

# BUFFER OVERVIEW

This document shows the usage of buffers during one frame

## INITIALIZATION STAGE

## MODIFICATION STAGE

## RELEASE STAGE



**Init Flags**

- sets all **flags** to its default values

**Update Alive Buffers**

- copies pointers of **living particles** from **AliveSwapBuffer** (that was filled in previous frame) to **AliveBuffer**
- updates **counter** in **AliveCounterBuffer** to the number of living particles

**Reset Force**

- resets the **forces** that were used to calculate the **position** of **all living particles** in the last frame

**Emitter**

- every emitter has its own region in the **ParticleBuffer**
- emits into slots that are still **empty** or where particles are marked as **dead**
- adds pointers to new particles in **AlivePointerBuffer**
- increments **AliveCounterBuffer** for every written particle
- uses the **EmitterCounterBuffer** to regulate the number of emissions

*An arbitrary amount of emitters can be used. Each emitter occupies its own region in the ParticleBuffer and the total buffersize automatically adapts to the sum of all emitter binsizes.*

**Selections**

- pointers to **living particles** are added to the **SelectionPointerBuffer** when the belonging particles were selected with a selector
- the **SelectionCounterBuffer** is incremented per selected particle
- the ID of the successful selector is stored per particle in the **SelectionIndexBuffer**
- Selections set a **SelectionFlag** in the **FlagBuffer** (so that subsequent modifiers use the **SelectionPointerBuffer** instead of the **AlivePointerBuffer**)

*Selectors can be logically combined. Note that the ID of the FIRST successful selector is stored in th SelectionIndexBuffer*

**Modifications**

- dependent on the **SelectionFlag** in the **FlagBuffer** modifications are applied to particles addressed by the **AlivePointerBuffer** or the **SelectionPointerBuffer**
- if modifiers are applied to selections, the **SelectionIndexBuffer** can be used to address data in **DynamicBuffers** (which provide data for the modifiers)

**Update Alive Buffers**

- pointers to **alive particles** are copied from **AlivePointerBuffer** to **AliveSwapBuffer**

**Iterator**

- **positions**, **ages** & **lifespans** get updated for each living particle

*Selectors and Modificators can introduce arbitrary attributes. The particlesystem-structure automatically adapts to the them, so it is very easy to introduce completely new attributes by writing own Selectors and/or modifiers.*

