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Image formation

- two components: geometry and radiometry
- geometry:
 - pinhole camera
 - point (x,y,z) in 3D scene projected into image pixel of coordinates (x', y')
 - according to the perspective projection equation:



Image formation

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- simplifying assumptions
- objects:
 - Lambertian surfaces: reflect light equally in all directions
 - reflections determined by albedo: ratio of reflected/incident light
- light sources:
 - point source @ infinity



- by the time they hit the object all rays are parallel
- single direction s of light for the whole scene



- radiometry equation:
- the power at pixel P_i is a function of
 - object properties (which?)
 - light source (which)
 - interaction between the two?



• radiometry equation:

$$P(P_i) = E\rho(P_0)\cos\theta$$

- the power at pixel P_i is the product of
 - source power E,
 - albedo of the object at reflection point,
 - and angle between source direction and object normal



• a rule for any number of bounces

 V_2

 P_1



 θ_2

V_o

 \mathbf{P}_{o}

 θ_1

Lambertian surfaces

note that on

$$P(P_n) = E\left[\prod_{i=0}^n \rho(P_i)\right]\left[\prod_{i=1}^{n+1} \cos \theta_i\right]$$

- unless all cosines are close to 1
- their product goes to zero quickly
- e.g. see decay of $\cos^{n}(\theta)$ with n
- this means that only light that arrives frontally to all the bounces gets propagated very far
- such an alignment is very unlikely
- we don't really have to worry about many bounces
- the process becomes tractable



In vector form

- note that
 - if *n* is the surface normal and *s* the light direction
 - the two vectors have unit norm
 - then $\cos \theta = \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{s}$ and



Lambertian surfaces

- note that
 - light direction s is constant
 - but the surface normal \boldsymbol{n} and the albedo ρ are functions on the object surface

$$P(P_i) = E\rho(P_0)\vec{n}(P_0).\vec{s}$$





- the amount of reflected light at P depends on the surface normal n(P)
- how do I compute this?
- first we note that a surface is a function of three variables

f(x,y,z)=0

 e.g., the sphere of radius r and center (x₀,y₀,z₀) is described by

$$(x-x_0)^2 + (y-y_0)^2 + (z-z_0)^2 - r^2 = 0$$



- the key is to note that
 - the normal is orthogonal to the surface
 - the surface is the set of points where the function f(x,y,z) is constant
 - to "walk" along the surface I "walk" along the set of points where f(x,y,z) stays constant

(infinitesimally, this is the plane tangent to the surface at P)



- to "walk" along the normal, I have to "walk" in the direction along which f(x,y,z) grows most quickly
- the key is then to find this direction of largest growth

- recall that
 - a scalar function grows the most when its derivative is largest
- the generalization to a multivariate function is the gradient

$$\nabla f = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}\right)^T$$

• *f* increases the most in the direction of its gradient



• hence,

"the normal to surface f(x,y,z) = 0 at point P is the gradient of f(x,y,z) evaluated at P"

- this is an important result that we will use many times in the course
- e.g. for the sphere of center (0,0,0)

$$\nabla f = 2(x, y, z)^T$$

and "the normal at point *P* is simply 2*P*"

• e.g.

n(1,0,0) = (2,0,0)



- note that this explains the shading of a sphere
 - we have seen a light source of direction s generates an image

$$I(P_0) = E\rho \left\langle \vec{n}(P_0), \vec{s} \right\rangle$$

 $\propto \left\langle \vec{n}(P_0), \vec{s} \right\rangle$

- for the sphere this is just

$$I(P_0) \propto \left\langle P_0, \vec{s} \right\rangle$$

"the dot product of **s** with **P**₀ itself"



- what about more complex objects?
 - we approximate by a triangle mesh
 - sample a number of points on the surface
 - there are computer graphics algorithms for doing this
 - approximate surface by the triangles that connect those points
 - the more triangles you use, the better the approximation





- how do I compute the normal to a triangle?
- use the fact that a triangle is a patch of a plane
- how do I
 - compute the normal to a plane?
 - know what is the plane associated with my triangle?
- Q1: a plane is a function of the form

$$ax + by + cz + d = 0$$

- this is the plane of parameters (a,b,c,d)

- in this case

$$f(x, y, z) = ax + by + cz + d$$

and

$$\nabla f(x, y, z) = (a, b, c)^T$$

- note that this tells us various things:
 - all points in the plane have the same normal
 - this is called the "normal to the plane"

$$\vec{n} = (a, b, c)^T$$



ax+by+cz+d=0

- the parameter d only has to do with the distance to the origin
- note that if (0,0,0) is on the plane, then d = 0, otherwise d = 0
- the normal and *d* fully specify the plane

plane =
$$\{P \mid \langle n, P \rangle = -d\}$$

- Q2: how do I know the plane associated with my triangle
 - note that triangle = 3 points, P_0 , P_1 , P_2
 - three points define a plane
 - we just have to solve the system of equations

$$\begin{cases} \left\langle n, P_0 \right\rangle = -d \\ \left\langle n, P_1 \right\rangle = -d \\ \left\langle n, P_2 \right\rangle = -d \end{cases}$$



- note that multiplying *n* and *d* by the same number does not change anything.
- need to enforce extra constraint that ||n|| = 1

example (from hw)

• three points

$$\begin{cases} \left\langle n, (0, 1, 1) \right\rangle = -d \\ \left\langle n, (0, 0, 1) \right\rangle = -d \\ \left\langle n, (1, 0, 2) \right\rangle = -d \end{cases}$$
$$\begin{cases} b = -d - c \\ b \end{cases}$$



$$\begin{cases} b = -d - c \\ c = -d \\ a = -d - 2c \end{cases} \begin{cases} b = 0 \\ c = -d \\ a = d \end{cases}$$

• leads to the plane equation

$$dx - dz = -d \iff z = x + 1$$

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Planes

• for a plane our radiometry equation

$$P(P_i) = E\rho(P_0)\vec{n}(P_0).\vec{s}$$

• simplifies to

$$P(P_i) = E\langle \vec{n}, \vec{s} \rangle \rho(P_0)$$

 $\propto \rho(P_0)$

- this means that (constant) shading is uniform
- the variations that we see are variations in albedo



Meshes

- for a mesh
 - this holds for each triangle

$$P(P_i) = E\left\langle \vec{n}, \vec{s} \right\rangle \rho(P_0)$$

- but <*n*,*s*> changes from triangle to triangle (different normals)
- hence, we can still have complex shading effects as the number of triangles increases





- in summary, we can do a lot with our simplistic model
 - Lambertian surfaces
 - point source @ infinity

$$P(P_i) = E\rho(P_0)\cos\theta$$



 turns out that we can work with much more complex light sources

Multiple light sources

• the key insight that the equation is linear on s

$$P(P_i) = E\rho(P_0) \langle \vec{n}(P_0), \vec{s} \rangle$$

if we have *n* PS @ infinity, we can just assume that
s = s₁ + ...+ s_n

$$P = E\rho(P_0) \left\langle \vec{n}(P_0), \sum_k \vec{s}_k \right\rangle$$
$$= \sum_k E\rho(P_0) \left\langle \vec{n}(P_0), \vec{s}_k \right\rangle = \sum_i P_k$$

• resulting image is sum of the images due to each source

• we start from this image



adding this





• we get the image lit by two light sources



adding this





• we get the image lit by the three light sources





adding this



• we get the image lit by the four light sources



Demos

• other possible patterns





Demos

• From these I can create a movie



• and this happens in the real world too

(note combo of geometry and radiometry)



- and what about fluorescent lights, etc.?
- is this still a point source?
- no, but an infinitesimal patch is



- the patch dA is a point source
- we work with the power density, instead of power



e.g. dA, centered at x, emits density *E(x)dA* in its normal direction *s(x)*

 the contribution of patch centered at x to the power that hits object point P₀ is

$$P(x) = E(x)\rho(P_0) \langle \vec{n}(P_0), s(x) \rangle dA$$

to compute the overall power, due to all patches, we simply integrate

$$P = \int_{A} E(x) \rho(P_0) \langle \vec{n}(P_0), s(x) \rangle dA$$

and by linearity of the dot product

$$P = \rho(P_0) \left\langle \vec{n}(P_0), \int_A E(x) s(x) dA \right\rangle$$



we thus have

$$P = \rho(P_0) \left\langle \vec{n}(P_0), \int_A E(x) s(x) dA \right\rangle$$

- note that the integral does not depend on P₀
- this is the same as computing

$$\vec{E} = \int_{A} E(x, y, z) \vec{s}(x, y, x) dx dy dz$$



(which is a 3D vector) and assuming a point source of magnitude E' = ||E|| and unit direction s' = E/||E||

In summary

• geometry





radiometry



