

## Polygon Partitioning

### Monotone Partitioning

## Monotone Partitioning

- Define monotonicity
- Triangulate monotone polygons in linear time
- Partition a polygon into monotone pieces

## Monotone polygons

- Definition
  - A polygonal chain  $C$  is **strictly monotone** with respect to  $L'$  if every line  $L$  orthogonal to  $L'$  meets  $C$  in at most one point.
  - A polygonal chain  $C$  is **monotone** if  $L$  has at most one connected component
    - Either empty, a single point, or a single line segment
  - A polygon  $P$  is said to be **monotone** with respect to a line  $L$  if  $\partial P$  can be split into two polygonal chains  $A$  and  $B$  such that each chain is monotone with respect to  $L$

## Monotone polygons

- The two chains should share a vertex at either end.
- Figure 2.1
  - A polygon monotone with respect to the vertical line
  - Two monotone chains
    - $A = (v_0, \dots, v_{15})$  and  $B = (v_{15}, \dots, v_{24}, v_0)$
    - Neither chain is strictly monotone (two horizontal edges -  $v_5v_6$  and  $v_{21}v_{22}$ )

## Monotone polygons

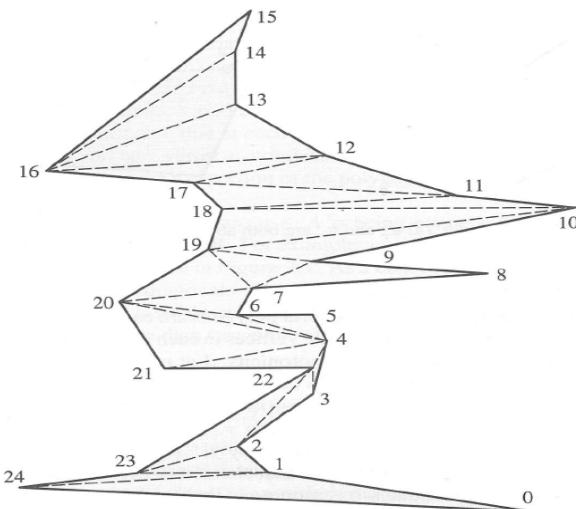


FIGURE 2.1 A polygon monotone with respect to the vertical.

## Monotone polygons

- Define an **interior cusp** of a polygon as a reflex vertex  $v$  whose adjacent vertices  $v_-$  and  $v_+$  are either both at or above, or both at or below,  $v$ . (See Figure 2.2)
  - Interior cusp can't have both adjacent vertices with the same  $y$  coordinate as  $v$
  - Thus,  $d$  in Figure 2.2(b) is not an interior cusp
- **Lemma 2.1.1**
- If a polygon  $P$  has no interior cusps, then it is monotone.
  - Lack of interior cusp implies strict monotonicity

## Monotone polygons

### Properties of Monotone Polygons

- The vertices in each chain of a monotone polygon are sorted with respect to the line of monotonicity
- Let  $y$  axis be the fixed line of monotonicity
- Then vertices can be sorted by  $y$  coordinate in linear time
- Find a highest vertex, a lowest vertex and partition the boundary into two chains. (linear time)

## Monotone Partitioning

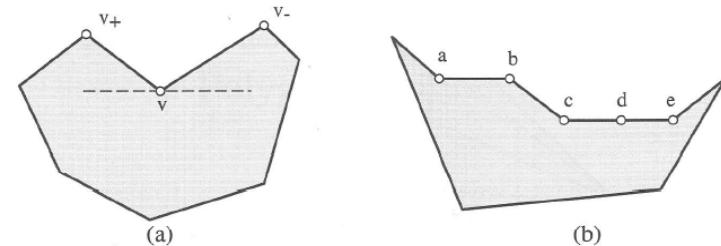


FIGURE 2.2 Interior cusps: (a)  $v_+$  and  $v_-$  are both above  $v$ ; (b)  $a, c$ , and  $e$  are interior cusps;  $b$  and  $d$  are not.

## Triangulating a Monotone Polygon

- The shapes of monotone polygons are so special that they are easy to triangulate
- Linear time triangulation
- Hint of algorithm
  - Sort the vertices from top to bottom(in linear time)
  - Cut off triangles from the top in a “greedy” fashion

## Triangulating a Monotone Polygon

- Algorithm
  - For each vertex  $v$ , connect  $v$  to all the vertices above it and visible via a diagonal
  - Remove the top portion of the polygon thereby triangulated
  - Continue with the next vertex below  $v$ .
- One can show that at any iteration,  $v \in A$  is being connected to a chain of reflex vertices above it in the other chain  $B$ .

## Triangulating a Monotone Polygon

- For example,  $v_{16}$  is connected to  $(v_{14}, v_{13}, v_{12})$  in the first iteration.
- As a consequence, no visibility check is required
- The algorithm can be implemented with a single stack holding the reflex chain above.
- Between the linear sorting and this simple data structure,  $O(n)$  is achieved.

## Polygon Partitioning

### Trapezoidalization

## Trapezoidalization

A **horizontal trapezoidalization** of a polygon is obtained by drawing a horizontal line through every vertex of the polygon.

Pass through each vertex  $v$  the maximal horizontal segment  $s$  such that  $s \subset P$  and  $s \cap \partial P = v$

See Figure 2.3

We only consider polygons whose vertices have unique  $y$  coordinates.

## Trapezoidalization

A **trapezoid** is a quadrilateral with two parallel edges

Call the vertices through which the horizontal lines are drawn **supporting vertices**.

Every trapezoid has exactly two supporting vertices

The connection to monotone polygons

- If a supporting vertex is on the interior of an upper or lower trapezoid edge, then it is an **interior cusp**

## Trapezoidalization

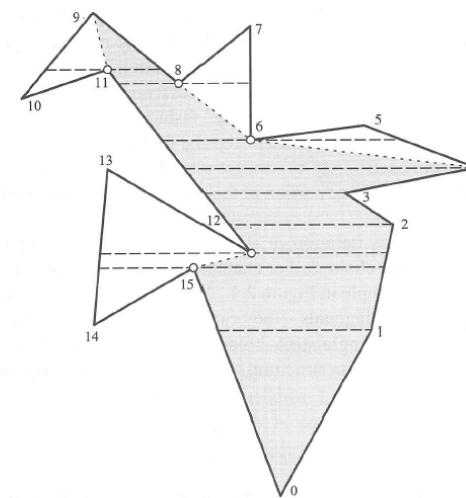


FIGURE 2.3 Trapezoidalization. Dashed lines show trapezoid partition lines; dotted diagonals resolve interior cusps (circled). The shaded polygon is one of the resulting monotone pieces.

## Trapezoidalization

### Monotone partition

- Connect every interior vertex  $v$  to the opposing supporting vertex of the trapezoid  $v$  supports
- Then, these diagonals partition  $P$  into monotonic pieces
- Recall Lemma 2.1.1
- For example, diagonal  $v_6v_4$ ,  $v_{15}v_{12}$ , and so on. (Figure 2.3)

## Plane Sweep

Useful in many geometric algorithms

Main idea is to “sweep” a line over the plane maintaining some type of data structure along the line

Sweep a horizontal line  $L$  over the polygon, stopping at each vertex

Sorting the vertices by  $y$  coordinate  
 $O(n \log n)$  time

## Plane Sweep

Find the edge immediately to the left and immediately to the right of  $v$  along  $L$

- A sorted list  $\mathcal{L}$  of polygon edges pierced by  $L$  is maintained at all times
- For example, for the sweep line in the position shown in Figure 2.4  $\mathcal{L} = (e_{19}, e_{18}, e_{17}, e_6, e_8, e_{10})$
- How to determine that  $v$  lies between  $e_{17}$  and  $e_6$  in Figure 2.4?

## Plane Sweep

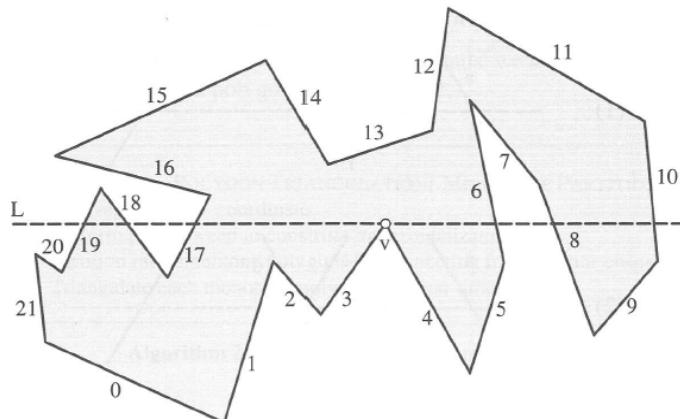


FIGURE 2.4 Plane sweep. Labels index edges.

## Plane Sweep

Assume that  $e_i$  is a pointer to an edge and the vertical coordinate of  $v$  is  $y$ .

Suppose we know the endpoints of  $e_i$

Then, we can compute the  $x$  coordinate of the intersection between  $L$  and  $e_i$

We can determine  $v$ 's position by computing  $x$  coordinates of each intersection

Time proportional to the length of  $\mathcal{L}$  ( $O(n)$ ) by a naive search from left to right

With an efficient data structure, a height-balanced tree, the search require  $O(\log n)$  time

## Plane Sweep

Updates at each event

There are three types of event (Figure 2.5)

Let  $v$  fall between edges  $a$  and  $b$  and  $v$  be shared by edges  $c$  and  $d$

- $c$  is above  $L$  and  $d$  is below. Then delete  $c$  from  $\mathcal{L}$  and insert  $d$ :
  - $(..., a, c, b, ...) \Rightarrow (... , a, d, b, ...)$
- Both  $c$  and  $d$  are above  $L$ . Then delete both  $c$  and  $d$  from  $\mathcal{L}$ :
  - $(..., a, c, d, b, ...) \Rightarrow (... , a, b, ...)$
- Both  $c$  and  $d$  are below  $L$ . Then insert both  $c$  and  $d$  into  $\mathcal{L}$ :
  - $(..., a, b, ...) \Rightarrow (... , a, c, d, b, ...)$

## Plane Sweep

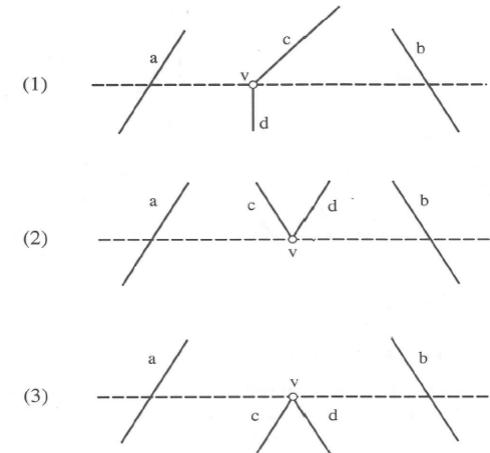


FIGURE 2.5 Sweep line events: (1) replace  $c$  by  $d$ ; (2) delete  $c$  and  $d$ ; (3) insert  $c$  and  $d$ .

## Plane Sweep

In Figure 2.4, the list  $\mathcal{L}$  of edges pierced by  $L$  is initially empty, when  $L$  is above the polygon. Then follows this sequence as it passes each event vertex

$(e_{12}, e_{11})$   
 $(e_{15}, e_{14}, e_{12}, e_{11})$   
 $(e_{15}, e_{14}, e_{12}, e_6, e_7, e_{11})$   
 $(e_{15}, e_{14}, e_{13}, e_6, e_7, e_{10})$   
 $(e_{16}, e_{14}, e_{13}, e_6, e_7, e_{10})$   
 $(e_{16}, e_6, e_7, e_{10})$   
 $(e_{16}, e_6, e_8, e_{10})$   
 $(e_{19}, e_{18}, e_{16}, e_6, e_8, e_{10})$   
 $(e_{19}, e_{18}, e_{17}, e_6, e_8, e_{10})$ .

## Triangulation in $O(n \log n)$

**Algorithm:** POLYGON TRIANGULATION: MONOTONE PARTITION  
 Sort vertices by  $y$  coordinate.  
 Perform plane sweep to construct trapezoidalization.  
 Partition into monotone polygons by connecting from interior cusps.  
 Triangulate each monotone polygon in linear time.

**Algorithm 2.1**  $O(n \log n)$  polygon triangulation.

## Polygon Partitioning

### Partition into Monotone Mountains

## Monotone Mountains

#### ▪ Lemma 2.3.1

- Every strictly convex vertex of a monotone mountain  $M$ , with the possible exception of the base endpoints, is an ear tip
- Proof
  - Let  $a, b, c$  be three consecutive vertices of  $M$ , with  $b$  a strictly convex vertex not an endpoint of the base  $B$ .
  - The direction of monotonicity is horizontal
  - Aim to prove that  $ac$  is a diagonal by contradiction

## Monotone Mountains

A **monotone mountain** is a monotone polygon with one of its two monotone chains a single segment, the **base**.

See Figure 2.6

Note that both end points of the base must be convex

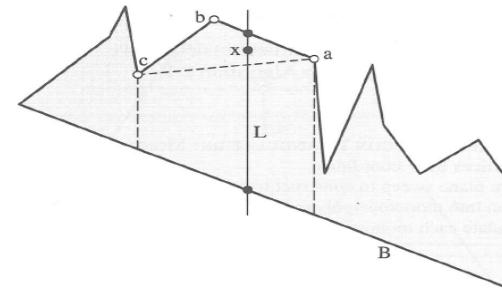


FIGURE 2.6 A monotone mountain with base  $B$ ;  $b$  is an ear tip.

## Monotone Mountains

#### ▪ Lemma 2.3.1

- Proof (con't)
  - Assume that  $ac$  is not a diagonal
  - By Lemma 1.5.1, either it is exterior in the neighborhood of an endpoint or it intersects  $\partial M$ .
  - **Case 1.** Suppose that  $ac$  is locally exterior
    - If  $a$ (or  $c$ ) is not an endpoint of  $B$ , contradiction by the assumption that  $b$  is convex.
    - If  $a$ (or  $c$ ) is the right endpoint of  $B$ , the same contradiction.
    - Or  $ac$  is below  $B$ , it is impossible because  $c$  lies above  $B$
    - Thus,  $ac$  is locally interior

# Monotone Mountains

## ▪ Lemma 2.3.1

- Proof (con't)
  - **Case 2.** Assume that  $ac$  intersects  $\partial M$
  - This requires a reflex vertex  $x$  to be interior to  $\triangle abc$  (cf. Figure 1.12)
  - Because  $x$  is interior, it cannot lie on either chain  $C=(a,b,c)$  or  $B$ .
  - Thus, a vertical line  $L$  through  $x$  meets  $\partial M$  in at least three points (contradiction)

# Triangulating a Monotone Mountain

## Linear time algorithm

The base is identified in linear time

- The base endpoints are extreme along the direction of monotonicity
- Leftmost and rightmost vertices

The “next” convex vertex is found without a search in constant time

- Similar with updating the ear tip status in Section 1.4
- Instead, update the convexity status
- Use stored internal angles of vertices
- By subtracting from  $a$  and  $c$ 's angles appropriately upon removal of  $\triangle abc$
- Require linking the convex vertices into a list and updating the list with each ear clip

# Triangulating a Monotone Mountain

```
Algorithm: TRIANGULATION OF MONOTONE MOUNTAIN
Identify the base edge.
Initialize internal angles at each nonbase vertex.
Link nonbase strictly convex vertices into a list.
while list nonempty do
    For convex vertex  $b$ , remove  $\triangle abc$ .
    Output diagonal  $ac$ .
    Update angles and list.
```

Algorithm 2.2 Linear-time triangulation of a monotone mountain.

# Trapezoidalization to monotone mountains

Build a monotone mountain from trapezoids abutting on a particular base edge, for example  $v_{11}v_{12}$  (Figure 2.7)

$T(i, j)$  represents the trapezoid with support vertices  $v_i$  and  $v_j$ , below and above

## Trapezoidalization to monotone mountains

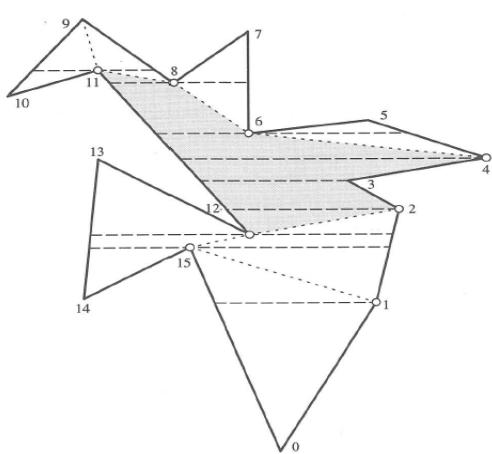


FIGURE 2.7 A partition into monotone mountains.

## Trapezoidalization to monotone mountains

$T(12,2)$  is based on  $B$  but must be cut by the diagonal  $v_{12}v_2$

$T(2,3)$  and  $T(3,4)$  may be included in their entirety

$T(4,6)$  must be cut to separate off the nonmonotonicity at  $v_6$

Similarly  $T(6,8)$  must be cut by  $v_6v_8$

$T(8,11)$  must be cut by  $v_8v_{11}$

The resulting union is a monotone mountain

## Trapezoidalization to monotone mountains

### ▪ Lemma 2.3.2

- In a trapezoidalization of a polygon  $P$ , connecting every pair of trapezoid-supporting vertices that do not lie on the same(left/right) side of their trapezoid partitions  $P$  into monotone mountains.

#### • Proof

- Lemma 2.1.1 guarantees that the pieces of the partition are monotone.
- Thus only need to prove that each piece has one chain that is a single segment

## Trapezoidalization to monotone mountains

### ▪ Lemma 2.3.2

#### • Proof (con't)

- Suppose to the contrary that both monotone chains  $A$  and  $B$  of one piece  $Q$  of the partition each contain at least two edges.
- Let  $z$  be the topmost vertex of  $Q$ , adjacent on  $Q = A \cup B$  to vertices  $a$  and  $b$ , with  $b$  below  $a$  (Figure 2.8)
- In order for  $B$  to contain more than just the edge  $zb$ ,  $b$  cannot be the endpoint
- But the upper supporting vertex  $c$  of  $T(b, c)$  cannot lie on  $zb$ , for  $c$  must lie at or below  $a$
- Thus  $c$  is not on the same side of  $T(b, c)$  as  $b$ , and the diagonal  $cb$  is included in the partition
- This contradicts the assumption that  $B$  extends below  $b$ .

## Trapezoidalization to monotone mountains

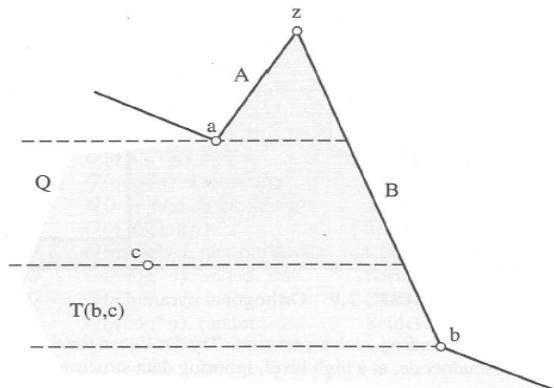


FIGURE 2.8 Proof of Lemma 2.3.2: Diagonal  $cb$  must be present.

## Linear-Time Triangulation

Table 2.1. History of triangulation algorithms.

Year	Complexity	Reference
1911	$O(n^2)$	Lennes (1911)
1978	$O(n \log n)$	Garey et al. (1978)
1983	$O(n \log r)$ , $r$ reflex	Hertel & Mehlhorn (1983)
1984	$O(n \log s)$ , $s$ sinuosity	Chazelle & Incerpi (1984)
1988	$O(n + nt_0)$ , $t_0$ int. triang.	Toussaint (1990)
1986	$O(n \log \log n)$	Tarjan & Van Wyk (1988)
1989	$O(n \log^* n)$ , randomized	Clarkson, Tarjan & Van Wyk (1989)
1990	$O(n \log^* n)$ , bnded. ints.	Kirkpatrick, Klawue & Tarjan (1990)
1990	$O(n)$	Chazelle (1991)
1991	$O(n \log^* n)$ , randomized	Seidel (1991)

## Polygon Partitioning

### Linear-Time Triangulation

## Linear-Time Triangulation

### Chazelle's algorithm ( $O(n)$ )

- Main structure: **visibility map**
- Generalization of a trapezoidalization to drawing horizontal chords toward both sides of each vertex in a polygonal chain
- Mimics merge sort, a common technique for sorting by divide-and-conquer
- The polygon of  $n$  vertices is partitioned into chains with  $n/2$  vertices, and into chains of  $n/4$  vertices, and so on
- This leads to an  $O(n \log n)$  time complexity

## Linear-Time Triangulation

Chazelle's algorithm ( $O(n)$ ) (con't)

- Improves on this by dividing the process into two phases
- First, only coarse approximations of the visibility maps
- Coarse enough so that the merging can be accomplished in linear time
- Second, refines the coarse map into a complete visibility map, again in linear
- A triangulation is then produced from the trapezoidalization defined by the visibility map as before

## Randomized Triangulation

Seidel's algorithm ( $O(n \log^* n)$ )

- Follows the trapezoidalization  $\rightarrow$  monotone mountains  $\rightarrow$  triangulation path
- His improvement is in building the trapezoidalization quickly
- Uses a “query structure”  $Q$ , a data structure that permits location of a point in its containing trapezoid in time proportional to the depth of the structure
- The depth of the structure could be  $\Omega(n)$  for  $n$  segments, but
- By adding the segments in random

## Randomized Triangulation

Randomized algorithms

- Can be expected to work well on all inputs
- Developed into a key technique for creating algorithms that are both efficient and simple

Seidel's algorithm

- The visibility map by inserting the segments in random order in  $O(n \log n)$  time and  $O(n)$  space
- Results in another  $O(n \log n)$  algorithm

## Randomized Triangulation

Seidel's algorithm (con't)

- The segments form the edges of a simple polygon
- This can be exploited by running the algorithm in  $\log^* n$  phases
- In phase  $i$ , a subset of the segments is added in random order, producing  $Q_i$
- The entire polygon is traced through  $Q_i$ , locating each vertex in a trapezoid of the current visibility map

## Randomized Triangulation

Seidel's algorithm (con't)

- In phase  $i + 1$ , more segments are added
- The knowledge of where they were in  $Q_i$  helps locate their endpoints more quickly
- The process is repeated until the entire visibility map is constructed

Analysis of the expected time

- Over all possible  $n!$  segment insertion orders
- It shows the expected time is  $O(n \log^* n)$

## Polygon Partitioning

### Convex Partitioning

## Convex Partitioning

Two goals

- Partition a polygon into **as few convex pieces as possible**
- Do so **as fast as possible**

Compromise on the number of pieces

Find a quick algorithm whose output size is bounded with respect to the optimum

Two types of partition may be distinguished

- By diagonals
- By segments

## Optimum Partition

### Lemma 2.5.1 (Chazelle)

- Let  $\Phi$  be the fewest number of convex pieces into which a polygon may be partitioned. For a polygon of  $r$  reflex vertices,  $\lceil r/2 \rceil + 1 \leq \Phi \leq r + 1$

#### Proof

- Drawing a segment that bisects each reflex angle results in a convex partition
- The number of pieces is  $r + 1$  (Figure 2.10)
- At most two reflex angles can be resolved by a single partition segment (Figure 2.11)
- This results in  $\lceil r/2 \rceil + 1$  convex pieces

## Optimum Partition

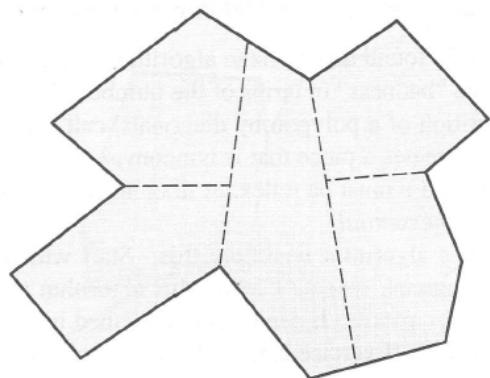


FIGURE 2.10  $r + 1$  convex pieces:  $r = 4$ ; 5 pieces.

## Optimum Partition

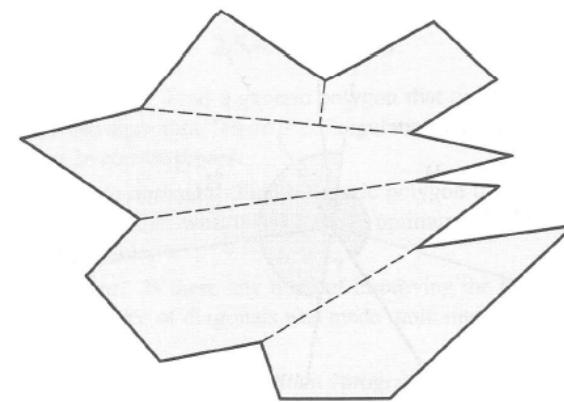


FIGURE 2.11  $\lceil r/2 \rceil + 1$  convex pieces:  $r = 7$ ; 5 pieces.

## Hertel and Mehlhorn Algorithm

A very clean algorithm that partitions with diagonals quickly

- has bounded “badness” in terms of the number of convex pieces

A diagonal  $d$  is **essential** for vertex  $v$  if removal of  $d$  makes  $v$  non-convex

The algorithm

- start with a triangulation of  $P$
- remove an inessential diagonal
- repeat

## Hertel and Mehlhorn Algorithm

### ▪ Lemma 2.5.2

- There can be at most two diagonals essential for any reflex vertex
- Proof
  - Let  $v$  be a reflex vertex and  $v_+$  and  $v_-$  its adjacent vertices.
  - At most one essential diagonal in the halfplane  $H_+$  to the left of  $vv_+$
  - If there were two, the one closest to  $vv_+$  could be removed (Figure 2.12)
  - Similarly, there can be at most one essential diagonal in the halfplane  $H_-$  to the left of  $v_-v$
  - Together these cover the interior angle at  $v$ , and so there are at most two diagonals essential for  $v$

## Hertel and Mehlhorn Algorithm

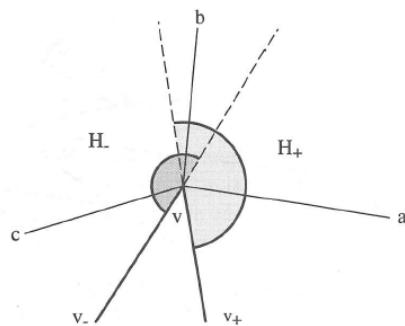


FIGURE 2.12 Essential diagonals. Diagonal  $a$  is not essential because  $b$  is also in  $H_+$ . Similarly  $c$  is not essential.

## Hertel and Mehlhorn Algorithm

### ▪ Lemma 2.5.3

- The *Hertel-Mehlhorn* algorithm is never worse than four-times optimal in the number of convex pieces

#### • Proof

- By Lemma 2.5.2, each reflex vertex can be “responsible for” at most two essential diagonals.
- The number of essential diagonals can be no more than  $2r$
- Thus, the number of convex pieces  $M$  produced by the algorithm satisfies  $2r + 1 \geq M$
- Since  $\Phi \geq \lceil r/2 \rceil + 1$  by Lemma 2.5.1,
- $4\Phi \geq 2r + 4 > 2r + 1 \geq M$

## Optimal Convex Partitions

Finding a convex partition optimal in the number of pieces is much more time consuming than finding a suboptimal one.

- Greene’s algorithm runs in  $O(r^2n^2) = O(n^4)$  time
- Keil’s algorithm improved it to  $O(r^2n\log n) = O(n^3\log n)$  time
- Both employ **dynamic programming**

The problem is even more difficult if the partition **may be formed with arbitrary segments**

- Figure 2.13
- Chazelle solve this problem in his thesis with an intricate  $O(n + r^2) = O(n^3)$  algorithm

## Optimal Convex Partitions

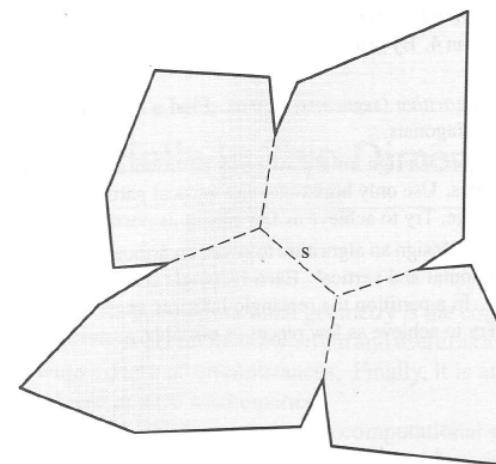
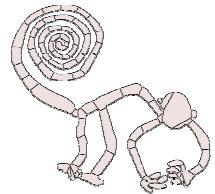


FIGURE 2.13 An optimal convex partition. Segment  $s$  does not touch  $\partial P$ .

## Approximate Convex Decomposition (ACD)

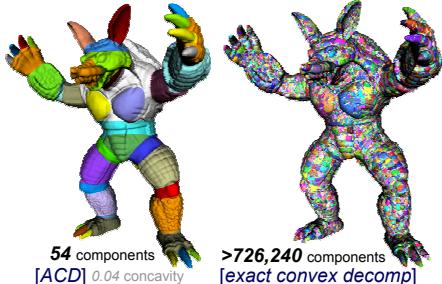
- **ACD**

All sub-models will have tolerable concavity  
Convex decomposition is useful but  
can be costly to construct  
may result in unmanageable number of components



- **Benefits of ACD**

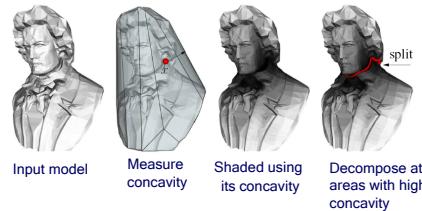
1. Number of sub-models is significantly less



2. Reveal structural features

## Approximate Convex Decomposition (ACD)

- How does it work?



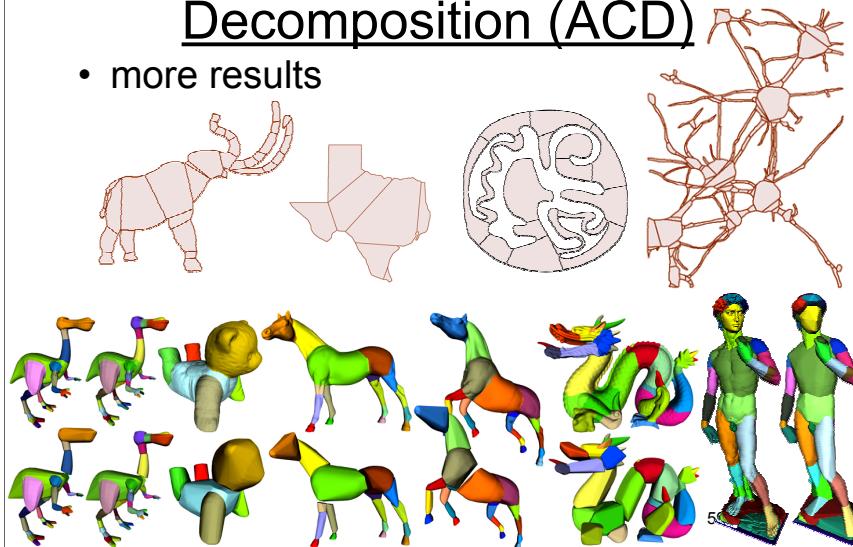
- Sub-models form a nice **hierarchical representation** of the original model



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## Approximate Convex Decomposition (ACD)

- more results



## Conclusion

- Polygon decomposition
  - decompose to monotonic polygon/mountain
  - trapezoidal decomposition
  - convex decomposition
- **Homework assignment**
  - Ex: 2.2.3-2, 2.2.3-4, 2.5.4-7

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