



VU Rendering SS 2012

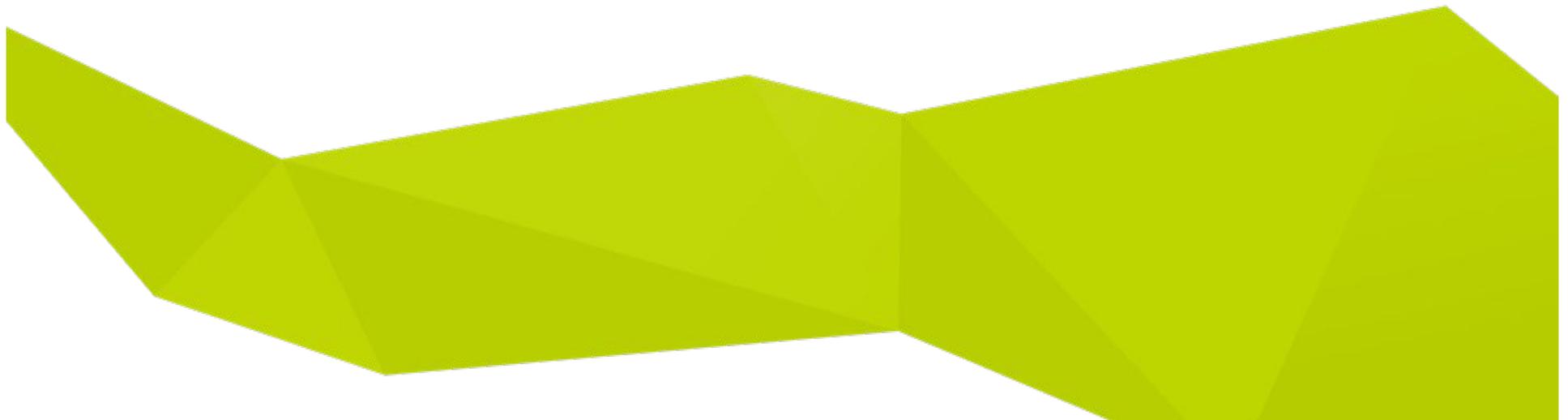
Unit 9: Renderman





Overview

1. Pixar RenderMan / REYES
 - Highly complex software system used for a large portion of today's industrial CG work
2. Software shaders
 - Technology behind complex object appearance with simple basic geometry





State of the Art in Graphics



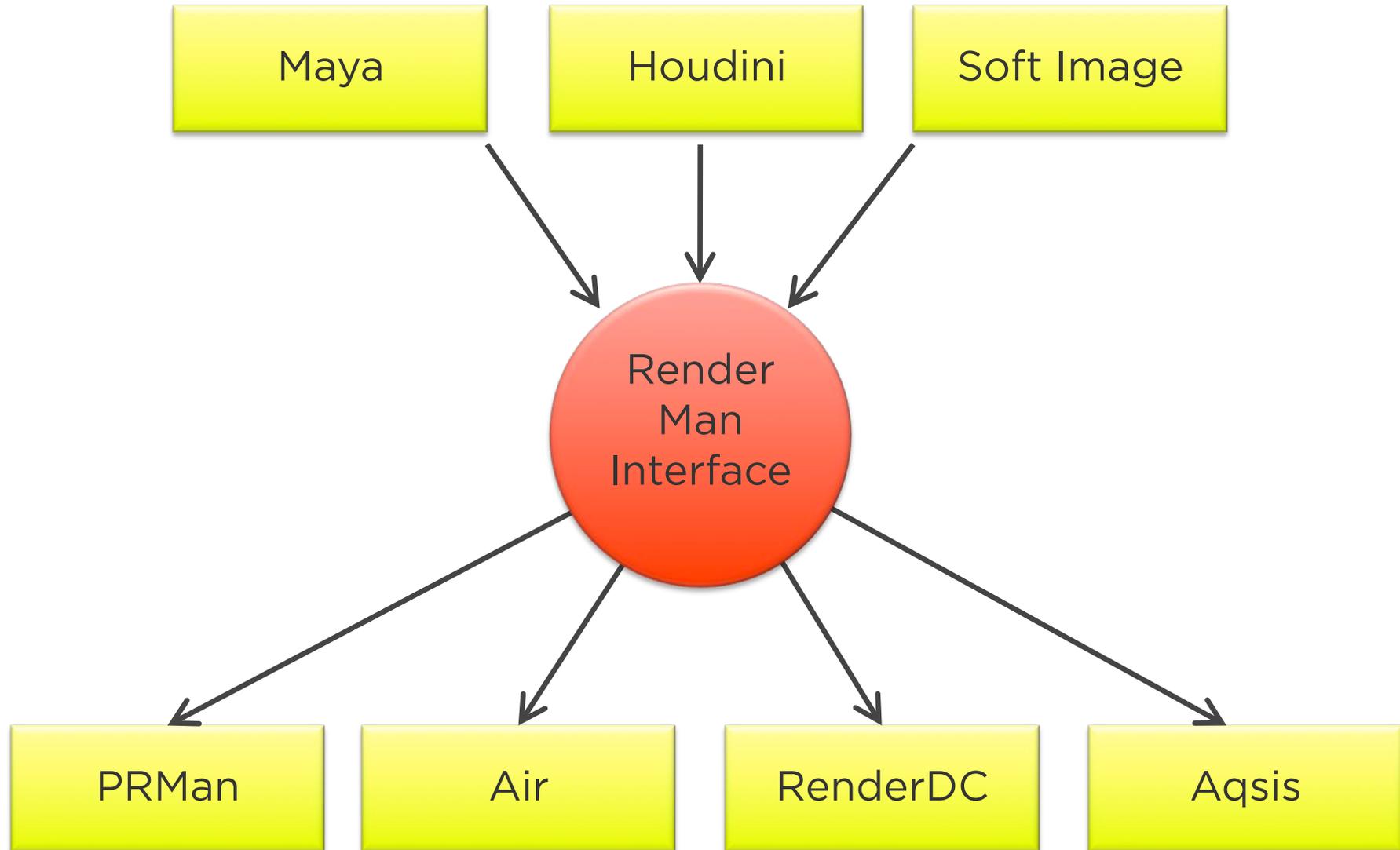


RenderMan Naming Confusion

- RenderMan can be either one of three things:
 - **RenderMan SL:** The 3D scene description language defined by Pixar Inc.
 - **RenderMan Interface:** The interface between modelling and rendering
 - **PRMan:** The RenderMan-compliant hybrid scanline renderer sold by Pixar (REYES)
- For a long time, Pixar PRMan was the only Rman-compliant system
- BMRT was the first alternative (now defunct)



What is Renderman?



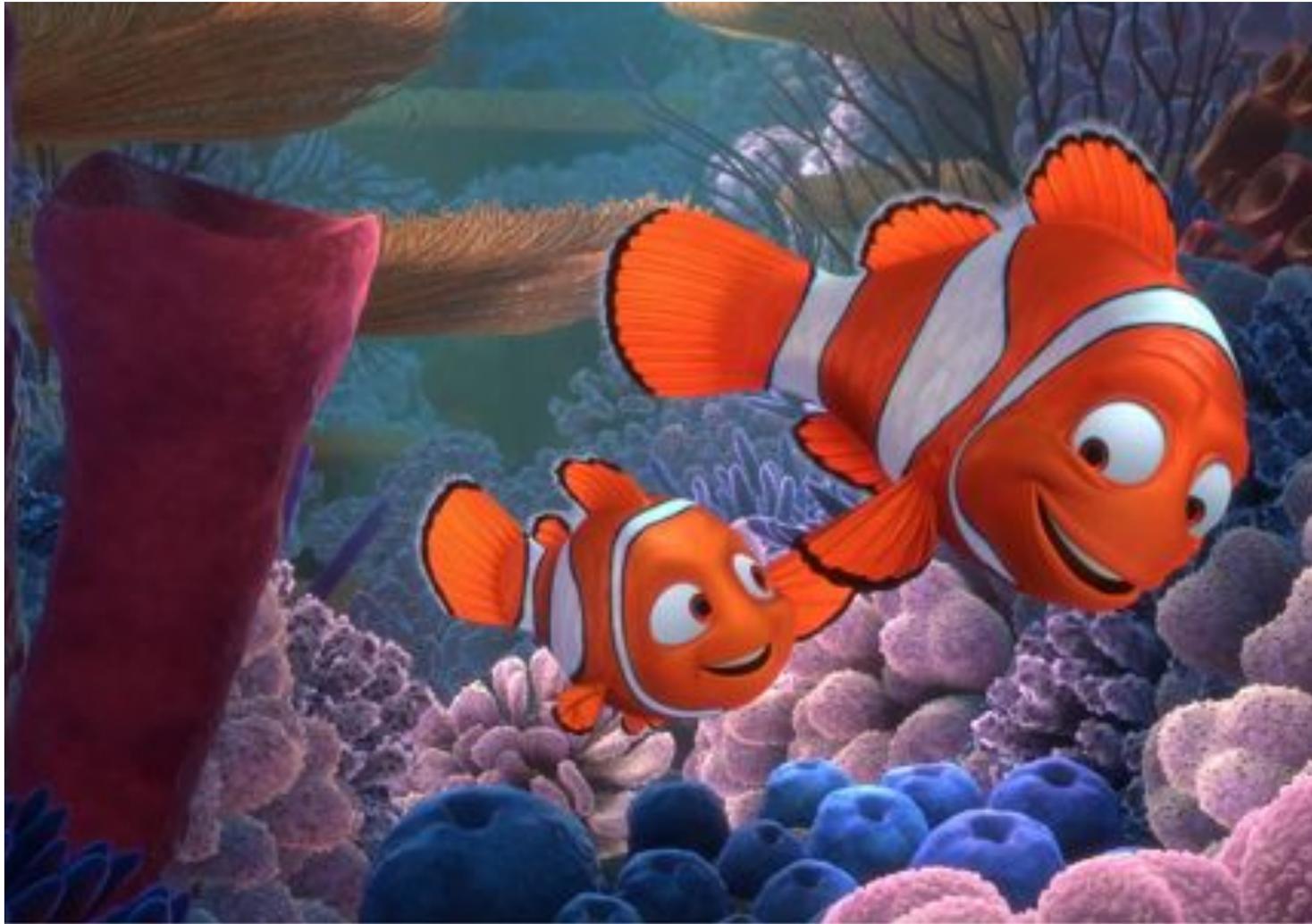


RenderMan - The Product (PRMan)

- Pixar Photorealistic RenderMan (PRMan)
- Evolved gradually since 1982 / 84 from the Lucasfilm Renderer
- Basically a sophisticated scanline renderer (can be bypassed)
- Currently at release 16.0
 - Displacements
 - Camera controls
 - Particles
 - Indirect illumination / GI
 - Hair & fur optimizations
 - SSS
 - Parallel network rendering
 - On demand raytracing



PRMan Features - Displacements





PRMan Features - Hair





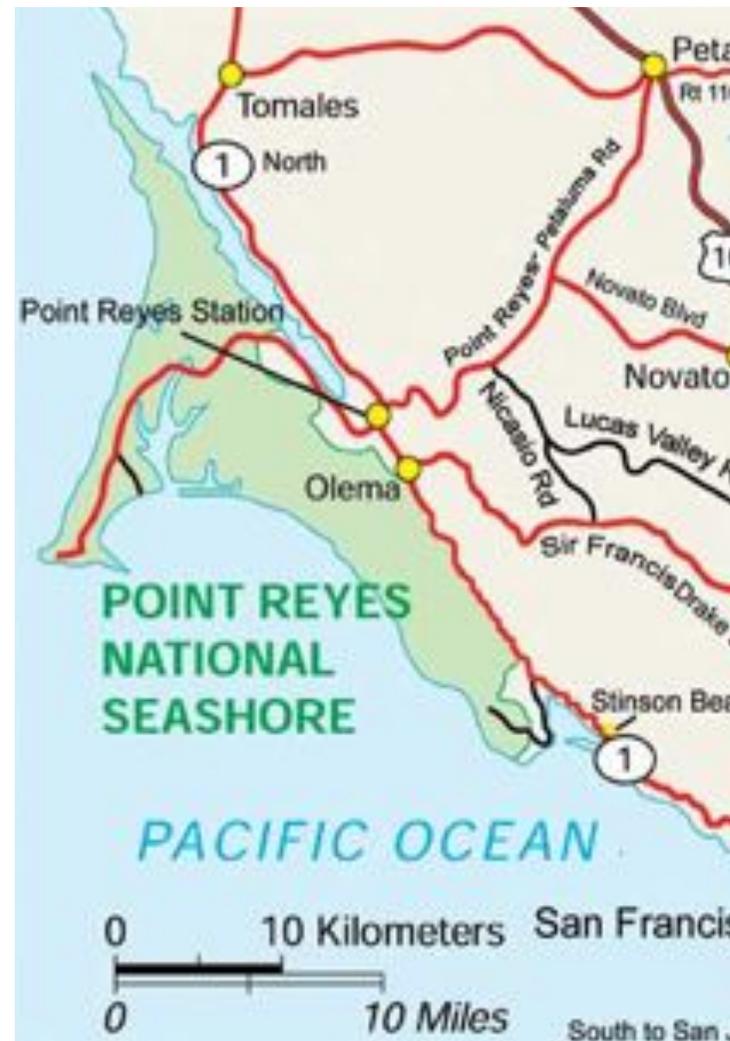
PRMan Features - Motion Blur





REYES

- “Render everything you ever saw”
- REYES = software architecture
- PRMan implements the REYES architecture



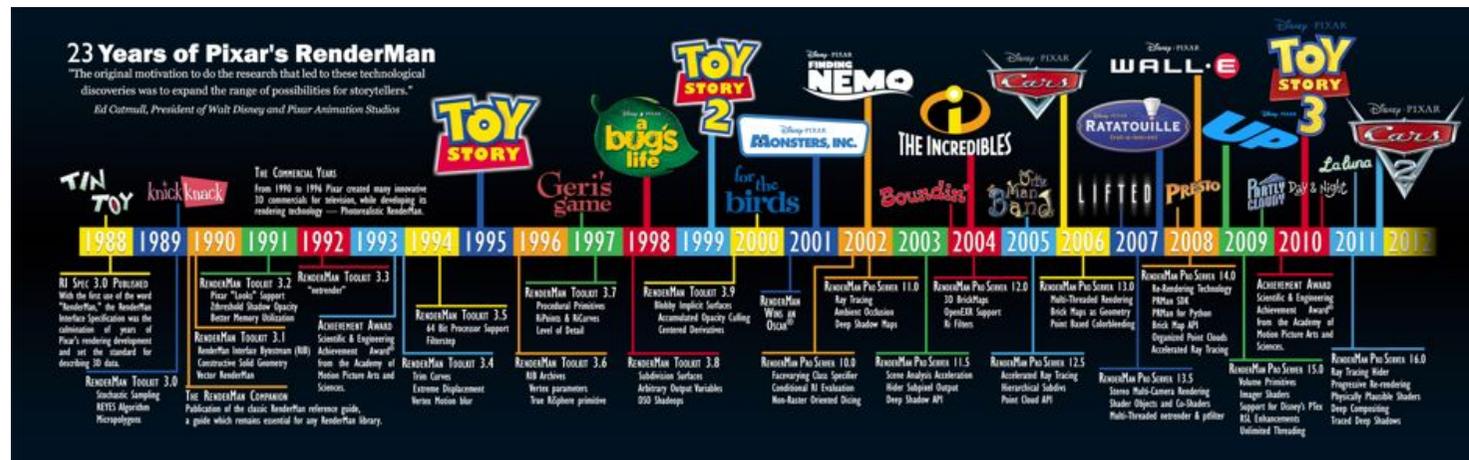


REYES Assumptions and Goals 1

- High possible model complexity
- Diverse types of primitives
 - Esp. data amplification primitives, such as fractals, procedural models etc.
- Shading complexity
 - Complexity of real scenes comes from surface appearance as much as from geometry
 - Programmable shaders a necessity



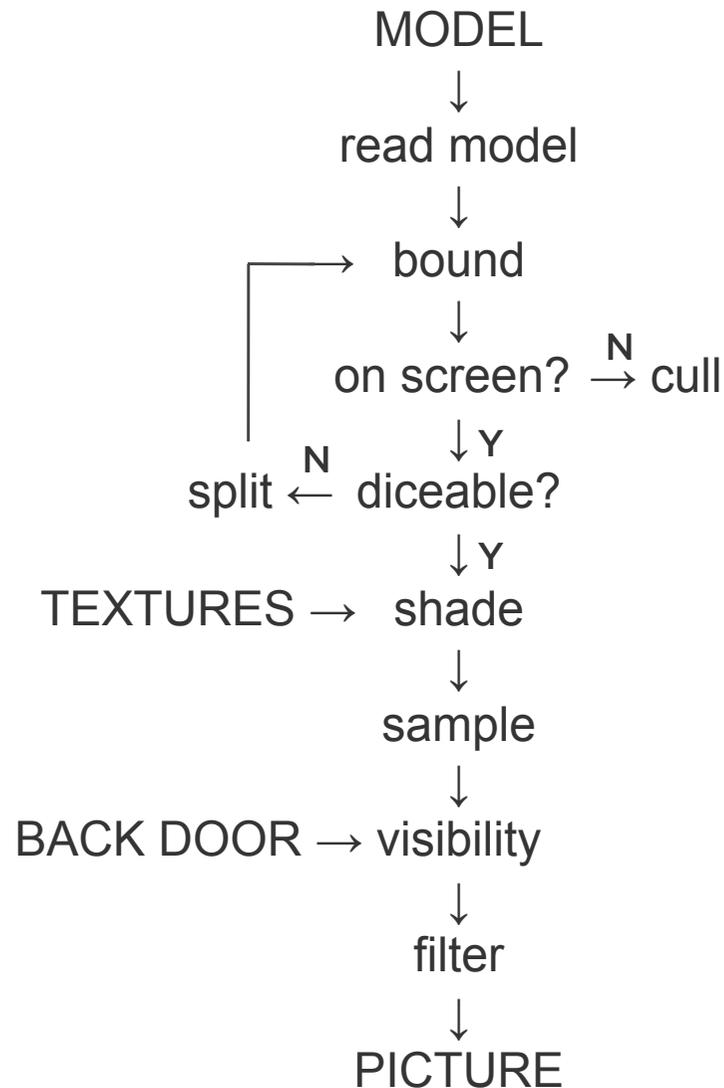
REYES Assumptions and Goals 2



- Minimal ray tracing
- Approximation of non-local effects through other means (e.g. shadow maps)
- Speed
 - Important for animations: 2h movie in 1 year - < 3 min per frame!
- Image quality
 - Anti-aliasing and proper pixel filtering is considered to be essential



REYES Algorithm: Design Principles



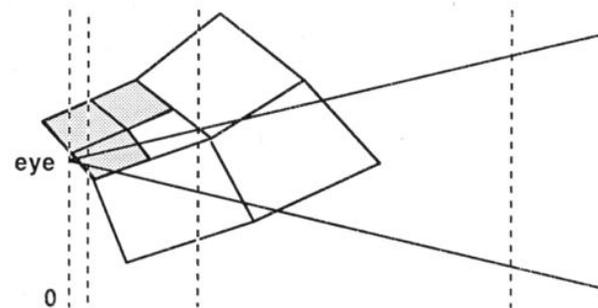
- Natural coordinates
- Vectorisation
- Common representation: Micropolygons
- Locality
- Linearity
- Large models
- Backdoor
- Efficient texture maps



Geometric Primitive Routines

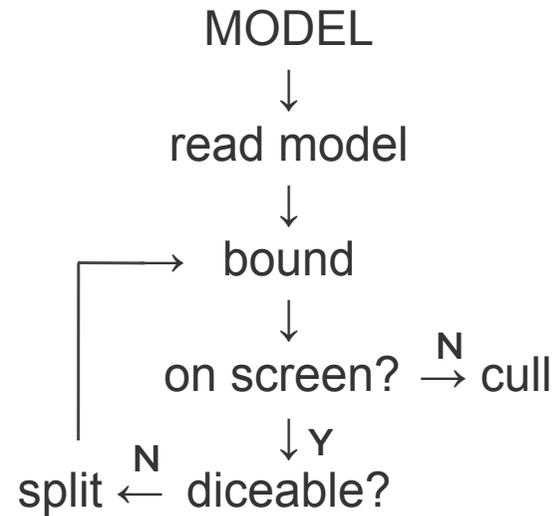
MODEL
↓
read model
↓
bound
↓
on screen? \xrightarrow{N} cull

- Bound
 - Computes bounding box information
- Culling
 - Primitives which do not intersect the visible region are discarded without being diced or split
 - Each part is tested again

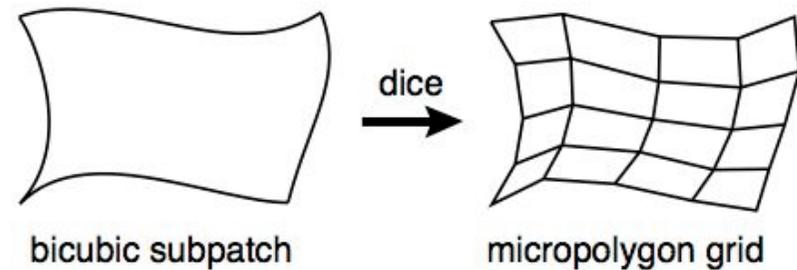




Geometric Primitive Routines

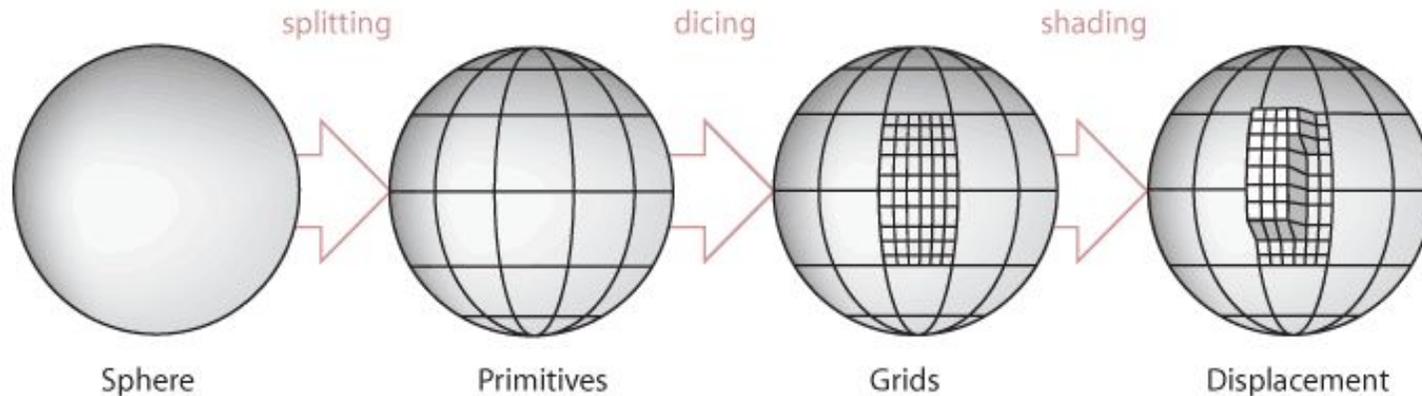


- Diceable test
 - Examines micropolygon size & number
- Split
 - Subdivision into other geometric primitives
- Dice
 - Perform the actual split into micropolygons





Micropolygons



- All primitives are diced into micropolygons
- The entire shading process operates on this single monochrome type of primitive
- Roughly half a pixel across
- MP generation operates in eye space
- Subdivision is always done in the primitive's (u,v) space, never in screen space



Complete Algorithm

```
Initialize the z buffer.
For each geometric primitive in the model,
  Read the primitive from the model file
  If the primitive can be bounded,
    Bound the primitive in eye space.
    If the primitive is completely outside of the hither-yon z range, cull it.
    If the primitive spans the  $\epsilon$  plane and can be split,
      Mark the primitive undiceable.
    Else
      Convert the bounds to screen space.
      If the bounds are completely outside the viewing frustum, cull the primitive.
  If the primitive can be diced,
    Dice the primitive into a grid of micropolygons.
    Compute normals and tangent vectors for the micropolygons in the grid.
    Shade the micropolygons in the grid.
    Break the grid into micropolygons.
    For each micropolygon,
      Bound the micropolygon in eye space.
      If the micropolygon is outside the hither-yon range, cull it.
      Convert the micropolygon to screen space.
      Bound the micropolygon in screen space.
      For each sample point inside the screen space bound,
        If the sample point is inside the micropolygon,
          Calculate the z of the micropolygon at the sample point by interpolation.
          If the z at the sample point is less than the z in the buffer,
            Replace the sample in the buffer with this sample.
      Else
        Split the primitive into other geometric primitives.
        Put the new primitives at the head of the unread portion of the model file.
  Filter the visible sample hits to produce pixels.
Output the pixels.
```



REYES Advantages

- Can handle arbitrary number of primitives
 - Basically a batch renderer for individual primitives
- No inversions - projections of pixels onto textures
- Computations can easily be vectorised (e.g. shading)
- No clipping calculations
- Frequently no texture filtering is needed



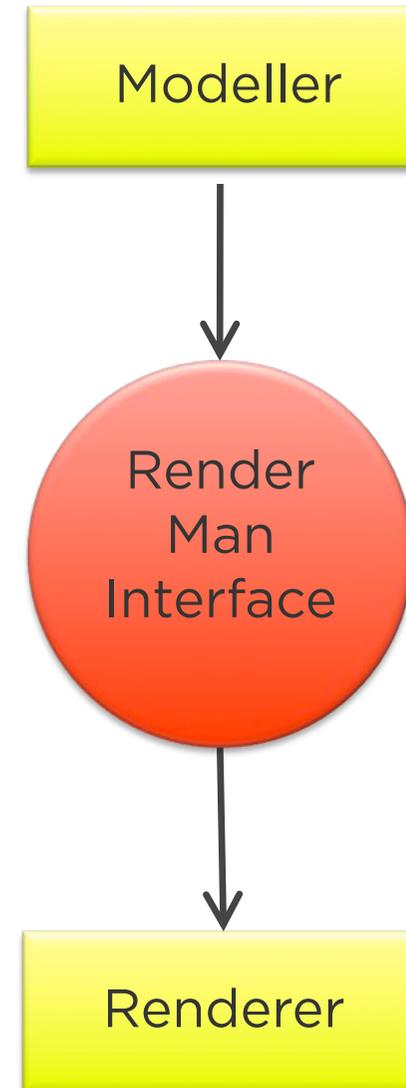
REYES Disadvantages

- No natural way to dice polygons
- Shading before sampling causes problems for motion blur
- Dicing is difficult for some types of primitives like e.g. blobs
- No coherency is exploited for large uniform objects - everything is diced into micropolygons
- No GI information of any kind is computed



RenderMan Interface

- Interface between rendering and modelling
- Powerful set of primitive surface types
 - Quadric surfaces
 - Polygons
 - Parametric surfaces
- Hierarchical modeling, geometry
- Constructive solid geometry
- Camera model (orthographic, perspective)
- Generalized shading model





Using the RM Interface

- Two basic options exist:
 - Use of RM function calls from a high-level language (e.g. C) implementation of the RM API
 - Feeding archived RM function calls from a RenderMan Interface Bytestream (RIB) to a compliant renderer (hand generated, output from modelling program)
- The actual renderers are usually non-interactive
- Separate preview renderers are used during the design phase



RM Program Structure

- Consistent naming of API calls (Ri...)
- All function calls bracketed between one pair of RiBegin and RiEnd
- One global graphics state is maintained within this bracket
- All API calls modify this state
- API calls are frequently varargs, and have to be terminated with RI_NULL
- Most calls deal with surface properties → shading language



RIB File

- Sequence of requests to the renderer
- No loops, branches, ...
- Hierarchical attributes/transformations
- Geometry, lights and materials are specified inside a WorldBegin/WorldEnd block
- Normally RIB file contains just one frame's worth of data



API Calls vs. RIB

```
#include <math.h>
#include "ri.h"
void main (void)
{
    static RtFloat fov = 45, intensity = 0.5;
    static RtFloat Ka = 0.5, Kd = 0.8, Ks = 0.2;
    static RtPoint from = {0,0,1}, to = {0,10,0};
    RiBegin (RI_NULL);
    RiFormat (512, 512, 1);
    RiPixelSamples (2, 2);
    RiFrameBegin (1);
    RiDisplay ("t1.tif", "file", "rgb", RI_NULL);
    RiProjection ("perspective", "fov", &fov, RI_NULL);
    RiTranslate (0, -1.5, 10);
    RiRotate (-90, 1, 0, 0);
    RiRotate (-10, 0, 1, 0);
    RiWorldBegin ();
    RiLightSource ("ambientlight", "intensity", &intensity, RI_NULL);
    RiLightSource ("distantlight", "from", from, "to", to, RI_NULL);
    RiSurface ("plastic", "Ka", &Ka, "Kd", &Kd, "Ks", &Ks, RI_NULL);
    RiTranslate (.5, .5, .8);
    RiSphere (5, -5, 5, 360, RI_NULL);
    RiWorldEnd ();
    RiFrameEnd ();
    RiFrameBegin (2);
    RiDisplay ("t2.tif", "file", "rgb", RI_NULL);
    RiProjection ("perspective", "fov", &fov, RI_NULL);
    RiTranslate (0, -2, 10);
    RiRotate (-90, 1, 0, 0);
    RiRotate (-20, 0, 1, 0);
    RiWorldBegin ();
    RiLightSource ("ambientlight", "intensity", &intensity, RI_NULL);
    RiLightSource ("distantlight", "from", from, "to", to, RI_NULL);
    RiSurface ("plastic", "Ka", &Ka, "Kd", &Kd, "Ks", &Ks, RI_NULL);
    RiTranslate (1, 1, 1);
    RiSphere (8, -8, 8, 360, RI_NULL);
    RiWorldEnd ();
    RiFrameEnd ();
    RiEnd ();
}
```

```
Format 512 512 1
PixelSamples 2 2
FrameBegin 1
Display "t1.tif" "file" "rgb"
Projection "perspective" "fov" 45
Translate 0 -1.5 10
Rotate -90 1 0 0
Rotate -10 0 1 0
WorldBegin
LightSource "ambientlight" 1 "intensity" 0.5
LightSource "distantlight" 2 "from" [ 0 0 1 ] "to" [ 0 10 0 ]
Surface "plastic" "Ka" 0.5 "Kd" 0.8 "Ks" 0.2
Translate .5 .5 .8
Sphere 5 -5 5 360
WorldEnd
FrameEnd
FrameBegin 2
Display "t2.tif" "file" "rgb"
Projection "perspective" "fov" 45
Translate 0 -2 10
Rotate -90 1 0 0
Rotate -20 0 1 0
WorldBegin
LightSource "ambientlight" 1 "intensity" 0.5
LightSource "distantlight" 2 "from" [ 0 0 1 ] "to" [ 0 10 0 ]
Surface "plastic" "Ka" 0.5 "Kd" 0.8 "Ks" 0.2
Translate 1 1 1
Sphere 8 -8 8 360
WorldEnd
FrameEnd
```

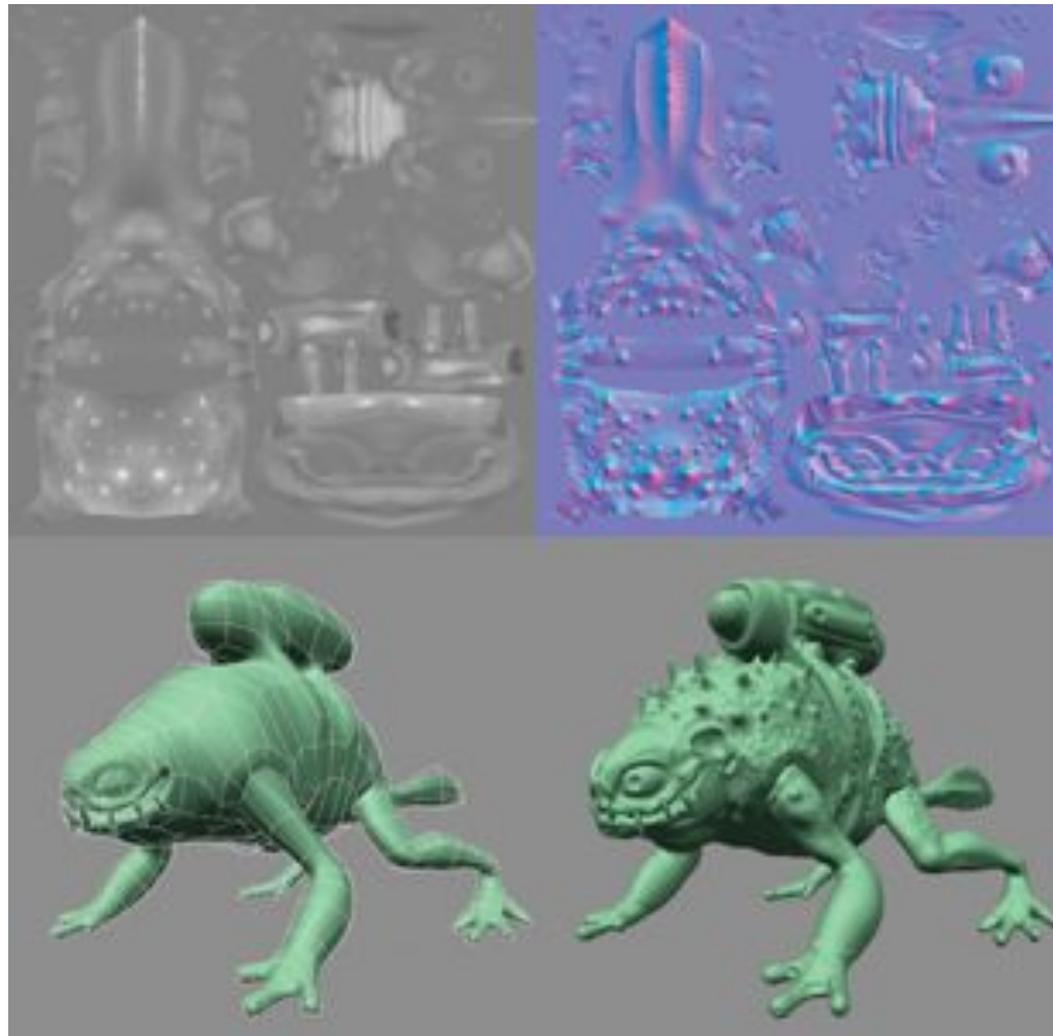


Shape vs. Shading

- Shape
 - Geometric configuration of objects
- Shading
 - Calculates the appearance of an object in a scene under a set of light sources
- Result defined by
 - Colors of the surface and the light source(s)
 - Position and orientation of the surface relative to the light
 - Roughness of the surface

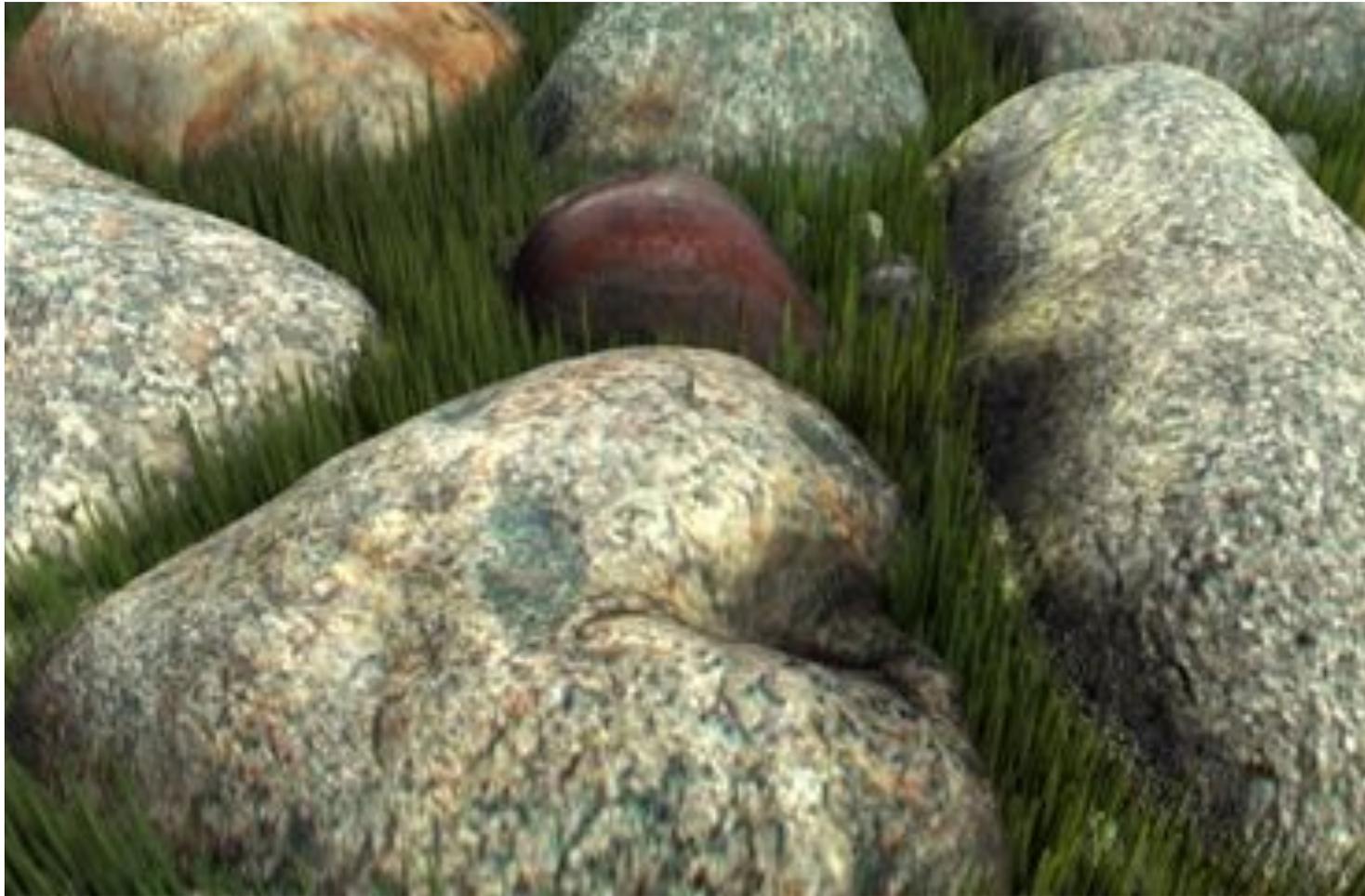


Shape vs. Shading





Shape vs. Shading Example

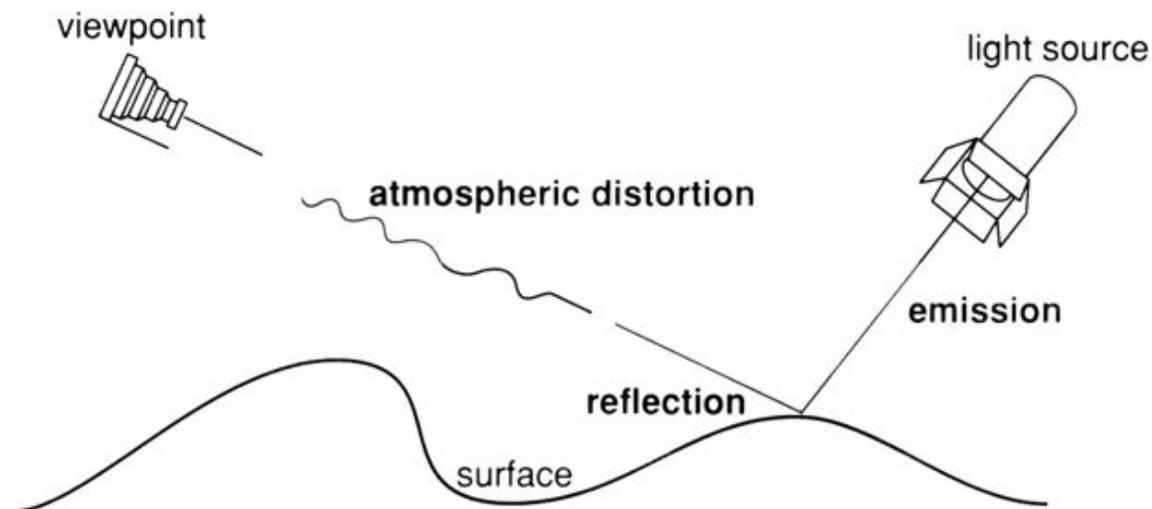


Only two square polygons, Transformed by shading



Shading Pipeline

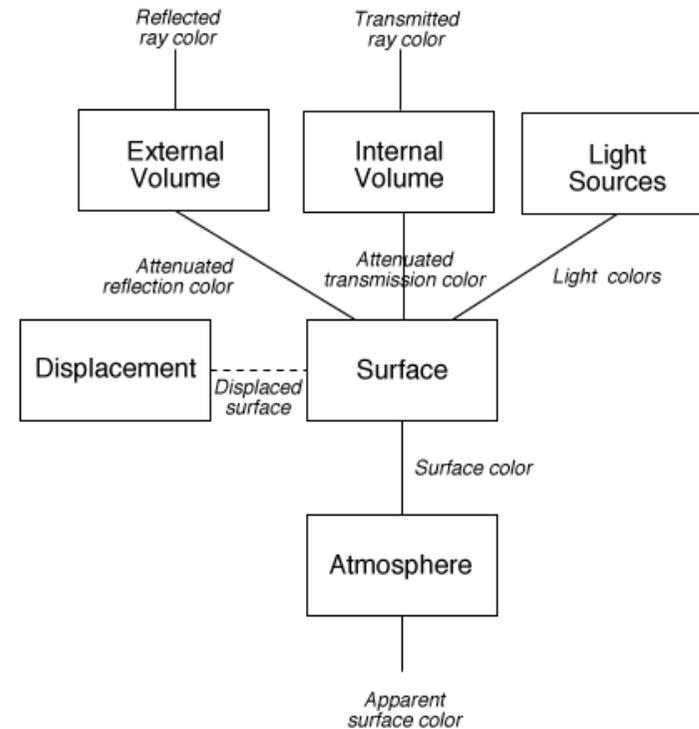
- Three major types of shaders
 - Emission at the light source
 - Interaction of the light with the surface
 - Atmospheric effects between the surface and the viewpoint





Types of Shaders

- RenderMan Interface supports
 - Light source shaders
 - Surface shaders
 - Volume shaders
 - Displacement shaders
 - Imager shaders
- Each shader type has a specific set of variables and result types



Shader Evaluation Pipeline



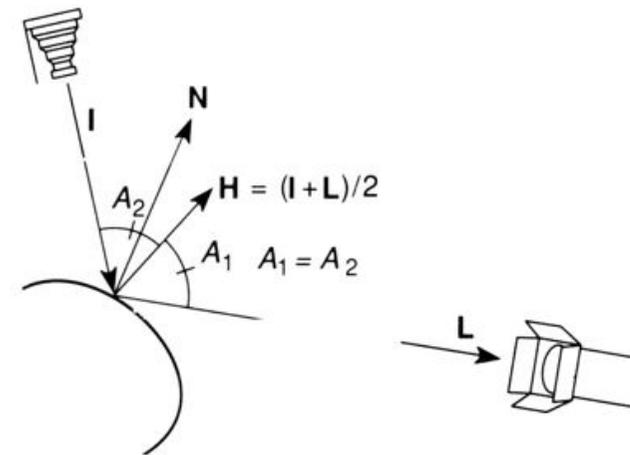
Shader Language Var Types

- Floats
- Colours
 - Multiple colour models can be used, RGB default
- Points
- Strings
- Uniform vs. Varying variables
 - Uniform vars are constant everywhere over the area under consideration



Surface Shader

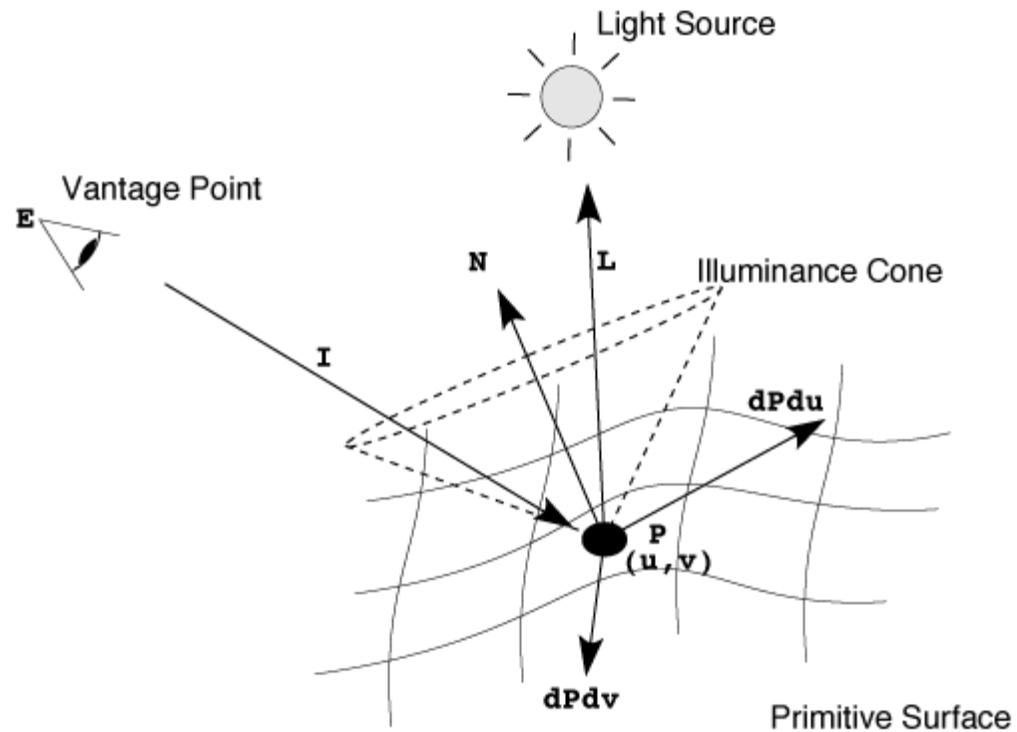
- Determines the colour of light reflecting from a point on a surface in a particular direction
- **Does not have to be physically plausible!**





Surface Shader Environment

- Expected results: incident ray colour and opacity



Surface Shader



Surface Shader Vars

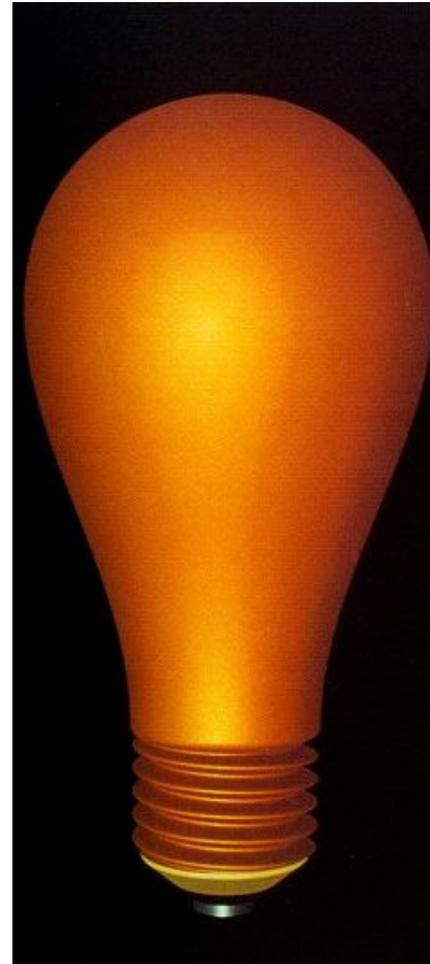
Name	Type	Storage Class	Description
Cs	color	varying/uniform	Surface color
Os	color	varying/uniform	Surface opacity
P	point	varying	Surface position
dPdu	point	varying	Derivative of surface position along u
dPdv	point	varying	Derivative of surface position along v
N	point	varying	Surface shading normal
Ng	point	varying/uniform	Surface geometric normal
u,v	float	varying	Surface parameters
du,dv	float	varying/uniform	Change in surface parameters
s,t	float	varying	Surface texture coordinates
L	point	varying/uniform	Incoming light ray direction*
Cl	color	varying/uniform	Incoming light ray color*
Ol	color	varying/uniform	Incoming light ray opacity*
E	point	uniform	Position of the eye
I	point	varying	Incident ray direction
ncmps	float	uniform	Number of color components
time	float	uniform	Current shutter time

- Some of these input variables can be modified, e.g. the shading normal
- Most - such as the geometric normal - are fixed



Example: Surface Shader #1

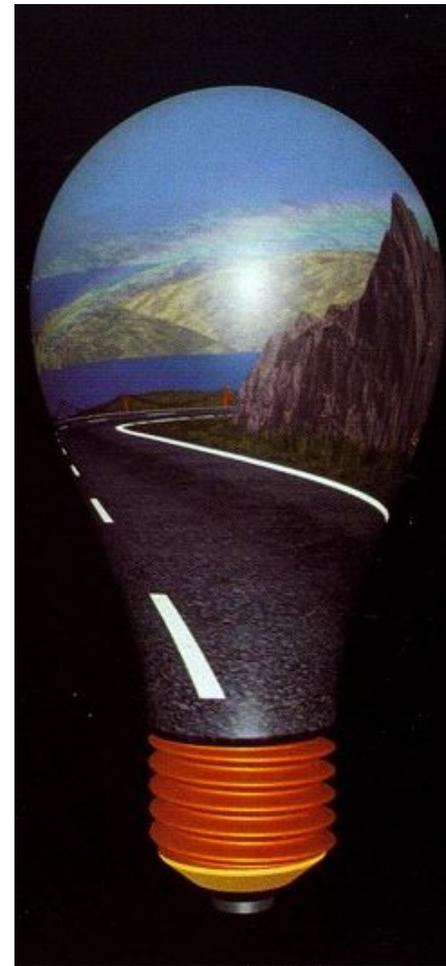
```
surface metal (  
    float Ka = 1,  
    float Ks = 1,  
    roughness = .25)  
{  
    point Nf = faceforward(normalize(N),I);  
    Oi = Os;  
    Ci = Os * Cs * (Ka * ambient() +  
        Ks * specular(Nf, -I, roughness));  
}
```





Example: Surface Shader #2

```
surface txtplastic(  
    float Ka = 1;  
    float Kd = .5;  
    float Ks = .5;  
    float roughness = .1;  
    color specularcolor = 1;  
    string mapname = "")  
{  
    point Nf = faceforward(N,I);  
  
    if (mapname != "")  
        Ci = color texture(mapname);  
    else  
        Ci = Cs;  
  
    Oi = Os;  
    Ci = Os * (Ci * (Ka * ambient() + Kd *  
diffuse(Nf)) +  
        specularcolor * Ks * specular(Nf, -I,  
roughness));  
}
```



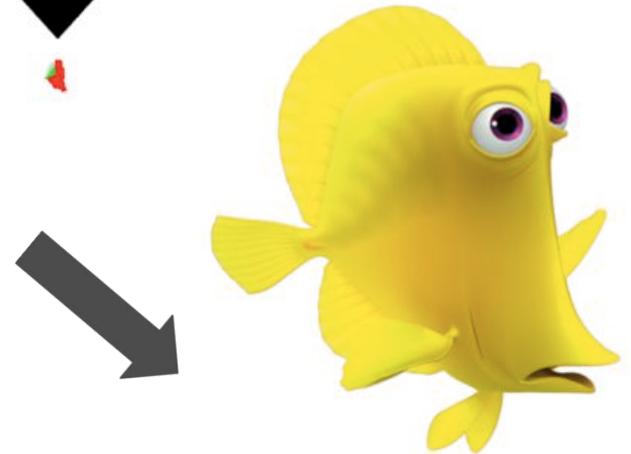
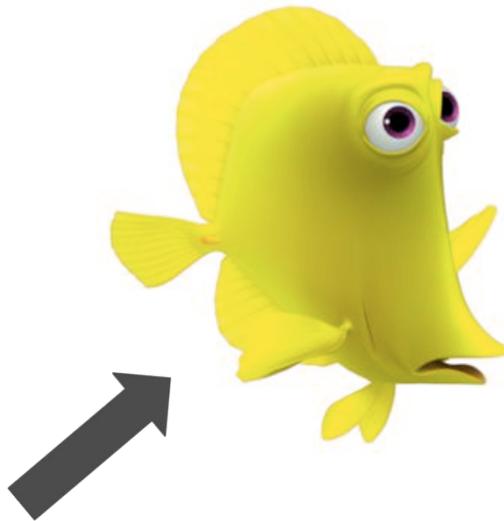
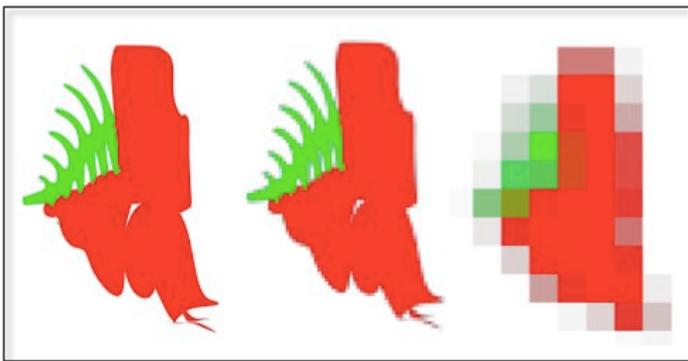
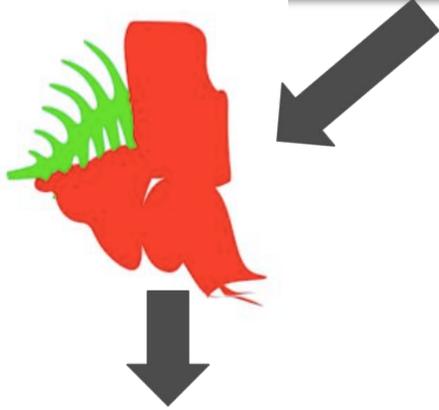
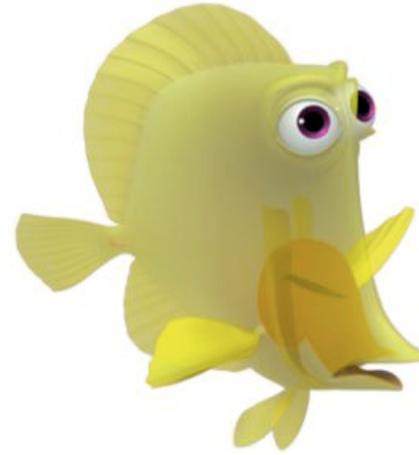


Bubbles from *Finding Nemo*





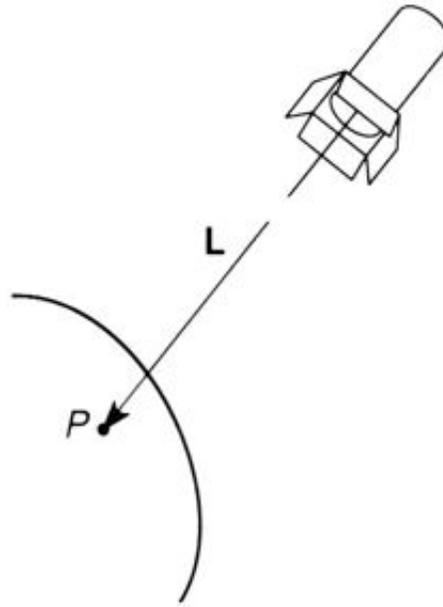
Example: Shading Fish Guts





Light Source Shader

- Calculates the intensity and color of light sent by the light source to a point on a surface





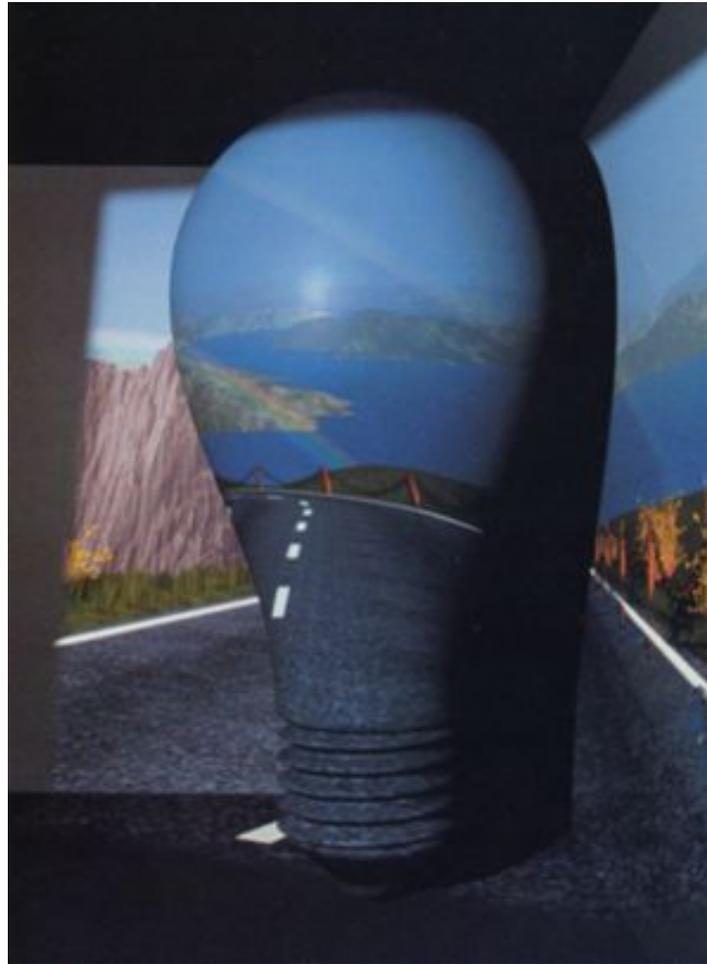
Light Source Shader Vars

Name	Type	Storage Class	Description
P	point	varying	Surface position
dPdu	point	varying	Derivative of surface position along u
dPdv	point	varying	Derivative of surface position along v
N	point	varying	Surface shading normal
Ng	point	varying/uniform	Surface geometric normal
u,v	float	varying	Surface parameters
du,dv	float	varying/uniform	Change in surface parameters
s,t	float	varying	Surface texture coordinates
L	point	varying/uniform	Incoming light ray direction*
Ps	point	varying	Position being illuminated
E	point	uniform	Position of the eye
ncomps	float	uniform	Number of color components
time	float	uniform	Current shutter time
CI	color	varying/uniform	Outgoing light ray color
OI	color	varying/uniform	Outgoing light ray opacity

- Very similar to surface variable set
- Describes lightsource, not the surface being illuminated!

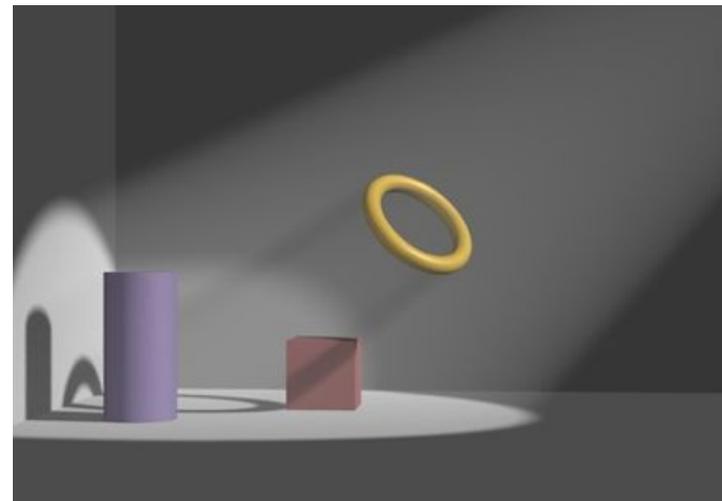
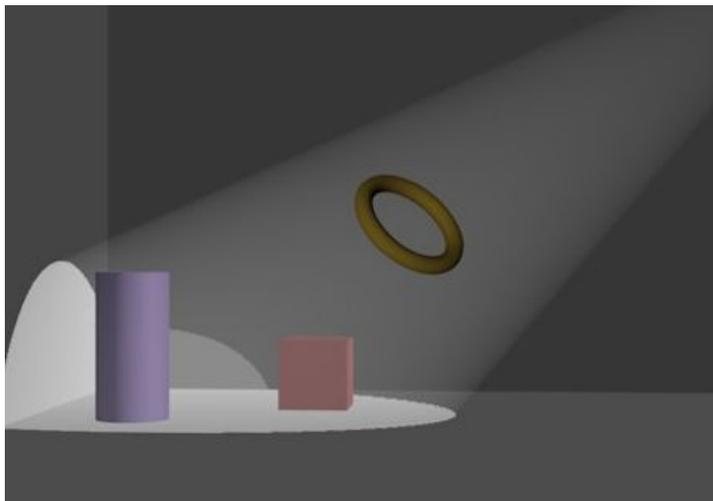
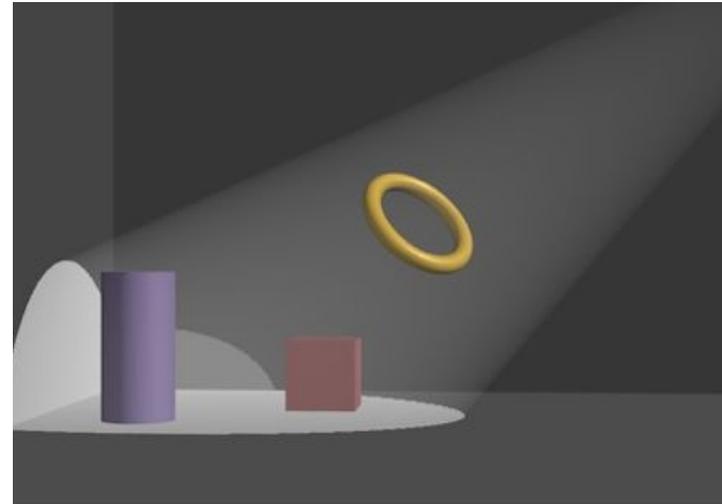
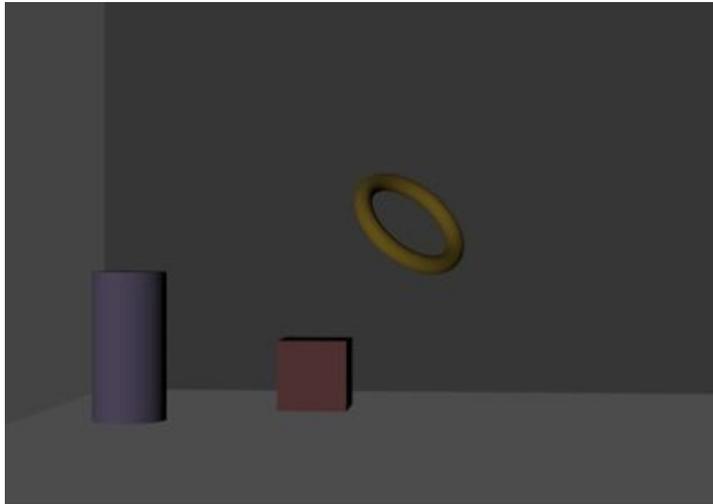


Example: Slideprojector



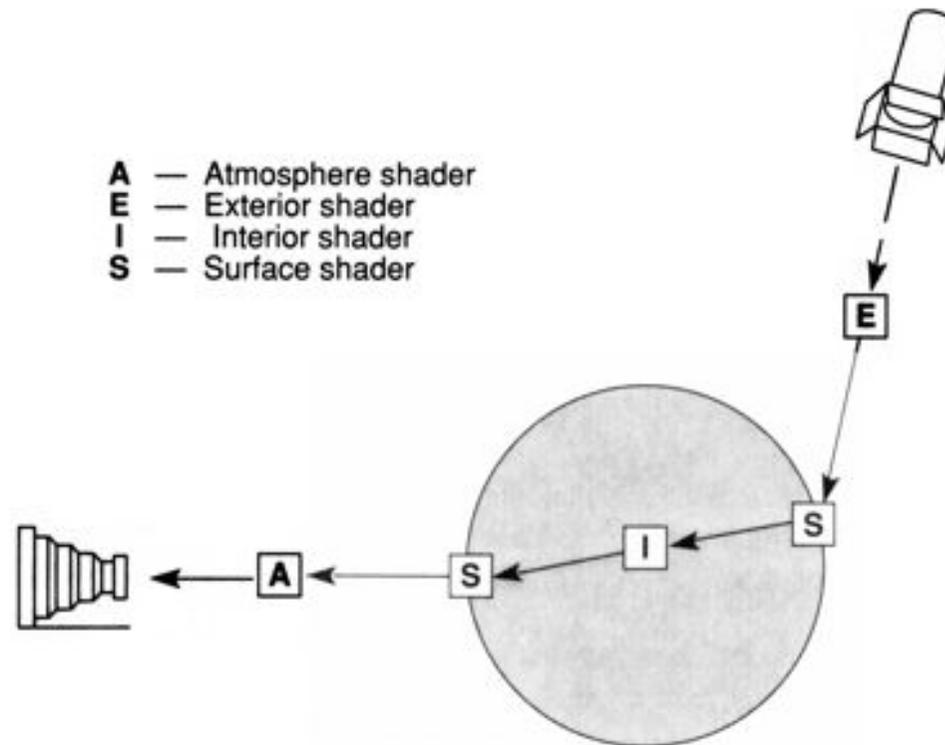


Flexible Lightsource Examples





Volume (Atmosphere) Shader



- Generalizes the idea of atmosphere affecting light passing through space between a surface and the eye
- (Not really supported until very recently)



Volume Shader Example

```
volume underwater(  
    float mindist=0, maxdist= 1;  
    color fg=1, bg=1;  
    float inten=1, gam=1, mixf=0.5;  
)  
{  
    color c;  
    float d;  
  
    d = length(I);  
    if(d<=mindist)  
        c = fg;  
    else if(d>=maxdist)  
        c = bg;  
    else  
    {  
        d = (d-mindist)/(maxdist-mindist);  
        d = pow(d,gam);  
        c = mix(fg,bg,d);  
    }  
  
    Ci = inten*mix(Ci,c,mixf);  
    Oi = mix( Oi, color (1,1,1), d );  
} // underwater()
```





Volumetric Shader in *Open Season*

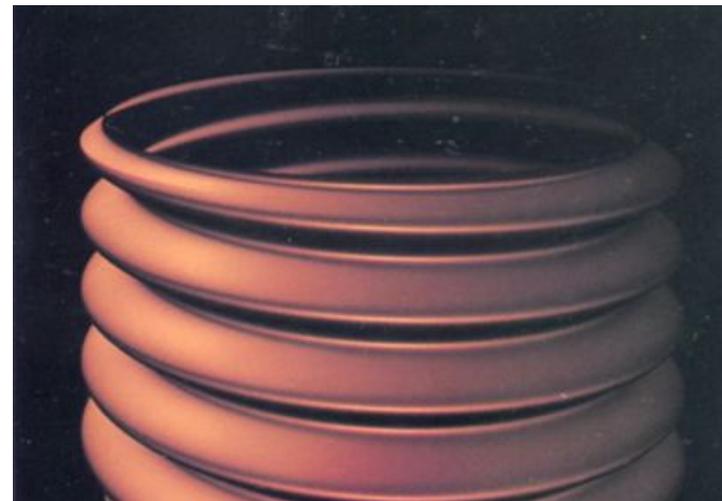
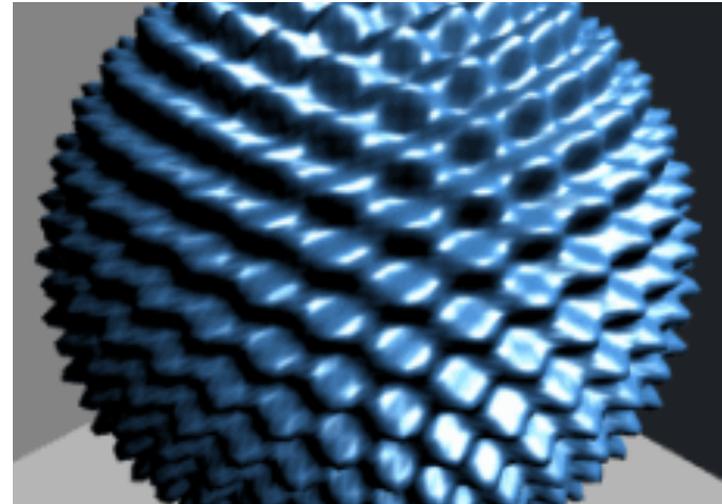


© 2006 Sony Pictures Imageworks



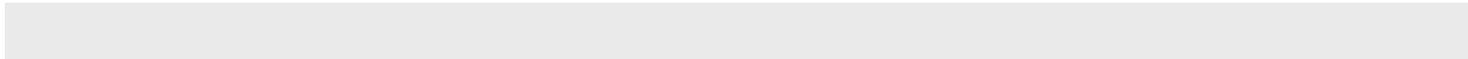
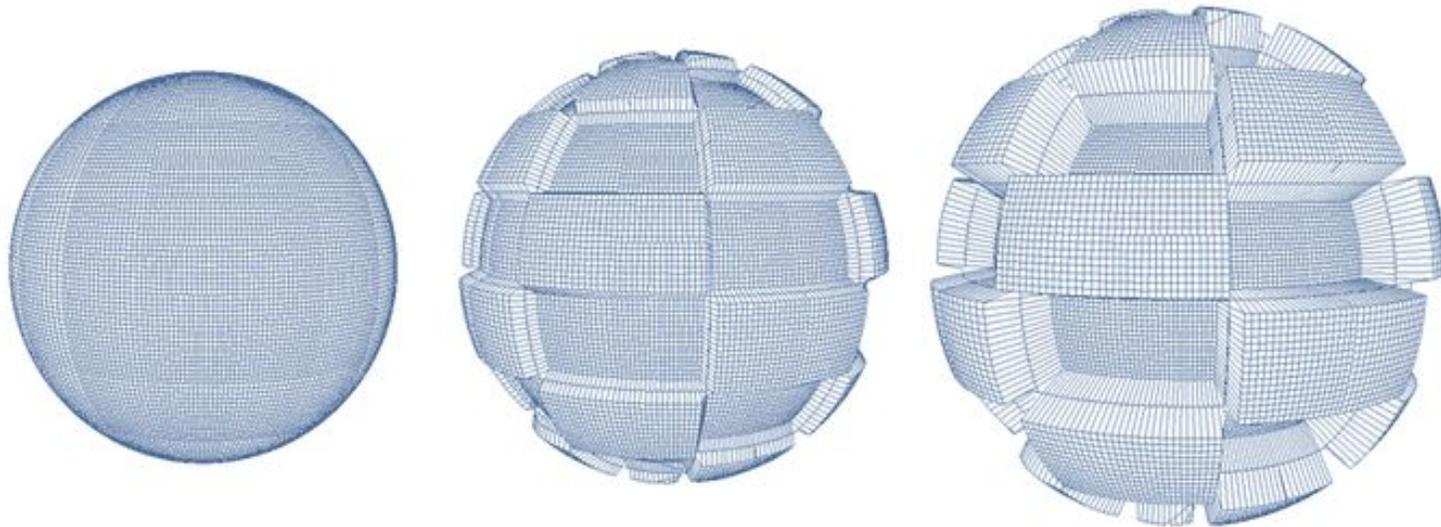
Displacement Shaders

- Distort the geometry of the basic object
- Difference to bump maps (which would be a surface shader): the silhouette is correct!
- Costly to evaluate





Displacement Shader Geometry





Displacement Vars

Name	Type	Storage Class	Description
P	point	varying	Surface position
dPdu	point	varying	Derivative of surface position along u
dPdv	point	varying	Derivative of surface position along v
N	point	varying	Surface shading normal
Ng	point	varying/uniform	Surface geometric normal
E	point	uniform	Position of the eye
u,v	float	varying	Surface parameters
du,dv	float	varying/uniform	Change in surface parameters
s,t	float	varying	Surface texture coordinates
ncomps	float	uniform	Number of color components
time	float	uniform	Current shutter time
P	point	varying	Displaced surface position
N	point	varying	Displaced surface shading normal

- Full gamut of surface environment variables is accessible



Displacement Shader Example #1

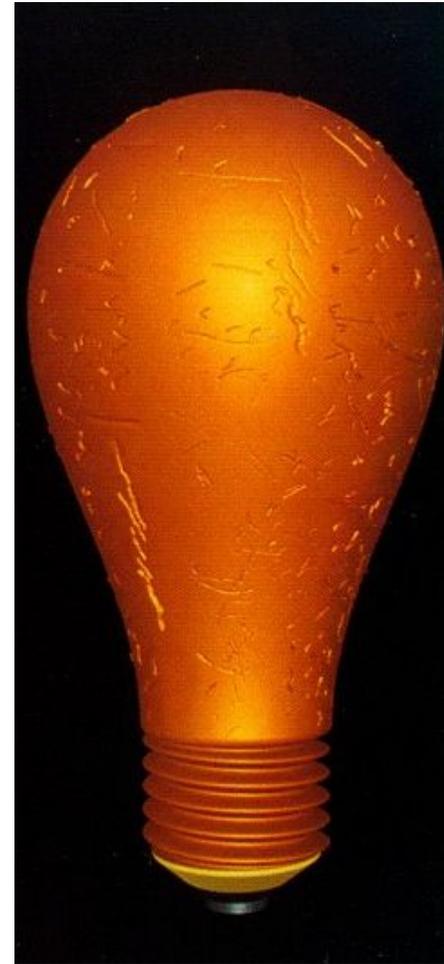
```
displacement sinewaves(float freq=1.0, ampl=1.0, sphase=0, tphase=0, paramdir=0)
{
    // displace along normal, using sin(s) or sin(t) or both
    if(0==paramdir)
    {
        P += ampl*sin(sphase+s*freq*2*PI)*normalize(N);
    }
    else if (1==paramdir)
    {
        P += ampl*sin(tphase+t*freq*2*PI)*normalize(N);
    }
    else
    {
        P += ampl*sin(sphase+s*freq*2*PI)*sin(tphase+t*freq*2*PI)*normalize(N);
    }
    N = calculatenormal(P);
} // sinewaves
```





Displacement Shader Example #2

```
Displacement pits(  
    float Km = 0.03;  
    string mapname = "")  
{  
    float magnitude;  
  
    if (marks != "")  
        magnitude = float texture(marks);  
    else  
        magnitude = 0;  
  
    P += -Km * magnitude * normalize(N);  
    N = calculatenormal(P);  
}
```





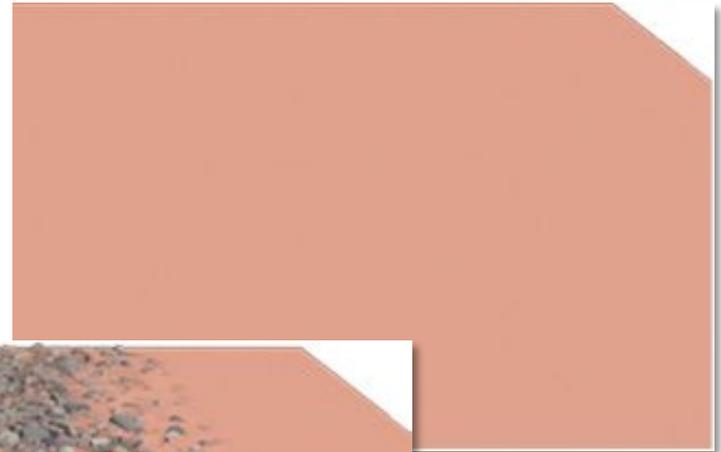
River Raindrops in *Ratatouille*



© Disney / Pixar.



WALL-E Trash Shader





Transformation Shaders

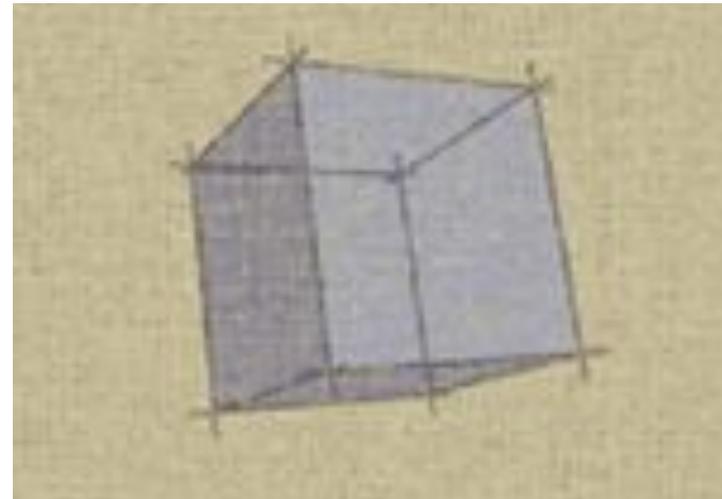
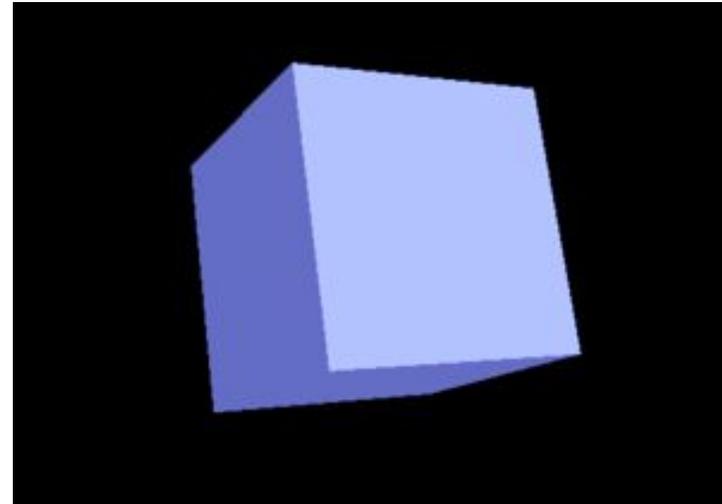
Name	Type	Storage Class	Description
P	point	varying	Position
N	point	varying	Normal at that point
time	float	uniform	Current shutter time
P	point	varying	Transformed position
N	point	varying	Transformed normal

- Similar to displacement shaders in that they modify object geometry resp. point coordinates
- Difference: used at a different, earlier stage of the rendering pipeline
- Used to transform entire objects
- Restricted variable set
- (not supported?)



Imager Shaders

- Used to transform already computed colours to something else
- Applications: e.g. cartoonish distortions of realistic renderings





Imager Variables

Name	Type	Storage Class	Description
P	point	varying	Surface position
Ci	color	varying	Pixel color
Oi	color	varying	Pixel opacity
alpha	float	uniform	Fractional pixel coverage
ncomps	float	uniform	Number of color components
time	float	uniform	Current shutter time
Ci	color	varying	Output pixel color
Oi	color	varying	Output pixel opacity

- Only colour information and z-Buffer data are provided



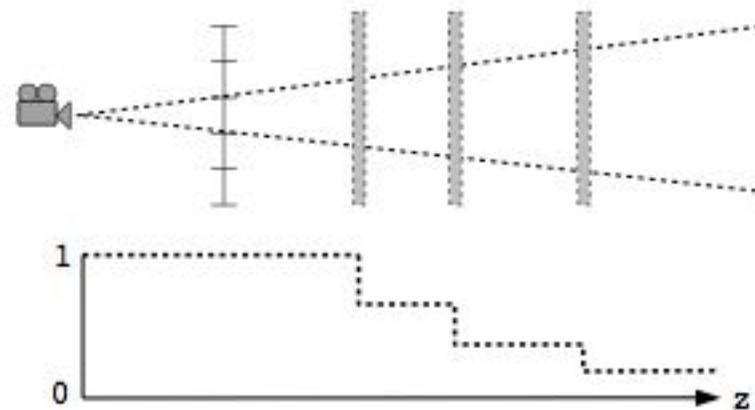
Shadows: A Sore Point

- Automatic shadow generation not classic RM
- Shadow maps (i.e. depth images from the perspective of the light) have to be prepared for each lightsource (!)
- Surface shaders have to use this information
 - The simple shaders in the previous examples are not capable of exhibiting shadows!
- Raytracing and GI options in newer RM versions somewhat obsolete this



Deep Shadow Maps

- DSM store representation of the fractional visibility through a pixel at all possible depths
- Transmittance function describes light falloff
- Stored as an array of floating-point pairs
- Can handle volumetric effects and semi-transparent surfaces





DSM: King Kong





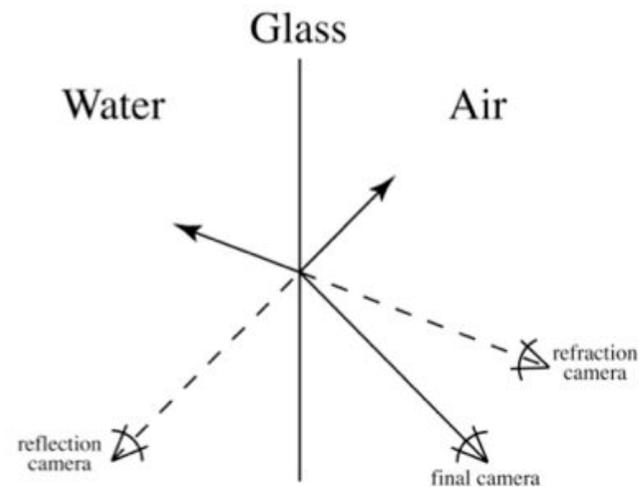
Reflections: Also A Sore Point

- Similar to depth images for the lights, reflections have to be pre-computed
- Reflection maps have artefacts: no multiple inter-reflections
- Fast
- (Sort of obsoleted by raytracing on demand)



Reflection/Refraction Multipass Rendering

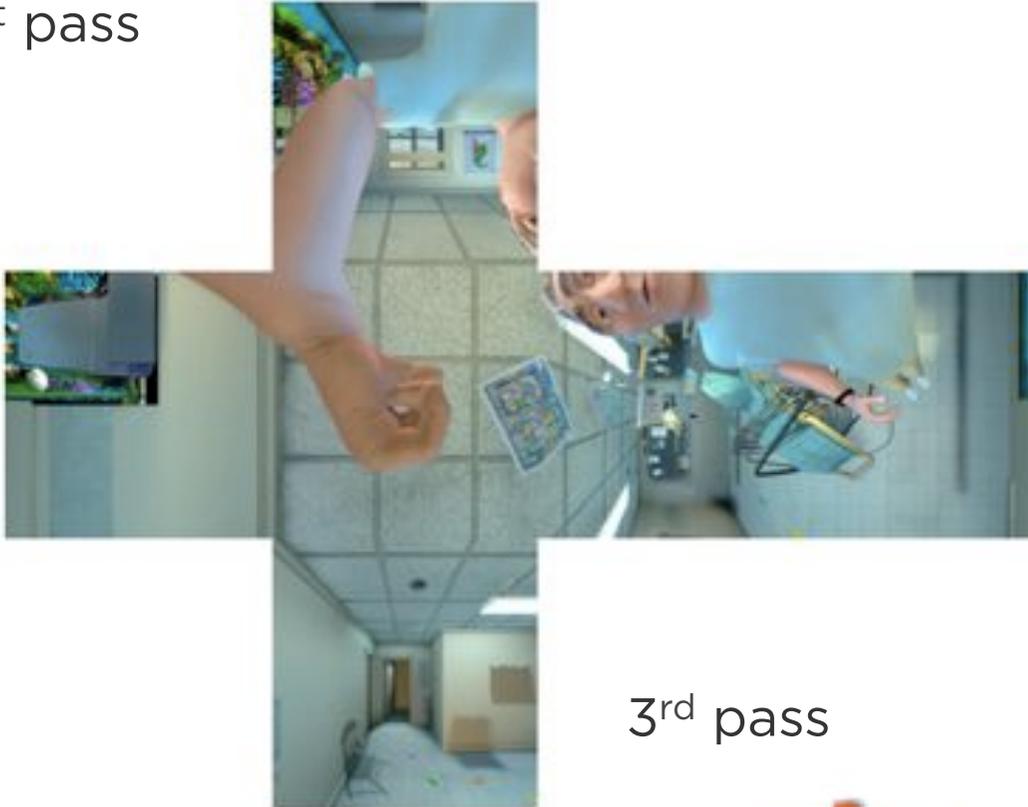
- Multi-pass rendering
- Reflection and refraction images are input for tank shader
- Each wall has unique pair of reflection and refraction camera
- Texture is projected





Example: Reflection Map

1st pass



2nd pass



3rd pass





Final Rendering





Ray Tracing On Demand



- Scanline: fast, can handle complex scenes; shadows and reflections are problematic
- Ray tracing can not deal with complex scenes
- Ray differentials
- First-level rays originate from REYES shading points



Luigi - CG and RL :-)

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Implementations

- Original Pixar renderer (REYES)
 - Micropolygon-based hybrid with raytracing capabilities
- BMRT
 - Raytracer, has disappeared after legal action was taken against author
- Pixie
 - Open-source RenderMan
- 3Delight
- Realtime techniques
 - Ongoing research topic



The End
Thank you for your attention!

