

Surface Mapping

Mipmapping (Lance Williams 83)

Problem

In texture mapping, what color to use when:

One texel maps to many pixels

magnification problem

artifact: blocky looking surface

One pixel maps to many texels

minification problem

artifact: random "speckly" look

Simple solution

bilinear interpolation from neighbors

better, but not a full solution

MIPmapping

Multim in parvo: many things in a small place

Basic approach:

Perform approximate filtering ahead of time

During rendering:

Figure out the size of the pixel in texture space

Use the prefiltered texels to approximate appropriate filter

Some details:

Prefiltering

Construct a texture pyramid

At base goes original texture

Next level up: four texels averaged to one

Until one texel for whole texture

Size of pixel in texture space

Reverse project the corners of each pixel onto the pixel

Use a quadrilateral to connect the result, calculate area

Calculate color from pyramid

Find the level in which texels are just larger than the pixel area

Find the level in which texels are just smaller than the pixel area

Perform trilinear interpolation

Critique

+: Fast

+: No speckling, visually "okay"

-: Filtering is approximate, detail overblurred

Bump mapping (Blinn 78)

Problem

We want the surface to look more bumpy

Don't want more polys

Texture mapping doesn't cut it

Basic approach

Define a height field across the 2D parameter space

Use the defined surface to perturb model surface normals

Render with these normals

Can use Phong shading to make this happen inside a poly

Critique

+ works!

- but not at silhouettes

- slow until pixel shaders

Variants

Normal mapping

Precalculate normal perturbations

Store in "texture": RGB = [XYZ]

Faster, but only possible recently

Displacement mapping

Perturb the surface itself

+ Get silhouettes

- But use lots of geometry

Environment mapping (Blinn & Newell 76)

aka reflection mapping

Problem

Want to render reflective objects

Need speed: can't ray trace

Basic approach

Looking out from the object, take pictures of surroundings

Map these pictures onto a cube (or a sphere, or...)

Map the cube onto the object

At render time, index into the pictures using these mappings

Critique

+: works, sorta!

+: it's interactive!

-: doesn't work well if the reflective object is big in env't

-: doesn't handle concavities in object

-: sampling problems at mapping seems, singularities

Light mapping

Problem

Want lighting with subpolygon accuracy

But want interactivity

Phong shading is too slow, not accurate enough

Basic approach

Precompute lighting

Store results in a texture map

Combine with other textures

Combination can be precomputed or dynamic

Critique

+ Works well

+ Its interactive

- only works for static, view independent lighting (generally)

Multipass texturing

Problem

Want to combine several mapping techniques dynamically

Want interactivity

Basic approach

Could render several times, blend in image

To speed this up, we offer hardware support

This enables blending of several textures in hardware

Advanced ideas

Texture synthesis

Algorithms exist that generate texture images

Synthesis that depends on the surface

Parameterizations

Mapping arbitrary 3D surfaces into 2D textures is hard

Lapped textures offers a solution

Surface geometry

Adding fine geometry to the surface

E.g. hair, other protrusions