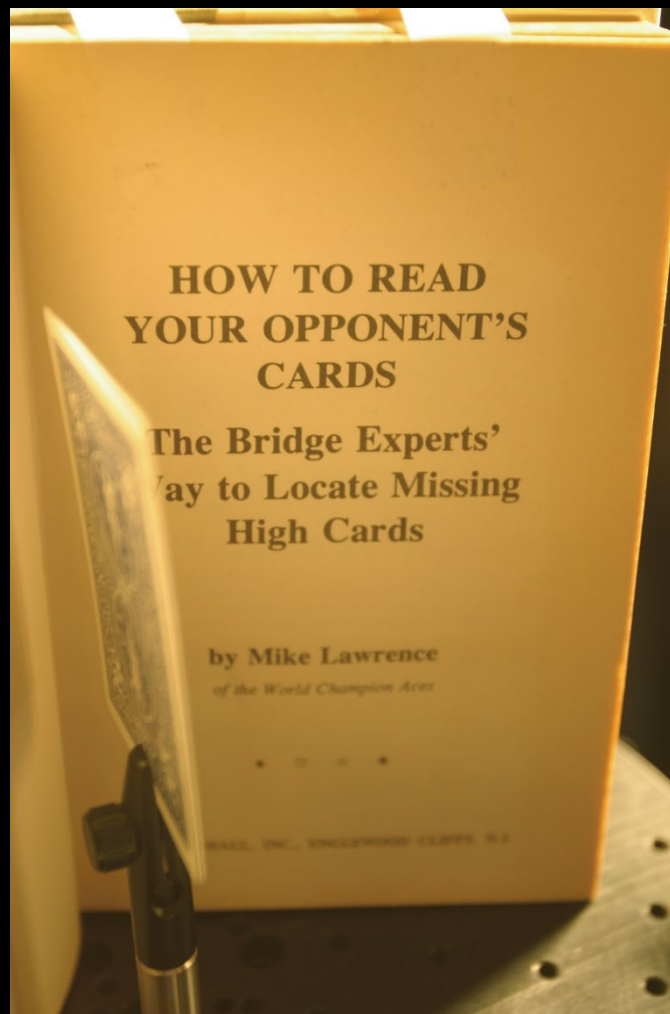


# Light transport matrices



15-463, 15-663, 15-862  
Computational Photography  
Fall 2024, Lecture 19

# Course announcements

- Homework assignment 6 on Friday.
  - Any questions?
- Remember to pick up final project equipment.

# Overview of today's lecture

- The light transport matrix.
- Image-based relighting.
- Optical computing using the light transport matrix.
- Dual photography.

# Slide credits

These slides were directly adapted from:

- Matt O'Toole (CMU).



# The light transport matrix

photo with lights 1 & 2 turned on



photo with light 1 turned on



photo with light 2 turned on



How do these three images relate to each other?

# the superposition principle



=



+



photo taken under two light sources =  
sum of photos taken under each source individually

# the superposition principle



photo taken under two light sources =  
sum of photos taken under each source individually

# the superposition principle

why is the error not exactly zero?

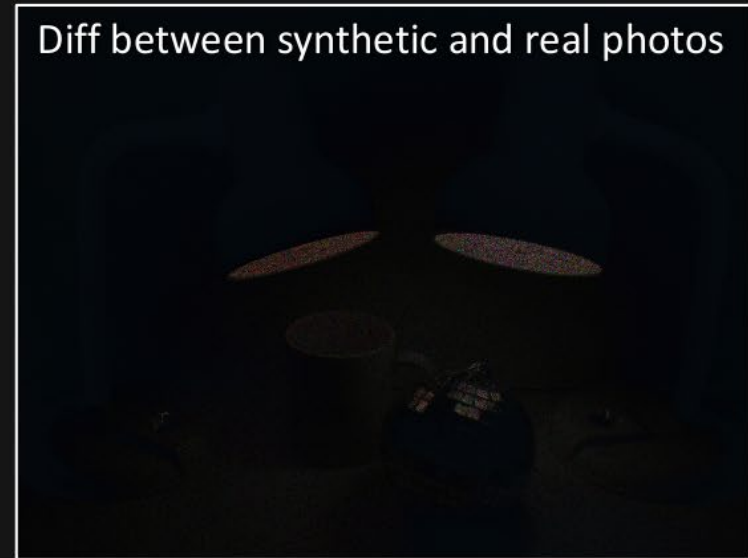


photo taken under two light sources =  
sum of photos taken under each source individually

# image-based relighting



=





# image-based relighting



=



+



Weight 1

x

1

Weight 2

x

1

# image-based relighting



=



+



Weight 1

x

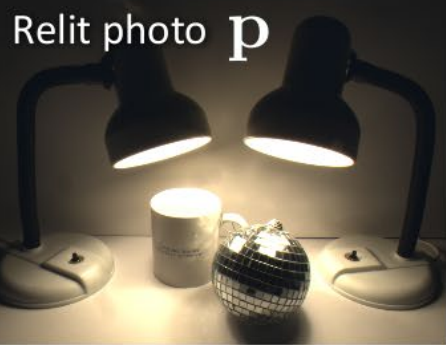
1

Weight 2

x

0





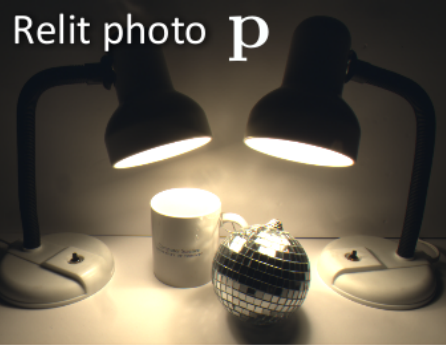
=



Weight 1  
 $\times \mathbf{l}_1 +$



Weight 2  
 $\times \mathbf{l}_2$



=



Weight 1  
 $\times \mathbf{l}_1$



Weight 2  
 $\times \mathbf{l}_2$

$\mathbf{p}$

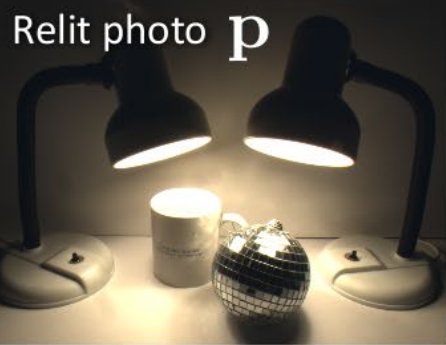
=

$\sum_{i=1}^2$

$\mathbf{T}_i$

$\times$

$\mathbf{l}_i$



$$= \text{photo with light 1 turned on } \mathbf{T}_1 \times \text{Weight 1 } \mathbf{l}_1 + \text{photo with light 2 turned on } \mathbf{T}_2 \times \text{Weight 2 } \mathbf{l}_2$$

$n$

$\mathbf{p}$

$n$  pixel values

$$= \sum_{i=1}^2 \mathbf{T}_i \times \mathbf{l}_i$$



=



Weight 1  
 $\times \mathbf{l}_1$



Weight 2  
 $\times \mathbf{l}_2$

16

$n$   
 $\updownarrow$   
 $n$  pixel values

$\mathbf{p}$

=

$\sum_{i=1}^2$

$\mathbf{T}_i$

$\times$

$\mathbf{l}_i$



=



Weight 1

$\times \mathbf{l}_1$

+



Weight 2

$\times \mathbf{l}_2$

$$\begin{array}{c} \updownarrow n \\ \mathbf{p} \end{array} = \sum_{i=1}^2 \mathbf{T}_i \times \mathbf{l}_i$$

Contribution of the source

$n$  pixel values



Number of controllable sources  $\downarrow$  2

Contribution of each source  $\swarrow$

$n$

$\mathbf{p}$

$=$

$\sum_{i=1}^2$

$\mathbf{T}_i$

$\times$

$\mathbf{l}_i$

$n$  pixel values

This block shows the generalized equation for relighting. A vertical vector  $\mathbf{p}$  of size  $n$  (representing pixel values) is equal to the sum from  $i=1$  to 2 of the product of a source photo  $\mathbf{T}_i$  and its weight  $\mathbf{l}_i$ . The number of controllable sources is indicated as 2. The contribution of each source is indicated by an arrow pointing to the weight  $\mathbf{l}_i$ .



=



Weight 1  
 $\times \mathbf{l}_1$



Weight 2  
 $\times \mathbf{l}_2$

$$\begin{array}{c} \updownarrow \\ n \end{array} \mathbf{p} = \sum_{i=1}^2 \mathbf{T}_i \times \mathbf{l}_i$$

Number of controllable sources  $\searrow$  2

Contribution of each source  $\swarrow$

$n$  pixel values



=



Weight 1  
 $\times \mathbf{l}_1$



Weight 2  
 $\times \mathbf{l}_2$

$$\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ n \\ \downarrow \end{array} \mathbf{p} = \sum_{i=1}^{\text{Number of controllable sources}} \mathbf{T}_i \times \begin{array}{c} \text{Contribution of each source} \\ \mathbf{l}_i \end{array}$$

$n$  pixel values





=



Weight 1  
 $\times \mathbf{l}_1 +$



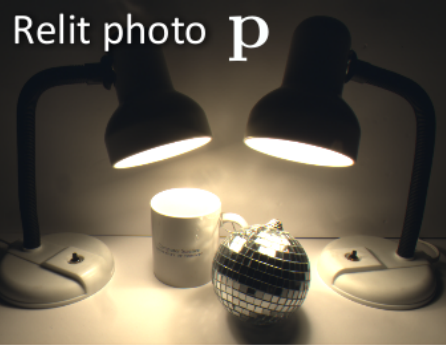
Weight 2  
 $\times \mathbf{l}_2$

Number of controllable sources  $m$

Contribution of each source

$$\begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ n \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} \mathbf{p} = \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{T}_i \times \mathbf{l}_i$$

$n$  pixel values



=



Weight 1  
 $\times \mathbf{l}_1 +$



Weight 2  
 $\times \mathbf{l}_2$

light transport matrix

$\begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ n \\ \downarrow \end{matrix}$ 
 $\mathbf{p}$ 
 $=$

$n$  pixel values

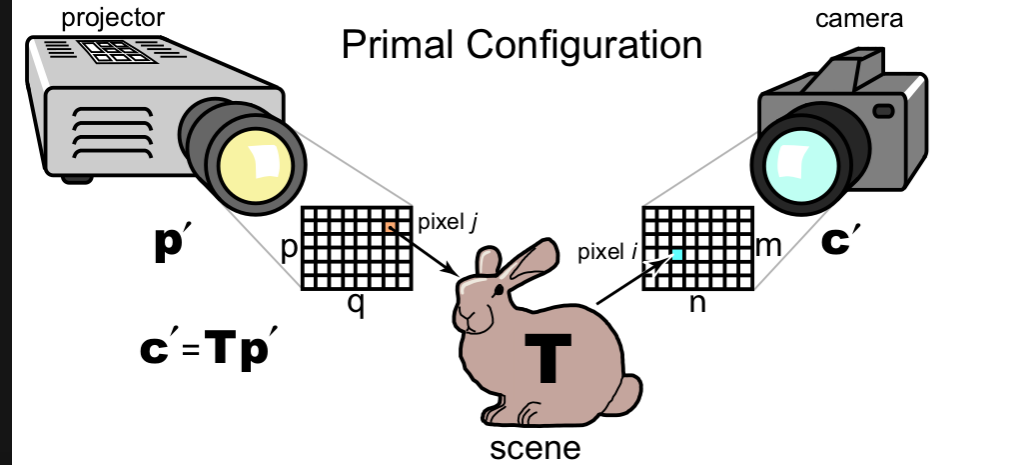
$\mathbf{T}$

$n \times m$

$\mathbf{l}$ 
 $\begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ m \\ \downarrow \end{matrix}$

Can you think of a case where we have a very large  $m$ ?

Use a projector



$$\begin{array}{c} \updownarrow n \\ \mathbf{p} \\ \downarrow n \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{T} \\ n \times m \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \updownarrow m \\ \mathbf{1} \\ \downarrow m \end{array}$$

pixel values

What does each row and column of  $\mathbf{T}$  correspond to here?

# Image-based relighting

Let's say I have measured  $T$ .

- What does it mean to right-multiply it with some vector  $\mathbf{l}$ ?

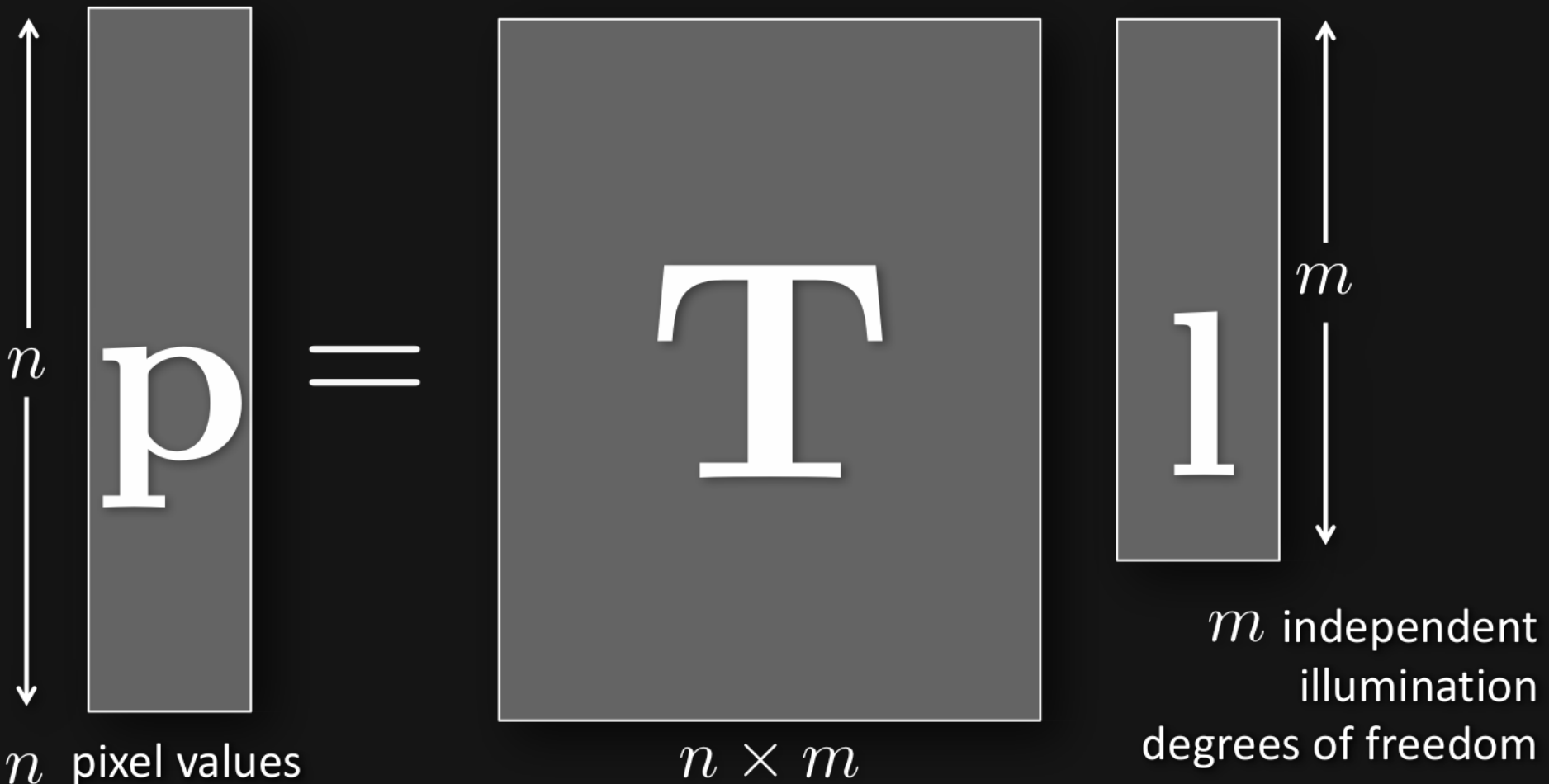
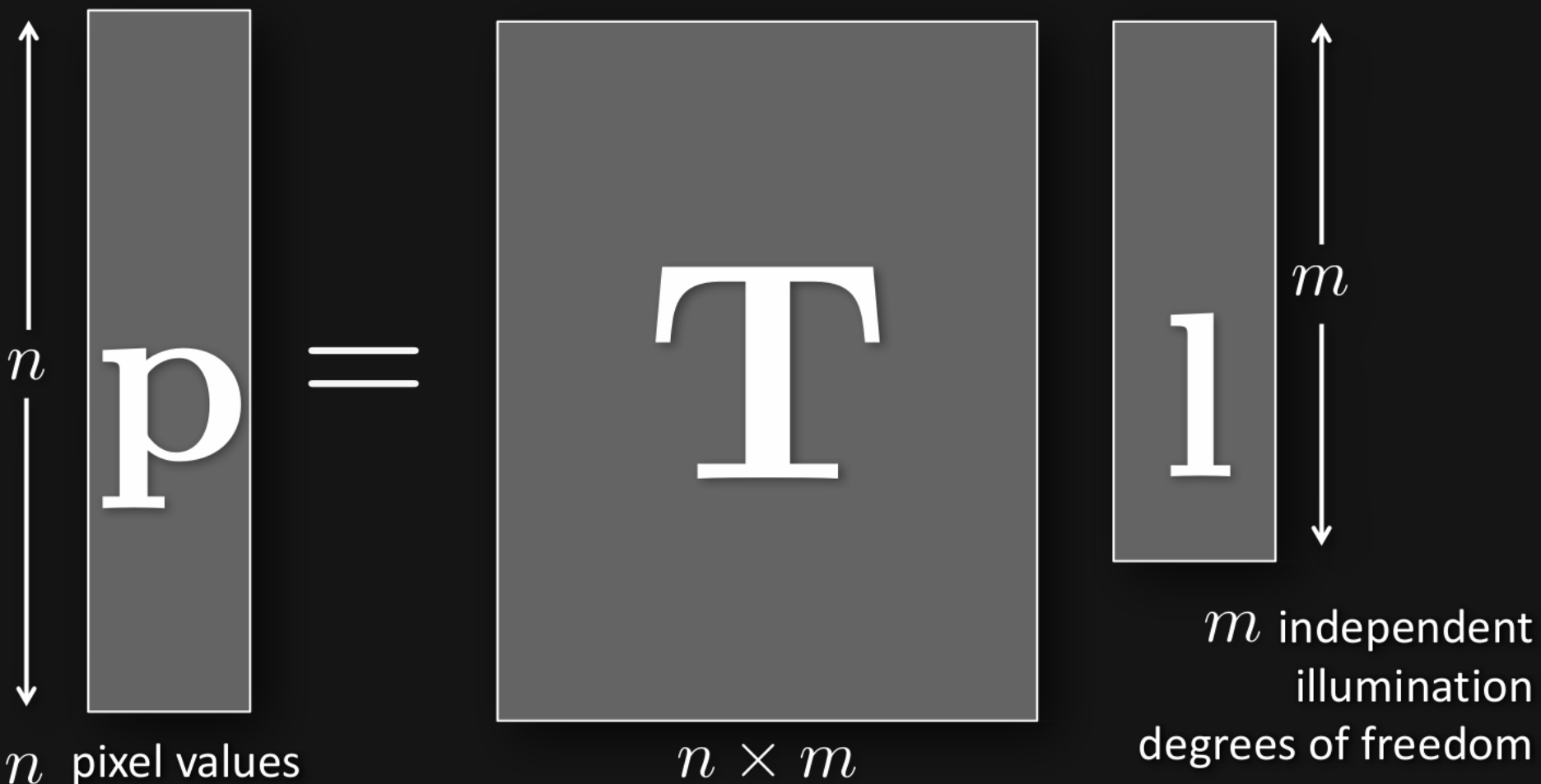


Image-based relighting: Use the measurements we already have of the scene (the pictures I took when measuring  $T$ ) to simulate new illuminations of the scene.



# Acquiring the Reflectance Field [Debevec et al. 2000]

27

image-based rendering & relighting



Reflectance field

# Acquiring the Reflectance Field

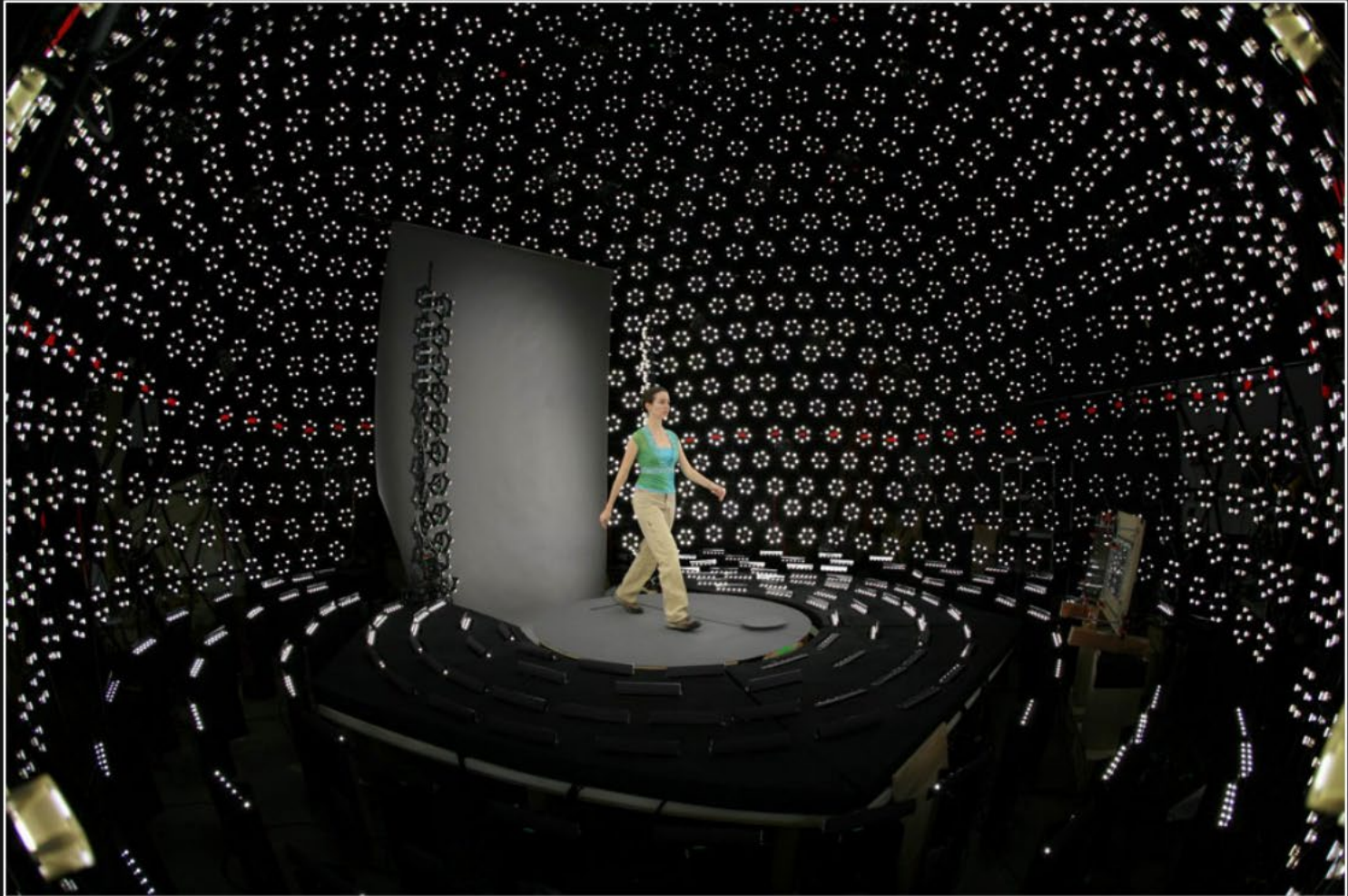
image-based rendering & relighting



Great demonstration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkzLLz1tXds> Debevec et al, SIG 2000



# Acquiring the Reflectance Field



Light stage 6, Debevec et al., 2006

# Optical computing using the light transport matrix

# main difficulties

question: what are the challenges with analyzing **T**?

A diagram illustrating the relationship between three variables:  $p$ ,  $T$ , and  $l$ . The variable  $p$  is contained within a vertical gray rectangle. The variable  $T$  is contained within a larger square gray rectangle. The variable  $l$  is contained within a vertical gray rectangle. These three rectangles are arranged horizontally and separated by an equals sign (=), indicating the equation  $p = T l$ .

# main difficulties

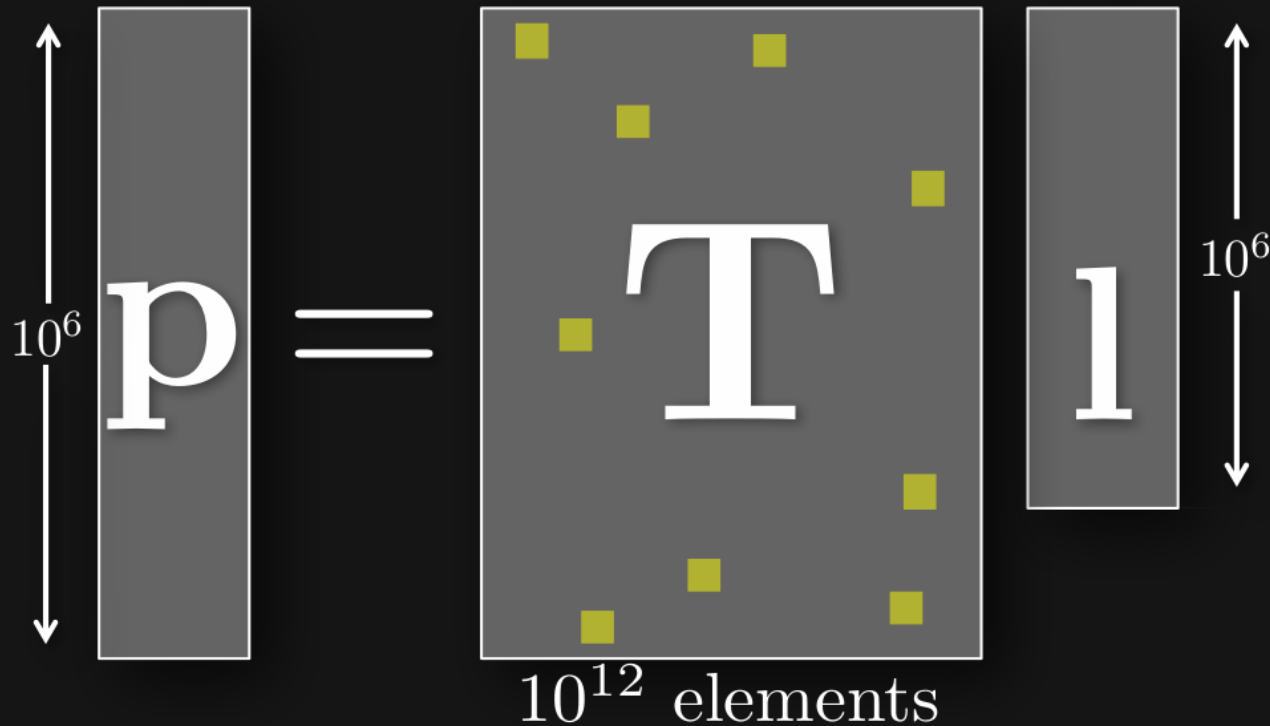
question: what are the challenges with analyzing  $\mathbf{T}$ ?

$$\begin{array}{c} \updownarrow 10^6 \\ \mathbf{p} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{T} \\ \downarrow 10^{12} \text{ elements} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{l} \\ \updownarrow 10^6 \end{array}$$

- matrix can be extremely large

# main difficulties

question: what are the challenges with analyzing  $\mathbf{T}$ ?



- matrix can be extremely large
- elements not directly accessible

# main difficulties

question: what are the challenges with analyzing  $\mathbf{T}$ ?

$$\begin{array}{c} \updownarrow 10^6 \\ \mathbf{p} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{T} \\ \downarrow 10^{12} \text{ elements} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{l} \\ \updownarrow 10^6 \end{array}$$

- matrix can be extremely large
- elements not directly accessible
- global structure poorly understood

How would you measure the light transport matrix  $T$ ?

$$\begin{array}{c} \updownarrow 10^6 \\ \mathbf{p} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{T} \\ \text{\scriptsize } 10^{12} \text{ elements} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{l} \\ \updownarrow 10^6 \end{array}$$

- matrix can be extremely large
- elements not directly accessible
- global structure poorly understood

How would you measure the light transport matrix  $T$ ?

$$\begin{matrix} \updownarrow 10^6 \\ \text{p} \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} \text{T} \\ \downarrow 10^{12} \text{ elements} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{l} \\ \updownarrow 10^6 \end{matrix}$$

Exhaustive/naïve approach: turn on projector pixels one at a time and take a photo for each of them.

- What does each photo correspond to in  $T$ ?



How would you measure the light transport matrix  $T$ ?

$$\begin{matrix} \updownarrow 10^6 \\ \text{p} \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} \text{T} \\ \text{10}^{12} \text{ elements} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{l} \\ \updownarrow 10^6 \end{matrix}$$

Exhaustive/naïve approach: turn on projector pixels one at a time and take a photo for each of them.

- How many photos do we need to capture?

# computing with light

numerical algorithms implemented directly in optics

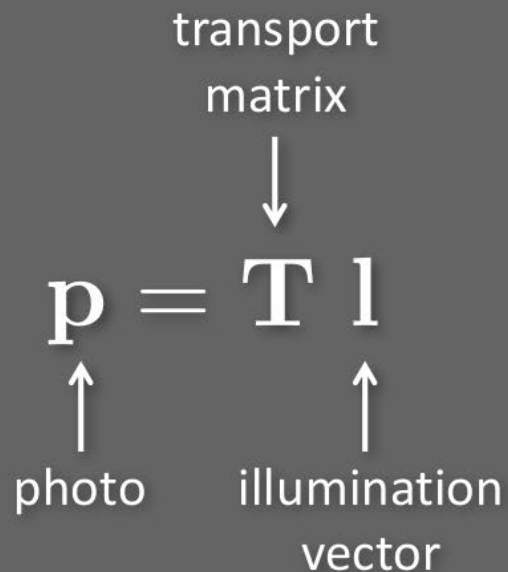
## numerical domain

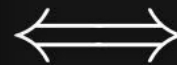
$$\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{T} \mathbf{l}$$

transport matrix

photo

illumination vector





## optical domain



# computing with light

numerical algorithms implemented directly in optics

## numerical domain

transport  
matrix

↓

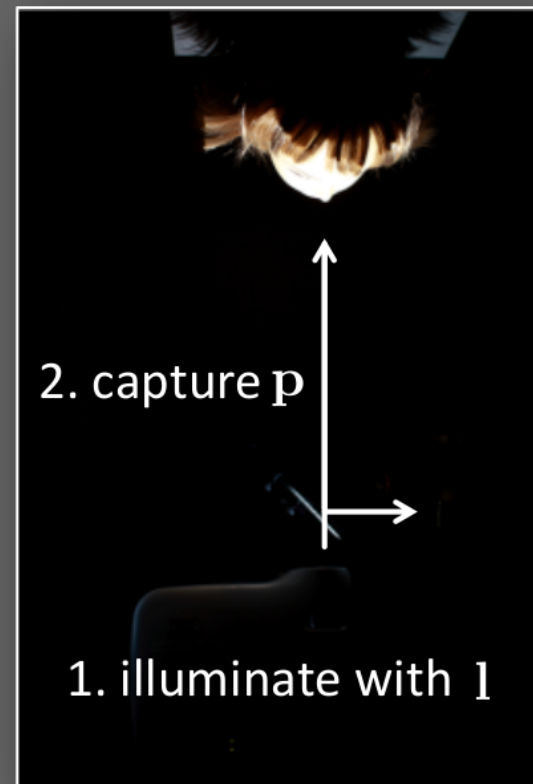
$$\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{T} \mathbf{l}$$

↑                      ↑

photo                  illumination  
vector



## optical domain



# computing with light

numerical algorithms implemented directly in optics

## numerical domain

```
function analyze(T)
```

```
...
```

```
for  $i = 1$  to  $k$  {
```

```
  ...
```

$$\mathbf{p}_i = \mathbf{T} \mathbf{l}_i$$

```
  ...
```

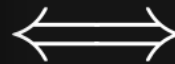
$$\mathbf{d}_i = \mathbf{T} \mathbf{r}_i$$

```
  ...
```

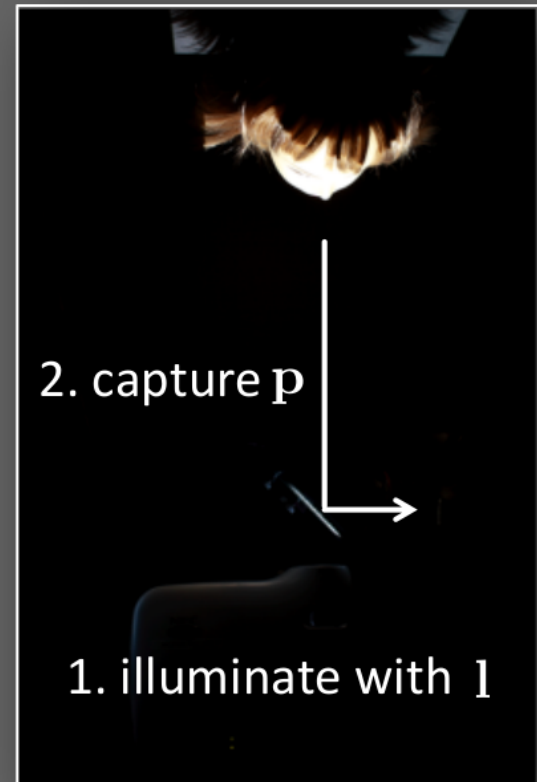
```
}
```

```
...
```

```
return result
```



## optical domain



# computing with light

numerical algorithms implemented directly in optics

## numerical domain

```
function analyze(T)
```

```
...
```

```
for  $i = 1$  to  $k$  {
```

```
...
```

```
p $i$  = Tl $i$ 
```

```
...
```

```
d $i$  = Tr $i$ 
```

```
...
```

```
}
```

```
...
```

```
return result
```



## optical domain

```
function analyze()
```

```
...
```

```
for  $i = 1$  to  $k$  {
```

```
...
```

```
project l $i$ , capture p $i$ 
```

```
...
```

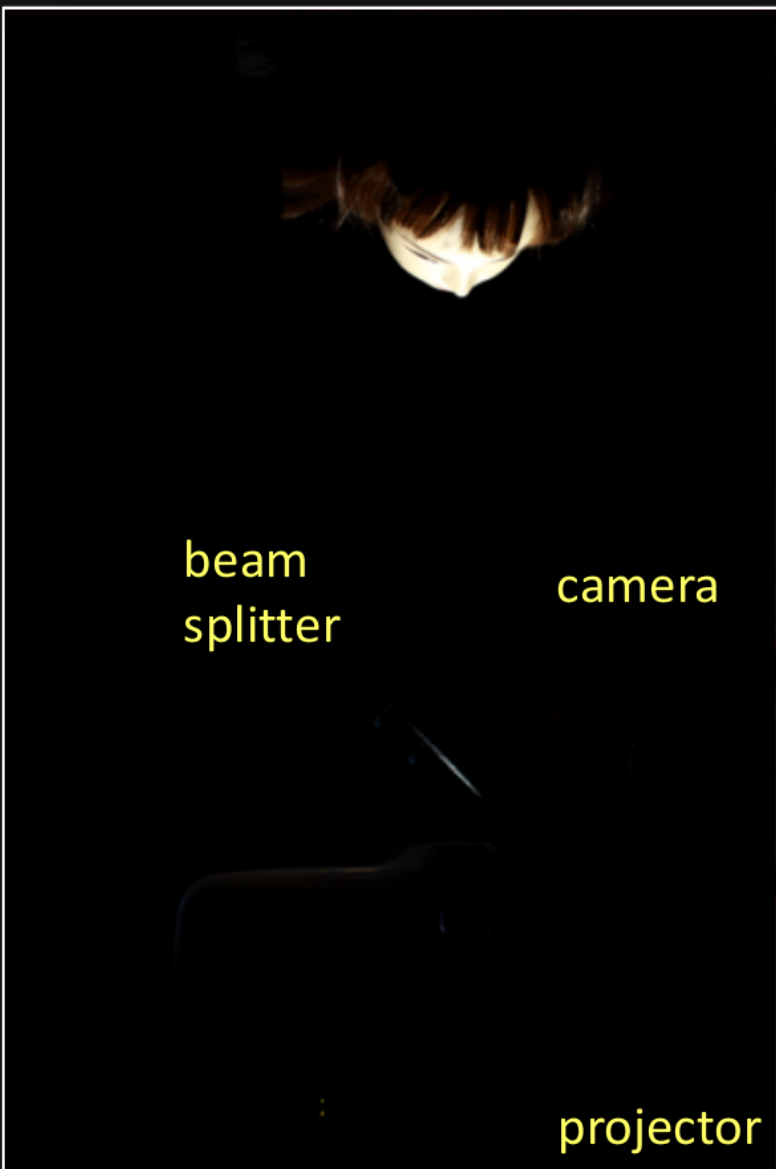
```
project r $i$ , capture d $i$ 
```

```
...
```

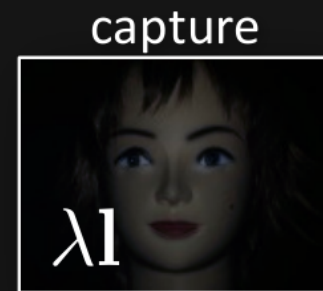
```
}
```

```
...
```

```
return result
```

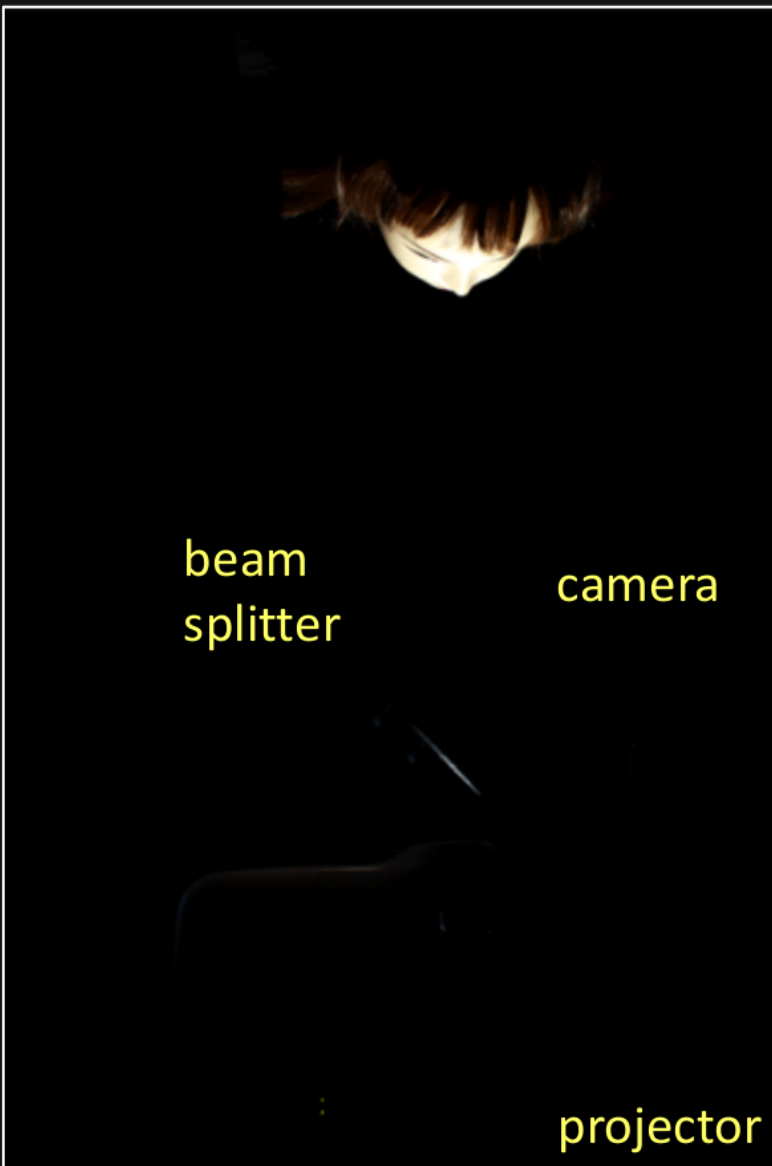


find an illumination pattern that  
when projected onto scene,  
we get the same photo back  
(multiplied by a scalar)



What do we call these patterns?

# computing transport eigenvectors



eigenvector of a square matrix  $T$   
when projected onto scene,  
we get the same photo back  
(multiplied by a scalar)

project



capture



numerical goal

find  $1, \lambda$  such that

$$T1 = \lambda 1$$

and  $\lambda$  is maximal

# optical power iteration

**goal:** find principal eigenvector of  $\mathbf{T}$

**observation:** it is a fixed point of the sequence  $\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^2\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^3\mathbf{l}, \dots$

## numerical domain

**function** PowerIt( $\mathbf{T}$ )

$\mathbf{l}_1 = \text{initial vector}$

**for**  $i = 1$  to  $k$  {

$\mathbf{p}_i = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}_i$

$\mathbf{l}_{i+1} = \mathbf{p}_i / \|\mathbf{p}_i\|_2$

}

**return**  $\mathbf{l}_{i+1}$

## properties

- linear convergence [Trefethen and Bau 1997]
- eigenvalues must be distinct
- $\mathbf{l}_1$  cannot be orthogonal to principal eigenvector



# optical power iteration

**goal:** find principal eigenvector of  $\mathbf{T}$

**observation:** it is a fixed point of the sequence  $\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^2\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^3\mathbf{l}, \dots$

## numerical domain

**function** PowerIt( $\mathbf{T}$ )

$\mathbf{l}_1 =$  initial vector

**for**  $i = 1$  to  $k$  {

$\mathbf{p}_i = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}_i$

$\mathbf{l}_{i+1} = \mathbf{p}_i / \|\mathbf{p}_i\|_2$

}

**return**  $\mathbf{l}_{i+1}$



## optical domain

**function** PowerIt()

$\mathbf{l}_1 =$  initial vector

**for**  $i = 1$  to  $k$  {

project  $\mathbf{l}_i$ , capture  $\mathbf{p}_i$

$\mathbf{l}_{i+1} = \mathbf{p}_i / \|\mathbf{p}_i\|_2$

}

**return**  $\mathbf{l}_{i+1}$

# optical power iteration

**goal:** find principal eigenvector of  $\mathbf{T}$

**observation:** it is a fixed point of the sequence  $\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^2\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^3\mathbf{l}, \dots$

## numerical domain

**function** PowerIt( $\mathbf{T}$ )

$\mathbf{l}_1$  = initial vector

**for**  $i = 1$  to  $k$  {

$\mathbf{p}_i = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}_i$

$\mathbf{l}_{i+1} = \mathbf{p}_i / \|\mathbf{p}_i\|_2$   
}

**return**  $\mathbf{l}_{i+1}$



## optical domain

initialize  $\mathbf{l}_1$

$\mathbf{l}_i$

project

$\mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}_i$

capture

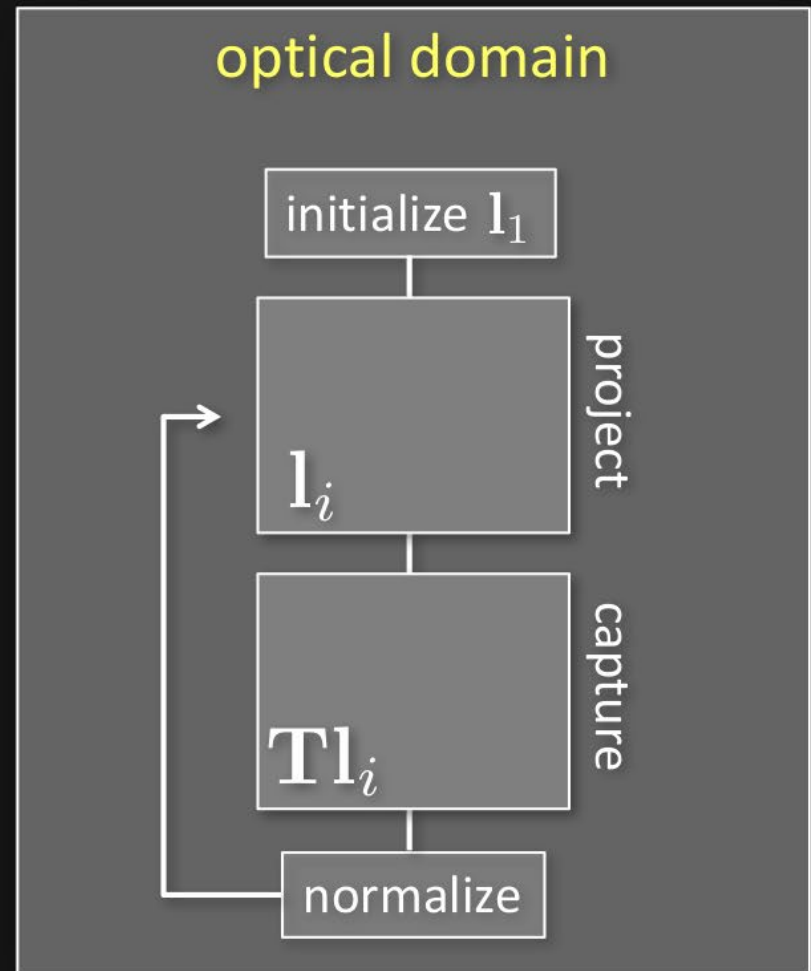
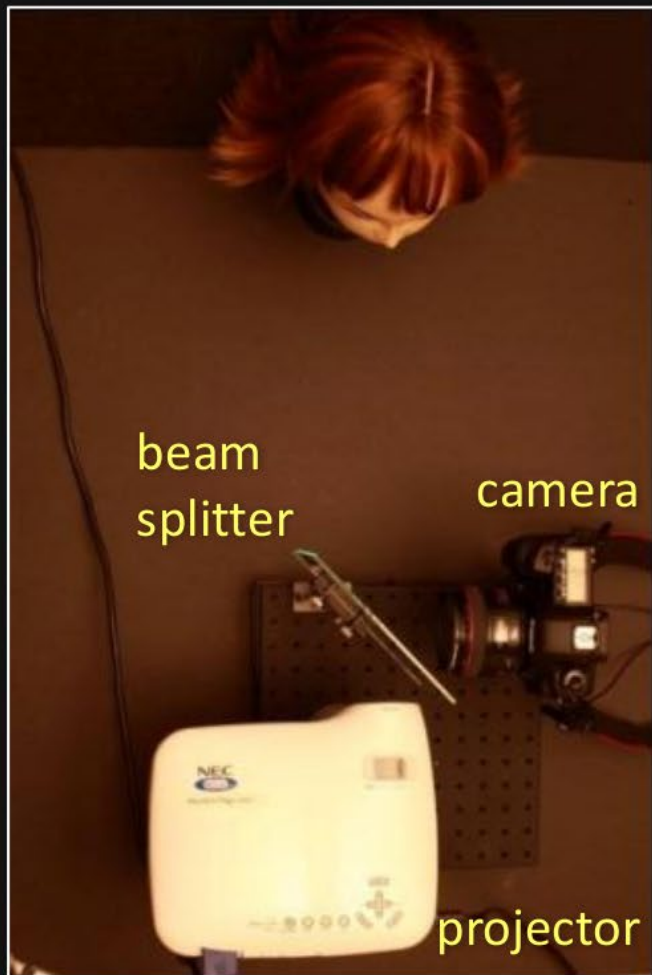
normalize



# optical power iteration

**goal:** find principal eigenvector of  $\mathbf{T}$

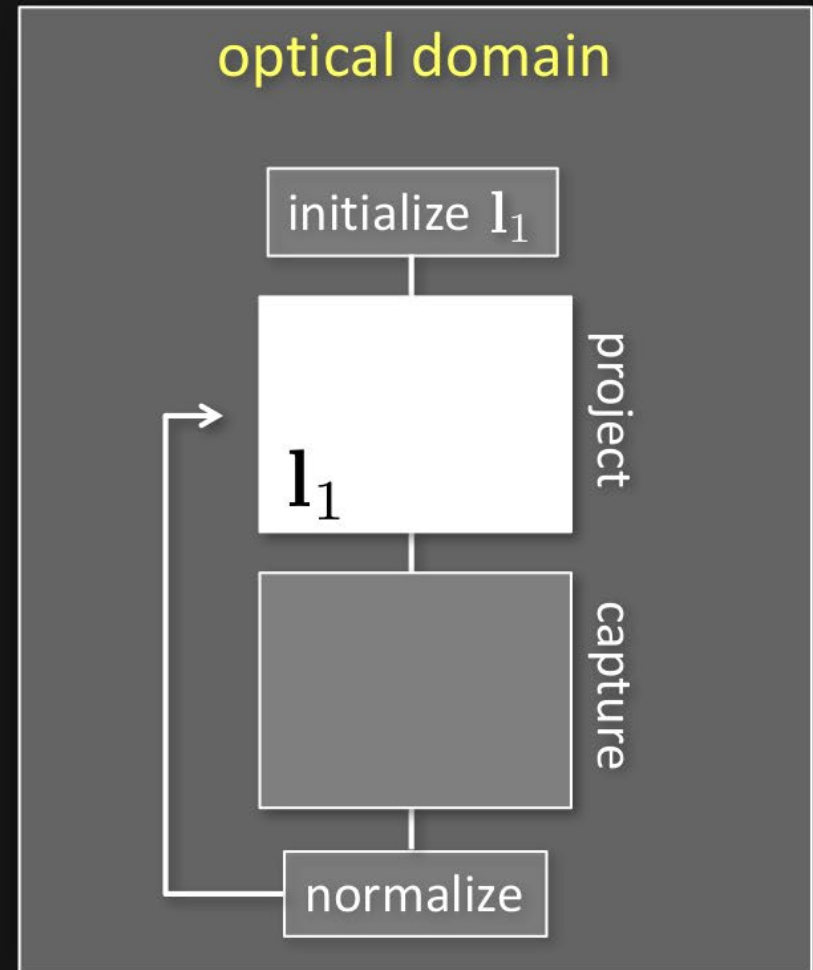
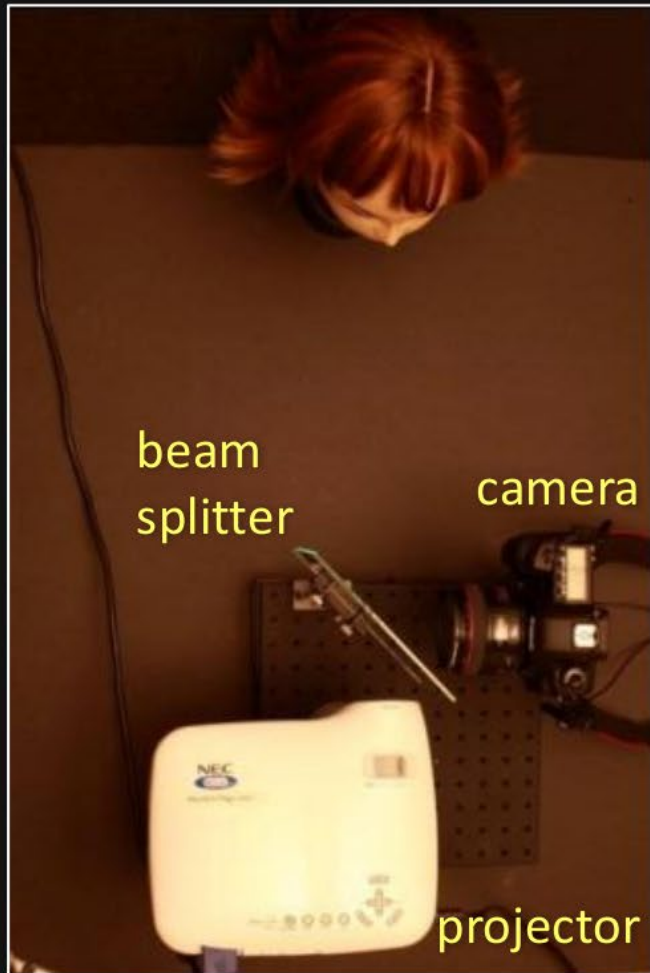
**observation:** it is a fixed point of the sequence  $\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^2\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^3\mathbf{l}, \dots$



# optical power iteration

**goal:** find principal eigenvector of  $\mathbf{T}$

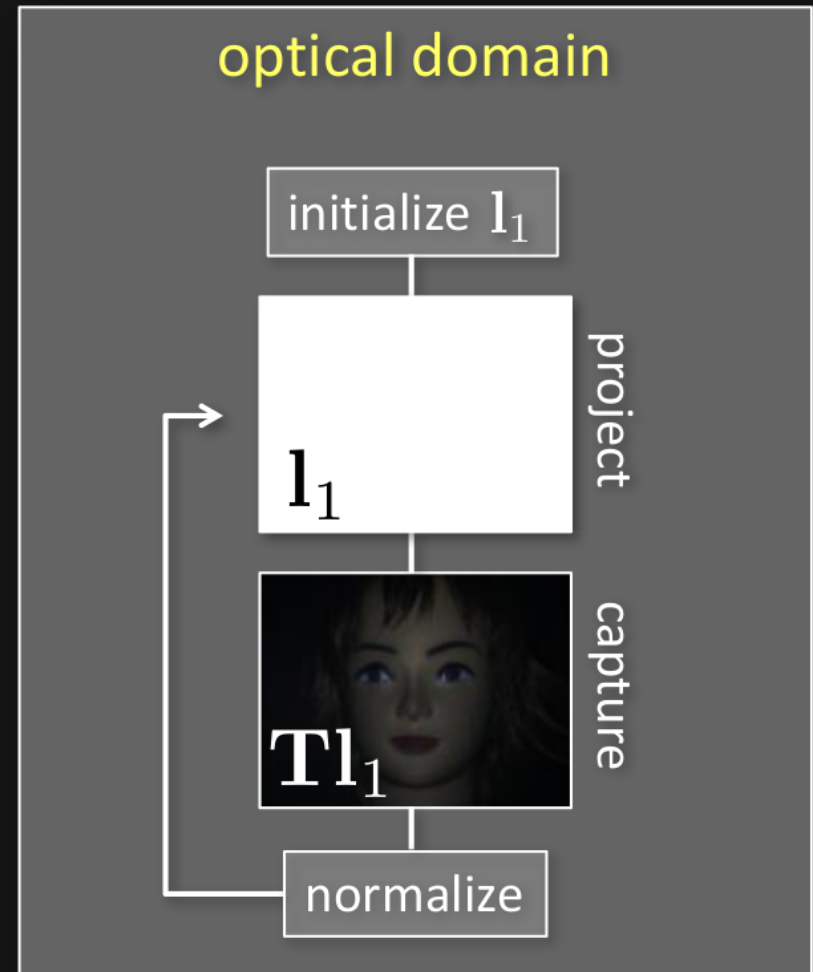
**observation:** it is a fixed point of the sequence  $\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^2\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^3\mathbf{l}, \dots$



# optical power iteration

**goal:** find principal eigenvector of  $\mathbf{T}$

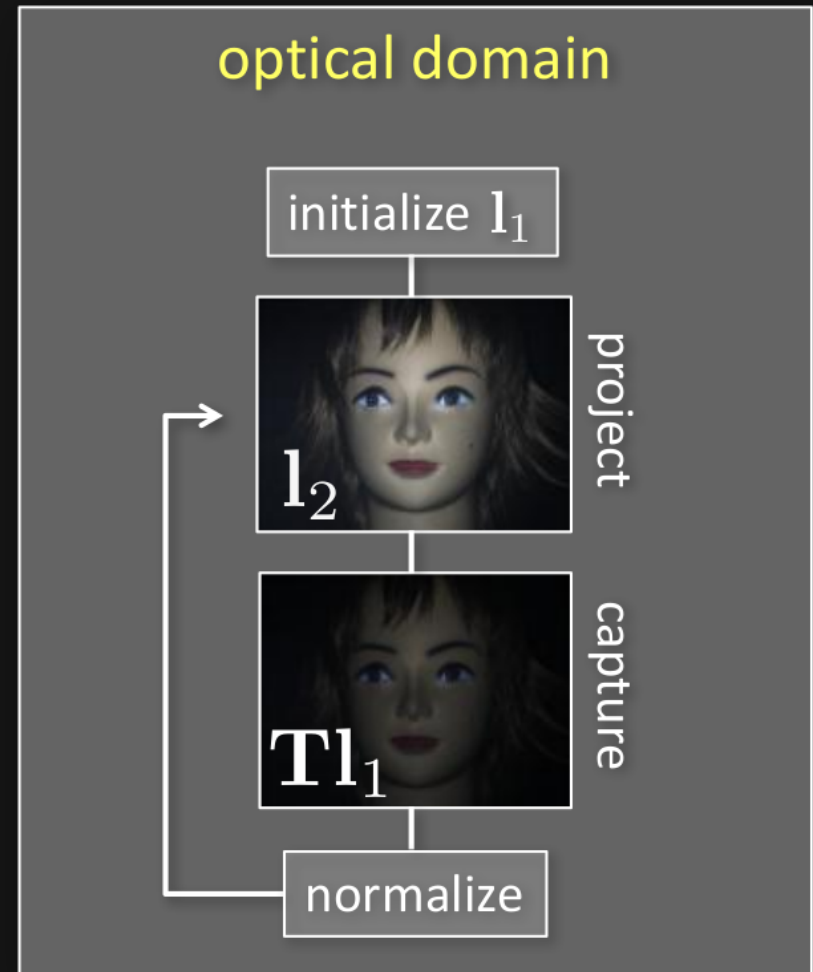
**observation:** it is a fixed point of the sequence  $\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^2\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^3\mathbf{l}, \dots$



# optical power iteration

**goal:** find principal eigenvector of  $\mathbf{T}$

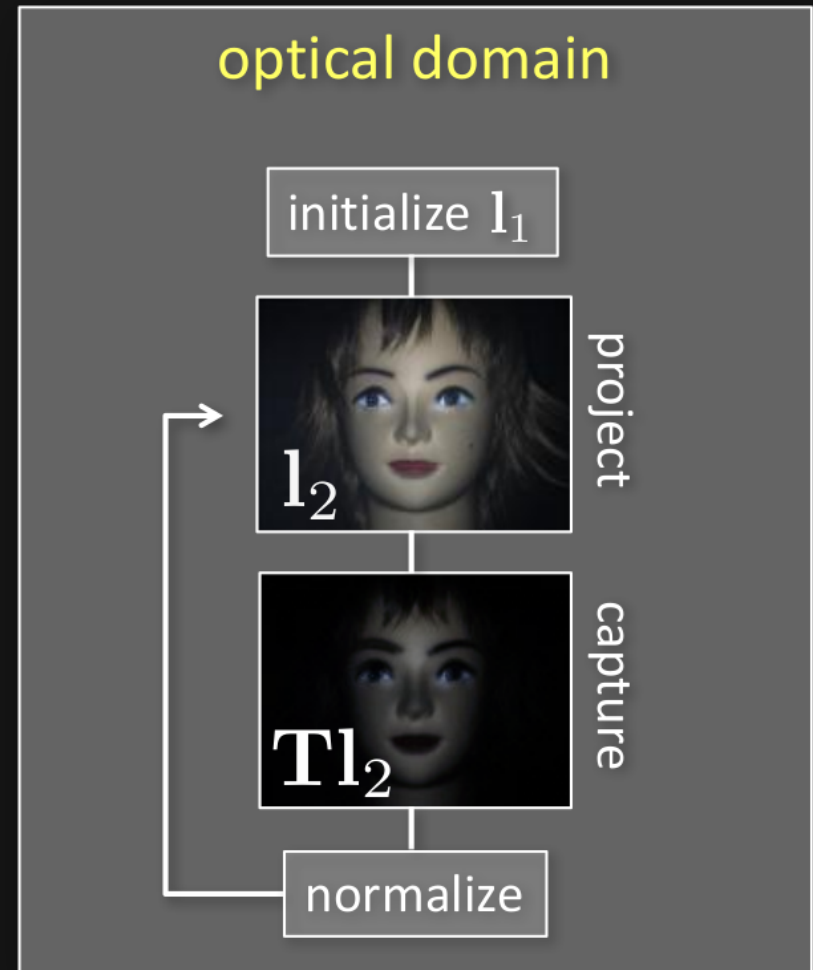
**observation:** it is a fixed point of the sequence  $\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^2\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^3\mathbf{l}, \dots$



# optical power iteration

**goal:** find principal eigenvector of  $\mathbf{T}$

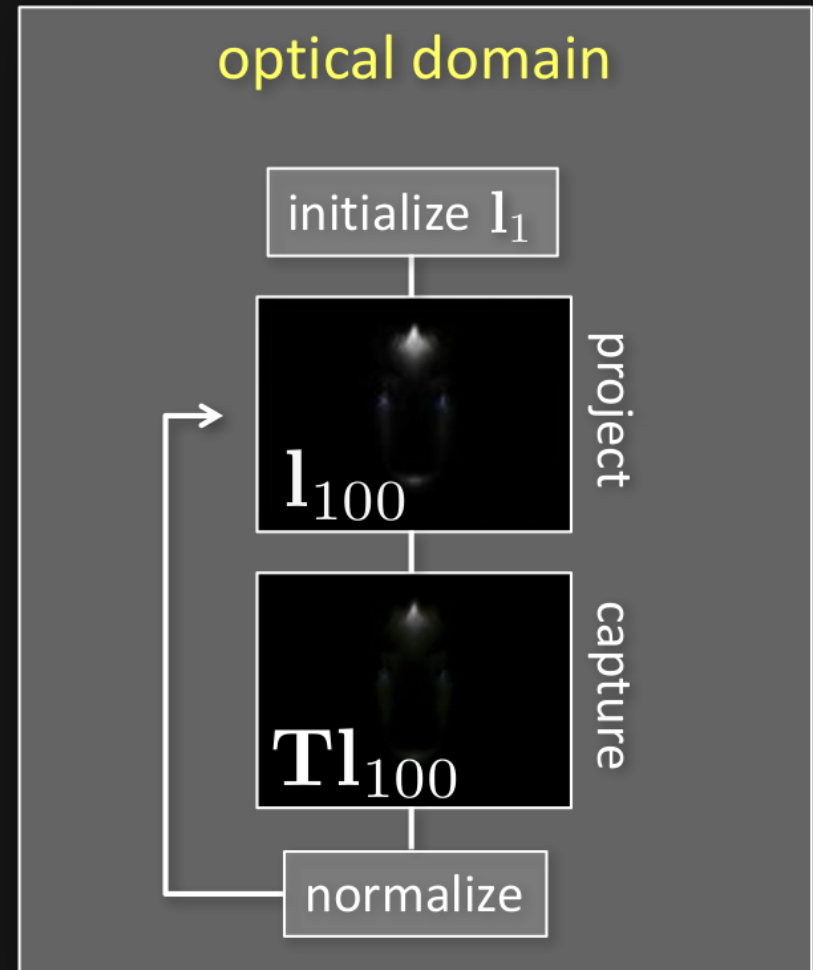
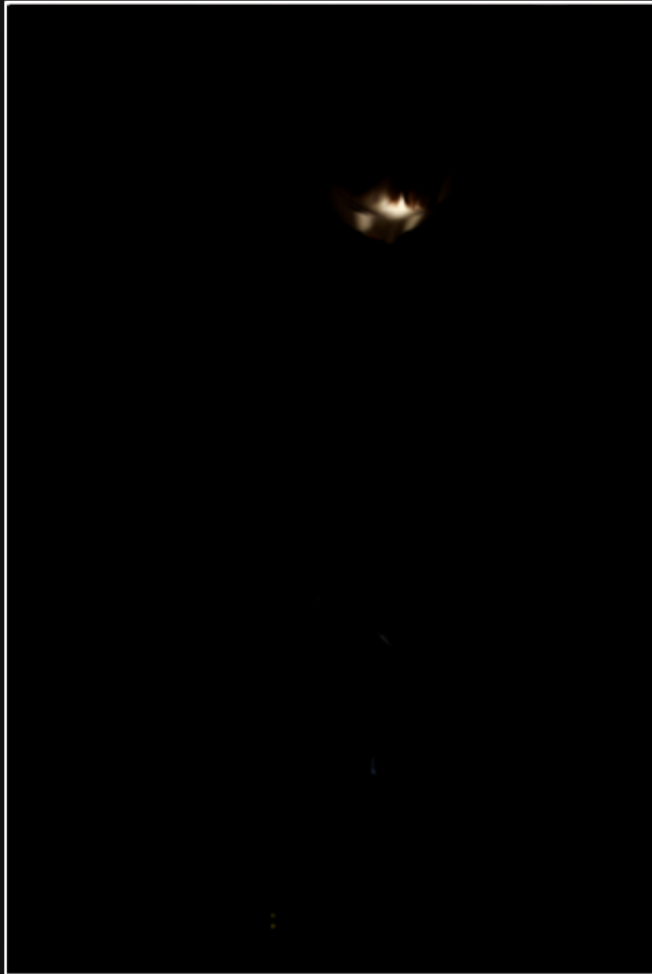
**observation:** it is a fixed point of the sequence  $\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^2\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^3\mathbf{l}, \dots$



# optical power iteration

**goal:** find principal eigenvector of  $\mathbf{T}$

**observation:** it is a fixed point of the sequence  $\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^2\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{T}^3\mathbf{l}, \dots$

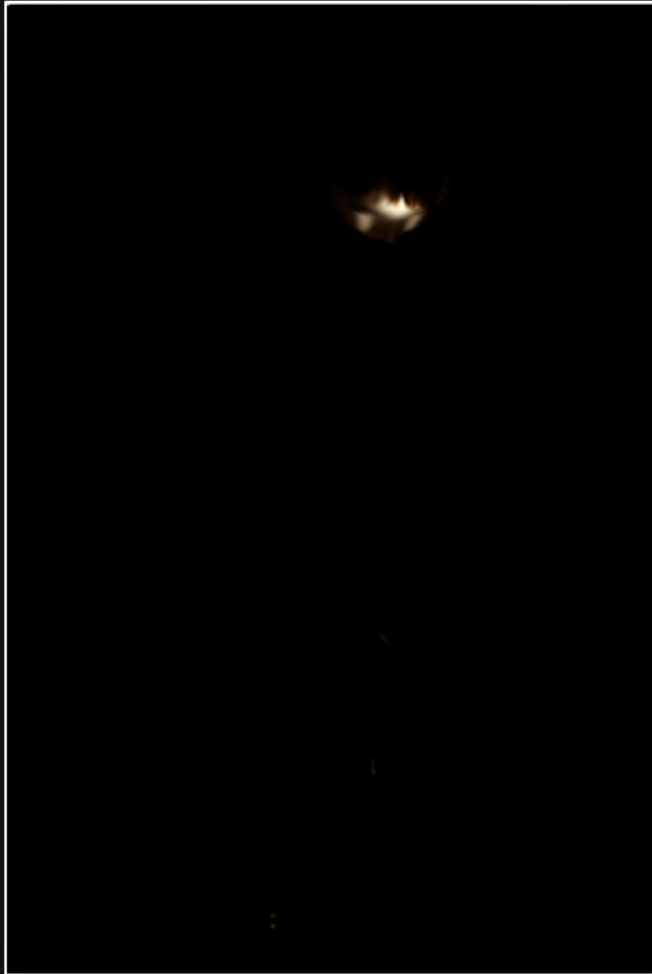




# optical power iteration

**goal:** find principal eigenvector of  $\mathbf{T}$

**observation:** it is a fixed point of the sequence  $\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{T}\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{T}^2\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{T}^3\mathbf{1}, \dots$



**optical domain**

(approximate)  
principal eigenvector



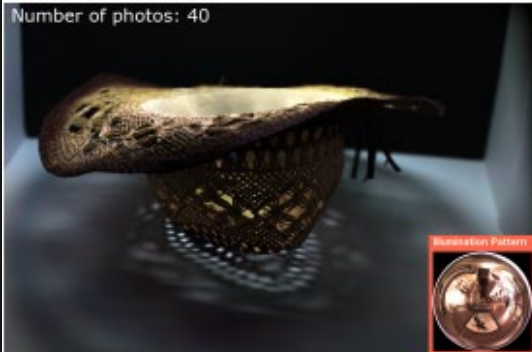
How would you measure the light transport matrix  $T$ ?

$$\begin{matrix} \updownarrow 10^6 \\ \text{p} \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} \text{T} \\ 10^{12} \text{ elements} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{l} \\ \updownarrow 10^6 \end{matrix}$$

Alternative approach: use optical eigendecomposition to form a low-rank approximation to the light transport matrix.

- How many photos do we need to capture?

Number of photos: 40



Number of photos: 40



Number of photos: 40



Number of photos: 40



Number of photos: 40



Number of photos: 40



Ground Truth



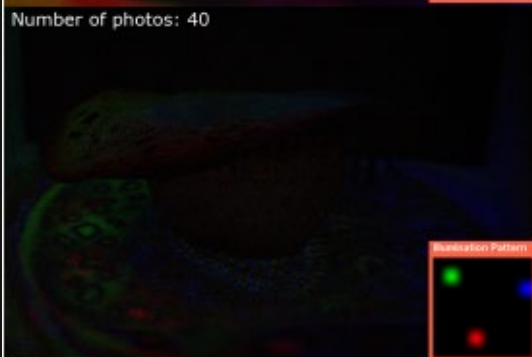
Ground Truth



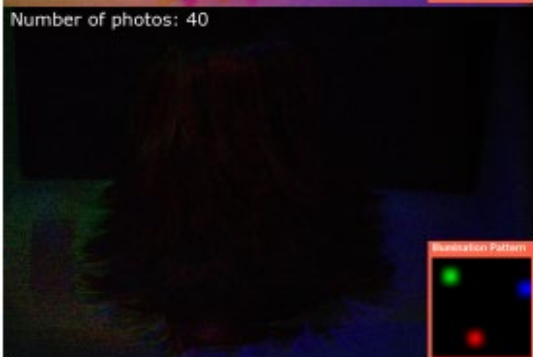
Ground Truth



Number of photos: 40



Number of photos: 40



Number of photos: 40



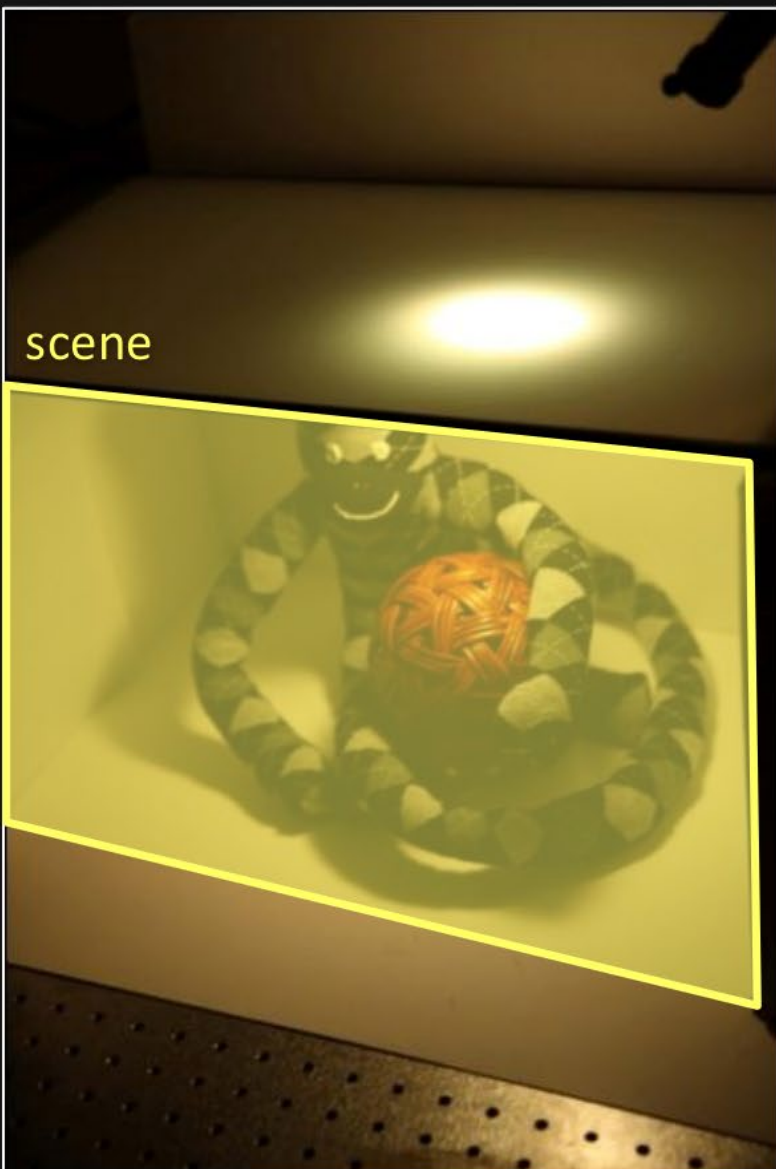
# Inverse transport

flashlight



diffuser









input photo

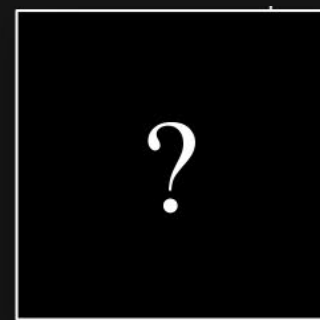




How do you solve this problem if you know the light transport matrix  $T$ ?



input photo



illumination

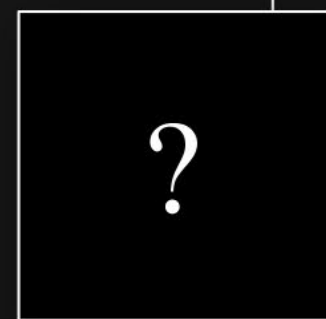


$$p = T l$$

What do we do here?



input photo



illumination

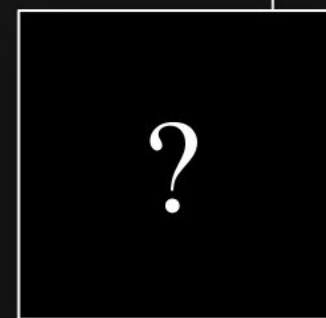


$$\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{T} \mathbf{l}$$

What if  $\mathbf{T}$  is not invertible?



input photo



illumination

## numerical goal

given photo  $p$ , find illumination  $l$   
that minimizes

$$\left\| \begin{bmatrix} T \end{bmatrix} l - p \right\|_2$$

How do you usually solve for  $l$  when  $T$  is large?



input photo



illumination

# Reminder: gradient descent

Given the loss function:

$$E(f) = \|Gf - v\|^2$$

Minimize by iteratively computing:

$$f^{i+1} = f^i - \eta^i r^i, \quad r^i = v - Af^i, \quad \eta^i = \frac{(r^i)^T r^i}{(r^i)^T A r^i} \quad \text{for } i = 0, 1, \dots, N$$

Is this cheaper than the pseudo-inverse approach?

- We never need to compute  $A$ , only its products with vectors  $f$ ,  $r$ .
- Vectors  $f$ ,  $r$  are images.
- Because  $A$  is the *Laplacian matrix*, these matrix-vector products can be efficiently computed using *convolutions* with the *Laplacian kernel*.

# Gradient descent in this case

Given the loss function:

$$E(f) = \|Gf - v\|^2$$

Minimize by iteratively computing:

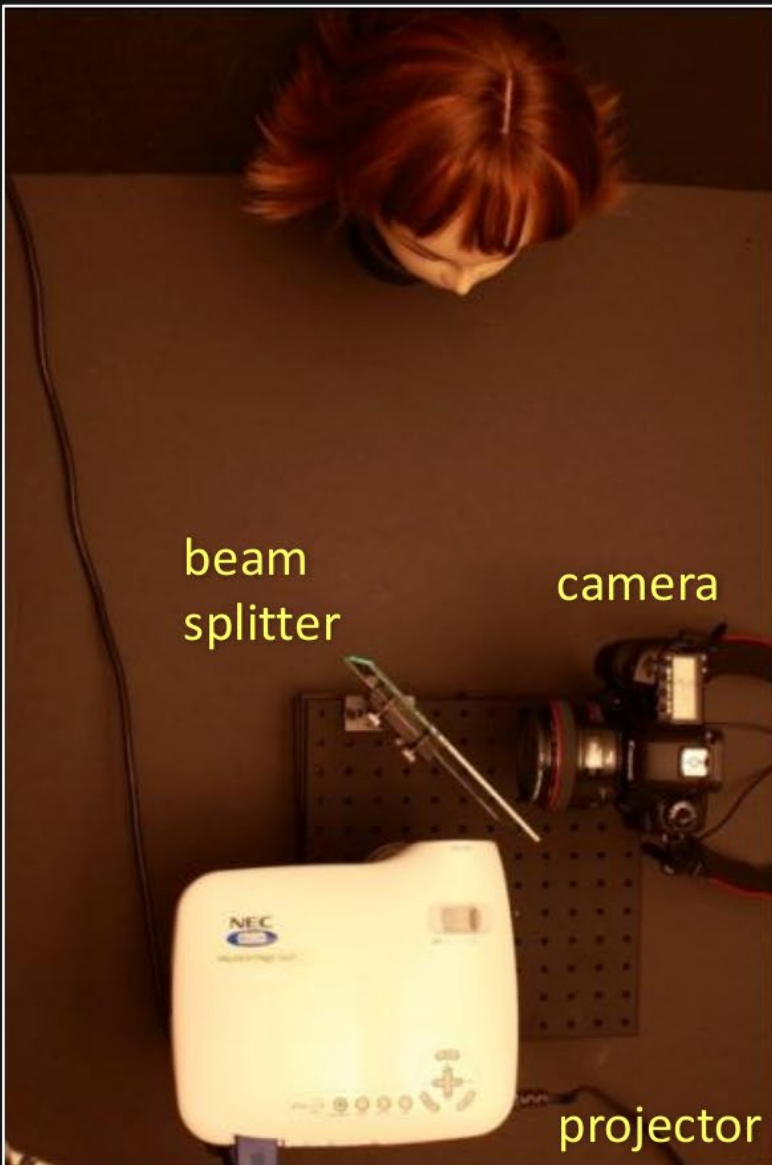
$$f^{i+1} = f^i - \eta^i r^i, \quad r^i = v - Af^i, \quad \eta^i = \frac{(r^i)^T r^i}{(r^i)^T A r^i} \quad \text{for } i = 0, 1, \dots, N$$

Is this cheaper than the pseudo-inverse approach?

- We never need to compute A, only its products with vectors f, r.
- ~~Vectors f, r are images.~~ What are f, r in this case?
- ~~Because A is the Laplacian matrix, these matrix-vector products can be efficiently computed using convolutions with the Laplacian kernel.~~  
How do we compute matrix-vector products efficiently in this case?



# inverting light transport



## numerical goal

given photo  $p$ , find illumination  $l$   
that minimizes

$$\left\| \begin{bmatrix} T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} l \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} p \end{bmatrix} \right\|_2$$

## remarks

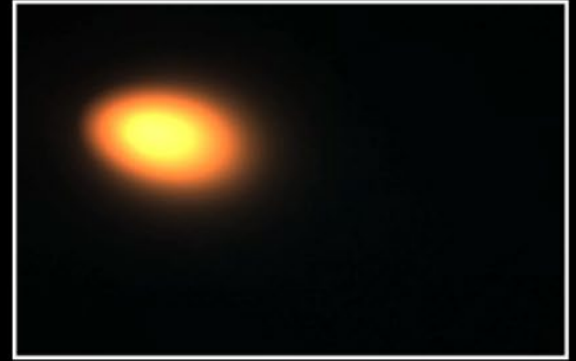
- $T$  low-rank or high-rank
- $T$  unknown & not acquired
- illumination sequence will be specific to input photo

# inverting light transport

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input photo

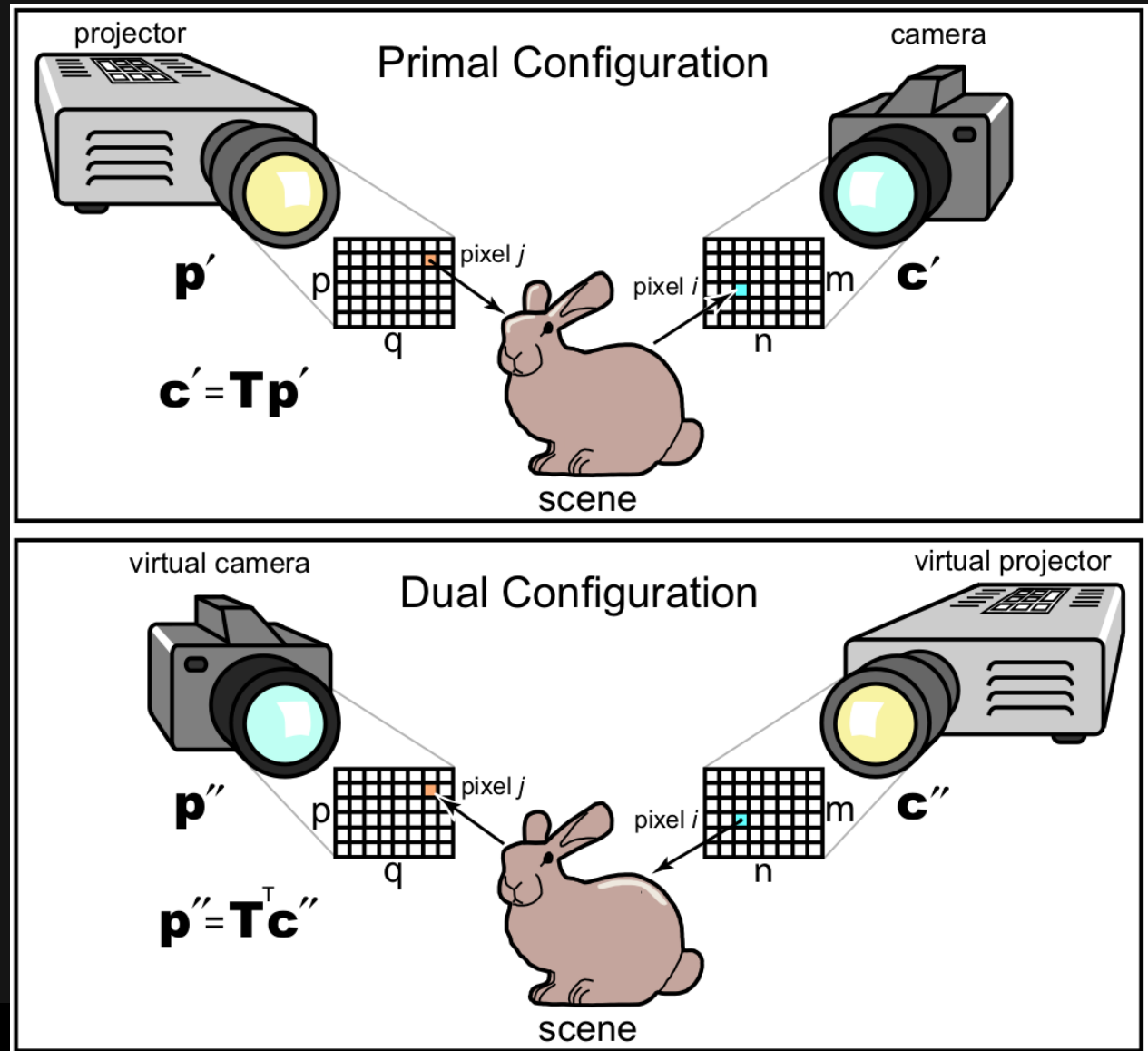


actual illumination

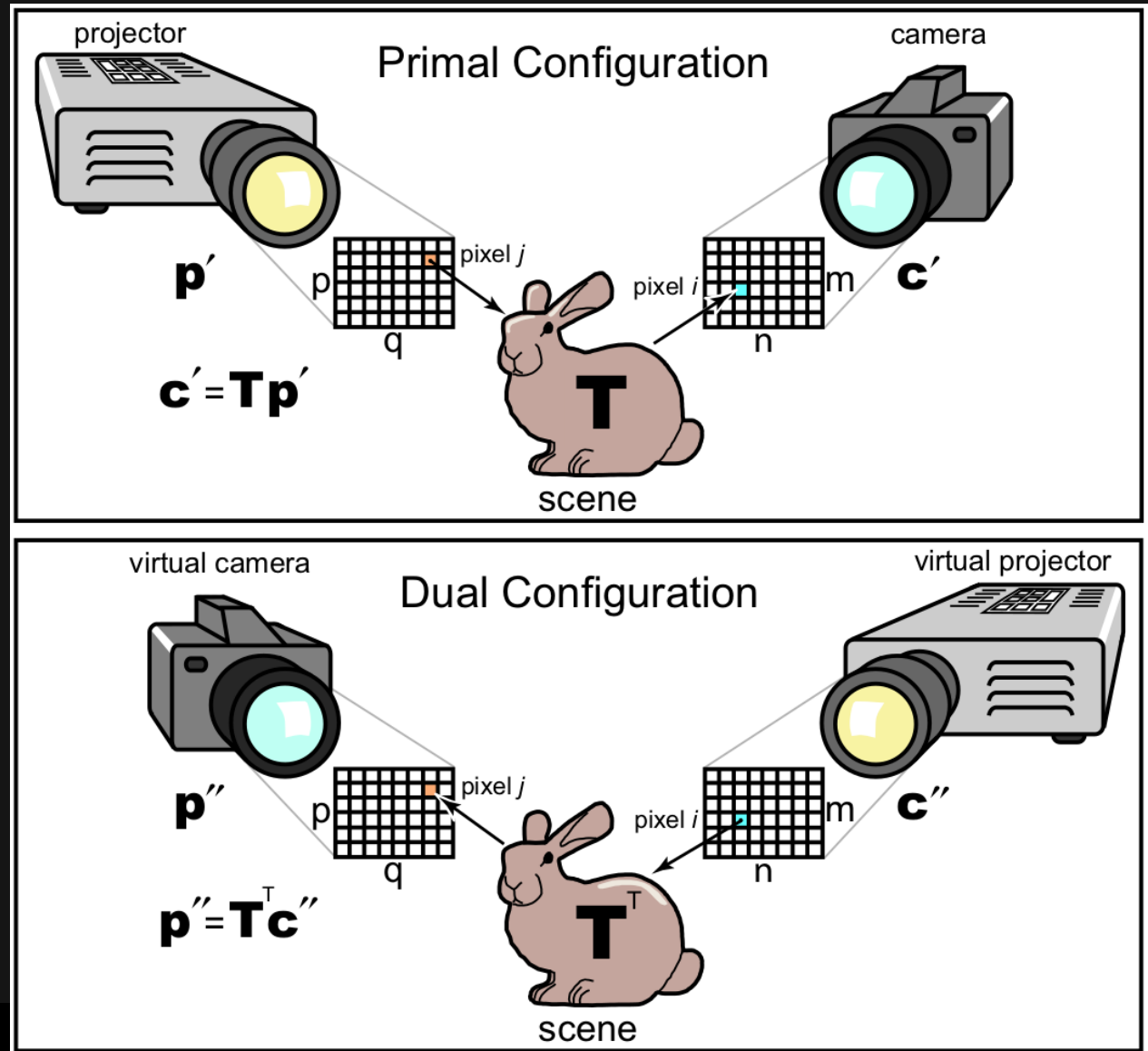


# Dual photography

How do the light transport matrices for these two scenes relate to each other?



Helmholtz  
reciprocity: The  
two matrices are  
the transpose of  
each other.



Great demonstration:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eV58Ko3iFul>



# References

## Basic reading:

- Sloan et al., “Precomputed radiance transfer for real-time rendering in dynamic, low-frequency lighting environments,” SIGGRAPH 2002.
- Ng et al., “All-frequency shadows using non-linear wavelet lighting approximation,” SIGGRAPH 2003.
- Seitz et al., “A theory of inverse light transport,” ICCV 2005.

These three papers all discuss the concept of light transport matrix in detail.

- Debevec et al., “Acquiring the reflectance field of a human face,” SIGGRAPH 2000.  
The paper on image-based relighting.
- O’Toole and Kutulakos, “Optical computing for fast light transport analysis,” SIGGRAPH Asia 2010.  
The paper on eigenanalysis and optical computing using light transport matrices.
- Sen et al., “Dual photography,” SIGGRAPH 2005.  
The dual photography paper.

## Additional reading:

- Peers et al., “Compressive light transport sensing,” TOG 2009.
- Wang et al., “Kernel Nyström method for light transport,” SIGGRAPH 2009.

These two papers discuss alternative ways for efficient acquisition of the light transport matrix, using assumptions on its algebraic structure.

- Durand et al., “A frequency analysis of light transport,” SIGGRAPH 2005.
- Mahajan et al., “A theory of locally low dimensional light transport,” SIGGRAPH 2007.
- Reddy et al., “Frequency-space decomposition and acquisition of light transport under spatially varying illumination,” ECCV 2012.

These papers more formally discuss the notion of light transport frequency, how it relates to light transport matrix rank, and the frequency/rank characteristics of different light transport effects (specular versus diffuse reflections, hard versus smooth shadows).