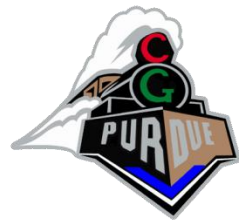


Graphics Pipeline: Modeling, Illumination, and Rendering

Fall 2026

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Department of Computer Science
Purdue University



Computer Graphics Pipeline

Geometry

Modeling Transformation

Transform into 3D world coordinate system

Lighting

Simulate illumination and reflectance

Viewing Transformation

Transform into 3D camera coordinate system

Clipping

Clip primitives outside camera's view

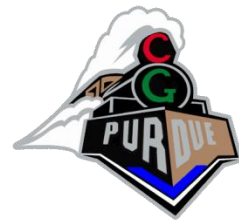
Projection

Transform into 2D camera coordinate system

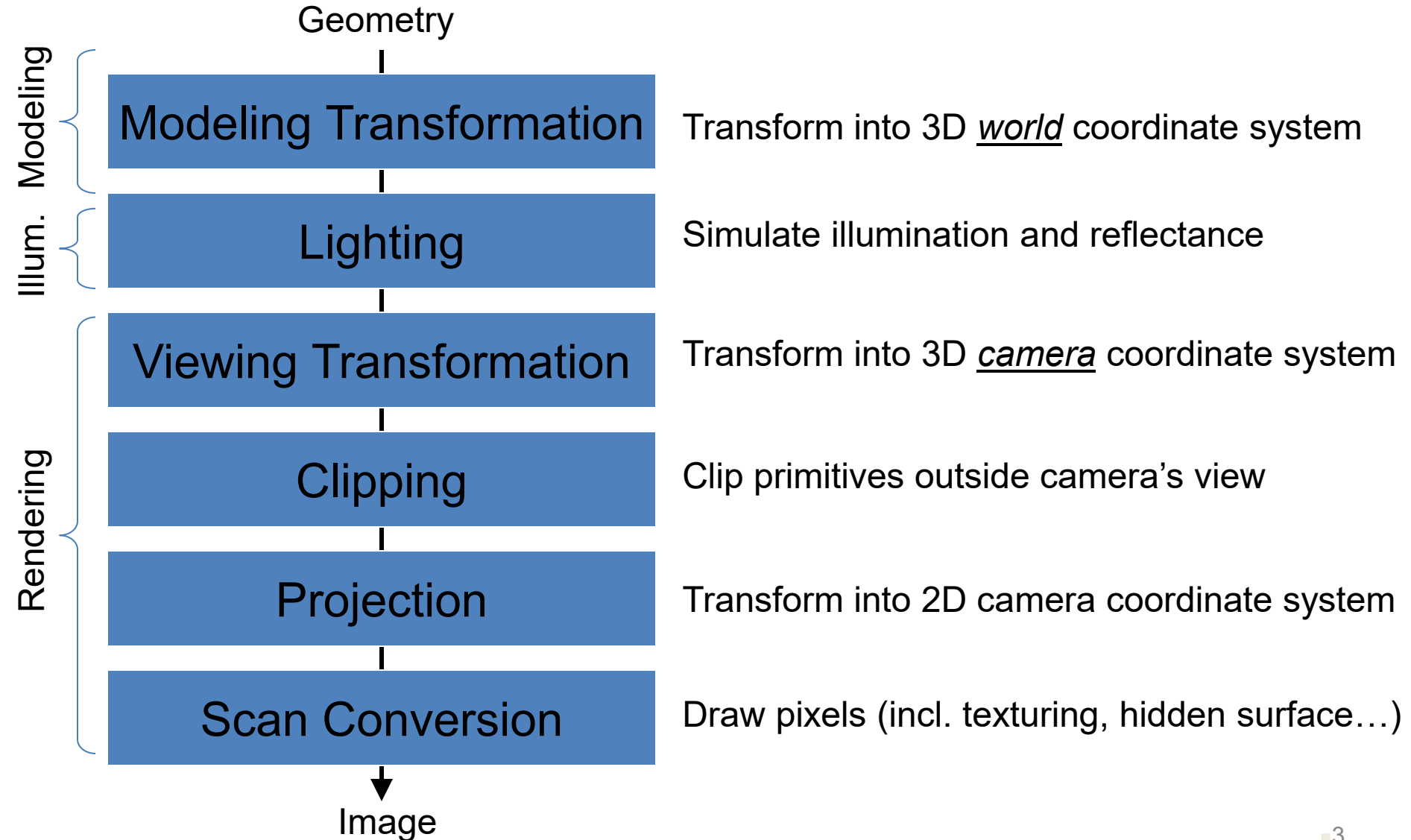
Scan Conversion

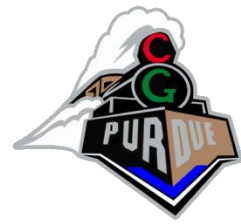
Draw pixels (incl. texturing, hidden surface...)

Image

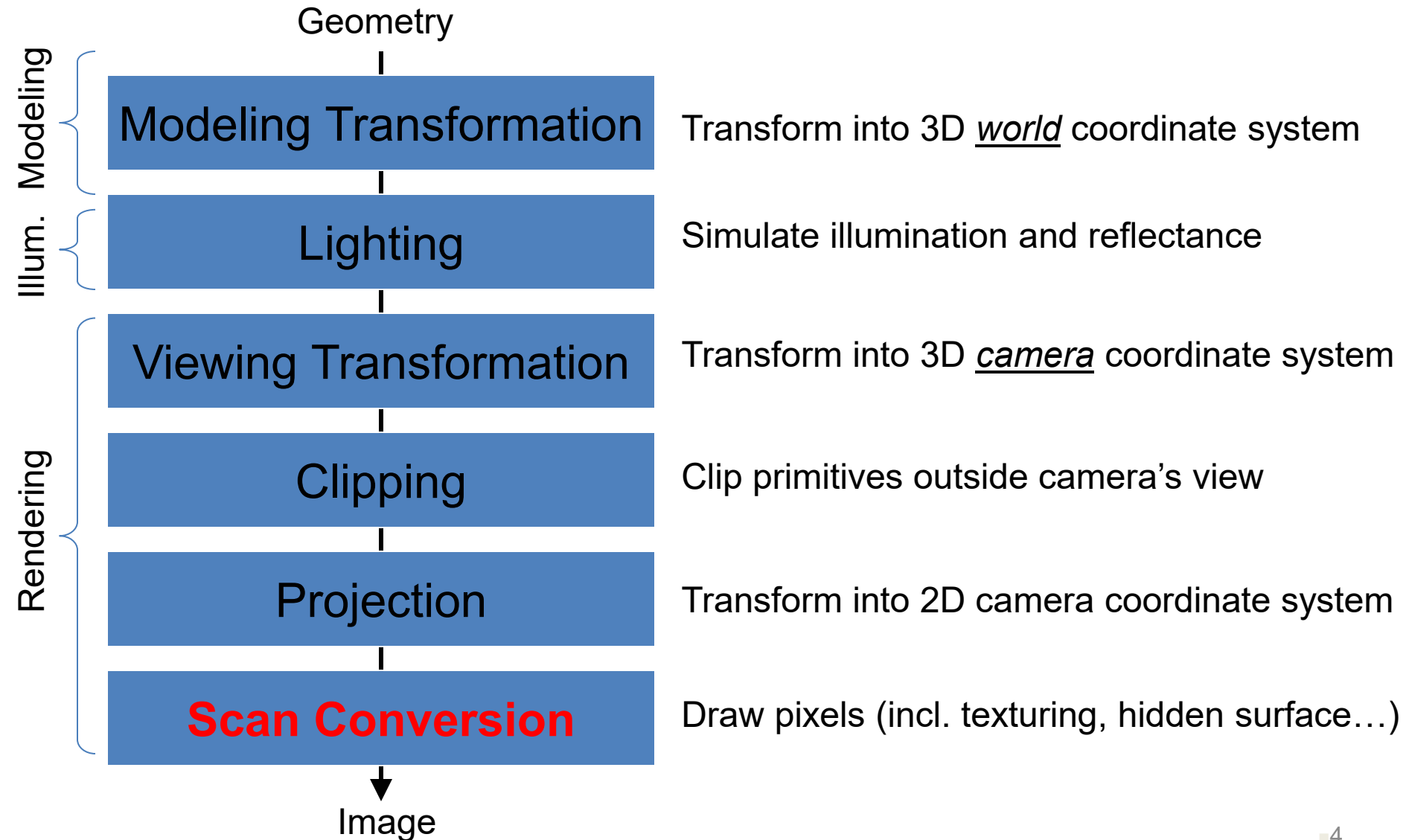


Computer Graphics Pipeline





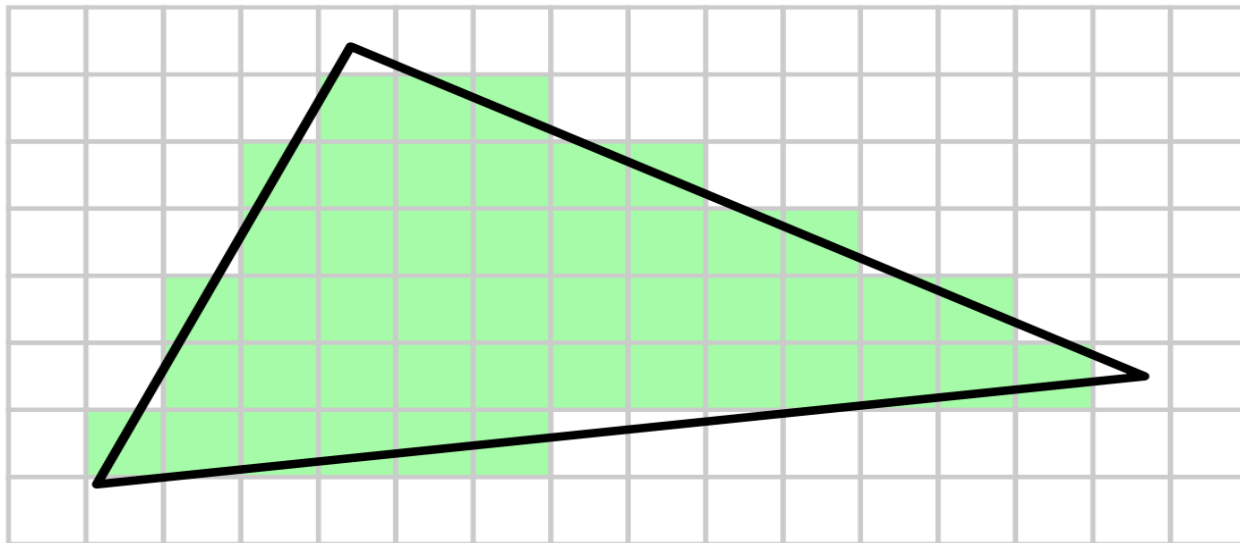
Computer Graphics Pipeline



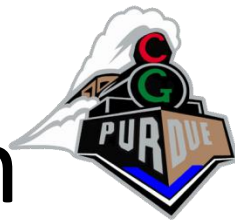
Scan Conversion/Rasterization



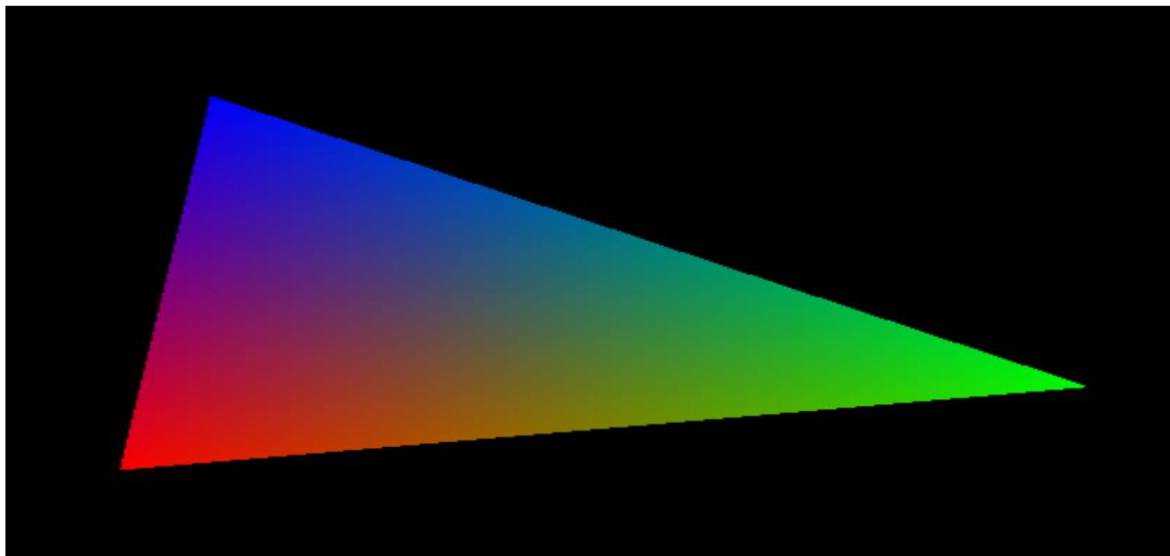
- Determine which fragments get generated
- Interpolate parameters (colors, textures, normals, etc.)



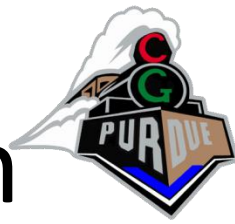
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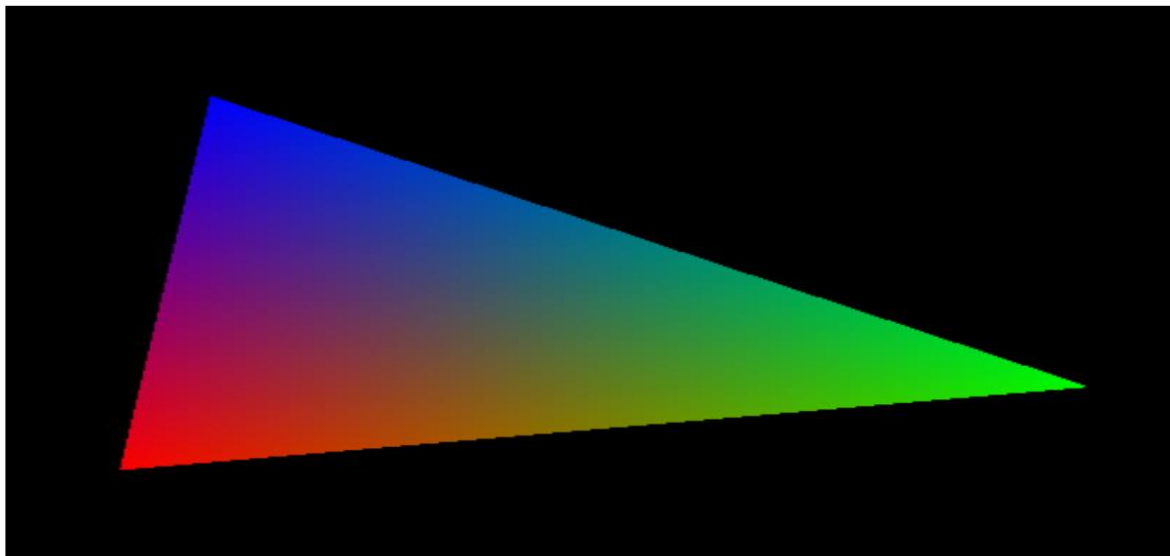
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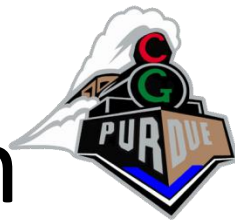


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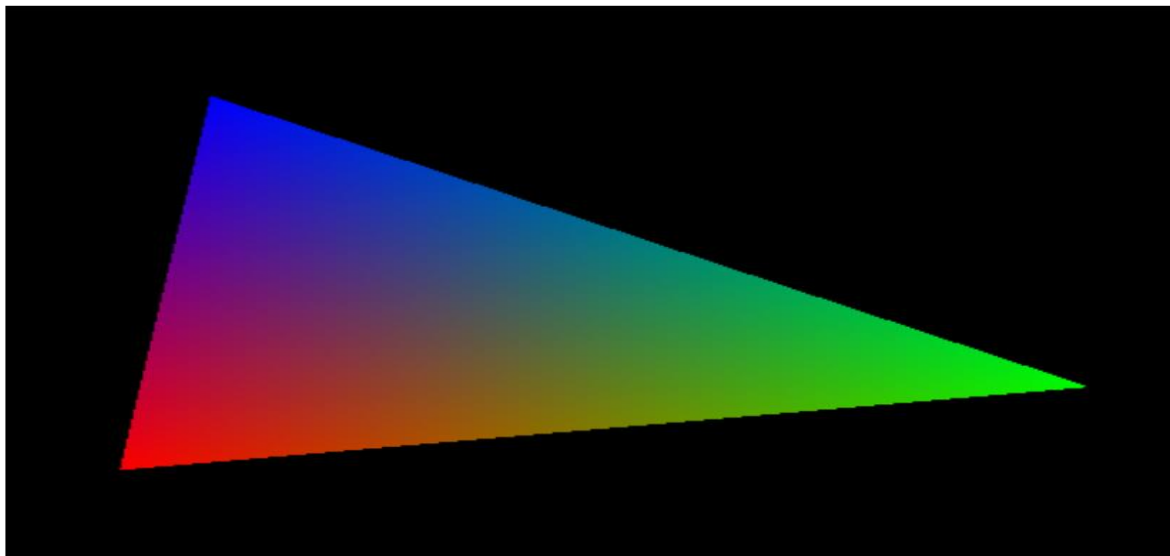


- How?

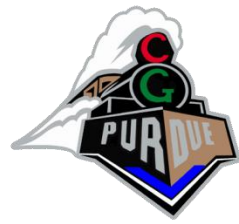
Scan Conversion/Rasterization



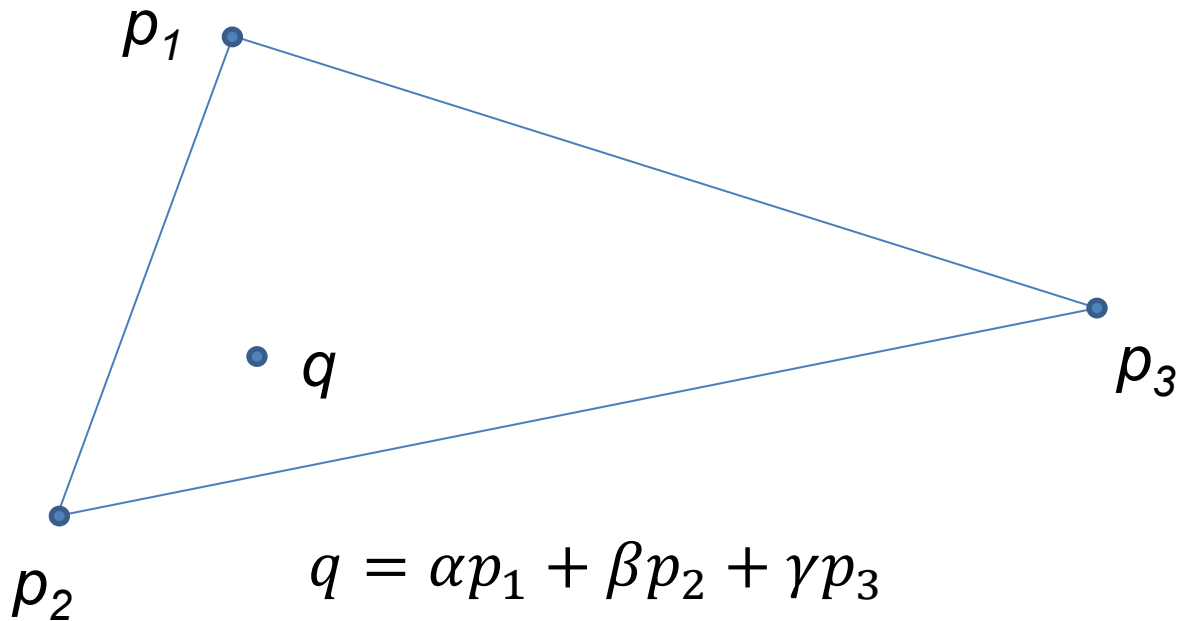
- Determine which fragments get generated
- Interpolate parameters (colors, textures, normals, etc.)



- Barycentric coords amongst many other ways.



Barycentric coordinates

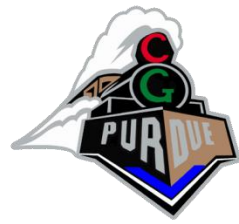


$$q = \alpha p_1 + \beta p_2 + \gamma p_3$$

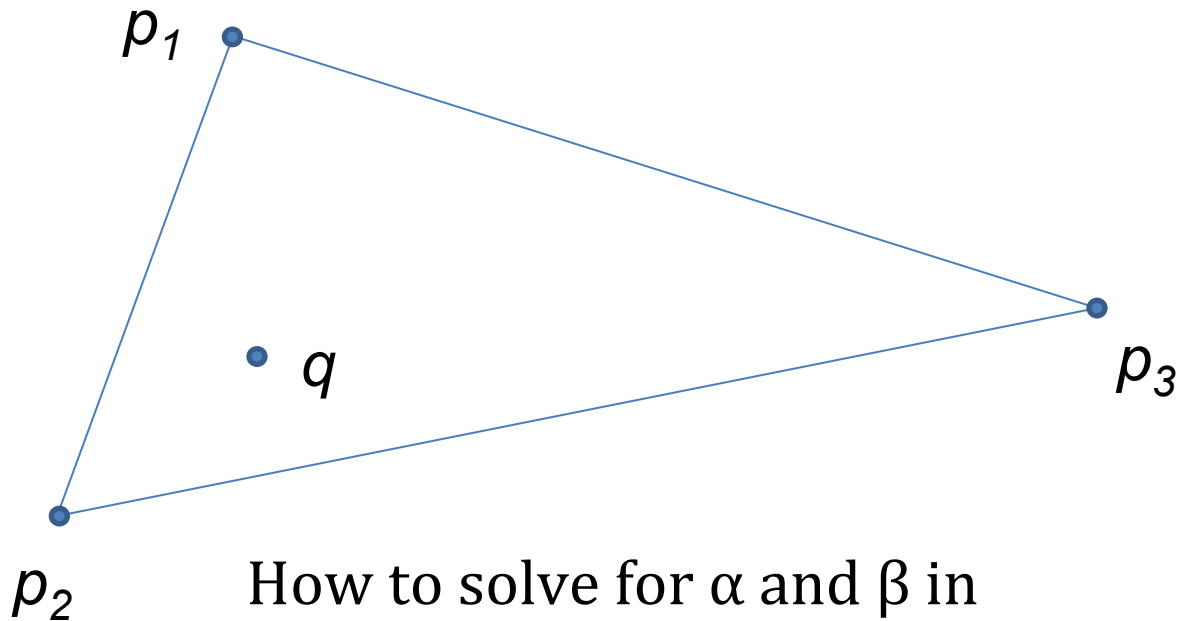
If $[\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 1 \text{ and } \{\alpha, \beta, \gamma\} \geq 0]$,
then q inside triangle (p_1, p_2, p_3)

Can also write:

$$q = \alpha p_1 + \beta p_2 + (1 - \alpha - \beta)p_3$$

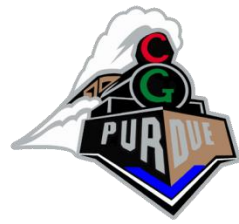


Barycentric coordinates



How to solve for α and β in
 $q = \alpha p_1 + \beta p_2 + (1 - \alpha - \beta)p_3$?

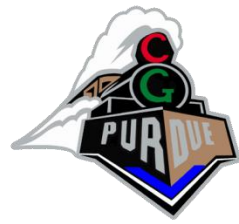
Two equations, two unknowns:
use 2x2 matrix inversion...



Additional concept: Texture mapping

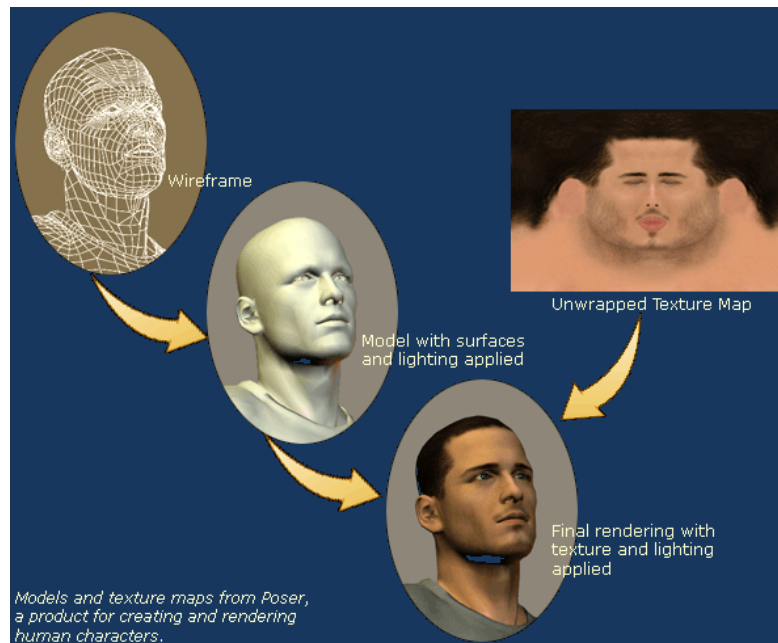
- Model surface-detail with images
 - wrap object with photograph(s)
 - graphics object itself is a simpler model but “looks” more complex

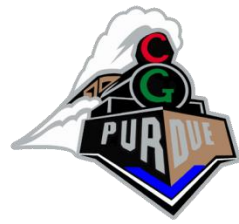




Texture mapping

- Model surface-detail with images
 - wrap object with photograph(s)
 - graphics object itself is a simpler model but “looks” more complex

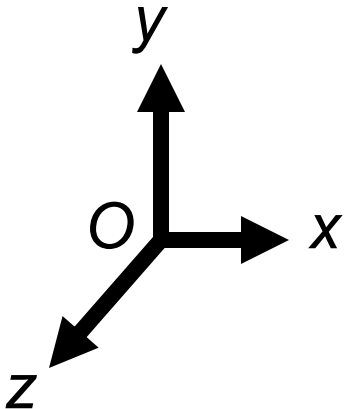
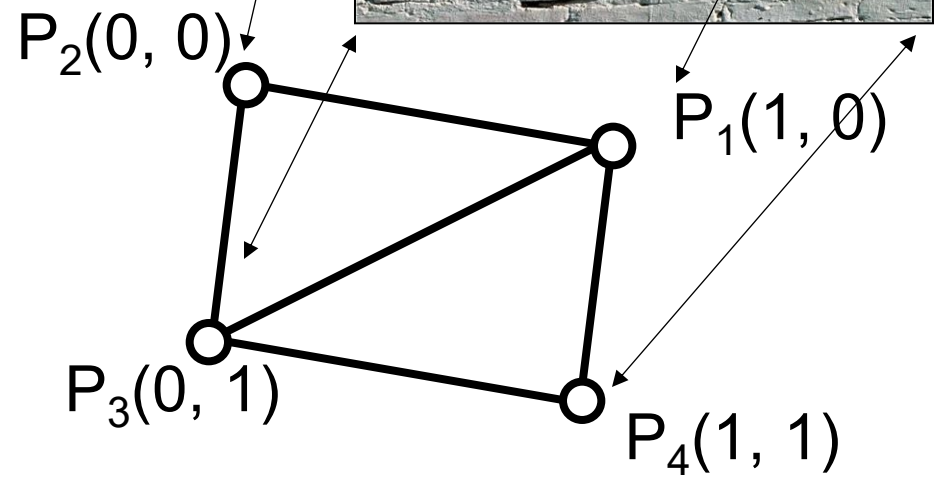




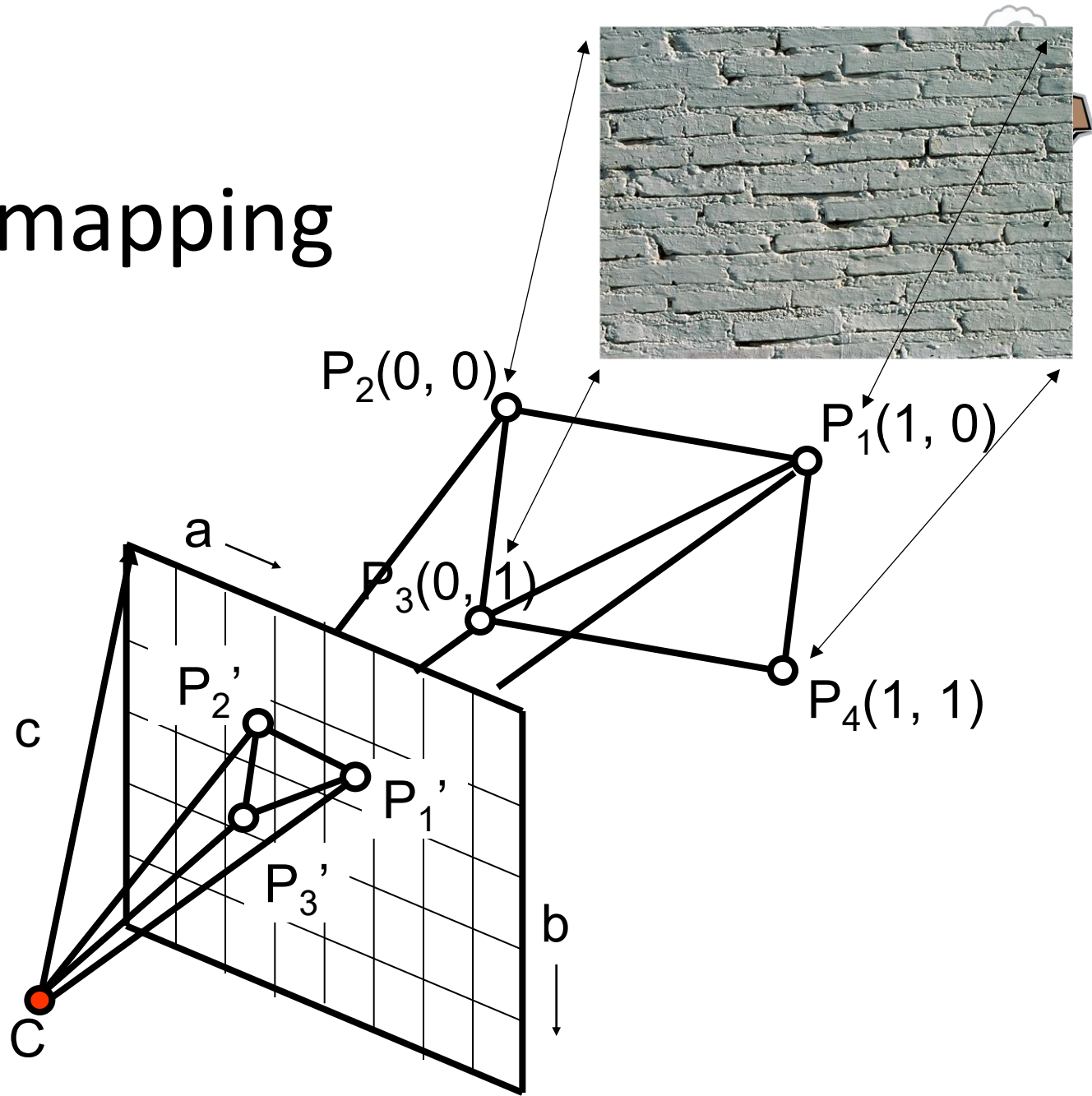
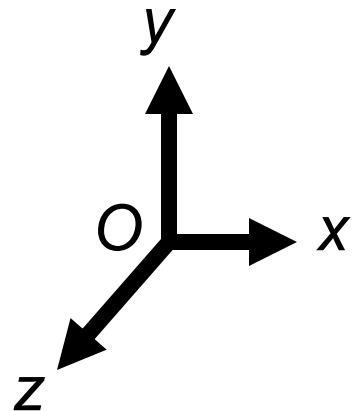
Texture coordinates

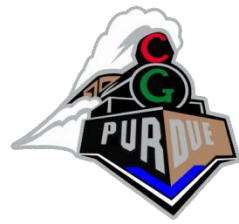
- Mechanism for attaching the texture map to the surface modeled
 - a pair of floats (s, t) for each triangle vertex
 - corners of the image are $(0, 0)$, $(0, 1)$, $(1, 1)$, and $(1, 0)$
 - tiling indicated with tex. coords. > 1
 - *texels* – color samples in texture maps

Texture coordinates

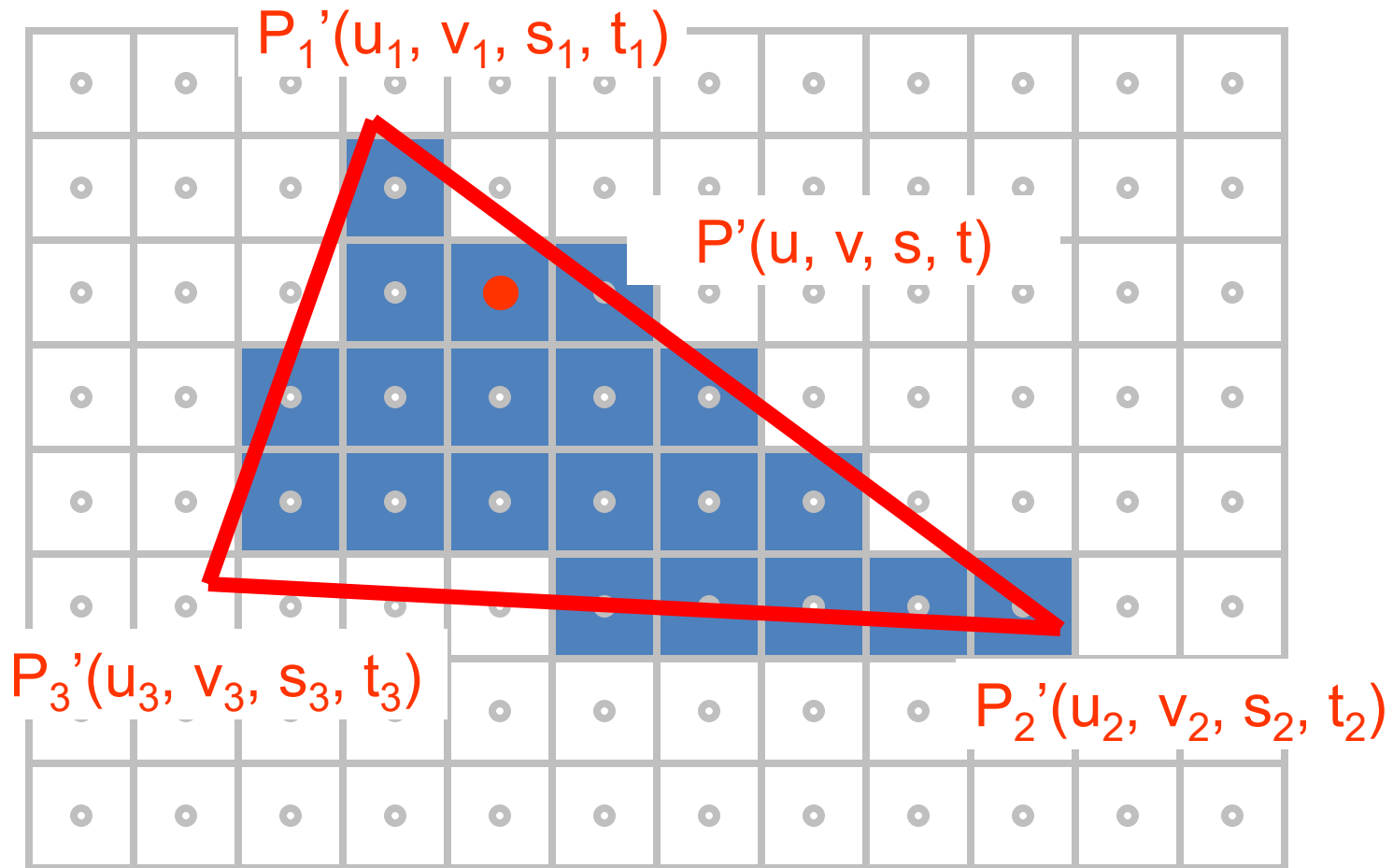


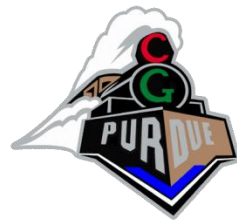
Texture mapping





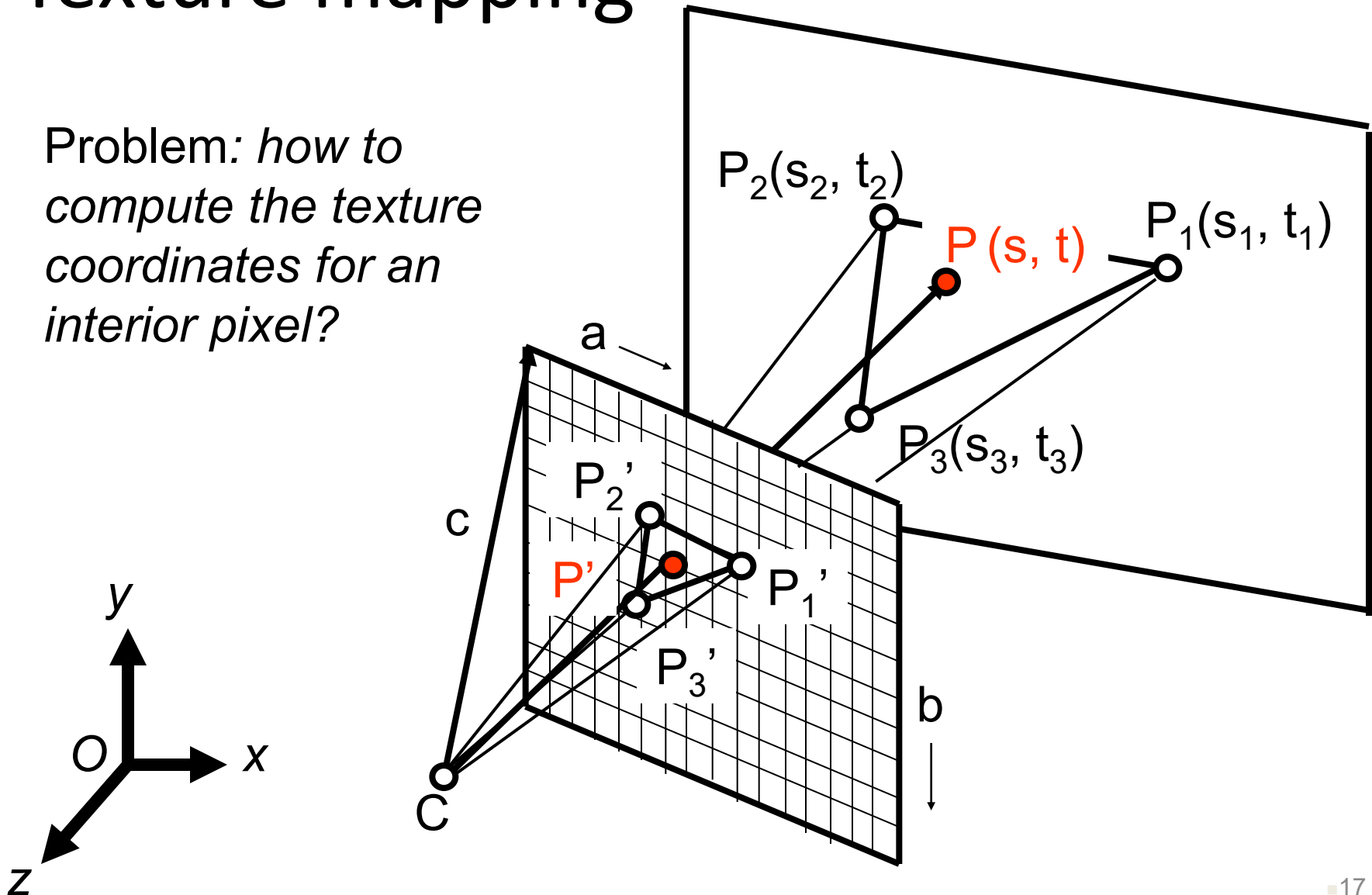
Texels: texture elements

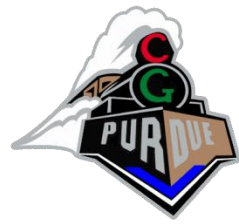




Texture mapping

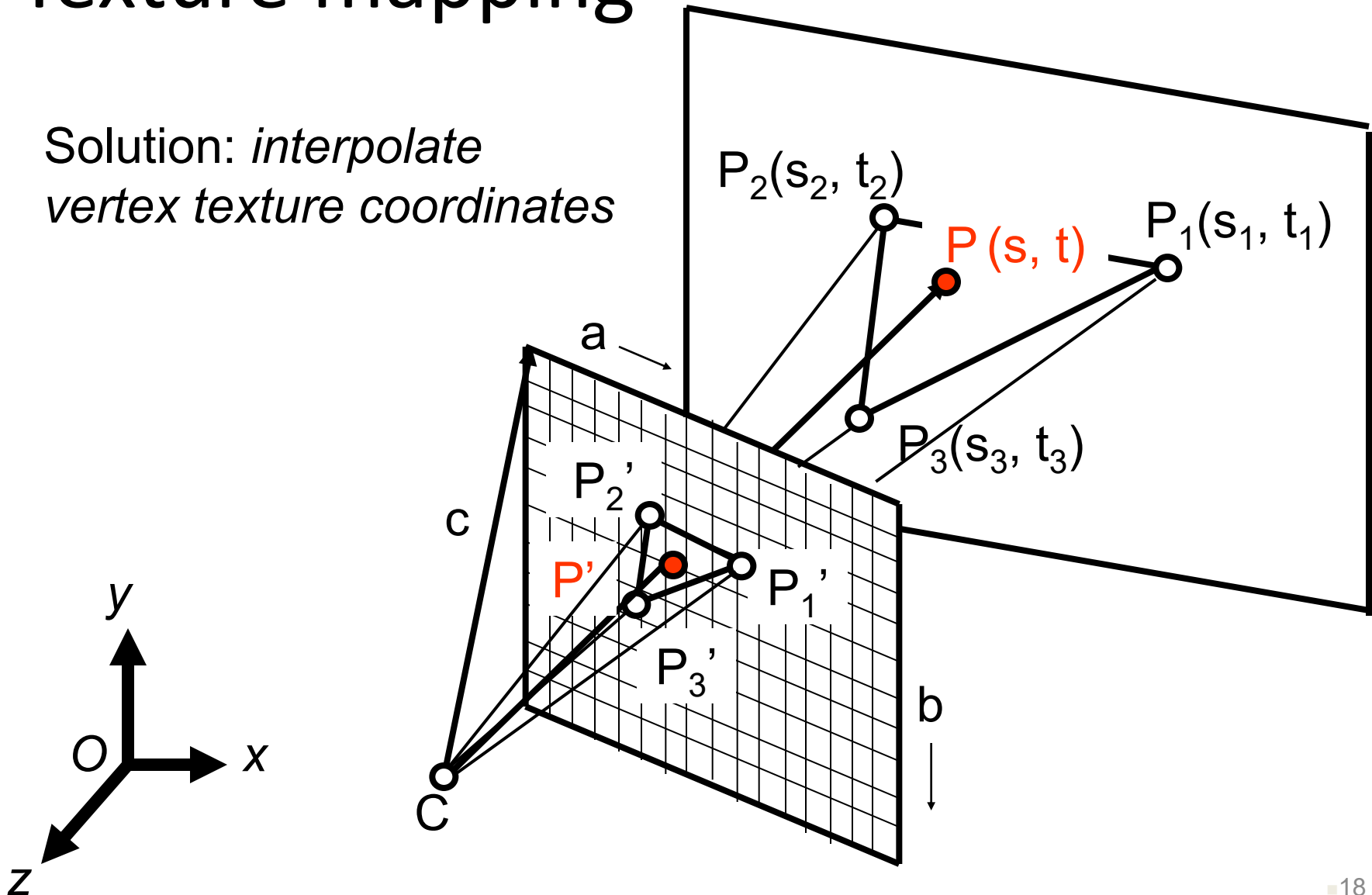
Problem: *how to compute the texture coordinates for an interior pixel?*

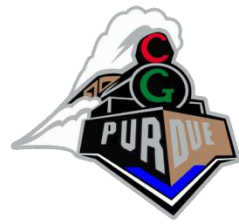




Texture mapping

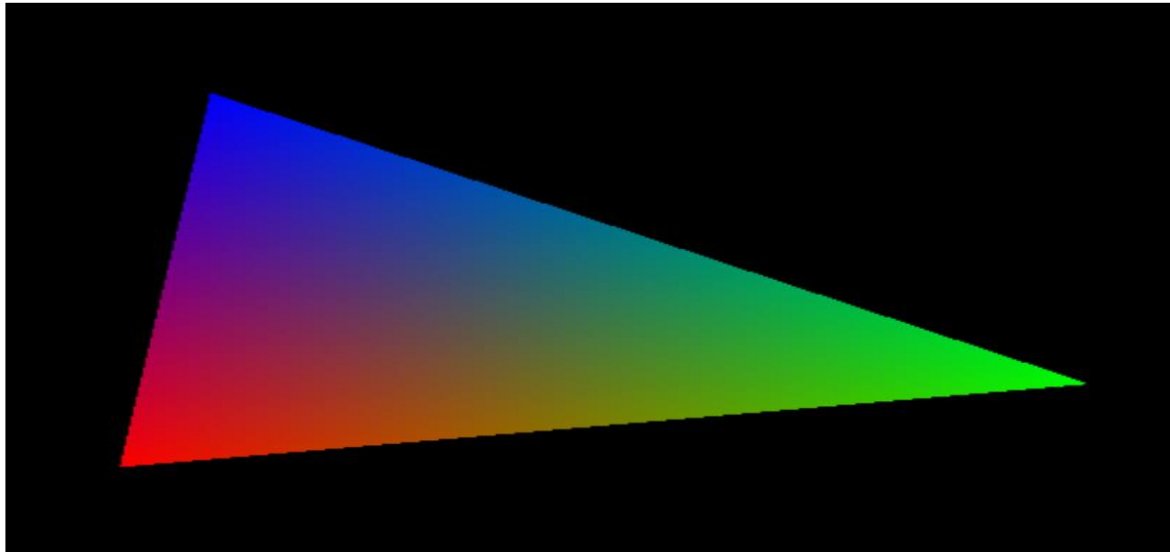
Solution: *interpolate*
vertex texture coordinates



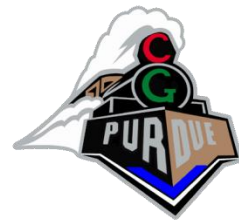


Parameter Interpolation

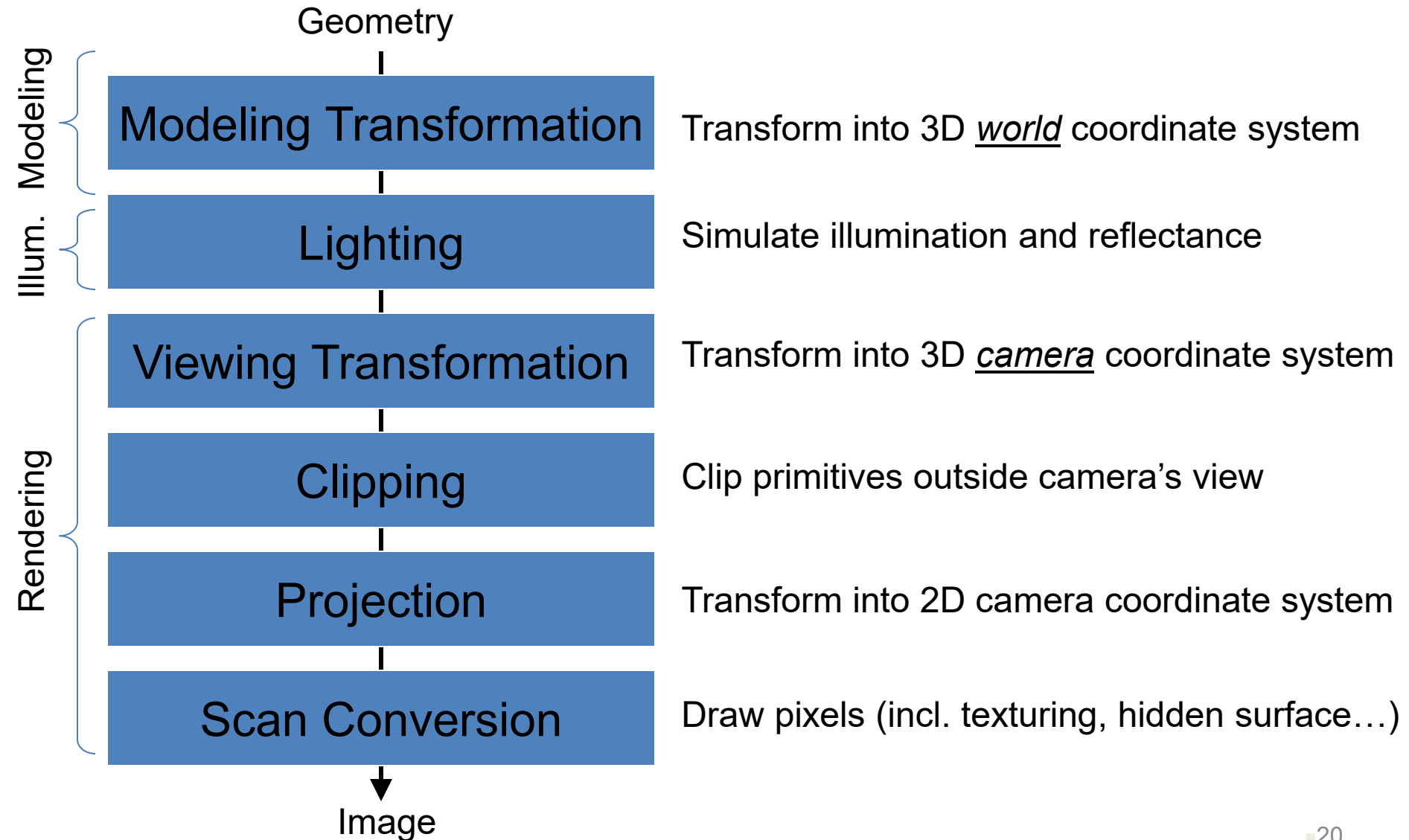
- Texture coordinates, colors, normals, etc.



- How?
 - Again, use barycentric coordinates...



Computer Graphics Pipeline



Modeling (or Content Generation)

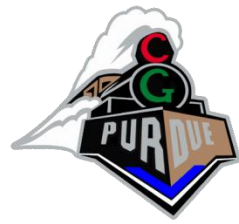


- Manual Modeling (most prevalent approach):
 - Softimage (Microsoft+SoftImage3D, 1989-2002)
 - Maya (SGI+Alias+Wavefront, 1998-today)
 - Blender (open source, 1995-today)
 - Houdini (SideFX, 1996-today)
 - Rhino/Grasshopper (TLM, 1978? – today)
 - And more...
- **Problem: TIME CONSUMING!**
 - E.g., 3-20 days for a photorealistic character

Modeling (or Content Generation)

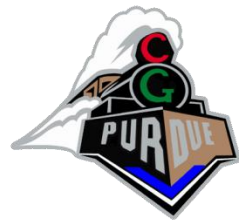


- Texture/Image Synthesis
- **Procedural Modeling**
- Generative Modeling
- Neural Modeling (and Rendering)



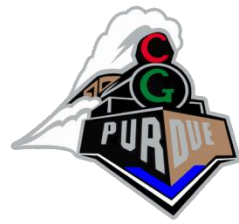
Illumination

- Local Illumination
 - **Diffuse, Specular**
- Global Illumination
 - **Ray Tracing**
 - Path Tracing (Single and Bidirectional)
 - Photon Mapping
 - **Radiosity**



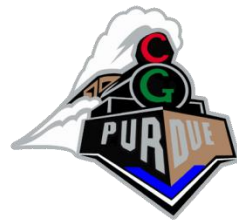
Rendering

- Point rendering
- **Ray tracing**
- **Polygon/triangle rendering**
- Differentiable Rendering



Lighting and Illumination

- Local Illumination
 - **Diffuse, Specular**
- Global Illumination
 - **Ray Tracing**
 - Path Tracing (Single and Bidirectional)
 - Photon Mapping
 - **Radiosity**

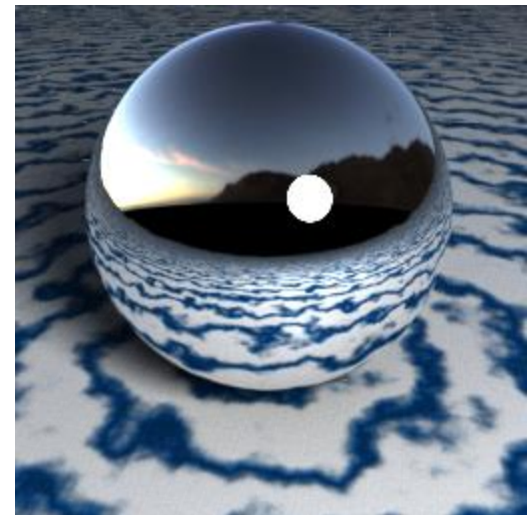
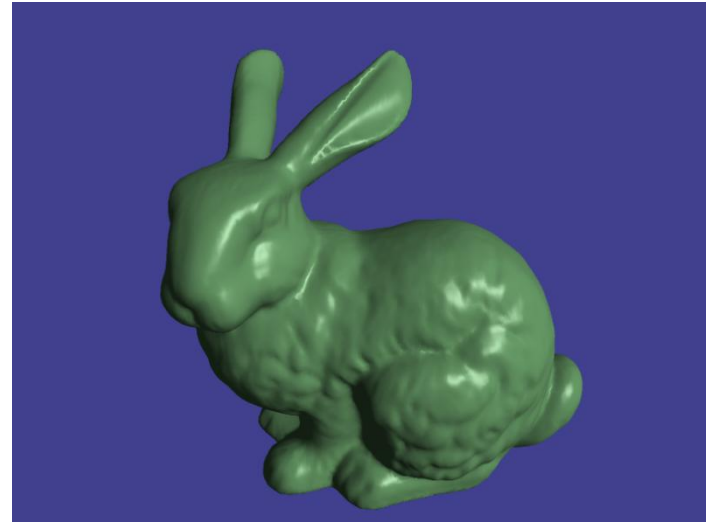


Diffuse Reflection

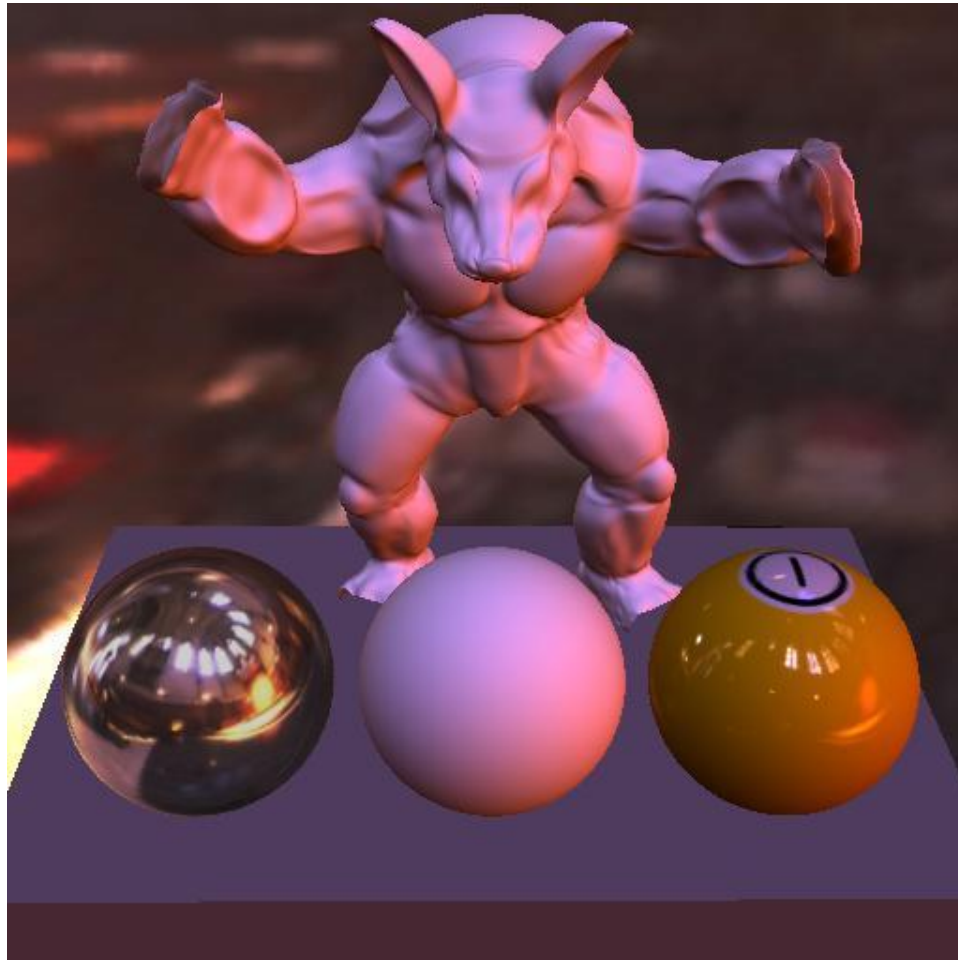
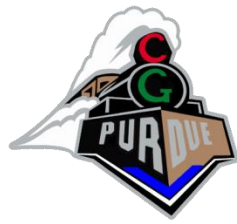


(mostly)

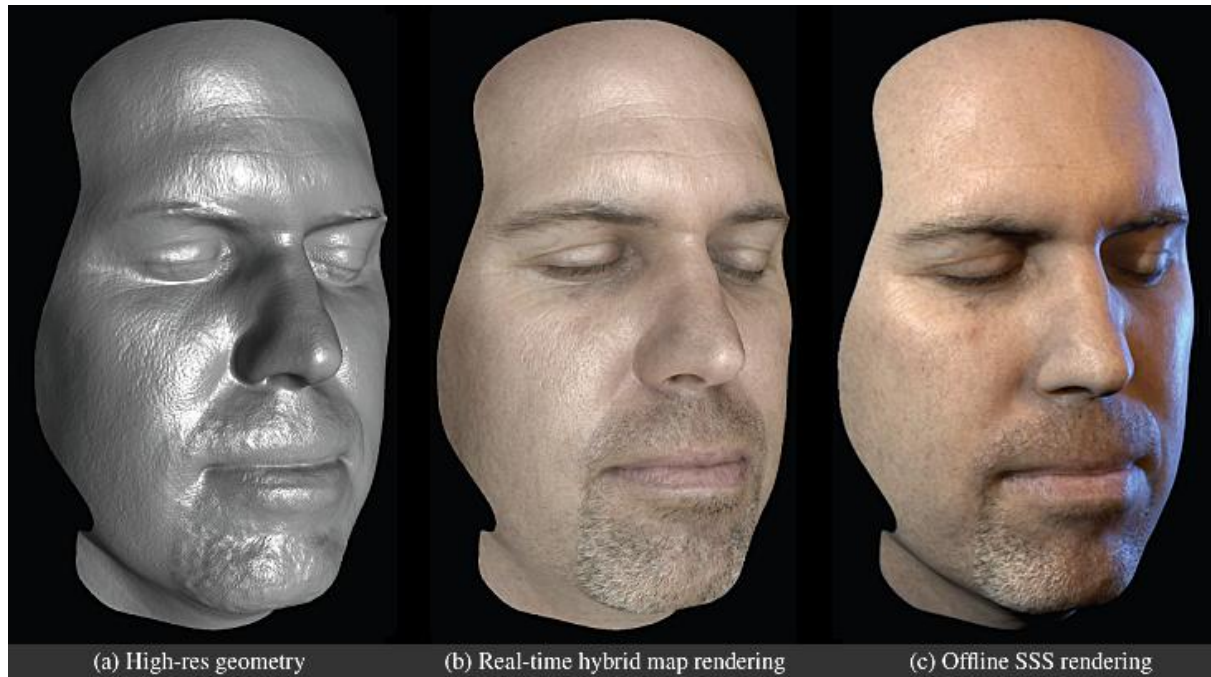
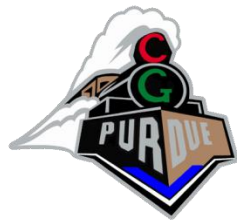
Specular Reflection

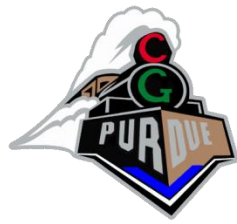


also Environment Mapping



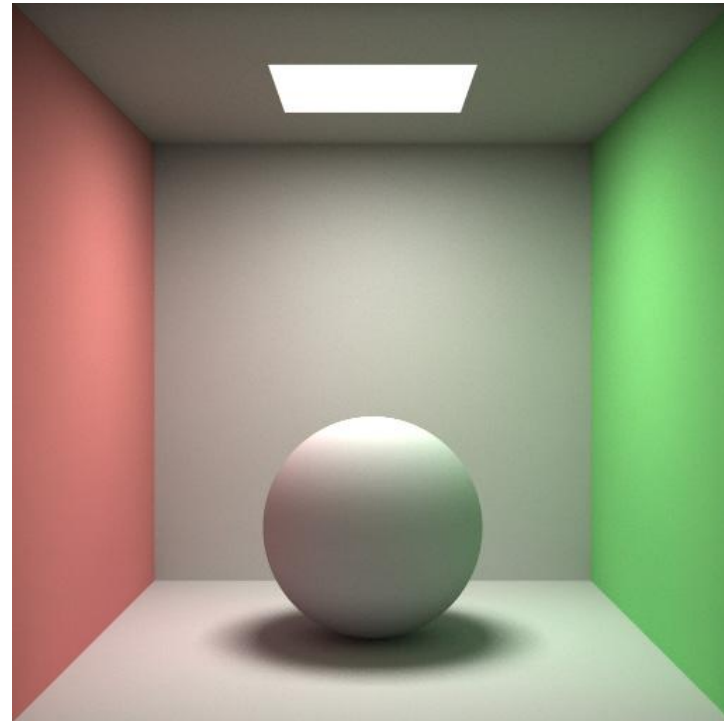
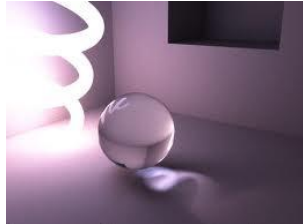
also Subsurface Scattering





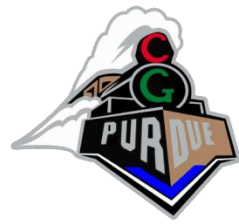
Towards Global Illumination...

Transparency



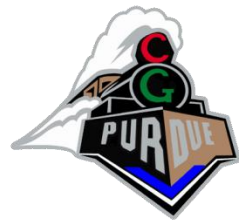
Radiosity

Ambient occlusion



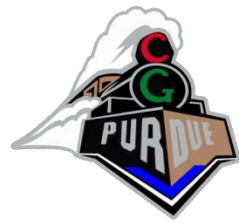
Lighting and Illumination

- Light sources
 - Point light
 - Models an omnidirectional light source (e.g., a bulb)
 - Directional light
 - Models an omnidirectional light source at infinity
 - Spot light
 - Models a point light with direction
- Basic Direct Lighting Models
 - Ambient light
 - Diffuse reflection
 - Specular reflection



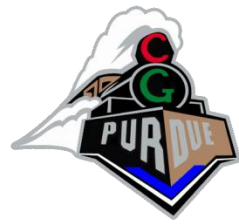
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 - **Ambient light: just a “constant”, e.g., 0.1 of background color**
 - Diffuse reflection
 - Specular reflection



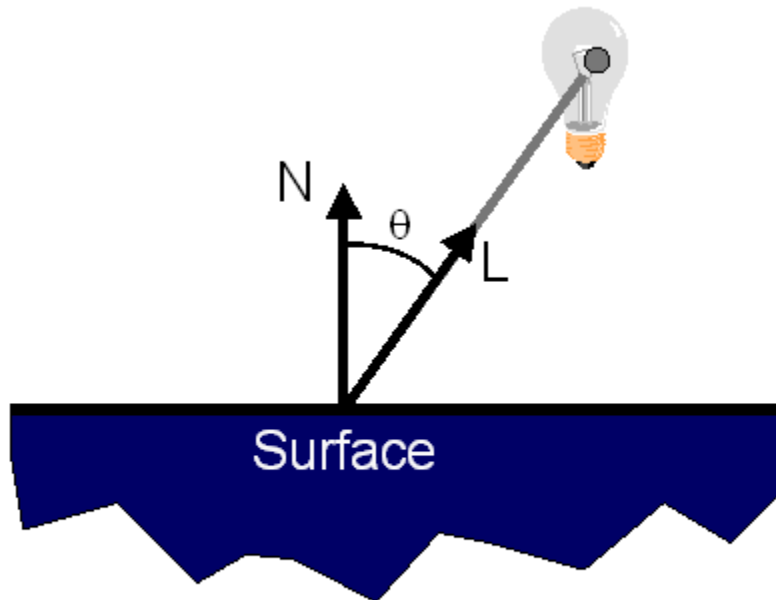
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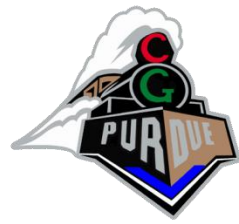
- Diffuse reflection
 - Lambertian model



Lighting and Shading

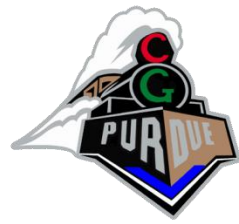
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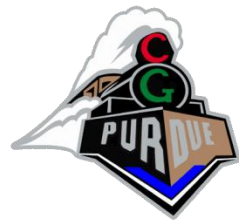
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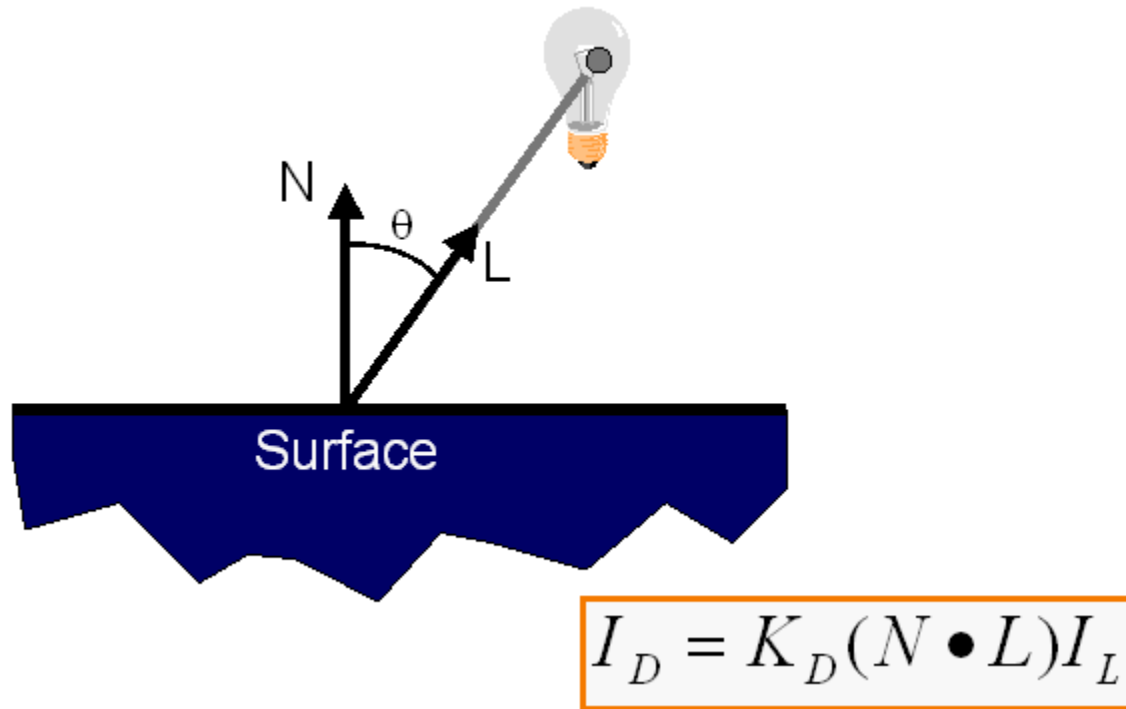
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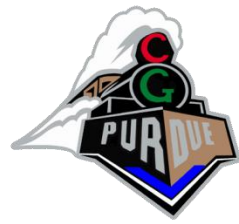
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Lighting and Illumination

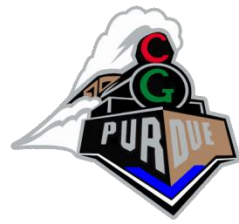
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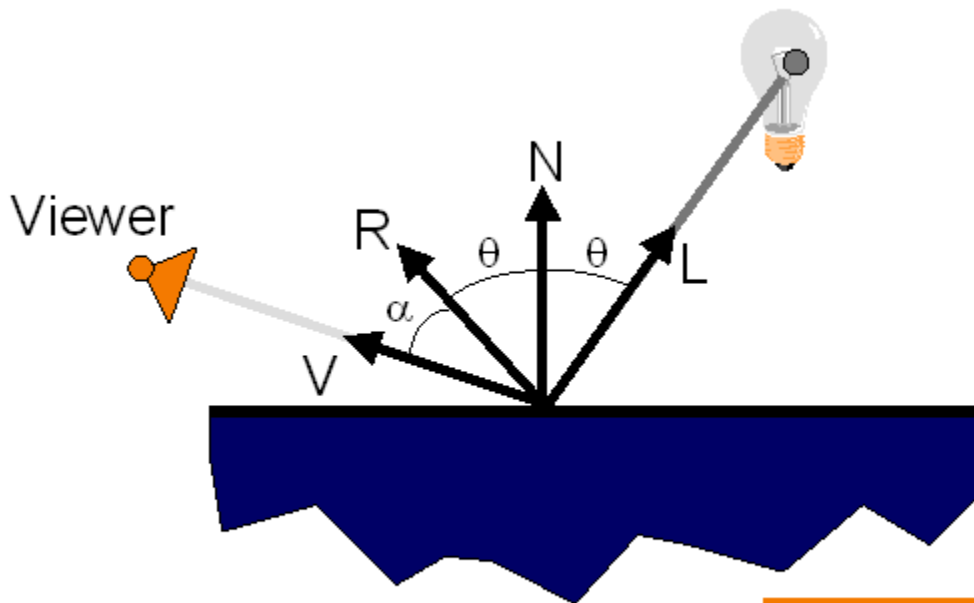
Lighting and Illumination

- Specular reflection
 - Phong model

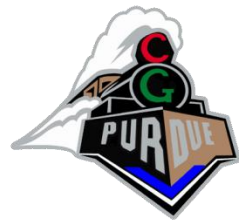


Lighting and Illumination

- Specular reflection
 - Phong model

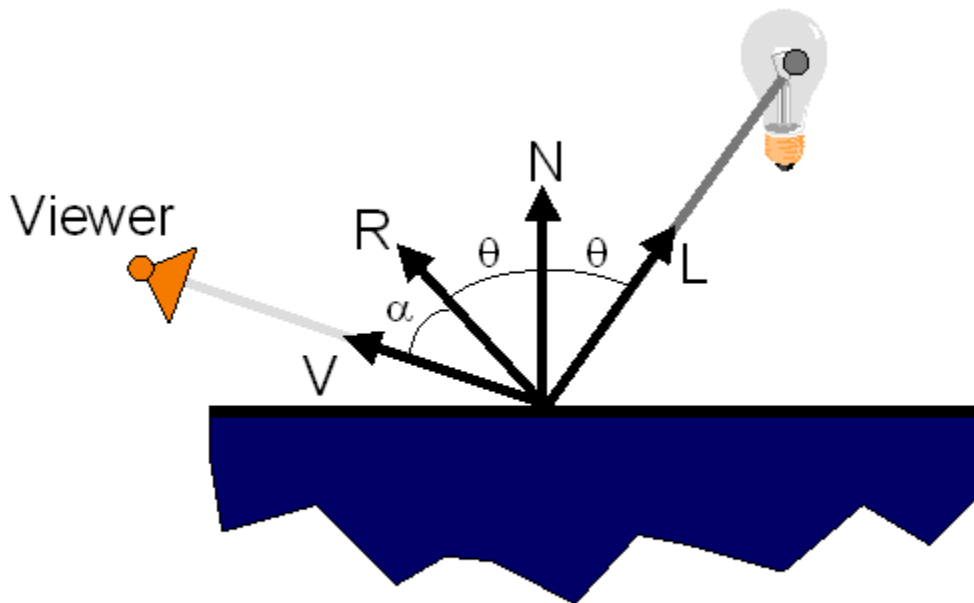


$$I_S = K_S (V \cdot R)^n I_L$$

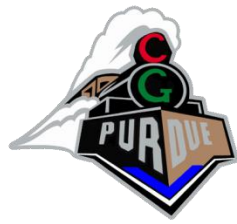


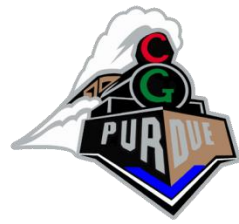
Lighting and Illumination

- Specular reflection
 - Phong model



But there is more...





Specular Reflection

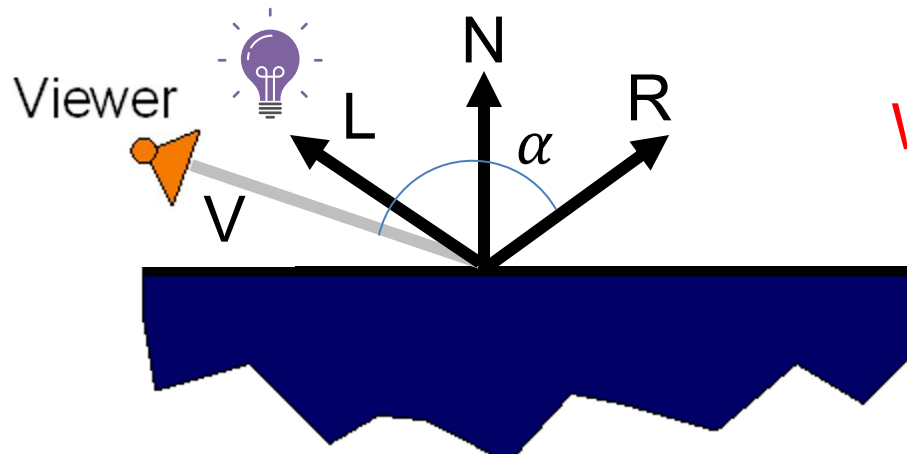
- Problem:

α is ?

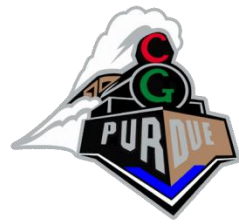
$\alpha > 90$

$V \cdot R < 0$

$K_S(V \cdot R)^n I_L < 0$

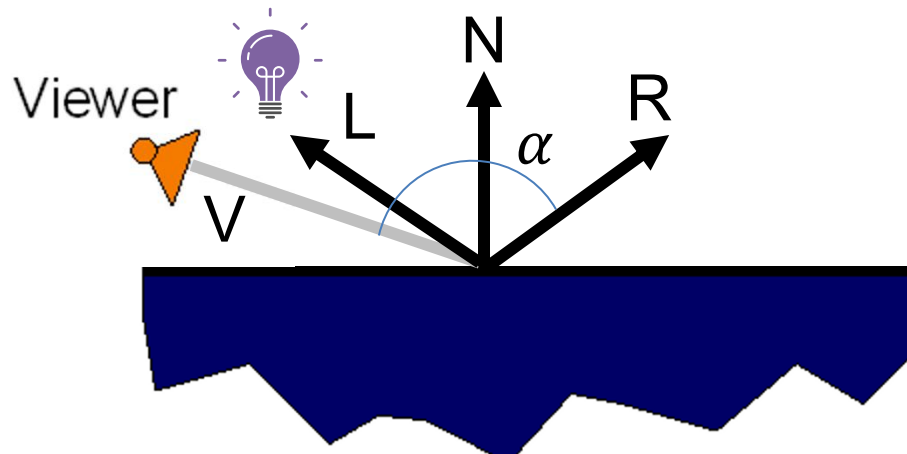


What can be done?



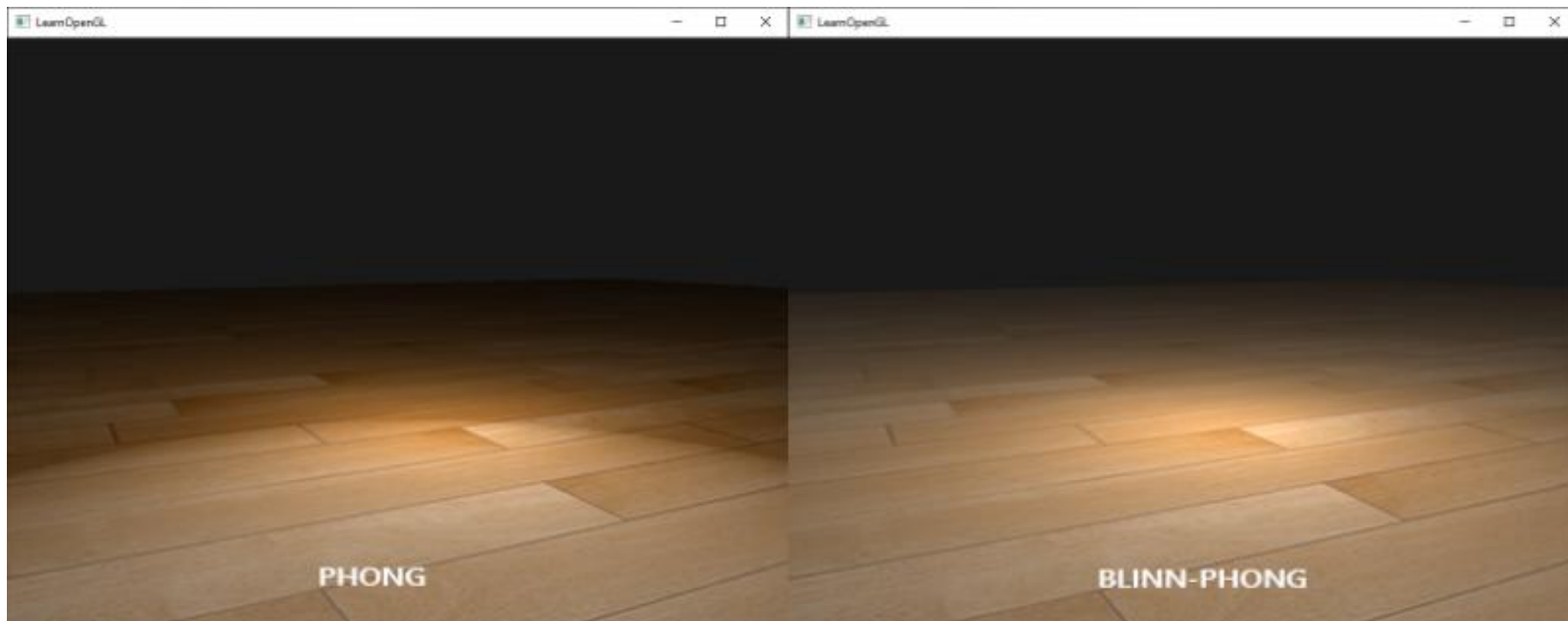
Specular Reflection

- Blinn-Phong Model (or Blinn Model)

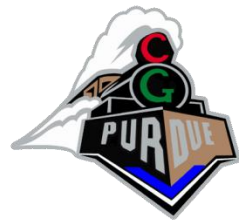


$$H = (L + V) / \|L + V\|$$

$$I_{bp} = K_s (H \cdot N)^n I_L$$

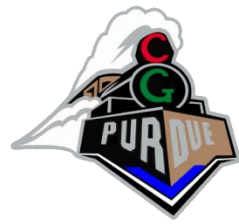


Physically-Based Illumination Models



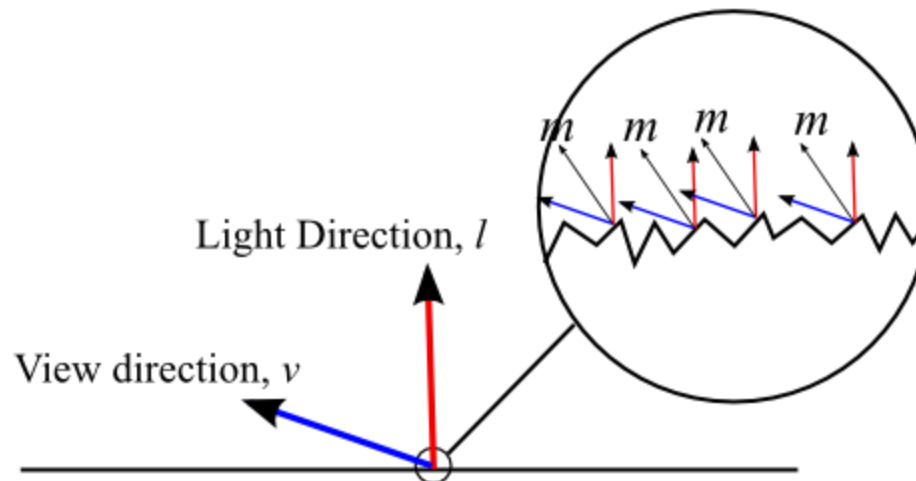
- Consider
 - Radiance
 - Irradiance
 - Microfacets
 - And more...

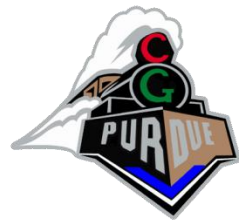




Microfacets

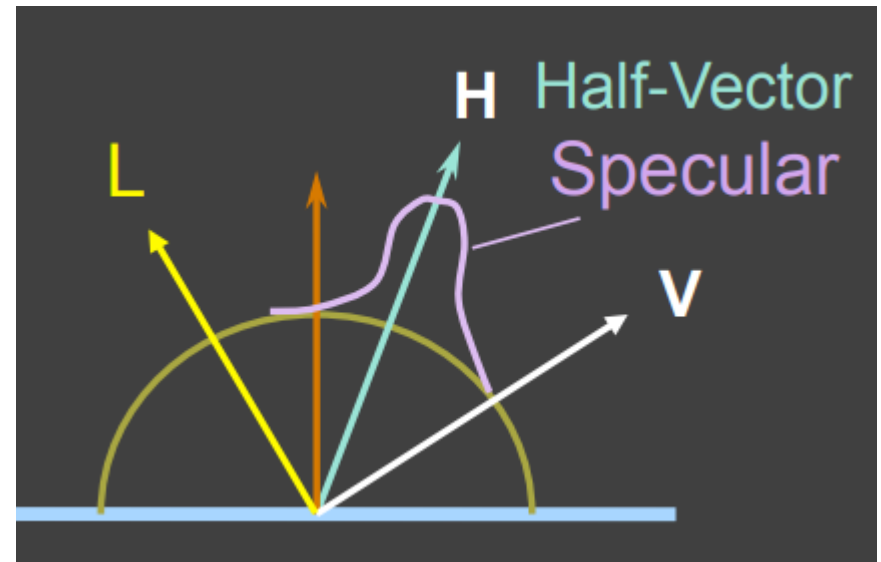
- Key question:
 - What proportion of the microfacets of the surface are oriented in such a way as to specularly reflect light towards the viewer?



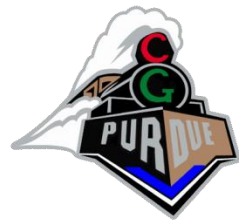


Microfacets

- Key question:
 - What proportion of the microfacets of the surface are oriented in such a way as to specularly reflect light towards the viewer?
- If “very specular”, how does shape change?
- If “not very specular”, how does shape change?

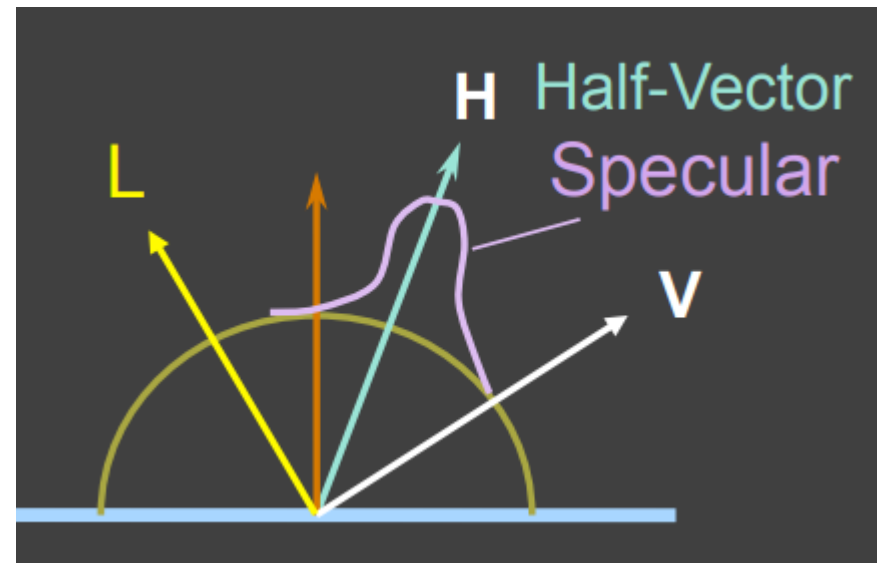


■ [courtesy Kavita Bala]

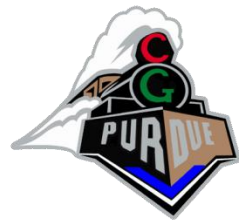


Microfacets

- Key question:
 - What proportion of the microfacets of the surface are oriented in such a way as to specularly reflect light towards the viewer?
- How else can change shape?
 - Hint: a varying amount of microfacets reflect light in different directions...

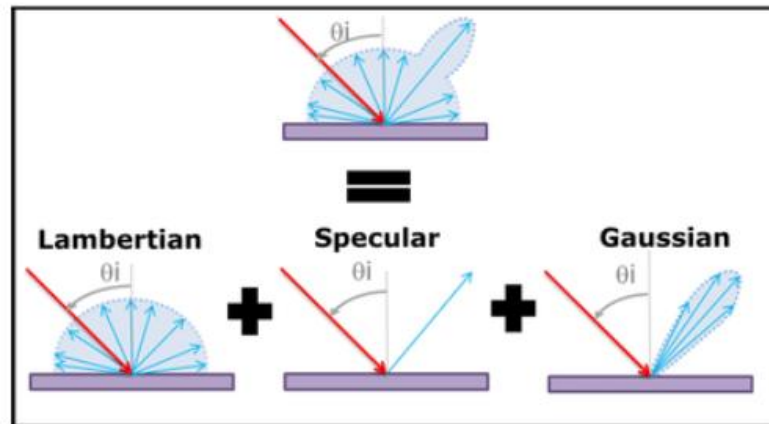


■ [courtesy Kavita Bala]

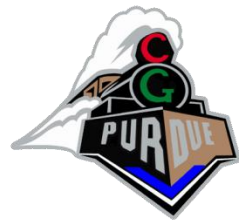


Microfacets

- Key question:
 - What proportion of the microfacets of the surface are oriented in such a way as to specularly reflect light towards the viewer?
- An approximation:
 - Instead of $H \cdot N$ or $V \cdot R$, use Gaussian...



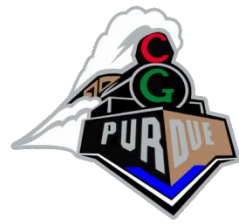
[courtesy L. Marot]



Microfacets

- Key question:
 - What proportion of the microfacets of the surface are oriented in such a way as to specularly reflect light towards the viewer?
- An approximation:
 - Instead of $H \cdot N$ or $V \cdot R$, use $e^{-\left(\frac{\alpha}{m}\right)^2}$ where $m \in [0,1]$ where larger m means rougher surface (=less specular)

$$I_{bp} = K_s e^{-\left(\frac{\arccos(H \cdot N)}{m}\right)^2} I_L$$



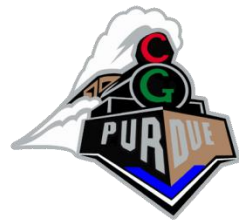
Microfacets

- Torrance-Sparrow Model
 - Surface reflection model developed by physicists, assumes isotropic collection of planar microfacets

$$I_s = \frac{F_k}{\pi} \frac{DG}{(N \cdot V)(N \cdot L)}$$

where

- D is distribution function of microfacet orientations
- G is geometrical attenuation factor (e.g., occlusion, shadowing)
- F_k is the Fresnel term describing the reflection and transmission of light incident on different media

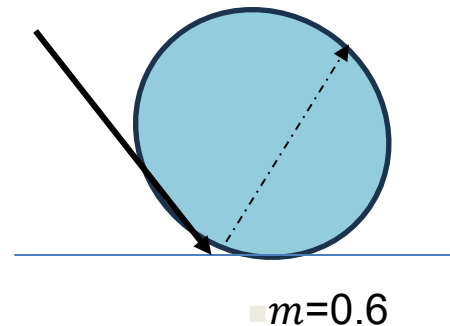
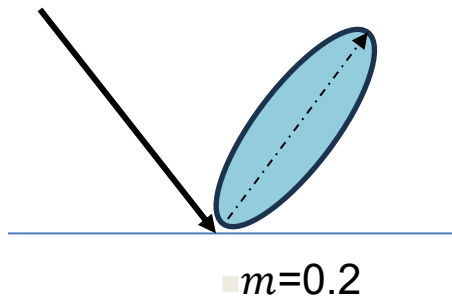


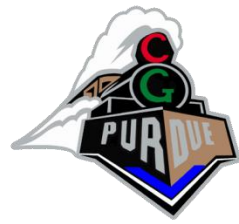
Microfacets

- Torrance-Sparrow Model

$$D = \frac{1}{4m^2 \cos^4 \beta} e^{-\left(\frac{\tan \beta}{m}\right)^2}$$

- β is angle between N and H
- m is root-mean-square slope of the microfacets
 - small m = facets similar to normal; highly directional
 - large m = facets slopes are steep; rough surface



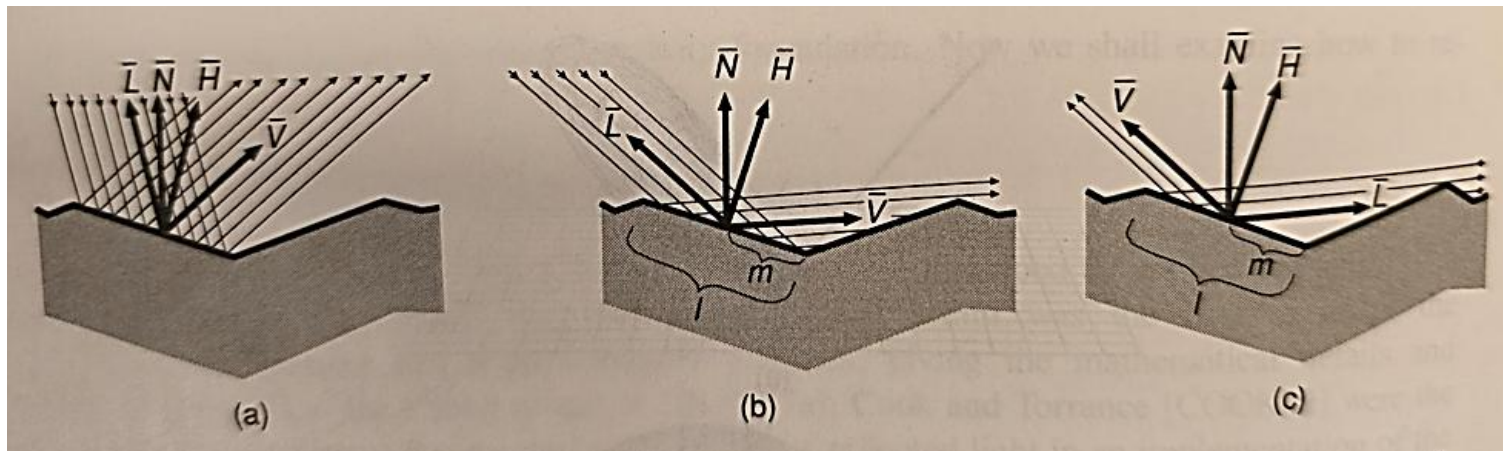


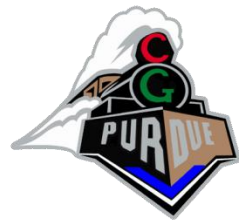
Microfacets

- Torrance-Sparrow Model

$$G = \min\left\{1, \frac{2(N \cdot H)(N \cdot V)}{V \cdot H}, \frac{2(N \cdot H)(N \cdot L)}{V \cdot H}\right\}$$

...quantifies how much microfacets shadow each other





Microfacets

- Torrance-Sparrow Model

$$F_k = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(g - c)^2}{(g + c)^2} \left(1 + \frac{[c(g + c) - 1]^2}{[c(g - c) + 1]^2} \right)$$

where $c = L \cdot H$, $g^2 = \eta_\lambda^2 + c^2 - 1$, $\eta_\lambda = \frac{\eta_{t\lambda}}{\eta_{i\lambda}}$

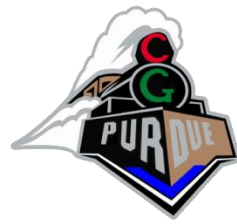
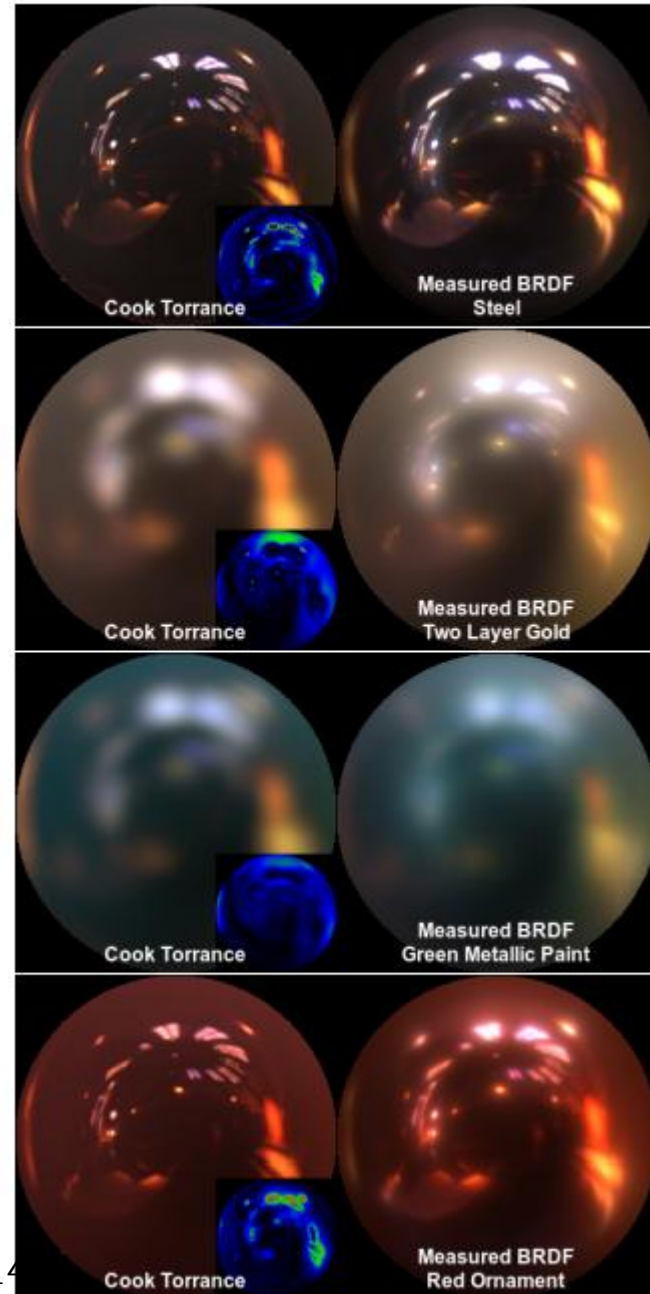
or, simplified to

$$F_k \approx F_0 + (1 - F_0)(1 - (V \cdot H))^5 \quad [\text{Schlick's approximation}]$$

where F_0 is reflectance at normal incidence (e.g., RGB color)

Microfacets

- Cook-Torrance Model
 - Similar, with some improvements
 - D is a weighted sum of distribution functions to model surfaces of multiple scales of roughness





What about rough (diffuse) surfaces?

- Must consider occlusion, shadowing, and diffuse interreflection – thoughts?
- $I_d = N \cdot L$
- Is that it?



What about rough (diffuse) surfaces?

- Must consider occlusion, shadowing, and diffuse interreflection – thoughts?
- Derived from microfacets model
 - Oren-Nayar Model:

$$L_r = L_1 + L_2$$
$$L_1 = \frac{\rho}{\pi} E_0 \cos \theta_i \left(C_1 + C_2 \cos(\phi_i - \phi_r) \tan \beta + C_3 (1 - |\cos(\phi_i - \phi_r)|) \tan \frac{\alpha + \beta}{2} \right),$$
$$L_2 = 0.17 \frac{\rho^2}{\pi} E_0 \cos \theta_i \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + 0.13} \left[1 - \cos(\phi_i - \phi_r) \left(\frac{2\beta}{\pi} \right)^2 \right],$$

where

$$C_1 = 1 - 0.5 \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + 0.33},$$

$$C_2 = \begin{cases} 0.45 \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + 0.09} \sin \alpha & \text{if } \cos(\phi_i - \phi_r) \geq 0, \\ 0.45 \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + 0.09} \left(\sin \alpha - \left(\frac{2\beta}{\pi} \right)^3 \right) & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

$$C_3 = 0.125 \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + 0.09} \left(\frac{4\alpha\beta}{\pi^2} \right)^2,$$

$$\alpha = \max(\theta_i, \theta_r),$$

$$\beta = \min(\theta_i, \theta_r),$$

What about rough (diffuse) surfaces?



- Oren-Nayar Model (simplified)

$$L_r = \cos \theta_i [A + B \max(0, \cos(\theta_r - \theta_i)) \sin \alpha \tan \beta]$$

where using numerical experiments:

$$A \approx \rho \left(\frac{1}{\pi} - 0.09 \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + 0.4} \right)$$

$$B \approx \rho \left(0.125 \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + 0.18} \right)$$



Real Image



Lambertian Model



Oren-Nayar Model