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# CS380: Computer Graphics Illumination

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**Sung-Eui Yoon**  
(윤성의)

**Course URL:**  
<http://sgvr.kaist.ac.kr/~sungeui/CG/>

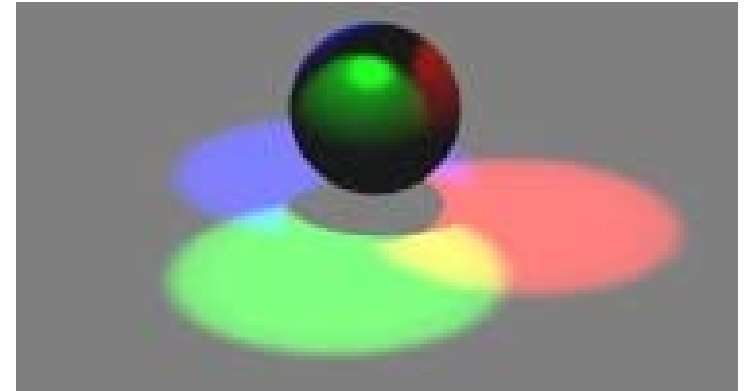
**KAIST**

The KAIST logo consists of the word "KAIST" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below the text is a horizontal blue oval shape that tapers at both ends, serving as a shadow or underline for the text.

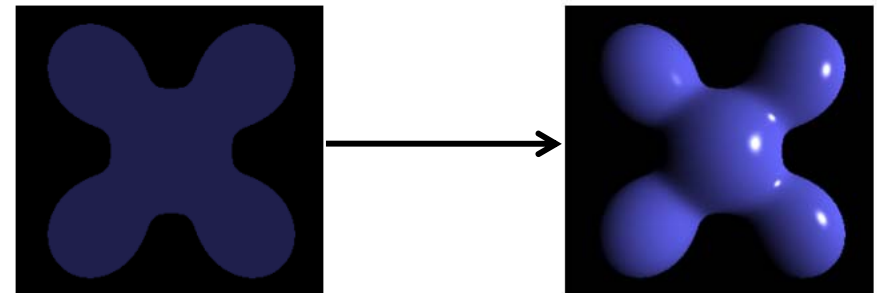
# Course Objectives (Ch. 8)

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- **Know how to consider lights during rendering models**
  - **Light sources**
  - **Illumination models**



- **At the last class:**
  - **Studied triangle rasterization using edge-equations**
  - **Discussed mechanics for parameter interpolations**



# Questions

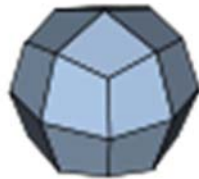
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- According to the pictures covered in the lectures, all kinds of structures, including those with very **complex shapes, appear to be composed of numerous triangles**. But do we have to use many triangles to represent a huge sphere? Since the perfect sphere is uniquely determined by its center and radius, I think it's **very inefficient to split the sphere into triangles and apply rasterization**.

# Subdivision Meshes (Catmull-Clark Surface)

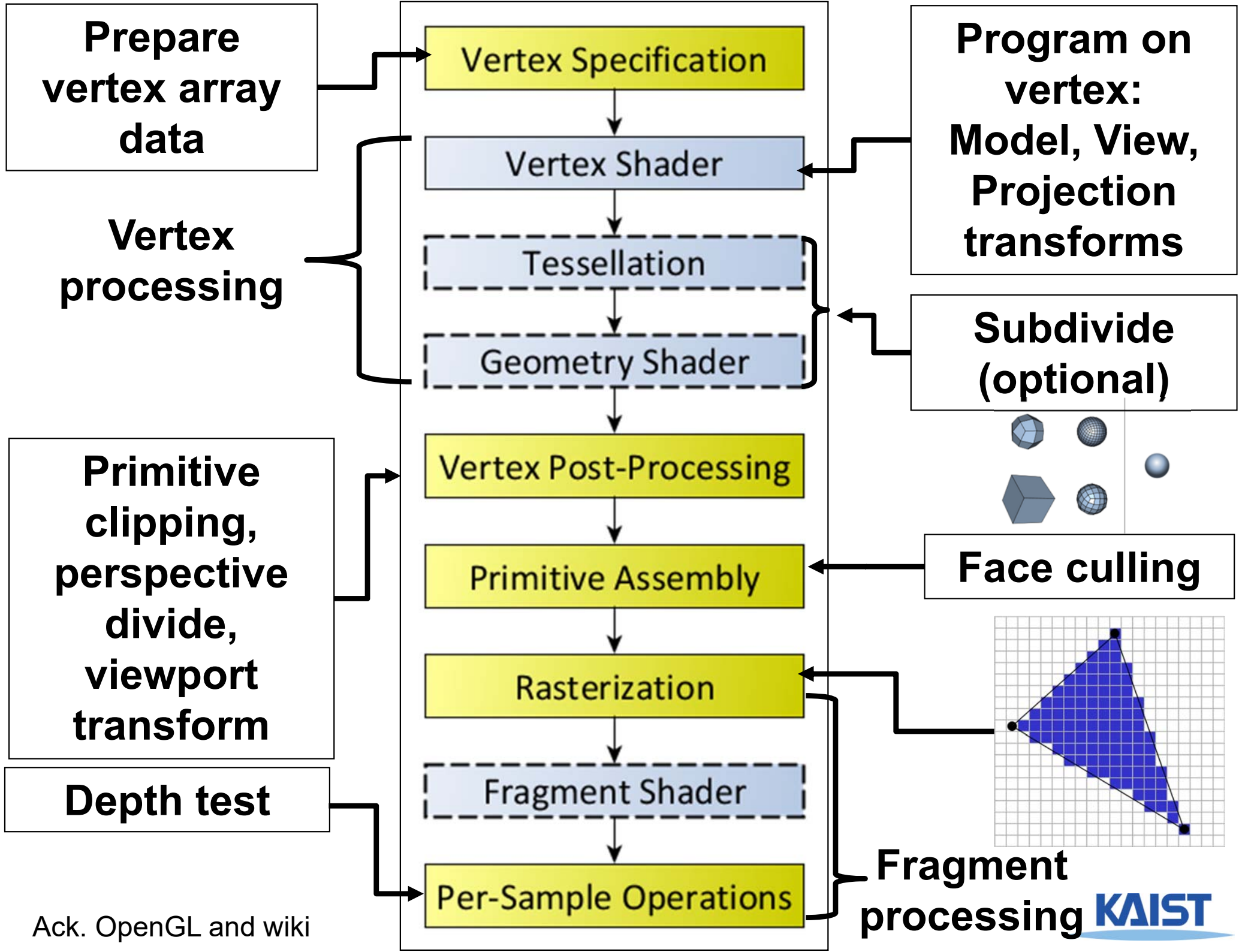
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- Provides infinite resolution for achieving smooth surfaces



Catmull–Clark level-3 subdivision of a cube with the limit subdivision surface shown below (wiki)



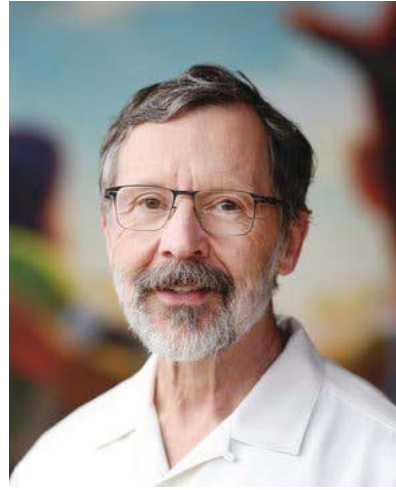


Ack. OpenGL and wiki

# ***Pixar Pioneers Win \$1 Million Turing Award, 2020***

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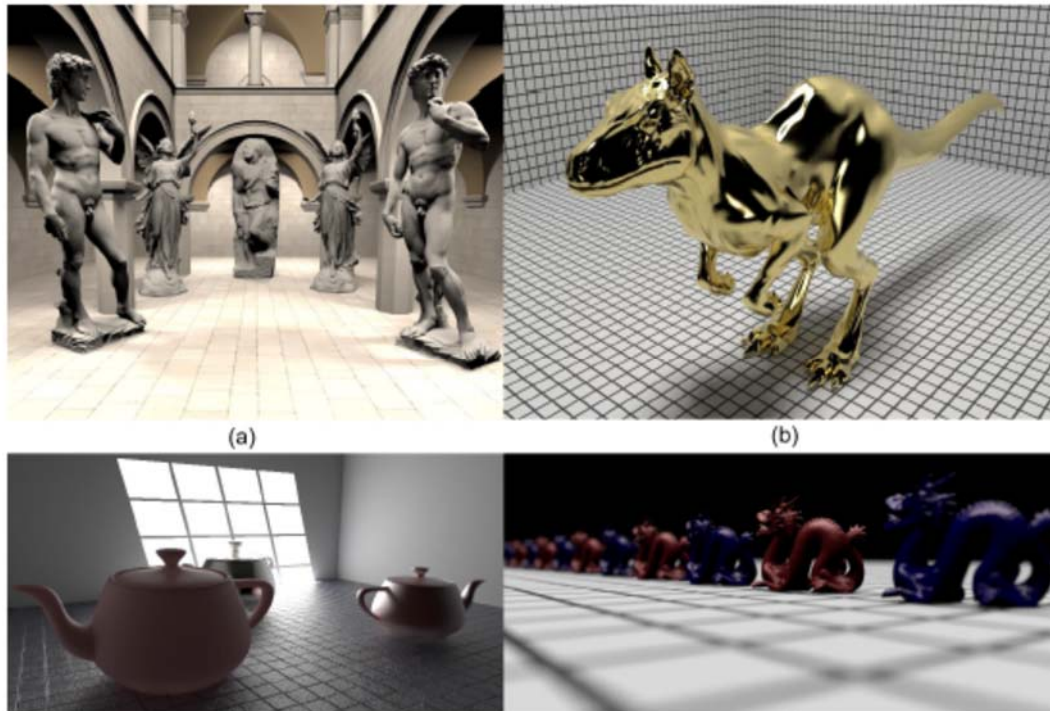
- **From NYTimes**





# Subdivision Meshes (Catmull-Clark Surface)

- Provides infinite resolution for achieving smooth surfaces
  - TSS BVHs: Tetrahedron Swept Sphere BVHs for Ray Tracing Subdivision Surfaces, Pacific Graphics, 2016



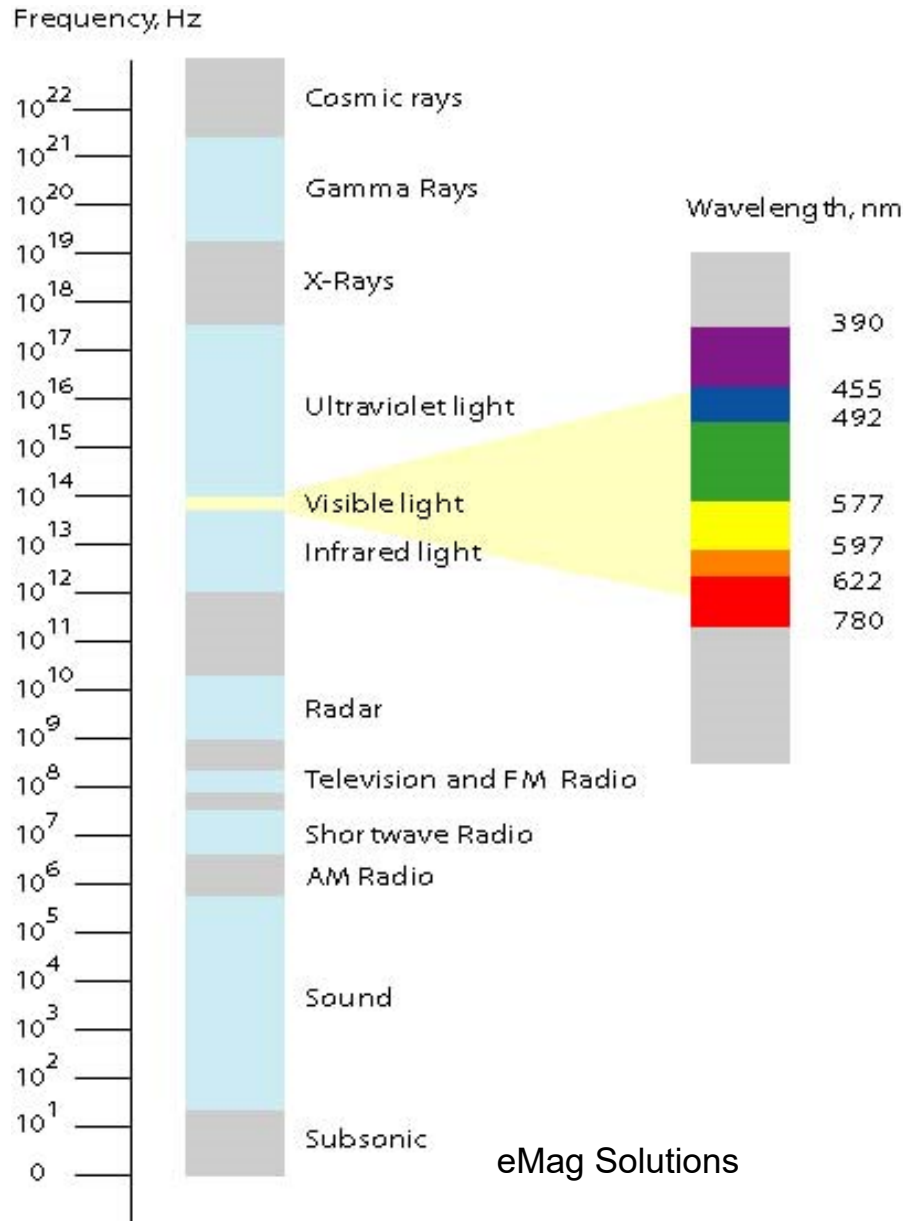
# Question: How Can We See Objects?

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- Emission and *reflection!*

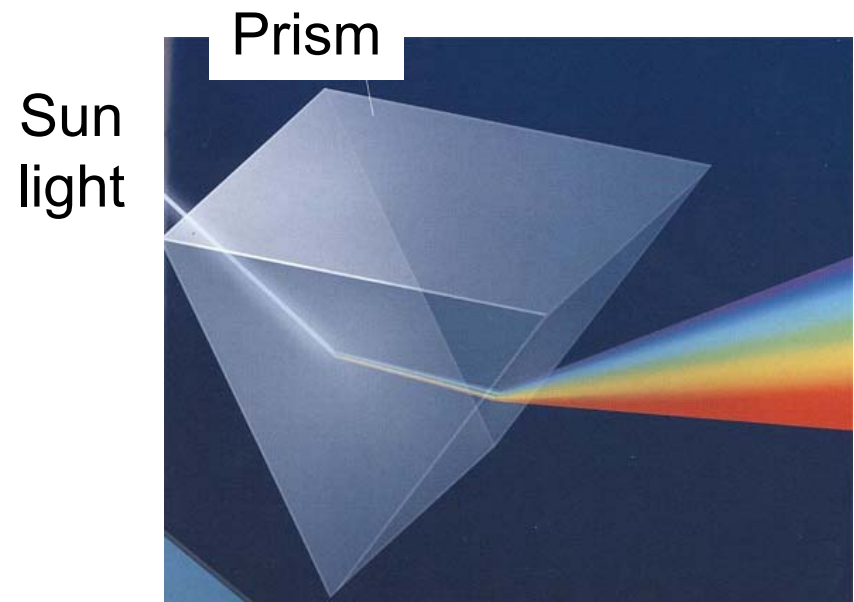


# Question: How Can We See Objects?



eMag Solutions

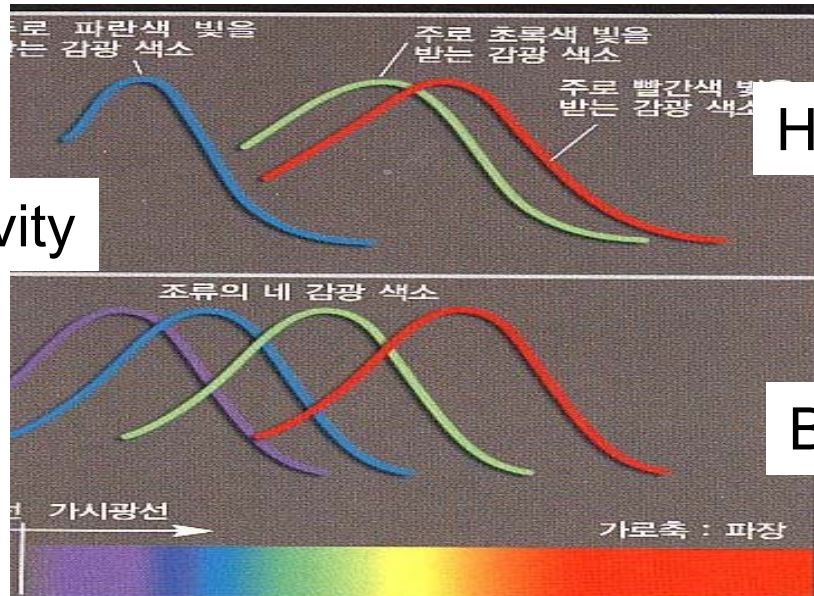
**Light**  
(sub-class of  
electromagnetic waves)



From Newton magazine

# Question: How Can We See Objects?

Sensitivity



Human

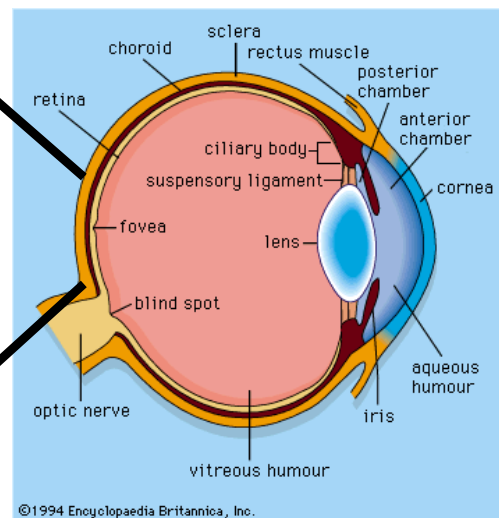
Birds

Light  
(sub-class of  
electromagnetic waves)

Rod and cone



From Newton magazine

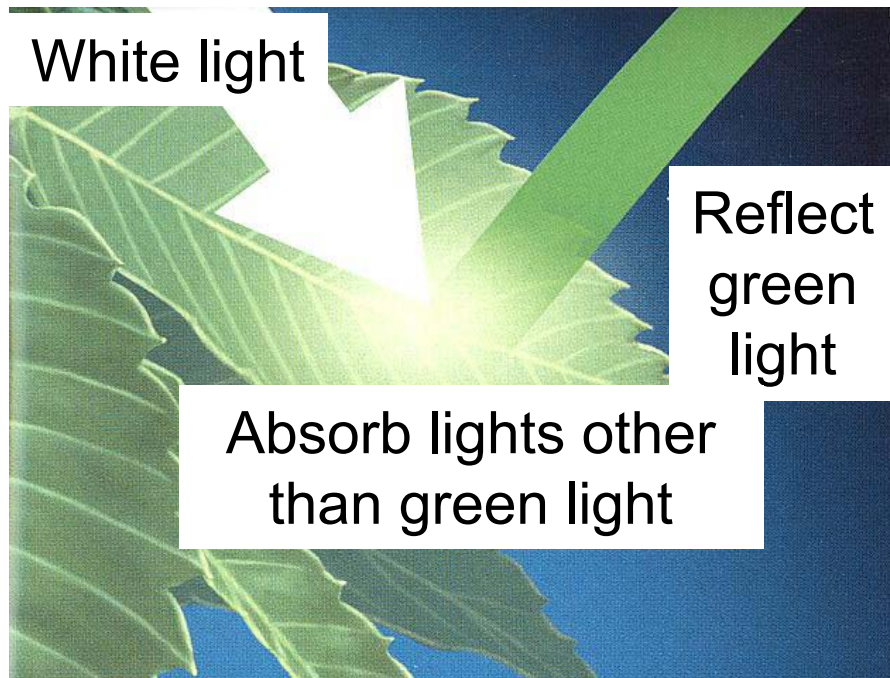


Eye

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# Question: How Can We See Objects?

- Emission and *reflection!*



From Newton magazine

Light  
(sub-class of  
electromagnetic waves)

Eye

- How about mirrors and white papers?

# Illumination Models

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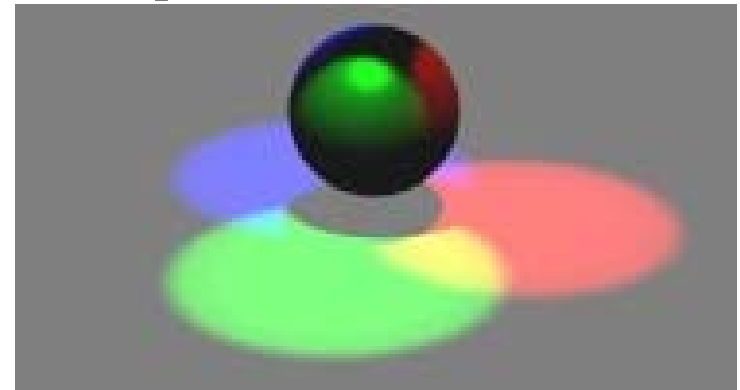
- **Physically-based**
  - **Models based on the actual physics of light's interactions with matter**
- **Empirical**
  - **Simple formulations that approximate observed phenomenon**
- **Used to use many empirical models, but move towards using physically-based models**

# Two Components of Illumination

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- **Light sources:**

- **Emittance spectrum (color)**
- **Geometry (position and direction)**
- **Directional attenuation**



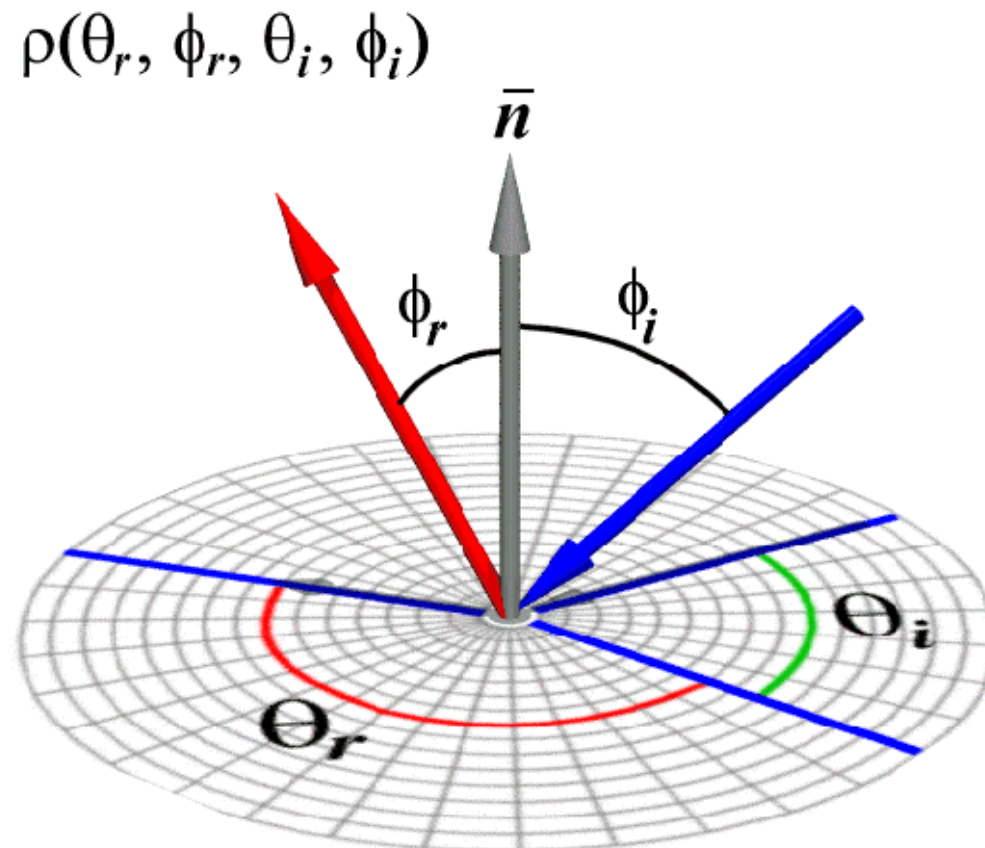
- **Surface properties:**

- **Reflectance spectrum (color)**
- **Geometry (position, orientation, and micro-structure)**
- **Absorption**



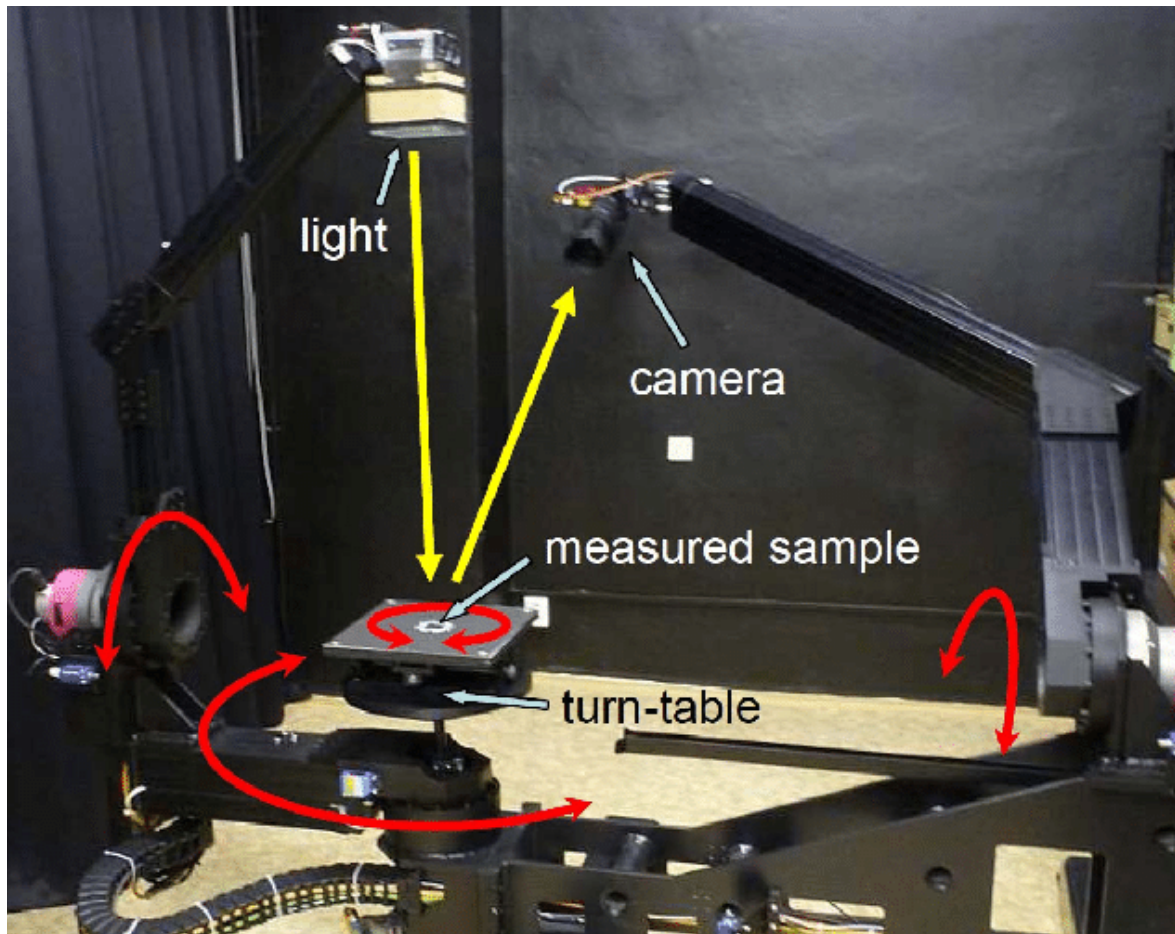
# Bi-Directional Reflectance Distribution Function (BRDF)

- Describes the transport from incoming energy to outgoing energy, i.e., radiance



# Measuring BRDFs

- **Gonioreflectometer**
  - **One 4D measurement at a time (slow)**





# How to use BRDF Data?

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Nickel

Hematite



Gold Paint

Pink Felt

*One can make direct use of acquired BRDFs  
in a renderer*

# Two Components of Illumination

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- **Simplifications used by most computer graphics systems:**
  - **Compute only direct illumination from the emitters to the reflectors of the scene**
  - **Ignore the geometry of light emitters, and consider only the geometry of reflectors**

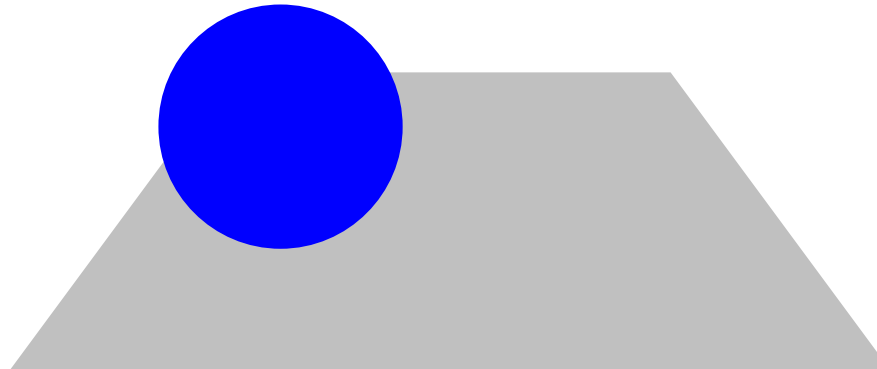
# Ambient Light Source

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- A simple hack for indirect illumination
  - Incoming ambient illumination ( $I_{i,a}$ ) is constant for all surfaces in the scene
  - Reflected ambient illumination ( $I_{r,a}$ ) depends only on the surface's ambient reflection coefficient ( $k_a$ ) and not its position or orientation

$$I_{r,a} = k_a I_{i,a}$$

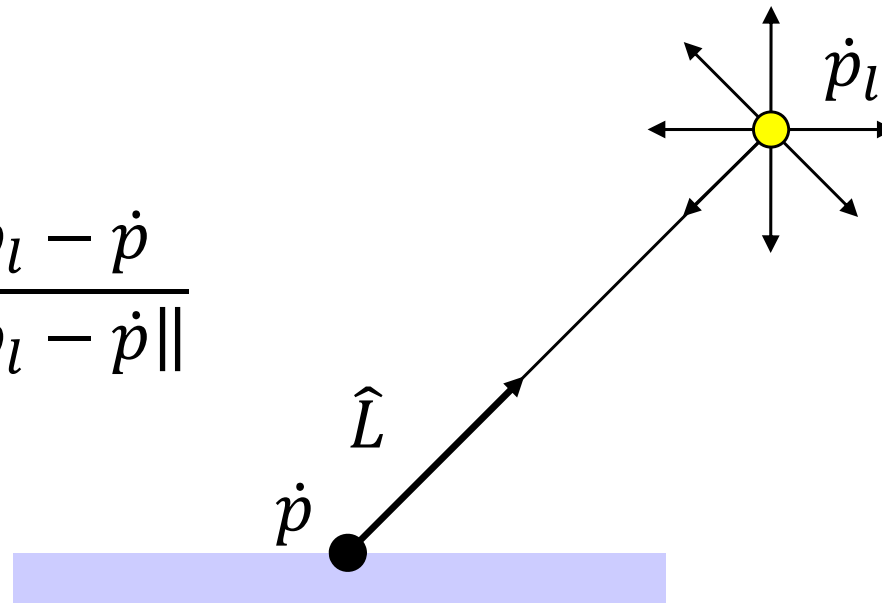
- These quantities typically specified as (R, G, B) triples



# Point Light Sources

- **Point light sources emit rays from a single point**
  - **Simple approximation to a local light source such as a light bulb**

$$\hat{L} = \frac{\dot{p}_l - \dot{p}}{\|\dot{p}_l - \dot{p}\|}$$

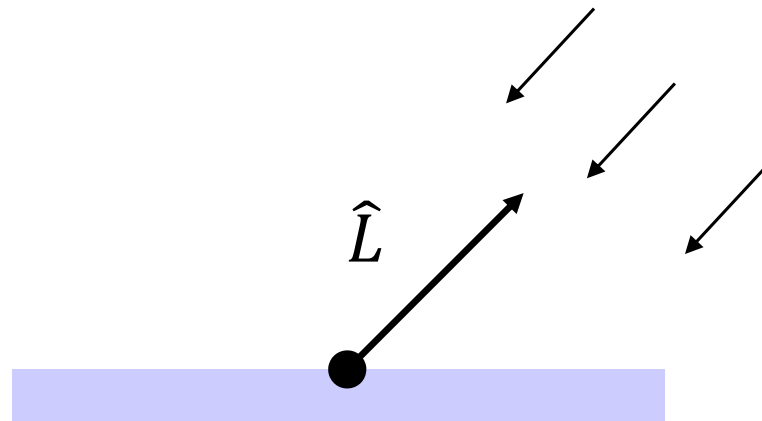


- **The direction to the light changes across the surface**

# Directional Light Sources

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- **Light rays are parallel and have no origin**
  - Can be considered as a point light at infinity
  - A good approximation for sunlight

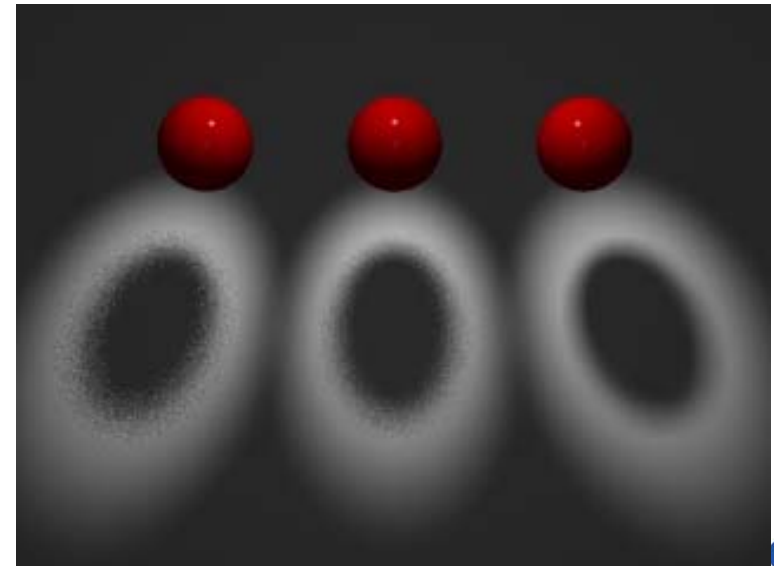
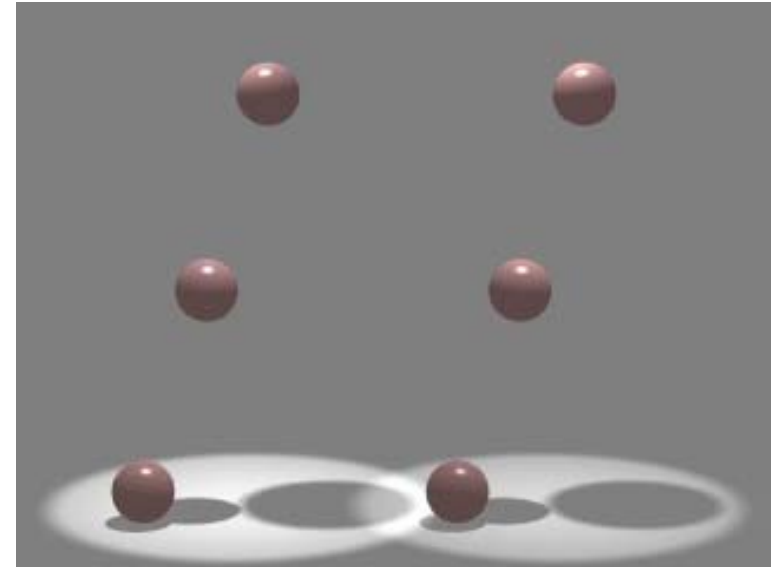


- **The direction to the light source is constant over the surface**
- **How can we specify point and directional lights?**

# Other Light Sources

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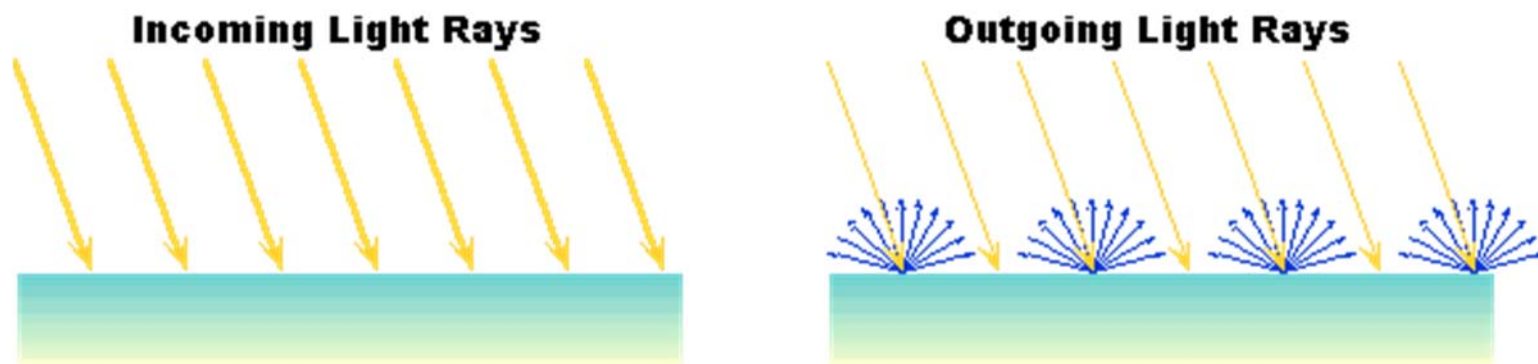
- **Spotlights**
  - **Point source whose intensity falls off away from a given direction**
- **Area light sources**
  - **Occupies a 2D area (e.g. a polygon or a disk)**
  - **Generates *soft* shadows**



# Ideal Diffuse Reflection

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- **Ideal diffuse reflectors (e.g., chalk)**
  - Reflect uniformly over the hemisphere
  - Reflection is view-independent
  - Very rough at the microscopic level
- **Follow Lambert's cosine law**

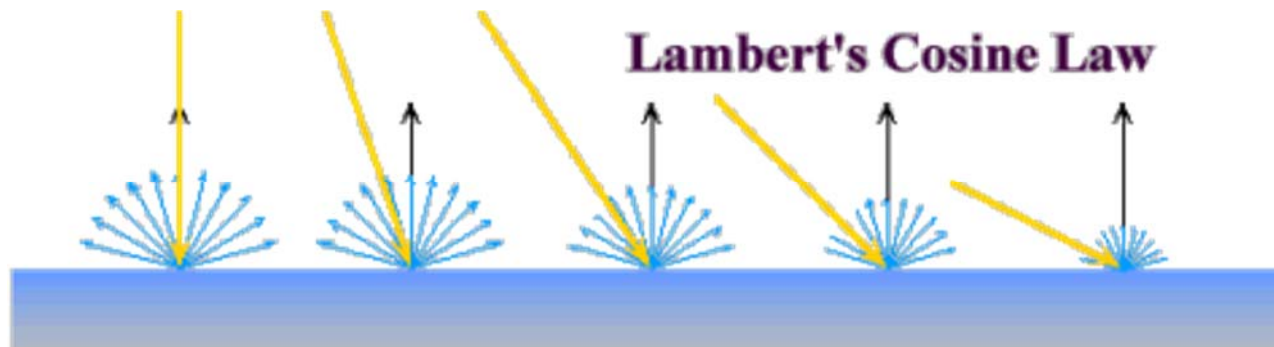
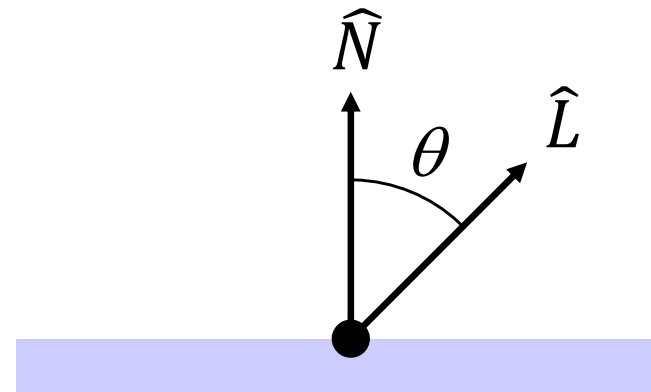




# Lambert's Cosine Law

- The reflected energy from a small surface area from illumination arriving from direction  $\hat{L}$  is proportional to the cosine of the angle between  $\hat{L}$  and the surface normal

$$I_r \approx I_i \cos \theta \\ \approx I_i (\hat{N} \cdot \hat{L})$$



# Computing Diffuse Reflection

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- **Constant of proportionality depends on surface properties**

$$I_{r,d} = k_d I_i (\hat{N} \cdot \hat{L})$$

- **The constant  $k_d$  specifies how much of the incident light  $I_i$  is diffusely reflected**



Diffuse reflection for varying light directions

- **When  $(\hat{N} \cdot \hat{L}) < 0$  the incident light is blocked by the surface itself and the diffuse reflection is 0**

# Specular Reflection

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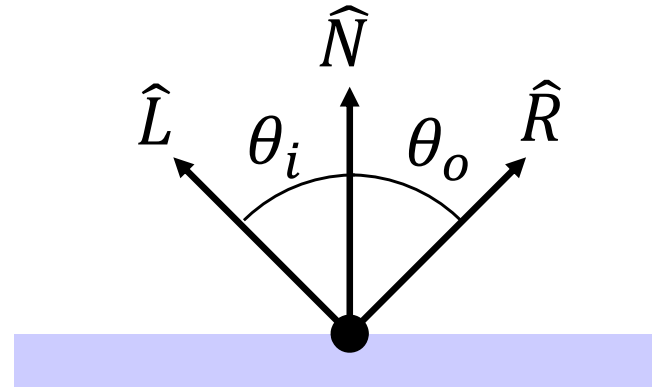
- **Specular reflectors have a bright, view dependent highlight**
  - E.g., polished metal, glossy car finish, a mirror
  - At the microscopic level a specular reflecting surface is very smooth
  - Specular reflection obeys **Snell's law**



# Snell's Law

- The relationship between the angles of the incoming and reflected rays with the normal is given by:

$$n_i \sin\theta_i = n_o \sin\theta_o$$



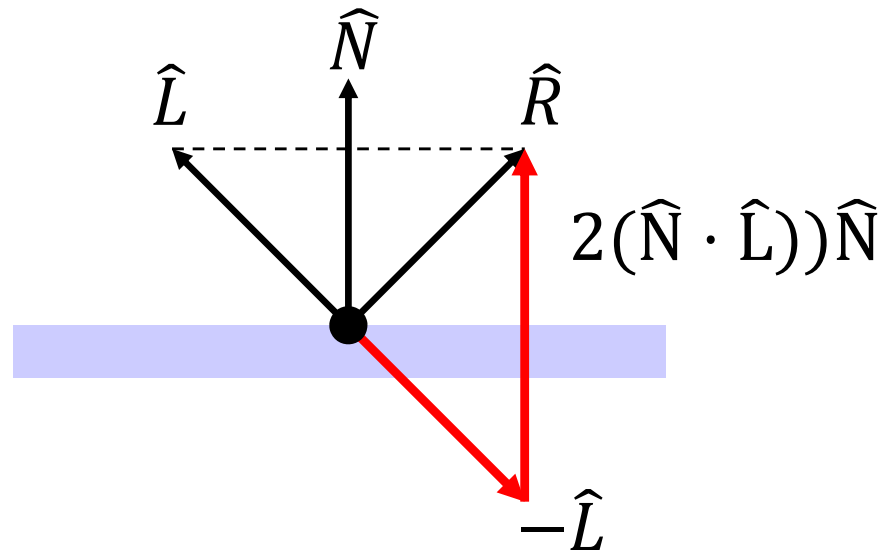
- $n_i$  and  $n_o$  are the indices of refraction for the incoming and outgoing ray, respectively
- Reflection is a special case where  $n_i = n_o$  so  $\theta_o = \theta_i$
- The incoming ray, the surface normal, and the reflected ray all lie in a common plane

# Computing the Reflection Vector

- The vector  $\hat{R}$  can be computed from the incoming light direction and the surface normal as shown below:

$$\hat{R} = (2(\hat{N} \cdot \hat{L}))\hat{N} - \hat{L}$$

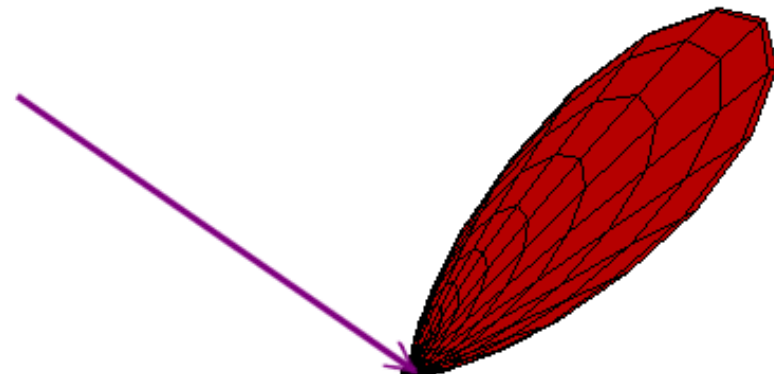
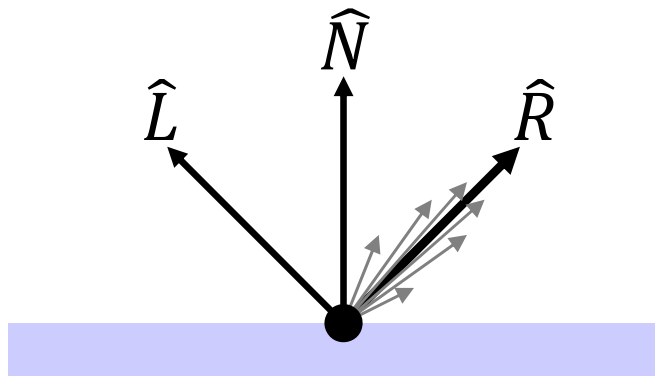
- How?



# Non-Ideal Reflectors

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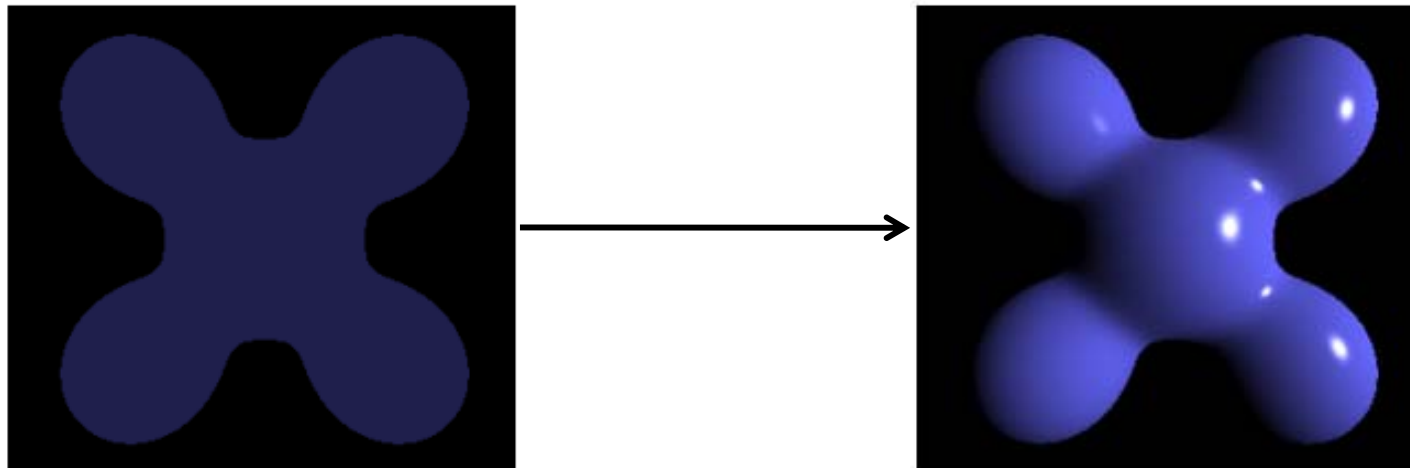
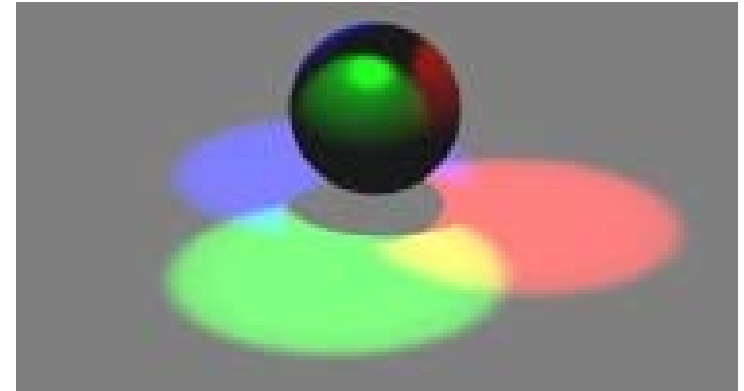
- **Snell's law applies only to *ideal* specular reflectors**
  - **Roughness of surfaces causes highlight to "spread out"**
  - **Empirical models try to simulate the appearance of this effect, without trying to capture the physics of it**



# Course Objectives were:

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- **Know how to consider lights during rendering models**
  - **Light sources**
  - **Ambient, diffuse, and ideal specular terms**





# Homework

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- **Go over the next lecture slides before the class**
- **Watch 2 SIGGRAPH videos and submit your summaries before every Mon. class**
  - **Just one paragraph for each summary**
- **Submit questions two times during the whole semester**

# Next Time

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- **Putting them all together**
- **Shading**