Texture Mapping

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Texture mapping

Due to Ed Catmull, PhD thesis, 1974
Refined by Blinn & Newell, 1976

A texture can modulate just about any parameter – diffuse color, specular color, specular exponent, ...

Implementing texture mapping

A texture lives in its own abstract image coordinates parameterized by (s,t) in the range ([0..1],[0..1]):

It can be wrapped around many different surfaces:

With a raycaster, we can do the sphere and cylinder mappings directly (as we will see later). For z-buffers, everything gets converted to a triangle mesh with associated (s,t) coordinates.

Note: if the surface moves/deforms, the texture goes with it.
Mapping to texture image coords

The texture is usually stored as an image. Thus, we need to convert from abstract texture coordinate:

\((s, t)\) in the range \([0..1], [0..1]\)

to texture image coordinates:

\((s_{\text{tex}}, t_{\text{tex}})\) in the range \([0..w_{\text{tex}}], [0..h_{\text{tex}}]\)

**Q:** What do you do when the texture sample you need lands between texture pixels?

Texture resampling

We need to resample the texture:

Thus, we seek to solve for: A common choice is **bilinear interpolation**:

\[
T(a, b) = T(i + \Delta_x, j + \Delta_y)
\]

Displacement mapping

Textures can be used for more than just color.

In **displacement mapping**, a texture is used to perturb the surface geometry itself. Here’s the idea in 2D:

- These displacements “animate” with the surface
- In 3D, you would of course have \((s, t)\) parameters instead of just \(s\).

Suppose \(Q\) is a simple surface, like a cube. Will it take more work to render the modified surface \(Q\)?

Bump mapping

In **bump mapping**, a texture is used to perturb the normal:

- Use the original, simpler geometry, \(Q(s)\), for hidden surfaces
- Use the normal from the displacement map for shading:

\[
\vec{N} = \text{normal}[Q(s)]
\]

What artifacts in the images would reveal that bump mapping is a fake?
Displacement vs. bump mapping

Input texture

Rendered as displacement map over a rectangular surface

Displacement vs. bump mapping (cont’d)

Original rendering

Rendering with bump map wrapped around a cylinder

Bump map and rendering by Wyvern Aldinger

Solid textures

Q: What kinds of artifacts might you see from using a marble veneer instead of real marble? One solution is to use solid textures:

- Use model-space coordinates to index into a 3D texture
- Like “carving” the object from the material

One difficulty of solid texturing is coming up with the textures.

Solid textures (cont’d)

Here’s an example for a vase cut from a solid marble texture:
**Solid textures (cont'd)**

\[
in(x,y,z) = \text{stripes}(x) \\
\text{shift}(x,y,z) = K \cdot \text{noise}(x,y,z) \\
\text{out}(x,y,z) = \text{stripes}(x + \text{shift}(x,y,z))
\]

Increasing \( K \)

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**Environment mapping**

In **environment mapping** (also known as **reflection mapping**), a texture is used to model an object's environment:

- Rays are bounced off objects into environment
- Color of the environment used to determine color of the illumination
- Environment mapping works well when there is just a single object – or in conjunction with ray tracing

This can be readily implemented (without interreflection) using a fragment shader, where the texture is stored in a "cube map" instead of a sphere.

With a ray tracer, the concept is easily extended to handle refraction as well as reflection (and interreflection).