

## ray tracing

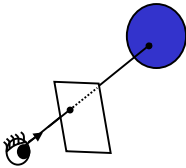
## ray tracing

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- simple ray casting
- recursive ray tracing
- modeling transforms
- cheap tricks
- optimizations

## ray casting

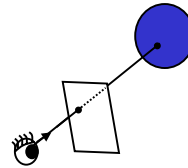
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- cast ray through pixel into scene
- find intersection point (if any) that is closest to eye
- compute luminance at intersection

## ray casting

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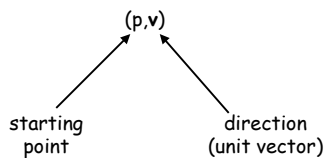
- cast ray through pixel into scene

What is the ray  $R_{ij}$  through pixel  $(i,j)$ ?

## ray specification

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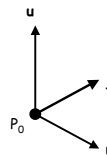
a ray is a half-line defined by a point and a unit vector



## viewpoint specification: $P_0, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{t}$

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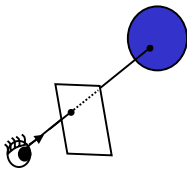
3d world coordinates



- $P_0$  is the viewpoint
- $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{t}$ , and  $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{t} \times \mathbf{u}$  are orthogonal unit vectors in the up, toward, and right directions

## ray casting

- cast ray through pixel into scene



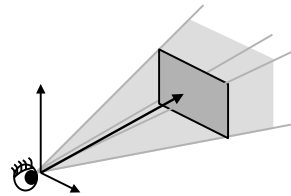
What is the ray  $R_{ij}$  through pixel  $(i, j)$ ?

$$R_{ij} = (P_0, v_{ij})$$

The next several slides are devoted to compute  $v_{ij}$ .

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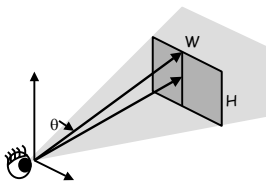
## view volume



the world that is visible to the viewer is called the *view volume*. it is a pyramid that is aligned with the toward, up, and right vectors

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## view volume specification: $\theta, \rho$

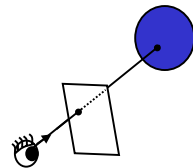


the view volume is specified by the half-height angle  $\theta$  and the aspect ratio  $\rho = W/H$

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## ray casting

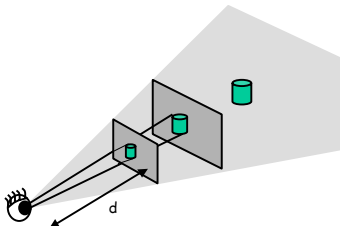
- cast ray through pixel into scene



where is the image plane?

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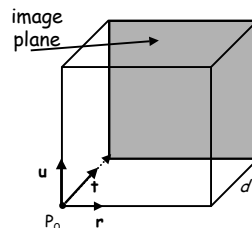
## where is the image plane?



the choice of the image plane only affects the image size in world coordinates. for the moment assume it is  $d$  units from the viewpoint. we'll specify a convenient  $d$  in a few slides.

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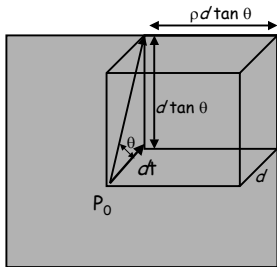
## image plane



the image plane is orthogonal to  $t$  a distance  $d$  from  $P_0$

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## projected image in world coordinates

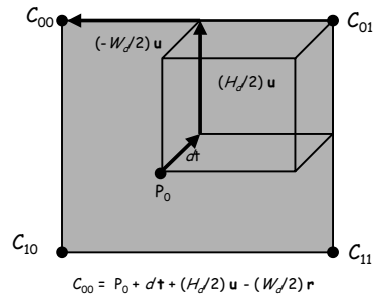


In world coordinates

- $P_0 + d\mathbf{t}$  is the center of the image
- the image height is  $H_f = 2d \tan \theta$
- the image width is  $W_f = \rho d \tan \theta$

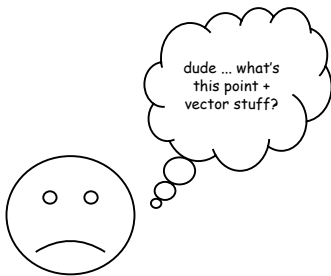
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## corner coordinates



$$C_{00} = P_0 + d\mathbf{t} + (H_f/2)\mathbf{u} - (W_f/2)\mathbf{r}$$

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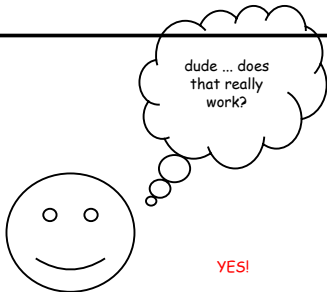
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## point + vector

$p + v$  is the point you get to by walking  $v$  from  $p$ .

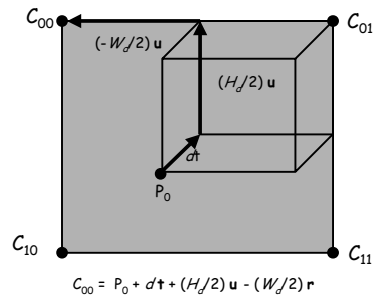
$$q = p + v = (p_x + v_x, p_y + v_y, p_z + v_z)$$

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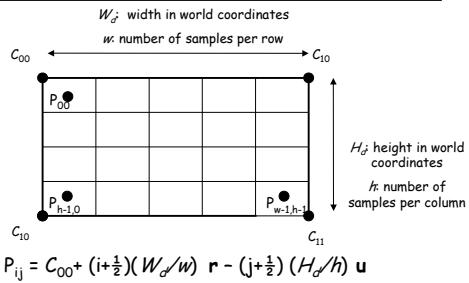
## corner coordinates



$$C_{00} = P_0 + d\mathbf{t} + (H_f/2)\mathbf{u} - (W_f/2)\mathbf{r}$$

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## pixel coordinates



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## choosing d

$$P_{ij} = C_{00} + (i + \frac{1}{2})(W_d/w) \mathbf{r} - (j + \frac{1}{2})(H_d/h) \mathbf{u}$$

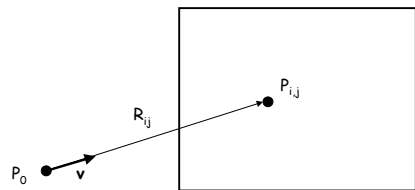
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## specification

- Input specification
  - Viewpoint position  $P_0$  and orientation  $\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{u}$
  - Image width  $w$  and height  $h$  in pixels
  - Half-height angle  $\theta$
- Compute
  - Right vector  $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{t} \times \mathbf{u}$
  - Aspect ratio  $\rho = w/h$
  - $H_d = h, W_d = w$
  - $d = h/\tan \theta$

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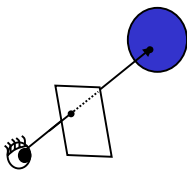
## casting rays



$$R_{ij} = (P_0, \mathbf{v}_{ij}) \text{ where } \mathbf{v}_{ij} = (P_{i,j} - P_0) / \|P_{i,j} - P_0\|$$

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## ray casting



- cast ray through pixel into scene
- **find intersection point (if any) that is closest to eye**
- compute luminance at intersection

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## intersection

- sphere
- triangle
- box
- cylinder
- cone
- torus

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## intersection

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- triangle
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- cylinder
- cone
- torus

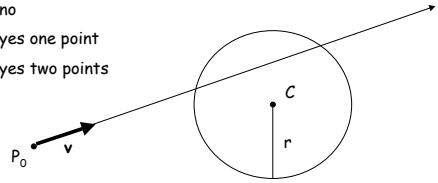
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## sphere intersection

- Is there a point that lies on the sphere and on the ray  $(P_0, \mathbf{v})$ ?

- Possible answers

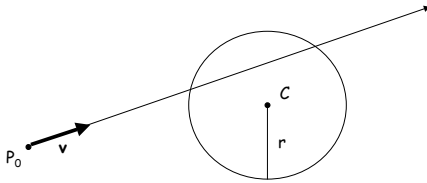
- no
- yes one point
- yes two points



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## sphere intersection

- Is there a point that lies on the sphere and on the ray  $(P_0, \mathbf{v})$ ?
- If so, choose the one closest to  $P_0$ .

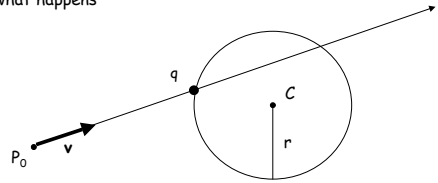


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## sphere intersection

- Is there a point that lies on the sphere and on the ray  $(P_0, \mathbf{v})$ ?

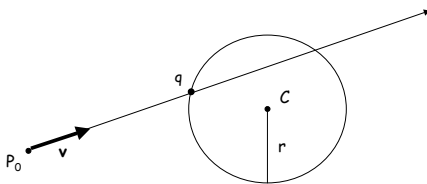
- To answer this question we'll assume there is a point  $q$  and see what happens



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## sphere intersection

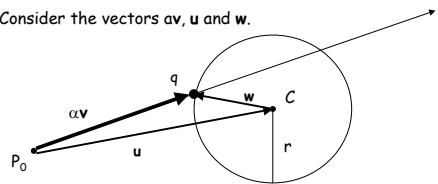
- Since  $q$  lies on  $R$ , there is some  $\alpha \geq 0$  such that  $q = P_0 + \alpha \mathbf{v}$ .
- Since  $q$  lies on the sphere  $\|q - C\| = r$ .



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## sphere intersection

- Since  $q$  lies on  $R$ , there is some  $\alpha \geq 0$  such that  $q = P_0 + \alpha \mathbf{v}$ .
- Since  $q$  lies on the sphere  $\|q - C\| = r$ .
- Consider the vectors  $\alpha \mathbf{v}$ ,  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$ .



Then  $\mathbf{w} = \alpha \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{u}$  and

$$r^2 = \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 = \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{w} = (\alpha \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{u}) \cdot (\alpha \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{u}) \\ = \alpha^2 \|\mathbf{v}\|^2 - 2\alpha(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}) + \|\mathbf{u}\|^2$$

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## sphere intersection

Does the ray intersect the sphere?



Does the quadratic (in  $\alpha$ )

$$\|v\|^2 \alpha^2 - 2(u \cdot v) \alpha + \|u\|^2 - r^2$$

have any real, non-negative roots?

•No: no intersection

•Yes: intersection point is  $q=P_0+rv$  where  $r$  is the smallest non-negative root.

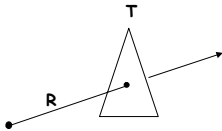
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## intersection

- sphere
- triangle
- box
- cylinder
- cone
- torus

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## triangle intersection

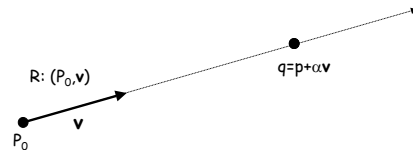


- do R and T intersect?
- if so, where?

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## ray: parametric form

a point  $q$  lies on  $R=(p,v)$  iff  $q=p+\alpha v$  for some  $\alpha \geq 0$

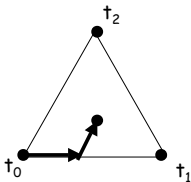


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## triangle: parametric form

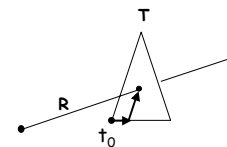
a point  $q$  lies on the triangle T iff  $q=t_0+\beta u+\gamma w$  where

$$u = t_1 - t_0, \quad w = t_2 - t_0, \quad \text{and } \beta \geq 0, \gamma \geq 0, \beta + \gamma \leq 1$$



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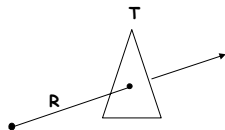
## triangle intersection



Find  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  such that  
 $P_0 + \alpha v = t_0 + \beta u + \gamma w$   
 $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \geq 0$   
 $\beta + \gamma \leq 1$

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## triangle intersection - take 1



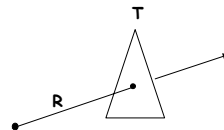
Find  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  such that  
 $P_0 + \alpha v = t_0 + \beta u + \gamma w$   
 $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \geq 0$   
 $\beta + \gamma \leq 1$

System of linear equations  
 $P_{0x} + \alpha v_x = t_{0x} + \beta u_x + \gamma w_x$   
 $P_{0y} + \alpha v_y = t_{0y} + \beta u_y + \gamma w_y$   
 $P_{0z} + \alpha v_z = t_{0z} + \beta u_z + \gamma w_z$

Invert the matrix. Yuck. Is there another way?

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## triangle intersection - take 2

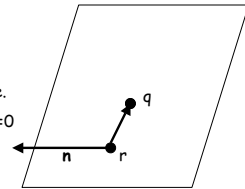


1. Find the intersection point (if any) of R and the plane containing T.
2. Find the parameterization of the intersection point in terms of  $\beta, \gamma$ .

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## plane

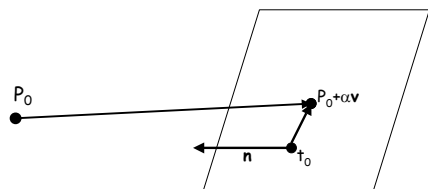
Let  $n$  be a normal to the plane.  
 Let  $r$  be a point on the plane.  
 Let  $q$  be an arbitrary point in space.  
 Then  $q$  lies on the plane iff  $n \cdot (q - r) = 0$



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## plane intersection

Is there a point  $P_0 + \alpha v, \alpha \geq 0$ , such that  $n \cdot (P_0 + \alpha v - t_0) = 0$ ?



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## plane intersection

Is there a point  $P_0 + \alpha v, \alpha \geq 0$ , such that  $n \cdot (P_0 + \alpha v - t_0) = 0$ ?

Assume there is and solve for  $\alpha$ .

Let  $r$  be the vector from  $P_0$  to  $t_0$ .

Then  $0 = n \cdot (P_0 + \alpha v - t_0) = n \cdot (\alpha v - r) = \alpha(n \cdot v) - n \cdot r$ .

If  $n \cdot v = 0$  then R is either parallel to plane or it lies in the plane.

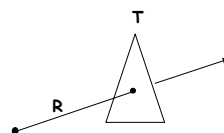
If  $n \cdot v \neq 0$  then  $\alpha = (n \cdot r) / (n \cdot v)$ .

If  $\alpha \geq 0$  then R intersects the plane at point  $P_0 + \alpha v$ .

If  $\alpha < 0$  then R does not intersect plane.

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## triangle intersection - take 2



1. Find the intersection point (if any) of R and the plane containing T.
2. Find the parameterization of the intersection point in terms of  $\beta, \gamma$ .

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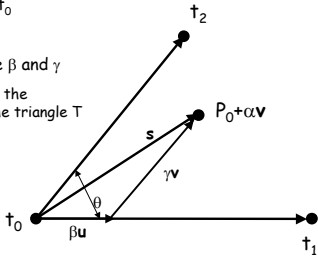
## triangle intersection

recall  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{t}_1 - \mathbf{t}_0$  and  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{t}_2 - \mathbf{t}_0$

let  $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{P}_0 + \alpha \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{t}_0$

then  $\mathbf{s} = \beta \mathbf{u} + \gamma \mathbf{w}$  for some  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$

if  $\beta, \gamma \geq 0$  and  $\beta + \gamma \leq 1$  then the intersection point lies in the triangle T



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## triangle intersection

To find  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  solve system of equations:

$$\beta(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{w}) + \gamma(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{s} \cdot \mathbf{w}$$

$$\beta(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u}) + \gamma(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{s} \cdot \mathbf{u}$$

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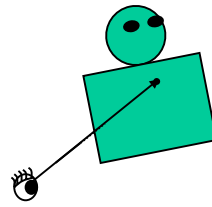
## intersection

- triangle
- sphere
- box
- cylinder
- cone
- torus

} Etc.

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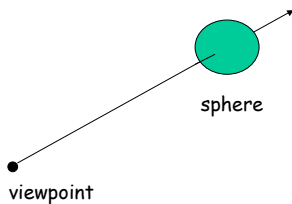
## ray tracing



- cast ray into scene
- **find intersection point (if any) that is closest to eye**
- compute luminance at intersection

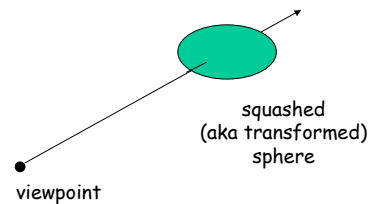
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## find intersection point



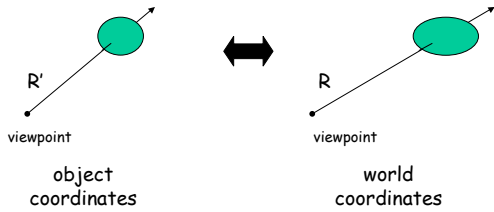
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## find intersection point



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## find intersection point



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## does this make sense?

- is there an inverse transform?
- how do we apply a transform to a ray?
- is a ray in world coordinates a ray in object coordinates?

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## Conceptually: scale

What operation inverts a scale by  $s$  in the  $x$ -direction?

For  $s \neq 0$ , scale by  $1/s$  in the  $x$ -direction.

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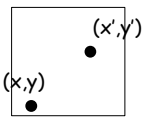
## Any problem?

We are not alone!

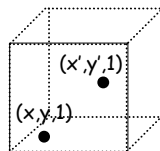
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## we are not alone...

the parallel universe view of homogenous coordinates



we live in this universe



it's not the only one, but it is the only one we can experience!

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## scale

$$\begin{pmatrix} s^{-1} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & t^{-1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & u^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} s & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & t & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & u & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = ?$$

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## Conceptually: rotate

What operation inverts a rotate by  $\theta$  about the x-axis?

Rotate by  $-\theta$  about the x-axis.

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## rotate about z axis

$$\begin{pmatrix} \cos -\phi & -\sin -\phi & 0 & 0 \\ \sin -\phi & \cos -\phi & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \phi & -\sin \phi & 0 & 0 \\ \sin \phi & \cos \phi & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow ?$$

remember  $\cos(-\phi) = \cos(\phi)$  and  $\sin(-\phi) = -\sin(\phi)$

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## rotate about z axis

$$\begin{pmatrix} \cos \phi & \sin \phi & 0 & 0 \\ -\sin \phi & \cos \phi & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \phi & -\sin \phi & 0 & 0 \\ \sin \phi & \cos \phi & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow ?$$

remember  $\cos^2 \phi + \sin^2 \phi = 1$

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## Conceptually: translate

What operation inverts a translate by  $dx$  in the x-direction?

Translate by  $-dx$  in the x-direction.

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## translate

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -x_0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -y_0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -z_0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & x_0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & y_0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & z_0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow ?$$

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## does this make sense?

- is there an inverse transform?
- how do we apply a transform to a ray?
- is a ray in world coordinates a ray in object coordinates?

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## transform

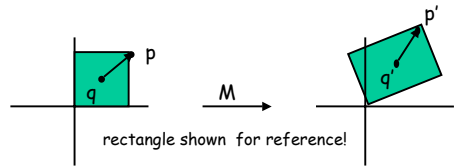
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- Points **Done!!**
- Vectors
- Rays

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## transforms: vector

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$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q} \text{ and } T(\mathbf{v}) = T(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}) = T(\mathbf{p}) - T(\mathbf{q}) = M\mathbf{p} - M\mathbf{q}$$

Warnings:

- because of translation we can't ignore  $\mathbf{q} = (0,0,0)$
- re-unitize unit vectors

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## transforms

---

- Points **Done!!**
- Vectors **Done!!**
- Rays

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## transforms: ray

---

- Points
- Vectors
- Rays:  $\mathbf{r} = (\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{v})$

Transform point  
and  
transform/unitize  
vector!

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## does this make sense?

---

- is there an inverse transform?
- how do we apply a transform to a ray?
- is a ray in world coordinates a ray in object coordinates?

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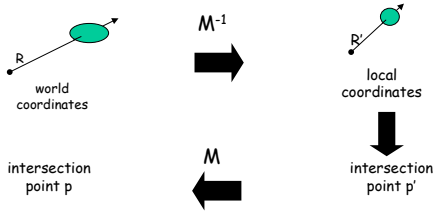
## Linear transforms

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Linear transforms preserve lines!

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## find intersection point



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## M and $M^{-1}$

single transform

M

- scale by s
- rotate by  $\theta$
- translate by  $\Delta$

$M^{-1}$

- scale by  $1/s$
- rotate by  $-\theta$
- translate by  $-\Delta$

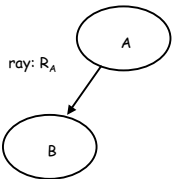
composite transform

$$(M_1 M_2 \dots M_k)^{-1}$$

$$M_k^{-1} \dots M_2^{-1} M_1^{-1}$$

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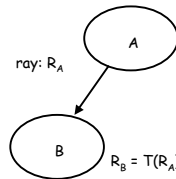
## scene graph traversal



A sends the ray (represented relative to A's coordinate system) to B.

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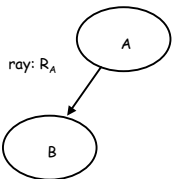
## scene graph traversal



B converts the ray into its own coordinate system

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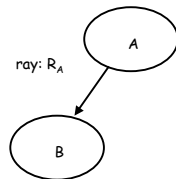
## scene graph traversal



B computes the intersections of  $R_B$  with its objects

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## scene graph traversal



- B sends  $R_B$  to its descendents
- Each returns intersection information (represented in B's coordinate system)
- B chooses closest to viewer
- B converts intersection info to A's coordinate system and returns it

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## surface normal

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is the normal to a transformed surface the transformed normal?



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## surface normal

---

is the tangent plane to a transformed surface the transformed tangent plane?



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## The right way ...

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$N$  is normal to the tangent plane iff for any points  $p$  and  $q$  on the tangent plane  $N^T \cdot (p-q) = 0$ .

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## The right way ...

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$N$  is normal to the tangent plane iff for any points  $p$  and  $q$  on the tangent plane  $N^T \cdot (p-q) = 0$ .

Assume  $N$  is normal to the tangent plane and  $QN$  is normal to the tangent plane transformed by  $M$ .

$Q$  must satisfy the following for any points  $p$  and  $q$  on the tangent plane:

$$N^T(p-q)=0 \text{ iff } (QN)^T(M(p-q))=0$$



$$N^T(p-q)=0 \text{ iff } N^T(Q^T M)(p-q)=0$$

$$\text{Thus } Q=(M^{-1})^T$$

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