

# Ray-Tracing



# Ray-Tracing – Why Use It?

- Ray-tracing easy to implement
- Simulate rays of light
- Produces natural lighting effects
  - Reflection
  - Refraction
  - Shadows
  - Caustics
  - Depth of Field
  - Motion Blur
- These effects are hard to simulate with rasterization techniques (OpenGL)

# Ray-Tracing – Why Use It?

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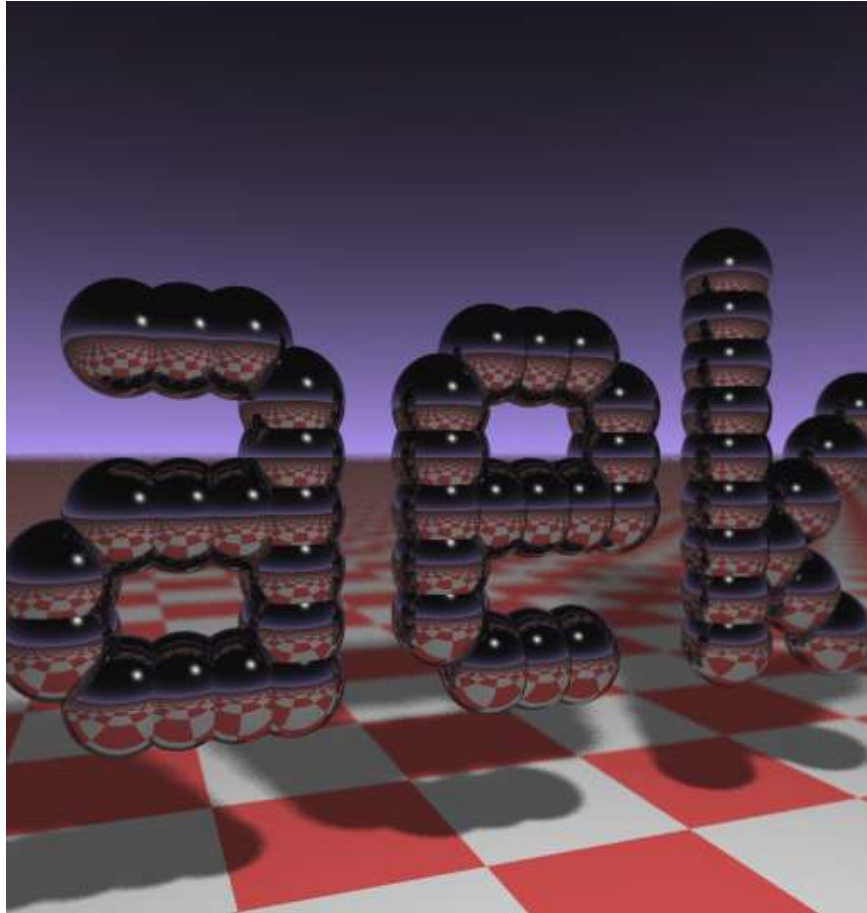
network address: ucbvax!pixar!ph



# Ray-Tracing – Why Use It?

```
typedef struct{double x,y,z}vec;vec U,black,amb={.02,.02,.02};struct sphere{
vec cen,color;double rad,kd,ks,kt,kl,ir}*s,*best,sph[]={0.,6.,.5,1.,1.,1.,.9,
.05,.2,.85,0.,1.7,1.,8.,-.5,1.,.3,.2,1.,.7,.3,0.,.05,1.2,1.,8.,-.5,.1,.8,.8,
1.,.3,.7,0.,0.,1.2,3.,-6.,15.,1.,.8,1.,7.,0.,0.,0.,.6,1.5,-3.,-3.,12.,.8,1.,
1.,5.,0.,0.,0.,.5,1.5,);yx;double u,b,tmin,sqrt(),tan();double vdot(A,B)vec A
,B;{return A.x*B.x+A.y*B.y+A.z*B.z;}vec vcomb(a,A,B)double a;vec A,B;{B.x+=a*
A.x;B.y+=a*A.y;B.z+=a*A.z;return B;}vec vunit(A)vec A;{return vcomb(1./sqrt(
vdot(A,A)),A,black);}struct sphere*intersect(P,D)vec P,D;{best=0;tmin=1e30;s=
sph+5;while(s-->sph)b=vdot(D,U=vcomb(-1.,P,s->cen)),u=b*b-vdot(U,U)+s->rad*s
->rad,u=u>0?sqrt(u):1e31.u=b-u>1e-7?b-u:b+u,tmin=u>1e-7&&u<tmin?best=s,u:
tmin;return best;}vec trace(level,P,D)vec P,D;{double d,eta,e;vec N,color;
struct sphere*s,*l;if(!level--)return black;if(s=intersect(P,D));else return
amb;color=amb;eta=s->ir;d=-vdot(D,N=vunit(vcomb(-1.,P=vcomb(tmin,D,P),s->cen
)));if(d<0)N=vcomb(-1.,N,black),eta=1/eta,d=-d;l=sph+5;while(l-->sph)if((e=1
->kl*vdot(N,U=vunit(vcomb(-1.,P,l->cen))))>0&&intersect(P,U)!=-1)color=vcomb(e
,l->color,color);U=s->color;color.x*=U.x;color.y*=U.y;color.z*=U.z;e=1-eta*
eta*(1-d*d);return vcomb(s->kt,e>0?trace(level,P,vcomb(eta,D,vcomb(eta*d-sqrt
(e),N,black))):black,vcomb(s->ks,trace(level,P,vcomb(2*d,N,D)),vcomb(s->kd,
color,vcomb(s->kl,U,black))));}main(){printf("%d %d\n",32,32);while(yx<32*32)
U.x=yx%32-32/2,U.z=32/2-yx++/32,U.y=32/2/tan(25/114.5915590261),U=vcomb(255.,
trace(3,black,vunit(U)),black),printf("%.0f %.0f %.0f\n",U);}/*pixar!ph*/
```

# Analysis of the Business Card Ray-Tracer



[fabiansanglard.net/rayTracing\\_back\\_of\\_business\\_card](http://fabiansanglard.net/rayTracing_back_of_business_card)

Vector, World, Sampler, Tracer, Main

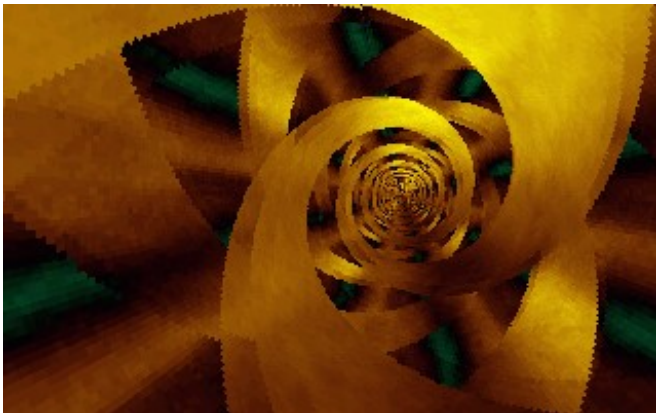
```
#include <stdlib.h> // card > aek.ppm #include
<stdio.h> #include <math.h> typedef int i;typedef
float f;struct v{ f x,y,z;v operator+(v r){return
v(x+r.x ,y+r.y,z+r.z);}v operator*(f r){return
v(x*r,y*r,z*r);}f operator%(v r){return
x*r.x+y*r.y+z*r.z;}v(){}v operator^(v r){return
v(y*r.z-z*r.y,z*r.x-x*r.z,x*r. y-y*r.x);}v(f a,f b,f
c){x=a;y=b;z=c;}v operator!()
{return*this*(1/sqrt(*this* this));};i
G[]={247570,280596,280600, 249748,18578,18577,
231184,16,16};f R(){ return(f)rand()/RAND_MAX;};i T(v
o,v d,f &t,v&n){t=1e9;i m=0;f p=-o.z/d.z;if(.01
<p)t=p,n=v(0,0,1),m=1;for(i k=19;k--;) for(i j=9;j--
;)if(G[j]&1<<k){v p=o+v(-k ,0,-j-4);f b=p%d,c=p%p-
1,q=b*b-c;if(q>0 ){f s=-b-sqrt(q);if(s<t&&s>.01)
t=s,n=!( p+d*t),m=2;}}return m;}v S(v o,v d){f t ;v
n;i m=T(o,d,t,n);if(!m)return v(.7, .6,1)*pow(1-
d.z,4);v h=o+d*t,l=!(v(9+R( ),9+R( ),16)+h*-
1),r=d+n*(n%d*-2);f b=1% n;if(b<0||T(h,l,t,n))b=0;f
p=pow(1%r*(b >0),99);if(m&1){h=h*.2;return((i) ceil(
h.x)+ceil(h.y))&1?v(3,1,1):v(3,3,3))* (b
*.2+.1);}return v(p,p,p)+S(h,r)*.5;};i
main(){printf("P6 512 512 255 ");v g=!v (-6,-
16,0),a=!(v(0,0,1)^g)*.002,b=!(g^a)*.002,c=(a+b)*-
256+g;for(i y=512;y--;) for(i x=512;x--;){v
p(13,13,13);for(i r =64;r--;){v t=a*(R()-
.5)*99+b*(R()-.5)* 99;p=S(v(17,16,8)+t,! (t*-
1+(a*(R()+x)+b *(y+R())+c)*16))*3.5+p;
printf("%c%c%c" , (i)p.x, (i)p.y, (i)p.z);}}
```



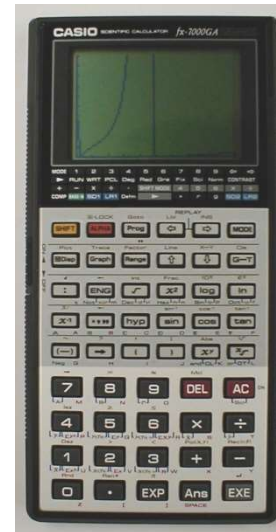
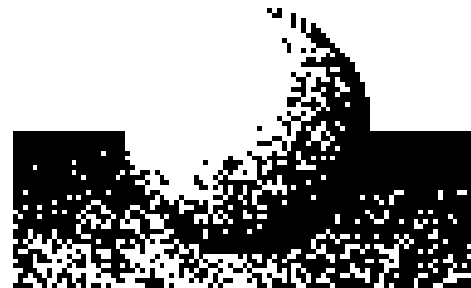
# Why Ray Tracing is Great

- Size

Tube  
by  
Baze



256 byte program



422 byte program for  
a Casio FX7000Ga,  
Stéphane Gourichon,  
1991

# Why Ray Tracing is Great

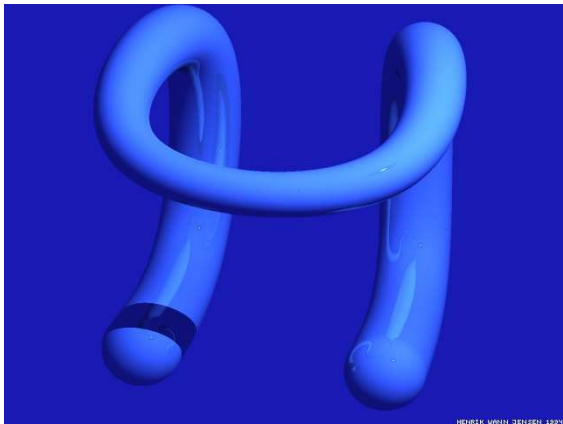
- Shapes: intersectable == renderable



Turner  
Whitted



William  
Hollingworth



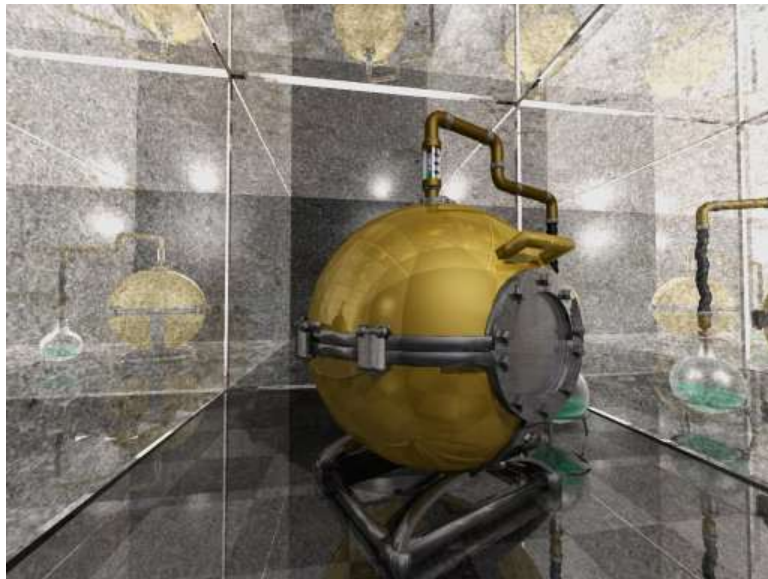
Henrik Wann  
Jensen



Ken Musgrave

# Why Ray Tracing is Great

- Reflections, Refractions



Användare:Mewlek, wikimedia

Gilles Tran, wikimedia





# Why Ray Tracing is Great

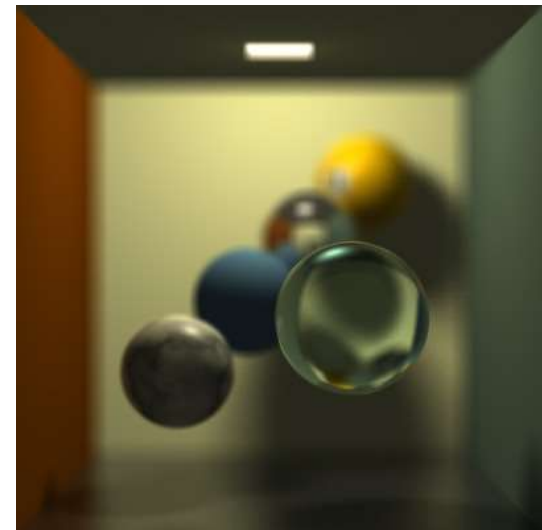
- Stochastic Effects



by Tom Porter based on research by  
Rob Cook, Copyright 1984 Pixar



Matt Roberts

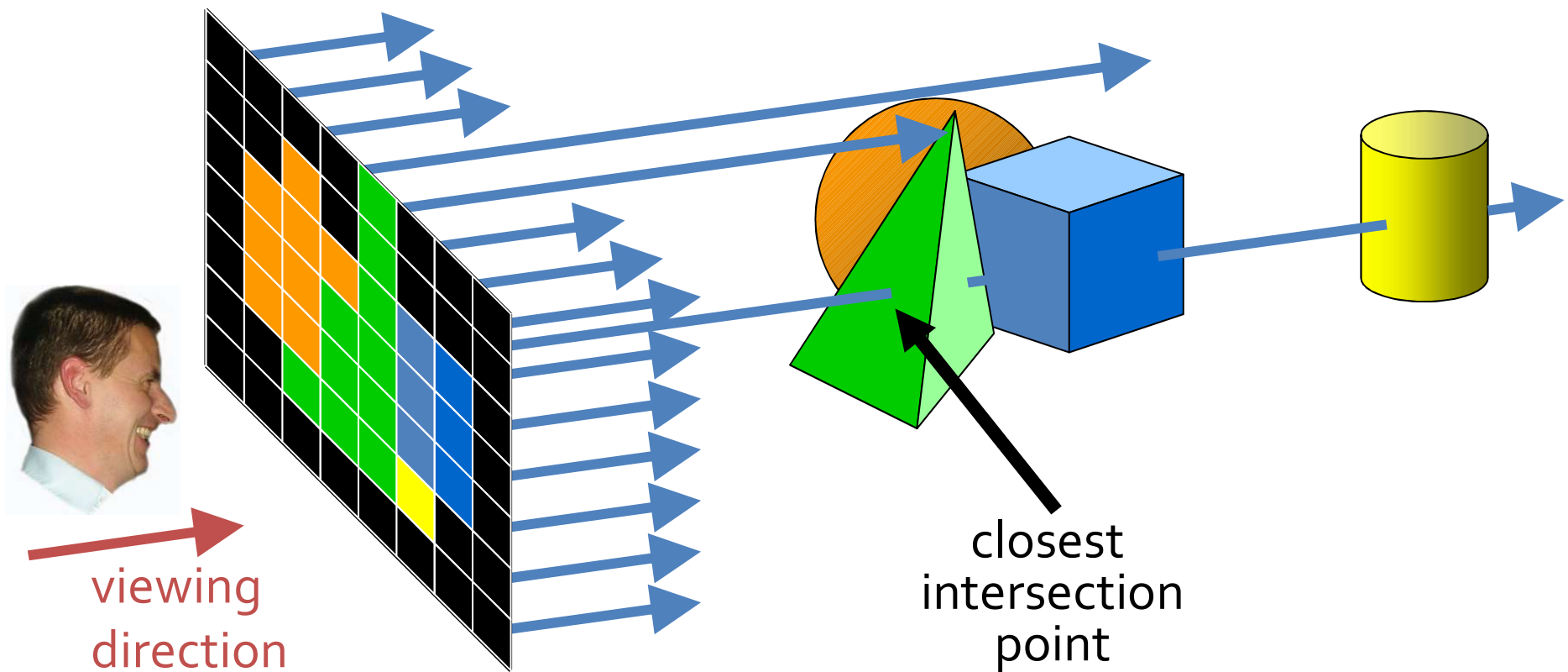


Jason Waltman

# Ray-Casting

# Ray-Casting Method

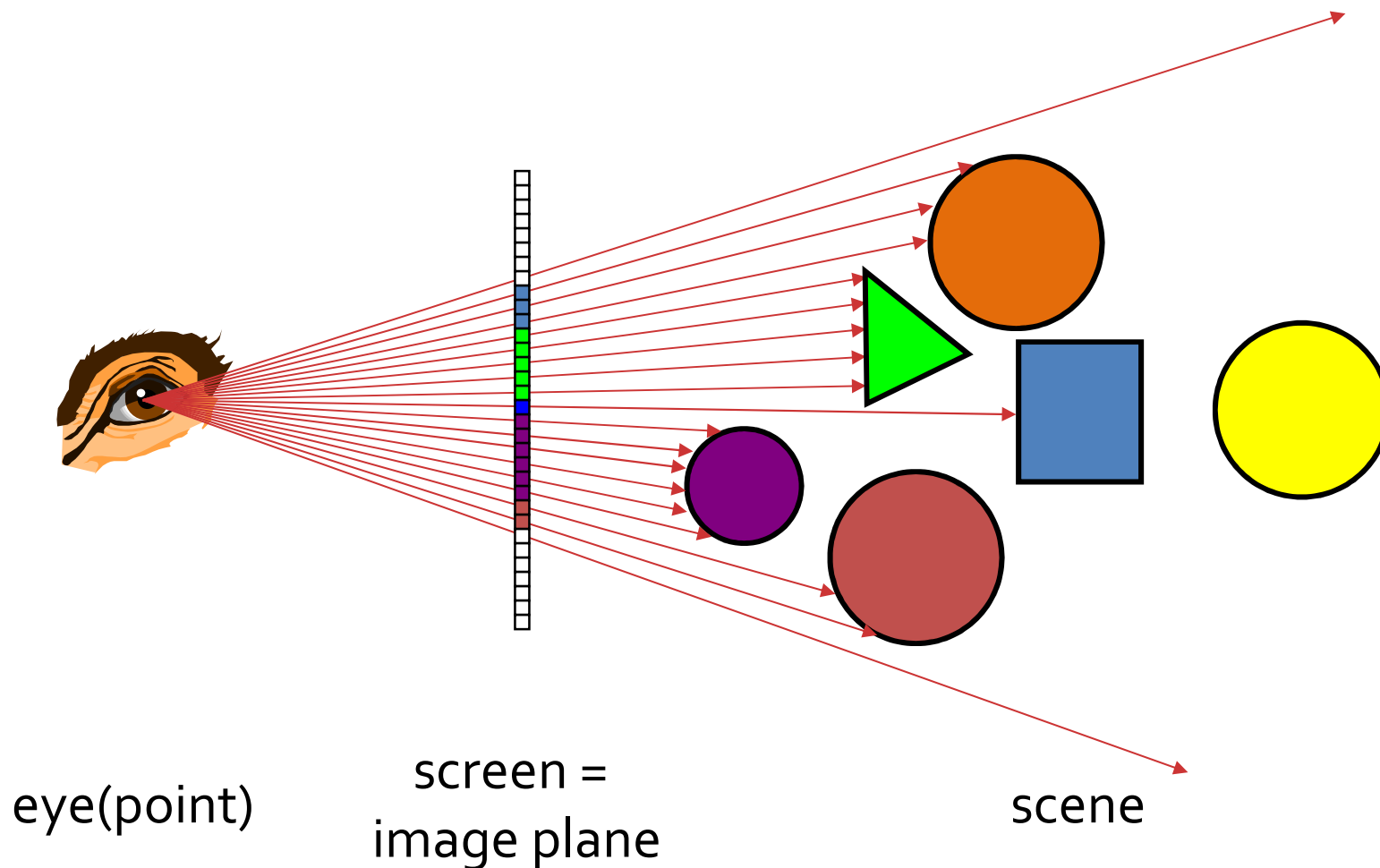
- Ray from each pixel is intersected with all surfaces
- Calculate color from closest intersected surface
- How Many ray-object intersections?





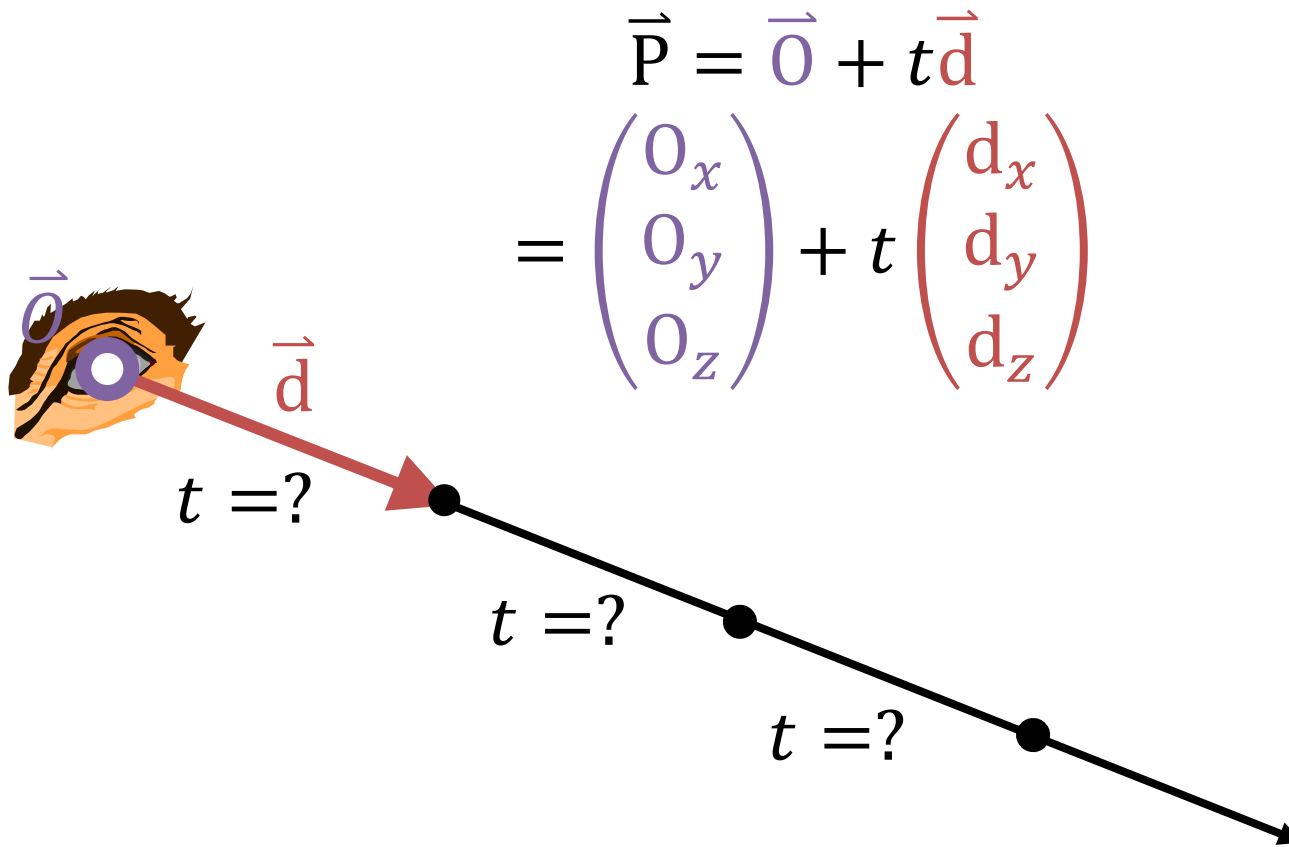
# Ray-Casting – Generating Rays

- Trace a ray for each pixel in the image plane



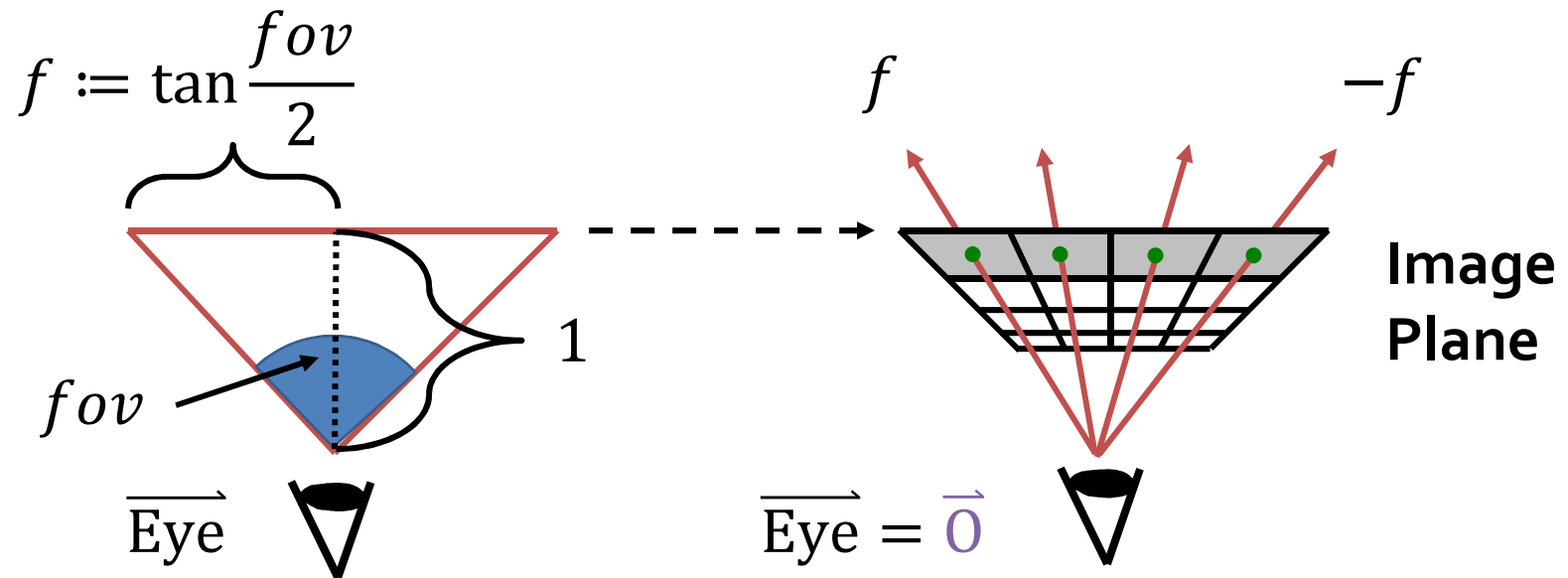
# Ray Parametric Form

- Ray expressed as function of a single parameter  $t$



# Generating Rays – Top View

- Trace a ray for each pixel in the image plane

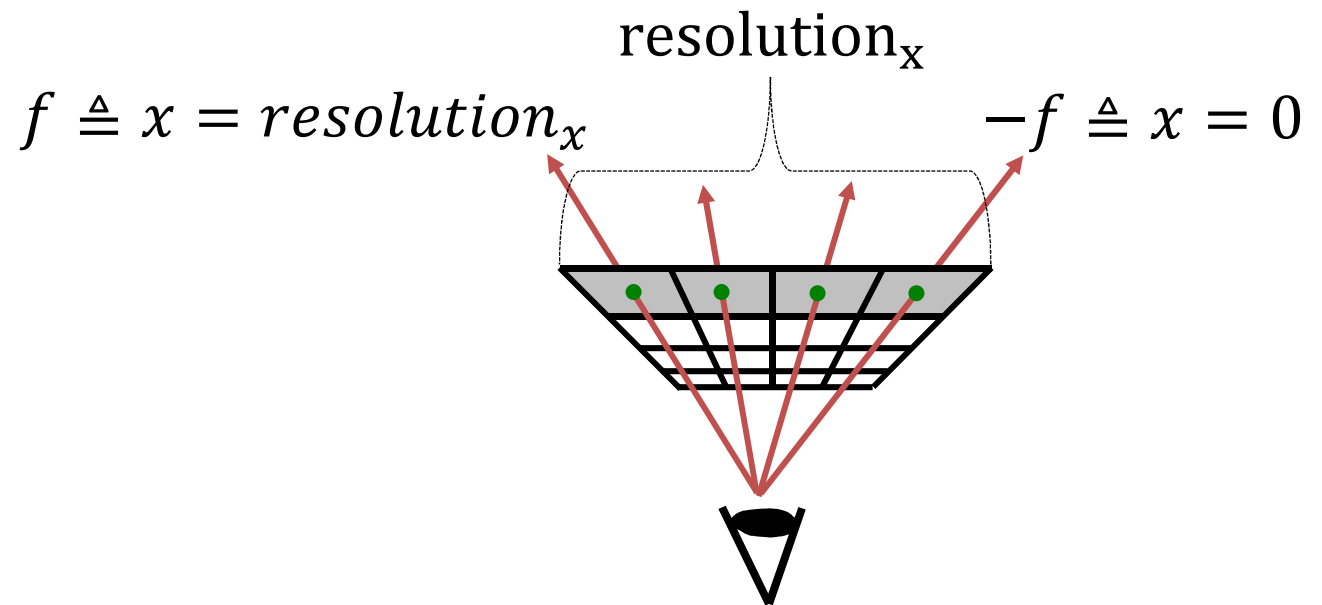




# Generating Rays – Top View

- Trace a ray for each pixel in the image plane

- $d_x(x) = \frac{2fx}{\text{resolution}_x} - f = \frac{(2x - \text{resolution}_x)f}{\text{resolution}_x}$



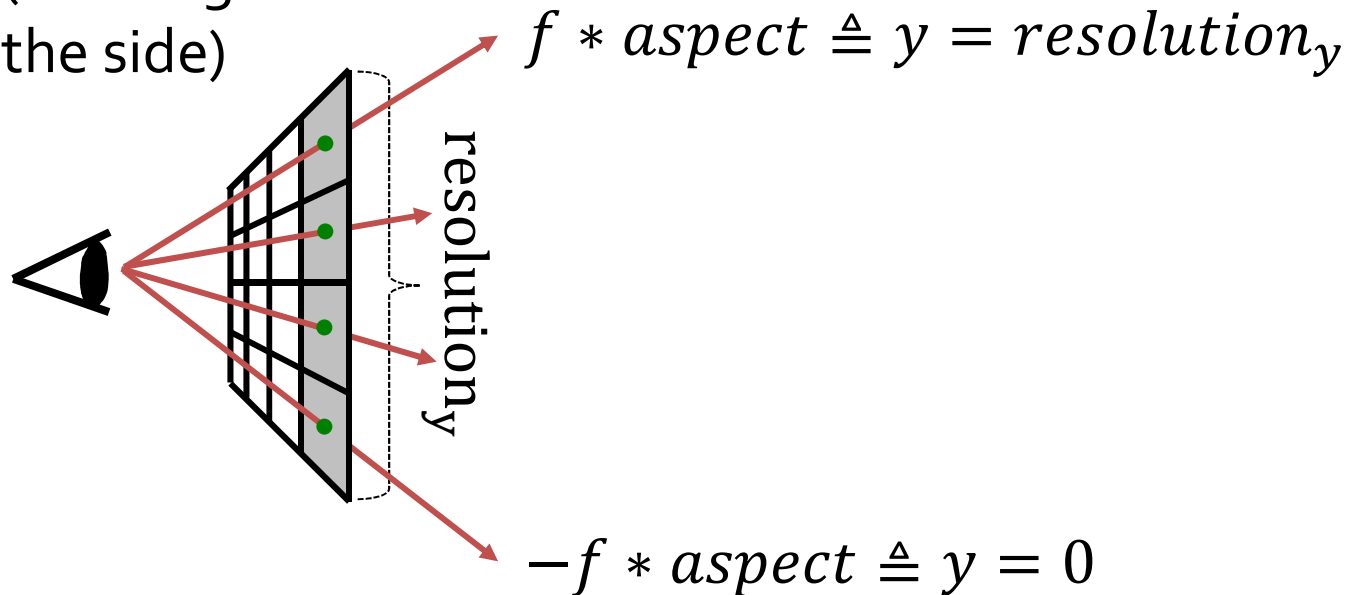
(Looking down from the top)

# Generating Rays – Side View

- Trace a ray for each pixel in the image plane
- $d_y(y) = aspect \left( \frac{2fy}{resolution_y} - f \right)$ 

$$= \frac{resolution_y}{resolution_x} \left( \frac{2fy}{resolution_y} - f \right) = \frac{(2y - resolution_y)f}{resolution_x}$$

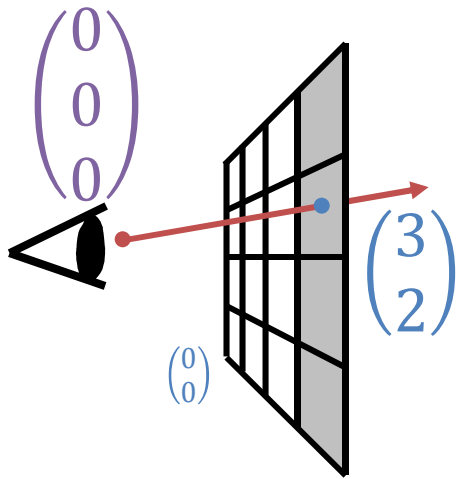
(Looking from the side)



# Generating Rays

- Trace a ray for each pixel in the image plane

- For a pixel  $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$ :  $\vec{P} = \vec{O} + t\vec{d} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} d_x(x) \\ d_y(y) \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$





# Generating Rays

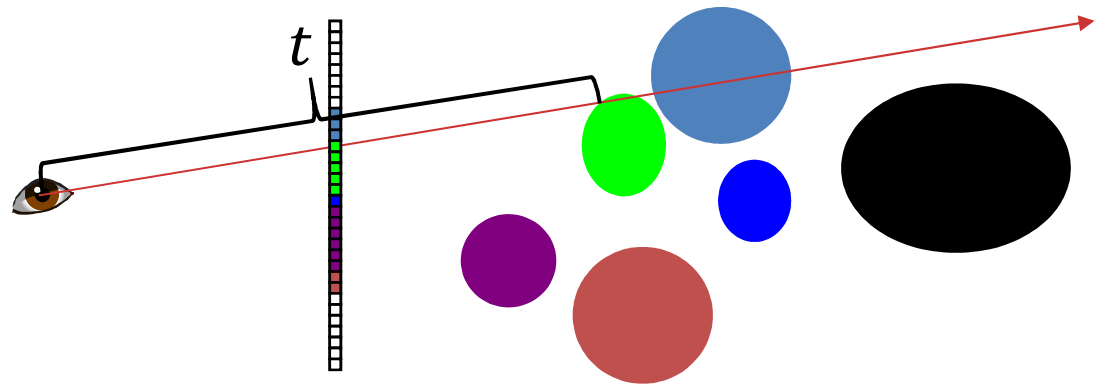
- Trace a ray for each pixel in the image plane

```
renderImage() {  
    fov = 90°;  
    f = tan(fov / 2) / resolution.x;  
    for each pixel x, y in the image  
        dx = (2 * x - resolution.x) * f;  
        dy = (2 * y - resolution.y) * f;  
  
        ray.o = (0, 0, 0);  
        ray.d = normalize(dx, dy, 1);  
        image[x][y] = intersect(ray);  
}
```

# Ray-Object Intersections

# Ray-Object Intersections

```
intersect(Ray r) {  
    foreach object in the scene  
        find minimum  $t > 0$ :  $r.O + t * r.d$  hits object  
        if ( object hit )  
            return object  
        else  
            return background  
}
```





# Ray-Object Intersections

- Aim: Find the parameter value,  $t_i$ , at which the ray first meets object  $i$
- Write the surface of the object implicitly:  $f(\mathbf{x})=0$ 
  - Unit sphere at the origin is  $\mathbf{x} \bullet \mathbf{x} - 1 = 0$
  - Plane with normal  $\mathbf{n}$  passing through origin is:  $\mathbf{n} \bullet \mathbf{x} = 0$
- Put the ray equation in for  $\mathbf{x}$ 
  - Result is an equation of the form  $f(t)=0$  where we want  $t$
  - Now it's just root finding

# Ray Object Intersection

- Equation of a ray  $r(t) = \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{c}t$ 
  - “ $\mathbf{S}$ ” is the starting point and “ $\mathbf{c}$ ” is the direction of the ray
- Given a surface in implicit form  $F(x, y, z)$ 
  - *plane*:  $F(x, y, z) = ax + by + cz + d = \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{x} + d$
  - *sphere*:  $F(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - 1$
  - *cylinder*:  $F(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 - 1 \quad 0 < z < 1$
- All points on the surface satisfy  $F(x, y, z) = 0$
- Thus for ray  $r(t)$  to intersect the surface  $F(r(t)) = 0$
- “ $t$ ” can be got by solving  $F(\mathbf{S} + \mathbf{c}t_{hit}) = 0$

# Ray Object Intersection

- Ray polygon intersection
  - Plug the ray equation into the implicit representation of the surface
  - Solve for " $t$ "
  - Substitute for " $t$ " to find point of intersection
  - Check if the point of intersection falls within the polygon

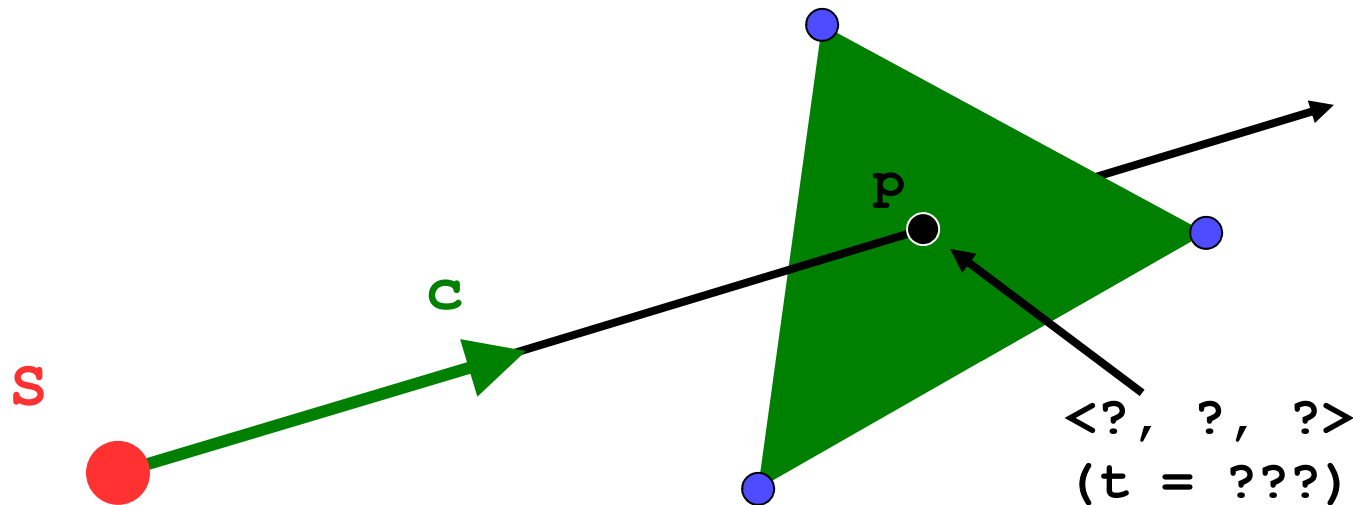
# Ray Object Intersection

- Ray sphere intersection  $|\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{p}_c|^2 = r^2$   $\mathbf{p} = (x, y, z), \mathbf{p}_c = (a, b, c)$ 
  - Implicit form of sphere given center  $(a, b, c)$  and radius  $r$
- Intersection with  $r(t)$  gives  $|\mathbf{S} + \mathbf{c}t - \mathbf{p}_c|^2 = r^2$
- By the identity  $|\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}|^2 = |\mathbf{a}|^2 + |\mathbf{b}|^2 + 2(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b})$ 
  - Intersection equation is quadratic in "t"
$$|\mathbf{S} + \mathbf{c}t - \mathbf{p}_c|^2 - r^2 = t^2|\mathbf{c}|^2 + 2t\mathbf{c} \cdot (\mathbf{S} - \mathbf{p}_c) + (|\mathbf{S} - \mathbf{p}_c|^2 - r^2)$$
- Solving for "t"  $t = -\mathbf{c} \cdot (\mathbf{S} - \mathbf{p}_c) \pm \sqrt{(\mathbf{c} \cdot (\mathbf{S} - \mathbf{p}_c))^2 - |\mathbf{c}|^2 (|\mathbf{S} - \mathbf{p}_c|^2 - r^2)}$ 
  - Real solutions, indicate one or two intersections
  - Negative solutions are behind the eye
  - If discriminant is negative, the ray missed the sphere



# Triangle Intersection

- Want to know: at what *point* ( $p$ ) does ray intersect triangle?
- Compute lighting, reflected rays, shadowing *from that point*



# Ray Triangle Intersection

- Point on triangle (Barycentric coordinates)

$$t(u,v) = (1 - u - v)A + uB + vC$$

- Ray

$$r(t) = O + tD$$

- Intersection

$$O + tD = (1 - u - v)A + uB + vC$$

# Ray Triangle Intersection

- Intersection  $O + tD = (1 - u - v)A + uB + vC$

- Rearranged

$$O - A = \begin{pmatrix} -D & B - A & C - A \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} t \\ u \\ v \end{pmatrix}$$

- Linear system!
- Solve with Cramer's rule

$$\begin{pmatrix} t \\ u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\det(-D, B - A, C - A)} \begin{pmatrix} \det(O - A, B - A, C - A) \\ \det(-D, O - A, C - A) \\ \det(-D, B - A, O - A) \end{pmatrix}$$

# Ray Triangle Intersection: Implementation

$$\begin{pmatrix} t \\ u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\det(-D, B-A, C-A)} \begin{pmatrix} \det(O-A, B-A, C-A) \\ \det(-D, O-A, C-A) \\ \det(-D, B-A, O-A) \end{pmatrix}$$

- Rewrite using:

$$\det(A, B, C) = -(A \times C) \cdot B = -(C \times B) \cdot A$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} t \\ u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{(D \times (C-A)) \cdot (B-A)} \begin{pmatrix} ((O-A) \times (B-A)) \cdot (C-A) \\ (D \times (C-A)) \cdot (O-A) \\ ((O-A) \times (B-A)) \cdot D \end{pmatrix}$$

# Ray Triangle Intersection: Implementation

$$\begin{pmatrix} t \\ u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{(D \times (C - A)) \cdot (B - A)} \begin{pmatrix} ((O - A) \times (B - A)) \cdot (C - A) \\ (D \times (C - A)) \cdot (O - A) \\ ((O - A) \times (B - A)) \cdot D \end{pmatrix}$$

- Substituting :

$$\begin{aligned} E_1 &= B - A & E_2 &= C - A & S &= O - A \\ P &= D \times (C - A) & Q &= (O - A) \times (B - A) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} t \\ u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{P \cdot E_1} \begin{pmatrix} Q \cdot E_2 \\ P \cdot S \\ Q \cdot D \end{pmatrix}$$

# Ray Triangle Intersection: Code

```
bool rayTriIntersect(in O,D, A,B,C, out u,v,t) {
```

```
    E1 = B-A
```

```
    E2 = C-A
```

```
    P = cross(D,E2)
```

```
    detM = dot(P,E1)
```

```
    if(detM > -eps && detM < eps)
```

```
        return false    0 == detM
```

```
    f = 1/detM
```

```
    S = O-A
```

```
    u = f*dot(P,S)
```

```
    if(0 > u || 1 < u)
```

```
        return false    u outside [0,1]
```

```
    Q = cross(S,E1)
```

```
    v = f*dot(Q,D)
```

```
    if(0 > v || 1 < u+v)
```

```
        return false
```

```
    t = f*dot(Q,E2)
```

```
    return true
```

vectors

scalars

$$\begin{pmatrix} t \\ u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{P \cdot E_1} \begin{pmatrix} Q \cdot E_2 \\ P \cdot S \\ Q \cdot D \end{pmatrix}$$



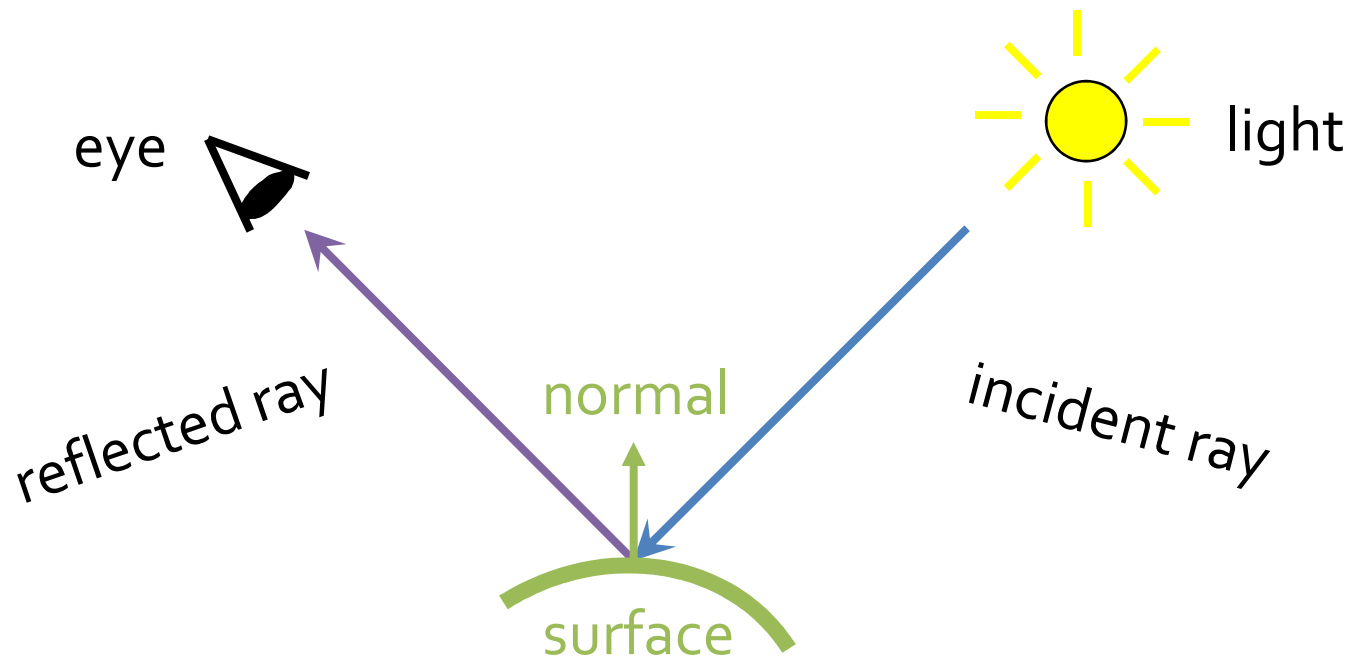
# Ray-Casting Method

- based on geometric optics, tracing paths of light rays
- backward tracing of light rays
- suitable for complex, curved surfaces
- special case of ray-tracing algorithms
- efficient ray-surface intersection techniques necessary
  - intersection point
  - normal vector

# Ray-Tracing

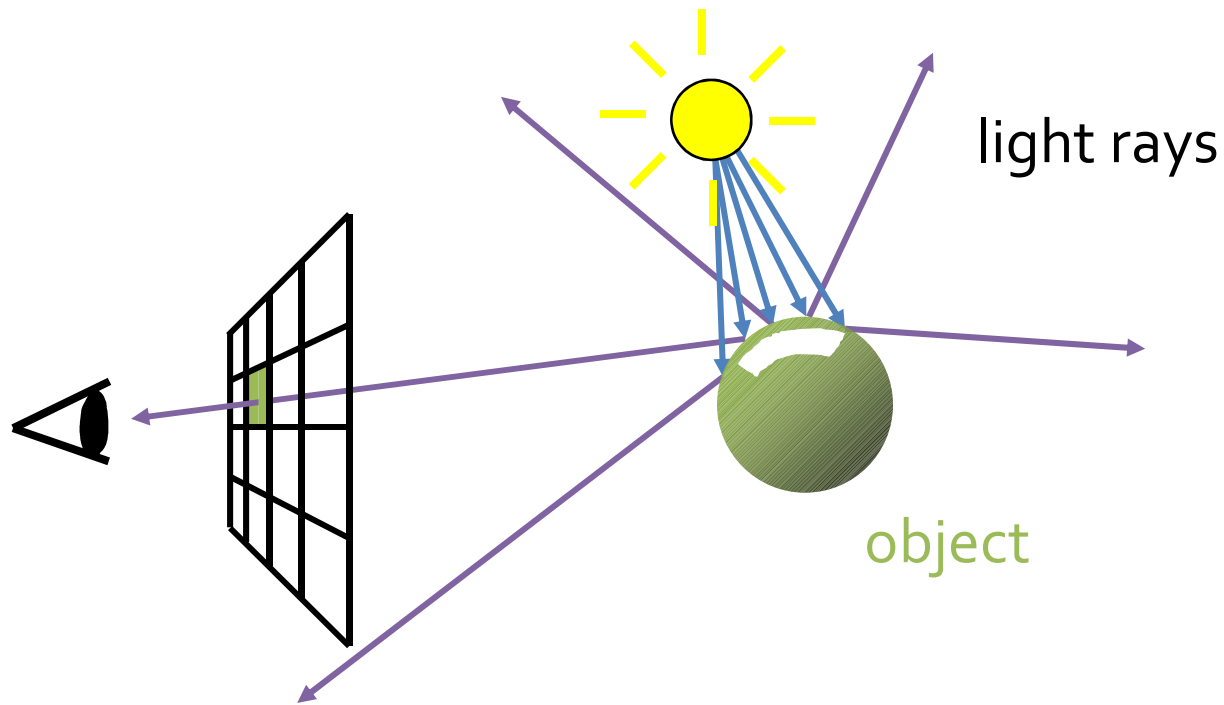
# The Basic Idea

- Simulate light rays from light source to eye



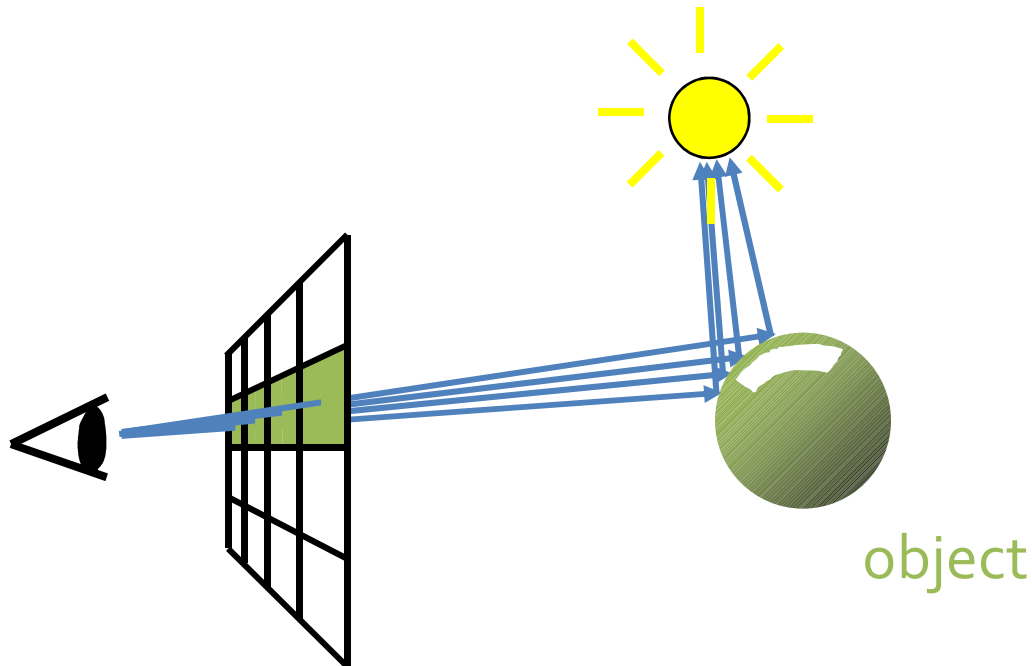
# “Forward” Ray-Tracing

- Trace rays from light
- Lots of work for little return



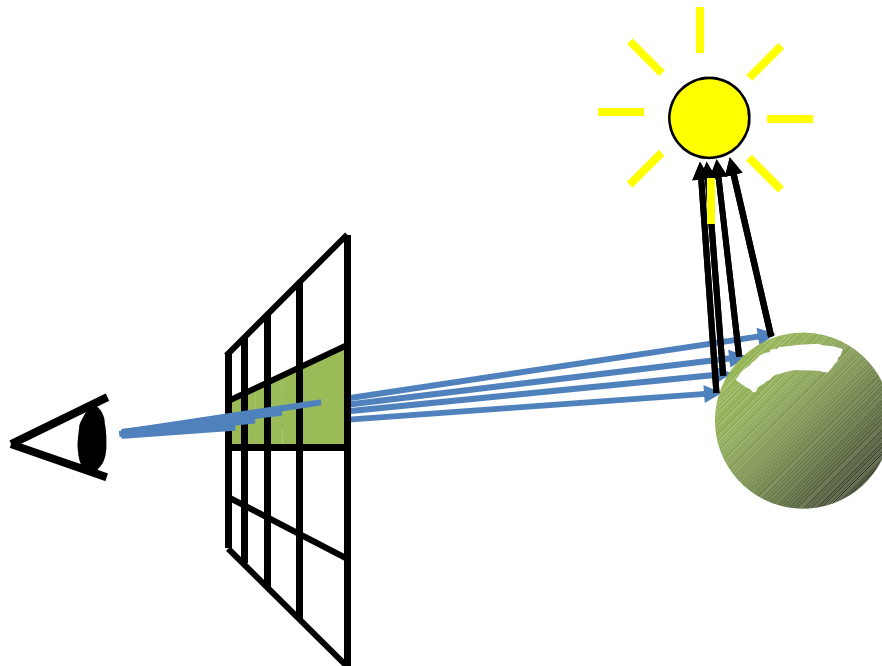
# “Backward” Ray-Tracing

- Trace rays from eye instead
- Do work where it matters
- *This is what most people mean by “ray tracing”.*



# Types of Rays

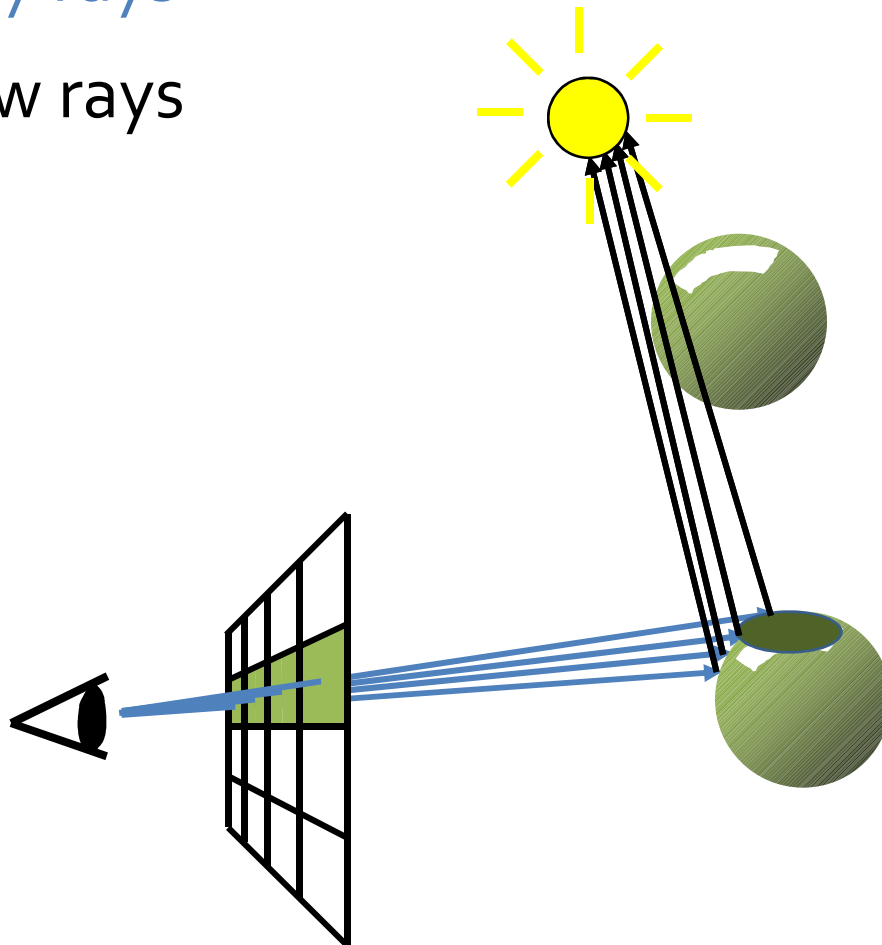
- Primary rays
- Shadow rays





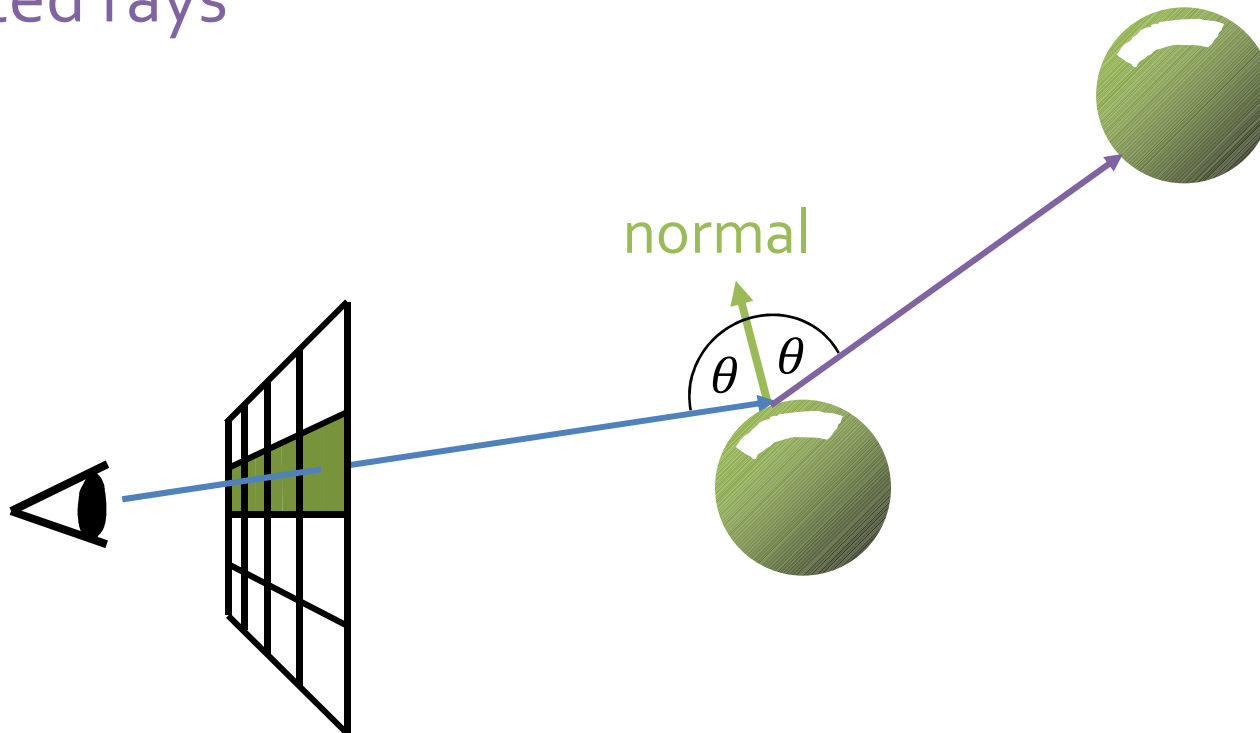
# Shadow Rays

- Primary rays
- Shadow rays



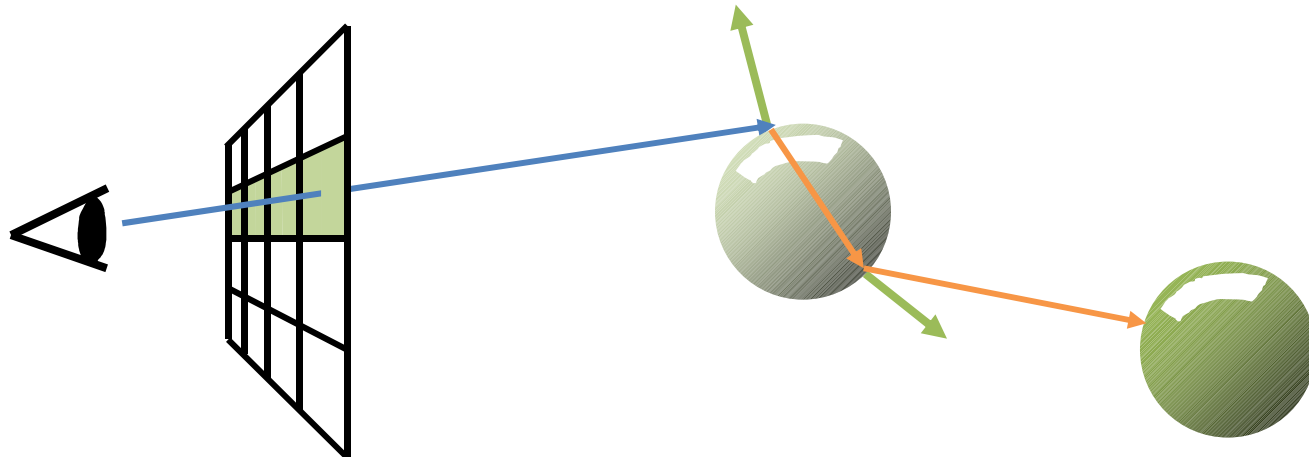
# Types of Rays

- Primary rays
- Shadow rays
- Reflected rays



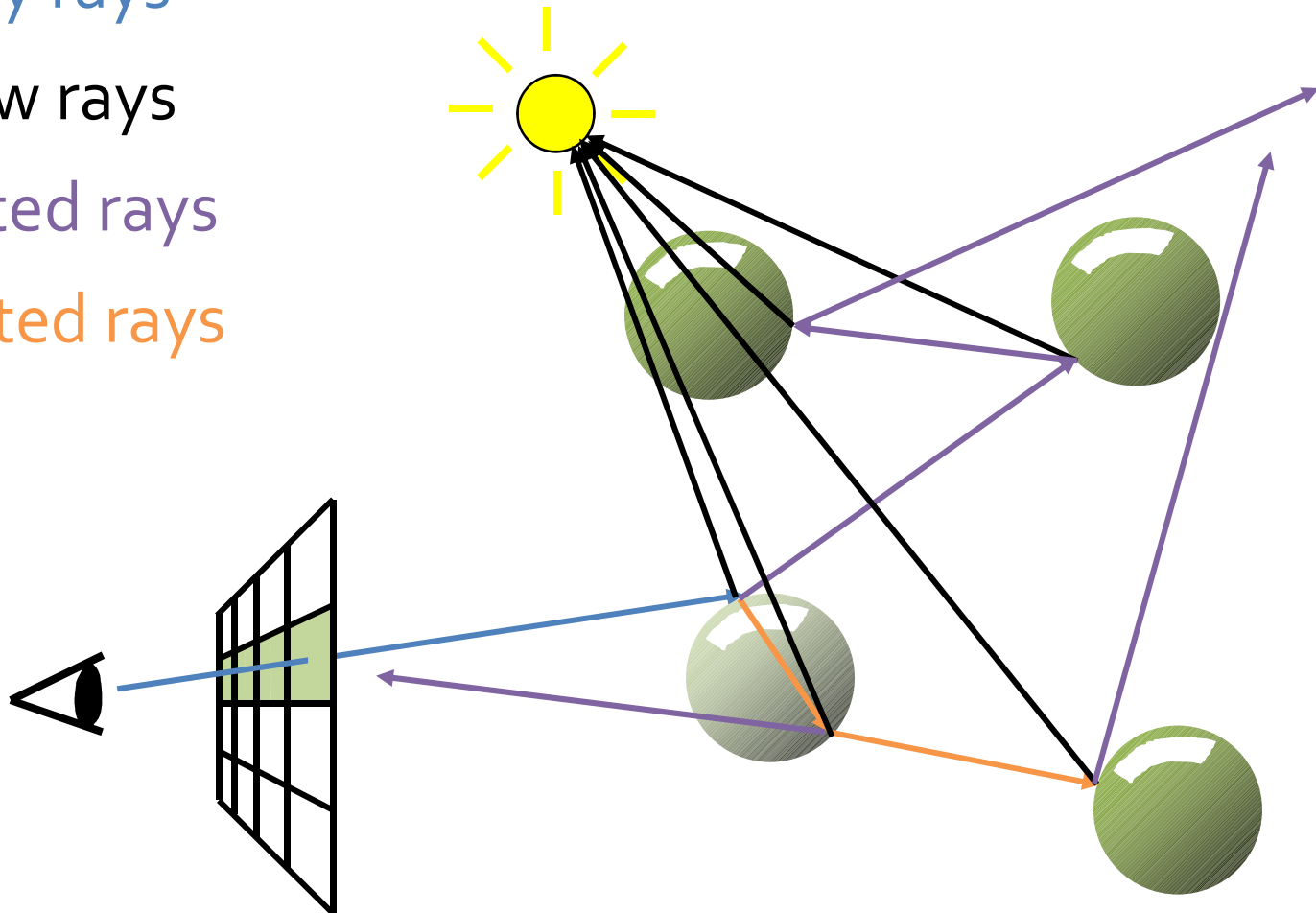
# Types of Rays

- Primary rays
- Shadow rays
- Reflected rays
- Refracted rays



# Types of Rays

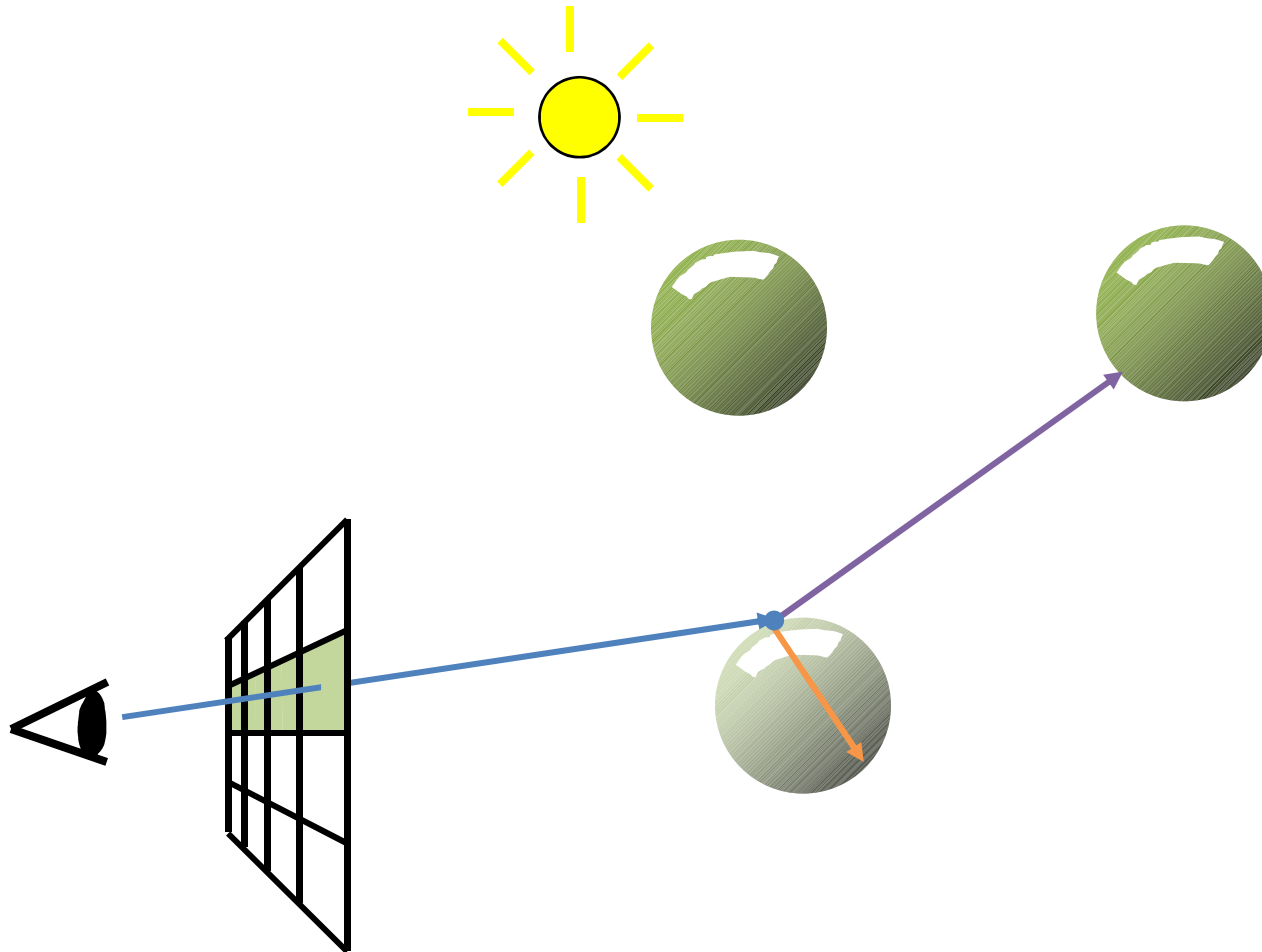
- Primary rays
- Shadow rays
- Reflected rays
- Refracted rays



# Lighting

# Lighting

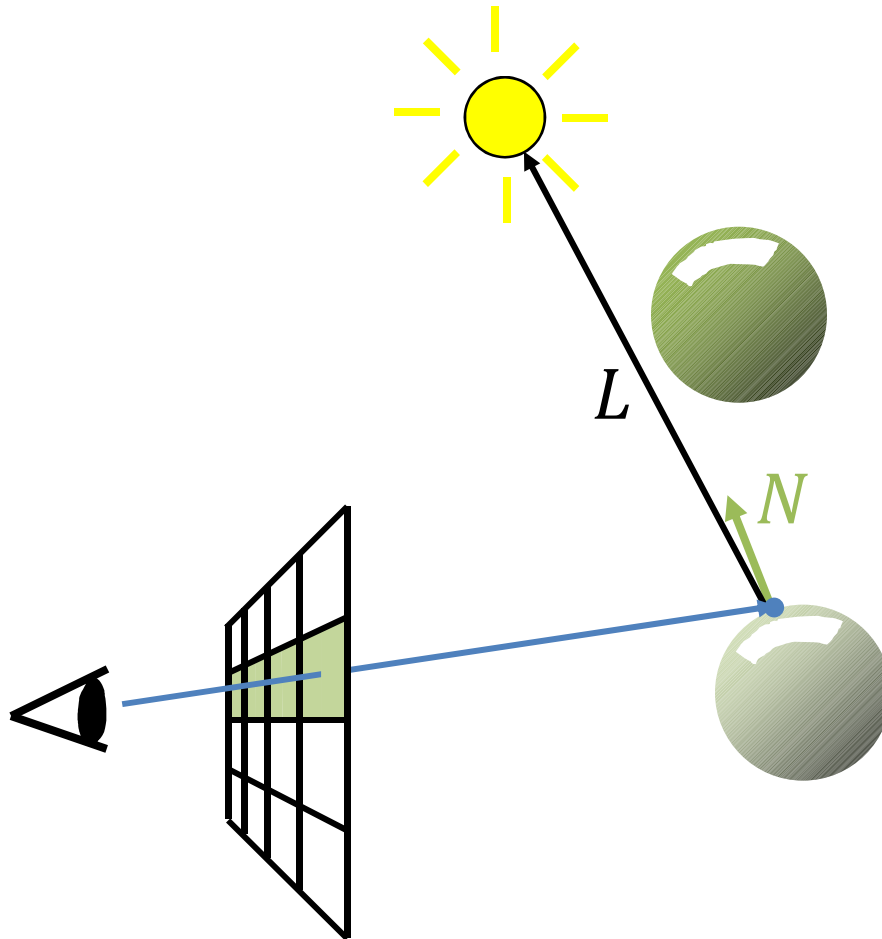
- $C = C_{local} + C_{reflected} + C_{transmitted}$





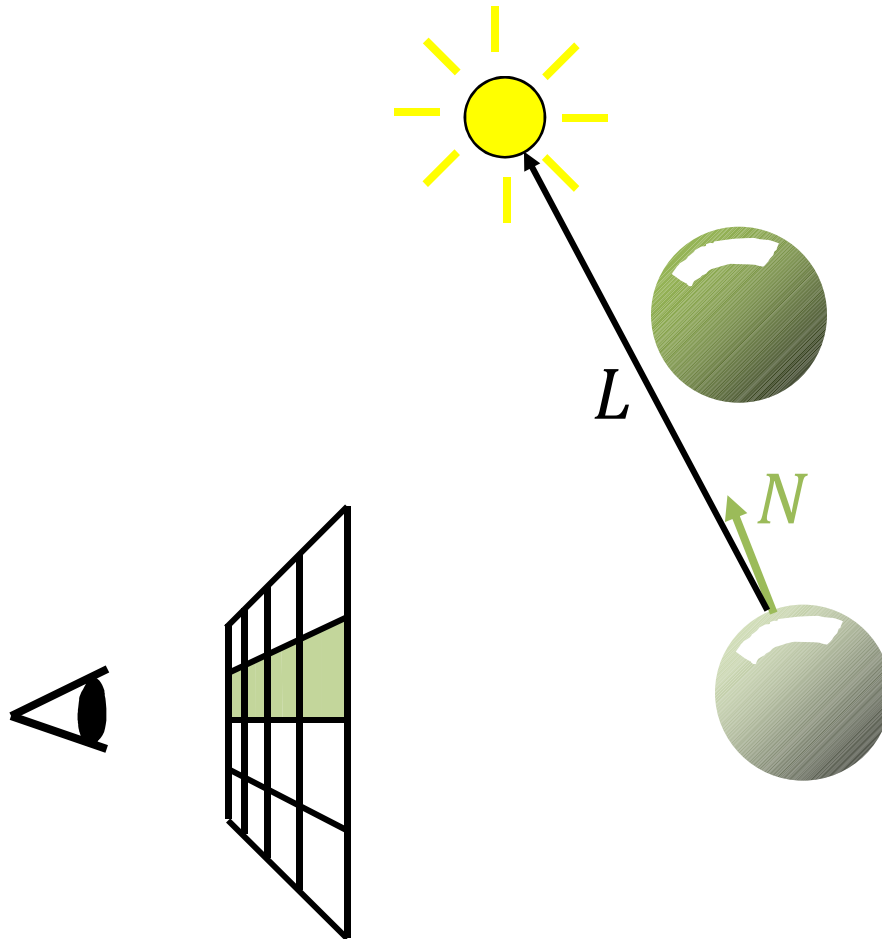
# Local – Phong Illumination

- $C_{local} = C_{ambient} + C_{diffuse} + C_{specular}$



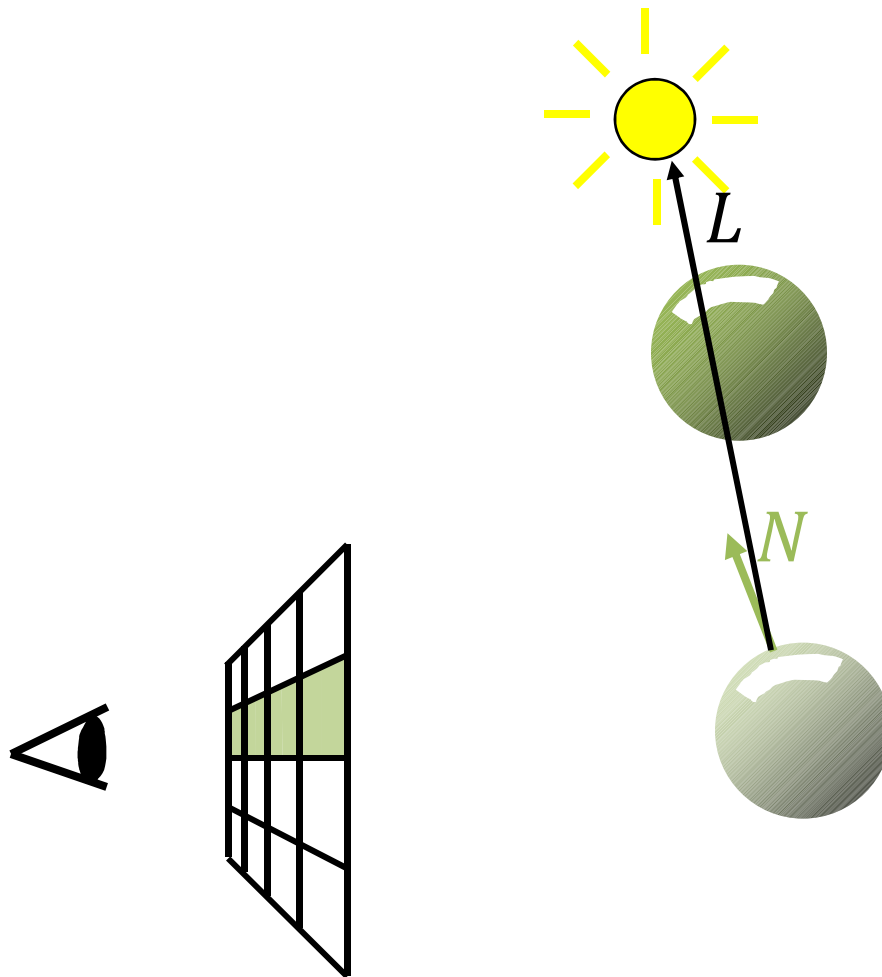
# Diffuse (Lambert)

- $C_{local} = \max(0, N \cdot L) * Color_{object} * Color_{light}$



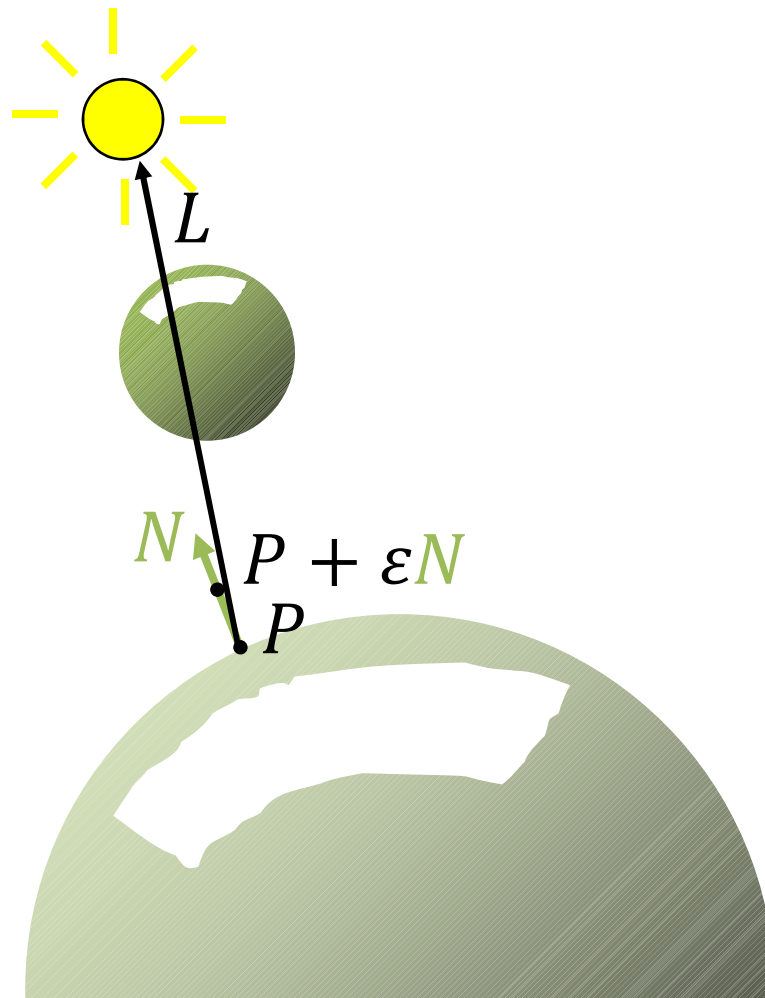
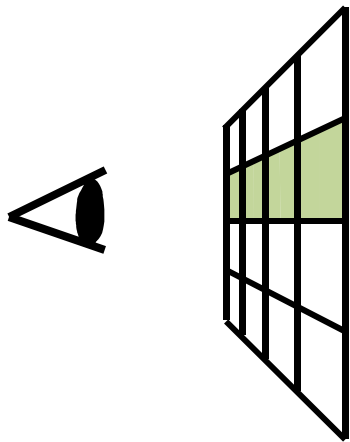
# Adding Shadows

- Add local lighting only if point is seen by light



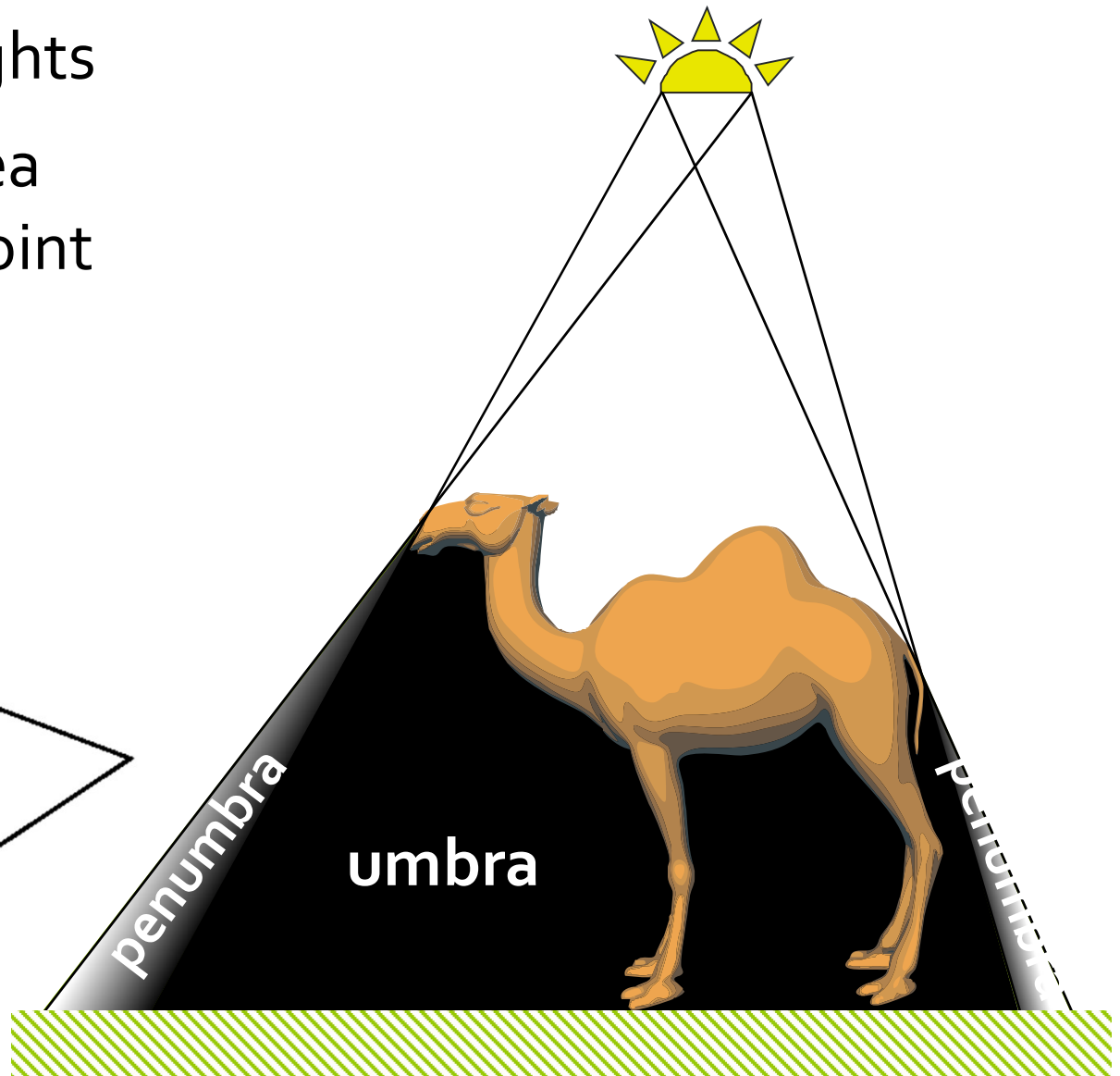
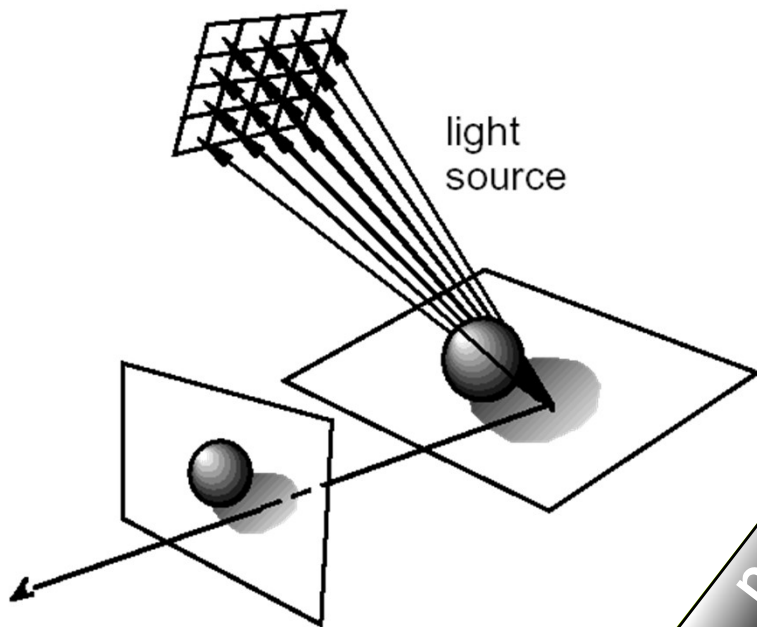
# Adding Shadows

- “Self-Shadowing”
  - Intersection of shadow feeler with object itself
  - Move start point of the shadow ray away by a small amount

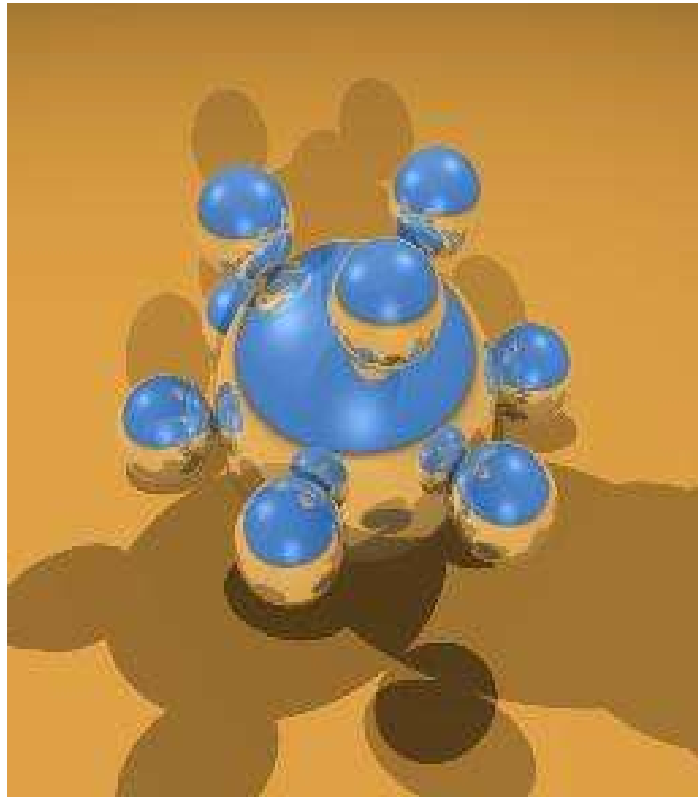


# Soft Shadows

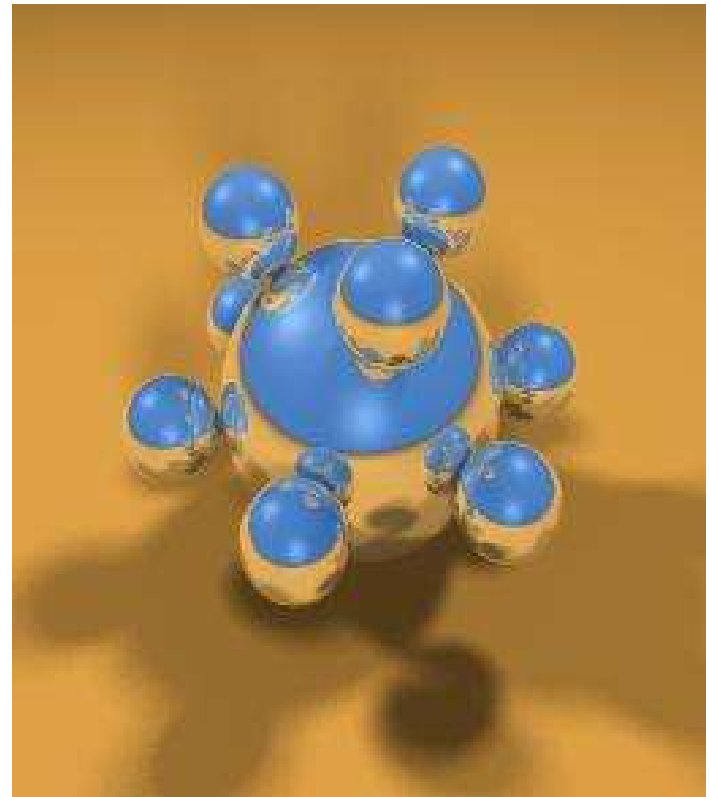
- Created by area lights
- Idea: represent area light as multiple point light sources



# Soft Shadow Example



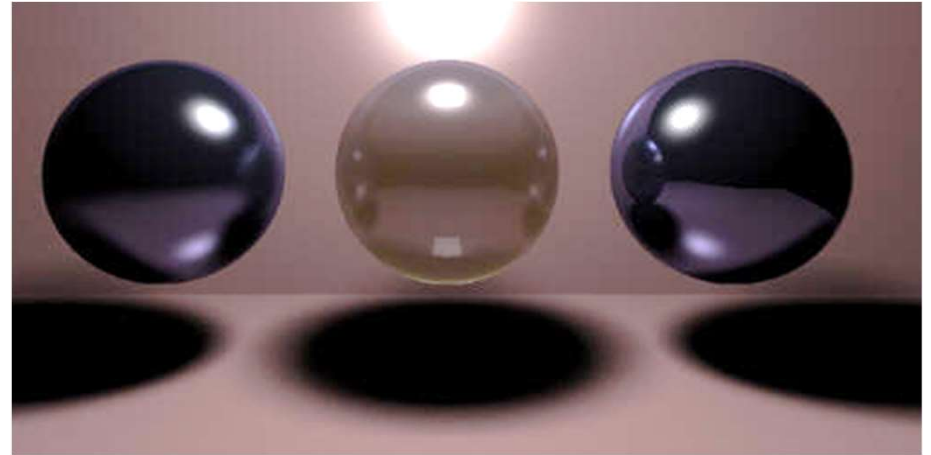
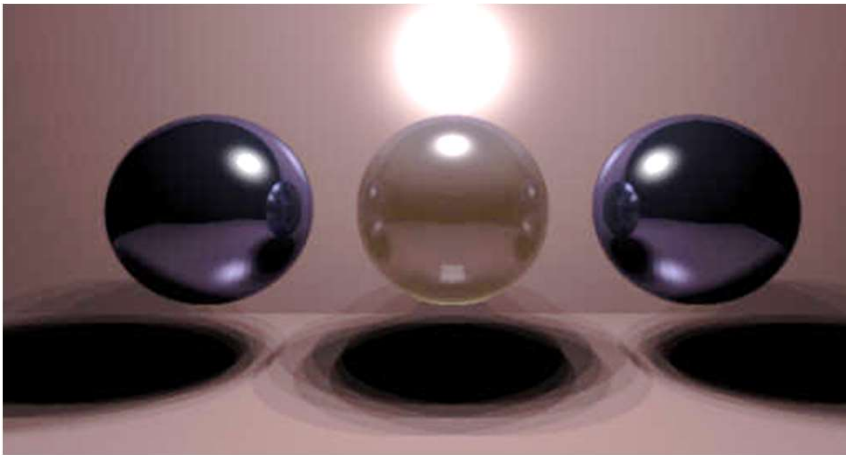
Hard shadow



Soft shadow

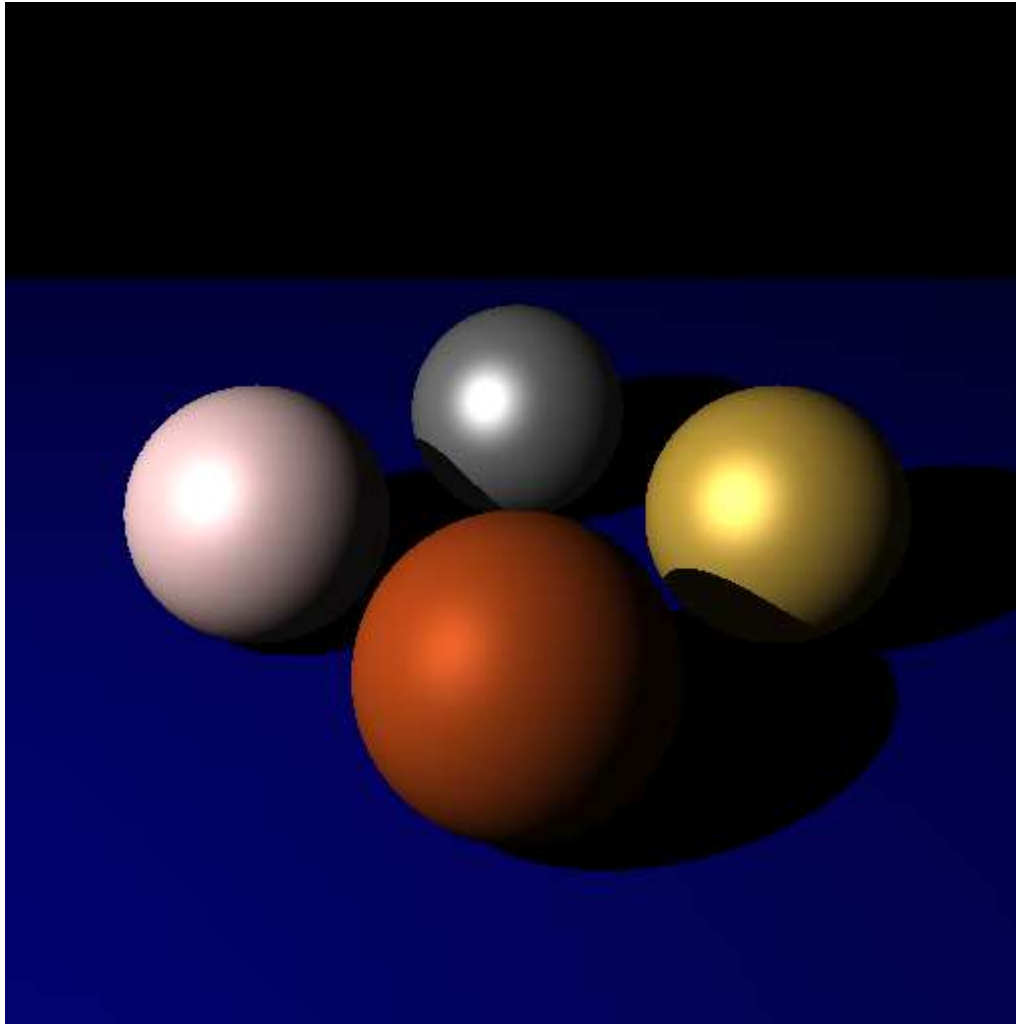
# Area Light Sources

- Shadow Feelers to multiple points on light source
  - Left: 9 shadow rays (3\*3 grid)
  - Right: 128\*128 grid



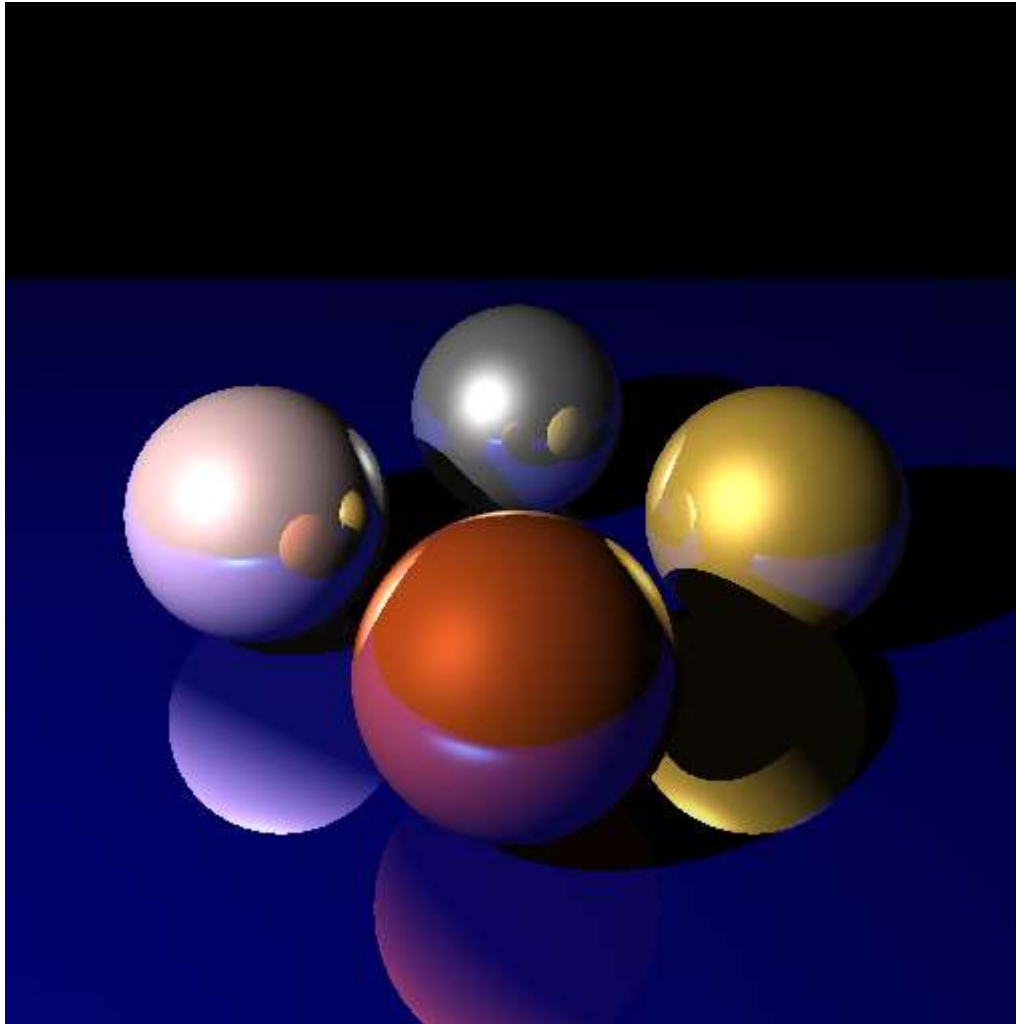


# No Reflection



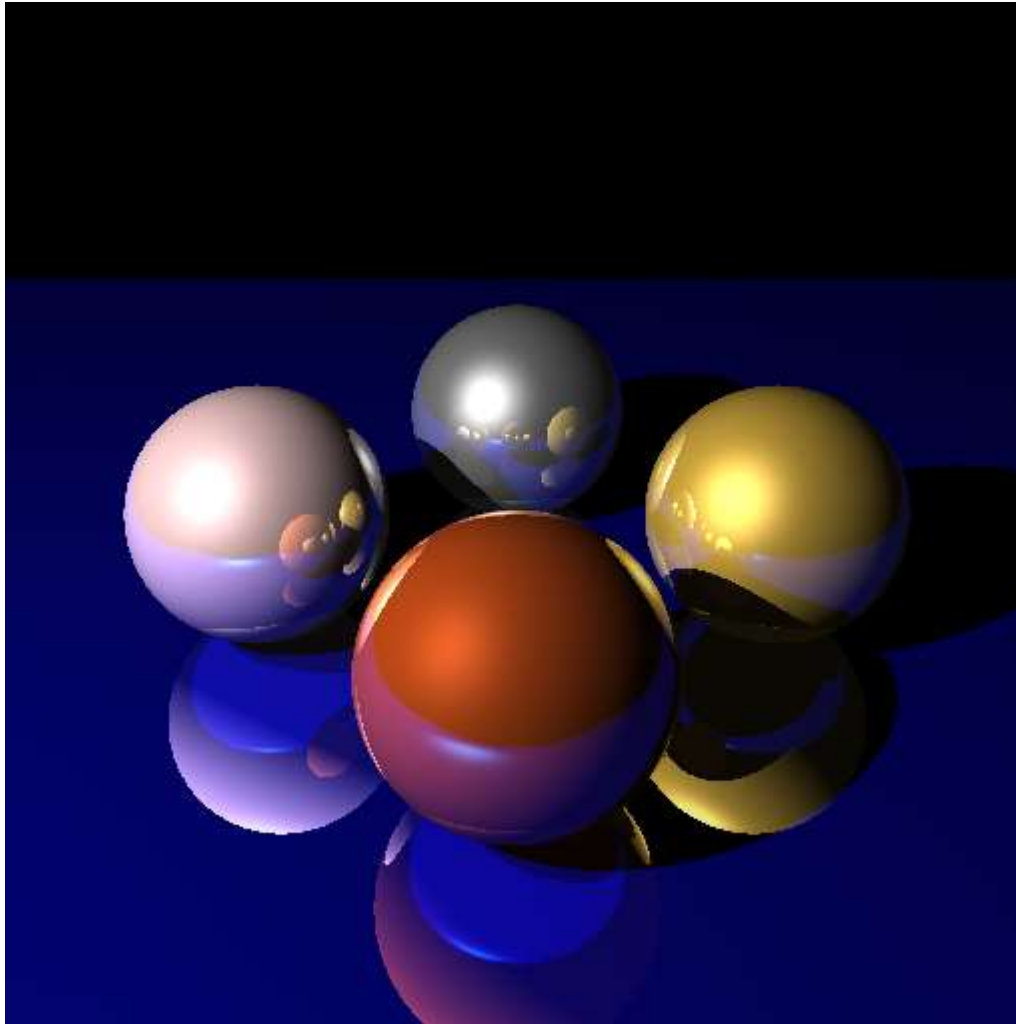
*Created by David Derman – CISC 440*

# Reflection (1)



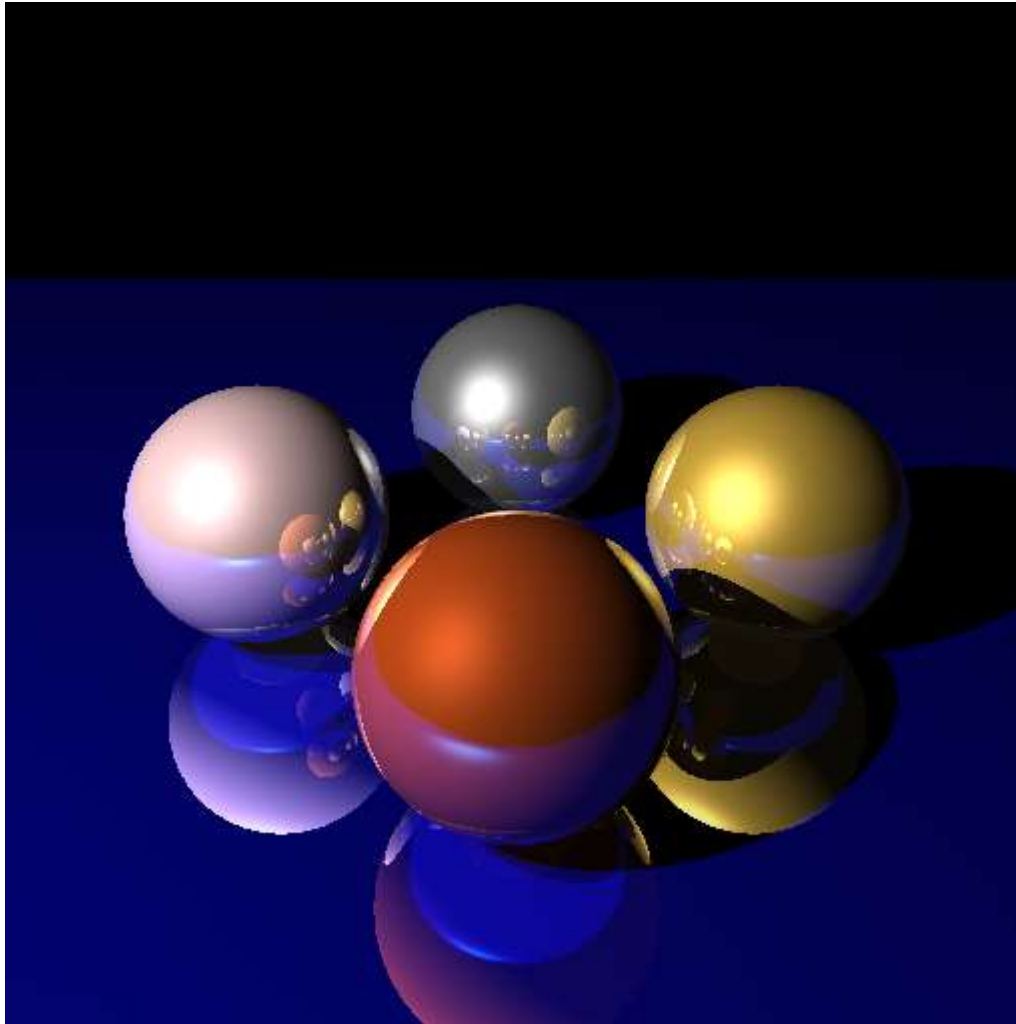
*Created by David Derman – CISC 440*

# Reflection (2)



*Created by David Derman – CISC 440*

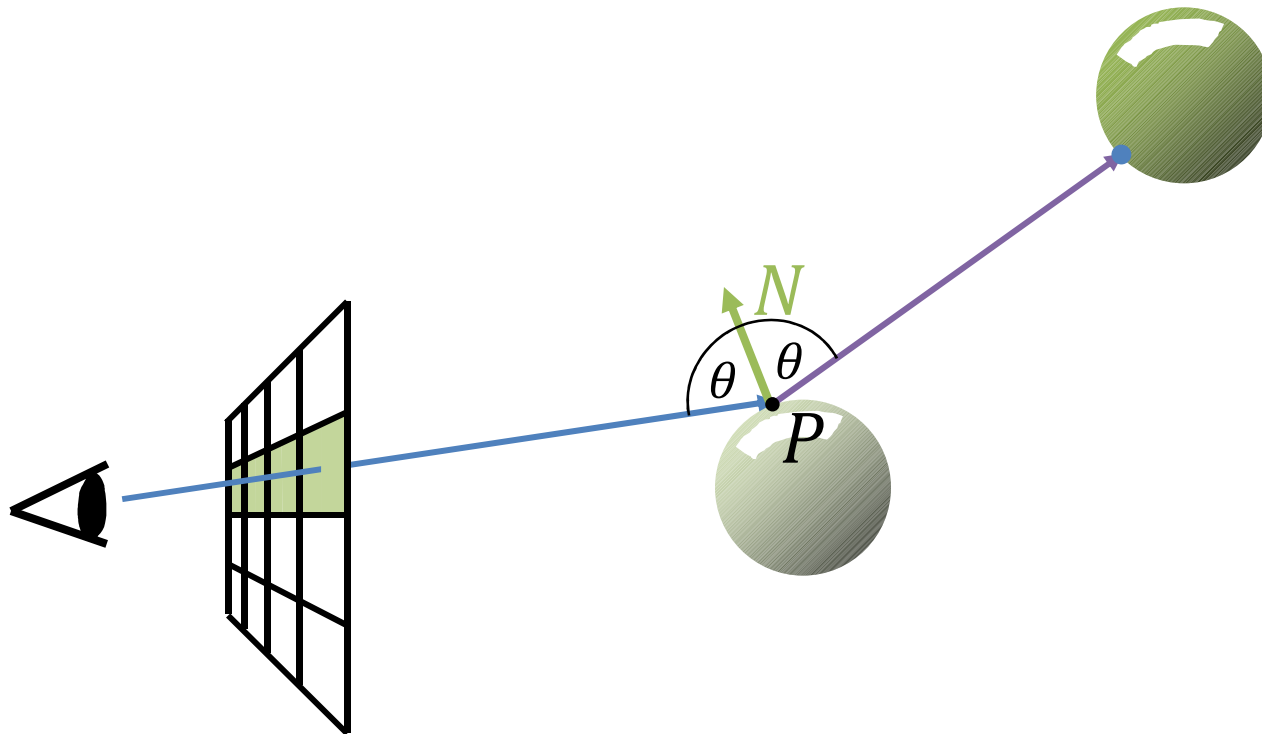
# Reflection (3)



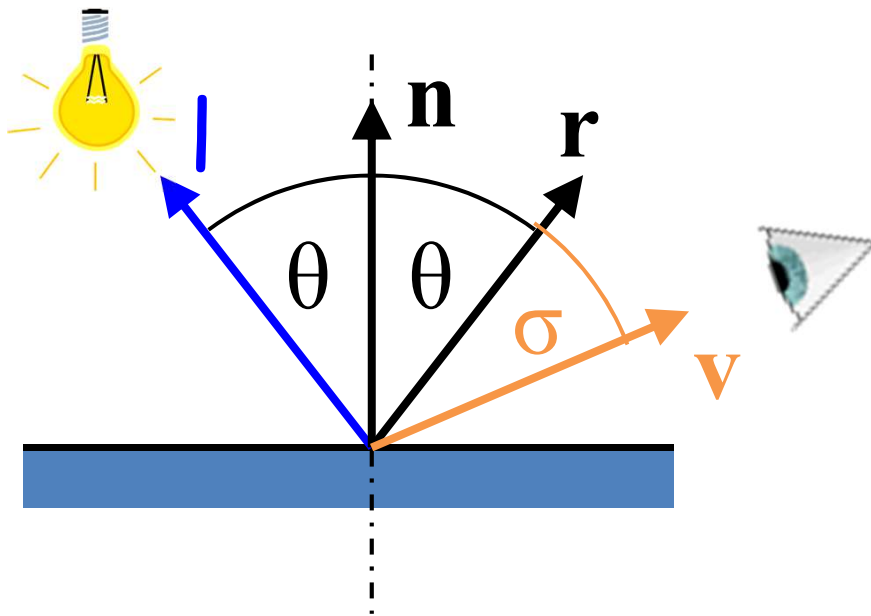
*Created by David Derman – CISC 440*

# Reflection

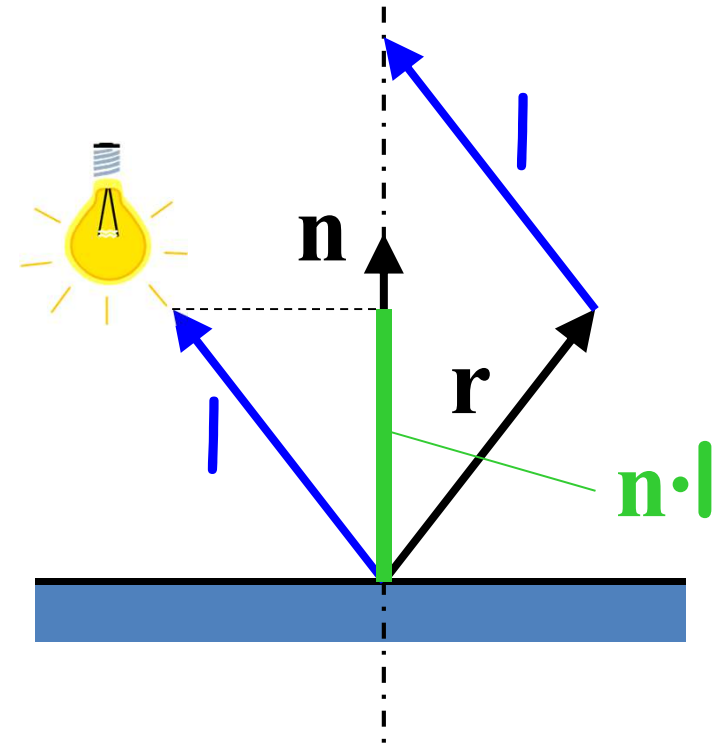
- $C_{reflected} = C_{\text{intersect}(P, \text{reflect}(\text{dir}, N))}$



# Reflection direction



$$L_{\text{spec}} = k_s \cdot S \cdot (v \cdot r)^p$$

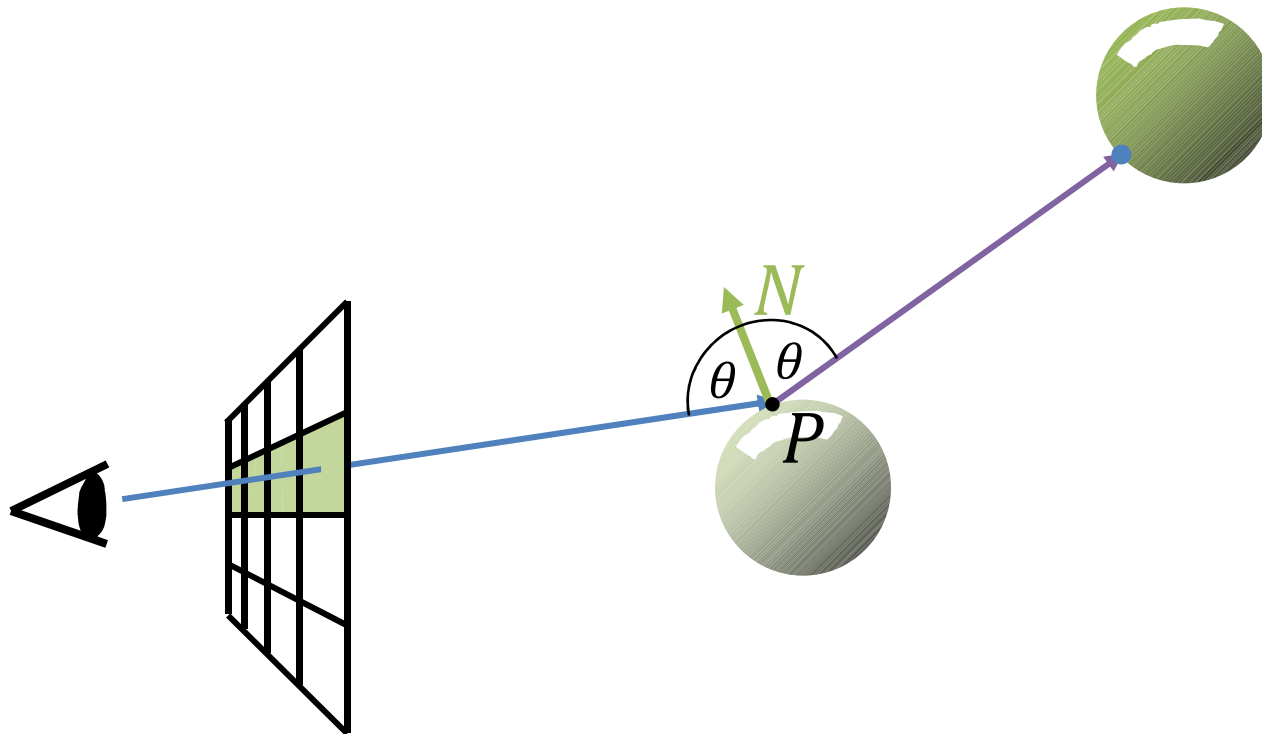


$$r + l = (2n \cdot l)n$$

$$r = (2n \cdot l)n - l$$

# Reflection

- $\text{reflect}(\textcolor{blue}{dir}, \textcolor{green}{N}) = (2\textcolor{green}{N} \cdot -\textcolor{blue}{dir})\textcolor{green}{N} + \textcolor{blue}{dir}$
- $\textcolor{purple}{C}_{\text{reflected}} = \textcolor{blue}{C}_{\text{intersect}(P, \text{reflect}(\textcolor{blue}{dir}, \textcolor{green}{N}))}$



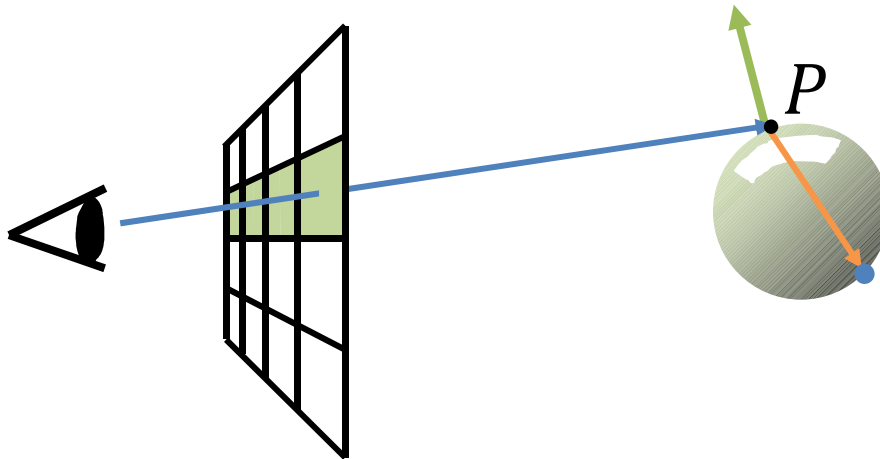
# Refraction





# Refraction

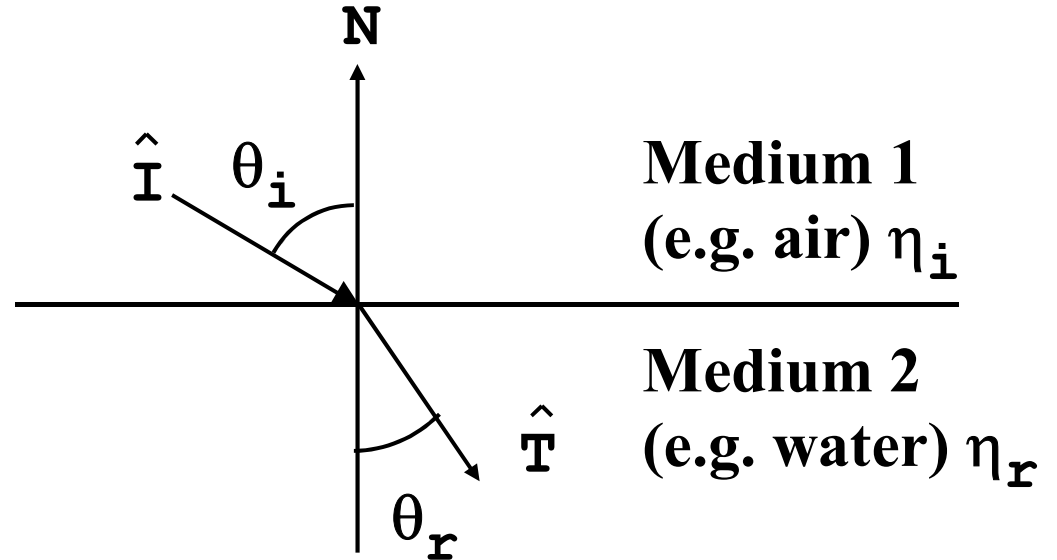
- $C_{refracted} = C_{intersect}(P, \text{refract}(\text{dir}, N))$



# Refraction

- Keep track of medium (air, glass, etc)
- Need *index of refraction*  $\eta$
- Need solid objects

$$\frac{\sin(\theta_i)}{\sin(\theta_r)} = \frac{\eta_2}{\eta_1}$$



# Refraction

- Decomposing the incident ray ( $\mathbf{u}$ )

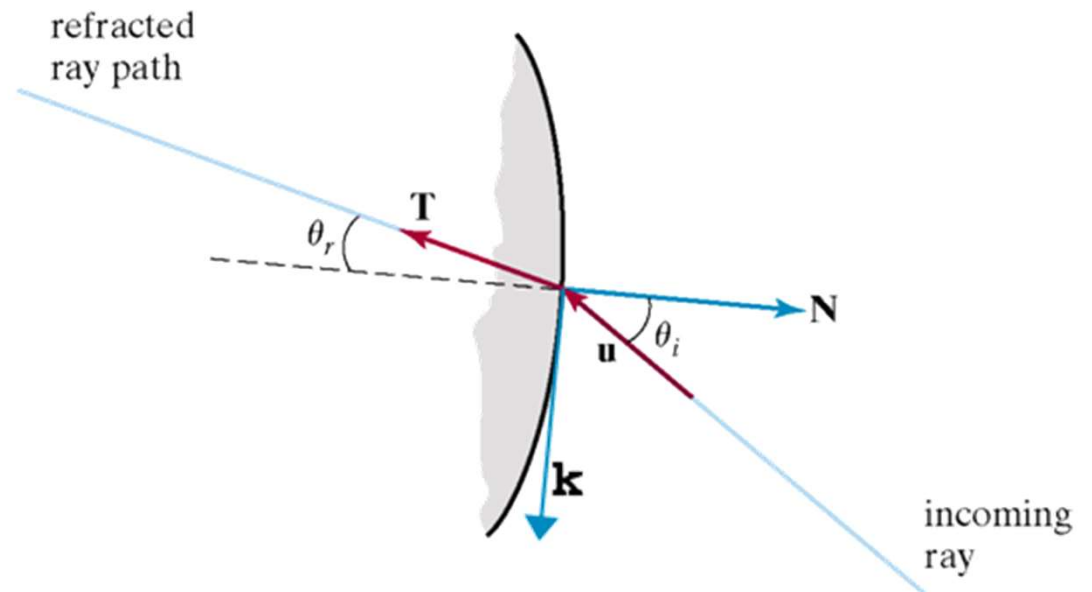
$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{u} &= (\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n})(-\mathbf{n}) + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{k})(-\mathbf{k}) \\ &= -(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{k})\mathbf{k} - (\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n})\mathbf{n} \\ &= -(\sin \theta_i)\mathbf{k} - (\cos \theta_i)\mathbf{n}\end{aligned}$$

- Decomposing the refracted ray ( $\mathbf{T}$ )

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{T} &= (\mathbf{T} \cdot \mathbf{n})(-\mathbf{n}) + (\mathbf{T} \cdot \mathbf{k})(-\mathbf{k}) \\ &= -(\mathbf{T} \cdot \mathbf{k})\mathbf{k} - (\mathbf{T} \cdot \mathbf{n})\mathbf{n} \\ &= -(\sin \theta_r)\mathbf{k} - (\cos \theta_r)\mathbf{n}\end{aligned}$$

- Solving for  $\mathbf{k}$  from  $\mathbf{u}$

$$\mathbf{k} = -\frac{1}{\sin \theta_i}(\mathbf{u} + \cos \theta_i \mathbf{n})$$



# Refraction

- Substituting in  $\mathbf{T}$

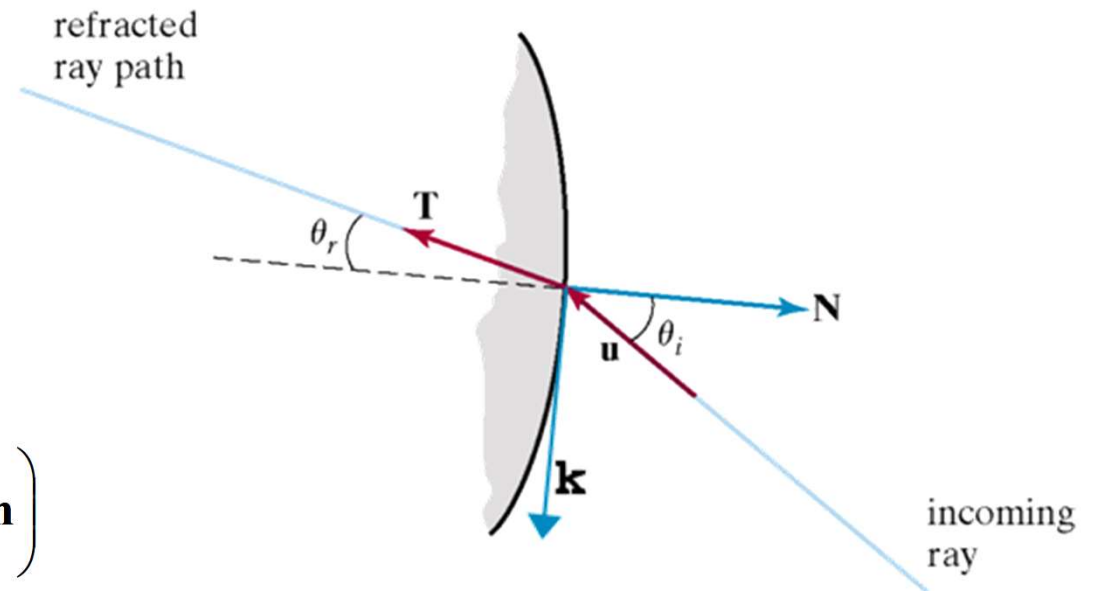
$$\mathbf{T} = -(\cos \theta_r) \mathbf{n} + \frac{\sin \theta_r}{\sin \theta_i} (\mathbf{u} + (\cos \theta_i) \mathbf{n})$$

- From Snell's Law

$$\frac{\sin \theta_r}{\sin \theta_i} = \frac{n_i}{n_r}$$

- Solving for  $\mathbf{T}$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{T} &= -(\cos \theta_r) \mathbf{n} + \frac{n_i}{n_r} (\mathbf{u} + (\cos \theta_i) \mathbf{n}) \\ &= \frac{n_i}{n_r} \mathbf{u} + \left( \frac{n_i}{n_r} (\cos \theta_i) \mathbf{n} - (\cos \theta_r) \mathbf{n} \right) \\ &= \frac{n_i}{n_r} \mathbf{u} - \left( \cos \theta_r - \frac{n_i}{n_r} \cos \theta_i \right) \mathbf{n} \end{aligned}$$



# Acceleration structures for ray-tracing

