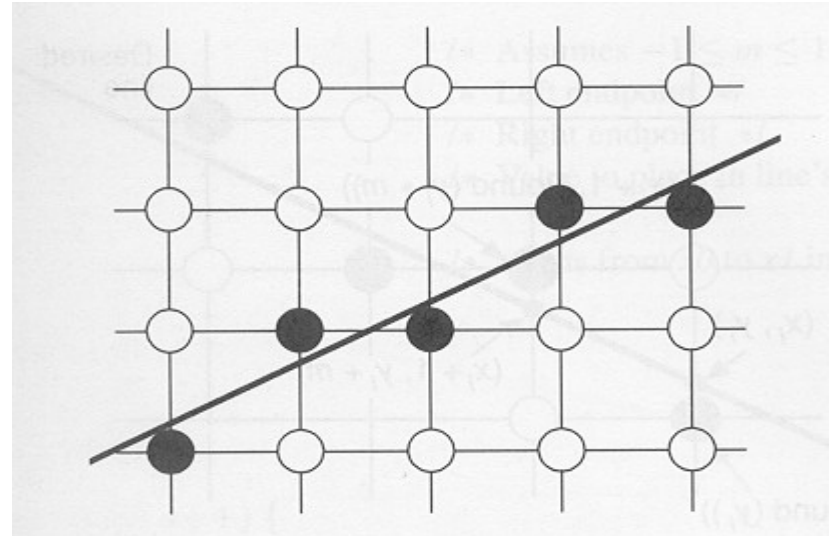


# **Drawing Lines & Anti-Aliasing**

**CSCI 4229/5229  
Computer Graphics  
Fall 2025**

# Scan Converting Lines

- Which pixels to turn on?
  - Floating point
  - Bresenham algorithm



# Floating Point Algorithm

- Functional form

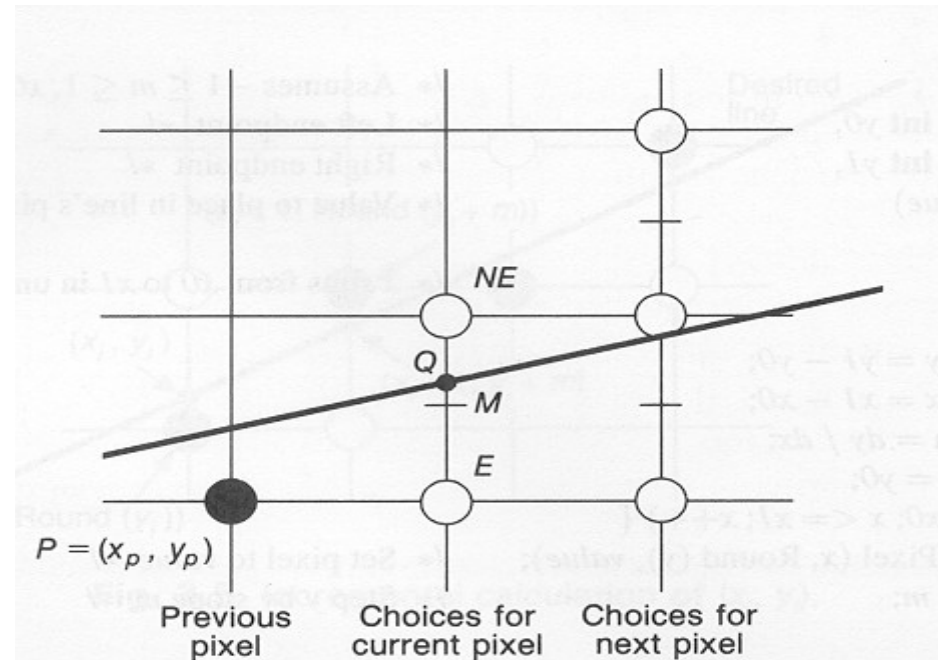
$$y = (x - x_0)(y_1 - y_0) / (x_1 - x_0) + y_0 \quad (\text{use when } |y_1 - y_0| < |x_1 - x_0|)$$

$$x = (y - y_0)(x_1 - x_0) / (y_1 - y_0) + x_0 \quad (\text{use when } |x_1 - x_0| < |y_1 - y_0|)$$

- Evaluate  $y$  or  $x$  at integral values of  $x$  or  $y$
- Round result to nearest integer to decide pixel
- Slow
  - integer  $\rightarrow$  float
  - float multiply and two float additions
  - float  $\rightarrow$  integer

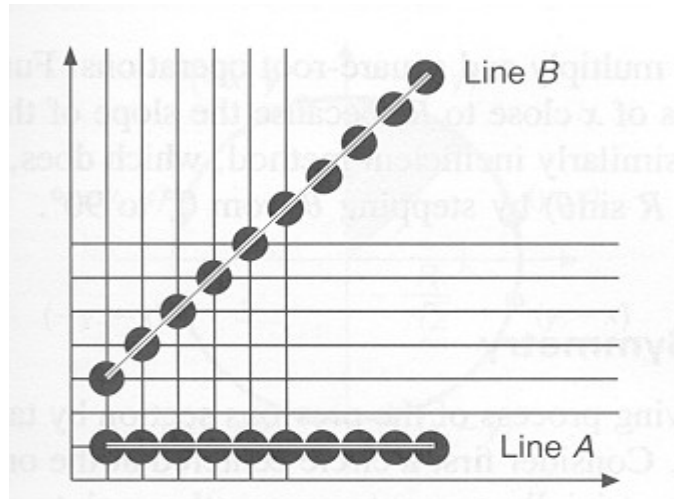
# Bresenham Algorithm

- Select next pixel from two choices: E or NE
  - Only works when slope is  $\leq 1$
  - Is midpoint above or below the line?
- All integer operations
  - One or two adds



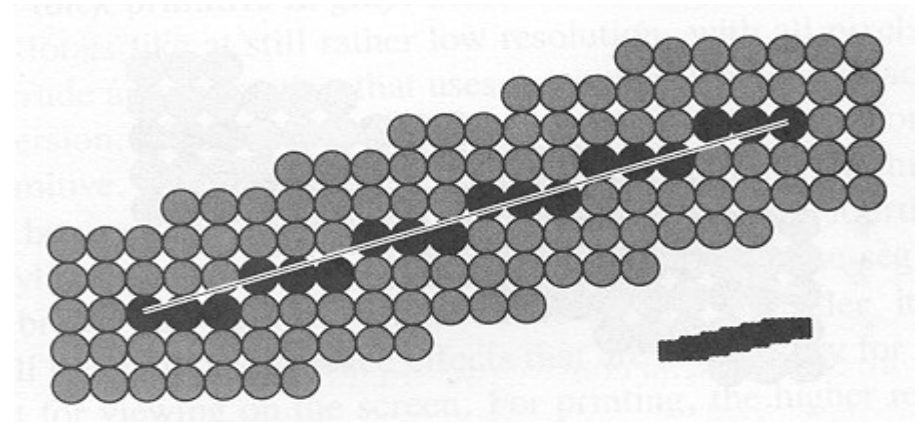
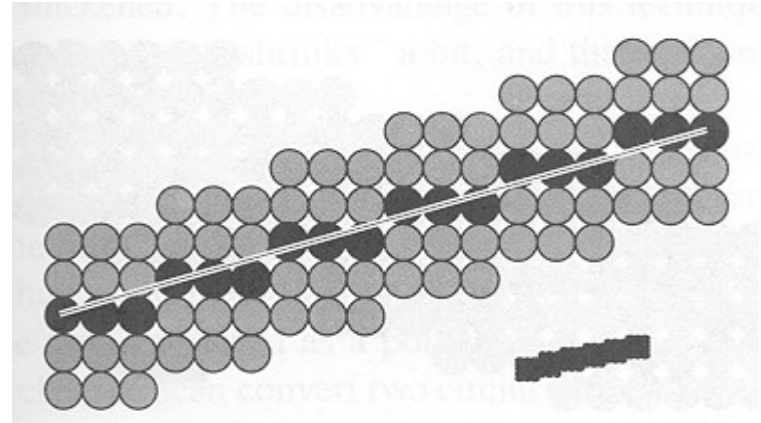
# Line intensity

- Lines parallel to axes appear more dense than lines at 45 degree angles by  $\sqrt{2}$
- If this is an issue you can adjust the pixel intensity inversely proportional to the cosine



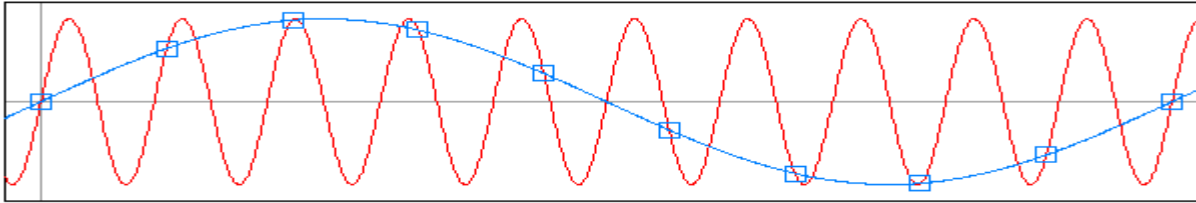
# Thick Lines

- Column replication
- Rectangular pen
- Polygon fill



# Anti-aliasing in signal processing

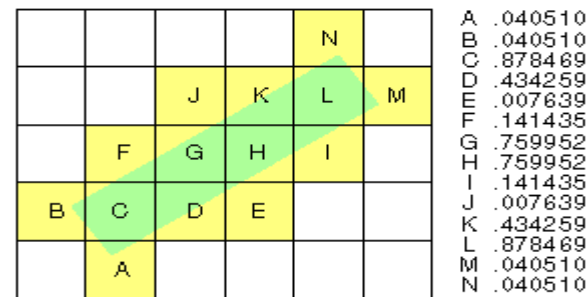
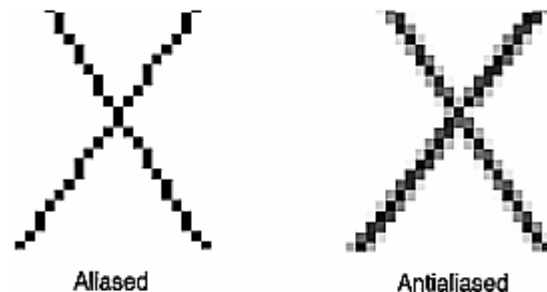
- Discrete samples of a signal



- Low and high frequency samples are the same

# Anti-aliasing in Computer Graphics

- Aliased lines
  - Discrete pixels are turned on
  - Nearest pixel selected
  - Leads to “jaggies”
- Anti-aliased lines
  - Pixels are partially turned on
  - Level selected by line overlap
  - Leads to smoother lines



# OpenGL Anti-aliased Lines

- `glEnable(GL_LINE_SMOOTH);`
- `glEnable(GL_BLEND);`
- `glBlendFunc (GL_SRC_ALPHA,  
                    GL_ONE_MINUS_SRC_ALPHA);`
- `glLineWidth(1.5);`