



# miniRT

My first RayTracer with MiniLibX

*Summary:* This project is an introduction to the beautiful world of Raytracing.  
Once completed, you will be able to render simple computer-generated images, and you  
will never be afraid of implementing mathematical formulas again.

*Version:* 8.4

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# Chapter I

## Introduction

When it comes to rendering three-dimensional computer-generated images, there are 2 possible approaches: “Rasterization”, which is used by almost all graphic engines because of its efficiency, and “Ray Tracing.”

The “Ray Tracing” method, developed for the first time in 1968 (but improved upon since), is still more computationally expensive than the “Rasterization” method. As a result, it is not yet fully adapted to real-time use cases but it produces a much higher degree of visual realism.



Figure I.1: The pictures above are rendered with the ray tracing technique. Impressive, isn't it?

Before you can even begin to produce such high-quality graphics, you must master the basics: the `miniRT` is your first ray tracer coded in C, normed, humble, but **functional**.

The main goal of `miniRT` is to prove to yourself that you can implement any mathematical or physical formulas without being a mathematician. We will only implement the most basic ray tracing features here, so just keep calm, take a deep breath, and **don't panic!** After this project, you will be able to show off nice-looking pictures to justify the number of hours you are spending at school.

# Chapter II

## Common Instructions

- Your project must be written in C.
- Your project must be written in accordance with the Norm. If you have bonus files/functions, they are included in the norm check and you will receive a 0 if there is a norm error inside.
- Your functions should not quit unexpectedly (segmentation fault, bus error, double free, etc) apart from undefined behaviors. If this happens, your project will be considered non functional and will receive a 0 during the evaluation.
- All heap allocated memory space must be properly freed when necessary. No leaks will be tolerated.
- If the subject requires it, you must submit a `Makefile` which will compile your source files to the required output with the flags `-Wall`, `-Wextra` and `-Werror`, use `cc`, and your `Makefile` must not relink.
- Your `Makefile` must at least contain the rules `$(NAME)`, `all`, `clean`, `fclean` and `re`.
- To turn in bonuses to your project, you must include a rule `bonus` to your `Makefile`, which will add all the various headers, libraries or functions that are forbidden on the main part of the project. Bonuses must be in a different file `_bonus.{c/h}` if the subject does not specify anything else. Mandatory and bonus part evaluation is done separately.
- If your project allows you to use your `libft`, you must copy its sources and its associated `Makefile` in a `libft` folder with its associated `Makefile`. Your project's `Makefile` must compile the library by using its `Makefile`, then compile the project.
- We encourage you to create test programs for your project even though this work **won't have to be submitted and won't be graded**. It will give you a chance to easily test your work and your peers' work. You will find those tests especially useful during your defence. Indeed, during defence, you are free to use your tests and/or the tests of the peer you are evaluating.
- Submit your work to your assigned git repository. Only the work in the git repository will be graded. If Deepthought is assigned to grade your work, it will be done

after your peer-evaluations. If an error happens in any section of your work during Deepthought's grading, the evaluation will stop.

# Chapter III

## Mandatory part - miniRT

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Program name     | miniRT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Turn in files    | All your files                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Makefile         | all, clean, fclean, re, bonus                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Arguments        | a scene in format *.rt                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| External functs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• open, close, read, write, printf, malloc, free, perror, strerror, exit</li><li>• All functions of the math library. (Man page: man math.h or man 3 math. Don't forget to compile with the -lm flag.)</li><li>• All functions of the MinilibX</li></ul> |
| Libft authorized | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Description      | The goal of your program is to generate images using the Raytracing protocol. Those computer-generated images will each represent a scene, as seen from a specific angle and position, defined by simple geometric objects, and each with its own lighting system.                             |

The constraints are as follows:

- You must use the `miniLibX`, either the version that is available on the operating system, or from its sources. If you choose to work with the sources, you will need to apply the same rules for your `libft` as those written above in **Common Instructions** part.
- The management of your window must remain fluid: switching to another window, minimization, etc.
- You need at least these three simple geometric objects: plane, sphere, cylinder.

- If applicable, all possible intersections and the insides of the objects must be handled correctly.
- Your program must be able to resize the unique properties of objects: diameter for a sphere and the width and height for a cylinder.
- Your program must be able to apply translation and rotation transformations to objects, lights, and cameras (except for spheres and lights that cannot be rotated).
- Light management: spot brightness, hard shadows, ambient lighting (objects are never completely in the dark). You must implement ambient and diffuse lighting.
- The program displays the image in a window and respects the following rules:
  - Pressing **ESC** must close the window and quit the program cleanly.
  - Clicking on the red cross on the window frame must close the window and quit the program cleanly.
  - The use of **images** from the **minilibX** is strongly recommended.
- Your program must take as its first argument a scene description file with the **.rt** extension.
  - Each type of element can be separated by one or more line breaks.
  - Each type of information from an element can be separated by one or more spaces.
  - Each type of element can be set in any order in the file.
  - Elements defined by a capital letter can only be declared once in the scene.

- o The first piece of information for each element is the type identifier (composed of one or two characters), followed by all specific information for each object in a strict order such as:

- o **Ambient lighting:**

```
A 0.2 255,255,255
```

- \* identifier: **A**
- \* ambient lighting ratio in range [0.0,1.0]: **0.2**
- \* R, G, B colors in range [0-255]: **255, 255, 255**

- o **Camera:**

```
C -50.0,0,20    0,0,1    70
```

- \* identifier: **C**
- \* x, y, z coordinates of the viewpoint: **-50.0,0,20**
- \* 3D normalized orientation vector, in range [-1,1] for each x, y, z axis: **0.0,0.0,1.0**
- \* FOV: Horizontal field of view in degrees in range [0,180]: **70**

- o **Light:**

```
L -40.0,50.0,0.0  0.6    10,0,255
```

- \* identifier: **L**
- \* x, y, z coordinates of the light point: **-40.0,50.0,0.0**
- \* the light brightness ratio in the range [0.0,1.0]: **0.6**
- \* (unused in mandatory part) R, G, B colors in range [0-255]: **10, 0, 255**

- o **Sphere:**

```
sp  0.0,0.0,20.6  12.6   10,0,255
```

- \* identifier: **sp**
- \* x, y, z coordinates of the sphere center: **0.0,0.0,20.6**
- \* the sphere diameter: **12.6**
- \* R,G,B colors in range [0-255]: **10, 0, 255**

- o **Plane:**

```
p1  0.0,0.0,-10.0  0.0,1.0,0.0  0,0,225
```

- \* identifier: **pl**
- \* x, y, z coordinates of a point in the plane: **0.0,0.0,-10.0**
- \* 3D normalized normal vector, in the range [-1,1] for each x, y, z axis: **0.0,1.0,0.0**
- \* R,G,B colors in range [0-255]: **0,0,225**

- o **Cylinder:**

```
cy  50.0,0.0,20.6  0.0,0.0,1.0  14.2  21.42  10,0,255
```

- \* identifier: **cy**
- \* x, y, z coordinates of the center of the cylinder: **50.0,0.0,20.6**
- \* 3D normalized vector of axis of cylinder, in the range [-1,1] for each x, y, z axis: **0.0,0.0,1.0**
- \* the cylinder diameter: **14.2**
- \* the cylinder height: **21.42**
- \* R, G, B colors in the range [0,255]: **10, 0, 255**

- Example of the mandatory part with a minimalist .rt scene:

```
A 0.2                                255,255,255  
C -50,0,20    0,0,1      70  
L -40,0,30          0.7      255,255,255  
pl 0,0,0        0,1,0,0    255,0,225  
sp 0,0,20       20        255,0,0  
cy 50.0,0.0,20.6 0,0,1.0  14.2  21.42  10,0,255
```

- If any misconfiguration of any kind is encountered in the file, the program must exit properly and return "Error\n" followed by an explicit error message of your choice.
- For the defense, it would be ideal for you to have a whole set of scenes focused on what is functional, to facilitate the control of the elements to create.

# Chapter IV

## Bonus part

The Ray-Tracing technique could handle many more things like reflection, transparency, refraction, more complex objects, soft shadows, caustics, global illumination, bump mapping, .obj file rendering, etc.

But for the `miniRT` project, we want to keep things simple for your first ray tracer and your first steps in CGI.

Here is a list of a few simple bonuses you could implement. If you want to do bigger bonuses, we strongly advise you to recode a new ray tracer later in your developer life after this little one is finished and fully functional.



Figure IV.1: A spot, a space skybox, and a shiny earth-textured sphere with bump-mapping



Bonuses will be evaluated only if your mandatory part is perfect. By perfect we naturally mean that it needs to be complete, that it cannot fail, even in cases of nasty mistakes like wrong uses, etc. It means that if your mandatory part does not obtain all the points during the grading, your bonuses will be entirely ignored.

Bonus list:

- Add specular reflection to achieve a full Phong reflection model.
- Color disruption: checkerboard pattern.
- Colored and multi-spot lights.
- One other second-degree object: cone, hyperboloid, paraboloid..
- Handle bump map textures.



You are allowed to use other functions and add features to your scene description to complete the bonus part, as long as their use is justified during your evaluation. You are also allowed to modify the expected scene file format to fit your needs. Be smart!

# Chapter V

## Examples

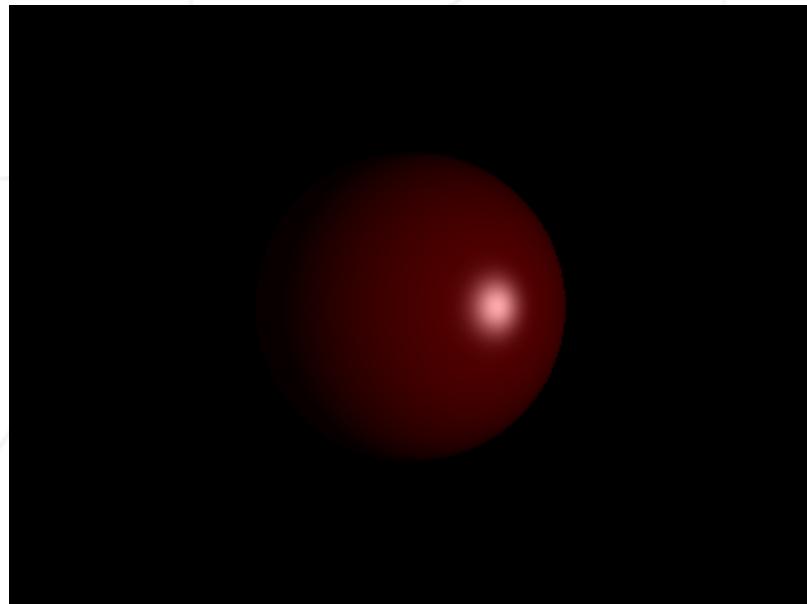


Figure V.1: A sphere, one spot, some shine (optional).



Figure V.2: A cylinder, one spot.

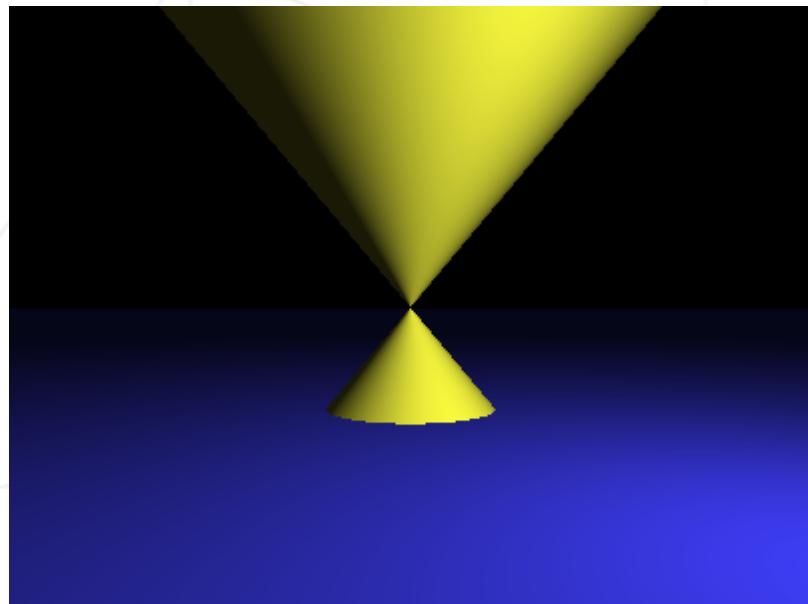


Figure V.3: A cone (optional), a plane, one spot.

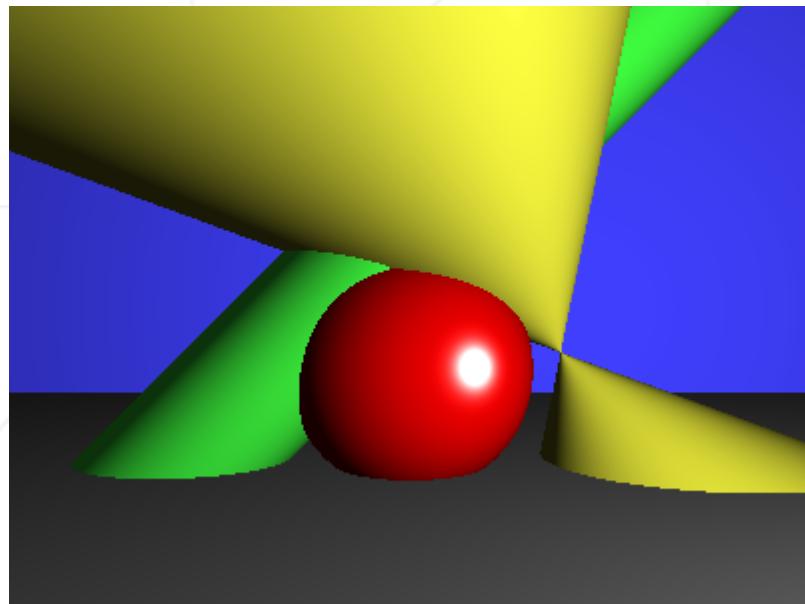


Figure V.4: A bit of everything, including 2 planes.

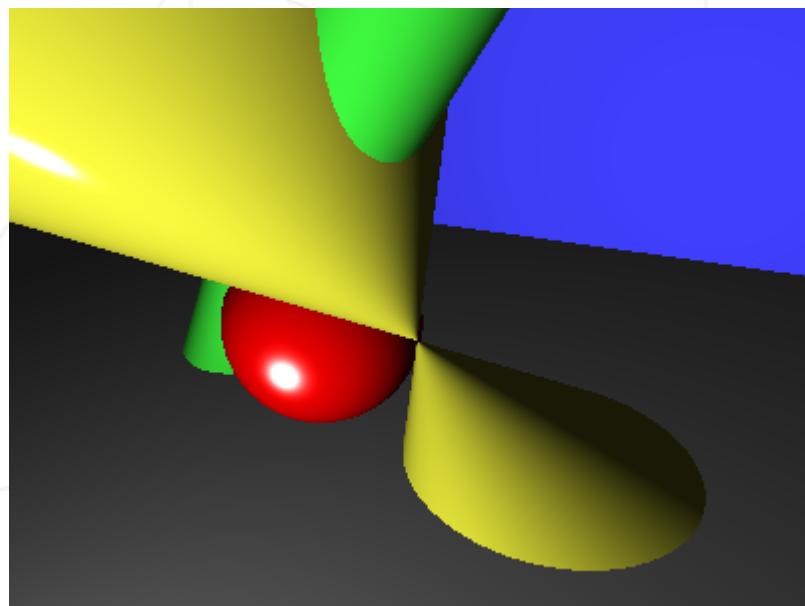


Figure V.5: Same scene different camera.

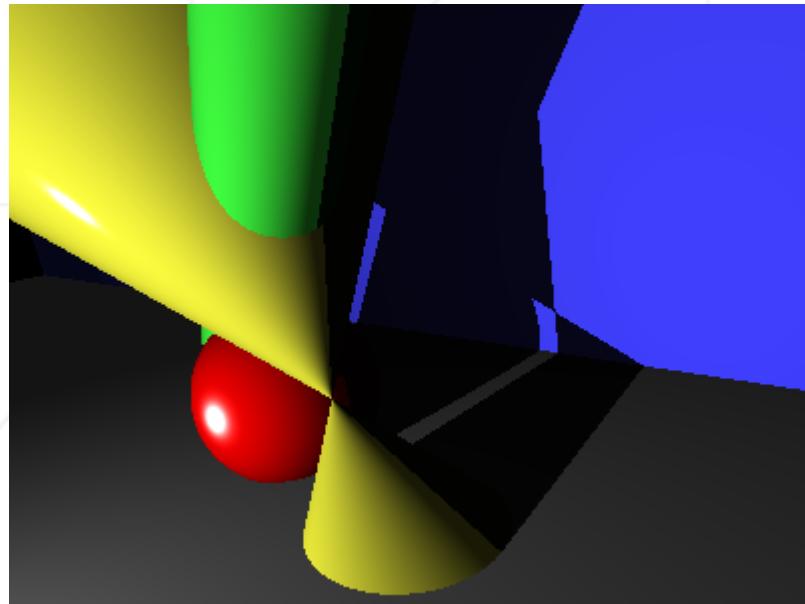


Figure V.6: This time with shadows.

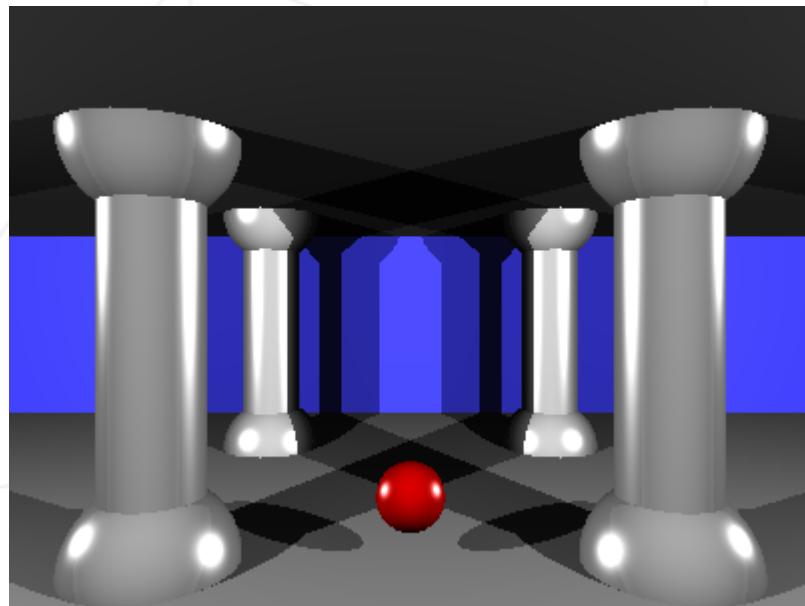


Figure V.7: With multiple spots.

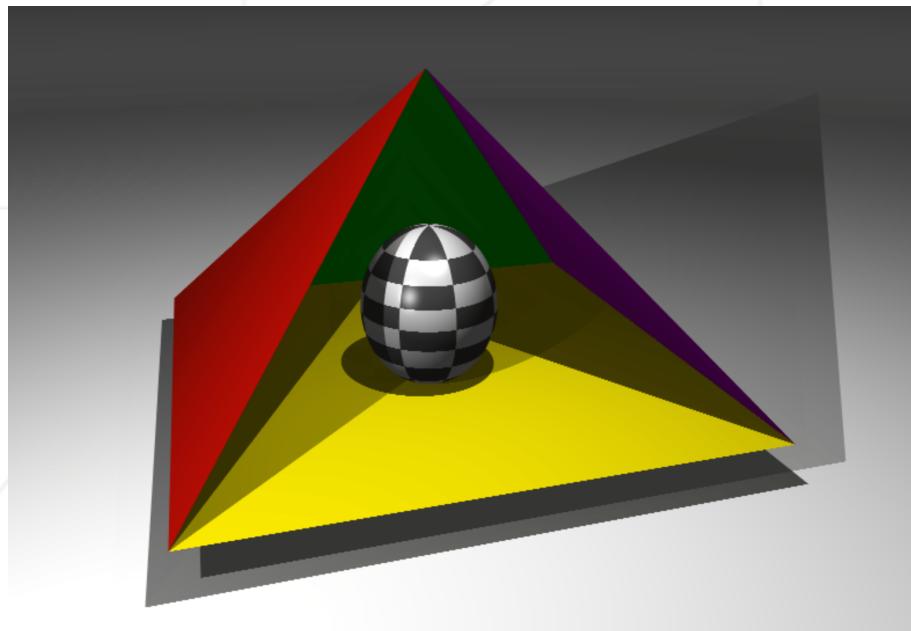


Figure V.8: And finally, with multiple spots and a shiny checkered (optional) sphere in the middle.

# Chapter VI

## Submission and peer-evaluation

Submit your assignment in your **Git** repository as usual. Only the work inside your repository will be evaluated during the defense. Don't hesitate to double-check the names of your files to ensure they are correct.



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