

# Optics II: practical photographic lenses

CS 178, Spring 2014

Begun 4/10/14, finished 4/15



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# Outline

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- ◆ why study lenses?
  - ◆ thin lenses
    - graphical constructions, algebraic formulae
  - ◆ thick lenses
    - center of perspective, 3D perspective transformations
  - ◆ depth of field
- 
- ◆ aberrations & distortion
  - ◆ vignetting, glare, and other lens artifacts
  - ◆ diffraction and lens quality
  - ◆ special lenses
    - telephoto, zoom

# Lens aberrations

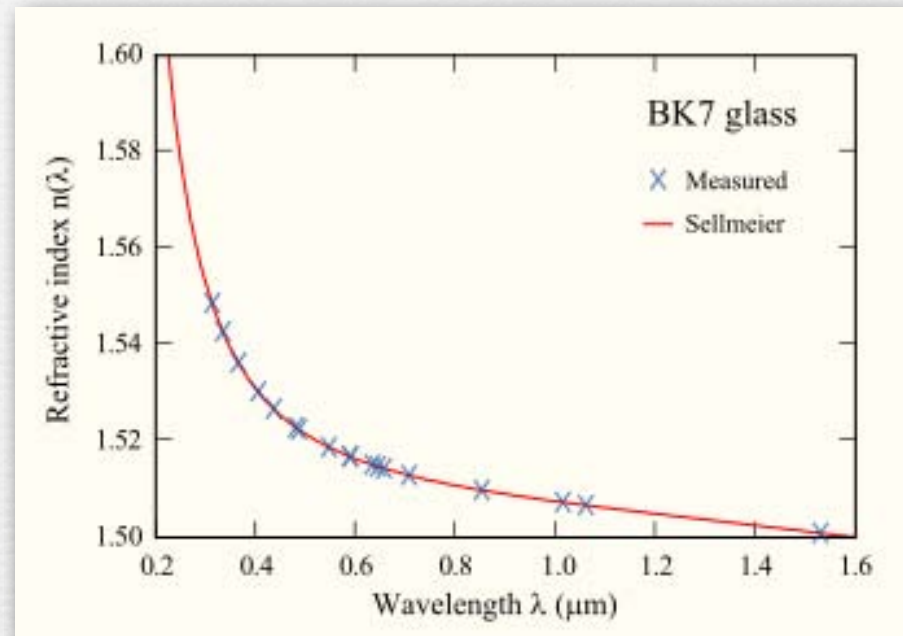
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- ◆ chromatic aberrations
- ◆ Seidel aberrations, a.k.a. 3<sup>rd</sup> order aberrations
  - arise because we use spherical lenses instead of hyperbolic
  - can be modeled by adding 3<sup>rd</sup> order terms to Taylor series

$$\sin \phi \approx \phi \left( -\frac{\phi^3}{3!} + \frac{\phi^5}{5!} - \frac{\phi^7}{7!} + \dots \right)$$

- oblique aberrations
- field curvature
- distortion

# Dispersion

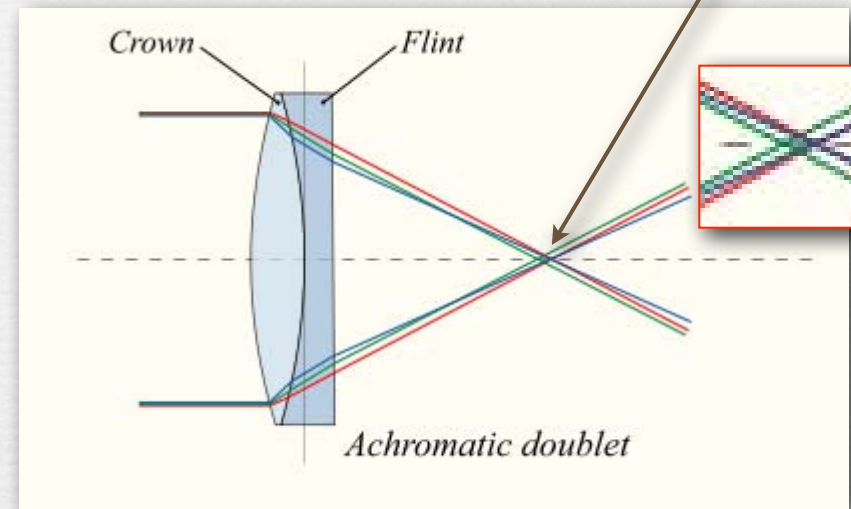
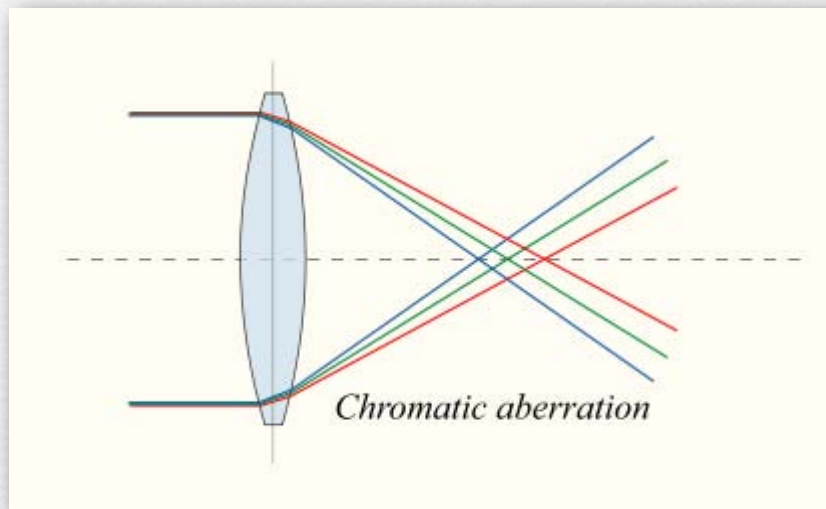


(wikipedia)

- ◆ index of refraction varies with wavelength
  - higher dispersion means more variation
  - amount of variation depends on material
  - index is typically higher for blue than red
  - so blue light bends more

# Chromatic aberration

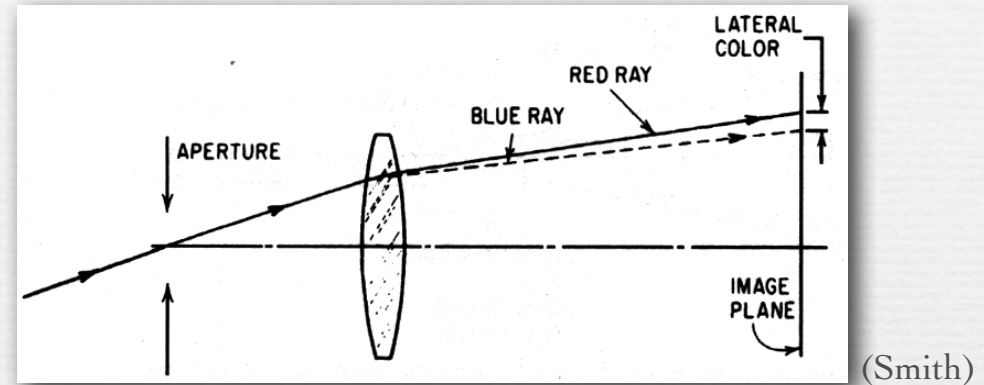
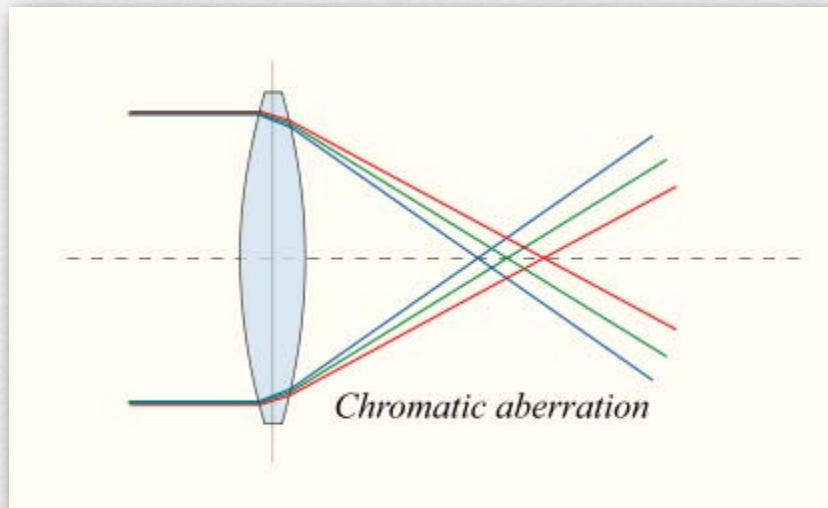
red and blue have  
the same focal length



(wikipedia)

- ◆ dispersion causes focal length to vary with wavelength
  - for convex lens, blue focal length is shorter
- ◆ correct using *achromatic doublet*
  - strong positive lens + weak negative lens = weak positive compound lens
  - by adjusting dispersions, can correct at two wavelengths

# The chromatic aberrations



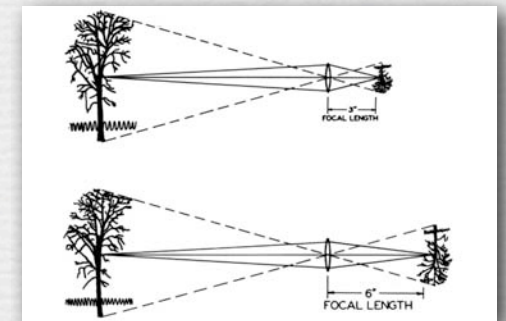
- ◆ *longitudinal (axial) chromatic aberration*

- different colors focus at different depths, creating colorful bokeh
- appears everywhere in the image

- ◆ *lateral (transverse) chromatic aberration*

- if blue image is closer to lens, it will also be smaller
- only appears at edges of images, not in the center

- ◆ can reduce longitudinal by closing down the aperture



# Examples

● correctable  
in software

● not easily  
correctable

(wikipedia)



lateral

(cropped from edge of image)

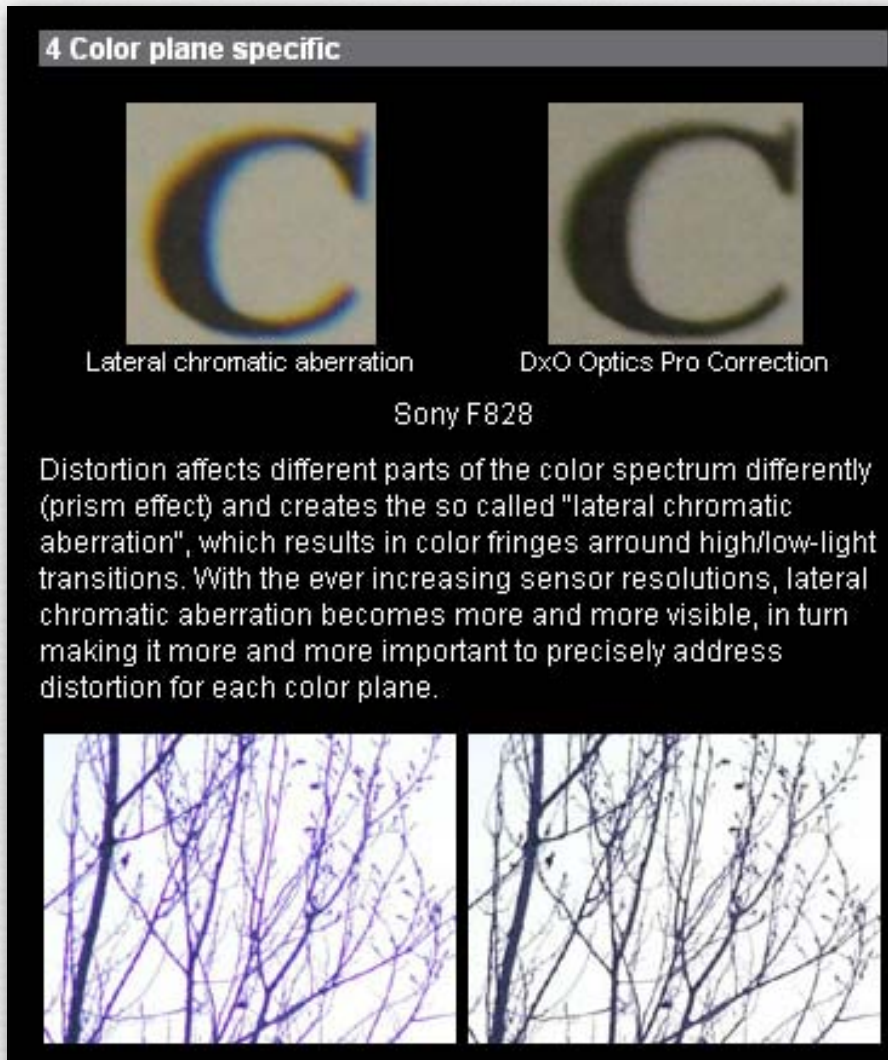
(toothwalker.org)



longitudinal

- ◆ other possible causes of color fringing
  - demosaicing algorithm
  - per-pixel microlenses
  - lens flare

# Software correction of lateral chromatic aberration



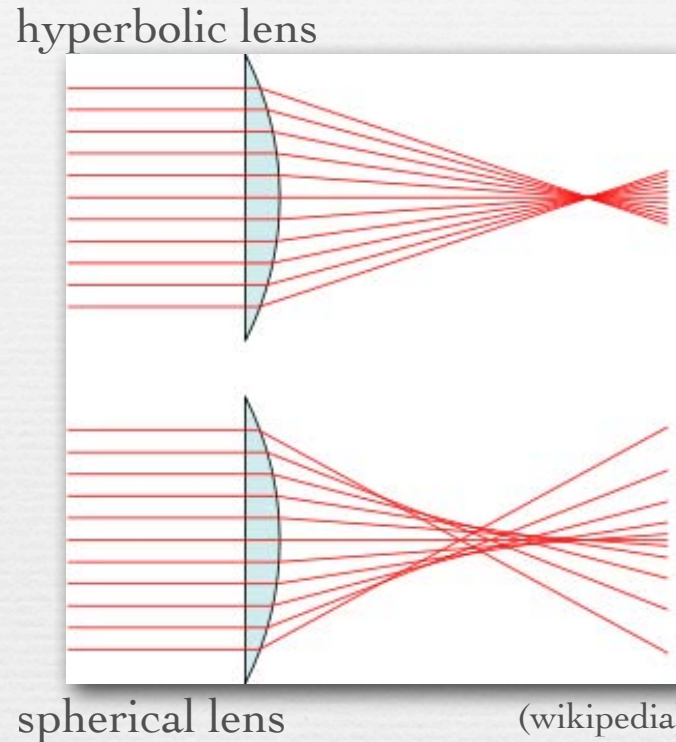
- ◆ Panasonic GX1 corrects for chromatic aberration in the camera
  - need focal length of lens, and focus setting
  - Adobe Camera Raw applies the same correction (Photoshop or Lightroom)

*Q. Why don't humans see chromatic aberration?*



# Spherical aberration

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- ◆ focus varies with ray height (distance from optical axis)
- ◆ can reduce by stopping down the aperture
- ◆ can correct using an aspherical lens
- ◆ can correct for this and chromatic aberration by combining with a concave lens of different properties

# Examples



(Canon)

sharp



soft focus

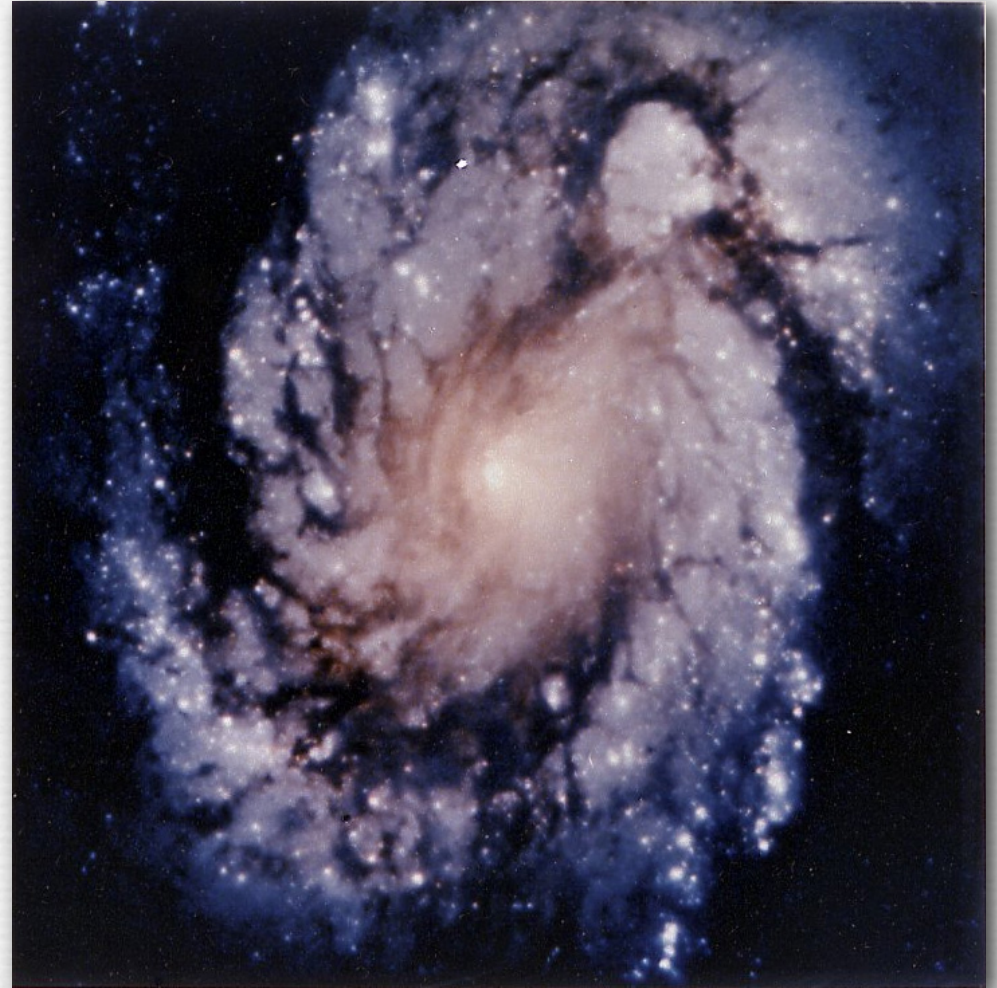
Canon 135mm f/2.8 soft focus lens

# Hubble telescope

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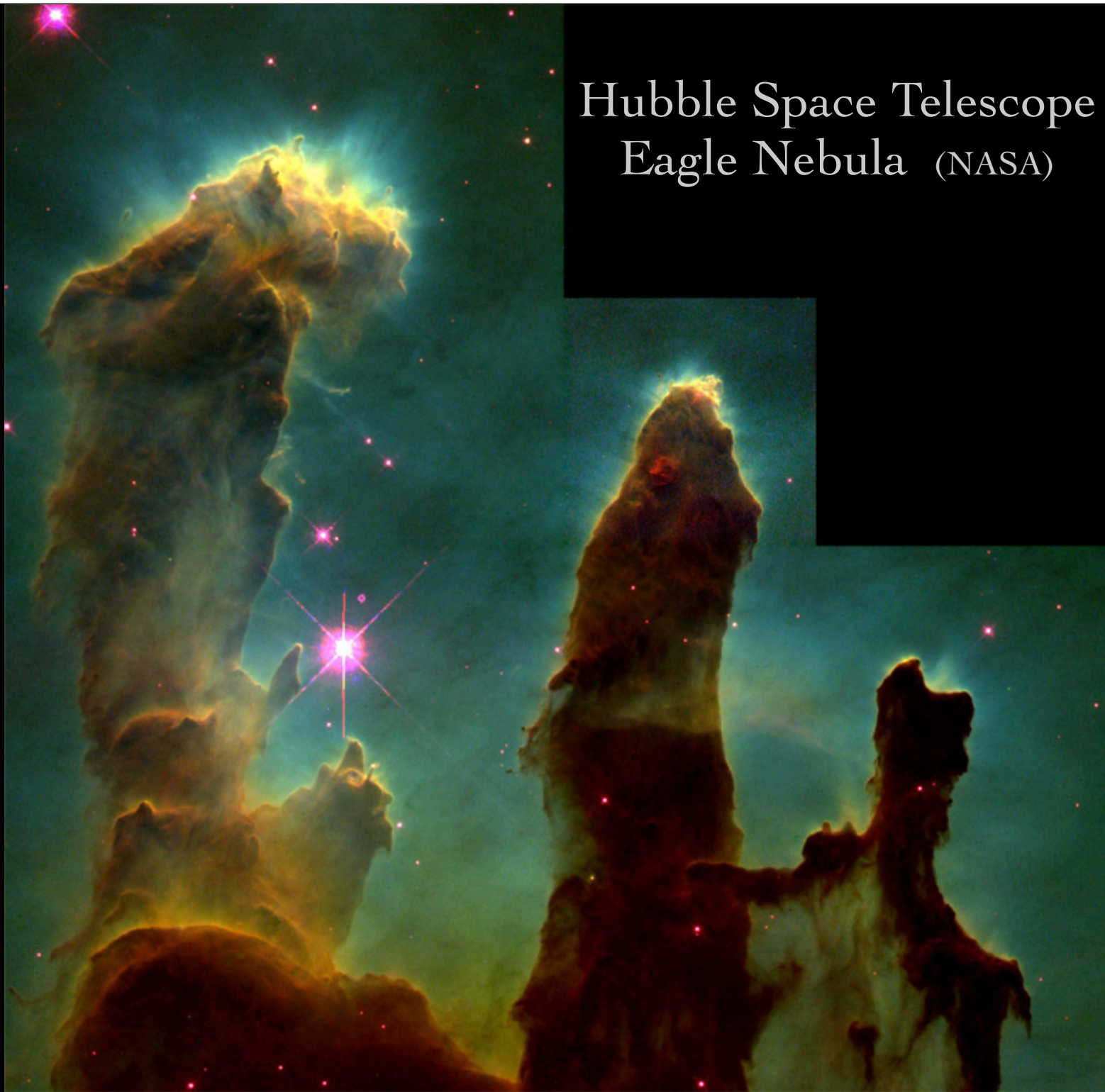


before correction



after correction

Hubble Space Telescope  
Eagle Nebula (NASA)

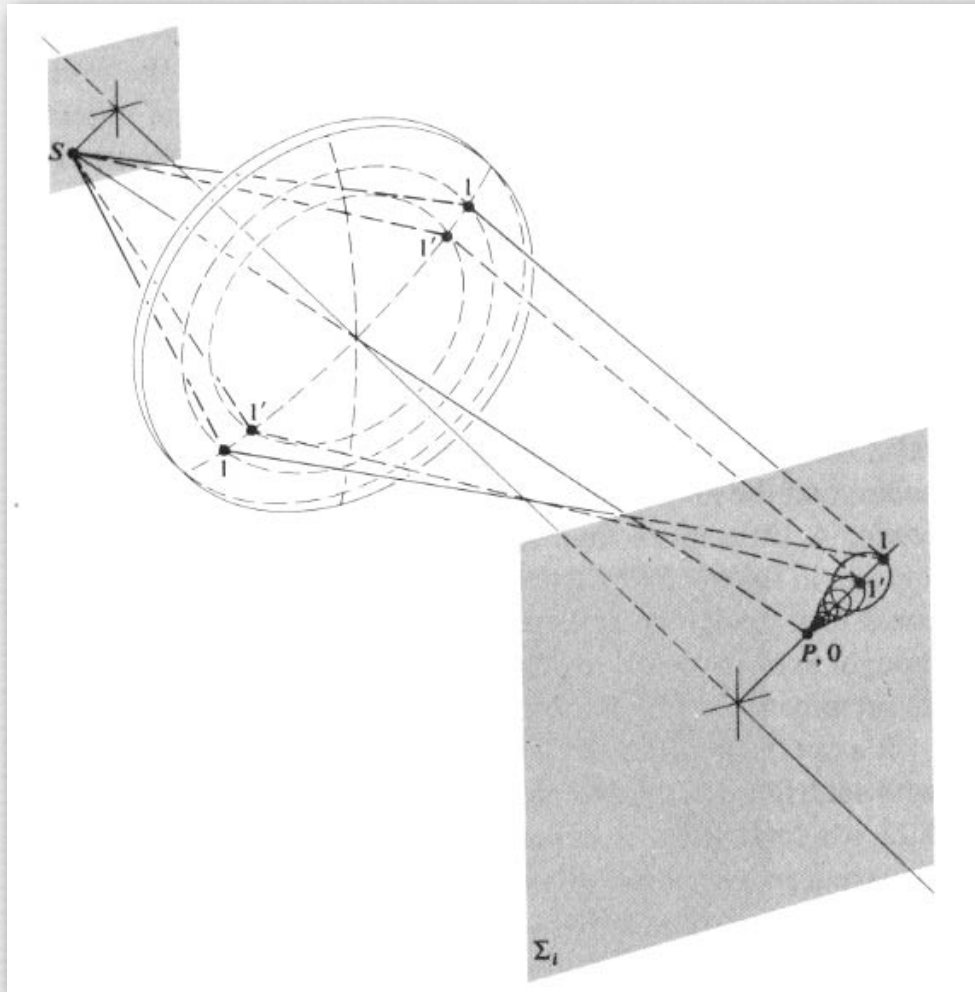


# Aberrations and their properties

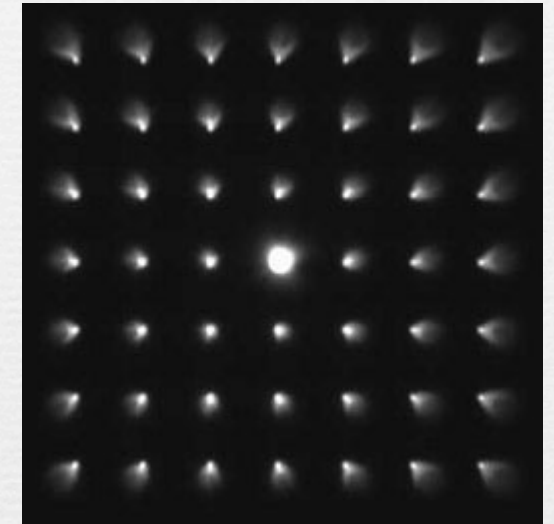
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- ◆ lateral chromatic aberrations do not appear in center of field
  - they get worse with increasing distance from the optical axis
  - cannot reduce by closing down the aperture
- ◆ longitudinal chromatic & spherical aberrations occur everywhere in the field of view
  - on and off the optical axis
  - can reduce by closing down the aperture
- ◆ oblique aberrations do not appear in center of field
  - they get worse with increasing distance from the optical axis
  - can reduce by closing down the aperture
  - coma and astigmatism

# Coma



(Hecht)

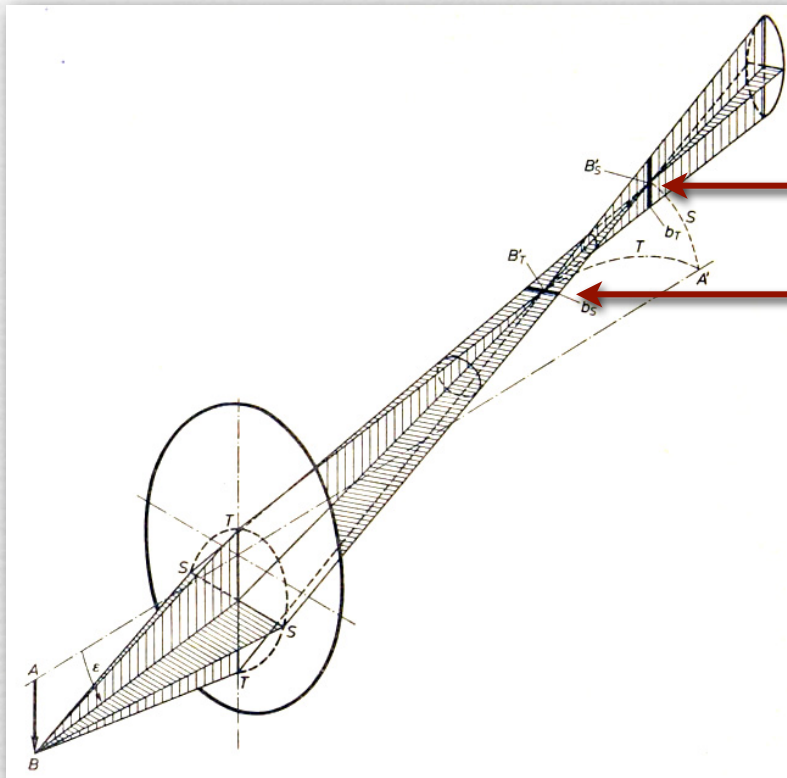


(ryokosha.com)

- ◆ magnification varies with ray height (distance from optical axis)

# Astigmatism

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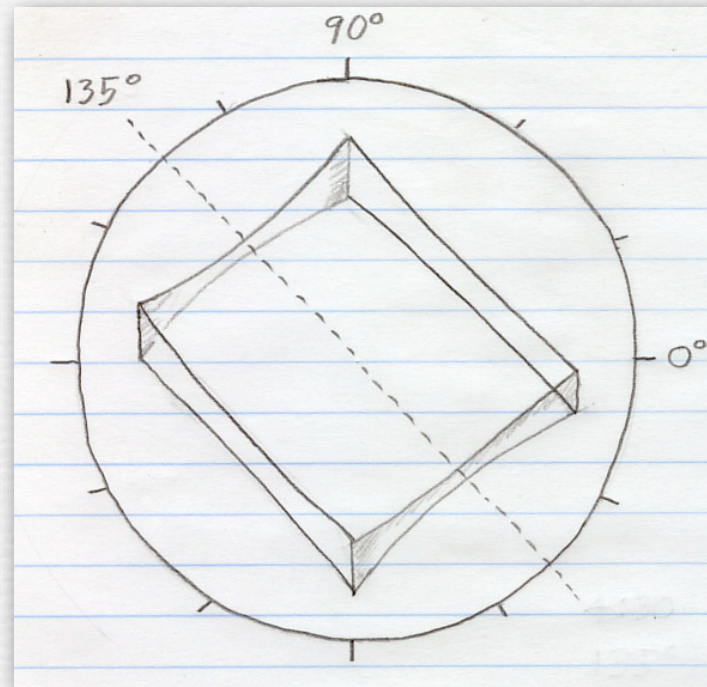
focus of sagittal rays  
focus of transverse rays

(Pluta)

- ◆ transverse and sagittal rays focus at different depths
- ◆ my full eyeglass prescription
  - right: -0.75 -1.00 axis 135, left: -1.00 -0.75 axis 180

# Correcting astigmatism using a cylindrical lens (contents of whiteboard)

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- ◆ for myopia + astigmatism, one needs a spherical lens + cylindrical lens, i.e. a lens with different radii of curvature in two perpendicular directions
  - in my right eye, first direction has focal length  $-1 / 0.75 = -1.33$  meters, and second direction has focal length  $-1 / 1.00 = -1.00$  meters
- ◆ lens is then rotated around the optical axis before mounting in frame
  - in my case extrusion axis of second curvature is  $135^\circ$  (10:30 - 4:30 on the clock)



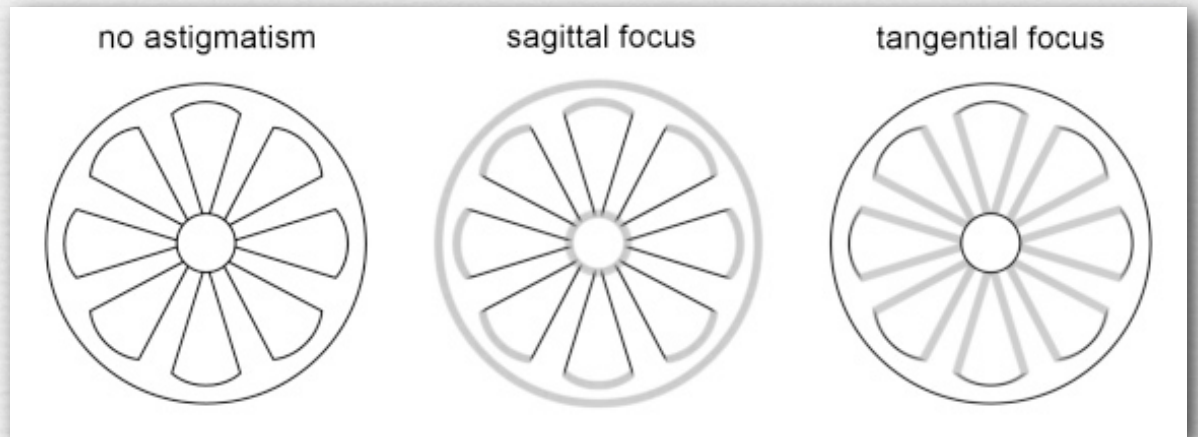
# Two kinds of astigmatism

(Wikipedia)

Original	Compromise
<b>aio</b>	<b>aio</b>
Horizontal Focus	Vertical Focus
<b>aio</b>	<b>aio</b>

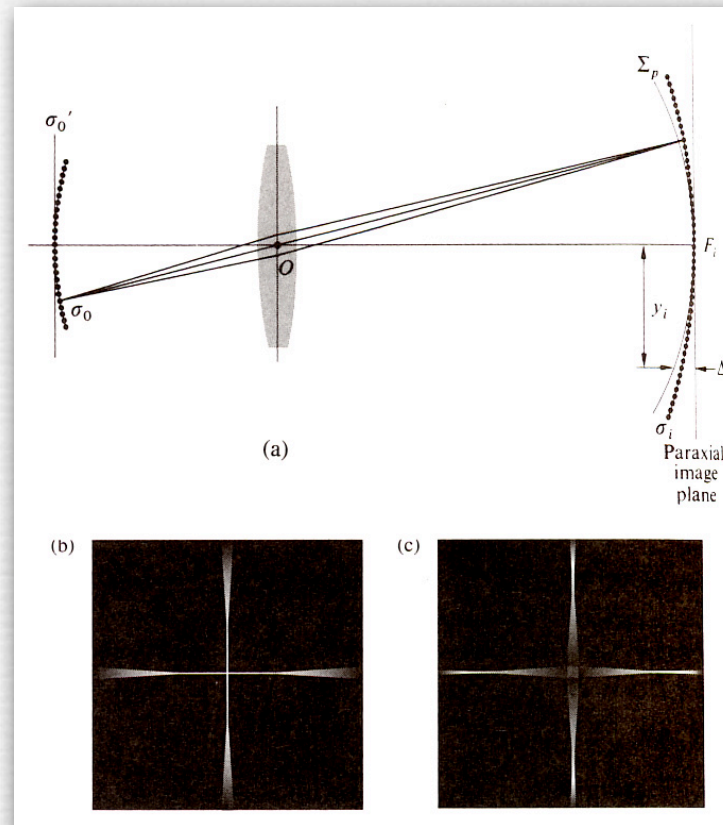
ophthalmic astigmatism  
(due to oblong eye)

(<http://toothwalker.org/optics/astigmatism.html>)



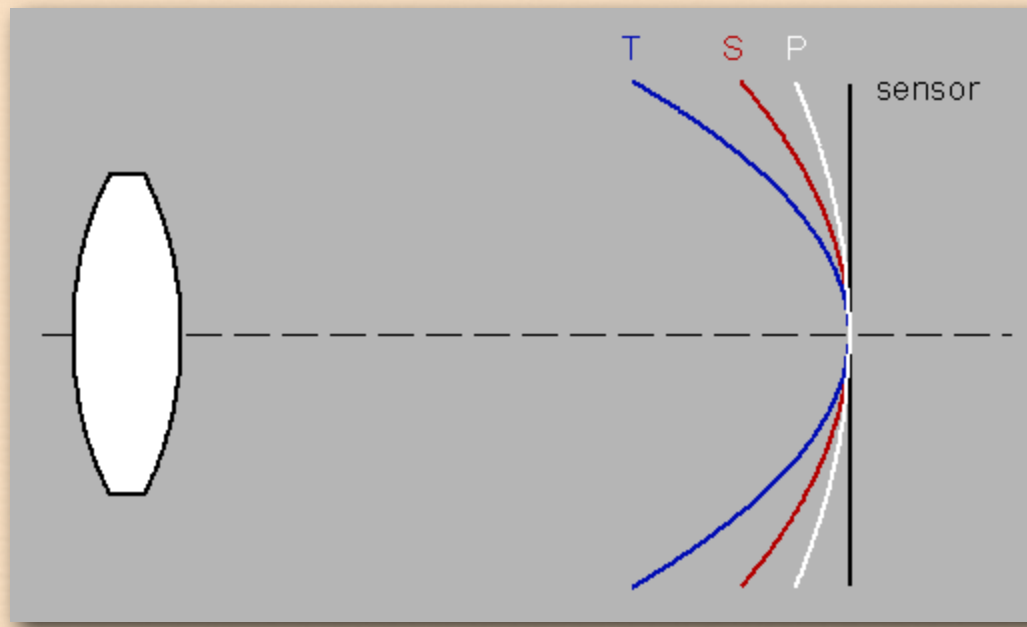
optical astigmatism  
(even in rotationally symmetric photographic lenses)

# Field curvature

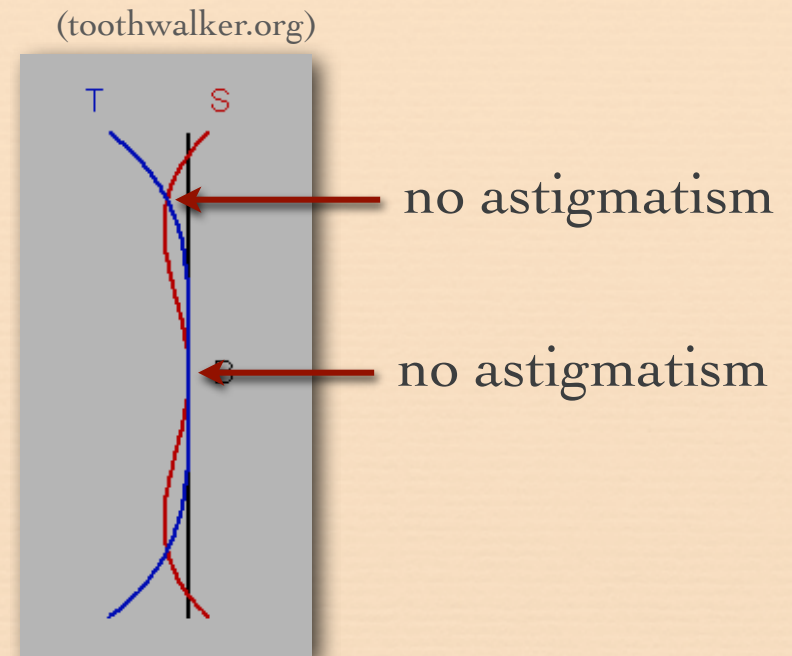


- ◆ spherical lenses focus a curved surface in object space onto a curved surface in image space
- ◆ so a plane in object space cannot be everywhere in focus when imaged by a planar sensor

# Correcting for astigmatism and field curvature



uncorrected lens



anastigmat

- ◆ spherical lenses image planes onto curved surfaces

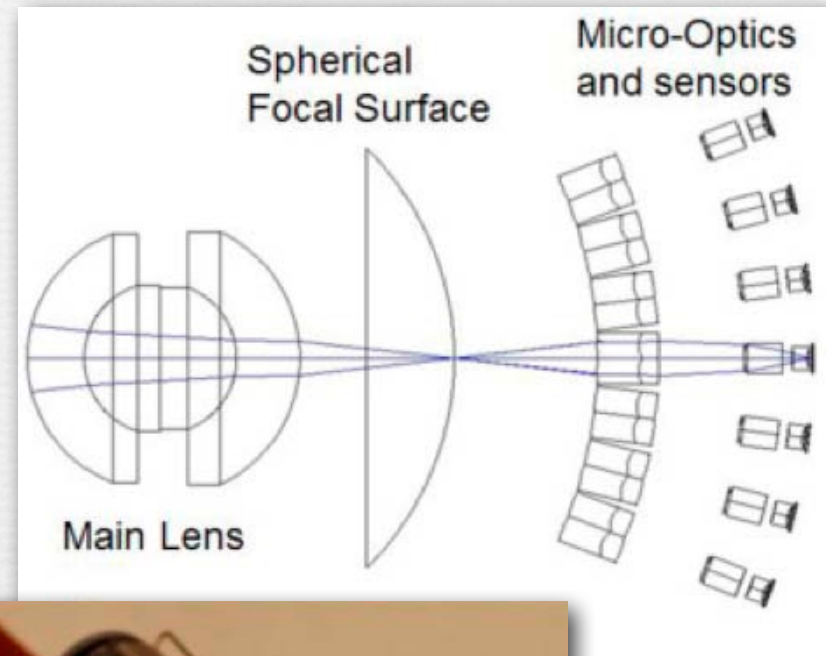
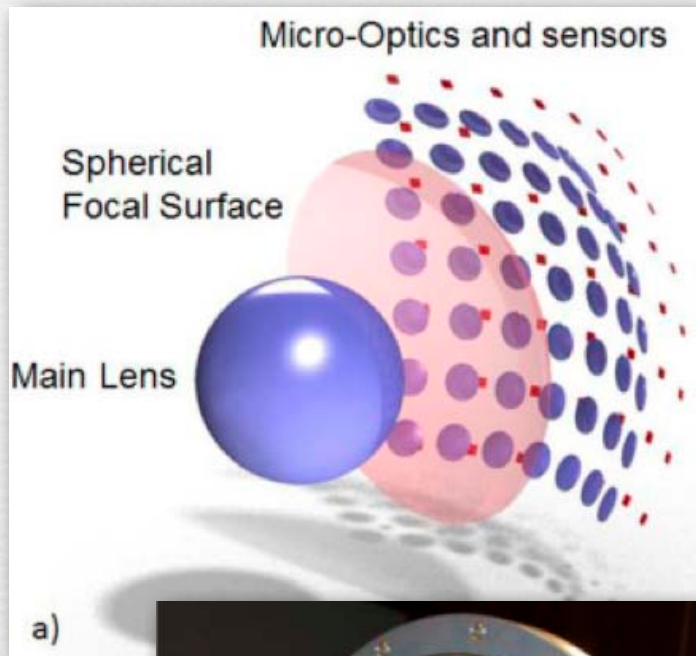
T = tangential focus surface

S = sagittal focus surface

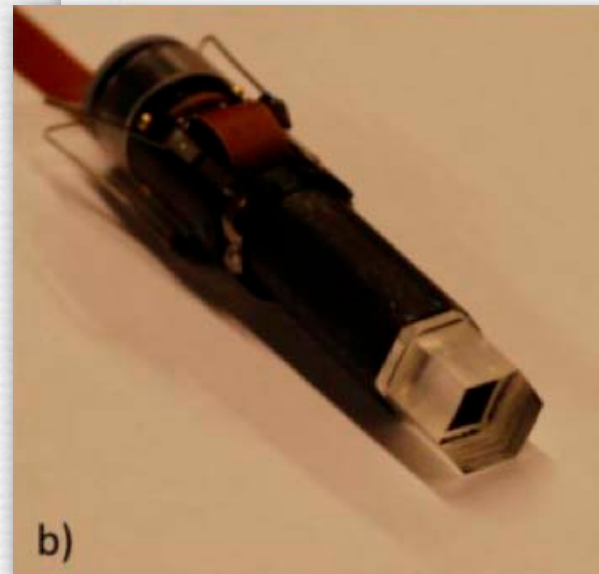
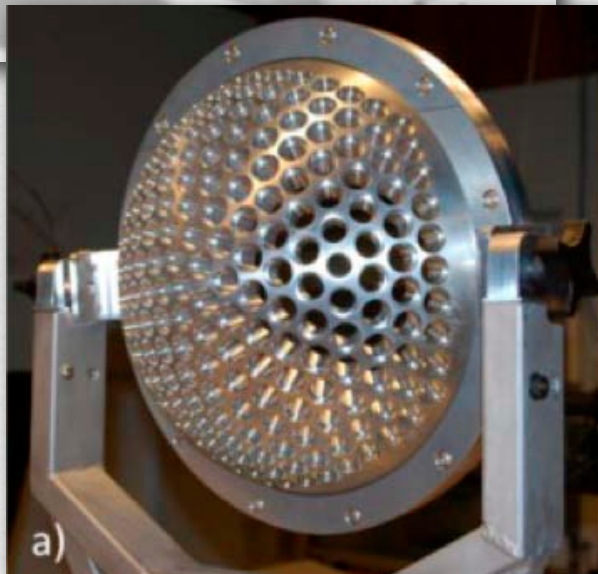
P = Petzval surface (field curvature only, if there were no astigmatism)

- ◆ anastigmat makes  $T = S$  at axis and one other ray height

# A spherical focus surface camera



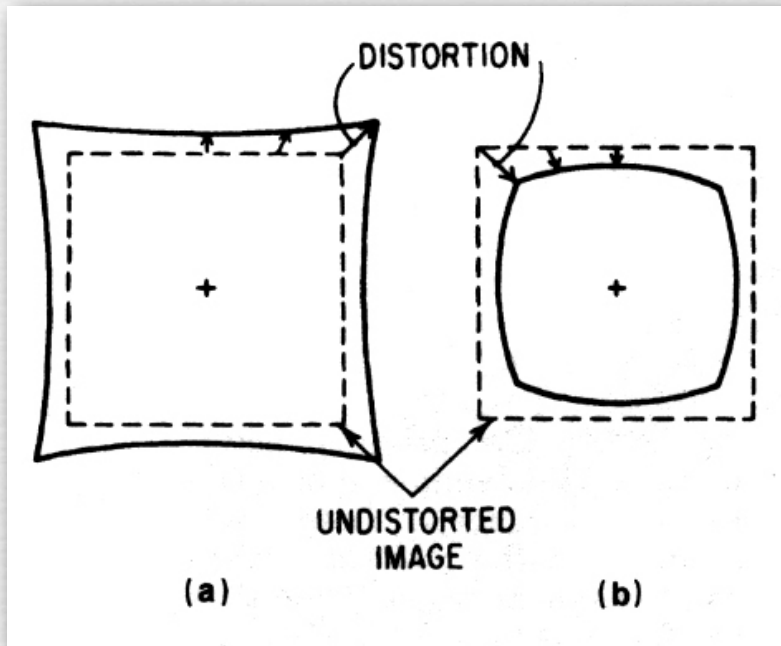
[Son 2011]



# Distortion

- correctable in software

(Smith)



(Kingslake)

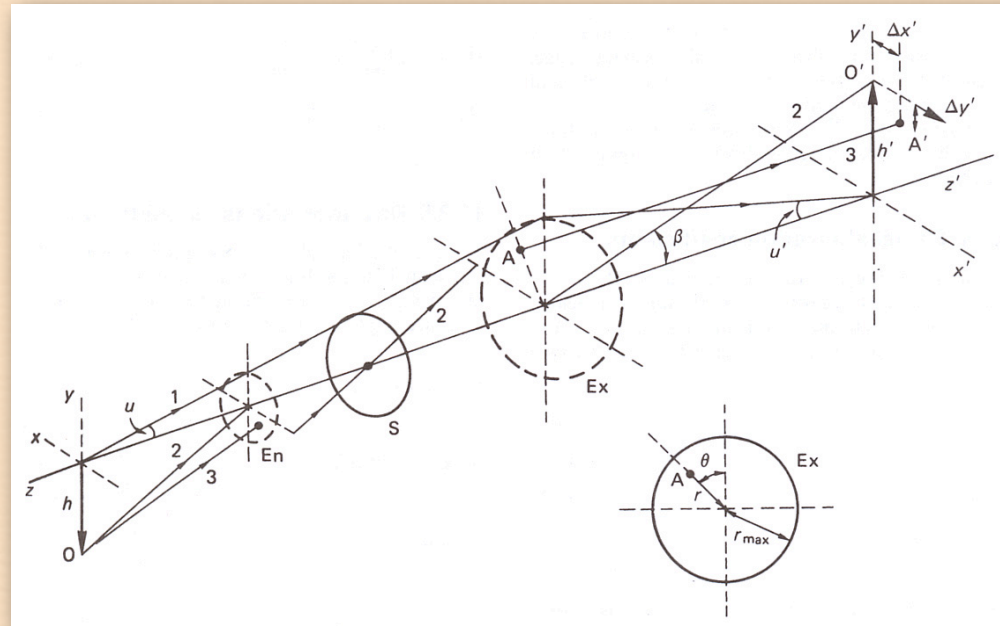


pincushion distortion

- ◆ change in magnification with image position
  - (a) pincushion
  - (b) barrel
- ◆ closing down the aperture does not improve this

# Algebraic formulation of monochromatic lens aberrations

Not responsible on exams for orange-tinted slides



(Smith)

- ◆ spherical aberration  $a_s r^4$
- ◆ coma  $a_c h' r^3 \cos \theta$
- ◆ astigmatism  $a_a h'^2 r^2 \cos^2 \theta$
- ◆ field curvature  $a_d h'^2 r^2$
- ◆ distortion  $a_t h'^3 r \cos \theta$

# Recap

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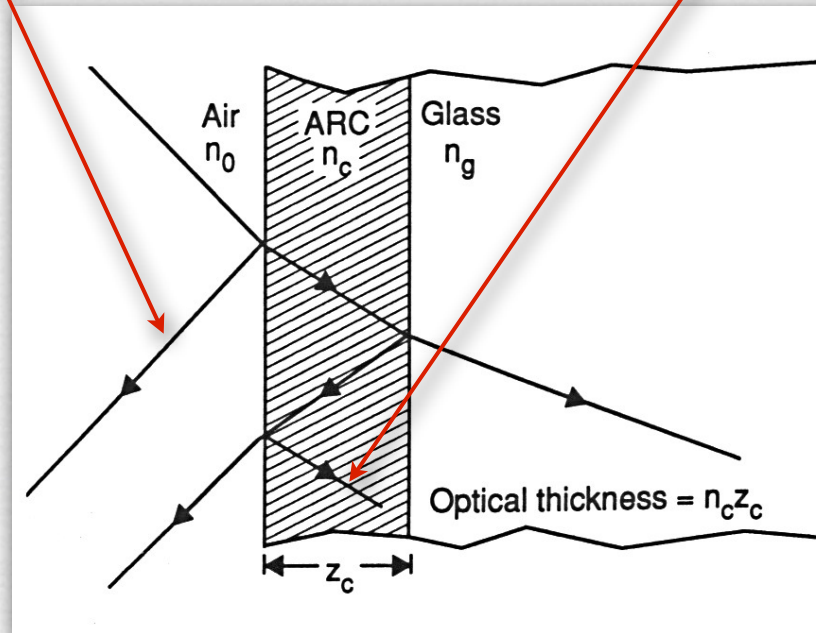
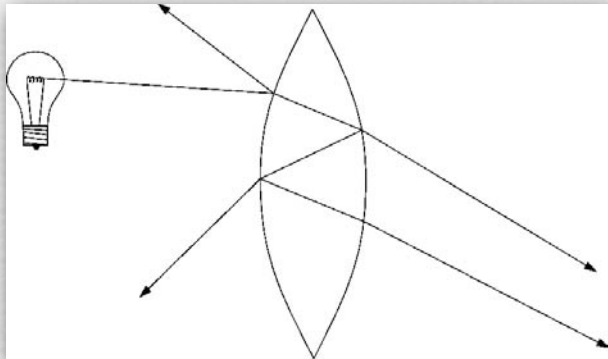
- ◆ all lenses are subject to chromatic aberration
  - longitudinal appears everywhere; lateral is worse at edges
  - only longitudinal can be reduced by closing down aperture
  - both can be partly corrected using more lenses, and lateral can be partly corrected using software
  
- ◆ all spherical lenses are subject to Seidel aberrations: spherical, coma, astigmatism, field curvature, distortion
  - some appear everywhere; others only at edges
  - all but distortion can be reduced by closing down aperture
  - only distortion can be corrected completely in software

Questions?

# Veiling glare

in the outermost lens we don't care about killing this reflection

but we do care about killing this one

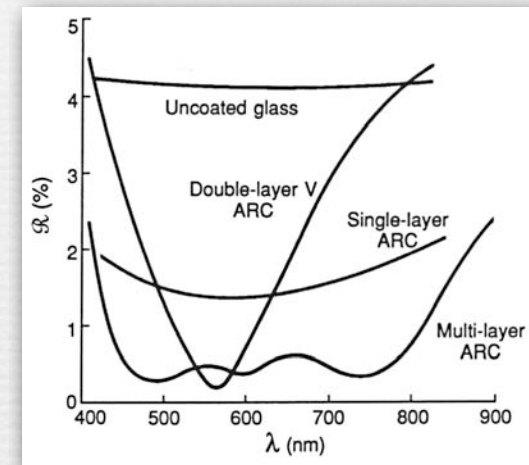
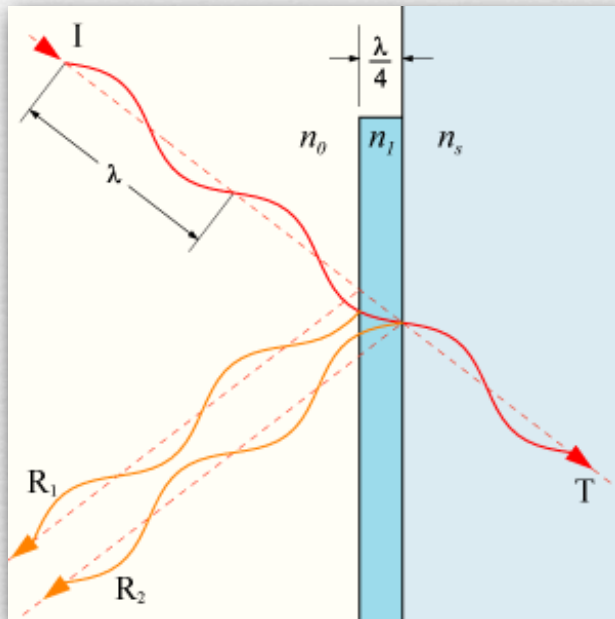


- ◆ contrast reduction caused by stray reflections
- ◆ can be reduced by anti-reflection coatings



# Veiling glare

(wikipedia)

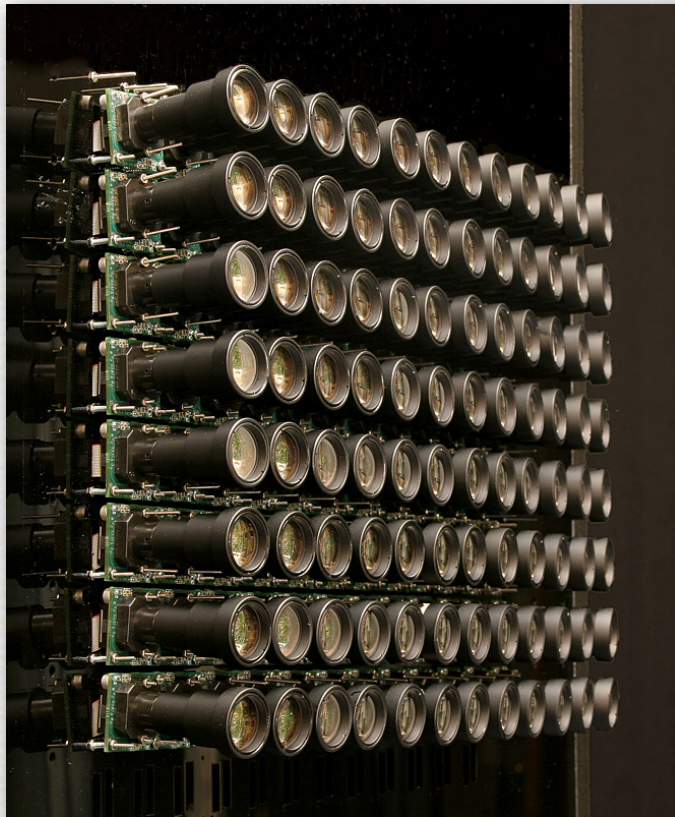


- ◆ contrast reduction caused by stray reflections
- ◆ can be reduced by anti-reflection coatings
  - based on interference, so optimized for one wavelength
  - to cover more wavelengths, use multiple coatings

# Camera array with too much glare

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## Stanford Multi-Camera Array

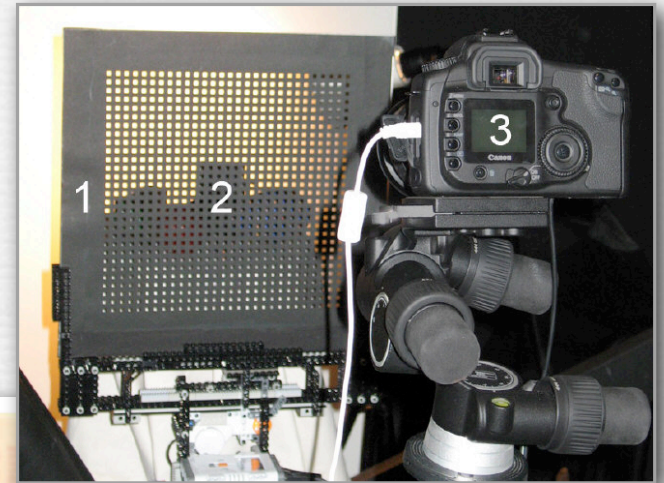


- ◆  $12 \times 8$  array of  $600 \times 800$  pixel webcams =  $7,200 \times 6,400$  pixels
- ◆ goal was highest-resolution movie camera in the world
- ◆ failed because glare in inexpensive lenses led to poor contrast

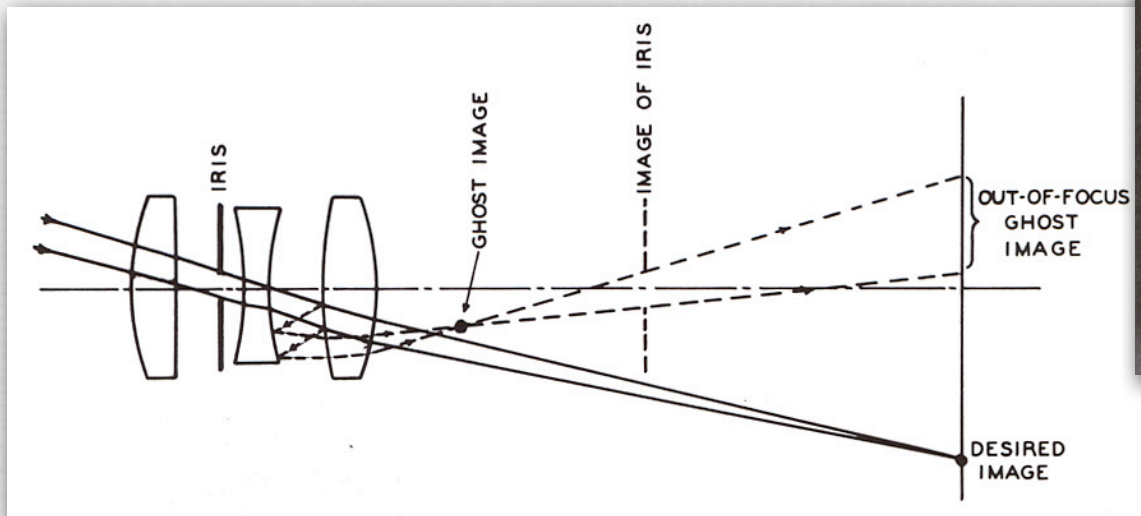
# Removing veiling glare computationally

[Talvala, Proc. SIGGRAPH 2007]

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# Flare and ghost images

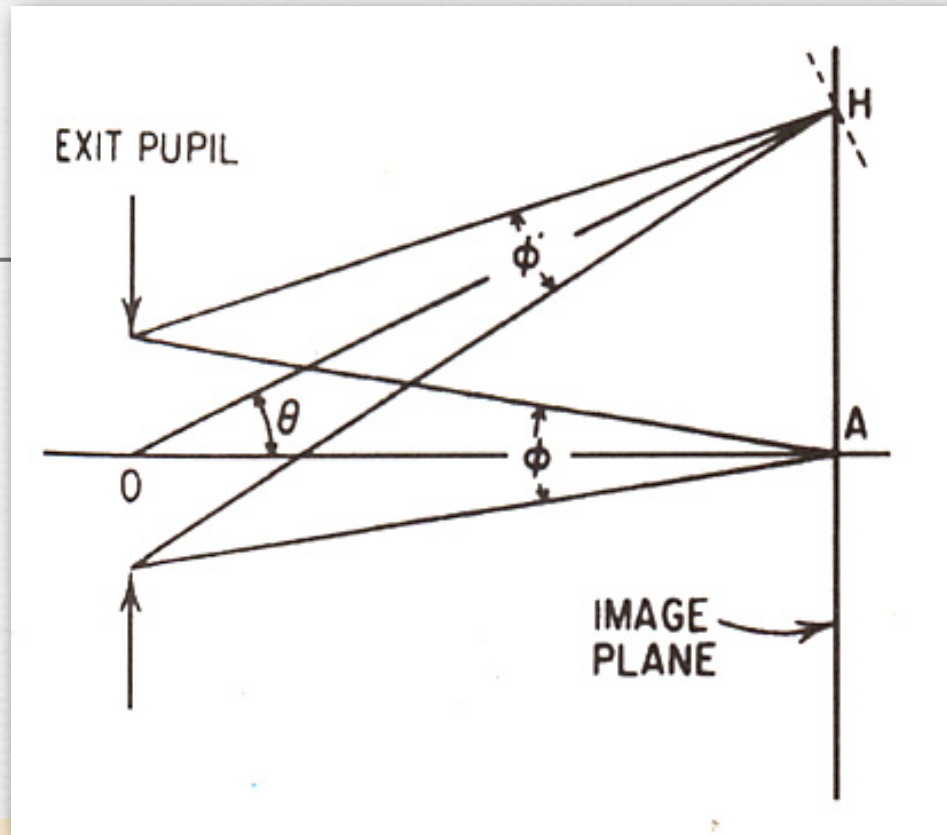


(Kingslake)

- ◆ reflections of the aperture, lens boundaries, etc., i.e. things inside the camera body
- ◆ removing these artifacts is an active area of research in computational photography
- ◆ but it's a hard problem

# Vignetting

(a.k.a. natural vignetting)

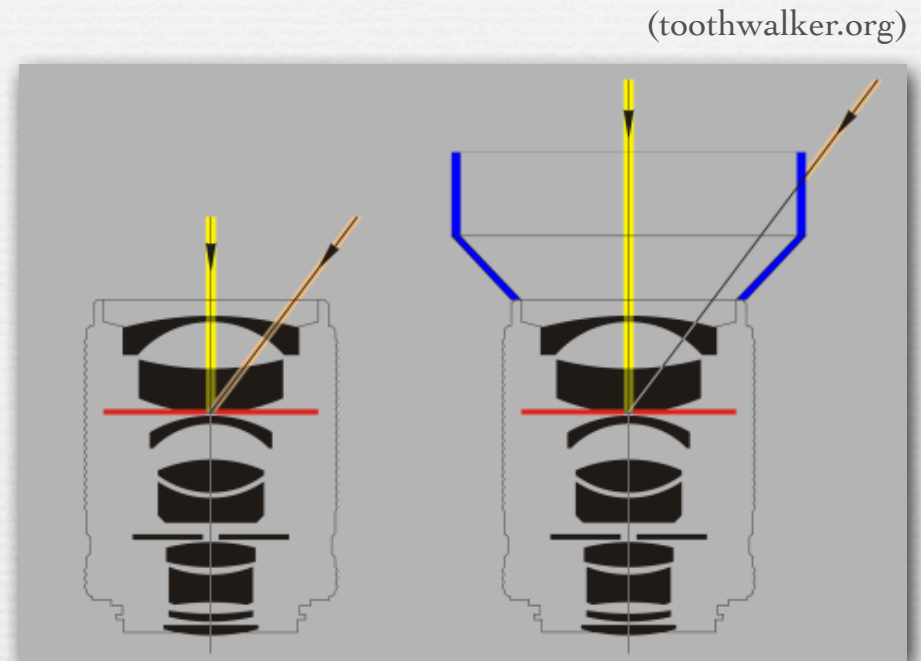


- ◆ irradiance is proportional to projected area of aperture as seen from pixel on sensor, which drops as  $\cos \theta$
- ◆ irradiance is proportional to projected area of pixel as seen from aperture, which also drops as  $\cos \theta$
- ◆ irradiance is proportional to distance<sup>2</sup> from aperture to pixel, which rises as  $1/\cos \theta$
- ◆ combining all these effects, light drops as  $\cos^4 \theta$

# Other sources of vignetting



**optical** vignetting  
from multiple lens elements,  
especially at wide apertures

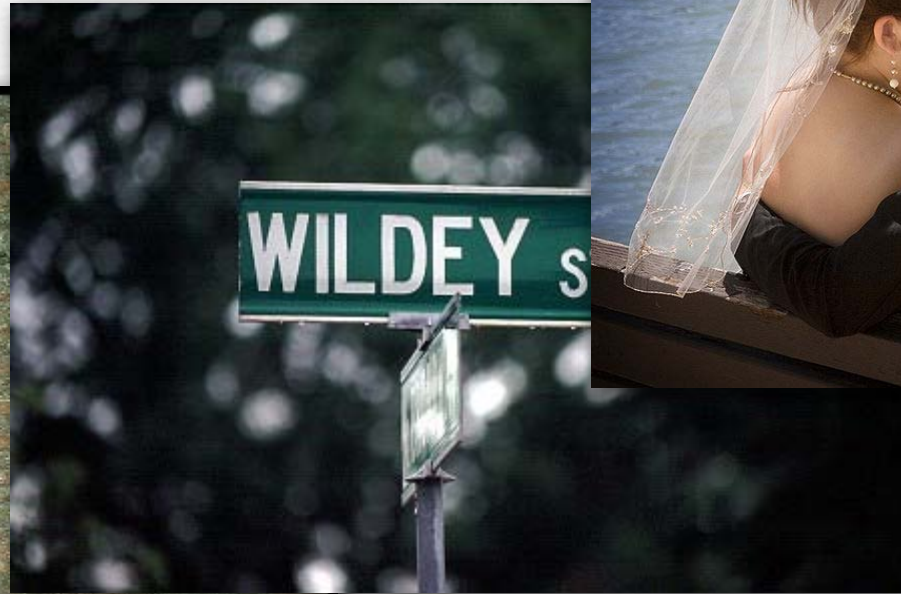


**mechanical** vignetting  
from add-on lens hoods  
(or filters or fingers)

- ◆ **pixel** vignetting due to shadowing inside each pixel  
(we'll come back to this)

# Examples

(toothwalker.org)



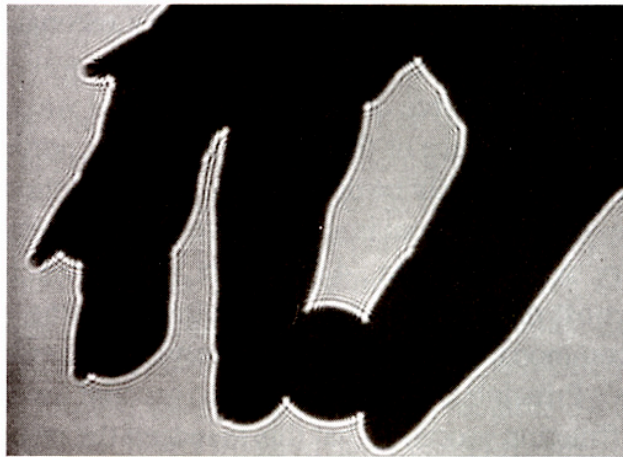
(toothwalker.org)



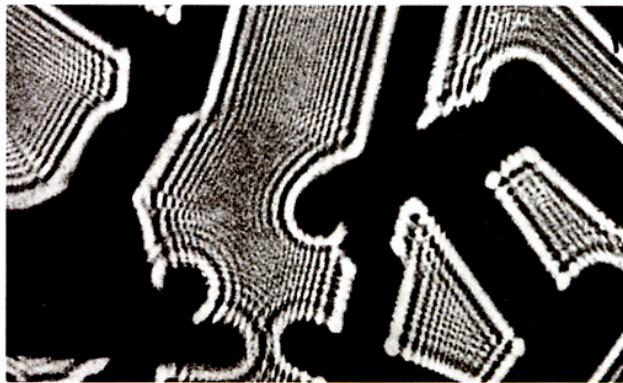
(wikipedia)

- ◆ vignetting causes falloff in brightness towards edges of image
- ◆ vignetting affects the *bokeh* of out-of-focus features
- ◆ vignetting is correctable in software (except for bokeh effects), but boosting pixel values worsens noise
- ◆ vignetting can be applied afterwards, for artistic effects

# Diffraction



(a)



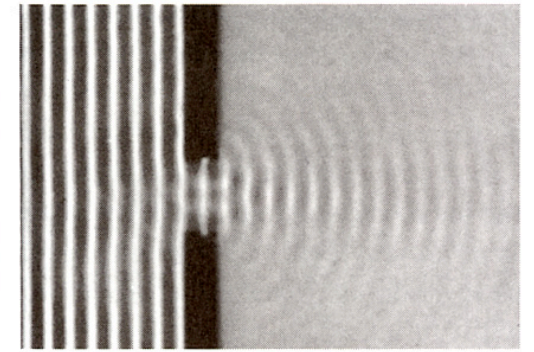
(b)

(Hecht)

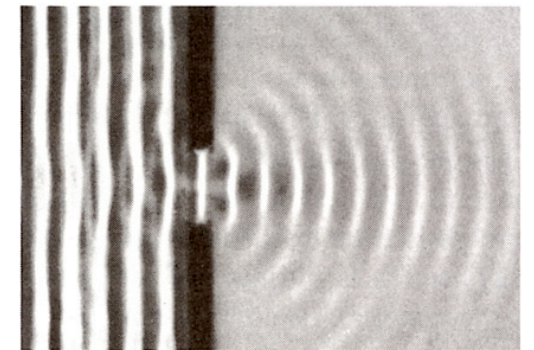
illuminated by a  
(spread-out) laser beam  
& recorded directly on film



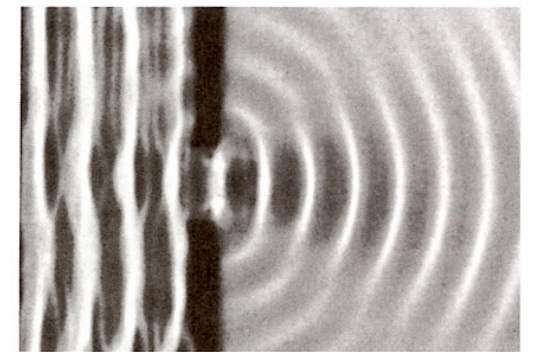
varying the wavelength  
of waves passing through  
a slit in a ripple tank



(a)



(b)

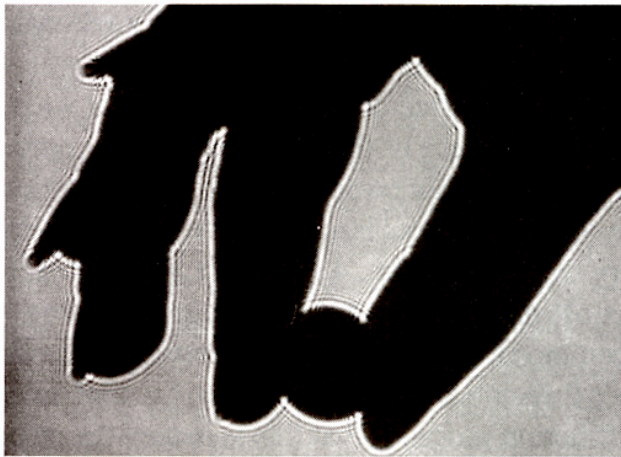


(c)

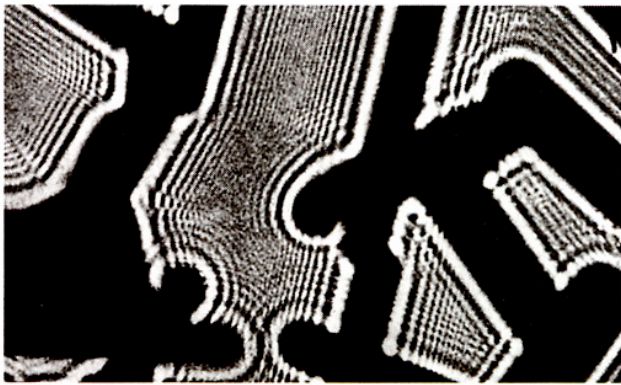
- ◆ as wavelength decreases in the ripple tank (c → a), propagation becomes more ray-like



# Diffraction



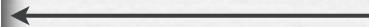
(a)



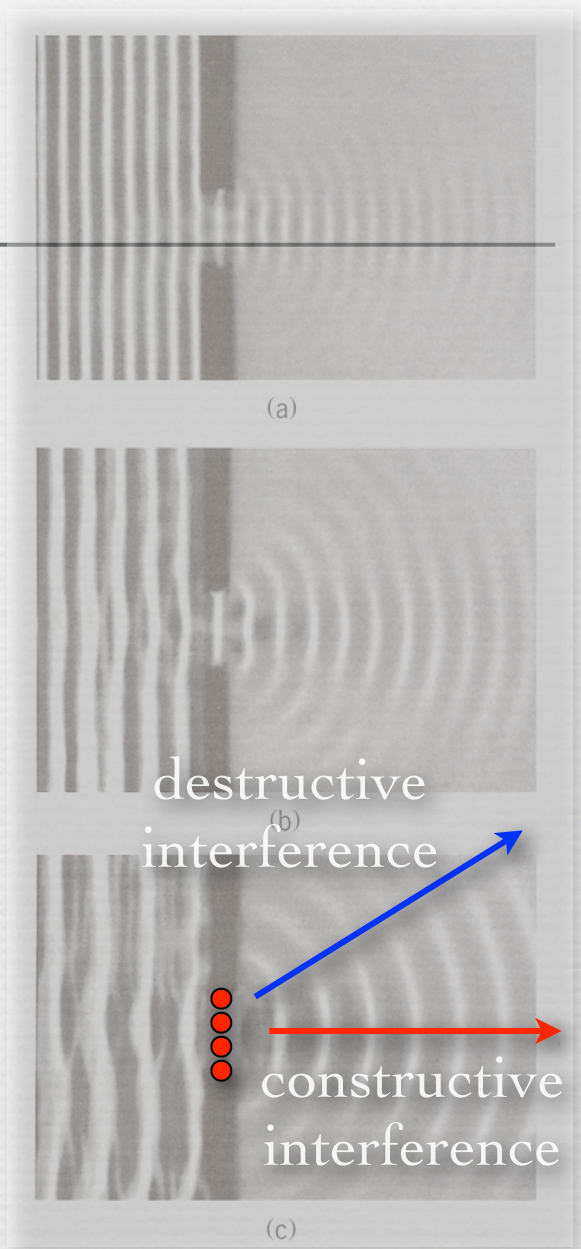
(b)

(Hecht)

illuminated by a  
(spread-out) laser beam  
& recorded directly on film

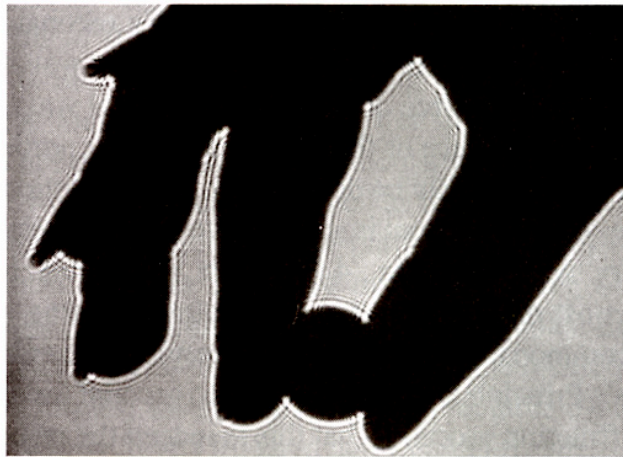


varying the wavelength  
of waves passing through  
a slit in a ripple tank

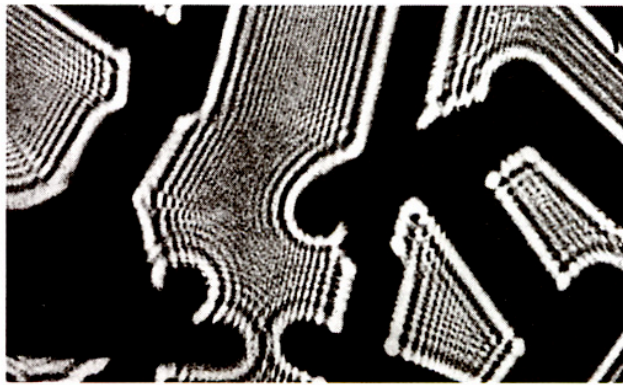


- ◆ as wavelength decreases in the ripple tank (c → a), propagation becomes more ray-like

# Diffraction



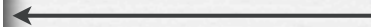
(a)



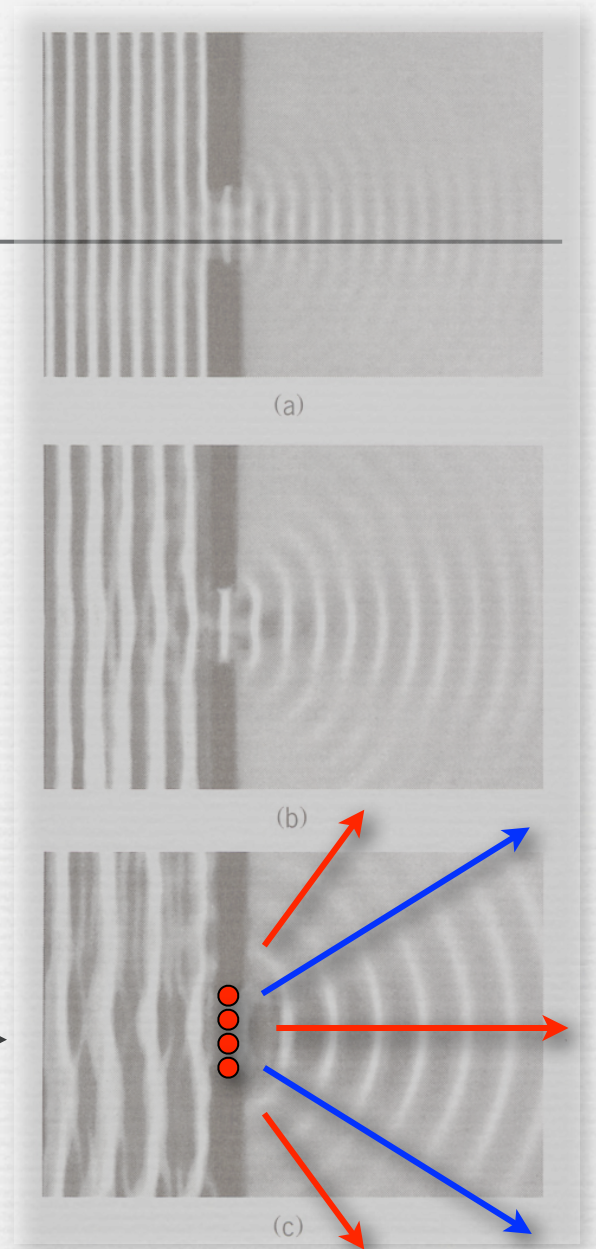
(b)

(Hecht)

illuminated by a  
(spread-out) laser beam  
& recorded directly on film



varying the wavelength  
of waves passing through  
a slit in a ripple tank



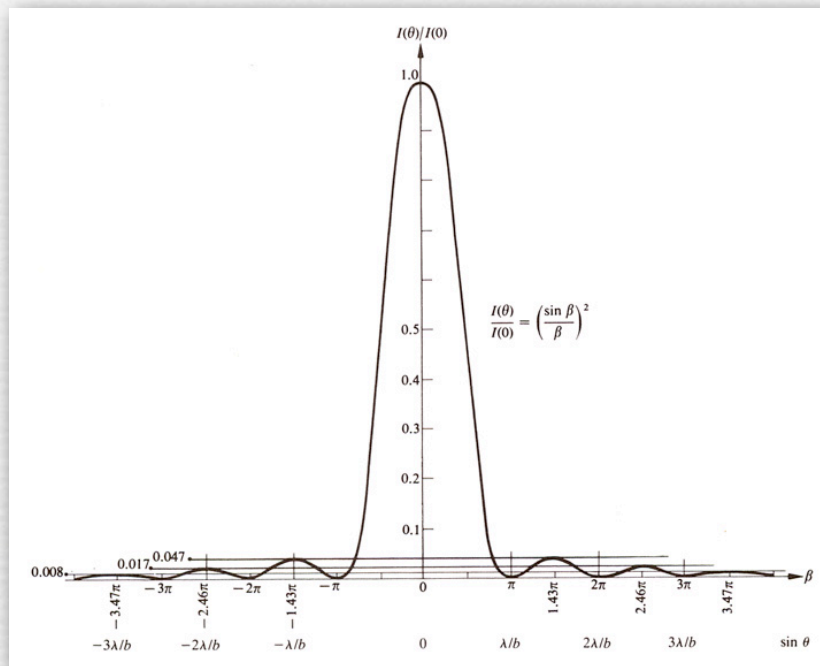
(a)

(b)

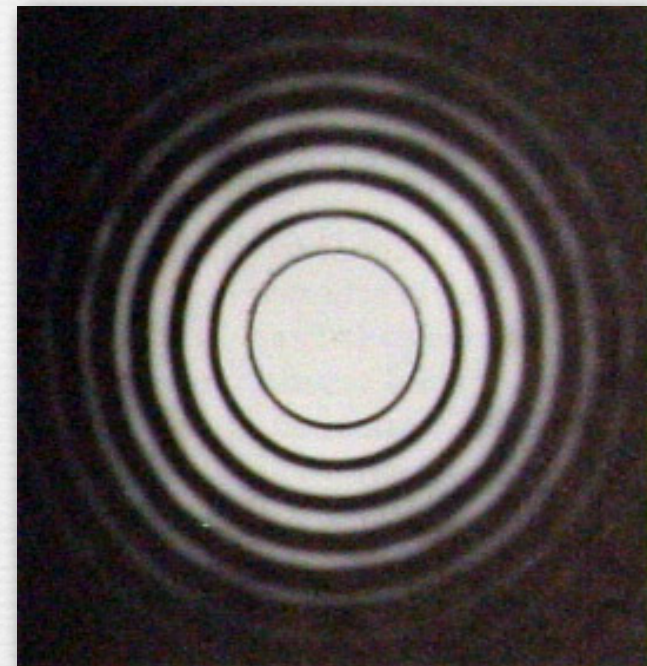
(c)

- ◆ as wavelength decreases in the ripple tank (c → a), propagation becomes more ray-like

# Airy rings



diffraction from a slit



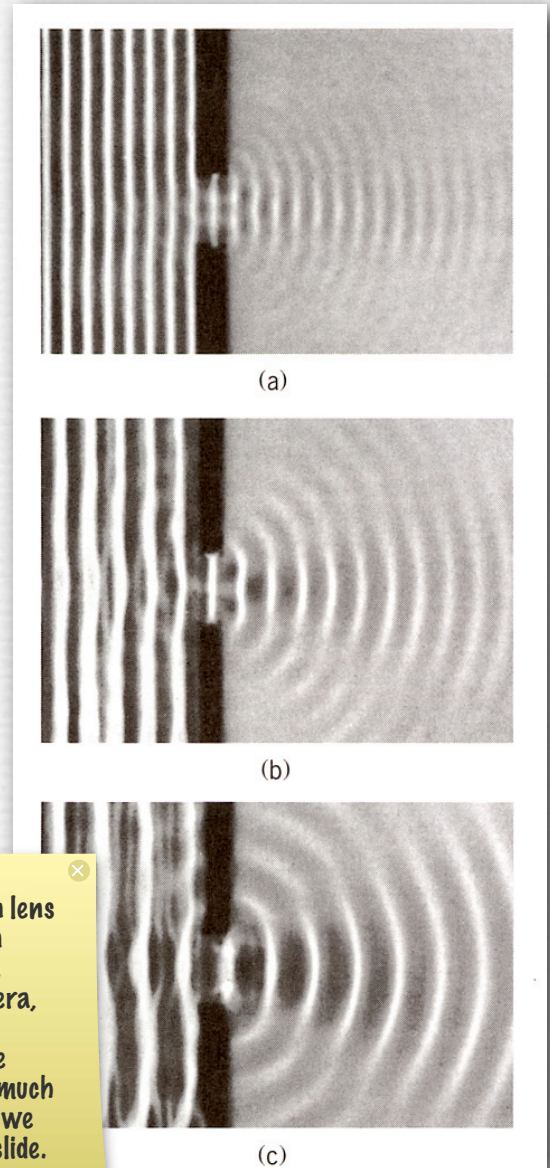
(Hecht)

diffraction from a circular aperture: Airy rings

- ◆ if the illumination were a laser, a lens would produce this pattern
- ◆ but considering all wavelengths, the dark rings vanish, leaving a blur

# Diffraction in photographic cameras

- ◆ well-corrected lenses are called *diffraction-limited*
- ◆ the smaller the aperture ( $A$ ) (or the longer the wavelength), the larger the diffraction blur
- ◆ the longer the distance to the sensor ( $f$ ), the larger the blur when it gets there
- ◆ thus, the size of the blur varies with  $N = f / A$



A student noted that the distance between lens and sensor in a camera depends not only on focal length  $f$ , but also on image distance  $s_i$ . Thus, it would change when focusing a camera, not only when zooming it. This is true. However the change in lens-sensor distance when focusing a camera is very small, and much smaller than the change when zooming, so we ignore it in the rule of thumb given on this slide.

# Examples



(luminous-landscape.com)

f/22



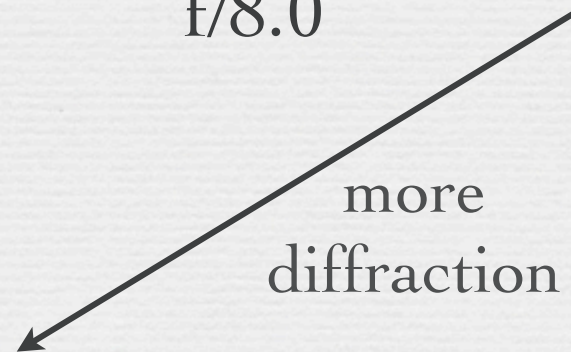
f/11



f/8.0

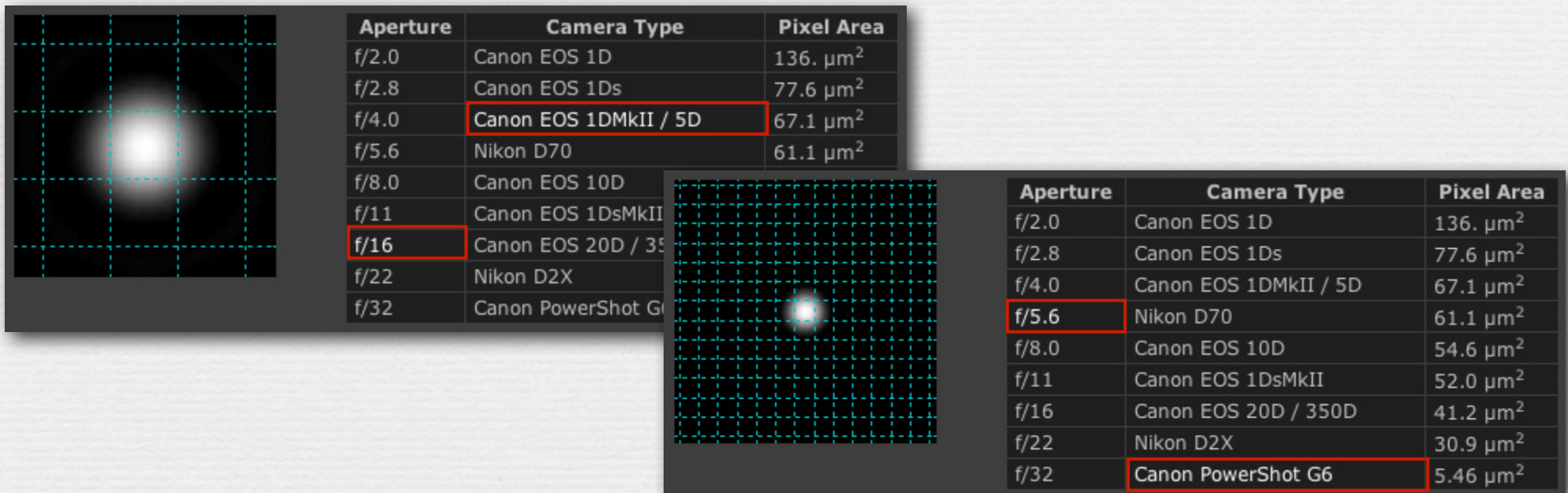


f/5.6



# Diffraction in photographic cameras

- ◆ the smaller the pixels, the more of them the blur covers
  - if the blur spans  $\gg 1$  pixel, we begin to complain



(<http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/tutorials/diffraction-photography.htm>)

# The Abbe diffraction limit

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$$d = \frac{.61 \lambda}{NA} \approx 1.2 N \lambda$$

◆ where

- $\lambda$  = wavelength
- $NA$  = numerical aperture  $\approx 1 / 2N$

◆ Example: iPhone 4 when looking at green

- $\lambda = 550\text{nm}$
- $N = f/3$
- $d = 2\mu$
- pixels are  $1.75\mu$  wide, so the iPhone 4 would be roughly diffraction-limited if its lenses were free of aberrations

# Recap

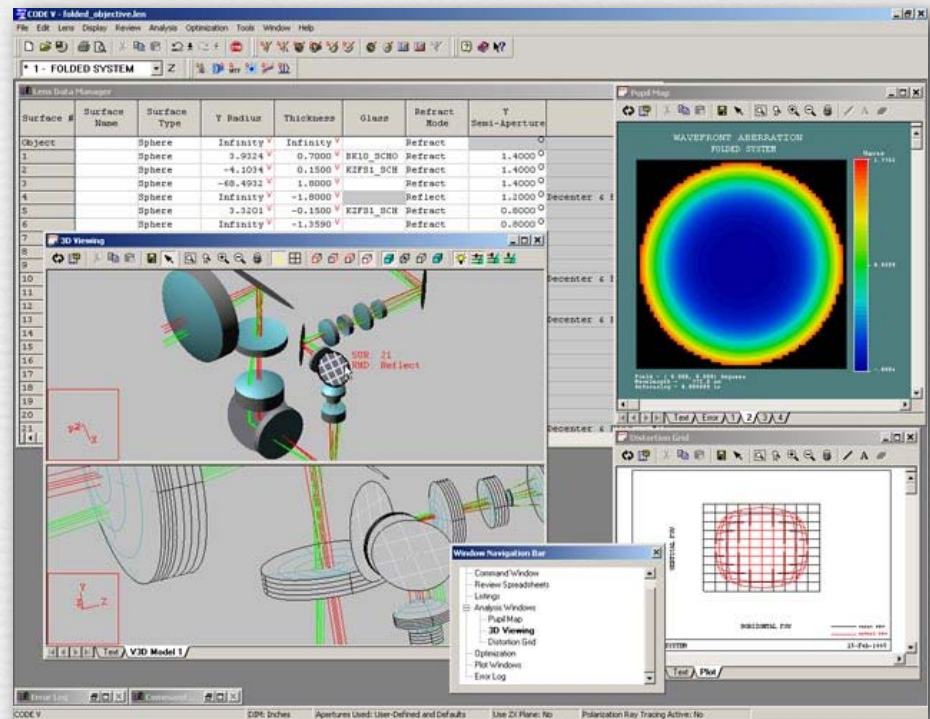
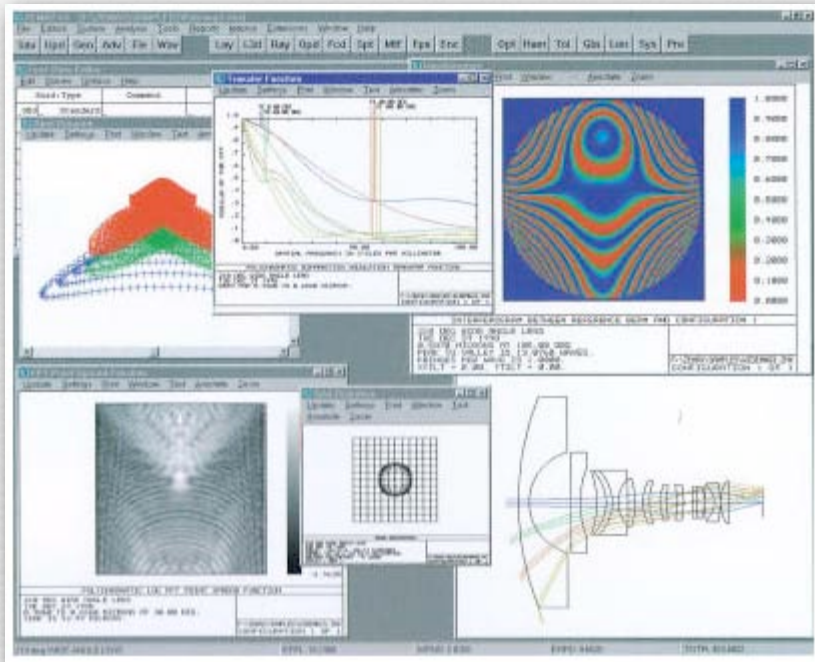
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- ◆ all optical systems suffer from veiling glare
  - anti-reflection coatings help
- ◆ all optical systems suffer from flare and ghosts
  - don't point your camera at bright lights; use lens hoods
- ◆ vignetting arises from many sources
  - natural - falloff at the edges of wide sensors
  - optical - caused by apertures, lens barrels
  - mechanical - caused by wrong lens hoods, hands, straps
  - pixel - caused by shadowing inside pixel structures
- ◆ diffraction - blur that varies with  $N = f / A$ 
  - avoid F-numbers above f/13 (for full-frame camera)
  - subjective image quality depends on both sharpness and contrast

## Questions?

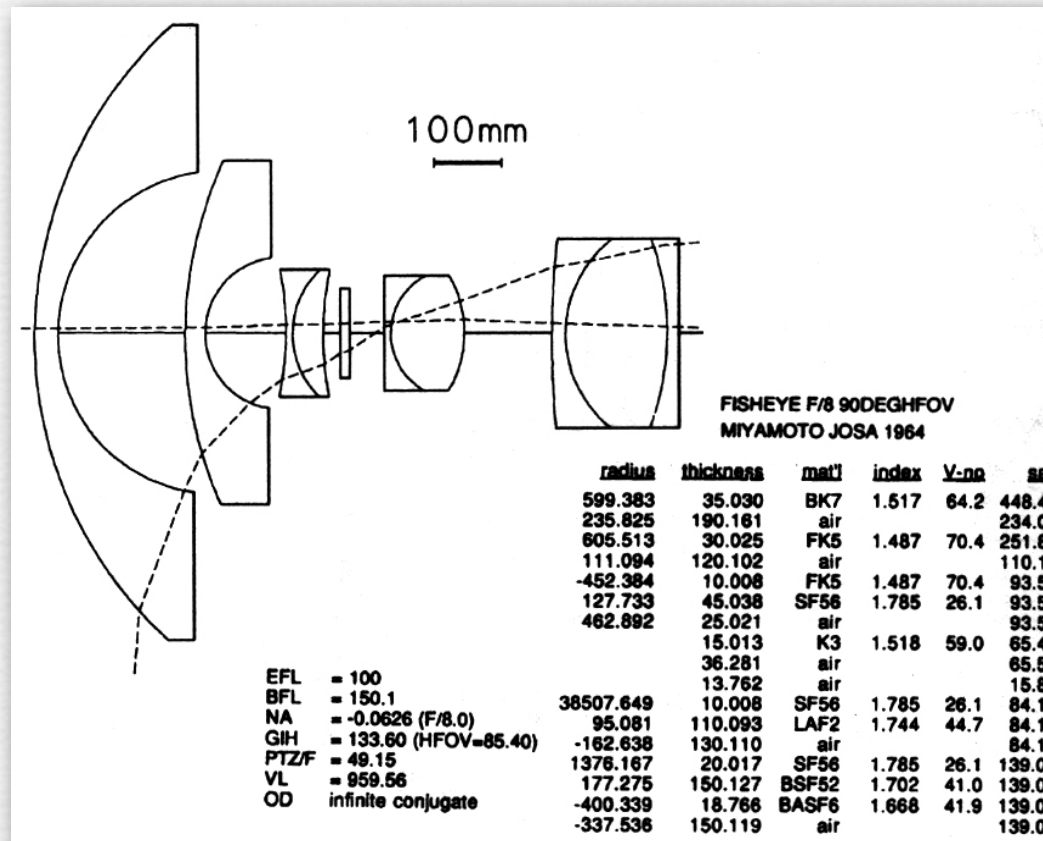


# Lens design software



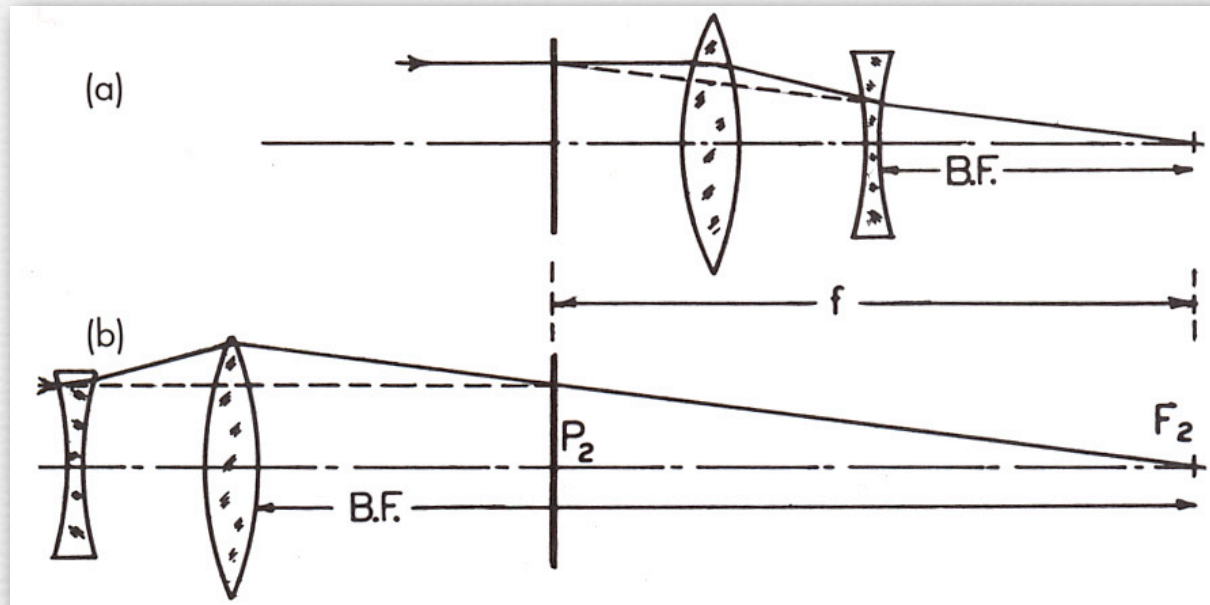
◆ uses optimization to make good recipes better

# Lens catalogs and patents



- ◆ hard to find optical recipe for commercial camera lenses
- ◆ patents never contain the real (exact) recipe

# Lens combinations: telephoto



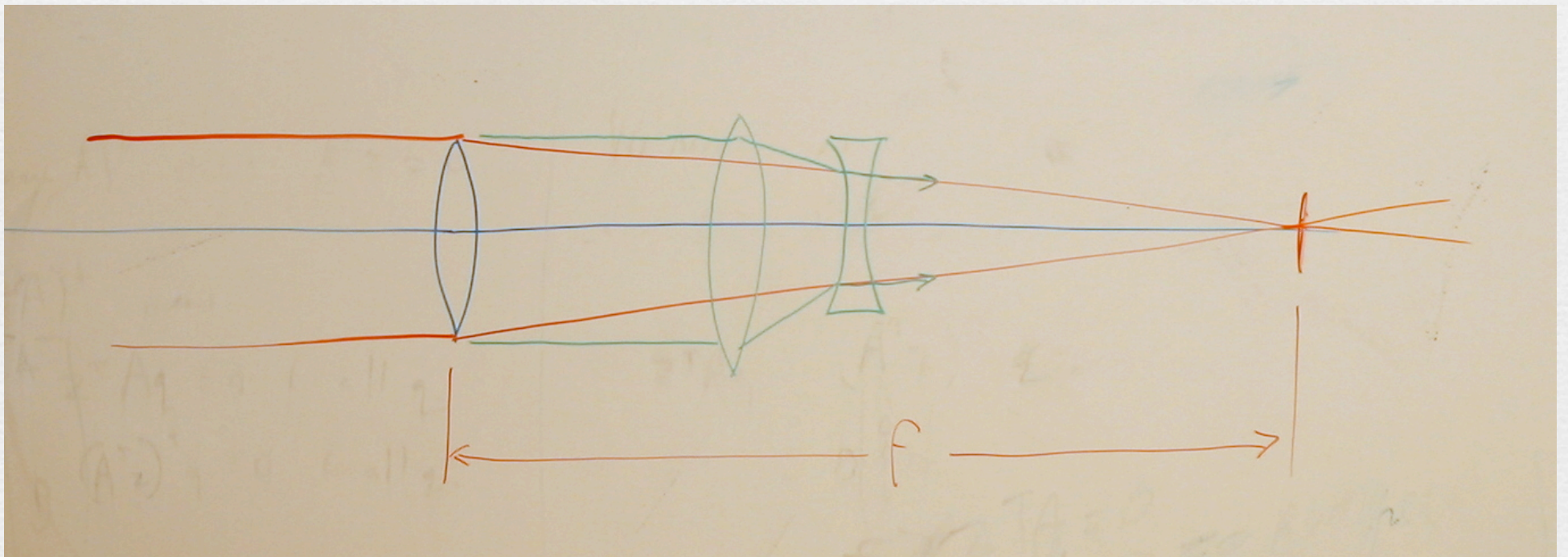
(Kingslake)

- ◆ telephoto (a) reduces the back focal distance B.F. relative to  $f$ 
  - for long focal length lenses, to reduce their physical size
- ◆ reversed telephoto (b) increases B.F. relative to  $f$ 
  - for wide-angle lenses, to ensure room for the reflex mirror

# Telephoto lens

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- ◆ the blue lens is replaced with the two green ones, thereby reducing the physical size of the lens assembly, while preserving its focal length (hence magnification)



# Lens combinations: telephoto

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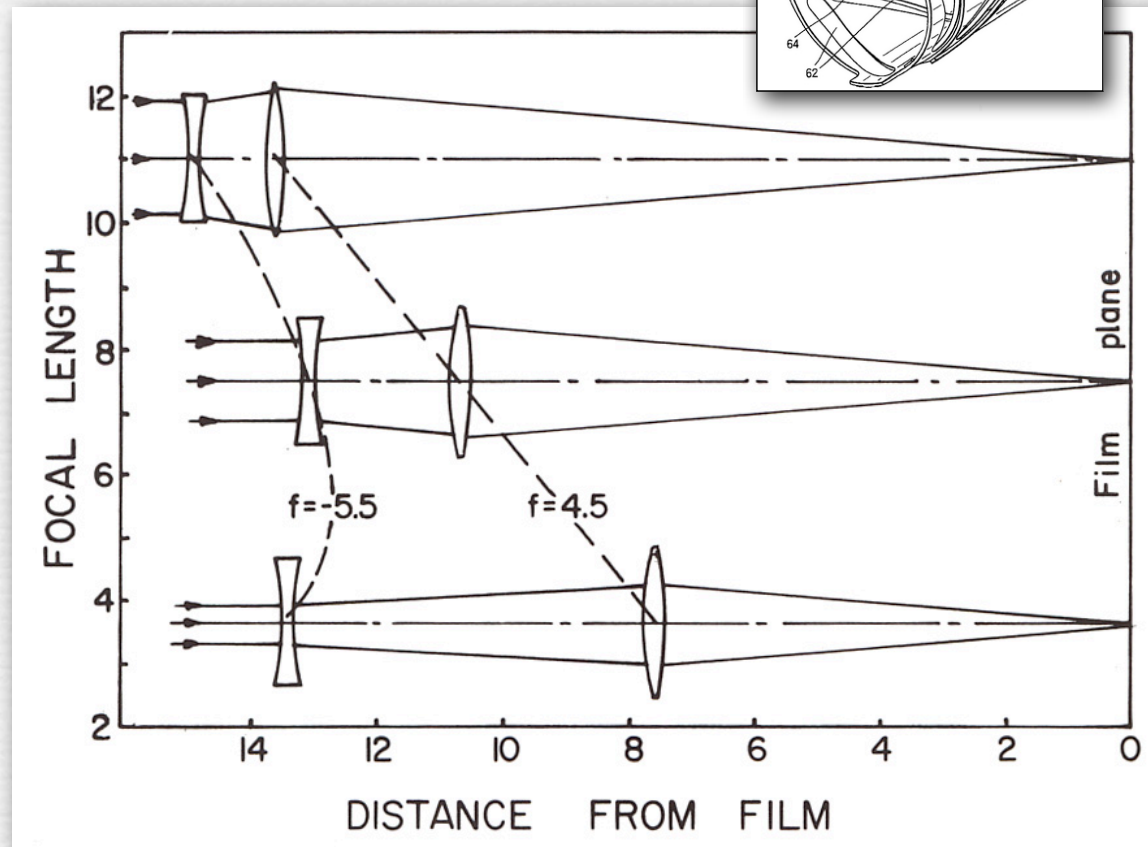
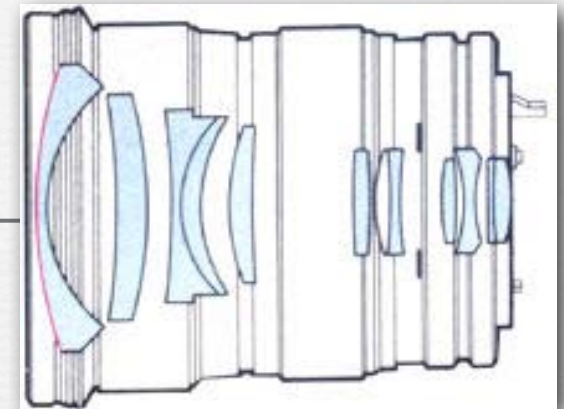
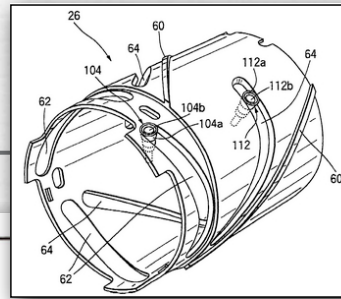


Nikon 500mm telephoto

Opteka 500mm non-telephoto



# Lens combinations: zoom



Canon FD 24-35mm  
f/3.5 L manual focus lens

**(FLASH DEMO)**

<http://graphics.stanford.edu/courses/cs178/applets/zoom.html>

- ◆ called *optically compensated zoom*, because the in-focus plane stays (more or less) stationary as you zoom
- ◆ to change focus, you move both lenses together

# Recap

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- ◆ telephoto lenses separate focal length & back focal distance
  - for long focal length lenses, to reduce their physical size
  - for wide-angle lenses, to ensure room for the reflex mirror
- ◆ most modern zoom lenses are focus-compensated
  - as you zoom, they stay in focus

**Questions?**

# Slide credits

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◆ Steve Marschner

◆ Fredo Durand

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