




An Efficient Ray-Triangle Intersection Algorithm



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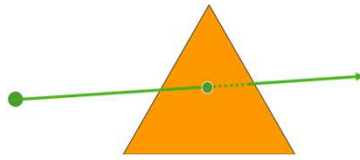
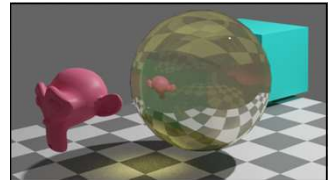
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Why Do We Want to Intersect a Ray and a Triangle?

There are many applications for finding if a line intersects the inside of a triangle, and, if so, where. Examples include collision detection, ray-tracing, etc.

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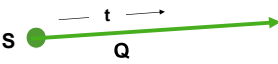
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Parametrizing a Ray


Given:
S is the (x,y,z) starting point
Q is the (x,y,z) direction of travel

Then, the (x,y,z) position of a point **p** at some position along its direction of travel is:



$$p = S + tQ$$

$$t \geq 0.$$

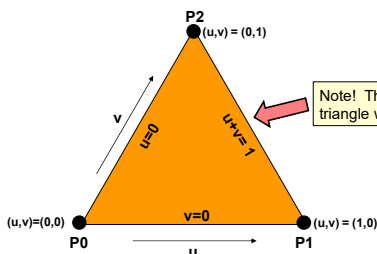
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Parametrizing a Triangle

It's often useful to be able to parameterize a triangle into (u,v), like this:



Note! There is no place in this triangle where $u = 1$ and $v = 1$.

$$p = P0 + u*(P1-P0) + v*(P2-P0)$$

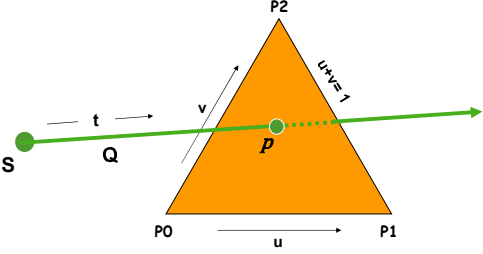
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The Setup

We want to find out where the ray intersects the triangle.
That is, where is the point **p** that is common to both the ray and the triangle?



Such that:

$$\begin{aligned} t &\geq 0. \\ 0 &\leq u \leq 1. \\ 0 &\leq v \leq 1-u. \end{aligned}$$

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Equation Setup

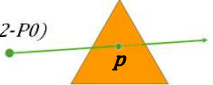
Triangle: $p = P0 + u*(P1-P0) + v*(P2-P0)$
Ray: $p = S + tQ$


Re-arranging:
 $P0 + u*(P1-P0) + v*(P2-P0) = S + tQ$

Re-arranging some more:
 $-tQ + u*(P1-P0) + v*(P2-P0) = S - P0$

Then collecting terms, we get:
 $At + Bu + Cv = D$

where:

$$\begin{aligned} A &= -Q \\ B &= P1-P0 \\ C &= P2-P0 \\ D &= S-P0 \end{aligned}$$


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Three Equations, Three Unknowns

Remembering that this equation is really 3 equations in (x,y,z):

$$At + Bu + Cv = D$$

we have 3 equations with 3 unknowns, which can be cast into a matrix form

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_x & B_x & C_x \\ A_y & B_y & C_y \\ A_z & B_z & C_z \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} t \\ u \\ v \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{Bmatrix} D_x \\ D_y \\ D_z \end{Bmatrix}$$

Our goal is to solve this for t^* , u^* , and v^*



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Solve for (t^*, u^*, v^*) using Cramer's Rule

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_x & B_x & C_x \\ A_y & B_y & C_y \\ A_z & B_z & C_z \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} t \\ u \\ v \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{Bmatrix} D_x \\ D_y \\ D_z \end{Bmatrix}$$

$$D_0 = \det \begin{bmatrix} A_x & B_x & C_x \\ A_y & B_y & C_y \\ A_z & B_z & C_z \end{bmatrix}$$

$$D_t = \det \begin{bmatrix} D_x & B_x & C_x \\ D_y & B_y & C_y \\ D_z & B_z & C_z \end{bmatrix}$$

$$D_u = \det \begin{bmatrix} A_x & D_x & C_x \\ A_y & D_y & C_y \\ A_z & D_z & C_z \end{bmatrix}$$

$$D_v = \det \begin{bmatrix} A_x & B_x & D_x \\ A_y & B_y & D_y \\ A_z & B_z & D_z \end{bmatrix}$$

$$t^* = \frac{D_t}{D_0}$$

$$u^* = \frac{D_u}{D_0}$$

$$v^* = \frac{D_v}{D_0}$$



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Flashback: The Determinant of a 3x3 Matrix

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} M_{00} & M_{01} & M_{02} \\ M_{10} & M_{11} & M_{12} \\ M_{20} & M_{21} & M_{22} \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$M_{00} * [M_{11} * M_{22} - M_{21} * M_{12}] - M_{01} * [M_{10} * M_{22} - M_{20} * M_{12}] + M_{02} * [M_{10} * M_{21} - M_{20} * M_{11}]$$



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The Steps

1. Compute D_0
2. If $D_0 \approx 0$, then the ray is *parallel* to the plane of the triangle **STOP**
3. Compute D_t
4. Compute t^*
5. If $t^* < 0$, the ray goes away from the triangle **STOP**
6. Compute D_u
7. Compute u^*
8. If $u^* < 0$ or $u^* > 1$, then the ray hits outside the triangle **STOP**
9. Compute D_v
10. Compute v^*
11. If $v^* < 0$ or $v^* > 1 - u^*$, then the ray hits outside the triangle **STOP**
12. The intersection is at the point $p = S + Qt^*$



This is known as the **Möller-Trumbore Triangle Intersection Algorithm**

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Computing the Determinant of a 3-Column Matrix using GLM

```
float
Determinant( glm::vec3 c0, glm::vec3 c1, glm::vec3 c2 )
{
    float d00 = c0.x * ( c1.y*c2.z - c1.z*c2.y );
    float d01 = c1.x * ( c0.y*c2.z - c0.z*c2.y );
    float d02 = c2.x * ( c0.y*c1.z - c0.z*c1.y );
    return d00 - d01 + d02;
}
```



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Setting Up the Equations

```
float Ax = -Qx;
float Ay = -Qy;
float Az = -Qz;
```

```
float Bx = P1x - P0x;
float By = P1y - P0y;
float Bz = P1z - P0z;
```

```
float Cx = P2x - P0x;
float Cy = P2y - P0y;
float Cz = P2z - P0z;
```

```
float Dx = Sx - P0x;
float Dy = Sy - P0y;
float Dz = Sz - P0z;
```



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```
glm::vec3 colA = glm::vec3( Ax, Ay, Az );  
glm::vec3 colB = glm::vec3( Bx, By, Bz );  
glm::vec3 colC = glm::vec3( Cx, Cy, Cz );  
glm::vec3 colD = glm::vec3( Dx, Dy, Dz );
```

```
float d0 = Determinant( colA, colB, colC );  
float dt = Determinant( colD, colB, colC );  
float du = Determinant( colA, colD, colC );  
float dv = Determinant( colA, colB, colD );
```

```
float tstar = dt / d0;  
float ustar = du / d0;  
float vstar = dv / d0;
```

