



Lyon 1

Mesh and Computational Geometry

Raphaëlle Chaine
Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1

M2 ID3D
Image, Développement et Technologie 3D et 3A Centrale

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Which place for Geometry in Computer Science?

- Geometric problems and applications
 - Computer Graphics
 - Collision detection
 - Illumination calculation
 - Hidden parts not taken into account
 - Robotics and 3D vision
 - Trajectory planning
 - Telecommunication
 - Determination of the nearest relay

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Which place for Geometry in Computer Science?

- Geometric problems and applications
 - Chemistry
 - Molecular modeling
 - Pocket detection
 - Calculation of contact surfaces
 - CAD (Computer Aided Design), CAM (Computer Aided Manufacturing)
 - Integrated circuit design
 - Reverse engineering
 - Scientific Computation : physics, geology

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Which place for Geometry in Computer Science?

- Geometric problems and applications
 - Digital twins
 - Museums and virtual shops
 - Digitization and availability of cultural heritage
 - Geographic Information Systems
 - Virtual creation
 - Animated films, video games
 - Digital entertainment

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Difficulty of dealing with geometry in computer science...

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Nuance between Computational Geometry and Discrete Geometry approaches

- Common goal
 - Dealing with geometric objects in a discrete world
- Discrete Geometry
 - Discretization of geometric objects on grids
1 point = 1 pixel



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Nuance between Computational Geometry and Discrete Geometry approaches

- Computational geometry
 - Handling geometric objects as abstract type instances
 - Operations consistent with the geometric properties of the objects being processed

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Nuance between Computational Geometry and Discrete Geometry approaches

- Computational Geometry
 - Combinatorial objects
 - The shapes are described by assembly of geometric primitives
 - Everything can be built combinatorically on the notion of vertex

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What elementary geometric objects do you think you need to model first?

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What elementary geometric objects do you think you need to model first?

- Points :
 - Which points?
- Remember that we are subject to discrete arithmetic...

Floating point real representation

$(-1)^{\text{sign}} \times 2^{\text{exponent}-\text{bias}} \times 1.M$ (norme IEEE)

Simple precision : exp 8 bits, M 23-1 bits, offset=127

Double precision : exp 11 bits, M 52-1 bits, offset=1023

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What elementary geometric objects do you think you need to model?

- Points | With that we can make broken lines
- Segments
 - How would you model segments?
 - What is the intersection of two segments?
- Vectors, straight lines, half straight lines, ...

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What elementary geometric objects do you think you need to model?

- Back to the notion of point:
 - A triplet of coordinates
 - OR A construction tree!

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What elementary geometric objects do you think you need to model?

- Polygons
 - Triangle = polygon determined by a minimum number of points
- Cercles, Spheres
- Many shapes can be described combinatorically from a few points

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What elementary geometric objects do you think you need to model?

- What if we work in a world with dimensions greater than 2 or 3?

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Concept of affine combination

$$p = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i x_i , \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = 1$$

- Affine combination of n points
 - All possible combinations of these n points
 - The coefficients λ_i can be negative or positive
- Example :
 - All the points of a line AB are expressed by affine combination of A and B

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Concept of convex envelope

$$p = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i x_i , \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = 1$$

- Convex envelope of n points :
 - All convex combinations of these n points: affine combinations obtained with **positive coefficients** λ_i
- Coefficients λ_i are denoted as barycentric coordinates
 - **Unique if** the points are independent
(implies a number of points lower than the dimension of the space + 1)

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Concept of affine combination

$$p = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i x_i , \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = 1$$

- Two points :
 - Affine combination : straight line
 - Convex combination (positive coefficients) : segment
- Three points
 - Affine combination : plane
 - Convex combination : triangle
- Concept of barycentric coordinates

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Vocabulary used in Computational Geometry

- 0-simplex : point
- 1-simplex : segment
- 2-simplex : triangle
- 3-simplex : tetrahedron
- k-simplex : Convex envelope of $k+1$ points being independents (affine combinations of these points = space of dimension k)

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Concept of barycentric coordinates

$$p = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i x_i , \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = 1$$

- Barycentric coordinates of a point Q inside a simplex D={P_{b0}, P_{b1}, .., P_{bN}}

- Coordinate wrt P_{bj}

- Let F_{bj} be the face opposite to P_{bj},

- $\lambda_j = \text{Volume}(Q, F_{bj}) / \text{Volume}(D)$

- Volume(D) = determinant

$$V(D) = \left| \frac{1}{N!} \det(P_{b1} - P_{b0}, P_{b2} - P_{b0}, \dots, P_{bN} - P_{b0}) \right|$$

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Volume in 2D and in 3D?

- Determinant linked to :

- Cross-product of 2 vectors : use symbol \times

• Direction? Length?

- Dot product of 2 vectors .

- Area in 2D

Area(abc) liée à $1/2 (b-a) \times (c-a)$

- Volume in 3D

Volume(abcd)=1/3 Area(base) * height

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Volume in 2D and in 3D?

- Volume(abcd)=Volume(T,d) T=triangle(abc)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Height}(T, d) &= \langle d - a, \vec{n}_T \rangle \\ &= \left\langle d - a, \frac{(b - a) \times (c - a)}{\|(b - a) \times (c - a)\|} \right\rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Volume}(T) &= \frac{1}{3} * \text{base} * \text{height} \\ &= \frac{1}{6} \times \langle d - a, (b - a) \times (c - a) \rangle \end{aligned}$$

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Vocabulary used in Computational Geometry

- Face : The **faces of a k-simplex** defined by k+1 points are the d-simplexes that can be formed from a subset of d + 1 < k + 1 of its vertices

- Given a set of points in a d-dimensional space, it is possible to decompose the space into d-simplexes : **triangulation**

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Vocabulary used in Computational Geometry

- Definition of triangulation :

Given a set E of points of R^k, we call triangulation of E a set of **k-simplexes** whose vertices are the points of E and verifying :

- The intersection of 2 k-simplexes is either empty or a face common to the 2 k-simplexes,
- The k-simplexes pave the convex envelope of E.

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Triangulation

- For the sake of simplicity, we still speak of triangulation in the case where all the k-simplexes rely on vertices in a space with dimension larger than k

- The coverage constraint is then released

- Example :

Triangulation of a surface (k=2) based on 3D points

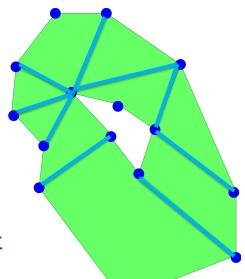
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Combinatorics of connected 2D meshes

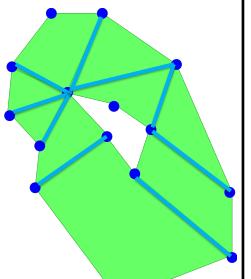
- Is there a connection between
 - the number of cells,
 - the number of edges
 - and the number of holes in this mesh ?
- To be noted: the cells are not necessarily triangles!



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Combinatorics of connected 2D meshes

- Euler's relationship
Planar triangulation
 $c-a+s=1-t$
- c : number of cells
 - a : number of edges
 - s : number of vertices ($s > 1$)
 - t : number of holes



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Combinatorics of connected 2D meshes

- Euler's relationship, Planar mesh
 $c-a+s=1-t$
- Intuition of the proof
 - We start from a single vertex (Euler's relationship is checked: $0-0+1 = 1-0$) and we add the edges one by one by maintaining one connected component.
 - Add an edge based on a new vertex: $s+ = 1$, $a+ = 1$
 - Add an edge based on existing vertices: $c+ = 1$ or $t+ = 1$
 - At each addition of an edge, $(c + t) - a + s$ remains invariant.

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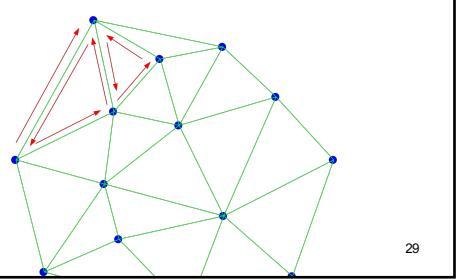
Combinatorics of connected 2D meshes

- Euler's relationship
Polyhedra : Surface mesh of a closed 3D shape
 $c-a+s=2(1-g)$
- c : number of cells
 - a : number of edges
 - s : number of vertices ($s > 1$)
 - g : genus of the surface (number of tunnels)

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Special case of triangulations

- Can we say more about the link between the number of faces, edges and vertices?



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Special case of triangulations

- No hole ($t = 0$)
- Each cell is bordered by 3 edges
- $2a = 3c + k$
 - where k is the number of edges on the convex envelope (ie. the edge)

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Special case of triangulations

- Number of cells and edges of a triangulation of s points

- Euler's relationship:

$$c-a+s=1$$

• Relationship between a and c in a triangulation :
 $2a = 3c + k$ where k is the number of edges on the convex envelope

$$c = 2s - 2 - k$$

$$a = 3s - 3 - k$$

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Data structures

- How to store a triangular mesh so that one can easily navigate through it?

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Data structures

- Geometric information :
 - coordinates of vertex positions
- Topological information :
 - incidence and adjacency relationships between vertices, edges and faces
- Access to an information :
 - Address or index in a table

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Data structures

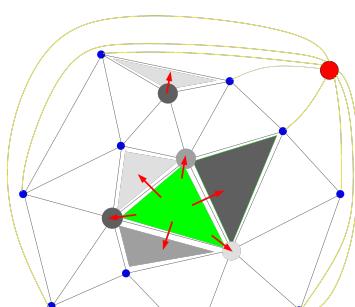
- Representation based on faces and vertices
 - (for triangulated meshes only)
- Triangle :
 - Access to the 3 incident vertices (trigonometric order)
 - Access to the 3 adjacent triangles

Constraint : vertex i facing adjacent triangle i
- Vertex :
 - Access to 1 incident triangle
 - Access to the underlying point (geometry)

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- What is the difference between the **global index** of a vertex, and its **relative index** in a face?

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Data structures

- Case of a 2D triangulation
 - Dangling pointers / indexes on the boundary of the convex hull
OR
 - Addition of a fictitious vertex (called infinite vertex) whose incident triangles are attached to the edges of the convex envelope
- The data structure can also be used for surface triangulations
 - Use dangling pointers/indexes for each hole boundary
OR
 - Add fictitious vertices for each hole

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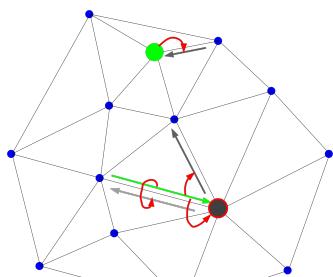
Data structures with edges

- Representation based on $\frac{1}{2}$ edges and vertices
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ edge :
 - Access to the coupled $\frac{1}{2}$ edge
 - Access to the next $\frac{1}{2}$ edge
 - Access to the target vertex
 - Vertex :
 - Access to an $\frac{1}{2}$ edge oriented towards the vertex
 - Access to the underlying point

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Data structures



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Naive and uncompressed format of a mesh in a file

- Files off
- Format description
 - Number of vertices s
 - Number of faces c
 - Vertices coordinates
 - Description of faces (from 0 to c-1)
 - Number of vertices in the face
 - Description of the face by the indexes of its vertices (in counter-clockwise direction in 2D, or by orienting the faces towards the outside in 3D)

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How to load a mesh into the data structure?

- Need to find adjacencies between faces
- Using a *temporary map* while reading faces
 - To each edge of a face (**key = pair of vertex indexes**) we associate the **index** of the current face (+ optionally the relative index of the vertex opposite to the edge in the face)
 - When an edge is incident to two faces, the adjacency between these two faces is reported in the map

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How to load a mesh into a data structure?

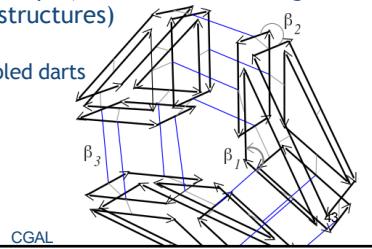
- Using a *map* while reading faces
- Complexity in $O(s \log(s))$ where s number of vertices
- Rque : If you use an hmap instead of a map, you get an almost linear complexity.

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Data structures

- Case of a 3D triangulation
 - Structure based on tetrahedrons and vertices OR
 - Combinatorial maps (extension of half-edge or dart-based structures)
 - β_1 : next
 - β_2 et β_3 : coupled darts



CGAL

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Data structures

- Case of nD triangulations
 - n-simplex and vertex based structures
 - Combinatorial Maps
 - β_1 : next
 - $\beta_2, \beta_3 \dots \beta_n$: coupled darts

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