



THE AMERICAN  
UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO  
الجامعة الأمريكية بالقاهرة

# A Sustainable Complex Fenestration System using Recycled Plastics

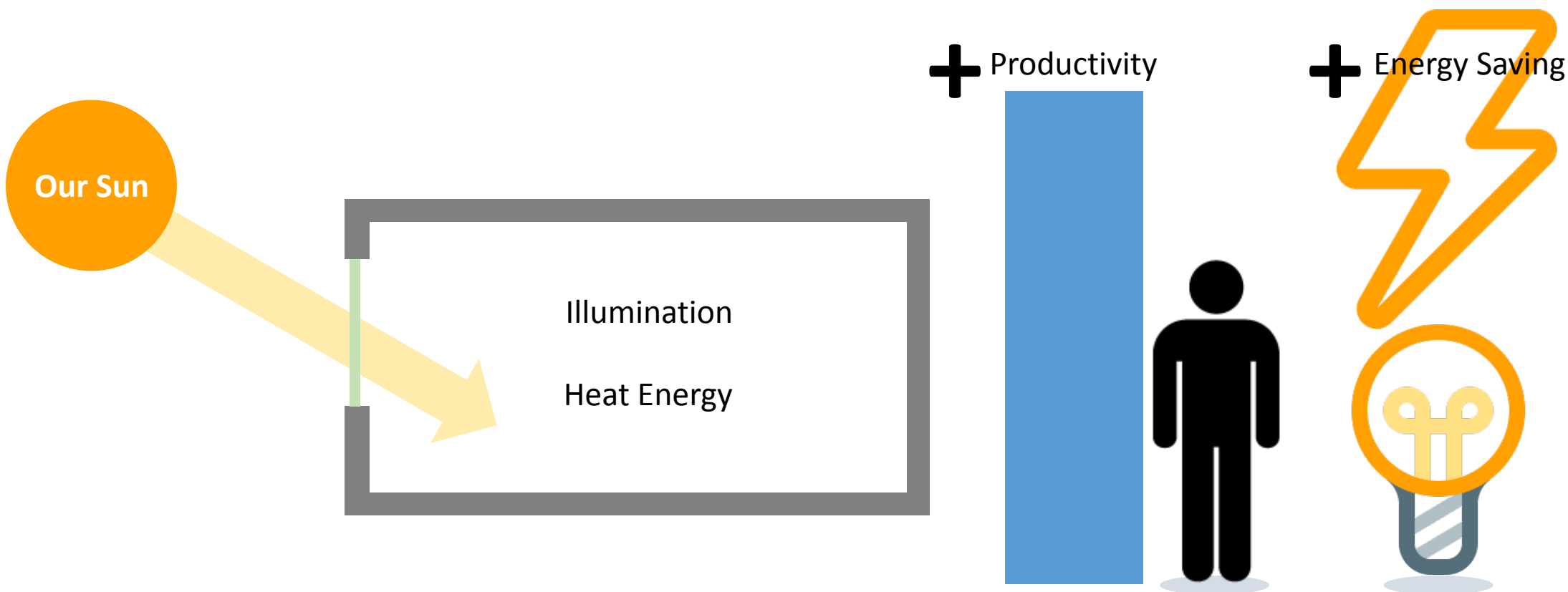
Islam A. Mashaly  
Dr. Khaled Nassar

# Outline

- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Prism Design
- Daylight Simulation
- Physical Model Setup and Measurements
- Conclusions

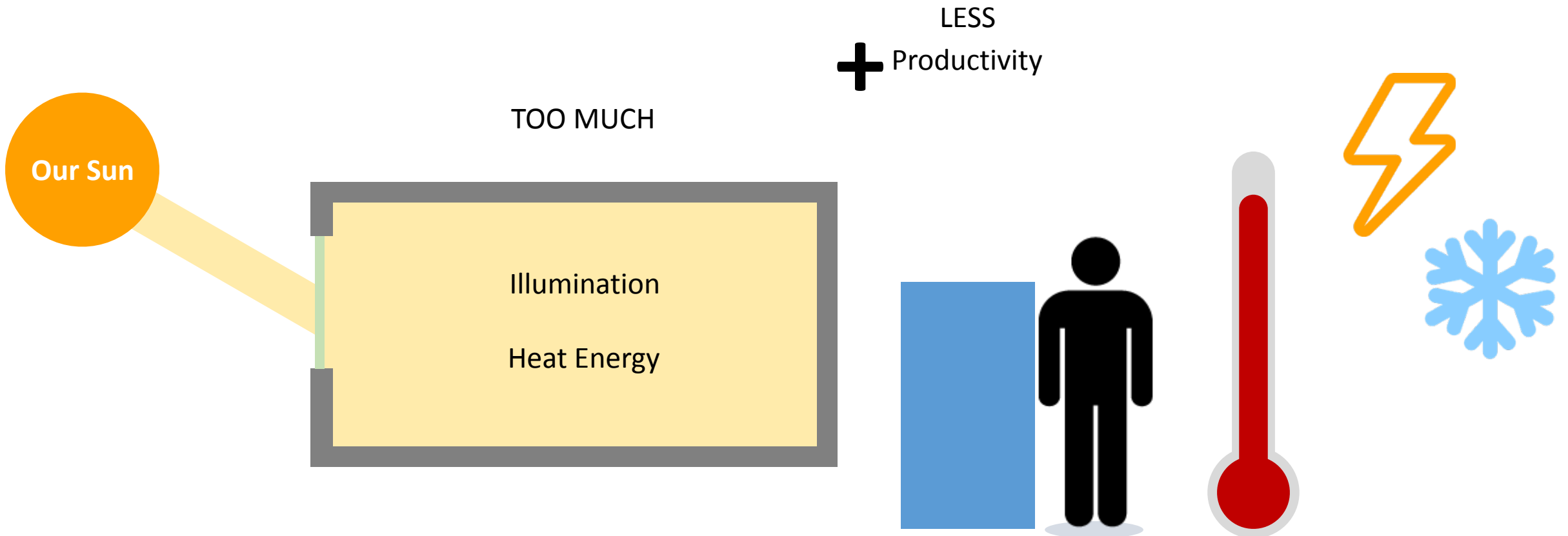
# Introduction

# What is Daylighting? Why is it important?



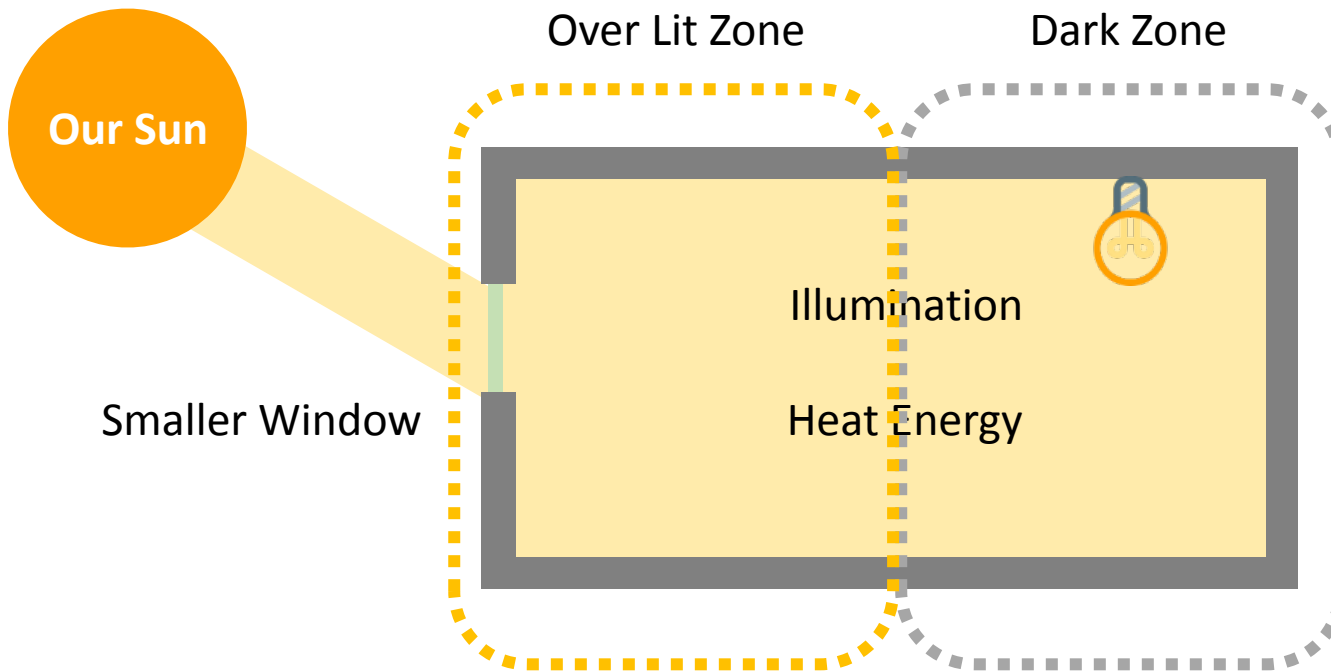


# Daylighting Problem



# Daylighting Problem

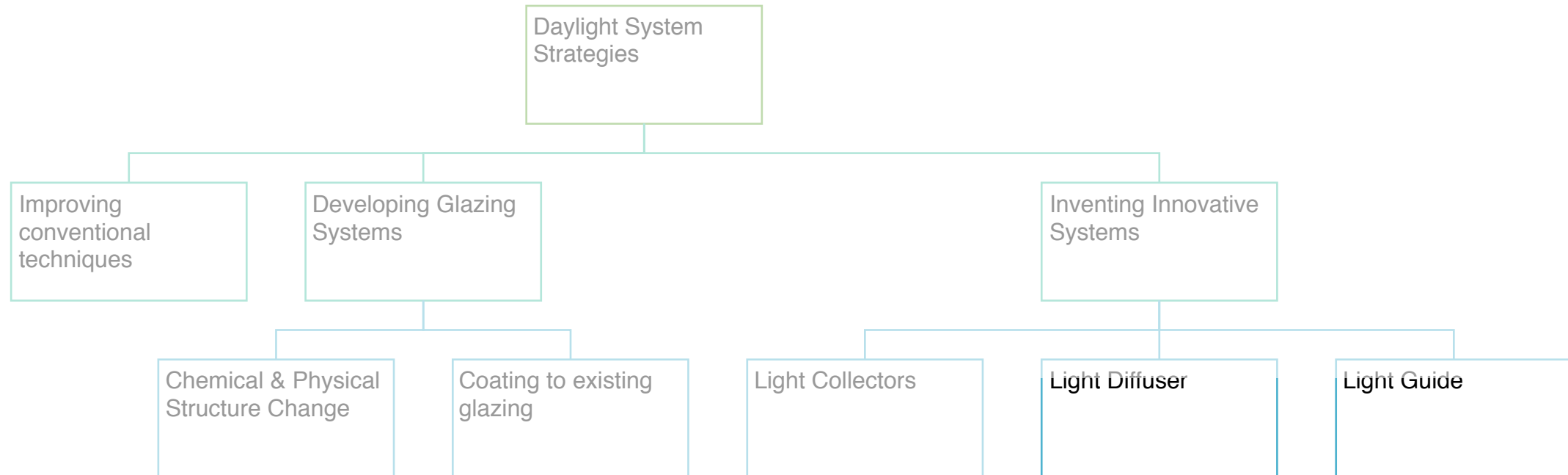
## “The Cave Effect”



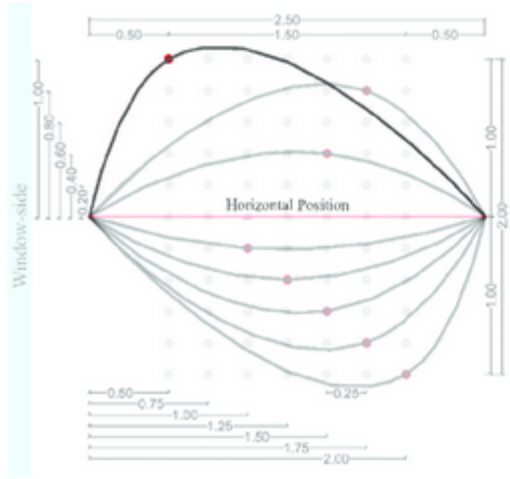
Discomfort in Vision  
Glare

Artificial Lighting

# Available Solutions



# Available Solutions



Internal Blinds ▲



(Sherif et. al., 2016)



◀ Electro Chromatic

(Granqvist, 1995)



Light Shelves ▲



(Nassar et.al., 2014)

Solar Tubes ►



(Solatube, 2015)

# Plastics Waste

5% Reused

30% Recycled



980,000 tons

# The Problem

Technology

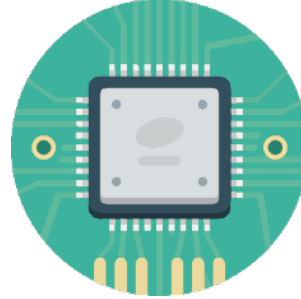
+Material availability

+Cost efficiency

+Maintenance

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Sustainability issues



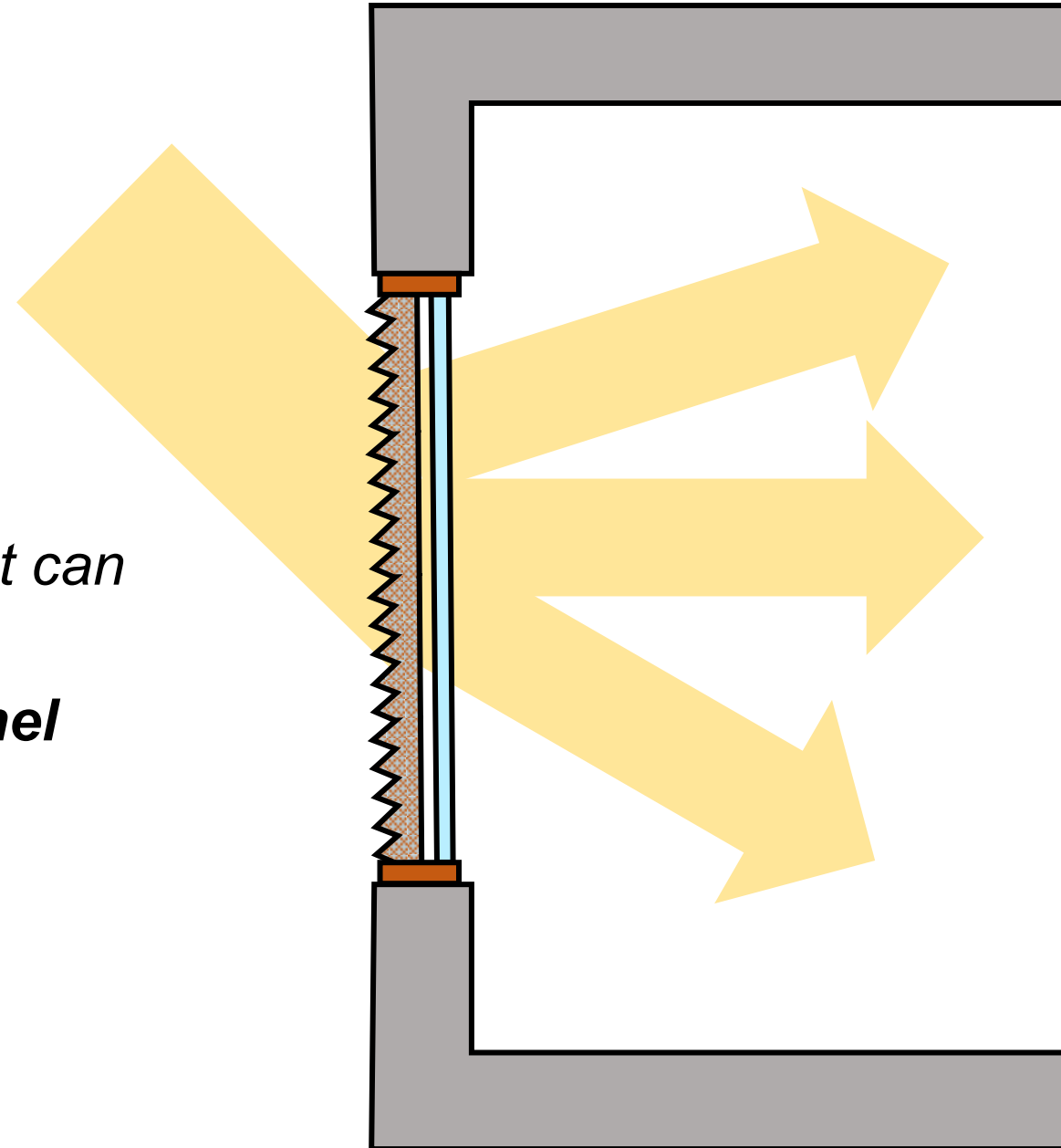
On the other hand



- Unutilized plastic waste
- Limited Application of recycled plastic in the glazing industry

# Aim

*The aim is to achieve a **sustainable** complex fenestration system (CFS) design that can **diffuse** and **redirect** sunlight deep inside rooms through an **optimized prismatic panel** on its **translucent layer**.*

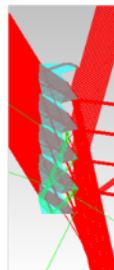


CONCEPT/GAP FROM  
LITERATURE

## MATHEMATICAL MODEL

VALIDATE WITH  
TRACEPRO

## Confirming accuracy of Mathematical Model

sDA<sub>300/50%</sub> $ASE_{1000/250}$ 

25%	28%	28%	27%	25%
32%	34%	35%	34%	34%
48%	50%	49%	48%	49%
61%	63%	62%	62%	60%
72%	72%	73%	72%	72%
78%	79%	79%	78%	78%
83%	83%	84%	83%	83%
85%	86%	86%	86%	84%
85%	88%	88%	88%	85%

67%

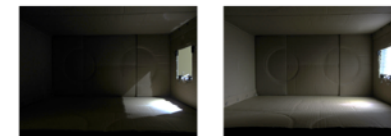
58%

## SIMULATE WITH RADIANCE

Checking annual daylight performance of generated shape

SCALED-DOWN  
PHYSICAL MODEL

## Proof-of-concept







VIEW ON THE STRUCTURE IN A RAY TRACING SIMULATION REDIRECTING LIGHT UPWARDS IN  
TH ANGLES  $30^\circ$  (LEFT) AND  $60^\circ$  (RIGHT) (KISCHKOWEIT-LOPIN, 1997)

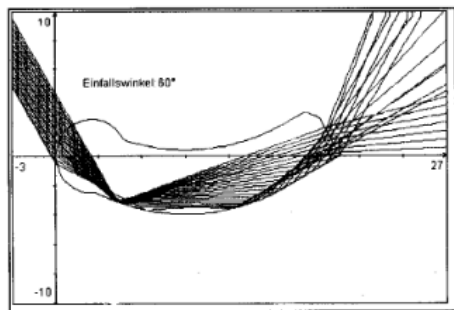
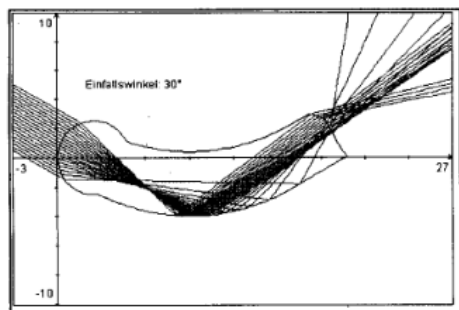
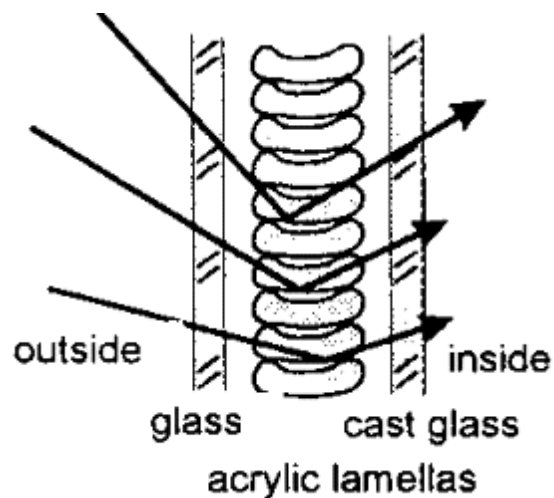
99) used a macro prismatic structure in crop illumination by placing the panels  
ing the tilt angle. Other researches focused on different regions that are in the higher  
structured panels that use hybrid polymers developed by the Institute of Solar  
urg (Walze G., et al., 2005). (Klammt, Neyer, & Muller, 2012) combined a micro-  
e geometry in order to increase the efficiency of redirection of light. The micro-prism  
was made of acrylic and the upward and downward transmission were measured  
solar altitudes.

# Literature Review

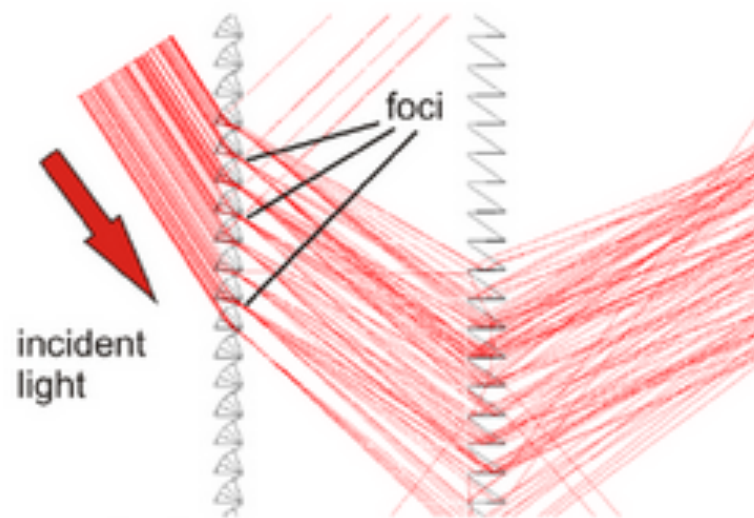
# Complex Fenestration Systems

Any light transmitting window technology that features at least one non-transparent layer or one layer with switchable properties

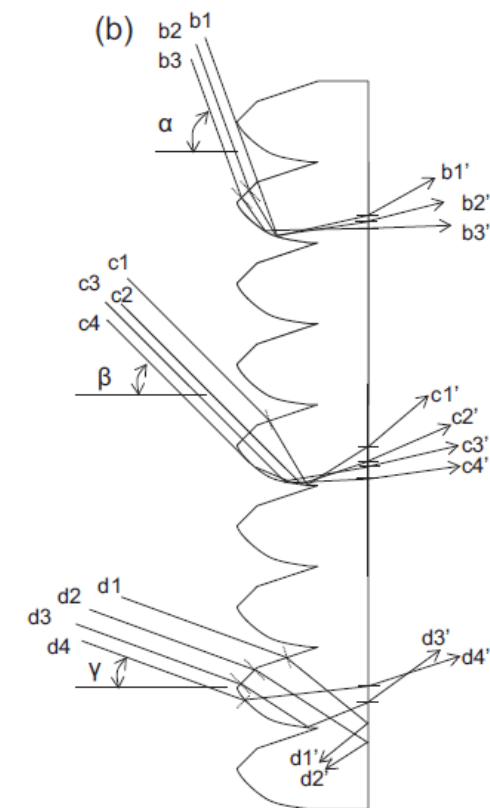
(Bueno, Wienold, Katsifaraki, & Kuhna, 2015)



(Kischkoweit-Lopin, 1997)



(Klammt et. al., 2012)



(Huang et. al., 2015)

# CFS Literature

Publications	Rubbert, 1999	(Edmonds & Pearce, 1999)	Walze et. al., 2005	Vlachostas et. al., 2012	(Padiyath, 2013)	Buß et. al., 2013	Klamm et et. al., 2013	(Thanachareonkit, Lee, & McNeil, 2013)	ElHenary et. al., 2014	Nassar et. al., 2014	(Huang, et al., 2015)
Features	LUMIT OP®	LCP			3M™ Film						
Targeted Solar Altitude	Low	Low	Low	Low	N/A	N/A	Low	Low	High	High	Medium
Prism Structure Scale	Macro	Macro	Micro	Macro	Micro	Nano	Micro	Micro	Macro	Macro	Micro
Manufacturing Sophistication	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	Low	Low	High
Controlled Angular Redirection		●		●					●		
Commercial	●	●			●			●			
Use of Additive/ coating			●	●		●					●



**Physical Model**

# Suggested recycled material used for design



## • Polypropylene

- Refractive Index: 1.49
- Transparent plastic cups, transparent plastic containers
- Fairly economic, found in vast quantities



## • Polystyrene

- Refractive index: 1.60
- Light weight Foam dishes, expanded polystyrene
- Very Cheap, found in vast quantities



## • Polycarbonate

- Refractive index: 1.58
- Roof tops
- One of the most expensive plastics, found only as construction waste





# Setting up the material for recycling

- Collecting different plastic waste
- Cleaning and washing
- Shredding of different types of plastics

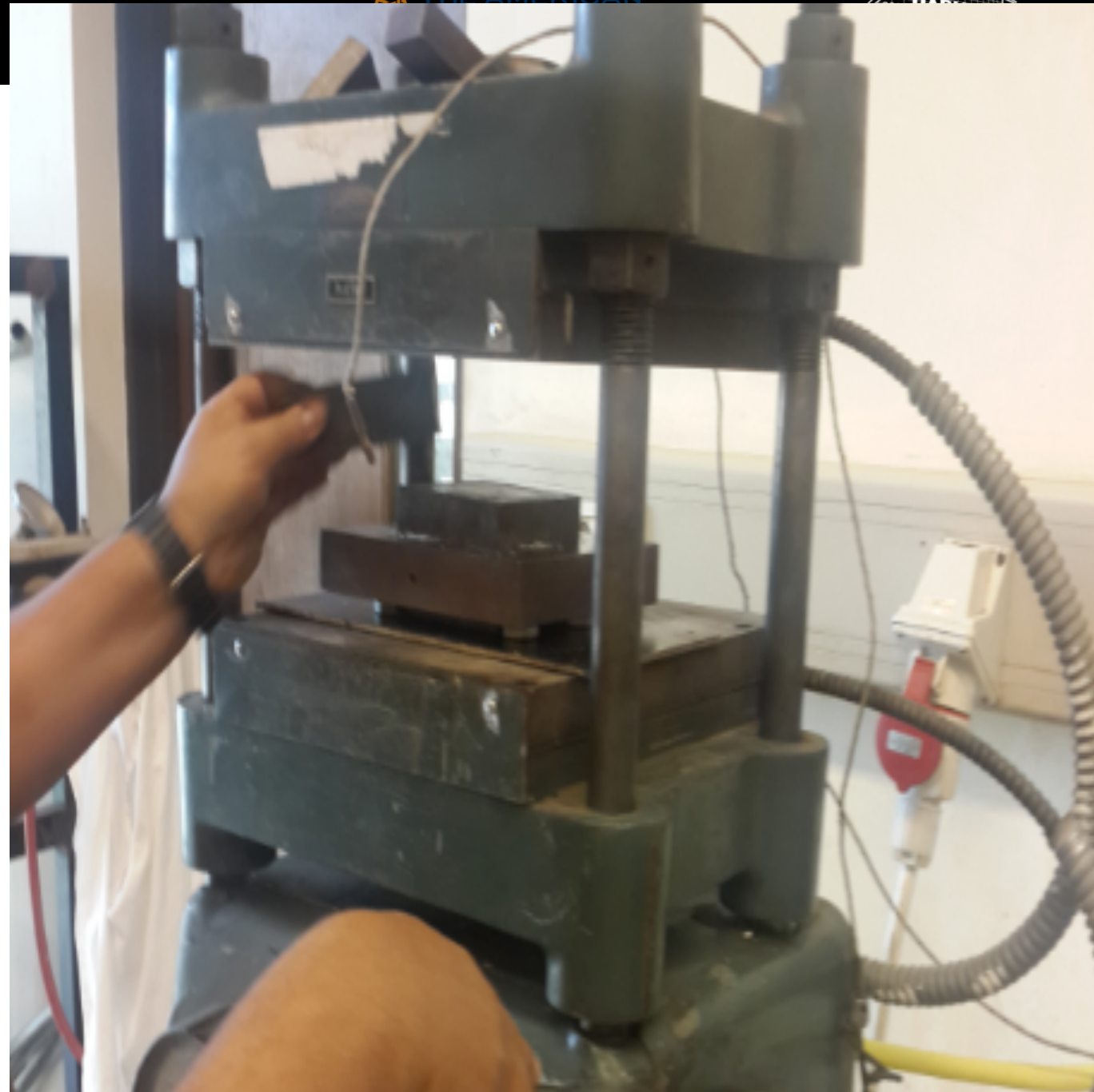


# Adding the pellets to the mold



# Pressing Machine

Material	Temperature (°C)	Pressure (psi)
PC	150-170	2000
PS	105-110	1500
PP	120-140	2000
Acrylic	110-120	1000

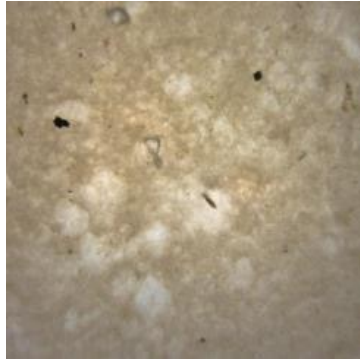




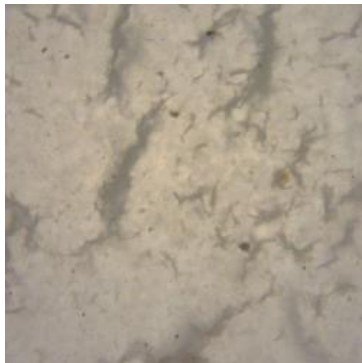
# Properties of the recycled plastics



PC



PS



PP

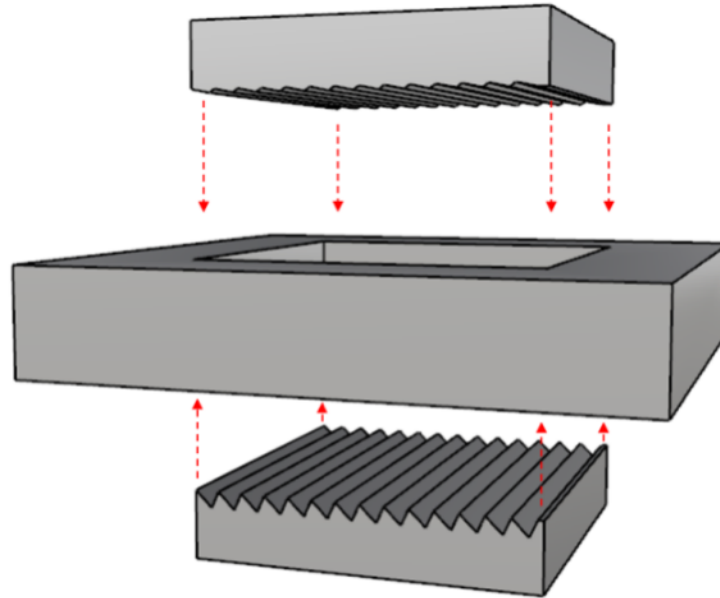
Material	Transmittance		Reflectance	
	Diffused	Specular	Diffused	Specular
RPC	8.6%	20.0%	34.0%	37.4%
RPS	2.5%	2.8%	45.1%	49.6%
RPP	2.2%	2.4%	45.5%	50.0%



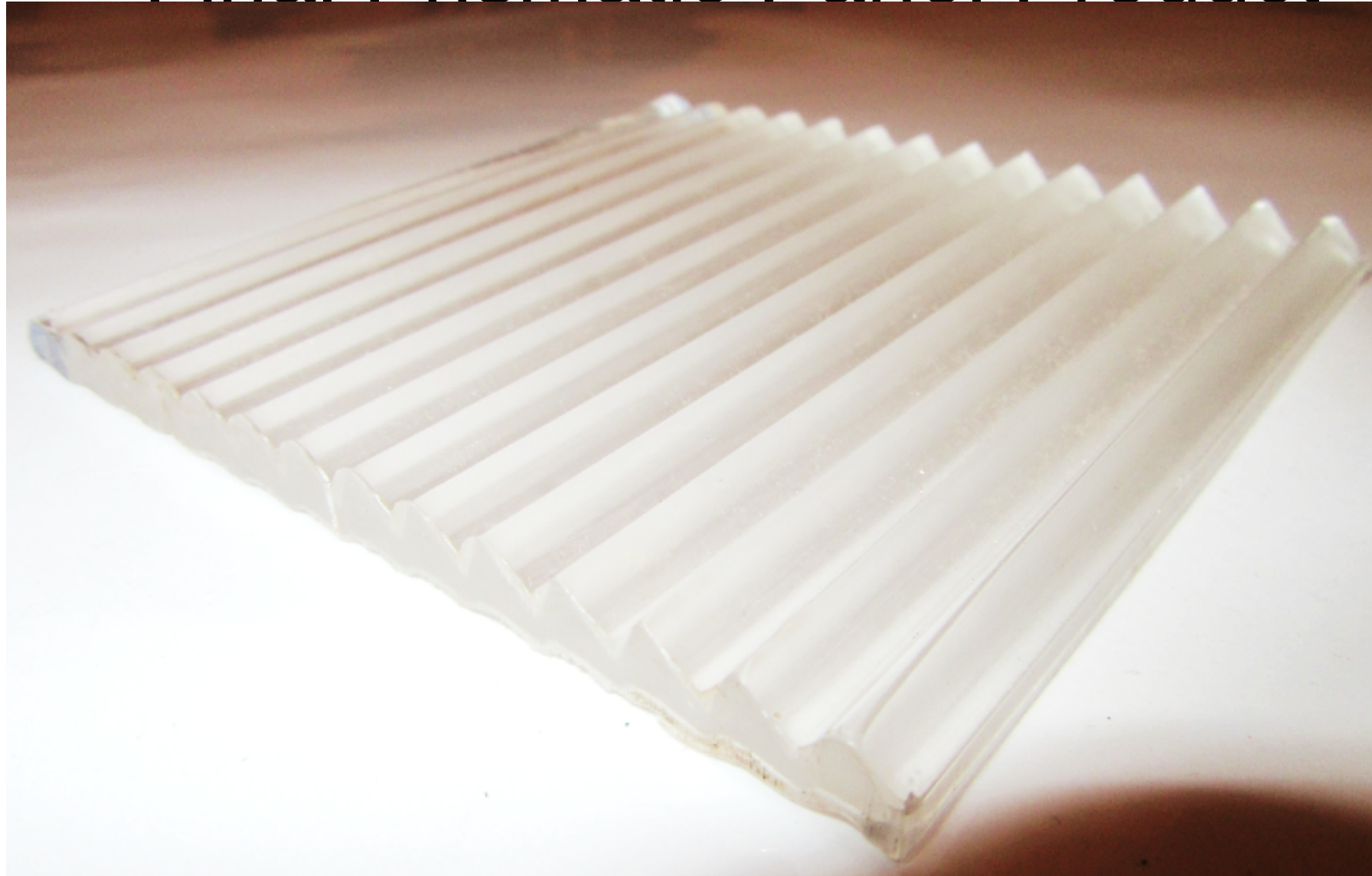
UV/VIS  
Spectrophotometer

# Creating the mold

- Inverse of the shape is created on a 10 x 10 cm mold
- Prismatic array count is 15 with 0.7 cm per period

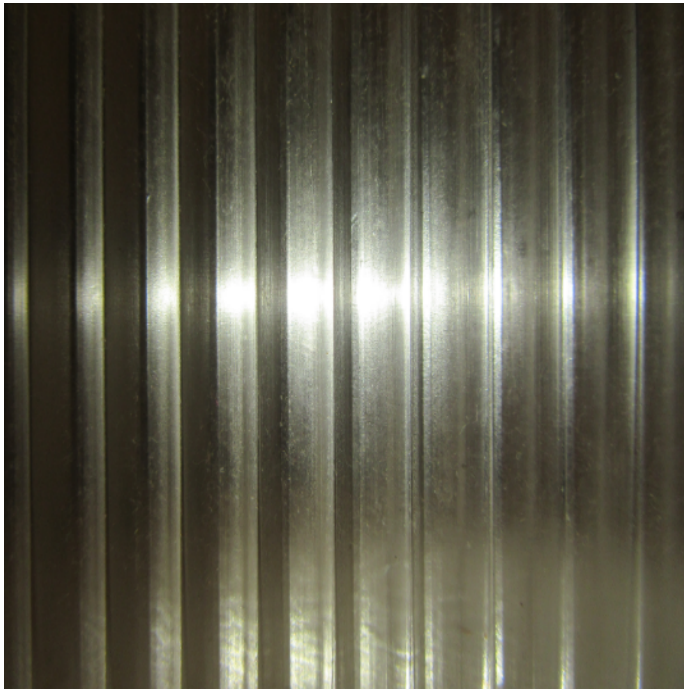


# Final Prismatic Panel Product - Acrylic





# Final Prismatic Panel Product



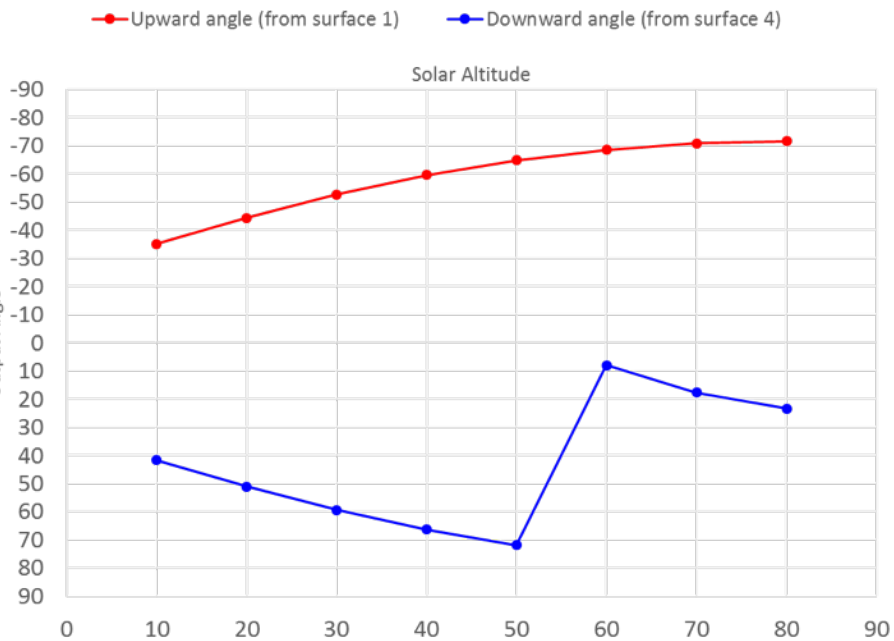
Acrylic



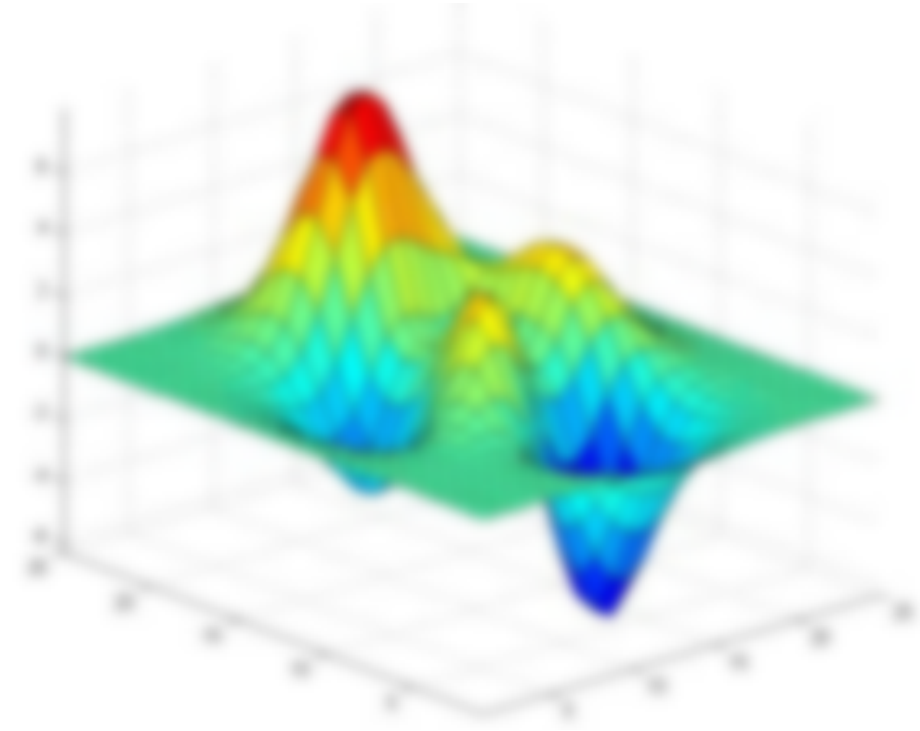
Polycarbonate



Polystyrene

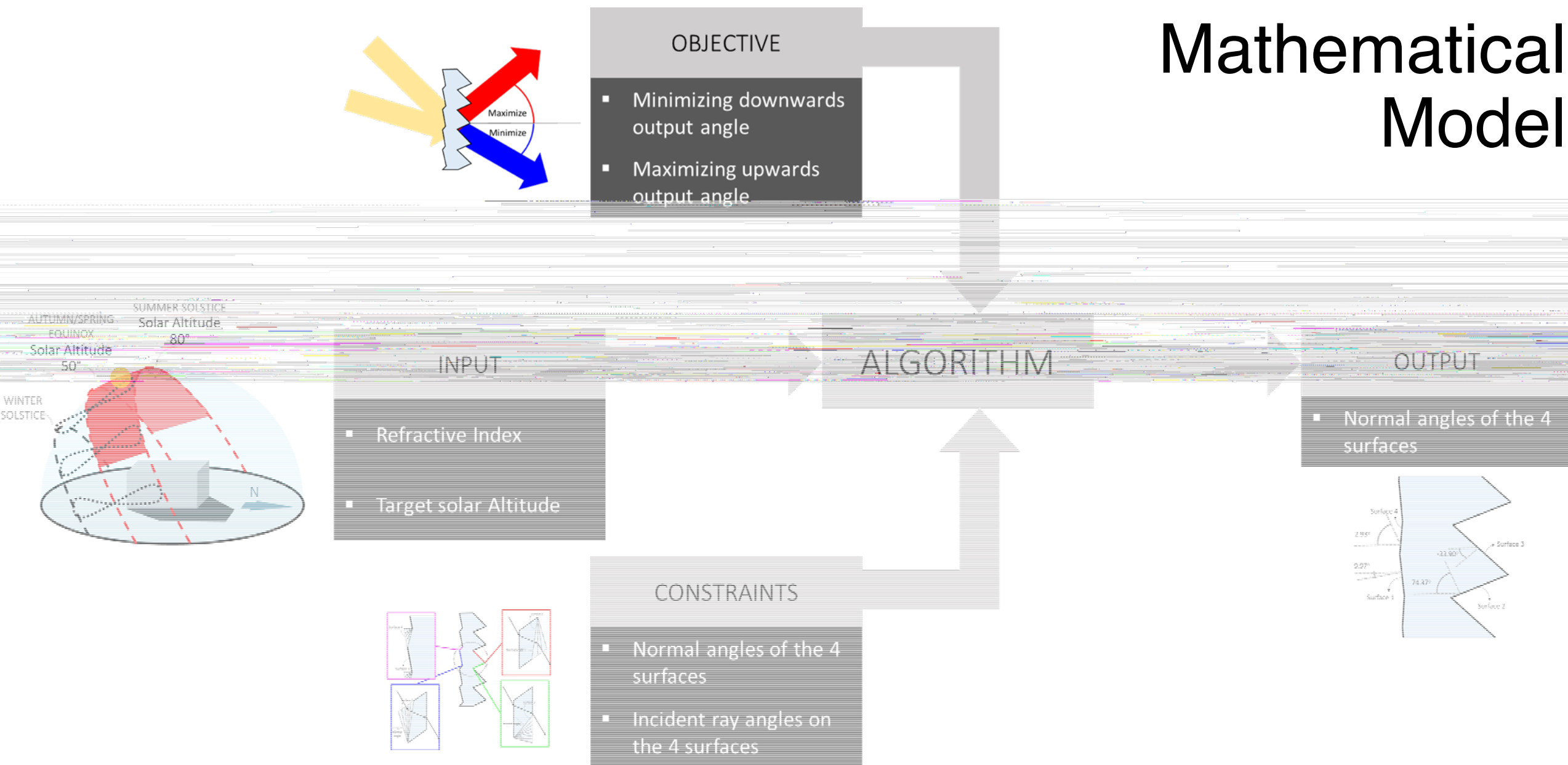


# Prism Design



$$\mathcal{R} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ k_x[\rho' - (n/n')\rho] & n/n' & 0 & 0 \\ k_y[\rho' - (n/n')\rho] & 0 & n/n' & 0 \\ k_z[\rho' - (n/n')\rho] & 0 & 0 & n/n' \end{pmatrix}.$$

# Mathematical Model



# Introduction to ray tracing

- **Snell's Law**

$$n \sin I = n' \sin I'$$

- Refraction Index (n)

$$n_{\text{air}} = 1.0003$$

$$n'_{\text{acrylic}} = 1.4983$$

- Angle of Incidence input (I)
- Angle of incidence output (I')

- **Total internal reflection**

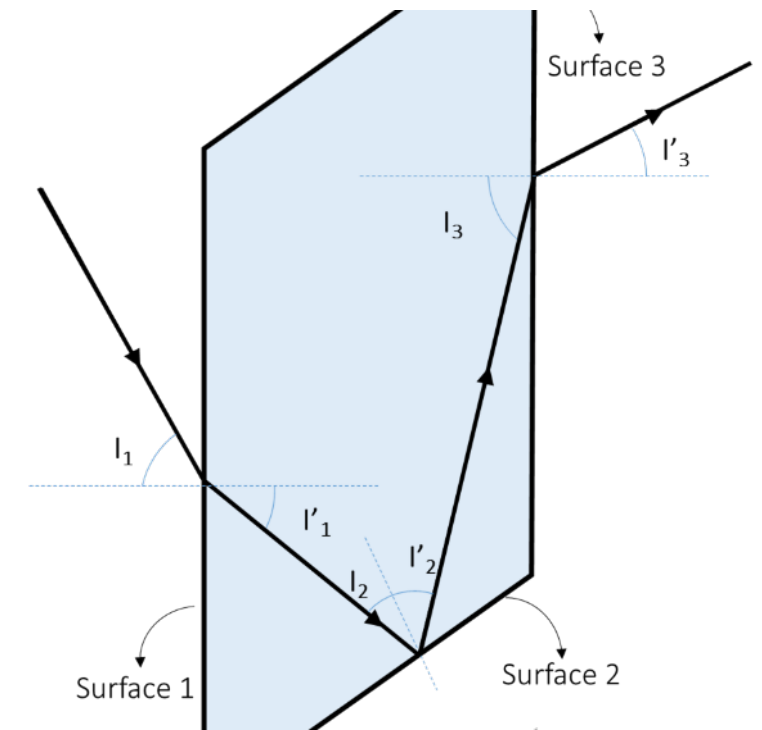
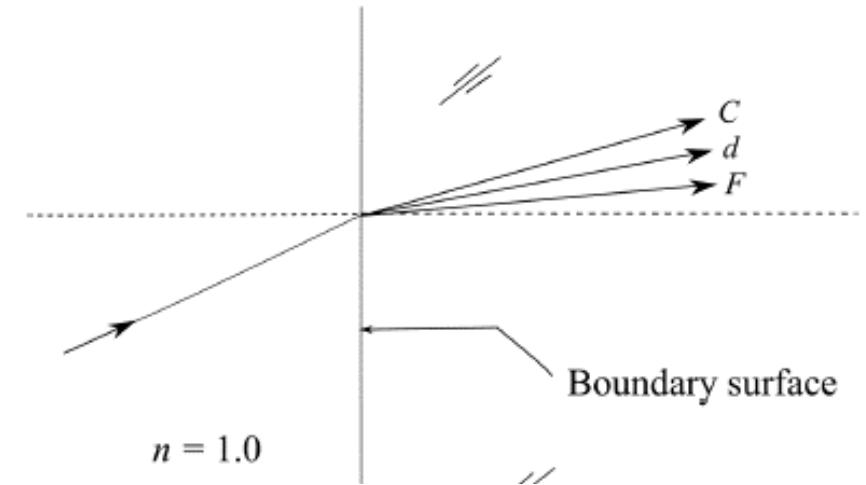
$$I_{\text{crit}} = \arcsin(n'/n)$$

- **Law of Reflection**

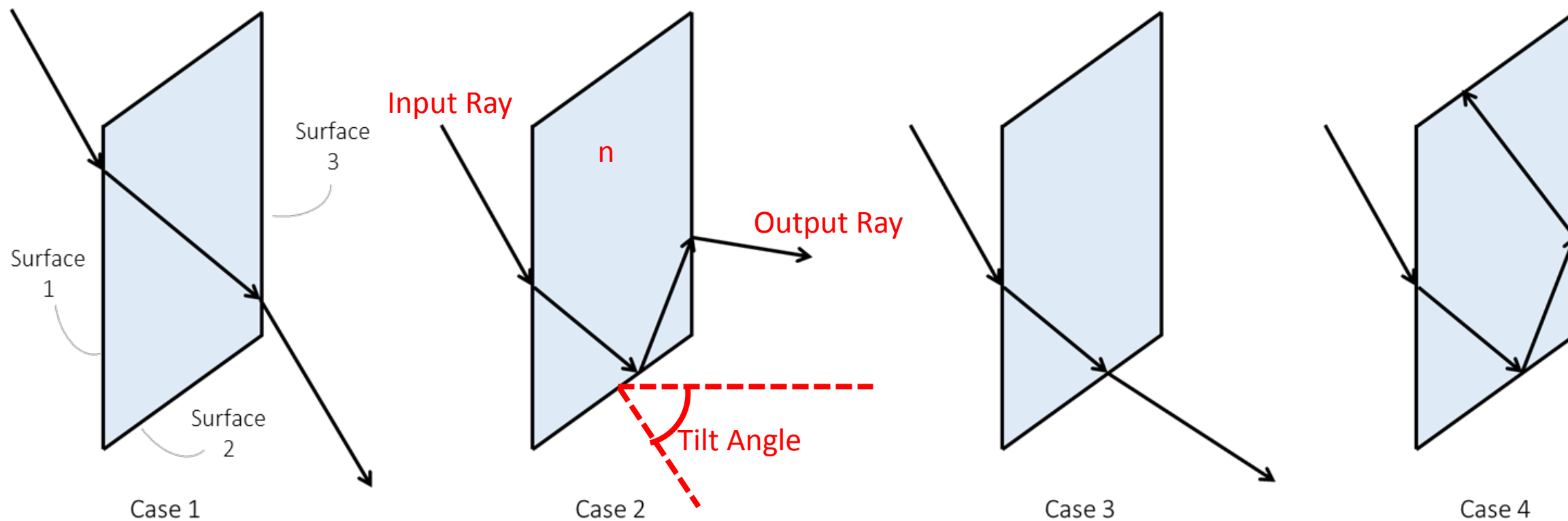
$$K' = K - 2k \cos I$$

- **Law of Refraction**

$$K' = (n/n')K + k (\cos I' - (n/n')\cos I)$$

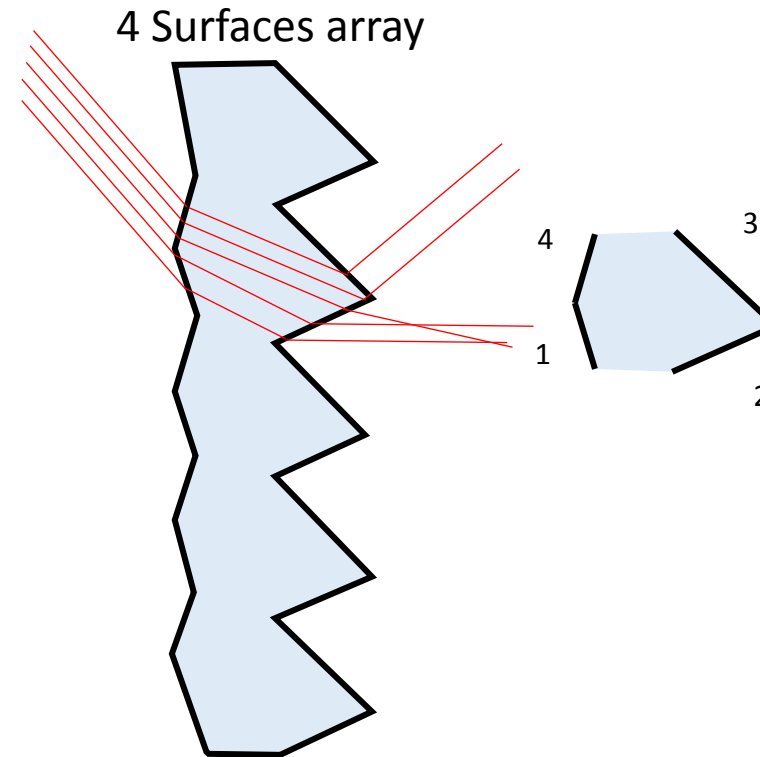
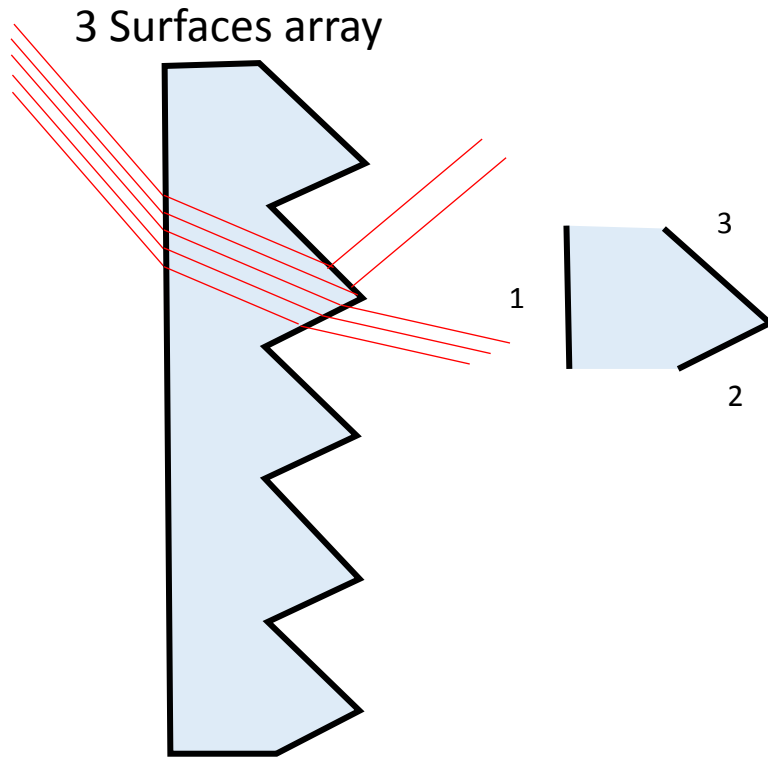


# Basic Raytracing Cases



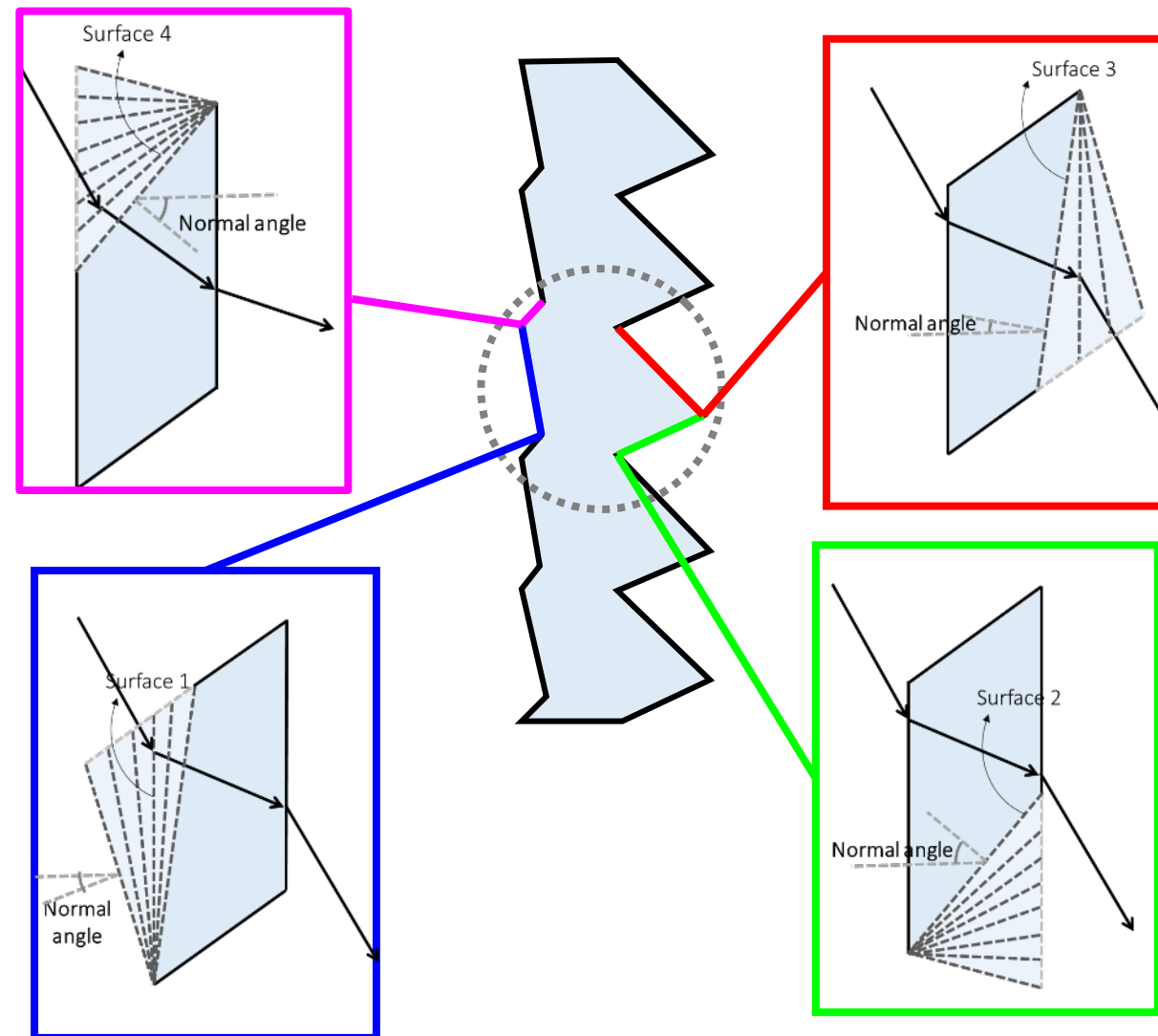


# Choosing the Prism Structure

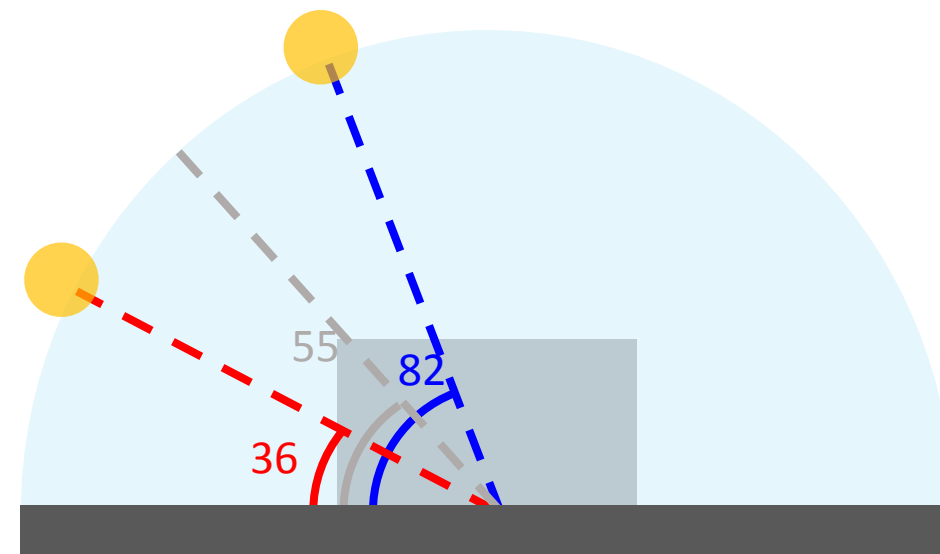
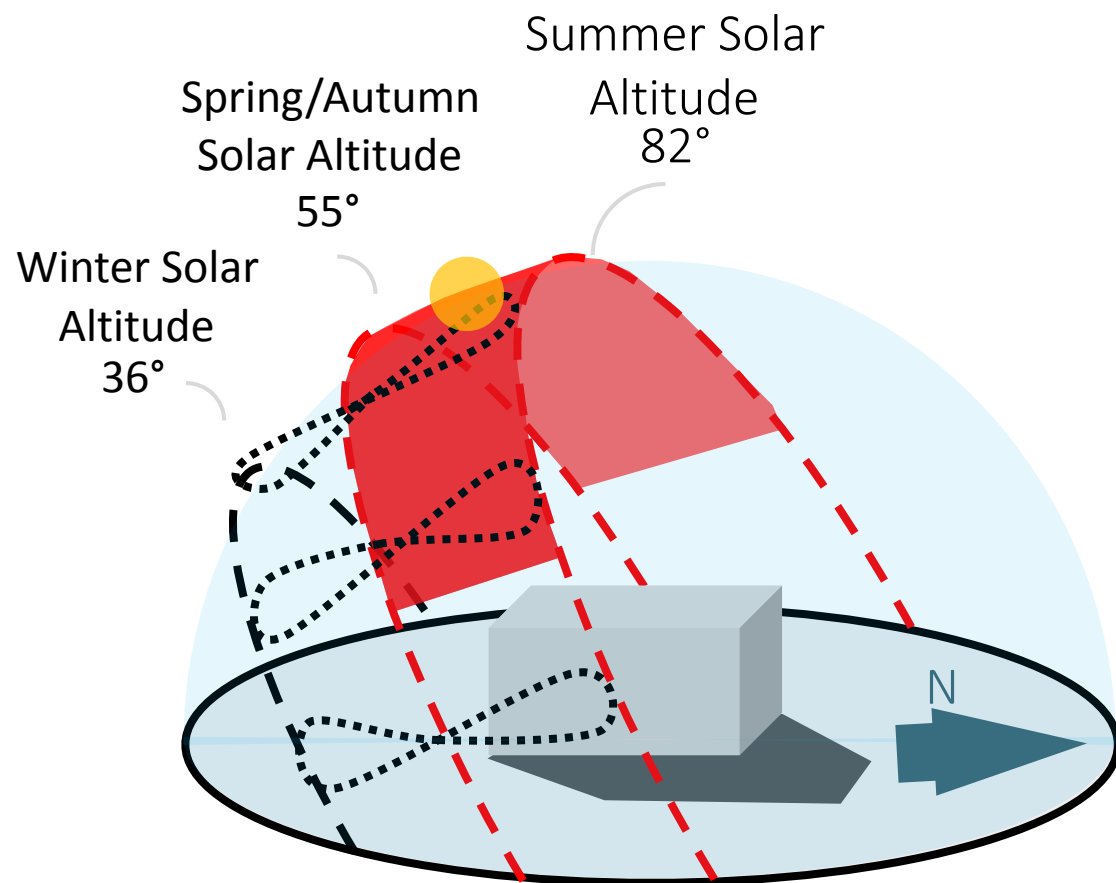


# Variables and Constrains

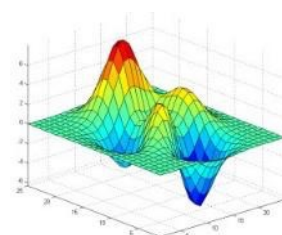
Parameter	Constraint
Refractive index (n)	1.55
Incident angle on surface 1	0° - 80°
<b>Variables</b>	
Normal of surface 1 range	-60° → 0°
Normal of surface 2 range	0° → 90°
Normal of surface 3 range	0° → -60°
Normal of surface 4 range	0° → 60°



# Targeted Solar Altitude

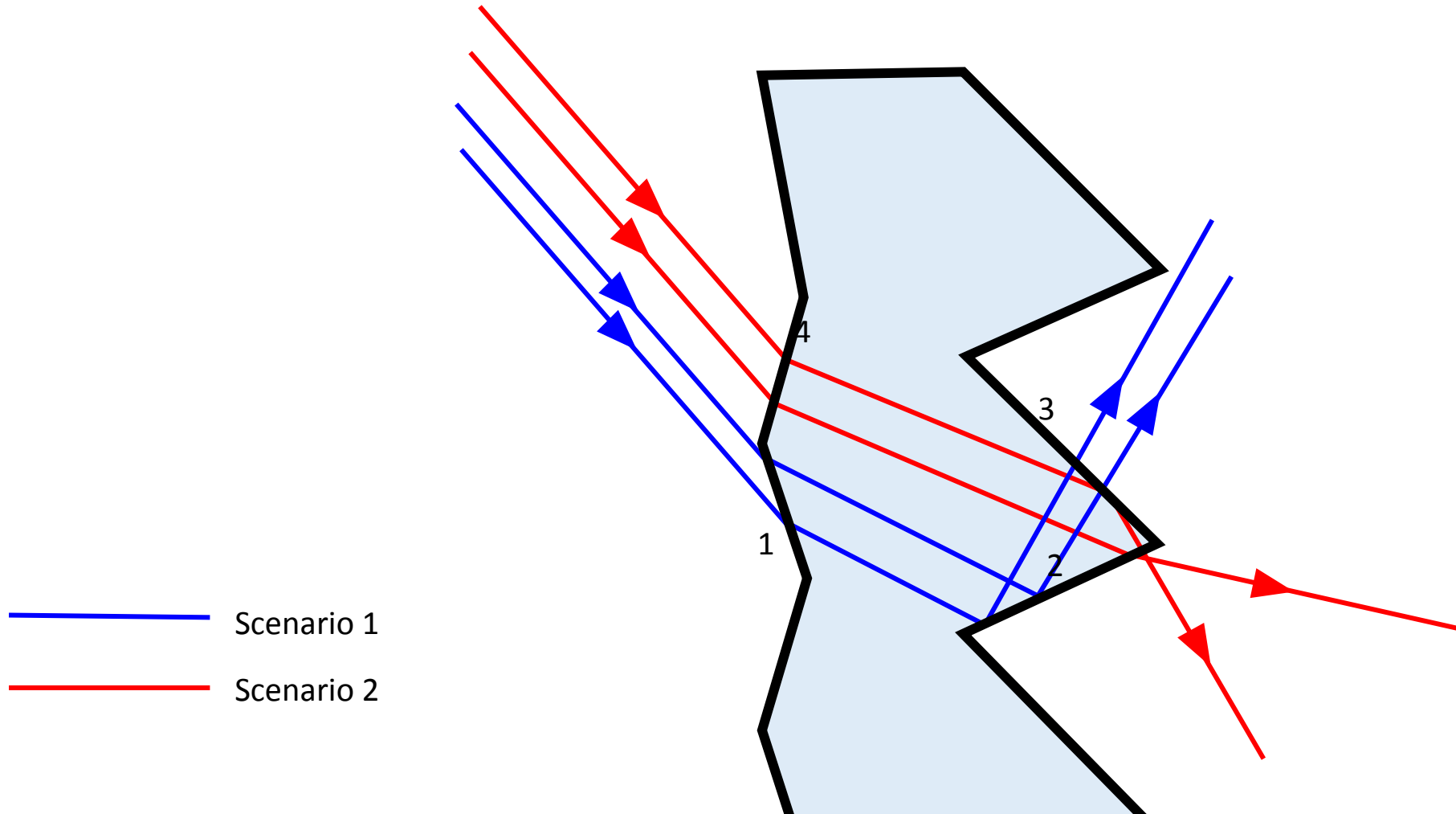


Judging Criteria	
Targeted solar altitude	50° - 80°



Genetic Algorithm Optimization

# Scenarios



# Scenario 1 – Surface 1

## Solar Altitude ray vector (Absolute angle)

Angle =  $10^\circ$   $\blacktriangleright$  Cartesian Coord. =  $K = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0.17 \\ 0 \\ 0.98 \end{bmatrix}$

## Normal Surface Angle

Angle =  $-9.9^\circ$   $\blacktriangleright$   $k = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -0.17 \\ 0 \\ 0.98 \end{bmatrix}$

Incident angle = Normal/Tilt Angle - Absolute angle  $\leftarrow 19.9^\circ$

If  $0^\circ < \text{incident angle} < 90^\circ$

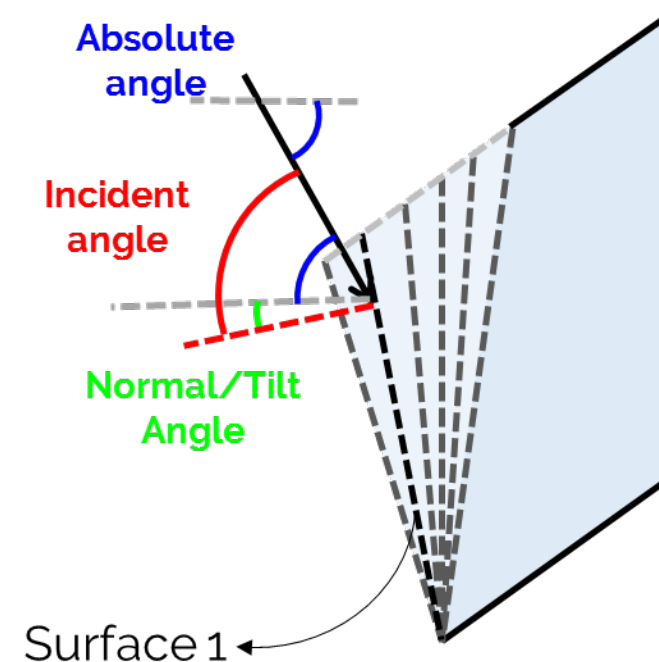
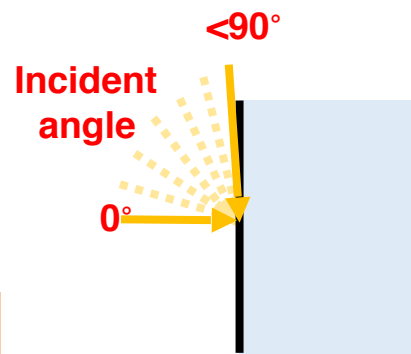
Yes

Use Refraction Law

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ K_x' \\ K_y' \\ K_z' \end{pmatrix} = \mathcal{R} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ K_x \\ K_y \\ K_z \end{pmatrix},$$

No

Use another "Normal Surface angle"



# Refraction Law

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ K_x' \\ K_y' \\ K_z' \end{pmatrix} = \mathcal{R} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ K_x \\ K_y \\ K_z \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\mathcal{R} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ k_x[\rho' - (n/n')\rho] & n/n' & 0 & 0 \\ k_y[\rho' - (n/n')\rho] & 0 & n/n' & 0 \\ k_z[\rho' - (n/n')\rho] & 0 & 0 & n/n' \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\rho = \cos I = \sum K_i k_i$$

$$\rho = \cos 19.9 = 0.93$$

$$\rho' = \cos I' = \sqrt{1 - \left[ \left( \frac{n}{n'} \right) \sin I \right]^2}$$

$$\rho' = \sqrt{1 - \left[ \left( \frac{1.0003}{1.5} \right) \sin 19.9 \right]^2} = 0.9737$$

$n' = \text{Refractive index of material} = 1.5$

$n = \text{Refractive index of air} = 1.0003$

$I' = \text{Output Incident Angle}$

$$K' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0.05 \\ 0 \\ 1.00 \end{bmatrix} \blacktriangleright 3.15^\circ$$

# Scenario 1 – Surface 2

Incident ray vector (Absolute angle)

Angle =  $3.15^\circ$   $\rightarrow$  Cartesian Coord. =  $K = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0.05 \\ 0 \\ 1.00 \end{bmatrix}$

Normal Surface Angle

Angle =  $-74.34^\circ$   $\rightarrow$   $k = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0.96 \\ 0 \\ 0.27 \end{bmatrix}$

Incident angle = Normal/Tilt Angle - Absolute angle  $= 71.19^\circ$

If incident angle < I critical

Yes

Use Refraction Law

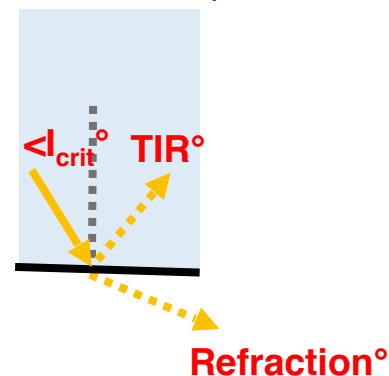
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ K'_x \\ K'_y \\ K'_z \end{pmatrix} = \mathcal{R} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ K_x \\ K_y \\ K_z \end{pmatrix},$$

No

Use Reflection Law

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ K'_x \\ K'_y \\ K'_z \end{pmatrix} = R' \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ K_x \\ K_y \\ K_z \end{pmatrix}$$

$$I_{crit} = \arcsin(n'/n) = \arcsin(1.5/1.0003) = 41.68^\circ$$



Incident angle

Absolute angle

Normal/Tilt Angle

Surface 2

# Reflection Matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ K'_x \\ K'_y \\ K'_z \end{pmatrix} = R' \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ K_x \\ K_y \\ K_z \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{R}' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -2k_x\rho & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2k_y\rho & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -2k_z\rho & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\rho = \cos I = \sum K_i k_i$$

$$\rho = \cos 71.19 = 0.32$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ K'_x \\ K'_y \\ K'_z \end{pmatrix} = R' \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0.05 \\ 0 \\ 1.00 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$K' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -0.57 \\ 0 \\ 0.82 \end{bmatrix} \blacktriangleright -34.46^\circ$$



# Scenario 1 – Surface 3

## Incident ray vector (Absolute angle)

Angle =  $\pm 34.5^\circ$   $\rightarrow$  Cartesian Coord. =  $K = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -0.57 \\ 0 \\ 0.82 \end{bmatrix}$

Incident angle = Normal/Tilt Angle - Absolute angle  $\leftarrow = 1.29^\circ$

If incident angle < I critical

Yes

Use Refraction Law

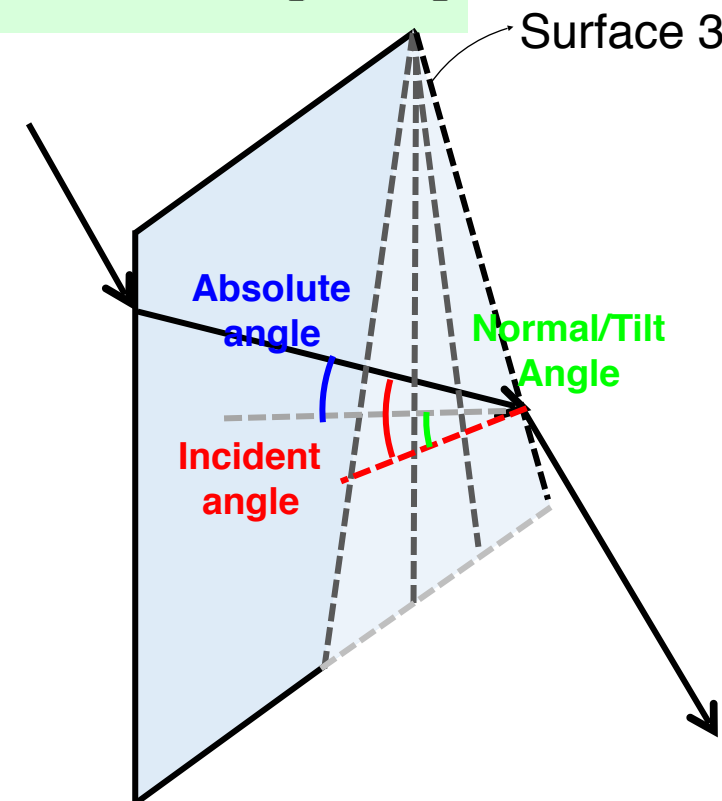
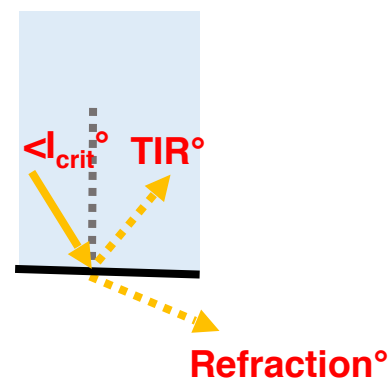
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ K_x' \\ K_y' \\ K_z' \end{pmatrix} = \mathcal{R} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ K_x \\ K_y \\ K_z \end{pmatrix},$$

No

FAILED!!

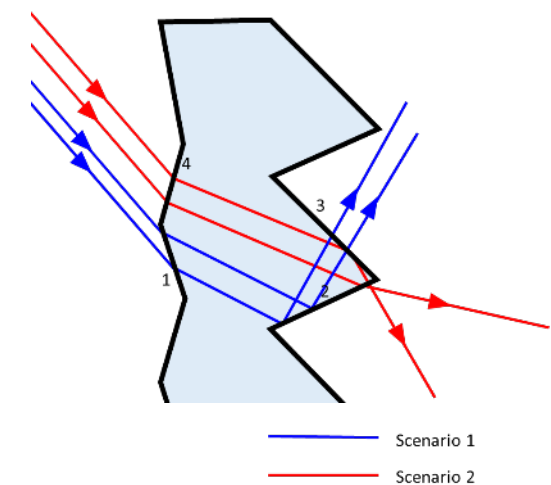
## Normal Surface Angle

Angle =  $-33.16^\circ$   $\rightarrow$   $k = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -0.55 \\ 0 \\ 0.84 \end{bmatrix}$

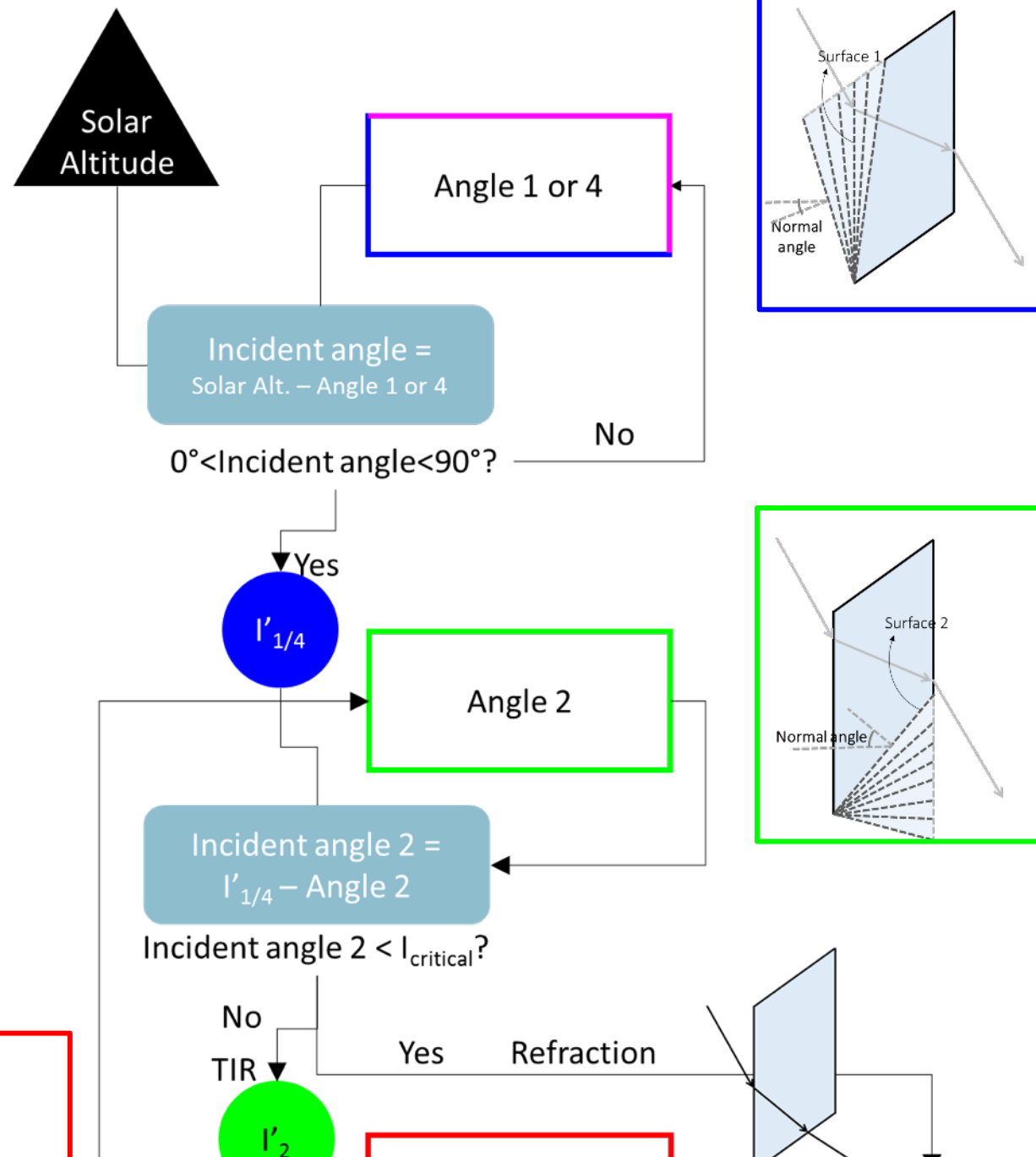
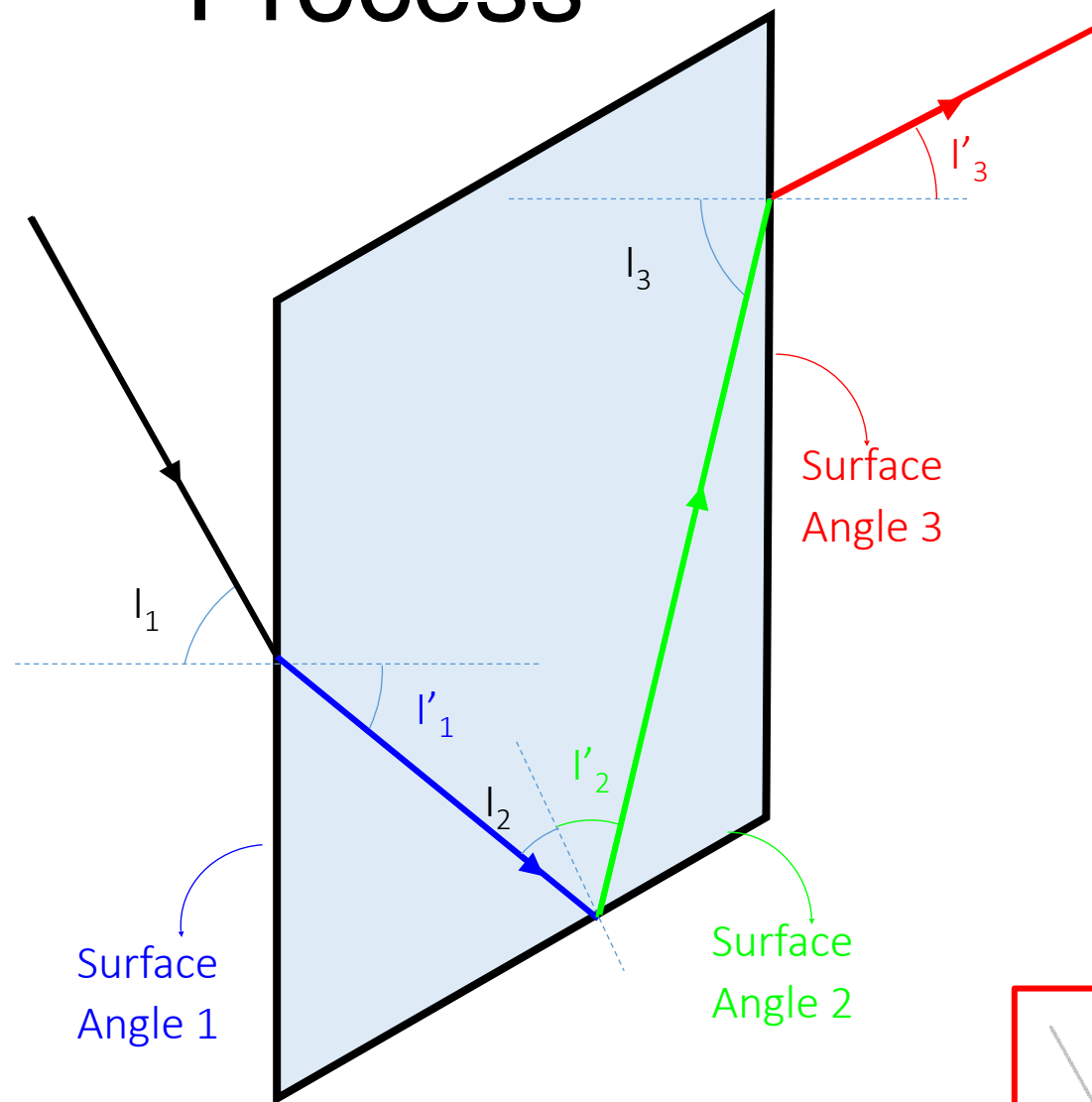


# Scenario 1: Final Table

Solar Altitude		Surface 1	Surface 2	Surface 3	Final Exiting Ray
		-9.99	74.34	-33.17	
10	Absolute	3.15	-34.46	35.11	35.11
	Incident	20.00	71.19	1.29	
20	Absolute	9.42	-40.74	44.41	44.41
	Incident	30.00	64.92	7.57	
30	Absolute	15.31	-46.63	52.67	52.67
	Incident	40.00	59.03	13.46	
40	Absolute	20.63	-51.95	59.52	59.52
	Incident	50.00	53.71	18.78	
50	Absolute	25.17	-56.48	64.84	64.84
	Incident	60.00	49.17	23.31	
60	Absolute	28.68	-60.00	68.60	68.60
	Incident	70.00	45.66	26.83	
70	Absolute	30.92	-62.23	70.83	70.83
	Incident	80.00	43.42	29.06	
80	Absolute	31.69	-63.01	71.57	71.57
	Incident	90.00	42.65	29.84	



# Optimization Process



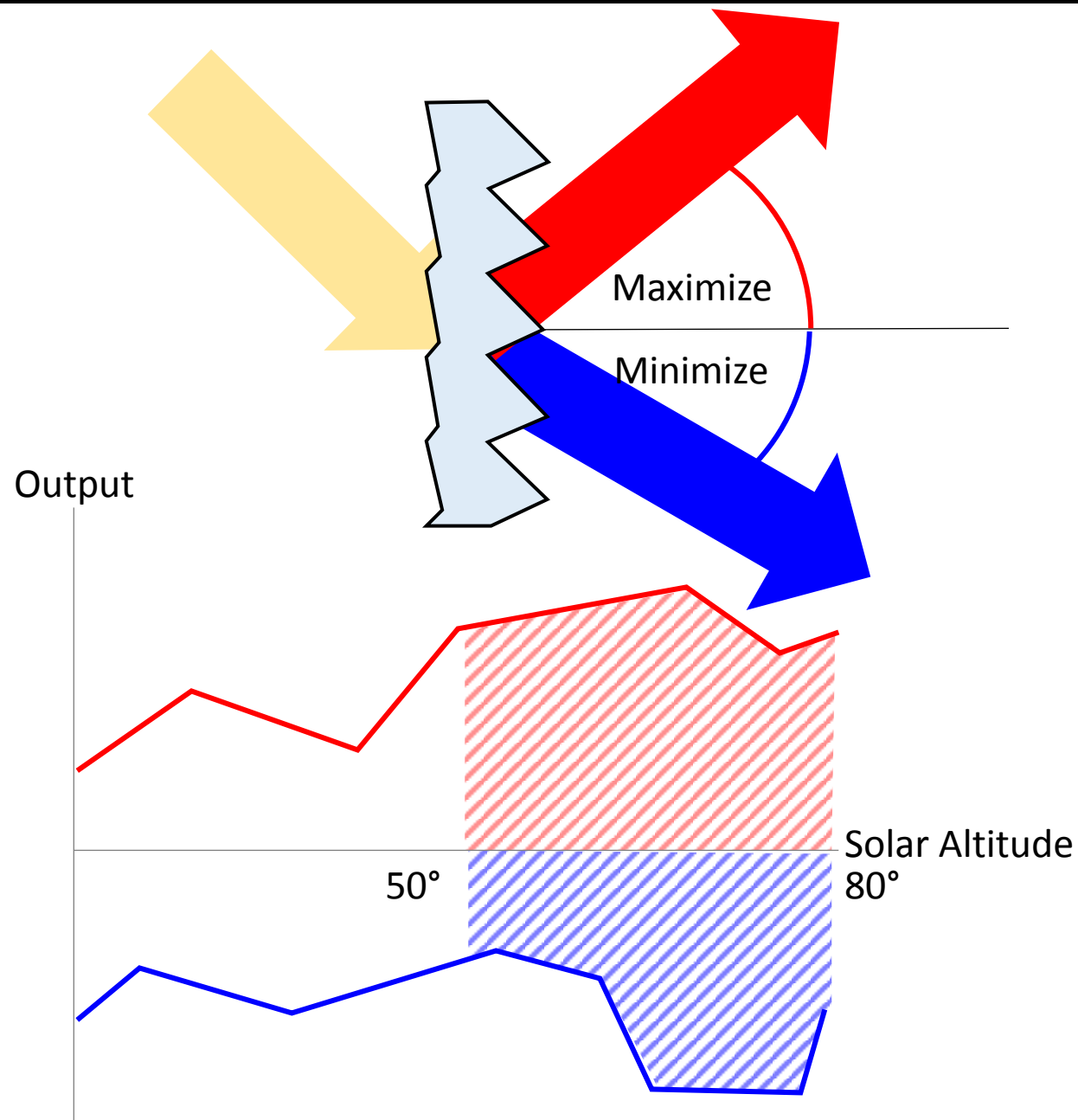
# Objective Function

- **Maximizing** the output angle that is directed **upwards** and **minimizing** the output angle that is directed **downwards** at high solar altitudes (from 50° to 80°)



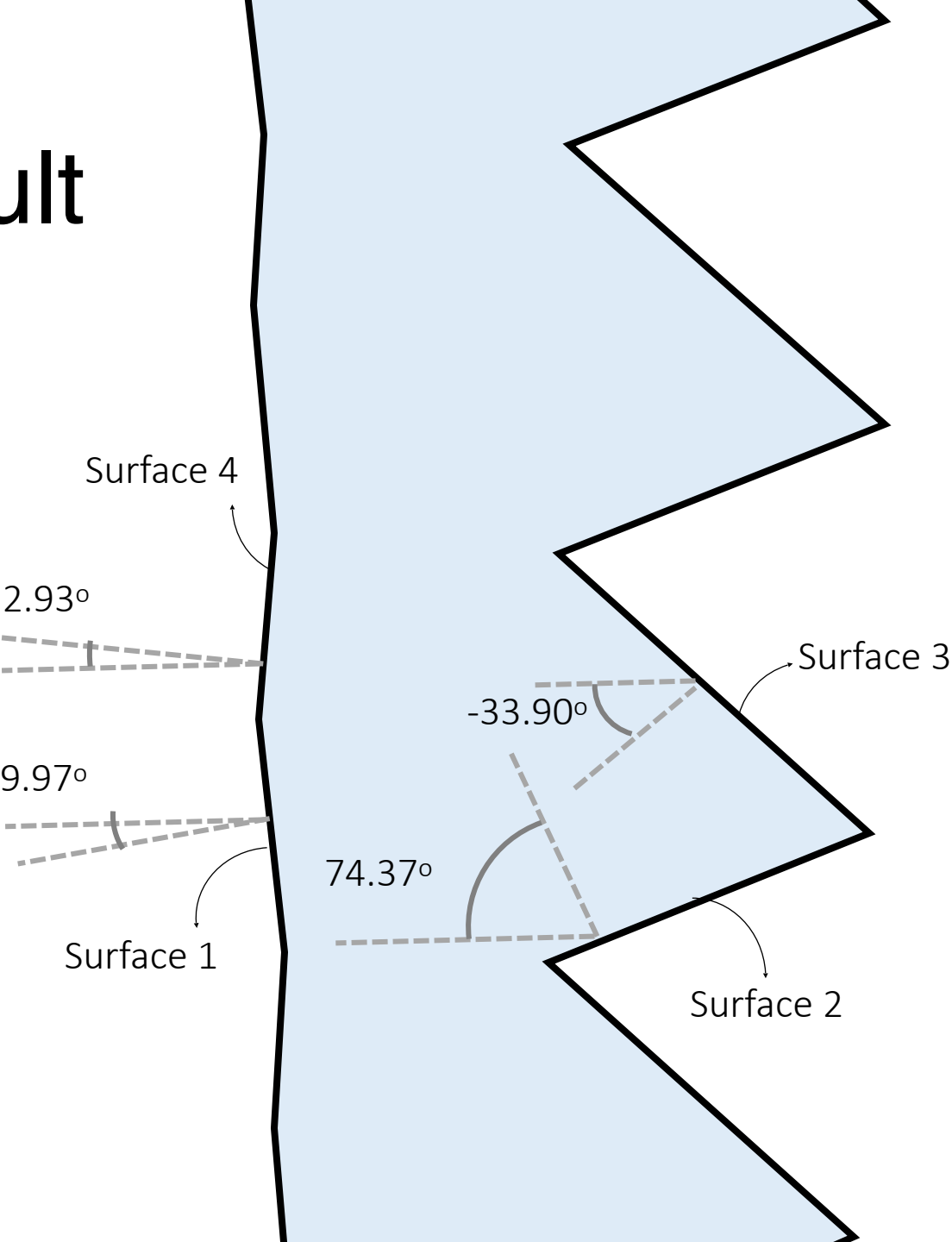
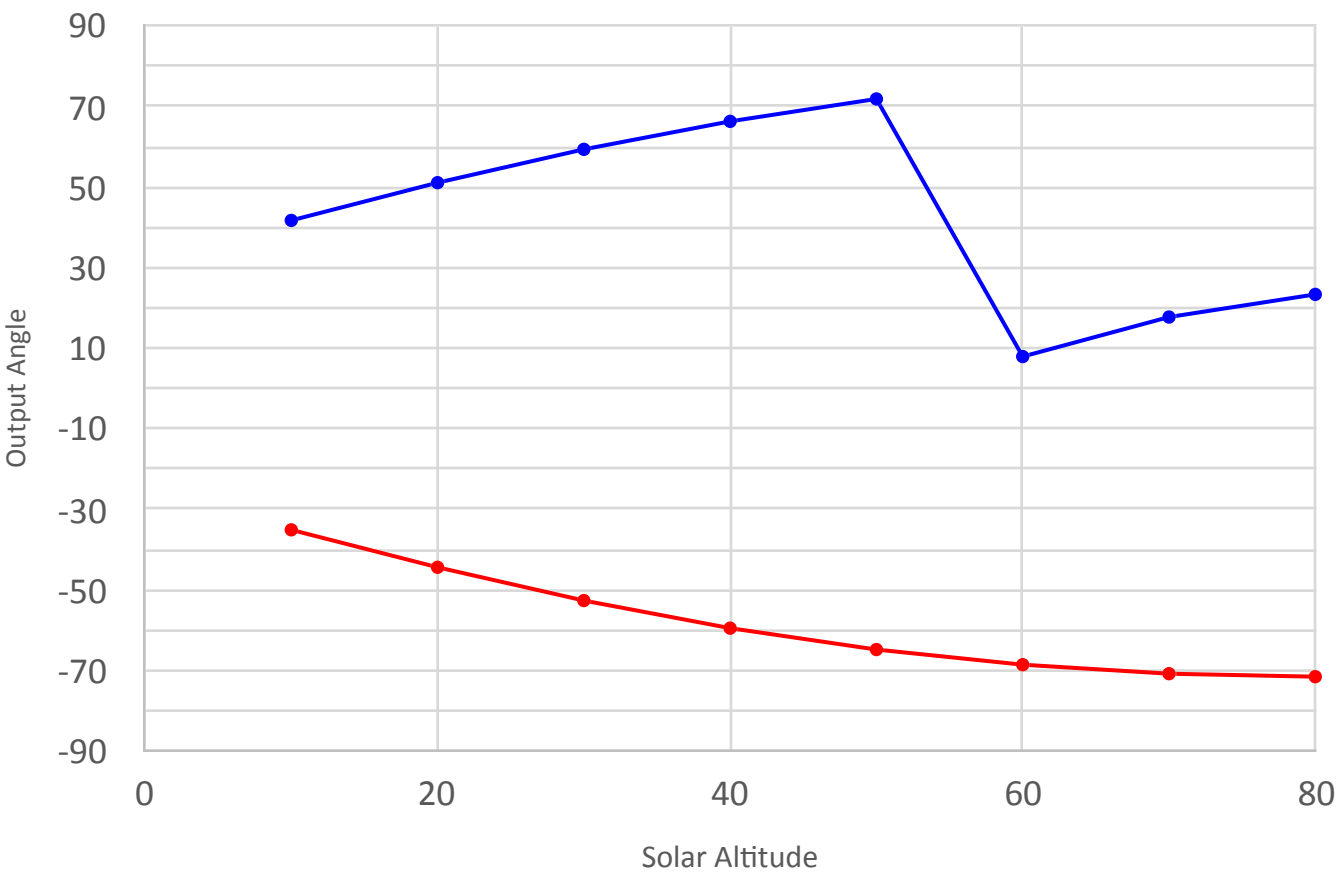


**Objective Function Value**

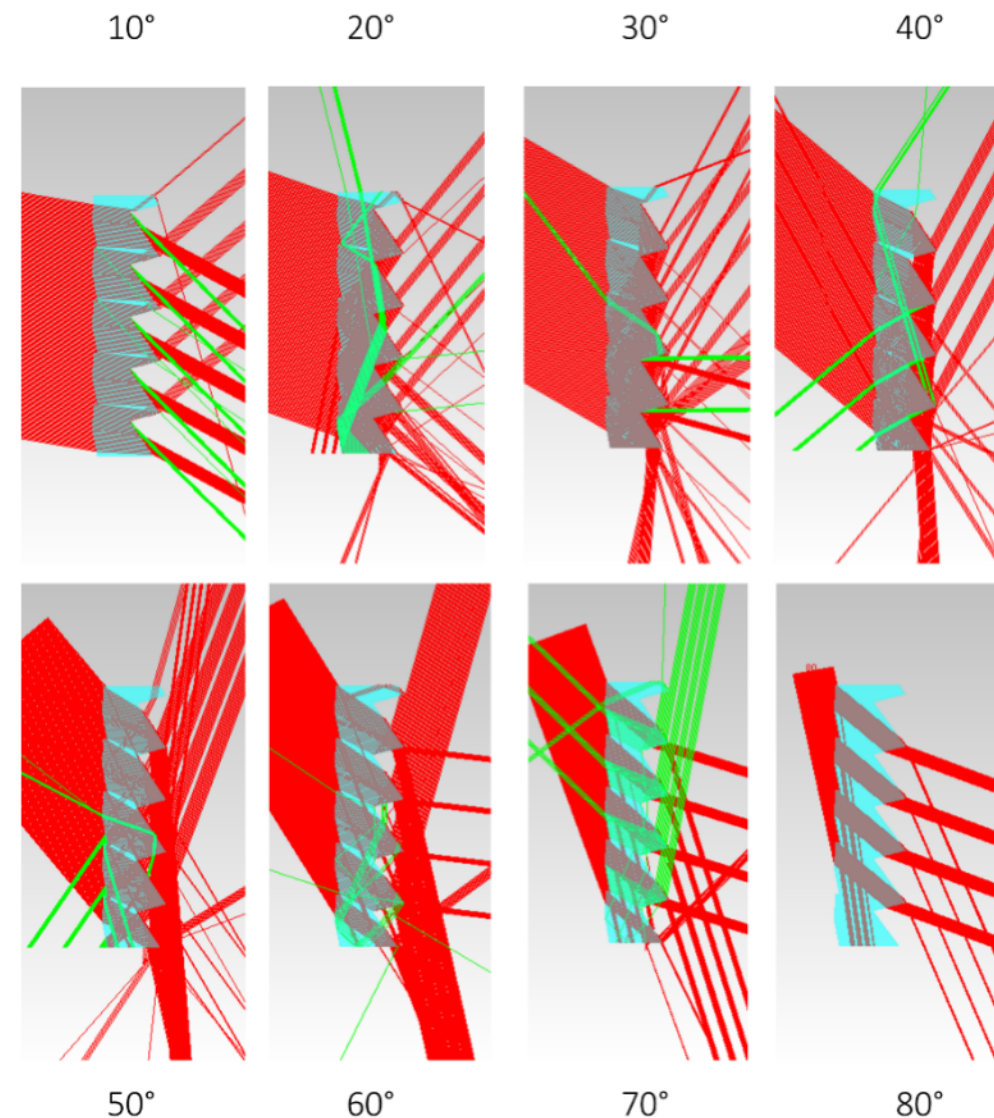
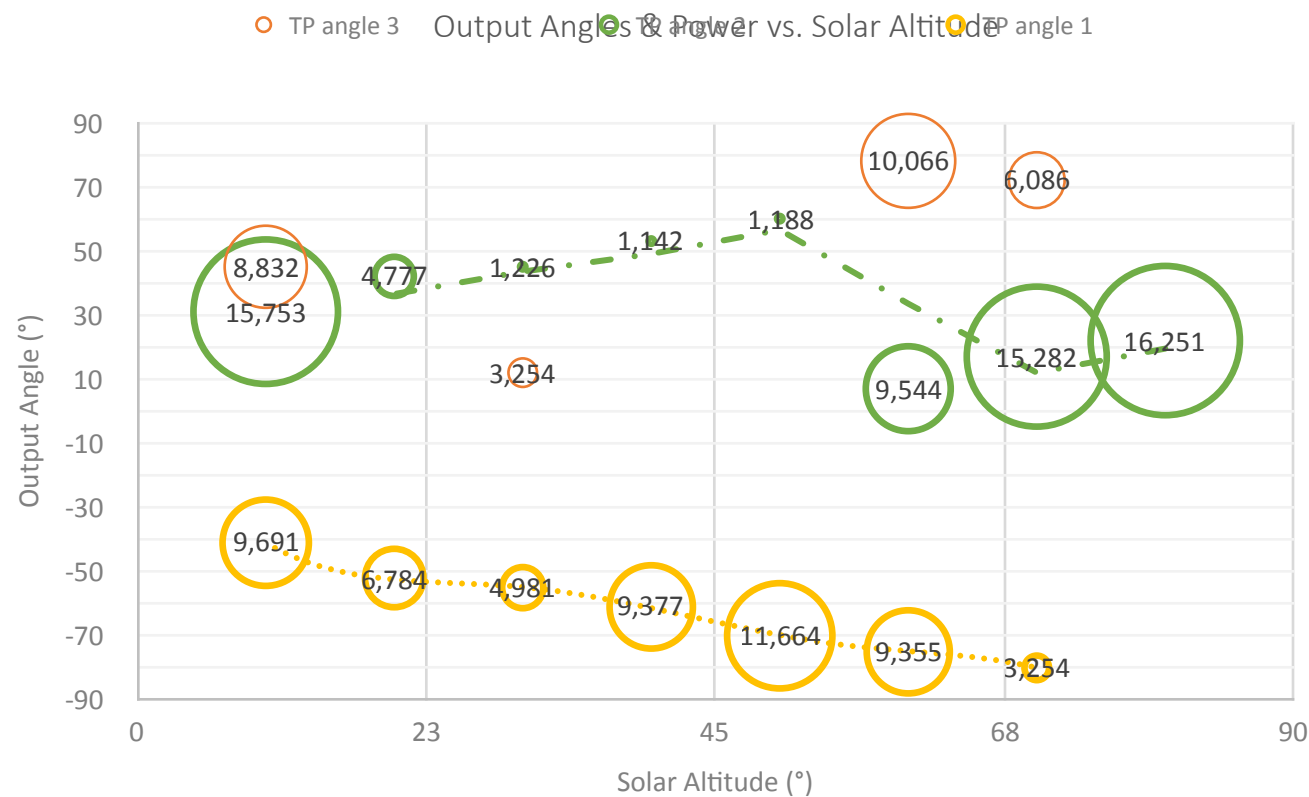



# Final Optimization Result

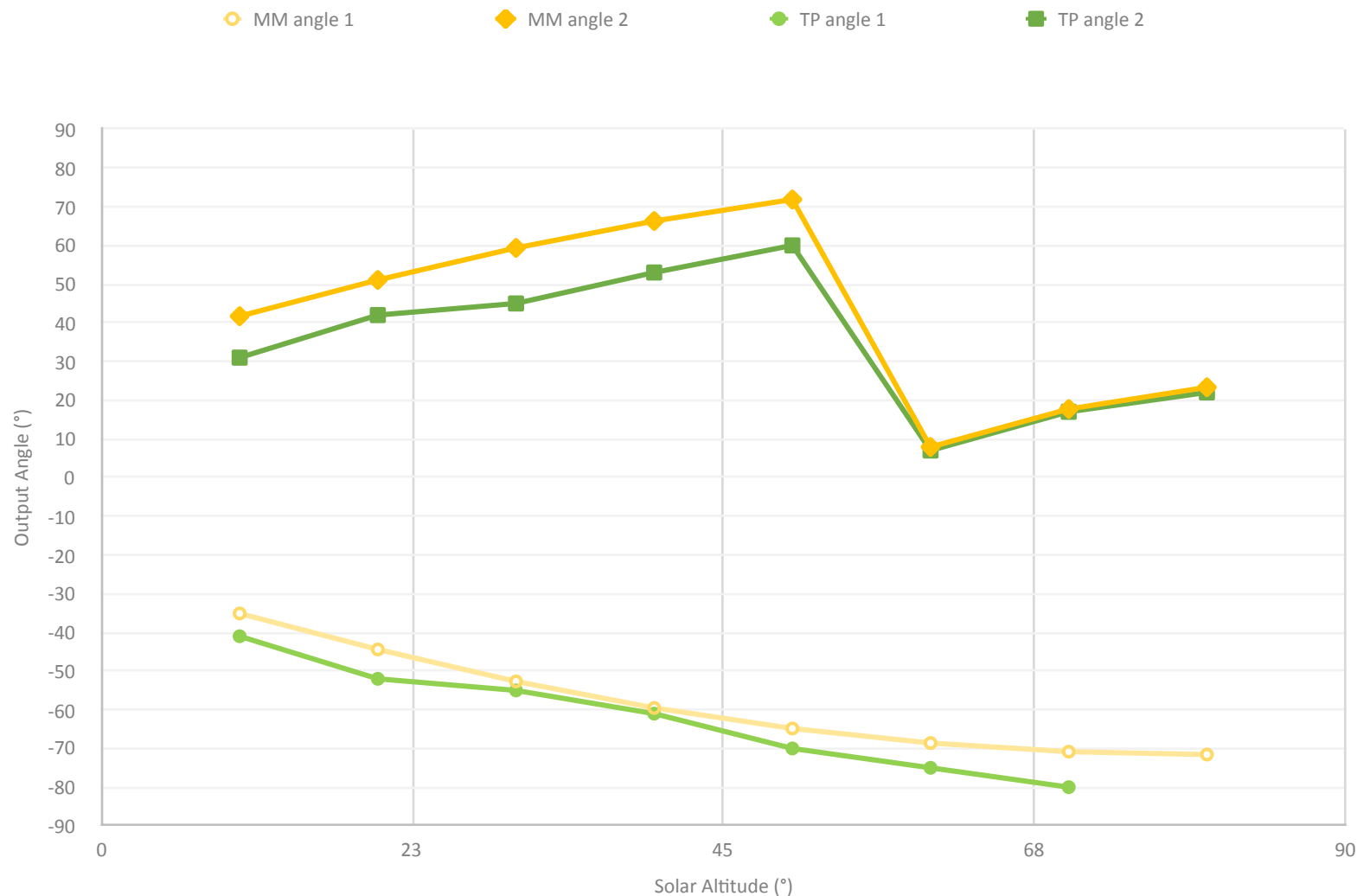
Upward angle (from surface 1)      Downward angle (from surface 4)



# Validation Against TracePro®



# Validation Against TracePro®



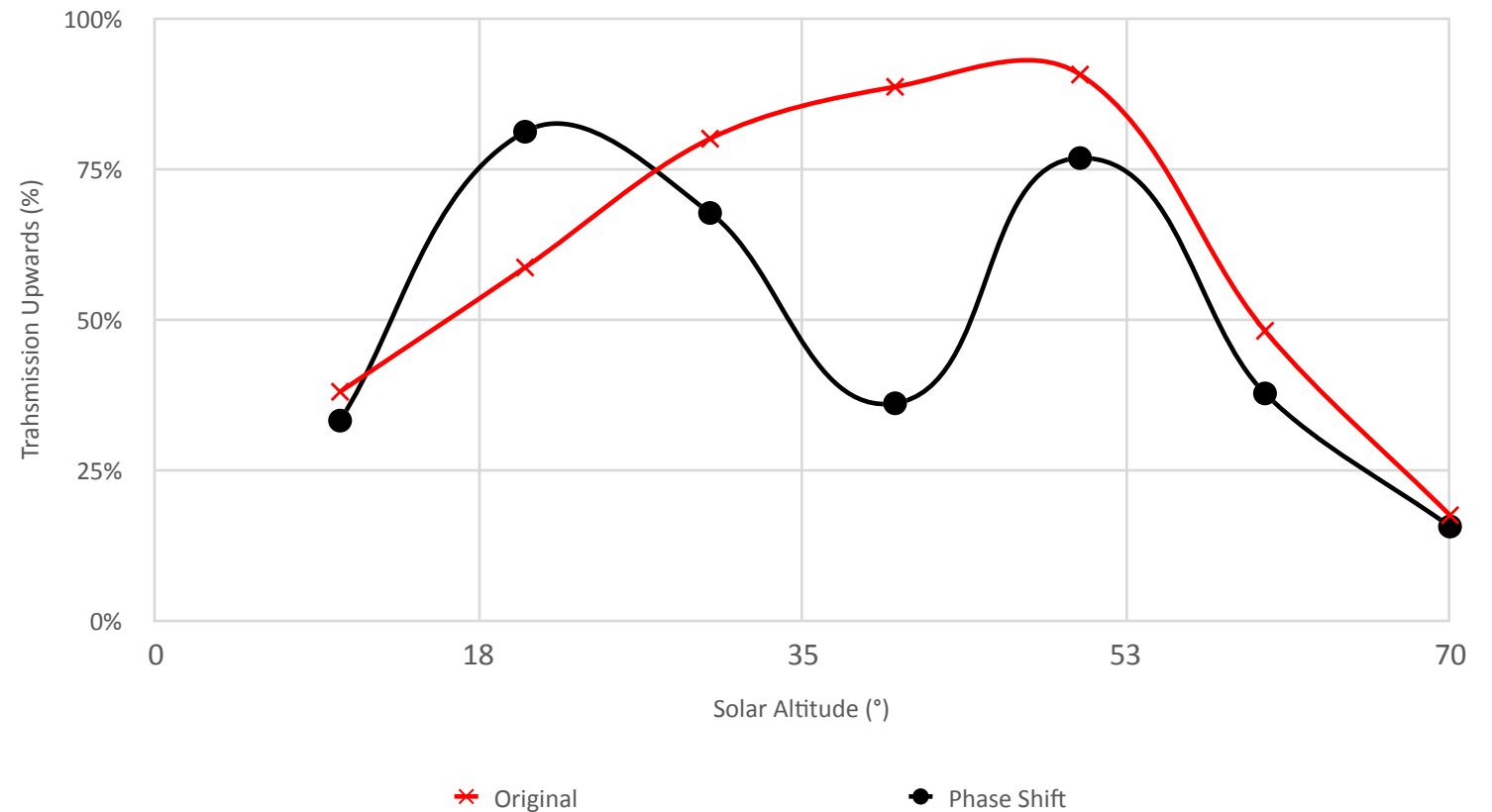
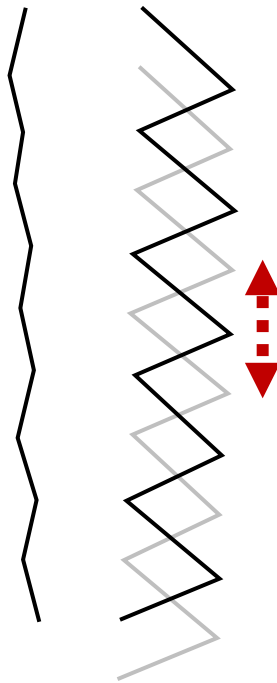
The standard error of the mean

Upwards =  $\pm 1.03^\circ$

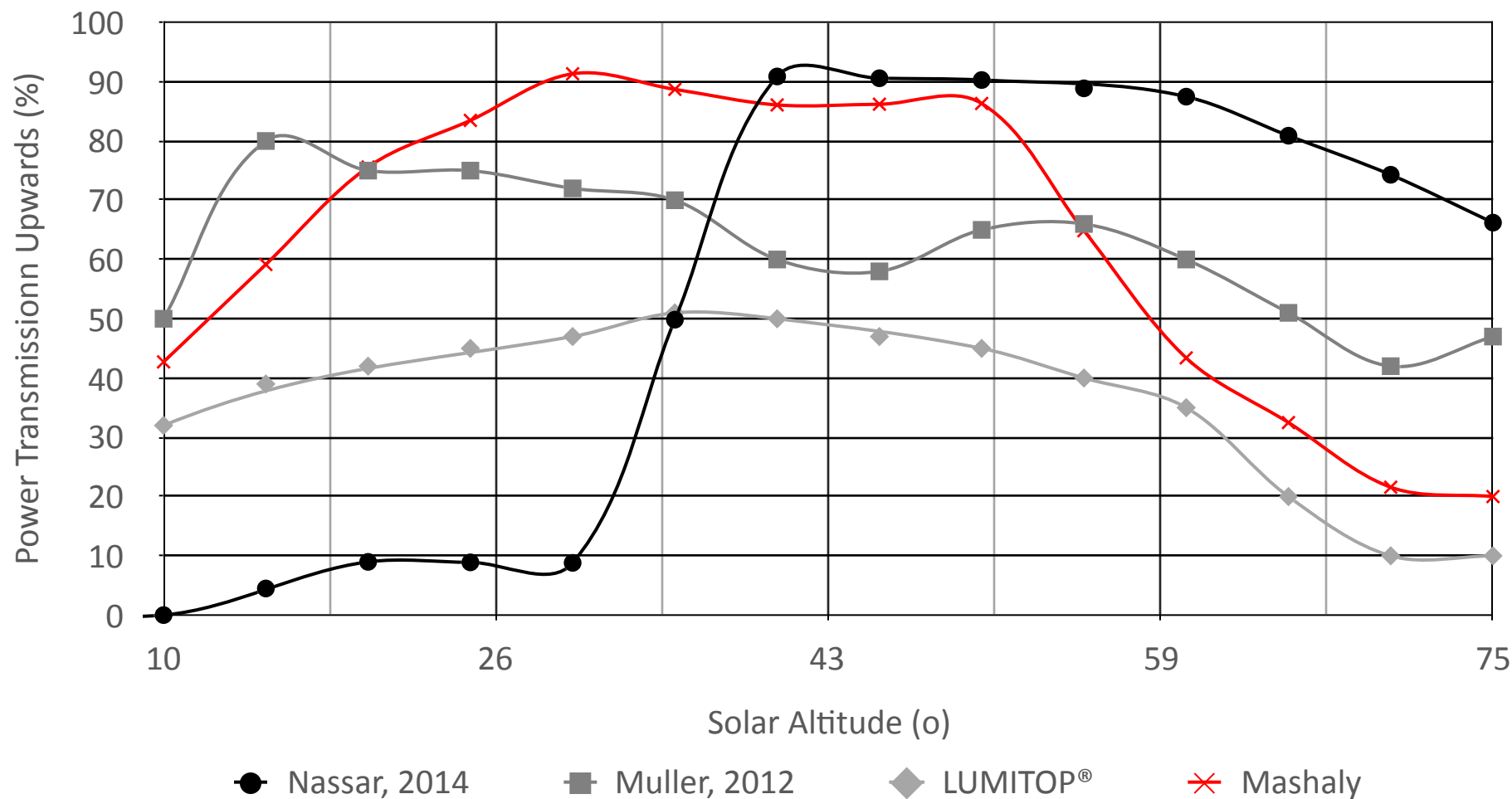
Downwards =  $\pm 2.47^\circ$

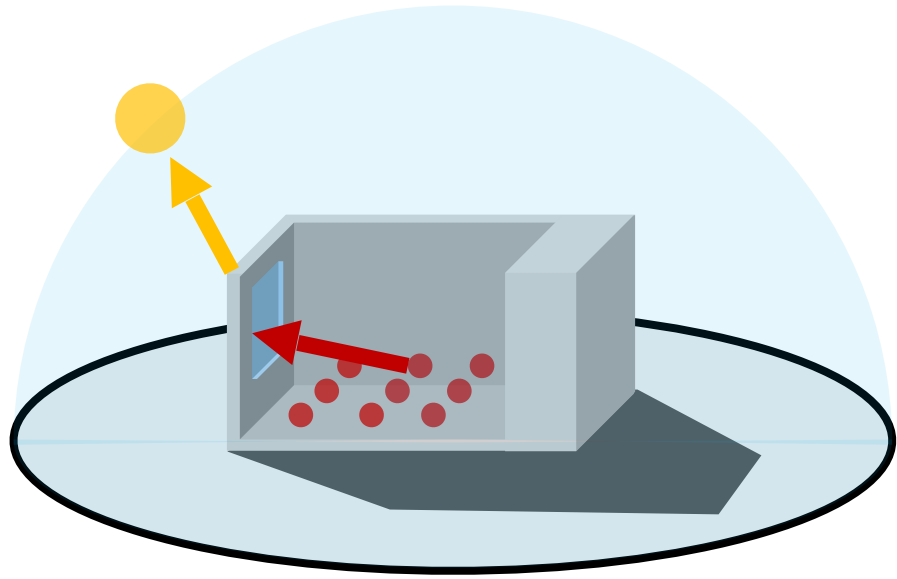


# Phase Shift effect



# Comparison with other research





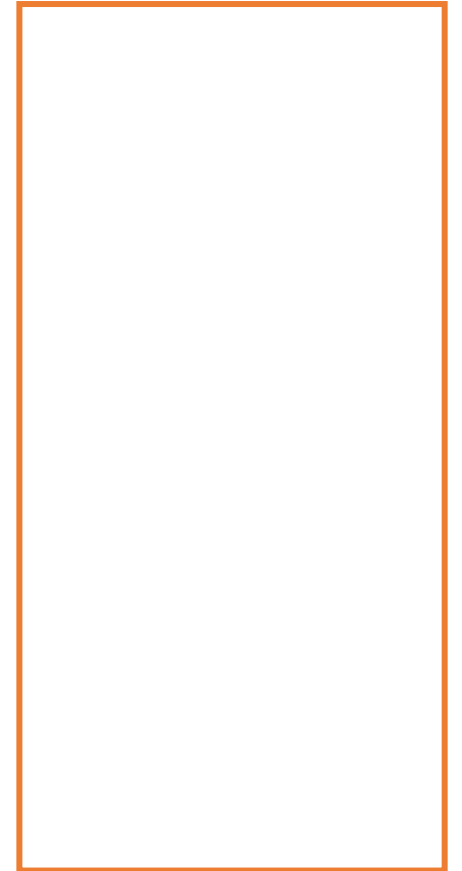
# Daylight Simulation of CFS using 5 phase method

25%	29%	29%	28%	26%
32%	35%	37%	35%	36%
46%	50%	47%	46%	46%
63%	65%	67%	66%	64%
73%	74%	74%	73%	74%
80%	81%	81%	81%	80%
84%	84%	84%	84%	83%
86%	87%	87%	87%	85%
86%	90%	91%	90%	85%

# Lighting Simulation Methods

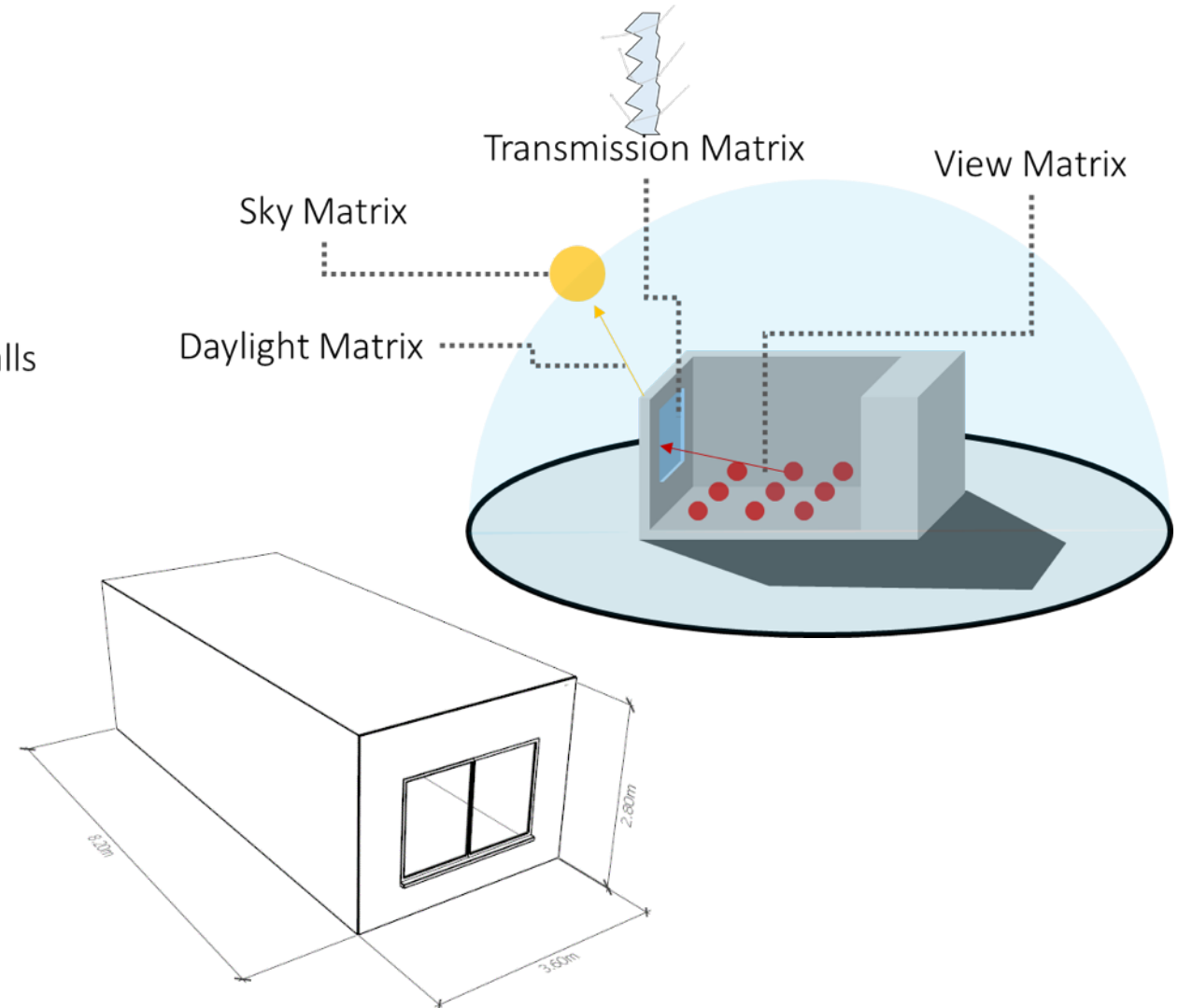
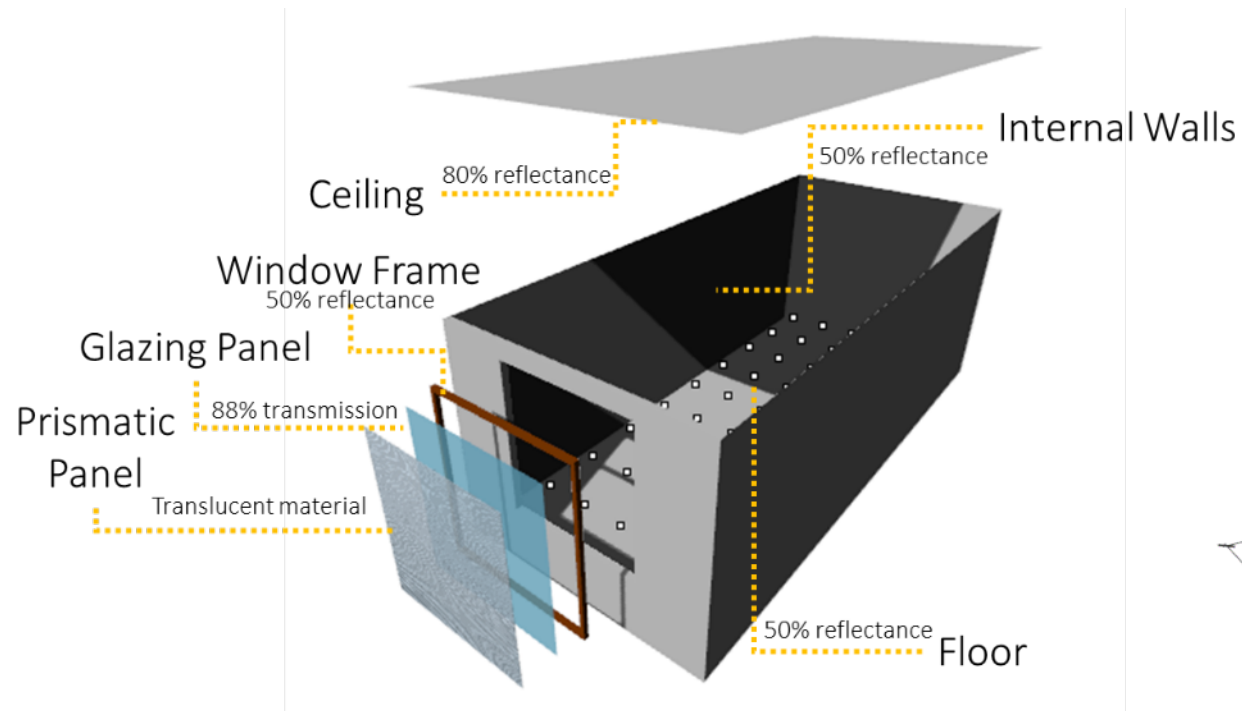
Lighting  
Simulation

- Photorealistic



# Validation of proposed system using Radiance

- Three and five Phase Method

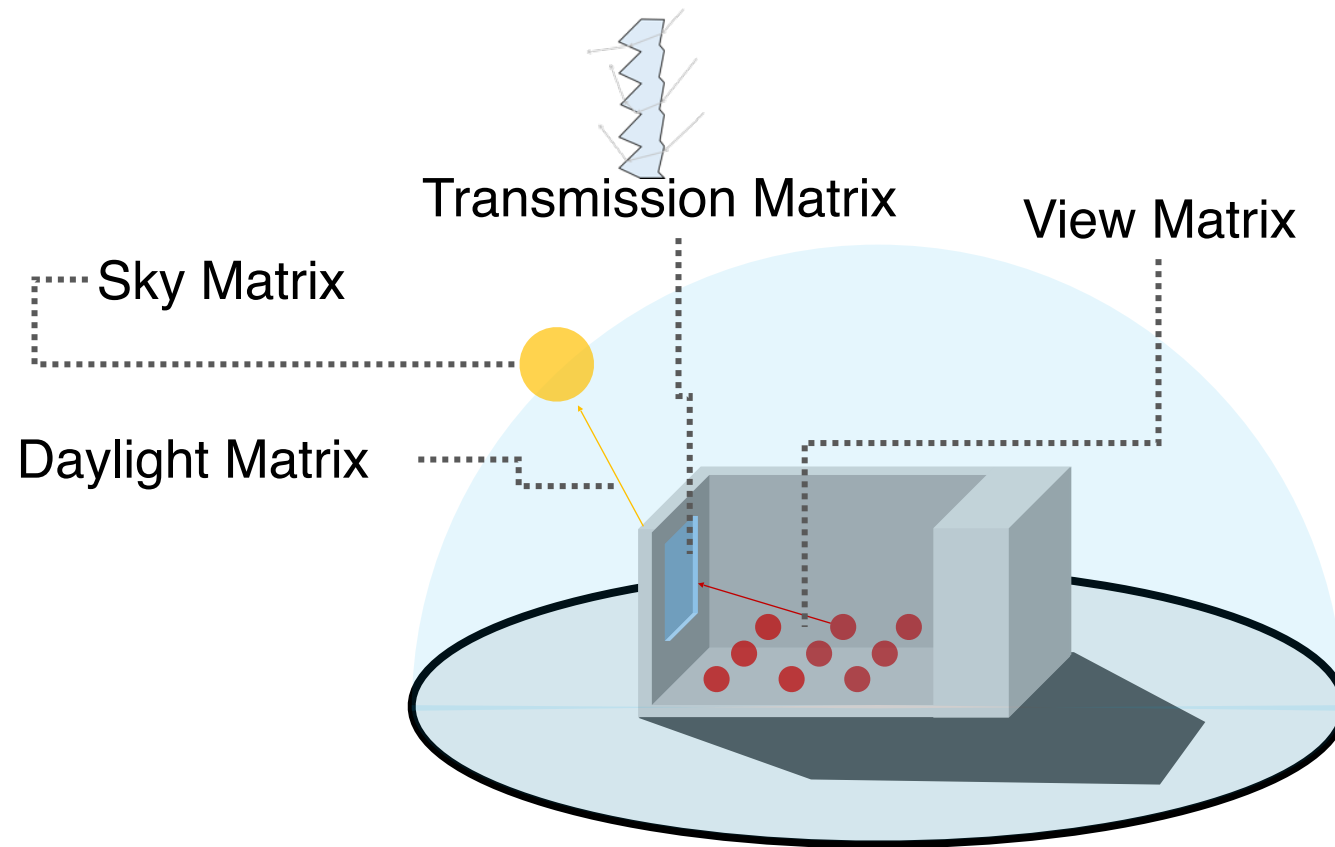


# Why 5 phase method?

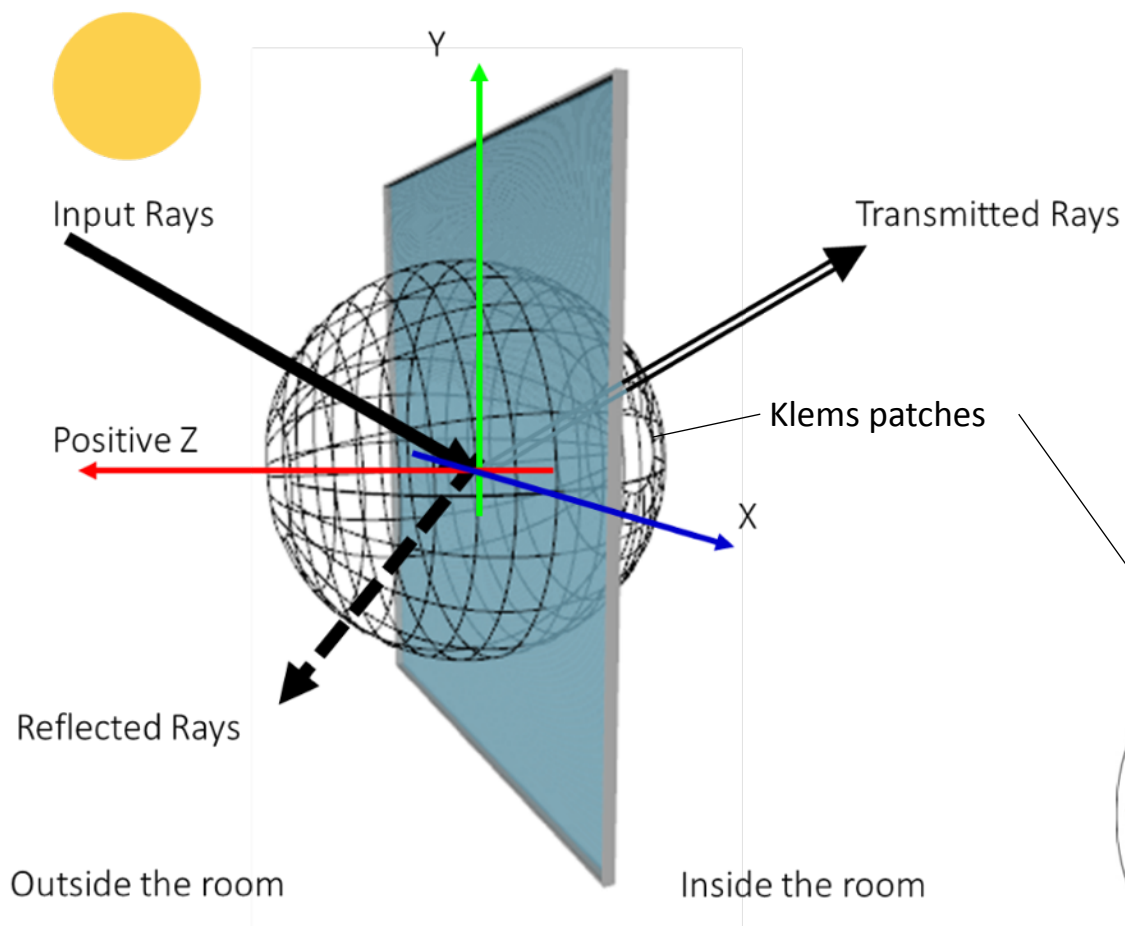
- **Dynamic** Analysis for **complex fenestration systems**
- **Radiance** can deal with “Bi-directional Scattering Distribution Function” **BSDF data**
- **Annual Hourly Illumination** for flexibility in daylight measures



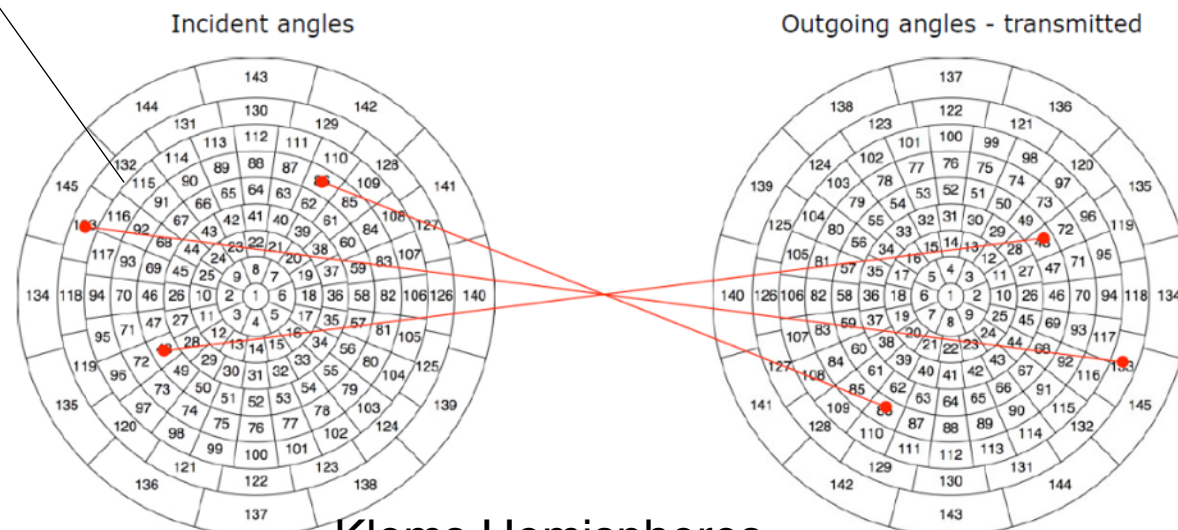
# 5 phase method



# Transmission Matrix

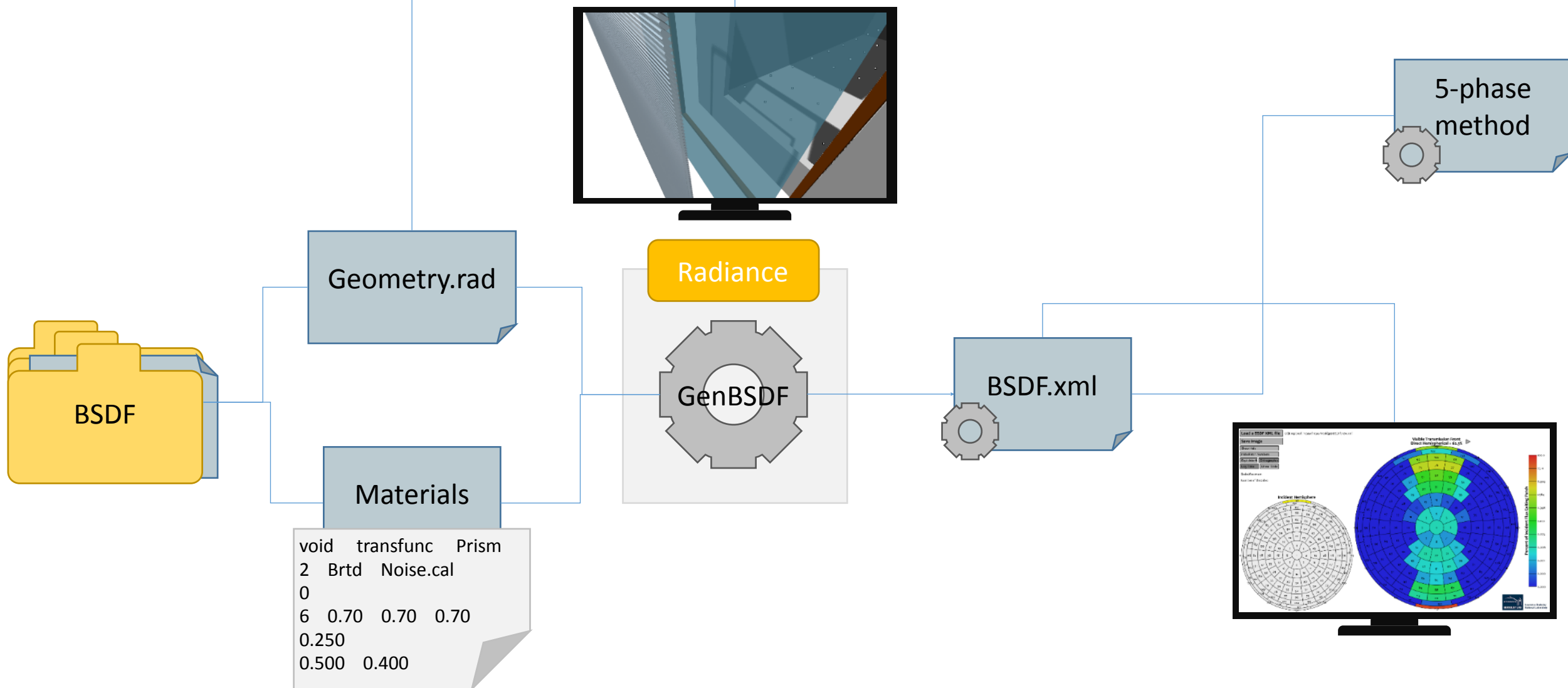


1. Model the prism geometry as per window's dimensions
2. Export geometry to be run with genBSDF (a Radiance command)
3. Add material to geometry\*
4. genBSDF generates input rays in every direction to the window through (145 Klems patches)
5. The output according to the prism design is presented on 145 Klems patches also with the direction and power



Klems Hemispheres

# Transmission Matrix



# Material Definition for acrylic

modifier glass    identifier

Ø

Ø

4        **R**        **G**        **B**        ◀        (Colour)

n        ◀        (Refractive index)

void        glass        **Acrylic\_Panel**

Ø

Ø

4        **0.96**        **0.96**        **0.96**        **1.49**

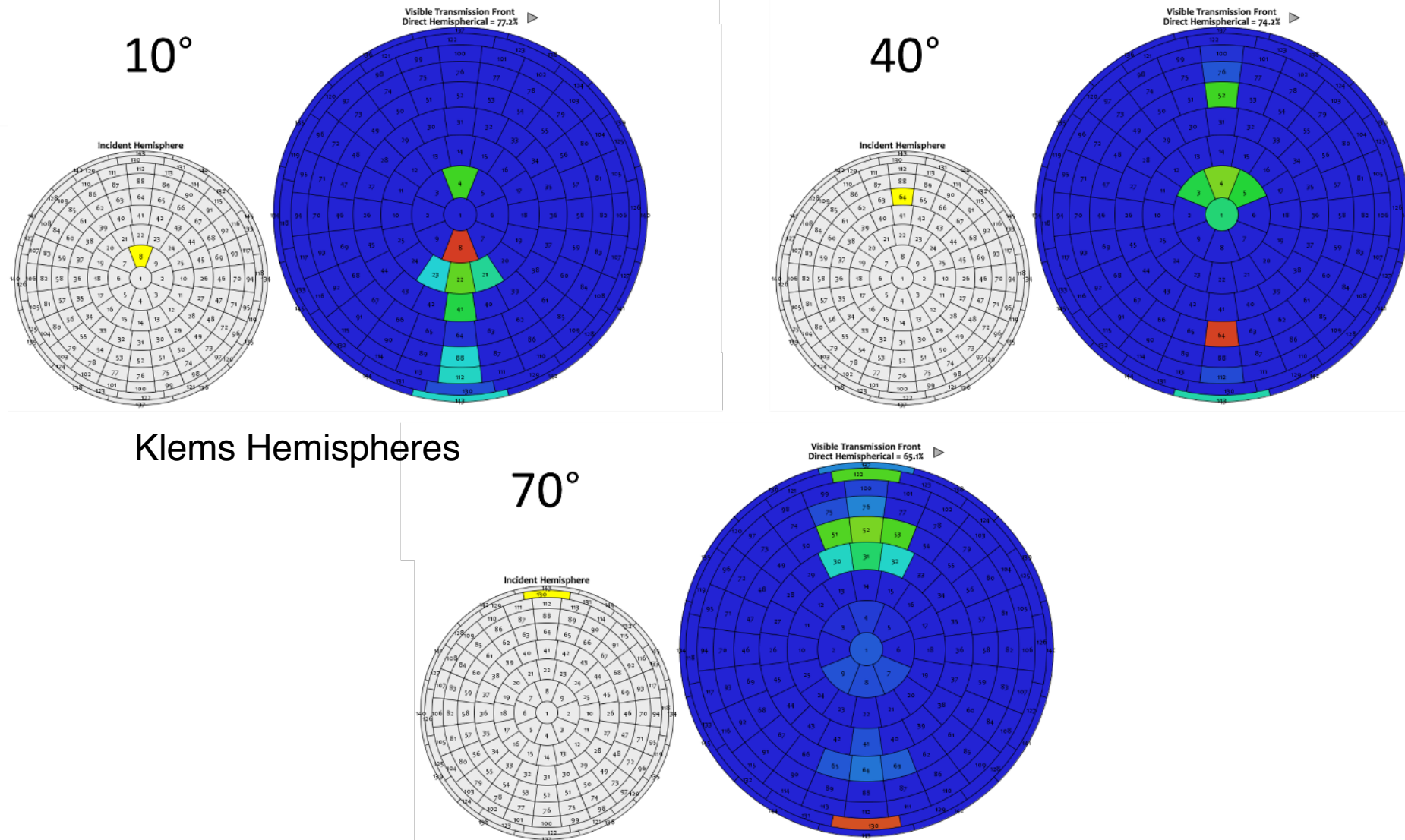
# Material Definition for recycled plastic

modifier	transfunc			identifier	
2+	brtd			funcfile	
Ø					
6	R	G	B	◀	(Colour)
rspec				◀	(specularity)
trans		tspec		◀	(transmission & transmitted specularity)

```
void transfunc Prismatic_Panel
2          brtd      Noise.cal
0
6          0.70      0.70      0.70
0.250
0.500      0.400
```

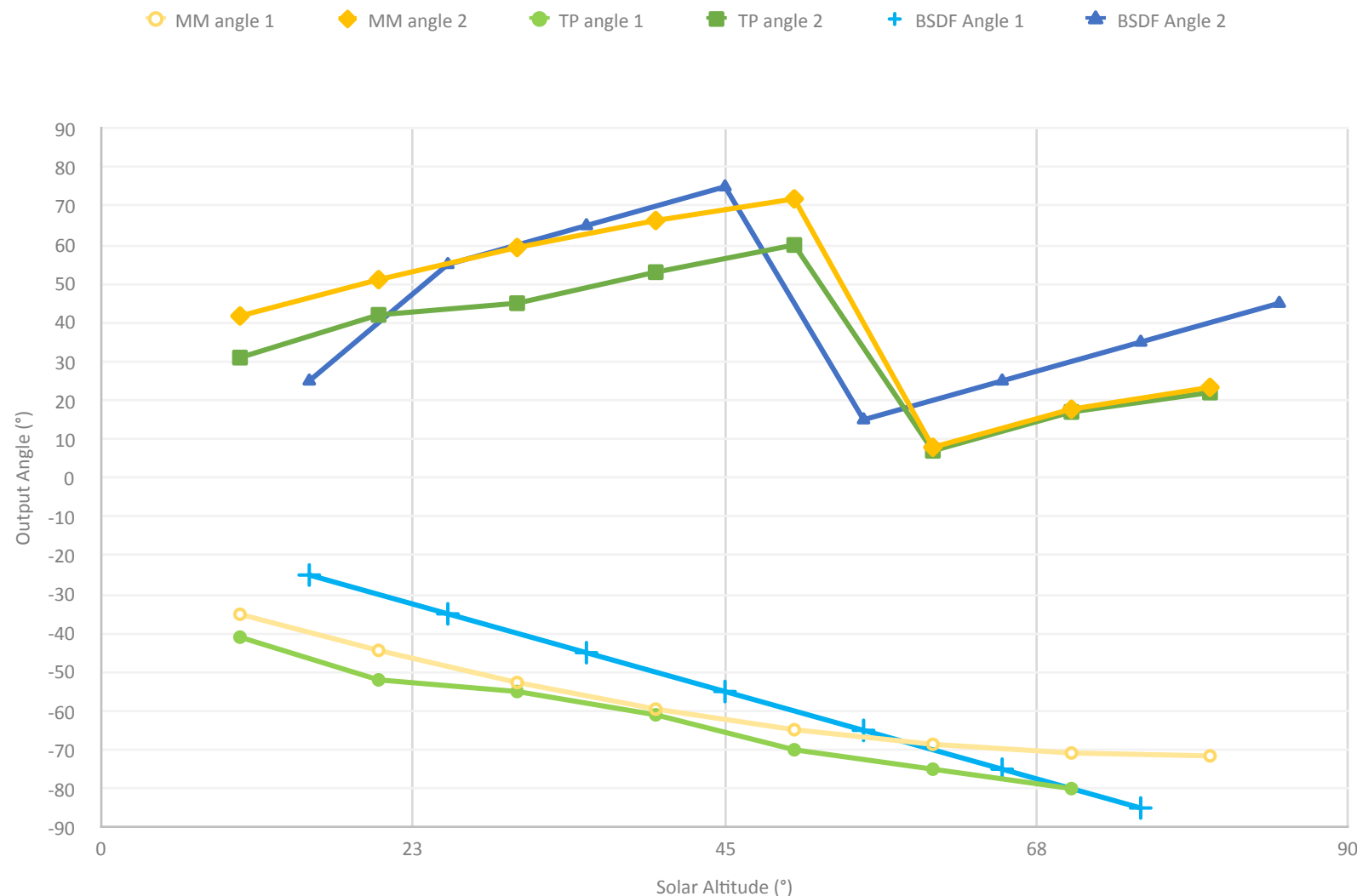


# BSDF viewer





# Verification of BSDF with Mathematical Model

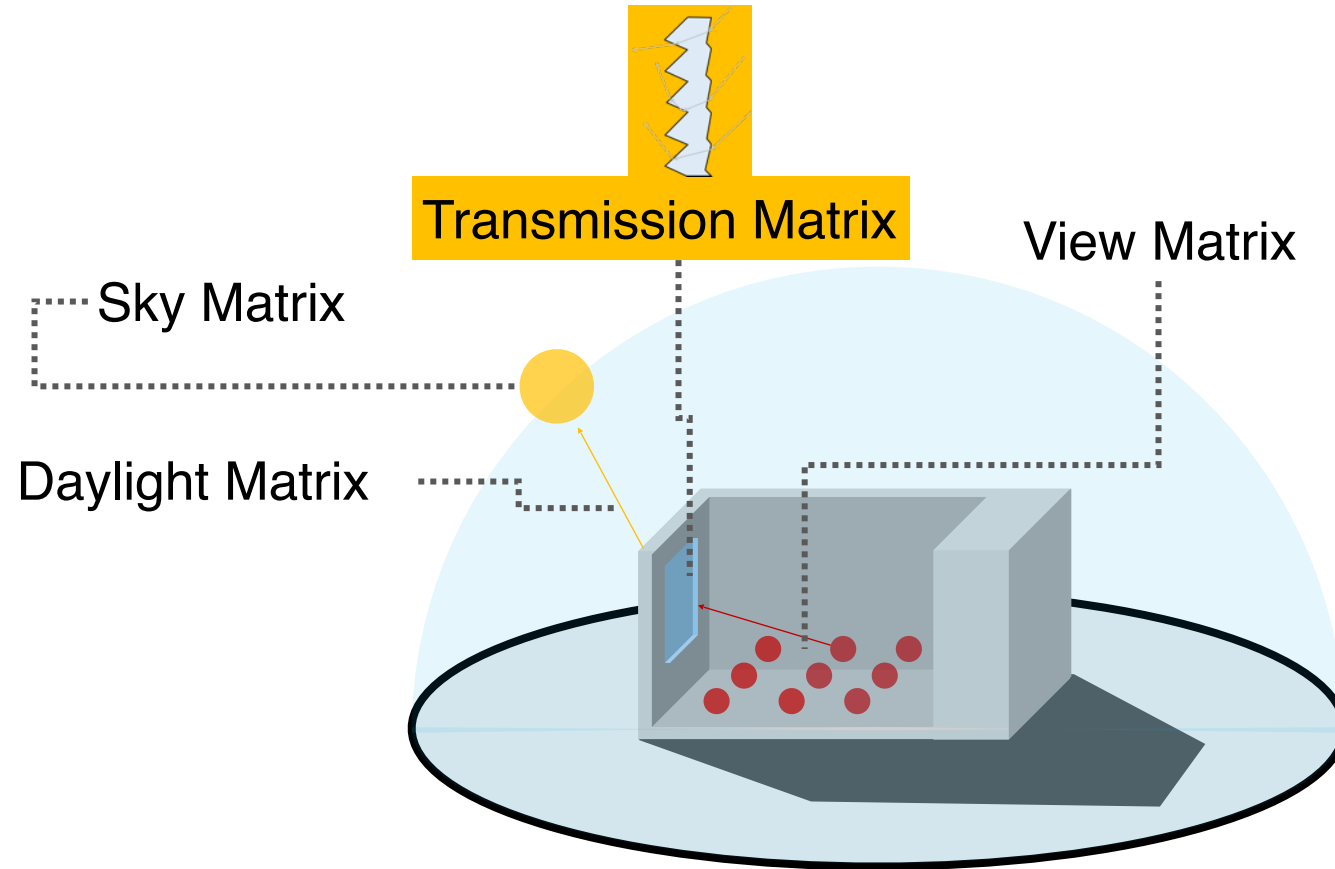


The standard error of the mean

Upwards =  $\pm 3.70^\circ$

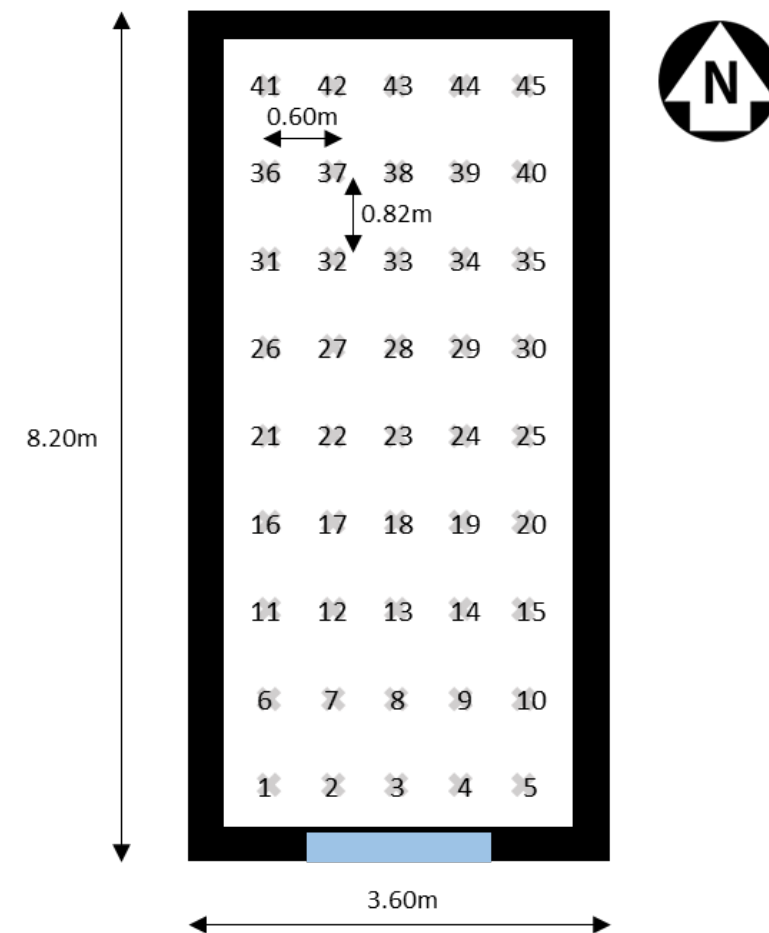
Downwards =  $\pm 5.83^\circ$

# 5 phase method (cont.)

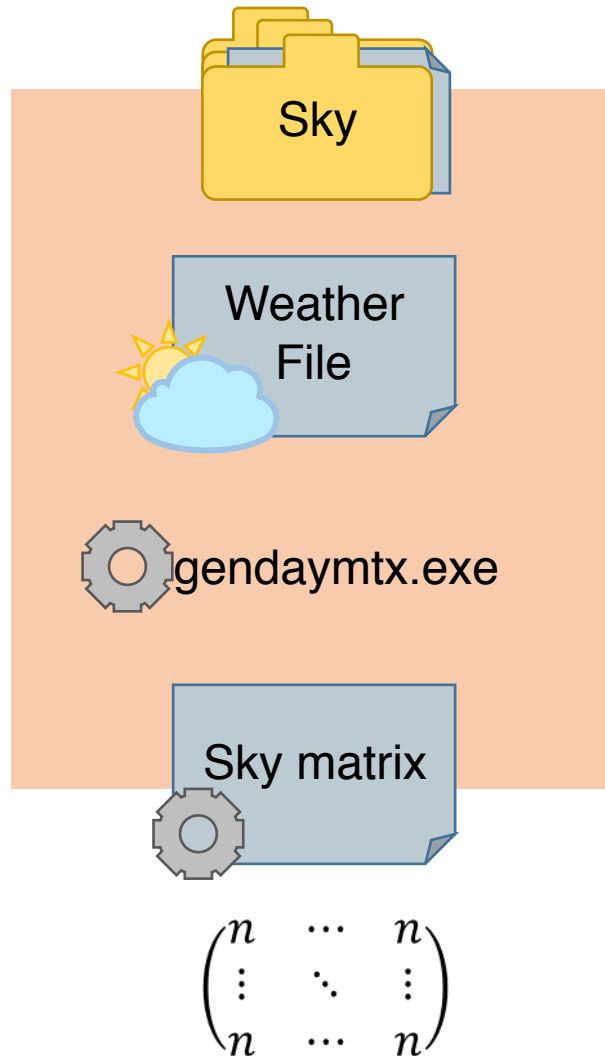


# Parameters for simulation

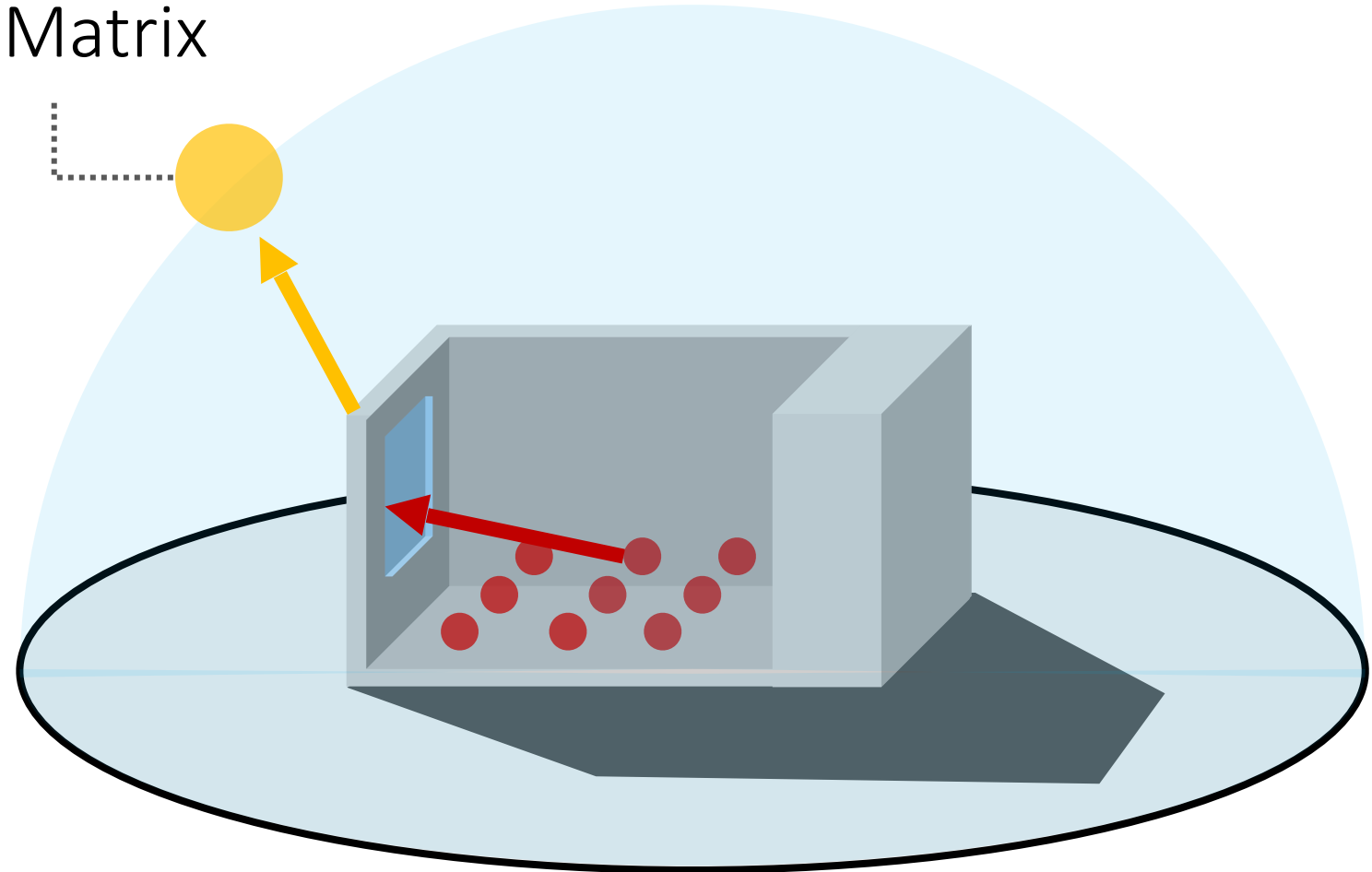
Interior Room Surface	Parameter	Value
Interior Walls		0.50
Floor		0.50
Ceiling	Reflectance (%)	0.80
Window Frame		0.50
Internal Glazing	Transmission (%)	0.88
	SHGC	0.64
Window to wall ratio	Ratio (%)	0.20
Windows Dimensions	Length x Width (m)	2.0 x 1.8
Shading Device	Y/N	No
Illuminance sensor point	Height (m)	0.75
	Distance in-between (m)	0.50
	Number of points	45
	Distribution (L x W)	8 x 5
Sky Condition	Clear/Overcast/uniform	Clear Sky



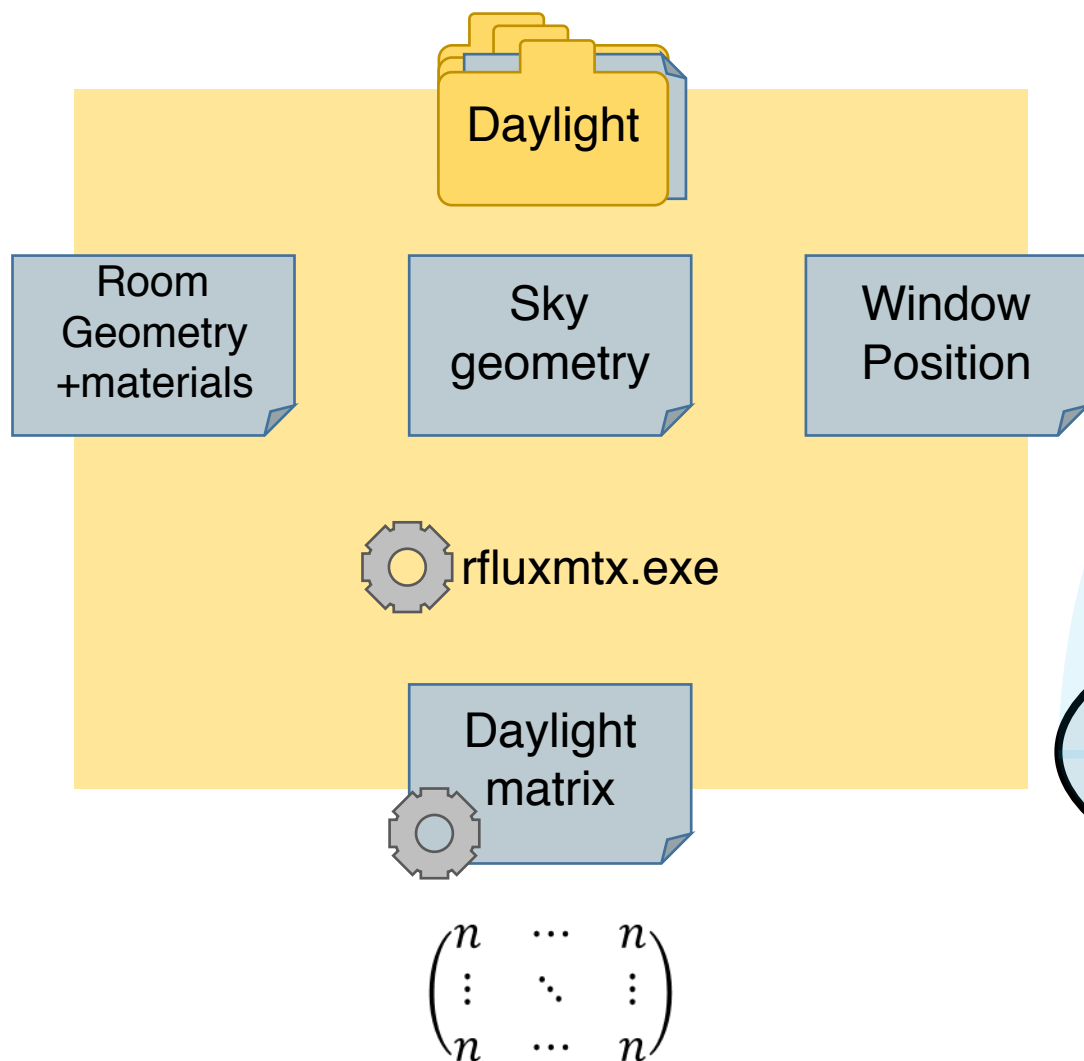
# 5 phase method



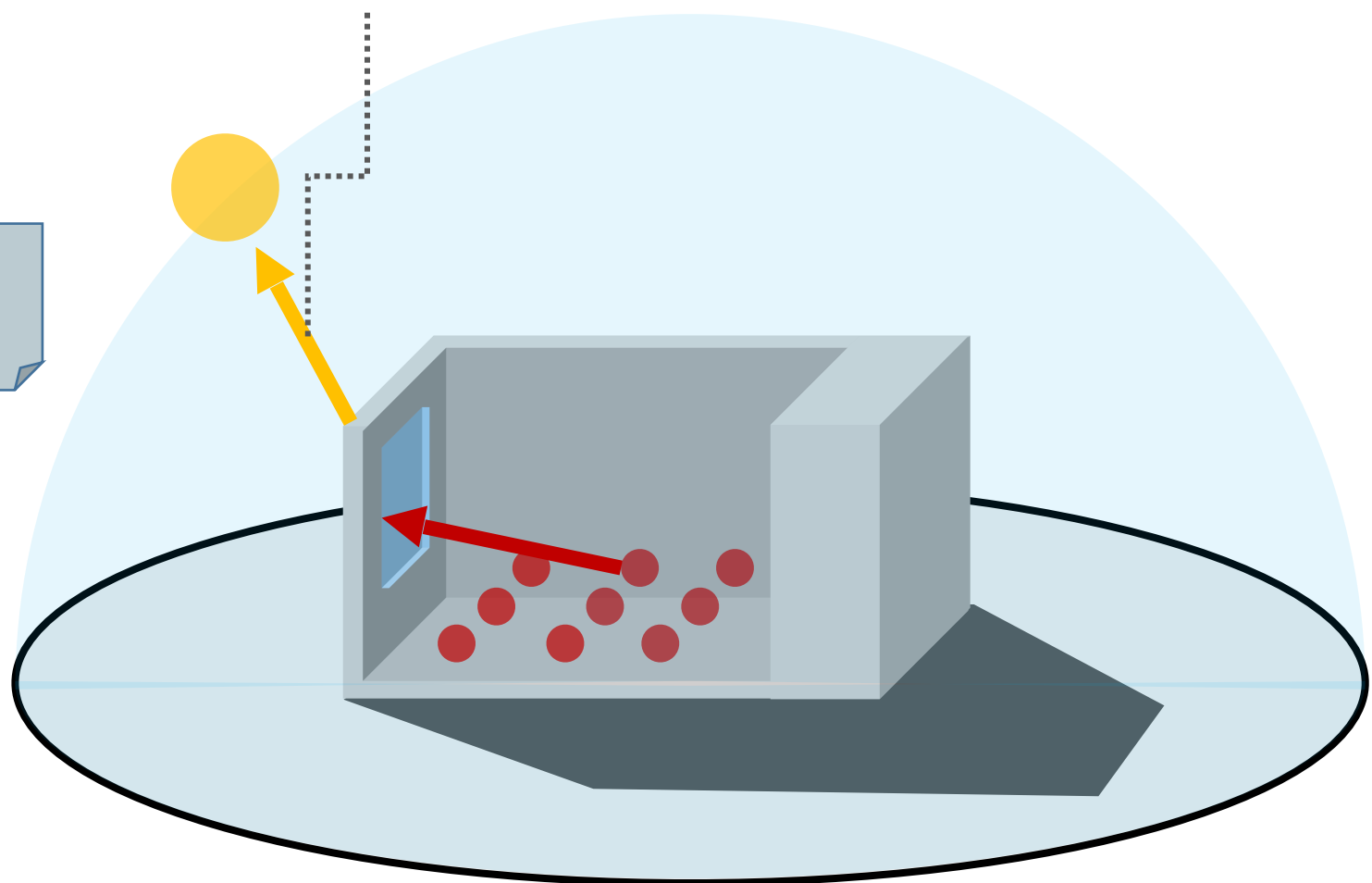
Sky Matrix



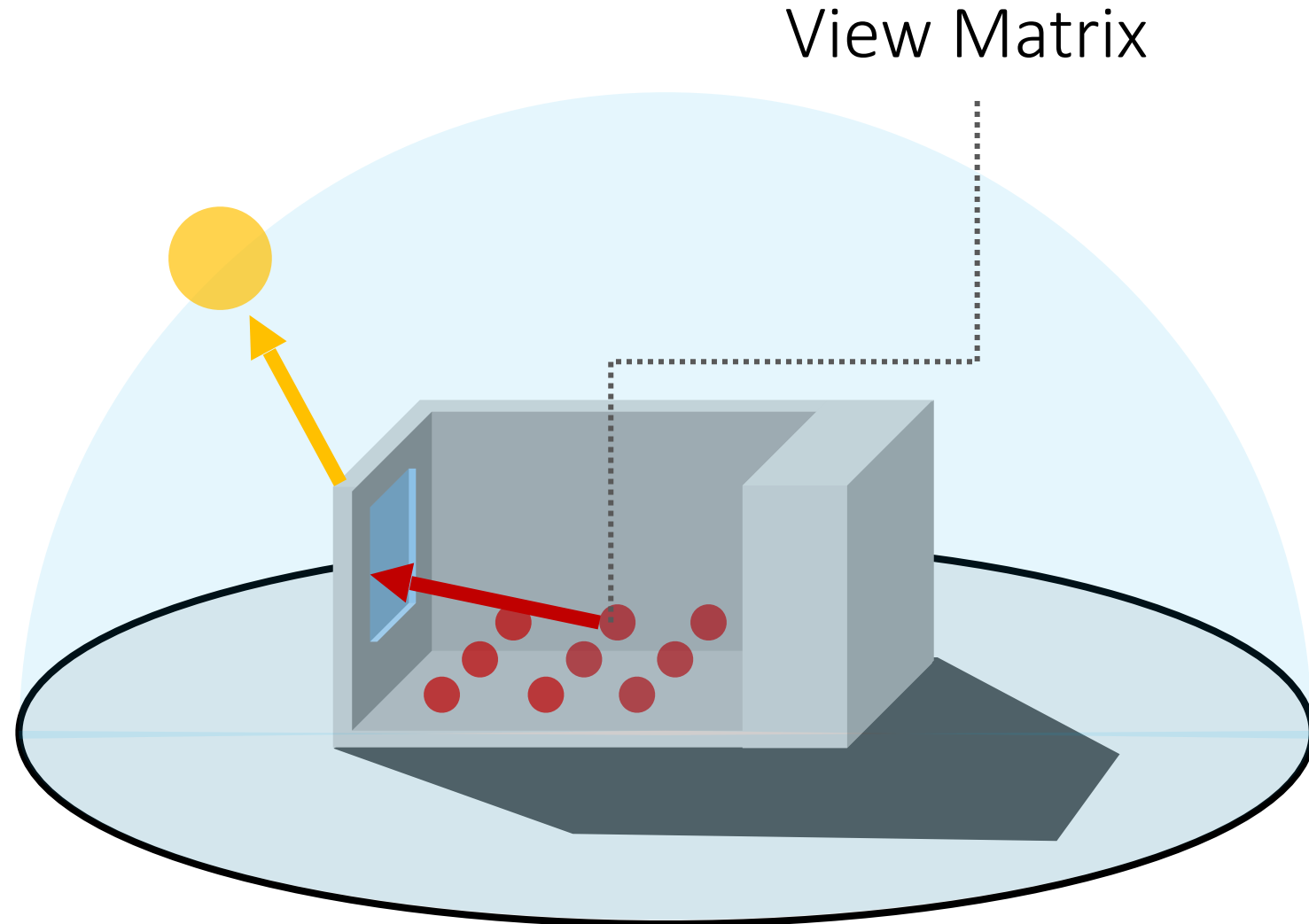
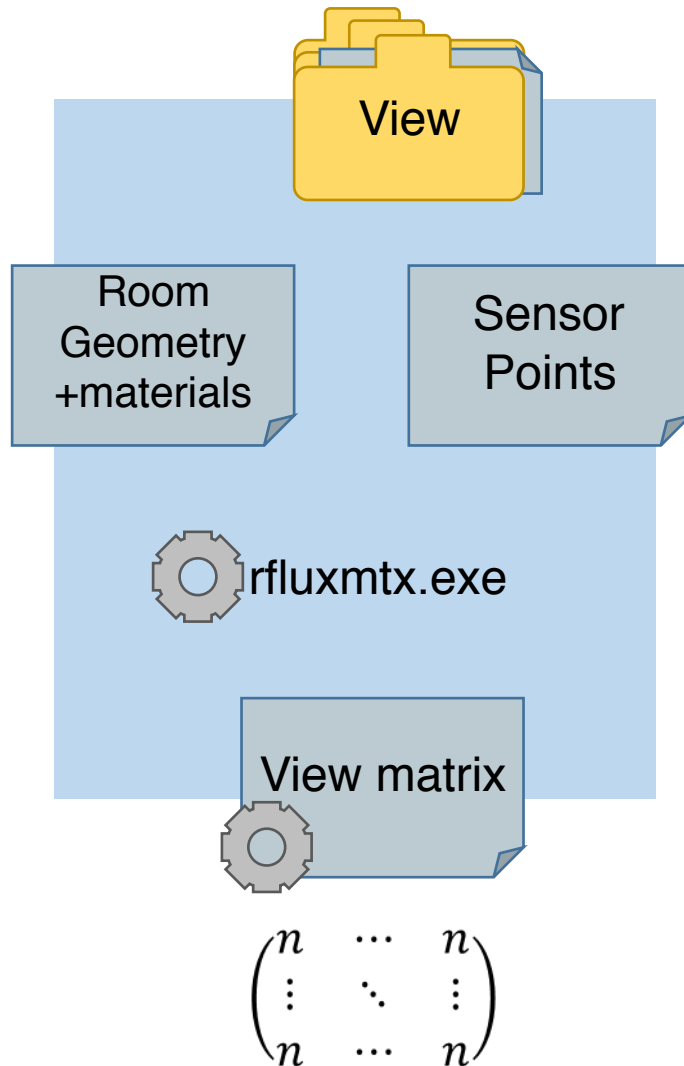
# 5 phase method



## Daylight Matrix



# 5 phase method

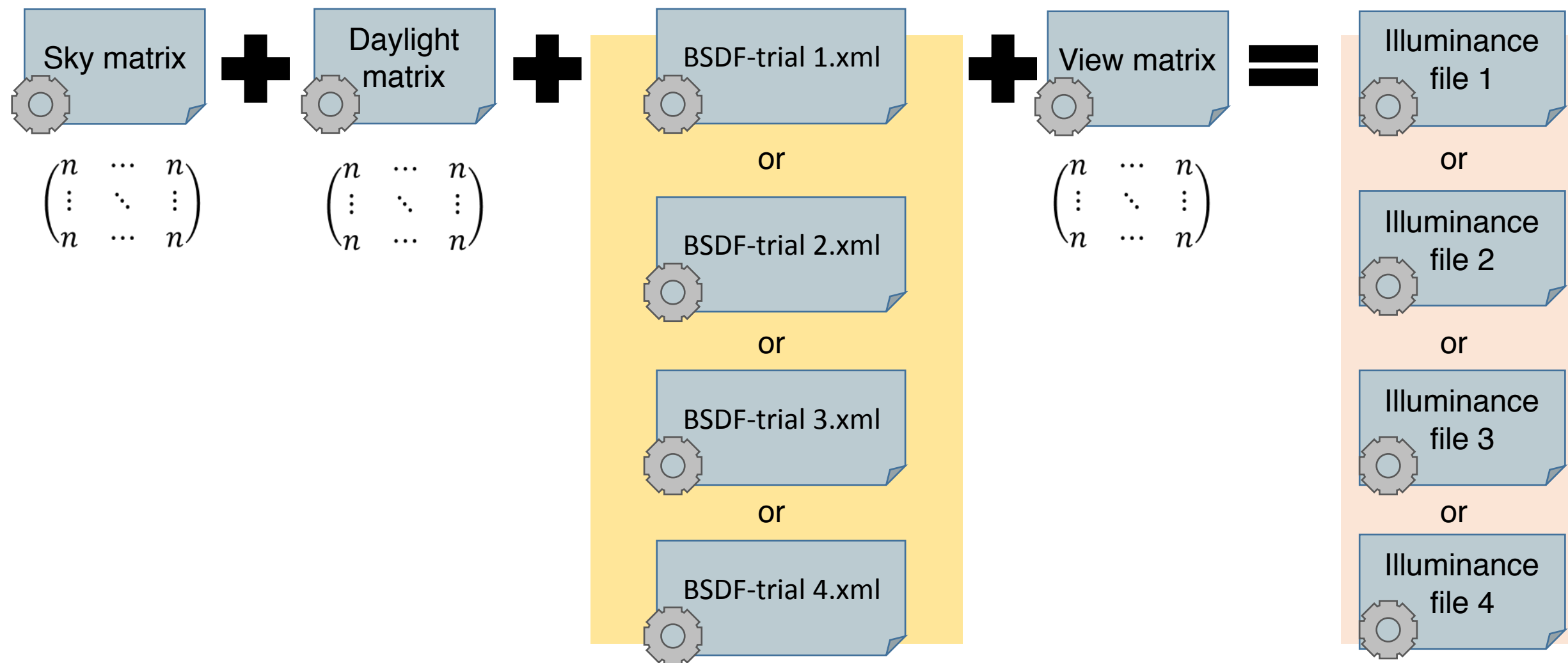




# Trials

Trial No.		BSDF used	Accuracy (number of samples per patch in the BSDF file)
<b>Glass</b>		-	2000
<b>1</b>		Acrylic transparent panel	2000
<b>2</b>		Full frame & transparent panel	2000
<b>3</b>		Full frame & translucent prism	100
<b>4</b>		Full frame & translucent prism	2000

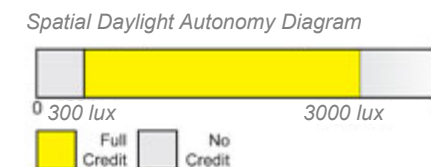
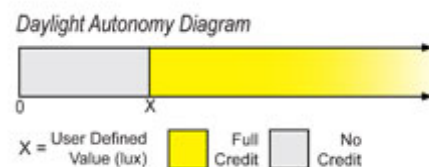
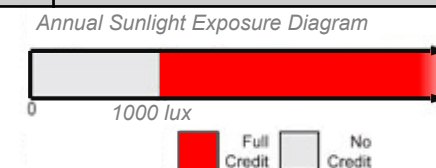
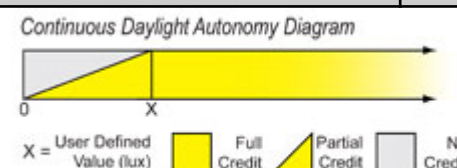
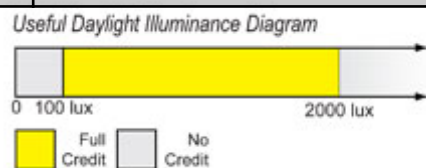
# 5 phase method workflow



[illegible]

# Daylight Measures

Abbrev.	DF	UDI	DA	DA <sub>con</sub>	sDA	ASE
Measure	Daylight Factor	Useful Daylight Illuminance	Daylight Autonomy	Continuous Daylight Autonomy	Spatial Daylight Autonomy	Annual Sunlight Exposure
Creation Year	1900s	2005	1989	2006	2013	2013
Value	Internal / External Illuminance (%)	100 to 2000 lux	>certain set point for 50% of daytime hours	Introduction of partial credit	300 to 3000 lux for 50% of occupied hours	>1000 lux for 250 hours per year



The Natural and Artificial Lighting of Buildings, The Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Vol. XXXII, No. 13, pp. 405-426 and 441-446)

Reinhart, C. F., & Walkenhorst, O. (2001). Validation of dynamic RADIANCE-based daylight simulations for a test office with external blinds. *Energy and Buildings*, 33(7), 683-697.

Nabil A, & Mardaljevic J. (2005a). Useful Daylight Illuminance: A New Paradigm to Access Daylight in Buildings. *Lighting Research & Technology*, 37(1), 41-59.

Reinhart, C., Mardaljevic, J., & Rogers, Z. (2006). Dynamic Daylight Performance Metrics for Sustainable Building Design. *Leukos*, 3(1), 7-31.

# Comparison between Glass and Prismatic design

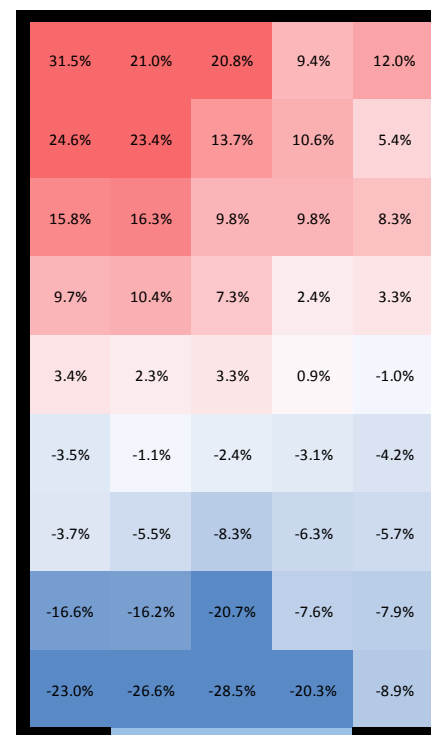
21, March



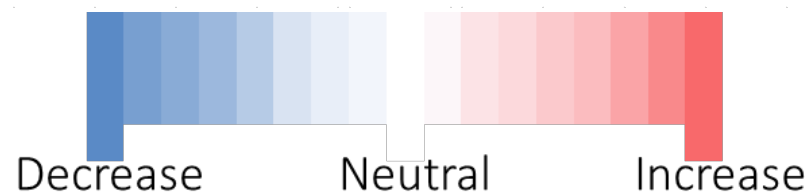
21, June



21, September



21, December



# Comparison between Glass and Prismatic design

$sDA_{300/50\%}$

$ASE_{1000/250}$

25%	29%	29%	28%	26%
32%	35%	37%	35%	36%
46%	50%	47%	46%	46%
63%	65%	67%	66%	64%
73%	74%	74%	73%	74%
80%	81%	81%	81%	80%
84%	84%	84%	84%	83%
86%	87%	87%	87%	85%
86%	90%	91%	90%	85%

0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1%	2%	2%	1%	1%
8%	9%	9%	10%	8%
16%	20%	20%	18%	19%
33%	36%	37%	37%	34%
54%	58%	62%	59%	54%
69%	74%	75%	75%	68%
71%	81%	83%	81%	69%

67%

67%

Plain Window (Glass)

$sDA_{300/50\%}$

$ASE_{1000/250}$

26%	30%	30%	29%	28%
34%	36%	37%	35%	36%
50%	51%	50%	50%	50%
62%	62%	63%	63%	61%
72%	73%	73%	72%	72%
78%	79%	79%	79%	78%
83%	83%	84%	83%	83%
85%	86%	86%	86%	84%
86%	89%	89%	89%	85%

0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1%	1%	1%	0%	1%
4%	7%	7%	7%	5%
16%	20%	20%	18%	18%
32%	36%	37%	37%	33%
54%	58%	60%	58%	53%
68%	73%	74%	73%	68%
72%	79%	82%	80%	70%

76%

56%

Prismatic Array panel (translucent)

# Physical Model



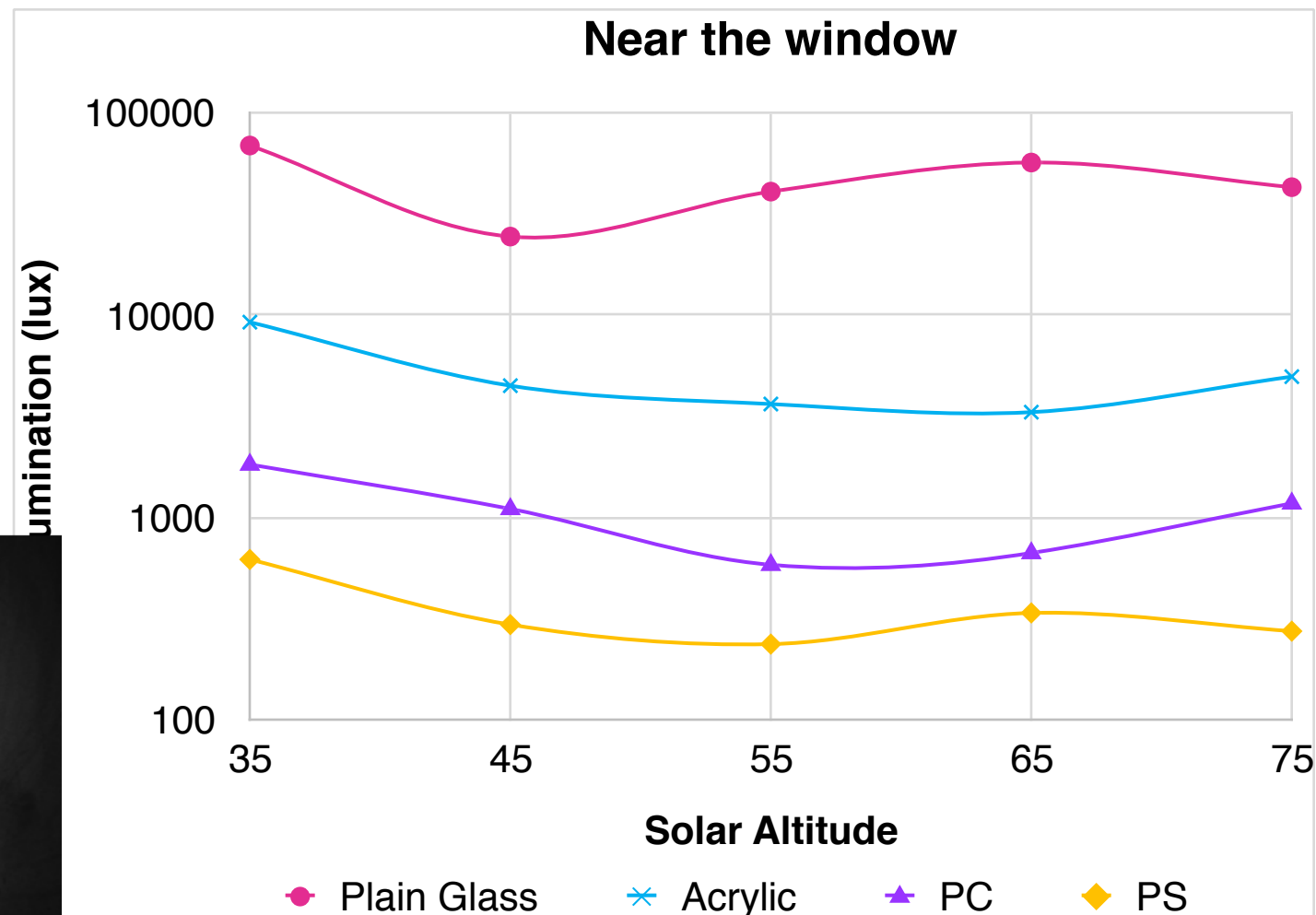
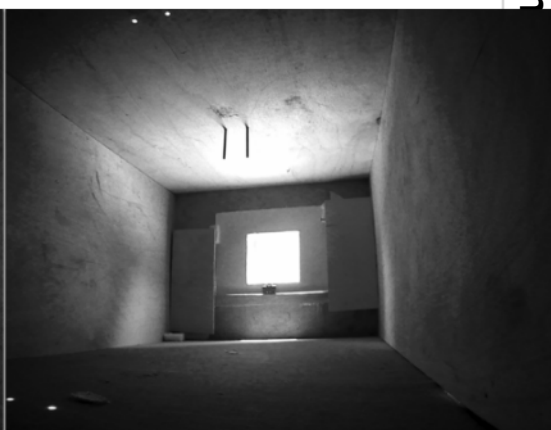
# Near the window

- All panels managed to decrease daylight under 10,000 lux

Acrylic

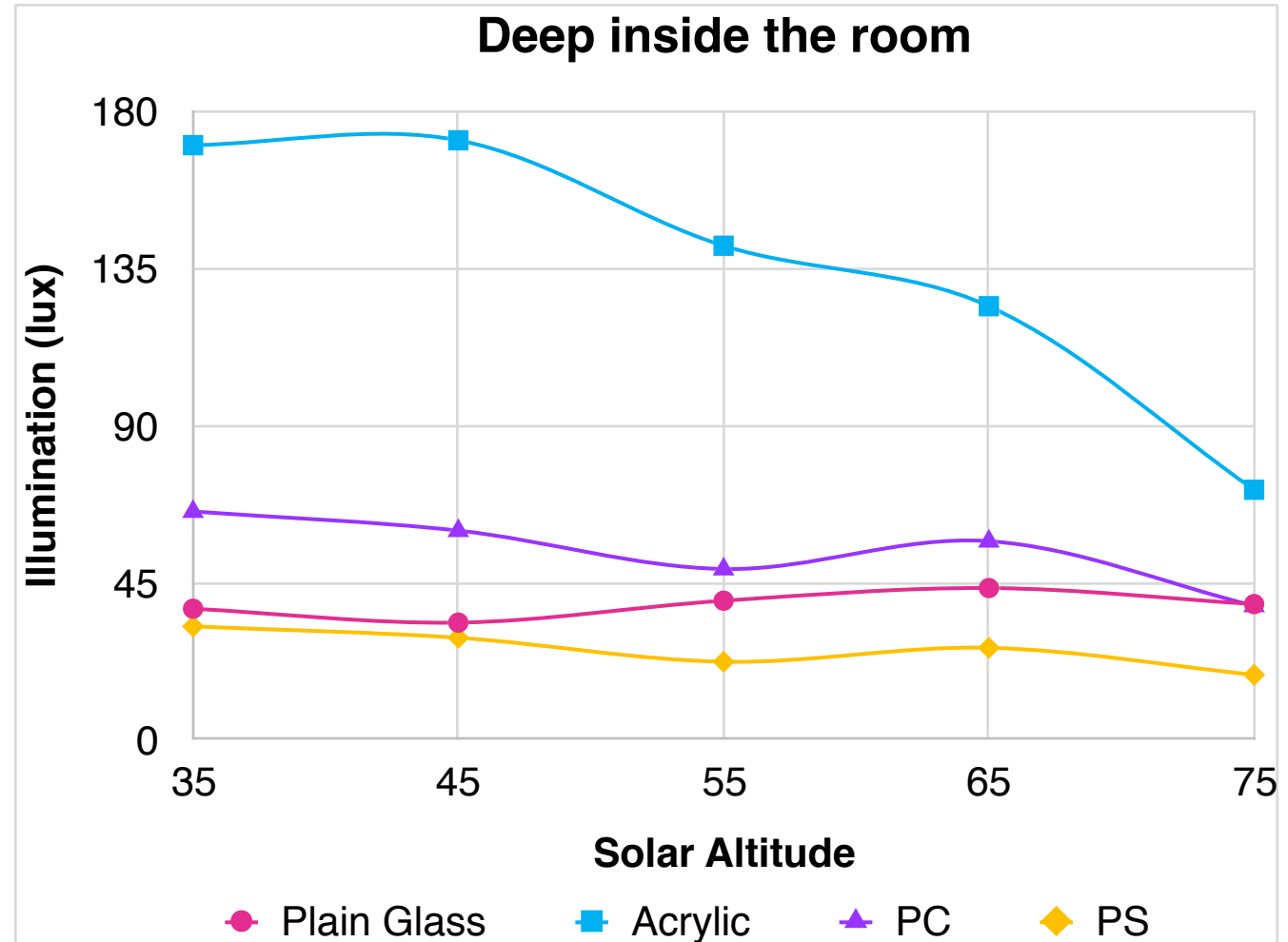


Plain Glass



# Illumination inside the room

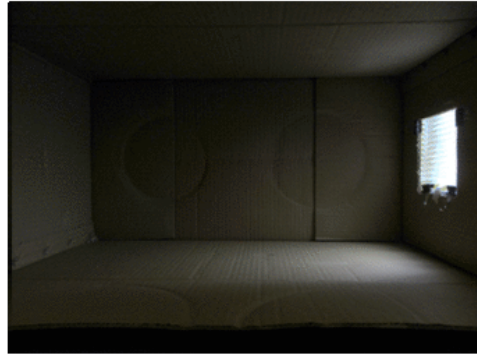
- Performance decrease with higher solar altitudes
- Polystyrene (PS) failed to improve daylight inside the room
- Acrylic highly improved daylighting inside the room



# Plain Glass vs. Acrylic (Animation)

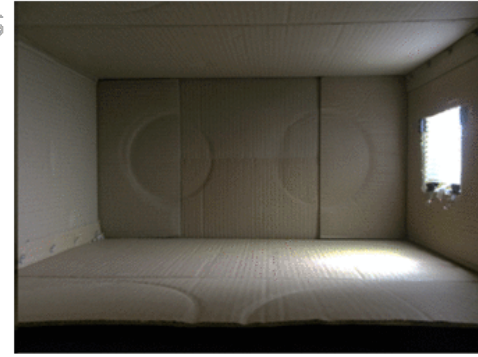
Incident Angles

80°

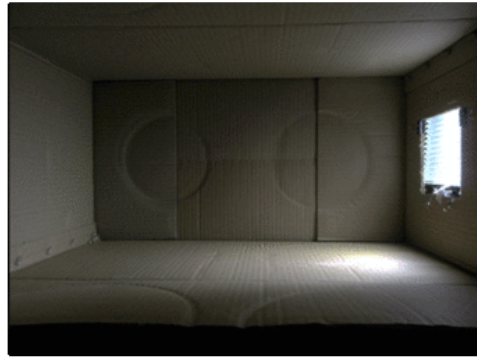


Incident Angles

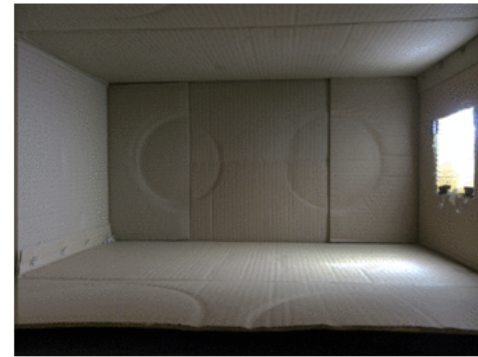
50°



70°



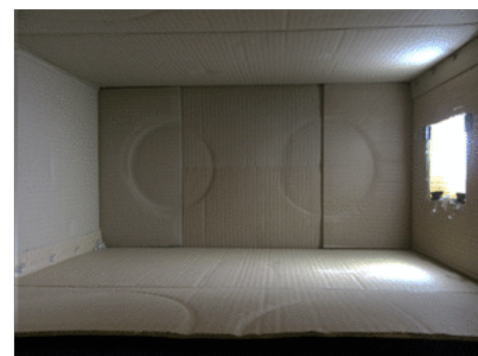
40°



60°



30°



# Conclusions

# General Conclusions

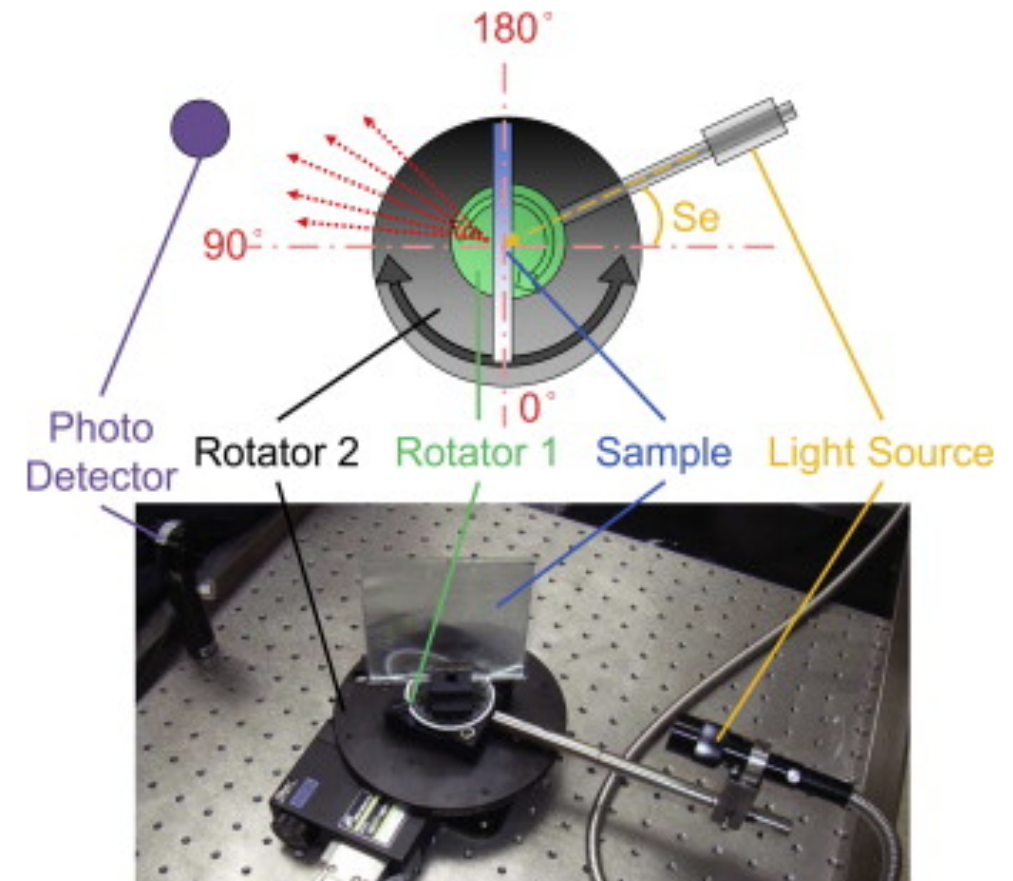
- The Proposed design **improved** daylighting by eliminating the **cave effect**.
- Proposed design has **high** performance at **lower** solar altitudes and **moderate** performance at **higher** solar altitudes.
- The mathematical model constructed is validated against TracePro and Radiance (genBSDF).
- Some **recycled plastics** have the **potential** of replacing glass.
- The proposed design can **compete** with other prismatic structures in the **market**.

# Specific Conclusions

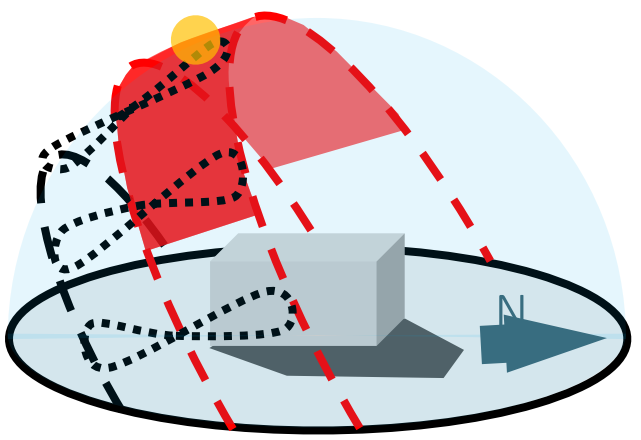
- **Polypropylene** failed to achieve minimum translucency with the simple pressing and heating technique.
- **Heat gain/loss** was not **directly** measured, however a measure like the **ASE** can give an indication of the amount of heat lost/gained
- **Physical measurements** should have considered the effect of **external ground reflection** on the room's illumination

# Limitations and Future Research

- View Blockage / Aesthetics
- Glare Analysis
- Thermal Analysis
- Advanced Optical Measurement
- Physical Model Limitations:
  - **Time** Constraint
  - **Full** scale model
  - Limited no. of **Sensor** points







Thank You