Computer Graphics 2 - Illumination and shading

Tom Thorne

Slides courtesy of Taku Komura www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/courses/cg

Overview

Lighting

Phong illumination model

Shading

- Flat shading
- Gouraud shading
- Phong shading

Background of illumination



The eye works like a camera

- Sensors at the back of eye
- Sense the amount of light coming from different directions
- Similar to CMOS and CCDs

Light coming into the eye

- Position of the point the eye is looking at
- Position of the light source
- Colour and intensity of light
- Vector from eye to point
- Normal vector of surface at point
- Physical properties of the object





Phong illumination model

A simple 3 parameter model comprised of 3 illumination terms

- Diffuse: non-shiny illumination and shadows
- Specular: shiny reflections
- Ambient: background illumination



Diffuse (Lambertian) reflection

When light hits an object with a rough surface, it is reflected in all directions

- Amount of light hitting the surface depends on the angle between the normal vector and the incident vector of the incoming light.
- The larger the angle (up to 90 degrees), the larger the area the incident light is spread over







Diffuse reflection

 $I = I_p k_d \cos \theta$

- Ip Light intensity
- θ Angle between normal vector and direction to light source
- k_d Diffuse reflectivity



Note that there is no dependence on the angle between the direction to the camera and the surface normal.

- Direct reflections of the light source off of a shiny surface
- Smooth surfaces



 $I = I_p k_s \cos^n \alpha$

- I_p Light intensity
- α Angle between reflection
 vector and direction to
 camera
- k_s Specular reflectivity
- *n* Specular intensity



To calculate the reflection vector R (used to calculate angle α on the previous slide) from the vector to the light source L and the normal vector N:



This is assuming that N, R and L are all of unit length.

Specular light with different n values





Combining diffuse and specular reflection



Computing vertex normals

Vertex normals are found by averaging the face normals:

$$\overline{N}_{V} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \overline{N}_{i}}{\|\sum_{i=1}^{n} \overline{N}_{i}\|}$$



What is missing?

Only points on the surface that are directly lit by the light are illuminated



Ambient lighting

- Light reflected or scattered from other objects in the scene
- Enivornmental light
- Precise simulation of this is very hard!





Ambient lighting



Very simple approximation: $I = k_a I_a$



Combined lighting models

Combining ambient, diffuse and specular highlights gives the Phong Illumination model

$$I = I_a k_a + I_p (k_d \cos \theta + k_s \cos^n \alpha)$$



Multiple light sources

For multiple light sources we simply compute the illumination from each source and sum them.

 $I = I_a k_a + \sum_{l=1}^m I_l (k_d \cos \theta + k_s \cos^n \alpha)$



Using dot products

$$I = I_a k_a + \sum_{l=1}^{m} I_{l=1} (k_d (\overline{N} \cdot \overline{L}_l) + k_s (\overline{V} \cdot \overline{R}_l)^n)$$

- V Vector from the surface to the viewer
- N Normal vector at point on surface
- **R** Reflection vector
- *L* Vector from surface to light source



 \overline{L} means the vector L normalized to be of unit length.

Colour

$I^{R} = I^{R}_{a}k^{R}_{a} + \sum_{p=1}^{P} I^{R}_{p}(k^{R}_{d}(\overline{N} \cdot \overline{L}) + k^{R}_{s}(\overline{V} \cdot \overline{R})^{n})$

$I^{G} = I_{a}^{G}k_{a}^{G} + \sum_{p=1}^{P} I_{p}^{G}(k_{d}^{G}(\overline{N} \cdot \overline{L}) + k_{s}^{G}(\overline{V} \cdot \overline{R})^{n})$

 $I^{B} = I^{B}_{a}k^{B}_{a} + \sum_{p=1}^{P} I^{B}_{p}(k^{B}_{d}(\overline{N} \cdot \overline{L}) + k^{B}_{s}(\overline{V} \cdot \overline{R})^{n})$

This model considers only light sources and the properties of surfaces. We don't consider light reflected from other surfaces.

- Real time rendering
- Cost depends on number of light sources

Problems

Certain things cannot easily be rendered with this model:

- Brushed metal
- Marble (subsurface scattering)
- Colour bleeding



Overview

Lighting

Phong illumination model

Shading

- Flat shading
- Gouraud shading
- Phong shading

How do we colour the surface?

We know how to colour single points on the surface, but how do we colour the whole object

- Shading
- Performed during rasterisation



Shading models

- Flat shading (one lighting calculation per polygon)
- Gouraud shading (one lighting calculation per vertex)
- Phong shading (one calculation per pixel)

Flat shading

- Colour is computed once for each polygon
- All pixels in a polygon are set to the same colour
- Works for objects made of flat faces







Flat shading

Suffers from an effect called Mach banding

- Eyes are sensitive to sudden changes in brighness
- Artificial changes in brighntess are introduced on either side of the boundary







Mach band



An optical illusion, discovered by Ernst Mach



Gouraud shading



Gouraud shading

- Colour is computed once per vertex using the local illumination model
- Polygons interpolate colours over their surface





Problems with Gouraud shading

In specular reflection the highlight can be sharp, depending on the shape of $\cos^n \alpha$

- Gouraud shading interpolates linearly and so can make the highlight much bigger
- Gouraud shading can miss highlights that occur in the middle of a polygon



Problems with Gouraud shading



Phong shading



Phong shading

- Lighting computation is performed at each pixel
- Normal vectors are interpolated over the polygon



Phong shading

Able to produce highlights that occur in the middle of a polygon



Phong example



Problems with interpolation shading

Vertex normals can be incorrect when calculated as average of face normals



Solutions:

- Add more polygons
- Test for angles and use different vertex normals for adjacent polygons

Problems with interpolation shading

Vertices not shared by all polygons



B is not a vertex of the large polygon. Shading calculated at vertex B won't necessarily be the same as the interpolated calculations made when shading the large polygon.



Illumination

Phong Illumination model combining ambient, diffuse and specular lighting

Shading

- Gouraud shading
- Phong shading

References

- Shirley, Chapter 10.1-10.2.2 (Surface shading)
- ► Foley, Chapter 16 (Illumination and shading), up to 16.3