

# Computer Graphics

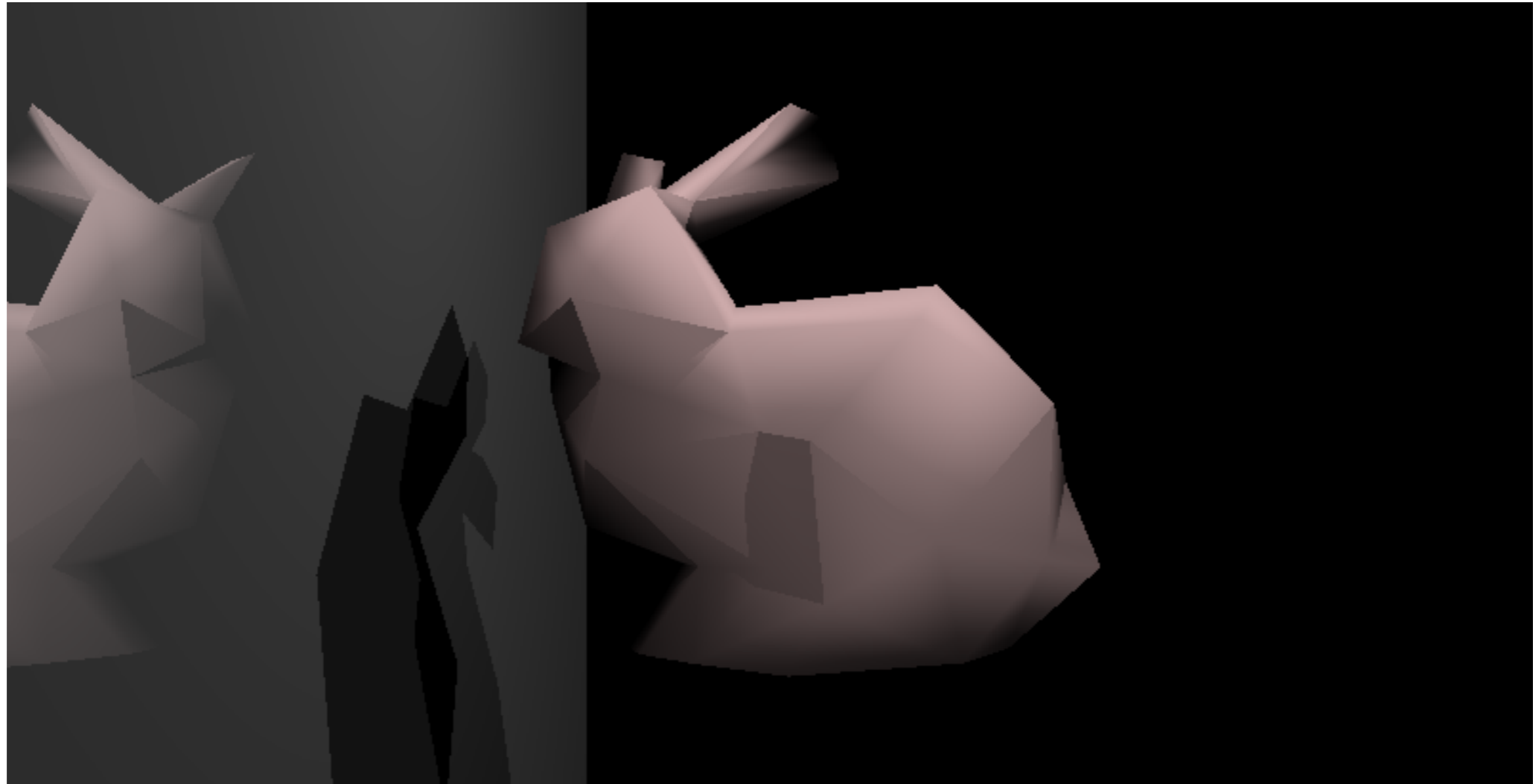
Lecture 10

**Barycentric Coordinates**  
**Ray-Triangle Intersection**

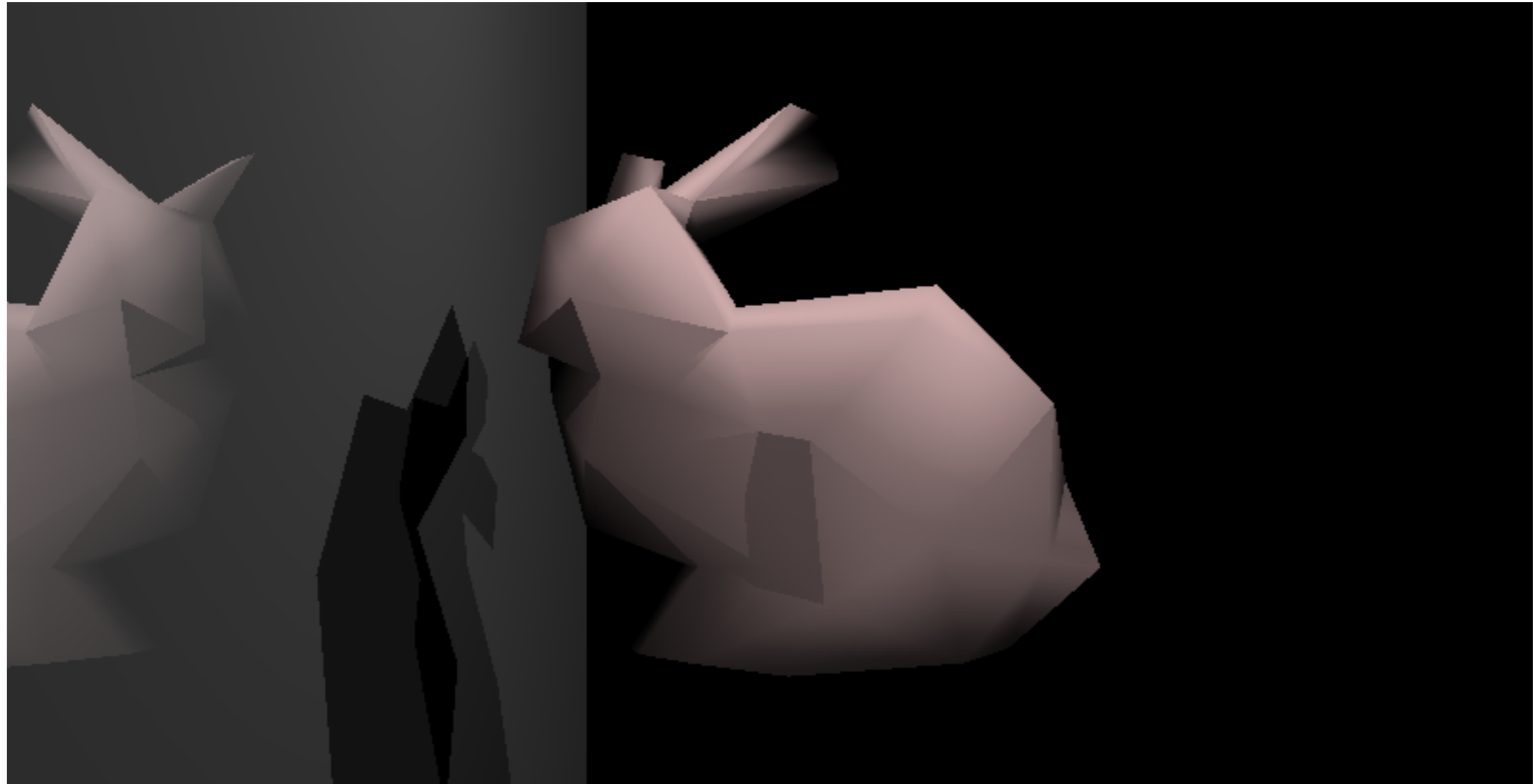
# Announcements

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# Let's talk about bunnies.

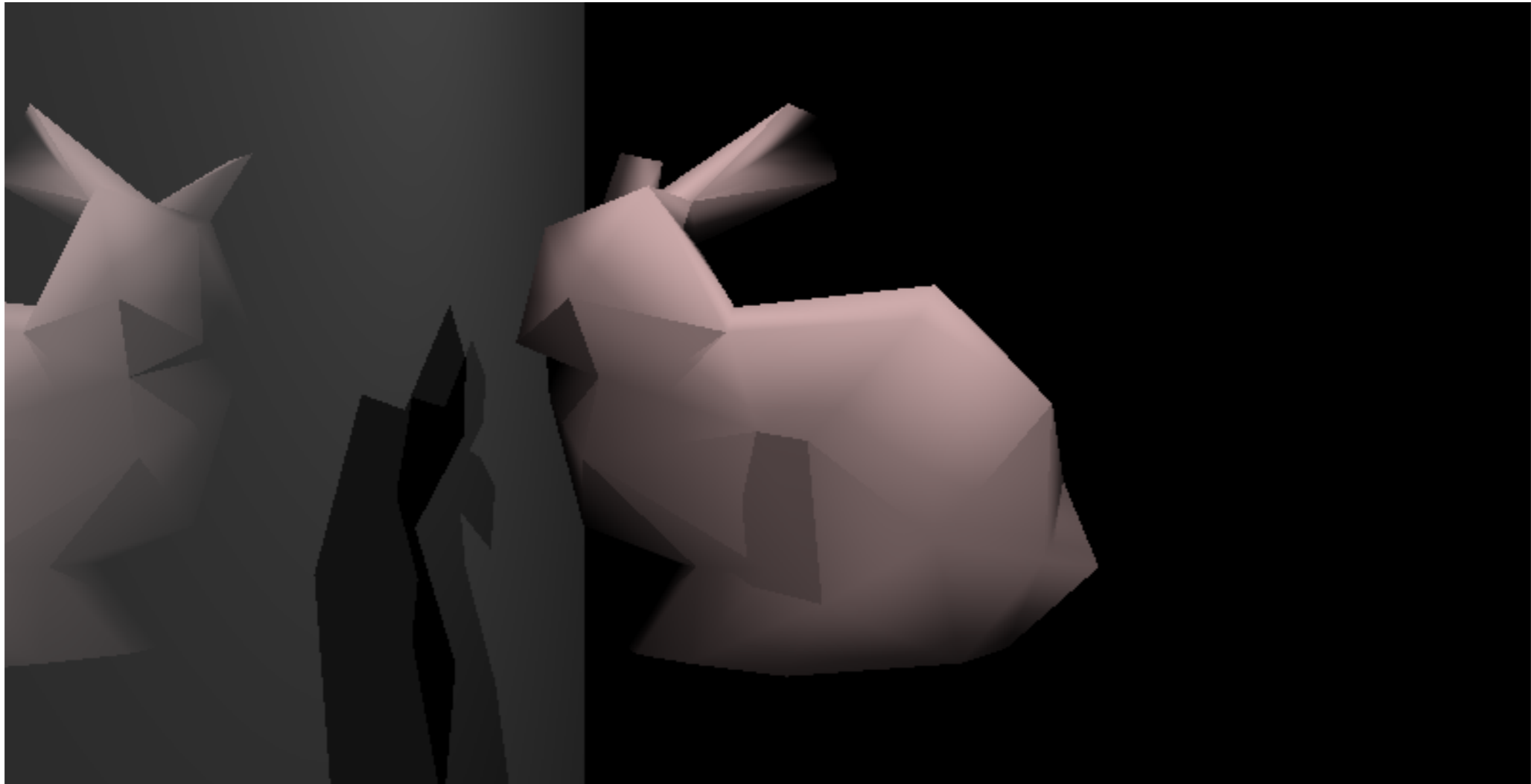


# Let's talk about bunnies.



If we want bunnies, we still need to implement

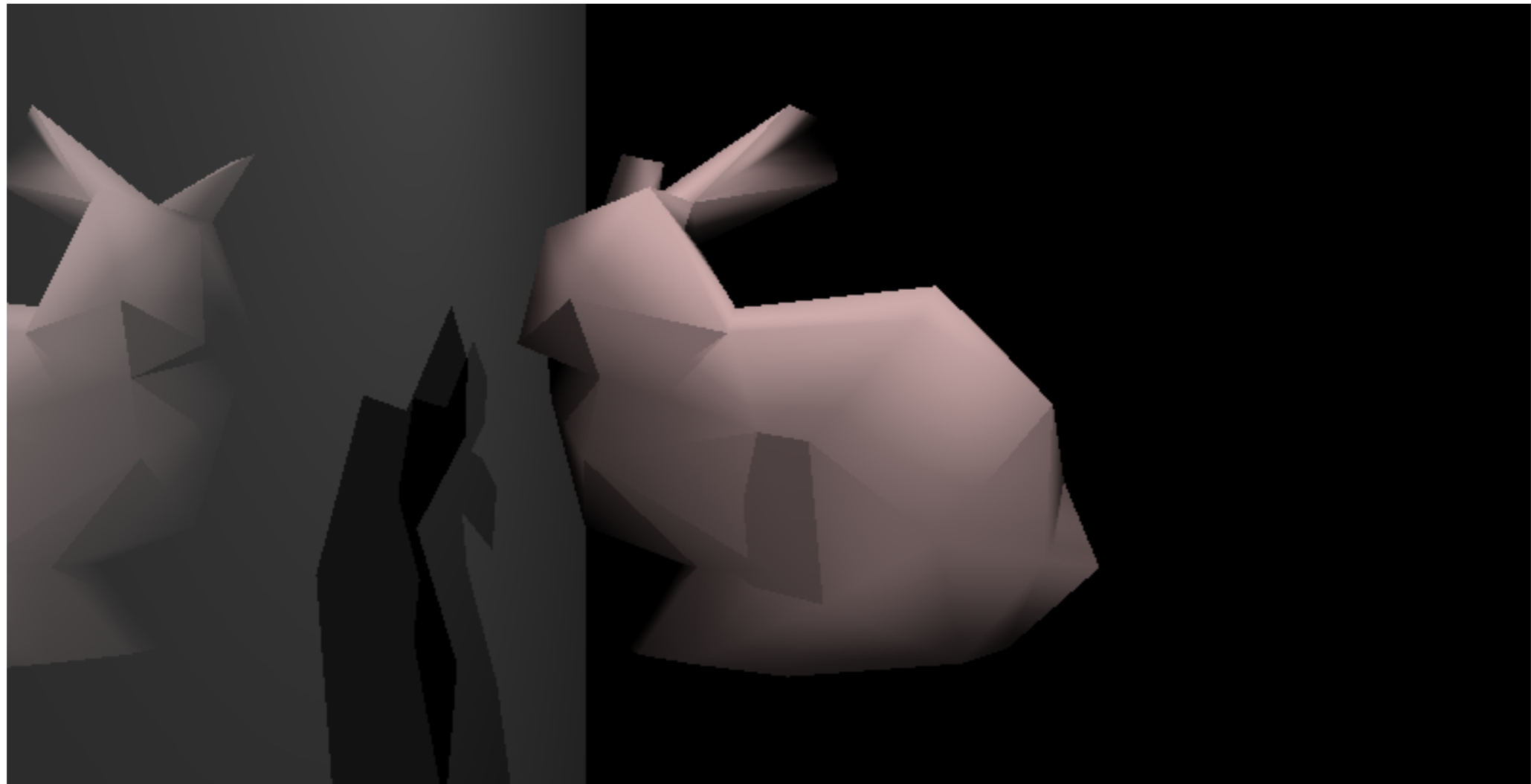
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```
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```

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`function ray_intersect(ray, triangle, tmin, tmax):`

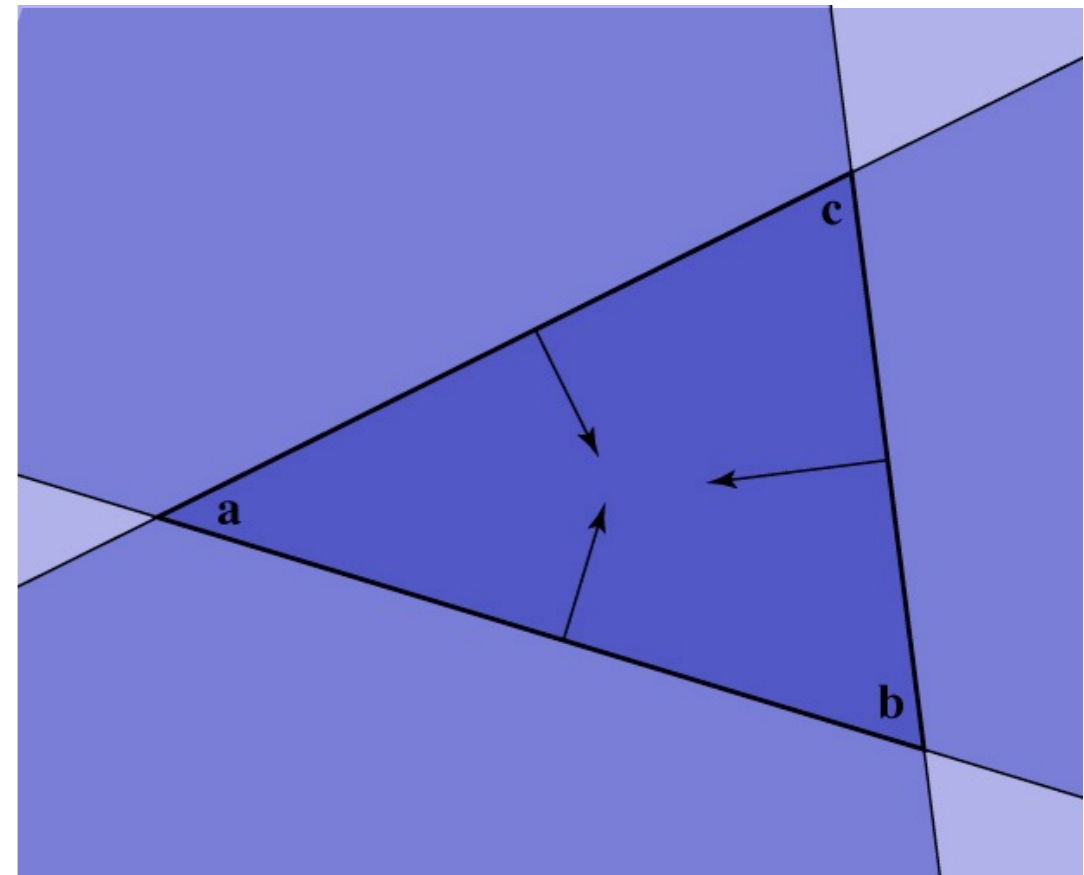
Then, we can treat a triangle mesh as simply a list of triangles.

# Let's talk about triangles.

A triangle is the intersection of three half-planes

High-level approach:

1. Intersect with the plane
2. Check if intersection is inside the triangle



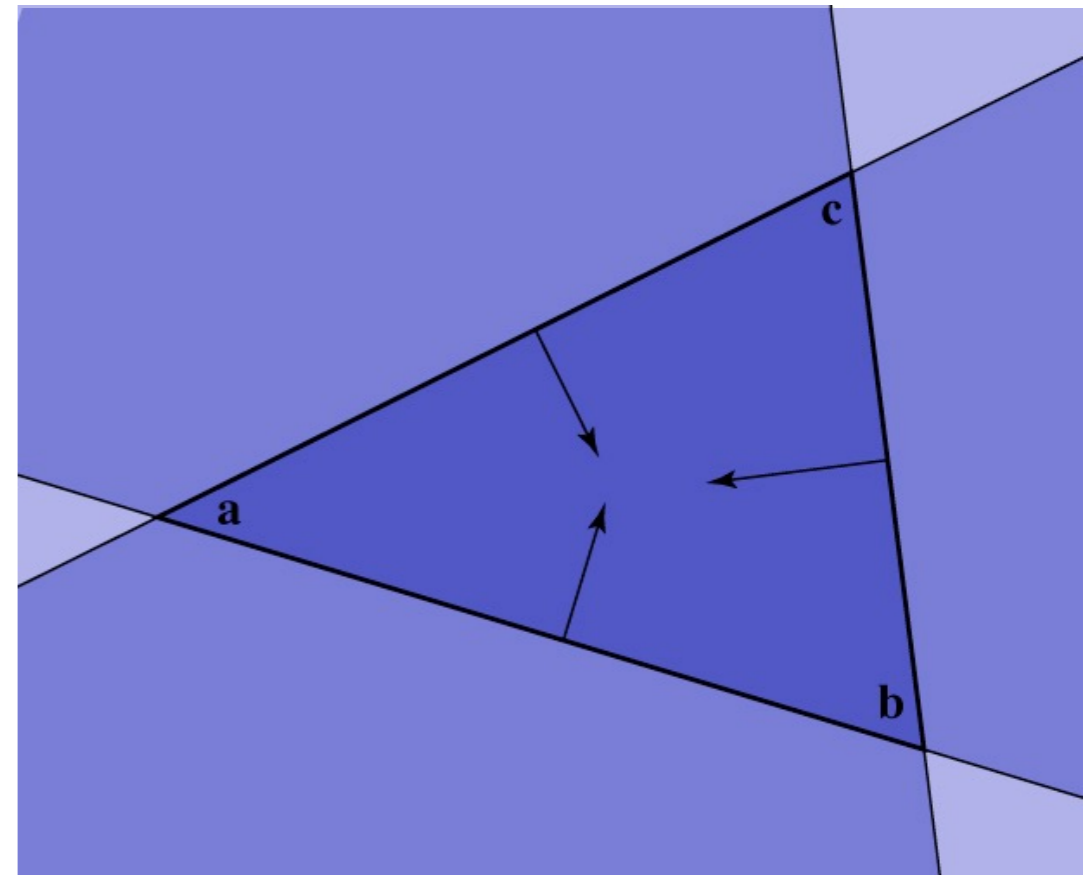


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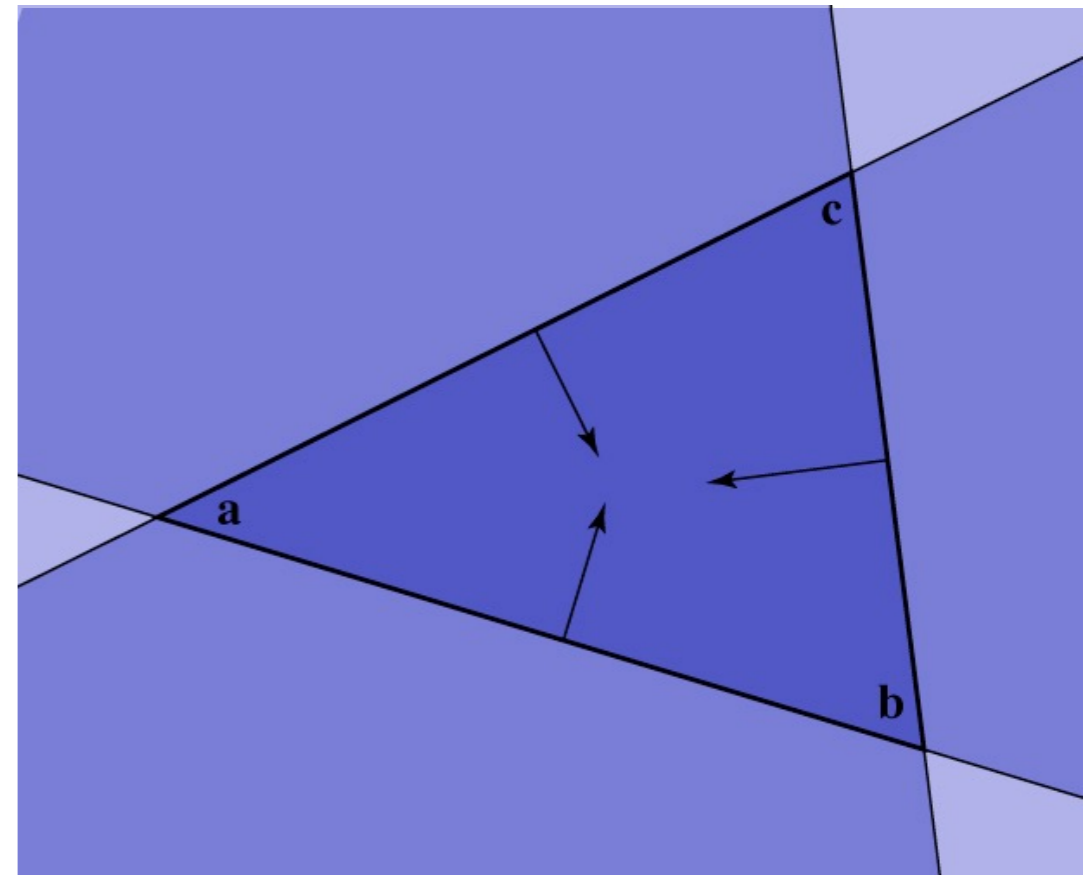


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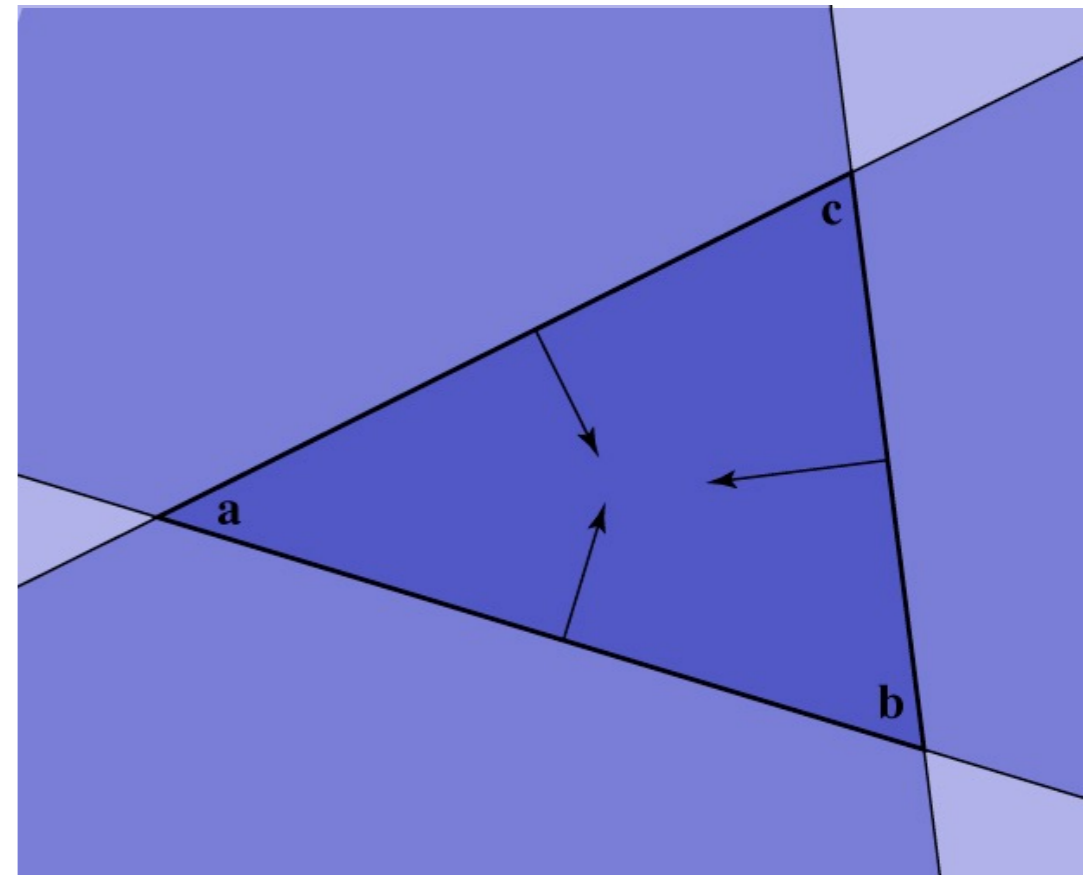
To make this easy, we'll introduce the *weirdest coordinate system you've ever seen.*

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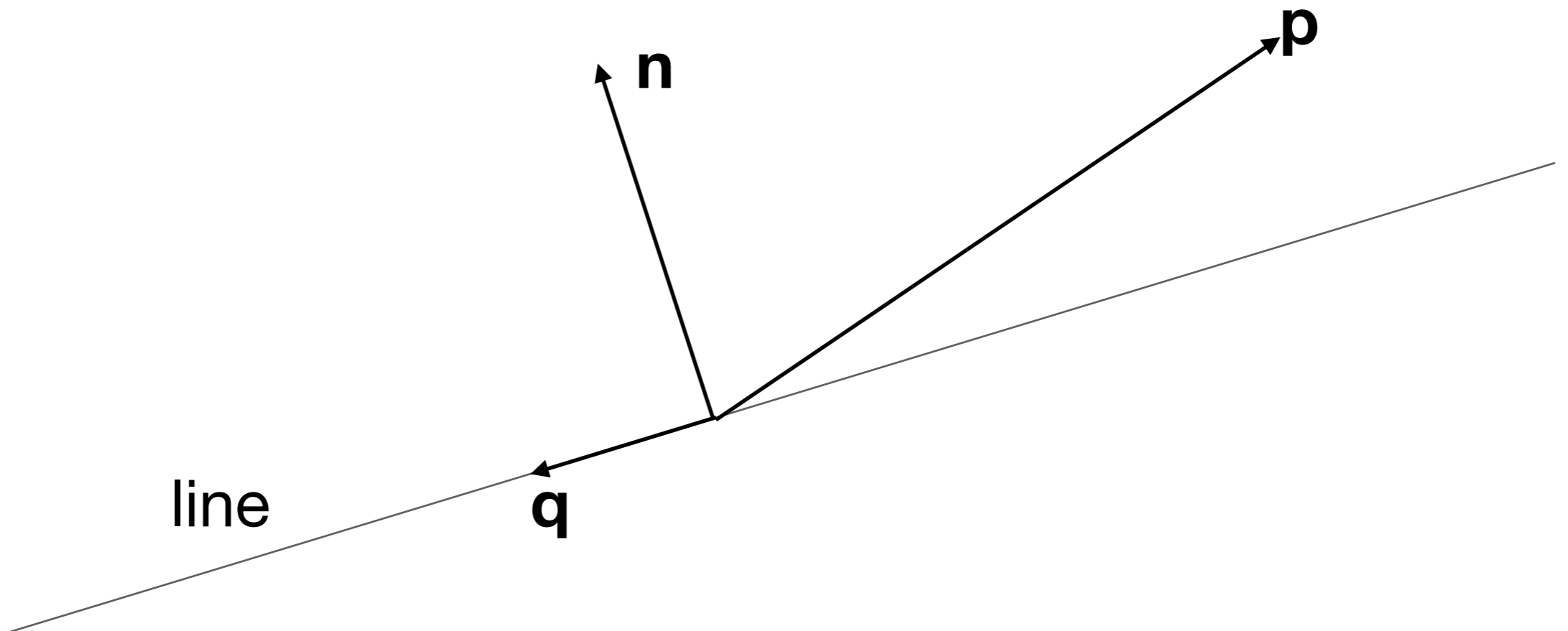
As a bonus, we'll get interpolation of vertex data for free!

# Roadmap for today

- Implicit equation for a plane
- Barycentric coordinates
- Finding barycentric coordinates at a ray-plane intersection.

# Implicit Planes: Intuition

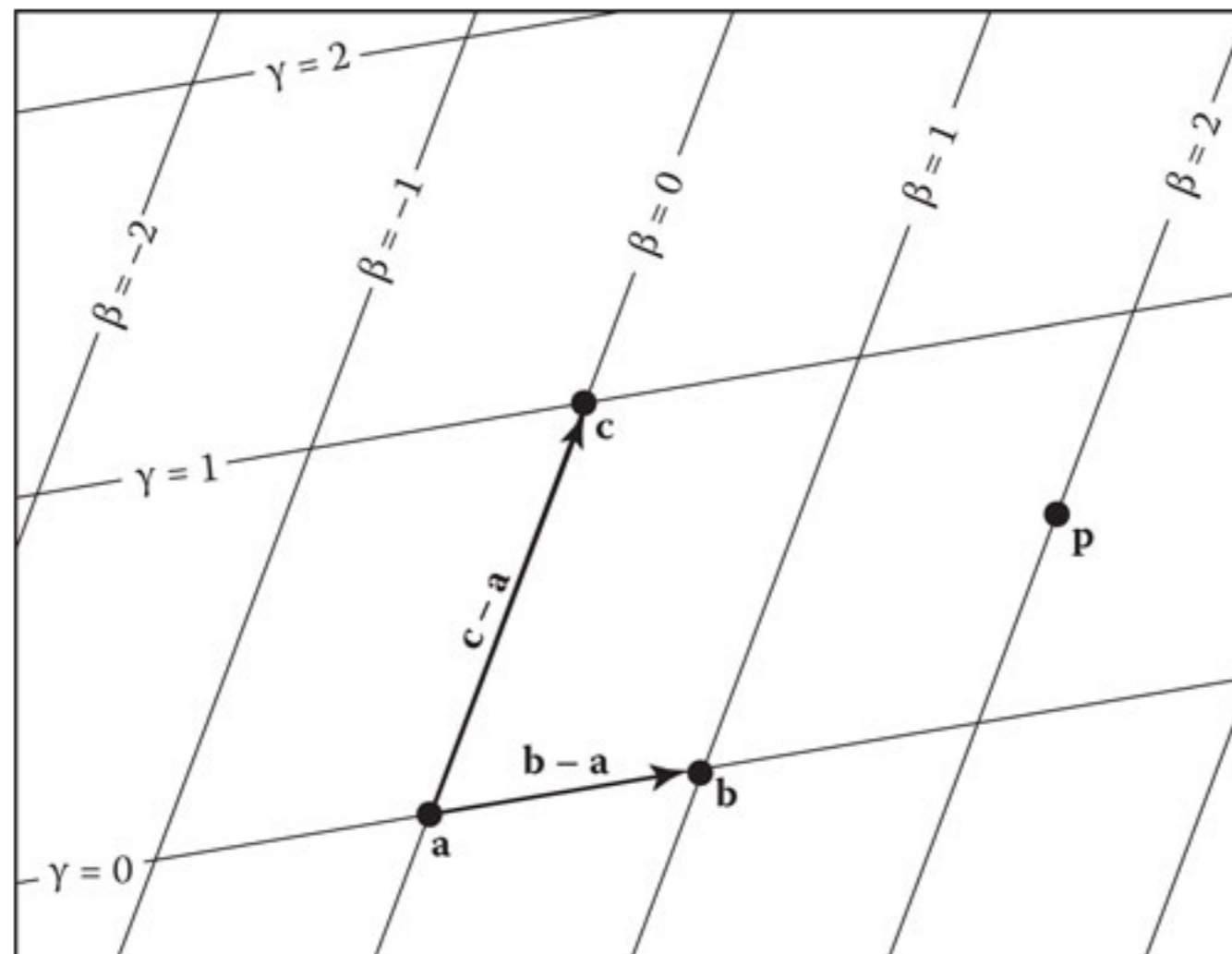
What is true of points on this line, in terms of its normal vector,  $\mathbf{n}$ ?



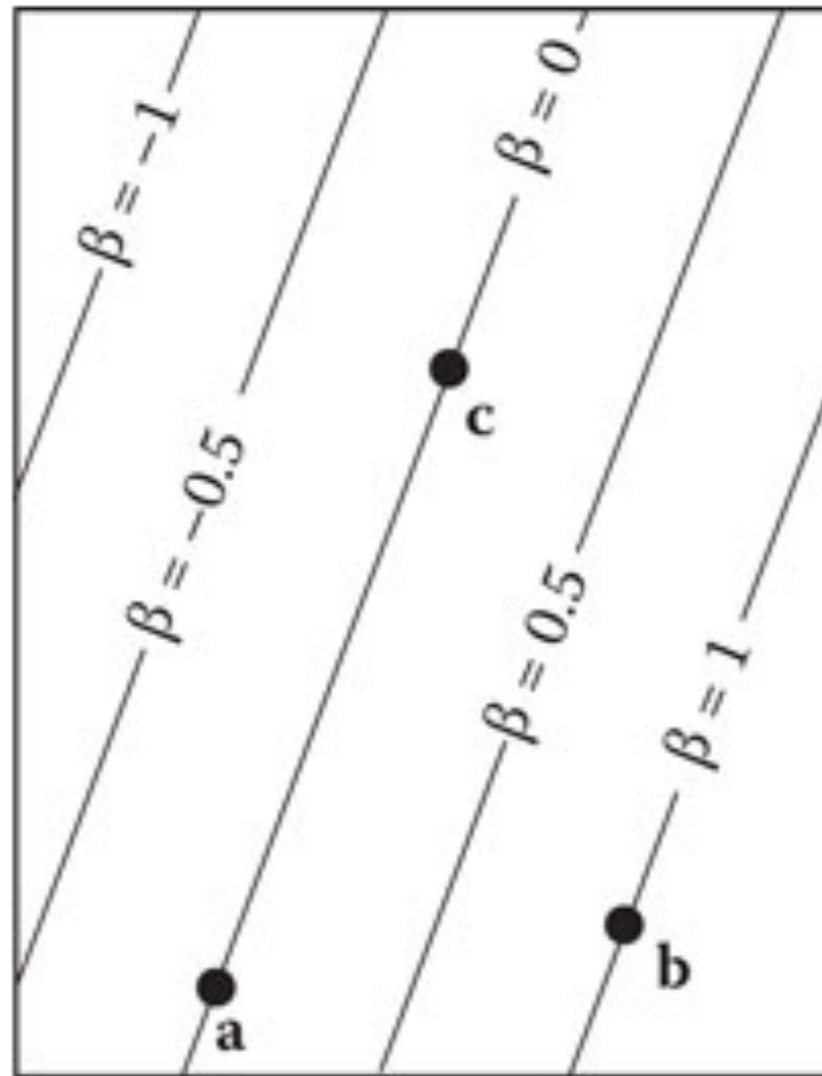
# Barycentric Coordinates

A purpose-built coordinate system for talking about points in a specific triangle's plane.

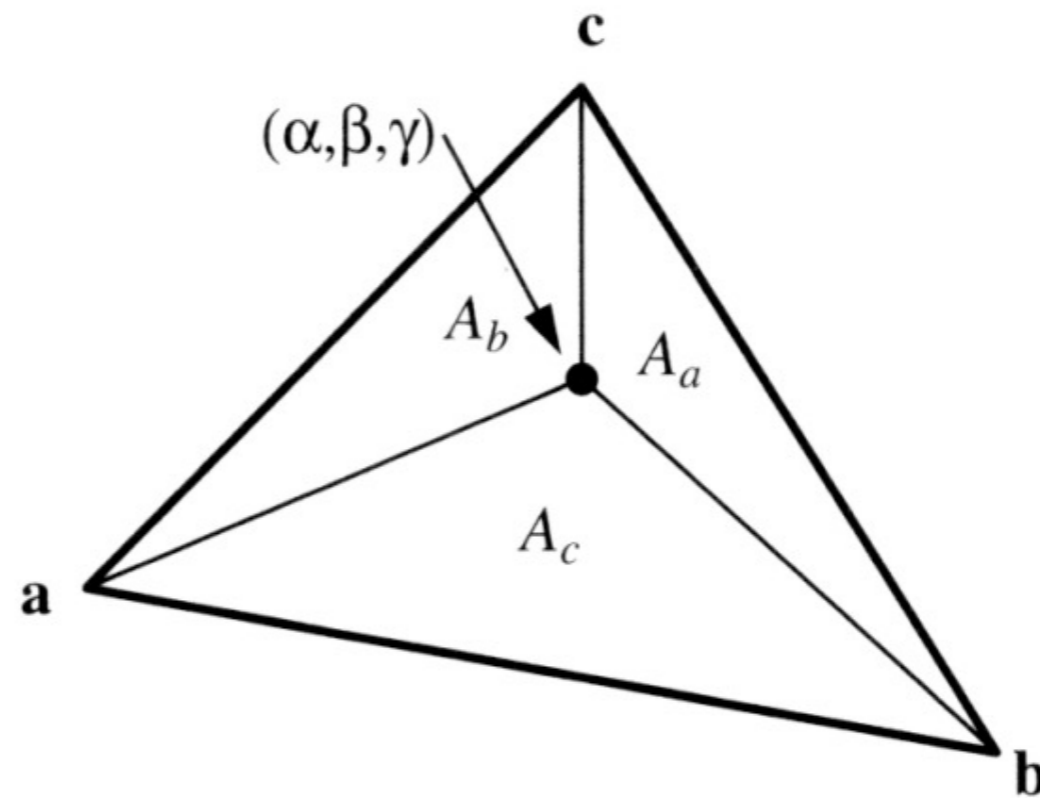
$$\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{a} + \beta(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}) + \gamma(\mathbf{c} - \mathbf{a})$$



# Properties of Barycentric Coordinates



- Coordinates are proportional to area of subtriangles:





# Barycentric ray-triangle intersection

- Every point on the plane can be written in the form:

$$\mathbf{a} + \beta(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}) + \gamma(\mathbf{c} - \mathbf{a})$$

for some numbers  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$ .

- If the point is also on the ray then it is

$$\mathbf{p} + t\mathbf{d}$$

for some number  $t$ .

- Set them equal: 3 linear equations in 3 variables

$$\mathbf{p} + t\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{a} + \beta(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}) + \gamma(\mathbf{c} - \mathbf{a})$$

...solve them to get  $t$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$  all at once!

# Barycentric ray-triangle intersection

$$\mathbf{p} + t\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{a} + \beta(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}) + \gamma(\mathbf{c} - \mathbf{a})$$

$$\beta(\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}) + \gamma(\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{c}) + t\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{p}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b} & \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{c} & \mathbf{d} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta \\ \gamma \\ t \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{p}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_a - x_b & x_a - x_c & x_d \\ y_a - y_b & y_a - y_c & y_d \\ z_a - z_b & z_a - z_c & z_d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta \\ \gamma \\ t \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_a - x_p \\ y_a - y_p \\ z_a - z_p \end{bmatrix}$$

- This is a linear system:  $Ax = b$
- Various ways to solve, but a fast one uses *Cramer's rule*.
- See 4.4.2 for the TL;DR formula
- See 5.3.2 for an explanation of Cramer's rule