

STRUCTURE OF GPU SHADERS

Specifically DirectX HLSL, but many similarities elsewhere



FIVE TYPES OF RAY TRACING SHADERS



- Ray tracing pipeline split into **five** shaders:
 - A **ray generation shader** *define how to start tracing rays*



FIVE TYPES OF RAY TRACING SHADERS

- Ray tracing pipeline split into **five** shaders:
- A **ray generation shader** *define how to start tracing rays*
 - **Intersection shader(s)** *define how rays intersect geometry*



FIVE TYPES OF RAY TRACING SHADERS

- Ray tracing pipeline split into **five** shaders:
- A **ray generation shader** *define how to start tracing rays*
 - **Intersection shader(s)** *define how rays intersect geometry*
 - **Miss shader(s)** *shading for when rays miss geometry*



FIVE TYPES OF RAY TRACING SHADERS

- Ray tracing pipeline split into **five** shaders:
- A **ray generation shader** *define how to start tracing rays*
 - **Intersection shader(s)** *define how rays intersect geometry*
 - **Miss shader(s)** *shading for when rays miss geometry*
 - **Closest-hit shader(s)** *shading at the intersection point*



FIVE TYPES OF RAY TRACING SHADERS

- Ray tracing pipeline split into **five** shaders:
- A **ray generation shader** *define how to start tracing rays*
 - **Intersection shader(s)** *define how rays intersect geometry*
 - **Miss shader(s)** *shading for when rays miss geometry*
 - **Closest-hit shader(s)** *shading at the intersection point*
 - **Any-hit shader(s)** *run once per hit** (e.g., for transparency)*



FIVE TYPES OF RAY TRACING SHADERS

Ray tracing pipeline split into **five** shaders:

- A **ray generation shader**
- **Intersection shader(s)**
- **Miss shader(s)**
- **Closest-hit shader(s)**
- **Any-hit shader(s)**

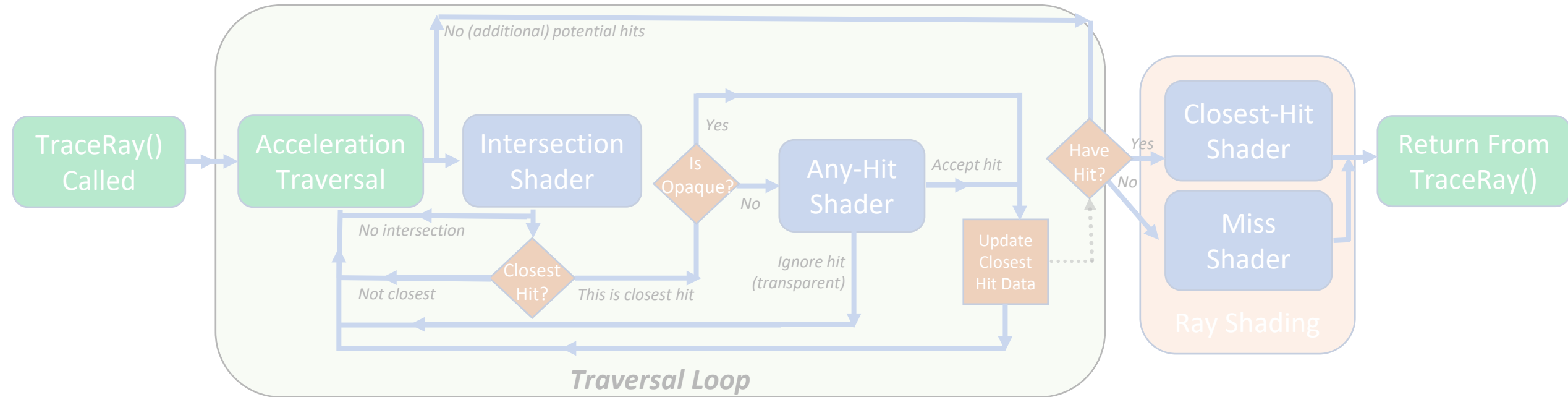
← Controls other shaders

← Defines object shapes (one shader per type)

← Controls per-ray behavior (often many types)

HOW DO THESE FIT TOGETHER?

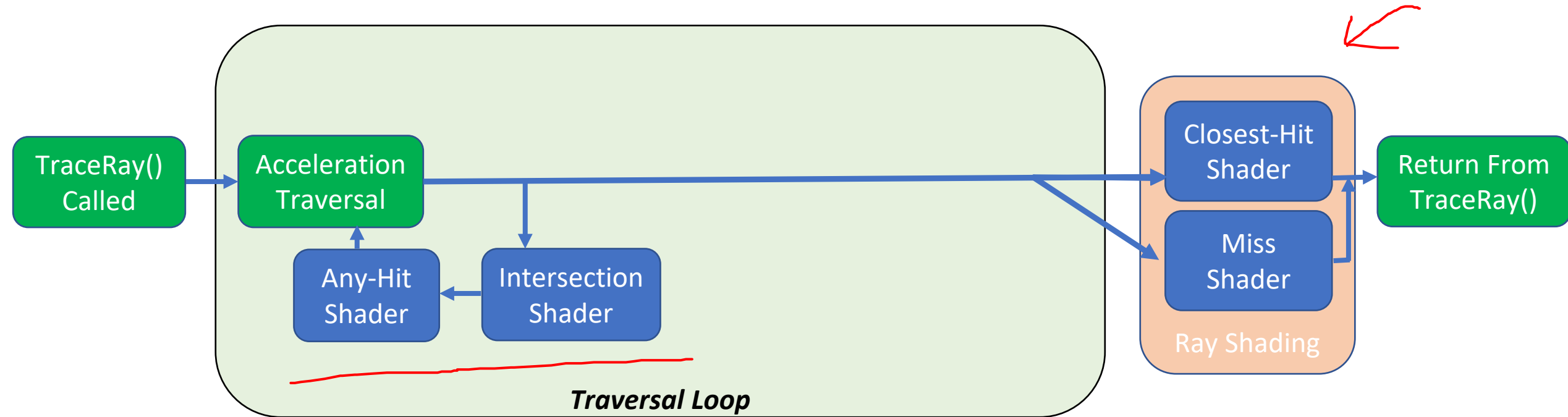
[EYE CHART VERSION]



HOW DO THESE FIT TOGETHER? [LOGICAL VERSION]



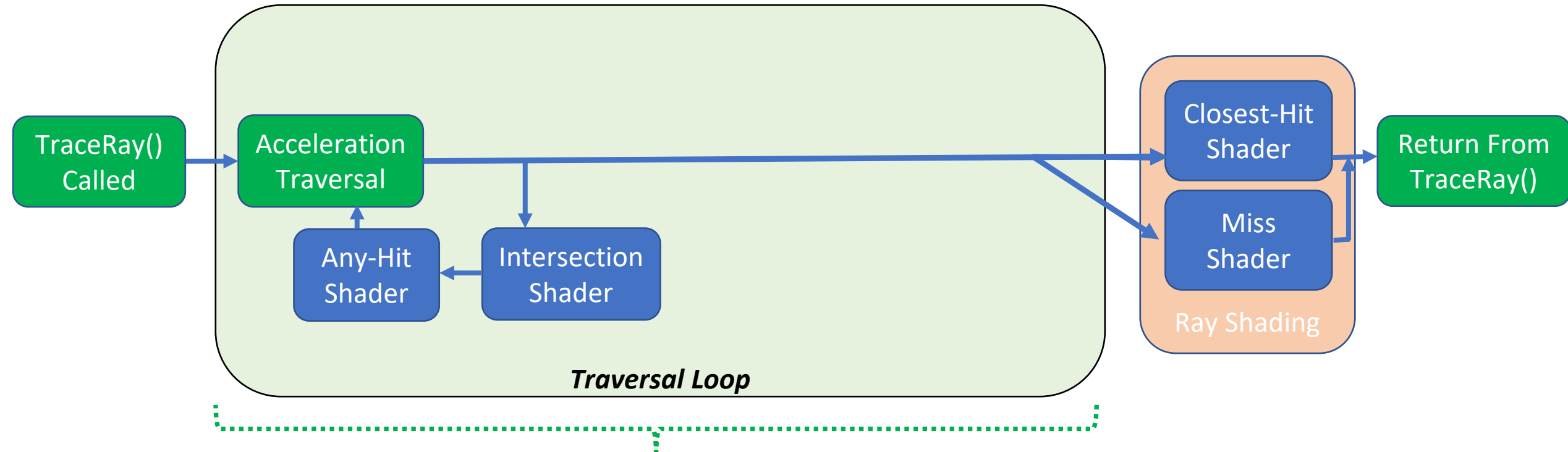
Loop during ray tracing, testing hits until there's no more; then shade





HOW DO THESE FIT TOGETHER? [LOGICAL VERSION]

Loop during ray tracing, testing hits until there's no more; then shade



Some important details here; learn later for advanced functionality

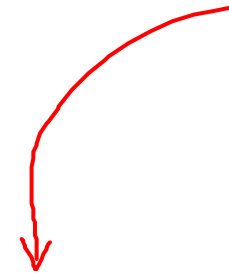


REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER



Remember:

- Ray generation shader starts work



```
[shader("raygeneration")]
void MyRayGen() {
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );

    RayDesc ray        = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };

    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );

    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;
```

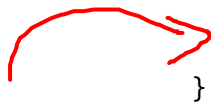
- Remember:
 - Ray generation shader starts work
- Output image buffer
 - Communicates results with CPU

```
[shader("raygeneration")]
void MyRayGen() {
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );

    RayDesc ray        = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };

    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );

    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER

- Remember:
 - Ray generation shader starts work
- Information about scene
 - Passed as input from the CPU

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;
```

```
[shader("raygeneration")]
void MyRayGen() {
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );

    RayDesc ray        = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };

    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );

    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER

Remember:

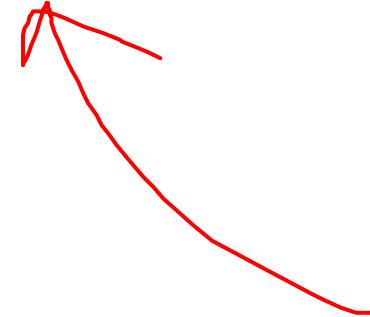
- Ray generation shader starts work

Each ray returns some value

- Return payload is user-defined
- Often, like this one, just a color

Before tracing, initialize payload

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;  
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };
```



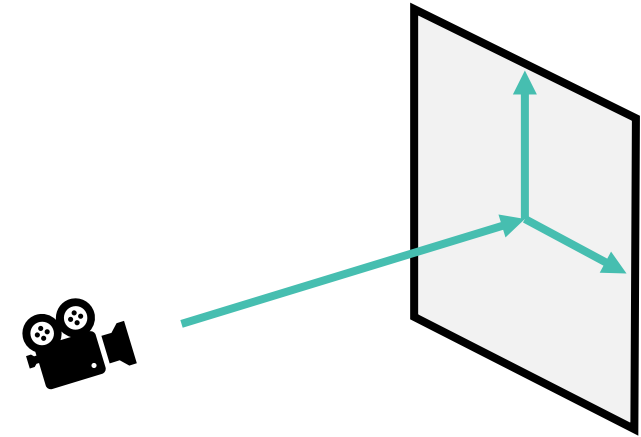
```
[shader("raygeneration")]  
void MyRayGen() {  
    uint2 curPixel = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;  
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );  
  
    RayDesc ray = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };  
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };  
  
    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );  
  
    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );  
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER

- Remember:
 - Ray generation shader starts work
- You write a function here
 - Computes per-pixel ray direction
 - Based on location on screen



```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;  
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };
```

```
[shader("raygeneration")]  
void MyRayGen() {  
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;  
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );  
  
    RayDesc ray        = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };  
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };  
  
    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );  
  
    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );  
}
```





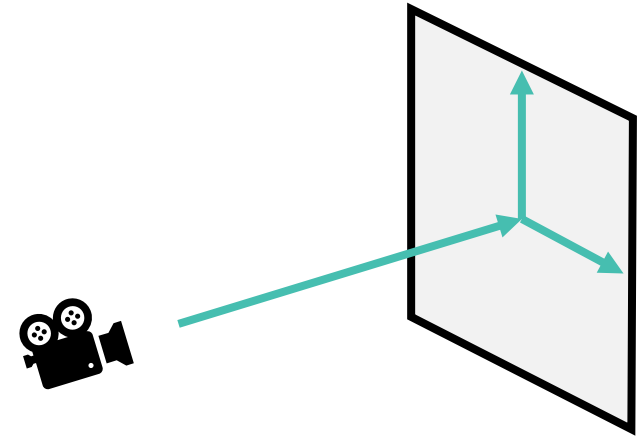
REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER

- Remember:
 - Ray generation shader starts work

- You write a function here
 - Computes per-pixel ray direction
 - Based on location on screen

- Setup the ray to trace

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;  
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };
```



```
[shader("raygeneration")]  
void MyRayGen() {  
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;  
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );  
    RayDesc ray        = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };  
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };  
  
    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );  
  
    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );  
}
```

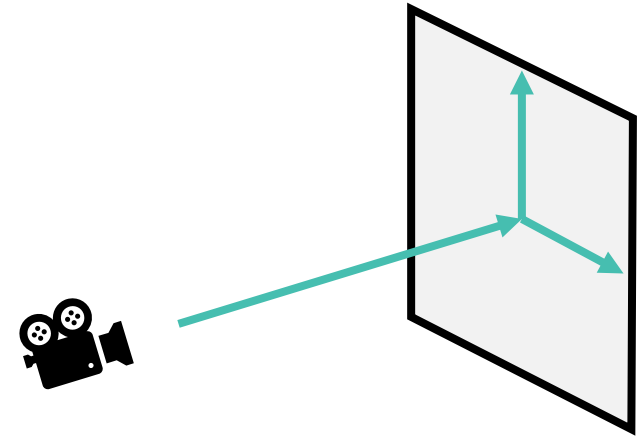




REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER

- Remember:
 - Ray generation shader starts work
- You write a function here
 - Computes per-pixel ray direction
 - Based on location on screen
- Setup the ray to trace
 - Min and max distances to search

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;  
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };
```



```
[shader("raygeneration")]  
void MyRayGen() {  
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;  
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );  
  
    RayDesc ray        = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };  
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };  
  
    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );  
  
    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );  
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER

Remember:
— Ray generation shader starts work

Trace your ray here

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;  
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };
```

```
[shader("raygeneration")]  
void MyRayGen() {  
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;  
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );  
  
    RayDesc ray        = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };  
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };  
  
    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );  
  
    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );  
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER

Remember:
— Ray generation shader starts work

Trace your ray here
— Scene BVH

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;  
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };
```

```
[shader("raygeneration")]  
void MyRayGen() {  
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;  
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );  
  
    RayDesc ray        = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };  
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };  
  
    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );  
  
    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );  
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER

- Remember:
 - Ray generation shader starts work
- Trace your ray here
 - Scene BVH
 - No special ray behaviors

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;  
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };
```

```
[shader("raygeneration")]  
void MyRayGen() {  
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;  
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );  
  
    RayDesc ray        = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };  
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };  
  
    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );  
  
    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );  
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER



Remember:

- Ray generation shader starts work



Trace your ray here

- Scene BVH
- No special ray behaviors
- What geometry should we test?
 - Bitmask; 0xFF → test all geometry

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;  
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };
```

```
[shader("raygeneration")]  
void MyRayGen() {  
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;  
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );  
  
    RayDesc ray        = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };  
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };  
  
    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );  
  
    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );  
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER



Remember:

- Ray generation shader starts work



Trace your ray here

- Scene BVH
- No special ray behaviors
- What geometry should we test?
 - Bitmask; 0xFF → test all geometry
- Ray and payload from earlier

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;  
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };
```

```
[shader("raygeneration")]  
void MyRayGen() {  
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;  
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );  
  
    RayDesc ray        = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };  
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };  
  
    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );  
  
    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );  
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER



Remember:

- Ray generation shader starts work



Which miss shader to use?

- There's a list of miss shaders
- Specify index of the one to use

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };

[shader("miss")]
void MyMiss(inout RayPayload payload) {
    payload.color = float3( 0, 0, 1 );
}
```

```
[shader("raygeneration")]
void MyRayGen() {
    uint2 curPixel = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );

    RayDesc ray = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };

    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );

    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER

- Remember:
 - Ray generation shader starts work
- Which miss shader to use?
 - There's a list of miss shaders
 - Specify index of the one to use
- In my tutorials, MyMiss is index 0
 - Why? First miss shader I loaded

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;  
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };
```

```
[shader("miss")]  
void MyMiss(inout RayPayload payload) {  
    payload.color = float3( 0, 0, 1 );  
}
```

```
[shader("raygeneration")]  
void MyRayGen() {  
    uint2 curPixel = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;  
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );  
  
    RayDesc ray = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };  
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };  
  
    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );  
  
    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );  
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER



Remember:

- Ray generation shader starts work



Which ***hit group*** to use?

- May have 1 *any-hit shader*
- May have 1 *closest-hit shader*
- May have 1 *intersection shader*

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };

[shader("miss")]
void MyMiss(inout RayPayload payload) {
    payload.color = float3( 0, 0, 1 );
}

[shader("closesthit")]
void MyClosestHit(inout RayPayload data,
                  BuiltinTriangleIntersectAttribs attribs) {
    data.color = float3( 1, 0, 0 );
}

[shader("raygeneration")]
void MyRayGen() {
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );

    RayDesc ray       = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };

    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );

    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER

- Remember:
 - Ray generation shader starts work
- Which **hit group** to use?
 - May have 1 *any-hit shader*
 - May have 1 *closest-hit shader*
 - May have 1 *intersection shader*
- Here, has just one shader
 - It's index 0 → specified first on load

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };

[shader("miss")]
void MyMiss(inout RayPayload payload) {
    payload.color = float3( 0, 0, 1 );
}

[shader("closesthit")]
void MyClosestHit(inout RayPayload data,
                  BuiltinTriangleIntersectAttribs attribs) {
    data.color = float3( 1, 0, 0 );
}

[shader("raygeneration")]
void MyRayGen() {
    uint2 curPixel = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );

    RayDesc ray = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };

    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );

    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER

- How to read at high level:
 - For each pixel determine ray

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };

[shader("miss")]
void MyMiss(inout RayPayload payload) {
    payload.color = float3( 0, 0, 1 );
}

[shader("closesthit")]
void MyClosestHit(inout RayPayload data,
                  BuiltinTriangleIntersectAttribs attribs) {
    data.color = float3( 1, 0, 0 );
}

[shader("raygeneration")]
void MyRayGen() {
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );

    RayDesc ray        = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };

    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );

    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER



How to read at high level:

- For each pixel determine ray
- Shoot the ray

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };

[shader("miss")]
void MyMiss(inout RayPayload payload) {
    payload.color = float3( 0, 0, 1 );
}

[shader("closesthit")]
void MyClosestHit(inout RayPayload data,
                  BuiltinTriangleIntersectAttribs attribs) {
    data.color = float3( 1, 0, 0 );
}

[shader("raygeneration")]
void MyRayGen() {
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );

    RayDesc ray        = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };

    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );

    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER

- How to read at high level:
- For each pixel determine ray
 - Shoot the ray
 - If it misses? Return blue

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;
```

```
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };
```

```
[shader("miss")]
```

```
void MyMiss(inout RayPayload payload) {  
    payload.color = float3( 0, 0, 1 );  
}
```

```
[shader("closesthit")]
```

```
void MyClosestHit(inout RayPayload data,  
                  BuiltinTriangleIntersectAttribs attribs) {  
    data.color = float3( 1, 0, 0 );  
}
```

```
[shader("raygeneration")]
```

```
void MyRayGen() {  
    uint2 curPixel = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;  
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );  
  
    RayDesc ray = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };  
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };  
  
    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );  
  
    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );  
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER

- How to read at high level:
- For each pixel determine ray
 - Shoot the ray
 - If it misses? Return blue
 - If it hits? Return red

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };

[shader("miss")]
void MyMiss(inout RayPayload payload) {
    payload.color = float3( 0, 0, 1 );
}

[shader("closesthit")]
void MyClosestHit(inout RayPayload data,
                  BuiltinTriangleIntersectAttribs attribs) {
    data.color = float3( 1, 0, 0 );
}

[shader("raygeneration")]
void MyRayGen() {
    uint2 curPixel = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );

    RayDesc ray = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };

    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );

    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );
}
```





REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER

- How to read at high level:
- For each pixel determine ray
 - Shoot the ray
 - If it misses? Return blue
 - If it hits? Return red
 - Output our result

```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };

[shader("miss")]
void MyMiss(inout RayPayload payload) {
    payload.color = float3( 0, 0, 1 );
}

[shader("closesthit")]
void MyClosestHit(inout RayPayload data,
                  BuiltinTriangleIntersectAttribs attribs) {
    data.color = float3( 1, 0, 0 );
}

[shader("raygeneration")]
void MyRayGen() {
    uint2 curPixel = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );

    RayDesc ray = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };

    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );

    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );
}
```



REALLY SIMPLE GPU RAY TRACER



This code renders this



For this scene



```
RWTexture<float4> gOutTex;
struct RayPayload { float3 color; };

[shader("miss")]
void MyMiss(inout RayPayload payload) {
    payload.color = float3( 0, 0, 1 );
}

[shader("closesthit")]
void MyClosestHit(inout RayPayload data,
                  BuiltinTriangleIntersectAttribs attribs) {
    data.color = float3( 1, 0, 0 );
}

[shader("raygeneration")]
void MyRayGen() {
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );

    RayDesc ray       = { gCamera.posW, 0.0f, pixelRayDir, 1e+38f };
    RayPayload payload = { float3(0, 0, 0) };

    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, payload );

    outTex[curPixel] = float4( payload.color, 1.0f );
}
```



WHAT ABOUT A REAL EXAMPLE?





WHAT ABOUT A REAL EXAMPLE?

- ◆ Examples from my DXR tutors: <http://intro-to-dxr.cwyman.org>
 - Click on “code walkthrough”
 - Not quite equivalent to any of those, but close

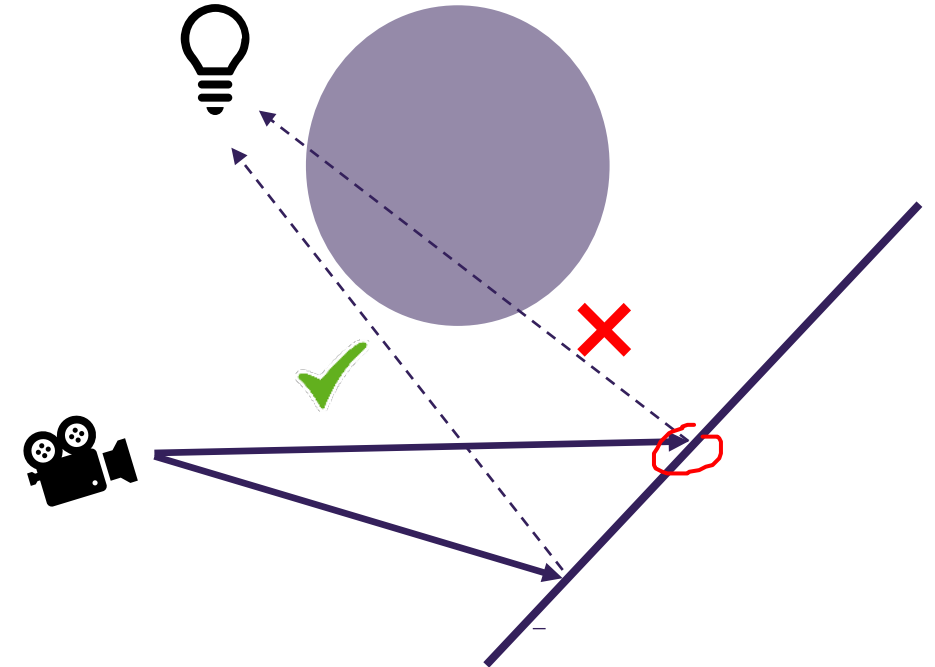
WHAT ABOUT A REAL EXAMPLE?

 How about adding shadows?



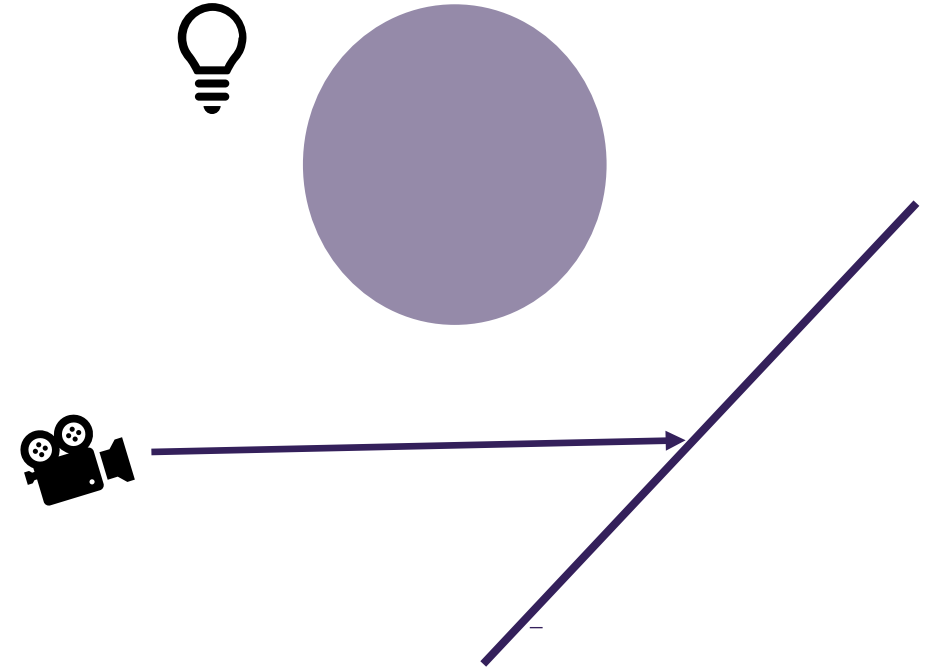
WHAT ABOUT A REAL EXAMPLE?

- How about adding shadows?
 - For each pixel, determine if light visible
 - Shoot a ray towards light



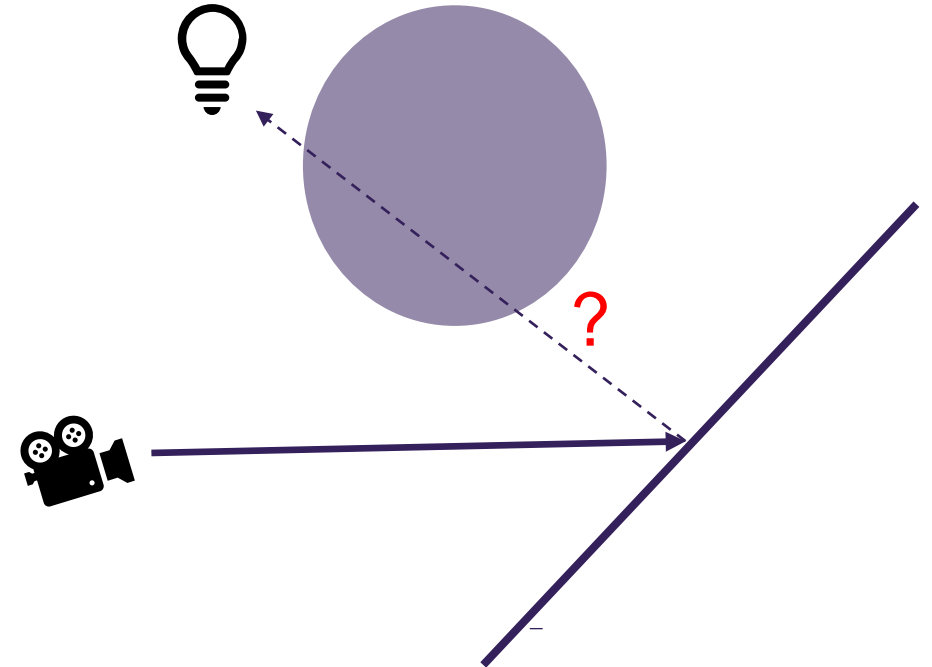
HOW DOES THIS WORK?

Trace a ray from the camera



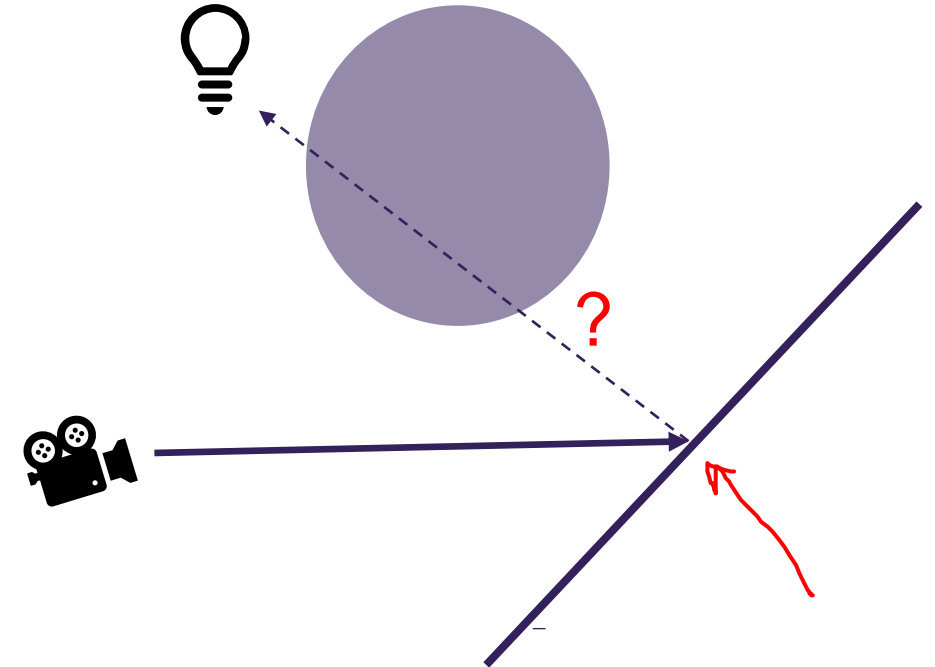
HOW DOES THIS WORK?

- Trace a ray from the camera
 - At the shading point (i.e., the closest hit)
 - Trace another ray towards the light



HOW DOES THIS WORK?

- Trace a ray from the camera
 - At the shading point (i.e., the closest hit)
 - Trace another ray towards the light
 - If it hits, shade the pixel as in shadow
 - If it misses, illuminate the pixel by the light





A REUSABLE SHADOW RAY

- ◆ Encapsulate a shadow ray
 - Create `shootShadowRay()`
 - Can call while shading

```
float shootShadowRay(float3 orig, float3 dir, float minT, float maxT) {
```

```
}  
...
```




A REUSABLE SHADOW RAY

- Encapsulate a shadow ray
 - Create a ray
 - From some origin
 - In some direction
 - Check occlusions in $[t_{\min} \dots t_{\max}]$

```
...  
struct ShadowPayload {  
    float visibility; // 0.0 means 'shadowed', 1.0 means 'lit'  
};
```

```
float shootShadowRay(float3 orig, float3 dir, float minT, float maxT) {  
    RayDesc      ray = { orig, minT, dir, maxT };  
    ShadowPayload pay = { 0.0f };  
}
```

```
}  
...
```



A REUSABLE SHADOW RAY

- ◆ Encapsulate a shadow ray
 - Create a ray
 - From some origin
 - In some direction
 - Check occlusions in $[t_{\min} \dots t_{\max}]$
 - **Assume** shadows are occluded

```
...
struct ShadowPayload {
    float visibility; // 0.0 means 'shadowed', 1.0 means 'lit'
};
```

```
float shootShadowRay(float3 orig, float3 dir, float minT, float maxT) {
    RayDesc      ray = { orig, minT, dir, maxT };
    ShadowPayload pay = { 0.0f };

```

```
}
...
```



A REUSABLE SHADOW RAY

- ◆ Encapsulate a shadow ray
 - Create a ray
 - From some origin
 - In some direction
 - Check occlusions in $[t_{\min} \dots t_{\max}]$
 - **Assume** shadows are occluded
 - Trace the ray
 - Return 1 if lit, 0 otherwise

```
...
struct ShadowPayload {
    float visibility; // 0.0 means 'shadowed', 1.0 means 'lit'
};
```

```
float shootShadowRay(float3 orig, float3 dir, float minT, float maxT) {
    RayDesc      ray = { orig, minT, dir, maxT };
    ShadowPayload pay = { 0.0f };

    uint flags = RAY_FLAG_ACCEPT_FIRST_HIT_AND_END_SEARCH |
                RAY_FLAG_SKIP_CLOSEST_HIT_SHADER;

    TraceRay( gRtScene, flags, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, pay );
    return pay.visibility;
}
...
```



A REUSABLE SHADOW RAY

- ◆ Encapsulate a shadow ray
 - Create a ray
 - From some origin
 - In some direction
 - Check occlusions in $[t_{\min} \dots t_{\max}]$
 - **Assume** shadows are occluded
 - Trace the ray
 - Return 1 if lit, 0 otherwise
- ◆ Some shadow ray optimizations
 - No shading; skip closest hit
 - End at any occlusion
 - Need *if* not *where*

```
...
struct ShadowPayload {
    float visibility; // 0.0 means 'shadowed', 1.0 means 'lit'
};
```

```
float shootShadowRay(float3 orig, float3 dir, float minT, float maxT) {
    RayDesc      ray = { orig, minT, dir, maxT };
    ShadowPayload pay = { 0.0f };

    uint flags = RAY_FLAG_ACCEPT_FIRST_HIT_AND_END_SEARCH |
                 RAY_FLAG_SKIP_CLOSEST_HIT_SHADER;

    TraceRay( gRtScene, flags, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, pay );
    return pay.visibility;
}
...
```

A REUSABLE SHADOW RAY



Miss shader:

- We missed...
- Set visibility to 1.0

```
...
struct ShadowPayload {
    float visibility; // 0.0 means 'shadowed', 1.0 means 'lit'
};

[shader("miss")]
void ShadowMiss(inout ShadowPayload pay) {
    pay.visibility = 1.0f;
}
```

```
float shootShadowRay(float3 orig, float3 dir, float minT, float maxT) {
    RayDesc ray = { orig, minT, dir, maxT };
    ShadowPayload pay = { 0.0f };

    uint flags = RAY_FLAG_ACCEPT_FIRST_HIT_AND_END_SEARCH |
                RAY_FLAG_SKIP_CLOSEST_HIT_SHADER;

    TraceRay( gRtScene, flags, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, pay );
    return pay.visibility;
}
...
```





A REUSABLE SHADOW RAY



Miss shader:

- We missed...
- Set visibility to 1.0



Any hit shader:

- Asks is occluder transparent?
- If so, ignore this hit

```
...
struct ShadowPayload {
    float visibility; // 0.0 means 'shadowed', 1.0 means 'lit'
};

[shader("miss")]
void ShadowMiss(inout ShadowPayload pay) {
    pay.visibility = 1.0f;
}

[shader("anyhit")]
void ShadowAnyHit(inout ShadowPayload pay, BuiltinIntersectAttribs attribs) {
    if (alphaTestFails(attribs))
        IgnoreHit();
}

float shootShadowRay(float3 orig, float3 dir, float minT, float maxT) {
    RayDesc ray = { orig, minT, dir, maxT };
    ShadowPayload pay = { 0.0f };

    uint flags = RAY_FLAG_ACCEPT_FIRST_HIT_AND_END_SEARCH |
                RAY_FLAG_SKIP_CLOSEST_HIT_SHADER;

    TraceRay( gRtScene, flags, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, pay );
    return pay.visibility;
}
...
```



A REUSABLE SHADOW RAY

- ▀ Gives reusable shadow rays
 - Useful in many contexts

```
...
struct ShadowPayload {
    float visibility; // 0.0 means 'shadowed', 1.0 means 'lit'
};

[shader("miss")]
void ShadowMiss(inout ShadowPayload pay) {
    pay.visibility = 1.0f;
}

[shader("anyhit")]
void ShadowAnyHit(inout ShadowPayload pay, BuiltinIntersectAttribs attribs) {
    if (alphaTestFails(attribs))
        IgnoreHit();
}

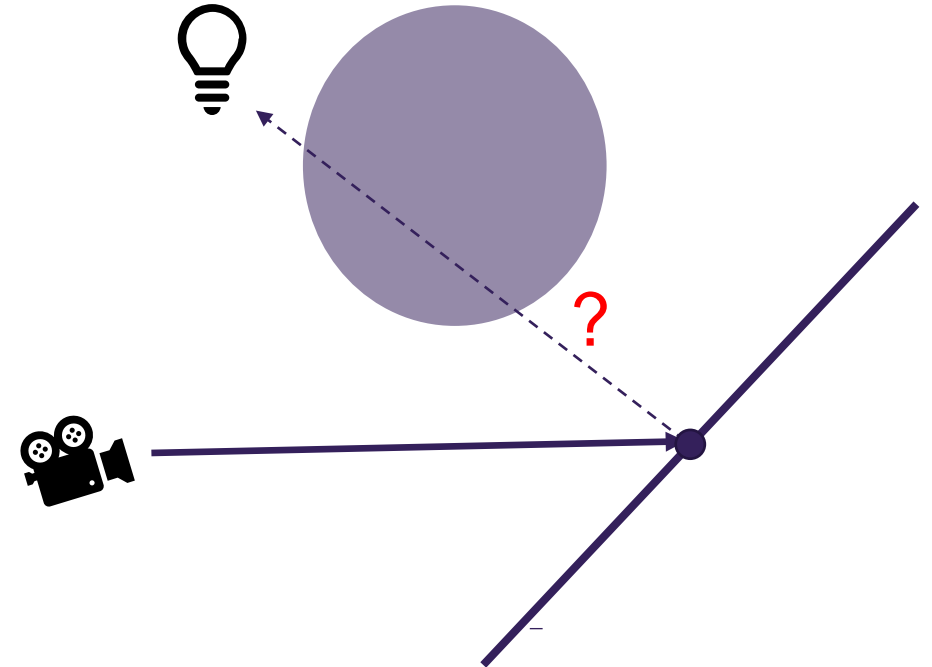
float shootShadowRay(float3 orig, float3 dir, float minT, float maxT) {
    RayDesc      ray = { orig, minT, dir, maxT };
    ShadowPayload pay = { 0.0f };

    uint flags = RAY_FLAG_ACCEPT_FIRST_HIT_AND_END_SEARCH |
                RAY_FLAG_SKIP_CLOSEST_HIT_SHADER;

    TraceRay( gRtScene, flags, 0xFF, 0, 1, 0, ray, pay );
    return pay.visibility;
}
...
```

A REUSABLE SHADOW RAY

- ▣ Gives reusable shadow rays
 - Useful in many contexts
- ▣ Like where?
 - Maybe: want to shade this point





SHADING A DIFFUSE SURFACE

- 🎨 To shade, we need:
- Position at hit point
 - Normal at hit point
 - Material at hit point

```
float3 DiffuseShade( float3 hitPos, float3 hitNorm, float3 difColor ) {
```

```
}
```



SHADING A DIFFUSE SURFACE

- ❖ To shade, we need:
 - Position at hit point
 - Normal at hit point
 - Material at hit point
- ❖ Grab light information
 - Direction to light
 - How far away is it?

```
float3 DiffuseShade( float3 hitPos, float3 hitNorm, float3 difColor ) {  
    // Get information about the light; access your framework's scene structs  
    float distToLight    = length( gLight.position - hitPos );  
    float3 dirToLight    = normalize( gLight.position - hitPos );  
  
    }  
}
```



SHADING A DIFFUSE SURFACE

- ❖ To shade, we need:
 - Position at hit point
 - Normal at hit point
 - Material at hit point
- ❖ Grab light information
 - Direction to light
 - How far away is it?
- ❖ Trace our shadow ray

```
float3 DiffuseShade( float3 hitPos, float3 hitNorm, float3 difColor ) {  
    // Get information about the light; access your framework's scene structs  
    float distToLight    = length( gLight.position - hitPos );  
    float3 dirToLight    = normalize( gLight.position - hitPos );  
  
    // Shoot shadow ray with our encapsulated shadow tracing function  
    float isLit    = shootShadowRay(hitPos, dirToLight, 1.0e-4f, distToLight );  
  
}
```



SHADING A DIFFUSE SURFACE

- ❖ To shade, we need:
 - Position at hit point
 - Normal at hit point
 - Material at hit point
- ❖ Grab light information
 - Direction to light
 - How far away is it?
- ❖ Trace our shadow ray
- ❖ Compute diffuse shading

```
float3 DiffuseShade( float3 hitPos, float3 hitNorm, float3 difColor ) {  
    // Get information about the light; access your framework's scene structs  
    float distToLight    = length( gLight.position - hitPos );  
    float3 dirToLight    = normalize( gLight.position - hitPos );  
  
    // Shoot shadow ray with our encapsulated shadow tracing function  
    float isLit    = shootShadowRay(hitPos, dirToLight, 1.0e-4f, distToLight );  
  
    // Compute our NdotL term; shoot our shadow ray in selected direction  
    float NdotL    = saturate( dot( hitNorm, dirToLight ) ); // In range [0..1]  
  
    // Return shaded color  
    return isLit  
        ? (NdotL * gLight.intensity * (difColor / M_PI) )  
        : float3(0, 0, 0);  
}
```



SHADING A DIFFUSE SURFACE

- ❖ To shade, we need:
 - Position at hit point
 - Normal at hit point
 - Material at hit point
- ❖ Grab light information
 - Direction to light
 - How far away is it?
- ❖ Trace our shadow ray
- ❖ Compute diffuse shading
- ❖ Want more complex material?
 - Insert different code here

```
float3 DiffuseShade( float3 hitPos, float3 hitNorm, float3 difColor ) {  
    // Get information about the light; access your framework's scene structs  
    float distToLight    = length( gLight.position - hitPos );  
    float3 dirToLight    = normalize( gLight.position - hitPos );  
  
    // Shoot shadow ray with our encapsulated shadow tracing function  
    float isLit    = shootShadowRay(hitPos, dirToLight, 1.0e-4f, distToLight );  
  
    // Compute our NdotL term; shoot our shadow ray in selected direction  
    float NdotL    = saturate( dot( hitNorm, dirToLight ) ); // In range [0..1]  
  
    // Return shaded color  
    return isLit  
        ? (NdotL * gLight.intensity * (difColor / M_PI) )  
        : float3(0, 0, 0);  
}
```

USE A SHADE FUNCTION

Where to use `DiffuseShade()`?





USE A SHADE FUNCTION

- Where to use DiffuseShade()?
- Encapsulate tracing a color ray

```
struct IndirectPayload {
    float3 color;    // will store ray color
};

[shader("miss")]
void IndirectMiss(inout IndirectPayload pay) {

}

[shader("anyhit")]
void IndirectAnyHit(inout IndirectPayload pay, BuiltinIntersectAttribs attribs) {
    // ...
}

[shader("closesthit")]
void IndirectClosestHit(inout IndirectPayload pay,
                       BuiltinTriangleIntersectAttribs attribs) {

}

float3 shootColorRay(float3 orig, float3 dir, float minT ) {
    RayDesc      ray = { orig, minT, dir, 1.0e+38 };
    IndirectPayload pay = { float3( 0.0f ) };
    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 1, 2, 1, ray, pay );
    return pay.color;
}
```





USE A SHADE FUNCTION

- Where to use DiffuseShade()?
- Encapsulate tracing a color ray
 - Setup a ray
 - Initialize return color to black

```
struct IndirectPayload {
    float3 color;    // will store ray color
};

[shader("miss")]
void IndirectMiss(inout IndirectPayload pay) {

}

[shader("anyhit")]
void IndirectAnyHit(inout IndirectPayload pay, BuiltinIntersectAttribs attribs) {
    // ...
}

[shader("closesthit")]
void IndirectClosestHit(inout IndirectPayload pay,
                       BuiltinTriangleIntersectAttribs attribs) {

}

float3 shootColorRay(float3 orig, float3 dir, float minT ) {
    RayDesc      ray = { orig, minT, dir, 1.0e+38 };
    IndirectPayload pay = { float3( 0.0f ) };
    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 1, 2, 1, ray, pay );
    return pay.color;
}
```





USE A SHADE FUNCTION

- Where to use `DiffuseShade()`?
- Encapsulate tracing a color ray
 - Setup a ray
 - Initialize return color to black
 - Trace ray, then return its color

```
struct IndirectPayload {
    float3 color;    // will store ray color
};

[shader("miss")]
void IndirectMiss(inout IndirectPayload pay) {

}

[shader("anyhit")]
void IndirectAnyHit(inout IndirectPayload pay, BuiltinIntersectAttribs attribs) {
    // ...
}

[shader("closesthit")]
void IndirectClosestHit(inout IndirectPayload pay,
                       BuiltinTriangleIntersectAttribs attribs) {

}

float3 shootColorRay(float3 orig, float3 dir, float minT) {
    RayDesc ray = { orig, minT, dir, 1.0e+38 };
    IndirectPayload pay = { float3( 0.0f ) };
    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 1, 2, 1, ray, pay );
    return pay.color;
}
```





USE A SHADE FUNCTION

- Where to use `DiffuseShade()`?
- Encapsulate tracing a color ray
 - Setup a ray
 - Initialize return color to black
 - Trace ray, then return its color
 - For every hit, check transparency

```
struct IndirectPayload {
    float3 color;    // will store ray color
};

[shader("miss")]
void IndirectMiss(inout IndirectPayload pay) {

}

[shader("anyhit")]
void IndirectAnyHit(inout IndirectPayload pay, BuiltinIntersectAttribs attribs) {
    if (alphaTestFails(attribs))
        IgnoreHit();
}

[shader("closesthit")]
void IndirectClosestHit(inout IndirectPayload pay,
                        BuiltinTriangleIntersectAttribs attribs) {

}

float3 shootColorRay(float3 orig, float3 dir, float minT ) {
    RayDesc      ray = { orig, minT, dir, 1.0e+38 };
    IndirectPayload pay = { float3( 0.0f ) };
    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 1, 2, 1, ray, pay );
    return pay.color;
}
```





USE A SHADE FUNCTION

Where to use DiffuseShade()?

Encapsulate tracing a color ray

- Setup a ray
- Initialize return color to black
- Trace ray, then return its color
- For every hit, check transparency
- On miss, return background

```
struct IndirectPayload {
    float3 color;    // will store ray color
};

[shader("miss")]
void IndirectMiss(inout IndirectPayload pay) {
    pay.color = GetBackgroundColor( WorldRayDirection() );
}

[shader("anyhit")]
void IndirectAnyHit(inout IndirectPayload pay, BuiltinIntersectAttribs attribs) {
    if (alphaTestFails(attribs))
        IgnoreHit();
}

[shader("closesthit")]
void IndirectClosestHit(inout IndirectPayload pay,
                        BuiltinTriangleIntersectAttribs attribs) {

}

float3 shootColorRay(float3 orig, float3 dir, float minT ) {
    RayDesc      ray = { orig, minT, dir, 1.0e+38 };
    IndirectPayload pay = { float3( 0.0f ) };
    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 1, 2, 1, ray, pay );
    return pay.color;
}
```





USE A SHADE FUNCTION

Where to use DiffuseShade()?

Encapsulate tracing a color ray

- Setup a ray
- Initialize return color to black
- Trace ray, then return its color
- For every hit, check transparency
- On miss, return background
- On closest hit, shade

```
struct IndirectPayload {
    float3 color;    // will store ray color
};

[shader("miss")]
void IndirectMiss(inout IndirectPayload pay) {
    pay.color = GetBackgroundColor( WorldRayDirection() );
}

[shader("anyhit")]
void IndirectAnyHit(inout IndirectPayload pay, BuiltinIntersectAttribs attribs) {
    if (alphaTestFails(attribs))
        IgnoreHit();
}

[shader("closesthit")]
void IndirectClosestHit(inout IndirectPayload pay,
                        BuiltinTriangleIntersectAttribs attribs) {
    ShadingData hit = getHitShadingData( attribs );
    pay.color = DiffuseShade( hit.pos, hit.norm, hit.difColor );
}

float3 shootColorRay(float3 orig, float3 dir, float minT ) {
    RayDesc      ray = { orig, minT, dir, 1.0e+38 };
    IndirectPayload pay = { float3( 0.0f ) };
    TraceRay( gRtScene, RAY_FLAG_NONE, 0xFF, 1, 2, 1, ray, pay );
    return pay.color;
}
```



PUTTING IT TOGETHER...





PUTTING IT TOGETHER...

- Go back to ray gen shader
 - Similar to simple one we started with

```
[shader("raygeneration")]
void BasicRayTracer() {
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );

    float3 pixelColor  = shootColorRay( gCamera.posW, pixelRayDir, 0.0f );

    outTex[curPixel]   = float4( pixelColor, 1.0f );
}
```



PUTTING IT TOGETHER...

- Go back to ray gen shader
 - Similar to simple one we started with
 - Get current pixel, it's ray direction

```
[shader("raygeneration")]  
void BasicRayTracer() {  
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;  
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );  
  
    float3 pixelColor  = shootColorRay( gCamera.posW, pixelRayDir, 0.0f );  
  
    outTex[curPixel]  = float4( pixelColor, 1.0f );  
}
```



PUTTING IT TOGETHER...

- Go back to ray gen shader
 - Similar to simple one we started with
 - Get current pixel, it's ray direction
 - Shoot a color ray in that direction

```
[shader("raygeneration")]  
void BasicRayTracer() {  
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;  
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );  
  
    float3 pixelColor  = shootColorRay( gCamera.posW, pixelRayDir, 0.0f );  
  
    outTex[curPixel]   = float4( pixelColor, 1.0f );  
}
```




PUTTING IT TOGETHER...

- Go back to ray gen shader
 - Similar to simple one we started with
 - Get current pixel, it's ray direction
 - Shoot a color ray in that direction
 - Output the final result

```
[shader("raygeneration")]  
void BasicRayTracer() {  
    uint2 curPixel    = DispatchRaysIndex().xy;  
    float3 pixelRayDir = normalize( getRayDirFromPixelID( curPixel ) );  
  
    float3 pixelColor  = shootColorRay( gCamera.posW, pixelRayDir, 0.0f );  
  
    outTex[curPixel]  = float4( pixelColor, 1.0f );  
}
```

DEMO?

- Full code, binaries, and walk through:
 - <http://intro-to-dxr.cwyman.org>

