

# Image-Based Lighting

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*...with a lot of slides  
donated by Paul Debevec*

15-463: Computational Photography  
Alexei Efros, CMU, Fall 2006

# Inserting Synthetic Objects

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Why does this look so bad?

- Wrong camera orientation
- Wrong lighting
- No shadows

# Solutions

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## Wrong Camera Orientation

- Estimate correct camera orientation and render object
  - Requires camera calibration to do it right

## Lighting & Shadows

- Estimate (eyeball) all the light sources in the scene and simulate it in your virtual rendering

## But what happens if lighting is complex?

- Extended light sources, mutual illumination, etc.

# Environment Maps

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## Simple solution for shiny objects

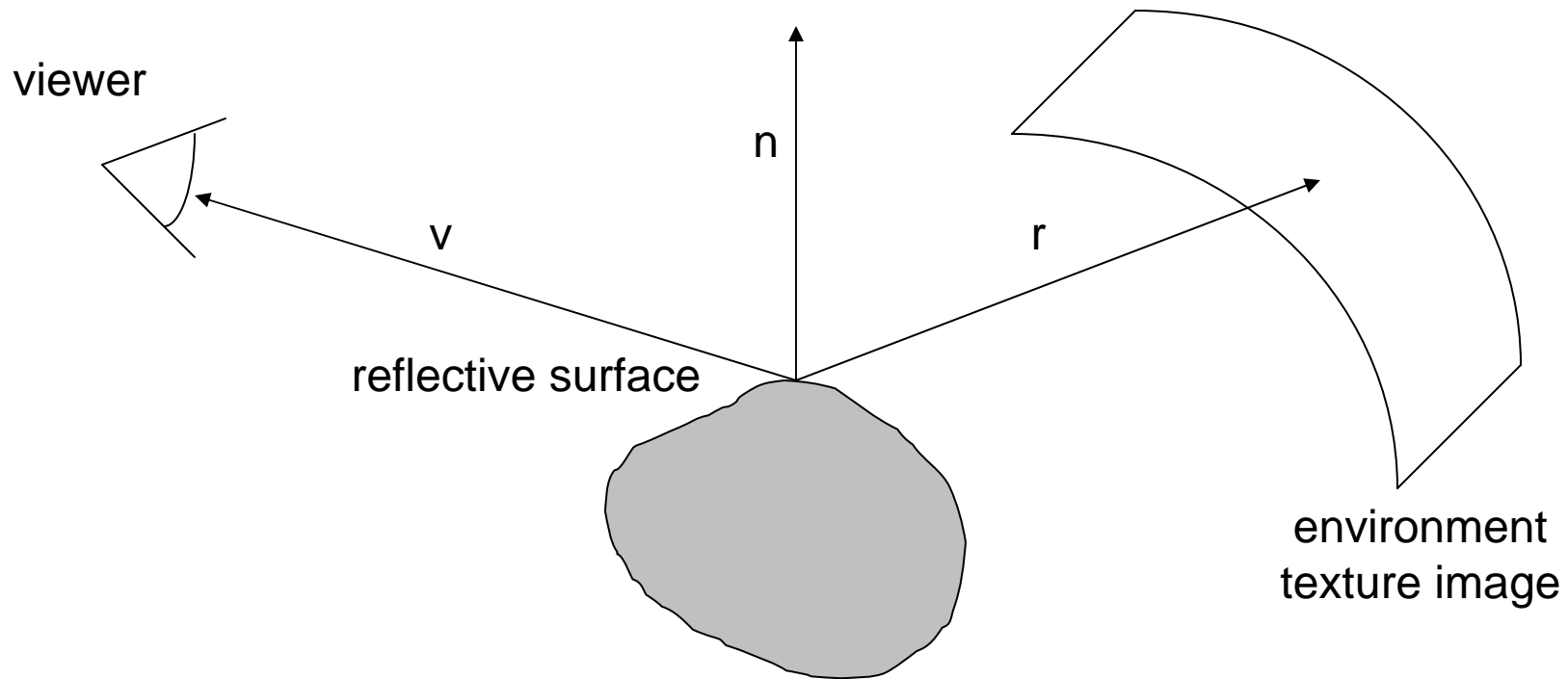
- Models complex lighting as a panoramic image
- i.e. amount of radiance coming in from each direction
- A plenoptic function!!!

# Environment Mapping

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Reflected ray:  $r = 2(n \cdot v)n - v$

projector function converts  
reflection vector (x, y, z) to  
texture image (u, v)



Texture is transferred in the direction of the reflected ray  
from the environment map onto the object  
What is in the map?

# What approximations are made?

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The map should contain a view of the world with the point of interest on the object as the Center of Projection

- We can't store a separate map for each point, so one map is used with the COP at the center of the object
- Introduces distortions in the reflection, but we usually don't notice
- Distortions are minimized for a small object in a large room

The object will not reflect itself!

# Environment Maps

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The environment map may take various forms:

- Cubic mapping
- Spherical mapping
- other

Describes the shape of the surface on which the map  
“resides”

Determines how the map is generated and how it is  
indexed

# Cubic Mapping

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The map resides on the surfaces of a cube around the object

- Typically, align the faces of the cube with the coordinate axes

To generate the map:

- For each face of the cube, render the world from the center of the object with the cube face as the image plane
  - Rendering can be arbitrarily complex (it's off-line)

To use the map:

- Index the R ray into the correct cube face
- Compute texture coordinates



# Cubic Map Example

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# Sphere Mapping

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Map lives on a sphere

To generate the map:

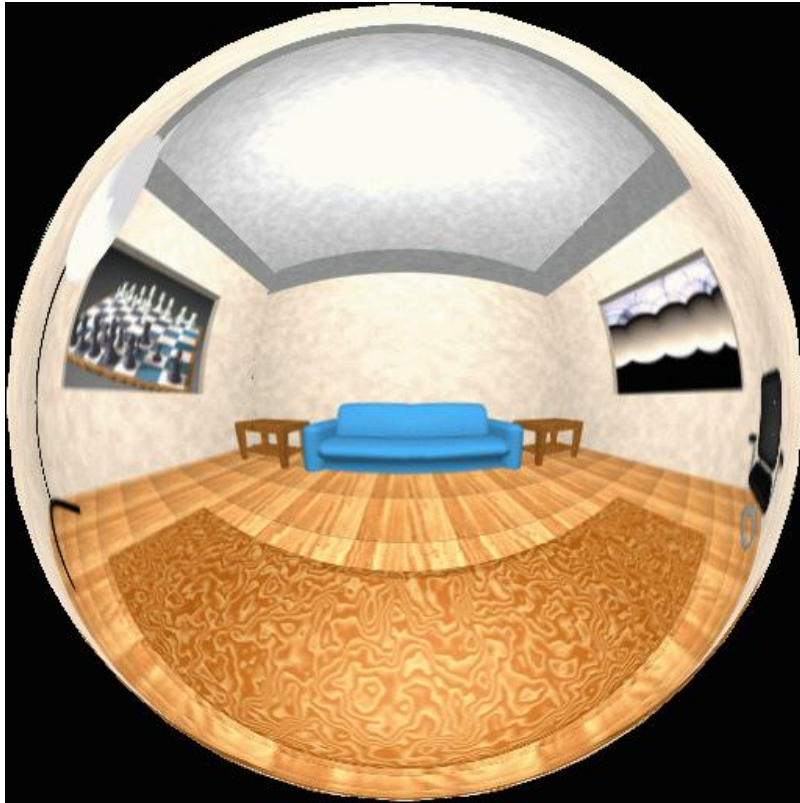
- Render a spherical panorama from the designed center point

To use the map:

- Use the orientation of the R ray to index directly into the sphere

# Example

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# What about real scenes?

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from Terminator 2



# Real environment maps

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We can use photographs to capture environment maps

- The first use of panoramic mosaics

How do we deal with light sources? Sun, lights, etc?

- They are much much brighter than the rest of the environment

User High Dynamic Range photography, of course!

Several ways to acquire environment maps:

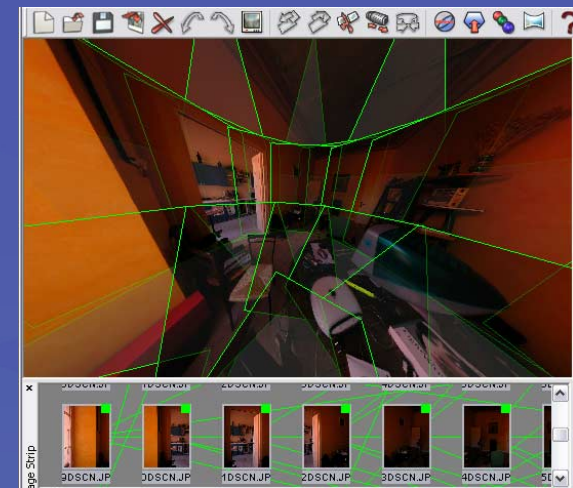
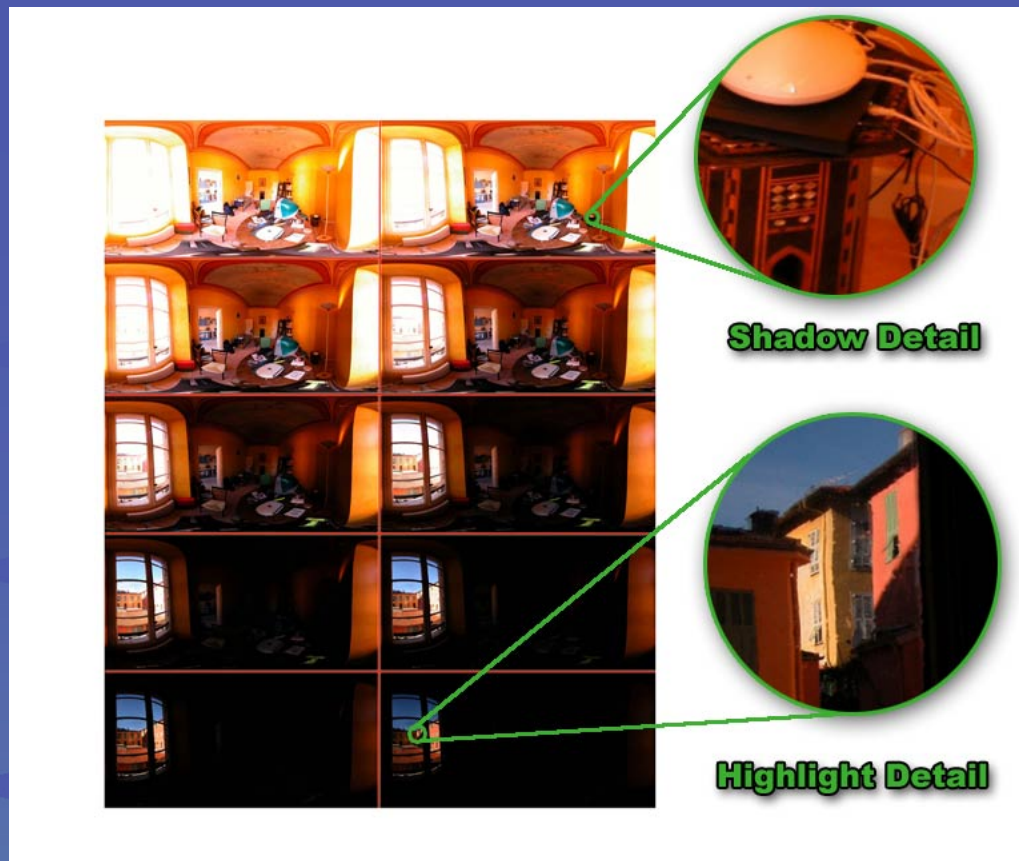
- Stitching mosaics
- Fisheye lens
- Mirrored Balls

# Stitching HDR mosaics



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<http://www.gregdowning.com/HDRI/stitched/>



# Scanning Panoramic Cameras

## Pros:

*very high res (10K x 7K+)*

Full sphere in one scan – no stitching

Good dynamic range, some are HDR

## Issues:

More expensive

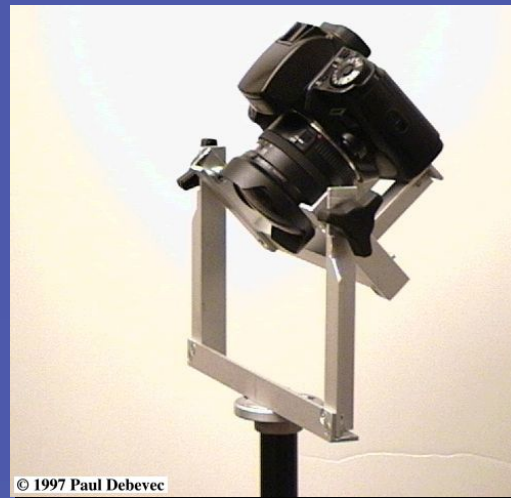
Scans take a while

**Companies:** Panoscan, Sphereon

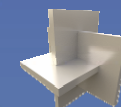




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See also [www.kaidan.com](http://www.kaidan.com)







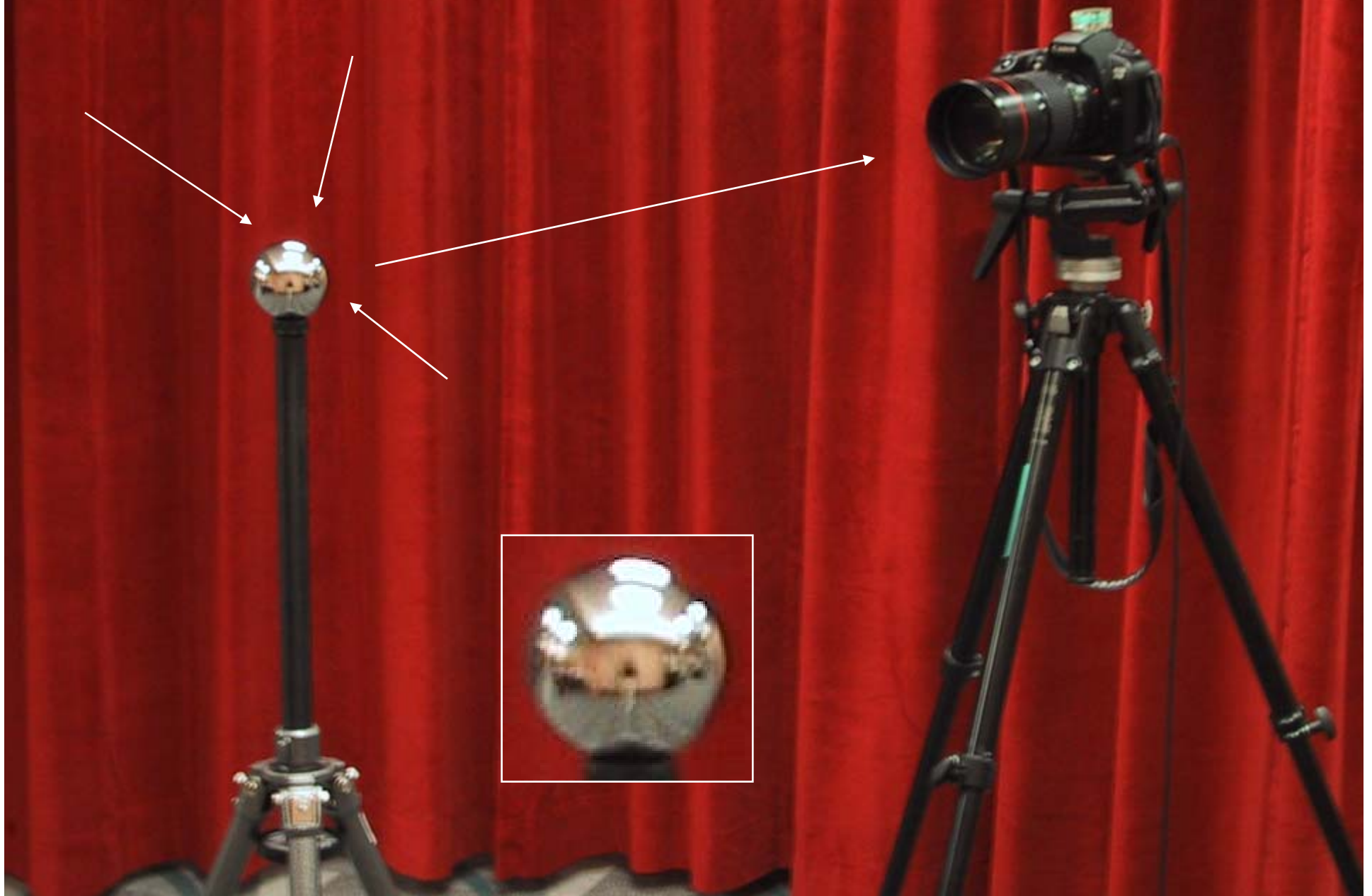


# Fisheye Images





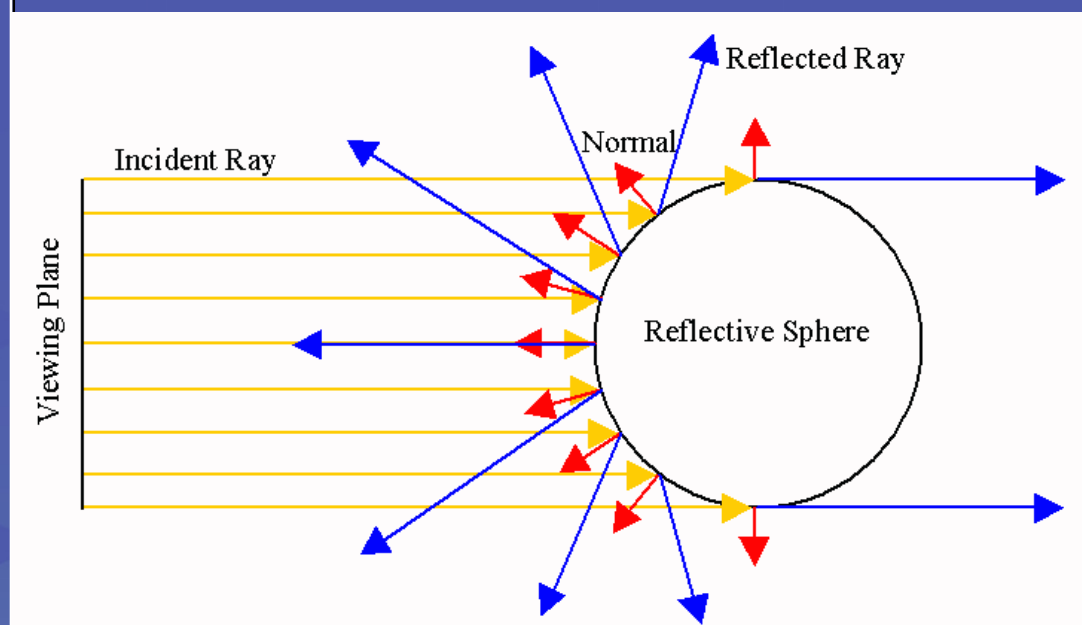
# Mirrored Sphere







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# Sources of Mirrored Balls



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- 2-inch chrome balls ~ \$20 ea.
  - McMaster-Carr Supply Company  
[www.mcmaster.com](http://www.mcmaster.com)
- 6-12 inch large gazing balls
  - Baker's Lawn Ornaments  
[www.bakerslawnorn.com](http://www.bakerslawnorn.com)
- Hollow Spheres, 2in – 4in
  - Dube Juggling Equipment  
[www.dube.com](http://www.dube.com)
- **FAQ** on [www.debevec.org/HDRShop/](http://www.debevec.org/HDRShop/)

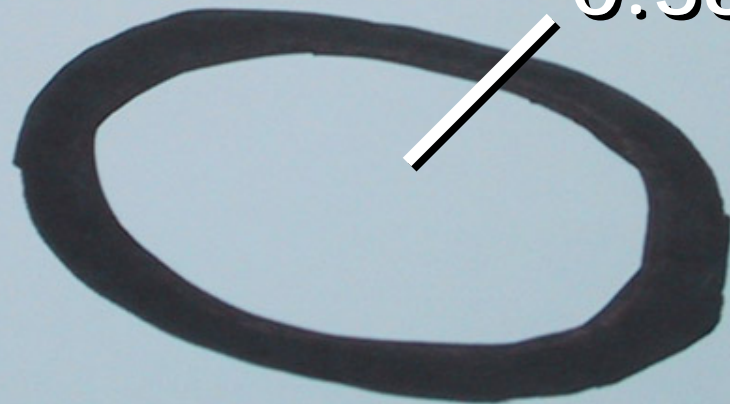




0.34

=> 59%  
Reflective

Calibrating  
Mirrored Sphere  
Reflectivity



0.58

# Real-World HDR Lighting Environments

Funston  
Beach



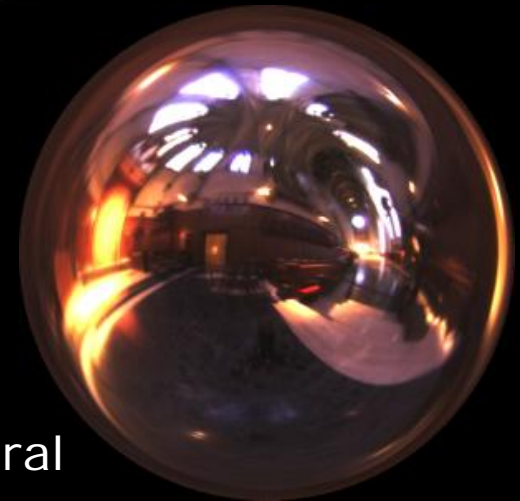
Eucalyptus  
Grove



Uffizi  
Gallery



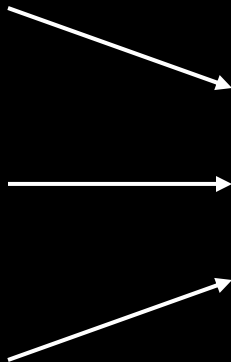
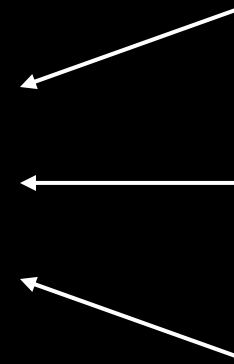
Grace  
Cathedral



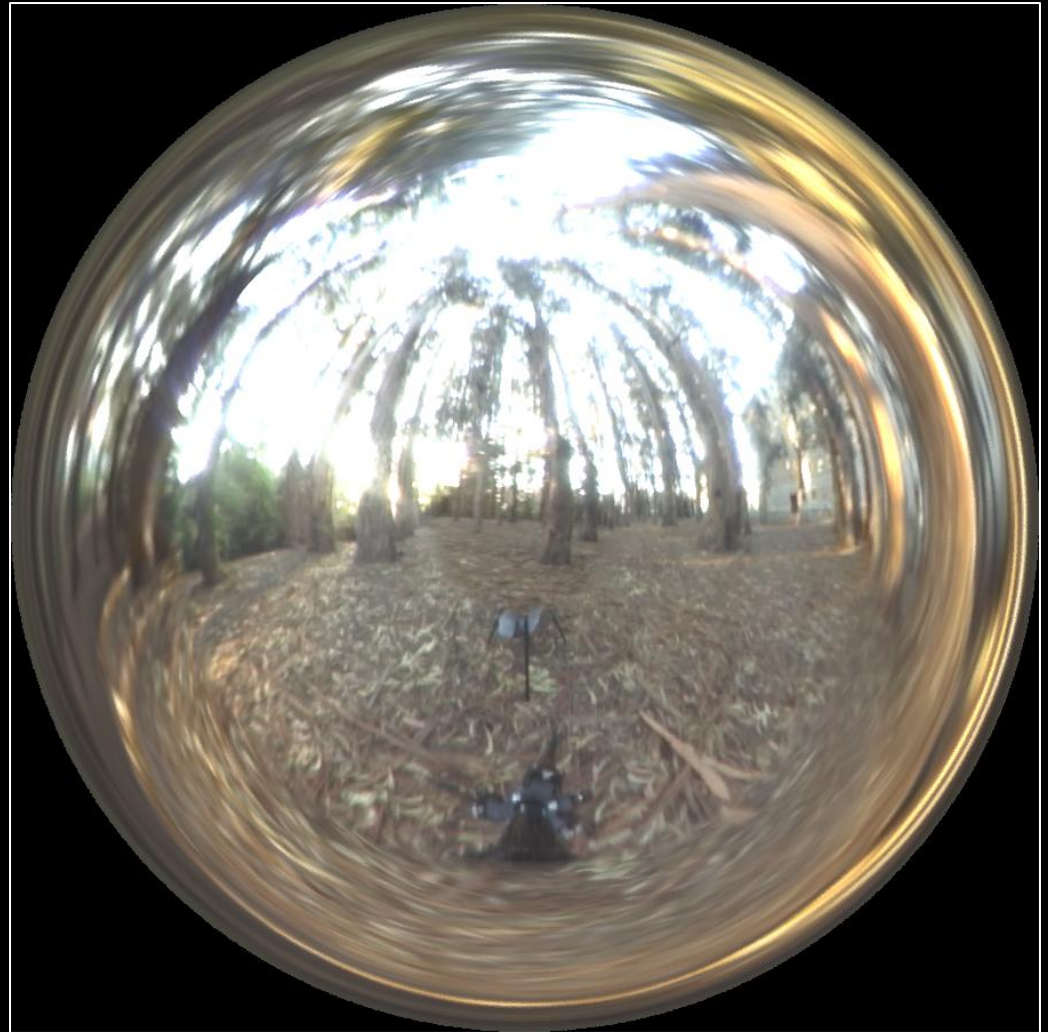
Lighting Environments from the Light Probe Image Gallery:  
<http://www.debevec.org/Probes/>



# Acquiring the Light Probe



# Assembling the Light Probe





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# Not just shiny...

We have captured a true radiance map

We can treat it as an extended (e.g spherical) light source

Can use Global Illumination to simulate light transport in the scene

- So, all objects (not just shiny) can be lighted
- What's the limitation?



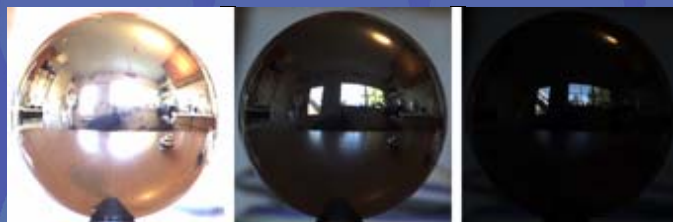
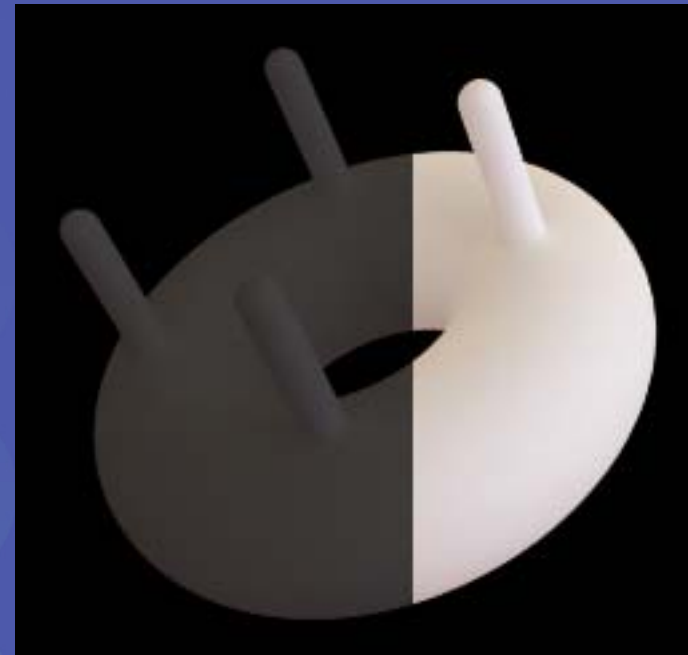
# Illumination Results



# Comparison: Radiance map versus single image



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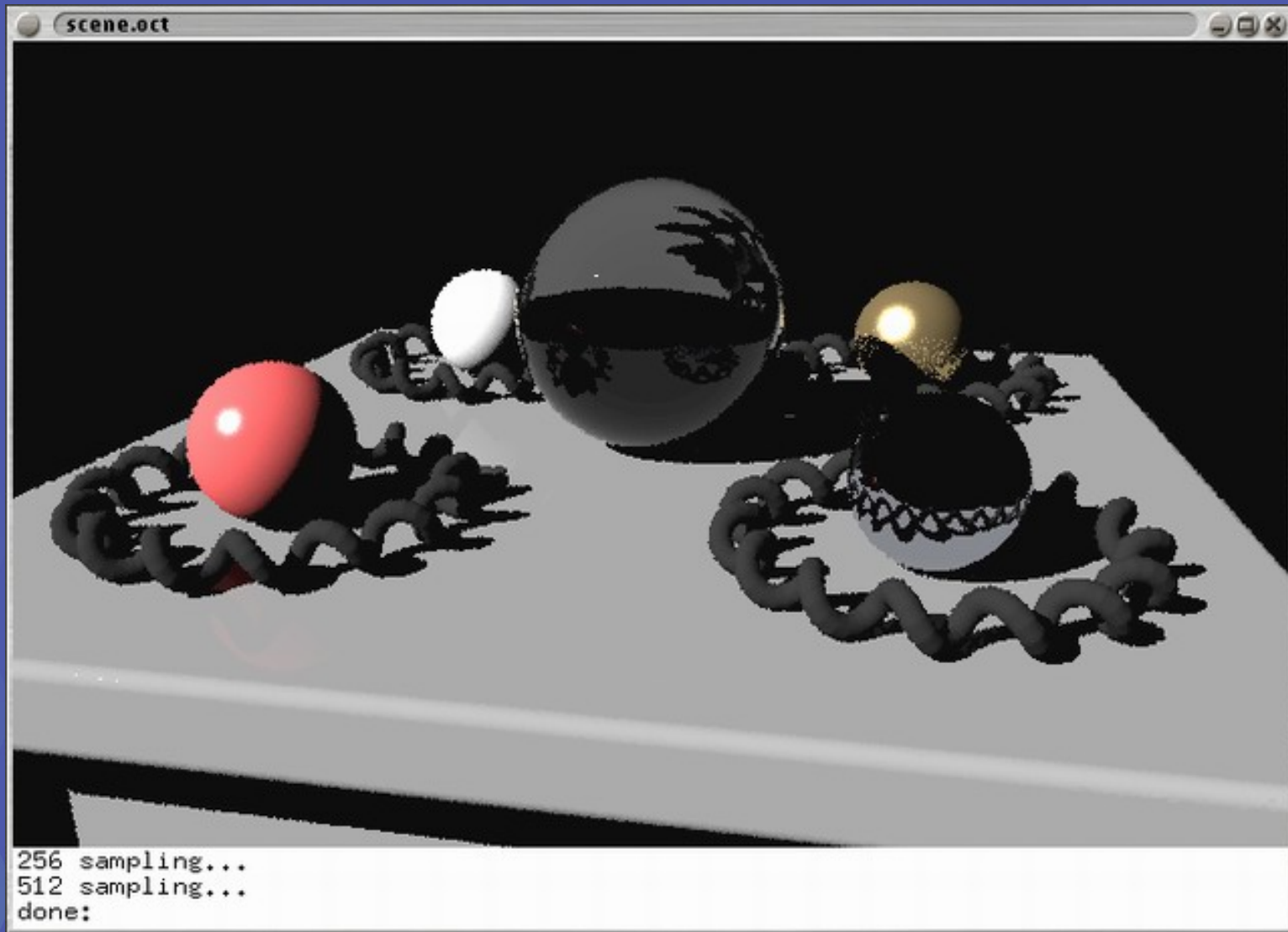
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# Putting it all together

Synthetic Objects

+

Real light!



H2004

CG Objects Illuminated by a Traditional CG  
Light Source

# Illuminating Objects using Measurements of Real Light



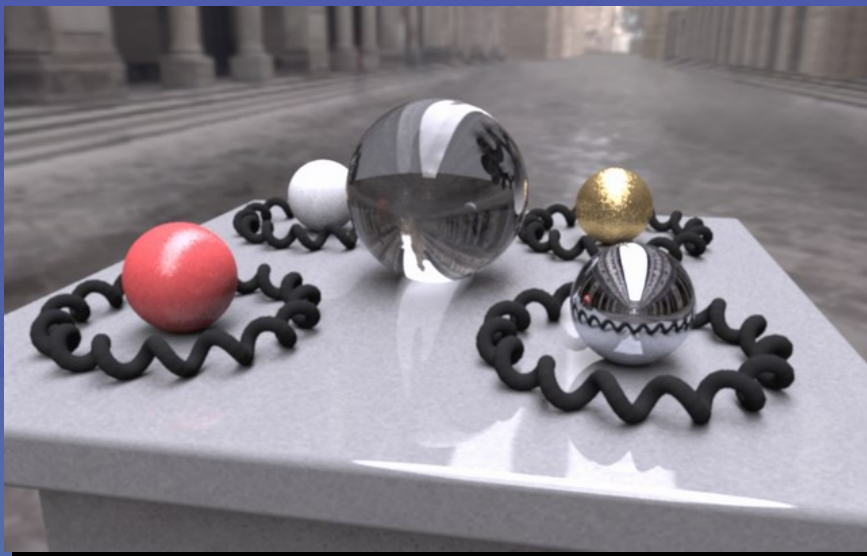
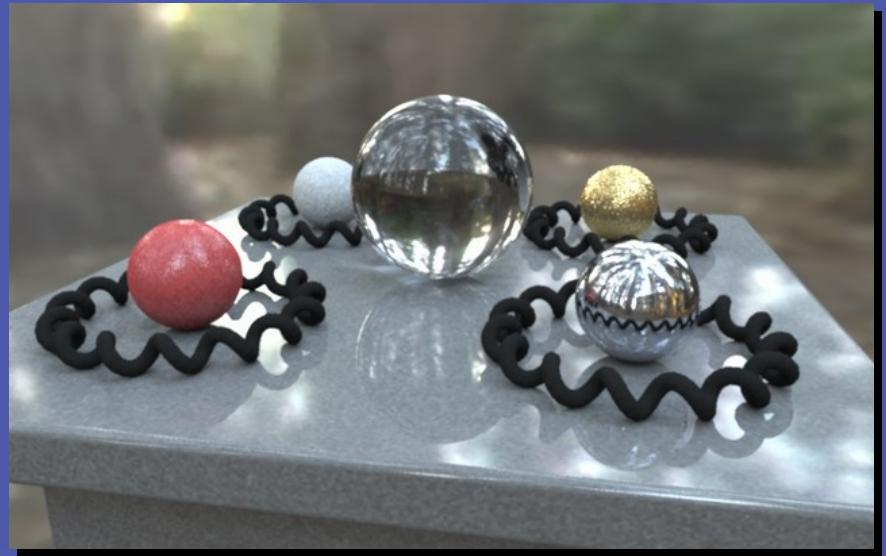
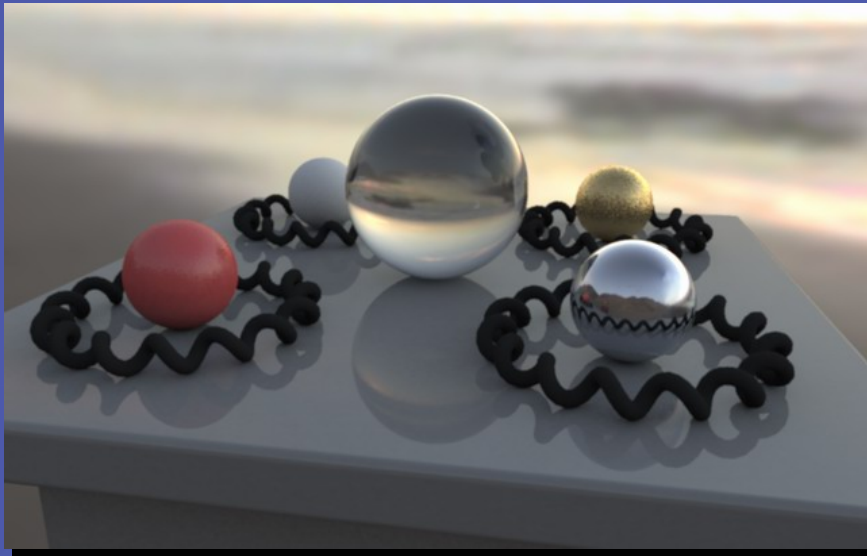
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Environment  
assigned "glow"  
material  
property in  
Greg Ward's  
**RADIANCE**  
system.

<http://radsite.lbl.gov/radiance/>





Paul Debevec. A Tutorial on Image-Based Lighting. IEEE Computer Graphics and Applications, Jan/Feb 2002.

# *Rendering with Natural Light*



SIGGRAPH 98 Electronic Theater

RNL Environment  
mapped onto  
interior of large  
cube





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MOVIE!