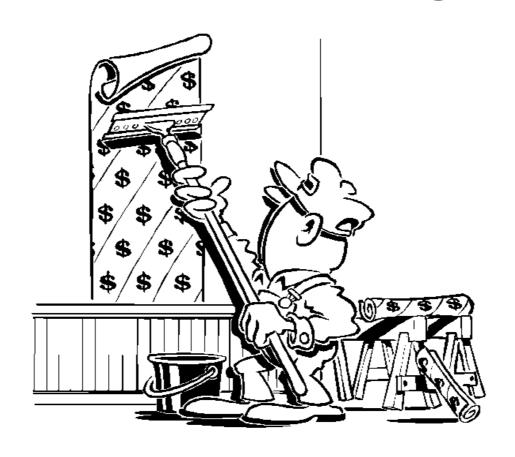


# Advanced Computer Graphics Advanced Texturing Methods



G. Zachmann
University of Bremen, Germany
cqvr.cs.uni-bremen.de



#### Parameterization



- Informal definition: finding a function  $f:(u,v)\in\mathbb{R}^2\longrightarrow\mathbb{R}^3$  that "describes" a surface (= 2-manifold) in 3D space
  - The region of "useful" (u,v) values is called parameter domain (mostly  $[0,1]^2$ )
- Example: a possible parameterization of the sphere (with the well-known problems)

$$f(u,v) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(2\pi u)\sin(\pi v) \\ \sin(2\pi u)\sin(\pi v) \\ \cos(\pi v) \end{pmatrix}, (u,v) \in [0,1]^2$$

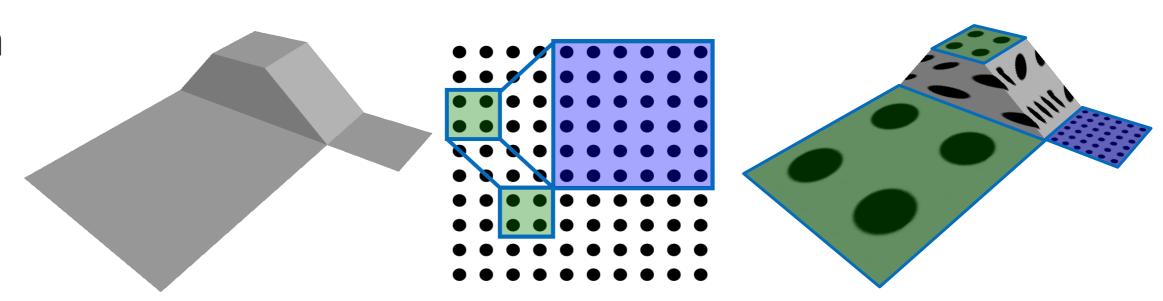
- In computer graphics:
  - Surface = mesh,
  - Function = (u,v) coordinates for vertices, linear interpolation in-between
  - "Texturing", "uv mapping"

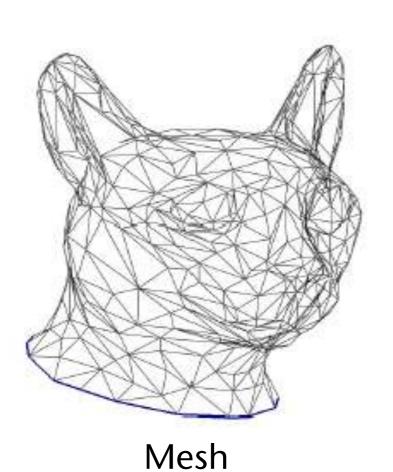


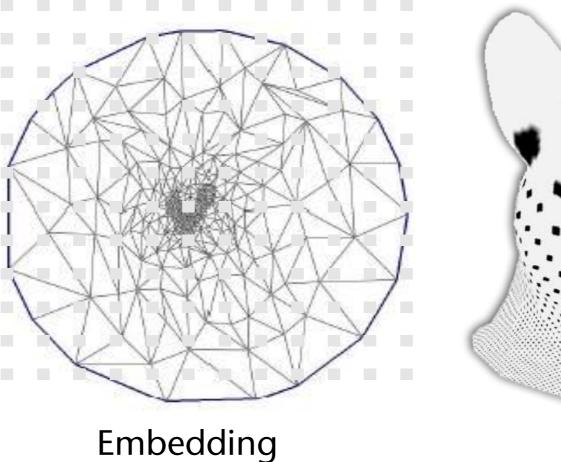
# Problems with (Simple) Parameterizations



- Distortions in size & form
- Consequence: relative over- or under-sampling
- Example:







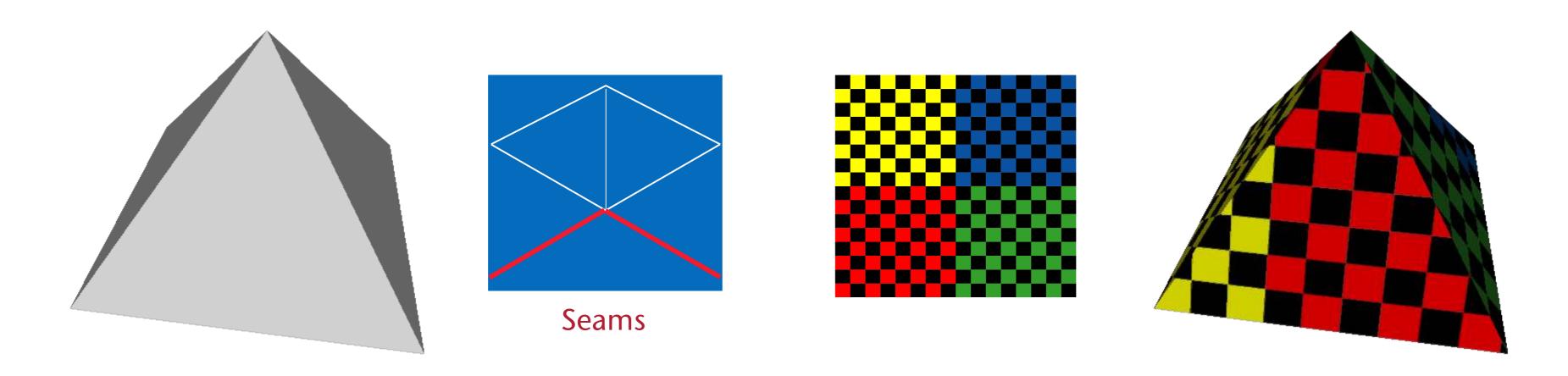




# One Technique to Remedy: Seams ("Nähte")



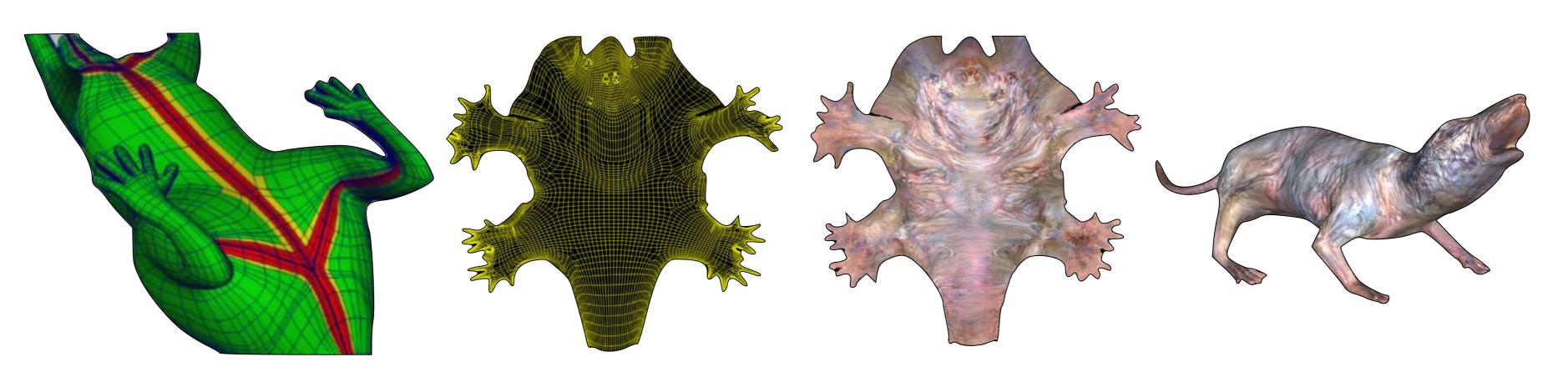
- Idea: cut up the mesh along certain edges and unfold it into a plane (aka. surface development or unwrapping)
- Results in *seams*, *i.e.* "double edges" in the parameter domain (aka. *uv space*)
- Unavoidable with non-planar topology, e.g., closed 2-manifolds







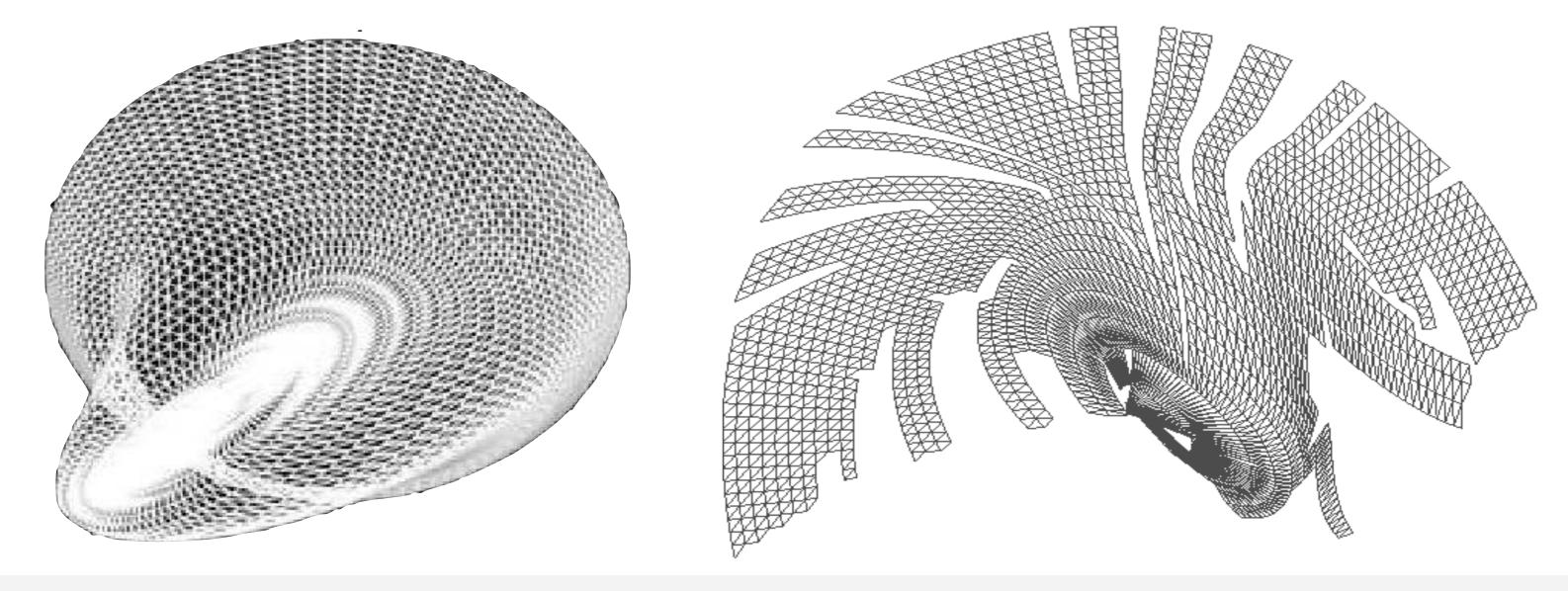
- Cut the object along only one contiguous sequence of edges (preferably at inconspicuous places)
- Effect: the resulting mesh is now topologically equivalent to a disc
- Then embed this open mesh into the 2D plane







- Goal: minimize the distortion
- Straight-forward remedy: multiple seams
  - Problem: produces a severely fragmented embedded grid





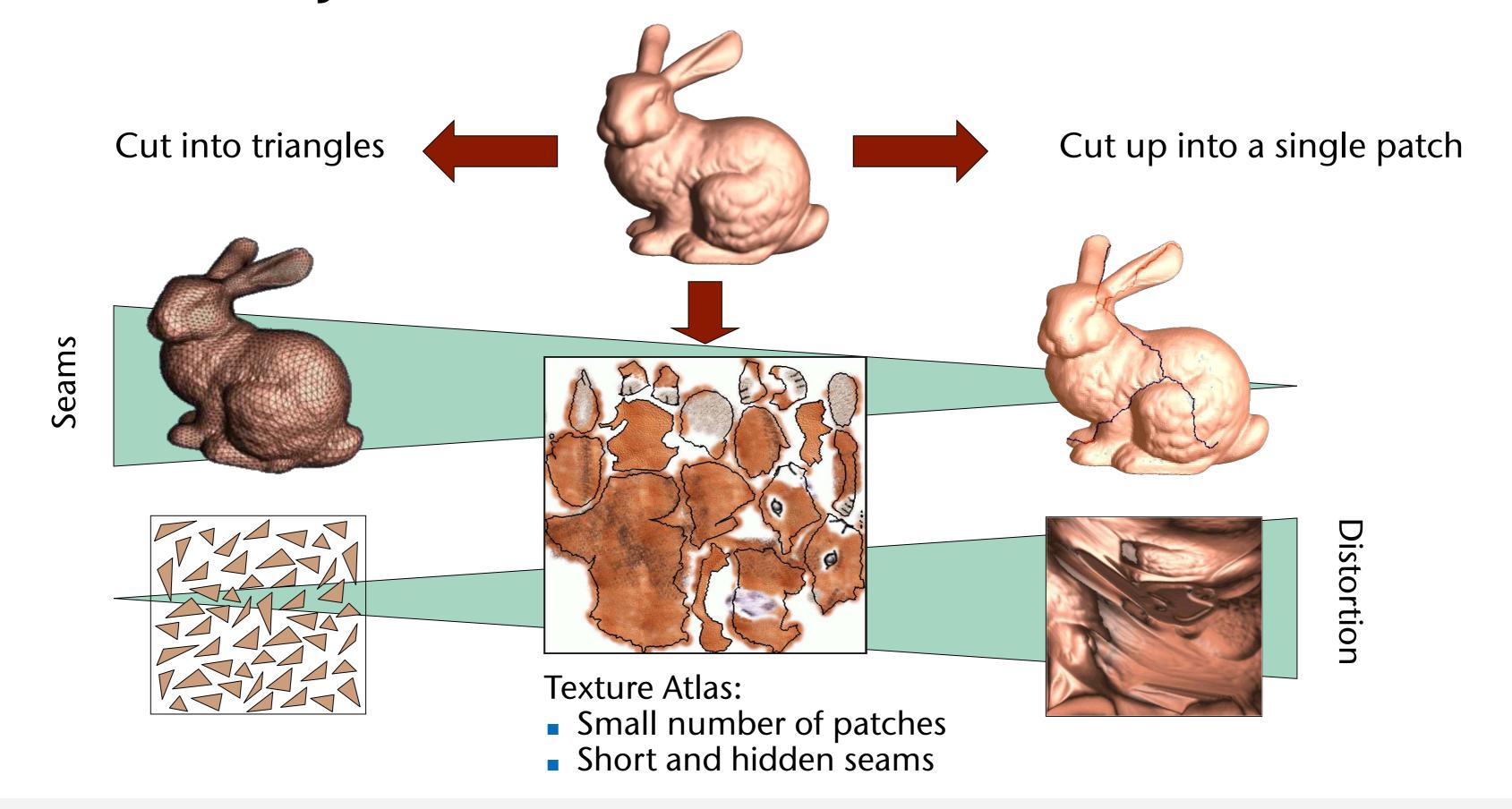


- Another problem with seams: vertices on the seam must have multiple, different (u,v) coordinates
- Remedy: create multiple copies of those vertices
- New problem in case of deformations of the mesh



# Dichotomy: Distortion or Seams

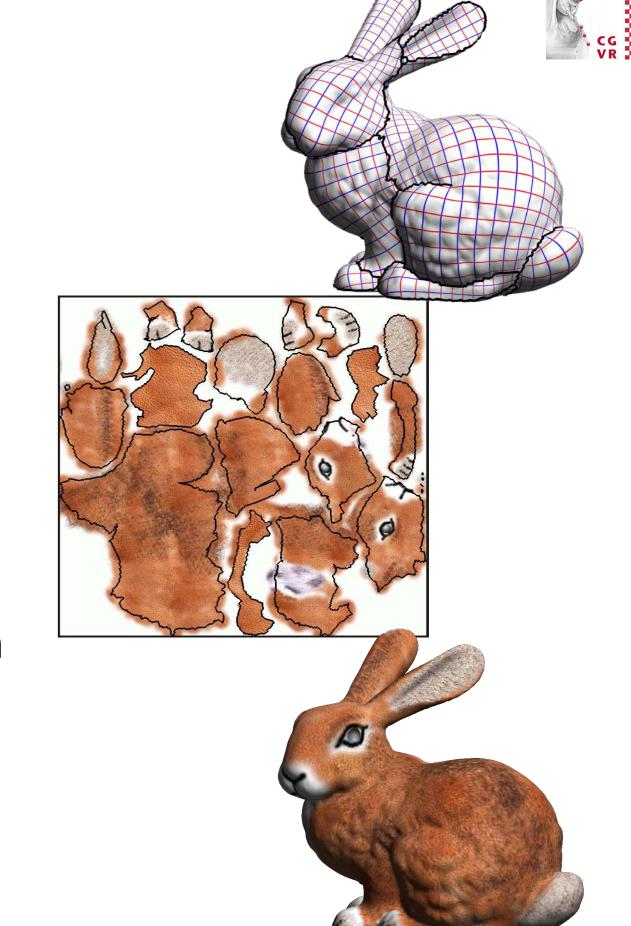






#### The Texture Atlas

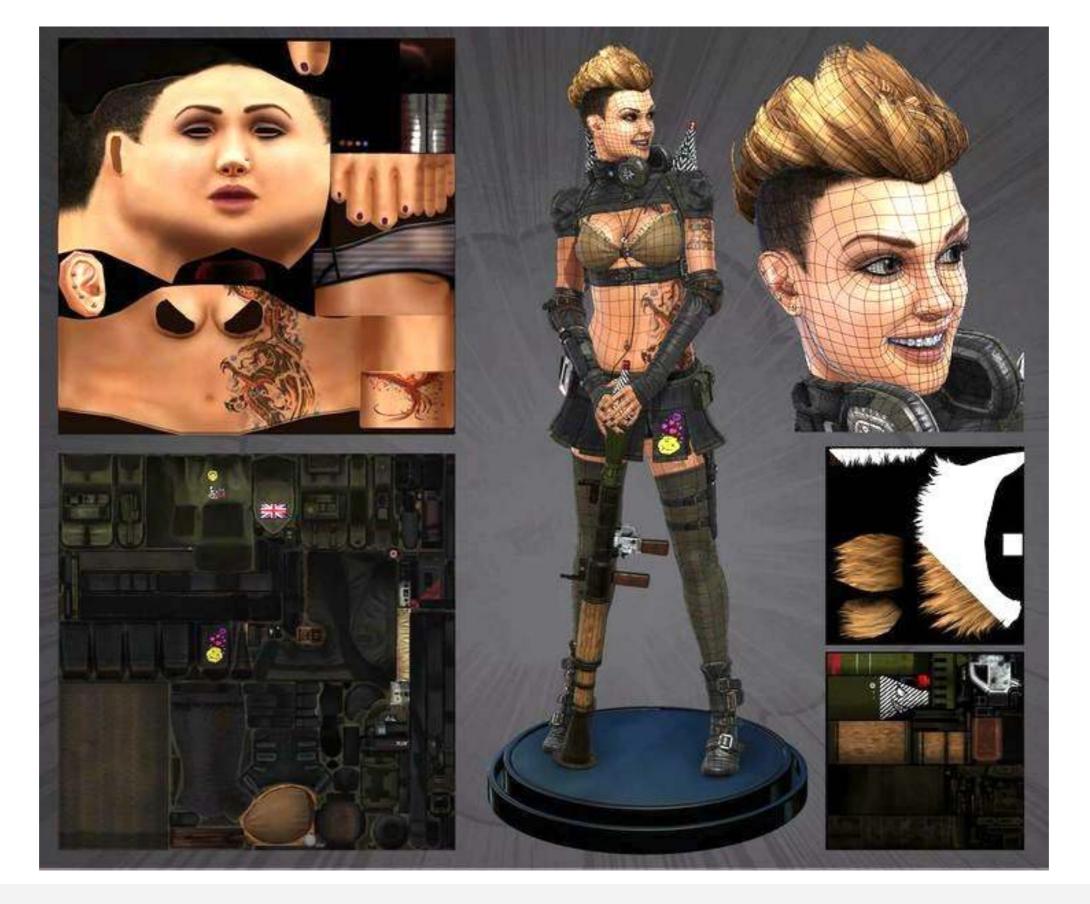
- Idea:
  - Cut the 3D surface into individual patches
  - Map = individual parameter domain in texture space for a single patch
  - Texture Atlas = set of these patches with their respective maps (= parameter domains)
- Statement of the optimization problem:
  - Choose a compromise between seams and distortion
  - Hide the cuts in less visible areas
    - How do you do that automatically?
  - Determine a compact arrangement of texture patches (a so-called *packing problem*)





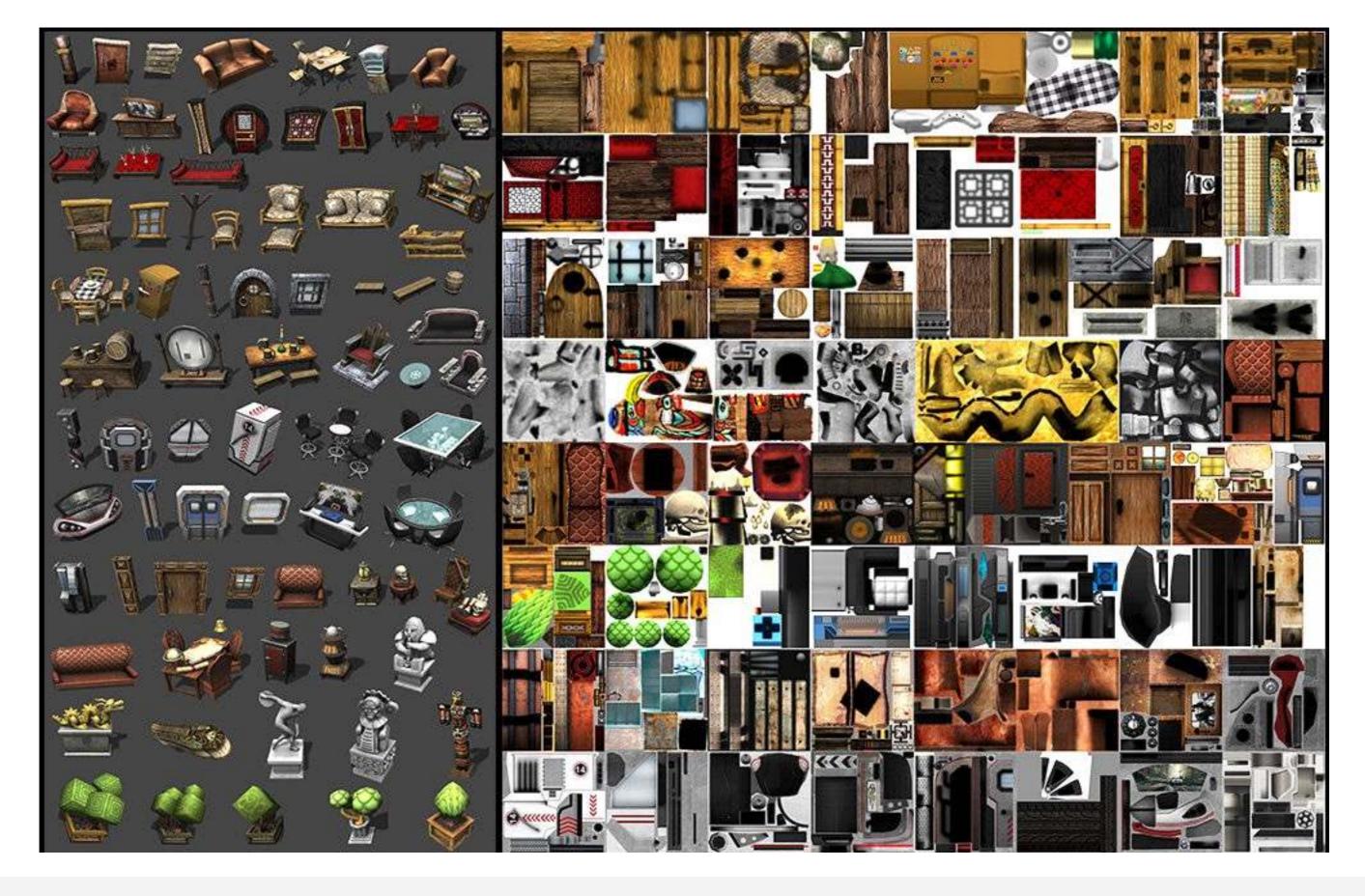
#### Examples









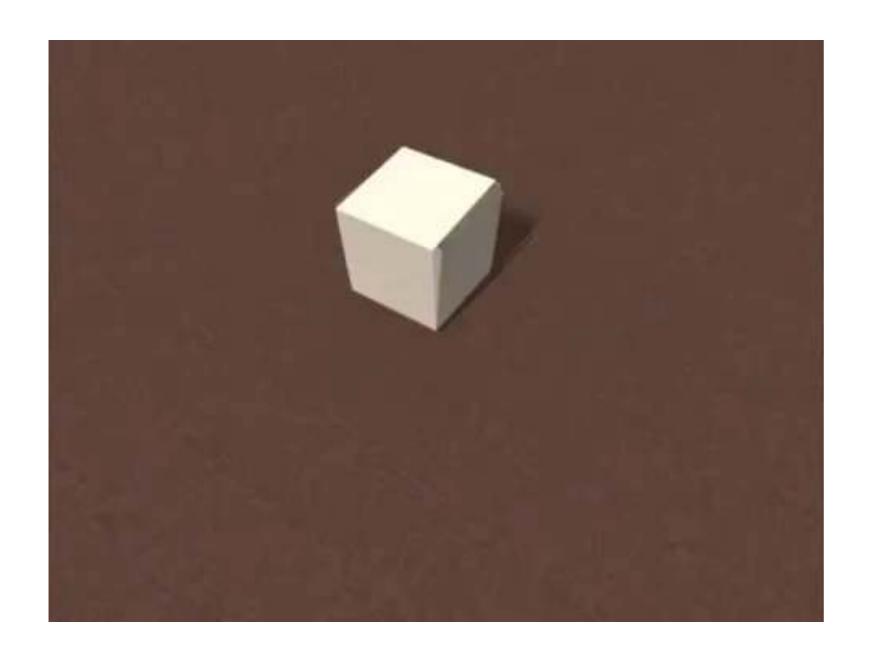


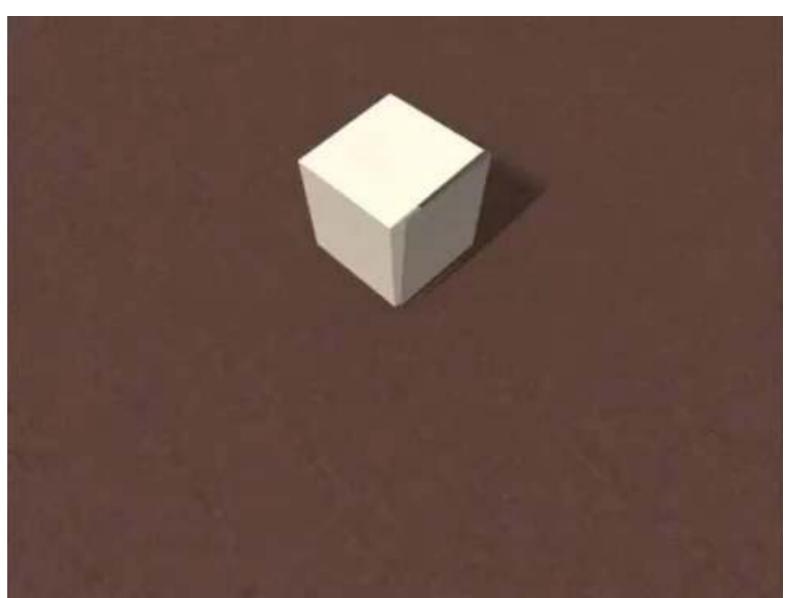


# Digression: A Geometric Brain-Teaser



- A cube can be unfolded into a cross
- Into what other forms can a cube be unfolded, too?

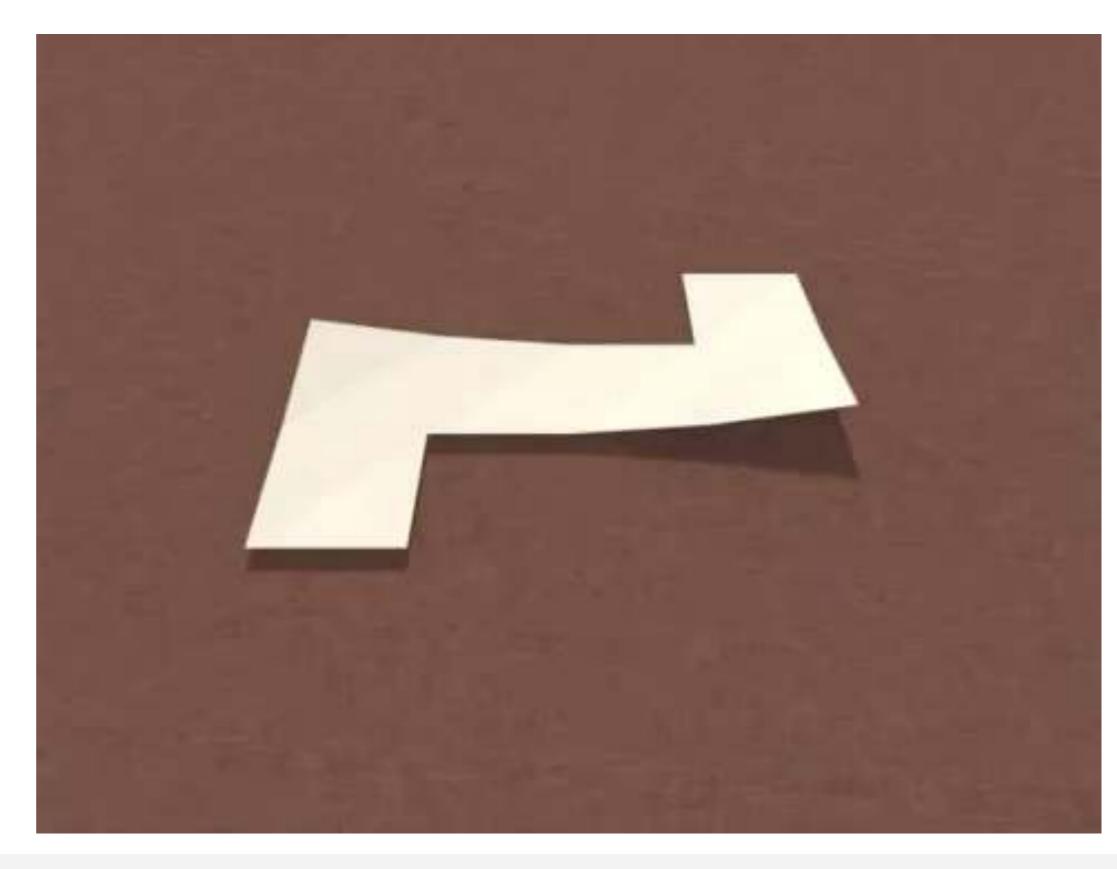








• Side note: the (unfolded) cube can be folded into a parallelogram





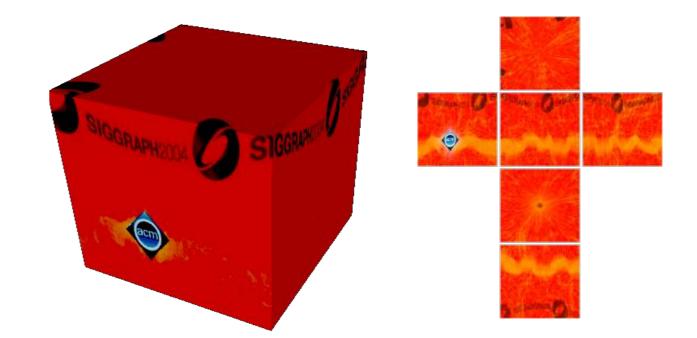
# Cube Maps

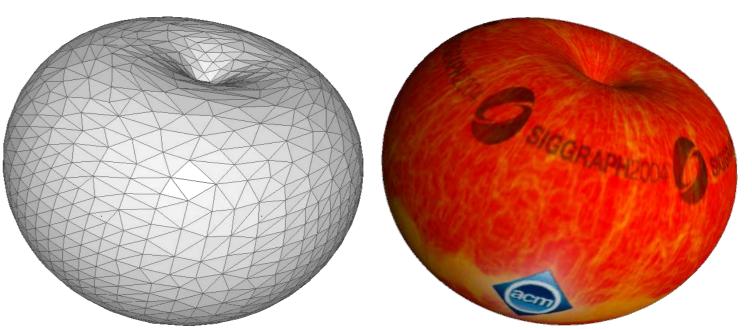


- Parameter domain = surface of unit cube
  - Six quadratic texture bitmaps
  - 3D texture coordinates in (old) OpenGL:

```
glTexCoord3f( s, t, r );
glVertex3f( x, y, z );
```

- Largest component of (s,t,r) determines the cube side = bitmap, intersection point determines (u,v) within the bitmap
- Rasterization of cube maps:
  - 1. Interpolation of (s,t,r) in 3D
  - **2.** Projection onto the cube  $\rightarrow$  (u,v)
  - 3. Texture look-up in 2D
- Pro: relatively uniform, OpenGL support
- Slight con: needs 6 images

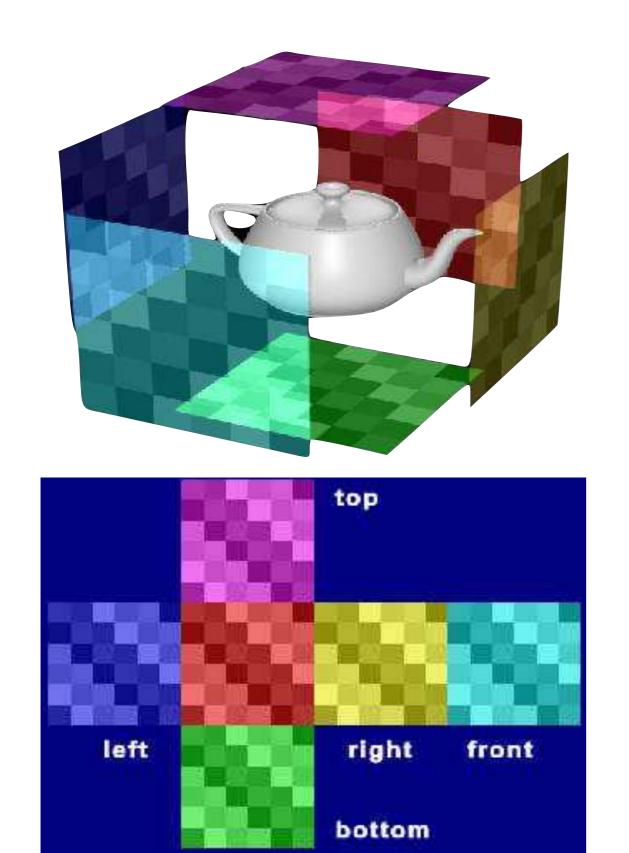


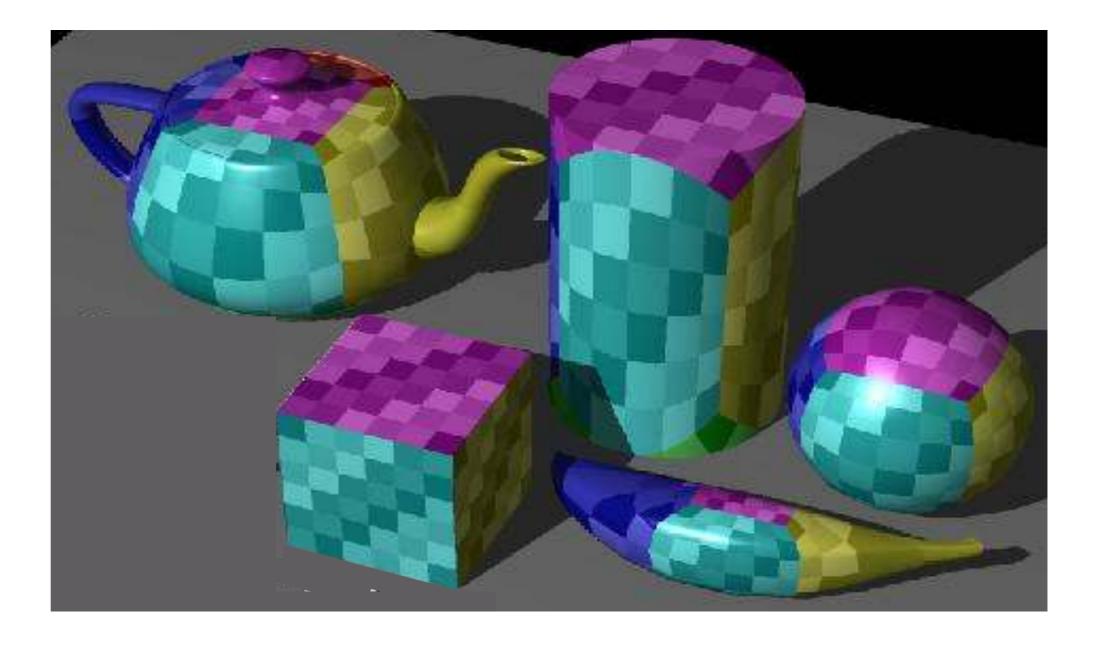




## Examples









#### Cube Maps in OpenGL

#### Just FYI (not relevant for exam)



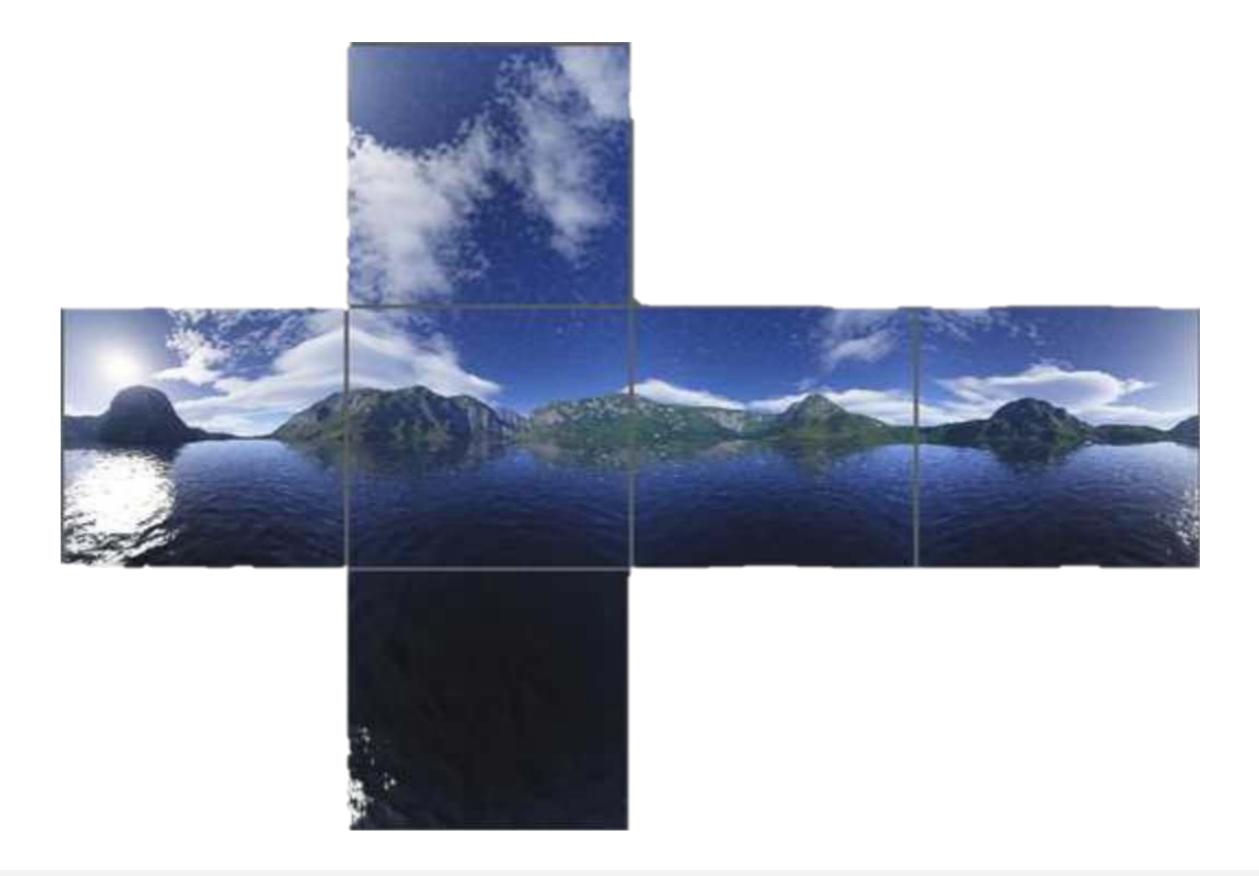
```
glGenTextures( 1, &textureID );
glBindTexture( GL TEXTURE CUBE MAP, textureID );
glTexImage2D( GL TEXTURE_CUBE_MAP_POSITIVE_X, 0, GL_RGBA8, width, height,
              0, GL RGB, GL UNSIGNED BYTE, pixels face0);
... Load the texture of the other cube faces
                                                                 Analog:
glTexParameteri( GL TEXTURE CUBE MAP,
                                                                 GL TEXTURE MAG FILTER,
                 GL TEXTURE WRAP S, GL_CLAMP_TO_EDGE ); 

                                                                 GL TEXTURE WRAP T,
... Set more texture parameters, like filtering
                                                                 etc. ...
glEnable( GL TEXTURE CUBE MAP );
glBindTexture( GL TEXTURE CUBE MAP, textureID );
glBegin(GL ...);
                                                Just like with all other vertex attributes in OpenGL:
glTexCoord3f( s, t, r ); ←
                                                first send all attributes, then the coordinates
glVertex3f( ... );
```



#### Example Cube Map for a Sky Box

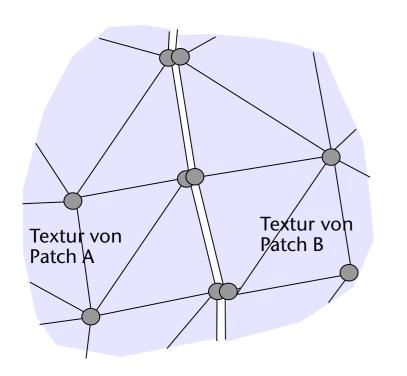


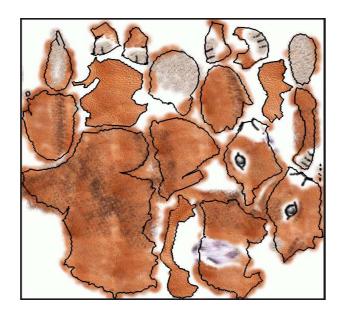




# Texture Atlas vs. Cube Map







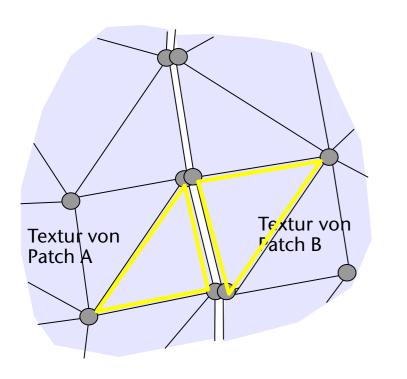


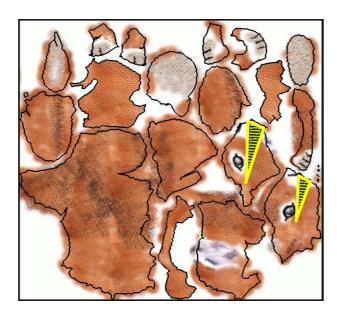




## Texture Atlas vs. Cube Map







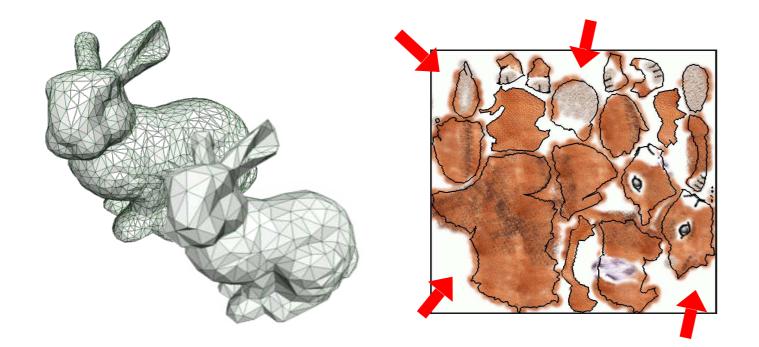


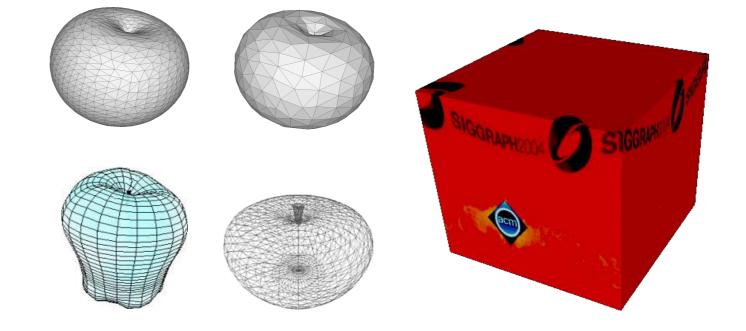
- Must prevent seams manually
  - E.g., by making colors match across seams
- MIP-mapping is difficult

- No seams, automatically
  - Because there are no gaps in the parameter domain
- MIP-mapping is okay









- Must prevent seams manually
- Triangles must lie inside patches
- MIP-mapping is difficult
- Only valid for a specific mesh
- Texels are wasted

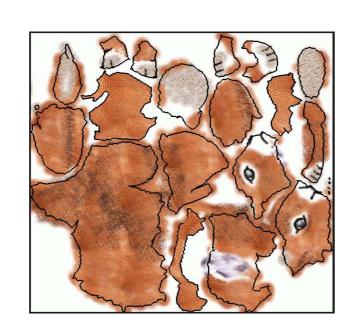
- No seams, automatically
- Triangles can cross multiple patches
- MIP-mapping is okay
- Valid for many meshes
- All texels are used

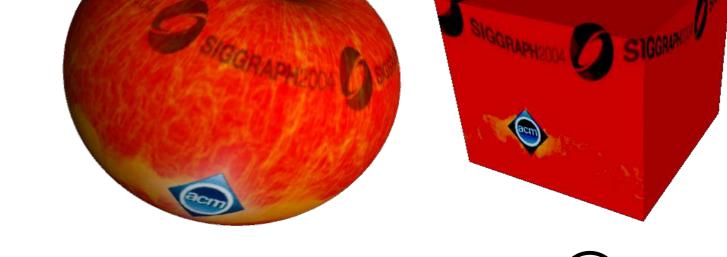
G. Zachmann Computer Graphics 2 SS June 2025 Advanced Texturing 20











- Must prevent seams m/
- Triangles may lie y the patches
- MIP-mapping ult
  Only valid pecific mesh
  Texels sted

- Triangles can lie
  MIP-mappin
  Valid for the lie
  All texels

  - All texel

patches

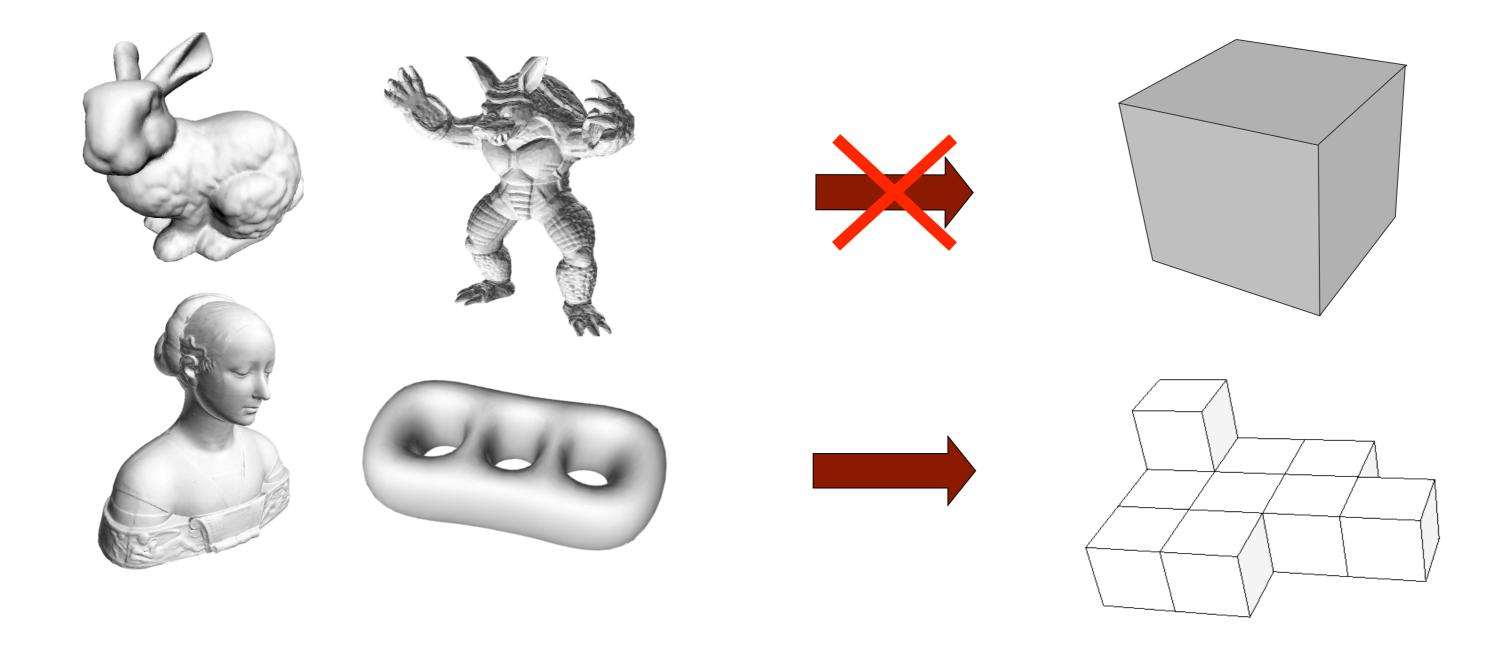
G. Zachmann June 2025 21 Computer Graphics 2 **Advanced Texturing** 



# Polycube Maps



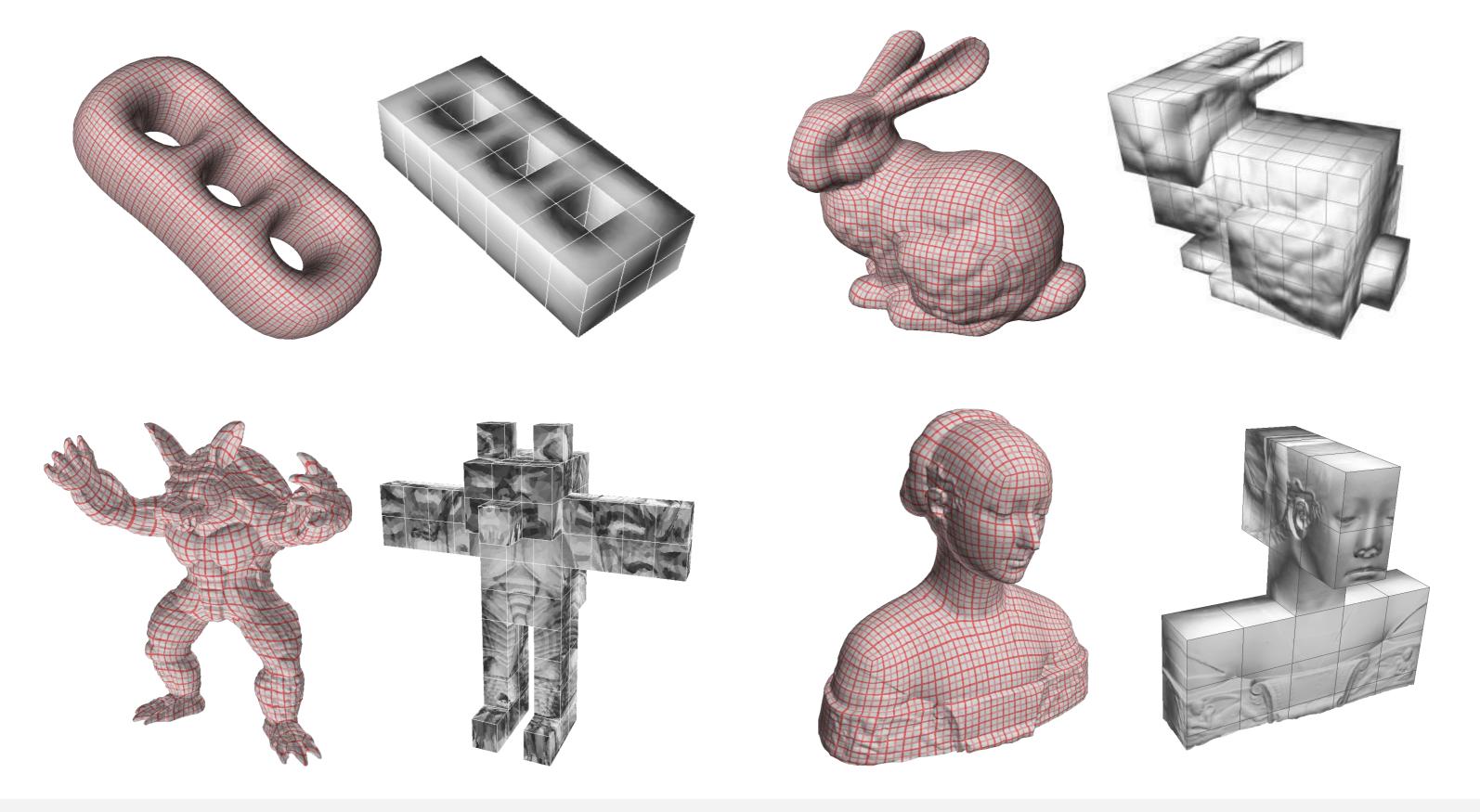
- Use many cube maps instead of a single cube 
   → polycube map
- Adapted to geometry and topology





# Examples





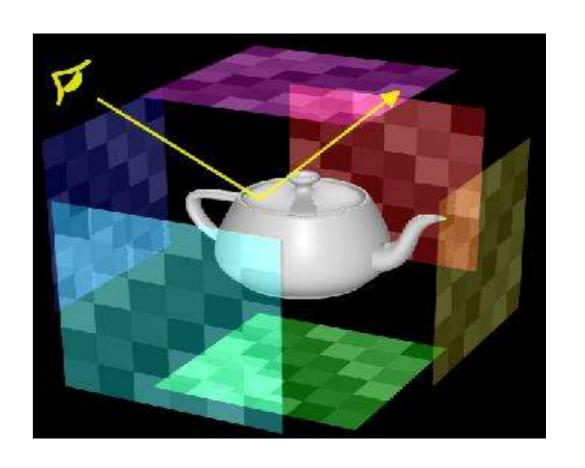


# Environment Mapping



- With very reflective objects, one would like to see the surrounding environment reflected in the object
- Trivial in ray-tracing, but not for polygonal rendering by rasterization
- The idea of environment mapping:
  - "Photograph" the environment in a texture, and store as a cube map (aka. environment map)
  - Use the reflection vector (of the eye ray) as an index into that texture (a.k.a. reflection mapping)

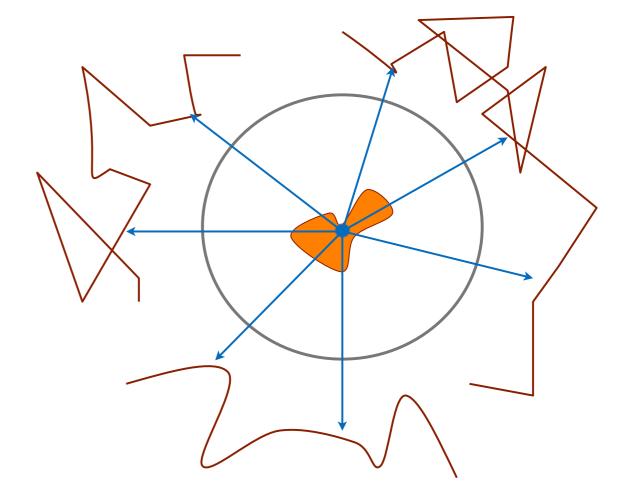








- For every spatial direction, the environment map saves the color of the light that reaches a specific point
- Only correct for one position
- No longer correct if the environment changes





#### Historical Examples of Applications







Lance Williams, Siggraph 1985

Flight of the Navigator (1986)
First feature film to use the technique







Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991, Industrial Light + Magic) Most visible appearance



#### **Environment Mapping Steps**



- Generate or load a 2D texture that depicts the environment
- During rasterization, for every pixel on the reflected object:
  - 1. Calculate the normal **n** and the view vector **v**
  - 2. Calculate a reflection vector **r** from **n** and **v**
  - 3. Calculate texture coordinates (*u*,*v*) from **r**
  - 4. Color the pixel with the texture value (texel)
- The problem: how does one parameterize the space of the reflection vectors?
  - I.e.: how do you map spatial directions (= 3D unit vectors) onto [0,1]x[0,1]?
- Desired characteristics:
  - Uniform sampling (number of texels per solid angle should be "as constant as possible" in all directions)
  - View-independent → only one texture for all viewpoint positions
  - Hardware support (texture coordinates should be easy to generate)



### Cube Environment Mapping



- Just like "normal" cube maps, except use the reflected vector  $\mathbf{r} = (r_x, r_y, r_z) = (s, t, r)$
- This reflected vector r could be automatically calculated by fixed-function
   OpenGL for each vertex (GL\_REFLECTION\_MAP)



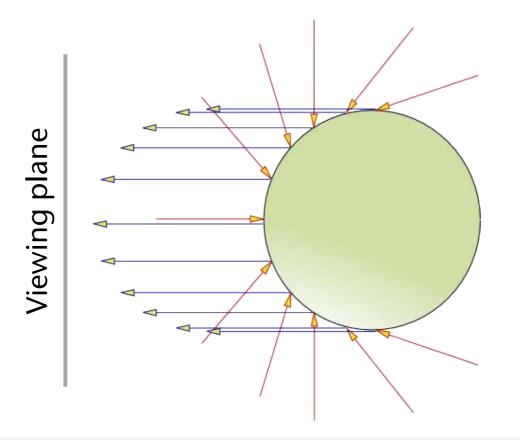




# Older Technique: Spherical Environment Mapping



- Sometimes, a cube map cannot be use, depending on the way the environment map is generated
- Generating the environment map with a sphere:
  - Photography of a reflective sphere; or
  - Ray-tracing of the scene with all primary rays being reflected at a perfectly reflective sphere





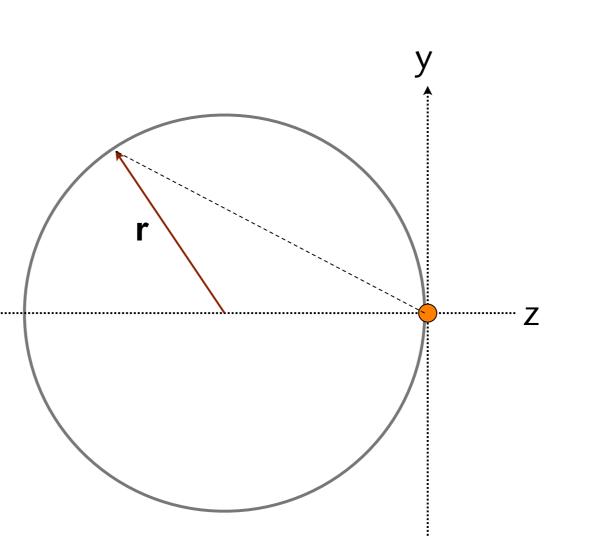




## Mapping of the directional vector $\mathbf{r}$ onto (u,v)



- The sphere map contains (theoretically) a texel for every direction, except  $\mathbf{r} = (0, 0, -1)$
- Mapping:

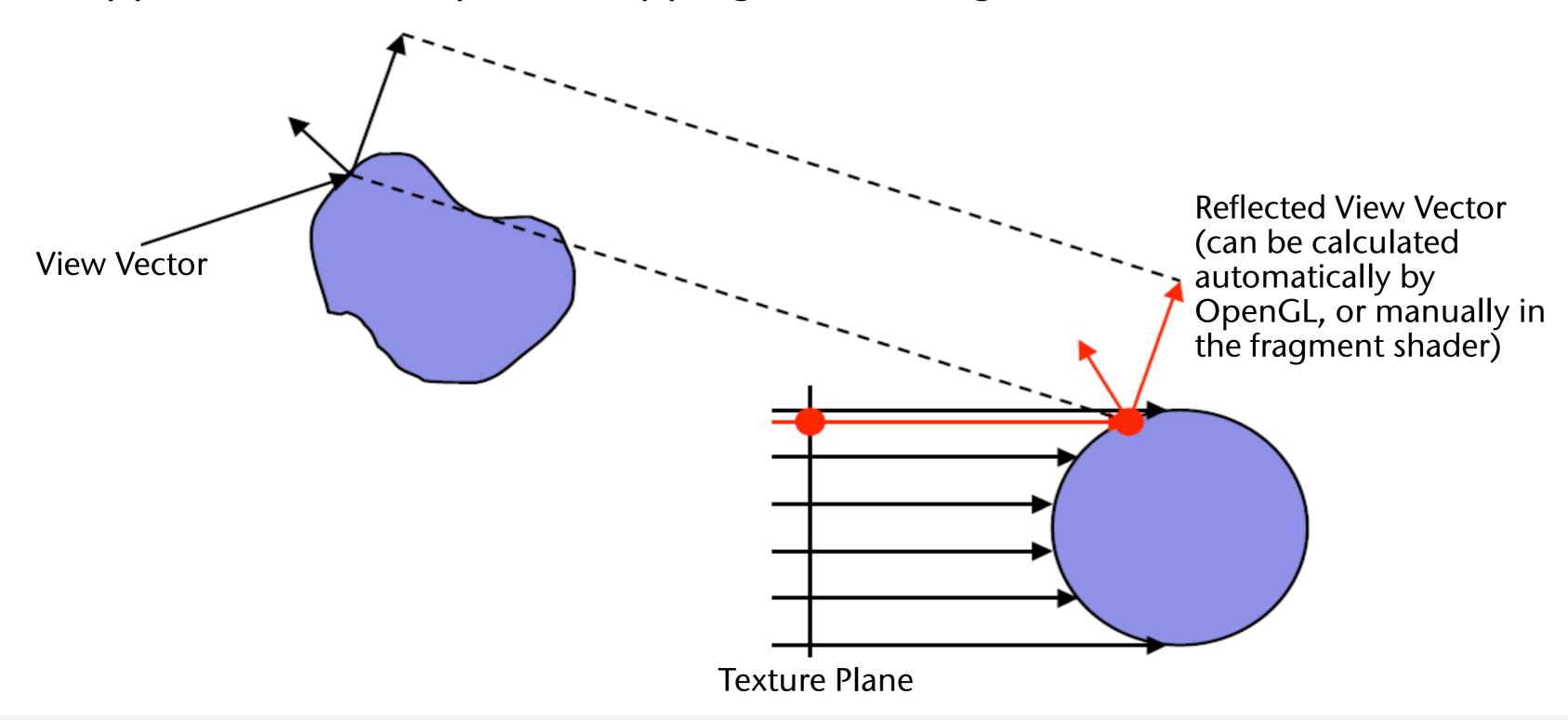




#### FY



Application of the sphere mapping to texturing:

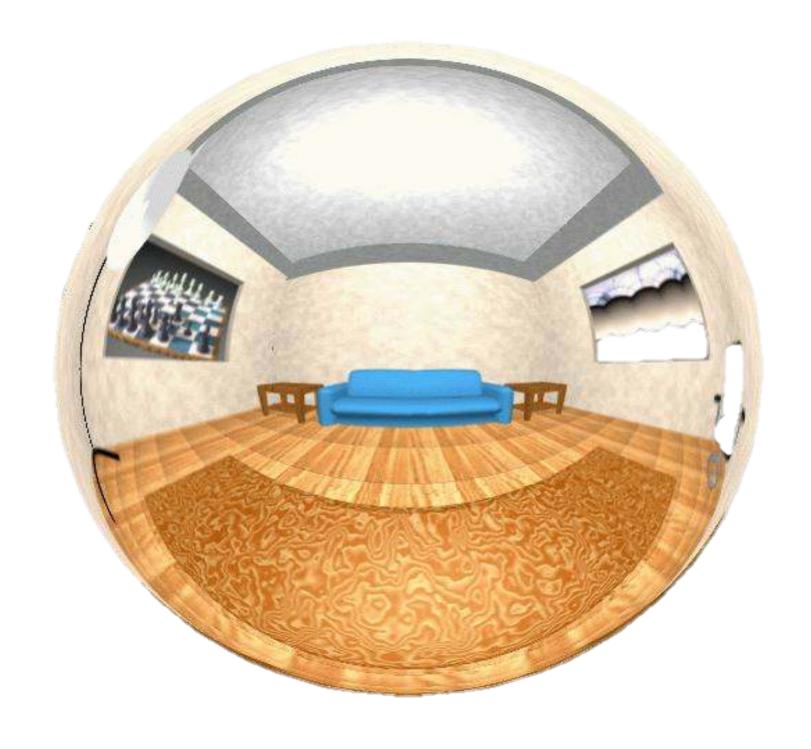




## Simple Example









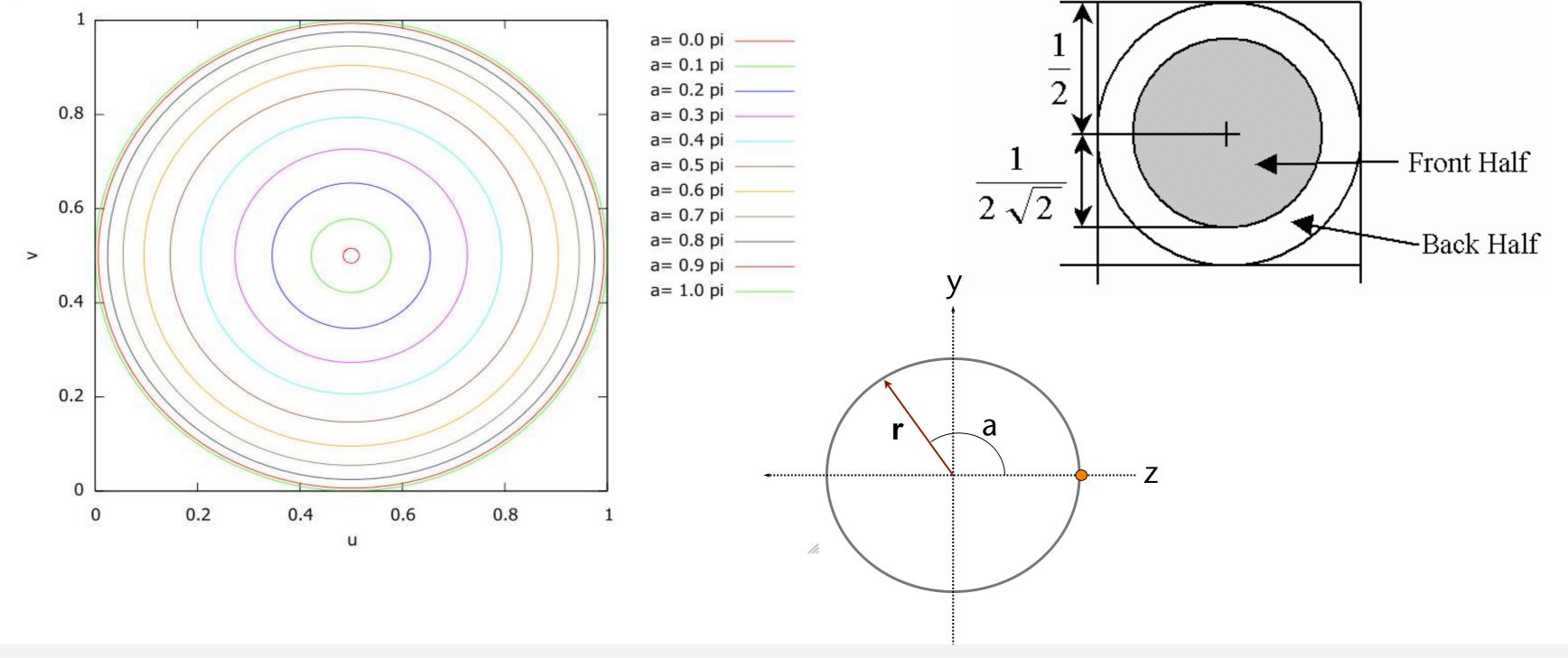


#### Problems





• Unfortunately, the mapping/sampling is not very uniform:





#### FYI



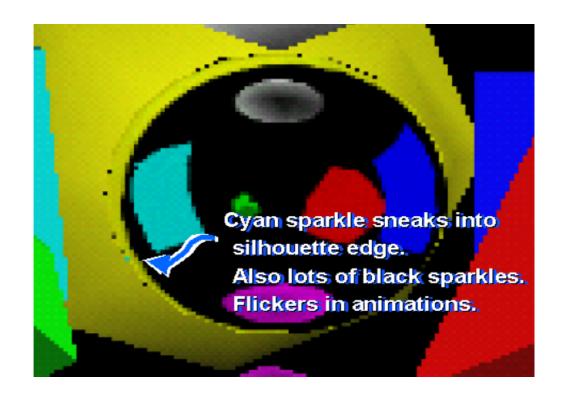
35

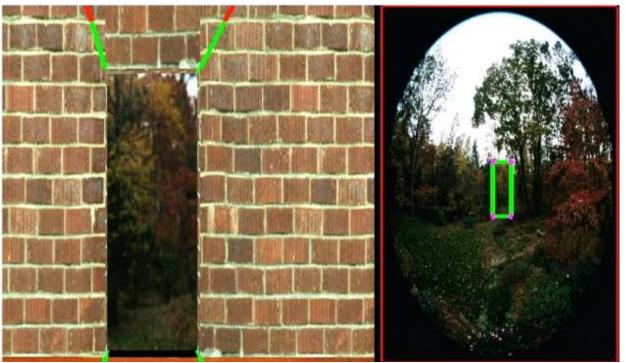
- Speckles if the reflecting vector comes close to the edge of the texture (through aliasing and "wraparound")
- Texture coords are interpolated linearly (by the rasterizer), but the sphere map is non-linear
  - 2D rasterization hardware doesn't know about sphere maps, it just linearly interpolates texture coords

Long polygons can cause serious "bends" in the

texture









#### FY



36

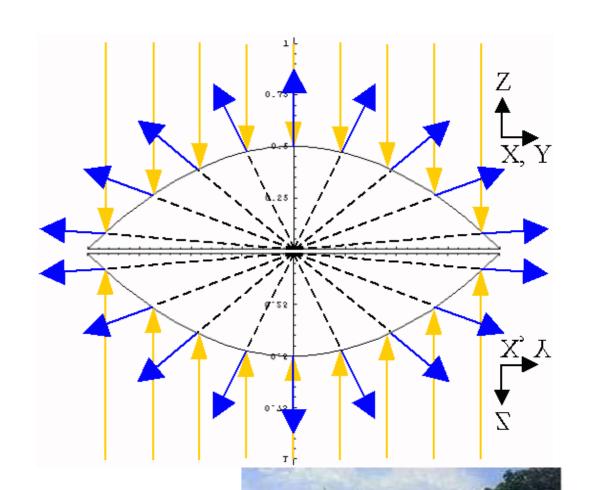
- Other cons:
  - Textures are difficult to generate by program (other than ray-tracing)
  - Viewpoint dependent: the center of the spherical texture map represents the vector that goes directly back to the viewer!
    - Can be made view independent with some OpenGL extensions
- Pros:
  - Easy to generate texture coordinates
  - Supported in OpenGL



# Dual Parabolic Environment Mapping



- Idea:
  - Map the environment onto two textures via a reflective double paraboloid
  - Pros:
    - Relatively uniform sampling
    - View independent
    - Relatively simple computation of texture coordinates
    - Also works in OpenGL
    - Also works in a single rendering pass (just needs multitexturing)
  - Cons:
    - Produces artifacts when interpolating across the edge





# Dynamic Environment Maps



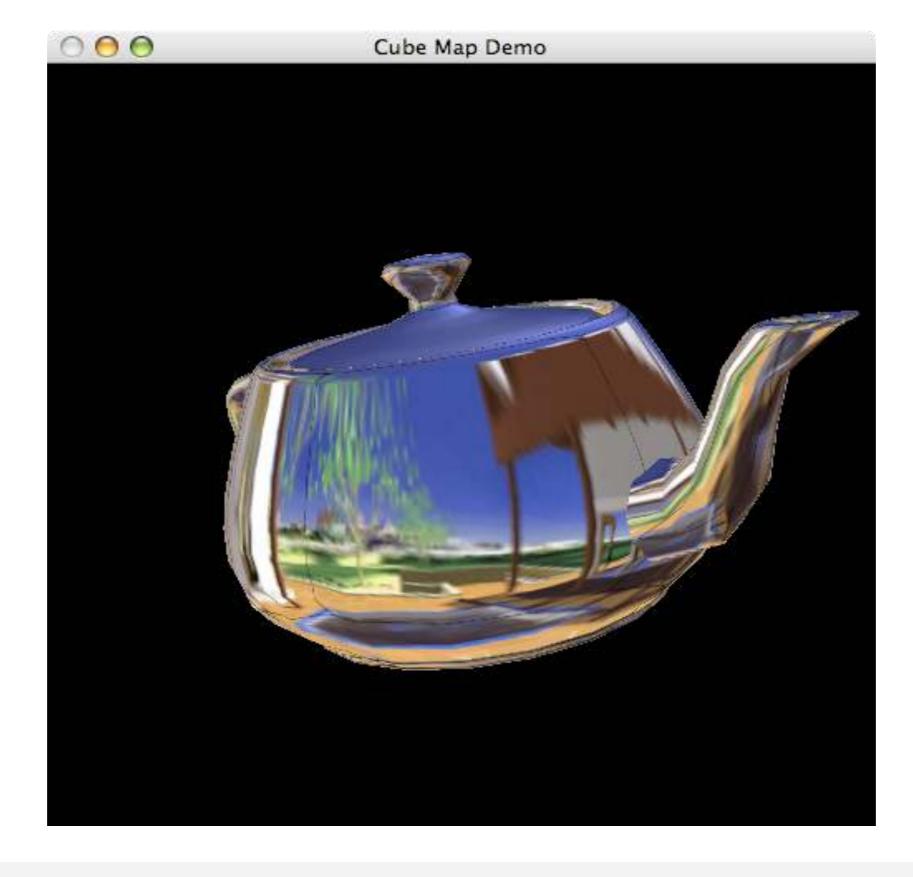
- Until now: environment map was invalid as soon as something in the environmental scene had changed!
- Idea:
  - Render the scene from the "midpoint" outward (typically 6x for a cube map)
  - Transfer framebuffer to texture (using the appropriate mapping)
  - Render the scene again from the viewpoint, this time with environment mapping
- > Multi-pass rendering
- Typically used with cube maps 
   — dynamic cube maps





### Demo with Static Environment







# Only for Your Information - Not Part of the Exam Dynamic Environment Mapping in OpenGL Using Cube Maps



```
GLuint cm size = 512;
                      // texture resolution of each face
GLfloat cm dir[6][3];
                      // direction vectors
float dir[6][3] = {
   1.0, 0.0, 0.0,
                      // right
  -1.0, 0.0, 0.0, // left
   0.0, 0.0, -1.0, // bottom
   0.0, 0.0, 1.0, // top
   0.0, 1.0, 0.0, // back
   0.0, -1.0, 0.0
                      // front
                      // up vectors
GLfloat cm up[6][3] =
\{0.0, -1.0, 0.0,
                      // +x
   0.0, -1.0, 0.0, // -x
   0.0, -1.0, 0.0, // +y
   0.0, -1.0, 0.0,
                    // -y
   0.0, 0.0, 1.0, // +z
   0.0, 0.0, -1.0
                      // -z
                      // viewpoint / center of gravity
GLfloat cm center[3];
GLenum cm face[6] = {
   GL TEXTURE CUBE MAP POSITIVE X,
   GL TEXTURE CUBE MAP NEGATIVE X,
   GL TEXTURE CUBE MAP NEGATIVE Z,
   GL TEXTURE CUBE MAP POSITIVE Z,
   GL TEXTURE CUBE MAP POSITIVE Y,
   GL TEXTURE CUBE MAP NEGATIVE Y
// define cube map's center cm center[] = center of object
// (in which scene has to be reflected)
```



#### Only for Your Information - Not Part of the Exam



```
// set up cube map's view directions in correct order
for ( uint i = 0, i < 6; i + )
  for ( uint j = 0, j < 3; j + )
   cm dir[i][j] = cm center[j] + dir[i][j];
// render the 6 perspective views (first 6 render passes)
for (unsigned int i = 0; i < 6; i ++)
  glClear( GL COLOR BUFFER BIT | GL DEPTH BUFFER BIT );
  glViewport( 0, 0, cm size, cm size );
  glMatrixMode( GL PROJECTION );
  glLoadIdentity();
  gluPerspective( 90.0, 1.0, 0.1, ...);
  glMatrixMode( GL MODELVIEW );
  glLoadIdentity();
  gluLookAt( cm center[0], cm center[1], cm center[2],
             cm dir[i][0], cm dir[i][1], cm dir[i][2],
             cm up[i][0], cm up[i][1], cm_up[i][2]);
  // render scene that should appear later as reflection
  // read-back into corresponding texture map
  glCopyTexImage2D( cm face[i], 0, GL RGB, 0, 0, cm size, cm size, 0 );
```



#### Only for Your Information - Not Part of the Exam



```
// cube map texture parameters init
glTexEnvf( GL TEXTURE ENV, GL TEXTURE ENV MODE, GL MODULATE);
glTexParameteri( GL TEXTURE CUBE MAP, GL TEXTURE WRAP S, GL CLAMP );
glTexParameteri ( GL TEXTURE CUBE MAP, GL TEXTURE WRAP T, GL CLAMP );
glTexParameterf( GL TEXTURE CUBE MAP, GL TEXTURE MAG FILTER, GL LINEAR );
                                                                                 Berechnet den
glTexParameterf (GL TEXTURE CUBE MAP, GL TEXTURE MIN FILTER, GL NEAREST);
                                                                                 Reflection Vector
glTexGeni(GLS, GL TEXTURE GEN MODE, GL REFLECTION MAP);
                                                                                 in Eye-Koord.
glTexGeni(GL T, GL TEXTURE GEN MODE, GL REFLECTION MAP);
glTexGeni( GL R, GL TEXTURE GEN MODE, GL REFLECTION MAP );
// enable texture mapping and automatic texture coordinate generation
glEnable( GL TEXTURE GEN S );
glEnable( GL TEXTURE GEN T );
glEnable( GL TEXTURE GEN R );
glEnable( GL TEXTURE CUBE MAP );
// render reflective object in 7th pass
. . .
// disable texture mapping and automatic texture coordinate generation
glDisable( GL TEXTURE CUBE MAP );
glDisable( GL TEXTURE GEN S );
glDisable( GL TEXTURE GEN T );
glDisable( GL TEXTURE GEN R );
```



### For Further Reading (On the course's homepage)



- "OpenGL Cube Map Texturing" (Nvidia, 1999)
  - With example code
  - Here several details are explained (e.g. the orientation)
- "Lighting and Shading Techniques for Interactive Applications" (Tom McReynolds & David Blythe, Siggraph 1999);
- SIGGRAPH '99 Course: "Advanced Graphics Programming Techniques Using OpenGL" (is part of the above document)



# An Optical Illusion

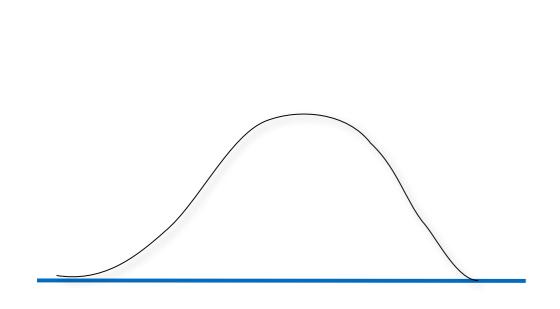


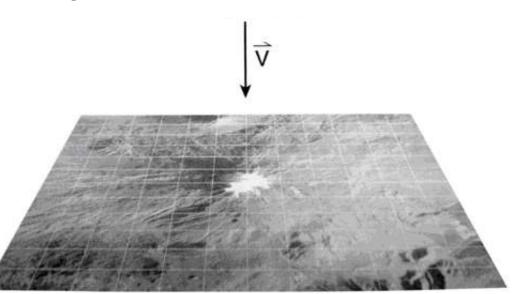


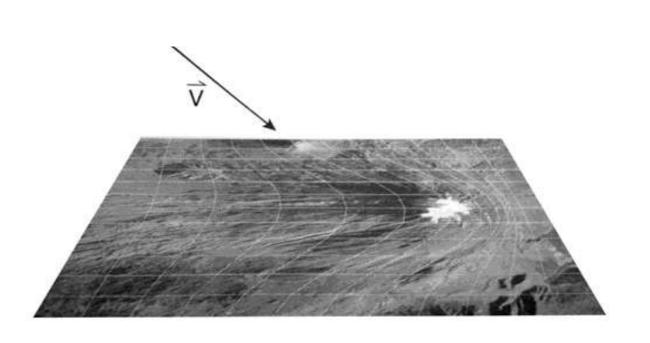


## Parallax Mapping

- Motion parallax: near/distant objects shift differently relative to one another
- Problem with bump/normal mapping:
  - Given: coarse 3D geometry + 2D texture + detailed height map
  - Only the lighting is affected the image of the texture on the surface remains unchanged, regardless of the viewing direction
- Example of effect of motion parallax:



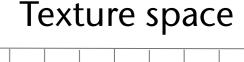


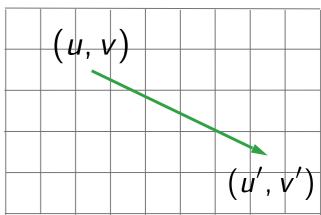




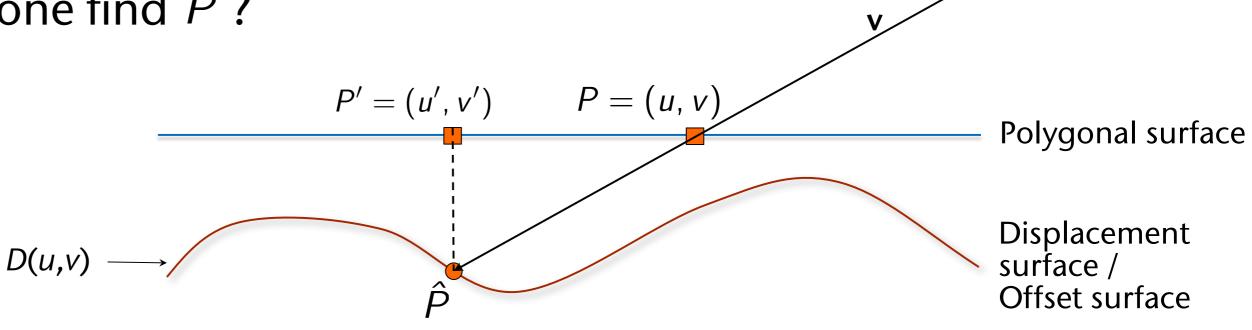


- Goal: "fake" motion parallax of a detailed offset surface, although we only render a coarse polygonal geometry
- The general task in parallax mapping:
  - Assume that scan line conversion is at pixel P
  - Determine point  $\hat{P}$  that would be seen along  $\mathbf{v}$
  - Project  $\hat{P}$  onto polygonal surface  $\rightarrow P'$
  - Read texel at (u', v') and write it into P
- Problem: how does one find  $\hat{P}$ ?





Eye vector



G. Zachmann Computer Graphics 2 SS June 2025 Advanced Texturing 46



### Simplest Idea



- We know the height D = D(u,v) at point P = P(u,v)
- Use this as an approximation of D(u',v') in point P'=P'(u',v')

• 
$$\frac{D}{d} = \tan \theta = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} = \frac{\cos \phi}{\sin \phi} = \frac{|\mathbf{n}\mathbf{v}|}{|\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{v}|}$$



### Improvement



- Let  $\bar{P} = (u, v, D)$  with D = D(u, v)
- Approximate the heightmap in  $\bar{P}$  by a tangent plane (similar to bump mapping)
- Calculate  $\hat{P}$  = point of intersection between that plane and the view vector:

$$\hat{\mathbf{n}} \left( \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + t\mathbf{v} - \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ D \end{pmatrix} \right) = 0 \qquad \qquad (u', v') \qquad (u, v) \qquad \text{polygon}$$

- Solve for *t*
- Then compute  $\begin{pmatrix} u' \\ v' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} + t\mathbf{v}'$ , with  $\mathbf{v}' = (v_x, v_y, 0)$  (i.e., proj. in pgon's plane)
- Additional ideas: iterate; approximate heightmap with higher order

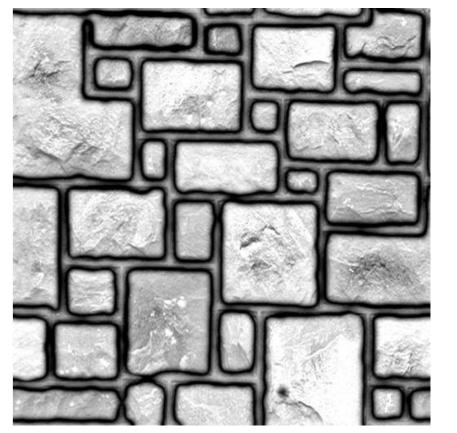




- Storage:
  - Put the image in the RGB channels of the texture
  - Put the height map in the alpha channel
- Process at rendering time:
  - Compute P' (see previous slide)
  - Calculate (u',v') of P' and lookup texel
  - Perturb normal by bump mapping (see CG1)
    - Note: today one can calculate directional derivatives for  $D_u$  and  $D_v$  "on the fly" (needed in bump mapping)
  - Evaluate lighting model with texel color and perturbed normal



RGB



A

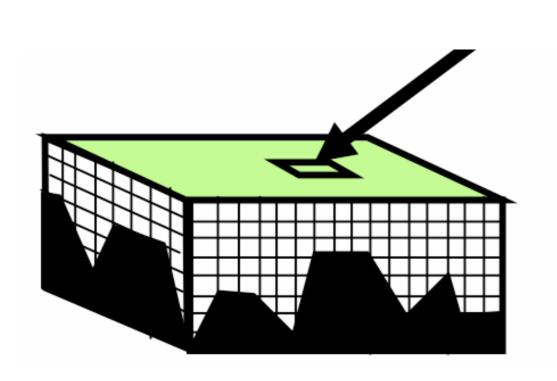
G. Zachmann Computer Graphics 2 SS June 2025 Advanced Texturing 49

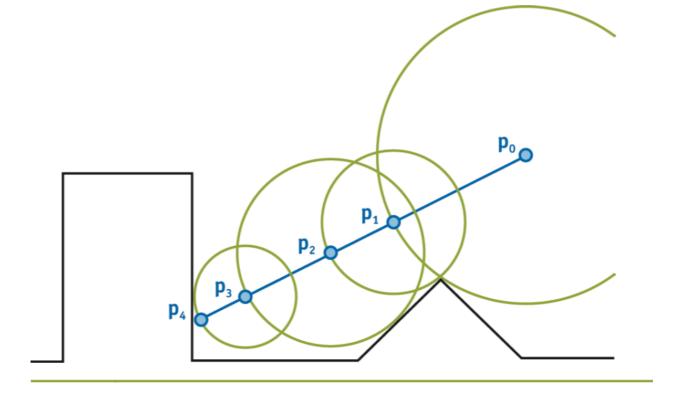


#### Alternative



- Do sphere tracing along the view vector, until you hit the offset surface
  - If the heightmap contains heights that are not too large, it is sufficient to begin relatively close underneath/above the plane of reference
  - If the angle of the view vector is not too acute, then a few steps are sufficient
- For a number of voxel layers underneath the plane of reference, save the smallest distance to the offset surface for every cell







## Example: Parallax Mapping vs Simple Texture Mapping



Left cube: Phong lighting



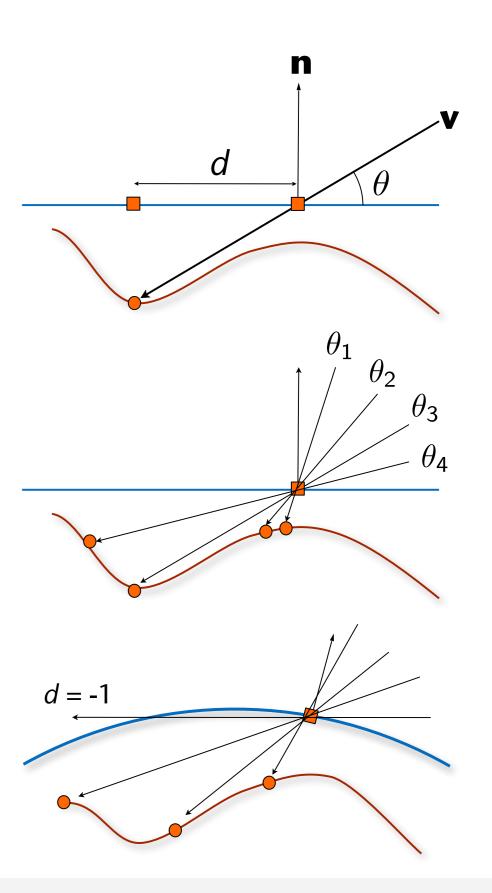
Right cube: Phong lighting, with normal and parallax mapping



# View-Dependent Displacement Mapping (VDM)



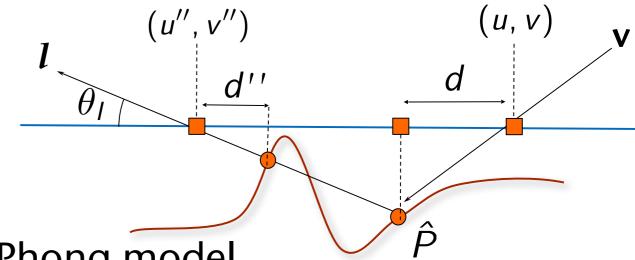
- Idea: precompute all possible texture coordinate displacements for all possible situations
- In practice:
  - Parameterize the viewing vector by  $(\theta, \phi)$  in the local coordinate system of the polygon
  - Precompute the texture displacement for all (u,v) and all possible  $(\theta,\phi)$ 
    - E.g., by ray-casting of an explicit, temporarily generated mesh of the offset surface
  - Carry out the whole procedure for a set of *possible* curvatures *c* of the base surface
- Results in a 5-dim. "texture" (LUT):  $d(u, v, \theta, \phi, c)$







- Advantage: results in a correct silhouette
  - Reason:  $d(u, v, \theta, \phi, c) = -1$  for many parameters near the silhouette
  - These are the pixels that lie outside of the (true) silhouette!
- Further enhancement: self shadowing
  - Idea is similar to ray tracing: use "shadow rays"
- 1. Determine  $\hat{P}$  from D and  $\theta$ ,  $\phi$  (just like before)  $\rightarrow$  (u,v) displacement d
- **2.** Determine vector  $\boldsymbol{l}$  from  $\hat{P}$  to the light source and calc  $\theta_l$ ,  $\phi_l$  from that
- 3. Determine P'' = (u'', v'') from  $\hat{P}$  and  $\theta_l$  and  $\phi_l$
- **4.** Make lookup in our "texture"  $D \rightarrow d''$
- 5.Test:  $d'' + d < \|(u'', v'') (u, v)\|$ 
  - $\rightarrow$  pixel (u,v) is in shadow, i.e., don't add light source in Phong model





### Result





#### Names:

- Steep parallax mapping, parallax occlusion mapping, horizon mapping, view-dependent displacement mapping, ...
- There are still many other variants ...
- "Name ist Schall und Rauch!" ("A name is but noise and smoke!")



#### More Results





Bump mapping



Standard VDM



VDM with self-shadowing



### All Examples Were Rendered with VDM



