### GAMES Mesh Processing



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## Material from

#### Polygon Mesh Processing



A comprehensive book

Well-written

Lecture slides available

- Approximation error \*#faces = const.
- Arbitrary topology
- Flexibility for piecewise smooth surfaces
- Flexibility for adaptive refinement



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- Approximation error \*#faces = const.
- Arbitrary topology
- Flexibility for piecewise smooth surfaces
- Flexibility for adaptive refinement

 Implicit representation can support efficient access to vertices, faces...

### **Typical Operations**

## Evaluation

- smooth parametric surfaces
  - positions  $\mathbf{f}(u, v)$
  - normals  $\mathbf{n}(u,v) = \mathbf{f}_u(u,v) \times \mathbf{f}_v(u,v)$
  - curvatures  $\mathbf{c}(u,v) = C(\mathbf{f}_{uu}(u,v),\mathbf{f}_{uv}(u,v),\mathbf{f}_{vv}(u,v))$
- generalization to triangle meshes
  - positions (barycentric coordinates)

$$(\alpha, \beta) \mapsto \alpha \mathbf{P}_1 + \beta \mathbf{P}_2 + (1 - \alpha - \beta) \mathbf{P}_3$$
$$0 \le \alpha, \quad 0 \le \beta, \quad \alpha + \beta \le 1$$

## Evaluation

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- generalization to triangle meshes
  - positions (barycentric coordinates)
  - normals (per face, Phong)

$$\mathbf{N} = (\mathbf{P}_2 - \mathbf{P}_1) \times (\mathbf{P}_3 - \mathbf{P}_1)$$

## Evaluation

- smooth parametric surfaces
  - positions  $\mathbf{f}(u, v)$
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- generalization to triangle meshes
  - positions (barycentric coordinates)
  - normals (per face, Phong)

 $\alpha \, \mathbf{u} + \beta \, \mathbf{v} + \gamma \, \mathbf{w} \, \mapsto \, \alpha \, \mathbf{N}_1 + \beta \, \mathbf{N}_2 + \gamma \, \mathbf{N}_3$ 

### **Distance Queries**

- parametric
  - for smooth surfaces: find orthogonal base point

$$[\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{f}(u, v)] \times \mathbf{n}(u, v) = \mathbf{0}$$

- for triangle meshes
  - use kd-tree or BSP to find closest triangle
  - find base point by Newton iteration (use Phong normal field)

## Modifications

- parameteric
  - control vertices

$$\mathbf{f}(u,v) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} \sum_{j=0}^{m} \mathbf{c}_{ij} N_{i}^{n}(u) N_{j}^{m}(v)$$

- free-form deformation
- boundary constraint modeling



## Modifications

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## Modifications

- parameteric
  - control vertices
  - free-form deformation
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### Mesh Data Structures

- How to store geometry & connectivity?
- Compact storage
  - File formats
- Efficient algorithms on meshes
  - identify time-critical operations
  - all vertices/edges of a face
  - all incident vertices/edges/faces of a vertex

# Face Set (STL)

- face:
  - 3 positions

Triangles		
$x_{11}$ $y_{11}$ $z_{11}$	$x_{12}$ $y_{12}$ $z_{12}$	$x_{13}$ $y_{13}$ $z_{13}$
$x_{21} y_{21} z_{21}$	$x_{22}$ $y_{22}$ $z_{22}$	$x_{23}$ $y_{23}$ $z_{23}$
	•••	•••
$\mathbf{x}_{\text{F1}}$ $\mathbf{y}_{\text{F1}}$ $\mathbf{z}_{\text{F1}}$	$\mathbf{x}_{\text{F2}} \ \mathbf{y}_{\text{F2}} \ \mathbf{z}_{\text{F2}}$	$\mathbf{x}_{\text{F3}}$ $\mathbf{y}_{\text{F3}}$ $\mathbf{z}_{\text{F3}}$

36 B/f = 72 B/v no connectivity!

# Shared Vertex (OBJ, OFF)

- vertex:
  - position
- face:
  - vertex indices

Vertices	Triangles
$x_1 \hspace{0.1 in} y_1 \hspace{0.1 in} z_1$	V <sub>11</sub> V <sub>12</sub> V <sub>13</sub>
• • •	
$x_v y_v z_v$	
	•••
	•••
	$v_{\rm F1}$ $v_{\rm F2}$ $v_{\rm F3}$

12 B/v + 12 B/f = 36 B/v

## **Face-Based Connectivity**

- Vertex
  - Position
  - 1 Face
- Face
  - 3 Vertices
  - 3 Face neighbors



64 B/v

## **Edge-Based Connectivity**

- Vertex
  - Position
  - 1 Edge
- Edge
  - 2 vertices
  - 2 faces
  - 4 edges
- Face
  - 1 edge



120 B/v edge orientation?

# Halfedge-Based Connectivity

- Vertex
  - Position
  - 1 halfedge
- Halfedge
  - 1 vertex
  - 1 face
  - 1,2,or 3 halfedges
- Face
  - 1 halfedge



96 to 144 B/v no case distinctions during traversal

• Start at vertex



- Start at vertex
- Outgoing halfedge



- Start at vertex
- Outgoing halfedge
- Opposite halfedge



- Start at vertex
- Outgoing halfedge
- Opposite halfedge
- Next halfedge



- Start at vertex
- Outgoing halfedge
- Opposite halfedge
- Next halfedge
- Opposite



- Start at vertex
- Outgoing halfedge
- Opposite halfedge
- Next halfedge
- Opposite
- Next

## Halfedge-Based Libraries

#### • CGAL

- www.cgal.org
- computational geometry
- free for non-commercial use
- OpenMesh
  - www.openmesh.org
  - Mesh processing
  - free, LGPL license

#### A Bit Differential Geometry

#### **Differential Geometry: Surfaces**

$$\mathbf{x}(u,v) = \begin{pmatrix} x(u,v) \\ y(u,v) \\ z(u,v) \end{pmatrix}, (u,v) \in \mathbb{R}^{2}$$

#### **Differential Geometry: Surfaces**

Continuous surface

$$\mathbf{x}(u,v) = \left(egin{array}{c} x(u,v) \ y(u,v) \ z(u,v) \end{array}
ight), \; (u,v) \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

Normal vector

$$\mathbf{n} = (\mathbf{x}_u \times \mathbf{x}_v) / \|\mathbf{x}_u \times \mathbf{x}_v\|$$

- assuming regular parameterization, i.e.

$$\mathbf{x}_u \times \mathbf{x}_v \neq \mathbf{0}$$



#### Normal Curvature



#### Surface Curvature

- Principal Curvatures
  - maximum curvature

minimum curvature

$$\kappa_{1} = \max_{\phi} \kappa_{n}(\phi)$$

$$\kappa_{2} = \min_{\phi} \kappa_{n}(\phi)$$

• Mean Curvature  $H = \frac{\kappa_1 + \kappa_2}{2} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \kappa_n(\phi) d\phi$ • Gaussian Curvature  $K = \kappa_1 \cdot \kappa_2$ 

#### **Principal Curvature**



Euler's Theorem: Planes of principal curvature are orthogonal

and independent of parameterization.

$$\kappa(\theta) = \kappa_1 \cos^2 \theta + \kappa_2 \sin^2 \theta$$
  $\theta = \text{angle with } \kappa_1$ 

#### Curvature

 $\boldsymbol{H}$ 

#### **Surface Classification**



#### **Principal Directions**


#### Gauss-Bonnet Theorem

For ANY closed manifold surface with Euler number  $\chi = 2 - 2g$ :  $\int K = 2\pi \chi$  $) = \int K($  $)=\int K($  $=4\pi$ 

## Smoothing

### Laplacian Diffusion

Diffusion equation





# Diffusion

Diffusion equation

diffusion constant 
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}x = \mu\Delta x$$



# Laplacian Smoothing

Discretization of diffusion equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\mathbf{p}_i = \mu \Delta \mathbf{p}_i$$

- · Leads to simple update rule
  - iterate

$$\mathbf{p}'_i = \mathbf{p}_i + \mu \ dt \ \Delta \mathbf{p}_i$$
 explicit Euler integration

- until convergence













### Laplacian Smoothing



0 Iterations



5 Iterations



20 Iterations

### **Curvature Flow**

- Curvature is independent of parameterization
- Flow equation

surface normal  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\mathbf{p} = -2\mu H\mathbf{n}$ mean curvature

- We have  $\Delta_S \mathbf{p} = -2H\mathbf{n}$  Laplace-Beltrami operator

### **Curvature Flow**

Mean curvature flow

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\mathbf{p} = \mu \Delta_S \mathbf{p}$$

- use discrete Laplace-Beltrami operator (cot weights)

Compare to uniform discretization of Laplacian



### Comparison







Original

Umbrella

#### Laplace-Beltrami







### Other approaches

- Smoothing
  - Membrane energy
  - Thin-plate energy
- Alternative approaches
  - Anisotropic diffusion
  - Normal filtering
  - Non-linear PDEs
  - Bilateral filtering

# Remeshing

### Remeshing

- Altering the mesh geometry and connectivity to improve quality
- Replacing an arbitrarily structured mesh by a structured one



# Isotropic Remeshing

- Well-shaped elements
  - for processing & simulation (numerical stability & efficiency)



### **Iterative Mesh Optimization**

- (Area weighted) random scatter (area weighted) random scatter or simply start with the given mesh
- Improve vertex distribution
- Update mesh connectivity

### Isotropic remeshing prefers.

- Locally uniform edge length
  - Remove too short edges -- edge collapses
  - Remove too long edges 2-4 edge split
- Regular valences
  - Valence balance edge flip
- Uniform vertex distribution
  - Tangential smoothing Laplacian operator

### Local Remeshing Operators



# Thresholds $L_{min}$ and $L_{max}$



# Mesh Simplification & Approximation

#### **Problem Statement**

- Given:  $\mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{F})$
- Find:  $\mathcal{M}' = (\mathcal{V}', \mathcal{F}')$  such that

1.  $|\mathcal{V}'| = n < |\mathcal{V}|$  and  $||\mathcal{M} - \mathcal{M}'||$  is minimal, or

2. 
$$\|\mathcal{M} - \mathcal{M}'\| < \epsilon$$
 and  $|\mathcal{V}'|$  is minimal



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#### hard!

→ look for sub-optimal solution

### **Problem Statement**

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1.  $|\mathcal{V}'| = n < |\mathcal{V}|$  and  $||\mathcal{M} - \mathcal{M}'||$  is minimal, or

- 2.  $\|\mathcal{M} \mathcal{M}'\| < \epsilon$  and  $|\mathcal{V}'|$  is minimal
- Respect additional fairness criteria
  - normal deviation, triangle shape, scalar attributes, etc.

### Vertex clustering

- Cluster Generation
- Computing a representative
- Mesh generation
- Topology changes

### **Vertex Clustering**

- Cluster Generation
  - Uniform 3D grid
  - Map vertices to cluster cells
- Computing a representative
- Mesh generation
- Topology changes



### **Vertex Clustering**

- Cluster Generation
  - Hierarchical approach
  - Top-down or bottom-up
- Computing a representative
- Mesh generation
- Topology changes



### **Vertex Clustering**

- Cluster Generation
- Computing a representative
  - Average/median vertex position
  - Error quadrics
- Mesh generation
- Topology changes



#### Average vertex position $\rightarrow$ Low-pass filter



#### Median vertex position $\rightarrow$ Sub-sampling



#### Median vertex position $\rightarrow$ Sub-sampling





#### Error quadrics

### **Error Quadrics**

Squared distance to plane

$$p = (x, y, z, 1)^T, \ q = (a, b, c, d)^T$$

$$dist(q,p)^2 = (q^T p)^2 = p^T (qq^T)p =: p^T Q_q p$$

$$Q_q = \begin{bmatrix} a^2 & ab & ac & ad \\ ab & b^2 & bc & bd \\ ac & bc & b^2 & cd \\ ad & bd & cd & d^2 \end{bmatrix}$$
## **Error Quadrics**

Sum distances to vertex' planes

$$\sum_{i} dist(q_i, p)^2 = \sum_{i} p^T Q_{q_i} p = p^T \left(\sum_{i} Q_{q_i}\right) p =: p^T Q_p p$$

Point that minimizes the error

$$\begin{bmatrix} q_{11} & q_{12} & q_{13} & q_{14} \\ q_{21} & q_{22} & q_{23} & q_{24} \\ q_{31} & q_{32} & q_{33} & q_{34} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} p^* = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



## **Vertex Clustering**

- Cluster Generation
- Computing a representative
- Mesh generation
  - Clusters  $p \Leftrightarrow \{p_0, ..., p_n\}, q \Leftrightarrow \{q_0, ..., q_m\}$
  - Connect (p,q) if there was an edge  $(p_i,q_j)$
- Topology changes

## **Vertex Clustering**

- Cluster Generation
- Computing a representative
- Mesh generation
- Topology changes
  - If different sheets pass through one cell
  - Not manifold



## **Incremental Decimation**

- General Setup
- Decimation operators
- Error metrics
- Fairness criteria
- Topology changes

## **General Setup**

Repeat: pick mesh region apply decimation operator Until no further reduction possible

#### **Greedy Optimization**

```
For each region
 evaluate quality after decimation
 enque(quality, region)
Repeat:
 pick best mesh region
 apply decimation operator
 update queue
Until no further reduction possible
```

#### **Global Error Control**

```
For each region
evaluate quality after decimation
enqeue(quality, region)
```

Repeat: pick best mesh region if error < € apply decimation operator update queue Until no further reduction possible

## **Incremental Decimation**

- General Setup
- Decimation operators
- Error metrics
- Fairness criteria
- Topology changes

- What is a "region" ?
- What are the DOF for re-triangulation?
- Classification
  - Topology-changing vs. topology-preserving
  - Subsampling vs. filtering
  - Inverse operation  $\rightarrow$  progressive meshes





Select all triangles sharing this vertex



Remove the selected triangles, creating the hole





- Remove vertex
- Re-triangulate hole
  - Combinatorial DOFs
  - Sub-sampling



- Merge two adjacent triangles
- Define new vertex position
  - Continuous DOF
  - Filtering



- Collapse edge into one end point
  - Special vertex removal
  - Special edge collapse
- No DOFs
  - One operator per half-edge
  - Sub-sampling!

### **Local Error Metrics**

- · Local distance to mesh [Schroeder et al. 92]
  - Compute average plane
  - No comparison to original geometry



- Simplification envelopes [Cohen et al. 96]
  - Compute (non-intersecting) offset surfaces
  - Simplification guarantees to stay within bounds



- (Two-sided) Hausdorff distance: Maximum distance between two shapes
  - In general  $d(A,B) \neq d(B,A)$
  - Computationally involved



- Scan data: One-sided Hausdorff distance sufficient
  - From original vertices to current surface



- Error quadrics [Garland, Heckbert 97]
  - Squared distance to planes at vertex
  - No bound on true error



## Complexity

- N = number of vertices
- Priority queue for half-edges
   6 N \* log ( 6 N )
- Error control
  - Local O(1) -> global O(N)
  - Local  $O(N) \rightarrow global O(N^2)$

- Rate quality of decimation operation
  - Approximation error
  - Triangle shape
  - Dihedral angles
  - Valence balance
  - Color differences



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## Comparison

- Vertex clustering
  - fast, but difficult to control simplified mesh
  - topology changes, non-manifold meshes
  - global error bound, but often not close to optimum
- Iterative decimation with quadric error metrics
  - good trade-off between mesh quality and speed
  - explicit control over mesh topology
  - restricting normal deviation improves mesh quality

## Mesh Repair

# Surface-Oriented Algorithms

- Surface oriented approaches explicitly identify and resolve artifacts
- Methods
  - Snapping
  - Splitting
  - Stitching



# Surface-Oriented Algorithms

- Advantages
  - Fast
  - Conceptually easy
  - Memory friendly
  - Structure preserving, minimal modification of the input

# Surface-Oriented Algorithms

- Problems
  - Not robust
    - Numerical issues
    - Inherent non-robustness



No quality guarantees on the output



# Filling Holes in Meshes

compute a coarse triangulation T




compute a coarse triangulation T of minimal weight w(T)

> n vertices, n–2 triangles



- weight w(T) is a mixture of
  - $\operatorname{area}(\mathsf{T}) = \sum_{\Delta \in \mathsf{T}} \operatorname{area}(\Delta)$



- maximum dihedral angle in T



 thus, we favour triangulations of low area and low normal variation

 let w[a,c] be the minimal weight that can be achieved in triangulating the polygon a,a+1,...,c

9

8



 let w[a,c] be the minimal weight that can be achieved in triangulating the polygon a,a+1,...,c



 let w[a,c] be the minimal weight that can be achieved in triangulating the polygon a,a+1,...,c



 let w[a,c] be the minimal weight that can be achieved in triangulating the polygon a,a+1,...,c



- let w[a,c] be the minimal weight that can be achieved in triangulating the polygon a,a+1,...,c
- recursion formula

$$w[a,c] = \min_{a < b < c} w[a,b] + w(\Delta(a,b,c)) + w[b,c]$$
$$w[x,x+1] = 0$$

dynamic programming leads to an O(n<sup>3</sup>) algorithm

#### **Additional Steps**

 Refine the triangulation such that its vertex density matches that of the surrounding area

 Smooth the filling such that its geometry matches that of the surrounding area







Minimal triangulation





- What problems do we encounter?
  - Islands are not incorporated
  - Self-intersections cannot be excluded
  - Quality depends on boundary distortion

 convert the input model into an intermediate volumetric representation → loss of information



voxel grid

adaptive octree

BSP tree

- convert the input model into an intermediate volumetric representation → loss of information
- 2. discrete volumetric representation → robust and reliable processing
  - morphological operators (dilation, erosion)
  - smoothing
  - flood-fill to determine interior/exterior

- convert the input model into an intermediate volumetric representation → loss of information
- 2. discrete volumetric representation → robust and reliable processing
  - morphological operators (dilation, erosion)
  - smoothing
  - flood-fill to determine interior/exterior
- extract the surface of a solid object from the volume → manifold and watertight

- Advantages
  - fully automatic
  - few (intuitive) user parameters
  - Robust
  - guaranteed manifold output

- Problems
  - slow and memory intensive
    - adaptive data structures
  - aliasing and loss of features
    - feature sensitive reconstruction (EMC, DC)
  - loss of mesh structure
    - bad luck (... hybrid approaches)
  - large output
    - mesh decimation

# Nooruddin and Turk's Method

- Point classification: Layered depth images (LDI)
  - Record n layered depth images
  - Project the query point x into each depth image
  - If any of the images classifies x as exterior, then x is globally classified as exterior else as interior



#### Summary

- Learn basic operations under the mesh representation
- Learn how to convert other representations into the mesh representation