



# Implicit Surfaces & Solid Representations

COS 426, Spring 2017  
Princeton University

# 3D Object Representations

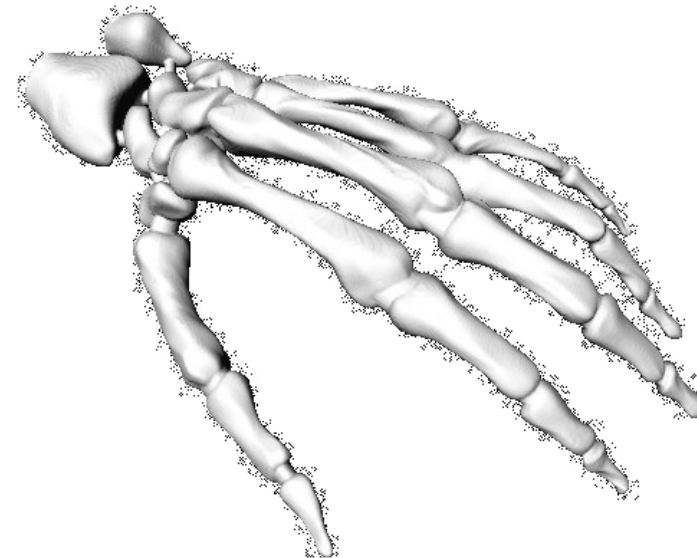


- Raw data
  - Range image
  - Point cloud
- Surfaces
  - Polygonal mesh
  - Subdivision
  - Parametric
  - **Implicit**
- Solids
  - Voxels
  - BSP tree
  - CSG
  - Sweep
- High-level structures
  - Scene graph
  - Application specific

# 3D Object Representations



- Desirable properties of an object representation
  - Easy to acquire
  - Accurate
  - Concise
  - Intuitive editing
  - Efficient editing
  - Efficient display
  - Efficient intersections
  - Guaranteed validity
  - Guaranteed smoothness
  - etc.

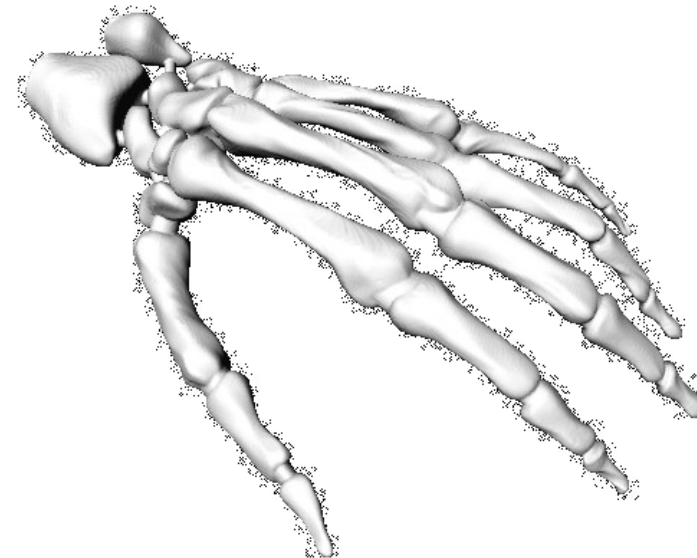


Large Geometric Model Repository  
Georgia Tech

# 3D Object Representations



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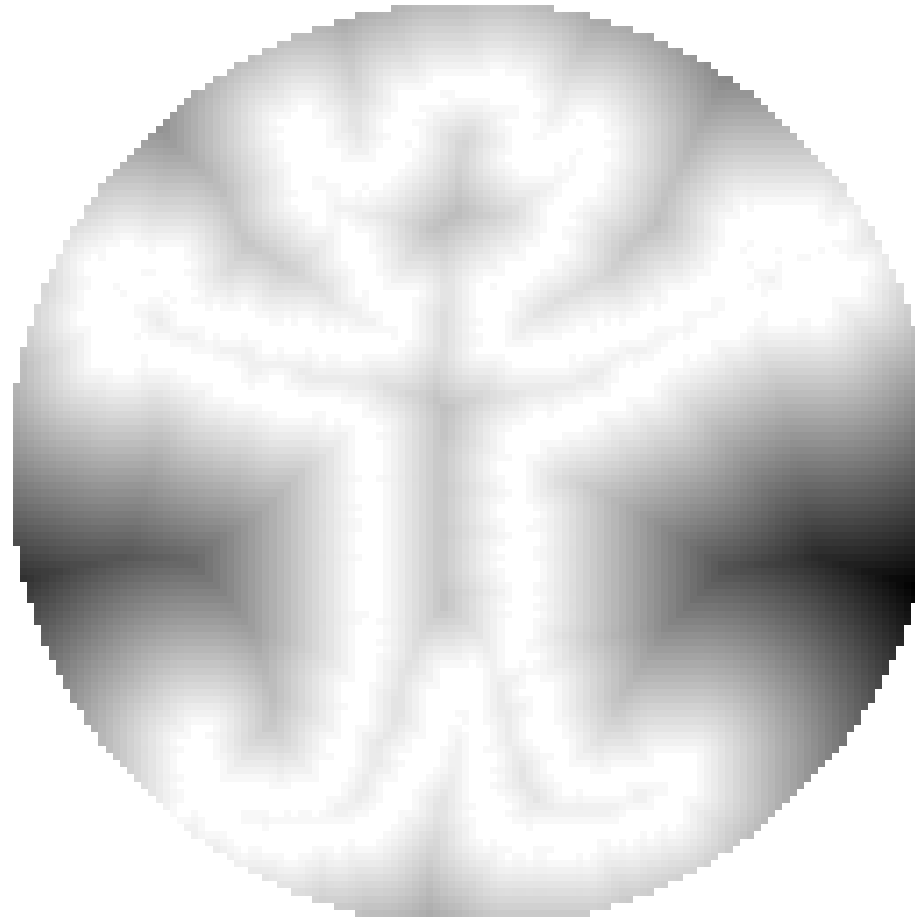


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# Implicit Surfaces



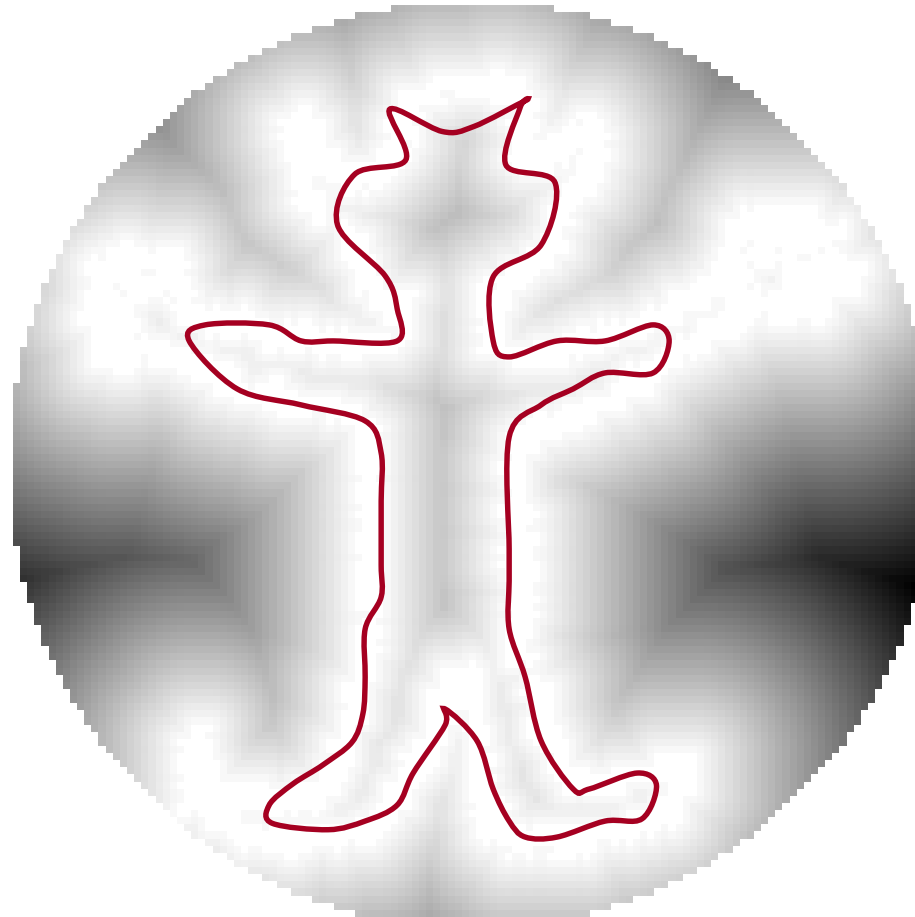
- Represent surface with function over all space



# Implicit Surfaces



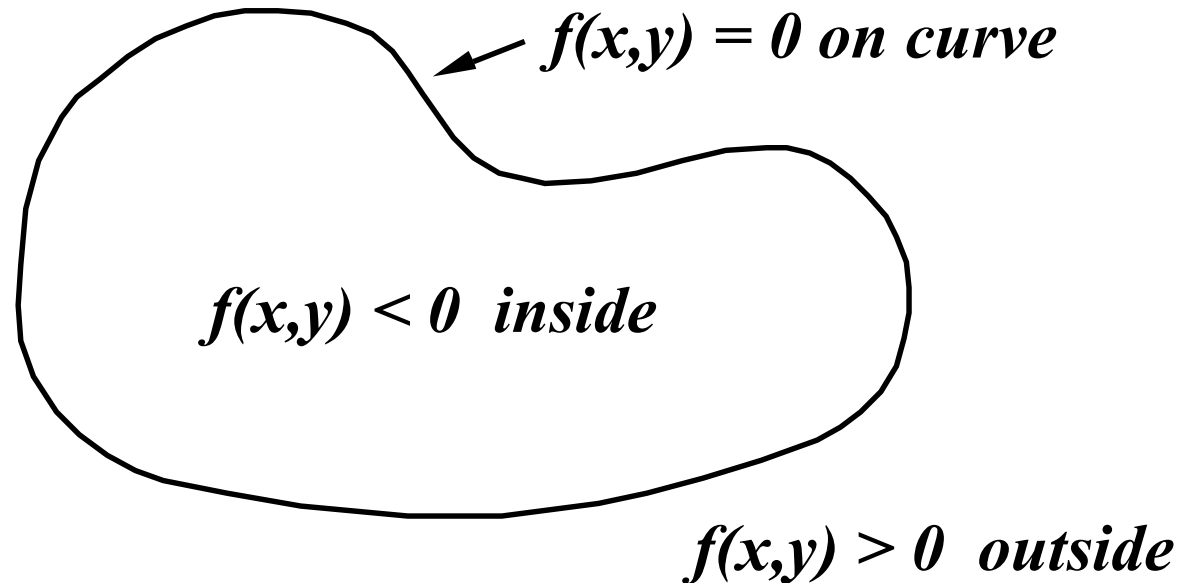
- Surface defined implicitly by function



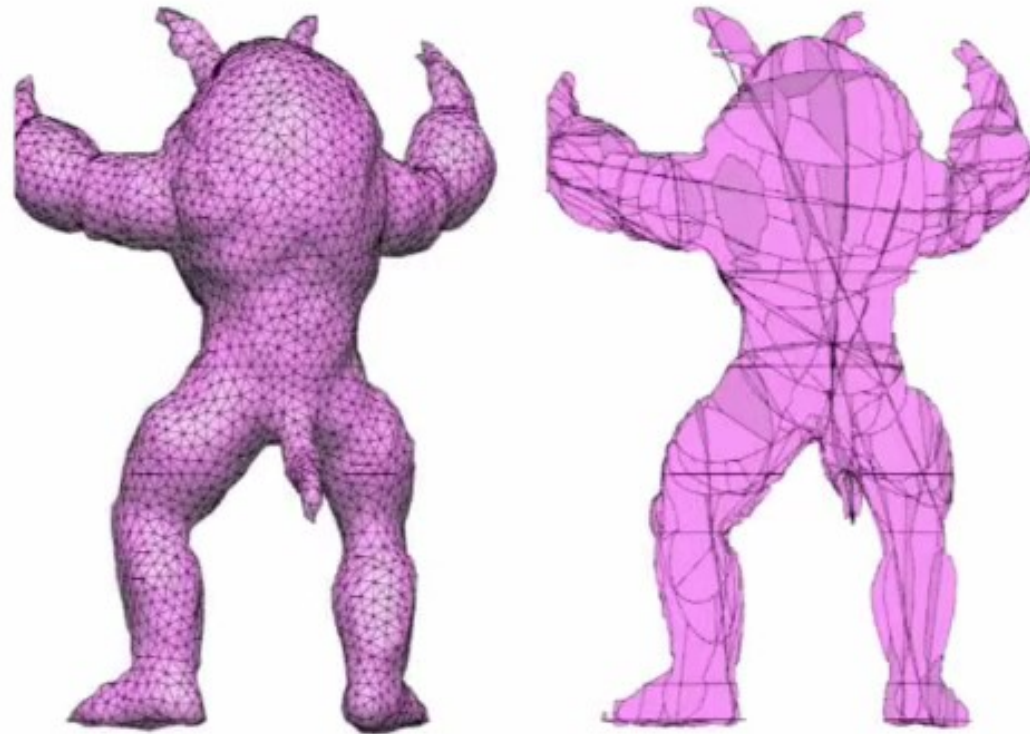
# Implicit Surfaces



- Surface defined implicitly by function:
  - $f(x, y, z) = 0$  (on surface)
  - $f(x, y, z) < 0$  (inside)
  - $f(x, y, z) > 0$  (outside)



# Applications



Online Reconstruction of 3D Objects from Arbitrary Cross-Sections  
[Bermano et al. 2011]





## Display Signed Distance Field Slices



## Hierarchical *hp*-Adaptive Signed Distance Fields

Dan Koschier, Crispin Deul and Jan Bender

# Implicit Surfaces



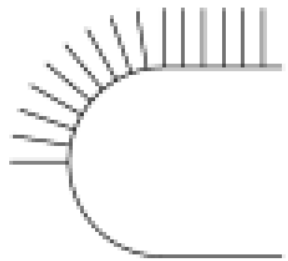
- Normals defined by partial derivatives

- Normal -  $N(x, y, z) = \text{normalize} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right) = \text{normalize}(\vec{\nabla} f)$

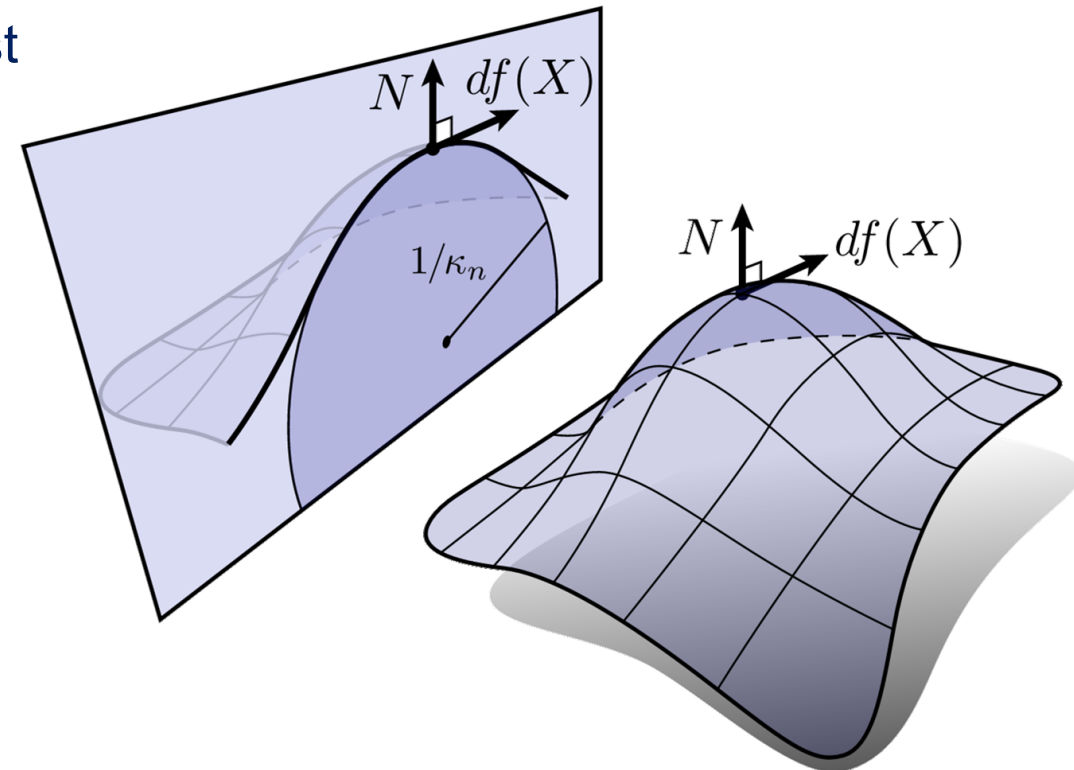
- Example: circle  $x^2 + y^2 - 3^2 = 0$

- Proof: straight forward with an arbitrary curve  $\Gamma(t)$  and the chain rule

- Intuition: Max change rate direction of  $f$  must be perpendicular to isosurface direction



Normals



# Implicit Surfaces

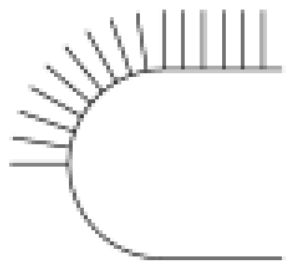


- Normals defined by partial derivatives

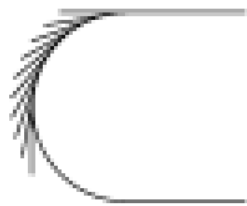
- Normal -  $N(x, y, z) = \text{normalize} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right) = \text{normalize}(\vec{\nabla} f)$

- Tangent –  $T = N_p \times N$

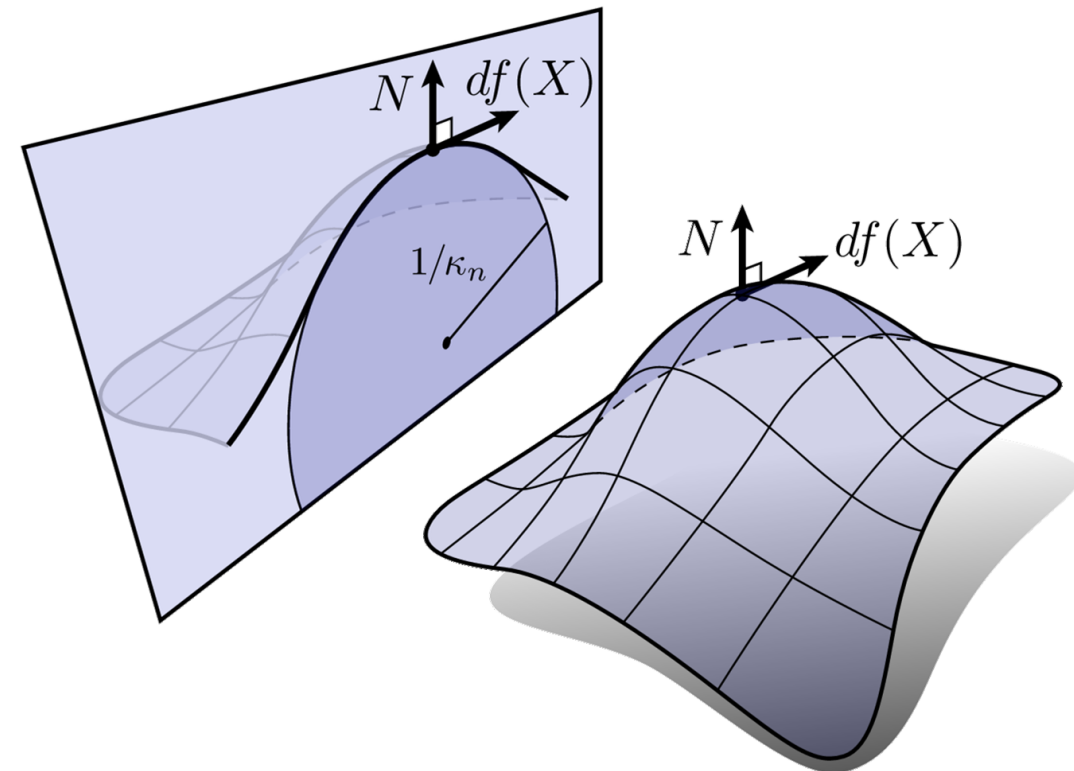
- on specific plane P, with normal  $N_p$
    - Otherwise infinite directions
    - Principal directions



Normals



Tangents



# Implicit Surfaces



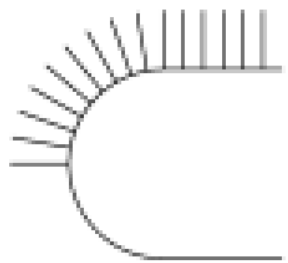
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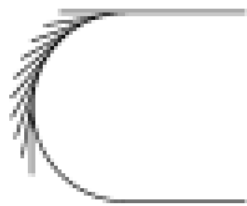
- Tangent –  $T = N_p \times N$

- Curvature – change of rate  $N$

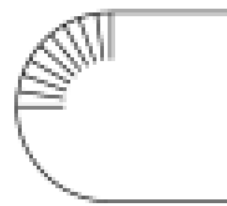
- Computation more involved
    - Through principal directions –  
A measure for convexity



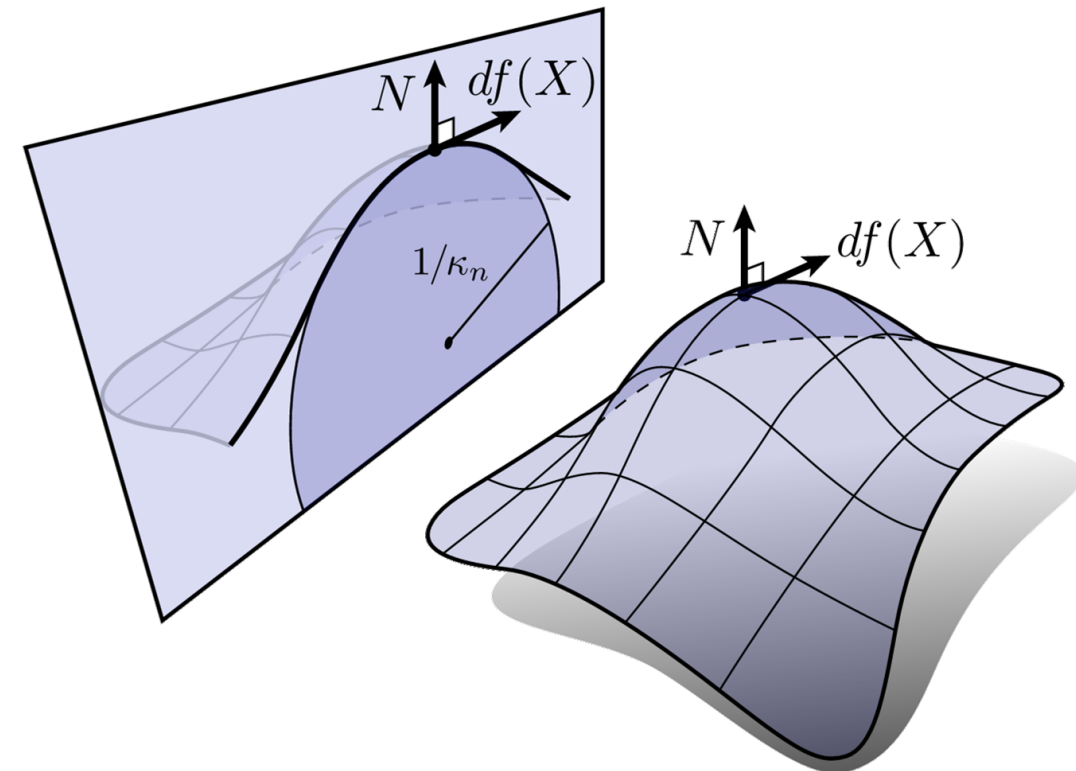
Normals



Tangents



Curvatures



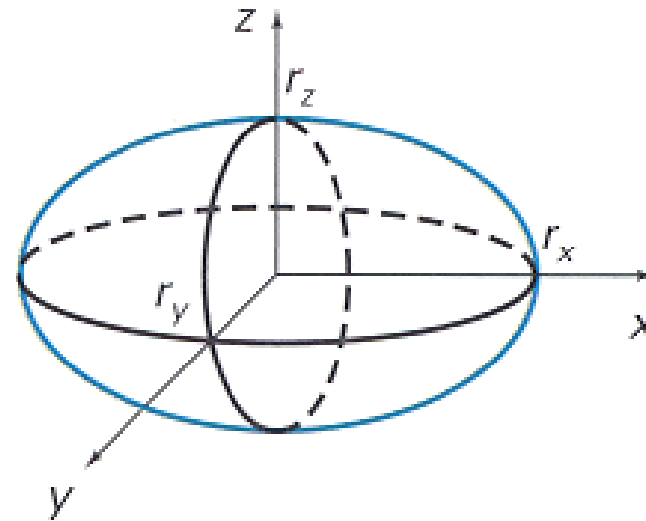
# Implicit Surface Properties



(1) Efficient check for whether point is inside

- Evaluate  $f(x,y,z)$  to see if point is inside/outside/on
- Example: ellipsoid

$$f(x, y, z) = \left(\frac{x}{r_x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y}{r_y}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{z}{r_z}\right)^2 - 1$$



*H&B Figure 10.10*

# Implicit Surface Properties



## (2) Efficient surface intersections

- Substitute to find intersections

$$\text{Ray: } P = P_0 + tV$$

$$\text{Sphere: } |P - O|^2 - r^2 = 0$$

Substituting for P, we get:

$$|P_0 + tV - O|^2 - r^2 = 0$$

Solve quadratic equation:

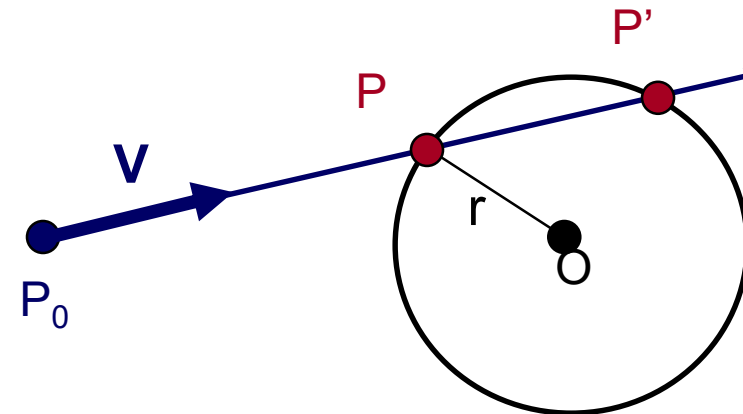
$$at^2 + bt + c = 0$$

where:

$$a = 1$$

$$b = 2V \cdot (P_0 - O)$$

$$c = |P_0 - O|^2 - r^2 = 0$$

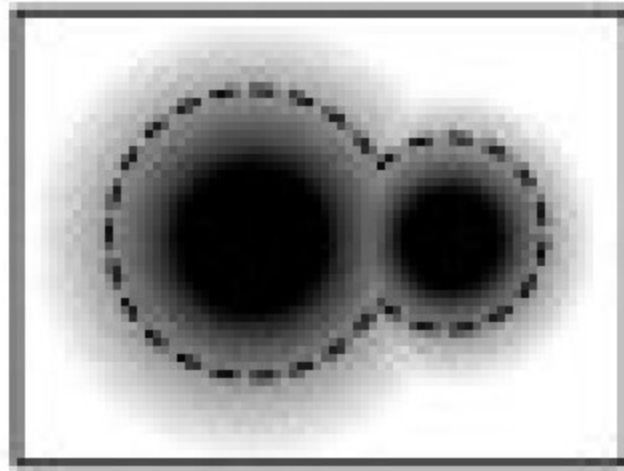


# Implicit Surface Properties

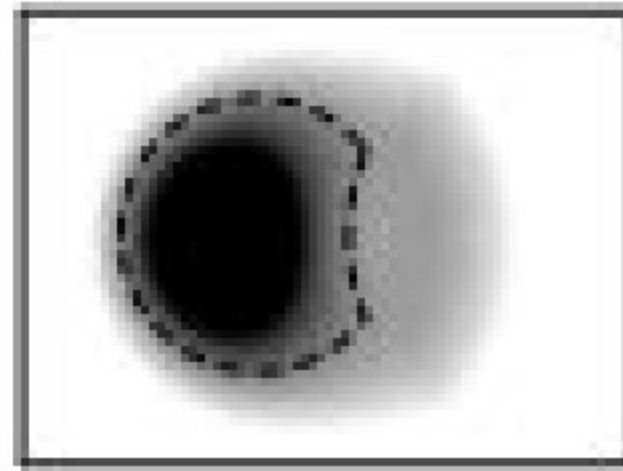


## (3) Efficient boolean operations (CSG)

- How would you implement:  
Union? Intersection? Difference?



Union



Difference

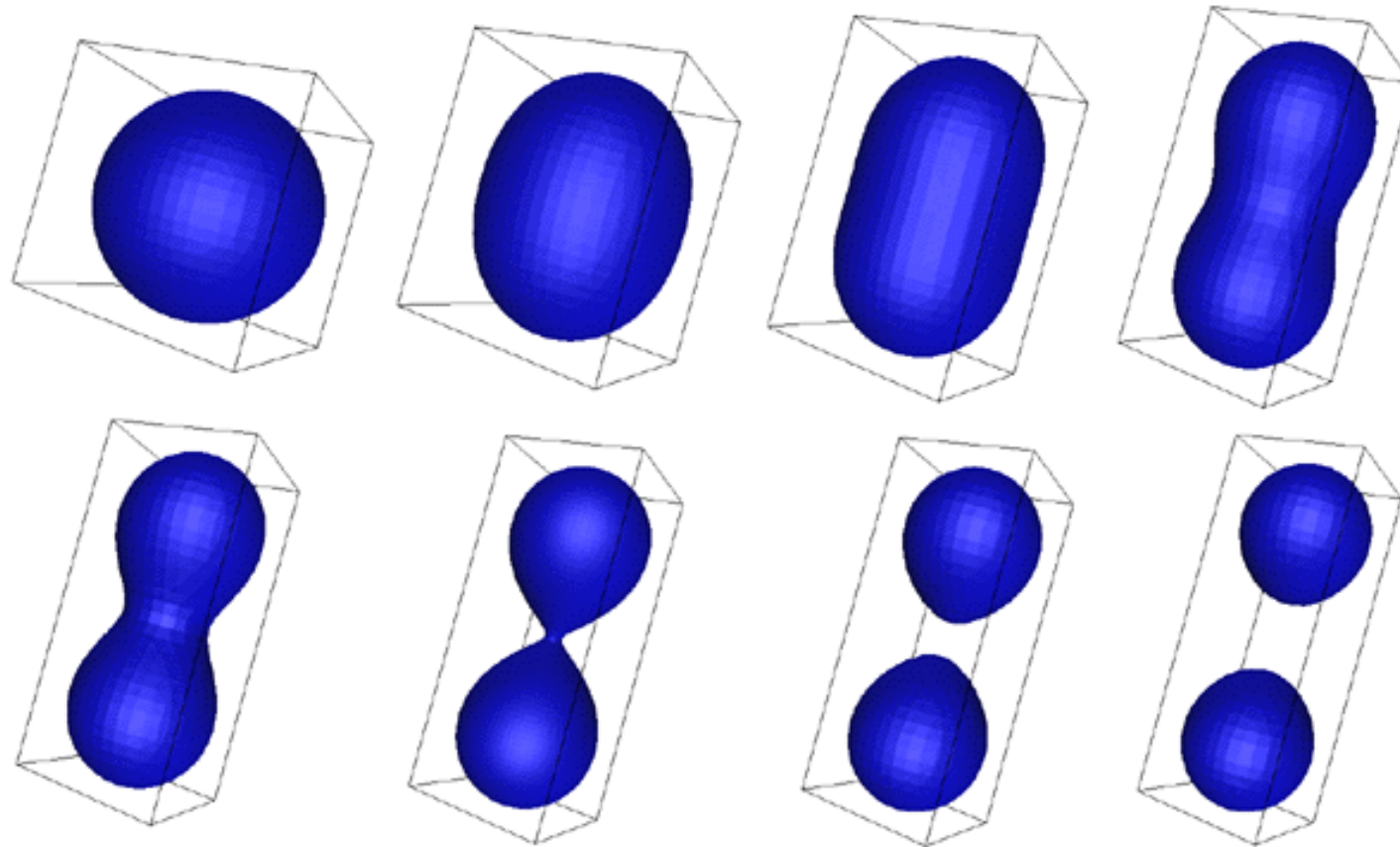


# Implicit Surface Properties



## (4) Efficient topology changes

- Surface is not represented explicitly!



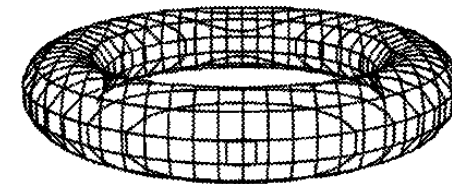
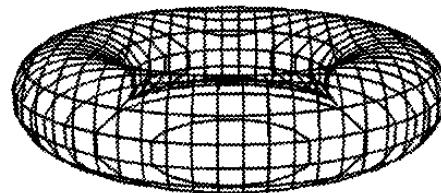
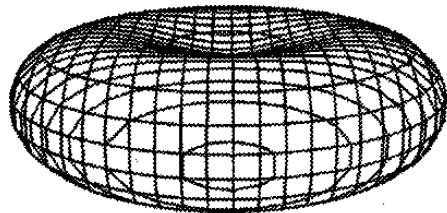
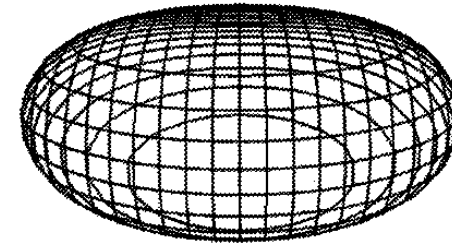
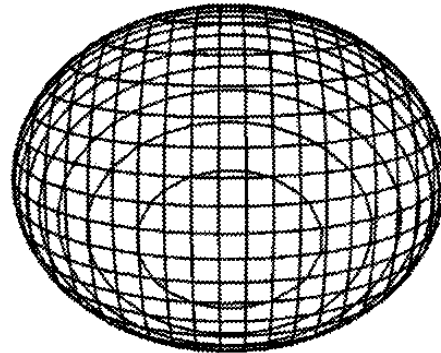
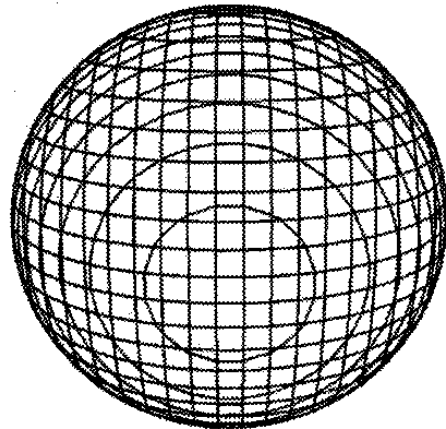
*Bourke*

# Implicit Surface Properties



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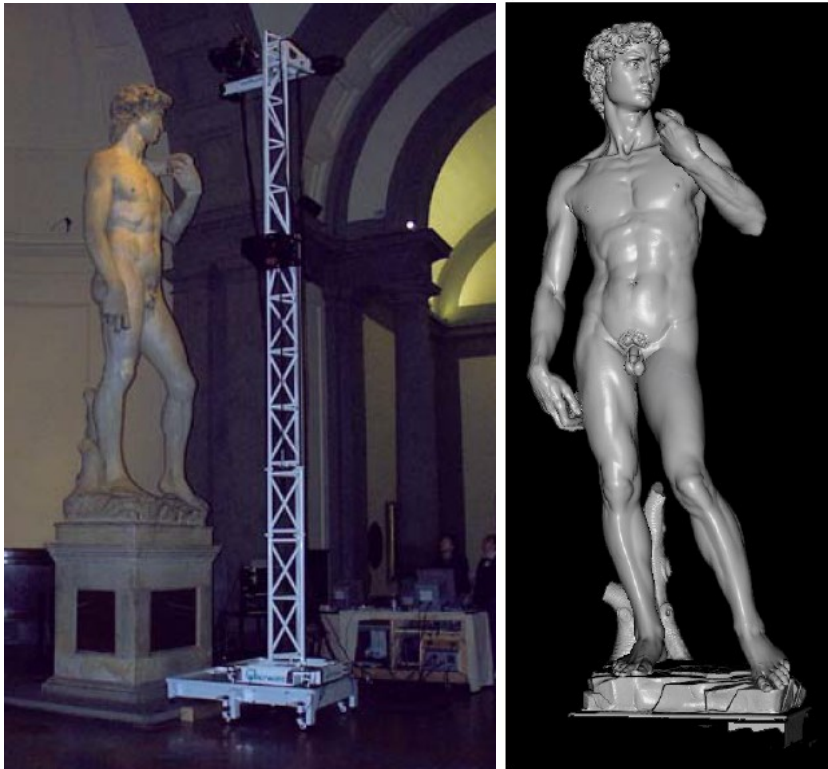


# Implicit Surface Properties

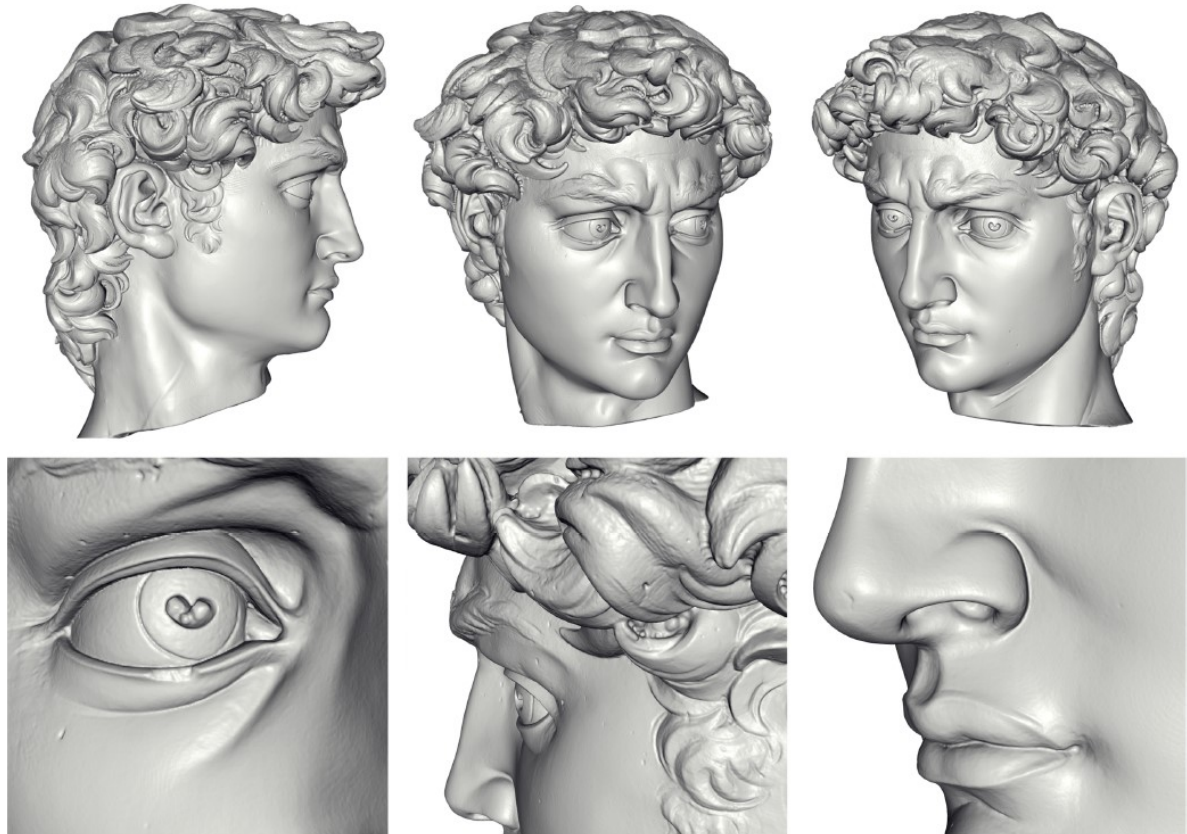


## (5) Computations in the volume

- Allows for continuity and smoothness
- Suitable for tasks such as reconstruction



1G sample points  $\rightarrow$  8M triangles



Poisson Surface Reconstruction [Kazhdan 06]

# Comparison to Parametric Surfaces



- Implicit
  - Efficient intersections & topology changes
- Parametric
  - Efficient “marching” along surface & rendering

# Implicit Surface Representations



- How do we define implicit function?
  - $f(x,y,z) = ?$

# Implicit Surface Representations



- How do we define implicit function?
  - Algebraics
  - Voxels
  - Basis functions
  - Others

# Implicit Surface Representations



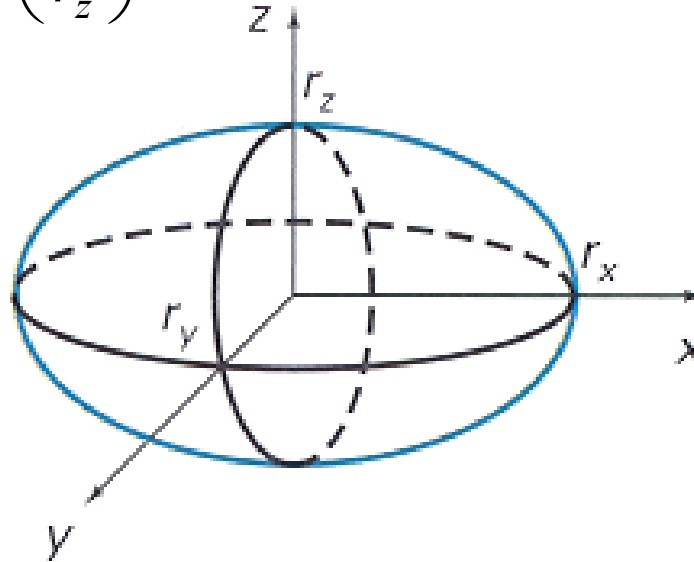
- How do we define implicit function?
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# Algebraic Surfaces



- Implicit function is polynomial
  - $f(x,y,z)=ax^d+by^d+cz^d+dx^{d-1}y+dx^{d-1}z +dy^{d-1}x+...$

$$f(x, y, z) = \left(\frac{x}{r_x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y}{r_y}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{z}{r_z}\right)^2 - 1$$



H&B Figure 10.10



# Algebraic Surfaces



- Most common form: quadrics

- $f(x,y,z)=ax^2+by^2+cz^2+2dxy+2eyz+2fxz+2gx+2hy+2jz+k$

- Examples

- Sphere
  - Ellipsoid
  - Paraboloid
  - Hyperboloid

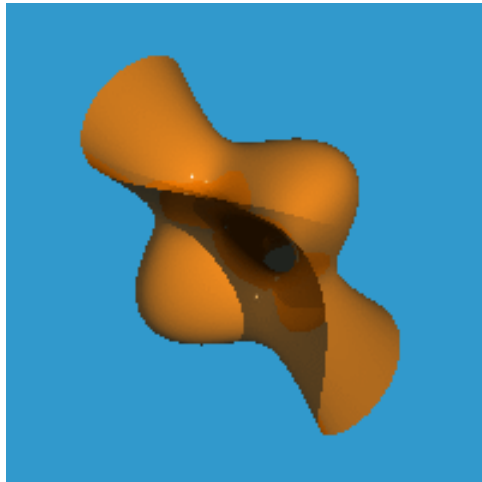


<http://tutorial.math.lamar.edu/Classes/CalcIII/QuadricSurfaces.aspx>

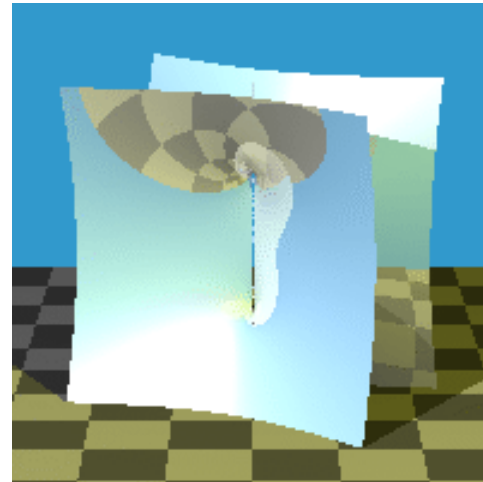
# Algebraic Surfaces



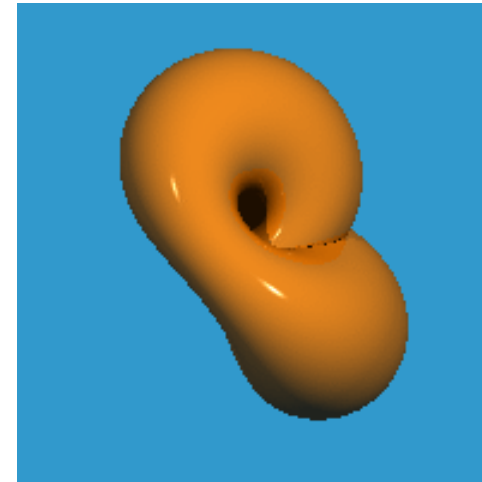
- Higher degree algebraics



Cubic



Quartic

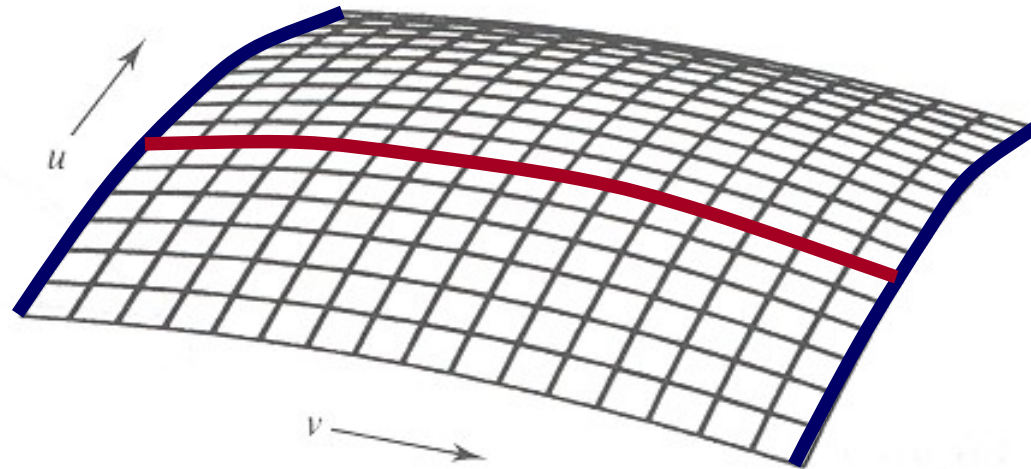


Degree six

# Algebraic Surfaces



- Equivalent parametric surface
  - Tensor product patch of degree  $m$  and  $n$  curves yields algebraic function with degree  $2mn$

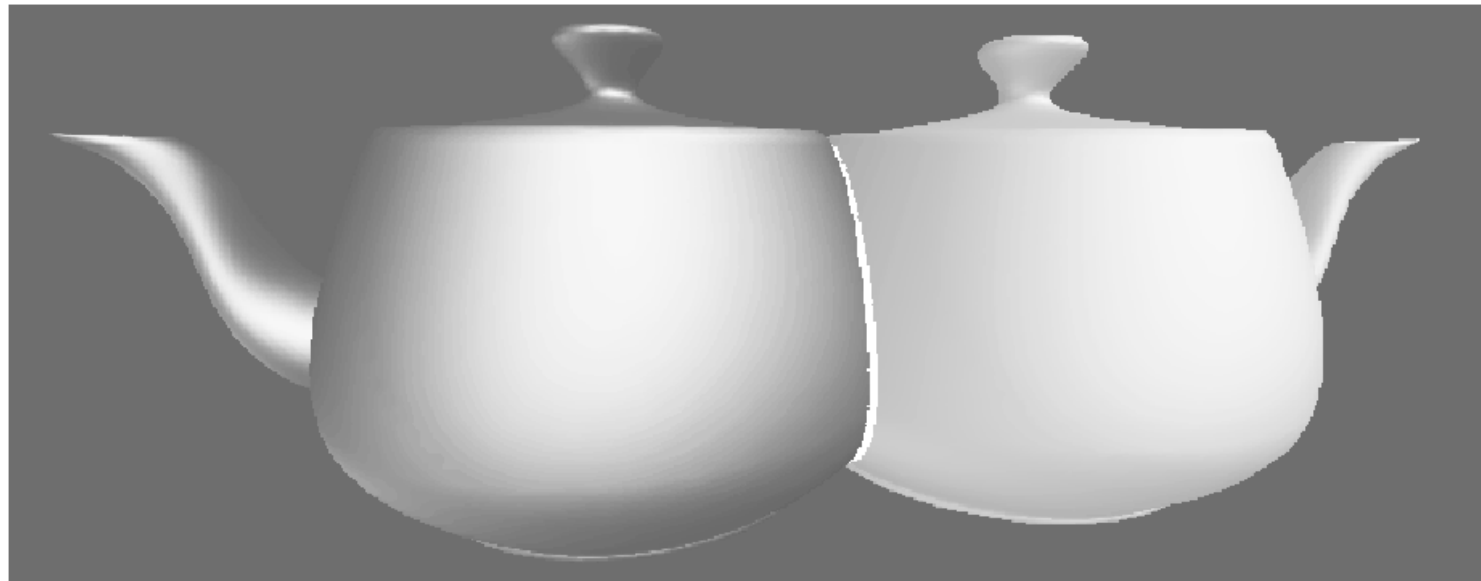


Bicubic patch has degree 18!

# Algebraic Surfaces



- Intersection
  - Intersection of degree  $m$  and  $n$  algebraic surfaces yields curve with degree  $mn$

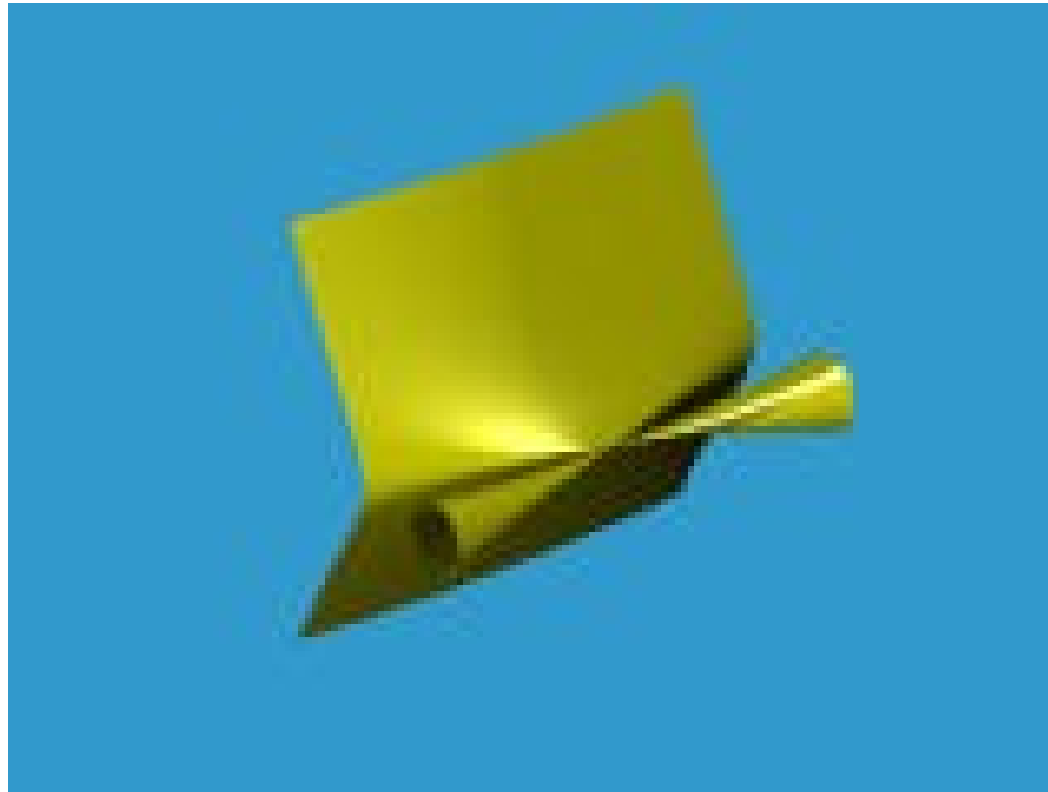


Intersection of bicubic patches has degree 324!

# Algebraic Surfaces



- Function extends to infinity
  - Must trim to get desired patch (this is difficult!)



# Implicit Surface Representations

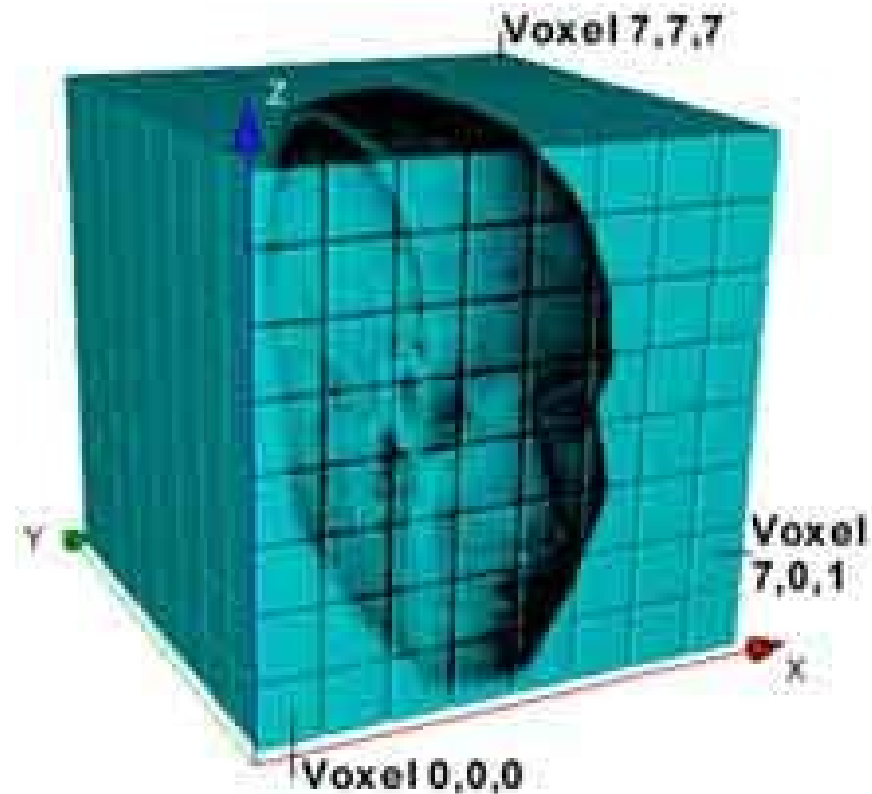


- How do we define implicit function?
  - Algebraics
  - Voxels
  - Basis functions

# Voxels



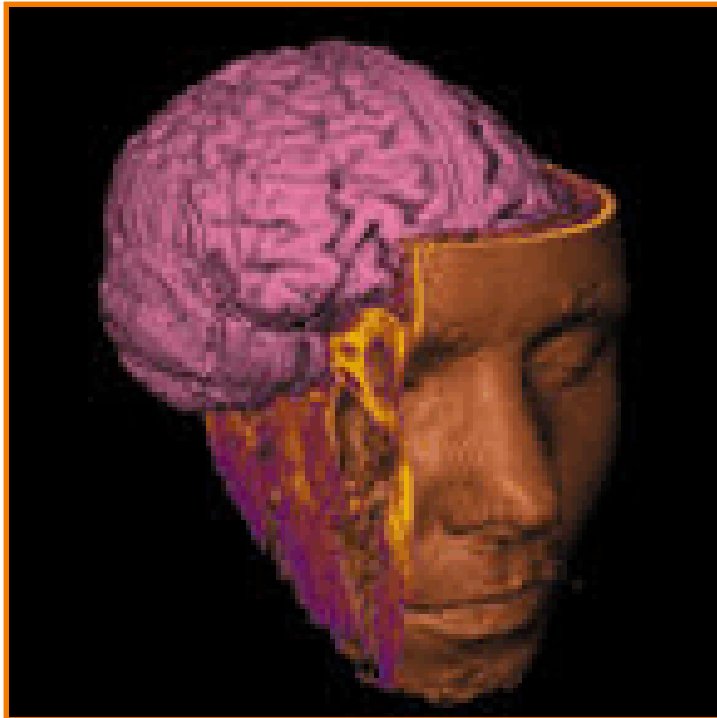
- Regular array of 3D samples (like image)
  - Samples are called *voxels* (“volume pixels”)



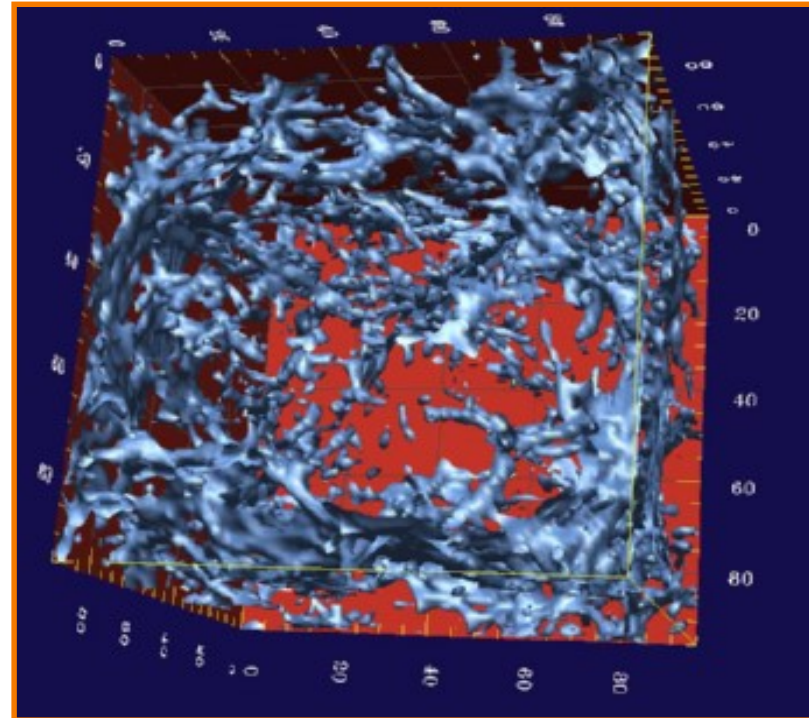
# Voxels



- Example isosurfaces



SUNY Stony Brook



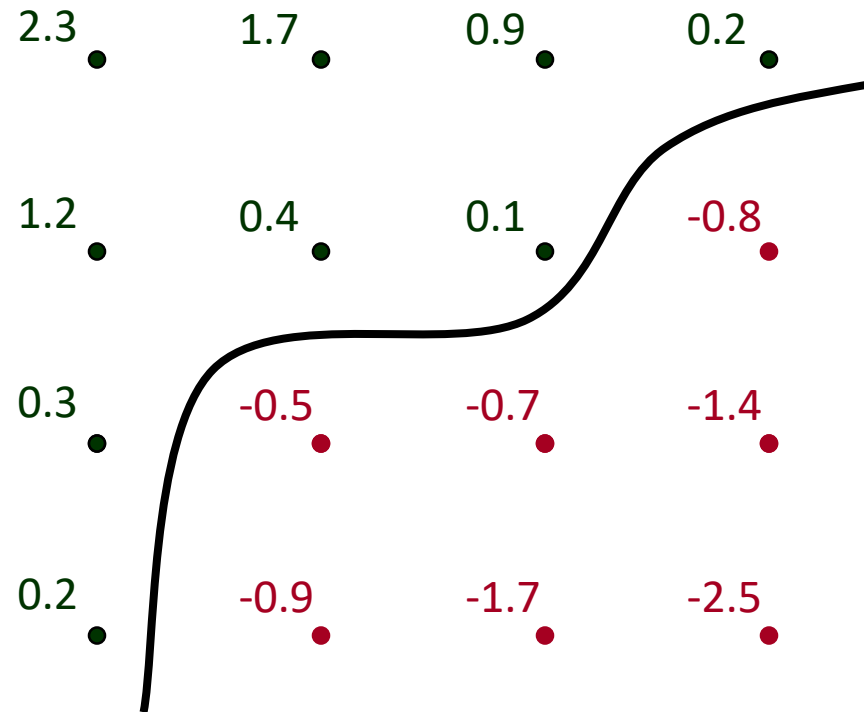
Princeton University



# Voxels



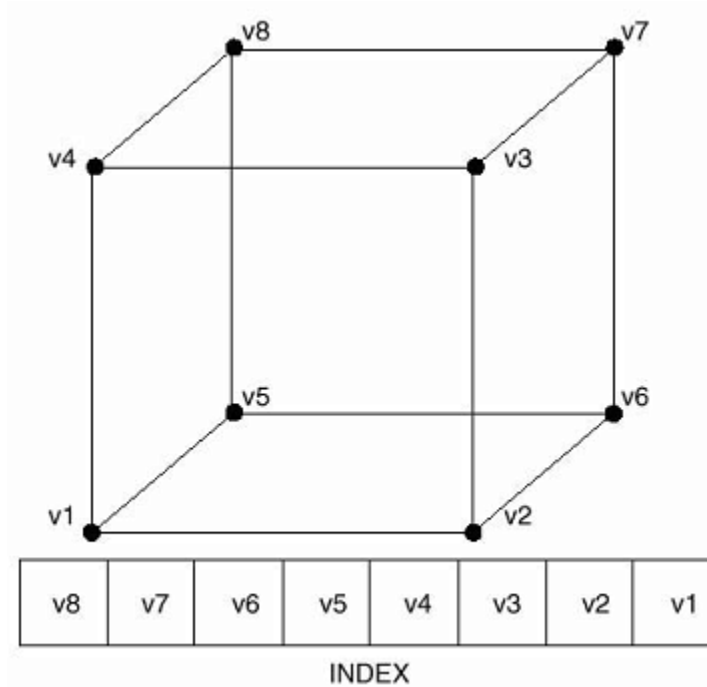
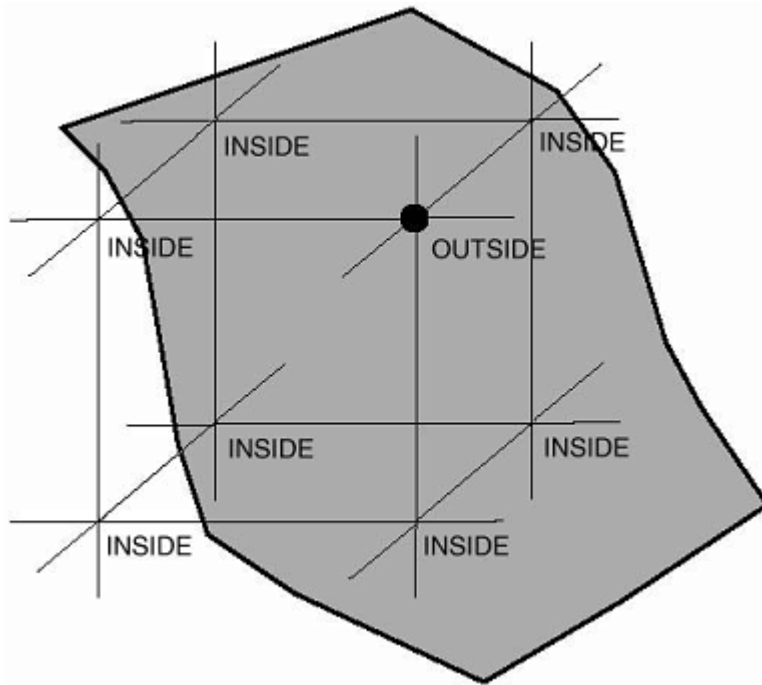
- Regular array of 3D samples (like image)
  - Applying reconstruction filter (e.g. trilinear) yields  $f(x,y,z)$
  - Isosurface at  $f(x,y,z) = 0$  defines surface



# Voxels



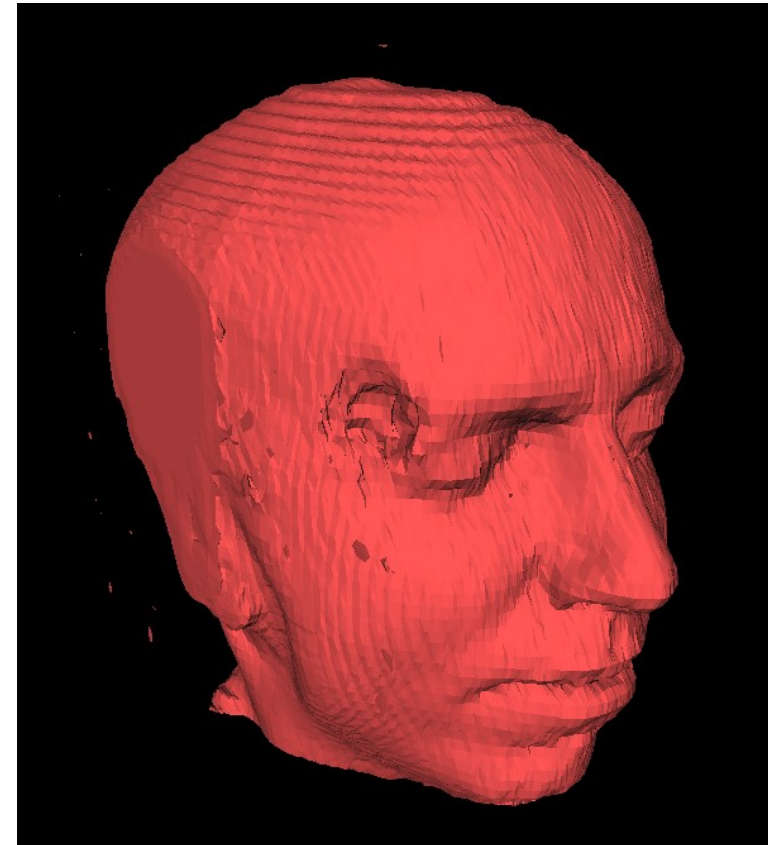
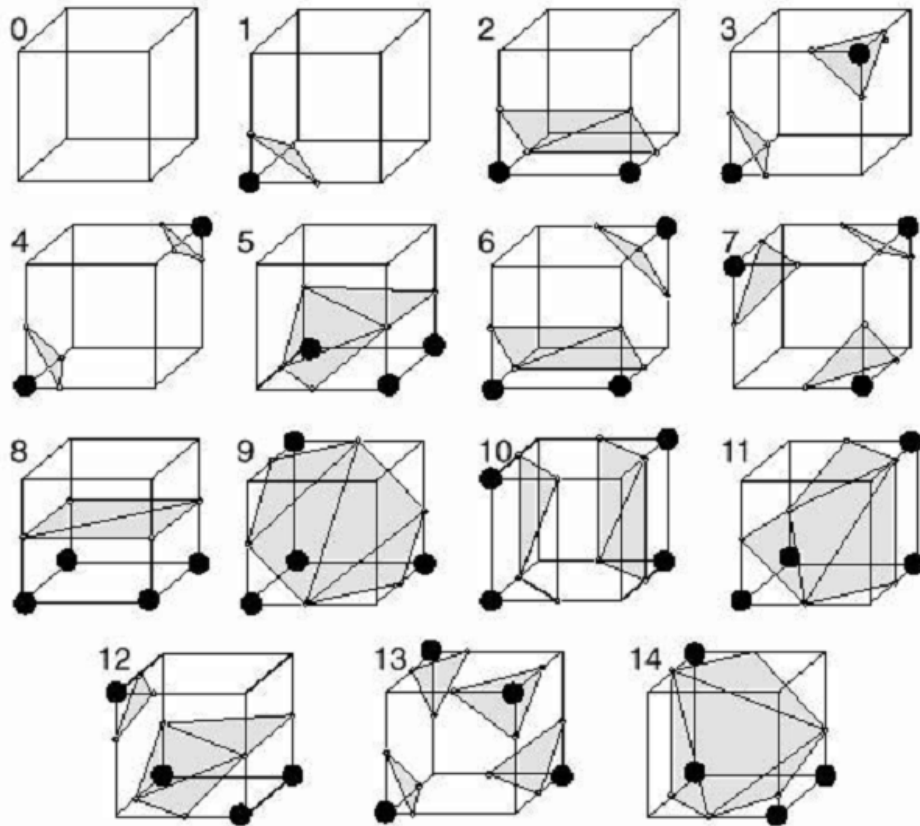
- Iso-surface extraction algorithm
  - e.g., Marching cubes



# Voxels



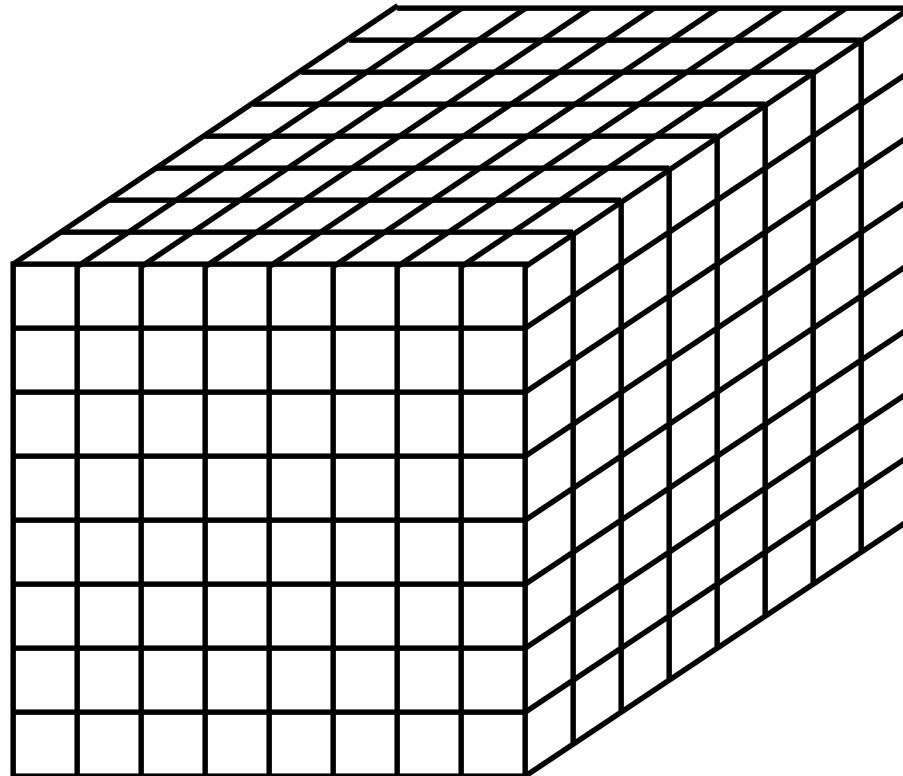
- Iso-surface extraction algorithm
  - e.g., Marching cubes (15 cases)



# Voxel Storage



- $O(n^3)$  storage for  $n \times n \times n$  grid
  - 1 billion voxels for 1000 x 1000 x 1000



# Implicit Surface Representations



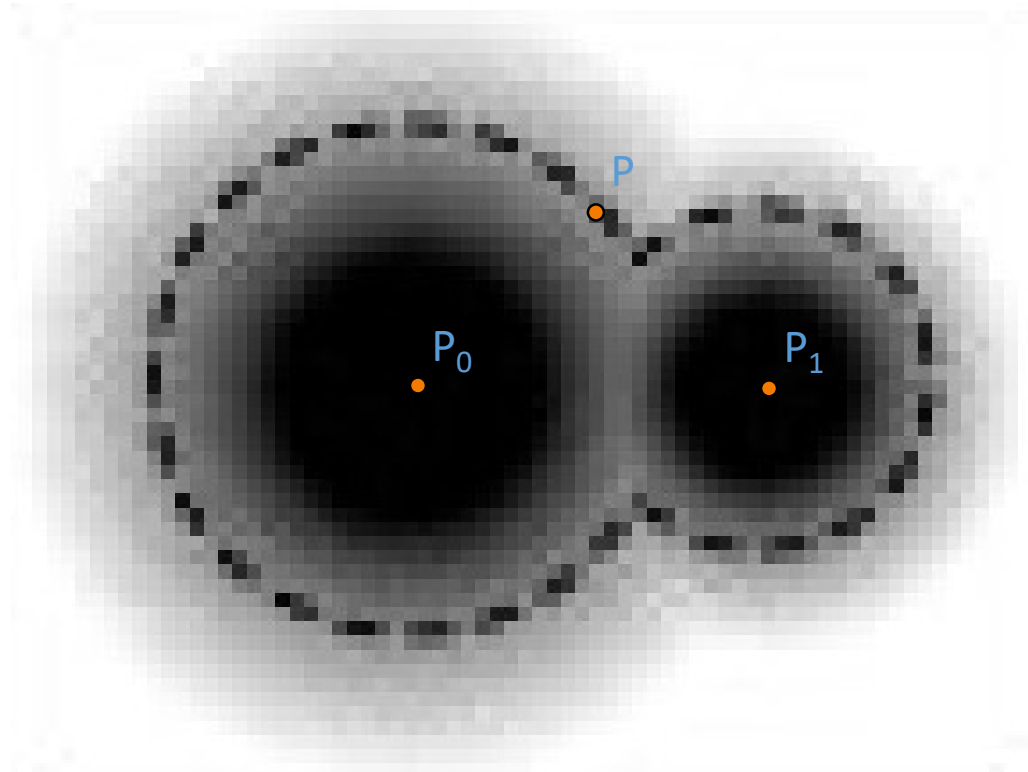
- How do we define implicit function?
  - Algebraics
  - Voxels
  - Basis functions

# Basis functions



- Implicit function is sum of basis functions
  - Example:

$$f(P) = a_0 e^{-b_0 d(P, P_0)^2} + a_1 e^{-b_1 d(P, P_1)^2} + \dots - \tau$$

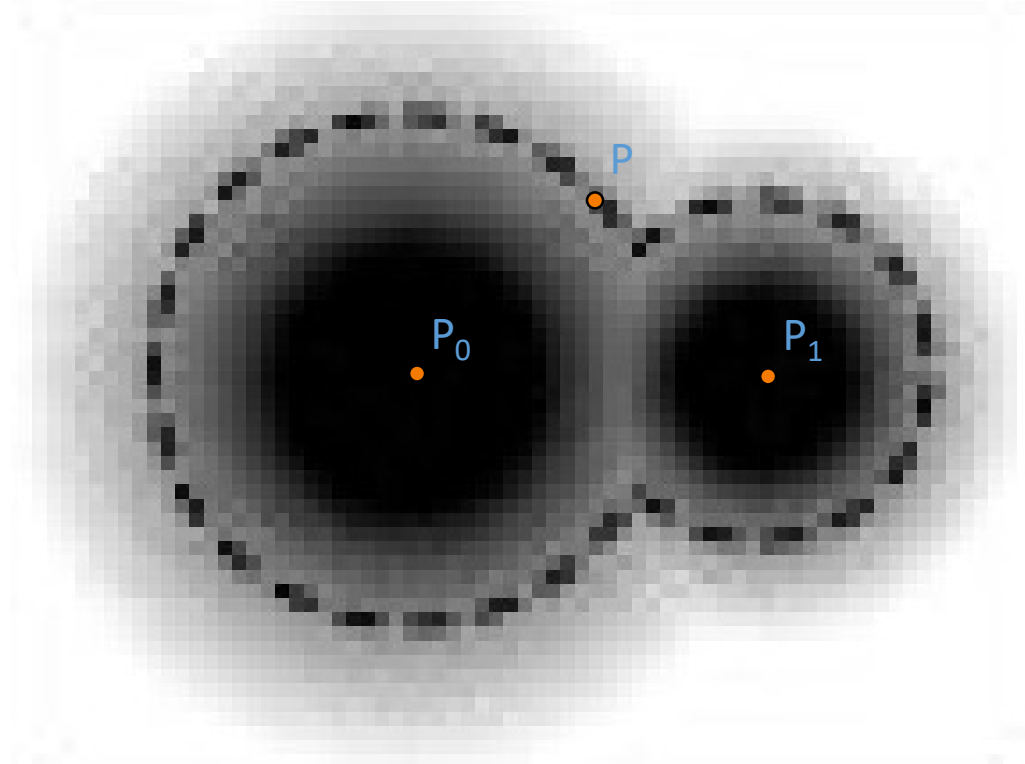


# Blobby Models



- Implicit function is sum of Gaussians

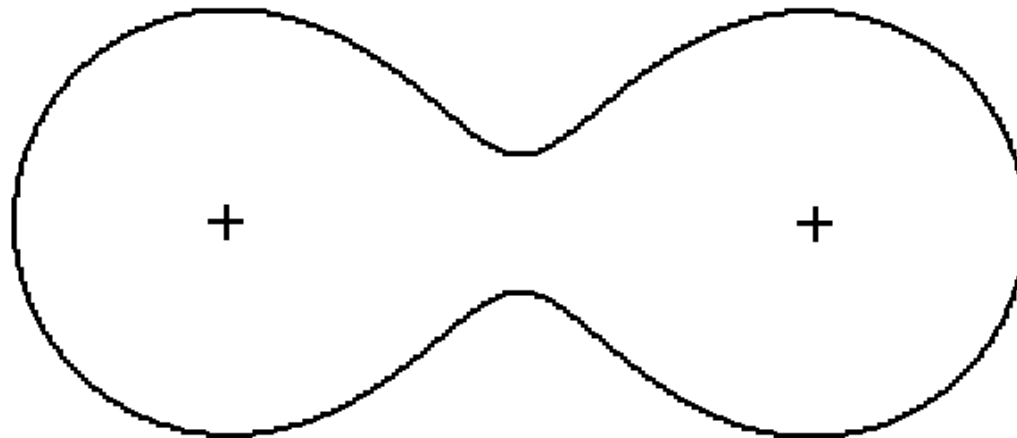
$$f(P) = a_0 e^{-b_0 d(P, P_0)^2} + a_1 e^{-b_1 d(P, P_1)^2} + \dots - \tau$$



# Blobby Models



- Sum of two blobs



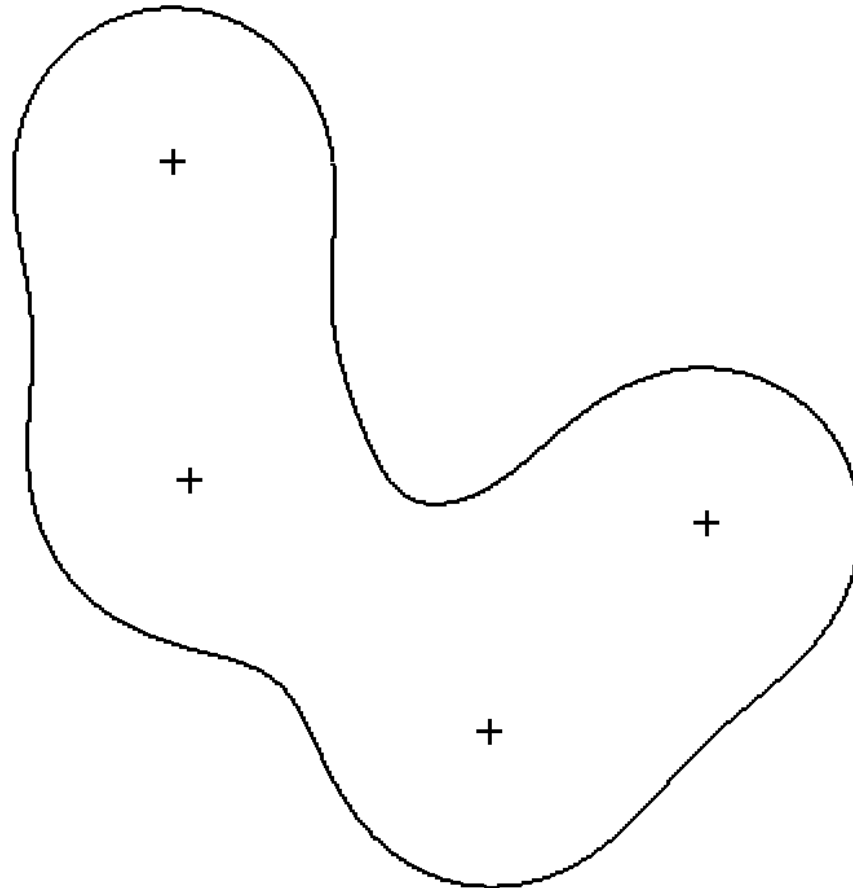
*Turk*



# Blobby Models

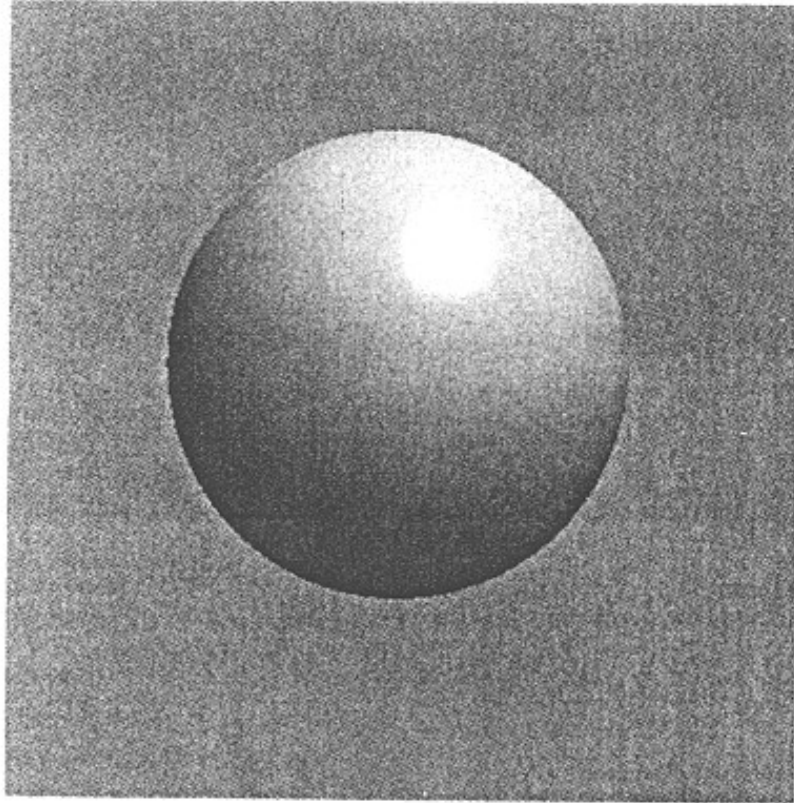


- Sum of four blobs

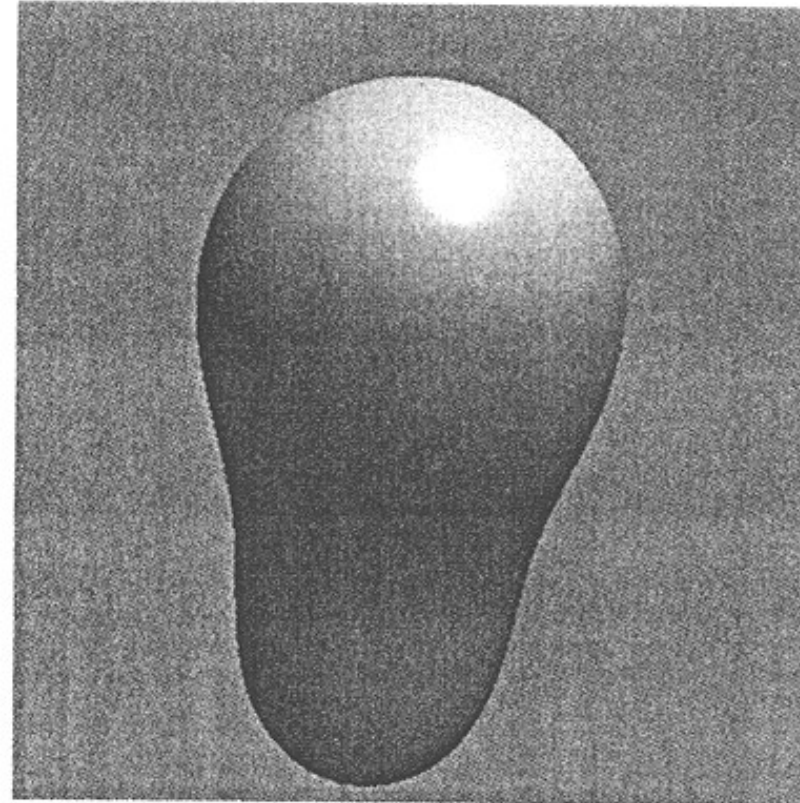


*Turk*

# Bloppy Model of Head

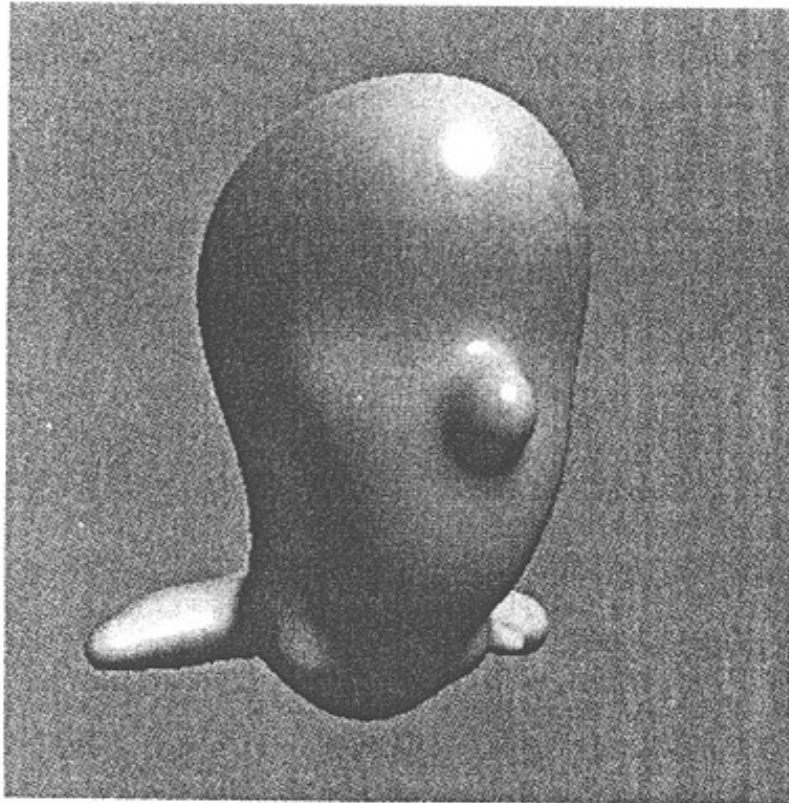


(a)  $N = 1$

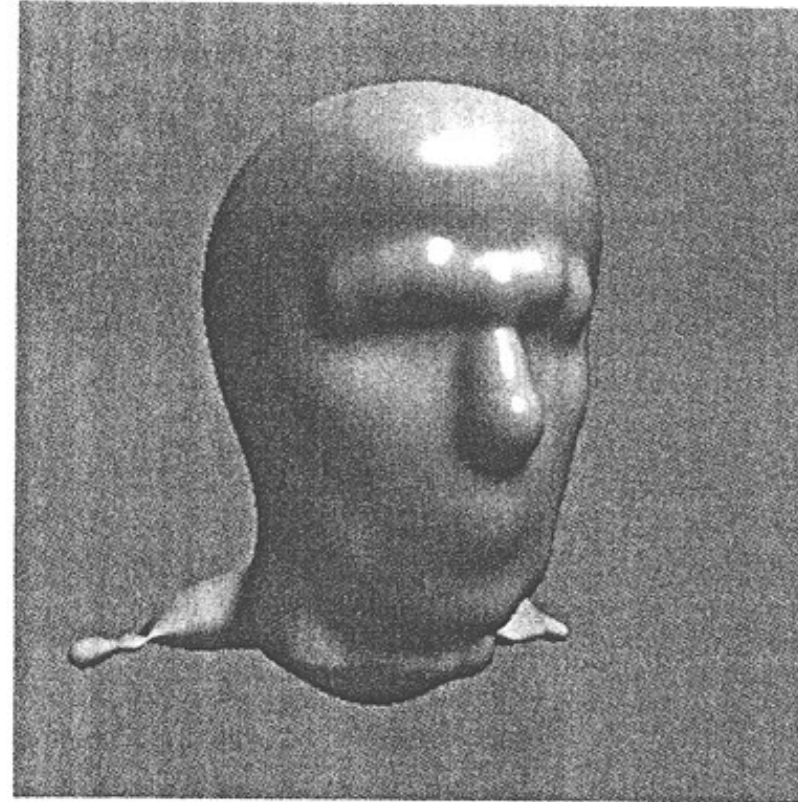


(b)  $N = 2$

# Blobby Model of Head

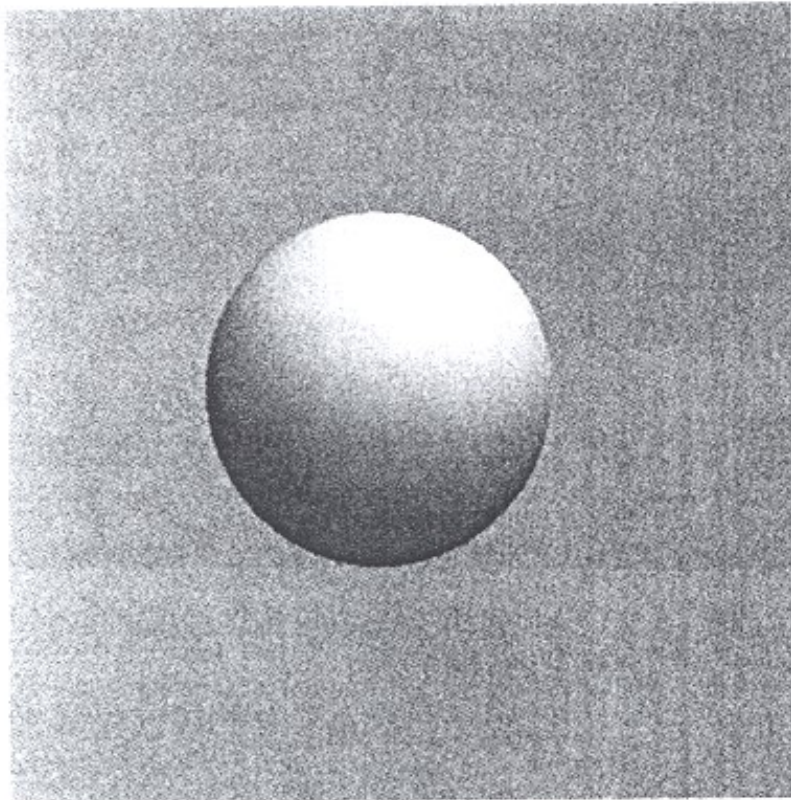


(c)  $N = 20$

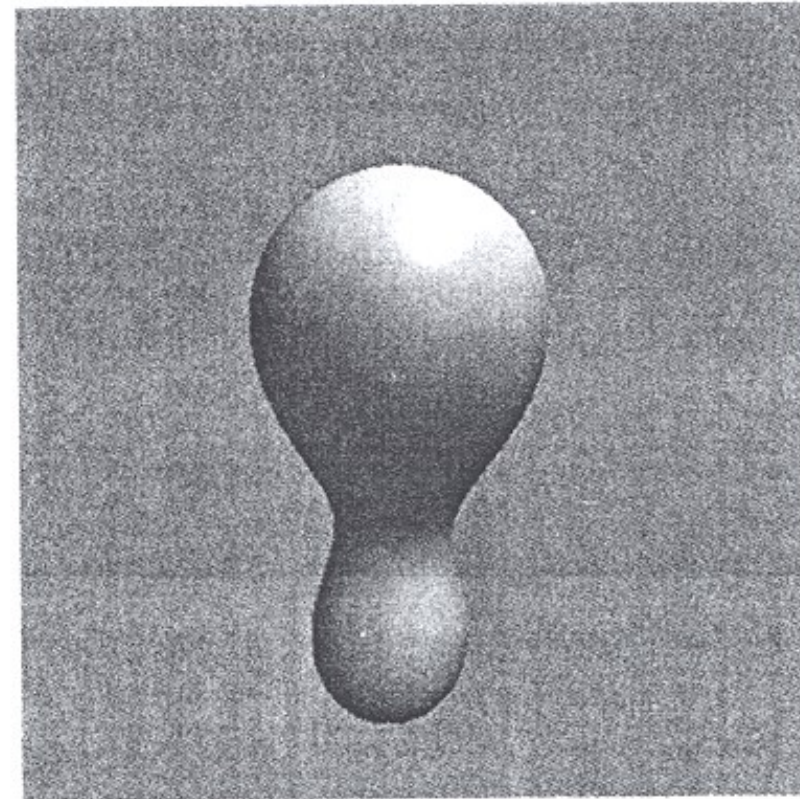


(d)  $N = 60$

# Blobby Model of Face

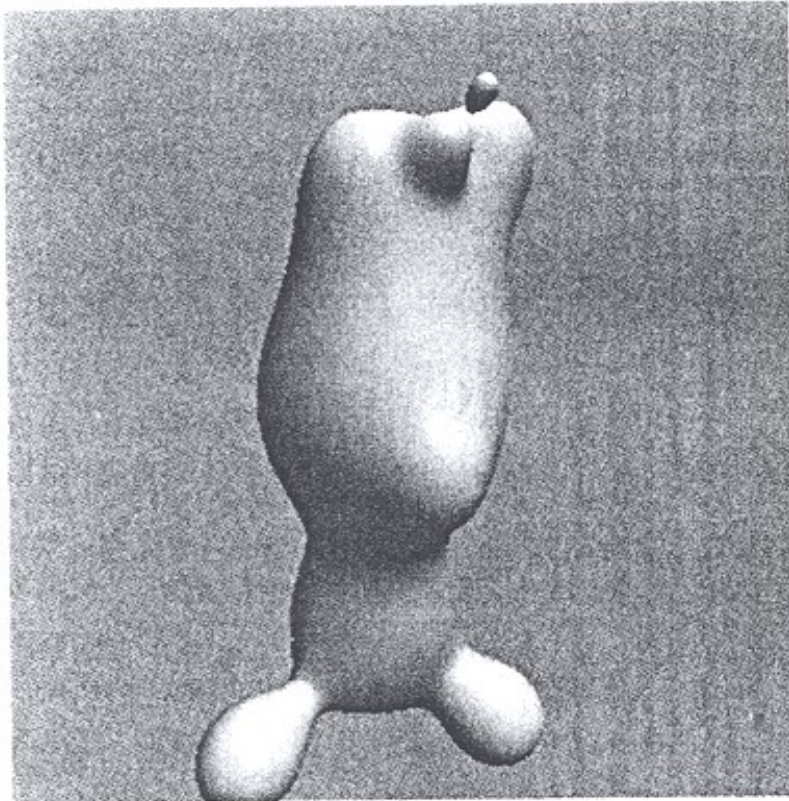


(a)  $N = 1$

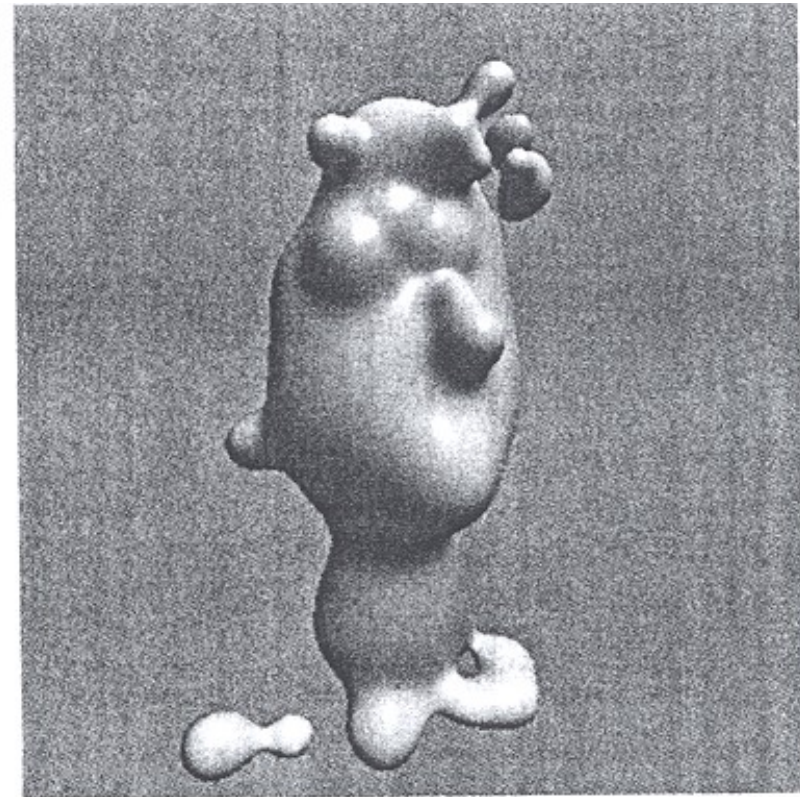


(b)  $N = 2$

# Blobby Model of Face

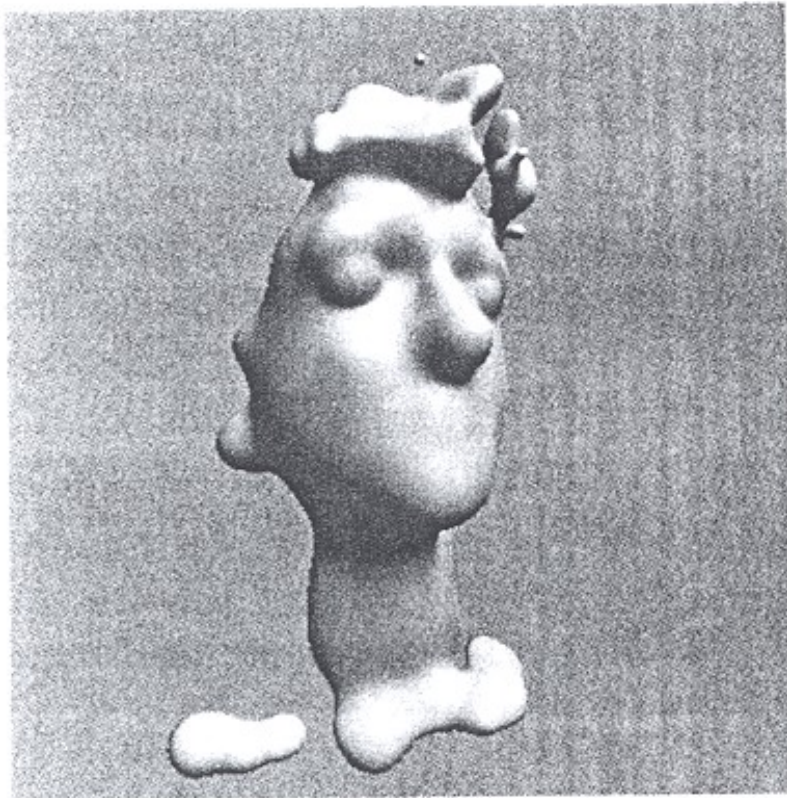


(c)  $N = 10$

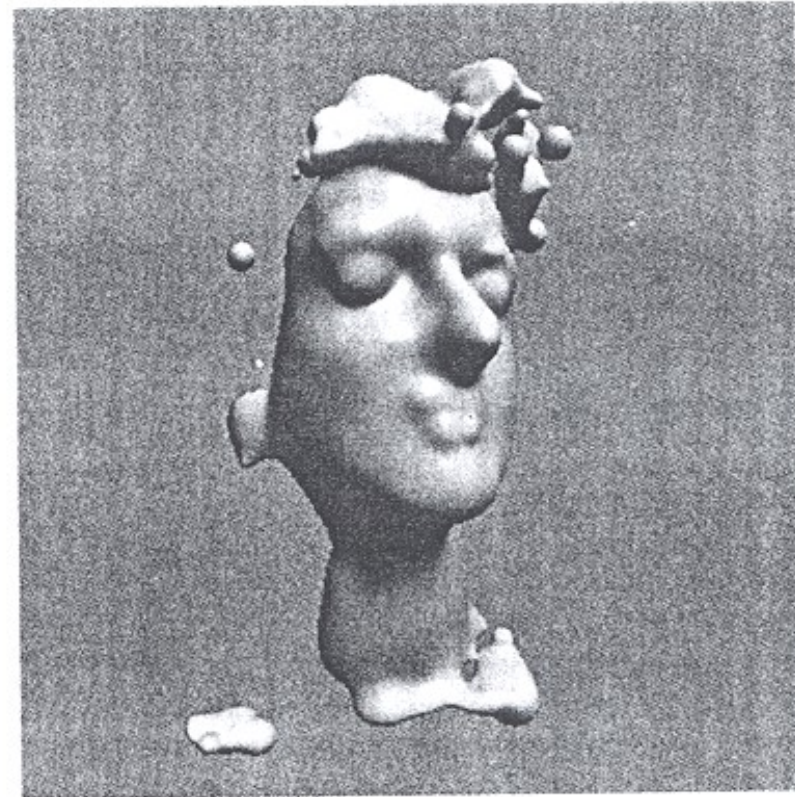


(d)  $N = 35$

# Blobby Model of Face



(e)  $N = 70$

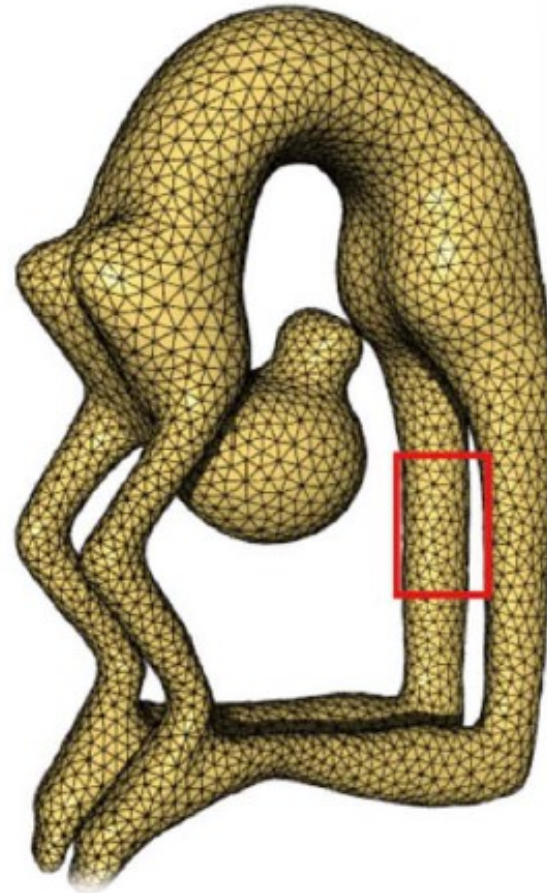


(f)  $N = 243$

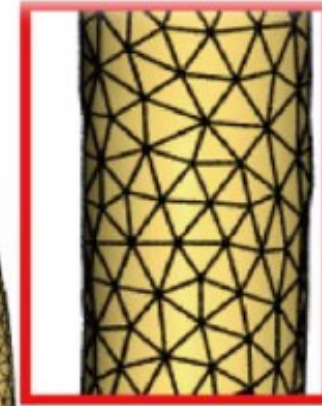
# Reconstruction from Pointsets



Input



Implicit



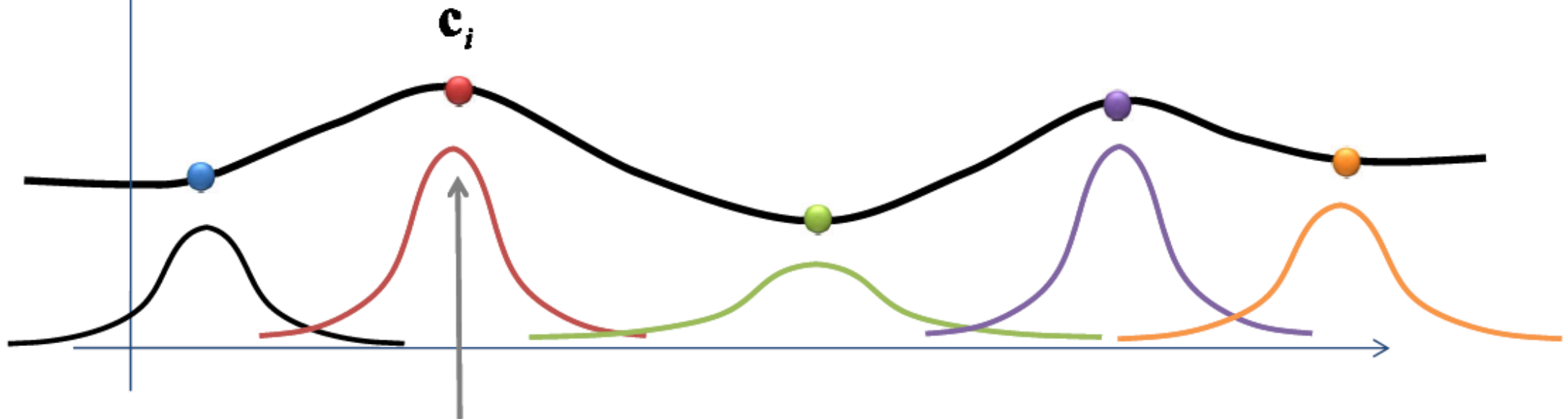
# Reconstruction from Pointsets



- Implicit function is sum of basis functions

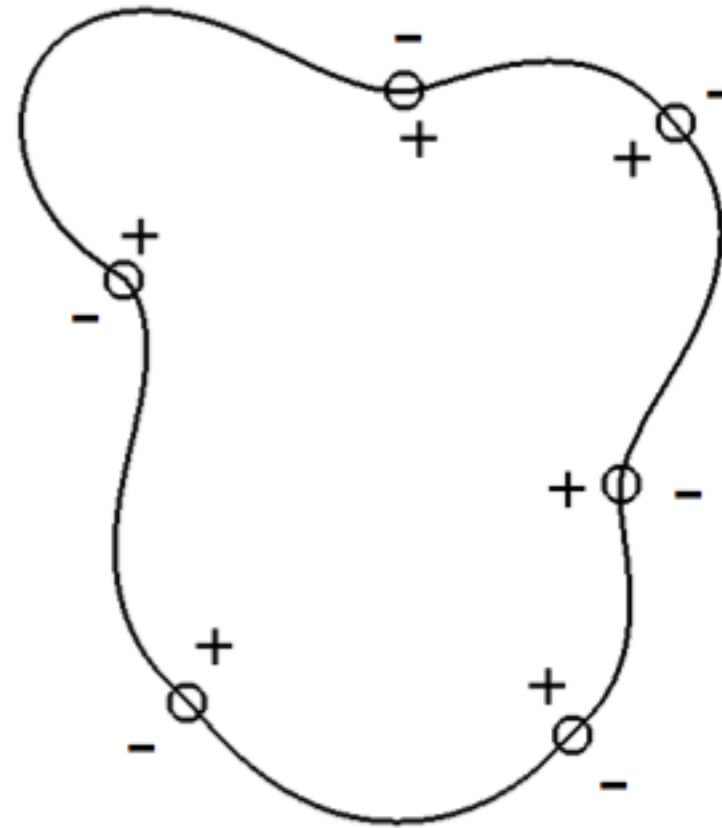
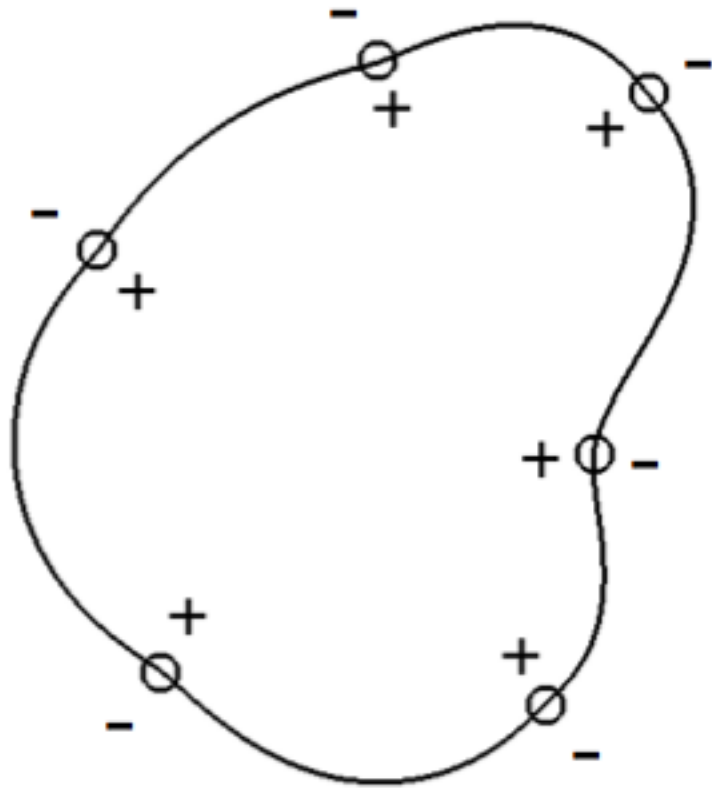
$$\text{dist}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_i w_i \varphi_i(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_i w_i \varphi(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{c}_i\|)$$

How do we find the weights?





# Reconstruction from Pointsets



Turk

# Reconstruction from Pointsets

- Implicit function is sum of basis functions

$$\text{dist}(\mathbf{p}_j) = \sum_i w_i \varphi_i(\mathbf{p}_j) = \sum_i w_i \varphi(\|\mathbf{p}_j - \mathbf{c}_i\|) = 0 \quad 2n \text{ equations}$$

$$\text{dist}(\mathbf{p}_j + \varepsilon \mathbf{n}_j) = \sum_i w_i \varphi(\|(\mathbf{p}_j + \varepsilon \mathbf{n}_j) - \mathbf{c}_i\|) = \varepsilon \quad 2n \text{ variables}$$

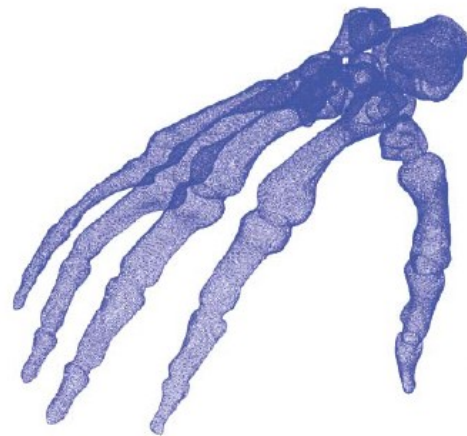
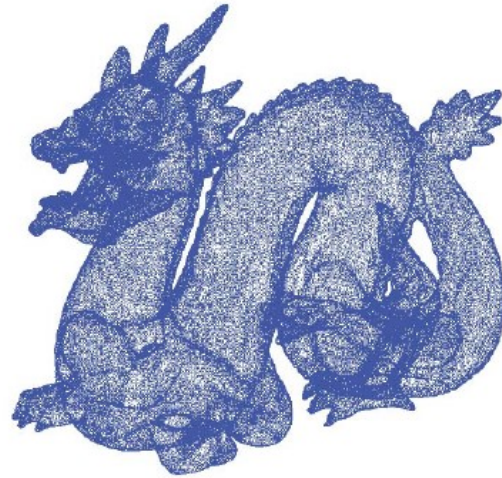
The on- and off-surface points are the centers  $\mathbf{c}_i$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_1\|) & \dots & \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_1 - (\mathbf{x}_n + \varepsilon \mathbf{n}_n)\|) \\ \vdots & \mathbf{K} & \vdots \\ \phi(\|(\mathbf{x}_n + \varepsilon \mathbf{n}_n) - \mathbf{x}_1\|) & \dots & \phi(\|(\mathbf{x}_n + \varepsilon \mathbf{n}_n) - (\mathbf{x}_n + \varepsilon \mathbf{n}_n)\|) \end{pmatrix}
 \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \\ \vdots \\ w_{2n} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ \varepsilon \\ \vdots \\ \varepsilon \end{pmatrix}$$

# Reconstruction from Pointsets



## Examples



# Implicit Surface Summary



- Advantages:
  - Easy to test if point is on surface
  - Easy to compute intersections/unions/differences
  - Easy to handle topological changes
- Disadvantages:
  - Indirect specification of surface
  - Hard to describe sharp features
  - Hard to enumerate points on surface
    - Slow rendering

# Summary



Feature	Polygonal Mesh	Implicit Surface	Parametric Surface	Subdivision Surface
Accurate	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Concise	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intuitive specification	No	No	Yes	No
Local support	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Affine invariant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arbitrary topology	Yes	No	No	Yes
Guaranteed continuity	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Natural parameterization	No	No	Yes	No
Efficient display	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Efficient intersections	No	Yes	No	No

# 3D Object Representations

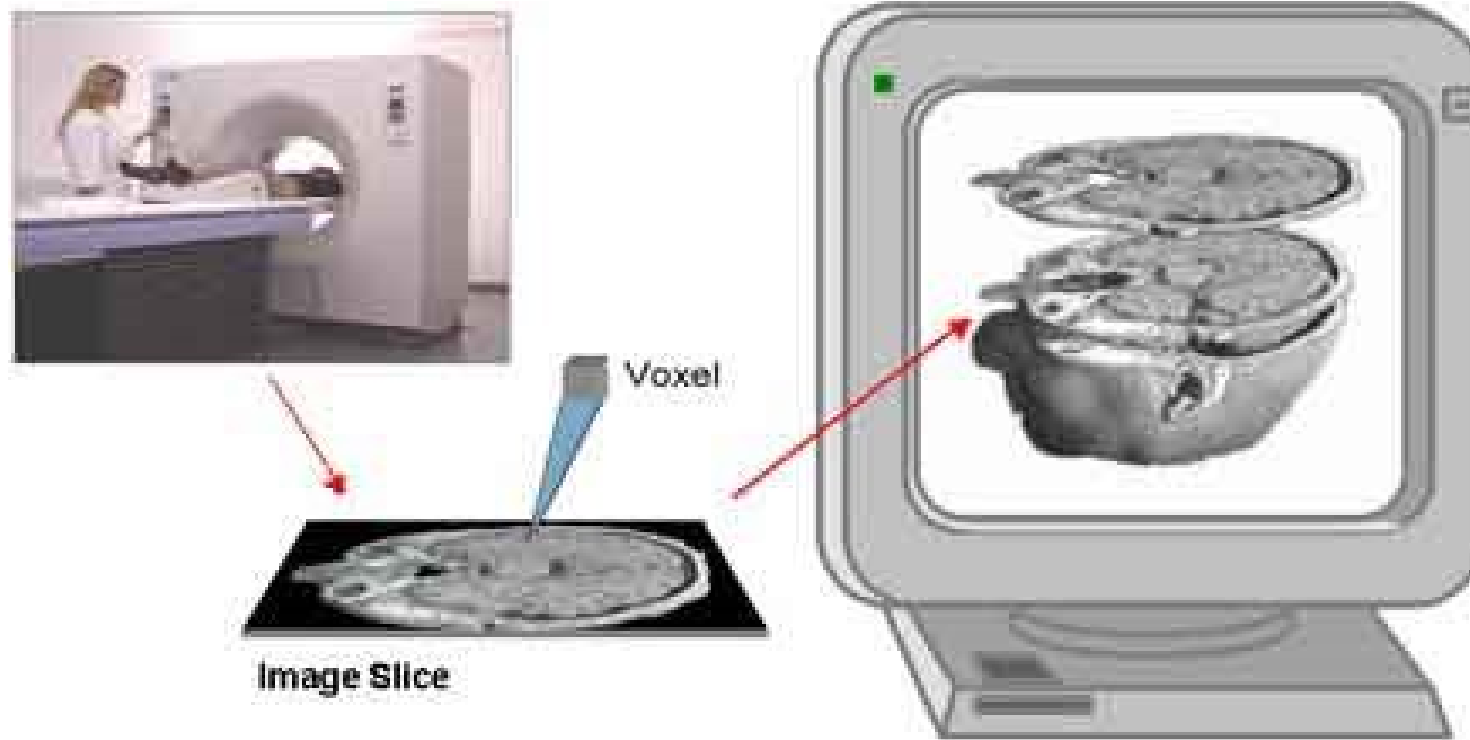


- Raw data
  - Range image
  - Point cloud
- Surfaces
  - Polygonal mesh
  - Subdivision
  - Parametric
  - Implicit
- Solids
  - Voxels
  - BSP tree
  - CSG
  - Sweep
- High-level structures
  - Scene graph
  - Application specific

# Solid Modeling



- Represent solid interiors of objects

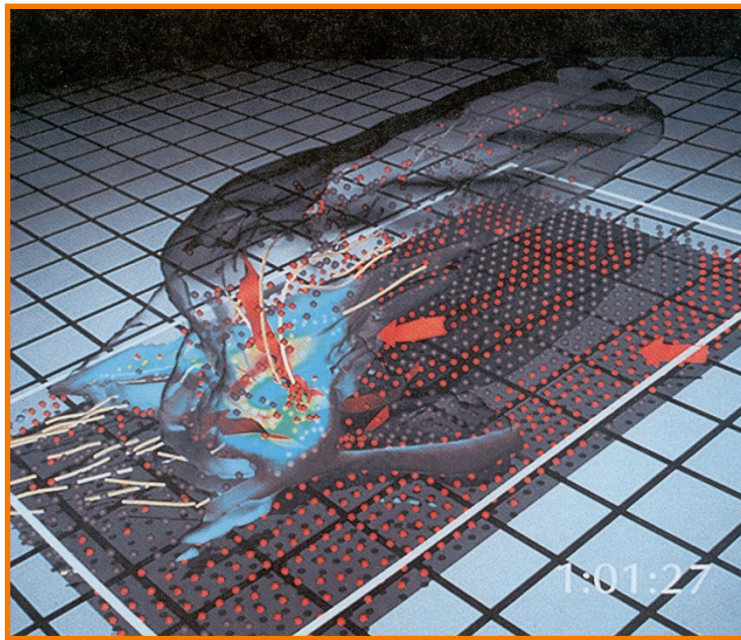


[www.volumegraphics.com](http://www.volumegraphics.com)

# Motivation 1



- Some acquisition methods generate solids



**Airflow Inside a Thunderstorm**  
*(Bob Wilhelmson,  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)*



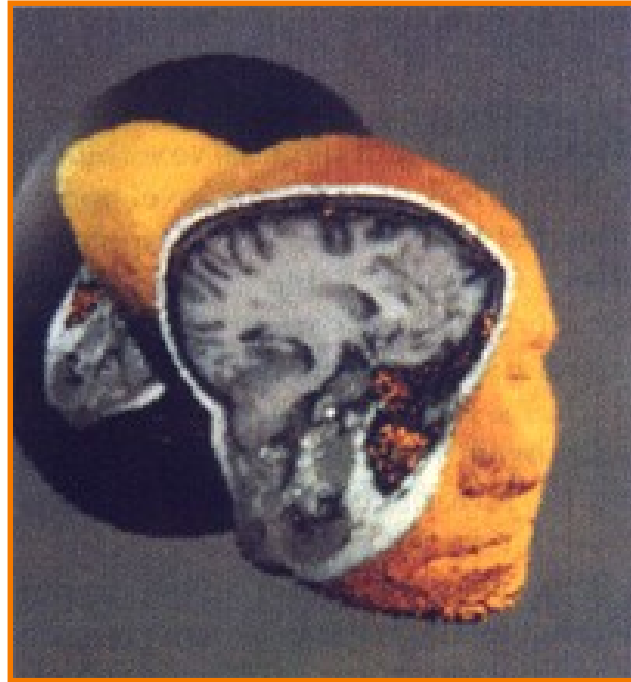
**Visible Human**  
*(National Library of Medicine)*



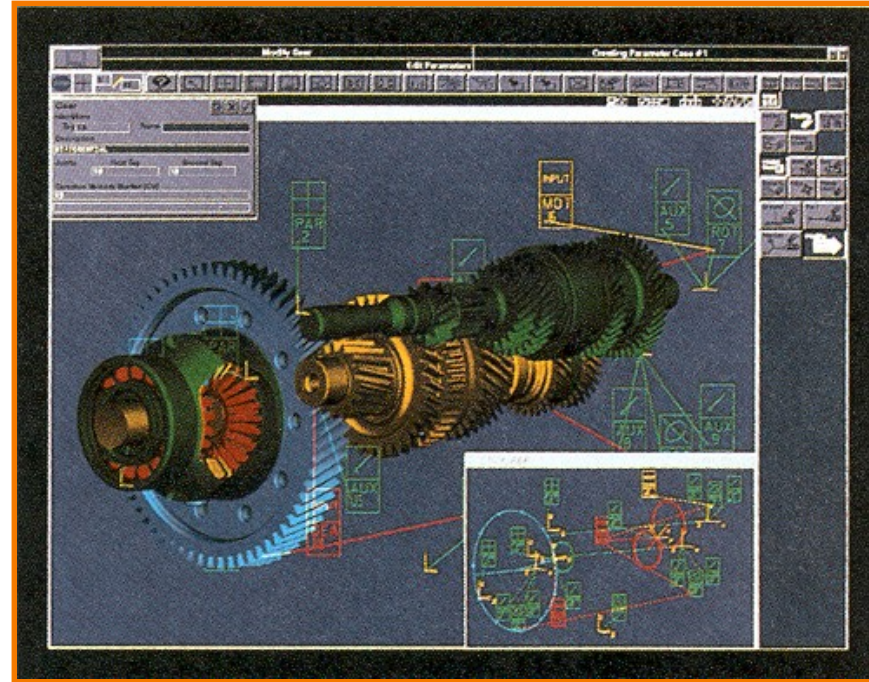
# Motivation 2



- Some applications require solids
  - Examples: medicine, CAD/CAM



SUNY Stony Brook

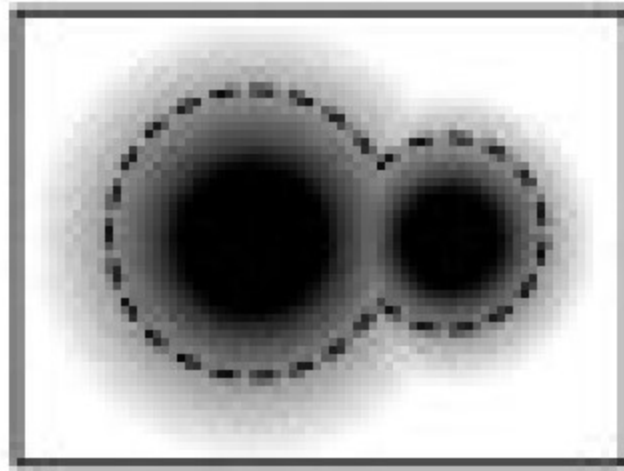


Intergraph Corporation

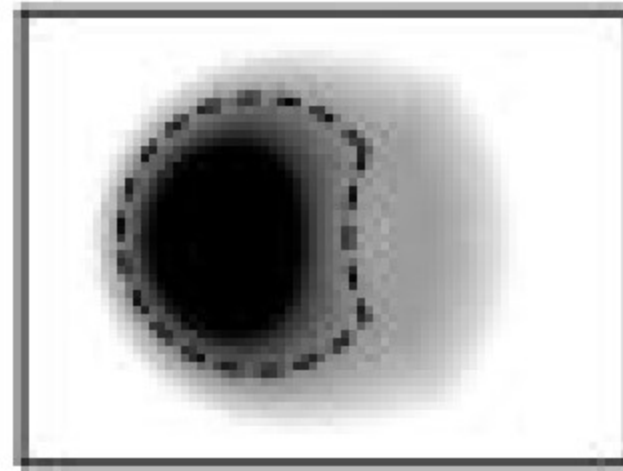
# Motivation 3



- Some operations are easier with solids
  - Example: union, difference, intersection



Union



Difference

# 3D Object Representations

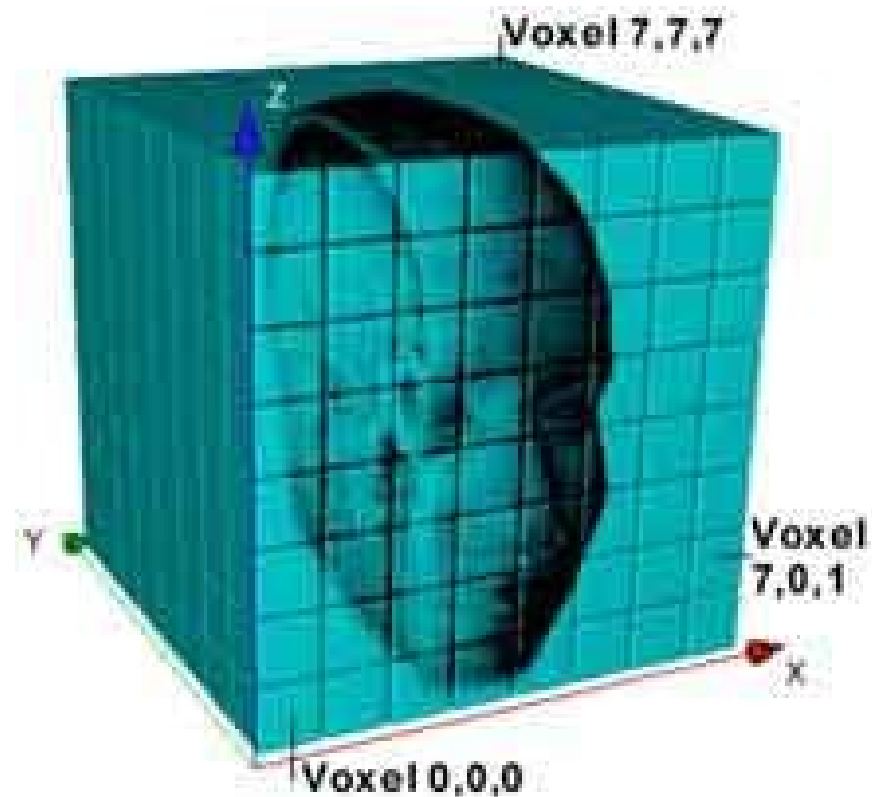


- Raw data
  - Range image
  - Point cloud
- Surfaces
  - Polygonal mesh
  - Subdivision
  - Parametric
  - Implicit
- Solids
  - Voxels
  - BSP tree
  - CSG
  - Sweep
- High-level structures
  - Scene graph
  - Application specific

# Return to Voxels



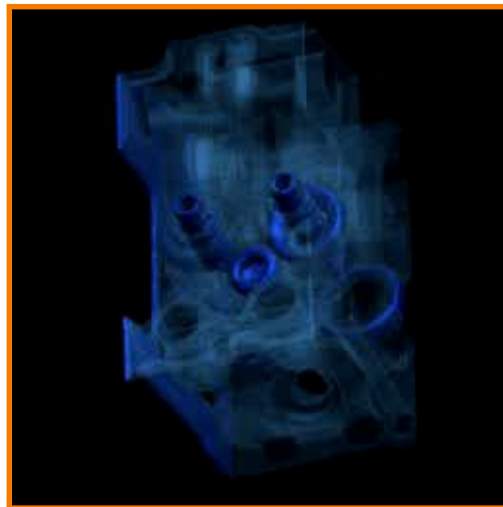
- Regular array of 3D samples (like image)



# Voxels



- Store properties of solid object with each voxel
  - Occupancy
  - Color
  - Density
  - Temperature
  - etc.



Engine Block  
*Stanford University*

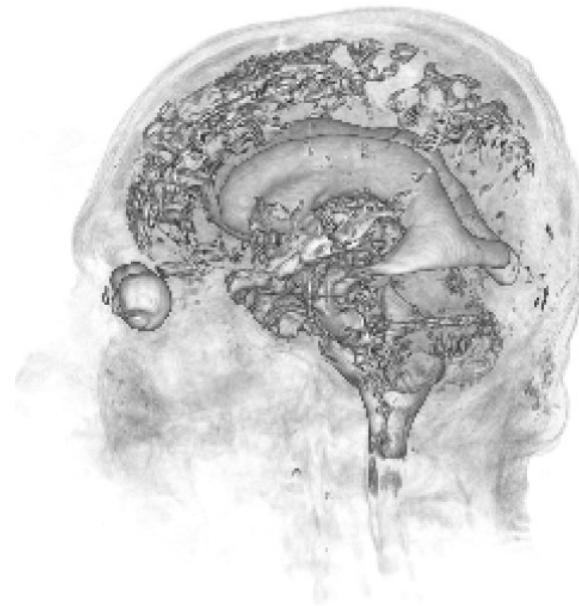


Visible Human  
*(National Library of Medicine)*

# Voxel Processing



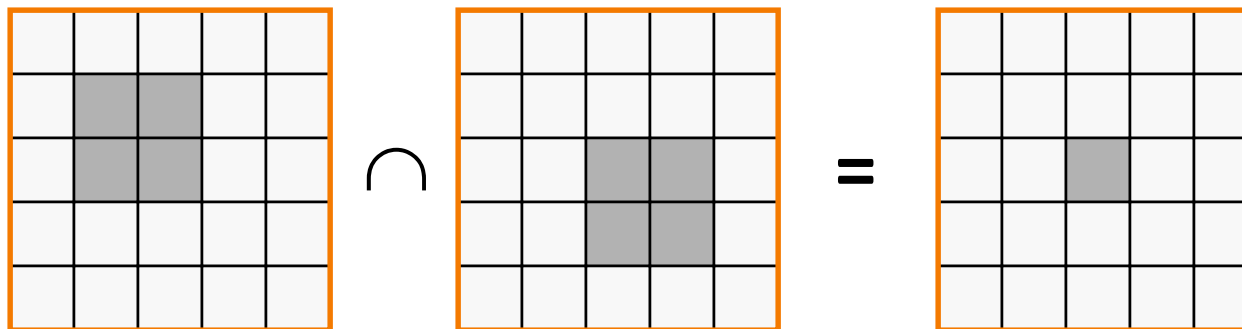
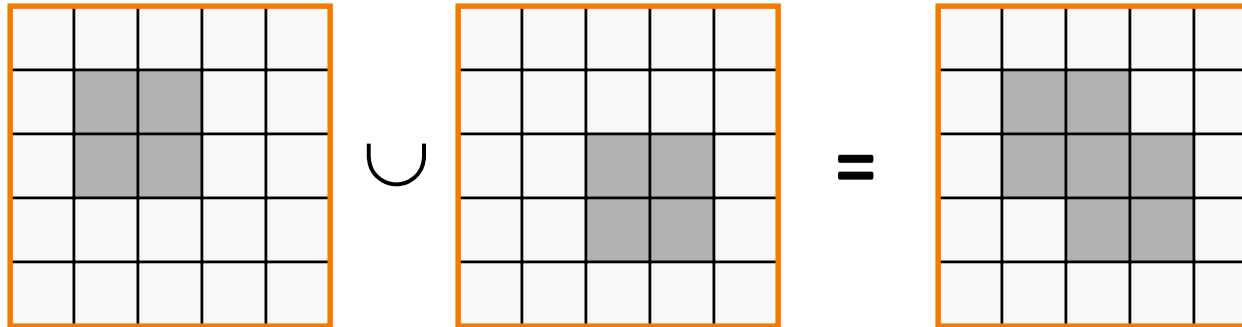
- Signal processing (just like images)
  - Reconstruction
  - Resampling
- Typical operations
  - Blur
  - Edge detect
  - Warp
  - etc.
- Often fully analogous to image processing



# Voxel Boolean Operations



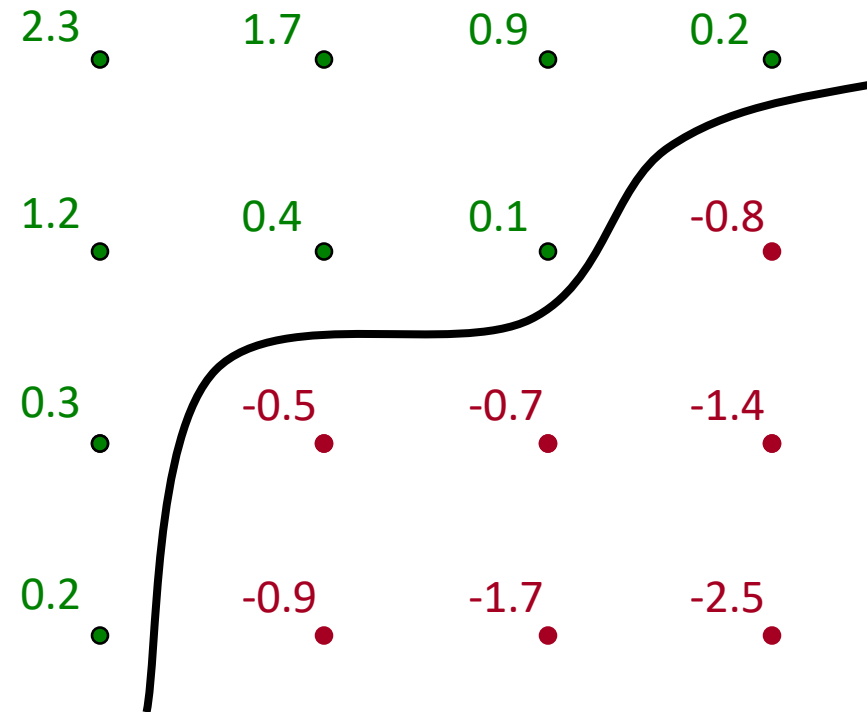
- Compare objects voxel by voxel
  - Trivial



# Voxel Display



- Isosurface rendering
  - Interpolate samples stored on regular grid
  - Isosurface at  $f(x,y,z) = 0$  defines surface

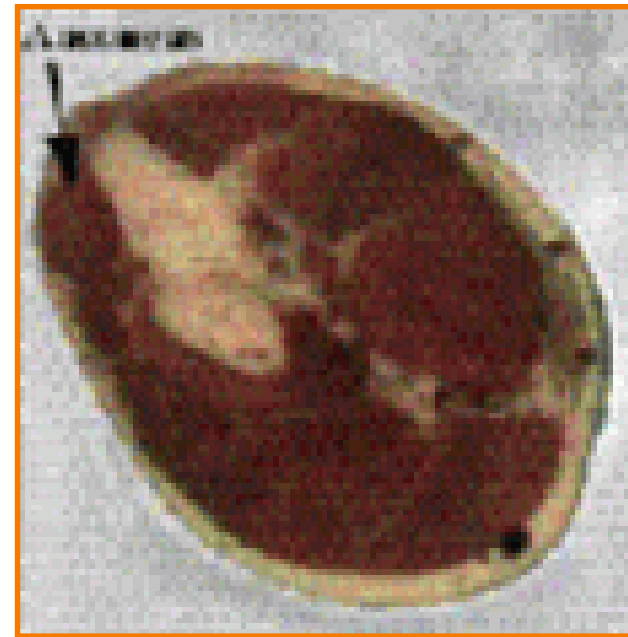
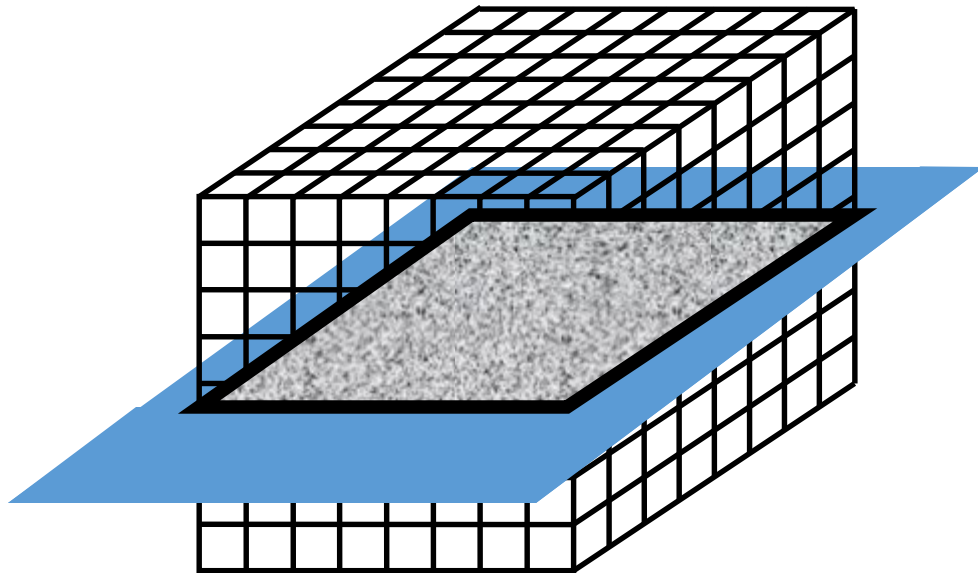




# Voxel Display



- Slicing
  - Draw 2D image resulting from intersecting voxels with a plane



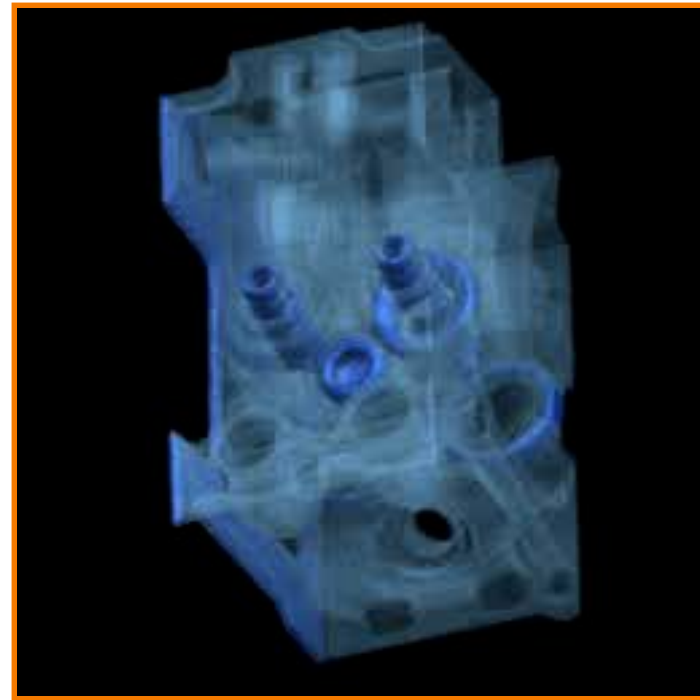
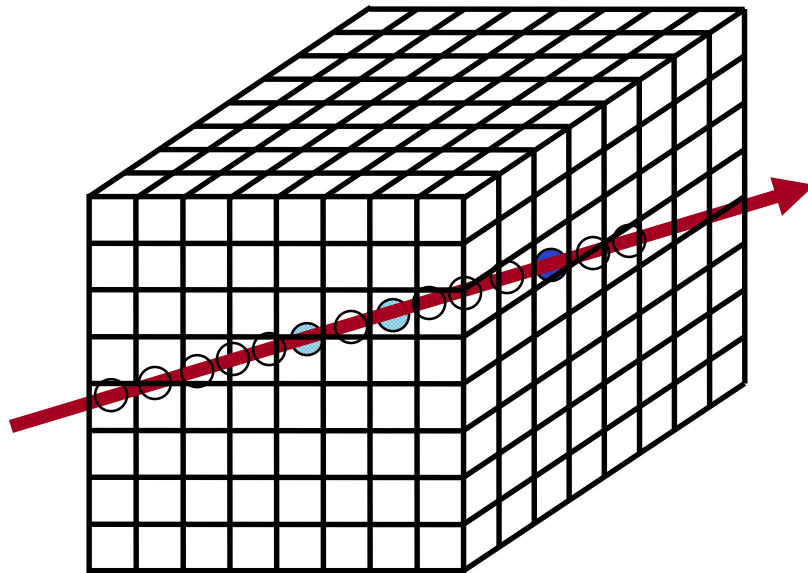
Visible Human

*(National Library of Medicine)*

# Voxel Display



- Ray casting
  - Integrate density along rays: compositing!

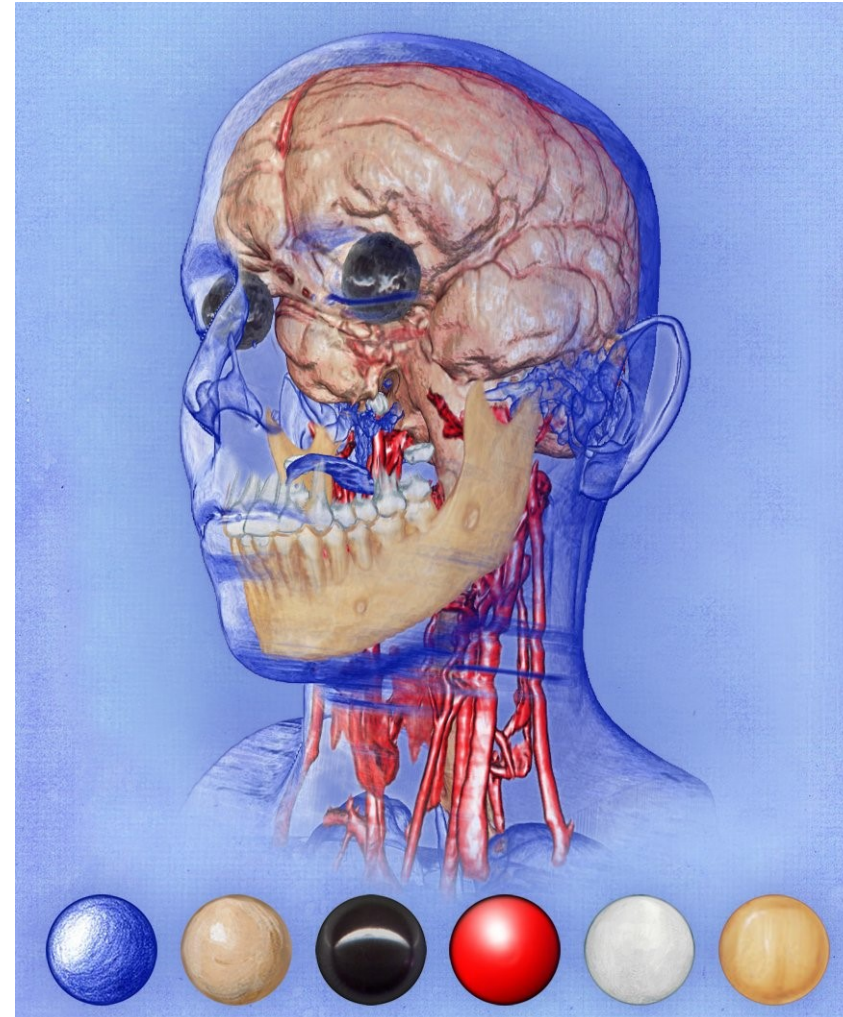


Engine Block  
Stanford University

# Voxel Display



- Extended ray-casting
  - Transfer functions:  
Map voxel values to opacity and material
  - Normals (for lighting)  
from density gradient



[Bruckner et al. 2007](#)

# Voxels

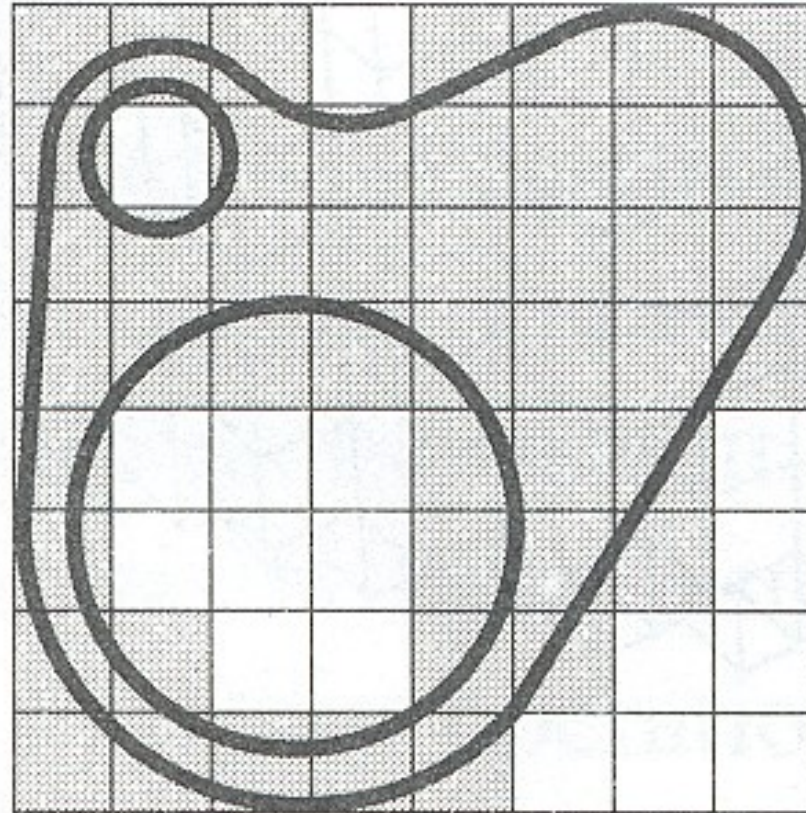


- Advantages
  - Simple, intuitive, unambiguous
  - Same complexity for all objects
  - Natural acquisition for some applications
  - Trivial boolean operations
- Disadvantages
  - Approximate
  - Not affine invariant
  - Expensive display
  - Large storage requirements

# Voxels



- What resolution should be used?

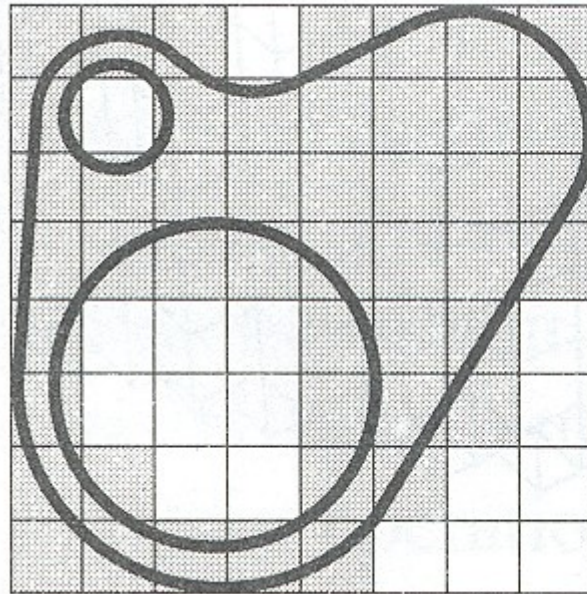


FvDFH Figure 12.21

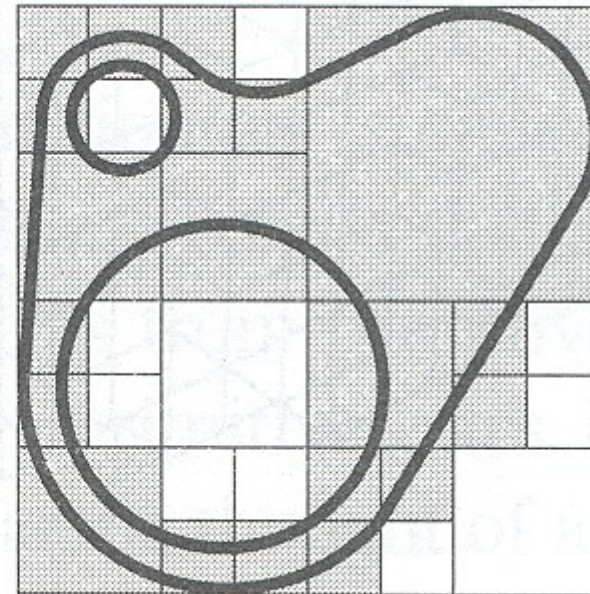
# Quadtrees & Octrees



- Refine resolution of voxels hierarchically
  - More concise and efficient for non-uniform objects



Uniform Voxels

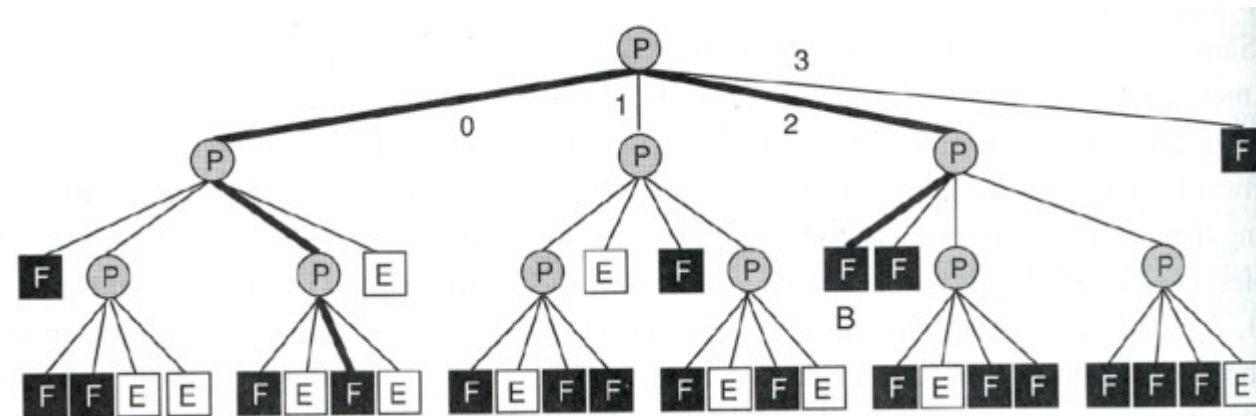
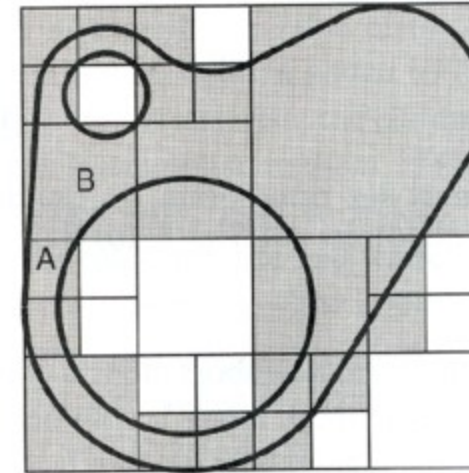


Quadtree (Octree in 3D)

# Quadtree Processing



- Hierarchical versions of voxel methods
  - Finding neighbor cell requires traversal of hierarchy: expected/amortized  $O(1)$

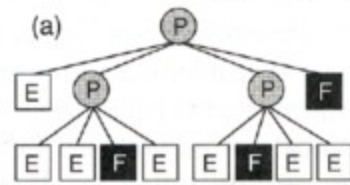
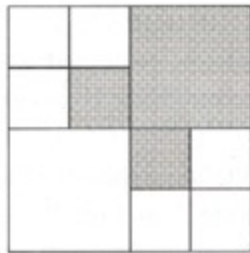


FvDFH Figure 12.25

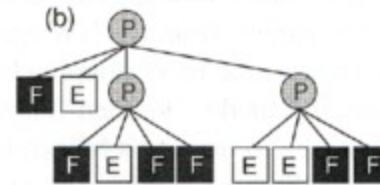
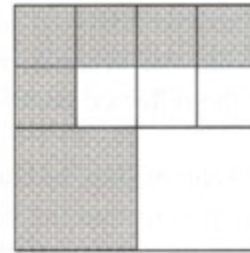
# Quadtree Boolean Operations



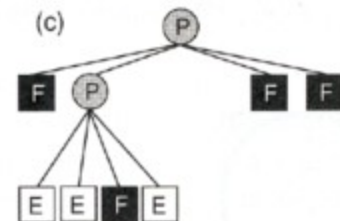
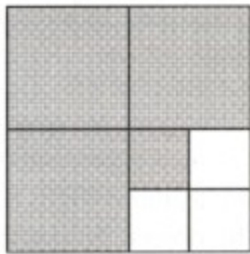
**A**



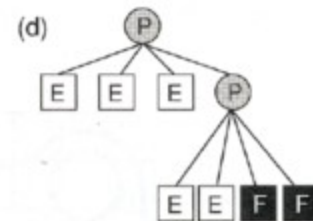
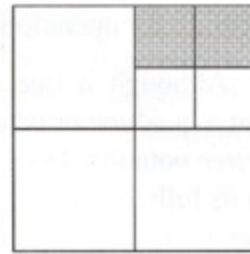
**B**



**$A \cup B$**



**$A \cap B$**



FvDFH Figure 12.24

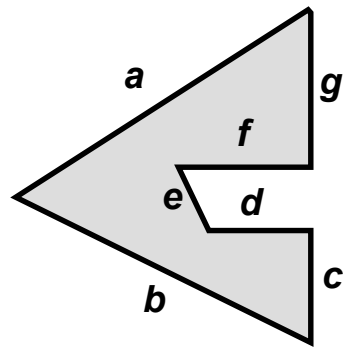


# 3D Object Representations

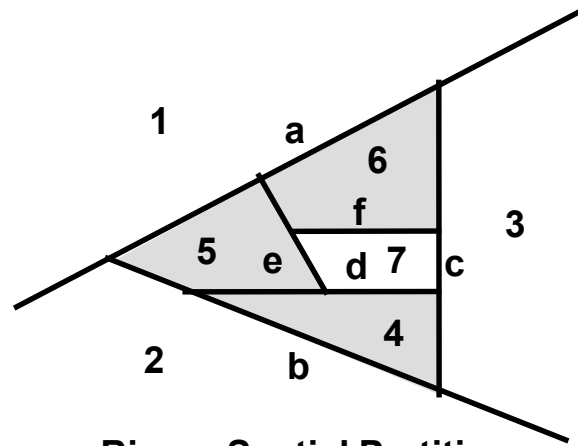


- Raw data
  - Range image
  - Point cloud
- Surfaces
  - Polygonal mesh
  - Subdivision
  - Parametric
  - Implicit
- Solids
  - Voxels
  - **BSP tree**
  - CSG
  - Sweep
- High-level structures
  - Scene graph
  - Application specific

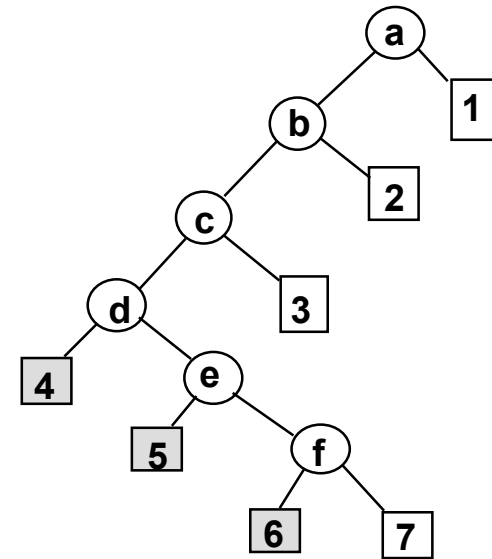
# BSP Trees



Object



Binary Spatial Partition

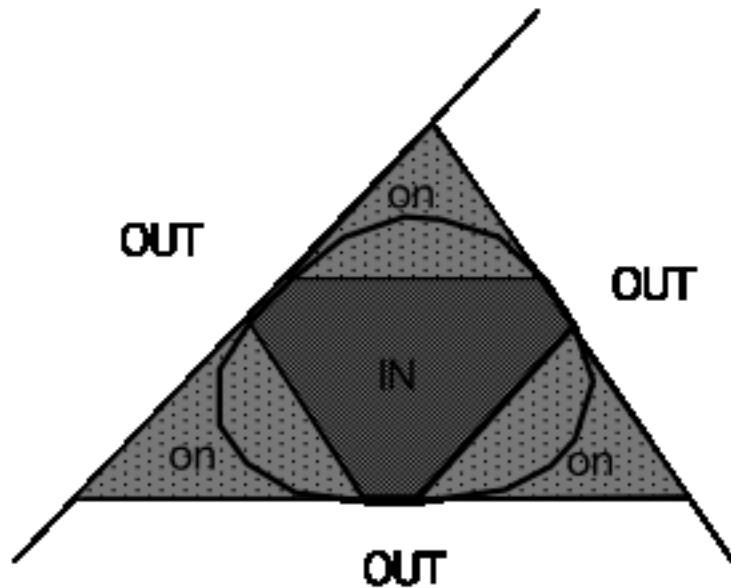


Binary Tree

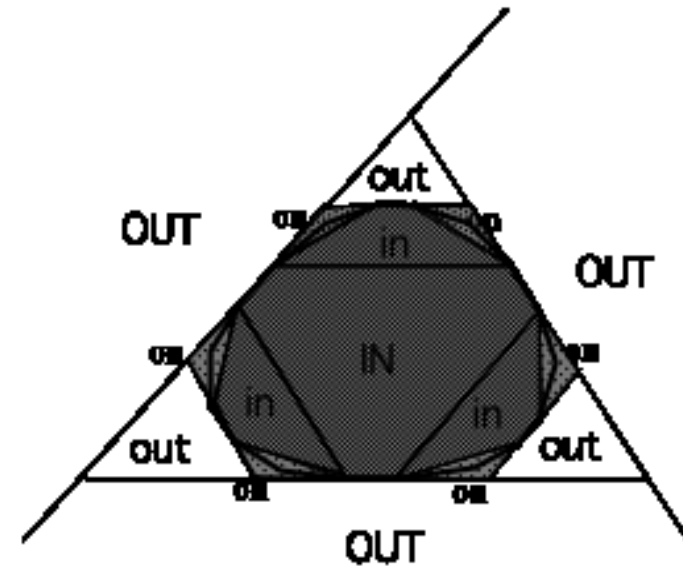
# BSP Trees



- Key properties
  - visibility ordering (later)
  - hierarchy of convex regions (useful for collision)



1st level Approximation



2nd level Approximation

# 3D Object Representations

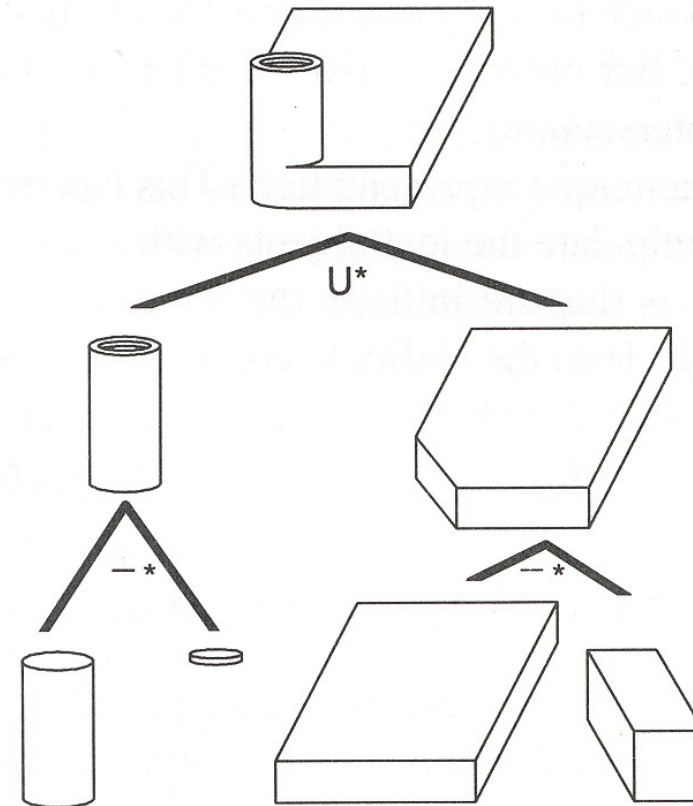


- Raw data
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- Surfaces
  - Polygonal mesh
  - Subdivision
  - Parametric
  - Implicit
- Solids
  - Voxels
  - BSP tree
  - **CSG**
  - Sweep
- High-level structures
  - Scene graph
  - Application specific

# Constructive Solid Geometry (CSG)



- Represent solid object as hierarchy of boolean operations
  - Union
  - Intersection
  - Difference

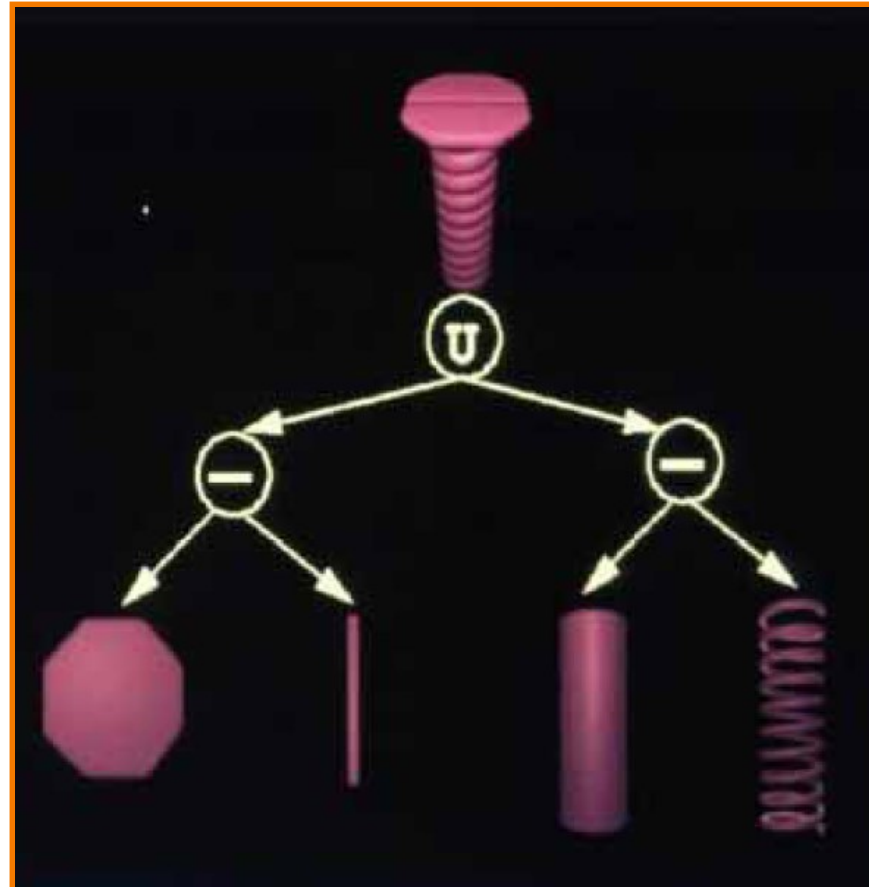


FvDFH Figure 12.27

# CSG Acquisition



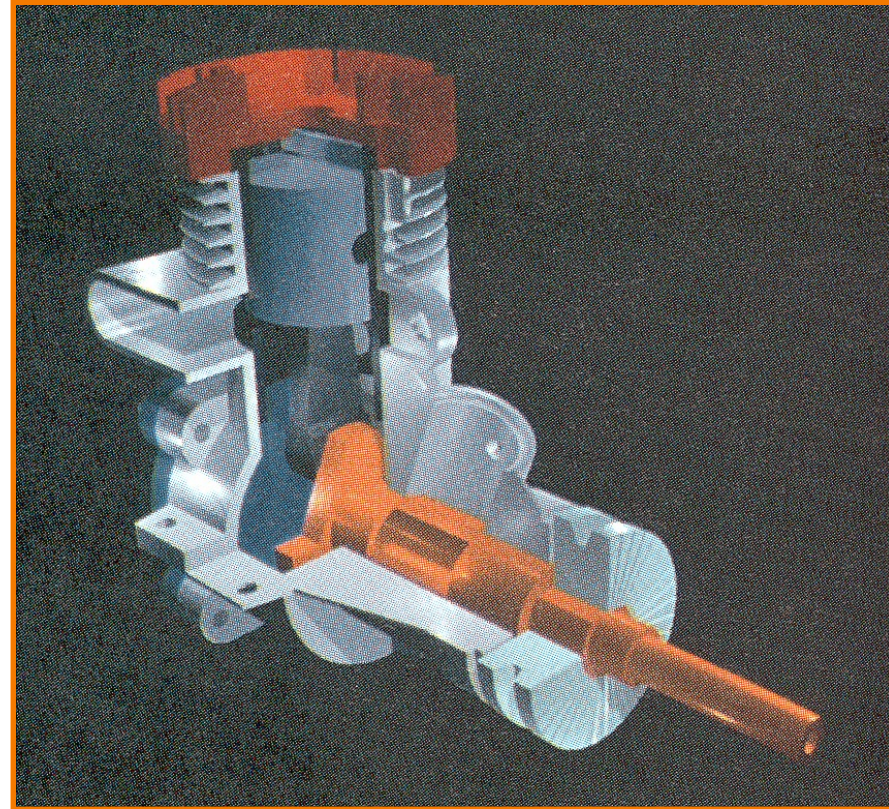
- Interactive modeling programs
  - Intuitive way to design objects



# CSG Acquisition



- Interactive modeling programs
  - Intuitive way to design objects

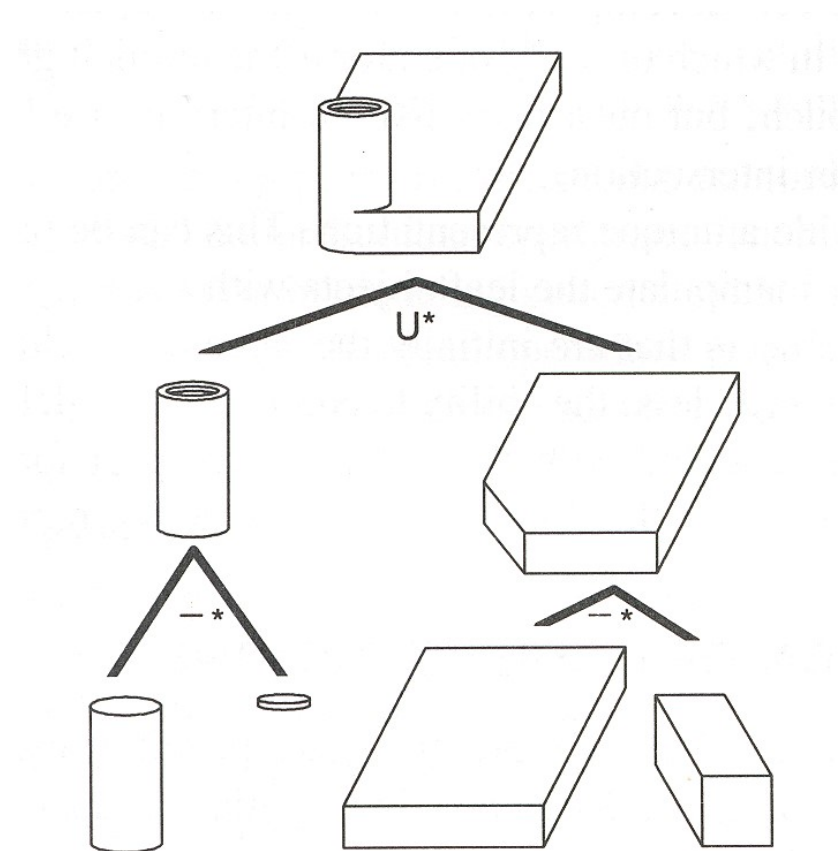


H&B Figure 9.9

# CSG Boolean Operations



- Create a new CSG node joining subtrees
  - Union
  - Intersection
  - Difference



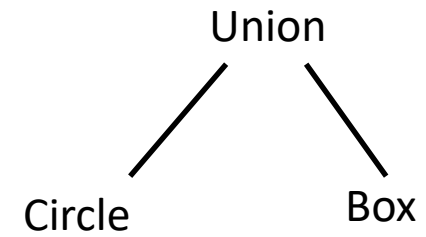
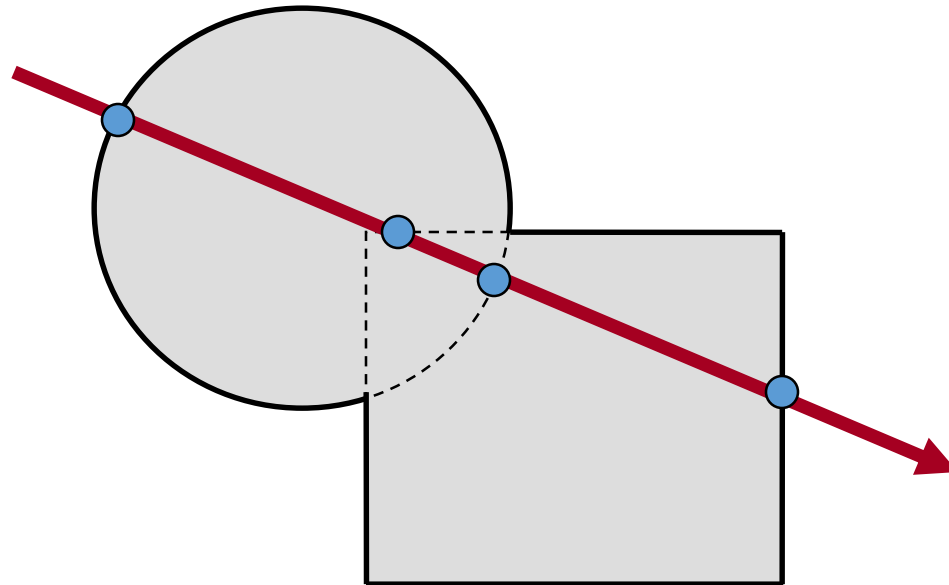
FvDFH Figure 12.27



# CSG Display & Analysis



- Ray casting



# 3D Object Representations

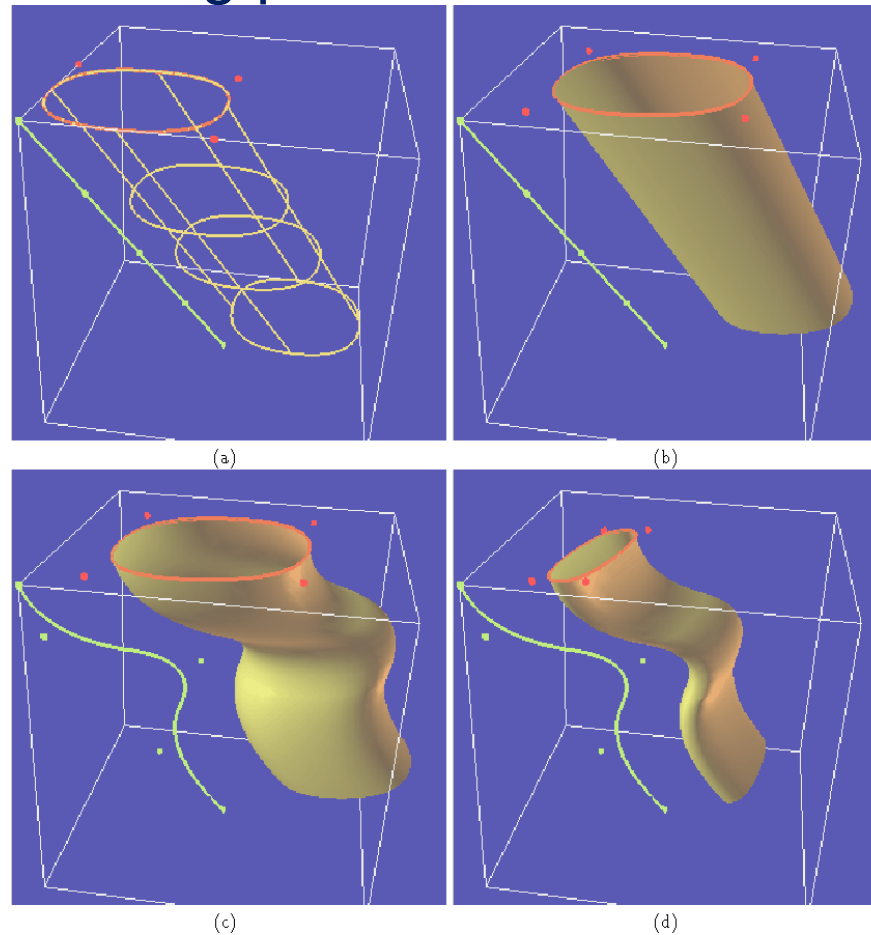


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  - Application specific

# Sweeps



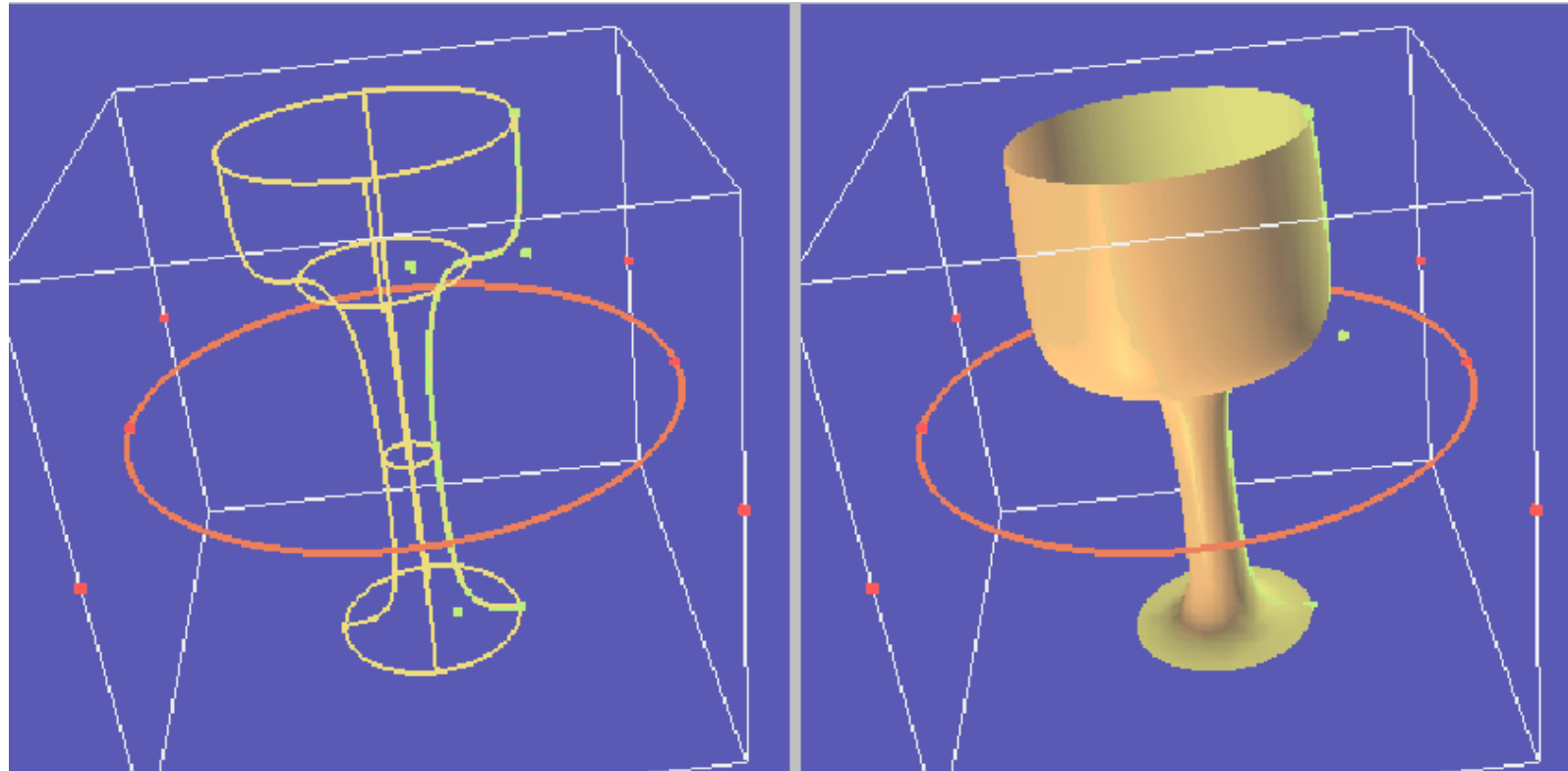
- Swept volume
  - Sweep one curve along path of another curve



# Sweeps



- Surface of revolution
  - Take a curve and rotate it about an axis

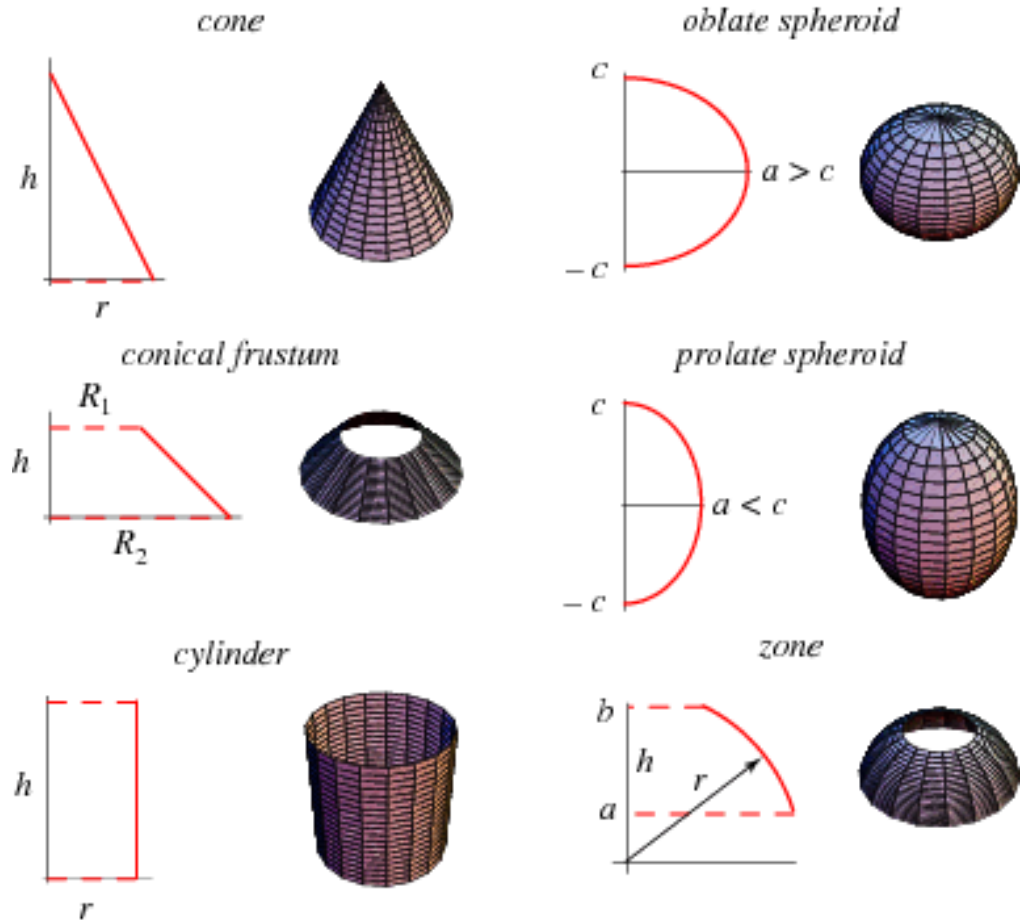


Demetri Terzopoulos

# Sweeps



- Surface of revolution
  - Take a curve and rotate it about an axis



# Summary



Feature	Voxels	Octree	BSP	CSG
Accurate	No	No	Some	Some
Concise	No	No	No	Yes
Affine invariant	No	No	Yes	Yes
Easy acquisition	Some	Some	No	Some
Guaranteed validity	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Efficient boolean ops	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Efficient display	No	No	Yes	No