

COMP27112

Computer  
Graphics  
and  
Image Processing

## 8: Rendering (2)

Toby.Howard@manchester.ac.uk



### Shading a surface

- We now have a local illumination model

$$I_R = k_{aR}I_{aR} + \frac{I_{pR}}{d'} \left[ k_{dR}(\hat{\mathbf{N}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{L}}) + k_s(\hat{\mathbf{R}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{V}})^n \right]$$

- How do we use it?

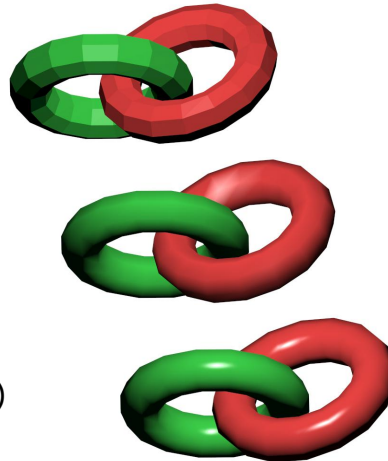
## Shading a surface

- We'll look at three shading methods:

- Flat  
(aka constant)

- Gouraud  
(aka intensity)

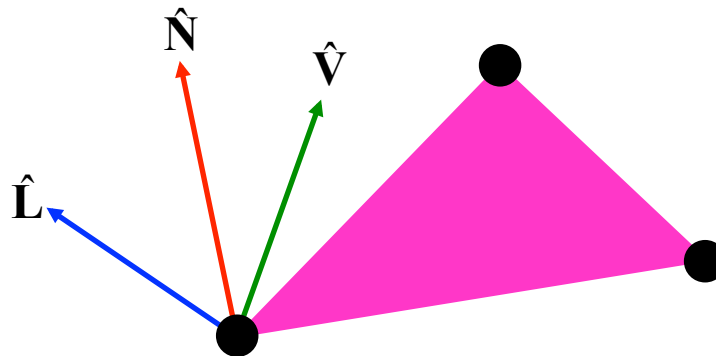
- Phong  
(aka normal-vector)



Vic Baker

3

## Flat shading



- This is the simplest approach
- We compute colour  $C$  at one vertex and use it for all pixels in the polygon

4

## Flat shading



Henri Gouraud

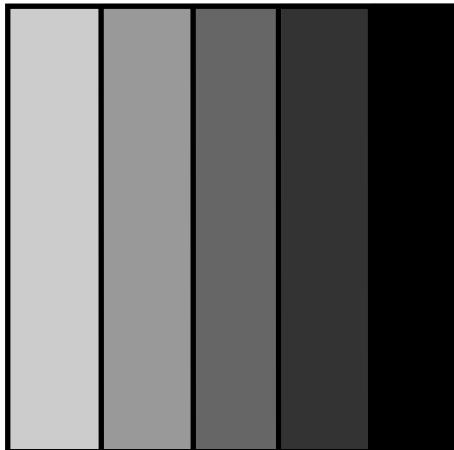
- Each polygon is uniformly coloured according to its orientation
- And we clearly see the mesh
- This is made worse by the "Mach Band" effect

5

## Mach banding



Ernst Mach  
(1838-1916)



Here, we see separate strips, each with a different intensity

6

MANCHESTER  
1824

## Mach banding



Ernst Mach  
(1838-1916)

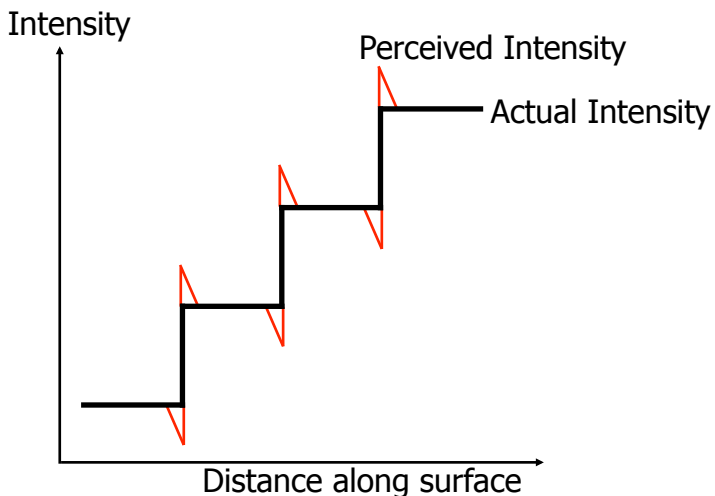


Now, we still see separate strips, but the edges between them “stand out”

7

MANCHESTER  
1824

## Mach banding



Intensity

Perceived Intensity

Actual Intensity

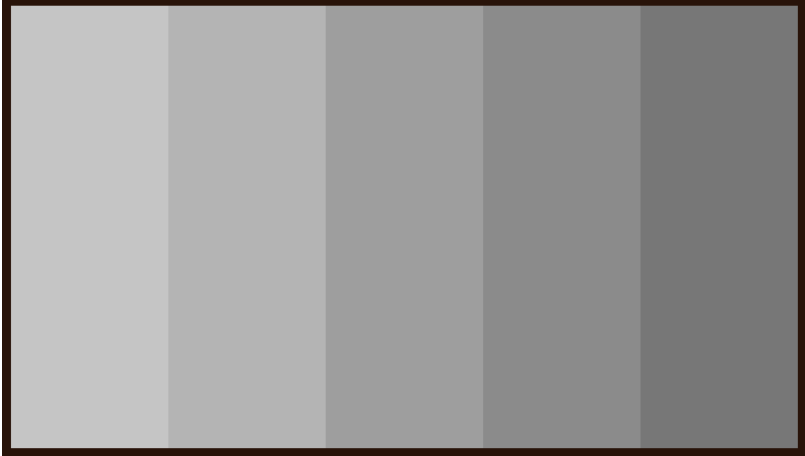
Distance along surface

- Our eyes are good at finding edges

8

MANCHESTER  
1824

## Mach banding demo




A horizontal bar divided into five vertical segments of varying shades of gray, from light to dark. The boundaries between the segments show Mach banding, where the boundaries appear darker or lighter than the segments themselves.

- <http://andygiger.com/science/e-mach/>

9

MANCHESTER  
1824

## Flat shading: examples



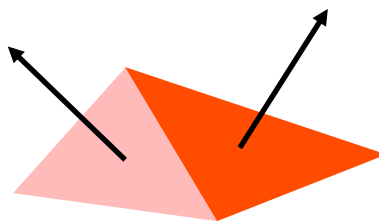
Three 3D models rendered with flat shading: a white cup on a saucer, a brown sphere, and two interlocking rings (one green, one red).

Vic Baker

10

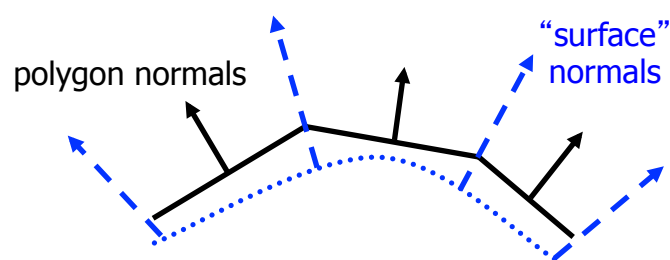
## Gouraud shading

- Invented by Henri Gouraud in 1971
- Gouraud shading uses interpolation, to smooth out the discontinuities between polygons



11

## Approximating a surface

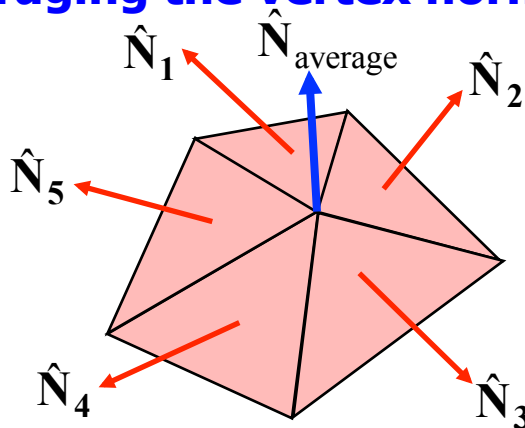


- We can approximate the normal of the underlying “surface” ...
- ...by averaging the normals where polygons share vertices

12

MANCHESTER  
1824

## Averaging the vertex normals



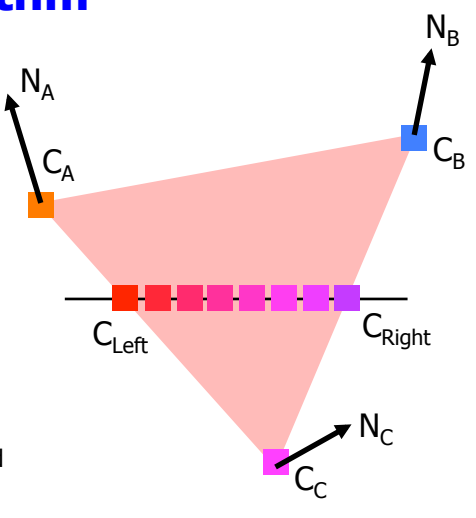
$$\hat{N}_{\text{average}} = \frac{\hat{N}_1 + \hat{N}_2 + \hat{N}_3 + \hat{N}_4 + \hat{N}_5}{|\hat{N}_1 + \hat{N}_2 + \hat{N}_3 + \hat{N}_4 + \hat{N}_5|}$$

13

MANCHESTER  
1824

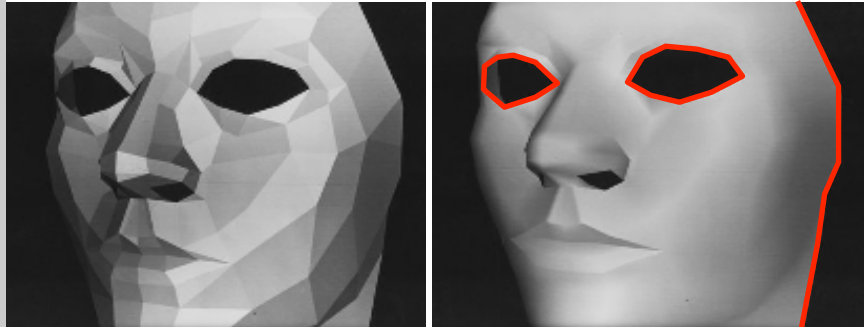
## Gouraud algorithm

- compute average vertex normals at A, B and C
- compute pixel colours  $C_A$ ,  $C_B$ ,  $C_C$
- for each scanline {
  - average colour  $C_{\text{Left}}$  from  $C_A$  and  $C_C$
  - average colour  $C_{\text{Right}}$  from  $C_B$  and  $C_C$
  - average between  $C_{\text{Left}}$  and  $C_{\text{Right}}$  along the scanline



14

## Gouraud results



Henri Gouraud

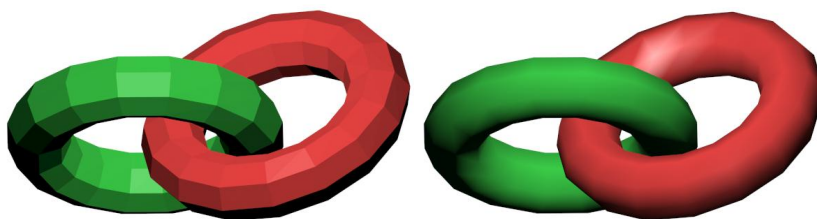
- Mesh now appears smooth
- But notice the silhouette edges, still polygonal

15

## Flat shading versus Gouraud



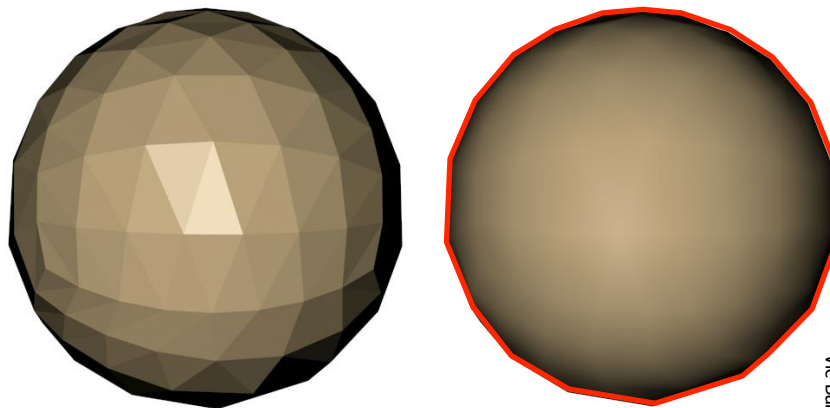
Vic Baker



16



## Flat shading versus Gouraud



Vic Baker

17

## Implementing Gouraud

- We need to optimise the computation as much as possible
- For each scanline we compute the colour increment between pixels:

```
deltaCol= (CRight - CLeft) / (XRight - XLeft);  
Col= CLeft;  
for (x= XLeft; X <= XRight; x++) {  
    TestAndSetPixel(x, y, Col);  
    Col= Col + deltaCol;  
}
```

- Similarly, we can also optimise by computing  $C_{Right}$  and  $C_{Left}$  incrementally

18

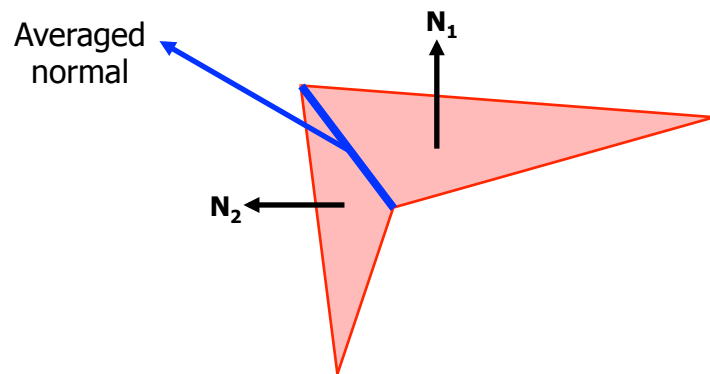
## Gouraud shading: problems

- While it's fast and efficient, the method has drawbacks:
  - Specular highlights may be distorted or averaged away altogether (because Gouraud shading averages between **vertex** colours)
  - Mach banding may still be visible

19

## Gouraud shading: problems

- Sometimes, edges are "shaded away"

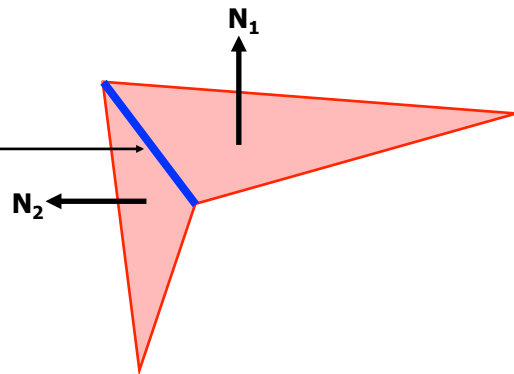


20

## Gouraud shading: problems

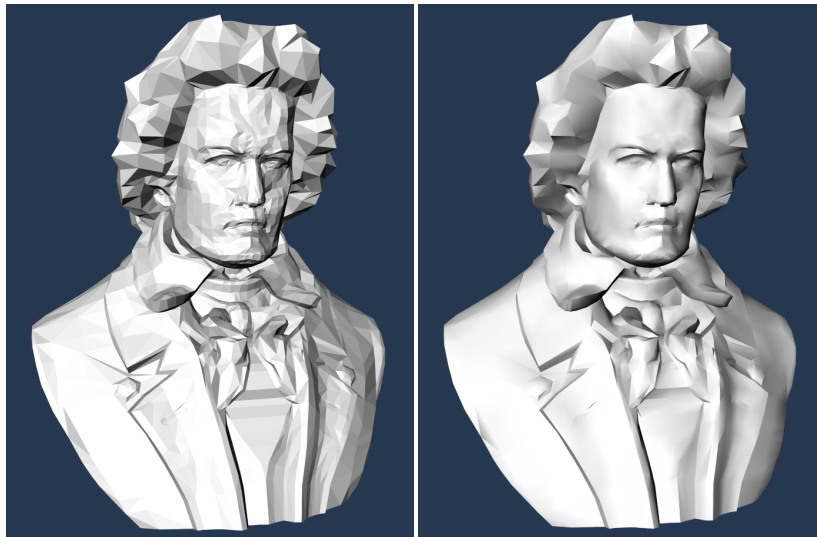
- Sometimes, edges are “shaded away”

Edge must be **tagged** in data structure to avoid interpolation across it



21

## Tagged edges to stop interpolation



22

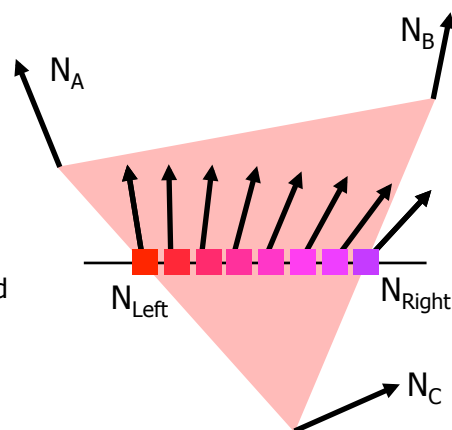
## Phong interpolation

- Instead of interpolating colours, Phong suggested interpolating normal vectors
- We interpolate the normal vector along the scanline
- Compute illumination model for every pixel

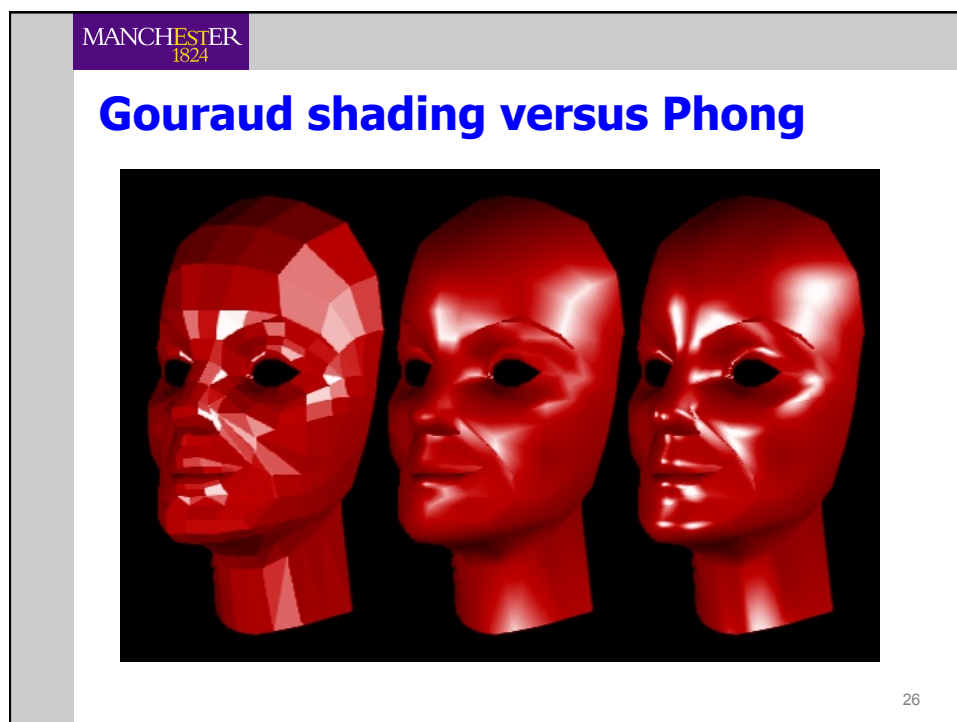
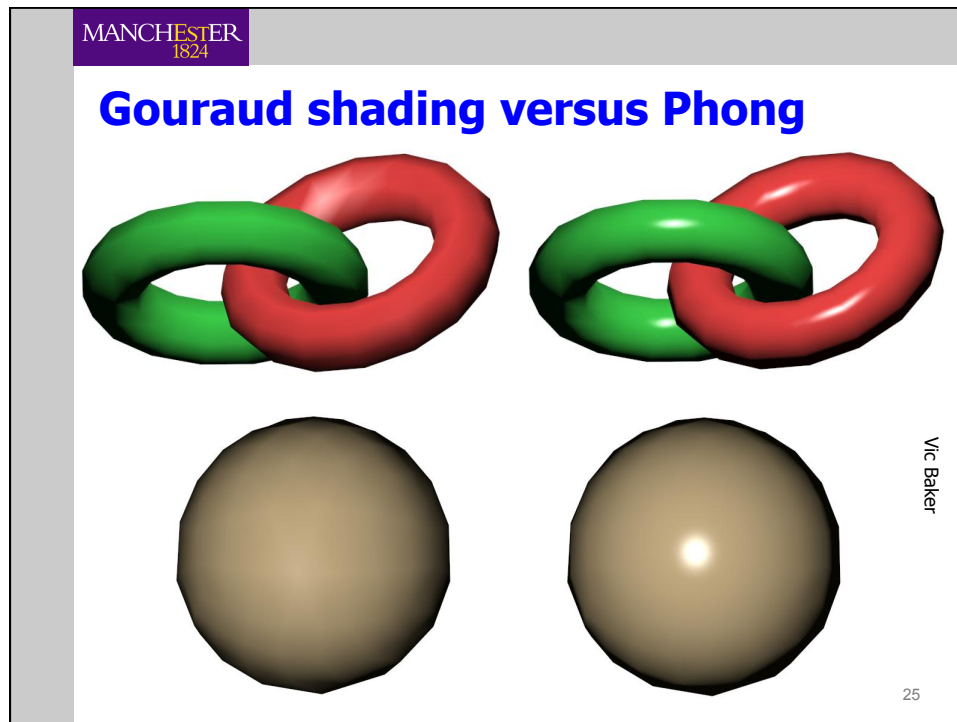
23

## Phong algorithm

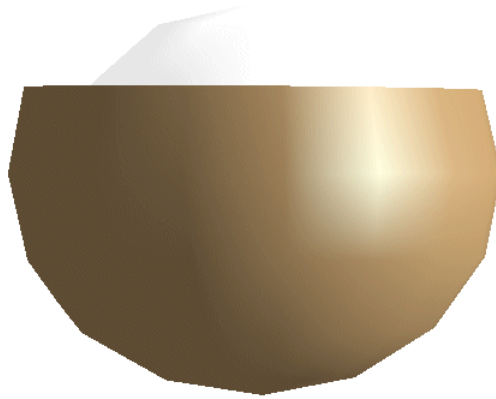
- for each scanline {
  - compute average normal  $\mathbf{N}_{\text{Left}}$  from  $\mathbf{N}_A$  and  $\mathbf{N}_C$
  - compute average normal  $\mathbf{N}_{\text{Right}}$  from  $\mathbf{N}_B$  and  $\mathbf{N}_C$
  - average between  $\mathbf{N}_{\text{Left}}$  and  $\mathbf{N}_{\text{Right}}$  along the scanline, and compute colour  $C$  using illumination model
- }



24



## Gouraud shading versus Phong

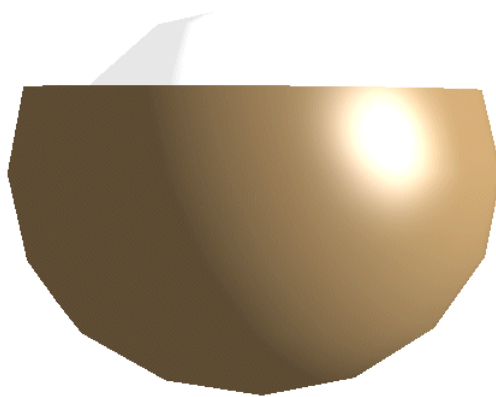


Alan Watt

- Gouraud-shaded, highlight distorted

27

## Phong shading



Alan Watt

- Phong-shaded, highlight now correct

28

## Rendering expense

- Roughly, our local illumination model takes about **60** floating-point operations to compute a colour for a pixel
- For a Gouraud-shaded triangle, that's **180** flops, then about **2** per pixel
- For a Phong-shaded triangle, that's **60 flops for every pixel**

29