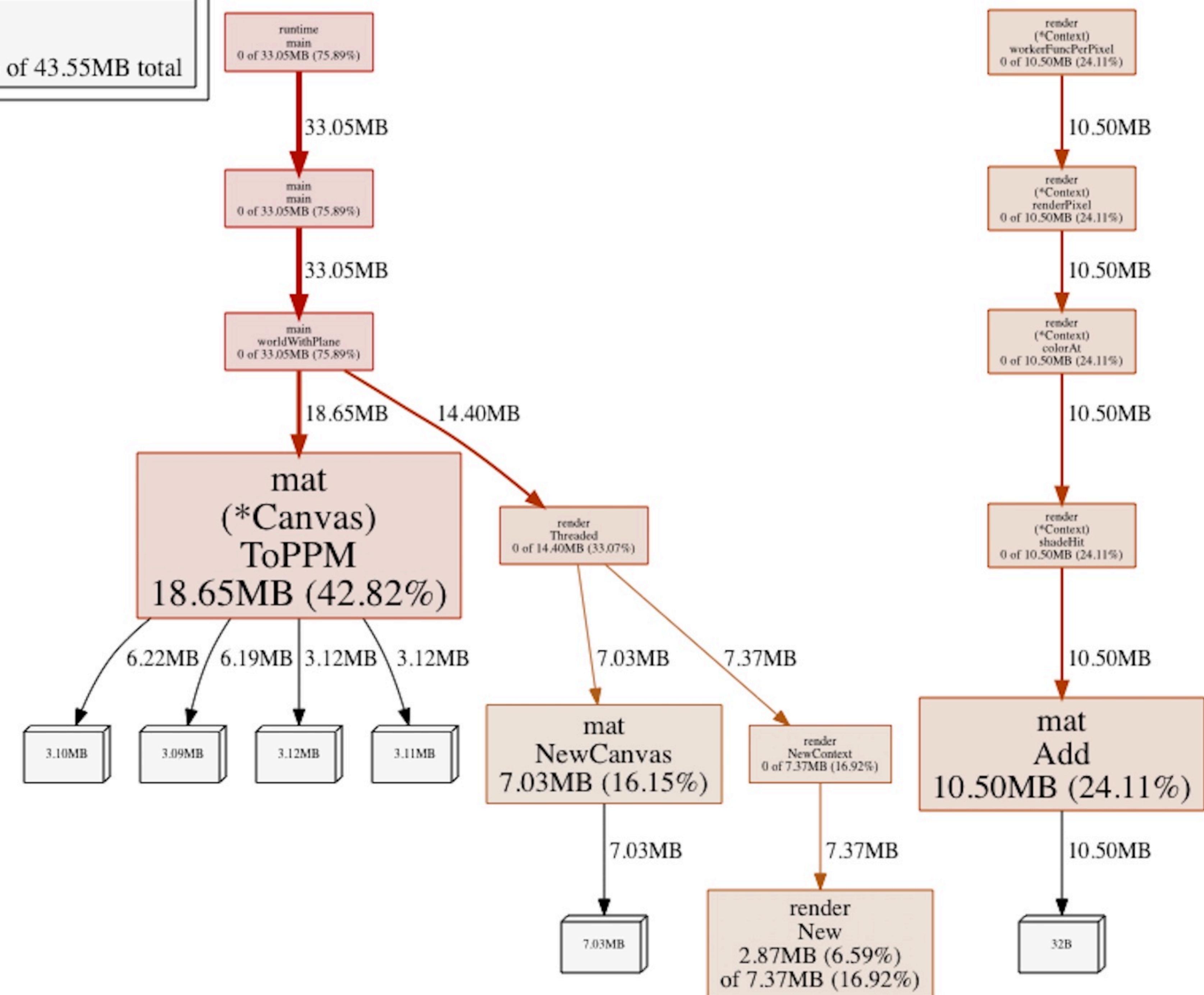
| FIRST RUN OF PPROF - CPU PROFILING

- I added the pprof HTTP boilerplate code and then captured a 30-second time window using `/debug/pprof/profile` with .PNG export





Type: inuse_space
Time: Feb 9, 2020 at 10:44pm (CET)
Showing nodes accounting for 43.55MB, 100% of 43.55MB total



HEAP - MEMORY USE / ALLOCATIONS?

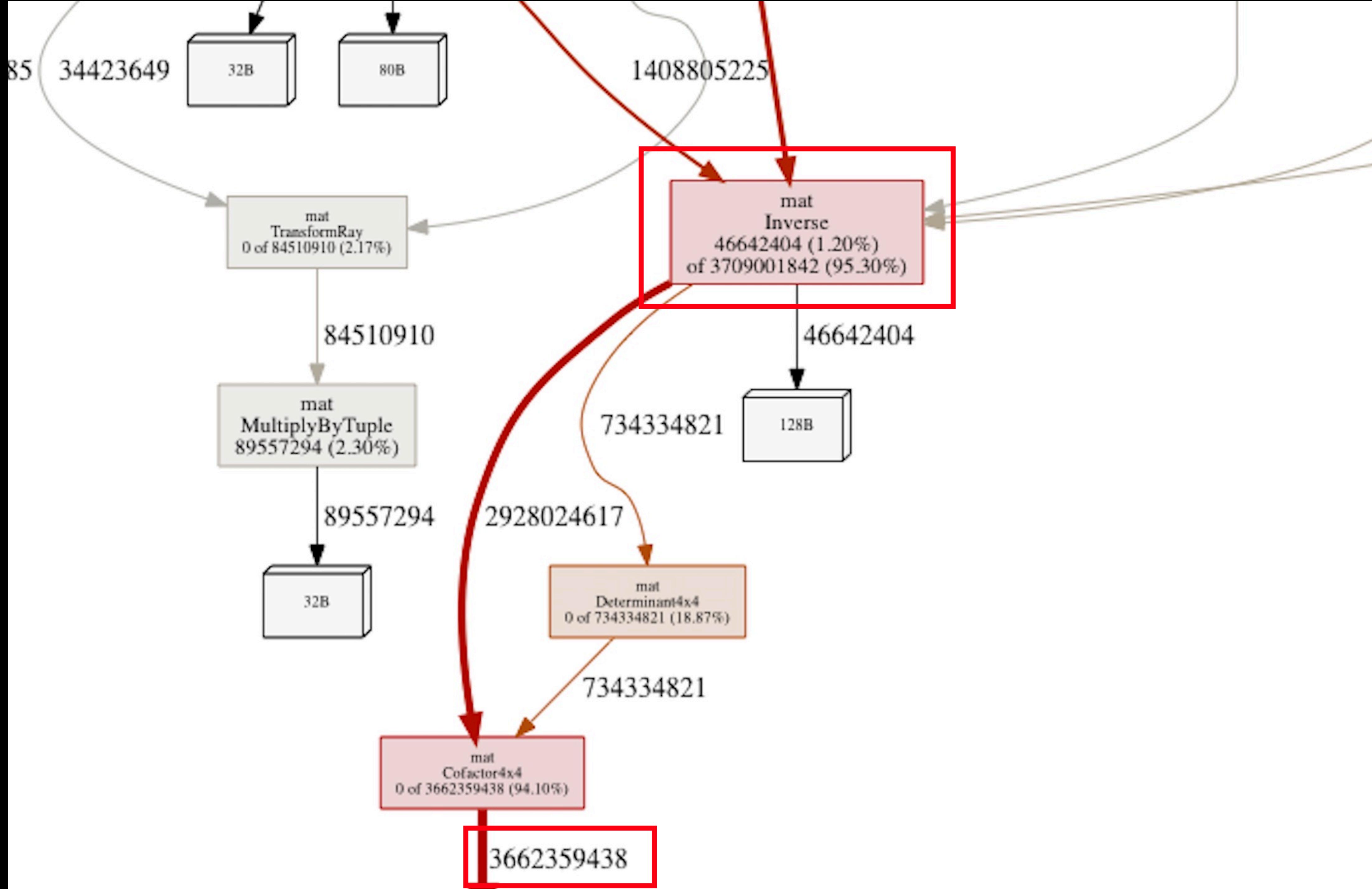
- Heap size seemed OK at 44 mb
- Could we be performing an excessive number of memory allocations?
- pprof does that too with the `-alloc_objects` flag!
 - `go tool pprof -alloc_objects -png http://localhost:6060/debug/pprof/heap`

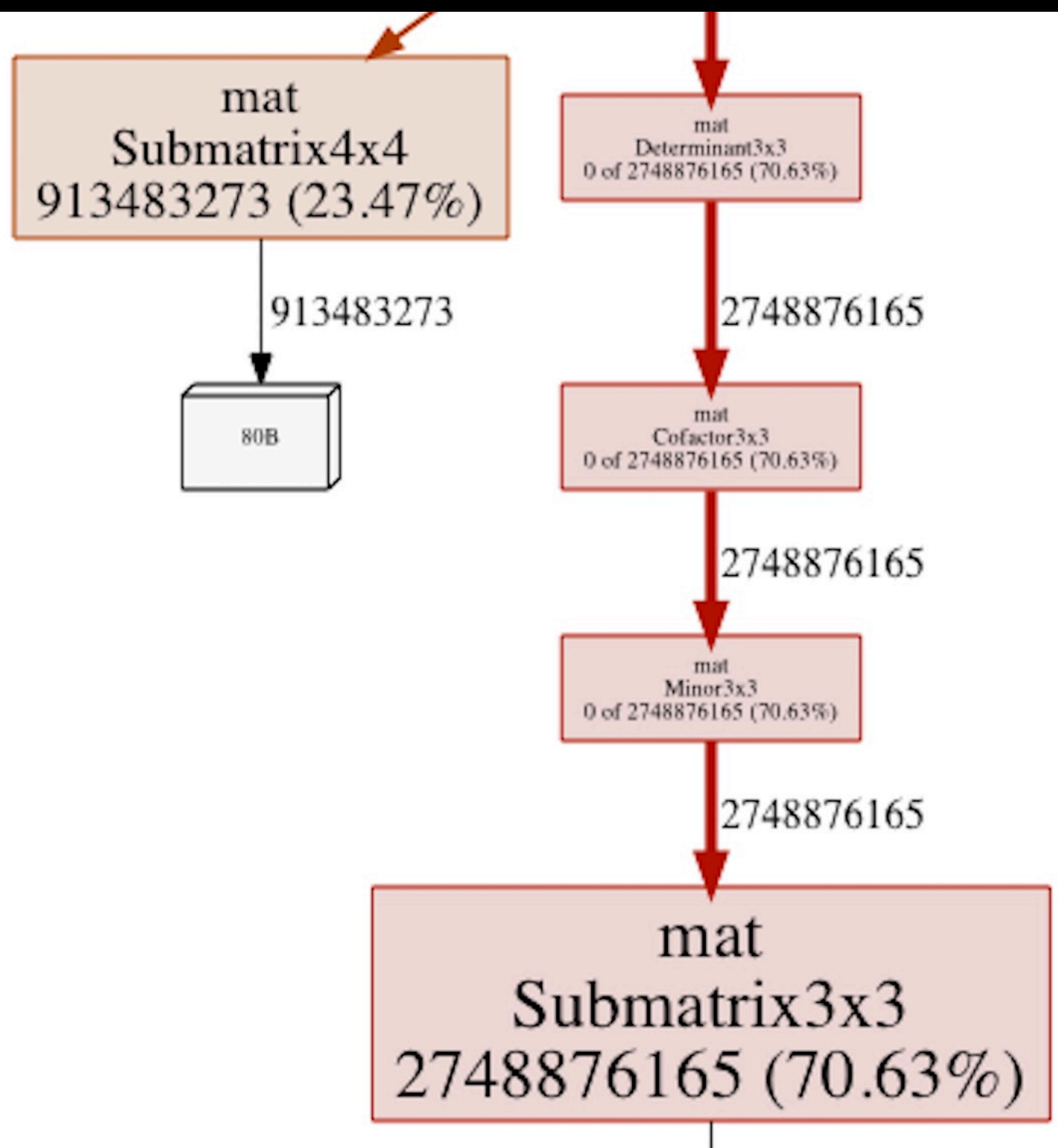
Type: alloc_objects
Time: Dec 22, 2019 at 5:29pm (CET)
Showing nodes accounting for 3842689091, 98.73% of 3892008614 total
Dropped 44 nodes (cum <= 19460043)

~12 700 allocations per pixel!

154 GB of RAM allocated







WHAT ARE THE
INVERSE() AND SUBMATRIX()
FUNCTIONS DOING!?!?

STEP 2 - FIX INVERSE() AND SUBMATRIX

```
func Submatrix4x4(m1 Mat4x4, deleteRow, deleteCol int) Mat3x3 {
    m3 := NewMat3x3(make([]float64, 9))
    idx := 0
    for row := 0; row < 4; row++ {
        if row == deleteRow {
            continue
        }
        for col := 0; col < 4; col++ {
            if col == deleteCol {
                continue
            }
            m3.Elems[idx] = m1.Get(row, col)
            idx++
        }
    }
    return m3
}
```

CACHING THE INVERSE

- The Inverse transformation matrix of each primitive is used in every ray / object intersection test
- Since our geometry and camera is static per frame rendered, it turns out we can pre-compute and store the Inverse matrix for each primitive once during scene setup.

```
middle = mat.NewSphere()
middle.SetTransform(mat.Translate(-0.5, 0.75, 0.5))
```

```
glassMtrl := mat.NewMaterial(mat.NewColor(0.8, 0.8, 0.9), 0, 0.2, 0.9, 300)
glassMtrl.Transparency = 1.0
glassMtrl.RefractiveIndex = 1.57
```

```
func (s *Sphere) SetTransform(translation Mat4x4) {
    s.Transform = Multiply(s.Transform, translation)
    s.Inverse = Inverse(s.Transform)
}
```

CACHING THE INVERSE

- The Inverse transformation matrix of each primitive is used in every ray / object intersection test
- Since our geometry and camera is static per frame rendered, it turns out we can pre-compute and store the Inverse matrix for each primitive once during scene setup.

```
type Sphere struct {
    Id          int64
    Transform   Mat4x4
    Inverse     Mat4x4
    Material   Material
}

func (s *Sphere) SetTransform(translation Mat4x4) {
    s.Transform = Multiply(s.Transform, translation)
    s.Inverse = Inverse(s.Transform)
}
```

BEST OPTIMIZATION EVER!

INVERSE CACHING OUTCOME

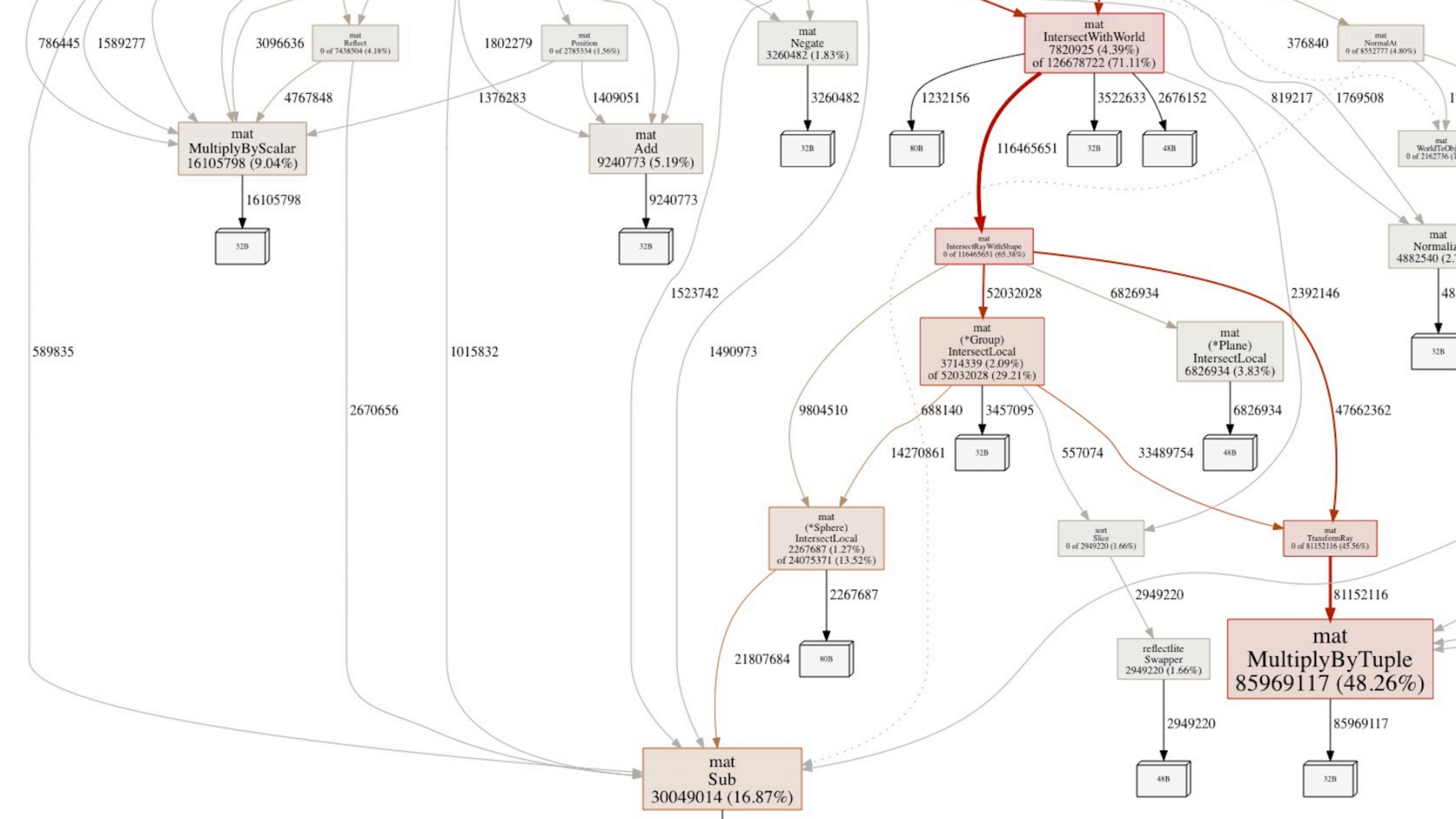
- Single-threaded went from 3m 14s to 10.9s
- Multi-threaded went from 1m30s to 4.2s
- Allocations went from 3.9 billion to 180 million!
- From 154 GB to 5.9 GB



NOT DONE YET!

| STEP 3 - ELIMINATE ALLOCATIONS

- Still room for improvement
- Time for a new pprof check of allocs to the heap



ELIMINATE ALLOCATIONS

- Start pre-allocating memory wherever possible and re-use:
 - Vectors and matrices being used in intermediate calculations
 - Intersection lists (slices)
 - ...
- Sometimes not trivial

| RENDER CONTEXT PER WORKER

- Each "render context" needs to have it's own copy of world objects and pre-allocated lists and storage for recurring computations

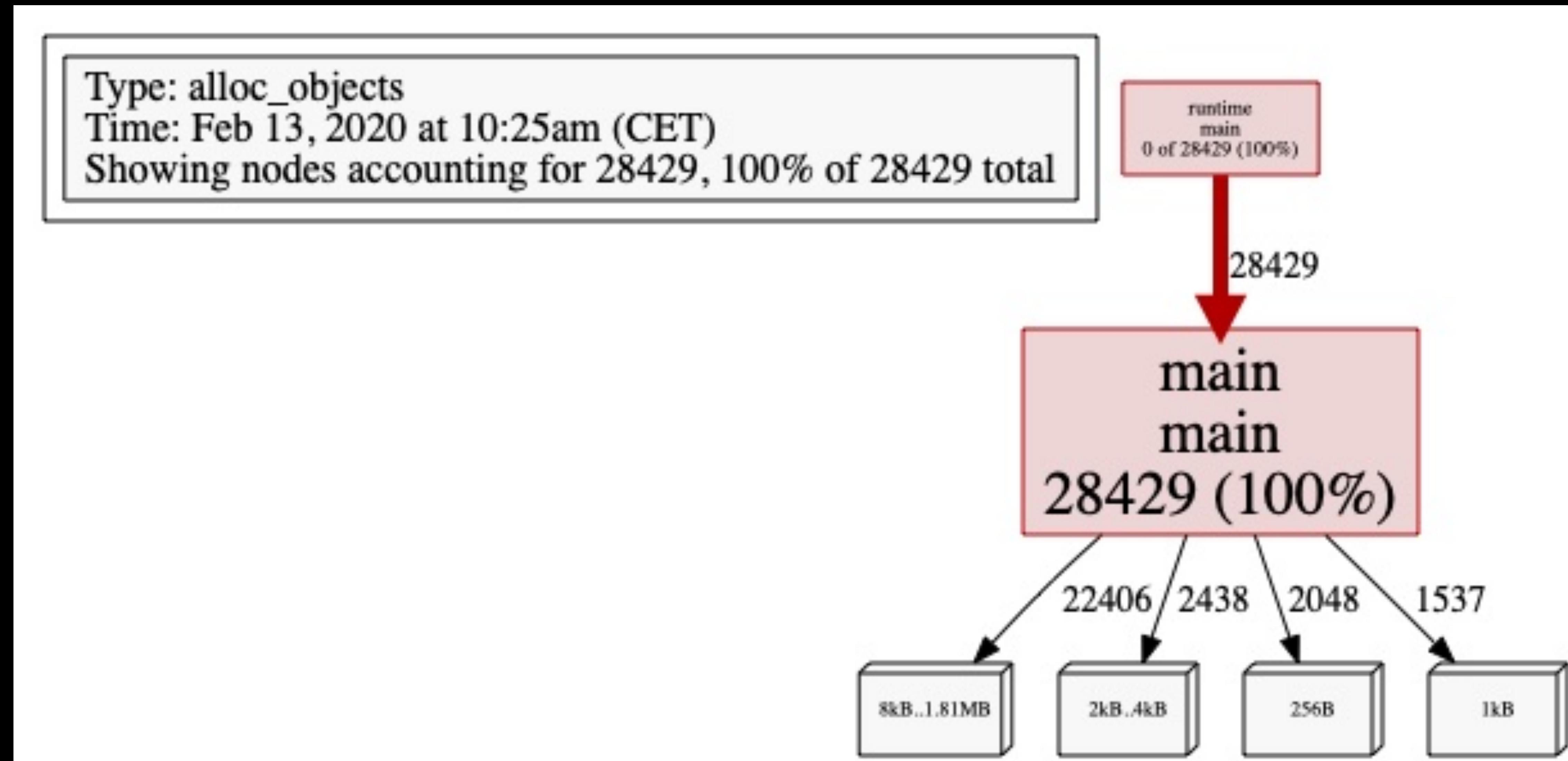
```
return Context{  
    world: world,  
    total: 0,  
  
    // allocate memory  
    pointInView: mat.NewPoint(0, 0, -1.0),  
    pixel:      mat.NewColor(0, 0, 0),  
    origin:     mat.NewPoint(0, 0, 0),  
    direction:  mat.NewVector(0, 0, 0),  
    subVec:     mat.NewVector(0, 0, 0),  
  
    // allocate ray  
    firstRay: mat.NewRay(mat.NewPoint(0, 0, 0),  
                         mat.NewVector(0, 0, 0)),  
  
    // stack for shading  
    cStack: cStack,  
}
```

RE-USE SLICE MEMORY

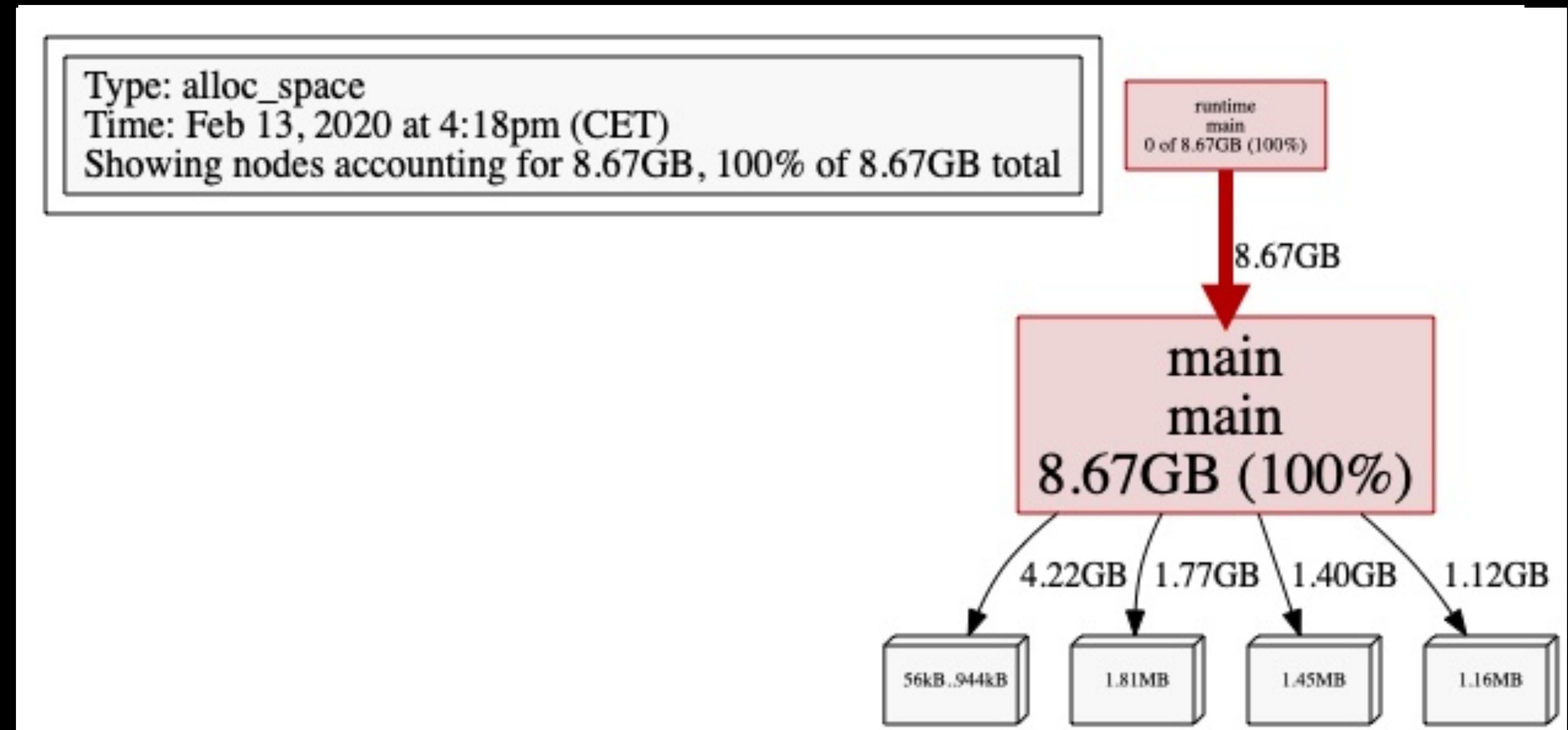
- Re-slice used slices rather than setting them to nil
- Preserves memory

```
bigslice := make([]int, 200000)
for i := 0; i < 1000; i++ {
    bigslice = nil
    for i := 0; i < 200000; i++ {
        bigslice = append(bigslice, rand.Intn(1000000))
    }
    if i % 1000 == 0 {
        fmt.Printf("Data len: %v\n", len(bigslice))
    }
}
```

RE-USE SLICE MEMORY



RE-USE SLICE MEMORY

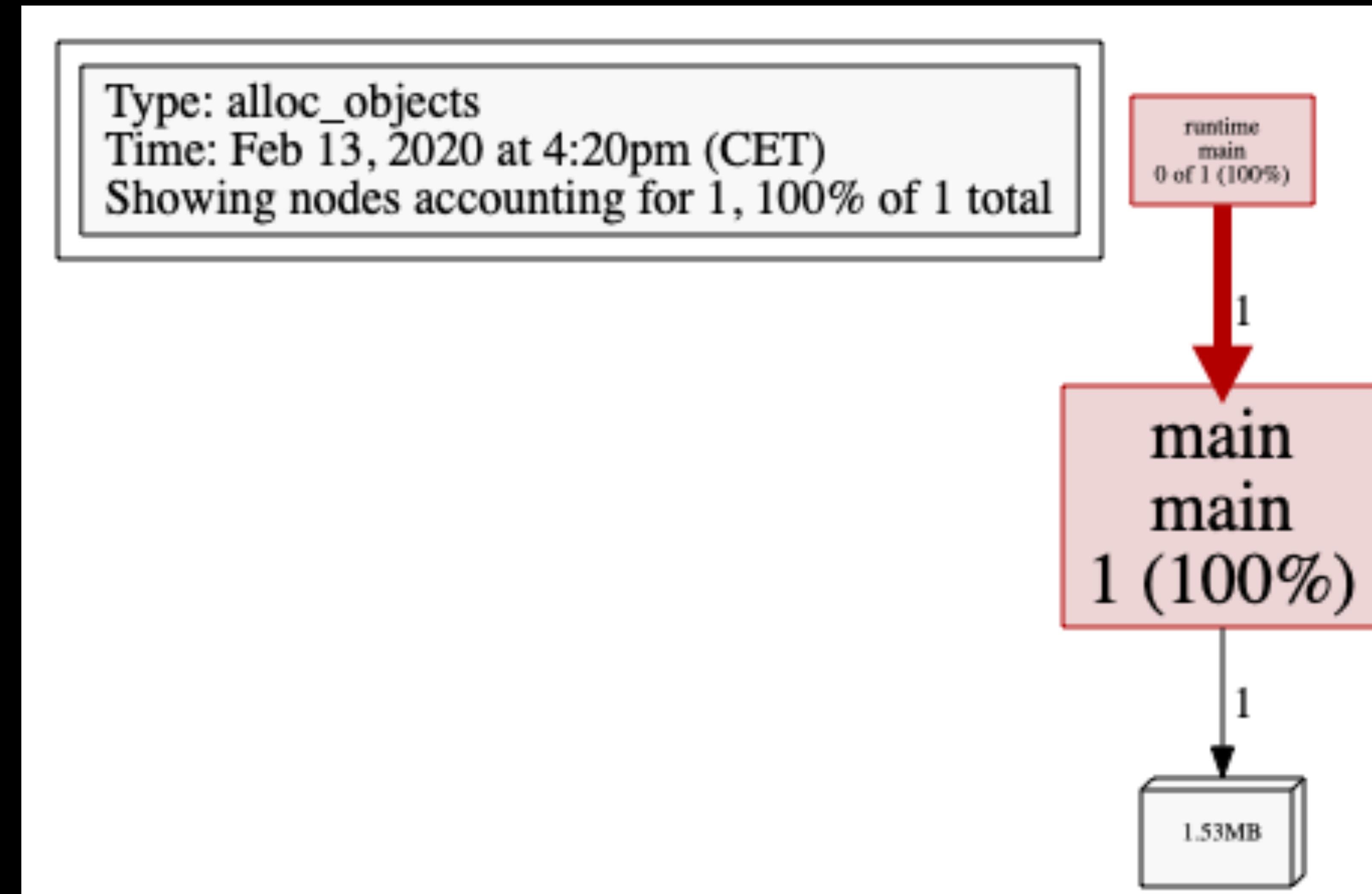


RE-USE SLICE MEMORY BY [:0]

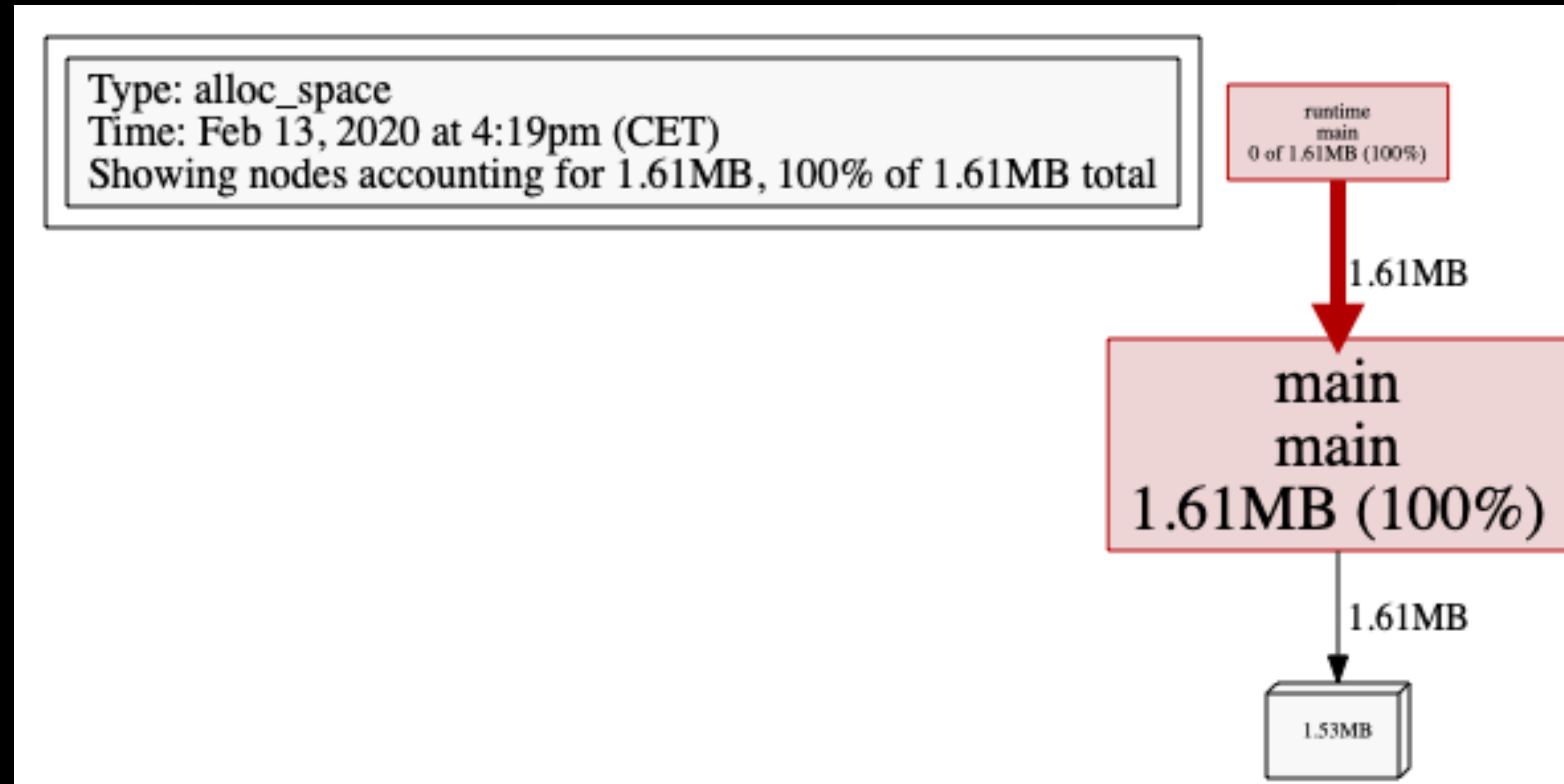
- reslice by slice = slice[:0]

```
bigslice := make([]int, 200000)
for i := 0; i < 1000; i++ {
    bigslice = bigslice[:0]
    for i := 0; i < 200000; i++ {
        bigslice = append(bigslice, rand.Intn(1000000))
    }
    if i % 1000 == 0 {
        fmt.Printf("Data len: %v\n", len(bigslice))
    }
}
```

| RE-SLICE MEMORY USING [:0]



| RE-SLICE MEMORY USING [:0]



MORE EFFICIENT C-STYLE RETURNS

- Pre-allocate memory and pass function results through a parameter passed as pointer instead of allocating locally

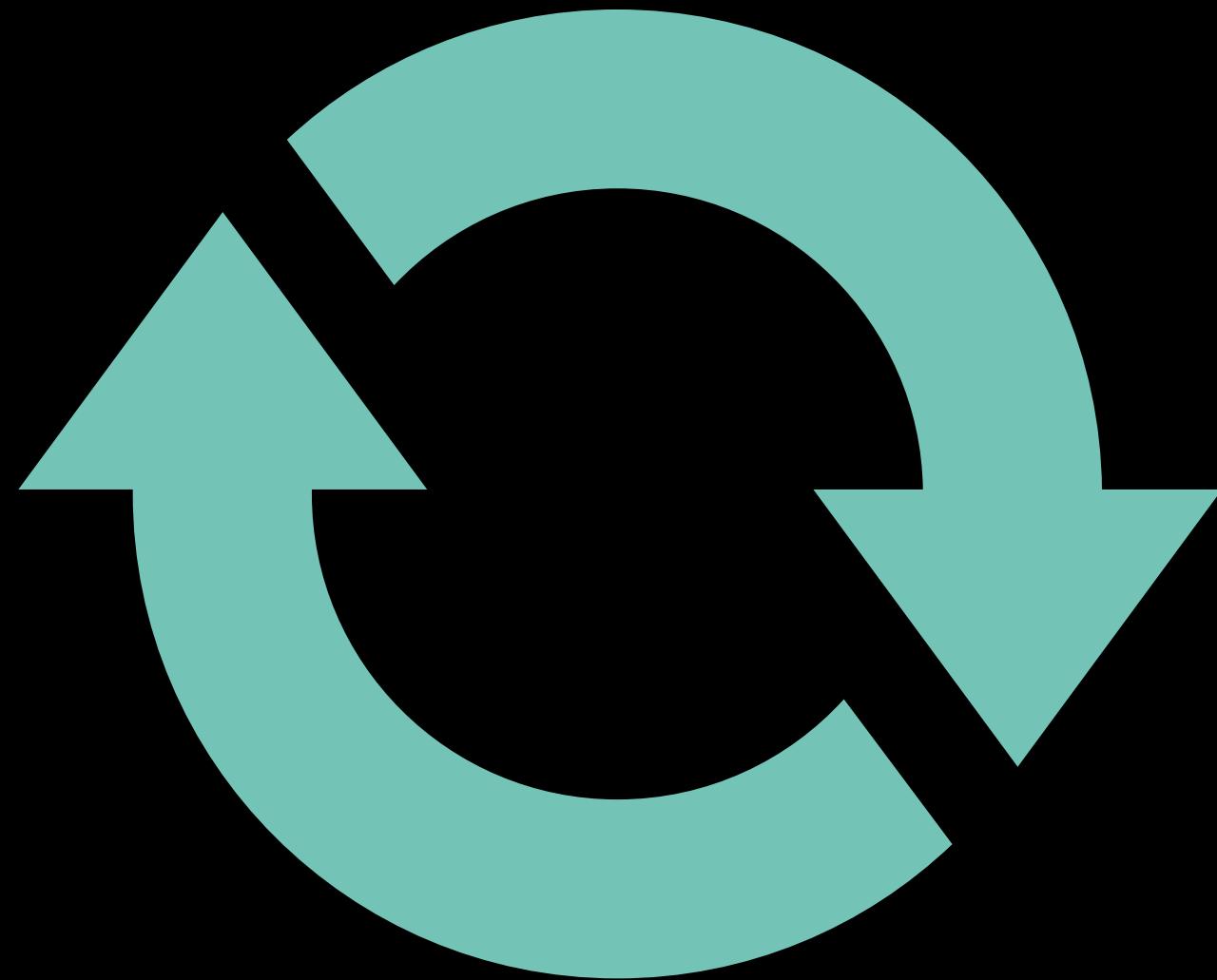
```
return Context{ rixByTuple(m1 Matrix4x4, t Tuple4) Tuple4 { e4) {
    // omitted for brevity float64, 4))
    for row := 0, row < 4, row++ { , 0) * t.Get(0)) +
    // allocate memory (m1.Get(row, 0) * t.Get(0)) +
    pointInView: mat.NewPoint(0, 0, -1.0),
    pixel:      mat.NewColor(0, 0, 0),
    origin:     mat.NewPoint(0, 0, 0),
}

} return t1
}
```

```
// Somewhere else
mat.MultiplyMatrixByTuple(rc.camera.Inverse, rc.pointInView, &rc.pixel)
mat.MultiplyMatrixByTuple(rc.camera.Inverse, originPoint, &rc.origin)
```

|REFACTORING OUTCOME

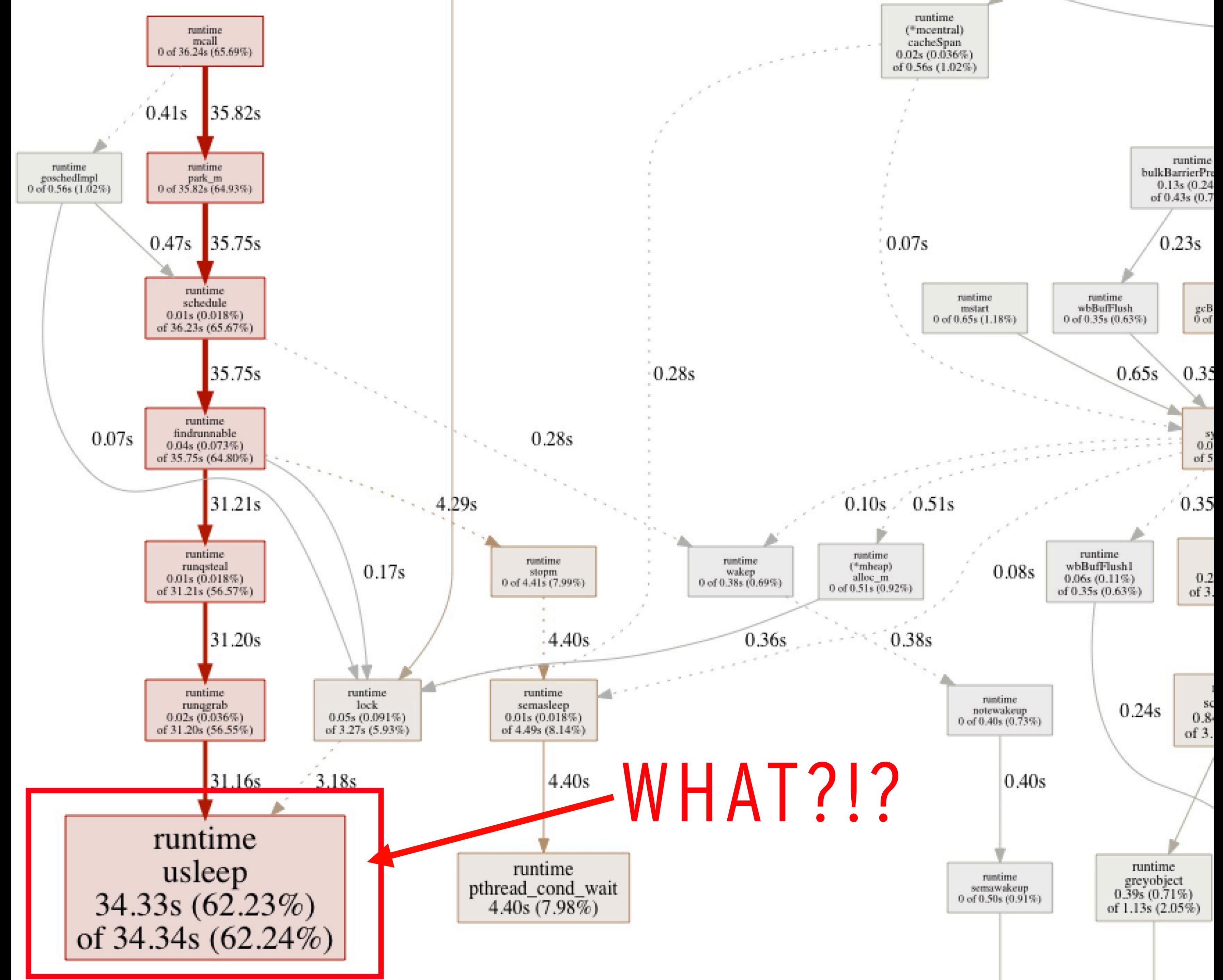
- Continued refactoring and optimization resulted in:
 - Multi-threaded render: 4.2 -> 1.9 seconds
 - Allocation number: 180 million -> 33 million
 - » 12700 -> 100 allocs per pixel
 - Memory allocated: 5.9 GB -> 1.31 GB
- However...
 - More complex code base
 - Multi-threading requires careful access to shared data or context-exclusive copies



ONE MORE OPTIMIZATION...

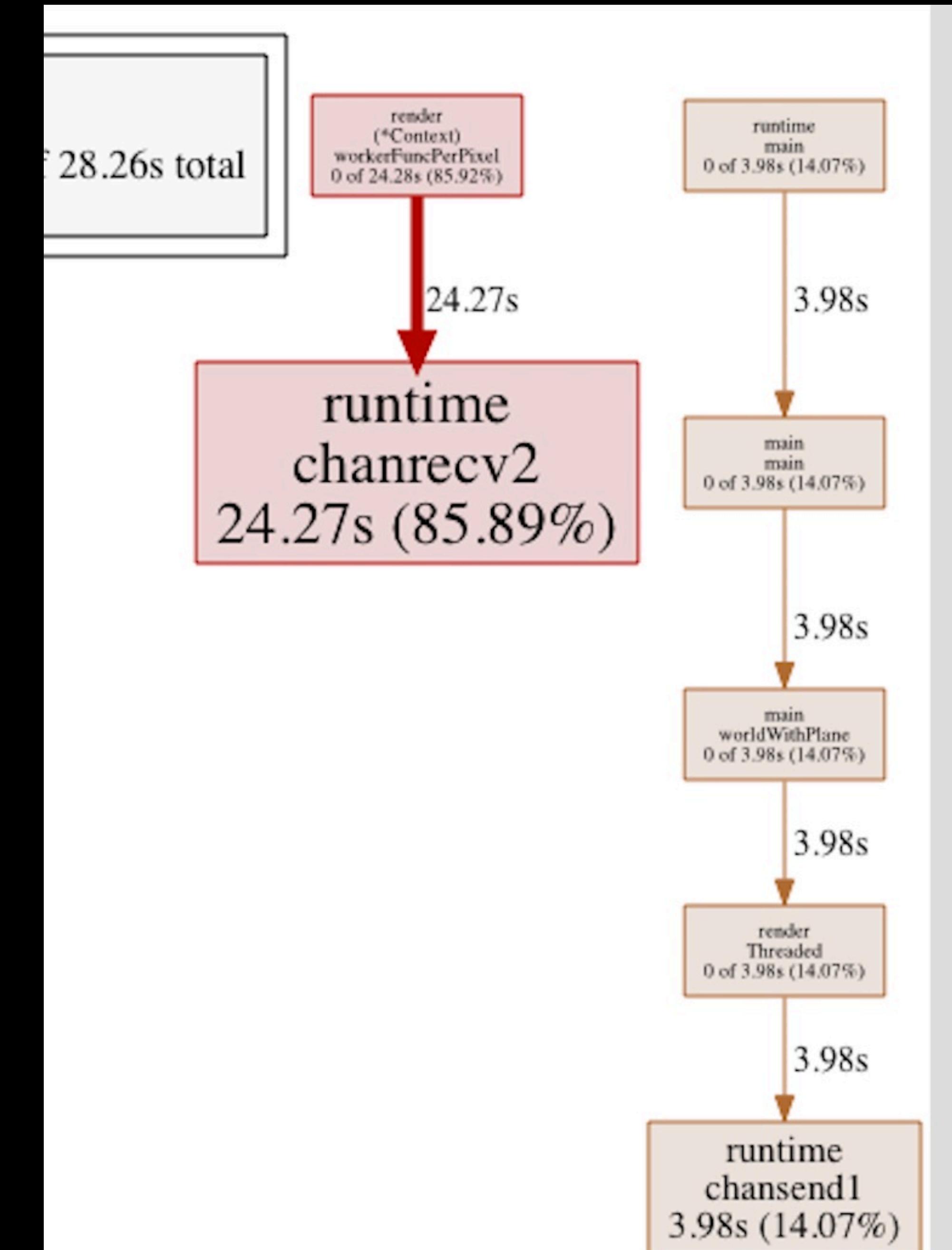
| STEP 4 - LAST OPTIMIZATION

- After adding caching and reducing allocations significantly performance was quite good.
- Time to CPU profile again...



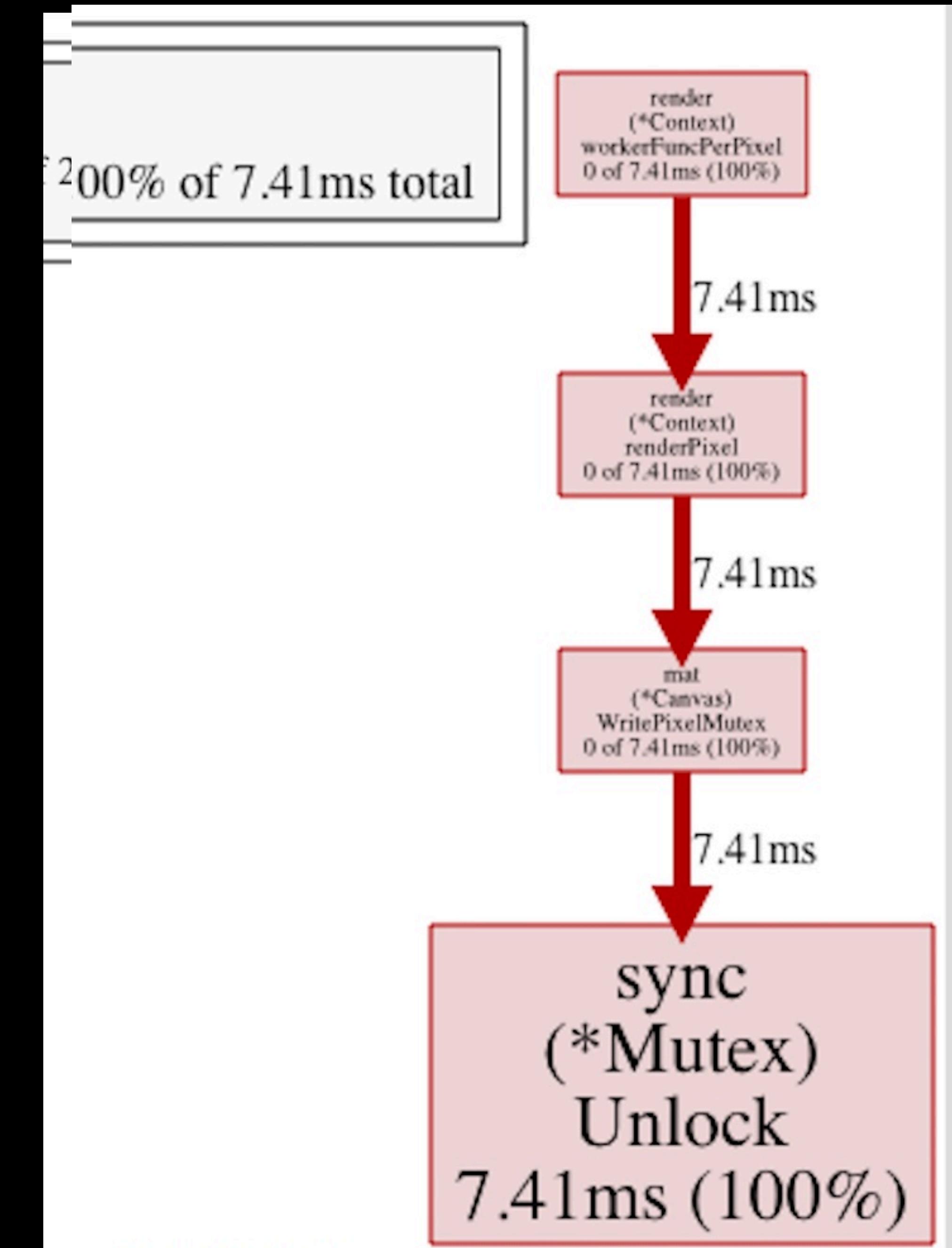
CONGESTION?

- Something slightly weird...
 - runtime usleep: 62.3% CPU time?!?!
 - » /debug/pprof/block



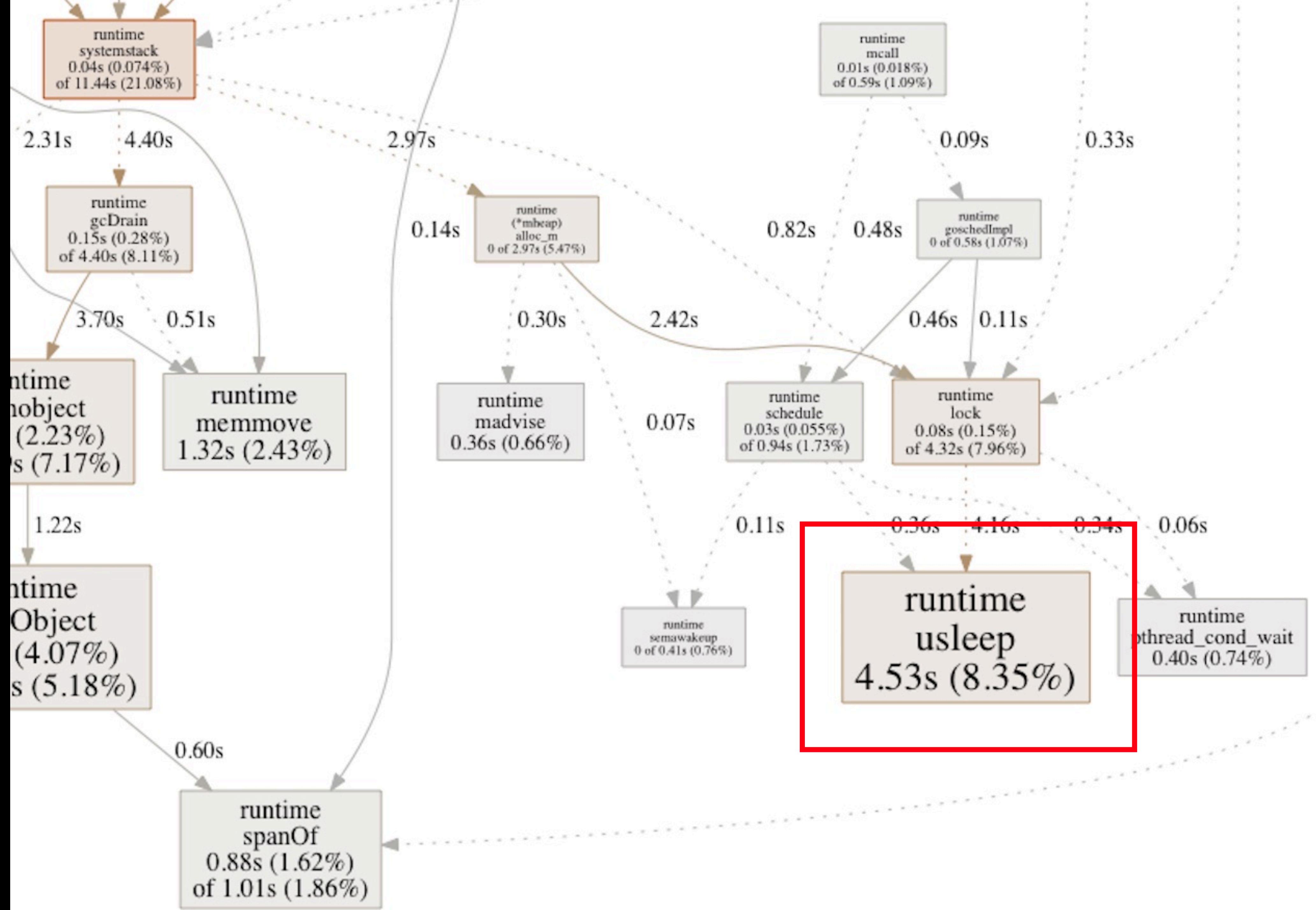
CONGESTION?

- Something slightly weird...
 - runtime usleep: 62.3% CPU time?!!?
 - » /debug/pprof/block
 - » /debug/pprof/mutex

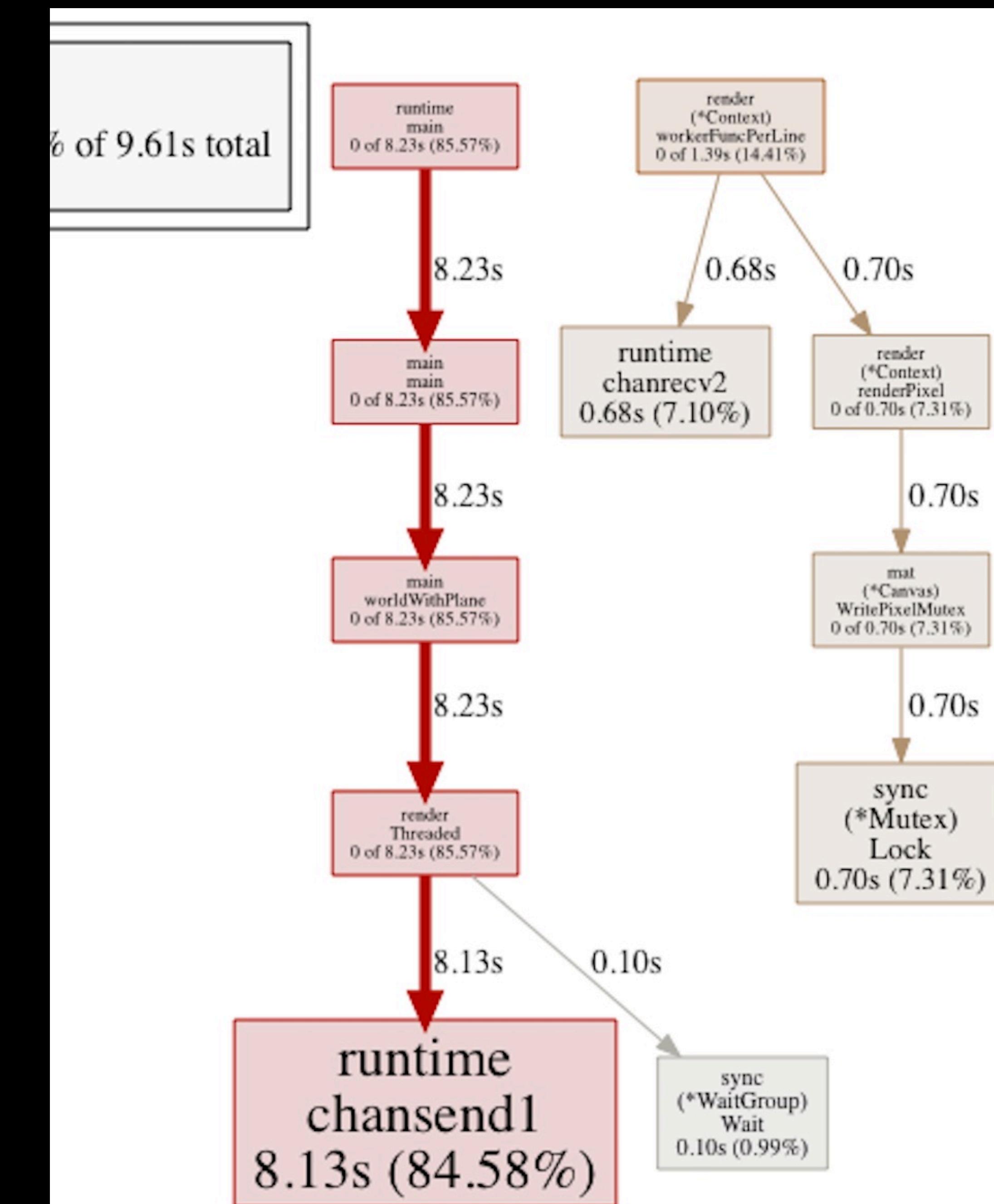


CONGESTION

- Renderer is based on the worker-pool pattern
 - 8 workers having their own rendering context / memory
- One job per pixel
 - 1920x1080 -> ~2 million jobs passed to either of the 8 workers through an unbuffered channel
 - 16.4 seconds
- One job per line
 - 1920x1080 -> 1080 jobs passed
 - 14.7 seconds



BLOCKS - PASS BY LINE



|REFACTORING CONGESTION OUTCOME

- Multi-threaded render: 1.9 -> 1.6 seconds
- However, 8 threads vs 1 thread is still just 2.7x faster, so there's definitely a lot more bottlenecks to be found
 - slice.Sort is run on every intersection which allocates memory internally
 - A lot of basic vector / matrix ops still allocating memory
 - Experiment with GOGC to run GC less often
 - I'm considering a total rewrite ;)

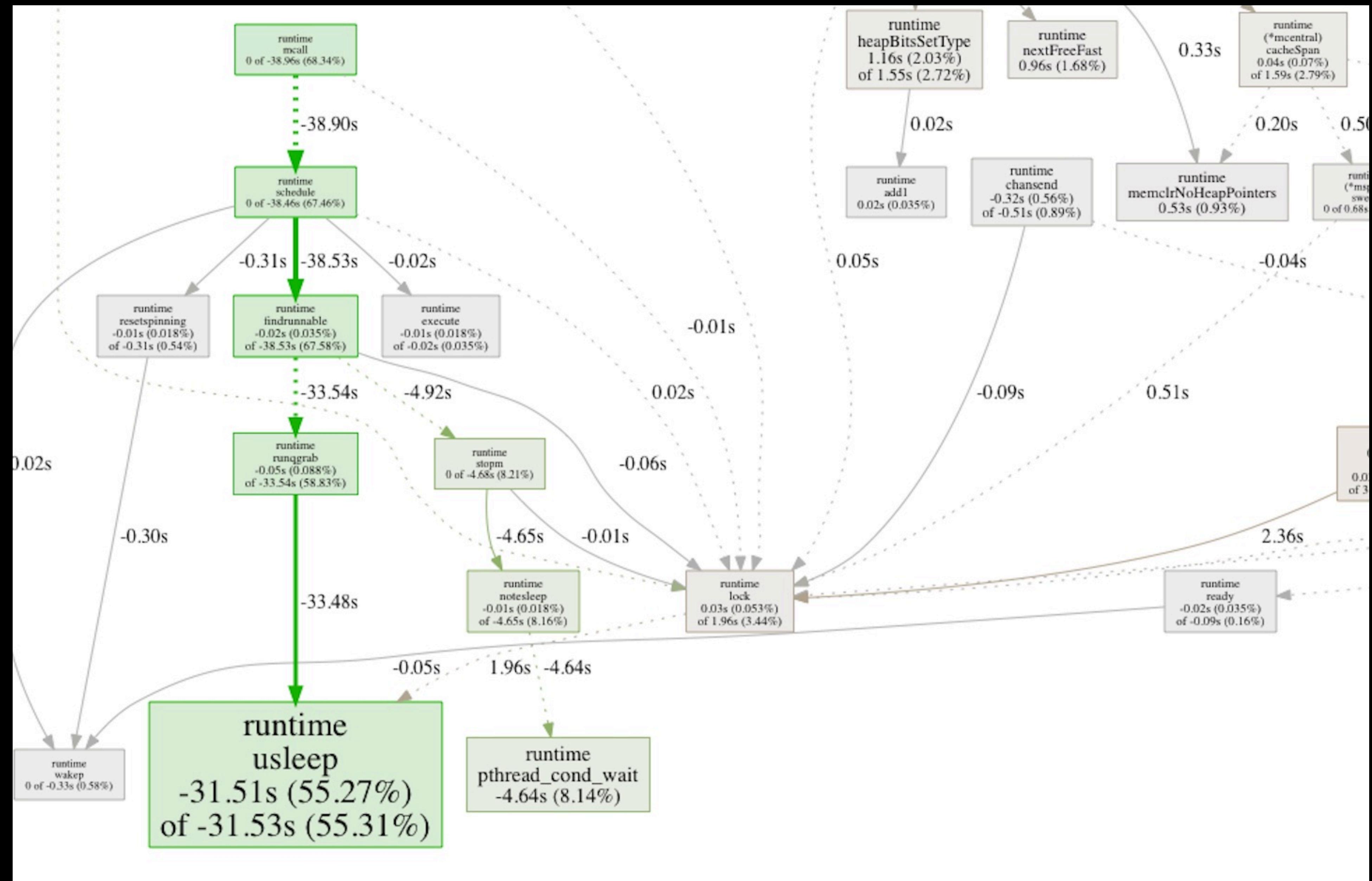
A FINAL TRICK -
LIVE CODING -
WITH DEMO!

COMPARING PPROFS

- Pprof supports loading two pprof files in order to compare them
- go tool pprof -diff_base pixel-render.pb.gz line-render.pb.gz

```
[~/diffprofiles]> go tool pprof -diff_base pixel-render.pb.gz line-render.pb.gz
Type: cpu
Time: Feb 13, 2020 at 9:44pm (CET)
Duration: 20.31s, Total samples = 57.01s (280.72%)
Entering interactive mode (type "help" for commands, "o" for options)
(pprof) top
Showing nodes accounting for -23.71s, 41.59% of 57.01s total
Dropped 55 nodes (cum <= 0.29s)
Showing top 10 nodes out of 288
      flat  flat%  sum%          cum  cum%
-31.51s 55.27% 55.27%  -31.53s 55.31% runtime.usleep
-4.64s 8.14% 63.41%   -4.64s 8.14% runtime.pthread_cond_wait
 2.63s 4.61% 58.80%   9.28s 16.28% runtime.mallocgc
 2.22s 3.89% 54.90%   4.05s  7.10% github.com/eriklupander/rt/internal/pkg/mat.MultiplyByTuplePtr
 1.51s 2.65% 52.25%   1.72s  3.02% runtime.findObject
 1.41s 2.47% 49.78%   1.41s  2.47% github.com/eriklupander/rt/internal/pkg/mat.Tuple4.Get
 1.29s 2.26% 47.52%   1.29s  2.26% github.com/eriklupander/rt/internal/pkg/mat.Mat4x4.Get
 1.16s 2.03% 45.48%   1.55s  2.72% runtime.heapBitsSetType
 1.15s 2.02% 43.47%   3.68s  6.46% github.com/eriklupander/rt/internal/pkg/mat.(*Sphere).IntersectLocal
 1.07s 1.88% 41.59%   1.32s  2.32% github.com/eriklupander/rt/internal/pkg/mat.Dot
```

COMPARING PPROFS



SUMMARY

I LESSONS LEARNED

- Even though Go is garbage collected, you need to think on how and when you're allocating memory if the code you're writing is performance critical.
 - That said:
 - » Avoid premature optimization!!
- Always try to allocate memory that does not escape to the heap
 - *go build -gcflags '-m' <path>* to perform escape analysis (another topic...)
- Goroutines and channels are cheap...
 - But not free!
- ... and so on ...

I SUMMARY

- Writing a ray-tracer is great fun
 - (with a good book to hold your hand while doing it!)
- Optimizing it was maybe **even** more fun!
 - (since I got to dive into go profiling in greater depth than ever before)
- Renderer could use a whole bunch of improvements
 - Or just use Blender... ;)
- The journey is the reward!

I SUMMARY

- Do not give in to premature optimization!!!
 - (unless <insert reason>)
- go pprof is an invaluable tool for profiling running go code without having to manually log/measure/summarize or polluting the code base
 - With a quite low (1-3%) performance hit, some people even run it on their production servers!
- Powerful, but can be quite difficult to decipher the semantics of the output
 - I personally prefer the viz graphs

THANKS!