Radiometry I: Illumination

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Administrivia

- Extra copies of Irt book
- Bug fix for assignment I polynomial.h file

Onward To The Physical Description of Light

- Four key quantities
 - Power
 - Radiant intensity
 - Irradiance
 - Radiance
- Radiometry and photometry

Radiometry

- The measurement of electromagnetic radiation
 - Radiation: propagation of energy through space
 - We will ignore polarization, quantum mechanics
- Frequency distribution of radiation gives color



Spectral Distribution of Energy

- Radiometric quantities are usually wavelength-dependent
 - (Usually not included in equations, for simplicity)

$$Q_{\lambda} = dQ/d\lambda$$

Blackbody Radiator



FIGURE 21F

Blackbody radiation curves plotted to scale. Ordinates give the energy in calories per square centimeter per second in a wavelength interval $d\lambda$ of 1 Å. For numerical values, see "Smithsonian Physical Tables," 8th ed., p. 314.

Most energy outside of the visible range

Sunlight



Fig. 1(1.2.1). NASA standard data of spectral irradiance $(W \cdot m^{-2} \cdot \mu m^{-1})$ for the solar disk measured outside the atmosphere (solid dots) and at the earth's surface at air mass 2 (open circles). Data points are those given in Table 1(1.2.1). Neighboring data points have been connected by straight lines for illustrative purposes only.

Fluorescent Light



Spikes make accurate representation difficult

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Lemon Skin



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Spectral Representations

- Arbitrarily complex spectral distributions represented with basis functions
- Classic efficiency vs accuracy trade-off
 - Polynomials, Gaussians, delta functions, step functions, ...
 - RGB is a poor / ill-defined choice!

Radiant Energy and Power

- Energy (Q)
 - Joules
 - Time usually not important in graphics
 - (Film exposure, sunburn)
- Power (Φ)
 - Watts
 - Energy per unit time $\Phi = dQ/dt$
 - Spectrum gives wavelength distribution of power

$$\Phi_{\lambda} = d\Phi/d\lambda$$

Light Sources

- Spectral emission distribution
- Angular emission distribution
- Spatial emission distribution

Intensity

$$I = d\Phi/d\omega \quad \text{Watts/steradian}$$

$$\Phi = \int_{\Omega} I(\omega)d\omega$$
Isotropic point source:
$$\Phi = 4\pi I$$

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Measuring Angles

- Plane angle (radians)
 - Length of arc subtended by object divided by radius $\theta = s/r$
- Solid angle (steredians)
 - Area of sphere subtended by object divided by radius squared
 - Examples...



Differential Solid Angles



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Goniometric Diagrams



Irradiance

- How much light is arriving at a point on a surface?
 - Power per unit area

$$E = d\Phi/dA$$
$$\Phi = \int_{A} E(x)dA$$

Lambert's Cosine Law

Incident irradiance varies according to the cosine of the incident angle

$E = E_0 \cos \theta$





Inverse Square Falloff Law

- Irradiance decreases with square of the distance from a point source
- Look at projected solid angles...

Radiance

- Area and solid angle density of flux
 - Think area lights, not point lights: intensity per unit area, or irradiance per unit angle
- Unlike irradiance, flux, includes directional distribution

$$L = \frac{d\Phi}{d\omega dA\cos\theta}$$

Key Properties of Radiance

- Invariant along rays
 - Carry radiance along rays in ray-tracer
- Response of sensor is proportional to incident radiance
 - Image is a 2D set of rays
- Fundamental quantity that characterizes light in environment
 - Other quantities can be derived from it

Exercises

- Total flux from Lambertian disk source?
- Total flux from cone spotlight
- Total flux from disk with cone angular distribution
- Irradiance from disk directly above surface

Photometry

- Quantities in terms of effect on standard human observer (photopic conditions)
- Luminous efficiency curve



Photometry vs Radiometry

- Radiometry: physical measurement of electromagnetic energy
- Photometry: perceptually-based measurement
- But we don't want to waste our time on radiation outside the visible range
 - So judiciously apply photometric computations to help prioritize...

Photometric vs. Radiometric Quantities

- Luminous flux / radiant flux
- Luminous intensity / radiant intensity
- Illuminance / irradiance
- Luminance / radiance