

# Linear Depth Estimation from an Uncalibrated, Monocular Polarisation Image

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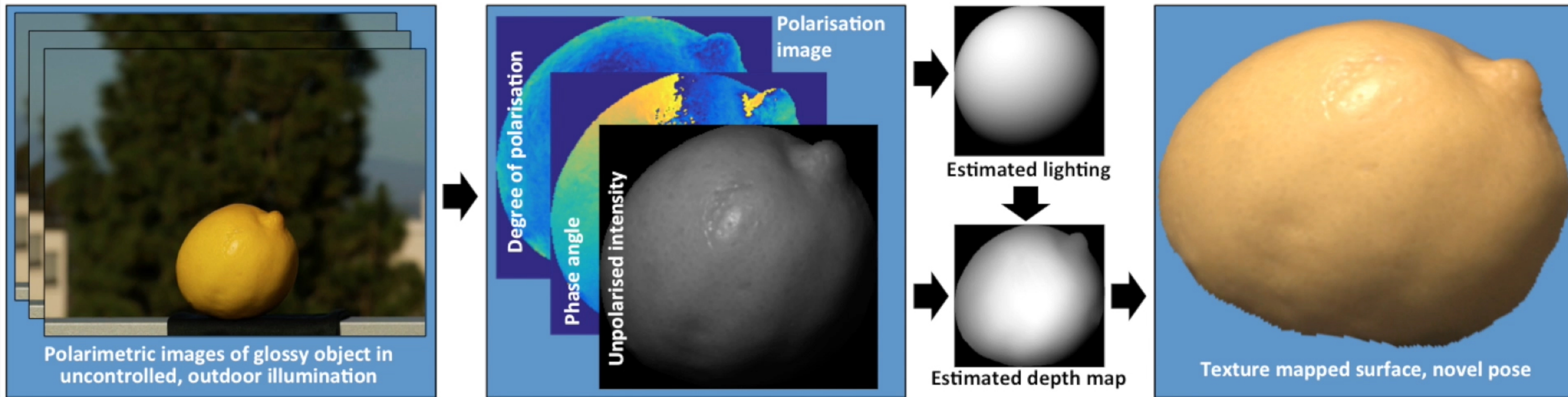
UC San Diego



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



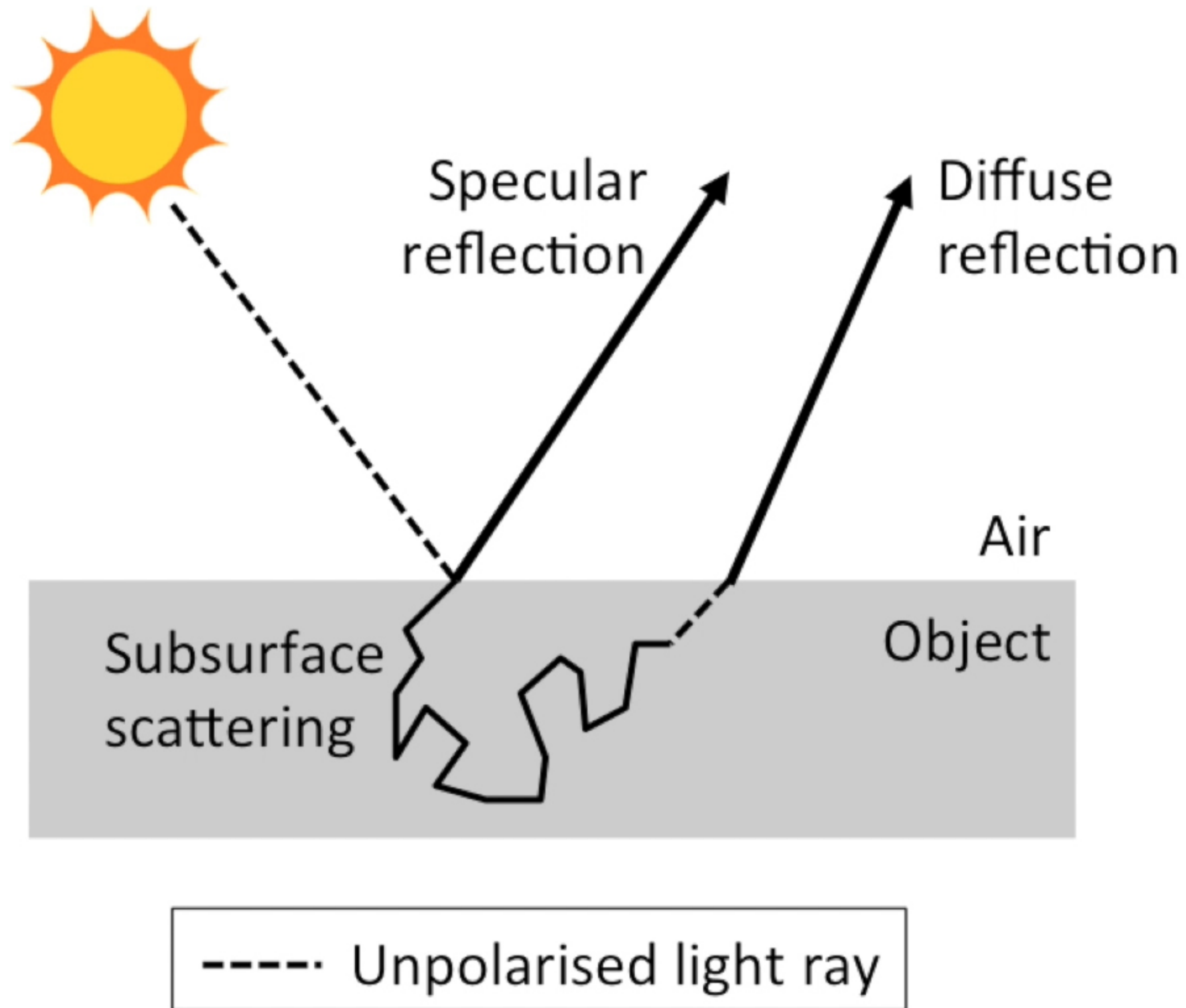
# Overview



- Depth from a single polarisation image
- Only need to solve large, sparse linear system
- Monocular and passive
- Arbitrary uncalibrated illumination (estimated)



# Shape-from-polarisation

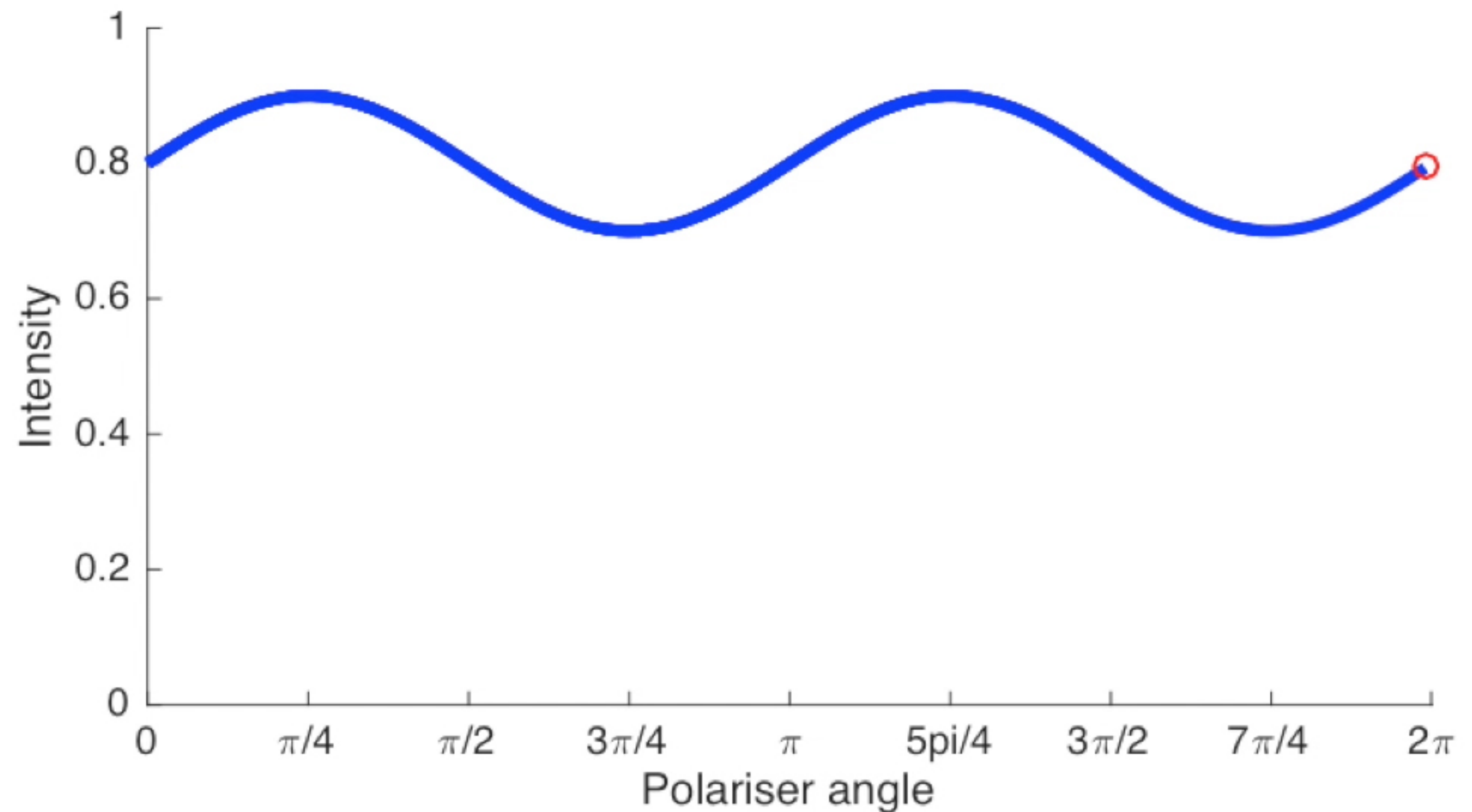


When light reflects from a surface it becomes partially polarised

Degree of polarisation and phase angle provide shape cue

# Polarimetric Image Capture

Rotate linear polarising filter in front of camera

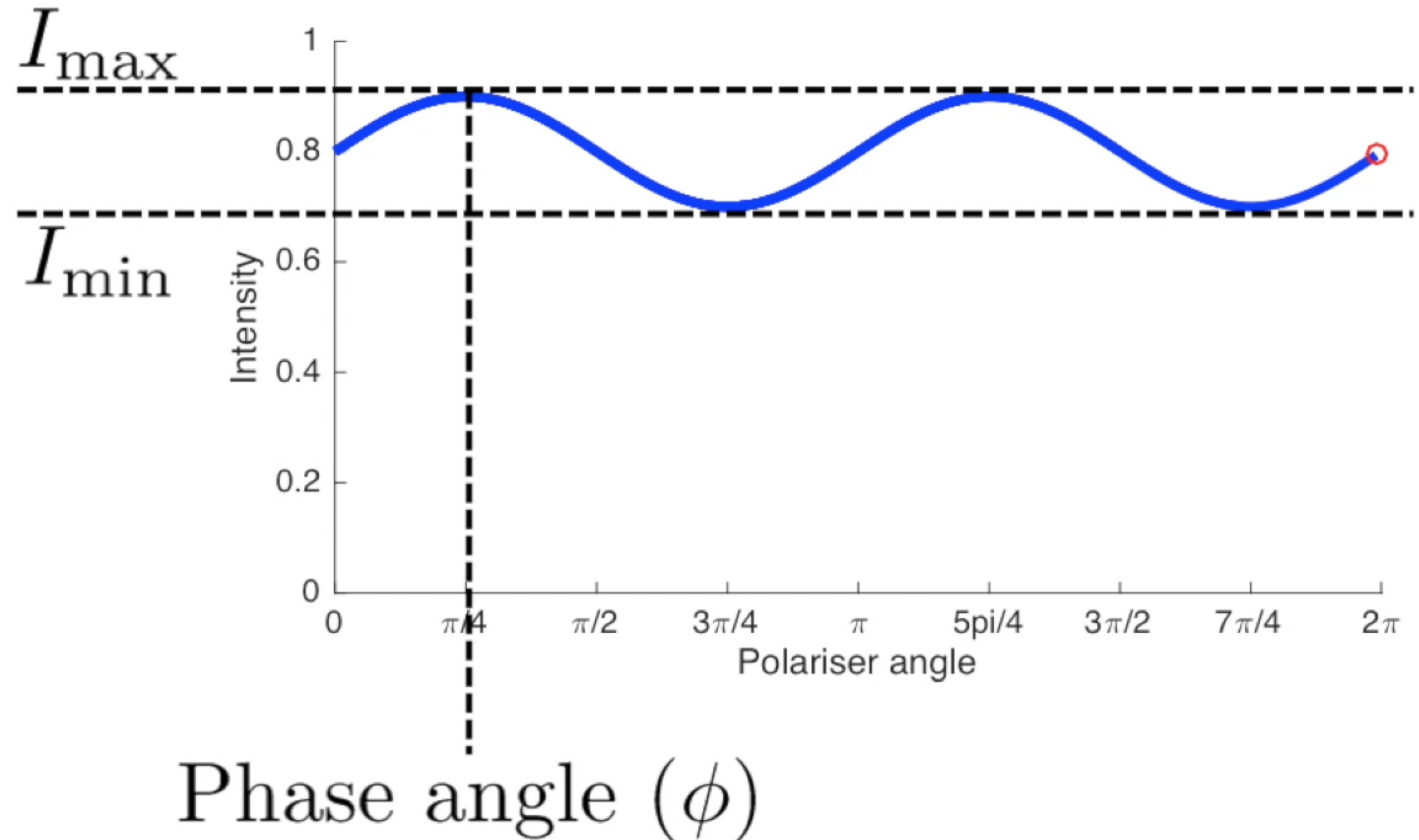


Intensity varies sinusoidally

# Polarisation Image

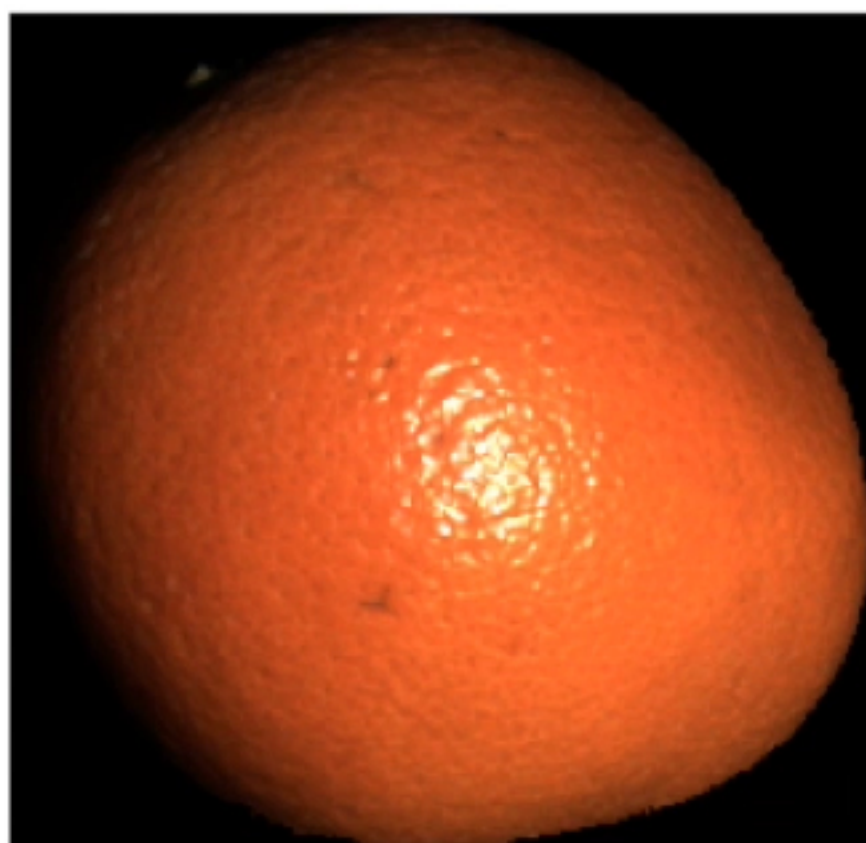
$$\text{DOLP} = \frac{I_{\max} - I_{\min}}{I_{\max} + I_{\min}}$$

$$I_{\text{unpol}} = \frac{I_{\max} + I_{\min}}{2}$$

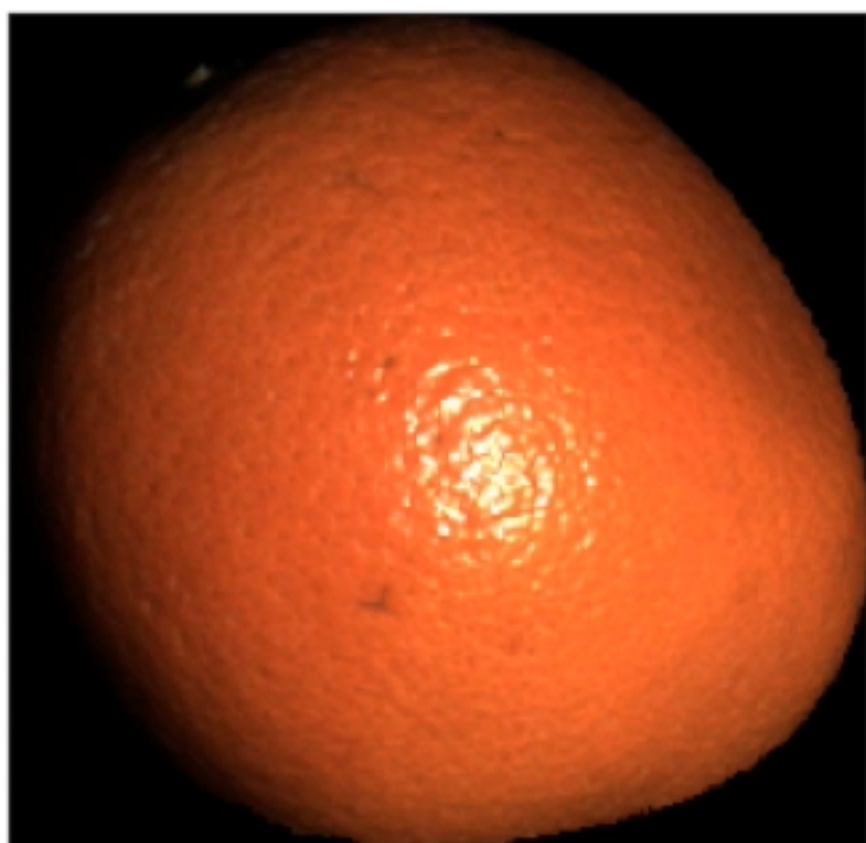




0°

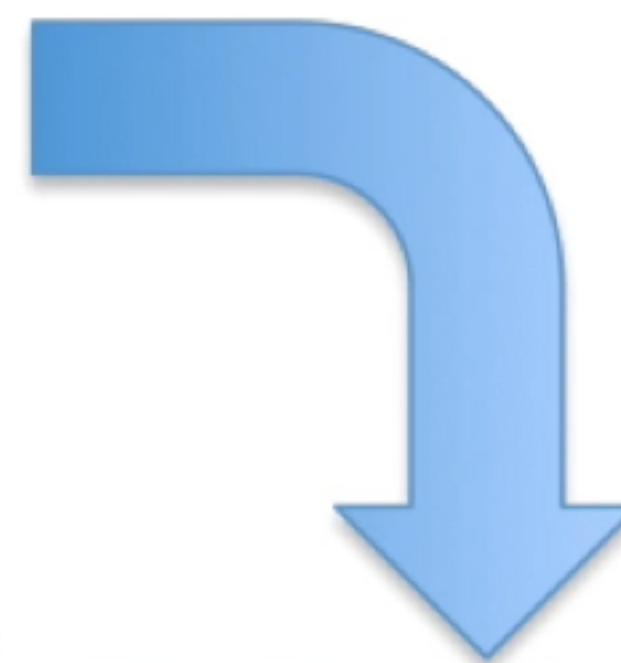
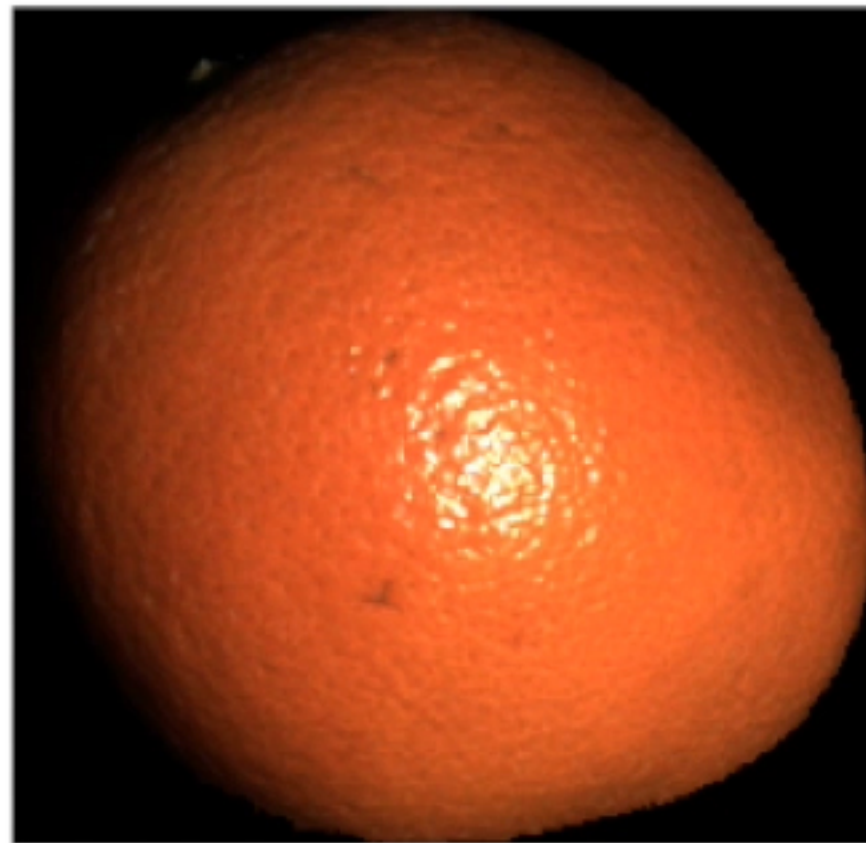


10°

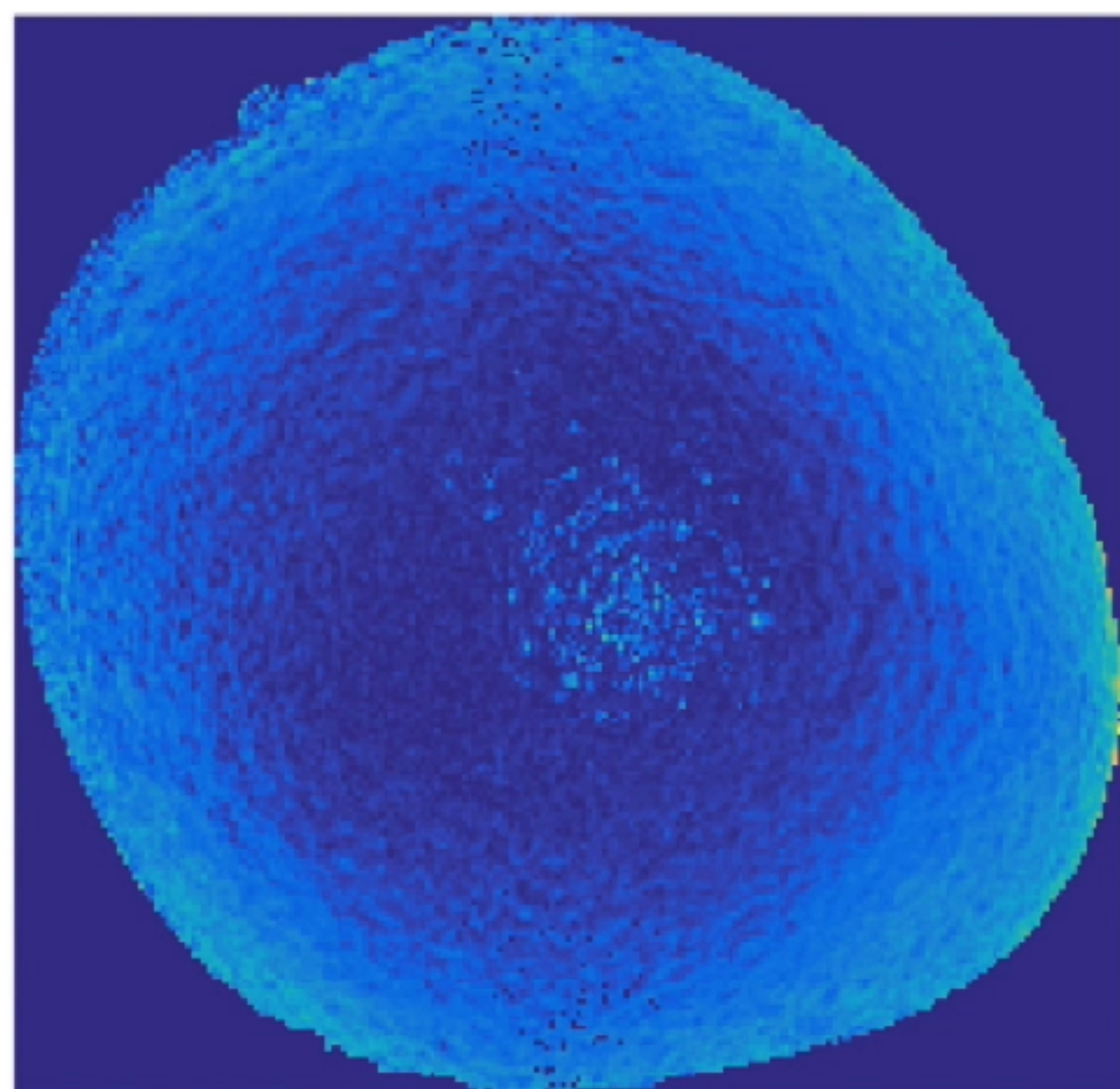


...

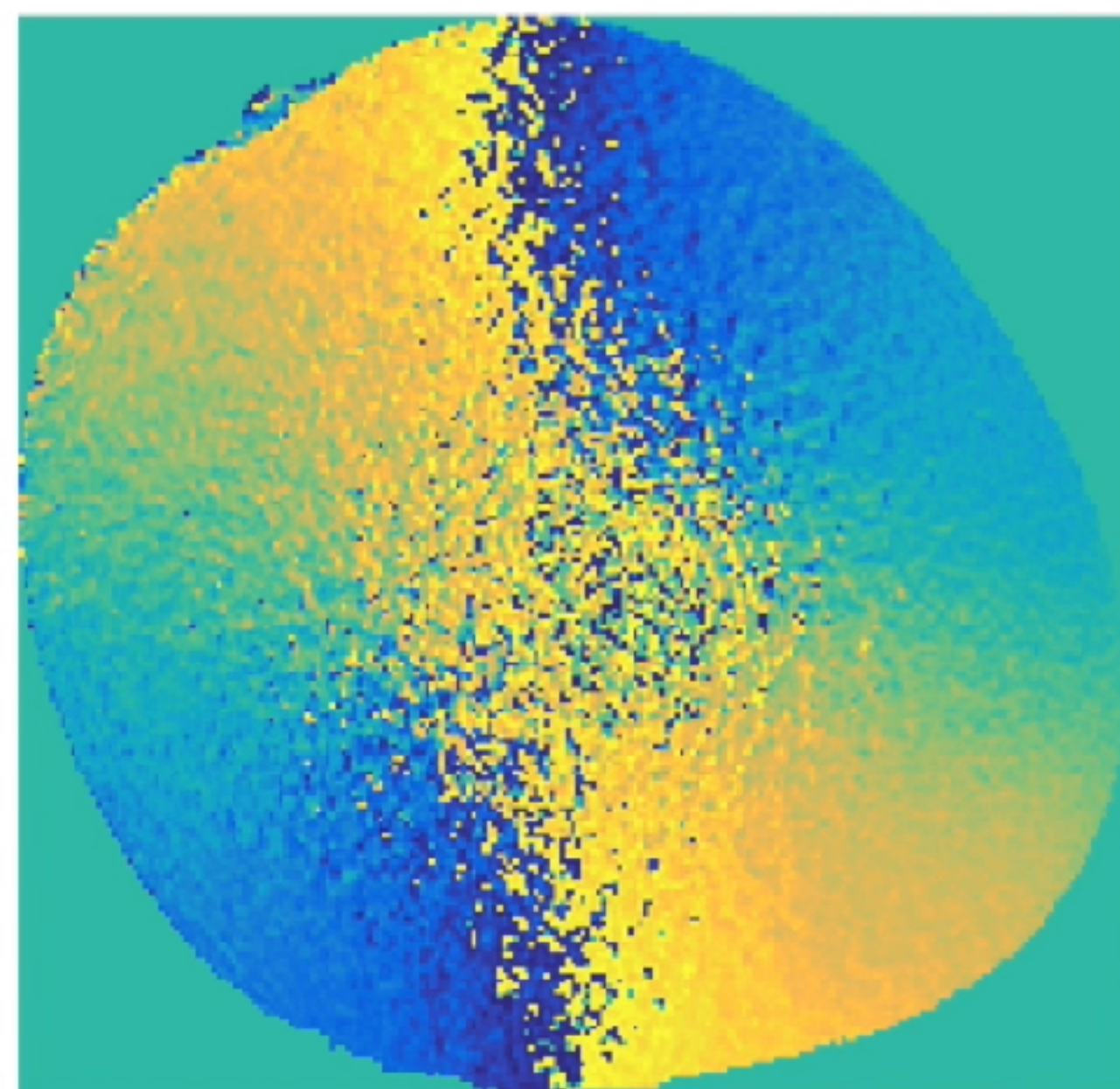
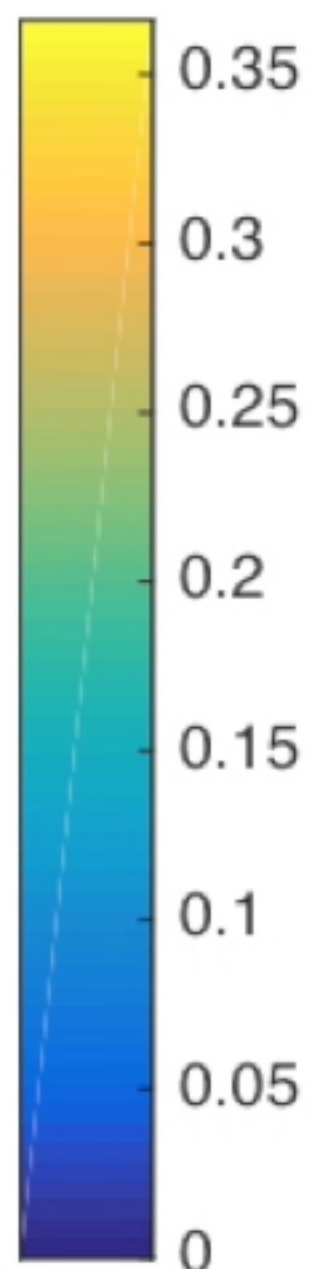
350°



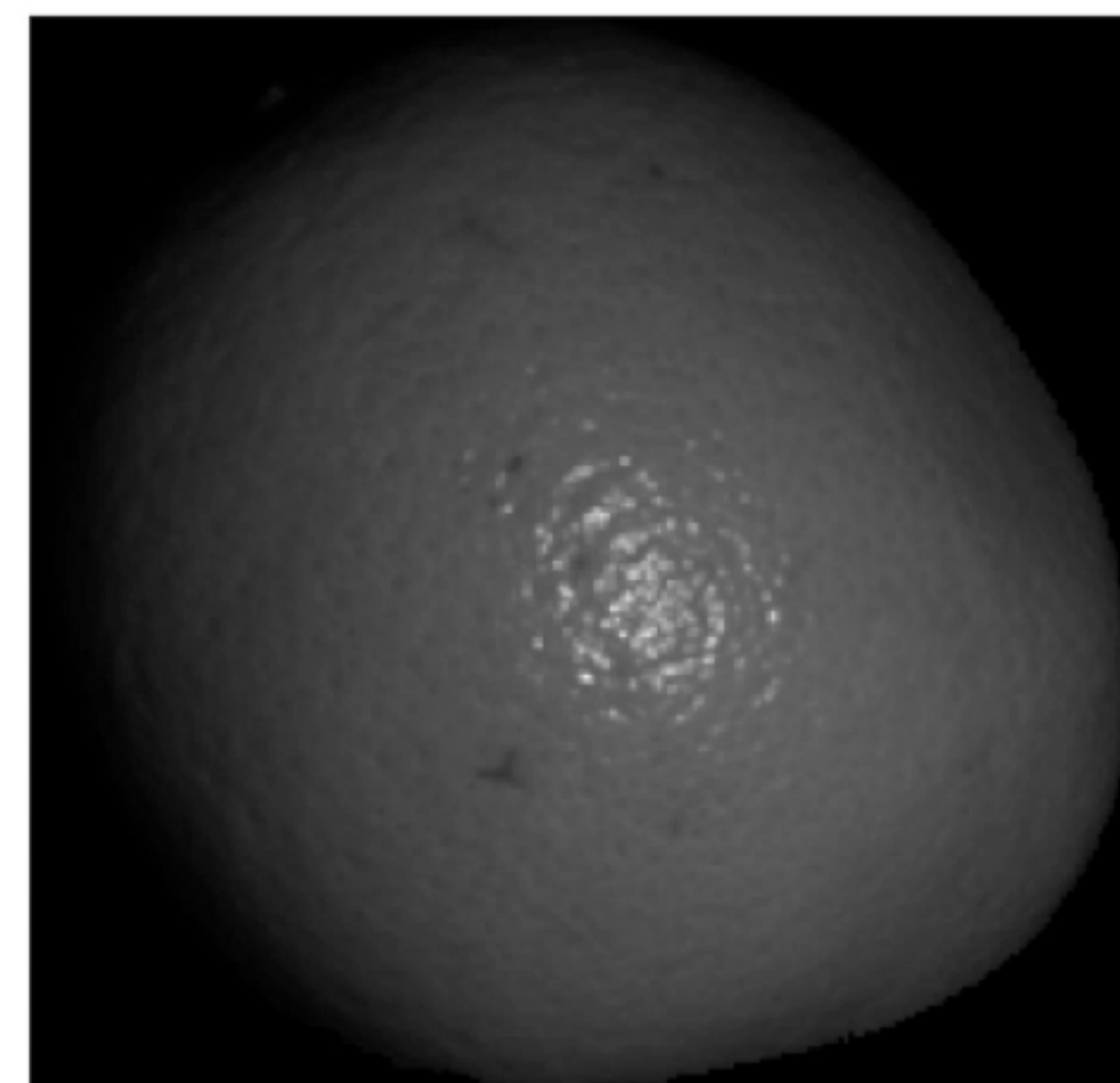
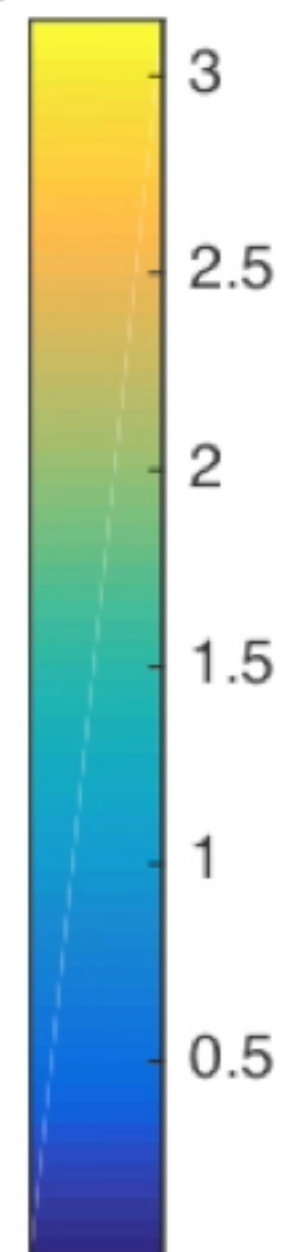
## Polarisation Image



Degree of polarisation



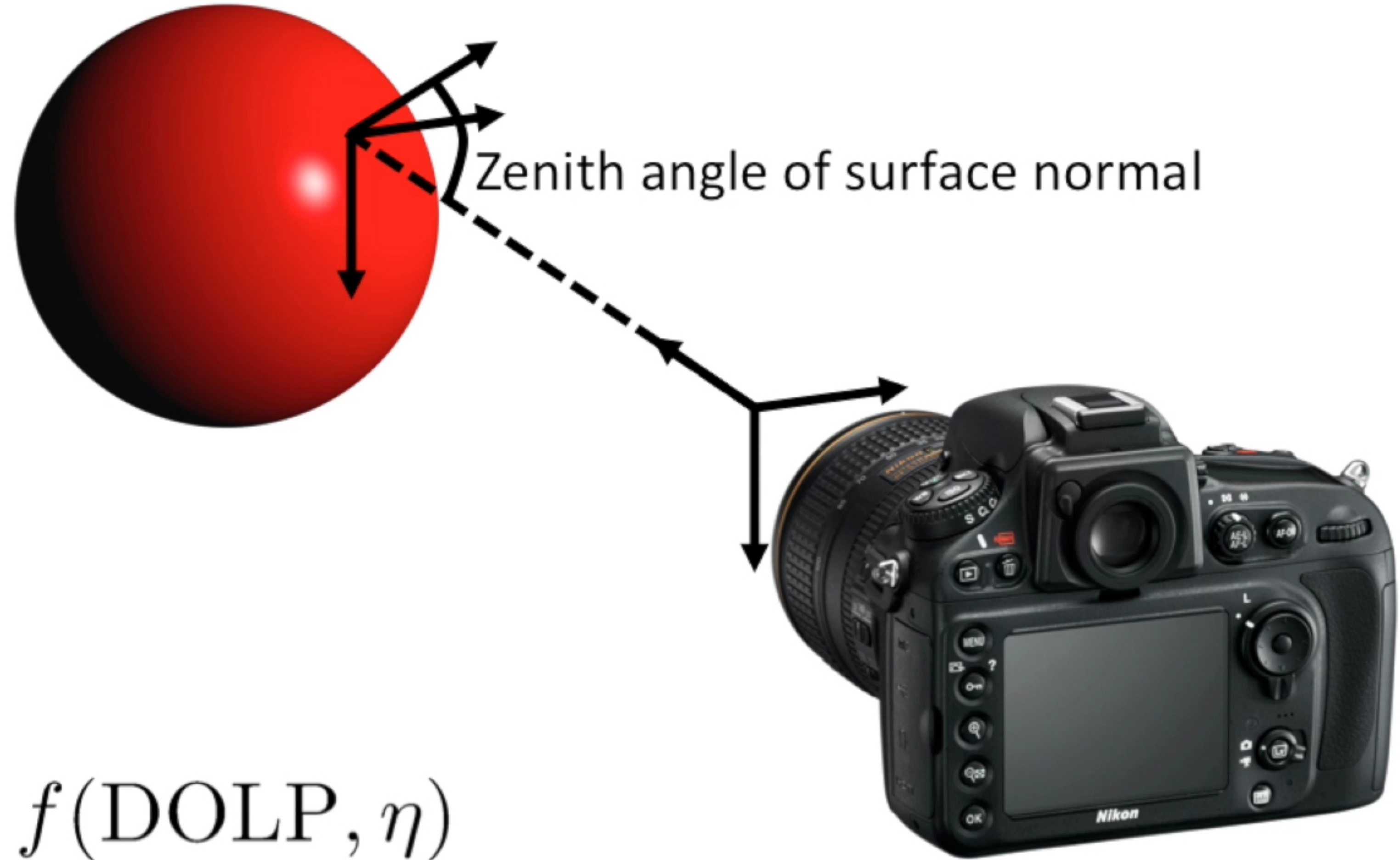
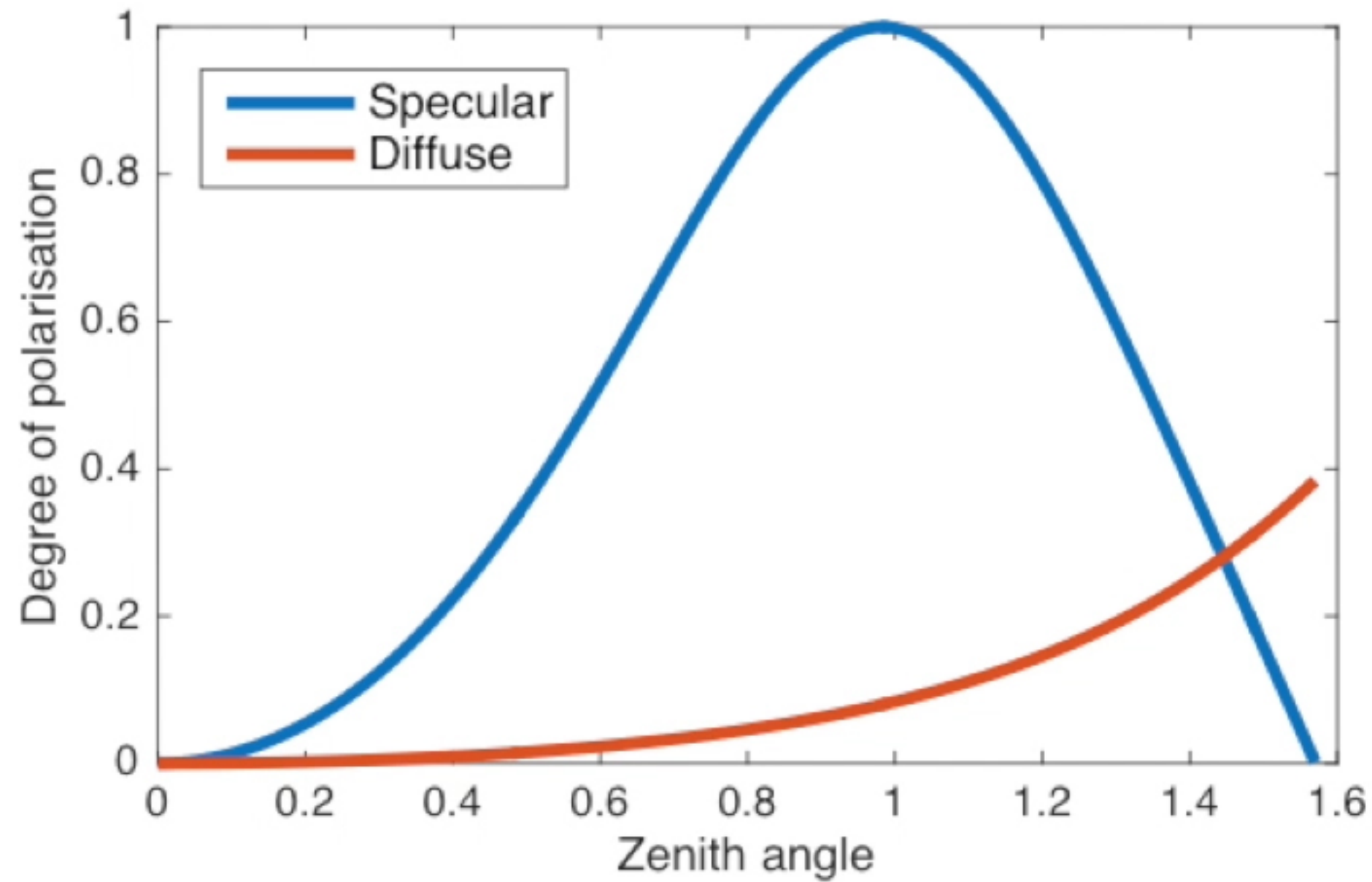
Phase Angle



Unpolarised Intensity

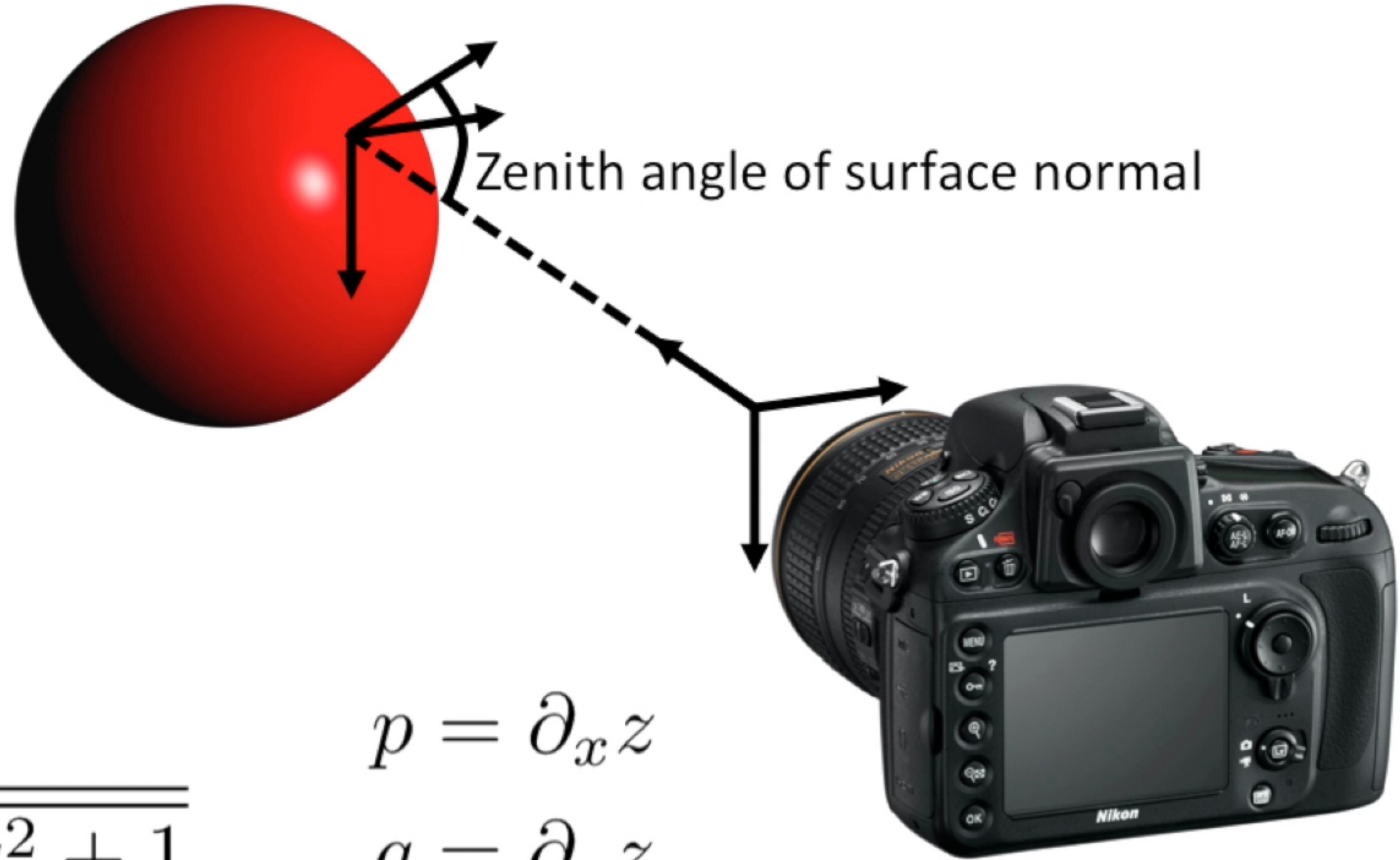
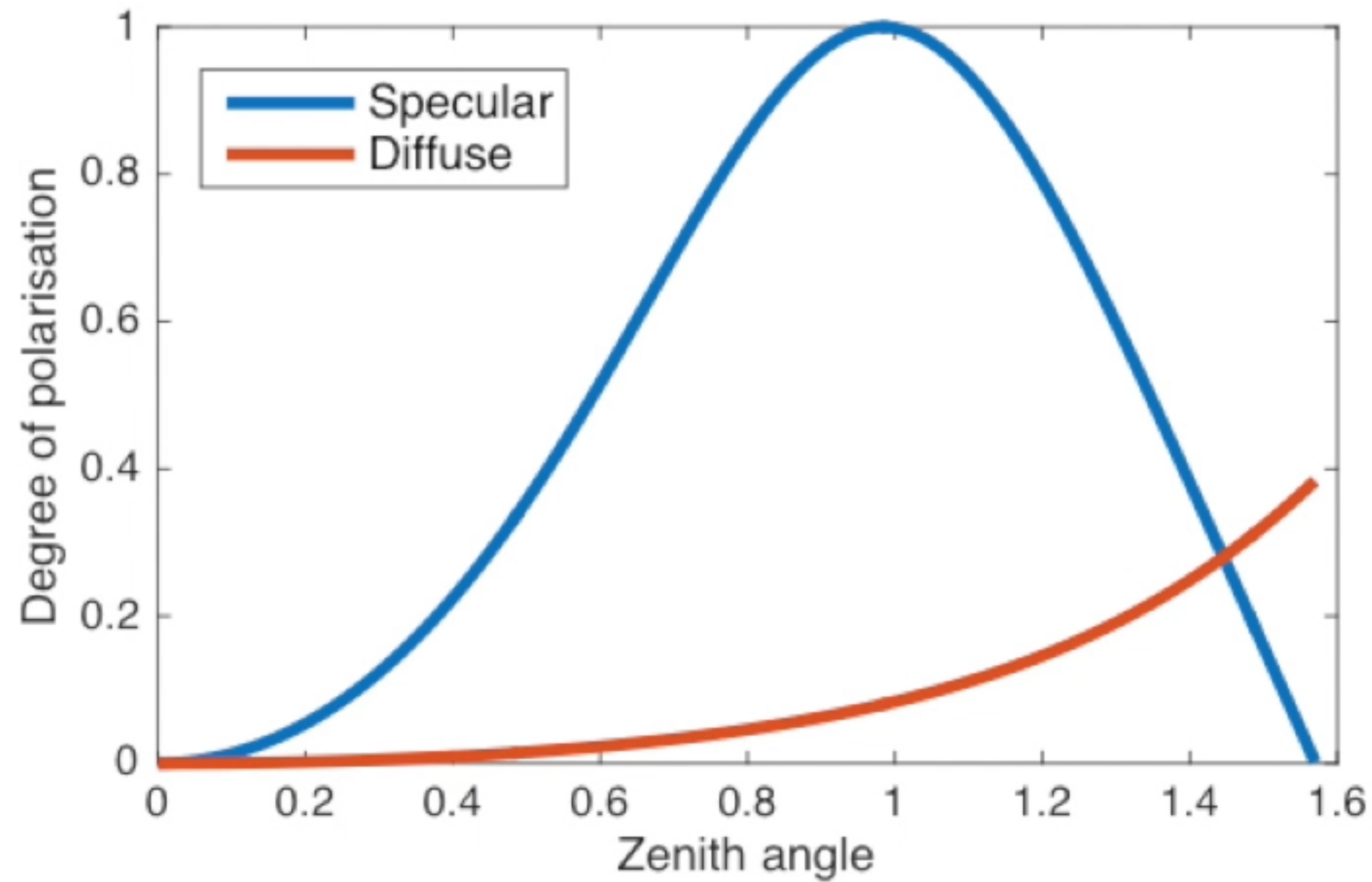


# Shape-from-polarisation



$$\cos(\theta) = \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v} = f(\text{DOLP}, \eta)$$

# Shape-from-polarisation



$$f(\text{DOLP}, \eta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{p^2 + q^2 + 1}}$$

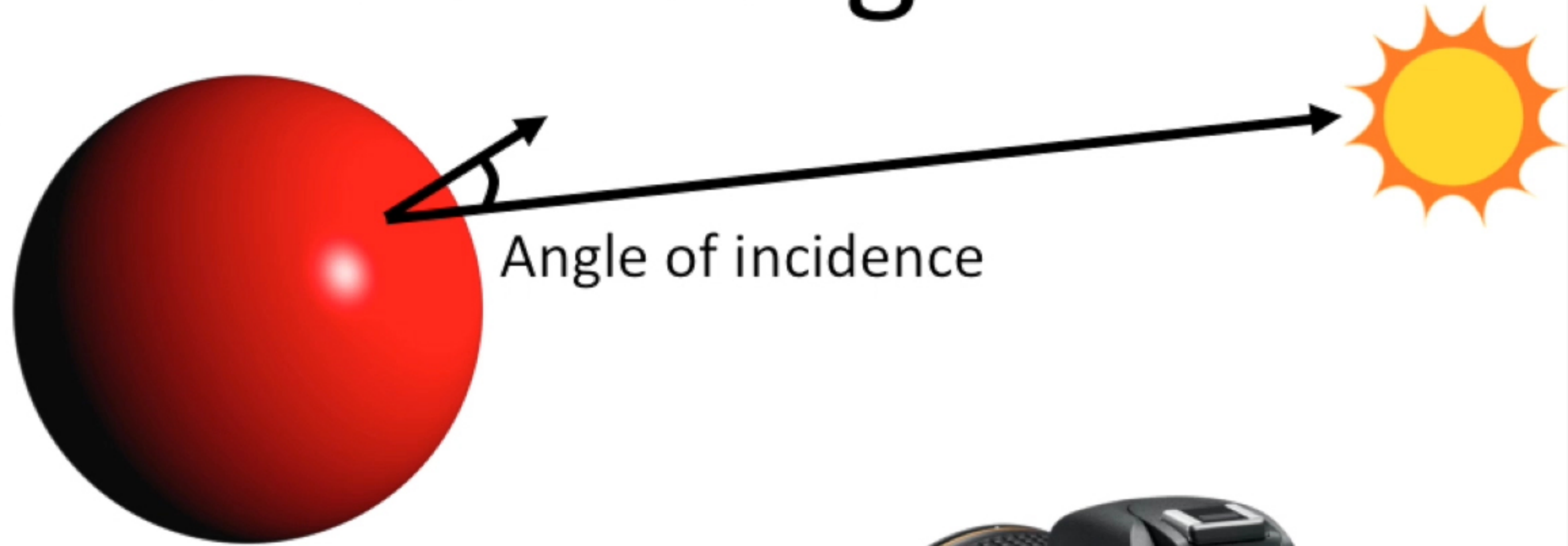
$$p = \partial_x z$$

$$q = \partial_y z$$



# Shape-from-shading

Unpolarised intensity  
provides shading cue



$$I_{\text{unpol}} = \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{s}$$

$$= n_x s_x + n_y s_y + n_z s_z$$

$$= \frac{-ps_x - qs_y + s_z}{\sqrt{p^2 + q^2 + 1}}$$

$$p = \partial_x z$$

$$q = \partial_y z$$



# First linear expression

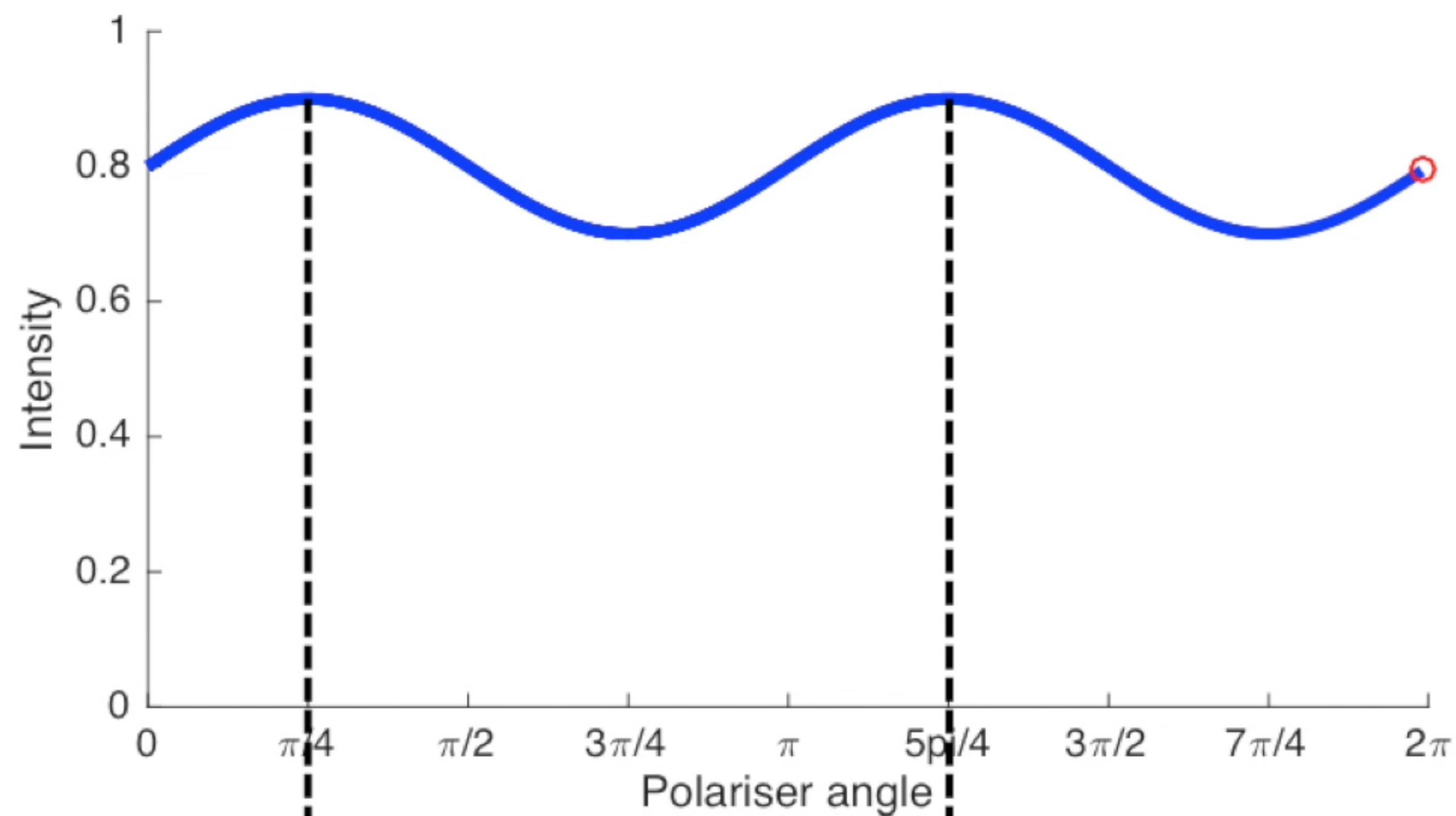
Ratio between degree of polarisation and unpolarised intensity:

**First linear equation in surface gradient**

$$\frac{I_{\text{unpol}}}{f(\text{DOLP}, \eta)} = -ps_x - qs_y + s_z$$



# Azimuthal Ambiguity

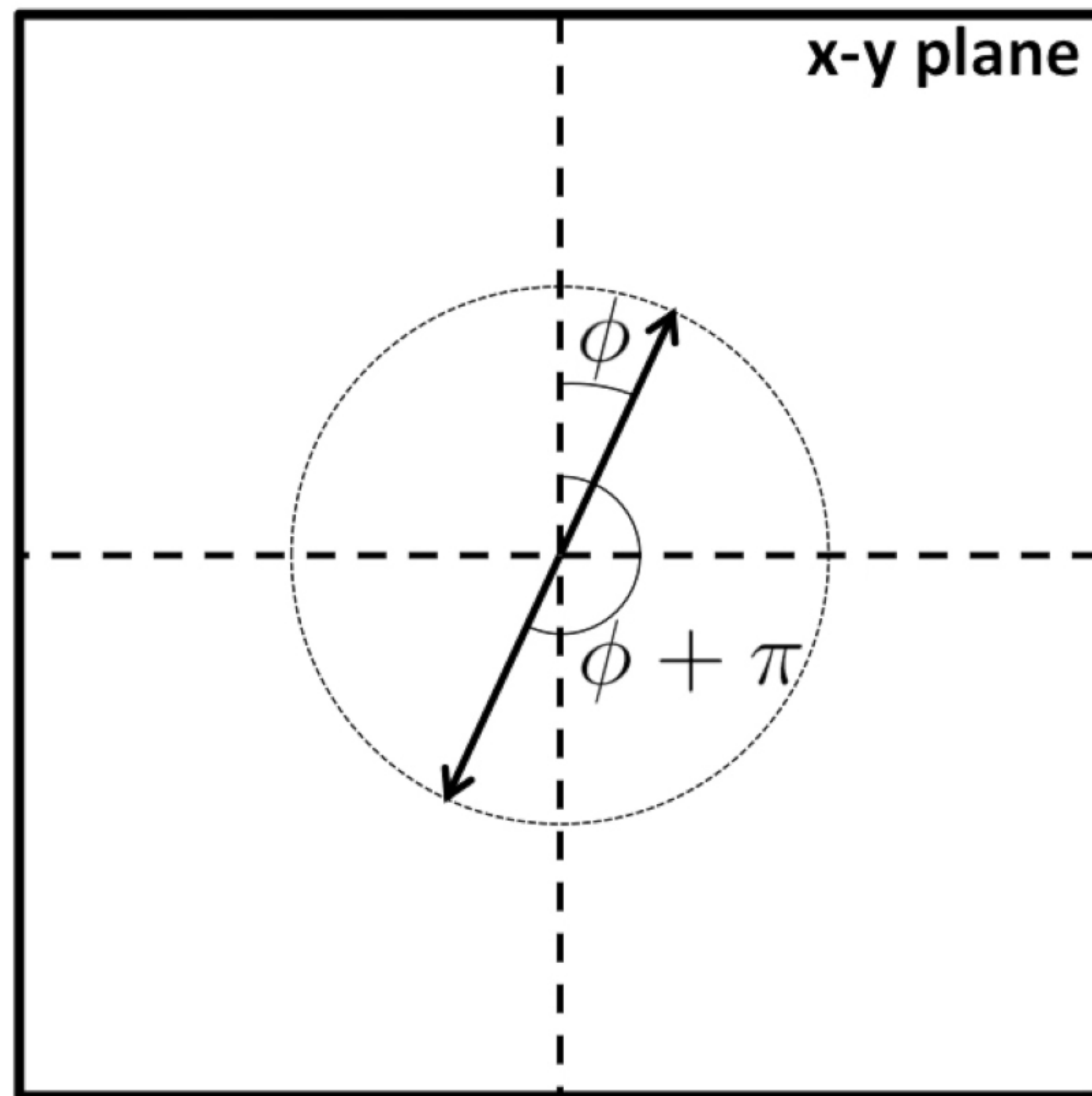
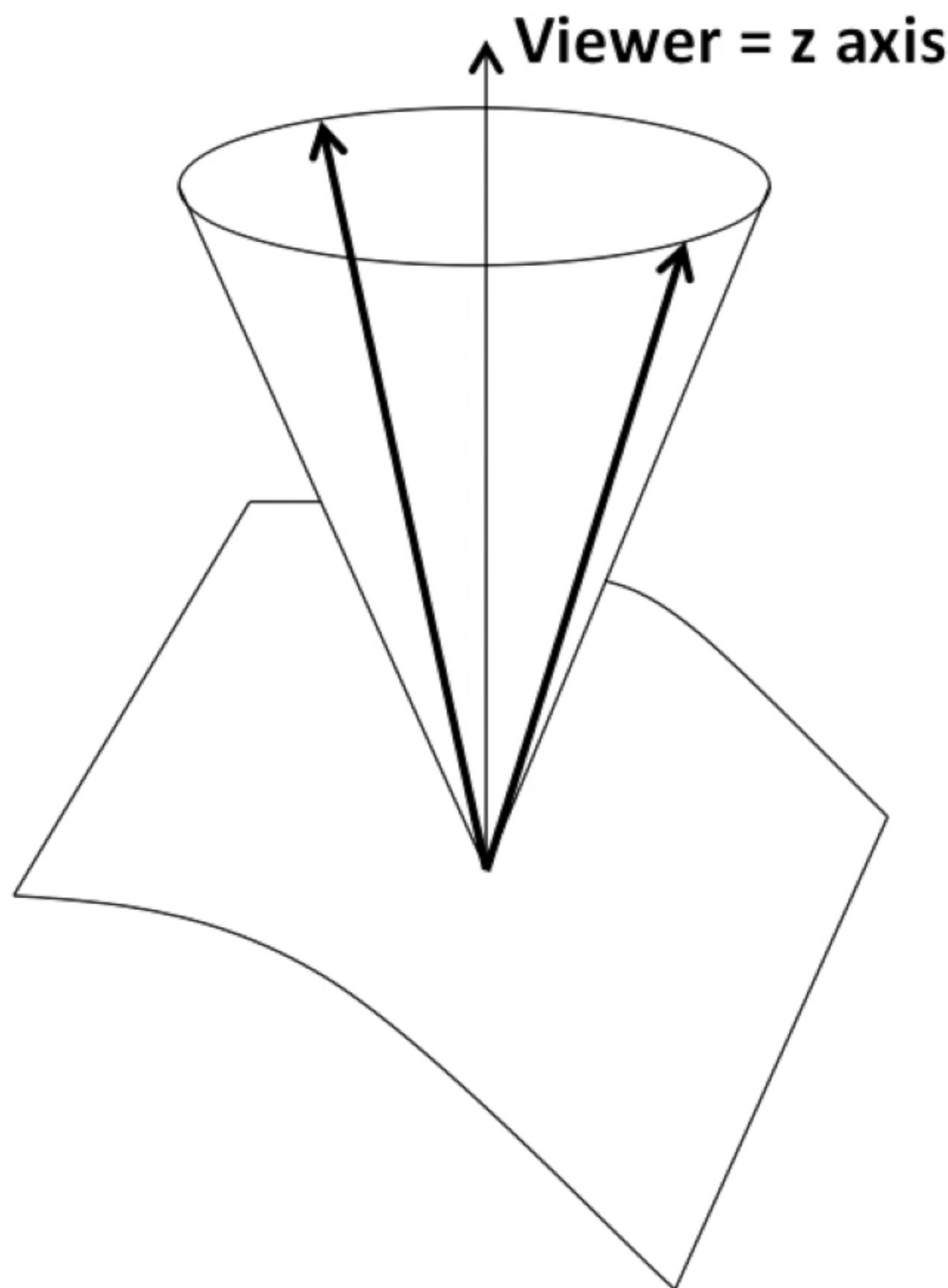


$$\alpha = \phi$$

OR

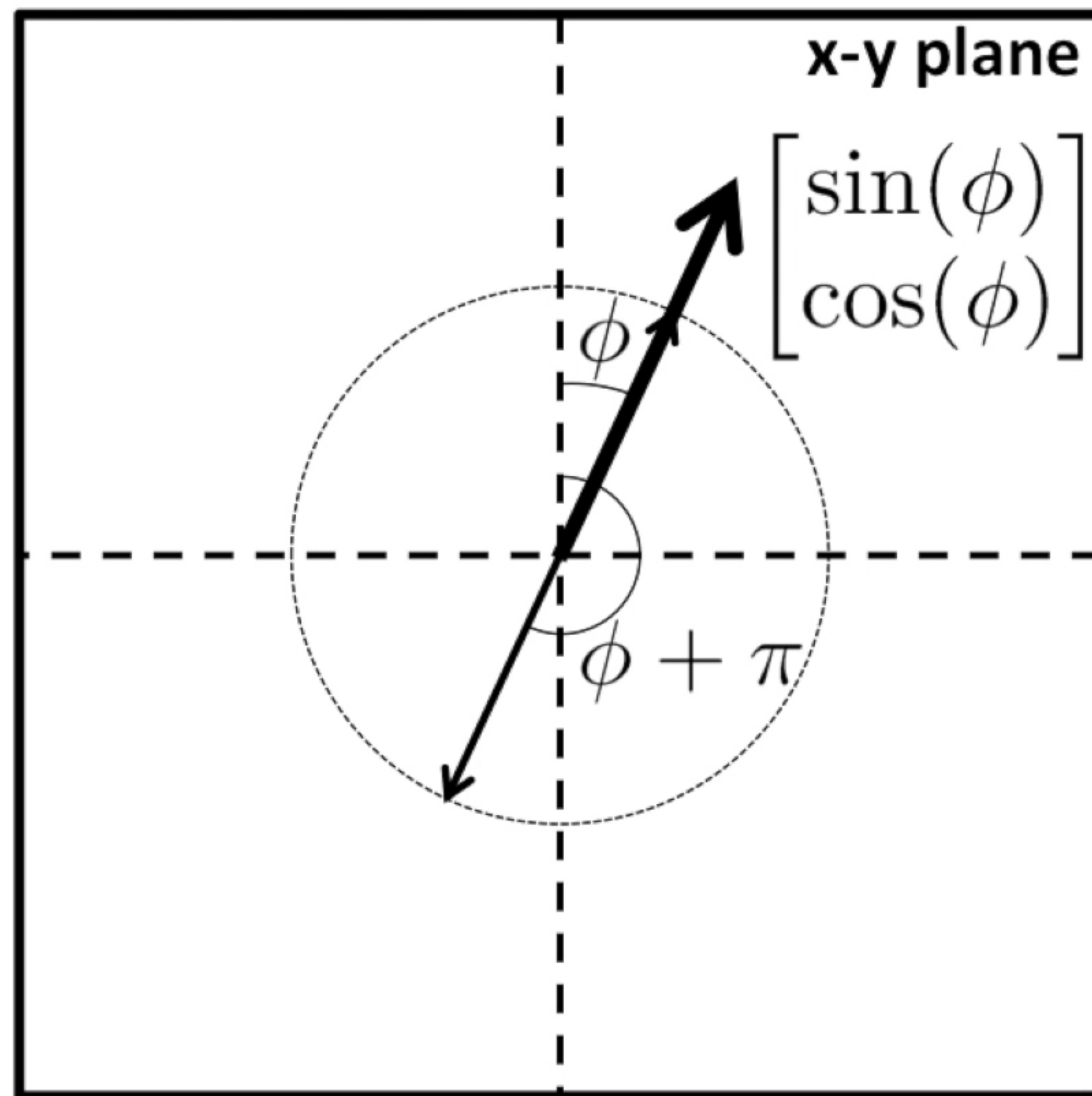
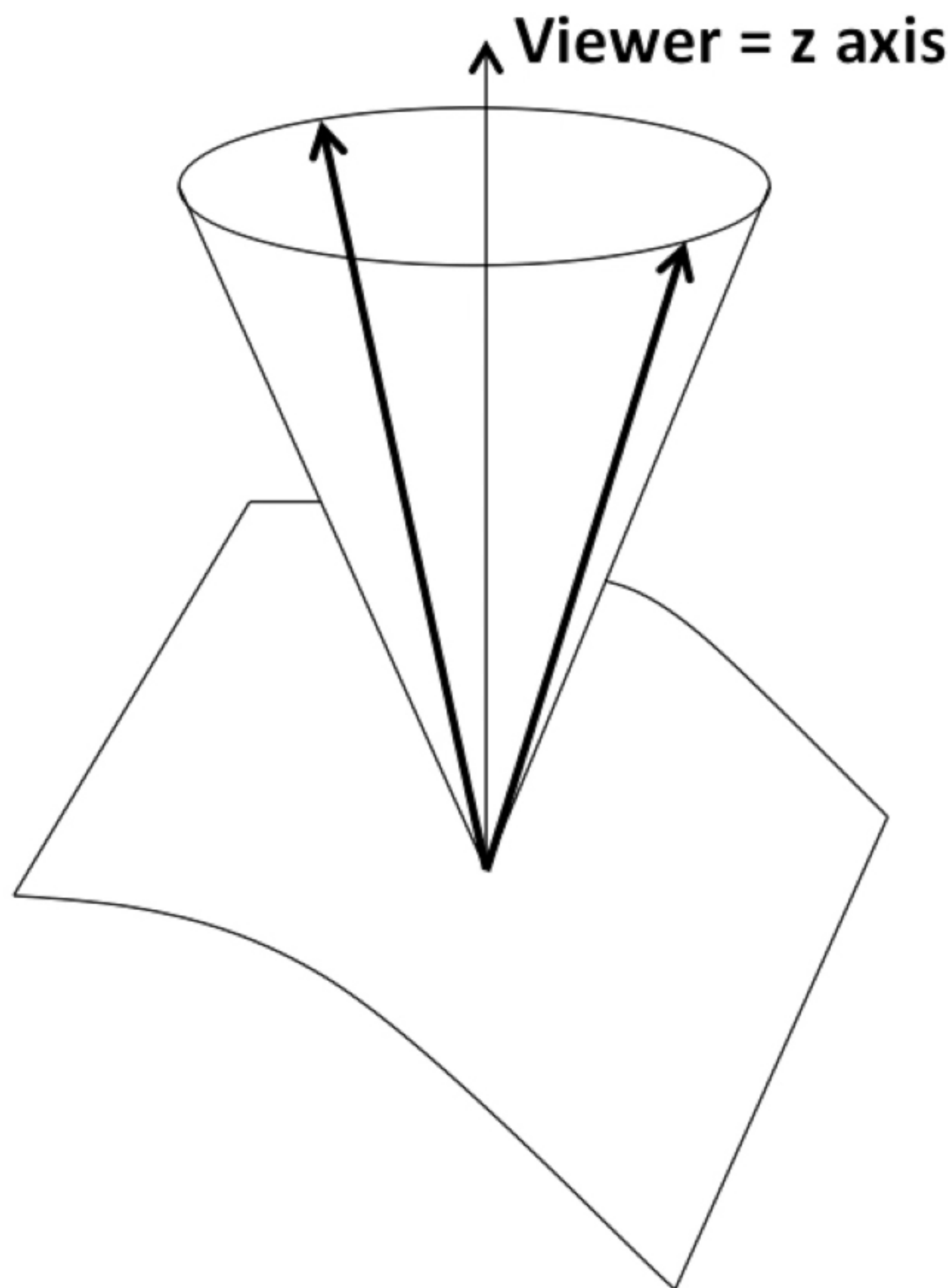
$$\phi + \pi$$

# Azimuthal Ambiguity

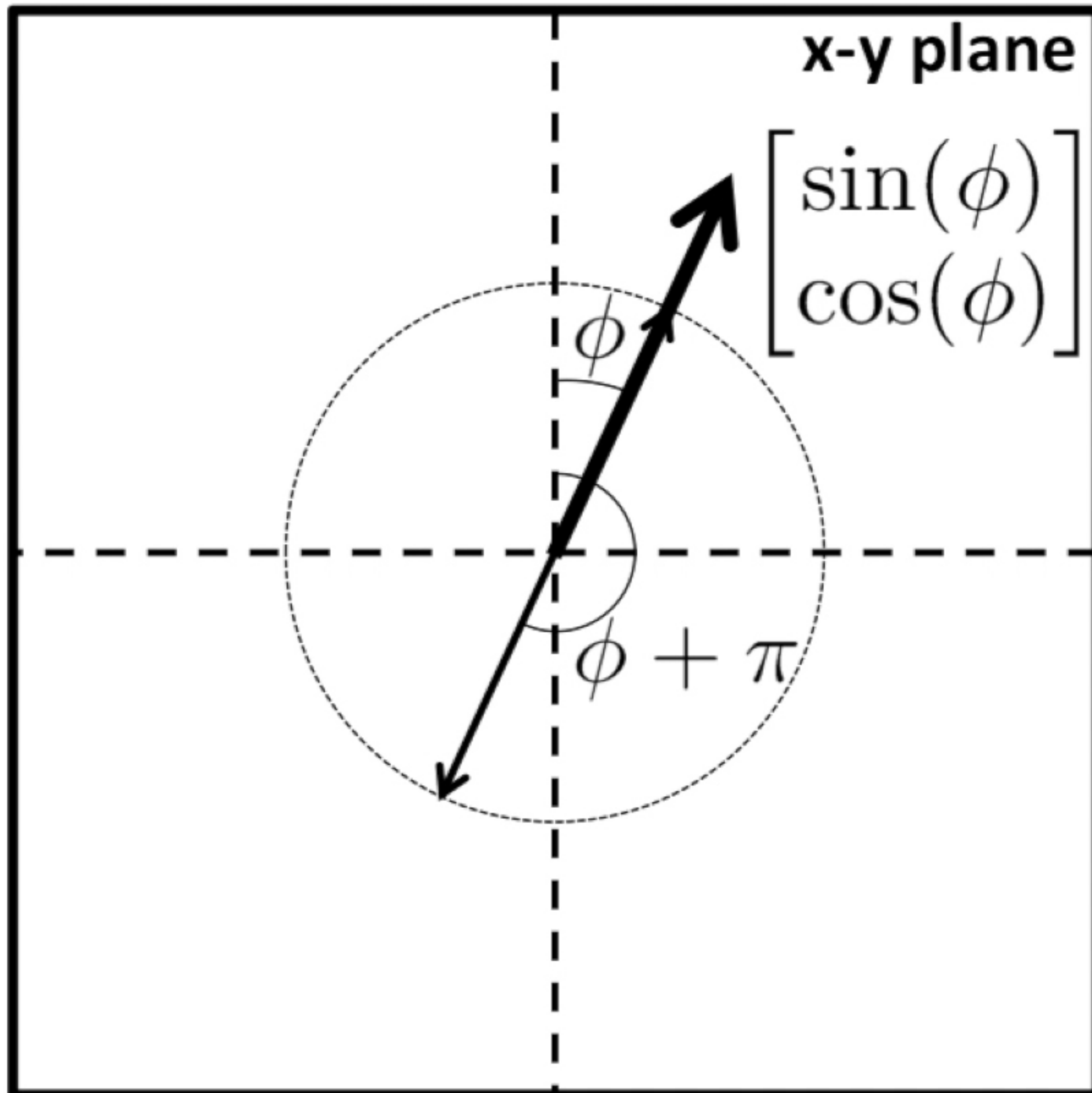




# Azimuthal Ambiguity



# Azimuthal Ambiguity



$$\mathbf{n} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\phi) \\ -\sin(\phi) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

**Second linear equation in surface gradient**

$$-p \cos(\phi) + q \sin(\phi) = 0$$



# Solving for depth

Finite difference approximations:

$$p(x, y) \approx z(x + 1, y) - z(x, y)$$

$$q(x, y) \approx z(x, y + 1) - z(x, y)$$

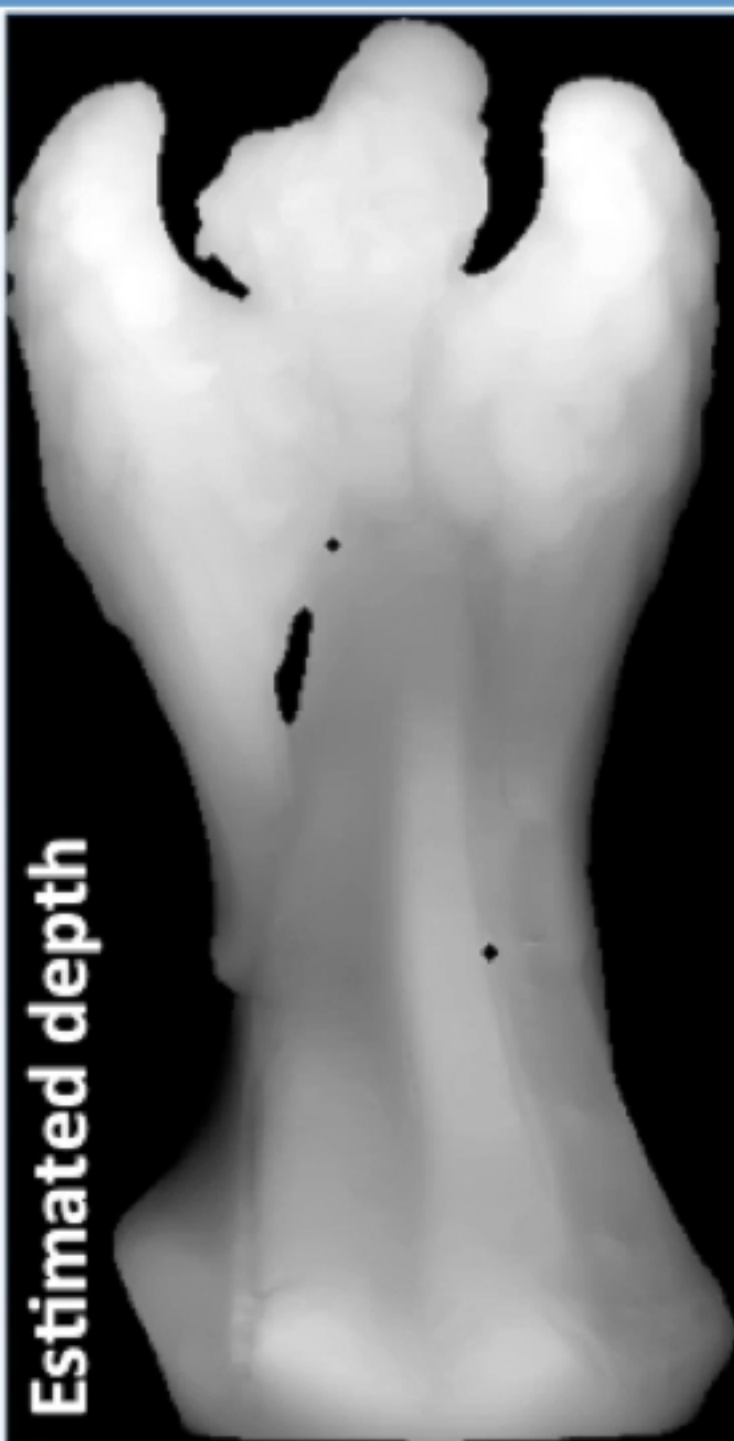
Form linear system from pairs of linear equations for each pixel:

$$\mathbf{z}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{b}\|^2$$

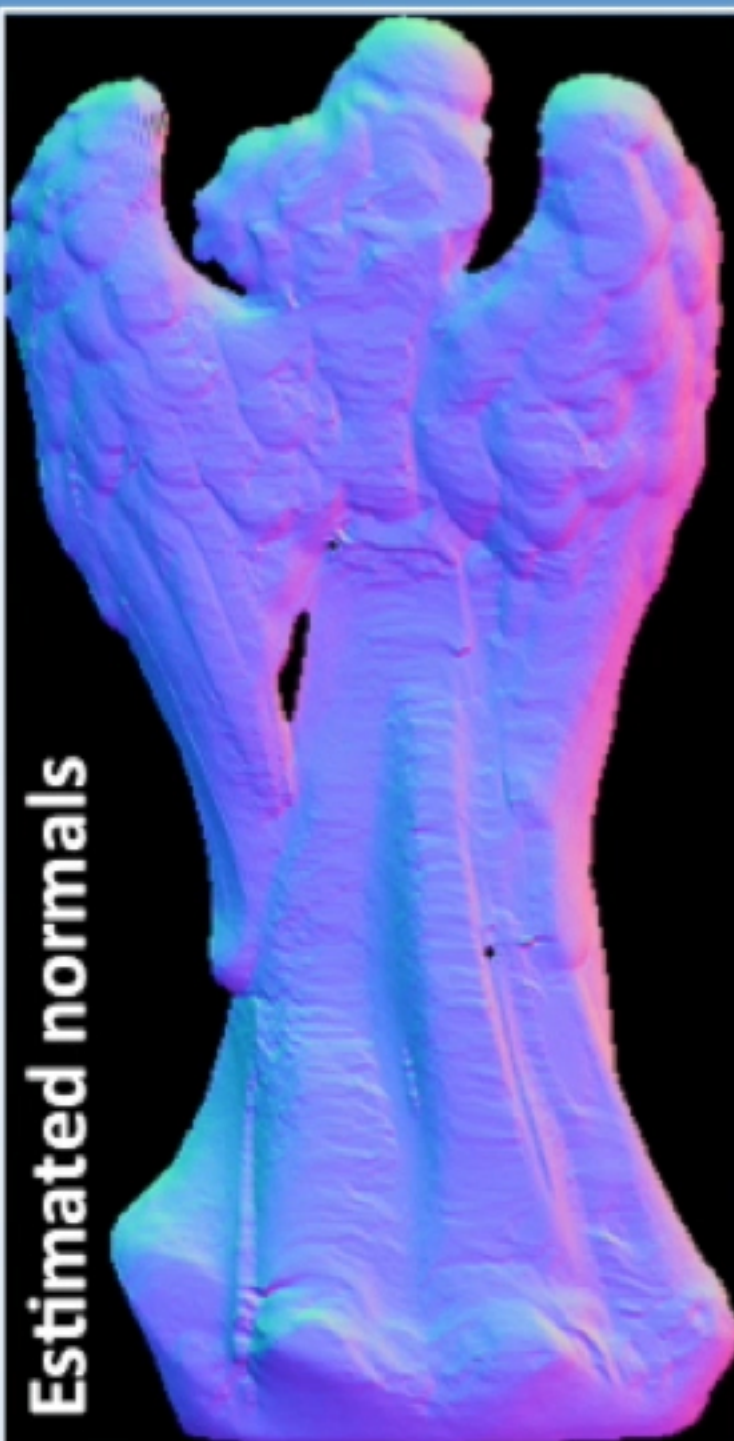
Input



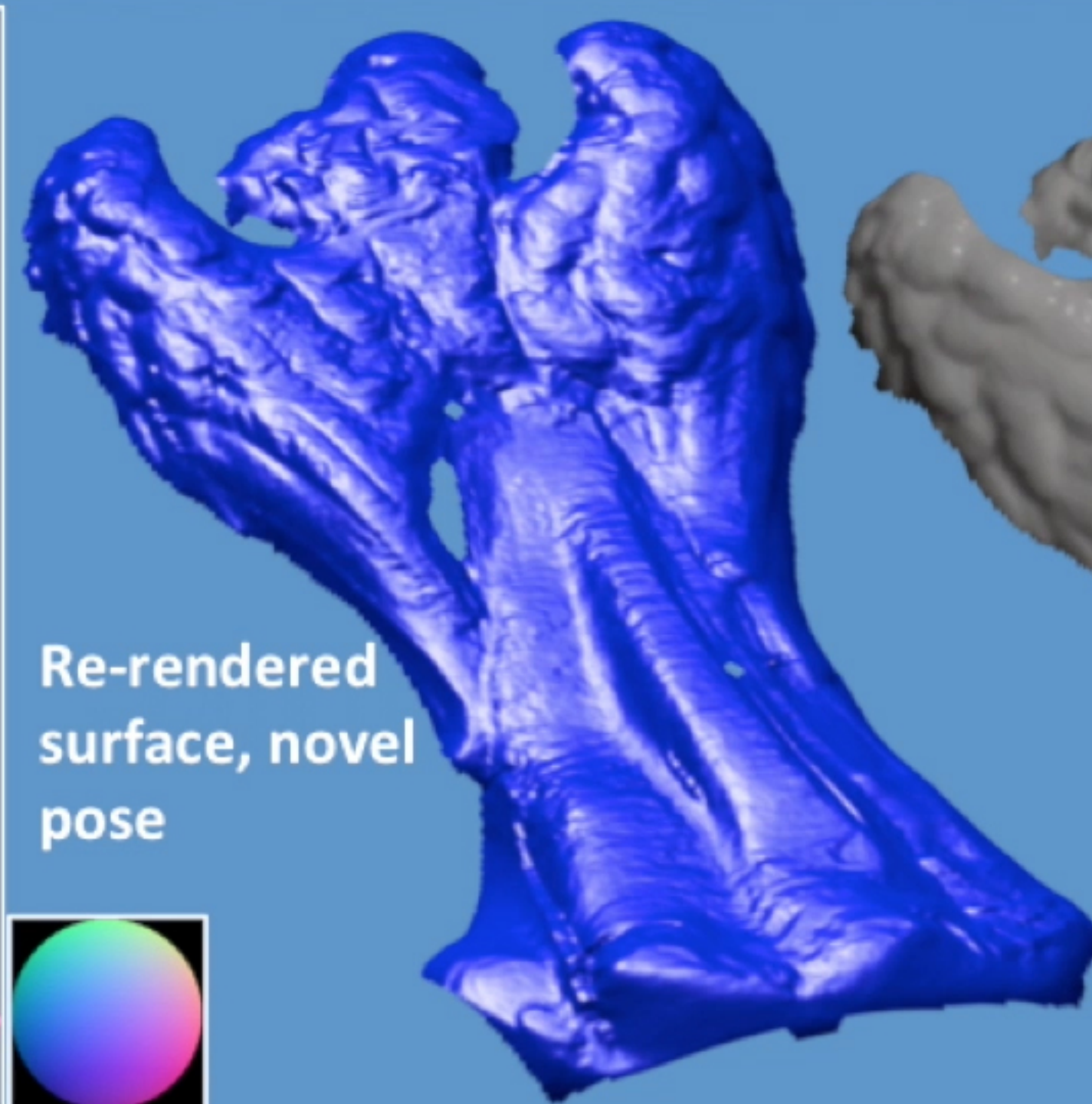
Estimated depth



Estimated normals



Re-rendered  
surface, novel  
pose



Material = Porcelain  
Light source = [2 0 7]  
Light direction and  
albedo estimated

Texture-mapped  
surface, novel pose

