

Bidirectional Scattering Distribution Functions

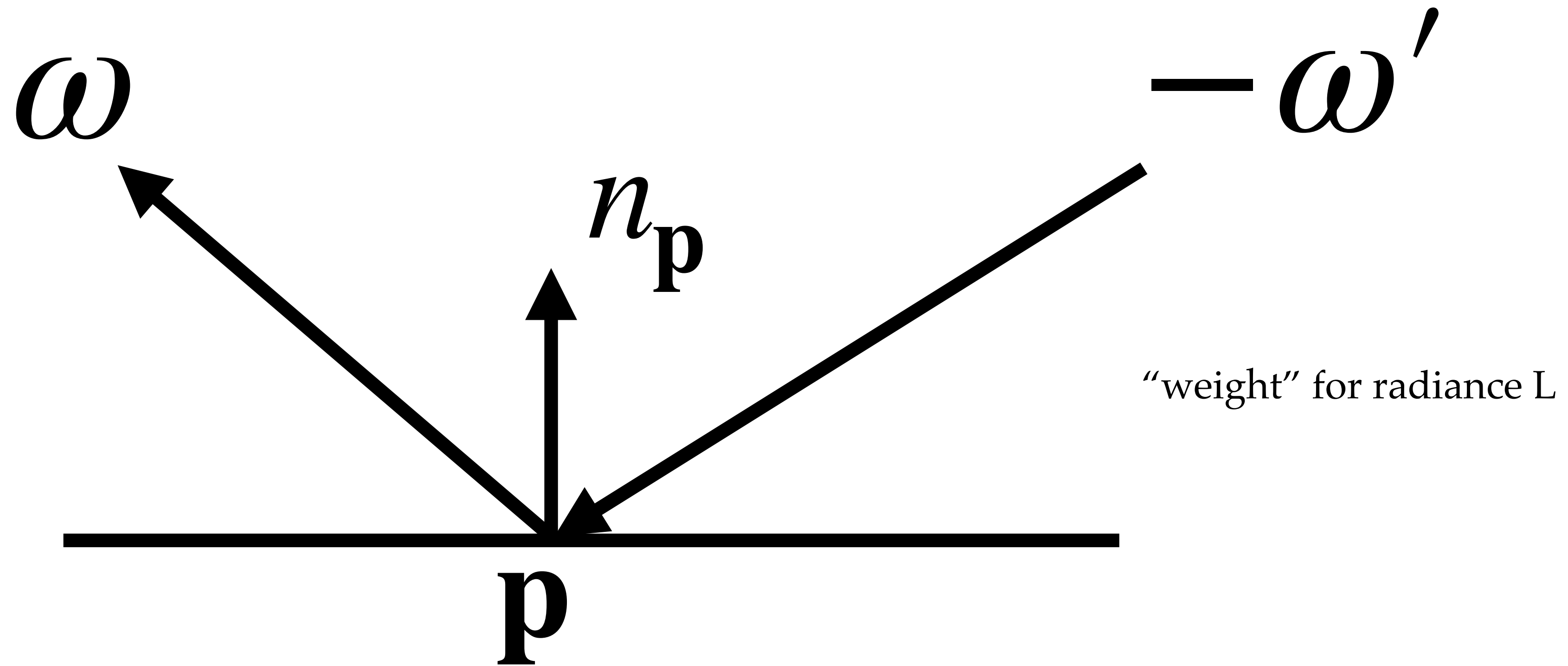
UCSD CSE 272

Advanced Image Synthesis

Tzu-Mao Li

lots of images / figures from Eric Heitz / Jonathan Dupuy / Wenzel Jakob

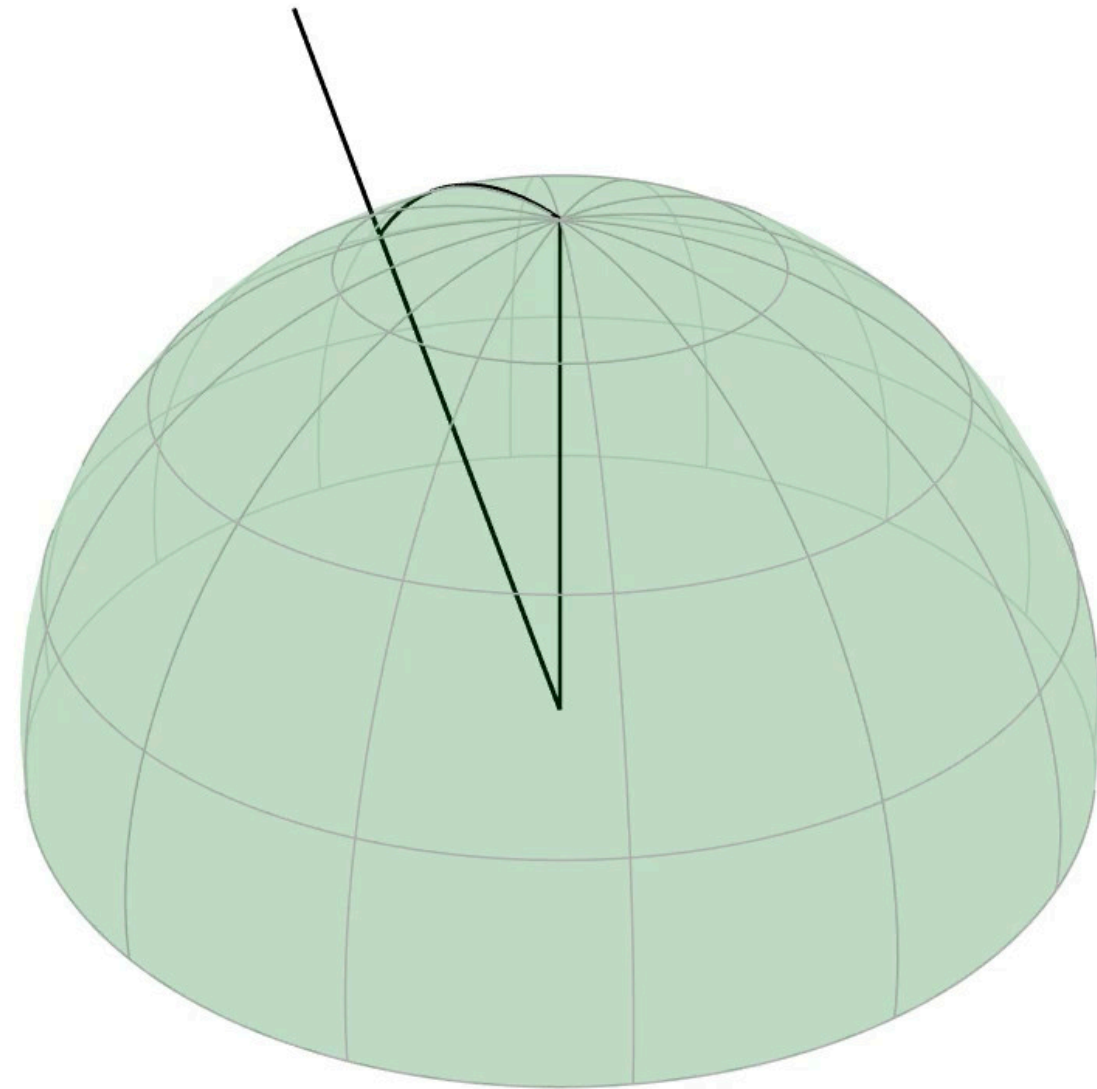
BSDFs describe reflection / transmission properties



$$\int \boxed{f_{\mathbf{p}}(\omega, \omega')} L(\mathbf{p}', -\omega') |n_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \omega'| d\omega'$$

BSDFs describe reflection / transmission properties

ω



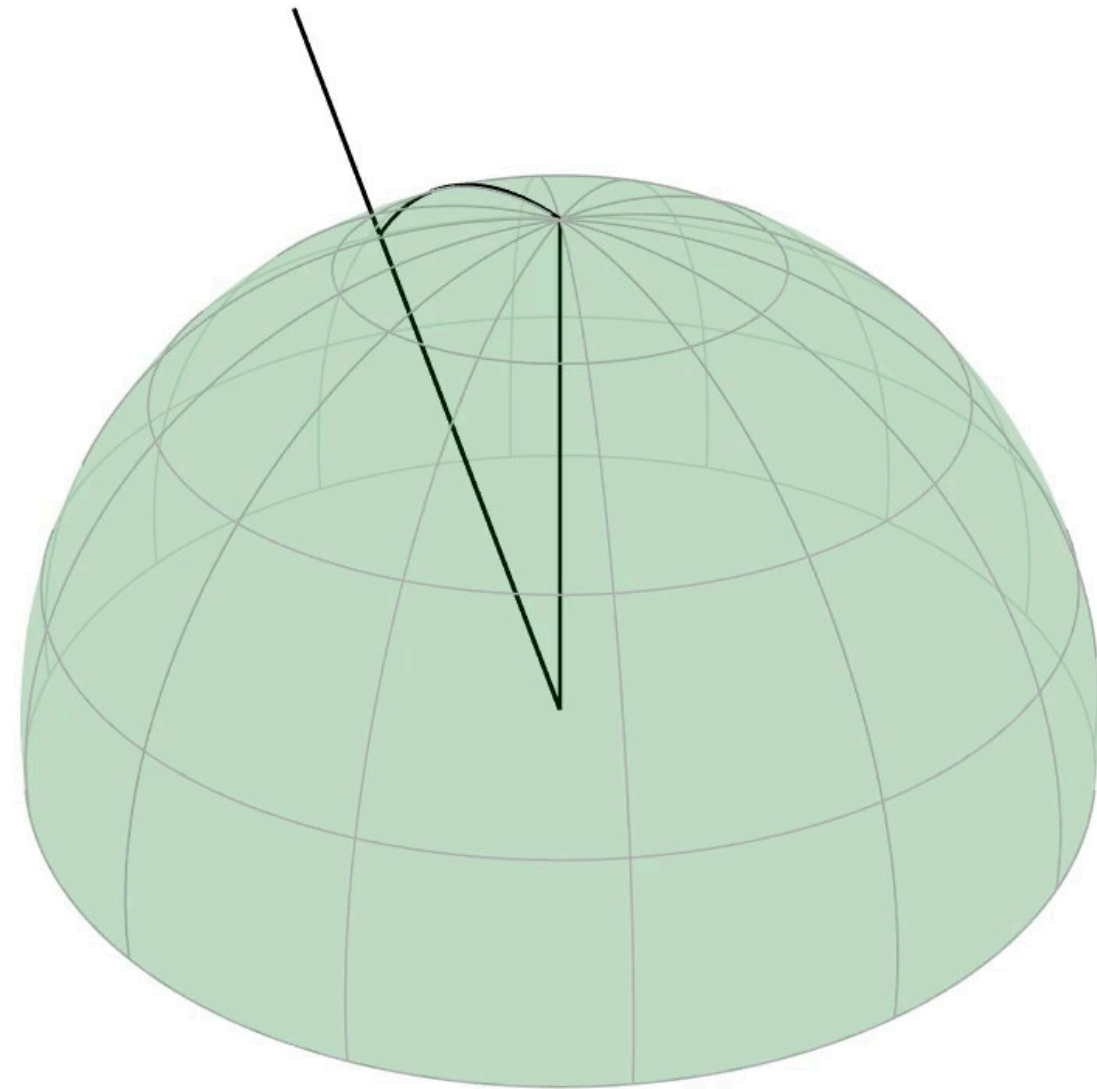
$f_{\mathbf{p}}(\omega, \omega')$

beautiful illustrations from Jonathan Dupuy

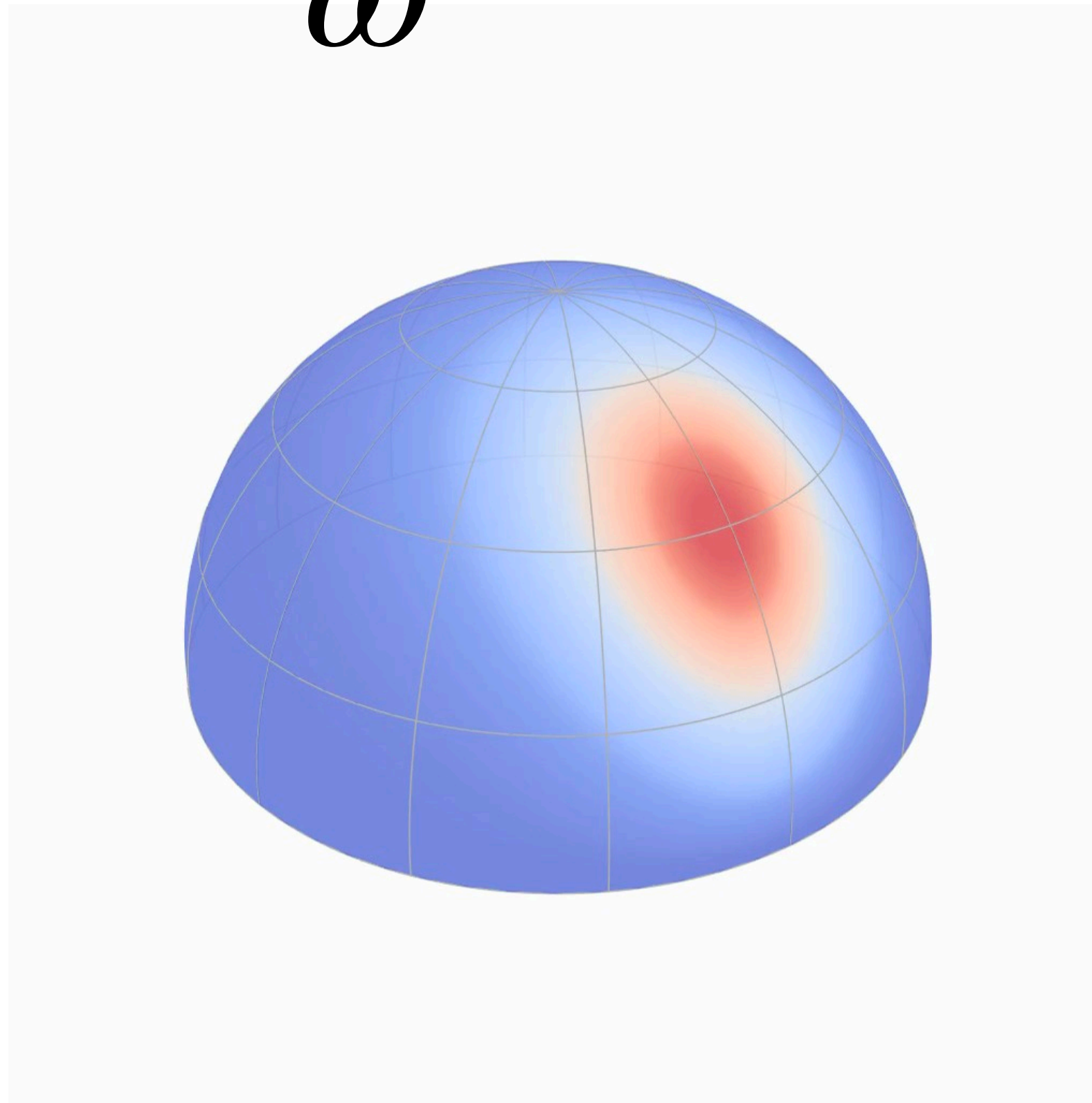
<http://onrendering.com/data/papers/powitacq/slides/powitacq.html>

BSDFs describe reflection / transmission properties

ω



ω'



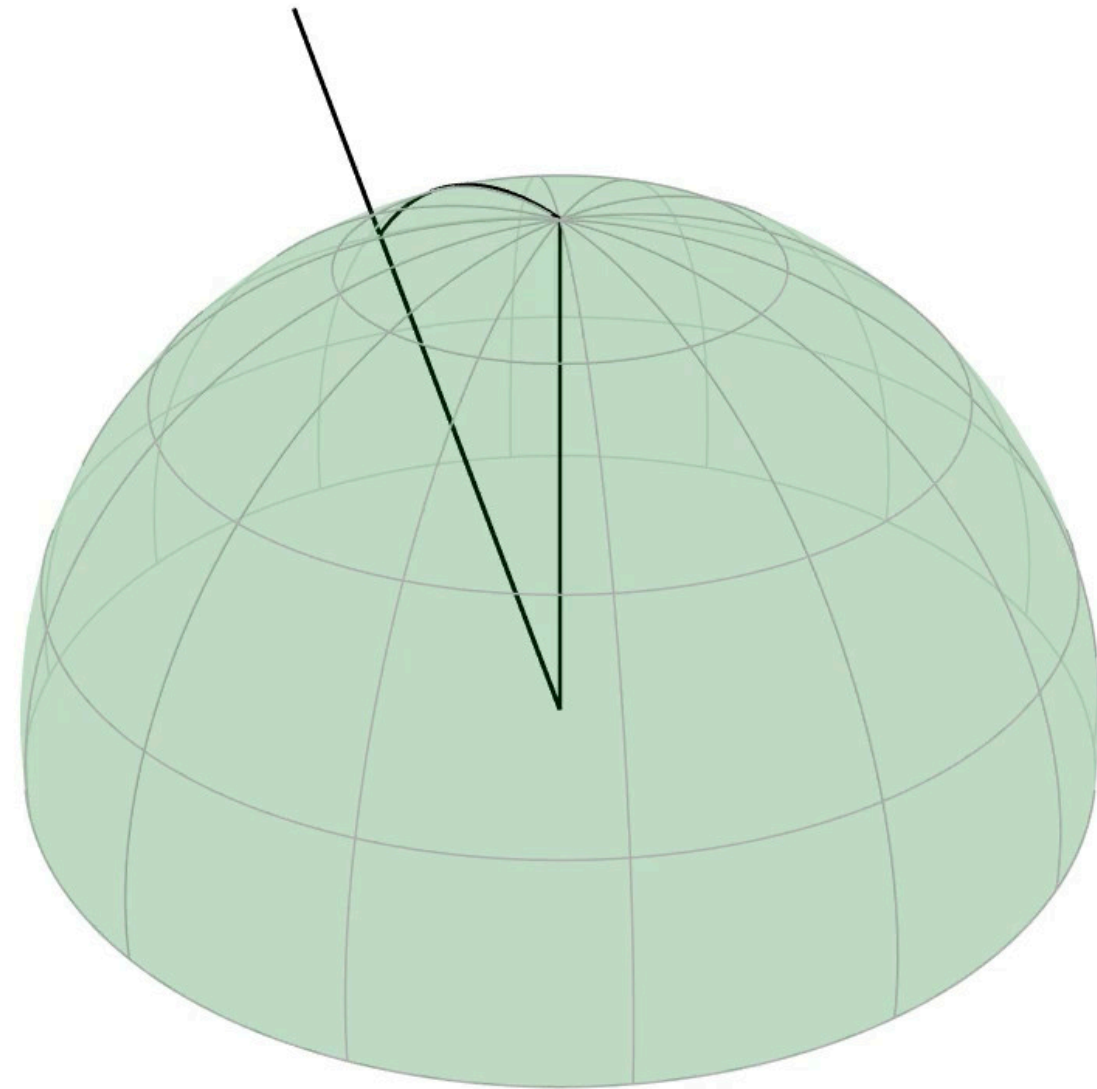
$f_p(\omega, \omega')$

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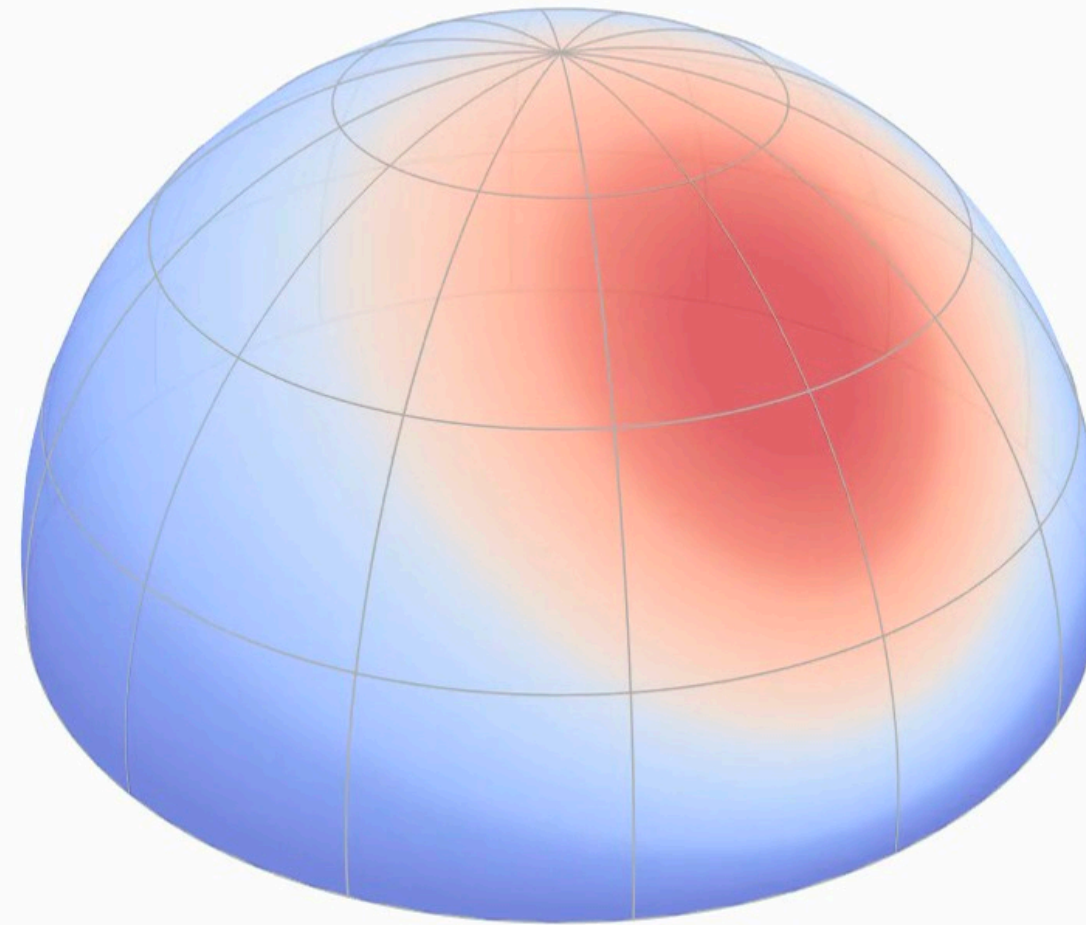
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BSDFs describe reflection / transmission properties

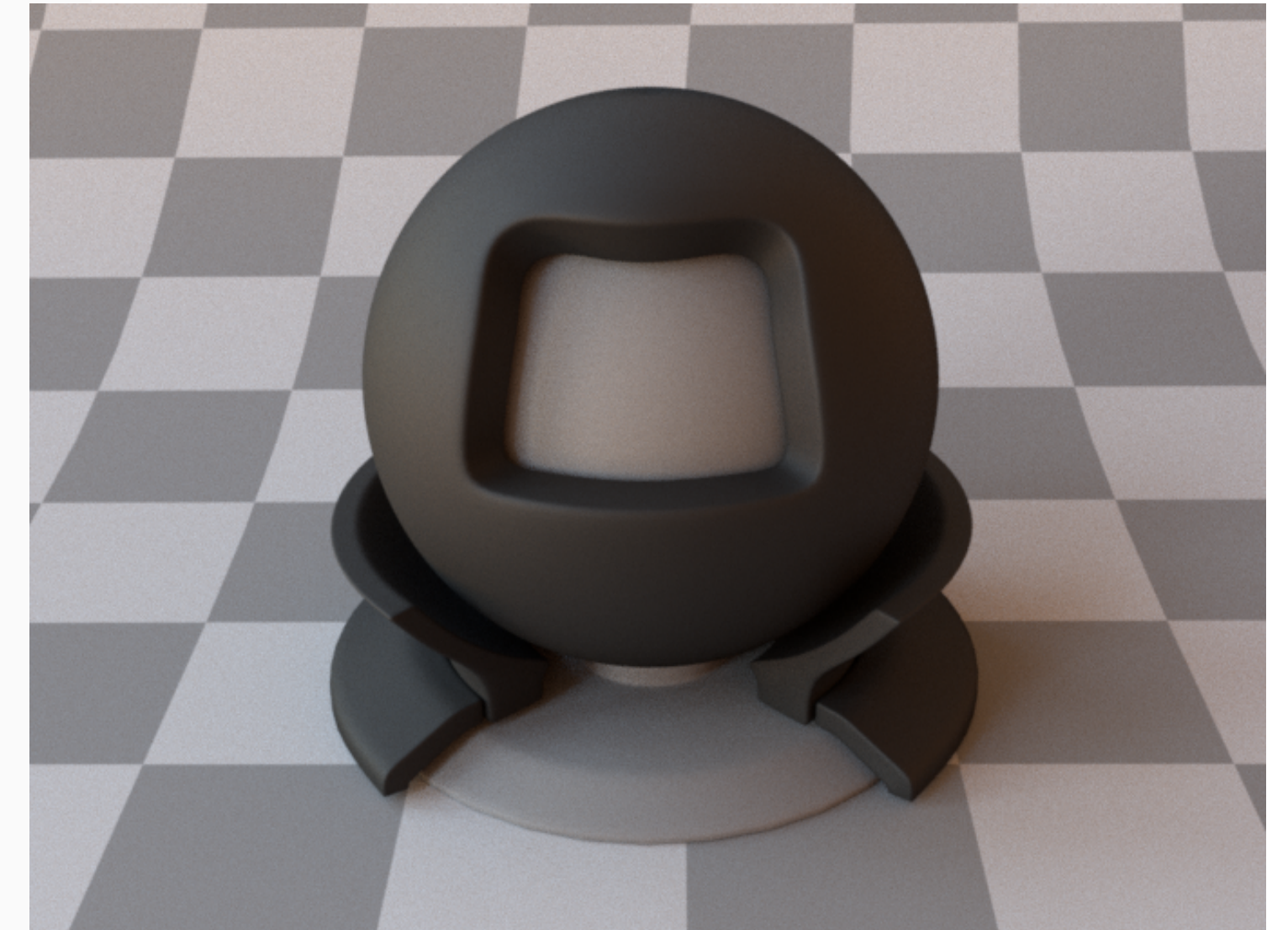
ω



ω'



rough



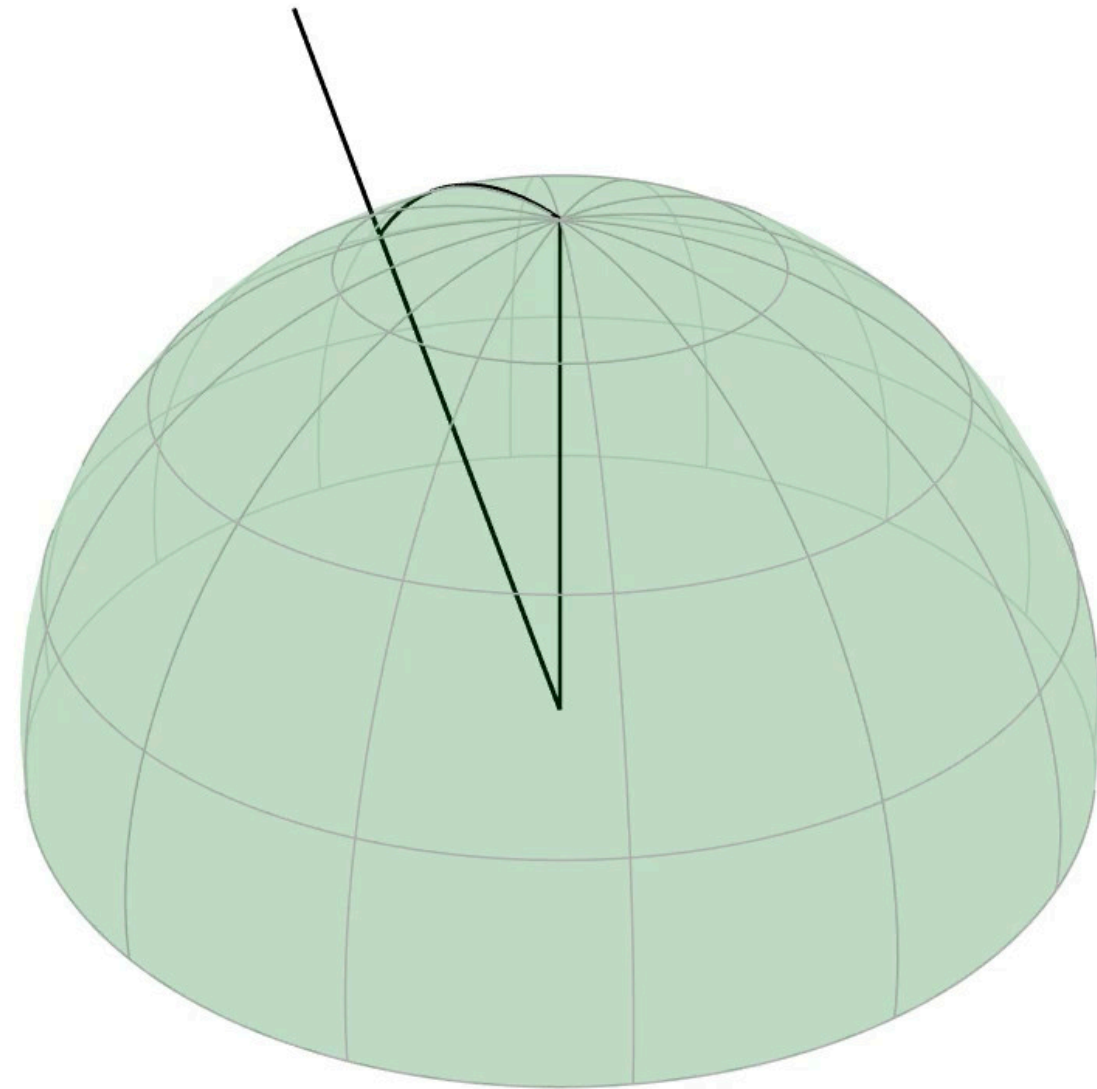
$$f_{\mathbf{p}}(\omega, \omega')$$

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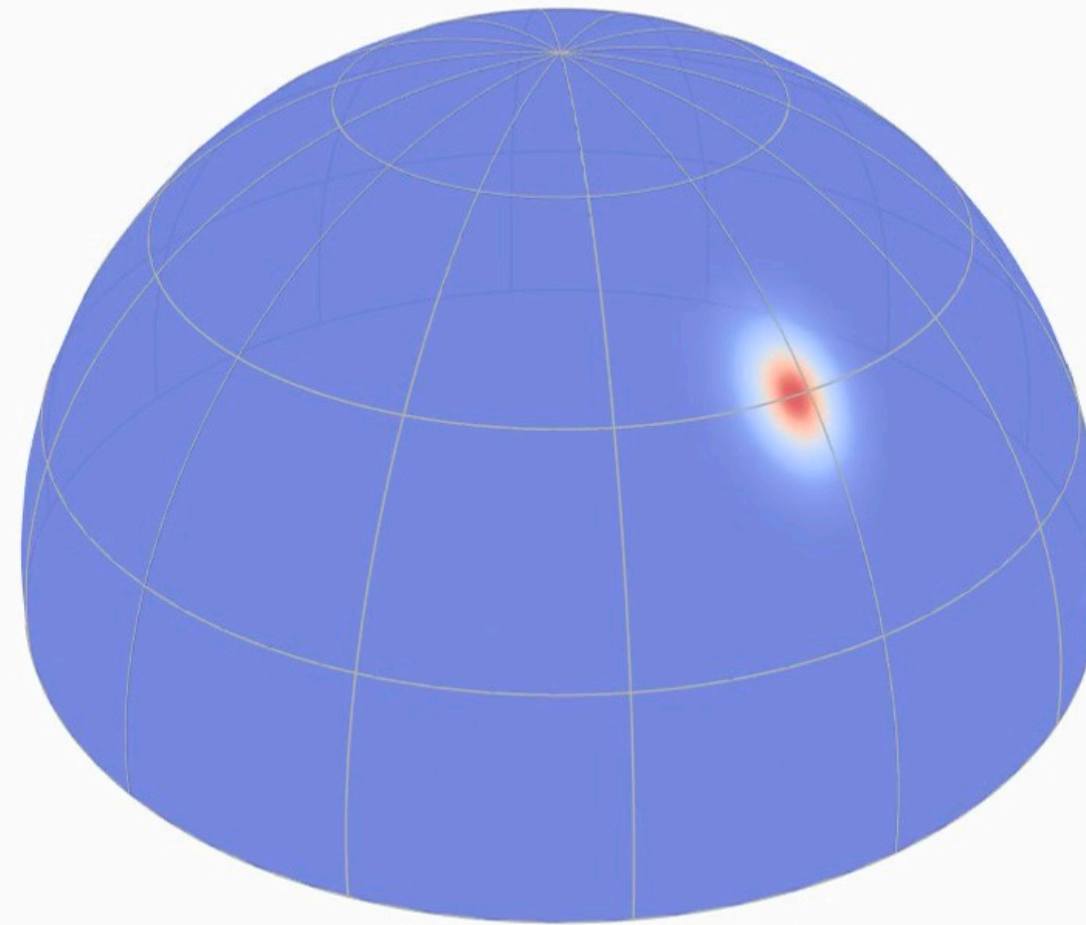
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BSDFs describe reflection / transmission properties

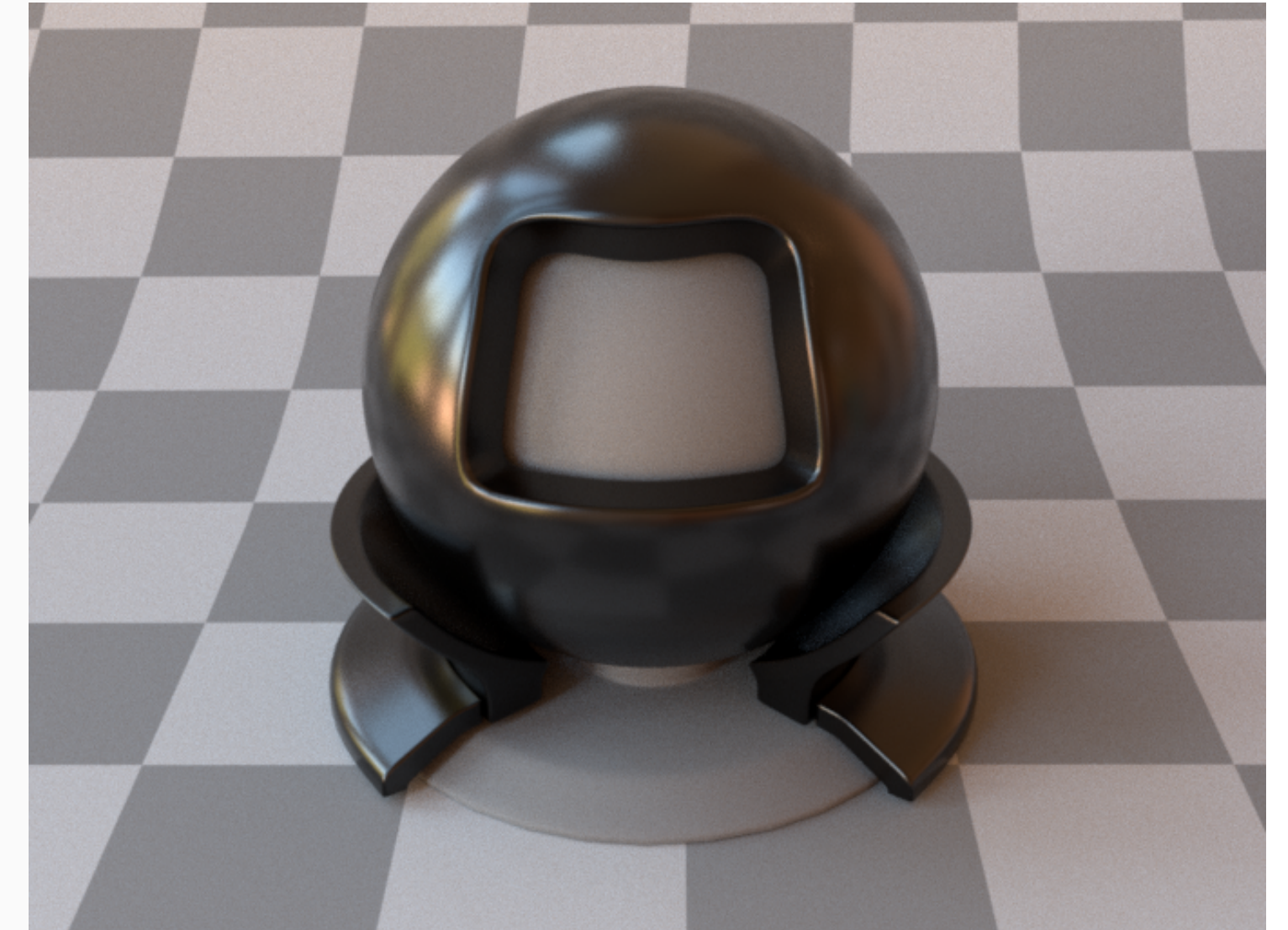
ω



ω'



shiny



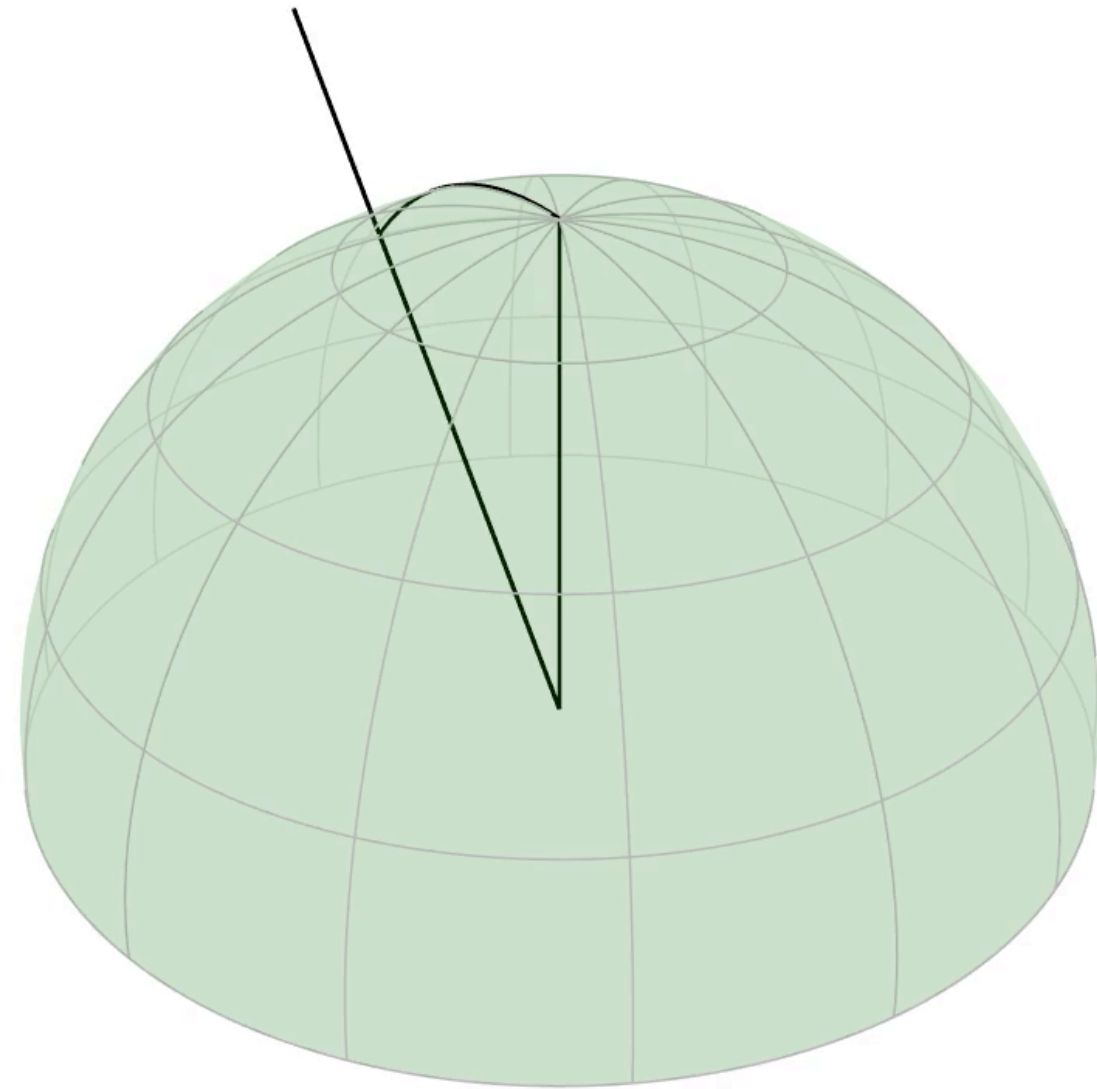
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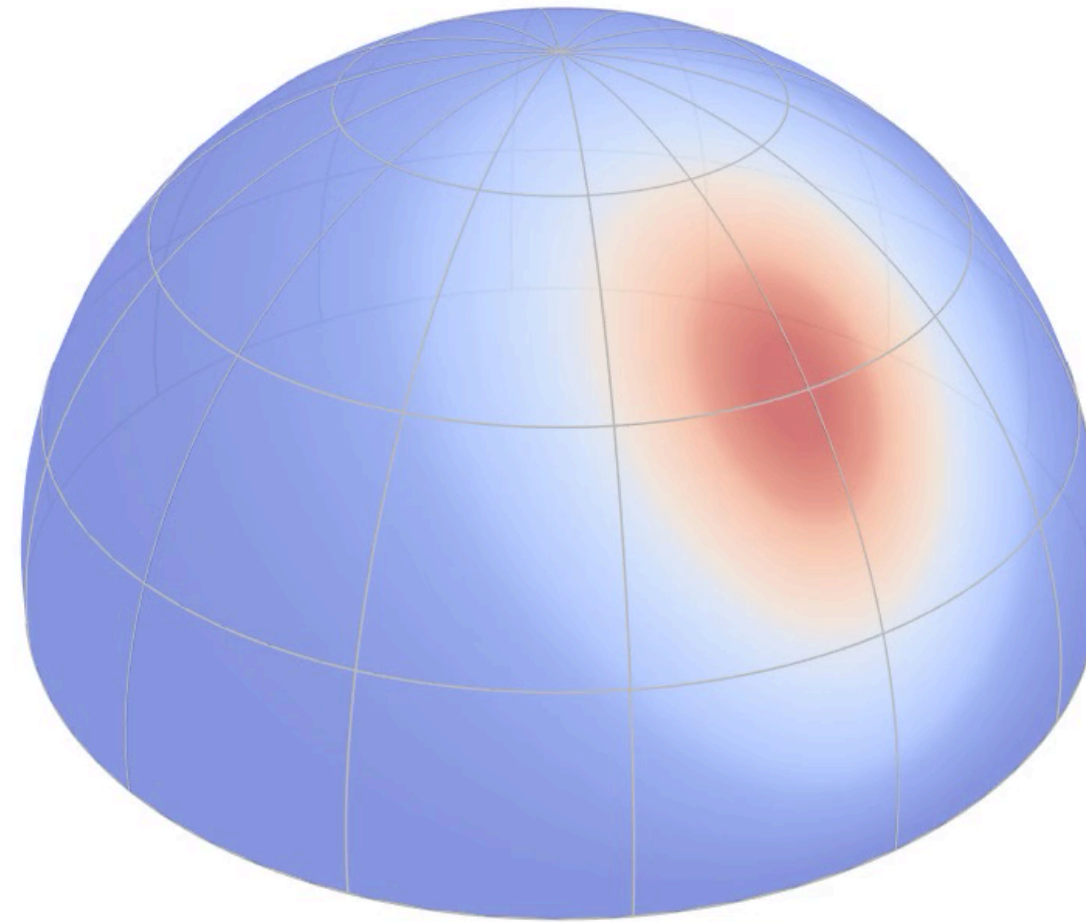
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BSDFs describe reflection / transmission properties

ω



ω'



$f_{\mathbf{p}}(\omega, \omega')$

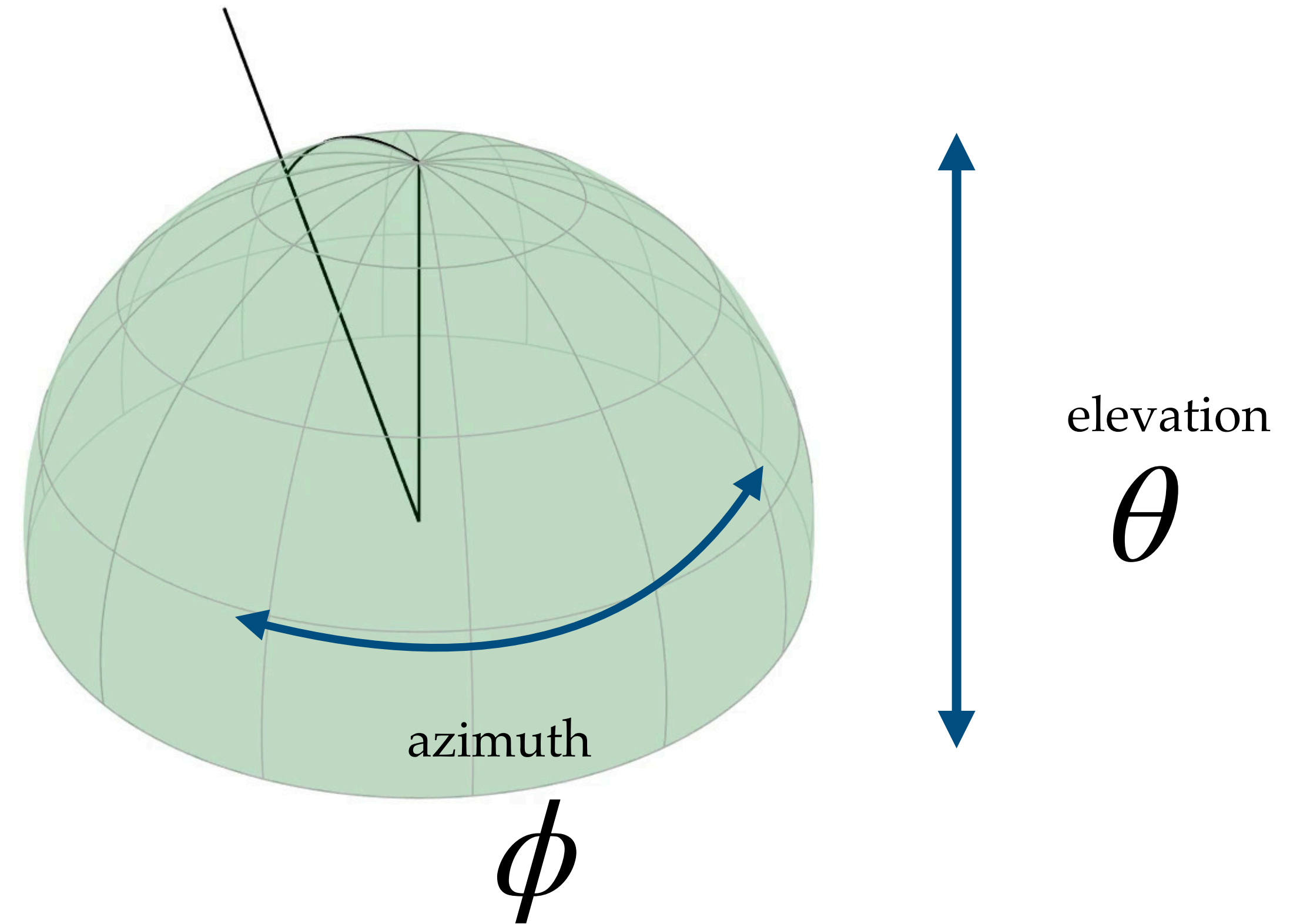
beautiful illustrations from Jonathan Dupuy

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Isotropic BRDFs vs anisotropic BRDFs

- isotropic BRDFs: reduces 4D BRDFs to 3D by only considering differences in azimuth angles

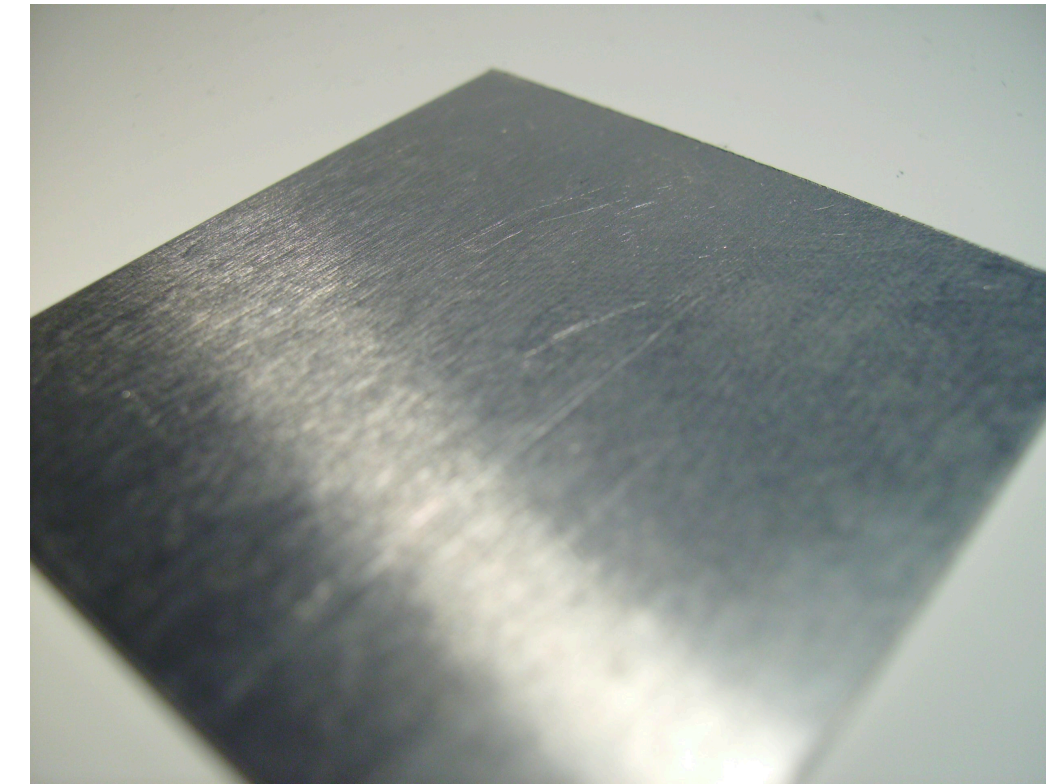
$$f_r(\theta', \phi', \theta, \phi) = f_r(\theta', \theta, \phi' - \phi)$$



Isotropic BRDFs vs anisotropic BRDFs



isotropic: circular highlights

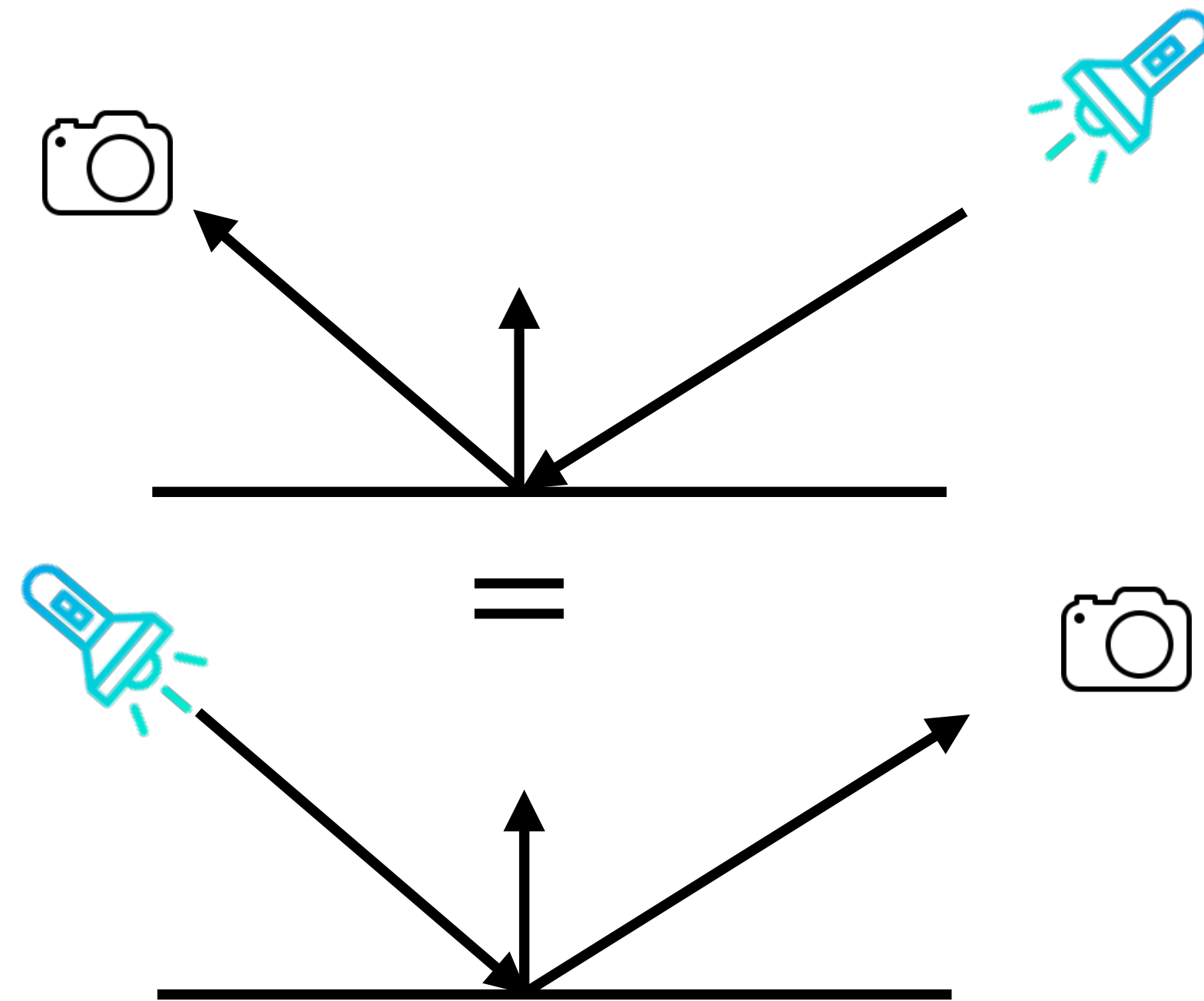


anisotropic: "directional" highlights

Reciprocity of BSDFs

quiz 1: why and when will this hold?

$$f_{\mathbf{p}}(\omega, \omega') = f_{\mathbf{p}}(\omega', \omega)$$

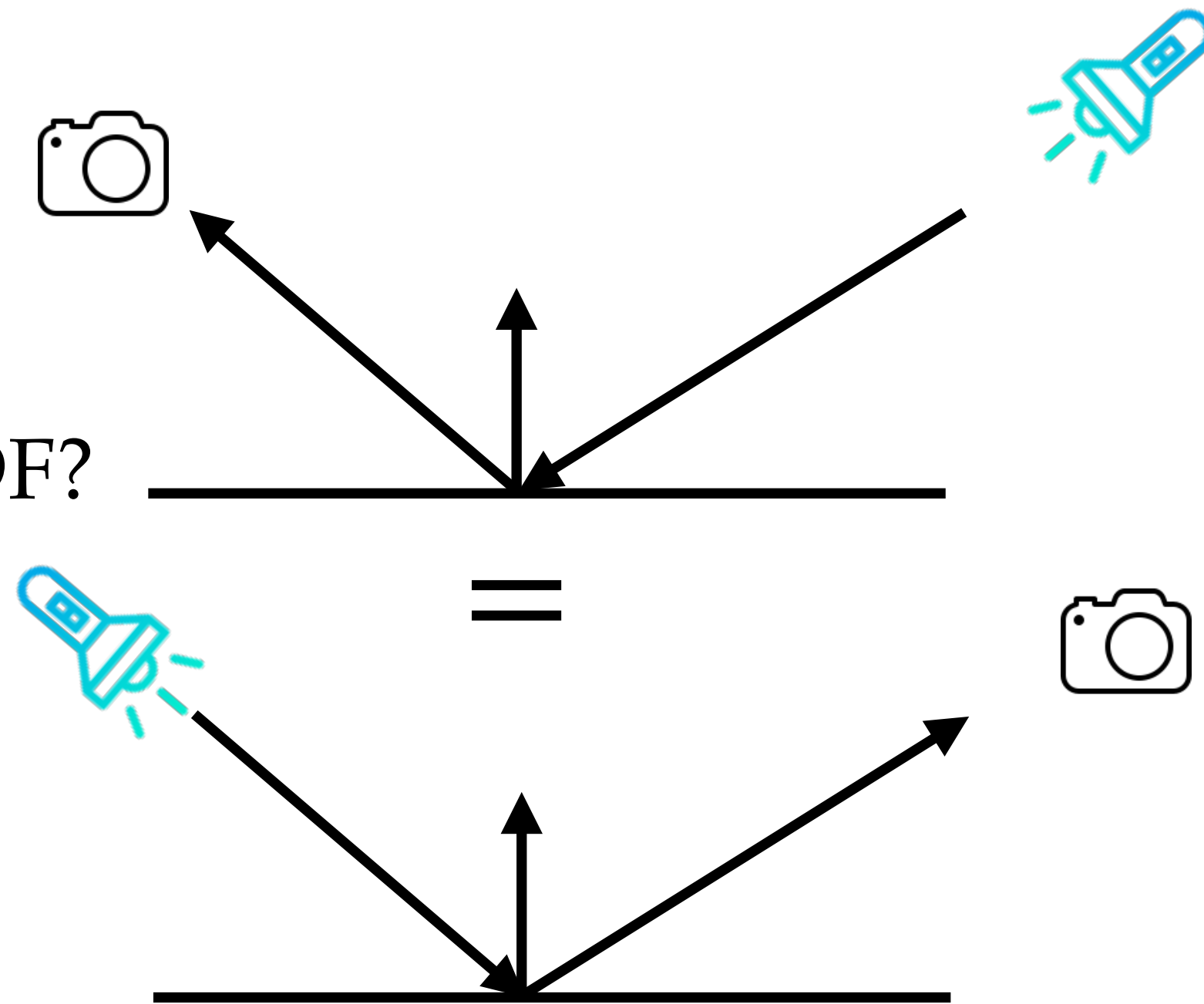


Reciprocity of BSDFs

quiz 1: why and when will this hold?

quiz 2: what is the consequence of a non-reciprocal BSDF?

$$f_{\mathbf{p}}(\omega, \omega') = f_{\mathbf{p}}(\omega', \omega)$$



Sidetrack: exceptions of reciprocity

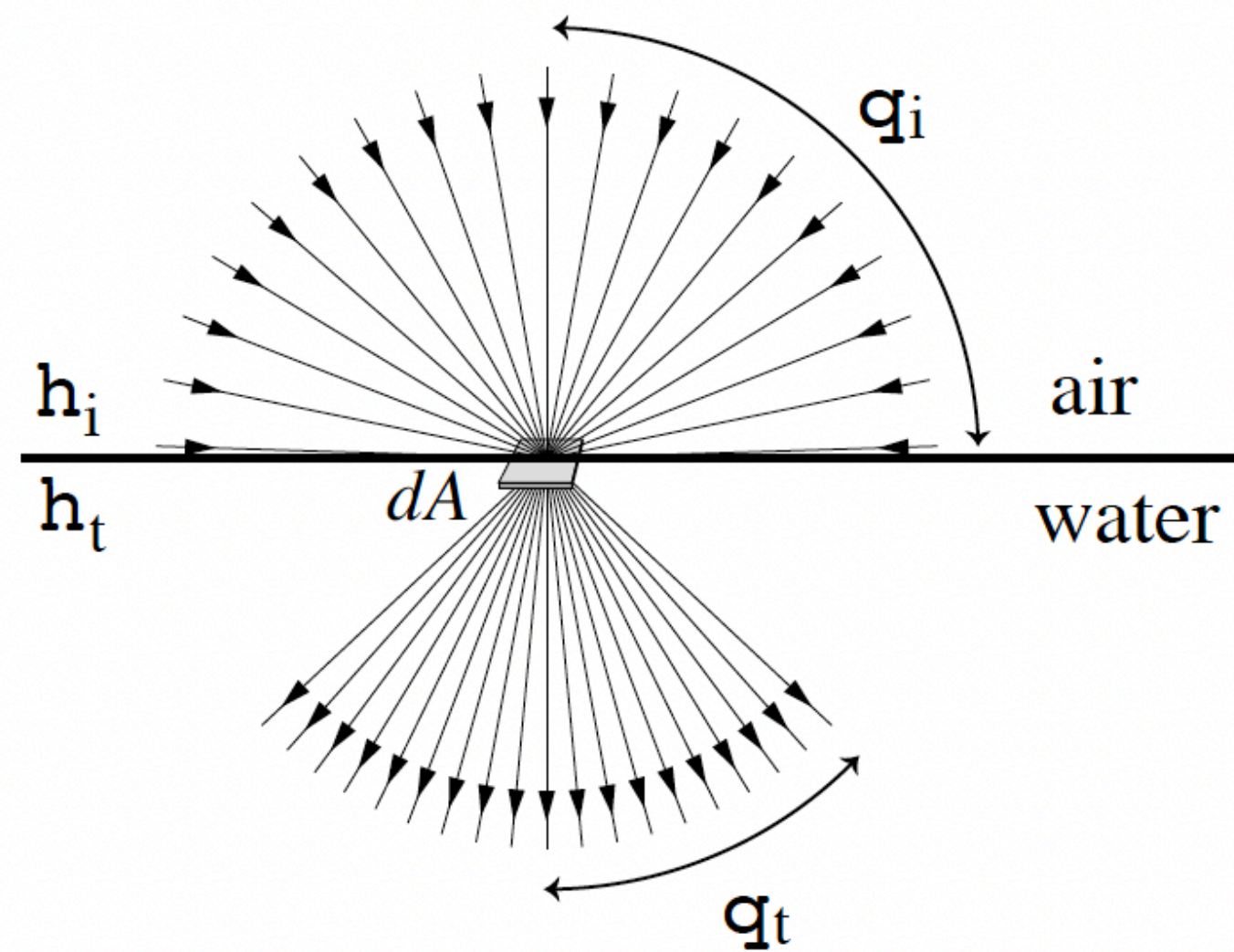


Figure 5.2: When light enters a medium with a higher refractive index, the same light energy is squeezed into a smaller volume. This causes the radiance along each ray to increase.

Eric Veach

ROBUST MONTE CARLO METHODS
FOR LIGHT TRANSPORT SIMULATION

Sidetrack: exceptions of reciprocity

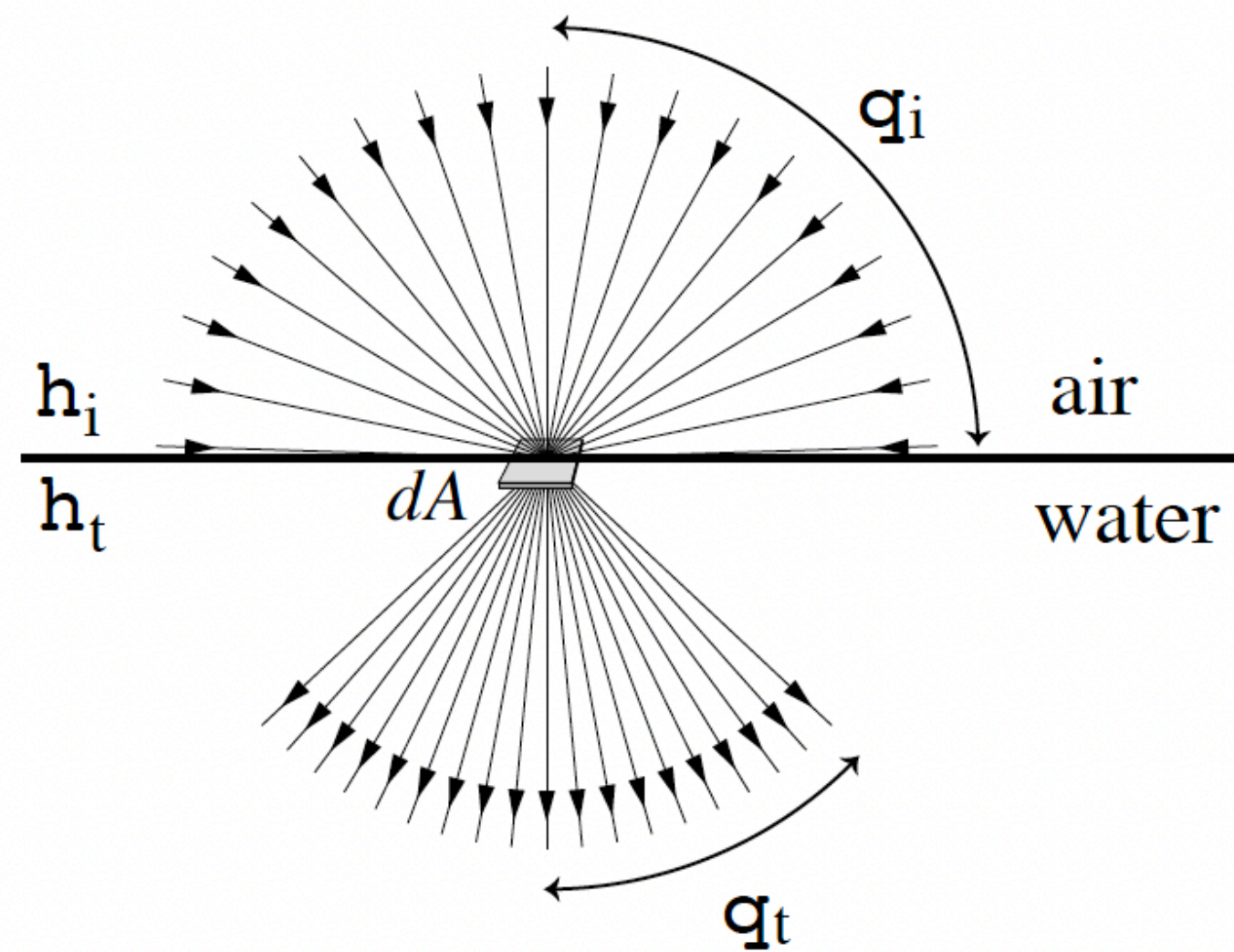


Figure 5.2: When light enters a medium with a higher refractive index, the same light energy is squeezed into a smaller volume. This causes the radiance along each ray to increase.

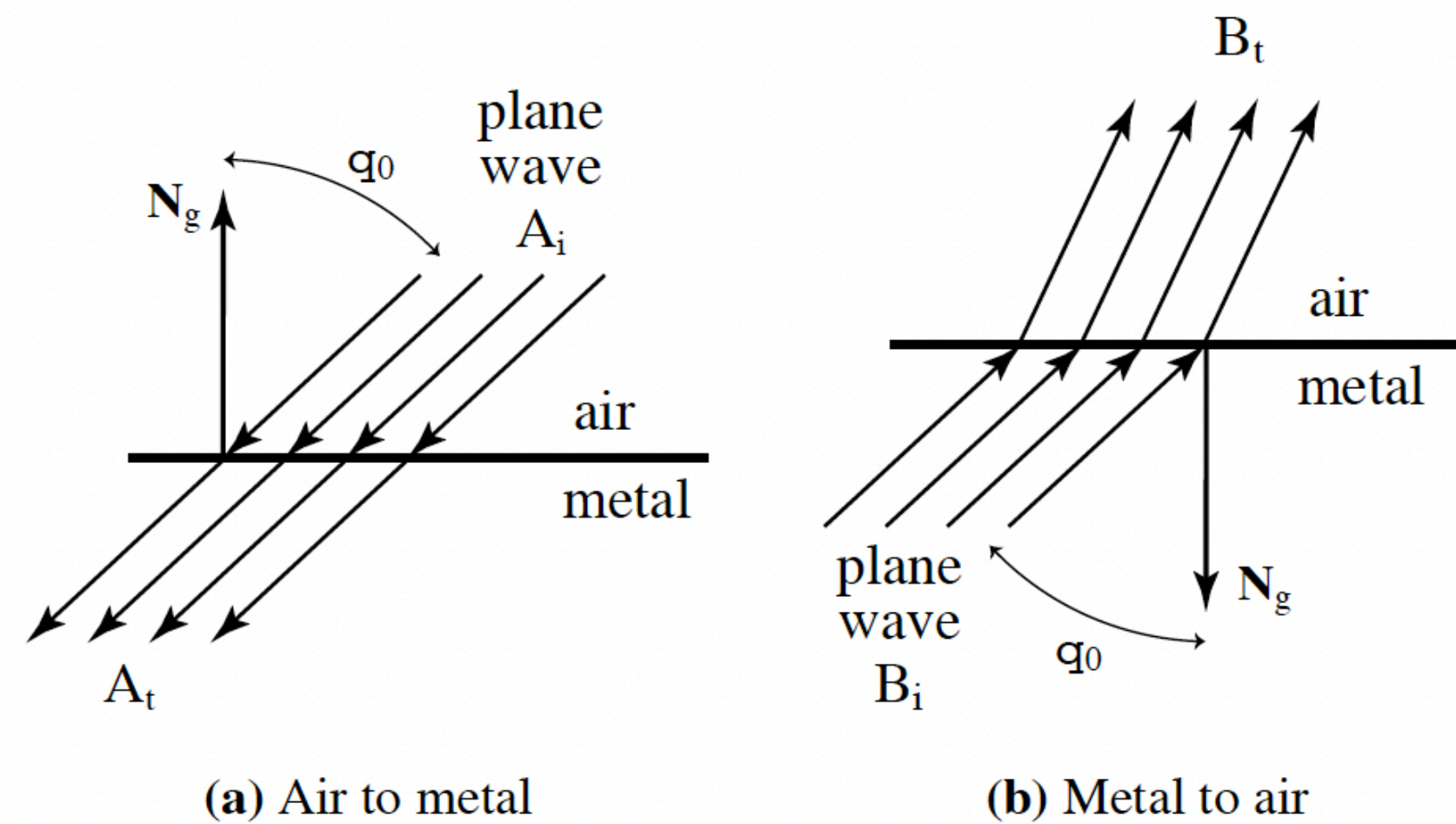
“real” reciprocity principle:

$$\frac{f_p(\omega, \omega')}{\eta'^2} = \frac{f_p(\omega', \omega)}{\eta^2}$$

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Sidetrack: exceptions of reciprocity



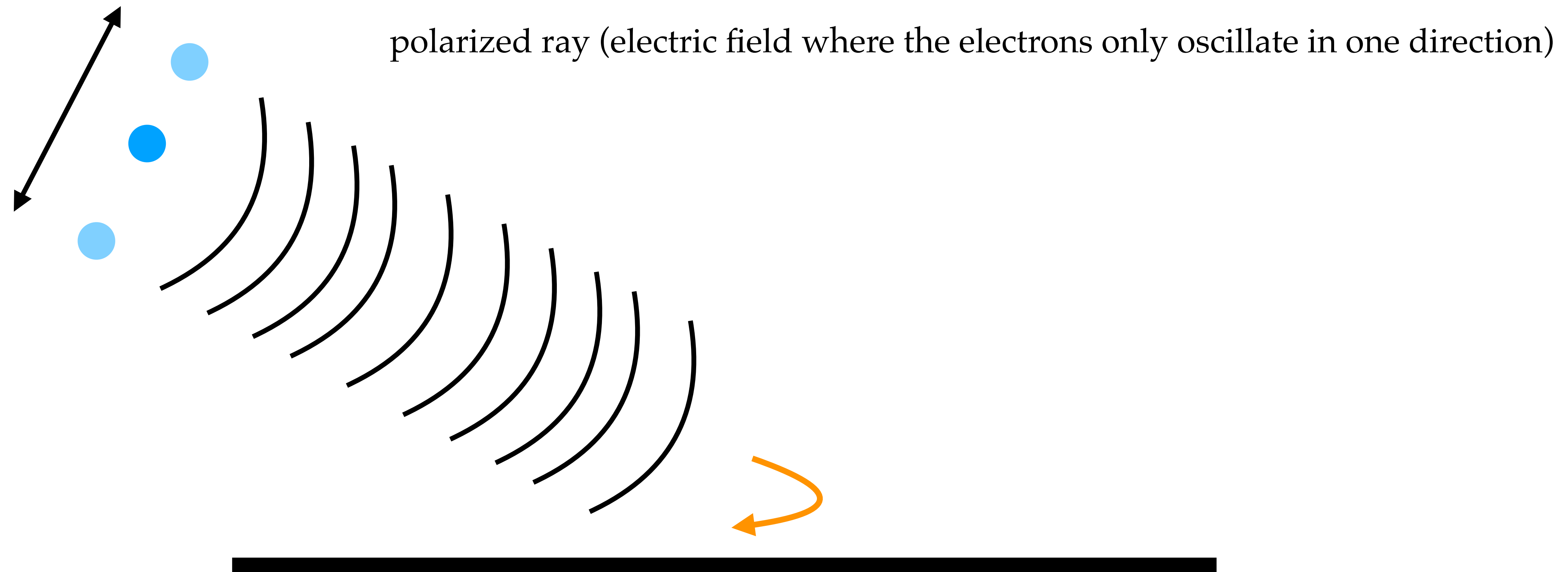
absorbing media breaks reciprocity

Figure 6.2: When absorbing media such as metals are present, the path of a light beam is not always reversible. For example, when a light beam A_i is transmitted from air into some metals, there is a non-zero angle of incidence θ_0 for which the beam does not change its direction of propagation (Figure (a)). However, a beam of light B_i traveling in the reverse direction (from metal into air) is refracted at the surface, and follows a different path (Figure (b)).

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Sidetrack: exceptions of reciprocity



polarized ray (electric field where the electrons only oscillate in one direction)

magnetic field

(rotates the electric field oscillation regardless of the polarization direction)

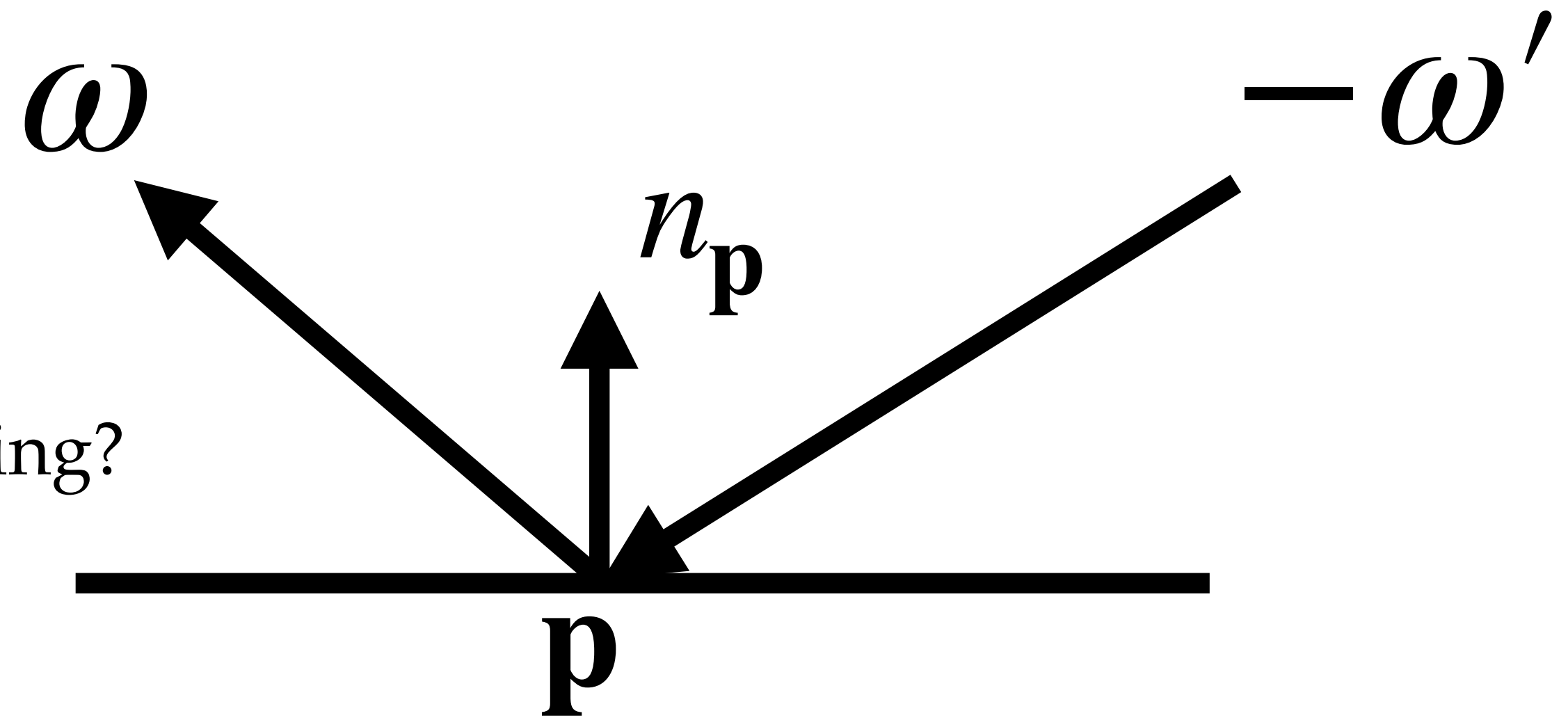
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FOR LIGHT TRANSPORT SIMULATION

Energy conservation of BSDFs

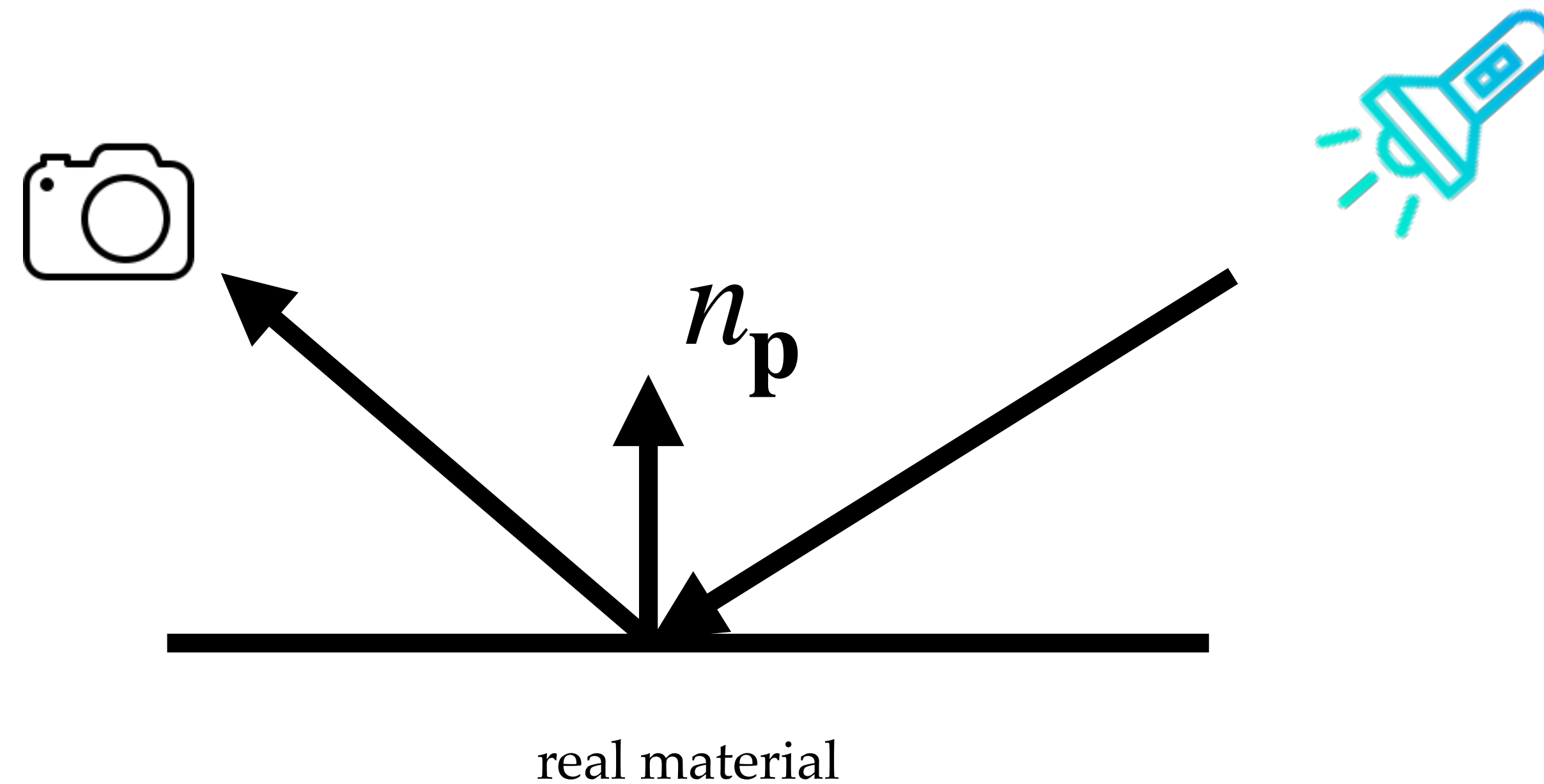
$$\int f_{\mathbf{p}}(\omega, \omega') |n_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \omega'| d\omega' \leq 1$$

quiz: what happens if your BSDF is not energy conserving?



How to obtain a BSDF?

- we can actually measure it!



quiz: how would you design a device for this?

<https://icons8.com/icons/set/flashlight>

<https://icons8.com/icons/set/camera>

How to obtain a BSDF?

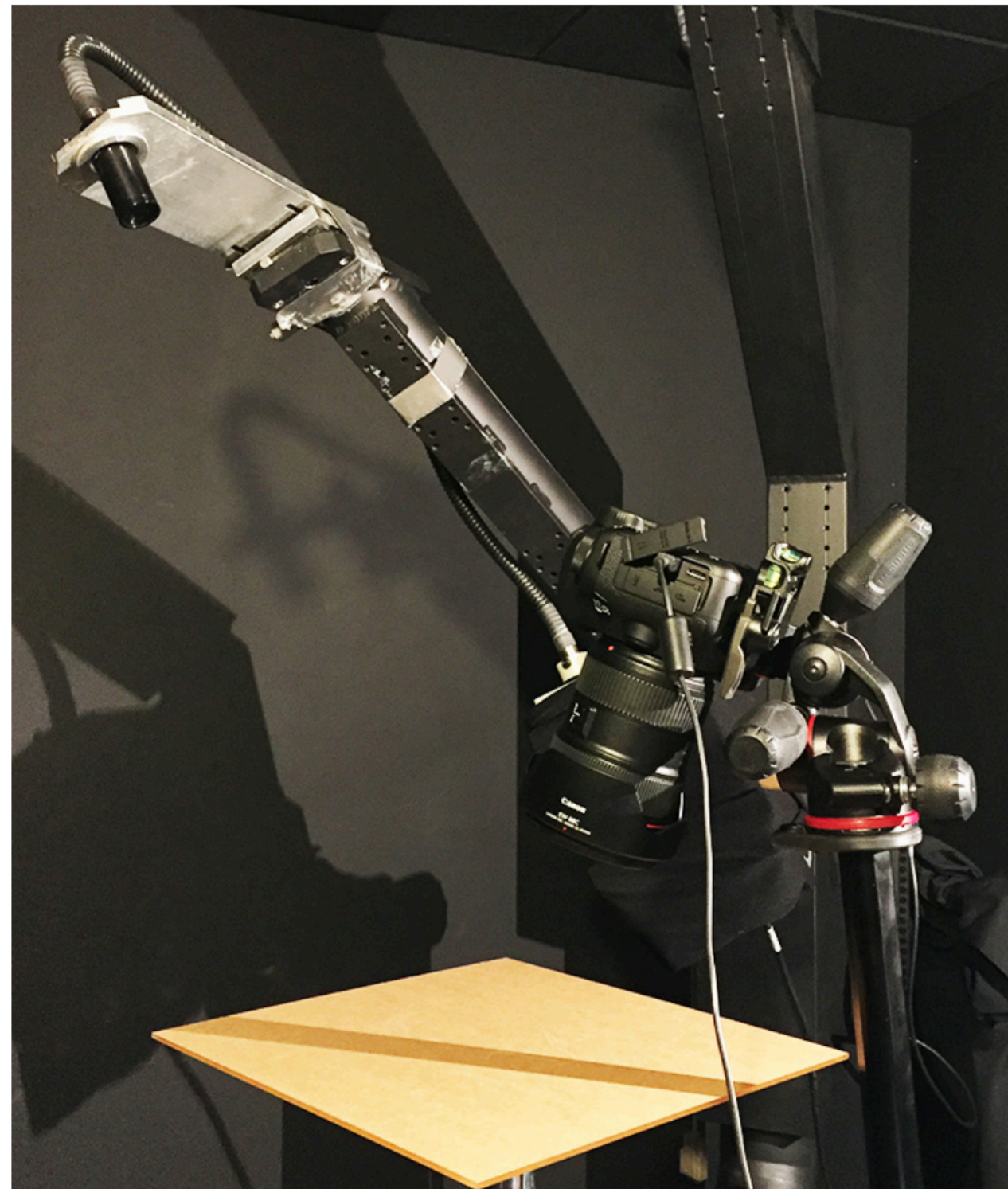
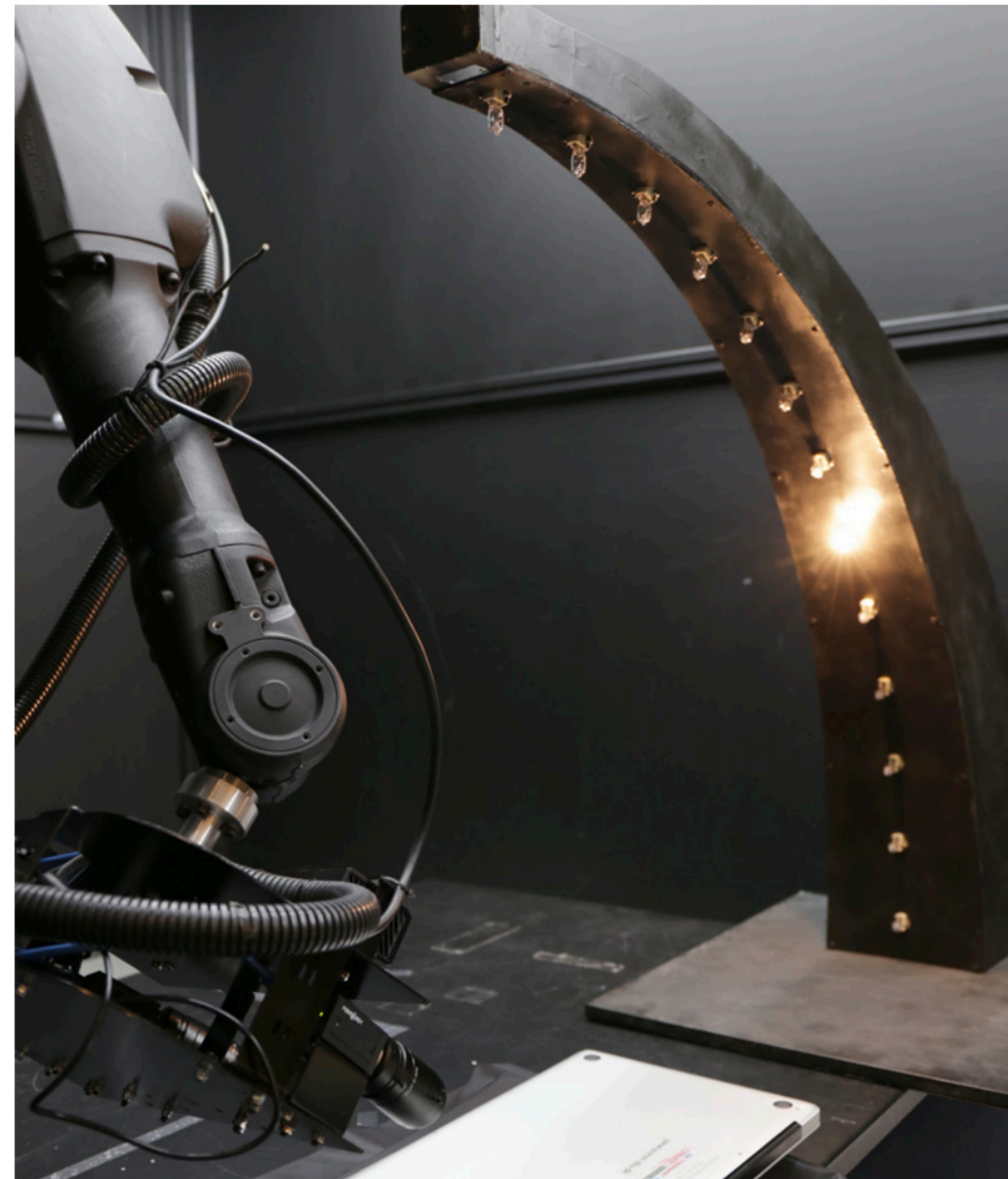
- we can actually measure it!



A Data-Driven Reflectance Model

How to obtain a BSDF?

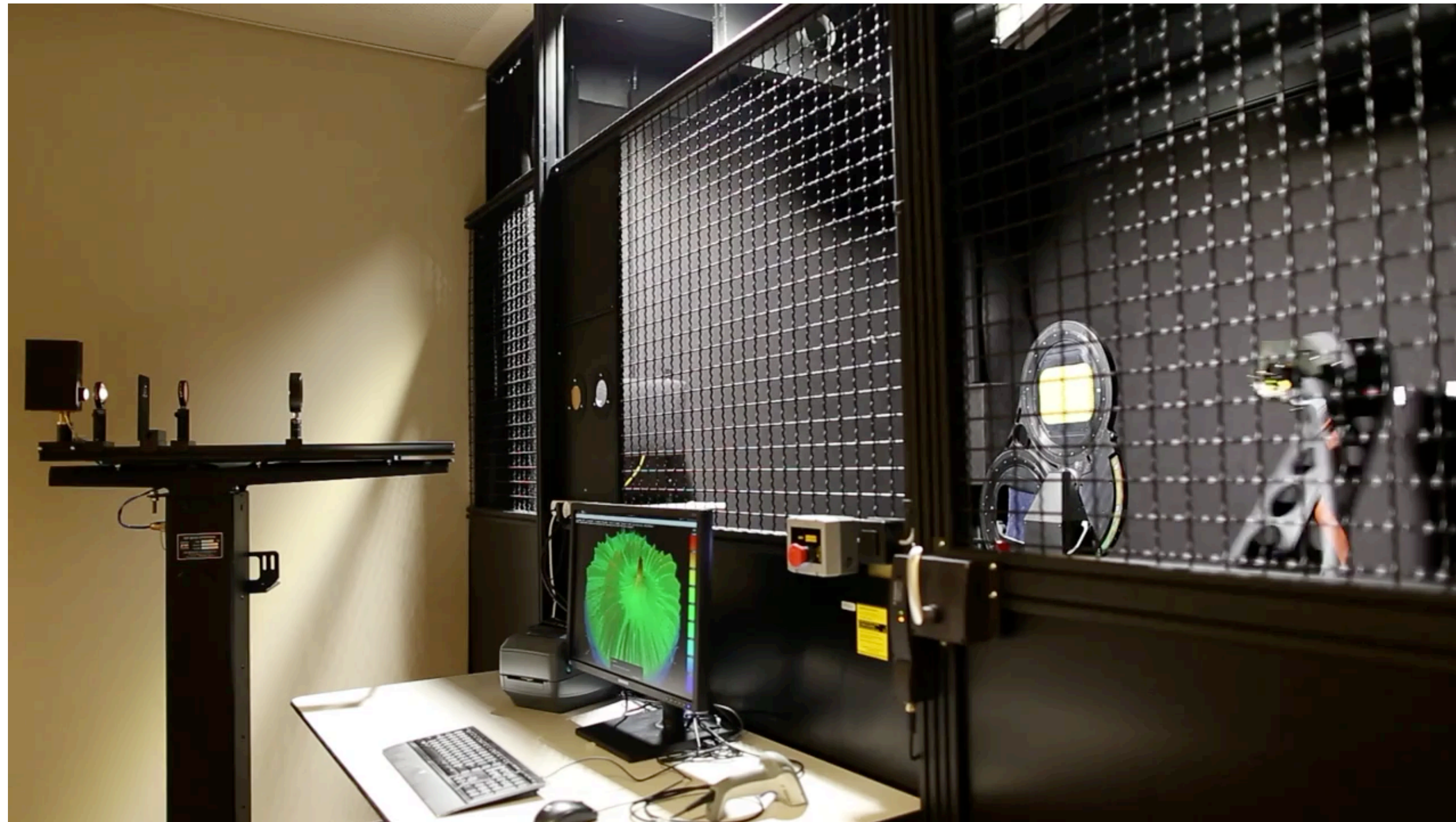
- we can actually measure it!



robot arm for BSDF measurement @ UCSD

How to obtain a BSDF?

- we can actually measure it!

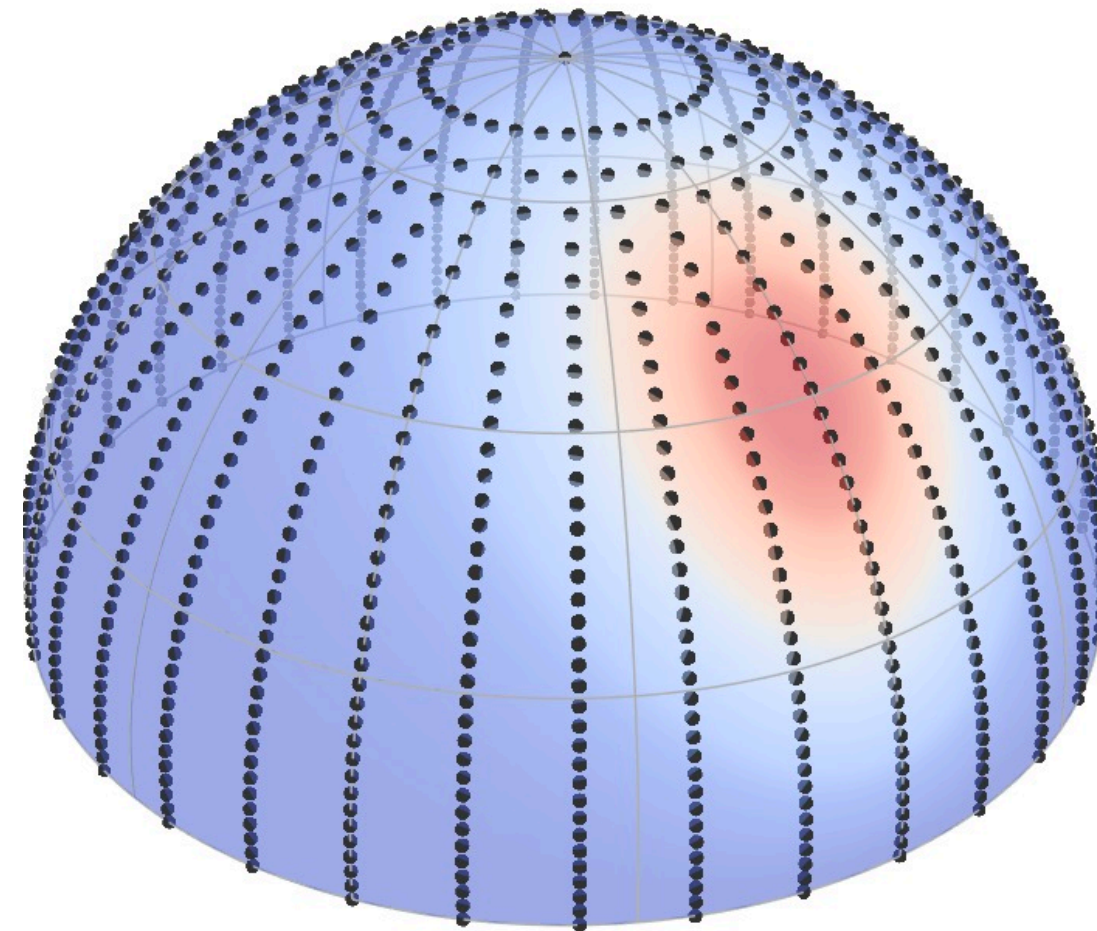
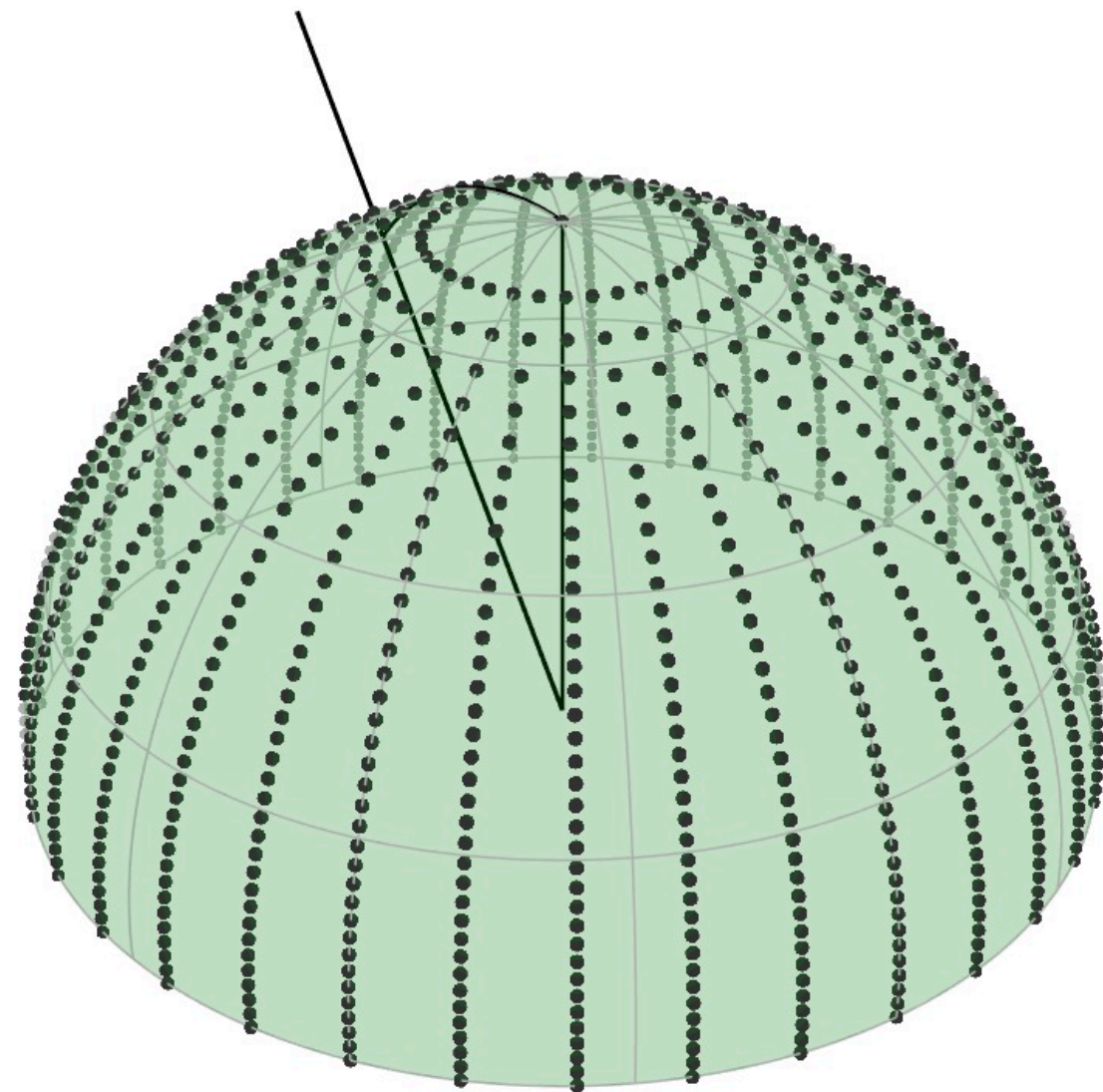


the robot arm in action @ EPFL

video from Wenzel Jakob

<https://rgl.epfl.ch/pages/lab/pgII>

Measuring BRDFs is time / memory consuming



need to measure a 4D domain

100 samples at each dimension:

$100^4 = 100,000,000$ (100 million samples)

1 second per sample: 3 years

380 MB per wavelength

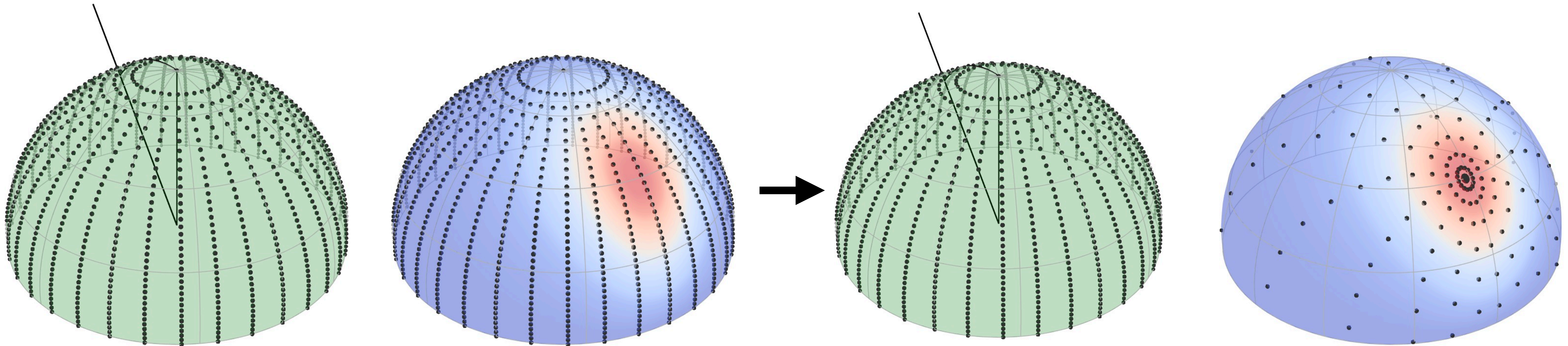
amazing illustrations & numbers from Jonathan Dupuy

<http://onrendering.com/data/papers/powitacq/slides/powitacq.html>

Trick 1: focus on mirror reflection direction

Szymon Rusinkiewicz, "A New Change of Variables for Efficient BRDF Representation", 1998

- by applying a change of variable (again!)



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Trick 1: focus on mirror reflection direction

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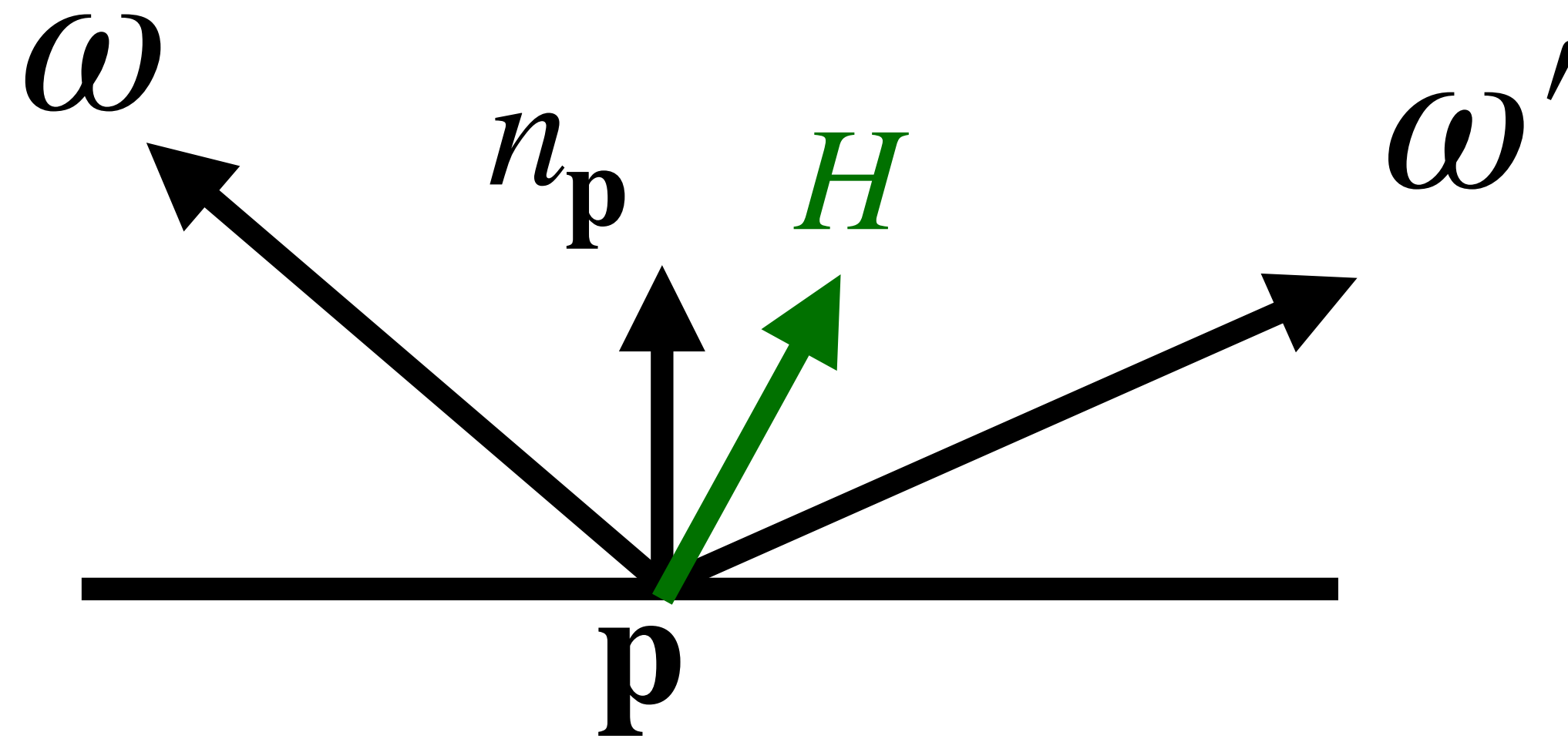
define **half-vector** $H = \text{normalize}(\omega + \omega')$

when $H = n_p$

ω and ω' are mirror reflection directions

idea:

measure differences between normals/directions
& the half-vector



Trick 1: focus on mirror reflection direction

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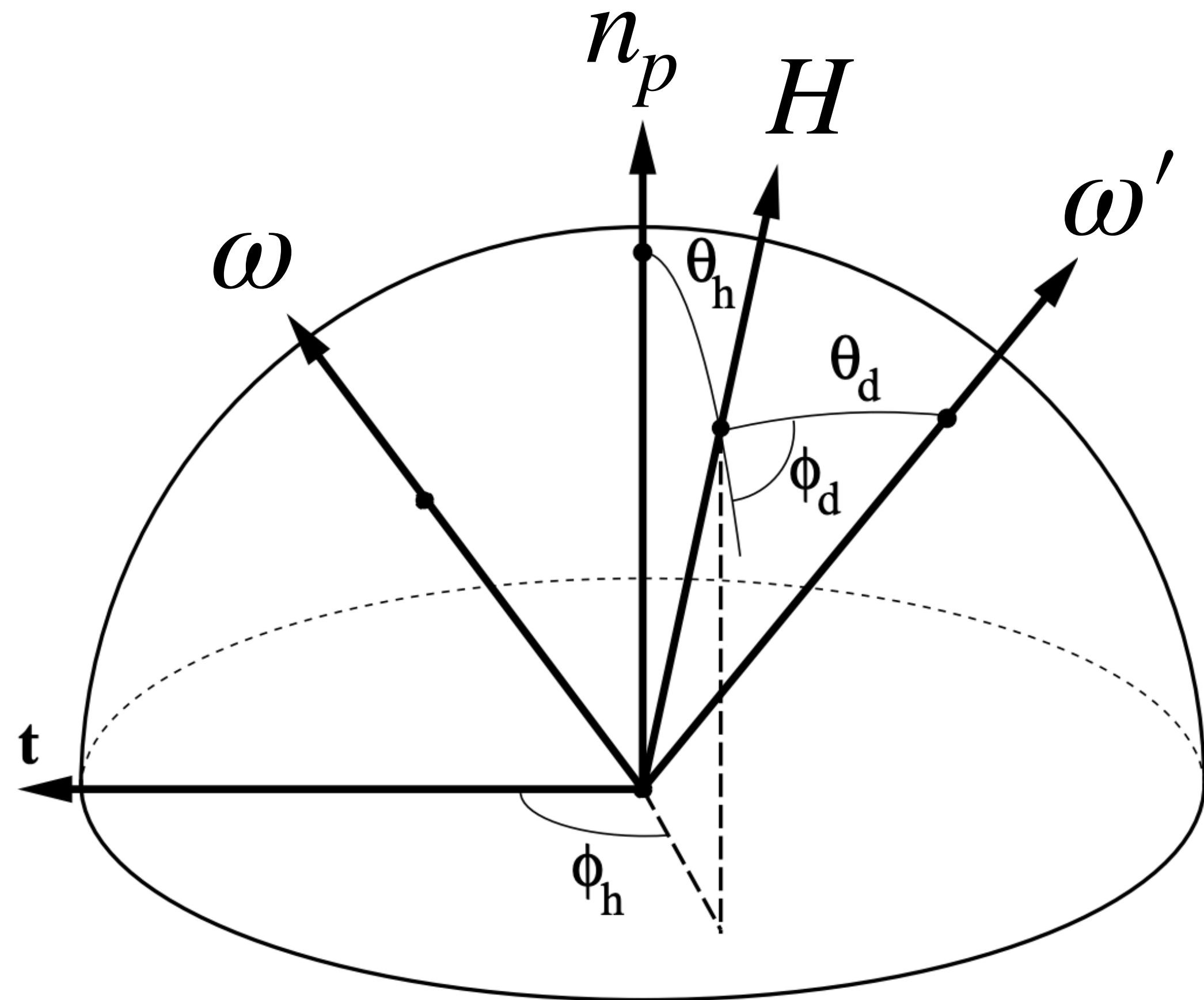
- by applying a change of variable (again!)

idea:

measure differences between normals / directions
& the half-vector

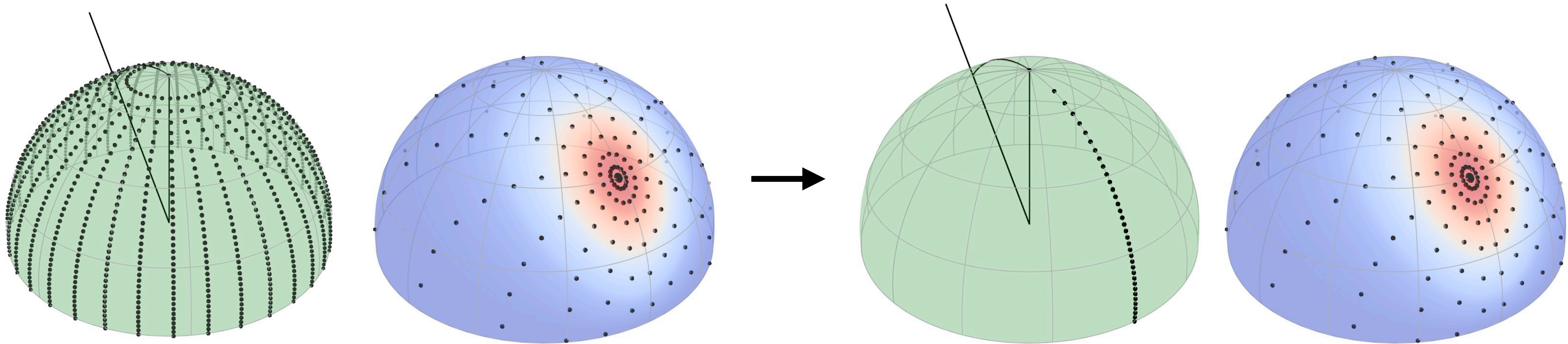
change of variable:

$$(\theta, \phi, \theta', \phi') \rightarrow (\theta_h, \phi_h, \theta_d, \phi_d)$$



Trick 2: focus on elevation, ignore azimuth

- assume the BSDF does not change over azimuthal angles (not always true)
 - “isotropic BSDF”



amazing illustrations from Jonathan Dupuy

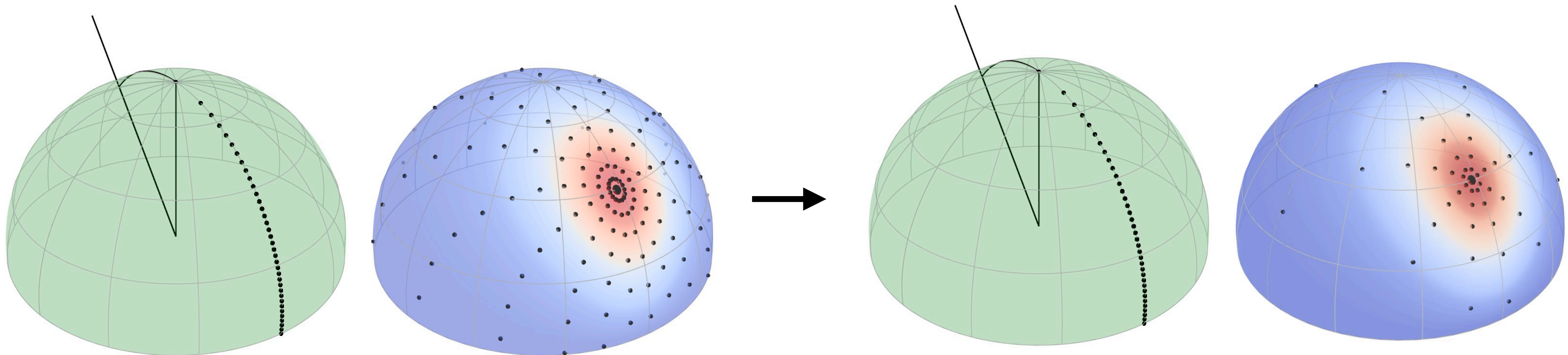
<http://onrendering.com/data/papers/powitacq/slides/powitacq.html>

Trick 3: estimate the roughness

Jonathan Dupuy and Wenzel Jakob, "An Adaptive Parameterization for Efficient Material Acquisition and Rendering", 2018

- and apply another change of variable to scale the samples!

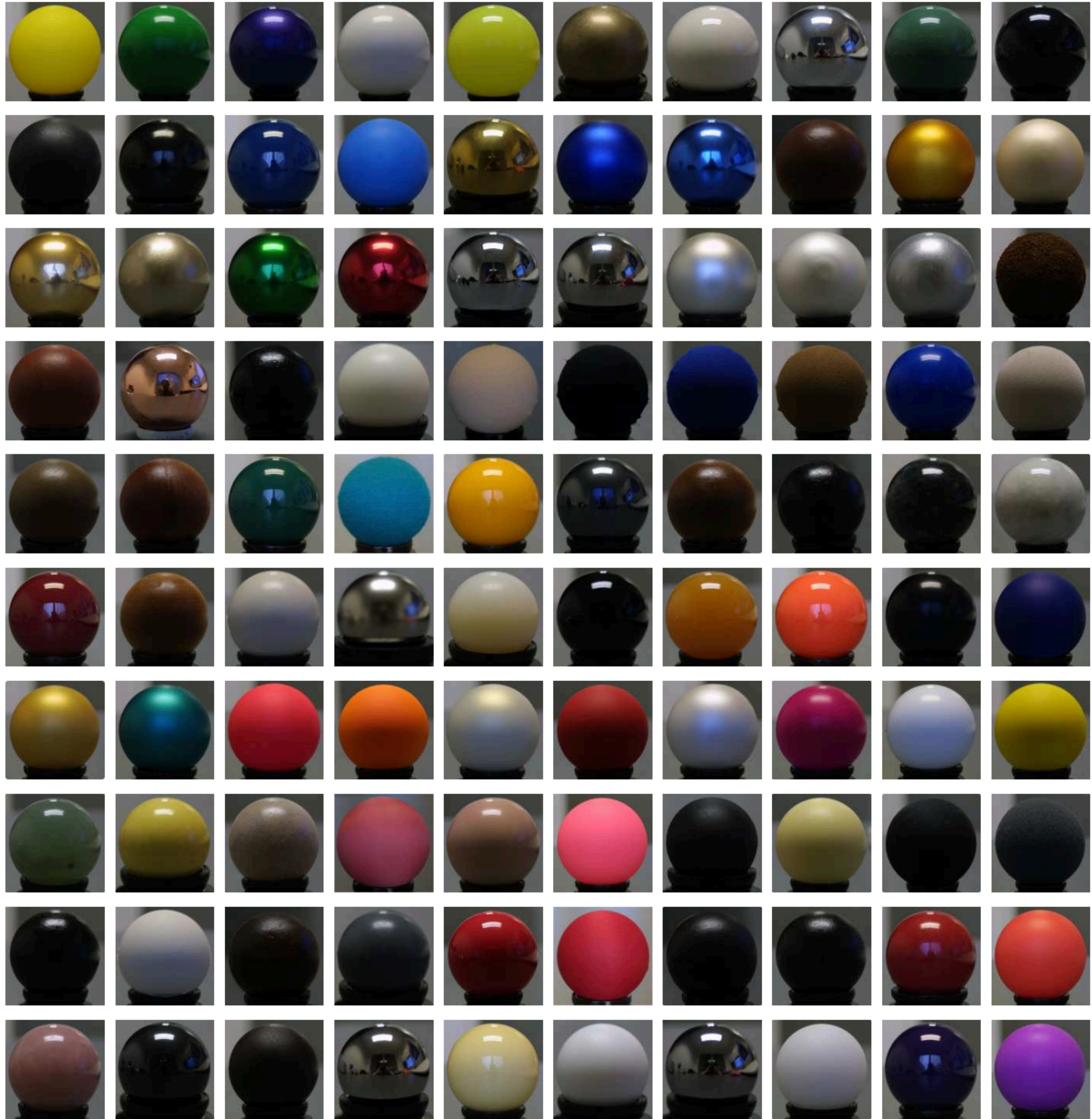
(still need ~2 hours to measure a material after all these tricks)



amazing illustrations from Jonathan Dupuy

<http://onrendering.com/data/papers/powitacq/slides/powitacq.html>

The MERL BSDF dataset [Matusik 2003]

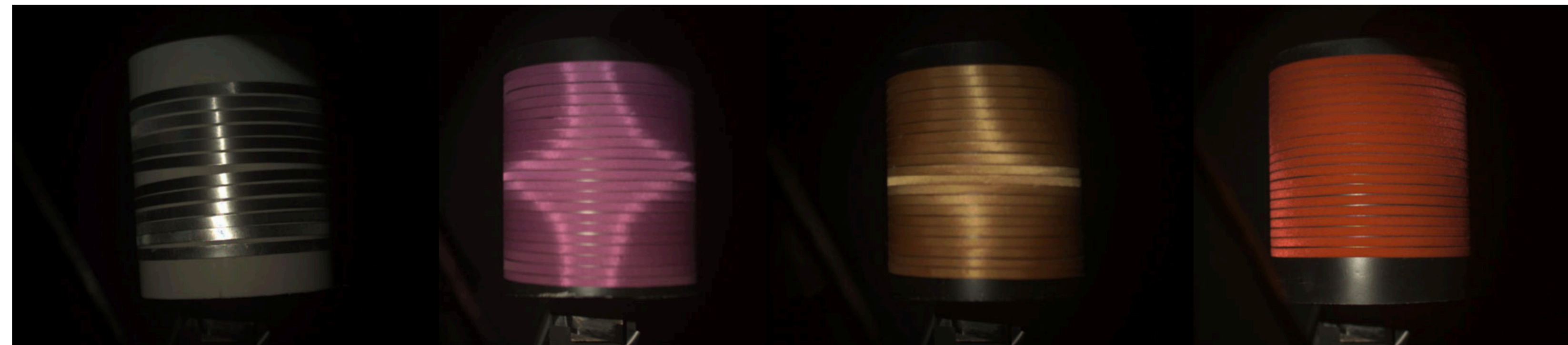


most popular data
100 isotropic BRDFs

warning: not a perfect dataset!
lots of camera artifacts
(defocus/bokeh/lens flare)

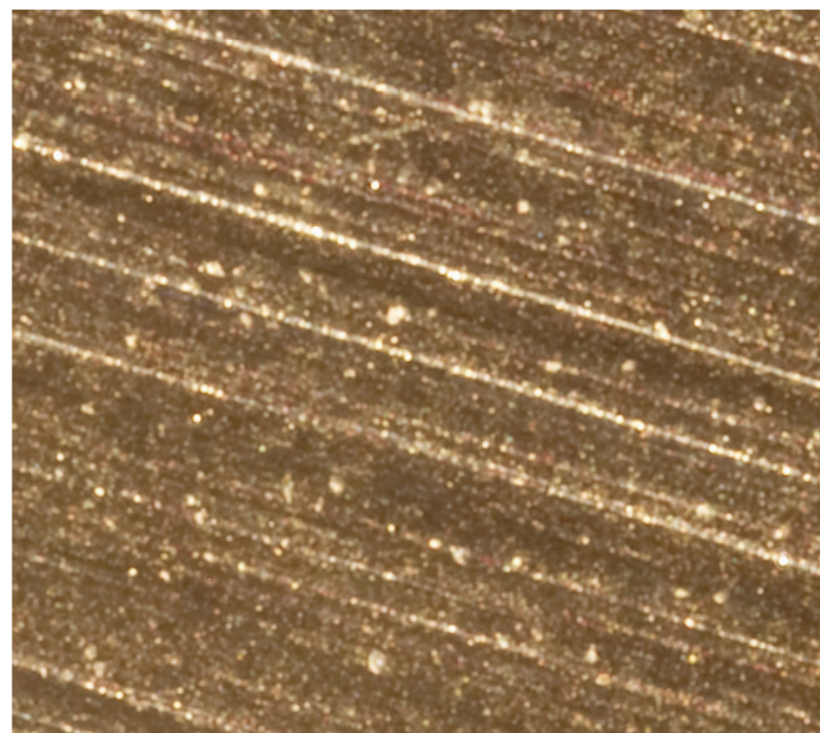
A Data-Driven Reflectance Model

MERL anisotropic extension

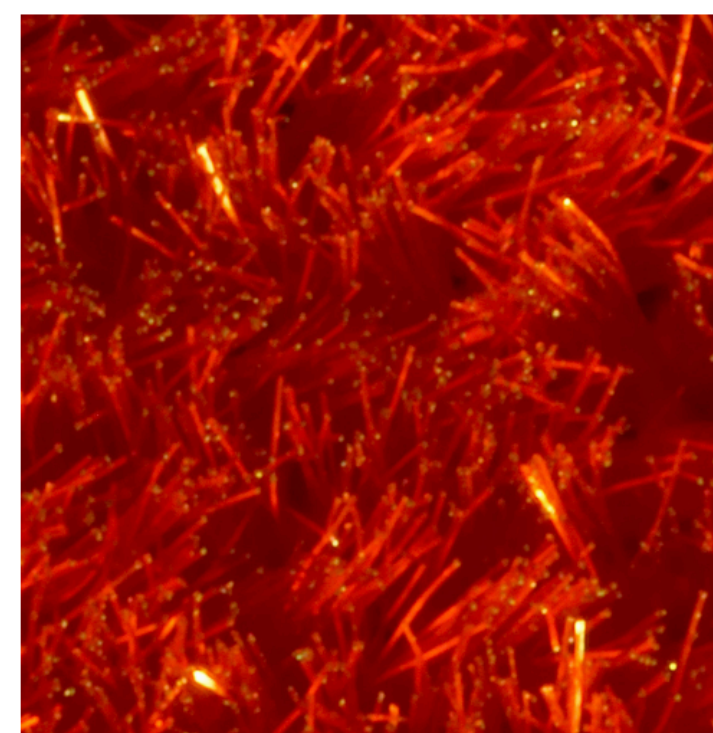


4 anisotropic BRDFs

renderings



satin



velvet

actual photographs

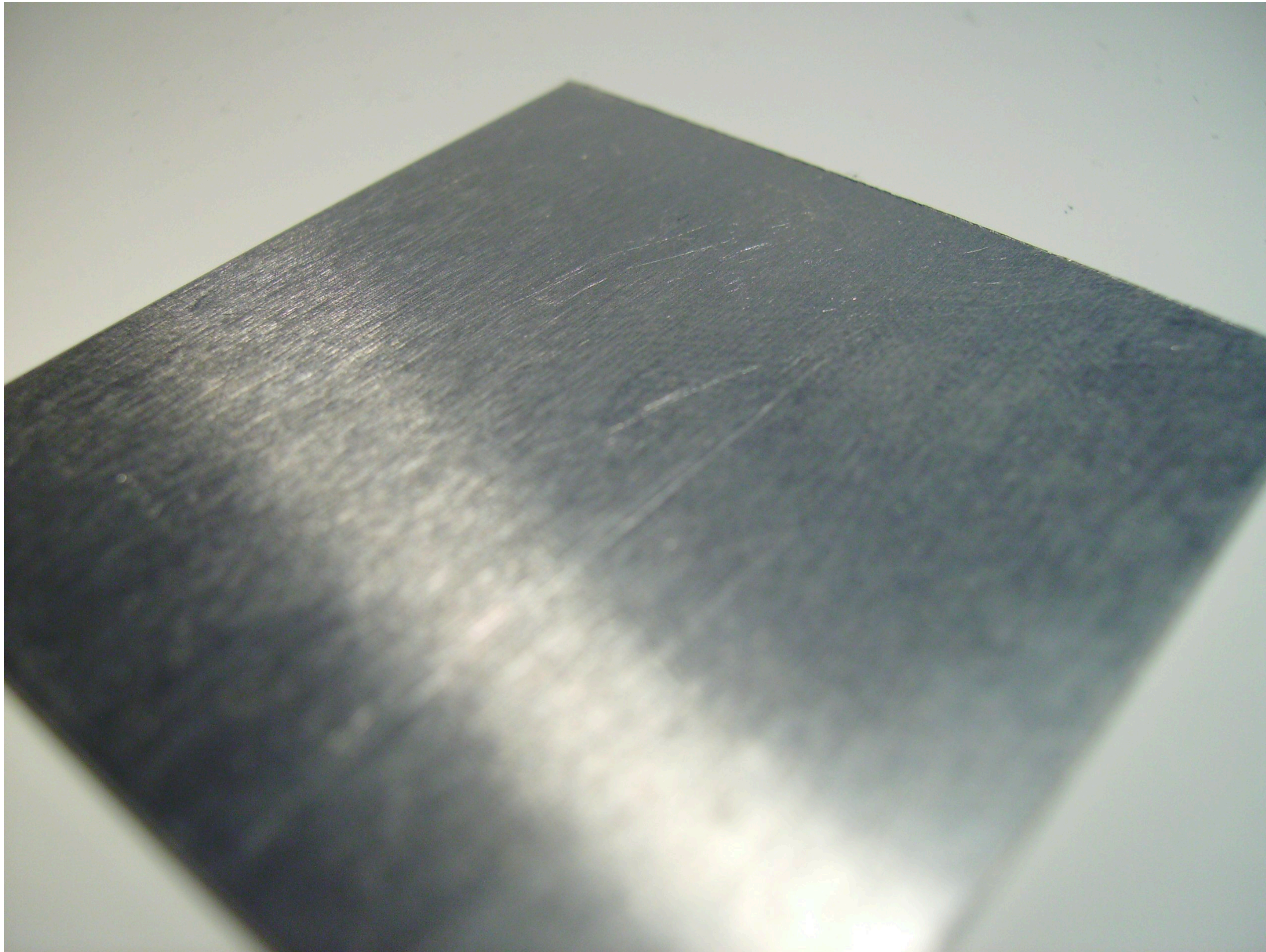
Experimental Analysis of BRDF Models

Addy Ngan, Frédo Durand,[†] and Wojciech Matusik[‡]

MIT CSAIL

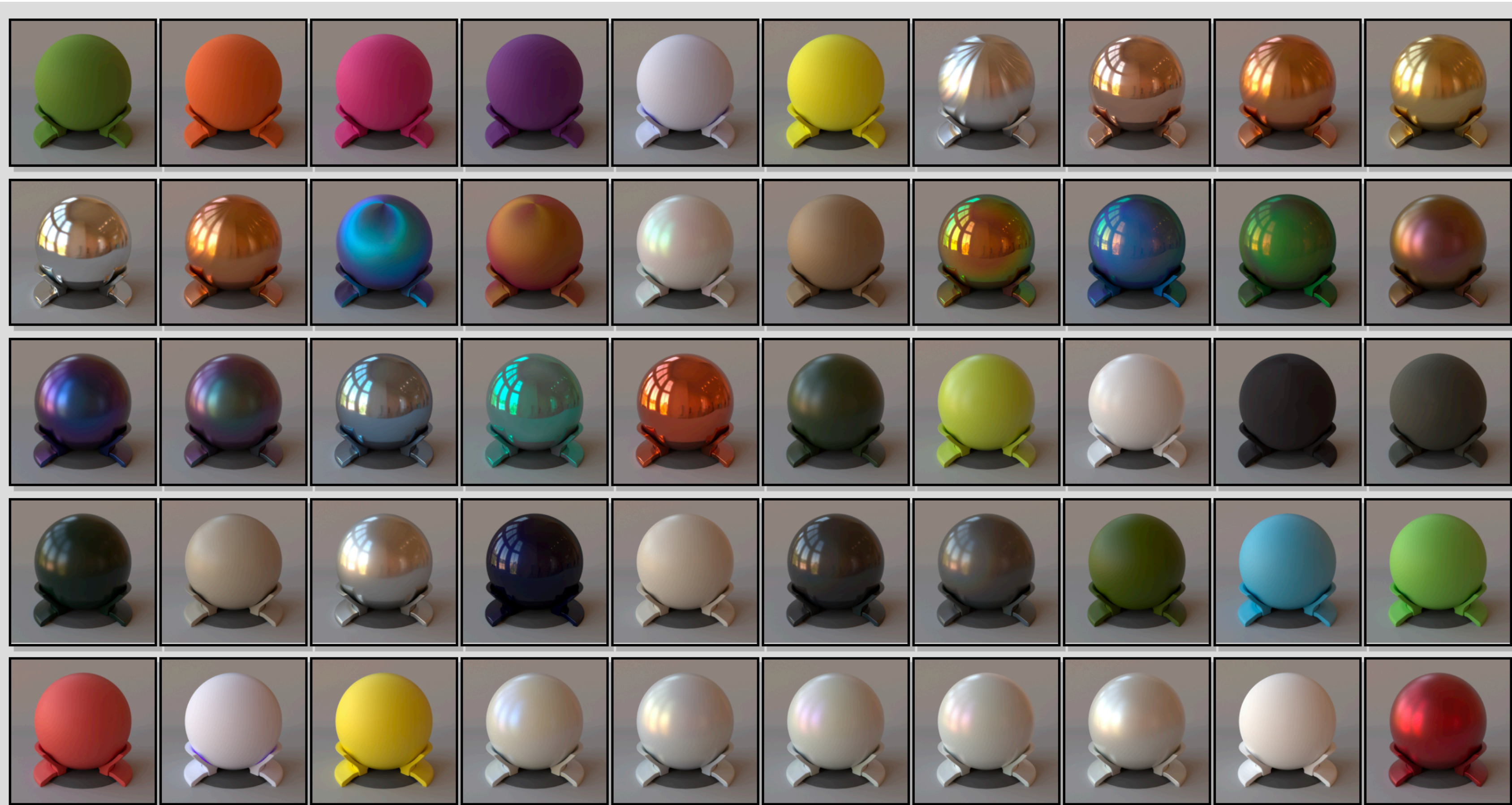
MERL

Brushed metal: common anisotropic material



real photograph

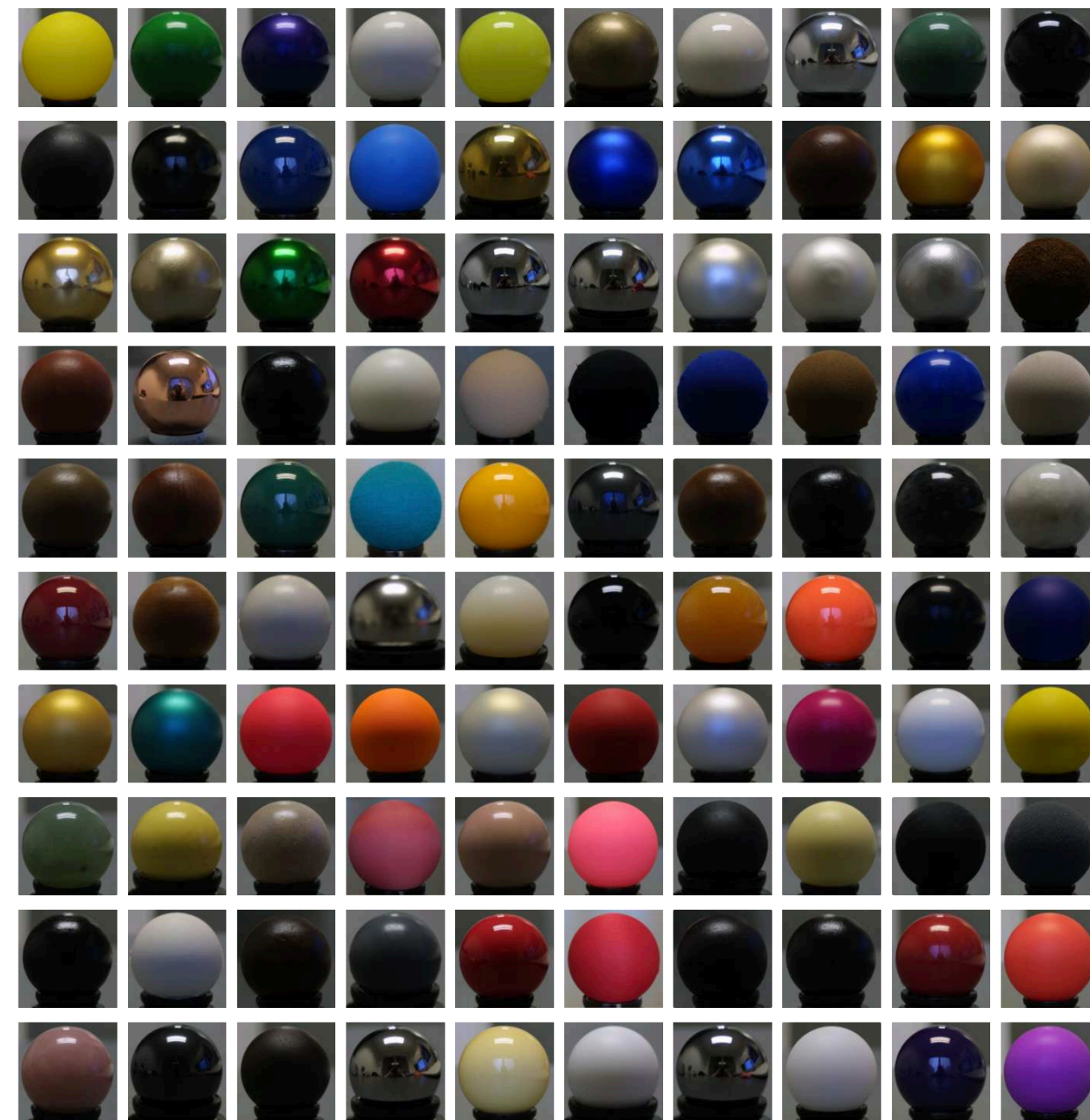
EPFL material database [2018]



50 isotropic BRDFs
12 anisotropic BRDFs
(probably much higher quality
than MERL)

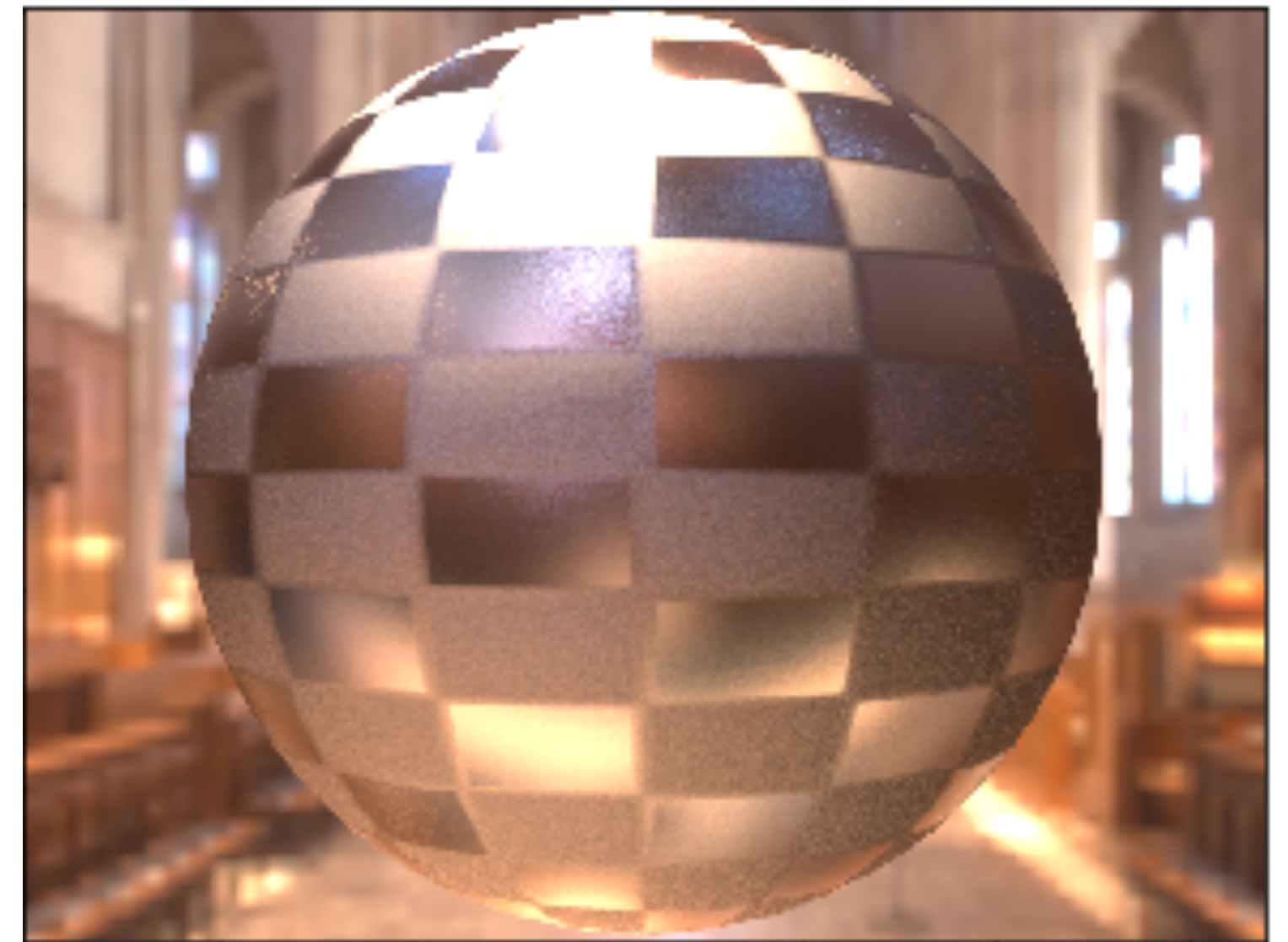
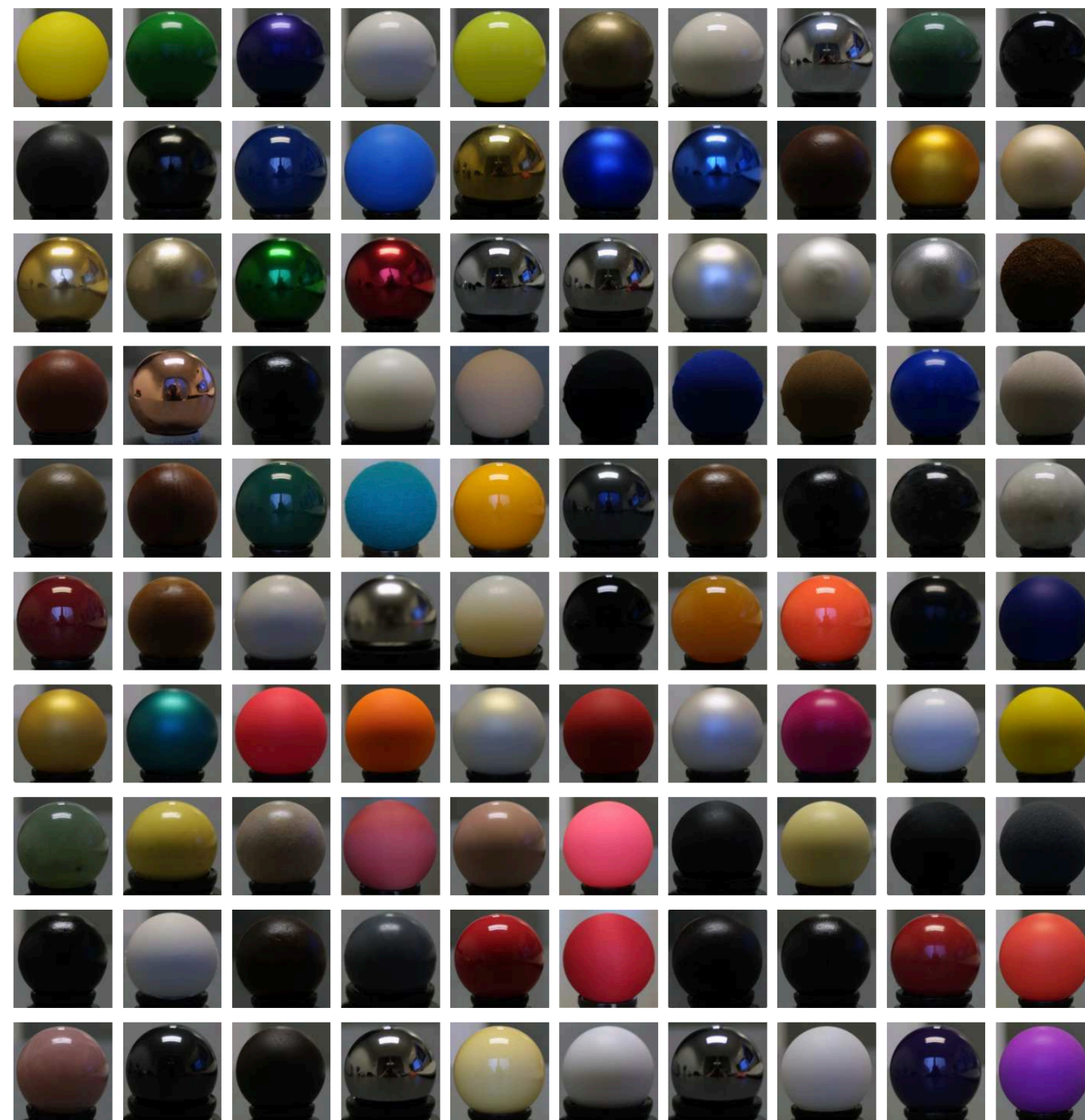
Downsides of measured BSDFs

quiz: what are they?



Downsides of measured BSDFs

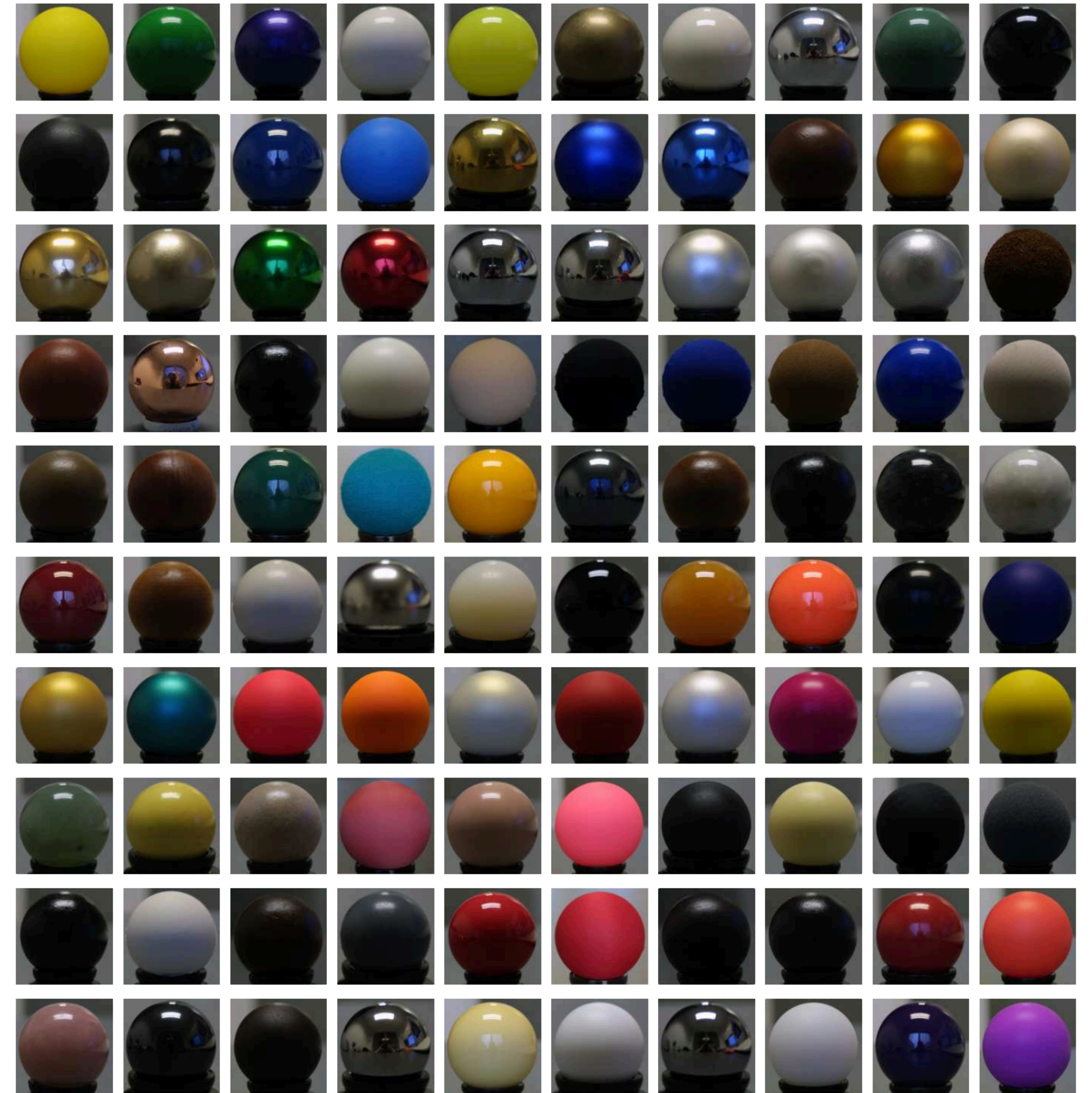
- capturing is time consuming
- very few of them
- does not support texturing



can't support spatially varying roughness
with measured BSDF

Remedy: let's fit a model to the data!

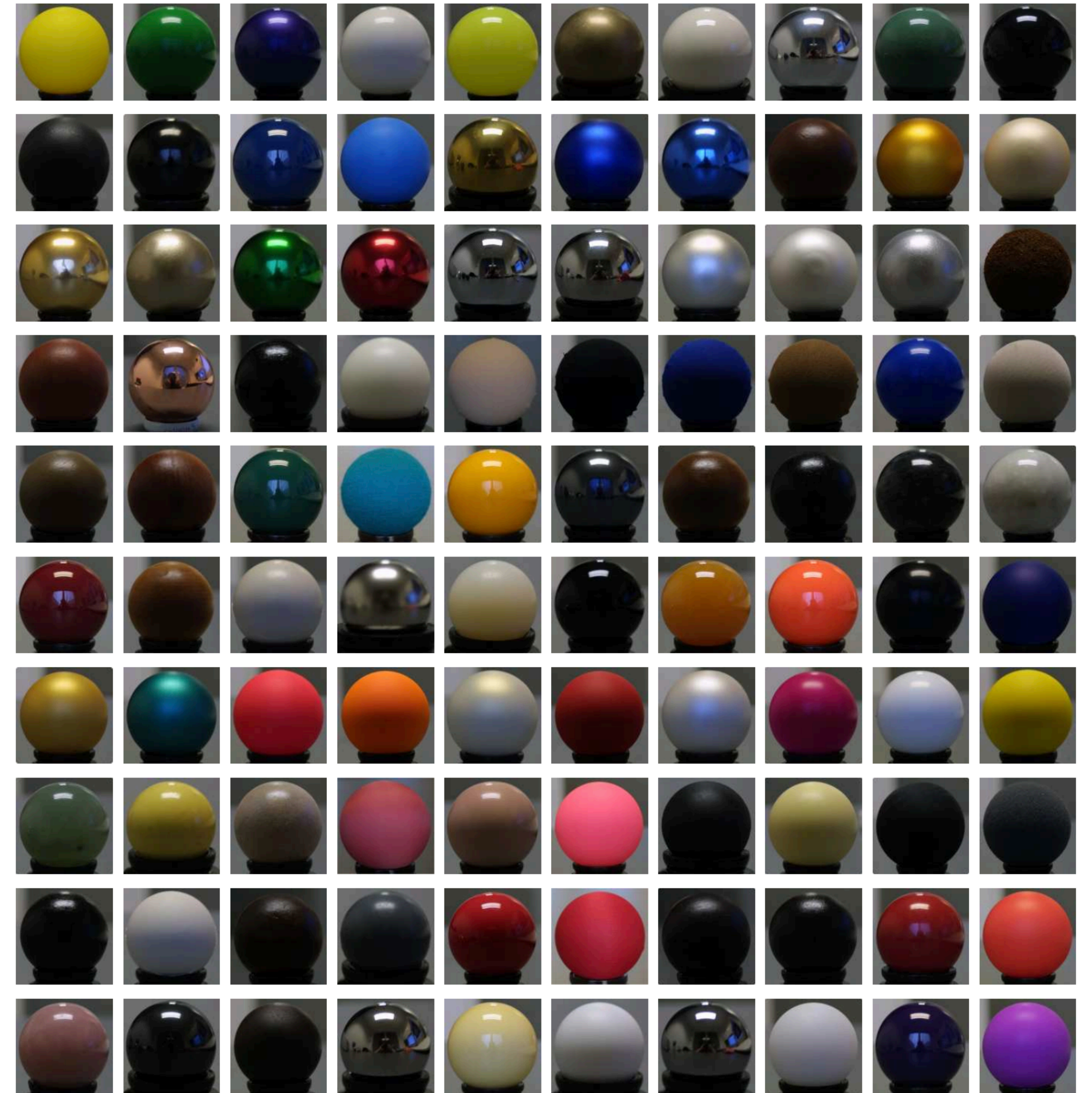
$f_p(\omega, \omega') = \text{some parametric function}$



Remedy: let's fit a model to the data!

$f_p(\omega, \omega') = \text{some parametric function}$

quiz: would neural nets be a good idea? why? why not?

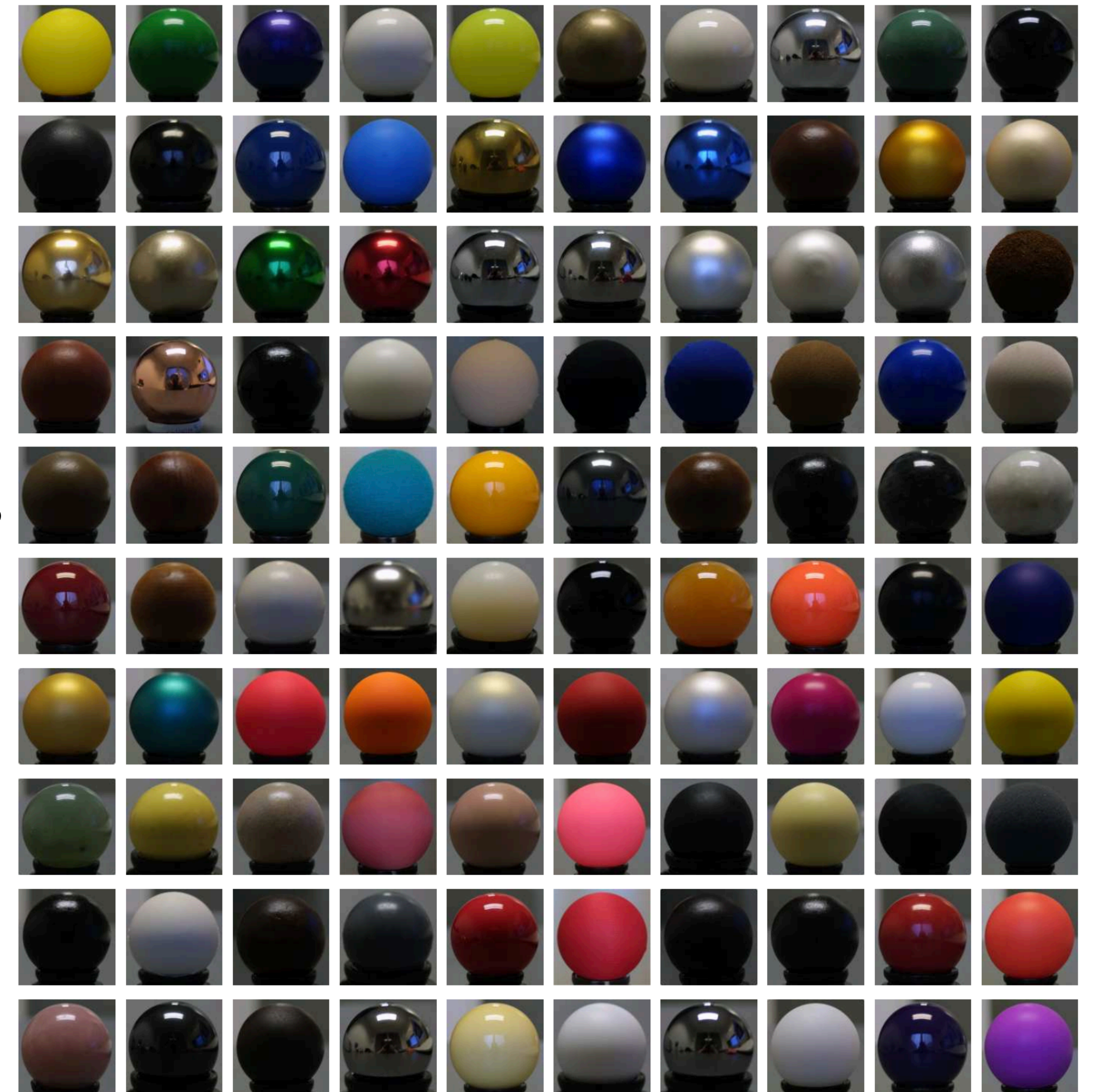


How to build a model: make physical assumptions

- **explain** and **predict** the behavior of our data

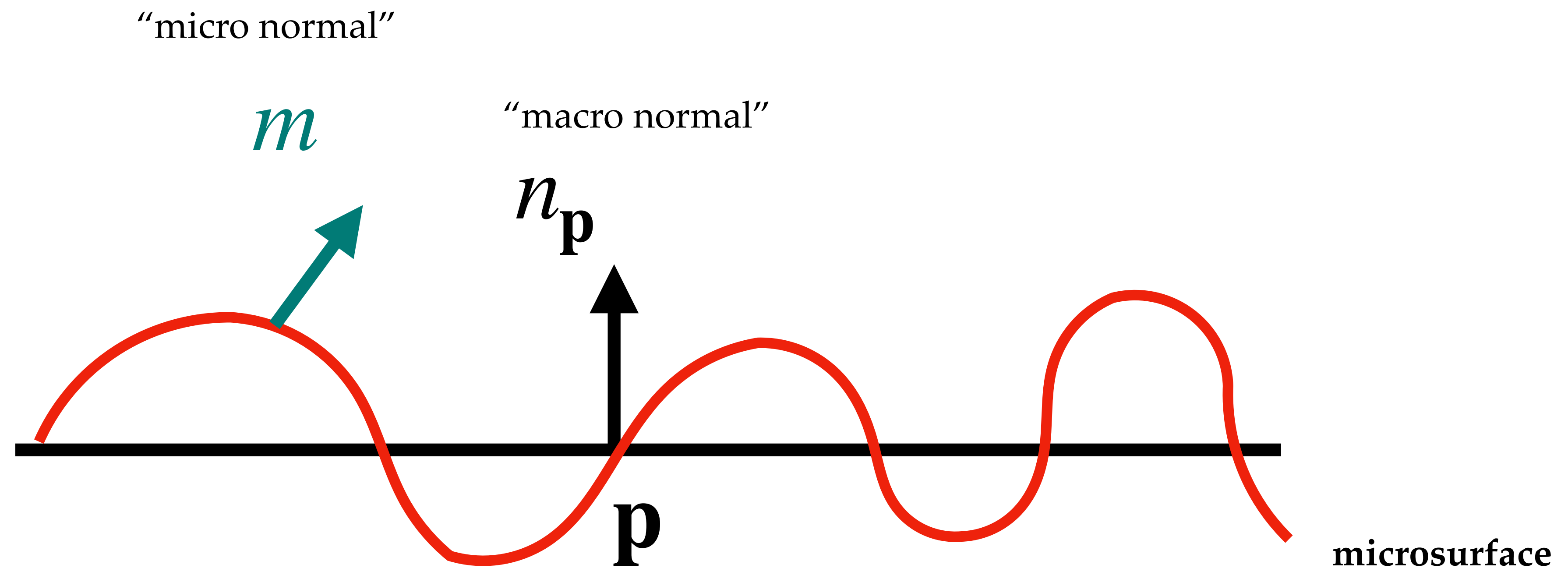
$f_p(\omega, \omega') = \text{some parametric function}$

based on derivations from simple physical assumptions



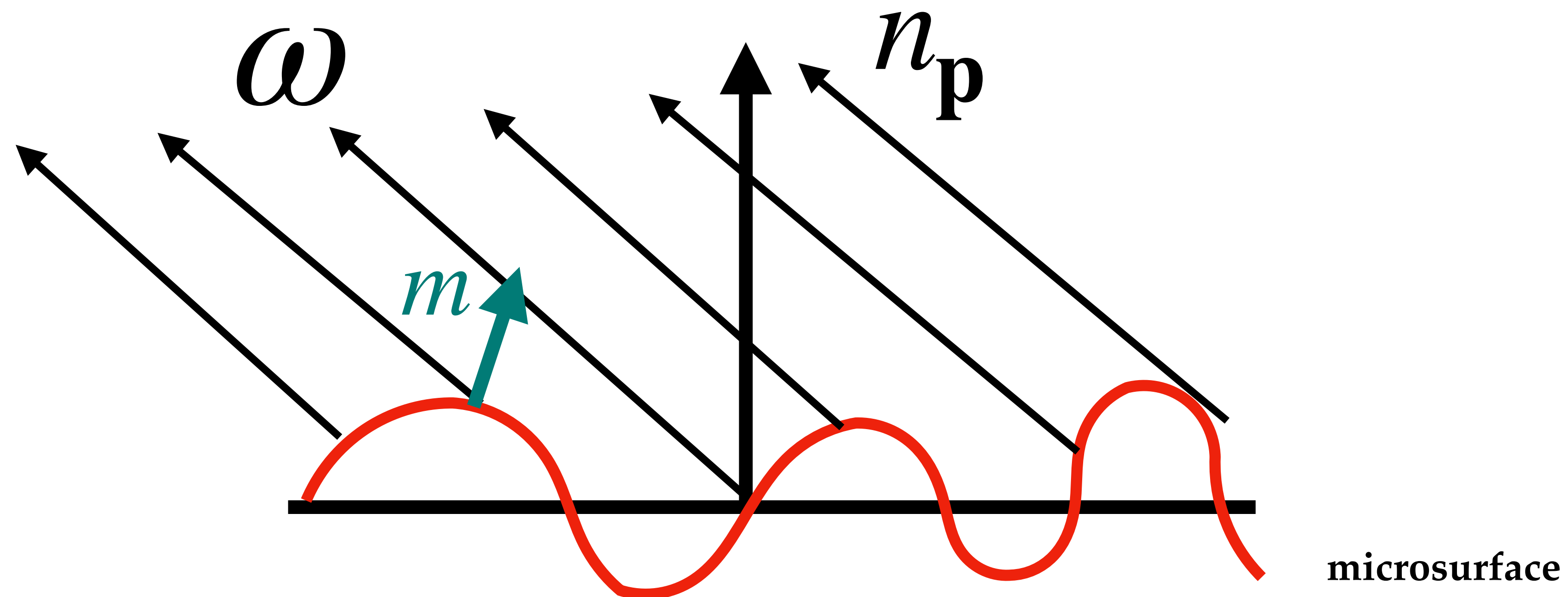
Microfacet theory

- assumption: surfaces are made of infinitely many little mirrors (microfacets)



Microfacet theory

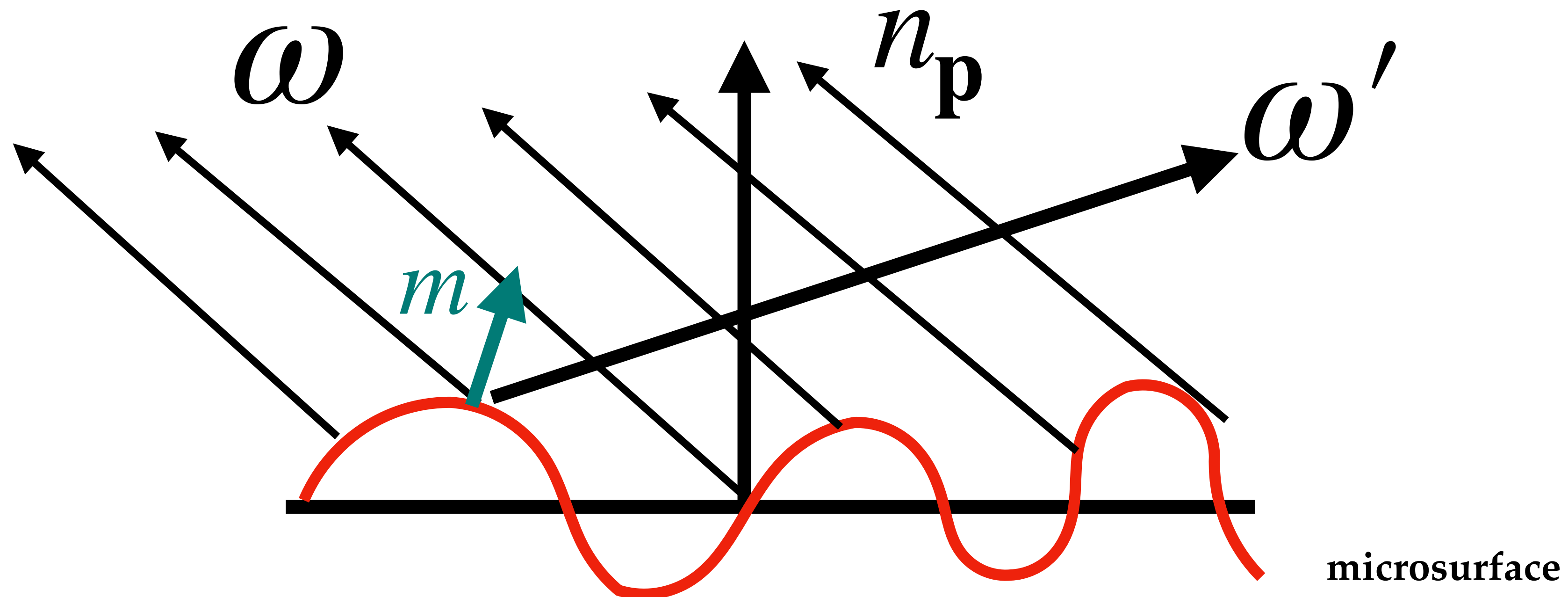
- assumption: surfaces are made of infinitely many little mirrors (microfacets)
- BSDF directions ω and ω' are treated as parallel rays to the microsurface



Microfacet theory

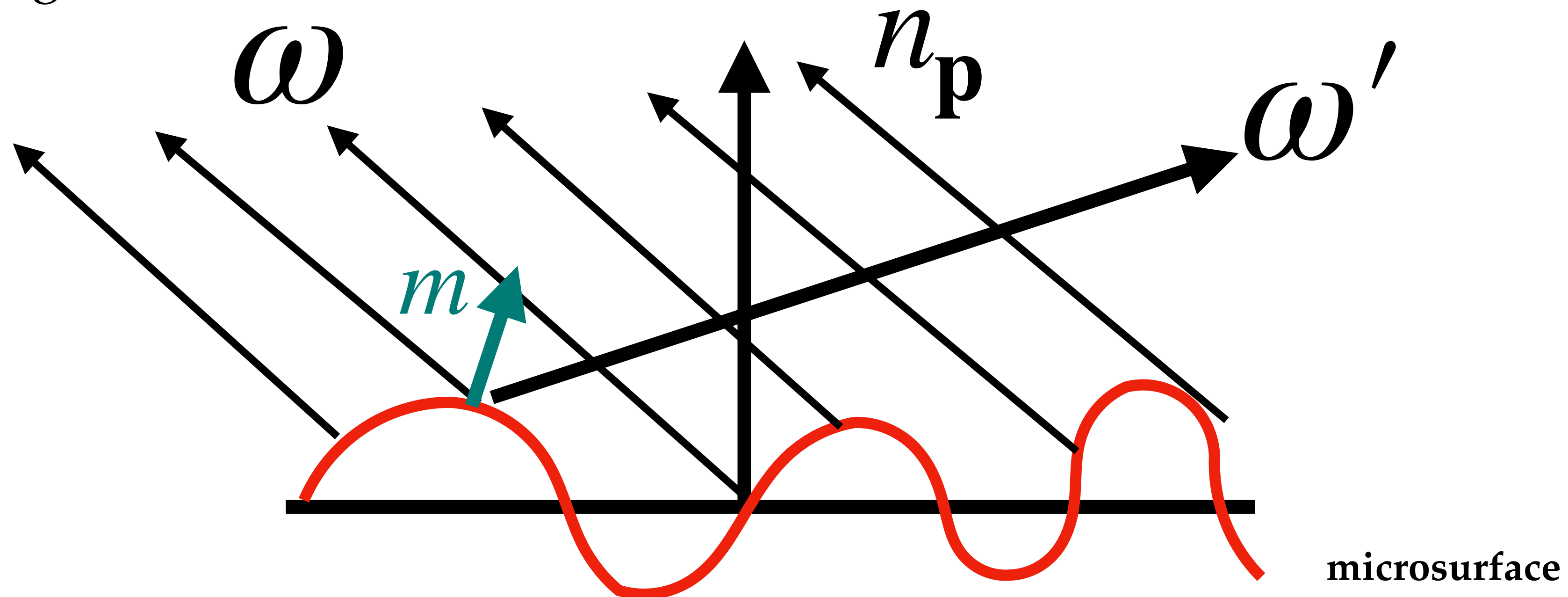
- assumption: surfaces are made of infinitely many little mirrors (microfacets)
- BSDF directions ω and ω' are treated as parallel rays to the microsurface

quiz: given directions ω and ω' , which microfacet mirror will reflect light?



Microfacet theory

- assumption: surfaces are made of infinitely many little mirrors (microfacets)
- BSDF directions ω and ω' are treated as parallel rays to the microsurface
- given ω and ω' , only microspheres with normal $m = H = \text{normalize}(\omega + \omega')$ will reflect light



Microfacet theory

- flat microsurfaces correspond to ...?
- bumpy microsurfaces correspond to ...?



flat microsurface



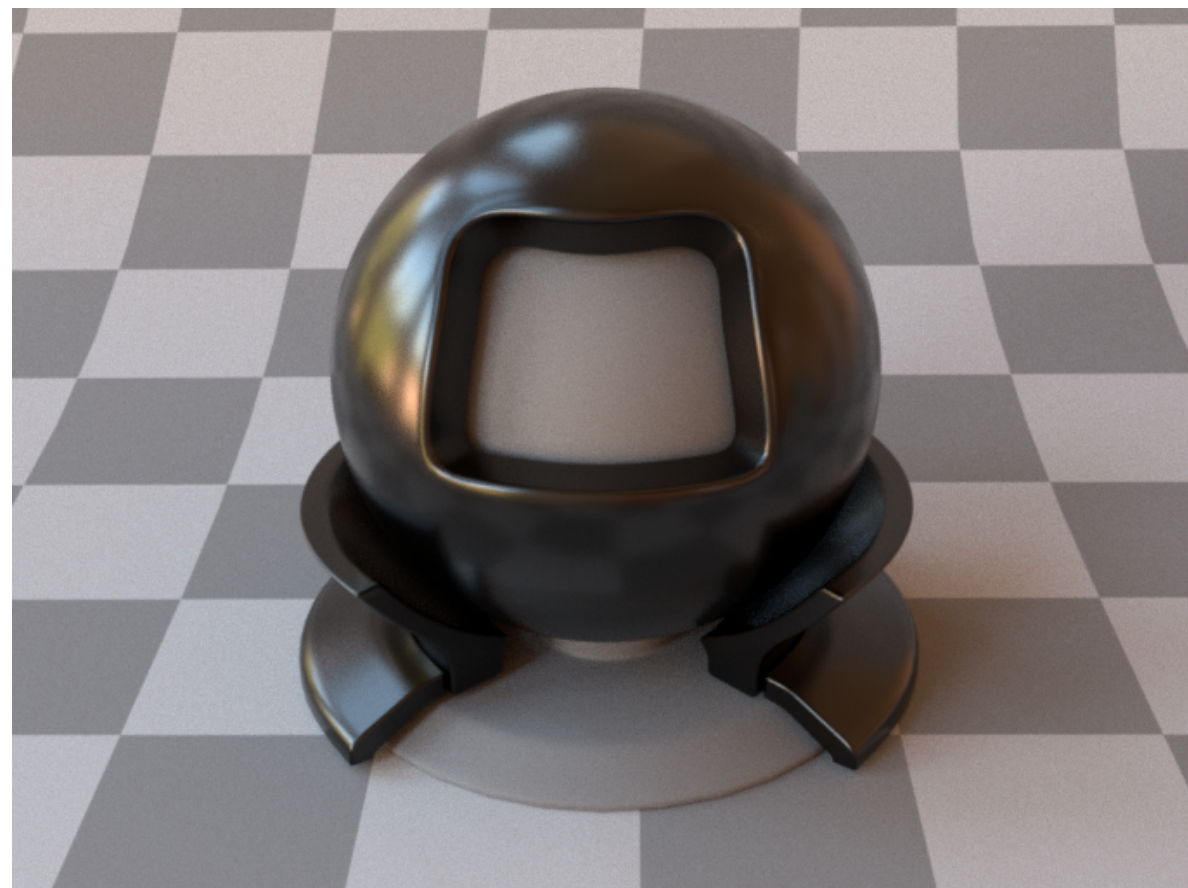
bumpy microsurface

Microfacet theory

- flat microsurfaces correspond to shiny surfaces
- bumpy microsurfaces correspond to ...?



flat microsurface



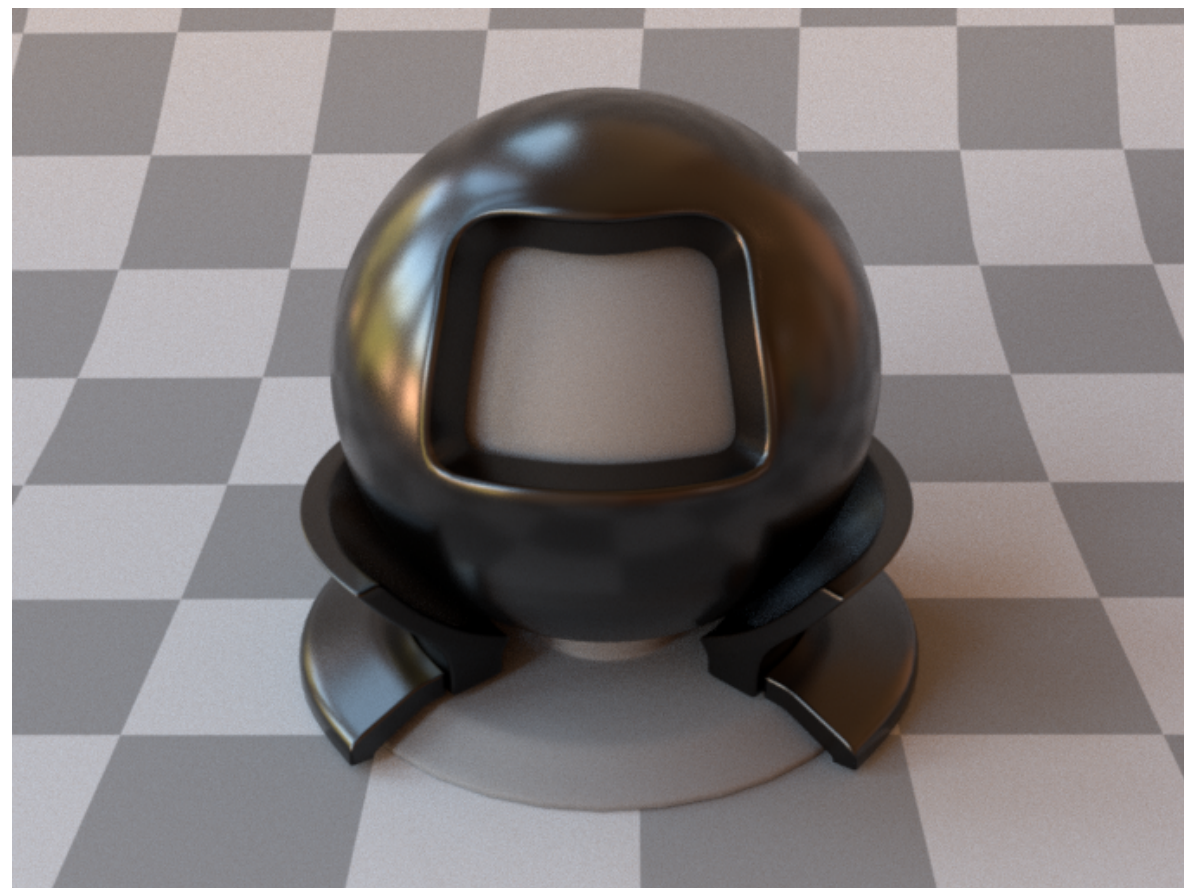
bumpy microsurface

Microfacet theory

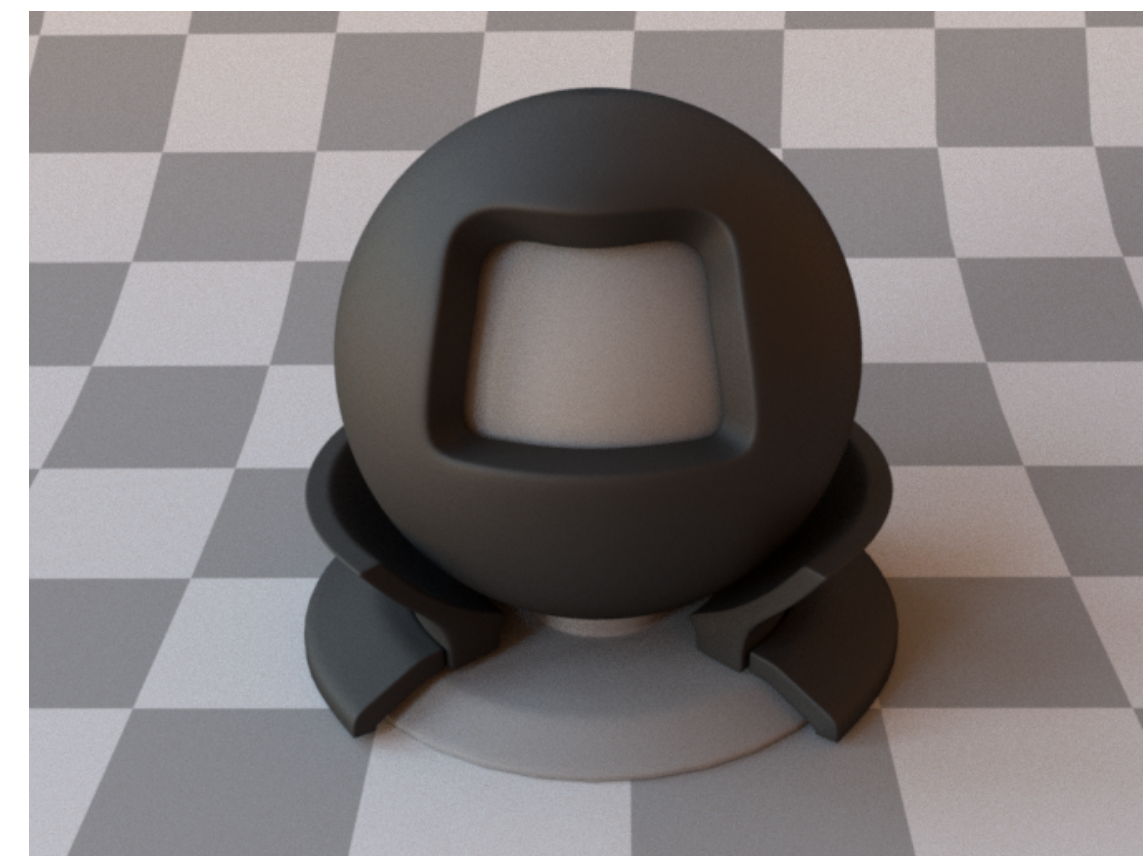
- flat microsurfaces correspond to shiny surfaces
- bumpy microsurfaces correspond to rough, diffusive surfaces



flat microsurface

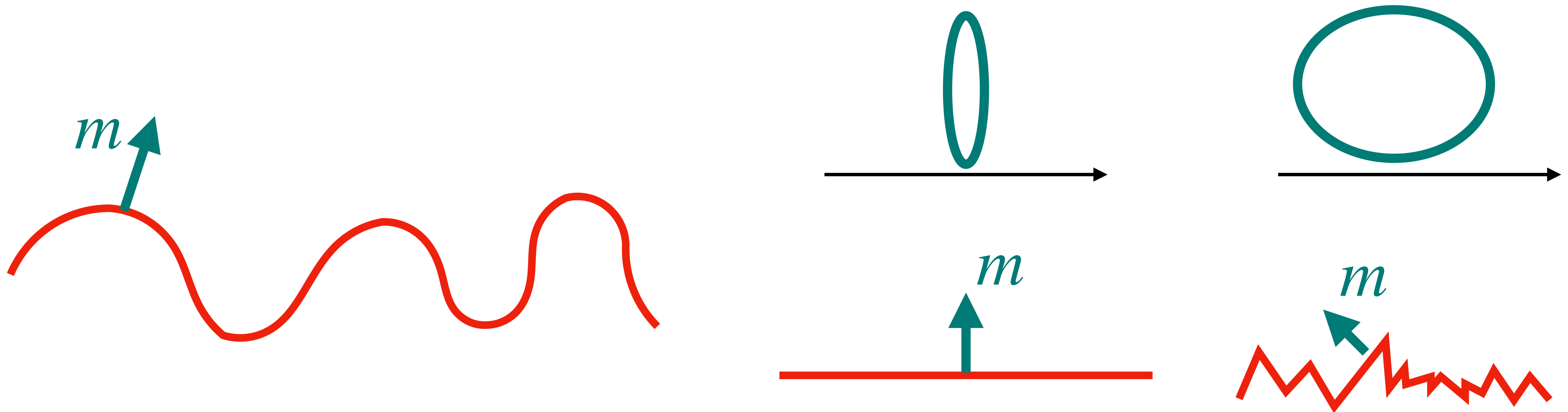


bumpy microsurface



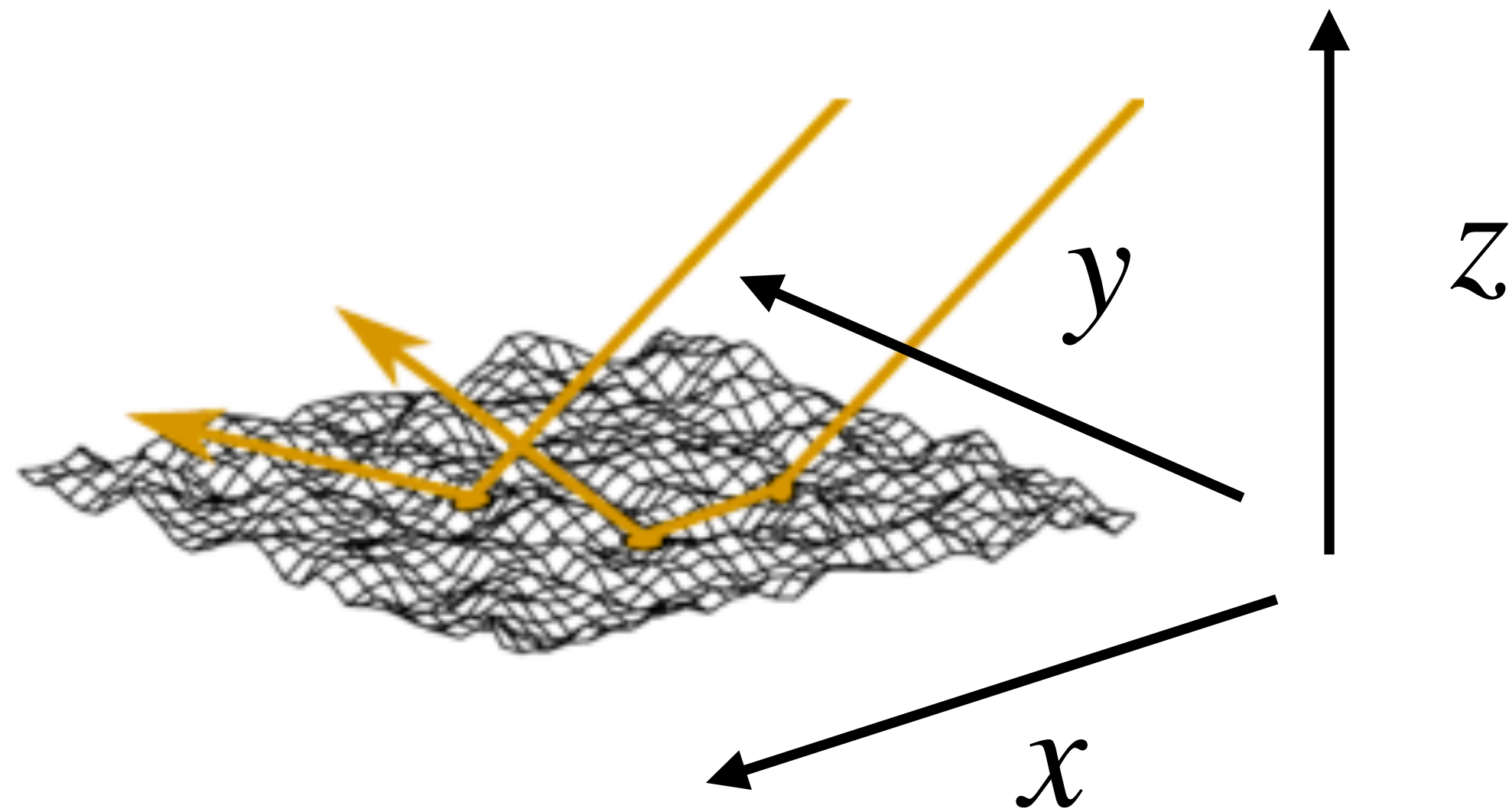
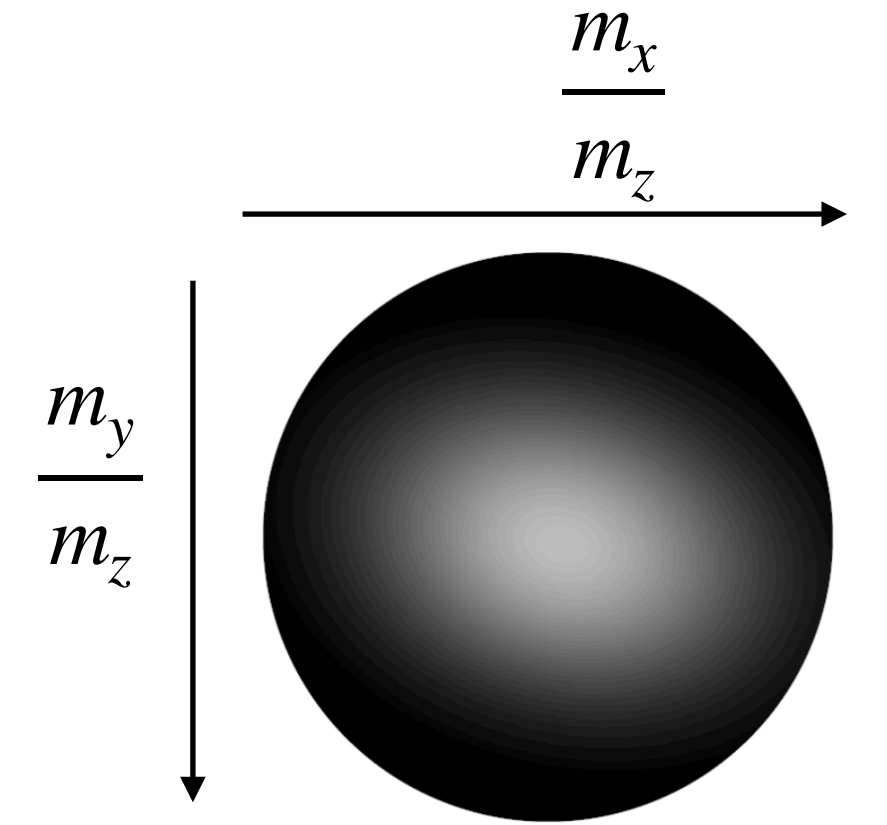
Describing microsurfaces using statistical distributions

- the **normal distribution function** $D(m)$ describes the probability density of micronormals
 - for flat microsurfaces, $D(m = n_p)$ is very high, and $D(m \neq n_p)$ is low



Popular normal distribution function: Beckmann NDF

- assumption: microfacets are from a heightfield with Gaussian “slopes”

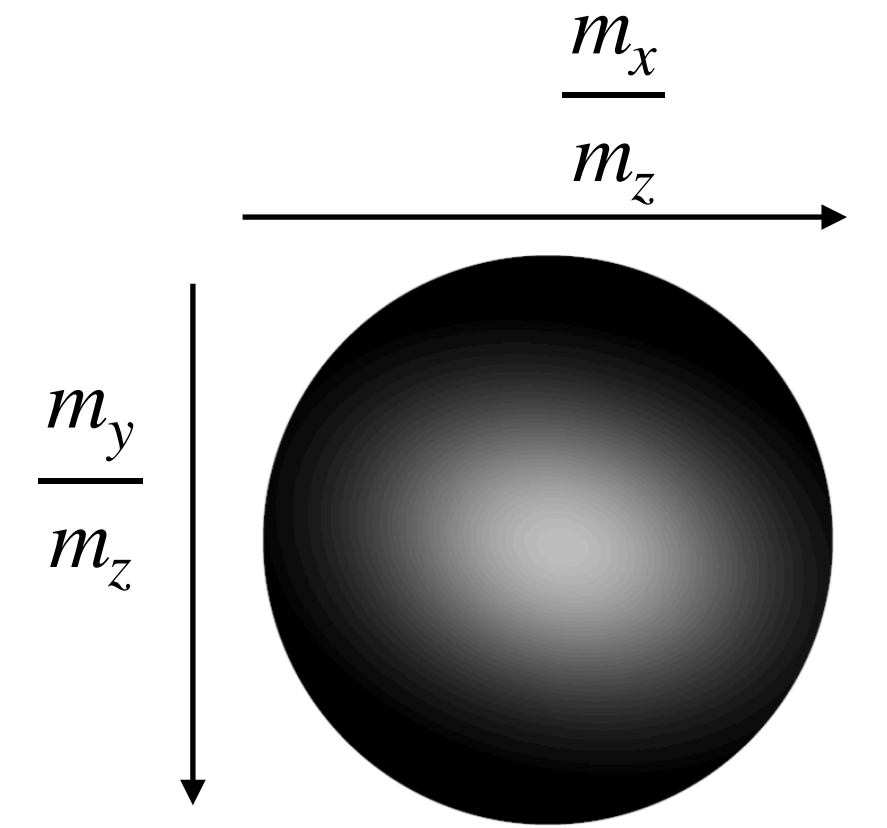


$$\frac{m_x}{m_z} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \sim N(0, \alpha_x^2)$$

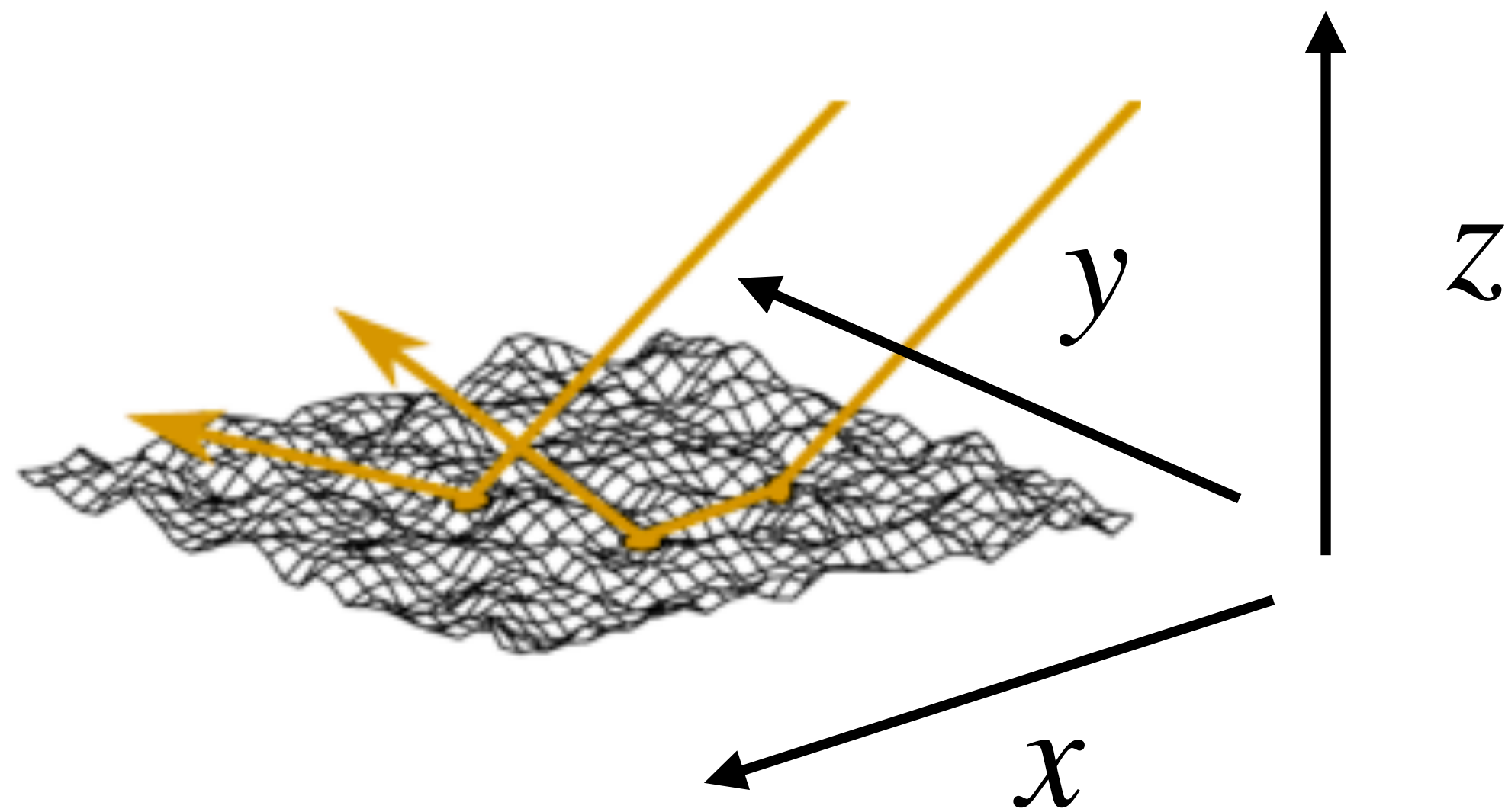
$$\frac{m_y}{m_z} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \sim N(0, \alpha_y^2)$$

Popular normal distribution function: Beckmann NDF

- assumption: microfacets are from a heightfield with Gaussian "slopes"



quiz: what does large alpha mean?

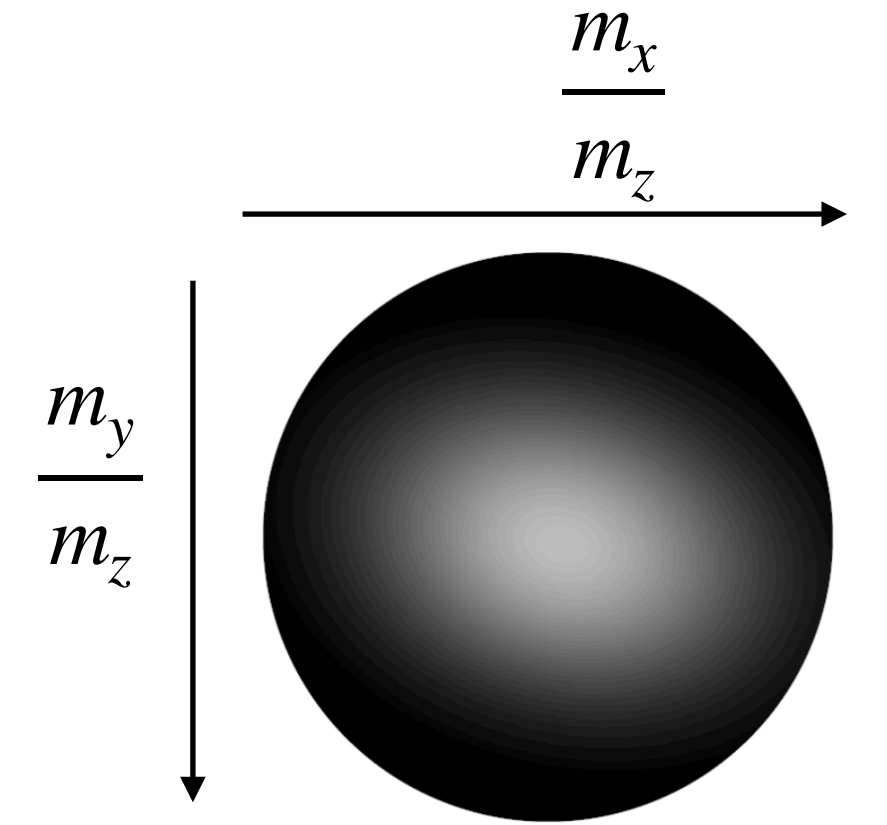


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Popular normal distribution function: Beckmann NDF

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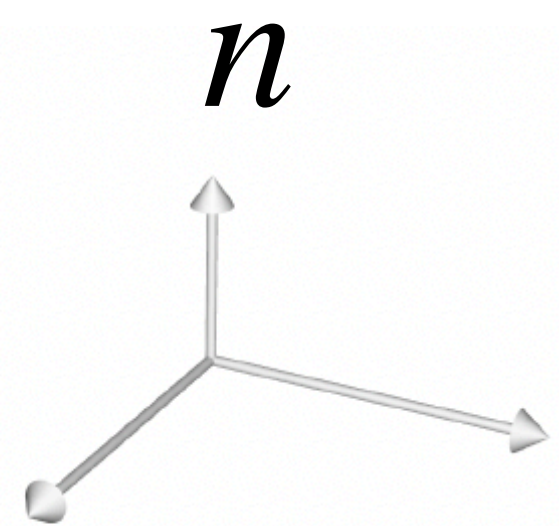
$$D(m) \propto \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{m_x}{m_z} & \frac{m_y}{m_z} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_x^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha_y^2 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{m_x}{m_z} \\ \frac{m_y}{m_z} \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

Popular normal distribution function:

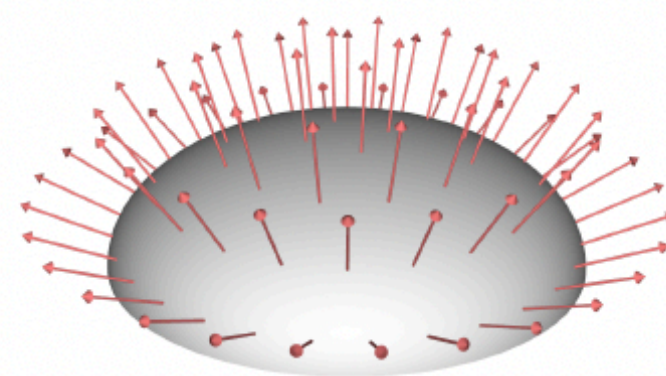
Trowbridge-Reitz [1975] (aka GGX [Walter 2007])

Ground Glass Unknown

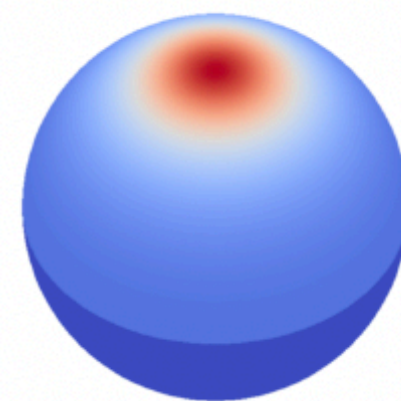
- geometric intuition: the distribution of normals of an ellipsoid



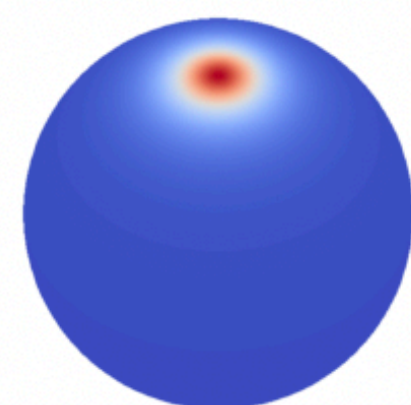
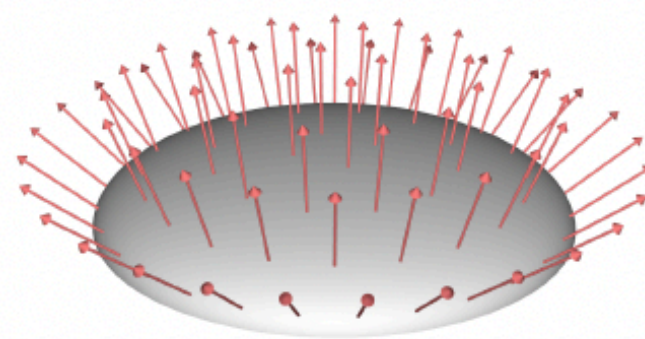
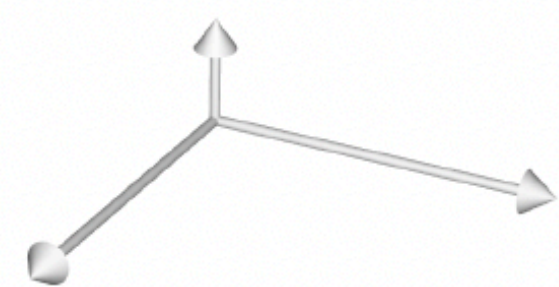
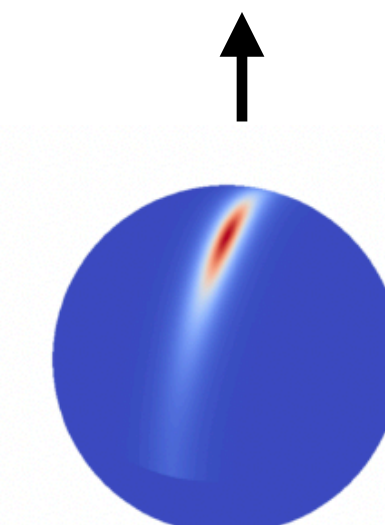
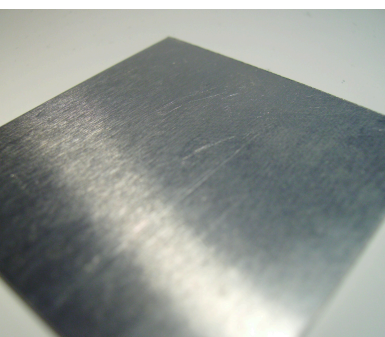
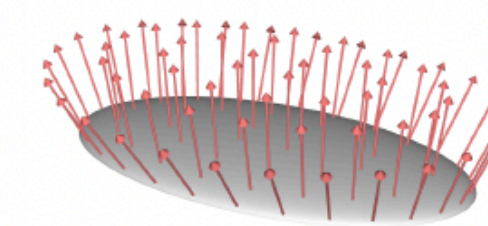
shading frame



ellipsoid



GGX NDF
(Normal Distribution Function)



Popular normal distribution function:

Trowbridge-Reitz [1975] (aka GGX [Walter 2007])

Ground Glass Unknown

$$D_{GGX}(m) \propto \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{m_x}{m_z} & \frac{m_y}{m_z} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_x^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha_y^2 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{m_x}{m_z} \\ \frac{m_y}{m_z} \end{bmatrix}\right)^2}$$

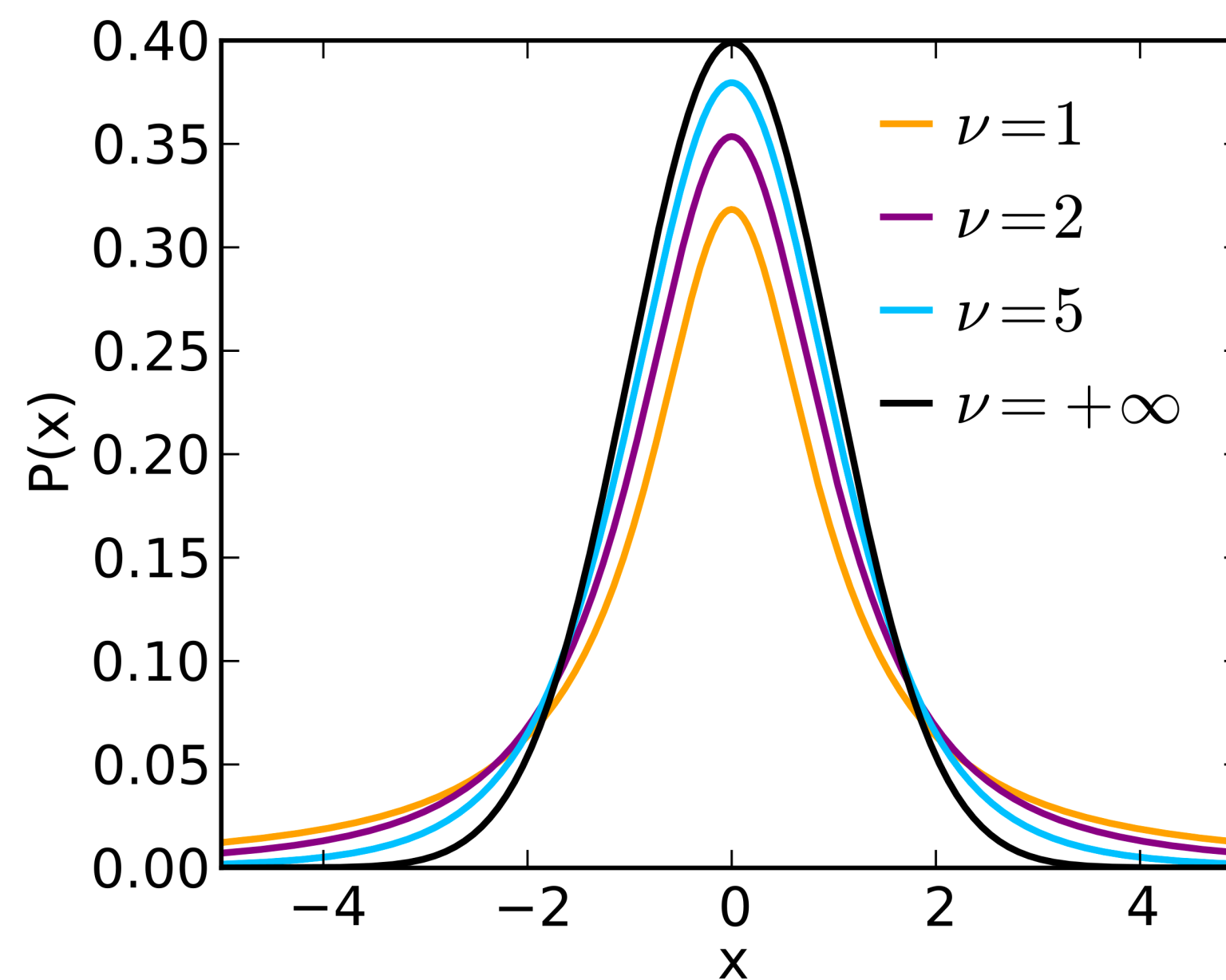
Popular normal distribution function:

Trowbridge-Reitz [1975] (aka GGX [Walter 2007])

Ground Glass Unknown

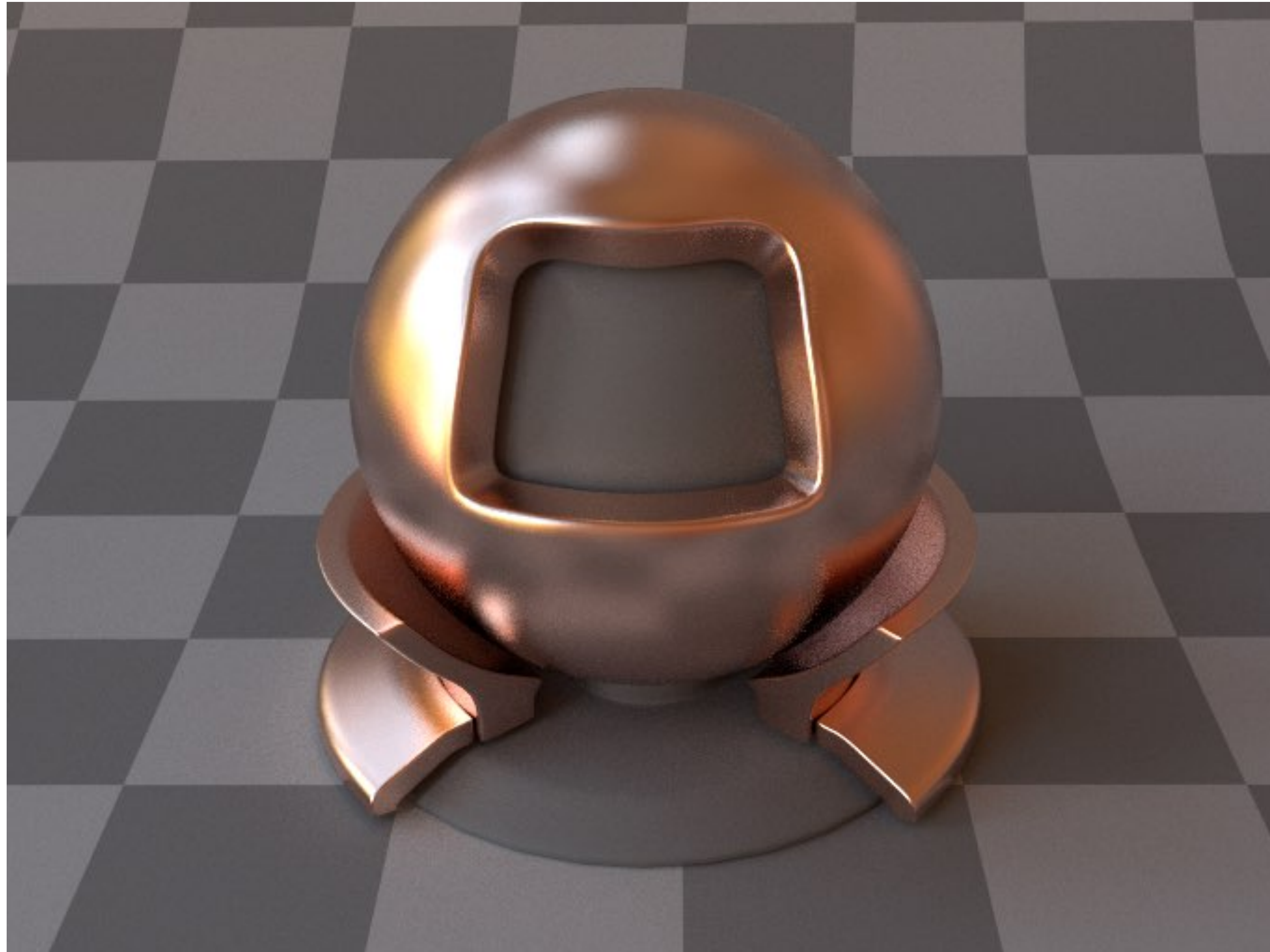
(multivariate student-t distribution with $\nu = 2 \rightarrow$ heavy tailed Gaussian)

$$D_{GGX}(m) \propto \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} m_x & m_y \\ m_z & m_z \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_x^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha_y^2 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} m_x \\ m_z \\ m_y \\ m_z \end{bmatrix}\right)^2}$$



$\nu = \infty \rightarrow$ normal Gaussian = Beckmann

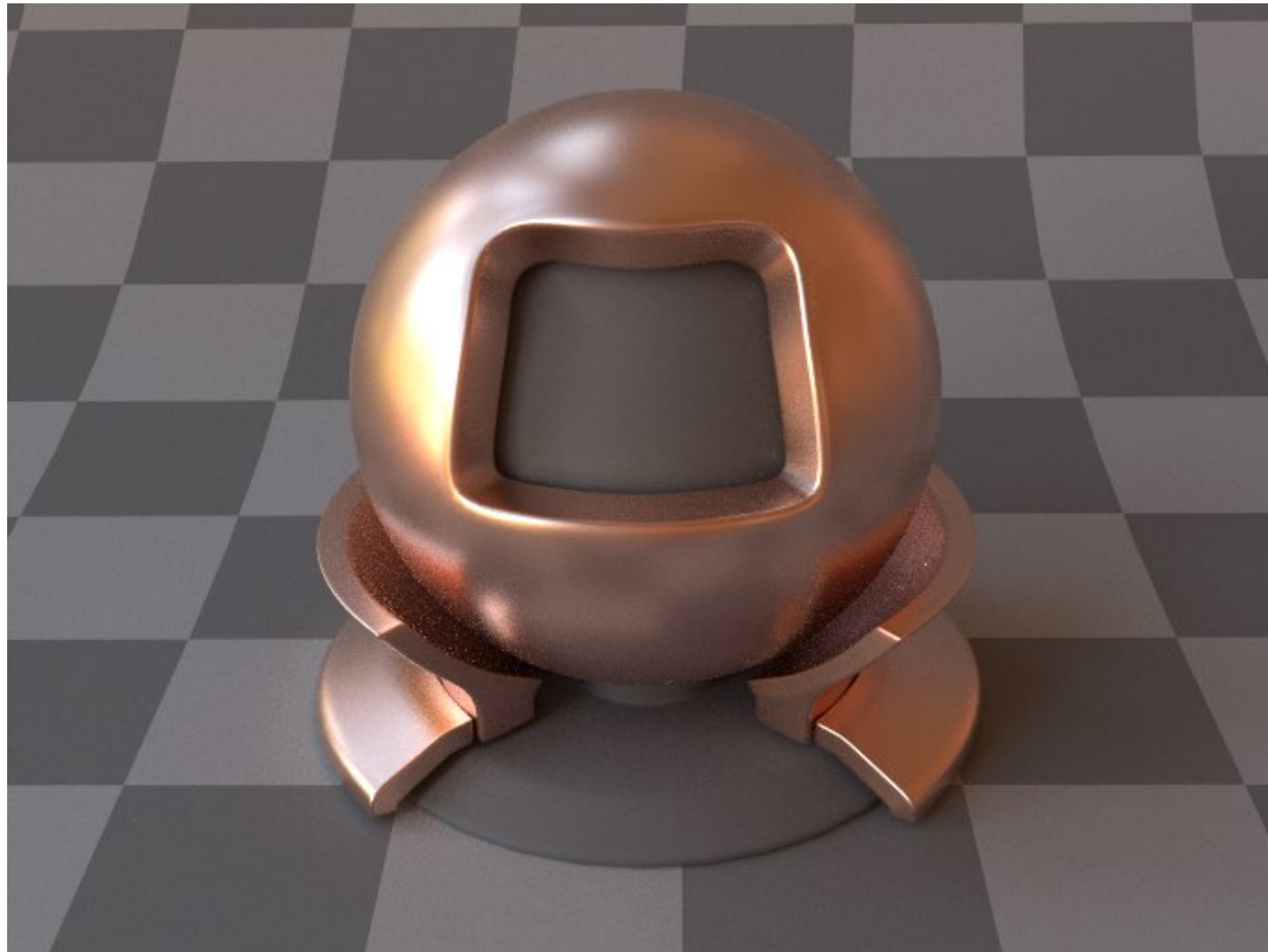
Beckmann vs GGX



Beckmann

quiz: what would GGX look like?

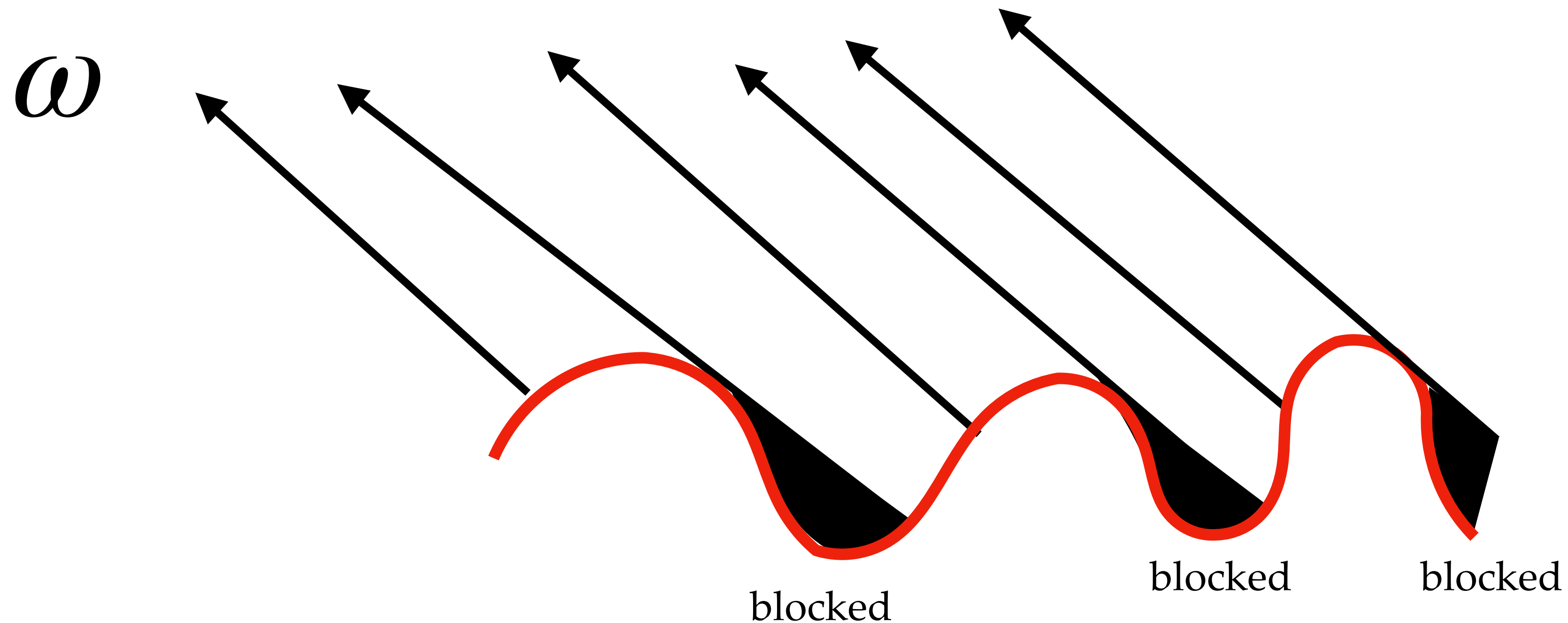
Beckmann vs GGX



GGX

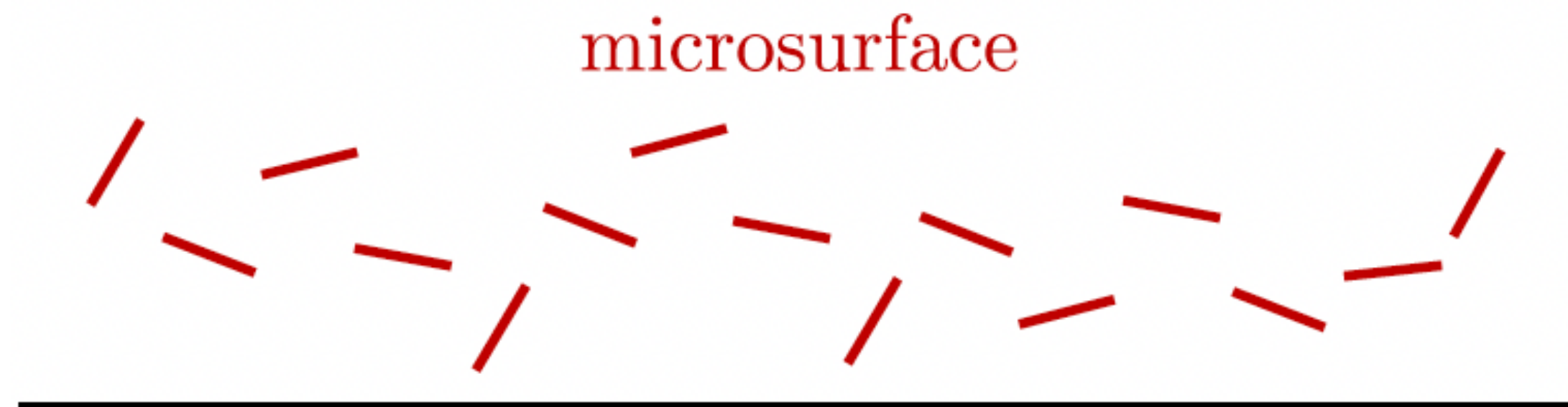
Microfacets can block each other

- normal distribution function D alone is not enough to determine how many mirrors are blocked
- need to specify the **microsurface geometry profile**



Smith microsurface profile [1960]

- most popular profile in graphics
- alternative: V-cavity [Cook and Torrence 1982]
- Smith's assumption: microsurfaces are **spatially uncorrelated**



We can compute the portion of blocked microsurfaces \hat{G} under Smith's assumption

$$\hat{G}(\omega, m) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \omega \cdot m \leq 0 \\ \frac{\omega \cdot n_p}{\int (\omega \cdot m) D(m) dm} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

often call the "shadowing masking term"

microsurface



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often call the "shadowing masking term"



derivation: Smith's assumption implies (read at home)

$$\hat{G}(w, m) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \omega \cdot m \leq 0 \\ \hat{G}'(\omega) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

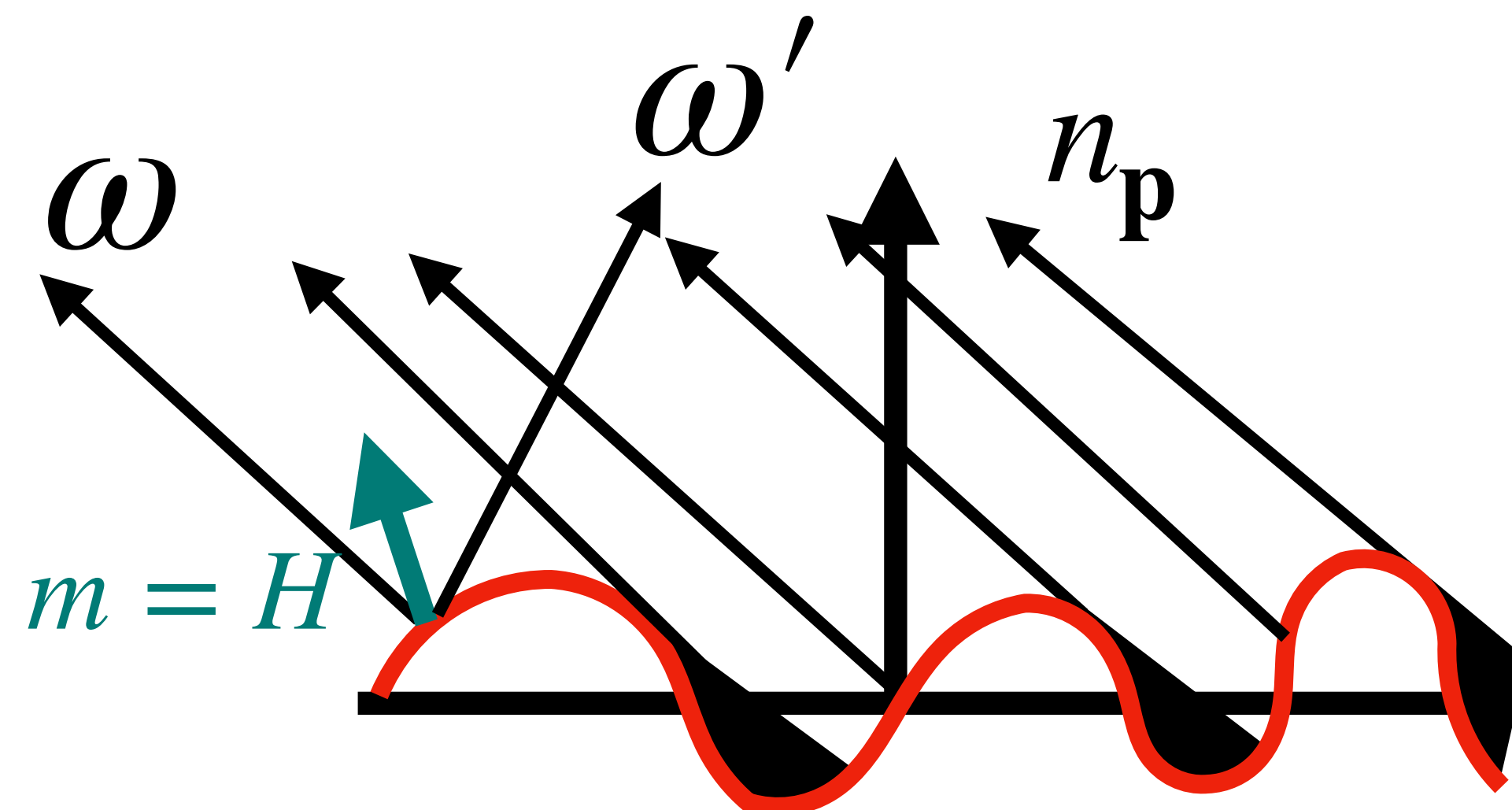
we also know projected area conserves $\omega \cdot n_p = \int \hat{G}(\omega, m) D(m) \omega \cdot m dm$

see "Understanding the Masking-Shadowing Function in Microfacet-based BRDFs", Eric Heitz

The microfacet BRDF: counting **visible** micronormals at the half vector

$$f_p(\omega, \omega')$$

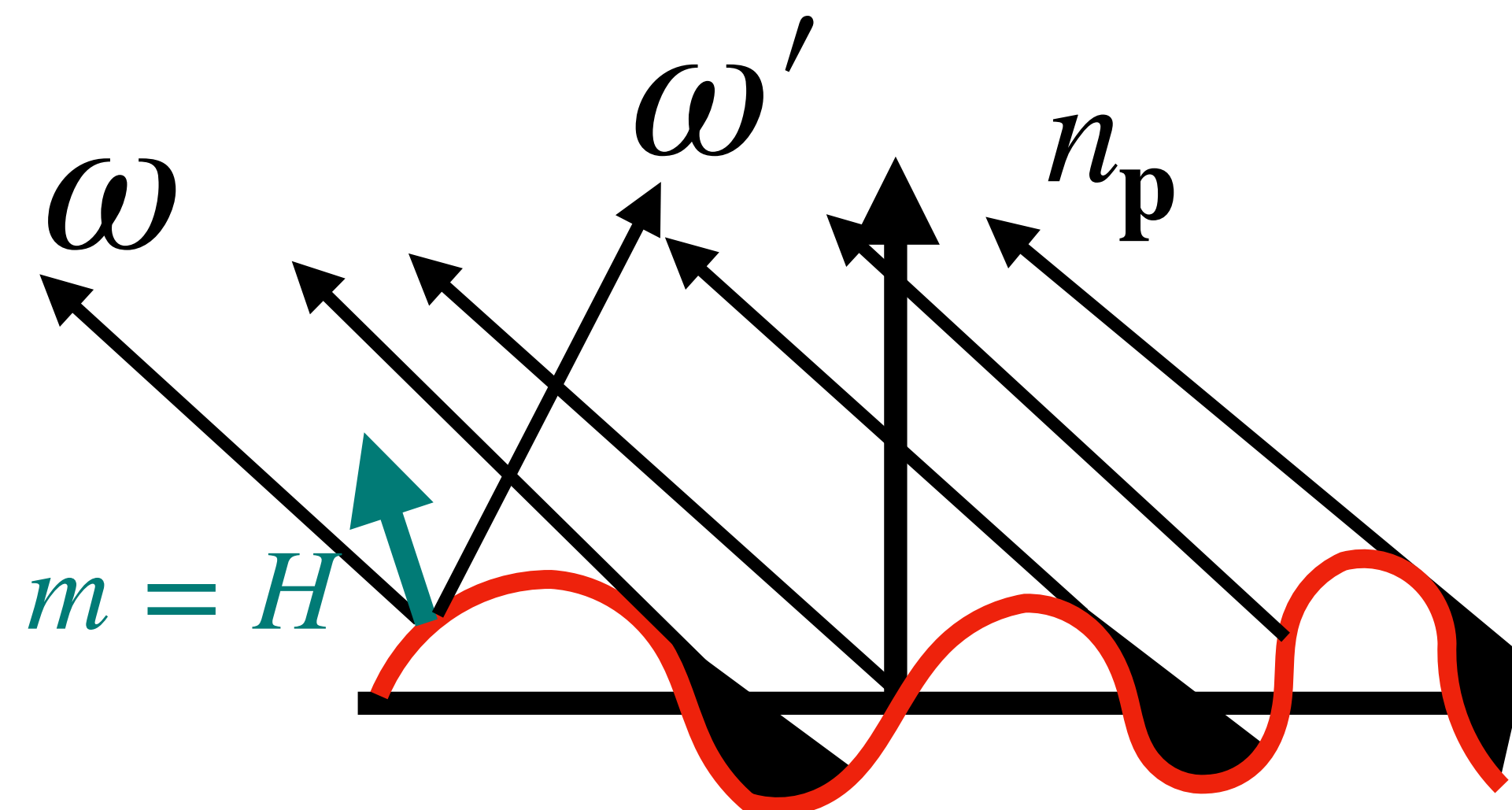
$$H = \text{normalize}(\omega + \omega')$$



The microfacet BRDF:
counting **visible** micronormals at the half vector

$$f_p(\omega, \omega') = D(H) \hat{G}(\omega, H) \hat{G}(\omega', H)$$

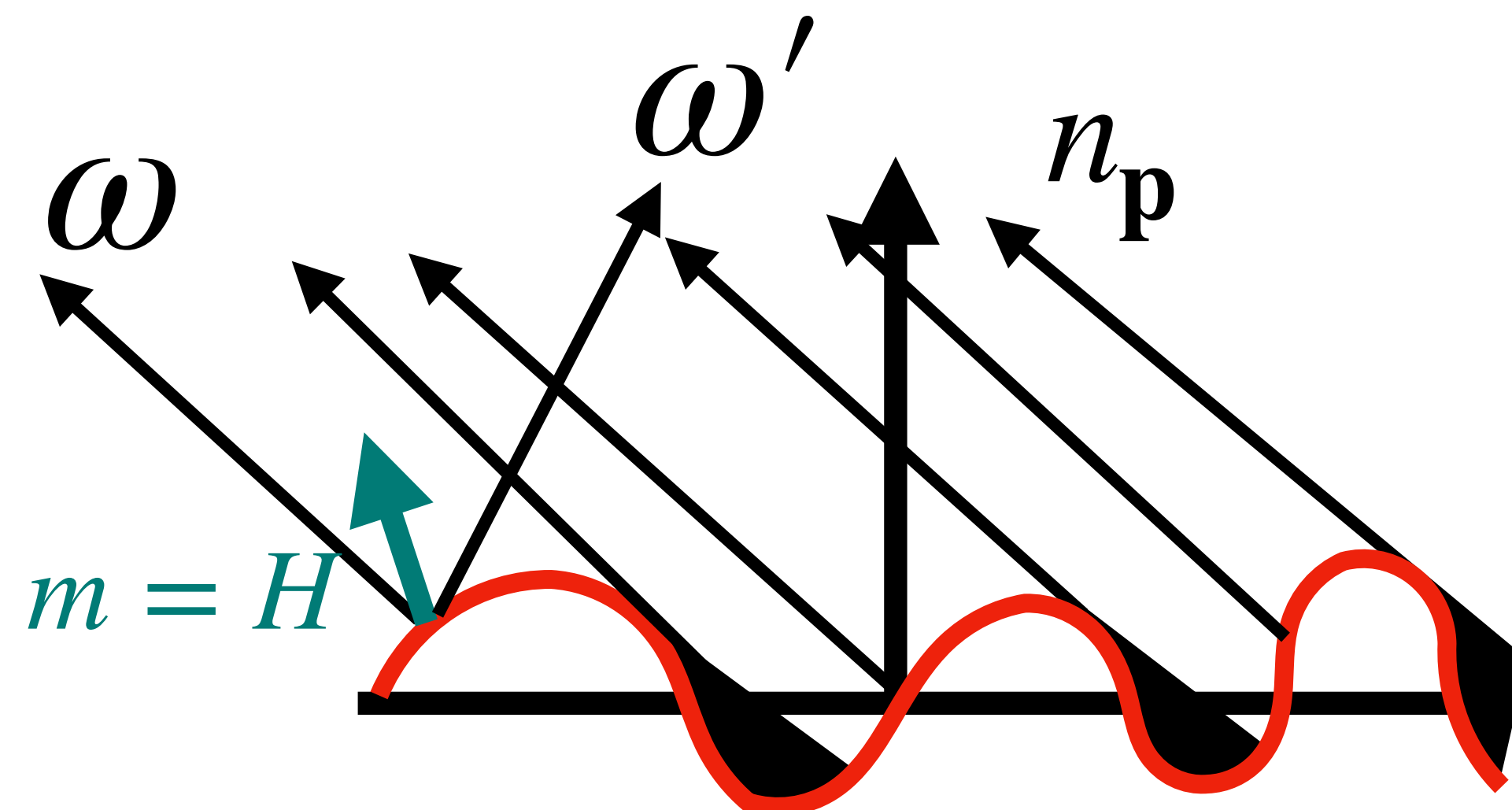
$$H = \text{normalize}(\omega + \omega')$$



The microfacet BRDF: counting **visible** micronormals at the half vector

$$f_p(\omega, \omega') = D(H)G(\omega, \omega', H) \quad G(\omega, \omega', H) = \hat{G}(\omega, H)\hat{G}(\omega', H)$$

$$H = \text{normalize}(\omega + \omega')$$



The microfacet BRDF: counting **visible** micronormals at the half vector

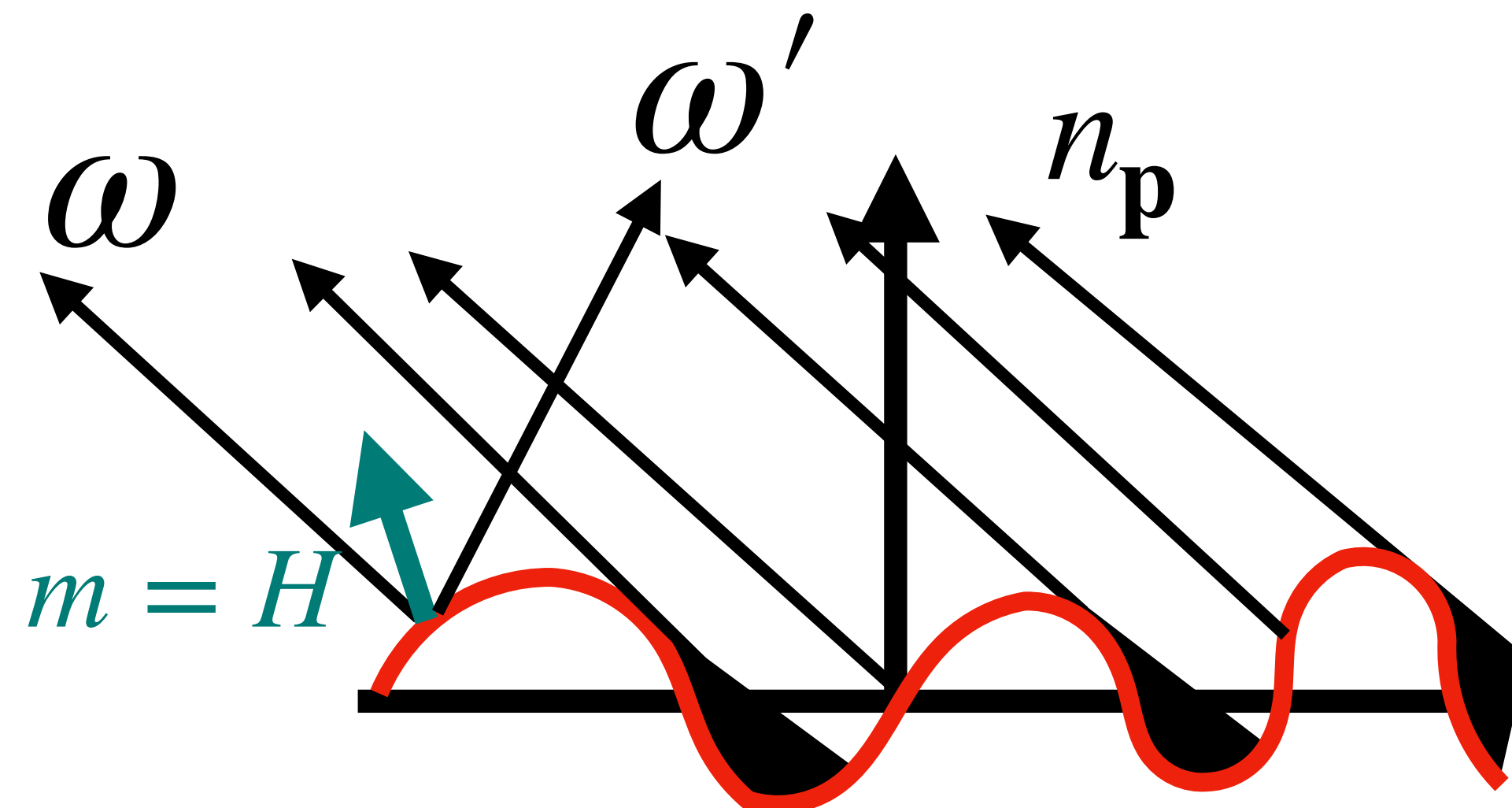
$$f_p(\omega, \omega')$$

$$\frac{D(H)G(\omega, \omega', H)}{4 \left| \omega \cdot n_p \right| \left| \omega' \cdot n_p \right|}$$

$$H = \text{normalize}(\omega + \omega')$$

from analytically integrating over mirrors (lots of different Jacobians)

(again, see Heitz <https://jcgf.org/published/0003/02/03/>)

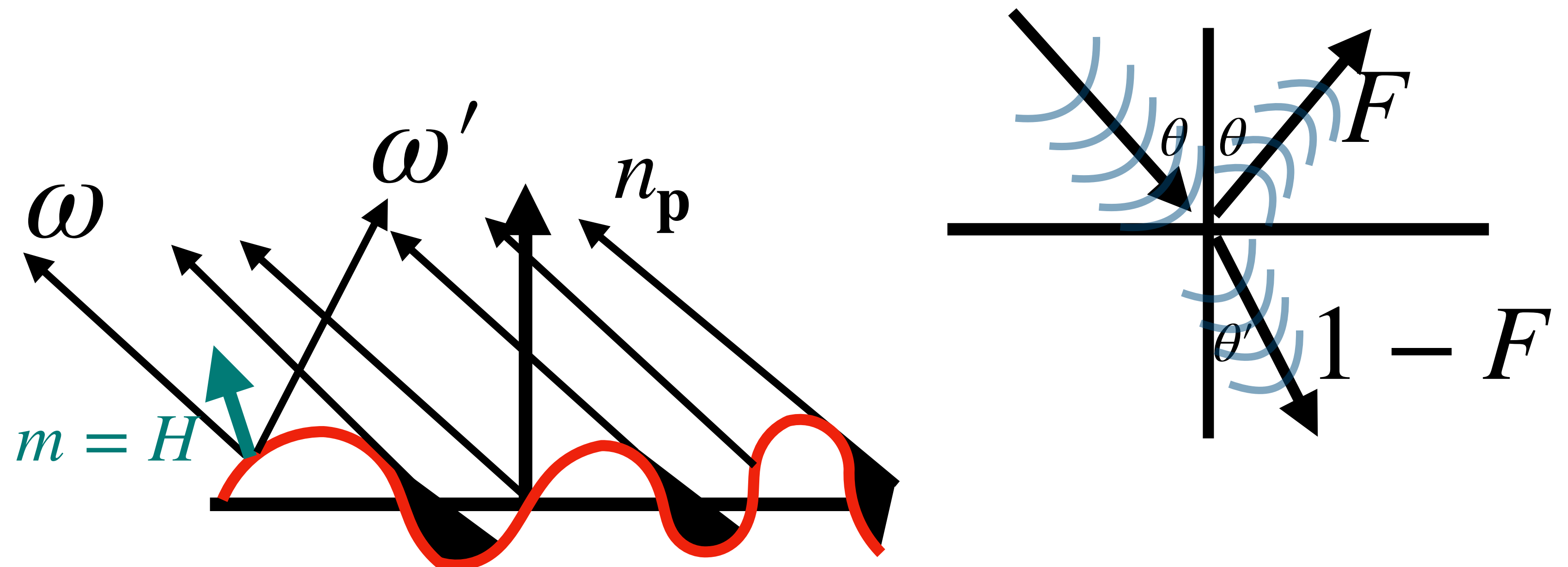


The microfacet BRDF: counting **visible** micronormals at the half vector

$$f_p(\omega, \omega') = \frac{D(H)G(\omega, \omega', H) \boxed{F(\omega, H)}}{4 \left| \omega \cdot n_p \right| \left| \omega' \cdot n_p \right|}$$

Fresnel equation

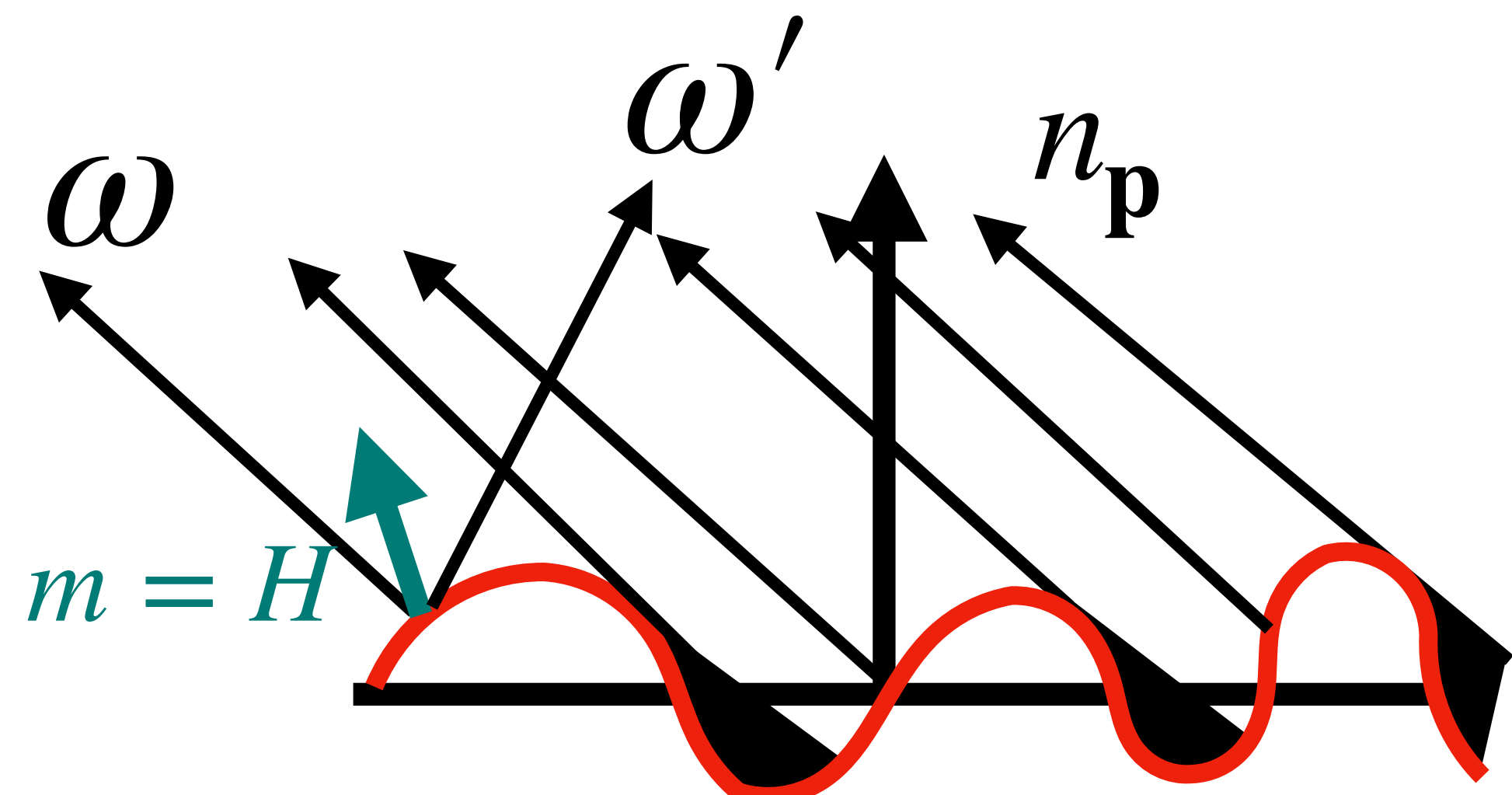
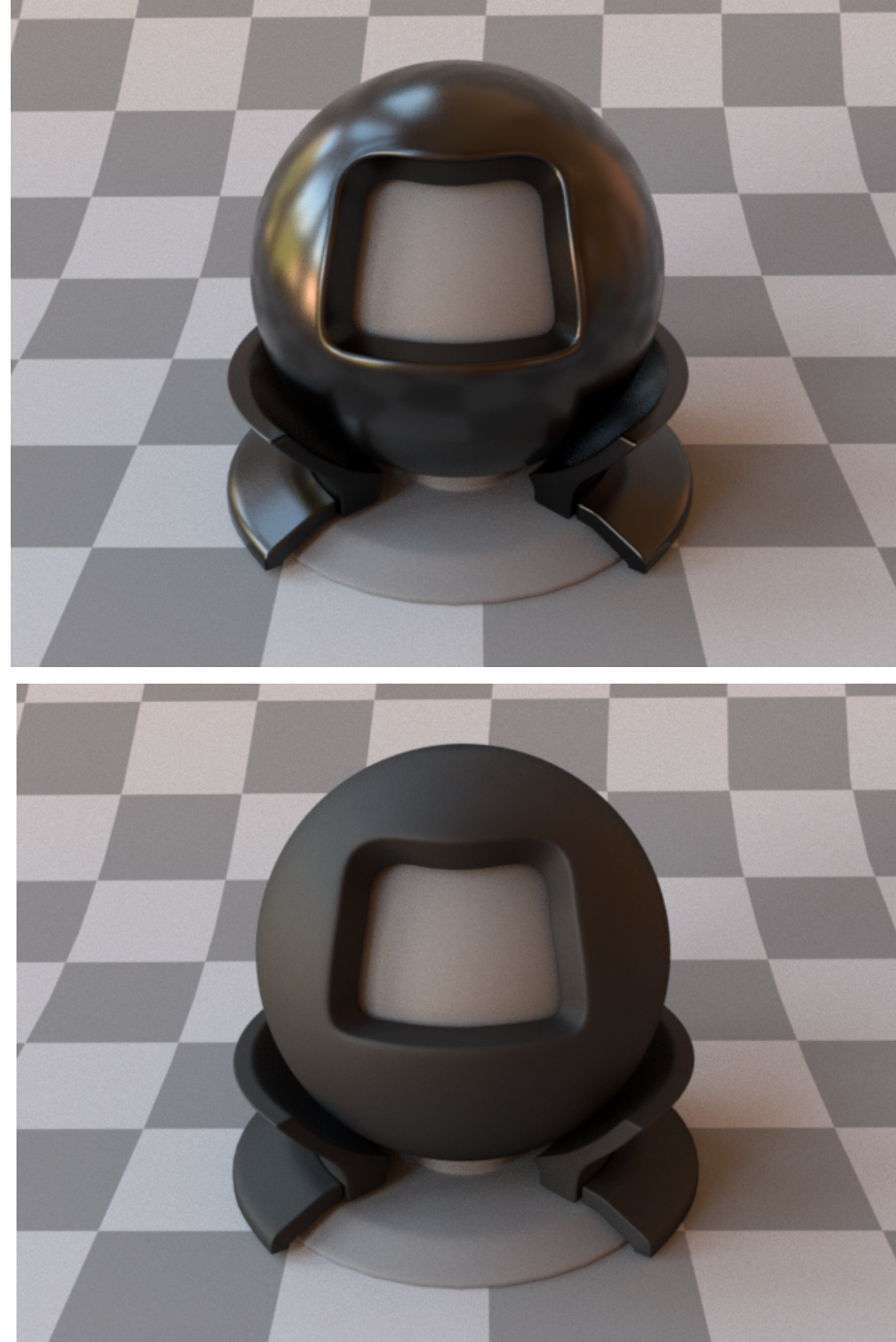
$H = \text{normalize}(\omega + \omega')$



The Cook-Torrance-Sparrow BRDF [1967, 1982]

$$f_p(\omega, \omega') = \frac{D(H)G(\omega, \omega', H)F(\omega, H)}{4 \left| \omega \cdot n_p \right| \left| \omega' \cdot n_p \right|}$$

$H = \text{normalize}(\omega + \omega')$



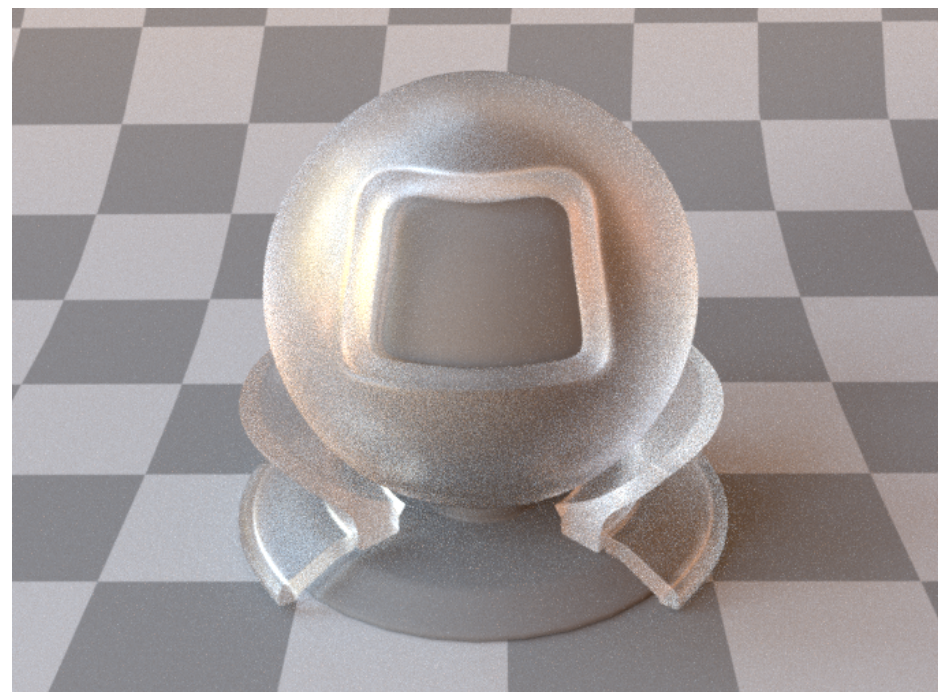
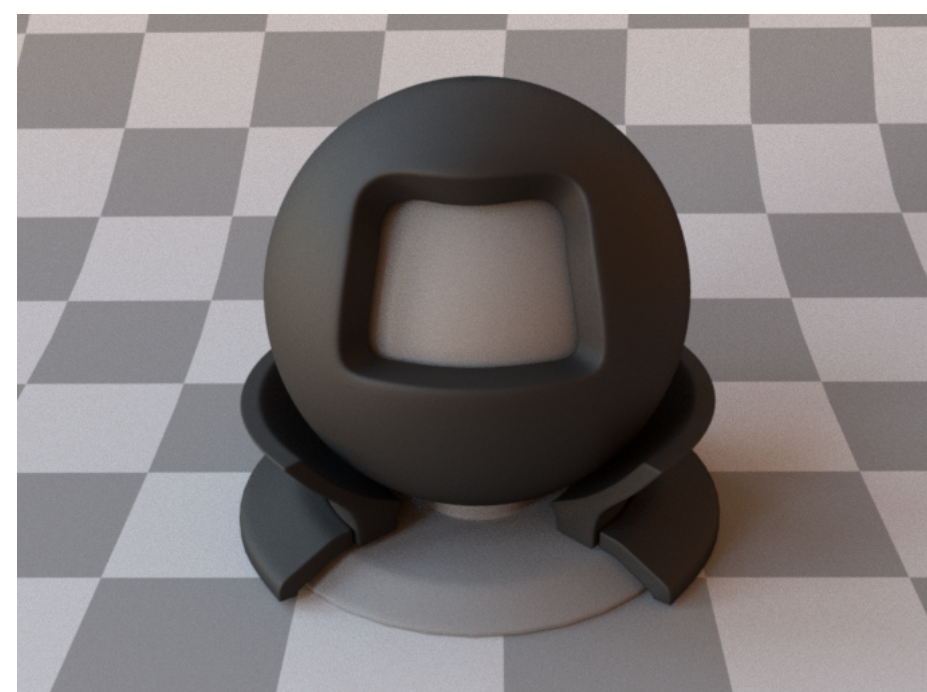
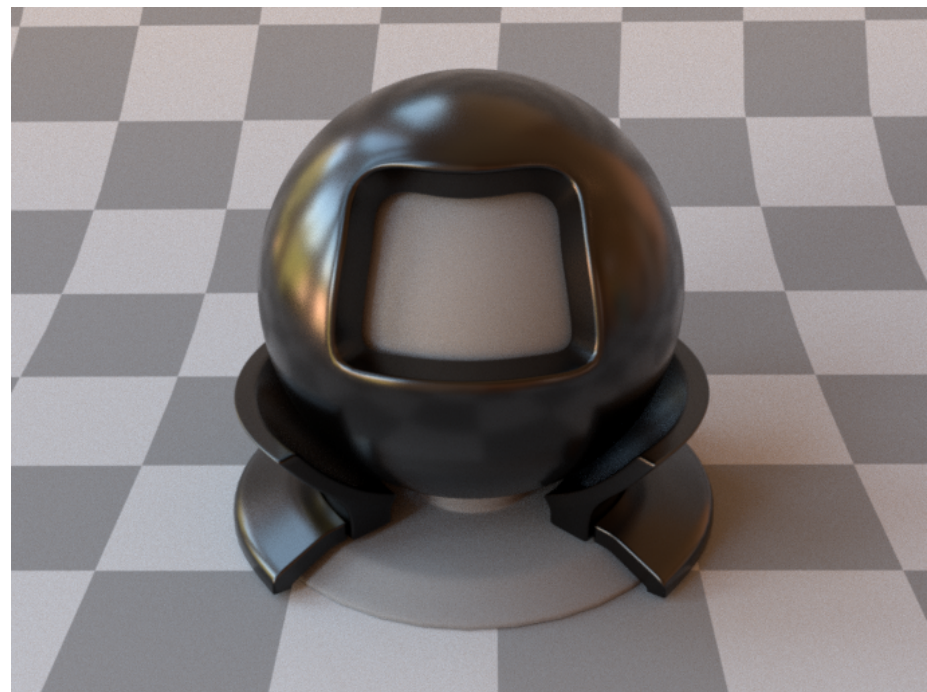
A Reflectance Model for Computer Graphics

ROBERT L. COOK
Lucasfilm Ltd.
and
KENNETH E. TORRANCE
Cornell University

The refraction extension [Walter 2007]

$$f_p(\omega, \omega') = \begin{cases} \frac{D(H)G(\omega, \omega', H)F(\omega, H)}{4 \left| \omega \cdot n_p \right| \left| \omega' \cdot n_p \right|} & \text{if reflect} \\ \frac{D(H_r)G(\omega, \omega', H_r)(1 - F(\omega, H_r))}{\text{scary Jacobians}} & \text{if refract} \end{cases}$$

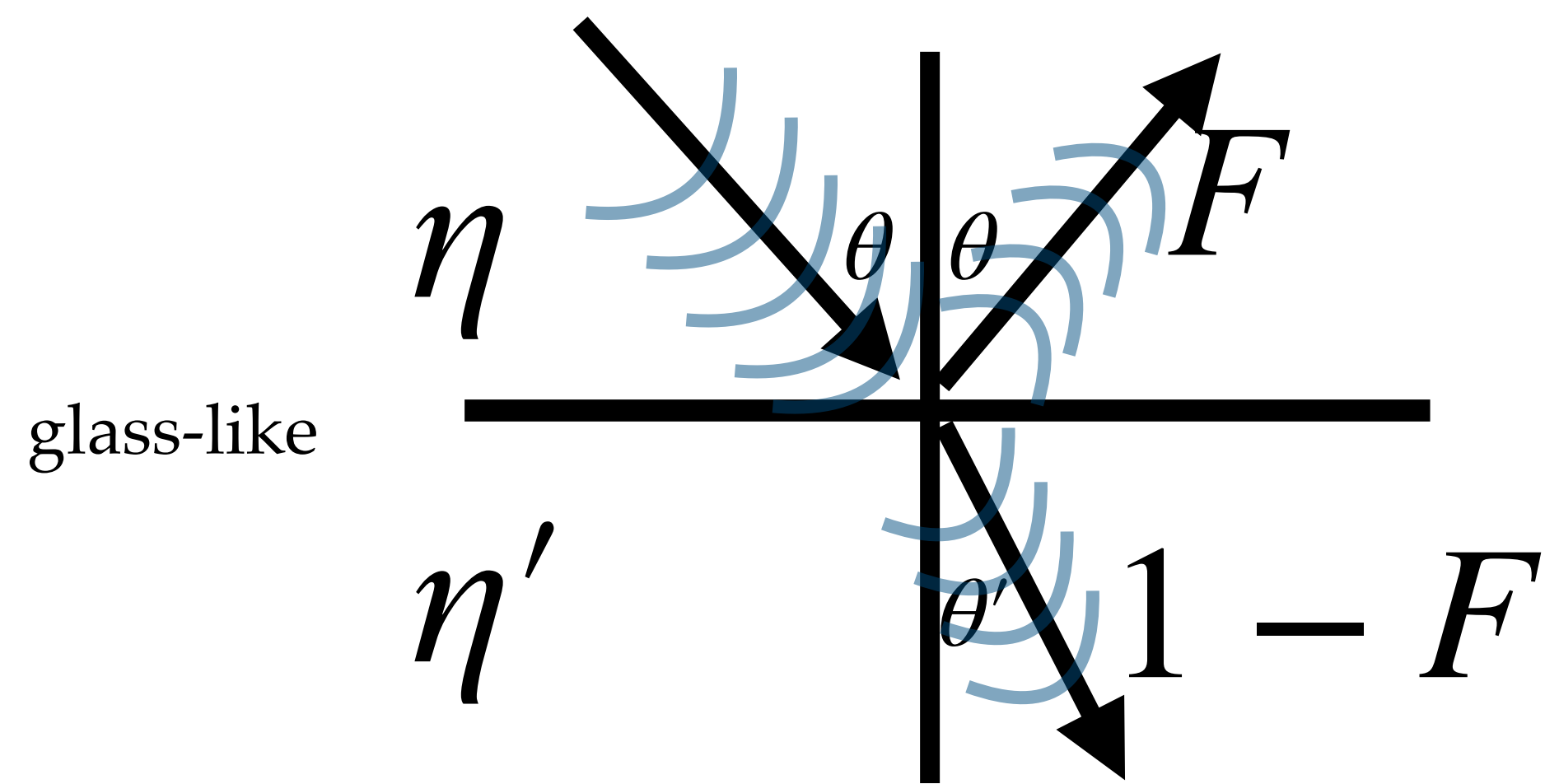
$$H_r = \text{normalize}(\eta\omega + \eta'\omega')$$



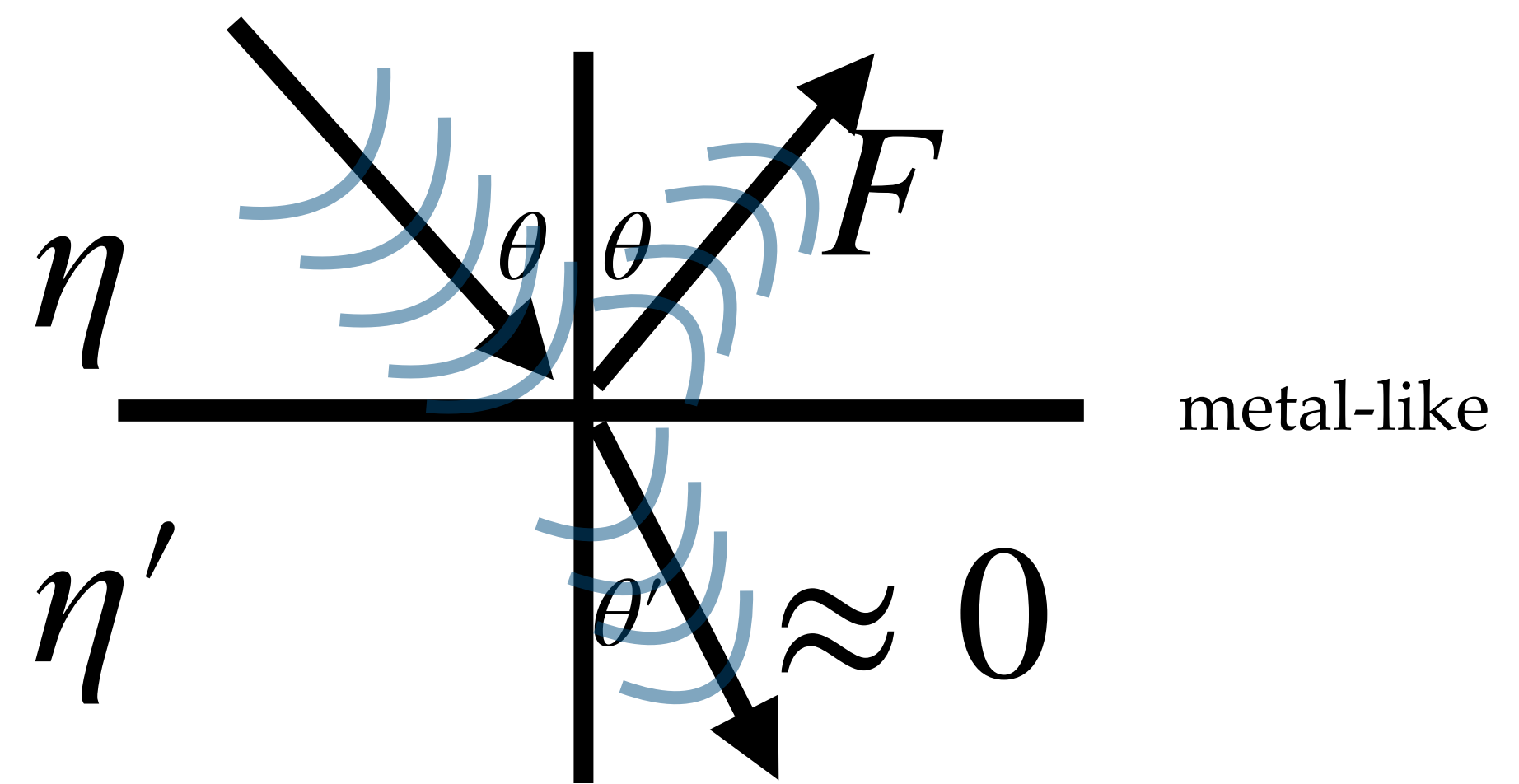
see <http://www.graphics.cornell.edu/~bjw/microfacetbsdf.pdf>
for the scary Jacobian

Fresnel equation

- light as wave behaves differently for glass-like materials (dielectrics) and metal-like materials (conductors)

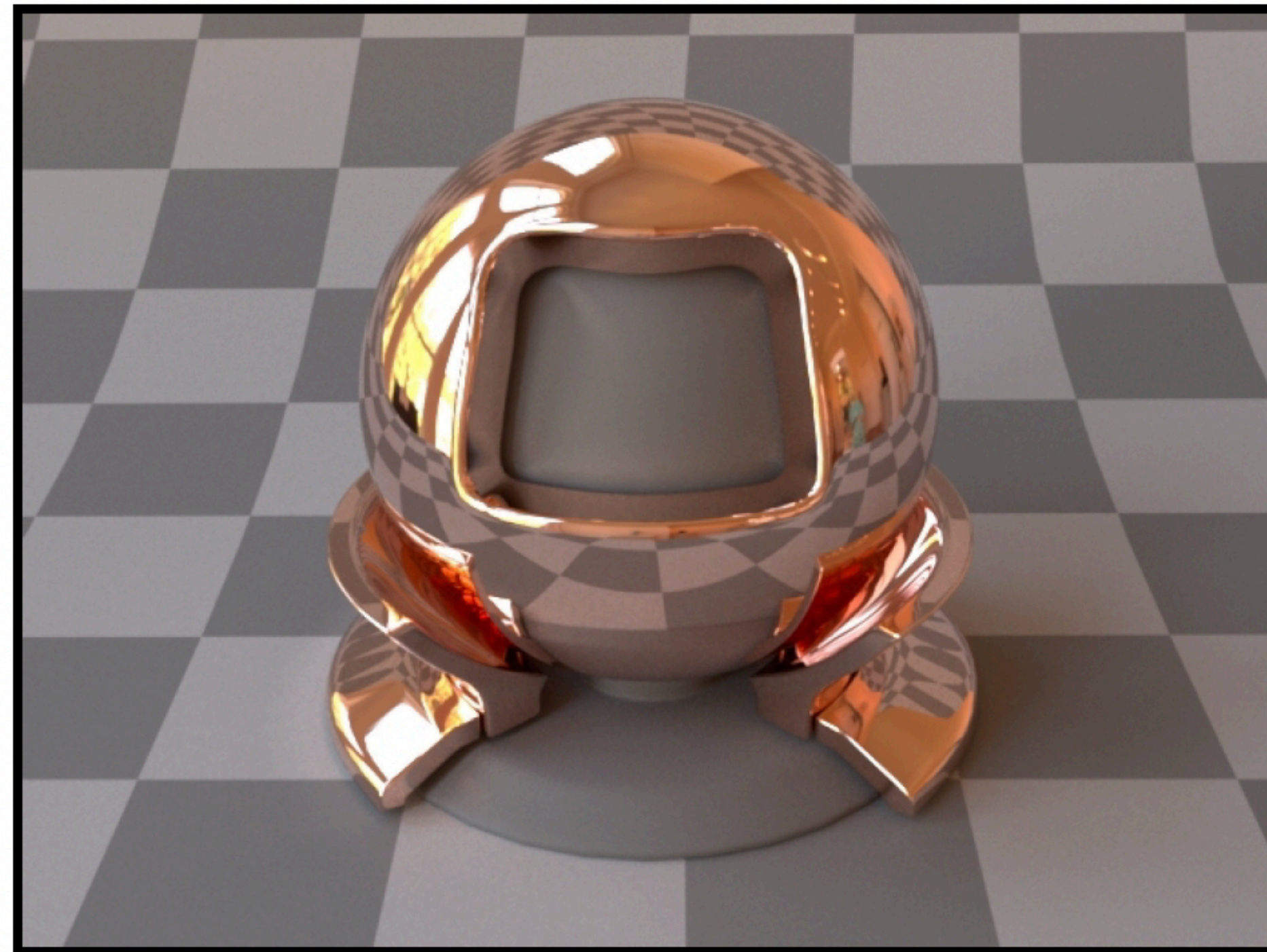


real number η, η'

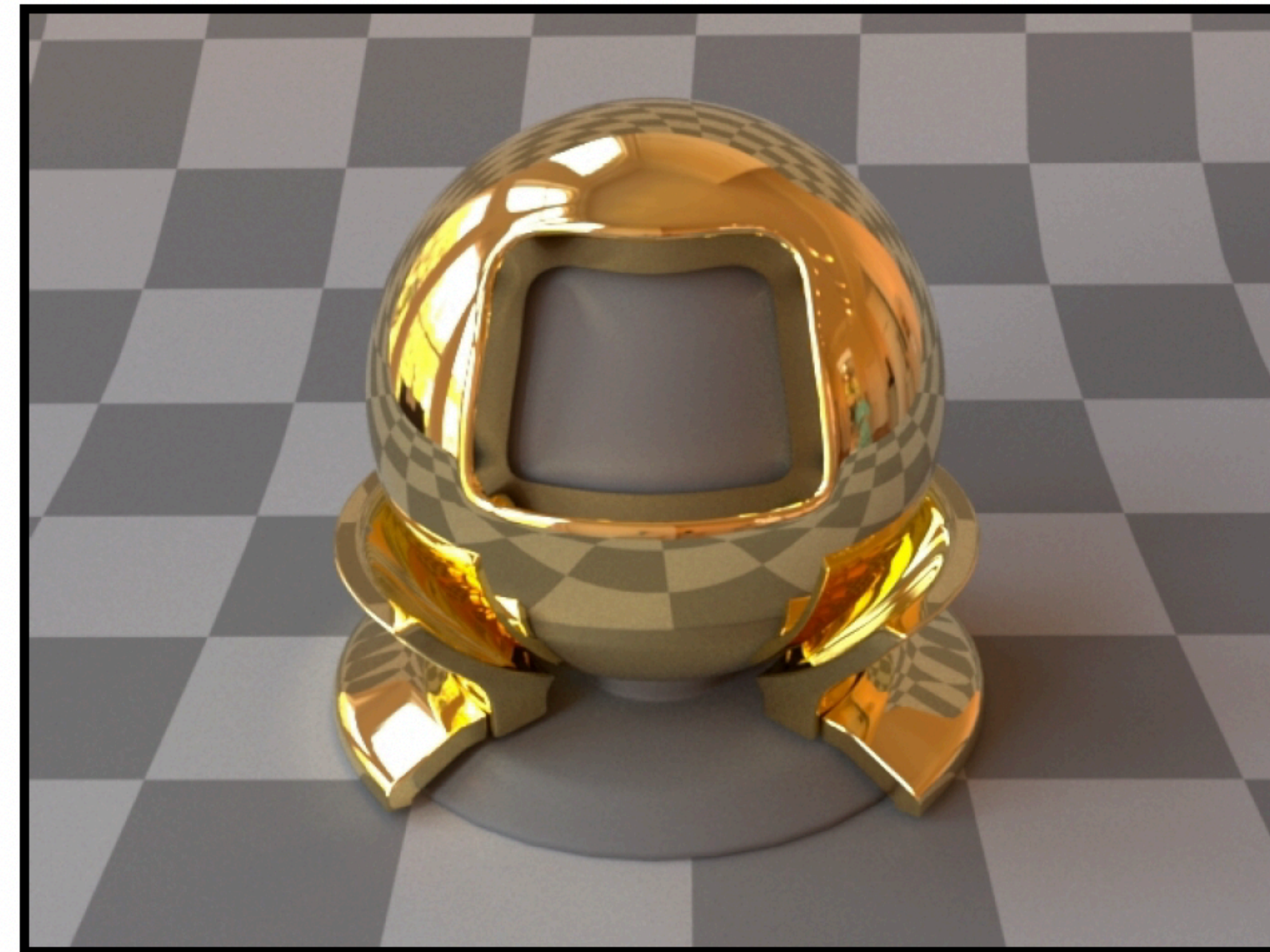


complex number η, η'

For metals, the complex index of refraction varies with wavelength



(a) Measured copper material (the default), rendered using 30 spectral samples between 360 and 830nm



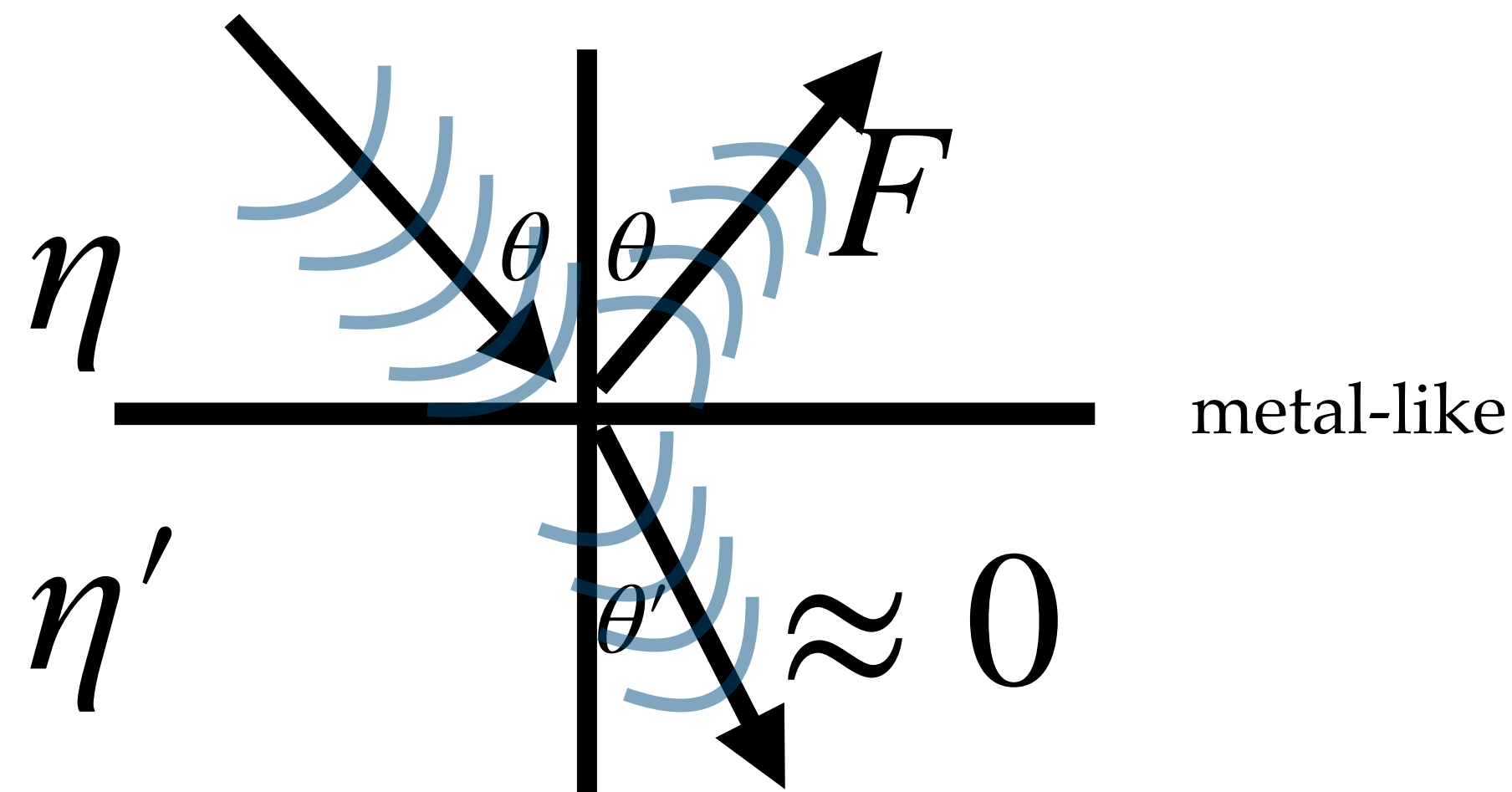
(b) Measured gold material ([Listing 17](#))

images from Wenzel Jakob

<https://www.mitsuba-renderer.org/releases/current/documentation.pdf>

Fresnel equation for metal-like interfaces is scary & unintuitive

- also we don't have a lot of spectral data



complex number η, η'

$$a^2 = \frac{1}{2n_i^2} (\sqrt{(n_t^2 - k_t^2 - n_i^2 \sin^2 \theta)^2 + 4n_t^2 k_t^2} + n_t^2 - k_t^2 - n_i^2 \sin^2 \theta)$$

$$b^2 = \frac{1}{2n_i^2} (\sqrt{(n_t^2 - k_t^2 - n_i^2 \sin^2 \theta)^2 + 4n_t^2 k_t^2} - n_t^2 + k_t^2 + n_i^2 \sin^2 \theta)$$

$$R_s = \frac{a^2 + b^2 - 2a \cos \theta + \cos^2 \theta}{a^2 + b^2 + 2a \cos \theta + \cos^2 \theta}$$

$$R_p = R_s \frac{a^2 + b^2 - 2a \sin \theta \tan \theta + \sin^2 \theta \tan^2 \theta}{a^2 + b^2 + 2a \sin \theta \tan \theta + \sin^2 \theta \tan^2 \theta}$$

using a^2 and b^2 with η and η_k as follow give the same result:

$$a^2 = \frac{1}{2} (\sqrt{(\eta^2 - \eta_k^2 - \sin^2 \theta)^2 + 4\eta^2 \eta_k^2} + \eta^2 - \eta_k^2 - \sin^2 \theta)$$

$$b^2 = \frac{1}{2} (\sqrt{(\eta^2 - \eta_k^2 - \sin^2 \theta)^2 + 4\eta^2 \eta_k^2} - \eta^2 + \eta_k^2 + \sin^2 \theta)$$

Derivation from conductor Fresnel equation can be found in [5] (p.111) and use

$$(n_t - \mathbf{i}k_t) \cos \theta_t = (n_t - \mathbf{i}k_t) \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{n_i}{(n_t - \mathbf{i}k_t)} \sin \theta\right)^2} = \sqrt{(n_t - \mathbf{i}k_t)^2 - n_i^2 \sin^2 \theta}$$

$$a - \mathbf{i}b = \sqrt{(n_t - \mathbf{i}k_t)^2 - n_i^2 \sin^2 \theta}$$

In practice there is some simplification possible:

$$a^2 + b^2 = \sqrt{(\eta^2 - \eta_k^2 - \sin^2 \theta)^2 + 4\eta^2 \eta_k^2}$$

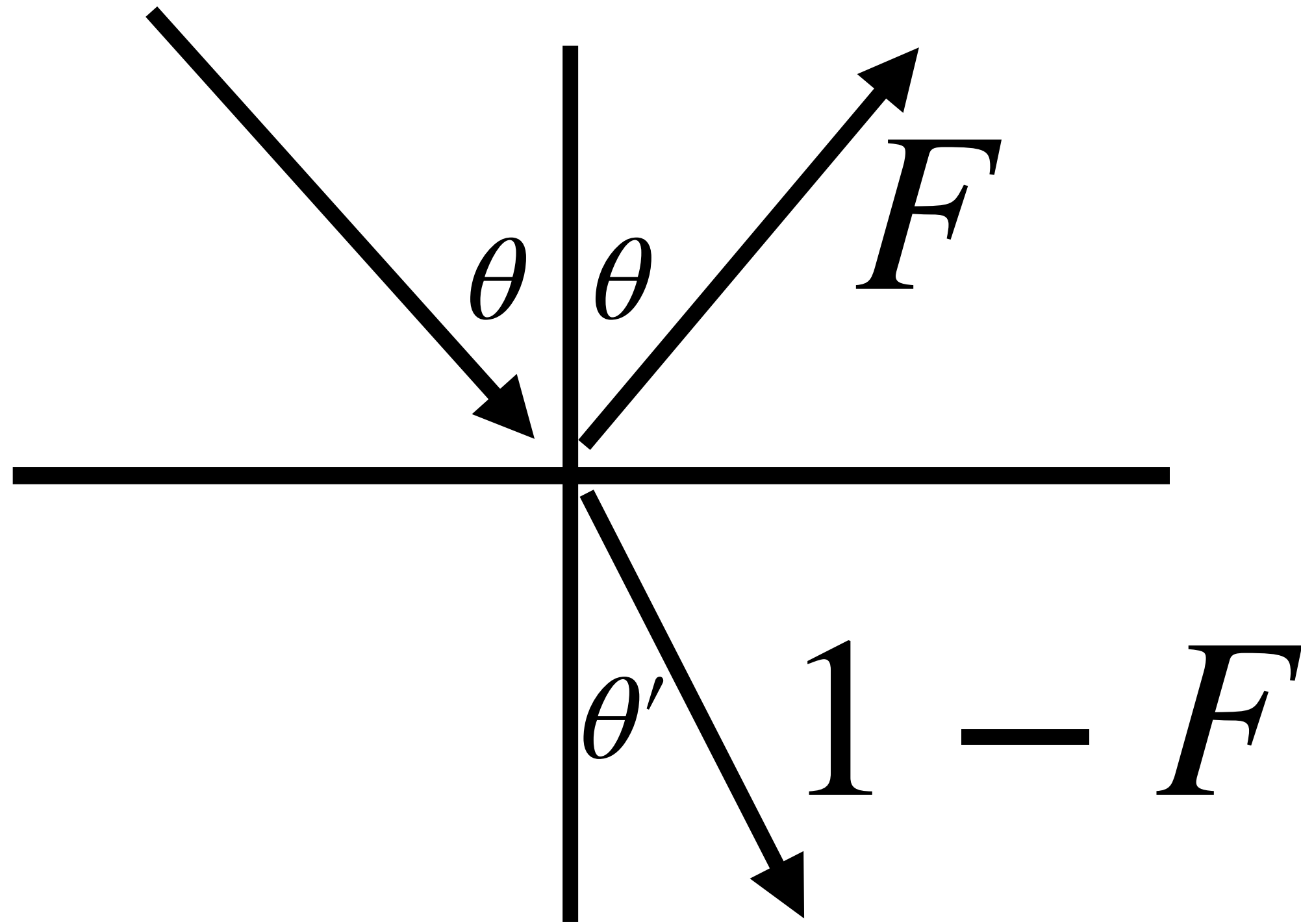
$$\tan \theta = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta}$$

$$R_p = R_s \frac{\cos^2 \theta (a^2 + b^2) - 2a \cos \theta \sin^2 \theta + \sin^4 \theta}{\cos^2 \theta (a^2 + b^2) + 2a \cos \theta \sin^2 \theta + \sin^4 \theta}$$

Graphics people use Schlick's approximation

$$F \approx F_0 + (1 - F_0)(1 - \cos \theta)^5$$

$$F_0 = \left(\frac{\eta - \eta'}{\eta + \eta'} \right)^2 \quad \text{for real index of refraction}$$



small $\cos \theta$, $F \sim 1$

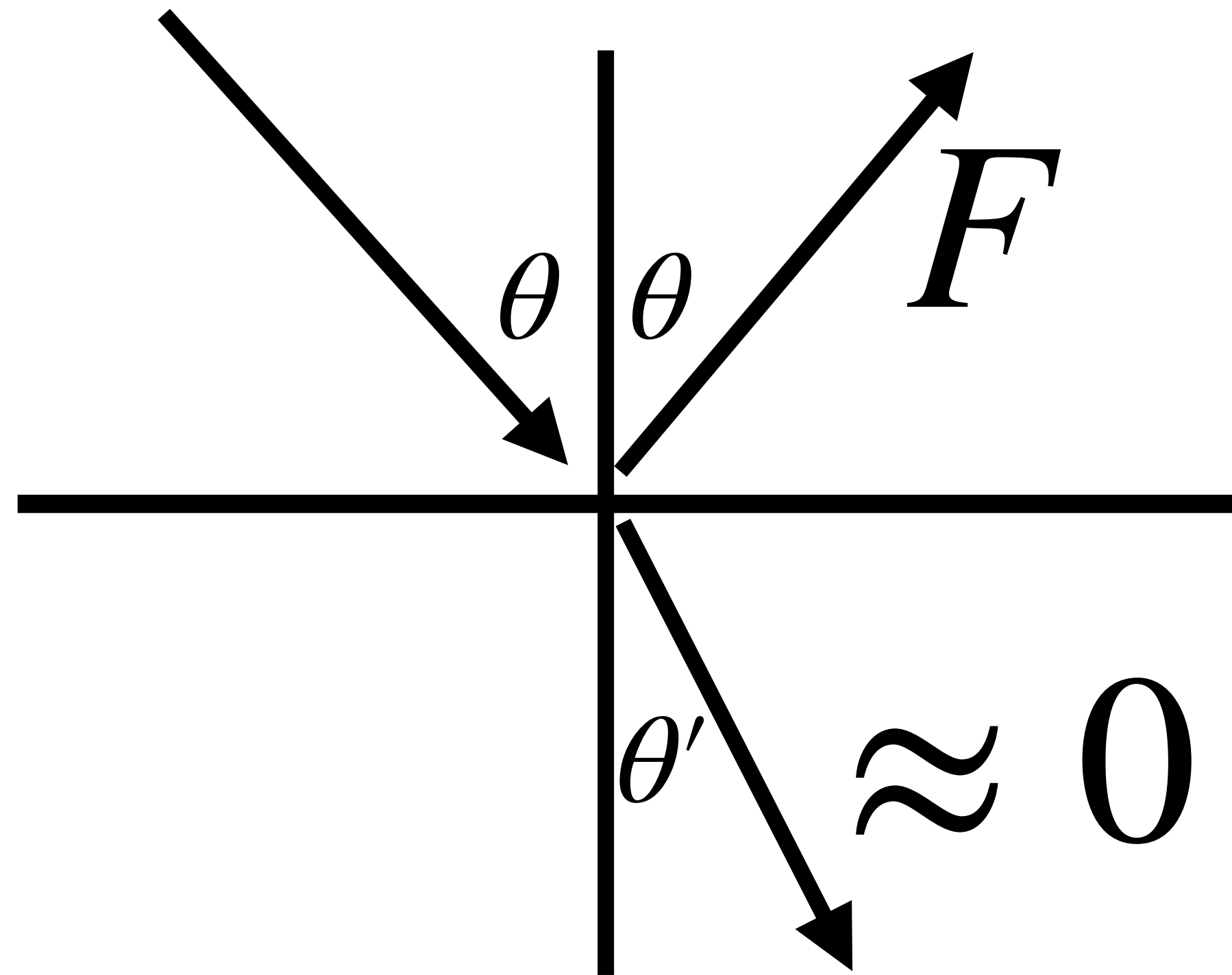


large $\cos \theta$, $F \sim F_0$

Graphics people use Schlick's approximation

for metals

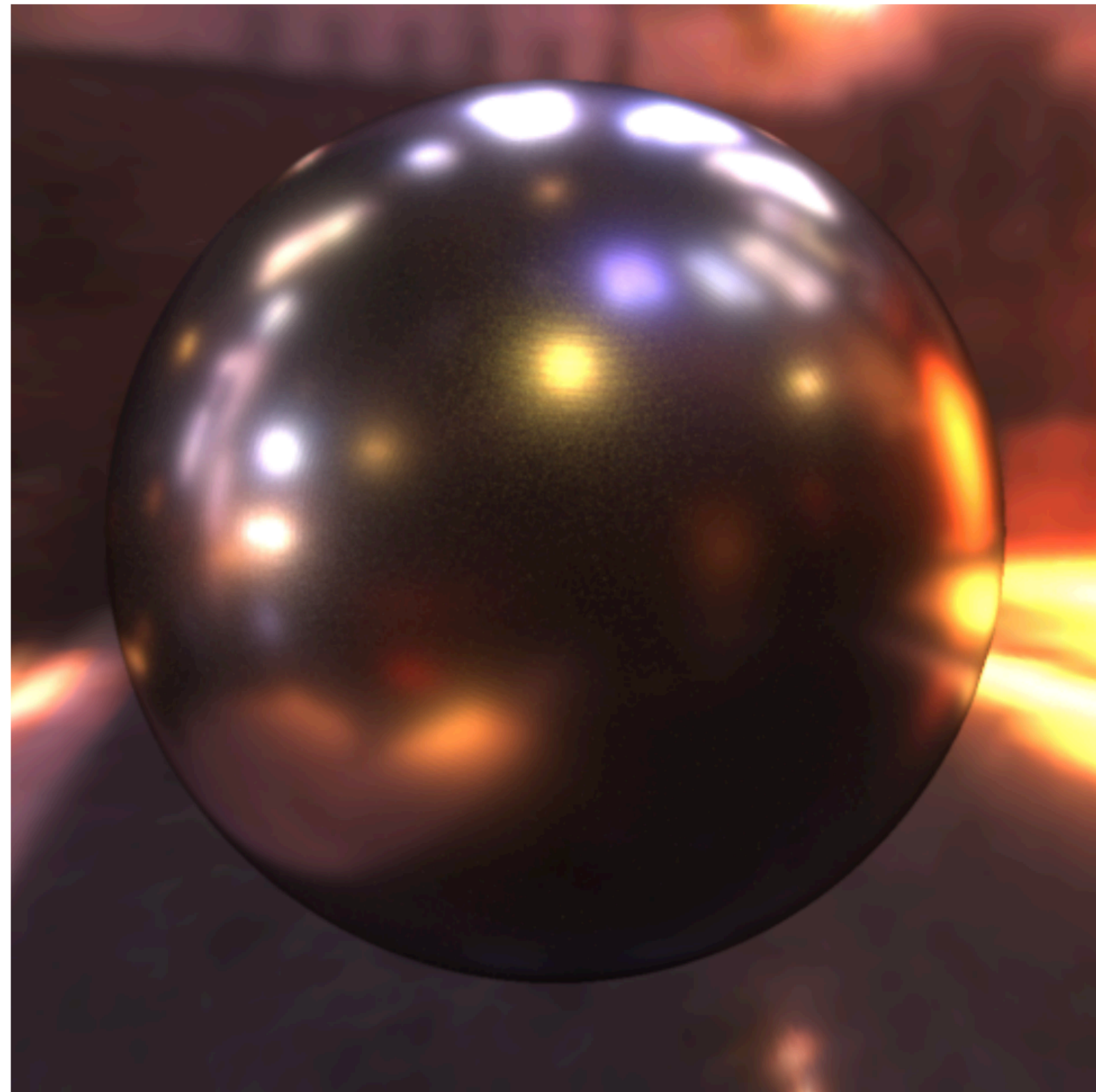
$$F \approx \text{color} + (1 - \text{color})(1 - \cos \theta)^5$$



metal becomes colorless / white at grazing angle



Cook-Torrance-Sparrow BSDF fits well to MERL measured data!



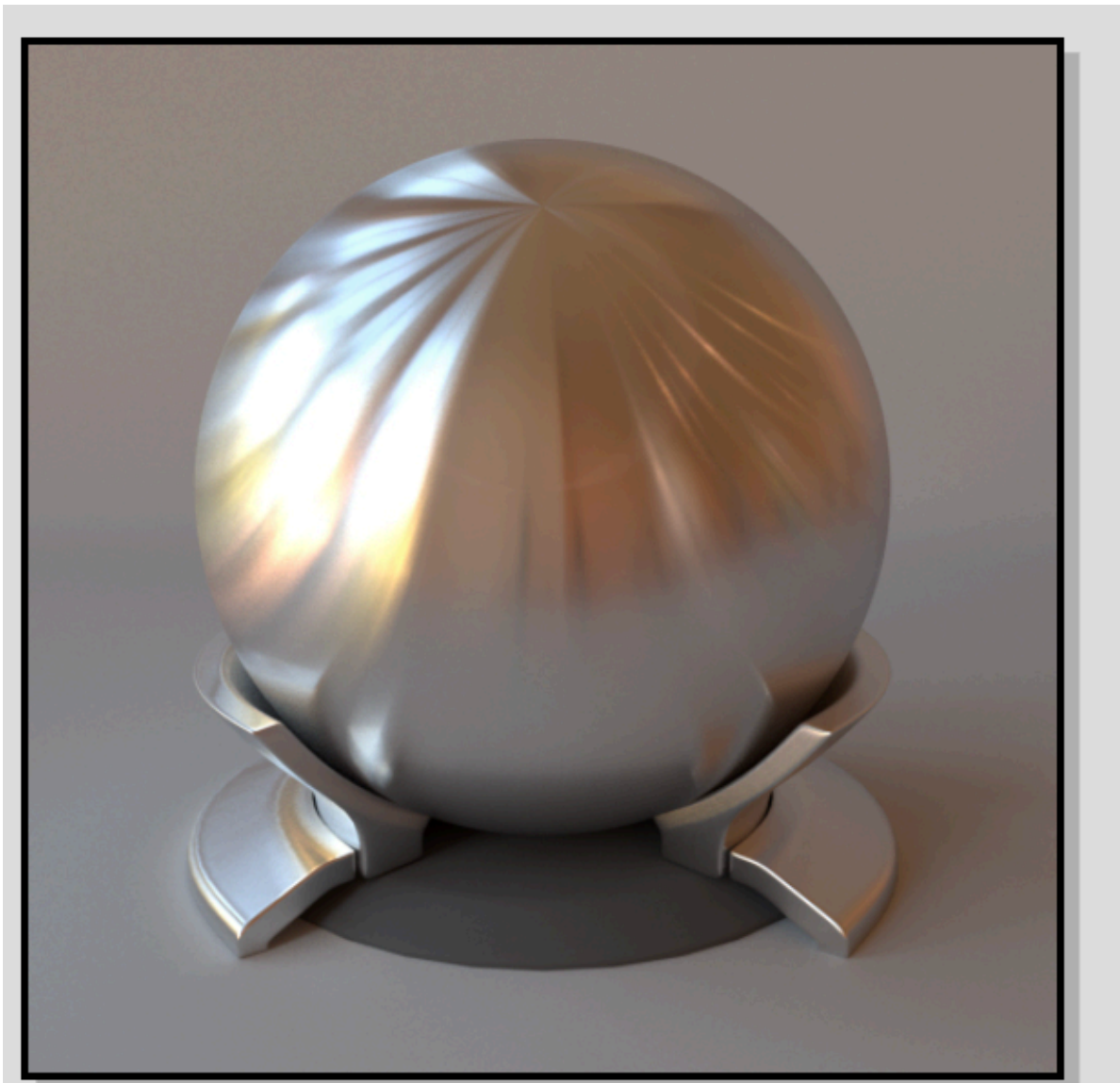
measured (nickel material)



Cook-Torrance-Sparrow

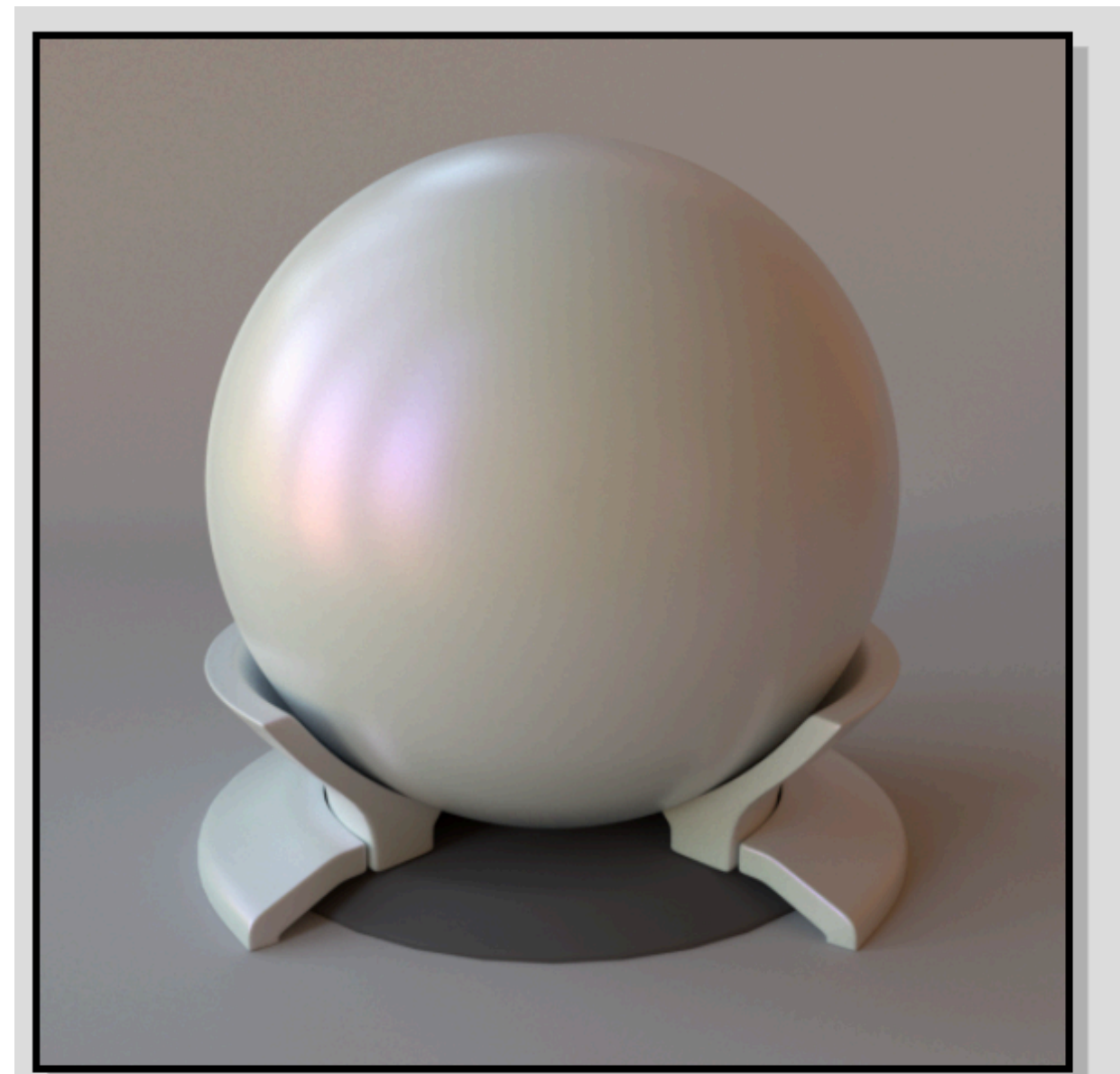
Limitations of microfacet models

- from the EPFL dataset



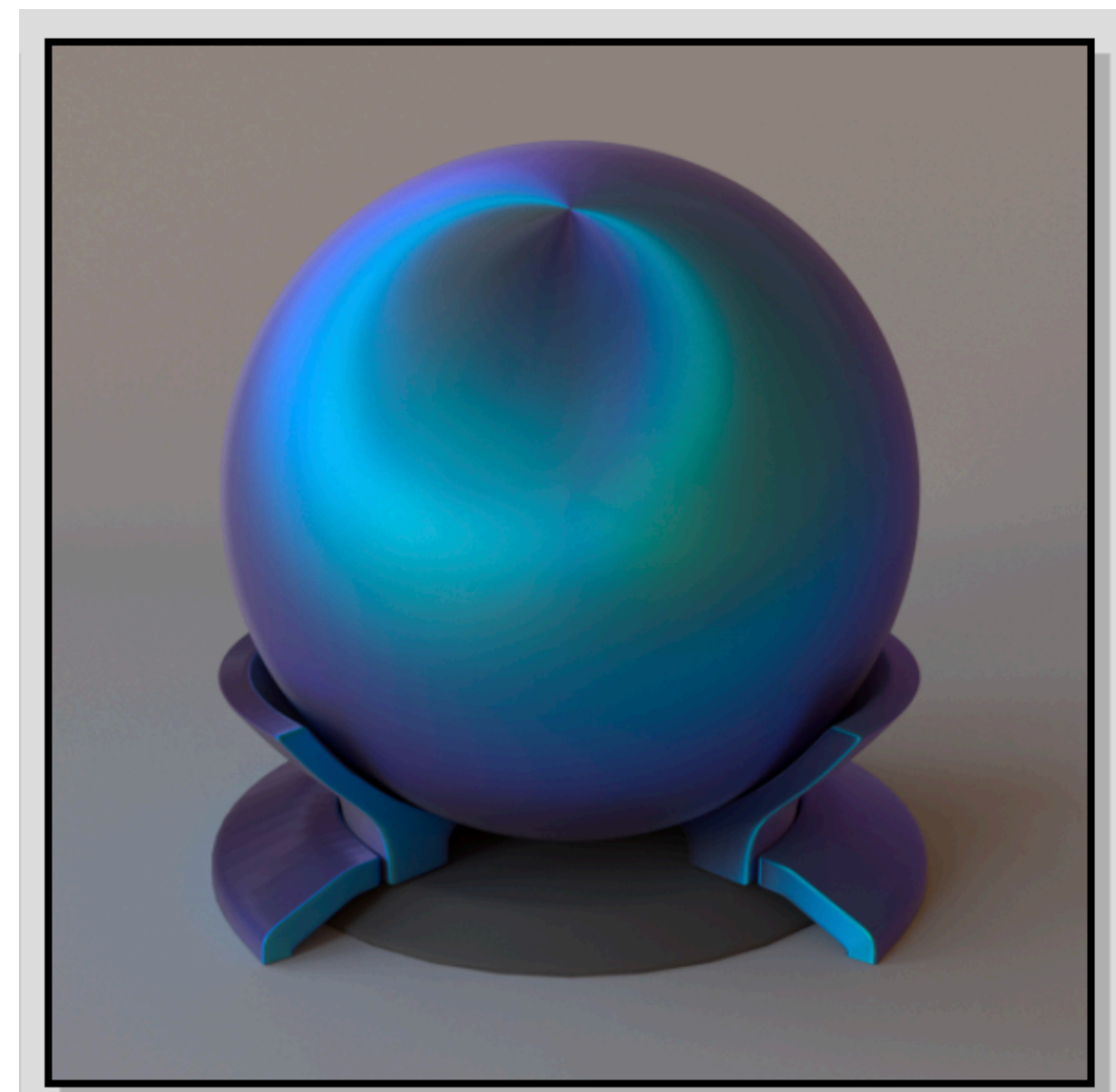
aniso_brushed_aluminium

strongly anisotropic but “hazy”



satin_purple

iridescence?



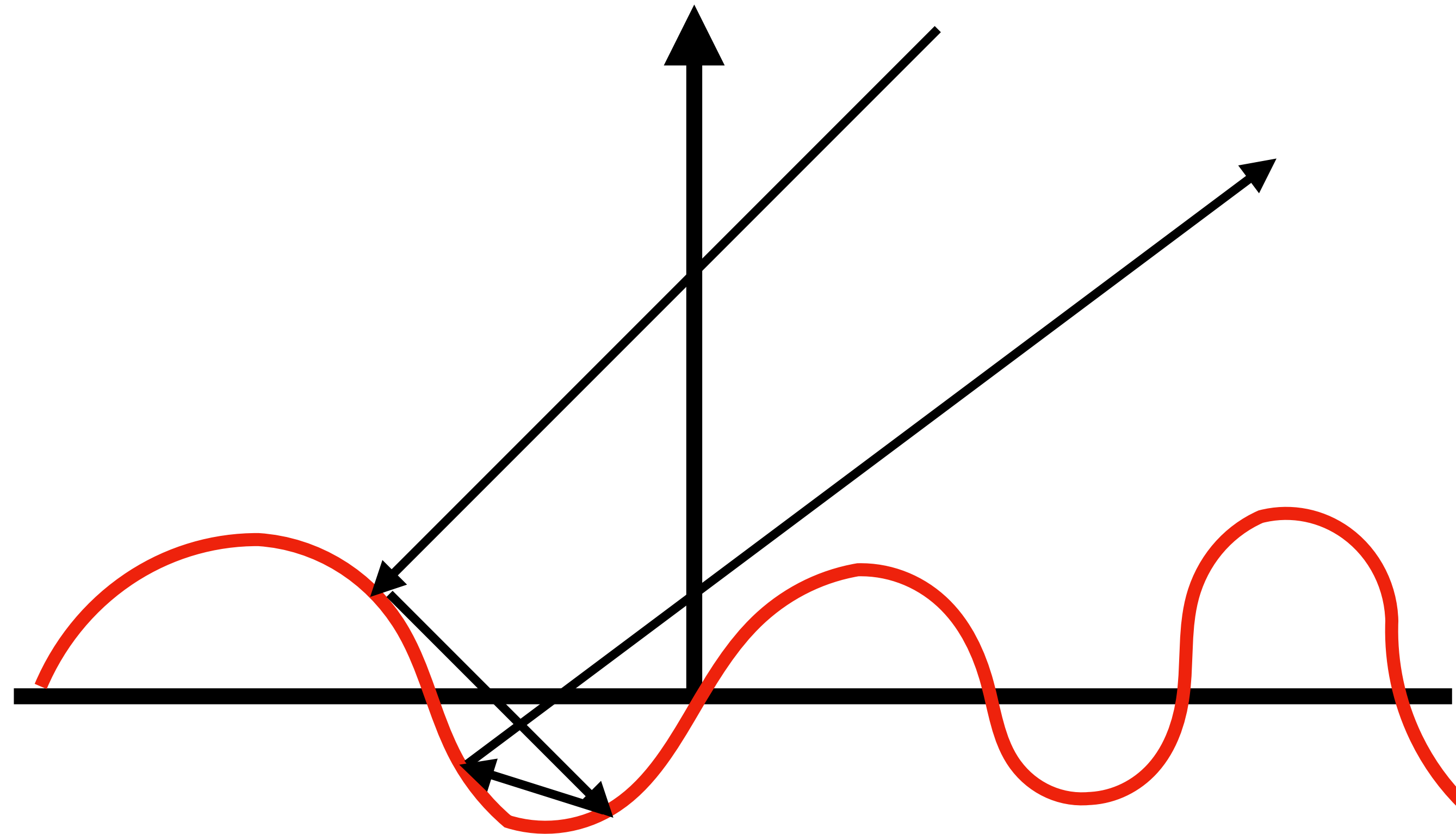
aniso_morpho_melenaus

???
(butterfly wings)



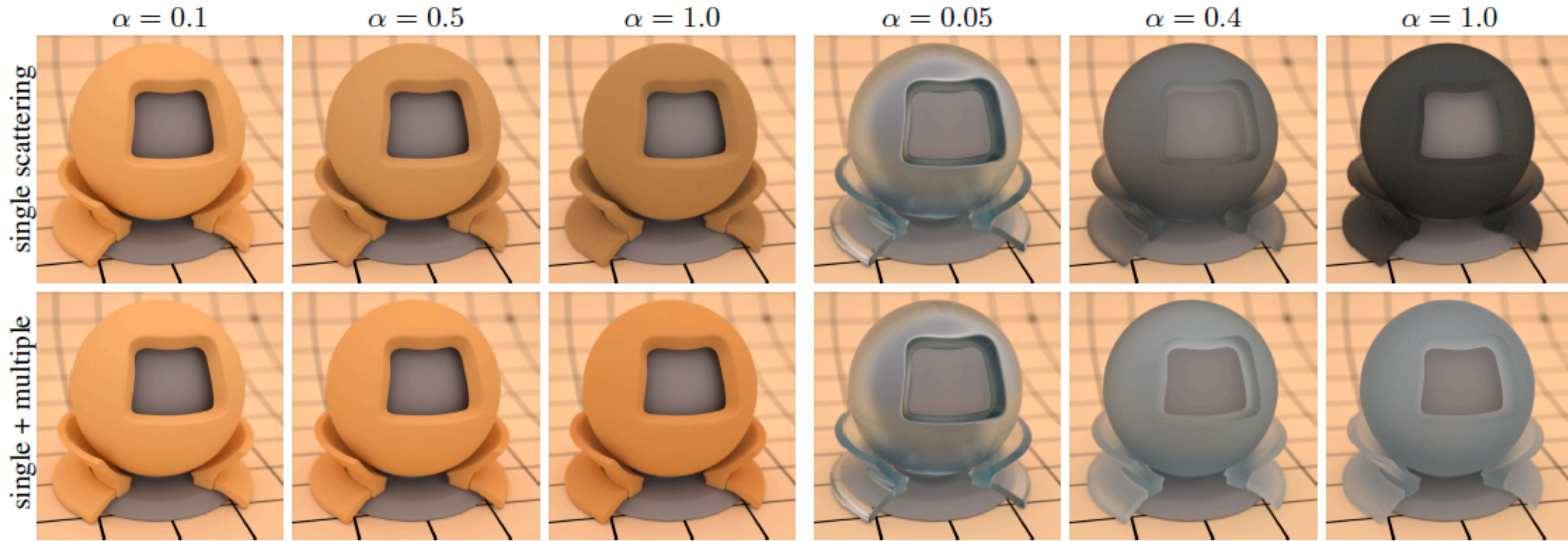
Multiple scattering

- Cook-Torrance-Sparrow BSDF ignores multiple bounces inside the microsurfaces



Multiple scattering

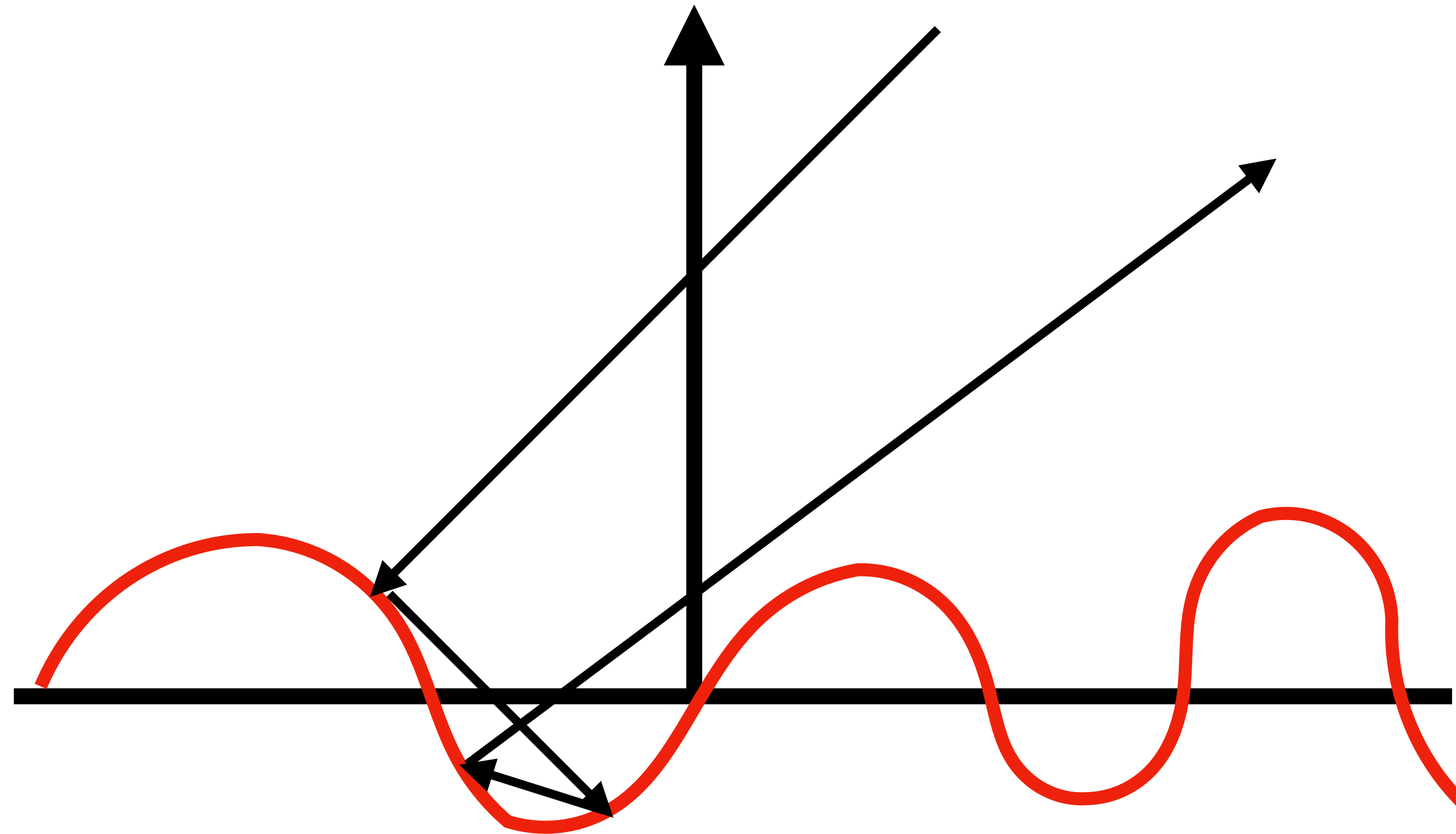
- ignoring multiple bounces lead to energy loss, esp. at high roughness



images from Heitz et al.

<https://eheizresearch.wordpress.com/240-2/>

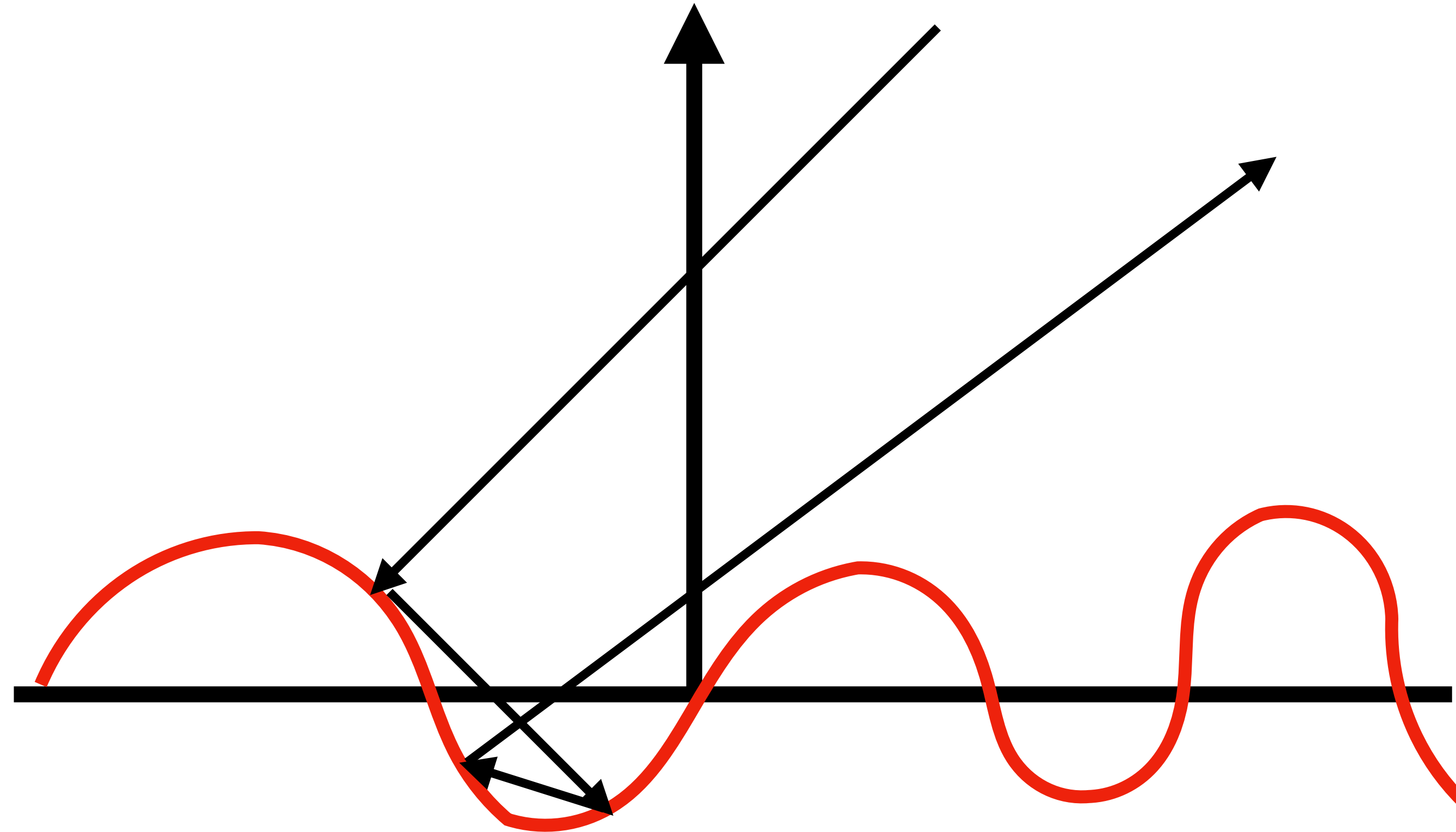
Remedy: simulate multiple bounces inside the
microsurfaces



See Heitz et al. "Multiple-Scattering Microfacet BSDFs with the Smith Model"

Remedy: simulate multiple bounces inside the microsurfaces

- or not, see “Misunderstanding multiscattering” by Angelo Pesce
<https://c0de517e.blogspot.com/2019/08/misunderstanding-multiscattering.html>



See Heitz et al. “Multiple-Scattering Microfacet BSDFs with the Smith Model”

Next time: Uber BSDF

- one BSDF to rule them all?

next Monday is MLK, so see you next Wednesday!

