

Basic Ray-Tracing Ideas

-II

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Recall: Randomized estimates of integrals

Weak law of large numbers

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{if} \\ \text{then} \end{array} \quad x_i \sim p(x) \quad \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f(x_i) \rightarrow \int f(x)p(x)dx$$

- i.e. we can approximate integrals with sums
 - example: $p(x)$ uniform, stochastic sampling of pixel
- generically, known as Monte Carlo estimates

Importance weighting

if $x_i \sim p(x)$
then $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f(x_i) \rightarrow \int f(x)p(x)dx$

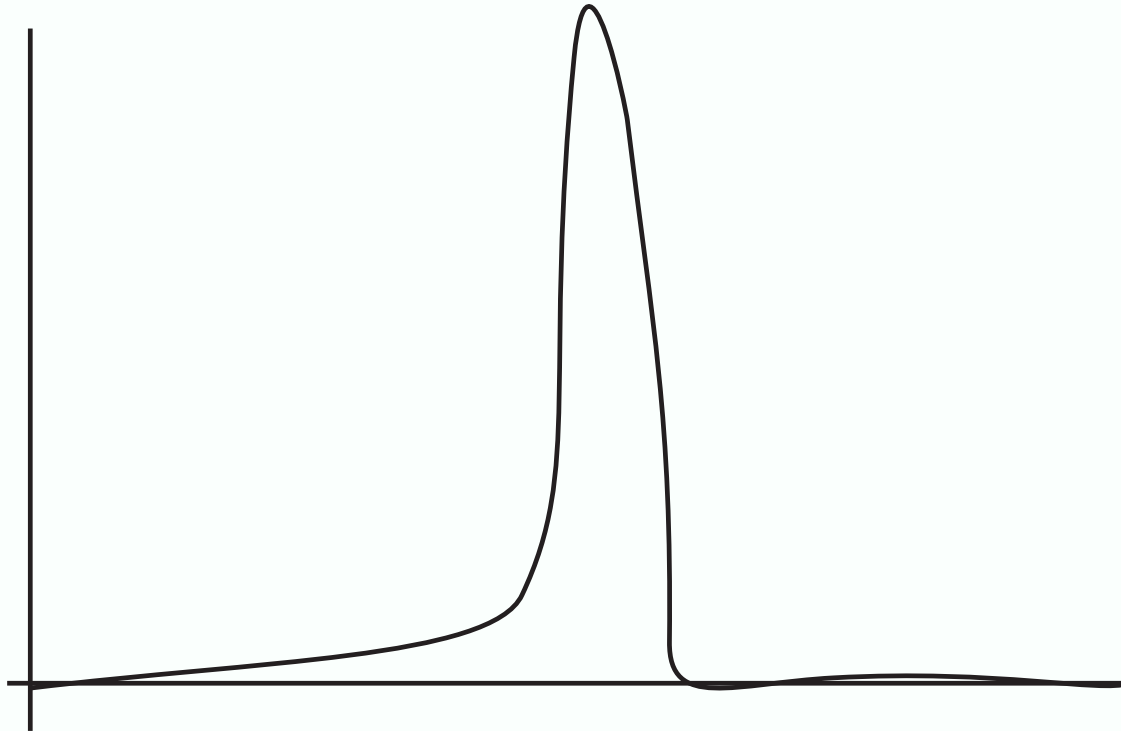
If $x_i \sim p(x)$
Then $\int f(x)dx \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \frac{f(x_i)}{p(x_i)}$

Randomized estimates and variance

$$\int f(x)dx \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \frac{f(x_i)}{p(x_i)}$$

- The estimate is the value of a random variable
 - (different random samples -> different estimates)
 - whose expected value is the value of the integral
 - but whose variance might be very big
 - and is usually very hard to know
- Simple reasoning suggests that
 - p should be big when f is big, etc.

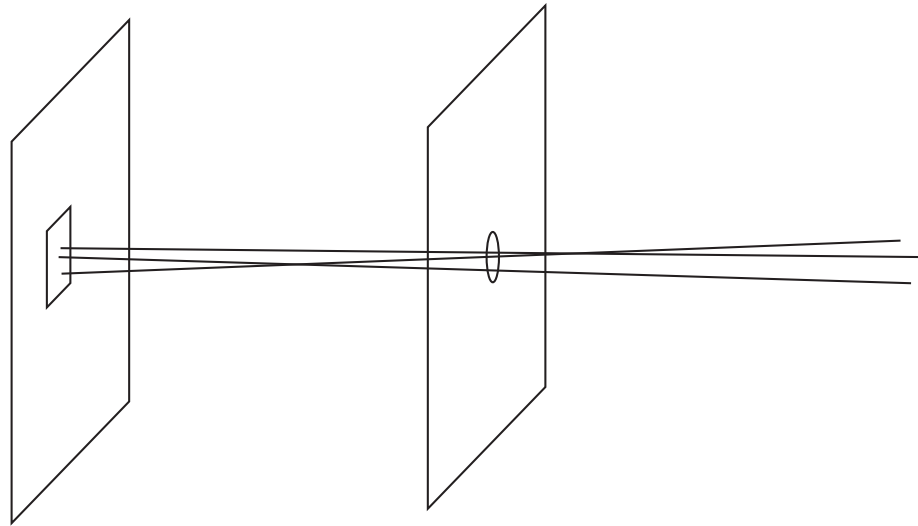
Variance example



Drawing uniform samples will get a poor estimate
-> draw samples mostly at peak and downweight

Algorithmic framework

$$v = \int_{\Lambda} \int_D \int_{\Omega} \int_T w(\mathbf{x}, \lambda, \omega, t) L(\mathbf{x}, \omega, t) dt d\omega dx d\lambda \approx \sum_{i \in \text{rays}} g(\text{ray}) L(\text{ray})$$



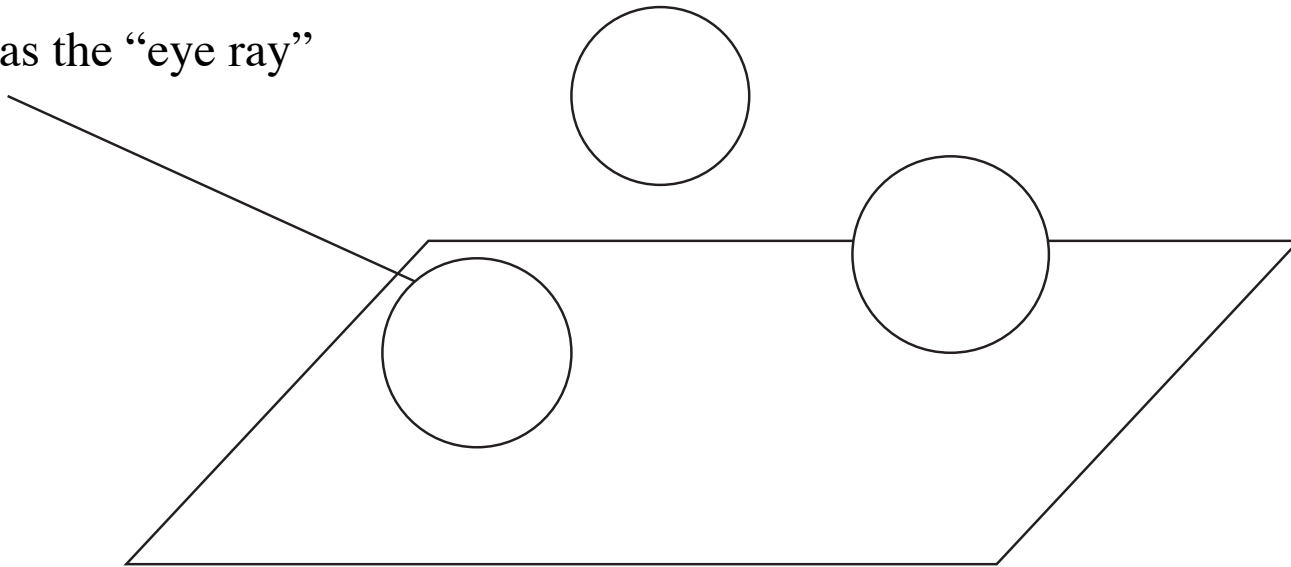
Computational problem - what is $L(\text{ray})$?

Very simple ray-tracing

○
Point light source

How much light is travelling
down this ray toward camera?

sometimes known as the “eye ray”

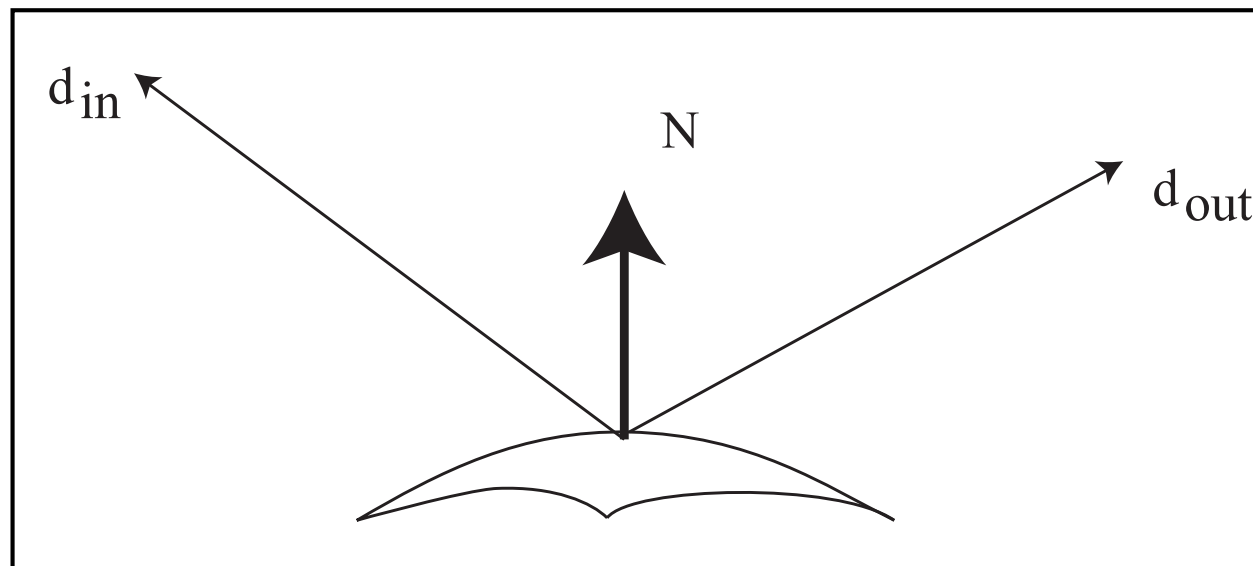


Diffuse reflection

- Light leaves the surface evenly in all directions
 - cotton cloth, carpets, matte paper, matte paints, etc.
 - most “rough” surfaces
 - Parameter: Albedo
 - percentage of light arriving that leaves
 - range 0-1
 - practical range is smaller
- Test:
 - surface has same apparent brightness when viewed from different dir'ns

Specular surface

- For some surfaces, reflection depends strongly on angle
 - mirrors (special case)
 - incoming direction, normal and outgoing direction are coplanar
 - angle d_{in} , normal and angle d_{out} , normal are the same
 - more general cases later
 - rules:
 - d_{in} , d_{out} , N coplanar
 - $\text{angle}(d_{in}, N) = \text{angle}(d_{out}, N)$



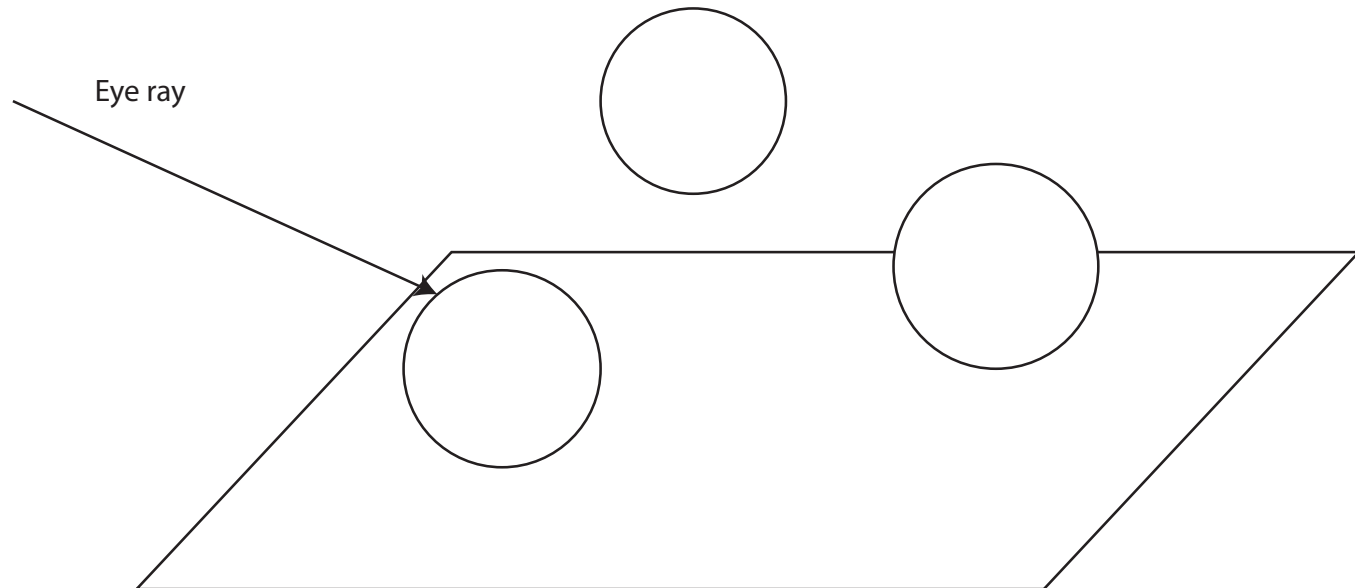
Lighting model

- Light arrives at a surface **ONLY** from a luminaire
 - this is an object that “makes light”
 - through chemical, mechanical, etc means
- Wild oversimplification, good for us right now
 - wait a few slides and it’ll get more complicated

Eye ray strikes diffuse surface

Compute brightness of
diffuse surface at first contact =
Can it see the light sources ?=
Is there an object in line segment
connecting point to source?

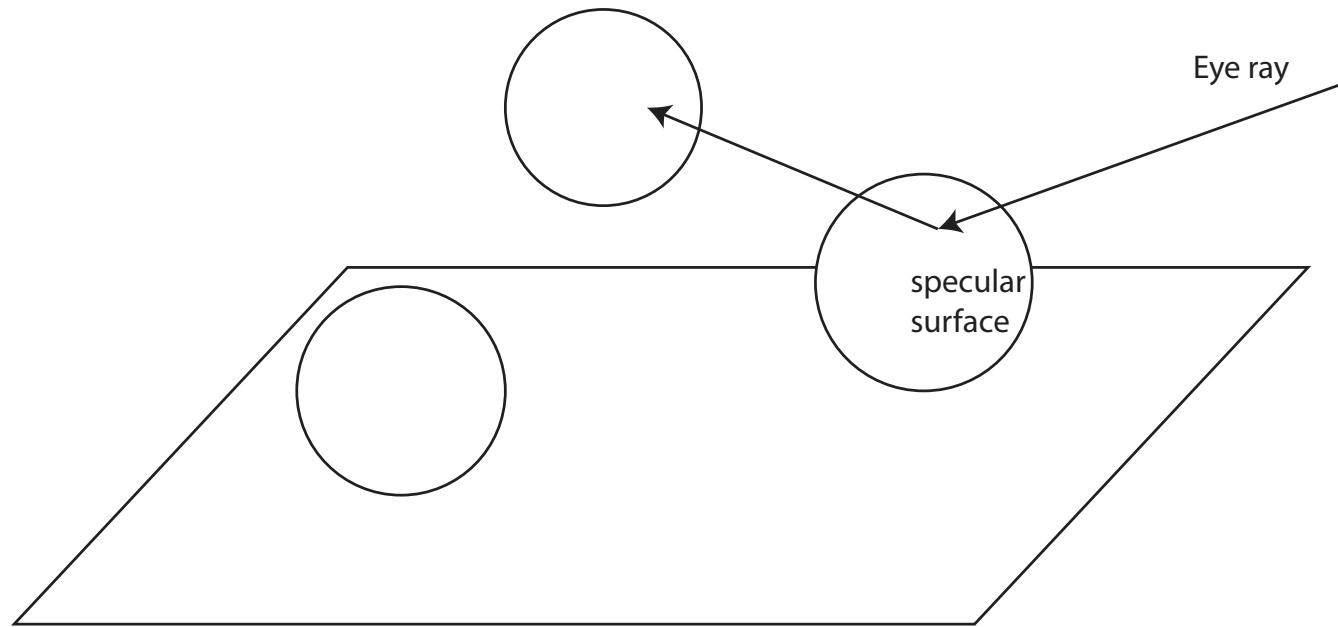
○
Point light source



Eye ray strikes specular surface

Compute brightness of
specular surface at first contact =
eye ray changes direction, and compute
brightness at the end of that

○
Point light source



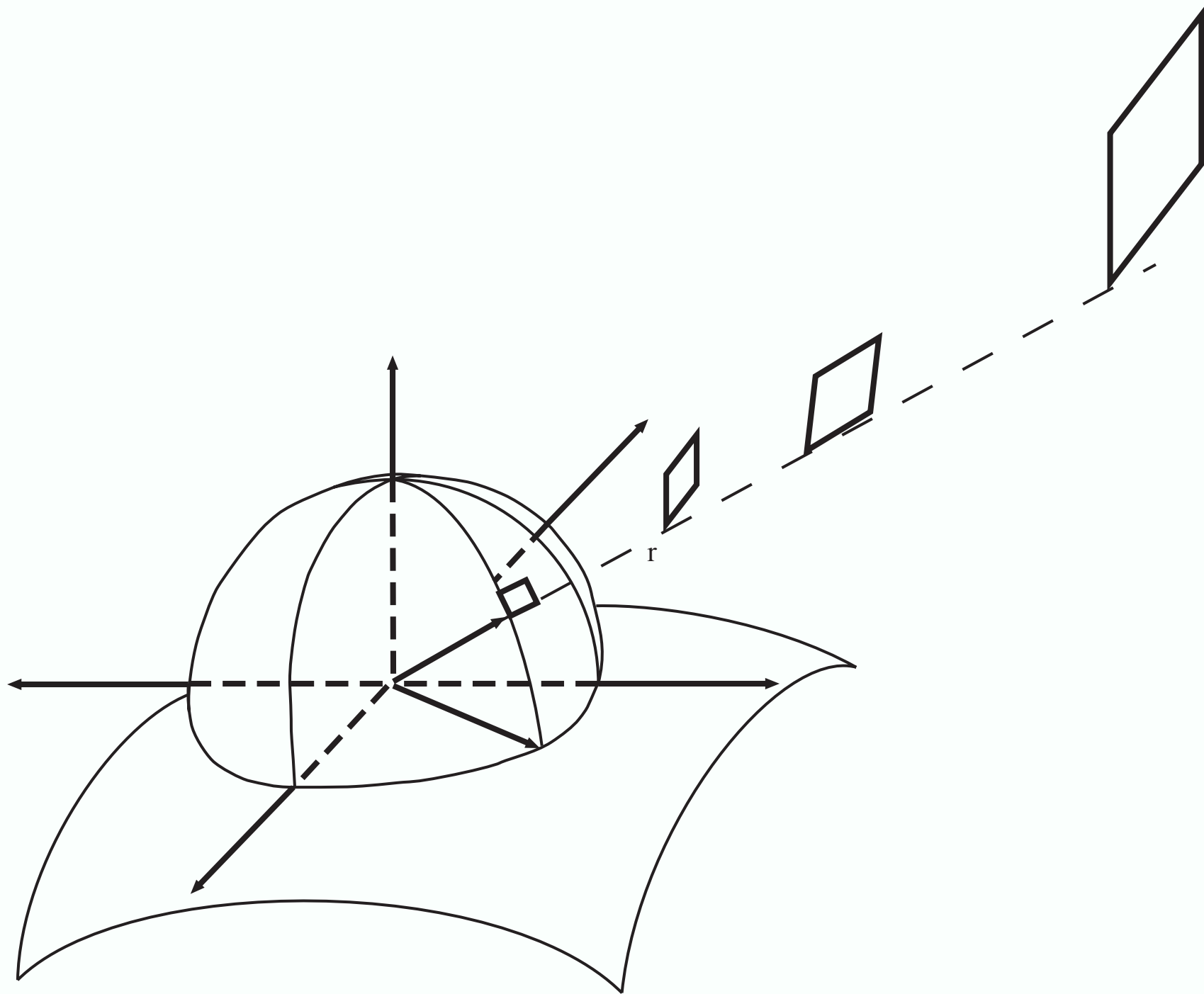
Implied computational problems

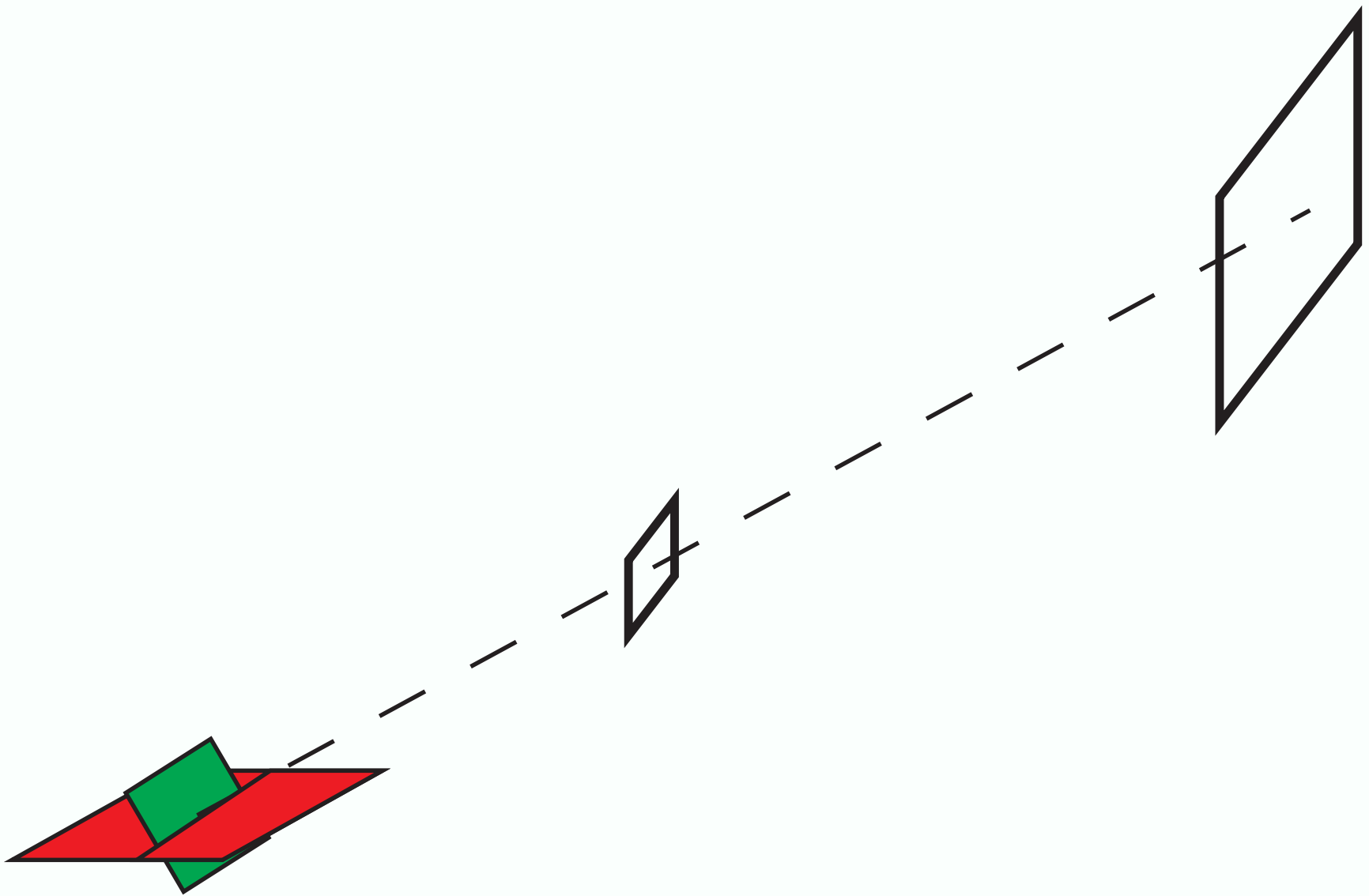
- Fast, accurate intersection with complicated models
 - Improved rendering
 - anti aliasing (= more rays)
 - motion blur (= more rays)
 - more complex illumination phenomena (= more rays, caching)

Key idea - how bright is this point?

Radiometry

- Questions:
 - how “bright” will surfaces be?
 - what is “brightness”?
 - measuring light
 - interactions between light and surfaces
- Core idea - think about light arriving at a surface
 - around any point is a hemisphere of directions
 - what is important is what a source “looks like” to a receiver
 - receiver can’t know anything else about source





Solid angle

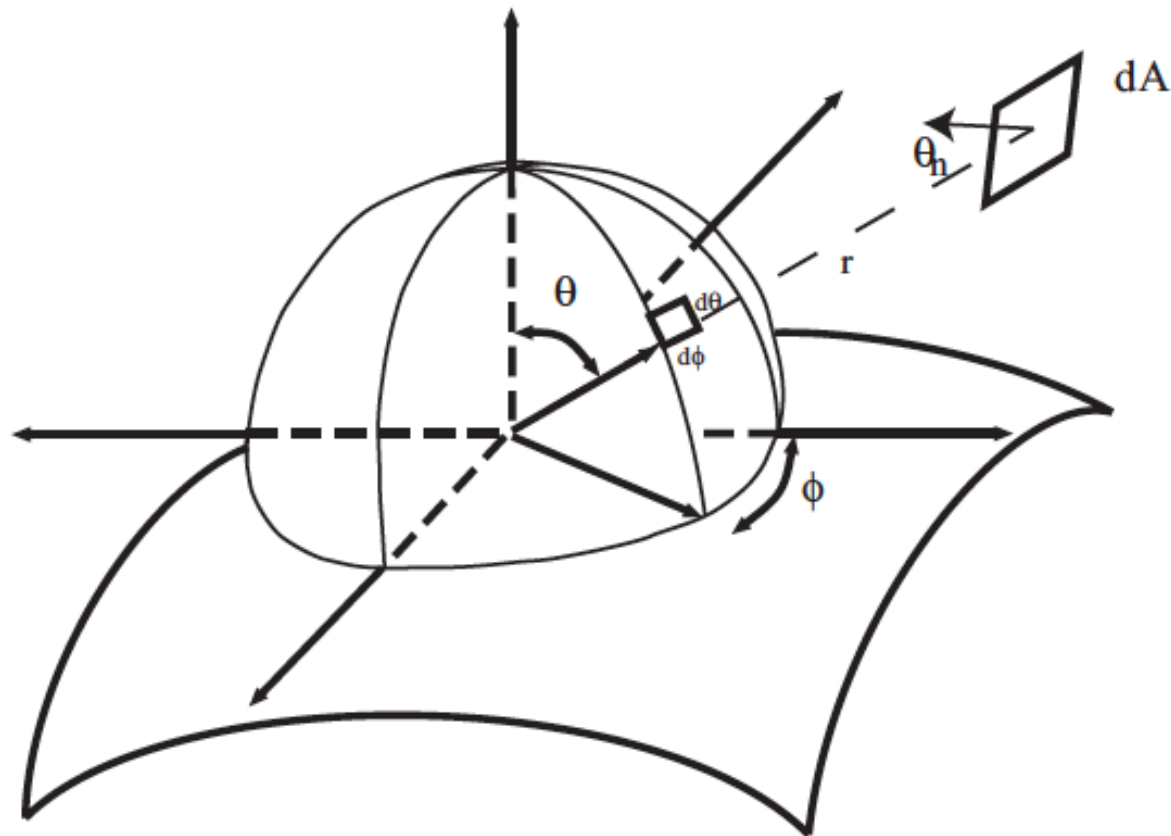


FIGURE 2.15: A hemisphere on a patch of surface, to show our angular coordinates for computing radiometric quantities. The coordinate axes are there to help you see the drawing as a 3D surface. An infinitesimal patch of surface with area dA which is distance r away is projected onto the unit hemisphere centered at the relevant point; the resulting area is the solid angle of the patch, marked as $d\theta d\phi$. In this case, the patch is small so that the area and hence the solid angle is $(1/r^2)dA \cos \theta_n$, where θ_n is the angle of inclination of the patch.

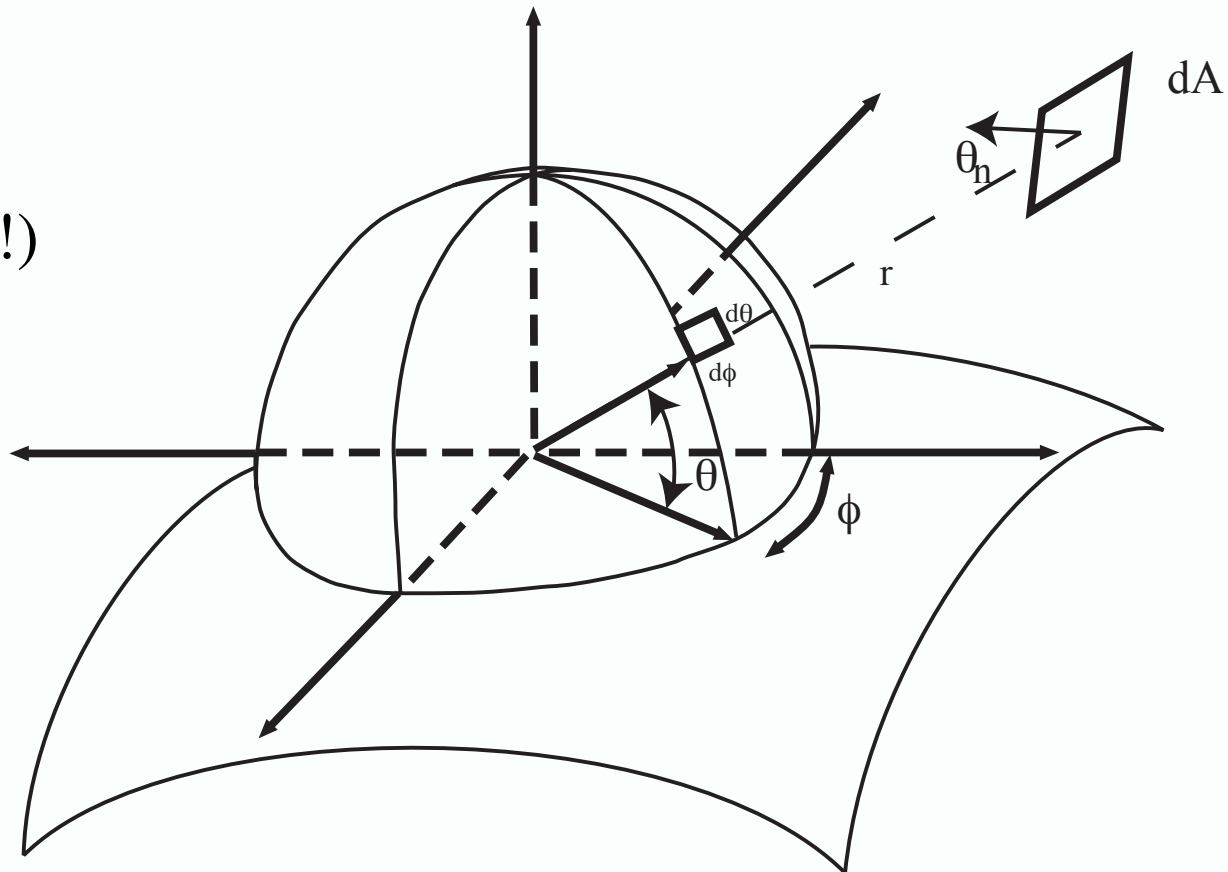
Solid Angle

- By analogy with angle (in radians)
- The solid angle subtended by a patch area dA is given by

$$d\omega = \frac{\cos \theta_n}{r^2} dA$$

- and (in right coords!)

$$d\omega = \cos \theta d\theta d\phi$$

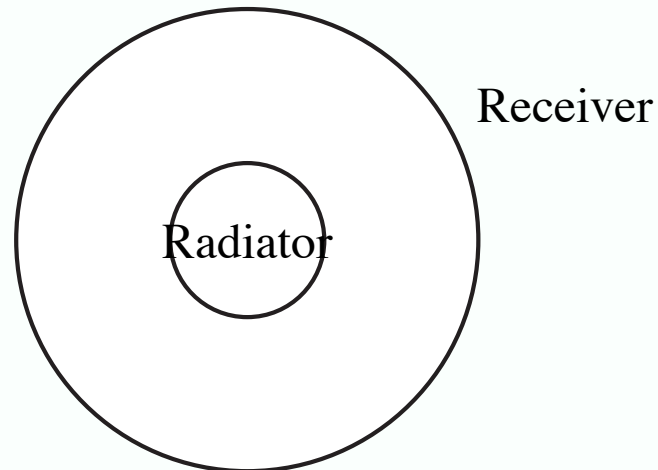


Radiance

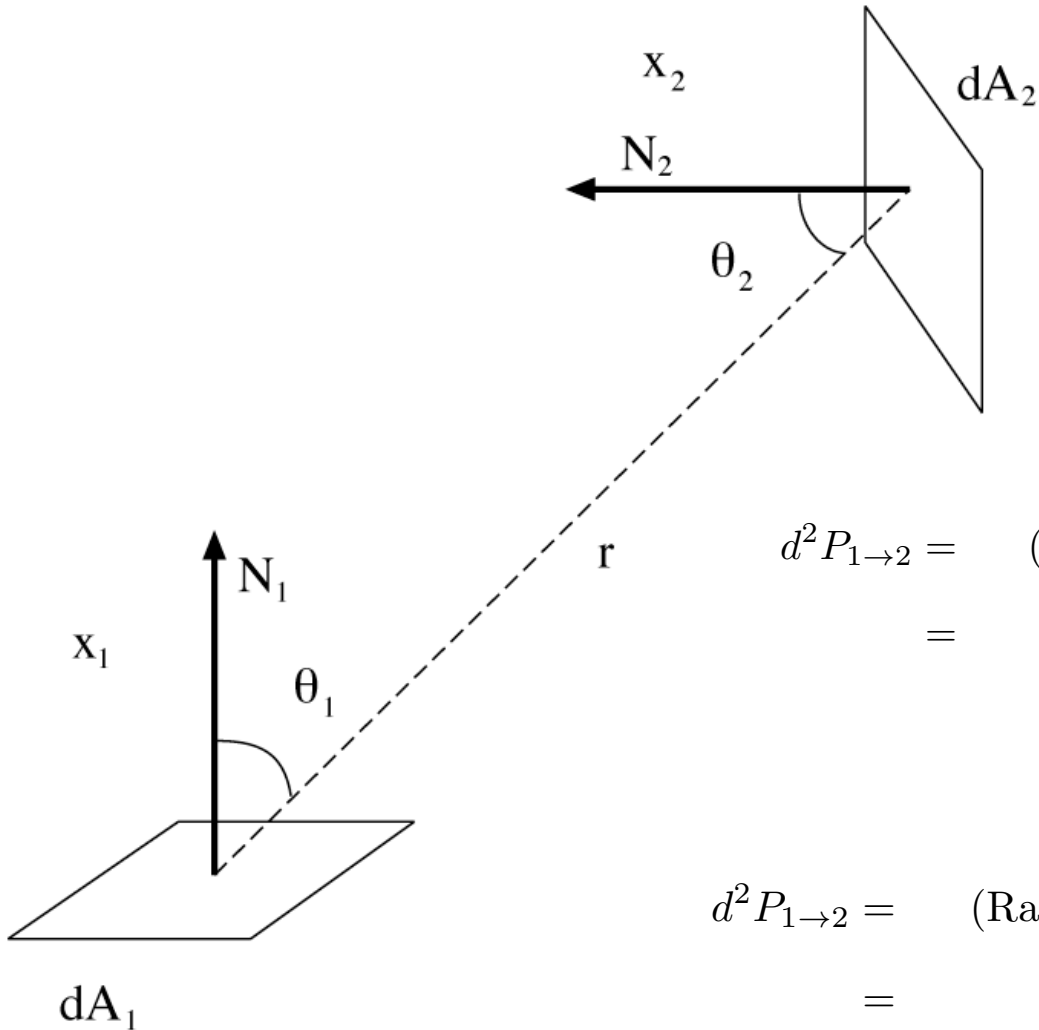
- Measure the “amount of light” at a point, in a direction
the power (amount of energy per unit time) traveling at some point in a specified direction, per unit area *perpendicular to the direction of travel*, per unit solid angle.
- Units: watts per square meter per steradian ($\text{W m}^{-2} \text{sr}^{-1}$)
- Crucial property:
 - In a vacuum, radiance leaving p in the direction of q is the same as radiance arriving at q from p
 - hence the units

Why not watts/square meter?

- Consider sphere radiating 1 W into vacuum
 - Radius 1, center at origin
 - Vacuum neither creates nor consumes power
- There's another sphere around it
 - Radius R, center at origin
 - Area - $4\pi R^2$
 - It can't collect more power than first sphere radiates so
 - watts/square meter must go down with distance....!!! (ew)



Radiance is constant along straight lines



Power 1- \rightarrow 2, leaving 1

$$d^2 P_{1 \rightarrow 2} = (\text{Radiance})(\text{foreshortened area of 1})(\text{solid angle of 2 at 1})$$

$$= L(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_1 \rightarrow \mathbf{x}_2)(\cos \theta_1 dA_1) \left(\frac{\cos \theta_2}{r^2} dA_2 \right)$$

Power 1- \rightarrow 2, arriving at 2

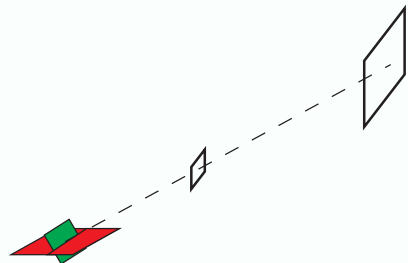
$$d^2 P_{1 \rightarrow 2} = (\text{Radiance})(\text{foreshortened area of 2})(\text{solid angle of 1 at 2})$$

$$= L(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_1 \rightarrow \mathbf{x}_2)(\cos \theta_2 dA_2) \left(\frac{\cos \theta_1}{r^2} dA_1 \right)$$

Irradiance

- How much light is arriving at a surface?
- Sensible unit is Irradiance
 - Incident power per unit area not foreshortened
 - This is a function of incoming angle.
- A surface experiencing radiance $L(\mathbf{x}, \theta, \phi)$ coming in from $d\omega$ experiences irradiance

$$L(\mathbf{x}, \theta, \phi) \cos \theta d\omega$$



- Crucial property:
Total power arriving at the surface is given by adding irradiance over all incoming angles --- this is why it's a natural unit

Surfaces and the BRDF

- Many effects when light strikes a surface -- could be:
 - absorbed; transmitted; reflected; scattered
- Assume that
 - surfaces don't fluoresce
 - surfaces don't emit light (i.e. are cool)
 - all the light leaving a point is due to that arriving at that point
- Can model this situation with the Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function (BRDF)
- the ratio of the radiance in the outgoing direction to the incident irradiance

$$\rho_{bd}(\underline{x}, \vartheta_o, \varphi_o, \vartheta_i, \varphi_i) = \frac{L_o(\underline{x}, \vartheta_o, \varphi_o)}{\int L_i(\underline{x}, \vartheta_i, \varphi_i) \cos \vartheta_i d\omega}$$

BRDF

- Units: inverse steradians (sr-1)
- Symmetric in incoming and outgoing directions
- Radiance leaving in a particular direction:
 - add contributions from every incoming direction

$$\int_{\Omega} \rho_{bd}(\underline{x}, \vartheta_o, \varphi_o, \vartheta_i, \varphi_i) L_i(\underline{x}, \vartheta_i, \varphi_i) \cos \vartheta_i d\omega_i$$

Suppressing Angles - Radiosity

- In many situations, we do not really need angle coordinates
 - e.g. cotton cloth, where the reflected light is not dependent on angle
- Appropriate radiometric unit is radiosity
 - total power leaving a point on the surface, per unit area on the surface (Wm⁻²)
- Radiosity from radiance?
 - sum radiance leaving surface over all exit directions

$$B(\underline{x}) = \int_{\Omega} L_o(\underline{x}, \vartheta, \varphi) \cos \vartheta d\omega$$

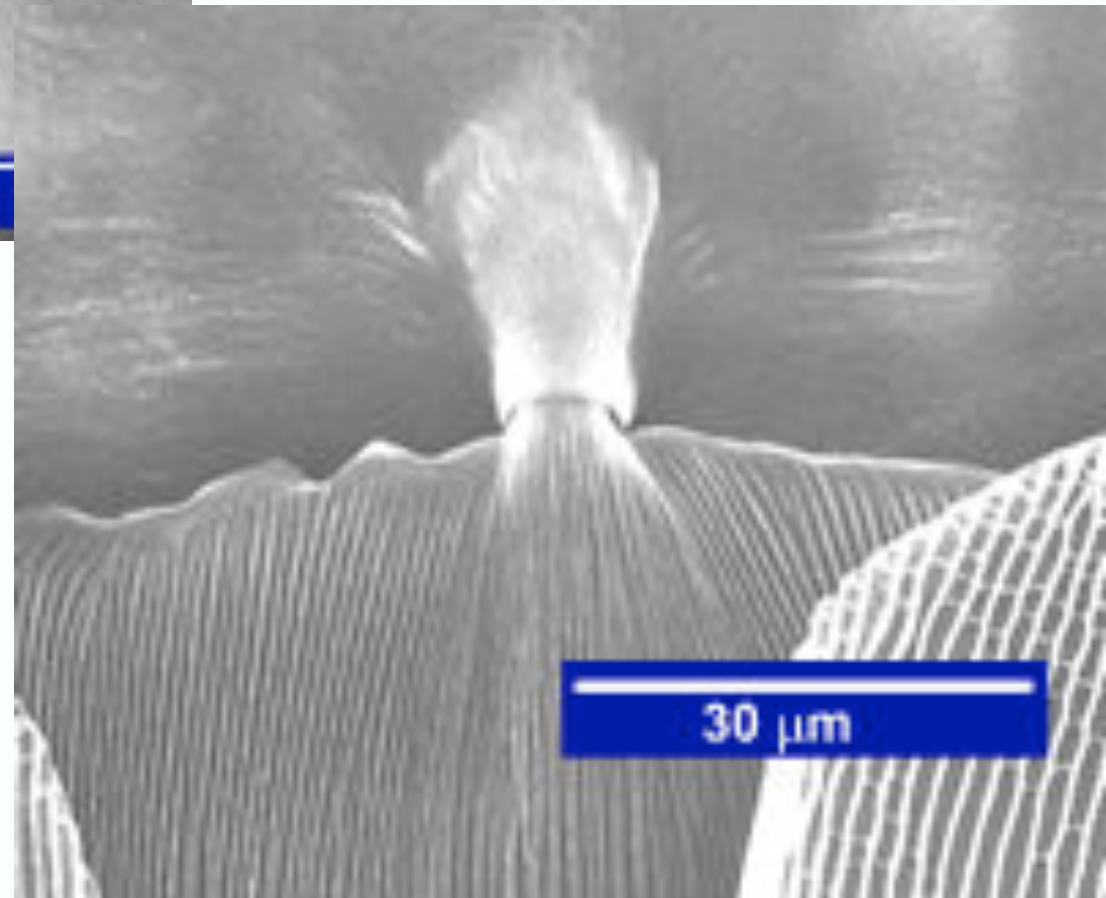
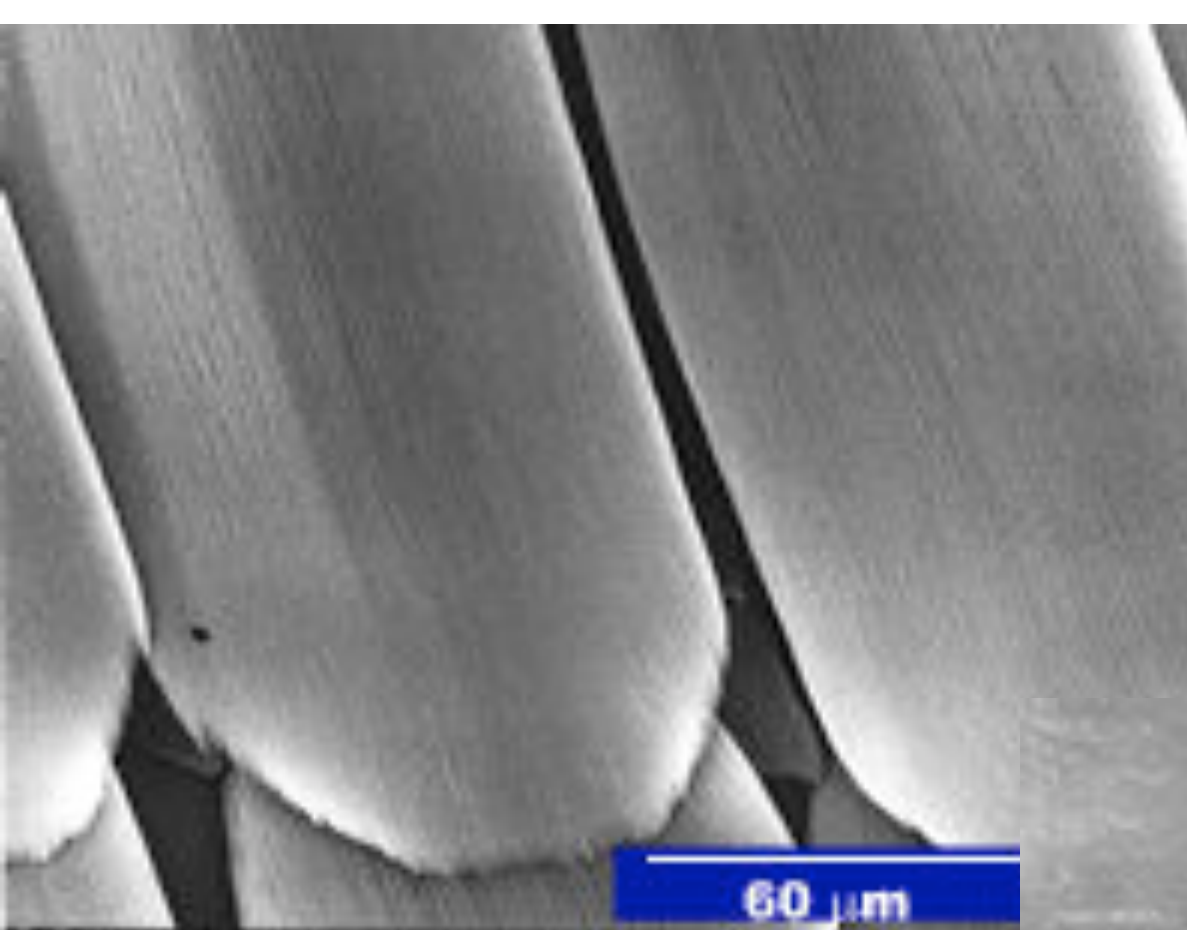
Exitance

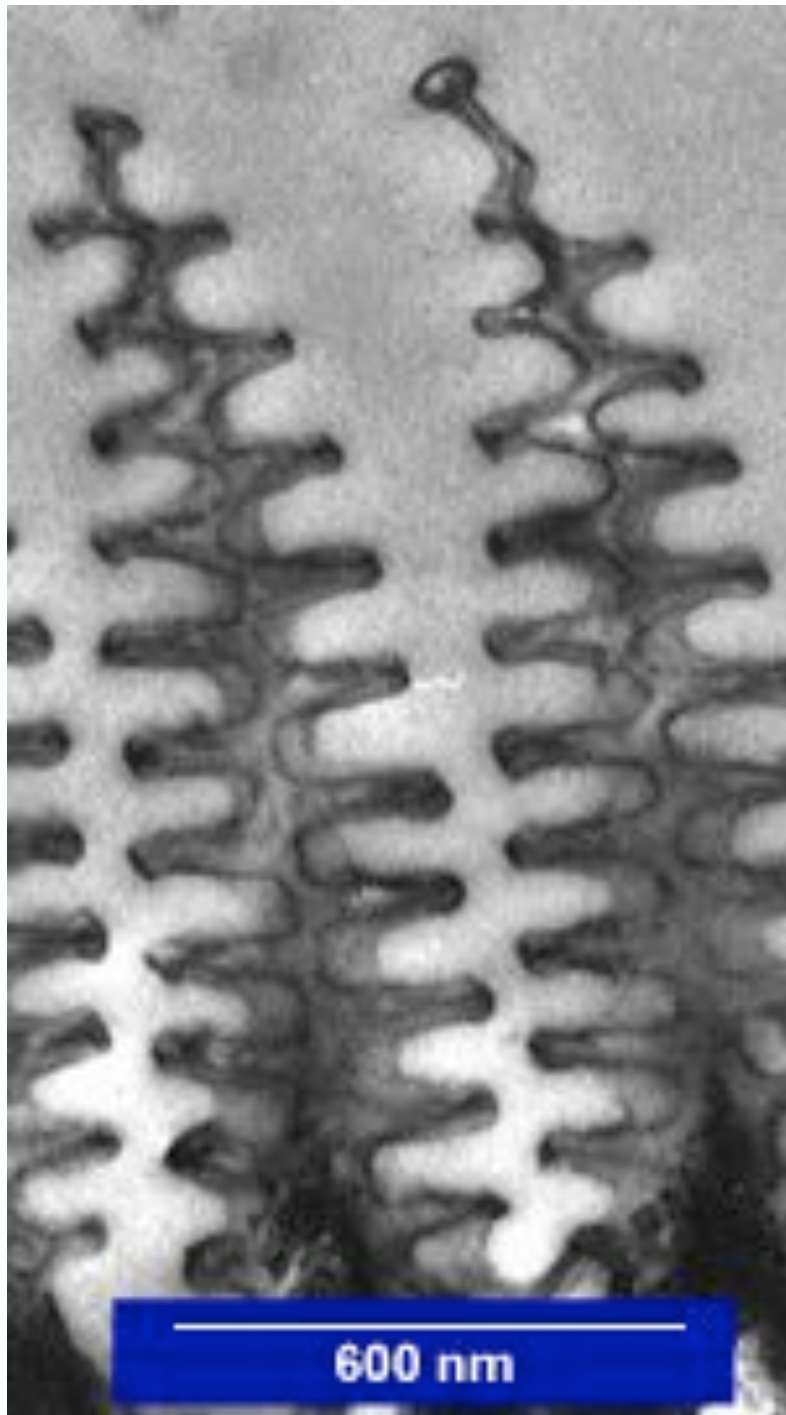
- For some luminaires, generated light independent of angle
 - think light box
- Appropriate radiometric unit is exitance
 - total power leaving a point on the surface, per unit area on the surface (Wm^{-2}), created in the surface

Radiosity

- Important relationship:
 - radiosity of a surface whose radiance is independent of angle (e.g. that cotton cloth)

$$\begin{aligned} B(\underline{x}) &= \int_{\Omega} L_o(\underline{x}, \vartheta, \varphi) \cos \vartheta d\omega \\ &= L_o(\underline{x}) \int_{\Omega} \cos \vartheta d\omega \\ &= L_o(\underline{x}) \int_0^{\pi/2} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos \vartheta \sin \vartheta d\varphi d\vartheta \\ &= \pi L_o(\underline{x}) \end{aligned}$$





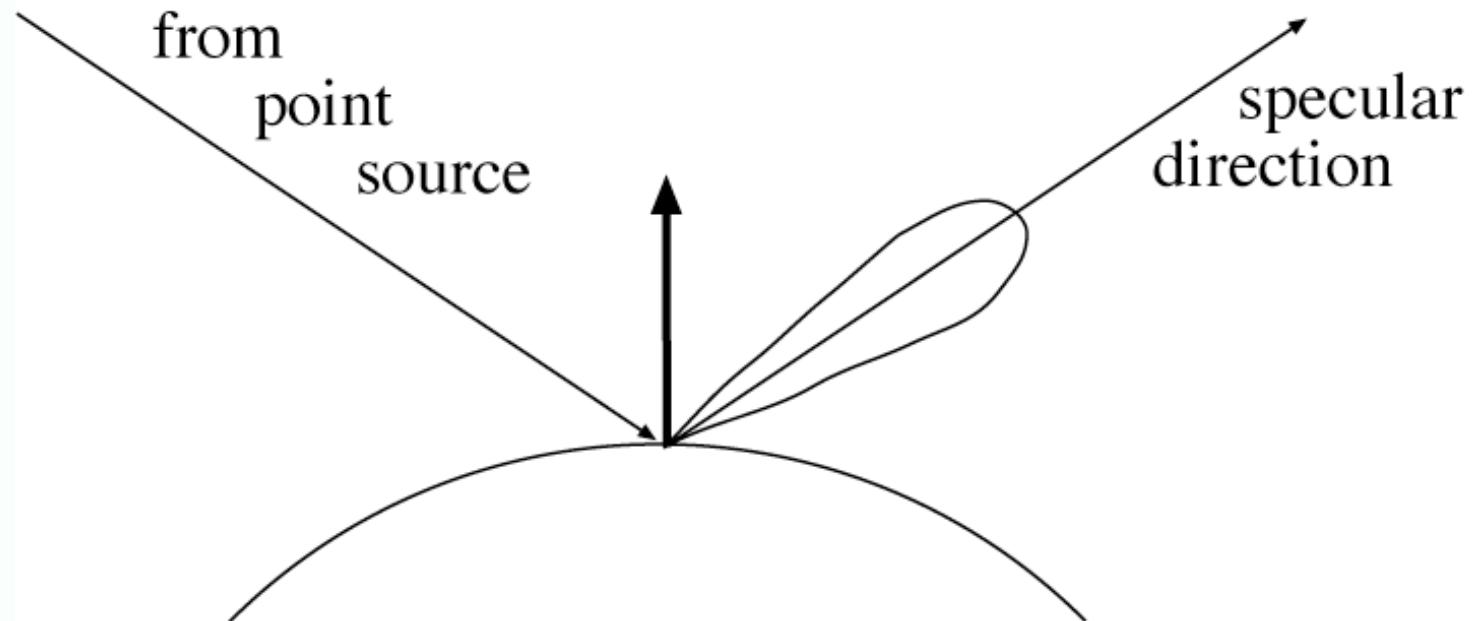
Lambertian surfaces and albedo

- For some surfaces, the BRDF is independent of direction
 - cotton cloth, carpets, matte paper, matte paints, etc.
 - radiance leaving the surface is independent of angle
 - Lambertian surfaces (same Lambert) or ideal diffuse surfaces
 - Use radiosity as a unit to describe light leaving the surface
 - percentage of incident light reflected is diffuse reflectance or albedo
- Useful fact:

$$\rho_{brdf} = \frac{\rho_d}{\pi}$$

Specular surfaces

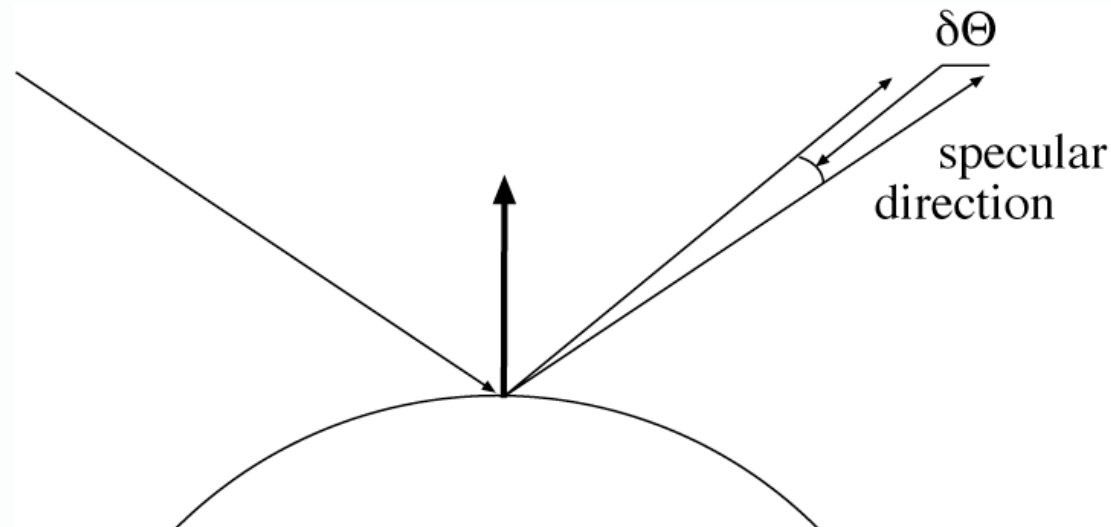
- Another important class of surfaces is specular, or mirror-like.
 - radiation arriving along a direction leaves along the specular direction
 - reflect about normal
 - some fraction is absorbed, some reflected
 - on real surfaces, energy usually goes into a lobe of directions
 - can write a BRDF, but requires the use of funny functions



Phong's model

- There are very few cases where the exact shape of the specular lobe matters.
- Typically:
 - very, very small --- mirror
 - small -- blurry mirror
 - bigger -- see only light sources as “specularities”
 - very big -- faint specularities
- Phong's model
 - reflected energy falls off with

$$\cos^n(\delta\vartheta)$$



Lambertian + specular

- Widespread model
 - all surfaces are Lambertian plus specular component
- Advantages
 - easy to manipulate
 - very often quite close true
- Disadvantages
 - some surfaces are not
 - e.g. underside of CD's, feathers of many birds, blue spots on many marine crustaceans and fish, most rough surfaces, oil films (skin!), wet surfaces
 - Generally, very little advantage in modelling behaviour of light at a surface in more detail -- it is quite difficult to understand behaviour of L+S surfaces

The Rendering Equation- 1

- We can now write

$$L_o(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o) = L_e(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o) + \int_{\Omega} \rho_{bd}(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o, \omega_i) L_i(\mathbf{x}, \omega_i) \cos \theta_i d\omega_i$$

Angle between normal and incoming direction

BRDF

Incoming radiance

Average over hemisphere

Radiance emitted from surface at that point in that direction

Radiance leaving a point in a direction



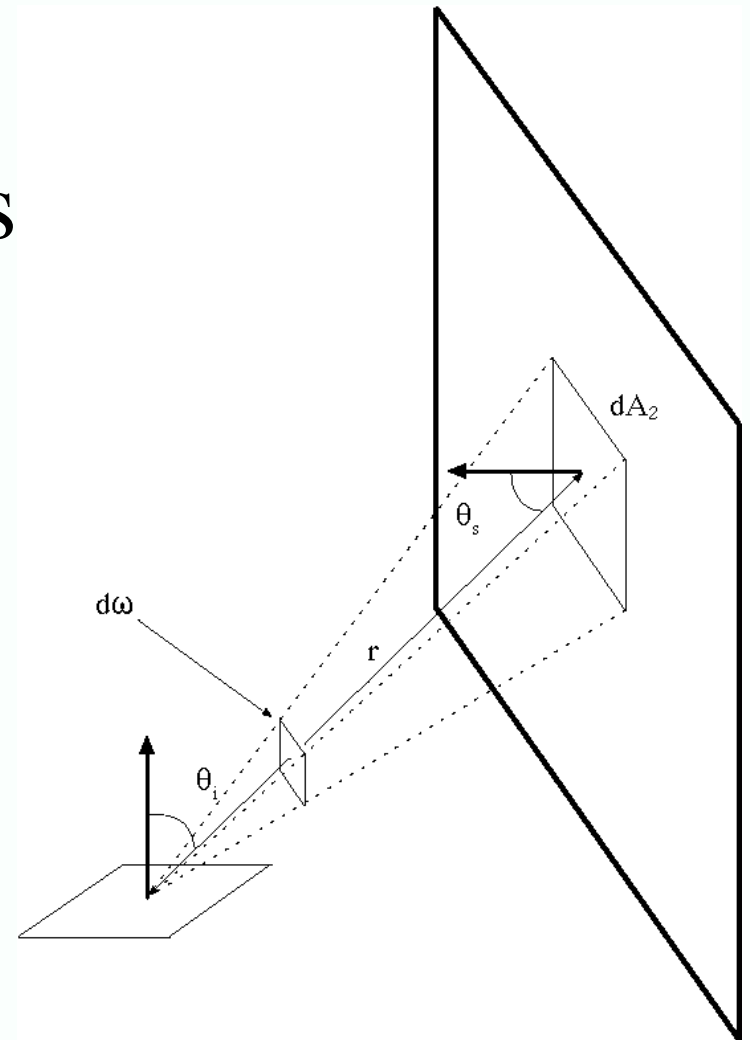
Radiance is constant along straight lines, so this is what we want to know

The Rendering Equation - II

- This balance works for
 - each wavelength,
 - at any time, so
- So

$$L_o(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o, \lambda, t) = L_e(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o, \lambda, t) + \int_{\Omega} \rho_{bd}(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o, \omega_i, \lambda, t) L_i(\mathbf{x}, \omega_i, \lambda, t) \cos \theta_i d\omega_i$$

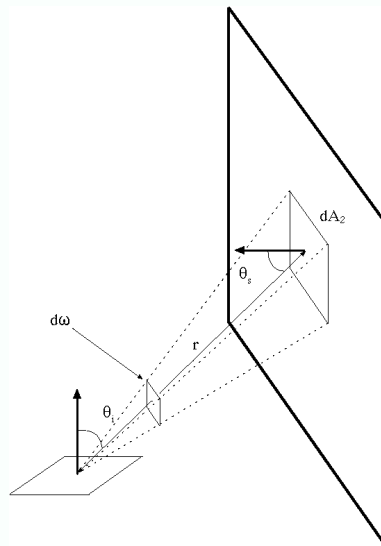
Area sources



- Examples: diffuser boxes, white walls.
- The radiosity at a point due to an area source is obtained by adding up the contribution over the section of view hemisphere subtended by the source
 - change variables and add up over the source

Radiosity due to an area source

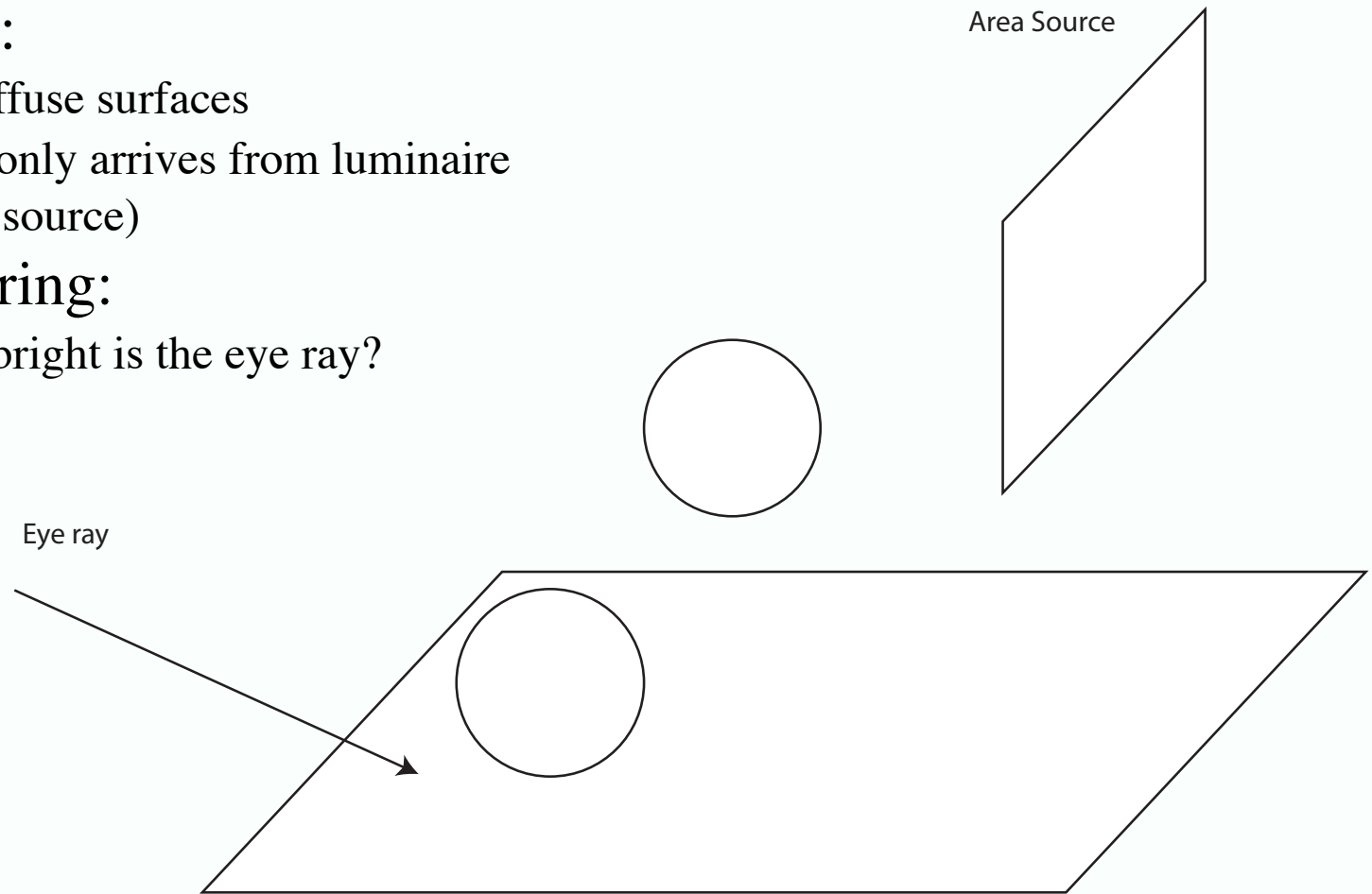
- rho is albedo
- E is exitance
- $r(x, u)$ is distance between points
- u is a coordinate on the source



$$\begin{aligned}
 B(x) &= \rho_d(x) \int_{\Omega} L_i(x, u \rightarrow x) \cos \theta_i d\omega \\
 &= \rho_d(x) \int_{\Omega} L_e(x, u \rightarrow x) \cos \theta_i d\omega \\
 &= \rho_d(x) \int_{\Omega} \left(\frac{E(u)}{\pi} \right) \cos \theta_i d\omega \\
 &= \rho_d(x) \int_{source} \left(\frac{E(u)}{\pi} \right) \cos \theta_i \left(\cos \theta_s \frac{dA_u}{r(x, u)^2} \right) \\
 &= \rho_d(x) \int_{source} E(u) \frac{\cos \theta_i \cos \theta_s}{\pi r(x, u)^2} dA_u
 \end{aligned}$$

Question: how to ray-trace this?

- Model:
 - all diffuse surfaces
 - light only arrives from luminaire (area source)
- Rendering:
 - how bright is the eye ray?



Recall

$$L_o(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o) = L_e(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o) + \int_{\Omega} \rho_{bd}(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o, \omega_i) L_i(\mathbf{x}, \omega_i) \cos \theta_i d\omega_i$$

Diffuse, so this is a constant

Angle between normal and incoming direction

BRDF

Incoming radiance

This is from area source

Average over hemisphere

Radiance emitted from surface at that point in that direction
There isn't any, so zero

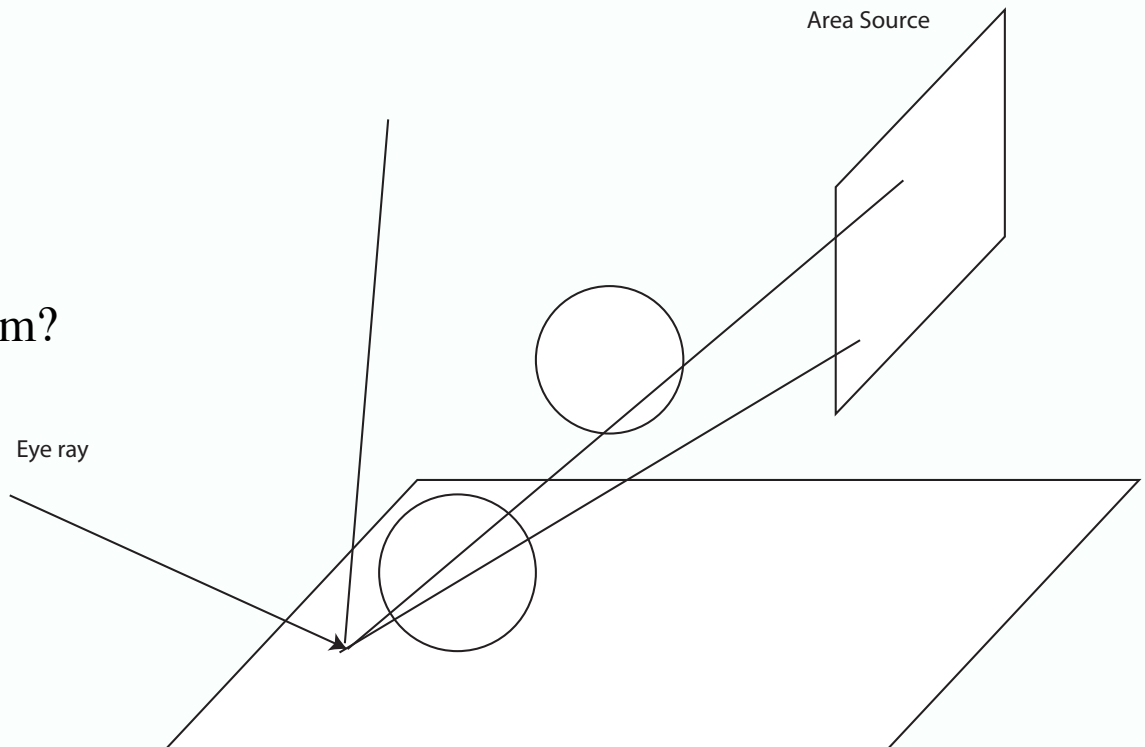
Radiance leaving a point in a direction

Radiance along eye ray

$$L_o(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o) = L_e(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o) + \int_{\Omega} \rho_{bd}(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o, \omega_i) L_i(\mathbf{x}, \omega_i) \cos \theta_i d\omega_i$$

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{\omega_i \in \text{samples of incoming directions}} \rho L(\mathbf{x}, \omega_i) \cos \theta_i$$

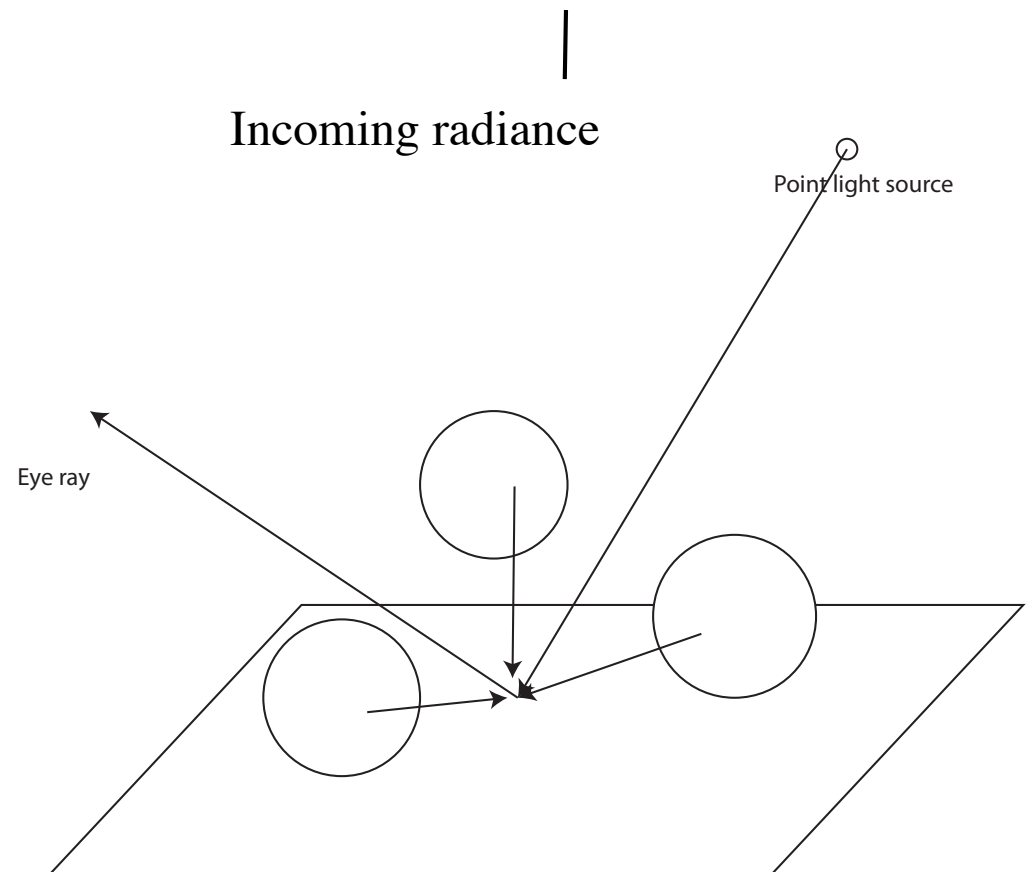
But which directions?
and how should we sample them?



Global illumination

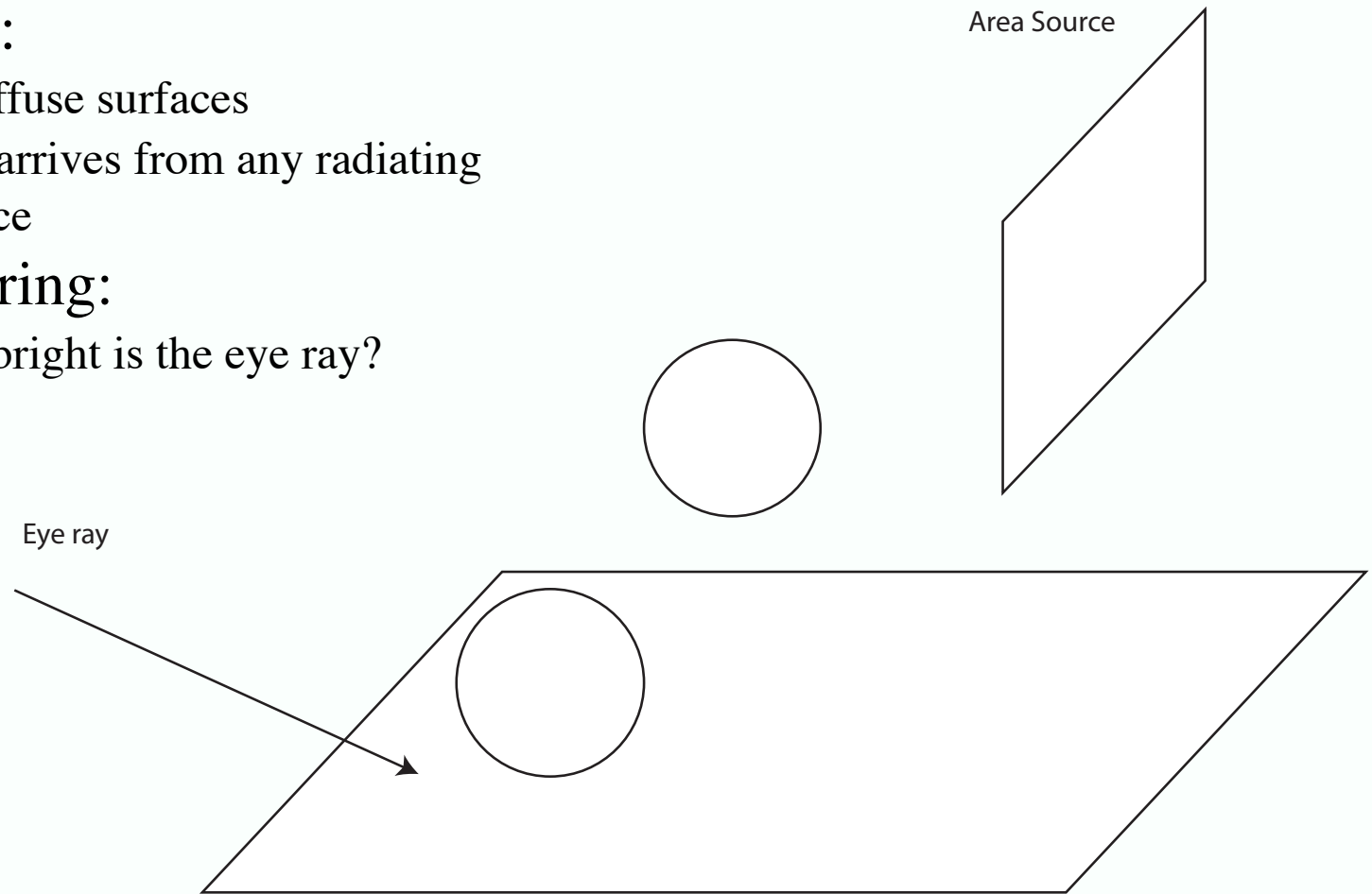
$$L_o(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o) = L_e(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o) + \int_{\Omega} \rho_{bd}(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o, \omega_i) L_i(\mathbf{x}, \omega_i) \cos \theta_i d\omega_i$$

- Incoming radiance isn't just from luminaires
 - the reason you can see surfaces is they reflect light
 - other surfaces don't distinguish between reflected light and generated light



Question: how to ray-trace this?

- Model:
 - all diffuse surfaces
 - light arrives from any radiating surface
- Rendering:
 - how bright is the eye ray?



Recall

$$L_o(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o) = L_e(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o) + \int_{\Omega} \rho_{bd}(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o, \omega_i) L_i(\mathbf{x}, \omega_i) \cos \theta_i d\omega_i$$

Diffuse, so this is a constant

Angle between normal and incoming direction

BRDF

Incoming radiance

This is now from any radiator

Average over hemisphere

Radiance emitted from surface at that point in that direction

There isn't any, so zero

Radiance leaving a point in a direction

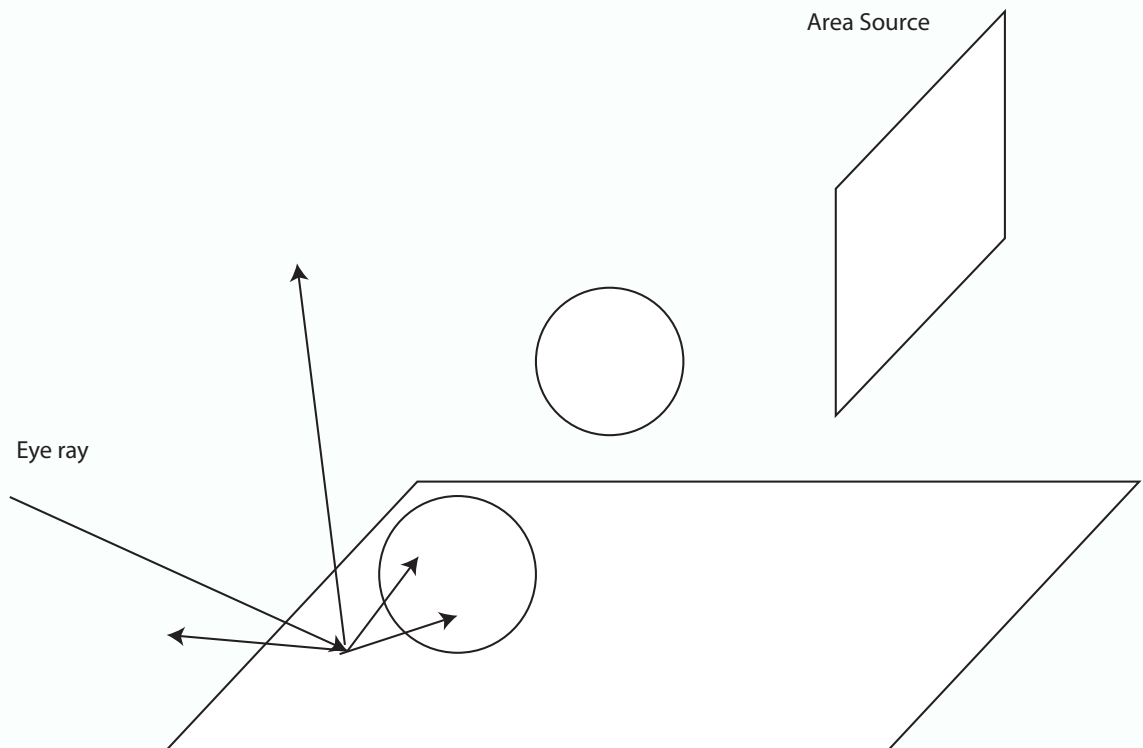


Radiance along eye ray

$$L_o(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o) = L_e(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o) + \int_{\Omega} \rho_{bd}(\mathbf{x}, \omega_o, \omega_i) L_i(\mathbf{x}, \omega_i) \cos \theta_i d\omega_i$$

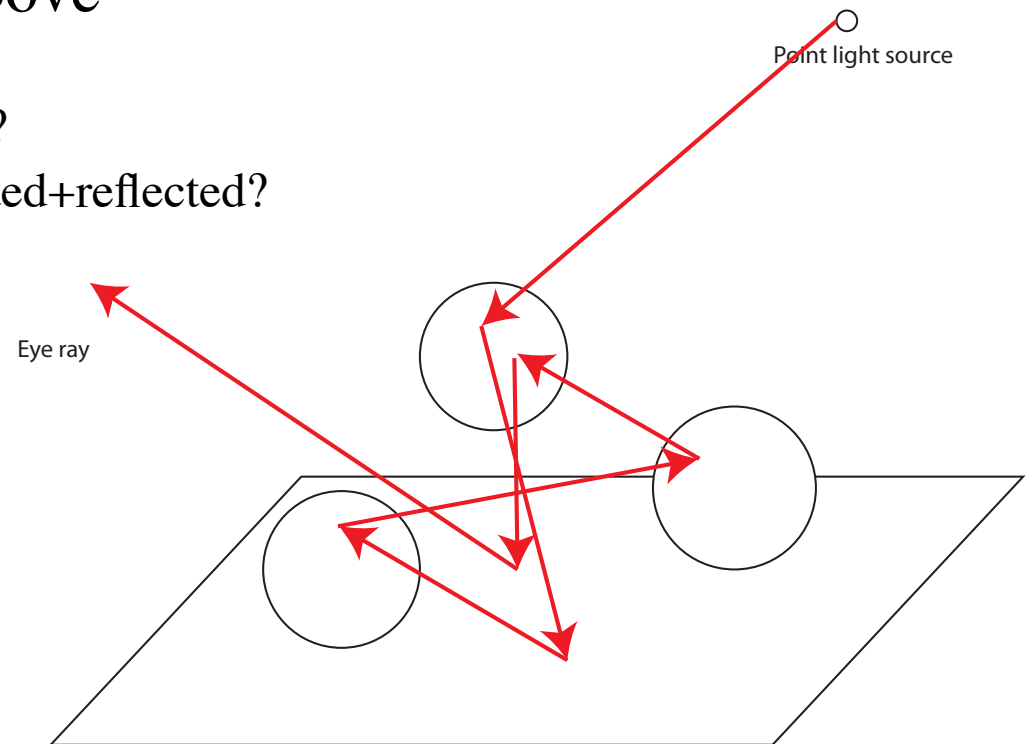
$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{\omega_i \in \text{samples of incoming directions}} \rho L(\mathbf{x}, \omega_i) \cos \theta_i$$

But which directions?
and how should we sample them?



Light paths

- Recursively expand, as above
 - sample the incoming directions
 - what radiance is coming in?
 - go to far end - what is emitted+reflected?
 - recur



Light paths - II

$$v = \int_{\Lambda} \int_D \int_{\Omega} \int_T w(\mathbf{x}, \lambda, \omega, t) L(\mathbf{x}, \omega, t) dt d\omega dx d\lambda \approx \sum_{i \in \text{rays}} g(\text{ray}) L(\text{ray})$$

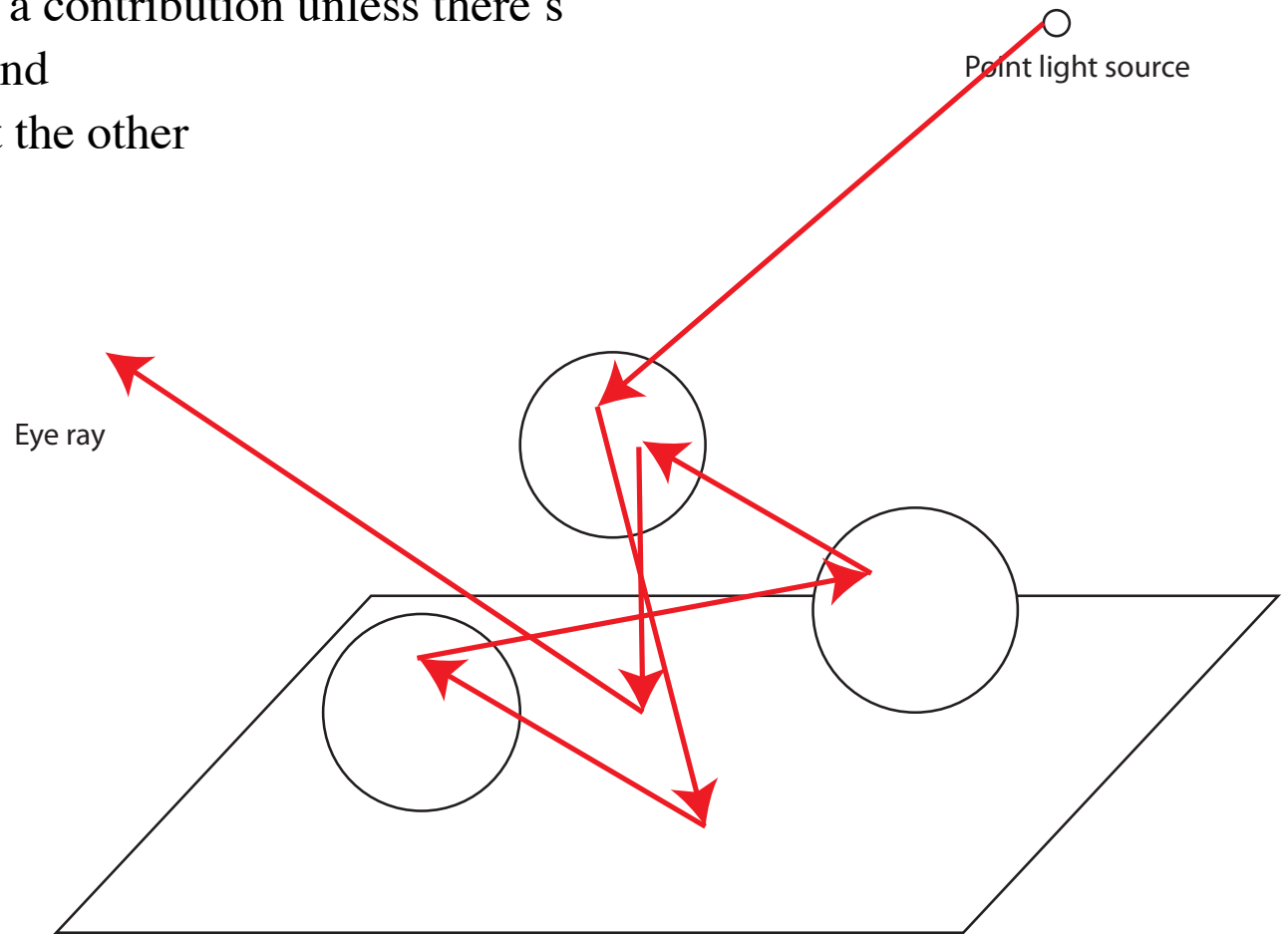
- But this is really (suppressing wavelength and time)

$$\int_D \int_{\Omega} L(\mathbf{x}, \omega) w(\mathbf{x}, \omega) dx d\omega \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\text{paths}} (\text{contribution of path})$$

Light paths - III

- Now consider contribution of path
 - it doesn't make a contribution unless there's
 - eye at one end
 - luminaire at the other
- We can write

L (Something) E



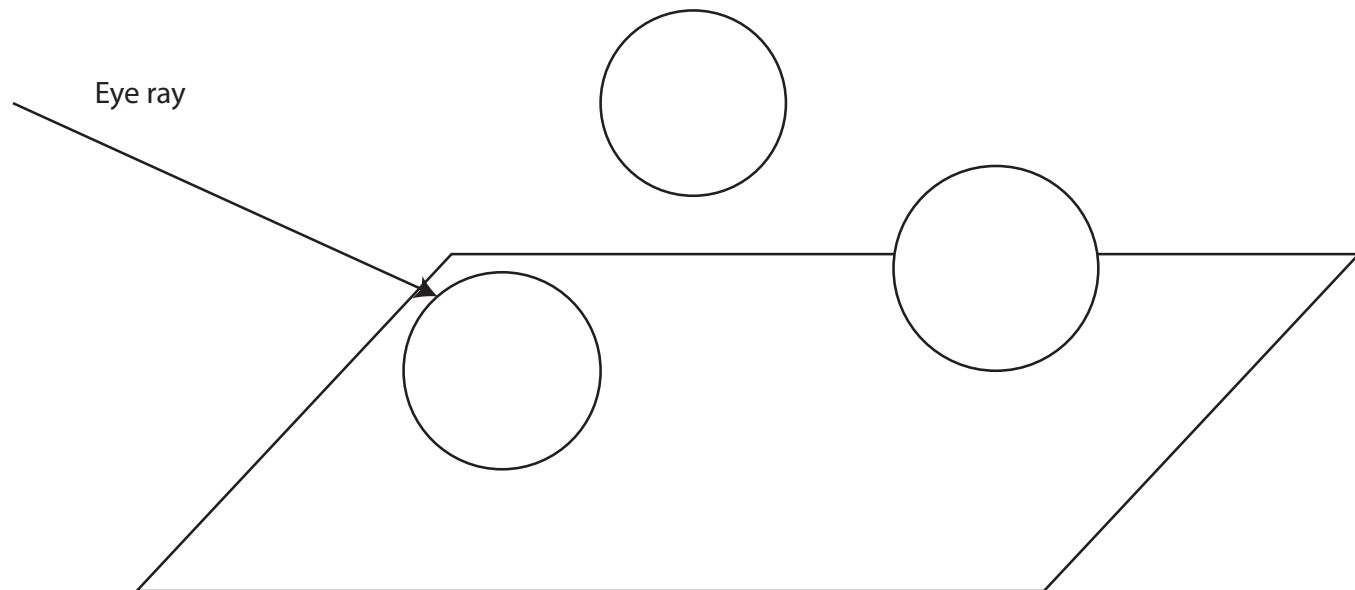
Some light paths are harder than others

- We have already seen how to render
 - LDE - (light diffuse eye)
 - eye ray to diffuse surface, can it see light?
 - LSE - (light specular eye)
 - eye ray to specular surface, reflect and hit diffuse, can it see light?
 - Actually, can do:
 - LDS*E - (light diffuse 0 or more specular bounces eye)
- How about
 - LDDE - (light diffuse diffuse eye)
 - easy geometry likely high variance
 - LS+DE - (light diffuse at least one specular eye)
 - rather harder

Eye ray strikes diffuse surface - LDE

Compute brightness of
diffuse surface at first contact =
Can it see the light sources ?=
Is there an object in line segment
connecting point to source?

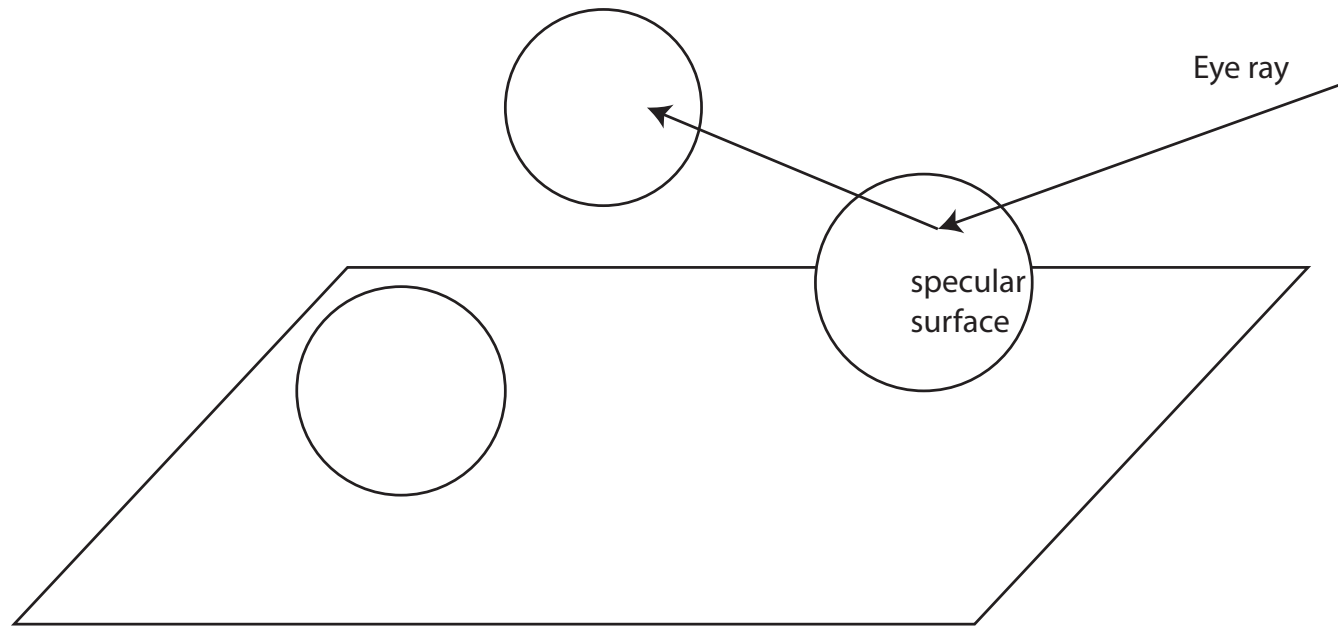
○
Point light source



Eye ray strikes specular surface - LDSE

Compute brightness of
specular surface at first contact =
eye ray changes direction, and compute
brightness at the end of that

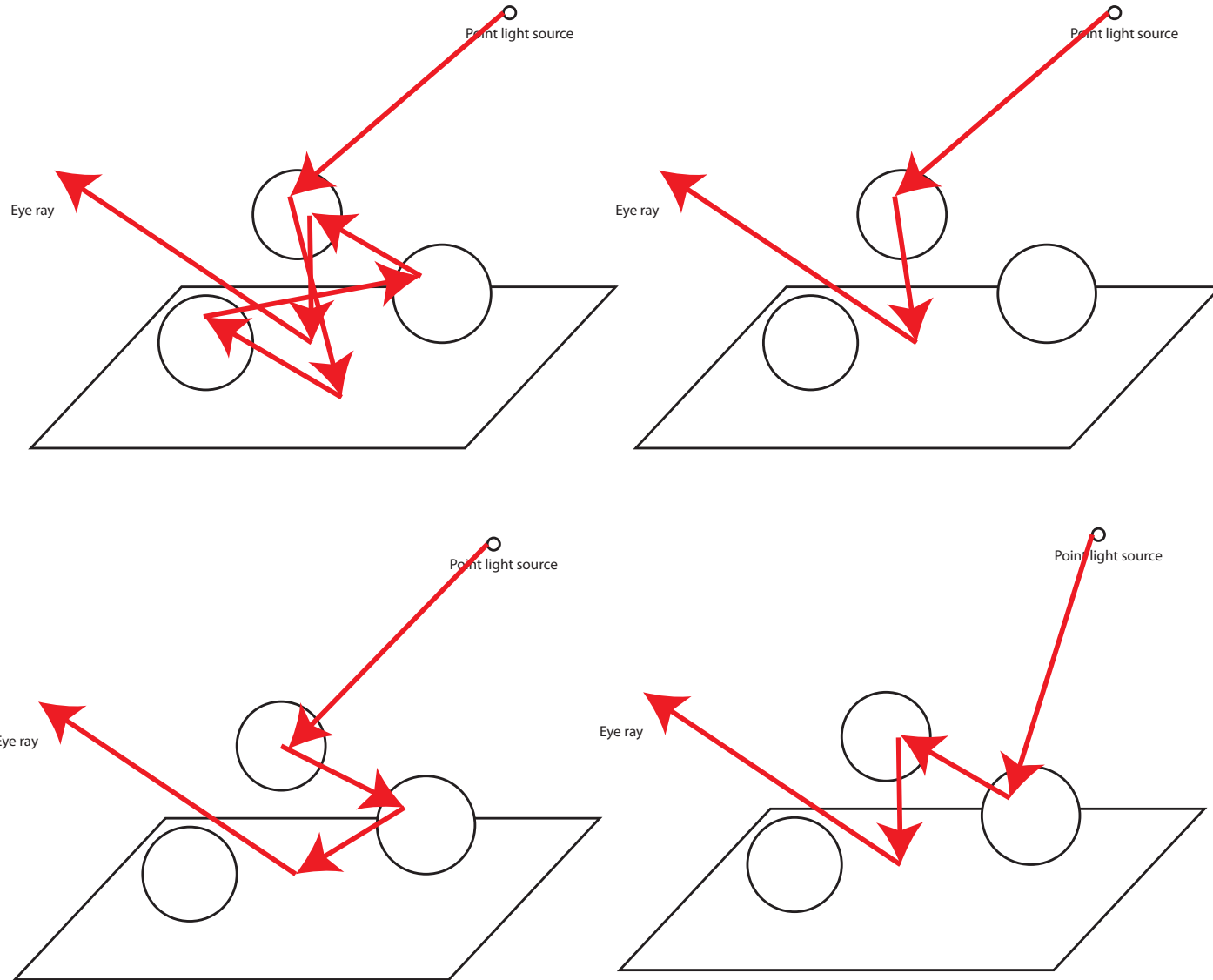
○
Point light source



Diffuse VS Specular (also translucent)

- Diffuse surfaces:
 - any incoming direction can cause light to travel down the eye ray
 - so you do not know from which directions contributions will arrive
 - when an eye ray arrives, it must create multiple query rays
- Specular surfaces:
 - only one incoming direction can cause light to travel down the eye ray
 - so you do know from which directions contributions will arrive
 - when an eye ray arrives, it creates only one query ray
- Translucent surfaces are like specular surfaces:
 - different geometry for the query ray

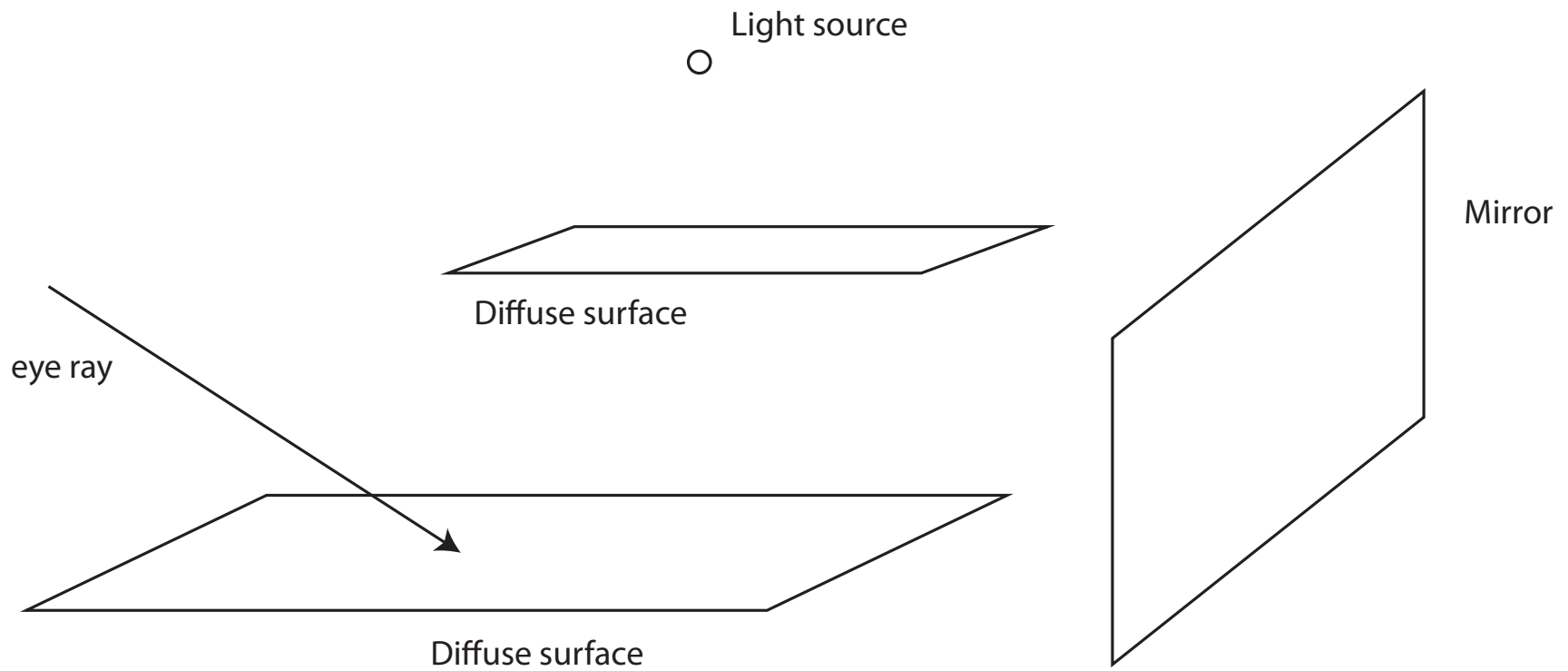
LDD+E - easy geometry, but variance



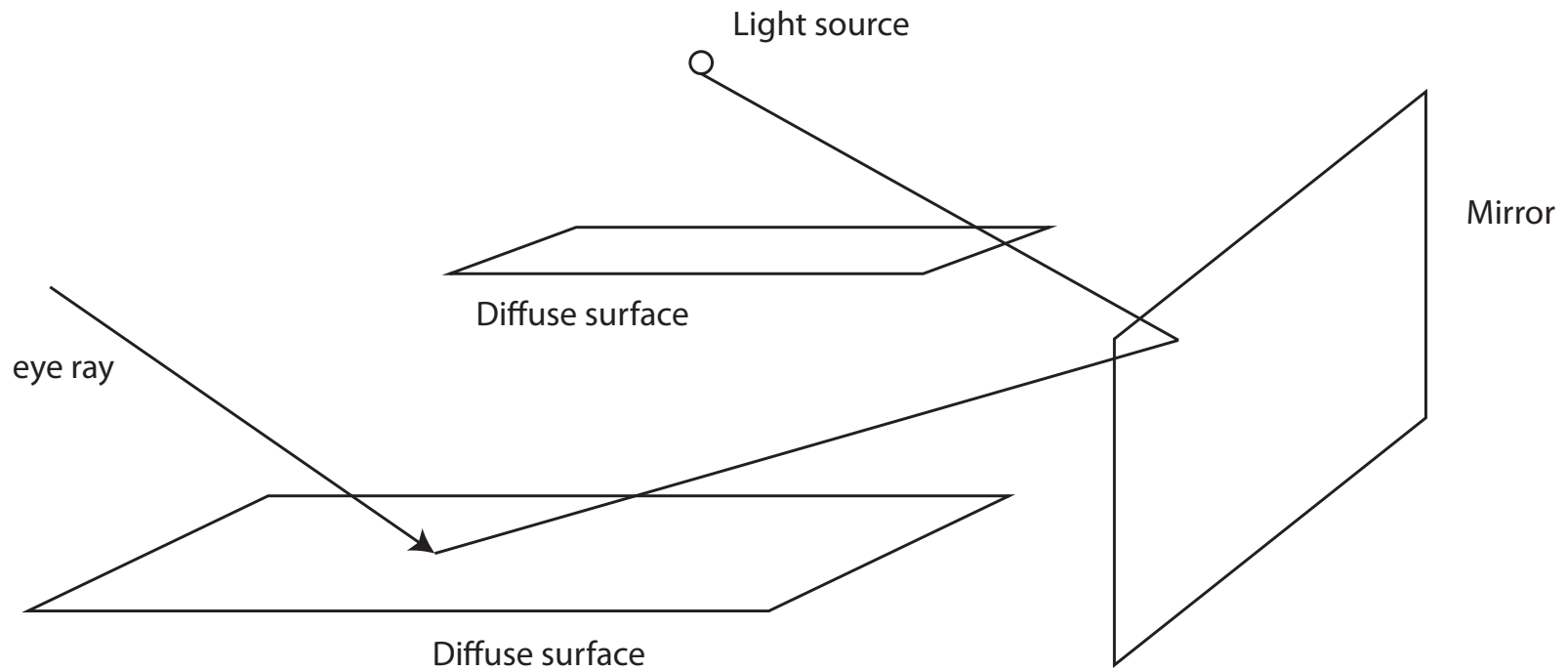
LDD+E - variance control (sketch!)

- In principle, easily sampled recursively
- Preferentially sample paths that make large contributions
 - these are paths that connect light, eye, via high albedo surfaces
 - “Russian roulette”
 - continue path with probability = albedo
 - weight by (1/albedo)
- OR Cache results
 - propagating a path:
 - check: is there something in the cache?
 - yes: use it
 - no: propagate path and cache results

LS+DE - harder - where is the light?



LS+DE - harder - where is the light?



Problem: which direction leaving diffuse surface will hit the light?

Strategies

- Bidirectional ray tracing
 - Trace a lot of rays from light through specular surfaces to first diffuse
 - Trace a lot of eye rays to first diffuse
 - Join paths
 - Variance control
 - weight paths as if they'd been found in different ways (Veach +Guibas)
- Markov chain monte carlo
 - take a path and mutate it; reweight contribution of mutated path
- Caching
 - Photon cache - trace many rays from light through specular to diffuse
 - cache at diffuse
 - query with eye ray

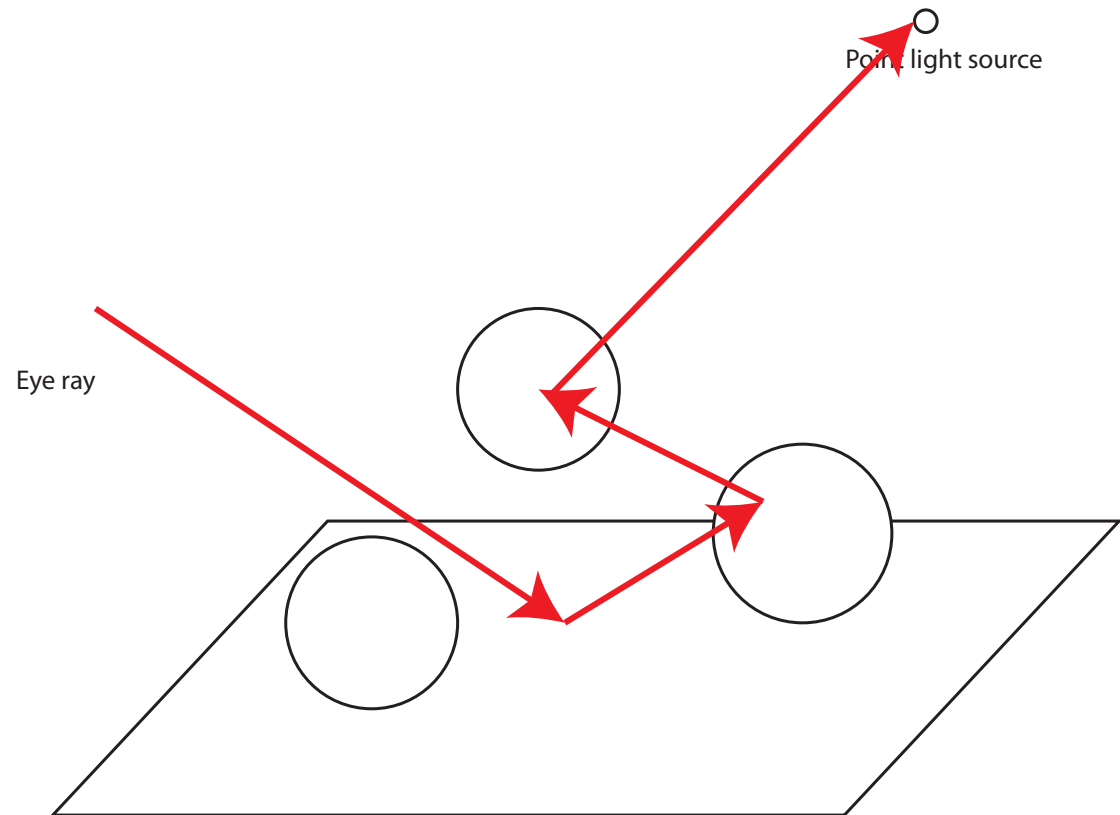
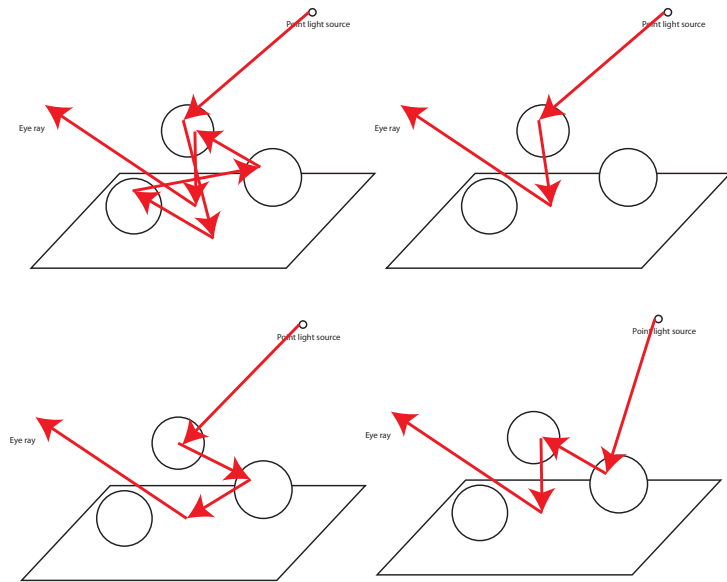
Biased vs unbiased rendering

- Unbiased renderer
 - pixel value is value of random variable (different paths=different values)
 - $E(\text{estimate}) = \text{True value}$
 - sometimes essential
 - eg estimate the amount of light in a museum hall
- Biased renderer
 - $E(\text{estimate}) = \text{True value} + \text{Bias}$
 - eg Photon map (as above)
 - Bias because we do not know how many photons to stick in cache
 - Often more realistic
- Crucial point
 - Very few people can tell if a render is nearly physically correct
 - and no-one can reliably spot exactness

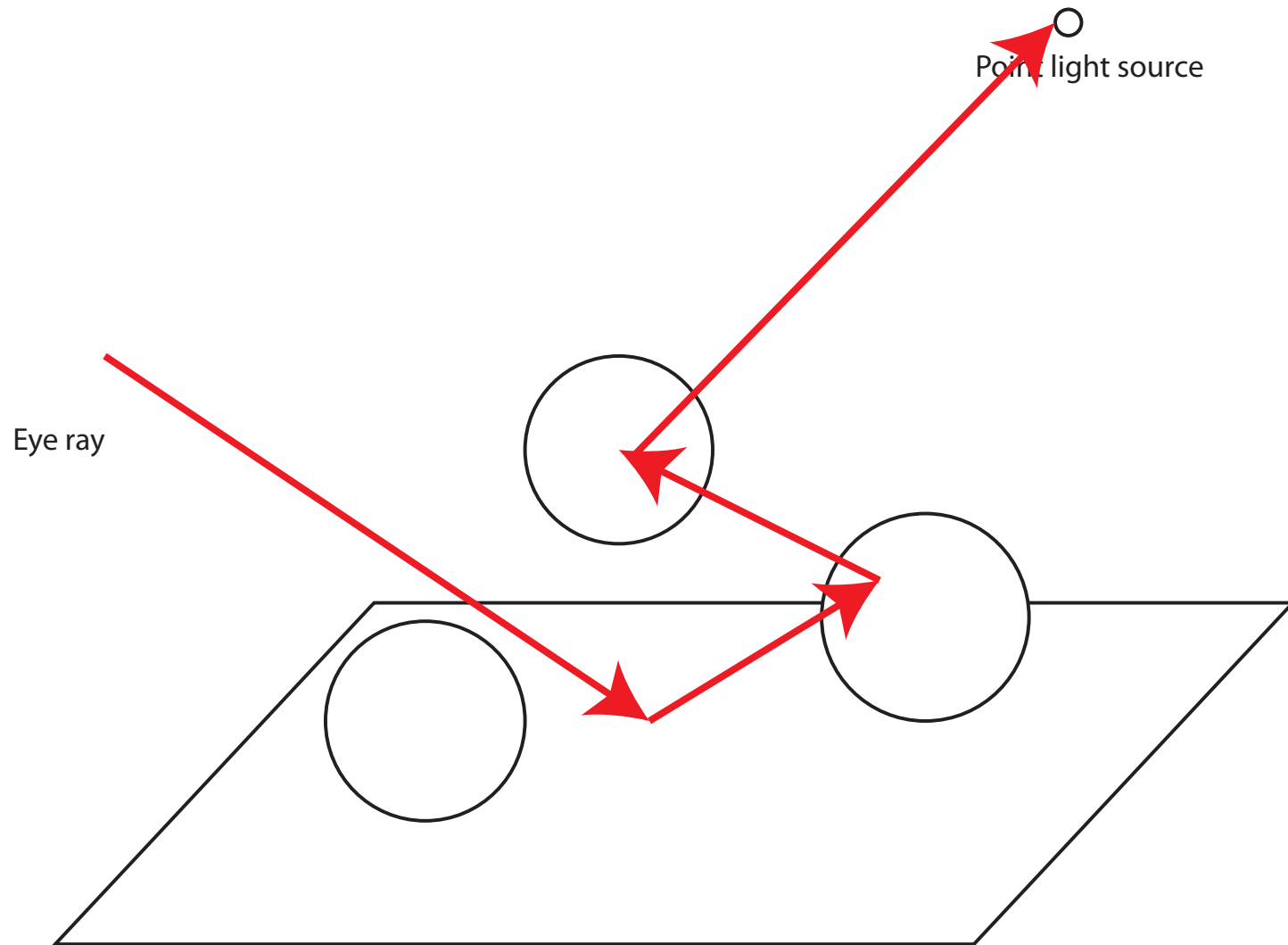
The plenoptic function

- We are repeatedly sampling radiance
 - as function of point, direction
- What if we had a function that could report that?
- Plenoptic function
 - radiance along a directed line
 - space of lines is rather nastier than you might think

The plenoptic function as a cache



The plenoptic function as a cache



The plenoptic function - careful!

- This is a function whose domain is nasty
 - all maximal directed line segments (lines) in free space
 - the domain can get very complicated
 - easy when there aren't any objects
 - otherwise, much harder
 - domain is sometimes called a visibility complex

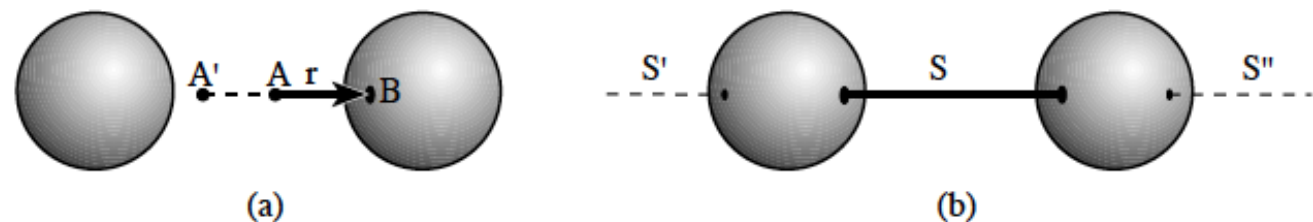
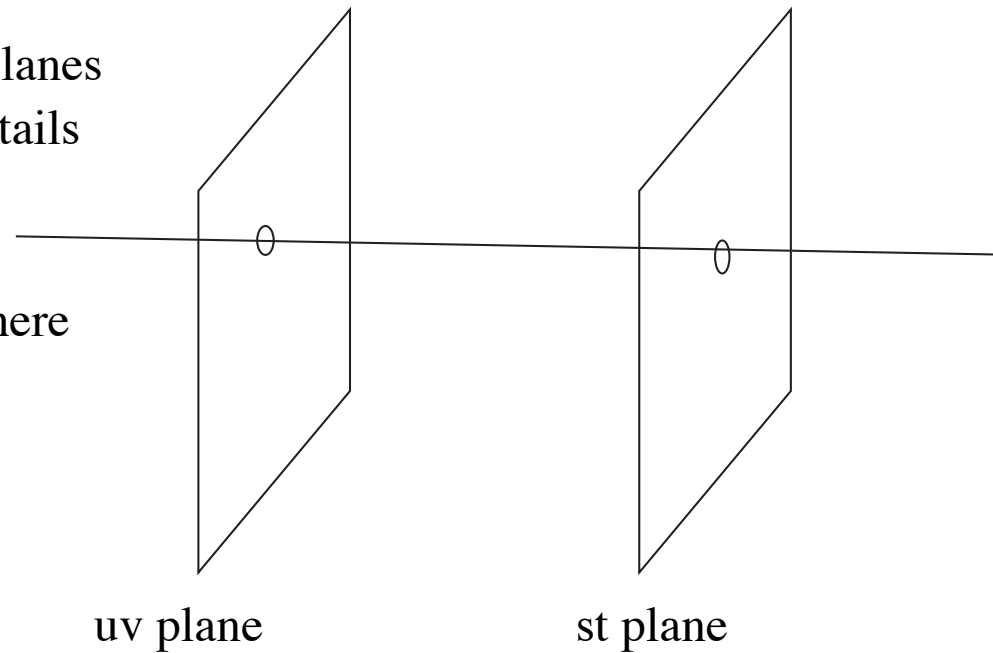
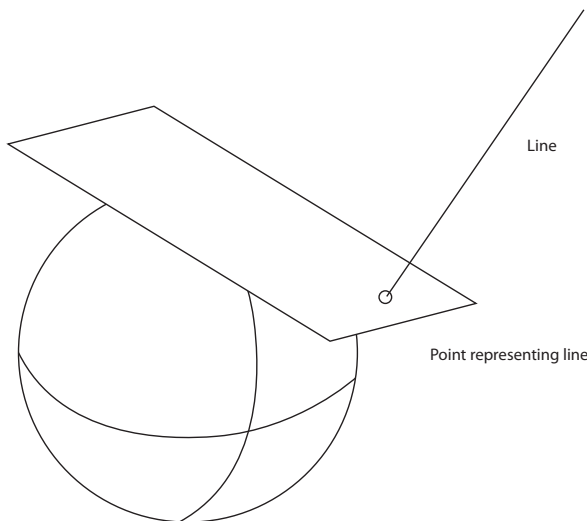


Fig. 1. Maximal free segment. (a) All the rays collinear to r whose origin is between the two spheres “see” point B . (b) These rays are grouped into a *maximal free segment* S . Two other maximal free segments S' and S'' are collinear to S .

Lines in 3D (if it's empty!)

- Space of lines is 4 dimensional
 - can specify a line by:
 - where it intersects each of two planes
 - some missing lines, some details
 - alternative
 - directed line
 - point on the tangent plane of sphere



Lines in 3D with object can be nasty

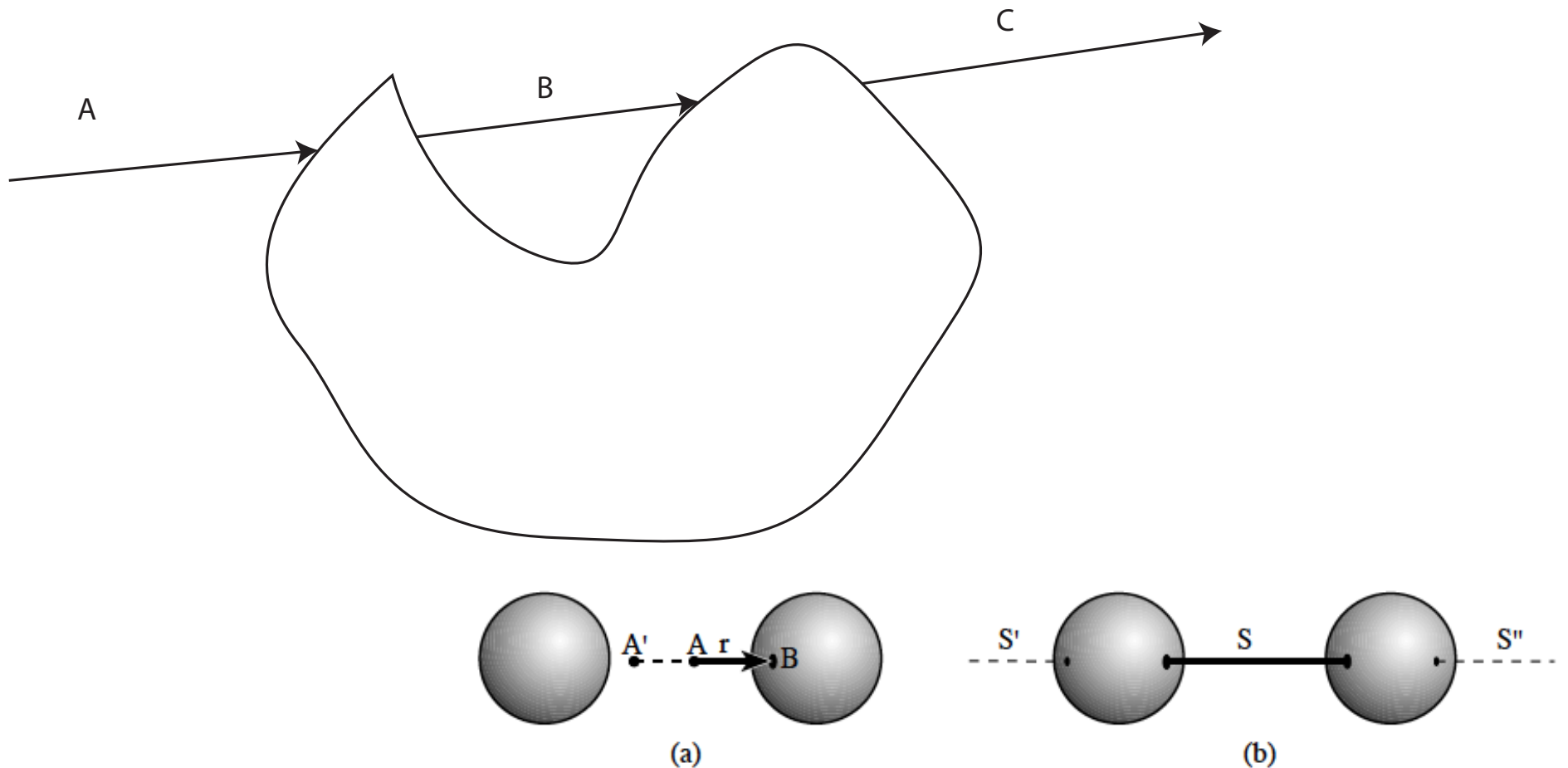
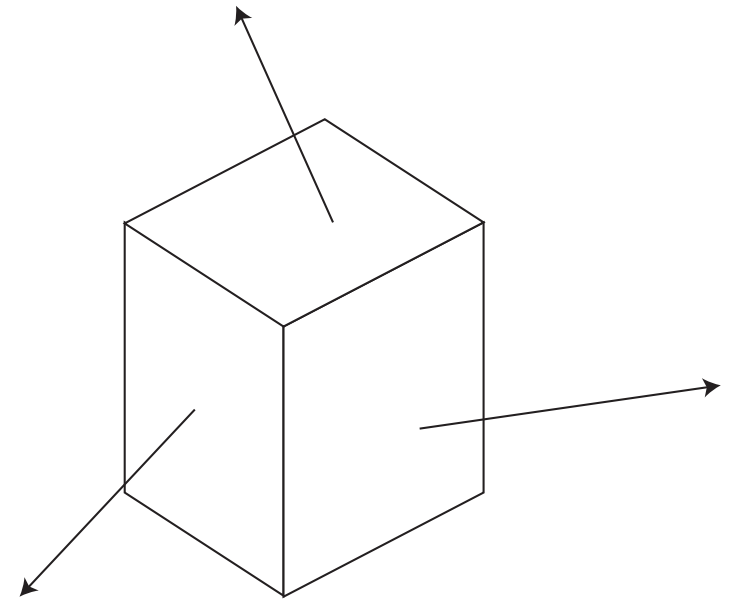


Fig. 1. Maximal free segment. (a) All the rays collinear to r whose origin is between the two spheres “see” point B . (b) These rays are grouped into a *maximal free segment* S . Two other maximal free segments S' and S'' are collinear to S .

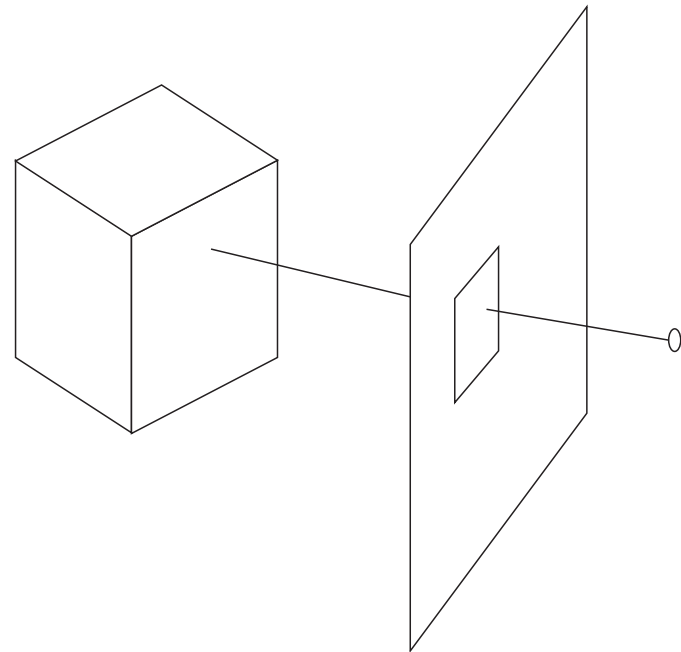
Simplify

- Place an object in a box
 - record radiance for each ray leaving box
- Easy to ray trace
 - look up eye ray in rays leaving box
 - report that value
- Capture is relatively easy



Capturing this representation

- Obtain an awful lot of images from calibrated cameras
 - each image is a set of rays leaving the box
 - calibration



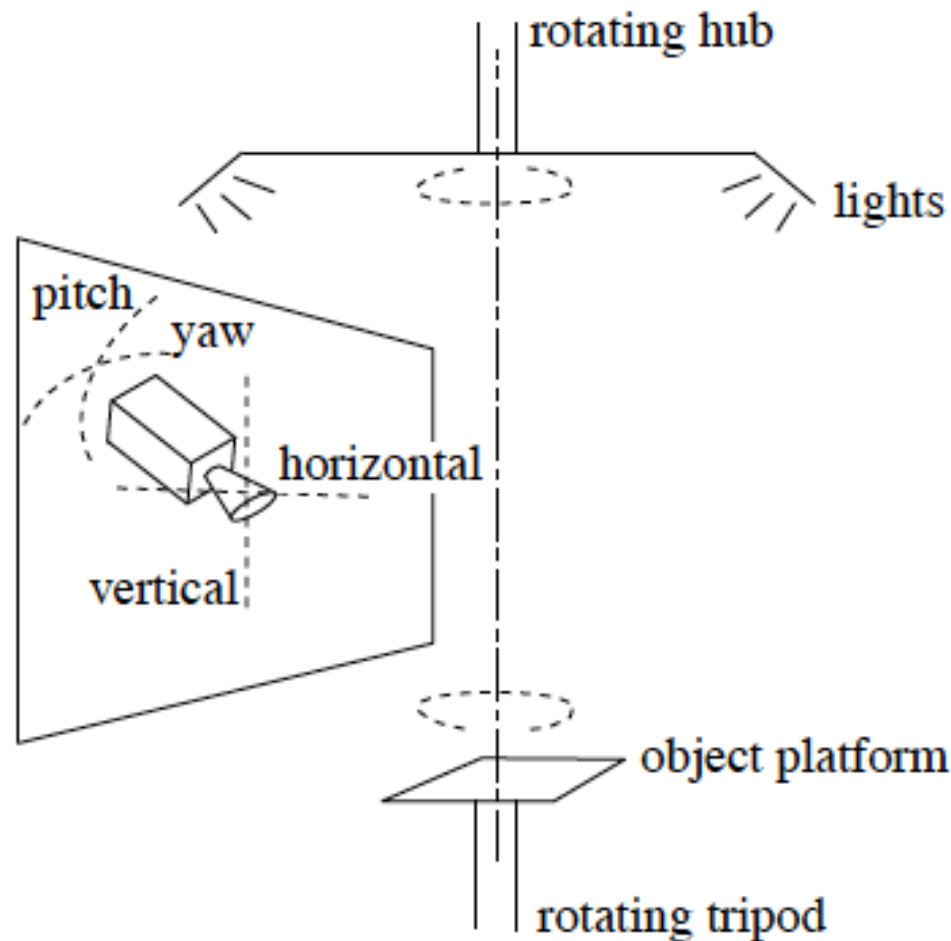


Figure 10: Object and lighting support. Objects are mounted on a Bogen fluid-head tripod, which we manually rotate to four orientations spaced 90 degrees apart. Illumination is provided by two 600W Lowell Omni spotlights attached to a ceiling-mounted rotating hub that is aligned with the rotation axis of the tripod. A stationary 6' x 6' diffuser panel is hung between the spotlights and the gantry, and the entire apparatus is enclosed in black velvet to eliminate stray light.

Rendering

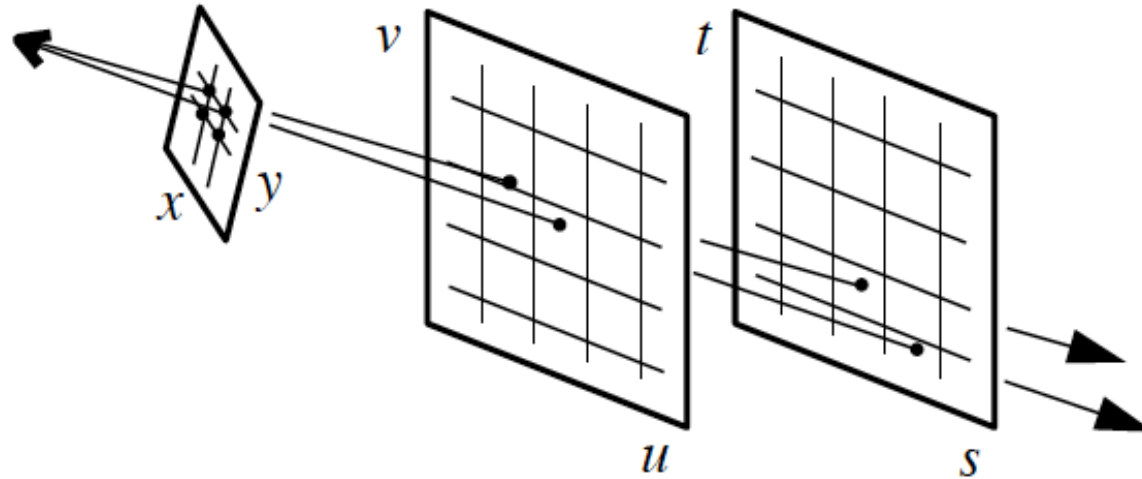


Figure 12: The process of resampling a light slab during display.

Issue: Sampling and Interpolation

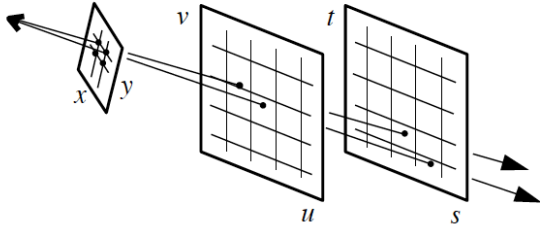


Figure 12: The process of resampling a light slab during display.

- Almost every eye ray ends up “between” uv, st samples
 - we must interpolate (smooth; something)
 - Traditional: multilinear interpolation

Interpolation helps, but..

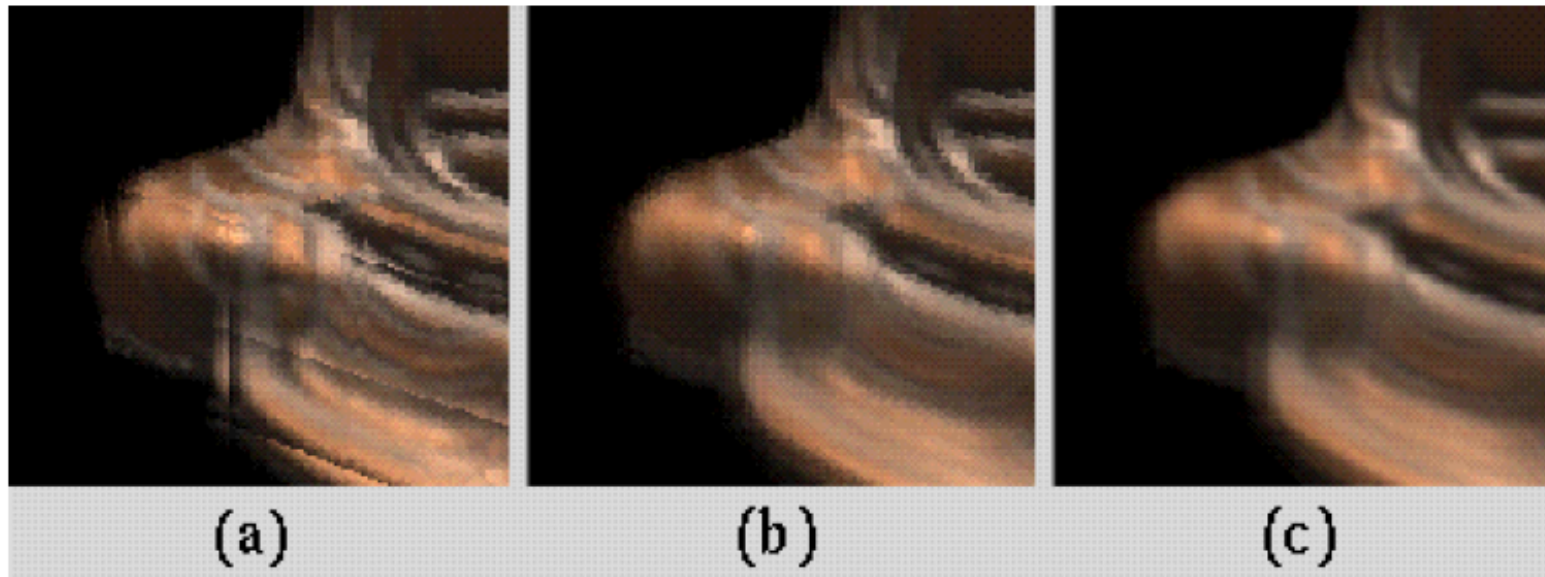
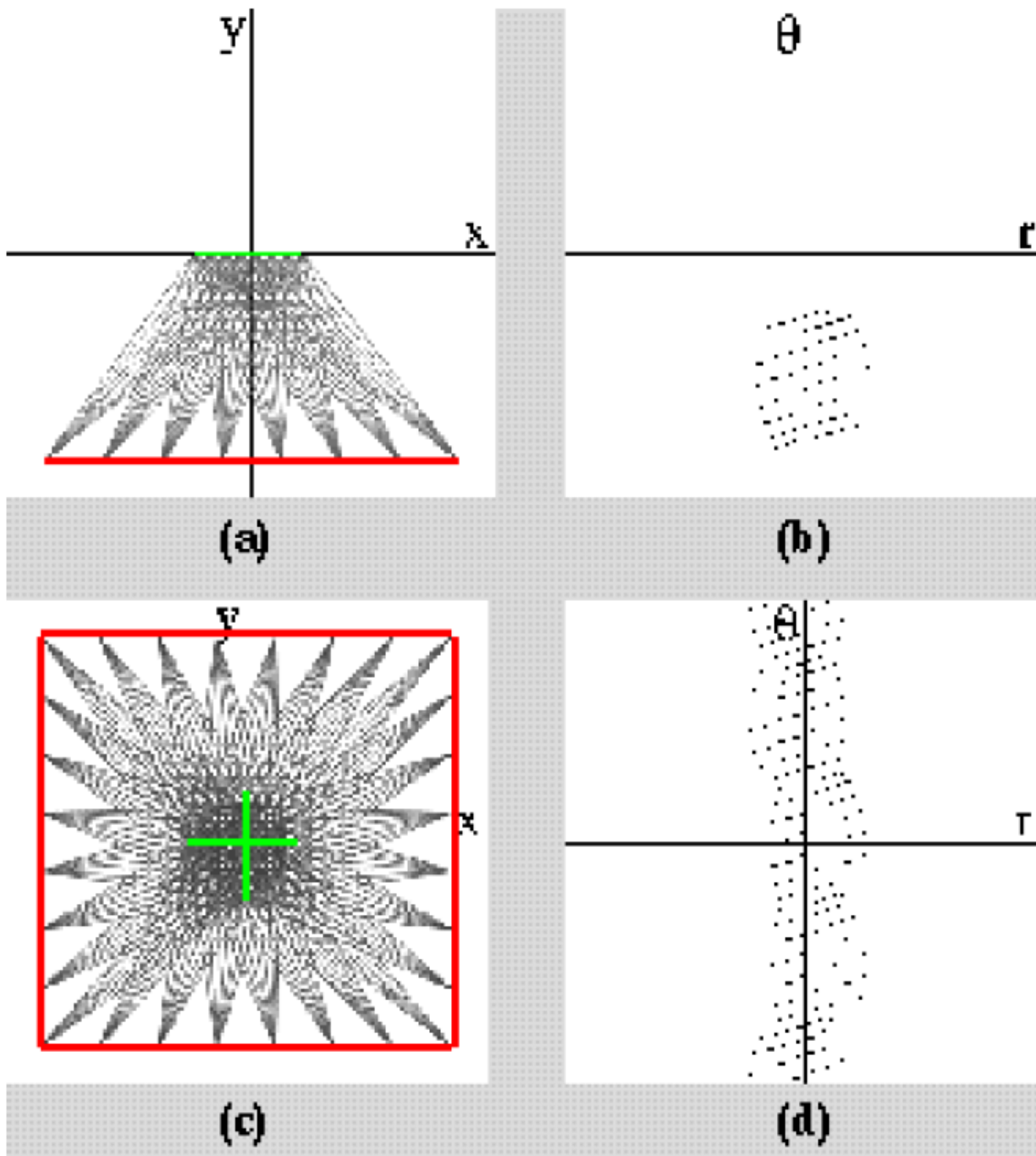


Figure 13: The effects of interpolation during slice extraction. (a) No interpolation. (b) Linear interpolation in uv only. (c) Quadralinear interpolation in uvst.



Two plane representation and sampling

Levoy+Hanrahan, 96

Figure 3: Using line space to visualize ray coverage. (a) shows a single

Revise model

- We need:
 - better interpolation
 - easier capture
 - some way to deal with the awkwardness of line representations
- Ideas:
 - move to scattering/volume rendering based representation
 - this will make the line representation easier to deal with
 - use a multilayer perceptron to represent relevant functions

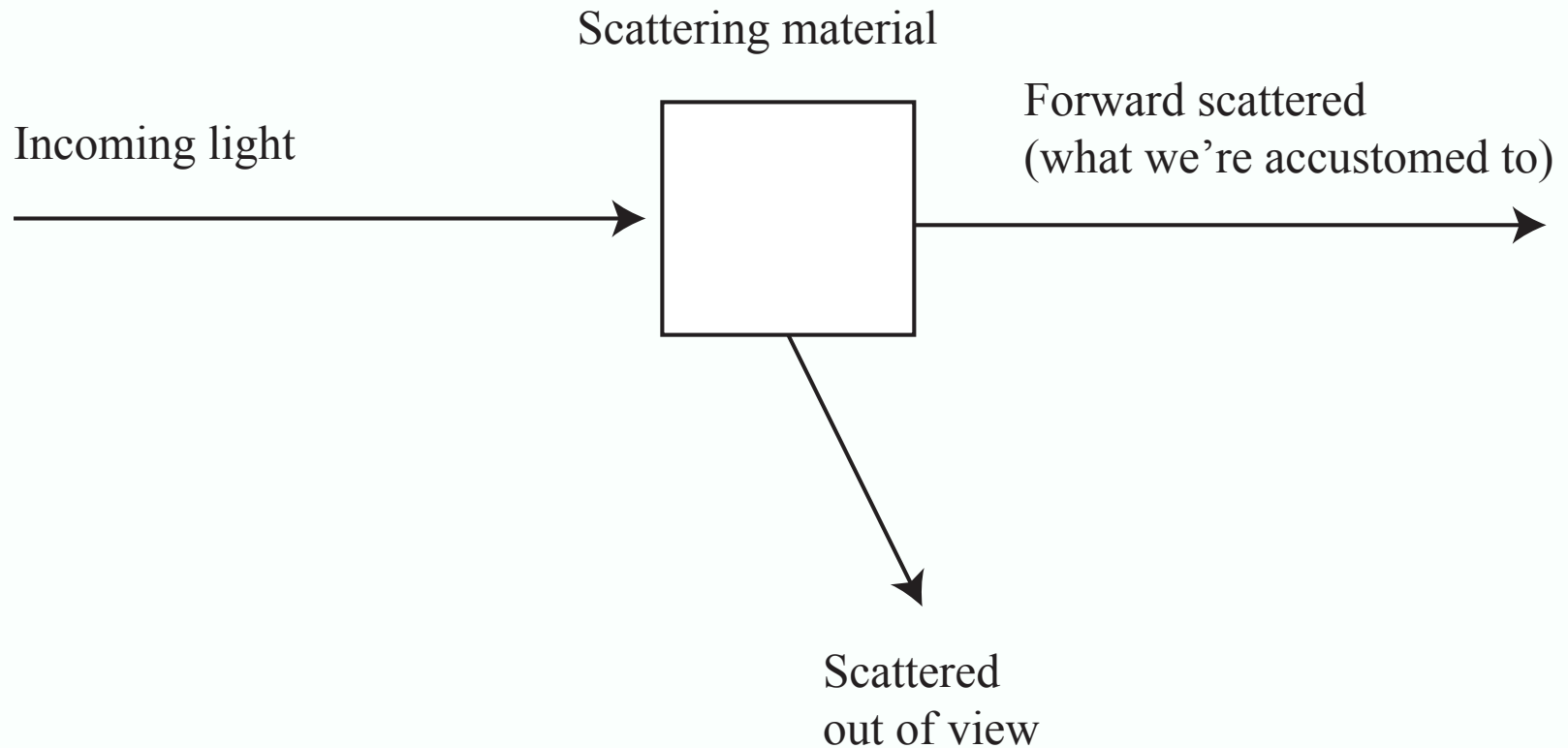
Scattering

- Fundamental mechanism of light/matter interactions
- Visually important for
 - slightly translucent materials (skin, milk, marble, etc.)
 - participating media
- In fact, it's the mechanism underlying reflection

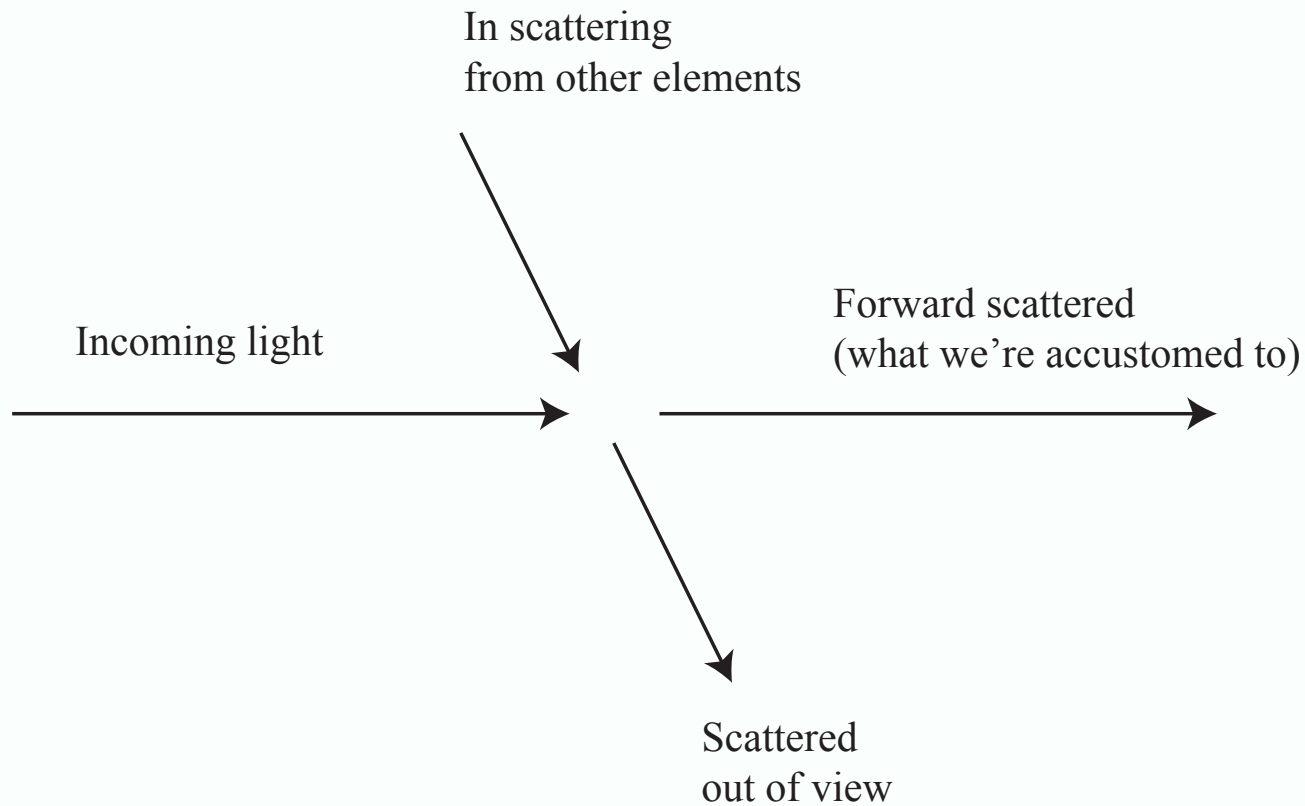
Participating media

- for example,
 - smoke,
 - wet air (mist, fog)
 - dusty air
 - air at long scales
- Light leaves/enters a ray travelling through space
 - leaves because it is scattered out
 - enters because it is scattered in
- New visual effects

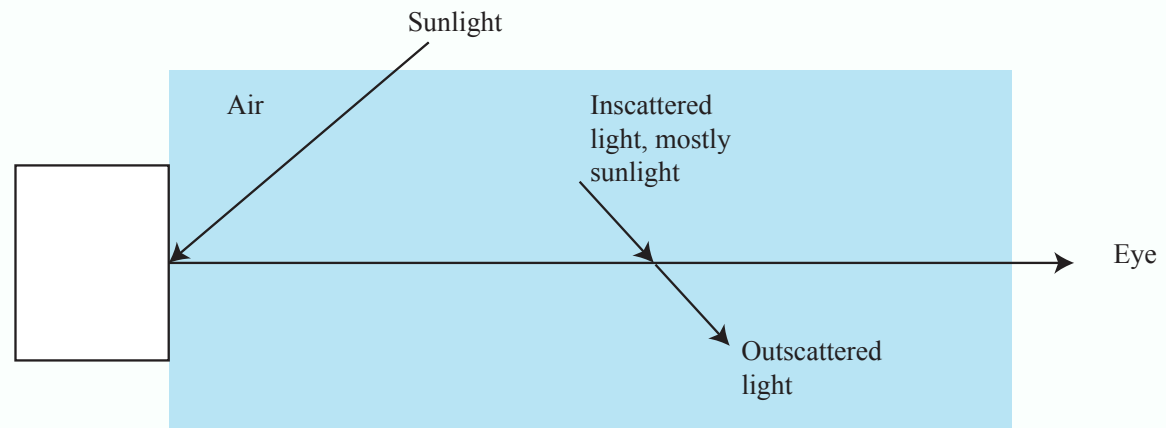
Light hits a small box of material



A ray passing through scattering material



Airlight as a scattering effect



original unique filename: 20180329-141700_baie_des_fourmis.jpg

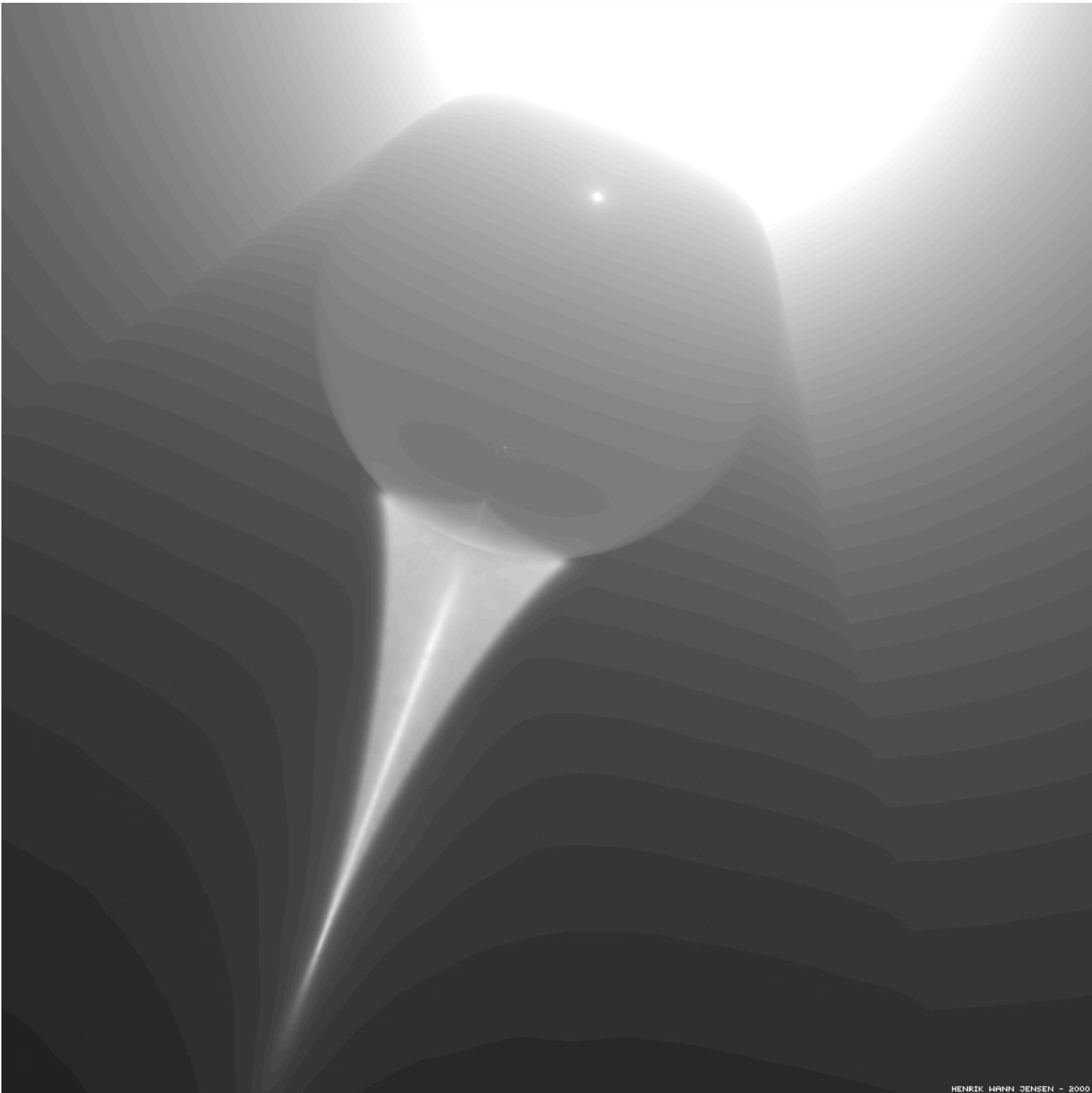


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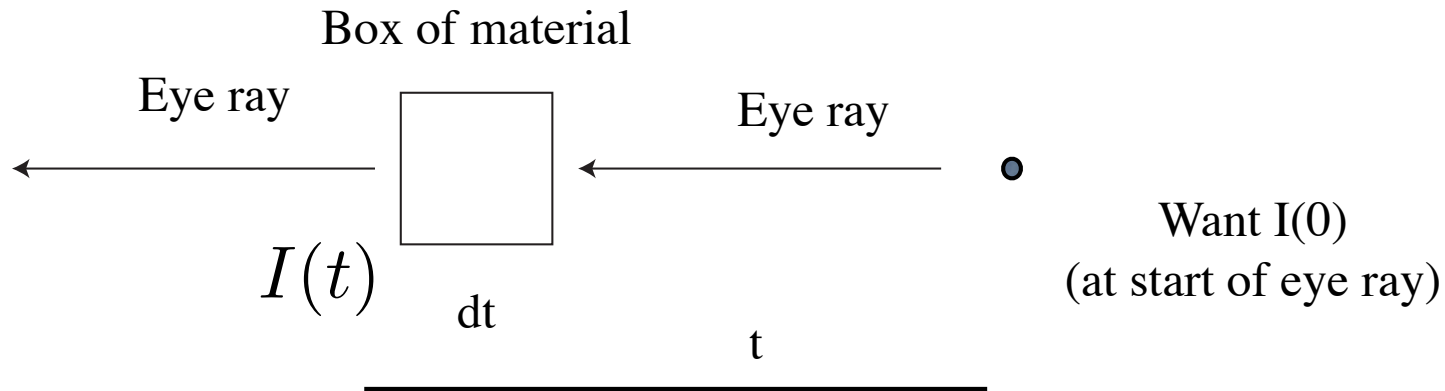
From Lynch and Livingstone, *Color and Light in Nature*



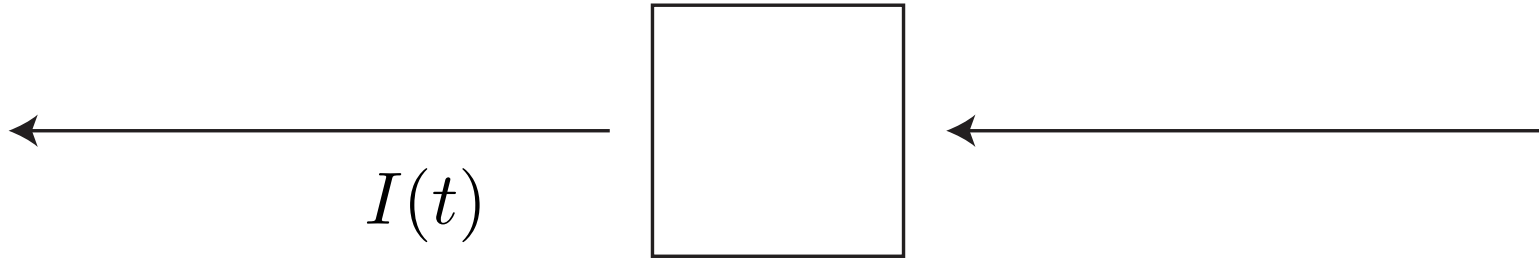


From Lynch and Livingstone, *Color and Light in Nature*

Rendering this



- Ignore in-scattering
 - only account for forward scattering
- Assume there is a source at $t=T$
 - of intensity $I(T)$
 - what do we see at $t=0$?



$$\begin{aligned}
 I(t - \delta t) &= I(t) - \delta I \\
 &= I(t) - \sigma(t)I(t)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \sigma(t)I(t)$$

$$\frac{d \log I}{dt} = \sigma(t)$$

$$I(T) = I(0)e^{\int_0^T \sigma(t) dt}$$

$$I(0) = I(T)e^{-\int_0^T \sigma(t) dt}$$

Yields

The volume density $\sigma(\mathbf{x})$ can be interpreted as the differential probability of a ray terminating at an infinitesimal particle at location \mathbf{x} . The expected color $C(\mathbf{r})$ of camera ray $\mathbf{r}(t) = \mathbf{o} + t\mathbf{d}$ with near and far bounds t_n and t_f is:

$$C(\mathbf{r}) = \int_{t_n}^{t_f} T(t)\sigma(\mathbf{r}(t))\mathbf{c}(\mathbf{r}(t), \mathbf{d})dt, \text{ where } T(t) = \exp\left(-\int_{t_n}^t \sigma(\mathbf{r}(s))ds\right). \quad (1)$$