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A data entry in a texture table is called a texel.

Use of Textures

- Generate detailed graphical content hardly possible with triangles (such clouds, skyboxes, plain pictures (posters, decals) on surfaces).
- Create illusion of structure, saving lots of triangles. Can be (low level) part of a level-of-detail scheme.
- Most of a game's graphical expression is via artwork using textures.

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► Hold special-purpose data for use in rendering process.



(From All Things Designed)



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(From Sly Cooper)

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(By Valentin Nadolu)

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Texture data get mapped to $[0; 1]^{1,2,3}$ in texture space.



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When using textures, vertices are associated with texture coordinates.

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Texture space points can be arbitrary:



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Texture space points can be arbitrary:



Points internally in triangle are associated with points in texture space using interpolation (via barycentric coordinates).

Interpolation Example







Coordinates Outside the Texture





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Above is repetition

Below is clamping (on *s*-axis in texture space).



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Table Lookup in Texture

Points on triangle do not correspond exactly to (middle of) texture cells.



Nearest neighbor

 Linear interpolation (bilinear: linear interpolation on both s- and t-axes).

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Minification/Magnification

Associated pixels and texels may not be similar in size.

- Minification: one pixel corresponds to many texels.
- Magnification: one pixel corresponds to a fraction of a texel.

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Remedies::

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Mipmap: Pre-made series of resolutions of a texture.

OpenGL has method for finding (during lookup) which one is closest to matching pixels and texels in size, and makes lookup in that. Or can use linear interpolation on lookups from two neighboring candidate resolutions. (Trilinear interpolation: also do bilinear interpolation in lookups).

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Start with high-resolution texture. Create lower-resolution versions by averaging over sets of neighboring texels. (See GLU library.)



(By Mike Hick)

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No mipmap, nearest neighbor:



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Using mipmap:



Parametrised Surfaces and Textures

Usually parameters can map simply to texture space



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