Supporting Information for Appendix B

Here I give detailed instructions on how to carry out the tests described in Appendix B.

The project render_random, located in the 'unity projects' folder, generates the data for these tests. Add this project to the Unity Hub, and open the project. In the version of the project included in the Supporting Information, many files that Unity can reconstruct have been deleted in order to reduce the total size. One consequence is that after the project is open, you will have to double-click the OutdoorsScene object in the Assets panel in order to make it the active scene.

When the project is open, select the 'Main Camera' object in the Hierarchy view, and in the Inspector view there will be GUI elements you can use to configure the test. You can choose whether to test a Lambertian or Unlit material, with or without tonemapping, and you can enter the number of random samples to render and record. After making these settings, run the project, and in the Game view you will see a plane take many random orientations and colors. The random scene parameters and rendered values are recorded in a data file with a name like data_L1_T0.txt in the same directory where the render_random project is located. The digit after the letter L indicates whether the material is Lambertian (0 = Unlit, 1 = Lambertian), and the digit after T indicates whether the project was run with tonemapping (0 = no, 1 = yes). The data from the first run after opening the project often contains a few rendered values that are outliers, so I suggest making a first run and discarding the data, before generating the data you will use for the tests below.

The first test is implemented in the Python script model_test_1.py. Place the data file data_L1_T0.txt and the module hdrp.py in the same directory as the script, and run the script. This test uses equations (2) and (4) in the main text, without the scale constant c, to predict the rendered values u_k from the random lighting and material parameters. Figure 1 in the main text shows typical results.

The second test is implemented in the Python script model_test_2.py. Again, place the data files data_L1_T0.txt and data_L0_T0.txt, and the module hdrp.py, in the same directory as the script. The script has a boolean variable testLambertian that you can set to choose whether to test results from a run of render_random with a Lambertian or Unlit material, and a boolean variable testTonemapping that you can set to choose whether to test tonemapping. Set testTonemapping to False for now; we will test tonemapping in Appendix C. This script plots post-processed values v_k predicted by equations (2), (3), and (4) in the main text against the actual post-processed values, and also plots the prediction error as a function of the post-processed values v_k, the material color m_k, and the directional light color d_k. These plots are shown as Figures 2 and 3 in the main text.

In order to make the rendering conditions similar to those in an experiment, the script does not assign a new, random exposure setting to the scene on each sample. However, the exposure can be adjusted by choosing the Global Volume object in the Hierarchy view, and in the Inspector view entering a value in the Exposure panel for 'Fixed Exposure'. The exposure value is saved to the data file, and the analysis scripts take it into account when predicting rendered values. The results with different exposure values are similar to those with the default value of zero, which was used for the figures in the paper.