

Assignment #4 - Photo-realistic rendering

Assignment due date: Monday, Dec. 5, 11:59pm

Code to be submitted on electronically on Quercus. Please complete This page and submit it along with the rest of your assignment

Student Names (Last, First)

Student #1:

Student #2:

Student numbers

Student #1:

Student #2:

Student UtorIDs

Student #1:

Student #2:

We hereby affirm that all the solutions we provide, both in writing and in code, for this assignment are our own. We have properly cited and noted any reference material we used to arrive at this solution, and have not shared our work with anyone else.

Student 1 signature

Student 2 signature

(note: 3 marks penalty if any of the above information is missing)

Assignment #4 – Photo-realistic rendering

Your final assignment takes you to the current state-of-the-art in realistic computer graphics rendering. Path tracing is the most advanced method for accurate rendering that accounts for physically accurate light propagation. As such, it can handle all global illumination effects, including colour bleeding, soft shadows, caustics, and complex materials such as liquids, intervening media like smoke, and materials that exhibit sub-surface scattering.

You will implement a path tracer, and use it to render images that are rich in global illumination effects which are difficult to simulate accurately even with the advanced raytracer you worked on for A3.

Learning Objectives - after completing this assignment you will be able to:

Explain how the path tracing process works, and how it differs from standard Whitted ray tracing, and the more advanced distribution ray tracing.

Explain how material properties are used to determine light sampling at a surface point, and how the sampling process leads to an accurate approximation of global light transport through the scene.

Apply the idea of importance sampling, using it to reduce the amount of computation needed to approximate the illumination at a surface point.

Create a scene consisting of objects with carefully designed material properties, so as to achieve a desired visual appearance.

Provide an expert's analysis of a computer-generated image, in terms of the quality of the modeling, the richness of the illumination, and the accuracy of the light propagation method used to render it.

Skills Developed:

Implementing and using random sampling methods for approximating quantities that are difficult or even impossible to evaluate exactly.

Thinking of material properties in terms of light propagation and sampling distributions.

Using approximations carefully so as to reduce the variance of colour estimates, while preserving realistic global illumination effects.

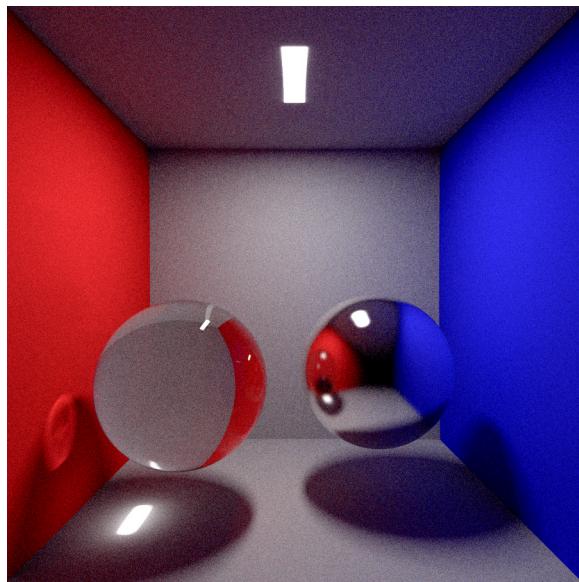
Reference material:

Lecture notes for all topics involved in ray tracing and path tracing.

The detailed comments in the starter code. And your implementation of the basic ray tracer (you will need code you already wrote, such as intersection testing, texture mapping, and so on)

Your course instructor! Do not wait if you run into trouble. Come to my office with any questions you may have as you work on this assignment.

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Global Illumination with Path Tracing

A version of the Cornell Box, a test image commonly used to test global illumination rendering methods, rendered from the solution to this assignment

Path Tracer [50 marks in total]

For this assignment you will implement the core components of a path tracer. Overall, your working path tracer will be a much less complex piece of code than the advanced raytracer from A3, and yet, it will be able to render global illumination and complex materials much more accurately.

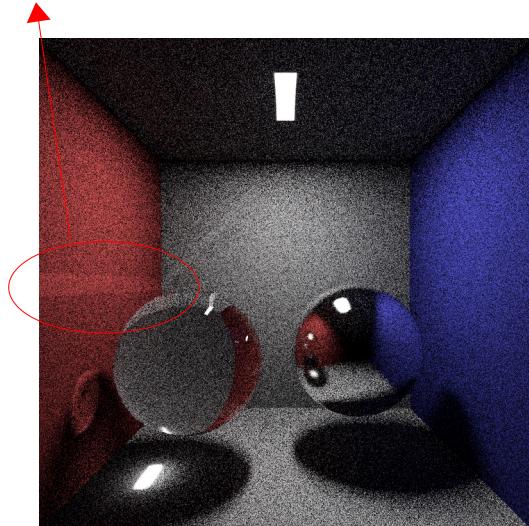
Required features:

- (a) [10 marks] Path tracing core** - Implement the ray propagation process as needed for diffuse surfaces. This includes Russian Roulette for ray propagation termination.
- (b) [5 marks] Reflection** - Add code so your path tracer can handle reflective, and diffuse reflective objects.
- (c) [5 marks] Refraction** - Implement code to enable your path tracer to handle refractive objects.
- (d) [5 marks] Importance sampling** - Modify the sampling process to use importance sampling to better approximate diffuse BRDFs
- (e) [5 marks] Explicit light sampling** - Implement explicit light sampling to smoothly render diffuse surfaces.
- (f) [20 marks] Cool scene** - Create and render your ultimate image, using complex objects, materials with rich properties, and showcasing global illumination.

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Likely a BUG in my code! (yikes!)

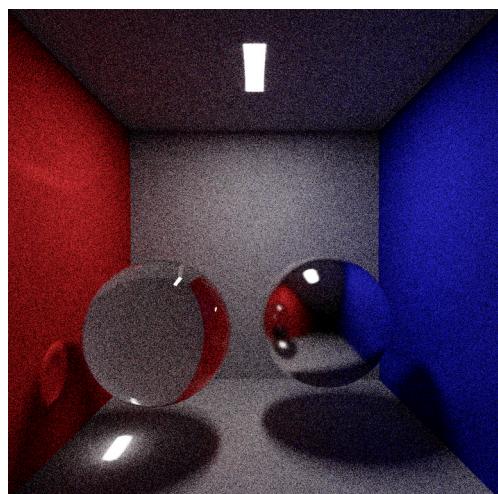
Evolution of your path tracer



Basic Path Tracing, including diffuse BRDF, rough specular surfaces, and refracting materials.

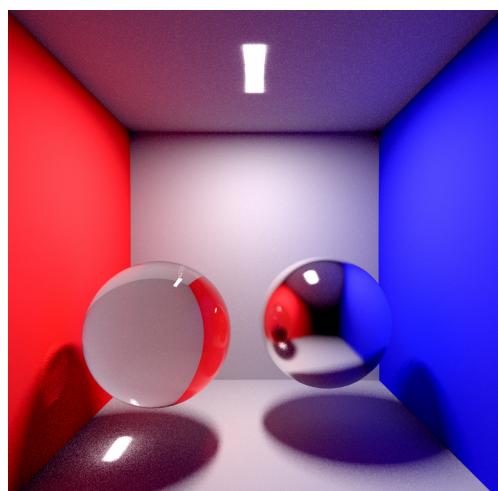
The diffuse surfaces are quite noisy since the light source is relatively small, which makes the chance of a ray hitting the light source relatively small.

However, notice the accurate rendering of caustics, and the presence of colour bleeding near the red and blue walls. The burnished metal surface shows a blurry reflection of the environment, as expected.



Improved diffuse surface rendering via importance Sampling, 1000 samples per pixel.

Here, the direction of rays bounced off diffuse materials is chosen proportional to the cosine of their angle w.r.t. the surface normal. This causes more of the sampled rays to happen along directions that have the greatest contribution to the surface's perceived colour.



Use of explicit light-source sampling to render smooth diffuse surfaces, 1000 samples per pixel.

For diffuse surfaces, the path tracer casts a ray directly toward the light source, if not blocked by another object, this will add brightness at that surface point.

As you can see this results in very smooth diffuse surfaces for the same amount of sampling.

Note: These images have been brightness-scaled so they display well on the PDF – don't expect yours to look identical! Rather, check for smoothness being comparable, and reflection/refraction being correct.

Crunchy Features

As ever, once you have a working path tracer, you can add features and render some truly impressive scenes. ***Any features left over from A3 that you did not include in A3 count for this one*** but features count only once, e.g. if you got bonus for Depth of Field in A3, you can't get a bonus for Depth of Field on A4 – ***keep in mind that independently of Bonus, having the depth of field could result in a better mark for your cool scene.*** So really try and build the best rendering engine you can.

Some possible crunchy features:

- [Up to 10 marks] - Constructive Solid Geometry or non-trivial hierarchical objects. For 10 marks this needs to be able to handle fairly complex objects, and be designed in a way that makes it easy to extend. Geometry must work with all features of the path tracer.
- [Up to 7 marks] - Depth of Field – for full marks this should allow for configurable aperture and focusing as well as producing the correct *bokeh*
- [Up to 5 marks] - Dispersion – Like in A1! Your path tracer should be able to produce dispersion due to refraction.
- [Up to 12 marks] - Acceleration using BVH or Octrees – for full marks the acceleration must be able to accelerate rendering for individual mesh objects.
- [Up to 7 marks] - Ray marching, for full marks this should handle refraction and allow for easily adding different types of objects.
- [Up to 7 marks] - Complex BRDFs to simulate interesting materials – this includes things like burnished metal, colour-shifting materials, etc. For full marks your model should allow for configuring the properties of the BRDF and for adjusting them for individual objects during buildScene().
- [Up to 7 marks] - Bi-directional path tracing – Should handle arbitrary light sources and geometry.
- [Up to 10 marks] - Sub-surface scattering, or volumetric effects (fog, liquids, etc.). This is fairly challenging, for full marks it has to look convincing.

Come and talk with us if you want to implement any of these features but need a few hints about how to do this, or when you have questions as you're working on them.

Note that you need to complete at least 15 marks of crunchy features to get a full mark for this assignment!

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What to hand in:

- **ALL** your code. That means all .h and .c files as well as the compilation script
- The following images (IS is importance sampling, ES is explicit lightsource sampling)

- Cornell Box, 512x512, 1000 samples, depth 7, no IS, no ES (**Cornell_noIS_noES.ppm**)
- Cornell Box, 512x512, 1000 samples, depth 7, IS, no ES (**Cornell_IS_noES.ppm**)
- Cornell Box, 512x512, 1000 samples, depth 7, IS and ES (**Cornell_IS_ES.ppm**)
- **ALL** test scenes demonstrating crunchy features you implemented
- **Your final cool scene** at 1024x1024 (or better), you decide the samples and depth.
name your final scene: **WE_HAVE_CONQUERED(CG).ppm**

Submitting your work

Create a single compressed tar file with the name

PathTracer_studentNumber1_studentNumber2.tgz

Submit this file electronically on Quercus – don't forget to include the completed cover page!

General advice

You must have a fully working ray tracer to successfully complete A4. You can talk with your peers about parts of the raytracer still giving you trouble. See your TA, or come to office hours if you are stuck. However, **you must absolutely not use any code other than your own.**

Ask questions. Don't wait if you have problems. You can drop by for hints and suggestions on how to implement any of the features of the path tracer. **You can re-use any code you wrote for the advanced ray tracer that will help you create your cool scene, or expand your path tracer functionality.**

| Marking Scheme | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Path Tracer Implementation | 65 marks |
| Crunchy bonus | <i>Up to you!</i> |

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General Advice:

Exploit light – The advantage of a path tracer over all the rendering software you've done thus far is that it can handle light in more complex and realistic ways. So make sure your scene takes advantage of lighting effects. Introduce as many area light sources as you need, use reflection, refraction, colour, and geometry to highlight the awesome ways your path tracer can handle light!

