Spatial Partitioning Representation

A few common approaches

- Grid representation
- Hierarchical Representations
 - 2D: Quad-tree
 - 3D: Oct-tree

• ...

Quadtree Rep.

- A hierarchical structure based on divide-and-conquer subdivision for 2D shapes
 - A quadtree \rightarrow hierarchically represent a shape in the plane
 - Each cell may be full, partially full, or empty (depending on how much of the cell intersects the shape)
 - A partially full cell is recursively subdivided into sub-cells
 - Continue the subdivision until
 - all quadrants are homogeneous (either full or empty), or
 - a predetermined cutoff depth is reached



J. Warnock, "A Hidden-Surface Algorithm for Computer Generated Half-Tone Pictures", Technical Report, Univ. of Utah, 1969.



Octree Rep.

- Similar to the quadtree, but in 3D
 - Each cell → 8 children
- Much research on efficiently storing and processing quadtrees and octrees
 - e.g. Boolean operations; Neighbor finding...





Binary space-partitioning tree

Quadtree/Octree:

Only horizontal/vertical cutting?

□BSP-Tree: a variant method

 divide the space into pairs of subspaces by an arbitrary plane



 \leftarrow A 2D BSP tree