

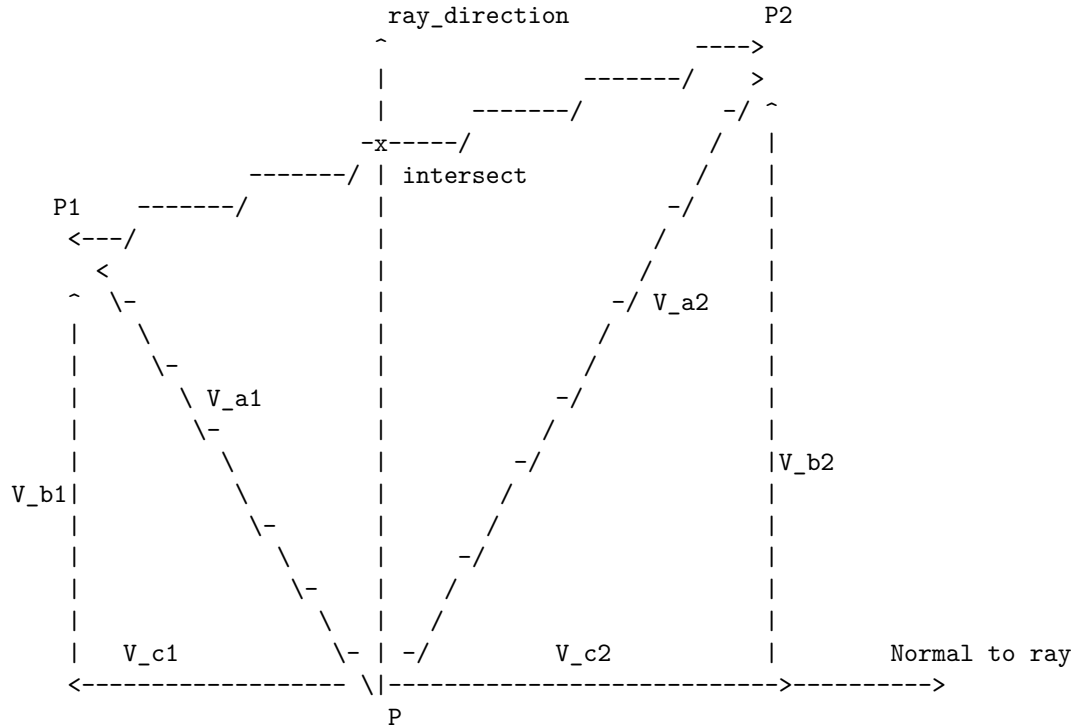
## Line segment and Ray intersect math

Math here is inspired by content at <https://stackoverflow.com/a/4030884>

Say the ray is something start at pint  $P$ . We want to check its intersection with line segment from  $P1$  to  $P2$

### Define all the vector components

Here we define these vectors:



$V_{a1}$  is vector  $P-P1$ ,  $V_{c1}$  is the projection of  $V_{a1}$  onto ray's normal direction

$$V_{c1} = (V_{a1} \cdot \hat{P_{norm}}) * \hat{P_{norm}}$$

Or we could do

$$V_{b1} = V_{a1} \cdot \hat{V_{ray}}$$

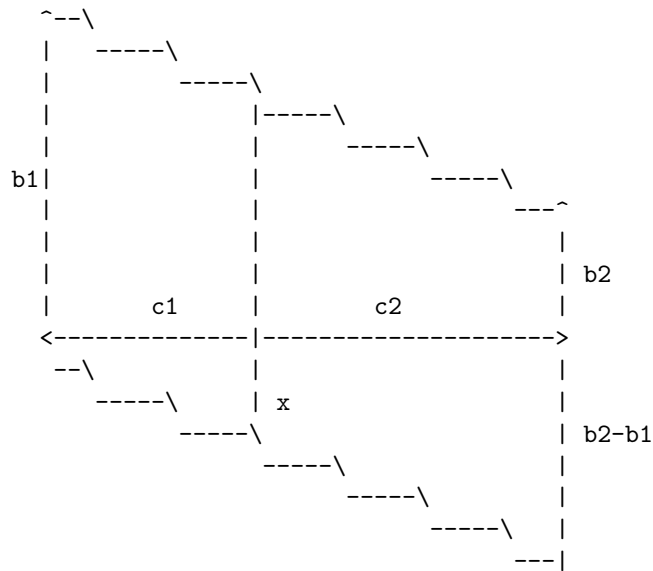
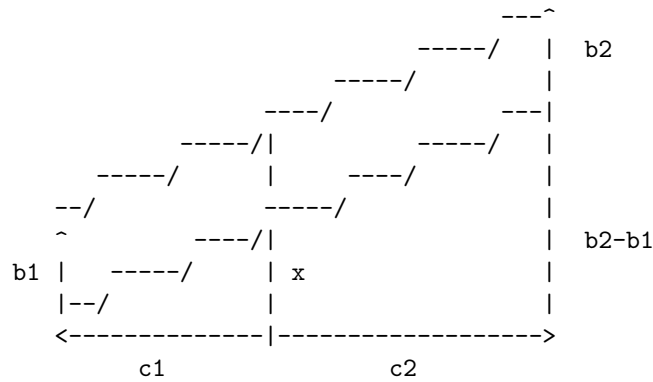
The same apply for the other sets of vectors with  $P2$ .

note:  $V_{ray}$  and  $P_{norm}$  are both unit vector note: Both  $v_b$  and  $v_c$  needs to be derived from projection. As the sign after dot project is necessary for next step.

## Check for intersection

To check for intersection, we compare the direction of  $V_{c1}$  and  $V_{c2}$  (or the sign of  $V_a \cdot P_{norm}$ , as dot product gives directional magnitude after projection). This check will also give intersect result if both points are behind the line. Thus we also need to check for that. Could use the same dot product trick  $V_a \cdot \hat{V}_{ray}$ , negative means it's behind the ray and should be skipped.

## Finding intersection point



The trick here is to move the line segment P1-P2 down to form two triangles. We could use similar triangles to find the segment  $x$ , which  $x + b_1$  will be the

length from P to intersecting point.

\*\*Sign of these values are important. For  $b_1$  and  $b_2$ , they need to keep their sign from projection. While for  $c_1$  and  $c_2$ , they need to be the magnitude (abs value)

$$\frac{x}{b_2 - b_1} = \frac{c_1}{c_1 + c_2}$$

$$x = \frac{c_1(b_2 - b_1)}{(c_1 + c_2)}$$

$$intersect\ length = \frac{c_1(b_2 - b_1)}{(c_1 + c_2)} + b_1$$

This math will work in both case where  $b_1 > b_2$  or  $b_1 < b_2$ . In the second case,  $x$  will be negative and subtract from  $b_1$  will effectively “extend” it.

There is a third case not drawn, which is  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  having opposite direction. The same math hold, as long as  $b$  is a signed value (negative when it’s going in opposite direction of the ray).