Material Edition in Images
Master degree subject - M2R - MOSIG - GVR

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Location/duration:  Maverick team, Inria (655 Avenue de l’Europe, 38334 Montbonnot), 5-6 months
Keywords:  Computer Graphics, Image analysis & filtering, Material edition

Context.  Image filters that can be found in graphics editors such as Gimp or Photoshop are limited to the manipulation of simple image features such as colors, edges, or textures. Editing higher level physical properties, such as shape, material and lights, can only be currently done by expert designers and requires a lot of time and skills. Consider the photos below: how could we modify the image of the Buddha in such a way that its stone material looks more shiny? Or how could we edit the hand object to smooth or remove highlights, change its material color, or even produce plausible Fresnel effects? In this project, we aim at designing new image filtering operators to tackle these problems and coherently edit perceived materials in images. Related works rely on drastic assumptions (such as “dark is deep”) in order to recover the physical components before re-synthesizing a novel image [KRFB06] or use a limited bank of filters in a multi-scale fashion to modify low-level material properties such as highlight intensities and roughness [BBPA15]. More recently, Fišer et al. [FJS+17] have also used patch-based texture synthesis approaches to transfer stylized appearances between images/videos of faces.

Goal.  The goal of this project will be to provide new graphics editing tools (such as brushes) in order to edit the material appearance of an object in a given image. Ideally, these tools could be used to modify the diffuse color, the roughness (bluring/sharpening) and edges effects (Fresnel/asperity). It could also provide brushes to smooth/add/remove highlights, haze or spatial material variations.

Approach.  A bibliography stage on image-based material edition and shape/material perception will first be conducted. The student will also have to test previous methods and check their limitations. The core of the project can be decomposed in two parts. The student will first have to analyse the structure of the input image. The goal of this step will be to extract the relevant information that will guide the filters: shape, flows, occlusions, etc. The flow-based features used in [VBBF16] could, for instance, be analysed at multiple scales to obtain a first description. An alternative could also be to start with either user-drawn or 3D-based data to start with correct and precise features. Once we have a good image decomposition, the student will design new filters to edit material properties. For instance, modifying the diffuse color should not affect other layers such as shininess. The filters will have to smooth the image without altering the shape properties (silhouettes/curvature/etc). The student will be able to take inspiration from [ZMB+15, ZGVB16] to design the first pipelines. He will also create different types of visualizations to analyse how material properties (BRDFs) impact images.

References


