COS426

Non-photorealistic Rendering

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Q: What is computer graphics about?

A: Providing tools to help human designers produce images that communicate visual information for some purpose.

Whether to use photorealism depends on the purpose of the image:

- Documentation
- Illustration
- Story-telling
- Expression

Qualities of hand-drawn images

- · Many details left out
- Some details emphasized
- Stylization / abstraction - used to evoke complex things
- Recognizable individual style



















Outline

- Technical illustration
- Pen & Ink
- Painterly rendering for animation
- Cartoonish rendering

Technical illustration

- Saito and Takahashi, Siggraph 90
- Purpose: render 3D models in styles that are more "comprehensible"
- Method:
 - Render various intermediate images
 - Do image-processing operations on them
 - Combine the results









Problem

• Parameters need careful tuning for good results

Pen and Ink

- Winkenbach and Salesin, Siggraph 94
- Purpose: render 3D models as pen & ink drawings
- Method:
 - annotate model with procedural "textures"Render tonal "reference image"
 - Use it to guide pen and ink textures













Pen and Ink

- Salisbury, Anderson, Lischinski and Salesin, Siggraph 96
- Purpose: define a scale-independent representation for pen & ink images





Salisbury et al., cont'd

• Method:

- Store lo-res greyscale image annotated with discontinuities
- filter greyscale image to desired size, run stroke generation algorithm on it







Problems

- Only produces still images – Would not provide temporal coherence
- What's the application?

Painterly rendering

- Meier, Siggraph 96
- Problem: produce animations in a "painterly" style with temporal coherence of strokes
- Method:
 - Populate surfaces with stroke "particles" $% \left({{{\left({{{{\bf{n}}_{{\rm{s}}}}} \right)}_{{\rm{s}}}}} \right)$
 - Render with the help of reference images











• Particles have fixed distribution – Need prescribed camera path

Cartoonish rendering

- Kowalski, Markosian, Northrup, Holden, Bourdev, Hughes, Siggraph 99
- Problem: render scenes like those truffula trees I showed you earlier
- Method:
 - Populate scene with detail elements "graftals"
 - Render with the help of reference images







Needed for placement of graftals:

- Primarily at silhouettes (e.g.)
- Controlled screen-space density
- Placement on surfaces
- Persistence of graftals







Problems

- Temporal incoherence
- Hard to author new scenes – You have to write C code

Static graftals

- Markosian, Kowalski, Meier, Northrup, Holden, Hughes, NPAR 00
- Problem: improve temporal coherence
- Method:
 - Graftals are fixed on surfaces
 - Draw with view-dependent LOD





Problems

• Still hard to author scenes – You have to edit text files

• LOD handling too restrictive

Pen & Ink: trees

- Deussen and Strothotte, Siggraph 00
- Problem: temporally coherent pen and ink rendering of trees
- Method:
 - Draw leaf entities w/ controlled size/abstraction
 - Do image processing on depth buffer









The future

- More rendering algorithms
- Better tools (UI)
 - NPR images need this especially
- Prediction: big advances in our ability to model stylized characters (people) are coming
- Reason: the content creators will demand it













