Digital Geometry Processing

Algorithms for Representing, Analyzing and Comparing 3D shapes

Today

- Previous lecture summary
- Triangle mesh basics
- Shape Simplification
- Shape Subdivision





Types of 3D scanners:

- Time of Flight
 - Delay-based
 - Frequency-based
- Triangulation
 - Laser-based (single line)
 - Structured light (multiple patterns)
- Computer Vision-based
 - Depth-from-stereo
 - Depth-from-blur
- Example: Microsoft Kinect



acquired point cloud Partial Scans -> Single Point Cloud

Main Approach: Iterative Closest Point.

At each iteration:

- 1) Find nearest neighbor
- 2) Find best transformation
 - a. Point-to-point (closed form solution)
 - b. Point-to-plane (local linearization)



Point Cloud -> Triangle mesh

Two step process:

- 1) Given a point cloud, compute a signed distance function
 - a. Simple projection
 - b. Poisson-based
- 2) From the signed distance function, obtain a triangulation:
 - a. Marching Cubes



Any Questions?

Today

- Surface representation via triangle meshes
- Definitions and combinatorial properties
- Mesh simplification
- Mesh subdivision



Setting (1D):

Given a set of pairs of points: $\{x_i, y_i\}$ approximate the function f s.t. $f(x_i) = y_i \forall i$



Point cloud

Setting (1D):

Given a set of pairs of points: $\{x_i, y_i\}$ approximate the function f s.t. $f(x_i) = y_i \forall i$



Simplest solution:

• Linear Interpolation:

Setting (1D):

Given a set of pairs of points: $\{x_i, y_i\}$ approximate the function f s.t. $f(x_i) = y_i \forall i$



Smooth solution:

• Higher-order Interpolation: degree *p* polynomial

Setting (1D):

Given a set of pairs of points: $\{x_i, y_i\}$ approximate the function f s.t. $f(x_i) = y_i \forall i$



Generalized mean-value theorem: If f is a degree p polynomial, then the approximation error is:

$$|f(t) - g(t)| \le \frac{1}{(p+1)!} \max f^{(p+1)} \prod_{i=0}^{p} (x_i - x) = O(h^{p+1})$$

Motivation: NURBS surfaces

Setting (surfaces in 3D):

High-order approximations to surfaces (e.g. NURBS):



Motivation: NURBS surfaces

Setting (surfaces in 3D):

High-order approximations to surfaces (e.g. NURBS):



Defined via a control lattice with control polygons

Motivation: NURBS surfaces

NURBS:

- Inherently continuous
- Intuitive controls (control mesh)
- Limited to grid domains
- A single NURBS patch has the topology of a sheet, cylinder or torus.

- Must use multiple patches to represent complex shapes
- Cracks occur after deformations.



[Triangle] Meshes



Surface represented simply as collections of: Vertices, Edges, and Faces

NURBS vs. Triangle Meshes

Triangle meshes

- Inherently discrete
- No need to have special rules for joining different patches.
- Can model shapes with arbitrary topology
- Can use adaptive sampling to add resolution where necessary
- Allow subdivision for smoothness (today)
- Easy to render



Why Triangle Meshes?

- Provide piece-wise linear approximation to the surface
 - Error is $O(h^2)$
 - Doubling the number of vertices reduces the error by 4.





Why Triangles?



- Simplest piecewise linear element
- Easy to reconstruct from point clouds
- Easy to represent



- Quad meshes often used in animation
- Typically require some handtuning in reconstruction
- Can provide more flexibility for deformation

[Triangle] Meshes



surface mesh: set of vertices, edges and faces (polygons) defining a polyhedral surface in embedded in 3D (discrete approximation of a shape)

Combinatorial structure

+

geometric embedding





[Triangle] Meshes: 2 main parts

Geometric Structure vs. Combinatorial Structure

Geometry



vertex coordinates "Connectivity": the underlying triangulation



incidence relations between triangles, vertices and edges

[Triangle] Meshes: 2 main parts

• Geometry: vertex positions

$$\mathcal{P} = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n\}, \quad p_i \in \mathbb{R}^3$$

- Connectivity:
 - Vertices: $\mathcal{V} = \{v_1, v_2, ..., v_n\}$
 - Edges: $\mathcal{E} = \{e_1, e_2, ..., e_m\}, e_i \in \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V}$
 - Faces: $\mathcal{F} = \{f_1, f_2, ..., f_k\}, f_i \in \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V}$

What's a Valid Triangle Mesh?

Mesh Zoo

Single component, With boundaries Not orientable closed, triangular, orientable manifold Non manifold Multiple components Not only triangles

Image source: Mirela Ben-Chen

What's a Valid Triangle Mesh?

What is a valid connectivity? Each face is a triangle Single connected component Manifold mesh



Connected =

path of edges connecting every two vertices

What's a Manifold Triangle Mesh?

Manifold triangle mesh:

- Each Edge is adjacent to at most 2 faces:
- Each vertex has a disk-shaped neighborhood









Non-manifold.

Some More Terminology



With boundaries

Boundary edge: adjacent to exactly one face



Not orientable

Orientable surface: possible to assign a consistent normal orientation (e.g. outward)

From now on, a triangle mesh:



Fundamental Combinatorial Relation

Euler-Poincaré identity for polyhedral surfaces

$$V - E + F = \chi = 2 - 2g - b$$

- χ : Euler characteristic
- $g\,$: genus (number of "handles")
- b : number of boundary components



Fundamental Combinatorial Relation

Euler-Poincaré identity for polyhedral surfaces

$$V - E + F = \chi = 2 - 2g - b$$



Proof in the case of planar graphs or convex surfaces:



Euler's relation for planar graphs:

$$V - E + F = 2$$

Base case:



Proof in the case of planar graphs or convex surfaces:

$$V - E + F = 2$$

Proof by Induction:

invariant: the boundary (exterior) is a simple cycle perform the removal according to a shelling order



Proof in the case of planar graphs or convex surfaces:

$$V - E + F = 2$$

Von Staudt's proof:



Given a planar graph, construct any minimum spanning tree T.

The dual edges of its complement, *also form a spanning tree*.

The two trees together have (V-1)+(F-1) edges.

 $E = (V-1) + (F-1) \quad \Rightarrow \quad V - E + F = 2$

Proof in the case of planar graphs or convex surfaces:

$$V - E + F = 2$$



Some applications of Euler-Poincaré

For a manifold triangle mesh without boundary:

$$V - E + F = 2 - 2g$$

Since each triangle has 3 edges and each edge belongs to two triangles: 2E = 3F

Combining with Euler:

$$2V - 3F + 2F = 2 - 2g \implies$$
$$2V = F + (2 - 2g)$$

For small genus $\,Fpprox 2V$, and $\,Epprox 3V$

Some applications of Euler-Poincaré

For a manifold triangle mesh without boundary:

$$V - E + F = 2 - 2g$$

For small genus $\,Fpprox 2V$, and $\,Epprox 3V$

Since
$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{V}} \text{degree}(v_i) = 2E$$

avg. degree $= \frac{2E}{V} \approx 6$

Can distinguish torus, sphere and double torus by average degree.

Some applications of Euler-Poincaré

For a manifold triangle mesh without boundary:

$$V - E + F = 2 - 2g$$

Since each triangle has 3 edges and each edge belongs to two triangles: 2E = 3F

Combining with Euler:

Number of faces in terms of number of vertices

Average valence of the vertices

Triangulating a sphere with even-degree vertices
[Triangle] Meshes – simplification

~600k triangles



~60k triangles



~6k triangles

~600 triangles

[Triangle] Meshes – simplification



Incremental decimation – general framework

Evaluate local error

Select removable elements (vertices or edges)

while $(error > \epsilon)$ { $/* \text{ or } (n' > C)^*/$

select vertex (or edge to be contracted)

remove vertex (or contract edge)

update local error for neighboring vertices (edges)



Incremental decimation – vertex removal



(images by C-K Shene, www.cs.mtu.edu/~shene/)

Incremental decimation – edge contraction







Iteratively perform edge contractions

Incremental decimation – half-edge contraction



Half-edge contractions based on random selection (no geometric criteria) Vertex locations correspond to original coordinates of input points







Incremental decimation – edge contraction







Select edge contractions based on local geometric criterion

Simplification based on *Quadric Error Metrics* (Garland and Heckbert, 1997)





Let be $\mathbf{v} = [x \ y \ z \ 1]$ a vertex (in homogeneous coordinates) Associate to each vertex v a 4×4 matrix \mathbf{Q}_v

Error at vertex v:

 $\Delta(\mathbf{v}) := \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{v} \qquad (\text{quadratic form})$

Level set surface:

$$\{\mathbf{v} \,|\, \Delta(\mathbf{v}) = \epsilon\}$$

(quadric surface)

Associate an error to new vertex location \overline{v} (use additivity)

 $\overline{\mathbf{Q}} := \mathbf{Q}_1 + \mathbf{Q}_2$

$$e = (v_1, v_2) \to \overline{v}$$

Simplification based on *Quadric Error Metrics* (Garland and Heckbert, 1997)

$$\Delta(\mathbf{v}) := \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{v} \qquad \overline{\mathbf{Q}} := \mathbf{Q}_1 + \mathbf{Q}_2$$

$$e = (v_1, v_2) \to \overline{v}$$
Associate an error to new vertex location \overline{v} (use additivity)
$$e = (v_1, v_2) \to \overline{v}$$

Find $\overline{\mathbf{v}}$ in order to minimize

$$\Delta(\overline{\mathbf{v}}) := \overline{\mathbf{v}}^T \mathbf{Q} \overline{\mathbf{v}}$$

solve a linear system

$$\frac{\frac{\partial \Delta(\overline{\mathbf{v}})}{\partial x} = 0}{\frac{\partial \Delta(\overline{\mathbf{v}})}{\partial y} = 0}$$
$$\frac{\frac{\partial \Delta(\overline{\mathbf{v}})}{\partial z} = 0$$

 $\Delta(\overline{\mathbf{v}}) := q_{11}x^2 + 2q_{12}xy + 2q_{13}xz + 2q_{14}x + q_{22}y^2 + 2q_{23}yz + 2q_{24}y + q_{33}z^2 + q_{44}z^2 + q_{44}z^2 + 2q_{44}z^2 + 2$

Simplification based on *Quadric Error Metrics* (Garland and Heckbert, 1997)

$$\begin{array}{ll} \Delta(\mathbf{v}) := \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{v} & \overline{\mathbf{Q}} := \mathbf{Q}_1 + \mathbf{Q}_2 \\ \text{Associate an error to new vertor to new verto$$

Find $\overline{\mathbf{v}}$ in order to minimize

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solve a linear system

 $\Delta(\overline{\mathbf{v}}) := q_{11}x^2 + 2q_{12}xy + 2q_{13}xz + 2q_{14}x + q_{22}y^2 + 2q_{23}yz + 2q_{24}y + q_{33}z^2 + q_{44}$ Simplification based on *Quadric Error Metrics* (Garland and Heckbert, 1997)

$$\Delta(\mathbf{v}) := \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{v} \qquad \overline{\mathbf{Q}} := \mathbf{Q}_1 + \mathbf{Q}_2$$
Associate an error to new vertex location \overline{v} (use additivity)
$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{v}$$
Find $\overline{\mathbf{v}}$ in order to minimize
$$\Delta(\overline{\mathbf{v}}) := \overline{\mathbf{v}}^T \mathbf{Q} \overline{\mathbf{v}}$$
if
$$\begin{bmatrix} q_{11} q_{12} q_{13} q_{14} \\ q_{12} q_{22} q_{23} q_{24} \\ q_{13} q_{23} q_{33} q_{24} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
is invertible
$$\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} q_{11} q_{12} q_{13} q_{14} \\ q_{12} q_{22} q_{23} q_{24} \\ q_{13} q_{23} q_{33} q_{24} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

otherwise, select

$$\overline{\mathbf{v}} \in \{v_1, v_2, v_1 + v_2\}$$

Simplification based on *Quadric Error Metrics* (Garland and Heckbert, 1997)

equation of a plane $\Delta(\mathbf{v}) = \Delta([v_x v_y v_z 1]^{\mathsf{T}}) = \sum (\mathbf{p}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{v})^2 \quad ax + by + cz + d = 0$ p∈planes(v) $a^2 + b^2 + c^2 = 1$ normalized vector $\mathbf{p} = [a \ b \ c \ 1]$ $\Delta(\mathbf{v}) = \sum (\mathbf{v}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{p})(\mathbf{p}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{v})$ p∈planes(v) $\mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{p}} = \mathbf{p}\mathbf{p}^{\mathsf{T}} = \begin{bmatrix} a^{\mathbf{p}} & ab & ac & ad \\ ab & b^2 & bc & bd \\ ac & bc & c^2 & cd \\ ad & bd & ad & d^2 \end{bmatrix}$ $= \sum \mathbf{v}^{\mathsf{T}}(\mathbf{p}\mathbf{p}^{\mathsf{T}})\mathbf{v}$ p∈planes(v) $= \mathbf{v}^{\mathsf{T}} \left(\sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \operatorname{clong}(\mathbf{v})} \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{p}} \right) \mathbf{v}$ error metric in quadratic form

Simplification based on *Quadric Error Metrics* (Garland and Heckbert, 1997)

Compute error matrix for \mathbf{Q}_p each point p.

For each candidate edge *pq* do

- Minimize: $\Delta(r) = r^T (\mathbf{Q}_p + \mathbf{Q}_q) r/2$ to find the optimal location of the intermediate vertex.
- Store the error $\Delta(r)$ in a priority queue (heap)

Iterate:

- Pick the edge with the smallest error from the queue
- Collapse the edge and place the new collapsed vertex
- Update the error metrics of adjacent edges

Implemented in Meshlab¹



35k vertices

¹http://www.meshlab.net/ ISTI, CNR, Pisa

Implemented in Meshlab



8.7k vertices

Implemented in Meshlab



2,1k vertices

Implemented in Meshlab



560 vertices

Implemented in Meshlab



280 vertices

Subdivision Surfaces

Provide a trade-off between Smooth and Mesh techniques:

- Inherently continuous
- Intuitive controls (control mesh)
- Can model shapes with arbitrary topology



Subdivision surfaces



Modeling

Rendering

Subdivision Surfaces

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Subdivision surfaces



Modeling

Rendering

Uniform B-spline of order 2:



Chaikin's algorithm for Quadratic Uniform B-splines:

j odd:
$$\mathbf{Q}_j = \frac{3}{4} \mathbf{P}_{(j+1)/2} + \frac{1}{4} \mathbf{P}_{(j+3)/2}$$

j even: $\mathbf{Q}_j = \frac{1}{4} \mathbf{P}_{j/2} + \frac{3}{4} \mathbf{P}_{(j+2)/2}$

Uniform B-spline of order 2:



Chaikin's algorithm for Quadratic Uniform B-splines: Given n points: $\mathbf{P}_i, i \in (1, 2, ..., n)$ Produce 2(n-1) points: $\mathbf{Q}_j, j \in (1, 2, ..., 2n - 2)$

Uniform B-spline of order 2:



Chaikin's algorithm for Quadratic Uniform B-splines: Given n points: $\mathbf{P}_i, i \in (1, 2, ..., n)$ Produce 2(n-1) points: $\mathbf{Q}_j, j \in (1, 2, ..., 2n - 2)$ Let $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{Q}$ and iterate until number of points reaches desired accuracy.

Uniform B-spline of order 3:



Given n points: $\mathbf{P}_i, i \in (1, 2, \dots, n)$ Produce 2(n-1)-1 points: $\mathbf{Q}_j, j \in (1, 2, \dots, 2n-3)$

Uniform B-spline of order 3:



$$\mathbf{Q}_{2i-1} = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{P}_i + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{P}_{i+1}$$
$$\mathbf{Q}_{2i} = \frac{1}{8}\mathbf{P}_{i-1} + \frac{3}{4}\mathbf{P}_i + \frac{1}{8}\mathbf{P}_{i+1}$$

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Interpolating curves:



$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{Q}_{1} \\ \mathbf{Q}_{2} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{16} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 16 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 9 & 9 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{P}_{1} \\ \mathbf{P}_{2} \\ \mathbf{P}_{3} \\ \mathbf{P}_{4} \end{pmatrix}$$

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Interpolating curves:



Note:

Before starting, make a copy of first and last points. At each iteration, copy the first and last points.
Examples

Chaikin's scheme



Examples

Chaikin's scheme





Examples

Daubechies scheme

$$(r_0, r_1) = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \sqrt{3}, 1 - \sqrt{3})$$



Subdivision Surfaces

Apply the same ideas to generating smooth surfaces.

General approach:

- 1. Start with a control **Polytope.**
- 2. At each iteration refine the polytope according to some rules.
- 3. Stop when resolution is high enough.



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Apply the same ideas to generating smooth surfaces.

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Subdivision Rules

There are **topological** and **geometric** changes.

Geometric:

How the positions of the vertices change

Topological:

How the connectivity changes



Subdivision Rules

There are **topological** and **geometric** changes.

Typically, both geometric and topological changes are local: New vertices, edges and faces depend on a small neighborhood of old ones.



Generalization of Chaikin's corner cutting to surfaces.



- 1. Consider the barycenter of every (old) face
- 2. Construct centroids between the center and old vertices.
- 3. Connect them in a natural way.
- 4. Restart.

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Generalization of cubic spline subdivision to surfaces.



- Approximating Scheme
- Small support stencil (just immediate neighbors)
- Limit surface is 2nd-order continuous except at extraordinary vertices
- Subdivision scheme used in all modern Pixar films

Generalization of cubic spline subdivision to surfaces.



- 1. Construct Face vertices: barycenters of old faces.
 - 2. Construct Edge vertices.
 - 3. Update existing vertices.
 - 4. Connect them in a natural way.
 - 4. Restart.

Generalization of cubic spline subdivision to surfaces.



At each iteration:

1. Construct Face vertices: barycenters of old faces.

2. Construct Edge vertices: average of the old edge vertices and the associated face vertices

Generalization of cubic spline subdivision to surfaces.



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Generalization of cubic spline subdivision to surfaces.



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Generalization of cubic spline subdivision to surfaces.



At each iteration:

1. Construct Face vertices: barycenters of old faces.

2. Construct Edge vertices.

3. Update existing vertices.

$$v_{\text{new}} = v_{\text{old}} + \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{j=1}^n (e_j - v_{\text{old}}) + \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{j=1}^n (f_j - v_{\text{old}})$$

e_j: **old** vertex incident along edge j*f_i*: **new** (orange) vertex on face j*n*: number of incident edges.

Generalization of cubic spline subdivision to surfaces.



- 1. Construct Face vertices.
- 2. Construct Edge vertices.
- 3. Update existing vertices.
- 4. Connect them in a natural way.
- 4. Restart.

Generalization of cubic spline subdivision to surfaces.



- 1. Construct Face vertices.
- 2. Construct Edge vertices.
- 3. Update existing vertices.
- 4. Connect them in a natural way.
- 4. Restart.





Triangle-based subdivision:



- 1. Construct Edge vertices.
- 2. Update existing vertices.
- 3. Connect them in a natural way.
- 4. Restart.

Triangle-based subdivision:



At each iteration:

1. Construct Edge vertices. $e_i = \frac{3}{8}v_{e1} + \frac{3}{8}v_{e2} + \frac{1}{8}v_{t1} + \frac{1}{8}v_{t2}$

Triangle-based subdivision:



At each iteration:

1. Construct Edge vertices. $e_i = \frac{3}{8}v_{e1} + \frac{3}{8}v_{e2} + \frac{1}{8}v_{t1} + \frac{1}{8}v_{t2}$

Triangle-based subdivision:



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Triangle-based subdivision:



At each iteration:

1. Construct Edge vertices.

2. Update existing vertices:

$$v_{\text{new}} = (1 - \alpha n)v_{\text{old}} + \alpha \sum_{j=1}^{n} e_j$$
 e_j : old vertex incident along edge j
 n : number of incident edges.
 $\alpha = \begin{cases} \frac{3}{16} & \text{if } n = 3\\ \frac{3}{8n} & \text{if } n > 3 \end{cases}$

Triangle-based subdivision:



At each iteration:

- 1. Construct Edge vertices.
- 2. Update existing vertices.
- 3. Connect them in a natural way.
- 4. Restart.

Attention: different update rules on the boundary.





Conclusions

Subdivision surfaces:

- Allow simpler modeling
 - Major strength: surfaces of arbitrary topology
 - Limit surfaces are smooth
 - Control mesh is typically simple and intuitive
- Adapt to user's needs
 - Render only at required level-of-detail
- Usability
 - Compact representation
 - Simple and efficient code



Extensions

Piecewise-smooth subdivision surfaces:



Allow some sharp edges to remain



Hoppe et al. Piecewise Smooth Surface Reconstruction, SIGGRAPH '94