

# SPHERES AND NORMALS

*just another primitive*

# BASED ON MIT 6.837

*slides adapted & project started code translated to Swift by Dion Larson*

*adapted course materials available for free [here](#)*

*original course materials available for free [here](#)*



# **Recap of planes, cameras & ray tracing**

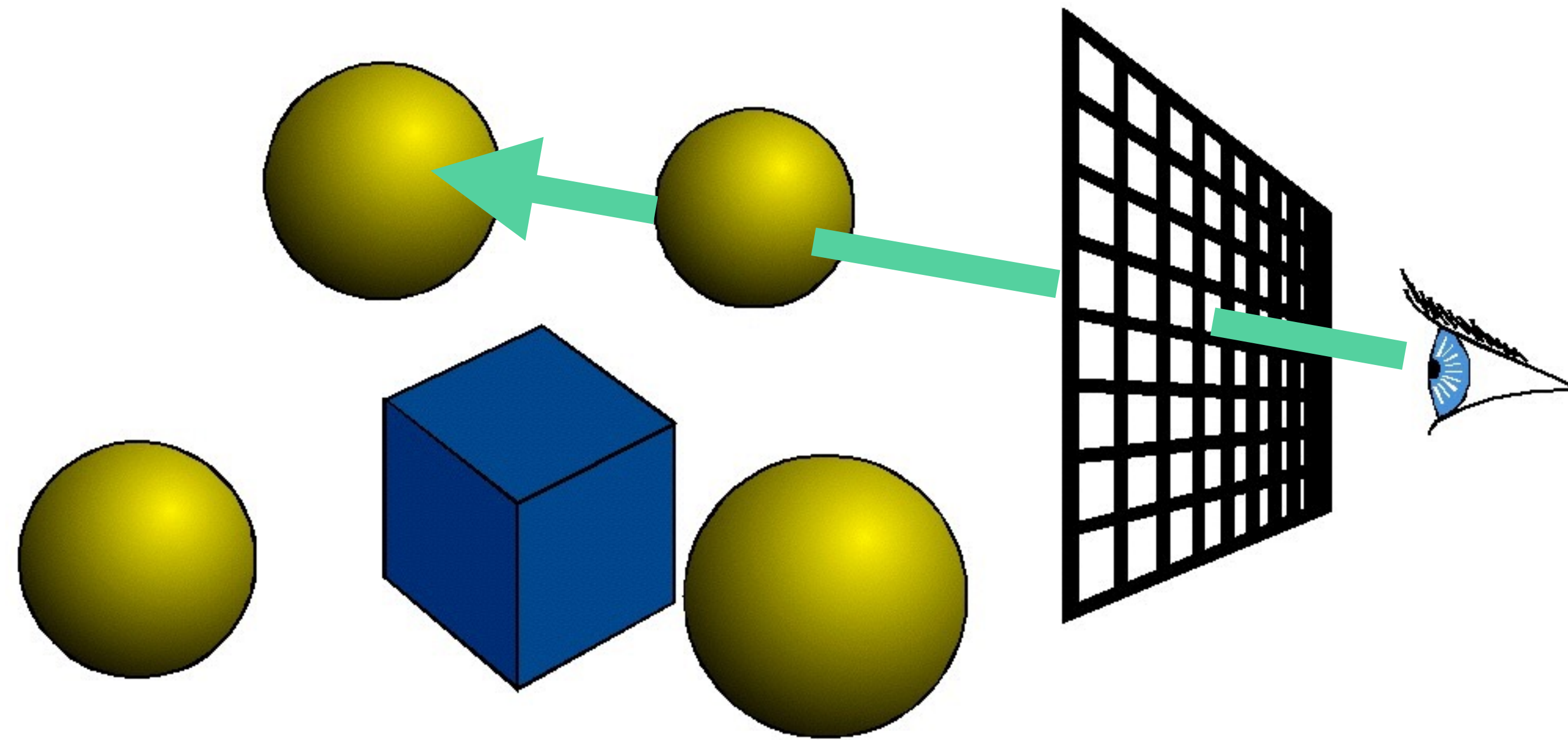
Mathematical toolbox

Ray-sphere intersection

Normals images

Next week

Mob programming (ray tracing loop & planes)



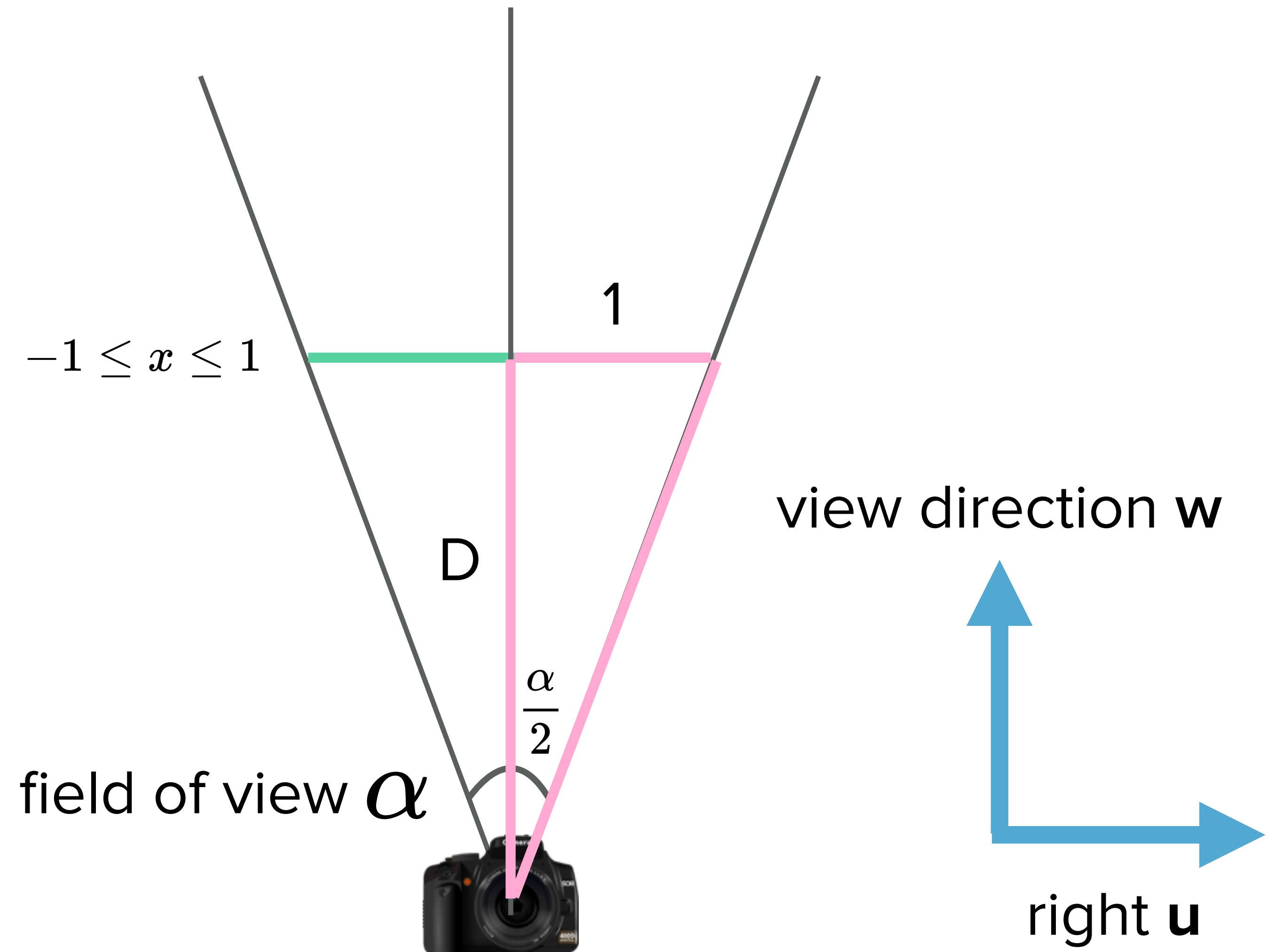
```
for every pixel  
  construct ray from eye to pixel  
  for every object in the scene  
    find intersection t with ray  
    save closest t  
  shade closest using lights, normal, material
```

# RAY GENERATION IN 2D

*What is the distance  $D$  to the screen so that the normalized coordinates go to 1?*

$$\tan \frac{\alpha}{2} = \frac{1}{D}$$

$$D = \frac{1}{\tan \frac{\alpha}{2}}$$



# RAY GENERATION IN 2D

Calculate the ray

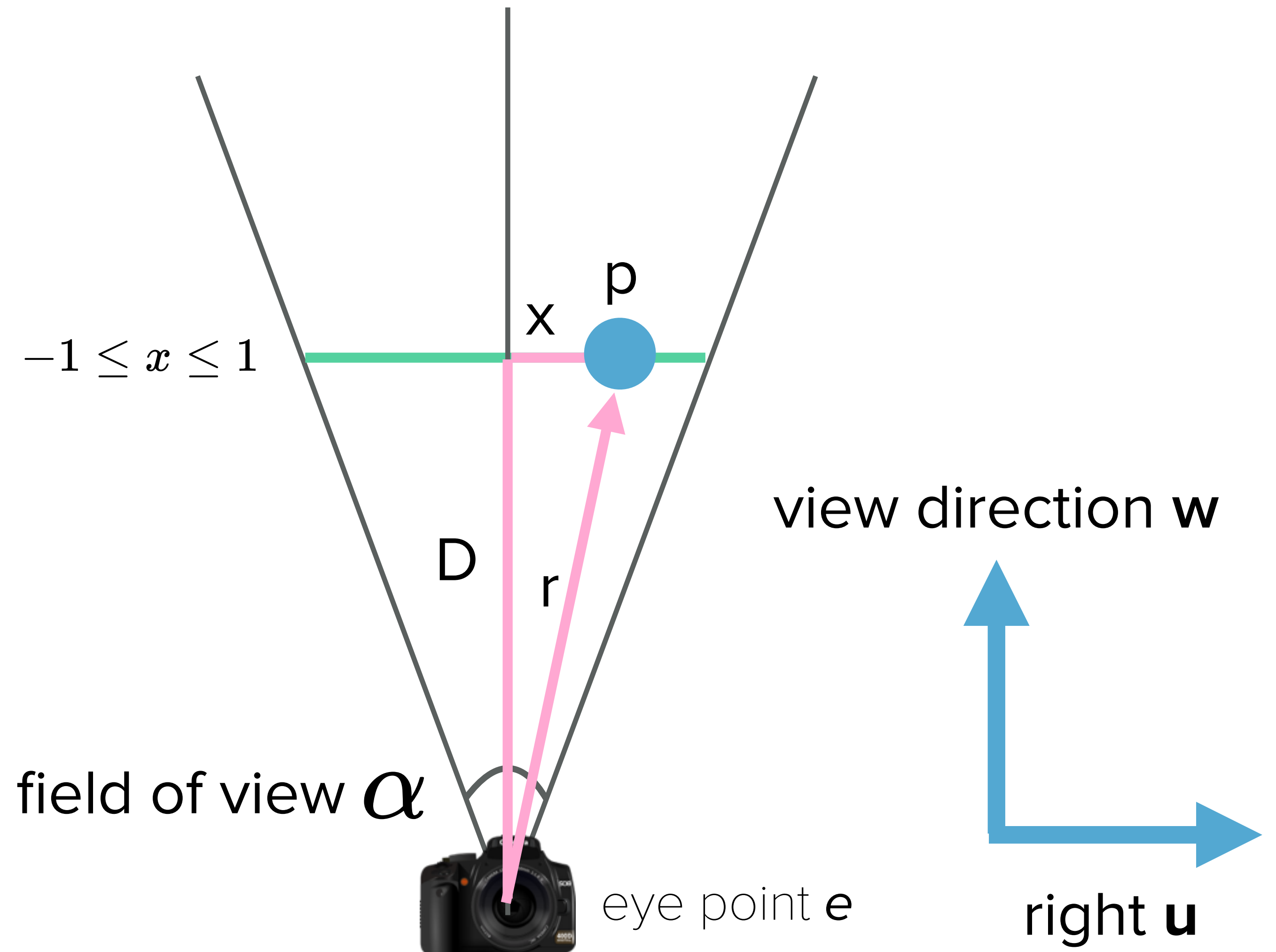
$$r = p - e = (xu, Dw)$$

Normalize it to get direction

$$d = \frac{r}{||r||}$$

Any point on ray can be expressed by

$$P(t) = e + td$$



# 3D WORKS JUST THE SAME

$y$  is same as  $x$  but accounts for aspect ratio

$$r = x * u + aspect * y * v + D * w$$

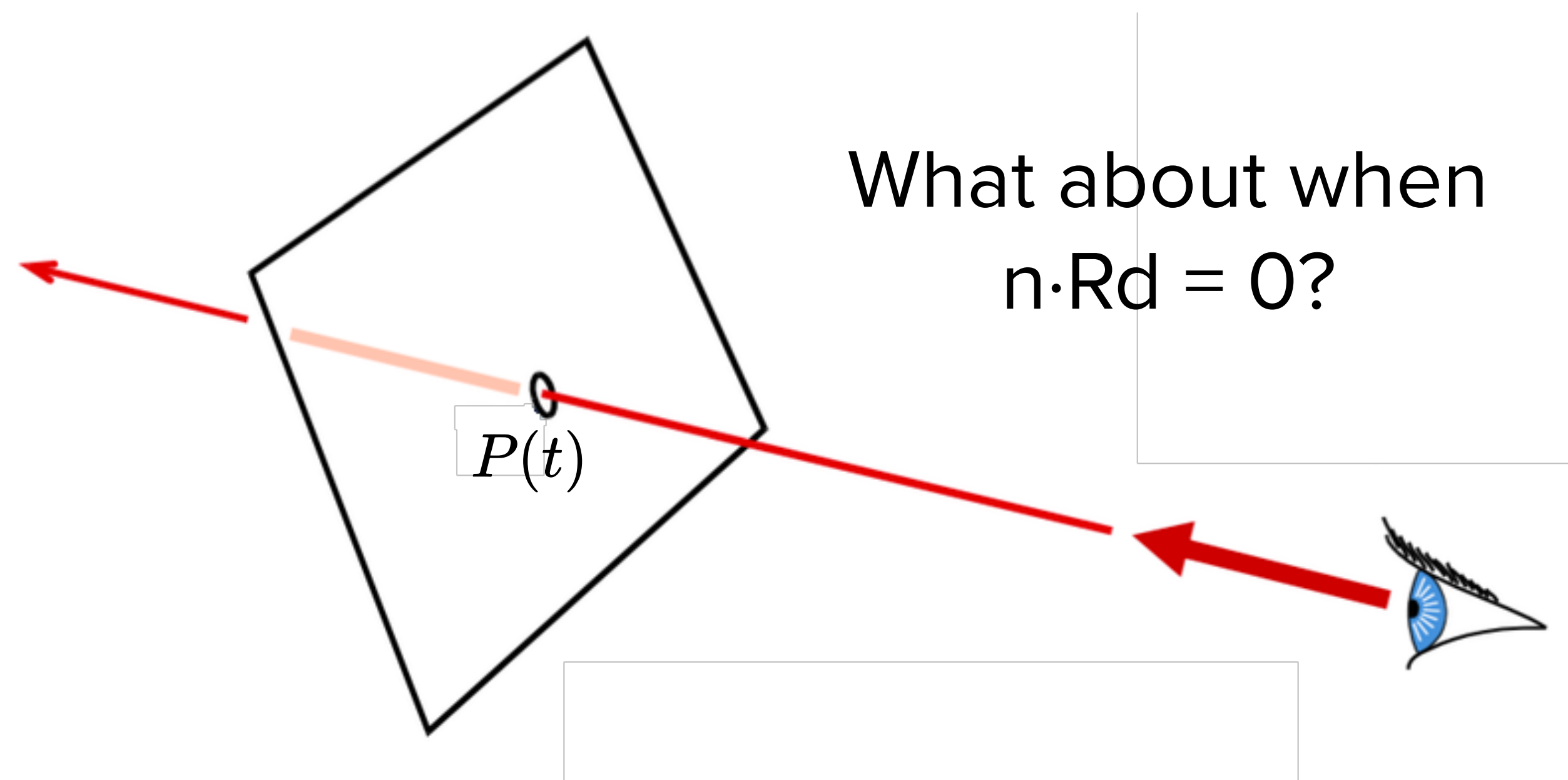
Aspect ratio is for non-square views (16:9, etc)

Allows us to use  $[-1, 1]$  for image coordinates

# RAY-PLANE INTERSECTION

Intersection happens when both equations satisfied

Insert explicit ray equation into implicit plane equation and solve for  $t$



$$P(t) = R_o + tR_d$$

$$H(P) = n \cdot P + D = 0$$

$$n \cdot (R_o + tR_d) + D = 0$$

$$t = \frac{-(D + n \cdot R_o)}{n \cdot R_d}$$



Recap of planes, cameras & ray tracing

## **Mathematical toolbox**

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# NORMALIZING VECTORS

Create a vector with same direction but  
length of one

$$\textit{normalize}(A) = \frac{A}{||A||}$$

# DOT PRODUCT

Extremely useful for light calculations in shading step

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = \sum_{i=1}^3 A_i B_i = A_x B_x + A_y B_y + A_z B_z$$
$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = \|\mathbf{A}\| \|\mathbf{B}\| \cos \theta$$

When perpendicular

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

When parallel

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = \|\mathbf{A}\| \|\mathbf{B}\|$$

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Next week

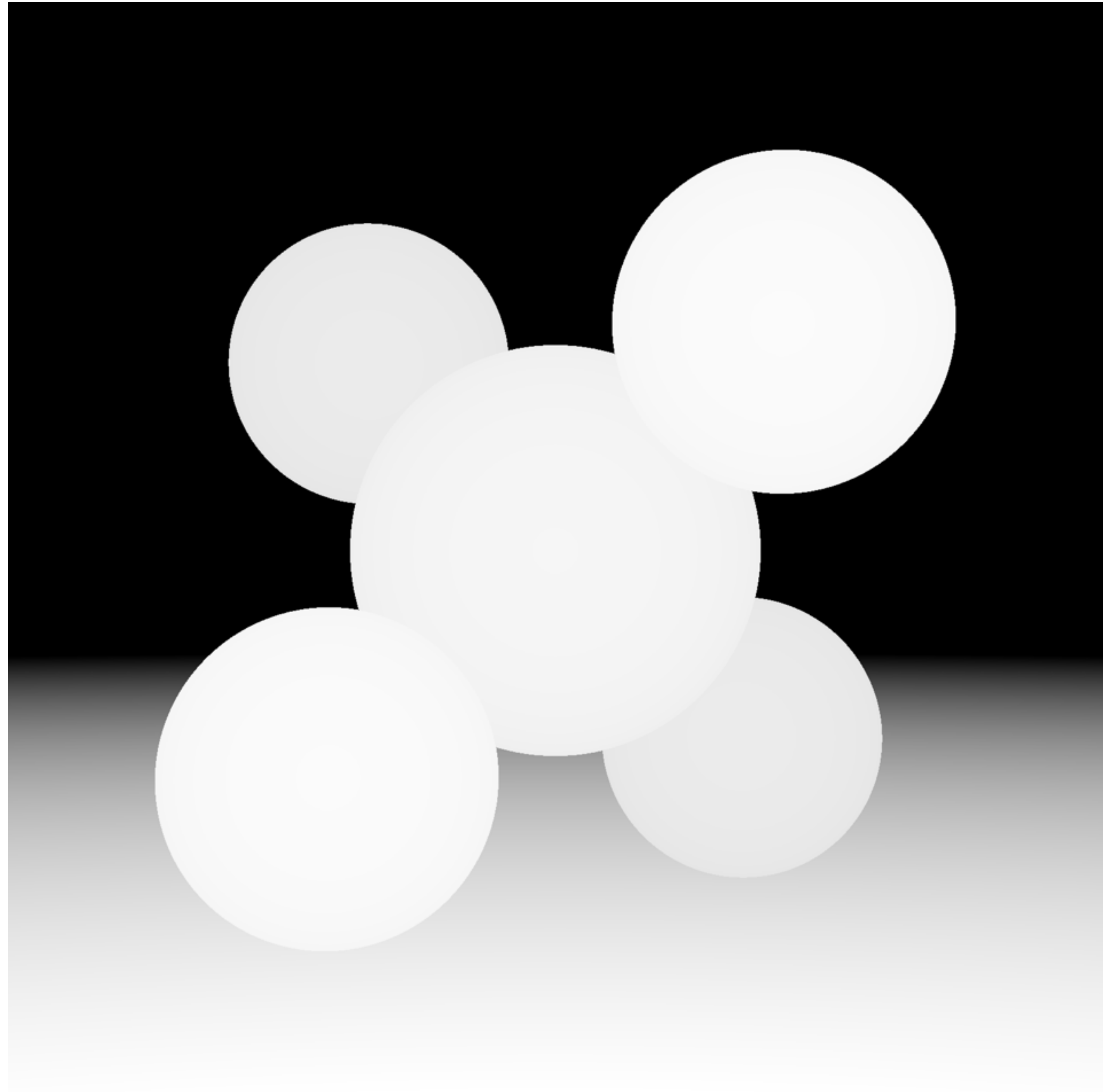
Mob programming (ray tracing loop & planes)

# RENDER DISTANCE TO GEOMETRY

*Camera representation*

*Plane intersection*

*Sphere intersection*



# SPHERE EQUATION

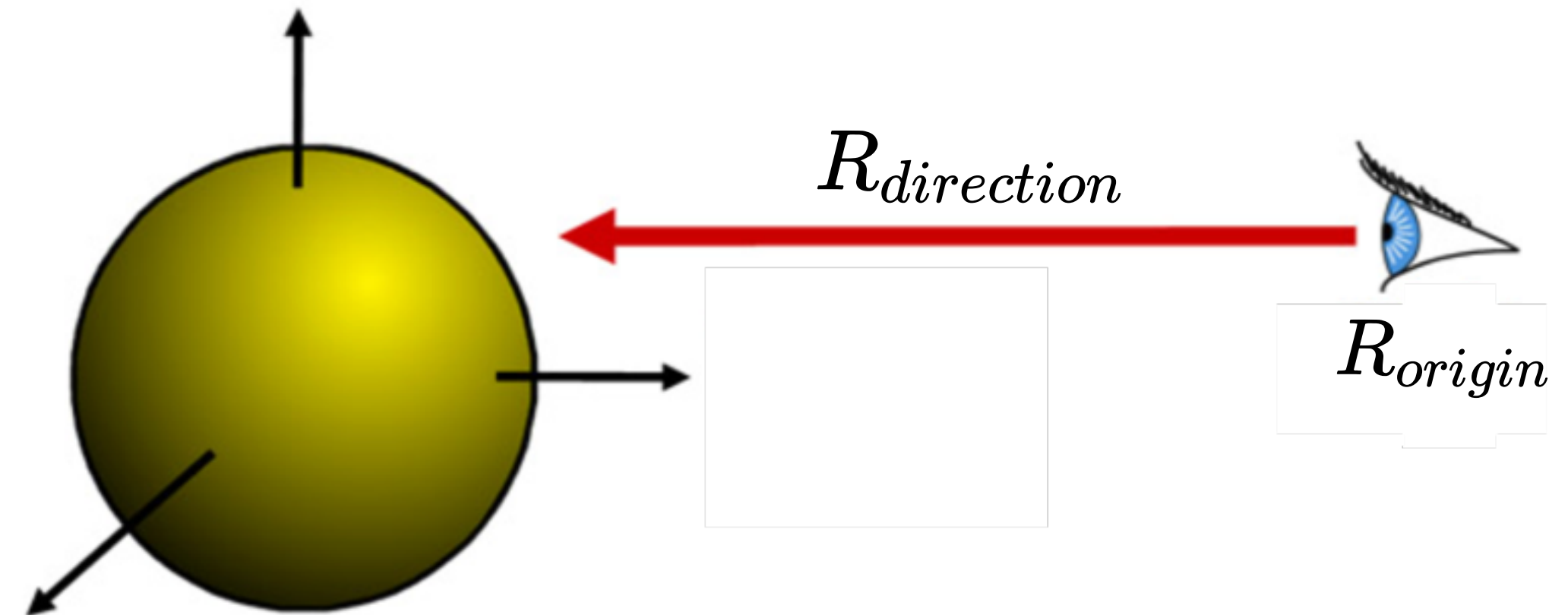
*Implicit sphere equation*

$$H(P) = ||P||^2 - r^2 = P \cdot P - r^2 = 0$$

*Assume sphere is centered at origin*

*Move the ray's origin instead!*

$$R_{origin} = R_{real\ origin} - H_{center}$$



# EXPLICIT VS IMPLICIT

Ray equation is explicit

$$P(t) = R_o + tR_d$$

Parametric, generates points

Hard to verify point is on ray

Sphere equation is implicit

$$H(P) = P \cdot P - r^2 = 0$$

Solution of equation, does not generate points

Verifies point is on the plan

# RAY-SPHERE INTERSECTION

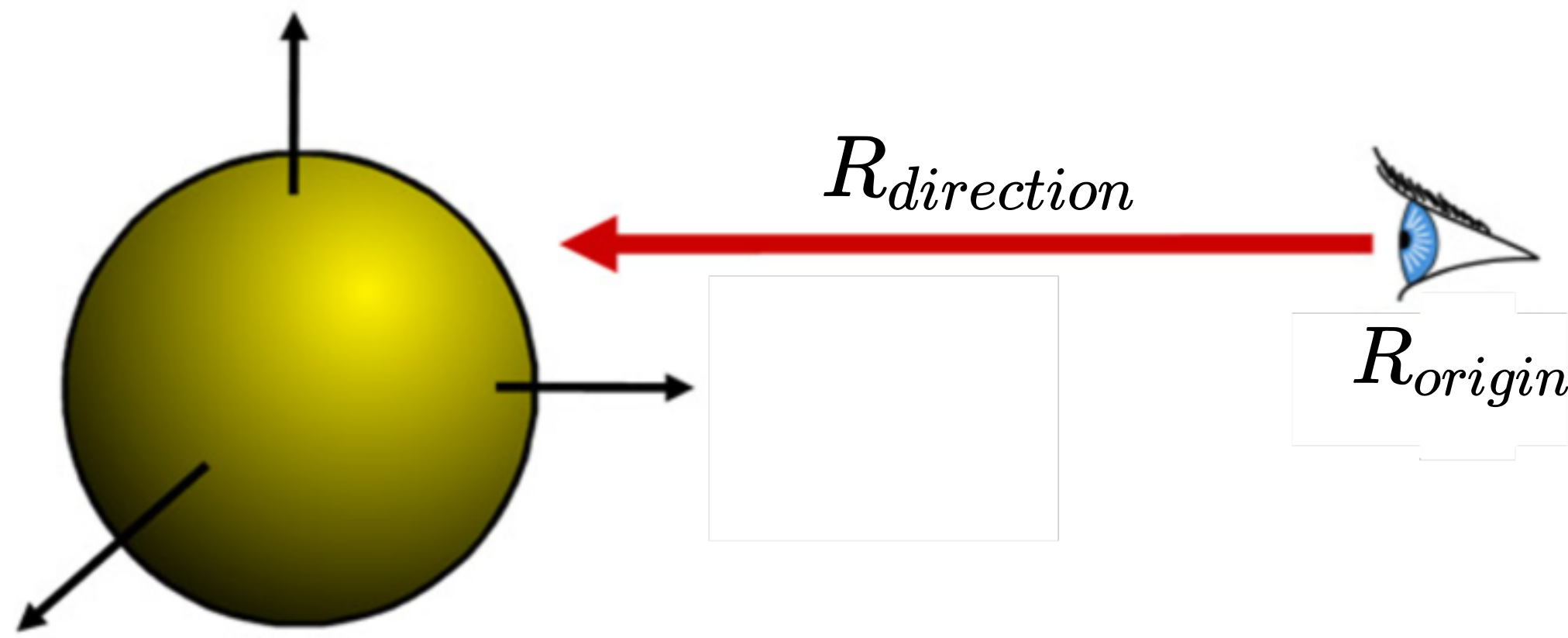
Insert explicit ray equation into implicit plane equation and solve for  $t$

$$P(t) = R_o + tR_d$$

$$H(P) = P \cdot P - r^2 = 0$$

$$(R_o + tR_d) \cdot (R_o + tR_d) - r^2 = 0$$

$$R_d \cdot R_d t^2 + 2R_d \cdot R_o t + R_o \cdot R_o - r^2 = 0$$





# IT'S QUADRATIC!

Quadratic  $at^2 + bt + c = 0$

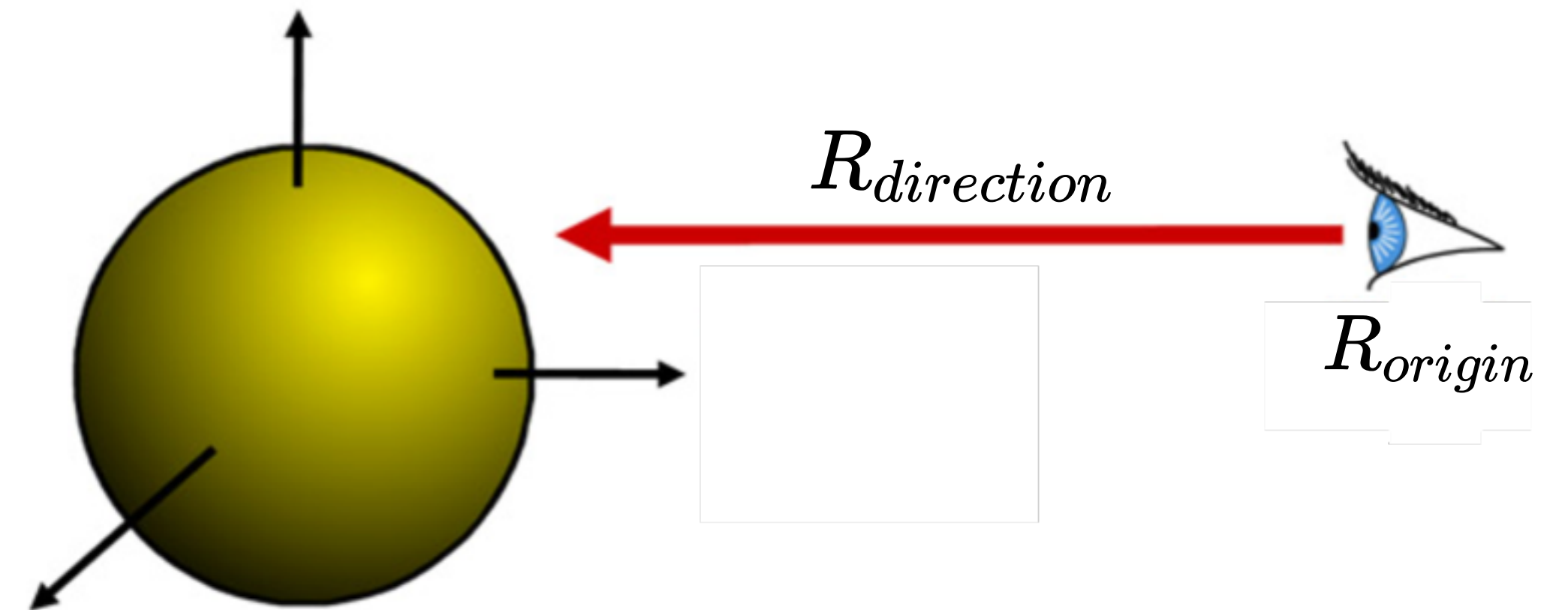
$$a = ||R_d||^2$$

$$b = 2R_d \cdot R_o$$

$$c = R_o \cdot R_o - r^2$$

Discriminant  $d = \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}$

Solutions  $t_{\pm} = \frac{-b \pm d}{2a}$

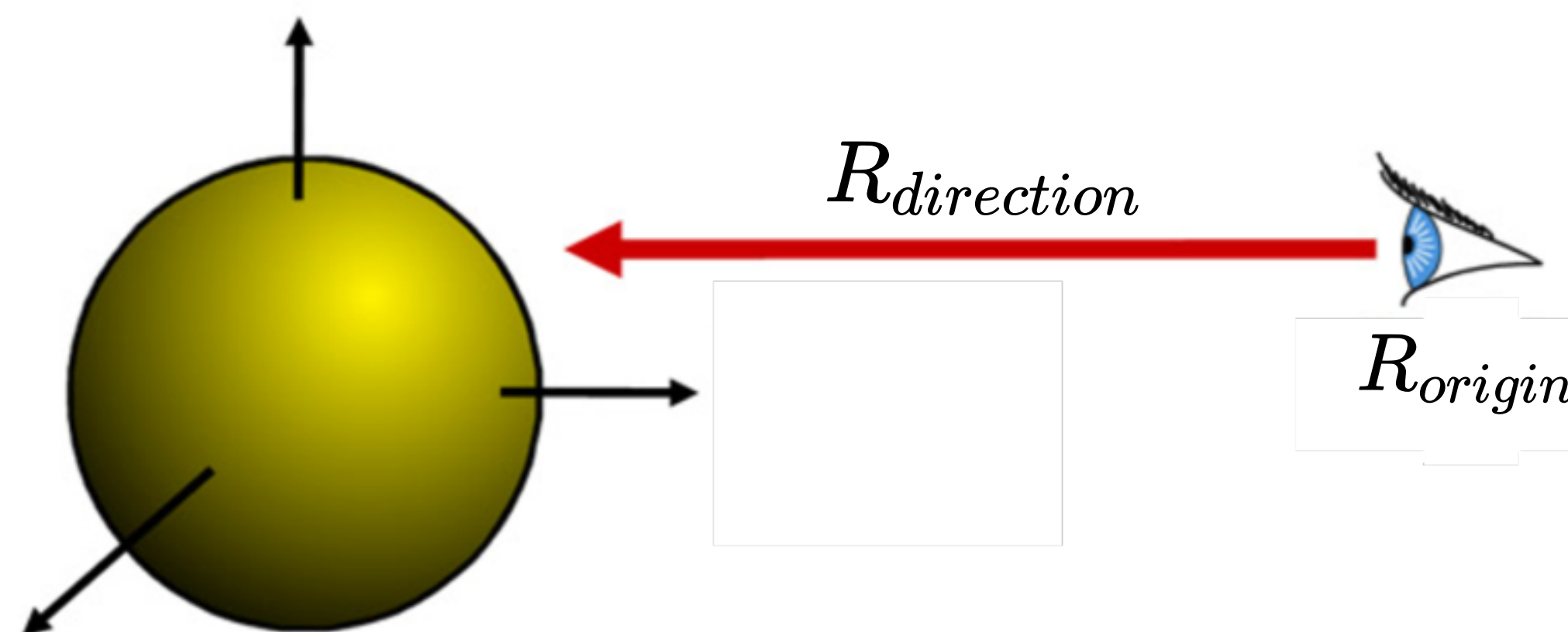


# RAY-SPHERE INTERSECTION

3 cases depending on sign of  $b^2 - 4ac$

What do cases correspond to?

Which  $t$  should you choose?



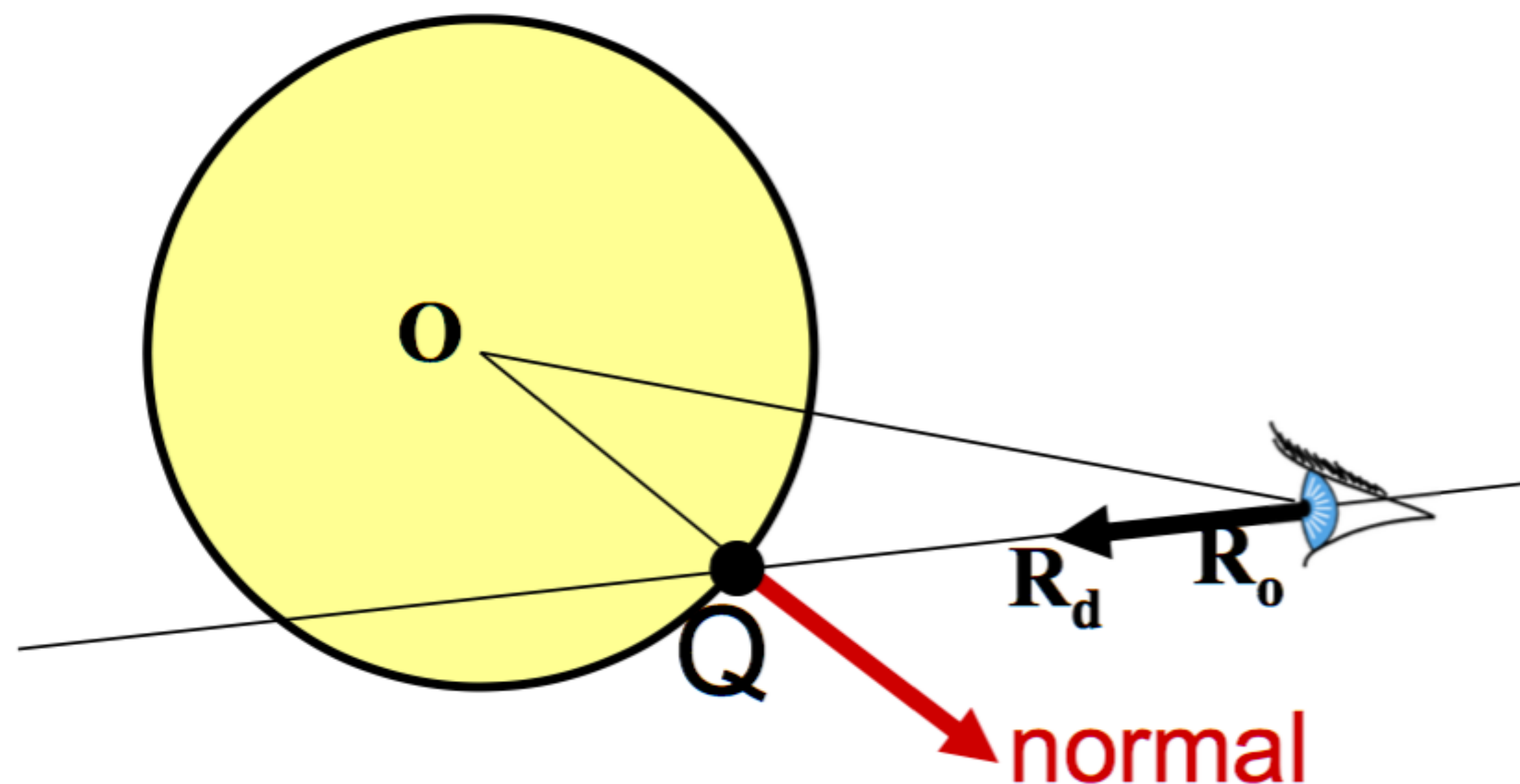
# SPHERE NORMALS

*Simply  
 $normalize(Q)$*

*Where*

$$Q = P(t)$$

*or the intersection point  
(for spheres centered at origin)*



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## **Normals images**

Next week

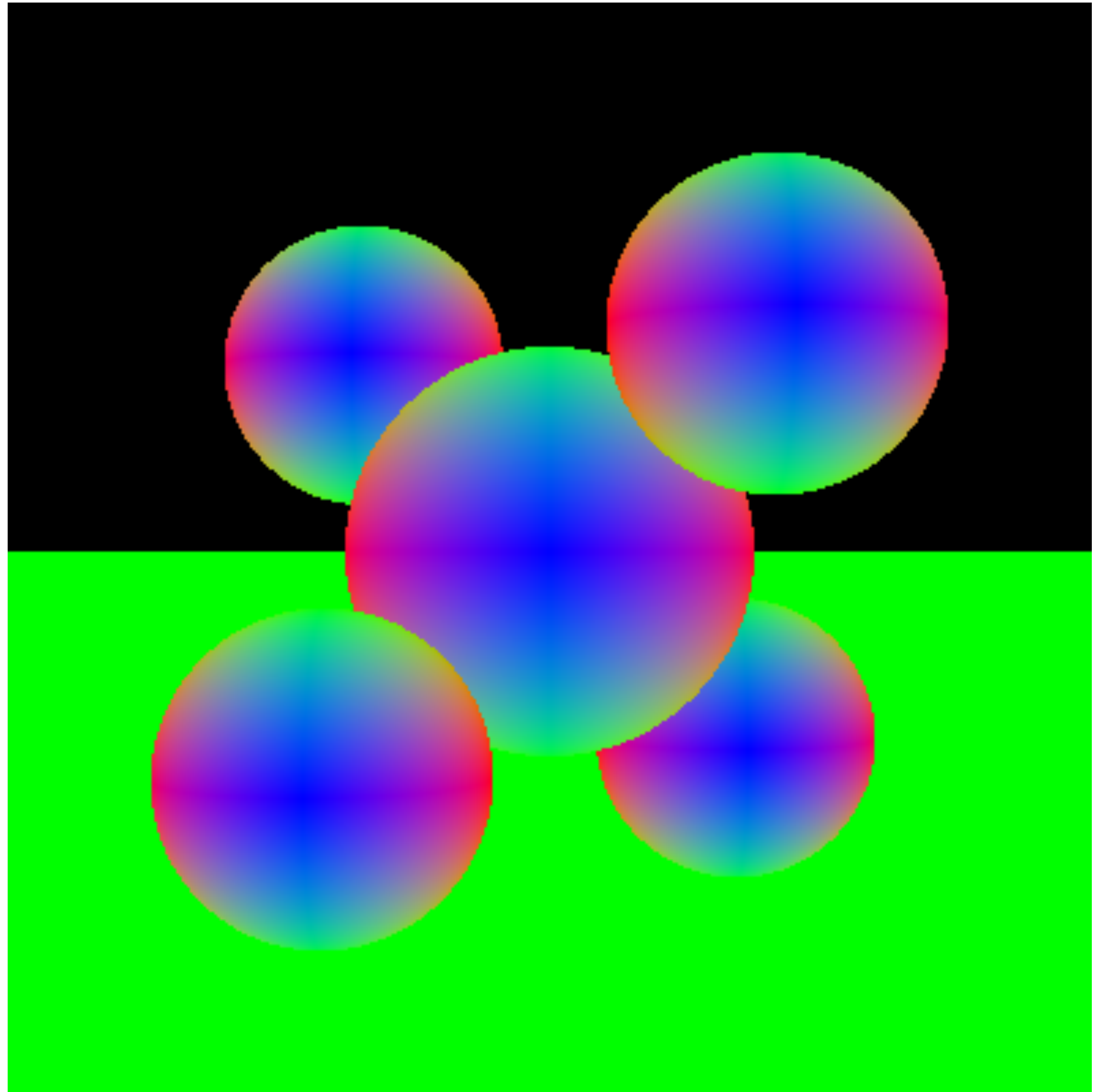
Mob programming (ray tracing loop & planes)

# NORMAL IMAGES

*Color representation of normals*

*Maps*  
 $N_x, N_y, N_z$   
*to*  
*Red, Green, Blue*

*Will make debugging in shading step  
much easier*



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## **Next week**

Mob programming (ray tracing loop & planes)

# MATERIALS & SHADING

*Lights*

*Diffuse shading*



# DUE NEXT SESSION

*sphere intersection, normals image*  
*reference the guide*



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**Mob programming (main loop & planes)**