

# CS4670 / 5670 : Computer Vision

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## Lecture 35: Photometric stereo



## Announcements

- Project 5 due on Friday at 11:59pm
  - Pedestrian Detections
- Friday: review in-class
- Final exam: Monday, Dec 10, 9-11am
  - Upson B-17

## What happens when a light ray hits an object?

Some of the light gets absorbed

- converted to other forms of energy (e.g., heat)

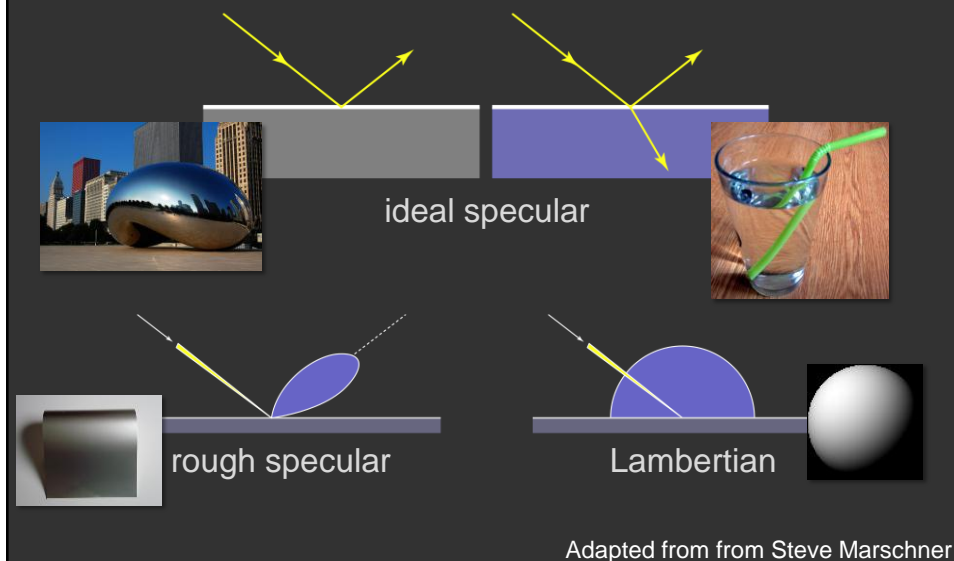
Some gets transmitted through the object

- possibly bent, through “refraction”
- a transmitted ray could possibly bounce back

Some gets reflected

- as we saw before, it could be reflected in multiple directions (possibly all directions) at once

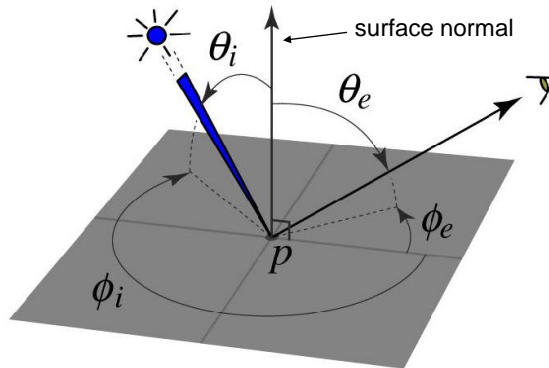
## Classic reflection behavior



## The BRDF

The Bidirectional Reflection Distribution Function

- Given an incoming ray  $(\theta_i, \phi_i)$  and outgoing ray  $(\theta_e, \phi_e)$   
what proportion of the incoming light is reflected along outgoing ray?



Answer given by the BRDF:  $\rho(\theta_i, \phi_i, \theta_e, \phi_e)$

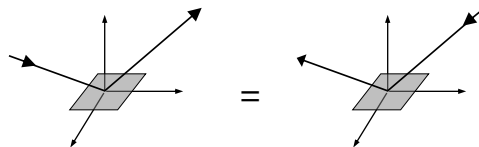
## Constraints on the BRDF

Energy conservation

- Quantity of outgoing light  $\leq$  quantity of incident light  
– integral of BRDF  $\leq 1$

Helmholtz reciprocity

- reversing the path of light produces the same reflectance

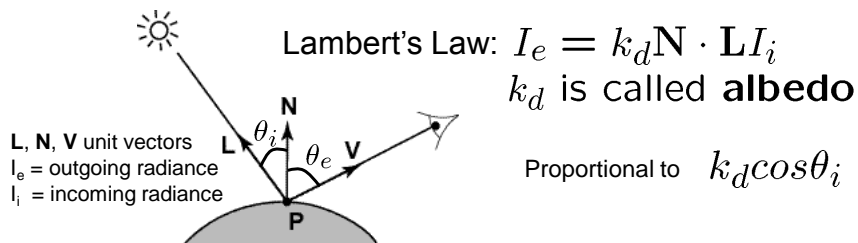
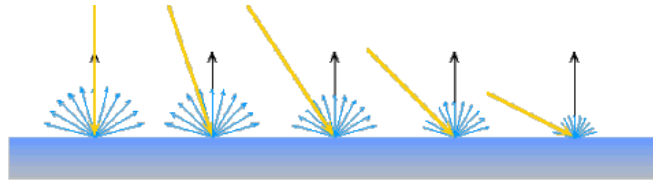


## Diffuse reflection

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Diffuse reflection governed by **Lambert's law**

- Viewed brightness does not depend on viewing direction
- Brightness *does* depend on direction of illumination
- This is the model most often used in computer vision



## Diffuse reflection

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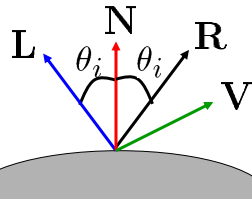
### Demo

<http://www.math.montana.edu/frankw/ccp/multiworld/twothree/lighting/applet1.htm>

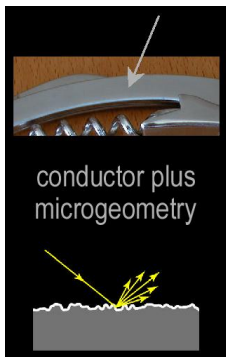
<http://www.math.montana.edu/frankw/ccp/multiworld/twothree/lighting/learn2.htm>

## Specular reflection

For a perfect mirror, light is reflected about  $\mathbf{N}$

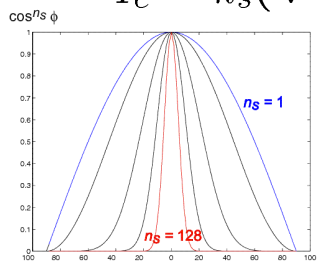


$$I_e = \begin{cases} I_i & \text{if } \mathbf{V} = \mathbf{R} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

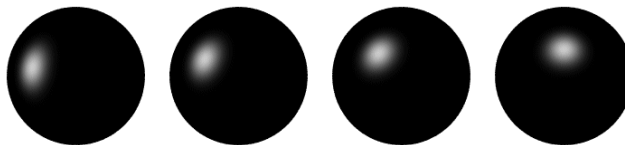


Near-perfect mirrors have a **highlight** around  $\mathbf{R}$

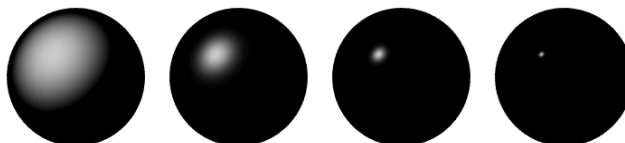
- common model:  $I_e = k_s (\mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{R})^{n_s} I_i$



## Specular reflection

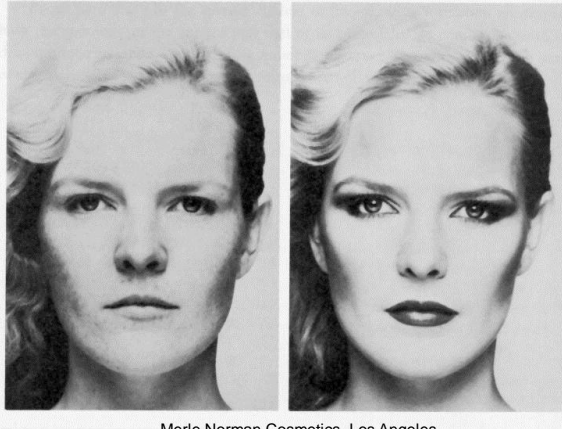


Moving the light source



Changing  $n_s$

## Photometric Stereo

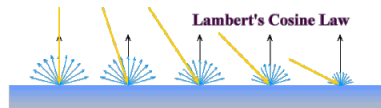
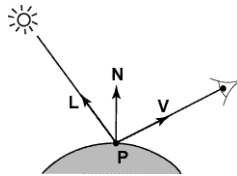


Merle Norman Cosmetics, Los Angeles

### Readings

- R. Woodham, *Photometric Method for Determining Surface Orientation from Multiple Images*. *Optical Engineering* 19(1)139-144 (1980). ([PDF](#))

## Diffuse reflection



$$R_e = k_d \mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L} R_i$$

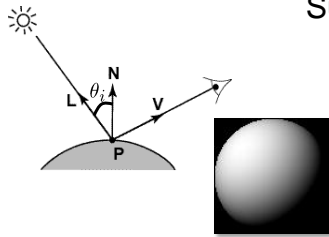
image intensity of  $\mathbf{P}$   $\longrightarrow$   $I = k_d \mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L}$

### Simplifying assumptions

- $I = R_e$ : camera response function is the identity function:
- $R_i = 1$ : light source intensity is 1
  - can achieve this by dividing each pixel in the image by  $R_i$

## Shape from shading

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Suppose  $k_d = 1$

$$\begin{aligned} I &= k_d \mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L} \\ &= \mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{L} \\ &= \cos \theta_i \end{aligned}$$

You can directly measure angle between normal and light source

- Not quite enough information to compute surface shape
- But can be if you add some additional info, for example
  - assume a few of the normals are known (e.g., along silhouette)
  - constraints on neighboring normals—“integrability”
  - smoothness
- Hard to get it to work well in practice
  - plus, how many real objects have constant albedo?

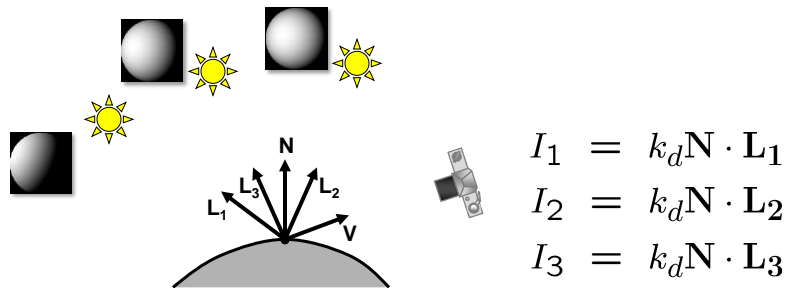
## Diffuse reflection

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### Demo

<http://www.math.montana.edu/frankw/ccp/multiworld/twothree/lighting/applet1.htm>  
<http://www.math.montana.edu/frankw/ccp/multiworld/twothree/lighting/learn2.htm>

## Photometric stereo



Can write this as a matrix equation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_1 \\ I_2 \\ I_3 \end{bmatrix} = k_d \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{L}_1^T \\ \mathbf{L}_2^T \\ \mathbf{L}_3^T \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{N}$$

## Solving the equations

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} I_1 \\ I_2 \\ I_3 \end{bmatrix}}_{\substack{\mathbf{I} \\ 3 \times 1}} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{L}_1^T \\ \mathbf{L}_2^T \\ \mathbf{L}_3^T \end{bmatrix}}_{\substack{\mathbf{L} \\ 3 \times 3}} \underbrace{k_d \mathbf{N}}_{\substack{\mathbf{G} \\ 3 \times 1}}$$

$$\mathbf{G} = \mathbf{L}^{-1} \mathbf{I}$$

$$k_d = \|\mathbf{G}\|$$

$$\mathbf{N} = \frac{1}{k_d} \mathbf{G}$$



## More than three lights

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Get better results by using more lights

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_1 \\ \vdots \\ I_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} L_1 \\ \vdots \\ L_n \end{bmatrix} k_d \mathbf{N}$$

Least squares solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{I} &= \mathbf{L}\mathbf{G} \\ \mathbf{L}^T\mathbf{I} &= \mathbf{L}^T\mathbf{L}\mathbf{G} \\ \mathbf{G} &= (\mathbf{L}^T\mathbf{L})^{-1}(\mathbf{L}^T\mathbf{I}) \end{aligned}$$

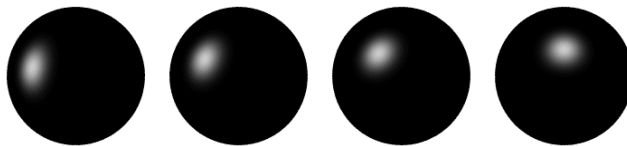
Solve for  $\mathbf{N}$ ,  $k_d$  as before

What's the size of  $\mathbf{L}^T\mathbf{L}$ ?

## Computing light source directions

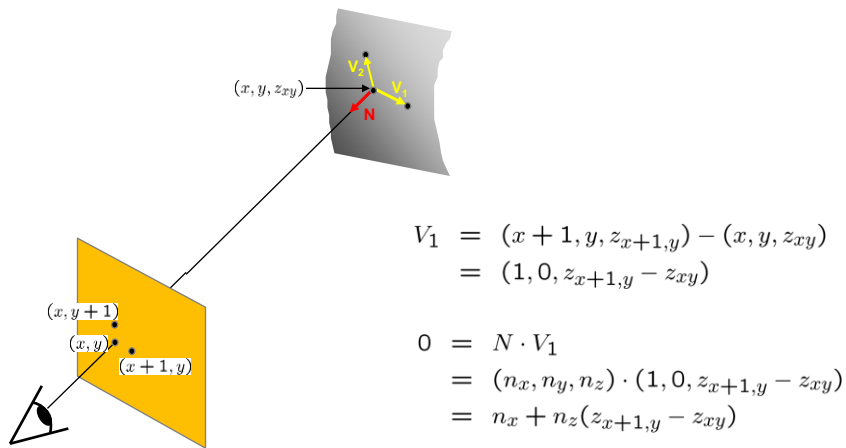
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Trick: place a chrome sphere in the scene



- the location of the highlight tells you where the light source is

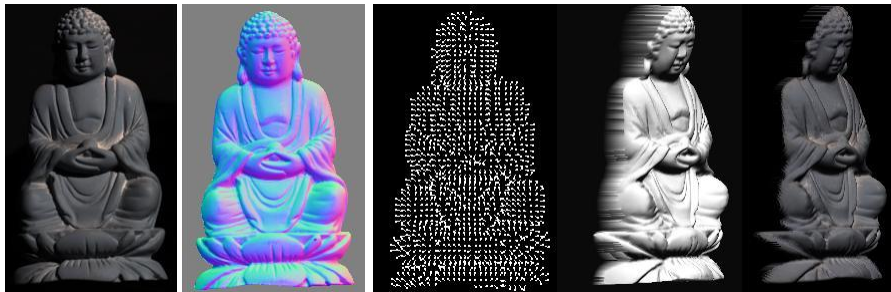
## Depth from normals



Get a similar equation for  $V_2$

- Each normal gives us two linear constraints on  $z$
- compute  $z$  values by solving a matrix equation

## Example



## What if we don't have mirror ball?

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Hayakawa, Journal of the Optical Society of America, 1994, [Photometric stereo under a light source with arbitrary motion](#).

## Limitations

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### Big problems

- doesn't work for shiny things, semi-translucent things
- shadows, inter-reflections

### Smaller problems

- camera and lights have to be distant
- calibration requirements
  - measure light source directions, intensities
  - camera response function

Newer work addresses some of these issues

Some pointers for further reading:

- Zickler, Belhumeur, and Kriegman, "[Helmholtz Stereopsis: Exploiting Reciprocity for Surface Reconstruction](#)." IJCV, Vol. 49 No. 2/3, pp 215-227.
- Hertzmann & Seitz, "[Example-Based Photometric Stereo: Shape Reconstruction with General, Varying BRDFs](#)." IEEE Trans. PAMI 2005

## Application: Detecting composite photos

Which is the real photo?



Fake photo



Real photo