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# Physics of light

# Local Illumination model

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**interaction of light with the surface**

**Need to know**

- **how to measure light**
- **how to describe surface properties**
- **computer representation**

# Properties of light

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- spectrum (energy per wavelength)
- polarization
- coherence

**Radiometry: physical properties**

**Photometry: perceptual properties**

**Visible wavelengths: 380 nm - 770 nm**

# Basic Units

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**Force:**

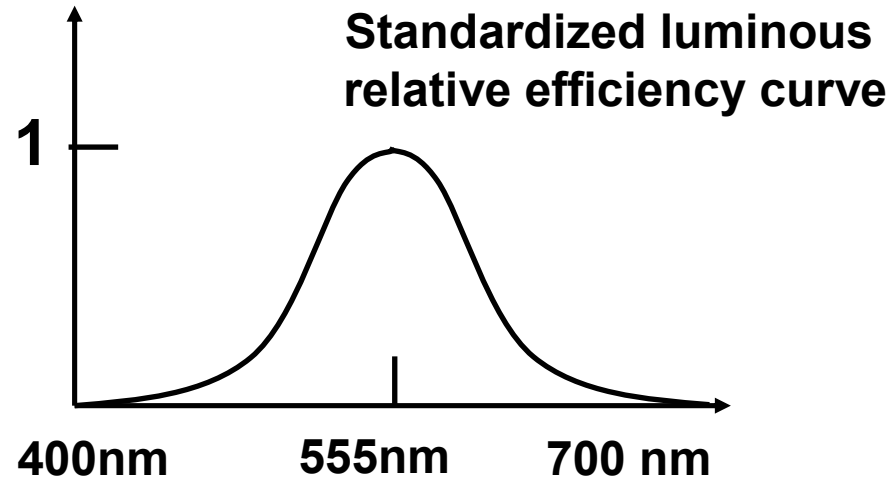
$$\text{Newton} = \text{kg} \cdot \text{m}/\text{sec}^2$$

**Energy:**

$$\text{joule} = \text{Newton} \cdot \text{m}$$

**Power:**

$$\text{watt} = \text{joule}/\text{sec}$$



To get “standard” eye response, integrate spectrum (energy as function of wavelength) multiplied by relative efficiency.

**Luminous energy: talbot;**

**Luminous power: lumen = talbot/sec**

# Photometry and Radiometry

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**Radiometry units are primary. If the spectrum of light  $P(\lambda)$  (measured in watts/nm) is known, then luminous power is computed as**

$$684 \int V(\lambda)P(\lambda)d\lambda$$

**684 is an arbitrary constant measured in lumens/watt (luminosity at the wavelength 555 nm, yellow-green ). If most of the energy of a light source is near 555nm, then to convert from watts to lumens multiply by 684.**

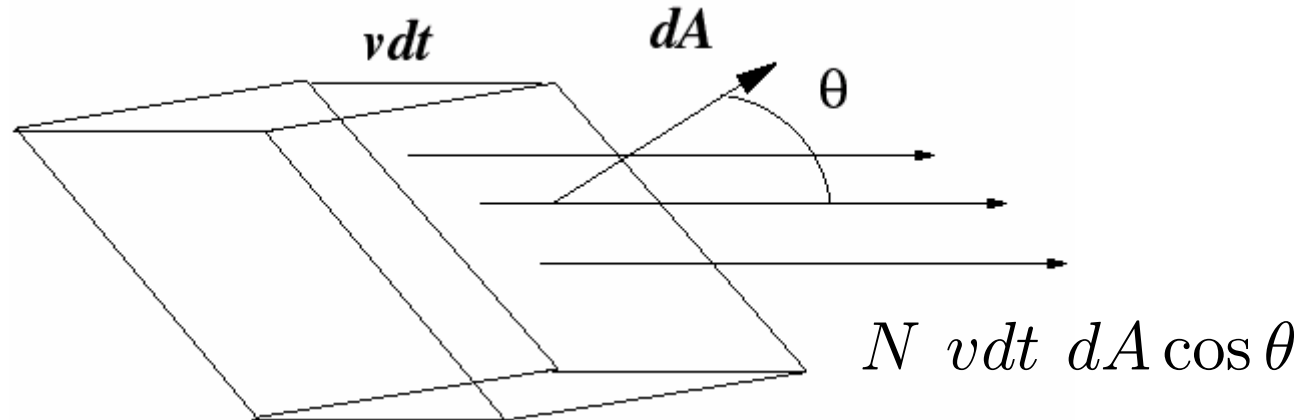
# Flow of light

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## Assumptions:

light consists out of particles (ignore wave nature)  
propagates along straight rays (isotropic medium)

Flow:



$N$  particle density

$dA$  differential area

$v$  particle velocity

# Flux and Flux Density

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**Flux = particles/unit time; differential flux through a small area:**

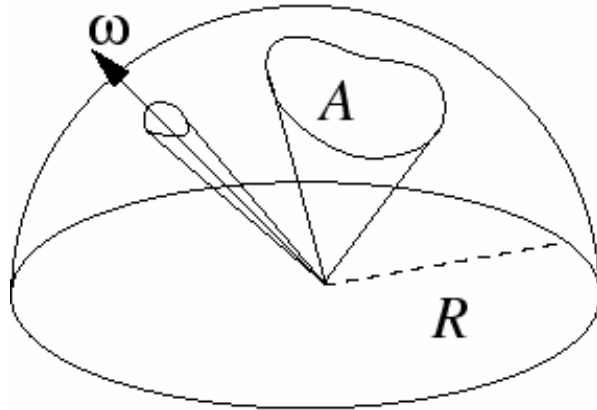
$$d\Phi = Nv \cos \theta dA$$

**Flux density = particles/(unit time unit area)**

$$\frac{d\Phi}{dA} = Nv \cos \theta$$

# Solid Angles

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solid angle spanned by a cone is measured by the area of intersection of the cone with a sphere:

$$\Omega = \frac{A}{R^2}$$

differential solid angle can be assigned a direction. Unit: steradian (full sphere =  $4\pi$ )



# Measuring light

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For any point in space, we can consider directional distribution of photons going through a differential area at this point.

**Radiance:** energy per unit time, per unit differential area perpendicular to the ray, per unit solid angle in the direction of the ray.

Measured in watts/meter<sup>2</sup> /steradian

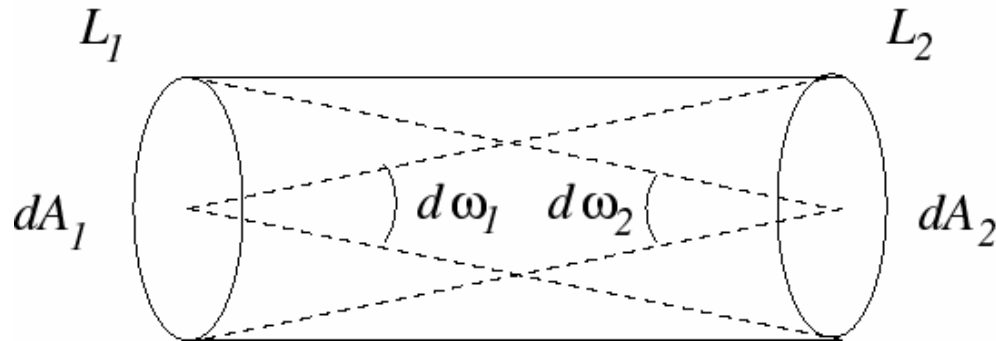
If  $\phi(x, \omega) = \frac{dN}{d\Omega}$  is directional distribution of

photons of wavelength  $\lambda$ , going through the area

then radiance is  $L(x, \omega, \lambda) = \frac{hc}{\lambda} \phi(x, \omega)$   
energy of a photon

# Constancy of Radiance

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radiance is constant along a ray: consider the flow of photons in a thin pencil; the number of photons entering on the right with the direction inside  $d\omega_1$  exit through the other side; equating the expressions for entering and exiting diff. flows we get

$$d\Phi_1 = L_1 d\omega_1 dA_1 = L_2 d\omega_2 dA_2 = d\Phi_2$$

**but**  $dA_1 d\omega_1 = dA_2 d\omega_2$  **so**  $L_1 = L_2$

# BRDF

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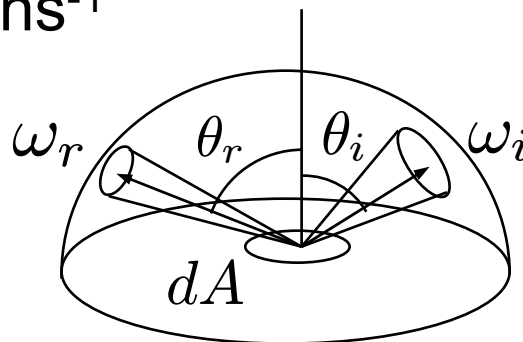
irradiance: light flow per unit area of surface

flow of radiance  $L$  spanning solid angle  $d\omega_i$  creates  
differential irradiance  $L d\omega_i \cos \theta_i$

**bidirectional reflectance distribution function:**

**the ratio of reflected radiance in direction  $r$  to the  
differential irradiance in the direction  $i$**

units: steradians<sup>-1</sup>



$$f(\omega_i, \omega_r) = \frac{dL_r(\omega_i, \omega_r)}{L_i \cos \theta_i d\omega_i}$$

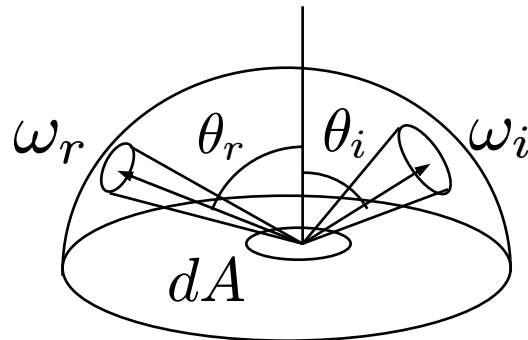
# Reflection equation

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the outgoing radiance in direction  $r$  is the sum of the radiances due to radiance from all incoming directions:

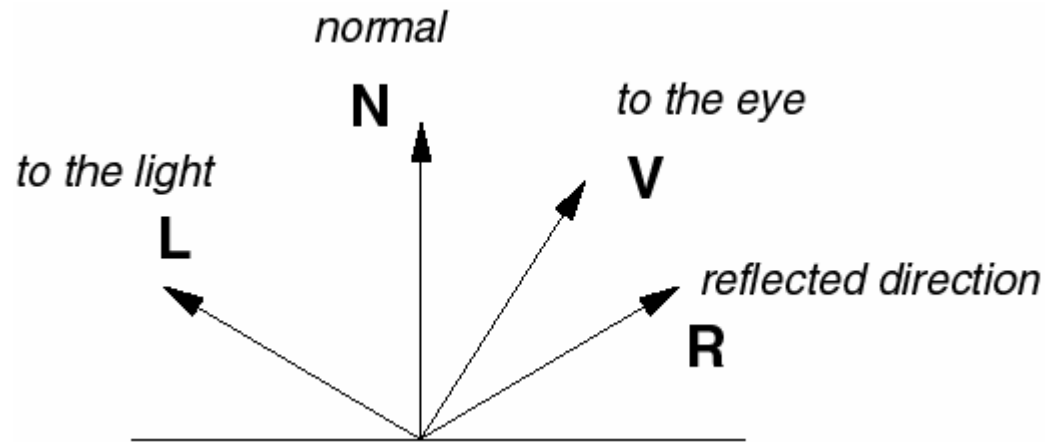
$$L_r(\omega_r) = \int f_r(\omega_i, \omega_r) L_i(\omega_i) \cos \theta_i d\omega_i$$

the integral is over the upper hemisphere



# Reflection geometry

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$$\mathbf{V} = \omega_r, \mathbf{L} = \omega_i$$

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{L} + 2(\mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{N})\mathbf{N}$$

# Phong model

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## 1. "BRDF"

$$f_r(\omega_i, \omega_r) = K_{diff} + K_{spec}(\omega_i \cdot \omega_r)^p$$

**Point light source intensity: power per unit solid angle**

**intensity in a direction  $\omega$ :**  $I(\omega) = \frac{d\Phi}{d\omega}$

**radiance created by light source at distance  $r$   
in the direction of the source:**  $L(\omega, r) = \frac{I(\omega)}{r^2}$

**To avoid integration in the reflection equation, ignore radiance from all directions except a finite number (e.g. direction to the light sources).**

# Phong model

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## Phong model and Z-buffer rendering:

- **assume point light sources; ignore irradiance from all directions except the directions to the lights;**
- **ignore occlusions, that is, no shadows).**

## Phong model and (classical) ray tracing:

- **consider reflection and transmission;**
- **take occlusions into account.**

# Phong model

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$$L(\mathbf{V}) = K_{amb}L_{amb} + \sum_i L_i (K_{diff}(\mathbf{L}_i \cdot \mathbf{N}) + K_{spec}(\mathbf{R}_i \cdot \mathbf{V})^p)$$

summation is over all light sources.

**Ambient term: a hack. Because we ignore diffuse reflected light from objects (e.g. walls) the resulting images are often too dark.**

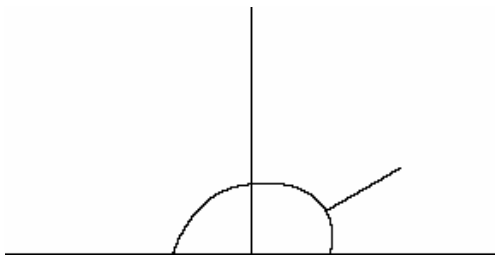
**Another hack: replace  $L_i = \frac{I_i}{r^2}$  with  $\frac{I_i}{d_c + d_l r + d_q r^2}$**



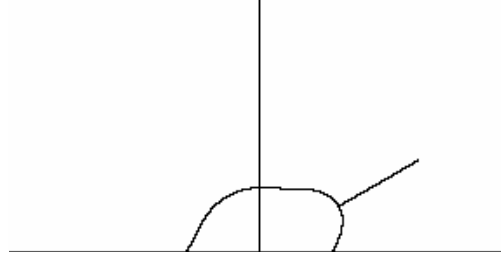
# Phong model

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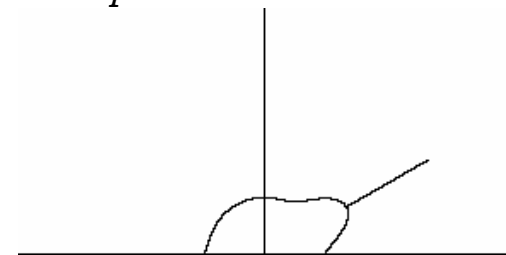
Directional plots of BRDF for a fixed incoming direction for different  $(K_{diff}, K_{spec}, p)$



**(0.8,0.2,4)**



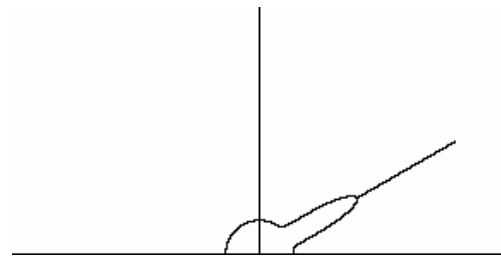
**(0.7,0.3,8)**



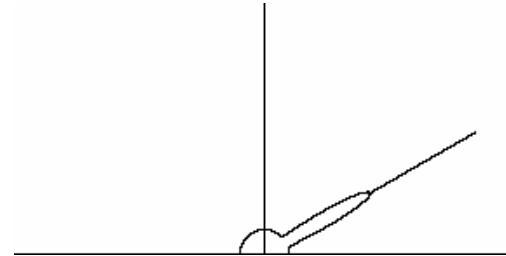
**(0.6,0.4,16)**



**(0.4,0.6,32)**



**(0.3,0.7,64)**



**(0.2,0.8,128)**

# Constants and units

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$K_{diff}$ ,  $K_{spec}$  reflection coefficients, 3 color components

$p$  Phong exponent, nondimensional, same for all colors

$L, L_{amb}$  watts/meter<sup>2</sup>/steradian, 3 color components

$I_i$  light source intensity, 3 color components

# OpenGL model

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## Several additions:

**ambient term per object;**

**emmission;**

**ambient, diffuse, specular light “intensities”**

## Setting material parameters ( $K_{diff}$ , $K_{spec}$ , $K_{amb}$ , $p$ )

```
GLfloat mat_diffuse[3], mat_spec[3], mat_amb[3];
```

```
GLfloat shininess;
```

...

```
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT, GL_DIFFUSE, mat_diffuse);
```

```
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT, GL_SPECULAR, mat_spec);
```

```
glMaterialfv(GL_FRONT, GL_AMBIENT, mat_amb);
```

# Lighting model for ray tracing

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New effects: reflection, refraction; need more terms

reflection part:

$$L_1(\mathbf{V}) = \sum_{\substack{\text{visible sources} \\ \text{in front}}} L_i (K_{diff}(\mathbf{L}_i \cdot \mathbf{N}) + K_{spec}(\mathbf{R}_i \cdot \mathbf{V})^p) + k_{refl} L_{refl}$$

**radiance from the reflected ray**

$$L_2(\mathbf{V}) = \sum_{\substack{\text{visible sources} \\ \text{behind}}} L_i (K_{diff}(\mathbf{L}_i \cdot \mathbf{N}) + K_{spec}(\mathbf{T}_i \cdot \mathbf{V})^p) + k_{trans} L_{trans}$$

**radiance from the refracted ray**

$$L(\mathbf{V}) = K_{amb} L_{amb} + (1 - t) L_1(\mathbf{V}) + t L_2(\mathbf{V})$$

**$t$  is transparency**