
CS770/870 Fall 2008

Color and Shading

Related material in Hill and Kelley: Ch. 8

13:38

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1

Preview

- Making the scene more “realistic”
- Color models
 - representing the color of materials
- Lighting models
 - representing interaction of light with material color
- Shading models
 - determining the color of a pixel
 - based on lighting models (usually)
 - mesh shading
 - Gouraud shading
 - Phong shading

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2

Color Models

- We say that objects have color, but it’s not quite correct
 - **light** has color
 - objects have material properties that interact with the light that falls on them
 - some of the light that falls on an object is *reflected*, some is *absorbed* and some is *transmitted* through it
 - we say that an object is green if it reflects only the green wavelength of light and absorbs all others
- To model color, we need to model light

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3

Achromatic Light

- Achromatic light is gray scale light
 - model only the *luminance* or *intensity* (physics terms) or *brightness* (psychological term meaning *perceived intensity*)
 - most important (perceptual) component of light
- Modeling intensity/brightness
 - Assume human perceptual range can be represented as a value between 0.0 and 1.0
 - Display device has 256 values for intensity
 - What should the mapping be?

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4

Modeling Intensity

- Map brightness perception (0.0, 1.0) to hardware intensity (0,255)
 - linear mapping is easy and seems intuitive
 - but it's not right
 - human perception is very non-linear: differences in low intensity levels are far more noticeable than those at low levels
 - logarithmic mapping is much closer to our brightness perception scale

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5

Logarithmic Intensity Mapping

- Assume the device's lowest intensity, I_0 , cannot be perceived; that is value 0.
- Assume 1.0 is highest intensity that can be achieved by the device
- Assume I_1 is value of lowest intensity that can be perceived
- Want each selected intensity value to be r times the previous:
 - $I_2 = I_1 * r, I_3 = I_2 * r = I_1 * r * r, \dots, I_{255} = I_1 * r^{254}$
 - but, $I_{255} = 1.0 = I_1 * r^{254}$ so $r = (1 / I_1)^{1/254} = I_1^{-1/254}$

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6

Intensity Mapping Problems

- Human perception does not match any particular device
- Different display devices have different *dynamic ranges* so the mappings will be different.
- Gamma correction - compare 2 devices' behavior in attempt to have both show same image with same end visual effect.

13:38

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7

Chromatic Color

- In addition to intensity/brightness, we perceive 2 other aspects of light:
 - hue (dominant wavelength)
 - what we think of as "color"
 - red and pink and colors between are all "reds"
 - saturation
 - the "purity" of the color
 - bright red is called "fully saturated"
 - as we "add" white to red it gets more and more pink

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8

Basic Color Models

- Hue, saturation, and intensity can be used to model color
- Red, Green, and Blue can also
 - Given pure red, green and blue lights, can represent (most) visible colors by mixing appropriate combinations of them
- Since most display device hardware is based on mixing red, green, and blue light, we'll use this model first.

13:38

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9

Modeling Light

- Light in a scene
 - ambient light
 - no explicit source; collection of all secondary light beams bouncing around
 - point light sources
 - light that appears to emanate from an infinitely small point at a particular location; casts “hard” shadows
 - area/volume light sources
 - light that emanates from a light source with a non-zero area or volume; casts “soft” shadows

13:38

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10

Models for Direct Light

- Ambient light (constant color)
 - Each object (or face of an object) has constant color throughout the face
- Reflection
 - diffuse reflection: matte appearance
 - specular reflection: shininess
- Transmission: light passes through a semi-transparent surface
 - diffuse transmission: not usually modeled
 - specular transmission: light bends as passes through the surface

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11

Ambient Light

- Light in the scene with no identified source
- Models efficiently the light that bounces around scene from all light sources
- User specifies amount of ambient light in the scene: I_a
- For each surface, user specifies the percentage of ambient light reflected by that surface: k_a

$$k_a * I_a$$

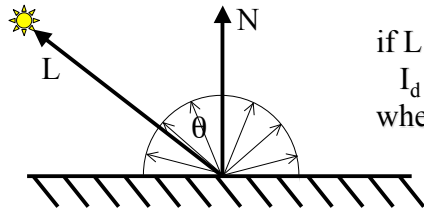
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12

Diffuse Reflection

- Lambert's law for a perfect diffuser material
 - light from a light source is reflected from any point on the surface of a perfect diffuser equally in all directions; surface modeled as infinitely many *microfacets* aimed randomly in all directions
 - amount of reflection is based on the cosine of the angle between the surface normal at the point and the vector from the point to the light.



if L and N are unit vectors
 $I_d = k_d * I_L * L \cdot N$
 where $L \cdot N = \|L\| \|N\| \cos \theta = \cos \theta$

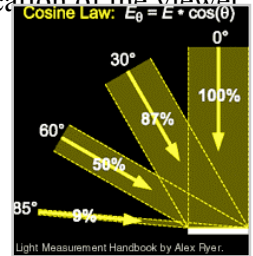
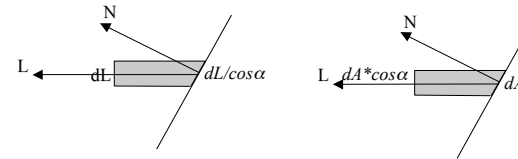
13:38

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13

Diffuse Reflection Revealed

- Consider a beam of light as a cylinder with base area dL
 - It illuminates a surface area, $dL/\cos\alpha$
 - Can also say an area, dA , of the surface is lit by a cross section of the light beam of area $dA * \cos\alpha$
- For a perfect diffuser the same number of photons will be reflected from dA towards the viewer regardless of the location of the viewer



13:38

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14

Specular Reflection

- Near the *direction of principal reflection*, shiny surfaces reflect the color of the light more than the color of the surface
 - Phong modeled this with a *shininess coefficient*, n , in the formula below:

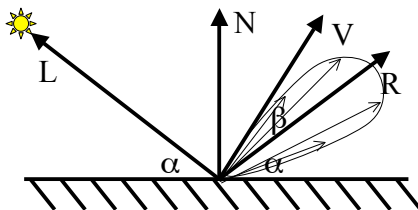
R is direction of principal refl.

$$\|R\| = 1$$

V points at viewer, $\|V\| = 1$

L points at Light source

$$I_s = k_s * I_L * (V \cdot R)^n$$



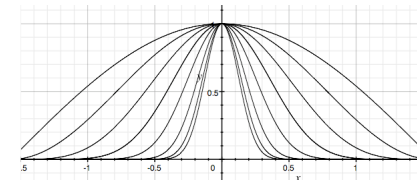
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15

Shininess Coefficient

- The n coefficient raises the cosine ($V \cdot R$) to a power
- What effect does it have? As n gets larger, \cos^n gets narrower.
 - shiny highlight gets smaller
 - Note that the brightness does not change



13:38

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16

Specular Transmission

- Specular transmission can only be modeled in the context of the visible surface algorithm used to determine what is visible.
 - We'll come back to it when we talk about the z-buffer algorithm and ray tracing

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17

Phong Lighting Model

- The basic lighting model is due to Phong:
- Given
 - a point on a surface, P
 - a unit normal, N
 - a light source in the direction of the unit vector, L , with a light intensity of I_L
 - ambient light with an intensity, I_a
 - coefficients of reflection of the surface: k_a, k_d, k_s
 - the shininess coefficient, n

$$I_p = k_a * I_a + k_d * I_L * N \cdot L + k_s * I_L * (V \cdot R)^n$$

$$I_p = k_a * I_a + I_L * (k_d * N \cdot L + k_s * (V \cdot R)^n)$$

13:38

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18

Multiple Light Sources

- So far, we have only modeled 1 (point) light source
- Easy to add more

$$I_p = k_a * I_a + \sum_L I_L * (k_d * N \cdot L + k_s * (V \cdot R)^n)$$

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19

Light Attenuation

- In the real world, light diminishes with distance
 - related to the distance squared from light to object
 - need large distances to matter
- Can simulate a more flexible attenuation by defining an attenuation factor for each light:

$$f = \min\left(\frac{1}{c_1 + c_2 d_L + c_3 d_L^2}, 1\right)$$

where c_1 , c_2 , and c_3 are defined by user

c_1 keeps the denominator from getting too small for small distances, and the other two constants allow some tuning, usually based on the relative distances of the objects with each other and the light source.

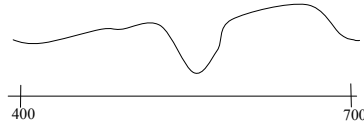
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20

What about Color?

- Visible light is an energy distribution from 400nm to 700nm
- Our visual system integrates the spectral energy distribution into a perception of color
- Lighting model would be most correct if all light terms were expressed as functions of wavelength, λ



$$I_p(\lambda) = k_a(\lambda) * I_a(\lambda) + \sum_L f_L * I_L(\lambda) * (k_d(\lambda) * N \cdot L + k_s(\lambda) * (V \cdot R)^n)$$

and evaluated for many different λ values (8-10 or more).

- For most purposes, 3 λ values are sufficient and computationally tractable. Usually these are values representing red, green, blue, so we have to compute 3 equations of the form above.

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21

Finding the R Vector

- N is derived from the object specification, L is easily computed from the light's location and P
- But, how do we get R , the principal reflection direction?

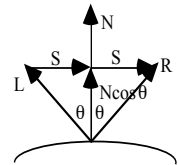
Project L onto N to get $N \cos \theta = N(N \cdot L)$

From left triangle and vector arithmetic

$$S = N \cos \theta - L = N(N \cdot L) - L$$

From right triangle

$$R = N \cos \theta + S = N(N \cdot L) + N(NL) - L = 2N(N \cdot L) - L$$



13:38

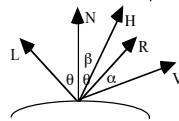
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22

Blinn-Phong Specular Reflection

- Blinn developed an alternative specular reflection model
 - Instead of $(R \cdot V)^n$, use $(N \cdot H)^n$ where H is the vector half way between L and V
 - if H is also a unit vector, $N \cdot H = \cos \beta$
 - α and β are different angles, but are very similar as V approaches R
- How do we get H ? Easier than R !

$$H = (L + V) / \|L + V\|$$



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23

Polygon Mesh Shading

- Lots of objects can be efficiently and effectively modeled as a mesh of polygons (triangles, usually)
- Shading options
 - flat shading
 - Gouraud color interpolation
 - Phong normal interpolation

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24

Flat Shading

- Get normal to plane of the polygon
 - comes from polygon vertices
 - if it is a triangle, the polygon is guaranteed to be planar
 - if it has more than 3 vertices, there is a simple algorithm that will compute the plane normal if the vertices are co-planar, or the least error approximating plane
- Apply lighting model to get a color
 - L is usually computed as a vector from a point near the center of the polygon
- Color the entire polygon with that color

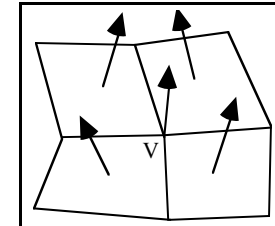
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25

Polygon Vertex Calculation

- Both Gouraud and Phong shading require normals to polygon vertices
- If mesh is generated from an underlying surface specification, get normals from the surface spec
- If all you have is the mesh, compute vertex normals by averaging polygon normals that share the vertex



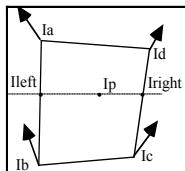
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26

Gouraud Mesh Shading

- Intensity interpolation
 - Use the vertex normals to compute intensities at each vertex — I_a , I_b , I_c , and I_d
 - Interpolate intensity along edges — get I_{left} from I_a and I_b , and I_{right} from I_c and I_d
 - Interpolate intensities between edges across scanline — get I_p from I_{left} and I_{right} .



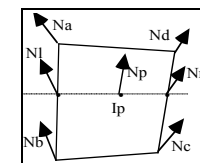
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27

Phong Mesh Shading

- Normal interpolation
 - Interpolate normals along edges
 - Interpolate normals across scanline
 - Apply shading model at each pixel.



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28

Comparing Mesh Shading

1. Gouraud interpolation: shading model applied once/vertex
2. Phong interpolation: shading model applied once/pixel
3. Interpolation costs are the same: 3 colors or 3 component vector
4. Phong handles specular highlights more accurately
5. Gouraud is done in all graphics cards

Generic Problems

- **General problems with interpolatory shading**
 - polygon silhouette*: curved surface silhouettes still show polygonal approximation
 - perspective distortion*: linear interpolation done in perspective world; not accurate in real world
 - orientation dependence*: interpolation is dependent on orientation
 - shared vertices*: get discontinuities if 2 adjacent polygons don't share vertex lying on shared edge.
 - unrepresentative vertex normals*: zigzag polygons can produce inaccurate vertices; appears flat



Next
