

Surface modalities

Geometric Computer Vision

GCV v2021.1, Module 7

Alexey Artemov, Spring 2021

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Lecture Outline

§1. Mesh data structures [30 min]

- 1.1. What is a mesh?
- 1.2. Level of detail
- 1.3. Editing operators
- 1.4. Mesh data structures

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes [15 min]

- 2.1. Marching cubes

§3. Defining convolutions on meshes [20 min]

- 3.1. MeshCNN architecture

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§1. Mesh data structures

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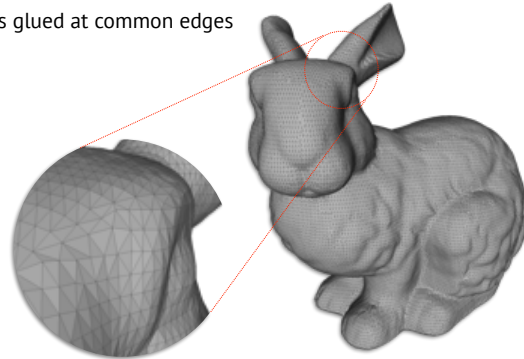
What is a mesh?

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What is a mesh?

A surface made of polygonal faces glued at common edges

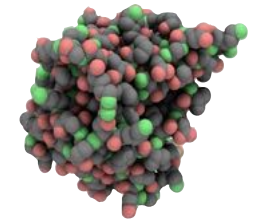
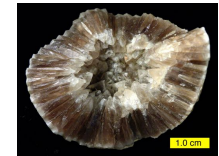
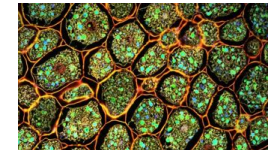


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Origin of Meshes

- In nature, meshes arise in a variety of contexts:
 - Cells in organic tissues
 - Crystals
 - Molecules
 - Mostly *convex* but *irregular* cells
 - Common concept: *complex* shapes can be described as *collections* of *simple building blocks*



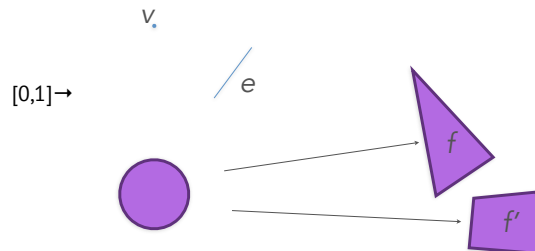
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Basic Math of Meshes

- A n -cell is a set homeomorphic to a Euclidean disc of dimension n :
 - 0-cell: *vertex*
 - 1-cell: *edge*
 - 2-cell: *face*

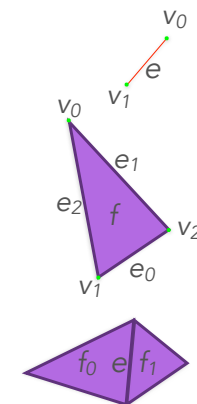


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Structure

- A mesh $M=(V,E,F)$ of dimension 2 is made of a collection of k -cells for $k = 0, 1, 2$:
 - 0-cells of V lie on the boundary of 1-cells of E
 - 1-cells of E lie on the boundary of 2-cells of F
 - (manifoldness) each 1-cell of E lies on the boundary of either one or two 2-cells of F
 - the intersection of two distinct 1- / 2-cells is either empty or it coincides with a collection of 0- / 1-cells



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Structure

- Properties 1 and 2 guarantee that there are no “dangling” edges and isolated vertices
- Property 3 guarantees that faces abut properly
- Property 2.1 extends property 2. to guarantee that the *carrier* of the mesh (i.e., the union of all its cells) is a manifold (i.e., a surface)

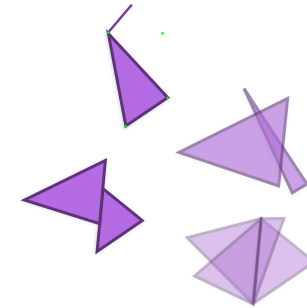
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Structure

Forbidden configurations:

- Dangling edges and isolated vertices
- Intersecting faces
- Non-conforming adjacency
- Non-manifold edges



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Topological Informations

- A mesh can be treated as a purely combinatorial structure
 $M = (V, E, F)$
- For some applications, geometry of edges and faces it not relevant. Just encode:
 - vertices as singletons (V)
 - how vertices are connected among them (E)
 - how cycles of vertices bound faces (F)

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Geometrical Information

- Geometric embedding:
 - position in space for each 0-cell (vertex - point)
 - geometry for each 1-cell (edge - line) and 2-cell (face - disk-like surface)
- Polygonal meshes are embedded:
 - edges are straight-line segments
 - are faces flat? not always true: vertices of a face might be *not coplanar*

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Triangle Meshes



- A *triangle mesh* is a polygonal mesh with all triangular faces
 - all faces are flat (there exist a unique plane for three points)
 - All cells are *simplices*, i.e., they are the convex combinations of their vertices
- $$P = \lambda_0 V_0 + \lambda_1 V_1 + \lambda_2 V_2 \quad \lambda_i \in [0,1] \quad \lambda_0 + \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 1$$
- embedding of vertices + combinatorial structure characterize the embedding of the whole mesh

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Euler-Poincaré Formula



- Relates the number of cells in a mesh with the characteristics of the surface it represents:

$$v - e + f = 2s - 2g - h$$
- Shells $s = \#$ connected components
- Genus $g = \#$ handles (ex.: sphere: genus 0; torus: genus 1)
- Holes $h = \#$ boundary loops (watertight: $h = 0$)

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Euler-Poincaré Formula



$$v - e + f = 2s - 2g - h$$

- In a (watertight manifold) triangle mesh:
 - each face has three edges, each edge is shared by two faces:
 - $e = 3f/2$
 - $e = 3v + 6g - 6 \approx 3v$
 - $f = 2v + 4g - 4 \approx 2v$
- The formula can be adapted to bordered surfaces to take into account boundary loops and edges

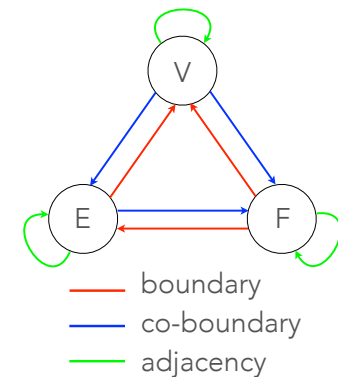
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Topological Relations



- Boundary relations:
 - for each cell c of dimension n , all cells of dimension $< n$ that belong to its boundary
- Co-boundary relations:
 - for each cell c of dimension n , all cells of dimension $> n$ such that c belongs to their boundary
- Adjacency relations:
 - for each cell c of dimension $n=1,2$, all cells of dimension $=n$ such that share some of their boundary with c

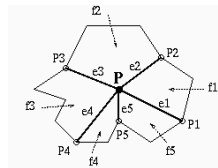


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Vertex-Based Relations

- VE (Vertex-Edge):
 - for each vertex v , the list of edges (e_1, e_2, \dots, e_i) having an endpoint in v (*incident edges*) arranged in counter-clockwise radial order around v
 - list is circular: initial vertex e_1 is arbitrarily chosen

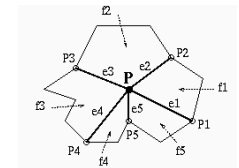


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Vertex-Based Relations

- VV (Vertex-Vertex):
 - for each vertex v , the list of vertices (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i) connected to v with an edge (*adjacent vertices*) arranged in counter-clockwise radial order around v
 - consistency rule: vertex v_i in $VV(v)$ is an endpoint of edge e_i in $VE(v)$

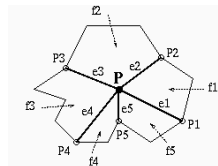


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Vertex-Based Relations

- VF (Vertex-Face):
 - for each vertex v , the list of faces (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_i) having v on their boundary (*incident faces*) arranged in counter-clockwise radial order around v
 - consistency rule: face f_i in $VF(v)$ is bounded by edges e_i and e_{i+1} in $VE(v)$

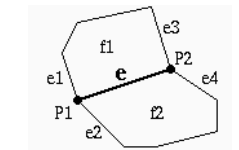


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Edge-Based Relations

- EV (Edge-Vertex):
 - for each edge e , the two endpoints (v_1, v_2) of e (*incident vertices*)
- EF (Edge-Face):
 - for each edge e , the two faces (f_1, f_2) having e on their boundary (*incident faces*)
- Consistency rule: face f_1 [f_2] is on the left [right] of the oriented line from v_1 to v_2

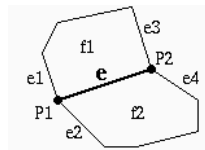


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Edge-Based Relations

- EE (Edge-Edge):
 - for each edge e , two pairs of edges $((e_1, e_2), (e_3, e_4))$ that share a vertex and a face with e (*adjacent edges*)
- Consistency rule:
 - e_1 is incident on v_1 and f_1
 - e_2 is incident on v_1 and f_2
 - e_3 is incident on v_2 and f_1
 - e_4 is incident on v_2 and f_2

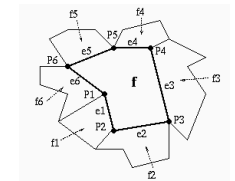


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Face-Based Relations

- FE (Face-Edge):
 - for each face f , the list (e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m) of edges of its boundary (*incident edges*), in counter-clockwise order about f
 - list is circular: initial vertex e_1 is arbitrarily chosen

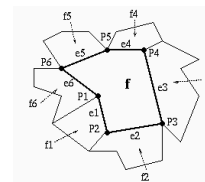


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Face-Based Relations

- FV (Face-Vertex):
 - for each face f , the list (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m) of vertices of its boundary (*incident vertices*), in counter-clockwise order about f
 - consistency rule: edge e_i in $FE(f)$ has endpoints v_i and v_{i+1}

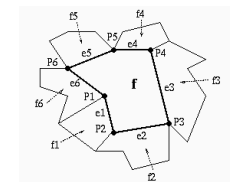


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Face-Based Relations

- FF (Face-Face):
 - for each face f , the list (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_m) of faces that share an edge with f (*adjacent faces*), in counter-clockwise order about f
 - consistency rule: face f_i in $FF(f)$ shares edge e_i in $FE(f)$



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Topological Relations

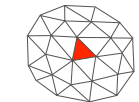
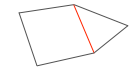
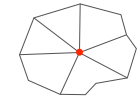
- Constant relations return a constant number of elements:
 - EV (each edge has two endpoints)
 - EE (each edge has four adjacent edges)
 - EF (each edge has two incident faces)
- Variable relations return a variable number of elements:
 - VV, VE, VF, FV, FE, FF: the number of vertices/edges/faces incident/adjacent to a given vertex/face is not constant and it can be of the same order of the total number of vertices/edges/faces

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Stars and Rings

- The star of a vertex v is formed by v plus the set of cells incident at v (edges and faces of its co-boundary)
- The star of an edge e is formed by e plus the set of faces incident at e (faces of its co-boundary)
- The 1-ring of a face f is the formed by the union of the stars of its boundary vertices
- The k -ring of a face f , for $k > 1$ is the formed by the union of the 1-rings of faces in its $(k-1)$ -ring



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Level of Details

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Continuous Methods

- Widely used for rendering terrains

Image					
Vertices	~5500	~2880	~1580	~670	140
Notes	Maximum detail, for closeups.				Minimum detail, very far objects.

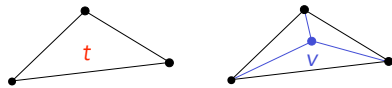
Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Level_of_detail

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Refinement Operators

- Triangle split:
 - insert a new vertex v in a triangle t and connect v to the vertices of t by splitting it into three triangles

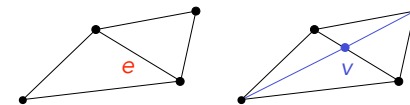


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Refinement Operators

- Edge split:
 - insert a new vertex v on an edge e and connect v to the opposite vertices of triangles incident at e by splitting e as well as each such triangle into two

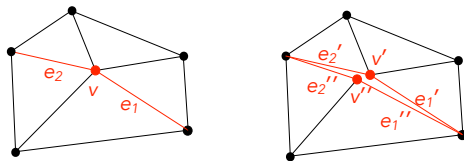


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Refinement Operators

- Vertex split:
 - cut open the mesh along two edges e_1 and e_2 incident at a common vertex v , by duplicating such edges as well as v

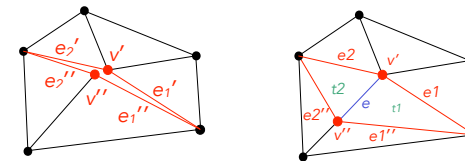


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Refinement Operators

- Vertex split:
 - cut open the mesh along two edges e_1 and e_2 incident at a common vertex v , by duplicating such edges as well as v
 - fill the quadrangular hole with two new triangles and an edge joining the two copies of v



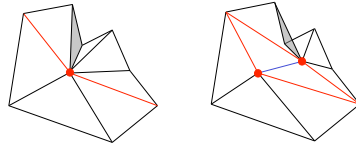
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Refinement Operators

- Vertex split:

- possible inconsistencies because of *triangle flip*



- flips can be detected by a local test on the orientation of faces: flips changes orientation from clockwise to counter-clockwise and vice-versa

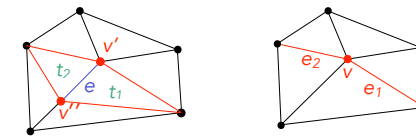
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Simplification Operators

- Edge collapse (reverse of vertex split):

- collapse an edge e to a single point
 - e is removed together with its two incident triangles
 - the endpoints of e are identified
 - the other edges bounding the deleted triangles are pairwise identified



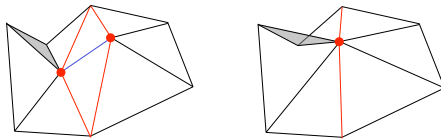
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Simplification Operators

- Edge collapse:

- possible inconsistencies because of *triangle flip*



- consistency check analogous to vertex split

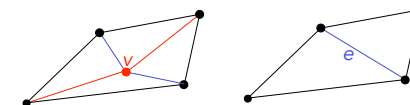
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Simplification Operators

- Edge merge (reverse of edge split):

- take an internal vertex v with valence 4
 - delete v together with its incident triangles and edges and fill the hole with two new triangles sharing a new edge e

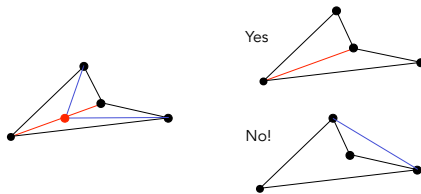


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Simplification Operators

- Edge merge:
 - if the hole is not convex, only one diagonal edge can be inserted

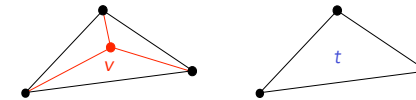


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Simplification Operators

- Delete vertex (reverse of triangle split):
 - remove an internal vertex v of valence 3 together with its incident triangles and edges and fill the hole with a new triangle

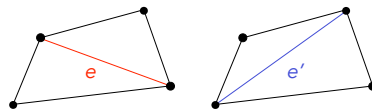


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Neutral Operator

- Edge swap:
 - consider an edge e such that its two incident triangles form a convex quadrilateral
 - replace e with the opposite diagonal of the quadrilateral, rearranging the two incident triangles accordingly

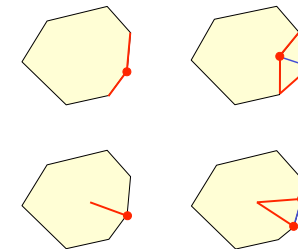


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Boundary Cases

- Vertex split / Edge collapse:

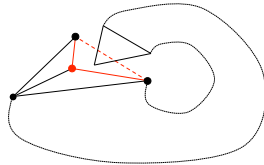


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Boundary Cases

- Edge merge on a concave boundary may cause self-intersection of the mesh
- It is a global check! intersecting parts may be far on the mesh



- Similar problems with edge collapse on concave boundary and vertex split on convex boundary

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Mesh Data Structures

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Data Structures

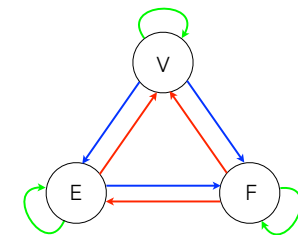
- Storing a mesh:
 - geometry: position of vertices
 - connectivity: edges, faces
 - topology: topological relations
- Compactness vs efficiency trade-off: data structures should be compact, while efficiently supporting time-critical operations
 - storage requirements
 - traversal operations
 - update operations

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Data Structures

- Information to store/retrieve:
 - Entities: vertices, edges, faces
 - Relations: VV, VE, VF, EV, EE, EF, FV, FE, FF
 - Additional properties attached to any entity (Positions, Normals, Colors)
- The data structure to use is application-dependent



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Polygon Soup

- a.k.a. Face set - STL files
- Just store a list of faces
- For each face, store positions of its vertices
 - For general polygonal mesh, the number of vertices of each face must also be stored
 - Number implicit for triangle meshes
- For a triangle mesh: 36 bytes/face \approx 72 bytes/vertex
- No connectivity! just a collection of polygons
- Streaming structure: no need to store it all in memory to render the mesh

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}
...
x_{p1}	y_{p1}	z_{p1}	x_{p2}	y_{p2}	z_{p2}	x_{p3}	y_{p3}	z_{p3}

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Indexed Structure

- Avoid replication of vertices - OBJ, OFF, PLY files
- Maintain a vector of vertices and a vector of faces
 - For each vertex: position
 - For each face: references to positions of its vertices (FV) in the vector
 - in general, the number of vertices of each face must also be stored
 - number implicit for triangle meshes
- For a triangle mesh: 12 bytes/vertex + 12 bytes/face \approx 36 bytes/vertex
- Encodes connectivity through the FV relation
- Main memory structure: need to store in memory at least the whole list of vertices

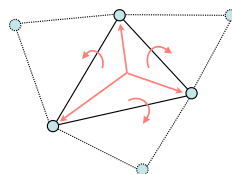
Vertices	Triangles		
x_1 y_1 z_1	v_{11}	v_{12}	v_{13}
...
x_v y_v z_v
	v_{p1}	v_{p2}	v_{p3}

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Indexed Structure with Adjacencies

- Just for triangle meshes
- Extends indexed structure with some topological relations:
 - For each vertex:
 - position
 - one reference to an incident triangle (VF* relation)
 - For each face:
 - references to its three vertices (FV)
 - references to its three adjacent triangles (FF)

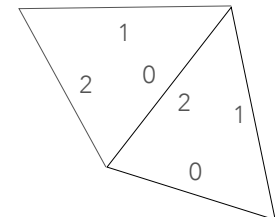


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Indexed Structure with Adjacencies

- No explicit edges!
 - implicitly defined as pairs of vertices (unique)
 - or as pairs (f,i) with f triangle and i index in 0,1,2 (not unique!)
- Attributes for edges require care, especially when modifying the mesh with editing operators

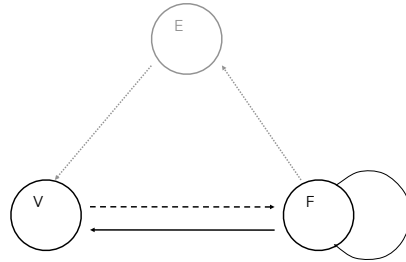


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Indexed Structure with Adjacencies

- Evaluation of topological relations:
 - FV, FF: encoded - optimal
 - $VF = VF^* + FF + FV$ optimal
 - VV analogous to VF
- Relations involving edges are either implicit or they can be evaluated in optimal time by the (f,i) encoding

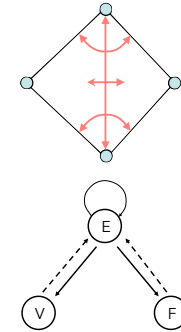


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Winged Edge Data Structure

- Topological structure for general polygonal meshes
 - For each vertex:
 - position
 - one reference to an incident edge (VE^*)
 - For each edge:
 - references to its two vertices (EV)
 - references to its two incident faces (EF)
 - references to its four adjacent edges (EE)
 - For each face:
 - one reference to an incident edge (FE^*)

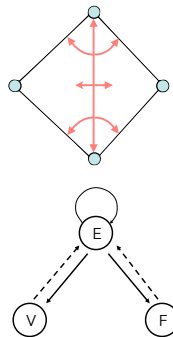


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Winged Edge Data Structure

- 120 bytes/vertex
- all entities are represented explicitly
- all topological relations can be retrieved in optimal time
- ambiguous orientation of edges:
 - does $EV(e)$ return (v_i, v_j) or (v_j, v_i) ?

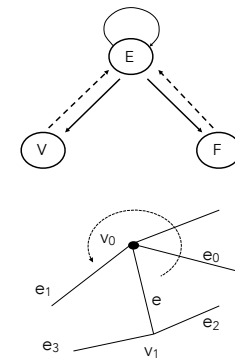


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Winged Edge Data Structure

- Example: evaluation of $VE(v)$:
 - get first edge $e = VE^*(v)$
 - evaluate $(e_0, e_1, e_2, e_3) = EE(e)$
 - evaluate $(v_0, v_1) = EV(e)$
 - in counter-clockwise order, set next edge at either e_0 or e_3 , depending on whether $v=v_0$ or $v=v_1$
 - cycle until hitting e

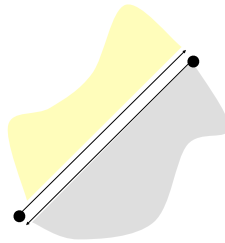


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Half-Edge Data Structure

- Half-edge: each edge is duplicated by also considering its orientation
- An edge corresponds to a pair of sibling half-edges with opposite orientations
- Each half-edge stores half topological information concerning the edge

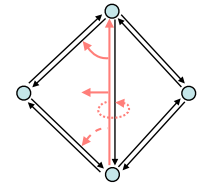


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Half-Edge Data Structure

- For each vertex:
 - position
 - one reference to an incident half-edge
- For each half-edge:
 - reference to one its two vertices (origin)
 - references to one of its two incident faces (face on its left)
 - references to: next/previous half-edge on the same face, sibling half-edge
- For each face:
 - one reference to an incident half-edge (FE*)



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Half-Edge Data Structure

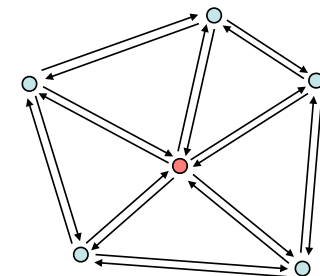
- 96-144 bytes/vertex depending on number of references to adjacent edges
 - reference to sibling half-edge can be avoided by storing siblings at consecutive entries of a vector
 - for triangle meshes, just one reference to either next or previous half-edge is sufficient
- Efficient traversal and update operations
- Attributes for edges must be stored separately

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Half-Edge Data Structure

- One-ring traversal (V^* relations):
 - 1.start at vertex

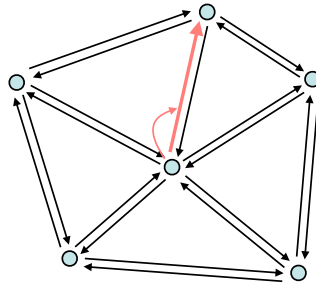


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Half-Edge Data Structure

- One-ring traversal (V^* relations):
 - 1.start at vertex
 - 2.outgoing half-edge

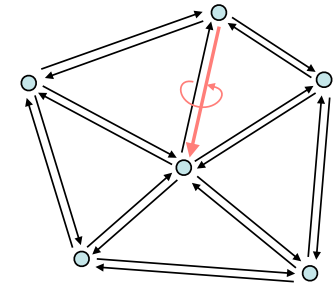


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Half-Edge Data Structure

- One-ring traversal (V^* relations):
 - 1.start at vertex
 - 2.outgoing half-edge
 - 3.opposite half-edge

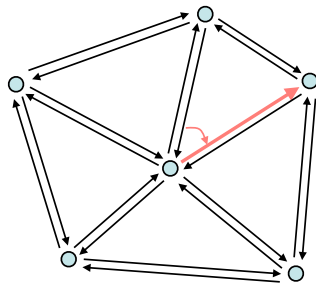


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Half-Edge Data Structure

- One-ring traversal (V^* relations):
 - 1.start at vertex
 - 2.outgoing half-edge
 - 3.opposite half-edge
 - 4.next half-edge

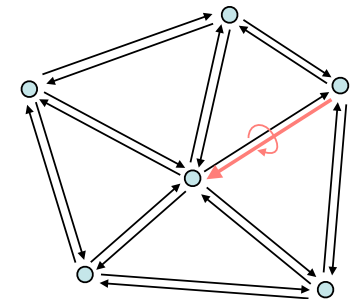


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Half-Edge Data Structure

- One-ring traversal (V^* relations):
 - 1.start at vertex
 - 2.outgoing half-edge
 - 3.opposite half-edge
 - 4.next half-edge
 - 5.opposite

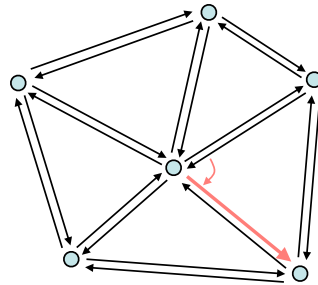


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Half-Edge Data Structure

- One-ring traversal (V^* relations):
 - 1.start at vertex
 - 2.outgoing half-edge
 - 3.opposite half-edge
 - 4.next half-edge
 - 5.opposite
 - 6.next.....



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C++ libraries

- Indexed based:
 - libigl (igl.ethz.ch/projects/libigl/):
 - light mesh representation compatible with numerical software (e.g., Eigen, Matlab)
 - topological relations are computed on-the-fly and can be stored for later use
 - several geometry processing algorithms
 - free, MPL2 licence

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C++ libraries

- Adjacency based:
 - VCGlib (vcg.sourceforge.net):
 - optimized for triangle and tetrahedral meshes
 - extensions with half-edge for more general meshes
 - several geometry processing algorithms and spatial data structures
 - free, LGPL licence

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C++ libraries

- Half-edge based:
 - CGAL (www.cgal.org):
 - rich, complex
 - computational geometry algorithms
 - free for non-commercial use
 - OpenMesh (www.openmesh.org):
 - mesh processing algorithms
 - free, LGPL licence

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Tools

- Meshlab (meshlab.sourceforge.net) - free:
 - triangle mesh processing with many features
 - based on the VCGlib
- OpenFlipper (www.openflipper.org) - free:
 - polygon mesh modeling and processing
 - based on OpenMesh
- Graphite (alice.loria.fr) - free:
 - polygon mesh modeling, processing and rendering
 - based on CGAL

References

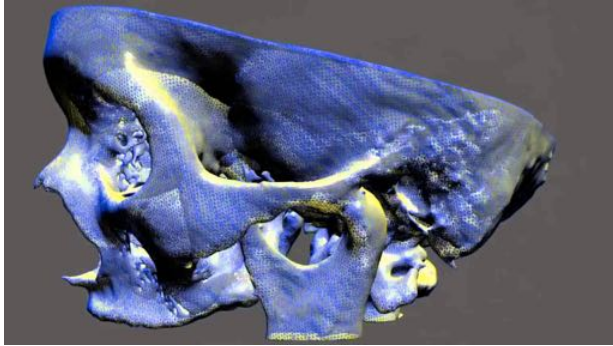
Fundamentals of Computer Graphics, Fourth Edition
4th Edition by **Steve Marschner, Peter Shirley**
Chapter 12

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

Marching cubes

Meshing: Motivation

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes



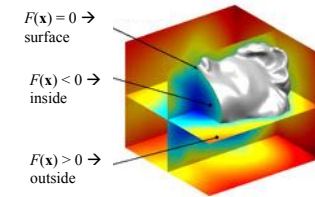
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Meshing: Extracting the Surface

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Wish to compute a manifold mesh of the level set
- **Mesh**: a subdivision of a continuous geometric space into discrete geometric and topological cells (often simplicial surface is constructed)
- **Meshing**: implicit surface \rightarrow simplicial surface

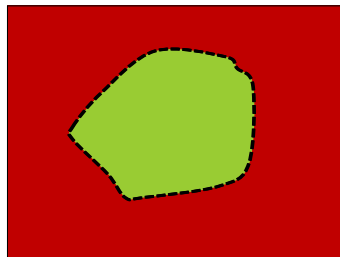


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Meshing: Sample the SDF

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

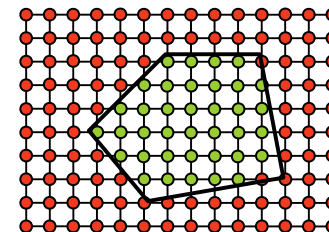


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Meshing: Sample the SDF

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes



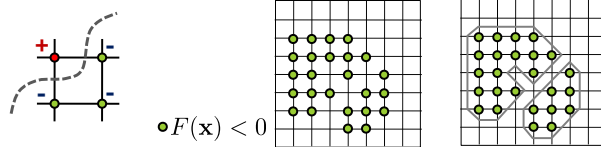
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Meshing: Tessellation

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Want to approximate an implicit surface with a mesh
- Can't explicitly compute all the roots
 - Sampling the level set is difficult (root finding)
- Solution: find approximate roots by trapping the implicit surface in a grid (lattice)



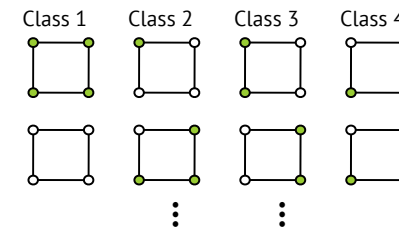
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Meshing: Marching Squares

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- 16 different configurations in 2D
- 4 equivalence classes (up to rotational and reflection symmetry + complement)



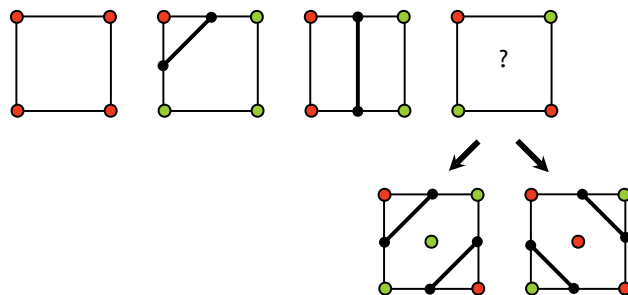
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Meshing: Tessellation in 2D

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- 4 equivalence classes (up to rotational and reflection symmetry + complement)

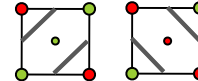


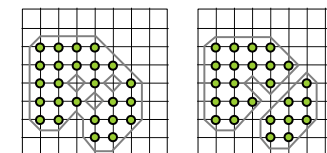
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Meshing: Tessellation in 2D

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Case 4 is ambiguous:
 
- Always pick consistently to avoid problems with the resulting mesh



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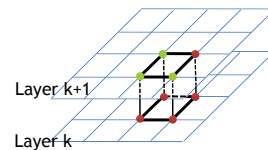
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Meshing: 3D Marching Cubes

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Marching Cubes (Lorensen and Cline 1987)

1. Load 4 layers of the grid into memory
2. Create a cube whose vertices lie on the two middle layers
3. Classify the vertices of the cube according to the implicit function (inside, outside or on the surface)



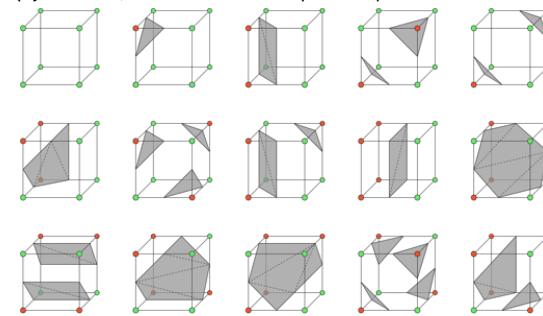
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Meshing: 3D Marching Cubes

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Unique cases (by rotation, reflection and complement)



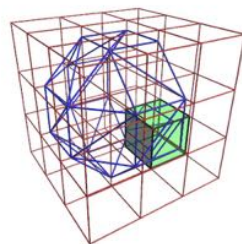
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Meshing: 3D Marching Cubes

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

Implementation



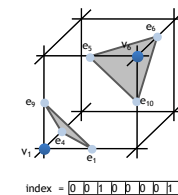
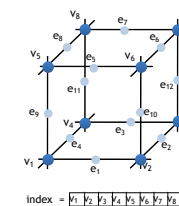
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Marching Cubes

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Compute case index. We have $2^8 = 256$ cases (0/1 for each of the eight vertices) – can store as 8 bit (1 byte) index.



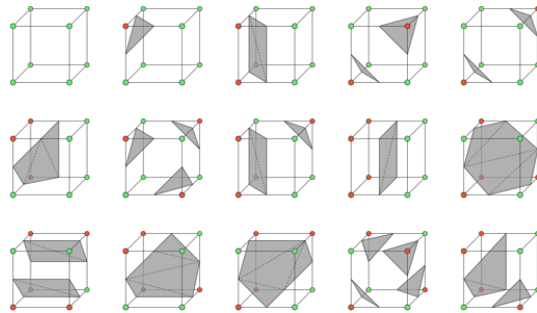
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Marching Cubes

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Unique cases (by rotation, reflection and complement)



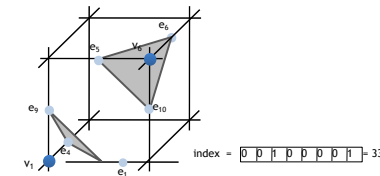
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Tessellation 3D – Marching Cubes

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Using the case index, retrieve the connectivity in the look-up table
- Example: the entry for index 33 in the look-up table indicates that the cut edges are e_1 ; e_4 ; e_5 ; e_6 ; e_9 and e_{10} ; the output triangles are $(e_1; e_9; e_4)$ and $(e_5; e_{10}; e_6)$.



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Marching Cubes

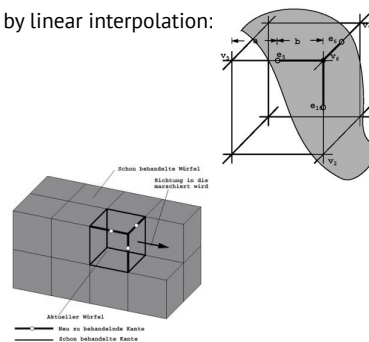
§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Compute the position of the cut vertices by linear interpolation:

$$\mathbf{v}_s = t\mathbf{v}_a + (1-t)\mathbf{v}_b$$

$$t = \frac{F(\mathbf{v}_b)}{F(\mathbf{v}_b) - F(\mathbf{v}_a)}$$

- Move to the next cube



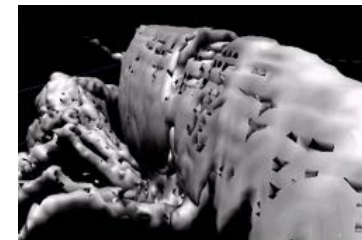
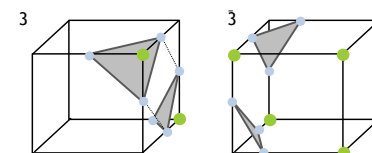
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Marching Cubes – Problems

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Have to make consistent choices for neighboring cubes – otherwise get holes



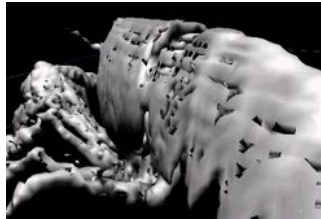
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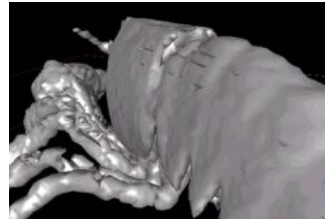
Marching Cubes – Problems

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Resolving ambiguities



Ambiguity



No Ambiguity

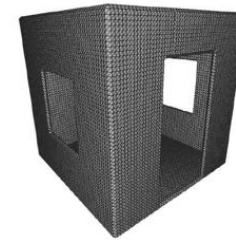
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Marching Cubes – Problems

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Grid not adaptive
- Many polygons required to represent small features



Images from: "Dual Marching Cubes: Primal Contouring of Dual Grids"
by Schaeffer et al.

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Marching Cubes – Problems

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes



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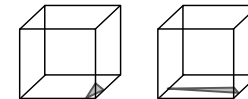


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Marching Cubes – Problems

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Problems with short triangle edges
 - When the surface intersects the cube close to a corner, the resulting tiny triangle doesn't contribute much area to the mesh
 - When the intersection is close to an edge of the cube, we get skinny triangles (bad aspect ratio)
- Triangles with short edges waste resources but don't contribute to the surface mesh representation



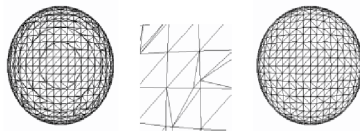
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Grid Snapping

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- Solution: threshold the distances between the created vertices and the cube corners
- When the distance is smaller than d_{snap} we snap the vertex to the cube corner
- If more than one vertex of a triangle is snapped to the same point, we discard that triangle altogether



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Grid Snapping

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- With Grid-Snapping one can obtain significant reduction of space consumption

Parameter	0	0,1	0,2	0,3	0,4	0,46	0,495
Vertices	1446	1398	1254	1182	1074	830	830
Reduction	0	3,3	13,3	18,3	25,7	42,6	42,6

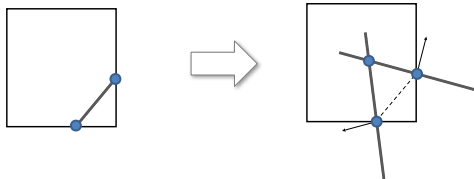
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Sharp Corners and Features

§2. Meshing: constructing meshes

- (Kobbelt et al. 2001):
 - Evaluate the normals (use gradient of F)
 - When they significantly differ, create additional vertex



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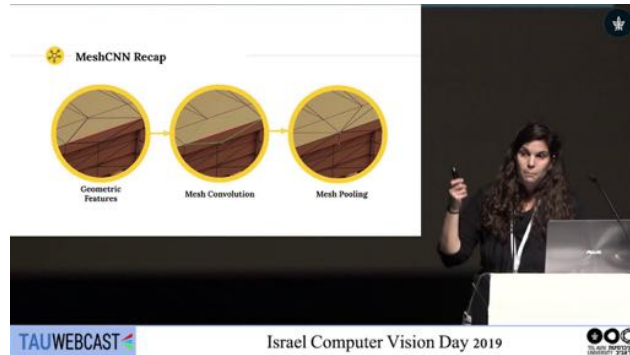
§3. Defining convolutions on meshes

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3.1. MeshCNN: convolutions on edges

§3. Defining convolutions on meshes



References

1. Botsch, M., Kobbelt, L., Pauly, M., Alliez, P., & Lévy, B. (2010). *Polygon mesh processing*. CRC press.

