

# MIT 6.837 - Ray Tracing



The embarrassment of riding off into a fake sunset

# Tony DeRose - *Math in the Movies*

Tony DeRose: Pixar Animation Studios- Senior Scientist

Date: **10-5-2004 (one week from today!)**

Time: 1:00 PM- 2:00 PM

Location: 32-D449 (Stata Center, Patil/Kiva)

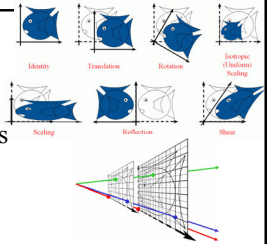
Film making is undergoing a digital revolution brought on by advances in areas such as computer technology, computational physics and computer graphics. This talk will provide a behind the scenes look at how fully digital films--- such as Pixar's "Monster's Inc" and "Finding Nemo" --- are made, with particular emphasis on the role that mathematics plays in the revolution.

# Final Exam

- ... has been scheduled
- Thursday December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-3:30pm
- DuPont
- Open Book

# Last Week: Transformations

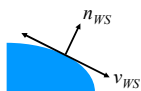
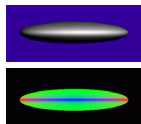
- Linear, affine and projective transforms
- Homogeneous coordinates
- Matrix notation
- Transformation composition is not commutative



$$\begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ e & f & g & h \\ i & j & k & l \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Last Week: Transformations

- Transformations in Ray Tracing
  - Transforming the ray
  - Remember: points & directions transform differently!
  - Normalizing direction & what to do with t
  - Normal transformation

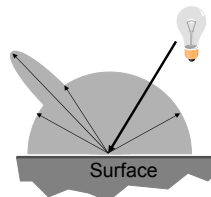


$$n_{WS}^T = n_{OS} (M^{-1})$$

# Last Time: Local Illumination

- BRDF – Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function
- Phong Model- Sum of 3 components:
  - Diffuse Shading
  - Specular Highlight
  - Ambient Term

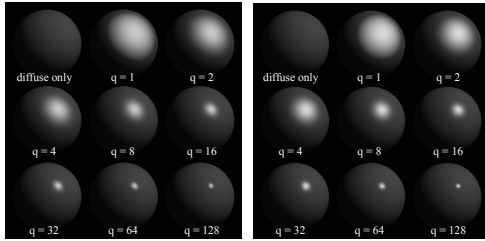
$$L_o = k_a + \left( k_d (\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{l}) + k_s (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{r})^q \right) \frac{L_r}{r^2}$$



Phong	$\phi_{\text{ambient}}$	$\phi_{\text{diffuse}}$	$\phi_{\text{specular}}$	$\phi_{\text{total}}$
$\phi = 60^\circ$				
$\phi = 25^\circ$				
$\phi = 0^\circ$				

## Phong Examples

- Shininess coefficient controls the “spread” of the specular highlight



Phong

Blinn-Torrance  
(scaled to approximate Phong)

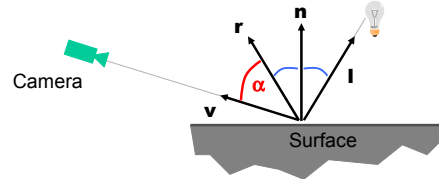
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## The Phong Model

- Parameters
  - $k_s$ : specular reflection coefficient
  - $q$ : specular reflection exponent

$$L_o = k_s (\cos \alpha)^q \frac{L_i}{r^2} = k_s (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{r})^q \frac{L_i}{r^2}$$



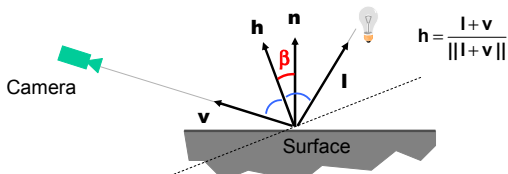
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## Blinn-Torrance Variation

- Parameters
    - $k_s$ : specular reflection coefficient
    - $q$ : specular reflection exponent
- Implement this version of Phong (because it's what OpenGL uses & we want to match)**

$$L_o = k_s (\cos \beta)^q \frac{L_i}{r^2} = k_s (\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{h})^q \frac{L_i}{r^2}$$

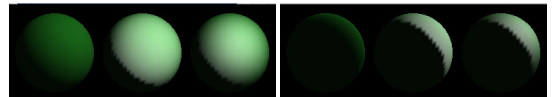


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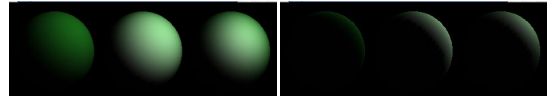
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## Additional Phong Clamping Term

- Surfaces facing away from the light should not be lit (if  $\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L} < 0$ )



- Scale by dot product to avoid a sharp edge at the light's grazing angle: specular \*= max( $\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L}$ , 0)

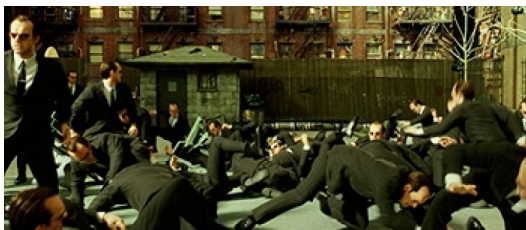


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## BRDFs in the Movie Industry

- <http://www.virtualcinematography.org/publications/acrobat/BRDF-s2003.pdf>
- For the Matrix movies
- Agent Smith clothes are CG, with measured BRDF

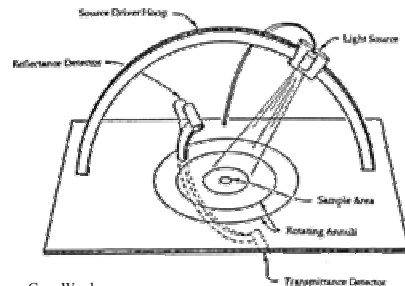


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## How Do We Obtain BRDFs?

- Gonioreflectometer
  - 4 degrees of freedom



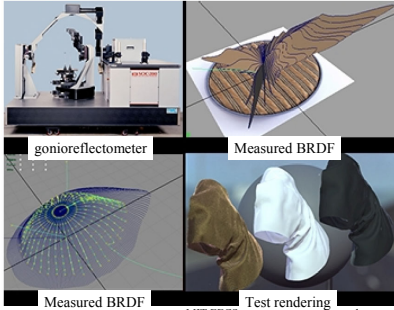
Source: Greg Ward

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# BRDFs in the Movie Industry

- <http://www.virtualcinematography.org/publications/acrobat/BRDF-s2003.pdf>
- For the Matrix movies



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# BRDFs in the Movie Industry



Photo CG Photo CG

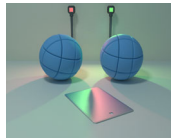
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# BRDF Models

- Phenomenological
  - Phong [75]
    - Blinn [77]
  - Ward [92]
  - Lafortune et al. [97]
  - Ashikhmin et al. [00]
- Physical
  - Cook-Torrance [81]
  - He et al. [91]



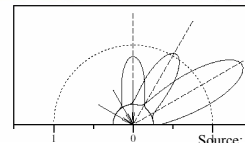
Roughly increasing computation time



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# Fresnel Reflection

- Increasing specular reflection near grazing angles.

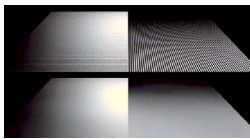


Source: Lafortune et al. 97

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# Anisotropic BRDFs

- Surfaces with strongly oriented microgeometry elements
- Examples:
  - brushed metals,
  - hair, fur, cloth, velvet



Source: Westin et al 92

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# Questions?



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# Today: Ray Tracing

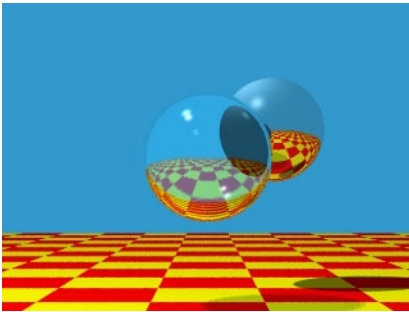
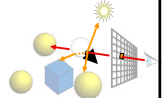
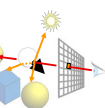
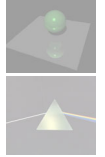
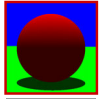


Image by  
Turner  
Whitted

# Overview of Today

- Shadows
- Reflection
- Refraction
- Recursive Ray Tracing



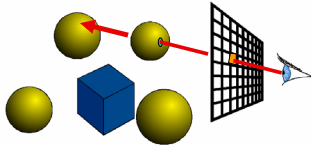
# Ray Casting (a.k.a. Ray Shooting)

```
for every pixel
  construct a ray
  for every object
    intersect ray with object
```

## Complexity?

$O(n * m)$

$n$  = number of objects,  $m$  = number of pixels



# Ray Casting with Phong Shading

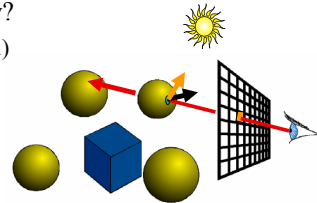
When you've found the closest intersection:

```
color = ambient*hit->getMaterial()->getDiffuseColor()
for every light
  color += hit->getMaterial()->Shade
         (ray, hit, directionToLight, lightColor)
return color
```

## Complexity?

$O(n * m * l)$

$l$  = number  
of lights



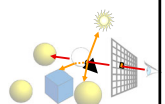
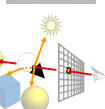
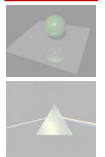
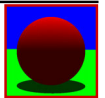
# Questions?

- Image computed using the RADIANCE system by Greg Ward



# Overview of Today

- Shadows
- Reflection
- Refraction
- Recursive Ray Tracing

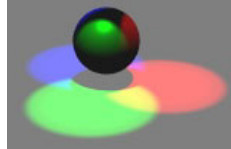
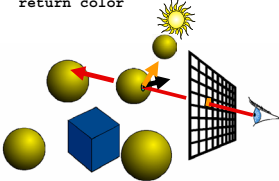


## How Can We Add Shadows?

```

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

```



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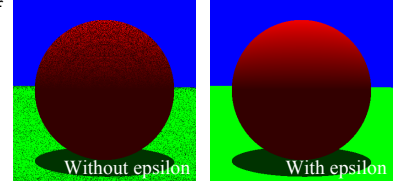
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## Problem: Self-Shading

```

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

```

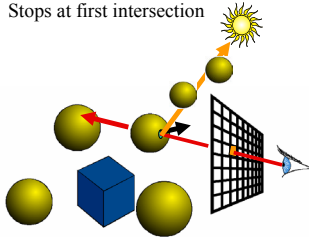


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## Shadow Optimization

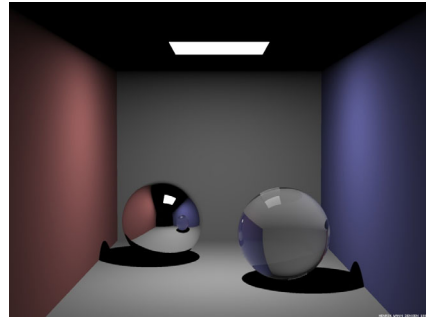
- Shadow rays are special: Can we accelerate our code?
- We only want to know whether there is an intersection, *not* which one is closest
- Special routine `Object3D::intersectShadowRay()`
  - Stops at first intersection



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## Questions?

- Image Henrik Wann Jensen

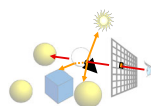
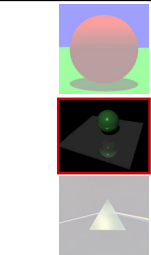


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## Overview of Today

- Shadows
- Reflection
- Refraction
- Recursive Ray Tracing

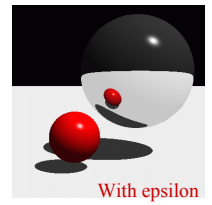
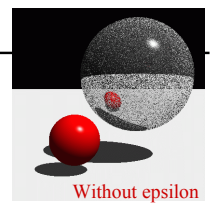
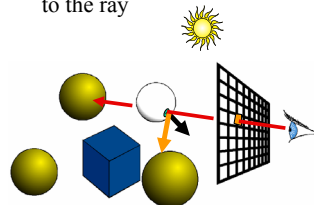


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## Mirror Reflection

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

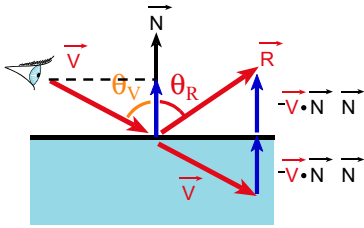


and Durand

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## Reflection

- Reflection angle = view angle
- $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{V} - 2(\mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{N})\mathbf{N}$

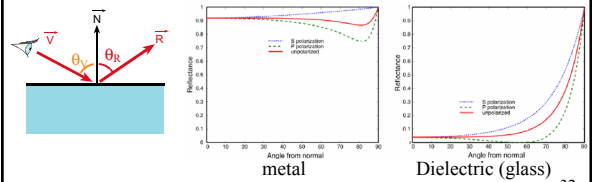


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## Amount of Reflection

- Traditional ray tracing (hack)
  - Constant `reflectionColor`
- More realistic:
  - Fresnel reflection term (more reflection at grazing angle)
  - Schlick's approximation:  $R(\theta) = R_0 + (1 - R_0)(1 - \cos \theta)^5$

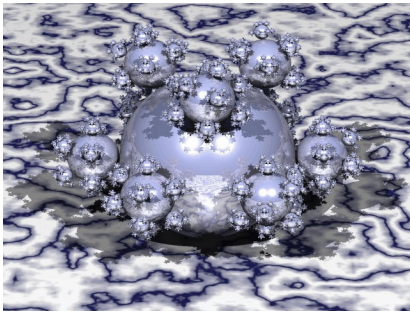


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## Questions?

- Image by Henrik Wann Jensen

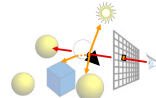
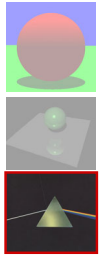


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## Overview of Today

- Shadows
- Reflection
- **Refraction**
- Recursive Ray Tracing

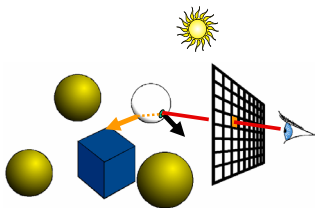


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## Transparency

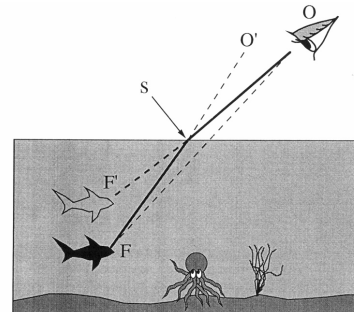
- Cast ray in refracted direction
- Multiply by transparency coefficient (color)



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## Qualitative Refraction

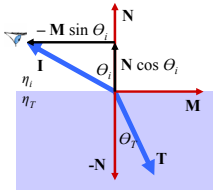


From "Color and Light in Nature" by Lynch and Livingston

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# Refraction



$$\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{N} \cos \theta_i - \mathbf{M} \sin \theta_i$$

$$\mathbf{M} = (\mathbf{N} \cos \theta_i - \mathbf{I}) / \sin \theta_i$$

$$\mathbf{T} = -\mathbf{N} \cos \theta_T + \mathbf{M} \sin \theta_T$$

$$= -\mathbf{N} \cos \theta_T + (\mathbf{N} \cos \theta_i - \mathbf{I}) \sin \theta_T / \sin \theta_i$$

$$= -\mathbf{N} \cos \theta_T + (\mathbf{N} \cos \theta_i - \mathbf{I}) \eta_r$$

$$= [\eta_r \cos \theta_i - \cos \theta_T] \mathbf{N} - \eta_r \mathbf{I}$$

$$= [\eta_r \cos \theta_i - \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \theta_T}] \mathbf{N} - \eta_r \mathbf{I}$$

$$= [\eta_r \cos \theta_i - \sqrt{1 - \eta_r^2 \sin^2 \theta_i}] \mathbf{N} - \eta_r \mathbf{I}$$

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

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

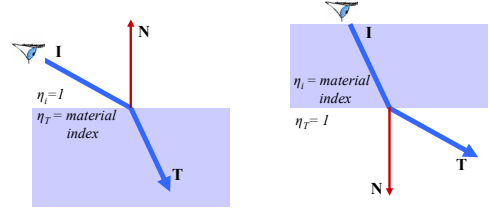
**Snell-Descartes Law:**  
 $\eta_i \sin \theta_i = \eta_r \sin \theta_r$

$$\frac{\sin \theta_T}{\sin \theta_i} = \frac{\eta_i}{\eta_r} = \eta_r$$

- Total internal reflection when the square root is imaginary
- Don't forget to normalize!

# Refraction & the 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

# Total Internal Reflection

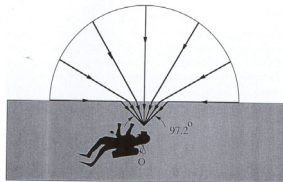


Fig. 3.7A The optical manhole. From under water, the entire celestial hemisphere is compressed into a circle only 97.2° across. The dark boundary defining the edges of the manhole is not sharp due to surface waves. The rays are analogous to the crepuscular type seen in hazy air. Section 1.9. (Photo by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

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

From "Color and Light in Nature" by Lynch and Livingston

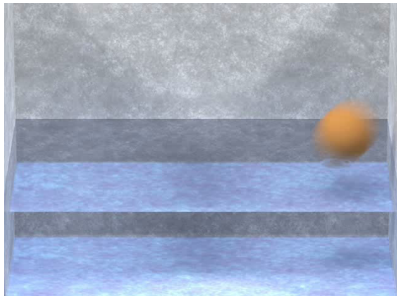
# Cool Refraction Demo

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



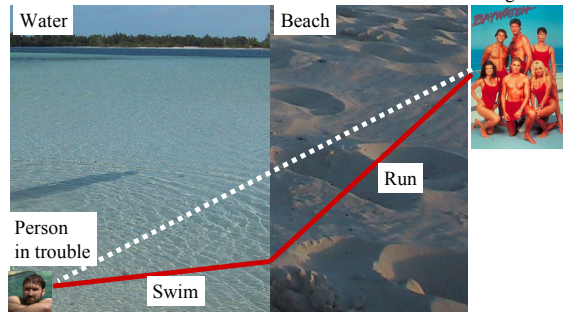
# Cool Refraction Demo

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



# Refraction and the Lifeguard Problem

- Running is faster than swimming



# How does a Rainbow Work?

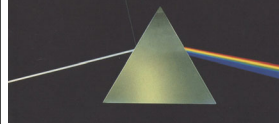
- From "Color and Light in Nature" by Lynch and Livingstone



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# Wavelength

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



Pink Floyd, *The Dark Side of the Moon*

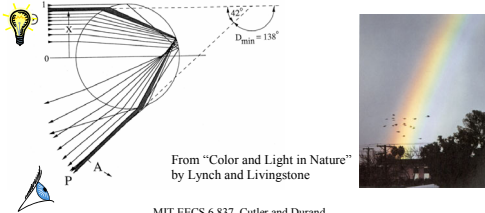
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Piranesi, 1725, Allegory to Newton

# Rainbow

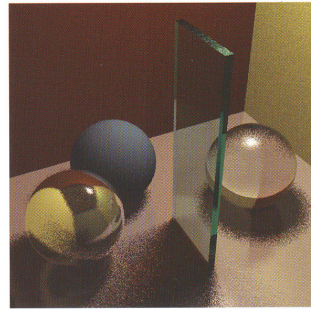
- Refraction depends on wavelength
- Rainbow is caused by refraction + internal reflection + refraction
- Maximum for angle around 42 degrees



From "Color and Light in Nature" by Lynch and Livingstone

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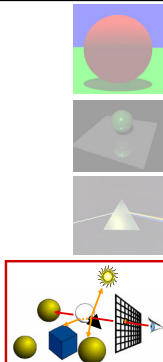
# Questions?



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# Overview of Today

- Shadows
- Reflection
- Refraction
- Recursive Ray Tracing**

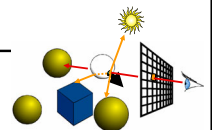


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# Recap: Ray Tracing

```

trace ray
  Intersect all objects
  color = ambient term
  For every light
    cast shadow ray
    color += local shading term
  If mirror
    color += color_refl *
    trace reflected ray
  If transparent
    color += color_trans *
    trace transmitted ray
    
```



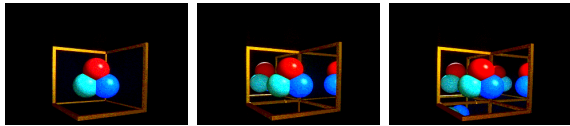
- Stopping criteria:
- **Recursion depth**
    - Stop after a number of bounces
  - **Ray contribution**
    - Stop if reflected / transmitted contribution becomes too small

- **Does it ever end?**

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## Recursion For Reflection

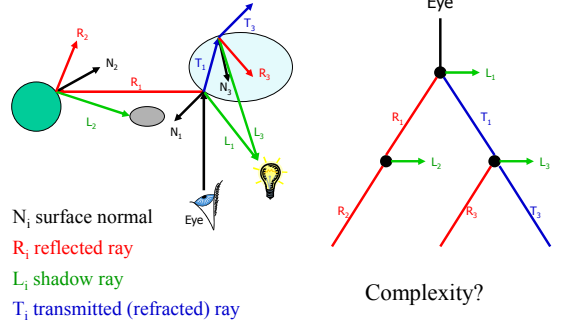


0 recursion

1 recursion

2 recursions

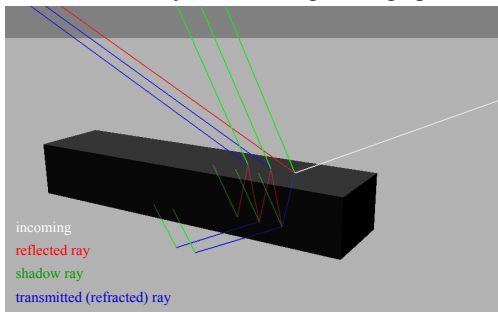
## The Ray Tree



Complexity?

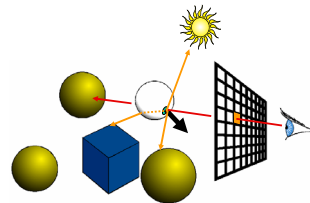
## Ray Debugging (Assignment 4)

- Visualize the ray tree for single image pixel



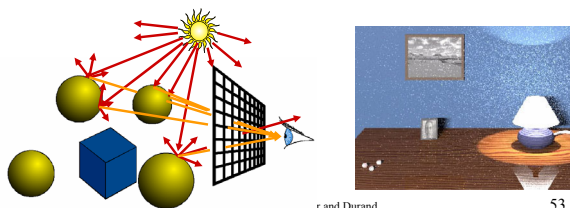
## Does Ray Tracing Simulate Physics?

- Photons go from the light to the eye, not the other way
- What we do is *backward ray tracing*



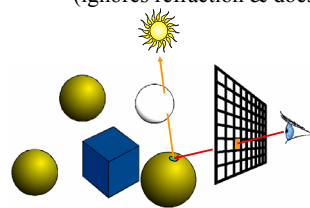
## Forward Ray Tracing

- Start from the light source
  - But low probability to reach the eye
- What can we do about it?
  - Always send a ray to the eye... still not efficient



## Does Ray Tracing Simulate Physics?

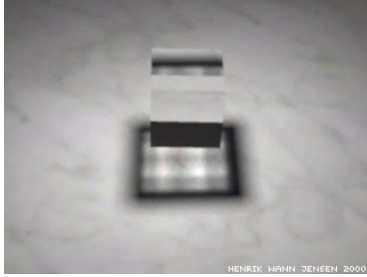
- Ray Tracing is full of dirty tricks
- For example, shadows of transparent objects:
  - opaque?
  - multiply by transparency color? (ignores refraction & does not produce caustics)



## Correct Transparent Shadow

Animation by Henrik Wann Jensen

Using advanced refraction technique  
(refraction for illumination is usually not handled that well)

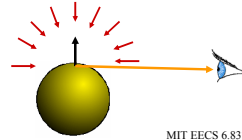


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## The Rendering Equation

- Clean mathematical framework for light-transport simulation
- We'll see this later
- At each point, outgoing light in one direction is the integral of incoming light in all directions multiplied by reflectance property



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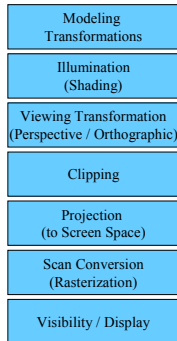
## A Look Ahead

- Assignment 2
  - Transformations & More Primitives
- Assignment 3
  - OpenGL Pre Visualization & Phong Shading
- Assignment 4
  - Ray Tracing (Shadows, Reflections, Refractions)

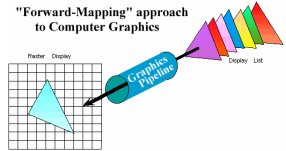
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## Next Time



## Introduction to the Graphics Pipeline



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