

50.017 Graphics and Visualization

# Ray Tracing

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Henrik Wann Jensen

# Ray Casting

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For every pixel

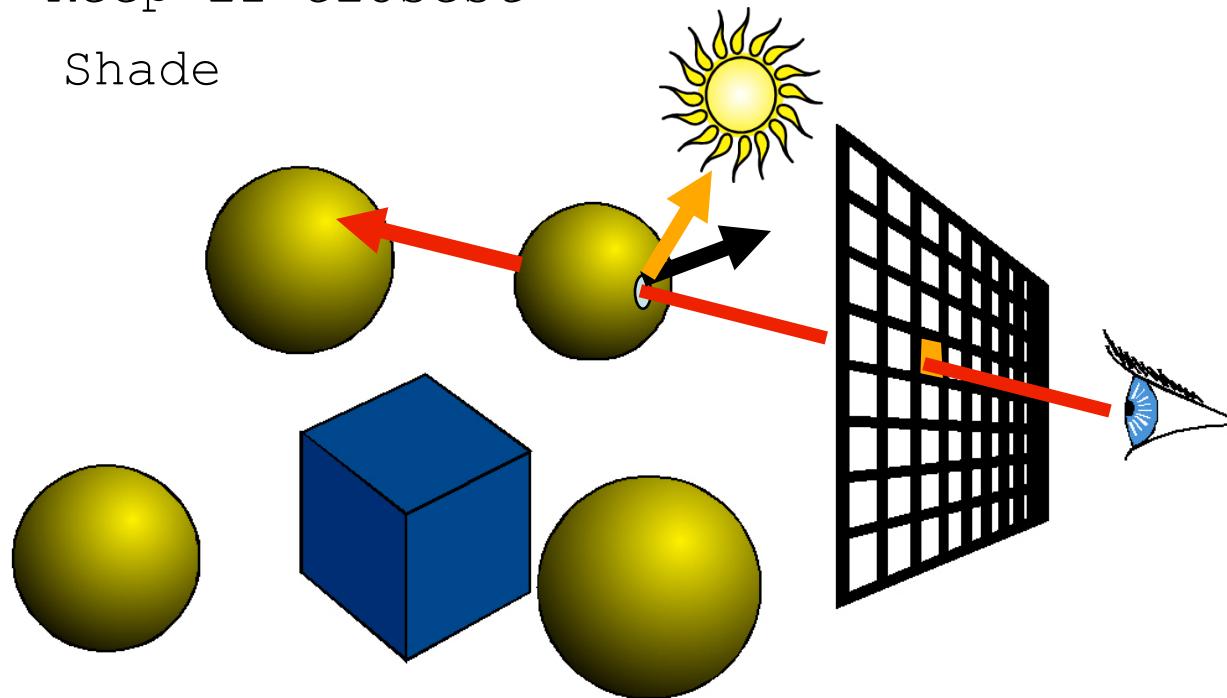
Construct a ray from the eye

For every object in the scene

Find intersection with the ray

Keep if closest

Shade

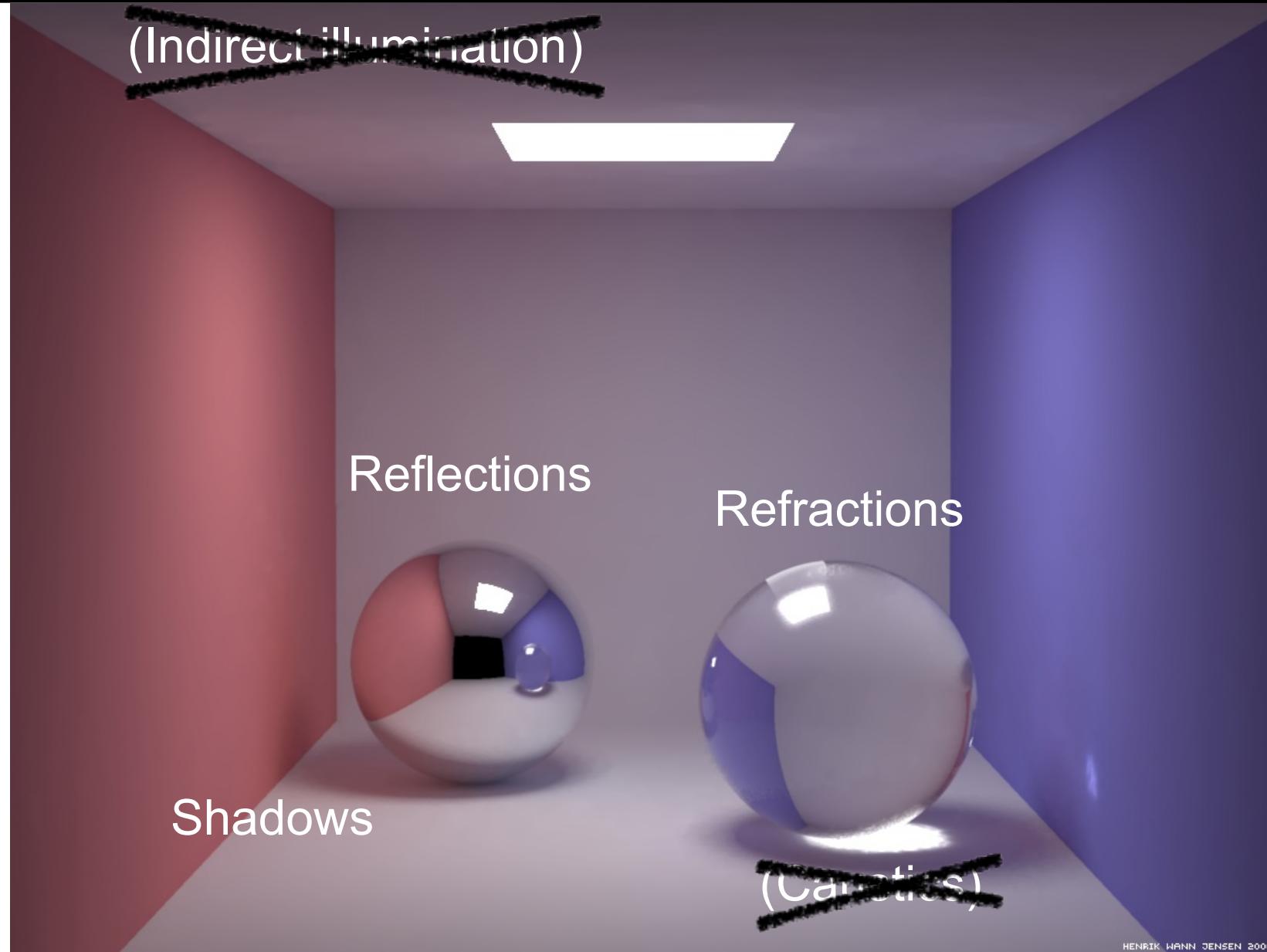


# Earlier

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- Camera definitions
  - Perspective and orthographic
  - View coordinate system [-1,1]
  - field of view, aspect ratio, etc.
- Ray representation
  - origin +  $t * \text{direction}$
  - Generating rays based in image coordinates
- Ray-geometry intersection
  - Planes, spheres, triangles (barycentric coordinates)
  - CSG
  - Transformations

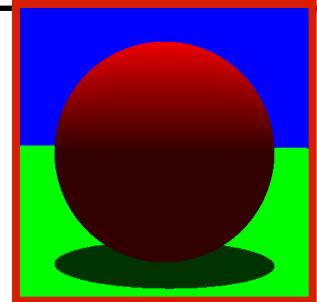
# Today – Ray Tracing



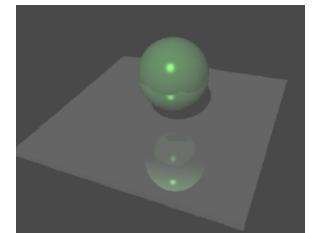
# Overview of Today

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- Shadows



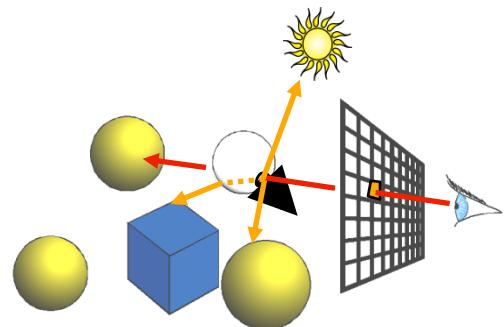
- Reflection



- Refraction



- Recursive Ray Tracing
  - “Hall of mirrors”



# How Can We Add Shadows?

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For every pixel

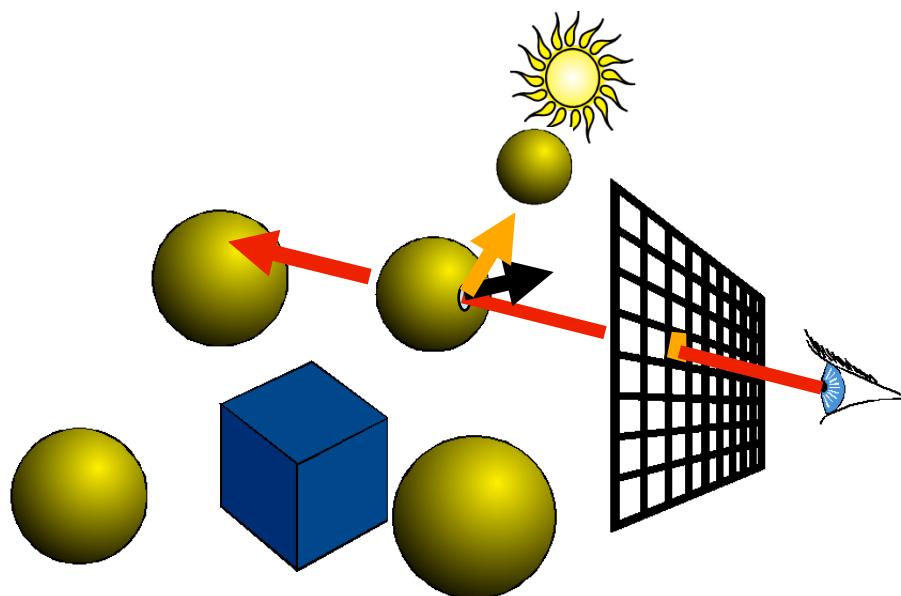
Construct a ray from the eye

For every object in the scene

Find intersection with the ray

Keep if closest

Shade



# How Can We Add Shadows?

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For every pixel

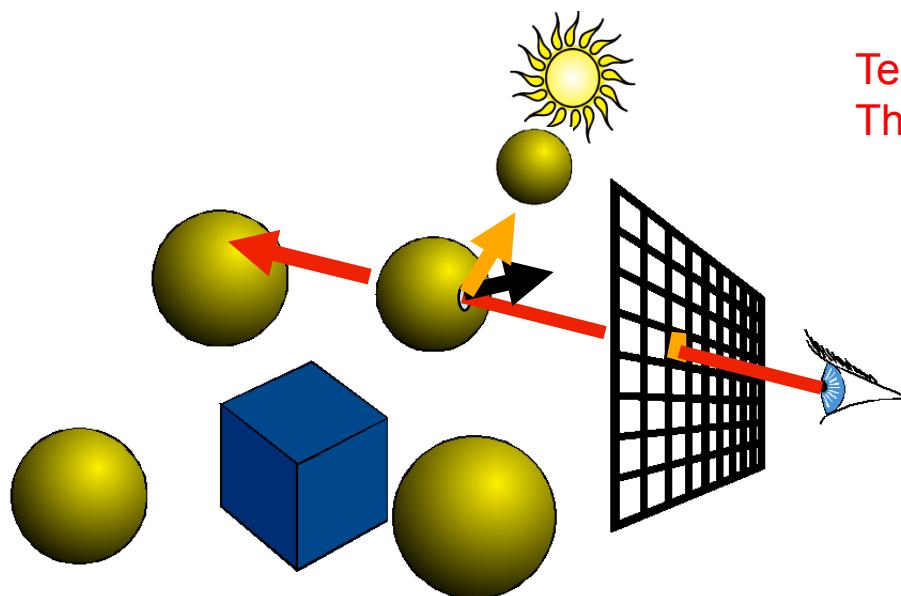
Construct a ray from the eye

For every object in the scene

Find intersection with the ray

Keep if closest

Shade



Test if there is something in between:  
The line between the visible point and the light

# How Can We Add Shadows?

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```
color = ambient*hit->getMaterial()->getDiffuseColor()  
for every light
```

```
    Ray ray2(hitPoint, directionToLight)
```

```
    Hit hit2(distanceToLight, NULL, NULL)
```

```
    For every object
```

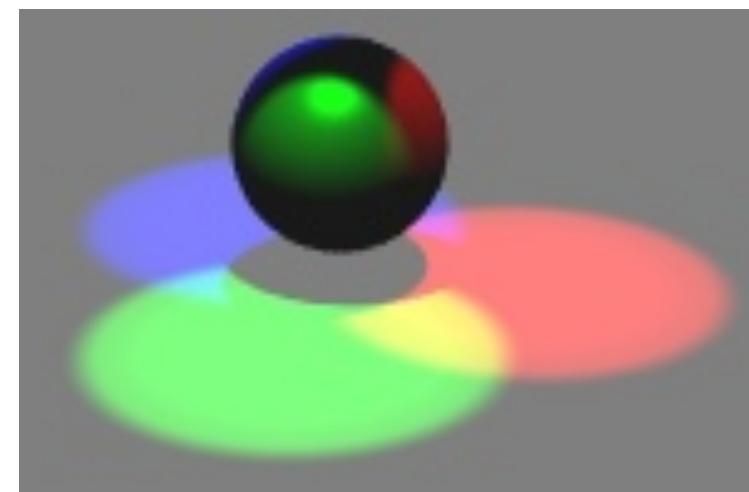
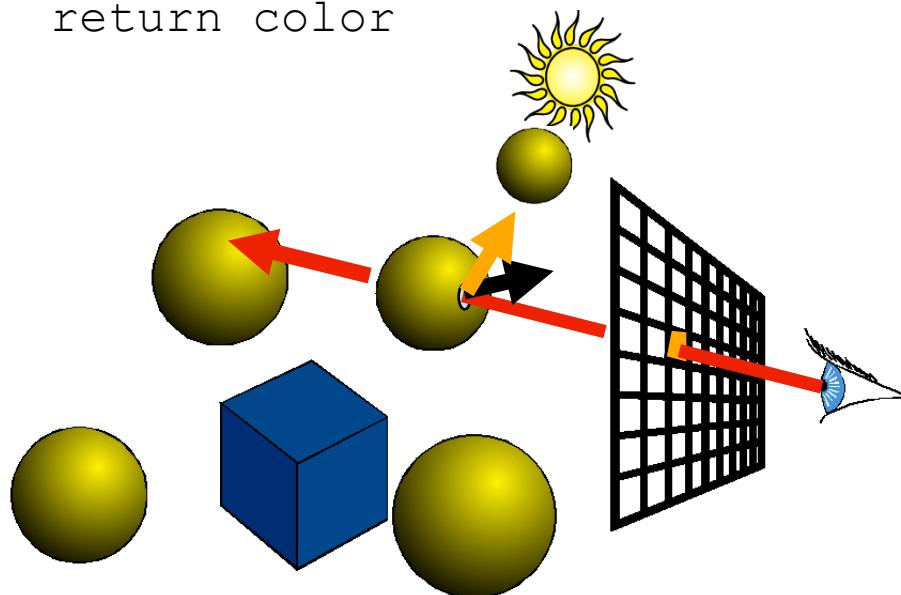
```
        object->intersect(ray2, hit2, 0)
```

```
        if (hit2->getT() == distanceToLight)
```

```
            color += hit->getMaterial()->Shade
```

```
                (ray, hit, directionToLight, lightColor)
```

```
return color
```



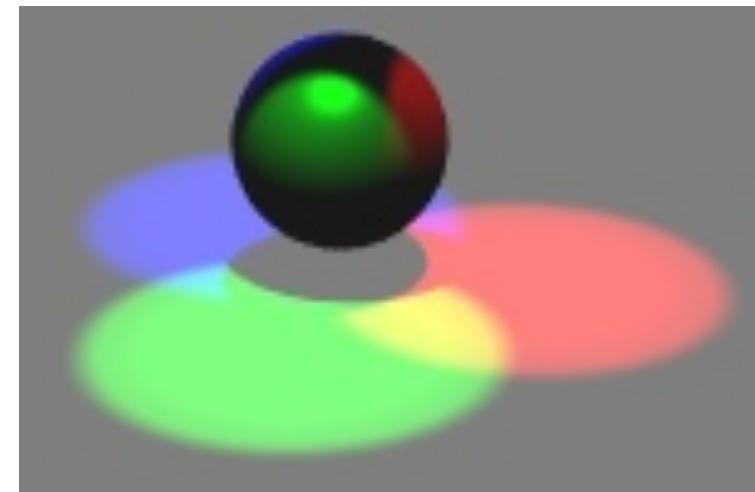
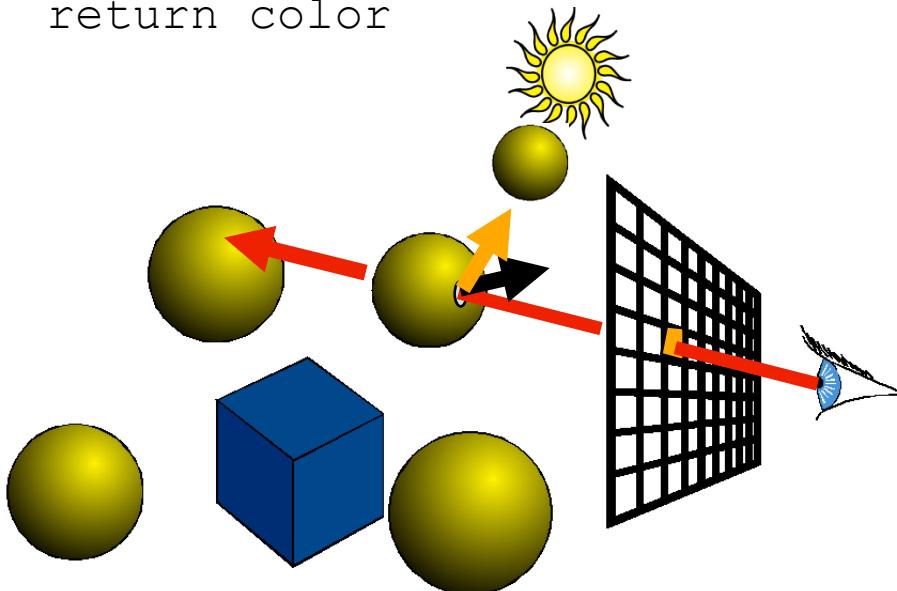
# Problem: mess up the t value

```
color = ambient*hit->getMaterial()->getDiffuseColor()  
for every light
```

```
Ray ray2(hitPoint, directionToLight)  
Hit hit2(distanceToLight, NULL, NULL)  
For every object  
    object->intersect(ray2, hit2, 0)  
    if (hit2->getT() == distanceToLight)  
        color += hit->getMaterial()->Shade  
            (ray, hit, directionToLight, lightColor)
```

```
return color
```

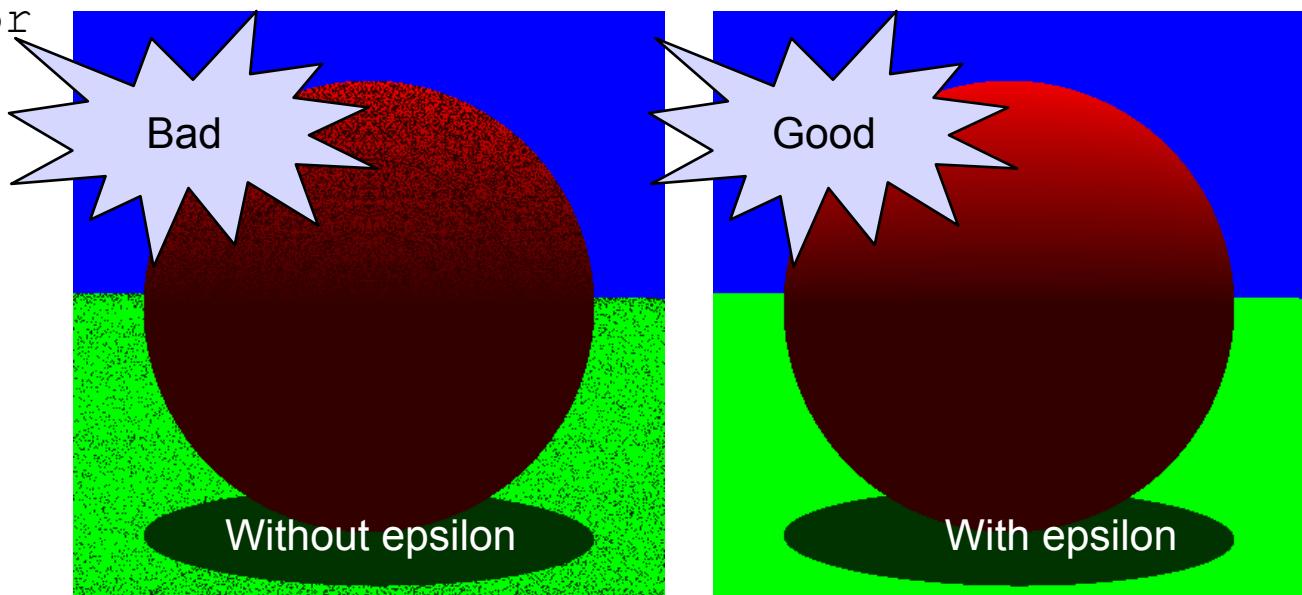
Do not mess up  
with the  
intersection from  
viewpoint



# Problem: Self-Shadowing

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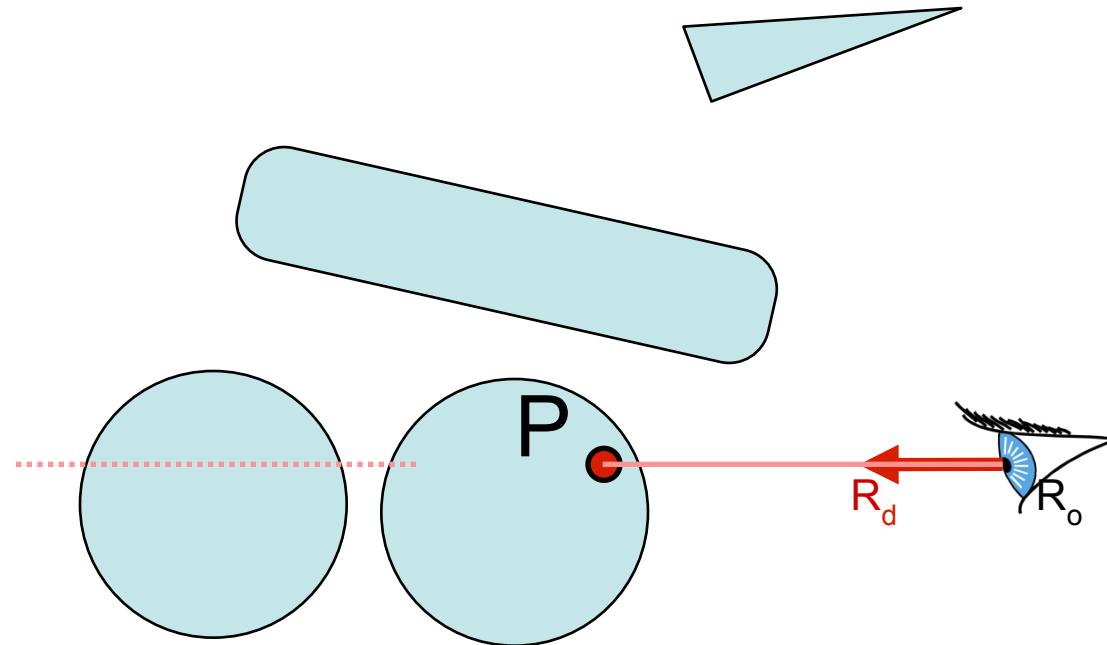
```
color = ambient*hit->getMaterial()->getDiffuseColor()
for every light
    Ray ray2(hitPoint, directionToLight)
    Hit hit2(distanceToLight, NULL, NULL)
    For every object
        object->intersect(ray2, hit2, epsilon)
        if (hit2->getT() == distanceToLight)
            color += hit->getMaterial()->Shade
                (ray, hit, directionToLight, lightColor)
return color
```



# Let's Think About Shadow Rays

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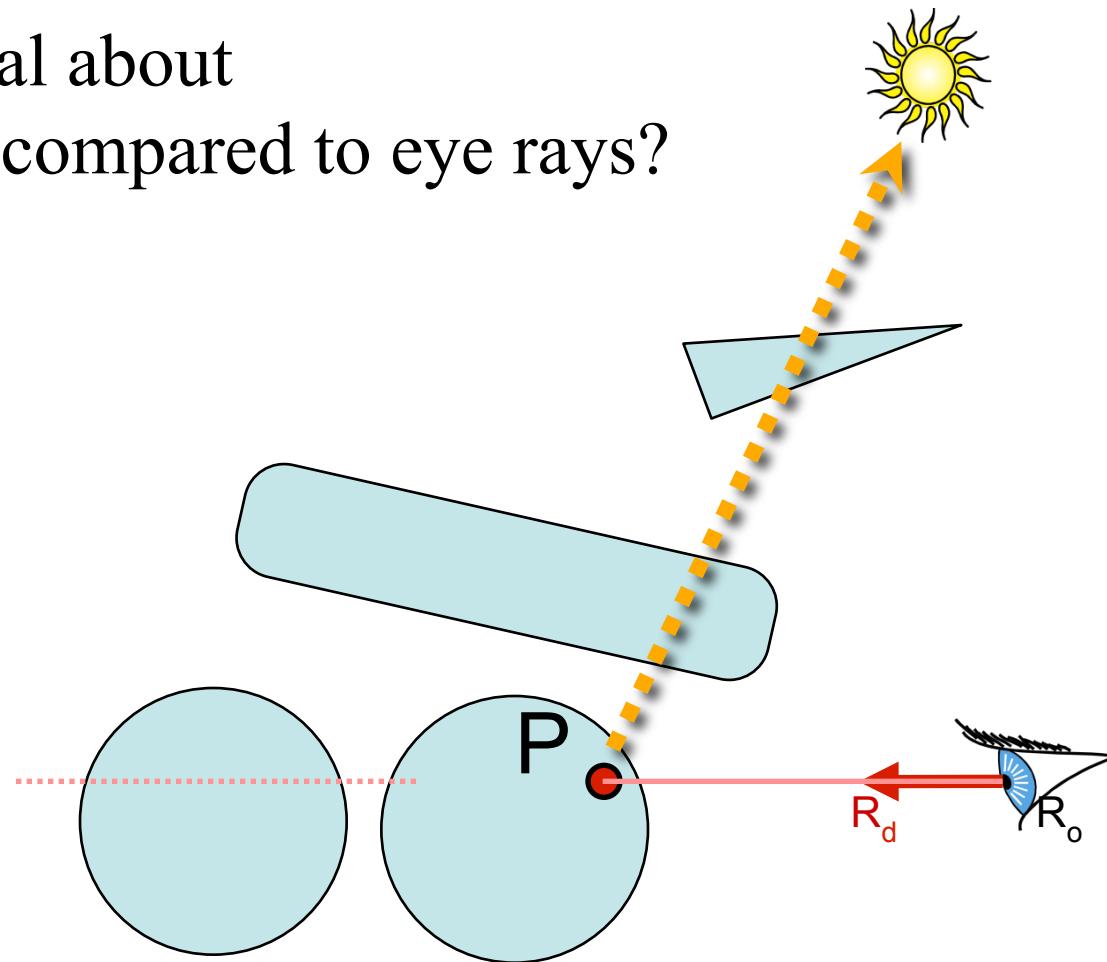
- What's special about shadow rays compared to eye rays?



# Let's Think About Shadow Rays

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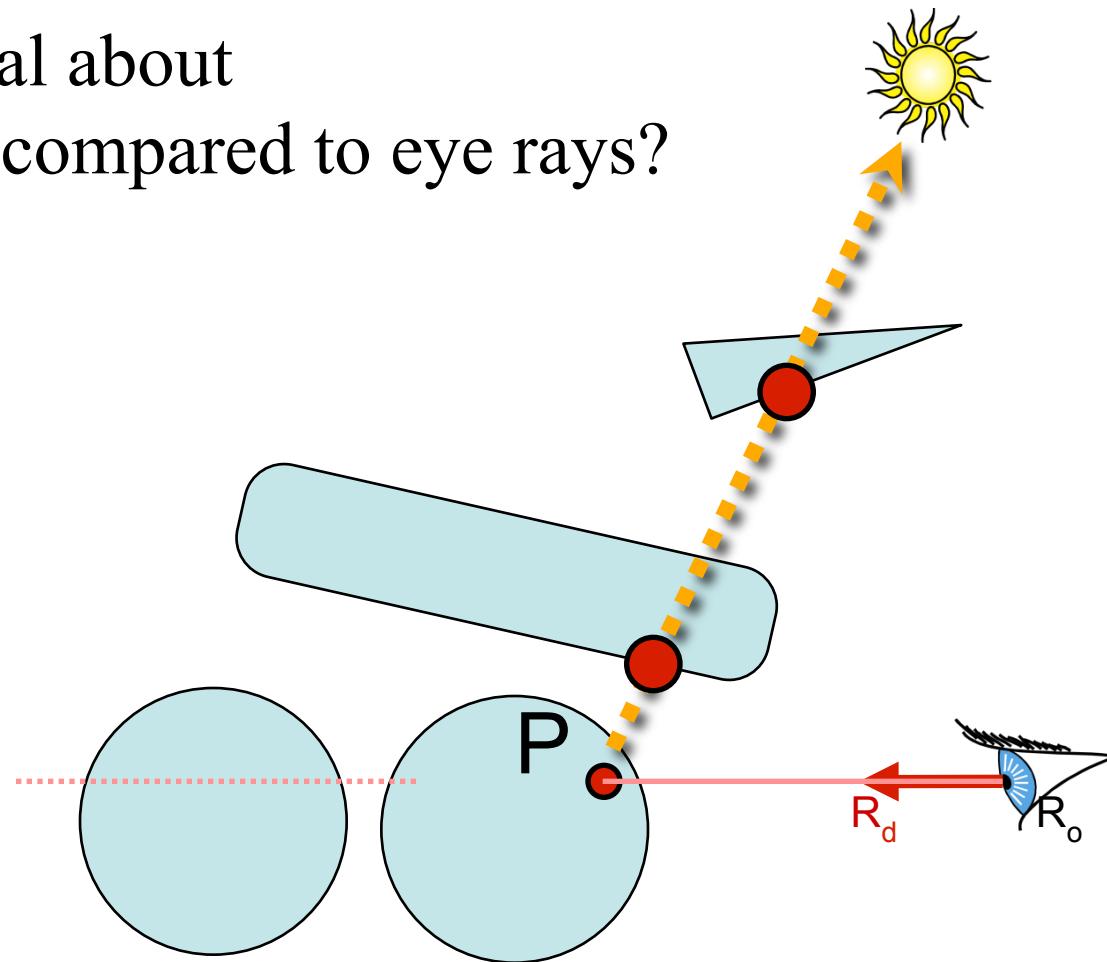
- What's special about shadow rays compared to eye rays?



# Let's Think About Shadow Rays

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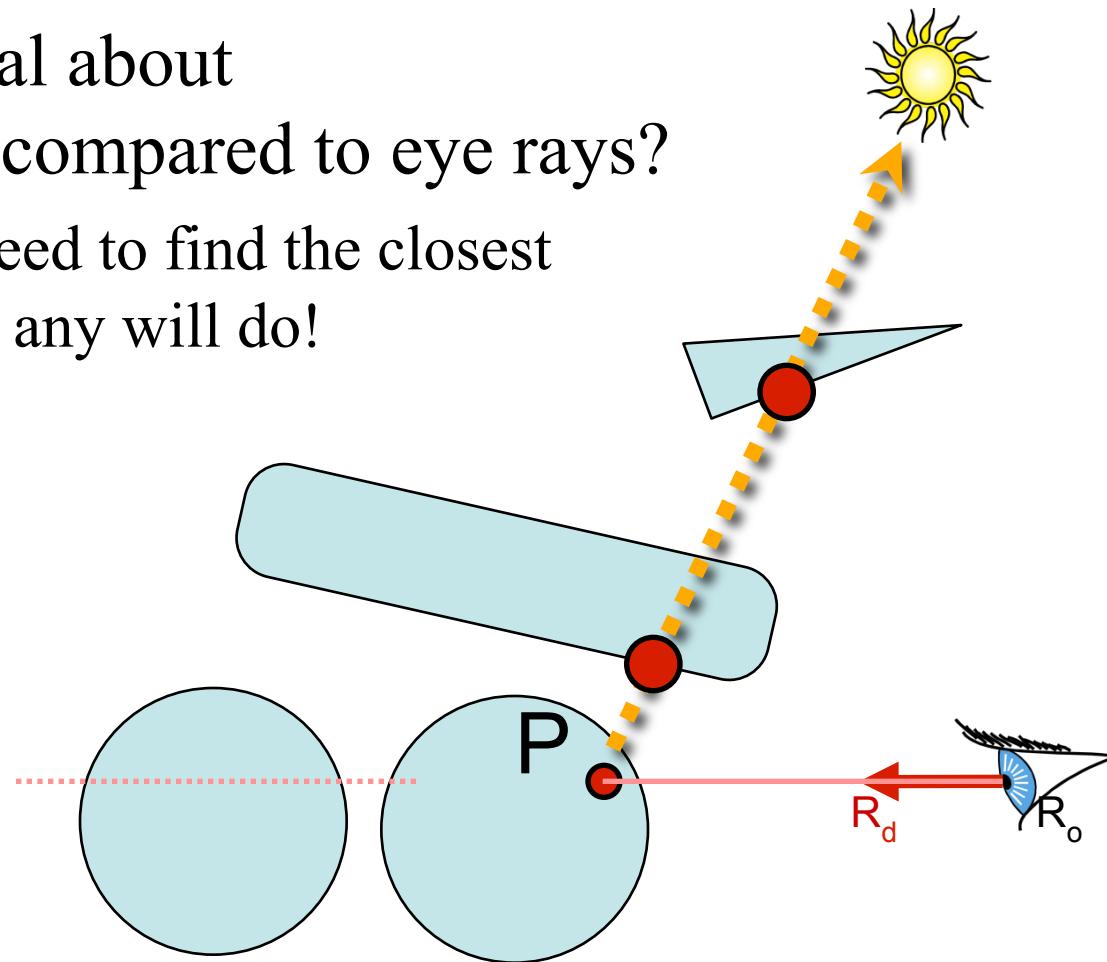
- What's special about shadow rays compared to eye rays?



# Let's Think About Shadow Rays

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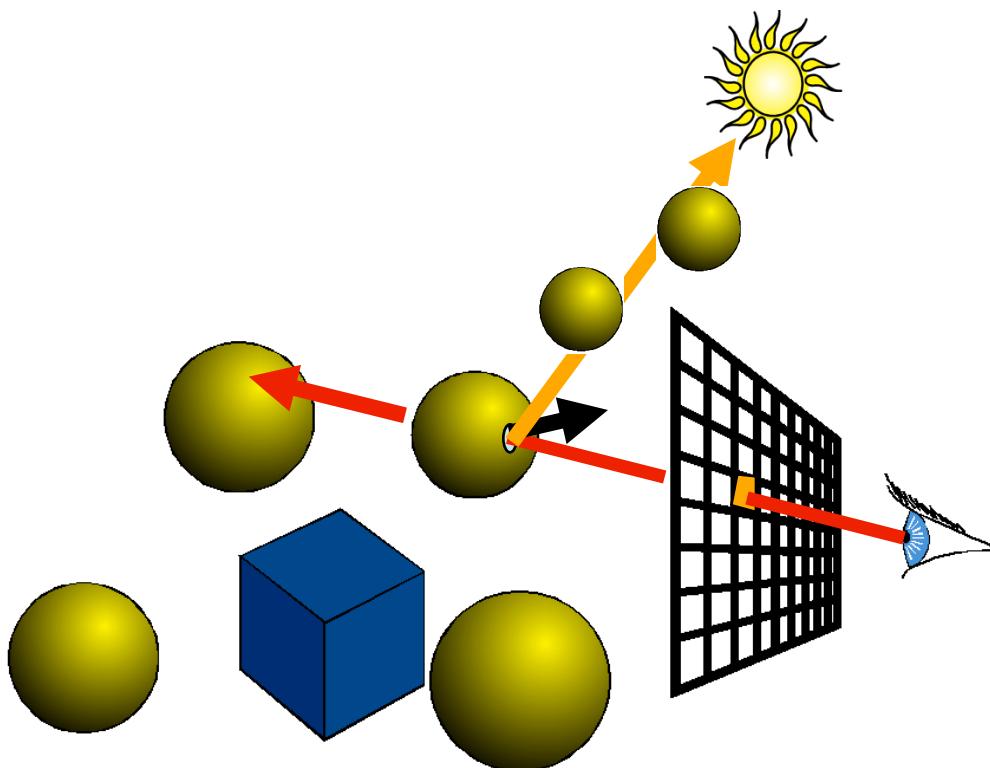
- What's special about shadow rays compared to eye rays?
  - We do not need to find the closest intersection, any will do!



# Shadow Optimization

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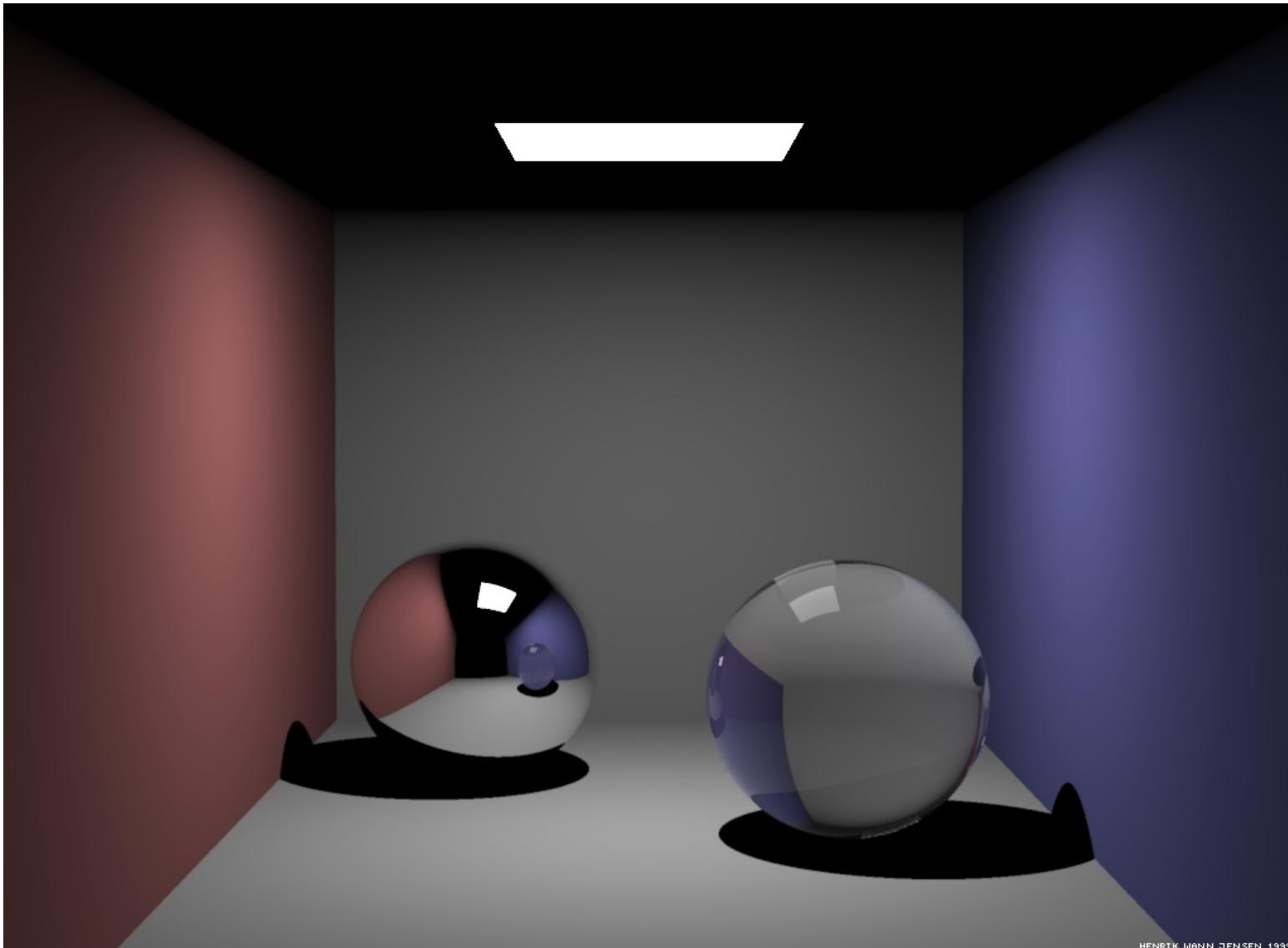
- We only want to know whether there is an intersection, not which one is closest
- Special routine `Object3D::intersectShadowRay()`
  - Stops at first intersection



# Questions?

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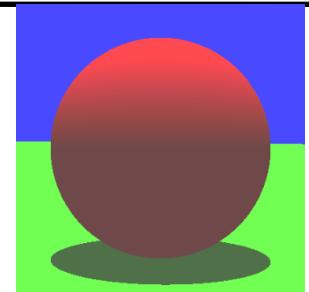
Henrik Wann Jensen



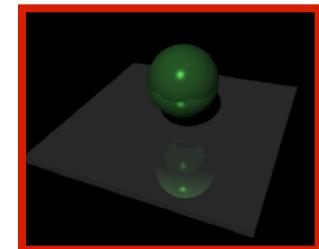
# Overview of Today

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- Shadows



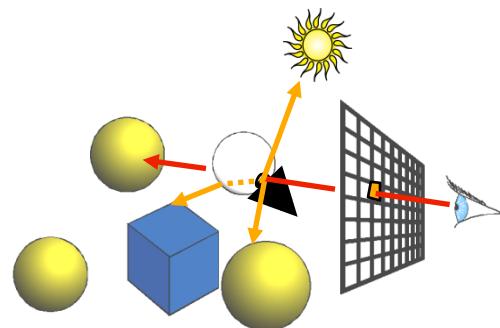
- Reflection



- Refraction

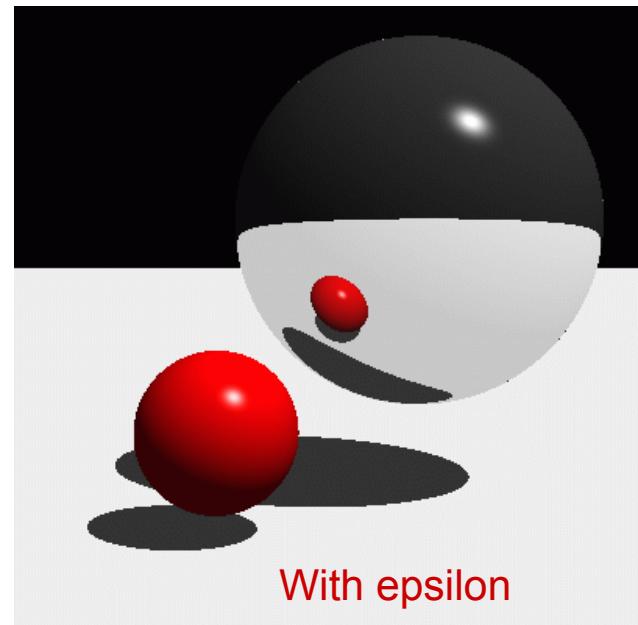
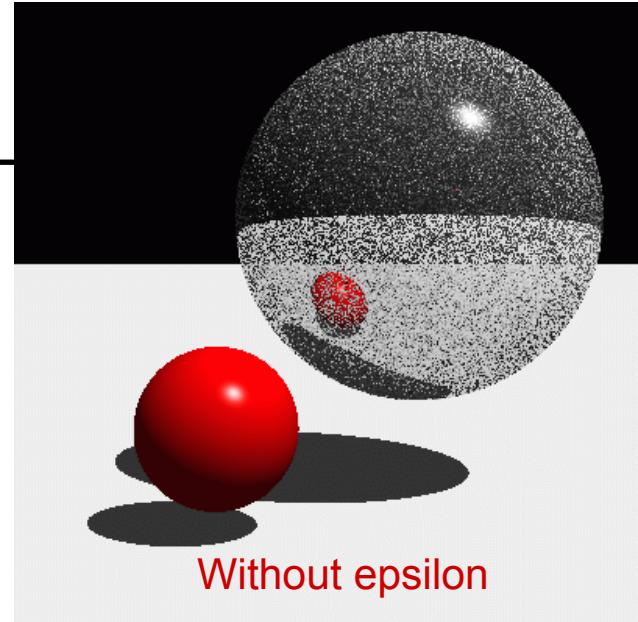
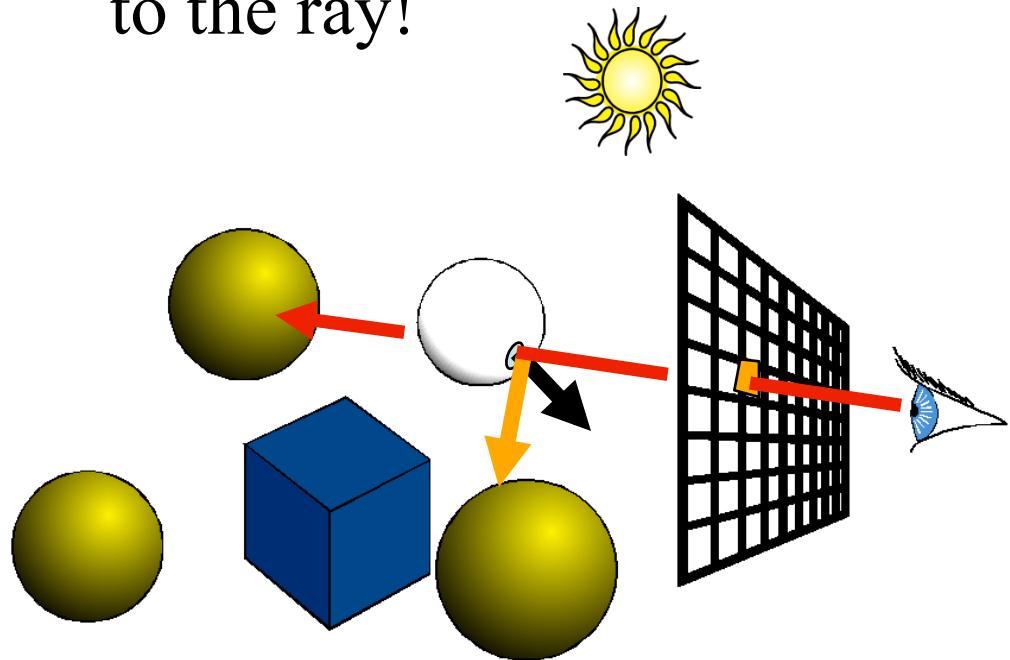


- Recursive Ray Tracing



# Mirror Reflection

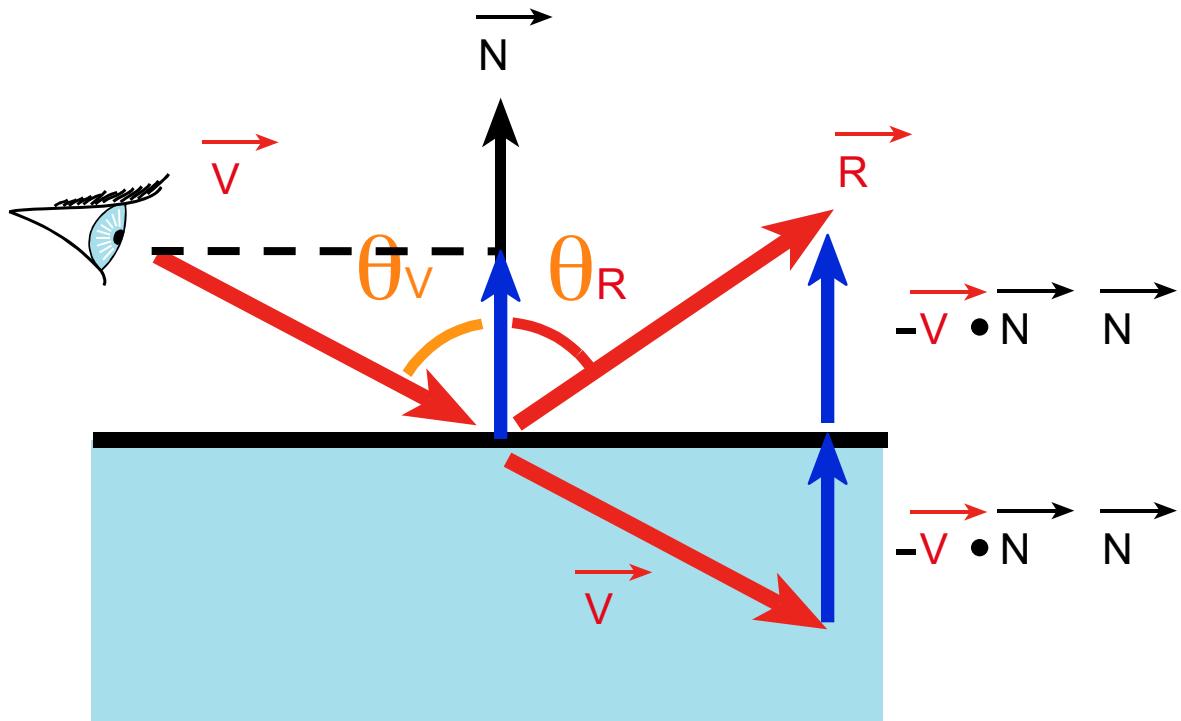
- Cast ray symmetric with respect to the normal
- Multiply by reflection coefficient  $k_s$  (color)
- Don't forget to add epsilon to the ray!



# Perfect Mirror Reflection

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- Reflection angle = view angle
  - Normal component is negated
- $R = V - 2(V \cdot N)N$

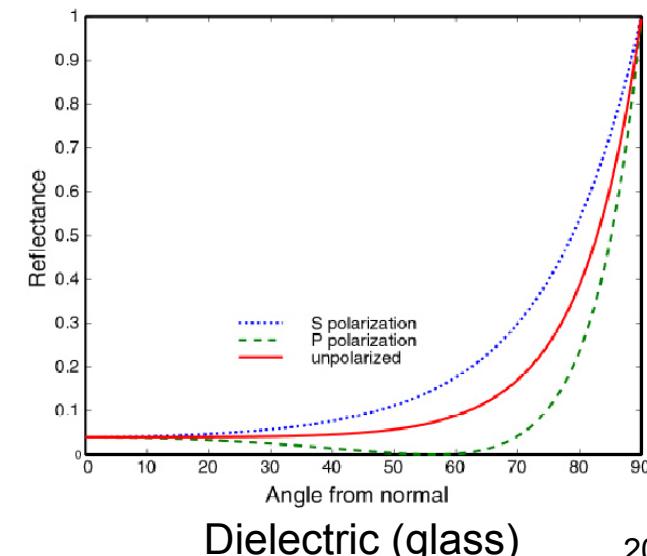
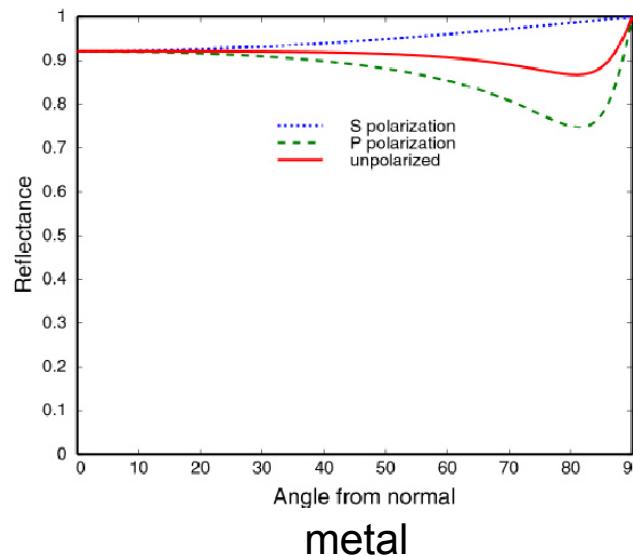
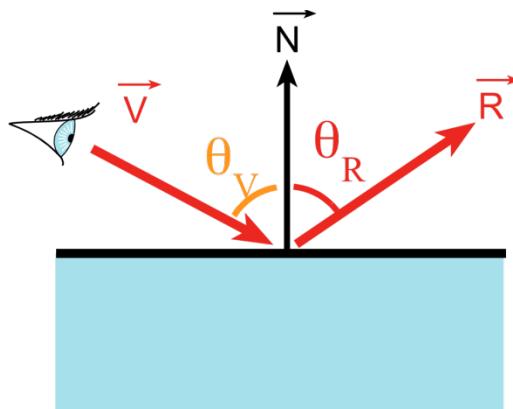


# Amount of Reflection

COMPUTER  
GRAPHICS



- Traditional ray tracing (hack)
  - Constant  $k_s$
- More realistic (we'll do this later):
  - Fresnel reflection term (more reflection at grazing angle)
  - Schlick's approximation:  $R(\theta) = R_0 + (1-R_0)(1-\cos \theta)^5$
- Fresnel makes a big difference!

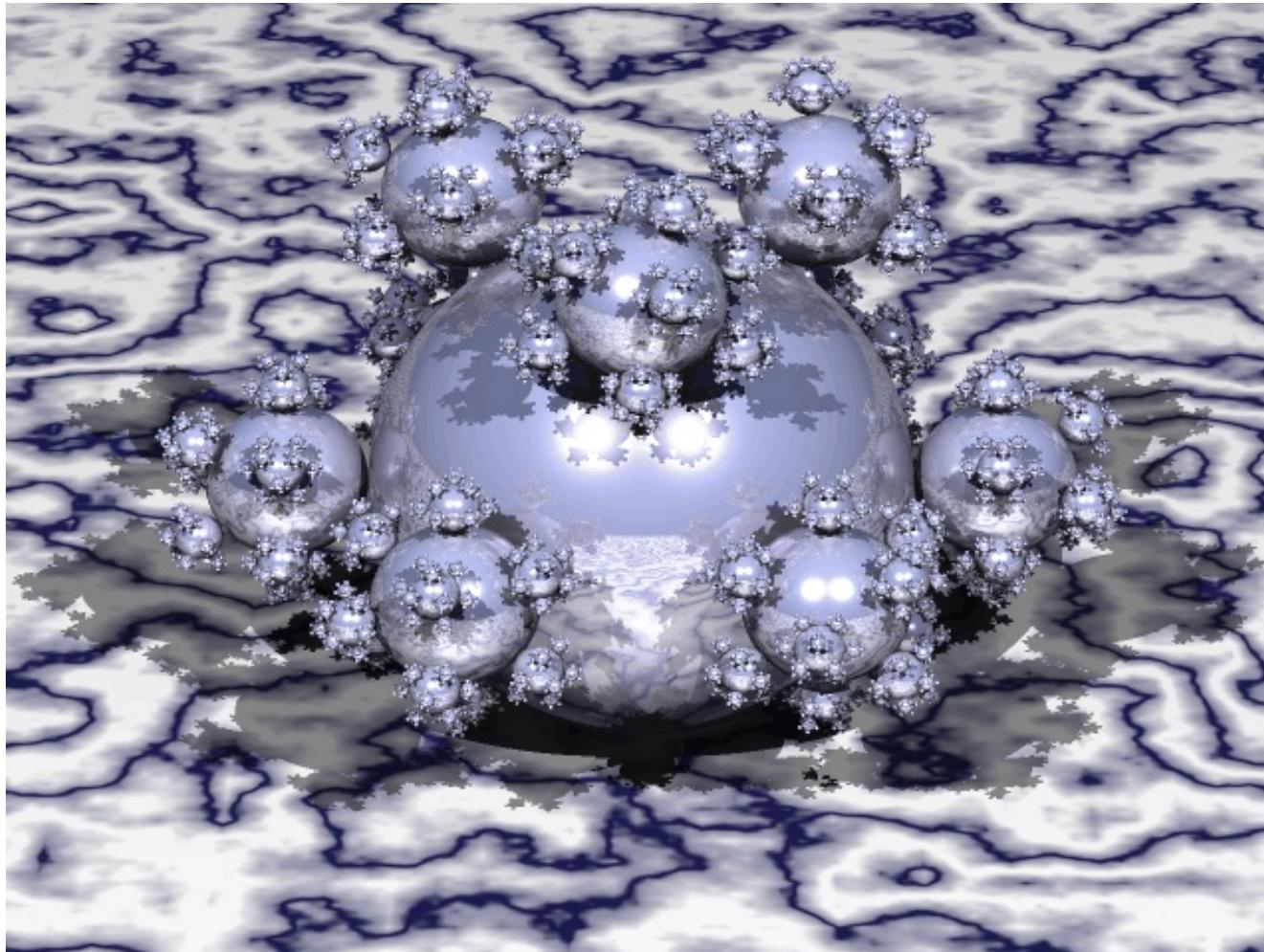


# Questions?

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“Spherflake” fractal

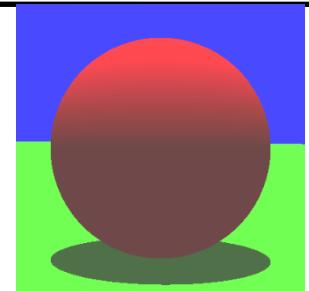
Henrik Wann Jensen



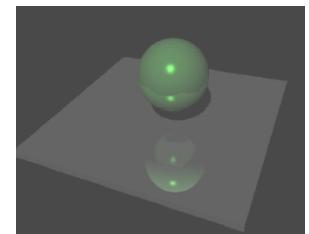
# Overview of Today

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- Shadows



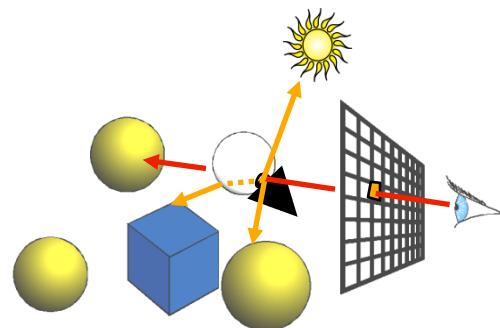
- Reflection



- Refraction



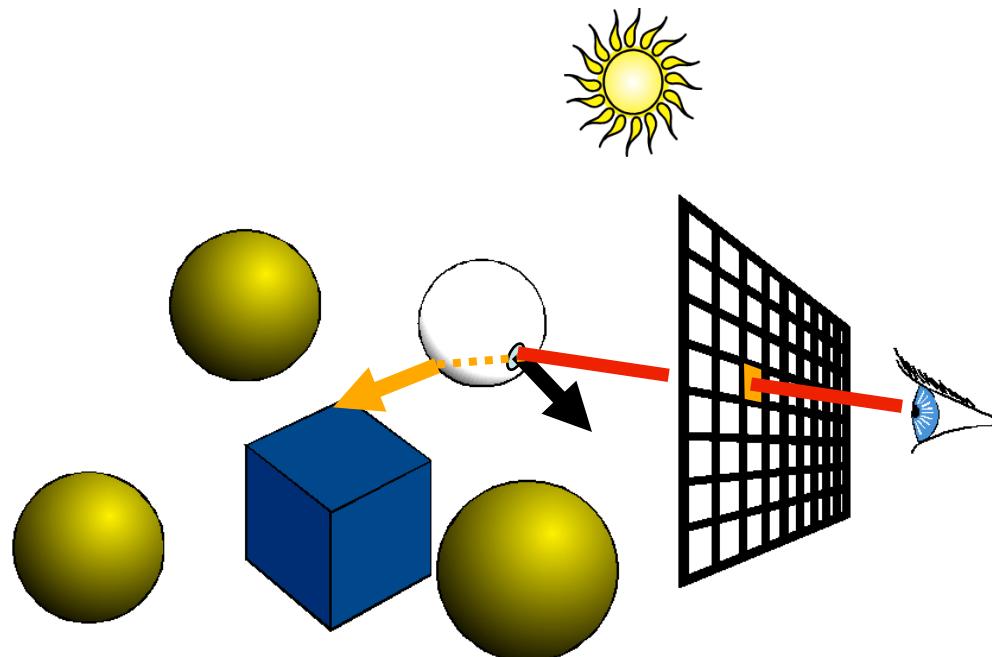
- Recursive Ray Tracing



# Transparency (Refraction)

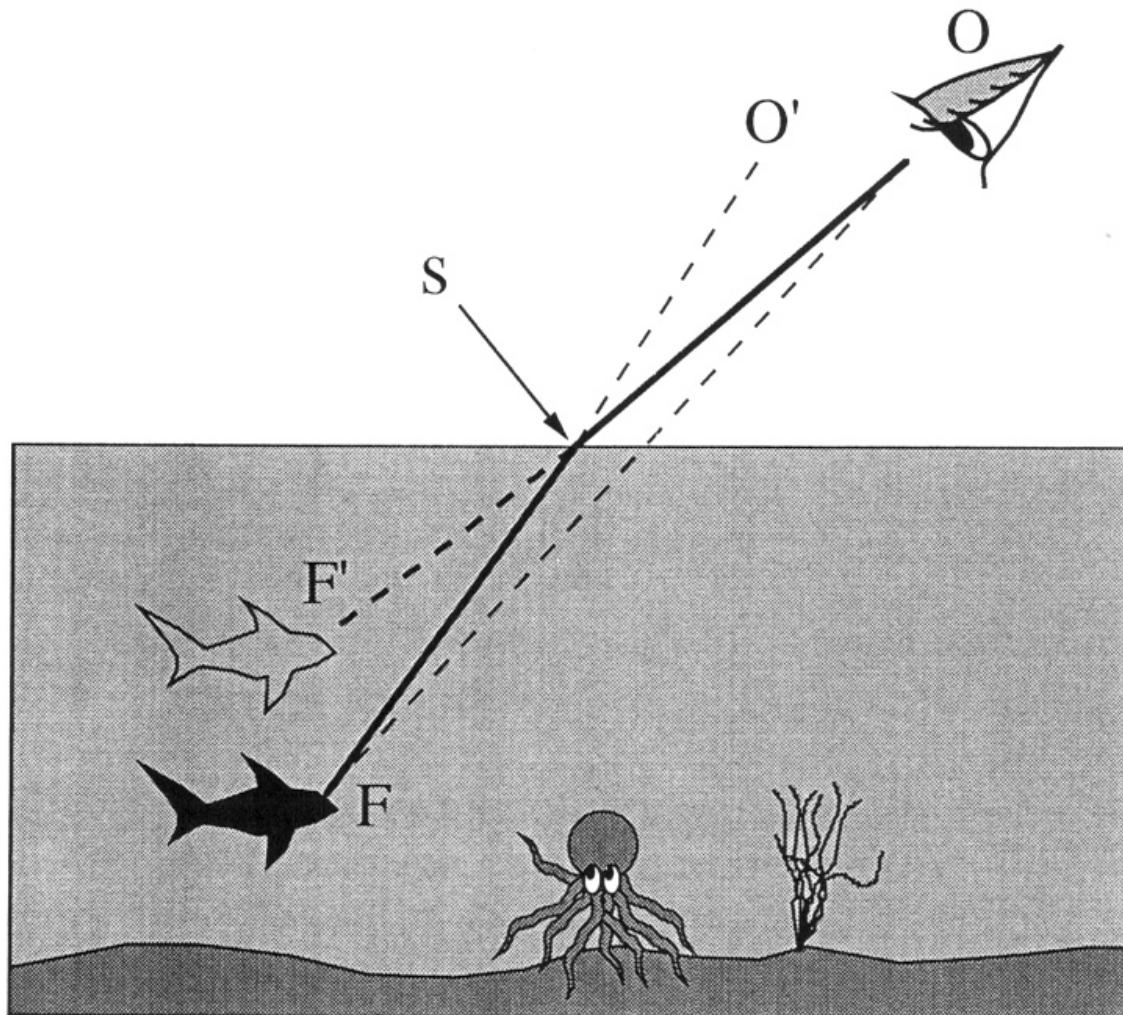
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- Cast ray in refracted direction
- Multiply by transparency coefficient  $k_t$  (color)



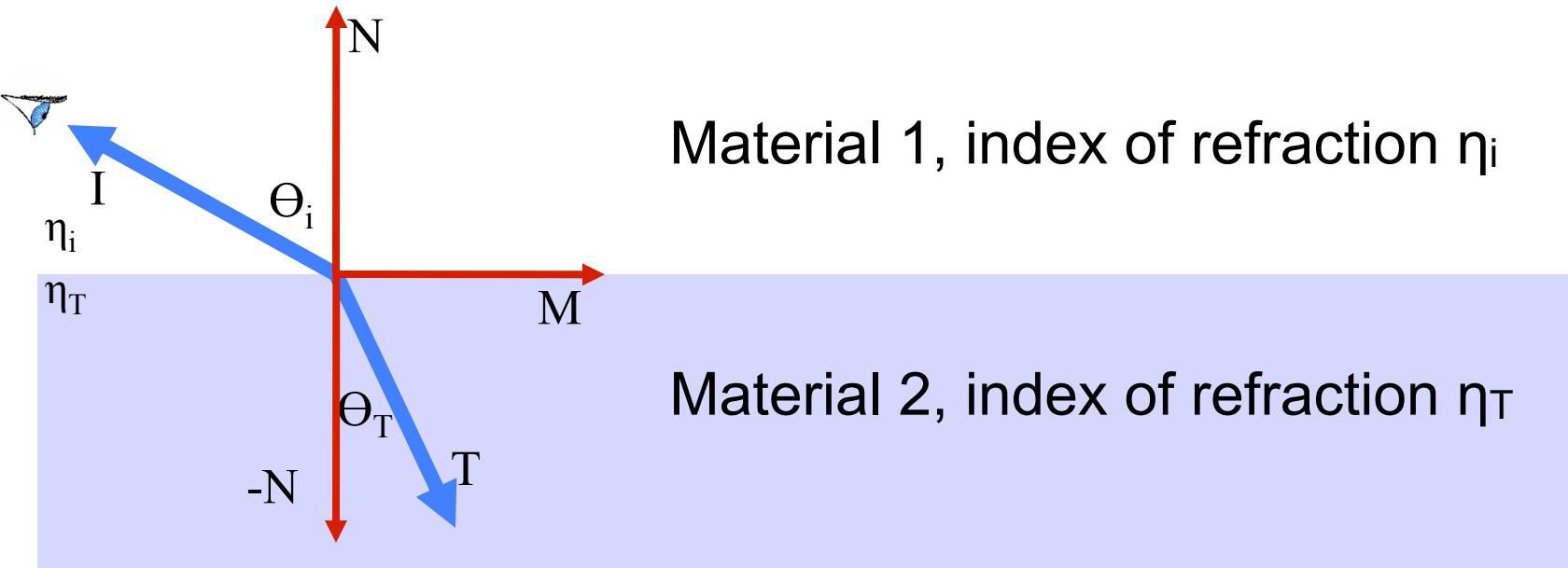
# Qualitative Refraction

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From “Color and Light in Nature” by Lynch and Livingston

# Refraction



Snell-Descartes Law:

$$n \downarrow i \sin \theta \downarrow i = n \downarrow T \sin \theta \downarrow T$$

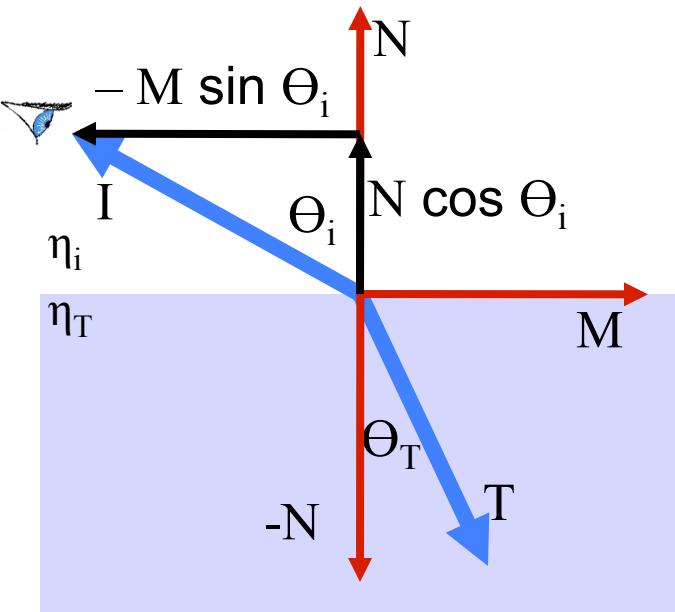
Refracted direction T?

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \theta \downarrow T / \sin \theta \downarrow i &= n \downarrow i / n \downarrow T \\ &= n \downarrow r \end{aligned}$$

Relative index of refraction

# Refraction

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$$I = N \cos \Theta_i - M \sin \Theta_i$$

$$M = (N \cos \Theta_i - I) / \sin \Theta_i$$

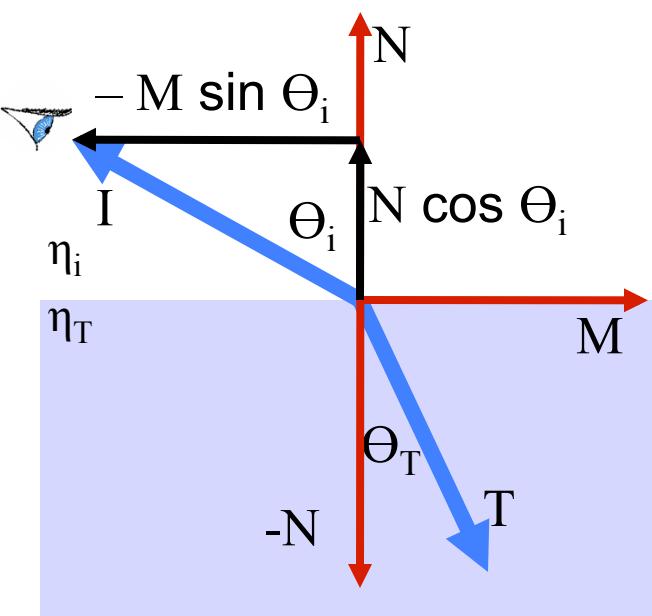
$$\begin{aligned} T &= -N \cos \Theta_T + M \sin \Theta_T \\ &= -N \cos \Theta_T + (N \cos \Theta_i - I) \sin \Theta_T / \sin \Theta_i \quad \text{Plug } M \\ &= -N \cos \Theta_T + (N \cos \Theta_i - I) \eta_r \quad \text{let's get rid of} \\ &= [\eta_r \cos \Theta_i - \cos \Theta_T] N - \eta_r I \\ &= [\eta_r \cos \Theta_i - \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \Theta_T}] N - \eta_r I \\ &= [\eta_r \cos \Theta_i - \sqrt{1 - \eta_r^2 \sin^2 \Theta_i}] N - \eta_r I \\ &= [\eta_r \cos \Theta_i - \sqrt{1 - \eta_r^2 (1 - \cos^2 \Theta_i)}] N - \eta_r I \\ &= [\eta_r (N \cdot I) - \sqrt{1 - \eta_r^2 (1 - (N \cdot I)^2)}] N - \eta_r I \end{aligned}$$

Snell-Descartes Law:

$$n \downarrow i \sin \theta \downarrow i = n \downarrow T \sin \theta \downarrow T$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \theta \downarrow T / \sin \theta \downarrow i &= n \downarrow i / n \downarrow T \\ &= n \downarrow r \end{aligned}$$

# Refraction



$$I = N \cos \Theta_i - M \sin \Theta_i$$
$$M = (N \cos \Theta_i - I) / \sin \Theta_i$$

- Total internal reflection when the square root is imaginary (no refraction, just reflection)

Snell-Descartes Law:

$$n \downarrow i \sin \theta \downarrow i = n \downarrow T \sin \theta \downarrow T$$

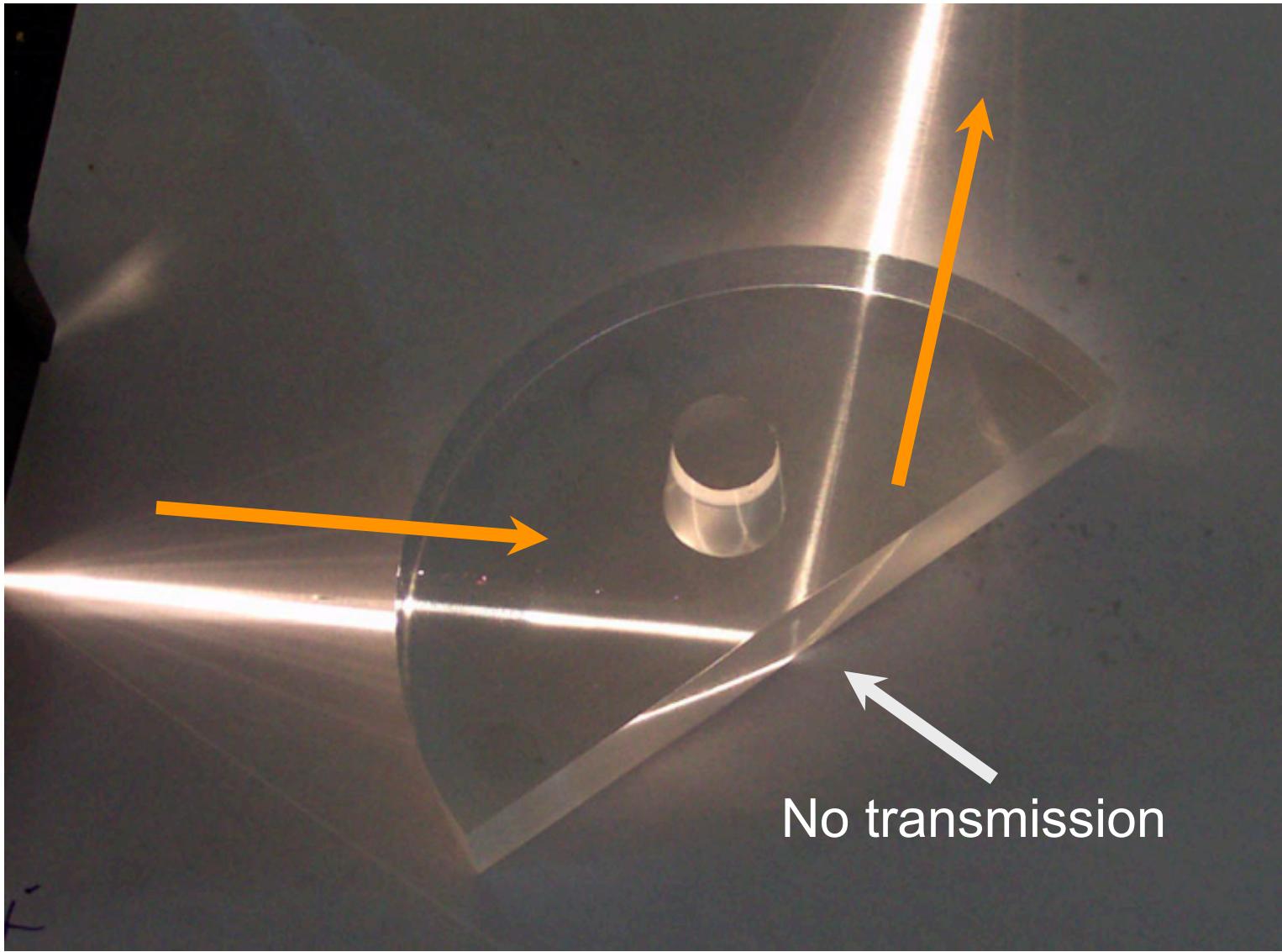
$$= [ \eta_r (N \cdot I) - \sqrt{1 - \eta_r^2 (1 - (N \cdot I)^2)} ] N - \eta_r I$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \theta \downarrow T / \sin \theta \downarrow i &= n \downarrow i / n \downarrow T \\ &= n \downarrow r \end{aligned}$$

# Total Internal Reflection

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Wikipedia user Fir0002



No transmission

# Total Internal Reflection



Fig. 3.7A The optical manhole. From under water, the entire celestial hemisphere is compressed into a circle only  $97.2^\circ$  across. The dark boundary defining the edges of the manhole is not sharp due to surface waves. The rays are analogous to the crepuscular type seen in hazy air, Section 1.9. (Photo by D. Granger)

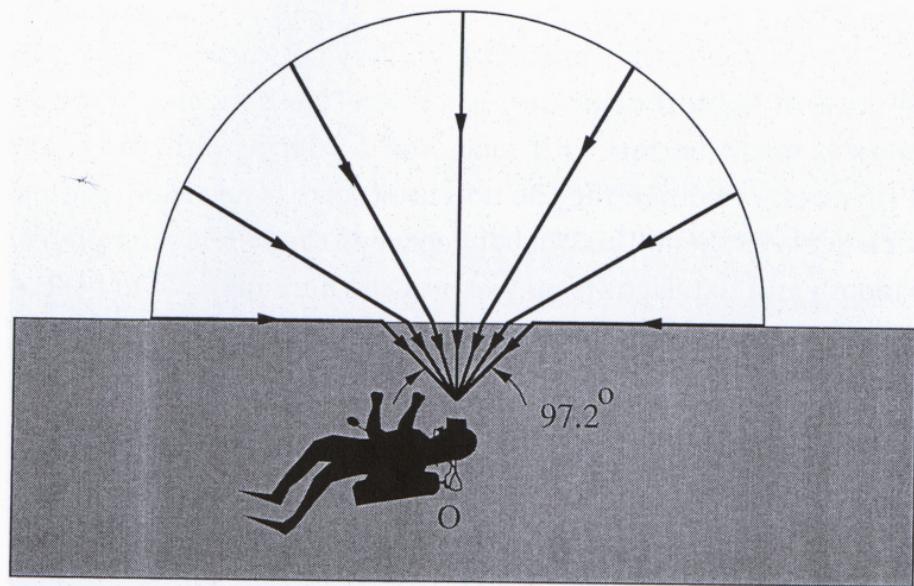
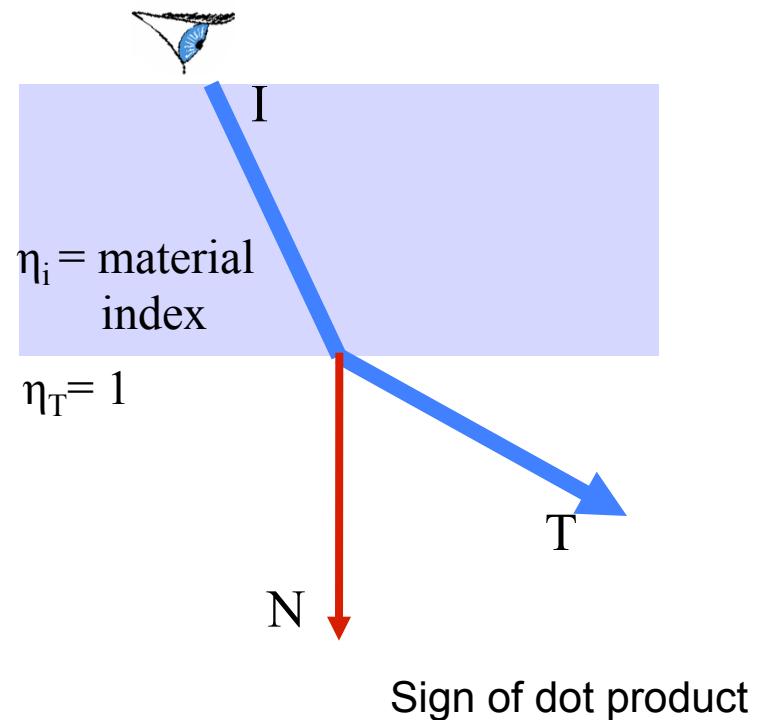
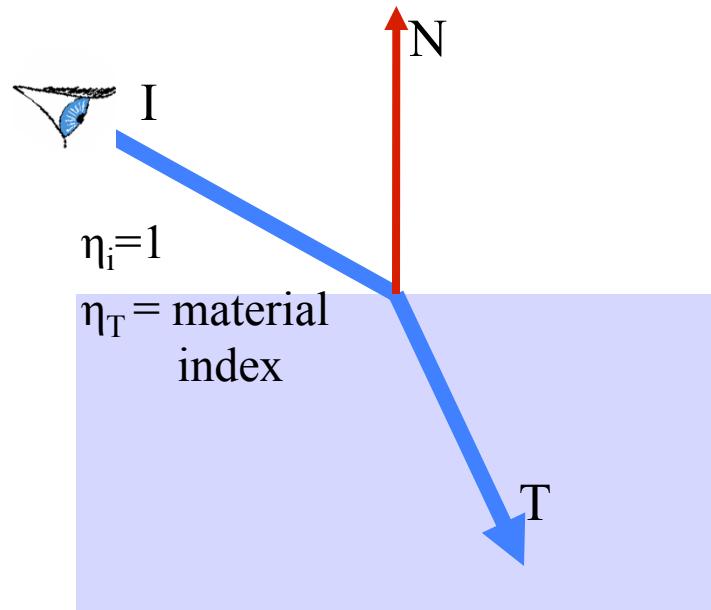


Fig. 3.7B The optical manhole. Light from the horizon (angle of incidence =  $90^\circ$ ) is refracted downward at an angle of  $48.6^\circ$ . This compresses the sky into a circle with a diameter of  $97.2^\circ$  instead of its usual  $180^\circ$ .

From “Color and Light in Nature” by Lynch and Livingston

# Refraction & Sidedness of Objects

- Make sure you know whether you're entering or leaving the transmissive material:



- Note: We won't ask you to trace rays through intersecting transparent objects :-)

# Cool Refraction Demo

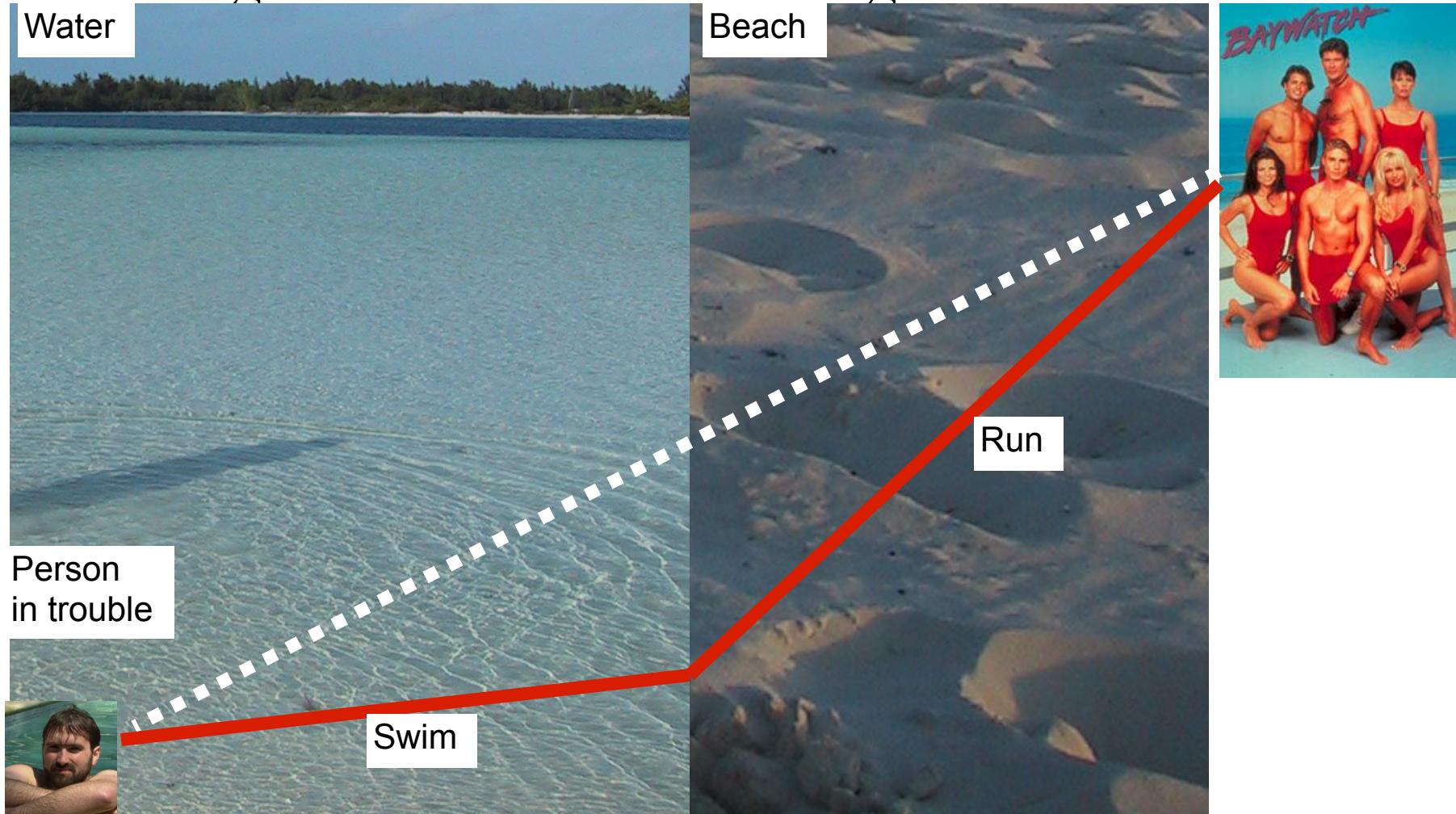
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- Enright, D.,  
Marschner, S.  
and Fedkiw,  
R.,  
SIGGRAPH  
2002



# Refraction and the Lifeguard Problem

- Running is faster than swimming



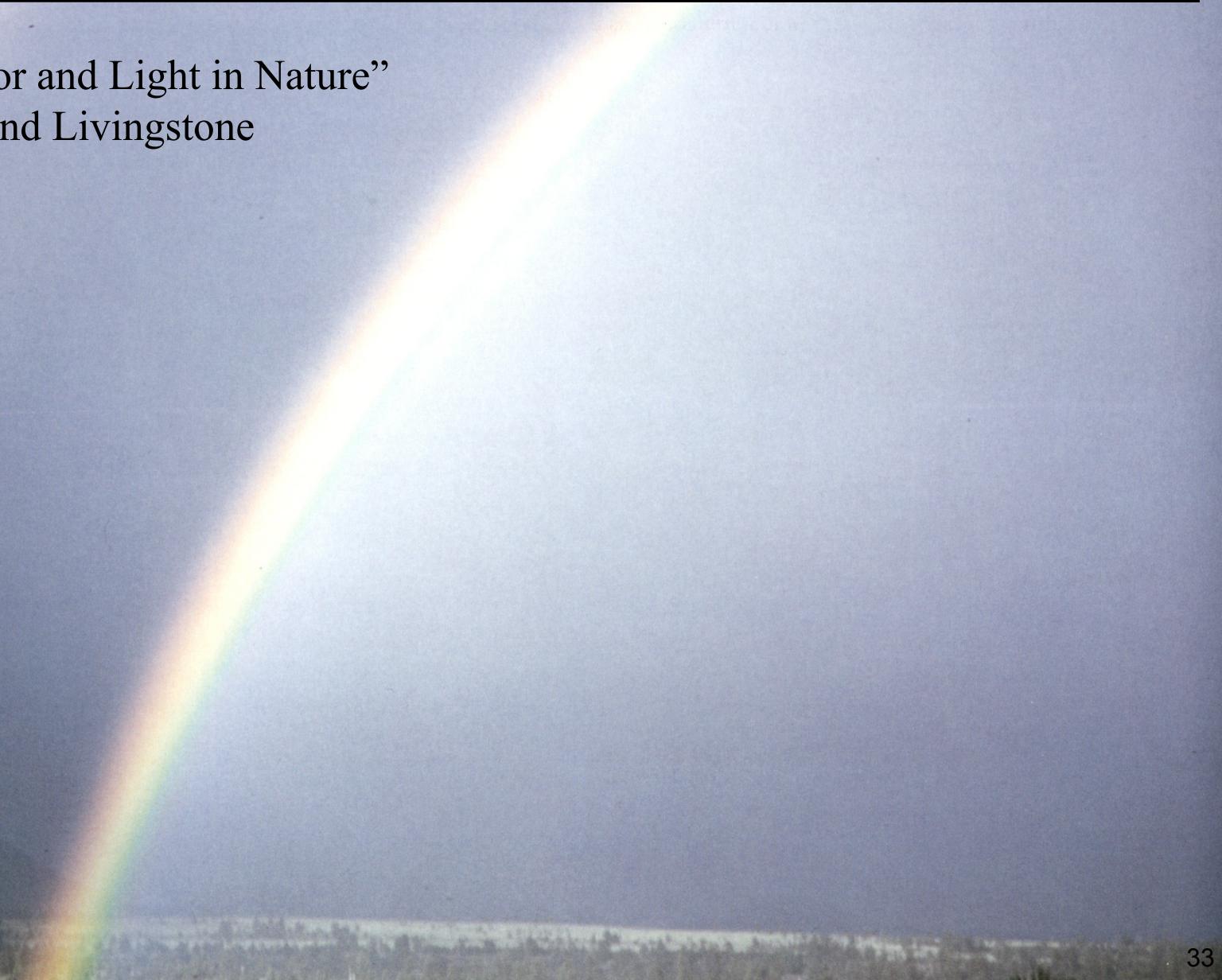
Lifeguard



# How Does a Rainbow Work?

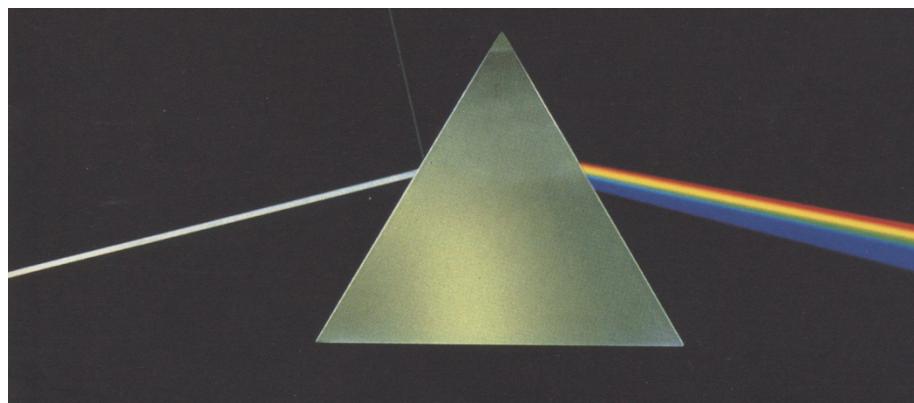
---

- From “Color and Light in Nature”  
by Lynch and Livingstone



# Wavelength

- Refraction is wavelength-dependent (dispersion)
  - Refraction increases as the wavelength of light decreases
  - violet and blue experience more bending than orange and red
- Newton's prism experiment
- Usually ignored in graphics



Pink Floyd, The Dark Side of the Moon

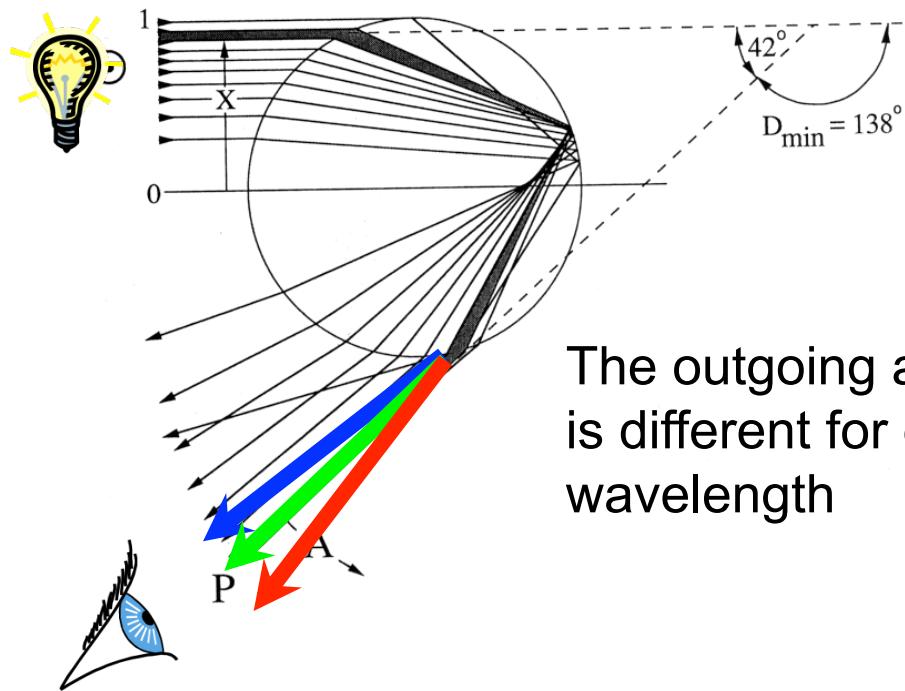


Pittoni, 1725, Allegory to Newton

# Rainbow

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- Rainbow is caused by refraction + internal reflection + refraction
- Maximum for angle around 42 degrees
- Refraction depends on wavelength (dispersion)



The outgoing angle  
is different for each  
wavelength

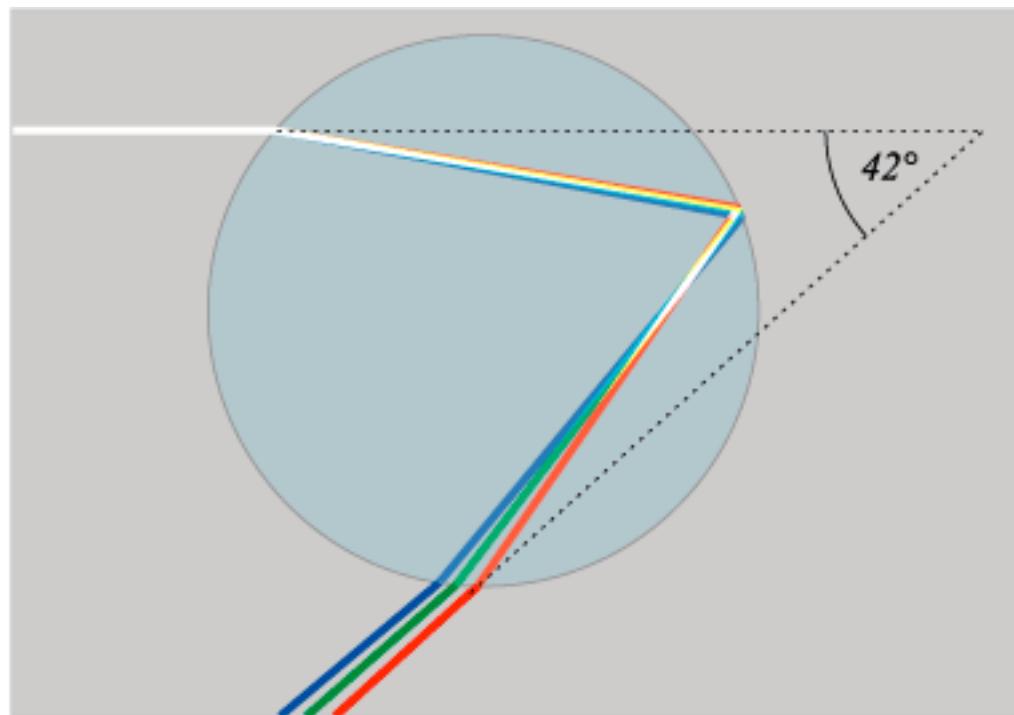


“Color and Light in Nature”  
by Lynch and Livingstone

# Rainbow

---

- Rainbow is caused by refraction + internal reflection + refraction
- Maximum for angle around 42 degrees
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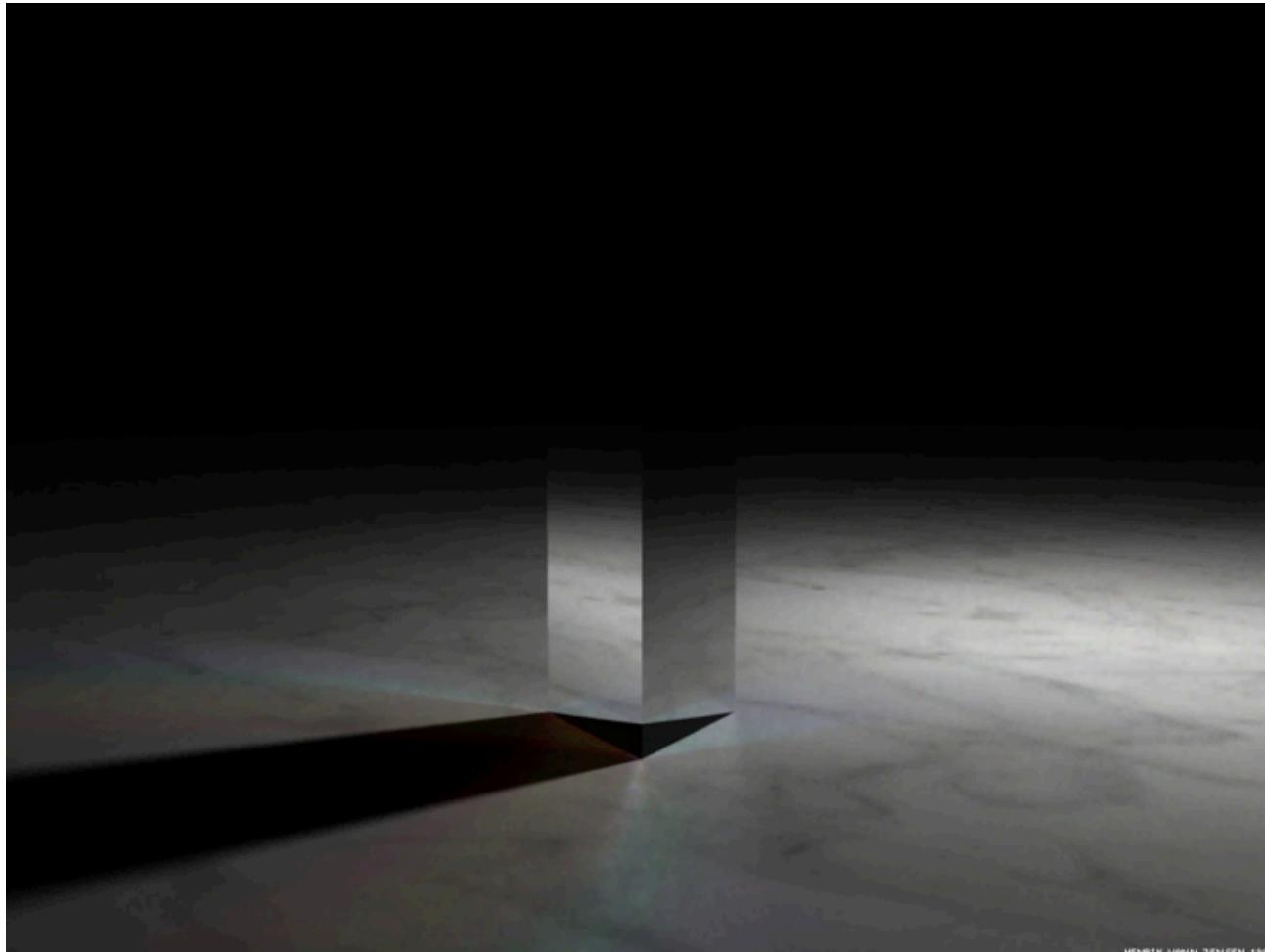


Wikipedia

# Dispersion

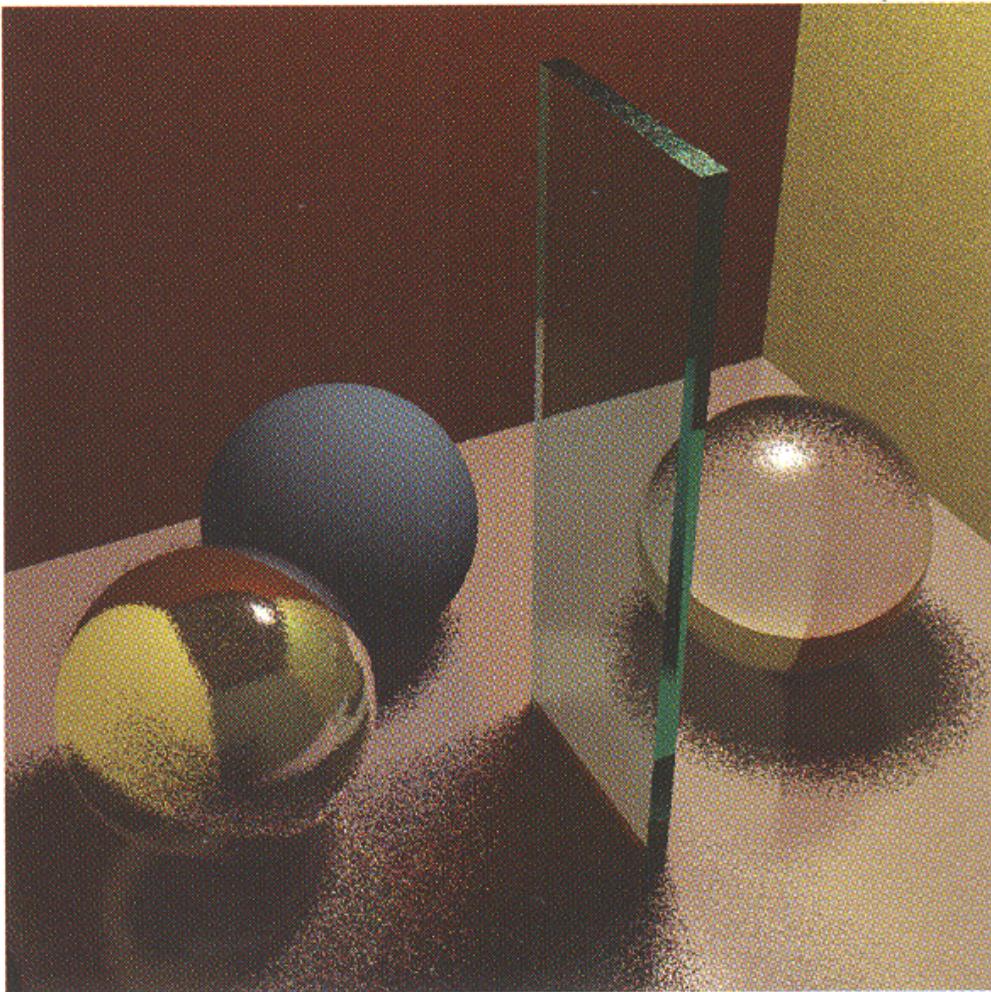
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- Image by Henrik Wann Jensen using Photon Mapping



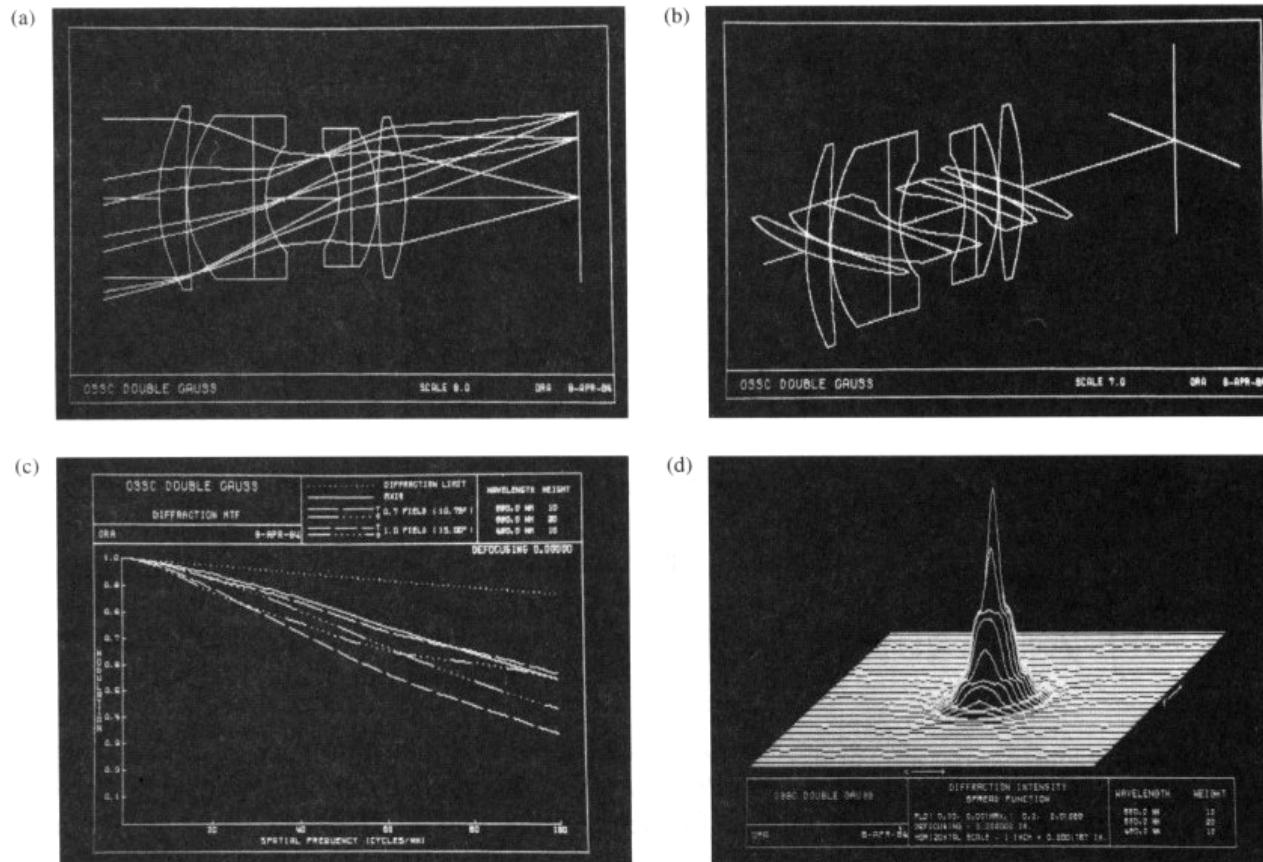
# Questions?

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# Application: CAD for lenses

- Has revolutionized lens design
    - E.g. zoom lenses are good now



**Figure 11.50** An example of the kind of lens design information available via computer techniques. (Photos courtesy Optical Research Associates.)

# Lens design by Ray Tracing

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- Used to be done manually, by rooms full of engineers who would trace rays.
- Now software, e.g. Zemax

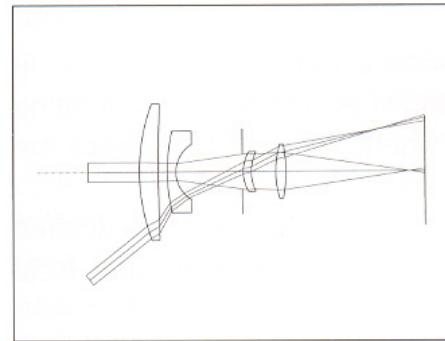


Figure-5

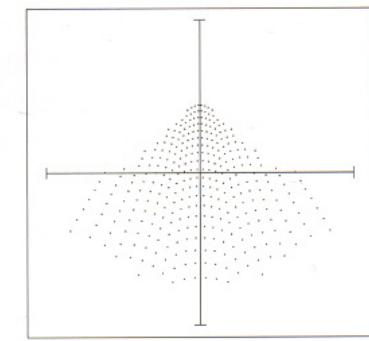


Figure-8

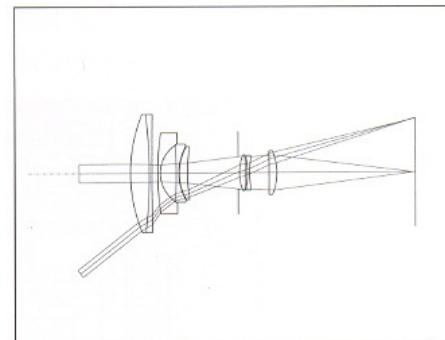


Figure-6

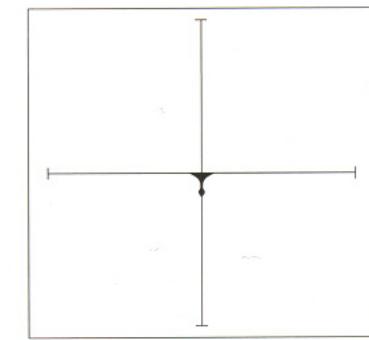


Figure-9

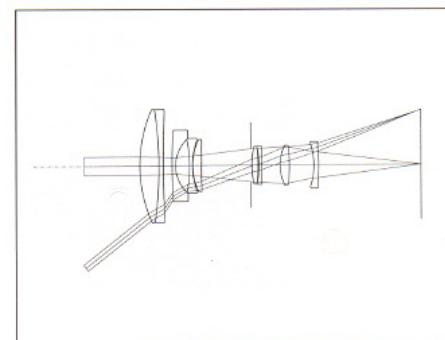


Figure-7

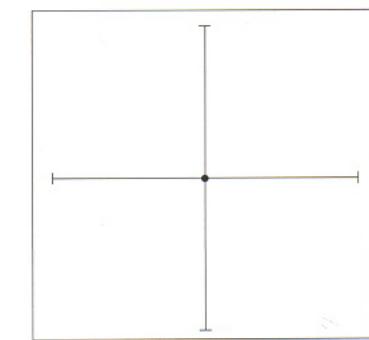
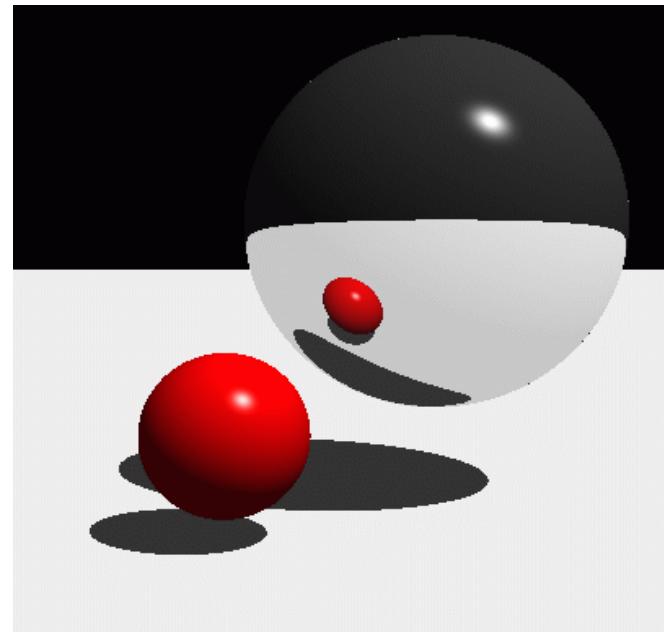
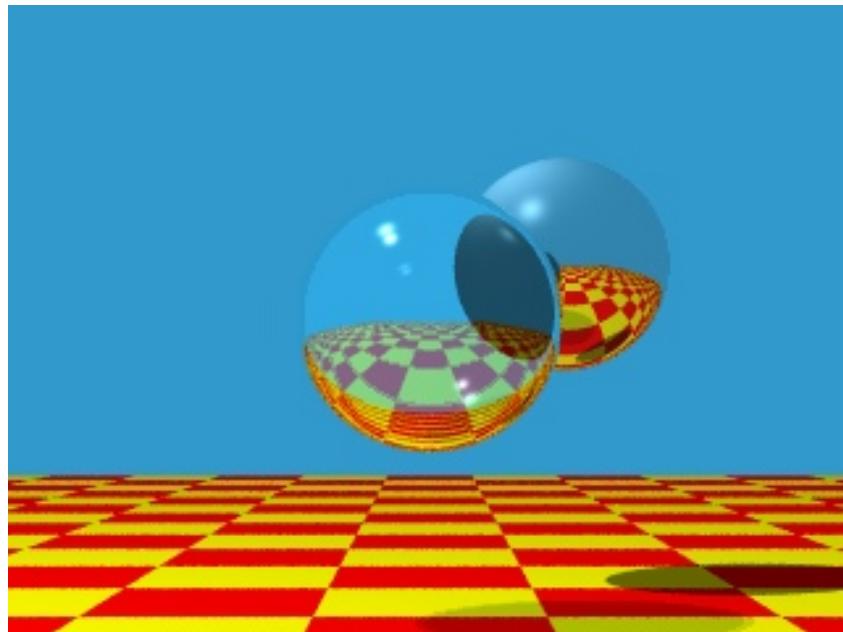


Figure-10

# Let's Pause for a Moment...

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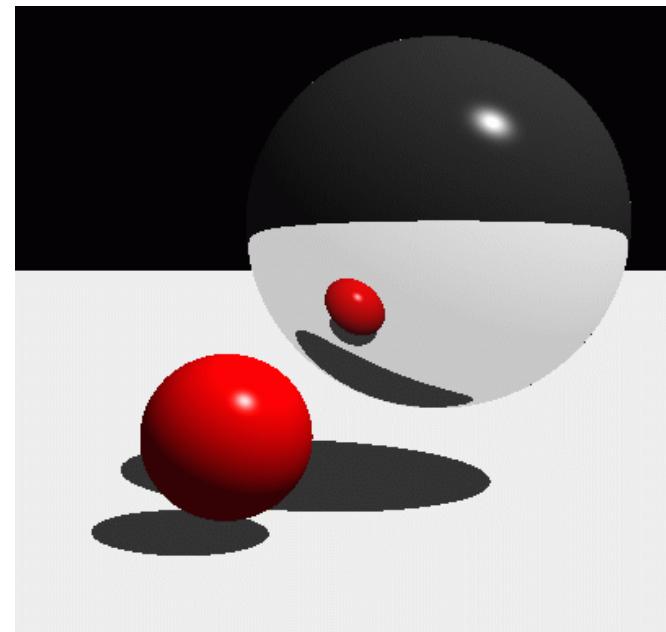
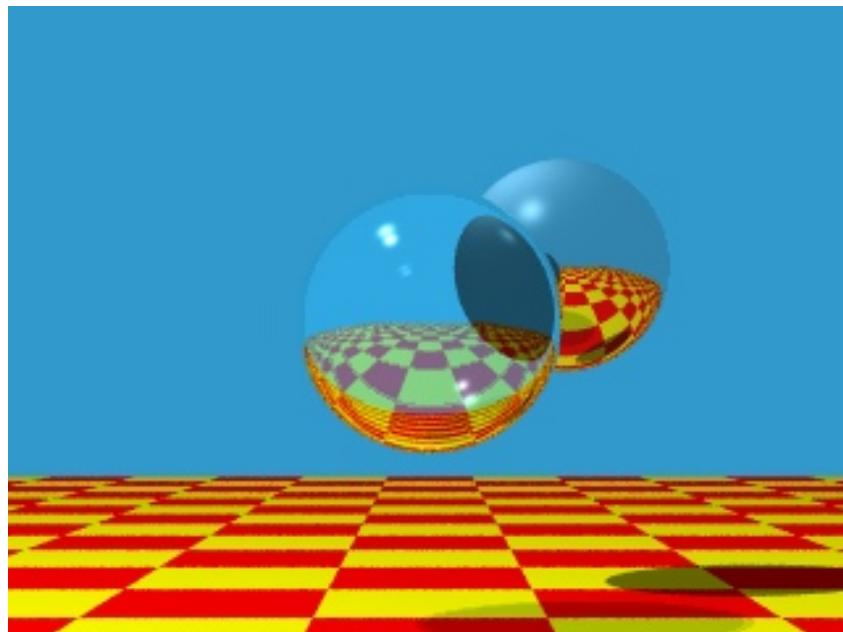
- Do these pictures look real?



# What's Wrong then?

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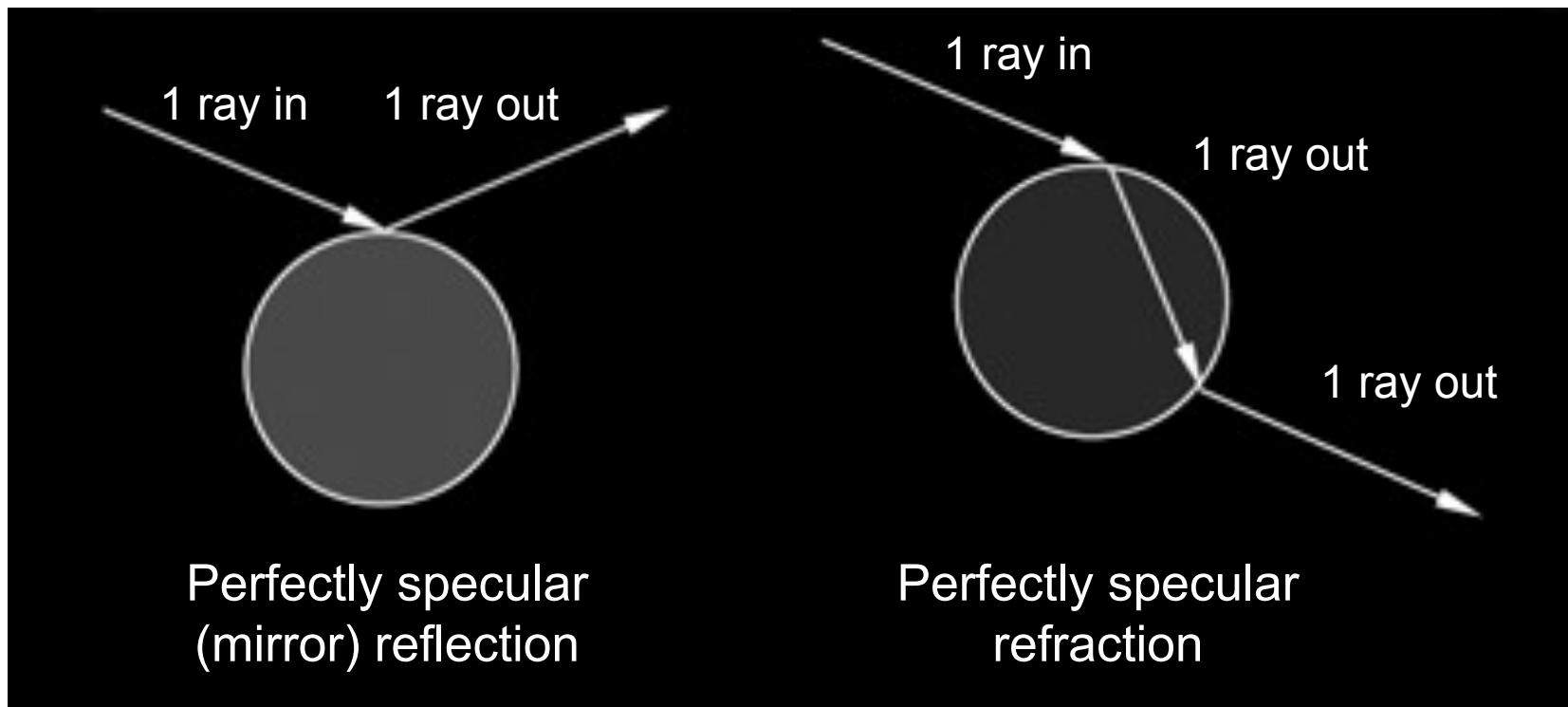
- No surface is a perfect mirror,  
no material interface is perfectly smooth



# What's Wrong then?

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- No surface is a perfect mirror,  
no material interface is perfectly smooth

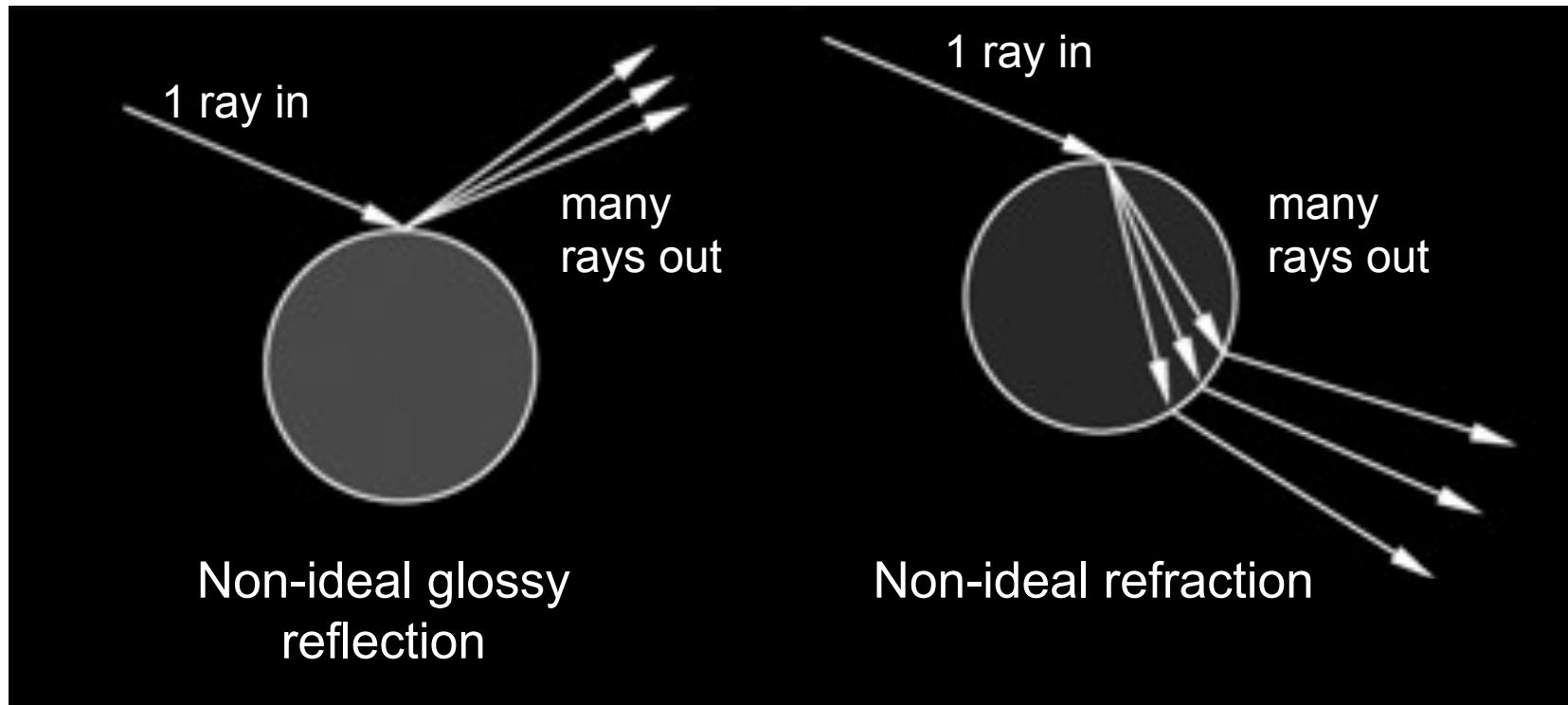


Adapted from [blender.org](http://blender.org)

# Non-Ideal Reflection/Refraction

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- No surface is a perfect mirror, no material interface is perfectly smooth



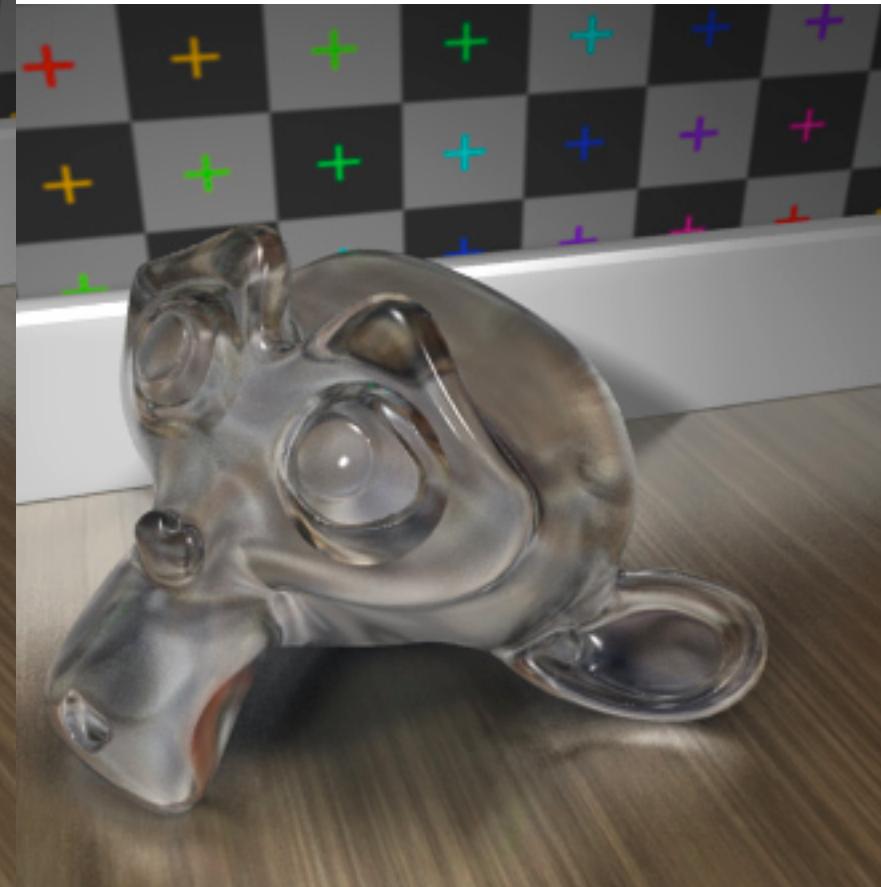
Adapted from [blender.org](https://blender.org)

# Non-Ideal Reflection/Refraction

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Glossy (as opposed to mirror) reflection

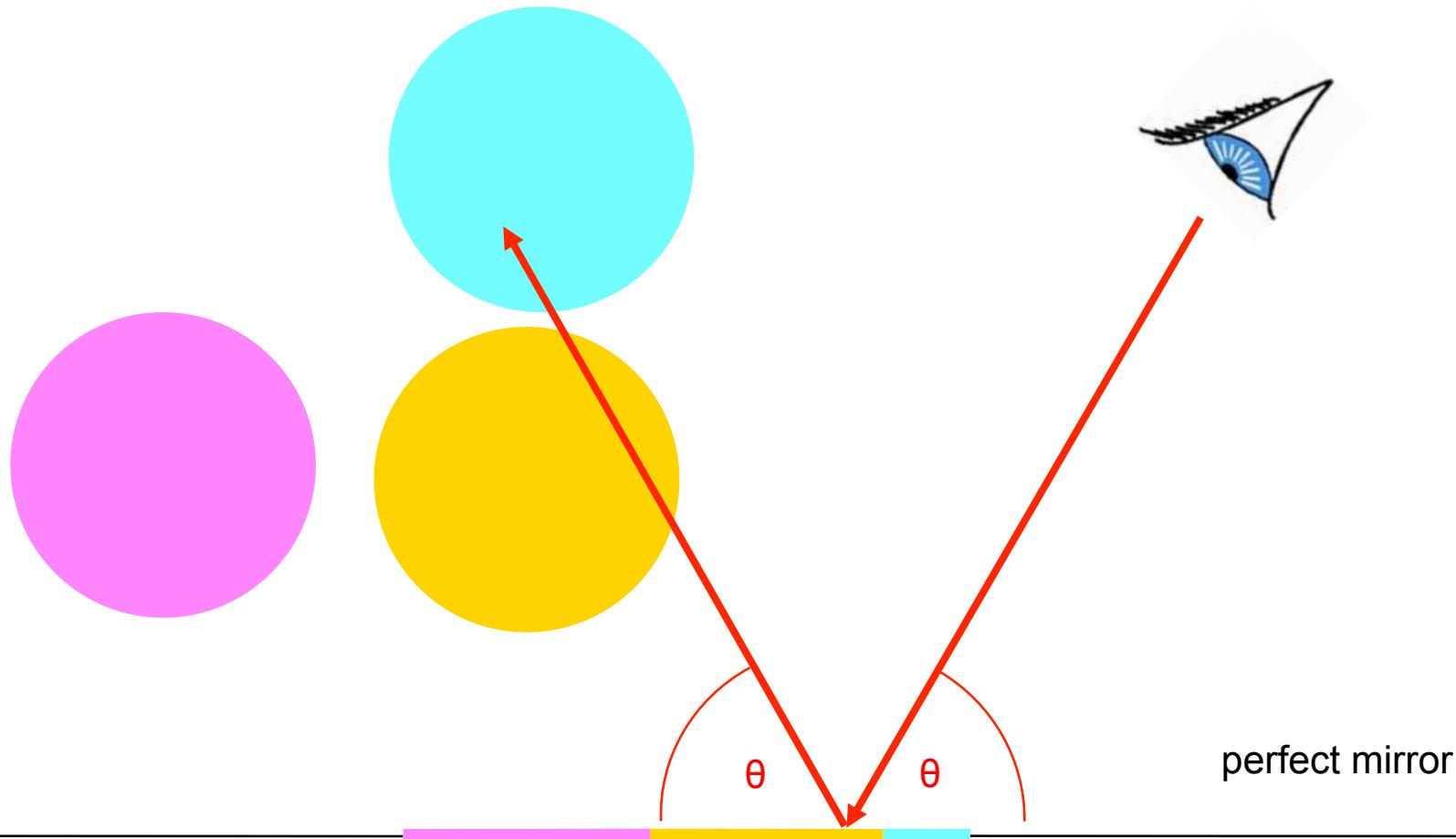


Glossy (as opposed to perfect) refraction

# Reflection

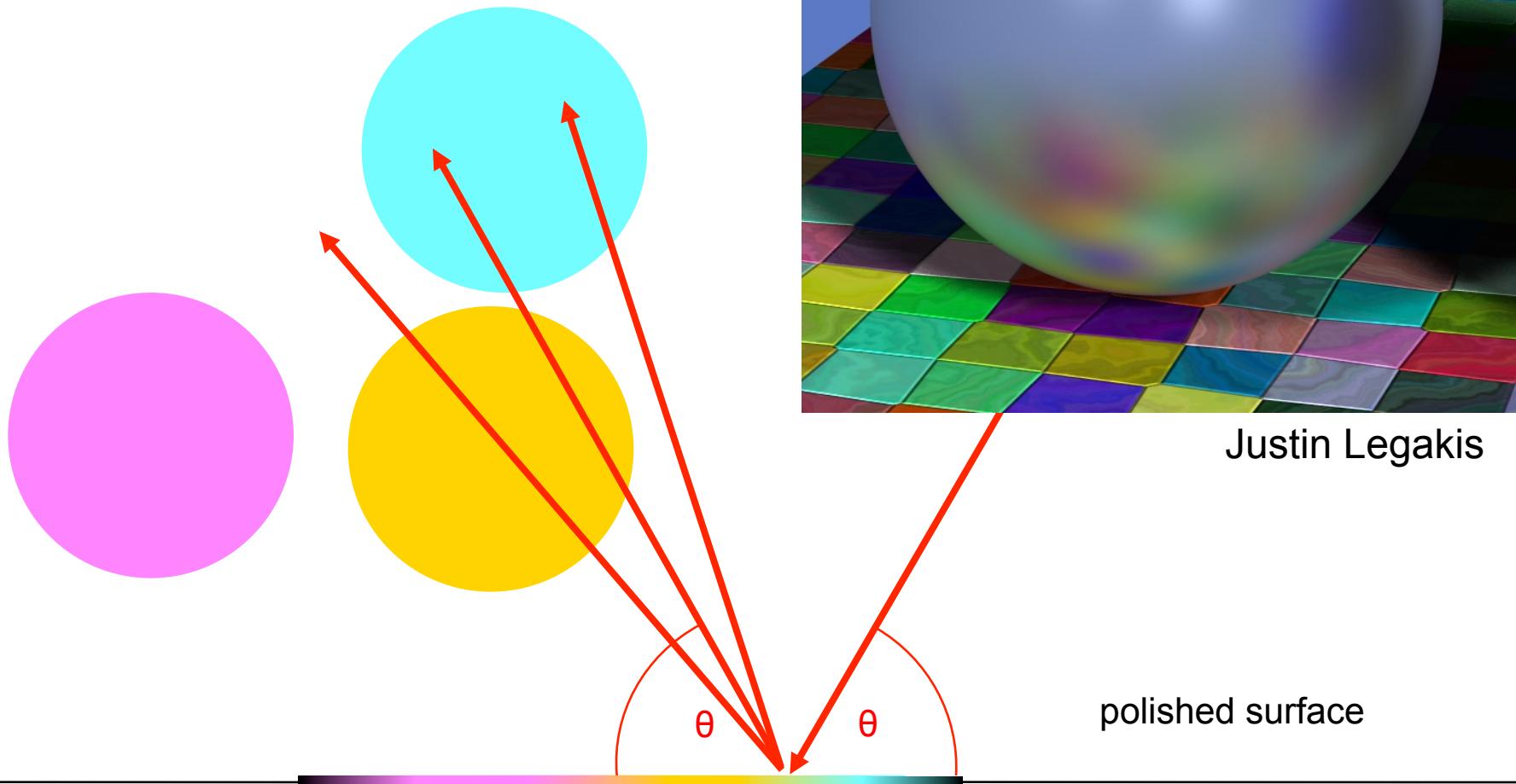
---

- One reflection ray per intersection



# Glossy Reflection

- Multiple reflection rays



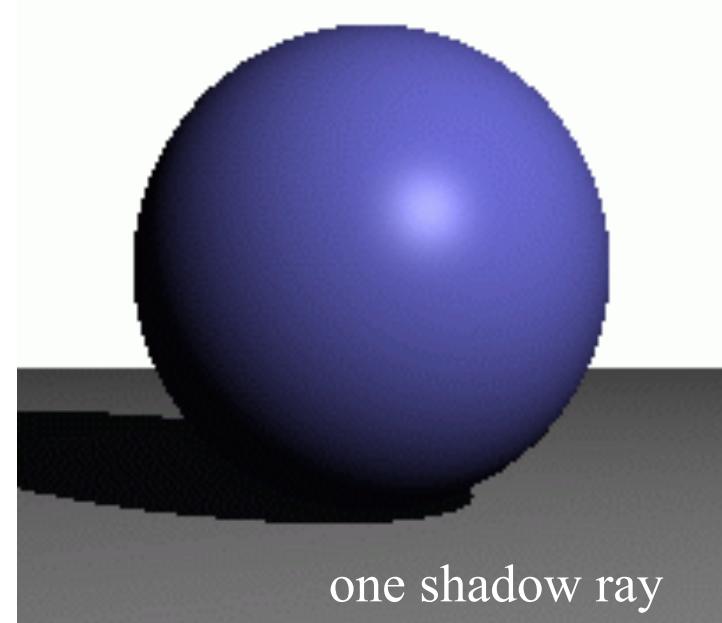
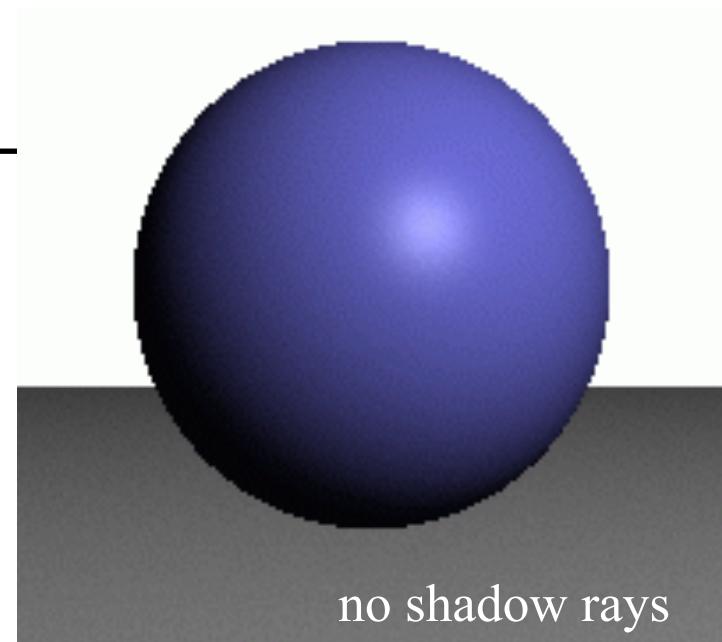
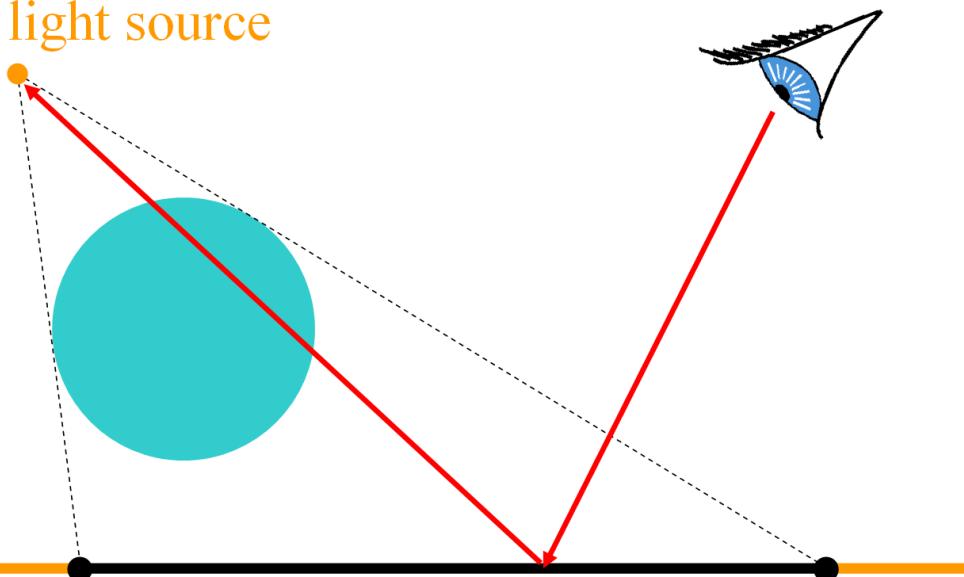
Justin Legakis

polished surface

# Shadows

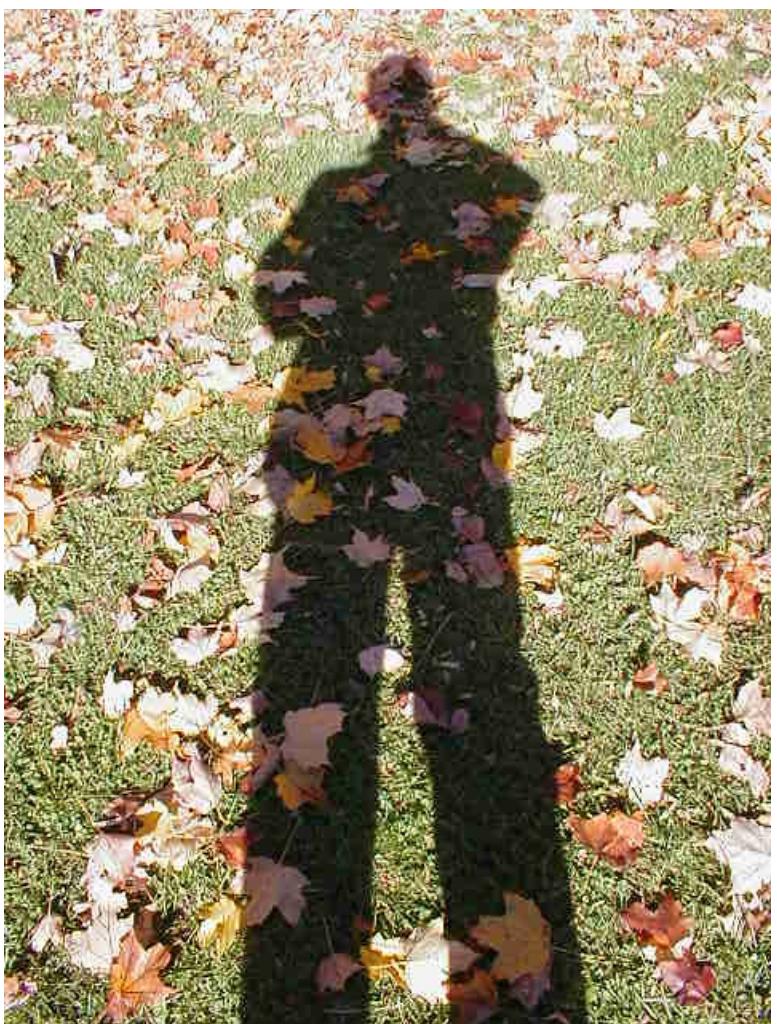
- One shadow ray per intersection per point light source

point light source



# Shadows & Light Sources

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[http://3media.initialized.org/photos/2000-10-18/index\\_gall.htm](http://3media.initialized.org/photos/2000-10-18/index_gall.htm)



<http://www.davidfay.com/index.php>



clear bulb

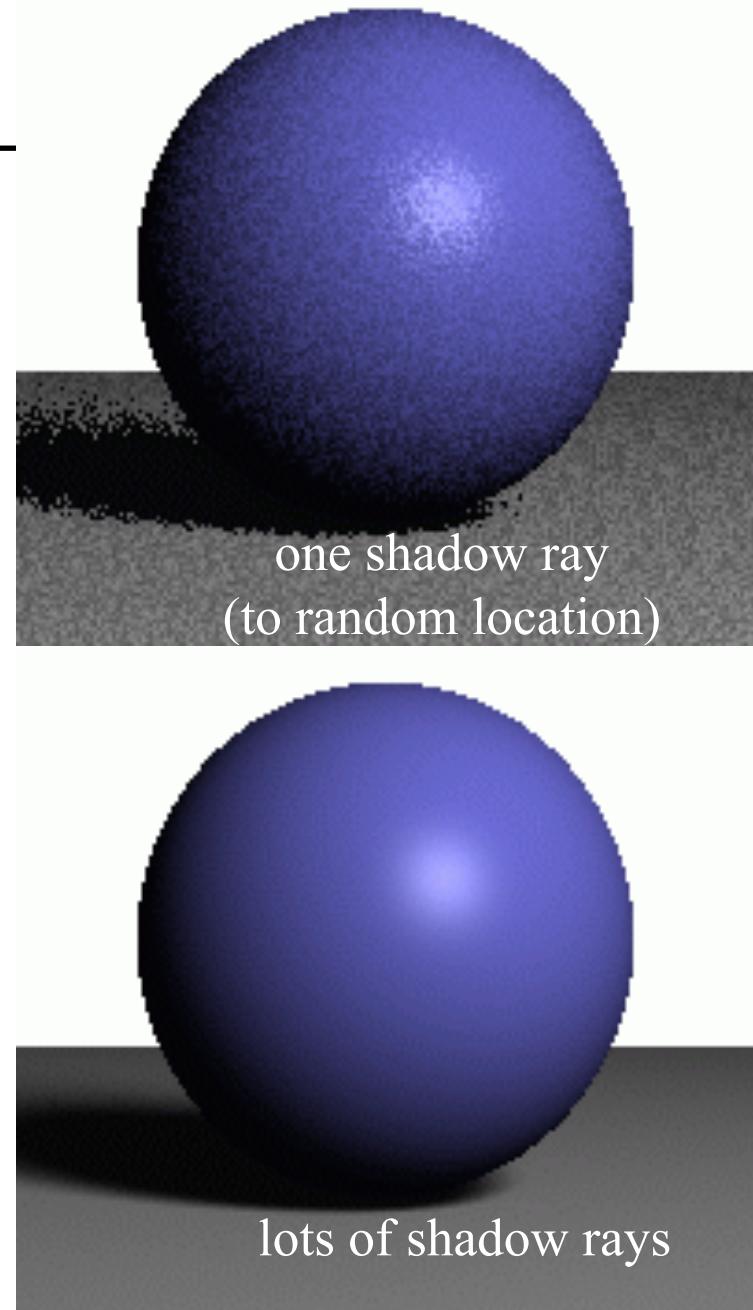
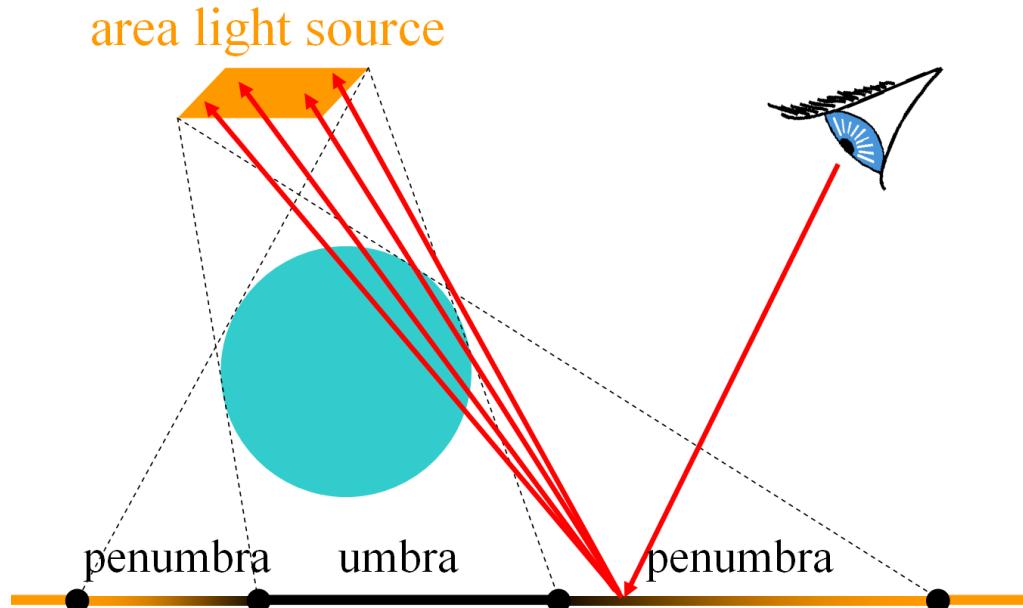
<http://www.pa.uky.edu/~sciworks/light/preview/bulb2.htm>



frosted bulb

# Soft Shadows

- Multiple shadow rays to sample area light source

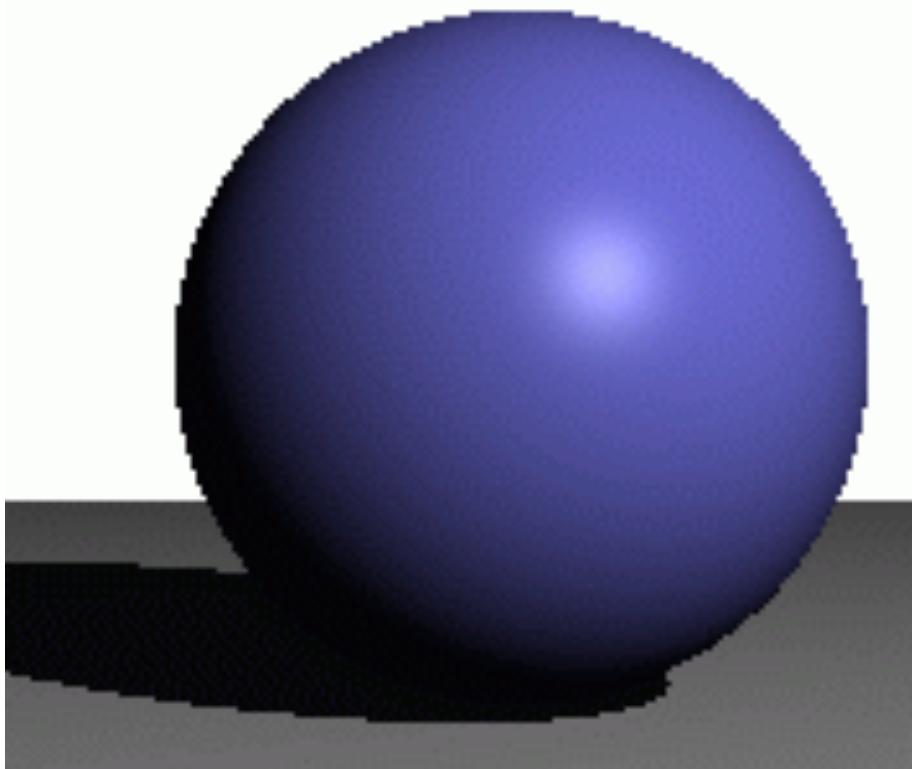


# Antialiasing – Supersampling

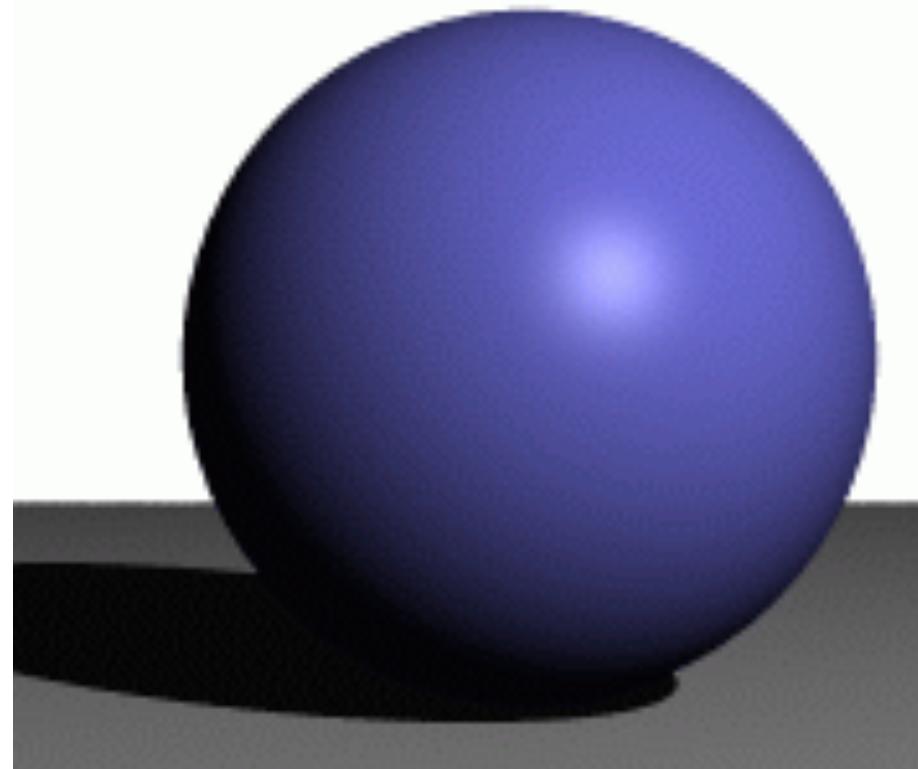
---

- Multiple rays per pixel

jaggies



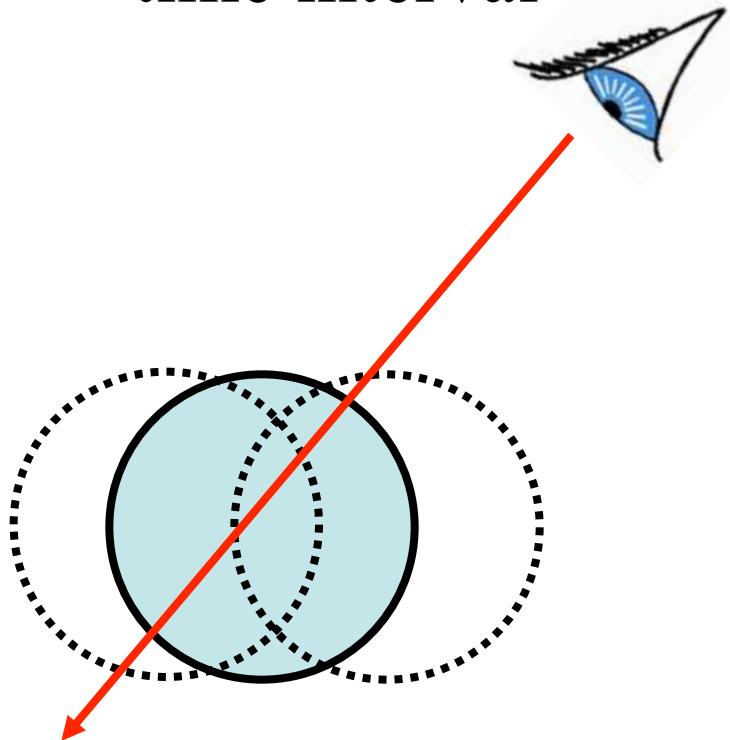
w/ antialiasing



# Motion Blur

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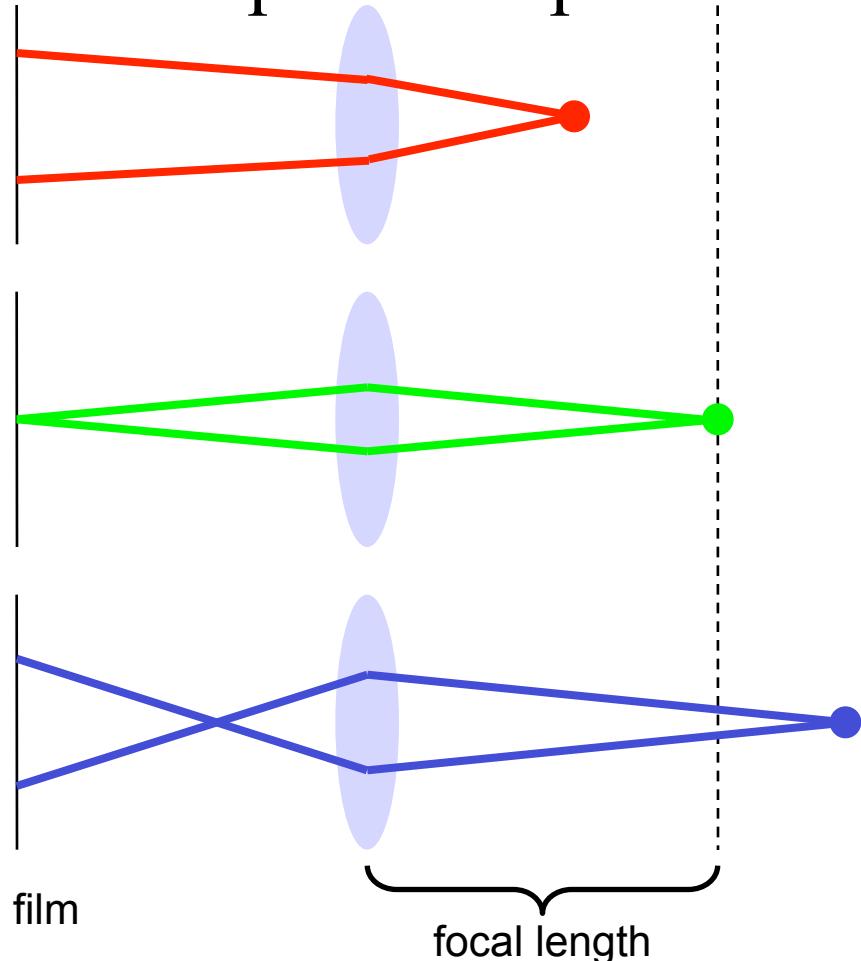
- Sample objects temporally over time interval



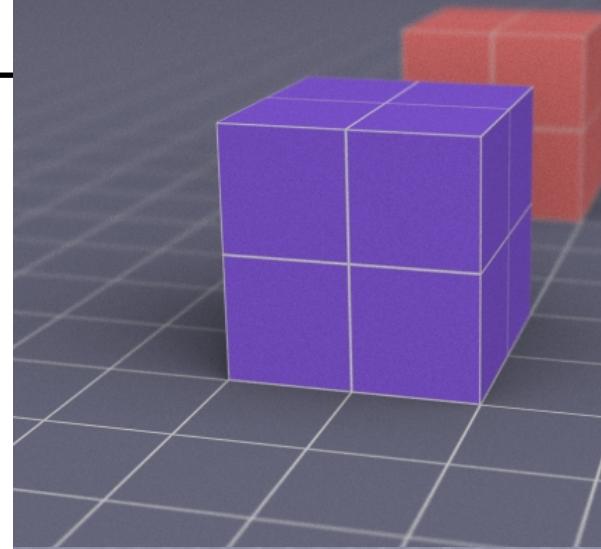
Rob Cook

# Depth of Field

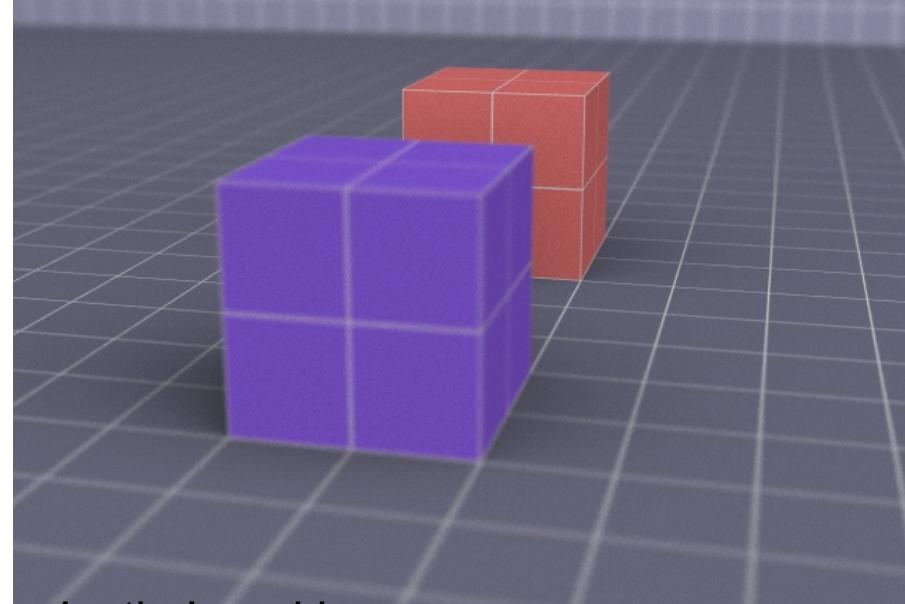
- Multiple rays per pixel:  
sample lens aperture



out-of-focus blur



out-of-focus blur



# Distribution ray tracing

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- Basic idea: one single ray → many rays vary in some dimensions
  - Time
  - Lens
  - Light source area
  - Reflected direction
  - Refracted direction, etc..

# Questions?

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Henrik Wann Jensen

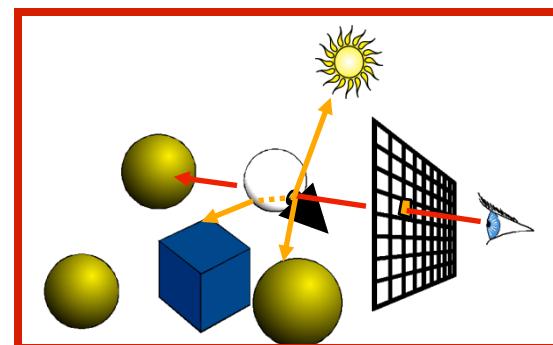
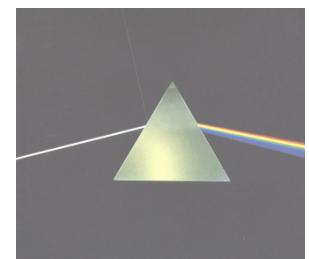
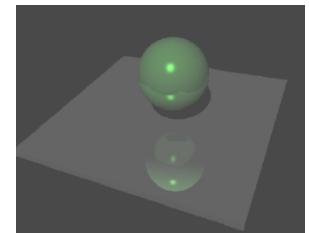
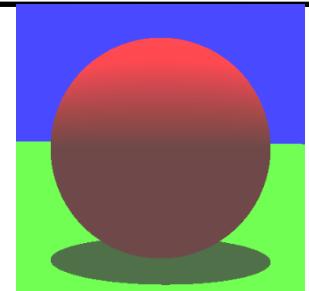


HENRIK WANN JENSEN 1995

# Overview of Today

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- Shadows
- Reflection
- Refraction
- Recursive Ray Tracing



# Recap: Ray Tracing

trace ray

Intersect all objects

color = ambient term

For every light

cast shadow ray

color += local shading term

If mirror

color += color<sub>refl</sub> \*

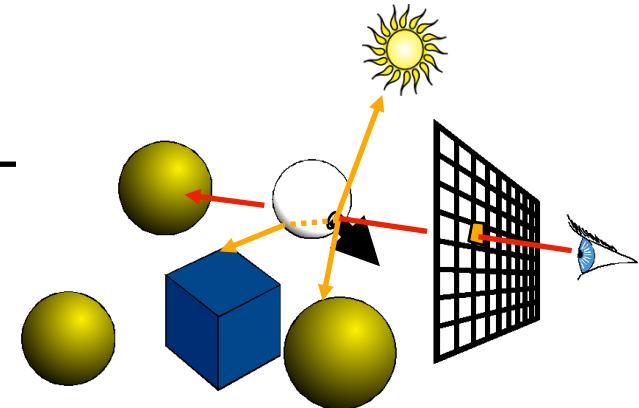
trace reflected ray

If transparent

color += color<sub>trans</sub> \*

trace transmitted ray

- Does it ever end?

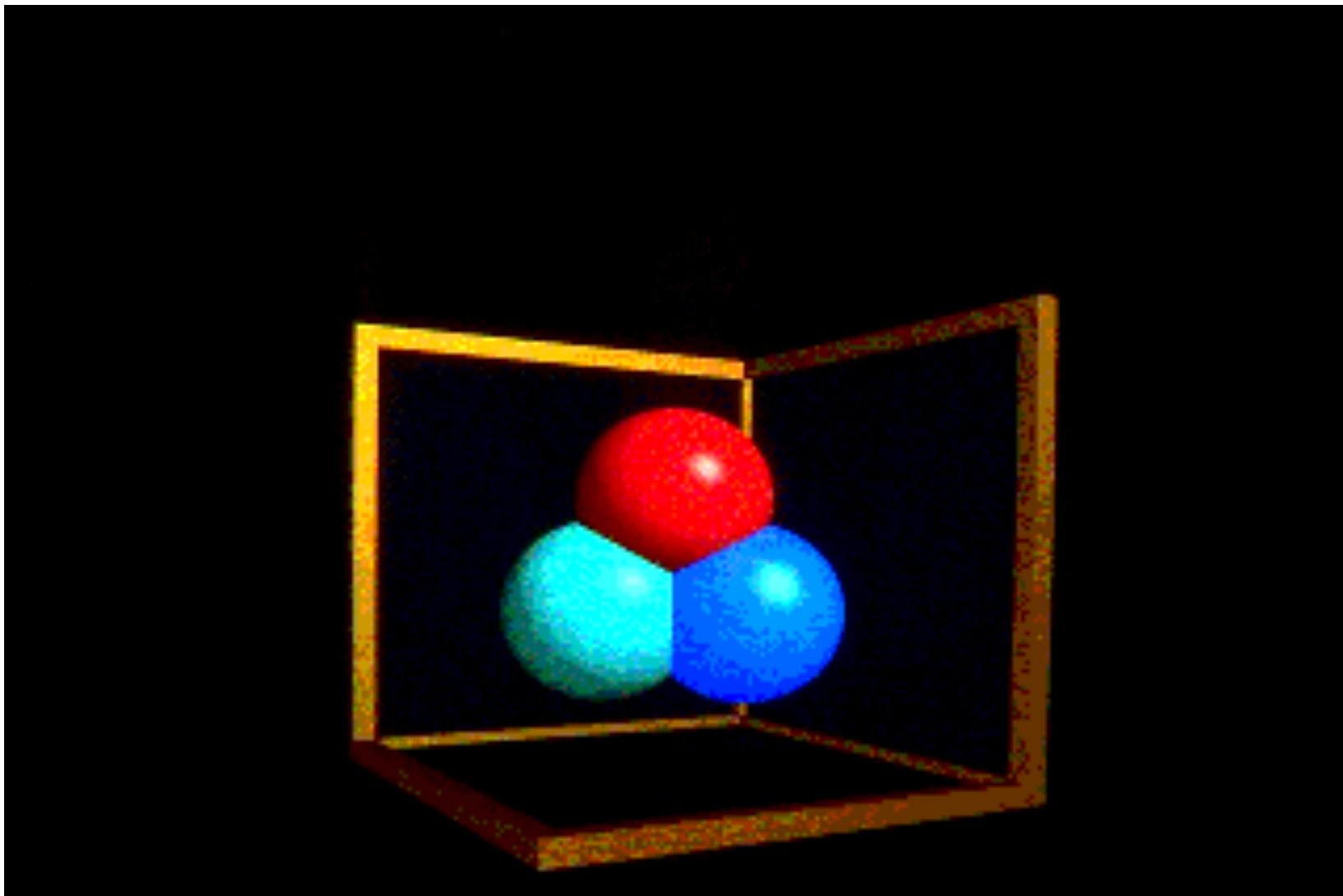


Stopping criteria:

- Recursion depth
  - Stop after a number of bounces
- Ray contribution
  - Stop if reflected / transmitted contribution becomes too small

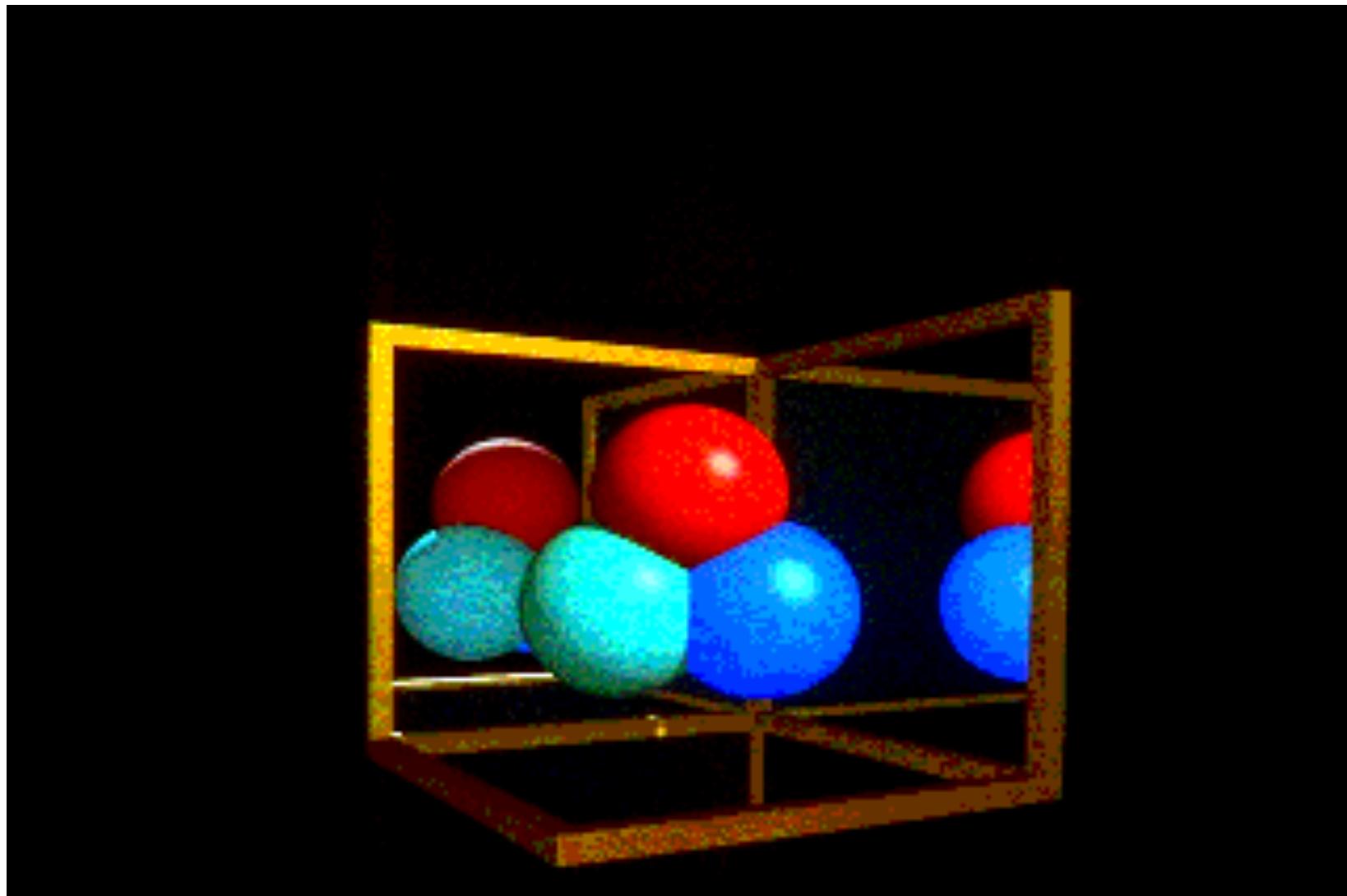
# Recursion For Reflection: None

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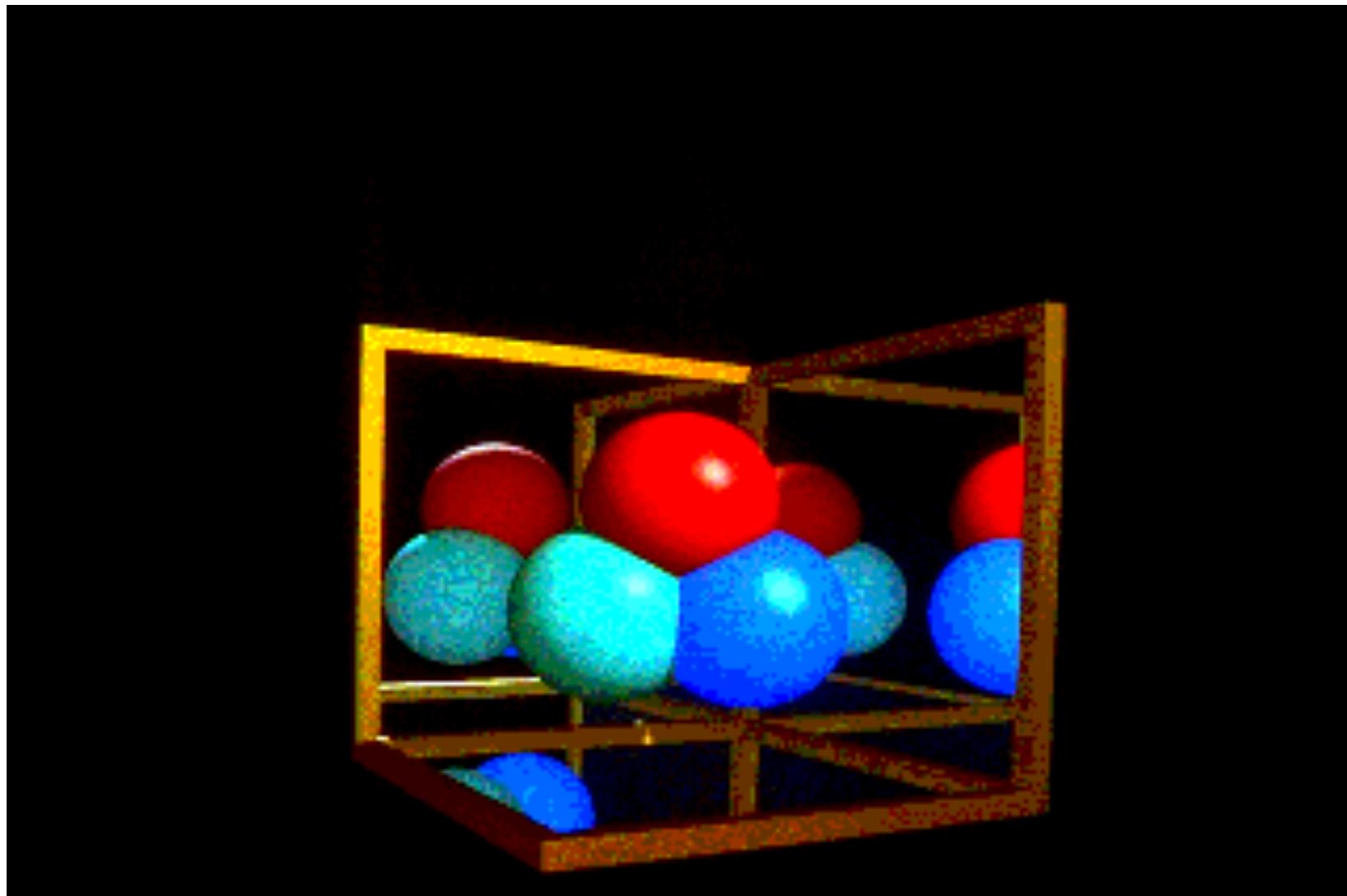
# Recursion For Reflection: 1

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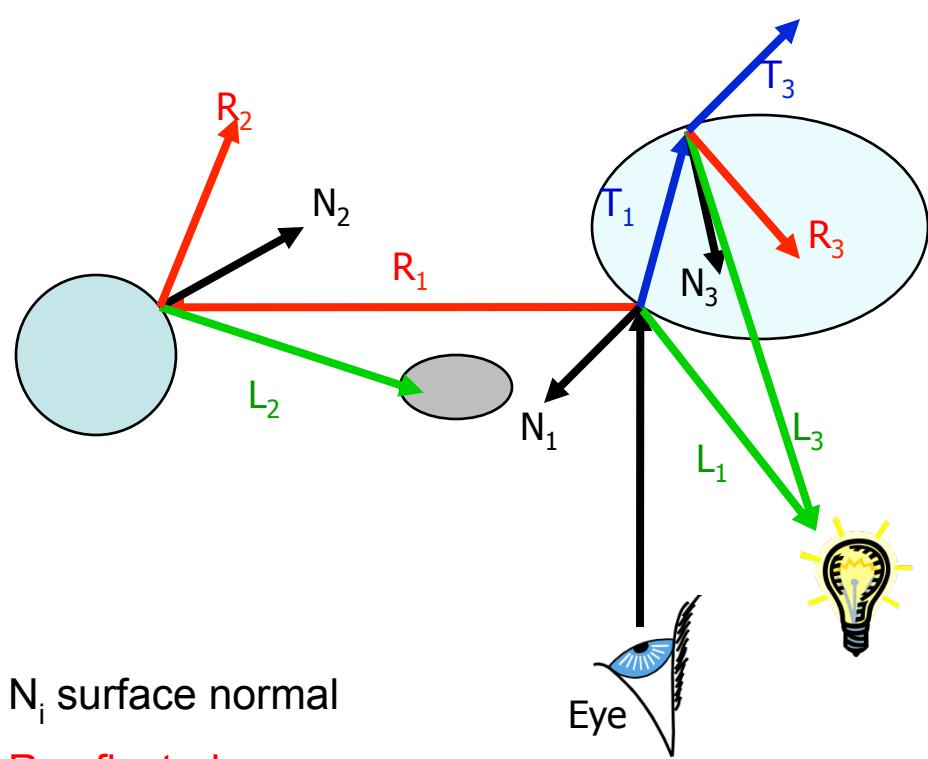
# Recursion For Reflection: 2

---



# The Ray Tree

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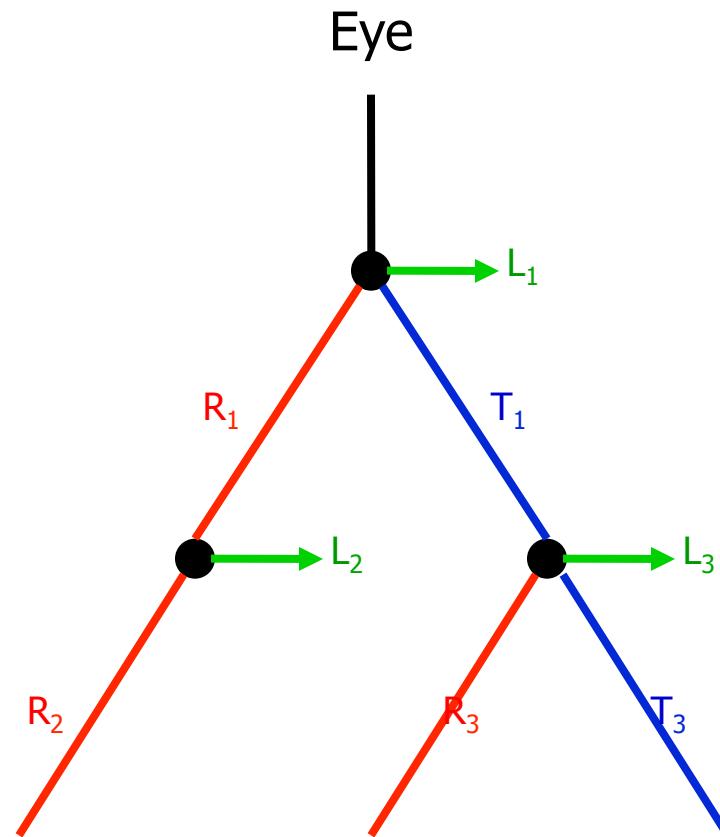


$N_i$  surface normal

$R_i$  reflected ray

$L_i$  shadow ray

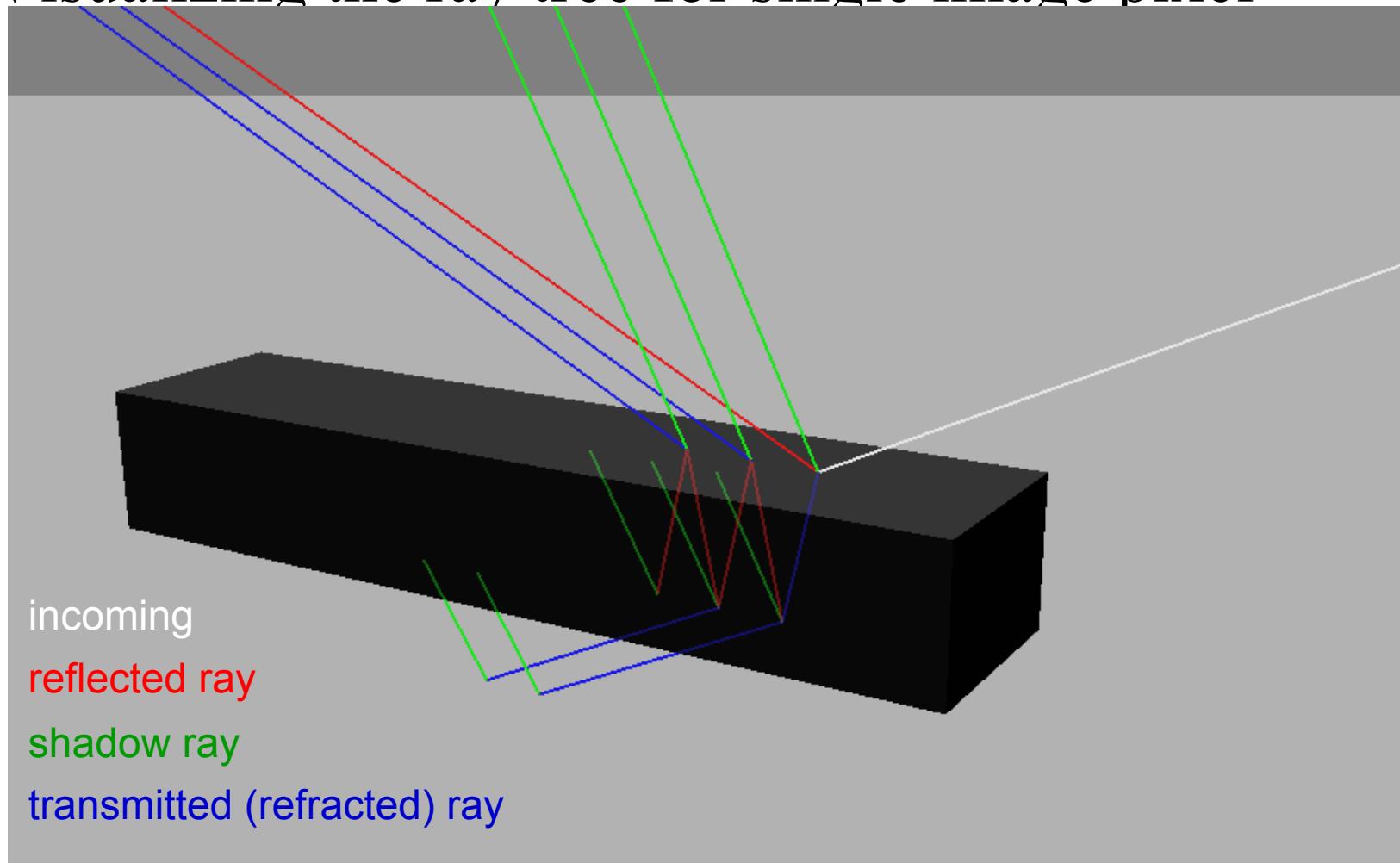
$T_i$  transmitted (refracted) ray



# Ray tree

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- Visualizing the ray tree for single image pixel

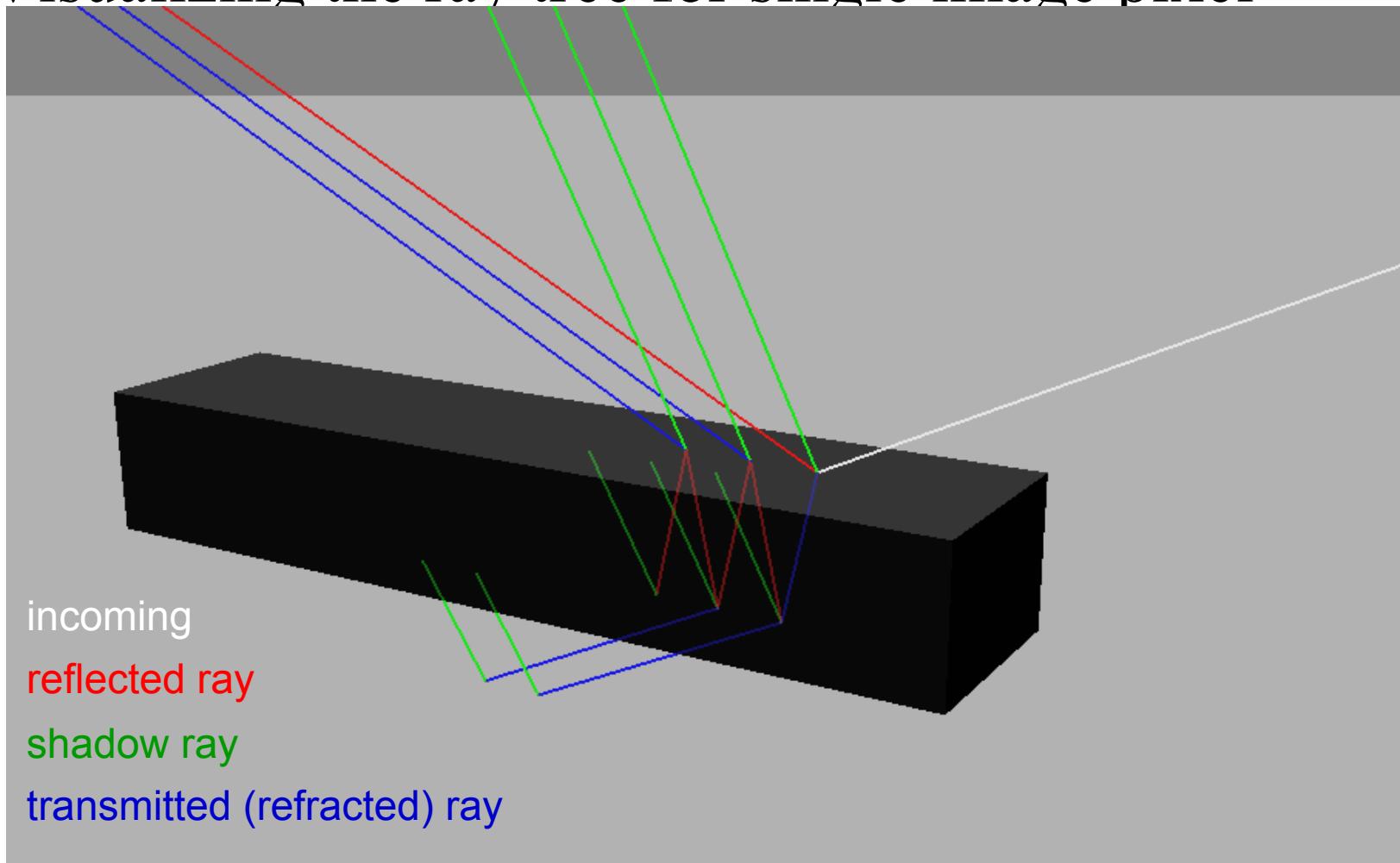


# Ray tree

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This gets pretty complicated pretty fast!

- Visualizing the ray tree for single image pixel



Stack Studios, Rendered using [Maxwell](#)

# That's All for Today

Further reading:

- [Shirley: Realistic Ray Tracing](#)
- [Dutre et al.: Advanced Global Illumination](#)