

## Topic 12:

# Basic Ray Tracing

- Introduction to ray tracing
- Computing rays
- Computing intersections
  - ray-triangle
  - ray-polygon
  - ray-quadratic
  - the scene signature
- Computing normals
- Evaluating shading model
- Spawning rays
- Incorporating transmission
  - refraction
  - ray-spawning & refraction

### Computing Ray-Object Intersections

Basic loop:

for each pixel  $\bar{q}$

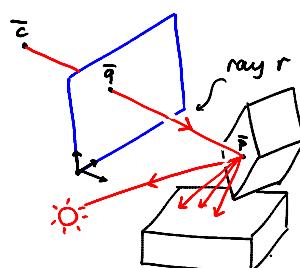
① cast ray  $r$  through  $\bar{q}$

② find 1st intersection of  $\bar{q}$  with scene (i.e. point  $\bar{P}$ )

③ estimate amount of light reaching  $\bar{P}$

computing ray-scene  
intersections

④ estimate amount of  
light travelling from  
 $\bar{P}$  to  $\bar{q}$  along ray  $r$



## Computing Ray-Triangle Intersections

Algorithm #1

(a) compute normal

$$\vec{n} = (\bar{P}_2 - \bar{P}_1) \times (\bar{P}_3 - \bar{P}_1)$$

(b) compute intersection  
of ray and plane  
of triangle

i.e. find  $\lambda^*$  that satisfies

$$[\bar{P}_1 - \bar{P}(\lambda^*)] \cdot \vec{n} = 0$$

(c) verify that  $\bar{P}(\lambda^*)$  falls within triangle  
e.g. using half-space constraints (assignment 1)

## Computing Ray-Triangle Intersections

Algorithm #2

(a) Parameterize the  
triangle plane

$$p(\alpha, \beta) = \bar{P}_1 + \alpha(\bar{P}_2 - \bar{P}_1) + \beta(\bar{P}_3 - \bar{P}_1)$$

(b) Find  $\alpha, \beta, \lambda^*$  that  
satisfy  $p(\alpha, \beta) = \bar{P}(\lambda^*)$

$$\Rightarrow \text{solve } \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -(\bar{P}_2 - \bar{P}_1) & -(\bar{P}_3 - \bar{P}_1) & (\bar{q}_w - \bar{c}) \end{bmatrix}}_{3 \times 3 \text{ matrix}} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \\ \lambda^* \end{bmatrix} = \bar{P}_1 - \bar{c}$$

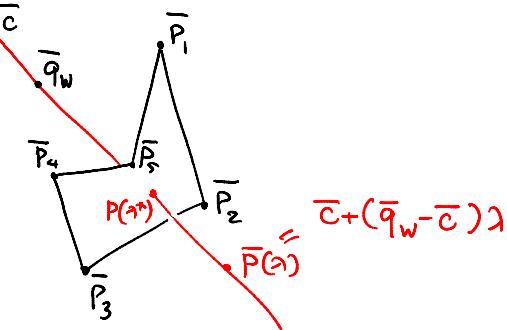
vectors expressed in Euclidean 3D  
coords

unknowns

(c)  $\bar{P}(\lambda^*)$  inside triangle  $\Leftrightarrow \alpha \geq 0, \beta \geq 0, \alpha + \beta \leq 1$

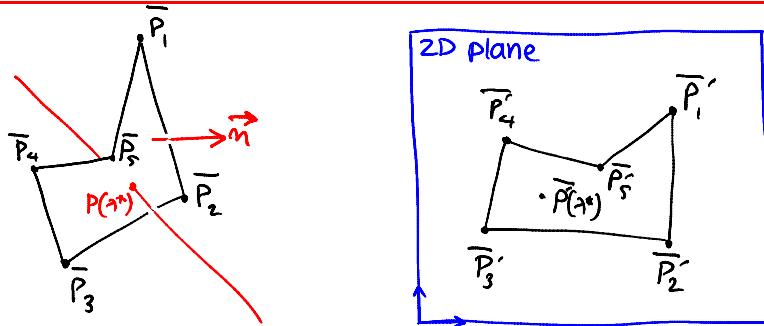
## Computing Ray-Polygon Intersections

- a. Compute  $\bar{p}(\vec{r})$  using Algorithm 1 or 2 (by picking 3 adjacent non-collinear vertices)



- b. Verify that  $p(\vec{r}^*)$  lies inside the polygon
- Convert the 3D polygon &  $p(\vec{r}^*)$  to 2D
  - Do the verification in 2D (recall assignment #1)

## Computing Ray-Poly Intersections: Step a

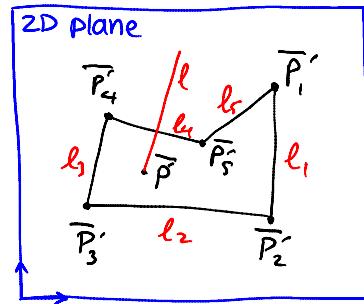


- Suppose  $\vec{m}$  is not along z-axis
- Project all vertices and  $p^*(\vec{r})$  onto xy-plane:  $\bar{P}_i = \begin{bmatrix} x_i \\ y_i \\ z_i \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_i \\ y_i \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \bar{P}'_i$
- if  $\vec{m}$  is along z axis, project onto xz-plane

## Computing Ray-Poly Intersections: Step b

**Key theorem:**

If  $\bar{P}'$  inside, every 2D half-line starting at  $\bar{P}'$  must intersect the polygon's boundary an odd # of times



$$\text{eg. } \bar{q}' = \frac{1}{2}(\bar{P}_1' + \bar{P}_2')$$

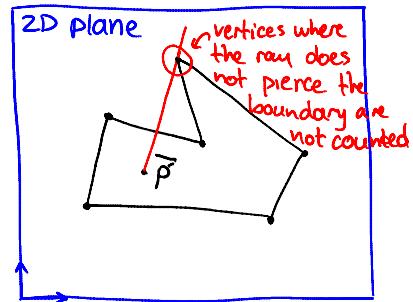
**Verification algorithm:**

- ① pick any non-vertex point on boundary
- ② define lines  $l$  through  $\bar{P}', \bar{q}'$  and  $l_i$  through  $\bar{P}_i, \bar{P}_{i+1}$
- ③ intersect  $l$  with each  $l_i$
- ④ count intersections that are
  - ⓐ on same side of  $\bar{P}'$ , and
  - ⓑ on polygon boundary

## Computing Ray-Poly Intersections: Step b

**Key theorem:**

If  $\bar{P}'$  inside, every 2D half-line starting at  $\bar{P}'$  must intersect the polygon's boundary an odd # of times

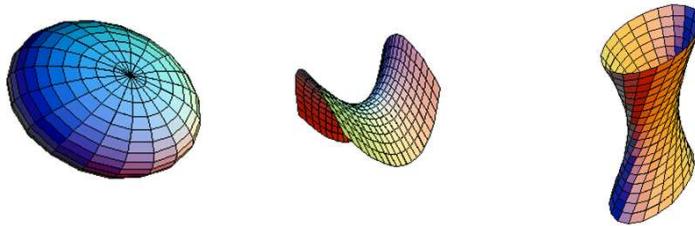


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**Verification algorithm:**

- ① pick any non-vertex point on boundary
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- ③ intersect  $l$  with each  $l_i$
- ④ count intersections ← counting is a bit more involved if line  $l$  intersects a polygon vertex

## Computing Ray-Quadric Intersections

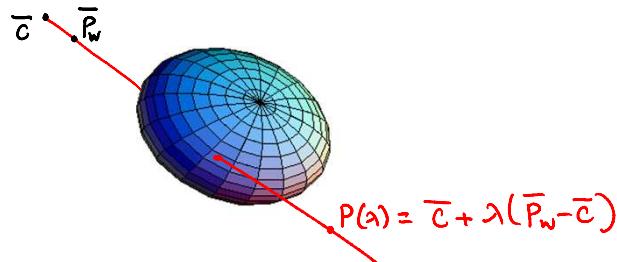


General implicit equation

$$[x \ y \ z \ 1] \begin{bmatrix} A & D & E & G \\ D & B & F & H \\ E & F & C & I \\ G & H & I & J \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

defined up to a scale factor

## Computing Ray-Quadric Intersections



Must solve the equation

$$P(\lambda)^T \begin{bmatrix} A & D & E & G \\ D & B & F & H \\ E & F & C & I \\ G & H & I & J \end{bmatrix} P(\lambda) = 0$$

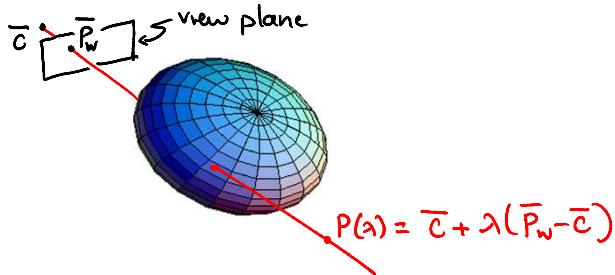
the only unknown is  $\lambda$

expressed in homogeneous 3D coords

for a given quadric, this matrix is known

## Computing Ray-Quadric Intersections: 3

### Cases



$\Delta > 0$   
 $\Rightarrow 2$  "hits"

$\Delta < 0$   
 $\Rightarrow 0$  "hits"

$\Delta = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow 1$  "hit"

after expanding, we have a quadratic equation in terms of  $\lambda$ :

$$\alpha\lambda^2 + \beta\lambda + \gamma = 0$$

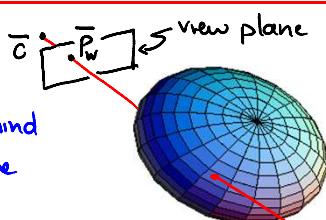
$$\text{solution is } \lambda = \frac{-\beta \pm \sqrt{\Delta}}{2\alpha}, \Delta = \beta^2 - 4\alpha\gamma$$

## Ray-Quadric Intersections: Sub-cases for $\Delta > 0$

$\lambda_1, \lambda_2 < 0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  hits are behind the viewplane

$\lambda_1 > 0, \lambda_2 < 0$   
 $\Rightarrow P(\lambda_1)$  is a valid hit

$\lambda_1 > 0, \lambda_2 > 0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  2 valid hits, smallest  $\lambda$  gives intersection closest to camera

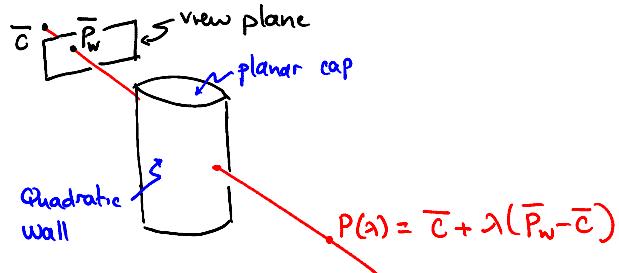


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## Intersecting Rays & Composite Objects

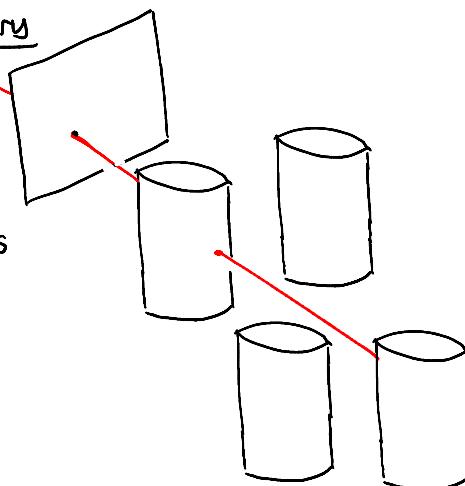


- When an object is bounded by multiple parametric surfaces we must test for intersection with each of the components
  - Example: Cylinder = "Quadratic wall" + 2 planar "caps"  
Cone = "Quadratic wall" + 1 planar base
- ⇒ See Leonid Sigal's slides for more details

## Ray Intersection: Efficiency Considerations

Intersection tests can be very expensive!

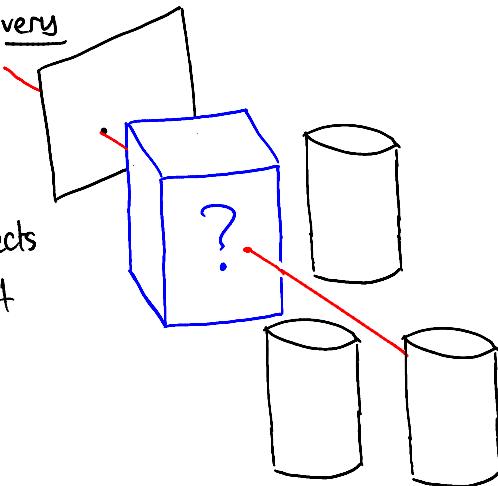
⇒ Use data structures to avoid testing intersection with objects that clearly do not intersect



## Ray Intersection: Efficiency Considerations

Intersection tests can be very expensive!

- ⇒ Use data structures to avoid testing intersection with objects that clearly do not intersect



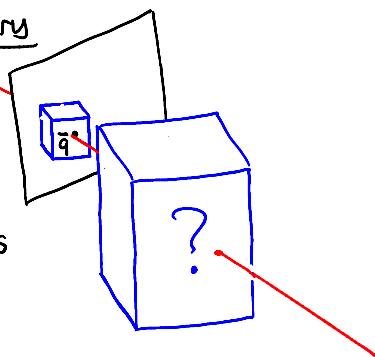
### Examples:

- test intersection with object's bounding volume first, test ray-object intersection only if ray intersects volume
- apply this idea hierarchically, for part-based objects

## Ray Intersection: Efficiency Considerations

Intersection tests can be very expensive!

- ⇒ Use data structures to avoid testing intersection with objects that clearly do not intersect



### Examples:

- Image-space intersections: instead of intersecting ray & bounding volume, project volume & check whether pixel  $\bar{q}$  falls inside that projection

## Topic 12:

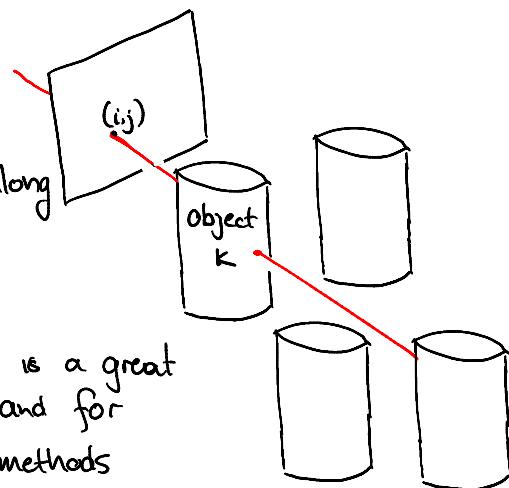
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## The Scene Signature

Definition:

An image  $S$  where  $S(i,j) = k$  if object  $k$  is the first object along ray through  $(i,j)$

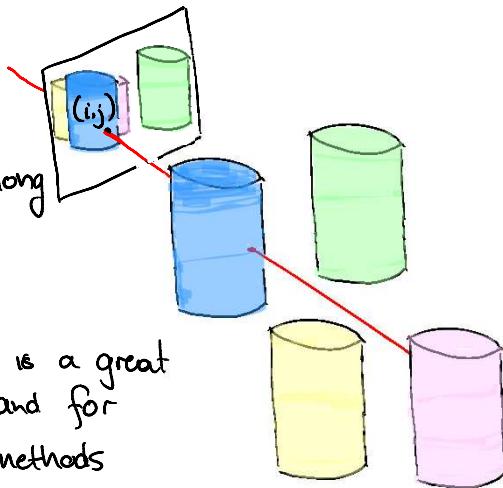


- \* The scene signature is a great tool for debugging and for testing intersection methods

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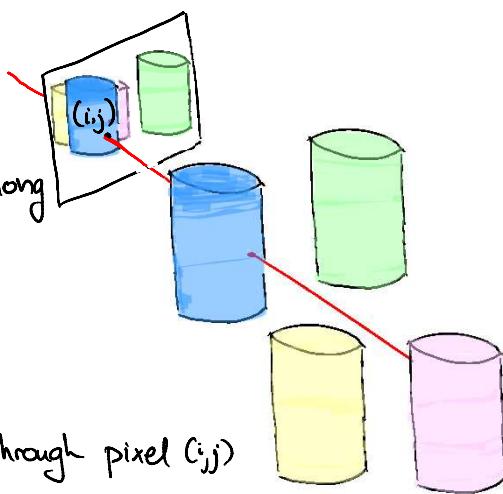


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## Computing the Scene Signature

Definition:

An image  $S$  where  
 $S(i,j) = k$  if object  $k$   
is the first object along  
ray through  $(i,j)$



Algorithm pseudocode:

```
for i=0 to Nrows-1
    for j=0 to Ncols-1
        construct ray through pixel (i,j)
         $\tau_{i,j} = \infty$ 
        for k=0 to Nobjects
             $\tau^* = \text{closest intersection of ray with object } k$ 
            if  $\tau^* > 0$  and  $\tau^* < \tau_{i,j}$ , set  $\tau_{i,j} = \tau^*$ ,  $S(i,j) = k$ 
```

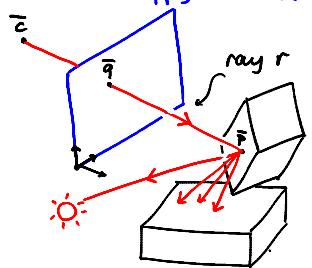
## Computational Issues in Basic Ray Tracing

Basic loop:

for each pixel  $\bar{q}$

- ① cast ray  $r$  through  $\bar{q}$
- ② find 1st intersection of  $\bar{q}$  with scene (i.e. point  $\bar{P}$ )
- ③ estimate amount of light reaching  $\bar{P}$

- ④ estimate amount of light travelling from  $\bar{P}$  to  $\bar{q}$  along ray  $r$ 
  - a. Compute surface normal at  $\bar{P}$
  - b. Apply local shading model



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## Computing the Normal at a Hit Point

### Option #1:

- Smoothly interpolate normal from vertices or adjacent faces (e.g. using the linear interpolation technique covered with Phong + scan conversion)

### Option #2:

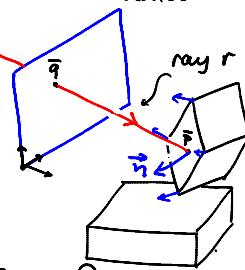
- For parametric shapes, normal can be evaluated directly at  $\bar{p}$

implicit form

$$\vec{n}(\bar{p}) = \frac{\nabla f(\bar{p})}{\| \nabla f(\bar{p}) \|}$$

explicit form

$$\vec{n}(p) = \text{unit vector along } \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha} S(\alpha, \beta) \times \frac{\partial}{\partial \beta} S(\alpha, \beta)$$



## Computing the Normal at a Hit Point

### Option #3 (Affinely-deformed shapes)

- Let  $f(\bar{p}) = 0$  be an implicit surface
- Let  $M$  be a  $4 \times 4$  affine transformation matrix
- Suppose we deform the surface by applying  $M$  to it
- Point  $\bar{t}$  will be on the deformed surface

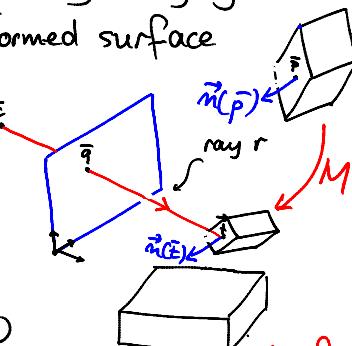
if there is a  $\bar{p}$  such  
that  $\bar{t} = M \bar{p}$  expressed in  
homogeneous  
coords

$$\Leftrightarrow \bar{p} = M^{-1} \bar{t}$$

$\Leftrightarrow$  implicit eq is

$$F(\bar{t}) = f(M^{-1} \bar{p}) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \vec{n}(\bar{t}) = (M^{-1})^T \vec{n}(\bar{p}) / \| (M^{-1})^T \vec{n}(\bar{p}) \| \quad \text{see notes for complete proof}$$



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- **Evaluating shading model**
- Spawning rays
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## Evaluating the Shading Model

Use a two-component model

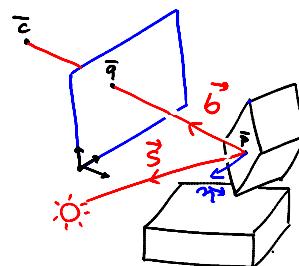
$$I(\vec{q}) = L(\vec{b}, \vec{n}, \vec{s}) + G(\vec{p}) \cdot r_s$$

specular reflection coeff

↑  
intensity at pixel  $\vec{q}$

↑  
local shading model at  $\vec{p}$

↑  
global shading component at  $\vec{p}$



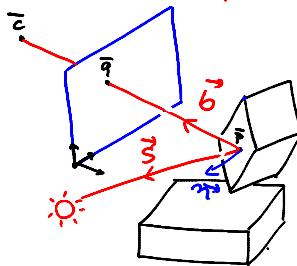
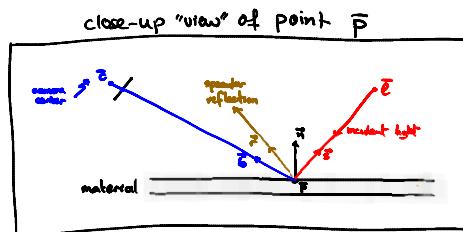
## Evaluating the Shading Model

Use a two-component model

$$I(\vec{q}) = \underbrace{L(\vec{b}, \vec{n}, \vec{s})}_{\text{Phong model}} + \underbrace{G(\vec{p}) \cdot r_s}_{\text{Computed after ray spawning}}$$

$$r_a I_a + r_d I_d \max(0, \vec{n} \cdot \vec{s}) + r_s I_s \max(0, \vec{n} \cdot \vec{b})^x$$

ambient      diffuse      specular



## Evaluating the Shading Model: Using Textures

Use a two-component model

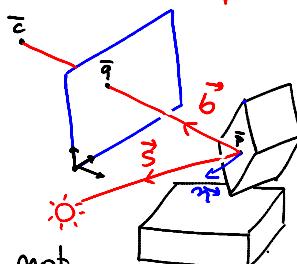
$$I(\vec{q}) = \underbrace{L(\vec{b}, \vec{n}, \vec{s})}_{\text{Phong model}} + \underbrace{G(\vec{p}) \cdot r_s}_{\text{Computed after ray spawning}}$$

$$(r_a I_a + r_d I_d \max(0, \vec{n} \cdot \vec{s}) + r_s I_s \max(0, \vec{n} \cdot \vec{b})^x)$$

ambient      diffuse      specular

Texture can be used to modulate  
ra and rd:

- need to compute  $\vec{p}$ 's texture coordinates
- unlike scan-conversion, we compute  $\vec{p}$ 's texture coordinates by linear interpolation on the polygon plane, not in image space ( $\Leftarrow$  no distortion artifacts)



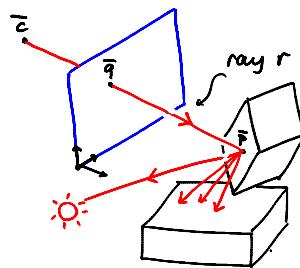
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Basic loop:

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## Computational Issues in Basic Ray Tracing

Basic loop:

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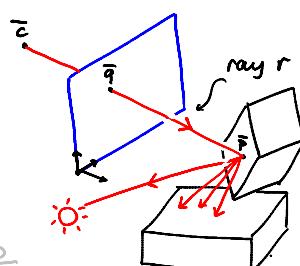
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- ④ estimate amount of light travelling from  $\bar{p}$  to  $\bar{q}$  along ray  $r$

a. "spawn" rays  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_k$  from  $\bar{p}$  in various directions

b. if ray  $r_i$  hits a light source, estimate light travelling along  $r_i$  and stop

c. else apply loop recursively to ray  $r_i$



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## Whitted Ray Tracing

Basic idea:

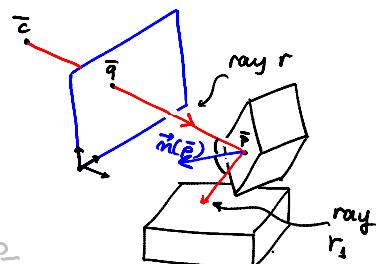
- Spawn only one ray
- Ray is along ideal specular direction

- ③ estimate amount of light  
reaching  $\bar{P}$

a. "spawn" rays  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_k$   
from  $\bar{P}$  in various  
specular directions  
only

b. if ray  $r_i$  hits a light  
source, estimate light  
travelling along  $r_i$  and stop

c. else apply loop recursively to ray  $r_i$



## Whitted Ray Tracing

Motivation:

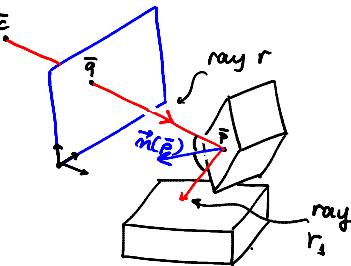
- Computationally efficient (1 spawned ray/bounce)
- Models the most important light path (in terms of "light energy" transferred from  $r_i$  to  $r$ )

③ estimate amount of light reaching  $\bar{P}$

a. "spawn" rays  $r_i, r_s, r_k$  from  $\bar{P}$  in various specular direction directions only

b. if ray  $r_i$  hits a light source, estimate light travelling along  $r_i$  and stop

c. else apply loop recursively to ray  $r_i$



## Whitted Ray Tracing: An Example

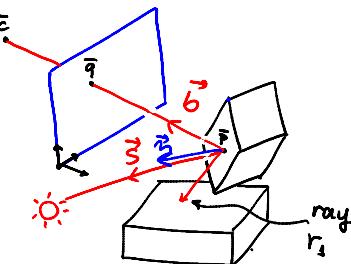
Use a two-component model

$$I(\vec{q}) = \underbrace{L(\vec{b}, \vec{n}, \vec{s})}_{\text{Phong model}} + \underbrace{G(\bar{P}) \cdot r_s}_{\text{Global specular term}}$$

$$r_a I_a + r_d I_d \max(0, \vec{n} \cdot \vec{z}) + r_s I_s \max(0, \vec{n} \cdot \vec{b})$$

ambient      diffuse      specular

Global specular term



## Whitted Ray Tracing: An Example

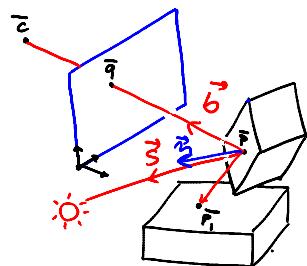
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$$r_a I_\alpha + r_d I_d \max(0, \vec{n} \cdot \vec{s}) + r_s I_s \max(0, \vec{r}_s \cdot \vec{b})$$

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## Whitted Ray Tracing: An Example

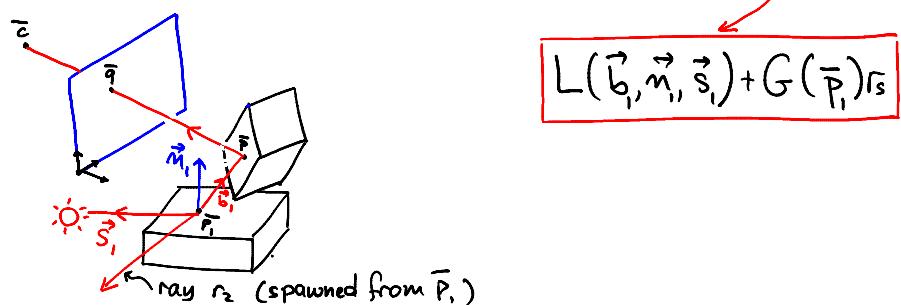
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Global specular term

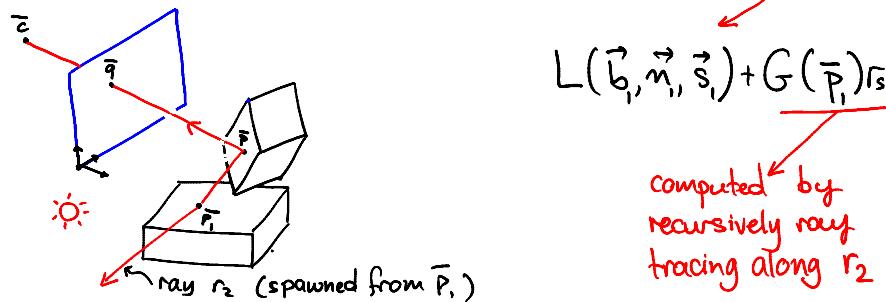


## Whitted Ray Tracing: An Example

Use a two-component model

$$I(\vec{q}) = \underbrace{L(\vec{b}, \vec{n}, \vec{s})}_{\text{Phong model}} + \underbrace{G(\vec{p}) \cdot r_s}_{\text{Global specular term}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & r_a I_\alpha + r_d I_d \max(0, \vec{n} \cdot \vec{s}) + r_s I_s \max(0, \vec{r} \cdot \vec{b}) \\ & \quad \text{ambient} \quad \text{diffuse} \quad \text{specular} \end{aligned}$$

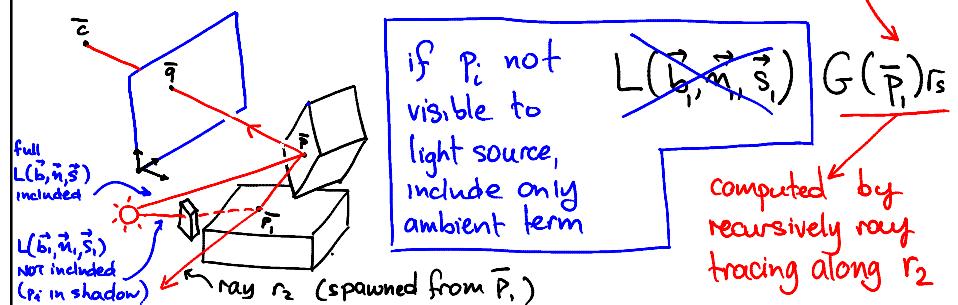


## Simulating Shadows

Use a two-component model

$$I(\vec{q}) = \underbrace{L(\vec{b}, \vec{n}, \vec{s})}_{\text{Phong model}} + \underbrace{G(\vec{p}) \cdot r_s}_{\text{Global specular term}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & r_a I_\alpha + r_d I_d \max(0, \vec{n} \cdot \vec{s}) + r_s I_s \max(0, \vec{r} \cdot \vec{b}) \\ & \quad \text{ambient} \quad \text{diffuse} \quad \text{specular} \end{aligned}$$



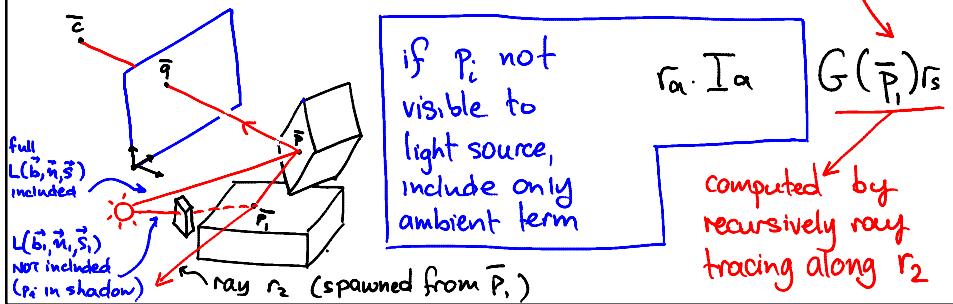
## Simulating Shadows

Use a two-component model

$$I(\vec{q}) = \underbrace{L(\vec{b}, \vec{n}, \vec{s})}_{\text{Phong model}} + G(\vec{p}) \cdot r_s$$

$$\underbrace{r_a I_a + r_d I_d \max(0, \vec{n} \cdot \vec{s})}_{\text{ambient}} + \underbrace{r_s I_s \max(0, \vec{p} \cdot \vec{b})^x}_{\text{specular}}$$

Global specular term



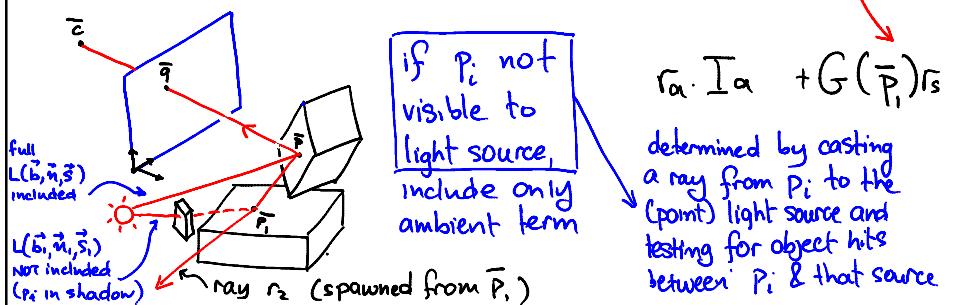
## Simulating Shadows

Use a two-component model

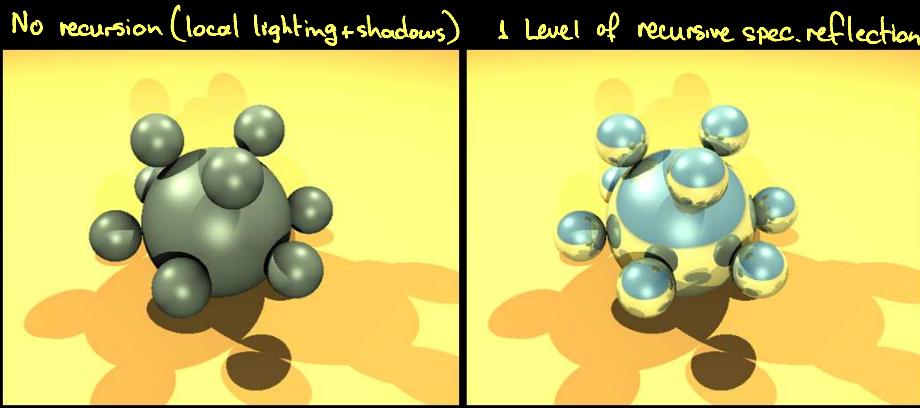
$$I(\vec{q}) = \underbrace{L(\vec{b}, \vec{n}, \vec{s})}_{\text{Phong model}} + G(\vec{p}) \cdot r_s$$

$$\underbrace{r_a I_a + r_d I_d \max(0, \vec{n} \cdot \vec{s})}_{\text{ambient}} + \underbrace{r_s I_s \max(0, \vec{p} \cdot \vec{b})^x}_{\text{specular}}$$

Global specular term

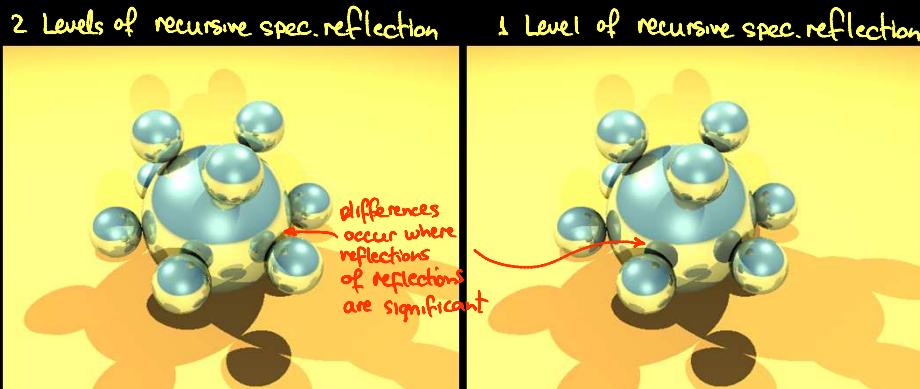


## Non-recursive vs. Recursive Ray Tracing



[https://agora.cs.uiuc.edu/download/attachments/10454060/RayTracing\\_suppl.ppt?version=1](https://agora.cs.uiuc.edu/download/attachments/10454060/RayTracing_suppl.ppt?version=1)

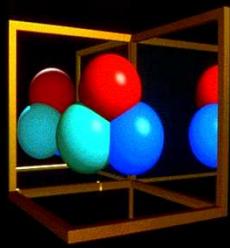
## Ray tracing in the movies



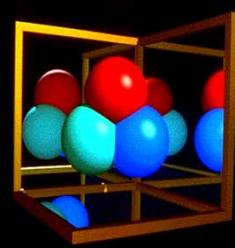
[https://agora.cs.uiuc.edu/download/attachments/10454060/RayTracing\\_suppl.ppt?version=1](https://agora.cs.uiuc.edu/download/attachments/10454060/RayTracing_suppl.ppt?version=1)

## Ray tracing in the movies

1 recursive level



2 recursive levels



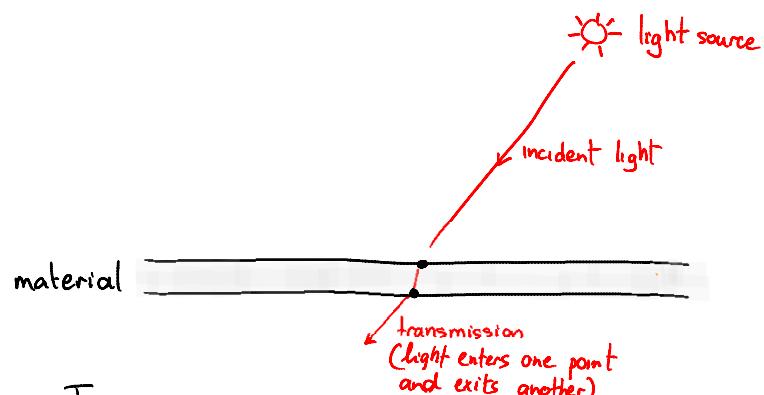
## Topic 12:

### Basic Ray Tracing

- Introduction to ray tracing
- Computing rays
- Computing intersections
  - ray-triangle
  - ray-polygon
  - ray-quadratic
  - the scene signature
- Computing normals
- Evaluating shading model
- Spawning rays
- Incorporating transmission
  - refraction
  - ray-spawning & refraction



## Modeling Reflection: Transmission

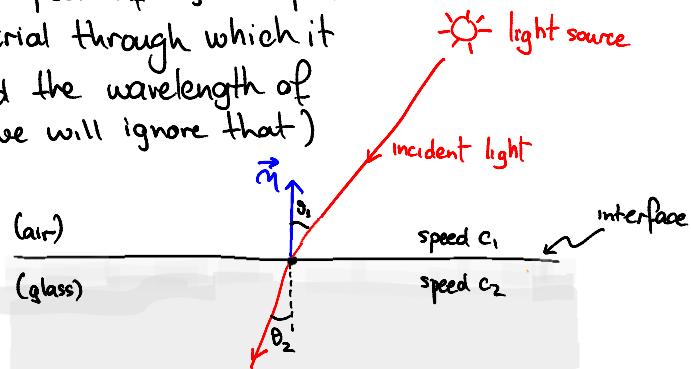


Transmission:

- Caused by materials that are not perfectly opaque
- Examples include glass, water and translucent materials such as skin

## Physics of Refraction

Physics: the speed of light depends on the material through which it travels (and the wavelength of light, but we will ignore that)



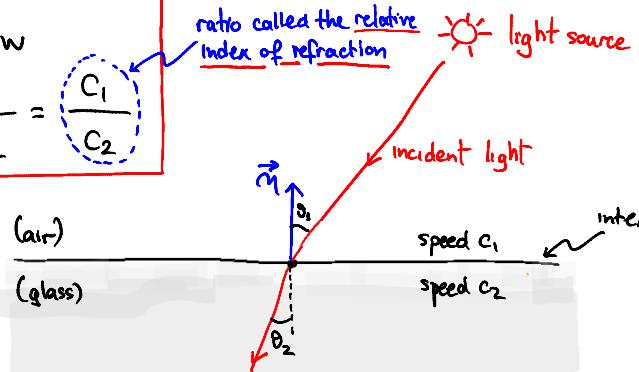
Refraction (bending of rays) occurs when light crosses an interface between two media with different speeds of light

## Physics of Refraction

Snell's law

$$\frac{\sin \theta_1}{\sin \theta_2} = \frac{c_1}{c_2}$$

ratio called the relative index of refraction

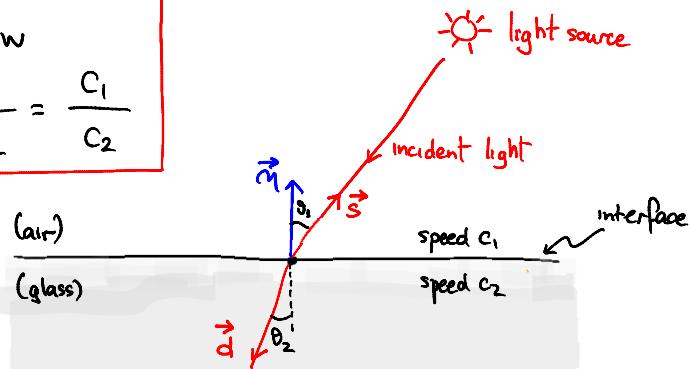


Refraction (bending of rays) occurs when light crosses an interface between two media with different speeds of light

## Geometry of Refraction: Transmission Vector

Snell's law

$$\frac{\sin \theta_1}{\sin \theta_2} = \frac{c_1}{c_2}$$



- ① Incident ray, outgoing ray & normal always lie on the same plane  $\Rightarrow$

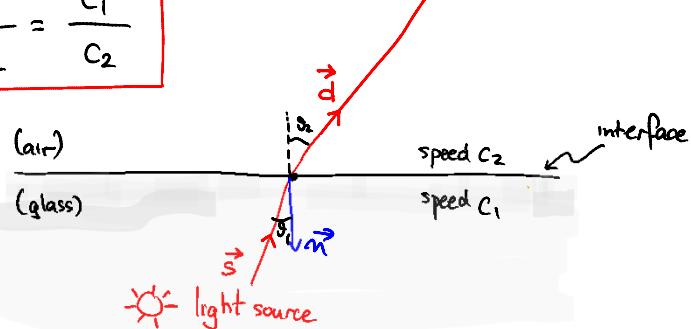
$$\vec{d} \text{ along } -\frac{c_2}{c_1} \vec{s} + \left[ \frac{c_2}{c_1} \cos \theta_1 - \cos \theta_2 \right] \vec{n}$$

exercise: prove this

## Geometry of Refraction: Path Reversibility

Snell's law

$$\frac{\sin \theta_1}{\sin \theta_2} = \frac{c_1}{c_2}$$

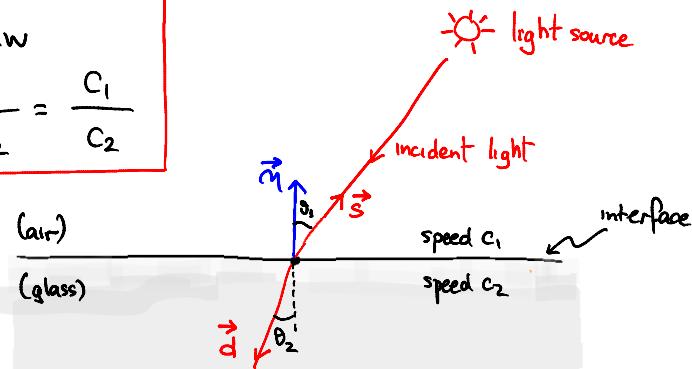


- ② Light paths are always reversible (ie. light is transmitted exactly the same way if its direction of travel is reversed)

## Geometry of Refraction

Snell's law

$$\frac{\sin \theta_1}{\sin \theta_2} = \frac{c_1}{c_2}$$

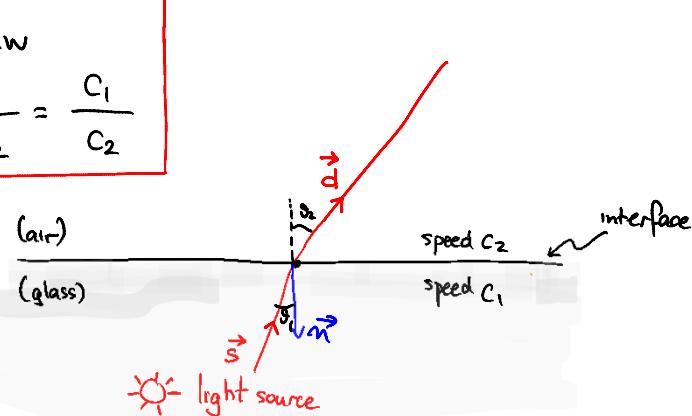


- ③ If  $c_2 < c_1$  light bends toward the normal

## Geometry of Refraction

Snell's law

$$\frac{\sin \theta_1}{\sin \theta_2} = \frac{c_1}{c_2}$$

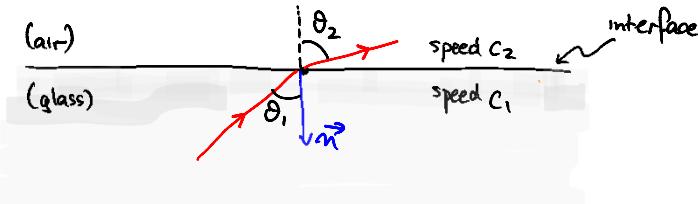


- ③ If  $c_2 < c_1$  light bends toward the normal  
If  $c_2 > c_1$  light bends away from normal

## Geometry of Refraction

Snell's law

$$\frac{\sin \theta_1}{\sin \theta_2} = \frac{c_1}{c_2}$$

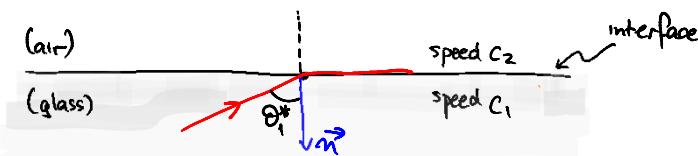


- ③ If  $c_2 < c_1$  light bends toward the normal  
If  $c_2 > c_1$  light bends away from normal

## Geometry of Refraction: The Critical Angle

Snell's law

$$\frac{\sin \theta_1}{\sin \theta_2} = \frac{c_1}{c_2}$$

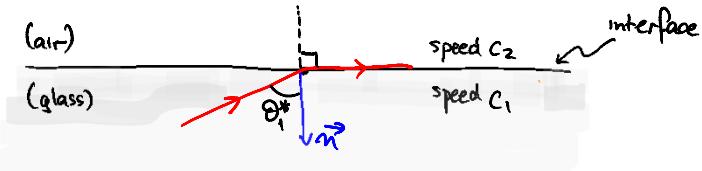


- ④ If  $c_2 > c_1$  there is a critical angle above which no transmission occurs ( $\Rightarrow$  have total internal reflection)

## Geometry of Refraction: Total Internal Reflection

Snell's law

$$\frac{\sin \theta_1}{\sin \theta_2} = \frac{c_1}{c_2}$$



- ④ Deriving the critical angle: from Snell's law,

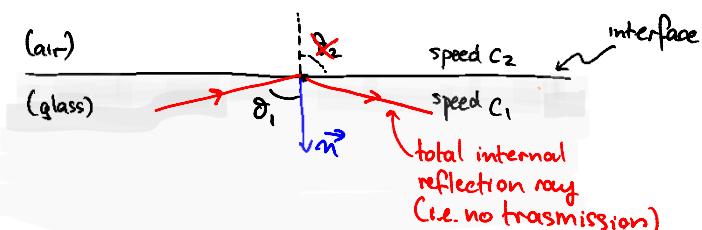
$$\cos \theta_2 = \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{c_2}{c_1}\right)^2 \sin^2 \theta_1}$$

$$\text{at critical angle, } \theta_2 = \frac{\pi}{2} \Rightarrow \sin \theta_1^* = \frac{c_1}{c_2}$$

## Geometry of Refraction: Total Internal Reflection

Snell's law

$$\frac{\sin \theta_1}{\sin \theta_2} = \frac{c_1}{c_2}$$

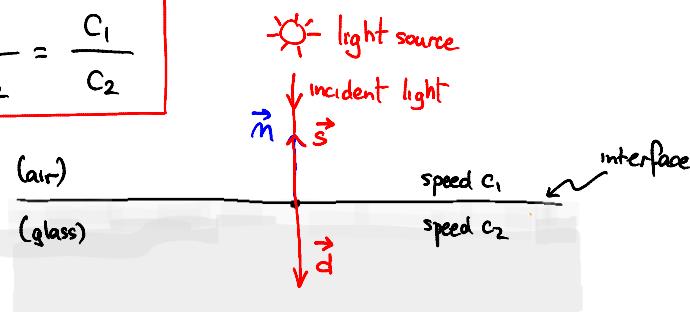


- ④ for  $\theta_1 > \theta_1^*$ ,  $\theta_2$  is undefined

## Geometry of Refraction: Normal Incidence

Snell's law

$$\frac{\sin \theta_1}{\sin \theta_2} = \frac{c_1}{c_2}$$



⑤ If  $\theta_1=0$ , no bending occurs

$$\vec{d} \text{ along } -\frac{c_2}{c_1}\vec{s} + \left[ \frac{c_2}{c_1} \cos \theta_1 - \cos \theta_2 \right] \vec{n}$$

## Topic 12:

### Basic Ray Tracing

- Introduction to ray tracing
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  - ray-polygon
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  - the scene signature
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## Whitted Ray Tracing with Refraction

Basic idea:

- Spawn two rays
- One ray is along ideal specular direction
- One is along refraction direction

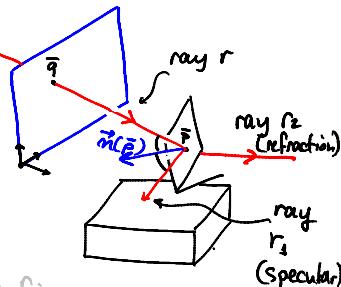
③ estimate amount of light

reaching  $\bar{P}$

- a. "spawn" rays  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_k$  from  $\bar{P}$  in ~~various~~ <sup>specular</sup> direction and ~~refraction~~ direction

- b. if ray  $r_i$  hits a light source, estimate light travelling along  $r_i$  and stop

- c. else apply loop recursively to ray  $r_i$



## Whitted Ray Tracing with Refraction

Much less efficient than specular-only ray tracing because  $2^n$  rays are spawned after  $n$  bounces (instead of  $n$ )

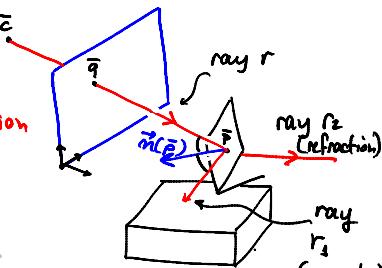
③ estimate amount of light

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- a. "spawn" rays  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_k$  from  $\bar{P}$  in ~~various~~ <sup>specular</sup> direction and ~~refraction~~ direction

- b. if ray  $r_i$  hits a light source, estimate light travelling along  $r_i$  and stop

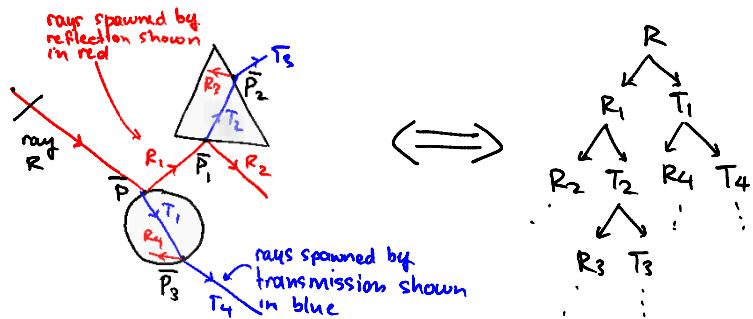
- c. else apply loop recursively to ray  $r_i$



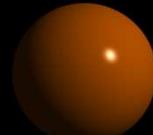
## Visualizing the Spawned Rays

Much less efficient than specular-only ray tracing because  $2^n$  rays are spawned after  $n$  bounces (instead of  $n$ )

Visualizing ray-spawning as a tree:

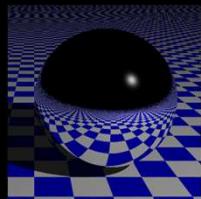


Local shading



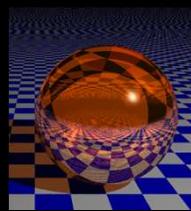
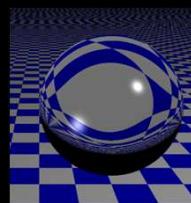
+

Reflection



+

Transmission



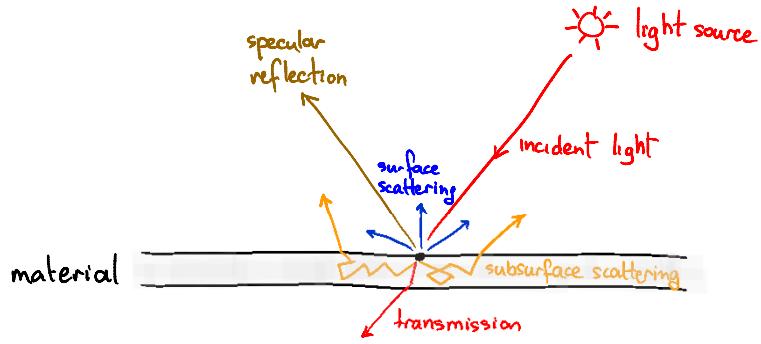
# Topic 13:

## Radiometry

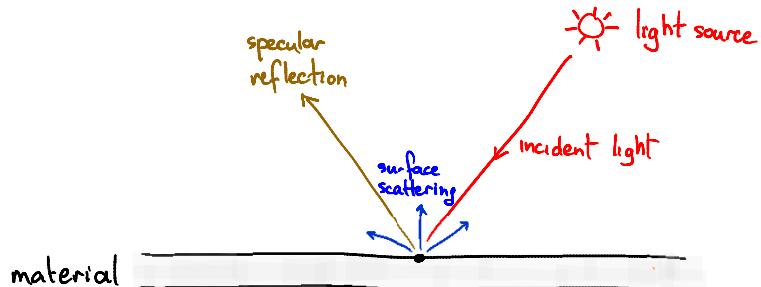
- The big picture
- Measuring light coming from a light source
- Measuring light falling onto a patch: Irradiance
- Measuring light leaving a patch: Radiance
- The Light Transport Cycle
- The Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function



## The Common Modes of “Light Transport”



## The Phong Reflectance Model

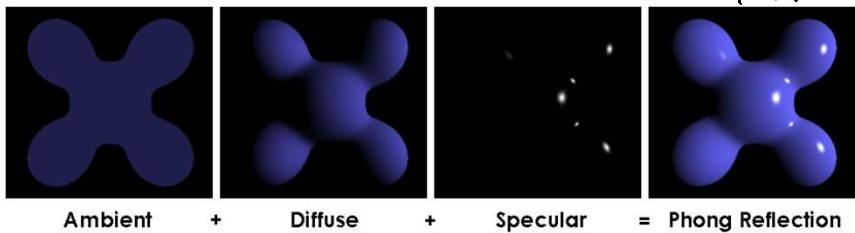


Phong model: A simple, computationally-efficient model that has 3 components:

- Diffuse
- Ambient
- Specular

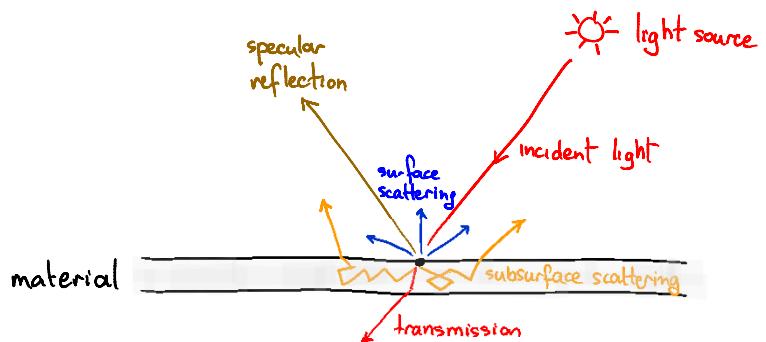
## Phong Reflection: The General Equation

Brad Smith, Wikipedia

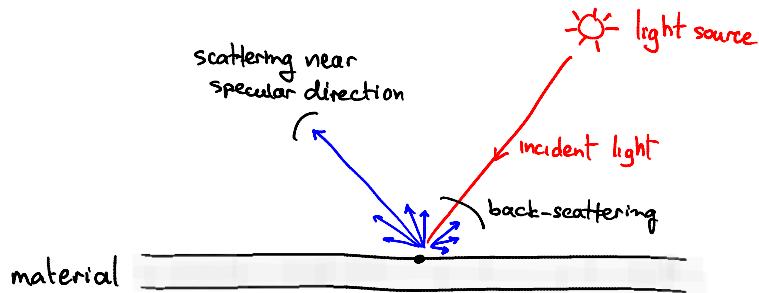


$$L(\vec{b}, \vec{n}, \vec{s}) = \underbrace{r_a I_a}_{\substack{\text{intensity at} \\ \text{projection of} \\ \text{point } P}} + \underbrace{r_d I_d \max(0, \vec{n} \cdot \vec{s})}_{\text{ambient}} + \underbrace{r_s I_s \max(0, \vec{r} \cdot \vec{b})^\alpha}_{\text{diffuse}} + \underbrace{r_s I_s \max(0, \vec{r} \cdot \vec{b})^\alpha}_{\text{specular}}$$

## The Common Modes of “Light Transport”

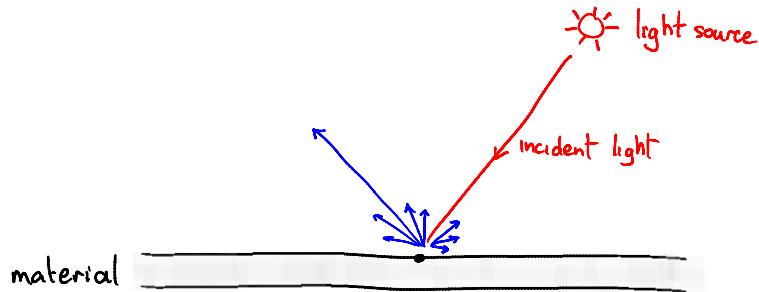


## Generalizing the Phong Model



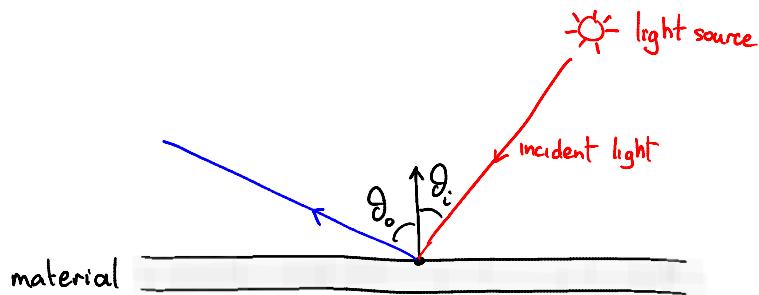
- All reflected light can be thought of as a form of scattering
- For most real materials, the Phong-based distinction into specular+diffuse reflection is a crude approximation

## Generalizing the Phong Model: How?



- Seek to answer the following question:  
given a specific incident direction  
how much light is reflected along a  
specific outgoing direction?

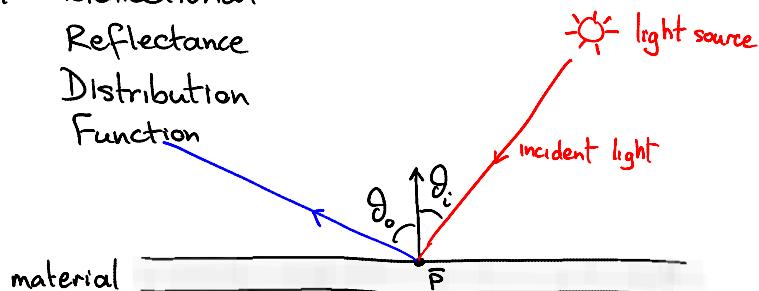
## Generalizing the Phong Model: How?



- Seek to answer the following question:  
given a specific incident direction  
how much light is reflected along a  
specific outgoing direction?

## The BRDF of a Surface Point (in 2D)

BRDF = Bidirectional  
Reflectance  
Distribution  
Function



- It is a function  $\rho_{\bar{P}}: [-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}] \times [-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}] \rightarrow [0, 1]$

$$\rho_{\bar{P}}(\theta_i, \theta_o) = \frac{\text{emitted light in direction } \theta_o}{\text{incident light in direction } \theta_i}$$

↑ incoming direction    ↑ outgoing direction

## The BRDF of a Surface Point (in 3D)

hemisphere of all possible outgoing directions (parameterized by two angles  $\theta_o, \varphi_o$ )

hemisphere of all possible incoming directions (parameterized by 2 angles  $\theta_i, \varphi_i$ )

sweep the range of  $\theta_o, \varphi_o$

$$\rho: [-\pi, \pi] \times [0, \frac{\pi}{2}] \times [-\pi, \pi] \times [0, \frac{\pi}{2}] \rightarrow [0, 1]$$

$$\rho(\vec{d}_i, \vec{d}_o) = \frac{\text{emitted light in direction } \vec{d}_o}{\text{incident light in direction } \vec{d}_i}$$

↑ incoming direction      ↑ outgoing direction

## The BRDF of a Surface Point (in 3D)

hemisphere of all possible outgoing directions (parameterized by two angles  $\theta_o, \varphi_o$ )

hemisphere of all possible incoming directions (parameterized by 2 angles  $\theta_i, \varphi_i$ )

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$$\rho(\theta_i, \varphi_i, \theta_o, \varphi_o) = \frac{\text{emitted light in direction } \theta_o, \varphi_o}{\text{incident light in direction } \theta_i, \varphi_i}$$

↑ incoming direction      ↑ outgoing direction

### Measuring BRDFs with a Gonioreflectometer

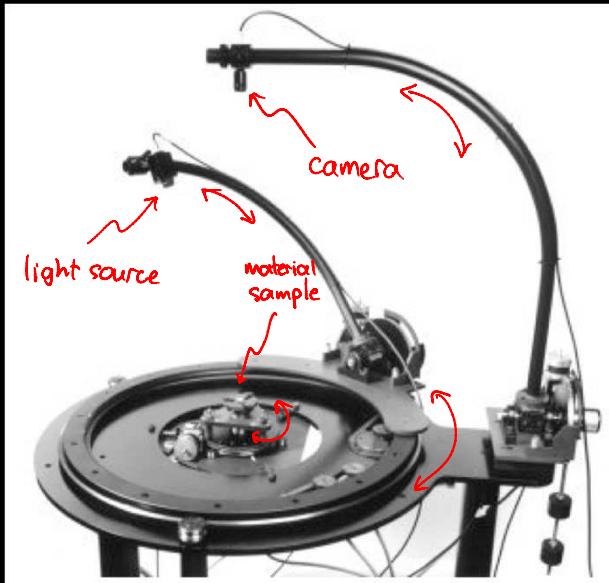
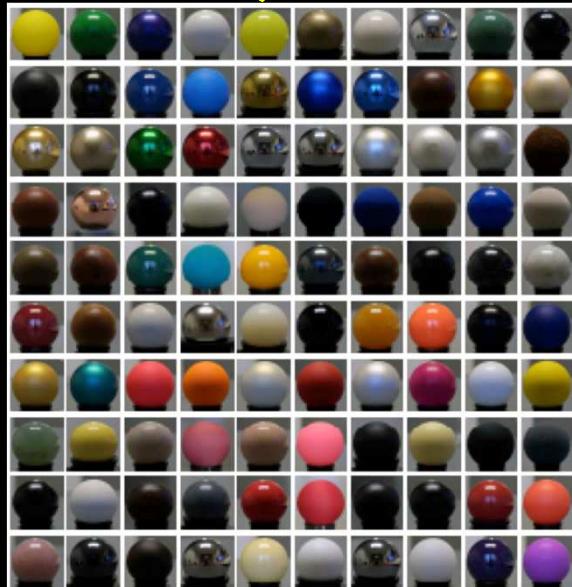


Photo : MSL New Zealand

### Visualizing BRDFs



The MERL BRDF database