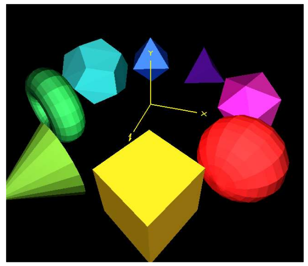
Computer Graphics Lighting

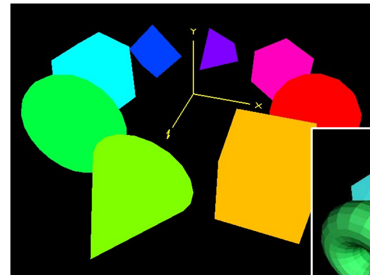
Oregon State University

Mike Bailey
mjb@cs.oregonstate.edu

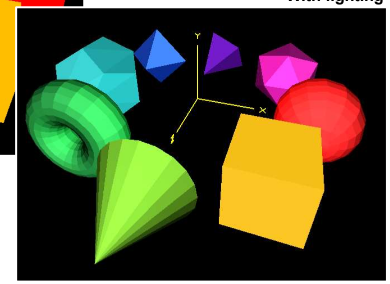


Why Do We Care About Lighting?

Lighting "dis-ambiguates" 3D scenes



Without lighting

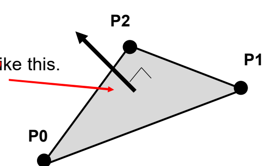


With lighting

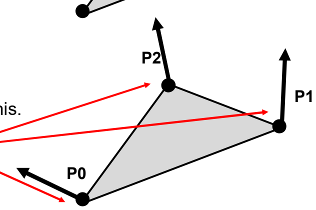
The Surface Normal Vector

A ***surface normal*** is a vector perpendicular to the surface.

Sometimes surface normals are defined or computed **per-face**, like this.

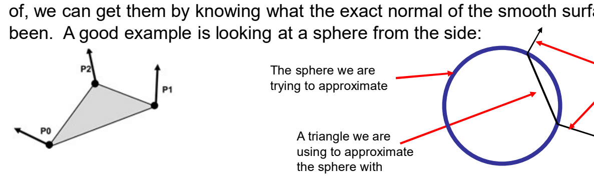


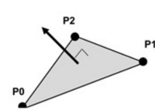
Sometimes they are defined or computed **per-vertex**, like this.



Where Do Surface Normal Vectors Come From?

When the triangle is approximating an underlying smooth surface that we know the equation of, we can get them by knowing what the exact normal of the smooth surface would have been. A good example is looking at a sphere from the side:





When the triangle is part of an arbitrary polyhedron for which we do not have an underlying exact equation, we use vector cross products of the edge vectors to get a vector that is perpendicular to the surface:

$$n = (P1 - P0) \times (P2 - P0)$$

vector cross product

Setting a Per-Face Surface Normal Vector in OpenGL

```
glMatrixMode( GL_MODELVIEW );

glTranslatef( tx, ty, tz );
glRotatef( degrees,  ax, ay, az );
glScalef( sx, sy, sz );

glNormal3f( nx, ny, nz );

glColor3f( r, g, b );
glBegin( GL_TRIANGLES );
        glVertex3f( x0, y0, z0 );
        glVertex3f( x1, y1, z1 );
        glVertex3f( x2, y2, z2 );
glEnd( );
```

Per-face normal is set *before* the face is drawn

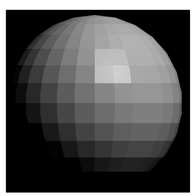
Setting Per-Vertex Surface Normal Vectors in OpenGL

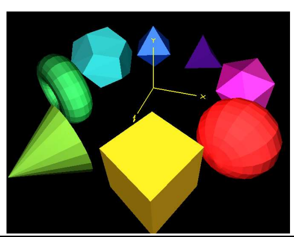
```
glMatrixMode( GL_MODELVIEW );

glTranslatef( tx, ty, tz );
glRotatef( degrees,  ax, ay, az );
glScalef( sx, sy, sz );

glColor3f( r, g, b );
glBegin(GL_TRIANGLES );
        glNormal3f( nx0, ny0, nz0 );
        glVertex3f( x0, y0, z0 );
        glNormal3f( nx1, ny1, nz1 );
        glVertex3f( x1, y1, z1 );
        glNormal3f( nx2, ny2, nz2 );
        glVertex3f( x2, y2, z2 );
glEnd( );
```

Per-vertex normal is set *while* the face is being drawn

Flat Shading (Per-face)

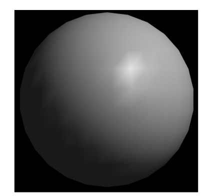
```
glMatrixMode( GL_MODELVIEW );

glTranslatef( tx, ty, tz );
glRotatef( degrees,  ax, ay, az );
glScalef( sx, sy, sz );

glShadeModel( GL_FLAT );
glNormal3f( nx, ny, nz );

glColor3f( r, g, b );
glBegin(GL_TRIANGLES );
        glVertex3f( x0, y0, z0 );
        glVertex3f( x1, y1, z1 );
        glVertex3f( x2, y2, z2 );
glEnd( );
```

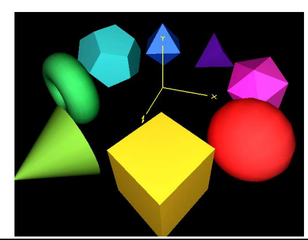




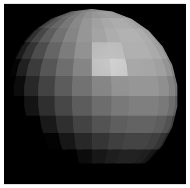
Smooth Shading (Per-vertex)

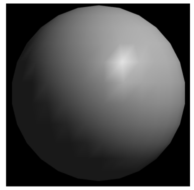
```
glMatrixMode( GL_MODELVIEW );

glTranslatef( tx, ty, tz );
glRotatef( degrees,  ax, ay, az );
glScalef( sx, sy, sz );

glShadeModel( GL_SMOOTH );

glColor3f( r, g, b );
glBegin(GL_TRIANGLES );
        glNormal3f( nx0, ny0, nz0 );
        glVertex3f( x0, y0, z0 );
        glNormal3f( nx1, ny1, nz1 );
        glVertex3f( x1, y1, z1 );
        glNormal3f( nx2, ny2, nz2 );
        glVertex3f( x2, y2, z2 );
glEnd( );
```



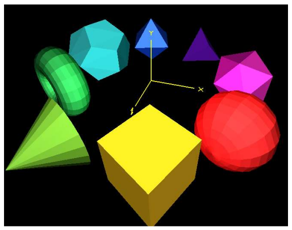


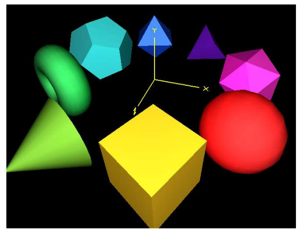
GL_FLAT





GL_SMOOTH





OpenGL Surface Normal Vectors Need to be Unitized by Someone

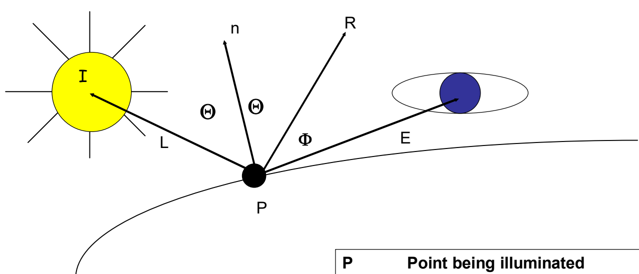
```
glTranslatef( tx, ty, tz );
glRotatef( degrees,  ax, ay, az );
glScalef( sx, sy, sz );

glNormal3f( nx, ny, nz );
```

OpenGL expects the normal vector to be a ***unit vector***, that is: $nx^2 + ny^2 + nz^2 = 1$

If it is not, you can force OpenGL to do the unitizing for you with:

glEnable(GL_NORMALIZE);

The OpenGL "built-in" Lighting Model



P	**Point being illuminated**
I	**Light intensity**
L	**Unit vector from point to light**
n	**Unit vector surface normal**
R	**Perfect reflection unit vector**
E	**Unit vector to eye position**

The OpenGL "built-in" Lighting Model

1. **Ambient** = a constant — Accounts for light bouncing "everywhere"

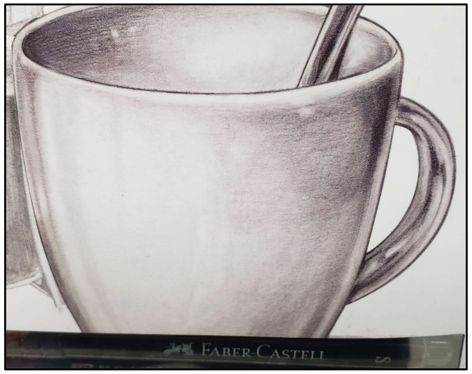
2. **Diffuse** = $I^*\cos\Theta$ — Accounts for the angle between the incoming light and the surface normal

3. **Specular** = $I^*\cos^S\phi$ — Accounts for the angle between the "perfect reflector" and the eye. The exponent, **S**, accounts for surface shininess

Note that $\cos\Theta$ is just the dot product between unit vectors **L** and **n**

Note that $\cos\phi$ is just the dot product between unit vectors **R** and **E**

You are all familiar with the Diffuse Lighting effects

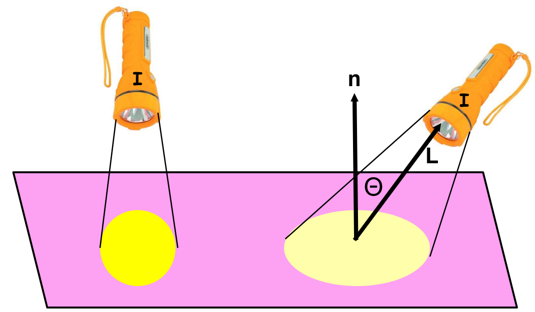


Oregon State University Computer Graphics

13

Diffuse Lighting actually works because of spreading out the same amount of light energy across more surface area

Diffuse = $I * \cos\Theta$



Oregon State University Computer Graphics

14

You are all familiar with the Specular Lighting effects

These all have metallic-looking surfaces. What tells you that?

It's the shiny-reflection spots.

Oregon State University Computer Graphics

15

You are all familiar with the Specular Lighting effects

These are not actually metal. They are wood with special paint that mimics the metallic reflection highlights. We can mimic the same effects digitally!

Oregon State University Computer Graphics

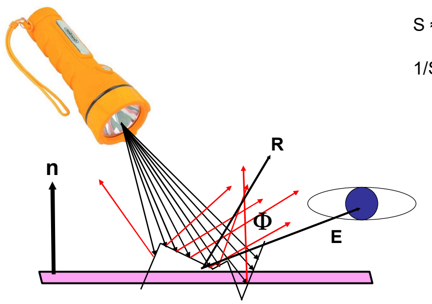
16

The Specular Lighting equation is a heuristic equation that approximates reflection from a rough surface

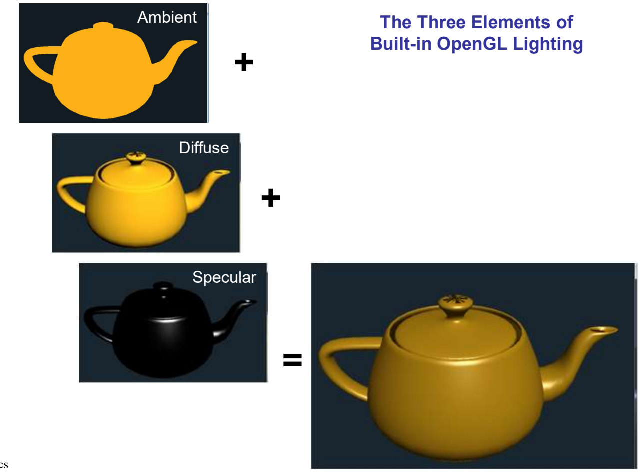
Specular = $I^{*}\cos^{S}\phi$

S ≈ “shininess”

1/S ≈ “roughness”



The Three Elements of Built-in OpenGL Lighting

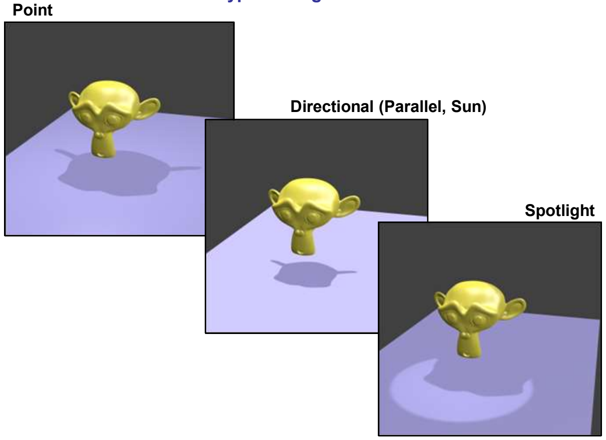


Types of Light Sources

Point

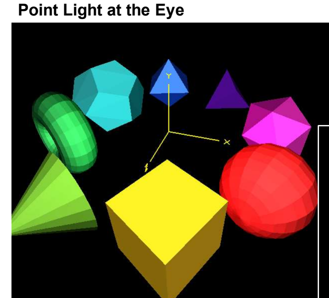
Directional (Parallel, Sun)

Spotlight

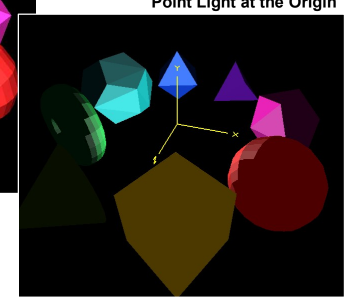


Lighting Examples

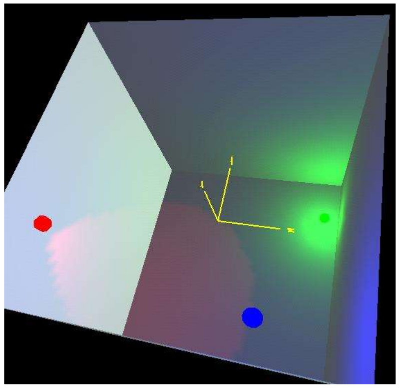
Point Light at the Eye



Point Light at the Origin



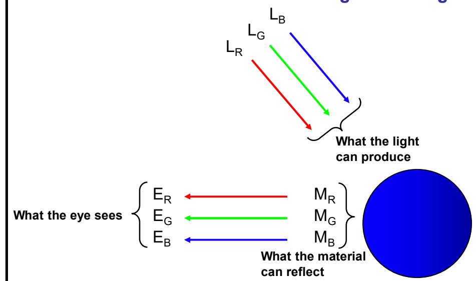
Lighting Examples



Spot Lights

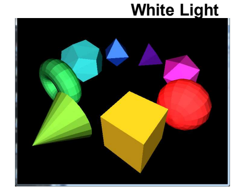
21

Colored Lights Shining on Colored Objects

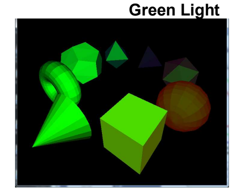


$$E_R = L_R * M_R$$
$$E_G = L_G * M_G$$
$$E_B = L_B * M_B$$

White Light



Green Light



22

Too Many Lighting Options

If there is one light and one material, the following things can be set independently:

- Global scene ambient red, green, blue
- Light position: x, y, z
- Light ambient red, green, blue
- Light diffuse red, green, blue
- Light specular red, green, blue
- Material reaction to ambient red, green, blue
- Material reaction to diffuse red, green, blue
- Material reaction to specular red, green, blue
- Material specular shininess

This makes for ***25*** things that can be set for just one light and one material! While many combinations are possible, some make more sense than others.

23

Ways to Simplify Too Many Lighting Options

1. Set the ambient light globally using, for example,
   glLightModelfv(GL_LIGHT_MODEL_AMBIENT, MulArray3(.3f, WHITE))
   i.e., set it to some low intensity of white.

2. Set the light's ambient component to zero.

3. Set the light's diffuse and specular components to the full color of the light.

4. Set each material's ambient and diffuse to the full color of the object.

5. Set each material's specular component to some fraction of white.

24

25

```
const float  WHITE[ ] = { 1.,1.,1.,1. };

// utility to create an array from 3 separate values:

float *
Array3( float a, float b, float c )
{
		static float array[4];

		array[0] = a;
		array[1] = b;
		array[2] = c;
		array[3] = 1.;
		return array;
}

// utility to create an array from a multiplier and an array:

float *
MulArray3( float factor, float array0[3] )
{
		static float array[4];

		array[0] = factor * array0[0];
		array[1] = factor * array0[1];
		array[2] = factor * array0[2];
		array[3] = 1.;
		return array;
}
```

The 4th element of the array being set to 1.0 is there on purpose. The reason for that is coming up soon!.

Oregon State University Computer Graphics

mjb – August 22, 2024

25

26

Setting the Material Characteristics

```
glMaterialfv( GL_BACK,  GL_AMBIENT,    MulArray3( .4, WHITE ) );
glMaterialfv( GL_BACK,  GL_DIFFUSE,    MulArray3( 1., WHITE ) );
glMaterialfv( GL_BACK,  GL_SPECULAR, Array3( 0., 0., 0. ) );
glMaterialf (  GL_BACK,  GL_SHININESS, 5. );
glMaterialfv( GL_BACK,  GL_EMISSION,   Array3( 0., 0., 0. ) );


glMaterialfv( GL_FRONT, GL_AMBIENT,    MulArray3( 1., rgb ) );
glMaterialfv( GL_FRONT, GL_DIFFUSE,    MulArray3( 1., rgb ) );
glMaterialfv( GL_FRONT, GL_SPECULAR, MulArray3( .7, WHITE ) );
glMaterialf (  GL_FRONT, GL_SHININESS, 8. );
glMaterialfv( GL_FRONT, GL_EMISSION,   Array3( 0., 0., 0. ) );
```

Characteristics for the back-facing surfaces

Characteristics for the front-facing surfaces

`glMaterialfv( GL_FRONT_AND_BACK, . . . );`

You can also set the front and back characteristics to be the same value at the same time

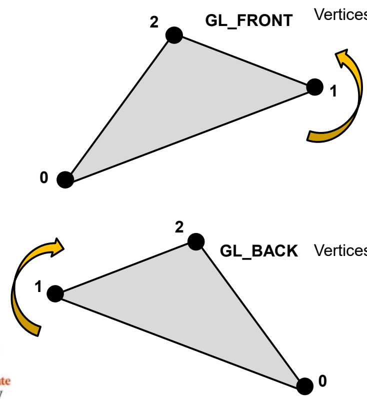
Oregon State University Computer Graphics

mjb – August 22, 2024

26

27

How Does OpenGL Define GL_FRONT and GL_BACK?



Vertices are CCW from the point of view of the eye

Vertices are CW from the point of view of the eye

Oregon State University Computer Graphics

mjb – August 22, 2024

27

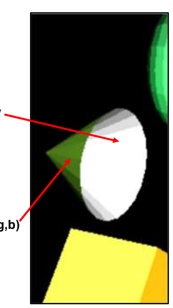
28

A Material-setting Helper Function I Like to Use

```
void
SetMaterial( float r, float g, float b,  float shininess )
{
	glMaterialfv( GL_BACK, GL_EMISSION, Array3( 0., 0., 0. ) );
	glMaterialfv( GL_BACK, GL_AMBIENT, MulArray3( .4f, WHITE ) );
	glMaterialfv( GL_BACK, GL_DIFFUSE, MulArray3( 1., WHITE ) );
	glMaterialfv( GL_BACK, GL_SPECULAR, Array3( 0., 0., 0. ) );
	glMaterialf (  GL_BACK, GL_SHININESS, 2.f );

	glMaterialfv( GL_FRONT, GL_EMISSION, Array3( 0., 0., 0. ) );
	glMaterialfv( GL_FRONT, GL_AMBIENT, Array3( r, g, b ) );
	glMaterialfv( GL_FRONT, GL_DIFFUSE, Array3( r, g, b ) );
	glMaterialfv( GL_FRONT, GL_SPECULAR, MulArray3( .8f, WHITE ) );
	glMaterialf ( GL_FRONT, GL_SHININESS, shininess );
}
```

Back-facing= gray

Front-facing = (r,g,b)



This code is in your sample code folder in the file *setmaterial.cpp*

Oregon State University Computer Graphics

mjb – August 22, 2024

28

29

Setting the Light Characteristics

```
glEnable( GL_LIGHTING );
glEnable( GL_LIGHT0 );
glLightModelfv( GL_LIGHT_MODEL_AMBIENT, MulArray3( .2, WHITE ) );
glLightModeli ( GL_LIGHT_MODEL_TWO_SIDE, GL_TRUE );

glLightfv( GL_LIGHT0, GL_AMBIENT,   Array3( 0., 0., 0. ) );
glLightfv( GL_LIGHT0, GL_DIFFUSE,     LightColor );
glLightfv( GL_LIGHT0, GL_SPECULAR,  LightColor );

glLightf ( GL_LIGHT0, GL_CONSTANT_ATTENUATION,  1. );
glLightf ( GL_LIGHT0, GL_LINEAR_ATTENUATION,      0. );
glLightf ( GL_LIGHT0, GL_QUADRATIC_ATTENUATION, 0. );

// this is here because we are going to do object (and thus normal) scaling:

glEnable( GL_NORMALIZE );
```

You can have multiple lights, nominally 0-7

Attenuation = $\frac{1}{C+Ld+Qd^2}$ where *d* is the distance from the light to the point being lit

Oregon State University Computer Graphics

mjb – August 22, 2024

29

30

Light Attenuation

Attenuation = $\frac{1}{C+Ld+Qd^2}$ where *d* is the distance from the light to the point being lit

Physics tells us that light energy decreases with the inverse square of the distance, $\frac{1}{d^2}$. To emulate this, we would set **C=0., L=0., Q=1.** Streetlights and car headlights are good uses for this.

Often, we don't want *any* attenuation, that is, we want to see *everything*. In that case, set **C=1., L=0., Q=0.**

```
glLightf ( GL_LIGHT0, GL_CONSTANT_ATTENUATION,  1. );
glLightf ( GL_LIGHT0, GL_LINEAR_ATTENUATION,       0. );
glLightf ( GL_LIGHT0, GL_QUADRATIC_ATTENUATION, 0. );
```

And sometimes you might want to attenuate linearly. Why? Well, because you can! In that case, set **C=0., L=1., Q=0.**

Oregon State University Computer Graphics

mjb – August 22, 2024

30

31

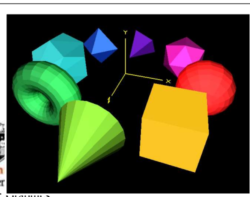
Should OpenGL Use the Lighting Equations or Use glColor3f?

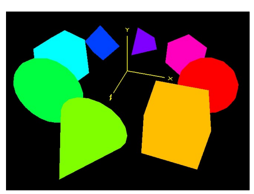
If your code has most recently said:
glEnable(GL_LIGHTING);

OpenGL will use the most recent Lighting values
OpenGL will use the most recent Material values

If your code has most recently said:
glDisable(GL_LIGHTING);

OpenGL will use the most recent glColor3f values





Oregon State University Computer Graphics

mjb – August 22, 2024

31

32

Setting the Light Position

```
glMatrixMode( GL_MODELVIEW );
glLoadIdentity( );

// 1. if we do this, then the light will be wrt the scene at XLIGHT, YLIGHT, ZLIGHT:

glLightfv( GL_LIGHT0, GL_POSITION,  Array3(XLIGHT, YLIGHT, ZLIGHT) );

// translate the object into the viewing volume:

gluLookAt(  XEYE, YEYE, ZEYE,  0., 0., 0.,  0., 1., 0. );

// 2. if we do this, then the light will be wrt the eye at XLIGHT, YLIGHT, ZLIGHT:

// glLightfv( GL_LIGHT0, GL_POSITION,  Array3(XLIGHT, YLIGHT, ZLIGHT) );
```

The light position gets transformed by the **ModelView matrix** at the moment the **glLghtfv(…, GL_POSITION, …)** function is encountered. It is *really important* to remember this!

Oregon State University Computer Graphics

mjb – August 22, 2024

32

```
// perform the rotations and scaling about the origin:

glRotatef( Xrot, 1., 0., 0. );
glRotatef( Yrot, 0., 1., 0. );
glScalef( Scale, Scale, Scale );


// 3. if we do this, then the light will be wrt to the object at XLIGHT, YLIGHT, ZLIGHT:

// glLightfv( GL_LIGHT0, GL_POSITION,  Array3(XLIGHT, YLIGHT, ZLIGHT) );


// specify the shading model:

glShadeModel( GL_SMOOTH );


// enable lighting:
glEnable( GL_LIGHTING );

glEnable( GL_LIGHT0 );


// draw the objects:
   . . .
glDisable( GL_LIGHTING );
```

You can enable and disable lighting "at all". (This toggles between using what the lighting equations say and what glColor3f( ) says.)

You can enable and disable each light independently

It is usually good form to disable the lighting after you are done using it

Oregon State University Computer Graphics

Sidebar: Why are Light Positions 4-element arrays where the 4th element is 1.0? Homogeneous Coordinates!

```
float *
Array3( float a, float b, float c )
{
        static float array[4];

        array[0] = a;
        array[1] = b;
        array[2] = c;
        array[3] = 1.;
        return array;
}
```

We usually think of a 3D point as being represented by a triple: (x,y,z).
Using homogeneous coordinates, we add a 4th number: (x,y,z,w)
Graphics systems take (x,y,z,w), perform all transformations, and then divide x, y, and z by w before using them.

$$X = \frac{x}{w}, Y = \frac{y}{w}, Z = \frac{z}{w}$$

Thus (1,2,3,1) , (2,4,6,2) , (-1,-2,-3,-1) all represent the same 3D point.

Oregon State University Computer Graphics

Homogeneous Coordinates let us Represent Points at Infinity

This is useful to be able specify a **parallel light source** by placing the light source **position at infinity**.

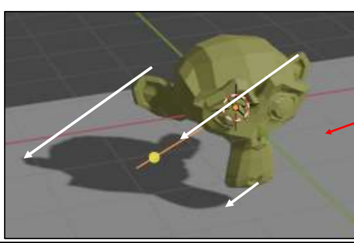
The point (1,2,3,1) represents the 3D point (1,2,3)

The point (1,2,3,.5) represents the 3D point (2,4,6)

The point (1,2,3,.01) represents the point (100,200,300)

So, (1,2,3,0) represents a point at infinity, along the ray from the origin through (1,2,3).

Points-at-infinity are used for parallel light sources (and some shadow algorithms)



Example of using a parallel light source

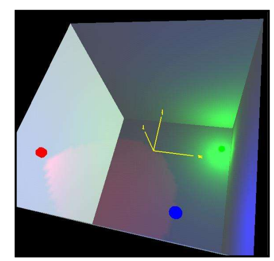
Oregon State University Computer Graphics

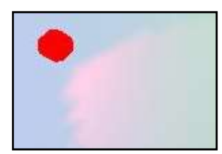
Additional Parameters for Spotlights

glLightfv(GL_LIGHT0, GL_SPOT_DIRECTION, Array3(xdir,ydir,zdir));
Specifies the spotlight-pointing direction. This gets transformed by the current value of the ModelView matrix.

glLightf(GL_LIGHT0, GL_SPOT_EXPONENT, e);
Specifies the spotlight directional intensity. This acts very much like the exponent in the specular lighting equation.

glLightf(GL_LIGHT0, GL_SPOT_CUTOFF, deg);
Specifies the spotlight maximum spread angle. A cutoff angle of 180° indicates that this is really a point light.





Three bouncing spotlights

Oregon State University Computer Graphics

Two Light-setting Helper Functions I Like to Use

37

```
void
SetPointLight( int ilight, float x, float y, float z,  float r, float g, float b )
{
        glLightfv( ilight, GL_POSITION,  Array3( x, y, z ) );
        glLightf(  ilight, GL_SPOT_CUTOFF, 180.f );
        glLightfv( ilight, GL_AMBIENT,   Array3( 0., 0., 0. ) );
        glLightfv( ilight, GL_DIFFUSE,   Array3( r, g, b ) );
        glLightfv( ilight, GL_SPECULAR,  Array3( r, g, b ) );
        glLightf ( ilight, GL_CONSTANT_ATTENUATION, 1.f );
        glLightf ( ilight, GL_LINEAR_ATTENUATION, 0.f );
        glLightf ( ilight, GL_QUADRATIC_ATTENUATION, 0.f );
        glEnable( ilight );
}

void
SetSpotLight( int ilight, float x, float y, float z,  float xdir, float ydir, float zdir, float r, float g, float b )
{
        glLightfv( ilight, GL_POSITION,  Array3( x, y, z ) );
        glLightfv( ilight, GL_SPOT_DIRECTION,  Array3(xdir,ydir,zdir) );
        glLightf(  ilight, GL_SPOT_EXPONENT, 1.f );
        glLightf(  ilight, GL_SPOT_CUTOFF, 30.f );
        glLightfv( ilight, GL_AMBIENT,   Array3( 0., 0., 0. ) );
        glLightfv( ilight, GL_DIFFUSE,   Array3( r, g, b ) );
        glLightfv( ilight, GL_SPECULAR,  Array3( r, g, b ) );
        glLightf ( ilight, GL_CONSTANT_ATTENUATION, 1.f );
        glLightf ( ilight, GL_LINEAR_ATTENUATION, 0.f );
        glLightf ( ilight, GL_QUADRATIC_ATTENUATION, 0.f );
        glEnable( ilight );
}
```

ilight would be GL_LIGHT0, for example

This code is in your sample code folder in the file *setlight.cpp*

Oregon State University
Computer Graphics

mjb – August 22, 2024

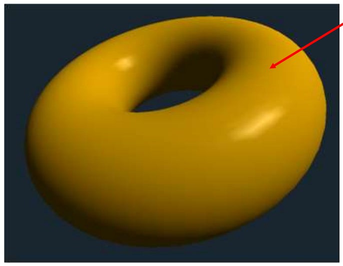
37

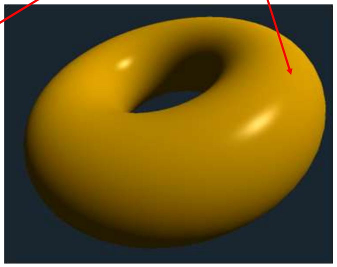
Sidebar: Note that we are computing the light intensity at each vertex first, and then interpolating that intensity across the polygon second

38

That is, you are only using the lighting model *at each vertex*.

You can do an even better job if you interpolate the normal across the polygon first, and then compute the light intensity with the lighting model at each fragment second:





Per-vertex **Per-fragment**

Oregon State University
Computer Graphics

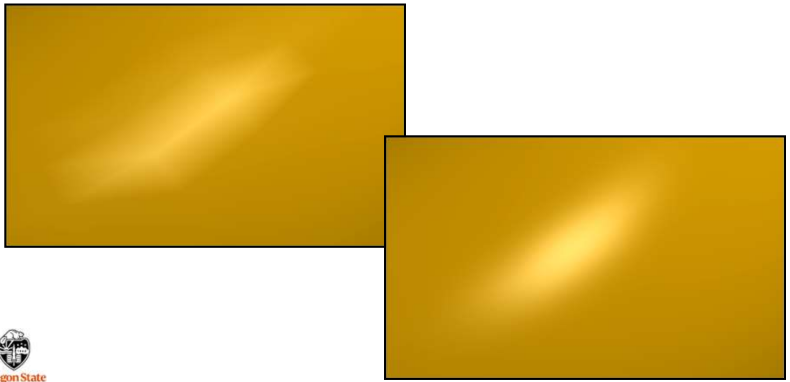
mjb – August 22, 2024

38

But, for per-fragment, you will need shaders (coming soon!)

39

Per-vertex



Per-fragment

Oregon State University
Computer Graphics

mjb – August 22, 2024

39

Sidebar: Smooth Shading can also interpolate vertex *colors*, not just the results of the lighting model

40

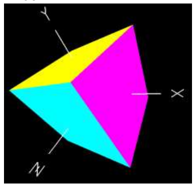
Before, when we talked about per-vertex normal vectors, we did this:

```
glMatrixMode( GL_MODELVIEW );

glTranslatef( tx, ty, tz );
glRotatef( degrees,  ax, ay, az );
glScalef( sx, sy, sz );

glShadeModel( GL_SMOOTH );

glColor3f( r, g, b );
glBegin(GL_TRIANGLES );
        glNormal3f( nx0, ny0, nz0 );
        glVertex3f( x0, y0, z0 );
        glNormal3f( nx1, ny1, nz1 );
        glVertex3f( x1, y1, z1 );
        glNormal3f( nx2, ny2, nz2 );
        glVertex3f( x2, y2, z2 );
glEnd( );
```

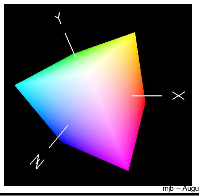
We can also provide per-vertex *colors* to do this:

```
glMatrixMode( GL_MODELVIEW );

glTranslatef( tx, ty, tz );
glRotatef( degrees,  ax, ay, az );
glScalef( sx, sy, sz );

glShadeModel( GL_SMOOTH );

glBegin(GL_TRIANGLES );
        glColor3f( r0, g0, b0 );
        glVertex3f( x0, y0, z0 );
        glColor3f( r1, g1, b1 );
        glVertex3f( x1, y1, z1 );
        glColor3f( r2, g2, b2 );
        glVertex3f( x2, y2, z2 );
glEnd( );
```

Flat



Smooth



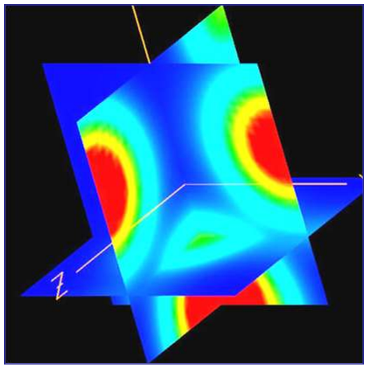
Oregon State University
Computer Graphics

mjb – August 22, 2024

40

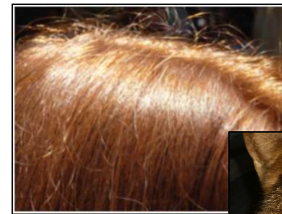
Smooth Shading can also interpolate vertex colors, not just the results of the lighting model

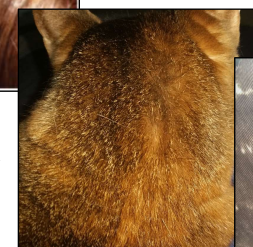
This is especially useful when using colors for scientific visualization:



41

Tricky Lighting Situations


Hair


Fur

Feathers


Watch for these in movies!

42

Tricky Lighting Situations

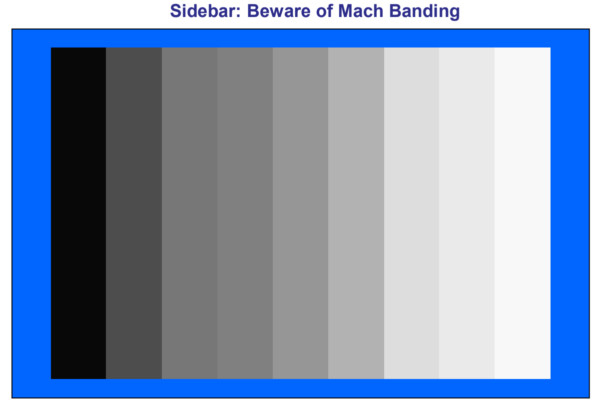

Disney


Sony/Columbia Pictures

Notice the lighting in the fur!

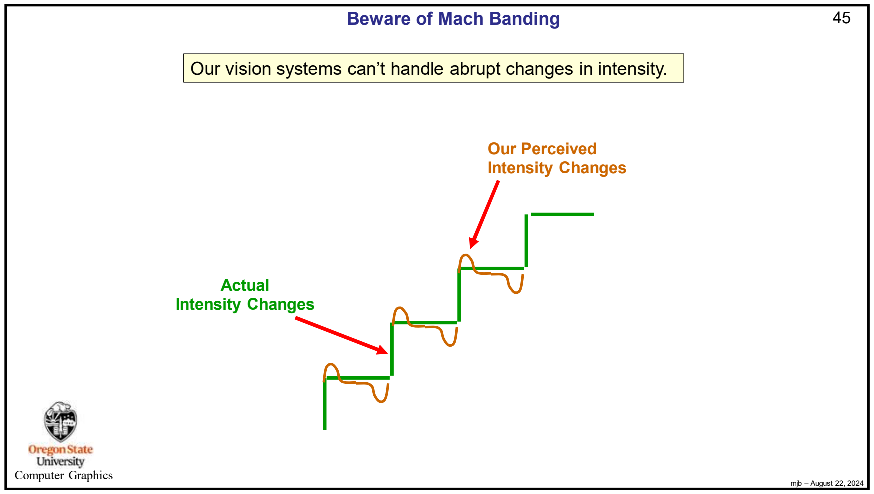
43

Sidebar: Beware of Mach Banding

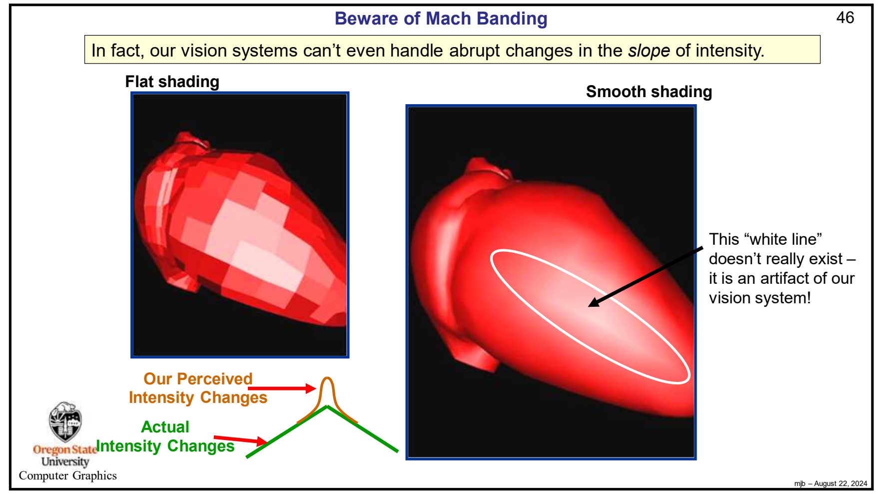


Notice how these vertical stripes look “scalloped”, like a Greek column. But, they are solid-color stripes. What is going on?

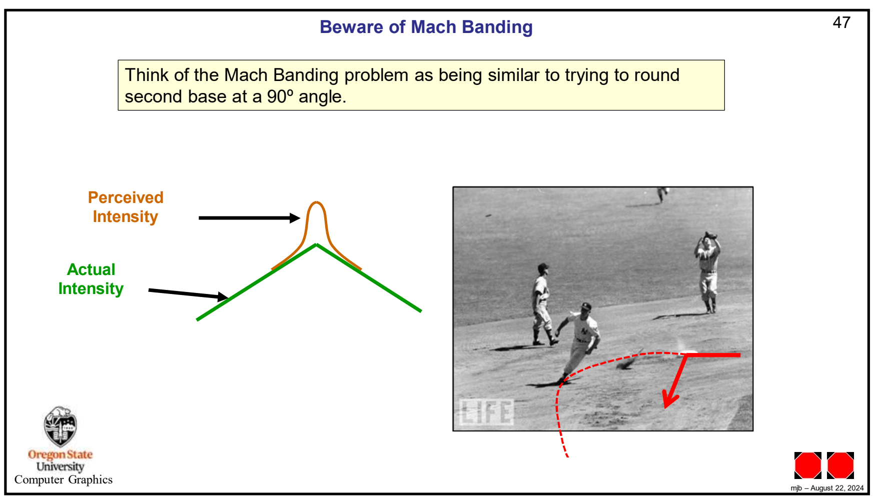
44


Beware of Mach Banding
45
Our vision systems can't handle abrupt changes in intensity.
Our Perceived Intensity Changes
Actual Intensity Changes
Oregon State University Computer Graphics
mjb – August 22, 2024

45


Beware of Mach Banding
46
In fact, our vision systems can't even handle abrupt changes in the *slope* of intensity.
Flat shading
Smooth shading
This "white line" doesn't really exist – it is an artifact of our vision system!
Our Perceived Intensity Changes
Actual Intensity Changes
Oregon State University Computer Graphics
mjb – August 22, 2024

46


Beware of Mach Banding
47
Think of the Mach Banding problem as being similar to trying to round second base at a 90º angle.
Perceived Intensity
Actual Intensity
LIFE
Oregon State University Computer Graphics
mjb – August 22, 2024

47