

# **Introduction to Illumination Models**

# Visual Realism Requirements

- Light Sources
- Materials (e.g., plastic, metal)
- Shading Models
- Depth Buffer Hidden Surface Removal
- Textures
- Reflections
- Shadows

# Rendering Objects

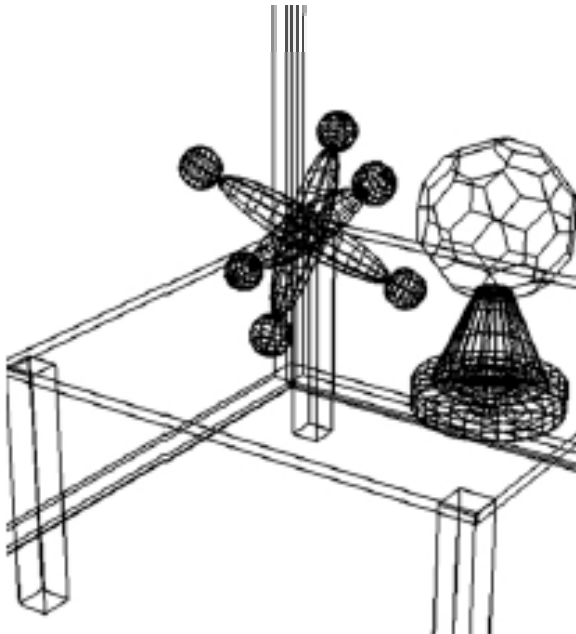
- We want to make the objects look visually interesting, realistic, or both.
- Develop methods of **rendering** for the objects of interest.
- Rendering: ***computes*** how each pixel of a picture should look using different shading models.

## Rendering Objects (2)

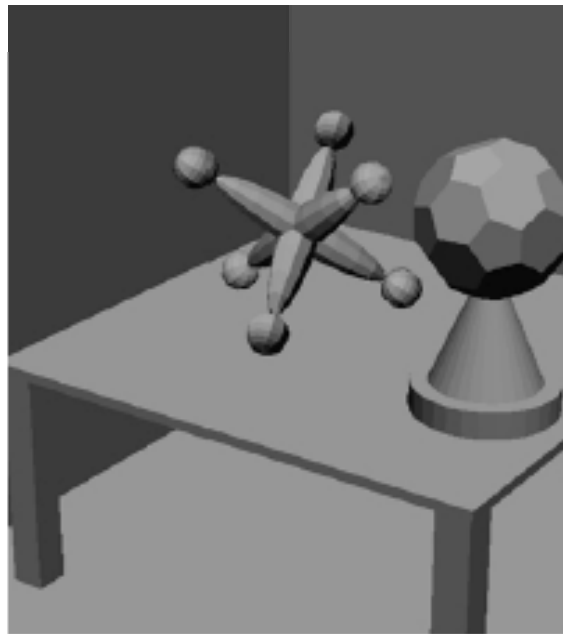
- Much of rendering is based on different **shading models**,
  - describes how light from light sources interacts with objects in a scene.
- It is impractical to simulate all of the physical principles of light, scattering and reflection.
- A number of approximate models have been invented that do a good job and produce various levels of realism.

# Rendering

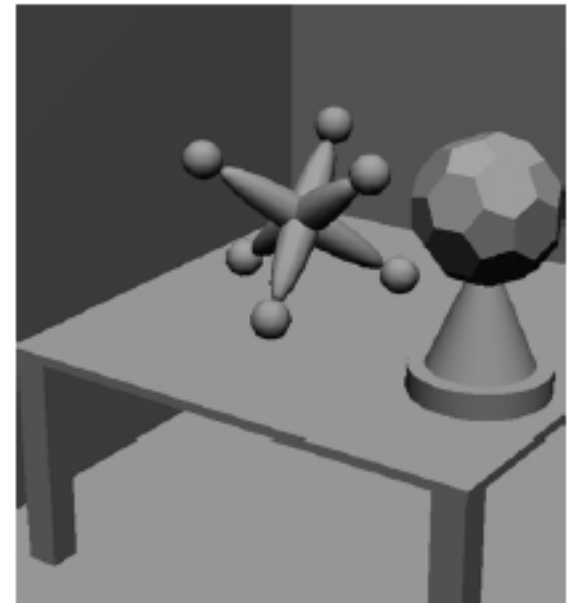
- Example: Compare mesh objects drawn using wire-frame, flat shading, smooth (Gouraud) shading



a)

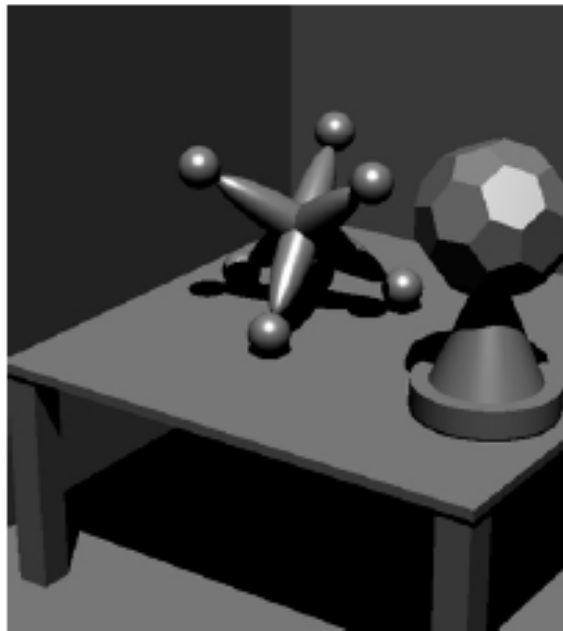
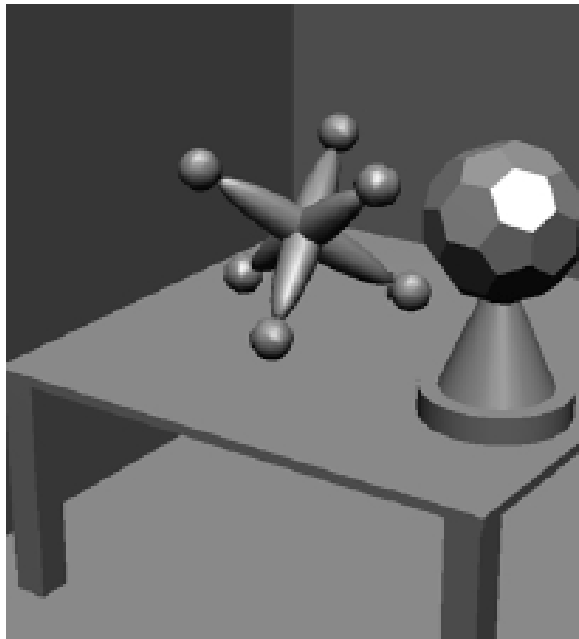


b)



## Rendering (2)

- Compare to images with specular highlights, shadows, textures



# Shading Models: Introduction

- A shading model dictates how light is scattered or reflected from a surface.
- Simple shading models focuses on achromatic light
  - It has brightness but no color
  - Only shade of gray
  - Described by single intensity value.
- Graphics uses two types of light sources
  - Ambient light - doesn't come directly from a source, but through windows or scattered by the air, comes equally from all directions.
  - Point-source light comes from a single point.

# Shading Models: Introduction

## (2)

- When light hits an object,
  - some light is absorbed (and turns into heat),
  - some is reflected,
  - some may penetrate the interior (e.g., of a clear glass object).
- If all the light is absorbed, the object appears black and is called a blackbody.
- If all the light is transmitted, the object is visible only through reflection

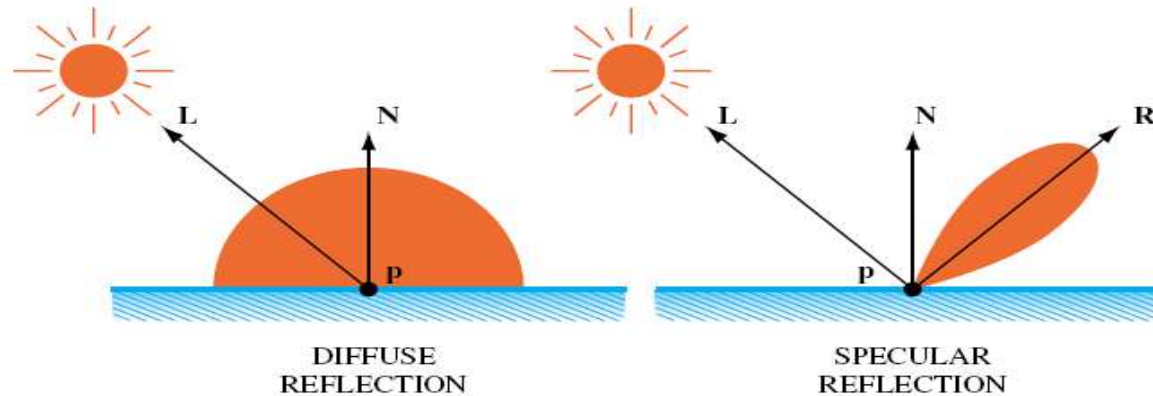


# Shading Models: Introduction

## (3)

- When light is reflected from an object, some of the reflected light reaches our eyes, and we see the object.
- The amount of light that reaches the eye depends on the
  - Orientation of the surface
  - Light sources
  - Observer
- There are two types of reflection of incident light:
  - **Diffuse Scattering**
  - **Specular Reflections**

# Shading Models: Introduction (4)



- **Diffuse Scattering:**

- some of the incident light slightly penetrates the surface
- re-radiated uniformly in all directions.
- The light takes on some fraction of the color of the surface.

- **Specular reflection:**

- more mirror-like and highly directional.
- Incident light does not penetrate.
- Light is reflected directly from the object's outer surface, giving rise to highlights of approximately the same color as the source.
- The surface looks shiny.

## Shading Models: Introduction (5)

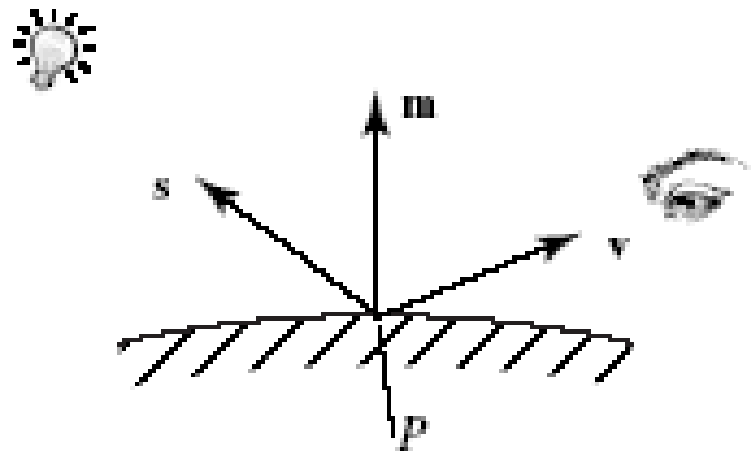
- In the simplest model, specular reflected light has the same color as the incident light. This tends to make the material look like plastic.
- In a more complex model, the color of the specular light varies over the highlight, providing a better approximation to the shininess of metal surfaces.
- Most surfaces produce some combination of diffuse and specular reflection, depending on surface characteristics such as roughness and type of material.
- The total light reflected from the surface in a certain direction is the sum of the diffuse component and the specular component.

# Reflected Light Model

- Finding Reflected Light: a model
  - Model is not completely physically correct, but it provides fast and relatively good results on the screen.
  - Intensity of a light is related to its brightness. We will use  $I_s$  for intensity, where s is R or G or B.

# Calculating Reflected Light

- To compute reflected light at point  $P$ , we need 3 vectors:
  - normal  $\mathbf{m}$  to the surface at  $P$
  - vectors  $\mathbf{s}$  from  $P$  to the source
  - $\mathbf{v}$  from  $P$  to the eye.
  - the angles between these three vectors form the basis for computing light intensities

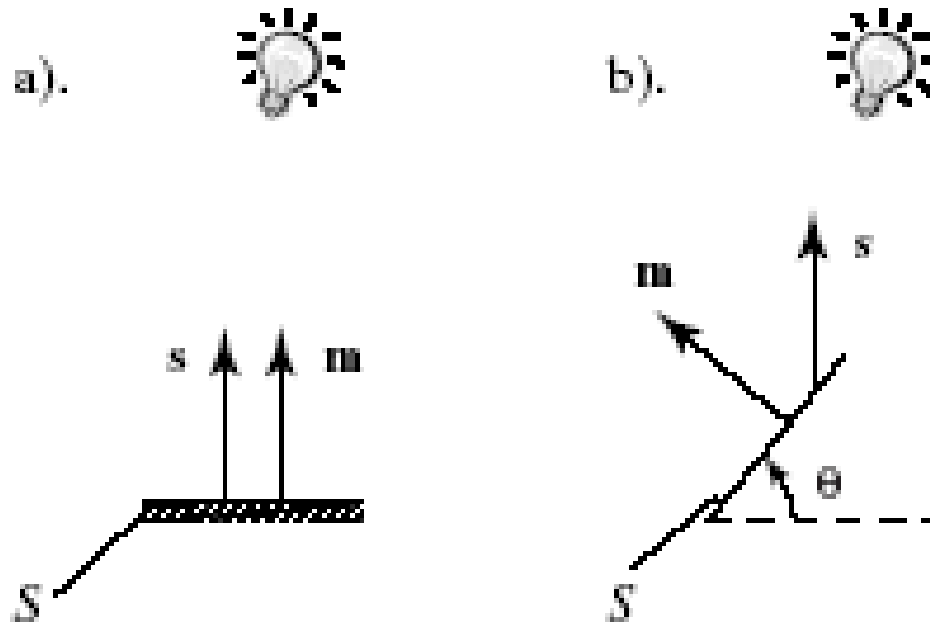


# Calculating Diffuse Light

- A fraction of incident light is reradiated diffusely in all directions
- Diffuse scattering is assumed to be independent of the direction from the point,  $P$ , to the location of the viewer's eye. (omnidirectional scattering)
  - $I_d$  is independent of the angle between  $\mathbf{m}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  (unless  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{m} < 0$ , making  $I_d = 0$ .)
- The amount of light that illuminates the face *does* depend on the orientation of the face relative to the point source:
  - the amount of light is proportional to the area of the face that it sees: the area *subtended* by a face.

## Calculating Diffuse Light (2)

- The relationship between brightness and surface orientation is called as Lambert's law.
- Left :  $I_d$  ( normal vector  $m$  is aligned with  $s$ )
- Right:  $I_d \cos\theta$  (face is turned partially away from light source)



## Calculating Diffuse Light (3)

- We know  $\cos \theta = (\mathbf{s} \cdot \mathbf{m}) / (|\mathbf{s}| |\mathbf{m}|)$ .
- $I_d = I_s \rho_d (\mathbf{s} \cdot \mathbf{m}) / (|\mathbf{s}| |\mathbf{m}|)$ .
  - $I_d$  – Intensity of the reradiated light that reaches eye.
  - $I_s$  is the intensity of the source.
  - $\rho_d$  is the diffuse reflection coefficient and depends on the material the object is made of.



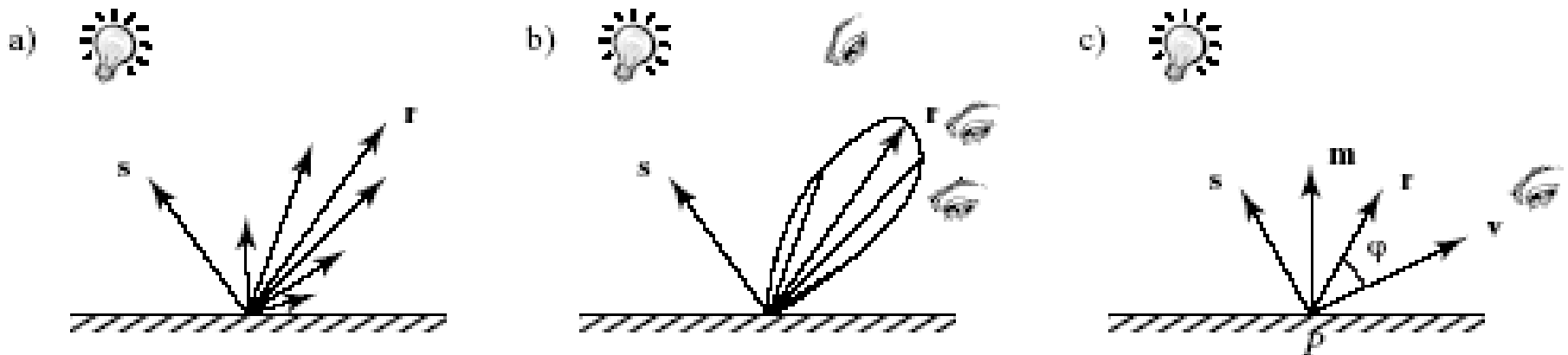
## Calculating Diffuse Light (4)

- If face is aimed away from the eye this dot product is negative and we want  $I_d$  to evaluate to zero
- **If  $\mathbf{s} \cdot \mathbf{m} < 0$**  we want  $I_d = 0$ .
- So to take all cases into account, we use

$$I_d = I_s \rho_d \max [(\mathbf{s} \cdot \mathbf{m}) / (|\mathbf{s}| |\mathbf{m}|), 0].$$

# Calculating the Specular Component

- Real objects do not scatter light uniformly in all directions; a specular component is added to the shading model.
- Specular reflection causes highlights, which can add significantly to realism of a picture when objects are shiny.
- Most of the light reflects at equal angles from the (smooth and/or shiny) surface, along direction  $\mathbf{r}$ , the reflected direction.



## Calculating the Specular Component (2)

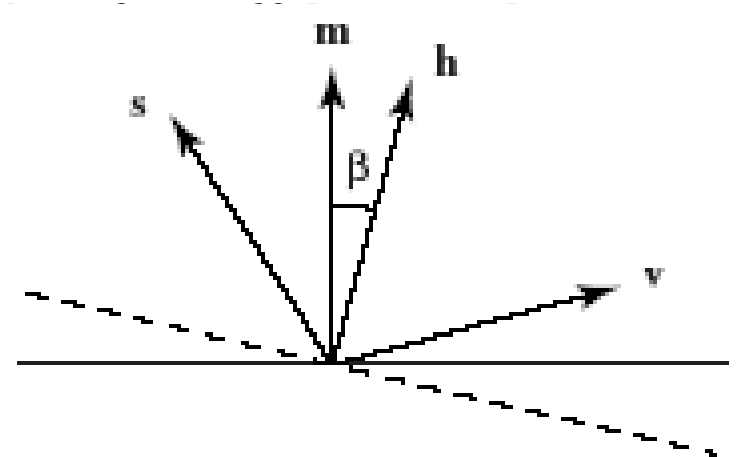
- The direction  $\mathbf{r}$  of perfect reflection depends on both  $\mathbf{s}$  and normal vector  $\mathbf{m}$ 
  - compute  $\mathbf{r} = -\mathbf{s} + 2 \mathbf{m} (\mathbf{s} \cdot \mathbf{m}) / (|\mathbf{m}|^2)$  (mirror reflection direction).
- For surfaces that are not mirrors, the amount of reflected light decreases as the angle  $\varphi$  between  $\mathbf{r}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  increases.
- For a simplified model, we say the intensity decreases as  $\cos^f \varphi$ ,
  - where  $f$  (amount of falloff) is chosen experimentally between 1 and 200.

## Calculating the Specular Component (3)

- $\cos \varphi = \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{v} / (|\mathbf{r}| |\mathbf{v}|)$
- $I_{sp} = I_s \rho_s (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{v} / (|\mathbf{r}| |\mathbf{v}|))^f$ .
  - $\rho_s$  is the specular reflection coefficient, which depends on the material.
- If  $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{v} < 0$ , there is no reflected specular light.
- Set  $I_{sp} = 0$
- $I_{sp} = I_s \rho_s \max[(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{v} / (|\mathbf{r}| |\mathbf{v}|))^f, 0]$ .

# Speeding up Calculations for Specular Light

- Find the halfway vector  $\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{s} + \mathbf{v}$ .
- Then the angle  $\beta$  between  $\mathbf{h}$  and  $\mathbf{m}$  approximately measures  $t$
- To take care of errors, we different  $f$  value, and write



$$I_{sp} = I_s \rho_s \max[(\mathbf{h} \cdot \mathbf{m} / (|\mathbf{h}| |\mathbf{m}|))^f, 0]$$

# Ambient Light

- Our desire for a simple reflection model leaves us with far from perfect renderings of a scene.
  - E.g., shadows appear to be unrealistically deep and harsh.
- To soften these shadows, we can add a third light component called *ambient light*.
- This light arrives by multiple reflections from various objects in the surroundings and from light sources that populate the environment, such as light coming through a window, fluorescent lamps, etc.
- We assume a uniform background glow called **ambient light** exists in the environment.

# Calculating Ambient Light

- The source is assigned an intensity,  $I_a$ .
- Each face in the model is assigned a value for its **ambient reflection coefficient**,  $\rho_a$  (often this is the same as the diffuse reflection coefficient,  $\rho_d$ ),
- The term  $I_a \rho_a$  is simply added to whatever diffuse and specular light is reaching the eye from each point  $P$  on that face.
- $I_a$  and  $\rho_a$  are usually arrived at experimentally, by trying various values and seeing what looks best.

# Combining Light Contributions and Adding Color

- $I = I_{\text{ambient}} + I_{\text{diffuse}} + I_{\text{specular}}$
- $I = I_a \rho_a + I_d \rho_d \text{ lambert} + I_{sp} \rho_s \times \text{phong}^f$ 
  - $\text{Lambert} = \max[(s \cdot m) / (|s||m|), 0]$
  - $\text{Phong} = \max[(h \cdot m) / (|h||m|), 0]$
- To add color, we use 3 separate total intensities one each for Red, Green, and Blue, which combine to give any desired color of light.
- We say the light sources have three types of color:
- $I_r = I_{ar} \rho_{ar} + I_{dr} \rho_{dr} \text{ lambert} + I_{spr} \rho_{sr} \times \text{phong}^f$   
 (similarly for  $I_g, I_b$ )
  - ambient =  $(I_{ar}, I_{ag}, I_{ab})$
  - diffuse =  $(I_{dr}, I_{dg}, I_{db})$
  - specular =  $(I_{spr}, I_{spg}, I_{spb})$ .