

For ray tracing, we have an equation like the following for computing intensity along a ray:

$\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{k}_{a}\mathbf{I}_{a} + \mathbf{k}_{d}\mathbf{I}_{d}(\mathbf{n}.\mathbf{I}) + \mathbf{k}_{s}\mathbf{I}_{s}(\mathbf{r}.\mathbf{v})^{n} + \mathbf{k}_{r}\mathbf{I}_{r} + \mathbf{k}_{t}\mathbf{I}_{t}$

ambient, diffuse, and specular contributions of light sources

recursively computed reflection

recursively computed transmission

The next slide (top half) shows a tradeoff between k_r and all other parameters on the horizontal axis and between k_t and all other parameters on the vertical axis. The diffuse color of the ball is red. The ceiling is blue.

The bottom half of the slide shows the effect of ray tracing to different depths.





Some argue that ray tracing was invented by Descartes in 1637. He described how rays would propagate through a spherical raindrop, producing a concentration of light at an angle of 42 degrees as shown here.

















Mipmap example from "Advanced Animation and Rendering Techniques," Watt and Watt

