



# Polygonal Meshes

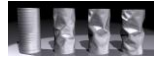
Thomas Funkhouser  
Princeton University  
COS 526, Fall 2012



## Digital Geometry Processing

Processing of 3D surfaces

- Creation, acquisition
- Storage, transmission
- Editing, animation, simulation
- Manufacture



Applications

- Movies, games
- Computer-aided design
- Medicine, biology
- Art, history



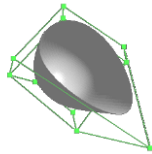
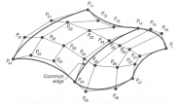
Sweldens



## Digital Geometry Processing

Many possible surface representations

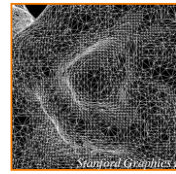
- Polygonal meshes
- Parametric surfaces
- Subdivision surfaces
- Implicit surfaces
- etc.



## Digital Geometry Processing

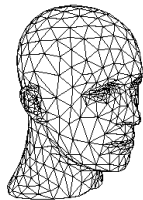
Let's focus on 3D polygonal meshes

- Simple, common representation
- Rendering with hardware support
- Output of many acquisition tools
- Input to many simulation/analysis tools



## 3D Polygonal Meshes

Set of polygonal faces representing a 2D surface embedded in 3D

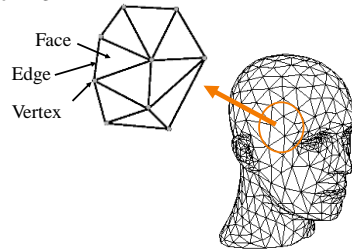


Zorin & Schroeder, SIGGRAPH 99, Course Notes



## 3D Polygonal Meshes

Set of polygonal faces representing a 2D surface embedded in 3D



Zorin & Schroeder, SIGGRAPH 99, Course Notes

## Outline



- Acquisition
- Processing
- Representation

## Outline



- Acquisition ←
- Processing
- Representation

## Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



### Interactive modeling

- Polygon editors
- Interchange formats

### Scanners

- Laser range scanners
- CAT, MRI, etc. (isosurfaces)

### Simulations

- Physical processes

## Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



### Interactive modeling

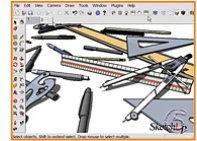
- Polygon editors
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### Scanners

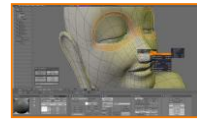
- Laser range scanners
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### Simulations

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Sketchup



Blender

## Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



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Princeton Shape Benchmark

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Digital Michelangelo Project  
Stanford

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Large Geometric Model Repository  
Georgia Tech

## Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



### Interactive modeling

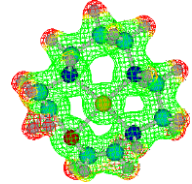
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MIT

## Outline



### Acquisition

### Processing ←

### Representation

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Storage

- Compression
- Transmission

### Analysis

- Parameterization
- Differential geometry
- Feature detection
- Segmentation

### Editing

- Smoothing, sharpening, etc.
- Deformation
- Completion

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



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Lossy Compression  
(Simplification)

Garland

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



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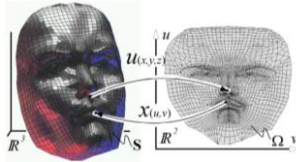


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Sheffer

## Polygonal Mesh Processing

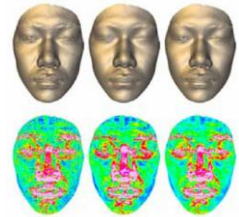


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Novatnek et al.

## Polygonal Mesh Processing

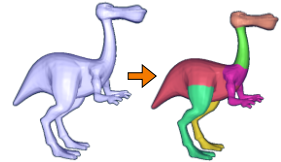


### Storage

- Compression
- Transmission

### Analysis

- Parameterization
- Differential geometry
- Feature detection
- Segmentation



### Editing

- Smoothing, sharpening, etc.
- Deformation
- Completion

Katz & Tal

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



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Smoothing

### Editing

- Smoothing, sharpening, etc.
- Deformation
- Completion



Sharpening

Desbrun

## Polygonal Mesh Processing

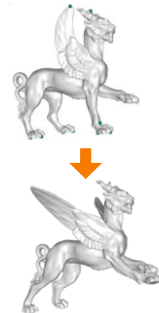


### Storage

- Compression
- Transmission

### Analysis

- Parameterization
- Differential geometry
- Feature detection
- Segmentation



### Editing

- Smoothing, sharpening, etc.
- Deformation
- Completion

Sheffer

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Storage

- Compression
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### Analysis

- Parameterization
- Differential geometry
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- Smoothing, sharpening, etc.
- Deformation
- **Completion**



Podolak

## Outline



Acquisition

Processing

**Representation** ←

## Polygon Mesh Representation

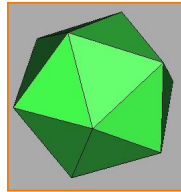


Data structures determine algorithms

- Data structure must support key operations of algorithm efficiently

Examples:

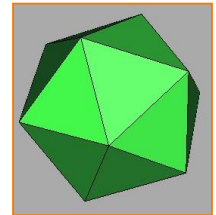
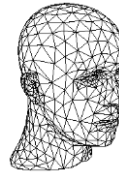
- Drawing a mesh
- Removing a vertex
- Computing per-vertex normals



## Polygon Mesh Representation



Important properties of mesh representation?



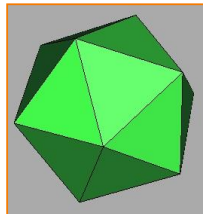
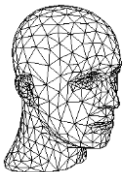
Different data structures for different algorithms

## Polygon Mesh Representation



Important properties of mesh representation?

- Efficient traversal of topology
- Efficient use of memory

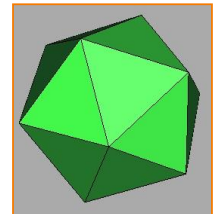


## Polygon Mesh Representation



Possible data structures

- List of independent faces
- Vertex and face tables
- Adjacency lists
- Winged edge
- Half edge
- etc.

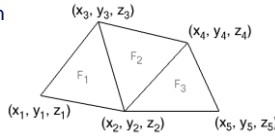
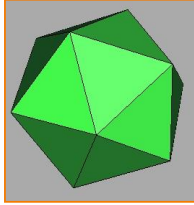


## Independent Faces



Each face lists vertex coordinates

- Redundant vertices
- No topology information



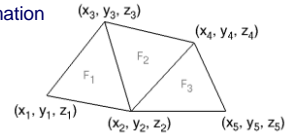
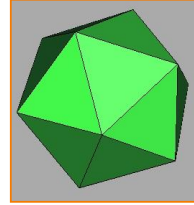
FACE TABLE			
F <sub>1</sub>	(x <sub>1</sub> , y <sub>1</sub> , z <sub>1</sub> )	(x <sub>2</sub> , y <sub>2</sub> , z <sub>2</sub> )	(x <sub>3</sub> , y <sub>3</sub> , z <sub>3</sub> )
F <sub>2</sub>	(x <sub>2</sub> , y <sub>2</sub> , z <sub>2</sub> )	(x <sub>4</sub> , y <sub>4</sub> , z <sub>4</sub> )	(x <sub>3</sub> , y <sub>3</sub> , z <sub>3</sub> )
F <sub>3</sub>	(x <sub>2</sub> , y <sub>2</sub> , z <sub>2</sub> )	(x <sub>5</sub> , y <sub>5</sub> , z <sub>5</sub> )	(x <sub>4</sub> , y <sub>4</sub> , z <sub>4</sub> )

## Vertex and Face Tables



Each face lists vertex references

- Shared vertices
- Still no topology information



VERTEX TABLE			
V <sub>1</sub>	x <sub>1</sub>	y <sub>1</sub>	z <sub>1</sub>
V <sub>2</sub>	x <sub>2</sub>	y <sub>2</sub>	z <sub>2</sub>
V <sub>3</sub>	x <sub>3</sub>	y <sub>3</sub>	z <sub>3</sub>
V <sub>4</sub>	x <sub>4</sub>	y <sub>4</sub>	z <sub>4</sub>
V <sub>5</sub>	x <sub>5</sub>	y <sub>5</sub>	z <sub>5</sub>

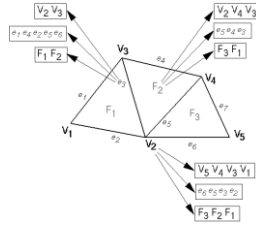
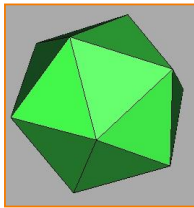
FACE TABLE			
F <sub>1</sub>	V <sub>1</sub>	V <sub>2</sub>	V <sub>3</sub>
F <sub>2</sub>	V <sub>2</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>	V <sub>3</sub>
F <sub>3</sub>	V <sub>2</sub>	V <sub>5</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>

## Adjacency Lists



Store all vertex, edge, and face adjacencies

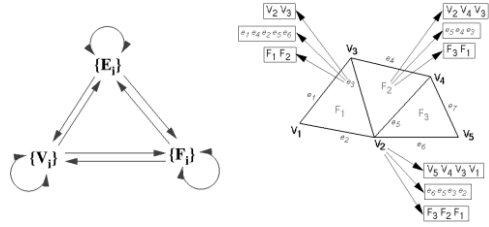
- Efficient topology traversal
- Extra storage



## Partial Adjacency Lists



Can we store only some adjacency relationships and derive others?

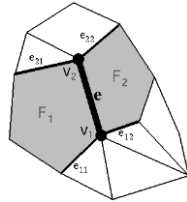
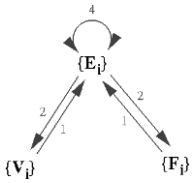


## Winged Edge



Adjacency encoded in edges

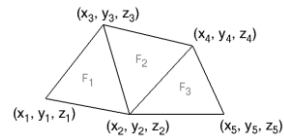
- All adjacencies in O(1) time
- Little extra storage (fixed records)
- Arbitrary polygons



## Winged Edge



Example:



VERTEX TABLE			
V <sub>1</sub>	x <sub>1</sub>	y <sub>1</sub>	z <sub>1</sub>
V <sub>2</sub>	x <sub>2</sub>	y <sub>2</sub>	z <sub>2</sub>
V <sub>3</sub>	x <sub>3</sub>	y <sub>3</sub>	z <sub>3</sub>
V <sub>4</sub>	x <sub>4</sub>	y <sub>4</sub>	z <sub>4</sub>
V <sub>5</sub>	x <sub>5</sub>	y <sub>5</sub>	z <sub>5</sub>

EDGE TABLE			
e <sub>11</sub>	V <sub>1</sub>	V <sub>3</sub>	F <sub>1</sub>
e <sub>12</sub>	V <sub>1</sub>	V <sub>2</sub>	F <sub>1</sub>
e <sub>21</sub>	V <sub>2</sub>	V <sub>3</sub>	F <sub>2</sub>
e <sub>22</sub>	V <sub>2</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>	F <sub>2</sub>
e <sub>31</sub>	V <sub>3</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>	F <sub>3</sub>
e <sub>32</sub>	V <sub>3</sub>	V <sub>5</sub>	F <sub>3</sub>
e <sub>41</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>	V <sub>5</sub>	F <sub>3</sub>
e <sub>42</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>	V <sub>3</sub>	F <sub>2</sub>

FACE TABLE	
F <sub>1</sub>	e <sub>11</sub>
F <sub>2</sub>	e <sub>21</sub>
F <sub>3</sub>	e <sub>31</sub>

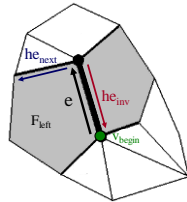
## Half Edge



Adjacency encoded in edges

- All adjacencies in  $O(1)$  time
- Little extra storage (fixed records)
- Arbitrary polygons

Similar to winged-edge,  
except adjacency  
encoded in half-edges



## Summary



Polygonal mesh overview

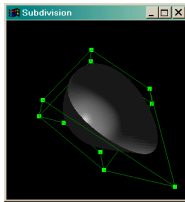
- Acquisition
- Processing
- Representation

## Summary



Do polygonal mesh reps have these properties?

- Easy to acquire
- Accurate
- Concise
- Efficient display
- Efficient intersections
- Efficient deformations
- Efficient topology changes
- Guaranteed validity
- Guaranteed smoothness
- Intuitive editing controls



## Summary



Next time: Laplacian Surface Editing

