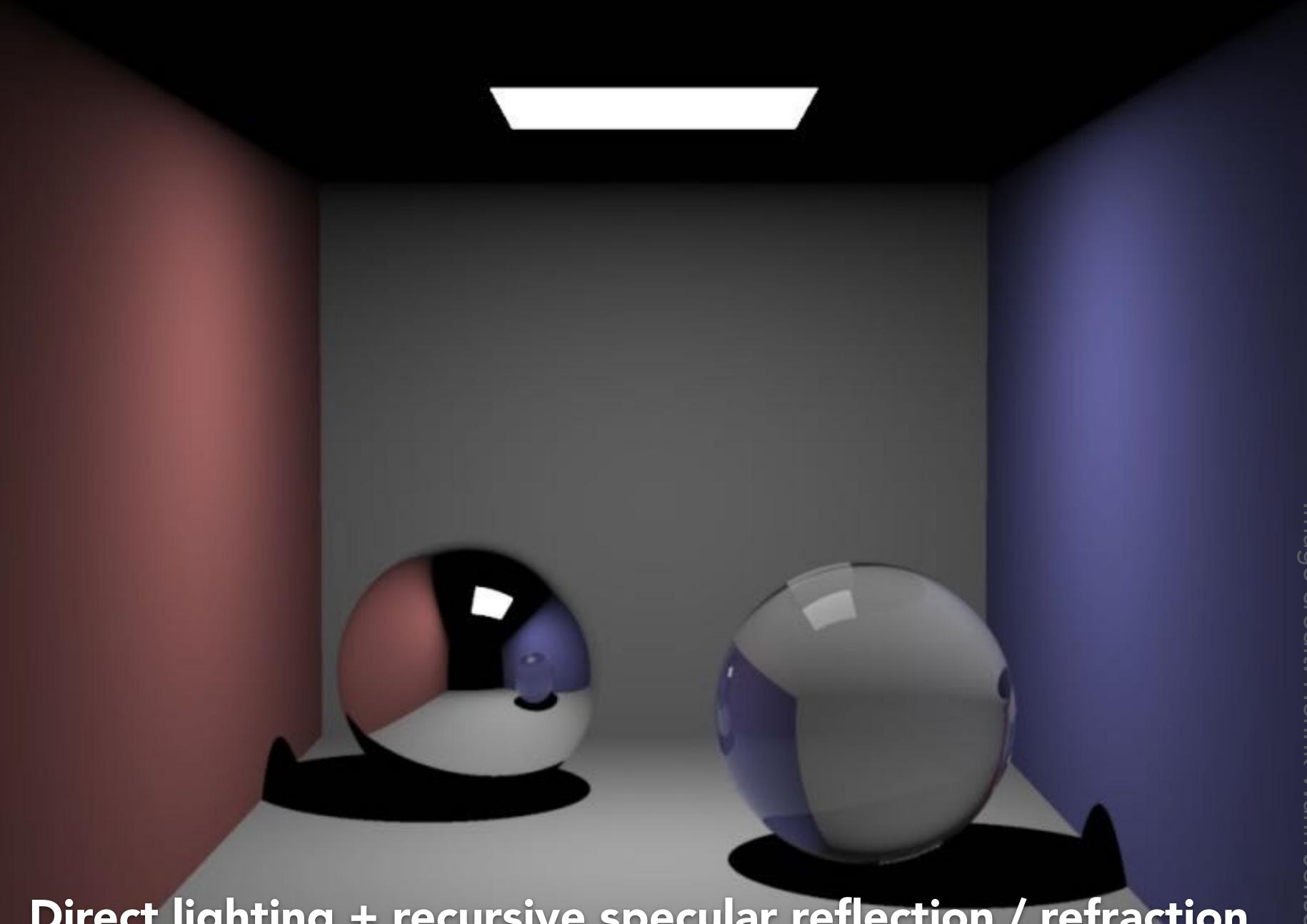
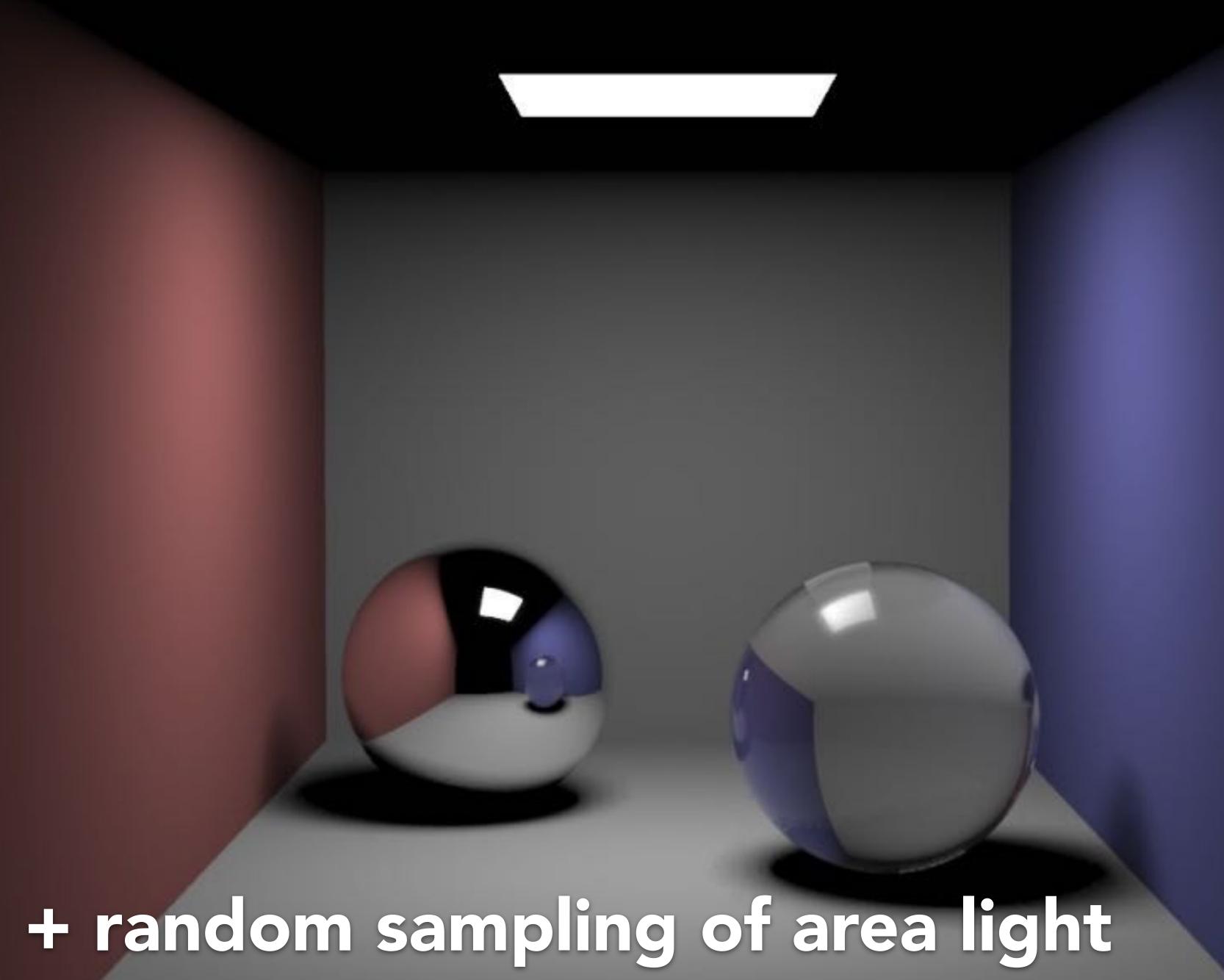
Lecture 13:

Global Illumination & Path Tracing

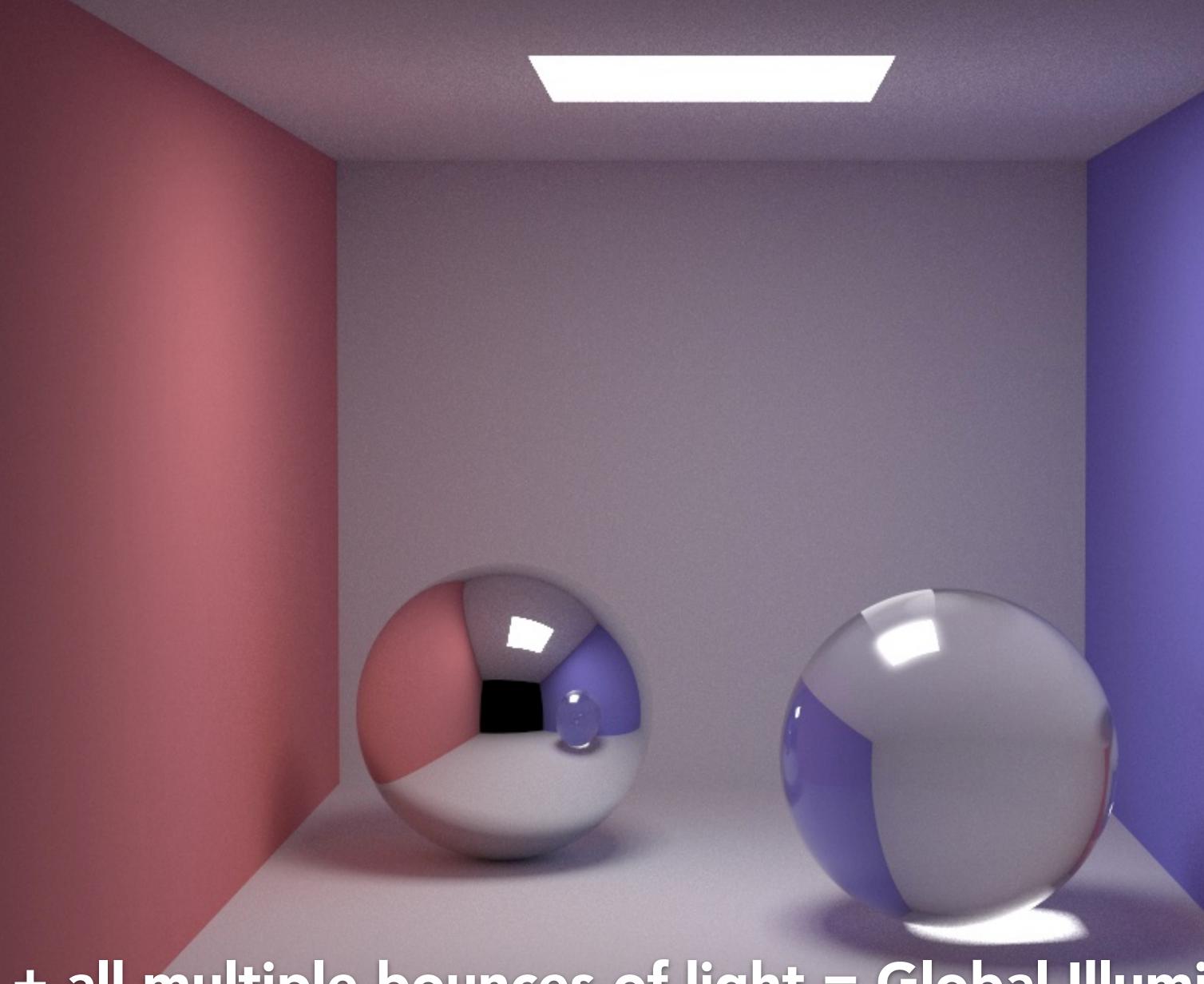
Computer Graphics and Imaging UC Berkeley CS184/284A



Direct lighting + recursive specular reflection / refraction

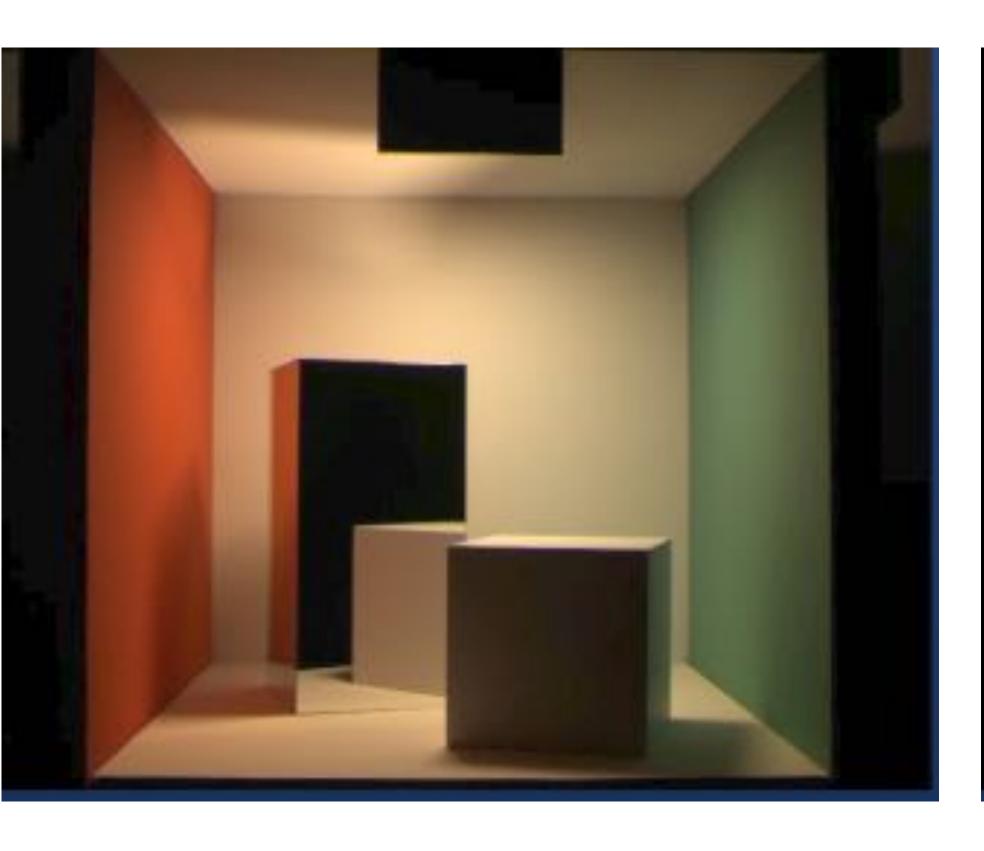


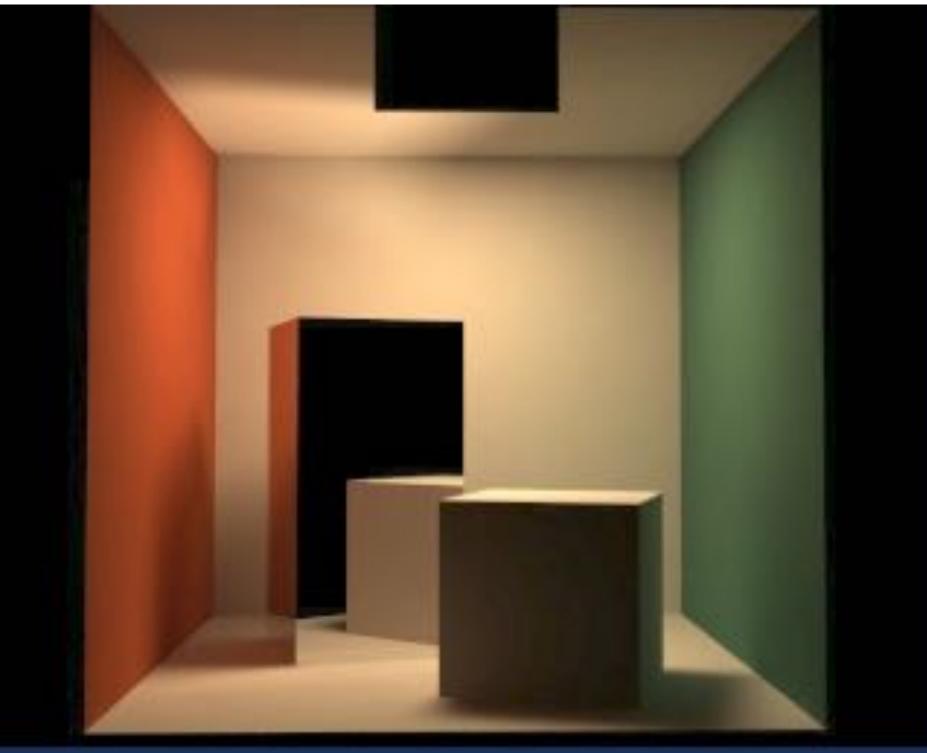
.....



+ all multiple bounces of light = Global Illumination

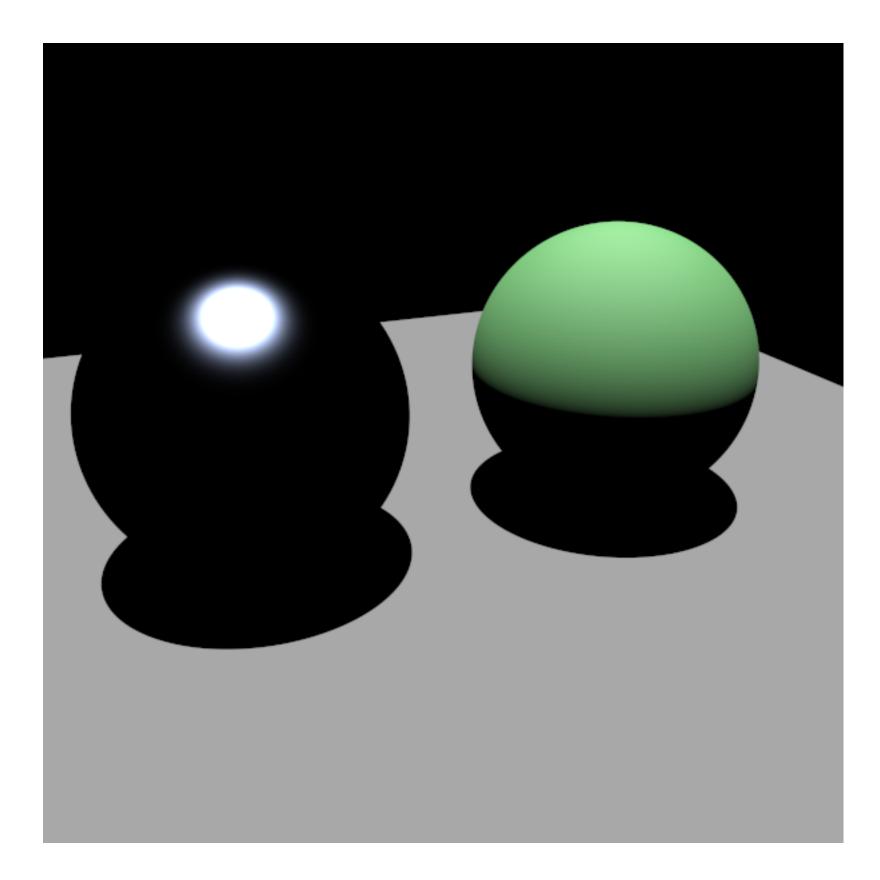
Cornell Box – Photograph vs Rendering



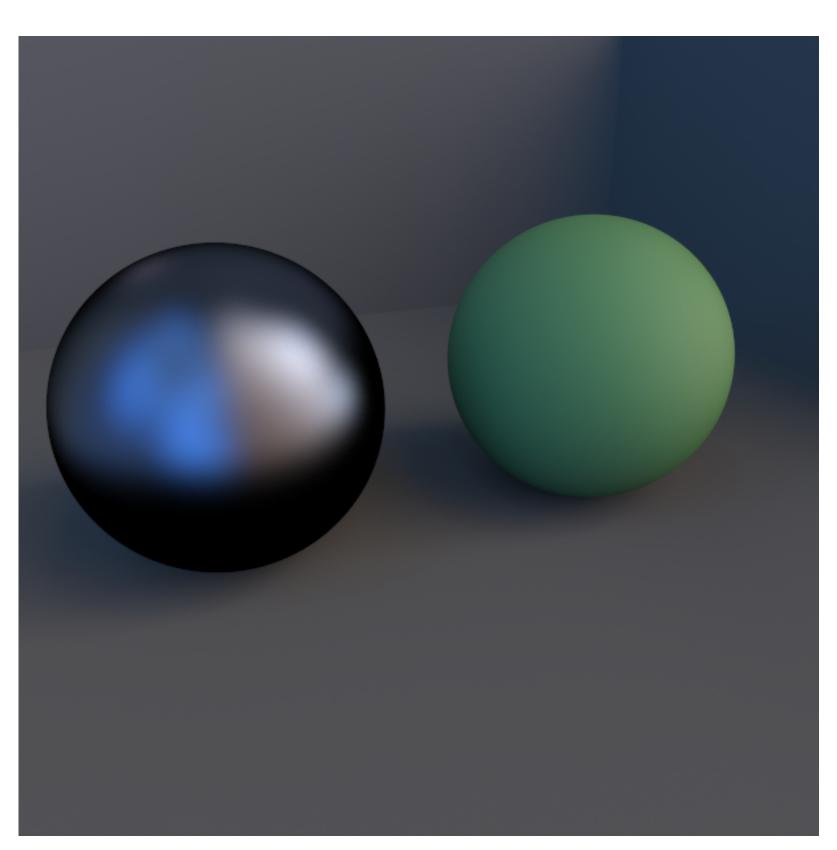


Photograph (CCD) vs. global illumination rendering

Visual Richness from Complex Lighting



Point Light



Environment Map Lighting

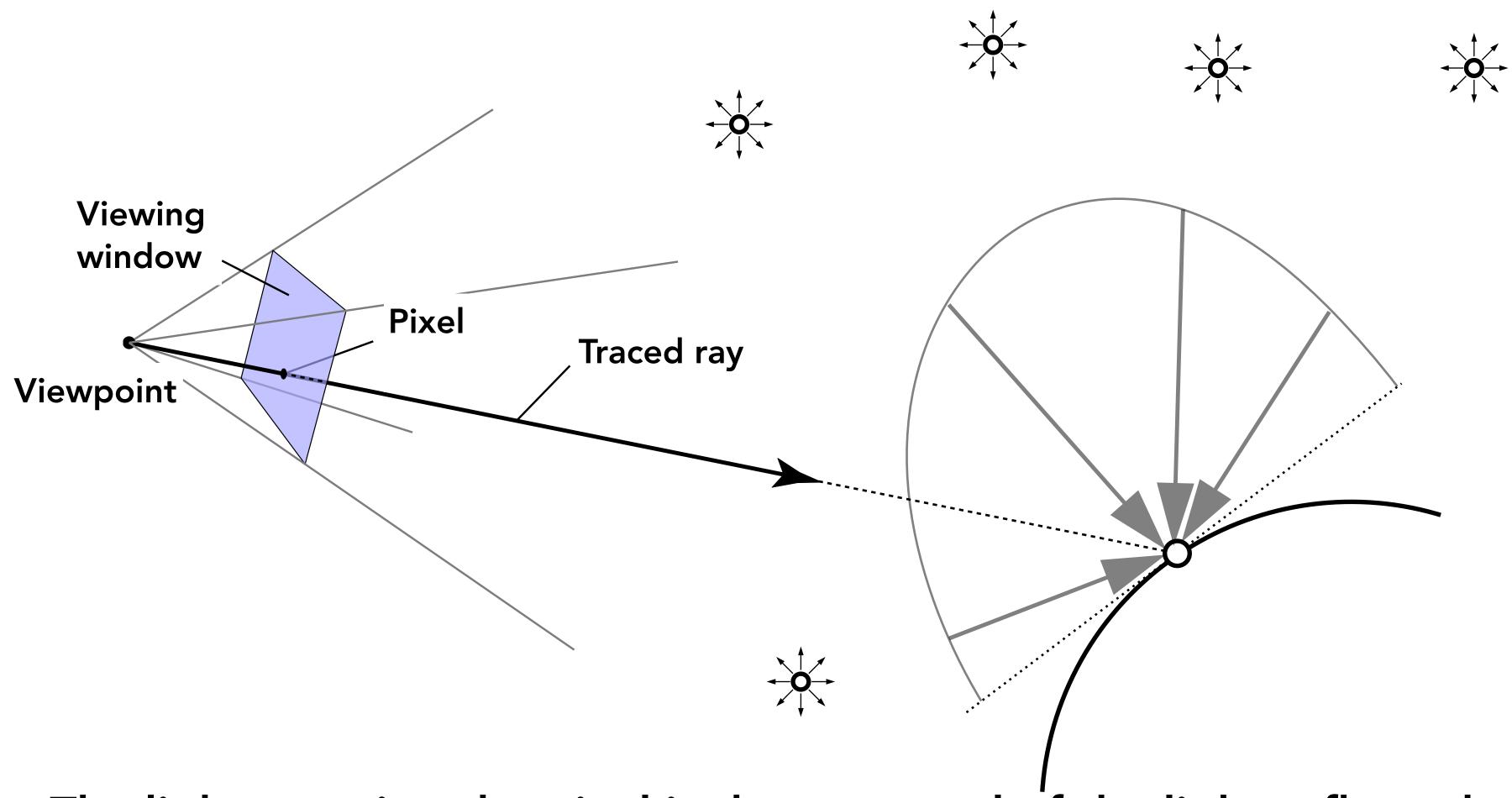


Visual Richness from Complex Materials



Credit: Bertrand Benoit. "Sweet Feast," 2009. [Blender /VRay]

Ray Tracer Samples Radiance Along A Ray



The light entering the pixel is the sum total of the light reflected off the surface into the ray's (reverse) direction

Mini-Intro To Material Reflection

Reflection

Definition: reflection is the process by which light incident on a surface interacts with the surface such that it leaves on the incident (same) side without change in frequency

Categories of Reflection Functions

Ideal specular

Perfect mirror reflection

Ideal diffuse

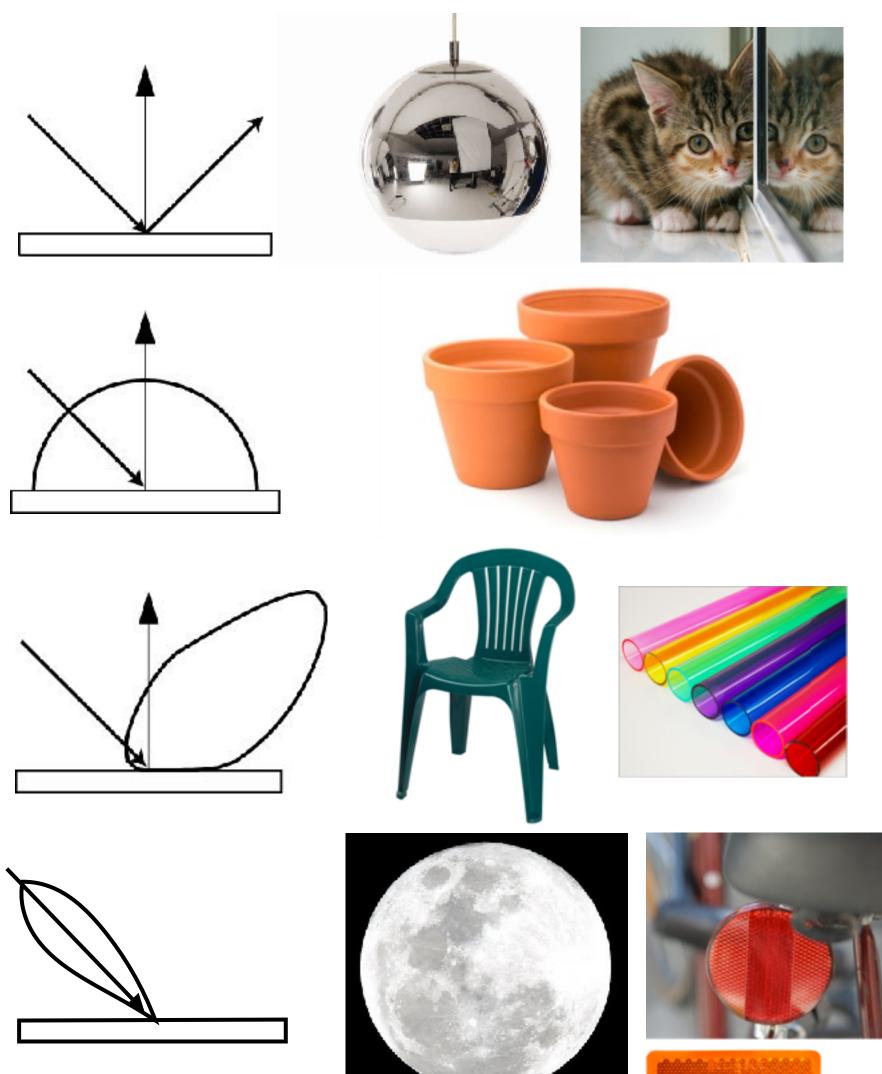
Equal reflection in all directions

Glossy specular

 Majority of light reflected near mirror direction

Retro-reflective

 Light reflected back towards light source



Diagrams illustrate how light from incoming direction is reflected in various outgoing directions.

Materials: Mirror



Materials: Diffuse



Materials: Gold



Materials: Plastic



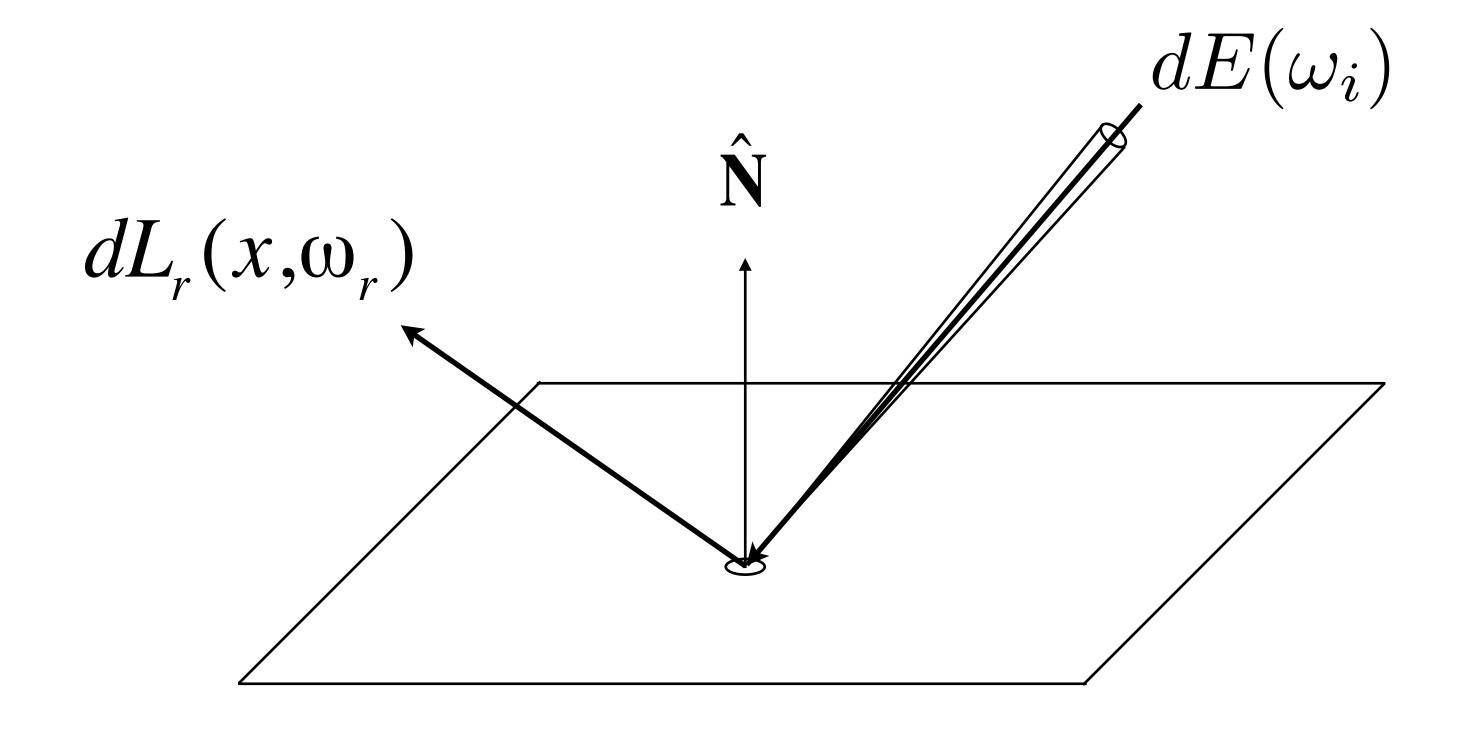
Materials: Red Semi-Gloss Paint



Materials: Ford Mystic Lacquer Paint



Reflection at a Point



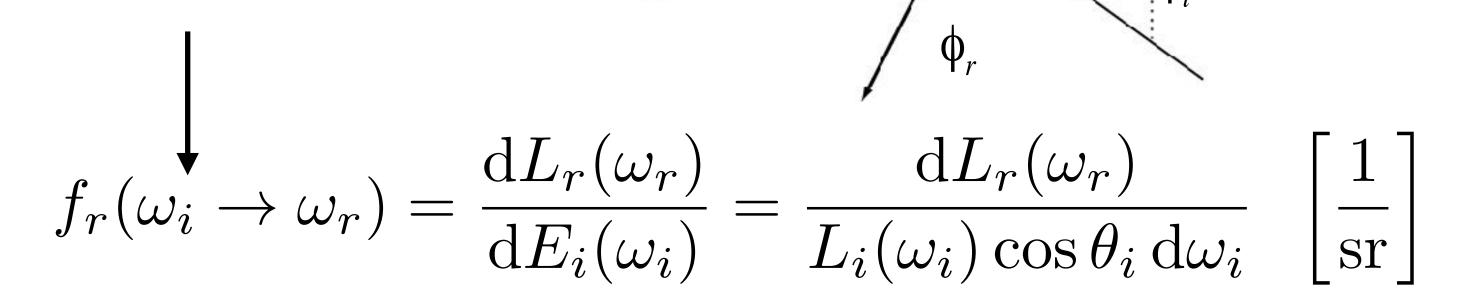
Differential irradiance incoming: $dE(\omega_i) = L(\omega_i)\cos\theta_i\,d\omega_i$ Differential radiance exiting (due to $dE(\omega_i)$) $dL_r(\omega_r)$

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BRDF

Definition: The bidirectional reflectance distribution function (BRDF) represents how much light is reflected into each outgoing direction ω_r from each incoming direction

 $dL_r(x,\omega_r)$ NB: ω_i points away from surface rather than into surface, by



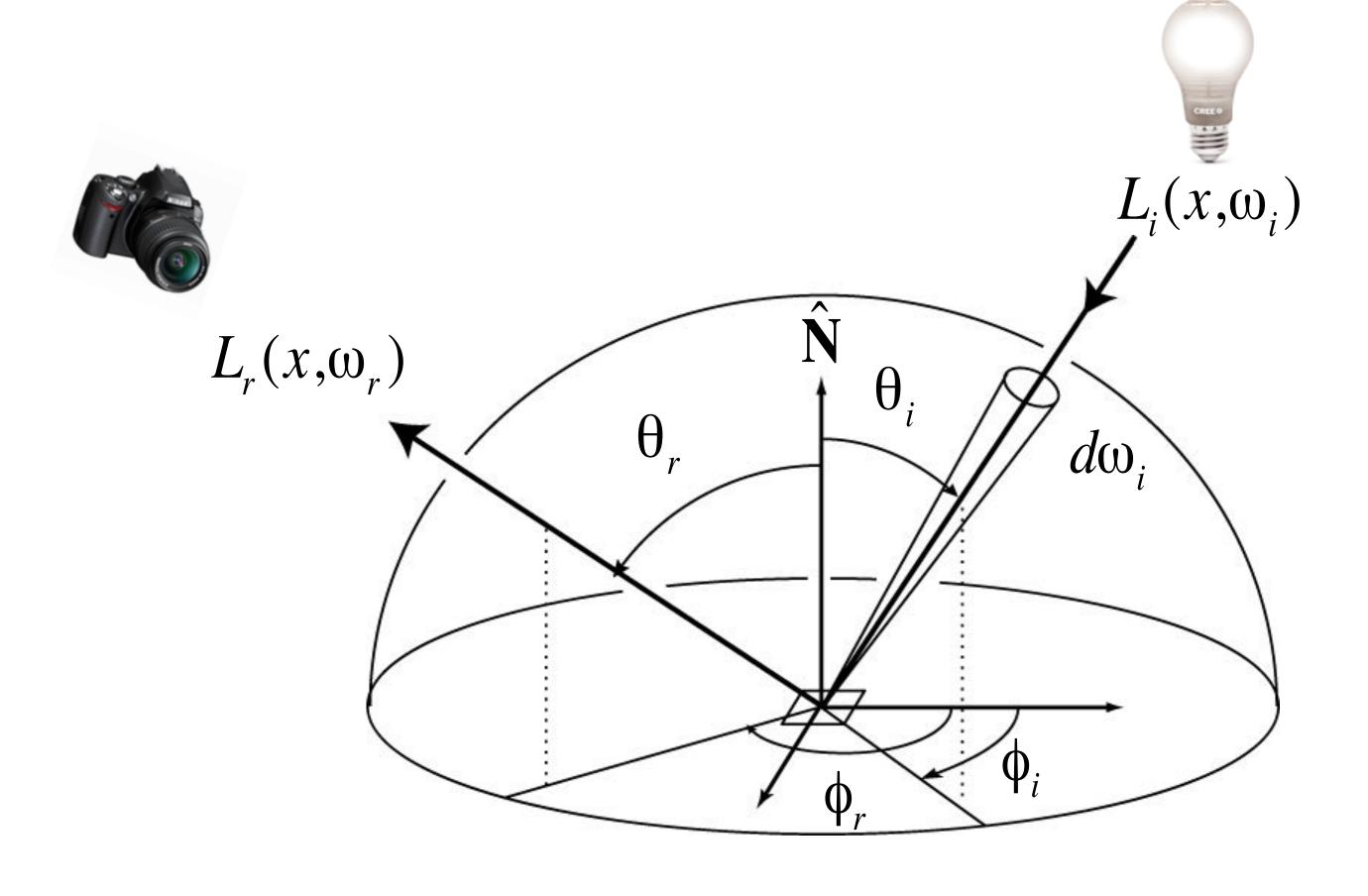
 θ_r

 $d\omega_{i}$

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convention.

The Reflection Equation



$$L_r(\mathbf{p}, \omega_r) = \int_{H^2} f_r(\mathbf{p}, \omega_i \to \omega_r) L_i(\mathbf{p}, \omega_i) \cos \theta_i d\omega_i$$

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Solving the Reflection Equation

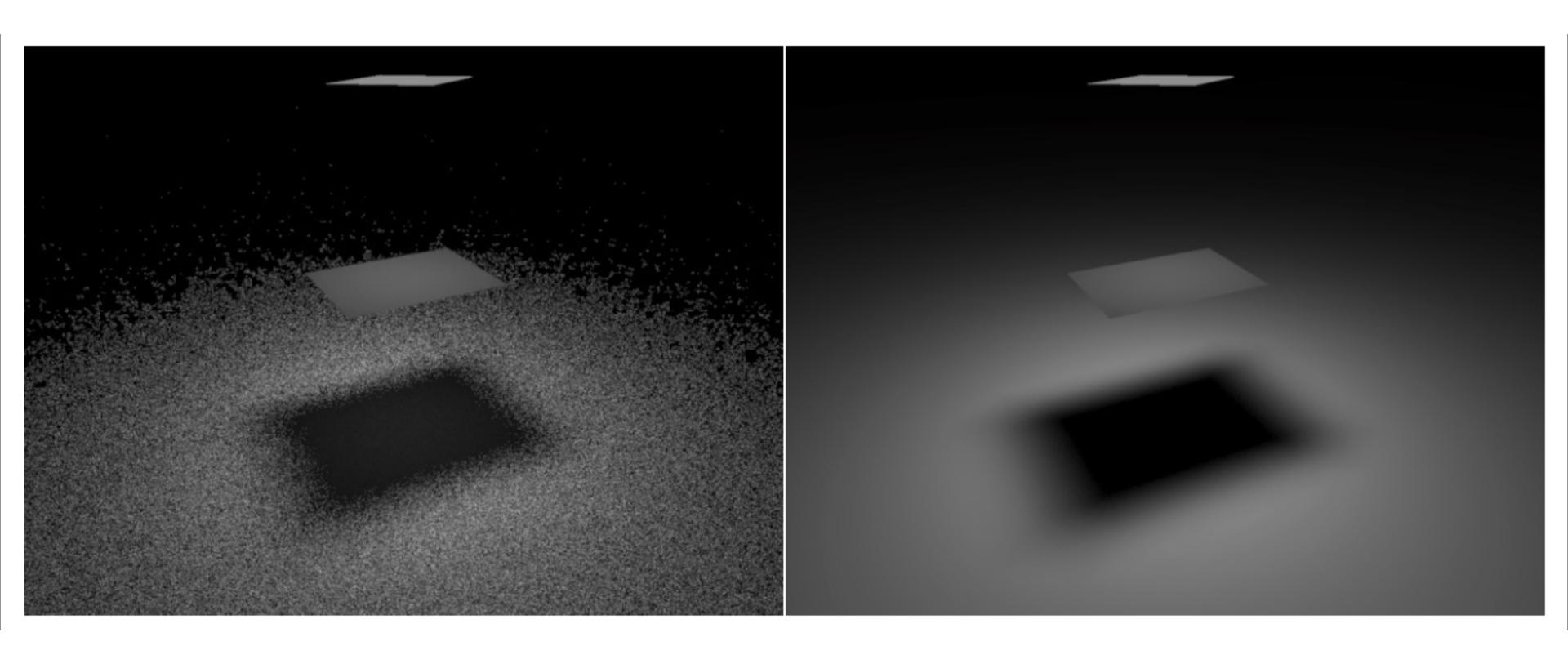
$$L_r(\mathbf{p}, \omega_r) = \int_{H^2} f_r(\mathbf{p}, \omega_i \to \omega_r) L_i(\mathbf{p}, \omega_i) \cos \theta_i d\omega_i$$

Monte Carlo estimate:

- ullet Generate directions ω_j sampled from some distribution $p(\omega)$
- Choices for $p(\omega)$
 - Uniformly sample hemisphere
 - Importance sample BRDF (proportional to BRDF)
 - Importance sample lights (sample position on lights)
- Compute the estimator

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{f_r(\mathbf{p}, \omega_j \to \omega_r) L_i(\mathbf{p}, \omega_j) \cos \theta_j}{p(\omega_j)}$$

Recall: Hemisphere vs Light Sampling



Sample hemisphere uniformly Sample points on light

Direct Lighting Pseudocode (Uniform Random Sampling)

```
DirectLightingSampleUniform(x, ωo)
  wi = hemisphere.sampleUniform(); // uniform random sampling
  pdf = 1.0 / (2 * pi);
  if (scene.shadowIntersection(x, \omegai)) // Shadow ray
     return 0;
  else
     L = lights.radiance(intersect(x,wi), -wi);
     return L * x.brdf(ωi, ωo) * costheta / pdf;
```

Direct Lighting Pseudocode (Importance Sampling of BRDF)

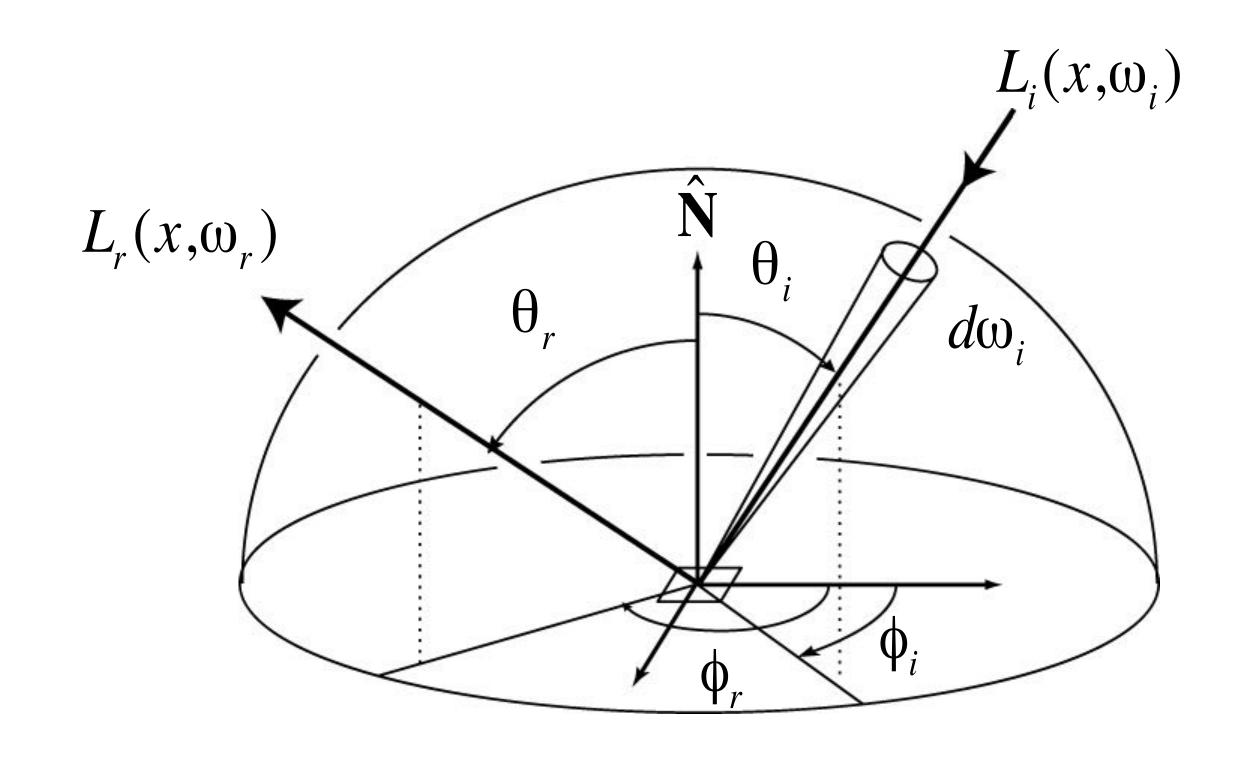
```
DirectLightingSampleBRDF(x, ωo)
  wi, pdf = x.brdf.sampleDirection(); // Imp. Sample BRDF
  if (scene.shadowIntersection(x, \omegai)) // Shadow ray
     return 0;
  else
     L = lights.radiance(intersect(x, wi), -wi);
     return L * x.brdf(wi, wo) * costheta / pdf;
```

Direct Lighting Pseudocode (Importance Sampling of Lights)

```
DirectLightingSampleLights(x, wo)
  L, \omegai, pdf = lights.sampleDirection(x); // Imp. sampl lights
  if (scene.shadowIntersection(x, ωi)) // Shadow ray
     return 0;
  else
     return L * x.brdf(wi, wo) *costheta / pdf;
// Note: only one random sample over all lights.
// Assignment 3-1 asks you to, alternatively, loop over
// multiple lights and take multiple samples
```

Global Illumination: Deriving the Rendering Equation

Recall: Reflection Equation

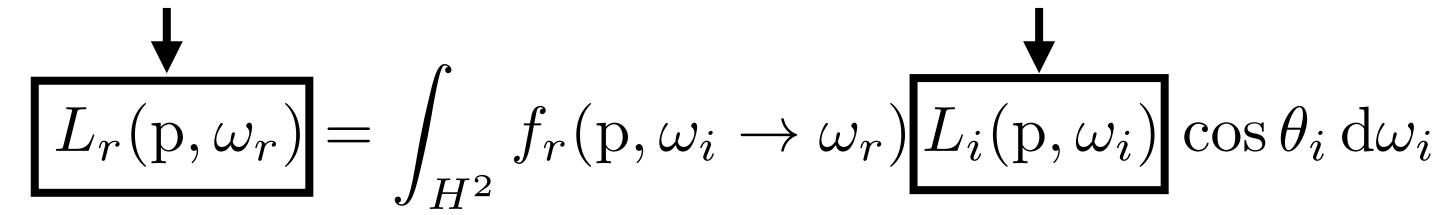


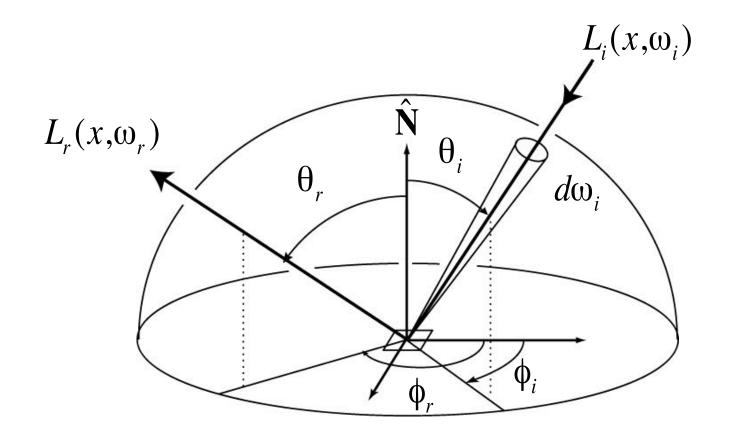
$$L_r(\mathbf{p}, \omega_r) = \int_{H^2} f_r(\mathbf{p}, \omega_i \to \omega_r) L_i(\mathbf{p}, \omega_i) \cos \theta_i d\omega_i$$

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Challenge: This is Actually A Recursive Equation

Reflected radiance depends on incoming radiance

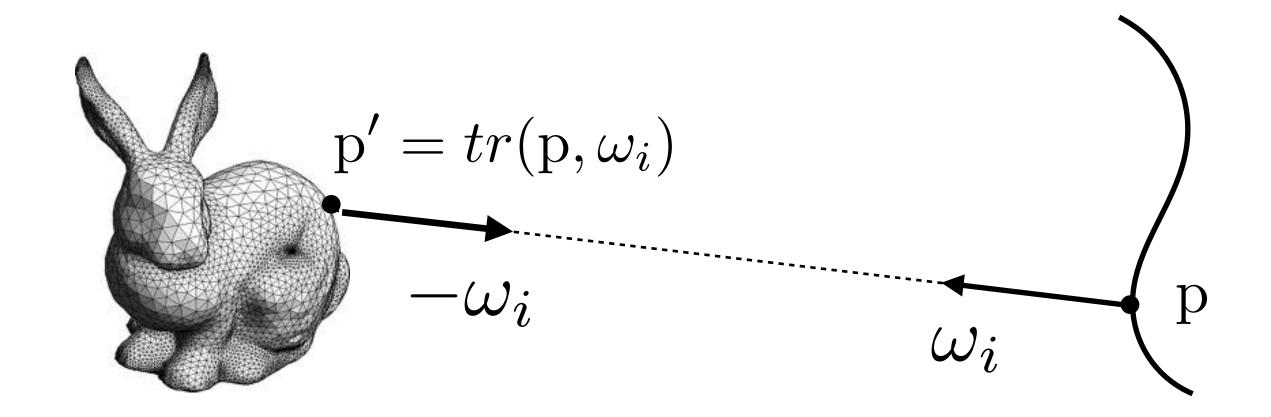




But incoming radiance depends on reflected radiance (at another point in the scene)

Transport Function & Radiance Invariance

Definition: the Transport Function, $tr(p,\omega)$, returns the first surface intersection point in the scene along ray (p,ω)



Radiance invariance along rays: $L_o(tr(\mathbf{p},\omega_i),-\omega_i)=L_i(\mathbf{p},\omega_i)$

"Radiance arriving at p from direction ω_i is equal to the radiance leaving p' in direction $-\omega_i$ "

The Rendering Equation

Re-write the reflection equation:

$$L_o(\mathbf{p}, \omega_o) = L_e(\mathbf{p}, \omega_o) + \int_{H^2} f_r(\mathbf{p}, \omega_i \to \omega_o) L_i(\mathbf{p}, \omega_i) \cos \theta_i d\omega_i$$

Using the transport function: $L_i(\mathbf{p},\omega_i)=L_o(tr(\mathbf{p},\omega_i),-\omega_i)$

The Rendering Equation

$$L_o(\mathbf{p}, \omega_o) = L_e(\mathbf{p}, \omega_o) + \int_{H^2} f_r(\mathbf{p}, \omega_i \to \omega_o) L_o(tr(\mathbf{p}, \omega_i), -\omega_i) \cos \theta_i d\omega_i$$

Note: recursion is now explicit

How to solve?

Light Transport Operators

Operators Are Higher-Order Functions

Functions:

$$f,g:(x,\omega)\to\mathbb{R}$$

Operators are higher-order functions:

$$P: ((x,\omega) \to \mathbb{R}) \to ((x,\omega) \to \mathbb{R})$$

$$P(f) = g$$

Take a function and transform it into another function

Linear Operators

Linear operators act on functions like matrices act on vectors

$$h(x) = (L(f))(x)$$

They are linear in that:

$$L(af + bg) = aL(f) + bL(g)$$

• Examples of linear operators:

$$H(f)(x) = \int h(x, x') f(x') dx'$$
$$D(f)(x) = \frac{\delta f}{\delta x}(x)$$

Light Transport Functions & Operators

- Emitted radiance function

 (all surface points & outgoing directions)
- $L_e(\mathbf{p},\omega)$

• Incoming/outgoing reflected radiance (all surface points & in/out directions)

- $L_i(\mathbf{p},\omega), L_o(\mathbf{p},\omega)$
- Transport function returns the first scene intersection point along given ray
- $tr(\mathbf{p}, \omega)$

• Reflection operator:

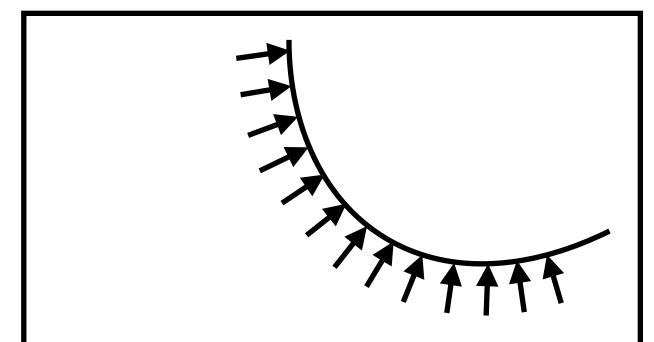
$$R(g)(\mathbf{p}, \omega_o) \equiv \int_{H^2} f_r(\mathbf{p}, \omega_i \to \omega_o) g(\mathbf{p}, \omega_i) \cos \theta_i d\omega_i$$
$$R(L_i) = L_o$$

• Transport operator:

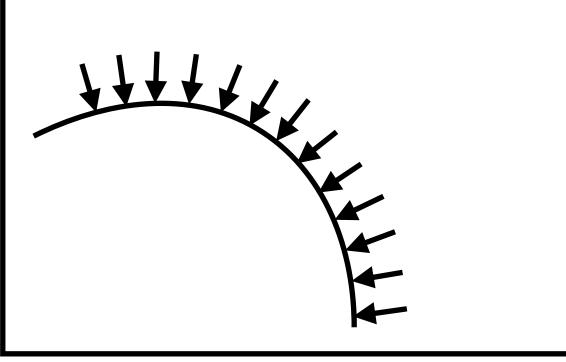
$$T(f)(\mathbf{p}, \omega_o) \equiv f(tr(\mathbf{p}, \omega), -\omega)$$

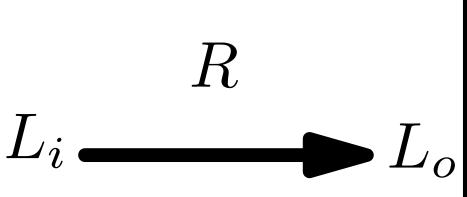
 $T(L_o) = L_i$

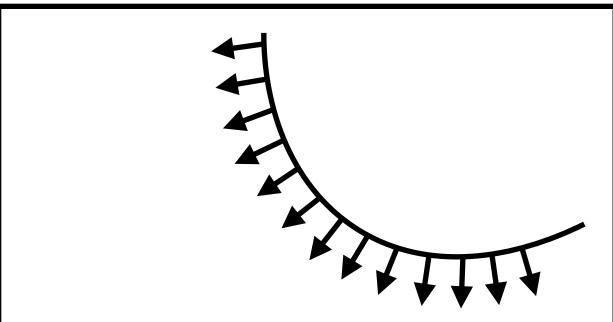
Reflection Operator



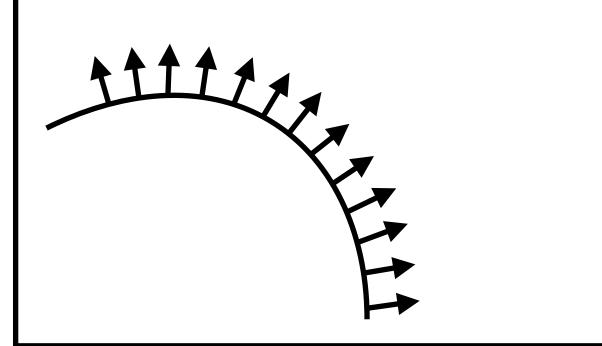
Incoming radiance (surface light field)





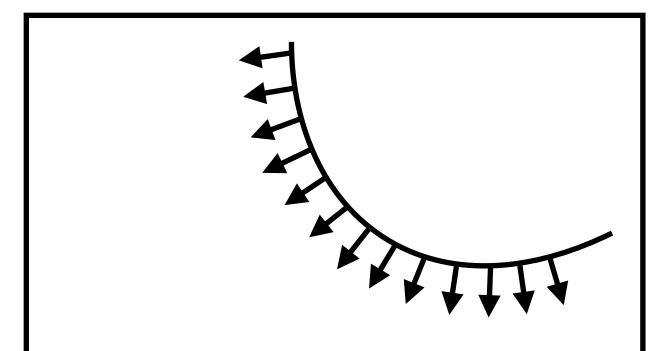


Outgoing radiance (surface light field)

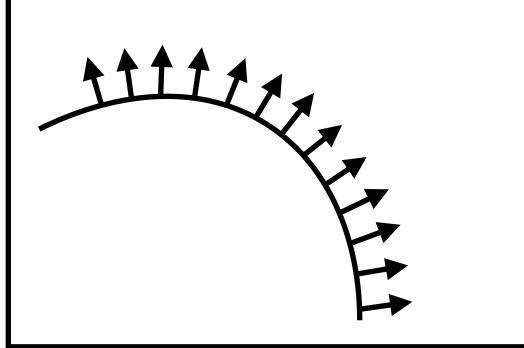


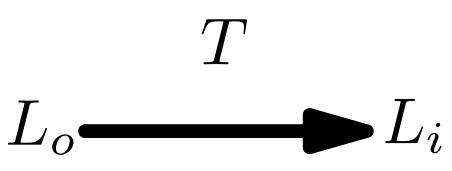
$$R(g)(\mathbf{p}, \omega_o) \equiv \int_{H^2} f_r(\mathbf{p}, \omega_i \to \omega_o) g(\mathbf{p}, \omega_i) \cos \theta_i d\omega_i$$

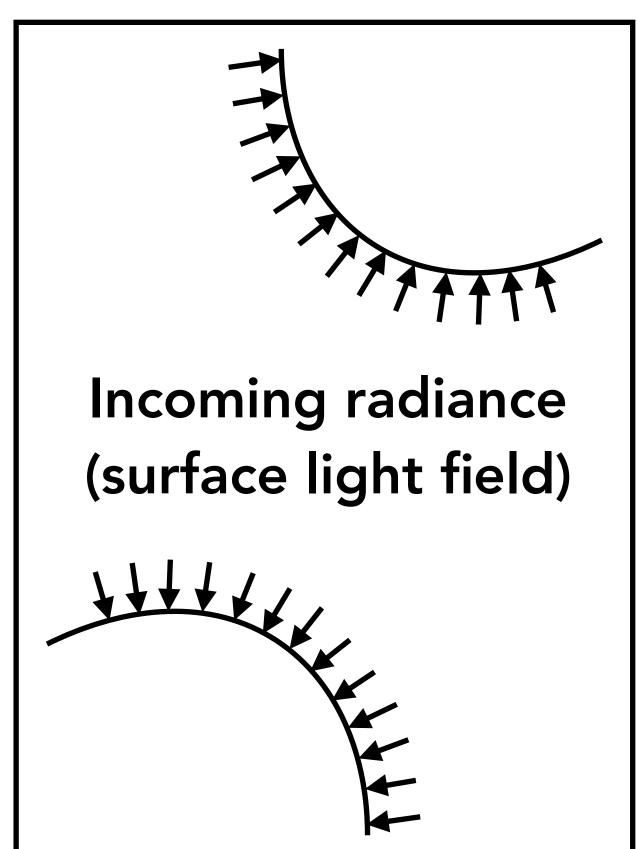
Transport Operator



Outgoing radiance (surface light field)







$$T(f)(\mathbf{p}, \omega_o) \equiv f(tr(\mathbf{p}, \omega_o), -\omega_o)$$

 $T(L_o) = L_i$

Rendering Equation in Operator Notation

$$L_o(\mathbf{p}, \omega_o) = L_e(\mathbf{p}, \omega_o) + \int_{H^2} f_r(\mathbf{p}, \omega_i \to \omega_o) L_o(tr(\mathbf{p}, \omega_i), -\omega_i) \cos \theta_i d\omega_i$$

$$L_o = L_e + (R \circ T)(L_o)$$

Define full one-bounce light transport operator: $K=R\circ T$

$$L_o = L_e + K(L_o)$$

Solving the Rendering Equation

Solving the Rendering Equation

• Rendering equation:

$$L = L_e + K(L)$$
$$(I - K)(L) = L_e$$

L is outgoing reflected

Solution desired:

$$L = (I - K)^{-1}(L_e)$$

• How to solve?

Solution Intuition

For scalar functions, recall:

$$\frac{1}{1-x} = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \cdots$$
converges for $-1 < x < 1$

Similarly, for operators, it is true that

$$(I-K)^{-1}=\frac{1}{I-K}=I+K+K^2+K^3+\cdots$$
 (Neumann series) converges for $||K||<1$

where |K| < 1 means that the "energy" of the radiance function decreases after applying K. This is intuitively true for valid scene models based on energy dissipation (though not trivial to prove, see Veach & Guibas).

Formal Solution

Neumann series:

$$(I - K)^{-1} = \frac{1}{I - K} = I + K + K^2 + K^3 + \cdots$$

Check:

$$(I - K) \circ (I - K)^{-1}$$

$$= (I - K) \circ (I + K + K^{2} + K^{3} + \cdots)$$

$$= (I + K + K^{2} + \cdots) - (K + K^{2} + \cdots)$$

$$= I$$

Again, energy dissipation makes it possible to show that the series converges.

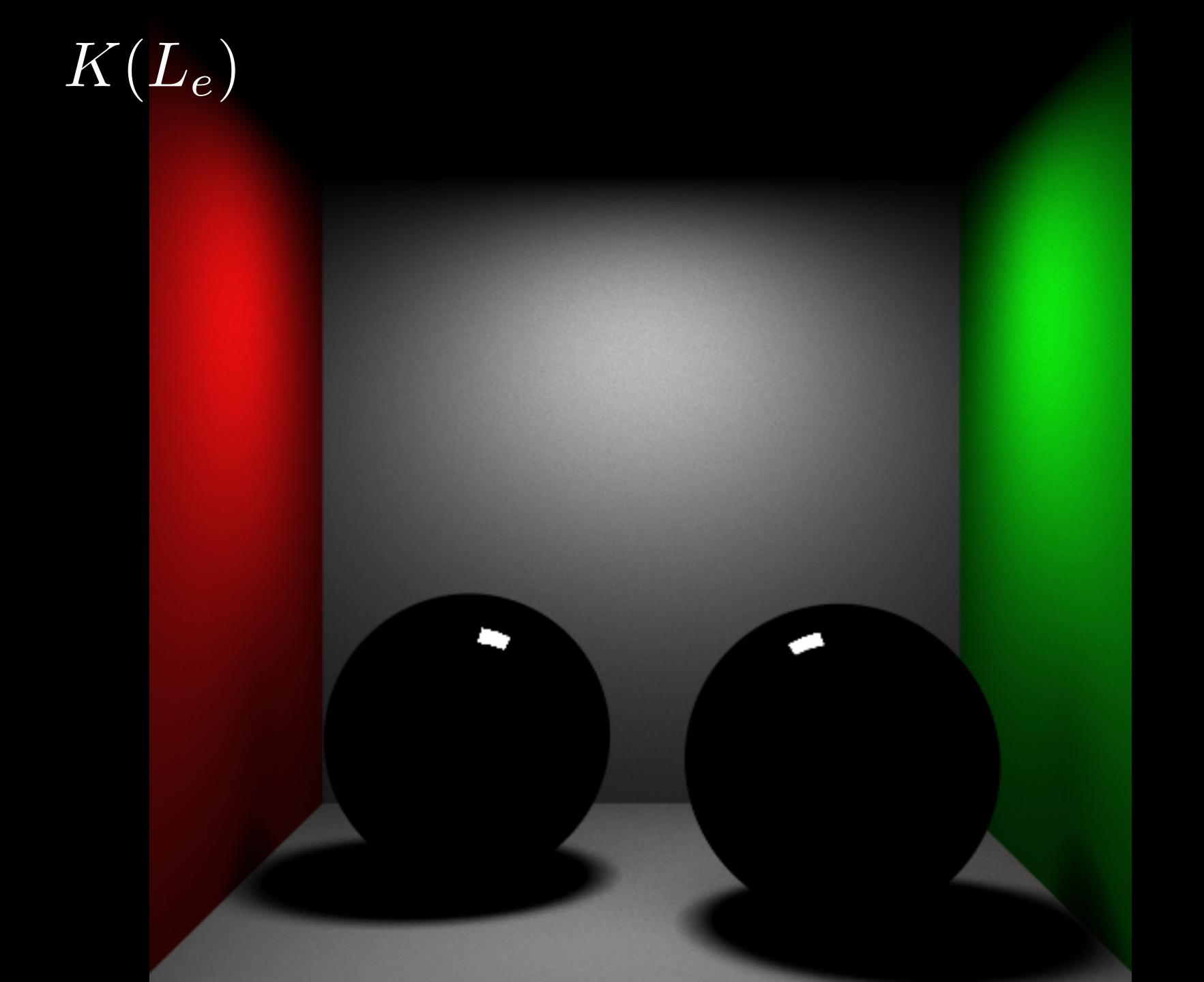
Rendering Equation Solution

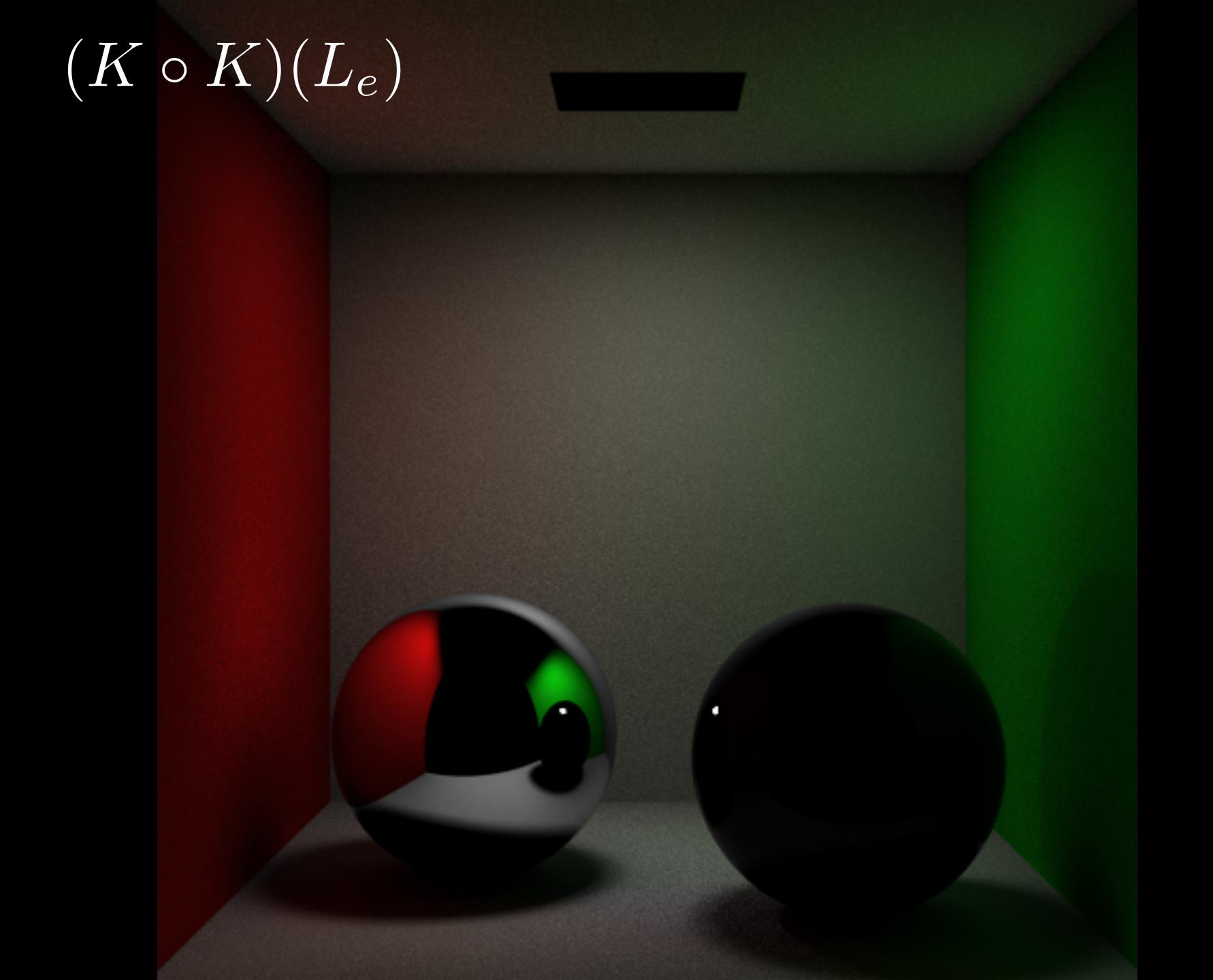
$$\begin{split} L &= (I-K)^{-1}(L_e) \\ &= (I+K+K^2+K^3+\cdots)(L_e) \\ &= L_e + K(L_e) + K^2(L_e) + K^3(L_e) + \cdots \\ &\uparrow \qquad \uparrow \qquad \uparrow \qquad \uparrow \qquad \uparrow \qquad \uparrow \qquad \uparrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad$$

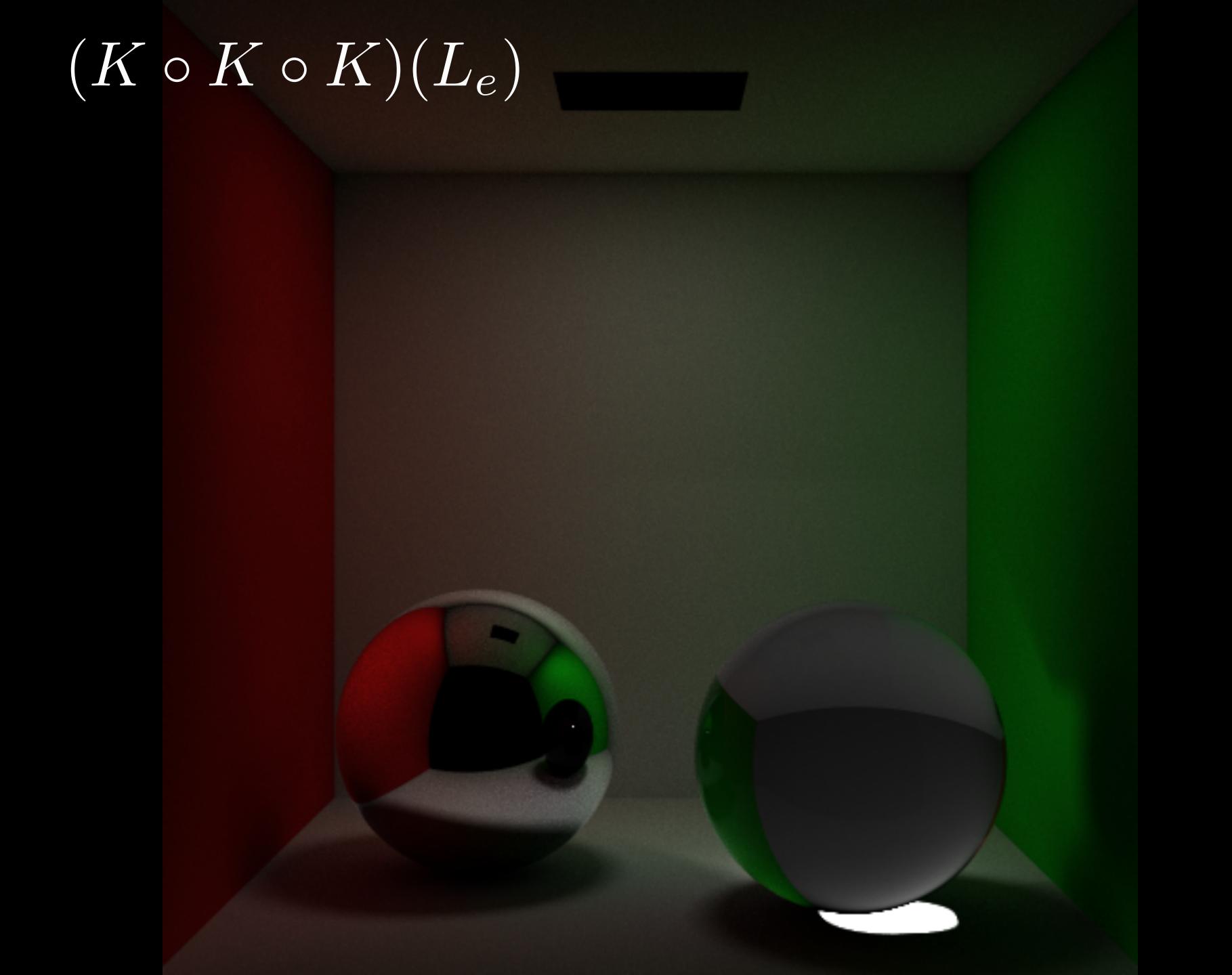
Intuitive: Sum of successive bounces of light

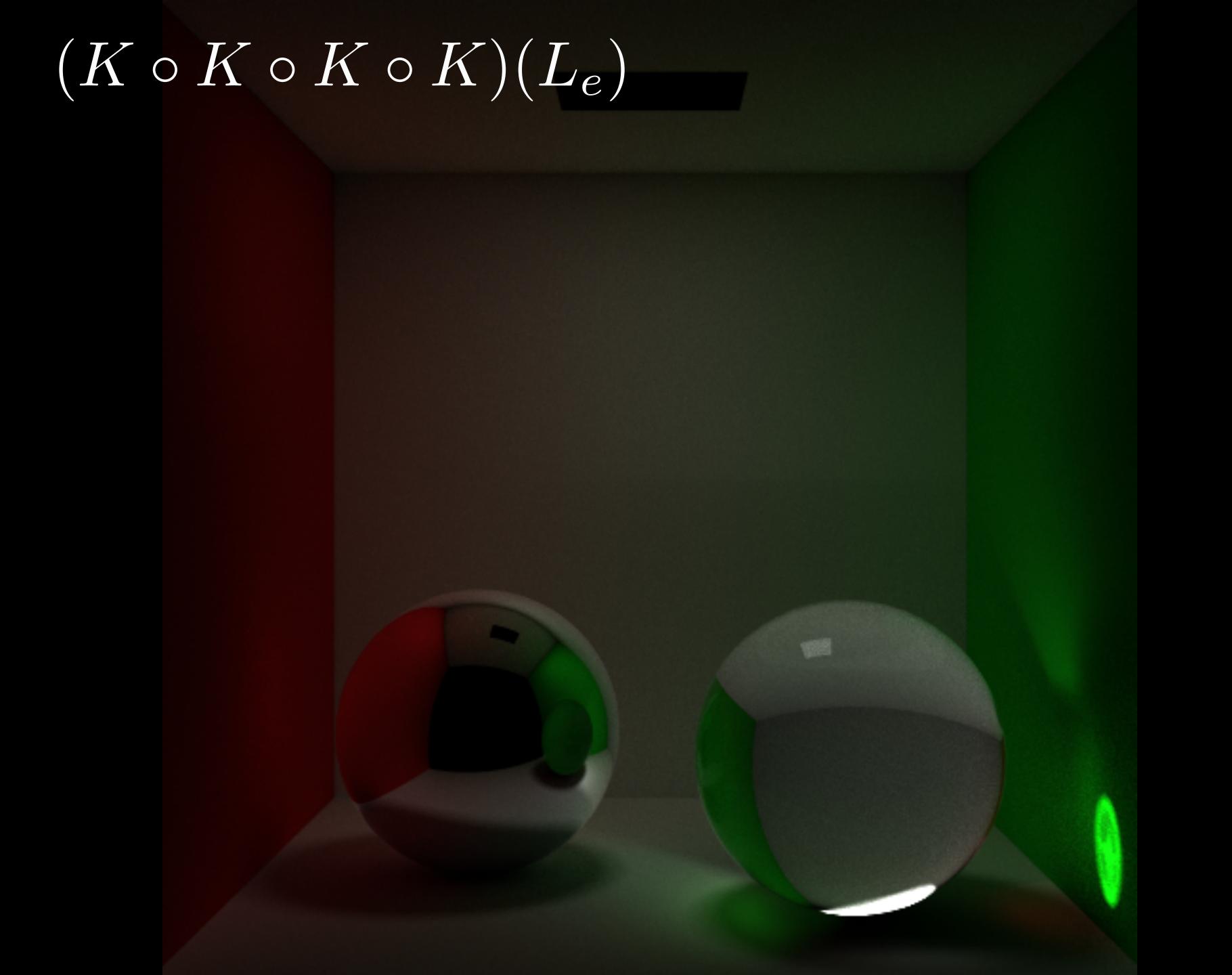
This calculates the steady-state surface light field over the scene.

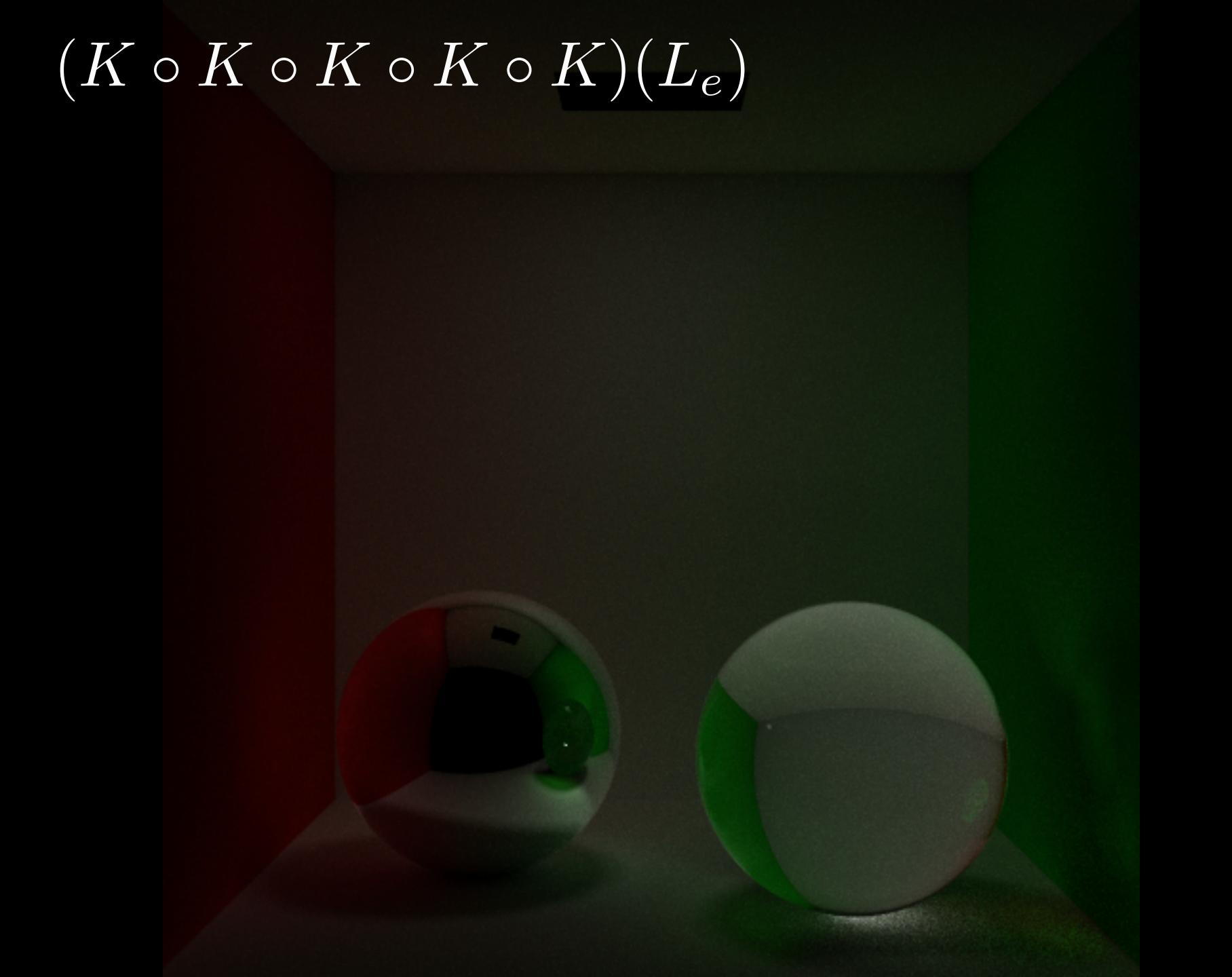


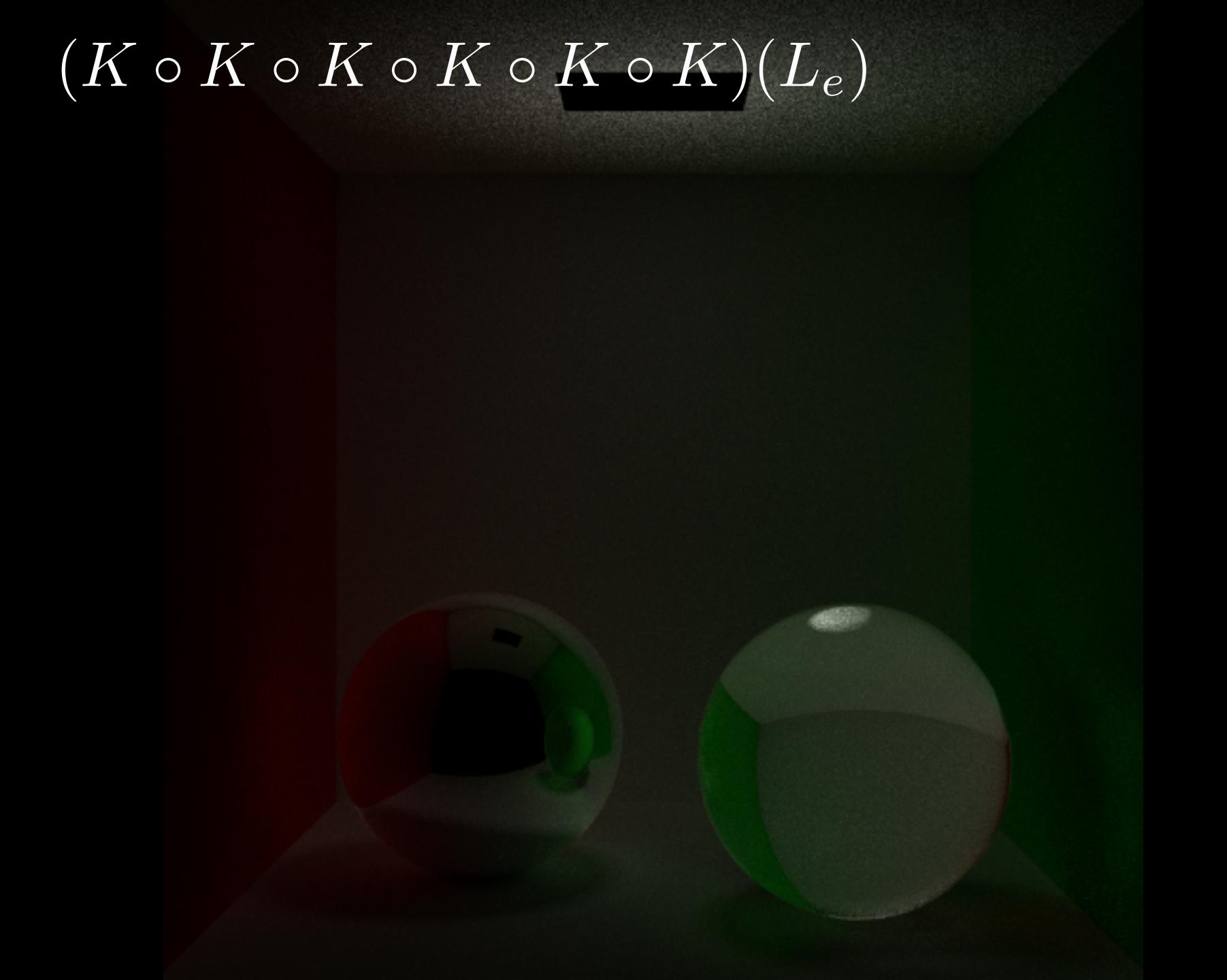




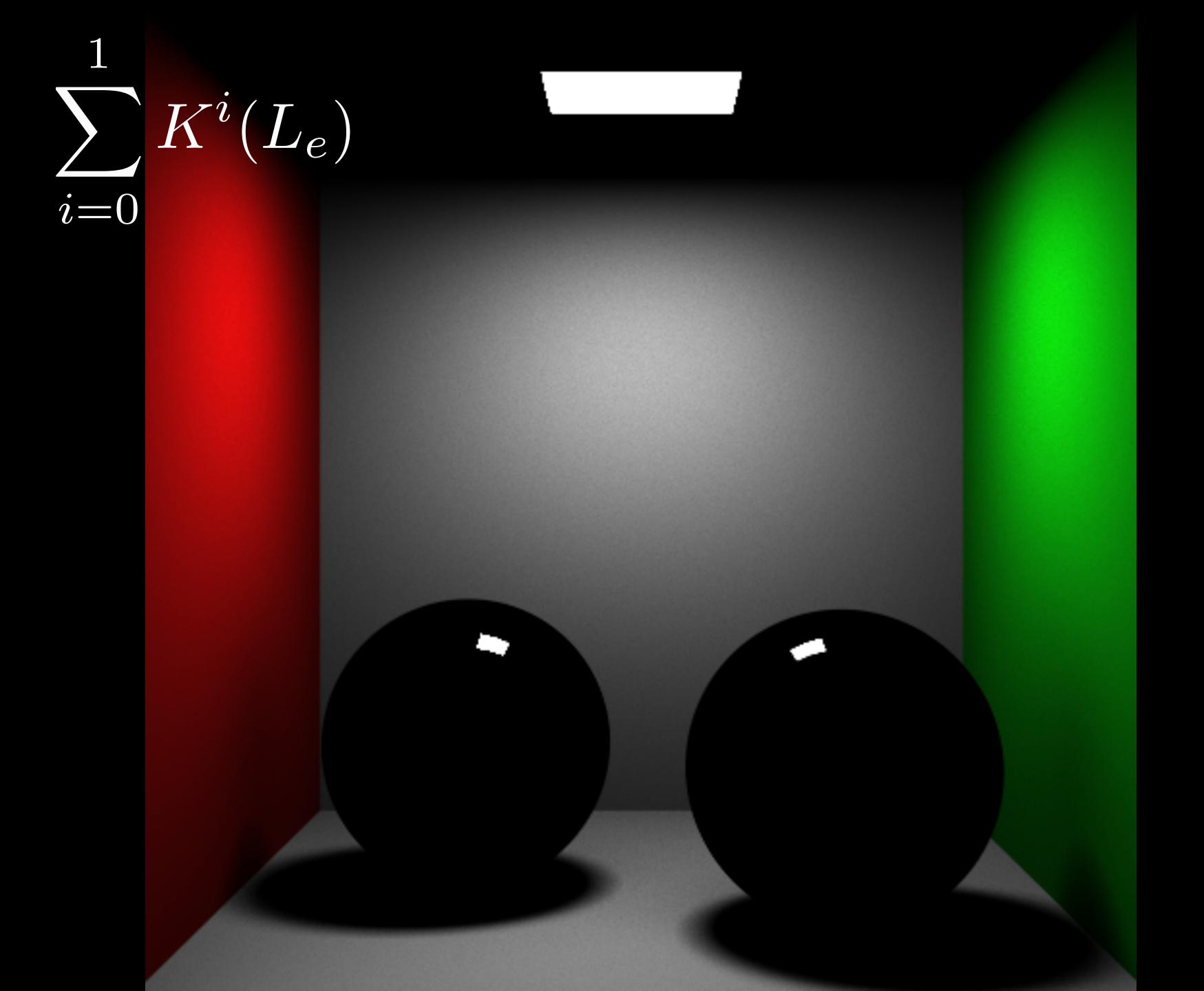


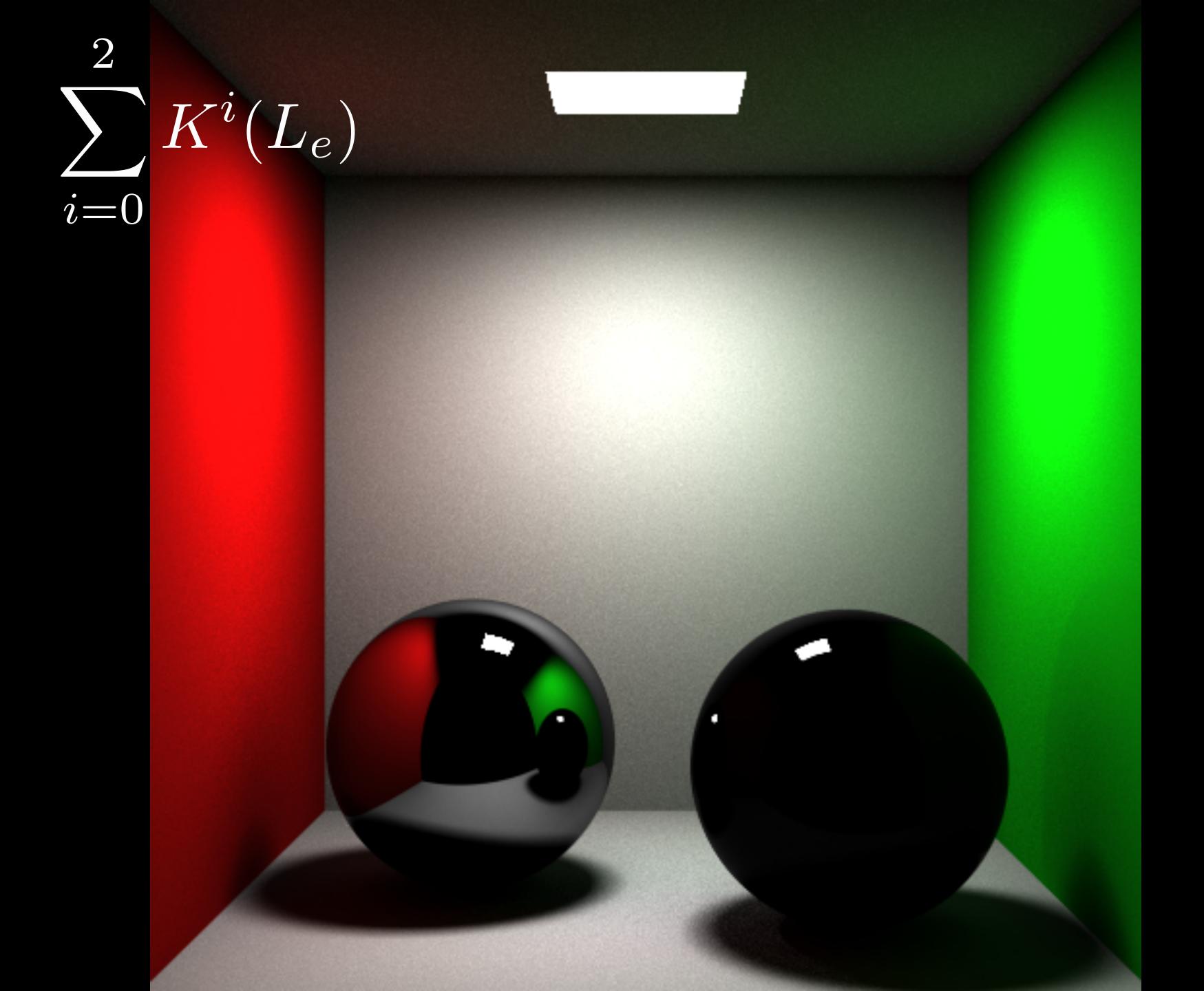


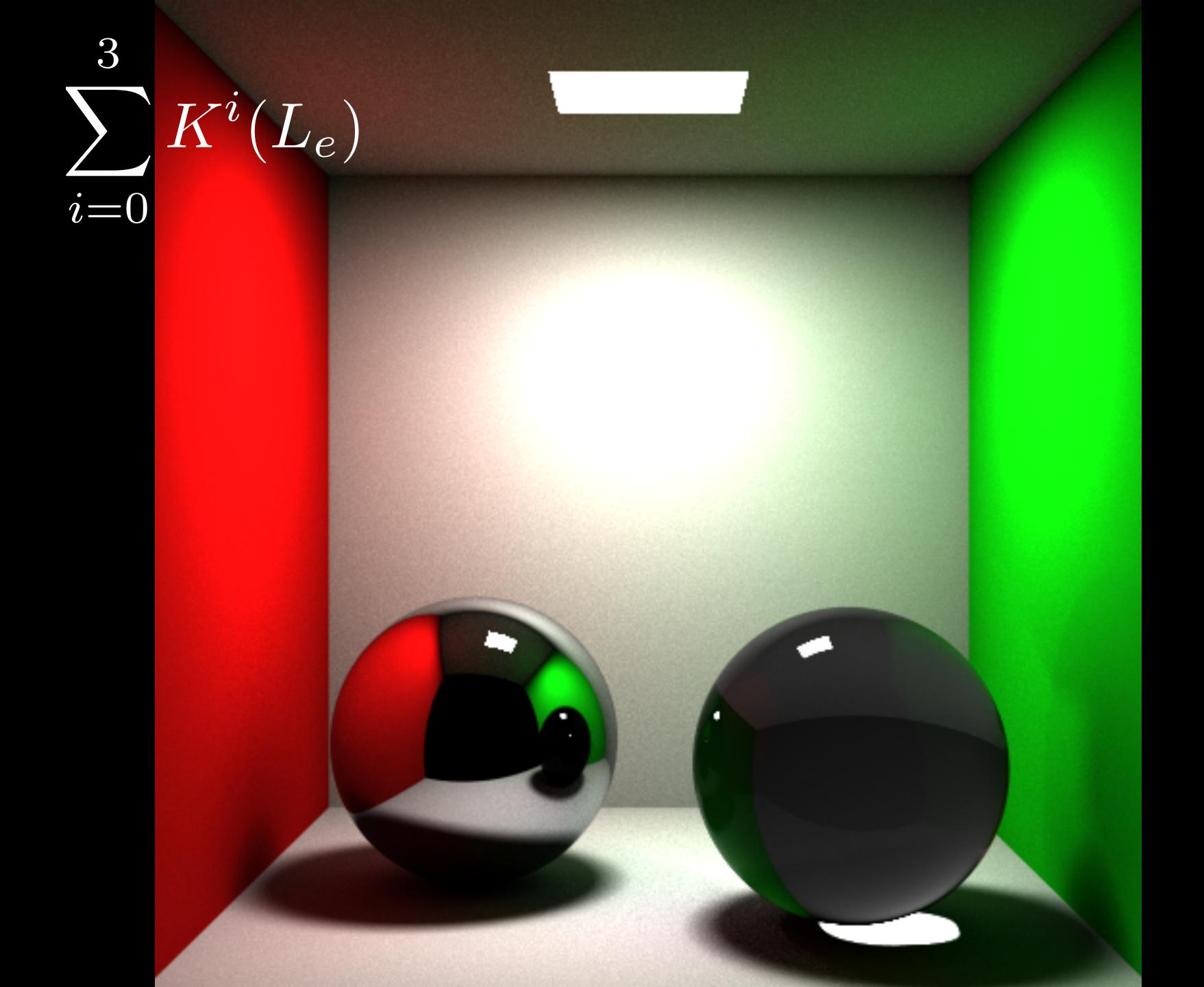


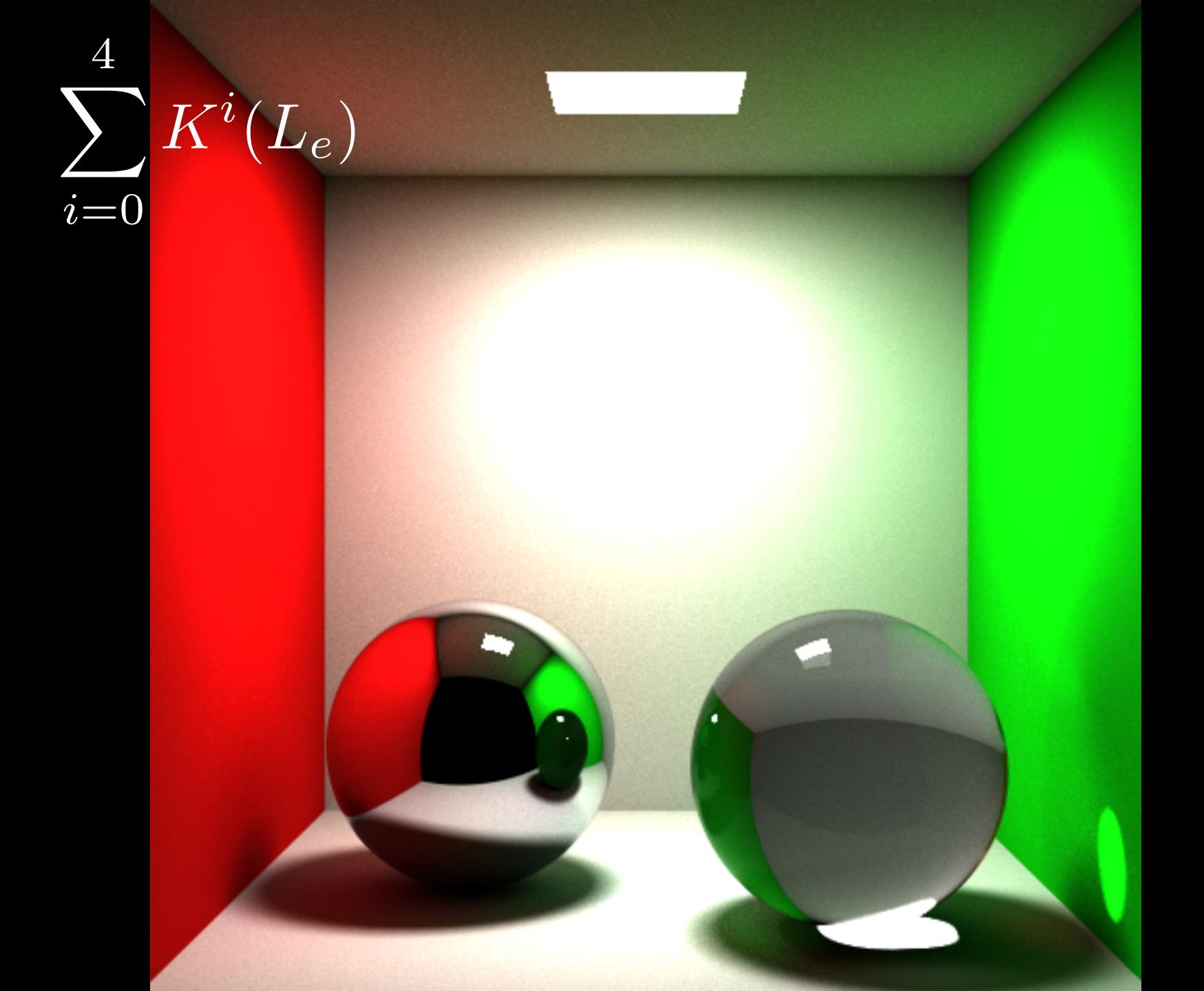


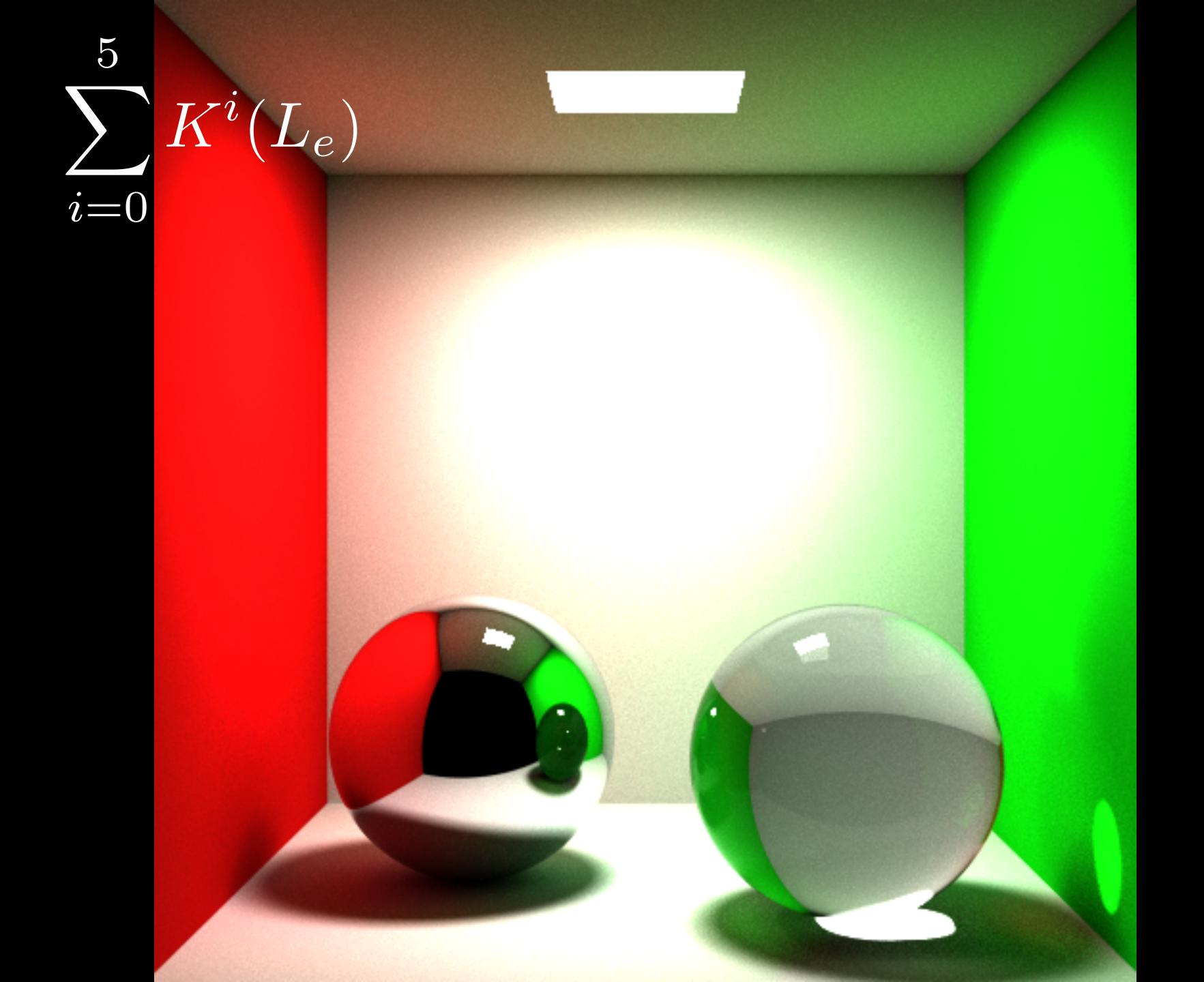
$\sum_{i=0}^{0} K^i(L_e)$

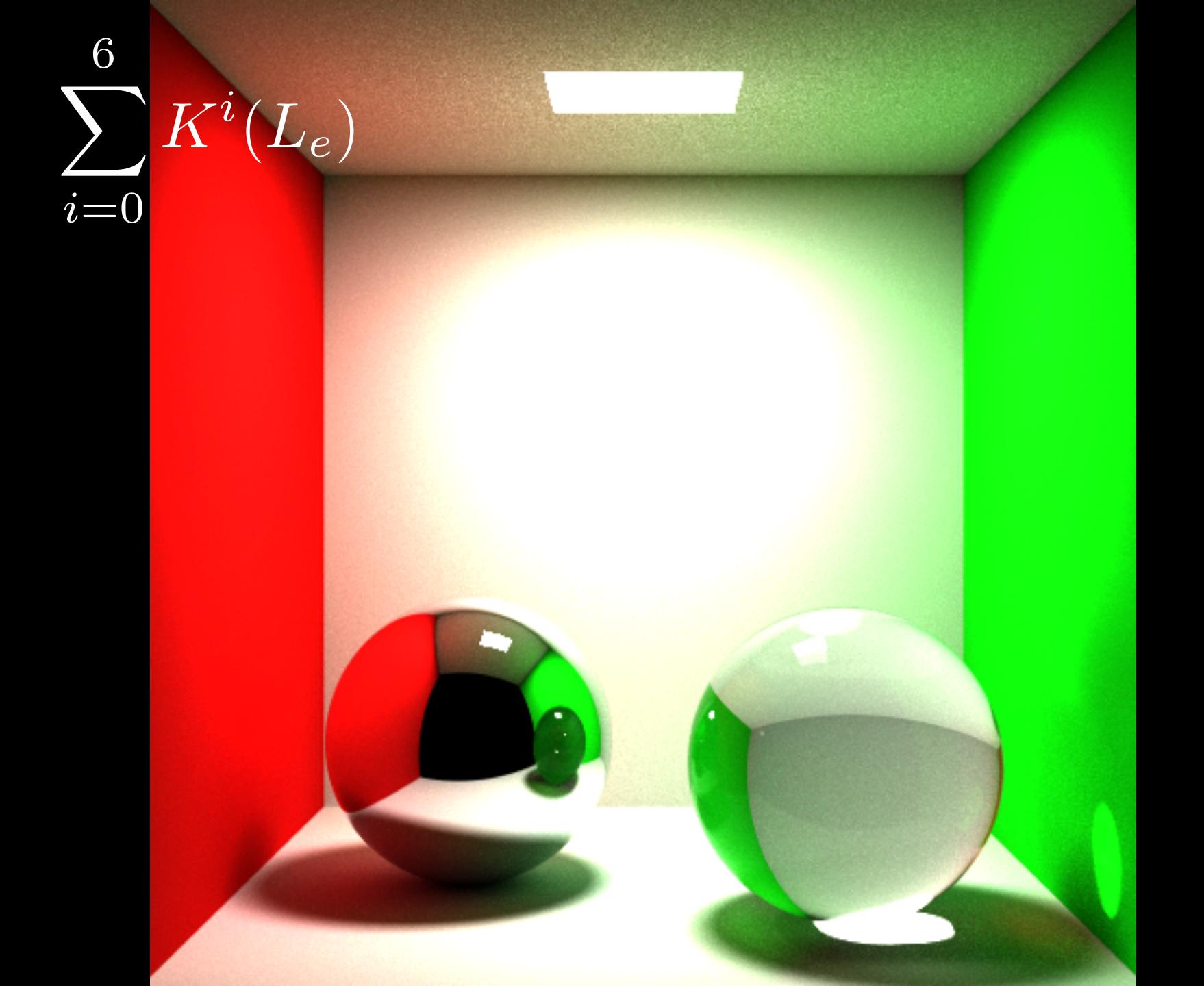
















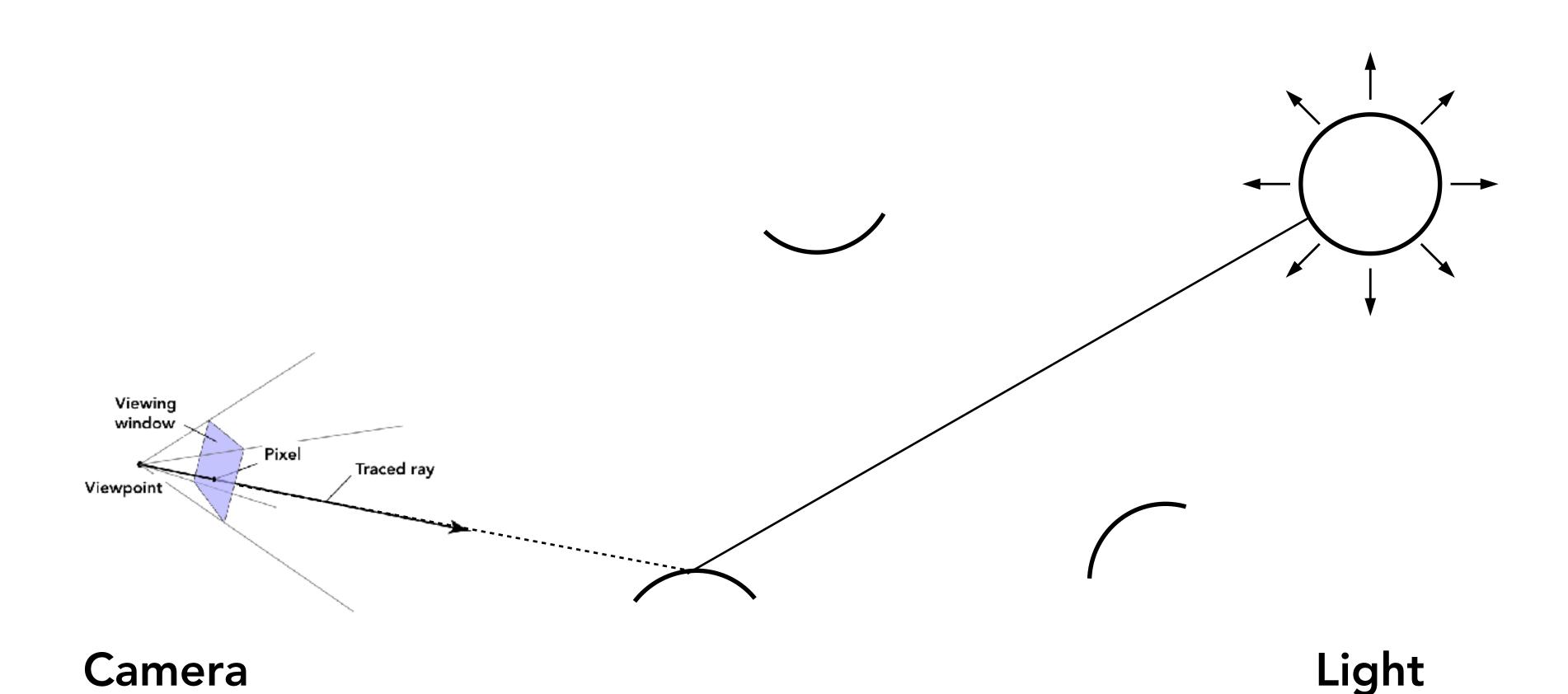




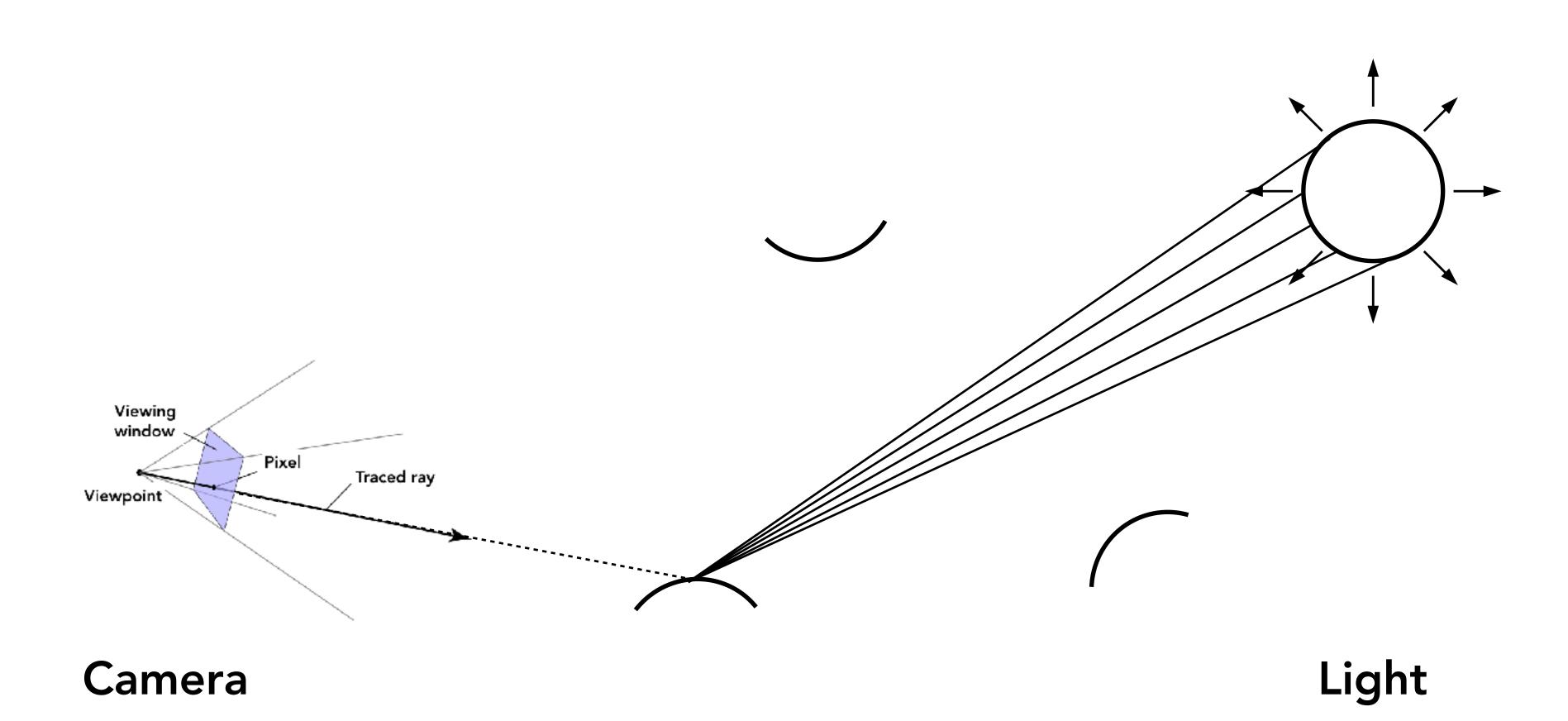


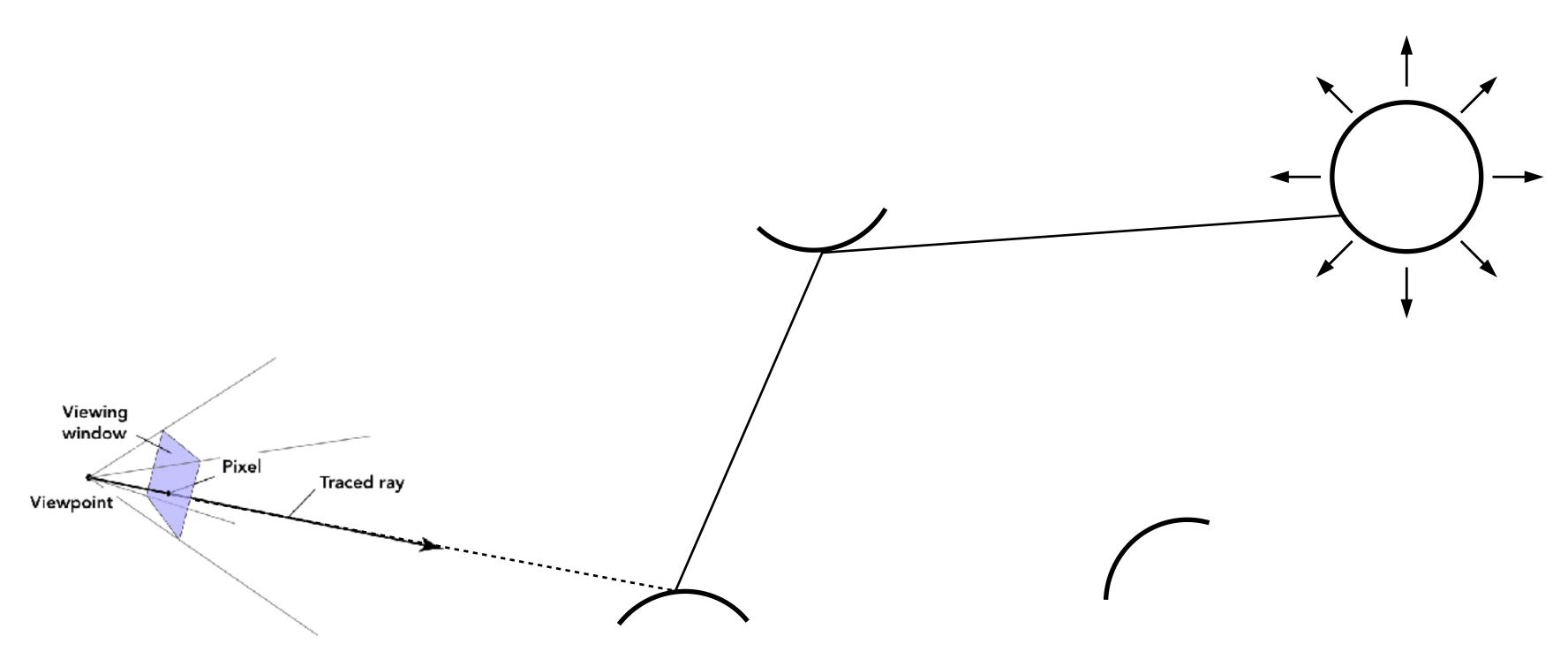


Light Paths

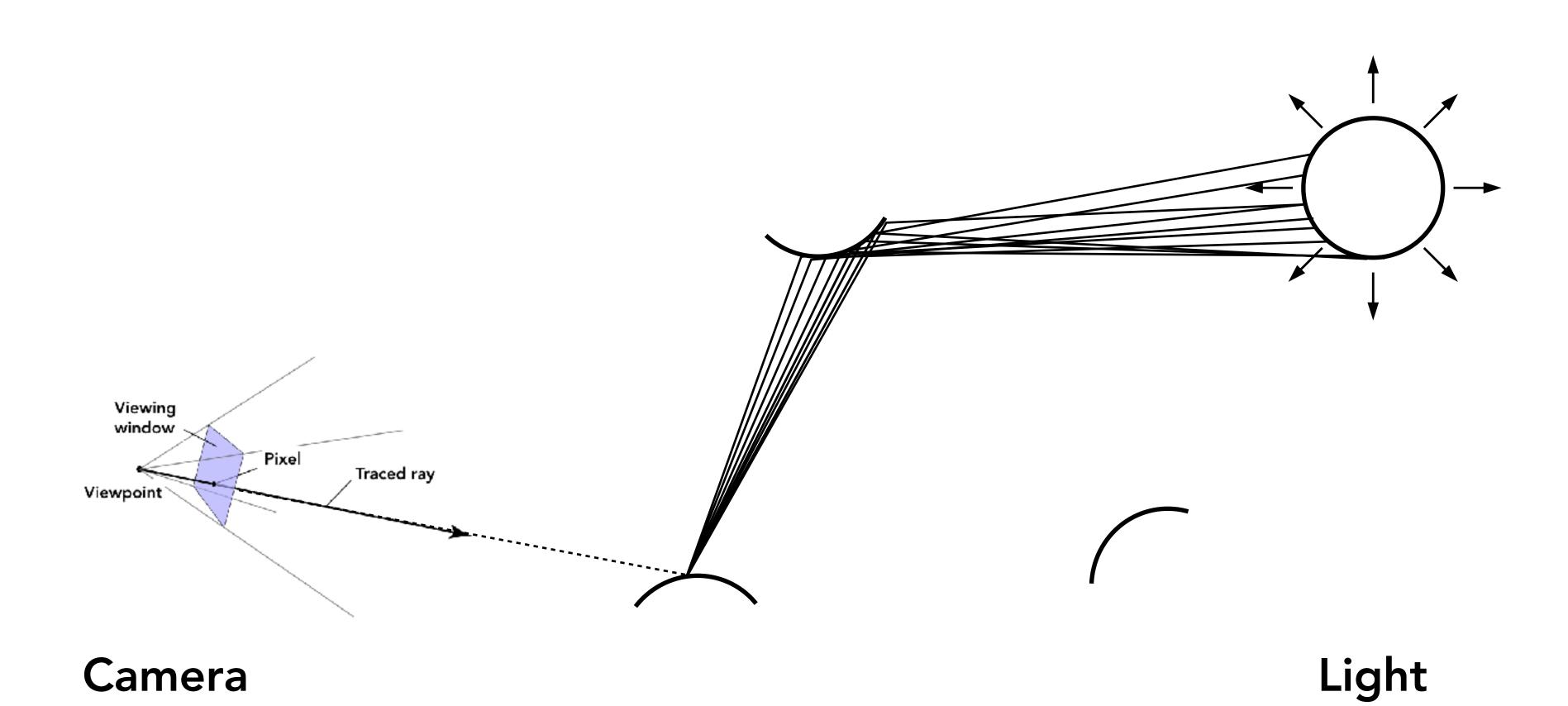


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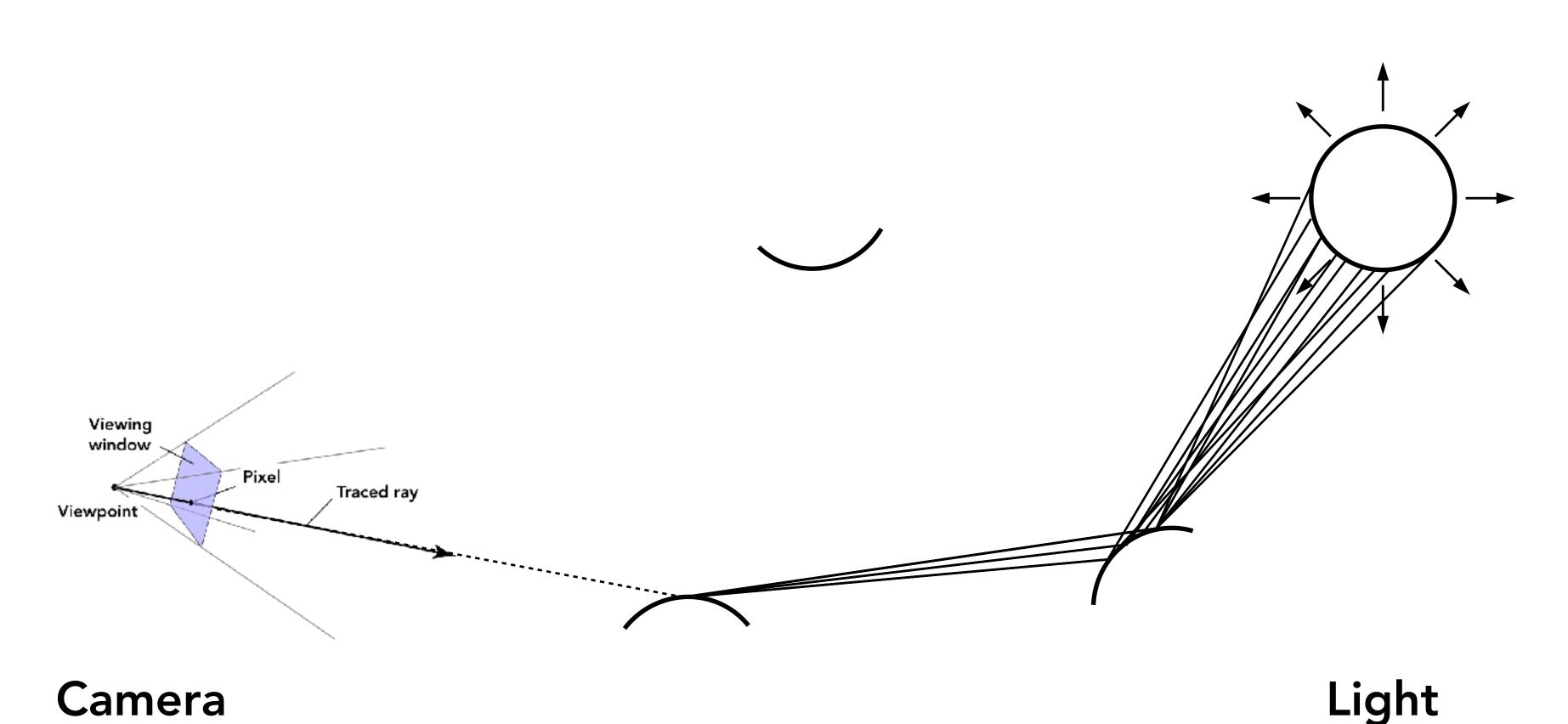


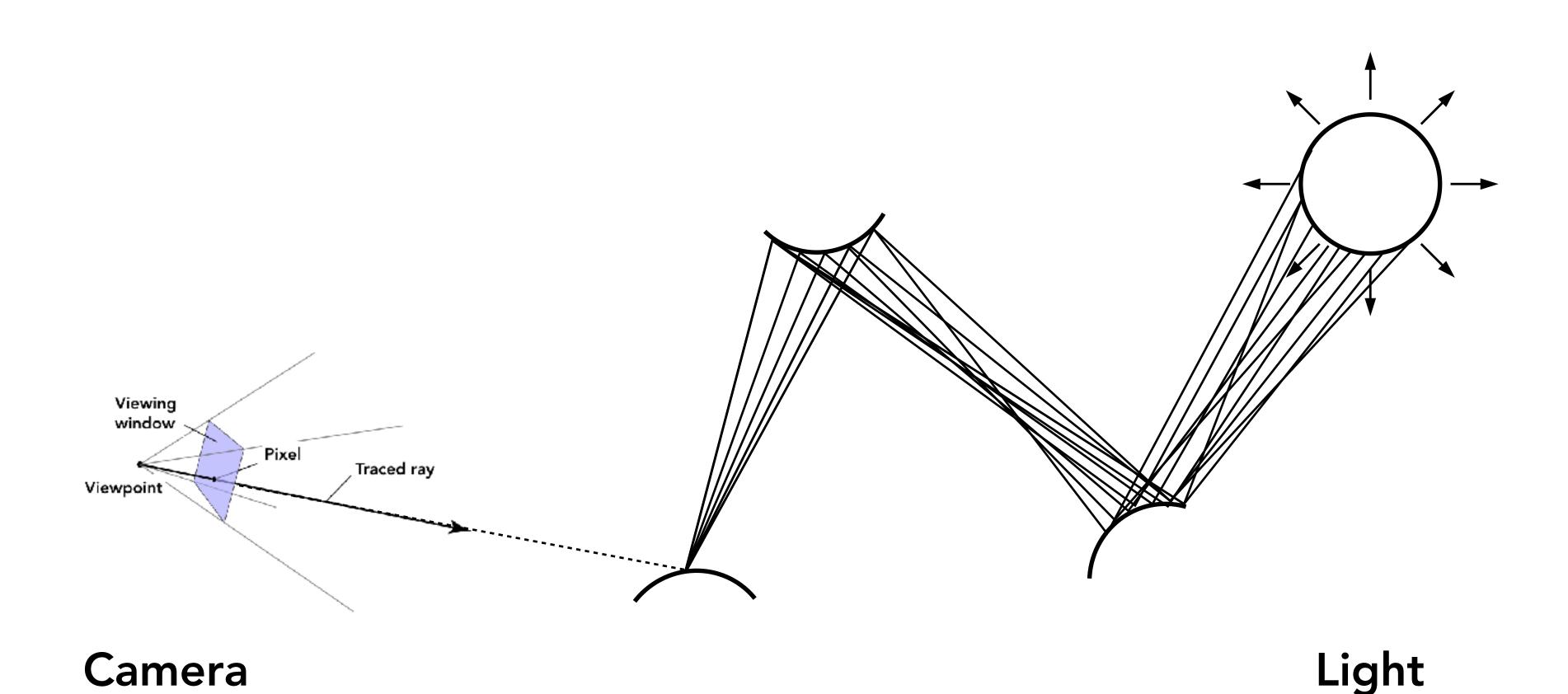


CameraLight

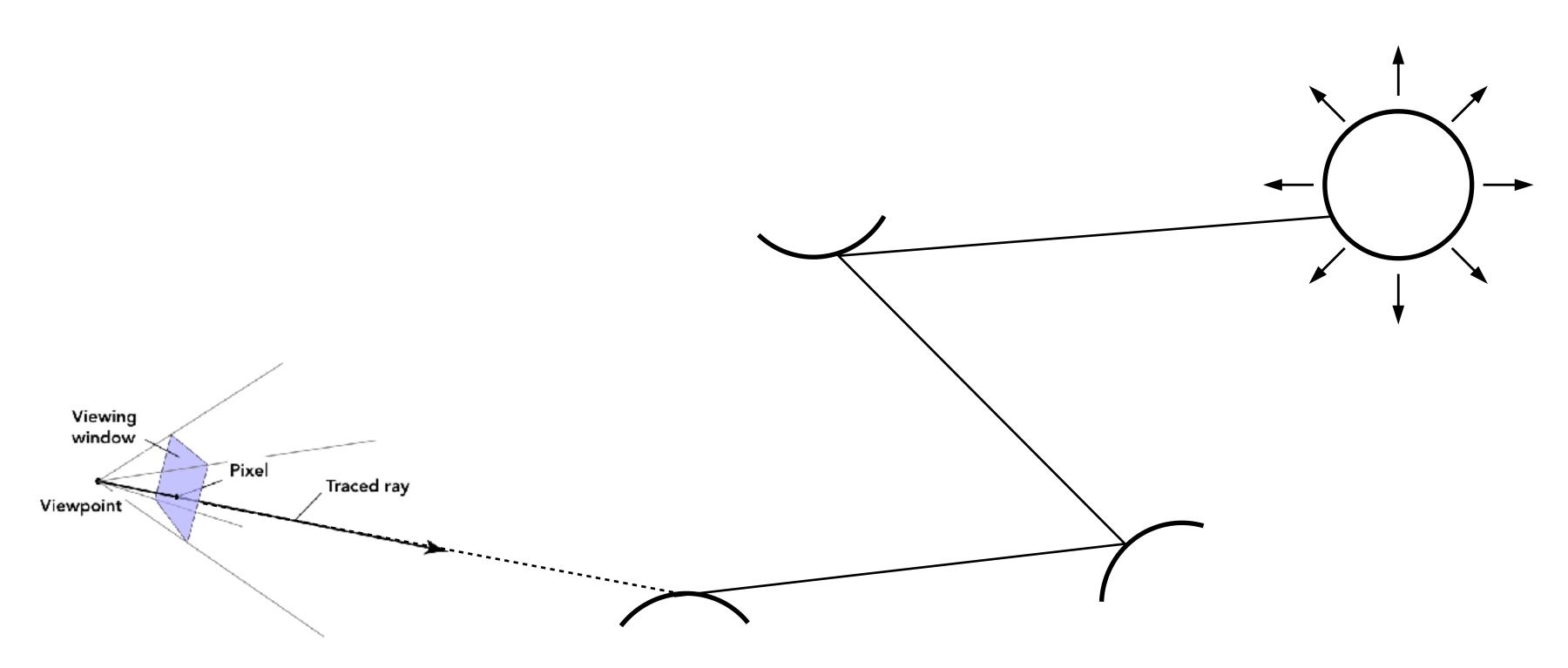


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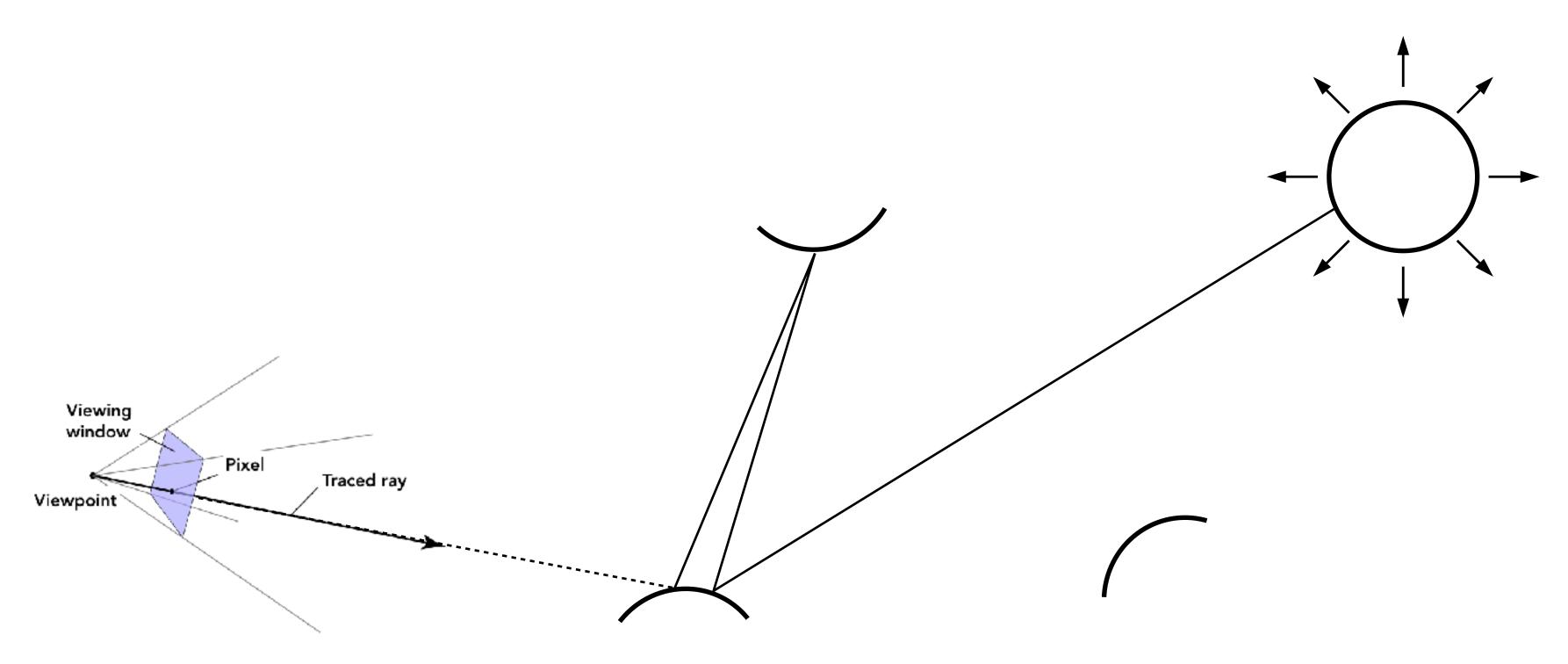




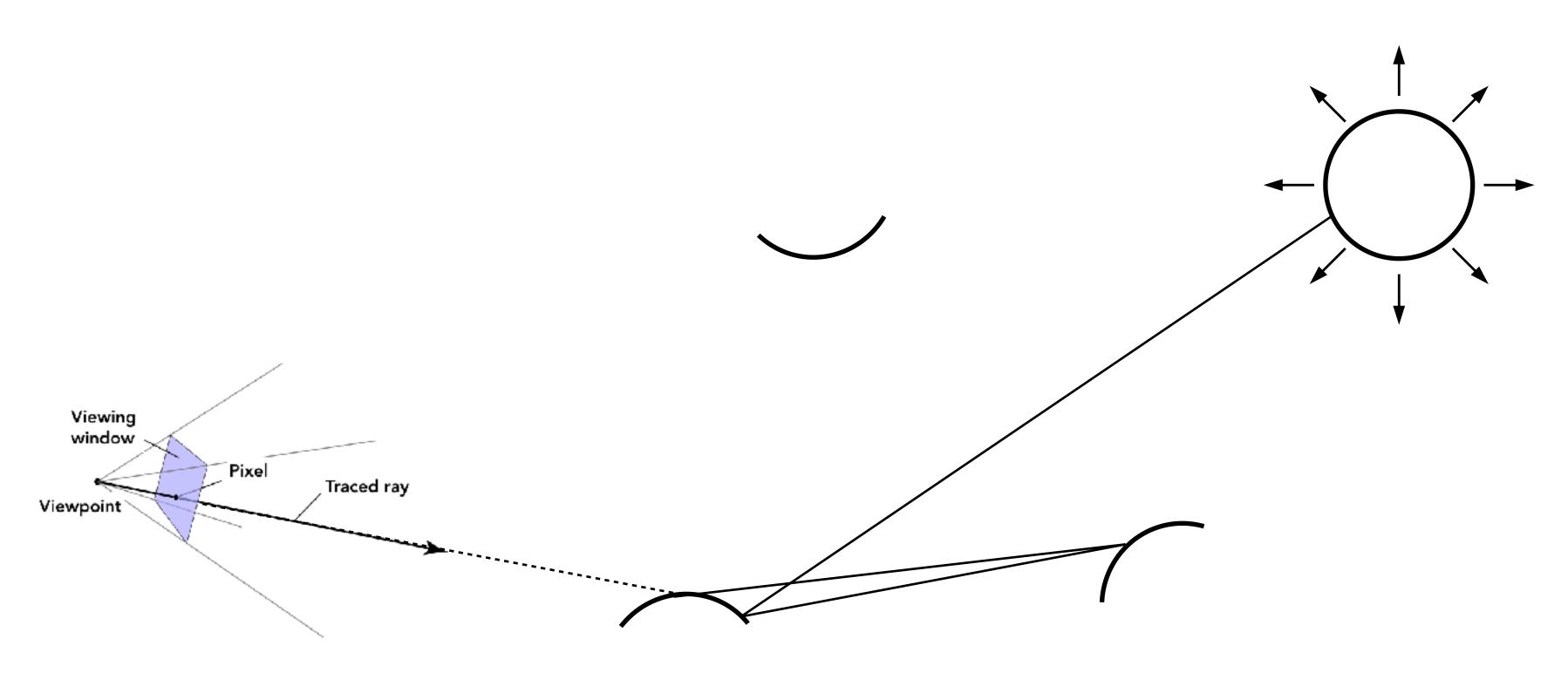
CS184/284A Ren Ng



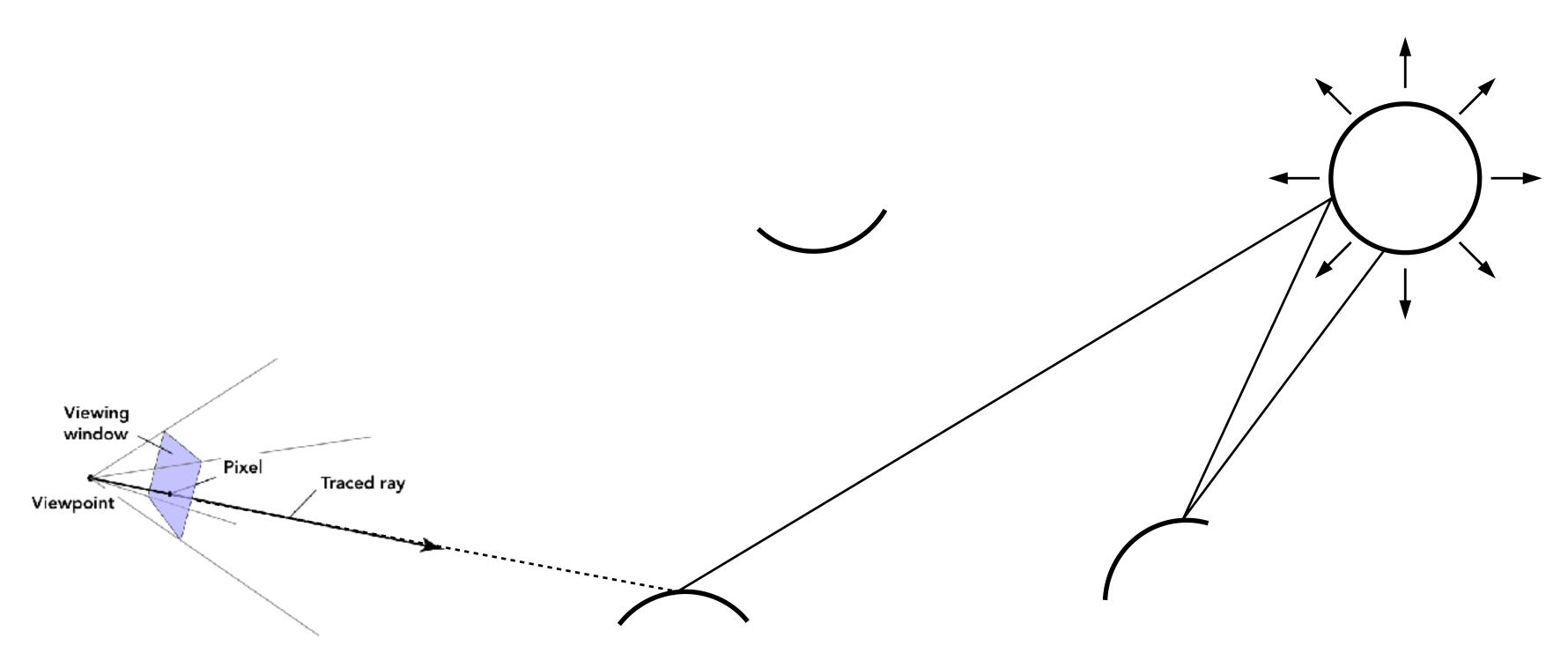
Camera



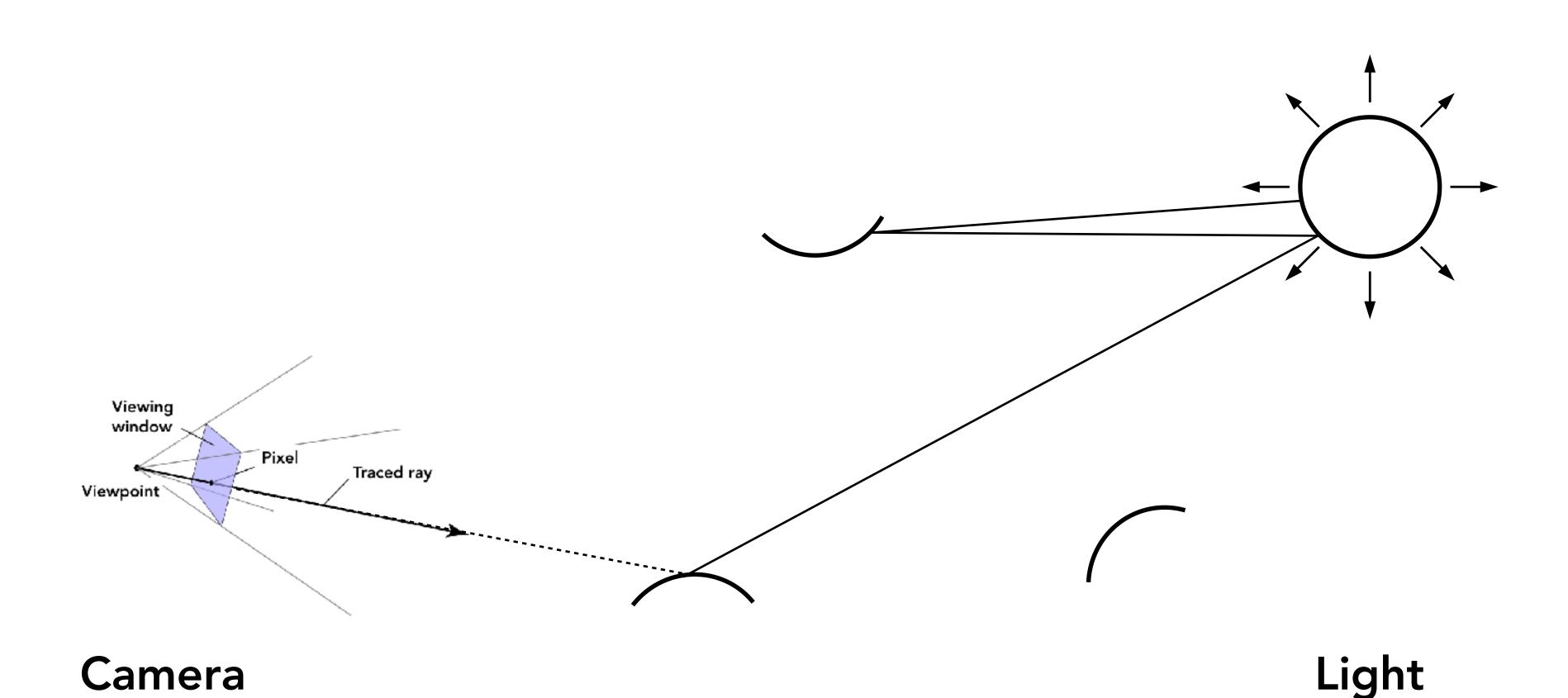
CameraLight

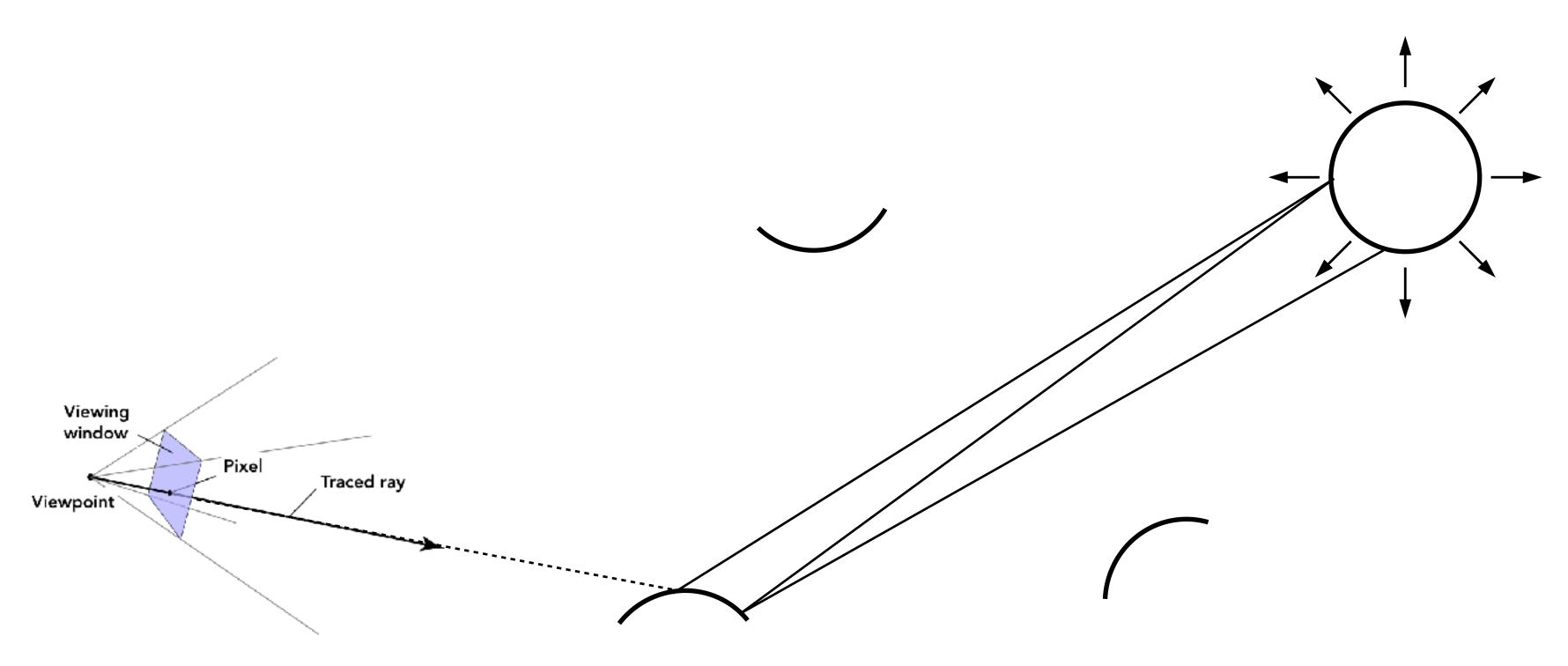


CameraLight



Camera





CameraLight

Discussion: Global Illumination Rendering

Sum over all paths of all lengths

Challenges, discuss:

- How to generate all possible paths?
- How to sample space of paths efficiently?

Attendance Time

If you are seated in class, go to this form and sign in:

https://tinyurl.com/184lecture

Notes:

- Time-stamp will be taken when you submit form.
 Do it now, won't count later.
- Don't tell friends outside class to fill it out now, because we will audit at some point in semester.
- Failing audit will have large negative consequence.
 You don't need to, because you have an alternative!

Sum Over Paths

Try 1: Monte Carlo Sum over Paths

```
EstRadianceIn(x, ω)
  p = intersectScene(x, ω);
   L = p.emittedLight(-\omega);
  ωi, pdf = p.brdf.sampleDirection();
   L += EstRadianceIn(p, \omegai) * p.brdf(\omegai, -\omega) * costheta / pdf;
  return L;
 • Note:

    Importance sampling BRDF

   • Infinite recursion!
```

Problem: Infinite Bounces of Light

How to integrate over infinite dimensions?

 Note: if energy dissipates, contribution of higher bounces decreases exponentially

Idea: just use N bounces

 Problem: biased! No matter how many Monte Carlo samples, never see light taking N+1 to infinity bounces

Idea: probabilistic termination?

- Non-zero probability of sampling paths of arbitrarily high number of bounces
- Surprisingly, can design this to be unbiased this is called <u>Russian Roulette</u>

Russian Roulette: Unbiased Random Termination

New estimator: evaluate original estimator with probability p_{rr} , reweighted. Otherwise ignore.

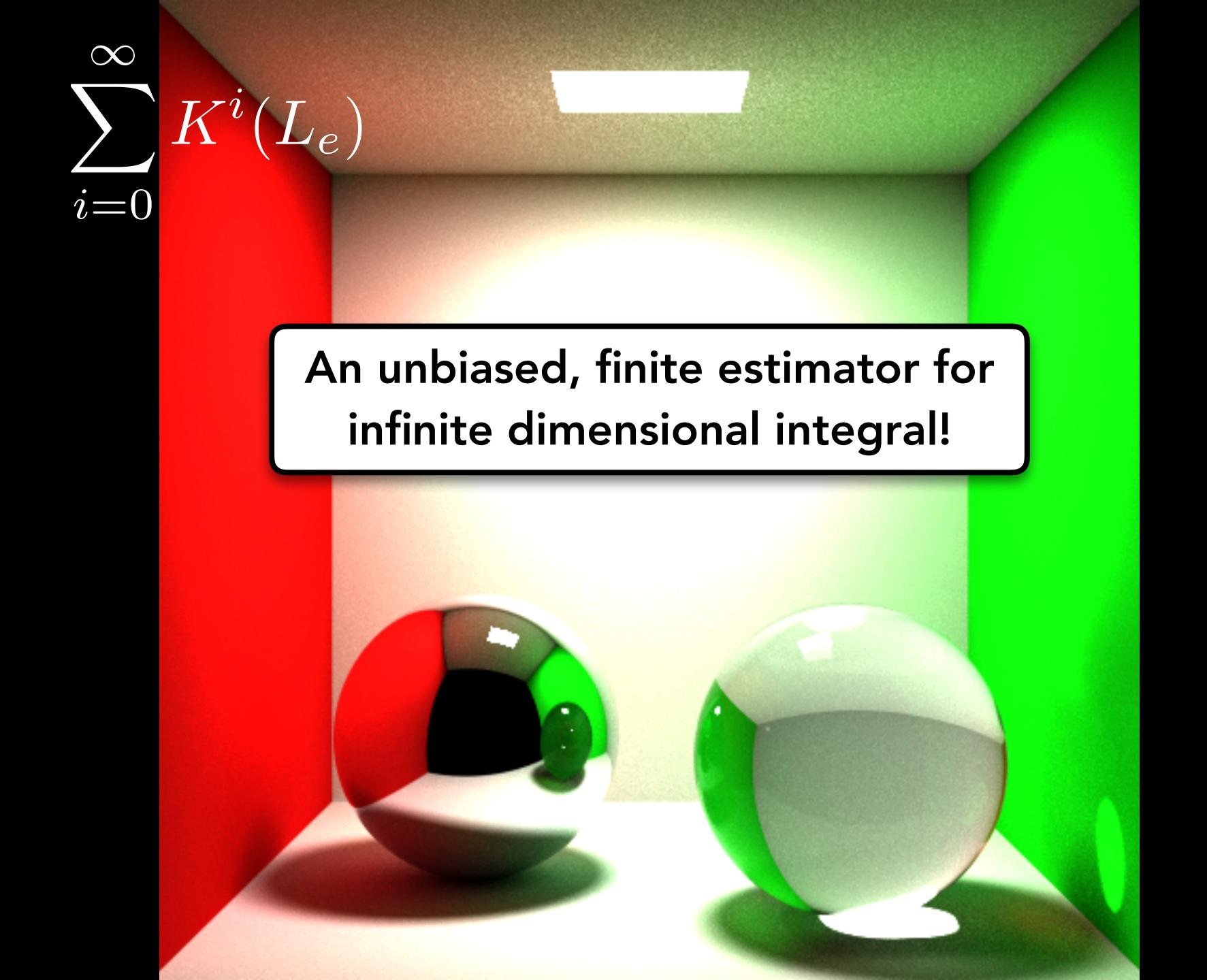
Let
$$X_{\rm rr} = \begin{cases} \frac{X}{p_{\rm rr}}, \text{ with probability } p_{\rm rr} \\ 0, \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Same expected value as original estimator:

$$E[X_{\rm rr}] = p_{\rm rr} E\left[\frac{X}{p_{\rm rr}}\right] + (1 - p_{\rm rr}) E[0] = E[X]$$

Want to choose p_{rr} considering Monte Carlo efficiency

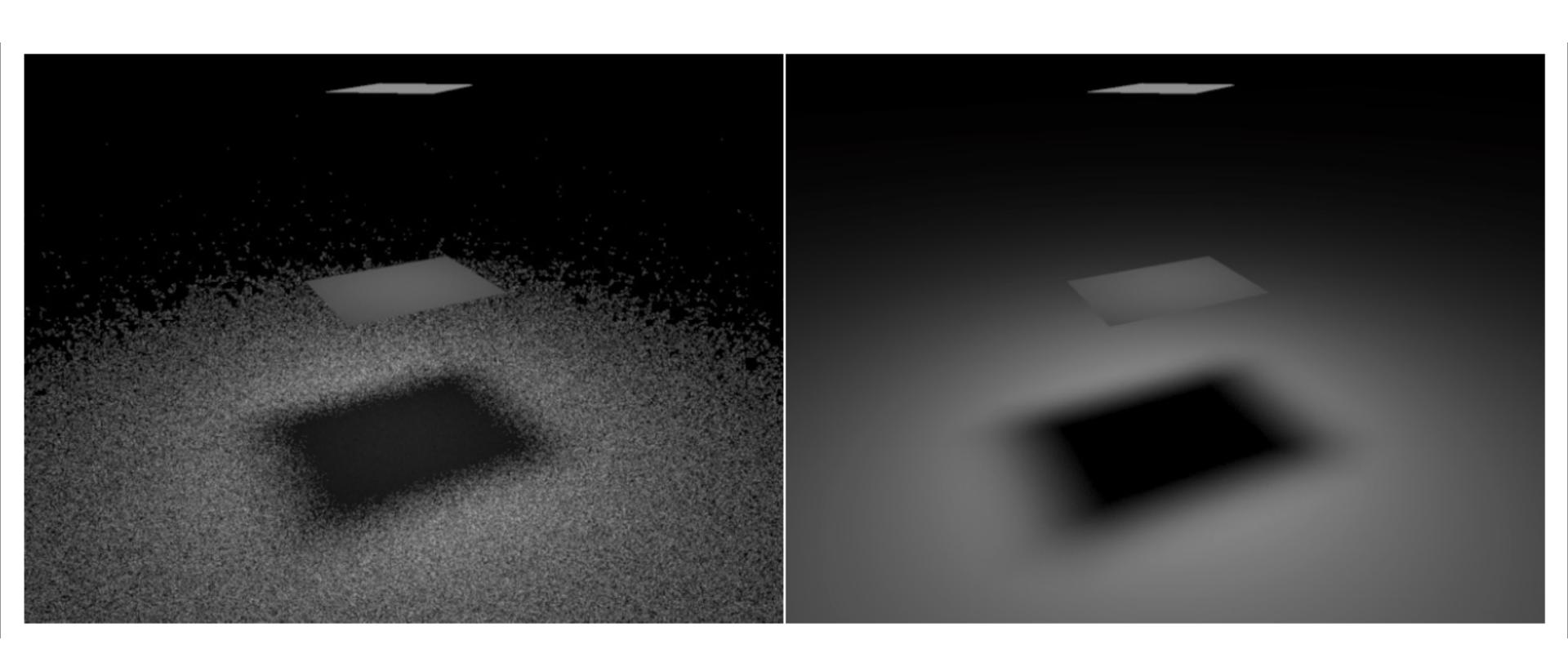
- Terminate if expensive and/or low contribution
- In path tracing, expensive to recursively trace path. Increase termination probability if brdf is low in next bounce direction



Try 2: Russian Roulette Monte Carlo over Paths

```
EstRadianceIn(x, ω)
  p = intersectScene(x, ω);
  L = p.emittedLight(-\omega);
  wi, pdf = p.brdf.sampleDirection();
  cpdf = continuationProbability(p.brdf, ωi);
  if (random01() < cpdf)</pre>
                                               // Russian Roulette
     L += EstRadianceIn(p, ωi)
                                             // Recursion
            * p.brdf(ωi, -ω) * costheta / pdf / cpdf;
  return L;
// Unbiased, computation terminates, but still extremely noisy!
```

Recall: Importance Sampling



Solid angle sampling

Light area sampling

Path Tracing

Path Tracing Overview

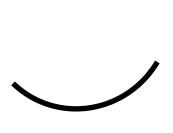
Terminate paths randomly with Russian Roulette

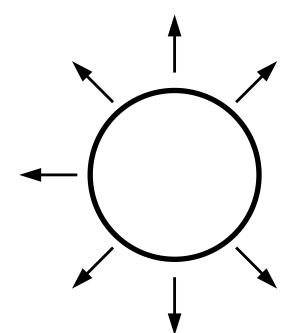
Partition the recursive radiance evaluation. At each point on light path

- Direct lighting non-recursive, importance sample lights
- Indirect lighting recursive, importance sample BRDF

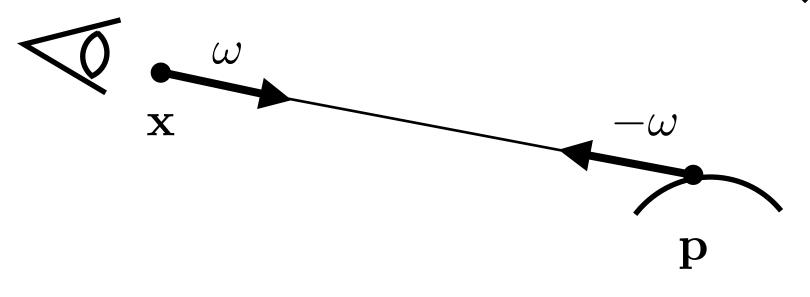
Monte Carlo estimate for each partition separately

- Possible to take just one sample for each
- Assume: 100s 1000s of paths sampled per pixel



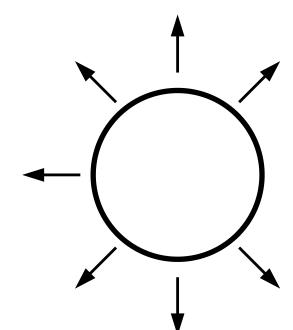


EstRadianceIn(x, ω)
= EstRadianceOut(p, -ω)

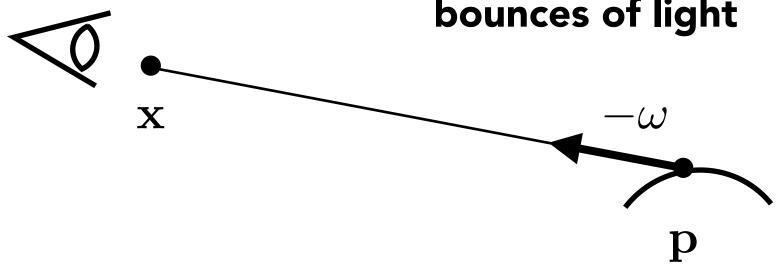






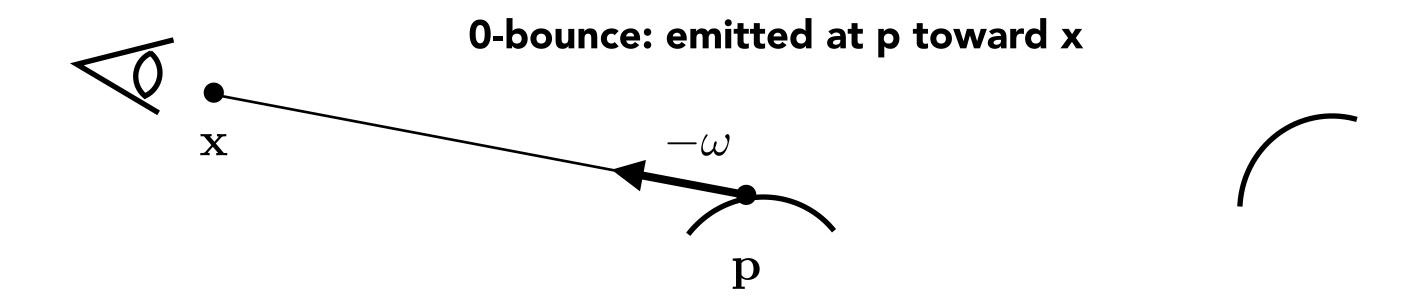


Need to sum paths going through prepresenting 0, 1, 2, 3, ... bounces of light



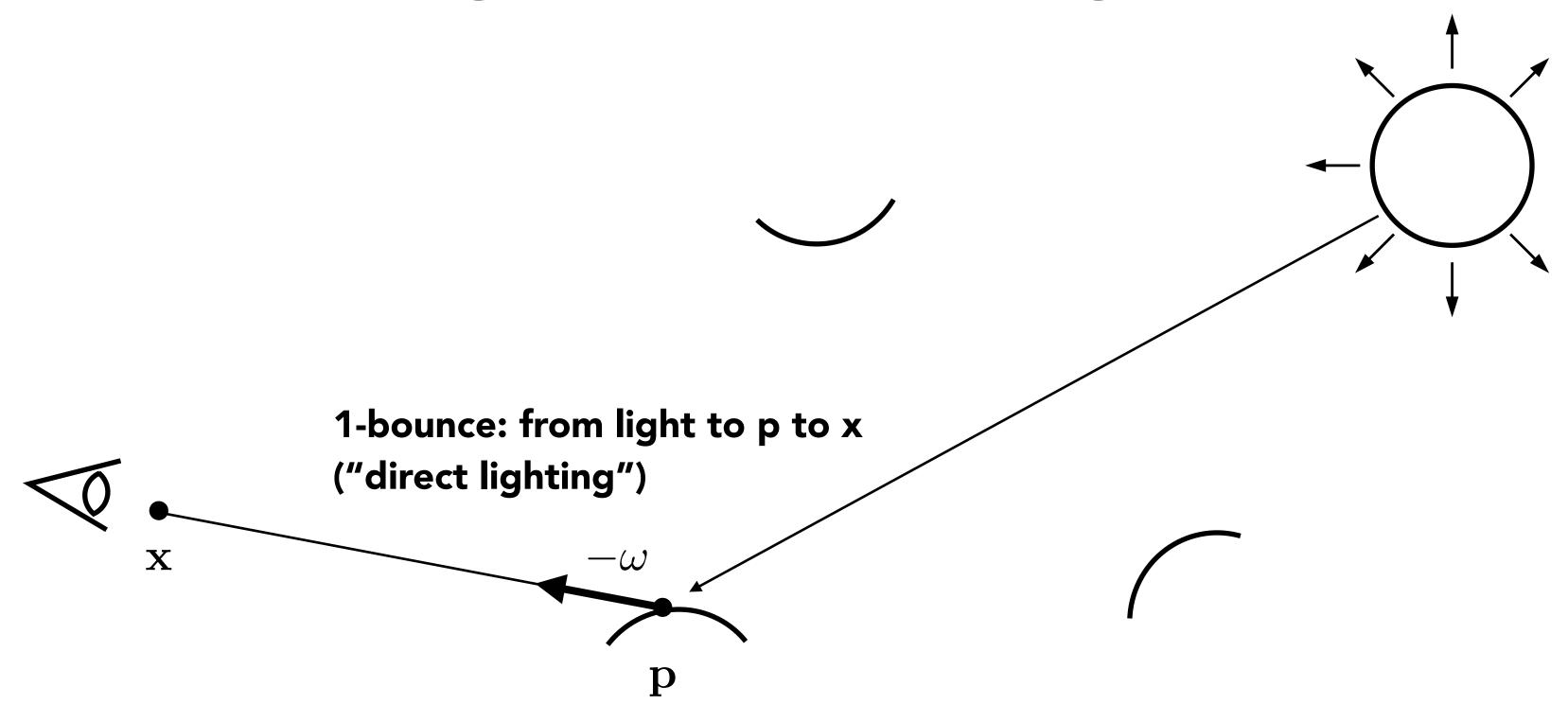






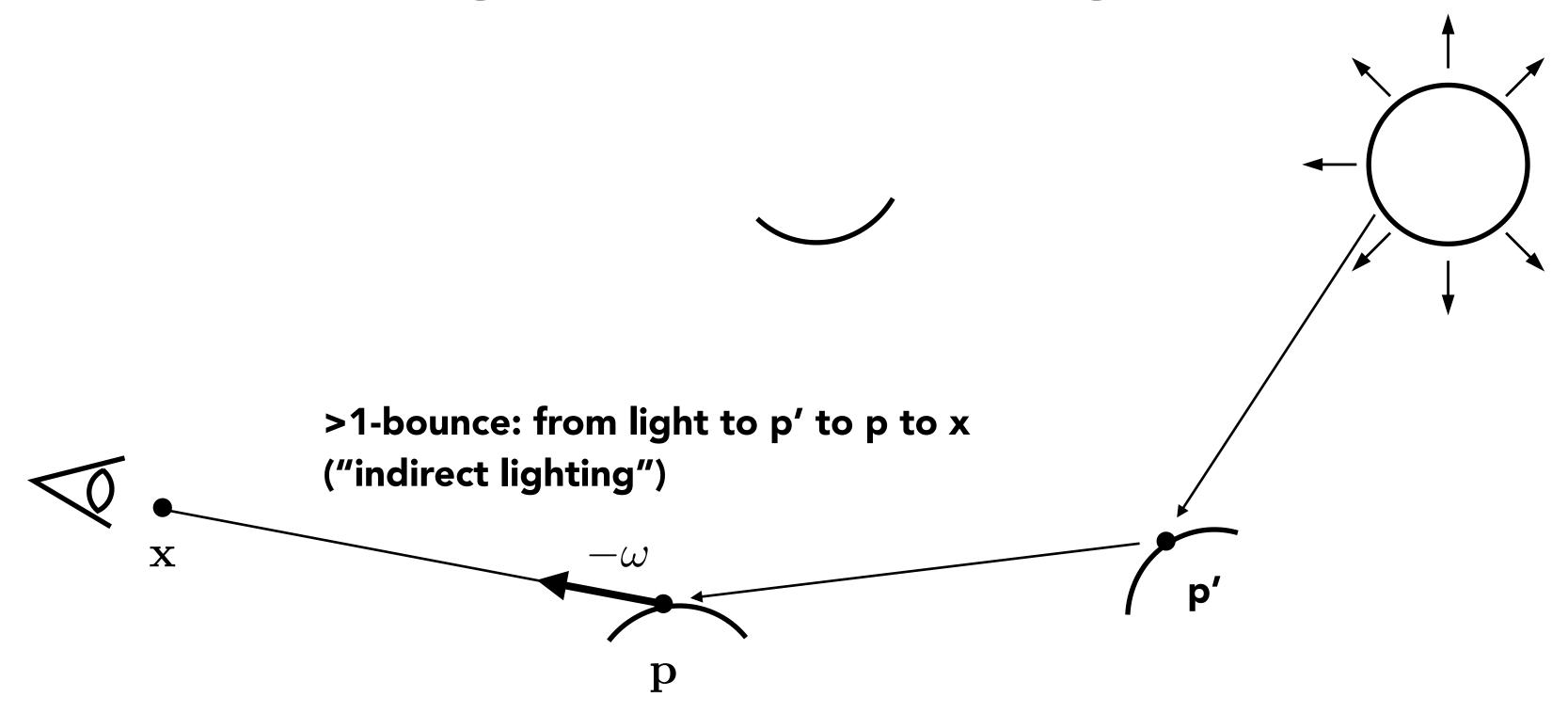
At p, consider light contributions from paths of varying bounce-length

• 0-bounce: light emitted from p (p is on a light source)



At p, consider light contributions from paths of varying bounce-length

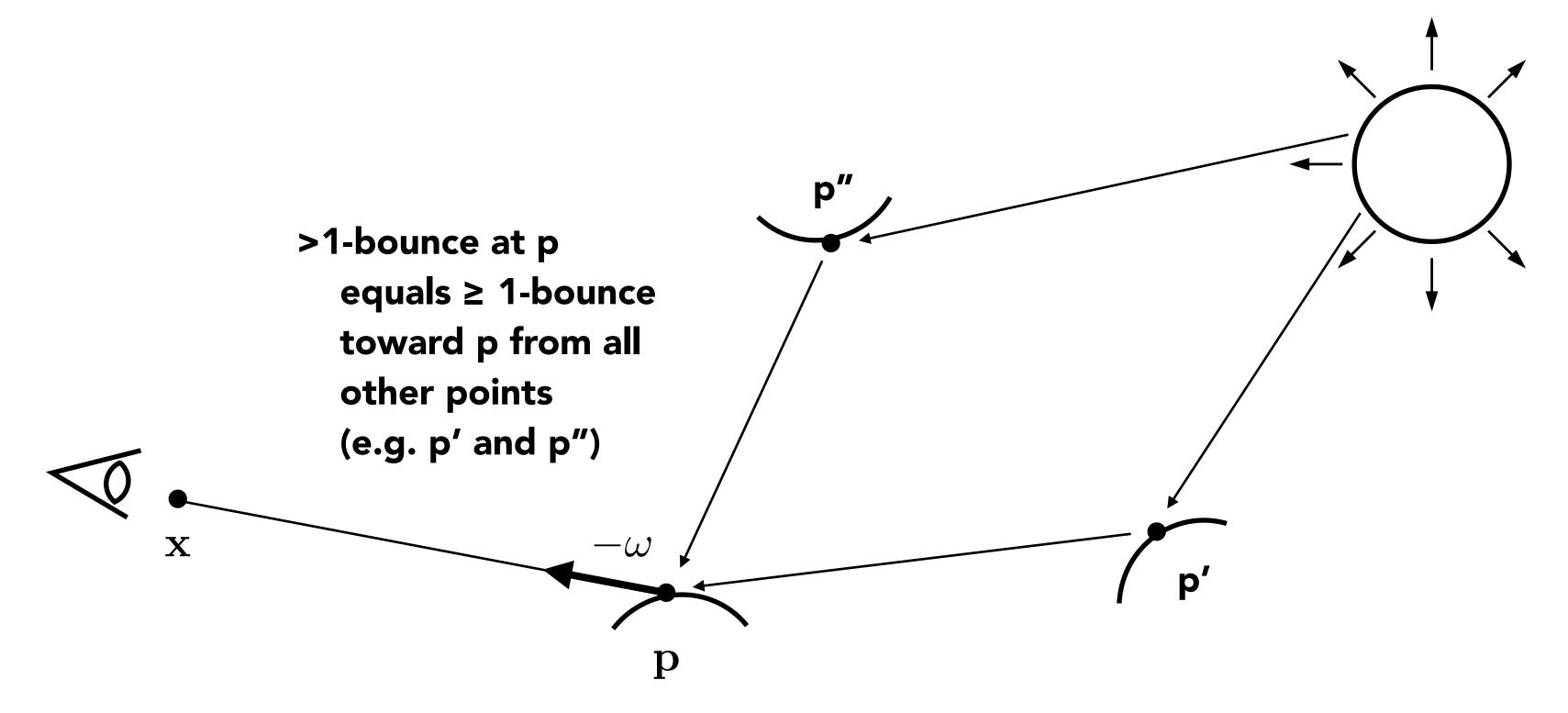
- 0-bounce: light emitted from p (p is on a light source)
- 1-bounce: from light to p to x ("direct illumination")



At p, consider light contributions from paths of varying bounce-length

- 0-bounce: light emitted from p (p is on a light source)
- 1-bounce: from light to p to x ("direct illumination")
- >1-bounce: from light to at least one other point to p to x ("indirect illumination")

Consider Evaluation of >1 Bounce of Light



At p, consider light contributions from paths of varying bounce-length

- 0-bounce: light emitted from p (p is on a light source)
- 1-bounce: from light to p to x ("direct illumination")
- >1-bounce: from light to at least one other point to p to x ("indirect illumination")

Path Tracing Pseudocode

```
// incoming at x from dir ω
EstRadianceIn(x, \omega)
  p = intersectScene(x, \omega);
  return ZeroBounceRadiance(p, -ω)
         + AtLeastOneBounceRadiance(p, -ω);
ZeroBounceRadiance(p, ωo) // outgoing at p in dir ω
  return p.emittedLight(ωo);
```

Path Tracing Pseudocode

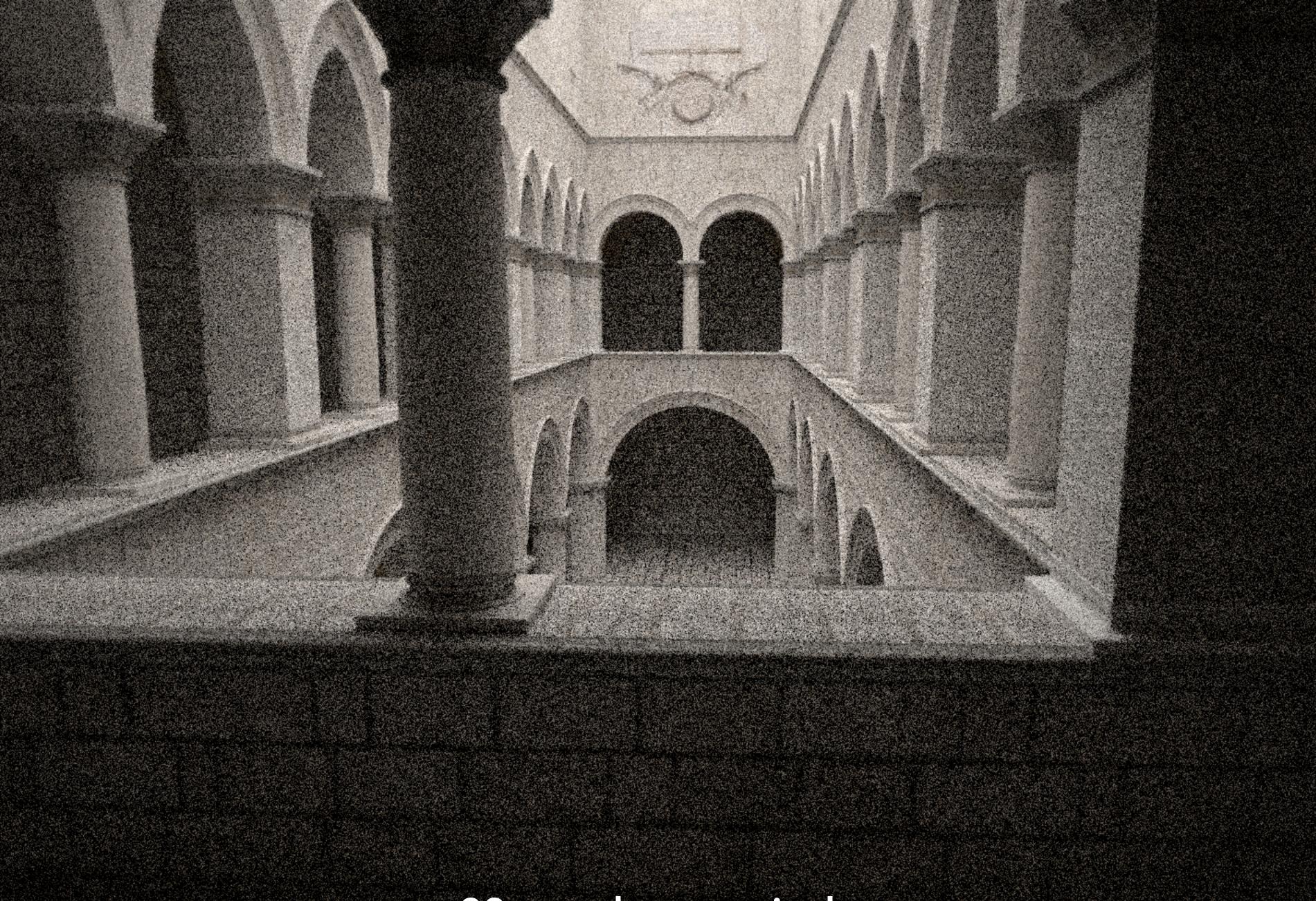
```
AtLeastOneBounceRadiance(p, ωo)
                                             // out at p, dir wo
                                           // direct illum
  L = OneBounceRadiance(p, ωo);
  wi, pdf = p.brdf.sampleDirection(); // Imp. sampling
  p' = intersectScene(p, ωi);
  cpdf = continuationProbability(p.brdf, ωi, ωo);
                                             // Russ. Roulette
  if (random01() < cpdf)</pre>
     L += AtLeastOneBounceRadiance(p^3, -\omega i) // Recursive est. of
     * p.brdf(ωi, ωo) * costheta / pdf / cpdf;// indirect illum
  return L;
OneBounceRadiance(p, ωo)
                                             // out at p, dir wo
   return DirectLightingSampleLights(p, ωo); // direct illum
```

Direct Lighting Pseudocode (Lights)

```
DirectLightingSamplingLights(p, ωo)
  L, ωi, pdf = lights.sampleDirection(p); // Imp. sampling
  if (scene.shadowIntersection(p, ωi)) // Shadow ray
     return 0;
  else
     return L * p.brdf(ωi, ωo) * costheta / pdf;
// Note: only one random sample over all lights.
// Assignment 3-A asks you to, alternatively, loop over
// multiple lights and take multiple samples (later slide)
```



One sample per pixel



32 samples per pixel



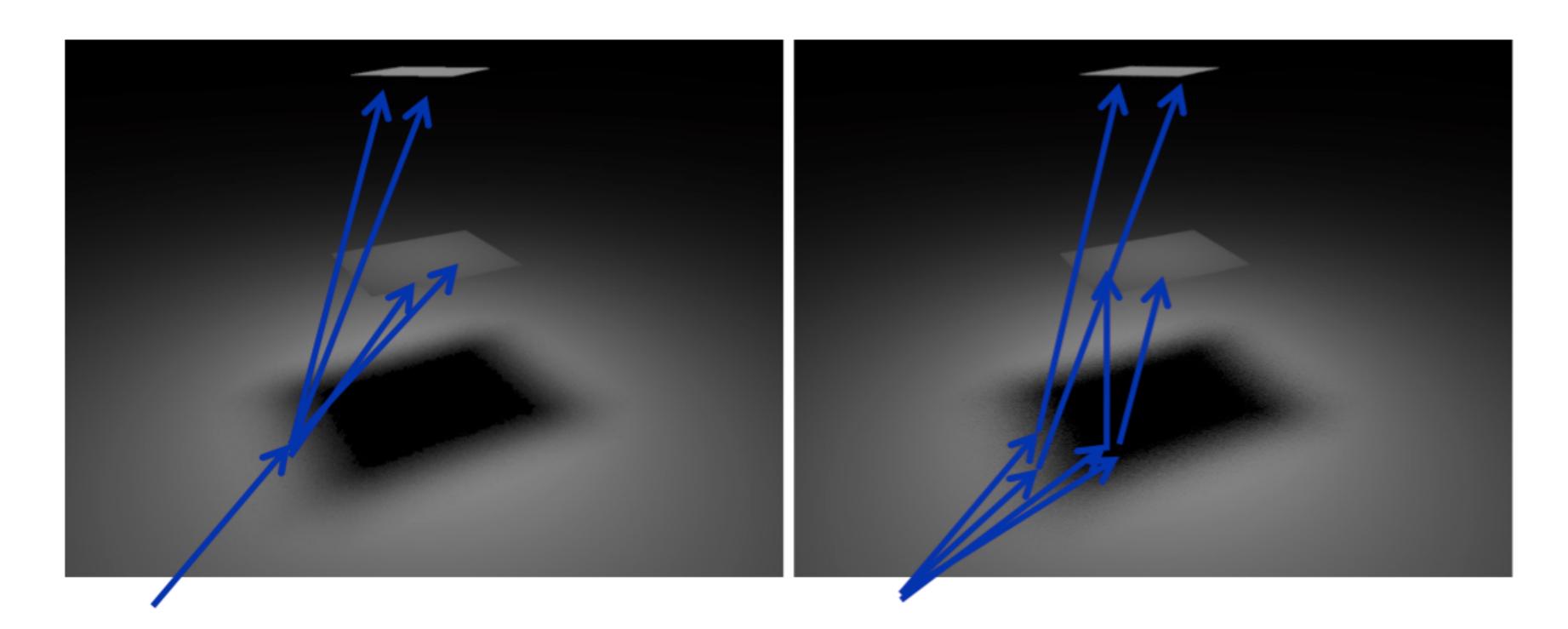
Summary of Intuition on Global Illumination & Path Tracing

Summary of Intuition on G.I. & P.T.

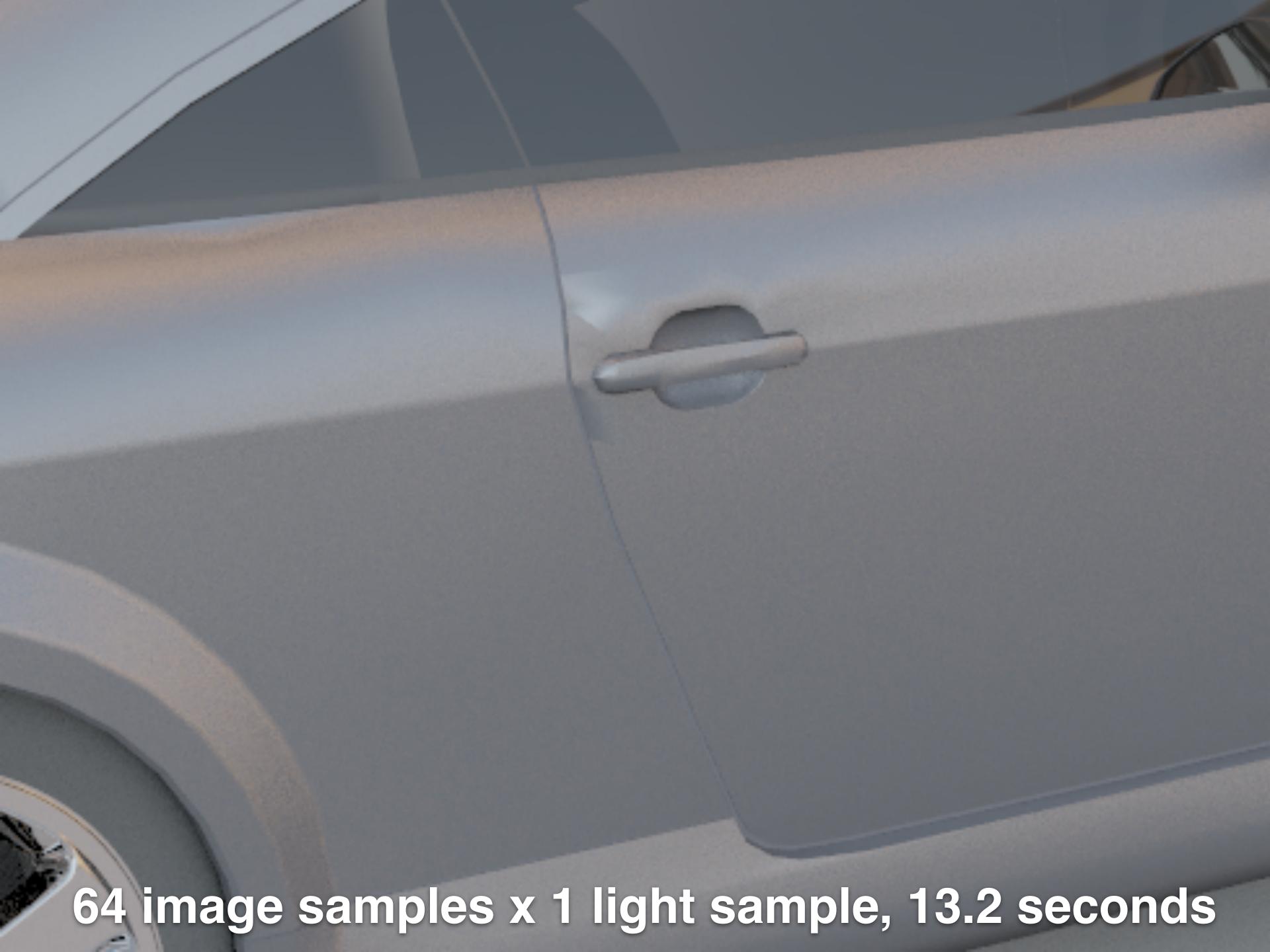
- Operator notation leads to insight that solution is adding successive bounces of light
- Trace N paths through a pixel, sample radiance
- Build paths by recursively tracing to next surface point and choosing a random reflection direction. At each surface, sum emitted light and reflected light
- How to terminate paths? We use Russian Roulette to kill probabilistically.
- How to reduce noise? Use importance sampling in choosing random direction. Two ways: importance sample the lights, and importance sample the BRDF.

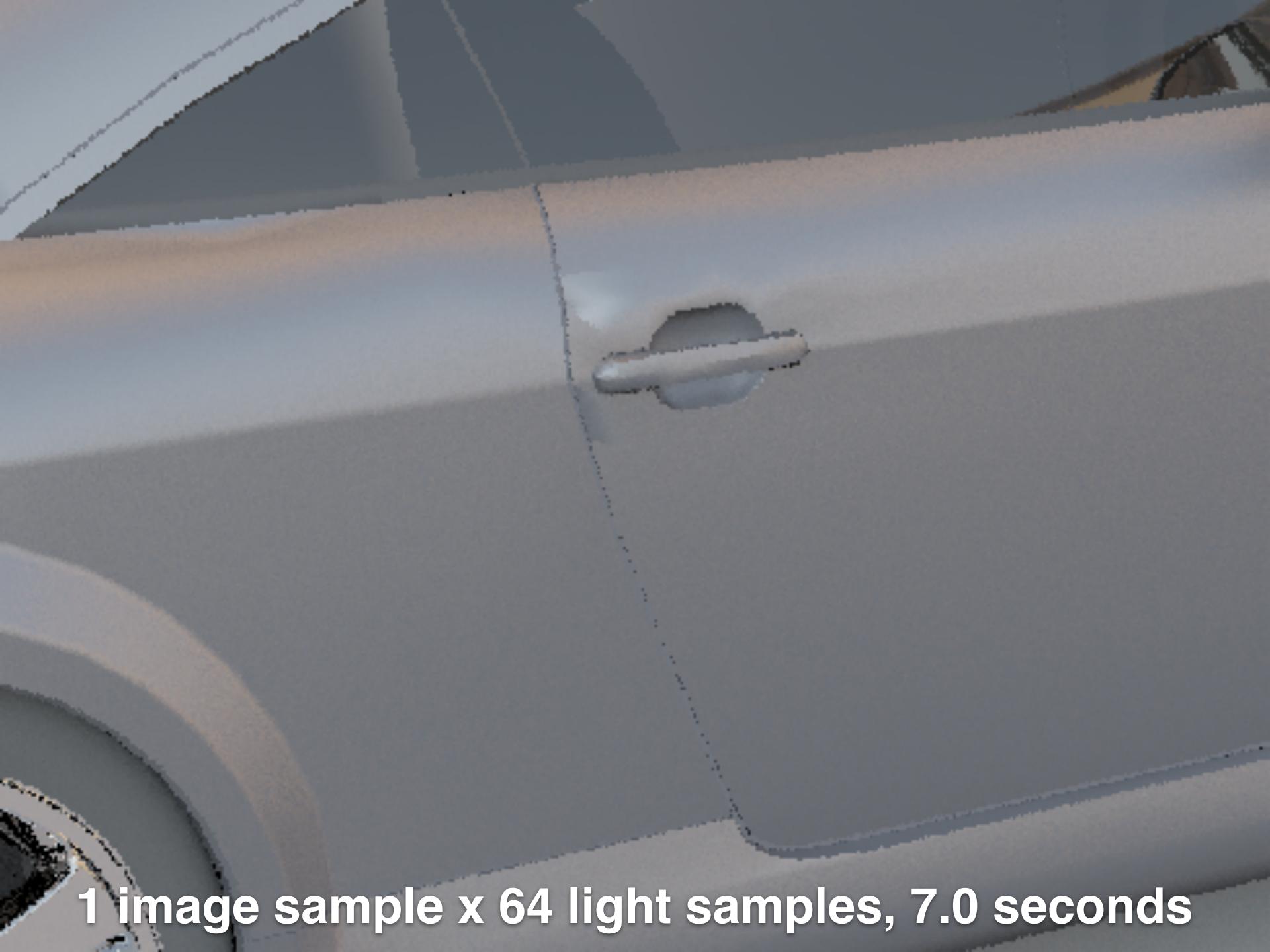
Implementation Notes

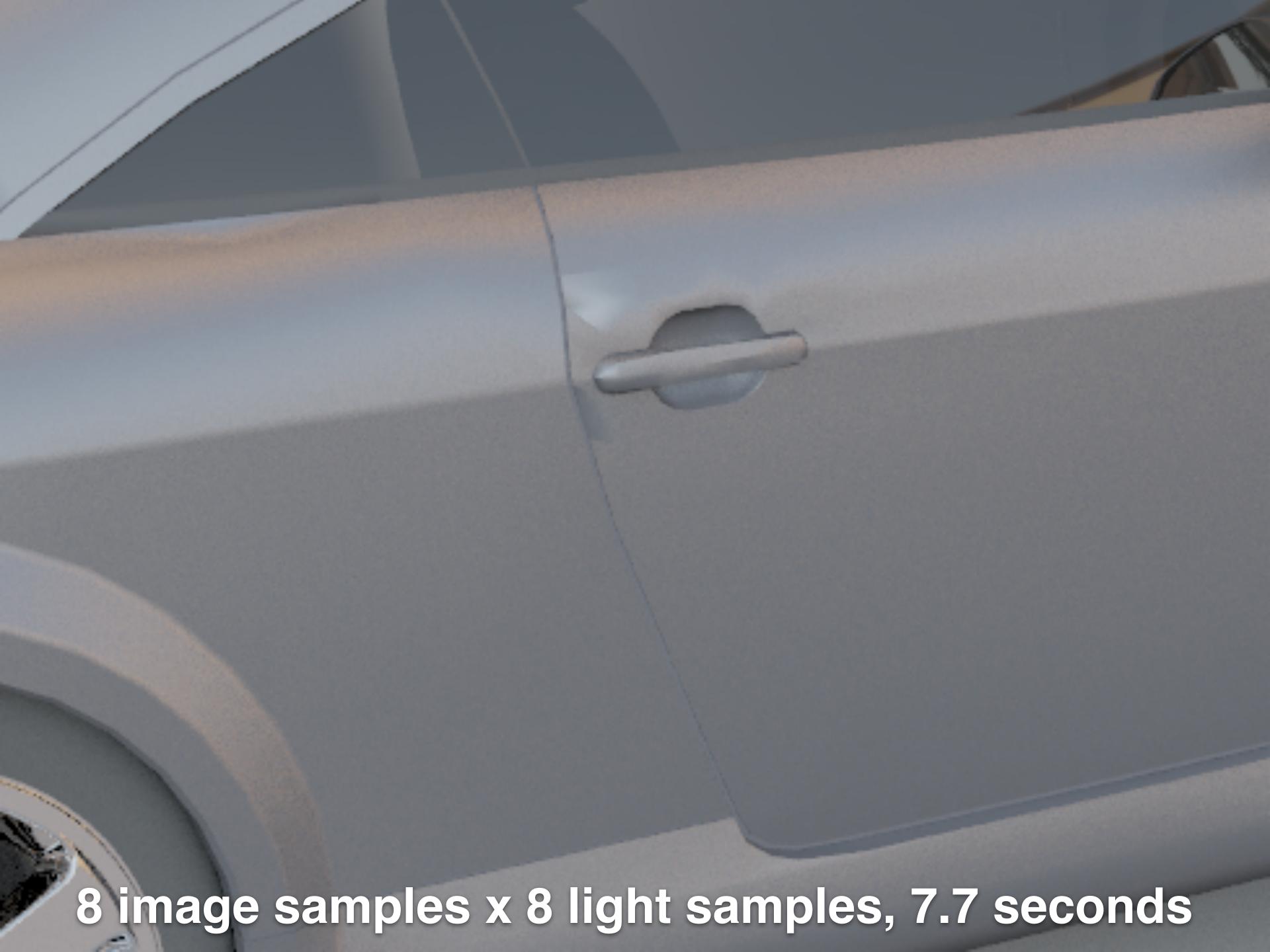
Paths vs Trees



4 eye rays per pixel 16 shadow rays per eye ray (68 ray traces per pixel) 64 eye rays per pixel 1 shadow ray per eye ray (128 ray traces per pixel)







Multiple Light Sources

Consider multiple lights in direct lighting estimate One strategy:

- Loop over all N lights, sum Monte-Carlo estimates for each light
- For each light: compute Monte Carlo estimate with M samples taken with importance sampling

Needs N * M samples

This is what the assignment asks you to implement.

Multiple Light Sources (Single Sample)

Consider random sampling of multiple lights with a single sample

- Randomly choose light i, with probability pi
- Randomly sample over that light's directions, with probability pL
- Probability of choosing sample is (pi * pL)
- Weight the lighting calculation by 1/(pi * pL)
- Is this estimator unbiased? Yes!
- How would you importance sample intelligently?

Can of course average N such samples

Point Lights / Ideal Specular Materials – Issues

Sampling problems

 When sampling directions randomly, we have zero probability of matching exact direction of a point light or mirror reflection / specular refraction

Remedy

- In direct lighting, importance sample point lights by generating a single sample pointing directly at the light (only one sample needed)
- In indirect lighting, importance sample specular BRDFs by generating a sample point directly along the specular refraction / transmission direction

Numerical Precision Issues

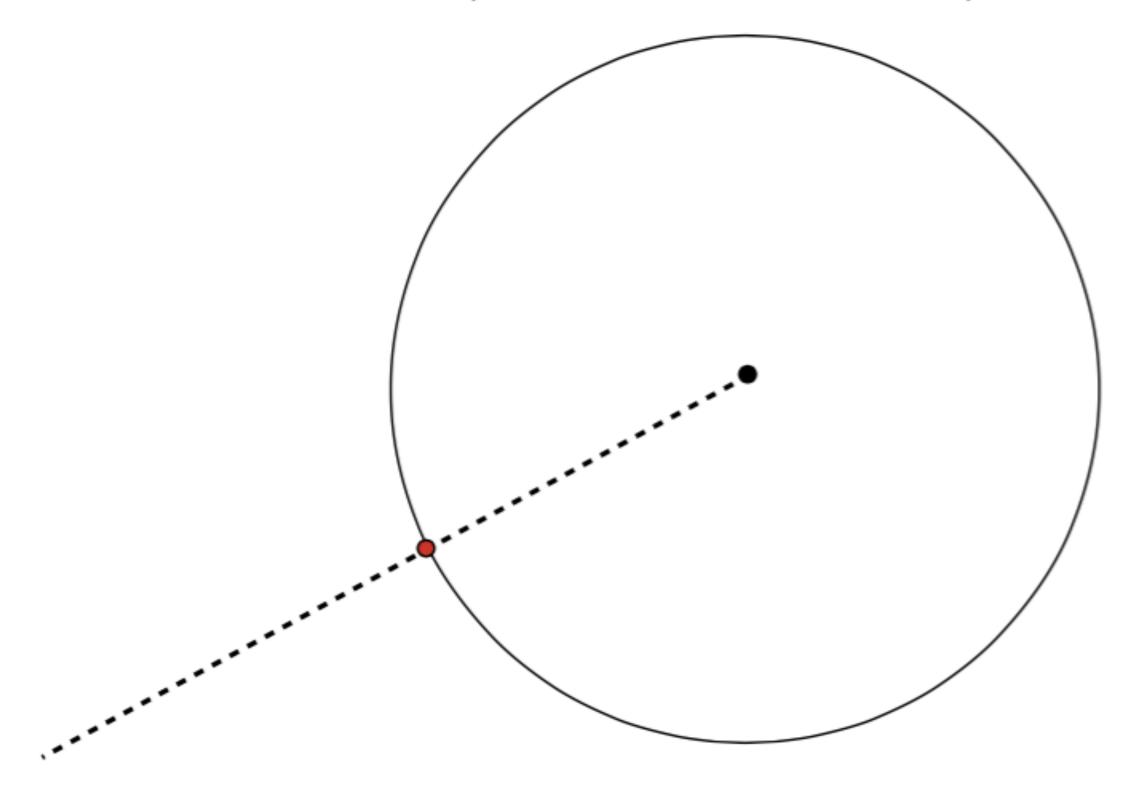
C=(1930.420,1973.505), R=1

Consider calculating ray-intersection with a distant sphere

(0,0)

Numerical Precision Issues

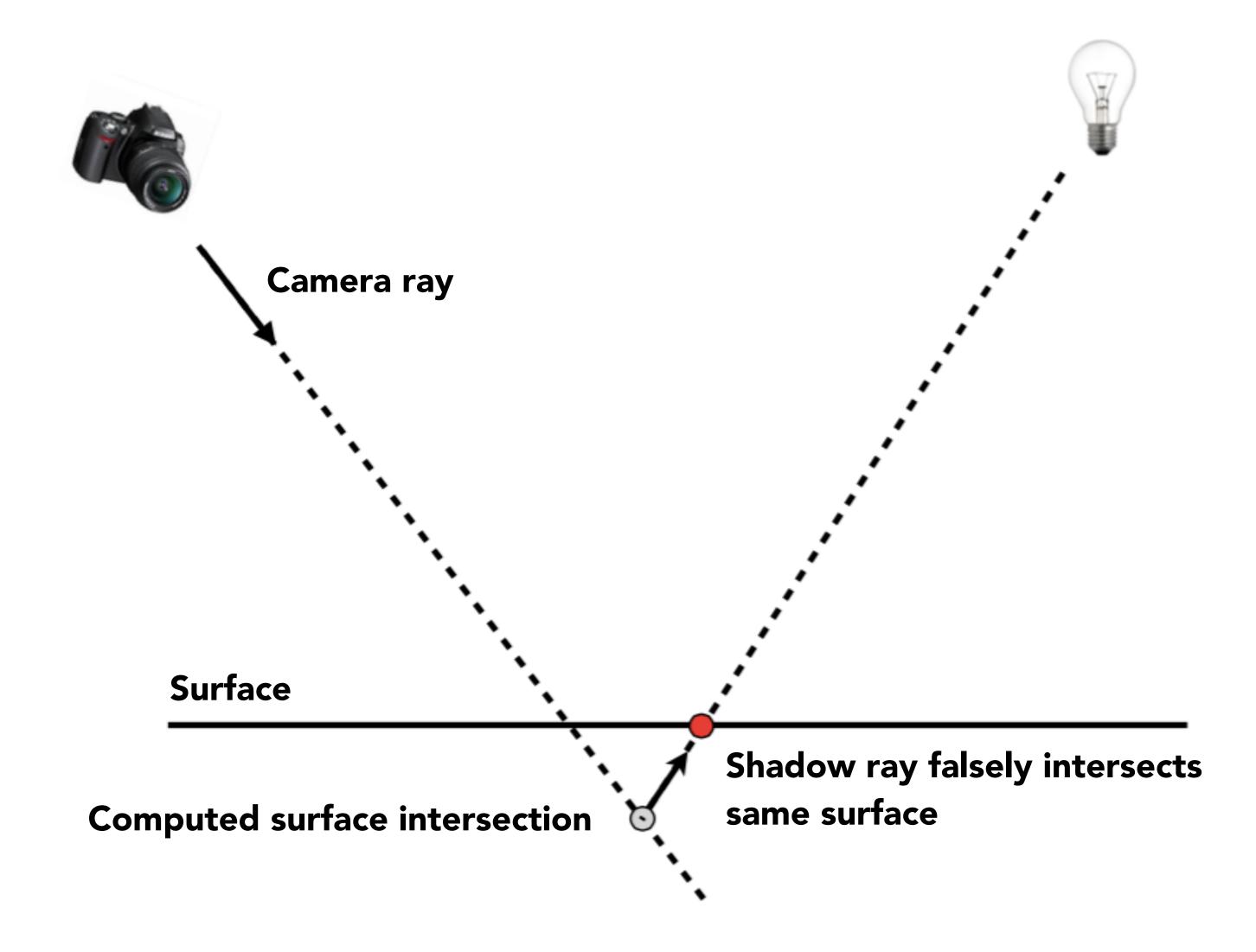
C=(1930.420,1973.505) R=1

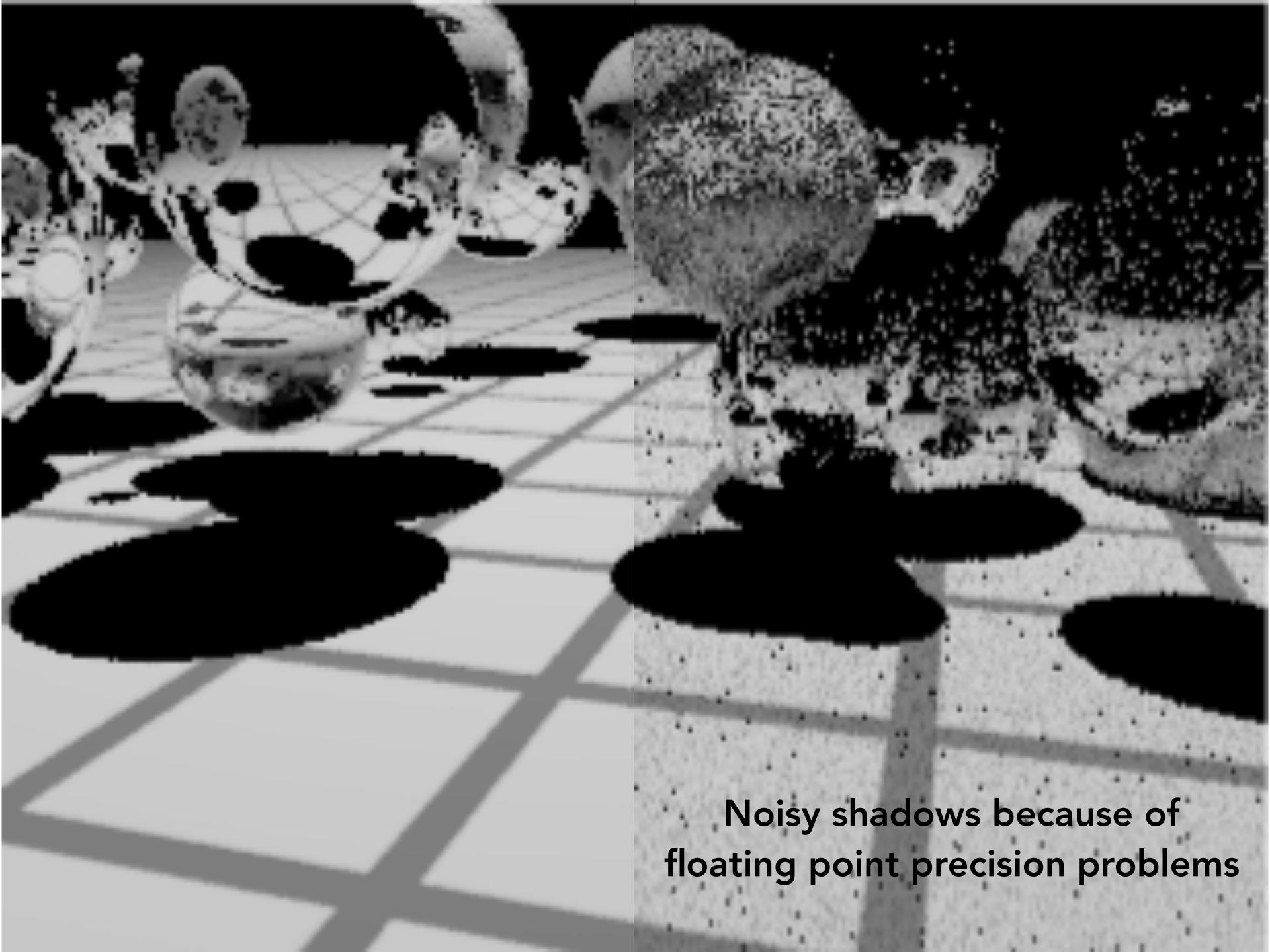


True Intersection: (1929.7203..., 1972.7897...)

Computed Intersection: (1930.4196..., 1973.5054...)

Noisy Shadows

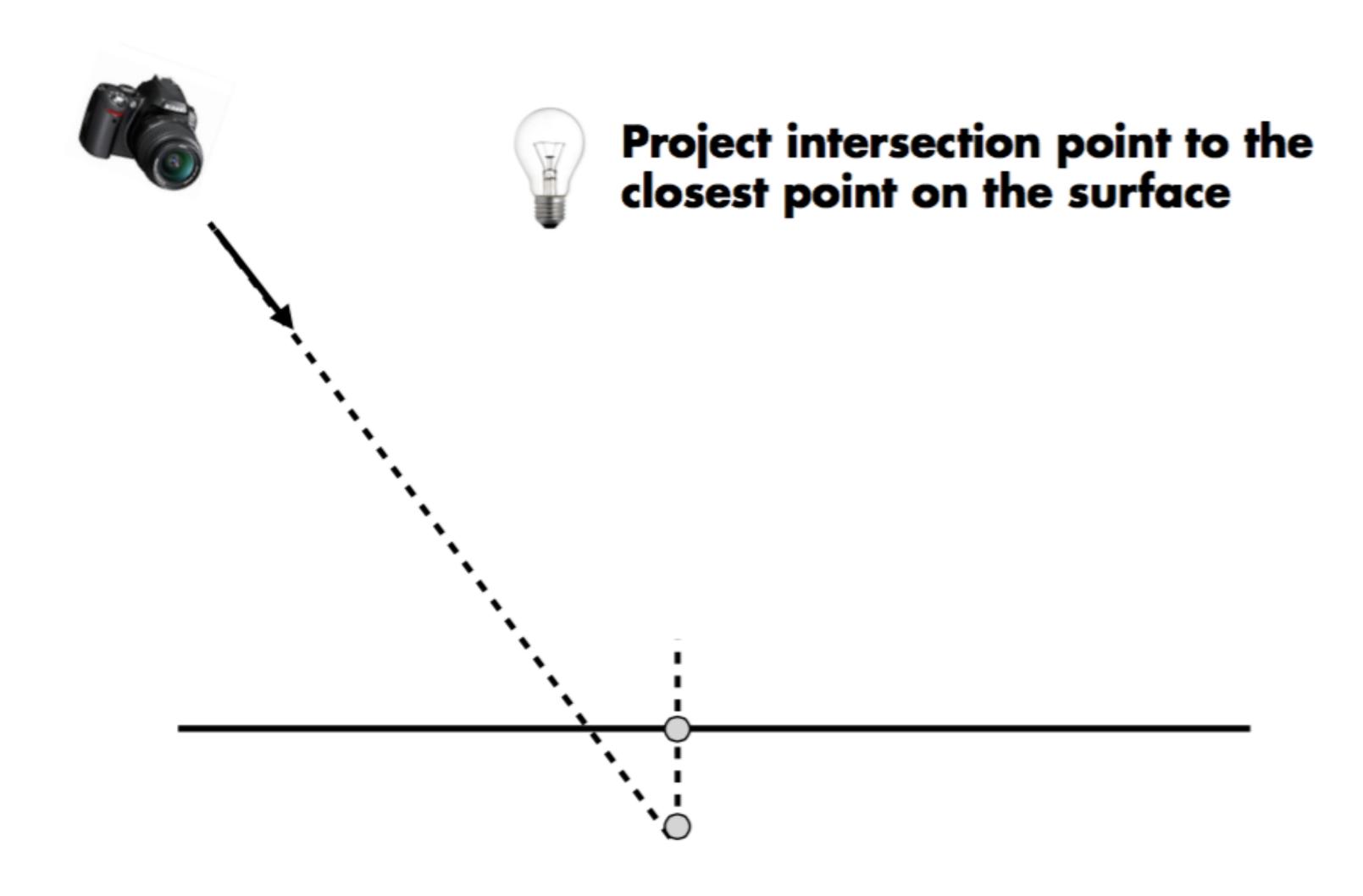




Floating-Point Precision Remedies

- 1. double (fp64) rather than float (fp32)
 - 53-bits of precision instead of 24-bits
 - Increase memory footprint
- 2. Ignore re-intersection with the last object hit
 - Only works for flat objects (e.g. triangles)
 - No help if model has coincident triangles
- 3. Offset origin along ray to ignore close intersections
 - Hard to choose offset that isn't too small or too big

Remedy: Project Intersection Point to Surface

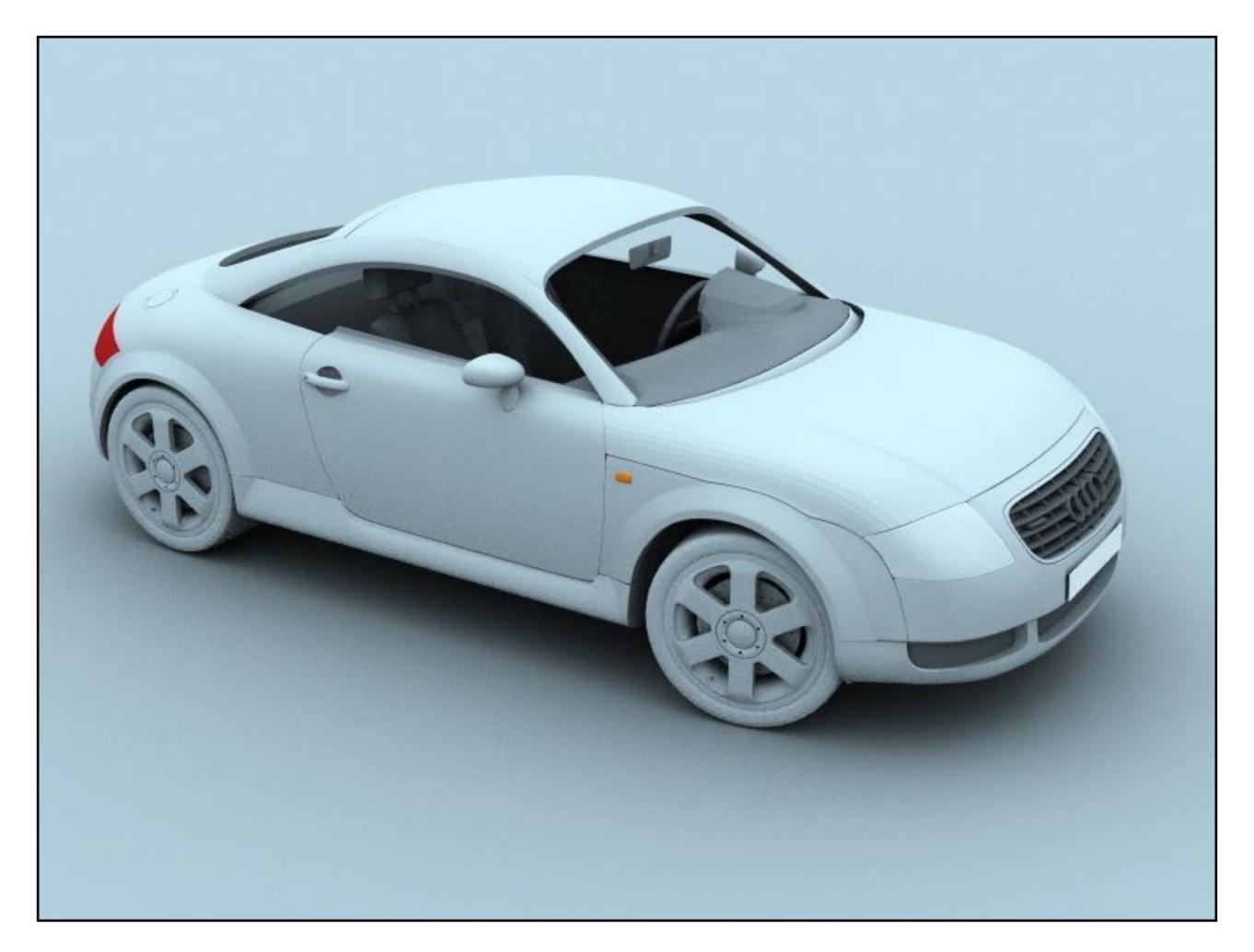




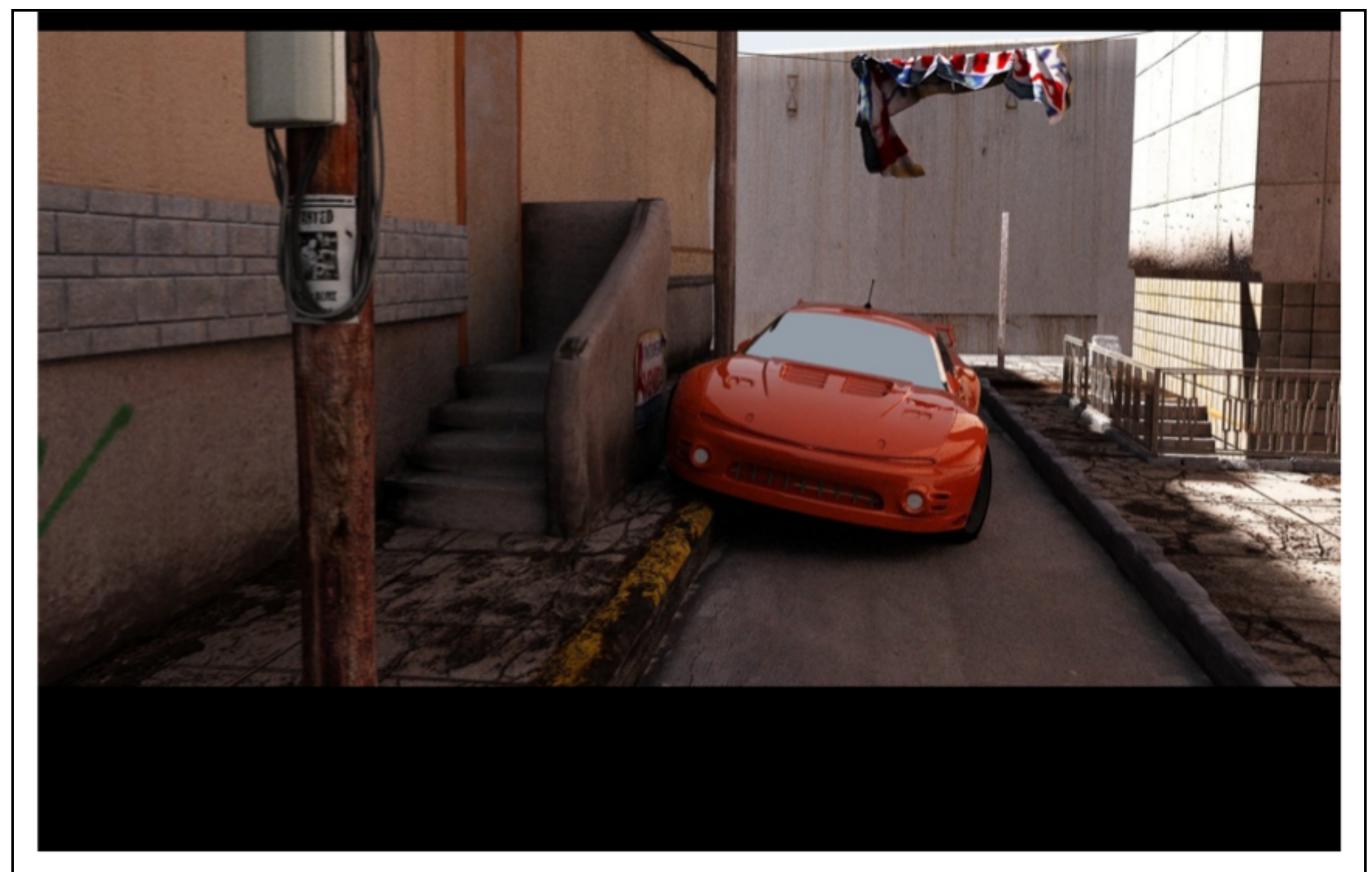
M. Fajardo, Arnold Path Tracer



M. Fajardo, Arnold Path Tracer



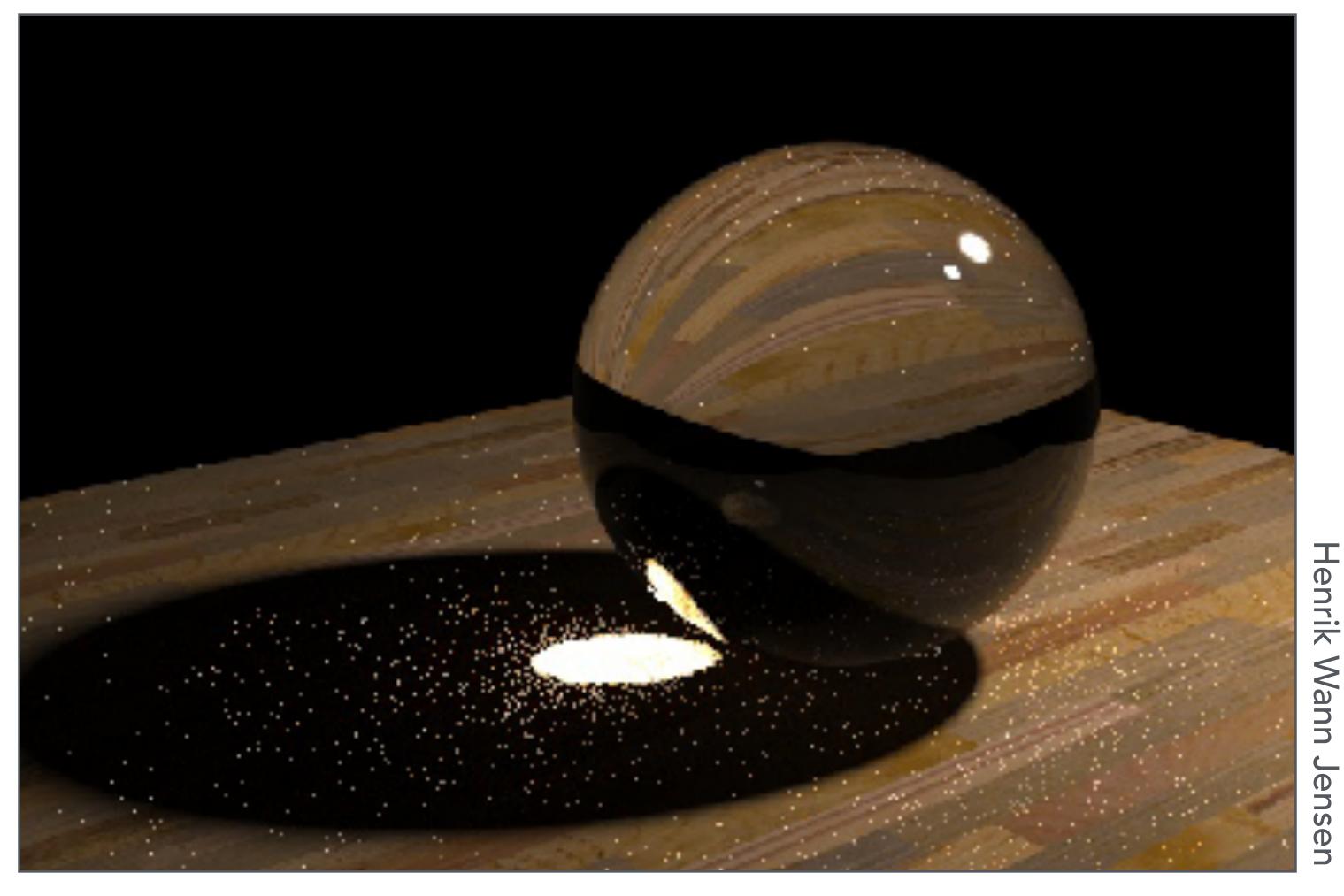
M. Fajardo, Arnold Path Tracer



Street scene 1 1536x654, 16 paths/pixel, 2 bounces, 250,000 faces, 18 min., dual PIII-800

M. Fajardo, Arnold Path Tracer

A Challenging Scene for Path Tracing – Why?



1000 paths / pixel

Things to Remember

Global illumination challenge: recursive light transport Reflection & rendering equations, operator notation Neumann solution of rendering equation

Sum successive bounces of light, infinite series

Path tracing

- Russian Roulette for unbiased finite estimate of infinite series (infinite dimensional integral)
- Partition into direct and indirect illumination
- Importance sampling of lighting and BRDF

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