

Computer Graphics

Lecture 07 – Shadows

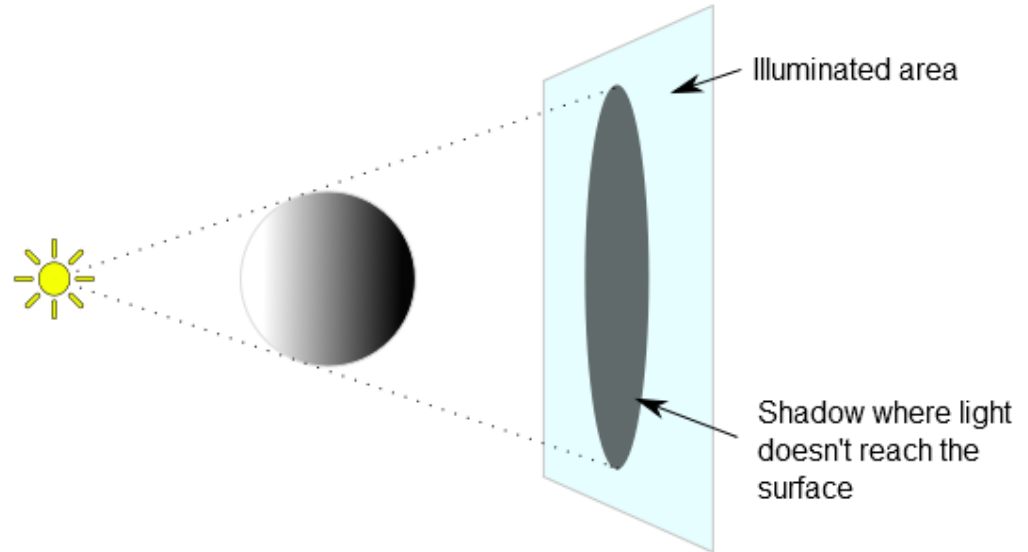
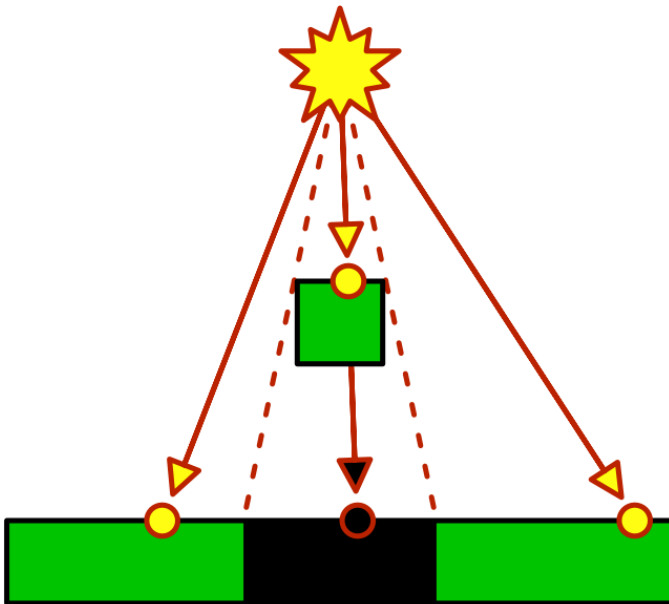
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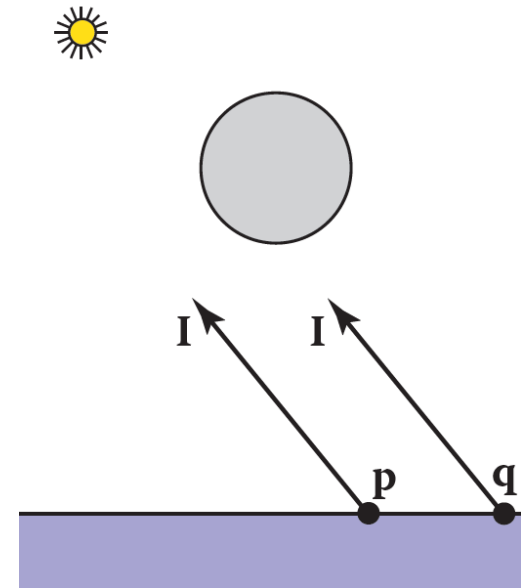
Shadows

- Shadows appear when light rays are blocked: when an object is between a light source and another object, it prevents the light rays from reaching the other object.
 - The first object casts a shadow on the second one.



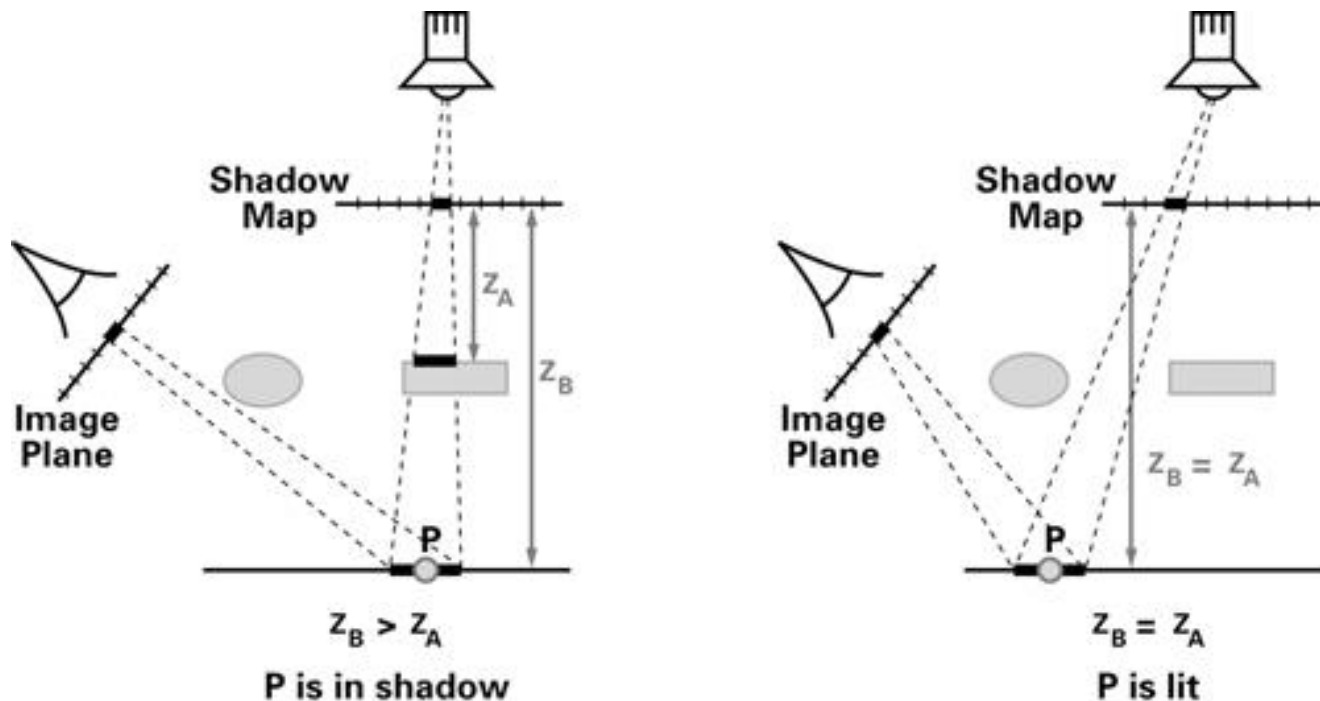
Shadows in Computer Graphics

- In ray tracing rendering, shadows can be added very easily:
 - Light comes from some direction I ;
 - When computing the color of a point p on a surface, the point is in shadow if we cast a ray in direction I and it hits an object. Otherwise, the object is not in a shadow.
- How to implement shadows in rasterized renderings?
 - Shadow Mapping!



Shadow Mapping

- **Basic idea:** if we looked our scene from the view point of the light source, all of the objects that we can see would appear in light. Anything behind those objects, however, would be in shadow.



Shadow Mapping

- **Algorithm:**

- Step 1: render the scene from the light's point of view (without calculating light, color or any other shading process).
- Step 2: extract and save (usually in a texture) the depth buffer from the rendering (z-buffer generated by the projection process).
 - This texture is called shadow map. If there are multiple lights, a separate depth map must be used for each light.
- Step 3: perform a normal rendering pass, and when evaluating whether a fragment is visible to the light source, project its location in the shadow map and compare the looked-up value d_{map} with the actual distance d to the light source.
 - If the distances are the same, the fragment's point is illuminated; if the $d > d_{map}$, that implies there is a different surface closer to the source, so it is shadowed.

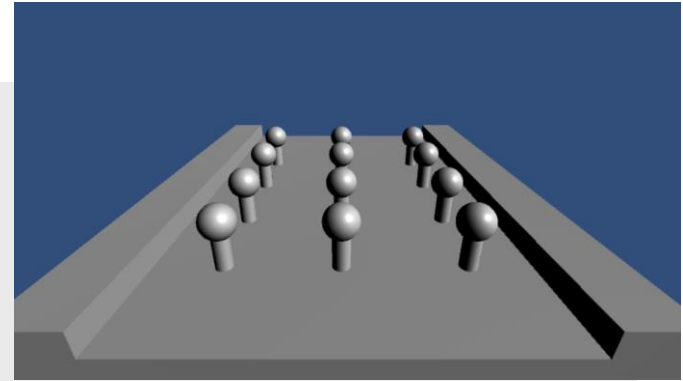
Shadow Mapping Shader

- In order to implement shadow mapping in a Unity shader, we need to implement two processes:
 - **Cast Shadows:** implement a special pass (ShadowCaster) in the shader to produce the depth data when rendering the scene from the light's point of view.
 - When Unity detects this pass in a Shader, it automatically renders the object in the shadow map.
 - **Receive Shadows:** modify the vertex and fragment programs of the shader in order to access the shadow map, verify which fragments are shadowed, and compute their colors appropriately.

Shadow Mapping Shader

- Cast Shadows:

```
SubShader{
  Pass{
    Tags{"LightMode" = "ForwardBase"}
    ...
  }
  Pass{
    Tags{"LightMode" = "ForwardAdd"}
    ...
  }
  Pass{
    Tags{"LightMode" = "ShadowCaster"}
    CGPROGRAM
    #pragma target 3.0
    #pragma vertex MyShadowVertexProgram
    #pragma fragment MyShadowFragmentProgram
    #include "ShadowsShader.cginc"
    ENDCG
  }
}
```



Shadow Mapping Shader

- Cast Shadows:

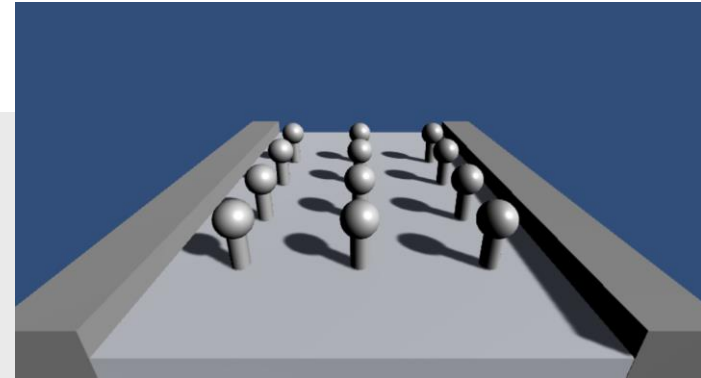
```
#if !defined(SHADOWSSHADER_INCLUDED)
#define SHADOWSSHADER_INCLUDED

#include "UnityCG.cginc"

struct VertexData{
    float4 position : POSITION;
};

float4 MyShadowVertexProgram(VertexData vert) : SV_POSITION{
    return UnityObjectToClipPos(vert.position);
}

float4 MyShadowFragmentProgram() : SV_TARGET {
    return 0;
}
#endif
```



Using the standard shader on the ground to visualize the shadows.

Shadow Mapping Shader

- Cast Shadows (bias – light setting to control shadow distance):

```
#if !defined(SHADOWSSHADER_INCLUDED)
#define SHADOWSSHADER_INCLUDED

#include "UnityCG.cginc"

struct VertexData {
    float4 position : POSITION;
    float3 normal : NORMAL;
};

float4 MyShadowVertexProgram(VertexData vert) : SV_POSITION{
    float4 position = UnityClipSpaceShadowCasterPos(vert.position.xyz,
                                                    vert.normal);

    return UnityApplyLinearShadowBias(position);
}

float4 MyShadowFragmentProgram() : SV_TARGET {
    return 0;
}

#endif
```

Shadow Mapping Shader

- Receive Shadows:

```
Pass{
  Tags{"LightMode" = "ForwardBase"}
  CGPROGRAM
  #pragma target 3.0
  #pragma multi_compile _ SHADOWS_SCREEN
  ...
}
```

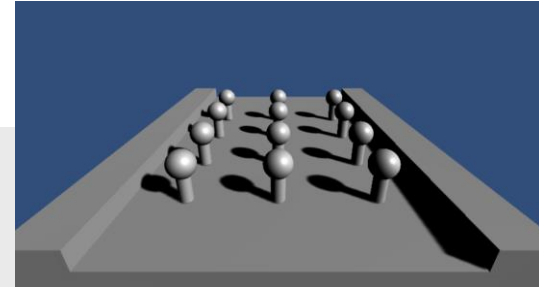
```
struct VertexToFragment {
  ...
  #if defined(SHADOWS_SCREEN)
    float4 shadowcoords : TEXCOORD2;
  #endif
};
```

Used to store the screen-space coordinates of shadow map.

Shadow Mapping Shader

- Receive Shadows:

```
VertexToFragment MyVertexProgram(VertexData vert) {  
    ...  
    #if defined(SHADOWS_SCREEN)  
        v2f.shadowcoords = ComputeScreenPos(v2f.position);  
    #endif  
    ...  
}
```



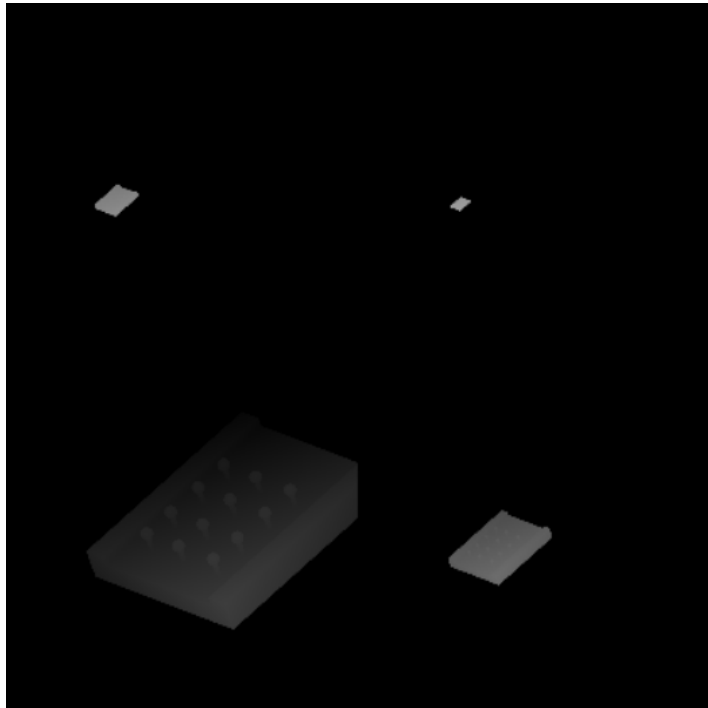
Computes the screen-space coordinates of the shadow map based on the vertex position.

```
UnityLight CreateLight(VertexToFragment v2f) {  
    ...  
    #if defined(SHADOWS_SCREEN)  
        float attenuation = tex2D(_ShadowMapTexture,  
                                   v2f.shadowcoords.xy / v2f.shadowcoords.w);  
    #else  
        UNITY_LIGHT_ATTENUATION(attenuation, 0, v2f.worldpos);  
    #endif  
    light.color = _LightColor0.rgb * attenuation;  
    ...  
}
```

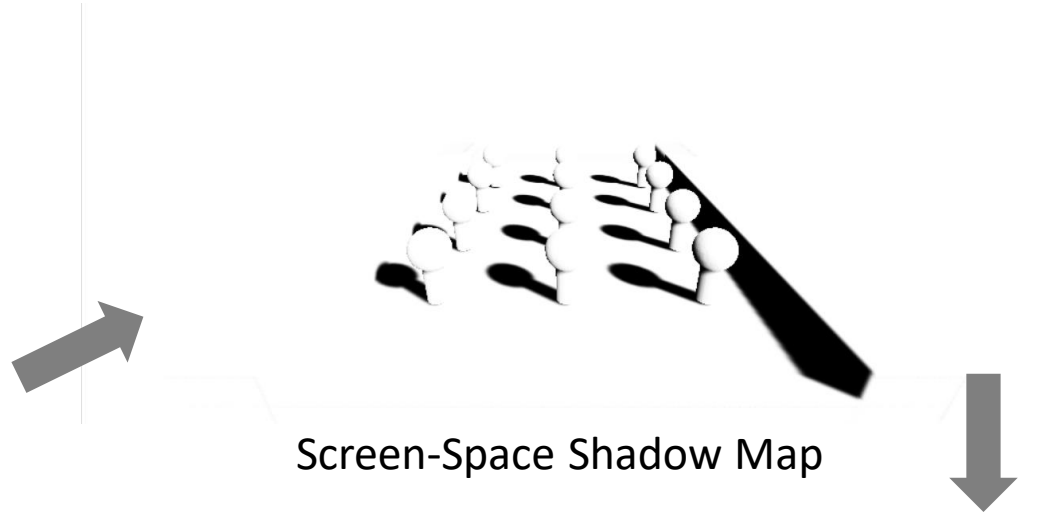
Access the shadow map values (`_ShadowMapTexture`).

Multiplies the light color by the attenuation factor (shadow map).

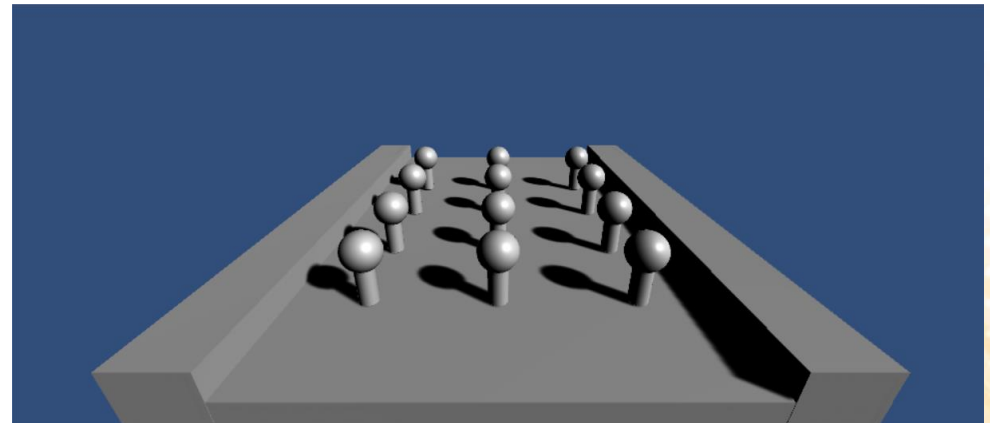
Shadow Mapping Shader



Shadow Map



Screen-Space Shadow Map



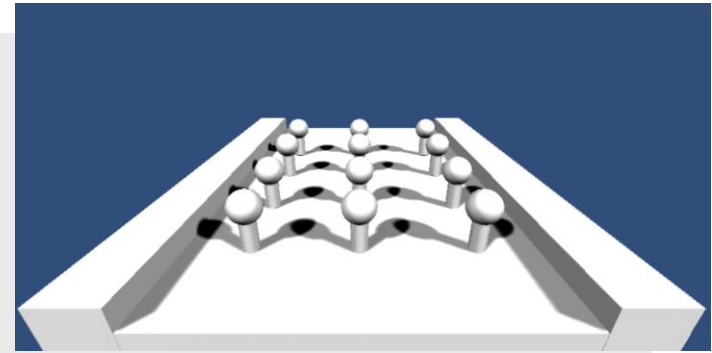
Rendered Scene

Shadow Mapping Shader

- Add support to multiple shadows (directional lights):

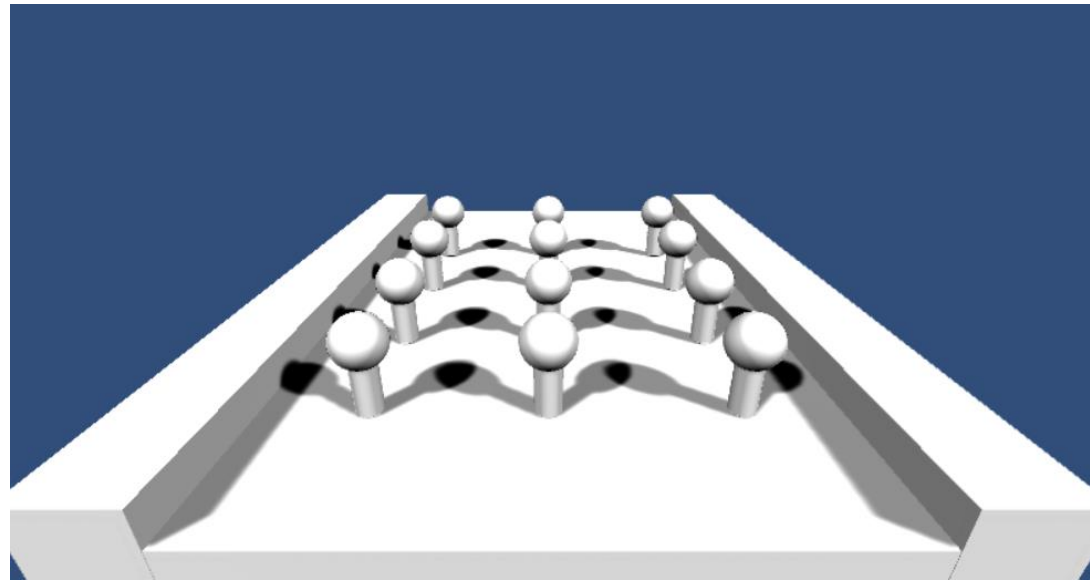
```
Pass{
  Tags{"LightMode" = "ForwardBase"}
  CGPROGRAM
  #pragma target 3.0
  #pragma multi_compile_fwdadd_fullshadows
  ...
}
```

```
Pass{
  Tags{"LightMode" = "ForwardAdd"}
  Blend One One
  ZWrite Off
  CGPROGRAM
  #pragma target 3.0
  #pragma multi_compile_fwdadd_fullshadows
  ...
}
```

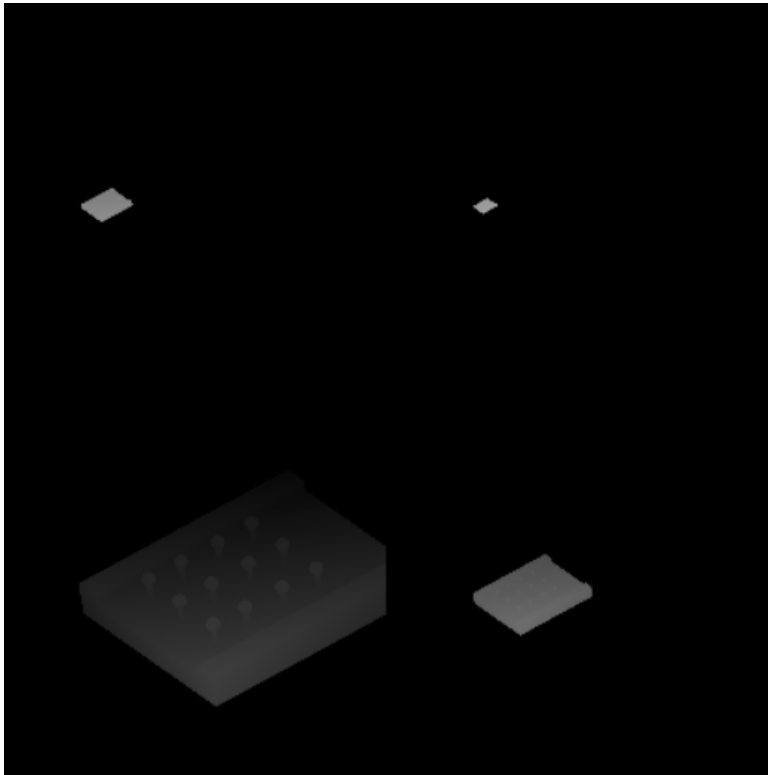


Shadow Mapping – Frame Debugger

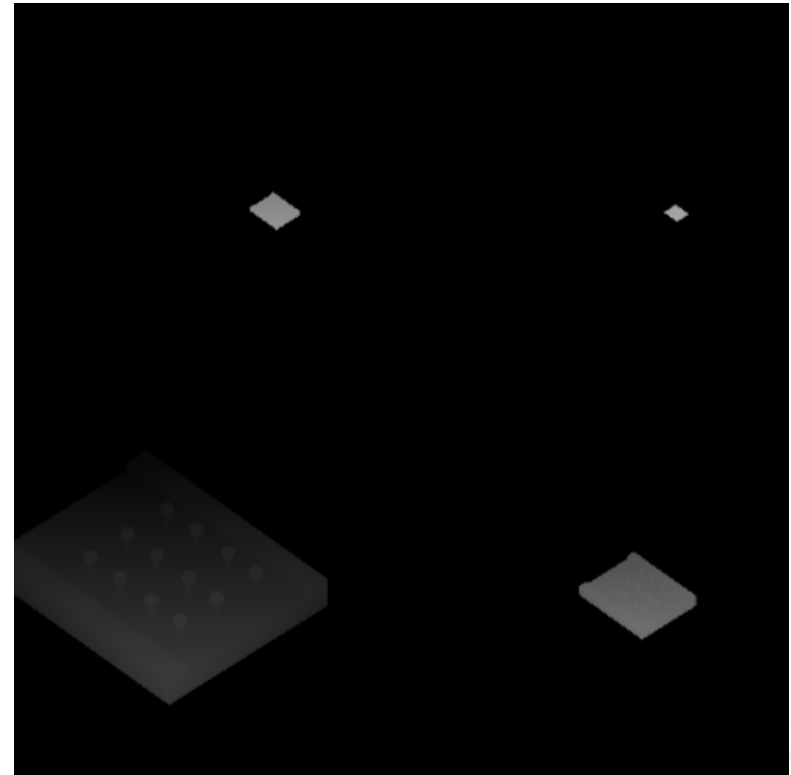
Frame Debug	
Enable	Connected Play
▼ Camera.Render	192
▼ UpdateDepthTexture	17
Clear (color+Z+stencil)	
▶ DepthPass.Job	16
▼ Drawing	173
▼ Render.OpaqueGeometry	173
▼ RenderForwardOpaque.Render	173
▶ Shadows.RenderShadowMap	57
▶ RenderForwardOpaque.CollectShadows	2
▶ Shadows.RenderShadowMap	57
▶ RenderForwardOpaque.CollectShadows	2
▶ Clear	1
▶ RenderForward.RenderLoopJob	54
▶ Camera.ImageEffects	2



Shadow Mapping – Frame Debugger



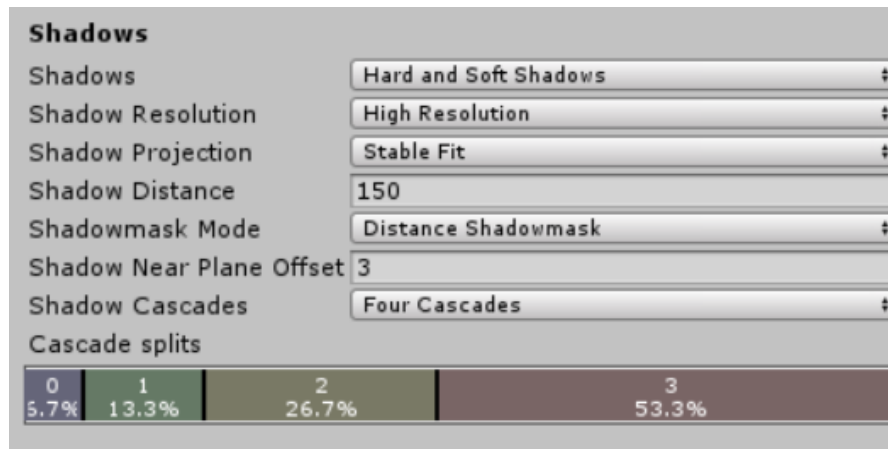
Shadow Map – Light 1



Shadow Map – Light 2

Unity Shadows Settings

- Shadow quality settings: Edit -> Project Settings -> Quality

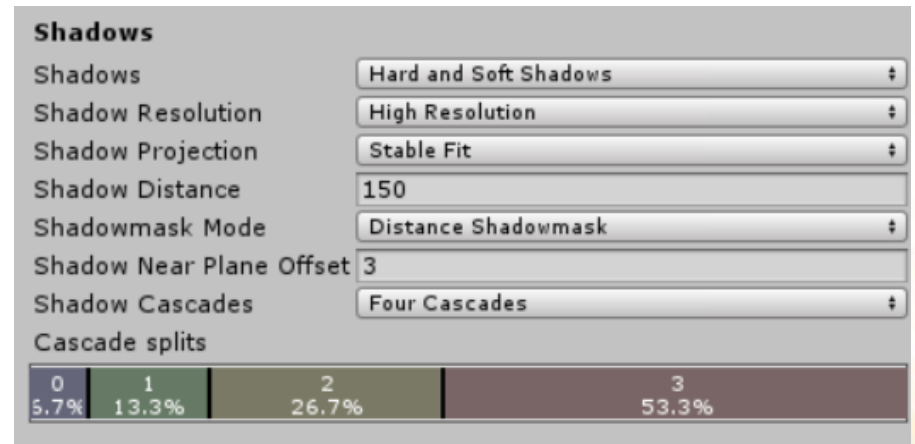
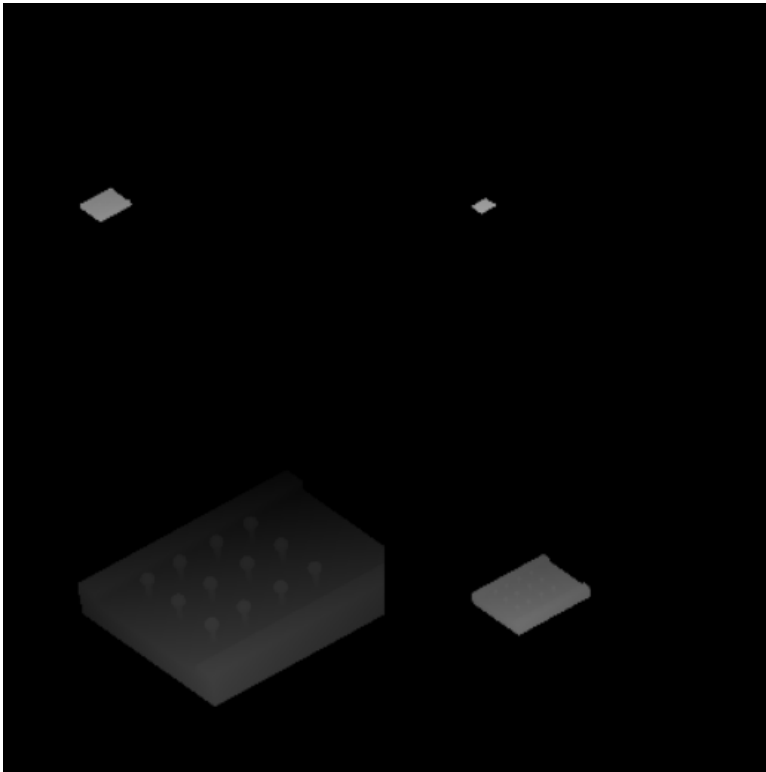


- Shadow settings per light:



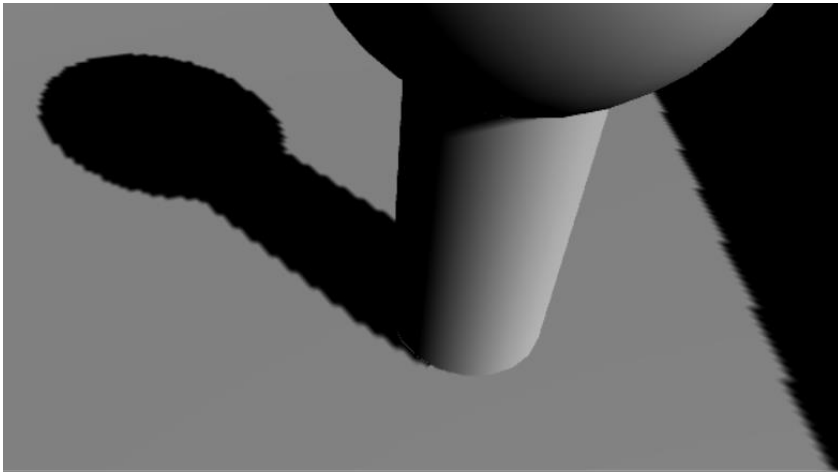
Unity Shadow Maps

- By default, Unity renders the scene four times per light (cascade technique). The shadow maps are split into four quadrants, each being rendered from a different point of view.

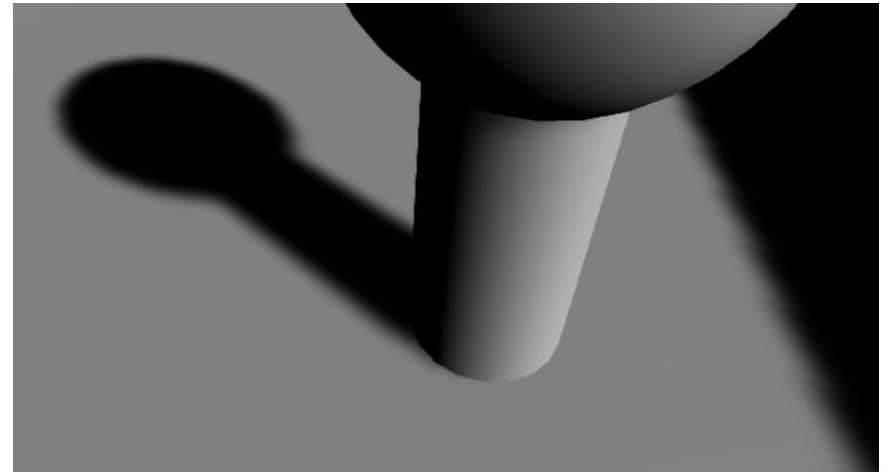


Shadow Quality

- Hard vs. Soft Shadows:



Hard Shadows

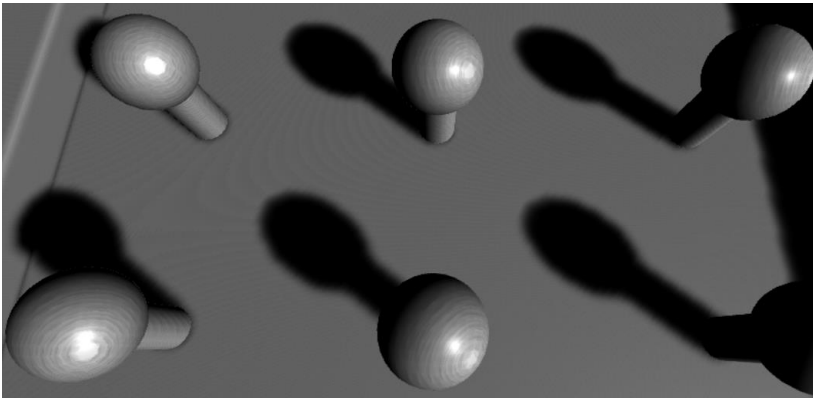


Soft Shadows

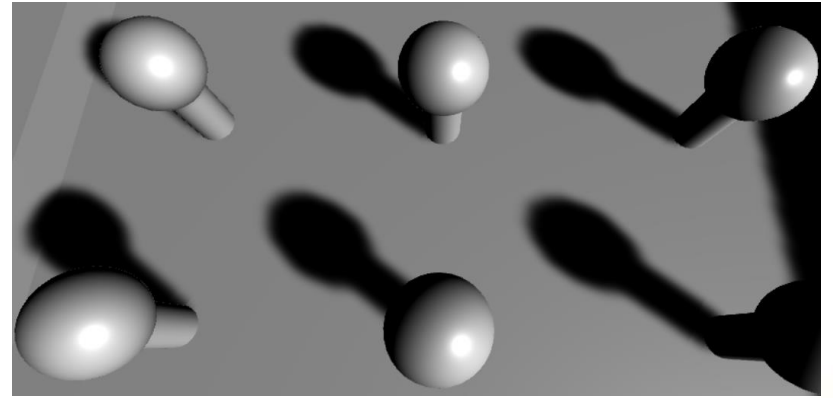
Shadow Quality

- **Shadow problems:**

- Numerical precision limitations (shadow acne):

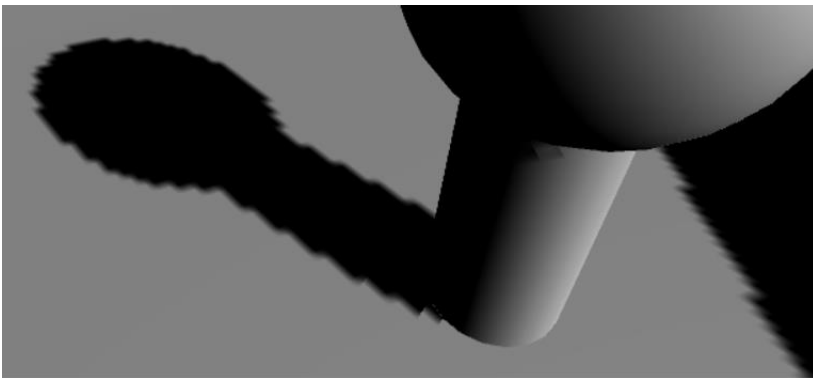


No bias

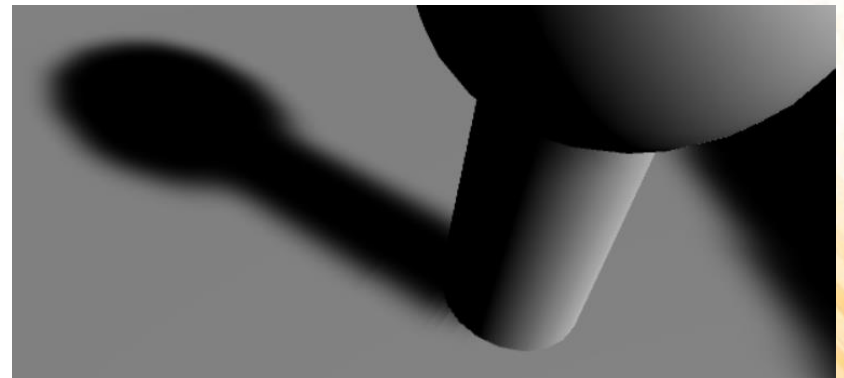


With bias

- Shadow map resolution:



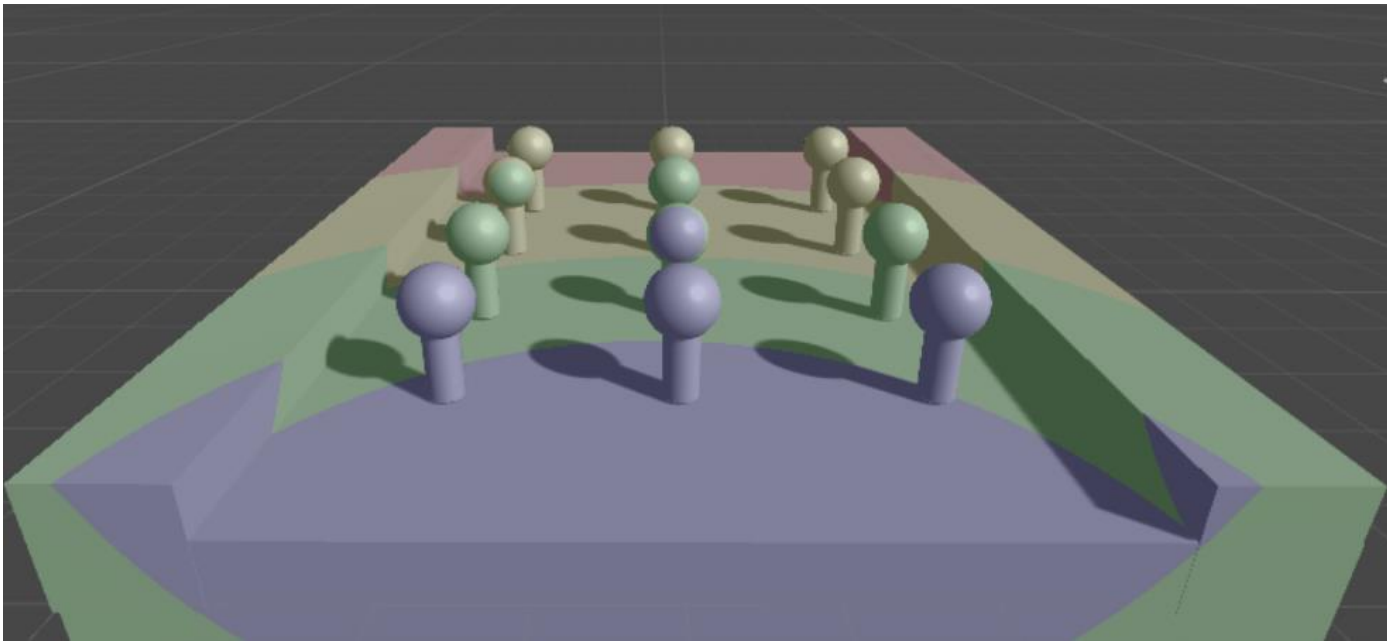
No blur



With Blur

Shadow Quality

- Cascades Bands:



Shadow Projection	Stable Fit		
Shadow Distance	150		
Shadowmask Mode	Distance Shadowmask		
Shadow Near Plane Offset	3		
Shadow Cascades	Four Cascades		
Cascade splits			
0	1	2	3
5.7%	13.3%	26.7%	53.3%

Further Reading

- Hughes, J. F., et al. (2013). **Computer Graphics: Principles and Practice** (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Addison-Wesley Professional. ISBN: 978-0-321-39952-6.
 - **Chapter 15: Ray Casting and Rasterization**
- Marschner, S., et al. (2015). **Fundamentals of Computer Graphics** (4th ed.). A K Peters/CRC Press. ISBN: 978-1482229394.
 - **Chapter 11: Texture Mapping**
- **Web:**
 - <http://catlikecoding.com/unity/tutorials/rendering/part-7/>

