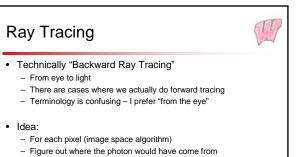


How the real world "renders"

- Photons (Rays) from source
- Bounce paths
- Some lucky photons make it to the eye (very few)
- Not a practical strategy too inefficient



- Note: get projective transform from ray fan out
- Note: could use real model of lens to determine ray directions
- Note: Sampling Issue

Ray Tracing Pieces

- 1. Figure out what ray is
- 2. Figure out what ray hits (ray-object intersection)
- 3. Figure out where it could have come from
 - Recursive since outgoing ray must have come from someplace

• Ray / Object Intersection

- Straightforward mathematical calculation (root finding)
- Tricky part: making it go fast
- Accelleration structures:
 - · Simplified models (bounding spheres/boxes)
 - · Hierarchical models (check rough stuff first)
 - Spatial Data structures

Where did the ray come from?

- · We know: outgoing direction, local surface geometry
- Specular bounce
 - Good for mirror reflection
- Real surfaces are diffuse could come from any direction
 Distribution of likelihoods
 - Different surfaces distribute light differently
 - Really requires an integral over incoming ray directions
 - Bi-directional Reflectance Distribution Function
 - Ideal case: sample all incoming directions

Hack ray-tracing Shadows • Try to model the rays most likely to be important · Shadows of point lights give hard edges - Even in the real world! - Quite ugly • Mirror reflection bounce (or refraction bounce) · Soft shadows are nicer • Direction towards light sources Come from area light sources - Probably important since they are bright - Umbra / penumbra - Check to see if path is clear (hit something = shadow) - Use local lighting model · How to achieve? - More than one ray towards the light source • What does this give us? - Sampling of directions - Everything from local lighting Shadows

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- Reflections and Refractions

More than one ray towards the light source Sampling of directions

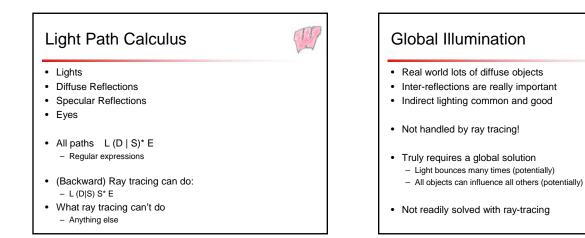
Distributed Ray Tracing

- Need to sample a distribution of ray directions
- · Some uses:
 - Soft shadows (distribution of directions towards area light)
 - Anti-Aliasing (distribution of rays within the pixel)
 - Imperfect reflections (distribution of outgoing rays)
 - Motion Blur (distribution of times)
 - Depth of Field
 - All indirect light directions (for diffuse surfaces)
 Get inter-object color transfer
 - Notice how quickly this becomes impractical

What can we do with Ray-Tracing?

- · Given infinite rays, just about anything
- Realistically:
 - Can be clever about how to sample
 - But ultimately, limited in number of rays
- · To understand limits, need to talk about light paths

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Examples of other things

- Light bounces off mirror (or through lens) to light a diffuse object

• Caustics

– L S* D E

