Pipeline Operations

COMP575/COMP770 Spring 2016

Pipeline overview

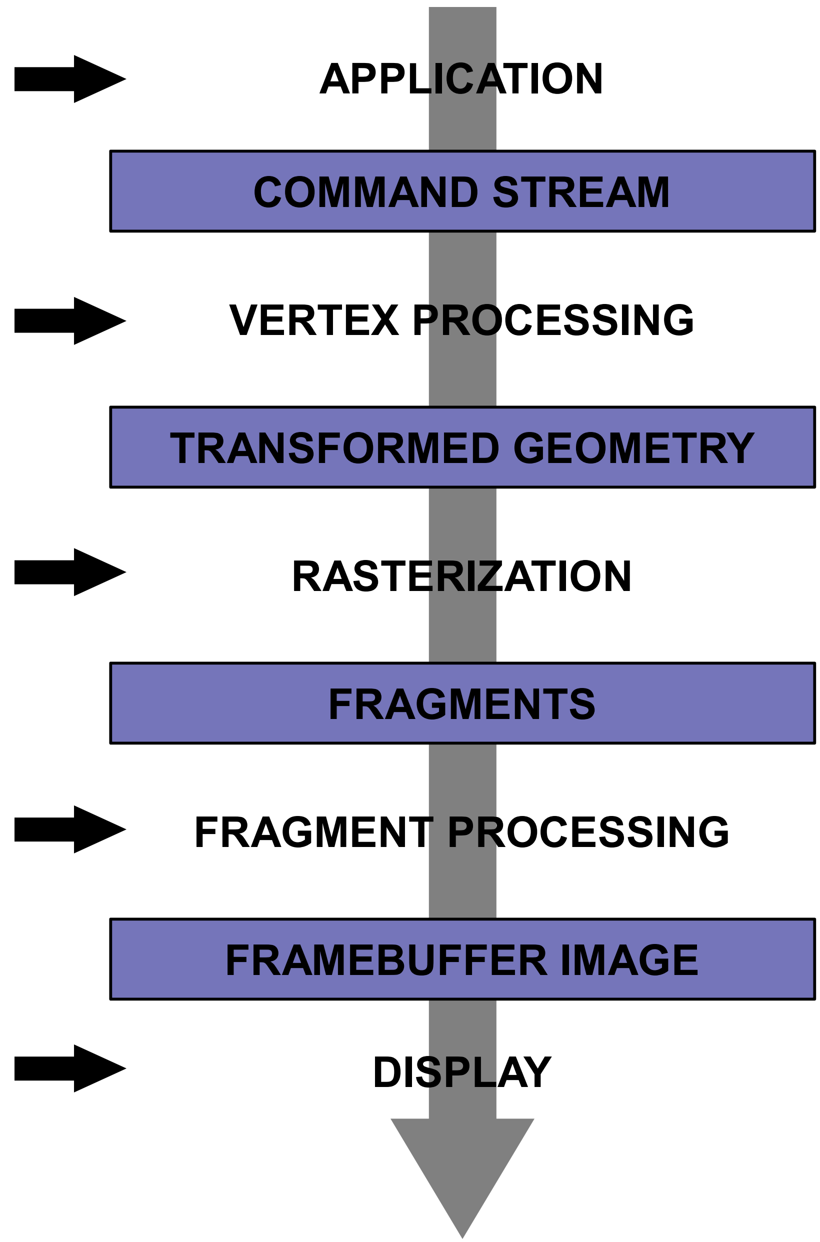
you are here

3D transformations; shading

conversion of primitives to pixels

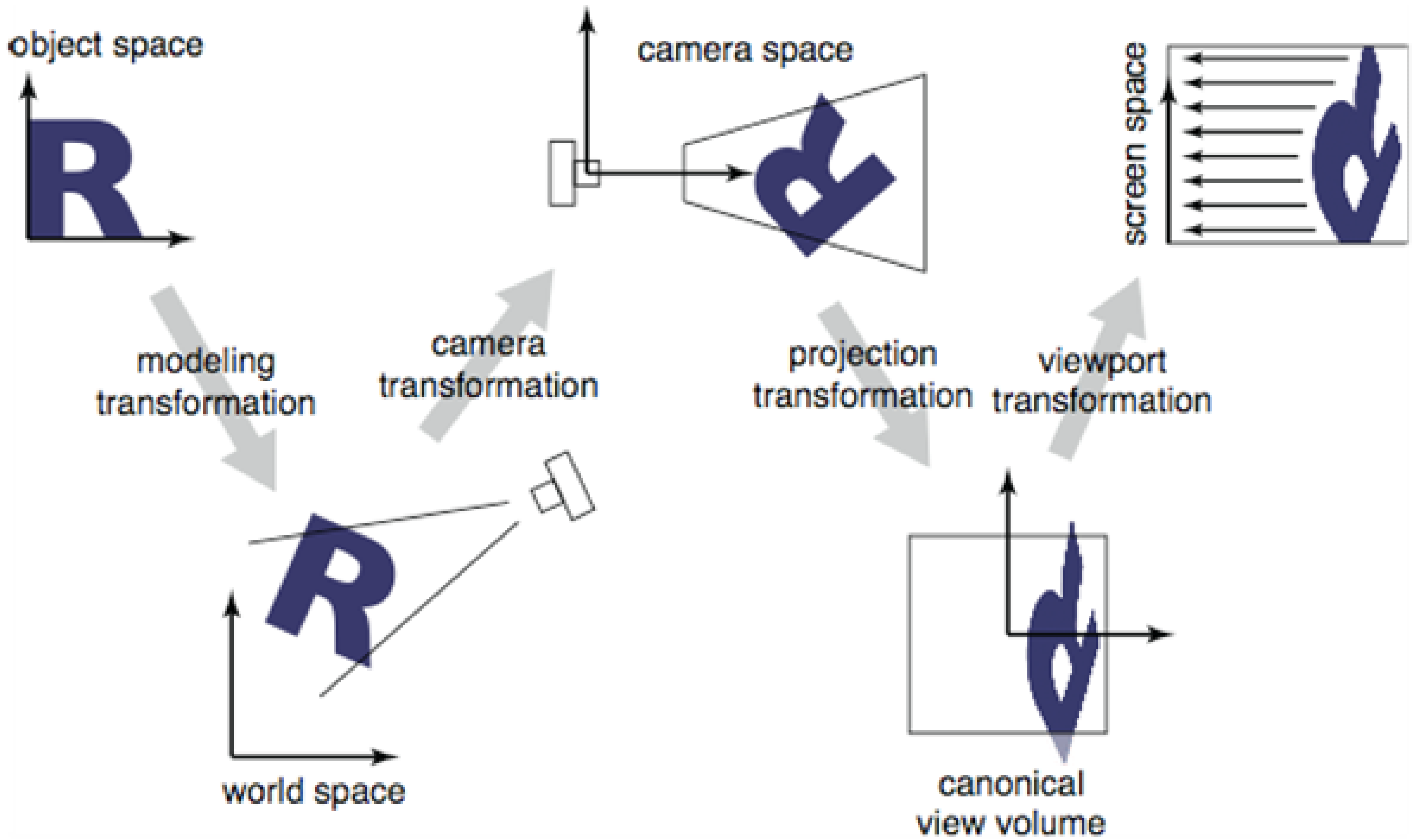
blending, compositing, shading

user sees this



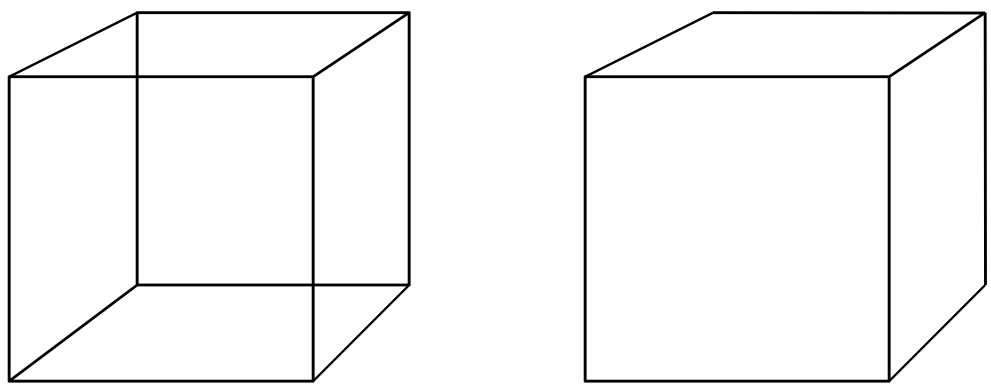
Pipeline of transformations

- Standard sequence of transforms



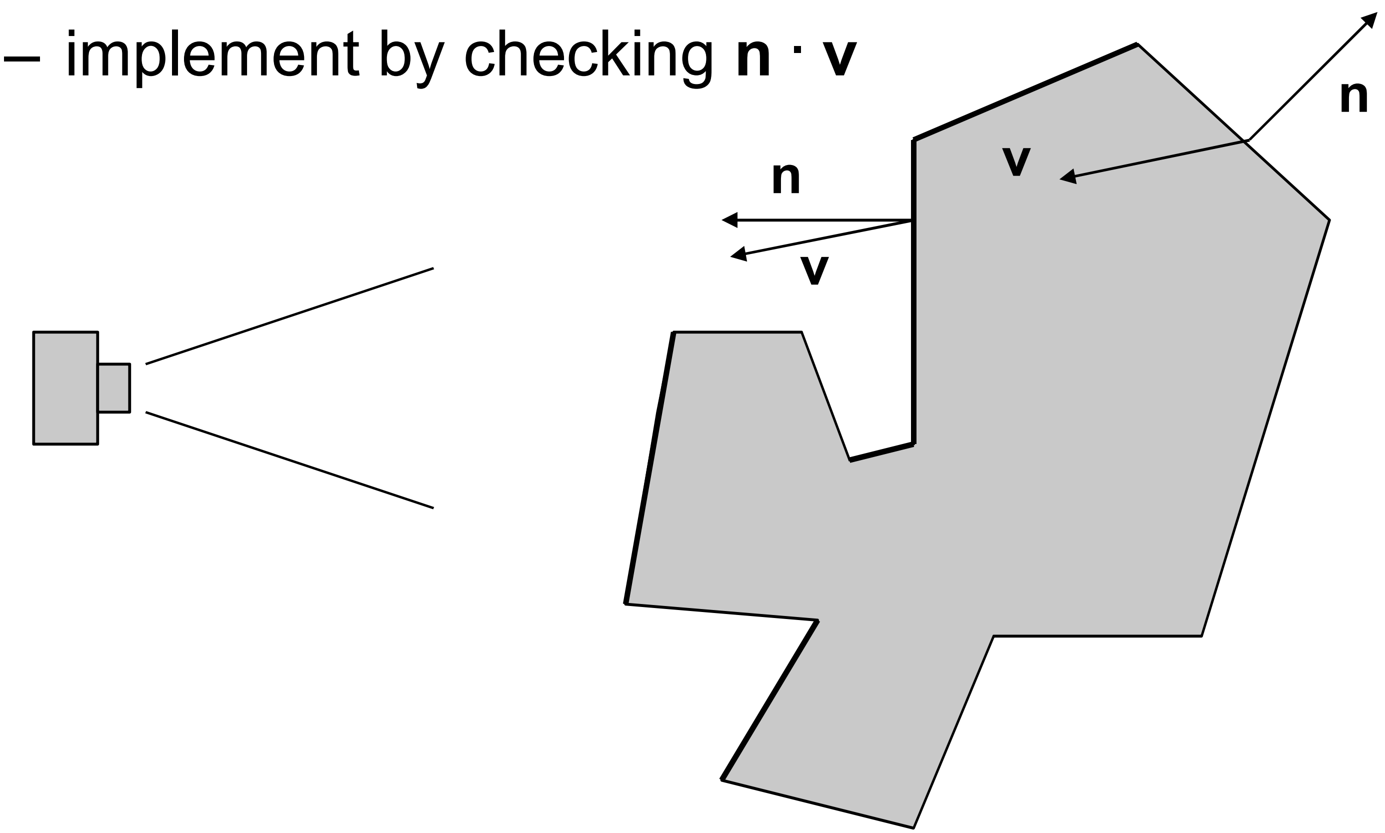
Hidden surface elimination

- We have discussed how to map primitives to image space
  - projection and perspective are depth cues
  - occlusion is another very important cue



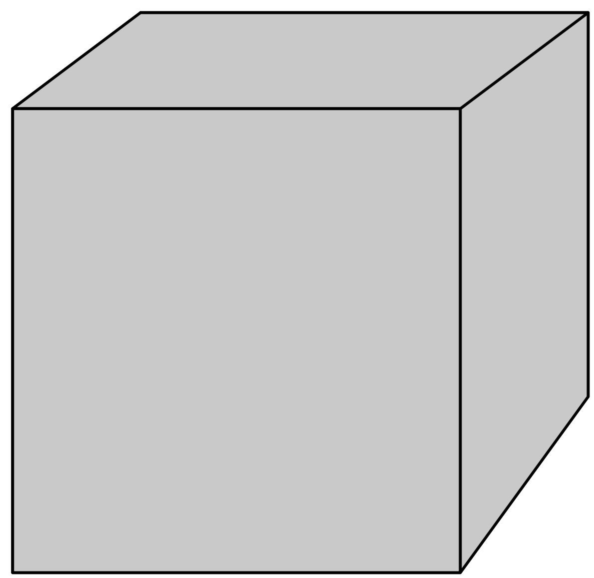
Back face culling

- For closed shapes you will never see the inside
  - therefore only draw surfaces that face the camera
  - implement by checking **n · v**



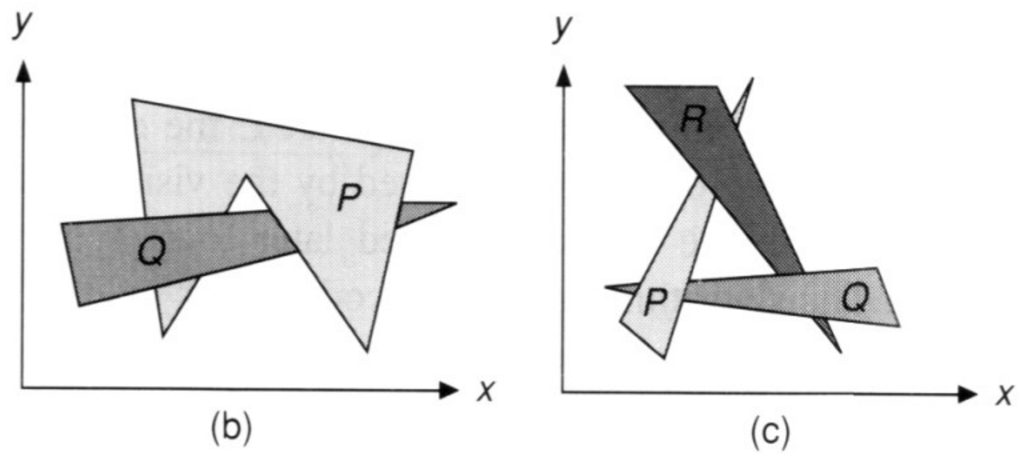
Painter's algorithm

- Simplest way to do hidden surfaces
- Draw from back to front, use overwriting in framebuffer



Painter's algorithm

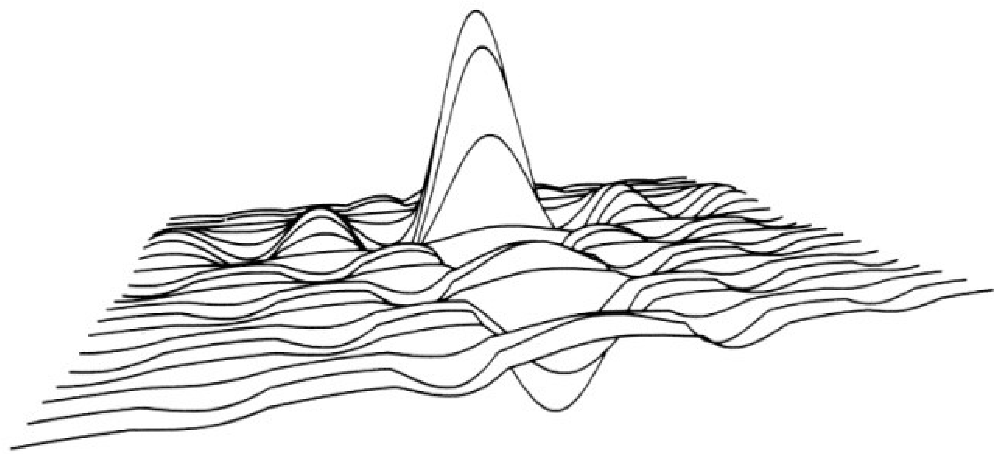
- Amounts to a topological sort of the graph of occlusions
  - that is, an edge from A to B means A sometimes occludes B
  - any sort is valid
    - ABCDEF
    - BADCFE
  - if there are cycles there is no sort



[Foley et al.]

Painter’s algorithm

- Useful when a valid order is easy to come by
- Compatible with alpha blending

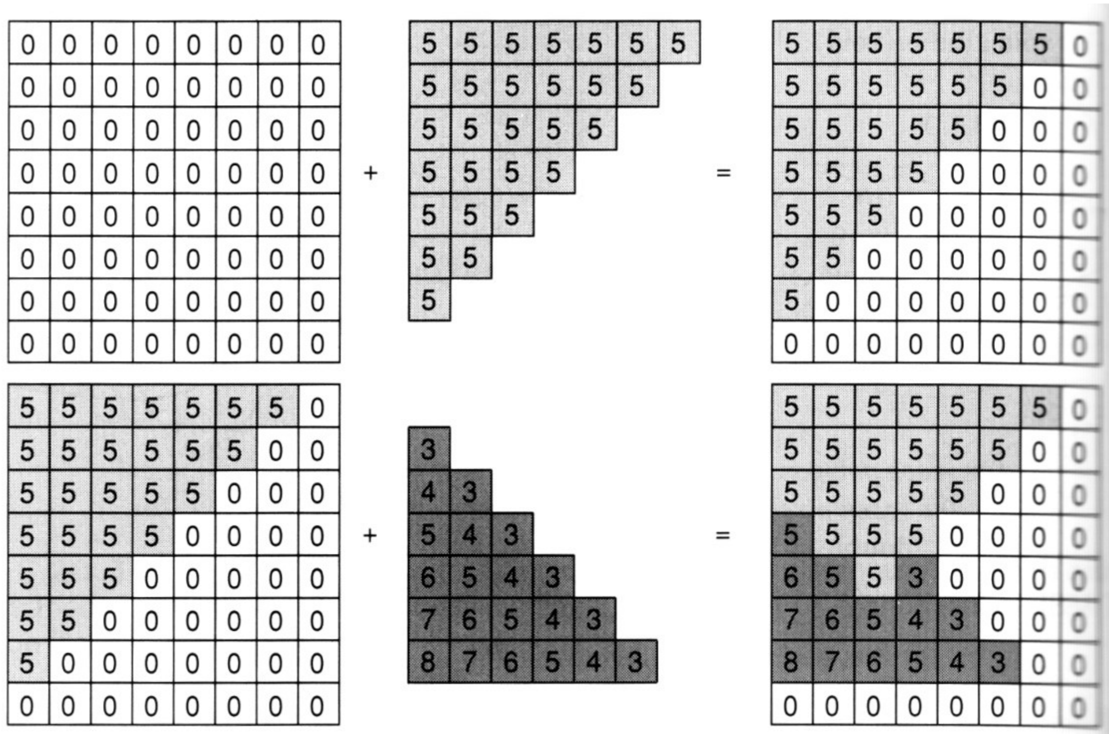


[Foley et al.]

The *z* buffer

- In many (most) applications maintaining a *z* sort is too expensive
  - changes all the time as the view changes
  - many data structures exist, but complex
- Solution: draw in any order, keep track of closest
  - allocate extra channel per pixel to keep track of closest depth so far
  - when drawing, compare object’s depth to current closest depth and discard if greater
  - this works just like any other compositing operation

The *z* buffer



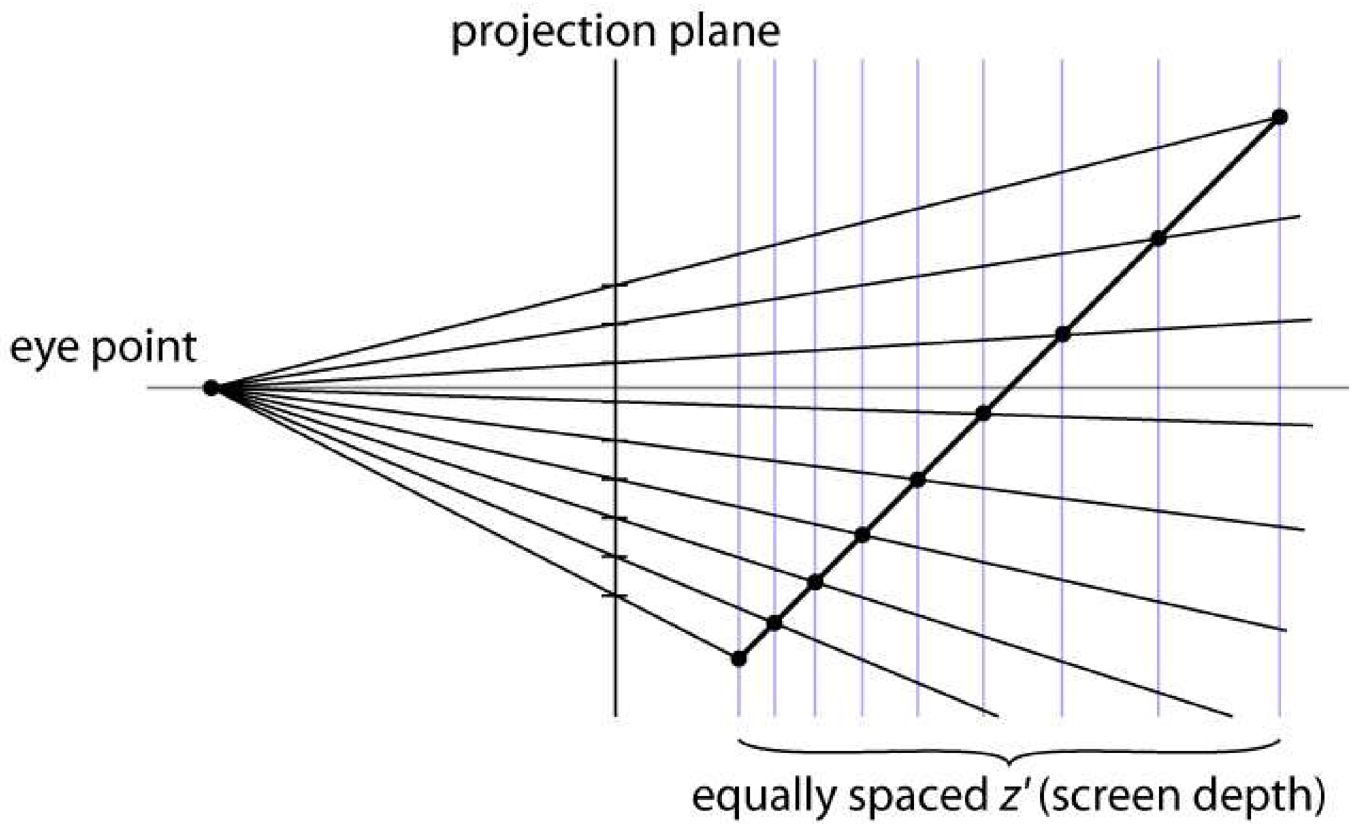
[Foley et al.]

– another example of a memory-intensive brute force approach that works and has become the standard

Precision in *z* buffer

- The precision is distributed between the near and far clipping planes
  – this is why these planes have to exist
  – also why you can’t always just set them to very small and very large distances
- Generally use z' (not world z) in z buffer

Interpolating in projection

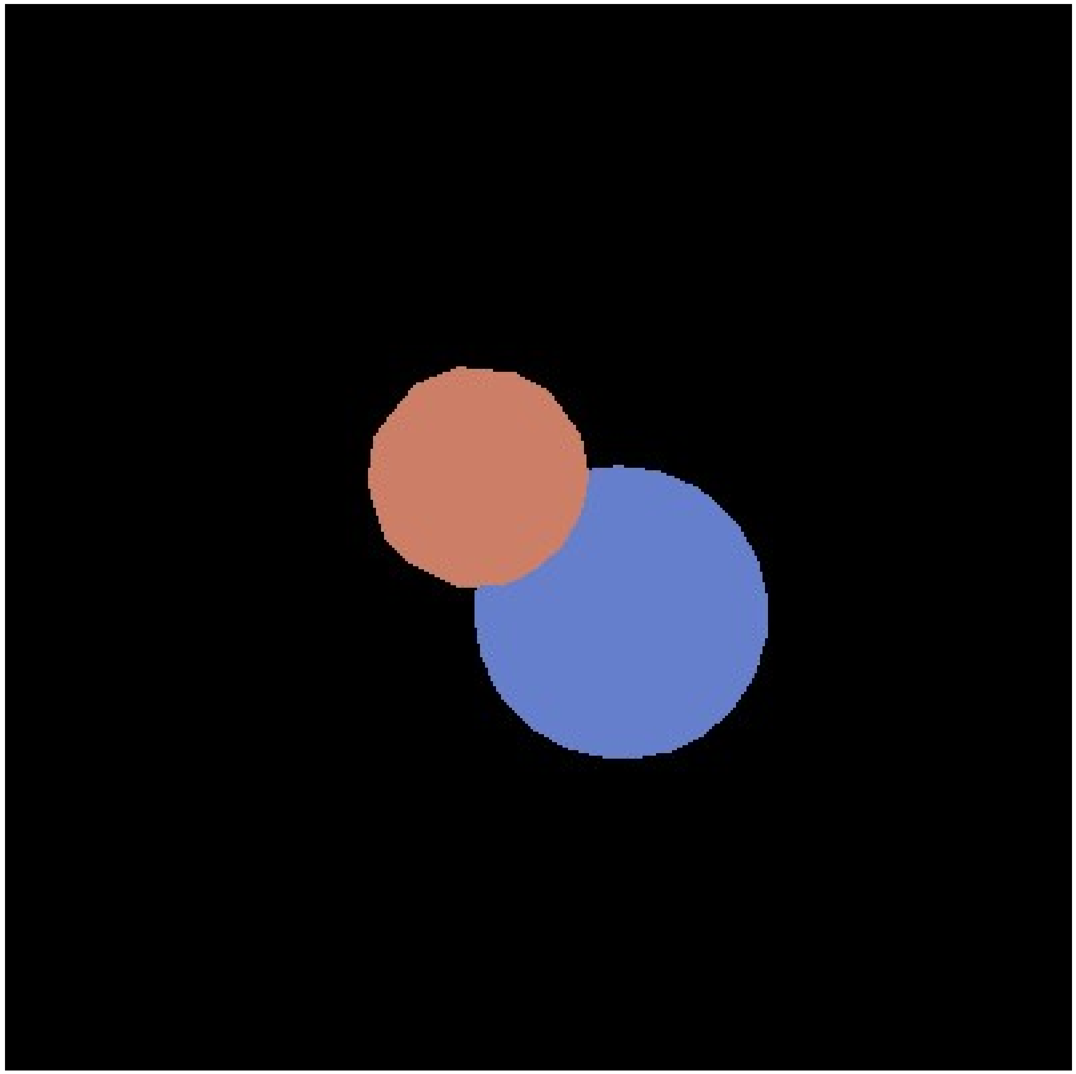


linear interp. in screen space ≠ linear interp. in world (eye) space

Pipeline for minimal operation

- Vertex stage (input: position / vtx; color / tri)
  - transform position (object to screen space)
  - pass through color
- Rasterizer
  - pass through color
- Fragment stage (output: color)
  - write to color planes

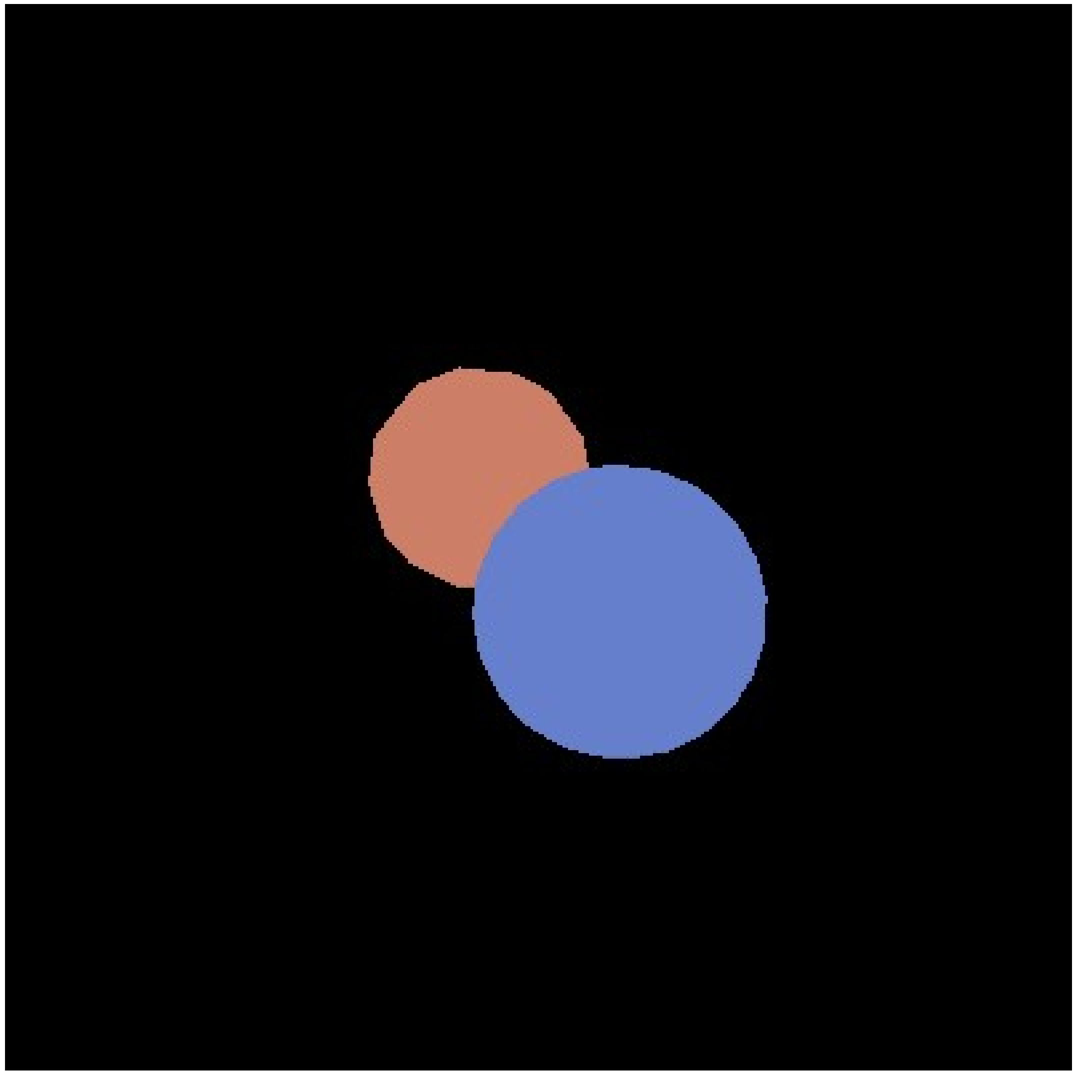
Result of minimal pipeline



Pipeline for basic *z* buffer

- Vertex stage (input: position / vtx; color / tri)
  - transform position (object to screen space)
  - pass through color
- Rasterizer
  - interpolated parameter: *z'* (screen *z*)
  - pass through color
- Fragment stage (output: color, *z'*)
  - write to color planes only if interpolated *z'* < current *z'*

Result of *z*-buffer pipeline



Flat shading

- Shade using the real normal of the triangle
  – same result as ray tracing a bunch of triangles
- Leads to constant shading and faceted appearance
  – truest view of the mesh geometry

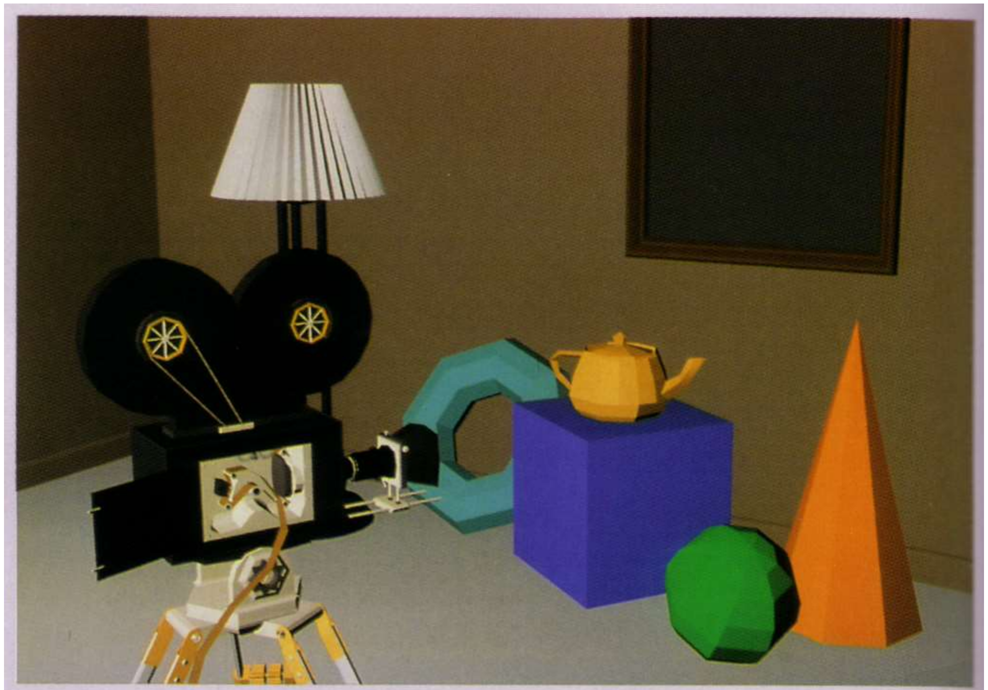


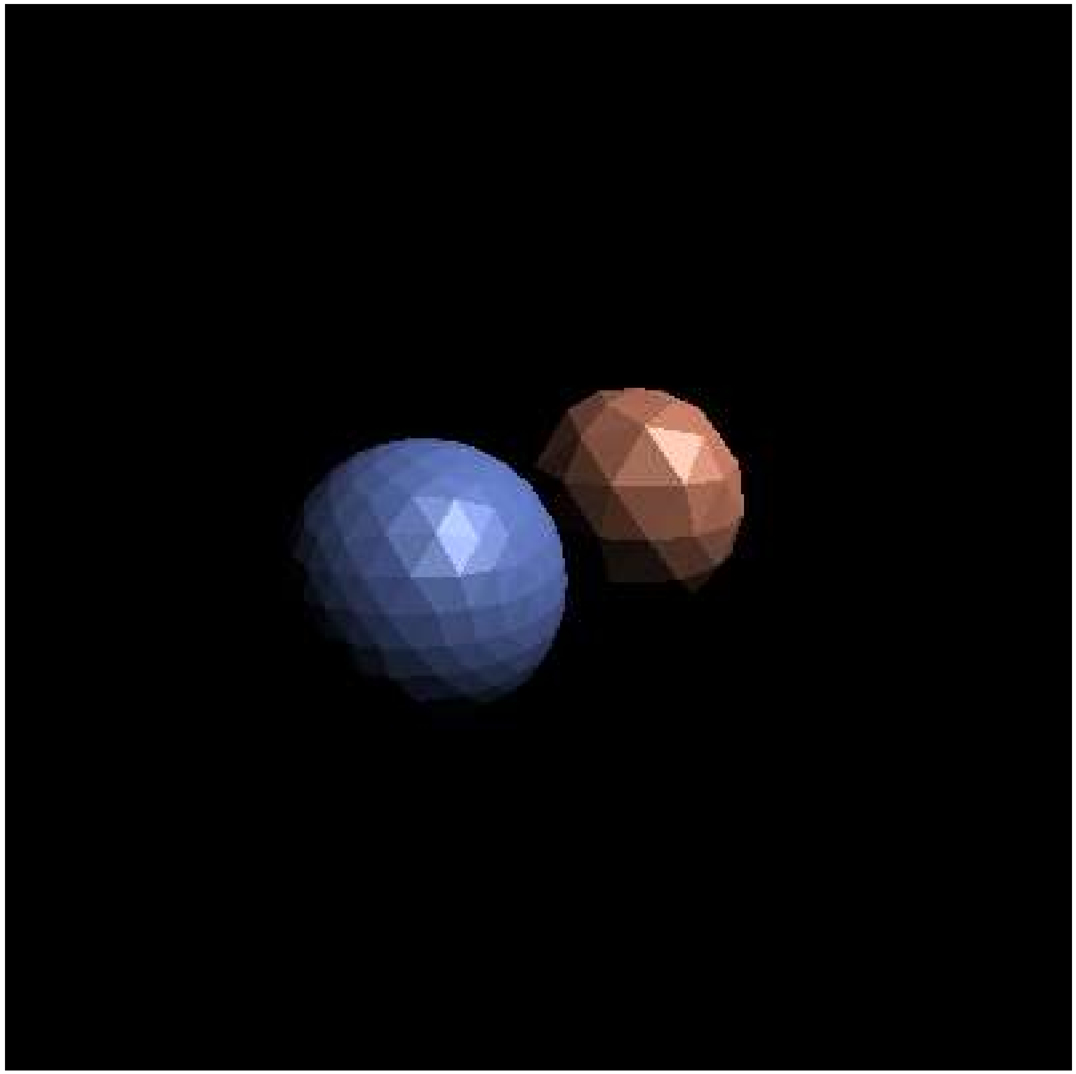
Plate II.29 *Shutterbug.* Individually shaded polygons with diffuse reflection (Sections 14.4.2 and 16.2.3). (Copyright © 1990, Pixar. Rendered by Thomas Williams and H.B. Siegel using Pixar's PhotoRealistic RenderMan™ software.)

[Foley et al.]

Pipeline for flat shading

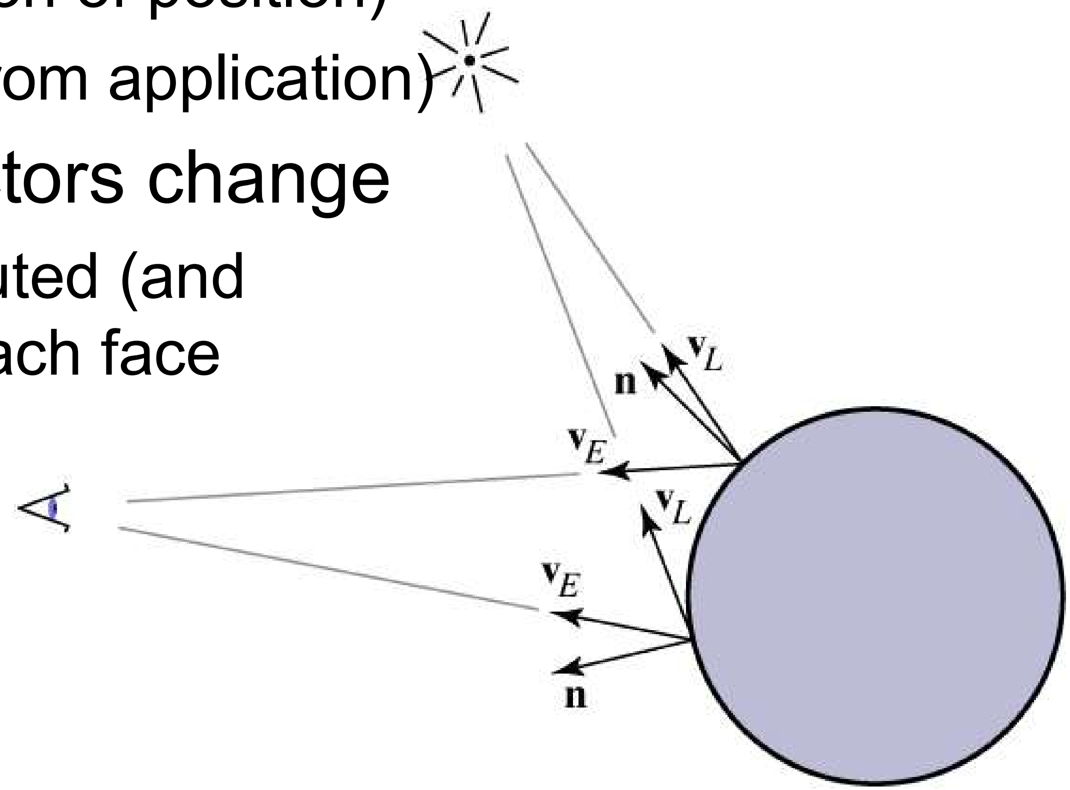
- Vertex stage (input: position / vtx; color and normal / tri)
  - transform position and normal (object to eye space)
  - compute shaded color per triangle using normal
  - transform position (eye to screen space)
- Rasterizer
  - interpolated parameters: z' (screen z)
  - pass through color
- Fragment stage (output: color, z')
  - write to color planes only if interpolated $z' <$ current z'

Result of flat-shading pipeline



Local vs. infinite viewer, light

- Phong illumination requires geometric information:
  - light vector (function of position)
  - eye vector (function of position)
  - surface normal (from application)
- Light and eye vectors change
  - need to be computed (and normalized) for each face

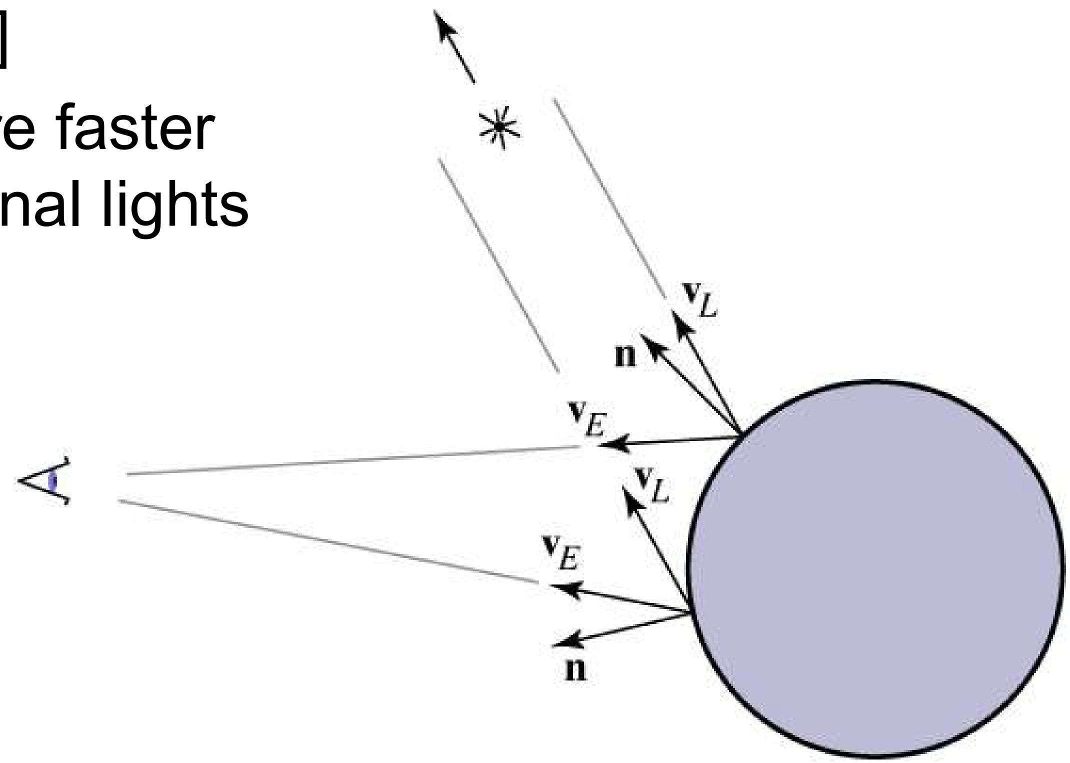


Local vs. infinite viewer, light

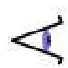
- Look at case when eye or light is far away:
  - distant light source: nearly parallel illumination
  - distant eye point: nearly orthographic projection
  - in both cases, eye or light vector changes very little
- Optimization: approximate eye and/or light as infinitely far away

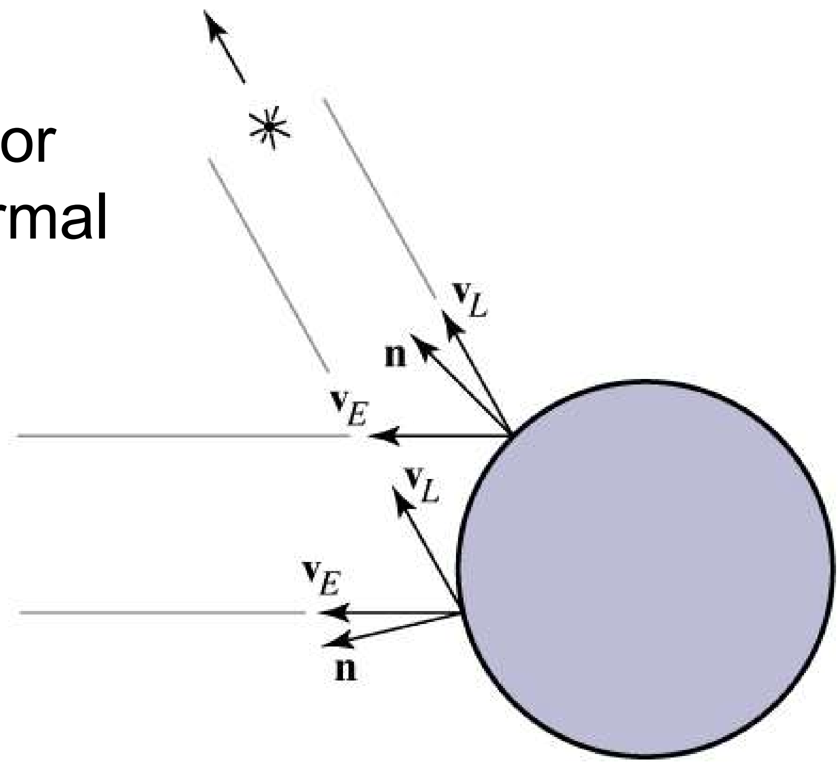
Directional light

- Directional (infinitely distant) light source
  - light vector always points in the same direction
  - often specified by position [x y z 0]
  - many pipelines are faster if you use directional lights



Infinite viewer

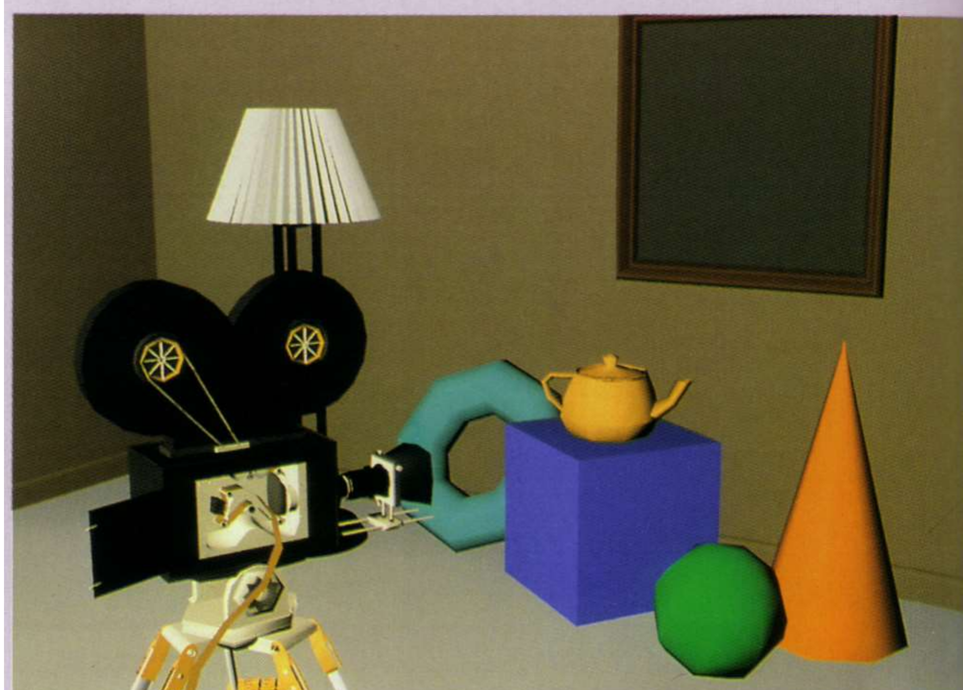
- Orthographic camera
  - projection direction is constant
- "Infinite viewer"
  - even with perspective, can approximate eye vector using the image plane normal
  - can produce weirdness for wide-angle views 
  - Blinn-Phong: light, eye, half vectors all constant!



Gouraud shading

- Often we're trying to draw smooth surfaces, so facets are an artifact
  - compute colors at vertices using vertex normals
  - interpolate colors across triangles
  - "Gouraud shading"
  - "Smooth shading"

Plate II.30 *Shutterbug.* Gouraud shaded polygons with diffuse reflection (Sections 14.4.3 and 16.2.4). (Copyright © 1990, Pixar. Rendered by Thomas Williams and H.B. Siegel using Pixar's PhotoRealistic RenderMan™ software.)

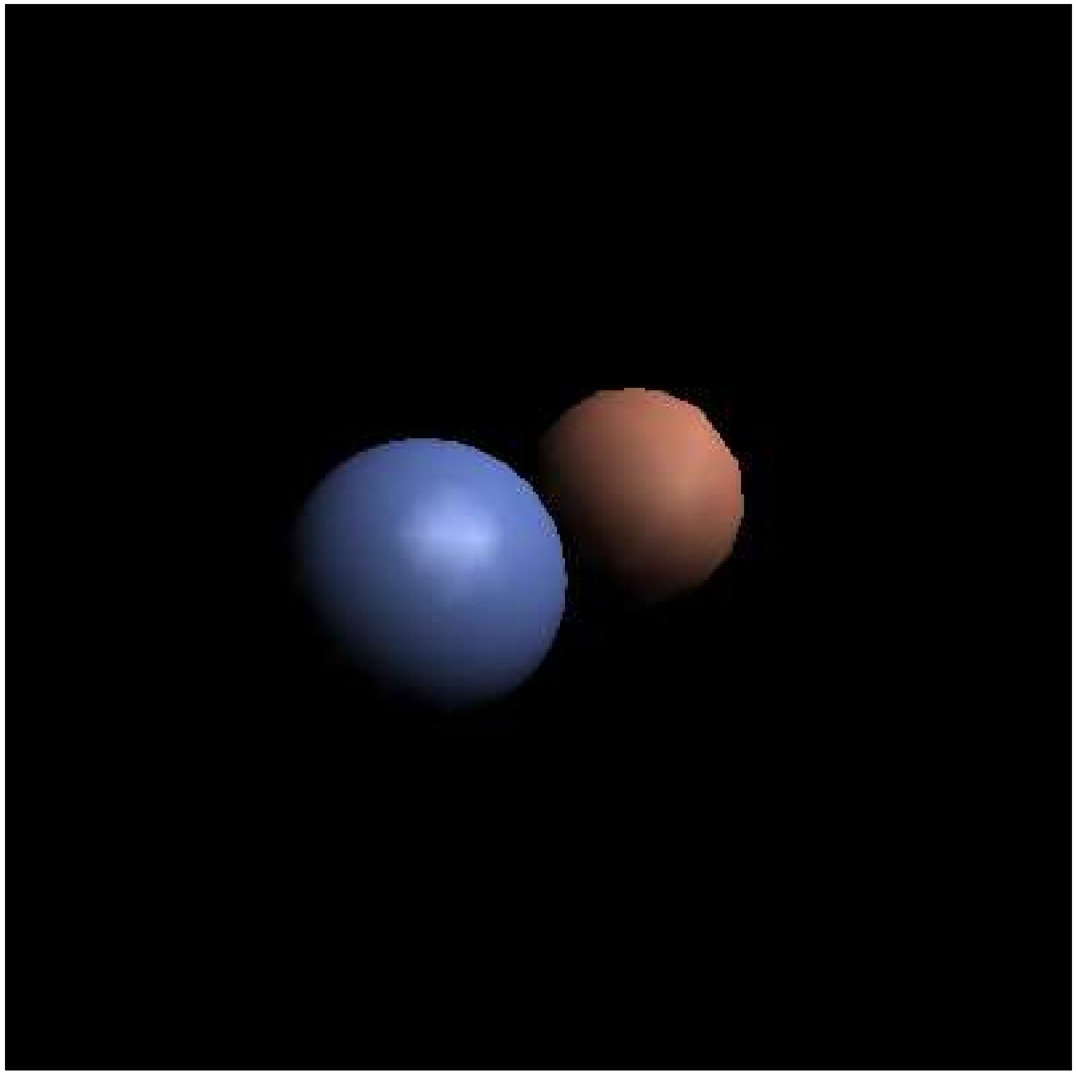


[Foley et al.]

Pipeline for Gouraud shading

- Vertex stage (input: position, color, and normal / vtx)
  - transform position and normal (object to eye space)
  - compute shaded color per vertex
  - transform position (eye to screen space)
- Rasterizer
  - interpolated parameters: z' (screen z); r, g, b color
- Fragment stage (output: color, z')
  - write to color planes only if interpolated $z' <$ current z'

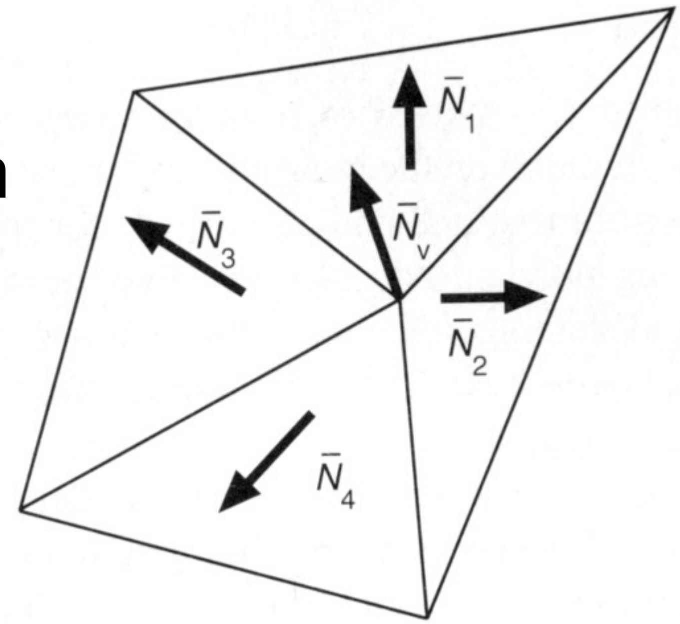
Result of Gouraud shading pipeline



Vertex normals

- Need normals at vertices to compute Gouraud shading
- Best to get vtx. normals from the underlying geometry
  - e. g. spheres example
- Otherwise have to infer vtx. normals from triangles
  - simple scheme: average surrounding face normals

$$N_v = \frac{\sum_i N_i}{\|\sum_i N_i\|}$$



[Foley et al.]

Non-diffuse Gouraud shading

- Can apply Gouraud shading to any illumination model
  - it's just an interpolation method
- Results are not so go[...] like specular ones
  - problems with any highlights smaller than a triangle

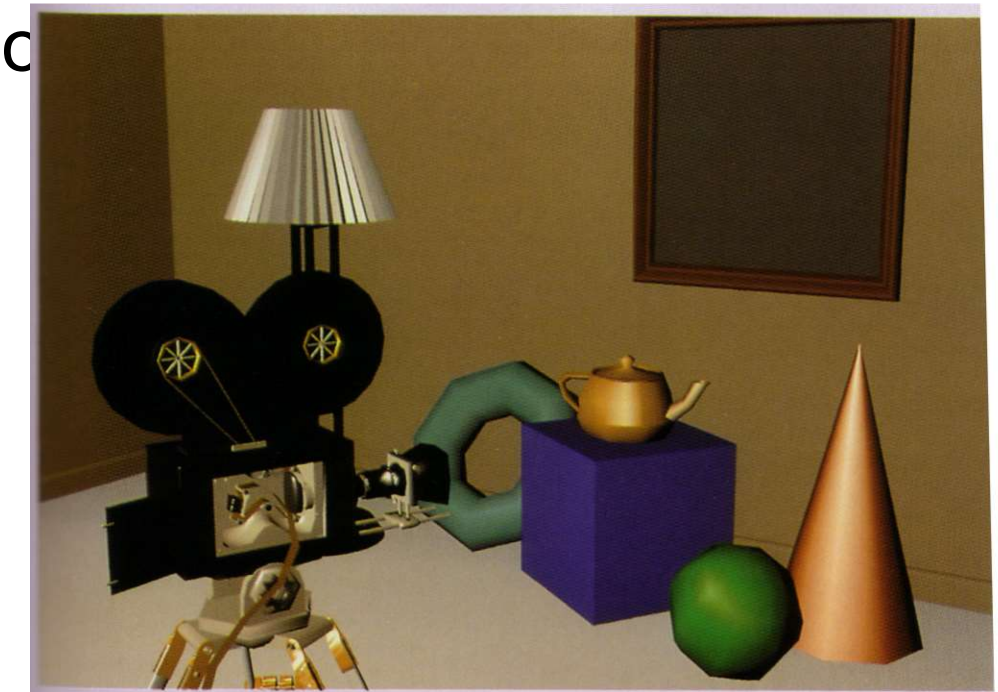
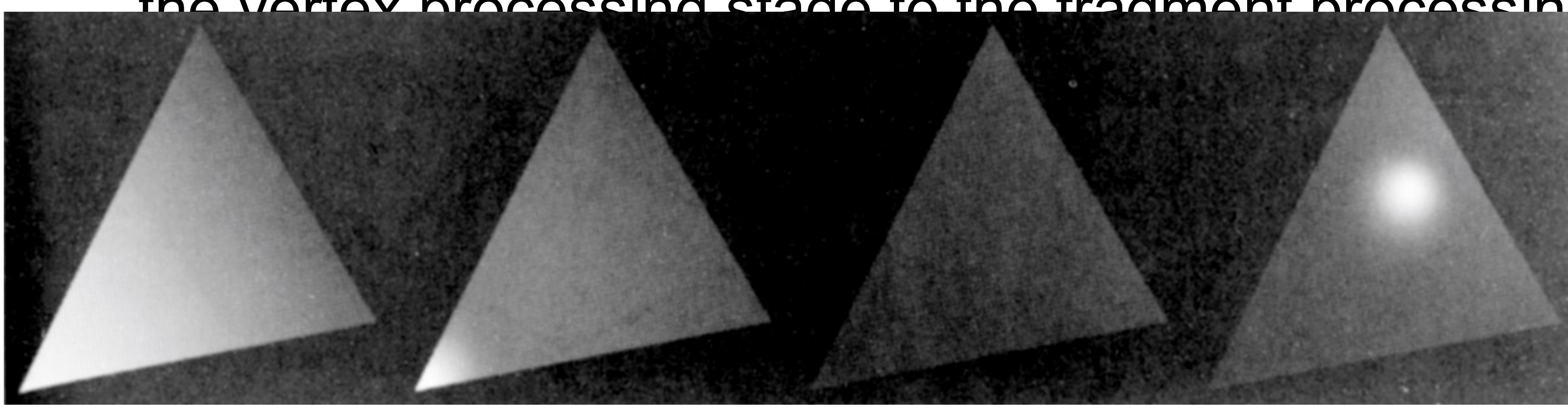


Plate II.31 *Shutterbug.* Gouraud shaded polygons with specular reflection (Sections 14.4.4 and 16.2.5). (Copyright © 1990, Pixar. Rendered by Thomas Williams and H.B. Siegel using Pixar's PhotoRealistic RenderMan™ software.)

[Foley et al.]

Phong shading

- Get higher quality by interpolating the normal
  - just as easy as interpolating the color
  - but now we are evaluating the illumination model per pixel rather than per vertex (and normalizing the normal first)
  - in pipeline, this means we are moving illumination from the vertex processing stage to the fragment processing



Phong shading

- Bottom line: produces much better highlights

tterbug. Gouraud shaded polygons with specular reflection (Sections 14.4.4 yright © 1990, Pixar. Rendered by Thomas Williams and H.B. Siegel using listic RenderMan™ software.)

Plate II.32 *Shutterbug.* Phong shaded polygons with specular reflection (Sections 14.4.4 and 16.2.5). (Copyright © 1990, Pixar. Rendered by Thomas Williams and H.B. Siegel using Pixar's PhotoRealistic RenderMan™ software.)

[Foley et al.]

Pipeline for Phong shading

- Vertex stage (input: position, color, and normal / vtx)
  - transform position and normal (object to eye space)
  - transform position (eye to screen space)
  - pass through color
- Rasterizer
  - interpolated parameters: *z'* (screen *z*); *r, g, b* color; *x, y, z* normal
- Fragment stage (output: color, *z'*)
  - compute shading using interpolated color and normal
  - write to color planes only if interpolated *z'* < current *z'*

Result of Phong shading pipeline