



Image and Video Computing

Photometric Stereo and Shape from Shading

Lecture by Margrit Betke
April 4, 2024

Problem Definitions



Computer Science

Shape from Shading

Find 3D shape in scene from a single 2D image

Photometric Stereo \neq binocular stereo

Find 3D shape in scene from a set of 2D images that are taken under different lighting conditions

“stereo” = “solid” in Greek, used to refer to solidity, three-dimensionality

2 Algorithms

Photometric Stereo



Computer Science

Example:

Find 3D shape in scene from these images of faces



Image Credit: Adrian N. Evans

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Photometric Stereo



Computer Science

3D shape visualized with texture from 1st image



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Image Credit: Adrian N. Evans

Approach



Computer Science

Light reflected at surface patch depends on

Approach



Computer Science

Light reflected at surface patch depends on

- ❑ surface orientation
- ❑ reflectance properties of surface
- ❑ distribution of light sources illuminating surface

Approach



Computer Science

Light reflected at surface patch depends on

- ❑ surface orientation
- ❑ reflectance properties of surface
- ❑ distribution of light sources illuminating surface

Reconstruction Method:

Determine surface reflectance properties and
direction of light source(s)

Compute surface orientation

Connection to Computer Graphics?

Connection to Computer Graphics



Computer Science

Computer Vision: Image $E(x,y)$ given

- ❑ Determine surface reflectance properties of object in image
- ❑ Determine directions of light source & viewer
- ❑ Compute 3D surface orientation of object at each $z(x,y)$

Computer Graphics: 3D object shape $z(x,y)$ given

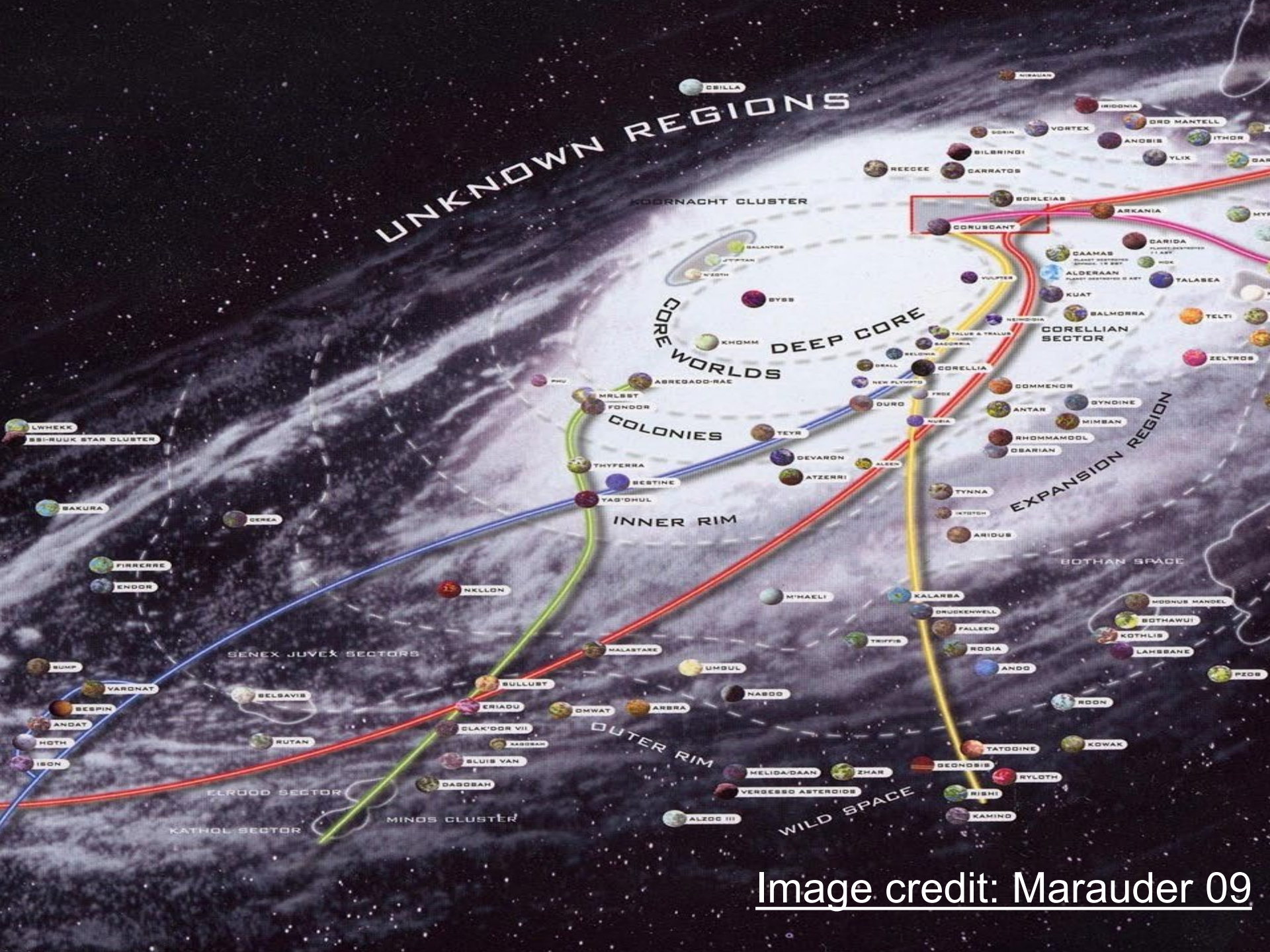
- ❑ Determine surface reflectance properties of object
- ❑ Determine directions of light source and viewer
- ❑ Find intersection of ray along viewer direction with surface point $z(x,y)$ (“ray tracing”)
- ❑ Create realistic-looking image $E(x,y)$ for $z(x,y)$

Image credit: Farry



What is wrong here?

Light direction
Surface reflectance



UNKNOWN REGIONS

KOORNACHT CLUSTER

CORE WORLDS

DEEP CORE

COLONIES

INNER RIM

OUTER RIM

WILD SPACE

CORELLIAN SECTOR

EXPANSION REGION

BOTHAN SPACE

SENEX JUVEX SECTORS

ELLRÖD SECTOR

KATHOL SECTOR

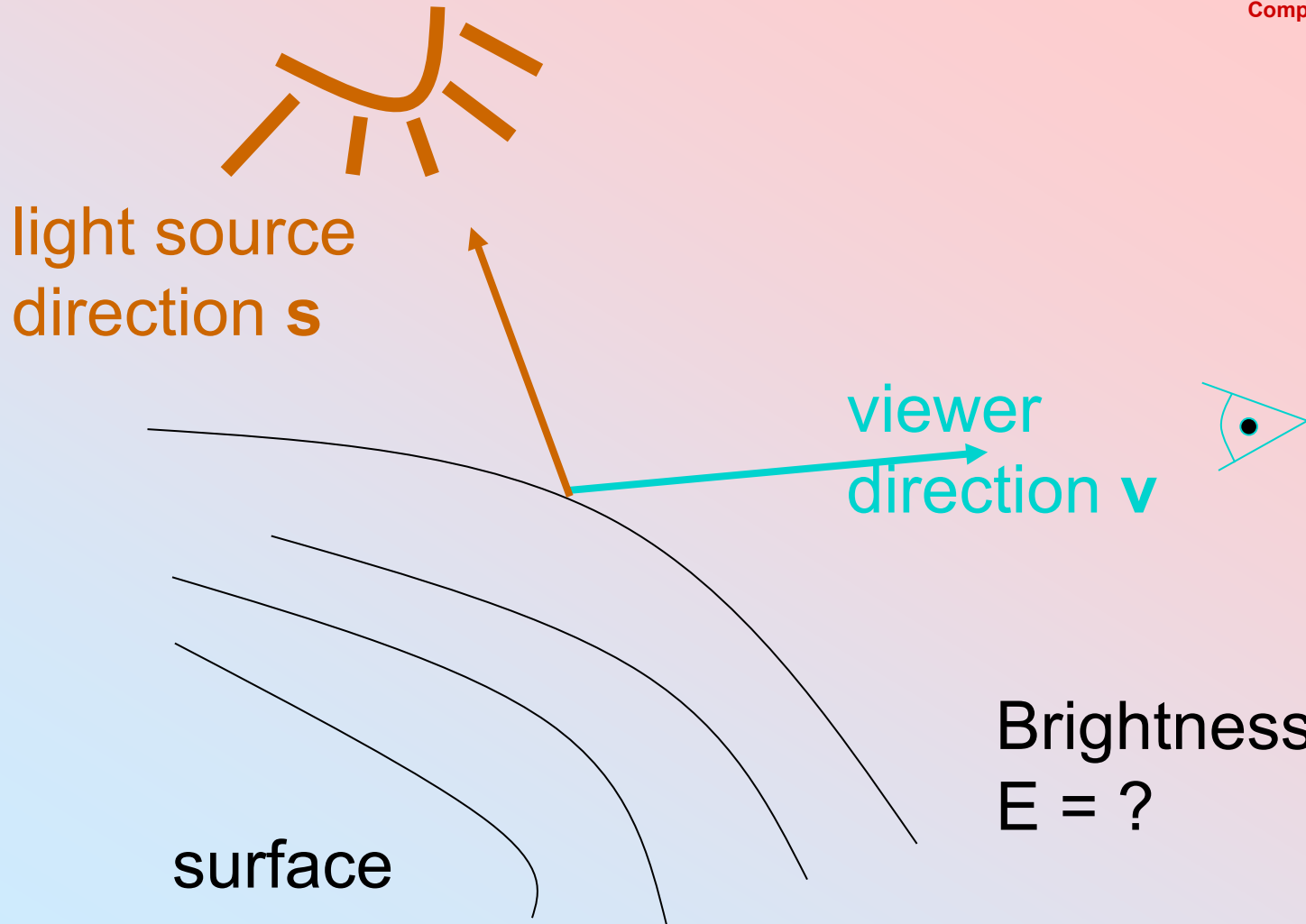
MINOS CLUSTER

Image credit: Marauder 09

What do we need to consider for image E to look right?



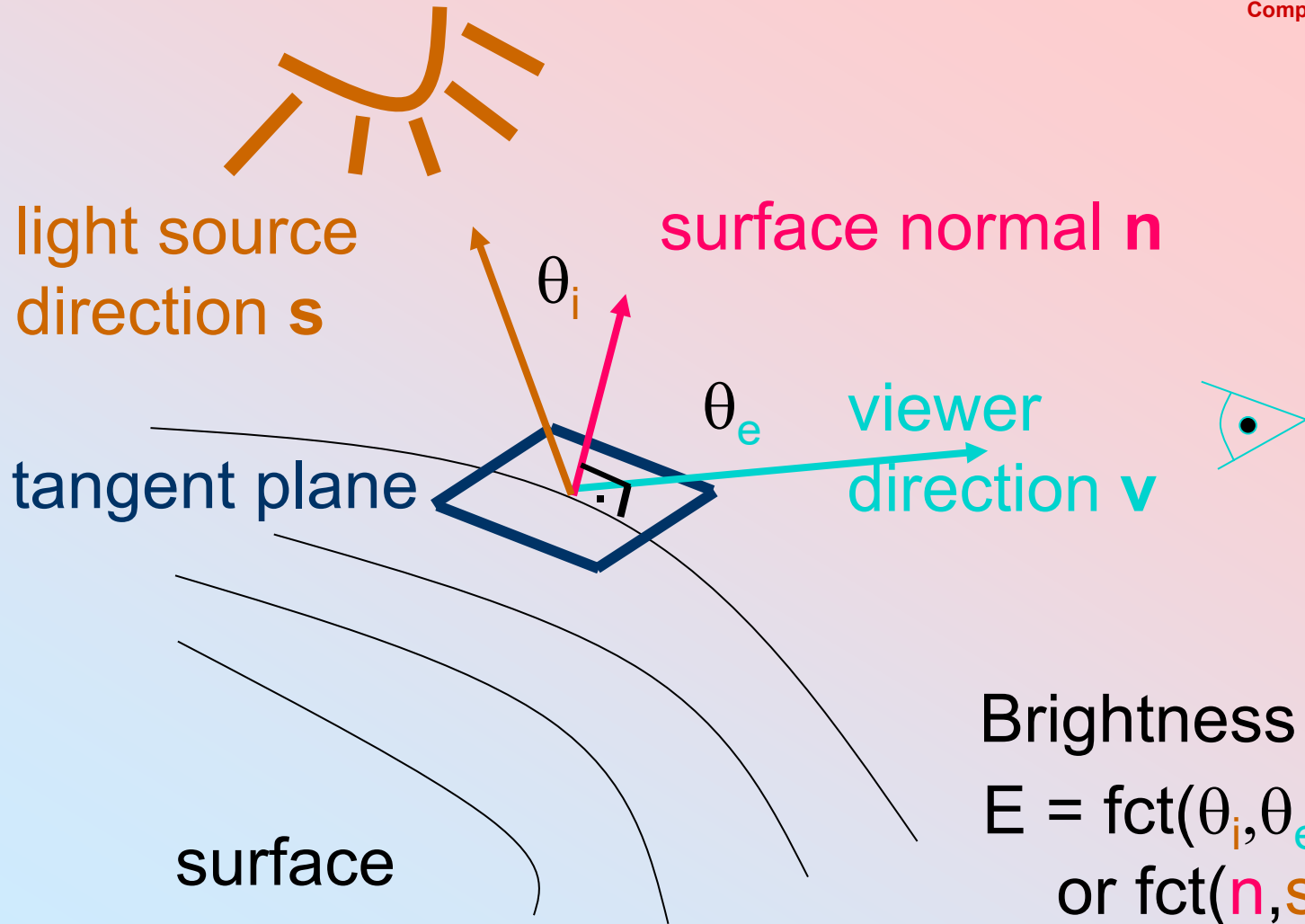
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Surface-centered Definition



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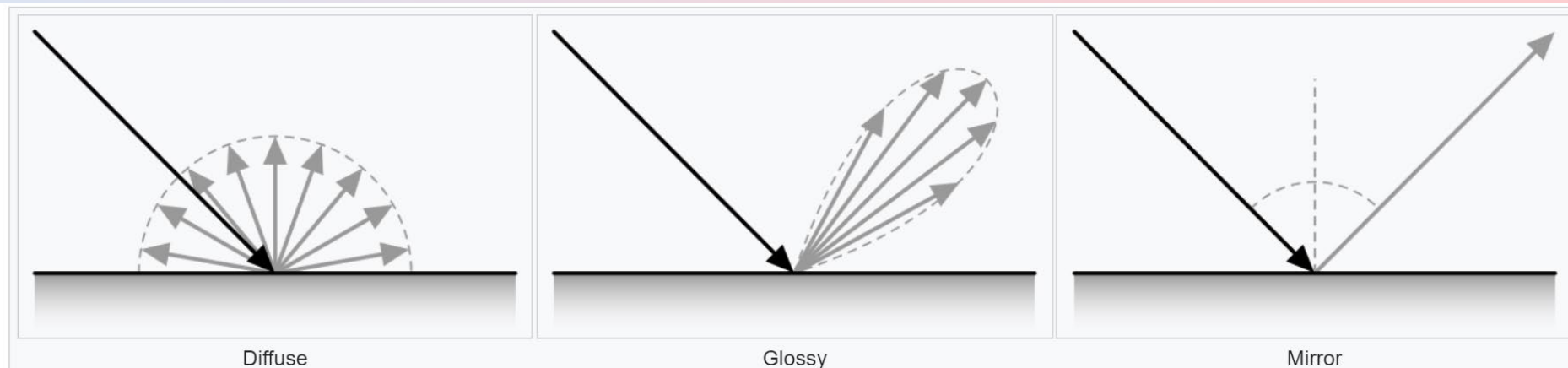


Surface Reflectance



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$f_{ct}(n, s, v) = \text{BRDF} =$
Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function



Three elemental components that can be used to model a variety of light-surface interactions.^[8] The incoming light ray is shown in black, the reflected ray(s) modeled by the BRDF in gray.

[Image credit: Wikipedia, BRDF](#)

Diffuse reflecting surface = Lambertian

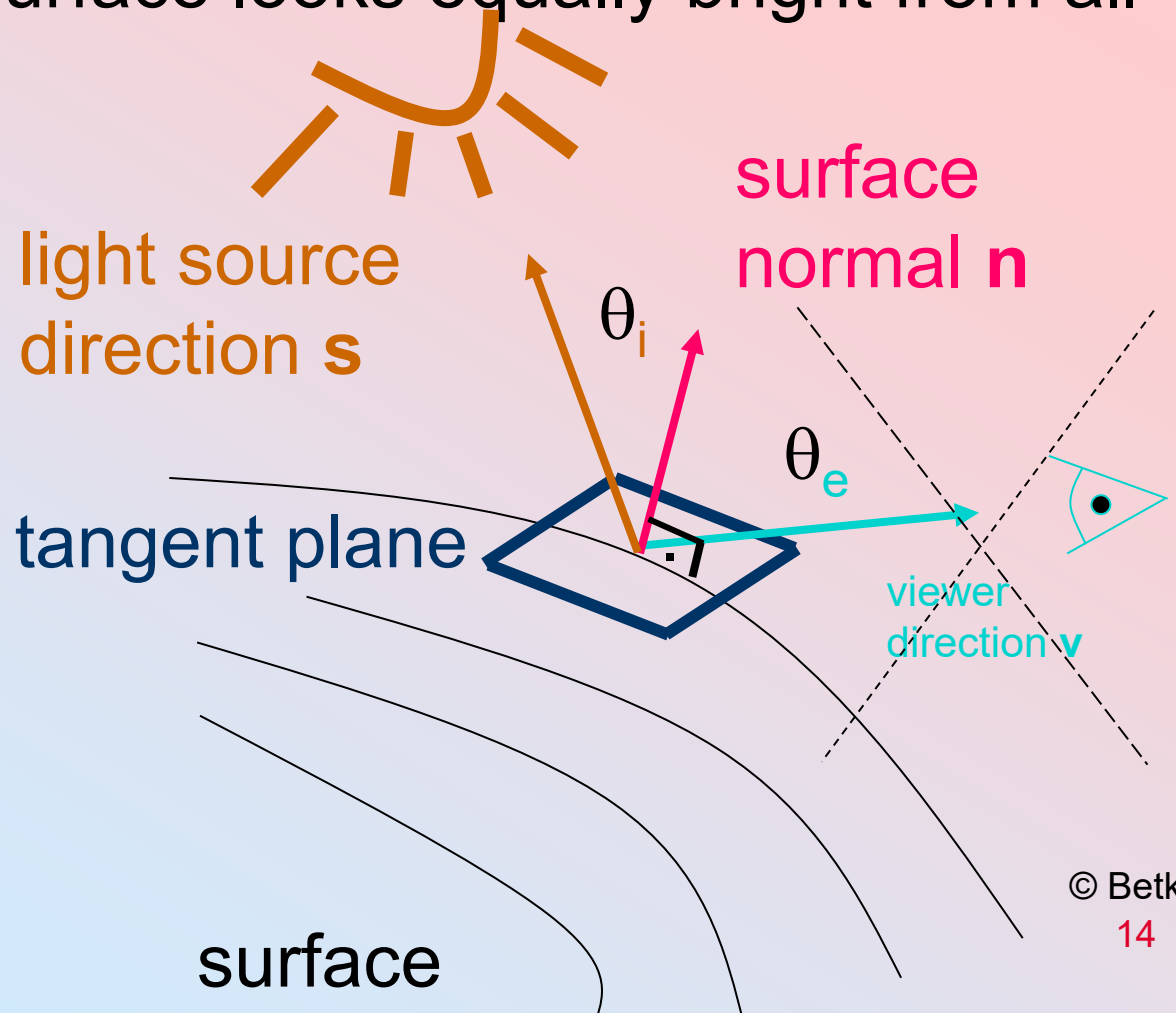


Ideal Lambertian surface looks equally bright from all directions

Brightness

$$E = \text{fct}(\theta_i, \theta_e)$$
$$\text{or } \text{fct}(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{v})$$

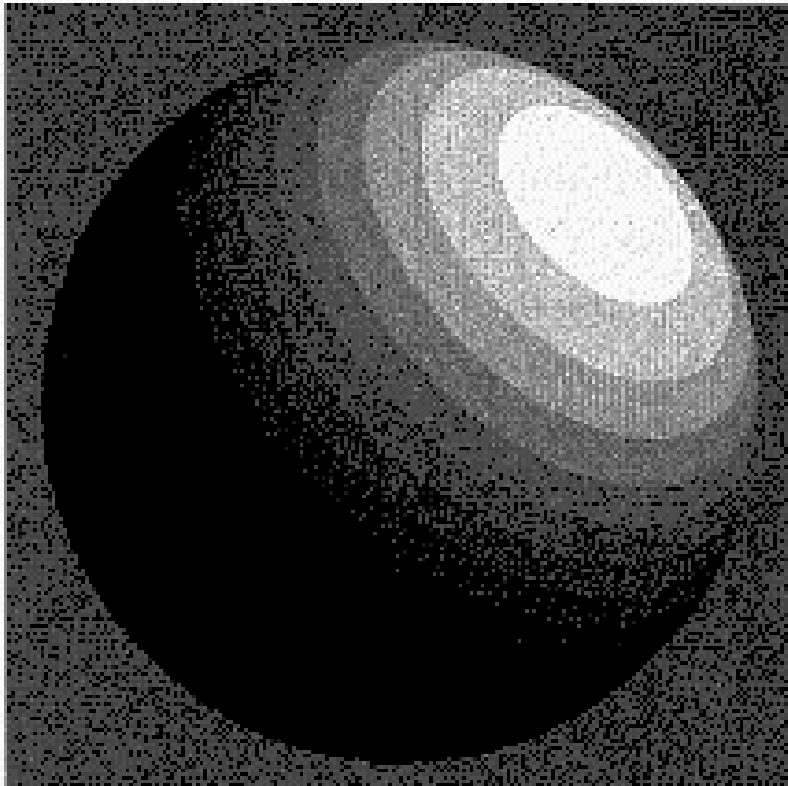
$$E = \cos \theta_i = \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{s}$$



Examples of Lambertian Surfaces



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(a)



(c)



(b)



(d)



Poll:
Which
objects
are
Lamber-
tian?

Image
credit:
Fleming,
2013

(a)



Specular

(b)



(c)



(not quite ideal) Lambertian

(d)



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Image
credit:
Fleming,
2013

© Betke
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Lambertian reflectance model used:



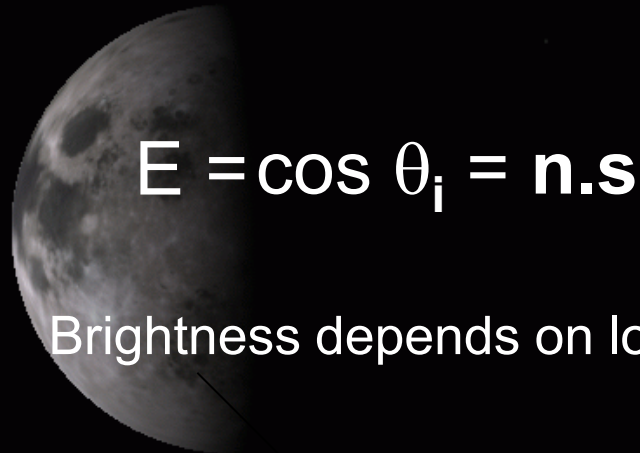
Reflectance Properties of Moon



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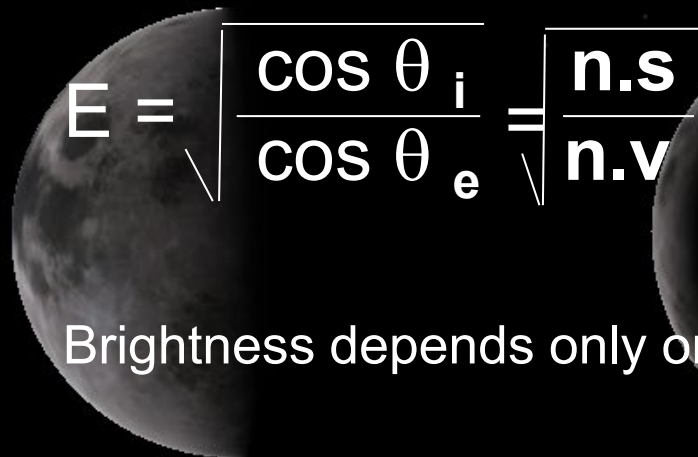
Lambertian?

No, moon does not look like sphere, but like flat disk



Brightness depends on longitude and latitude

Lommel-Seeliger

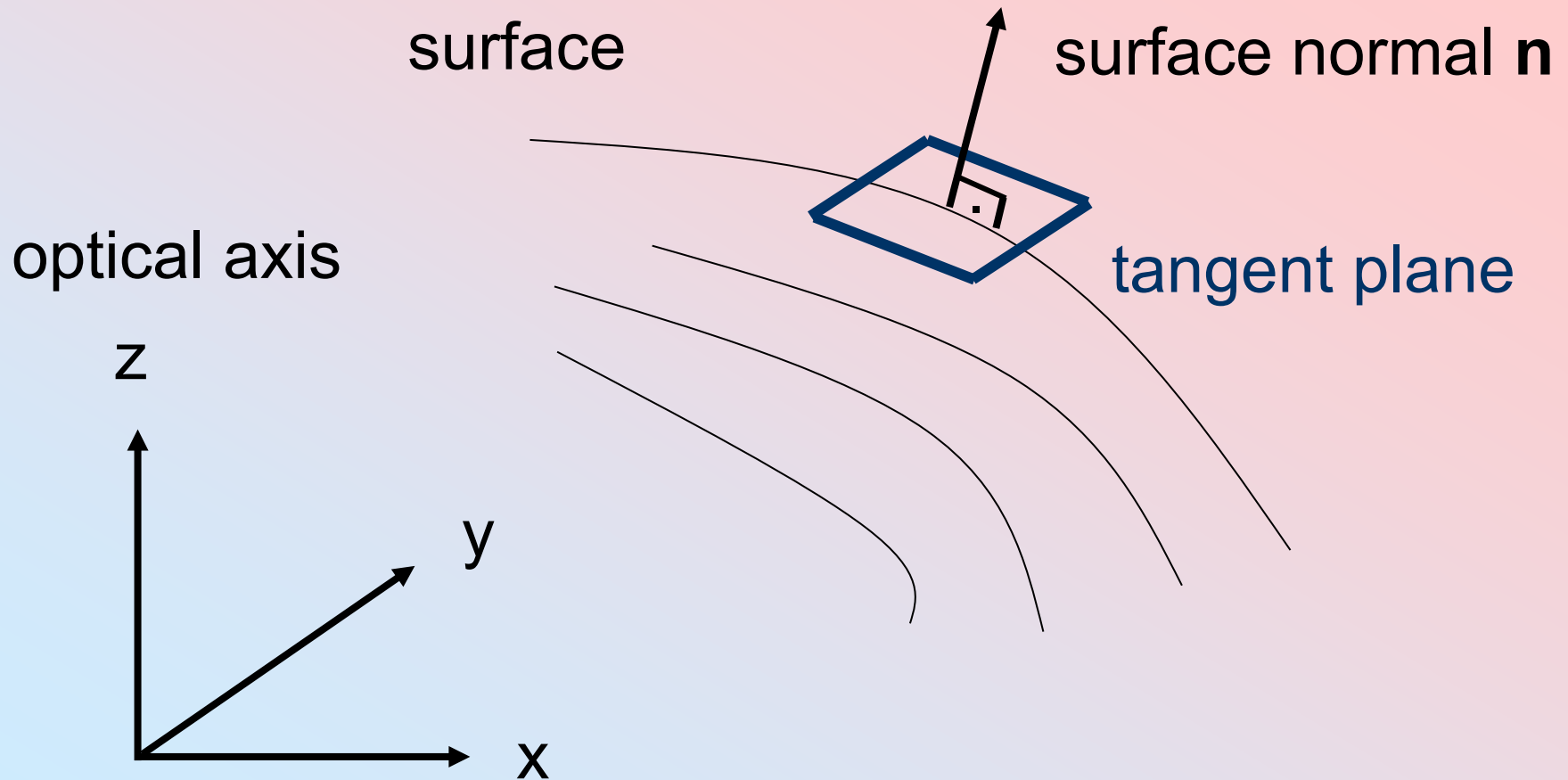


Brightness depends only on longitude

Surface Orientation



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Reflectance Map



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Two different projections can create maps of the surface gradients on “Gaussian” (or unit) sphere:

Stereographic plane:

- Whole sphere is projected

- Includes occluding boundary of sphere

Reflectance map: -- we'll use this projection

- Upper hemisphere of sphere is projected

- Isobrightness lines extend to infinity

Reflectance Map



Computer Science

A reflectance map $R(p,q)$ is a function that gives **scene radiance** as a function of **surface orientation**.

Scene radiance = light reflected from surface patch and measured by camera.

Given at a pixel (which is the image of the center of the patch) as a normalized gray value $[0..1]$.

Surface orientation $\mathbf{n} = (-p, -q, 1)^T$
 $\hat{\mathbf{n}} = (-p, -q, 1) / \sqrt{p^2 + q^2 + 1}$

Reflectance map of matte surface



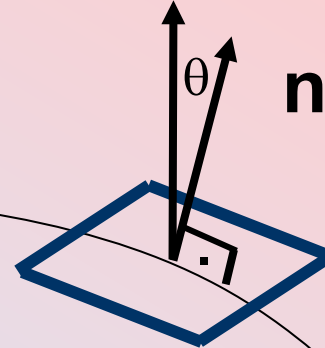
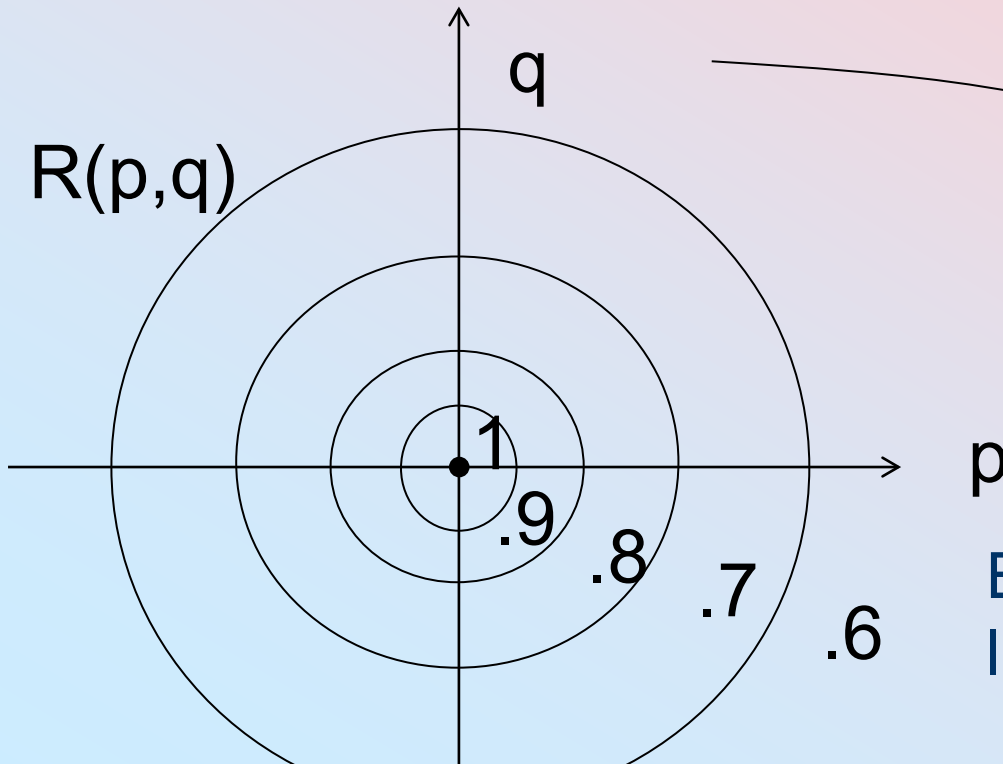
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Ideal Lambertian surface looks equally bright from all directions

$$\cos \theta = \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{s}}$$

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{s}$$

$$\mathbf{n} = (-p, -q, 1)^T$$

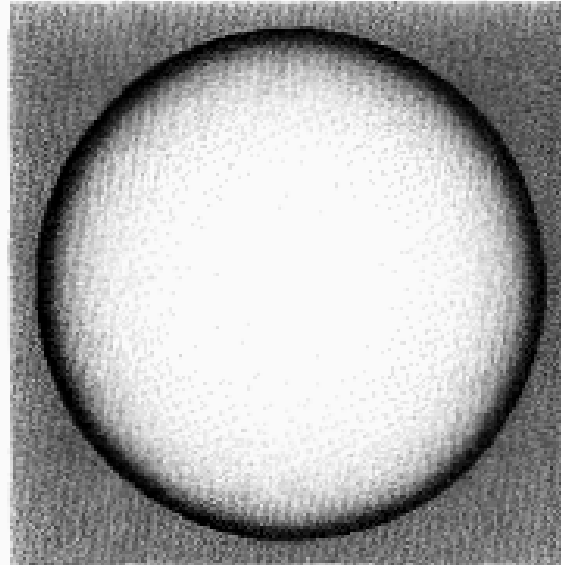


Example:
light source near viewer

R(p,q) of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source near Viewer



Computer Science



Nalwa, 1993

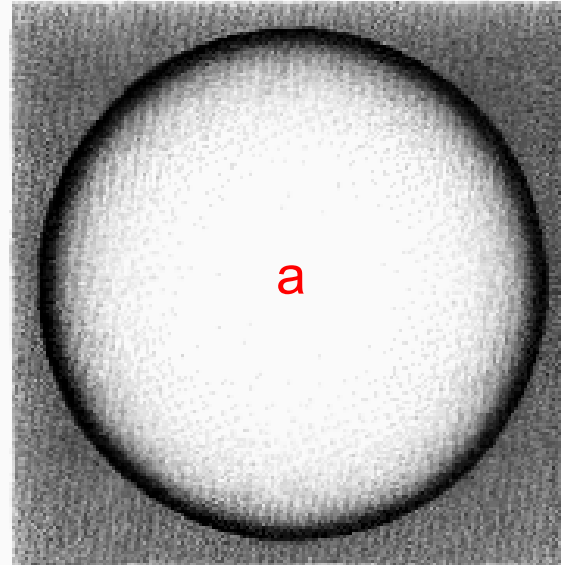
Where on the sphere are all points such that

- (a) $E = 1$?
- (b) $E = 0.2$?
- (c) $E = 0.7$?

R(p,q) of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source near Viewer



Computer Science



Nalwa, 1993

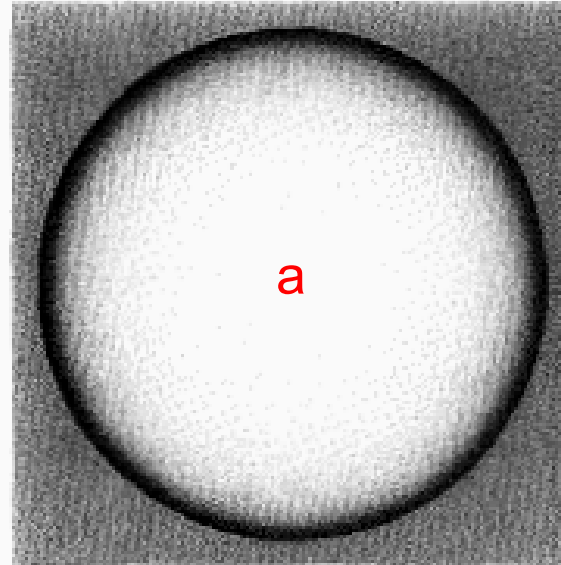
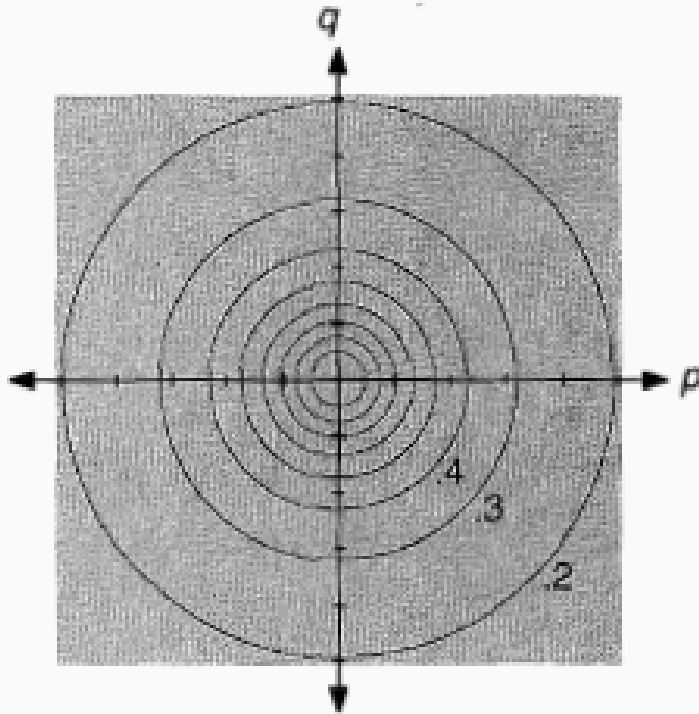
Where on the sphere are all points such that

- (a) $E = 1$ because brightest spot on sphere is facing viewer = source direction
 $\cos \theta = \cos 0^\circ = 1$

R(p,q) of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source near Viewer



Computer Science



Nalwa '93

Where on the sphere are all points such that

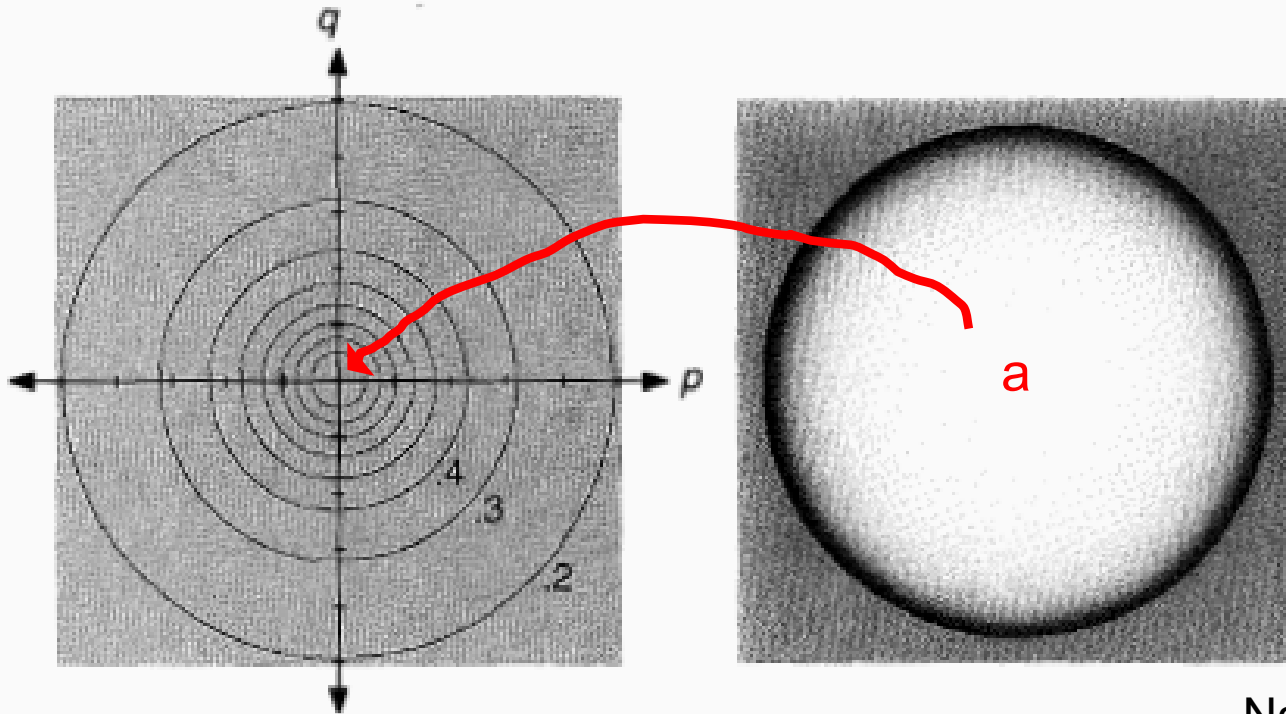
- (a) $E = 1$ because brightest spot on sphere is facing viewer = source direction

$$\cos \theta = \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{s}} = (-p, -q, 1) / \sqrt{p^2 + q^2 + 1} \cdot (0, 0, 1) = \cos 0^\circ = 1$$

R(p,q) of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source near Viewer



Computer Science



Nalwa '93

Where on the sphere are all points such that

(a) $E = 1$ because brightest spot on sphere is facing viewer = source direction

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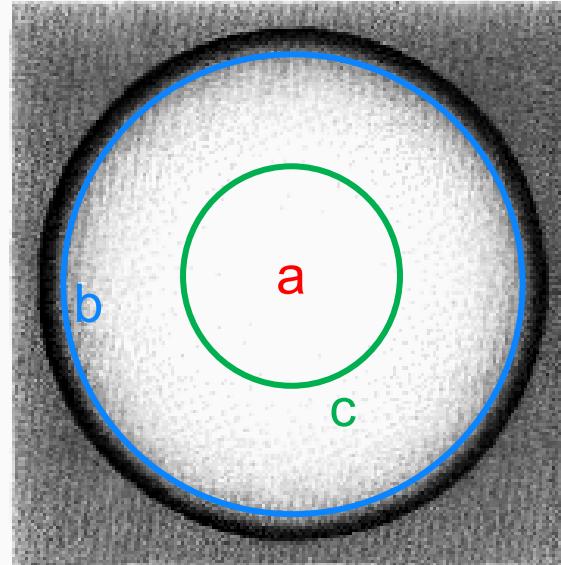
(a) $E = 0.2$?

(b) $E = 0.7$?

R(p,q) of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source near Viewer



Computer Science



Nalwa '93

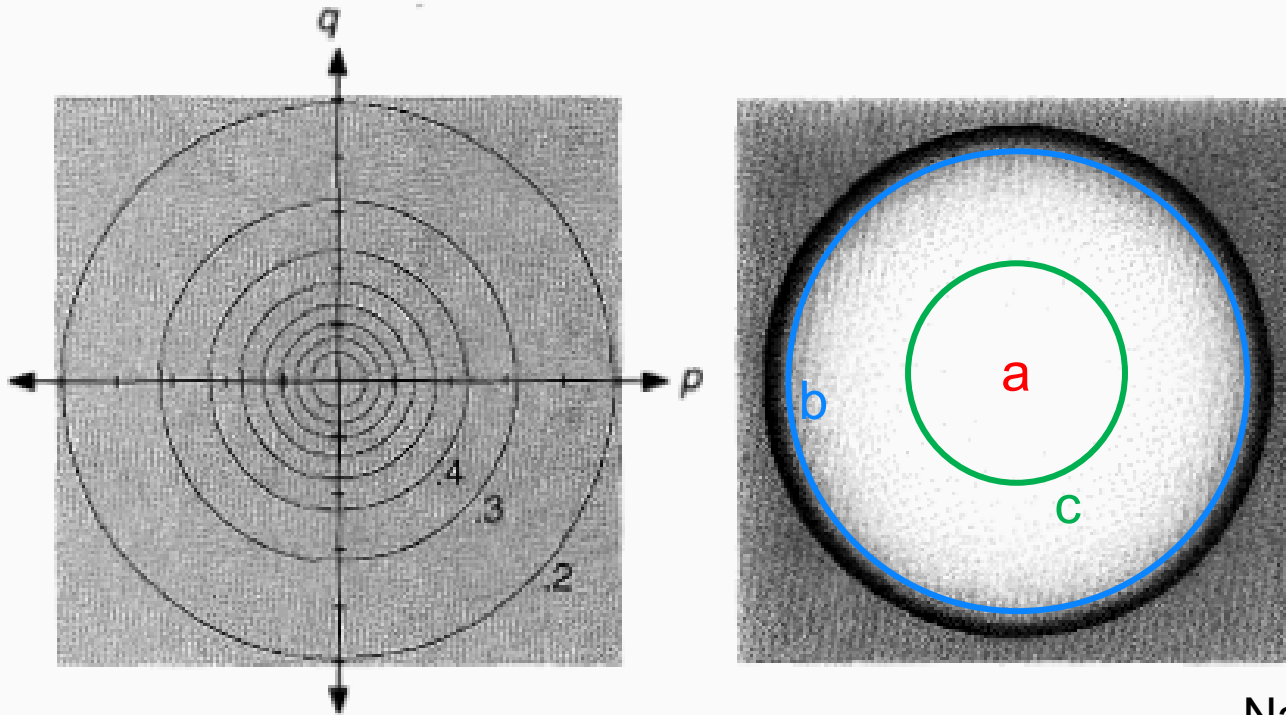
Where on the sphere are all points such that

- (a) $E = 1$ because $\cos(0^\circ) = 1$
- (b) $E = 0.2$ $\cos(78.5^\circ) = 0.2$
- (c) $E = 0.7$ $\cos(45^\circ) \sim 0.7$

R(p,q) of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source near Viewer



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Nalwa '93

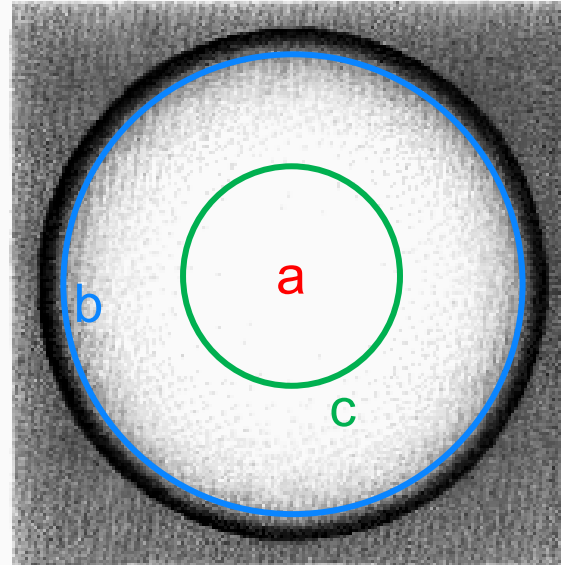
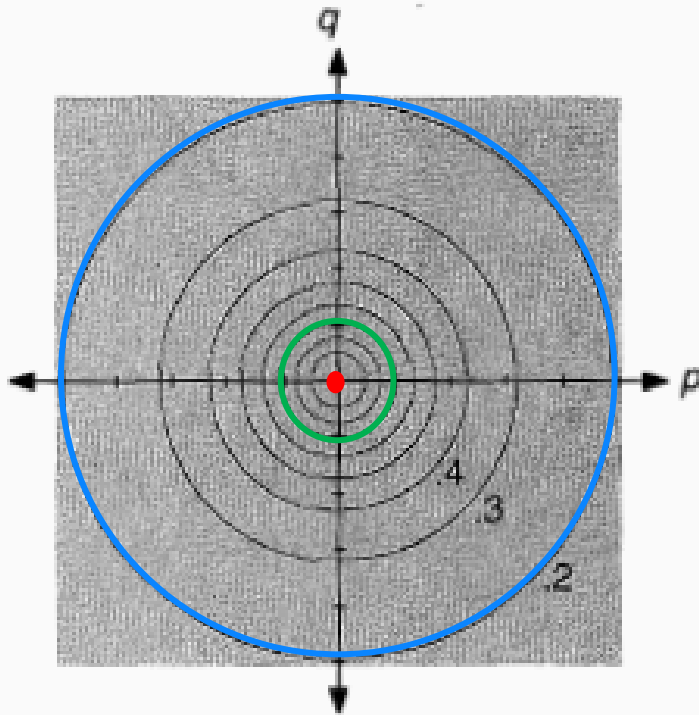
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R(p,q) of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source near Viewer



Computer Science

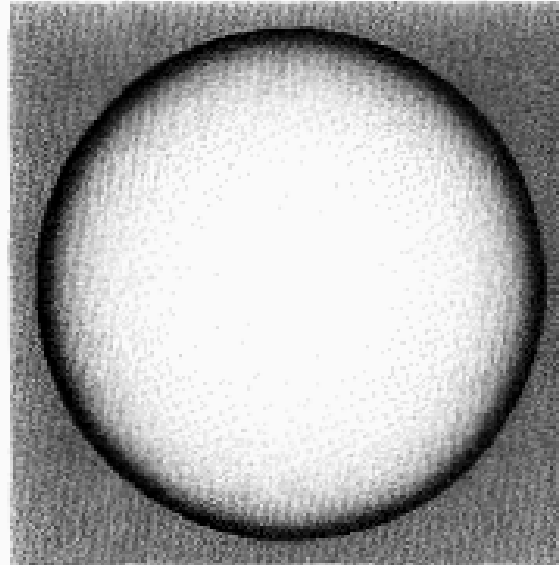
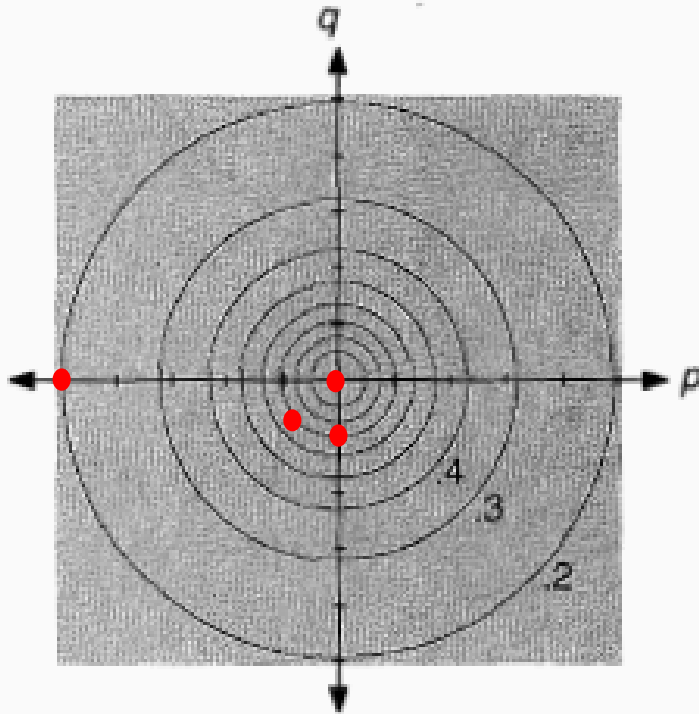


Nalwa '93

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R(p,q) of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source near Viewer



Nalwa '93

Where on the sphere is

- (a) $p=0, q=0$
- (b) $p=-5, q=0$
- (c) $p=0, q=-1$
- (d) $p=-0.707, q=-0.707$

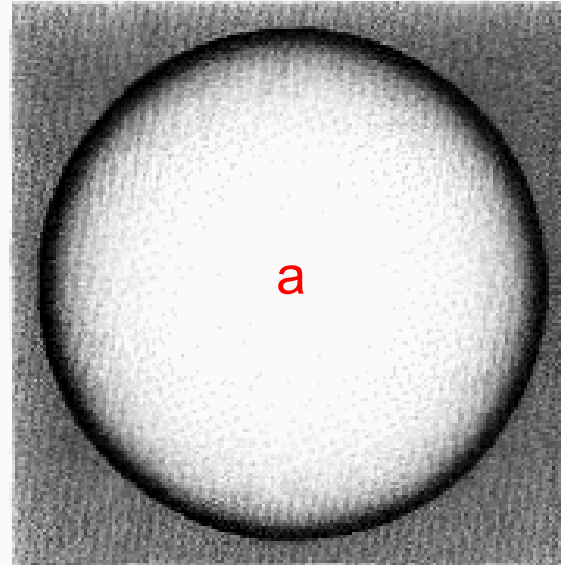
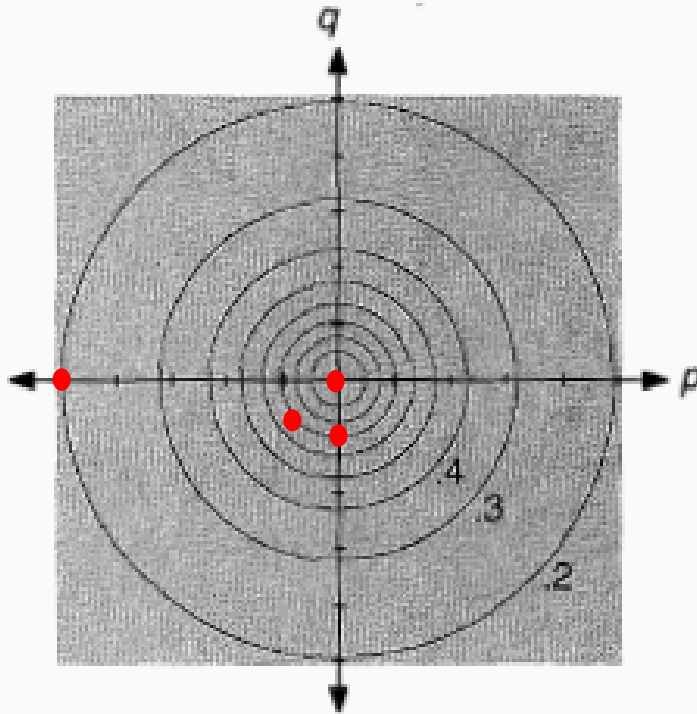
How bright?

- E=
- E=
- E=
- E=

R(p,q) of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source near Viewer



Computer Science



Nalwa '93

Where on the sphere is

- (a) $p=0, q=0$
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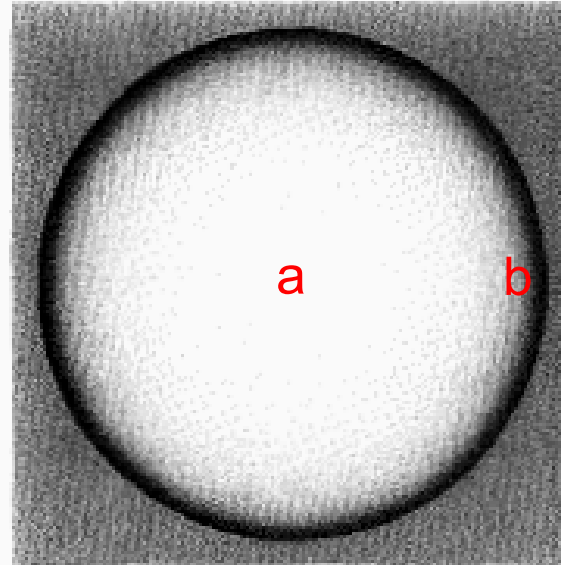
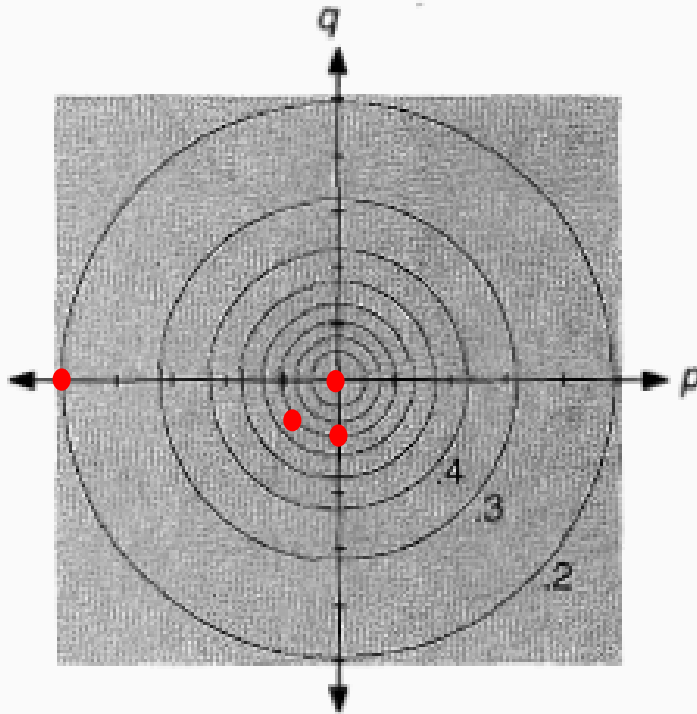
How bright?

$$E = \hat{n} \cdot s = (0, 0, 1) \cdot (0, 0, 1) = 1$$

R(p,q) of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source near Viewer



Computer Science



Nalwa '93

Where on the sphere is

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How bright?

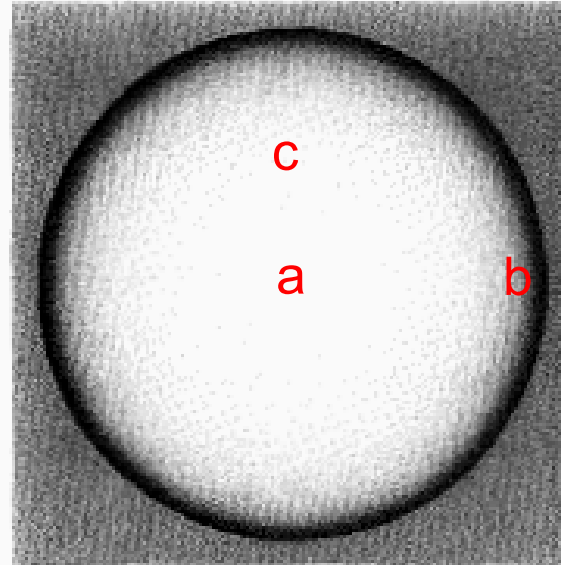
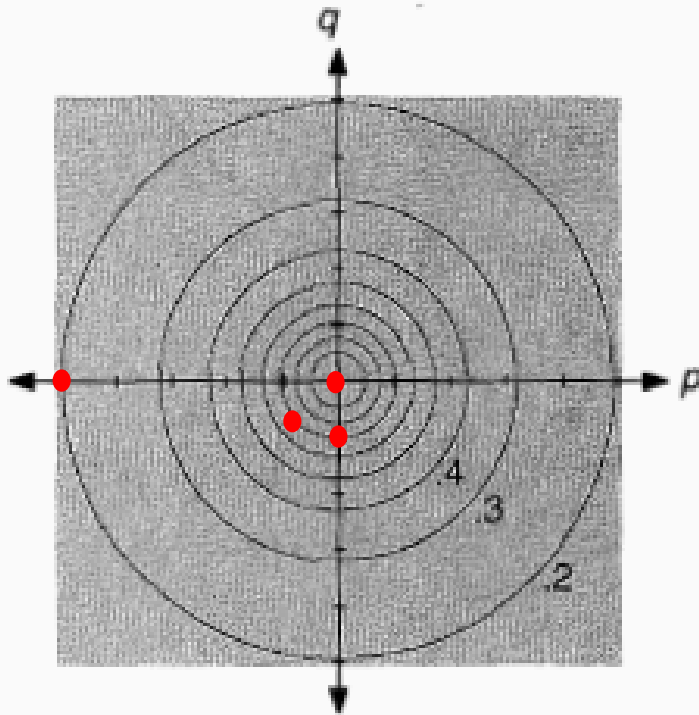
$$E = \hat{n} \cdot s = (0, 0, 1) \cdot (0, 0, 1) = 1$$

$$E = \hat{n} \cdot s = (5, 0, 1) / \sqrt{25+1} \cdot (0, 0, 1) = 0.2$$

R(p,q) of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source near Viewer



Computer Science



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Where on the sphere is

- (a) $p=0, q=0$
- (b) $p=-5, q=0$
- (c) $p=0, q=-1$
- (d) $p=-0.707, q=-0.707$

How bright?

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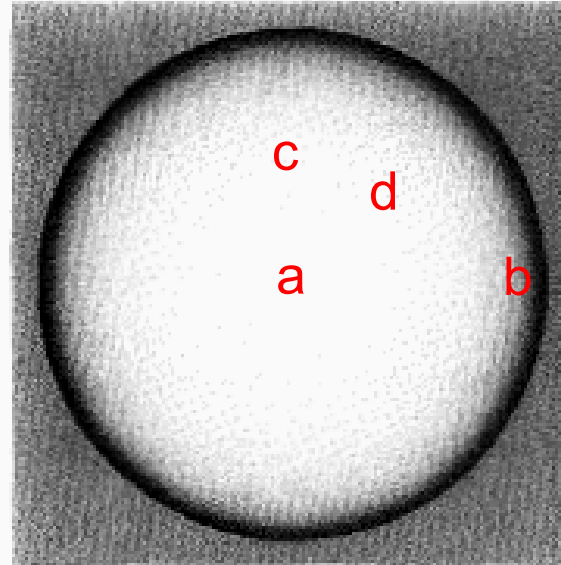
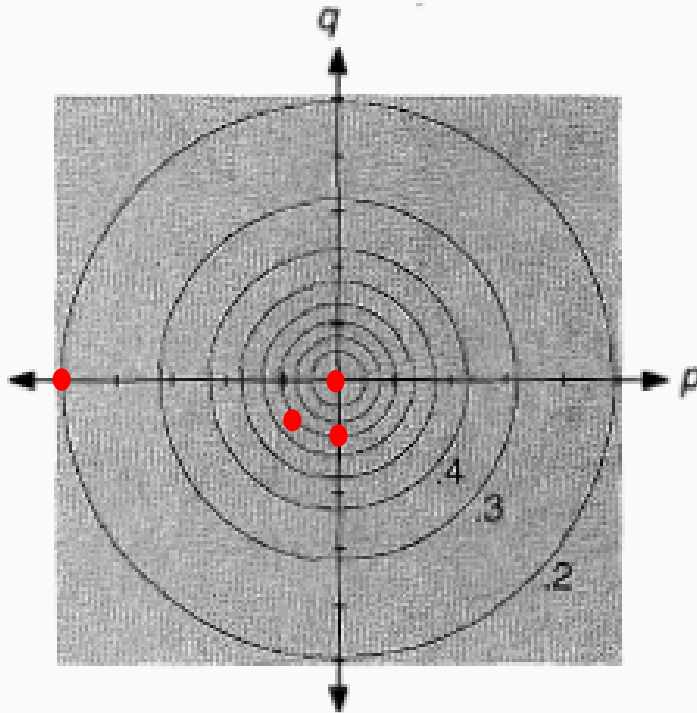
$$E = \hat{n} \cdot s = (5, 0, 1) / \sqrt{25+1} \cdot (0, 0, 1) = 0.2$$

$$E = \hat{n} \cdot s = (0, 1, 1) / \sqrt{1+1} \cdot (0, 0, 1) \sim 0.707$$

R(p,q) of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source near Viewer



Computer Science



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Where on the sphere is

- (a) $p=0, q=0$
- (b) $p=-5, q=0$
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How bright?

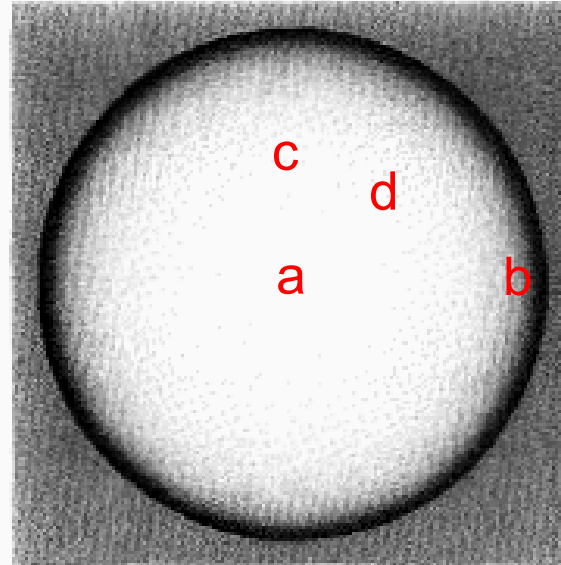
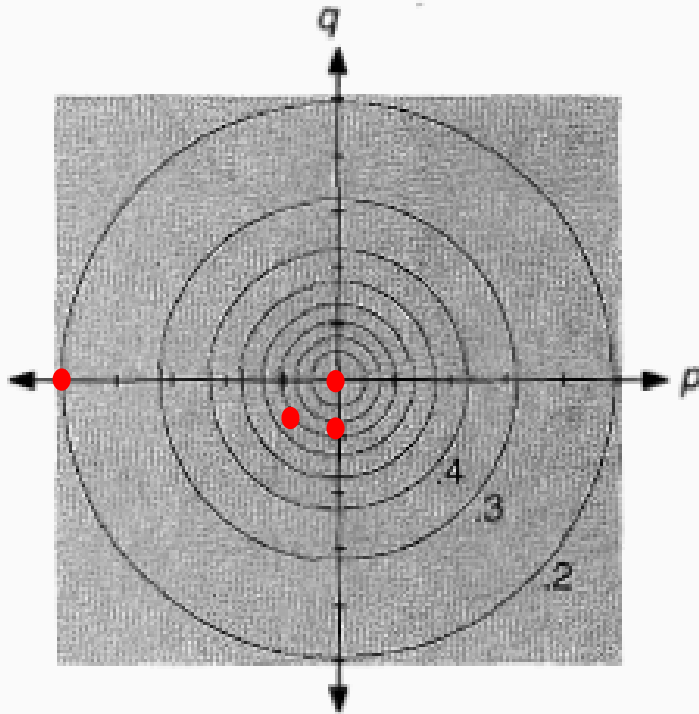
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$$E = \hat{n} \cdot s = (0, 1, 1) / \sqrt{1+1} \cdot (0, 0, 1) \sim 0.707$$

$$E = \hat{n} \cdot s = (1/\sqrt{2}, 1/\sqrt{2}, 1) / \sqrt{2 \cdot 0.5 + 1} \cdot s = 0.707$$

R(p,q) of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source near Viewer



Nalwa '93

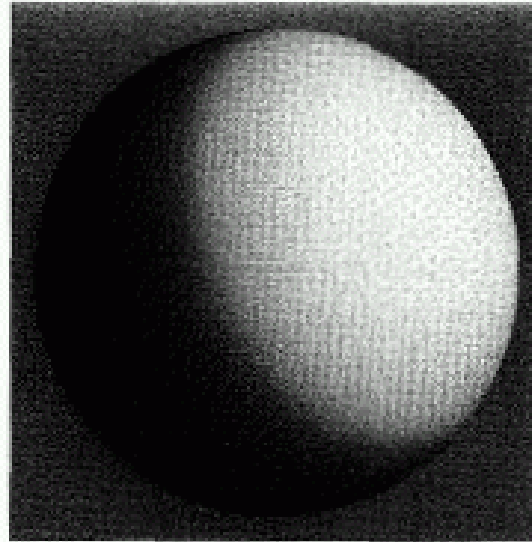
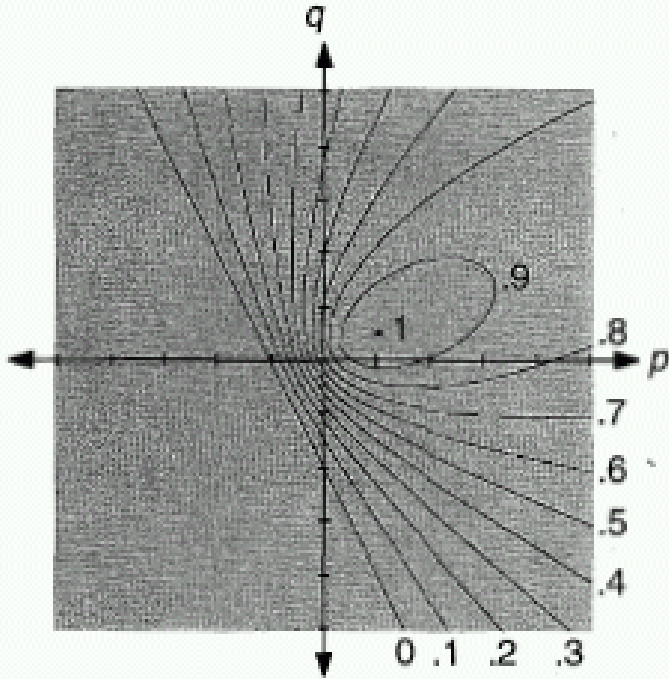
Where on the sphere is

- (a) $p=0, q=0$
- (b) $p=-5, q=0$
- (c) $p=0, q=-1$
- (d) $p=-1, q=-1$

How bright?

- $E= 1$
- $E= 0.2$
- $E= 0.707$
- $E= 0.707$

$R(p,q)$ of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source top right



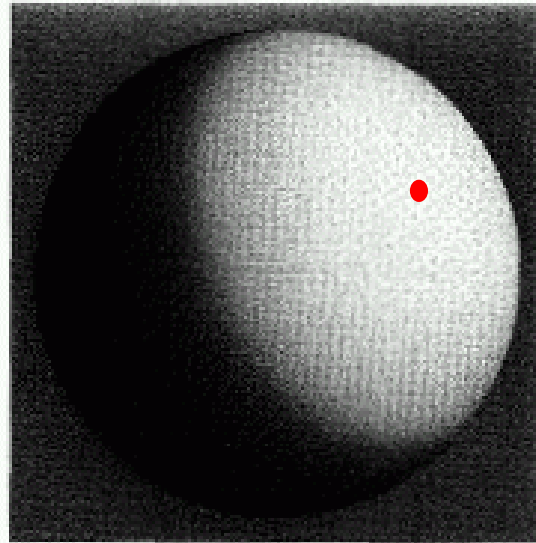
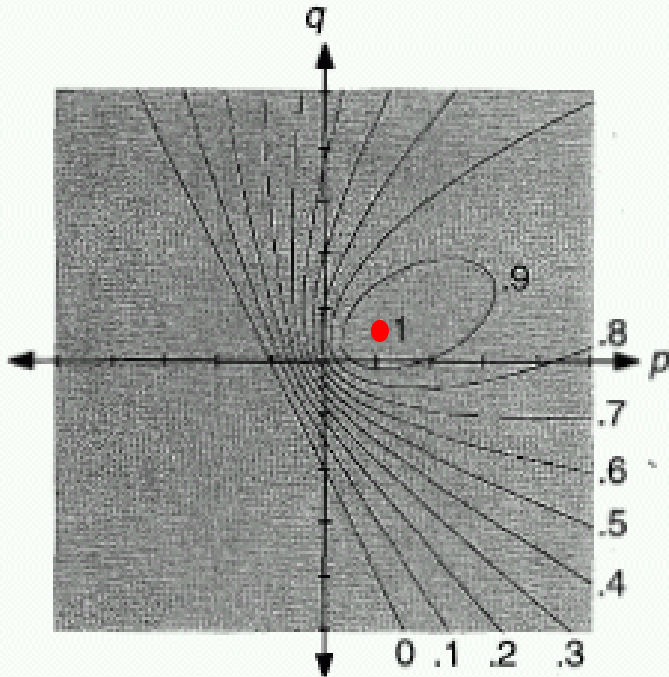
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Where is the brightest spot on the sphere?

R(p,q) of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source top right



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$$\mathbf{s} = (-1, -0.5, 1)^T$$

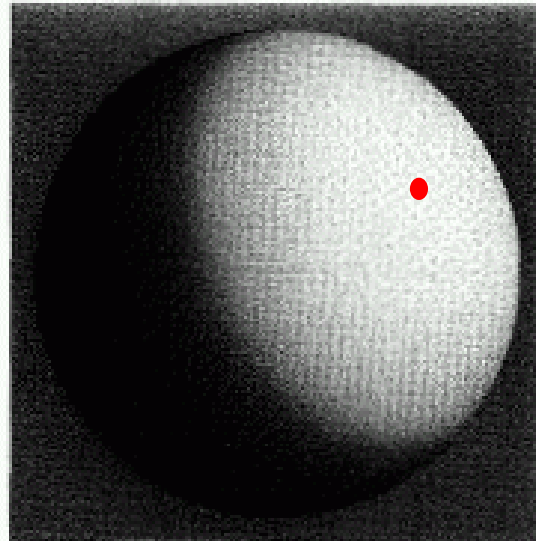
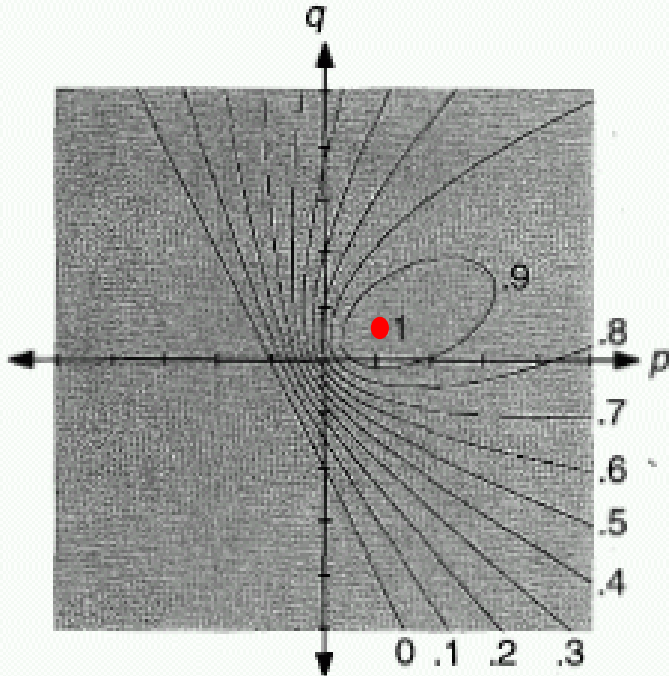
Where is the brightest spot on the sphere?

$$E = 1 = \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{s}} = (p^2 + q^2 + 1^2) / (p^2 + q^2 + 1^2)$$

R(p,q) of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source top right



Computer Science



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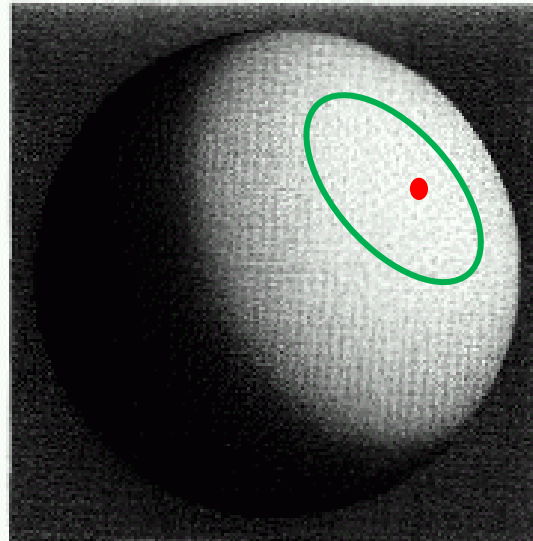
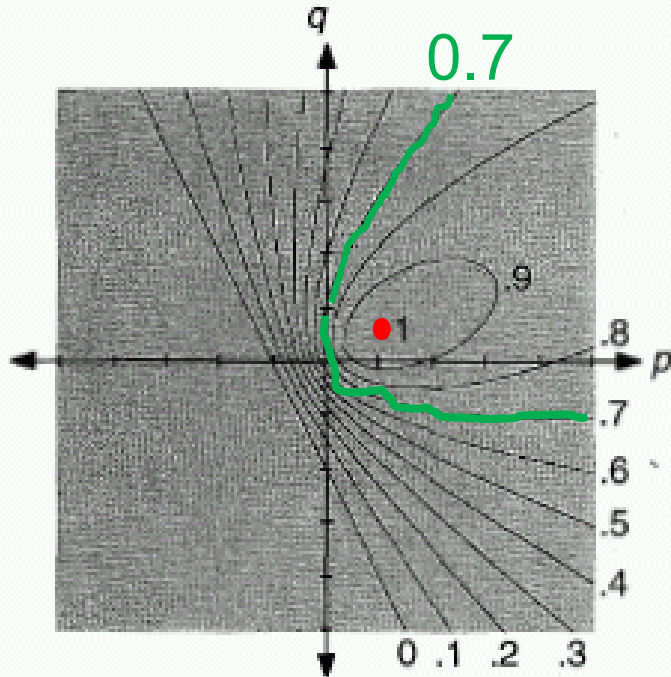
$$\mathbf{s} = (-1, -0.5, 1)^T$$

Where are the points on the sphere with brightness $E=0.707$?

R(p,q) of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source top right



Computer Science



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$$\mathbf{s} = (-1, -0.5, 1)^T$$

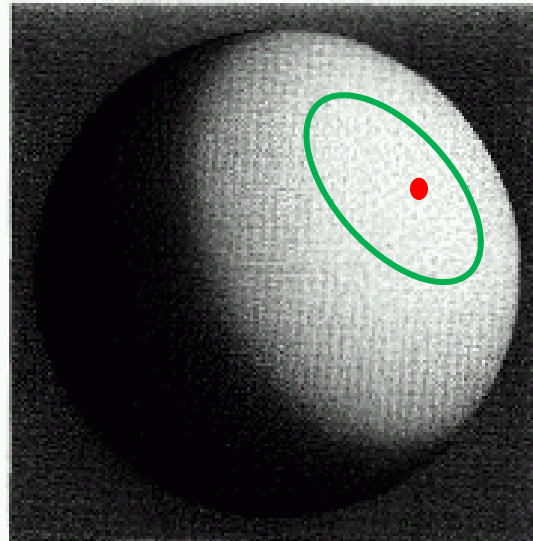
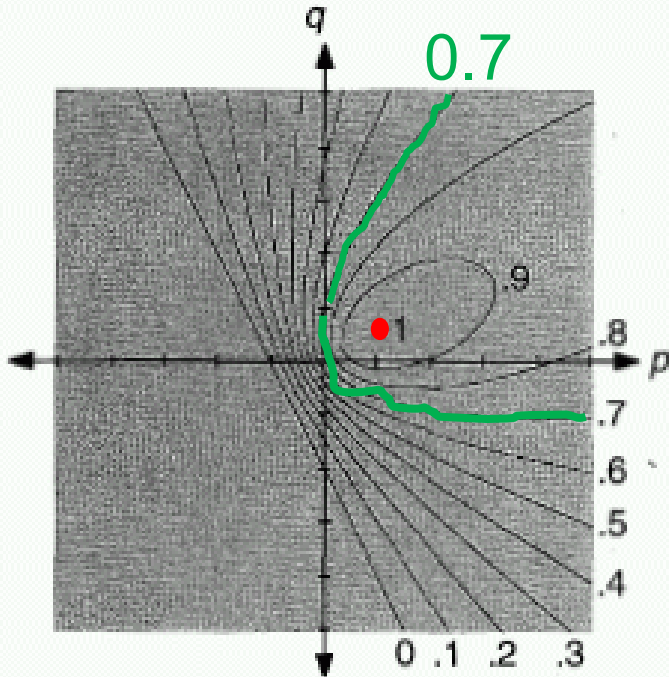
Where are the points on the sphere with brightness $E=0.707$?

$$E = \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{s}} = (-p, -q, 1) / \sqrt{p^2 + q^2 + 1^2} \cdot \mathbf{s} = \cos(45^\circ)$$

R(p,q) of Lambertian Surface: Here: Light Source top right



Computer Science



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$$\mathbf{s} = (-1, -0.5, 1)^T$$

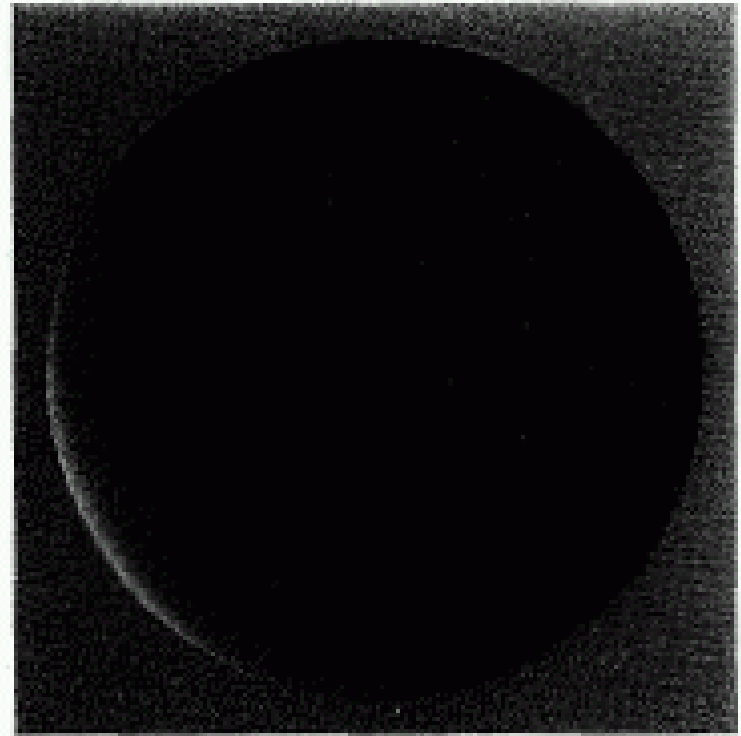
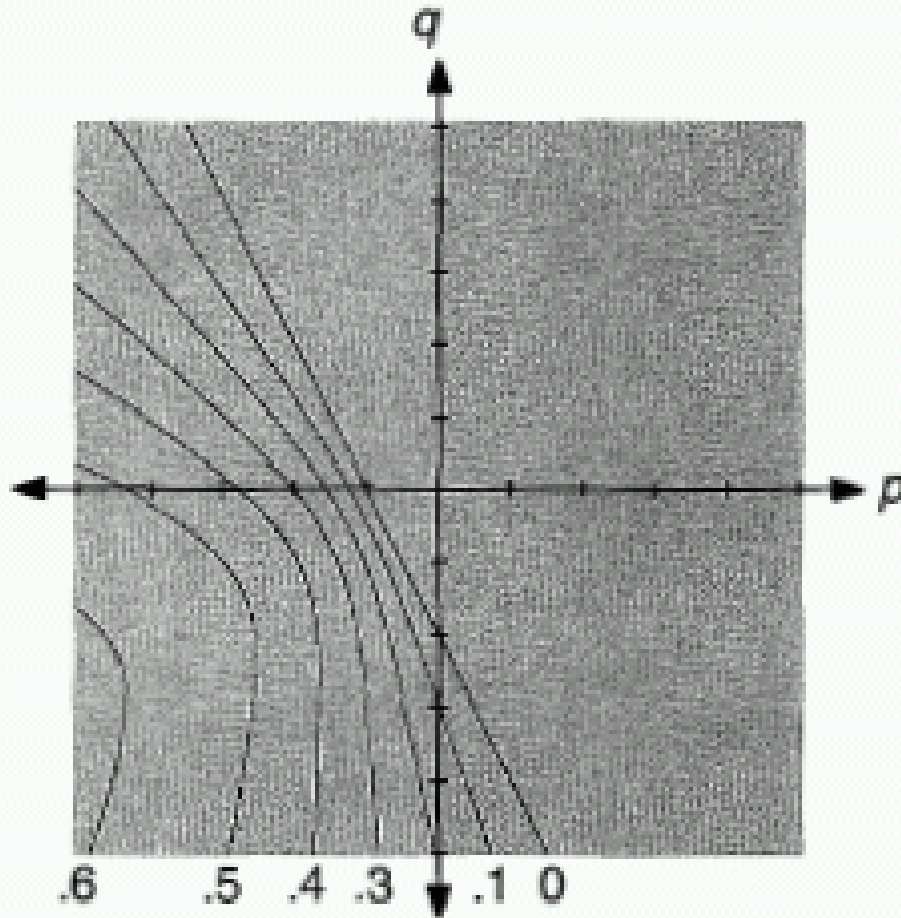
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$$E = \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{s}} = (-p, -q, 1) / \sqrt{p^2 + q^2 + 1^2} \cdot \mathbf{s} = \cos(45^\circ)$$

$R(p,q)$ of Lambertian Surface



Computer Science



Nalwa '93

Reflectance Maps



Computer Science

- ❑ How to obtain reflectance maps? Library or own experiment.
- ❑ One reflectance map per light source direction.
- ❑ For teaching purposes, we used a sphere in the previous slides. The goal is not to reconstruct the surface of a sphere but the unknown surface of a planet or face etc. The reflectance maps are valid for any object with Lambertian surface reflectance properties.
- ❑ Algorithms use the reflectance maps by looking up p and q . Input: brightness E , Output: $n=(-p,-q,1)^T$

Photometric Stereo



Computer Science

Goal: Given images E_1 and E_2 under 2 lighting conditions (p_1, q_1) and (p_2, q_2) , find surface orientation $\mathbf{n} = (-p, -q, 1)^T$, i.e., find p & q .

2 nonlinear equations:

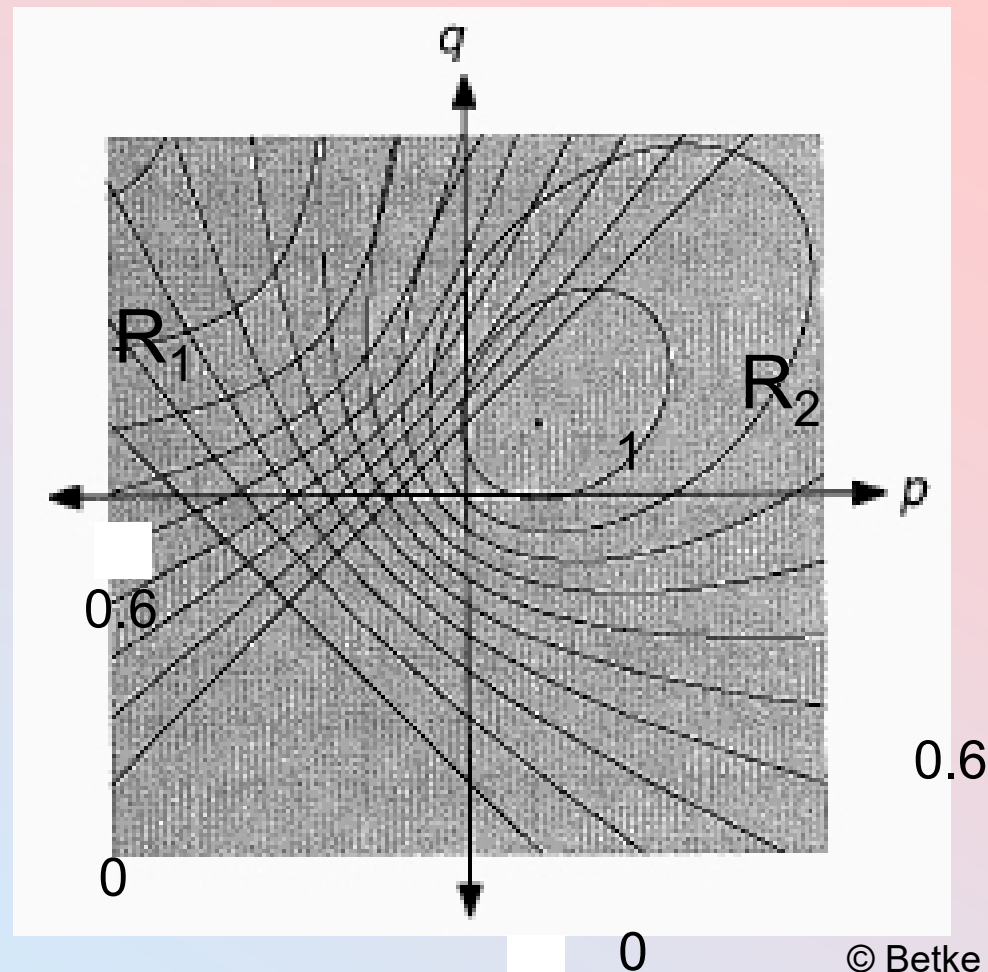
$$E_1 = R_1(p, q)$$

$$E_2 = R_2(p, q)$$

If $(p_1, q_1) = (p_2, q_2)$

infinite number of solutions
else 0, 1, or 2 solution(s)

Better, use N images &
least-squares method



LSM for Photometric Stereo



Computer Science

Number of images = source directions = i

Gray value at a specific pixel in i th image: E_i

$$\min_{\mathbf{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{s}_i - E_i)^2$$

Take derivative with respect to unknown normal \mathbf{n} of surface patch imaged at this pixel

$$2 \sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{s}_i - E_i) \frac{d(\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{s}_i - E_i)}{d\mathbf{n}} = 0$$

How do you take a derivative of a dot product with respect to a vector?

$$\frac{d}{d\mathbf{a}} (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}) = \mathbf{b}$$

Solve this linear equation for surface normal \mathbf{n} :

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{s}_i - E_i) \mathbf{s}_i = 0$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{s}_i) \mathbf{s}_i = \sum_{i=1}^n E_i \mathbf{s}_i$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{s}_i \mathbf{s}_i^T) \mathbf{n} = \sum_{i=1}^n E_i \mathbf{s}_i$$

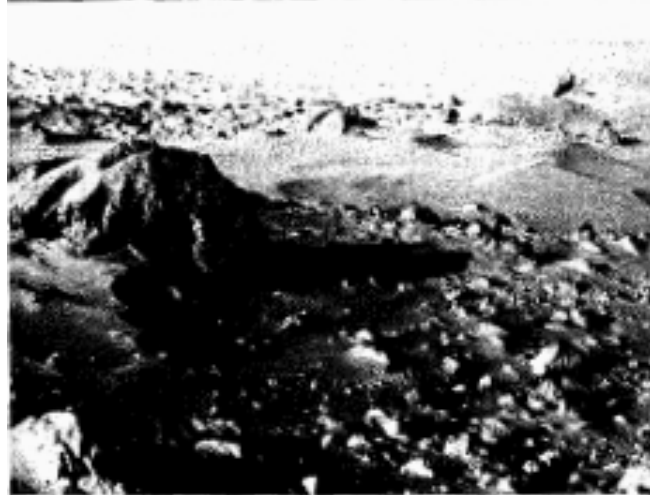
$$S \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{E}$$

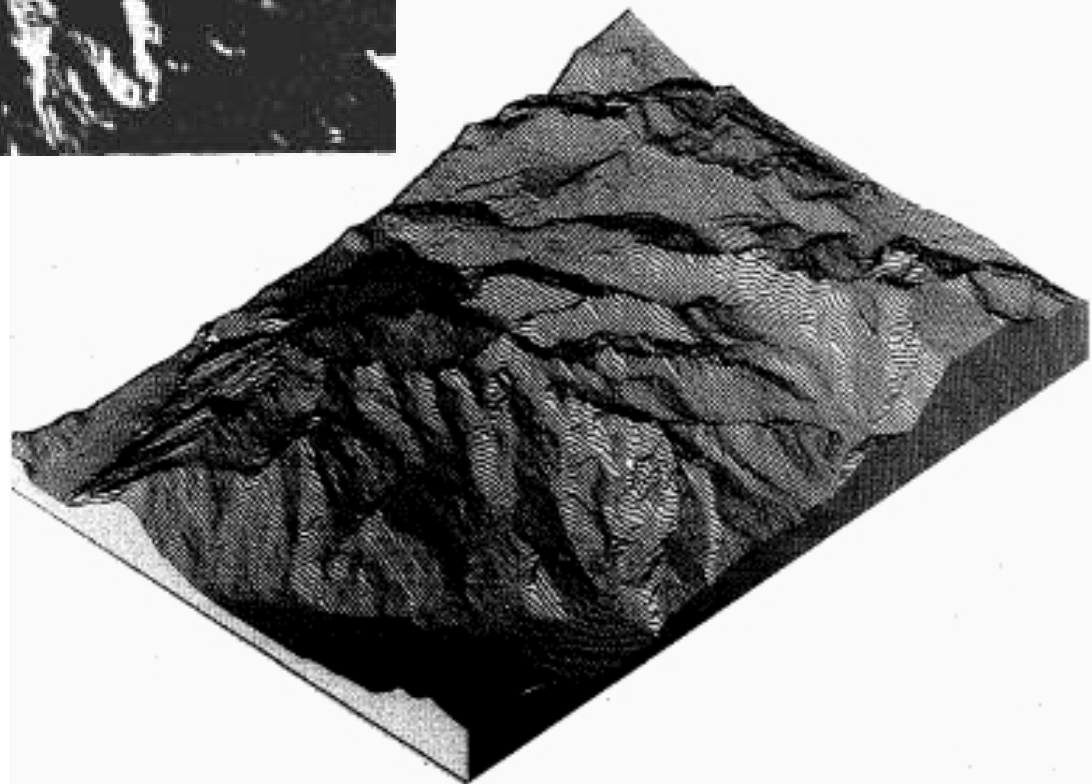
$$\mathbf{n} = S^{-1} \mathbf{E}$$

outer product

Mars

Viking
Lander I
1977





Shape from Shading



Computer Science

Find 3D shape in scene from a single 2D image

Horn's Algorithm, 1989

Least-squares method:

Minimize sum of squared error

Derivation of error function?

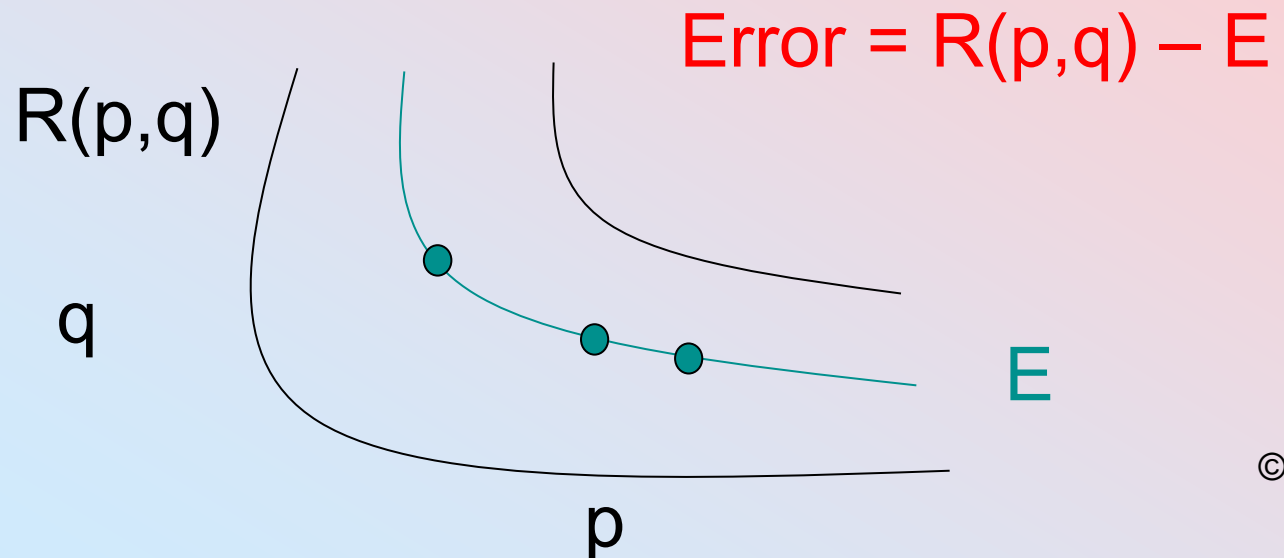
Brightness Constraint



Computer Science

The measured brightness E should not vary much from the brightness $R(p,q)$ at each pixel (i,j) .

→ Values for p and q should lie on the isobrightness curve labeled with E in reflectance map R .

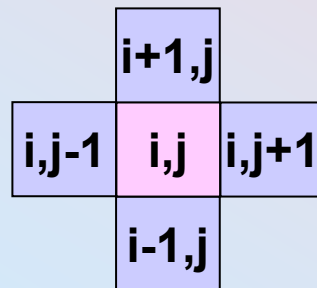


Smoothness Constraint



Computer Science

The surface orientation, defined by surface normal $\mathbf{n}_{ij} = (-p_{ij}, -q_{ij}, 1)^T$, at a pixel (i,j) should not vary much from the surface orientation at neighboring pixels $(i+1,j)$, $(i,j+1)$, $(i-1,j)$, $(i,j-1)$.



$$\text{Error}_x = p_{ij} - \underline{p}_{ij}$$

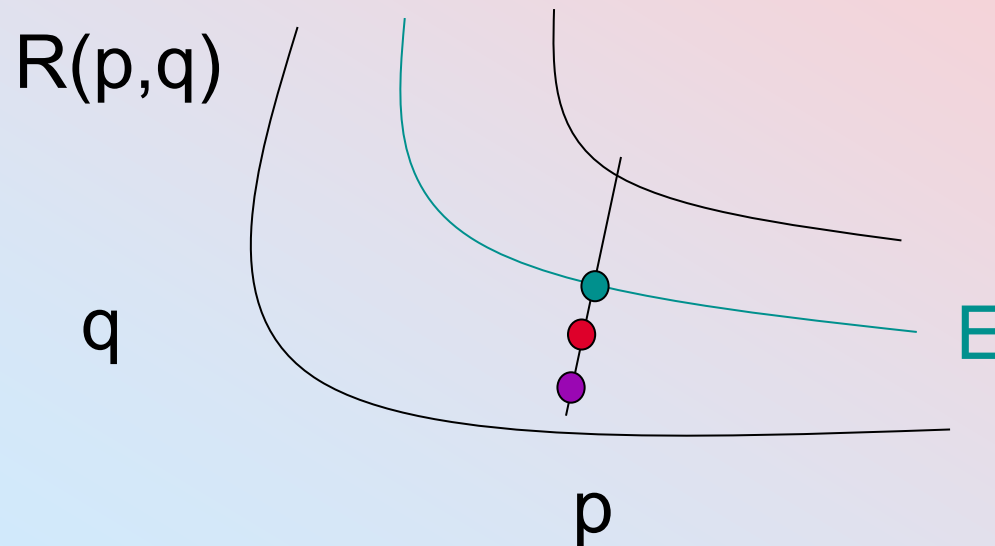
average

Combining Constraints



Computer Science

Use **compromise** of **isobrightness** solution and **average-of-neighbors** solution.



Combining Constraints



Computer Science

Combine two error measures, departure from

brightness: $\text{Error}_{\text{brightness}} (E_{ij} - R(p_{ij}, q_{ij}))^2$

smoothness: $\text{Error}_{\text{smoothness}} (p_{ij} - \underline{p}_{ij})^2 + (q_{ij} - \underline{q}_{ij})^2$

where \underline{p} , \underline{q} are local averages:

$$\underline{p} = 1/4 (p_{i+1,j} + p_{i,j+1} + p_{i-1,j} + p_{i,j-1})$$

$$\underline{q} = 1/4 (q_{i+1,j} + q_{i,j+1} + q_{i-1,j} + q_{i,j-1})$$

using regularization:

$$\text{Error}_{\text{smoothness}} + \lambda \text{Error}_{\text{brightness}}$$

Horn's Shape-from-Shading Algorithm



Computer Science

Minimization Problem:

$$\text{Error}_{\text{smoothness}} + \lambda \text{Error}_{\text{brightness}}$$

$$\min \left\{ \sum_{k,l} \left((p_{ij} - \underline{p}_{ij})^2 + (q_{ij} - \underline{q}_{ij})^2 \right) + \lambda \sum (E_{ij} - R(p_{ij}, q_{ij}))^2 \right\}$$

p_{kl}, q_{kl}

Solution: Iterative Scheme

$$p_{ij}^{(n+1)} = \underline{p}_{ij}^{(n)} - \lambda (E_{ij} - R(p_{ij}^{(n)}, q_{ij}^{(n)})) \left(\frac{\partial R}{\partial p_{ij}} \right)^{(n)}$$

$$q_{ij}^{(n+1)} = \underline{q}_{ij}^{(n)} - \lambda (E_{ij} - R(p_{ij}^{(n)}, q_{ij}^{(n)})) \left(\frac{\partial R}{\partial q_{ij}} \right)^{(n)}$$

Initialization of Algorithm



Computer Science

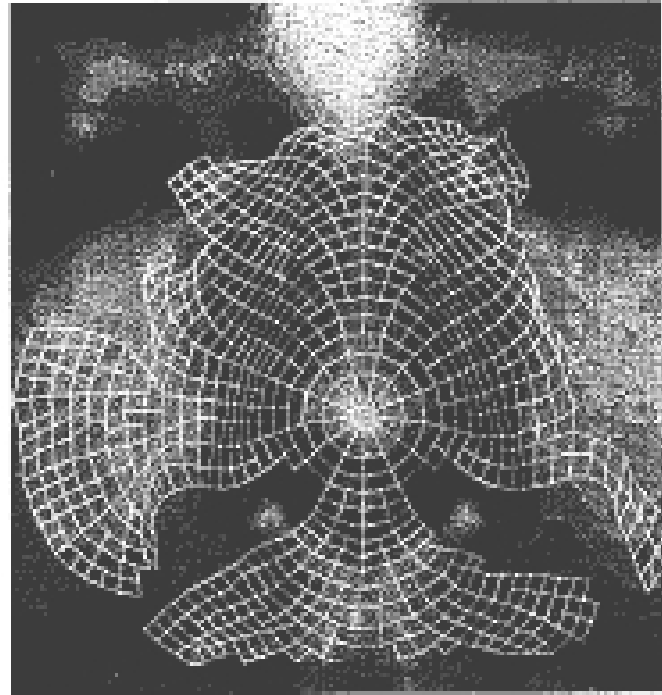
All non-boundary points:

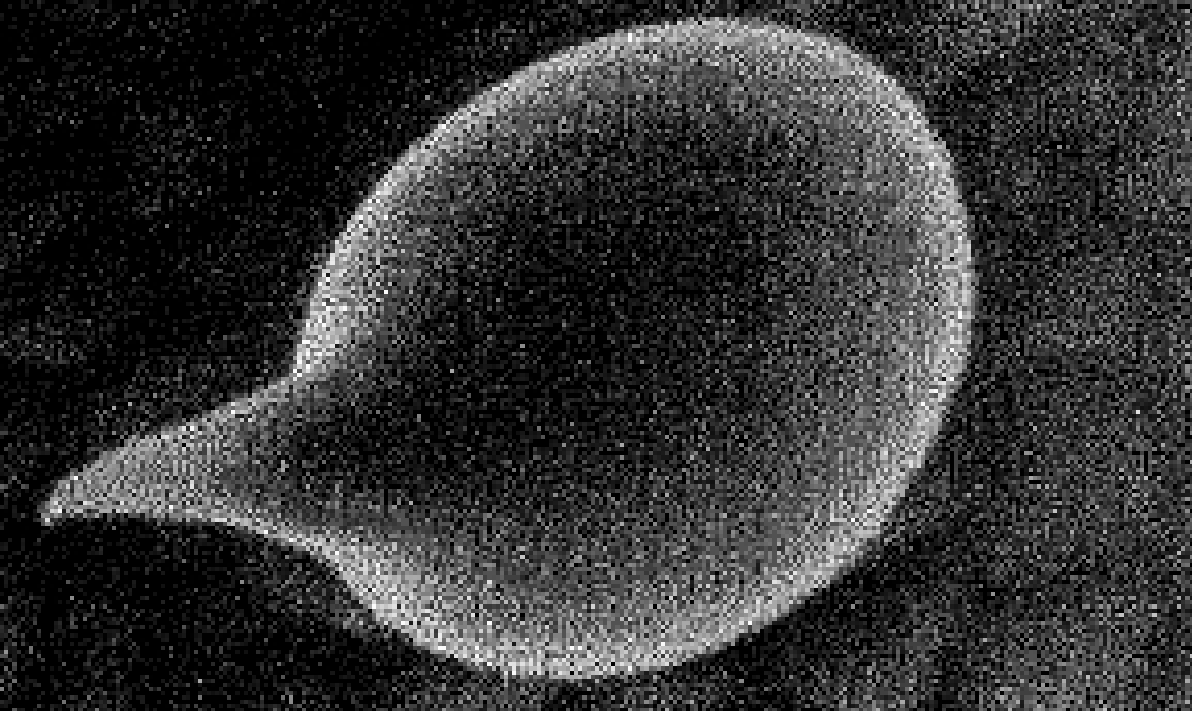
$$p_{ij}^{(0)} = 0 \text{ and } q_{ij}^{(0)} = 0$$

Silhouette boundaries with smooth edges:

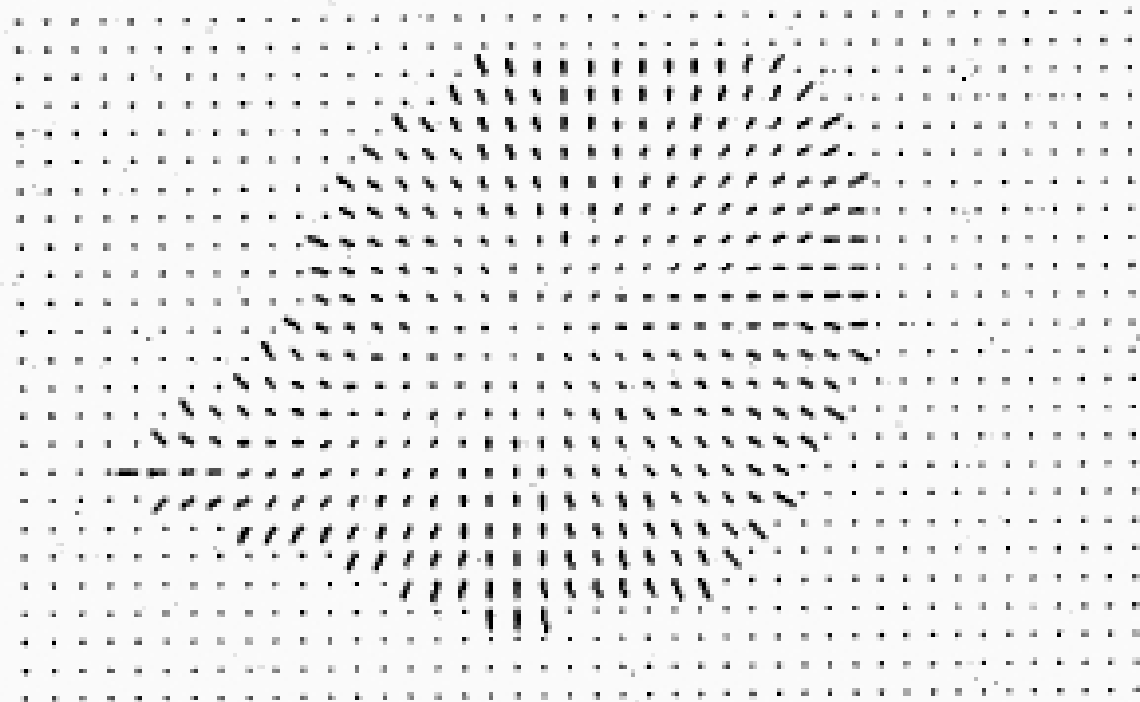
Surface orientation is perpendicular to viewer's line of sight (optical axis of camera) and to silhouette.

All such surface orientations project onto circle in p-q-space.





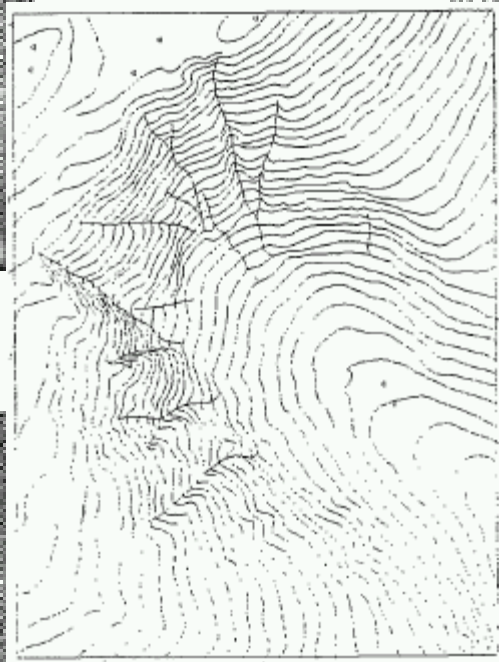
Microscope
image and needle
diagram of
reconstructed
surface of droplet
of flower of
Cannabis sativa
plant



Input image



Ground truth
3D terrain



2nd
image,
not
input

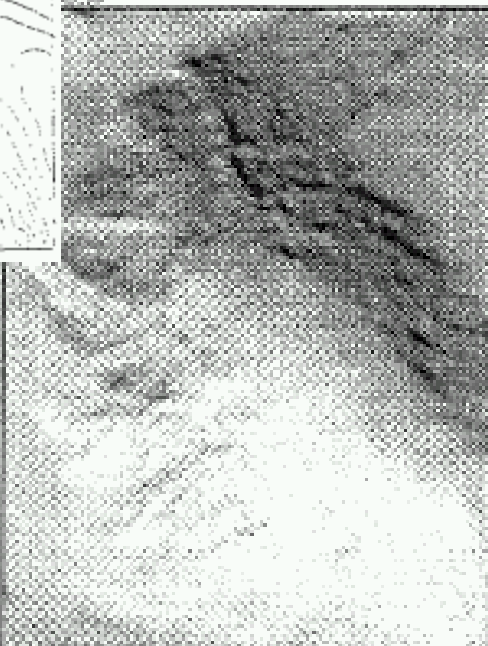


Output image

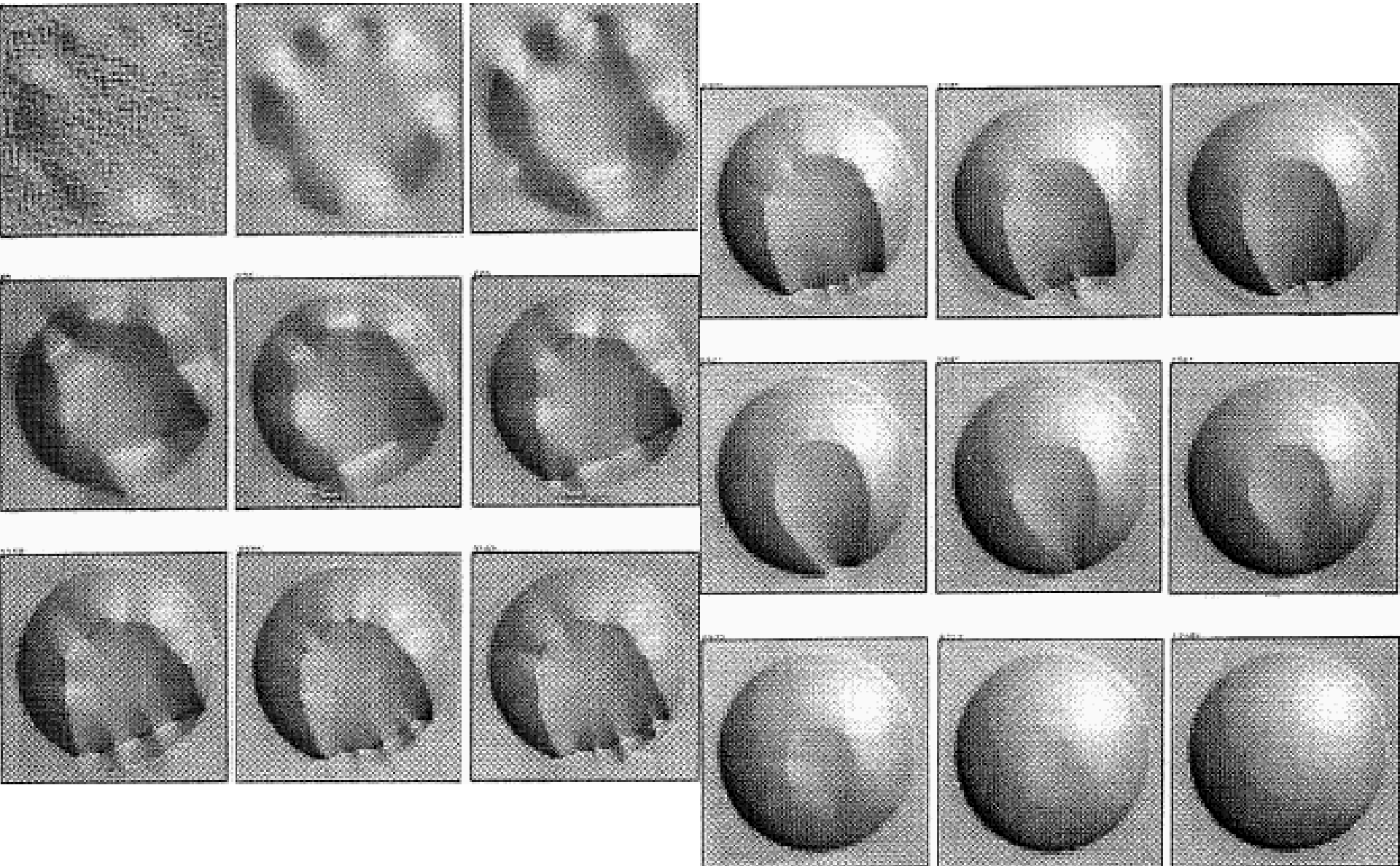


Horn '90

Pro-
cessed
output
matches
image
above

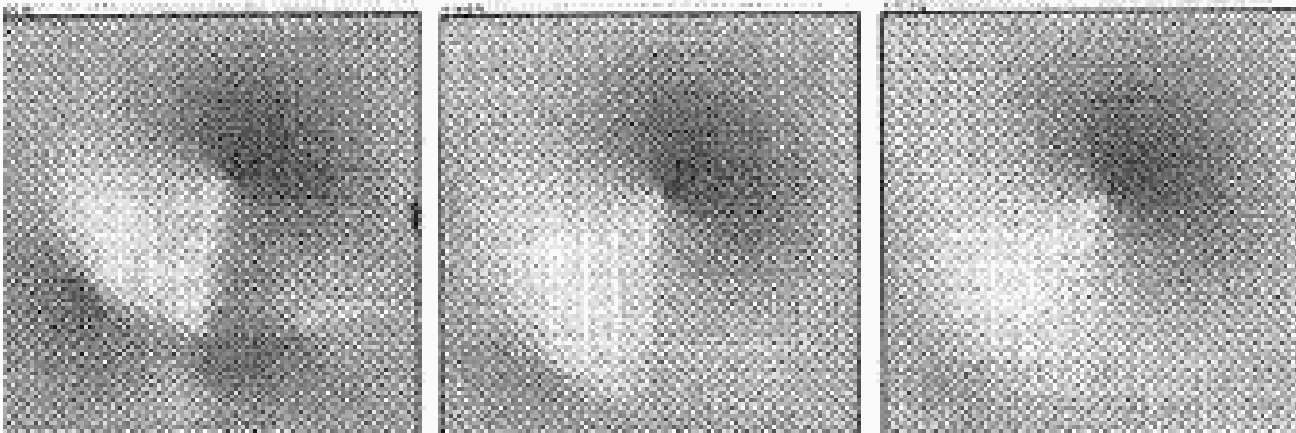
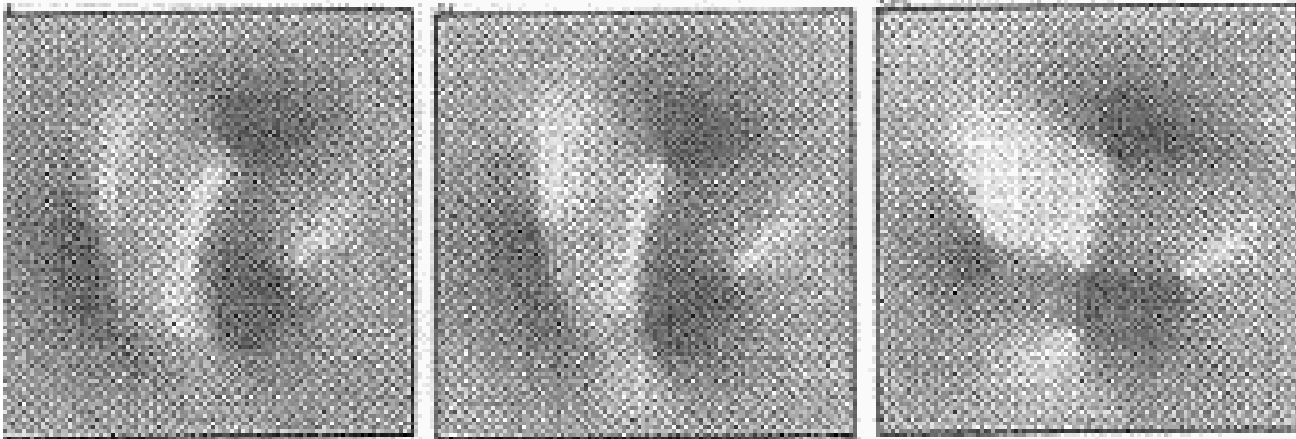
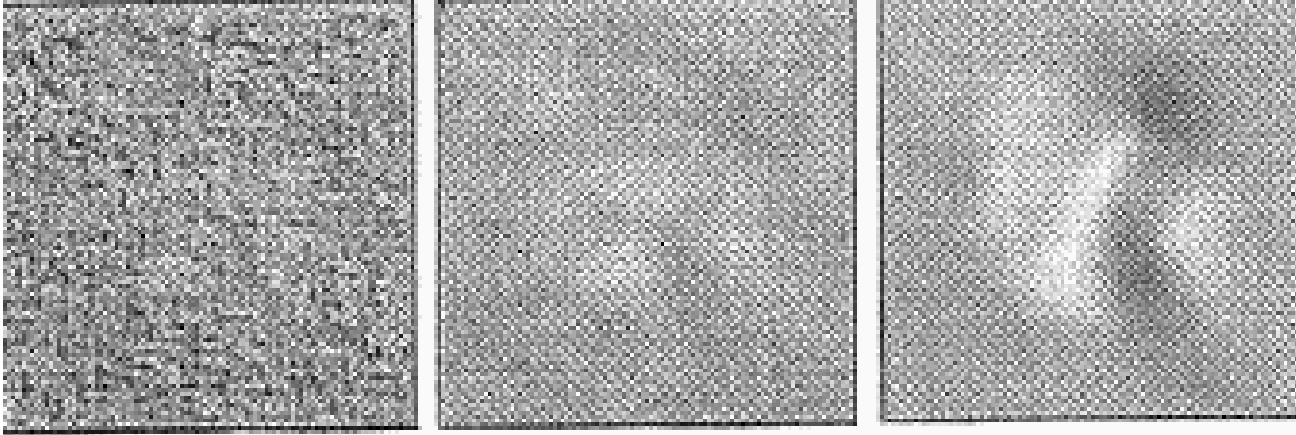


Shape-from-Shading iterative algorithm:



Spherical cap on plane

Horn '90

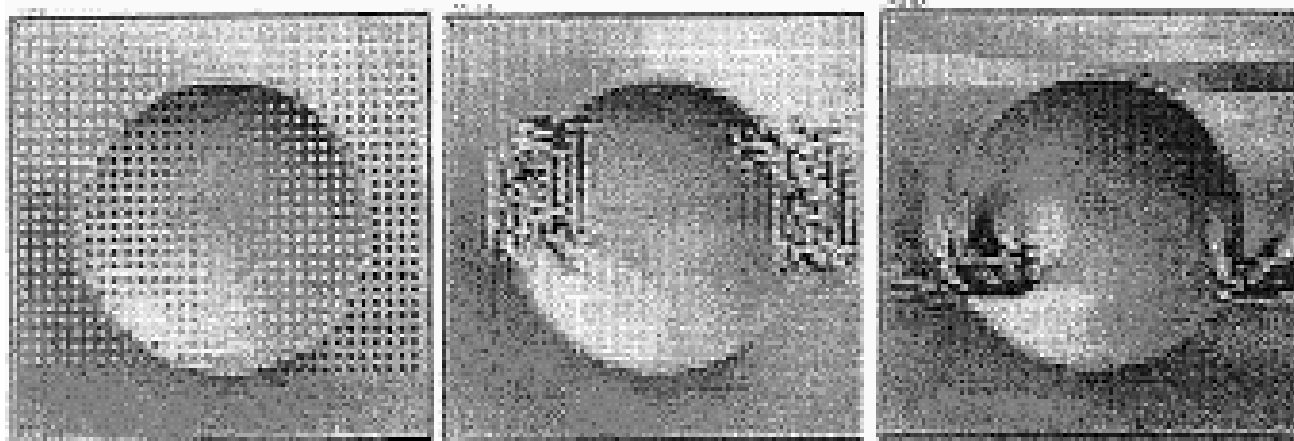


Conical
singularity

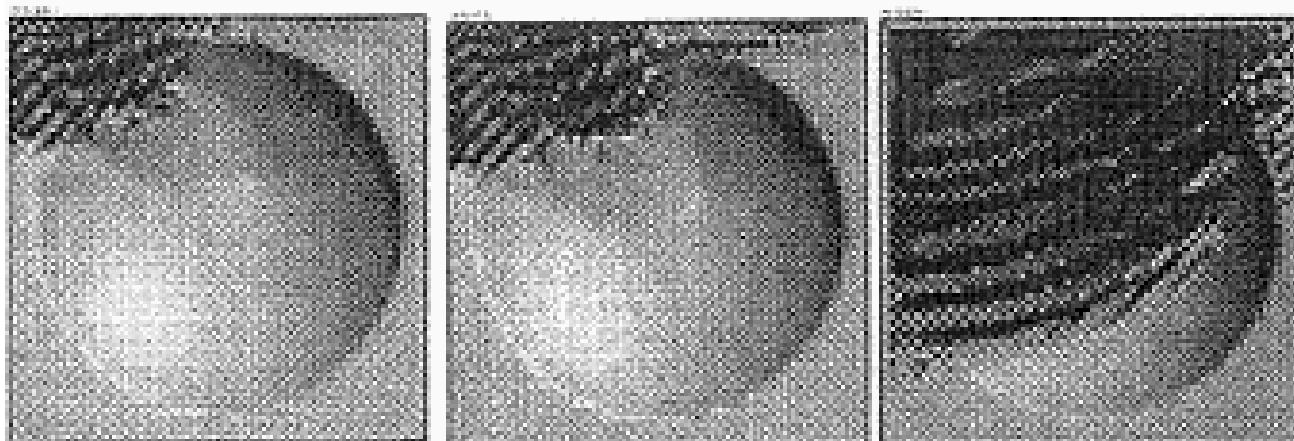
Horn '90



Too rapid reduction
of penalty term in
smoothness



Various
programming
errors



Propagation of
instability at edge
of image when
penalty term set
to zero

Learning Objectives:



Computer Science

- ❑ *Shape from shading* is a heavily underconstrained problem. Solutions involve iterative schemes & careful attention to implementation & testing methodology.
- ❑ *Photometric Stereo* is a problem that can be solved with 2 input images but the more the better (LSM). Ensure sufficiently different light source directions.
- ❑ Connection to Computer Graphics: The *Lambertian surface reflectance model* is convenient (but sometimes not applied properly).
- ❑ Tools learned: Modeling reflectance properties, with BRDF, $E = \cos\theta_i$, reflectance map $R(p,q)$, LSM, iterative method