

# **Barycentric Coordinates (and Some Texture Mapping)**

Connelly Barnes

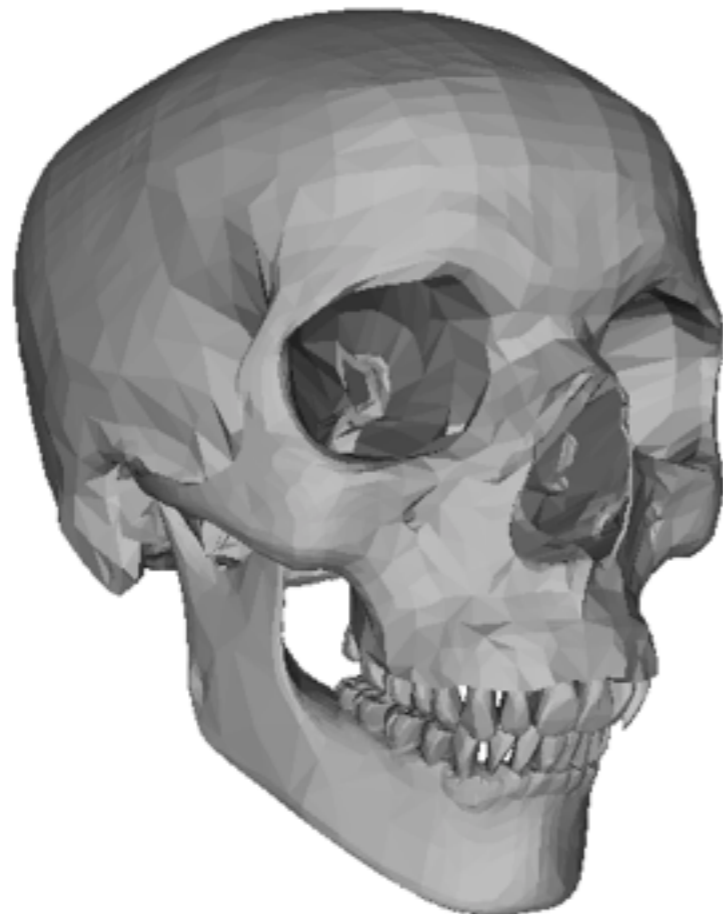
CS 4810: Graphics

Acknowledgment: slides by Jason Lawrence, Misha Kazhdan, Allison Klein, Tom Funkhouser, Adam Finkelstein and David Dobkin

# Triangles

These are the basic building blocks of 3D models.

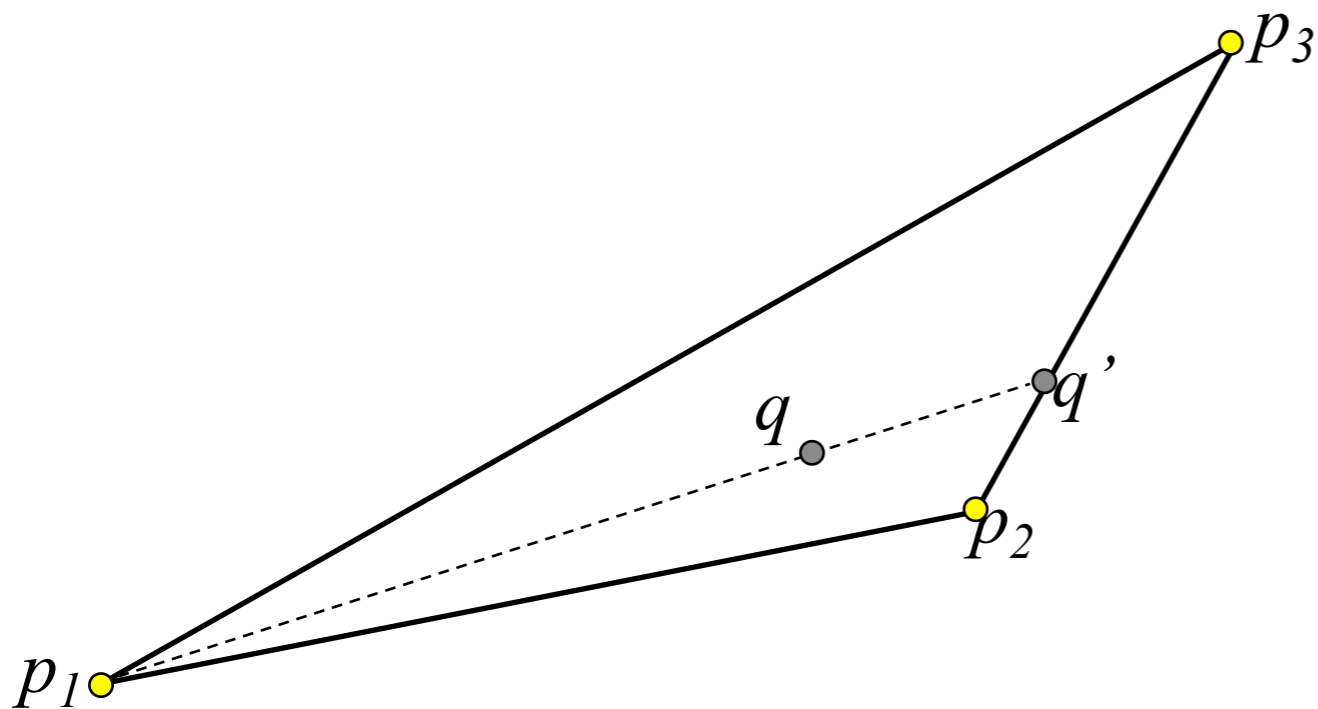
- Often 3D models are complex, and the surfaces are represented by a triangulated approximation.



# Triangles

A triangle is defined by three non-collinear vertices:

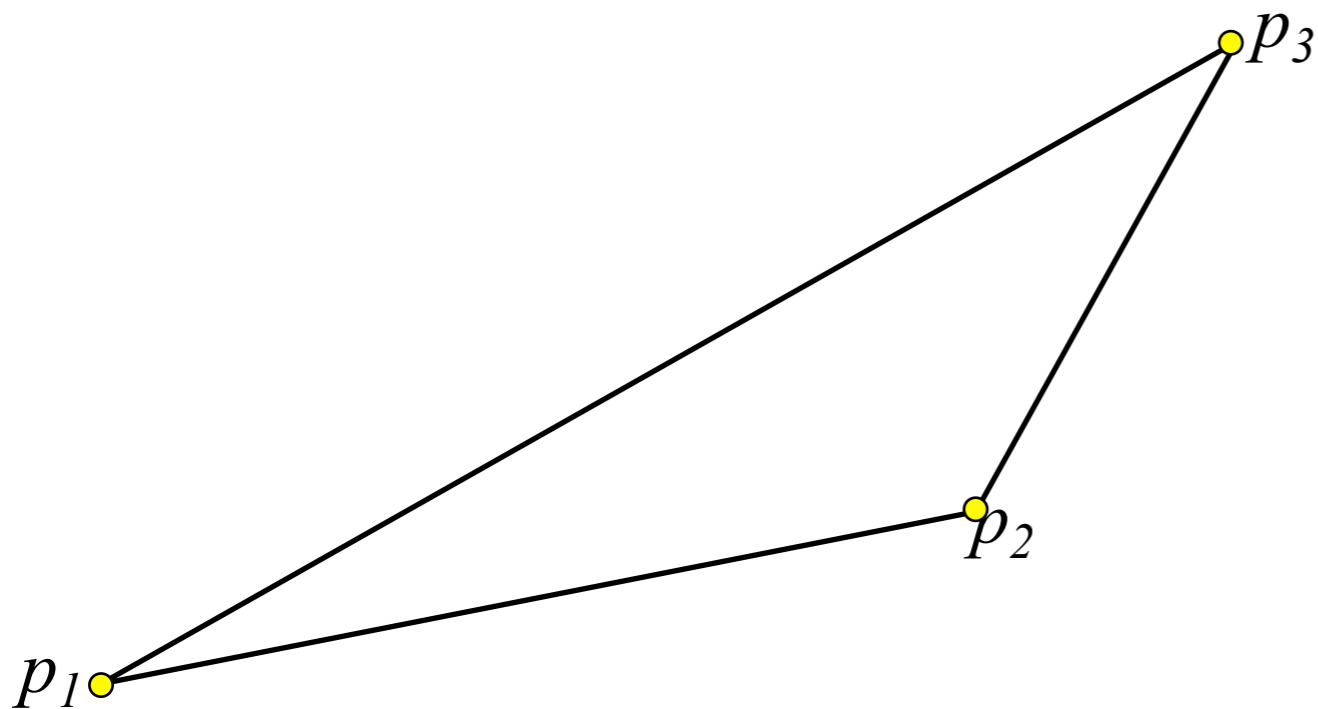
- Any point  $q$  in the triangle is on the line segment between one vertex and some other point  $q'$  on the opposite edge.



# Barycentric Coordinates

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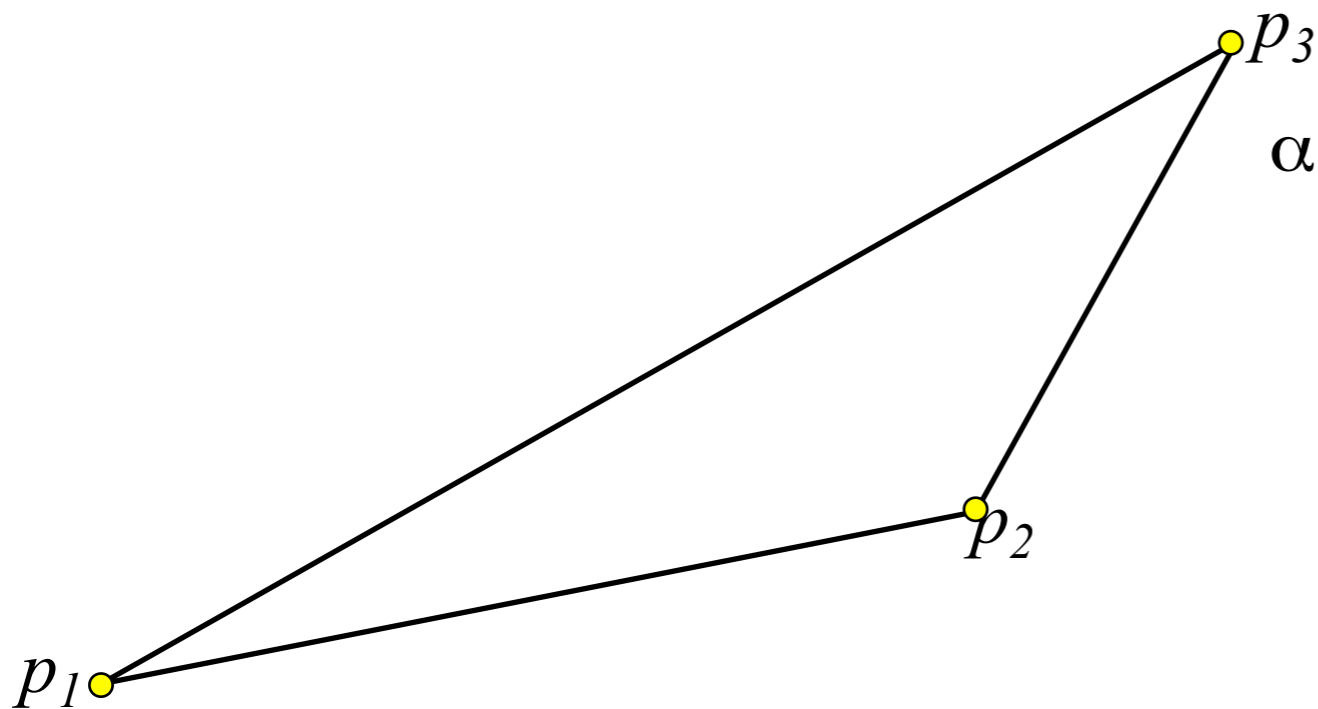
- Any point  $q$  in the triangle is on the line segment between one vertex and some other point  $q'$  on the opposite edge.
- Any point on the triangle can be expressed as:
  - $q = \{ \alpha p_1 + \beta p_2 + \gamma p_3 \mid \alpha + \beta + \gamma = 1, \alpha, \beta, \gamma \geq 0 \}$



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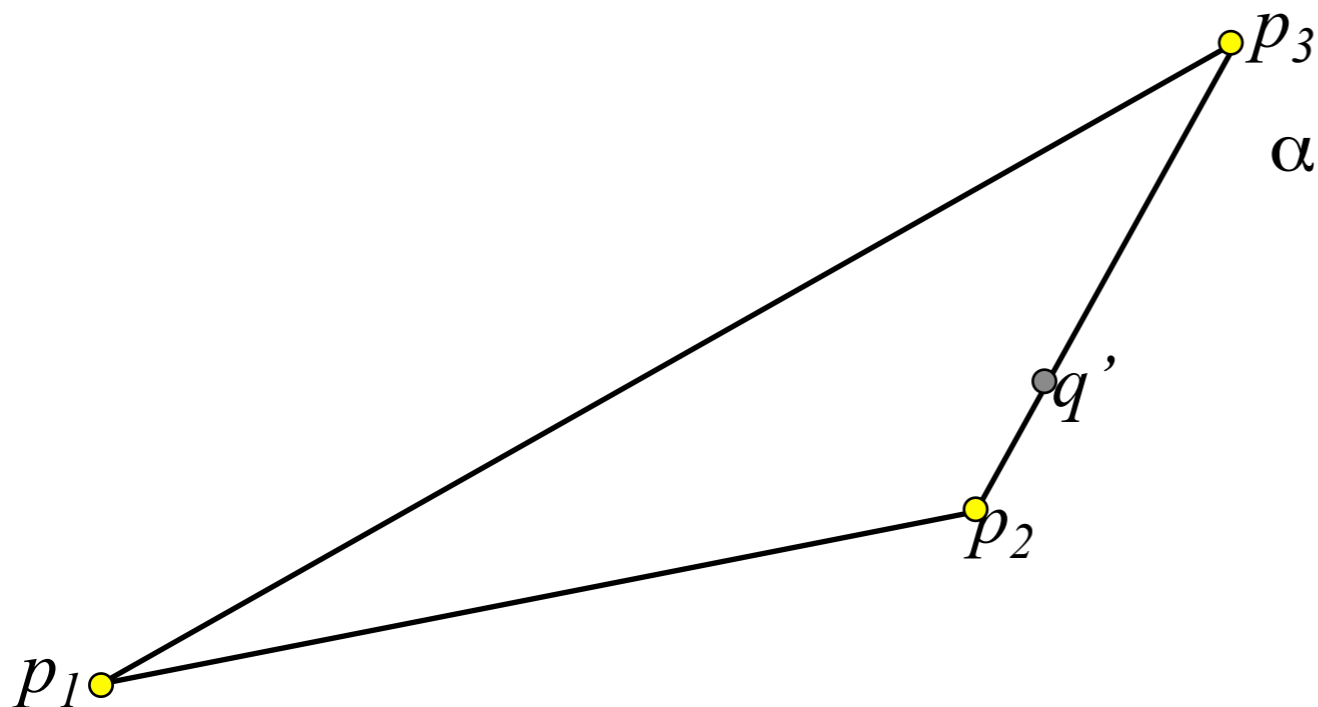


$$\alpha p_1 + \beta p_2 + \gamma p_3 = \alpha p_1 + (1 - \alpha) \left( \frac{\beta p_2 + \gamma p_3}{1 - \alpha} \right)$$

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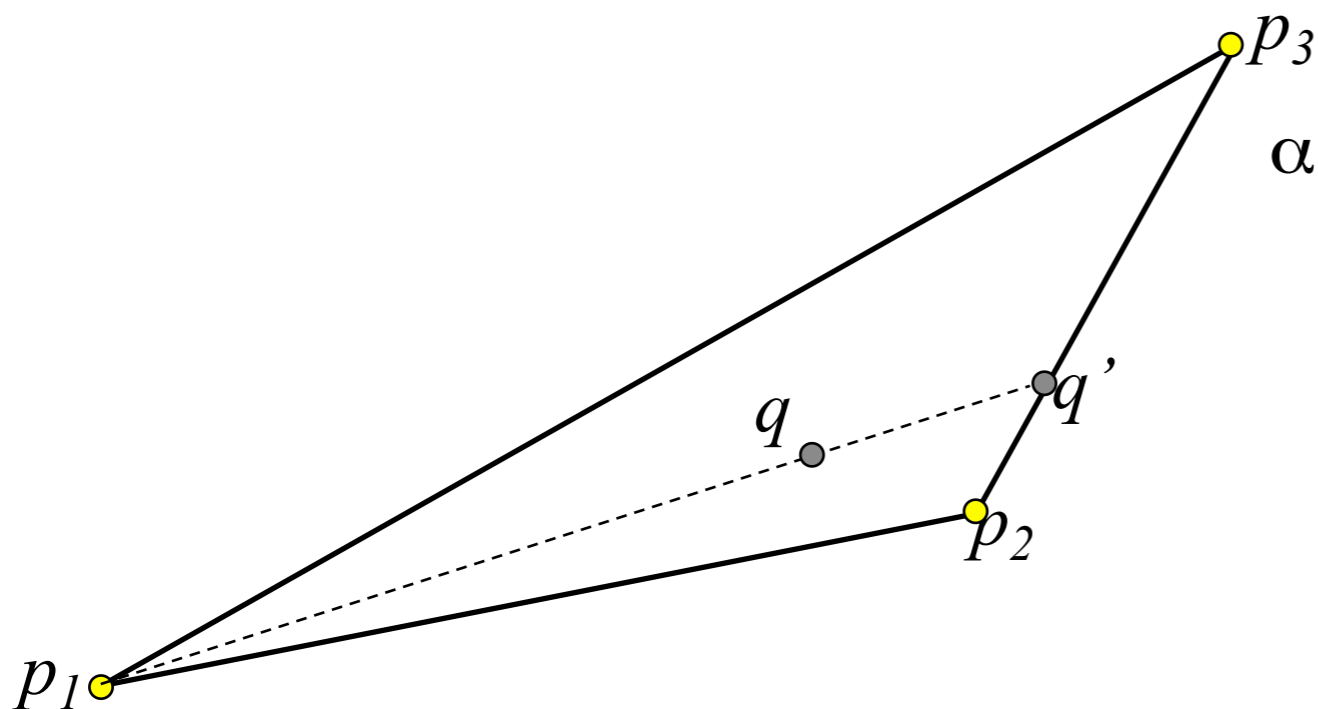
$$\begin{aligned} \alpha p_1 + \beta p_2 + \gamma p_3 &= \alpha p_1 + (1 - \alpha) \left( \frac{\beta p_2 + \gamma p_3}{1 - \alpha} \right) \\ &= \alpha p_1 + (1 - \alpha) \left( \frac{\beta p_2 + \gamma p_3}{\beta + \gamma} \right) \end{aligned}$$

A point  $q'$  on the segment between  $p_2$  and  $p_3$

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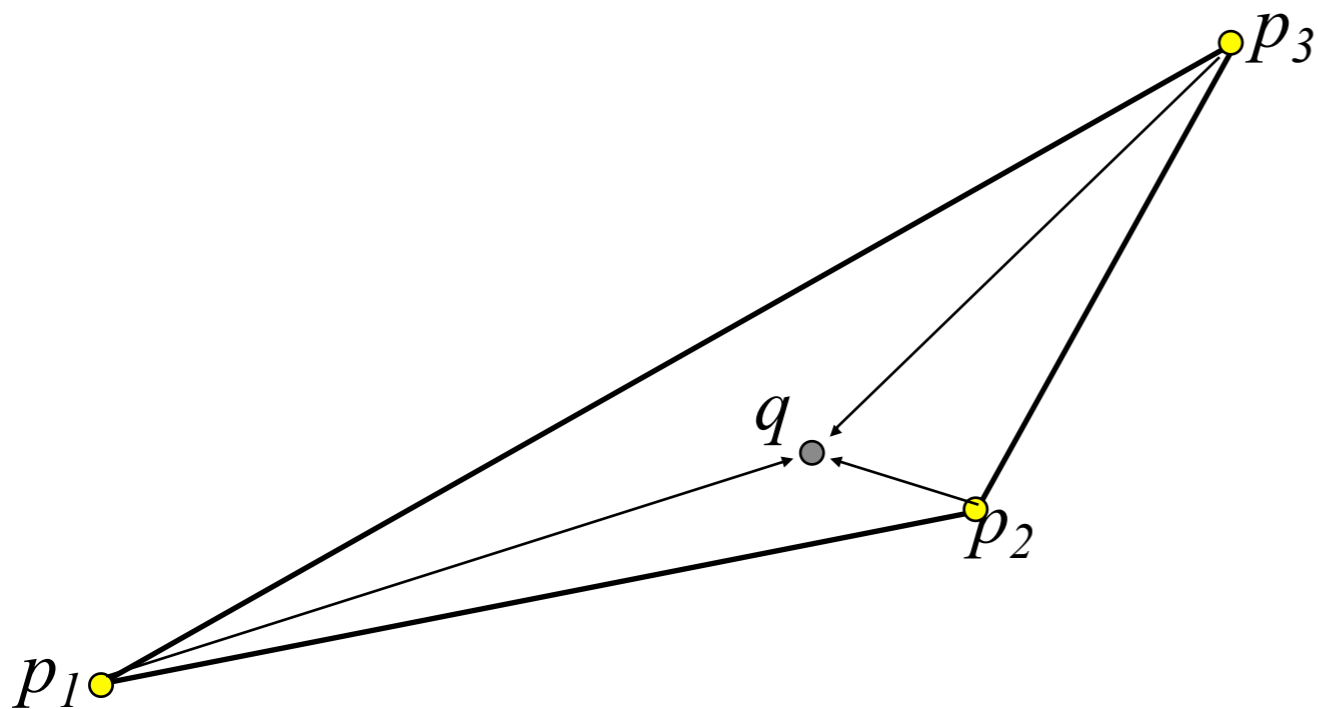
A point  $q$  on the segment between  $p_1$  and  $q'$

# Barycentric Coordinates

The barycentric coordinates of a point  $q$ :

$$q = \alpha p_1 + \beta p_2 + \gamma p_3$$

allow us to express  $q$  as a weighted average of the vertices of the triangles.





# Barycentric Coordinates

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Questions:

- What happens if  $\alpha, \beta,$  or  $\gamma < 0$ ?

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Questions:

- What happens if  $\alpha, \beta$ , or  $\gamma < 0$ ?
  - $q$  is not inside the triangle but it is in the plane spanned by  $p_1, p_2$ , and  $p_3$ .

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Questions:

- What happens if  $\alpha, \beta$ , or  $\gamma < 0$ ?
- What happens if  $\alpha + \beta + \gamma \neq 1$ ?

Note: If we force  $\alpha = 1 - \beta - \gamma$ , we always get  $\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 1$  so the point  $q$  is always in the plane containing the triangle

# Barycentric Coordinates

Barycentric coordinates are needed in:

- Ray-Tracing, to test for intersection
- Rendering, to interpolate triangle information

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```
Float TriangleIntersect(Ray r, Triangle tgl) {
    Plane p=PlaneContaining( tgl );
    Float t = IntersectionDistance( r, p );
    if (t < 0 ) { return -1;}
    else {
        ( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ) = Barycentric( r(t), tgl);
        if ( $\alpha$  < 0 or  $\beta$  < 0 or  $\gamma$  < 0 ) { return -1;}
        else { return t; }
    }
}
```

# Barycentric Coordinates

Barycentric coordinates are needed in:

- Ray-Tracing, to test for intersection
- Rendering, to interpolate triangle information
  - In 3D models, information is often associated with vertices rather than triangles (e.g. color, normals, etc.)

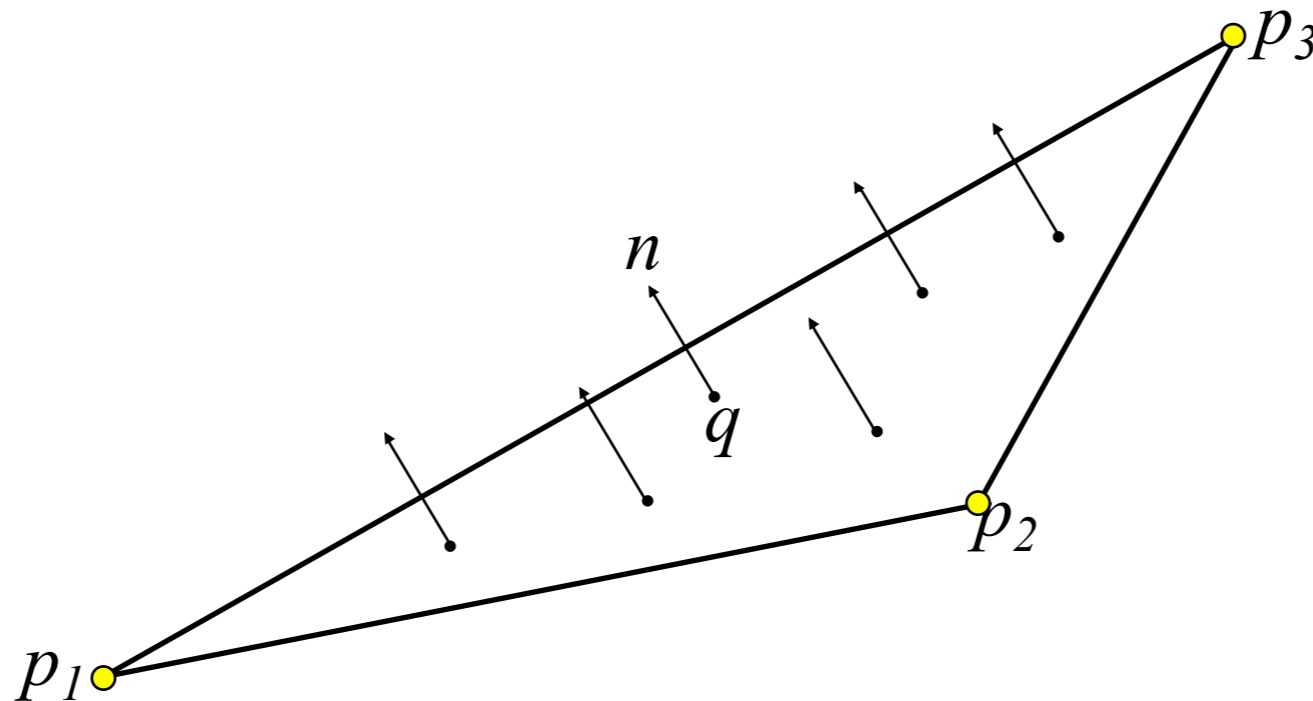


# Barycentric Coordinates

For example:

- We could associate the same normal/color to every point on the face of a triangle by computing:

$$n = \frac{(p_2 - p_1) \times (p_3 - p_1)}{\|(p_2 - p_1) \times (p_3 - p_1)\|}$$



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Triangle Normals

This gives rise to flat shading/  
coloring across the faces

# Barycentric Coordinates

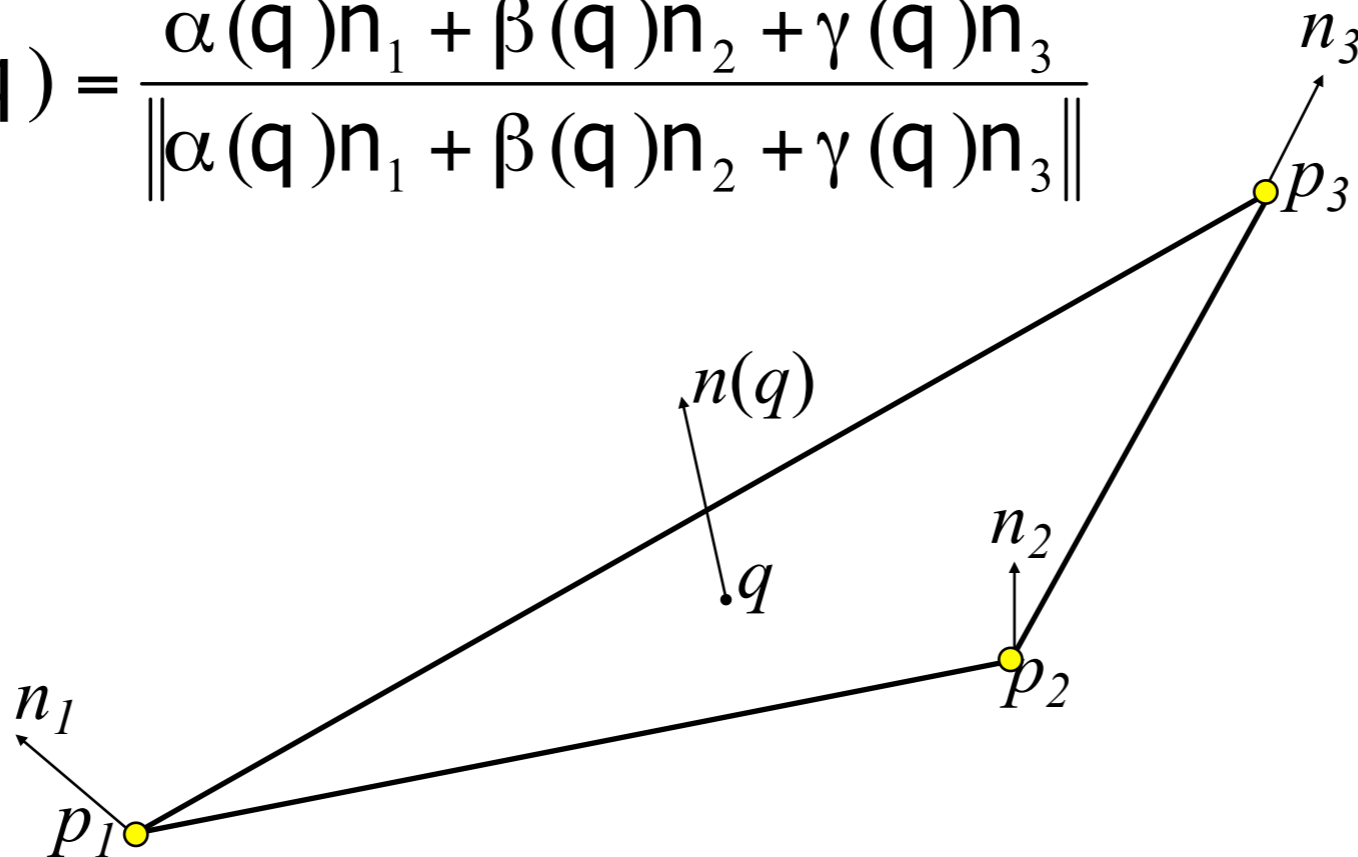
Instead:

- We could associate normals to every vertex:

$$T = ((p_1, n_1), (p_2, n_2), (p_3, n_3))$$

so that the normal at some point  $q$  in the triangle is the interpolation of the normals at the vertices:

$$n(q) = \frac{\alpha(q)n_1 + \beta(q)n_2 + \gamma(q)n_3}{\|\alpha(q)n_1 + \beta(q)n_2 + \gamma(q)n_3\|}$$



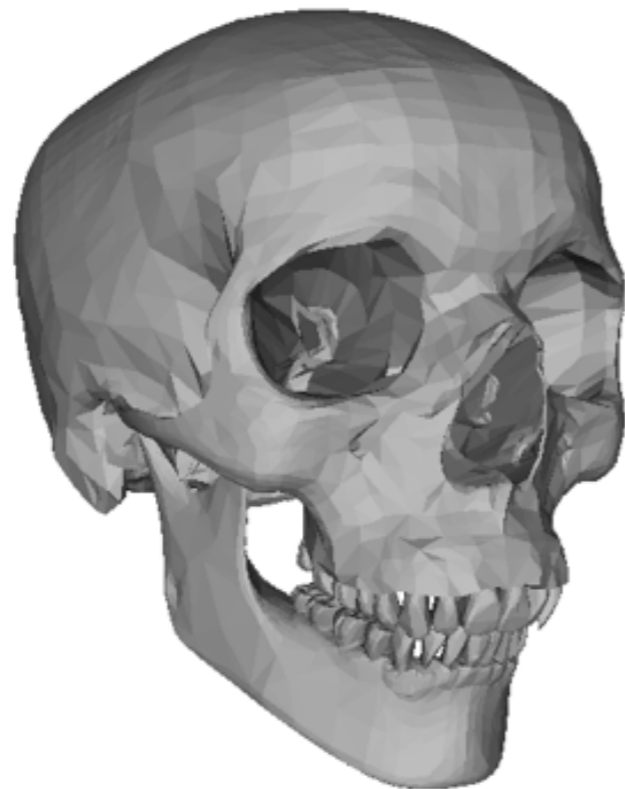
# Barycentric Coordinates

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Triangle Normals



Interpolated Point Normals

# Barycentric Coordinates

So given the points  $p_1$ ,  $p_2$ , and  $p_3$ , how do we compute the barycentric coordinates of a point  $q$  in the plane spanned by  $p_1$ ,  $p_2$ , and  $p_3$ ?

## Matrix Inversion:

We can approach this as a linear system with three equations and two unknowns:

$$q_x = (1 - \beta - \gamma)p_{1x} + \beta p_{2x} + \gamma p_{3x}$$

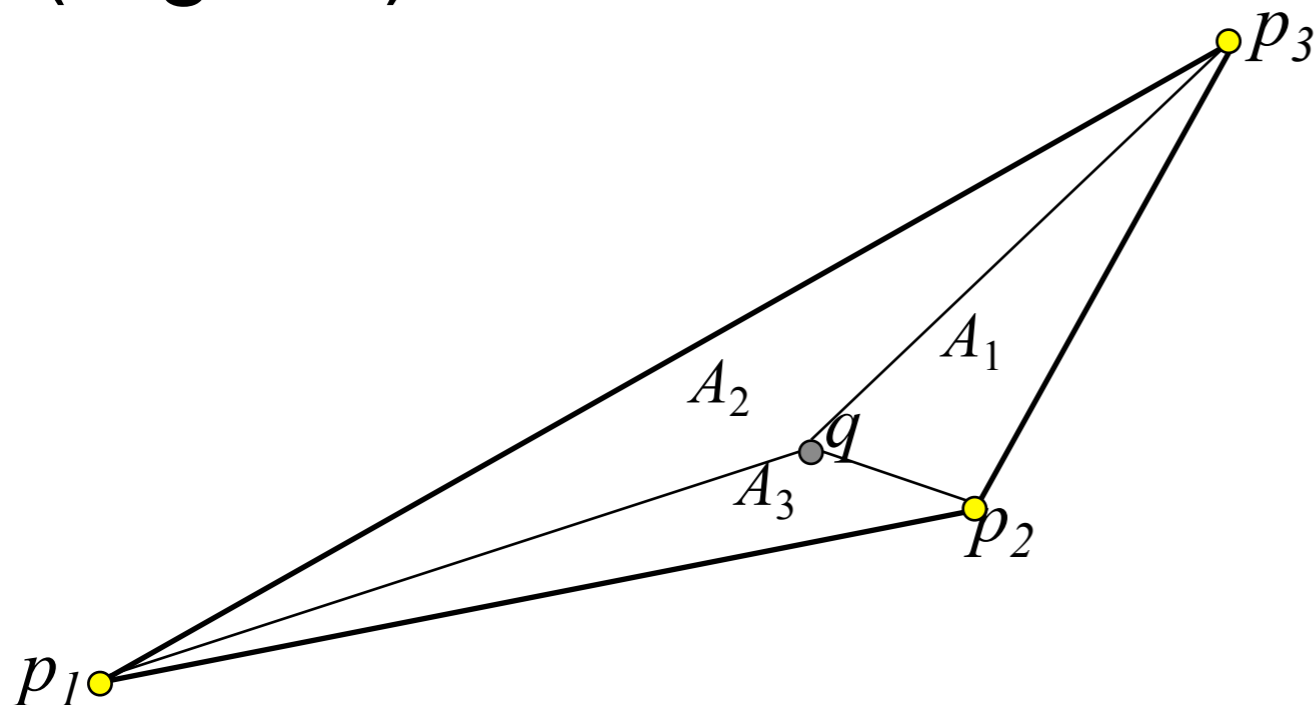
$$q_y = (1 - \beta - \gamma)p_{1y} + \beta p_{2y} + \gamma p_{3y}$$

$$q_z = (1 - \beta - \gamma)p_{1z} + \beta p_{2z} + \gamma p_{3z}$$

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(Signed) Area Ratios:



$$\alpha = \frac{A_1}{A_1 + A_2 + A_3}$$

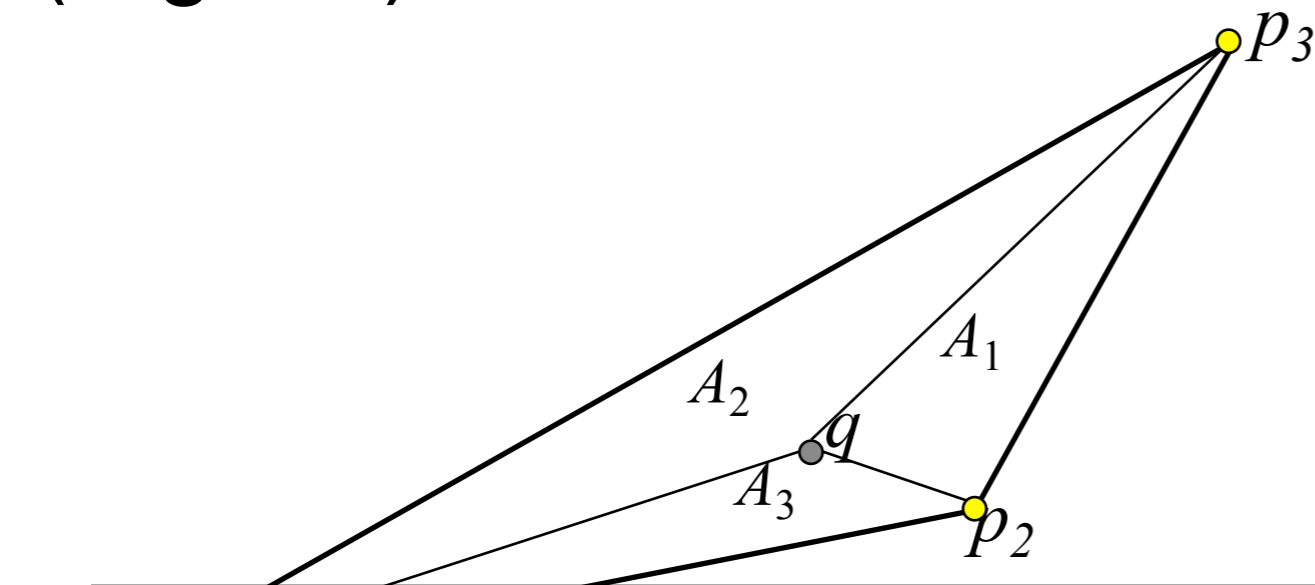
$$\beta = \frac{A_2}{A_1 + A_2 + A_3}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{A_3}{A_1 + A_2 + A_3}$$

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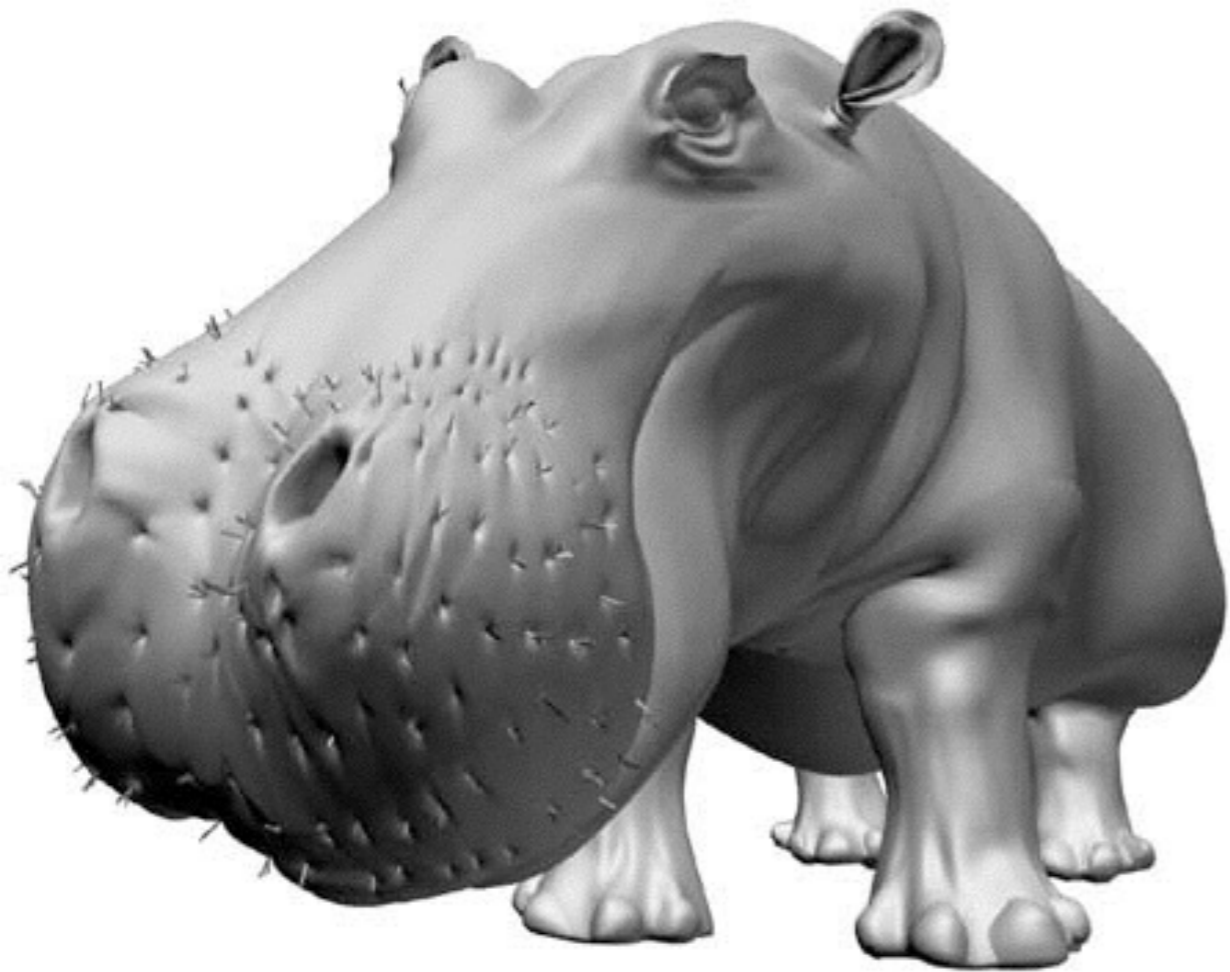
$$\alpha = \frac{A_1}{A_1 + A_2 + A_3}$$

$$\beta = \frac{A_2}{A_1 + A_2 + A_3}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{A_3}{A_1 + A_2 + A_3}$$

$p_1$  Solving this equation requires computing the areas of three triangles for every point  $q$ . (DERIVATION IN CLASS)

# Texture Mapping (Briefly, More Later)





# Textures

- How can we go about drawing surfaces with complex detail?



Target Model

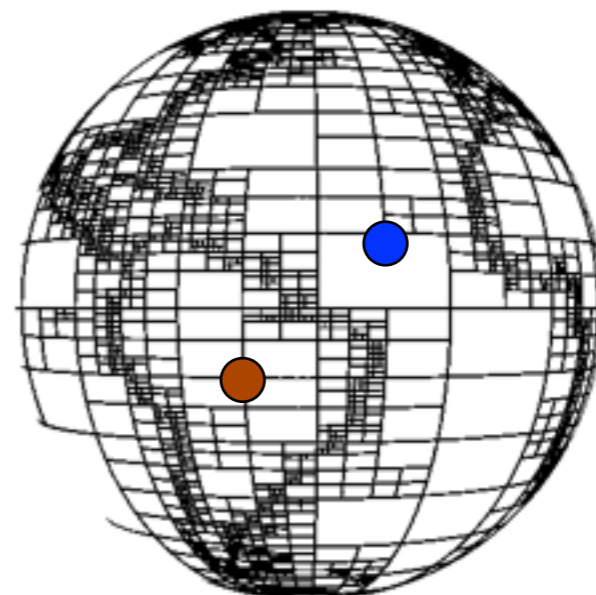
# Textures

- How can we go about drawing surfaces with complex detail?



Target Model

- We could tessellate the sphere in a complex fashion and then associate the appropriate material properties to each vertex



Complex Surface

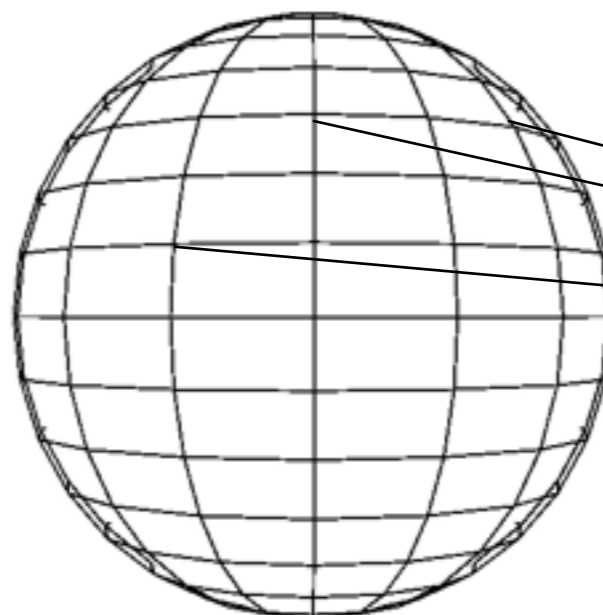
# Textures

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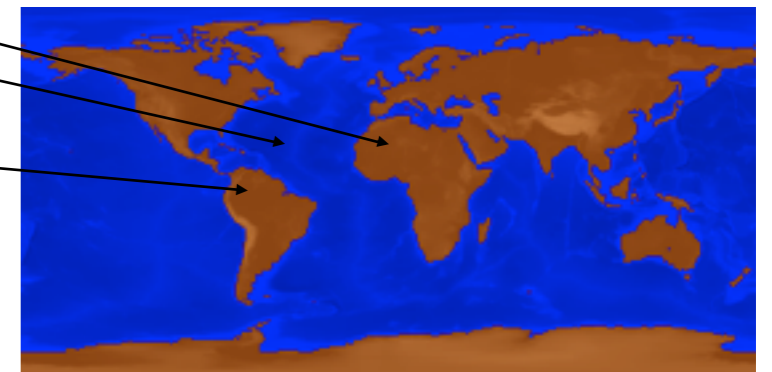


Target Model

- We could use a simple tessellation and use the location of surface points to look up the appropriate color values



Simple Surface



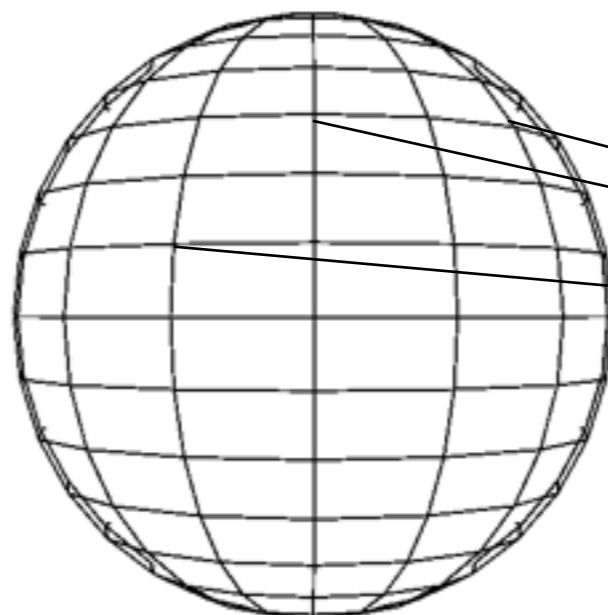
Texture Image

# Textures

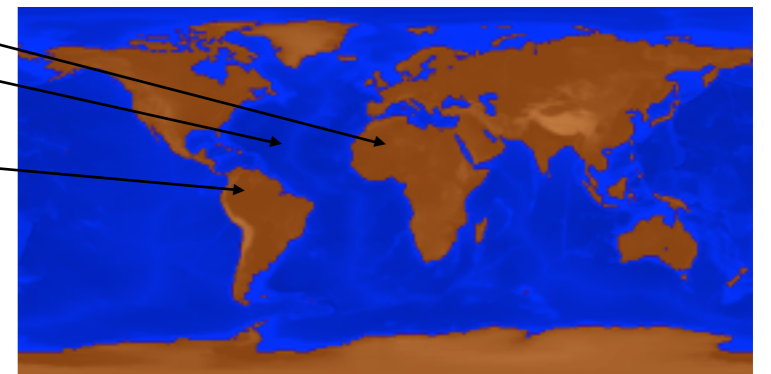
- Advantages:
  - The 3D model remains simple
  - It is easier to design/modify a texture image than it is to design/modify a surface in 3D.



Target Model

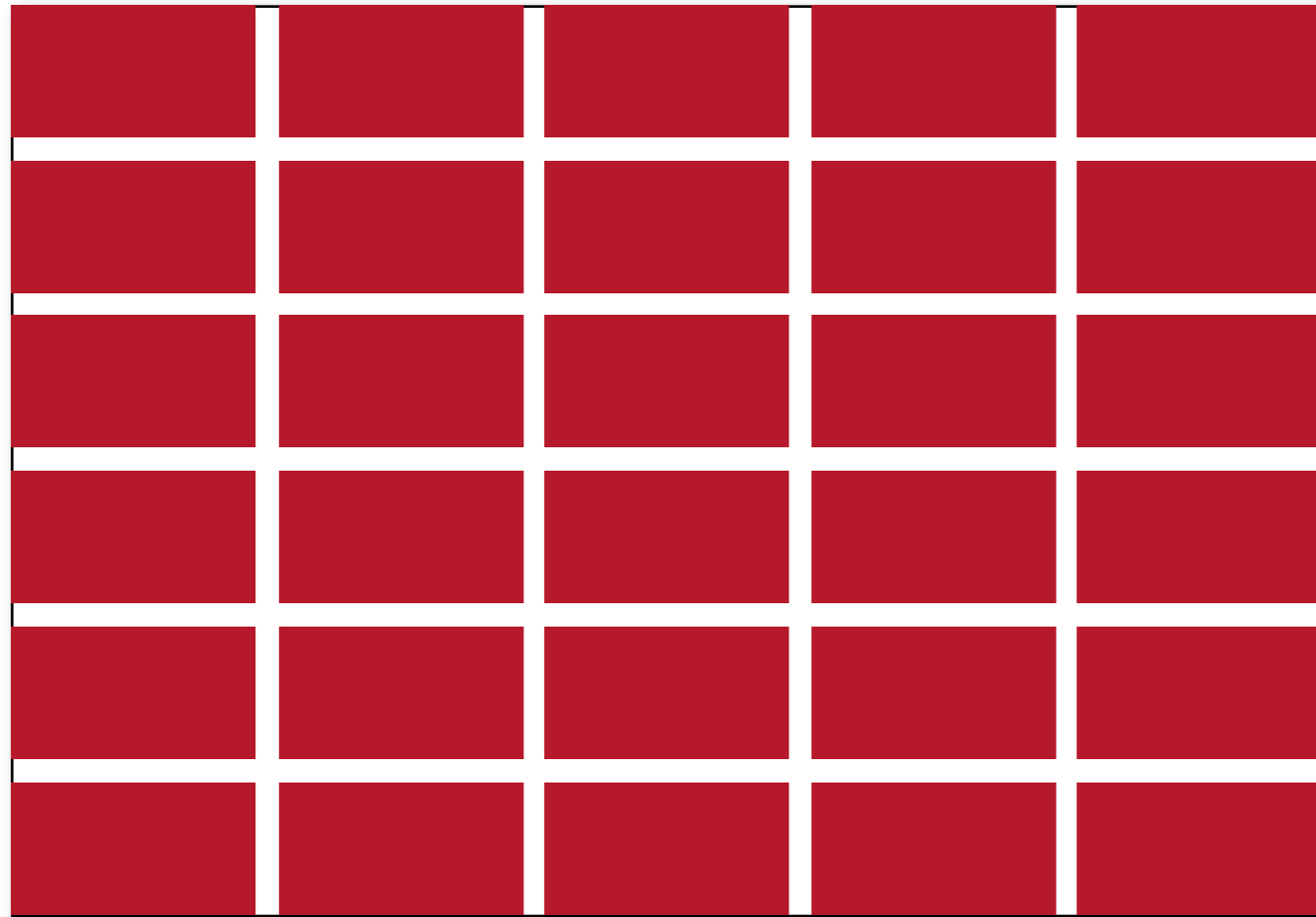


Simple Surface

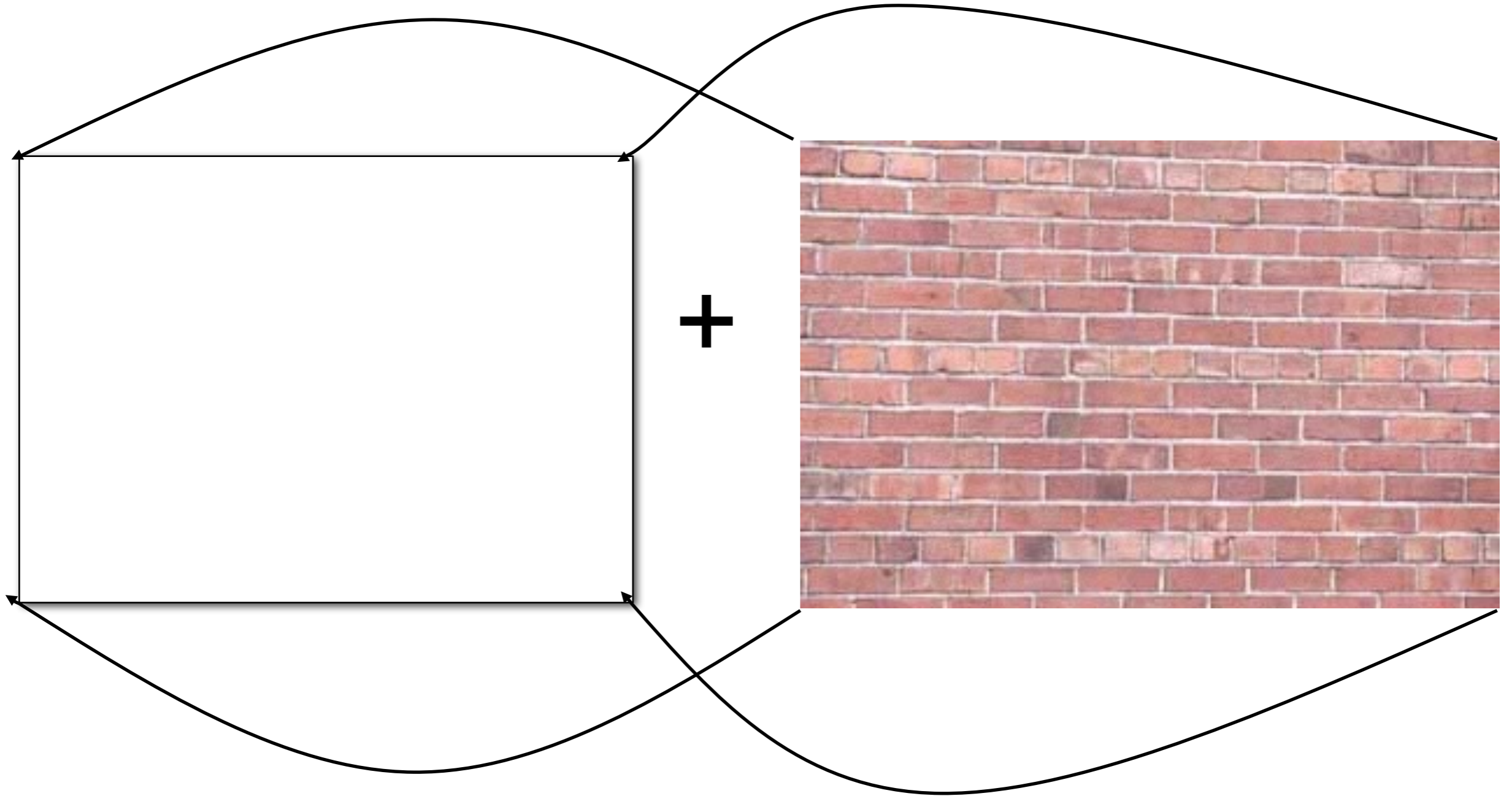


Texture Image

# Another Example: Brick Wall

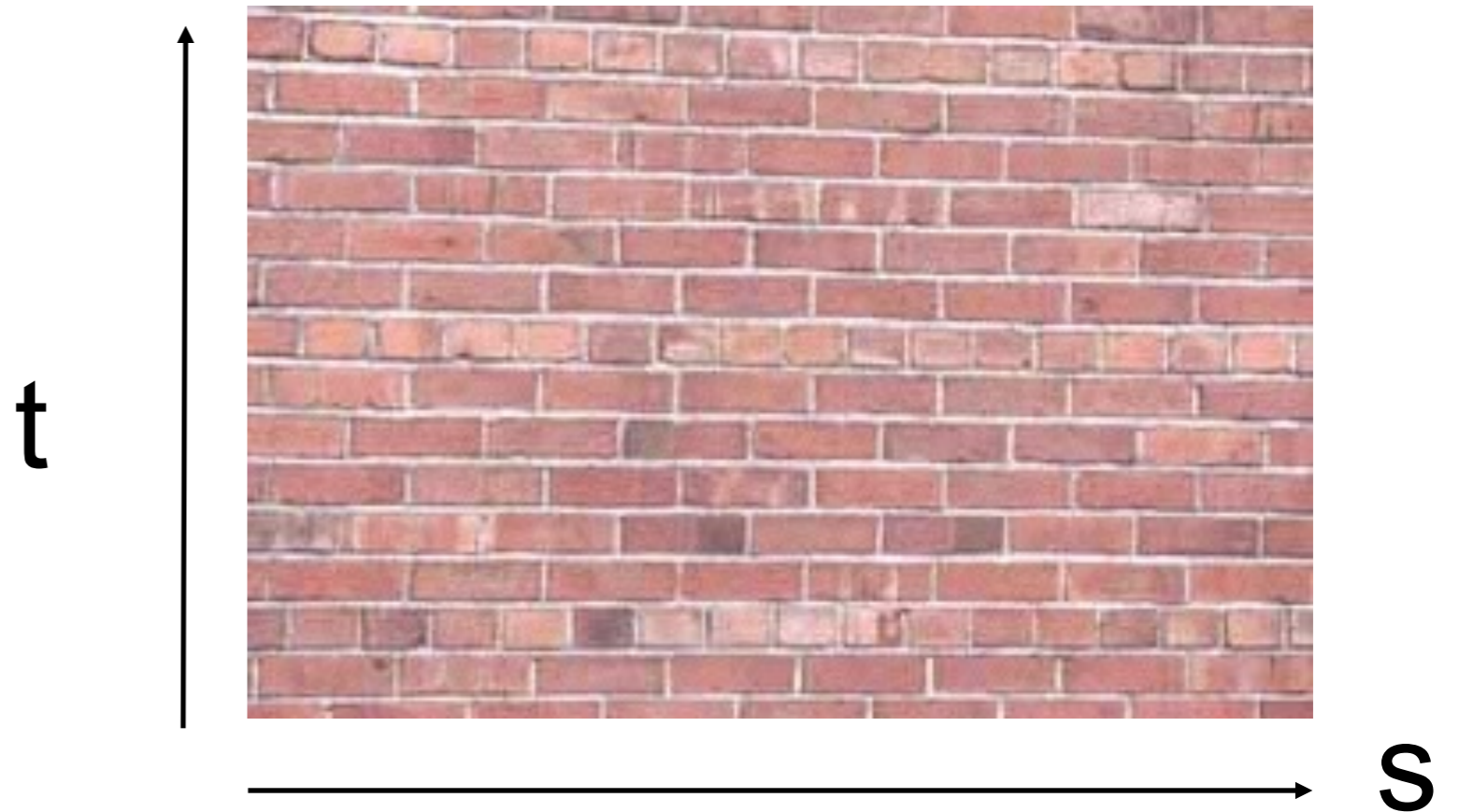


# Another Example: Brick Wall



# 2D Texture

- Coordinates described by variables  $s$  and  $t$  *and* range over interval  $(0,1)$
- Texture elements are called *texels*
- Often 4 bytes (rgba) per texel

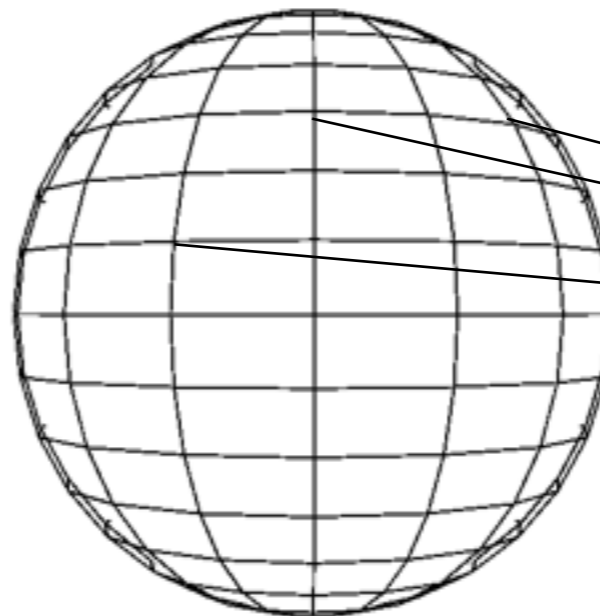


# Texture Mapping a Sphere

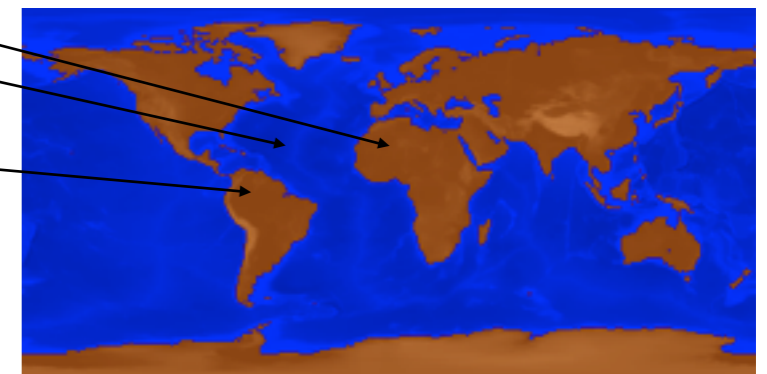
- How do you generate texture coordinates at each intersection point?



Target Model



Simple Surface



Texture Image