

# Real-time Rendering of Translucent Materials with Directional Subsurface Scattering

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T.I.M.E. Double Degree Program

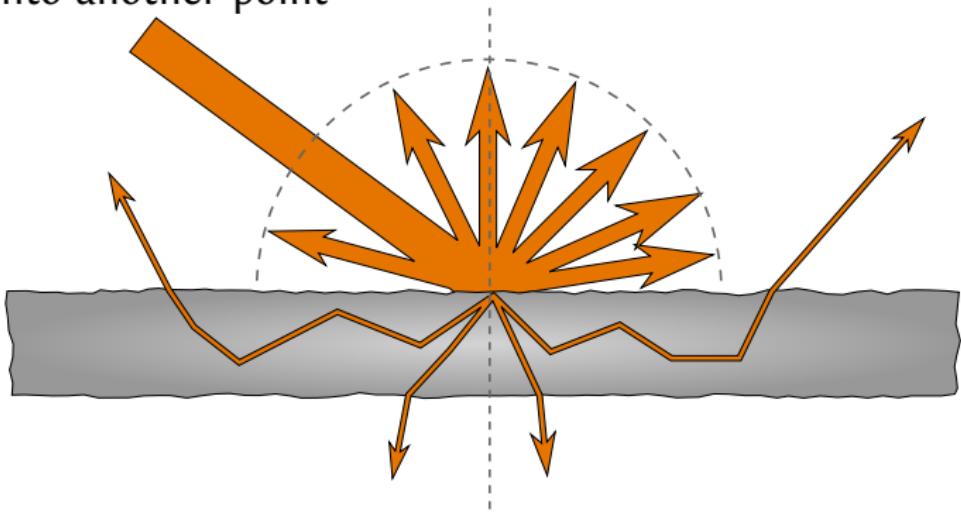
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# Introduction

- Subsurface scattering (SS) is a physical phenomenon that occurs in a wide range of materials (marble, skin, fruit)
- Light repeatedly bounces inside the material and then comes out into another point



- We want to model faithfully SS in a synthetic image

# Introduction



# Problem statement



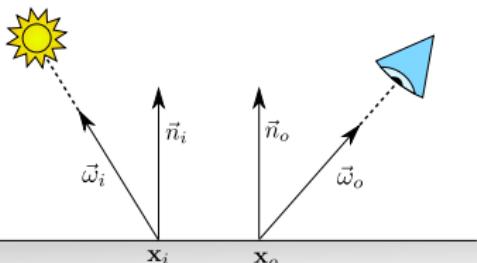
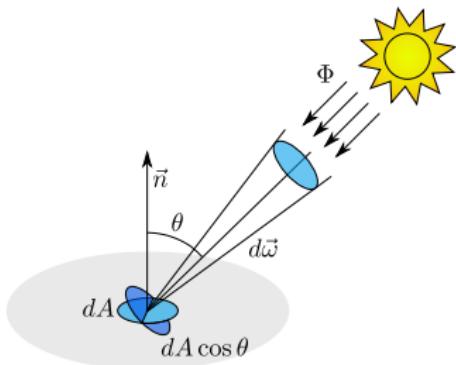
Our goal is to faithfully represent SS phenomena in a synthetically generated image:

- Using a analytical BSSRDF model [Frisvad et al., 2014]
- Visually close as possible to a offline-rendered solution
- With low memory requirements
- In real-time or at least at interactive frame rates (<100ms per frame) using a GPU-based solution

# Light transport

- We define a quantity to describe light carried by a ray, the radiance:

$$L(\vec{\omega}) = \frac{d^2\Phi}{d\omega dA \cos \theta}$$



- Given two points on a surface, we define the BSSRDF as:

$$S(x_i, \vec{\omega}_i, x_o, \vec{\omega}_o) = \frac{dL_o(x_o, \vec{\omega}_o)}{L_i(x_i, \vec{\omega}_i) \cos \theta_i d\vec{\omega}_i dA_i}$$

That relates the entering flux with the exiting radiance.

# The rendering equation

- From the definition of BSSRDF we obtain the area formulation of the rendering equation [Jensen et al., 2001]:

$$L_o(x_o, \vec{\omega}_o) = L_e(x_o, \vec{\omega}_o) + \int_A \int_{2\pi} S(x_i, \vec{\omega}_i, x_o, \vec{\omega}_o) L_i(x_i, \vec{\omega}_i) (\vec{n} \cdot \vec{\omega}_i) d\vec{\omega}_i dA_i$$

- Many BSSRDF functions have been proposed in literature [Jensen et al., 2001; D'Eon and Irving, 2011; Frisvad et al., 2014]

# Standard dipole



- The standard dipole [Jensen et al., 2001] was one of the first BSSRDF functions proposed
- It uses the diffusion approximation [Ishimaru, 1997] of the radiative transport equation (RTE)
- The approximation describes how light propagates from a point source in an infinite scattering medium:

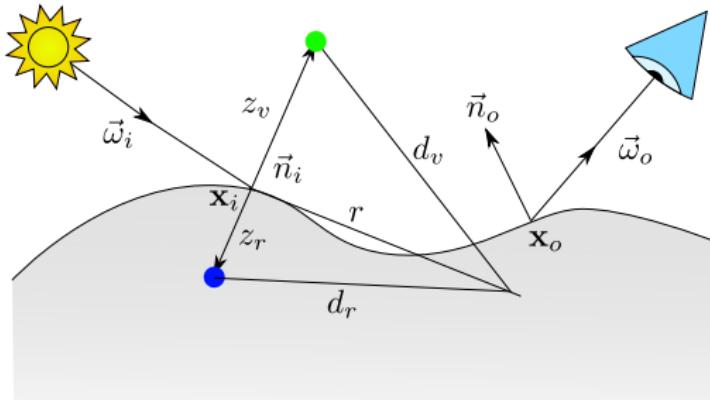
$$\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\Phi}{4\pi D} \frac{e^{\sigma_{tr}r}}{r}$$

Where

$$\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{4\pi} L(\mathbf{x}, \vec{\omega}) d\vec{\omega}$$

# Standard dipole

- For a BSSRDF, we need to put a boundary condition: fluence decreases linearly until a distance  $z = 2AD$  from the surface
- We model the interaction as two small light point sources, a **virtual** and a **real** source



$$S_d(x_i, \vec{\omega}_i, x_i, \vec{\omega}_o) = \frac{\alpha'}{4\pi^2} \left[ \frac{z_r(1 + \sigma_{tr}d_r)}{d_r^3} e^{-\sigma_{tr}d_r} + \frac{z_v(1 + \sigma_{tr}d_v)}{d_v^3} e^{-\sigma_{tr}d_v} \right]$$

# Directional dipole



- [Frisvad et al., 2014] defined a new BSSRDF function that keeps the directionality of the incoming light into account
- The model uses a more precise diffusion approximation, that yields the following fluence formula:

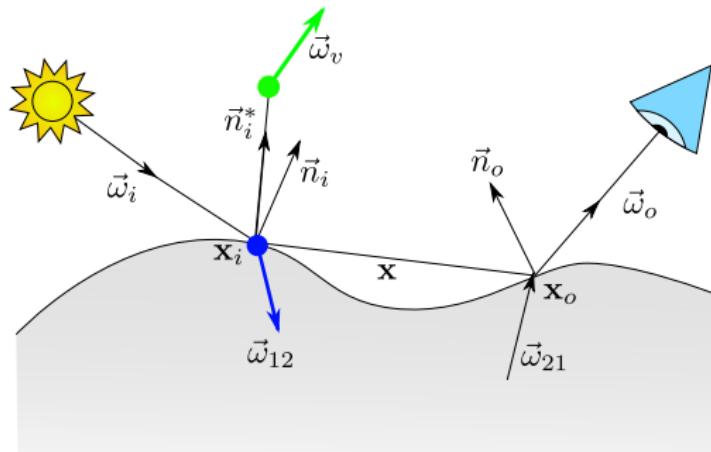
$$\phi(\mathbf{x}, \theta) = \frac{\Phi}{4\pi D} \frac{e^{\sigma_{tr}r}}{r} \left( 1 + 3D \frac{1 + \sigma_{tr}r}{r} \cos \theta \right)$$

Where we have an extra term that accounts for directionality

- As in the previous model, a dipole is used, but with ray sources

# Directional dipole

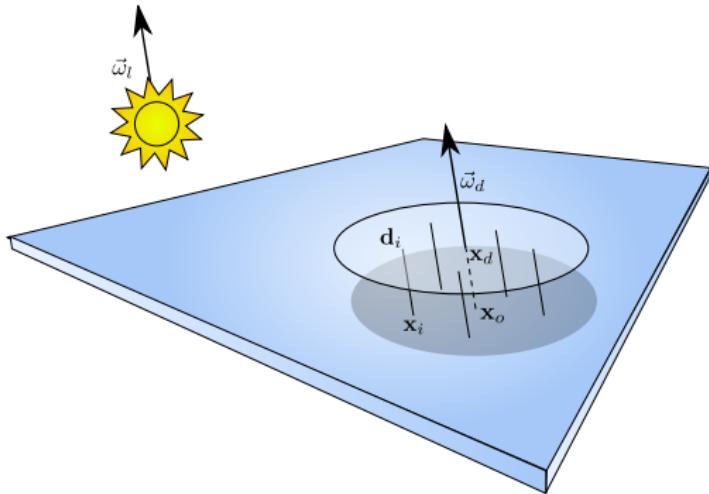
- Some extra corrections are needed in order to get a good boundary condition  
(modified tangent plane, distance to the real source)



$$S_d(x_i, \vec{\omega}_i, x_o) = S'_d(x_o - x_i, \vec{\omega}_{12}, d_r) - S'_d(x_o - x_v, \vec{\omega}_v, d_v)$$

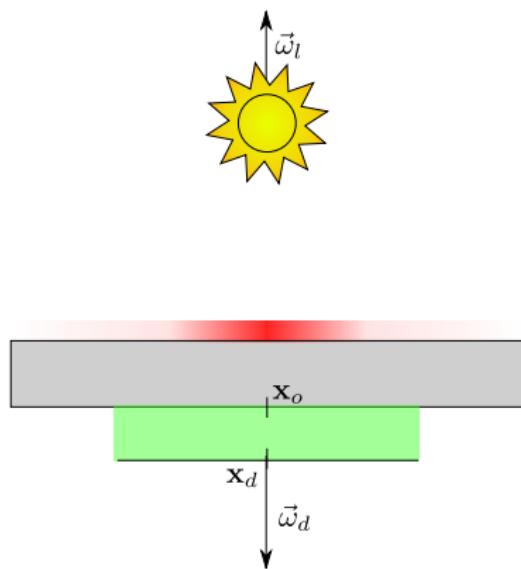
# Method

- Scattering effects have a limited range, that depends on the scattering properties of the material (especially on  $1/\sigma_{\text{tr}}$ )
- We can then consider contributions from a disk on the surface
- The disk has a center point  $\mathbf{x}_d$  and a direction  $\vec{\omega}_d$

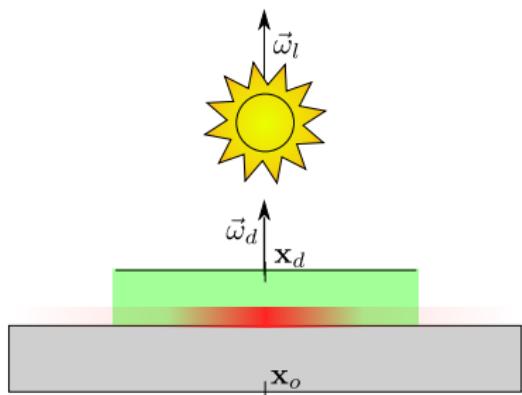


# Method

- We place the disk oriented towards the light ( $\vec{\omega}_d = \vec{\omega}_l$ ) and close enough to the light in order to cover the surface



Naïve disk placement

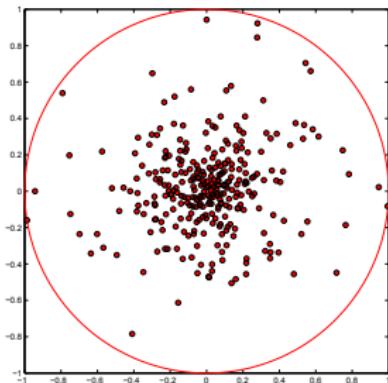
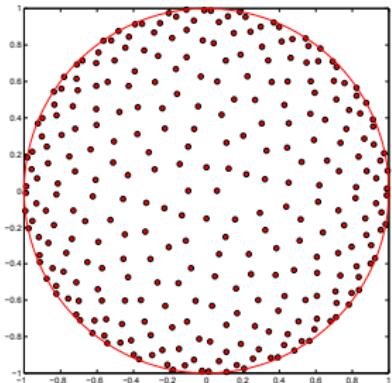


Our disk placement

# Method

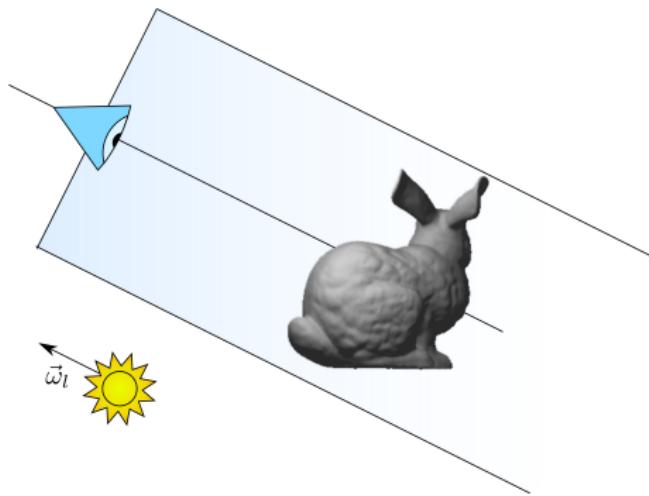
- Given these assumptions on the disk, we discretize the rendering equation
- We distribute the samples on the disk exponentially with distribution  $\text{pdf}(x) = \sigma_{\text{tr}} e^{-\sigma_{\text{tr}}x}$

$$L_o(x_o, \vec{\omega}_o) = L_d \frac{A_c}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N S(x_i, \vec{\omega}_i, x_o, \vec{\omega}_o) e^{\sigma_{\text{tr}} r_i}$$



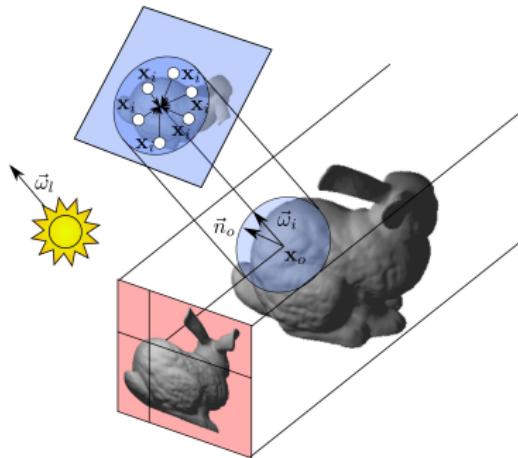
# Implementation (step 1)

- We render the scene from the light point of view (as in shadow mapping)
- We store positions and normals in a texture, the light map
- We get the closest points to light



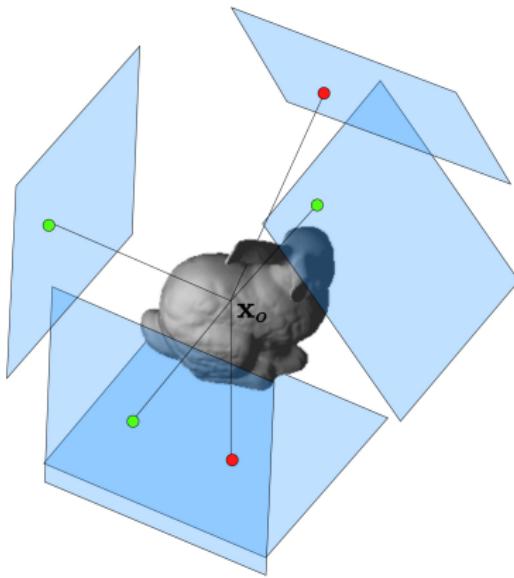
# Implementation (step 2)

- We render the object from a certain number of directions in the radiance map
- The directions can be chosen randomly or placed by the artist
- For each pixel we sample the points from the light map and sum up the BSSRDF contribution



# Implementation (step 3)

- We finally sample the radiance map to get the single contribution for a point on the surface
- The result is averaged over the directions from which the surface point is visible



# Implementation



**Figure:** Stanford Bunny, potato material. Note the self shadowing automatically generated by the algorithm.

# Advantages



- Accounts for self shadowing and self occlusion
- Accounts for occlusion between different objects
- Directly coupled with an existing shadow mapping pipeline
- Low memory requirements compared to a full voxelization
- The final step can be adapted to forward and deferred shading pipelines

# Disadvantages

- Noisy result, that need to be either accumulated or blurred in order to achieve a smooth result
- Cameras that cover the surface need to be placed manually (to avoid tearing)
- Inherited problems from shadow mapping (constant shadow bias)



# Extensions

- Multiple lights

We sum the contribution of multiple lights in the shader

- Point lights

We scale the incoming intensity by a inverse square distance term

- Environment lighting

We simulate it using 16 directional lights



# Results (quality)



(a)  $N = 100$



(b)  $N = 1000$



(c) Reference



(d)  $N = 100$



(e)  $N = 1000$



(f) Reference

Figure: Comparison on spheres of potato and white grapefruit juice.

# Results (quality)



(a)  $N = 50$  (ca. 90 milliseconds)



(b) Reference (6 hours, 16 millions samples)

**Figure:** Result comparison for the Stanford Dragon model. Parameters for ketchup.

# Results (quality)



(a)  $N = 100$



(b) Reference (30 minutes,  $10^6$  samples)

**Figure:** Result comparison for the Happy Buddha model. Parameters for potato.

# Results (quality)



(a)  $N = 90$



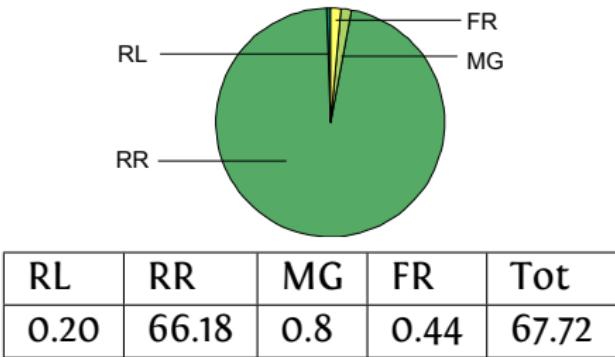
(b) Reference [Frisvad et al., 2014]

**Figure:** Result comparison for the Happy Buddha model (environment lighting, Uffizi map). Parameters for potato.

# Results (performance)



(a) Beer Bunny, 67.7ms. Point light.  
 $N = 180$ ,  $M = 210$ ,  $q = 2$



(b) Detailed timings.

**Figure:** Graph that illustrates how the timings are split into the different phases of the algorithm. All tests use  $W_l = W_s = 512$ .

# Results (performance)



Model	#Δ	Number of samples (N)			
		1	10	50	100
Bunny	$10^4$	2.1	5.3	19.8	38.2
Dragon	$10^5$	12.5	35.2	140.6	275.3
Buddha	$10^6$	96.7	97.7	128.0	216.0

**Table:** Timings in milliseconds of our method for different models and number of samples N (potato material properties). One directional light, 16 directions for rendering and reconstructing.

# Results (performance)



Model	# $\Delta$	Size of the radiance map ( $W_s$ )		
		256	512	1024
Bunny	$10^4$	11.4	20.0	39.0
Dragon	$10^5$	75.4	142.1	299.4
Buddha	$10^6$	98.2	127.0	258.2

**Table:** Timings in milliseconds of our method for different models and size of the radiance map  $W_s$  (ketchup material properties). The other parameters were  $N = 50$ ,  $L = 1$ ,  $W_l = 512$ ,  $M = 1000$ ,  $K = 16$ .

# Results (performance)



Model	# $\Delta$	Number of directions (K)			
		4	8	16	32
Bunny	$10^4$	6.6	10.0	20.1	42.1
Dragon	$10^5$	36.7	70.1	143.0	306.2
Buddha	$10^6$	32.5	55.8	128.3	363.5

**Table:** Timings in milliseconds of our method for different models and different number of directions K (ketchup material properties). The other parameters were  $N = 50$ ,  $L = 1$ ,  $W_s = W_l = 512$ ,  $M = 1000$ .

# Conclusions



- We implemented a solution for fast rendering of translucent materials using a state of the art directional BSSRDF
- We obtained results comparable to offline rendered solutions
- We obtained an improvement of five orders of magnitude over offline rendered solutions
- We obtained a flexible method that is applicable to current real-time graphics engines

# Conclusions



Thank you!

# References



- Eugene D'Eon and Geoffrey Irving. A quantized-diffusion model for rendering translucent materials. In ACM SIGGRAPH 2011 Papers, SIGGRAPH '11, pages 56:1--56:14, New York, NY, USA, 2011. ACM.
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