

Triangulation

Lower & Upper Bounds of Tetrahedralization

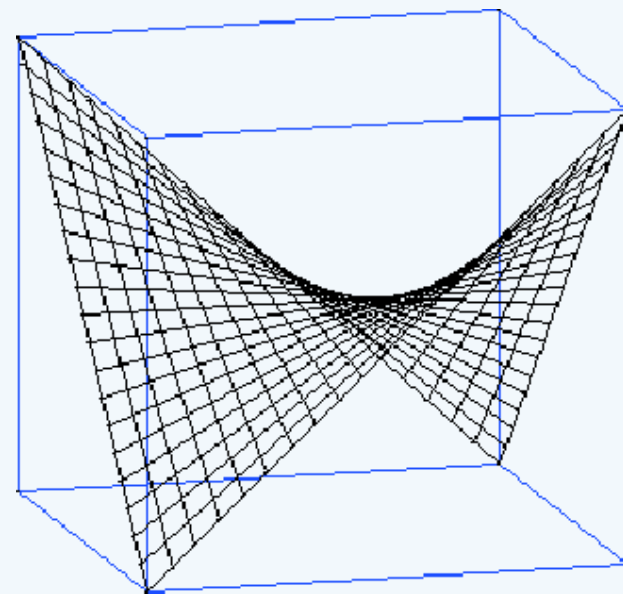
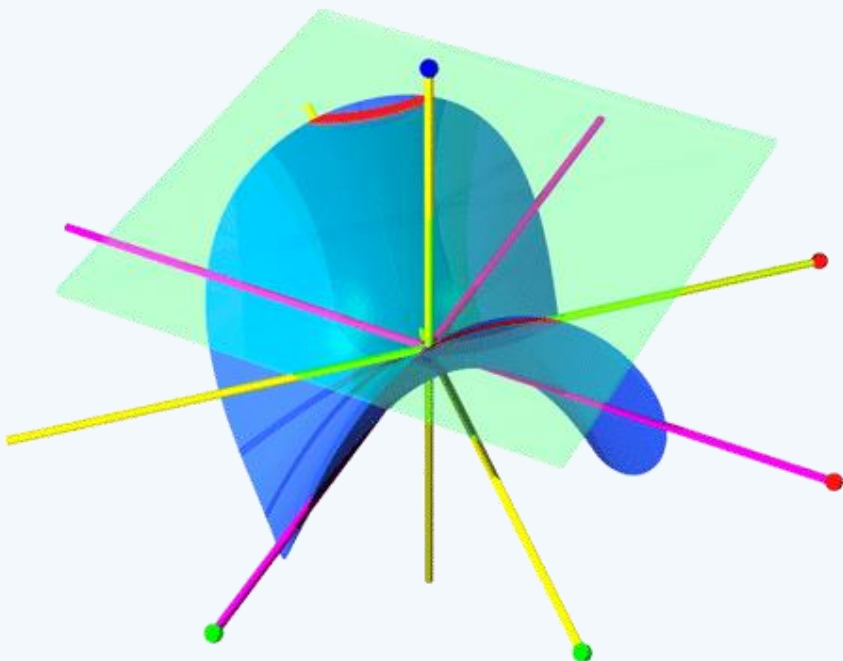
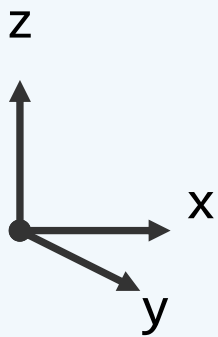
Junhui DENG

deng@tsinghua.edu.cn

Chazelle's Lower Bound

- ❖ Using Steiner points, we can triangulate every polyhedron. But ...
- ❖ How many Steiner points are needed to triangulate a polyhedron? And how many tetrahedra will a polyhedron be partitioned into?
- ❖ If the goal is to cut the polyhedron into pieces as **few** as possible, how well can you do? i.e., how many tetrahedra are necessary in the worst cases?
- ❖ [Chazelle, 1984] The tetrahedralization (using Steiner points) of a polyhedron with **n** vertices consists of **$\Omega(n^2)$** tetrahedra in the worst cases
- ❖ The lower bound is achieved by Chazelle's polyhedron ...

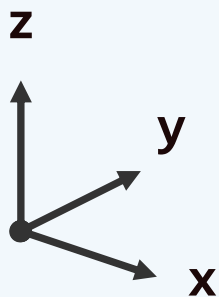
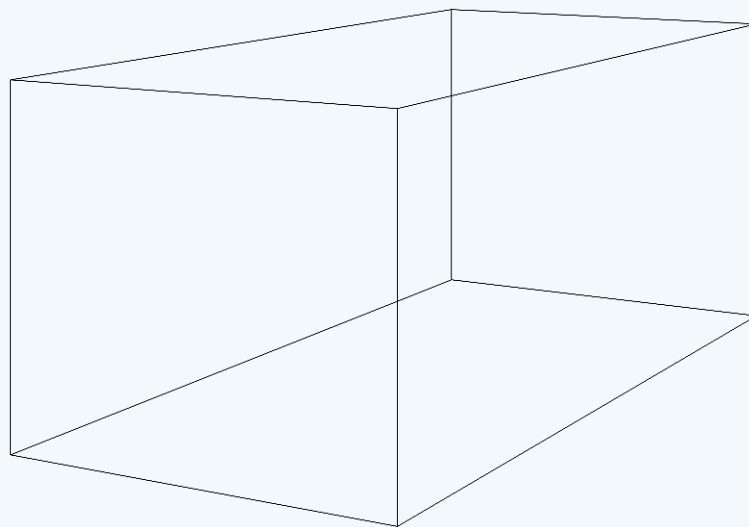
Hyperbolic paraboloid



$$z = yx$$

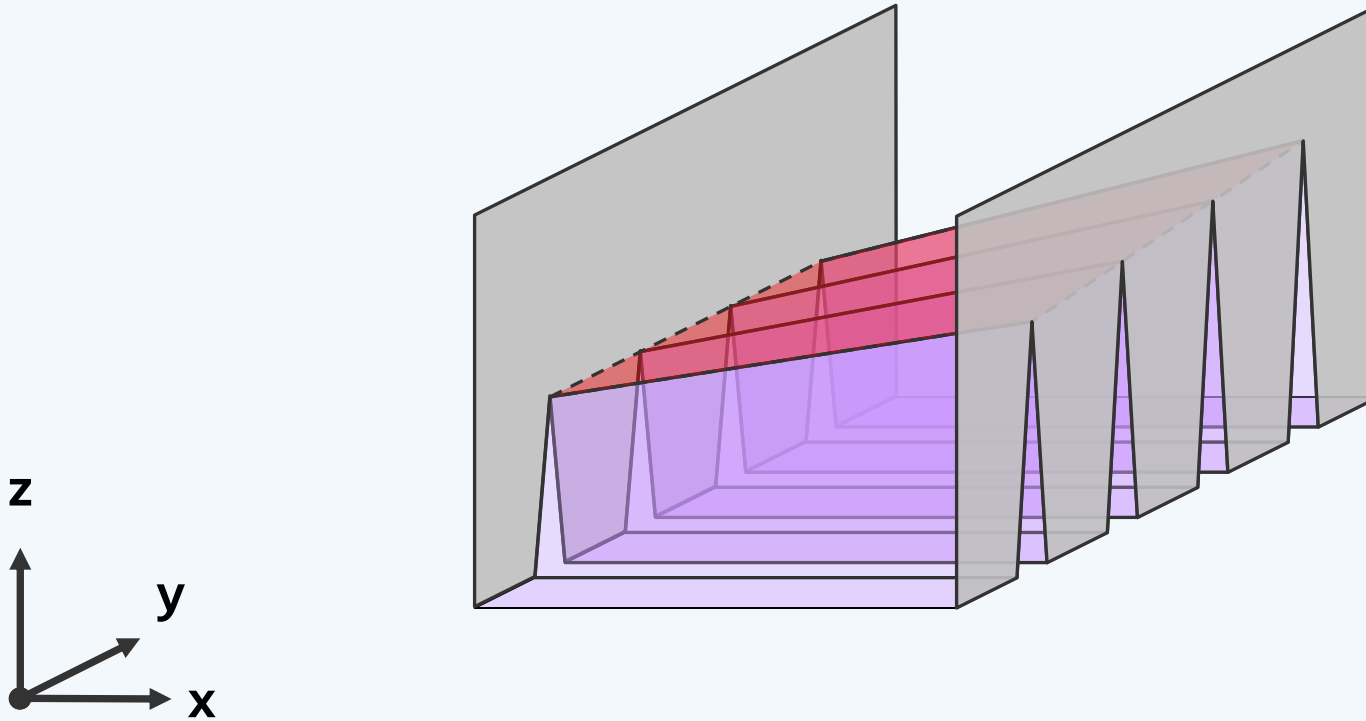
Constructing Chazelle's Polyhedron

Start with an orthogonal cube



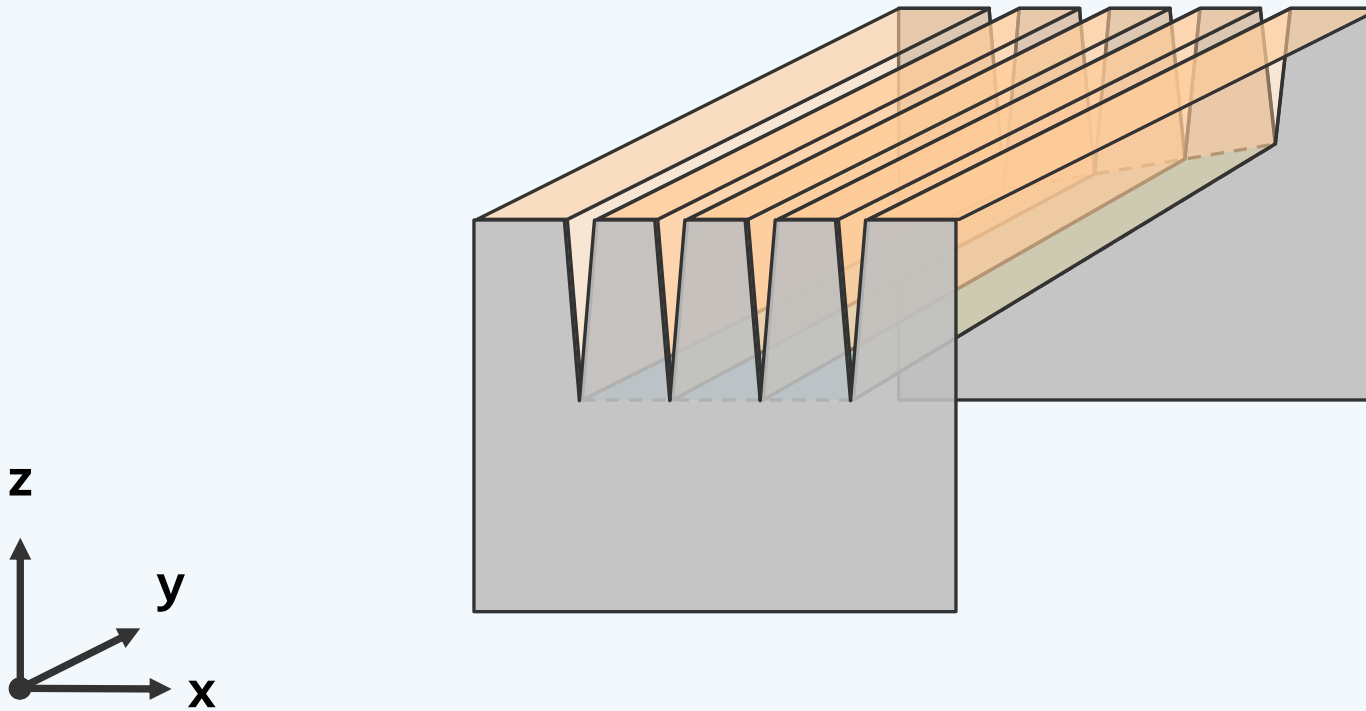
Constructing Chazelle's Polyhedron

Cut k thin notches into the top face, parallel to the xz -plane



Constructing Chazelle's Polyhedron

Cut k thin notches into the top face, parallel to the yz -plane



Chazelle's Polyhedra - $\Omega(n^2)$

❖ [Thomas, 1962]

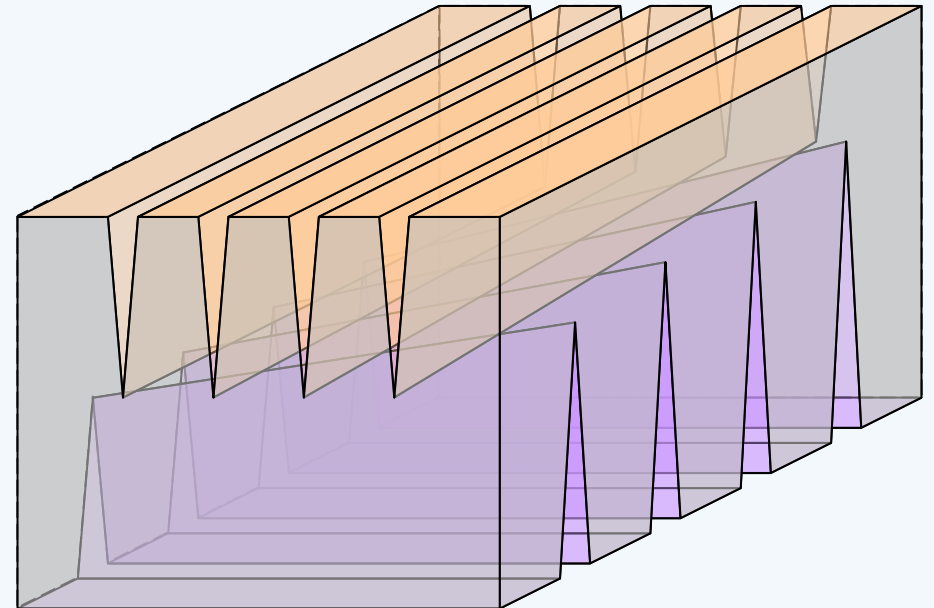
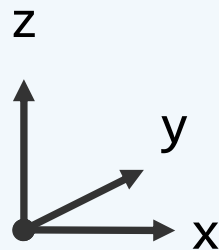
A hyperbolic paraboloid can be generated by two sets of orthogonal lines.

❖ So, the k top edges can be chosen

to lie on the surface $z = xy + \varepsilon$

the k bottom edges can be chosen

to lie on the surface $z = xy - \varepsilon$



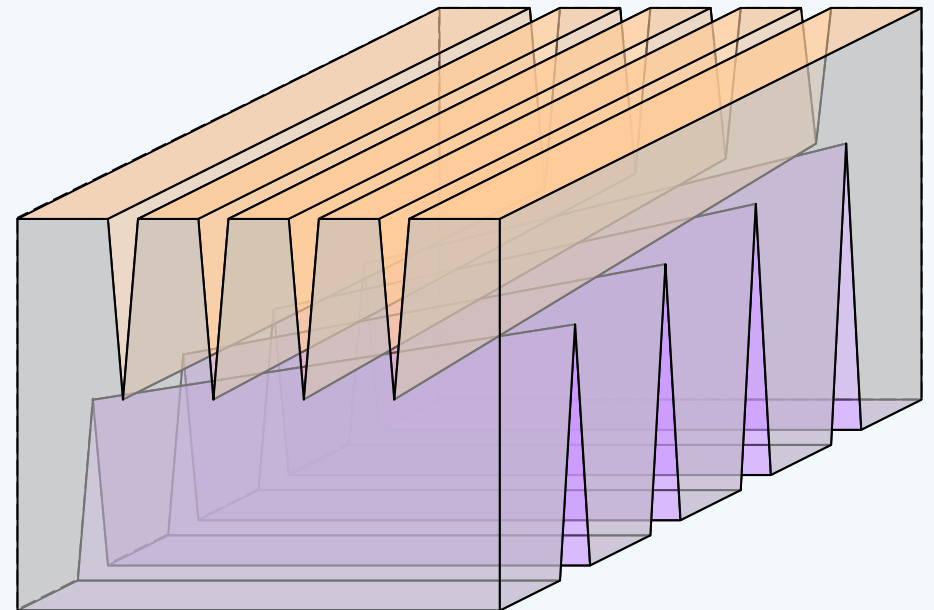
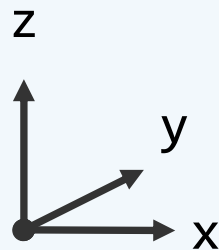
Chazelle's Polyhedra - $\Omega(n^2)$

❖ Chazelle proved that

1) The intersection of the warped shape
between the two hyperbolic paraboloids
with any convex subset of the polyhedron
can only have such a small volume that

2) $\Omega(n^2)$ pieces are necessary

to make up the volume
of the shape



Chazelle's Polyhedra - $\Omega(n^2)$

❖ More precisely,

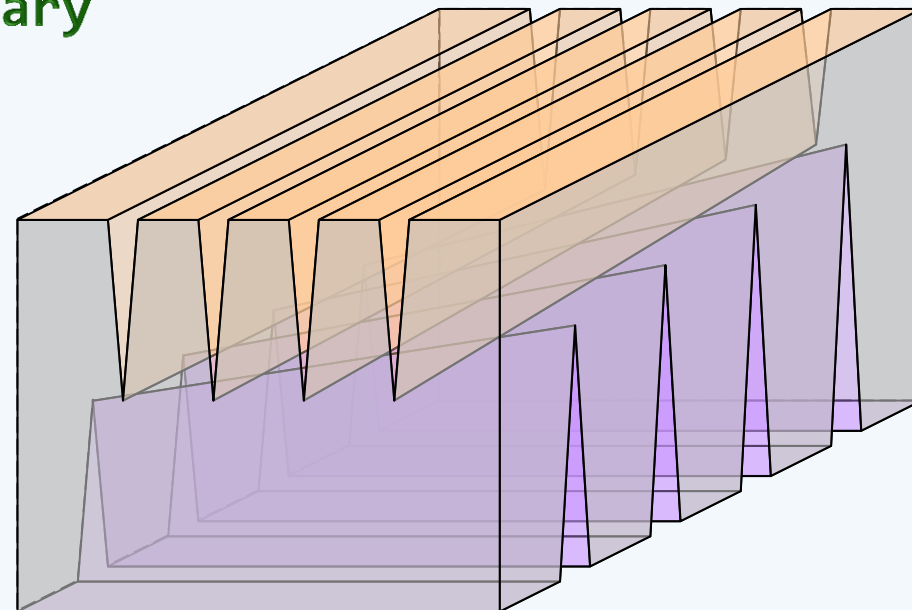
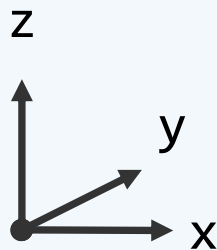
[Chazelle, 1984] proved that ...

At least $\Omega(n^2)$ convex pieces are necessary

in any convex partition

of Chazelle's polyhedron

with n vertices



Upper Bound - Algorithms

- ❖ Every polyhedron with n vertices can be triangulated into $O(n^2)$ tetrahedra with Steiner points
- ❖ The upper bound was "improved" later by Chazelle and Palios, by taking into consideration r , the number of reflex edges
- ❖ [Chazelle & Palios, 1989]//again, r can be as large as n in the worst cases
Every polyhedron with n vertices can be triangulated into $O(n + r^2)$ tetrahedra with Steiner points, where r is the number of reflex edges on the original polyhedron
- ❖ Since this complexity depends not only on the input size but also on the polyhedron's shape, you may want to call it input sensitive, or more precisely, shape sensitive

Beyond 3-Dimension

❖ R. P. Stanley

Decompositions of Rational Convex Polytopes

Ann. Discrete Math., 6:333-342, 1980

❖ I. M. Gelfand, M. M. Kapranov, and A. V. Zelvinsky

Newton Polytopes of the Classical Discriminant and Resultant

Adv. Math., 84:237-254, 1990

❖ J. E. Goodman and [J. Pach](#)

Cell Decomposition of Polytopes by Bending

Israel J. Math., 64:129-138, 1988

❖ [M. Haiman](#)

A Simple and Relatively Efficient Triangulation of the n -Cube

Discrete Comput. Geom., 6:287-289, 1991