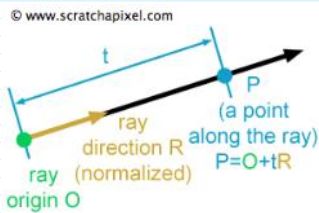


Source: 1. Ray Tracing Essentials, Part-1 to 7
By Nefi Alarcon, NVIDIA

2. 3D Computer Graphics Primer: Ray-Tracing as an Example

From <<https://www.scratchapixel.com/lessons/3d-basic-rendering/introduction-to-ray-tracing/implementing-the-raytracing-algorithm.html>>

Ray can be mathematically defined as a point (origin) and a direction.



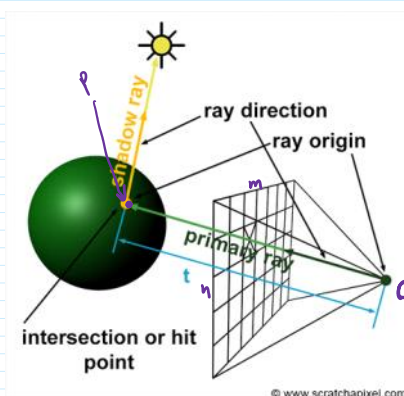
Any point on this ray (P),

$$P = O + tR$$

'O' is ray origin.

't' is distance from origin to the point P.

Ray-tracing is to find mathematical solutions to compute the intersection of this ray with various types of geometry.



$$P = O + tR$$

Ray-Sphere Intersection:-

Sphere of radius 'r' centered at origin,

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = r^2$$

Let (x, y, z) is on the surface then, $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = r^2$

If (x, y, z) is inside the surface, $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 < r^2$

If (x, y, z) is outside the surface, $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 > r^2$

If the sphere is not in origin but an arbitrary point (C_x, C_y, C_z) , then equation of sphere becomes,

$$(x - C_x)^2 + (y - C_y)^2 + (z - C_z)^2 = r^2 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$(C_x - x)^2 + (C_y - y)^2 + (C_z - z)^2 = r^2$$

\Rightarrow Any point P that satisfies this equation is on the sphere.

We want to know if our ray $P = O + tR$ hits the sphere.

\Rightarrow point $P = O + tR$ on the ray should satisfy the equation ①

Let (P_x, P_y, P_z) be the coordinates of the point on the ray being tested.

$$(C_x - P_x)^2 + (C_y - P_y)^2 + (C_z - P_z)^2 = r^2$$

$$\boxed{(C_x - (O_x + tR_x))^2 + (C_y - (O_y + tR_y))^2 + (C_z - (O_z + tR_z))^2 - r^2 = 0}$$

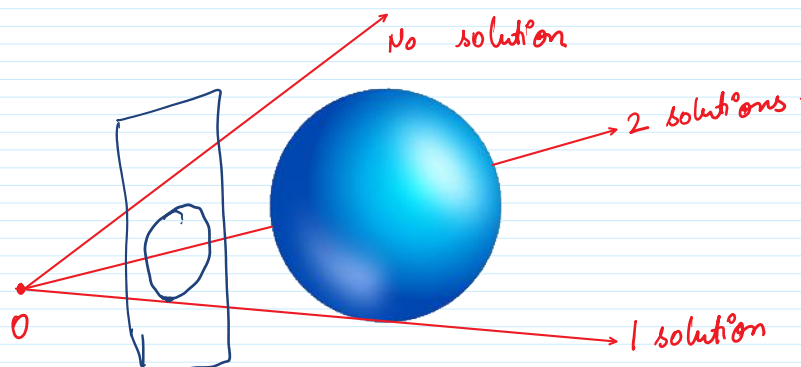
which is a quadratic equation with, $\underbrace{a}_{\downarrow}t^2 + \underbrace{b}_{\downarrow}t + \underbrace{c}_{\downarrow} = 0$

known $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} C = [C_x, C_y, C_z] \\ P = [P_x, P_y, P_z] \\ r = \text{radius of circle} \end{array} \right.$

unknown $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} t = \text{distance of ray for the point being tested.} \end{array} \right.$

Solving for t ,

$$\frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$



Q:- Consider a ray originating from point $O(-3, -3)$ with direction $R(1, 1)$.

Let P be a point on the ray at a distance t .

Find out whether the ray will hit/miss the circle with equation,

$$x^2 + y^2 - 4 = 0$$

If hit also find out the point(s) of intersection.

$$P = O + Rt$$

$$P_x = -3 + t$$

$$P_y = -3 + t$$

$$(-3+t)^2 + (-3+t)^2 - 4 = 0$$

$$2(-3+t)^2 - 4$$

$$2(9 + t^2 + 2 \times -3 \times t) - 4 = 0$$

$$18 + 2t^2 - 12t - 4 = 0$$

$$2t^2 - 12t + 14 = 0$$

$$t = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$(b^2 - 4ac) = (-12)^2 - 4 \times 2 \times 14$$

$$= 32$$

$$> 0 \Rightarrow 2 \text{ solutions}$$

$$(-1.415, -1.415)$$

$$(1.415, 1.415)$$