

Lighting estimation for different time periods using light probes

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Abstract

In this paper, we present a way to approximate real lighting for different time periods by using image based lighting with sparsely obtained light probes. In order to maintain lighting consistency we use of interpolation, we have tested and compared a few interpolation methods.

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1 Introduction

Computer graphics is present in a wide variety of areas ranging from entertainment to medicine or military applications, and one of its biggest challenges is generating realistic and convincing synthetic scenes. Realistic scene synthesis is dependent on a few factors, like geometry, materials and lighting. One of the most complex elements to reproduce are those related to lighting.

We would like to render scenes in different periods of the day with realistic and convincing lighting. Realistic lighting can be achieved by means of a technique called IBL Image Based Lighting.

Image Based Lighting consists in obtaining light probes, which are omnidirectional High Dynamic Range images, and using them as environment maps during the rendering phase.

However, this technique is limited in the sense that we must obtain a new light probe for every instant we would like to render. This limitation makes the use of image-based lighting inviable depending on the time range of the scenes to be rendered due to enormous amount of work involved in obtaining the light probes.

Our main goal is to alleviate the restriction that a light probe must be obtained for every moment to be rendered. In order to do that we propose the use of interpolation to estimate the light probes for the instants that data is not available.

We propose two comparisons to validate our approximation:

- Comparing light probes obtained through interpolation and light probes obtained through the usual way, which is done by combining different exposure time images.
- Comparing the rendering a simple object using the interpolated light probe as a light source and the same object in the real scene. The object is a white cube 1.

Figure 1: Image obtained by using a fisheye lens.



2 Definitions

2.1 Environment Map

Environment mapping [Hughes 2013] consists in exchanging the illumination model for a texture lookup model which contains the lighting information.

2.2 High Dynamic Range

High Dynamic Range (HDR) is an image format capable of representing a scene's great variation in luminosity. It is usually stored using floating points with 32 bits per channel. HDR images can be obtained by using special cameras like the Spheron [Spheron], or combining images with different exposure times using software like Photoshop or HDR Shop. A scene's radiance can be recovered from a scene's HDR image [Paul E. Debevec 1997].

2.3 Image Based Lighting

Image Based Lighting (IBL) [Debevec 2002] consists in capturing a scene illumination information through an omnidirectional HDR image. To capture omnidirectional images either a reflective sphere (Figure 3[Bailey]) or fisheye lenses (Figure 2[Salgado]) can be used. The resulting image, called light probe, is then used as an environment map in the rendering phase. Note that a new light probe must be acquired for different locations or periods, otherwise the lighting consistency might not be maintained.

2.4 Interpolations

We have used five types of polynomial interpolations to create the result Light Probe between our data. The Light Probes were interpolated using pixel intensities over time.

Figure 2: Image obtained by using a fisheye lens.



Figure 3: Reflective sphere that could be used as a light probe.



2.4.1 Linear Interpolation

The first interpolation is the classic Linear Interpolation. It's formula is as below:

$$y' = y_0 + (y_1 - y_0) * \frac{x - x_0}{x_1 - x_0} \quad (1)$$

Where y is the intensities of the Light Probe and x it's the time of the resulting Light Probe.

2.4.2 Gauss Foward Central Difference Formula

The second interpolation method is the Gauss Foward Central Difference Formula. Given a set of n Light Probes over time, with a common difference of h units of time, $(\dots, y_{i-2}, y_{i-1}, y_i, y_{i+1}, y_{i+2}, \dots)$ and the capture time $(\dots, x_{i-2}, x_{i-1}, x_i, x_{i+1}, x_{i+2}, \dots)$ of each observation, we can interpolate a new Light Probe using the following formule:

$$\begin{aligned} p' &= p_i + T\delta_{1/2} + G_2\delta_0^2 + G_3\delta_{1/2}^3 + \dots \\ T &= (t - t_0)/h \\ G_{2n} &= \binom{T + n - 1}{2n} \\ G_{2n+1} &= \binom{T + n}{2n + 1} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

The Foward interpolation uses an iterative method that adds the n -esieme central difference[Abramowitz and Stegun 1972] using the piramidal construction showed by Figure 4.

Figure 4: Reflective sphere that could be used as a light probe.

x	y	Δy	$\Delta^2 y$	$\Delta^3 y$	$\Delta^4 y$
\vdots	\vdots				
x_{-2}	y_{-2}				
x_{-1}	y_{-1}	Δy_{-2}			
x_0	y_0	Δy_{-1}	$\Delta^2 y_{-2}$		
x_1	y_1	Δy_0	$\Delta^2 y_{-1}$	$\Delta^3 y_{-2}$	
x_2	y_2	Δy_{-1}	$\Delta^2 y_0$	$\Delta^3 y_{-1}$	$\Delta^4 y_{-2}$
\vdots	\vdots				

2.4.3 Gauss Backward Central Difference Formula

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3 Experiment

4 Results

5 Conclusion

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