

CONTROL POLYGON BASED TEXTURE SYNTHESIS ON BIQUADRATIC BÉZIER RATIONAL SURFACES

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Abstract: Existing texture synthesis algorithms fail to deliver effectively in application areas where progressive rendering of texture is required. To provide a practical solution to this problem we propose a novel algorithm for progressive-texture synthesis on surfaces, which makes use of the Embedded Zero-tree of Wavelet (EZW) idea proposed by Shapiro et al., 1993 which is capable of prioritising the coefficients of a DWT decomposed image according to their visual significance. We demonstrate the use of the proposed algorithm on texturing a single biquadratic surface and two smoothly joined biquadratic surfaces. It is further shown that the proposed texture synthesis approach on Bézier patches allows the algorithm's general use in texture synthesis on many common surface topologies and can be generalised for arbitrarily shaped surfaces. We provide experimental results to prove the effectiveness of the proposed approach, when synthesising textures of regular, irregular and stochastic nature. Further experimental results are provided to illustrate the practical use of the proposed texture synthesis algorithm in resource constrained application domains.

1 INTRODUCTION

Texture synthesis provides a practical solution for data acquisition and is often used to enhance realism of artificially created scenes. As result, a number of 'image based' texturing algorithms have been proposed in the past decade. A typical texture synthesis algorithm starts from a sample image and attempts to produce a larger texture with a visual appearance similar to the sample, by repeated placement of micro patterns of texture elements. It does this in a way that when perceived by an observer, the synthesized texture appears to be generated by the same underlying stochastic process. However all texture synthesis algorithms are challenged by the high statistical variability of textures involved in synthesis. Thus a universal solution to fast texture synthesis yet remains an open problem. Texturing surfaces provides further challenges and attracted much research interest in the recent past due to applications in computer graphics, animated movie production, computer games, education, architecture, computer art and virtual productions.

A major proportion of research in the area of texture synthesis has focused on synthesizing texture

on planner surfaces. Recently a number of approaches have been proposed for texture synthesis on surfaces. These texture synthesis approaches can be broadly classified into two groups, namely, pixel based (Wei & Levoy, 2000, 2001; Turk, 2001; Ying et al., 2001; Ashikhmin et al., 2001; Tong et al., 2002; Shet et al., 2006; Lefebvre and Hoppe, 2006) and patch based (Neyret and Cani, 1999; Praun et al., 2000; Soler et al., 2002; Sebastian et al., 2003; Wang et al., 2005; Wing Fu et al., 2005) approaches. Pixel based approaches consider a pixel as the basic unit in the synthesis process. Patch based approaches are an alternative to pixel based approaches where an attempt is made to synthesis texture by copying selected regions of pixels from the sample texture and stitching them together. This approach overcomes the limitations of the pixel based approaches, i.e. being limited to work with certain types of textures and the lack of computational speed. Neyret-Cani's 1999, technique is based on precomputed triangular texture samples which are mapped non-periodically. However this method is restricted to synthesising isotropic textures. In the lapped texture technique proposed by Praun et al, 2000, the texture patches are first oriented and are subsequently placed in an overlapping fashion on a

surface with a predefined vector field. The method works for a limited set of textures. Soler et al., 2002 introduces hierarchical texturing to overcome drawbacks of previous algorithm. The method is capable of capturing low-frequency pattern while preserving high frequency randomness in the texture. The synthesis time may vary from few minutes to few tens of minutes. Sebastian et al., 2003 separated the texture pre-processing from synthesis and proposed two independent phases. Pre-processed texture is stored on a disk and used when needed. This process is very slow but only needs to be performed once. The pre-processing time vary from minutes to a few tens of minutes. Further storing the texture on a disk is essential. Wang et al., 2005 algorithm is mainly based on global conformal parameterization of surfaces, where the textures are preserved on surfaces without seams or cracks. This algorithm is simple for texture synthesis but parameterization process adopted is time consuming thereby slowing down the overall performance. Wing Fu et al., 2005 introduced the concept of Wang tiles. Initially a low distortion conformal map is created from the input surface, which forms a quad based geometry. The texture is then laid out on quad surfaces, properly oriented and then mapped back on to the surface. However this approach inherits all drawbacks of the image quilting algorithms.

All the above techniques are applied on irregular shapes of triangular meshes, which results in seams at edges. Size of triangles in the mesh also varies which makes the visual artefacts on the surface, prominent. Further to this, it will also use extensive bandwidth in transmission media as triangular mesh information and texture are in uncompressed format. Further the animation of this triangular mesh is difficult as they are rigid. To overcome many of the above problems we have proposed to use NURBS, a form of surface representation which helps to compress a mesh and thus can be applied in constrained bandwidth environments. NURBS also provides additional facilities to animate the surface.

The inspiration of our work comes from the present requirements for progressive texture synthesis on surfaces, which results in extensive use of transmission media with limited bandwidth for modern application domains such as remote visualisation, distributed/collaborative gaming etc. Current texture synthesis algorithms on surfaces are time consuming and fail to perform in progressive/transform domain. To overcome this problem we propose a progressive texture synthesis algorithm using multiresolution DWT

decomposition, coefficient prioritisation using EZW (embedded zero-tree wavelet) algorithm and surface representation using biquadratic rational surfaces which falls under patch base category. We prove the proposed novel algorithm is capable of creating seamlessly varying quality levels of synthesized texture on surfaces. According to the authors knowledge it is a first attempt that demonstrates progressive texture synthesis on meshes, which utilises control polygons generated from the biquadratic Bézier equations. We show that the proposed work can be generalised to any type of arbitrary mesh.

For clarity of presentation the paper is organised as follows Section-2 introduces the reader to the research background and fundamentals. Section-3 presents the proposed algorithm. Section-4 provides experimental results and a detailed analysis. Finally, Section-5 concludes, with an insight to possible improvements and future variations.

2 RESEARCH BACKGROUND

For the purpose of clarity and ease of reference we have summarized the fundamental techniques used for multiresolution representation of texture (DWT) (Wickramanayake et al., 2005), DWT coefficient prioritization (EZW) (Shapiro et al., 1993) and surface parameterization (biquadratic rational surfaces) in this section. Hence readers who are familiar with these concepts can forgo reading this section.

2.1 DWT Representation of Texture Image

Textured images contain a large amount of perceptual data. Therefore the number of bits required to represent/encode a texture image is high. However typical images consist of a wide range of frequency components spread throughout the human visual frequency band. Some of these frequency components have a significant effect in human perception while some others have very low significance. Fortunately texture images are often of this type. The Discrete Wavelet Transforms (DWT) provide a compact multi resolution representation of an image. It gives a signal representation in correspondence to a narrow band, low frequency range and some of the coefficients represent short data lags corresponding to a wide band, high frequency range. Using the concept of scale, data representing a continuous trade off between space

and frequency can be made available for further processing.

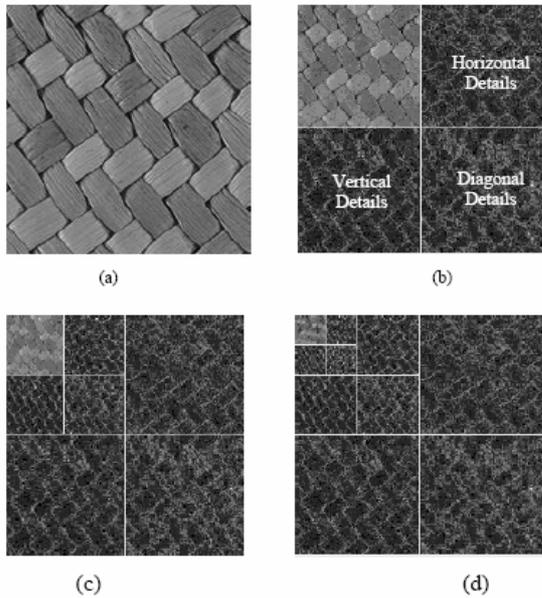


Figure 1: Transforming the sample texture into a multi-resolution image representation. (a) Sample texture, (b) single level decomposition, (c) two level decomposition, (d) three level decomposition.

In our algorithm we use two-dimensional DWT. To begin with, the texture image is subdivided into four sub-bands using horizontal and vertical DWT filters over the image pixels. The resulting sub bands labeled LH1, HL1 and HH1 represent the finest scale wavelet coefficient whereas the sub-band labeled LL1 represents low resolution coefficients. In order to obtain the next level of wavelet sub-bands, the sub band labeled LL1 is further decomposed and sampled using the vertical and horizontal DWT filters. This process is repeated until the required final decomposition is reached (see Figure 1). The coefficients of the subbands are then used for speeding up searching process and prioritized using the EZW algorithm presented next.

2.2 Embedded Zerotree Wavelet (EZW) Algorithm

The *Zerotrees of wavelet coefficient* concept was originally introduced by Shapiro et al., 1993 in progressive encoding of images. It is based on two important observations:

1. Natural images in general have a low pass spectrum. Therefore when an image is wavelet transformed the energy in the

subbands decreases as the scale decreases (low scale means high resolution), so the wavelet coefficients will, on average be smaller in the higher subbands than in the lower subbands.

2. Large wavelet coefficients are visually more important than smaller wavelet coefficients.

EZW provides a compact representation of perceptually significant coefficients and multi resolution construction capability of an image. The idea is to organize DWT coefficients of an image (see Figure 1) in a prioritized order of visual significance, depending on their position and magnitude in the DWT decomposition and to subsequently encode the ordered list of coefficients following an embedded coding algorithm. In an embedded coding algorithm the encoder can terminate the encoding at any point thereby allowing a target bit rate or target distortion metric to be met exactly. On the other hand, given a bit stream, a decoder can cease decoding at any point in the bit stream. Thus it is capable of producing exactly the same image that would have been encoded at the bit rate corresponding to the truncated bit stream.

In this paper we use the EZW algorithm's initial coefficient prioritization procedure to prioritize their use within texture synthesis algorithm. Due to space limitation we refer readers interested in the detail of the EZW coefficient prioritization algorithm to Shapiro et al., 1993. We show that the visually prioritized availability of coefficients enables seamless progressive texture synthesis capability on biquadratic rational surface using control polygon. This is the main contribution of our present work.

2.3 Biquadratics Bézier Surfaces

This section will briefly introduce biquadratic surface patches and construction of simple surface using them. For more details the readers are referred to Bez H.E, 2006.

Rational parametrisation is a de-facto standard representation in computer graphics and geometric modelling software, allowing portability across applications and systems. In addition to possessing desirable geometric properties, rational parametrisation

- ◆ requires the evaluation of only polynomial functions,
- ◆ gives rise to a compact data-structure,
- ◆ facilitates interactive control of shape,
- ◆ is complete in the sense that approximation of any shape to a specified tolerance δ can

be achieved, and exact parametrisation (i.e. $\delta=0$) is often possible.

Rational parametrisations of surfaces comprise local atlases, or patches, of the form:

$$\tau(s,t) = \frac{\sum_{k,j=0}^{n,m} b_{n,k}(t)b_{m,j}(s)v_{k,j}^*}{\sum_{k,j=0}^{n,m} b_{n,k}(t)b_{m,j}(s)\omega_{k,j}} \quad 0 < s,t < 1, \quad (2.1)$$

where $\omega_{k,j}$ are the weights and $v_{k,j}$ are the Bernstein vectors. If all the weights are non-zero this may be expressed as

$$\tau(s,t) = \frac{\sum_{k,j=0}^{n,m} b_{n,k}(t)b_{m,j}(s)\omega_{k,j}v_{k,j}}{\sum_{k,j=0}^{n,m} b_{n,k}(t)b_{m,j}(s)\omega_{k,j}}, \quad 0 < s,t < 1 \quad (2.2)$$

where $v_{k,j} = \frac{v_{k,j}^*}{\omega_{k,j}}$ are the Bézier vertices. The values of

n and m determine the degree of the parametrisation; if $n = m = 2$ the patch is said to be biquadratic and if $n = m = 3$ it is bi-cubic.

With given nine control points we compute and draw the biquadratic surface patch defined by them. (see Figure 2)

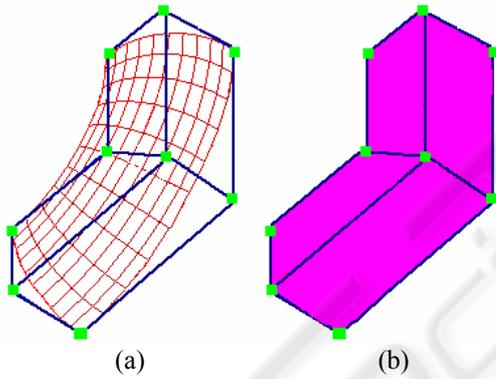


Figure 2: (a) Green Colour: Biquadratic control polygon point, Red Colour: Smooth surface mesh generated using control polygon (b) Control polygon mesh (for 9 control points generate 4 faces).

Many of the desirable geometric properties of rational representation, e.g. the convex hull property and the existence of bézier vertices, are lost if negative or zero weights occur - hence, in computer graphics and geometric modelling applications, positive weight parametrisations are always preferred. For computational efficiency, low degree parametrisations are desirable.

3 PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

In this section we provide the design details of the proposed texture synthesis algorithm.

3.1 Texture Synthesis on Control Polygon

Figure 3 illustrates the basic block diagram of the proposed algorithm. The texture synthesis process starts by applying a n -level ($n=3$ used in our experiments) 2D DWT (e.g. Haar Transform) on sample texture image, which is denoted as I_{sample} . The application of single level 2D DWT on the sample texture results in a set of component images i.e. sub-bands, as follows:

$$(I_{LL1}, I_{HL1}, I_{LH1}, I_{HH1}) = DWT(I_{sample}) \quad (3.1)$$

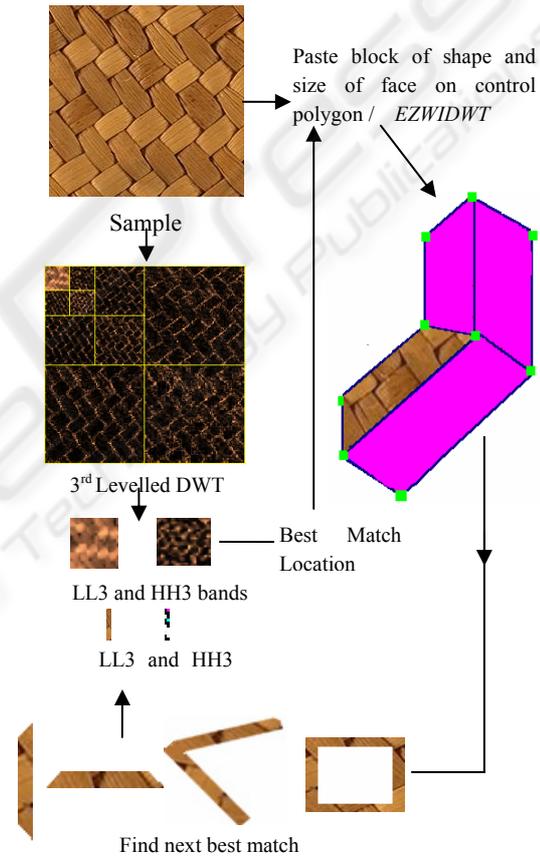


Figure 3: Proposed block diagram for texture synthesis on biquadratic surfaces.

Where $I_{LL1}, I_{HL1}, I_{LH1}, I_{HH1}$ are the texture image sub-bands corresponding respectively to low-resolution approximation, vertical details, horizontal details and diagonal details of sample texture. Similarly 2nd level and 3rd level decomposition are obtained by applying DWT to the low-resolution sub-bands of previous decomposition level. This can be mathematically represented as follows.

$$(I_{LL2}, I_{HL2}, I_{LH2}, I_{HH2}) = DWT(I_{LL1}) \quad (3.2)$$

$$(I_{LL3}, I_{HL3}, I_{LH3}, I_{HH3}) = DWT(I_{LL2}) \quad (3.3)$$

$$(I_{LLn+1}, I_{HLn+1}, I_{LHn+1}, I_{HHn+1}) = DWT(I_{LLn}) \quad (3.4)$$

from n -level we extract low-resolution and diagonal detail bands i.e. I_{LLn} and I_{HHn} .

We generalise the notation used in equation (3.1)-(3.6) as I_{pl} where $p \in \{LL, HL, LH, HH\}$ and $l \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ where p represent the sub-bands within each decomposition level (LL-low resolution, LH-horizontal, HL- vertical, HH diagonal) and l represent the decomposition level. DWT represent the forward discrete wavelet transform.

The basic idea of proposed algorithm is to synthesise texture on control polygons of a given surface. Let $B_{LLn(x,y)}$ represent a general polygonal block of decomposed sample image located at position (x, y) relative to the sub-bands (p, l) 's origin.

Initially we randomly pick block $B_{LLn(x,y)}$ from the sample texture image with identical size and shape to that of the control polygon face. This randomly created texture block is mapped to the control polygon surface shown in figure 3. [Note: the details of the mapping process are described in section 3.2.]

In locating the next block to be synthesized, we cut a 8 pixel wide template of pixels along the edge of already synthesized, neighbouring blocks, apply a 3 level DWT decomposition on the template block and extract low-resolution and diagonal detail bands which are used for searching in sample LL3 and HH3 bands. Best matching block can be found by minimizing the L2 norm. EZW algorithm can be used if coefficient prioritisation is used to further reduce complexity.

In general, if $B_{pl(x1,y1)}$ and $B_{pl(x2,y2)}$ are two randomly shaped blocks to be matched, we say $B_{pl(x1,y1)}$ is the best match for $B_{pl(x2,y2)}$ if $d(B_{pl(x1,y1)}, B_{pl(x2,y2)})$ is minimum for all possible B_{pl} blocks, which is calculated as,

$$d(B_{pl(x1,y1)}, B_{pl(x2,y2)}) = \sum_{i \in \partial B} \left[\left\{ \left[\partial B_{LLn(x1,y1)}(i) - \partial B_{LLn(x2,y2)}(i) \right]^2 + \left[\partial B_{HHn(x1,y1)}(i) - \partial B_{HHn(x2,y2)}(i) \right]^2 \right\} \right] \quad (35)$$

Where ∂B_{pl} an edge is zone of block $B_{pl(x,y)}$ and i is an element (coefficient) within the edge zone.

Finally the overlap area of the best matching edge is blended with the overlap area on the original block using alpha bending. The non-overlapping area of the block is picked from the sample texture

and subsequently appended to the synthesized texture. This process will continue till all the faces of control polygon are mapped. In some cases we have considered two or more overlapping areas for finding the best match.

3.2 Texture Mapping on Control Polygons

In our implementation initially we create propagating seed vertex directions, which are then used to smooth the surface vector field. However alternatively a number of other surface vector field techniques (Wei-Levoy, 2001; Turk 2002; Ying et al, 2001) can be used to replace the approach we have selected above. Once vector fields are assigned to all control polygon faces, we then rotate all the faces according to tangential vector field and surface normal, thus placing all faces in the same 2D plane. Using a modified version of Soucy et al., 1996, approach (Note: modified from using triangle to using polygon) a texture map, T is created. For each face of the control polygon, we map it to a corresponding face in T in compact form, i.e. with no space being wasted. The faces in T are textured using the corresponding best matching block. The faces in T that we use are of non-uniform size that are a better fit to the shape and size. It is noted that the resulting texture can be rendered on the control polygon surfaces at interactive rates. The images illustrated in Figure 4 were rendered in this manner using 256×256 textures. The models used in our experiments are composed of smooth surfaces having between 100 to 1000 faces, whereas the control polygons used consisted of 4 faces to 8 faces (It can be further increase to n faces). We have observed that these surfaces render at real-time rates.

3.3 Projection of Texture from Control Polygons to Biquadratic Rational Surfaces

Firstly we calculate the distance between control points of the control polygon using the standard distance formula between two points in 3D space. Depending on these distances we calculate relative location of projections of these points on the rational surface, parameterised by $0 < s, t < 1$. Using the correspondence between points we then decide on the area projection from control polygonal mesh to the smooth surface. Figure 4(a) illustrates the texture synthesized onto the control polygon using the

proposed algorithm and figure 4(b) illustrates the mapped texture onto the smooth rational surface..

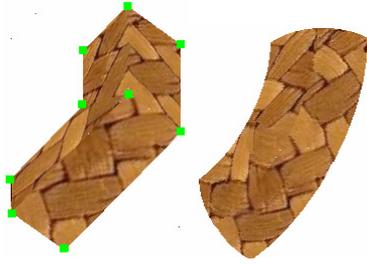


Figure 4: (a) Texture on control polygon (b) Projection from control Polygon to smooth surface.

Note that closer the control polygon to the smooth surface representation, lesser distortion in projection will occur and vice-versa.

3.4 Progressive Texture Using EZW

In order to achieve progressive texture synthesis on surfaces, we adopt Shapiro's EZW idea in which coefficient values with magnitudes above a given threshold are considered significant. This threshold (t) is calculated using equation (3.6) based on the magnitude of wavelet coefficients of decomposed sample image.

$$t = 2^{\lfloor \log_2(\max(|LL_n(x,y)|)) \rfloor / K} \quad (3.6)$$

where $MAX()$ means the maximum coefficient value, K is a constant and $LL_n(x,y)$ denotes a general coefficient in LL_n sub-band. By only considering the coefficients of sub-bands, which are larger than the threshold and ignoring all others (i.e. setting to zero), an inverse DWT is calculated to produce the texture at a given progressive texture quality. This can be expressed generally as:

$$(B_{LL_{n-t}}) = EZWIDWT \begin{pmatrix} B_{LL_n} B_{LL_{n'}} \\ B_{HL_n} B_{HL_{n'}} \\ \text{threshold} \end{pmatrix} \quad (3.7)$$

The above equation can produce discrete quality levels of texture depending on threshold or number of coefficients need to be considered. Image quality can be increased by decreasing the threshold and vice-versa. Note that the function $EZWIDWT$ above represent an EZW constrained inverse discrete wavelet transform. When progressive texture synthesis is required we replace the normal texture mapping process with the above EZW based approach (see figure 5 & 6).

4 EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS & ANALYSIS

In order to analyse the performance of proposed algorithm and to show that surfaces can be rendered effectively, we have implemented the proposed algorithms in OpenGL, C++.

Experiment were performed on a diverse range of texture samples that include regular, near-regular, irregular and stochastic (Lin et al., 2004) textures. Results illustrated in figure 5 indicate the ability of proposed technique to efficiently map and synthesized texture on surfaces, with minimal artifacts. Further as matching and searching is performed in wavelet domain, the texture synthesis is fast. Textures illustrated in Figure 5 (a), (b), (c) respectively belong to near-regular, regular, and stochastic categories. Similar synthesized quality levels are demonstrated for all three texture categories. Further analysis revealed that the time required to synthesize these texture is in the range of few milliseconds.

To further extend the functionality of the proposed method, we have extended our work to progressive texture synthesis on surfaces. We have preformed a wide range of experiments (see figure 6 & 7) to show that texture can be synthesized at seamlessly different levels of quality on surfaces, without consuming noticeable processing time. Figure 6 illustrates the synthesis of a stochastic texture of a flower. It is evident from the results that only 10% of information from sample texture is sufficient to create a texture with sufficiently rough quality. By increasing the percentage of coefficients further, the quality of the synthesized texture can be seamlessly improved. Further experiments revealed that for this texture, 20% of coefficients was sufficient to synthesize a texture visually equal to the texture that can be synthesized when all coefficients are utilized. Progressive texture synthesis gives the added advantage of being able to truncate a bit stream representing the sample texture at any intermediate stage, still being able to synthesize texture at some intermediate quality level.

To further illustrate the application of the proposed idea, we have extended our approach to synthesizing texture on two smoothly joined biquadratic rational surfaces, shown in figure 7. Figure 7(c) shows two smoothly join biquadratic patches. Figure 7(d) to 7(k) illustrates progressive texture synthesis on this surface. This proves that our technique can be extended to the many geometric topologies. Results in figure 7 further illustrates using regular and near-regular texture

samples that texture variations across patch boundaries are smooth.

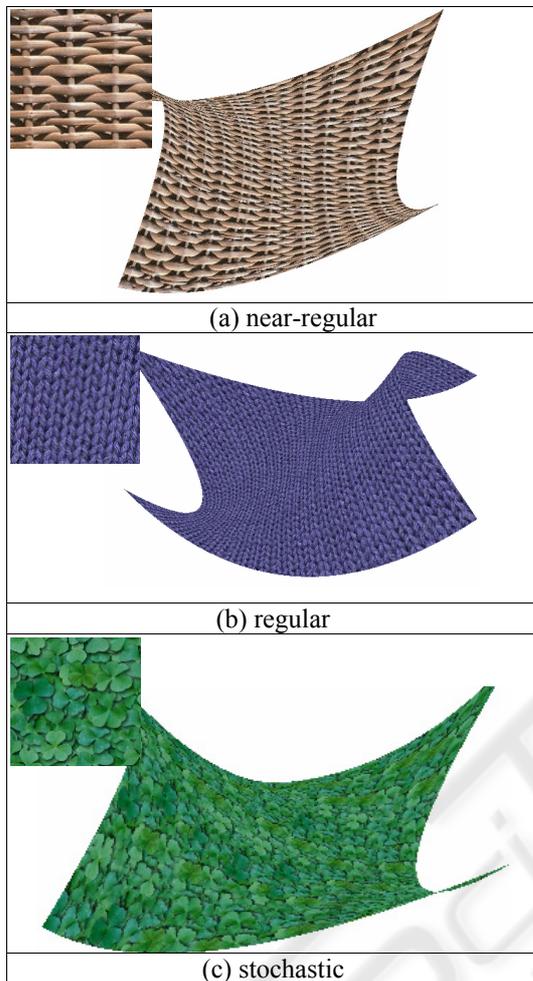


Figure 5: Texture synthesis on biquadratic surface.

5 CONCLUSIONS

We have introduced a novel DWT based approach to synthesizing, texture and progressive texture, on biquadratic surfaces. We have presented the methods and algorithms in detail along with possible applications and advantages. The proposed method has the capability of synthesizing texture at seamlessly different quality settings, a functionality which is not possible via existing state-of-the-art techniques.

The use of visual prioritisation of information in the sample image during texture synthesis allows the task to be carried out at a higher speed but at an equivalent visual quality level. We show that the

proposed approach is computationally efficient, results in good quality texture synthesis, and is applicable in bandwidth-adaptive/compressed-domain applications such as remote visualization. We have shown that the control polygon strategy used can be extended to cover synthesizing texture on many 3D objects with arbitrary surface topology. We are currently in the process of generalizing the proposed algorithm to address this issue.

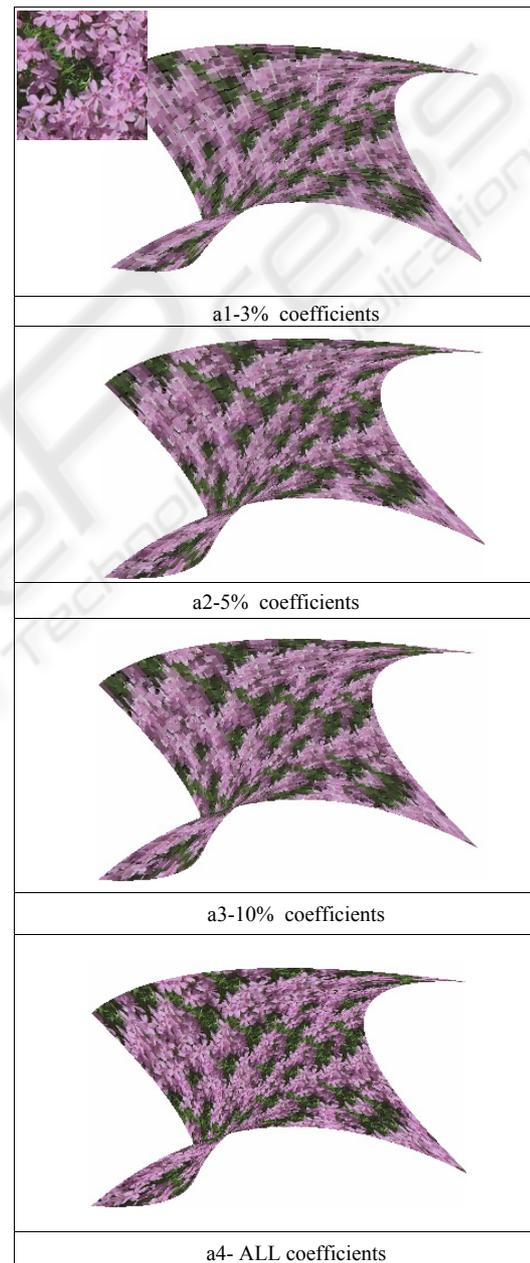


Figure 6: Stochastic progressive texture on biquadratic surface.

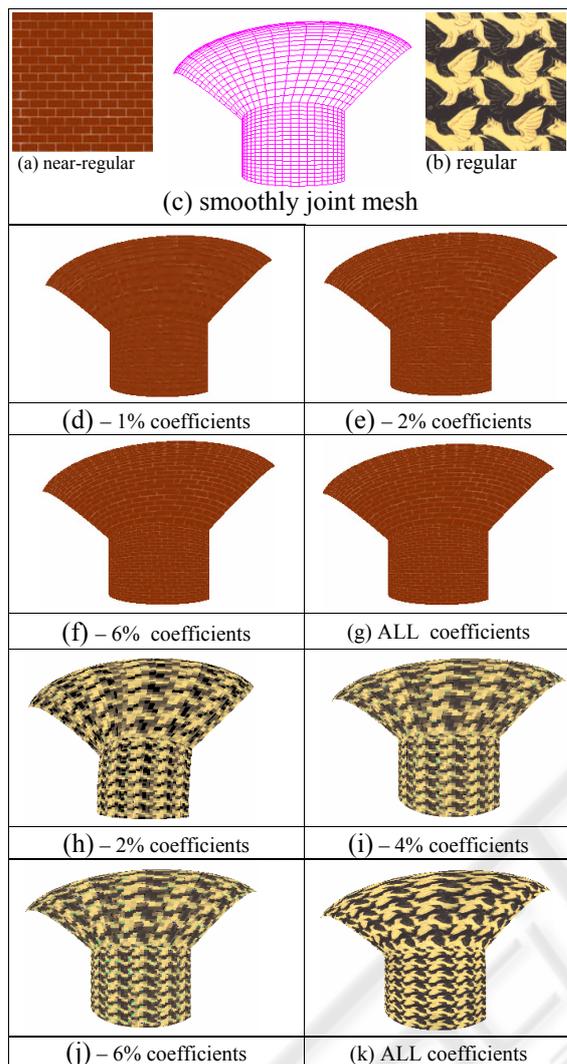


Figure 7: Progressive texture on two-joined biquadratic surface.

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