

MIT2000-02: The Recognition of Material Properties for Vision

Edward H. Adelson





- It is important to recognize materials -- the "stuff" that objects are made of.
- Example: a domestic robot must distinguish between a pile of sugar and a blob of cream cheese in order to clean up properly.
- Other example uses:
 - Grasping an object: is it glass, metal, or rubber?
 - Locomotion over terrain: is it icy, or snowy, or wet, or sandy?
 - Mineralogy: how to classify minerals by their appearance?
 - Medicine: is this a melanoma or a normal mole?

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Progress Through December 2002

- Psychophysics of Reflectance Estimation
 - Identified a number of properties of real-world illumination that are important for surface reflectance estimation (e.g. *pixel histogram skew*)

Getting rid of histogram skew makes things look *less* glossy:



Adding histogram skew makes things look *more* glossy:





Recovering Intrinsic Images from a Single Image

 Refined techniques for propagating information from reliable areas of the image into ambiguous areas



Input Image



Shading Image



Reflectance Image

NTT - MIT Research Collaboration — Bi-Annual Report, July 1, 2002 — December 31, 2002

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Research Plan for the Next Six Months

- Psychophysics of Reflectance Estimation
 - Replicate and extend our experiments with surface shapes other than spheres.
 - Perform experiments with surfaces that have empirically measured BRDFs, rather than parametric approximations.
- Recovering Intrinsic Images from a Single Image
 - Investigate decomposing different characteristics of the scene
 - Extend technology to computer graphics applications