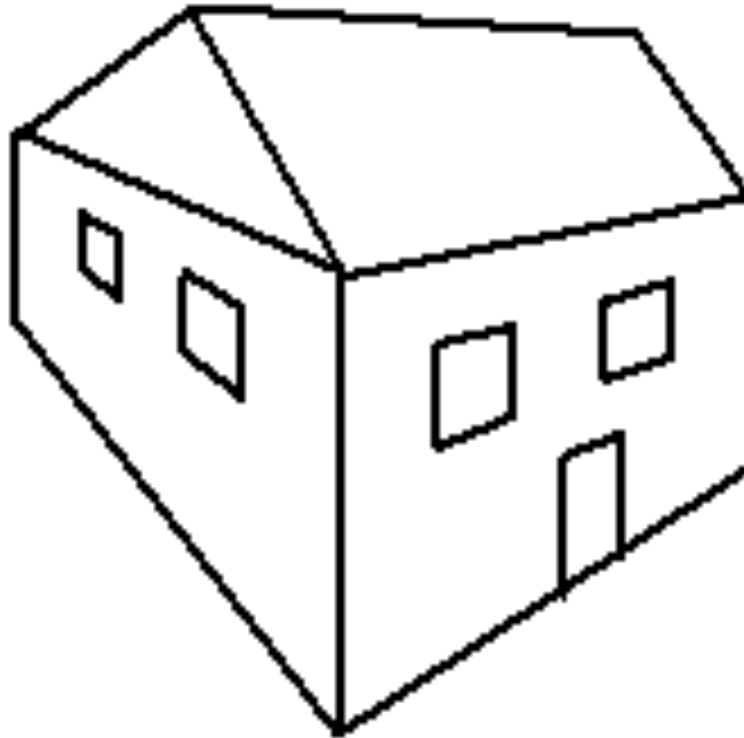


# **Computer Graphics**

**COMP H3016**

**Lecturer: Simon Mcloughlin**

**Lecture 5**



# Review and Overview

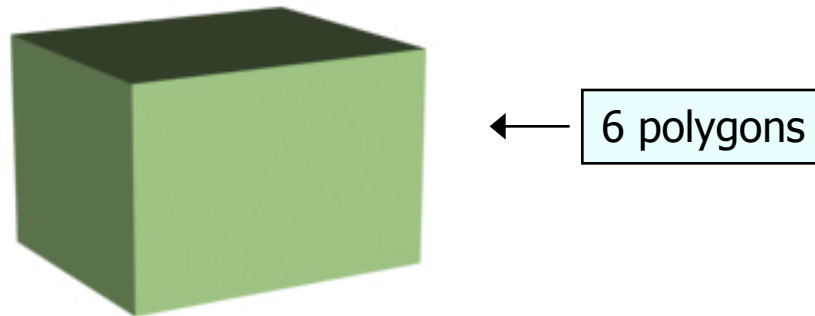
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- Last week we looked at how three dimensional objects are projected onto a 2-d viewing plane using perspective/orthographic (parallel), projection models
- The objects that we were dealing with were simple ones like lines or squares
- In a 3-d scene that we wish to model before projecting, there can exist objects of **many different shapes, colours, textures etc.**
- So not surprisingly there exists many **different methodologies** for describing these objects in a graphics system
- Identifying and utilising a methodology that accurately represents an object in 3-d is called “**three dimensional object representation**”
- We are going to look at some of the more popular (and general) techniques for object representation
- We will also look at how to calculate some properties of the facets that make up these objects (e.g. surface normal).
- We will also see how lighting can be applied to using these properties to give us some more realistic rendering

# Polygons

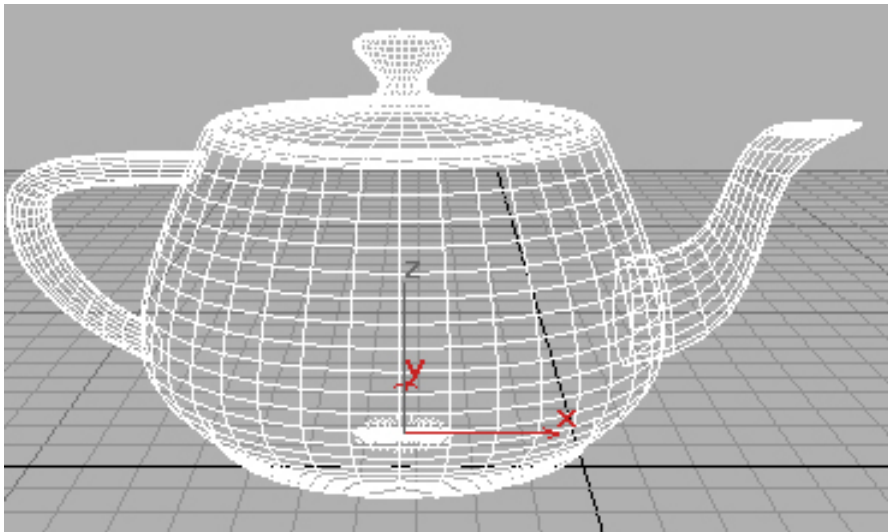
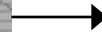
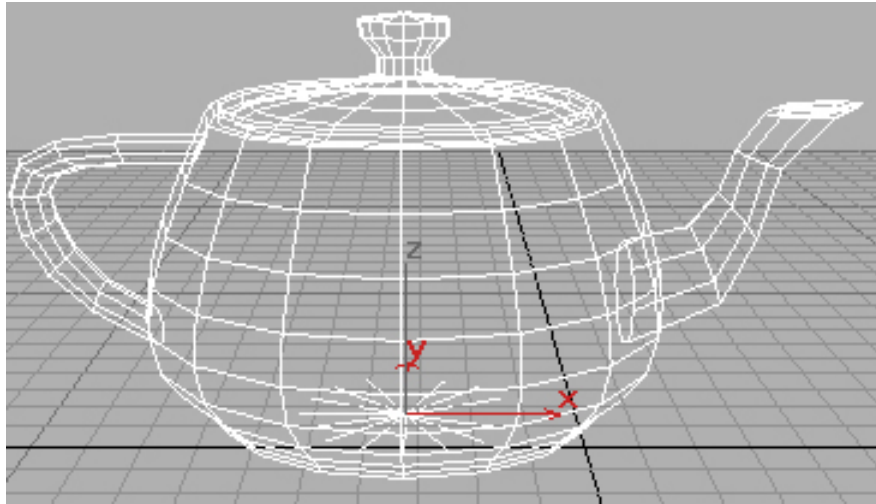
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- Polygons are the predominant method for modelling surfaces.
- Objects with flat surfaces can be directly modelled with polygons (e.g. a box).



- Objects with curved surfaces are a bit more tricky though.
- A curved surface has to be broken up into a **mesh** of joined up polygons, usually triangles or quadrilaterals. This process is called tessellation.
- Smaller polygons => finer polygonal mesh => better result.
- But smaller polygons => more polygons => more memory => slower !

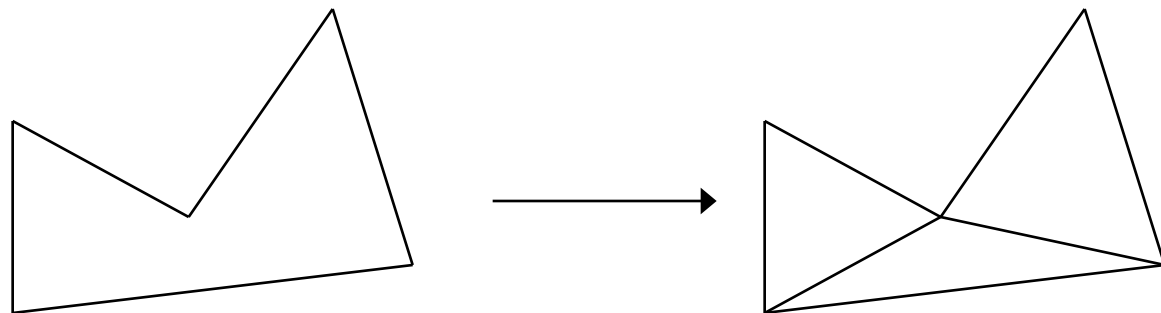
# Polygons



# Polygon mesh

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- The surface polygons are **tessellated or tiled** together to accurately represent the surface
- This type of surface representations is known as a **polygon mesh representation**
- Polygon Meshes give a **wire-frame** representation of the object
- **Realistic rendering** of the surface/object is accomplished by applying **lighting/shading models (later)** across the projected polygon surfaces
- The relative “**fineness**” of the mesh is often called the **tessellation level** (See the teapot on the previous slide for different tessellation levels)
- Every polygon can be represented as one or more **triangles** (triangles are the simplest form of polygon).



# Polygon mesh

- Polygons can be easily stored in a graphics system as they are simply **lists of vertices** (each vertex is a 3D point). How many vertices define a polygon?
- An internal representation is probably going to store polygons as lists of vertices as follows.

## Polygons

Polygon 1: v1, v2, v3

Polygon 2: v2, v4, v3

Polygon 3: v4, v5, v3

## Vertices

v1: (0,10,0)

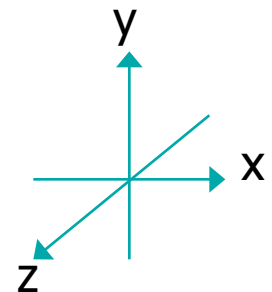
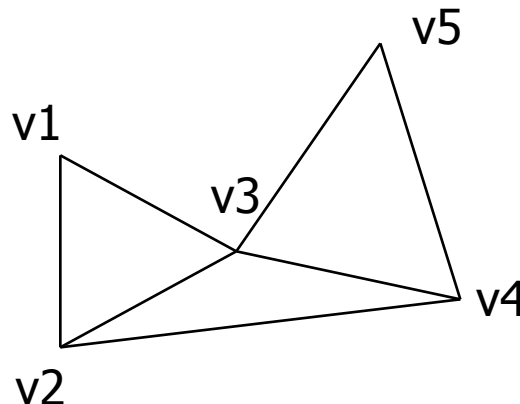
v2: (0,0,0)

v3: (10,4,0)

v4: (20,2,0)

v5: (18,16,0)

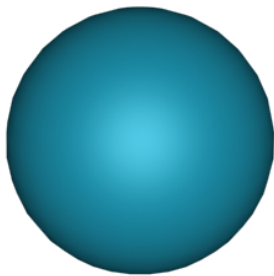
Do we need to store edges? Why not?



## 3-D descriptions

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- A polygon representation will lead to a much less compact representation of the box than the obvious one ...
- Press on anyway and ask – “can we do the same thing with the sphere?”

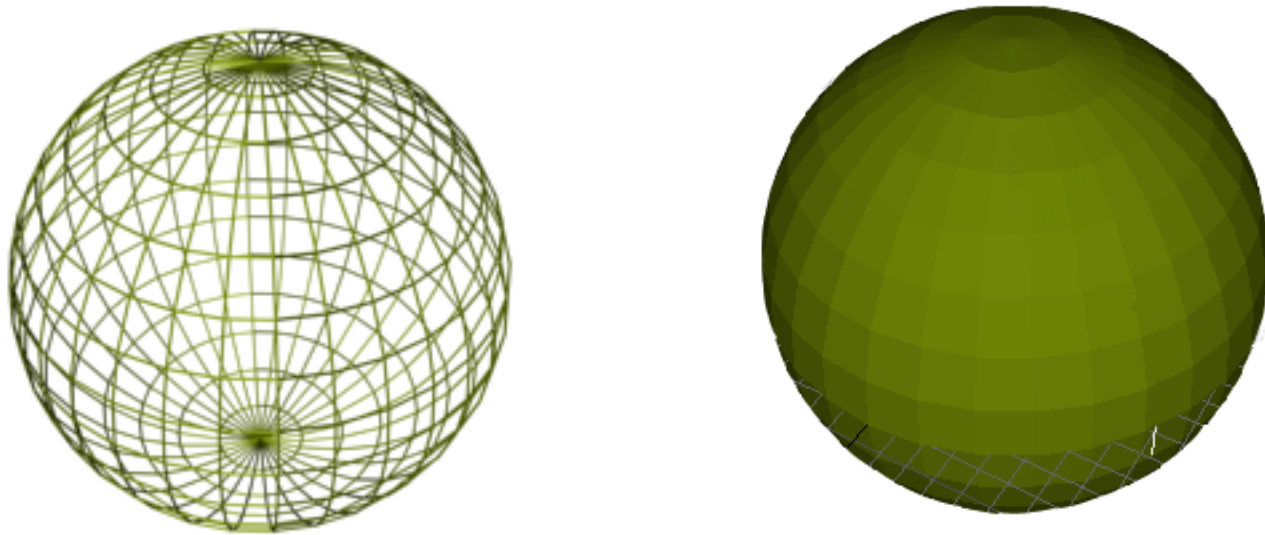


- Here we have a problem because the surfaces of the sphere are not flat?
- In fact there is really only one surface and it's curvy all round ...
- The solution is to represent the sphere as a polygonal mesh
- This is an inter-connected mesh of polygons that approximates the surface of the sphere.
- Pay attention to the word approximate!

## 3-D descriptions

---

- Here's a polygonal mesh representation of a sphere.



- It's comprised of lots and lots of quadrilateral polygons.
- Each of them is a small flat surface with four vertices.
- The sphere representation now becomes a list of hundreds of polygons ....

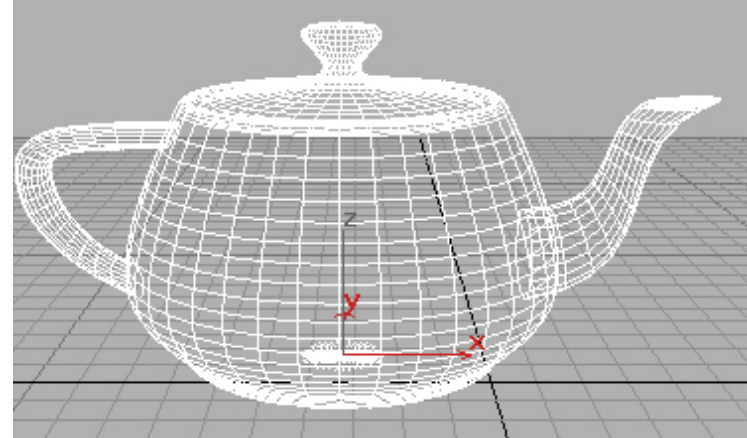


## 3-D descriptions

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- We can do the same for all our other primitives (cones etc..).
- Note the following:
  - A polygonal mesh is just an approximation of the original surface!
  - The representation is much less compact than the primitive representation.
- So what's the point of using it?
- The point is that we can use this idea to not just represent any primitive object but any type of object at all.
- The next slide shows polygon meshes of a number of different objects ...
- The polygon count for complicated object like the helicopter overleaf can easily run into the thousands ...

## 3-D descriptions



## 3-D Modeling

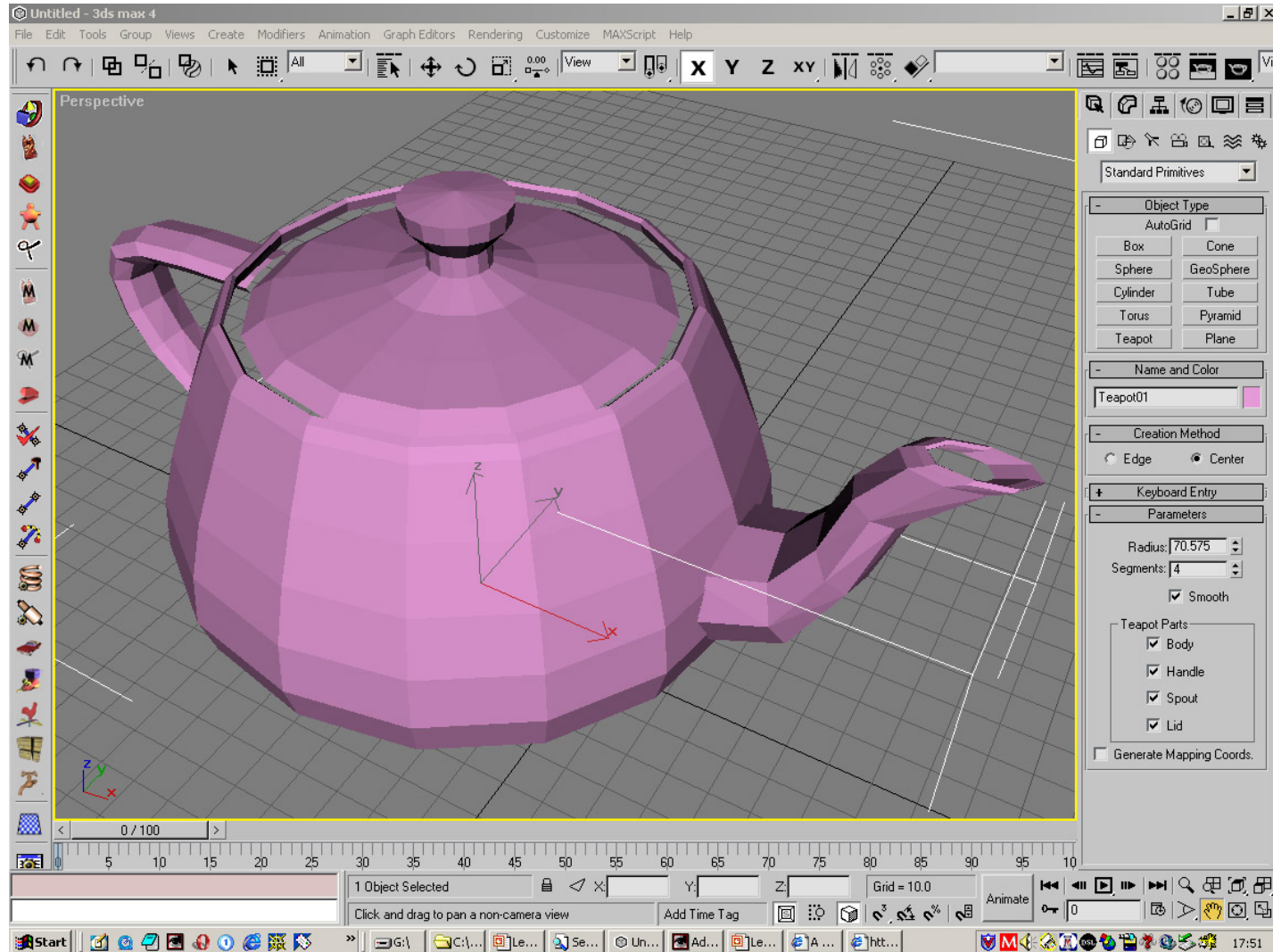
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So how do we create these 3D models?

- ... try and make a polygonal mesh by guessing positions of polygons ... it's just not going to work for very complex objects (might do for simple ones)
- So we generally use some form of 3D modeling software. Such software provides an interface for creating and manipulating 3D objects. Examples include:
  - 3D Studio Max
  - SoftImage

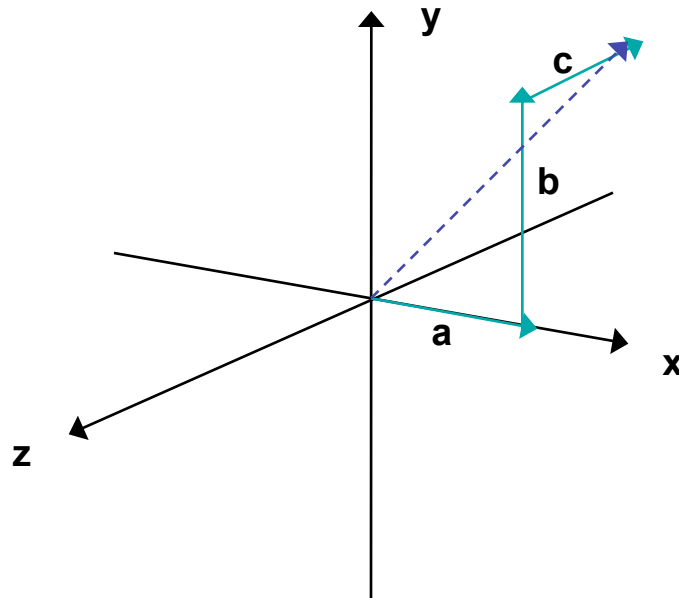
## 3-D descriptions

- The interface to one of these programs might look like this:



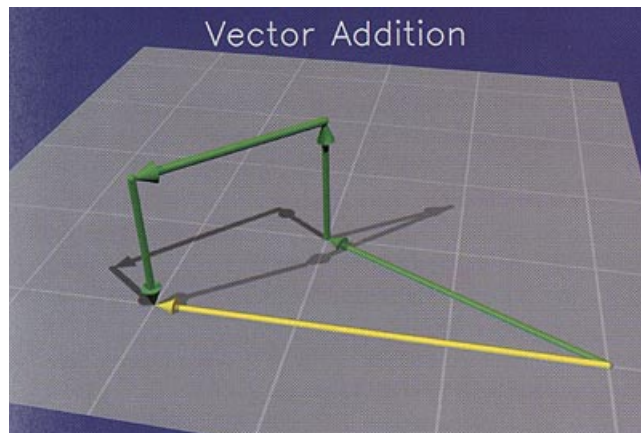
# Polygon Surface Normals and 3D vectors

- The use of vectors is crucial to 3D graphics as they are the means used to specify directions – directions of cameras, light sources, orientations of objects and so on.
- We are now going to cover the basic of vectors in 3D space
- As before the vector  $(a,b,c)$  is like an instruction to move  $a$  units to the right,  $b$  units up, and  $c$  units forwards.



## 3D Vectors

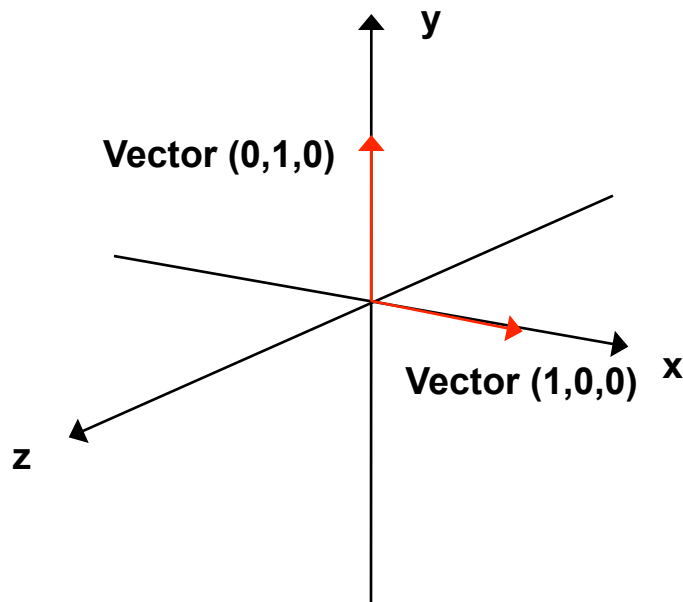
- The vector hence represents a direction in 3D space (represented by the blue dashed arrow in the diagram on the previous slide).
- The vector also has a length calculated by  $\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}$
- There are a number of mathematical operations we can carry out on vectors.
- The first of these is *addition*. We can add one vector to another by adding its corresponding components. The result is a new vector.
- So adding  $(a_1, b_1, c_1)$  to  $(a_2, b_2, c_2)$  will give  $(a_1+a_2, b_1+b_2, c_1+c_2)$ .
- The sum of two or more vectors is simply the sum of their displacements.



- The yellow vector pictured left is the sum of the four green ones.
- The sum of  $(-2, 1, 0)$ ,  $(0, 0, 1)$ ,  $(-1, -1, 0)$  and  $(0, 0, -1)$  is  $(-3, 0, 0)$ .
- Subtraction is done in the same way.

## 3D Vectors

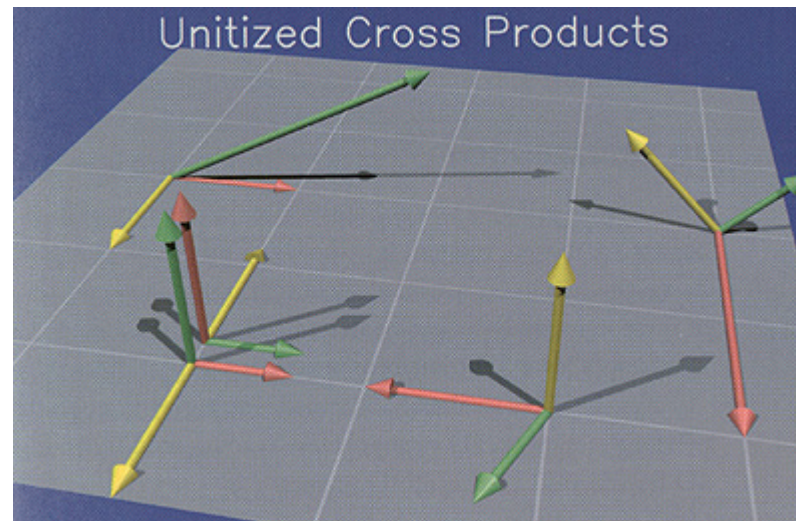
- The next useful operation is the *dot product*. This returns the cosine of the angle between two vectors.
- The dot product of  $(a_1, b_1, c_1)$  and  $(a_2, b_2, c_2)$  is  $a_1.a_2+b_1.b_2+c_1.c_2$ .
- So the dot product of  $(1,0,0)$  and  $(0,1,0)$  is  $1.0+0.1+0.0 = 0$  which implies angle between them is 90 degrees. Correct !





## 3D Vectors

- Finally we have another operation called the *cross product* that can be carried out on two vectors.
- Unlike the dot product, the cross product of two vectors gives back another vector.
- The handy thing about it is that the vector it returns is perpendicular to *both* of the originals. In the picture below the yellow vectors are all cross products of the red and green.





## 3D Vectors

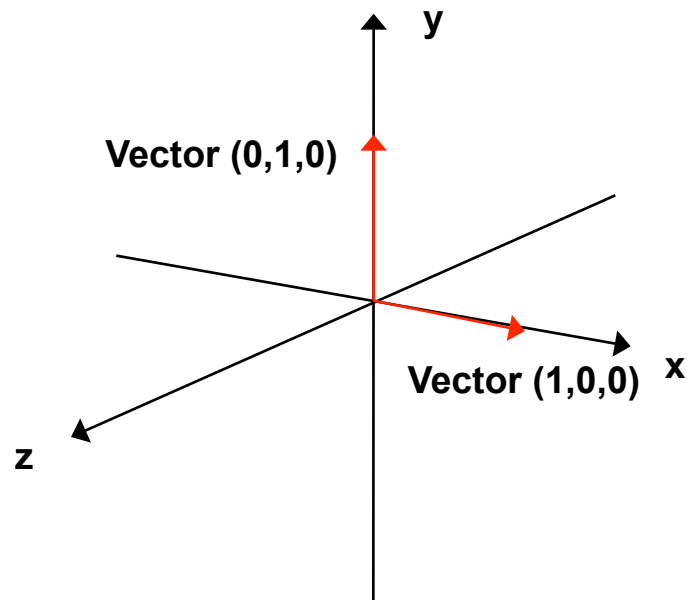
- Calculate the cross product of two vectors  $(a_x, a_y, a_z)$  and  $(b_x, b_y, b_z)$  as follows.
- Cross product is the vector  $(c_x, c_y, c_z)$  where

$$c_x = (a_y b_z - a_z b_y)$$

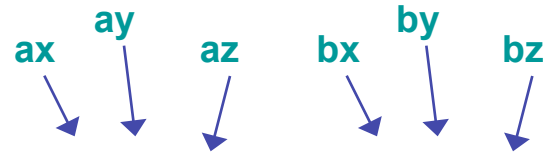
$$c_y = (a_z b_x - a_x b_z)$$

$$c_z = (a_x b_y - a_y b_x)$$

- So suppose we have the two vectors  $(0, 1, 0)$  and  $(1, 0, 0)$



# 3D Vectors



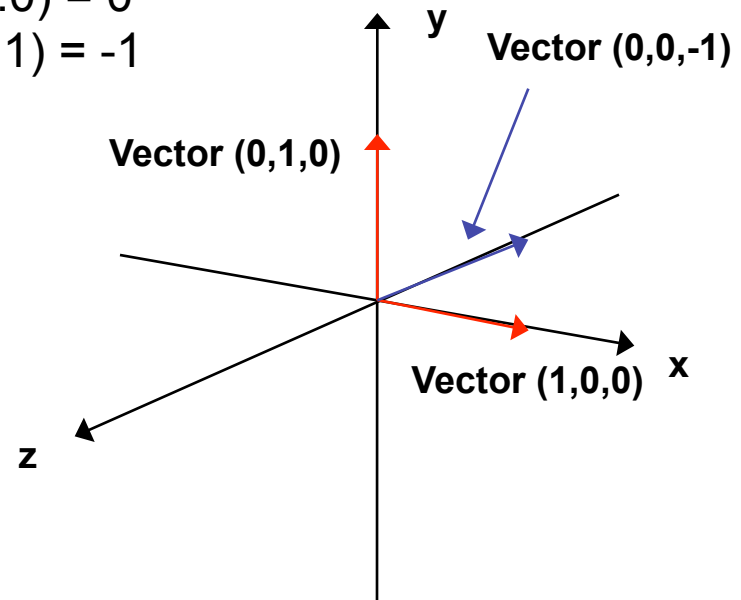
- Calculate the cross product of  $(0, 1, 0)$  and  $(1, 0, 0)$  as follows.
- Cross product is the vector  $(cx, cy, cz)$  where

$$cx = (ay.bz - az.by) = (1.0 - 0.0) = 0$$

$$cy = (az.bx - ax.bz) = (0.1 - 0.0) = 0$$

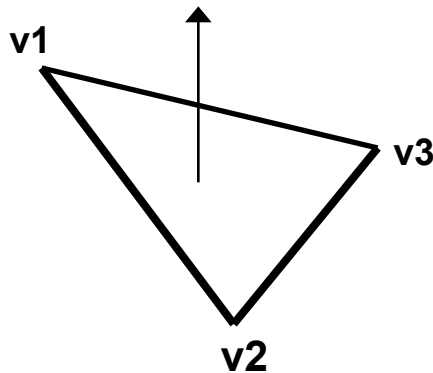
$$cz = (ax.by - ay.bx) = (0.0 - 1.1) = -1$$

Gives us the vector  $(0,0,-1)$

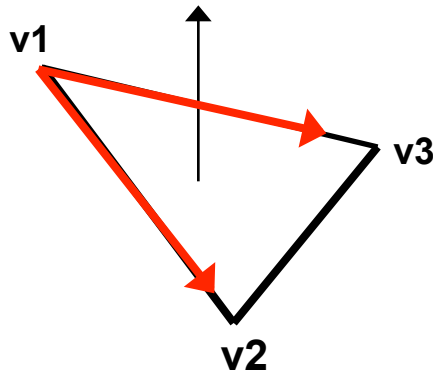


# Normal Vectors to Triangles

- We have talked already about normal vectors
- How would we calculate a normal vector to a 3D triangle?
- Luckily there's a simple method ... take the following triangle ...



- The normal vector is shown pointing upwards and perpendicular to the surface.



- Now imagine a vector pointing from  $v_1$  to  $v_2$  and another one pointing from  $v_1$  to  $v_3$  (as shown on the left in red).
- The normal vector is the one that is perpendicular to both of these red vectors.

# Normal Vectors to Triangles

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- So all we have to do is calculate these red vectors and then get their crossproduct. That's the normal vector.
- How do we calculate them? To get the vector pointing a to b just subtract a from b.
- So the two red vectors are  $v_2 - v_1$  and  $v_3 - v_1$  where  $v_1, v_2$ , and  $v_3$  are the vertices of the triangle.
- The vector should be normalised by finding its length and dividing each component by it. Now it's the unit normal.
- So what use is it knowing the normal vector to a polygon anyway?
- Well, for one thing, they allow us to do Hidden-Surface Removal (later)!

# Polygon Plane Equations

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- The equation of a plane is linear and of the form

$$Ax + By + Cz + D = 0$$

- The (A,B,C) here are the components of the normal vector to the plane,  $N = (A,B,C)$ . If we have three points  $(x_1,y_1,z_1)$ ,  $(x_2,y_2,z_2)$  and  $(x_3,y_3,z_3)$  we can find the normal vector as seen previously.
- We can find the D value by substituting any point on the plane  $(x,y,z)$  with the normal vector  $(A,B,C)$  into the equation.
- Now we have the full plane equation

## Polygon Plane Equations

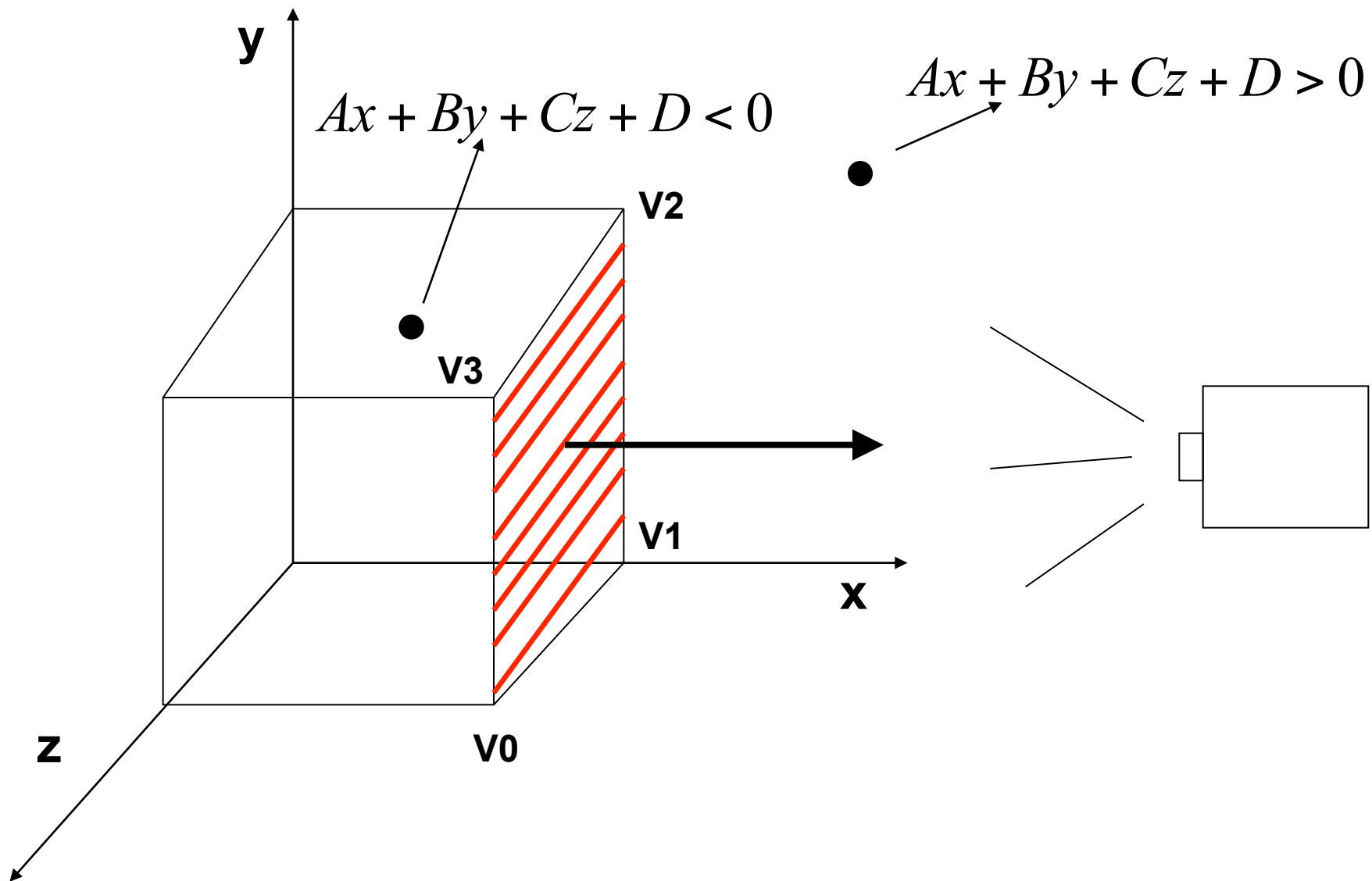
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- if  $Ax + By + Cz + D < 0$  the point (x, y, z) is inside the surface
- if  $Ax + By + Cz + D > 0$  the point (x, y, z) is outside the surface
- The inside of a polygon surface is **toward the object interior**
- The outside of a polygon surface is **toward the object exterior**
- If we specify polygon vertex coordinates in a **counter-clockwise direction** in a **right hand coordinate system** when viewing the outer side of the of the plane these equations will be satisfied
- The orientation of the of the polygon surface is given by the surface normal (N), that is a vector perpendicular to the surface

$$\mathbf{N} = (A, B, C)$$

- The surface normal direction will be from inside to out if the vertex direction/viewing direction/coordinate system direction assumptions made above are satisfied

# Polygon surface normal



## Why plane equations?

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- To produce an input display of a 3-d object we must process the representation of that object through **several steps, transformation of world coordinates to viewing coordinates**, then to **device coordinates**; **identification of visible surfaces** and the application of **surface rendering techniques**
- Knowing the **orientation of the polygonal planes in space** gives us an insight into how the **illumination model** will affect the surface (later)
- Secondly knowing whether points lie inside or outside a surface allows us to make various intersection tests with other structures in the scene and allows us to determine if other **structures are in front of/behind a polygon (later)**



## Review and Overview

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- A major consideration in the generation of realistic graphics displays of 3-d objects is **determining which parts/components of these objects are visible** for a particular viewing direction
- Visible Surface Detection methodologies exist for finding **backfaces** (back-face detection based on surface normals) and **surfaces obscured** by other surfaces (using the depth buffer) (later!)
- This week we will look at creating realistic rendering of the visible surfaces
- This is achieved using **lighting** and **shading models**
- A lighting model is a mathematical/computational technique for computing the colour value at a single point on a 3D surface.
- A shading model is a mathematical/computational technique for colouring an entire surface.
- In particular we will look at the **Phong lighting model** and the **Gouraud shading algorithm**

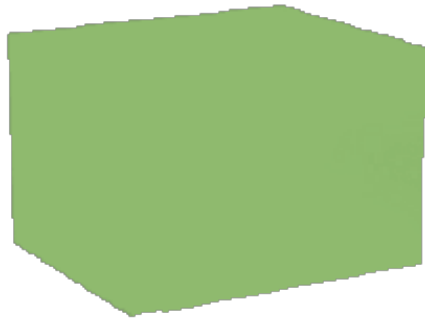
# Introduction to Lighting

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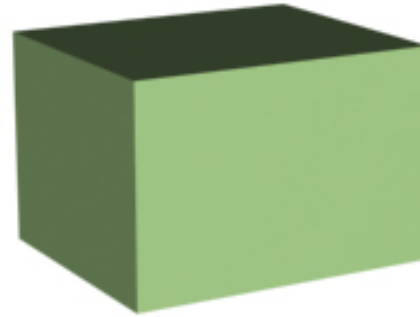
- So we need to choose a **colour/intensity** for each polygon. How do we do this?
- Well one option is that each object is **assigned some basic RGB** colour and then when the object is rendered we colour in its polygons with that colour.
- That's not going to work too well because every polygon will be the **same colour** and hence we won't be able to distinguish them from each other.
- Objects will appear to have **no solidity** or form.
- Our brains get many subtle shape cues from how the **brightness** of an object **varies across its surface**.
- The brightness varies across a surface depending on how much it **faces toward the predominant light**.
- Your brain interprets these brightness variations into **three-dimensional shapes**.

# Introduction to Lighting

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NO!



YES!

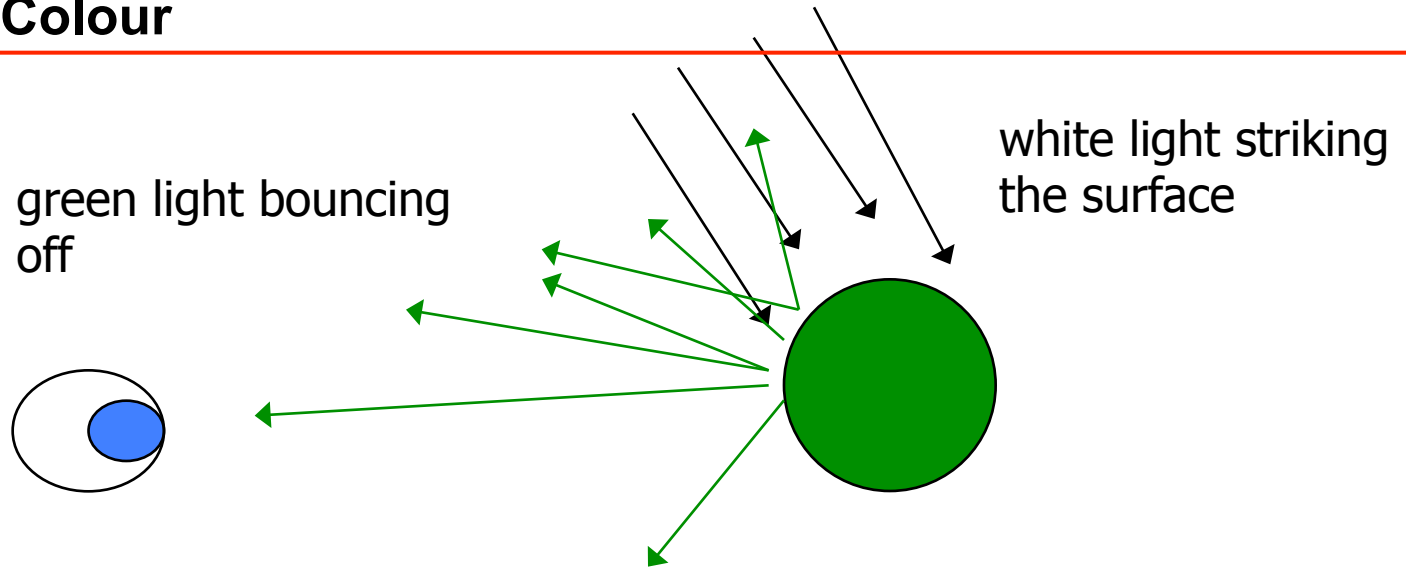
- What we have to do is to model light sources in our scene as well as objects and then **compute colour/intensity values** for polygons **based on their position with respect to these light sources**.
- Only by doing so will we be able to simulate lighting as it occurs in the **real world**.

# Light and Colour

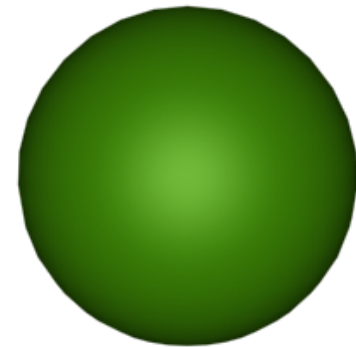
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- A light emitter emits light radiation (rays). When these rays strike an object some of them are **absorbed** into the object, some are **reflected off**, and some are **transmitted through**.
- If we are dealing with just **opaque objects** (not transparent) then the reflected rays dictate how that object appears to the eye.
- Objects are different colours because they reflect and absorb different rays across the spectrum.
- So a **green object** tends to **reflect the green parts of the light** that hits it and absorb the rest giving us the situation on the next slide.

# Light and Colour

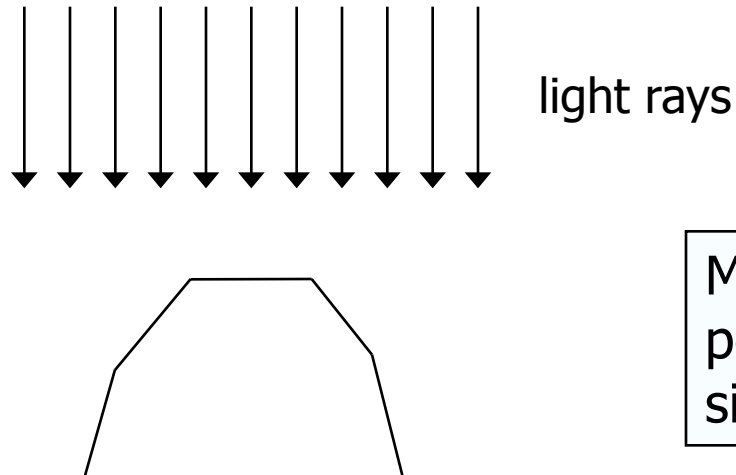


- So it appears green to the eye.
- If we **increase the intensity** of the light source then more light rays will be striking it and hence more will be reflected so the result will be a **brighter shade** of green.
- The sides of the sphere appear darker. Why?



## Light and Colour

- The main reason for this is surface orientation.
- Suppose we have a sphere made up of equally sized polygons.
- Suppose also we are lighting it directly from above.

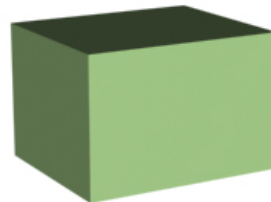


More hit the top  
polygon than the  
side ones!

# Light Sources

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- In computer graphics we often use the concept of a **point source**.
- This is a light source that is a point in space and emits light **equally in all directions**.
- Often we assume that point sources don't get dimmer with distance. This is completely **physically incorrect** and its just a convenience to make the computations easier.
- The **key factor** when lighting a polygon is to consider the **angle** that it makes with the **direction of the light striking** it.
- If the light is striking it from a **perpendicular direction** the polygon should be lit a brighter shade of the base colour.
- If the light is striking it at an **oblique angle** it should be lit a **darker shade**.
- Where's the light source here?



# Lighting Models

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- It's all very well being able to specify light sources in a scene.
- How do we go about **computing lighting values**?
- Before we start talking about this we should make a distinction between **lighting models** and **shading models**. We use the term model in its mathematical/scientific sense ...
- A lighting model is a mathematical/computational technique for computing the **colour value** at a **single point** on a 3D surface.
- A shading model is a mathematical/computational technique for **colouring** an **entire surface**.
- We will start by looking at the famous **Phong Lighting Model**.



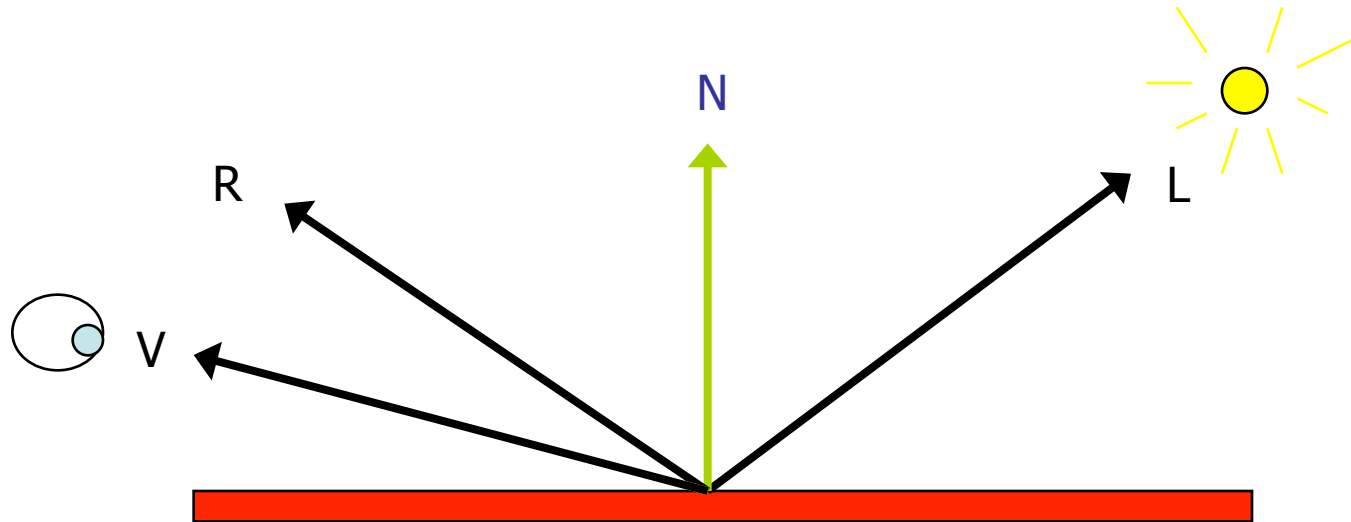
# The Phong Model

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- The Phong lighting model allows us to compute the **colour/intensity** of an object at a **particular point** when viewed from a **particular direction**.
- The exact physics of how this works is extremely complicated but fortunately in computer graphics we can get reasonable results by making some **assumptions and approximations**.
- So the Phong model is **not a direct implementation** of the physics.
- To compute the lighting for a point according to the Phong model we need to know the following:
  - which way the surface is facing (i.e. the normal vector **N**)
  - where the light is coming from (a vector **L** towards the light source)
  - based on **L** and **N** we can compute a reflection vector **R**.
  - the direction we are looking from (the view vector **V**)
  - various surface properties (later)
- The diagram overleaf shows these vectors.

# The Phong Model

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All of these vectors should be unit vectors!

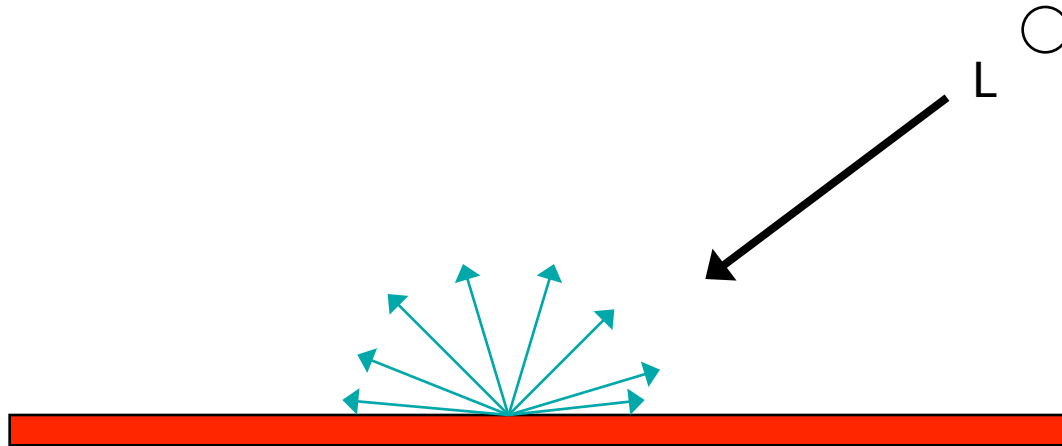
# The Phong Model

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- So what are the **surface properties** that have to be defined?
- These refer to the **way that light will reflect** off an object.
- A simple lighting model would be to assign an **RGB value to an object** and then do some sort of computation to **return brighter or darker values** of this RGB value **based on the position** of the point in question.
- Things are not, however quite as simple as this.
- For the purposes of the Phong model we define two different ways in which light can reflect off an object's surface – **diffuse reflection** and **specular reflection**.
- **Diffuse reflection** means that when light strikes the surface of an object, the reflected light is **scattered equally in all directions**.
- The **diffuse colour** that results is what we think of as the **normal colour** of the object.

## Diffuse Reflection with Phong

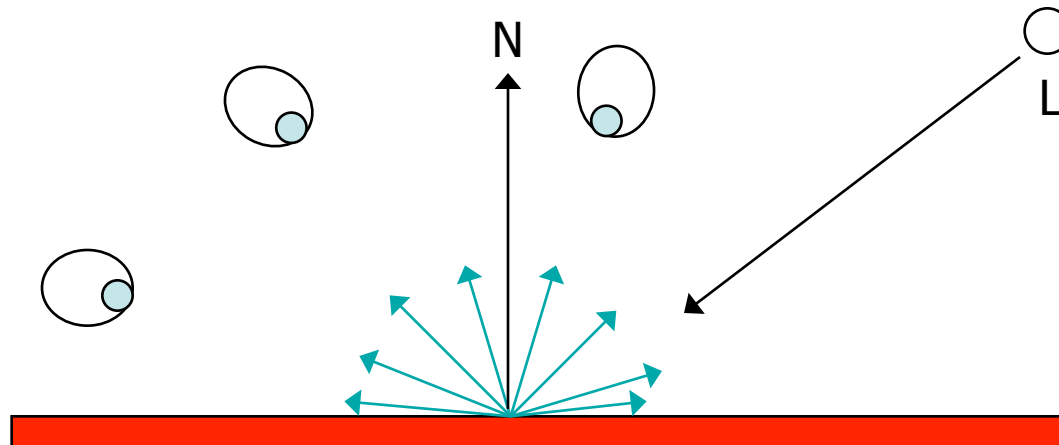
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Diffuse Reflection – Light reflected equally in all directions

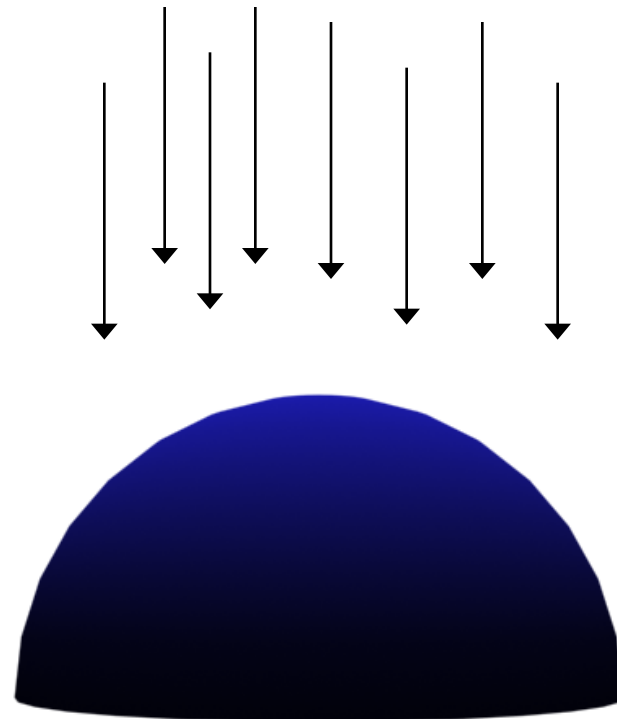
## Diffuse Reflection with Phong

- The light that is reflected is the **base colour** of the object. So if the object is red then the **diffuse reflection** causes **red light** to be reflected off the surface of the object.
- **Crucial Point ! – The same light is reflected in all directions.** This means that if an object just exhibits diffuse reflection then it will **look the same from all viewing angles**.



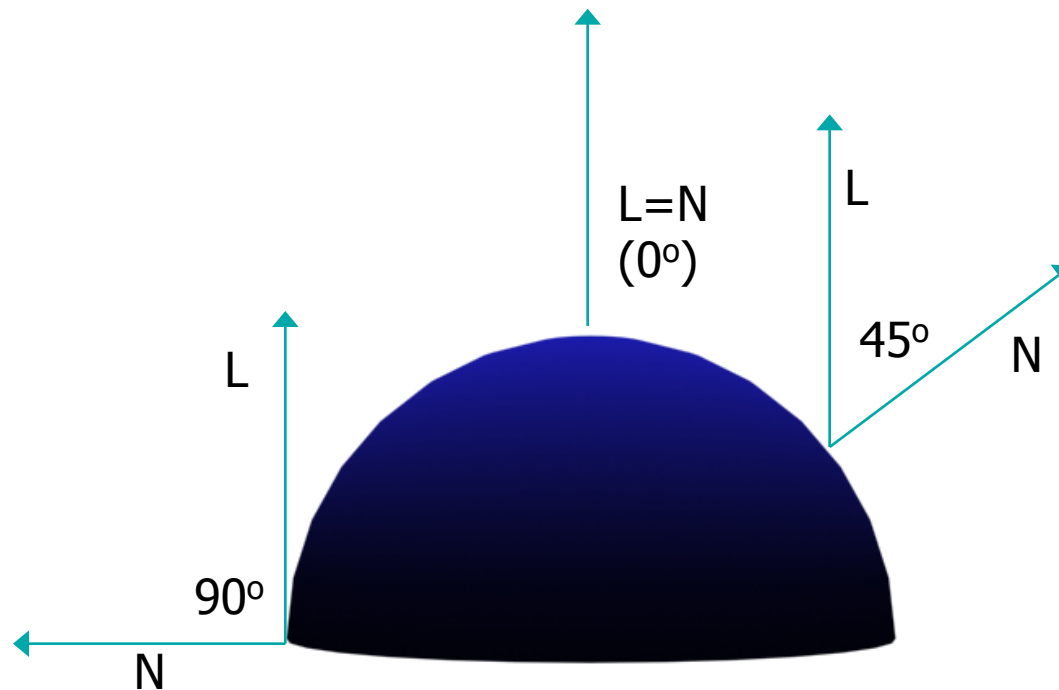
## Diffuse Reflection with Phong

- **Dull matte** (non-shiny) objects are diffuse reflectors.
- So the viewing angle is not significant with diffuse reflection but the **angle** that the **light strikes the surface** most definitely is.
- If the light is **shining flat** onto the surface, it illuminates more than if it is **grazing the surface**.
- Light shining directly down on the top of a sphere.
- **Polygons at the top** are **brighter** because the **rays** are hitting directly **perpendicular**.
- Another way of looking at this is that the **angle between the surface normal (N) and the direction to the light source (L)** is close to **0**.
- See overleaf.



## Diffuse Reflection with Phong

- For the **top polygon** the direction to the **light source** (L) is the **same** as the **surface normal** (N) so the angle is  **$0^\circ$**  => maximum diffuse reflection.
- For the **right polygon** L makes an angle of  **$45^\circ$**  with the **surface normal**.
- For the one on the **left** the angle is  **$90^\circ$** . => **minimum diffuse reflection** (i.e. none)



## Diffuse Reflection with Phong

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- So in other words the **amount of diffuse reflection** is directly **proportional** to the **angle** between the surface normal (**N**) and the light direction (**L**).
- We use the following formula to calculate it:

$$Id_r = I_s \cdot kd_r \cdot \cos \theta$$

$$Id_g = I_s \cdot kd_g \cdot \cos \theta$$

$$Id_b = I_s \cdot kd_b \cdot \cos \theta$$

- What do all these terms mean ....
- $I_{dr}$  is the **intensity** (strength) of the **diffusely reflected red light** from the surface. In practice it would usually be a number between 0 and 255.
- Similarly  $I_{dg}$  is the green and  $I_{db}$  is the blue.



## Diffuse Reflection with Phong

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- So these three formulae in combination give us an **RGB colour** for a particular point.
- $I_s$  is the **strength of the light source**. I am assuming that our light sources emit **white light**. Therefore the amount of red, green, and blue in the light is equal.
- So this term is basically a number. It has **no direct physical justification** in terms of Watts or anything like that. It's really just something we can turn up and turn down until "**things look right**".

## Diffuse Reflection with Phong

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$$Id_r = I_s \cdot kd_r \cdot \cos \theta$$

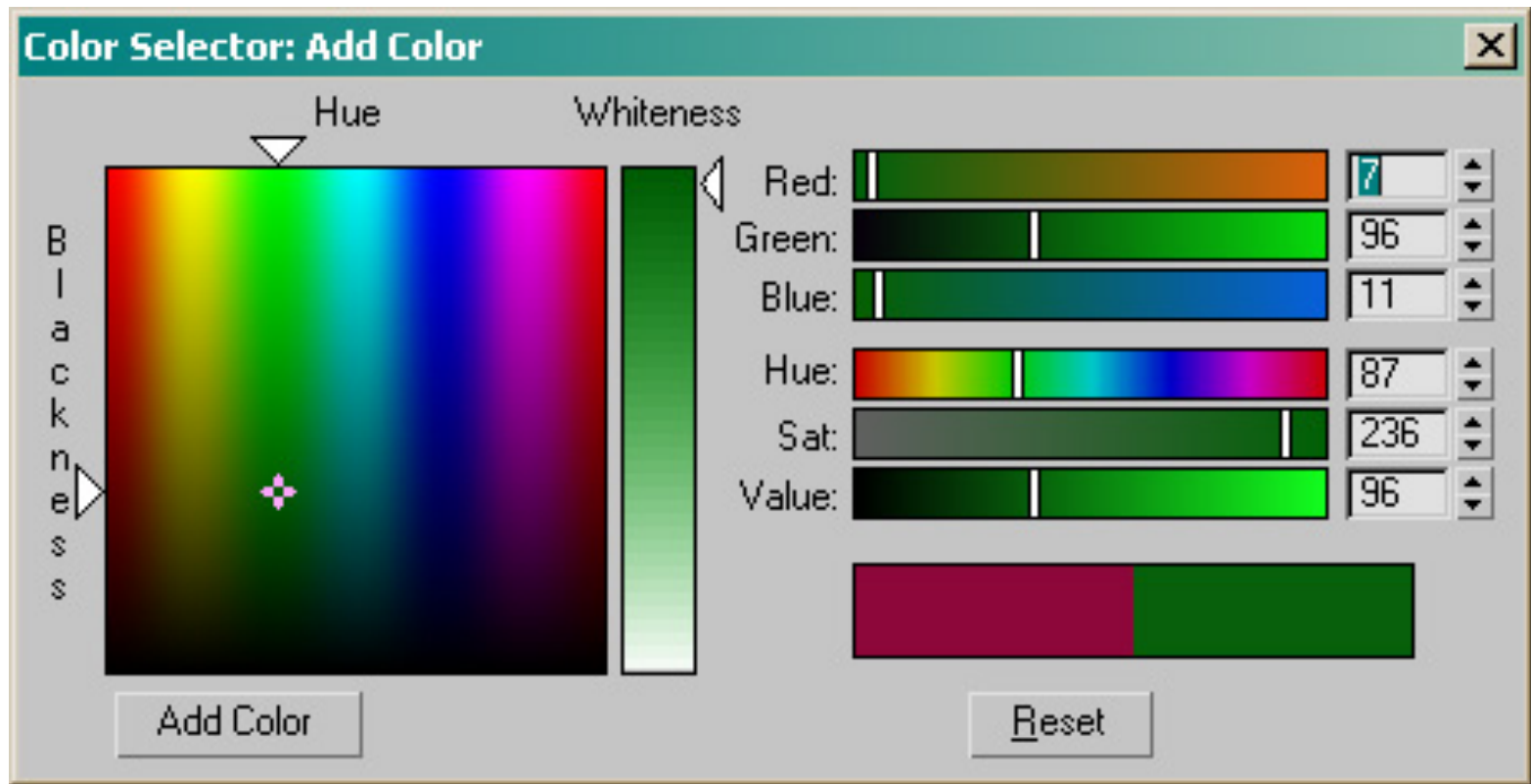
$$Id_g = I_s \cdot kd_g \cdot \cos \theta$$

$$Id_b = I_s \cdot kd_b \cdot \cos \theta$$

- Other terms in the formula.
- $kdr$  is the **red diffuse reflection co-efficient** for the surface.
- Effectively this means the **proportion of the red light** that strikes the surface that is **diffusely reflected**. It's specified as a number between 0 and 1.
- So, if a surface is **very red** it will have a **kdr close to 1**, otherwise close to **0**.
- $kdg$  and  $kdb$  are the green and blue diffuse co-efficients.

## Diffuse Reflection with Phong

- This governs the base colour of the object. So suppose we want an object that has the following colour (7,96,11):



## Diffuse Reflection with Phong

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- The modeling software will have to **scale things** so that the red component is a **number between 0 and 1** rather than a number between 0 and 255. Ditto for green and blue i.e..

$$kd_r = 7 / 255 = .035$$

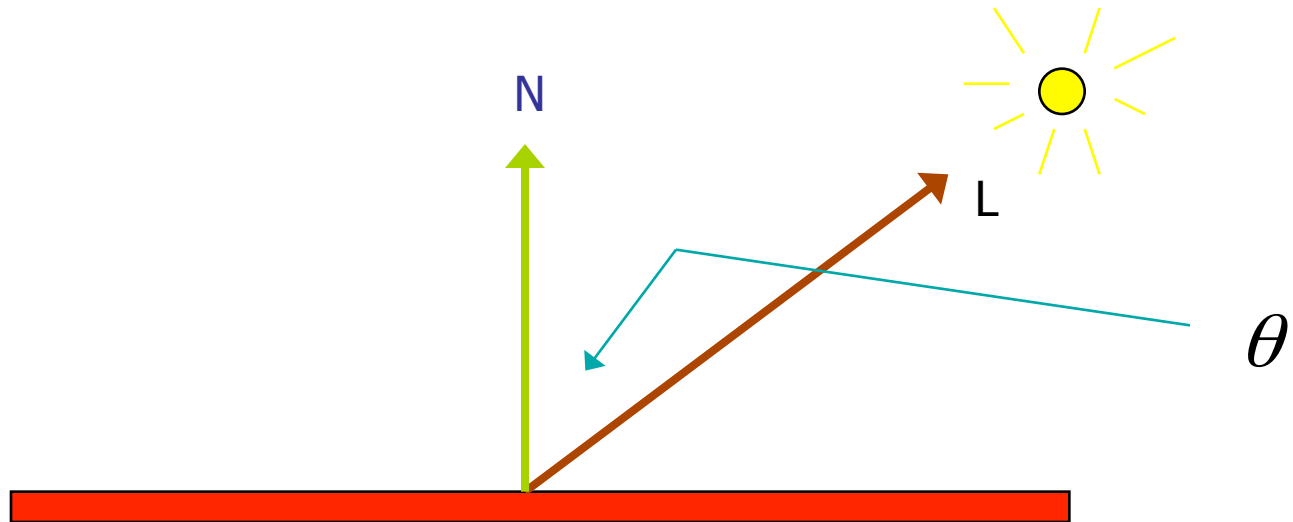
$$kd_g = 96 / 255 = .376$$

$$kd_b = 11 / 255 = .043$$

- If we wanted a **surface which is pure** white (255,255,255) the diffuse coefficients would be set to (255/255,255/255,255/255)=(1,1,1).
- Similarly black would be (0,0,0).

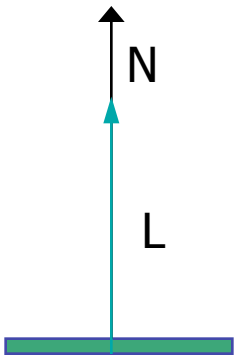
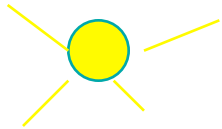
## Diffuse Reflection with Phong

- Finally the cosine term ...  $\cos \theta$
- This is the cos of the **angle between** the normal vector **N** and the light **direction L**. Calculate as the **dot product** of N and L.

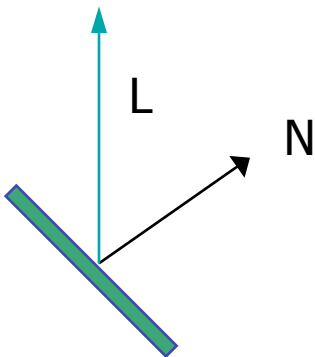
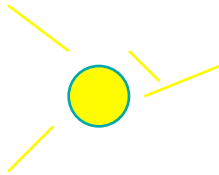


## Diffuse Reflection with Phong

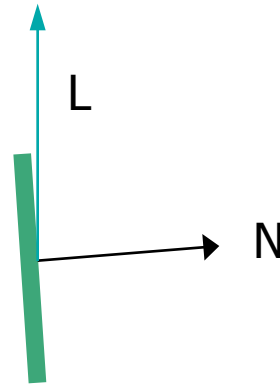
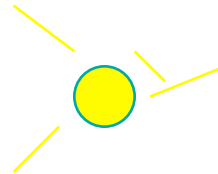
- Lets look at a few examples:  $\cos \theta$
- Suppose the diffuse co-efficients are as we discussed already (0.035, .376, .043) and suppose  $I_s$  is 510.
- Now let's look at three different cases.



$$\theta = 0^\circ$$



$$\theta = 45^\circ$$



$$\theta = 89^\circ$$

## Diffuse Reflection with Phong

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- The first case we get:

$$Id_r = (510)(.035)(\cos 0) = (17.85)(1) = 18$$

$$Id_g = (510)(.376)(\cos 0) = (191.76)(1) = 192$$

$$Id_b = (510)(.043)(\cos 0) = (21.93)(1) = 22$$

- So the colour we see is (18,192,22) which is



## Diffuse Reflection with Phong

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- The second case we get:

$$Id_r = (510)(.035)(\cos 45) = (17.85)(.707) = 13$$

$$Id_g = (510)(.376)(\cos 45) = (191.76)(.707) = 136$$

$$Id_b = (510)(.043)(\cos 45) = (21.93)(.707) = 16$$

- So the colour we see is (13,136,16) which is a darker shade of the same colour.





## Diffuse Reflection with Phong

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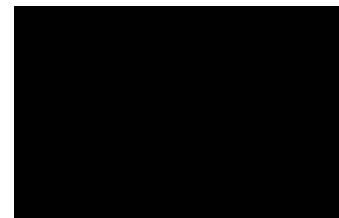
- The third case we get:

$$Id_r = (510)(.035)(\cos 89) = (17.85)(.017) = .311 = 0$$

$$Id_g = (510)(.376)(\cos 89) = (191.76)(.017) = 3.25 = 3$$

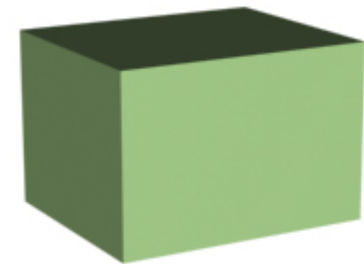
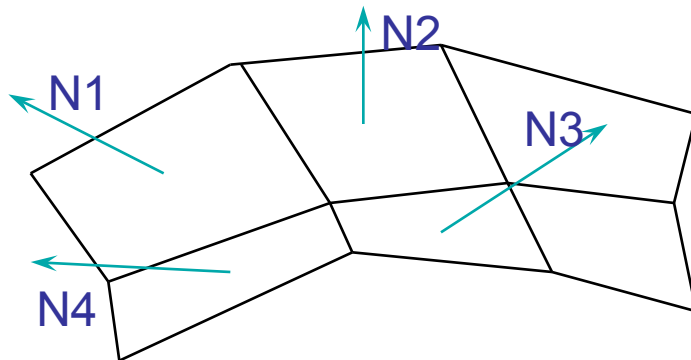
$$Id_b = (510)(.043)(\cos 89) = (21.93)(.017) = .37 = 0$$

- So the colour we see is (0,3,0) which is almost black



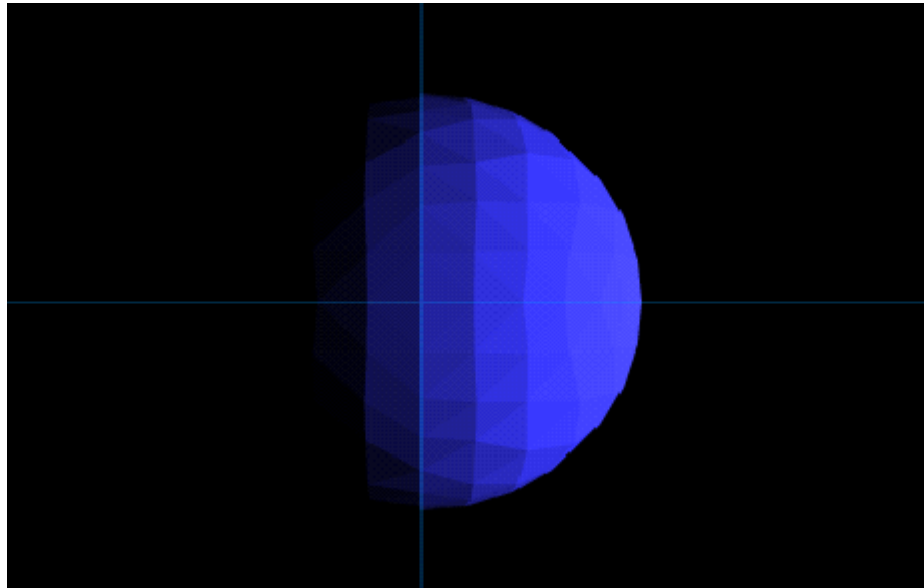
# Constant Shading

- We saw how to compute a lighting value (based on diffuse reflection) for a **point on an polygon surface**.
- We saw how to represent an **object as a mesh of polygons**.
- We can then render our model using a technique known as **constant shading**. This technique proceeds as follows:
  - Pick a **point** on the surface of the polygon
  - **Apply the lighting model to get a colour value for this point** (do this based on the normal vector for the polygon)
  - **Project the polygon** and then **fill the projected polygon with this colour**.



# Constant Shading

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- This example doesn't look too good.
- The difference with this object is that the mesh is an approximation of a curved surface.

## Light Sources

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- We also commonly use a concept called **Ambient Light**. This is a convenient hack implemented in most graphics packages and is intended to model the light bouncing around the scene and being reflected from object to object.
- It is some **constant light intensity** that is assumed to strike all points on all surfaces.
- You can think of it as the **all surfaces emitting rays of light in all directions**, therefore where ever the view point is they will be visible.
- Any part of a scene **that is not directly lit** (e.g. under a desk) will **appear black** unless we add in this ambient light factor.
- Because it is constant it **does nothing for shape perception** but prevents **indirectly lit areas** of the scene from **appearing completely black**.
- Overleaf is a scene lit with **Ambient light only**.
- It simulates a constant level of illumination throughout the scene.

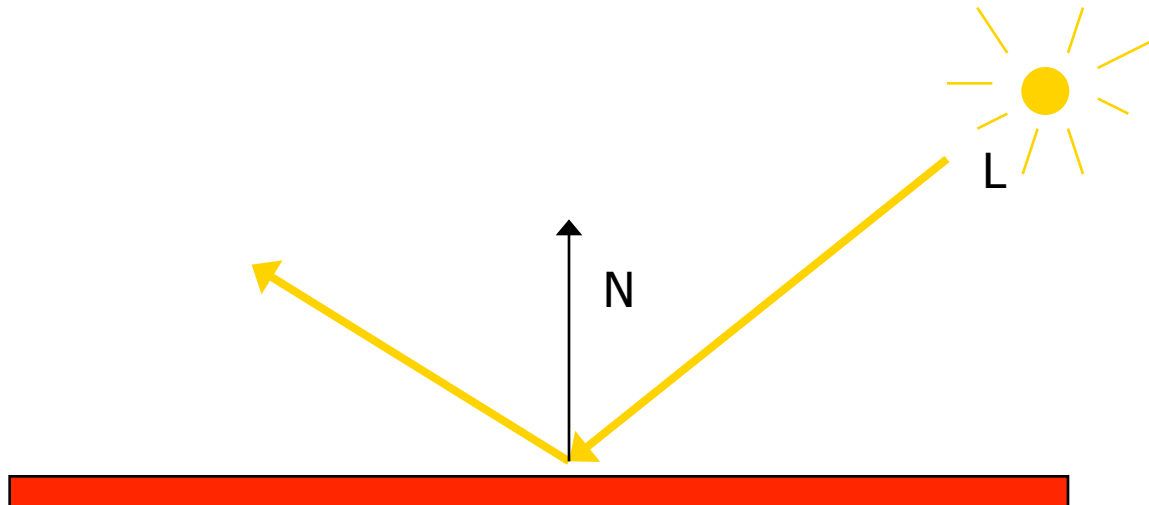
# Light Sources

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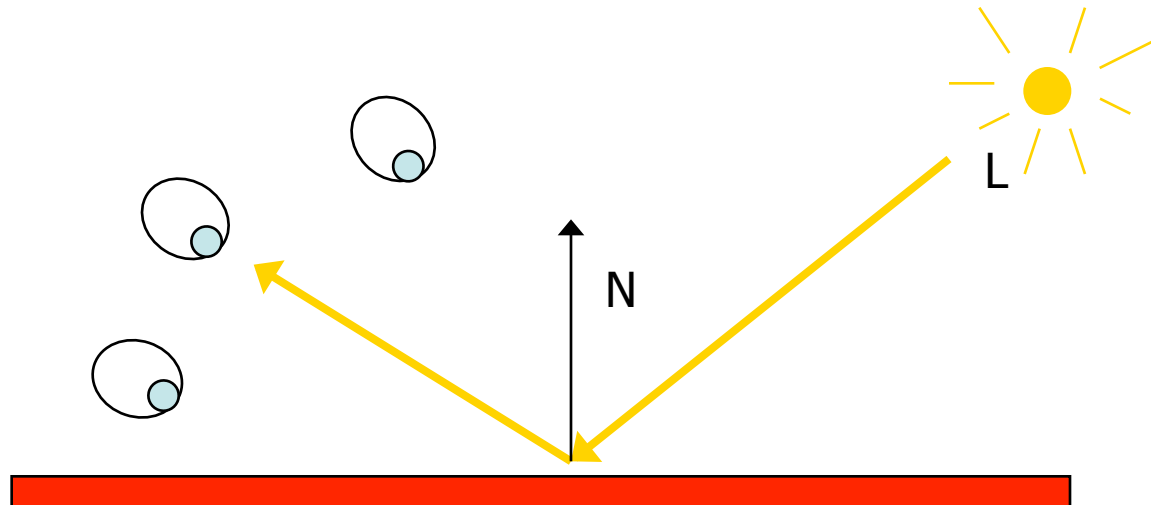
# Specular Reflection with Phong

- Diffuse reflection handles dull matte surfaces but what about things that are **shiny**?
- Things get a bit trickier in this case and is handled by the concept of **specular reflection**.
- Specular reflection occurs when light reflects off a surface **in one principal direction**.



# Specular Reflection with Phong

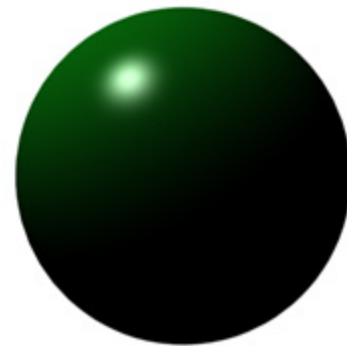
- It reflects in the direction of the **Reflection vector** which can be calculated using the incoming **light direction** and the **surface normal**.
- **Shiny surfaces exhibit specular reflection.**
- In this case the angle at which we are looking at the point has a **major effect on what we see.**



## Specular Reflection with Phong

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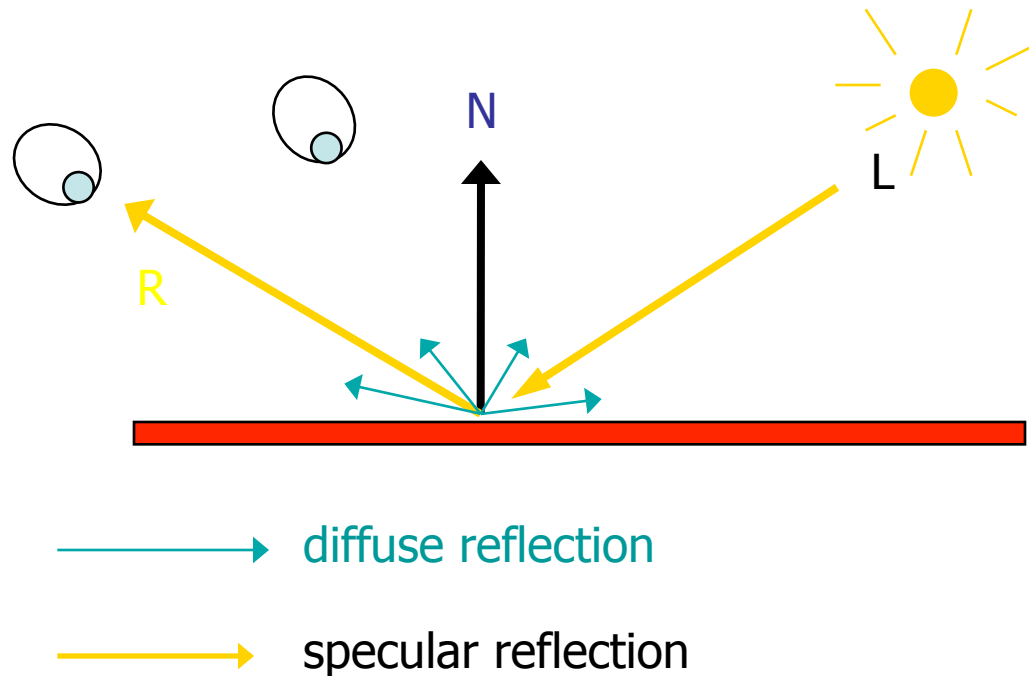
- In fact, on the diagram on the previous slide, only **one of the viewpoints** will **receive any reflected light** at all!
- If the **eye moved away** from this viewing angle it **wouldn't perceive any reflected light**.
- We can see this effect in practice by **looking at a shiny object**, fixing our **gaze on a point**, and then moving our viewpoint around.
- Specular reflection causes a **phenomenon** called **specular highlights**. The classic example of this is the ball of light we perceive on the surface of a **pool ball**.





# Specular Reflection with Phong

- In computer graphics when we use the Phong model we assume that objects display a **mixture of diffuse and specular reflection** so the situation is as below.



## Specular Reflection with Phong

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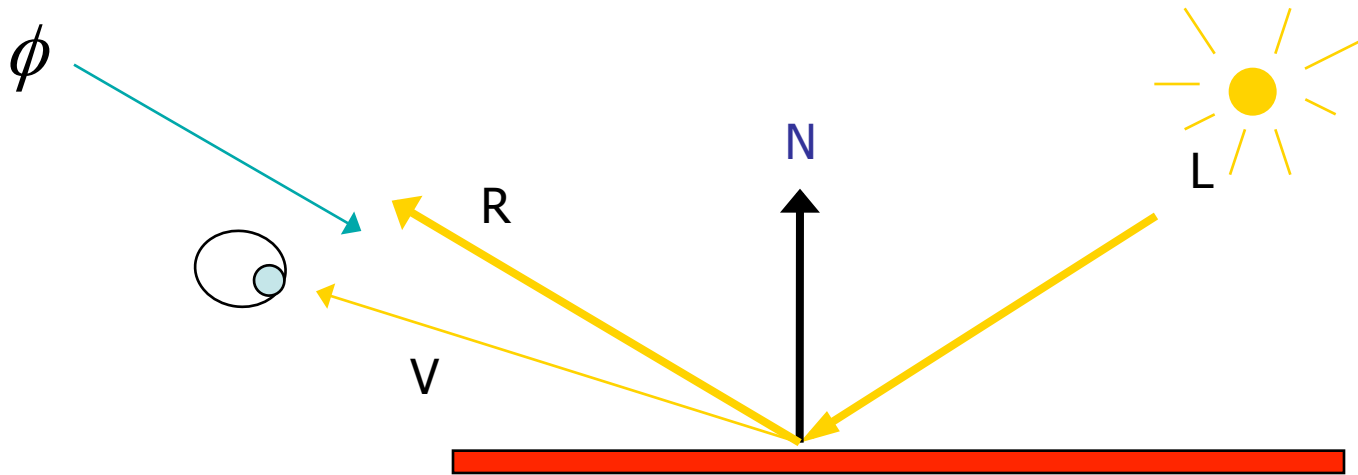
- Furthermore we assume that the **specular reflection is white**. In other words it does **not split incoming light** into colour components.
- If you look at the diagram on the previous page. The leftmost viewpoint is **right in the path of the specular reflection** so it will perceive a **mixture** of red diffuse (assuming the surface is red) and white specular i.e. a highlight!
- The other viewpoint will receive **no specular** and just **red diffuse**.
- The formula to calculate the specular part is:

$$I_{sp} = I_s . k_s . (\cos \phi)^n$$

- So  $I_{sp}$  is the **intensity of the specularly reflected light**.  $I_s$  is the strength of the light source as before.
- $k_s$  is the **specular reflection co-efficient** associated with the surface.

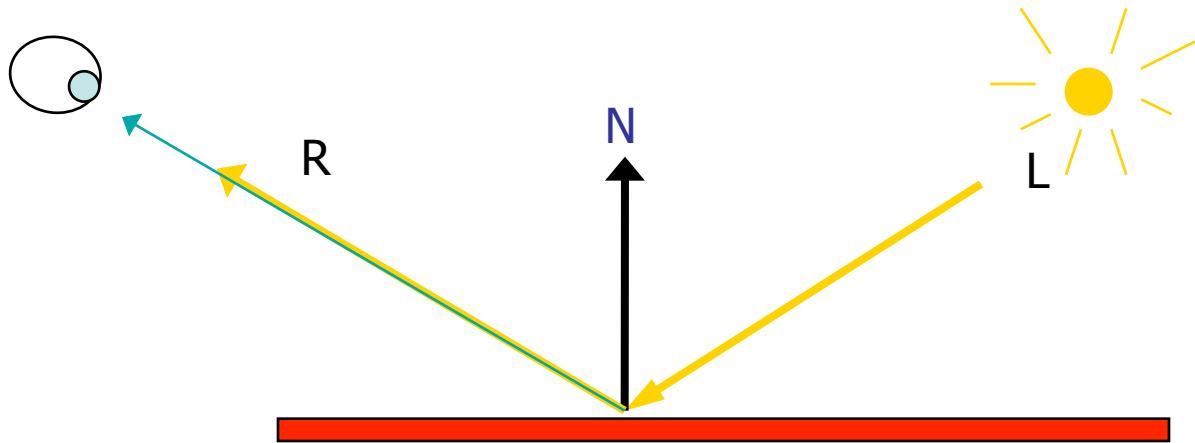
## Specular Reflection with Phong

- Intuitively  **$k_s$**  is the **proportion of the incoming light** that is **reflected** in a **specular manner**. Again it's a number between 0 and 1.
- **Dull matte** surfaces would have  **$k_s$  of 0**, meaning none of the light is specularly reflected.
- The angle  $\phi$  is the angle between the reflection direction (R) and the viewing direction (V).



## Specular Reflection with Phong

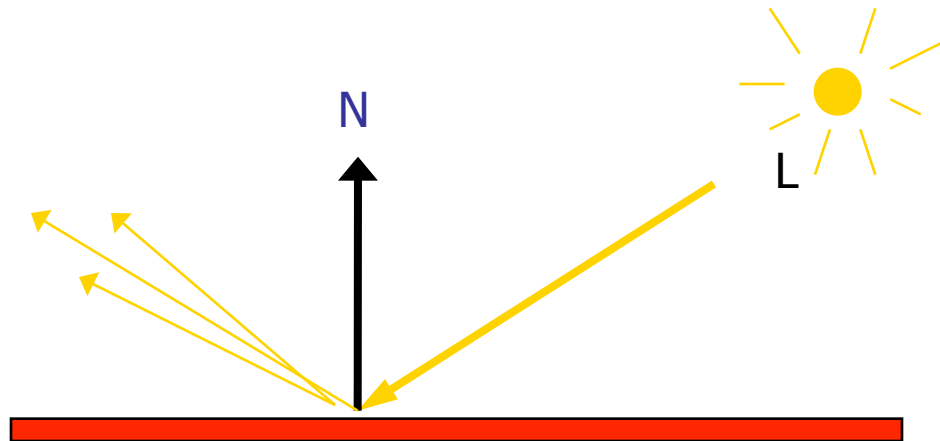
- Suppose that **angle is zero**..... Then we have the situation below.



- A cosine of zero gives 1, a cosine of 45 gives .707, a cosine of 90 gives 0.
- So in other words, because of the cosine term we get **maximum specular reflection** when the **angle is zero** or when we are looking directly down the specular reflection angle.

# Specular Reflection with Phong

- What about  $n$  ?
- The **cosine term is raised to the power of  $n$**  which is the **specular reflection parameter**.
- In reality **light is not specularly reflected along a single reflection direction**. It tends to be **reflected over a cone of directions** as shown below.



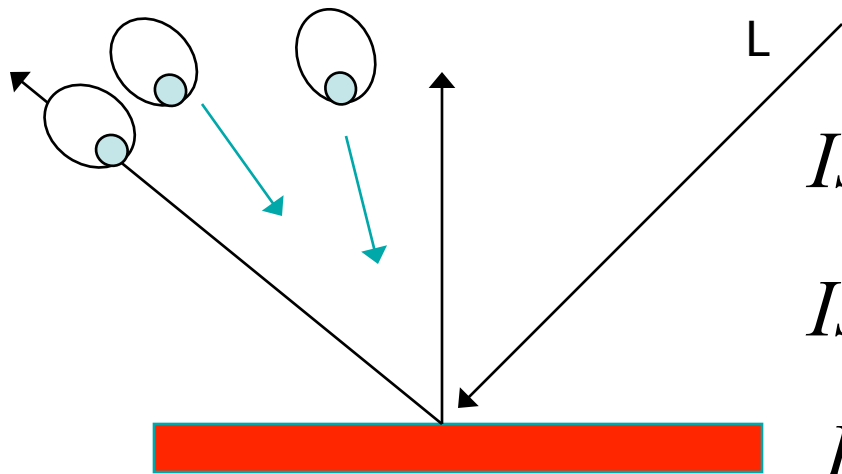
## Specular Reflection with Phong

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- **Different** types of **surfaces** have different **width cones**.
- For example **extremely shiny surfaces** like polished silver are almost mirror-like and would **reflect over a very narrow cone**. A mirror is a perfect specular reflector and reflects along a single line.
- Other shiny surfaces like **plastic** or **wood** reflect over a **wider cone** of directions.
- The **specular reflection parameter** controls the **width of the cone over** which the surface reflects specularly.
- **Extremely shiny** surfaces would have parameters of **100** or more.
- Let's take an **example** where we have two surfaces – one with **n of 2** and one of **n of 200** to see how this works.
- Suppose **Is** , the light strength is **510** and **ks**, the specular reflection coefficient of the surface is **.5**.

## Specular Reflection with Phong

- We'll measure the specular reflection at three different viewing angles (0, 10, 45) degrees for each surface.



$$I_{sp1} = (510)(.5)(\cos 0)^2 = 255$$

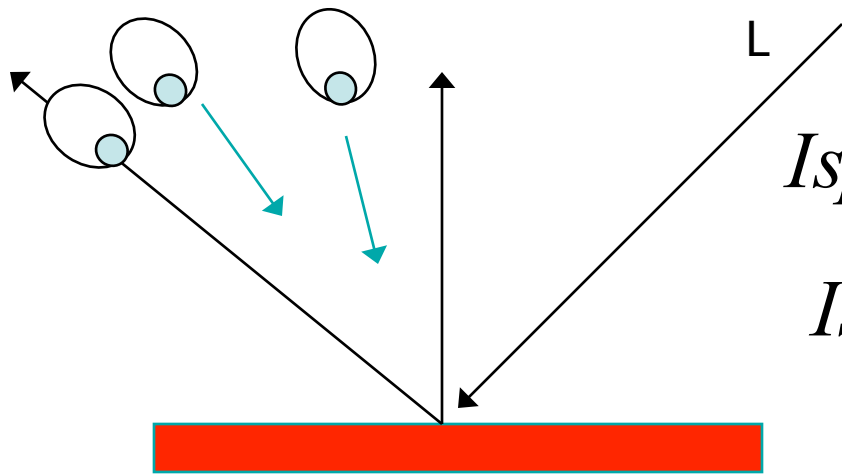
$$I_{sp2} = (510)(.5)(\cos 10)^2 = 247$$

$$I_{sp3} = (510)(.5)(\cos 45)^2 = 127$$

Even at a **viewing angle of 45 degrees** we are still seeing a fair amount of specular reflection. So a parameter of **2 means a very wide cone**

## Specular Reflection with Phong

- Now let's change the parameter to 200.



$$I_{sp1} = (510)(.5)(\cos 0)^{200} = 255$$

$$I_{sp2} = (510)(.5)(\cos 10)^{200} = 12$$

$$I_{sp3} = (510)(.5)(\cos 45)^{200} = 0$$

With a parameter of 200 **we get the same at 0**, much less at 10, and **none at all at 45 degrees**. So the cone is much tighter and we get a much shinier surface.



# Specular Reflection with Phong

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$ks=1, n=30, kd=0$

Wide cone, no colour  
because of lack of  
Diffuse component ( $kd$ )



$ks=1, n=75, kd=0$

Narrower cone because of  
larger  $n$ .



$ks=1, n=30, kd=\text{"blue"}$

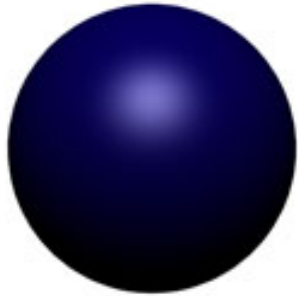
Wide cone, background  
colour because we have  
added diffuse colour.



$ks=1, n=75, kd=\text{"blue"}$

Narrower specular cone

## Specular Reflection with Phong



$ks=.5, n=30, kd=\text{"blue"}$

Wide cone, less specular  
Reflection ( $ks$ )



$ks=.5, n=75, kd=\text{"blue"}$

Narrower cone because of  
larger  $n$ .

- The above examples are the same as the second pair on the last slide except there is half as much specular reflection in each ( $ks$  is  $.5$ ). Results are more natural looking?