

## Circle generation using the Midpoint Circle Algorithm

Consider a circle segment of  $45^\circ$  running from  $x = 0$  until  $x = y = \frac{R}{\sqrt{2}}$ , where  $R$  is the radius of the circle and  $(0,0)$  the center of the circle. Starting at point  $(0, R)$  and following the X-axis in positive direction, pixels are generated for increasing  $x$  (increment by 1) and by decreasing  $y$  by an integer value, if necessary.

**NB: Values of  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $R$  are integer. By defining the viewport boundaries large enough, this isn't a problem.**

The function  $F(x, y) = x^2 + y^2 - R^2$  equals 0 on the circle, is larger than 0 outside the circle and less than 0 within the circle. Starting from a pixel in  $(x_p, y_p)$ , this function is used to compute the value of  $y$  at  $x_p + 1$ . If  $d$  equals the value of the function in between  $(x_p + 1, y_p)$  and  $(x_p + 1, y_p - 1)$  (the midpoint at  $(x_p + 1, y_p - \frac{1}{2})$ ), then:

$$d_{old} = F(x_p + 1, y_p - \frac{1}{2}) = (x_p + 1)^2 + (y_p - \frac{1}{2})^2 - R^2$$

If  $d_{old} < 0$ , the midpoint lies inside the circle (or the circle lies outside the midpoint). The value of  $y_p$  is not decremented and the next pixel on the circle has coordinates  $(x_p + 1, y_p)$ . Now the next midpoint value  $(x_p + 2, y_p - \frac{1}{2})$  is given by:

$$d_{new} = F(x_p + 2, y_p - \frac{1}{2}) = (x_p + 2)^2 + (y_p - \frac{1}{2})^2 - R^2 = d_{old} + (2x_p + 3) = d_{old} + \Delta_{noincy}$$

If  $d_{old} \geq 0$ , The midpoint lies on or outside the circle, so the value of  $y_p$  is decremented and the next pixel has coordinates  $(x_p + 1, y_p - 1)$ . The next midpoint  $(x_p + 2, y_p - \frac{3}{2})$  is given by:

$$d_{new} = F(x_p + 2, y_p - \frac{3}{2}) = (x_p + 2)^2 + (y_p - \frac{3}{2})^2 - R^2 = d_{old} + (2x_p - 2y_p + 5) = d_{old} + \Delta_{incy}$$

**So depending on the value of  $d$  the value of  $y$  is decremented or not and the value of  $d$  is incremented by  $\Delta_{incy}$  or  $\Delta_{noincy}$  to compute the next midpoint.**

The initial value of  $d$  is computed at point  $(0, R)$ . The next midpoint lies at  $(1, R - \frac{1}{2})$  and this gives:

$$d_{begin} = F(1, R - \frac{1}{2}) = 1 + (R^2 - R + \frac{1}{4}) - R^2 = \frac{5}{4} - R$$

Since  $x$  and  $y$  are integer values,  $d$  is the only floating point variable in this computation. However, it is possible to convert  $d$  to an integer variable to speed up the computation. Defining  $h = d - \frac{1}{4}$  and substituting  $h + \frac{1}{4}$  for  $d$ , gives  $h = 1 - R$  as initialization, while the equation  $d < 0$  is substituted by  $h < \frac{1}{4}$ . Because  $h$  can be used as integer and because only integer values  $\Delta_{incy}$  and  $\Delta_{noincy}$  are added to it, **the whole algorithm can be executed in integer.**

Finally, each pixel that is generated in the segment of  $45^\circ$ , can be mirrored to generate a full circle.