

# Radiosity

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COS 526, Fall 2016

# Radiosity

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© 1988 Program of Computer Graphics  
Cornell University



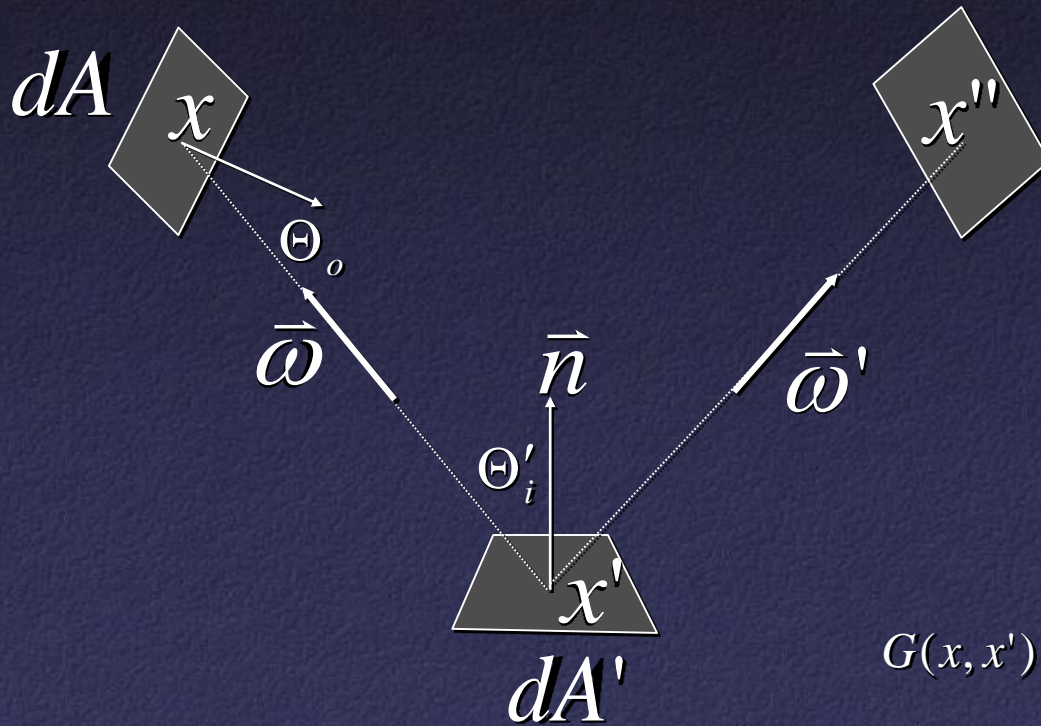
# Overview

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- Radiosity equation
- Solution methods
  - Computing form factors
  - Selecting basis functions for radiosities
  - Solving linear system of equations
  - Meshing surfaces into elements
  - Rendering images

# Rendering Equation

$$L(x' \rightarrow x'') = L_e(x' \rightarrow x'') + \int_S f_r(x \rightarrow x' \rightarrow x'') L(x \rightarrow x') V(x, x') G(x, x') dA$$



$$G(x, x') = \frac{\cos \Theta'_i \cos \Theta_o}{\|x - x'\|^2}$$



# Radiosity Equation

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$$L(x' \rightarrow x'') = L_e(x' \rightarrow x'') + \int_S f_r(x \rightarrow x' \rightarrow x'') L(x \rightarrow x') V(x, x') G(x, x') dA$$

Assume everything  
is Lambertian

$$f_r(x \rightarrow x' \rightarrow x'') = \rho(x') / \pi$$

$$L(x') = L_e(x') + \frac{\rho(x')}{\pi} \int_S L(x) V(x, x') G(x, x') dA$$

Convert to  
Radiosities

$$B = \int_{\Omega} L_o \cos \theta d\omega$$

$$B = \pi L$$

$$B(x') = B_e(x') + \rho(x') \int_S B(x) V(x, x') G(x, x') dA$$

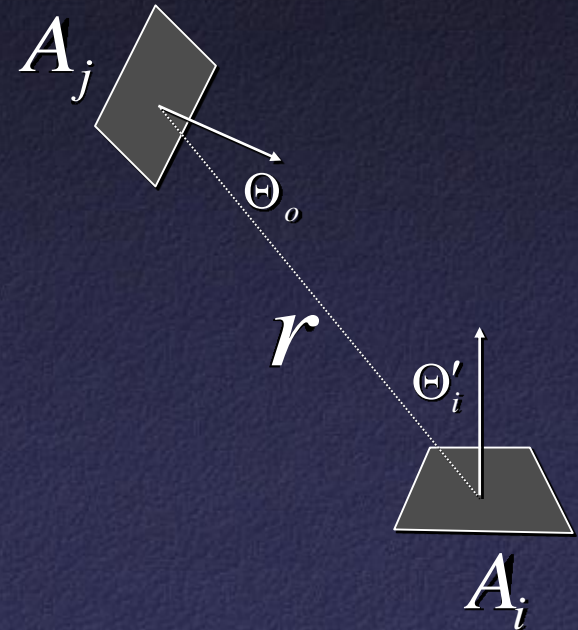
# Radiosity Approximation

$$B(x') = B_e(x') + \rho(x') \int_S B(x) V(x, x') G(x, x') dA$$

Discretize surfaces  
into elements

$$B_i = E_i + \rho_i \sum_{j=1}^N B_j F_{ij}$$

where 
$$F_{ij} = \frac{1}{A_i} \int_{A_i} \int_{A_j} \frac{V_{ij} \cos \Theta'_i \cos \Theta_o}{\pi r^2} dA_j dA_i$$





# System of Equations

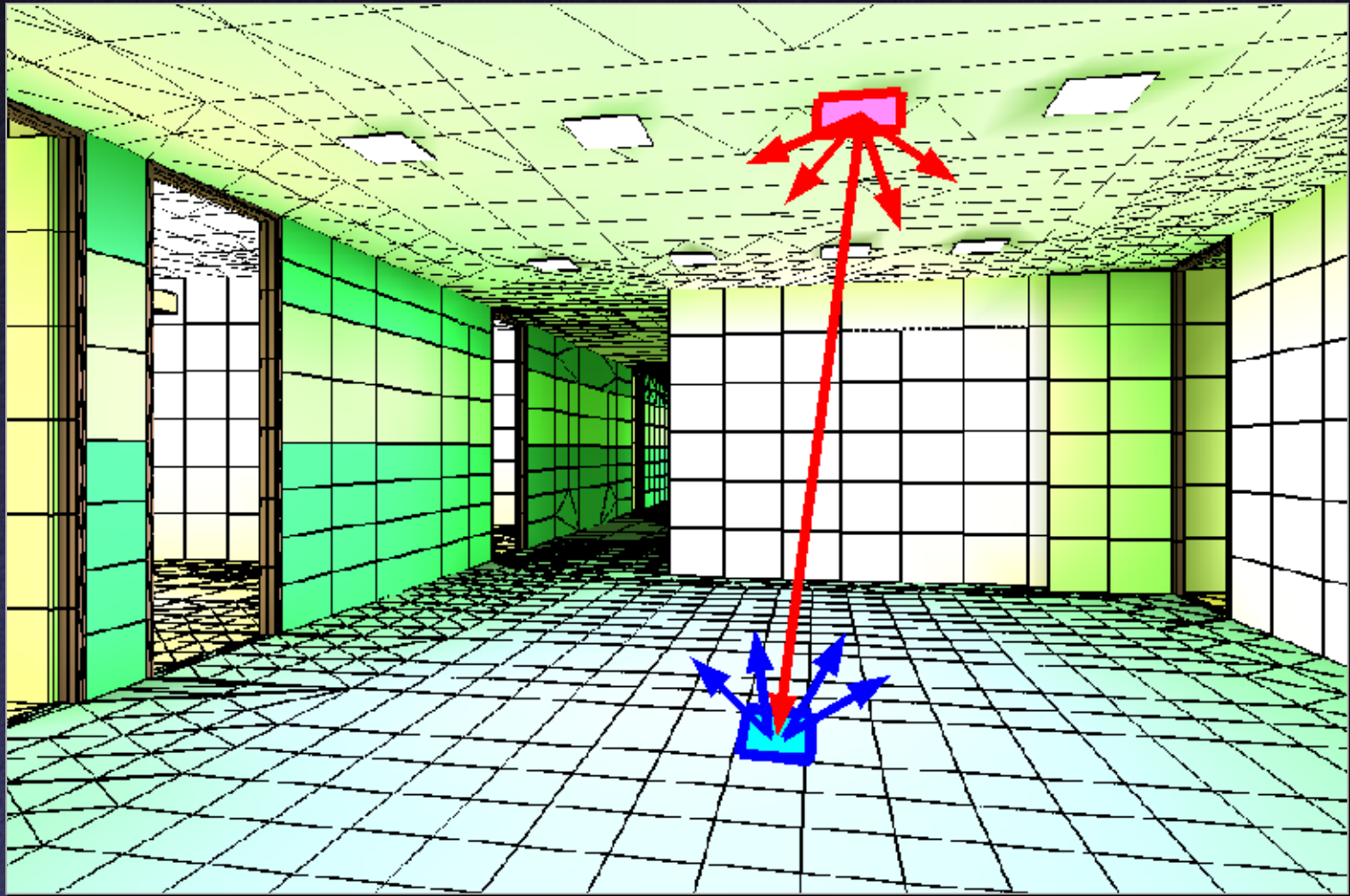
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$$B_i = E_i + \rho_i \sum_{j=1}^N B_j F_{ij}$$

$$B_i - \rho_i \sum_{j=1}^N B_j F_{ij} = E_i$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 - \rho_1 F_{1,1} & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & -\rho_1 F_{1,n} \\ -\rho_2 F_{2,1} & 1 - \rho_2 F_{2,2} & \cdot & \cdot & -\rho_2 F_{2,n} \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ -\rho_{n-1} F_{n-1,1} & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & -\rho_{n-1} F_{n-1,n} \\ -\rho_n F_{n,1} & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 1 - \rho_n F_{n,n} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} B_1 \\ B_2 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ B_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} E_1 \\ E_2 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ E_n \end{bmatrix}$$

# Intuition





# Overview

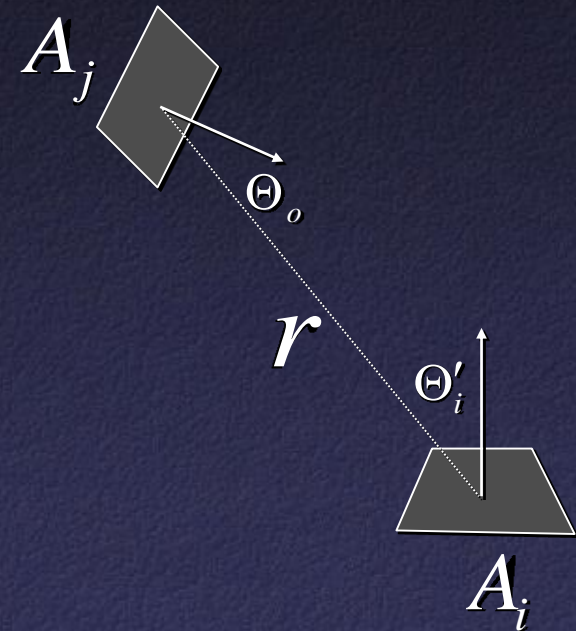
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# Form Factor

- Fraction of energy leaving element  $i$  that arrives at element  $j$

$$F_{ij} = \frac{1}{A_i} \int_{A_i} \int_{A_j} \frac{V_{ij} \cos \Theta'_i \cos \Theta_o}{\pi r^2} dA_j dA_i$$





# Form Factor Intuition

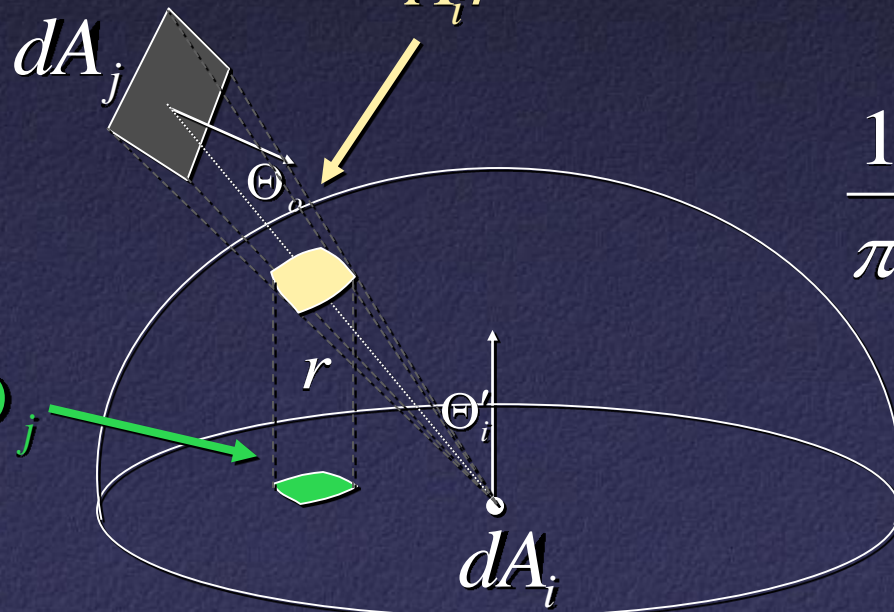
$$F_{di-dj} = \frac{1}{A_i} \frac{V_{ij} \cos \Theta_i \cos \Theta_j}{\pi r^2}$$

$\frac{\cos \Theta_i}{A_i r^2}$  Projection to hemisphere

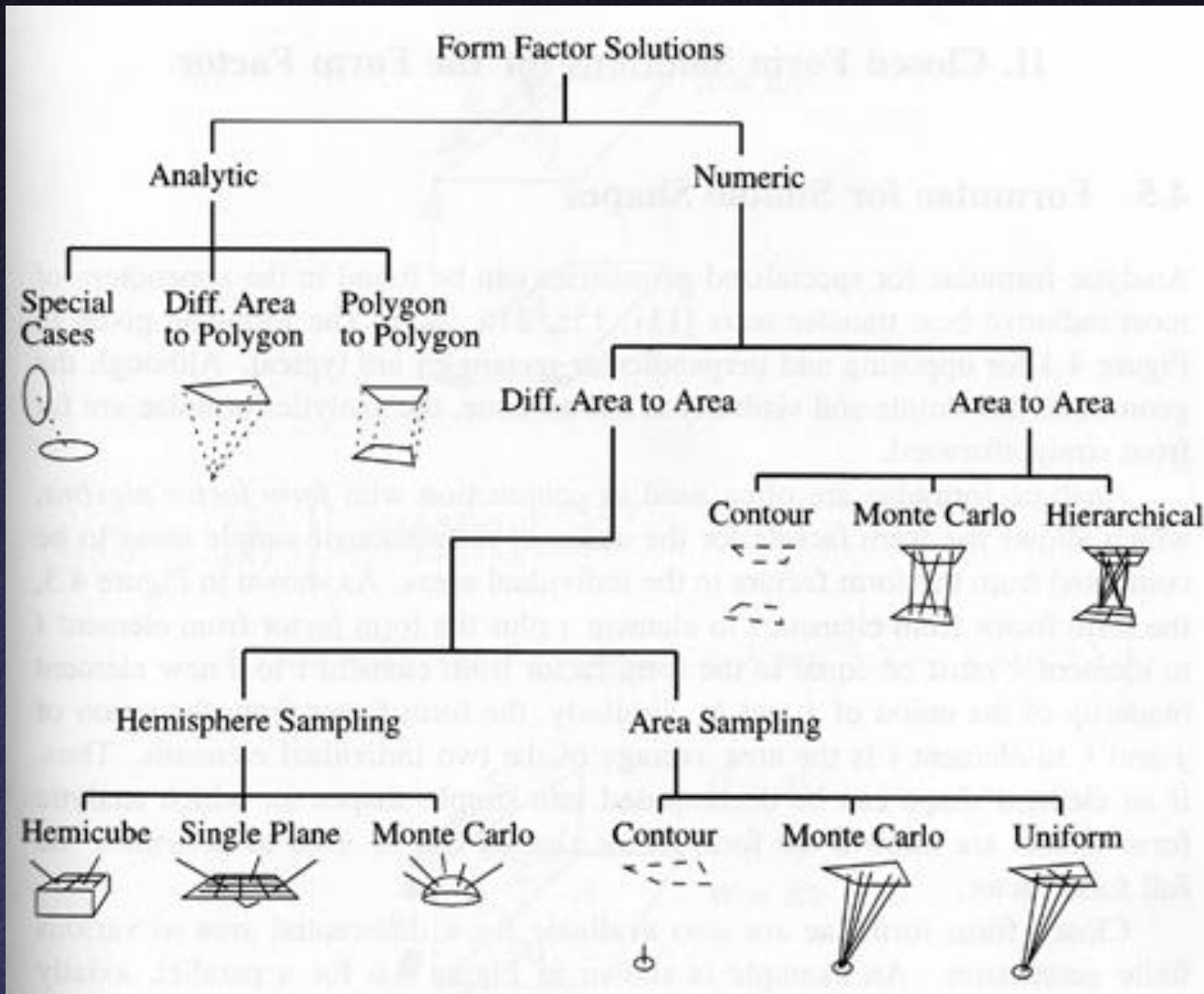
$\frac{1}{\pi}$  Divide by area of disk

Projection to disk

$\cos \Theta_j$

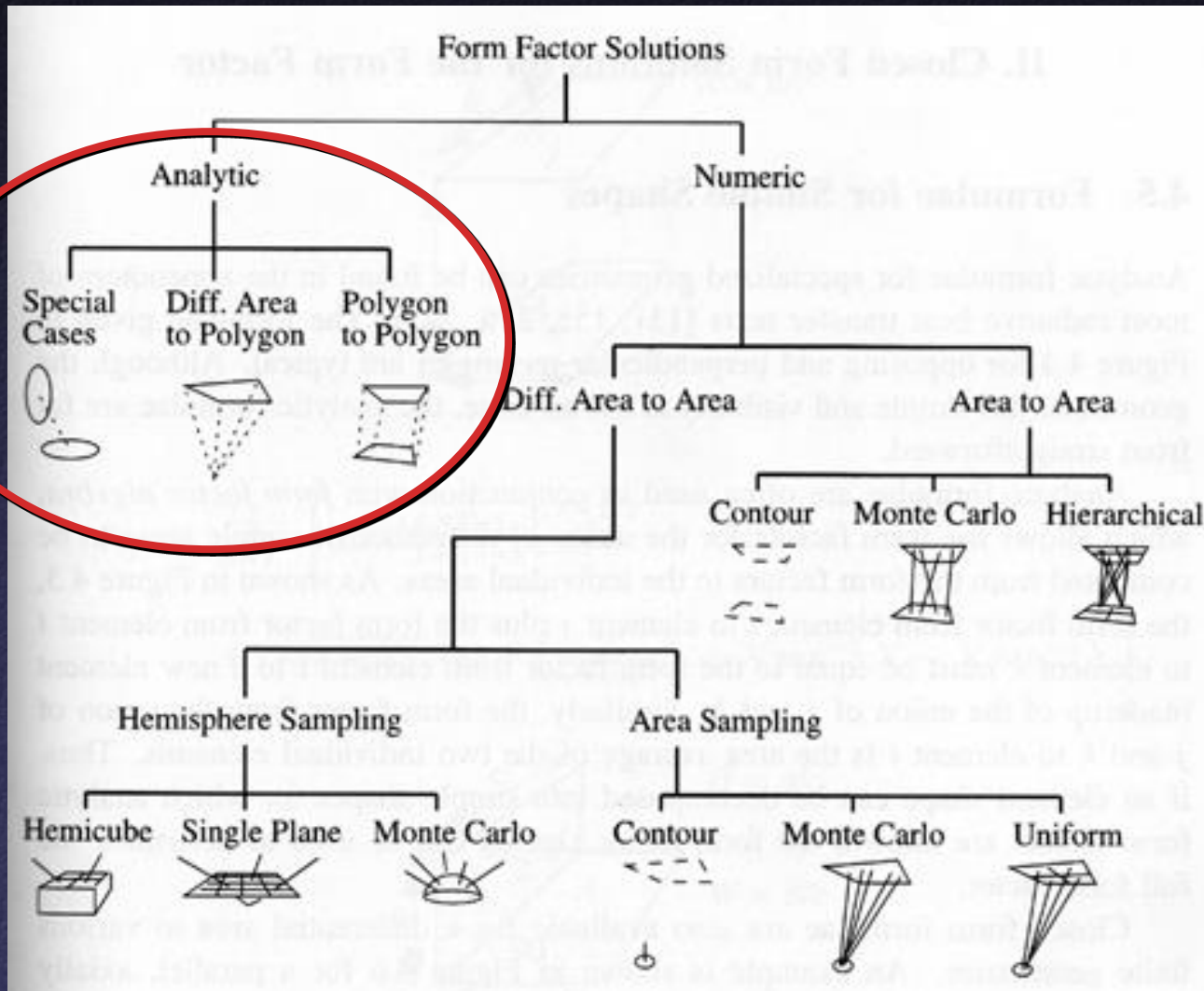


# Computing Form Factors





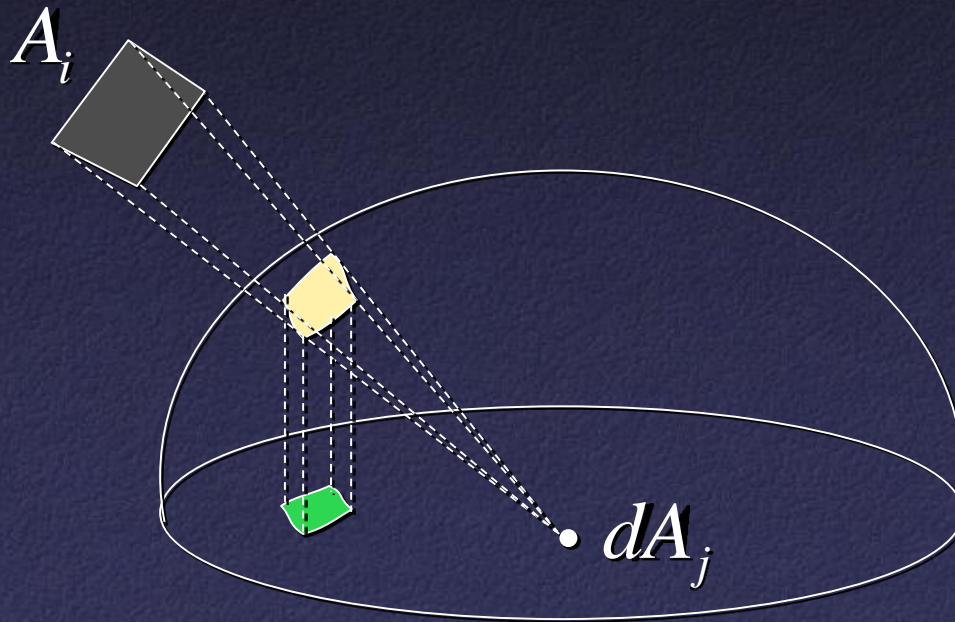
# Computing Form Factors



# Analytic Form Factors

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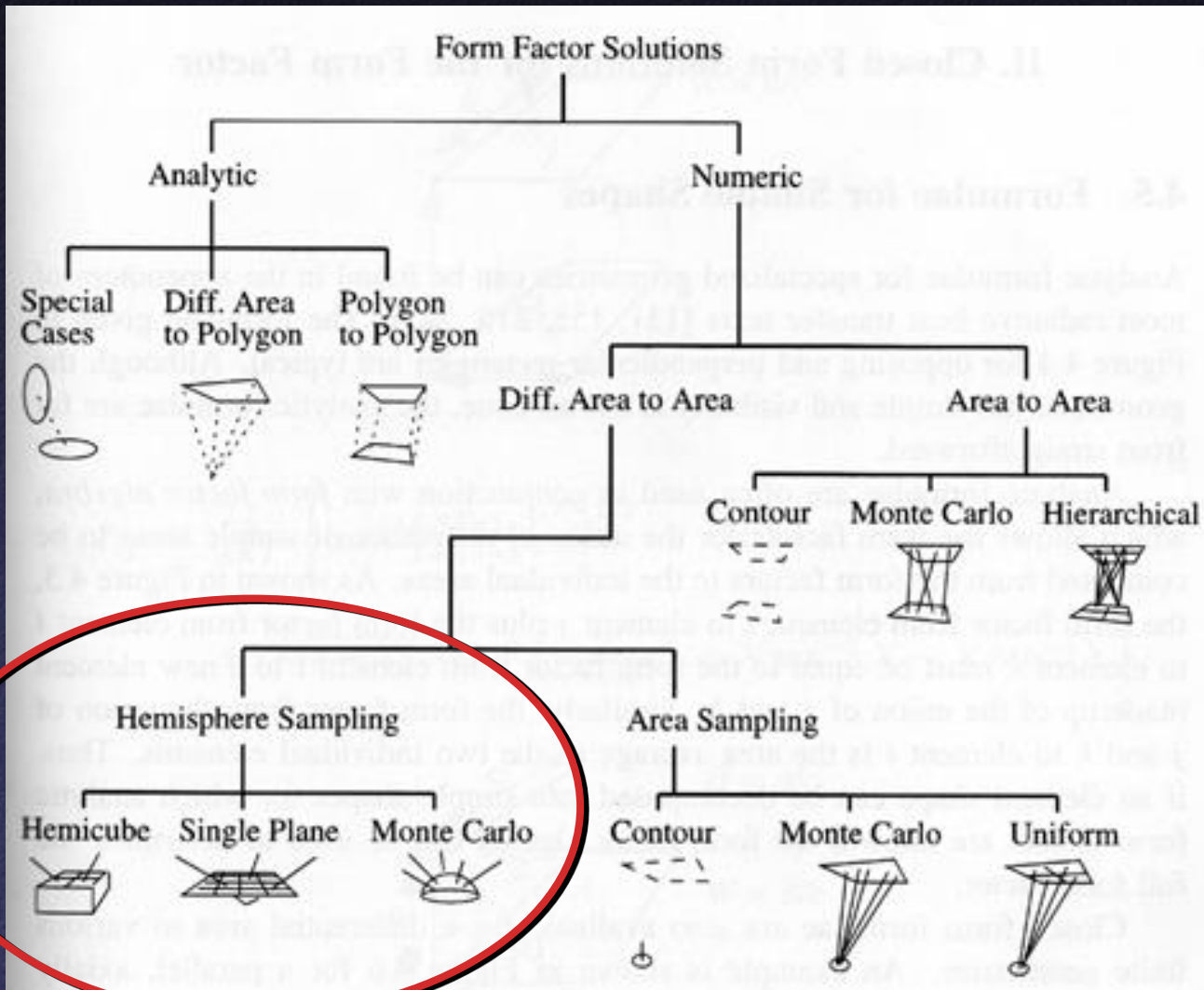
- Derive equation for projected area
  - Possible only for simple cases



Partial visibility is problematic

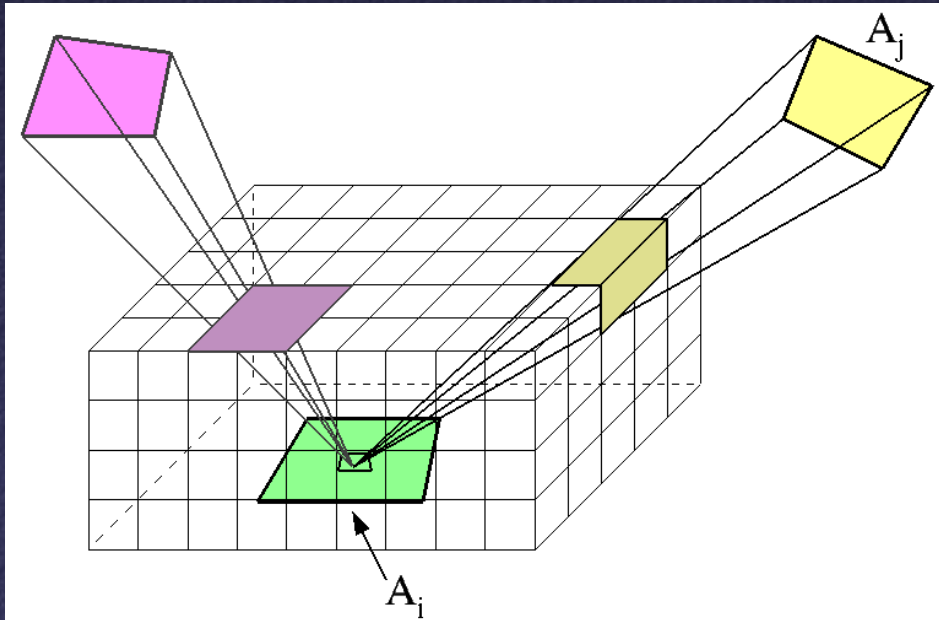


# Computing Form Factors



# Hemicube

- Compute form factor with image-space precision
  - Render scene from centroid of  $A_i$
  - Use z-buffer to determine visibility of other surfaces
  - Count “pixels” to determine projected areas

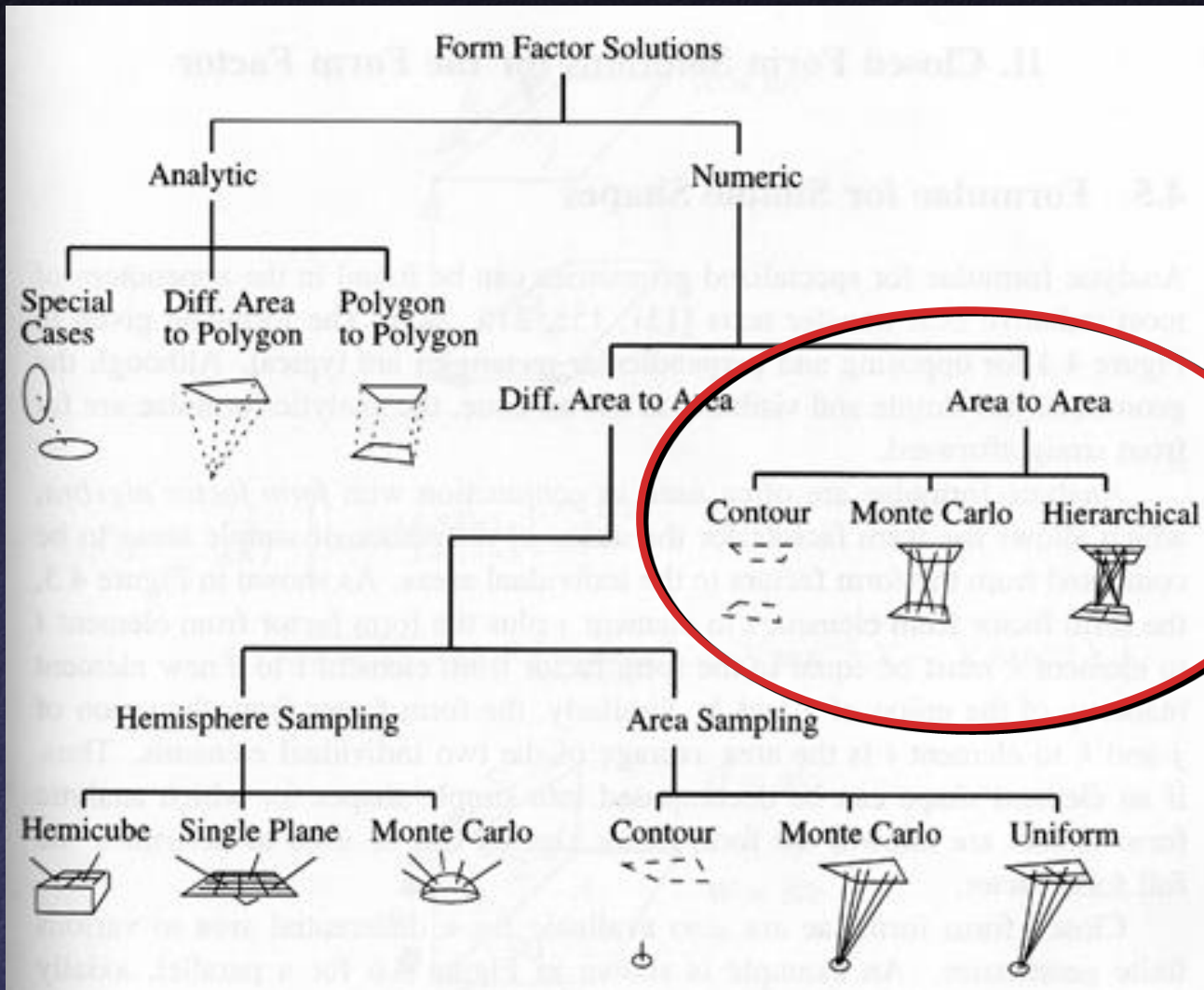


Approximating  $A_i$  with point leads to errors

Regular sampling leads to aliasing artifacts



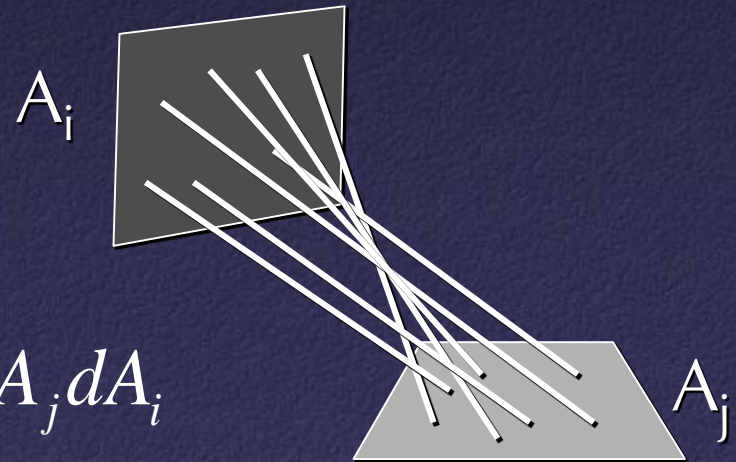
# Computing Form Factors



# Monte Carlo Sampling

- Compute form factor by random sampling
  - Select random points on elements
  - Intersect line segment to evaluate  $V_{ij}$
  - Evaluate  $F_{ij}$  by Monte Carlo integration

$$F_{ij} = \frac{1}{A_i} \int_{A_i} \int_{A_j} \frac{V_{ij} \cos \Theta'_i \cos \Theta_o}{\pi r^2} dA_j dA_i$$





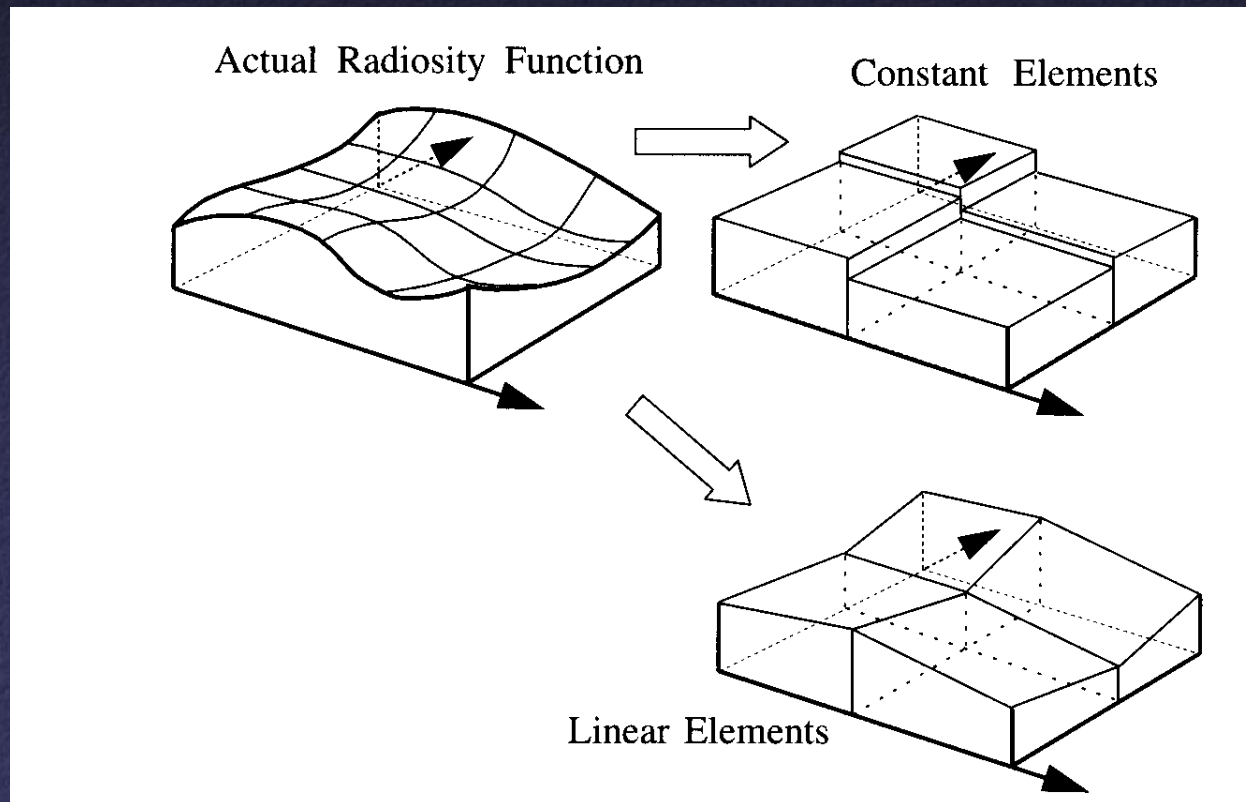
# Overview

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- Radiosity equation
- Solution methods
  - Computing form factors
  - **Selecting basis functions for radiosities**
  - Solving linear system of equations
  - Meshing surfaces into elements
  - Rendering images

# Selecting a Basis Function

- Store radiosity function on surface mesh
  - Piecewise-constant, piecewise-linear, wavelets, etc.





# Overview

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- Radiosity equation
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  - Computing form factors
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# Solving the System of Equations

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- Challenges:
  - Size of matrix
  - Cost of computing form factors
  - Computational complexity

$$\begin{bmatrix}
 1 - \rho_1 F_{1,1} & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & -\rho_1 F_{1,n} \\
 -\rho_2 F_{2,1} & 1 - \rho_2 F_{2,2} & \cdot & \cdot & -\rho_2 F_{2,n} \\
 \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\
 \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\
 -\rho_{n-1} F_{n-1,1} & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & -\rho_{n-1} F_{n-1,n} \\
 -\rho_n F_{n,1} & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 1 - \rho_n F_{n,n}
 \end{bmatrix}
 \begin{bmatrix}
 B_1 \\
 B_2 \\
 \cdot \\
 \cdot \\
 \cdot \\
 B_n
 \end{bmatrix}
 =
 \begin{bmatrix}
 E_1 \\
 E_2 \\
 \cdot \\
 \cdot \\
 \cdot \\
 E_n
 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Solving the System of Equations

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- Solution methods:
  - Invert the matrix –  $O(n^3)$
  - Iterative methods –  $O(n^2)$
  - Hierarchical methods –  $O(n)$

# Gauss-Seidel Iteration

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- 1 for all  $i$
- 2      $B_i = E_i$
- 3 while not converged
- 4     for each  $i$  in turn
- 5          $B_i = E_i + \rho_i \sum_{j \neq i} B_j F_{ij}$
- 6 display the image using  $B_i$  as the intensity of patch  $i$ .



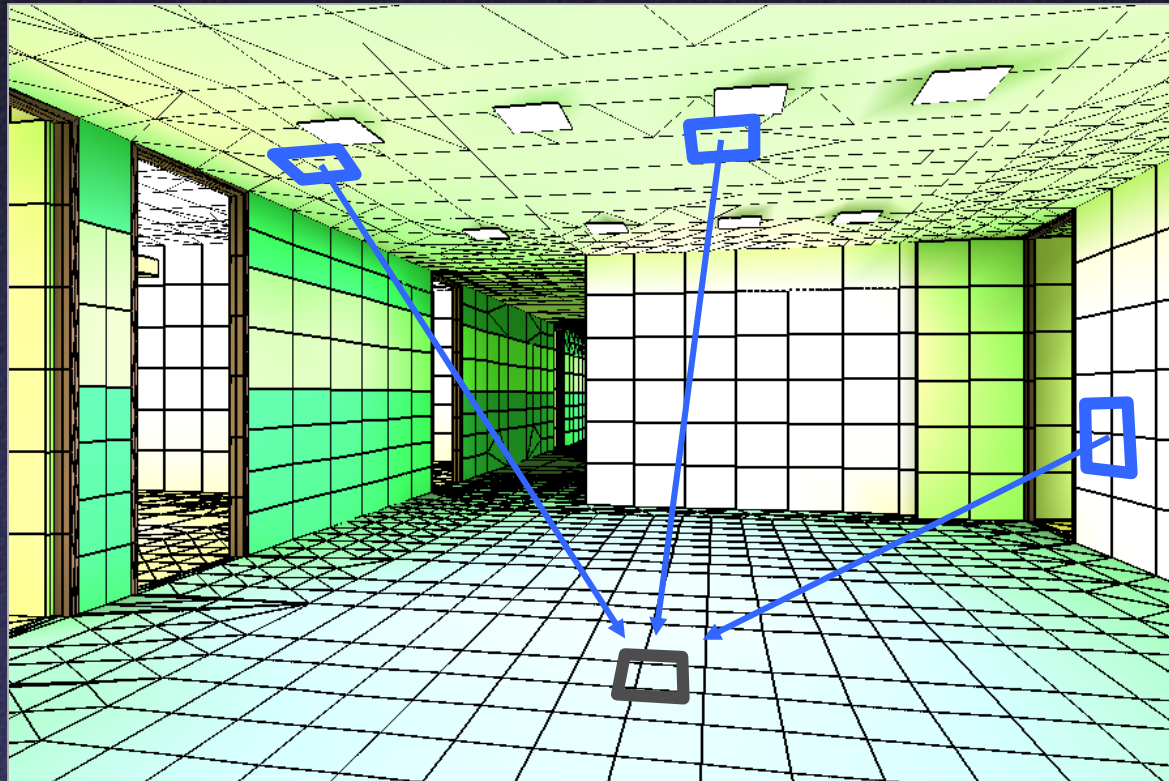
# Gauss-Seidel Iteration

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- Iteratively relax rows of linear system
- Effectiveness depends on sparsity of matrix

# Gauss-Seidel Iteration

- Interpretation: gather radiosity to elements





# Progressive Radiosity

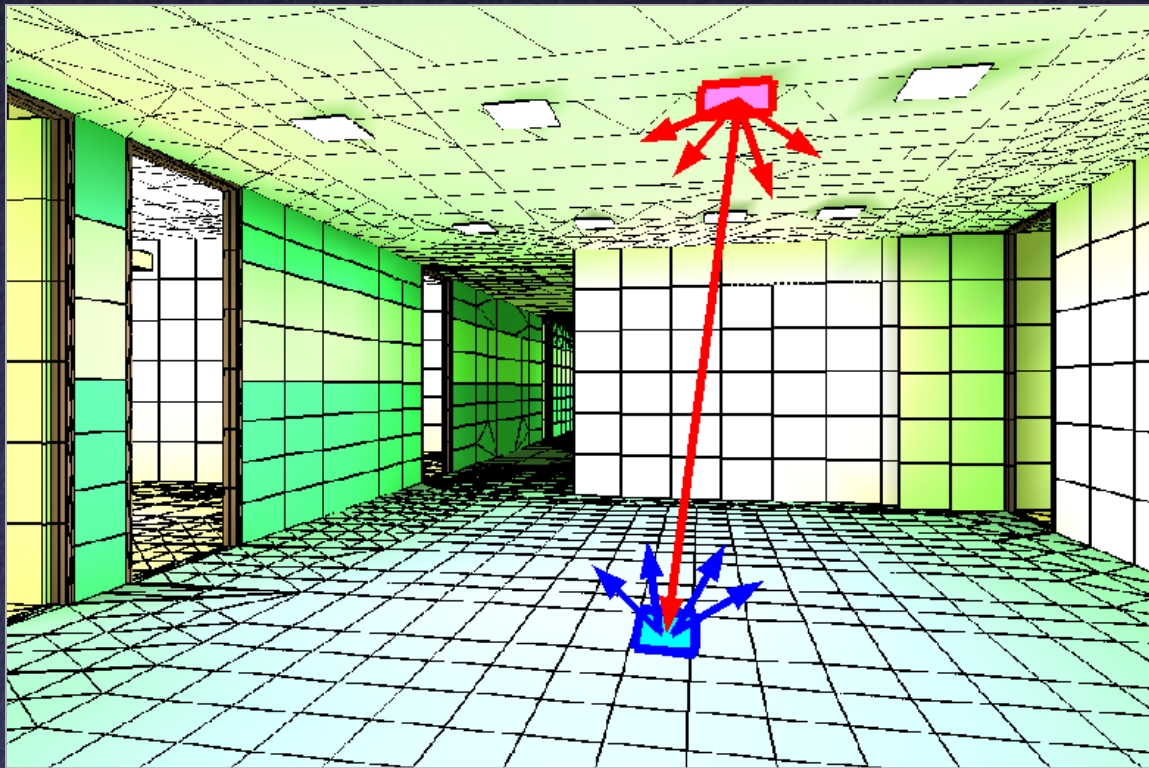
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```
1  for all  $i$ 
2     $B_i = E_i$ 
3     $\Delta B_i = E_i$ 
4  while not converged
5    pick  $i$ , such that  $\Delta B_i * A_i$  is largest
6    for every patch  $j$ 
7       $\Delta rad = \Delta B_i * \rho_j F_{ji}$ 
8       $\Delta B_j = \Delta B_j + \Delta rad$ 
9       $B_j = B_j + \Delta rad$ 
10    $\Delta B_i = 0$ 
11  display the image using  $B_i$  as the intensity of patch  $i$ .
```

# Progressive Radiosity

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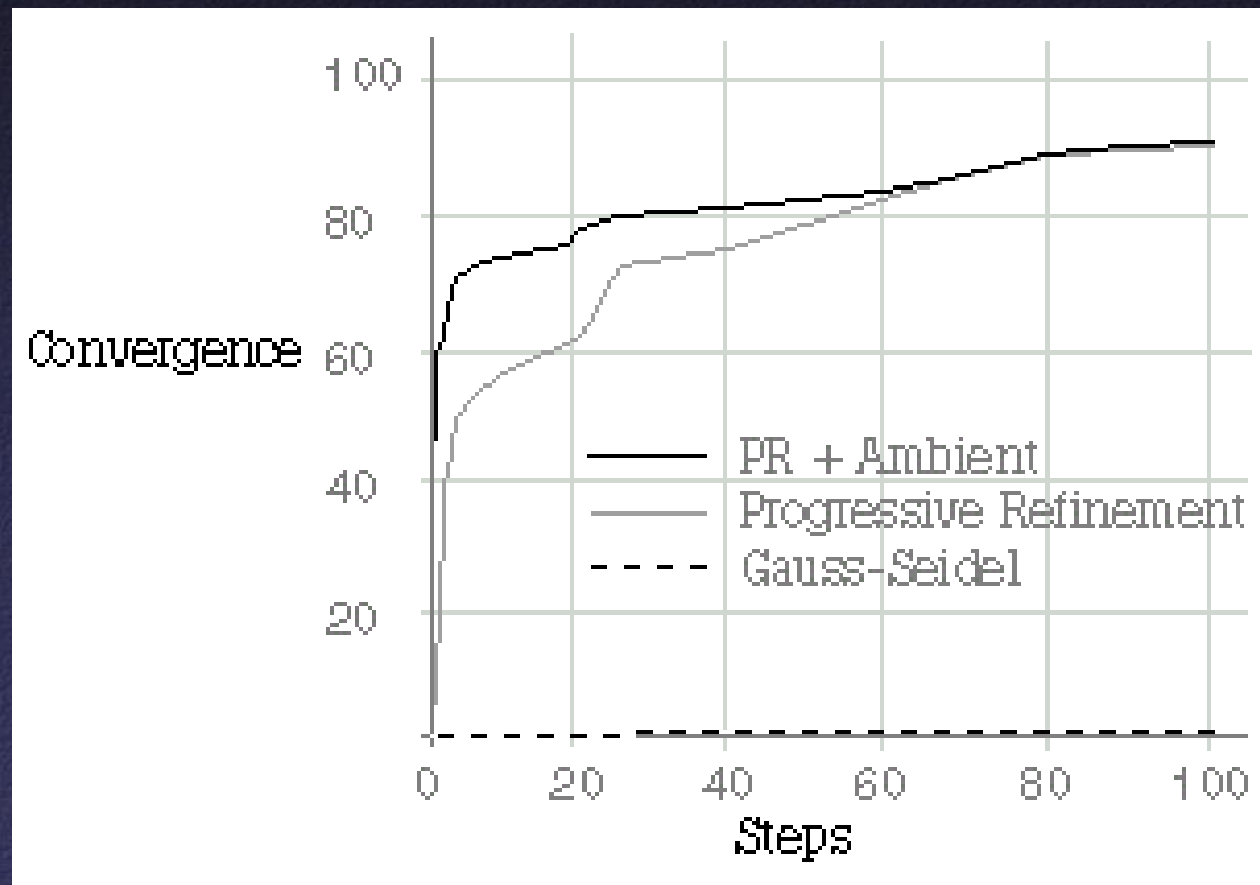
- Iteratively shoot “unshot” radiosity from elements
- Select shooters in order of unshot radiosity





# Progressive Radiosity

- Adaptive refinement



# Progressive Radiosity

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## **PROGRESSIVE SOLUTION**

The above images show increasing levels of global diffuse illumination. From left to right: 0 bounces, 1 bounce, 3 bounces.



# Progressive Radiosity



# Overview

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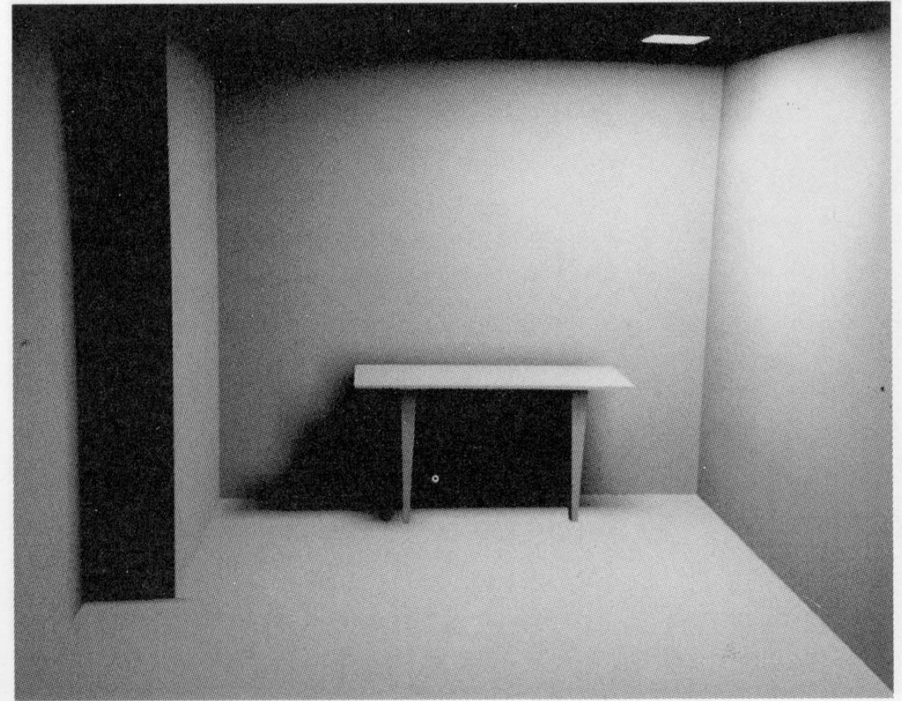
- Radiosity equation
- Solution methods
  - Computing form factors
  - Selecting basis functions for radiosities
  - Solving linear system of equations
  - *Meshing surfaces into elements*
  - Rendering images



# Surface Meshing Goals

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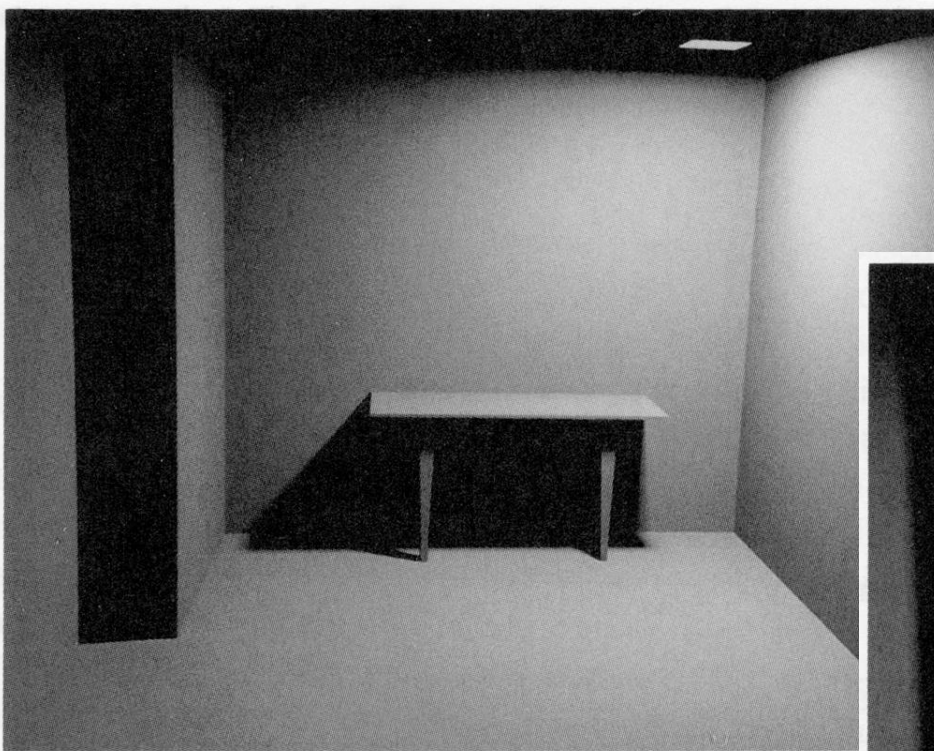
- Store radiosity across surface
  - Represents function well
  - Few elements
  - Few visible artifacts



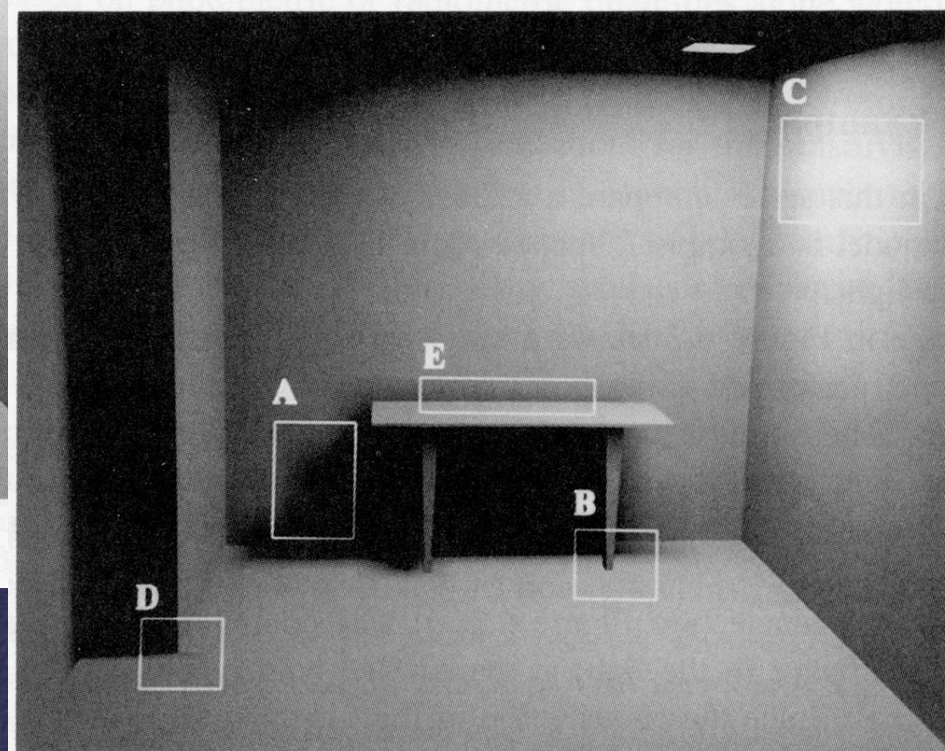
**Figure 6.2:** A radiosity image computed using a uniform mesh.



# Artifacts of Bad Surface Meshing



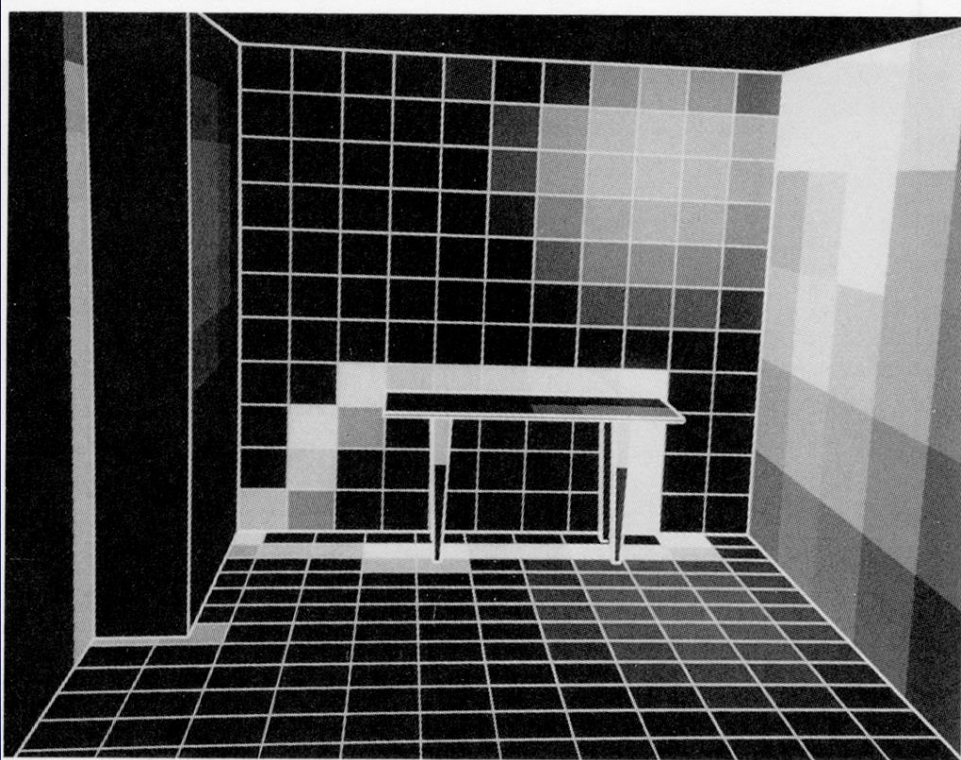
(a) Reference image.



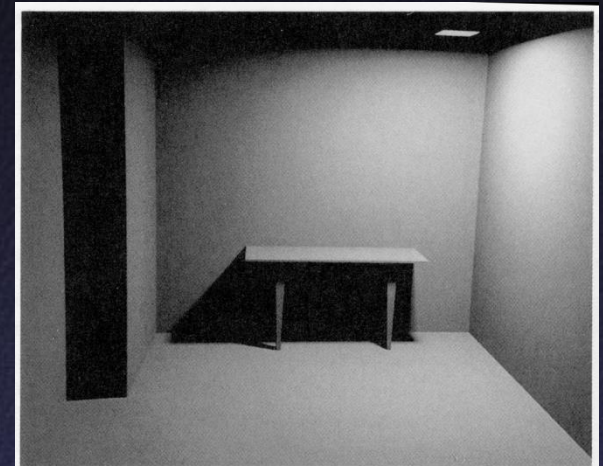
(b) Artifacts introduced by the approximation.



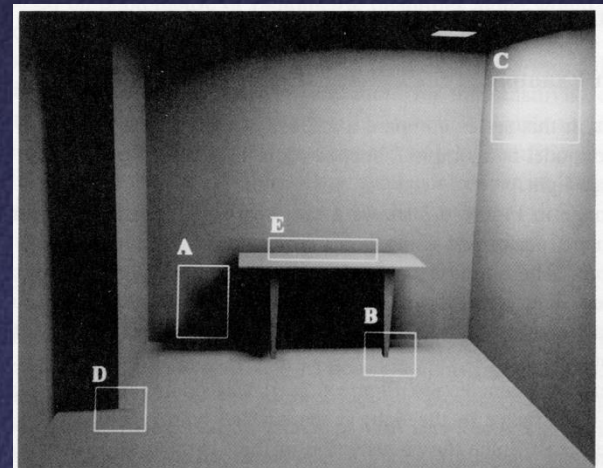
# Error Image



**Figure 6.4:** *Error image.*



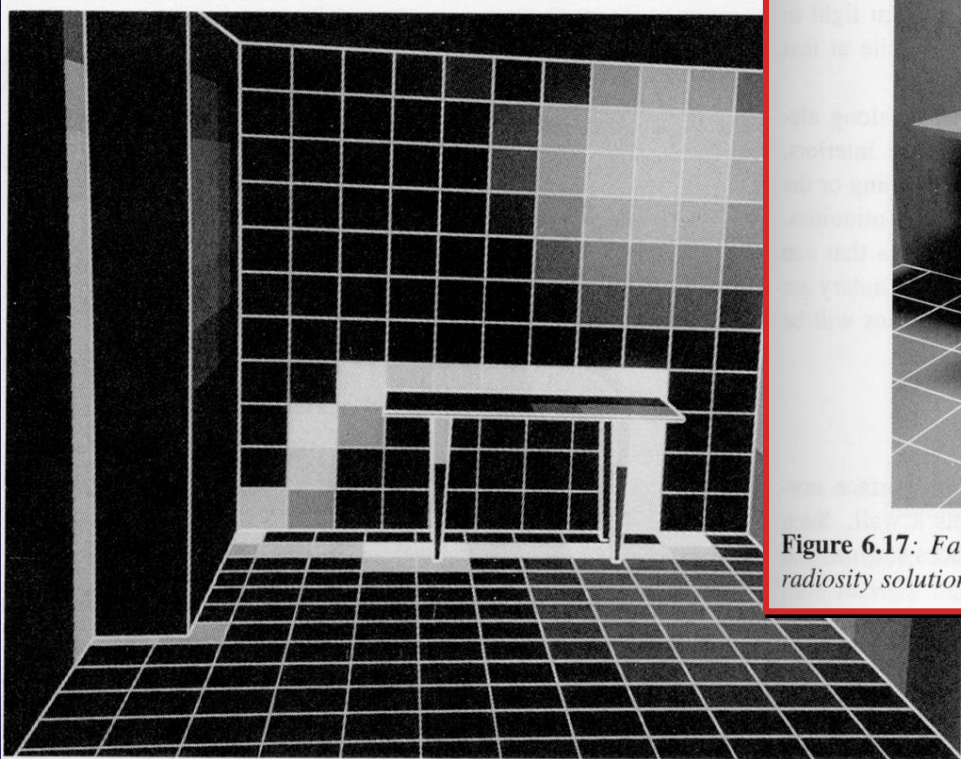
(a) *Reference image.*



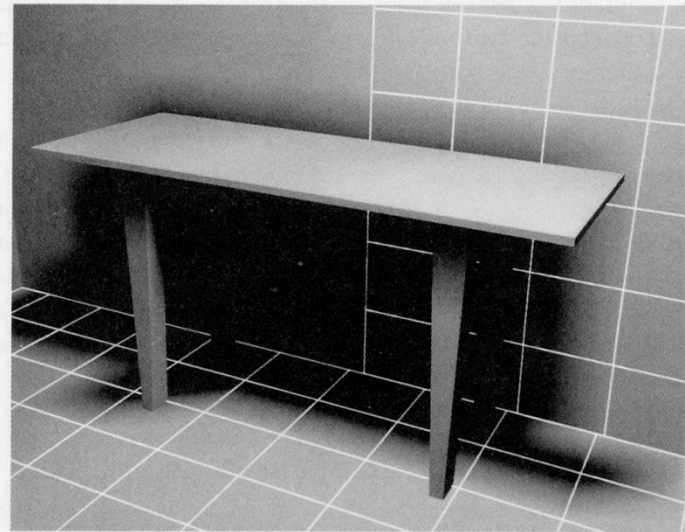
(b) *Artifacts introduced by the approximation.*



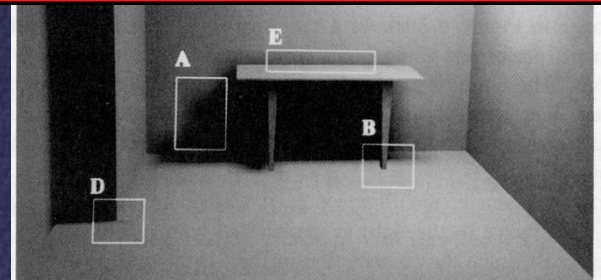
# Error Image



**Figure 6.4:** *Error image.*



**Figure 6.17:** *Failure to resolve a discontinuity in value. This is a closeup of the radiosity solution shown in Figure 6.2.*



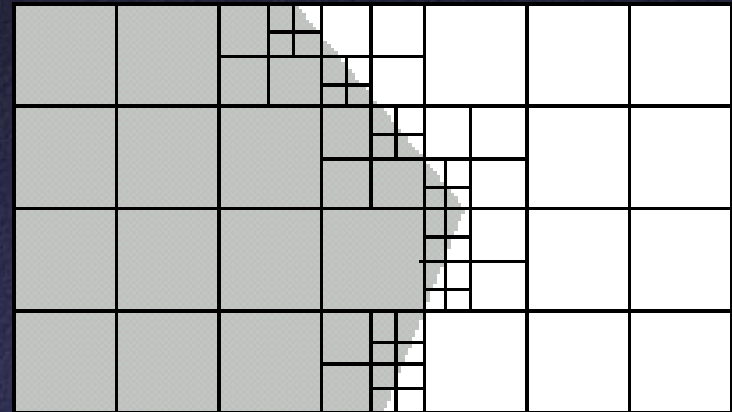
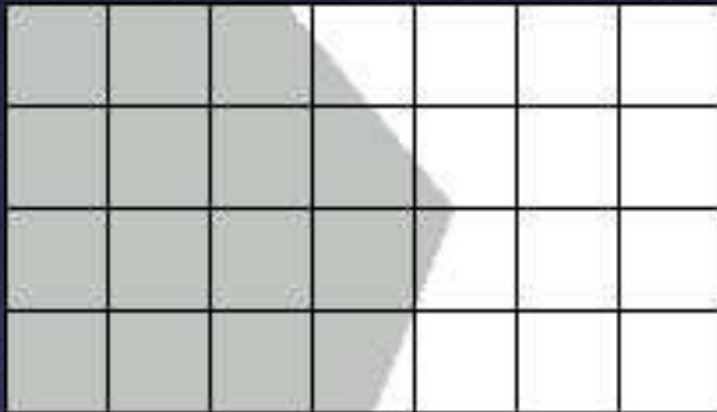
**(b)** *Artifacts introduced by the approximation.*



# Adaptive Meshing

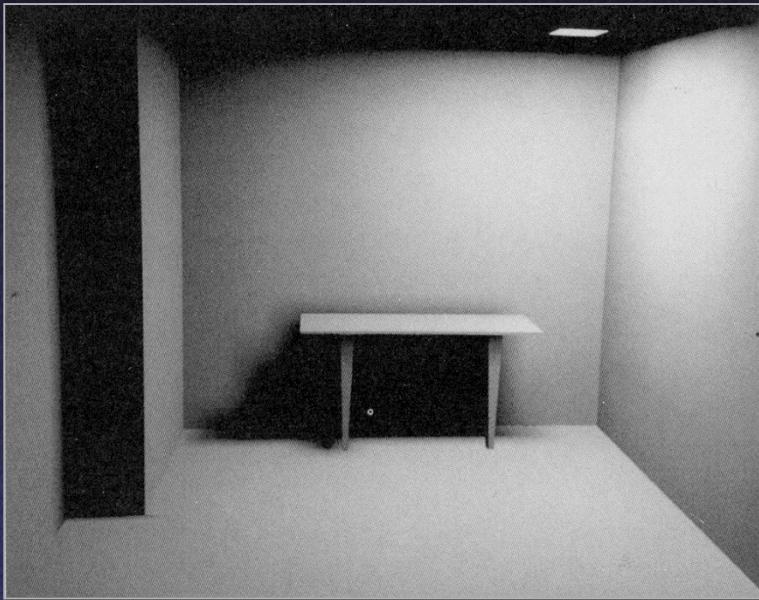
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- Refine mesh in areas of high residual

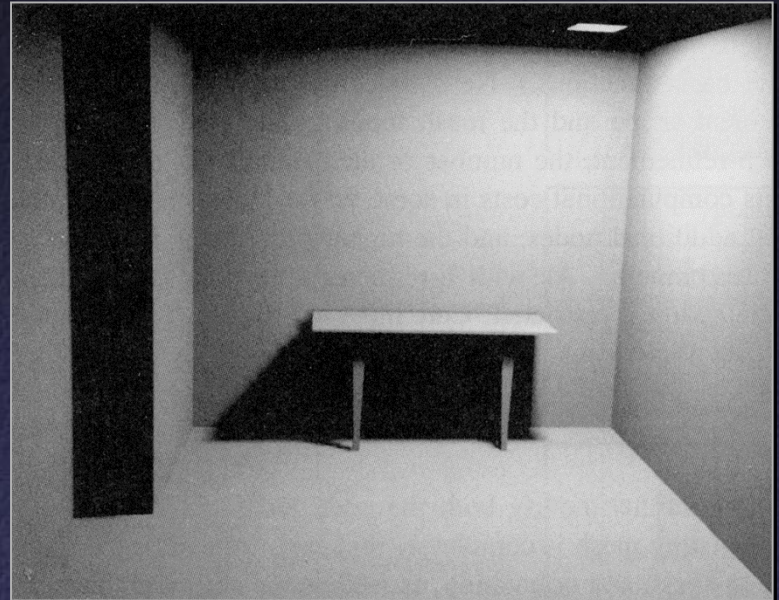


# Adaptive Meshing

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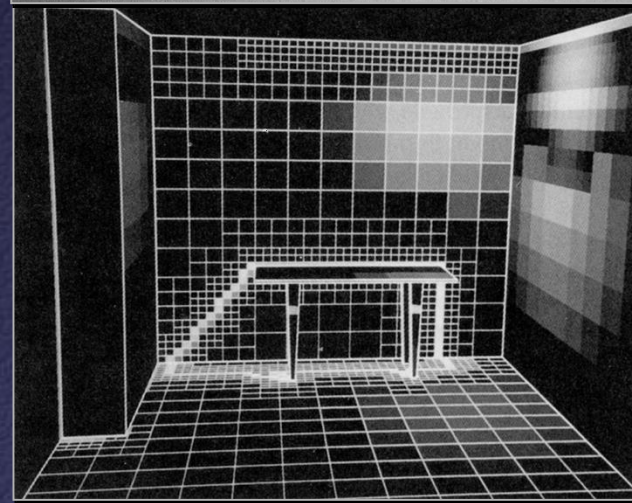
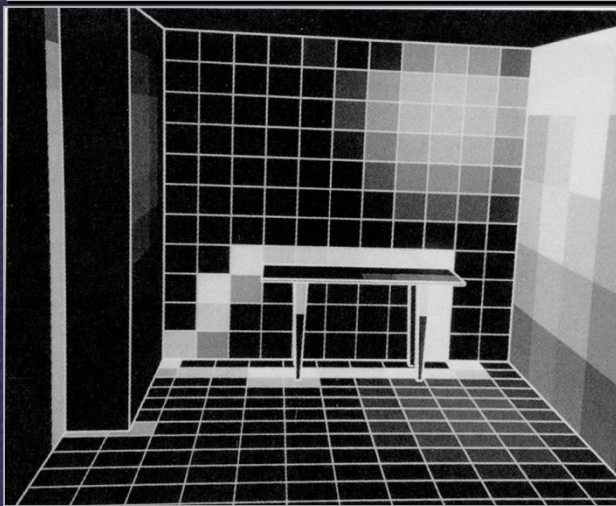
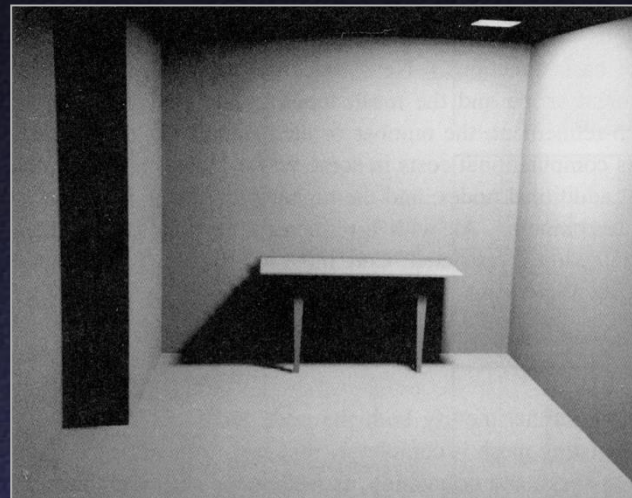
Uniform mesh



Adaptive mesh



# Error Comparison

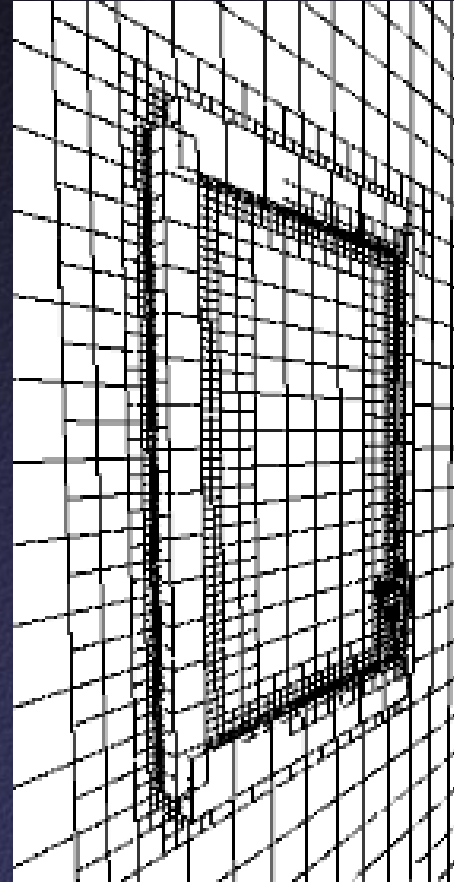


Uniform

Adaptive

# Adaptive Meshing

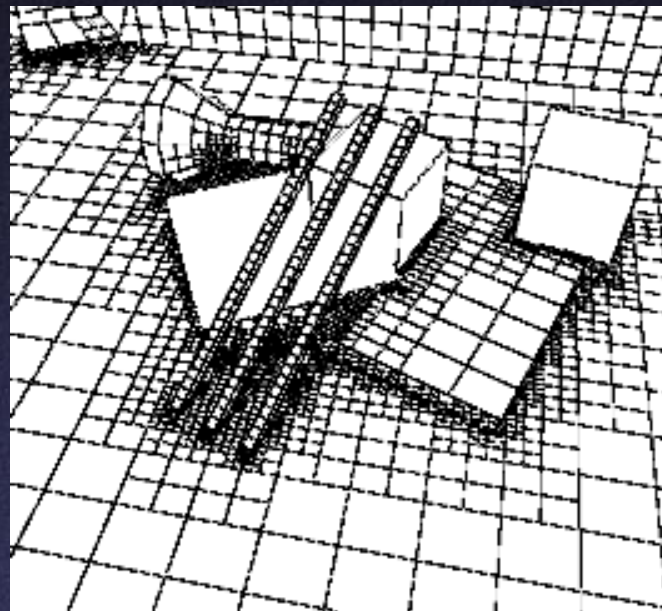
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# Adaptive Meshing

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# Adaptive Meshing

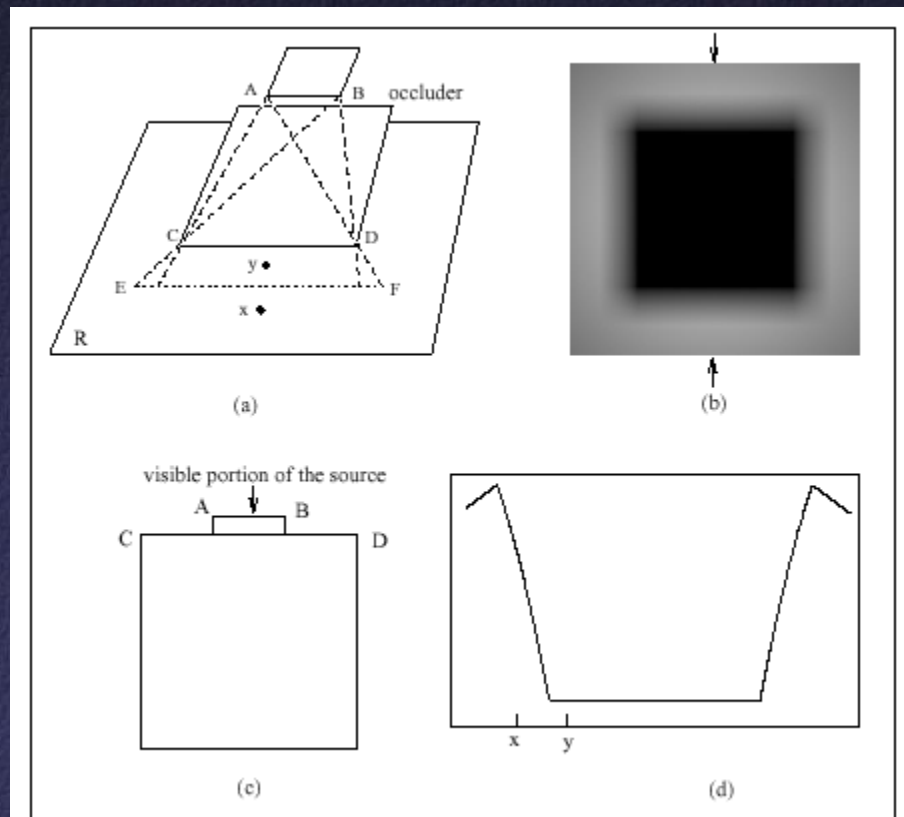
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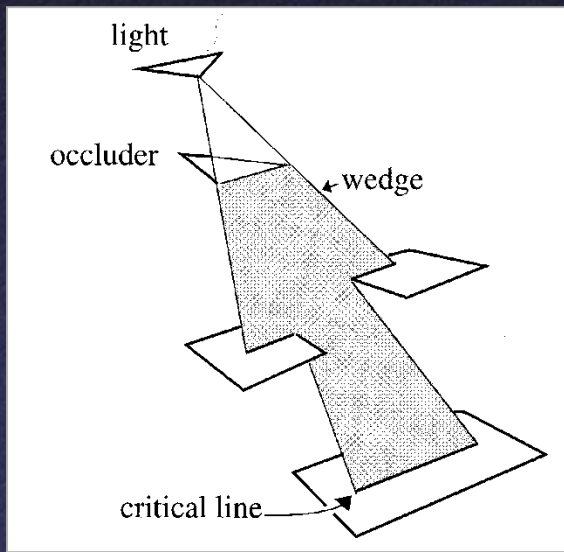
# Discontinuity Meshing

- Capture discontinuities in radiosity across a surface with explicit mesh boundaries



# Discontinuity Meshing

- Capture discontinuities in radiosity across a surface with explicit mesh boundaries

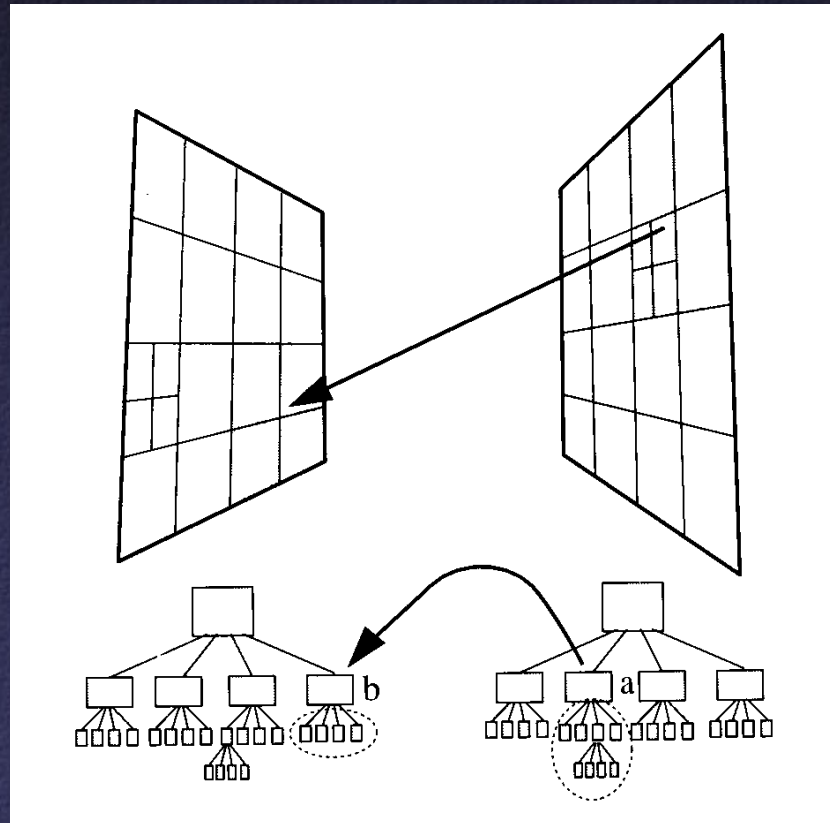


Discontinuity Mesh

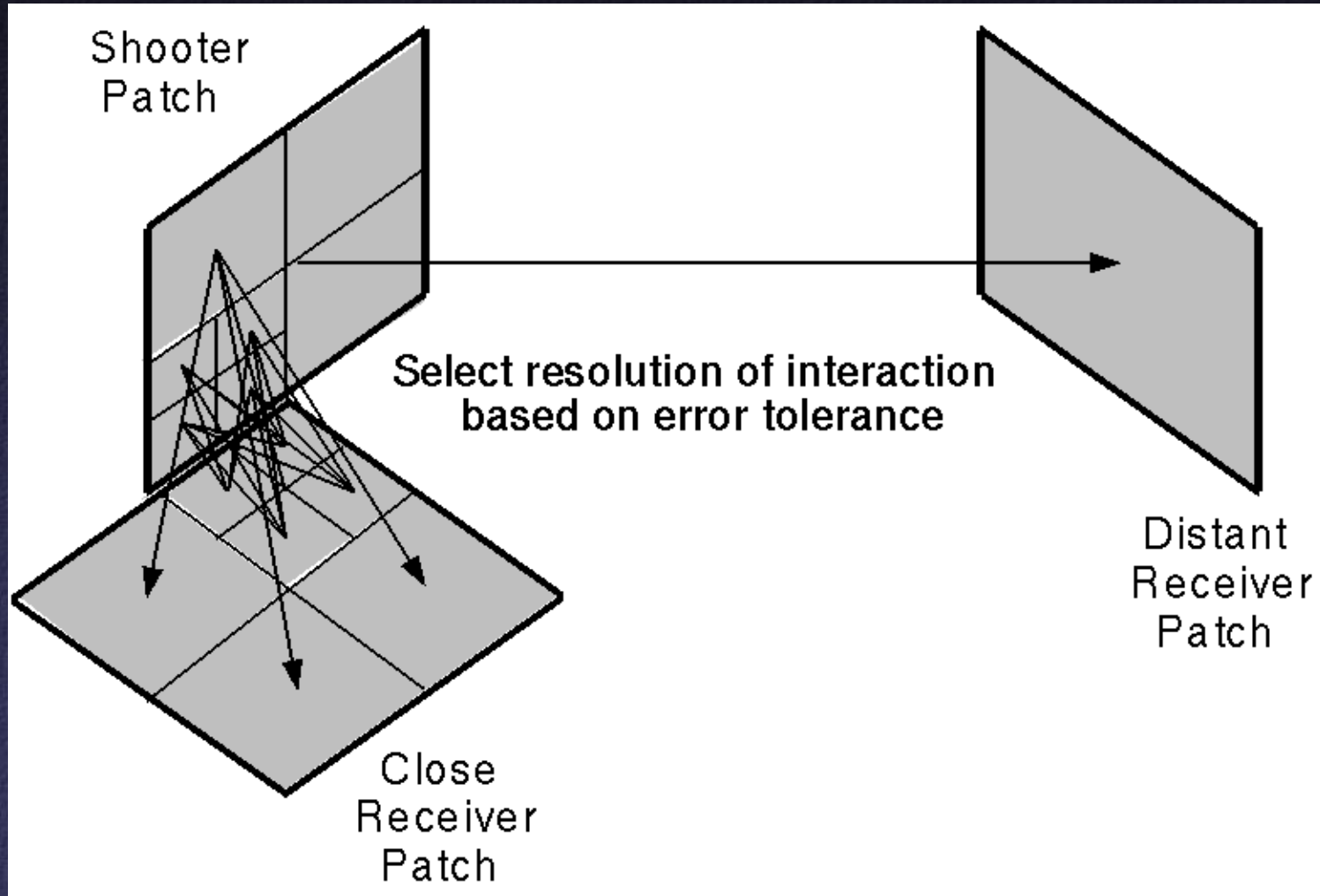


# Hierarchical Radiosity

- Estimate errors, refine elements if too large



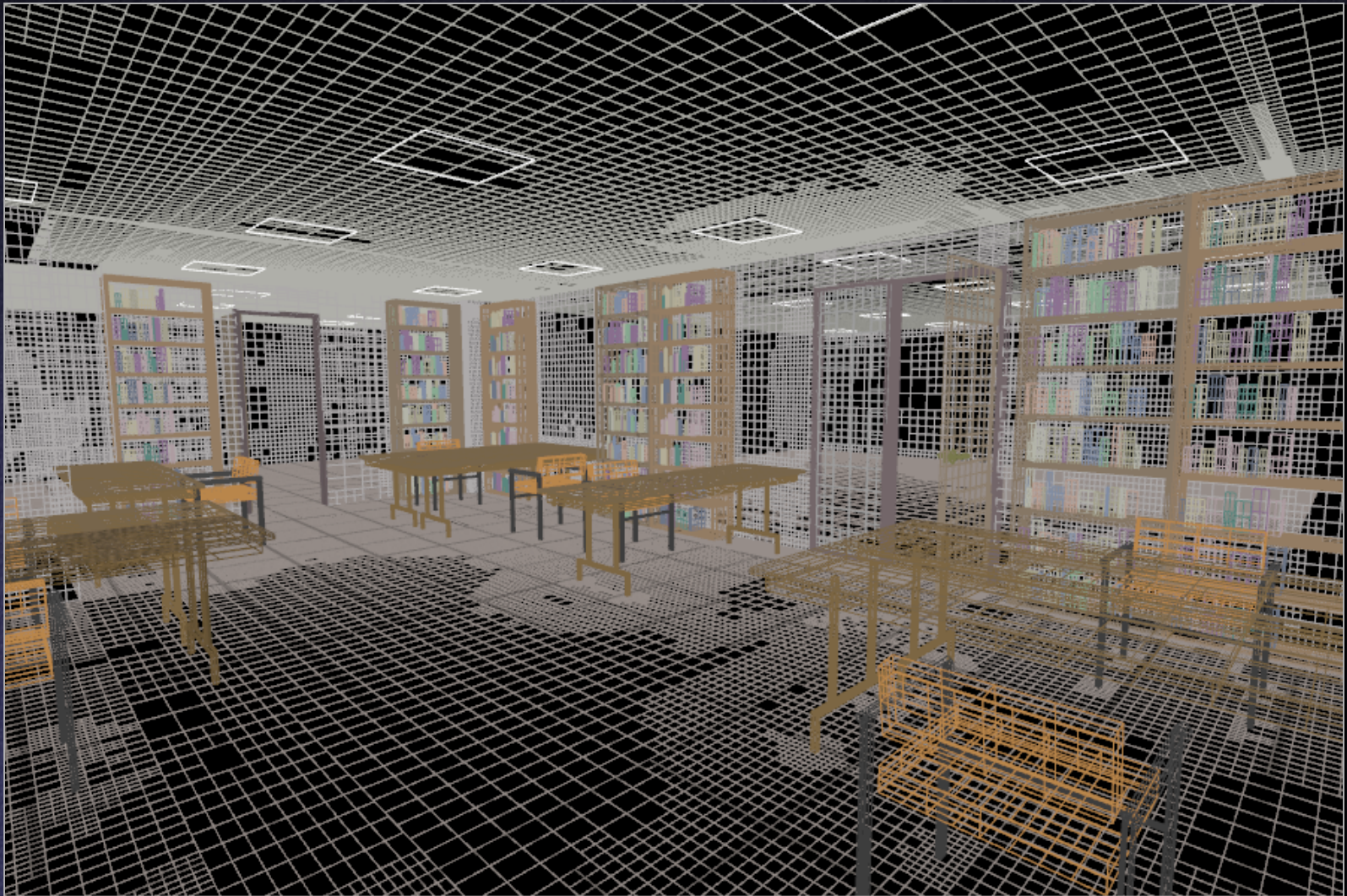
# Hierarchical Radiosity





# Hierarchical Radiosity

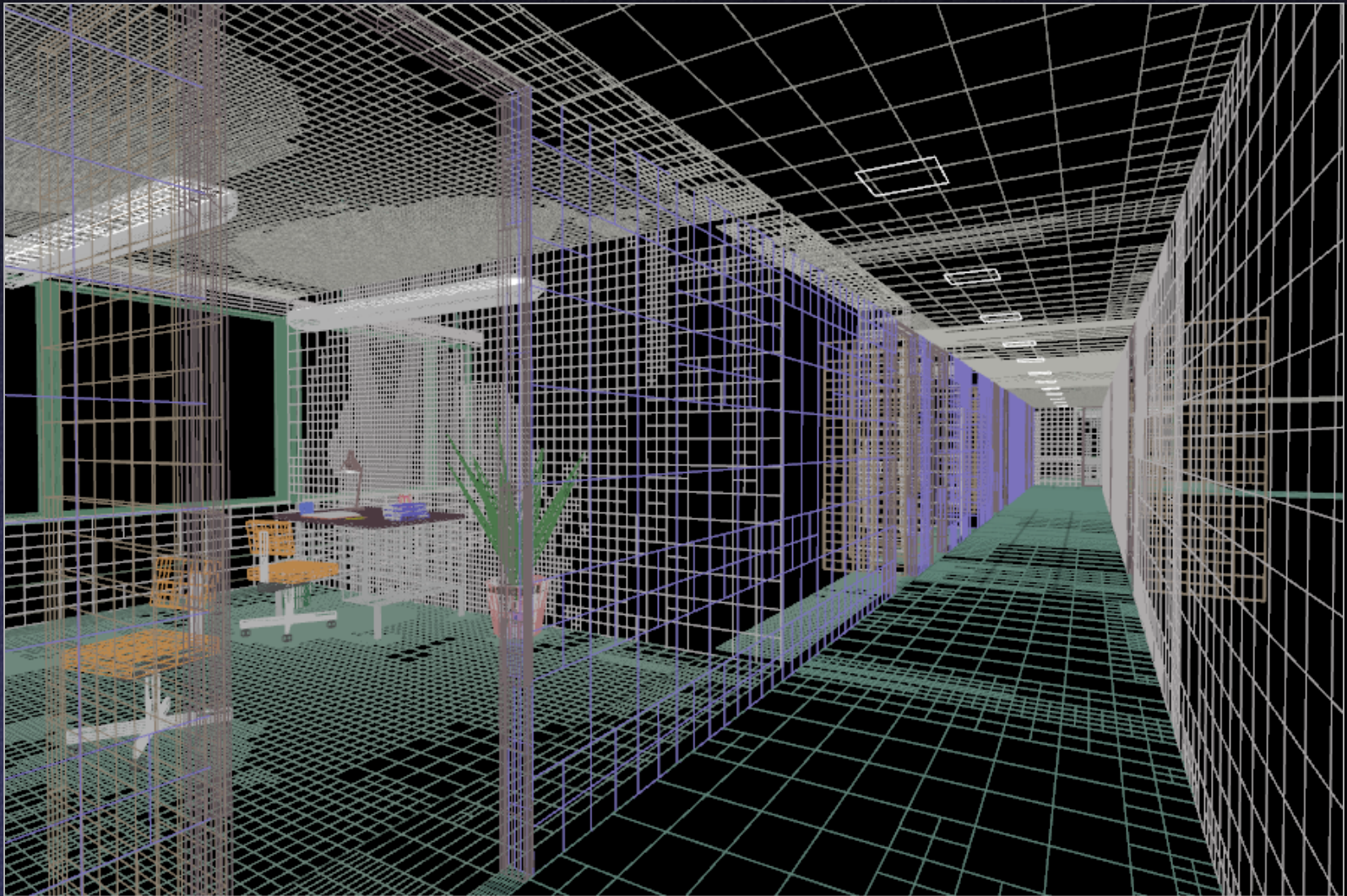
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# Hierarchical Radiosity

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# Hierarchical Radiosity

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# Overview

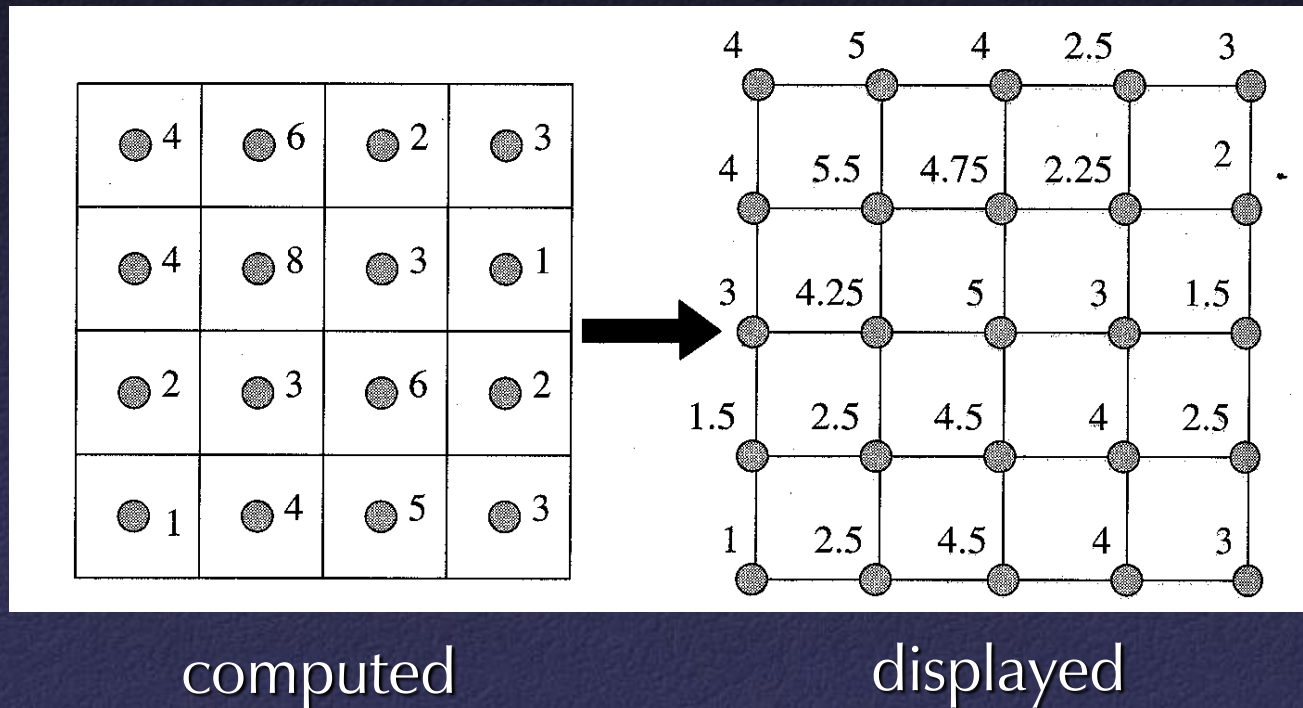
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# Displaying Radiosity

- Usually, simple interpolation (Gouraud shading)



- Can also try to preserve discontinuities...

# Extensions

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- Non-diffuse environments
  - Directional radiosity functions
  - Extended form factors
  - Multipass methods
- Participating media
  - Path integrals in form factors
- Dynamic scenes
  - Incremental updates
- Parallel solvers
  - Decomposition
  - Scheduling

