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Syntactic texture and perception for a new generic visual anomalies classification

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ABSTRACT

The research purpose is to improve aesthetic anomalies detection and evaluation based on what is perceived by human eye and on the 2006 CIE report.¹ It is therefore important to define parameters able to discriminate surfaces, in accordance with the perception of human eye. Our starting point in assessing aesthetic anomalies is geometric description such as defined by ISO standard,² i.e. traduce anomalies description with perception words about texture divergence impact. However, human controllers observe (detect) the aesthetic anomaly by its visual effect and interpreter for its geometric description. The research question is how define generic parameters for discriminating aesthetic anomalies, from enhanced information of visual texture such as recent surface visual rendering approach. We propose to use an approach from visual texture processing that quantify spatial variations of pixel for translating changes in color, material and relief. From a set of images from different angles of light which gives us access to the surface appearance, we propose an approach from visual effect to geometrical specifications as the current standards have identified the aesthetic anomalies.

Keywords: visual inspection, classification, Surface imperfection, geometrical description, visual effect, visual texture

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Motivation

Nowadays, perceived quality of visual appearance is [still] an industrial matter. The main difficulty is to link objective measurements and subjective human aesthetic indicators. The CIE (International Commission on Illumination) provided a technical report CIE 175:2006 "A framework for the measurement of visual appearance".¹ This report defines four headings under which possible measures might be made: color, gloss, translucency and texture. However, when a customer, and thus imitating his behavior, a human controller, inspect the visual appearance of a product, they can not differentiate the four parties. Considering color and translucency as known and controlled by the industry, we have chosen to work on the gloss and texture. The goal is to identify visual – aesthetic anomalies and traduce some geometric considerations from ISO standard 8785:1998² to visual effects considerations. A known difficulty is the interdependence of these measurements because translucency can influence color, which may influence gloss, and texture is probably a combination of all three.⁴ One work point is to differentiate [human] detection and perception, knowing that it is necessary to combine both steps to enable better decision about quality inspection. Indeed, quality inspection is divided into three steps: Exploration, Evaluation and Decision^{5,6}. The main difference between a classic vision system and a human controller is

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perception notions in Evaluation step. There is some anomaly elements strongly detected but weakly perceived, and conversely, some anomaly elements weakly detected and strongly perceived. We have chosen to present in this paper a proposal for improvement of the syntactic description of surface imperfections to prepare the evaluation. This description must be more perceptual and must take into account the visual impact of anomalies. Our starting technical point is the exploitation of the most advanced visual surface representation and image processing approach of texture classification.⁷ Our starting theoretical determination is the study and the imitation of human behavior in the surface quality inspection (Figure 1).

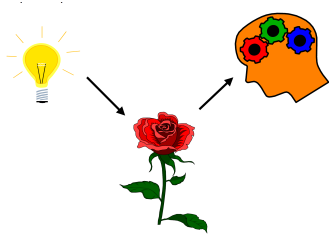


Figure 1: The vision scheme from CIE¹

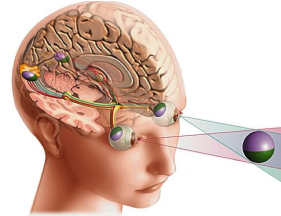


Figure 2: The human visual system for surface inspection. Credit: Michel Saemann for Larousse

1.2 Methodology

There are already many research and industrial solutions exploiting anomaly appearance descriptions, but these are case by case solutions with suitable devices (limited lighting and viewing conditions). We find examples in various fields of applications, such as for controlling the road conditions⁸ or the appearance of the fruits,⁹ or to control the textile manufacturing quality.¹⁰

This work proposes a generic [perception-based] visual anomalies classification, like a bridge between geometrical specifications from dimensional metrology and surface appearance specifications of aesthetic anomalies. The research purpose is double. Firstly, following quality inspection formalization based on visual human behavior and providing complementary indicators of detection and perception, there is a hope to provide a better understanding of visual human mechanisms. Secondly, there is a desire to reduce the surface anomaly classification to the perceptual classification and to provide a robust imitation of controller for detection and evaluation of aesthetic anomalies. The syntactic appearance classification is based on texture attributes, such as the tone (light, dark), the roughness (rough, smooth, rippled), the light aspect (matte, speckled), the finesse (fine, coarse) and the regularity (regular or irregular). By example, scratch is viewed like a white line, i.e. a fine anomaly with a regular, smooth, light tone and speckled aspect.¹¹

In short, there are two steps to construct a new visual anomalies classification. Firstly, we need to provide an exhaustive restricted classification, based on geometrical considerations of the standards for surface imperfections. Secondly, we need to describe all anomalies by their visual effects. We propose then some considerations from new visual texture processing to identify the presence or not of an anomaly.

2. CLASSIFICATION OF AESTHETIC ANOMALIES

Then the work is composed of two parts, similar to the human visual system. The first part is to describe the visual impression (or stimulus) of appearance anomalies with a pattern recognition mechanism. Indeed, the first part of the human visual system is associated with the eye and its ability to detect and pattern recognition learned by individual culture. This work is based on the standards of geometrical product specifications² as the human capacity for interpretation allows visual recognition from the causal description of an anomaly. These norms are used to define the set of search anomalies and associated criteria. The second part is to put into perspective the shape or patterns recognized with an ambient context to perceptual evaluation interdependent with the surrounding visual texture (object context).

2.1 Geometrical classification and standard

A finding of our previous work is that the vocabulary designating surface imperfections among industrial companies, whether or not in the same domain is rarely the same. This difficulty leads to potential misunderstandings because how do we know if we talk about the same thing. We have chosen to focus the first part of work from the ISO 8785 – 1998² dealing with surface imperfections. This standard provides anomalies terms, definitions and parameters from causal descriptions. We establish an initial classification of visual anomalies following their morphological and appearance features. Our starting point is the 31 cases outlined in the standard² summarized in a table (Figure 3) to have a global view of all surface imperfections, considering that the standard² is comprehensive.

Number	Name	Planar shape	Relief shape	Density	Relative size scale	Appearance contrast
1	Groove	Linear	In	One	Micro - Medium	Medium - Light
2	Scratch	Linear	In	One	Micro - Medium	Medium - Light
3	Crack	Linear	In	One	Micro - Medium	Dark - Medium
4	Pore	Circular	In	One - Many	Micro	Dark - Medium
5	Blowhole	Circular	In	One - Many	Micro - Medium	Dark - Medium
6	Shrinkage hole	Circular	In	One	Medium	Dark - Medium
7	Fissure / Chink / Crevice	Linear	In	One - Many	Micro - Medium	Medium - Light
8	Wane	Linear	In	One	Medium	Medium
9	(concave) Buckle	Curved	In	One	Medium	Dark - Medium
10	Dent	Circular	In	One	Medium	Dark - Medium
11	Wart	Linear	Out	One - Many	Micro - Medium	Medium - Light
12	Blisters	Circular	Out	One - Many	Micro - Medium	Medium - Light
13	(convex) Buckle	Curved	Out	One	Medium	Medium - Light
14	Scale	Linear	Out	One	Micro - Medium	Dark - Medium
15	Inclusion	Circular	Medium - Out	One - Many	Micro - Medium	All
16	Burr	Linear	Out	One	Medium	Medium - Light
17	Flash	Linear	Out	One	Medium	Medium - Light
18	Deposits	All	Out	One - Many	Micro - Medium	All
19	Crater	Circular	All	One - Many	Micro - Medium	All
20	Lap	Curved	Out	One	Micro - Medium	Medium - Light
21	Scoring	All	All	One	Micro - Medium	All
22	Chip rest	Linear	Out	One - Many	Micro - Medium	Medium - Light
23	Skidding	Circular	Medium	One - Many	Micro - Medium	All
24	Erosion	Linear	In - Medium	One - Many	Micro - Medium	All
25	Corrosion	All	Medium	One - Many	Micro - Medium	All
26	Pitting	Circular	Medium	One - Many	Micro	Medium - Light
27	Crazing	Linear	Medium	One - Many	Micro - Medium	All
28	Spot / Patch	All	Medium	One - Many	Micro - Medium	All
29	Discoloration	All	Medium	One - Many	Micro - Medium	All
30	Streak	Linear	In - Medium	One - Many	Medium	Dark - Medium
31	Cleavage / Flaking	All	Medium	One - Many	Micro - Medium	All

Figure 3: Table of ISO 8785 Anomalies Classification from their causal descriptions

We propose to use the following five simple scales to classify these imperfections. These scales are illustrated by the figure 4, respectively.

1. **First rule : planar shape** - From linear to circular. This rule is calculated based on the circularity of the bounding ellipse of the anomaly. Indeed, from this ellipse, we can extract the eccentricity, which is the ratio of the two axes of the ellipse. If it tends to 1 then the anomaly tends to look like a circle, while conversely, if the eccentricity tends to 0, then the anomaly will be linear.
2. **Second rule : relief shape** - From inwardly to outwardly. This rule measures the average topographic impact of the anomaly, ie if it has more removed or added to the material from the model plan. It allows to differentiate mainly hollow compared to the bumps.
3. **Third rule : density** - From one to infinity (a number - many). This rule measures the amount of small anomalies that constitutes a group such as we consider only a single visual anomaly.
4. **Fourth rule : relative size scale** - From microscopic to object scale. We study small parts size of ten centimeters maximum. Our size scale varies from mesoscopic to macroscopic, ie from the smallest visible by a human eye to a size consistent with the size of the observed part. The parts considered to be of good quality, we do not observe the anomalies consistent with the size of the part, but only at lower scales and mostly microscopic.

5. **Fifth rule : appearance contrast scale** - From dark to light via contrast. It is sometimes difficult to judge whether a part of the room is darker or lighter than its surroundings, considering the changes in his appearance for different lighting configurations / surface / viewpoint. In our approach, we consider appearance characteristic of the anomaly when is highlighted with respect to its neighborhood. For example, a scratch can vary from light to dark as the relative positioning illumination / view, but it is primarily highlighted when it shines compared to its neighborhood. In this case, we consider its appearance as light, in contrast to its neighbors.

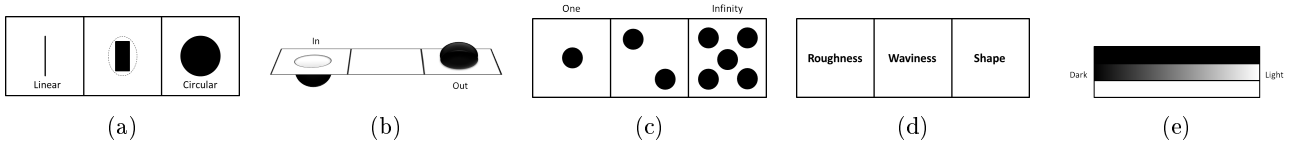


Figure 4: The five appearance rules to describe surfaces imperfections from ISO 8785 - 1999 (a) The scale of circularity criterion for planar shape, i.e. the eccentricity of ellipse bounding (b) The scale of relief criterion, i.e. the mean relief of anomaly (c) The scale of density, i.e. the number of labels (d) the relative scale of anomaly compared to object (e) the contrast scale compared to the neighborhood of anomaly

We can provide some clarifications to the scale on the relative size of the anomaly, from considerations from the dimensional metrology.¹² Indeed, as shown in the figure 5, it is usual to consider four orders of composition as a macroscopic object, corresponding to the shape, waviness, roughness and microroughness. In our approach, we merge the two categories of roughness, especially because it can be difficult to discern both visually for a human without additional tools.

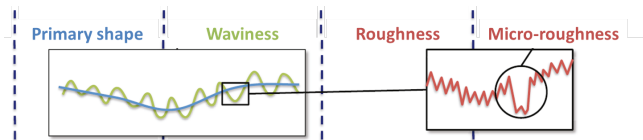


Figure 5: The 4 orders scale of surface imperfections considered in dimensional metrology¹²

To improve the visualization of anomaly characterization, we propose to use a Kiviati diagram or star diagram (figure 6) to describe the set of solutions for each anomaly. To simplify the classification, we use only three levels with both previous named extremums. For example, we applied this representation for the groove case (figure 7) and the pattern show the solutions set for groove-type anomalies. The advantage of this representation is that it allows you to associate a pattern to an anomaly, which is easier perceptually than a sentence to distinguish and compare, because it can be independent of the language used.

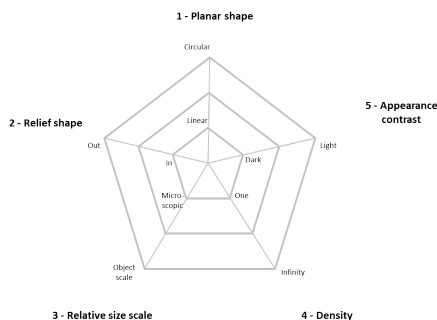


Figure 6: Primary Kiviati evaluation diagram for anomaly

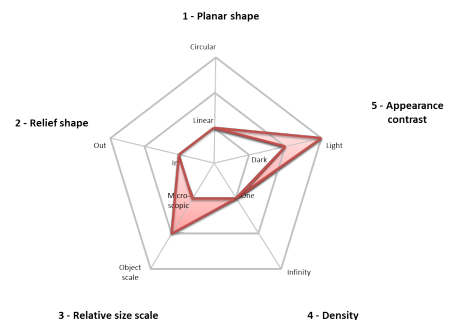


Figure 7: Evaluation for groove-like anomaly following the five previous levels.

If we consider at least three levels by previous classification rules, there are at least 3^5 cases, namely 243 cases. The standard allows to summarize all the case with just over 10% of cases (13%). Nevertheless we still want to reduce the classification of aesthetic anomalies relative to the geometric perception, to establish a generic and comprehensive automatic detection.

2.2 Restricted classification by geometrical perception

Previous work^{13,14} has shown the possibility of reducing and optimizing only 4 types (perceptual descriptions) of anomalies, and virtually no loss in detection of surface appearance anomalies. These four categories are:

1. **Mark:** Any trace left on the surface of the part representing a lack of timely matter.
2. **Deformation:** Any change in shape, altering the initial shape.
3. **Heterogeneity:** Any change in spot color on the surface, shadow or cloud.
4. **Pollution:** A foreign body.

There is also a higher order than these four groups to distinguish between progressive or non anomalies. In our approach, we consider only those that are not. However, if it does not affect the anomaly detection method, it has an increased importance in the perception of scalable anomalies. Indeed, scalable anomalies are at risk of growing degradation medium or long terms, while non-scalable anomalies have a direct impact on the appearance or product specifications.

Number	Name	Mark	Deviation	Heterogeneity	Pollution
1	Groove	Yes	No	No	No
2	Scratch	Yes	No	No	No
3	Crack	Yes	No	No	No
4	Pore	Yes	No	No	No
5	Blowhole	Yes	No	No	No
6	Shrinkage hole	Yes	No	No	No
7	Fissure / Chink / Crevice	Yes	No	No	No
8	Wane	Yes	No	No	No
9	(concave) Buckle	Yes	No	No	No
10	Dent	Yes	No	No	No
11	Wart	No	Yes	No	No
12	Blister	No	Yes	No	No
13	(convex) Buckle	No	Yes	No	No
14	Scale	No	Yes	No	No
15	Inclusion	No	Possible	Possible	Possible
16	Burr	No	Yes	No	No
17	Flash	No	Yes	No	No
18	Deposits	No	Possible	Possible	Possible
19	Crater	Possible	Possible	No	No
20	Lap	No	Yes	No	No
21	Scoring	Possible	Possible	No	No
22	Chip rest	No	Yes	No	No
23	Skidding	No	No	Possible	Possible
24	Erosion	Possible	No	Possible	No
25	Corrosion	No	No	Possible	Possible
26	Pitting	No	No	Possible	Possible
27	Crazing	No	No	Possible	Possible
28	Spot / Patch	No	No	Yes	No
29	Discoloration	No	No	Yes	No
30	Streak	Possible	No	Possible	Possible
31	Cleavage / Flaking	No	No	Possible	Possible

Figure 8: Restricted classification according to 4 groups¹³

The main risk of excessive reduction of descriptors is the loss of information that may result in the product description. The main additional information necessary for a complete classification is the importance of the anomaly by the surface (the area of influence) and density.

The figure 8 shows the surface imperfections from ISO 8785 following the 4 restricted classification. The name "Possible" means that according to observed anomaly, for the same type of anomaly according to ISO 8785, it can be judged differently according to the restricted classification. The set of solutions of each class of restricted classification, from the first 5 morphological scales, can overlap but is different and is shown in Figures 9 (a), (b), (c) and (d)

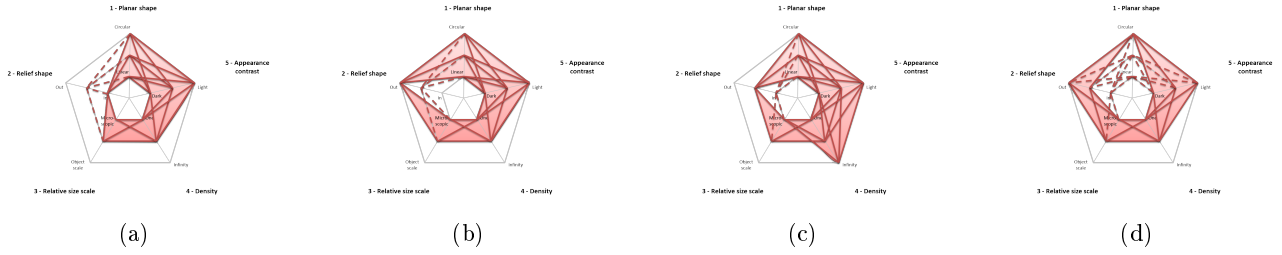


Figure 9: Correspondence between the 4 groups and initial descriptions. (a) Kiviati diagram for Mark-type anomalies (b) Kiviati diagram for Deviation-type anomalies (c) Kiviati diagram for Heterogeneity-type anomalies (d) Kiviati diagram for Pollution-type anomalies

3. VISUAL IMPACT AND DETECTION

However, the aesthetic anomalies are detected by the visual impact of the normal visual behavior deviating from their immediate neighborhood or in relation to a model. It is therefore necessary to identify the influence of the anomalies on the visual appearance of a surface. For this, we consider the Bidimensional Reflectance Distribution Function (BRDF) reflecting the behavior of the visual appearance of surfaces.¹⁵

3.1 Classification by visual effects

For recall, a photography, as image texture, is a visual texture slice and an image is a local result of color, material and relief combination. There is surface texture such as only relief texture, and the surface visual texture is described by a BRDF field.

We consider a new decomposition⁷ of the BRDF associated (Figure 10 (a) and (b)) with all three levels of a surface such as the material, color and relief, reflecting the cause to the expected visual effect. This definition is derived component parameters visual texture, and like a BRDF is a unitary element of a visual texture, so we can decompose it using the same parameters. The shape of BRDF slice is a feature of material, respectively the power/amplitude for the color (Dependent of each wavelength), and the direction for the relief related to the optical law of Snell-Descartes. The amplitude corresponds to the maximum of function and the function direction is the direction of maximum such as the specular direction. In the scratch case, one can expect a relief change from the normal behavior, which will have the effect of influencing the BRDF direction locally.



Figure 10: Decomposition of BRDF (a) Phong model-like BRDF decomposition (b) BRDF decomposition following surface state

There is therefore seven cases of possible variation of visual appearance, considering that if neither the material nor the relief or the color does not change, there is no presence of an anomaly. This state is the reference state. The figure 11 shows all possible cases.

Number	Material	Relief	Hue
R	No	No	No
T1	Yes	No	No
T2	No	Yes	No
T3	Yes	Yes	No
T4	No	No	Yes
T5	Yes	No	Yes
T6	No	Yes	Yes
T7	Yes	Yes	Yes

Figure 11: Possible combinations of surfaces states change

Regardless of what field of possibilities, we propose a classification (Figure 12) of the possible influence of defects on the surface condition. That majority is observed anomalies influence the relief, which correlates with the fact that mainly the techniques used for their detection are the responsibility of the topography. Nevertheless, one can recall the major difficulty of the techniques of topography or dimensional metrology which need to be at the right scale to measure because if sampling of the surface is not good, it can not detect the anomaly. This is the advantage and disadvantage of the main visual detection because the visual effect is "visible" at multiple scales. Indeed, the fact that an aesthetic anomaly is visible at different scales is the fact that it is disturbing. Our classification also provides that certain types of defects can be perceived by different visual effects. The name "Possible" here means "Yes" or "No".

Number	Name	Material	Relief	Hue	Type
1	Groove	No	Yes	No	T2
2	Scratch	No	Yes	No	T2
3	Crack	No	Yes	No	T2
4	Pore	No	Yes	No	T2
5	Blowhole	No	Yes	No	T2
6	Shrinkage hole	No	Yes	No	T2
7	Fissure / Chink / Crevice	No	Yes	No	T2
8	Wane	No	Yes	No	T2
9	(concave) Buckle	No	Yes	No	T2
10	Dent	No	Yes	No	T2
11	Wart	No	Yes	No	T2
12	Blister	Possible	Yes	No	T2 - T3
13	(convex) Buckle	No	Yes	No	T2
14	Scale	No	Yes	No	T2
15	Inclusion	Yes	Possible	Yes	T5 - T7
16	Burr	No	Yes	No	T2
17	Flash	No	Yes	No	T2
18	Deposits	Yes	Possible	Possible	T1 - T3 - T5 - T7
19	Crater	No	Yes	No	T2
20	Lap	No	Yes	No	T2
21	Scoring	Possible	Yes	No	T2 - T3
22	Chip rest	Possible	Yes	No	T2 - T3
23	Skidding	Yes	No	Possible	T1 - T5
24	Erosion	Yes	Possible	No	T1 - T3
25	Corrosion	Yes	No	Possible	T1 - T5
26	Pitting	Yes	No	Possible	T1 - T5
27	Crazing	Yes	No	Possible	T1 - T5
28	Spot / Patch	Possible	No	Yes	T4 - T5
29	Discoloration	Possible	No	Yes	T4 - T5
30	Streak	Yes	Possible	Possible	T1 - T3 - T5 - T7
31	Cleavage / Flaking	Yes	No	Possible	T1 - T5

Figure 12: Classification by visual impact - Restricted classification according to the change of surfaces states¹³

3.2 Limits and measurement scale

A limitation of this approach is related to the scale of measurement. Indeed, depending on the scale, visual effects due to surface condition changes can mingle and merge with the normal behavior of the surface and thus lead to a different interpretation of the first inverse causal link. However, this potential misinterpretation does not lead a priori detection error.

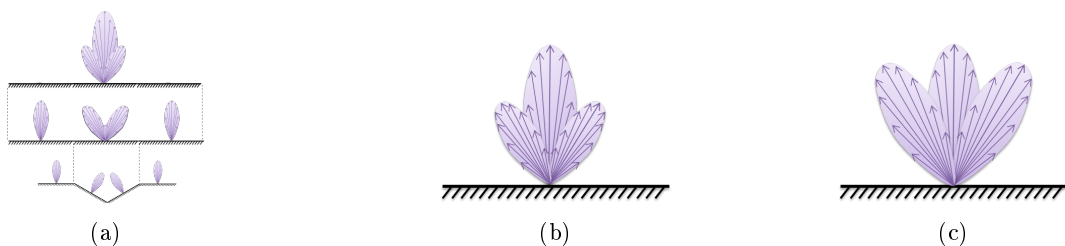


Figure 13: Visual detection of a scratch illustrated by a slice of BRDF (a) Scale influence on the measured BRDF and scratch detection (b) Scratch with a low contrast (c) Scratch with a high contrast

To illustrate this limit, we have taken the example of a mean scratch (average depth and width) whose visual impact is measured on different scales (Figure 13 (a)). Of course, in the real case, we must take into account the optical properties of the material and its color to perform the measurement in good conditions. In our example, the material considered is purely specular, as can be a metal, and there is no chromatic effect.

3.3 Measurement of changes and impacts on perceived visual texture

To measure and identify a deviation of the visual texture, we propose to use a method of analysis texture, similar to the work of Alice Porebski¹⁶ (Application to flaw identification on decorated glasses printing) which shows the possibility of classification and learning signatures of visual appearance and defects associated from the analysis of a co-occurrence matrix. For this, we rely on the extension of this method to visual texture analysis.⁷

By cons, by the approach of visual texture analysis, it is appropriate to use five new scales related to the texture.¹ We propose to use the following five simple scales to classify these imperfections :

1. **First rule : Tone** - From light to dark.
2. **Second rule : Roughness** - From rough to smooth, via rippled.
3. **Third rule : Light aspect** - From matte to speckled.
4. **Fourth rule : Finesse** - From fine to coarse.
5. **Fifth rule : Regularity** - From regular to irregular.

The trend of anomalie influence on visual texture is currently more light, more rough, more speckled, more coarse and more irregular.

4. CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES

We present a new generic and reduced classification of aesthetic anomalies from syntactic surface texture analysis and human perception. We show a comparison between geometrical dimensional considerations like an analysis of anomaly origin and appearance and perceptual analysis like an analysis of anomaly visual impact.

Perspectives in the short or medium terms are to identify the different scales in visual perception visual texture indicators and integrate the human perception of values described by the laws of Gestalt, through perception indicators, to improve automatic assessment of aesthetic anomalies according to criteria of human perception.

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