

# **Development and Evaluation of 3D Reconstruction Framework for General Objects**

by

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# Abstract

Advancements in state-of-the-art 3D reconstruction algorithms have sped ahead of the development of interfaces that improve the algorithms' accessibility for application developers. In light of this discrepancy, we propose a novel abstraction framework specifically for shape capture techniques, designed to allow developers to create their own camera setups and apply the most effective method to retrieve an object's shape and appearance for their particular application.

We see that details of 3D reconstruction algorithms can be hidden by an abstraction, that uses a description based on camera setup and the characteristics of the object. We demonstrate that the description can be mapped to one or more methods to provide the user's requested result. Given that no single algorithm can work in all situations, we select a suite of three algorithms, each working in substantially different conditions, to provide an example of how the space of 3D reconstruction can be filled.

We evaluate our abstraction through a proof-of-concept implementation of the algorithm framework and a synthetic dataset where each object has been imaged with the appropriate setup for each algorithm. We demonstrate that the mapping from object characteristics to 3D shape is effective, and provides an illustration of an accessible form of 3D shape reconstruction for non-experts in computer vision, such as application developers.

# Preface

The entire work presented here has been done by the author, Kai Wu, with the collaboration and supervision of Dr. Sidney Fels and Dr. Gregor Miller. A manuscript describing the core of our work and our results has been submitted to the IEEE Winter Conference on Application of Computer Vision (2018) and is under anonymous review at the moment of thesis submission.

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# List of Acronyms

- **3D**: 3-dimensional
- **BRDF**: Bi-directional Reflectance Distribution Function
- **CAD**: Computer Aided Design
- **DoF**: Degree of Freedom
- **EPD**: Effective Problem Domain
- **EPS**: Example-based Photometric Stereo
- **GSL**: Gray code Structured Light
- **MVS**: Multi-View Stereo
- **PMVS**: Patch-based Multi-View Stereo
- **PS**: Photometric Stereo
- **SfS**: Shape from Shading
- **SL**: Structured Light
- **VH**: Visual Hull

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Thank those people who helped you.

Don't forget your parents or loved ones.

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# Dedication

献给我的爷爷吴国利先生

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

Modeling of the 3D world has been an active research topic in computer vision for decades and has a wide range of applications including 3D mapping and navigation, online shopping, 3D printing, computational photography, video games, visual effects, and cultural heritage archival. The goal in 3D modeling is to reconstruct a 3D geometric model represented by point cloud, voxel grid, depth maps, or surface mesh, from RGB or range sensors, optionally incorporating the material of the surface.

Achieving this goal is an extremely challenging task, as it involves the reverse process of image formation, which is highly likely to result in a variety of possible results and solutions. To overcome this challenge, some assumptions must be made in terms of materials, viewpoints, and lighting involved. In turn, a solid understanding of the interaction of lighting with surface geometry and material is a prerequisite to fully take advantage of the existing techniques. In past decades, we have witnessed a variety of tools and approaches to 3D modeling applied successfully to an assortment of sub-domains, such as Computer Aided Design (CAD) tools [1], arm-mounted probes, active methods [2, 4, 13, 36] and passive image-based methods [19, 20, 23, 35]. Among the existing approaches, active techniques such as laser scanners [36], Structured Light (SL) systems [13], and Photometric Stereo (PS) [65], as well as passive methods such as Multi-View Stereo (MVS) [54], have been the most successful. Laser scanners and structured light techniques are seen to generate the most accurate results, but are generally complicated to set up and

calibrate, time consuming to scan, and demanding to store and process in terms of memory. Photometric Stereo is able to achieve highly detailed reconstruction comparable to that of laser scanners, but the true depth information is lost due to the use of a single viewpoint. Further, MVS requires minimal setup and can work in both controlled, small scale lab settings as well as outdoor, medium to large scale environments. However, the quality of reconstruction is generally noisier, and is susceptible to the texture and material property of the surface. All of the aforementioned techniques require an understanding of calibration, stereo correspondence, physics-based vision, and so on, which are not easy tasks to master.

Regardless of past successes and strong demands across various areas, we have not yet witnessed any substantial progress in terms of making the mentioned techniques accessible to application developers who generally have little or no computer vision expertise. We've made two key observations about computer vision algorithms: 1) none of these methods works well under all circumstances, nor do they share the same setup or inputs/outputs, making it difficult for developers to choose an optimal method for their particular application; 2) expertise knowledge is a prerequisite to fully exploit the potentials of existing vision techniques. These observations lead us to the following question which we address in this thesis: is it achievable to create a framework that can return a reliable reconstruction by one of the best possible algorithms based on the descriptions of the object or scene to be reconstructed?

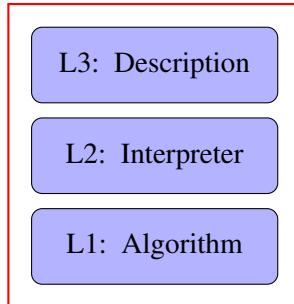
The mental model to our approach is similar to that of the game ‘name that object’: one participant makes guesses of what the object is based solely on the descriptions of the appearance provided by the other participant. In our case, the key idea is to construct an algorithm-free framework above the algorithms themselves, so that one or multiple appropriate algorithms can be selected based on the ‘appearance’ of the object described by the developers.

## 1.1 Outline

The problem addressed by this thesis can be described as follows: construct a framework for 3D reconstruction that can return a reliable reconstruction result by one of the best-suited algorithms, which is determined by the description of the

problem condition, see Figure 1.1. More specifically, a taxonomy is proposed that transforms the 3D reconstruction problem from one requiring knowledge of algorithmic details to one that is based on the correlation between the problem space and algorithms. Next, a well defined model and representations are developed to describe the problem space definitively. Lastly, mapping between the problem space and the algorithms is discovered, from which a proof-of-concept interpreter is proposed. A rigorous evaluation is then carried out to verify the effectiveness and robustness of the interpreter.

The framework consists of the following three layers: the *description layer* sits on top and acts as the interface between the user and the lower layers. It is through this that the user provides a description of the 3D reconstruction problem. The description is passed to the *interpreter* layer, which chooses appropriate algorithms given the description, and then configures each algorithm's parameters. The interpreter can also define any necessary pre or post-processing operations (such as noise removal or image scaling). The lowest layer of the three is where the *algorithms* sit.



**Figure 1.1:** The three layers of the 3D reconstruction framework.

### 1.1.1 Related Work

We discuss the existing software and toolboxes for 3D reconstruction, and present the required vision background needed to fully take advantage of these toolboxes. A review of the 3D acquisition techniques is also provided, organized by the visual and geometric cues used for reconstruction.

### **1.1.2 A Taxonomy of 3D Reconstruction**

The proposed taxonomy categorizes algorithms based not on how well they work, but on the problem domain that they can reliably work under. First, the problem space is developed, with each axis representing a key property of the object's material or geometry. Next, the selected classes of algorithms are mapped to the problem conditions based on reports in the relevant literature.

### **1.1.3 A Description of 3D Reconstruction**

In previous cases, the mapping from a problem space to an algorithms has been ambiguous due to the problem spaces that are less well-defined. Here, we set out to provide a rigorous definition of the problem space itself. First, a formal and practical definition of the 3D reconstruction problem based on Set Theory is proposed. Second, a model consisting of key object properties is developed. Third, the representations of the problem are proposed. We select key elements that can affect the properties of the model and use them as components of the representation. Lastly, common 3D reconstruction tasks are expressed using the proposed model and representations.

### **1.1.4 A Mapping of 3D Reconstruction**

To derive more precise mapping, we need to evaluate the performance of the selected algorithms under varied properties and their combinations. We use synthetic datasets to achieve this goal. Part of the challenge in establishing a comprehensive set of experiments for such an evaluation is the large variations of shapes and material properties. To overcome this issue, we first establish the *effective problem domain* (EPS) by finding the effective and dependent properties. Then we evaluate the performance of each algorithm under the conditions of all dependent properties and their combinations, which serves as the basis of the mapping.

### **1.1.5 An Interpretation of 3D Reconstruction**

We conduct the evaluation of the framework around two key evaluation questions: 1) can the derived mapping be extended to an object with a different shape; 2) can the framework return a reliable result given the correct description to the problem

condition. To answer these questions, we carry out two separate experiments: 1) we use synthetic objects with the same configurations as the ones used to derive the mapping, and check if the algorithms can return reliable results that are consistent with the mapping; 2) we use real-world objects to test the use of the framework.

## 1.2 Contributions

The main contribution of this thesis is the development and evaluation of a framework for the 3D reconstruction problem in computer vision, to hide the details of specific methods. An abstraction may be employed by users to describe the conditions of the vision problems they are trying to solve, and our novel interpreter uses such descriptions to select an appropriate algorithm and return a reliable result. This endeavor is non-trivial for two reasons: 1). currently, not one approach can achieve satisfactory results for an object with general material and geometric properties. Our framework can, to an extent, solve this problem by incorporating multiple algorithms that are designed for a range of problem conditions; 2). a solid understanding of reconstruction algorithm details is a prerequisite to fully take advantage of the existing techniques, which is difficult for general developers to obtain. The descriptive language proposed in this thesis can allow application developers to bypass the aforementioned hurdles, and thus is a developer-friendly approach. The significant aspects of our approach are presented in further detail below:

### 1. A taxonomy of the 3D reconstruction problem that focuses on problem conditions instead of algorithmic details.

Typical taxonomies generally focus on one class of algorithms and are algorithm centric. Normally they describe and classify intra-class algorithms based on *how* an algorithm solves a problem. For instance, MVS algorithms can be categorized based on visibility models or scene representations, and PS methods can be classified by reflectance models. While this type of taxonomy provides a decent basis for comparison of intra-class algorithms, it provides little insight into the conditions where techniques can perform well, which is crucial when it comes to designing an application that requires reliable reconstruction techniques. Thus this thesis introduces a new perspective of taxonomy for 3D reconstruction that is

based on the conditions surrounding the problem. Further, we address the lack of progress in certain areas of this research field, which will be helpful for redirecting research efforts to less explored territories.

## **2. A description of the 3D reconstruction problem that allows increased precision in mapping from a well-defined problem space to algorithms.**

Much of the recent research in this area has been focused on technical novelties. However, we need to pay equal attention to the conditions under which algorithms are designed, in order to return reliable results. One of the reasons for this oversight is the ambiguity of the problem domain. Information regarding the set of conditions under which a given algorithm performs well is difficult to convey without an agreed upon model representing the problem space itself. Conversely, knowledge of which algorithm best suits a particular set of conditions in the problem space is also difficult to determine without a model to represent such conditions. Therefore, it's crucial to have a better understanding of the problem space so that we can exploit the working space of algorithms.

## **3. A mapping from the description of the object to appropriate algorithms.**

Given an algorithm, the conditions under which this specific algorithm works well is largely unclear. Additionally, given a specific problem condition, the knowledge of which algorithm performs well under this problem condition is empirical. Therefore, we need to find a precise mapping from the well defined problem space to determine a reliable solution. Here the effective conditions of a specific algorithm is discovered by evaluating performance under the well defined problem conditions.

### **1.3 Organization**

We organize this thesis as follows. First we will discuss related works in Chapter 2. In Chapter 3, we provide a taxonomy of 3D reconstruction based on the conditions surrounding a problem. In Chapter 4, we provide a formal description of the 3D reconstruction problem, which can be applied to current existing techniques. In Chapter 5, we discuss the process of generating a synthetic dataset to evaluate the performance of a selected set of techniques under varied problem conditions, from which a mapping can be derived. In Chapter 6, we use both synthetic

and real-world datasets to demonstrate the interpretation of the 3D reconstruction description and the validity of the proposed mapping.

# Chapter 2

## Related Work

Section 2.1 discusses the existing toolboxes for 3D reconstruction. Section 2.2 presents a comprehensive review of the field of image-based 3D reconstruction based on varied visual/geometric cues, which include *stereo correspondence, shading, silhouette, texture distortion, and (de)focus*.

### 2.1 Toolboxes

There have been many attempts in developing computer vision or image processing frameworks that support rapid development of vision applications. There are multiple general vision libraries in this field including OpenCV [16], VLFeat [61], VXL [5] and multiple Matlab libraries [34, 41]. These libraries often provide tools for multiple image processing and computer vision problems, including low-vision tasks such as feature detection and matching, middle-level vision tasks such as segmentation and tracking, and high-level vision problems such as classification and recognition. All of these software frameworks and libraries provide vision components and algorithms without any context of how and when they should be applied. As a result, they often require expert vision knowledge for effective use.

### 2.2 3D Reconstruction Techniques

Image-based 3D reconstruction attempts to recover the geometry and material (optional) of the object from images under different viewpoints or illuminations. The

end goal here can be described as “given a set of images of an object or a scene, estimate the most likely 3D shape that explains those images, under the assumption of known materials, viewpoints, and lighting conditions”. This definition reveals that if these assumptions are violated, this becomes an ill-posed problem since multiple combinations of geometry, viewpoint and illumination can produce exactly the same images [47]. Thus this makes for an extremely challenging task.

The 3D reconstruction technique exploits a variety of visual and geometric cues to extract geometry from images: stereo correspondence, shading, contour, texture, (de)focus, etc. Please refer to Table 2.1 for an overview, where the algorithms are organized based on the cue used for reconstruction.

Cue	Algorithm
Stereo correspondence	Stereoscopy Trinocular Stereo Multi-view Stereo (MVS)
	Laser scanning Structured light (SL)
Shading	Shape from Shading (SfS) Photometric Stereo (PS)
Contour	Shape from Silhouette (SfS)
Texture	Shape from Texture
(De)focus	Shape from (De)focus

**Table 2.1:** Classes of algorithms that utilize each visual/geometric cue. Note that the abbreviations will be used extensively in the theis.

### 2.2.1 Stereo Correspondence

Stereo correspondence is one of the most widely used visual cues in 3D vision. Passive methods, including stereoscopy, trinocular stereo, and MVS, identify correspondences across different views, and estimate the 3D point by triangulation. However these passive approaches suffer from uniform or periodic surfaces. Active techniques attempt to overcome the correspondence problem by replacing one of the cameras with a controllable illumination source, e.g., single-point laser, slit laser scanner, temporal or spatially modulated Structured Light (SL), etc. Here we

refer readers to the survey article by Blais for recent developments of active methods. We classify the MVS algorithms based on the taxonomy proposed in [54], which divides the field into four classes based on reconstruction method, and categorize the SL algorithms by projection patterns.

### MVS: Volumetric stereo

The first class of MVS algorithms computes the cost function in a 3D volume, then extracts a surface from this volume. One successful example is voxel colouring, which traverses a discretized 3D space in depth-order to identify voxels that have a unique colouring, constant across all possible interpretations of the scene [53]. Another thread of work formulates the problem in the Markov Random Field (MRF) framework and extracts the optimal surface by Graph-Cut algorithms [49, 62, 63].

### MVS: Surface Evolution

The second class of MVS algorithms works by iteratively evolving a volume or surface to minimize a cost function. This includes methods based on voxels, level set, and surface meshes. The Space Carving technique achieves a least-commitment shape [42] by iteratively removing inconsistent voxels from the scene [35]. Level-set techniques cast the problem as a variational one, and use a set of PDE's as cost functions, which are deformed from an initial set of surfaces towards the detected objects [19]. Other approaches use a deformable model and represent the scene as surface meshes that moves as a function of internal and external forces [18]. Hiep et al. presented a visibility-based method that transforms a dense point cloud into a surface mesh, which is fed into a mesh-based variational refinement that captures small details, smartly handling photo-consistency, regularization and adaptive resolution.

### MVS: Region Growing

The third class of MVS algorithms starts with a sparse set of scene points, propagates these points to spatial neighbours, and refine the cost function with respect to position and orientation of the points. Otto and Chau proposed one of the first work on region growing stereo search. The essence of this algorithm is as fol-

lows: start with an approximate match between a point in one image and a point in another, use an adaptive least-squares correlation algorithm to produce a more accurate match, and use this to predict approximate matches for points in the neighbourhood of the first match. A two-view quasi-dense approach first sorts the list of point correspondences into a list of seed points by correlation score. At each step of the propagation, a ‘best’ seed point is chosen. Then in the immediate spatial neighborhood of this seed point, new potential matches are checked and the best points are added to the current list of seed points [37, 38]. This “best-first” strategy guarantees convergence by choosing only new matches that have not yet been selected. Further, a patch based approach is proposed that undergoes multiple iterations of matching, propagation, and filtering [20]. A stereoscopic approach called PatchMatch Stereo, which is inspired by an approximate nearest neighbour matching algorithm called PatchMatch [9]. This method starts by randomly assigning an oriented plane to each pixel in two views. Next, each pixel is taken through three iterations of propagations and refinement. The plane is propagated to spatial neighbours, the corresponding pixel from another view, and across time. It can achieve sub-pixel accuracy, but is computationally heavy and challenging for parallelism. There has been some efforts to extend PatchMatch Stereo to multi-view scenarios [21, 60, 67] and to a proposal of new propagation schemes to increase the computational efficiency [21].

### MVS: Depthmap Merging

The fourth class of MVS algorithms computes a per-view depthmap. By treating a depthmap as a 2D array of 3D points, multiple depthmaps can be considered as a merged 3D point cloud. A winner-takes-all approach uses a set of discretized depth values and picks the value with the highest photo-consistency score for each pixel independently. Uniform depth sampling may suffice for simple and compact objects. However, for complex and large scenes, a proper sampling scheme is crucial to achieve high speed and quality. More sophisticated cost function are derived to account for occlusion or non-Lambertian effects which may add noise to the photo-consistency score [23, 63]. In the case of severe occlusion, spatial consistency can be enforced under the assumption that neighbouring pixels have

similar depth values. This can be formulated under the Markov Random Field (MRF) framework, where the problem becomes minimizing the sum of a unary  $\Phi(\cdot)$  and pairwise term  $\Psi(\cdot, \cdot)$ . The unary term reflects the photo-consistency score of assigning a depth value  $d_p$  from a depth set to the pixel  $p$ , whereas the pairwise term enforces the spatial regularization, and assigns the cost of setting depth label  $k_p, k_q$  to a pair of neighbouring pixels  $p$  and  $q$ , respectively.

$$E(\{k_p\}) = \sum_p \Phi(k_p) + \sum_{(p,q) \in \mathcal{N}} \Psi(k_p, k_q)$$

### Structured Light

Structured light is considered one of the most accurate reconstruction techniques. It is based on projecting a temporally or spatially modulated pattern onto a surface and viewing the illuminated surface from one or more points of view. The correspondence is easily detected from the projected and imaged pattern, which is triangulated to obtain the a 3D point. Each pixel in the pattern is assigned a unique codeword, and the codeword is encoded by using grey level, colour or geometric representations. Structured light is classified based on the following coding strategy: temporal, spatial and direct codification [50]. Temporal techniques generate the codeword by projecting a sequence of patterns. Spatial codification represents each codeword in a unique pattern. Direct codification techniques define a codeword for every pixel, which is equal to its grey level or colour.

**Temporal encoding** For temporally encoded SL, a sequence of patterns is successively projected onto the surface, the codeword for a given pixel is formed by the sequence of illuminaiton values for that pixel across the projected patterns. This kind of pattern can achieve high accuracy due to two factors: 1) the codeword basis is small (e.g., two for binary pattern), therefore, each bit is easily distinguishable; 2) a coarse-to-fine strategy is used, and the position of the pixel becomes more precise as the patterns are successively projected. We further classify these techniques as follows: 1) binary codeword; 2)  $n$ -ary codeword; 3) gray code combined with phase shifting; 4) hybrid techniques.

**Spatial encoding** This technique concentrates all coding into a unique pattern.

The codeword that labels a certain pixel is obtained from the neighbourhood of pixels around it. Normally, the visual features gathered in a neighbourhood are the intensity or colour of the pixels or groups of pixels around it.

**Direct encoding** There are methods to directly represent the codeword in each pixel. To achieve this, we need to use either a large range of colour values or introduce periodicity. However, this kind of pattern is highly sensitive to noise because the “distance” between codewords is nearly zero. Moreover, the perceived colour depends not only on the projected colour, but also the intrinsic colour of the surface. Therefore, reference images must be taken. This kind of coding can be classified as: 1). codification based on grey levels; 2). codification based on colour.

### 2.2.2 Shading

Shading variations can reveal the surface normal orientation, which can be further integrated into a 2.5D height map. Shading variation depends on the shape (surface normal orientation), reflectance (material), and lighting (illumination). Thus an ill-posed problem arises because different shapes illuminated under different light conditions may produce the same image. This leads to a novel technique called Photometric Stereo in which surface orientation is determined from two or more images. The idea of Photometric Stereo is to vary the direction of the incident illumination between successive views while holding the viewing direction constant. This provides enough information to determine surface orientation at each pixel [64]. This technique can produce a surface normal map with the same resolution of the input image, i.e., to produce the pixel-wise surface normal map. Since the coefficients of the normal map are continuous, the integrated height map can reach an accuracy that cannot be achieved by any triangulation methods. Therefore, the Photometric Stereo technique is more desirable if the intrinsic geometric details are of great importance.

#### Shape from Shading

The problem of recovering the shape of a surface from the intensity variation is first proposed by Horn [28]. It assumes that the surface under consideration is of a uniform albedo and reflectance, and that the direction of the single distant light

source is either known or can be calibrated by the use of a reference object. Thus the intensity  $I(x, y)$  becomes purely a function of the local surface orientation. The information of reflectance, illumination, and viewing geometry can be combined into a single function called reflectance map  $R(p, q)$ , that relates surface orientation directly to image intensities

$$I(x, y) = R(p(x, y), q(x, y))$$

$$I(x, y) = \rho(\vec{n}, \vec{l}) \vec{n}^\top \vec{l} \quad (\text{Lambertian model})$$

where  $(p, q) = (z_x, z_y)$  are surface gradients. Unfortunately, measurements of the brightness at a single pixel only provide one constraint, whereas surface orientation requires two. Thus, additional constraints such as smoothness or integrability are required to estimate  $(p, q)$ .

### Photometric Stereo

Category	Camera	Light source	Reflectance
Original PS	Orthographic	Directional, known intensity and direction	Lambertian
Generalized lighting PS	Orthographic	unknown intensity and direction, ambient	Lambertian
Generalized reflectance PS	Orthographic	Distant, known intensity and direction	Non-Lambertian

**Table 2.2:** Assumptions made by different classes of photometric stereo.

**Original Photometric Stereo** This method, first proposed by Woodham [65], utilized multiple light sources from different directions to overcome the ambiguity of Shape from Shading. Assuming there are  $P$  pixels per image, and  $Q$  illumination directions, the intensity of the  $i$ th pixel under  $j$ th illumination would be

$$I_{i,j} = \rho_i \vec{n}_i^\top \vec{l}_j$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{I} = \mathbf{N}^\top \mathbf{L}$$

where

- $\mathbf{I} \in \mathbb{R}^{P \times Q}$  stores the pixel intensity from all images. Each column contains pixels from each image while each rows contains intensity of each pixel under all illumination conditions
- $\mathbf{N} \in \mathbb{R}^{P \times 3}$  encodes the albedo-scaled surface normal for each pixel, i.e.,  $N_{i,:} = \rho_i \vec{n}_i^\top$
- $\mathbf{L} \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times Q}$  encodes the light source directions, i.e.,  $L_{:,j} = \vec{l}_j$

This surface reflectance, i.e., spatially varying albedo, and the normal can be estimated by

$$\begin{aligned} N &= \mathbf{I}\mathbf{L}^+ \\ \rho_i &= \|N_{i,:}\| \\ n_i &= \frac{N_{i,:}^\top}{\|N_{i,:}\|} \end{aligned}$$

The key problem is how to generalize the assumptions of photometric stereo. For the camera assumption, orthographic projection can be achieved by using a lens with long focus and placing the objects far from the camera. The nonlinear response can be solved by performing radiometric calibration. The shadow and other global light transportation are a few of the sources of errors, where some approaches consider them as outliers and remove them before normal estimation. The reflectance and lighting assumptions, however, are the most complicated since the reflectance properties depends on material property and microscopic structure. Further, lighting can have either an arbitrary or fixed position, orientation, and intensity. Therefore, research on Photometric Stereo are generally on two directions: 1). generalization of reflectance; 2). generalization of lighting conditions.

**Generalization of Lighting** It is possible to estimate the surface orientation without knowing light directions, a case also known as *uncalibrated Photometric Stereo*, see Table 2.2. Most uncalibrated techniques assume Lambertian techniques and are based on factorization technique proposed in [25]. Recall the Irradiance Equation:

$$I = N^\top L$$

However, an infinite number of candidates  $\hat{N}$  and  $\hat{L}$  make the above equality met. In fact, any invertible  $3 \times 3$  matrix  $G$  defines a candidate pair  $\hat{N} = N \cdot G, \hat{L} = G^{-1}L$ . Thus the normal  $N$  and light source direction  $L$  can only be recovered up to a linear transformation.

Other generalized lighting conditions are any situations other than the ideal case of using a single distant point light source in a dark room, such as natural ambient light, multiple point light sources with/without ambient lighting, etc. To make the problem more tractable, the reflectance model should no longer be a general one, as this involves too many degrees of freedom that results in many different shapes with incorrectly estimated general reflectance and incorrectly estimated general lighting.

**Generalization of Reflectance** This class of techniques relax the assumption of Lambertian reflectance.

*Outlier rejection* The fact that the reflectance of non-Lambertian surfaces can be approximated by the sum of a diffuse and a specular lobe has been exploited extensively. The specular pixels are considered as outliers in [17] and [10]. The assumption that the color of the specular lobe differs from that of the diffuse lobe allows the separation of the specular and diffuse components [40, 51, 52].

*Reference object* A separate approach uses a reference object that has the same material as the target object. This is proposed in [56] and later revisited in [26]. It can deal with arbitrary BRDFs as long as the reference and target object has the same material. Multiple reference objects are needed for spatially-varying BRDFs as the BRDF at each point on the target object is a linear combination of the basis BRDFs defined by the set of reference objects.

*Parametric reflectance model* More sophisticated BRDF models can replace the reference objects. An isotropic Ward model is used as basis BRDF, and the surface orientation and parameters of the reflectance models are estimated iteratively [24].

*Invariants of BRDF* While parametric reflectance models are very good at reducing the complexity of BRDFs, they are usually only valid for a limited class of materials. An alternative is to exploit the invariants of BRDFs, typically including energy conservation, non-negativity, Helmholtz reciprocity, isotropy, etc [7, 68].

### 2.2.3 Silhouette

In some cases, it's an easy task to perform a foreground segmentation of the object of interest, which leads to a class of techniques that reconstructs a 3D volumetric model from the intersection of the binary silhouettes projected into 3D. The resulting model is called a *visual hull*.

The basic idea of shape from silhouette algorithms is that the object lies inside the intersection of all visual cones back-projected from silhouettes. Suppose there are multiple views  $V$  of the target object. From each viewpoint  $v \in V$ , the silhouette  $s_v$  can be extracted, which is the region including the object's interior pixels and delimited by the line(s) separating the object from the background. The silhouette  $s_v$  are generally non-convex and can represent holes due to the geometry of the object. A cone-like volume  $cone_v$  called (truncated) extended silhouette is generated by all the rays starting at the center of projection and passing through all the points of the silhouette. The target object is definitely internal to  $cone_v$  and this is true fro every view  $v' \in V$ ; it follows that the object is contained inside the volume  $c_V = \cap_{v \in V} c_v$ . As the size of the  $V$  goes to infinity, and all possible views are included,  $c_V$  converges to a shape known as the *visual hull*  $vh$  of the target object.

[computational complexity] intersection of many volumes can be slow. Simple polyhedron-polyhedron intersection algorithms are inefficient. To improve performance, most methods 1) quantize volumes, 2) perform intersection computation in 2D instead of 3D.

#### Voxel based methods

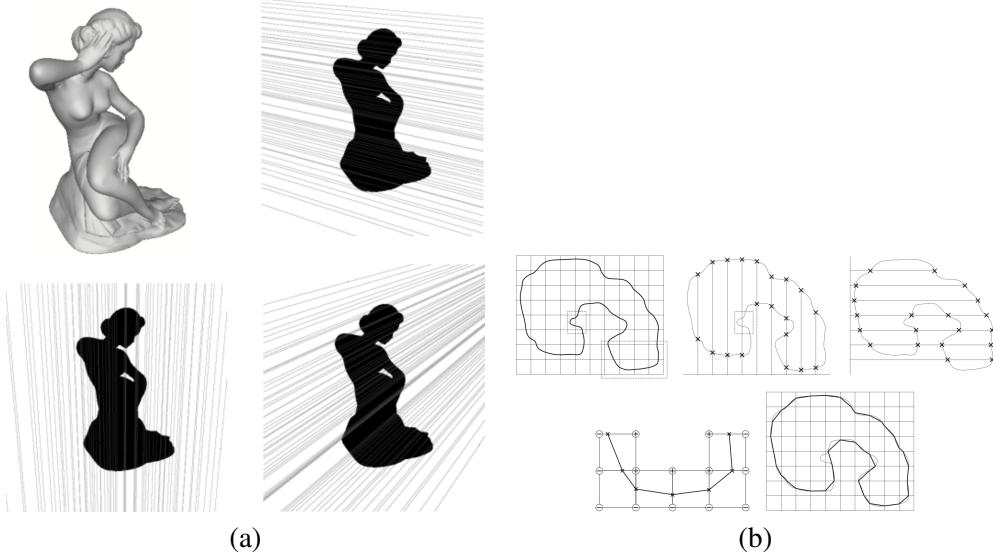
First the object space is split up into a 3D grid of voxels; each voxel is intersected with each silhouette volume; only voxels that lie inside all silhouette volumes remain part of the final shape.

#### Marching intersections based methods

The marching intersection (MI) structure consists of 3 orthogonal sets of rays, parallel to the  $X$ ,  $Y$ , and  $Z$  axis, which are arranged in 2D regular arrays, called the  $X-rayset$ ,  $Y-rayset$ ,  $Z-rayset$  respectively. Each ray in each rayset is projected to the image plane to find the intersections with the silhouette. These intersections

are un-projected to compute the 3D intersection between the ray and the extended silhouette on this ray. This process is repeated for each silhouette, and the un-projected intersections on the same ray are merged by the boolean AND operation.

Once the MI data structure representing the intersection of all extended silhouettes, a triangular mesh is extracted from it. This is done by the MI technique proposed in [48] which traverses the “virtual cells” implicitly defined by the MI, builds a proper marching cube (MC) entry for them that in turn is used to index a MC’s lookup table.



**Figure 2.1:** Illustrations of MI-based VH. (a) shows one object (top left) and its silhouette with 2D lines traced over it to find intersections along rays in the X, Y and Z ray-set of the MI, respectively. (b) shows the MI data structure and conversion algorithm in a 2D example. Image courtesy of M. Tarini.

### Exact polyhedral methods

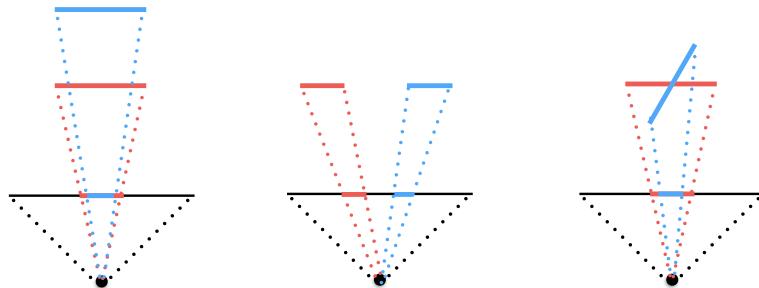
The silhouette is converted into a set of convex or non-convex 2D polygons with holes allowed. The resulting visual hull with respect to those polygonal silhouettes is a polyhedron. The faces of this polyhedron lie on the faces of the original cones. The faces of the original cones are defined by the center of projections and the

edges in the input silhouettes. The idea of this method is: for each input silhouette  $s_i$  we compute the face of the cone. Then we intersect this face with cones of all other input silhouettes, i.e., a polygon-polyhedron intersection. The result of these intersections is a set of polygons that define the surface of the visual hull.

All of the cues above are most widely used ones, and achieved decent results. These following two cues haven't resulted in as much success. Therefore, we only discuss the general idea rather than the technical details.

#### 2.2.4 Texture

The basic principle behind shape from texture is the *distortion* of the individual texel. In general, the image formation process introduces three distortion effects: the *distance effect*, which makes objects in view appear larger when they are closer to the image plane; the *position effect* which makes objects appear differently when the angle between the line of sight and the image plane different; and the *foreshortening effect*, which distort the objects depending on the angle between the surface normal and the line of sight. Besides, different effects take place under different projection models: the orthographic projection captures only the foreshortening effect whereas the perspective projection captures all three. Therefore, shape from texture methods which use orthographic projection are valid only in a limited domain, where the other two effects can be ignored, and the perspective model captures all three effects, but the resulting algorithms are complicated and involves the solution of nonlinear equations.

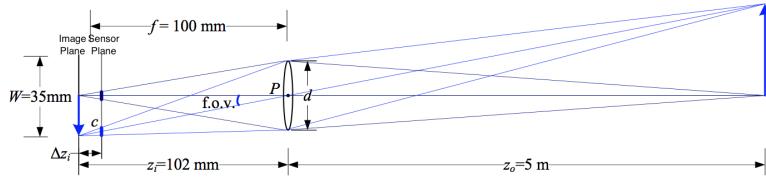


**Figure 2.2:** Three distortion effect: distance distortion, position distortion, and foreshortening distortion.

To calculate the surface curvature at any point is far from trivial. Therefore, the surface shape is reconstructed by calculating the surface orientation (surface normal). A map of surface normals specifies the surface's orientation only at the points where the normals are computed. But, assuming that the normals are dense enough and the surface is smooth, the map can be used to reconstruct the surface shape.

### 2.2.5 Defocus

**Shape from focus** A strong cue for object depth is the amount of blur, which increases as the object moves away from the camera's focusing distance. As shown in Figure 2.3, moving the object surface away from the focus plane increases the circle of confusion.



**Figure 2.3:** A thin lens of focal length  $f$  focuses the light from a plane a distance  $z_0$  in front of the lens at a distance  $z_i$  behind the lens, where  $\frac{1}{z_0} + \frac{1}{z_i} = \frac{1}{f}$ . If the sensor plane moved forward  $\Delta z_i$ , the image are no longer in focus and the *circle of confusion*  $c$  depends on the distance of the sensor plane motion  $\Delta z_i$  relative to the lens aperture diameter  $d$ .

Figure 2.3 shows the basic geometric image formation. The relationship between the object distance  $z_o$ , focal distance of the lens  $f$ , and the image distance  $z_i$ , is given by the Gaussian lens law:

$$\frac{1}{z_o} + \frac{1}{z_i} = \frac{1}{f}$$

All light rays that are radiated from the object and intercepted by the lens to converge at a single point on the image plane, thus a *focused* image  $I_f(x, y)$  is formed on the image plane. If, however, the sensor plane does not coincide with the image plane and is displaced from the image plane by a distance  $\Delta z_i$ , the energy received from the object is uniformly distributed over a circular patch on the sensor plane.

The relationship between the radius  $c$  of the circle of confusion and the sensor displacement  $\Delta z_i$  is as follows:

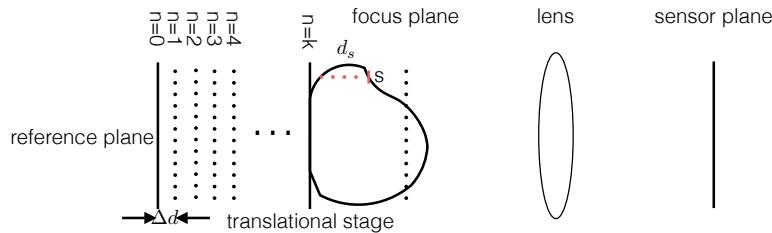
$$c = \frac{\Delta z_i r}{z_i}$$

The defocused images can be obtained in three ways: by displacing the sensor with respect to the image plane, by moving the lens, or by moving the object with respect to the object plane. The first two ways can cause the following problems:

- The magnification of the system varies, thereby causing the image coordinates of the object points to change.
- The area on the sensor plane over which light energy is distributed varies, thereby causing a variation in image brightness.

To address this issue, the degree of focus is changed by moving the object with respect to a fixed configuration of the optical system and sensor. This approach ensures that the focused areas of the image are always subjected to the same magnification.

The idea is as follows: the stage is moved in increments of  $\Delta d$ , and an image is captured at each stage position ( $d = n\Delta d$ ). By studying the behaviour of the focus measure, an interpolation method is used to compute the accurate depth estimates from a small number of focus measures. An important feature of this method is the local nature, the depth estimate at an image point is computed only from focus measures recorded at that point.



**Figure 2.4:** shape from focus

## Chapter 3

# A Taxonomy of 3D Reconstruction

Existing taxonomies of 3D reconstruction techniques generally focus on one category of techniques: Seitz et al. proposed taxonomy of Multi-view Stereo algorithms from various perspectives of algorithmic details. Reviews of Structured Light techniques typically classify techniques based on the type of projection pattern used [22, 50]. Photometric Stereo algorithms are classified by the assumptions or generalizations made, such as, unknown/known reflectance, unknown/known light conditions (uncalibrated/calibrated), and so on [55]. These frameworks provide a way to categorize intra-category algorithms, but are unsuitable to evaluate the performance of inter-category algorithms. Furthermore, the algorithms under consideration target limited categories of objects. It is well known that such algorithms are highly likely to fail when targeting a diverse set of object categories. Thus, it is crucial to understand where algorithms perform well and where they fail when designing an application for reconstruction. Under the previous framework of taxonomy, this knowledge is largely empirical, with each algorithm mapped roughly to a sub-volume in the problem space that is poorly defined. To overcome this limitation, we need to first propose a well-defined problem space; second, bypass algorithmic details to focus on properties that are intuitive to understand and perceive. We take a more object-centered approach to the taxonomy so that a more precise mapping can be made available.

The taxonomy proposed in this chapter defines 3D reconstruction techniques from an object-centered viewpoint, i.e., categorizes an algorithm based on object class. This taxonomy transforms the 3D reconstruction problem from one requiring knowledge and expertise of specific algorithms in terms of how and when to use them, to one requiring knowledge of the visual and geometric properties of the target object.

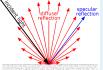
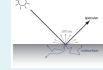
### 3.1 A New Perspective of Taxonomy

Typical taxonomies are algorithm centric, describing and classifying algorithms based on *how* an algorithm solves the problem. However, this approach gives very little insight to the conditions that allow a specific algorithm to work well. Further, it requires vision knowledge to understand and use these algorithms. The new perspective approaches taxonomy from a different angle, more specifically, the algorithms are categorized based on the type of objects/problem conditions that they can reliably work under. We first give an overview of object classes, which serves as the bases to the taxonomy, then proceeds to investigate the working conditions of each class of algorithms based on reports in relevant literature.

#### 3.1.1 Object class

In Figure 3.1, we show a taxonomy of object classes with different material and shape properties. However, by no means are these presented object classes complete. There are many other properties not included that are commonly seen in the real world. For instance, effects such as occlusion, discontinuity, and emission, among others, are not considered. The rationale behind our choice is that most techniques that have been developed over the past few decades mainly tackle object with an opaque and diffuse surface. For specular, refractive, and translucent or transparent objects, only very specialized algorithms are applicable for reconstruction [29]. To approach this problem in a feasible manner, six classes of objects are being investigated in depth. They are selected based on the availability of reliable techniques and the diversity of corresponding real-world objects. We propose the following labels to differentiate object classes. For each class label, the properties are ordered as follows: translucency, texture, lightness, reflection model, surface

roughness, and concavity. See the six classes of objects in Table 3.1.

Translucency	Texture	Lightness	Reflection	Roughness	Concavity
Opaque	Textureless 	Bright	Diffuse 	Smooth 	Convex 
Translucent	Repeated Texture 	Dark	Mixed diffuse and specular 	Rough 	
Transparent	Textured 		Subsurface scattering 		Concave 
			Refraction 		

**Figure 3.1:** A list of properties for object classes.

### Class labels

- **Translucency:** **O:** opaque, **Tl:** translucent, **Tp:** transparent.
- **Texture:** **T:** textured, **Tr:** repeated textured, **Tl:** textureless.
- **Lightness:** **B:** bright, **D:** dark.
- **Reflection:** **D:** diffuse model, **S:** specular model, **M:** mixture of diffuse and specular, **Ss:** subsurface scattering, **Rf:** refraction
- **Roughness:** **S:** smooth, **R:** rough
- **Concavity:** **Cx:** convex, **Cv:** concave

Class #	Translucency	Texture	Lightness	Refection	Roughness	Concavity
1	O	Tl	B	D	R	Cx
2	O	Tl	B	M	S	Cx
3	O	T	B	D	R	Cx
4	O	T	B	M	S	Cx
5	O	T	D	D	S	Cx
6	O	T	D	M	S	Cx

**Table 3.1:** Label of six classes of objects.

### A traditional taxonomy

Traditionally, algorithms are categorized into different classes based on the visual cues used for reconstruction, as discussed in Chapter 2. Table 3.2 gives an example of what a typical taxonomy would look like.

Algo. class	Technique
SfS	Horn [28]
MVS	Furukawa [20], Goesele [23], Vogiatzis [63], Hernández [18], Faugeras [19]
Lamberian PS	Woodham [65], Hayakawa [25], Belhumeur [11], Alldrin [8]
Non Lambertian PS	Coleman [17], Barsky [10], Schluns [52], Sato [51], Mallick [40], Alldrain [6], Goldman [24], Silver [56], Hertzmann [26], Zickler [68]
SL	Inokuchi [31]
VH	Szeliski [57], Matusik [43], Tarini [59]

**Table 3.2:** A traditional taxonomy that classifies algorithms based on algorithmic details.

## 3.2 Working conditions of algorithms

This section investigates the cases where each category of algorithms is capable of working under based on the reported literature. Only visual texture is considered, and it can be thought of as a pattern or variance of intensity appearing on an object's

surface. In this thesis, the visual texture will be considered as resulting from non-uniform surface albedo. Thus, uniform albedo represents uniform texture while non-uniform albedo represents textured surfaces.

### 3.2.1 Multi-view Stereo

The working conditions of Multi-view Stereo algorithms are summarized in Table 3.3. For a typical MVS algorithm to perform well, the object should have a textured and diffuse surface.

#### High texture

Multi-view Stereo algorithms take advantage of textural information to establish point correspondences across different views. Thus homogeneous surfaces pose great challenges to MVS algorithms. However, some MVS algorithms tested on a textureless object “Dino” in the Middlebury MVS benchmark [54] give successful reconstruction results. This demonstrates that MVS algorithms are able to exploit very weak and intricate image textures, most of which come from shading and/or shadowing effects. However, these textures are so weak that images need to have very high quality.

#### Diffuse reflectance

Most MVS algorithms require that the object surface with similar or same appearances from different perspectives, and hence, most of the algorithms assume Lambertian reflectance. While pure Lambertian surfaces are rare in reality, it is empirically verified that MVS algorithms perform reasonably well on non-Lambertian surfaces. As long as the cameras can capture the diffuse reflectance component, and then the photo-consistency function is able to identify and ignore images whose non-diffuse effects (e.g., specular highlights) are strong, then utilize the diffuse component in the remaining images. Further, there are some attempts to overcome this limitation, a pure passive methods was proposed that directly model and analyze non-Lambertian effects for MVS algorithms [32, 33].

<b>Technique</b>	Texture	Lightness	Reflectance	Roughness	Concavity
MVS	Textured	-	Diffuse or mixed	-	-

**Table 3.3:** Working condition of Multi-view Stereo algorithms.

### 3.2.2 Shape from Shading

Shape from Shading, first proposed by Horn [28], specifically targets isotropic, known Lambertian surfaces. By assuming orthographic projection, and known light source intensity and direction, surface orientation can be estimated from shading variations. The working condition is shown in Table 3.4.

#### Reflectance model

Though other reflectance models are feasible, typical SfS algorithms assume Lambertian reflectance model. The reason is that surface lightness is directly related to surface orientation and reflectance model once the light source and viewing direction are fixed. This is generally an ill-posed problem even with the simplest reflectance model since there is only one intensity value per pixel to solve for surface orientation, which has two DoF. However, even in the simplest case, the survey by Zhang [66] demonstrate that SfS algorithms generally perform poorly, and none performs well in all cases.

#### Interreflection

Typical SfS algorithms cannot deal with interreflections, since the surface lightness would be corrupted by light transport between surface facets. Thus, object exhibit any form of concavity will pose great challenge to SfS algorithms.

<b>Technique</b>	Texture	Lightness	Reflectance	Roughness	Concavity
SfS	Textureless	Bright	Lambertian	Smooth	Convex

**Table 3.4:** Working condition of Shape from Shading algorithms.

### 3.2.3 Photometric Stereo

Photometric Stereo can be considered as an extension of SfS algorithms, which adds additional light sources to remove the ambiguity faced by SfS algorithms. The working conditions of Photometric Stereo algorithms are summarized in Table 3.7.

#### Albedo

Photometric Stereo algorithms work more reliably on surfaces with sufficiently strong albedo. This is because the algorithm exploits the intensity variation as a visual cue, which is more challenging to detect on surfaces with low intensity values.

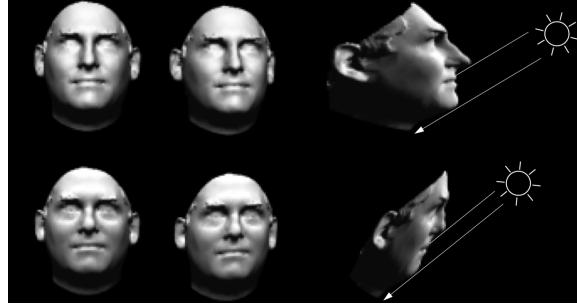
Though SfS algorithms requires uniform albedo, typical PS algorithms can be used easily on surfaces with spatially varying albedo. First the albedo-scaled normal can be estimated, then the albedo is retrieved as the magnitude of the scaled normal [65].

#### Lambertian reflectance model

The Lambertian PS algorithms can be divided into two group: calibrated method, and uncalibrated method. The original PS proposed by Woodham [65] can be considered as calibrated Lambertian PS. Later, more uncalibrated Lambertian PS have been proposed to avoid this tedious process.

Silver [56] proposed a look-up scheme that relies on a reflectance object with the same reflectance as the target, which in this case is a uniform Lambertian surface. This approach is later adapted to surface with non-Lambertian reflectance with varying albedo or material in [26].

Another successful uncalibrated approach used six or more pixels with the same albedo, and was able to solve for normals up to a rotation ambiguity[25]. It can be further proved that a 3-parameter subset of these transformations, known as the Generalized Bas-Relief (GBR) ambiguity, preserve surface integrability [11]. Thus, given three or more images of a Lambertian object acquired under light sources of unknown direction and strength, the surface can be reconstructed up to GBR transformation by enforcing surface integrability, see Figure 3.2 for the effect of GBR-ambiguity.



**Figure 3.2:** The effect of GBR ambiguity. Two sets of shape and light source configurations can produce exactly the same images.

### Non-Lambertian reflectance model

Much of the emphasis in PS has been to relax the assumption of Lambertian reflectance. There are four classes of Non-Lambertian PS algorithms: the first class treats specular component as outliers [10, 17, 30, 45]; the second class uses reference object that has the same material as the target object [26]; the third class assumes that the reflectance can be modeled as a linear combination of a set of basis reflectance models [6, 24]; and the fourth class exploits the physical properties common to large classes of BRDFs, such as energy-conservation, non-negativity, Helmholtz reciprocity, isotropy, and so on [7, 58, 68].

### Convexity

Active methods that assumes a local reflectance model such as most PS algorithms can work more reliably on surfaces without casting shadow and interreflection. Thus surfaces with concavities pose a great challenge for this type of techniques since the indensity can be affected by other surface patches.

#### 3.2.4 Structured Light

For stereo correspondence based methods, actively projected patterns have to be used for the lack of surface texture. Since the surface is diffuse, there is no specular reflection to cause severe noise. Refer to Table 3.6 for the working condition of SL.

<b>Technique</b>		Texture	Lightness	Reflectance	Roughness	Concavity
Lambertian uniform albedo	PS,	Textureless	Bright	Lambertian	-	Convex
Lambertian non-uniform albedo	PS,	Textured	Bright	Lambertian	-	Convex
Non-Lambertian PS	-		Bright	Mixed	-	Convex

**Table 3.5:** Working conditions of typical Photometric Stereo algorithms.

### High albedo

Regardless of what projection pattern is used, the most important feature of most SL techniques is that it should be able to determine if a surface point is lit or not. Thus, the surface albedo needs to be strong enough so that sufficient amount of reflected light can reach the camera sensor.

### Diffuse reflectance model

Traditional Structured Light techniques cannot deal with highly specular surfaces since the specular area will exhibit strong reflection even for low lighting conditions, which will cause errors in the encoding process.

### Concavity

Active methods that assumes a local reflectance model such as SL algorithms can work more reliably on surfaces without casting shadow and interreflection. Thus surfaces with concavities pose a great challenge for this type of techniques since the indensity can be affected by other surface patches.

<b>Technique</b>		Texture	Lightness	Reflectance	Roughness	Concavity
Structured Light	-		Bright	Lambertian	-	Convex

**Table 3.6:** Working condition of typical Structured Light algorithms.

### 3.2.5 Visual Hull

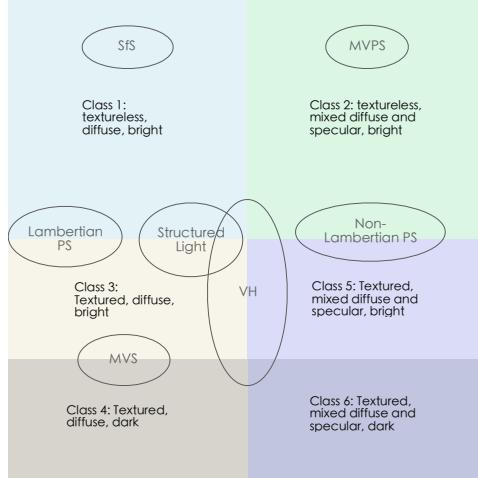
Visual Hull algorithms don't rely on material properties as long as the foreground of the image can be reliably segmented, thus is applicable for objects with arbitrary visual properties. However, it fails to carve the concavities on the object surface, thus is unsuitable to concave objects.

Technique	Texture	Lightness	Reflectance	Roughness	Concavity
VH	-	-	-	-	Convex

**Table 3.7:** Working condition of typical Visual Hull algorithms.

## 3.3 Summary

Our taxonomy categorizes algorithms based on the problem conditions that they can reliably work under. The problem conditions consists of various visual and geometric properties, as shown in Figure 3.1. These properties can be conceptualized as dimensions of the 3D reconstruction problem space. This taxonomy provides an abstraction which allows us to think of algorithms as volumes within a  $n$ -dimensional problem space. Existing algorithms can be introduced into this framework based on the performance within the problem space. The aforementioned analysis provide an initial mapping of the space that is summarized below in Figure 3.3, and more in detail in Table 3.8.



**Figure 3.3:** Six classes of objects of interest, and the algorithms that could work reliably for these classes.

Class #	Class label	Algorithms
1	<b>OTIBDRCx</b>	Horn [28], Woodham [65], Hayakawa [25], Belhumeur [11], Alldrin [8]
2	<b>OTIBMSCx</b>	Coleman [17], Barsky [10], Schluns [52], Sato [51], Mallick [40], Alldrain [6], Goldman [24], Silver [56], Hertzmann [26], Zickler [68]
3	<b>OTBDRCx</b>	Woodham [65], Hayakawa [25], Belhumeur [11], Alldrin [8], Furukawa [20], Goesele [23], Vogiatzis [63], Hernández [18], Faugeras [19], Inokuchi [31]
4	<b>OTBMSCx</b>	Furukawa [20], Goesele [23], Vogiatzis [63], Hernández [18], Faugeras [19]
5	<b>OTDDSCx</b>	Coleman [17], Barsky [10], Schluns [52], Sato [51], Mallick [40], Alldrain [6], Goldman [24], Silver [56], Hertzmann [26], Zickler [68]
6	<b>OTDMSCx</b>	Szeliski [57], Matusik [43], Tarini [59]

**Table 3.8:** Algorithm classification based on the proposed taxonomy.

## Chapter 4

# A Description of 3D Reconstruction

In Chapter 3, we introduce a taxonomy of 3D reconstruction which maps algorithms according to visual/geometric characteristics of the object. However, without a formal ‘language’, i.e., a model and representations, the mapping from an algorithm to a column of the problem space would be largely empirical. Expressing the conditions within which an algorithm works well without a formal definition of the problem space prevents formulating a well defined problem.

Computer vision problems require, among other factors, a model of the problem domain [39]. The relevant properties of the elements in the domain must be characterized and their relations must be analyzed. Representations can describe an object’s properties selected by the model to facilitate a solution of the problem. For instance, surface orientation is a geometric model, and surface normal or curvature are representations of this model. More specifically, in the case of the reconstruction problem, we first need to establish a model that defines the problem domain, then properties of the objects and surfaces should be investigated to see their influence on the problem domain, which serves as the representation of the reconstruction problem.

In this chapter, we attempt to extend this taxonomy by providing a description of the 3D reconstruction problem which allows for a well defined specification of the visual cues surrounding the problem and the range of desired solution. This

description abstracts away from the functional specification of *how* to estimate a reconstruction. We first propose a formal definition of the 3D reconstruction problem in Section 4.1. Section 4.2 then discusses various key *aspects* of the problem space that are crucial for describing the appearance of the object. Section 4.3 outlines concrete representations of the proposed model. Section 4.4 provides examples of expressing common 3D reconstruction problems using the proposed model and representations. These following four layers represent the description of our accessible 3D reconstruction framework: Definition, Representation, Model, and Expression.

## 4.1 Definition

We will first provide definitions of some basic concepts, which include general computer vision concepts such as scene, camera, and image. We then define a few other terms that are closely related to the reconstruction problem. We then provide reasonable approximations for a more practical definition of the problem as a whole.

### 4.1.1 Basic notations

We will use the following notations:  $\{C_n\}_{n=0}^{N-1}$  represents the camera set, which includes both intrinsic and extrinsic parameters;  $\{I_n\}_{n=0}^{N-1}$  represents the set of all images;  $\{L_n\}_{n=0}^{N-1}$  represents the set of light sources.

**Definition 1 (Scene)** The scene  $S$  is the four-dimensional joint spatio-temporal target of interest.

**Definition 2 (Image)** The image refers to the 2D observation of the 3D scene  $S$  on the image plane of camera  $C_i$  at time  $t_0$ , which is modelled as:  $I_i = T(S, C_i, L_0, t_0)$ , or on the image plane of  $C_0$  under the light source  $L_i$  at time  $t_i$ ,  $I_i = T(S, C_0, L_i, t_i)$ , where  $T$  is the geometric/radiometric transformation.

$T$  can be a geometric transformation which determines the 2D coordinates of a 3D point, or a radiometric transformation which determines the intensity/irradiance information from the information of illumination, viewing direction and surface orientation.

#### 4.1.2 Segment and Scell

**Definition 3 (Segment)** A segment ( $seg$ ) is a distinct region in the image, and is the most basic element in the image, which can be considered as a generalized pixel.

For instance, a segment can be a pixel, a window area, an edge, a contour, or a region of arbitrary size and shape.

**Definition 4 (Cue)** Cues are the visual or geometric characteristics of the segments  $seg$  that can be used for reconstruction, denoted as  $cue(seg)$ .

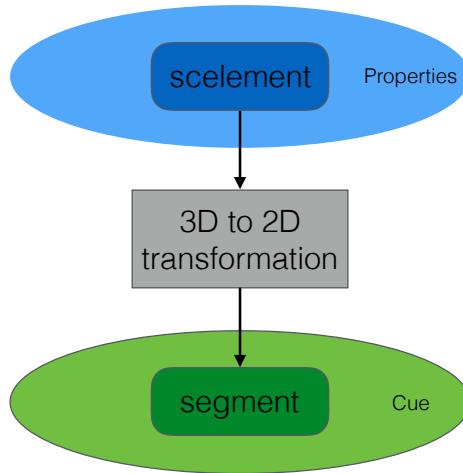
For instance, the cue can be the texture within a window area, the intensity/-colour value of a pixel, or the object contour, etc.

**Definition (Scell)** A scell (scene element, denoted as  $sc$ ) is a volume in the scene which corresponds to at least one segment. A scell can be considered as a generalization of a voxel.

**Definition (Property)** Properties are the visual and geometric characteristics of the scell  $sc$ , which would influence the cues of a segment, denoted as  $prop(sc)$ .

The property of the scell can be the 3D position or orientation information, visual texture, reflectance, surface orientation, roughness, convexity, etc.

The relation between the terms defined above is shown in Figure ??.



**Figure 4.1:** Relation between a scell and a segment

### 4.1.3 Consistency

Every photograph of a 3D scene taken from a camera  $C_i$  partitions the set of all possible shape-radiance scene descriptions into two families, those that reproduce the photograph and those that do not. We characterize this constraint for a given shape and a given radiance assignment by the notion of *consistency*.

**Definition (Consistency criterion)** The consistency criterion checks whether the properties of a scell  $sc$  can produce the cues observed in the corresponding segment  $seg$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{consist}(\text{prop}(sc), \text{cue}(seg)) = 1 &\Rightarrow \text{consistent} \\ \text{consist}(\text{prop}(sc), \text{cue}(seg)) = 0 &\Rightarrow \text{not consistent} \end{aligned}$$

**Definition (Segment consistency)** Let  $S$  be the scene. A scell  $s \in S$  that is visible from  $C_i$  is consistent with the image  $I_i$  if and only if the consistency criterion is true.

**Definition (Image consistency)** A scene  $S$  is image consistent with image  $I_i$  if any scell  $\forall s \in S$  visible from the camera  $C_i$  is segment consistent with this image.

**Definition (Scene consistency)** A scene  $S$  is scene photo-consistent with a set of images  $\{I_n\}_{n=0}^{N-1}$  if it's image consistency with each image  $I_i \in \{I_n\}_{n=0}^{N-1}$  in the set.

### 4.1.4 Formal Definition

**Definition (3D reconstruction problem)** Given a set of images  $\{I_n\}_{n=0}^{N-1}$  captured by cameras  $\{C_n\}_{n=0}^{N-1}$ , or under a set of light sources  $\{L_n\}_{n=0}^{N-1}$ , find a set of scells  $\{sc_n\}_{n=0}^{M-1}$  such that any scell is consistent with the image set  $\{I_n\}_{n=0}^{N-1}$ , i.e.,  $\forall sc_i \in \{sc_n\}_{n=0}^{M-1}$ , we have the following:

$$\text{consist}(\text{prop}(sc_i), \text{cue}(seg_{(i,n)})) = 1.$$

where  $seg_{(i,n)}$  is the corresponding segment of  $sc_i$  in camera  $C_n$ . Alternatively, 3D reconstruction tries to find a set of scells  $\{sc_n\}_{n=0}^{M-1}$  that are scene consistent with the image set  $\{I_n\}_{n=0}^{N-1}$

#### 4.1.5 Applied Definition

While the definition presented above gives a formal definition of the problem of 3D reconstruction, it is not necessarily applicable in a practical setting. In this section, we extend this formal definition to an approximate, yet applied version.

**Definition (Consistency score)** The consistency score measures the similarity between a scell  $sc$  and the corresponding segment  $seg$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{consist}(\text{prop}(sc), \text{cue}(seg)) &= x, x \in [0, 1] \\ \text{consist}(\text{prop}(sc), \text{cue}(seg)) = 1 &\Rightarrow \text{consistent} \\ \text{consist}(\text{prop}(sc), \text{cue}(seg)) = 0 &\Rightarrow \text{not consistent} \end{aligned}$$

**Definition (Applied consistency criterion)** A scell  $sc$  and a segment  $seg$  are considered consistent if the the consistency score is above a pre-defined threshold  $\varepsilon$ .

$$\text{consist}(\text{prop}(sc), \text{cue}(seg)) > \varepsilon$$

**Definition (Applied 3D Reconstruction Problem)** Given a set of images  $\{I_n\}_{n=0}^{N-1}$  captured by cameras  $\{C_n\}_{n=0}^{N-1}$ , or under a set of light sources  $\{L_n\}_{n=0}^{N-1}$ , find a set of scells  $\{sc_n\}_{n=0}^{M-1}$  such that the consistency score between the set of scells and their corresponding segments  $\{seg_{(i,n)}\}_{i=0,j=0}^{M-1,N-1}$  are maximized.

$$\text{maximize} \quad \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \sum_{i=0}^{M-1} \text{consist}(\text{prop}(sc_i), \text{cue}(seg_{(i,n)}))$$

## 4.2 Model

Models and representations are fundamental for vision problem solving. Models select characteristic properties of an object, and representation describes the model selected object properties to facilitate a solution of a class of problem. A model facilitates the representation of aspects in reality that are useful in a particular problem domain [15]. For instance, surface orientation is one component of the surface geometry model, and the corresponding representation can be surface normal or curvature. Another example is colour, which is a component of a material model,

and where RGB space is the corresponding representation of the colour.

We select the subset of properties used for object taxonomy in Chapter 3 as the main components of our model. The model consisting of these key properties is shown in Table 4.1.

Property	Texture	Lightness	Reflectance	Roughness	Concavity
----------	---------	-----------	-------------	-----------	-----------

**Table 4.1:** Model of the 3D reconstruction problem: properties

## 4.3 Representation

Based on the proposed definitions and model of the 3D reconstruction problem, we need to further define our representations so that the 3D reconstruction problem can indeed be expressed using our proposed model. We need to turn our attention to how to represent the properties used in the proposed model, as these factors impact the corresponding properties.

### 4.3.1 Texture

Texture is one of the most important cues for many computer vision algorithms. It is generally divided into two categories, namely *tactile* and *visual* textures. Tactile textures refer to the immediate tangible feel of a surface, whereas visual textures refer to the visual impression that textures produce to the human observer, which are related to local spatial variations of simple stimuli like colour, orientation and intensity in an image. Here we focus only on visual textures, as they are more widely used in the stereo vision research. The term ‘texture’ hereafter refers exclusively to ‘visual texture’ unless mentioned otherwise.

Although texture is an important component in computer vision, there is no precise definition for the notion of texture itself. The main reason for this is that natural textures often exhibit separate yet contradicting properties, such as regularity versus randomness, or uniformity versus distortion, which can hardly be described in a unified manner.

There are various properties that make texture distinguishable: scale/size/granularity, orientation, homogeneity, randomness, etc. However, due to the diversity

and complexity of natural textures, it is a challenging task to map from these semantic meanings to the precise properties of a synthetic texture. The stereo vision community often takes a simplified approach, classifying two categories, regular and stochastic, by degree of randomness. A regular texture is formed by regular tiling of easily identifiable elements (texels) organized into strong periodic patterns. A stochastic texture exhibits less noticeable elements and displays rather random patterns. Most of the real world textures are mixtures of these two categories.

In this thesis, we adopt another simplification and consider *texture coverage*, which is the ratio of the surface that is textured. Stereo vision, in theory, attempts to find correspondences based on the ‘distinctiveness’ of the texture. Therefore, as long as a surface is covered by distinctive texture, it makes little difference what the basic building texture element is.

### 4.3.2 Lightness

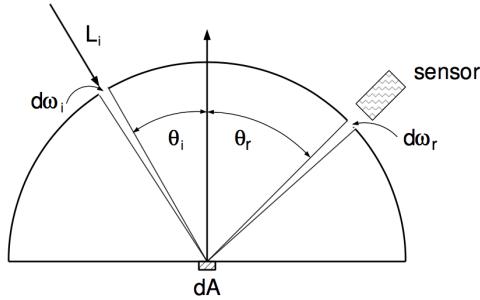
When light strikes a surface, it may be reflected, transmitted, absorbed, or scattered; usually, a combination of these effects occur. The intensity/colour information received by a sensor is thus determined, among other factors, by the amount of light available after these interactions. We consider intensity as caused solely by reflection, as this is the one of most common phenomena experienced and is the easiest to analyze. Generally, we assume that all effects are local, thus global effects such as inter-reflection and transmission, among others, are omitted. This is called a **local interaction model**. Lightness ranges from ‘black’ to ‘white’ in the grey scale axis, and colour is a superset of intensity, which takes into account the spectral composition of light. Both lightness and colour depend on illumination, surface normal, surface reflectance, and viewing direction.

In order to understand the contributing factor of pixel intensity/colour, we need an in-depth understanding of reflection, i.e., how light is reflected off of a surface patch, and the relation between material and intensity values. The radiometric formation of an image consists of three separate processes, *light-matter interaction*, *light-lens interaction*, and *light-sensor interaction*.

## Definition of Radiometric Terms

Below is a list of radiometry terms, see Figure 4.2 for an illustration:

- Solid angle ( $d\omega$ ): 3D counterpart of angle,  $d\omega = \frac{dA \cos \theta_i}{R^2}$  (steradian).
- Projected solid angle ( $d\Omega$ ):  $d\Omega = \cos \theta d\omega$ .
- Incident radiance ( $\mathbf{L}_i(\theta_i, \phi_i)$ ): light flux received from the direction  $(\theta_i, \phi_i)$  on a unit surface area, unit ( $\text{watt} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{steradian}^{-1}$ ).
- Irradiance ( $\mathbf{E}_i(\theta_i, \phi_i)$ ): light Flux (power) incident per unit surface area from all direction,  $\mathbf{E}_i(\theta_i, \phi_i) = \int_{\Omega_i} L_i(\theta_i, \phi_i) d\Omega_i$  ( $\text{watt}/\text{m}^2$ ).
- Surface radiance ( $\mathbf{L}_r(\theta_r, \phi_r)$ ): light flux emmited from a unit surface area in the direction  $(\theta_r, \phi_r)$ , unit ( $\text{watt} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{steradian}^{-1}$ ).



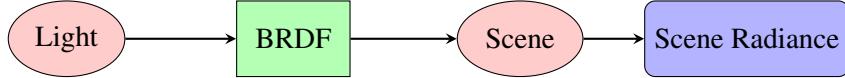
**Figure 4.2:** Illustration of light-matter interaction.

## Light-matter interaction

The relation between the incoming illumination and reflected light is modelled using the *bidirectional reflectance distribution function* (BRDF). The BRDF is defined as

**Definition (BRDF)** the ratio of the surface radiance  $\mathbf{L}_r(\theta_r, \phi_r)$  to the irradiance  $\mathbf{E}_i(\theta_i, \phi_i)$ , i.e.,  $f(\theta_i, \phi_i, \theta_r, \phi_r) = \frac{E_{surface}(\theta_i, \phi_i)}{L_{surface}(\theta_r, \phi_r)}$ .

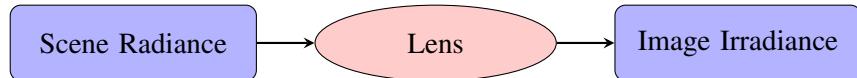
**Diffuse albedo** or surface lightness is the proportion of incident light that is reflected by the surface. It should be noted that albedo is not an intrinsic property of a surface. Instead, for any surface, the albedo depends on the spectral and angular distributions of the incident light.



**Figure 4.3:** The process of light-matter interaction. The ellipse represents the physical components, the rectangle represents the interaction process, and the rounded rectangle represents input/output, same representations used in graphs below.[change the graphs]

### Light lens interaction

The assumption made in vision is that radiance is constant as it propagates along a ray. Therefore, the scene radiance is the same as the radiance hitting the camera sensor. It can be further shown that the image irradiance received by the sensor is proportional to the scene radiance, thus the relation between *scene radiance* and *image irradiance* is linear.



**Figure 4.4:** The light-lens interaction.

### Light sensor interaction

The camera response function relating image irradiance at the image plane to measured pixel intensity values is a non-linear mapping. A linear relation can be retrieved by radiometric calibration.



**Figure 4.5:** The light-sensor interaction.

In conclusion, the *light sensor* can be assumed as a linear mapping (as most vision algorithms do) or calibrated as a pre-processing step. The factor that influences the intensity is the BRDF value. There are 4 degrees of freedom for spatially-invariant BRDF, and for a special, simple case - Lambertian reflectance, the BRDF is degenerated to the diffuse *albedo*, which is the representation we adopt for the property of intensity.

### 4.3.3 Reflectance

Specular surfaces reflect light in nearly a single direction when the microscopic surface irregularities are small compared to light wavelength, and when no subsurface scattering is present [44]. Unlike diffuse reflections, where we experience the lightness and colour of an object, specular reflections carry information about the structure, intensity, and spectral content of the illumination field. In other words, specular reflection is simply an image of the environment, or the illumination field, distorted by the geometry of the reflecting surface. In Figure 4.6, the image no longer reflects the original colour of the surface (red). Instead it shows a distorted image of the environment. A purely specular surface is a mirror, which is rare in nature. Most natural materials exhibit a mixture of specular and diffuse reflections. Variations in microscopic surface geometry can cause specular reflections to be scattered, blurring the image of the environment in an amount proportional to surface roughness. We use a numeric *specular* value to denote the proportion of a material's specularity, with 0 being completely diffuse, and 1 being completely specular (mirror like).



**Figure 4.6:** A red specular sphere. The surface reflects light in a mirror-like way, and no diffuse reflection exist, thus the colour of the surface is no longer visible.

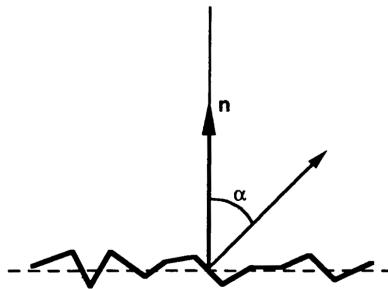
#### 4.3.4 Roughness

Roughness, which refers to the microscopic shape characteristics of a surface, contributes to the way in which light is reflected off of a surface. A smooth surface may reflect incident light in a single direction, while a rough surface may scatter the light in various directions. We need prior knowledge of the microscopic surface irregularities, or a model of the surface itself, to determine the reflection of incident light.

Possible surface models are divided into 2 categories: surfaces with exact known profiles and surfaces with random irregularities. An exact profile may be determined by measuring the height at each point on the surface by means of a sensor such as the stylus profilometer. This method tends to be cumbersome and impractical, hence, it is more reasonable to model the surface as a random process, where it is described by a statistical distribution of either its height above a certain mean level, or its slope with respect to its mean (macroscopic) slope. We will use the second statistical approach in this section.

#### Slope Distribution Model

We can think of a surface as a collection of planar micro-facets. A large set of micro-facets constitutes an infinitesimal surface patch that has a mean surface orientation  $\vec{n}$ . Each micro-facet has its own orientation, which may deviate from the mean surface orientation by an angle  $\alpha$ .



**Figure 4.7:** Surface Slope Distribution Model

We will use the parameter  $\alpha$  to represent the slope of individual facets. Surfaces can be modeled by a statistical distribution of the micro-facet slopes. If the surface is isotropic, the probability distribution of the micro-facet slopes can be assumed as rotationally symmetric w.r.t the mean surface normal  $\vec{n}$ . Therefore, facet slopes can be described by a one-dimensional probability distribution function. For instance, the surface may be modeled by assuming a normal distribution for the facet slope  $\alpha$ , with mean value  $\bar{\alpha} = 0$  and standard deviation  $\sigma_\alpha$ , where the larger  $\sigma_\alpha$  can be used to model rougher surfaces:

$$p_\alpha(\alpha) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_\alpha} e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{2\sigma_\alpha^2}}$$

#### 4.3.5 Concavity

Concavity can cause self-shadow or inter-reflection effects, which can severely impede the accuracy of intensity based algorithms. Since concavity is not shown in the silhouette image, methods that utilize silhouette information may also fail to reconstruct concavities. Concavity is measured by *surface curvature*.

### 4.4 Expression

Now that we have a proposed definition and representation of 3D reconstruction problem, we can express existing 3D reconstruction algorithms under this framework. The expression of the reconstruction problem is shown in table 4.2.

object	Texture coverage	Albedo	Specular	Roughness	Concavity
Class 1	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.8	0.2
Class 2	0.2	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.2
Class 3	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.8	0.2
Class 5	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.2

**Table 4.2:** Expression of the reconstruction problem for the object classss 1, 2, 3, 5.

## Chapter 5

# A Mapping of 3D Reconstruction

Most vision work focuses on developing algorithmic novelties, and as we have mentioned, very few investigate the rigorous conditions under which the algorithms themselves work. Thus, this knowledge is only known empirically, without a rigorous definition of the application domain or problem conditions. This section builds upon the 3D description proposed in Chapter 4, and attempts to find the optimal algorithms under well defined conditions.

To achieve this goal, we need a dataset to evaluate the performance of each algorithm under varied conditions, which is not the goal of most online datasets. To the best of our knowledge, current existing 3D benchmarks only focus on one specific class of algorithms. For example, the Middlebury dataset targets MVS algorithms [54], and the ‘DiLiGenT’ dataset targets Photometric Stereo algorithms [55]. This makes such benchmarks only suitable for the evaluation of within-category algorithms. There are no datasets that evaluate 3D reconstruction across differ categories, nor are there any datasets that cover a range of properties of materials and geometry and their combinations. Reasons for the lack of such a dataset are: 1) it is already tedious to create a real-world dataset for one specific category of algorithms, so it would be even more challenging to create a dataset for a larger range of algorithms with the ground truth; 2) it’s practically impossible to change one property, e.g., noise level, lighting configuration, material, etc., while fixing others in order to conduct a thorough evaluation.

In response to these challenges, we propose a synthetic dataset created by

physically-based rendering software (Blender), to evaluate the 3D reconstruction algorithms. Our dataset includes a collection of images of a scene under different materials and lighting conditions. The camera/projector's intrinsic and extrinsic parameters are computed directly from the configurations of the synthetic setup, and the ground truth, including the 3D model point cloud and normal map, are generated directly from Blender.

## 5.1 Synthetic setup

We use Blender's physically-based rendering engine, Cycles, to generate the synthetic dataset. For each technique, the configuration of the camera remains fixed. The image resolution is  $1280 \times 720$ , with a focal length of  $35\text{mm}$  or  $1400\text{pix}$ .

For the Multi-View Stereo setup, there are five rings of cameras, of which the elevation angles are  $15^\circ$ ,  $30^\circ$ ,  $45^\circ$ ,  $60^\circ$ ,  $90^\circ$ . The between-angles of two neighbouring cameras are  $30^\circ$ ,  $30^\circ$ ,  $45^\circ$ ,  $45^\circ$ , and  $360^\circ$ . Thus, there are in total  $12 + 12 + 8 + 8 + 1 = 41$  cameras.

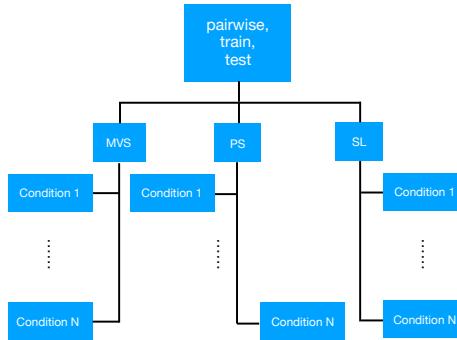
For the photometric stereo setup, since increasing the number of images is only important up to a point, the experimental results showed that most algorithms reaches their optimum when 15 images are used [12]. To strike a balance between algorithm performance and rendering time, we use 25 light sources, which are distributed on four different rings with elevation angles of  $90^\circ$ ,  $85^\circ$ ,  $60^\circ$ , and  $45^\circ$ . The azimuth angle between two neighbouring light sources is  $45^\circ$ .

For the structured light setup, the baseline angle between the camera and the projector is  $10^\circ$ , and only one camera is used, thus only a portion of the object is visible. The resolution of the projector is  $1024 \times 768$ , thus 10 Gray code patterns are needed. To counter the effect of inter-reflection, each pattern and its inverse are projected, which decreases sensitivity to scattered light.

## 5.2 Structure of Datasets

Due to the number of properties and levels for each property, it would be unrealistic to render all their combinations. For instance, if there are  $N$  properties and each is discretized into  $L$  levels, the number of different combinations is  $L^N$ , and for each combination, there are in total  $41 + 25 + 42 = 108$  images to render. Therefore,

we take another approach: 1) we investigate the *effective problem domain* which consists of only the *effective* and *dependent* properties; 2) we generate synthetic images for the *effective* and *dependent* properties and all of their combinations. The structure of the dataset is as follows:



**Figure 5.1:** Structure of the synthetic dataset.

### 5.3 Evaluation metrics

We use the metric proposed in [54] to evaluate MVS and SL algorithms. More specifically, we compute the accuracy and completeness of the reconstruction. For accuracy, the distance between the points in the reconstruction  $R$  and the nearest points on ground truth  $G$  is computed, and the distance  $d$  such that  $X\%$  of the points on  $R$  are within distance  $d$  of  $G$  is considered as accuracy. Thus the lower the accuracy value, the better the reconstruction result. For completeness, we compute the distance from  $G$  to  $R$ . Intuitively, points on  $G$  are not “covered” if no suitable nearest points on  $R$  are found. A more practical approach computes the fraction of points of  $G$  that are within an allowable distance  $d$  of  $R$ . Note that as the accuracy improves, the “accuracy value” goes down, whereas as the completeness improves, the “completeness value” goes up.

For photometric stereo, depth information is lost since only one viewpoint is used. Thus, the previous metrics are not applicable. Here we employ another evaluation criteria that is widely adopted, which is based on the statistics of angular error. For each pixel, the angular error is calculated as the angle between the es-

timated and ground truth normal, i.e.,  $\arccos(n_g^T n)$ , where  $n_g$  and  $n$  are the ground truth and estimated normals respectively. In addition to the mean angular error, we also calculate the standard deviation, minimum, maximum, median, first quartile, and third quartile of angular errors for each estimated normal map.

## 5.4 Selected methods

We have selected one representative algorithm from three major classes of algorithms presented in Chapter 3: the PMVS proposed in [20], the example-based photometric stereo proposed in [26], and the Gray code structured light technique. See Table 5.1 for a summary of the selected algorithms. The current implementation of SL projects both column and row patterns, and depth values are computed using these two kinds of patterns individually. A depth consistency checking step is performed to reject erroneous triangulations.

Technique	Texture	Albedo	Specular	Roughness
PMVS: patch-based, seed points propagation MVS.				
PMVS	High	-	Low	-
EPS: example-based Photometric Stereo				
EPS	-	High	Low	High
GSL: Gray code Structured Light technique				
GSL	-	High	Low	High

**Table 5.1:** Summary of the selected algorithms for the framework, and the corresponding working conditions in theory.

## 5.5 Baseline

A baseline algorithm that works sufficiently well under most conditions should be chosen so that it is possible to determine the performance of a selected algorithm within the framework. We choose the Visual Hull technique as one of our baseline algorithms since it works relatively well as long as the silhouette of the object can be reliably extracted, thus being insensitive to material properties. In addition, the true scene is always enclosed by the reconstruction result, so the outcome is always predictable.

Technique	Texture	Albedo	Specular	Roughness
VH: volumetric Visual Hull				
VH	-	-	-	-
LLS-PS: linear least squares Photometric Stereo.				
LLS-PS	-	High	Low	High

**Table 5.2:** Summary of the baseline algorithms for the framework, and the corresponding working conditions in theory.

A simple linear least squares based Photometric Stereo (LLS-PS) is selected to evaluate Photometric Stereo algorithms. However, there is currently no such algorithm that works reasonably well under various conditions. Thus, we run this baseline algorithm under the optimal condition to ensure that a best possible result is achieved. To assess the performance of the selected PS algorithm against the baseline, we compare the following characteristics of the angular error:

### Measures of Central Tendency

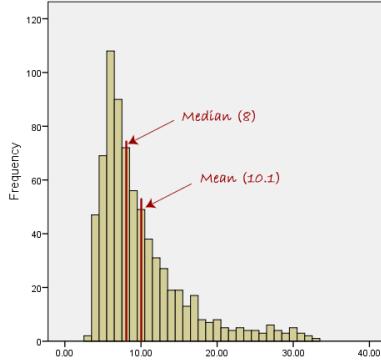
Mean and median are both valid measures of central tendency, but as the skewness increases, the mean is dragged in the direction of the skew. As a result, the median is generally considered to be the best representative of the central location of the data. The more skewed the distribution, the greater the difference between the median and mean, and the greater the emphasis should be placed on using the median as opposed to the mean. See Figure 5.2.

### Variation

- Interquartile range
- Standard deviation

### Skewness (right/positive-skewness)

The normal estimation is less sensitive to angular error when the mean and median are close. The shape can be recovered relatively well with a mean/median angular error of  $10^\circ$  (see Figure 5.3 (a)-(f)). The normal estimation becomes more susceptible as the difference between the mean and median increases (see Figure 5.3

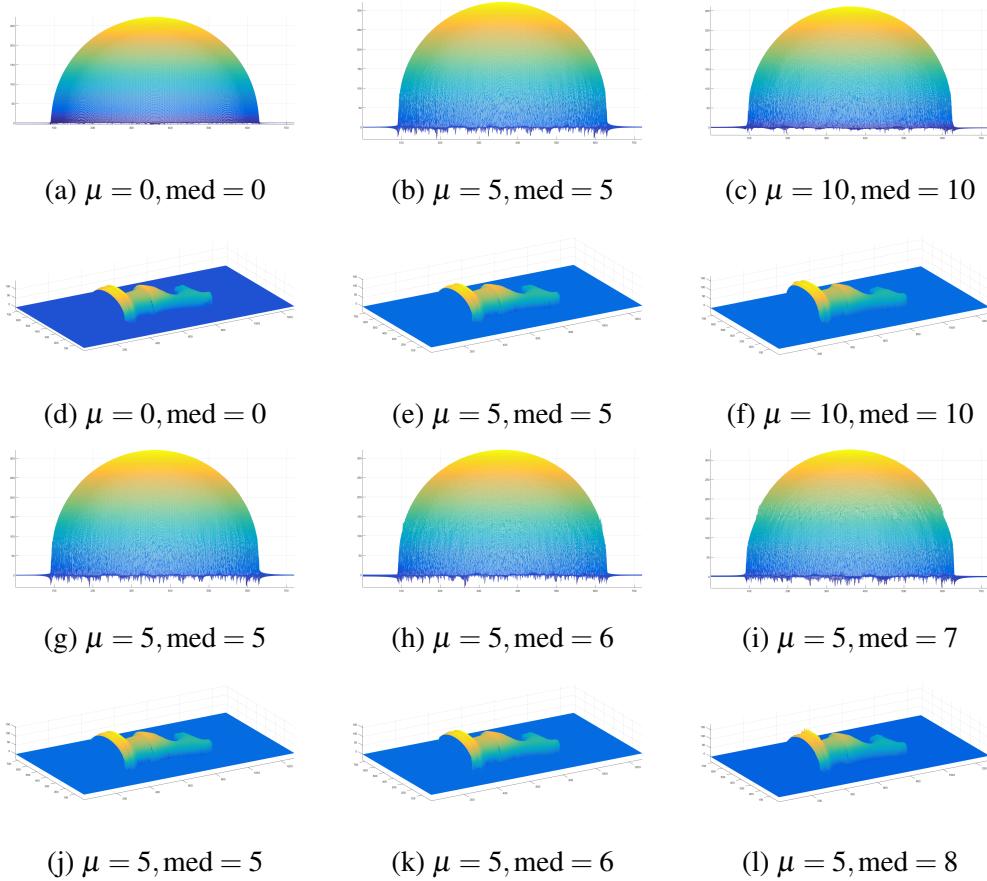


**Figure 5.2:** A right-skewed distribution, which is a typical graph of the angular error.

(g)-(l)). This can be explained as follows: when the normals are reliably estimated, the angular error should follow a Gaussian distribution. Therefore, the mean and median are close to each other. However, if normals are poorly recovered, the mean would become larger since large angular errors exist, while the median would change far less since only a small amount of pixels are affected. Thus, the difference between mean and median would be larger when surface normals are poorly recovered.

## 5.6 Effective Problem Domain

The greatest challenge in conducting a comprehensive evaluation are the large variations in shapes and material properties, which result in a problem domain that is too large to cope with. Therefore, the first step is to establish the *effective problem domain* (EPD) by finding effective properties so that the dimension of problem conditions can become more manageable. We have conducted comprehensive experiments that evaluate the performance of the algorithms by changing two properties at a time while fixing the others. Our goals are twofold 1) identify effective properties; 2) identify dependent properties that would impact the algorithm differently with various combinations of values.

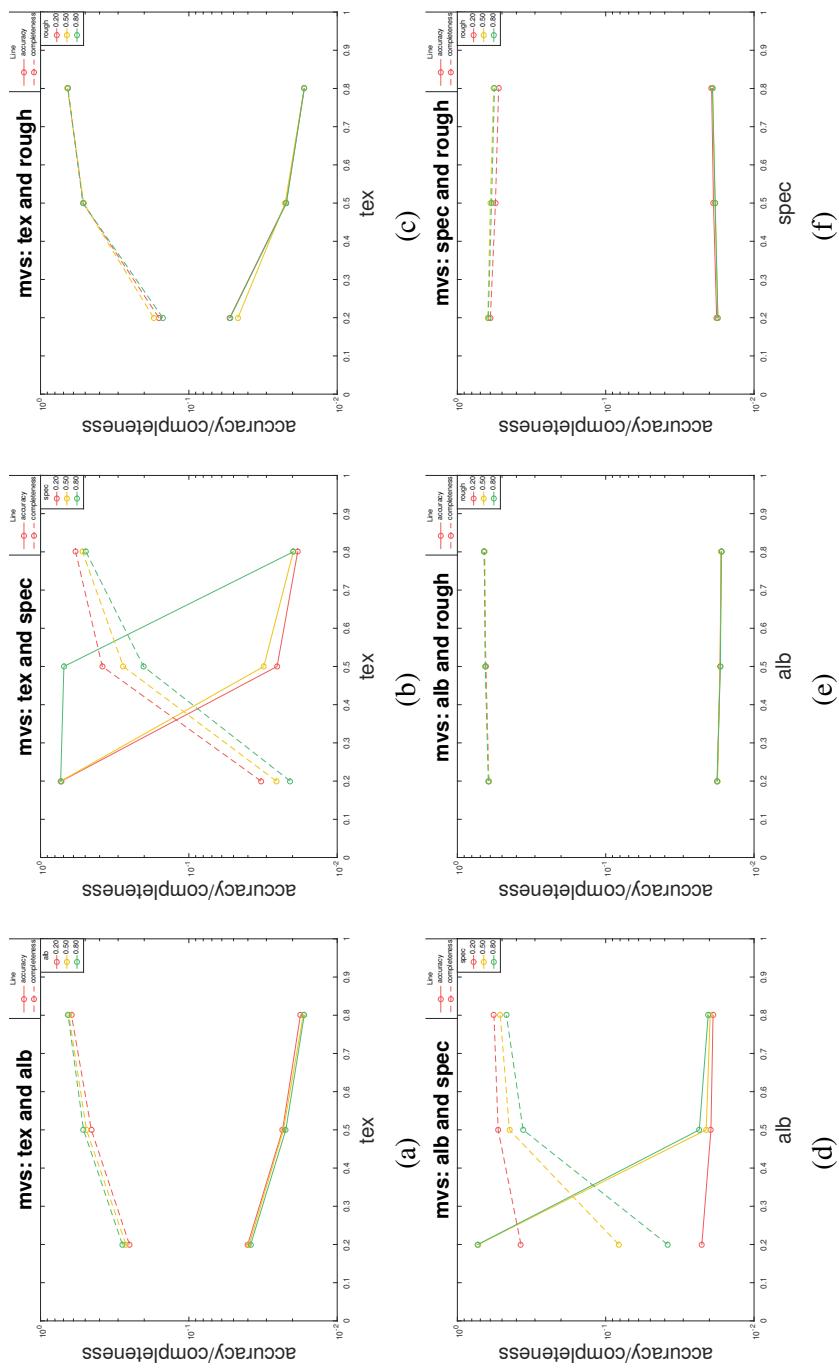


**Figure 5.3:** Shape estimation results with varied mean and median values.

The algorithm is less sensitive to large mean or median values, while more sensitive to the difference between the mean and median values.

### 5.6.1 EPD of PMVS

We evaluate the performance of PMVS in terms of accuracy and completeness under varied combinations of properties. The settings of these properties are listed in Table 5.3.



**Figure 5.4:** Performance of PMVS under six pairwise conditions. For instance, (a) shows the performance under changing *texture* and *albedo* values, while the others are fixed. The property values are set based on settings in Table 5.3.

Group	Texture	Albedo	Specular	Roughness
(a)	[0.2, 0.8]	[0.2, 0.8]	0.0	0.0
(b)	[0.2, 0.8]	0.8	[0.2, 0.8]	0.0
(c)	[0.2, 0.8]	0.8	0.0	[0.2, 0.8]
(d)	0.8	[0.2, 0.8]	[0.2, 0.8]	0.0
(e)	0.8	[0.2, 0.8]	0.0	[0.2, 0.8]
(f)	0.8	0.8	[0.2, 0.8]	[0.2, 0.8]

**Table 5.3:** Problem conditions for establishing the *effective problem domain* of PMVS.

### Effective and Dependent Properties

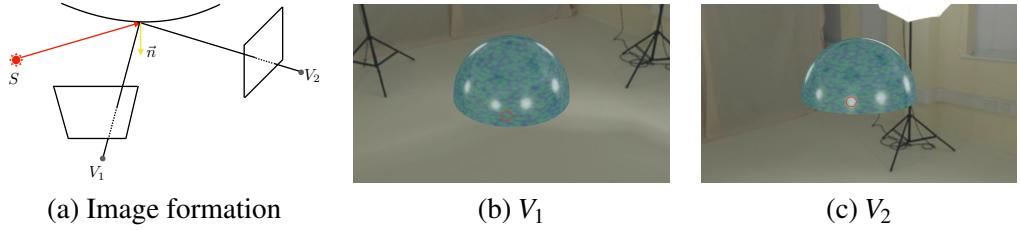
In this section, we investigate how each property affects the reconstruction in terms of accuracy and completeness.

**(a) Texture and Albedo** texture has a positive effect on the reconstruction in terms of accuracy and completeness, while the effect of albedo is negligible.

**(b) Texture and Specularity** specularity has a negative effect on both the accuracy and completeness of the reconstruction. However, the level of impact varies as the texture varies. More specifically, the effect of specularity is more substantial on a less textured surface than on one of higher textured. This can be explained as follows: the specular lobe can only be observed by cameras positioned and oriented towards the specular lobe, such as camera  $V_2$  shown in Figure 5.5 (a) and (c). Cameras positioned otherwise would observe the true surface, such as camera  $V_1$  shown in Figure 5.5 (a) and (b). The algorithm would then exploit the texture information provided by views like  $V_1$ , and thus would be able to reconstruct a specular surface.

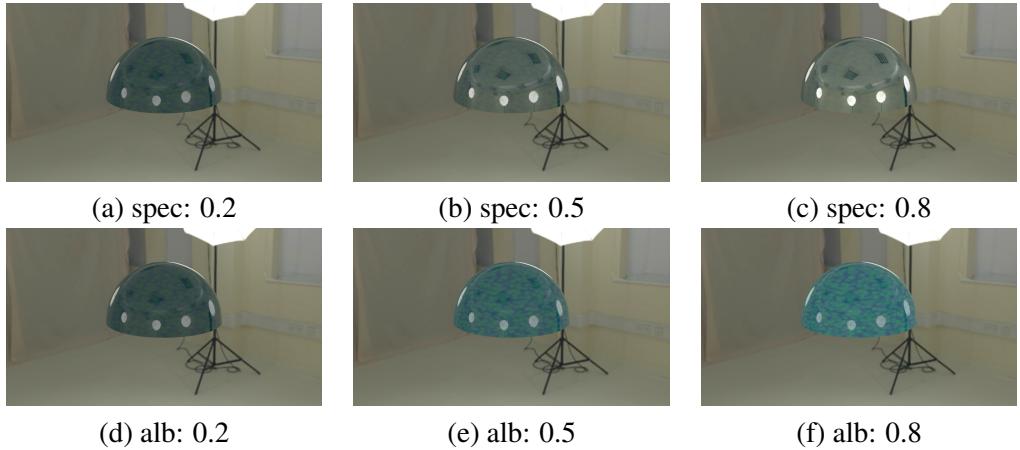
**(c) Texture and Roughness** roughness doesn't have a significant effect on the results.

**(d) Albedo and Specular** albedo has a positive effect whereas specular has a negative effect on the reconstruction. Furthermore, the effect of specular is far more substantial on a lower albedo surface than that on a higher albedo surface. This can be explained as follows: according to the energy conservation law, as the specular component increases, the diffuse component decreases, resulting in a less discernible diffuse area. See Figure 5.6 (a)-(c). Increasing the diffuse albedo



**Figure 5.5:** (a) shows the reflection of light off a specular surface.  $V_1$  received the diffuse component while  $V_2$  receives the specular component. (b), (c) shows the images observed from these two views. The specular area (red circle) observed in  $V_2$  is visible in  $V_1$ .

can counteract the effect of specularity and make the texture visible again. See Figure 5.6 (d)-(f).



**Figure 5.6:** (a)-(c). The albedo is set as 0.2, (d)-(f). The specularity is set as 0.2. According to energy conservation, as the specular component increases, the diffuse component decreases.

**(e) Albedo and Roughness** the albedo and roughness have a negligible effect on the results.

**(f) Specular and Roughness** surface roughness can effectively diminish the specular component and make the surface appear more diffuse. Since specular has a negative impact on the reconstruction, in theory, roughness should have a positive impact on the reconstruction. However, this effect is closely related to surface

texture, and surface reconstruction is always poor for low textured surfaces and good for highly textured surfaces regardless of the amount of specular component. This is as shown in Figure 5.4 (b). The result shown in Figure 5.4 (f) happens to be tested in highly textured surface, and achieves consistently good results. Since high specular, high roughness surfaces visually resemble low specular surfaces (and achieve similar reconstruction results as well), we only consider specular, and ignore roughness for simplicity.

### Summary

The effective properties of PMVS are: texture, albedo, and specular, of which texture is the most important. Specularity can deteriorate the reconstruction for lower textured and lower albedo surfaces. The effective problem domain is shown in Table 5.4.

Metric	Texture	Albedo	Specular	Roughness
Accuracy	✓	✓	✓	✗
Completeness	✓	✓	✓	✗

**Table 5.4:** The *effective problem domain* of PMVS in terms of accuracy and completeness.

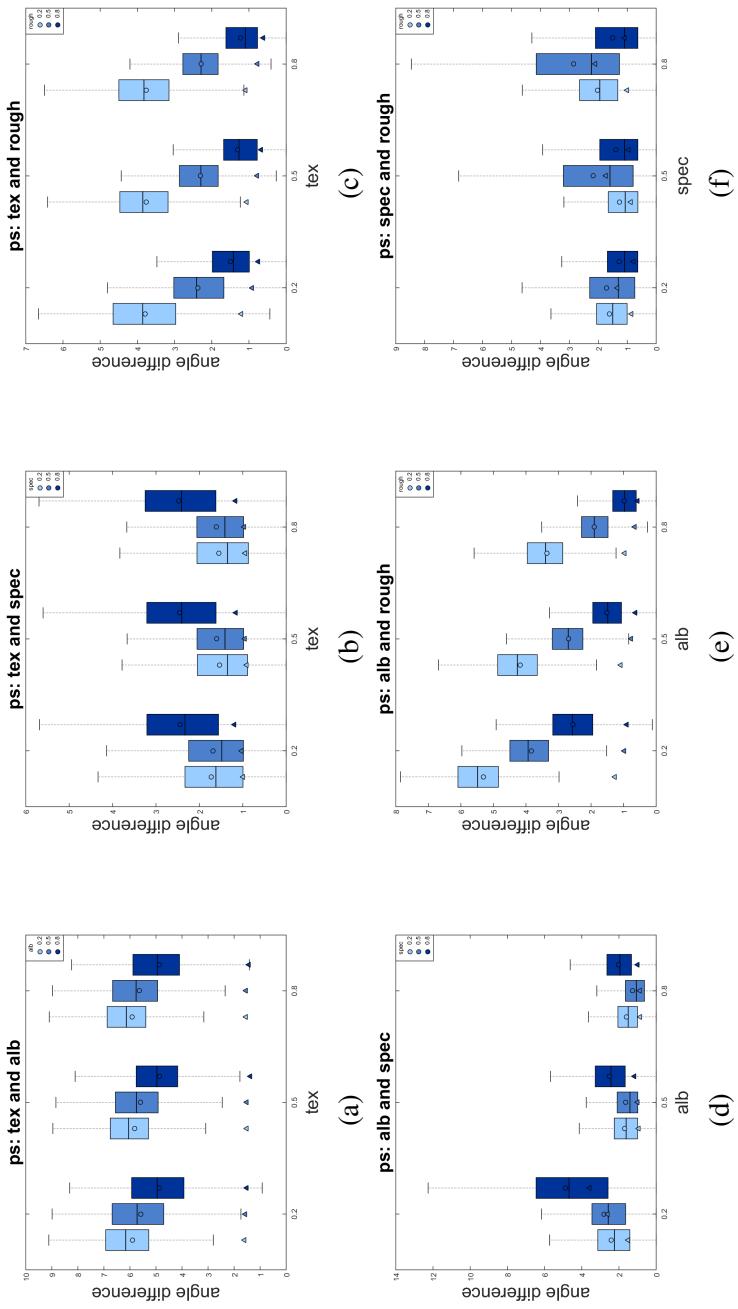
### 5.6.2 EPD of EPS

We evaluate the performance of example-based PS in terms of angular error under varied combinations of properties. The statistical measures that we used include median, mean, standard deviation, and the first and third quartiles of the angular error. We investigate two properties at a time. The settings of the properties are listed in Table 5.5.

#### Effective and Dependent Properties

We investigate how each property affects reconstruction in terms of the statistics of the angular difference.

**(a) Texture and Albedo** texture has no effect on angular difference while albedo has a positive effect on normal estimation.



**Figure 5.7:** Performance of Example-based PS under six pairwise conditions. For instance, (a) shows the performance under changing *texture* and *albedo* values. The property values are assigned based on the settings in Table 5.5 (a).

Group	Texture	Albedo	Specular	Roughness
(a)	[0.2, 0.8]	[0.2, 0.8]	0.0	0.0
(b)	[0.2, 0.8]	0.8	[0.2, 0.8]	0.2
(c)	[0.2, 0.8]	0.8	0.0	[0.2, 0.8]
(d)	0.0	[0.2, 0.8]	[0.2, 0.8]	0.2
(e)	0.0	[0.2, 0.8]	0.0	[0.2, 0.8]
(f)	0.0	0.8	[0.2, 0.8]	[0.2, 0.8]

**Table 5.5:** Problem conditions for establishing the *effective problem domain* of EPS.

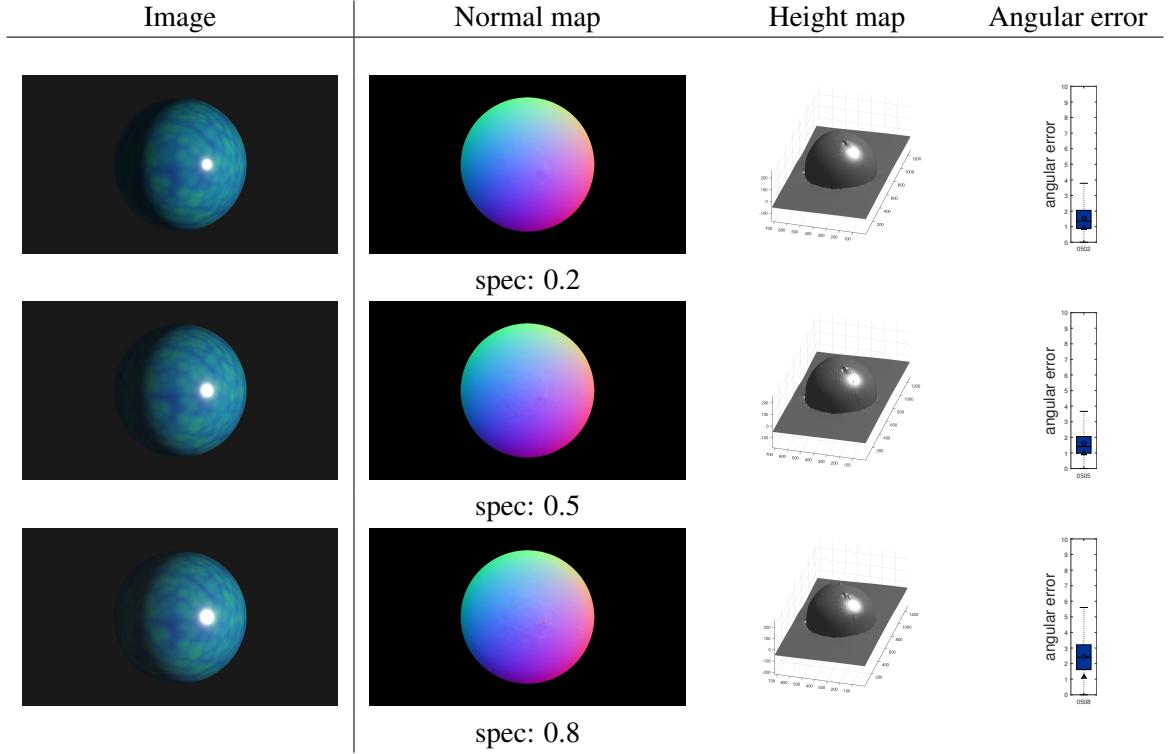
**(b) Texture and Specular** texture has no effect on angular difference while specular has a negative effect on normal estimation since the difference of mean and median gets larger as the specular increases. This can be explained as follows: as the specular increases, only the specular regions exhibit erroneous normal estimation while the rest of the surface is reliably estimated. See Figure 5.8. This is why the median value exhibits far less change, while the mean value increases significantly as shown in Figure 5.7 (b).

**(c) Texture and Roughness** texture has no effect on angular difference while roughness has a positive effect on normal estimation.

**(d) Albedo and Specular** the albedo has a positive impact on normal estimation (see Figure 5.9 (a)-(c)), whereas the specularity has a negative impact on normal estimation (see Figure 5.9 (d)-(f)).

**(e) Albedo and Roughness** both albedo and roughness have a positive effect on normal estimation.

**(f) Specular and Roughness** the specular has a negative impact on normal estimation, while roughness has a more complicated effect. We observed that the reconstruction becomes worse when roughness is 0.5, which is counter-intuitive at first sight. However, we argue that it's because the roughness is not strong enough to counteract the specular component, the result is a smoothed and blurred specular lobe with a larger area, leading to a poorer reconstruction result. This effect is also demonstrated in the training stage. See Figure 5.10 for visual examples.



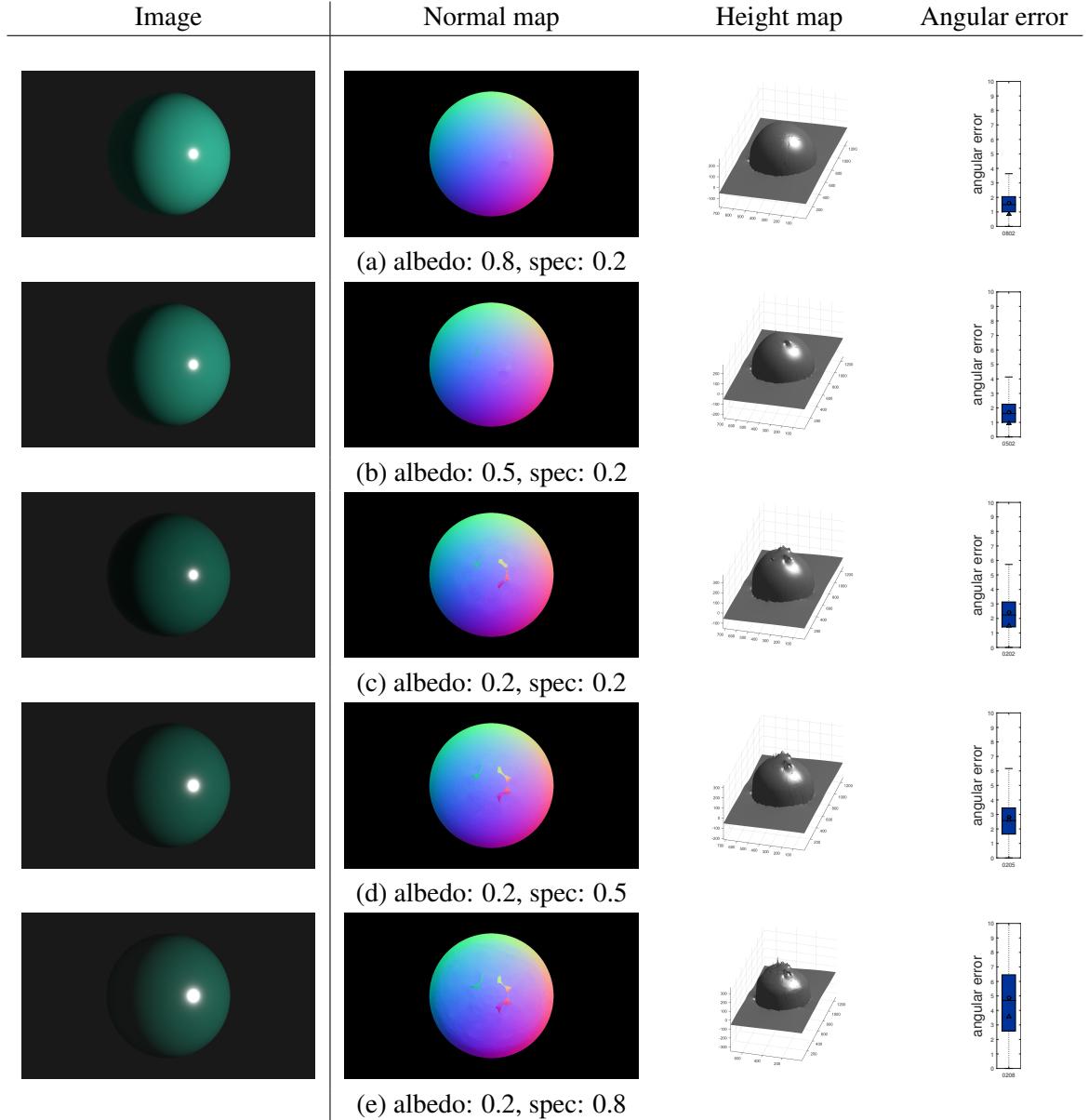
**Figure 5.8:** (a)-(c). The texture is set as 0.5. The estimated normal map and recovered surface becomes consistently worse as the specular level rises.

### Summary

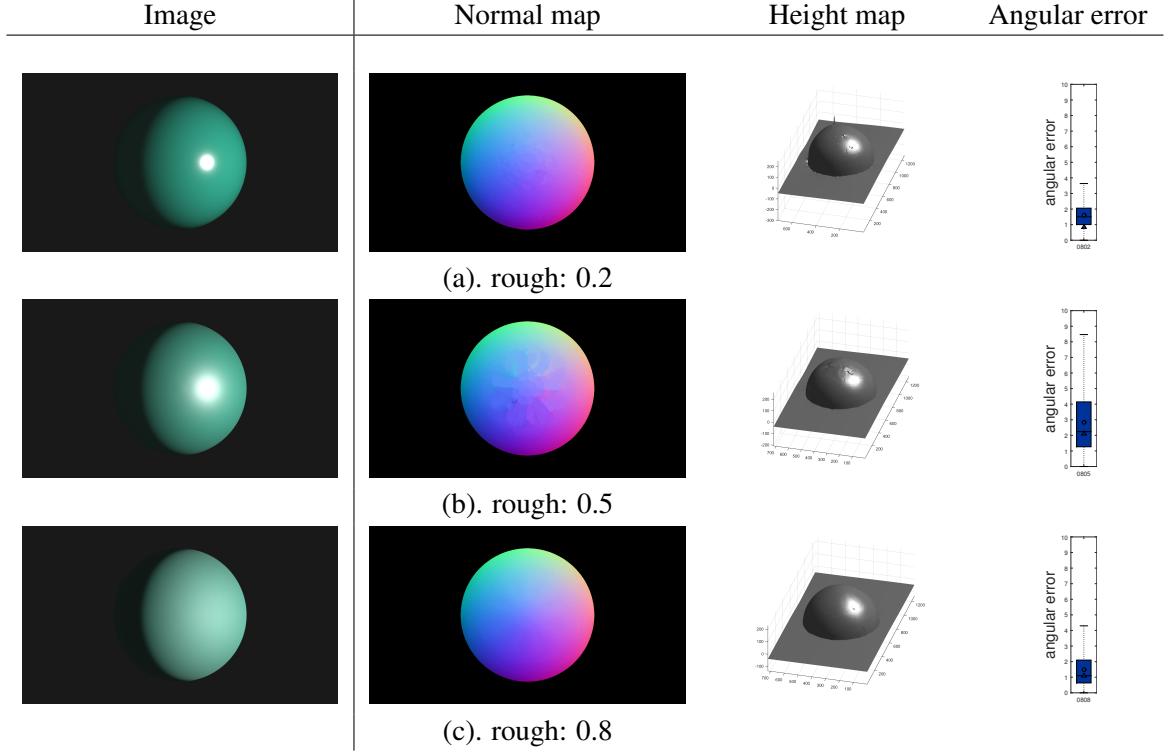
The properties that have an effect on EPS are: albedo, specular, and roughness, as shown in Table 5.6. Therefore, we will only consider these three properties for all forthcoming discussion of EPS.

Metric	Texture	Albedo	Specular	Roughness
Angle difference	✗	✓	✓	✓

**Table 5.6:** The *effective problem domain* of EPS in terms of the *angular difference*.



**Figure 5.9:** According to energy conservation, as the specular component increases, the diffuse component decreases. (a)-(c): the estimated normal map and recovered height map become consistently worse as the albedo decreases; (c)-(e): the estimated normal map and recovered height map become consistently worse as the specular increases.



**Figure 5.10:** The ‘peculiar’ effect of roughness on PS. Albedo is set as 0.8, and specular is set as 0.8. (b) demonstrates that a medium level roughness would lead to worse normal estimation since it blurs the specular lobe.

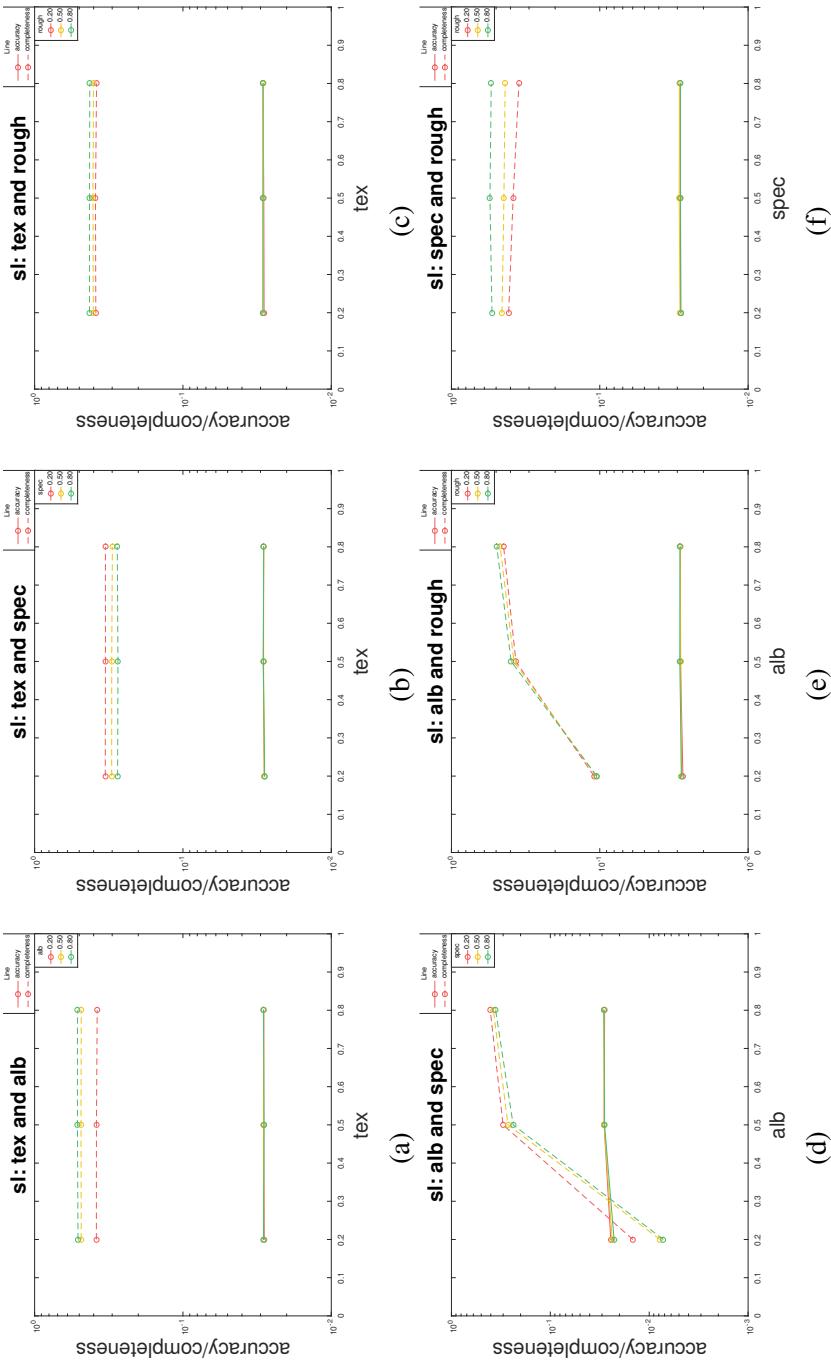
### 5.6.3 EPD of GSL

We evaluate the performance of Gray-code SL in terms of accuracy and completeness under a varied combination of properties. The settings of the properties are listed in Table 5.7.

#### Effective and Dependent Properties

We investigate how each property affects the reconstruction in terms of accuracy and completeness. A depth check step is performed to remove erroneous depth, causing the accuracy to remain nearly constant across all cases.

**(a) Texture and Albedo** texture has no significant effect, whereas albedo has



**Figure 5.11:** Performance of Gray-encoded SL under six pairwise conditions. For instance, (a) shows the performance under changing *texture* and *albedo* values. The property values are assigned based on settings in Table 5.7 (a).

Property	Texture	Albedo	Specular	Roughness
(a)	[0.2, 0.8]	[0.2, 0.8]	0.0	0.0
(b)	[0.2, 0.8]	0.8	[0.2, 0.8]	0.0
(c)	[0.2, 0.8]	0.8	0.0	[0.2, 0.8]
(d)	0.0	[0.2, 0.8]	[0.2, 0.8]	0.0
(e)	0.0	[0.2, 0.8]	0.0	[0.2, 0.8]
(f)	0.0	0.8	[0.2, 0.8]	[0.2, 0.8]

**Table 5.7:** Problem conditions for establishing the *effective problem domain* of GSL.

a positive effect on completeness. Both properties have no significant effect on accuracy.

**(b) Texture and Specular** texture has no significant effect whereas specular has a negative effect, on completeness. Both properties have no significant effect on accuracy.

**(c) Texture and Roughness** texture has no significant effect whereas roughness has a slightly positive effect on completeness. Both properties have no significant effect on accuracy.

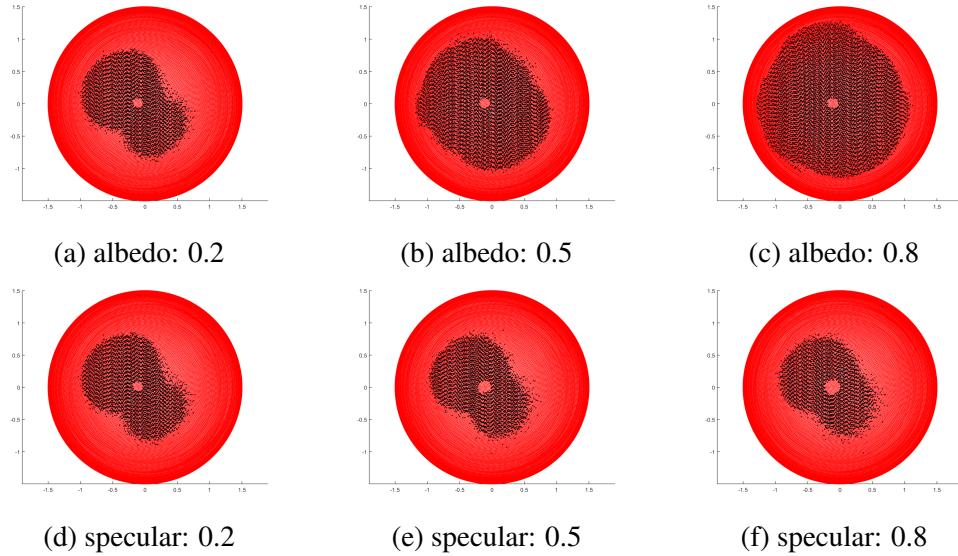
**(d) Albedo and Specularity** albedo has a positive effect (see Figure 5.12 (a)-(c)) whereas specularity has a negative effect on completeness (see Figure 5.12 (d)-(f)). The effect of specular becomes less substantial as albedo increases (see Figure 5.11 (d)). We conclude that the effect of specularity is most significant when the albedo is low. Neither property has a significant effect on accuracy.

**(e) Albedo and Roughness** albedo has a positive effect, whereas roughness has a slightly positive effect on completeness. Both properties have no significant effect on accuracy.

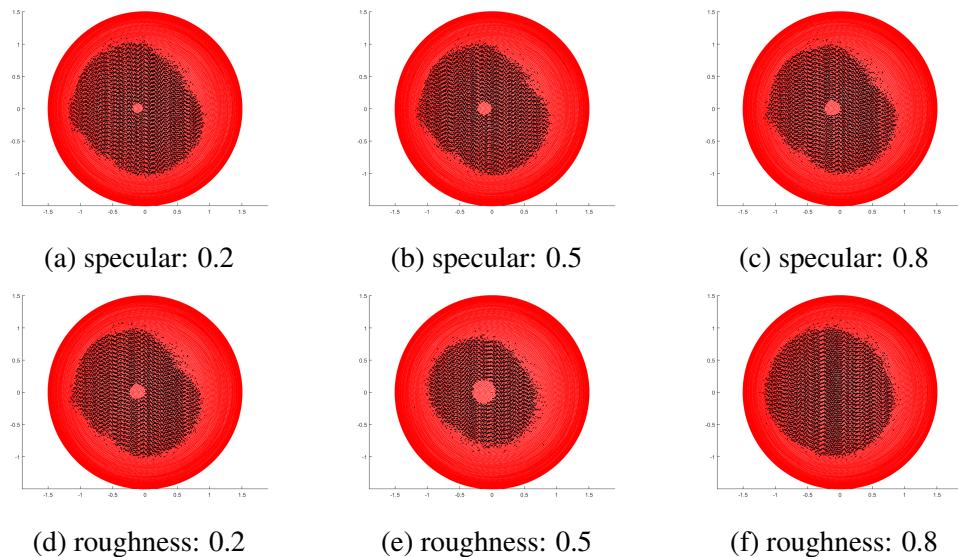
**(f) Specular and Roughness** specular has a negative effect (see Figure 5.13 (a)-(c)) whereas roughness has a positive effect on completeness (see Figure 5.13 (d)-(f)). Neither property has a significant effect on accuracy.

### Summary

The properties that have an effect on the GSL are: texture, albedo, specular, as shown in Table 5.8. Therefore, we will only consider these three properties for all



**Figure 5.12:** (a)-(c): the specular is set as 0.2, albedo has a positive effect on completeness; (d)-(e): the albedo is set as 0.2, specular has a negative effect on completeness.



**Figure 5.13:** (a)-(c): the roughness is set as 0.2, and specular has a negative effect on completeness; (d)-(e): the specular is set as 0.8, roughness has a positive effect on completeness.

forthcoming discussion of GSL.

Metric	Texture	Albedo	Specular	Roughness
Accuracy	✗	✗	✗	✗
Completeness	✗	✓	✓	✓

**Table 5.8:** The *effective problem domain* of GSL in terms of accuracy and completeness.

## 5.7 Mapping Construction

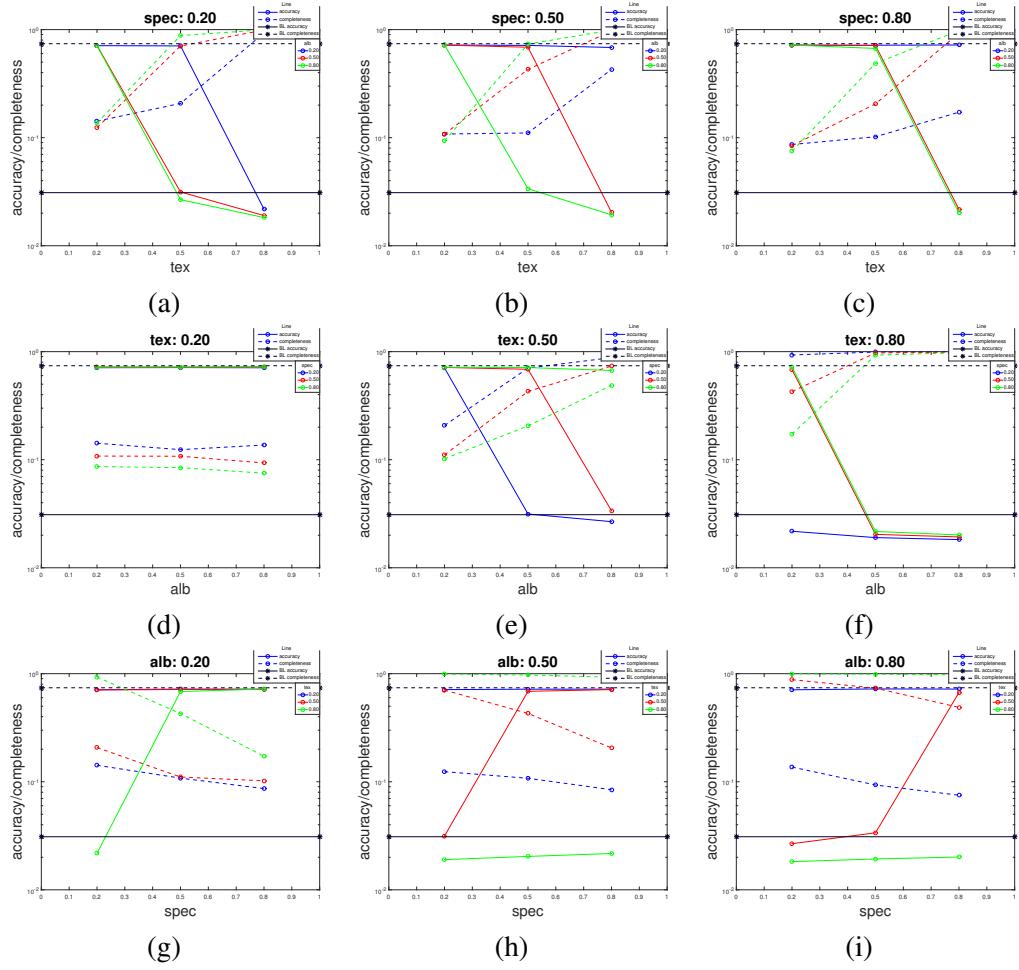
We generate another synthetic dataset using only the effective and dependent properties and all their combinations. Since there are three effective properties for each selected method, there are in total  $L^3$  different combinations of property values for each technique.  $L$  is the number of discrete values for each property, which is set to 3 representing the discrete values of 0.2, 0.5, 0.8. We present the results as follows: the 27( $3^3$ ) results are divided into three plots. Each plot illustrates the results of one fixed property  $P_1$ , and two changing properties  $P_2$  and  $P_3$ . To have a better understanding of the pairwise relation between any two properties, each effective property would be chosen as  $P_1$  once. Therefore, we end up with three groups of graphs, each consisting of three plots.

### 5.7.1 Mapping of PMVS

The performances of PMVS under different combinations of property values are shown in Figure 5.14, along with the performance of the baseline method. The conditions under which PMVS works well are listed in Table 5.9. We make the following observations from the training results:

**(a)-(c) Texture:** as the texture level increases, the completeness increases consistently. Accuracy also improves for medium/high albedo and low-medium specular surfaces.

**(d)-(f) Albedo:** for medium/high textured surfaces, albedo can effectively counteract the effect of specular, i.e., improve both the accuracy and completeness of the reconstruction. See the red and green lines in Figure 5.14 (d)-(f). As for low textured surfaces, the effect of albedo is less significant (see the blue line in Fig-



**Figure 5.14:** Performance of PMVS under varied conditions of changing property values. The baseline method serves as the guidelines to determine the performance of PMVS.

ure 5.14 (d)-(f)).

**(g)-(i) Specularity:** the effect of specularity is closely related to albedo: surface with higher albedo are able to endure a higher specular component. See the performance difference between the red ( $alb = 0.5$ ) and green ( $alb = 0.8$ ) lines in Figure 5.14 (g) - (i). For low/medium textured surfaces, specularity has a consistently negative impact whereas the effect is almost neutralized for highly textured surfaces. This aligns with the previous observation illustrated in Figure 5.5.

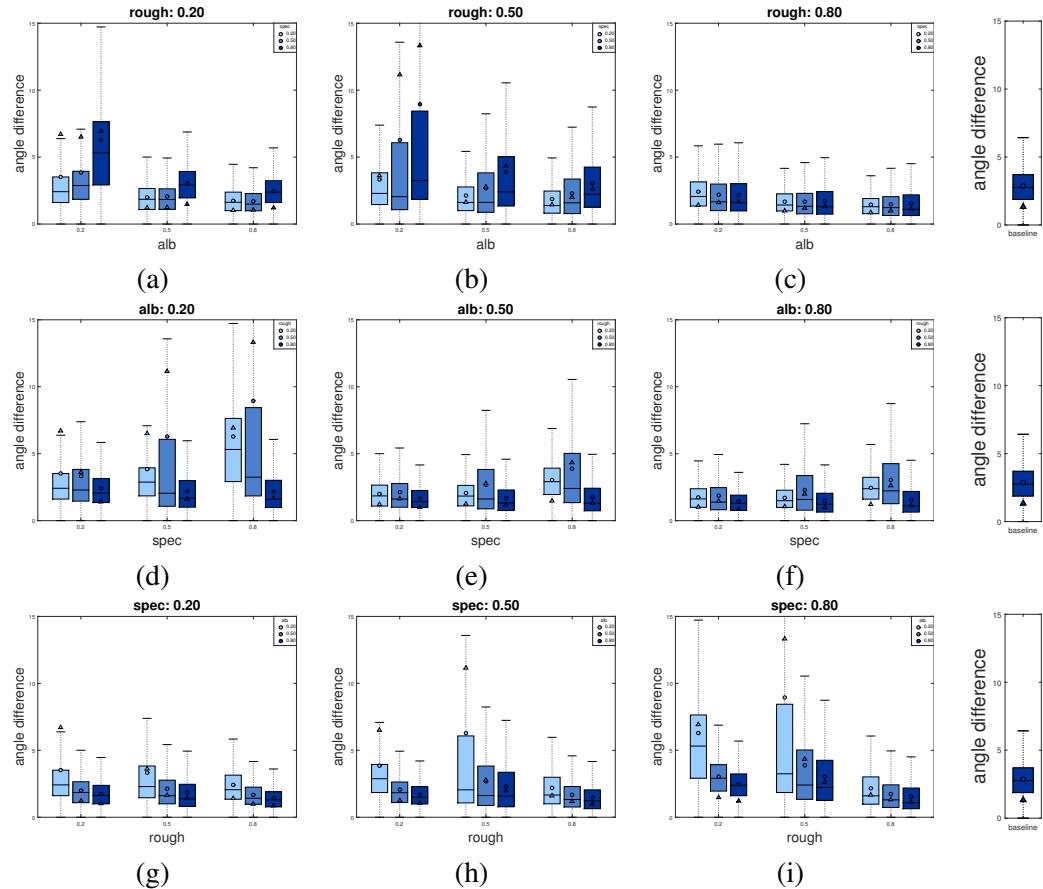
We can derive from the training results the problem conditions under which PMVS can perform reliably. These conditions are listed in Table 5.9.

Metric	Texture	Albedo	Specular	Roughness
Accuracy	0.5	0.5	0.2	-
	0.5	0.8	0.2	-
	0.8	0.2	0.2	-
	0.8	0.5	0.2	-
	0.8	0.8	0.2	-
	0.8	0.5	0.5	-
	0.8	0.8	0.5	-
	0.8	0.5	0.8	-
	0.8	0.8	0.8	-
Completeness	0.5	0.5	0.2	-
	0.5	0.8	0.2	-
	0.5	0.8	0.5	-
	0.8	0.2	0.2	-
	0.8	0.5	0.2	-
	0.8	0.8	0.2	-
	0.8	0.5	0.5	-
	0.8	0.8	0.5	-
	0.8	0.5	0.8	-
	0.8	0.8	0.8	-

**Table 5.9:** The condition matrix of PMVS in terms of the two metrics *accuracy* and *completeness*.

### 5.7.2 Mapping of EPS

The performances of example-based PS under different combinations of properties are shown in Figure 5.15, along with the result of the baseline method. The conditions under which example-based PS works well are listed in Table 5.10. We make the following observations from the training results:



**Figure 5.15:** Performance of EPS under varied conditions of changing property values. Varied statistical measures of angular error are compared to the baseline method to determine the performance of EPS.

**(a)-(c) Albedo:** albedo has a consistently positive effect on the reconstruction.

**(d)-(f) Specular:** specular has a consistently negative impact on the normal estimation, which is manifested by the increasing variation represented by interquartile

range and standard deviation.

**(g)-(i) Roughness:** roughness has a more complicated effect on reconstruction as illustrated in Figure 5.10. For example, medium roughness blurs the specular area, and leads to poor normal estimation and shape recovery.

We could derive from the training results the problem conditions under which EPS could perform reliably. These conditions are in Table 5.10.

Metric	Texture	Albedo	Specular	Roughness
Angle difference	-	0.2	0.2	0.8
	-	0.2	0.5	0.8
	-	0.2	0.8	0.8
	-	0.5	0.2	0.8
	-	0.5	0.5	0.8
	-	0.5	0.8	0.8
	-	0.8	0.2	0.2
	-	0.8	0.2	0.8
	-	0.8	0.5	0.2
	-	0.8	0.5	0.8
	-	0.8	0.8	0.2
	-	0.8	0.8	0.8

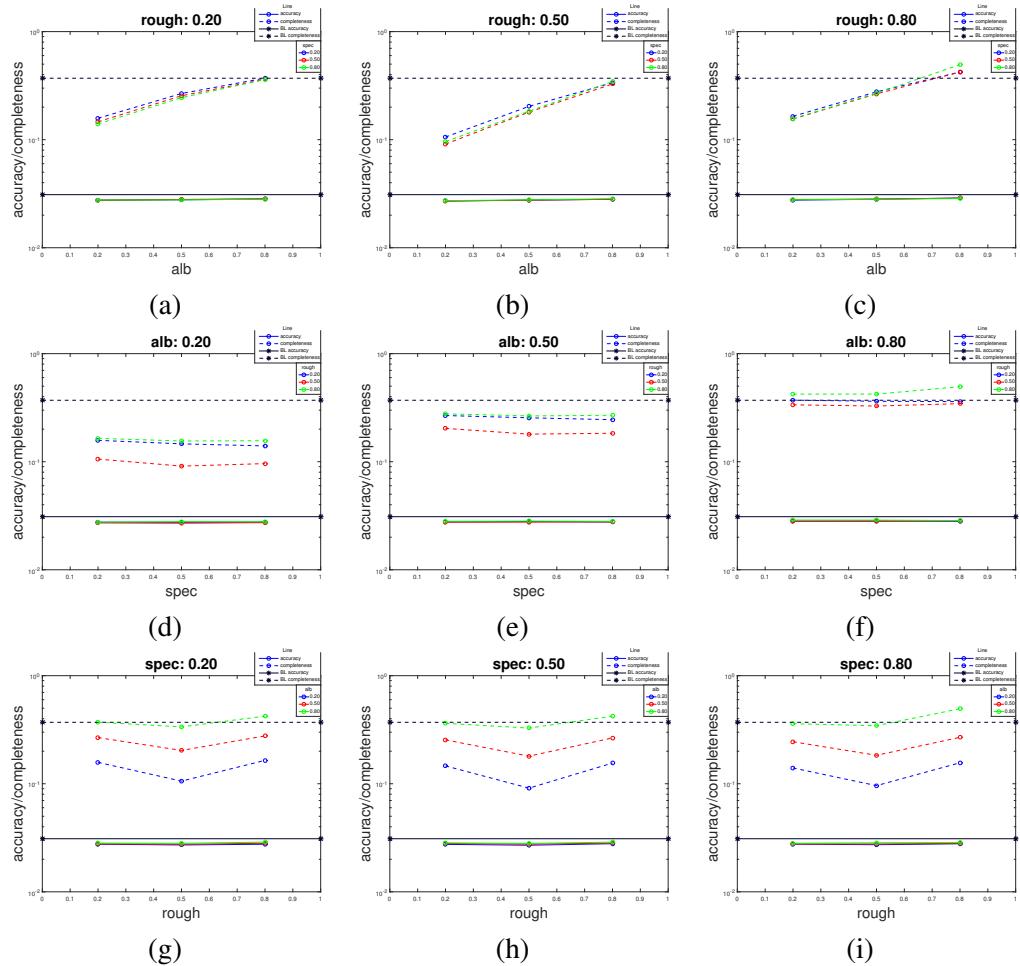
**Table 5.10:** The condition matrix of example-based PS in terms of the metric *angular error*.

### 5.7.3 Mapping of GSL

The performances of Gray-code SL under different combinations of property values are shown in Figure 5.16, along with the results of the baseline method. Only a portion of the scene is visible since there is only one camera, and the percentage of visible surface varies from object to object. This value can be approximated by the completeness value obtained under the optimal reconstruction condition. In this case, we claim that a completeness of 60% of that of the baseline is acceptable. The conditions under which GSL works well are listed in Table 5.11. We make the following observations:

**(a)-(i)** accuracy remains almost fixed, and is thus irrelevant to all properties.

**(a)-(c) Albedo** has a consistently positive effect on the completeness of the recon-



**Figure 5.16:** Performance of GSL under varied conditions of changing property values. The baseline method serves as the guideline to determine the performance of GSL.

struction.

**(d)-(f) Specular** has a negative effect on completeness, as shown in Figure 5.12 (d)-(f). However, we did notice in some cases that the completeness of the reconstruction improves as specular level increases. There are two contributing factors to completeness: 1) specularity decreases the completeness since the pattern can no longer be decoded in the glossy area, thus causing incomplete reconstruction; 2) large roughness can spread the specular lobe into a larger area, leading to a brighter surface, thus increasing the completeness of the reconstruction. These two contradicting factors together determine the completeness of the reconstruction. If the first factor is more substantial, the completeness will decrease whereas if the second factor is more significant, the completeness will increase.

**(g)-(i) Roughness** has a similar effect to what we found when considering EPS, i.e., medium roughness would blur the specular lobe to a larger area, thus causing larger holes in the reconstruction. See Figure 5.10 (d)-(f). Large roughness can effectively counteract the impact of specular, thus improving the completeness of the reconstruction.

We can derive from the training results the problem conditions under which GSL could perform reliably by considering both the quantitative and qualitative results. These conditions are listed in Table 5.11.

Metric	Texture	Albedo	Specular	Roughness
Accuracy	-	-	-	-
Completeness	-	0.8	0.2	0.2
	-	0.8	0.5	0.2
	-	0.8	0.8	0.2
	-	0.8	0.2	0.8
	-	0.8	0.5	0.8
	-	0.8	0.8	0.8

**Table 5.11:** The condition matrix of Gray-code SL in terms of the two metrics *accuracy* and *completeness*.

## **5.8 Summary**

The development of mapping is an on-going process. For instance, we can include more quantitative metrics such as colour accuracy, ‘ghost reconstruction’, and so on. In order to make the mapping applicable to objects with more complex shapes, we need to consider more sophisticated geometric properties besides roughness, such as concavity, depth-discontinuity, occlusion, etc. Furthermore, the incorporation of more algorithms is yet another way to ensure that the problem space is well covered.

## Chapter 6

# An Interpretation of 3D Reconstruction

So far we have proposed a well-defined problem space for the 3D reconstruction problem, as well as a precise mapping from the problem space to the algorithm space. We now need to validate that the derived mapping can be reliably applied to an object with a different shape, and demonstrate the usage of the framework. In other words, the interpretability from the problem centric description to a reliable reconstruction result must be shown.

However, such an evaluation faces several challenges. First, the mapping doesn't pose very strict constraints on types of material and geometry, and an exhaustive evaluation would require a vast number of objects to reach to a solid conclusion, which is not a practical approach. Second,

Although only three algorithms and two baseline methods are implemented within the current framework, all of them are the top performers in the corresponding field and thus are sufficient to validate the framework's ability to translate the descriptive model into a reconstruction. The integration of new algorithms requires that they be evaluated with the same problem conditions presented in Chapter 5, thus allowing researchers to contribute novel algorithms to the framework once they become available.

Section 6.1 provides a roadmap of our evaluation that is centered around two key evaluation questions: extensiveness of the mapping, and interpretability of the

algorithm-free framework. Section 6.3 investigates cases under which the mapping can be reliably applied to other objects. Section 6.5 presents real-world use cases of the framework, where a satisfactory reconstruction result is in return given the correct description of the object.

## 6.1 Evaluation Methodology

This section formulates the methodology of evaluation. We start with the objective, which gives a brief introduction of what needs to be evaluated. Next, two key evaluation questions are proposed, with evaluation steps, criteria and expected outcomes to determine if the evaluation is successful.

### 6.1.1 Objective

This evaluation intends to 1) validate that the mapping from Chapter 5 can be extended to objects with different shapes, and demonstrate cases where it succeeds and fails; and 2) demonstrate the real-world use cases of the proposed framework. For our first goal, objects with varied degrees of shape changes are used, and the corresponding results are compared to the mapping. We attempt to demonstrate if the mapping, to some extent, is invariant to the changes of shape, and when it would fail to hold. For the second goal, we use real-world objects to demonstrate that the framework can return a satisfactory result when provided with a correct description.

### 6.1.2 Key Evaluation Questions and Steps

The evaluation attempts to *prove that the mapping can be extended to other objects with different geometries, and demonstrate that the framework can return a satisfactory reconstruction result given a correct description.*

#### 1. Does the mapping work for objects with a different shape?

We first need to prove that the mapping derived in Chapter 5 is applicable to objects with different shapes. The variation of geometry is too vast and complicated to model, so it wouldn't be possible to consider all possible conditions. Thus we focus on one geometric property that can have a theoretical impact on the mapping, which

is the concavity of the surface. We use three synthetic objects with varied degrees of concavity, and verify if the mapping is applicable under our circumstances, and when it would succeed or fail. We use synthetic data to verify the mapping since it would not be practical to change material properties using real world objects. The evaluation steps include:

**Data generation:** the synthetic data is generated in Blender using the same setups presented in Chapter 5. We consider the four property settings that represent four major classes of real-world objects from Chapter 3.

**Validation of mapping** consisting of two steps: 1) the successful algorithm(s) in each case need be identified; 2) the reliable algorithms of each case should be consistent with the mapping results. Both quantitative and qualitative results are used to find the successful algorithms under each problem condition. To determine that a method returns a reliable result, the accuracy value should be lower than that of the baseline method while the completeness should be higher, and all the statistical measures of the angular error must also be lower than those of the baseline method, including the mean, median, standard deviation, and interquartile range. The qualitative results are used to further confirm the validity of the quantitative results and give a visual sense of the cause of failed reconstruction. Once we have identified the successful algorithm(s) in each problem condition, we need to verify that they are consistent with the mapping results. If not, we need to find out how robust each algorithm is with respect to concavity changes, and how concavity change might affect the reconstruction results.

## **2. Can the framework return a satisfactory reconstruction given the correct description?**

Given a correct description of an object, the algorithm chosen by mapping should give a satisfactory reconstruction result of a real-world object. However, quantitative results are not available since we don't have the ground truth data. Therefore, visual inspection is utilized to determine the quality of reconstruction results. The framework would use the algorithm determined by mapping for reconstruction, the result of which would then compared to the baseline algorithm to determine if the quality is acceptable. As previously mentioned, the baseline method is chosen so that it can always provide a decent reconstruction under most circumstances. The

evaluation steps are presented as follows:

**Data generation:** real-world data are captured using similar setups as the synthetic counterparts: for MVS, a Nikon D70S camera with a  $18 - 70mm$  lens are used; for photometric images, a Nikon D70S camera with a  $70 - 200mm$  lens, a handheld lamp, and two reference objects are used (diffuse and glossy); for structured light techniques, a Nikon 70S camera and a Sanyo Pro xtraX Multiverse projector are used, which is positioned with a between angle of around  $10^\circ$ . We used nine everyday objects with varying textures, reflectance properties, and shapes with low concavity.

**Output:** the output of Photometric Stereo algorithms, typically a normal map, is integrated to a surface mesh for visual analysis.

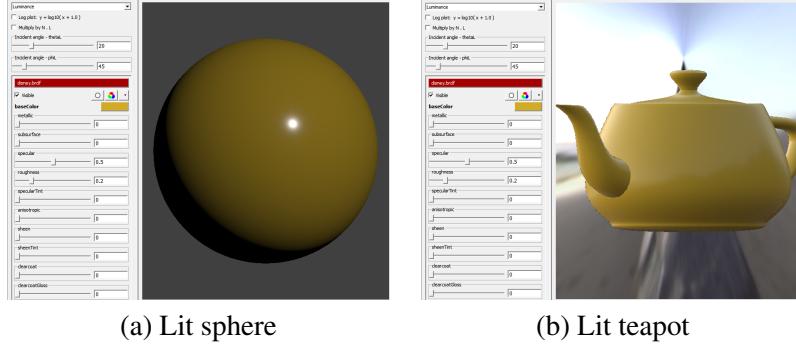
**Use case of framework:** we first need to demonstrate that the interpreter would return a reliable reconstructed model given the correct description, and a less successful model given an invalid description. Second, the algorithm chosen by the interpreter should be one of the top performers among all the algorithms implemented within the framework. The quality of the reconstruction is determined by comparing the result to the baseline method.

## 6.2 Parameter Setting

The first step in this section is to estimate the settings of an object’s properties. We use the BRDF explorer developed by Disney Animation [3] to visualize the rendered object with changing properties. A “try-and-see” approach was taken to obtain the parameters. More specifically, the user would change the value of each property and see if the rendered result looks like the real object. A similar approach can be found in [12] where Berkiten and Rusinkiewicz also use a synthetic dataset to find the contributing factors of various Photometric Stereo algorithms.

## 6.3 Validation of Mapping

We first validate that the derived mapping can be applied to an object with a different shape. Given the description of an arbitrary object, we wish to use all three techniques for reconstruction, to see if the algorithm that has the best quantitative or qualitative results is consistent to the algorithm chosen by the mapping.



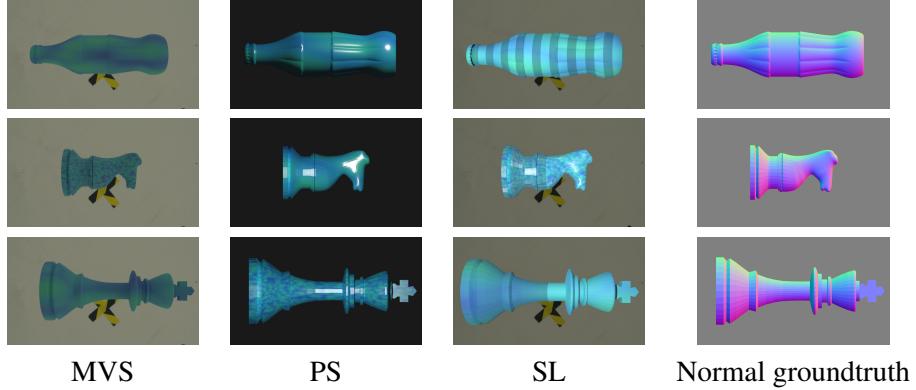
**Figure 6.1:** The UI for determining the property settings, including albedo, specular, and roughness of the surface. The albedo is set as the value channel of HSV colour. In this case, the albedo is set as 0.8, and the specular and roughness is set as 0.5, 0.2, respectively. (a) demonstrates the effect of the property settings on a sphere while (b) on a teapot.

### 6.3.1 Synthetic Datasets

We use three objects with increasing degree of concavity, which are ‘bottle’, ‘knight’, and ‘king’, as shown in Figure 6.2. We select four property settings representing the four classes of the most commonly seen objects discussed in Chapter 4, which is shown in Table 6.1 to assess the validity of the mapping. We present the results of the mapping in Table 6.1 as a reference to check if the quantitative and qualitative results from the testing data is consistent with the results of the mapping. The results are shown in Figure 6.3, 6.4, and 6.5.

Class	Texture	Albedo	Specular	Roughness	Metrics		
					Accuracy	Completeness	Ang diff
(a)	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.8	GSL	GSL	EPS
(b)	0.2	0.8	0.5	0.2	GSL	-	-
(c)	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.8	PMVS, GSL	PMVS, GSL	EPS
(d)	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.2	PMVS, GSL	PMVS	-

**Table 6.1:** Property settings of the three testing objects: ‘bottle’, ‘knight’, ‘king’, which have increasing degree of concavity.



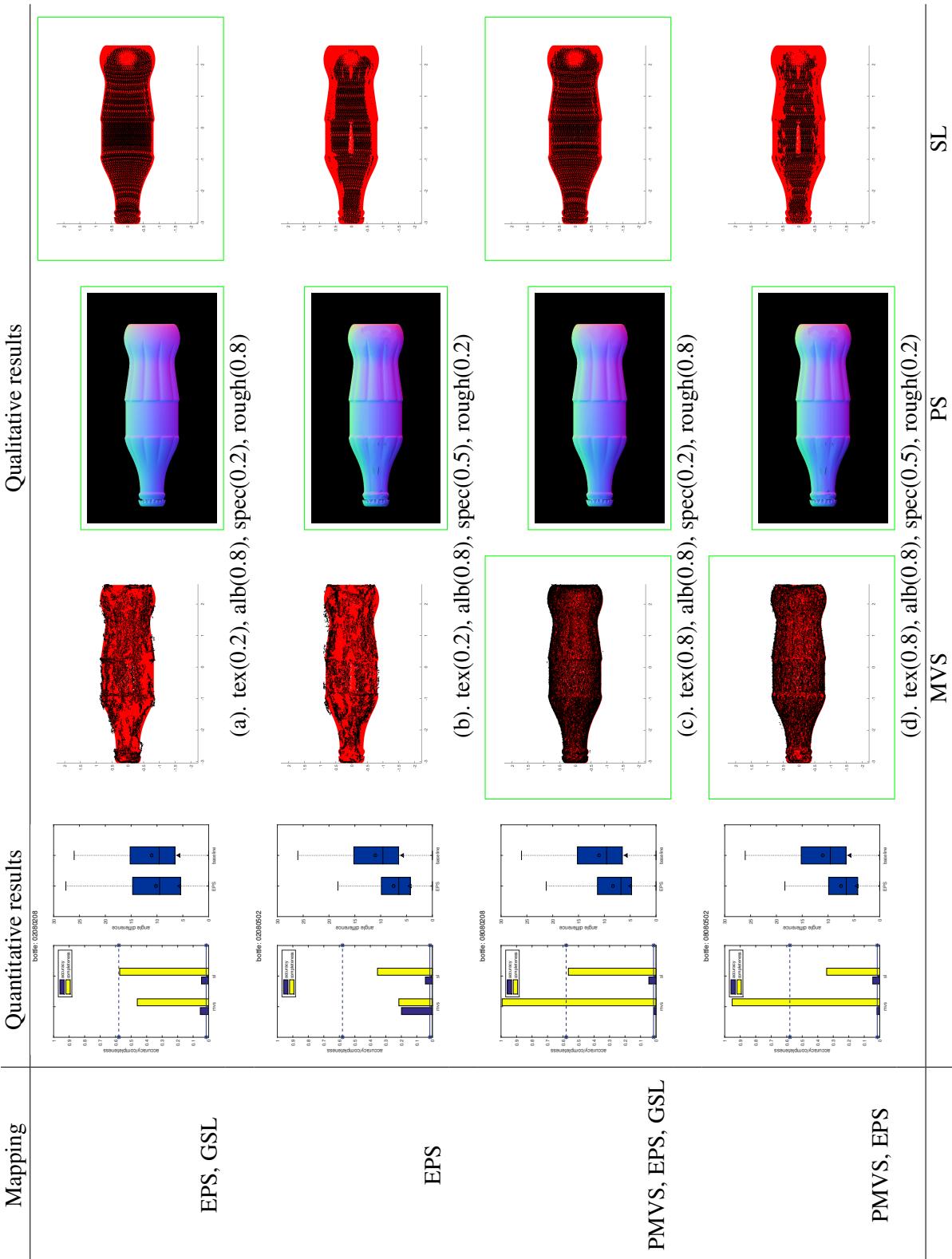
**Figure 6.2:** The synthetic dataset and groundtruth for the evaluation of the extensiveness of the mapping to objects with different shapes. Three objects with varied degrees of concavity are selected, each is configured with four properties settings.

#### Data 1: bottle

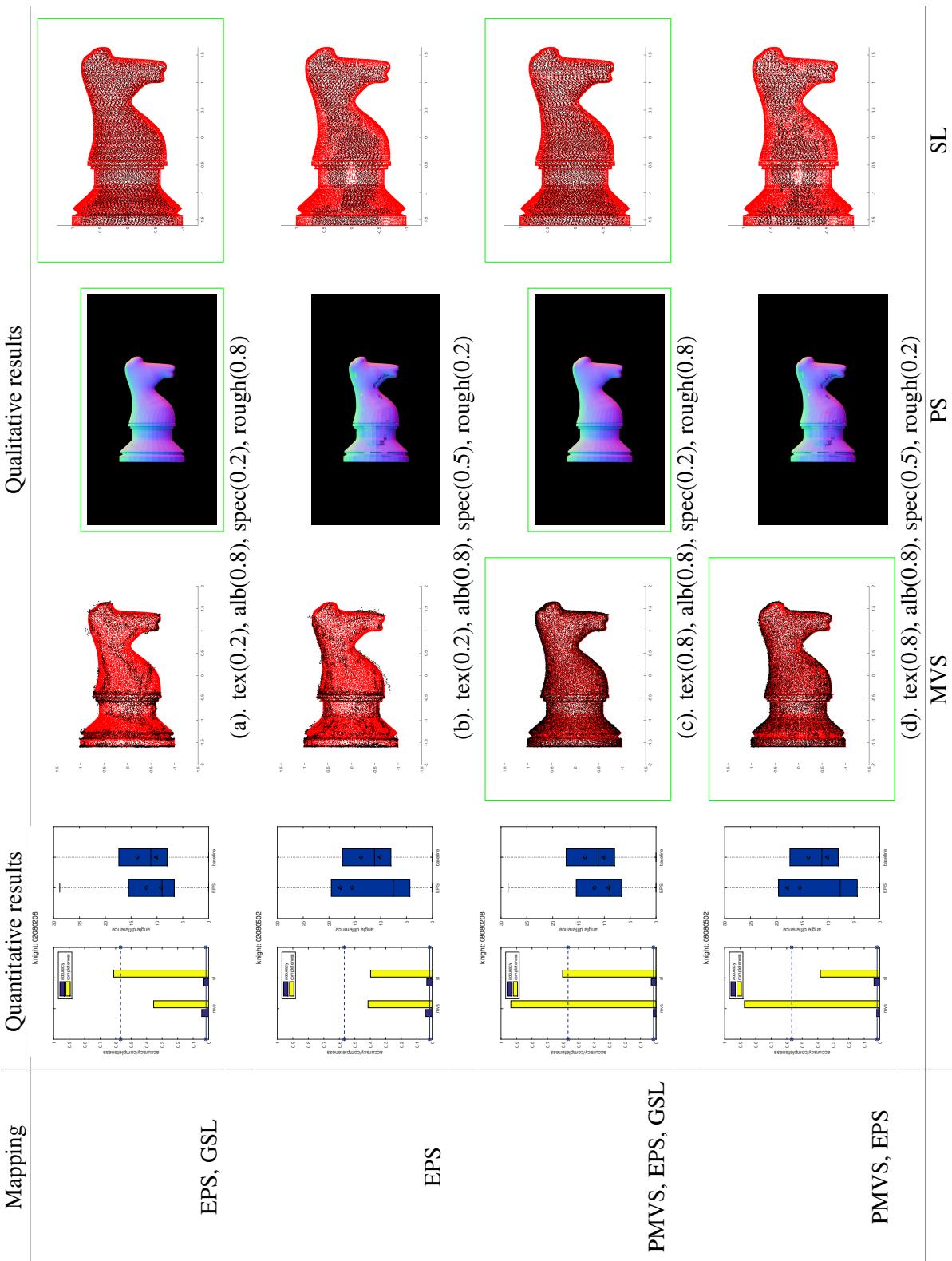
The first test object is a ‘bottle’, which has shallow indentations on the surface, i.e., low level concavity. The synthetic object is configured with the four property settings listed in Table 6.1. The first column presents the results of the mapping, and the algorithms that produce acceptable results are labeled in the green box. All quantitative and qualitative results align with those of the mapping, so we claim that the mapping is successfully applied to a surface with low concavity.

#### Data 2: knight

The second object is a knight chess piece, which has medium concavity. In this case, we can see that the results of PMVS and GSL are still consistent with the mapping. However, the EPS fails to return reliable reconstruction for cases of high specular, such as (b) and (d), due to the cast shadow effect, which is manifested by an increase in the variation of the angular error, represented by standard variation and the interquartile range. Thus, we claim that the mapping is still valid for PMVS, GSL and for EPS in low specular cases.



**Figure 6.3:** The first column shows the best algorithm chosen by the mapping. The quantitative and qualitative performance of each technique on the synthetic dataset is also shown. The red dots represent the ground truth while the black dots represent the reconstruction.



**Figure 6.4:** The first column shows the best algorithm chosen by the mapping. The quantitative and qualitative performance of each technique on the synthetic dataset is also shown. The red dots represent the ground truth while the black dot represent the reconstruction.

### **Data 3: king**

The last synthetic object is the king chess piece, which has the largest concavity. In the case of high concavity, quantitative results of PMVS and GSL are still consistent with that of the mapping. However, the results of the EPS become inconsistent, which is a result of the cast shadow from the large concavity. Though the result of EPS under conditions (a) and (c) are still better than that of the baseline, the median angular error is above the acceptable threshold, which is  $10^\circ$  in most cases. We can see with more clarity from the normal maps that the cast shadow on the ‘cross’ leads to completely inaccurate normal estimation, which is labeled by a red rectangle.

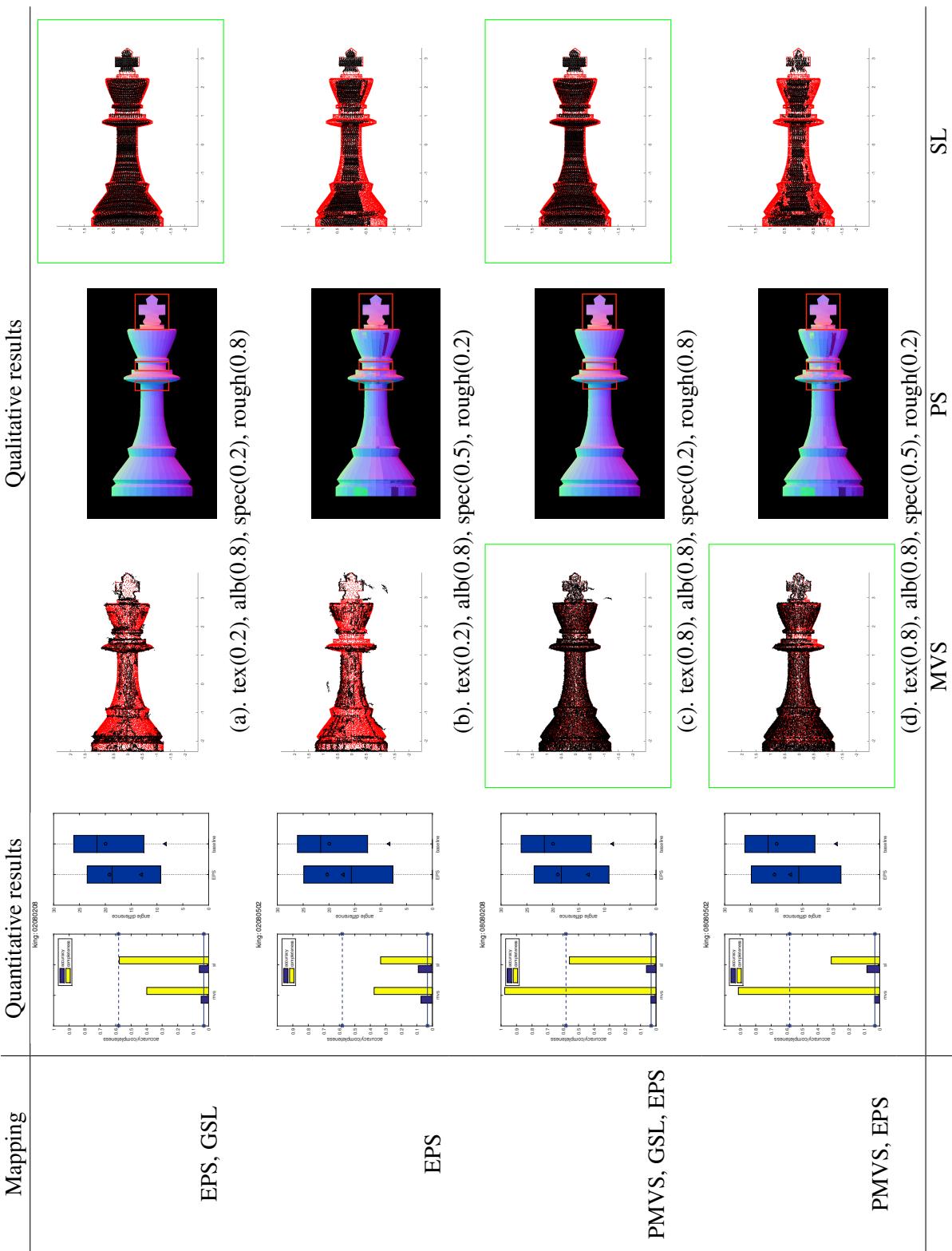
### **Summary**

We can conclude that the mapping of PMVS and GSL are robust to concavity, whereas EPS is relatively more sensitive to concavity due to cast shadows. Therefore, we should put more effort on developing Photometric Stereo algorithms that can reliably deal with cast shadow so that they can be reliably applied to more complex shapes.

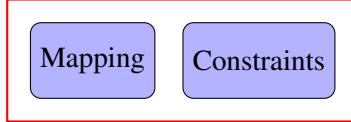
## **6.4 Interpreter**

Our framework consists of three separate layers. The upper layer is the description of the problem domain. The middle layer is the interpreter which receives a description from the user and return an acceptable result. The bottom layer is the actual implementation of the algorithms. The interpreter is responsible for choosing an appropriate 3D reconstruction algorithm based on the description of the problem domain and additional requirements. There are many ways to use mapping to interpret the problem description. We proposed a proof of concept interpreter that consists of two components: mapping and constraints.

This concept requires an understanding of algorithmic performance across difference ranges of problem spaces to create a suitable interpreter of the 3D reconstruction problem. The mapping constructed using the synthetic dataset from Chapter 5 provides us with a detailed understanding of how different combinations of properties affect the performance of algorithms. This allows us to select an



**Figure 6.5:** The first column shows the best algorithm chosen by the mapping. The quantitative and qualitative performance of each technique on the synthetic dataset is also shown. The green dots represent the ground truth while the black dots represent the reconstruction.



**Figure 6.6:** Two components of the Interpreter layer.

appropriate algorithm based on a description of properties.

Next we turn to defining the constraints of the framework. Constraints are provided to allow the user to describe the expected result so that a model best resembling the user's request can be returned by the framework when multiple algorithms achieve satisfactory results. The following constraints are provided:

- Depth-first/shape-first: methods that reconstructs surface orientations from a single viewpoint cannot retrieve the depth information, and thus are referred to as 2.5D reconstruction. Examples of this are Shape from Shading, Photometric Stereo, and Shape from (de)focus, etc.. However, these methods generally can reconstruct fine scale details, and can achieve results with much higher quality. Intuitively, depth-first can return model with true depth information whereas shape-first prioritizes details over depth information.
- Accuracy-first/completeness-first: methods that achieve high accuracy do not necessarily achieve high completeness. In light of this, the user can choose an algorithm based on the priority level of accuracy and completeness.

## 6.5 Validation of Interpreter

We demonstrate real-world use cases of the proof of concept interpreter, which should return a satisfactory result given a valid description, or a less successful one given an incorrect description. We choose four different problem conditions where each describes one of the four major classes of objects and provides demonstrative results. Please refer to the appendix for more results.

### 6.5.1 Real-world Datasets

We use a similar setup to the synthetic settings and captured a real world dataset of nine objects 6.7. The property of these objects are listed in Table A.2. Since

we do not have the ground truth here, we resort to visual analysis to see if the appropriate algorithm gives an acceptable reconstruction compared to that of the baseline method.

class #	Description	Object	Material
1	textureless		
	diffuse		
	bright		
2	textureless		
	mixed diffuse/specular		
	bright		
3&4	textured		
	diffuse		
	dark/bright		
5&6	textured		
	mixed diffuse/specular		
	dark/bright		

**Figure 6.7:** The representatives of the six classes of objects used for evaluation.

We use the aforementioned methods to retrieve the parameters of each property. The decomposition of material for each object is presented in Figure A.1. The property settings of each object is listed in Table A.2.

Object	Texture	Albedo	Specular	Roughness	Mapping
status	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.5	EPS, GSL
cup	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.2	EPS, GSL
pot	0.8	0.2, 0.5	0.2	0.2	PMVS
vase	0.8	0.8, 0.2	0.5	0.2	PMVS

**Table 6.2:** Property list for the real-world objects

#### **Data 1: statue**

The first real-world object is a statue with low texture, low specular component, medium roughness, and high albedo. PMVS produces a very noisy reconstruction due to the lack of surface texture, whereas the other two techniques (EPS and GSL) return satisfactory results. The interpreter would thus return the appropriate result based on user specified constraints.

#### **Data 2: cup**

The second real-world object is a cup with low texture, low roughness, high albedo and high specular. PMVS fails to reconstruct the surface while EPS and GSL provide good results. The quality of detail of EPS are clearly higher than that of GSL, and the interpreter would return the result meets the constraints specified by the user.

#### **Data 3: pot**

The third object is a pot with high texture, low specular, medium roughness, and both high and low albedo values. PMVS gives a good reconstruction results, while EPS and GSL suffer due to low albedo.

#### **Data 4: vase**

The fourth object is a vase with high texture, high specular, low roughness, and both low and high albedo. PMVS shows good result, while EPS and GSL fail to reconstruct the surface due to low albedo and high specular.

Mapping	Qualitative results			Baseline VH
	PMVS	EPS	GSL	
EPS, GSL				
				
PMVS				
PMVS				

**Figure 6.8:** The evaluation of the effectiveness of the interpreter using real-world objects. The objects that were well reconstructed are labelled by a green rectangle.

## 6.6 Summary

Building upon our description and mapping, we are able to develop a proof of concept interpreter which interprets the description of the problem, selects the most appropriate algorithm based on the mapping and returns a reliable reconstruction result. The development of more complex descriptions of object geometry and material, incorporating new algorithms, and improving mapping are all ongoing processes to improve the framework presented.

# **Chapter 7**

## **Conclusions**

### **7.1 Summary**

### **7.2 Future directions**

#### **7.2.1 Geometric Model**

The current geometric model fails to capture the complexity of real world objects and focuses mainly on visual properties. Thus, one of the future directions is to develop intuitive geometric models to better describe complex objects.

#### **7.2.2 Property Parameters**

We have used a “try-and-see” approach to obtain the property settings of an object, which is based on user judgement and is thus not very rigorous and tends to be tedious. We can use machine learning techniques to obtain visual and geometric information.

#### **7.2.3 Metrics**

We have utilized three metrics: accuracy, completeness and angular error. However, there are other measures worth investigating, such as colour accuracy, ‘ghost’ reconstruction error, and so on. Additional metrics such as these can extend the

application of our framework, providing more options for developers to choose from.

#### **7.2.4 Mapping Construction**

The construction of mapping requires an evaluation of the corresponding algorithm for pairwise properties, which tends not to scale well with respect to the number of properties. Therefore, we need better ways to discover the dependent relation bewteen any two properties.

#### **7.2.5 Interpreter**

Currently, implementation of the proof-of-concept interpreter is simplistic and does not fully take advantage of the information we have obtained from the mapping construction process. Therefore, we should develop a more sophisticated interpreter that is more powerful and offers more flexibility.

### **7.3 Concluding remarks**

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## **Appendix A**

# **Supporting Materials**

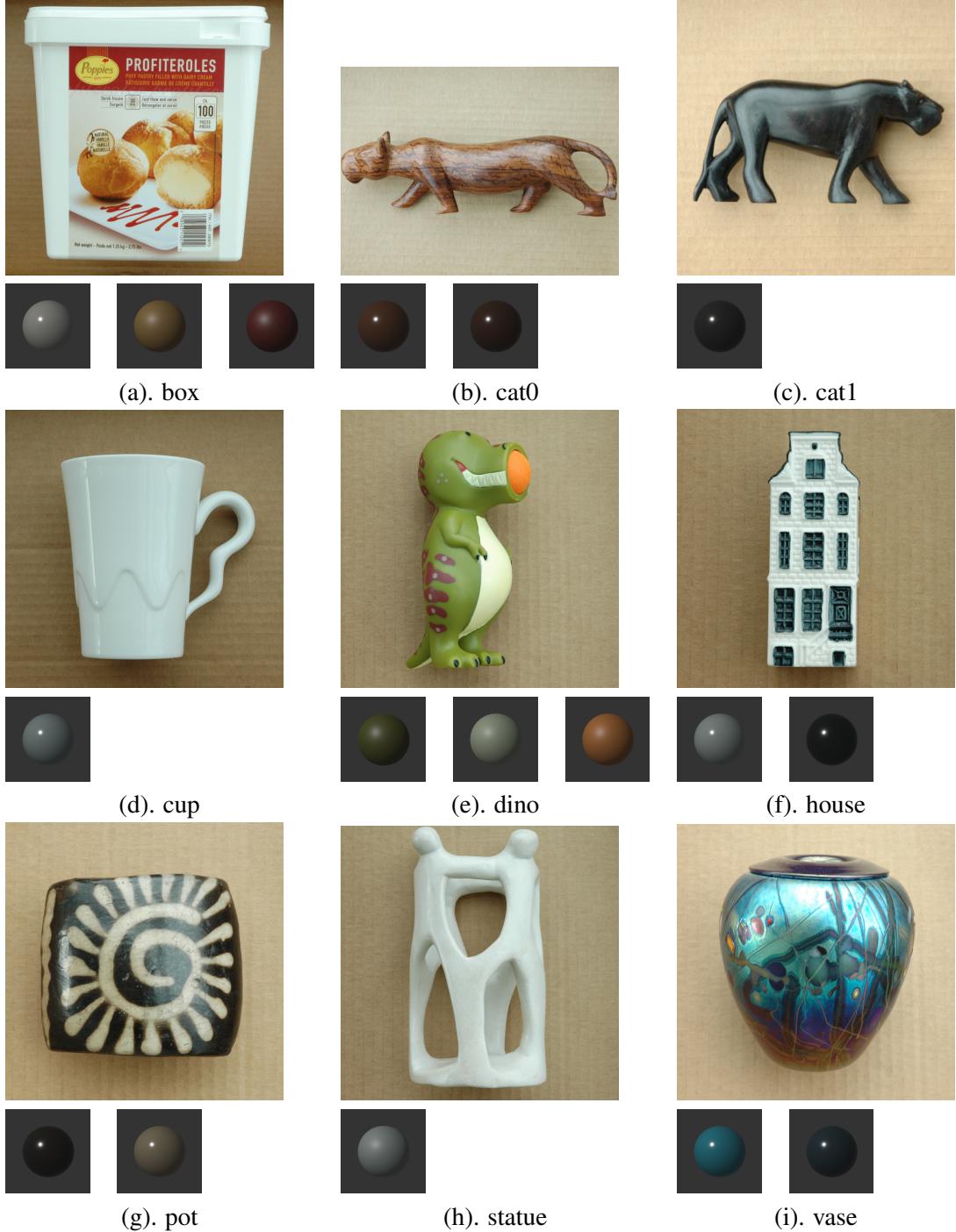
This would be any supporting material not central to the dissertation. For example:

- radiometry
- technical details of MVS, PS, SL, SfS, etc

### **A.1 Material of real-world objects**

### **A.2 Parameters of real-world objects**

### **A.3 Results of real-world objects**



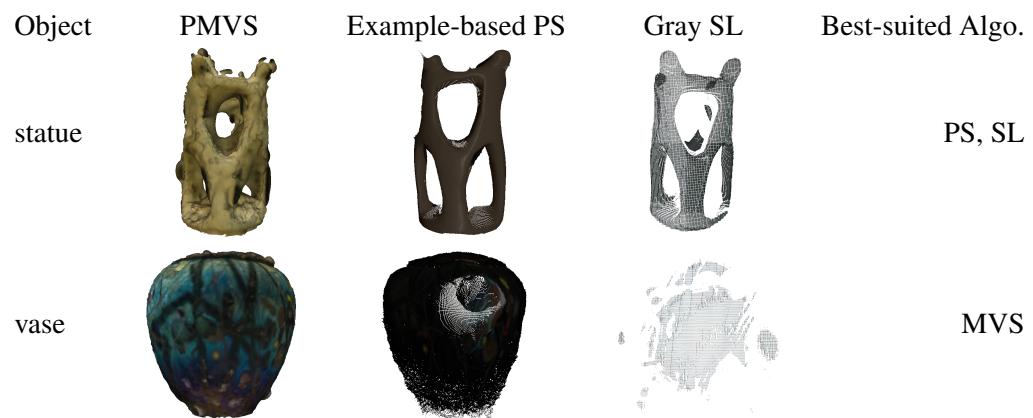
**Table A.1:** Material of Real-world objects.

Object	PMVS	Example-based PS	Gray SL	Mapping
box				MVS, SL, PS
cat0				None
cat1				None
dino				PS, SL
cup				PS, SL
house				MVS
pot				MVS, SL

**Figure A.1:** Reconstruction results of MVS, PS, SL

Property	Texture	Albedo	Specular	Roughness	Best-suited Algo.
box	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.2	MVS, SL, PS
	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.5	
	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.5	
cat0	0.5	0.5, 0.2	0.2	0.2	None
cat1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	None
cup	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.2	PS, SL
dino	0.2	0.5, 0.8, 0.8	0.2	0.5	SL
house	0.8	0.8, 0.2	0.2	0.2	MVS
pot	0.5	0.2, 0.5	0.2	0.2	MVS, SL
status	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.5	PS, SL
vase	0.8	0.8, 0.2	0.2	0.2	None

**Table A.2:** Property list for the real-world objects



**Figure A.2:** Reconstruction results of MVS, PS, SL (cont'd)