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Bachelor Project

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# Barycentric Data Visualization for Triangle Meshes

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## *Abstract*

The usual way to visualize data for a triangle mesh is to associate the data with the vertices and then use linear interpolation over the mesh triangles. While this is the obvious way to go for data given at the mesh vertices, it is less natural for data given at the edges or triangles, since it requires to first aggregate the data neighbouring each vertex, thus introducing an additional averaging step. In this project we want to explore alternative data visualization techniques, using the power of barycentric coordinates and GPU programming.

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Barycentric coordinates

Barycentric coordinates, discovered by Möbius in 1827, represent one of the most progressive area of research in computer graphics and mathematics thanks to the numerous applications in image and geometry processing [10]. The position of any point in a triangle can be expressed using a linear combination of barycentric coordinates:

$$p = \lambda_1 p_1 + \lambda_2 p_2 + \lambda_3 p_3$$

where  $p_1$ ,  $p_2$  and  $p_3$  are the vertices of a triangle and  $\lambda_1$ ,  $\lambda_2$  and  $\lambda_3$  (the barycentric coordinates) are three scalars that respect the following barycentric coordinates properties:

- partition of unity:  $\sum_{i=1}^3 \lambda_i(p) = 1$
- reproduction:  $\sum_{i=1}^3 \lambda_i(p)p_i = p$
- Lagrange-property:  $\lambda_i(p_j) = \delta_{i,j}$
- linearity:  $\lambda_i \in \prod_1$
- non-negativity:  $\lambda_i(p) \geq 0$  for  $p \in [p_1, p_2, p_3]$

A point is inside the triangle if and only if  $0 \leq \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 \leq 1$ . If a barycentric coordinate is less than zero or greater than one, the point is outside the triangle [7]. Barycentric coordinates allow the interpolation of values, from a set of control points over the interior of a domain, using weighted combinations of values associated with the control points [10], as shown in Fig. 1.

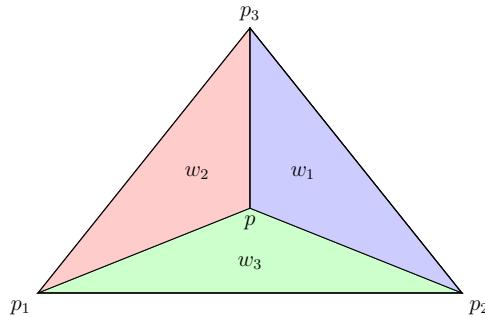


Figure 1: Let  $w_1$  be the blue area,  $w_2$  the red one and  $w_3$  the green one. Normalizing each of them by the area of the triangle will return three values  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3)$  that are the barycentric coordinates of  $p$  with respect to the triangle  $[p_1, p_2, p_3]$ .

## 1.2 Triangle meshes

A piecewise linear surface in 3D with triangular faces is called *triangle mesh* (see example in Fig. 2). Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a triangle mesh that consists of a geometric and topological component represented by a graph structure with a set of vertices  $\mathcal{V} = \{v_1, \dots, v_V\}$  and a set of triangular faces connecting them  $\mathcal{F} = \{f_1, \dots, f_F\}$  with  $f_i \in \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V}$ . The connectivity of a triangle mesh can be expressed in terms of the edges of the respective graph  $\mathcal{E} = \{e_1, \dots, e_E\}$  where  $e_i \in \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V}$  [4].

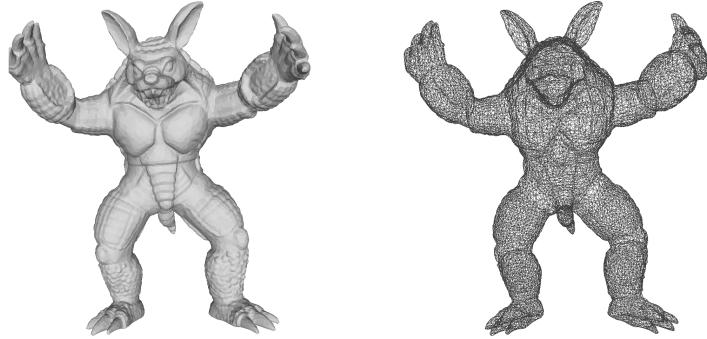


Figure 2: Example of a triangle mesh, visualized with flat shading (left) and in *wireframe mode*, to show the edges (right).

## 1.3 Lighting - Phong lighting model

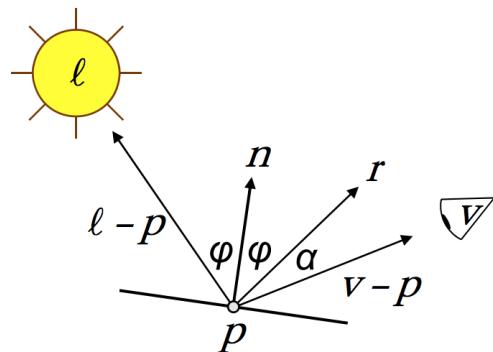


Figure 3: Phong lighting model.  $p$  is the point illuminated by the ray  $(l - p)$ .  $v$  represents the view position and  $l$  the light source [7].

Given a light source at position  $l$  with intensity  $I_l$  and a surface point at position  $p$  with normal  $n$ , we can define the angle between the light vector  $(l - p)$  and the normal  $n$  as  $\varphi$ . Let  $r$  be the reflected light vector defined as  $r = 2n \cdot \langle n, l - p \rangle - (l - p)$  and  $\alpha$  the angle between that vector and the view direction  $(v - p)$  as depicted in Figure 3.

The *Phong lighting model* is defined as the sum of the self-emitting intensity, ambient term, diffuse reflection and specular reflection:

$$I = I_e + \rho_a \cdot I_A + \sum_{j=1}^n (\rho_d \cdot \cos\varphi_j + \rho_s \cdot \cos_{\alpha_j}^k) \cdot I_j$$

where  $I_e$  is the self-emitting intensity,  $\rho_a, \rho_d, \rho_s$  are the reflection constants (surface properties),  $n$  is the number of lights sources with intensities  $I_j$  and  $k$  is the shininess [7].

## 1.4 Linear interpolation

Given two numbers  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  (the start and final values of the interpolant), a linear interpolation can be carried out using a parameter  $t \in [0, 1]$  (see [3]):

$$n = n_1 + t(n_2 - n_1)$$



Figure 4: The further  $t$  is from the red point, the more blue we want. The further  $t$  is from the blue point, the more red we want.

This should be read as the percent of blue color ("length of blue segment/total length") plus the percent of red color ("length of red segment/total length") as shown in Fig. 4. In case we want to make an interpolation given three values ( $n_1, n_2$  and  $n_3$ ), instead of referring to the ratio of lengths, we would use the following equation (*barycentric interpolation*):

$$n = \lambda_1 n_1 + \lambda_2 n_2 + \lambda_3 n_3$$

where  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$  and  $\lambda_3$  are the barycentric coordinates.

## 1.5 Flat Shading

*Flat shading* is a way to compute the color at each pixel (at a corner or at the barycentre) using the triangle normal. Given a triangle  $[p_1, p_2, p_3]$ , the lighting is computed using the normal  $n$ :

$$\hat{n} = (p_2 - p_1) \times (p_3 - p_1) \quad n = \frac{\hat{n}}{||\hat{n}||}$$

at  $p = (p_1 + p_2 + p_3)/3$ . This color is then used for all pixels of the triangle. Flat shading gives objects with flat facets [7].

## 1.6 Gouraud Shading

*Gouraud Shading* is a way to compute the color at each pixel assigning a normal to each corner of a triangle. After having computed the color for each corner it linearly interpolates these color values (see Sections 1.1 and 1.4). Given a triangle  $[p_1, p_2, p_3]$  and its normal at each corner  $n_1, n_2, n_3$ , the lighting is computed at  $p_i$  using the normal  $n_i$ . This, applied to each corner, returns the color values  $c_1, c_2, c_3$  respectively for  $p_1, p_2$  and  $p_3$ . These colors are then linearly interpolated  $c = \mu_1 c_1 + \mu_2 c_2 + \mu_3 c_3$ , where  $\mu_1, \mu_2$  and  $\mu_3$  are the barycentric coordinates. Gouraud shading gives objects that appear more smooth [7].

## 2 Discrete differential geometry

### 2.1 Normals

For each triangle  $T = [p_1, p_2, p_3]$  of a triangle mesh, the normal is defined as

$$n(T) = \frac{(p_2 - p_1) \times (p_3 - p_1)}{\|(p_2 - p_1) \times (p_3 - p_1)\|}$$

The normal along each edge  $E$  is halfway between the normals of two adjacent triangles  $T_1$  and  $T_2$

$$n(E) = \frac{n(T_1) + n(T_2)}{\|n(T_1) + n(T_2)\|}$$

The normal at vertex  $V$  is obtained by averaging the normals of the  $n$  adjacent triangles

$$n(V) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i n(T_i)}{\|\sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i n(T_i)\|}$$

where  $\gamma_i$  can be a constant value, equal to the triangle area or equal to the angle  $\theta_i$  of  $T_i$  at  $V$  [6].

### 2.2 Local averaging regions

Let us assume that a mesh is a piecewise linear approximation of a smooth surface. A mesh can be constructed either as the limit of a family of smooth surfaces or as a linear approximation of an arbitrary surface. For each vertex of the neighbouring triangles (*one-ring*), we can choose an associated surface patch over which the average of geometric properties will be computed. Let  $\mathcal{A}_{Barycenter}$  be the area formed using barycenters and  $\mathcal{A}_{Voronoi}$  the one formed using *Voronoi* cells. The general case is represented by a point that can be anywhere; let us denote this surface area  $\mathcal{A}_M$ . *Voronoi* cell of each vertex is an appropriate local region that provides a stable error bound. The *Voronoi* region for a point  $P$  of a non-obtuse triangle  $[P, Q, R]$  is expressed as  $\frac{1}{8}(|PR|^2 \cot \angle Q + |PQ|^2 \cot \angle R)$ . The sum of these areas for the whole *1-ring neighborhood* gives the non-obtuse *Voronoi*

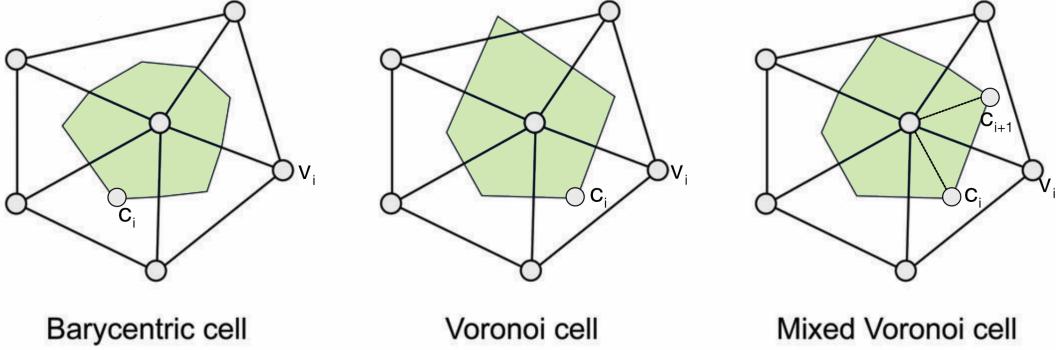


Figure 5: Local averaging regions used for computing discrete differential operators associated with the center vertex of the one-ring neighborhood.  $c_i$  corresponds to: the barycentre of the triangle in the Barycentric cell, the circumcenter of the triangle in the Voronoi cell. Let denote  $\theta$  the angle between  $c_i$  and  $c_{i+1}$ . If  $\theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$  then  $c_i$  is on the circumcenter of triangle  $[v_i, v, v_{i+1}]$ , else  $c_i$  is the midpoint of the edge  $[v, v_{i+1}]$  in mixed Voronoi cell [4].

area for a vertex. The above expression for the *Voronoi* finite-volume area does not hold in case of obtuse angles. Let us define a new surface area for each vertex denoted  $\mathcal{A}_{Mixed}$ . Essentially the idea is to use the circumcenter point for each non-obtuse triangle and to use the midpoint of the edge opposite to the obtuse angle in case of an obtuse triangle. (see Fig. 5 and pseudocode 4) [8].

### 2.3 Gaussian Curvature

The *Gaussian curvature*  $K$  is defined as the product of the principal curvatures:

$$K = k_1 k_2$$

A basic interpretation would be to imagine the *Gaussian curvature* as a logical AND since it checks whether there is a curvature along both directions. The curvature of a surface is characterized by the principal curvatures [2]. Surfaces that have a zero Gaussian curvature are called *developable surfaces* because they can be flattened out into the plane without any stretching. *Gaussian curvature* is zero inside each mesh triangle and the same along edges since it can be flattened symmetrically into the plane. Consequently the *Gaussian curvature* is concentrated at vertices of a triangle and it is defined as the *angle defect*

$$K(V) = 2\pi - \sum_{i=1}^n \theta_i$$

where  $\theta_i$  are the angles of the triangle  $T_i$  adjacent to the vertex  $V$  at  $V$ . This should be seen as the integral of the Gaussian curvature over a certain region  $S(V)$  around  $V$ , where these  $S(V)$  form a partition of the surface of the entire mesh.

$$K(V) = \int_{S(V)} K dA$$

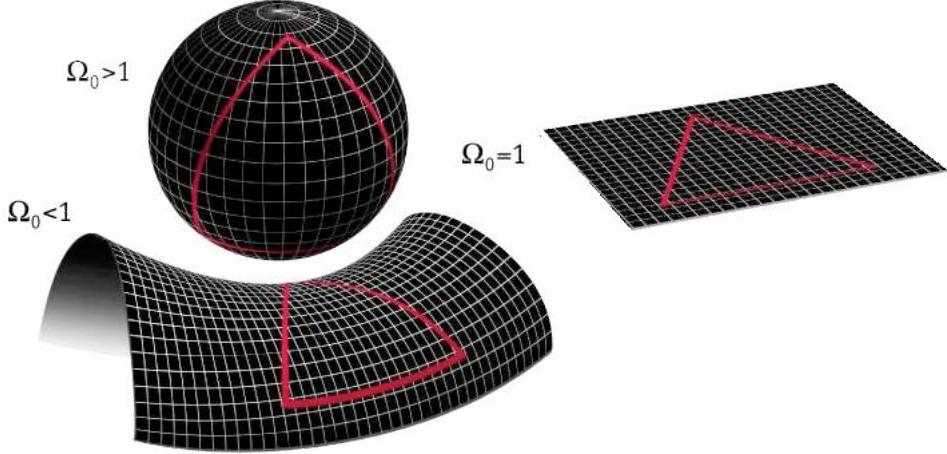


Figure 6: Positive curvature, negative curvature and zero curvature.

*Negative curvature* can be recognized by the fact that external directions curve in opposite directions, *zero curvature* has one external direction that has zero curvature, *positive curvature* has external directions that curve in the same direction (Fig. 6). The *Theorema Egregium*, discovered by C.F. Gauss in 1827, states that the *Gaussian curvature* is an intrinsic property of the surface that does not depend on the space, despite the fact that it is defined as the product of the principal curvatures (whose value depends on how the surface is immersed in the space). We can then notice that triangle angles add up to less than  $180^\circ$  in negative curvature, exactly  $180^\circ$  in zero curvature, and more than  $180^\circ$  in positive curvature [6].

## 2.4 Mean Curvature

The *mean curvature*  $H$  is defined as the arithmetic mean of principal curvatures

$$H = \frac{k_1 + k_2}{2}$$

A basic interpretation would be to imagine the *mean curvature* as a logical OR since it checks if there is a curvature along at least one direction [2]. The *mean curvature* inside each mesh triangle is zero, but it does not vanish at edges. The *mean curvature* associated with an edge is defined as  $H(E) = \|\theta_E\|/2$ , where  $\theta_E$  is the signed angle between the normals of adjacent triangles (see Fig. 7).

Let us think of an edge as a cylindrical patch  $C(E)$  with a radius  $r$  that touches the planes defined by adjacent triangles. The *mean curvature* at any point of the cylindrical patch is defined as  $1/(2r)$  and the area of  $C(E)$  is  $r\|E\|\theta_E$

$$H(E) = \int_{C(E)} H dA$$

The *mean curvature* at the vertex  $V$  is defined as

$$H(V) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n H(E_i)$$

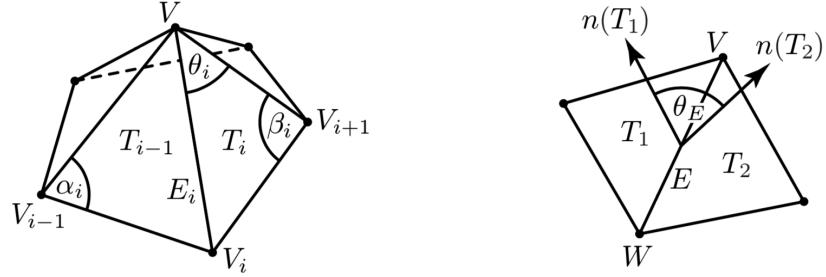


Figure 7: A vertex  $V$  with its neighbouring vertices  $V_i$  and adjacent triangles  $T_i$ . Angles opposite the edge  $E_i$  are denoted by  $\alpha_i$  and  $\beta_i$ . The angle between the normals of adjacent triangles  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  with positive or negative sign is denoted as  $\theta_E$  [6].

Averaging the mean curvatures of its adjacent edges guarantee that *mean curvature* of an edge is divided uniformly to both end points.  $H(E)$  and  $H(V)$  should be seen as integral curvature values associated to regions  $S(E)$  and  $S(V)$  [6].

## 2.5 Mean Curvature Vector

Let  $\mathbf{H} = Hn$  be the surface normal vector scaled by the *mean curvature*. We can integrate it over the  $C(E)$  to derive the discrete mean curvature vector associated to the mesh edge  $E = [V, W]$ :

$$\mathbf{H}(E) = \int_{C(E)} \mathbf{H} dA = \frac{1}{2}(V - W) \times (n(T_1) - n(T_2))$$

The length of  $H(E)$  gives the edge mean curvature  $H(E) = \|\mathbf{H}(E)\| = \|E\| \sin(\theta_E/2)$ . The discrete mean curvature vector associated to  $V$  can be obtained averaging  $\mathbf{H}(E)$  over the edges adjacent to a vertex  $V$

$$\mathbf{H}(V) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{H}(E_i) = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^n (\cot \alpha_i + \cot \beta_i)(V - V_i)$$

where  $\alpha_i$  and  $\beta_i$  are angles opposite to  $E_i$  (see Fig. 7) [6].

## 3 GPU program

A program that runs on GPU is called *shader*. Shaders are principally used to modify the representation and the behaviour of 3D objects. They are also used to create lighting effects. Shaders can perform tasks efficiently thanks to the GPU. That guarantees faster results than with the CPU since GPU is designed to execute tasks in parallel.

### 3.1 GPU pipeline

A GPU program allows us to control the rendering pipeline. It takes a set of vertices as input, then the *vertex shader* transforms them (translation, rotation, projection...) and passes the transformed vertices to the *geometry shader*. This shader takes vertices to create primitive shapes. Primitives that reach the *rasterization stage* are then rasterized. These rasterized flat images are then passed as input to the *fragment shader* that adds the lighting, apply textures and color these images (see Fig. 8).

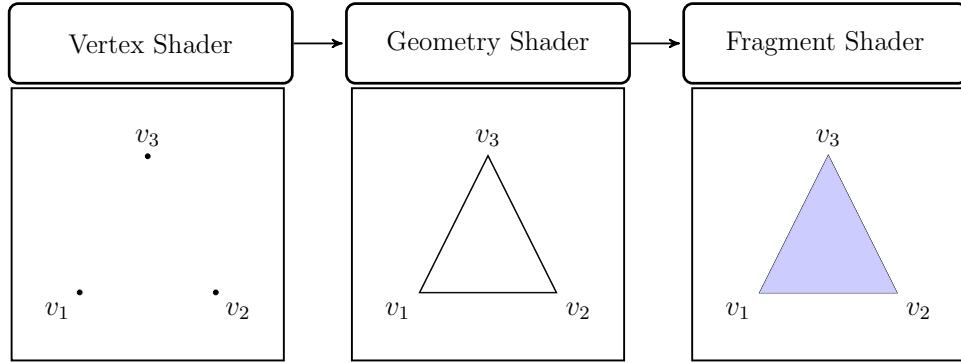


Figure 8: GPU pipeline [5]

### 3.2 Vertex Shader

The program that performs vertex operations is called *vertex shader*. It receives one vertex at a time and then it passes the output to a *fragment shader* or to a *geometry shader*, if any.

### 3.3 Geometry Shader

The *Geometry shader* is used for layered rendering. It takes as input a set of vertices (single primitive, for example: triangle or a point) and it transforms them before sending to the next shader stage. In this way, we can obtain different primitives. Each time we call the function `EmitVertex()` the vector currently set to `gl_Position` is added to the primitive. All emitted vertices are combined for the primitive and output when we call the function `EndPrimitive()` [1].

### 3.4 Fragment Shader

The *Fragment shader* performs a color computation for every visible pixel of the rasterized object. It works on one fragment at a time, but thanks to the power of the GPU it can work in parallel for all vertices (*vertex shader*) and fragments (*fragment shader*).

## 4 Vertex area based

This section shows alternative methods to extend the idea of flat shading from triangles to vertices. The idea of flat shading is to draw all the pixels of a triangle with the same color. The extension of this approach is to split the surface of the triangle mesh likewise into regions around vertices and draw all pixels in these regions with the same color (Fig. 9). Thus visualizing data given at the vertices of the mesh in a piecewise constant, not necessarily continuous way, which resembles the classical triangle flat shading. The aforementioned regions can easily be defined using barycentric coordinates and a simple GPU fragment program (Fig. 9) can be used for each pixel to find out to which region it belongs and which color it should be painted with. Another interesting alternative data visualization technique given by the Gaussian curvature is presented at the end of this section.



Figure 9: On the left: Application of the max diagram algorithm on a triangle as illustrated in Section 4.1. On the right: region around a vertex; the angle defect is denoted with  $\theta_j$ .

### 4.1 Max diagram - Vertex area

Passing barycentric coordinates to the *fragment shader* will clearly demonstrate that we can get different results from the classic color interpolation [9]. There are various approaches to color interpolation focusing on the distance from vertices. For each point in a triangle, we can easily determine its closest vertex, which we use as a cue for coloring. Another approach, different from the above, can be defined as coloring vertex areas based on the maximum barycentric coordinate. The color is given by the region closest to a vertex (Fig. 9, Pseudocode 1).

### 4.2 Vertex Flat Shading

An extension of *flat shading* would be to have each vertex area to be in one constant color (see Fig. 10). This color can be taken using the normal at the vertex and the vertex position. The color will then be computed as in *Gouraud shading* avoiding the automatic interpolation of colors provided by OpenGL. The idea is to compute the color per vertex but instead of linearly interpolating it in each triangle (as *Gouraud shading* does) we color regions around a vertex with that constant color (using the GPU fragment program:

max diagram 4.1). To implement this approach, the barycentric coordinates, the vertex color, the normal at the vertex and the lighting calculations are passed to the *fragment shader*. In order to return the resulting color using the *max diagram* algorithm, we have used a *Geometry shader* that has access to all three vertex colors in the *fragment shader*. (Pseudocodes: 1, 5, 7)



Figure 10: Vertex flat shading.

### 4.3 Comparison between triangle flat shading, triangle Gouraud shading and vertex flat shading

The standard approaches: *triangle flat shading* and *triangle Gouraud shading* are then compared with the new technique *vertex flat shading*. In Fig. 11 we can see that the icosahedron where we have applied the vertex flat shading shader seems to be a good compromise since it preserves the original geometry and avoids creating triangle-like artifacts in the final result. Vertex regions look more realistic and less noisy than triangle regions. Moreover, Gouraud shading is prone to smoothing and losing many details in intricate and detailed meshes (see Fig. 12).

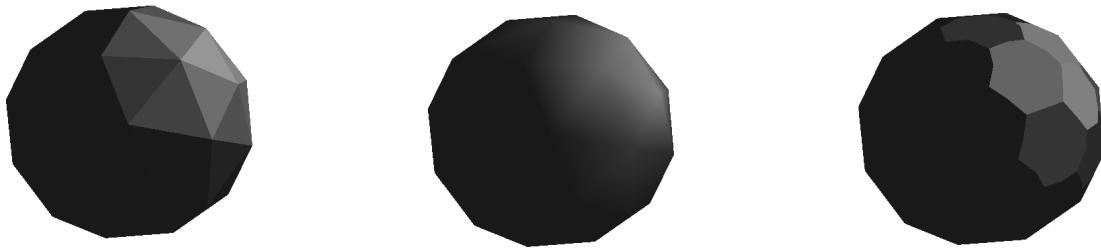


Figure 11: Comparison between: triangle flat shading, triangle Gouraud shading and vertex flat shading.

### 4.4 Gaussian curvature

Another interesting alternative data visualization technique is given computing the *Gaussian curvature* per vertex. That can be done by summing up, angles of the triangles

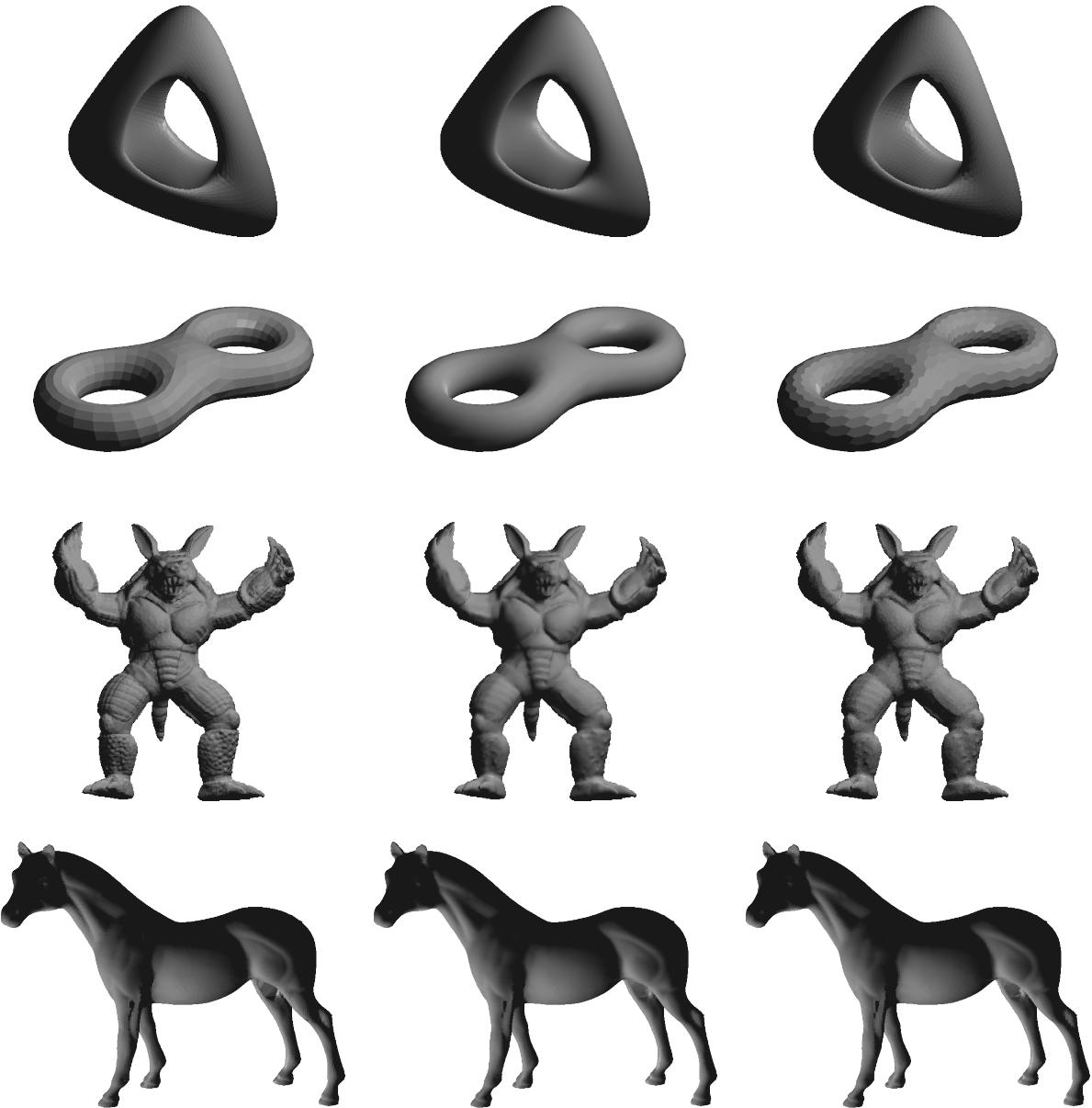


Figure 12: On the left: Triangle flat shading. On the center: Triangle Gouraud shading. On the right: Vertex flat shading.

adjacent to the vertex  $V$  at  $V$ , and then subtracting this value from  $2\pi$ . Having obtained this value, called *angle defect* (Fig. 9), we map it linearly to a color range. The resulting color will be the vertex flat shading visualisation of *Gaussian curvature* (See Section 2.2 and 2.3).

$$K(V) = (2\pi - \sum_j \theta_j) / \mathcal{A}_{Mixed}$$

## 4.5 Constant Gaussian curvature

*Constant Gaussian curvature* returns a constant color around each vertex using the max diagram algorithm (Fig. 9, pseudocode 6). The value  $K(V)$  is mapped to a color range to get the corresponding curvature color (see Fig. 13). This process is made separately for each vertex of the triangle and consequently, using the technique of max-diagram explained above (see section 4.1), the final resulting constant color is returned.

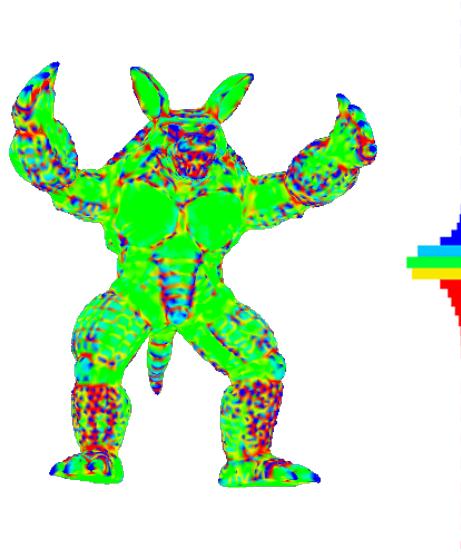


Figure 13: Color bar showing respective colors for negative, flat and positive curvatures. Negative curvatures are mapped to red, flat curvatures to green and positive curvatures to blue.

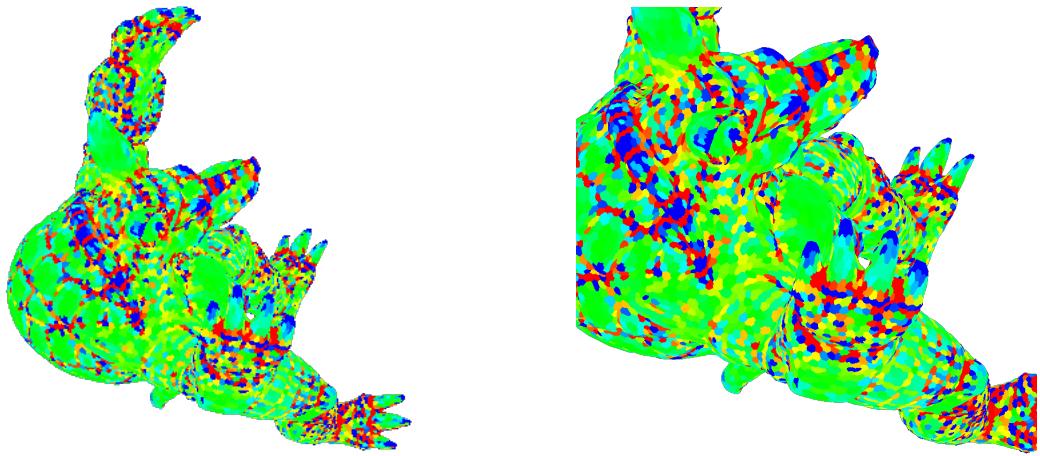


Figure 14: Constant Gaussian curvature

## 4.6 Gouraud Gaussian curvature

*Gouraud Gaussian curvature* computes the curvature per vertex, converts it to color, and linearly interpolates it. The idea is to calculate the *Gaussian curvature* as explained above (mapping the color into a color range to get the corresponding color per vertex) but instead of returning the constant color using a max-diagram approach, we just return the interpolation of values obtained for each triangle.

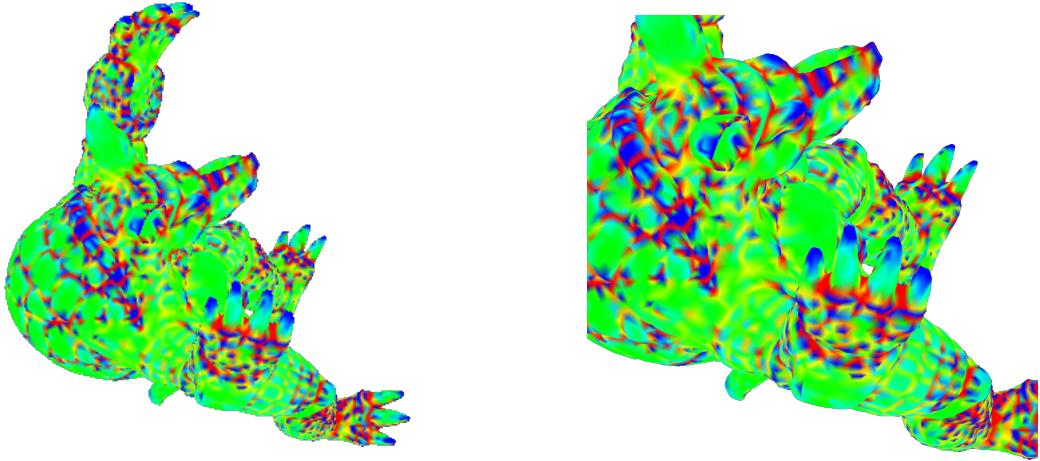


Figure 15: Gouraud Gaussian curvature

## 4.7 Evaluation and Comparison between constant Gaussian curvature per vertex and Gouraud Gaussian curvature

In *constant Gaussian curvature* (Fig. 14) each vertex area is colored applying the *max diagram* algorithm. Instead, in *Gouraud Gaussian curvature* (Fig. 15) the color is obtained with linear interpolation. Visualization of the Gauss curvatures of the model as colors from blue (highest values of curvature) to red (lower values of curvature) highlights the geometry of meshes in Fig. 16. These changes of curvature, positive (blue), flat (green) and negative regions (red), better emphasizes the 3-dimensionality of the model. *Gouraud Gaussian curvature* is smoother, which results in a loss of small details. This is particularly evident in armadillo’s legs mesh. Instead, *constant Gaussian curvature* generates sharper edges with piecewise-flat regions which slightly degrades the 3-dimensional perception of the model. On the other hand, it preserves the details of the given geometry, which can be particularly useful for data visualization purposes.

## 5 Edge area based

As the section before, we now want to show extensions where we split the surface of the triangle mesh likewise into regions around edges and we draw all pixels in these regions

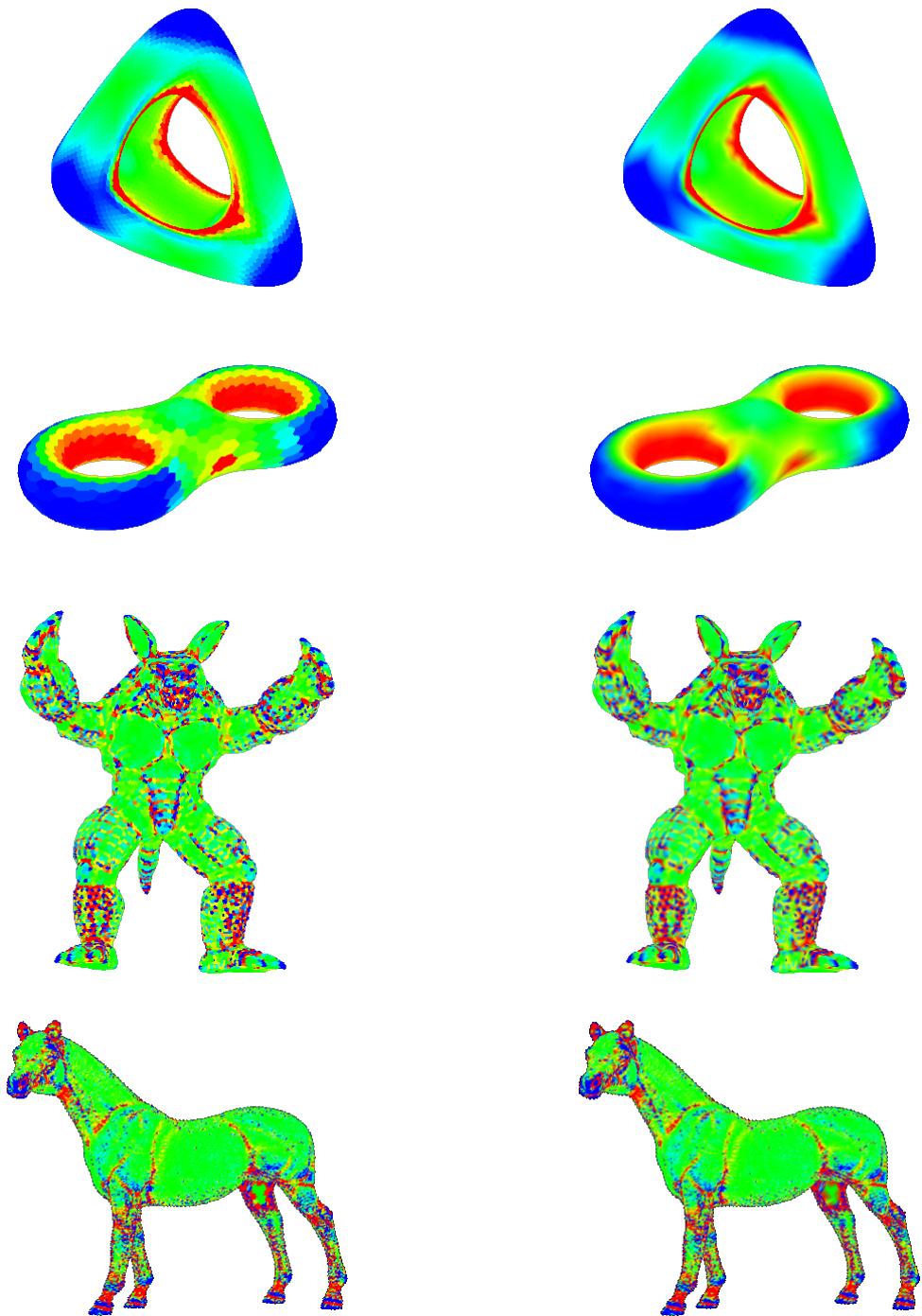


Figure 16: On the left: Constant Gaussian curvature. On the right: Gouraud Gaussian curvature.

with the same color (see Figure 17). This results in rhombus-shaped areas with constant color around each edge.



Figure 17: On the left: Application of the min diagram algorithm on a triangle. On the right: regions around edges.

### 5.1 Min diagram - Edge area

For each point in a triangle, we can easily determine its closest edge, which we use as a cue for coloring. A different approach from interpolating, can be found coloring vertex areas based on the minimum barycentric coordinate. The color is given by the region farthest from a vertex (Fig. 17, Pseudocode 2).

### 5.2 Mean Curvature

Access to mesh edges requires to set up a list of edges over triangles. To avoid redundant data we have applied the convention that an edge would be counted only if it goes from a vertex with lower index to a vertex with higher index in the list. A possible edge structure could look like the one in the pseudocode 3, where `index_v1` and `index_v2` are the vertex indices, `norm_edge` is the length of edge, `n1` and `n2` are normals of adjacent triangles, `cot_alpha` and `cot_beta` are the cotangents of angles opposite to the edge, `area_t1` and `area_t2` are the areas of adjacent triangles.

### 5.3 Constant Mean Curvature

*Constant mean Curvature* returns a constant color around each edge (see Fig. 18). Firstly it calculates the mean curvature for each edge  $E$ :

$$H(E) = \|E\|(\theta_E/2)$$

where  $\theta_E$  is the angle between the two normals of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ . The mean curvature for each vertex  $V$  of a mesh is defined as:

$$H(E) = \frac{1}{2A_{Barycentre}} \sum_{i=1}^n \|E_i\|(\theta_E/2)$$

where  $A_{Barycentre}$  is the area formed using barycenters. This value is then normalized. Every value is then mapped to positive or negative curvature, depending if the mesh at this edge is convex or concave, which can be known testing the determinant of the 3-by-3 matrix  $M = [e, n_1, n_2]$  with those three vectors as columns ( $e$  is the edge  $[W, V]$ ,  $n_1$  is

the normal of  $T_1$  and  $n_2$  is the normal of  $T_2$ ). If  $\det(M) > 0$  then the mesh is convex at  $[W, V]$  and the mean curvature would be positive, else the mesh is concave and the mean curvature would be negative. This technique of edge flat shading represents an alternative to the classic triangle flat shading.

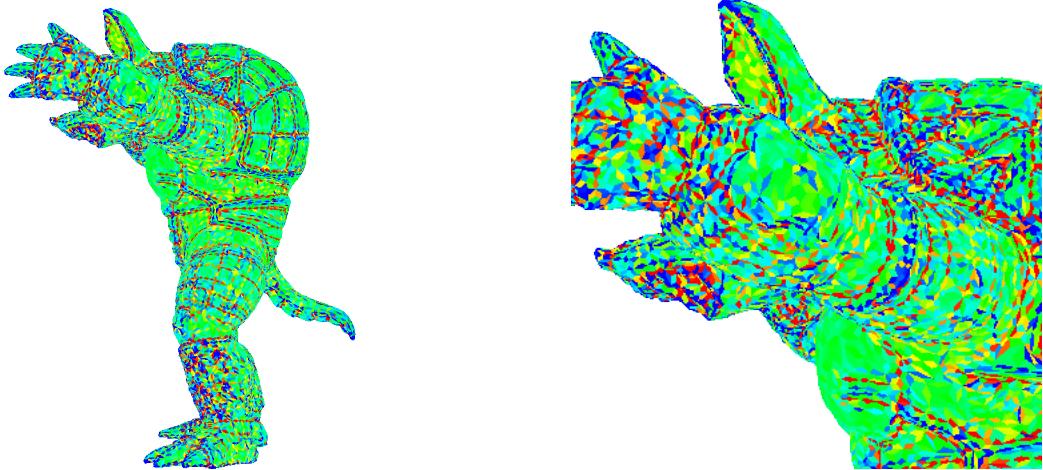


Figure 18: Constant mean curvature

## 5.4 Gouraud Mean Curvature

*Gouraud mean Curvature* returns an interpolated color around each vertex. The main idea is to calculate the mean curvature  $H(V)$  for each vertex  $V$ . In a mesh, every edge has two opposite angles (let us denominate these with  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ ), the mean curvature per vertex is defined as:

$$H(V) = \frac{1}{2A_{Mixed}} \sum_{i=1}^n (\cot \alpha_i + \cot \beta_i)(V - V_i)$$

where  $V_i$  is one of the endpoints of the edge  $E_i$ . These values are then interpolated using the automatic OpenGL interpolation resembling the classic Gouraud shading (see Fig. 19).

## 5.5 Evaluation and Comparison between constant mean curvature and gouraud mean curvature

*Constant mean curvature* is a curvature per edge that returns a constant color around each edge using the min diagram algorithm. The result is a noisy and sharped mesh with emphasized edges. This visualization could be helpful to show the quality of mesh triangulation and flows around surfaces. The flows are observable because edges are directed allowing the user to better analyze curvatures (see Fig. 18). *Gouraud mean curvature*, on the other hand, returns more blurred meshes compared to the ones obtained with *constant mean curvature*. This smoothing is caused by the fact that mean curvature

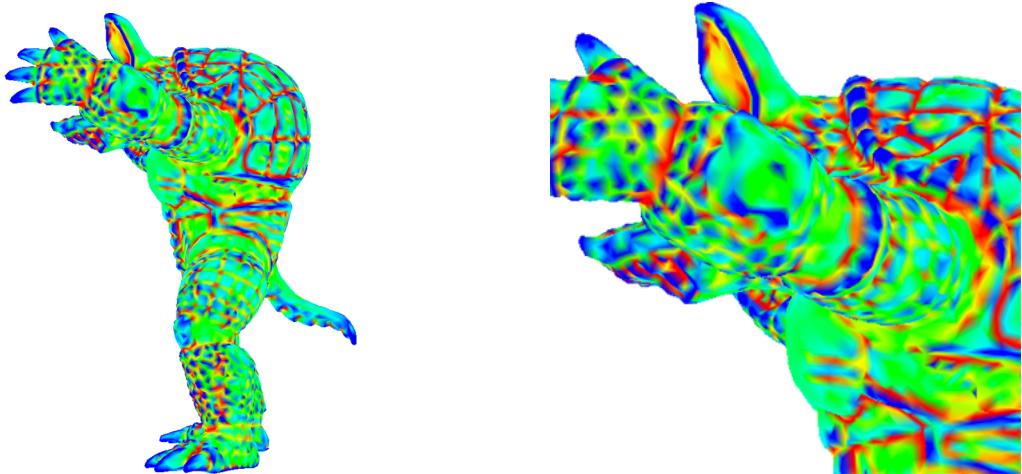


Figure 19: Gouraud mean curvature

would be calculated per edge but in this case, we are averaging per vertex, this results in a loss of data (see Fig. 19 comparated to Fig. 18).

## 6 Conclusions

Making computation per vertex (e.g. *Flat Shading*) is more efficient because in general, a model has fewer vertices than triangles as shown in table 1. For example, the armadillo model has 15002 vertices and 30000 triangles, then make calculation per vertex instead of triangle results in half of the computations.

Model	#vertices	#triangles	Improvement
Armadillo	15002	30000	49%
Eight	766	1536	50%
Genus3	6652	13312	50%
Horse	48485	96966	49%
Icosahedron_1	42	80	47%
Icosahedron_2	162	320	49%
Icosahedron_3	642	1280	50%

Table 1: Number of vertices and triangles in models. Making computations per vertex result in an efficiency improvement of  $\approx 50\%$ .

Making computation per edge would also be more efficient, because edges are shared between 2 triangles in a mesh.

### 6.1 Application Software

I have developed an application for alternative data visualization using the power of barycentric coordinates and GPU programming. This application allows the user to up-

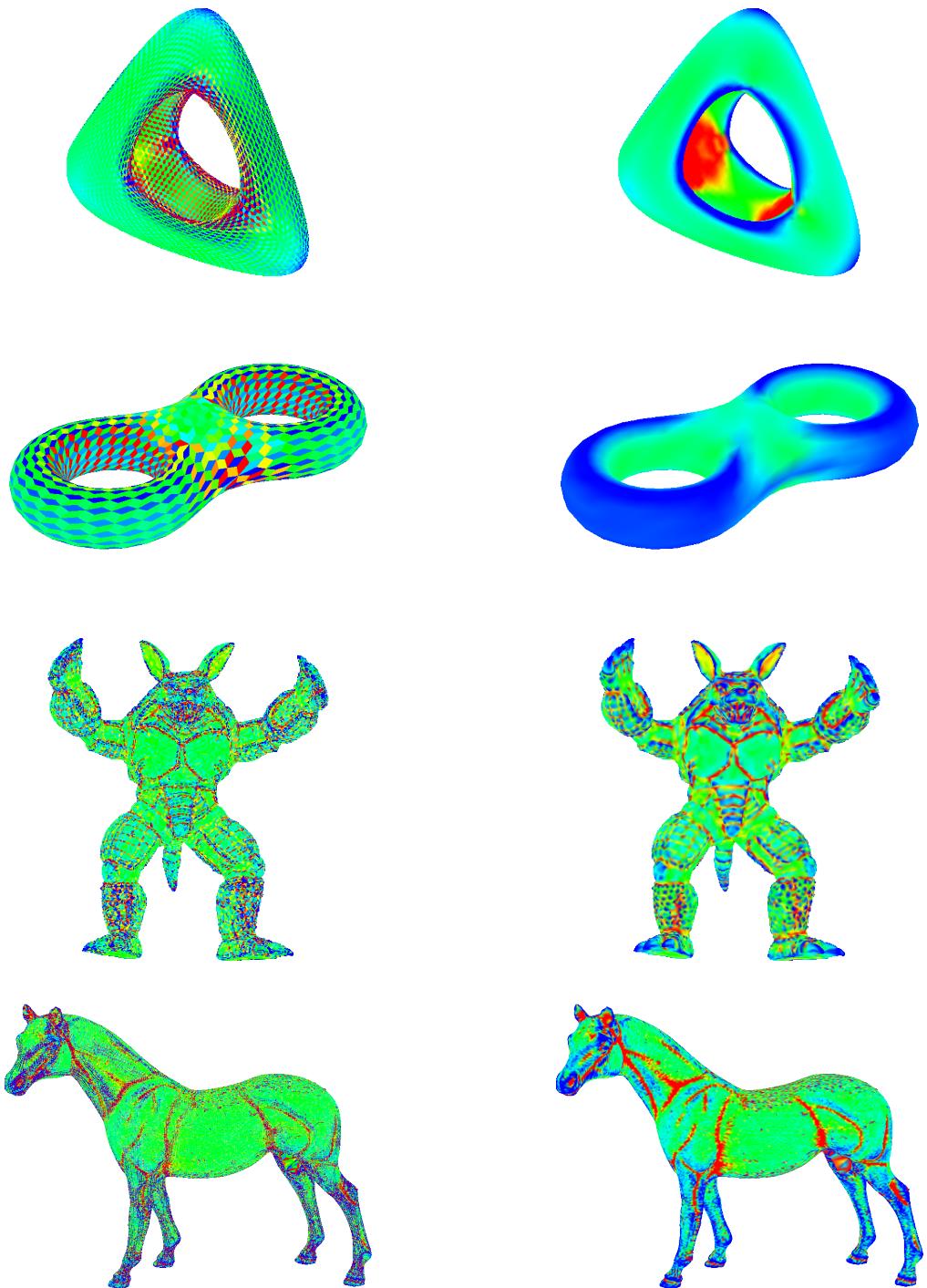


Figure 20: On the left: Constant mean curvature. On the right: Gouraud mean curvature.

load different models, choose different shaders, zoom or rotate the model. In Fig. 21, a *constant Gaussian curvature* shader is chosen for a model using a *90 percentile*, on the right graphs plot Gaussian curvature values obtained for each vertex. The first graph shows the real values of Gaussian curvature without removing the outliers. The second

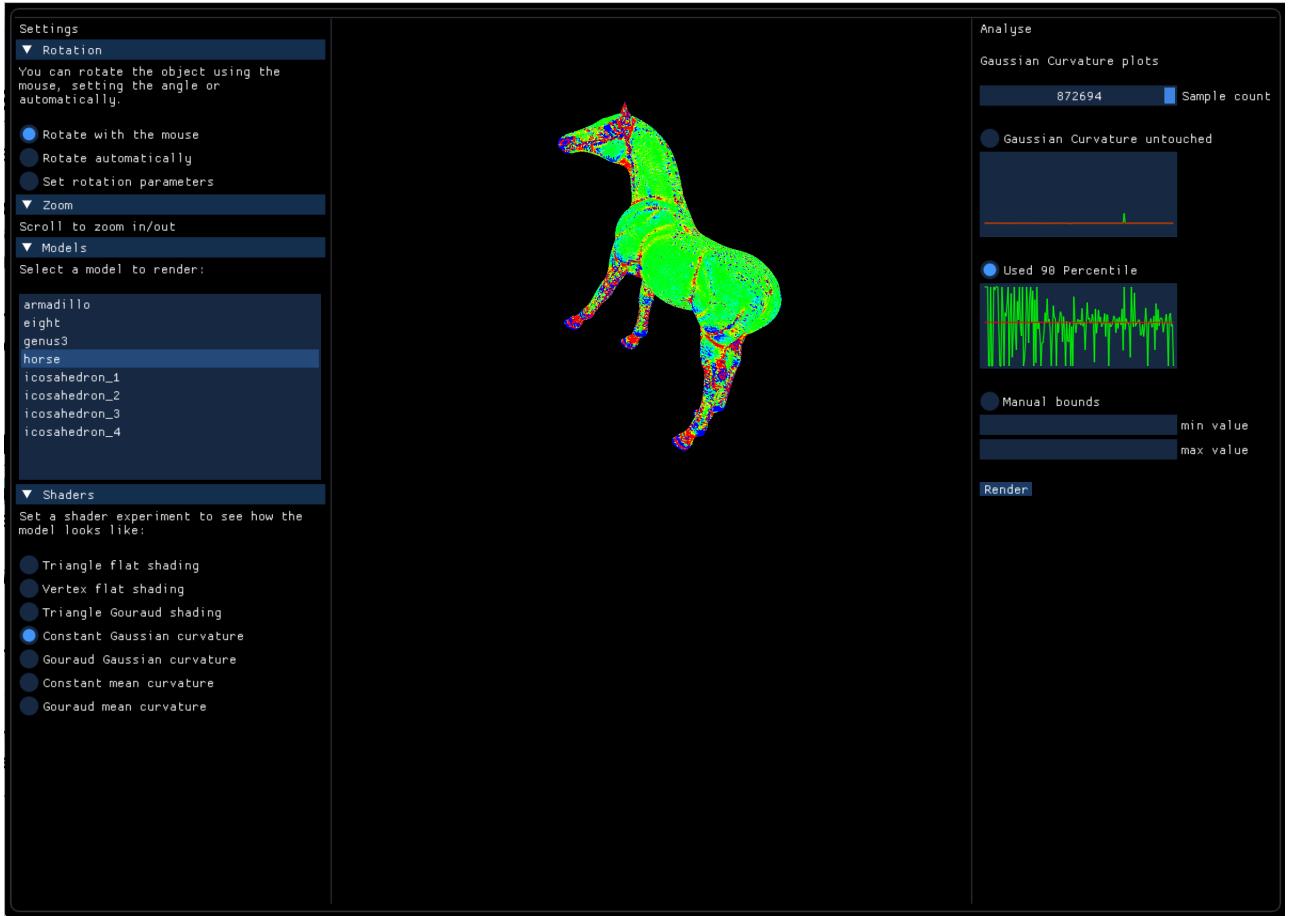


Figure 21: Software

graph shows just the values in the *90 percentile* (all the outliers were discarded).

## 6.2 Architecture

The application was developed in c++, for the real-time graphics programming (e.g. create the scene viewer, enabling the manipulation of 3D scenes) I have used OpenGL 3.3 and GLSL.

As graphical user interface I have used a library called *Dear ImGui*. This library has no external dependencies and it is designed to create content creation tools and visualization/debug tools. It is suited to integration in games engine (for tooling), real-time 3D applications or any applications on console platforms where operating system features are non-standard.

To allow the creation of an OpenGL context, the definition of window parameters and to handle user inputs I have used the *GLFW3* library.

Since there are different versions of OpenGL drivers, to retrieve the location of the functions required and to store them in function pointers for later use, I have used *GLAD*

library that loads all relevant OpenGL functions according to that version at compile-time.

### 6.3 Comparison with meshlab

All the values obtained for the *Gouraud Gaussian curvature* and *Gouraud mean curvature* were compared to the results provided by the program *meshlab*<sup>1</sup>.

Model	our software	meshlab	absolute difference
Armadillo	[-33034.20, 90017.90]	[-33033.84, 90019.63]	[0.36, 1.73]
Eight	[-116.89, 58.33]	[-116.89, 58.33]	[0.00, 0.00]
Genus3	[-1753.20, 209.18]	[-1753.20, 209.18]	[0.00, 0.00]
Horse	[-321731, 1930410]	[-4177.14, 4853.23]	[317553.86 1925556.77]
Icosahedron_1	[1.07, 1.08]	[1.07, 1.08]	[0.00, 0.00]
Icosahedron_2	[1.01, 1.02]	[1.01, 1.02]	[0.00, 0.00]
Icosahedron_3	[1.00, 1.00]	[1.00, 1.00]	[0.00, 0.00]

Table 2: Our Gouraud Gaussian curvature values ([min, max]) and meshlab Gouraud Gaussian curvature values ([min, max]).

Model	our software	meshlab	absolute difference
Armadillo	[-289.74, 392.54]	[-289.74, 392.54]	[0.00, 0.00]
Eight	[1.35, 10.96]	[1.35, 10.96]	[0.00, 0.00]
Genus3	[-7.02, 117.34]	[-7.03, 117.34]	[0.00, 0.00]
Horse	[-500.96, 1202.51]	[-500.96, 1202.51]	[0.00, 0.00]
Icosahedron_1	[0.10, 1.00]	[0.10, 1.00]	[0.00, 0.00]
Icosahedron_2	[0.10, 1.00]	[0.10, 1.00]	[0.00, 0.00]
Icosahedron_3	[0.10, 1.00]	[0.10, 1.00]	[0.00, 0.00]

Table 3: Our Gouraud mean curvature values ([min, max]) and meshlab Gouraud mean curvature values ([min, max]).

---

<sup>1</sup>Meshlab is an open source system for processing and editing 3D triangular meshes. It provides a set of tools for editing, cleaning, healing, inspecting, rendering, texturing and converting meshes. It offers features for processing raw data produced by 3D digitization tools/devices and for preparing models for 3D printing. <http://www.meshlab.net/>

## 7 References

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## A Pseudocodes

Listing 1: Fragment Shader using max diagram - Vertex area (Section: 4.1)

```
1 #version 330 core
2
3 in vec3 coords;
4 in vec4 wedge_color[3]; // an array of 3 vectors of size
5   4 (since it is a triangle)
6 out vec4 fragColor;
7
8 void main()
9 { // MAX DIAGRAM
10     if (coords[0] > coords[1]) {
11         if (coords[0] > coords[2]) { // 0 > 1 && 0 >
12             fragColor = wedge_color[0];
13         }
14         else { // 0 > 1 && 2 > 0 --> 2 > 0 > 1
15             fragColor = wedge_color[2];
16         }
17     }
18     else {
19         if (coords[1] > coords[2]) { // 1 > 0 && 1 >
20             fragColor = wedge_color[1];
21         }
22         else { // 1 > 0 && 1 < 2 --> 2 > 1 > 0
23             fragColor = wedge_color[2];
24         }
25     }
}
```

Listing 2: Fragment Shader using min diagram - Edge area (Section: 5.1)

```
1 #version 330 core
2 in vec3 coords;
3 in vec4 wedge_color[3]; // an array of 3 vectors of size
4   4 (since it is a triangle)
5 out vec4 fragColor;
6
7 void main()
8 { // MIN DIAGRAM
9     if (coords[0] < coords[1]) {
10         if (coords[0] < coords[2]) {
11             fragColor = wedge_color[0];
12         }
13     }
14 }
```

```

11     }
12     else {
13         fragColor = wedge_color[2];
14     }
15 }
16 else {
17     if (coords[1] < coords[2]) {
18         fragColor = wedge_color[1];
19     }
20     else {
21         fragColor = wedge_color[2];
22     }
23 }
24 }
```

---

Listing 3: Edge structure (Section 5.2)

```

1 struct edge
2 {
3     float norm_edge;
4     int index_v1;
5     int index_v2;
6     Point3d n1;
7     Point3d n2;
8     float value_mean_curvature;
9     float cot_alpha;
10    float cot_beta;
11    float area_t1;
12    float area_t2;
13 }
```

---

Listing 4: Region  $\mathcal{A}_{Mixed}$  on an arbitrary mesh [8]. (Section: 2.2)

```

1 A_Mixed = 0
2 For each triangle T from the 1-ring neighborhood of x
3 If T is non-obtuse (Voronoi safe)
4     A_Mixed += Voronoi region of x in T
5 Else
6     If x is obtuse
7         A_Mixed += area(T)/2
8     Else
9         A_Mixed += area(T)/4
```

---

Listing 5: Vertex Shader for vertex/triangle flat shading and triangle Gouraud shading using lighting (Section: 4.2)

---

```
1 #version 330 core
2 layout (location = 0) in vec3 aPos;
3 layout (location = 1) in vec3 aNormal;
4 layout (location = 5) in vec3 aNormalTriangle;
5
6 struct Light {
7     vec3 position;
8
9     vec3 ambient;
10    vec3 diffuse;
11    vec3 specular;
12 };
13
14 out vec4 color;
15
16 uniform mat4 model;
17 uniform mat4 view;
18 uniform mat4 projection;
19
20 uniform vec3 view_position;
21 uniform Light light;
22 uniform float shininess;
23
24 uniform bool isFlat;
25
26
27 // get specular color at current Pos
28 vec3 get_specular(vec3 pos, vec3 normal, vec3
    light_direction) {
29
30     // get directional vector to the camera from pos
31     vec3 view_direction = normalize(view_position - pos);
32
33     // specular shading
34     vec3 reflect_direction = -normalize(reflect(
35         light_direction, normal));
36     float specular_intensity = pow(max(dot(
37         reflect_direction, view_direction), 0.0),
38         shininess);
39
40     // get resulting color
41     return light.specular * specular_intensity;
42 }
```

```

41
42     // return diffuse at current Pos
43     vec3 get_diffuse(float lambert_term) {
44         return light.diffuse * lambert_term;
45     }
46
47     vec4 get_result_color_lighting(vec3 pos, vec3 normal,
48                                     vec3 light_position) {
49         vec3 light_direction = normalize(light_position - pos
50                                         );
51         float diffuse_intensity = max(dot(light_direction,
52                                           normal), 0.0);
53
54         vec3 ambient = light.ambient;
55         vec3 diffuse = get_diffuse(diffuse_intensity);
56
57         if(diffuse_intensity > 0.0001){
58             vec3 specular = get_specular(pos, normal,
59                                         light_direction);
60             return vec4((ambient + diffuse + specular), 1.0);
61         }
62
63         return vec4((ambient + diffuse) , 1.0);
64     }
65
66     void main() {
67
68         vec3 world_position = vec3(model * vec4(aPos, 1.0));
69         vec3 world_normal;
70
71         if(isFlat){ // triangle normal
72             world_normal = mat3(transpose(inverse(model))) *
73                             aNormalTriangle;
74         } else { // vertex normal
75             world_normal = mat3(transpose(inverse(model))) *
76                             aNormal;
77         }
78
79         vec3 light_pos = vec3(projection * vec4(light.
80                               position, 1.0));
81
82         color = get_result_color_lighting(world_position,
83                                         world_normal, light_pos); // color obtained with
84                                         lighting calculations

```

```

77
78     gl_Position = projection * view * model * vec4(aPos ,
79     1.0);
79 }

```

---

Listing 6: Vertex Shader for constant/Gouraud Gaussian curvature and constant/-Gouraud mean curvature (Sections: 4.5 and 5.2 )

```

1 #version 330 core
2 layout (location = 0) in vec3 aPos;
3 layout (location = 2) in vec3 gaussian_curvature;
4 layout (location = 3) in vec3 mean_curvature_edge;
5 layout (location = 4) in vec3 mean_curvature_vertex;
6
7 out vec4 color;
8
9 uniform mat4 model;
10 uniform mat4 view;
11 uniform mat4 projection;
12
13 uniform float min_curvature;
14 uniform float max_curvature;
15
16 uniform bool isGaussian;
17 uniform bool isMeanCurvatureEdge;
18
19 vec3 interpolation(vec3 v0, vec3 v1, float t) {
20     return (1 - t) * v0 + t * v1;
21 }
22
23 vec3 hsv2rgb(vec3 c)
24 {
25     vec4 K = vec4(1.0, 2.0 / 3.0, 1.0 / 3.0, 3.0);
26     vec3 p = abs(fract(c.xxx + K.xyz) * 6.0 - K.www);
27     return c.z * mix(K.xxx, clamp(p - K.www, 0.0, 1.0), c
28         .y);
29 }
30
31 vec4 get_result_color(){
32     float val = gaussian_curvature[0]; //
33     gaussian_curvature is a vec3 composed by same
34     value
35     if(!isGaussian && !isMeanCurvatureEdge){
36         val = mean_curvature_vertex[0]; // mean curvature

```

```

            is a vec3 composed by same value
35    } else if(!isGaussian && isMeanCurvatureEdge){
36        val = mean_curvature_edge[0]; // mean curvature
            is a vec3 composed by same value
37    }
38
39    // colors in HSV
40    vec3 red = vec3(0.0, 1.0, 1.0); //h s v
41    vec3 green = vec3(0.333, 1.0, 1.0);
42    vec3 blue = vec3(0.6667, 1.0, 1.0);
43
44    if (val < 0) { //negative numbers until 0
45        return vec4(hsv2rgb(interpolation(green, red, min
            (val/min_curvature, 1.0))), 1.0);
46    } else { //from 0 to positive
47        return vec4(hsv2rgb(interpolation(green, blue,
            min(val/max_curvature, 1.0))), 1.0);
48    }
49}
50
51
52 void main() {
53     vec3 pos = vec3(model * vec4(aPos, 1.0));
54
55     color = get_result_color();
56
57     gl_Position = projection * view * model * vec4(aPos,
            1.0);
58 }
```

---

Listing 7: Geometry Shader for triangle flat shading, vertex flat shading, constant gaussian curvature, constant mean curvature (Sections: 4 and 5)

```

1 #version 330 core
2
3 layout (triangles) in;
4 layout (triangle_strip, max_vertices = 3) out;
5
6 in vec4 color[3]; // an array of 3 vectors of size 4 (
            since it is a triangle)
7 out vec3 coords;
8 out vec4 wedge_color[3]; // an array of 3 vectors of size
            4 (since it is a triangle)
9
10 void main()
11 {
```

```
12     wedge_color[0] = color[0];
13     wedge_color[1] = color[1];
14     wedge_color[2] = color[2];
15
16     coords = vec3(1.0, 0.0, 0.0);
17     gl_Position = gl_in[0].gl_Position;
18     EmitVertex();
19
20     coords = vec3(0.0, 1.0, 0.0);
21     gl_Position = gl_in[1].gl_Position;
22     EmitVertex();
23
24     coords = vec3(0.0, 0.0, 1.0);
25     gl_Position = gl_in[2].gl_Position;
26     EmitVertex();
27
28     EndPrimitive();
29 }
```

---