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# CS482: Acceleration Methods for MC Ray Tracing:

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**KAIST**

The KAIST logo consists of the letters 'KAIST' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below the text is a light blue, horizontal oval shape that serves as a shadow or base for the letters.

# Questions

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- **Why is the increase of variance not a problem in russian roulette?**
- **If many object have high reflectance in scene, will the performance of Russian Roulette decrease? For example, If room have many mirrors, can an infinity loop appear in recursion?**

# Student Presentation Guidelines

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- **Good summary, not full detail, of the paper**
  - **Talk about motivations of the work**
  - **Give a broad background on the related work**
  - **Explain main idea and results of the paper**
  - **Discuss strengths and weaknesses of the method**
- **Prepare an overview slide**
  - **Talk about most important things and connect them well**

# High-Level Ideas

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- **Deliver most important ideas and results**
  - Do not talk about minor details
  - Give enough background instead
- **Deeper understanding on a paper is required**
  - Go over at least two related papers and explain them in a few slides
- **Spend most time to figure out the most important things and prepare good slides for them**

# Deliver Main Ideas of the Paper

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- **Identify main ideas/contributions of the paper and deliver them**
- **If there are prior techniques that you need to understand, study those prior techniques and explain them**
  - **For example, A paper utilizes B's technique in its main idea. In this case, you need to explain B to explain A well.**

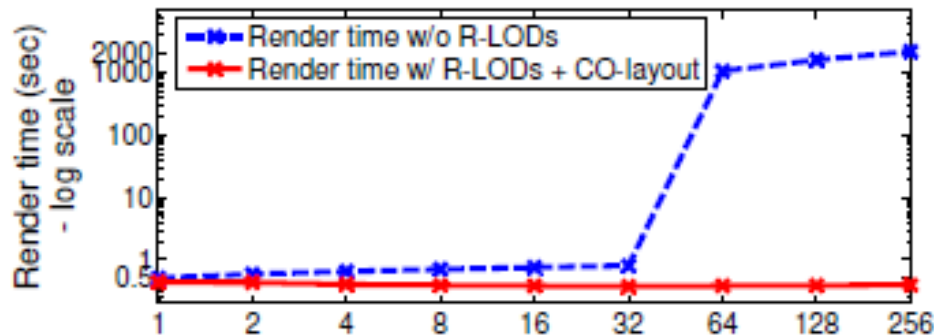
# Be Honest

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- **Do not skip important ideas that you don't know**
  - **Explain as much as you know and mention that you don't understand some parts**
- **If you get questions you don't know good answers, just say it**
  - **You need to explain them at KLMS board**

# Result Presentation

- Give full experiment settings and present data with the related information
  - What does the x-axis mean in the below image?



- After showing the data, give a message that we can pull of the data
- Show images/videos, if there are

# Utilizing Existing Resources

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- **Use author's slides, codes, and video, if they exist**
- **Give proper credits or citations**
  - **Without them, you are cheating!**



# Audience feedback form

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Date:

Talk title:

Speaker:

1. Was the talk well organized and well prepared?

5: Excellent      4: good      3: okay      2: less than average      1: poor

2. Was the talk comprehensible? How well were important concepts covered?

5: Excellent      4: good      3: okay      2: less than average      1: poor

Any comments to the speaker

# As an Evaluator

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- **Evaluate in an objective manner**
- **Do not rank talks; just focus on each talk**

# Prepare Quiz

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- **Review most important concepts of your talk**
  - **Prepare two multiple-choices questions**
- **Example: What is the biased algorithm?**
  - **A: Given  $N$  samples, the expected mean of the estimator is  $I$**
  - **B: Given  $N$  samples, the exp. Mean of the estimator is  $I + e$**
  - **C: Given  $N$  samples, the exp. Mean of the estimator is  $I + e$ , where  $e$  goes to zero, as  $N$  goes to infinite**
- **Grade them in the scale of 0 to 10 and send it to TA**

# Class Objectives

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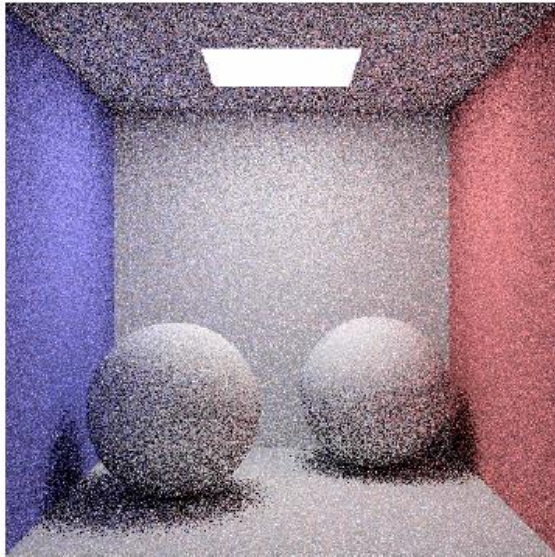
- **Discuss acceleration methods for GI**
  - **Importance sampling, bidirectional path tracing, and Metropolis**
- **Study biased techniques**
  - **Irradiance caching and photon mapping**
- **Last time:**
  - **Path tracing, a basic structure of Monte Carlo ray tracing including Russian roulette**

# Algorithm so far: Path tracing

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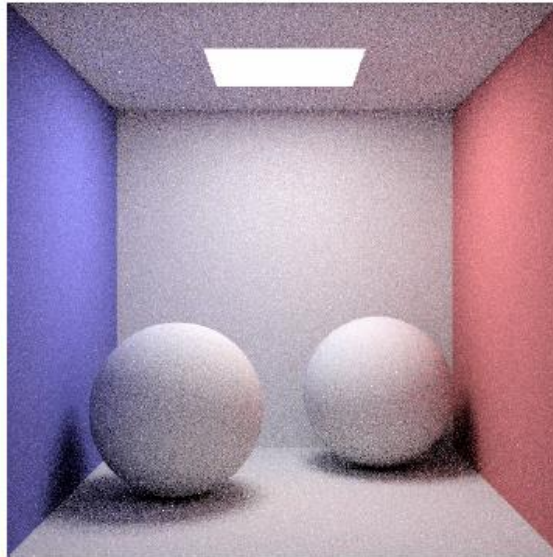
- Shoot primary rays through each pixel
- Shoot indirect rays, sampled over hemisphere
  - Path tracing shoots only 1 indirect ray
- Terminate recursion using Russian Roulette

# Path Tracing

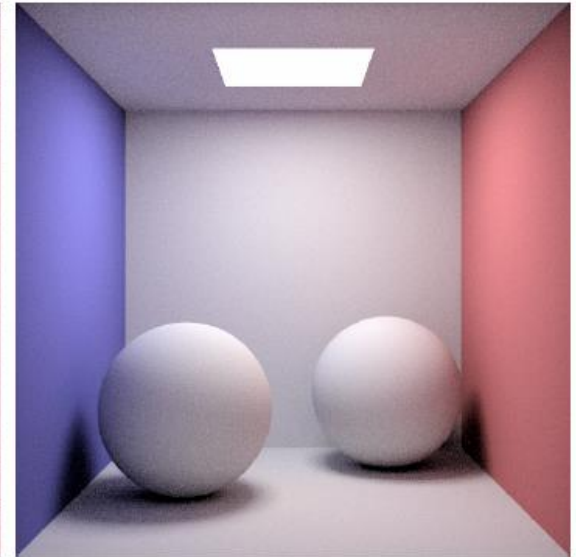


1 spp

(samples per pixel)



4 spp



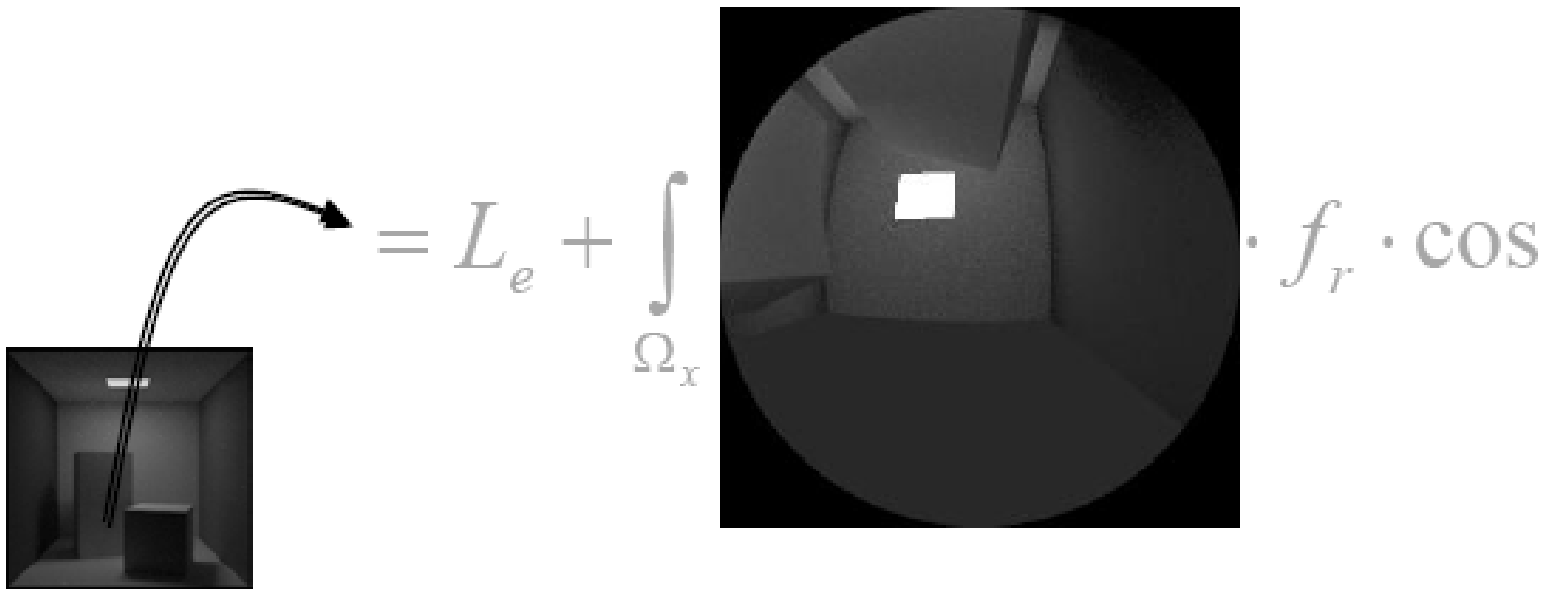
16 spp

- **Pixel sampling + light source sampling folded into one method**

# Importance Sampling

$$L(x \rightarrow \Theta) = L_e(x \rightarrow \Theta) + \int_{\Omega_x} f_r(\Psi \leftrightarrow \Theta) \cdot L(x \leftarrow \Psi) \cdot \cos(\Psi, n_x) \cdot d\omega_\Psi$$

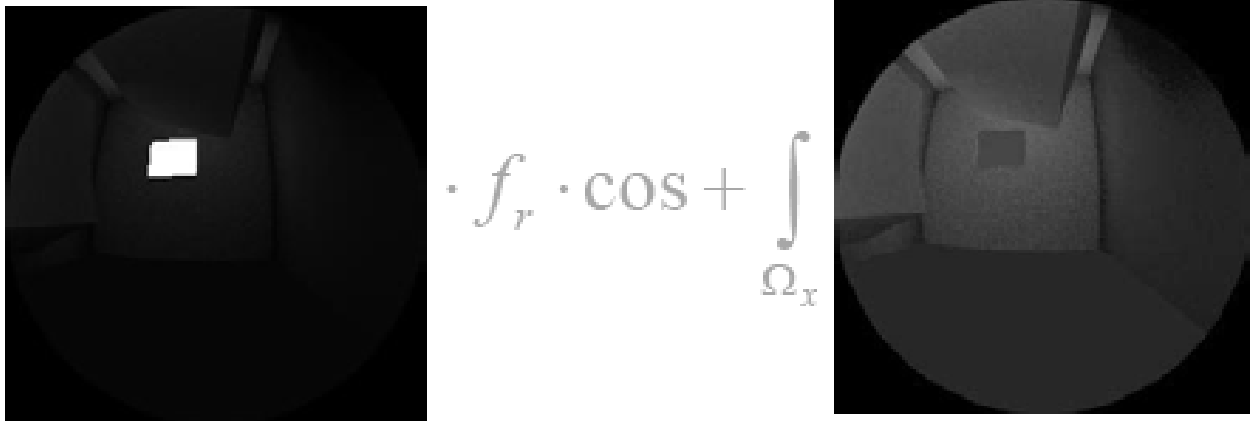
Radiance from light sources + radiance from other surfaces



# Importance Sampling

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$$L(x \rightarrow \Theta) = L_e + L_{direct} + L_{indirect}$$

$$= L_e + \int_{\Omega_x} \text{img}_1 \cdot f_r \cdot \cos + \int_{\Omega_x} \text{img}_2 \cdot f_r \cdot \cos$$


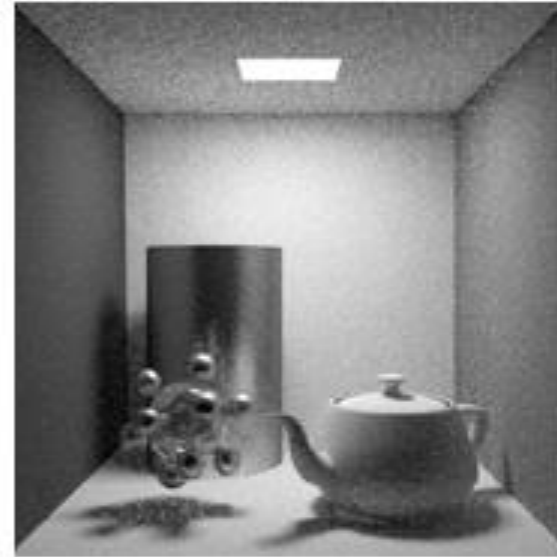
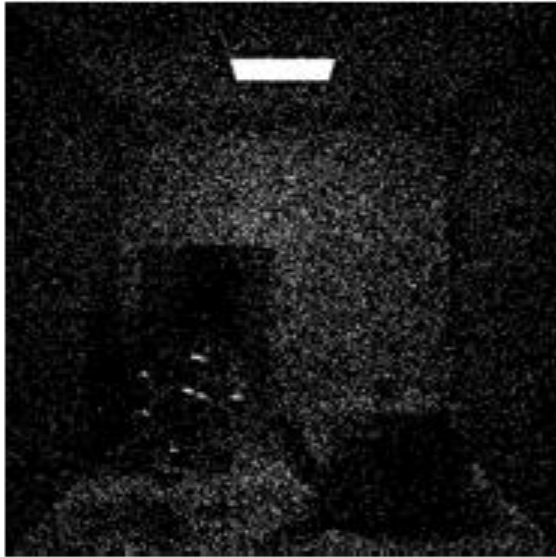
- So ... sample direct and indirect with separate MC integration





# Comparison

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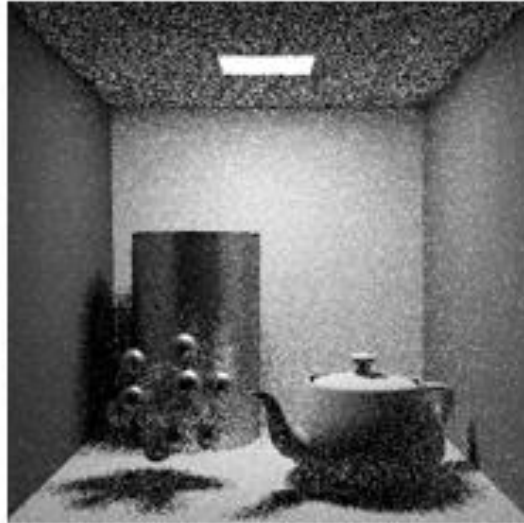
From kavita's slides

- **With and without considering direct illumination**
  - **16 samples / pixel**

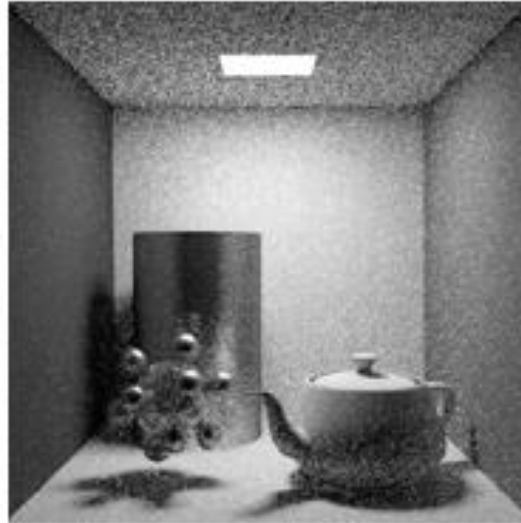
# Rays per pixel

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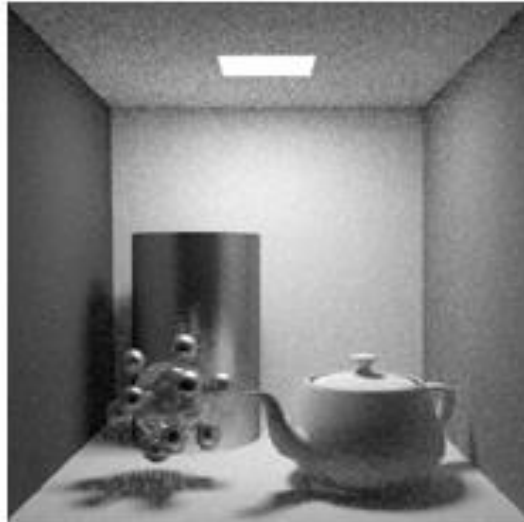
1 sample/  
pixel



4 samples/  
pixel



16 samples/  
pixel



256 samples/  
pixel



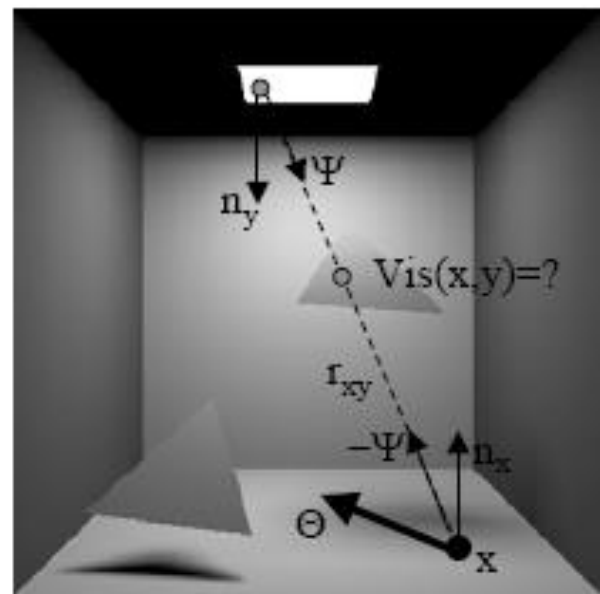
# Direct Illumination

$$L(x \rightarrow \Theta) = \int_{A_{source}} f_r(x, -\Psi \leftrightarrow \Theta) \cdot L(y \rightarrow \Psi) \cdot G(x, y) \cdot dA_y$$

$$G(x, y) = \frac{\cos(n_x, \Theta) \cos(n_y, \Psi) \text{Vis}(x, y)}{r_{xy}^2}$$



hemisphere integration



area integration



# Estimator for direct lighting

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- Pick a point on the light's surface with pdf

$$p(y)$$

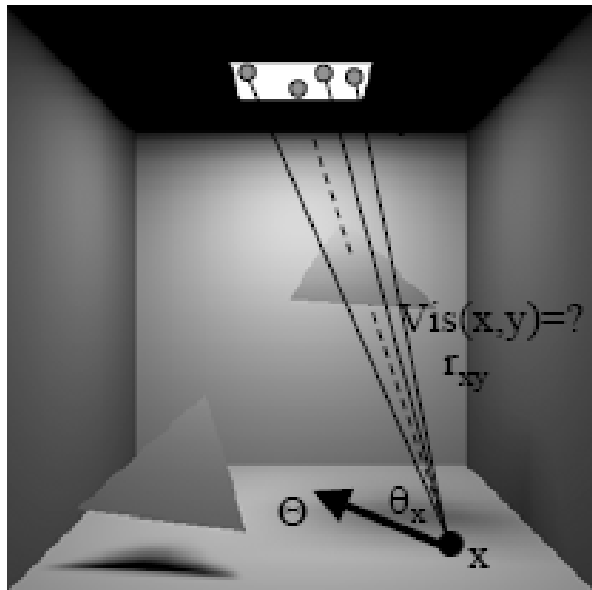
- For N samples, direct light at point x is:

$$E(x) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{f_r L_{source} \frac{\cos \theta_x \cos \theta_{\bar{y}_i}}{r_{x\bar{y}_i}^2} Vis(x, \bar{y}_i)}{p(\bar{y}_i)}$$



# Generating direct paths

- Pick surface points  $y_i$  on light source
- Evaluate direct illumination integral



$$\langle L(x \rightarrow \Theta) \rangle = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{f_r(\dots)L(\dots)G(x, y_i)}{p(y_i)}$$



# PDF for sampling light

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- Uniform

$$p(y) = \frac{1}{Area_{source}}$$

- Pick a point uniformly over light's area
  - Can stratify samples

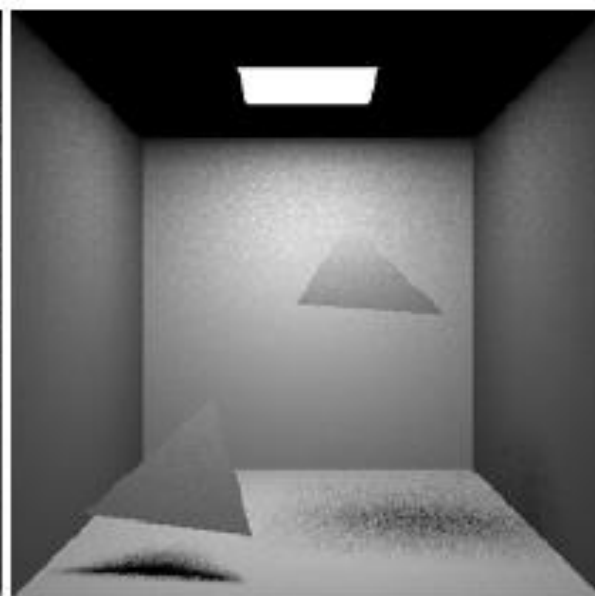
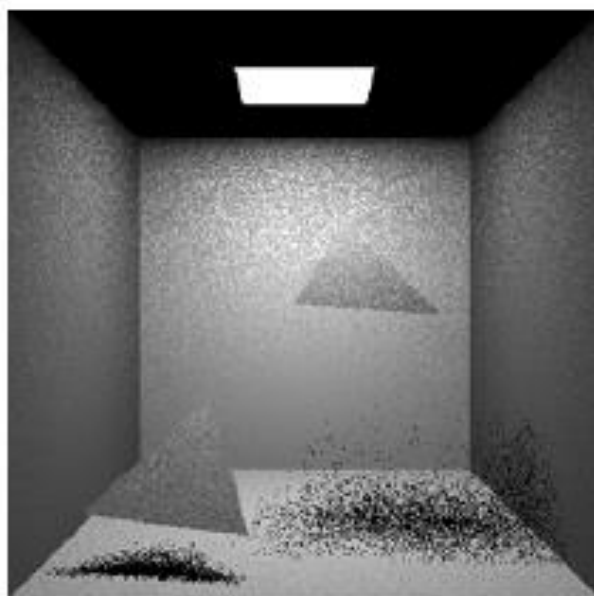
- Estimator:

$$E(x) = \frac{Area_{source}}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f_r L_{source} \frac{\cos \theta_x \cos \theta_{\bar{y}_i}}{r_{x\bar{y}_i}^2} Vis(x, \bar{y}_i)$$



# More points ...

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1 shadow ray

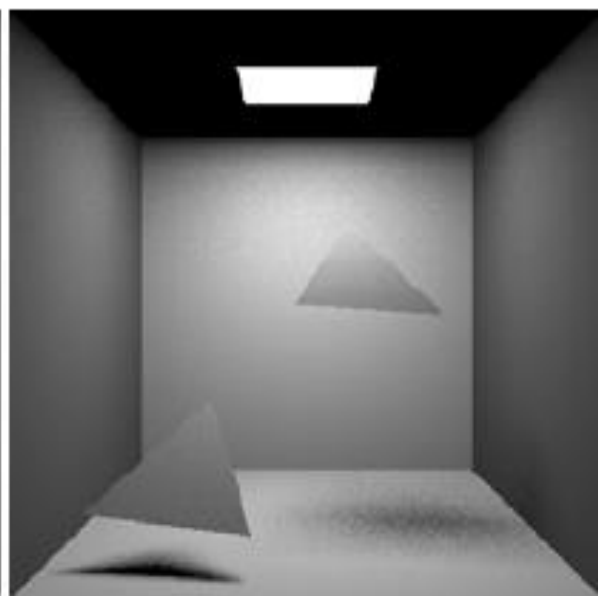
9 shadow rays

$$E(x) = \frac{Area_{source}}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f_r L_{source} \frac{\cos \theta_x \cos \theta_{\bar{y}_i}}{r_{x\bar{y}_i}^2} Vis(x, \bar{y}_i)$$



# Even more points ...

---



36 shadow rays

100 shadow rays

$$E(x) = \frac{Area_{source}}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f_r L_{source} \frac{\cos \theta_x \cos \theta_{\bar{y}_i}}{r_{x\bar{y}_i}^2} Vis(x, \bar{y}_i)$$





# Bidirectional Path Tracing

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- Or paths generated from both camera and source at the same time ...!

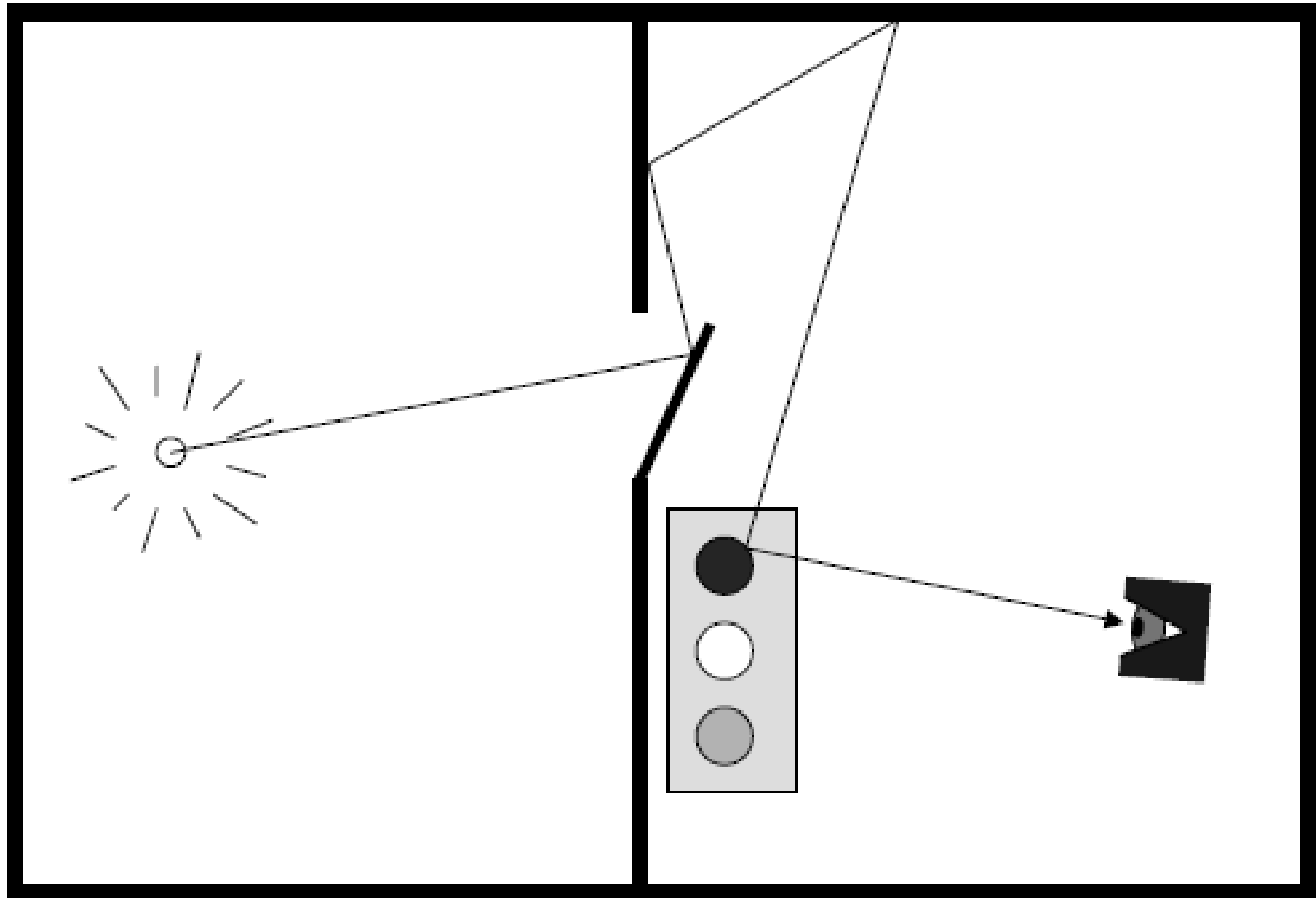


- Connect endpoints to compute final contribution



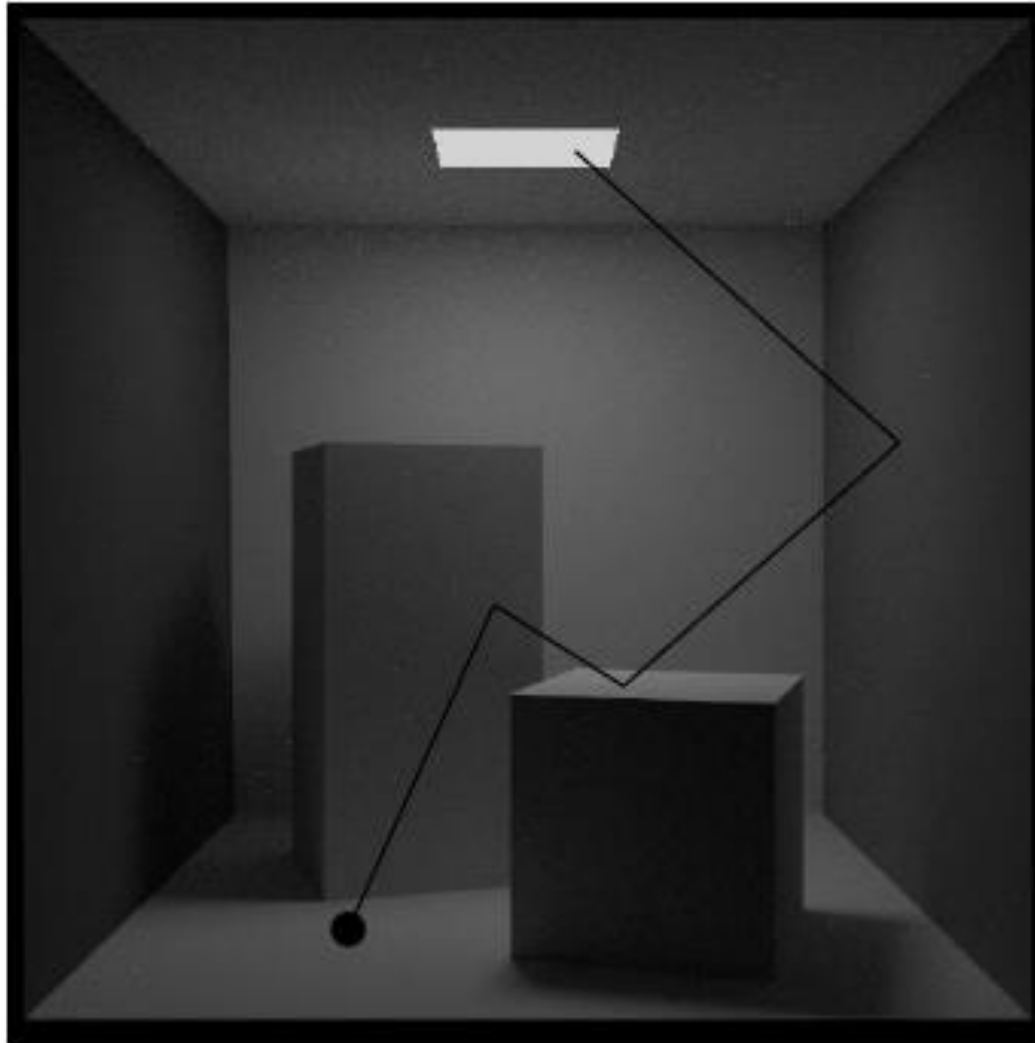
# Metropolis

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# Metropolis

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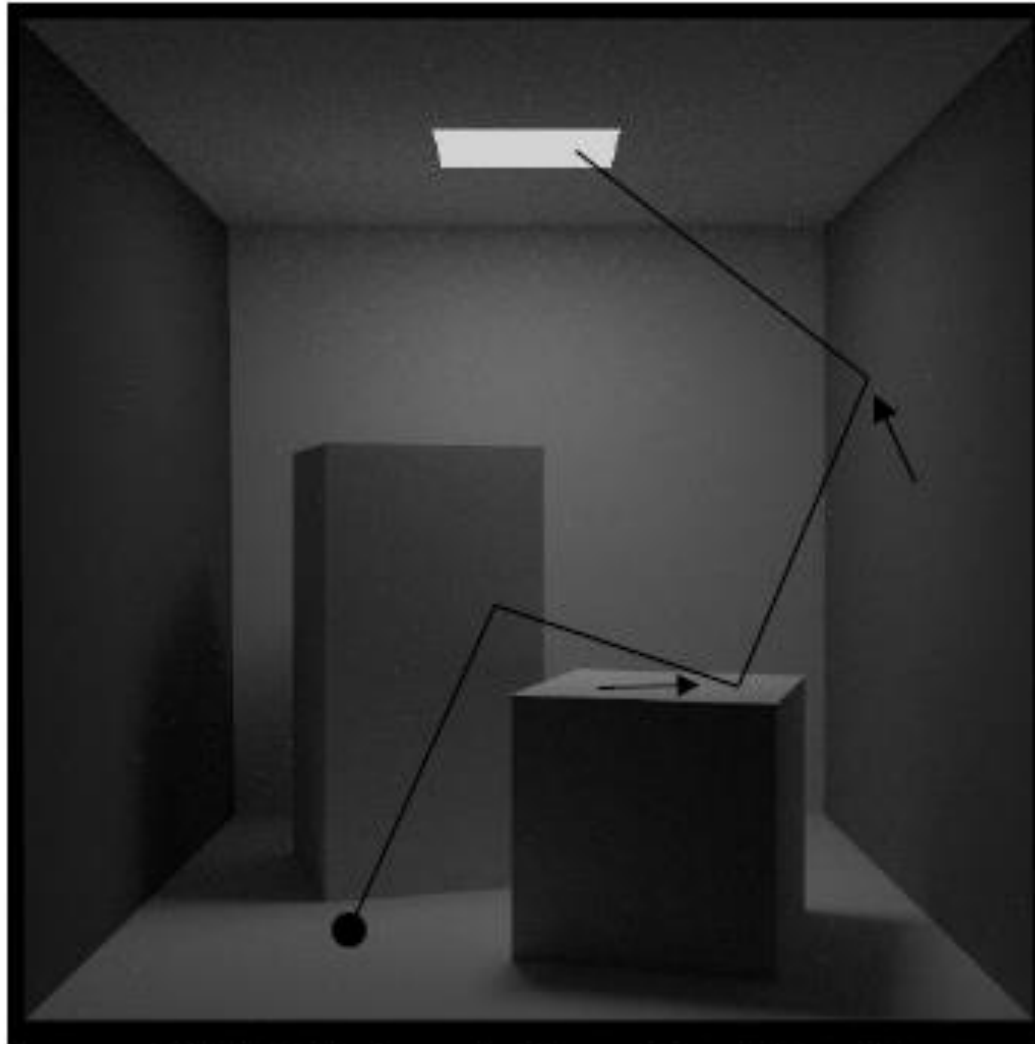


valid path



# Metropolis

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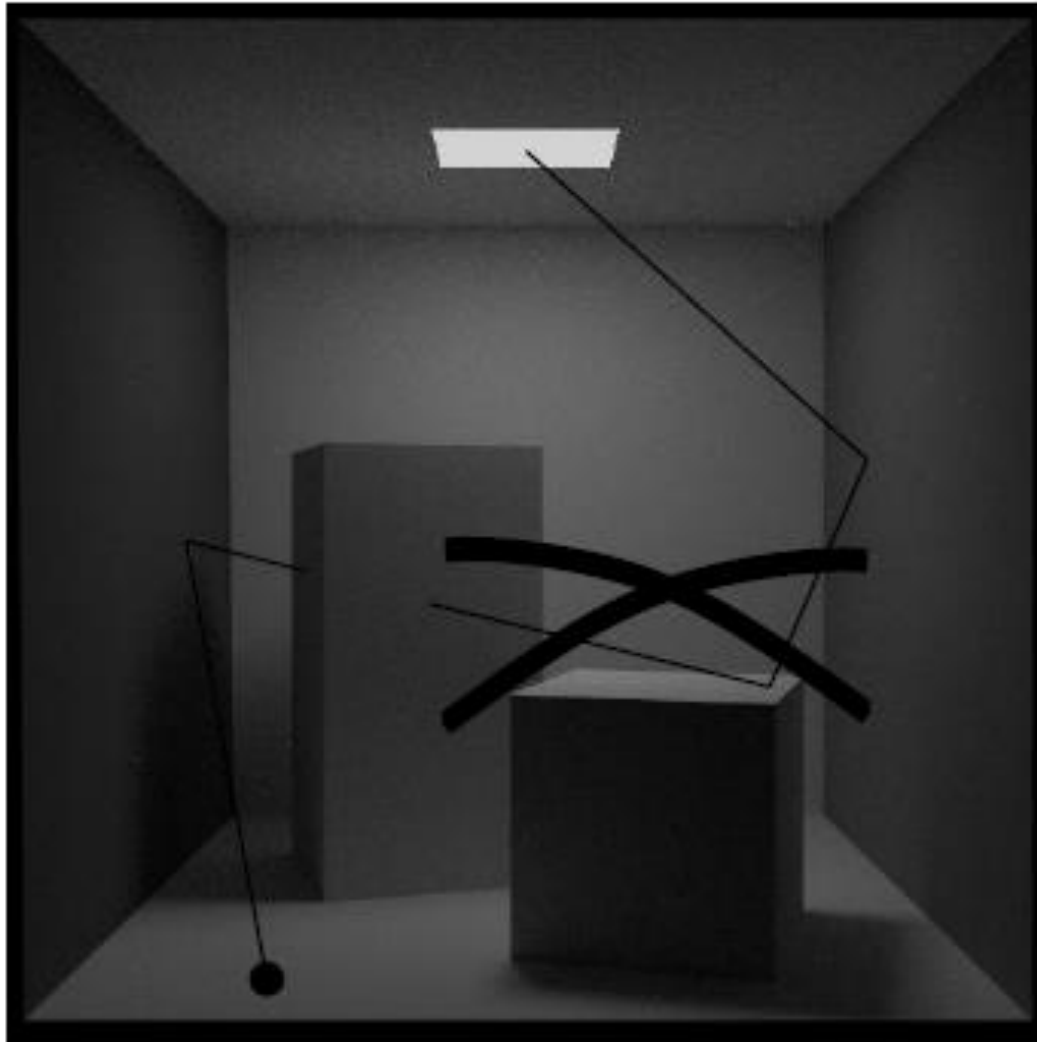


small  
perturbations



# Metropolis

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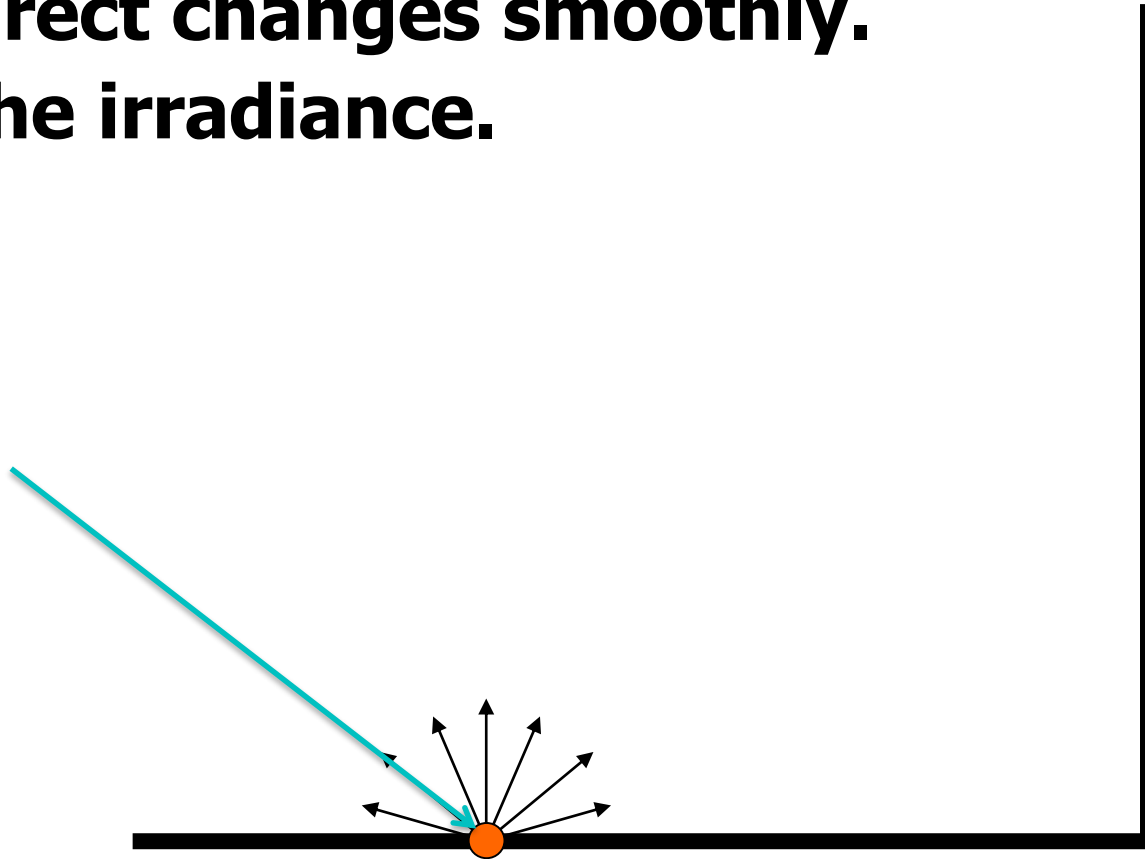
Accept  
mutations  
based on  
energy  
transport



# Biased Methods: Irradiance Caching

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- Indirect changes smoothly.
- Cache irradiance.



# Irradiance Caching

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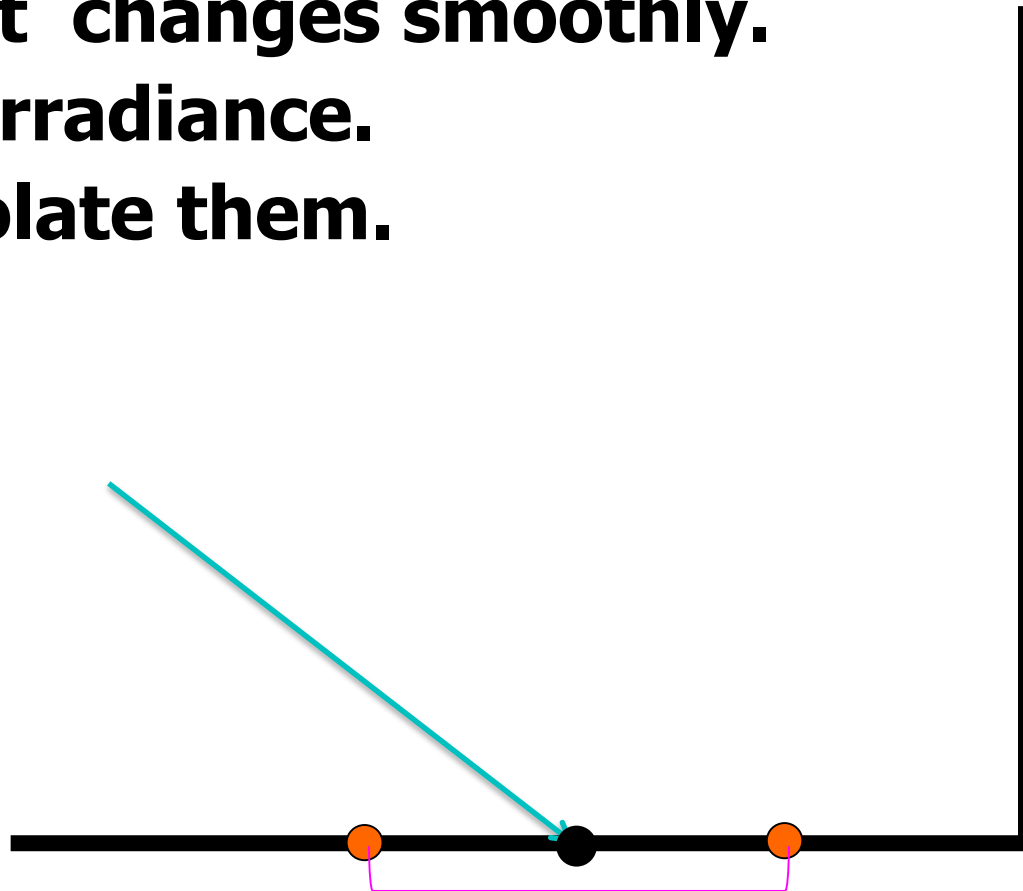
- **Indirect changes smoothly.**
- **Cache irradiance.**



# Irradiance Caching

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- **Indirect changes smoothly.**
- **Cache irradiance.**
- **Interpolate them.**





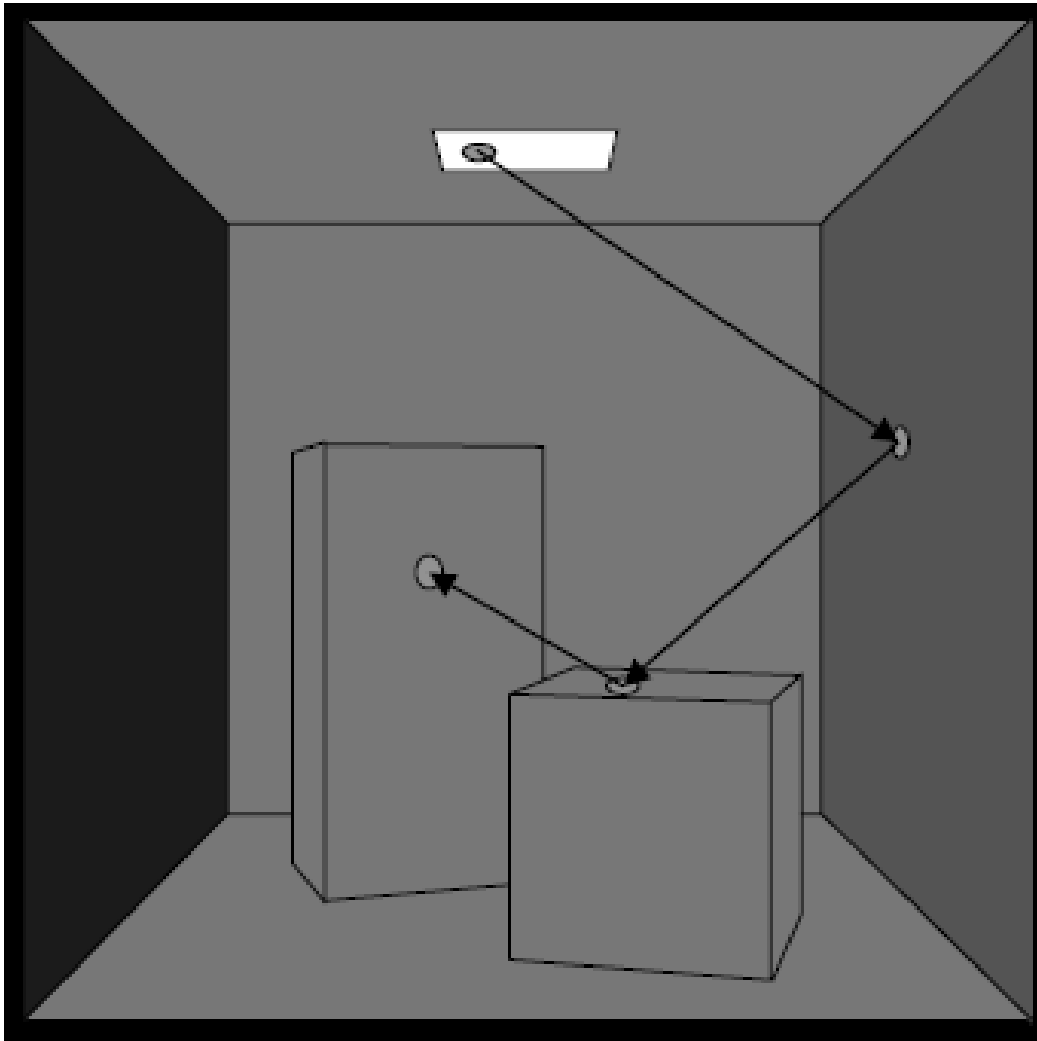
# Biased Method: Photon Mapping

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- **2 passes:**
  - **Shoot “photons” (light-rays) and record any hit-points**
  - **Shoot viewing rays and collect information from stored photons**

# Pass 1: shoot photons

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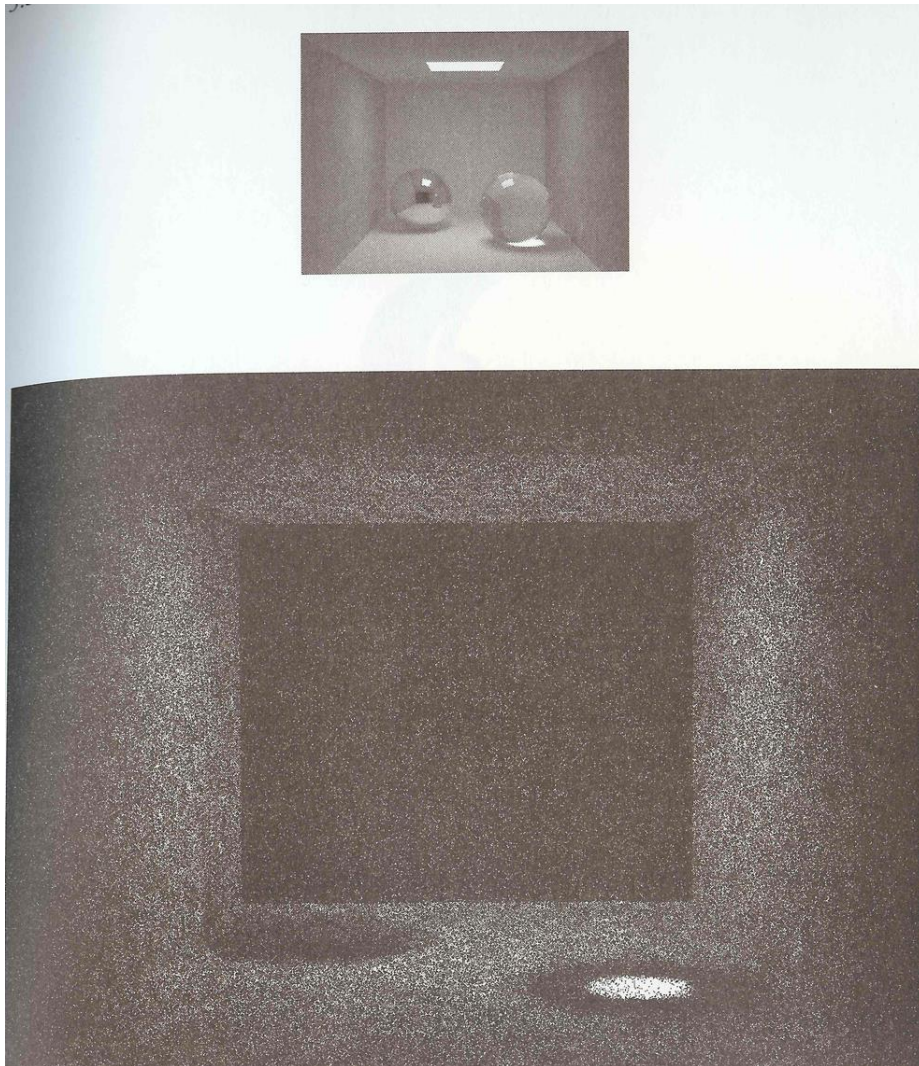


- Light path generated using MC techniques and Russian Roulette
- Store:
  - position
  - incoming direction
  - color
  - ...



# Stored Photons

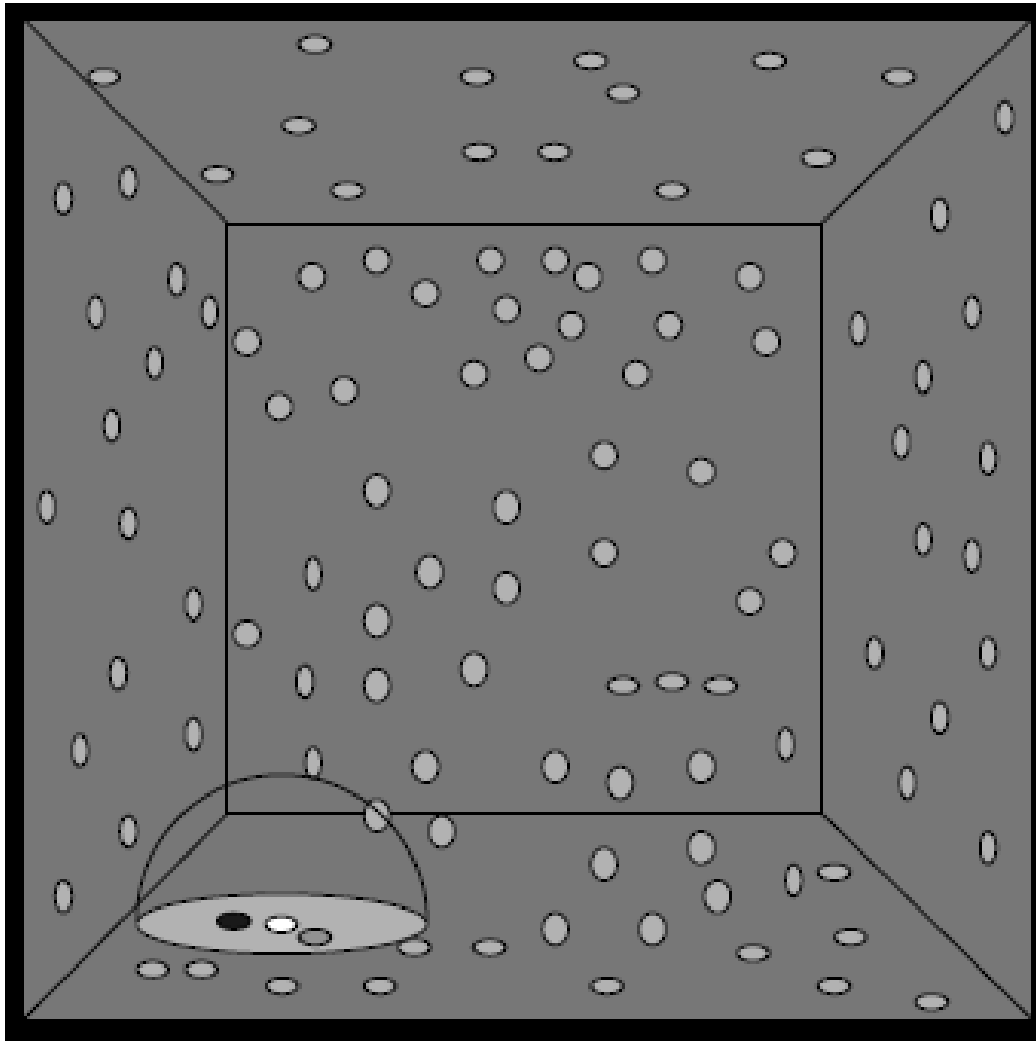
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**Generate a few  
hundreds of  
thousands of  
photons**

# Pass 2: viewing ray

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- Search for  $N$  closest photons (+check normal)
- Assume these photons hit the point we're interested in
- Compute average radiance



# Result

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**350K photons  
for the caustic  
map**

# Result

---



**350K photons  
for the caustic  
map**

# Class Objectives were:

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- **Discuss acceleration methods for GI**
  - **Importance sampling, bidirectional path tracing, and metropolis**
- **Study biased techniques**
  - **Irradiance caching and photon mapping**

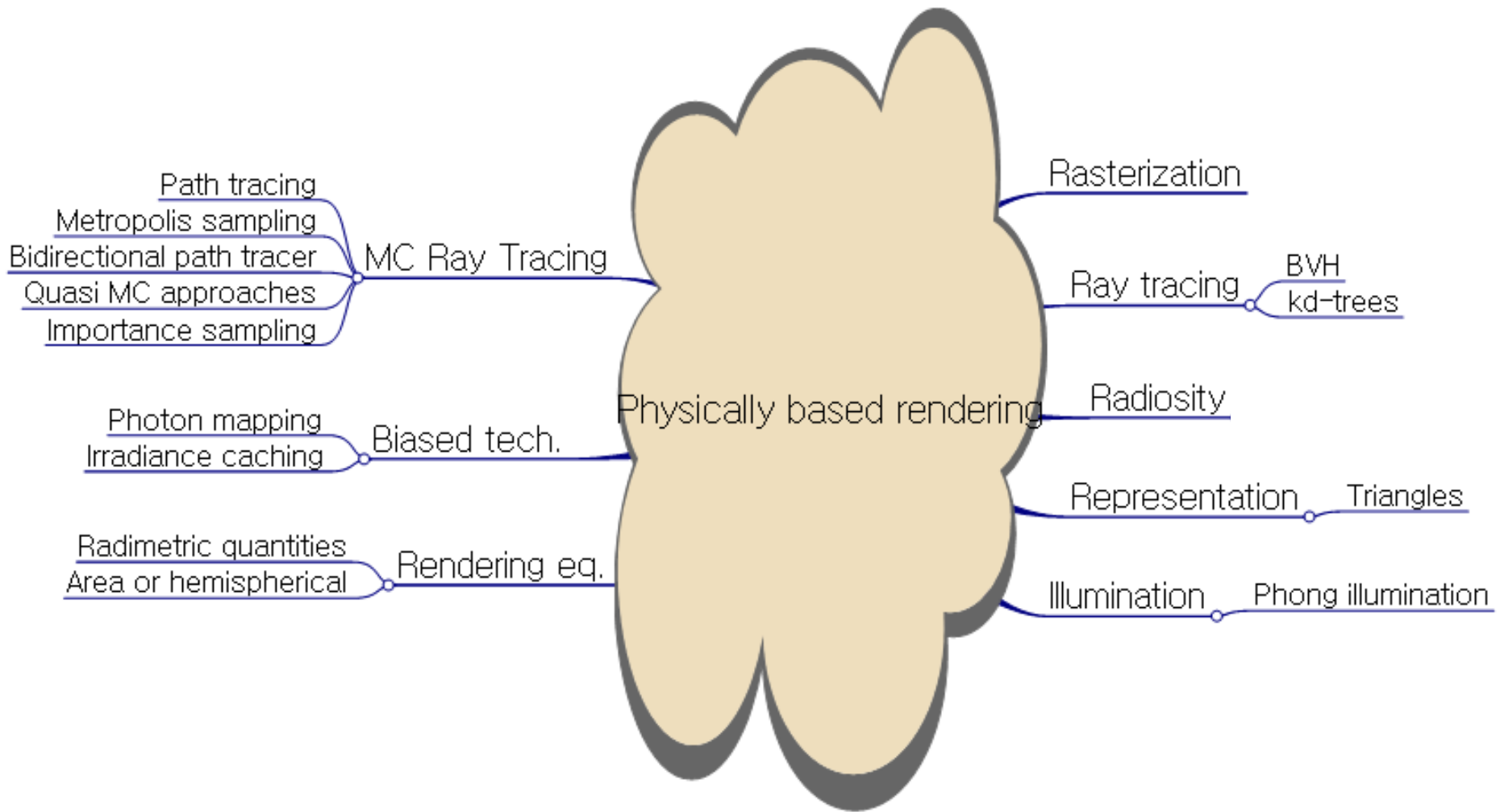
# Summary

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- **Two basic building blocks**
  - Rasterization (undergraduate CG)
  - Ray tracing
- Radiometry
- Rendering equation
- MC integration
- MC ray tracing
  - Unbiased methods
  - Biased methods



# Summary



# Next Time...

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- **Recent techniques**

# Homework

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- **Go over the next lecture slides before the class**
- **Watch 2 SIG/CVPR/ISMAR videos and submit your summaries every Mon. class**
  - **Just one paragraph for each summary**
  - **Any top-tier conf (e.g., ICRA) is okay**

## Example:

**Title: XXX XXXX XXXX**

**Abstract: this video is about accelerating the performance of ray tracing. To achieve its goal, they design a new technique for reordering rays, since by doing so, they can improve the ray coherence and thus improve the overall performance.**