

computeFaces()

Computes the geometry's faces using its vertices.

All 3D shapes are made by connecting sets of points called *vertices*. A geometry's surface is formed by connecting vertices to form triangles that are stitched together. Each triangular patch on the geometry's surface is called a *face*.

`myGeometry.computeFaces()` performs the math needed to define each face based on the distances between vertices.

The geometry's vertices are stored as `p5.Vector` objects in the `myGeometry.vertices` array. The geometry's first vertex is the `p5.Vector` object at `myGeometry.vertices[0]`, its second vertex is `myGeometry.vertices[1]`, its third vertex is `myGeometry.vertices[2]`, and so on.

Calling `myGeometry.computeFaces()` fills the `myGeometry.faces` array with three-element arrays that list the vertices that form each face. For example, a geometry made from a rectangle has two faces because a rectangle is made by joining two triangles. `myGeometry.faces` for a rectangle would be the two-dimensional array `[[0, 1, 2], [2, 1, 3]]`. The first face, `myGeometry.faces[0]`, is the array `[0, 1, 2]` because it's formed by connecting `myGeometry.vertices[0]`, `myGeometry.vertices[1]`, and `myGeometry.vertices[2]`. The second face, `myGeometry.faces[1]`, is the array `[2, 1, 3]` because it's formed by connecting `myGeometry.vertices[2]`, `myGeometry.vertices[1]`, and `myGeometry.vertices[3]`.

Note: `myGeometry.computeFaces()` only works when geometries have four or more vertices.

Examples

▶ // Click and drag the mouse to view the scene from different angles. □ ⌂

```
let myGeometry;

function setup() {
  createCanvas(100, 100, WEBGL);

  // Create a p5.Geometry object.
  myGeometry = new p5.Geometry();

  // Create p5.Vector objects to position the vertices.
  let v0 = createVector(-40, 0, 0);
  let v1 = createVector(0, -40, 0);
  let v2 = createVector(0, 40, 0);
  let v3 = createVector(40, 0, 0);

  // Add the vertices to myGeometry's vertices array.
  myGeometry.vertices.push(v0, v1, v2, v3);

  // Compute myGeometry's faces array.
  myGeometry.computeFaces();

  describe('A red square drawn on a gray background.');
}
```

▶ // Click and drag the mouse to view the scene from different angles. □ ⌂

```
let myGeometry;

function setup() {
  createCanvas(100, 100, WEBGL);

  // Create a p5.Geometry object using a callback function.
  myGeometry = new p5.Geometry(1, 1, createShape);

  describe('A red square drawn on a gray background.');
}

function draw() {
  background(200);

  // Enable orbiting with the mouse.
  orbitControl();

  // Turn on the lights.
  lights();

  // Style the shape.
  noStroke();
  fill(255, 0, 0);

  // Draw the p5.Geometry object.
  model(myGeometry);
}

function createShape() {
  // Create p5.Vector objects to position the vertices.
}
```

This page is generated from the comments in `src/webgl/p5.Geometry.js`. Please feel free to edit it and submit a pull request!

Related References

[calculateBoundingBox](#)

Calculates the position and size of the smallest box that contains the geometry.

[clearColors](#)

Removes the geometry's internal colors.

[computeFaces](#)

Computes the geometry's faces using its vertices.

[computeNormals](#)

Calculates the normal vector for each vertex on the geometry.