CS 543 - Computer Graphics: Ray Tracing Detail, Part 4

by

Robert W. Lindeman

gogo@wpi.edu

(with help from Emmanuel Agu ;-)

Reflection and Transparency

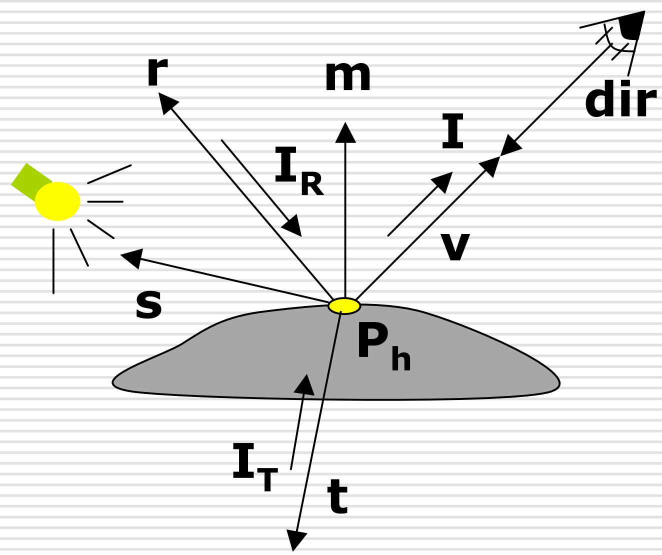
- Ray tracing also handles reflections and refraction of light well
- We can easily render realistic scenes with
  - mirrors
  - martini glasses
- So, far, we have considered **Local components** (ambient, diffuse, specular)
- Local components are contributions from light sources which are visible from hit point
- To render reflection, and refraction we need to add reflection and refraction components of light

$$I = I_{amb} + I_{diff} + I_{spec} + I_{refl} + I_{tran}$$

Reflection and Transparency

- First three components are local

$$I = I_{amb} + I_{diff} + I_{spec} + I_{refl} + I_{tran}$$

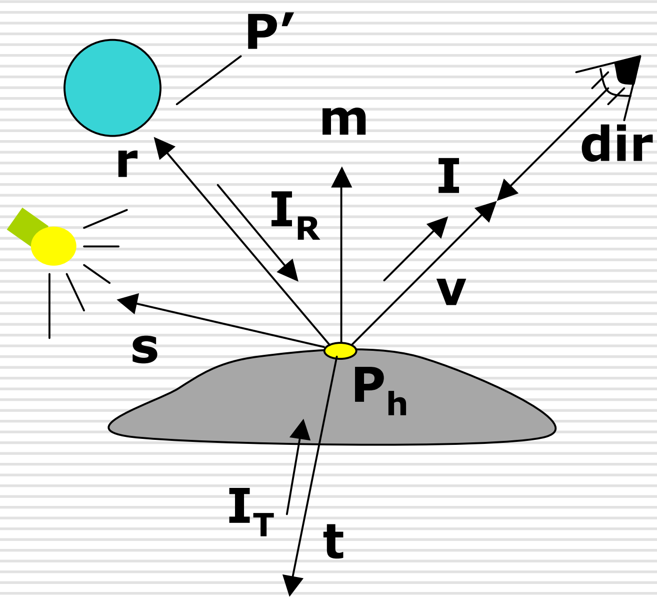


- Reflected component, I_R, is along mirror direction from eye **−r**

Reflection and Transparency

- **r** is given as (see eqn 4.22) as

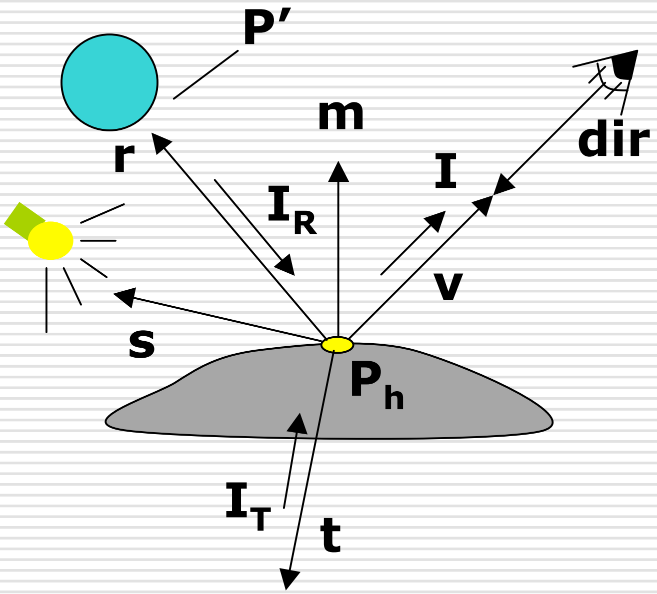
$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{dir} - 2(\mathbf{dir} \bullet \mathbf{m})\mathbf{m}$$



- Transmitted component I_T is along transmitted direction **t**
- Portion of light coming in from direction **t** is bent along **dir**
- I_R and I_T each have their own five components (ambient, diffuse, etc)
- In some sense, point P′ along reflected direction **r** serves as a light source to point P_h

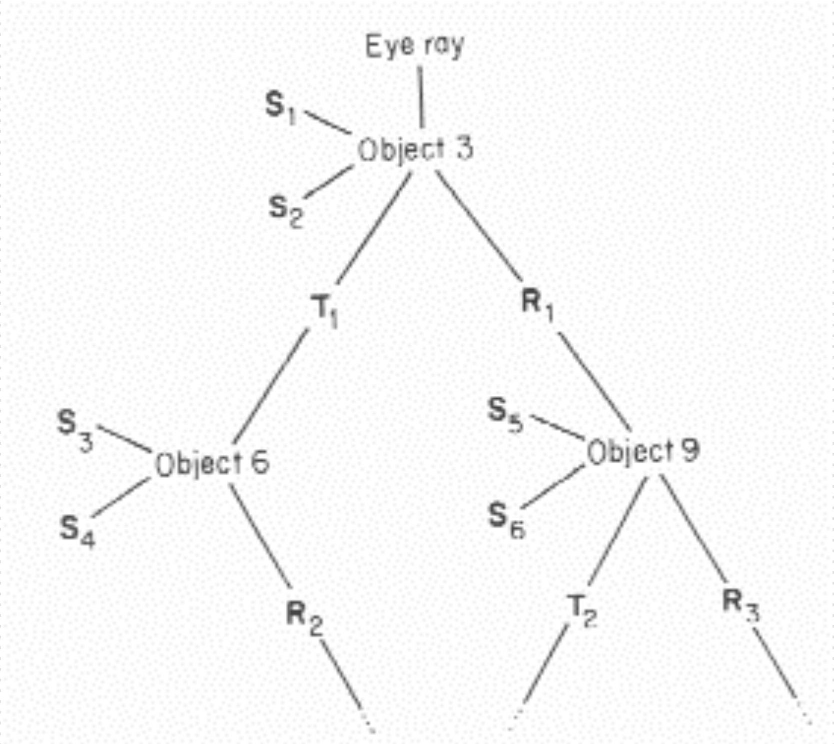
Reflection and Transparency

- To determine reflected component
  - Spawn reflected ray along direction **r**
  - Determine closest object hit
- To determine transmitted component
  - Cast transmitted ray along direction **t**
  - Determine closest object hit
- So, at each hit point, local, reflected and refracted components merge to form total contributions



Reflection and Transparency: Ray Tree

- Local, reflected, transmitted and shadow rays form a tree



Reflection and Transparency

- Tree structure suggests recursion at successive hit points
- Recurse forever? No!!
- At each point, only fraction of impinging reflected or refracted ray is lost
- Who determines fraction? Designer… sets transparency or reflectivity in SDL file.
- E.g., reflectivity 0.8 means only 80% of impinging ray is reflected
- Thus, need to check reflected contribution by saying

  if(reflectivity > 0.6)…
- Also check if(transparency > threshold)
- Basically, do not want to work hard for tiny contributions.
  - Drop (terminate shade) if contribution is too small.

Refraction and Transparency

- May also need to determine how many times you want to bounce (even if threshold is still high)
- For example, in room with many mirrors, do you want to bounce forever (your system may cry!!)
- Set **recurseLevel** (yup!! same as in shadows) to say how many bounces using (variable **maxRecursionLevel**)
- recurseLevel of 4 or 5 is usually enough to create realistic pictures
- Ray from eye to first hit point has recurseLevel of 0
- All rays from first hit point have recurseLevel = 1
- Need to modify shade function to handle recursion

Recursive **shade( )** skeleton

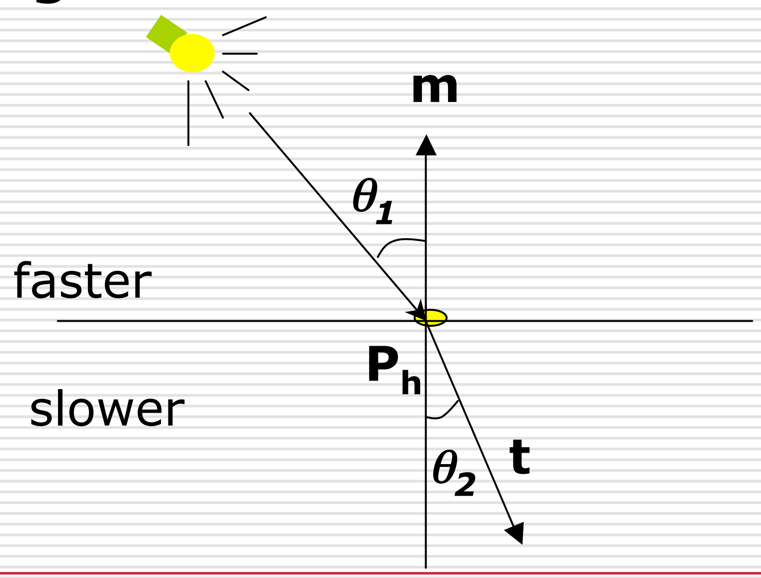
```
Color3 Scene::shade( Ray& )  {
  Get the first hit, and build hitInfo h
  Shape* myObj = ( Shape* )h.hitObject; // ptr to hit obj
  Color3 color.set( the emissive component );
  color.add( ambient contribution );
  get normalized normal vector m at hit point
  for( each light source )
    add the diffuse and specular components
    // now add the reflected and transmitted components

  if( r.recurseLevel == maxRecursionLevel )
    return color; // don't recurse further
```

Recursive **shade( )** skeleton

```
  if( hit object is shiny enough ) { // add reflected light
    get reflection direction
    build reflected ray, refl
    refl.recurseLevel = r.recurseLevel + 1;
    color.add( shininess * shade( refl ) );
  }
  if( hit object is transparent enough ) {
    get transmitted direction
    build transmitted ray, trans
    trans.recurseLevel = r.recurseLevel + 1;
    color.add( transparency * shade( trans ) );
  }
  return color;
}
```

Finding Transmitted Direction

- So far, found reflected ray direction as mirror direction from eye
- Transmitted direction obeys **Snell's law**
- Snell's law: relationship holds in the following diagram



$$\frac{\sin(\theta_2)}{c_2} = \frac{\sin(\theta_1)}{c_1}$$

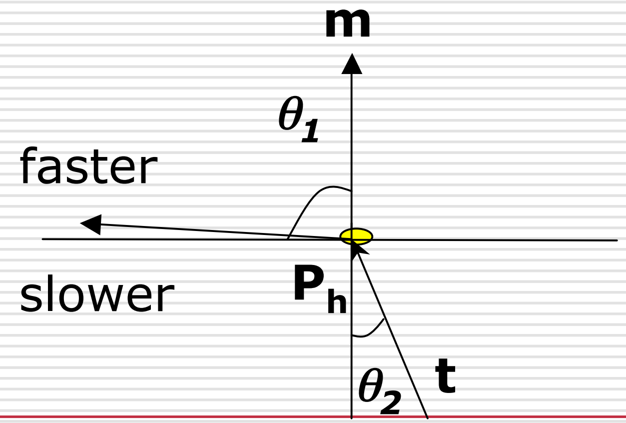
c_1, c_2 are speeds of light in medium 1 and 2

Finding Transmitted Direction

- If ray goes from faster to slower medium, ray is bent **towards** normal
- If ray goes from slower to faster medium, ray is bent **away** from normal
- c1/c2 is important
  - Usually measured for medium-to-vacuum. E.g., water to vacuum
- Some measured relative c1/c2 are:
  - Air: 99.97%
  - Glass: 52.2% to 59%
  - Water: 75.19%
  - Sapphire: 56.50%
  - Diamond: 41.33%

Critical Angle

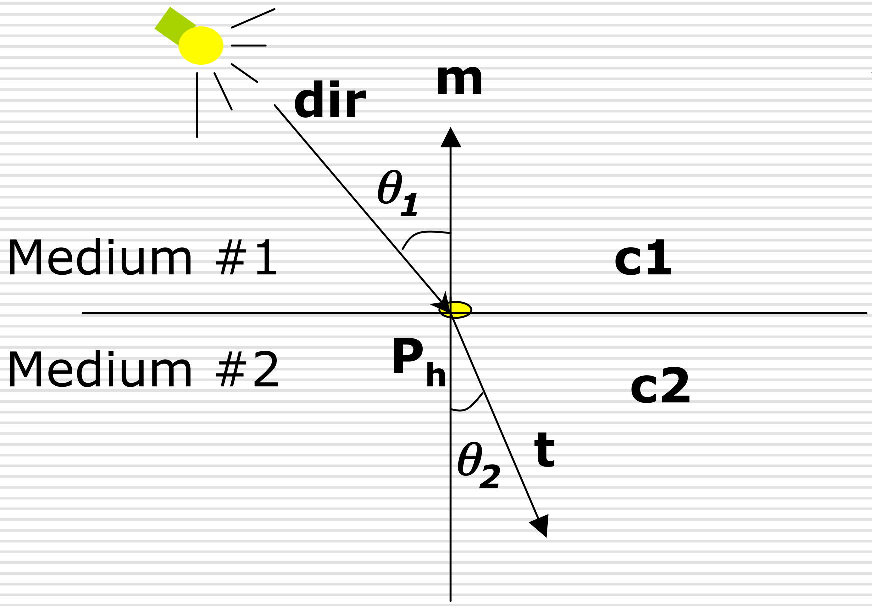
- There exists transmitted angle at which ray in faster medium (e.g., air) is bent along object surface
- That angle (θ_2 in figure below) is known as the **critical angle**
- Increasing transmission angle beyond critical angle has "no effect"… transmitted ray still below object surface
- Physical significance:
  - Underwater in pond, can see world through small cone of angles



Transmission Angle

- Vector for transmission angle can be found as

$$\mathbf{t} = \frac{c_2}{c_1}\mathbf{dir} + \left(\frac{c_2}{c_1}(\mathbf{m} \bullet \mathbf{dir}) - \cos(\theta_2)\right)\mathbf{m}$$



where

$$\cos(\theta_2) = \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{c_2}{c_1}\right)\left(1 - (\mathbf{m} \bullet \mathbf{dir})^2\right)}$$

For Project 4

- May read up hit (intersection) functions for shapes, add to your ray tracer
  - Cube
  - Cylinder
  - Mesh, … etc

References

- Hill, chapter 12