



Polygonal Meshes

COS 426

3D Object Representations



Points

- Range image
- Point cloud

Surfaces

- Polygonal mesh
- Subdivision
- Parametric
- Implicit

Solids

- Voxels
- BSP tree
- CSG
- Sweep

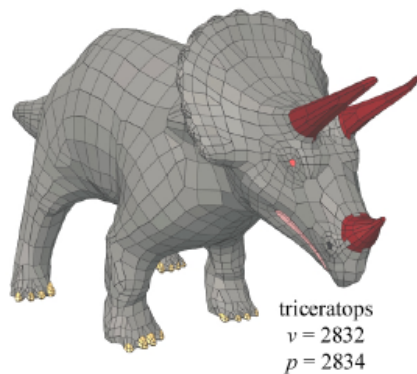
High-level structures

- Scene graph
- Application specific

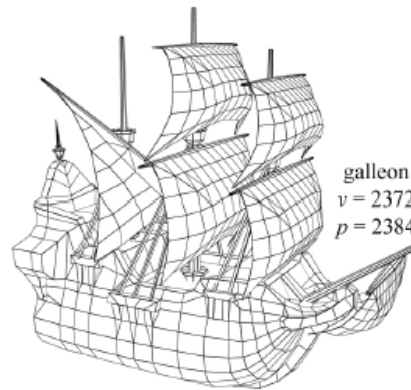


3D Polygonal Mesh

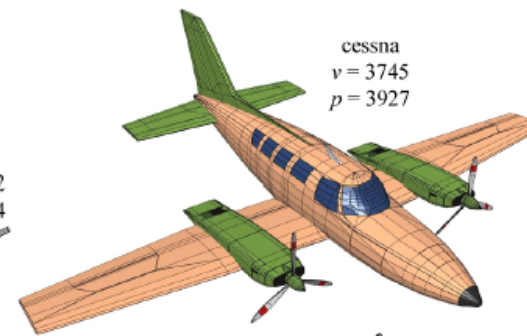
Set of polygons representing a 2D surface embedded in 3D



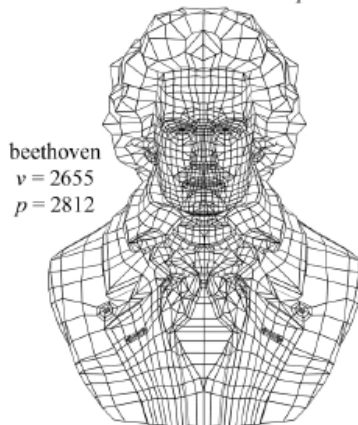
triceratops
 $v = 2832$
 $p = 2834$



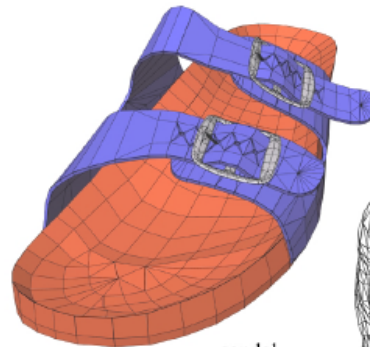
galleon
 $v = 2372$
 $p = 2384$



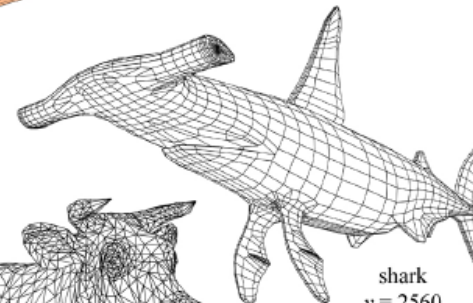
cessna
 $v = 3745$
 $p = 3927$



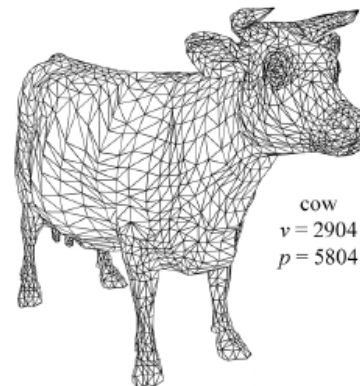
beethoven
 $v = 2655$
 $p = 2812$



sandal
 $v = 2636$
 $p = 2953$



shark
 $v = 2560$
 $p = 2562$



cow
 $v = 2904$
 $p = 5804$

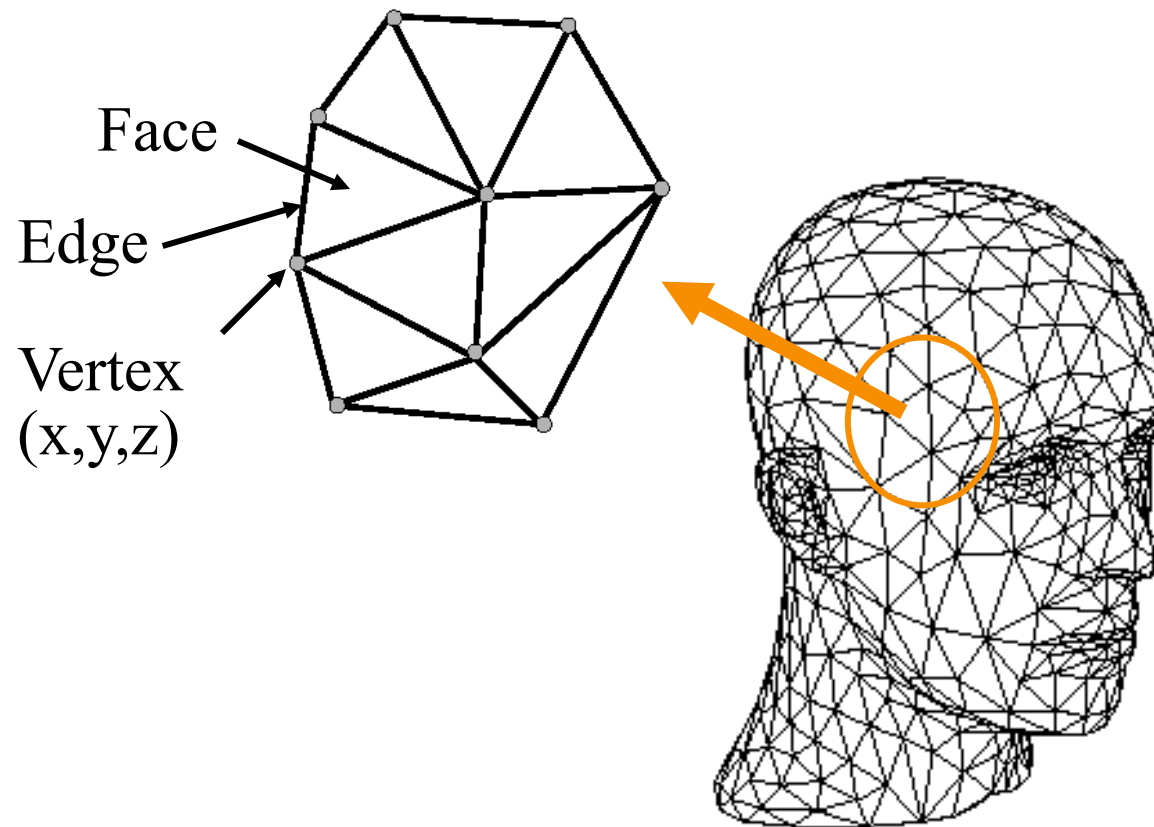
cow_poly
 $v = 2904$
 $p = 3263$

(the polygonal cow is not shown. it is the same cow model, but not fully triangulated)



3D Polygonal Mesh

Geometry & topology





Geometry background

Scene is usually approximated by 3D primitives

- Point
- Vector
- Line segment
- Ray
- Line
- Plane
- Polygon



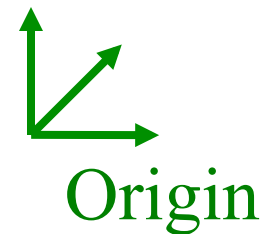
3D Point

Specifies a location

- Represented by three coordinates
- Infinitely small

```
struct Point {  
    Coordinate x;  
    Coordinate y;  
    Coordinate z;  
};
```

• (x,y,z)





3D Vector

Specifies a direction and a magnitude

- Represented by three coordinates
- Magnitude $||V|| = \sqrt{dx*dx + dy*dy + dz*dz}$
- Has no location

```
struct Vector {  
    Coordinate dx;  
    Coordinate dy;  
    Coordinate dz;  
};
```



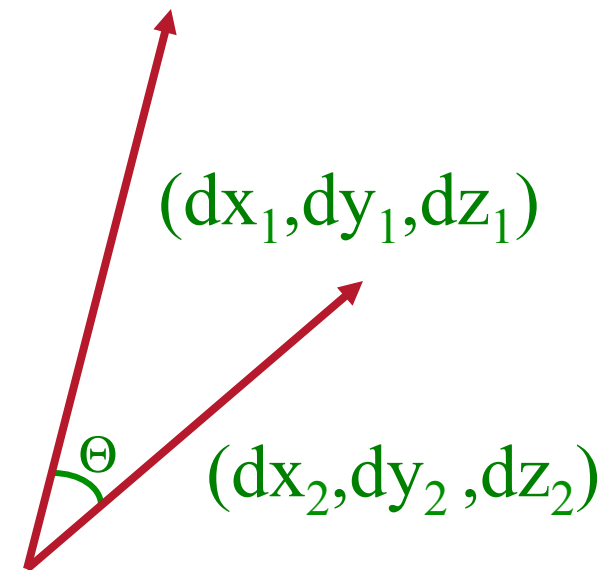
(dx, dy, dz)

3D Vector



Scalar / dot product of two 3D vectors

$$V_1 \cdot V_2 = dx_1 * dx_2 + dy_1 * dy_2 + dz_1 * dz_2 = \|V_1\| \|V_2\| \cos(\Theta)$$



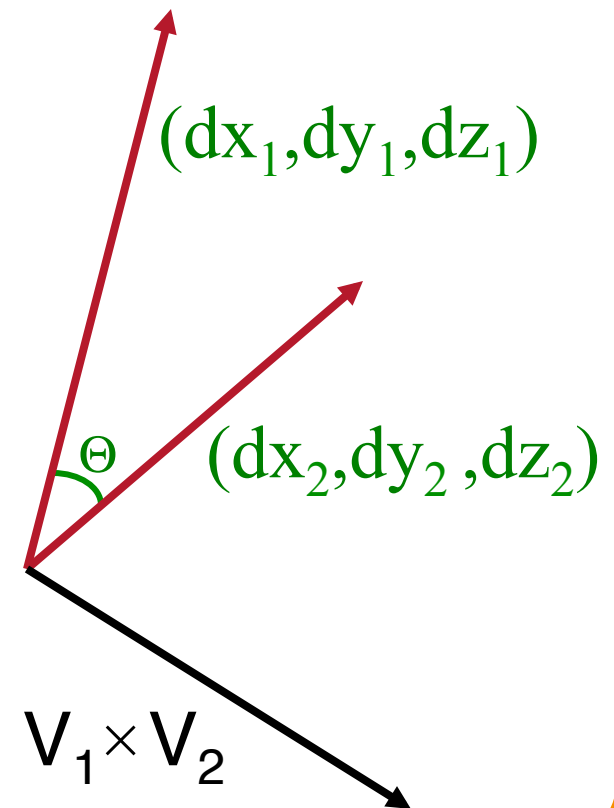


3D Vector

Cross product of two 3D vectors

$$V_1 \times V_2 = (dy_1 dx_2 - dz_1 dy_2, dz_1 dx_2 - dx_1 dz_2, dx_1 dy_2 - dy_1 dx_2)$$

- vector perpendicular to both V_1 and V_2
- magnitude is $\|V_1\| \|V_2\| \sin(\Theta)$





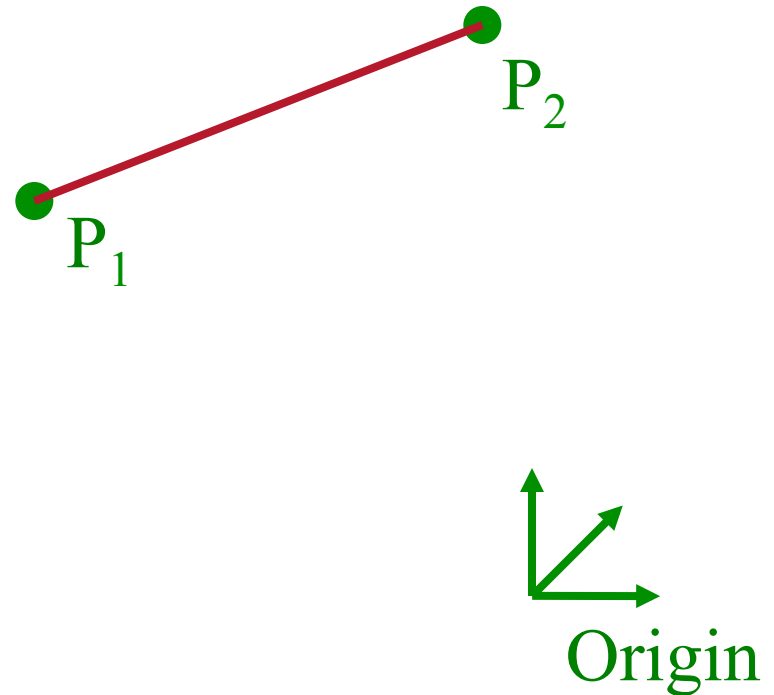
3D Line Segment

Linear path between two points

- Parametric representation:

$$\gg p = P_1 + t (P_2 - P_1), \quad (0 \leq t \leq 1)$$

```
struct Segment {  
    Point P1;  
    Point P2;  
};
```





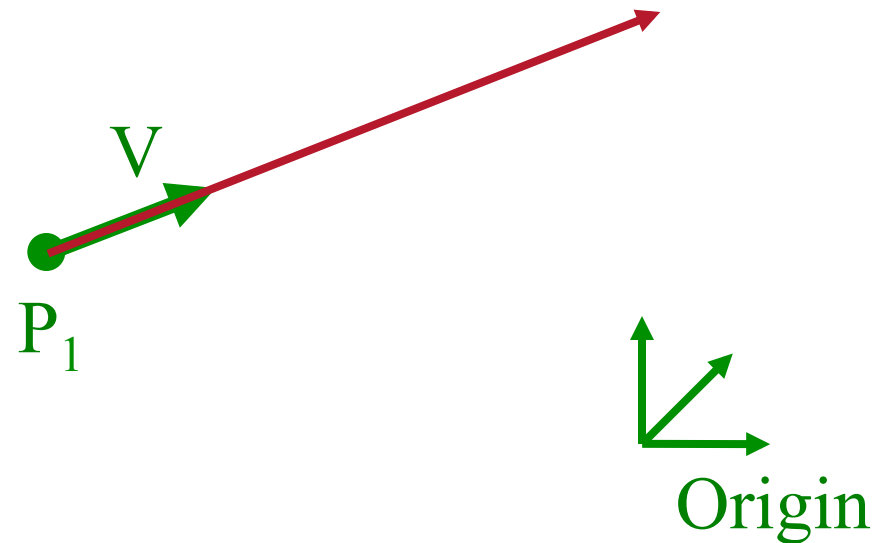
3D Ray

Line segment with one endpoint at infinity

- Parametric representation:

$$\gg p = P_1 + t V, \quad (0 \leq t < \infty)$$

```
struct Ray {  
    Point P1;  
    Vector V;  
};
```





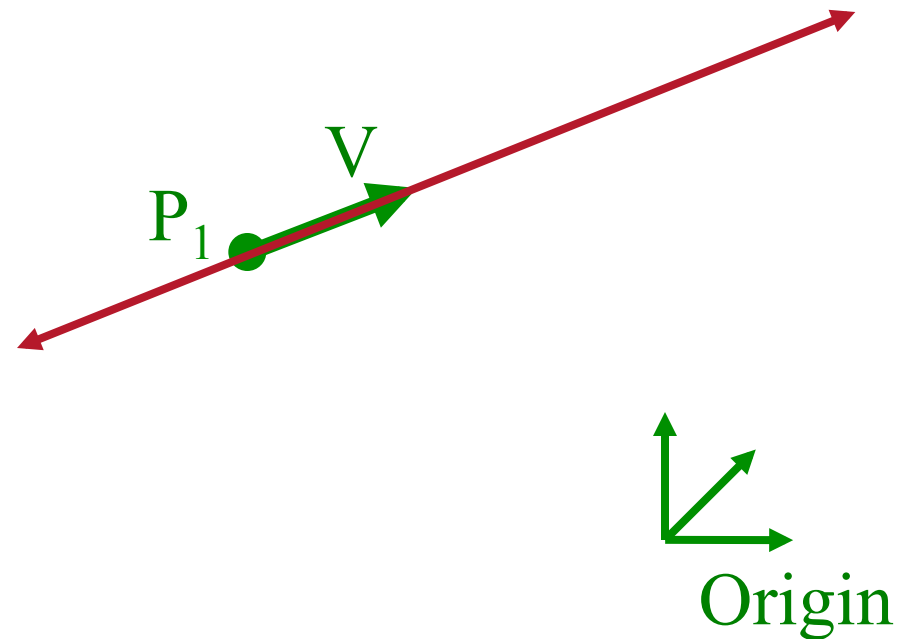
3D Line

Line segment with both endpoints at infinity

- Parametric representation:

$$\gg p = P_1 + t V, \quad (-\infty < t < \infty)$$

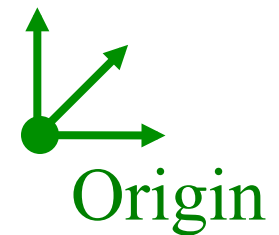
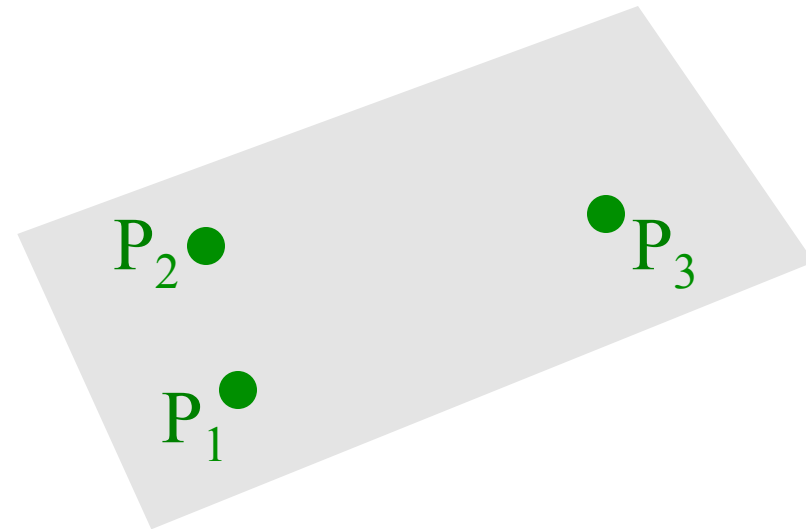
```
struct Line {  
    Point P1;  
    Vector V;  
};
```



3D Plane



Defined by three points





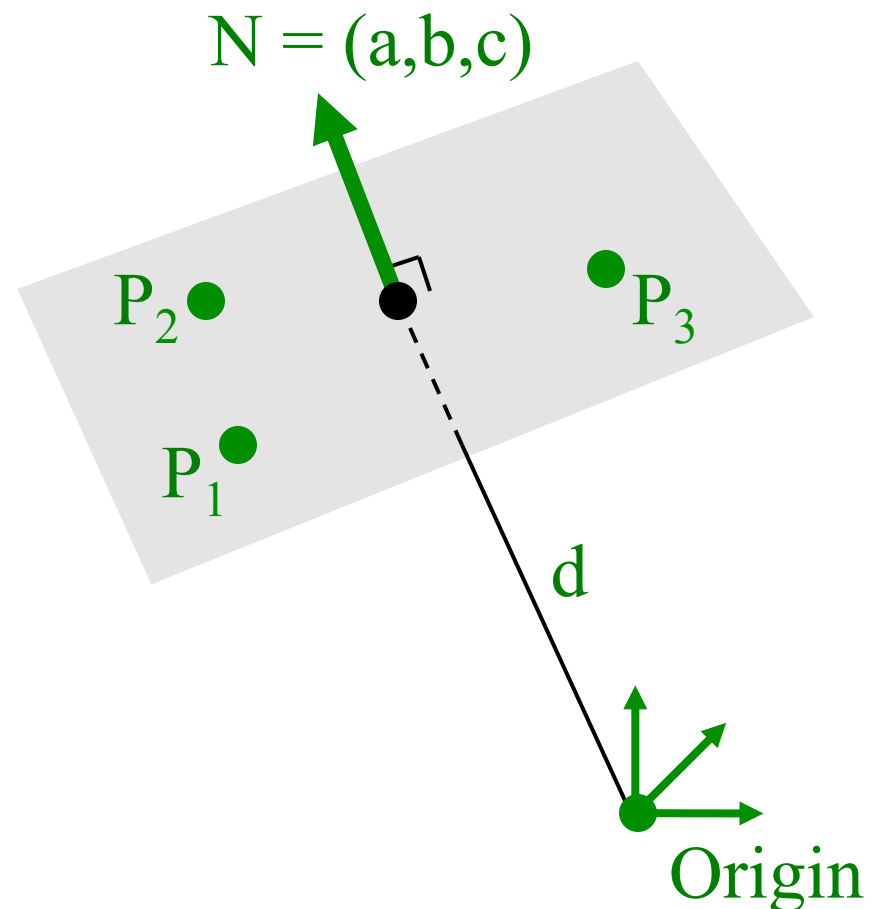
3D Plane

Defined by three points

- Implicit representation:
 - » $ax + by + cz + d = 0$
 - OR
 - » $P \cdot N + d = 0$

```
struct Plane {  
    Vector N;  
    float d;  
};
```

- N is the plane normal
 - » Unit-length
 - » Perpendicular to plane

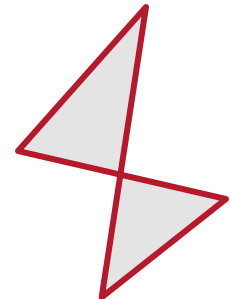
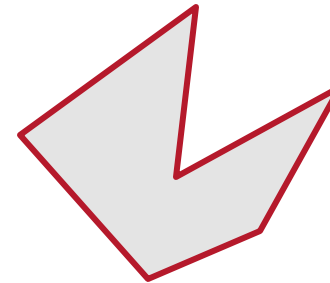
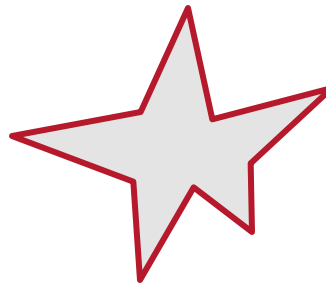
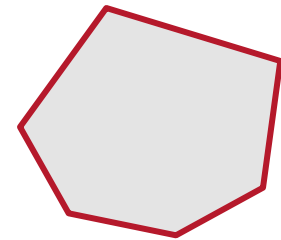
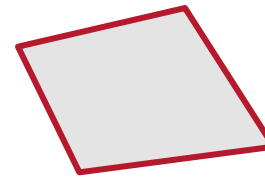
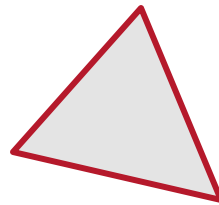




3D Polygon

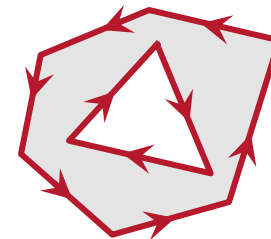
Region “inside” a sequence of coplanar points

```
struct Polygon {  
    vector<Point> points;  
};
```



- Points in counter-clockwise order (defines normal)

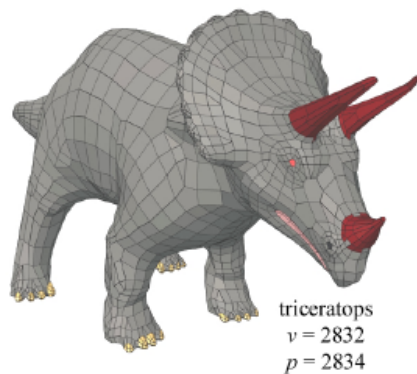
- **Winding rule** determines inside/outside



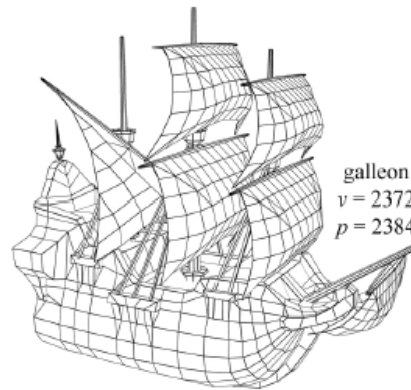


3D Polygonal Mesh

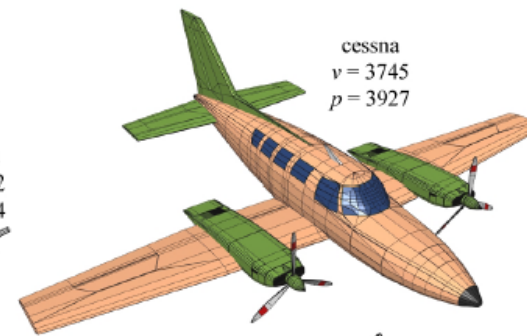
Set of polygons representing a 2D surface embedded in 3D



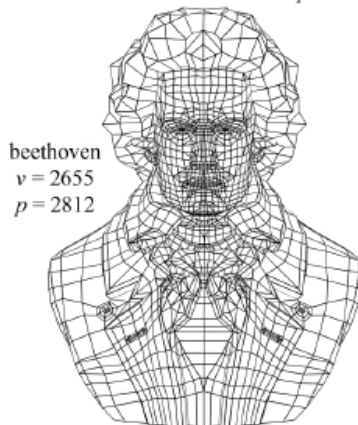
triceratops
 $v = 2832$
 $p = 2834$



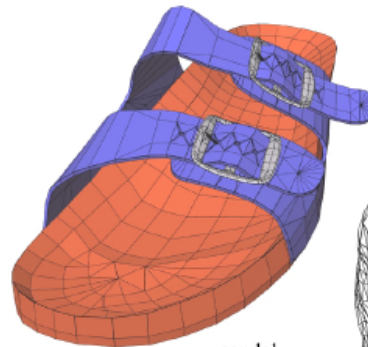
galleon
 $v = 2372$
 $p = 2384$



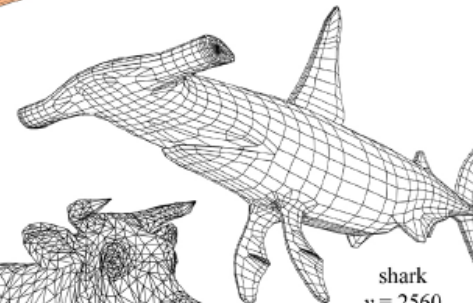
cessna
 $v = 3745$
 $p = 3927$



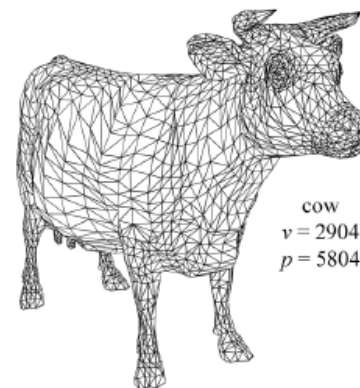
beethoven
 $v = 2655$
 $p = 2812$



sandal
 $v = 2636$
 $p = 2953$



shark
 $v = 2560$
 $p = 2562$



cow
 $v = 2904$
 $p = 5804$

cow_poly
 $v = 2904$
 $p = 3263$

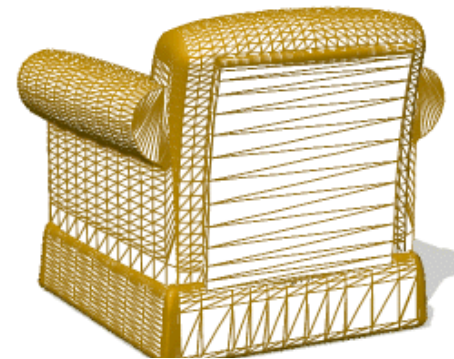
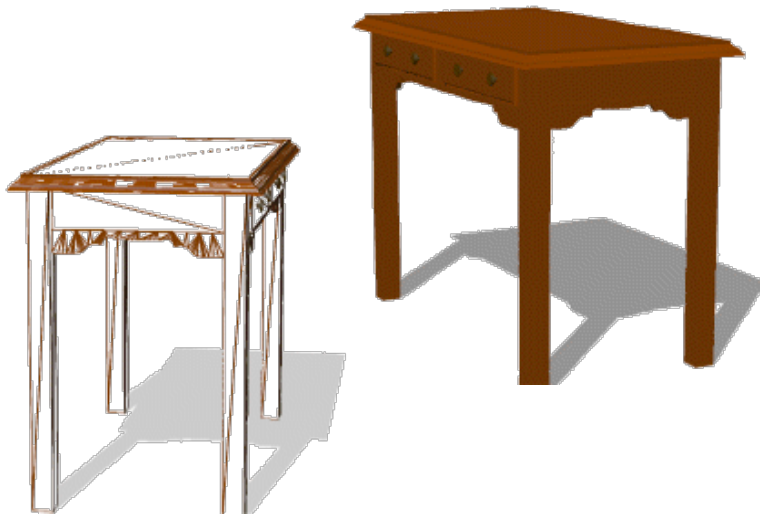
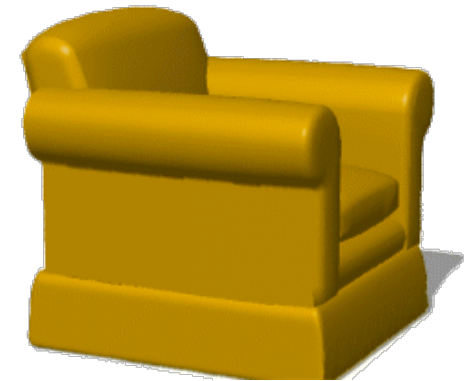
(the polygonal cow is not shown. it is the same cow model, but not fully triangulated)



3D Polygonal Meshes

Why are they of interest?

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

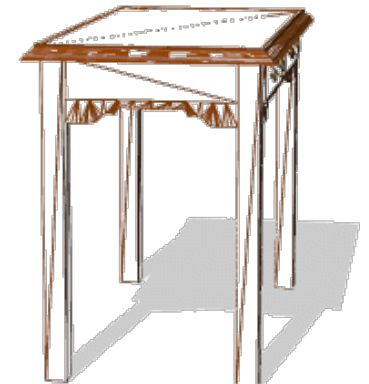
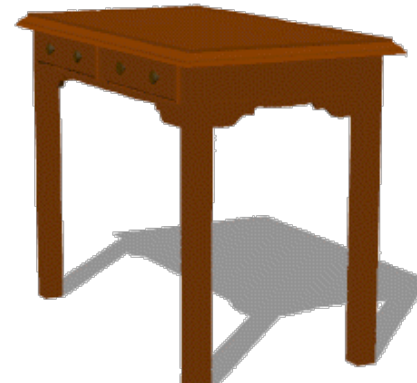
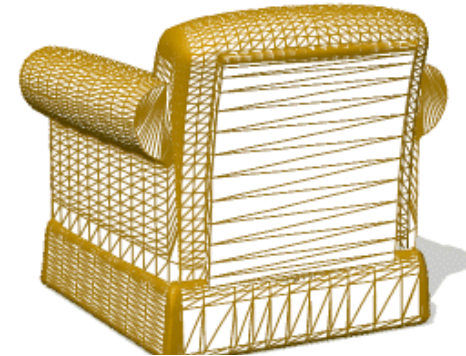
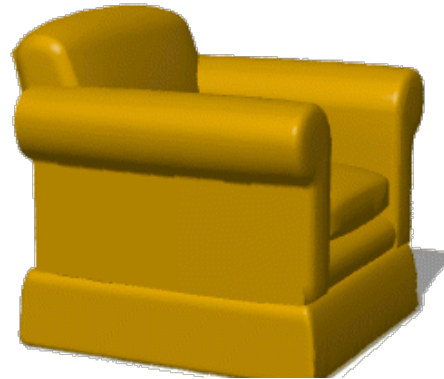




3D Polygonal Meshes

Properties

- ? Efficient display
- ? Easy acquisition
- ? Accurate
- ? Concise
- ? Intuitive editing
- ? Efficient editing
- ? Efficient intersections
- ? Guaranteed validity
- ? Guaranteed smoothness
- ? etc.





Outline

Acquisition ←

Processing

Representation



Polygonal Mesh Acquisition

Interactive modeling

- Polygon editors
- Interchange formats

Scanners

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

Simulations

- Physical processes



Polygonal Mesh Acquisition

Interactive modeling

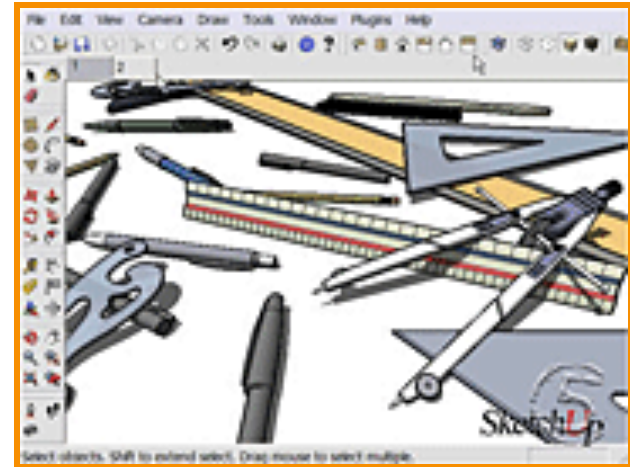
- Polygon editors
- Interchange formats

Scanners

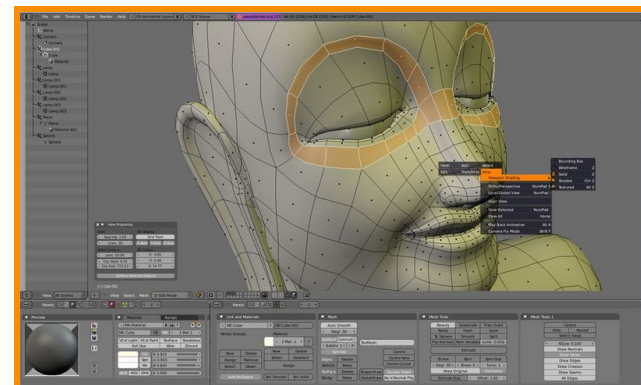
- Laser range scanners
- Geological survey
- CAT, MRI, etc. (isosurfaces)

Simulations

- Physical processes



Sketchup



Blender



Polygonal Mesh Acquisition

Interactive modeling

- Polygon editors
- Interchange formats



Scanners

- Laser range scanners
- Geological survey
- CAT, MRI, etc.



Simulations

- Physical processes

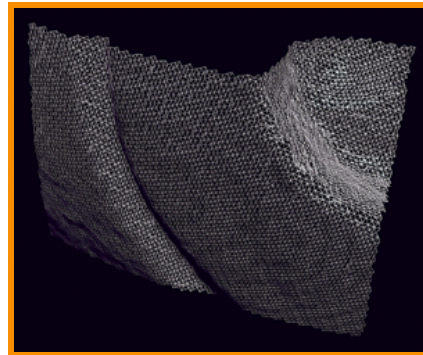
Jose Maria De Espona



Polygonal Mesh Acquisition

Interactive modeling

- Polygon editors
- Interchange formats

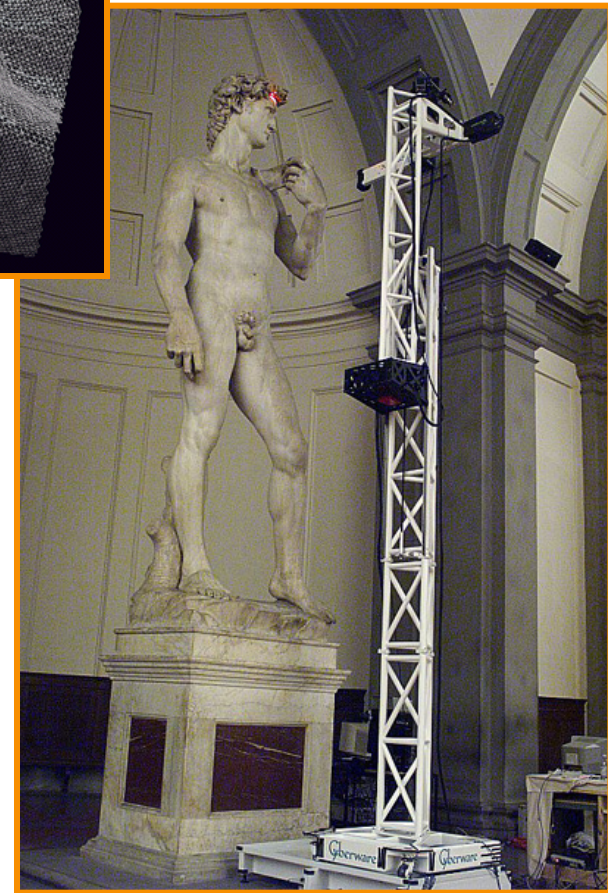


Scanners

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

Simulations

- Physical processes



Digital Michelangelo Project
Stanford



Polygonal Mesh Acquisition

Interactive modeling

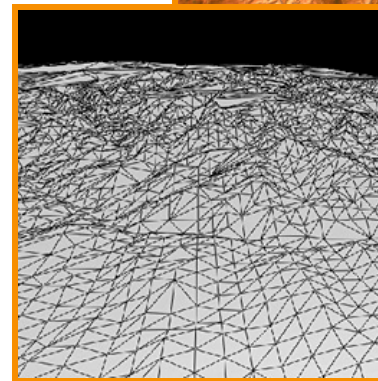
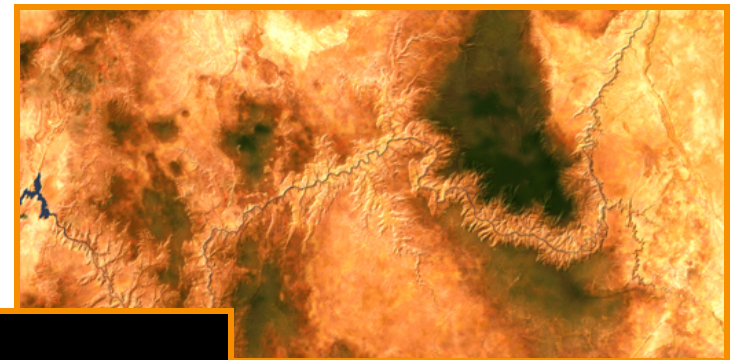
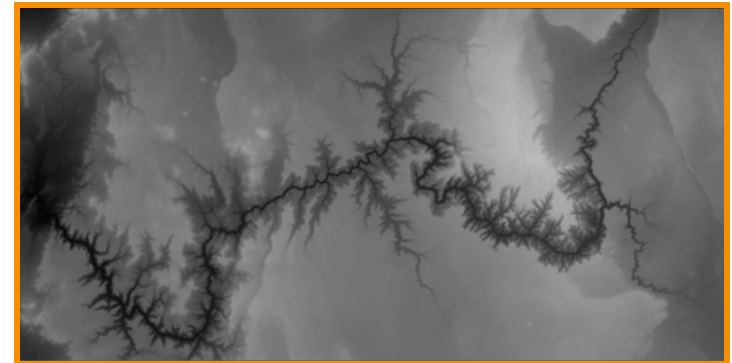
- Polygon editors
- Interchange formats

Scanners

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

Simulations

- Physical processes



Large Geometric
Model Repository
Georgia Tech



Polygonal Mesh Acquisition

Interactive modeling

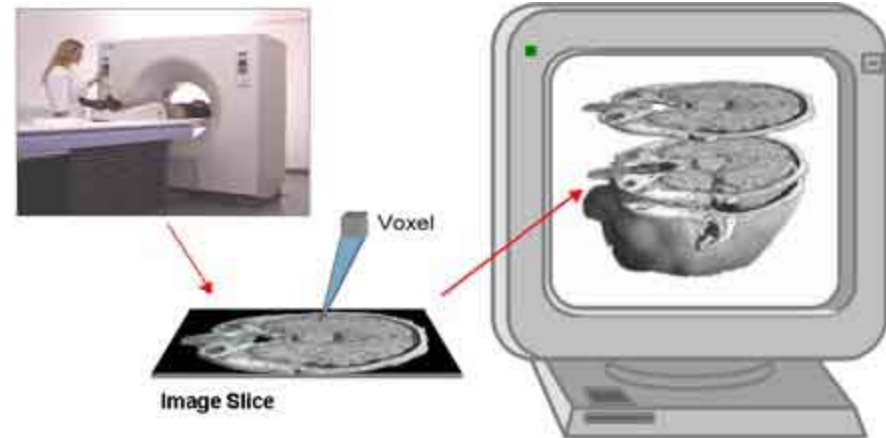
- Polygon editors
- Interchange formats

Scanners

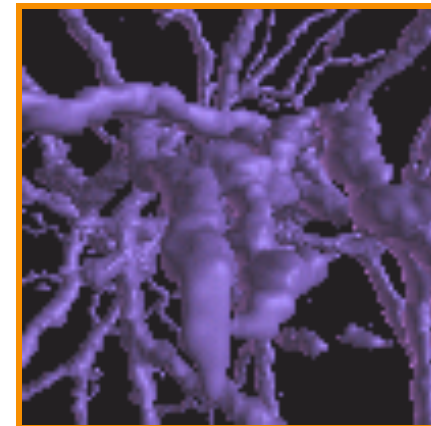
- Laser range scanners
- Geological survey
- CAT, MRI, etc. (isosurfaces)

Simulations

- Physical processes



www.volumegraphics.com



SUNY Stony Brook



Polygonal Mesh Acquisition

Interactive modeling

- Polygon editors
- Interchange formats

Scanners

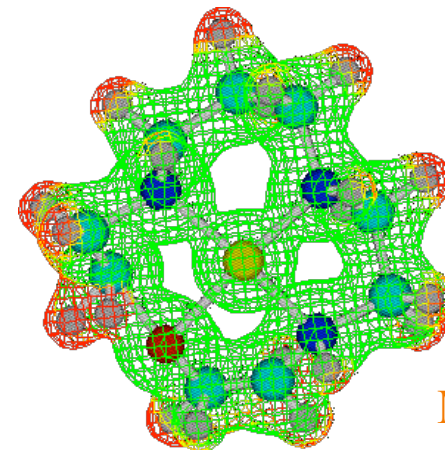
- Laser range scanners
- Geological survey
- CAT, MRI, etc. (isosurfaces)

Simulations

- Physical processes



SGI



MIT



Outline

Acquisition

Processing ←

Representation



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Analysis

- Normals
- Curvature

Warps

- Rotate
- Deform

Filters

- Smooth
- Sharpen
- Truncate
- Bevel



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Analysis

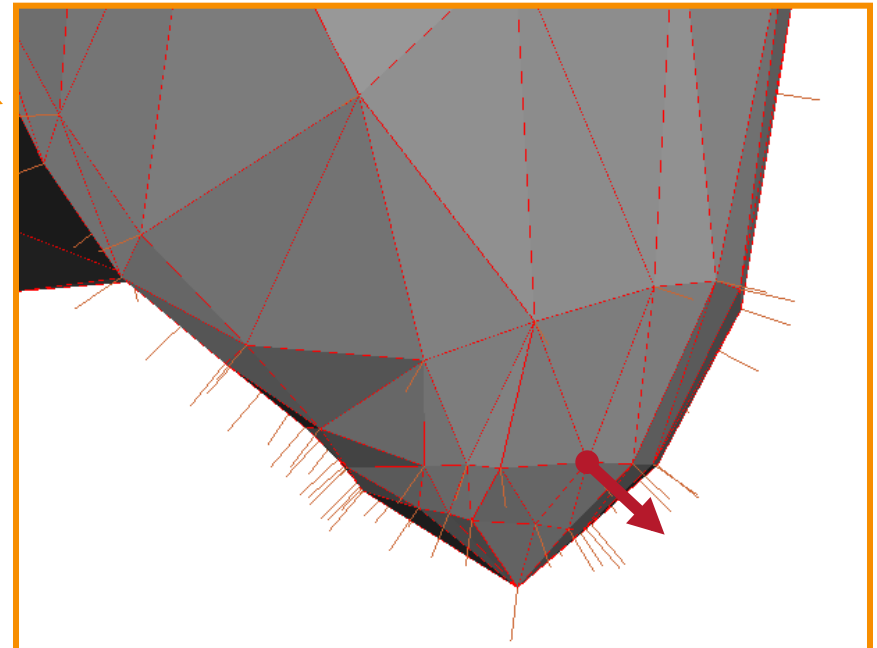
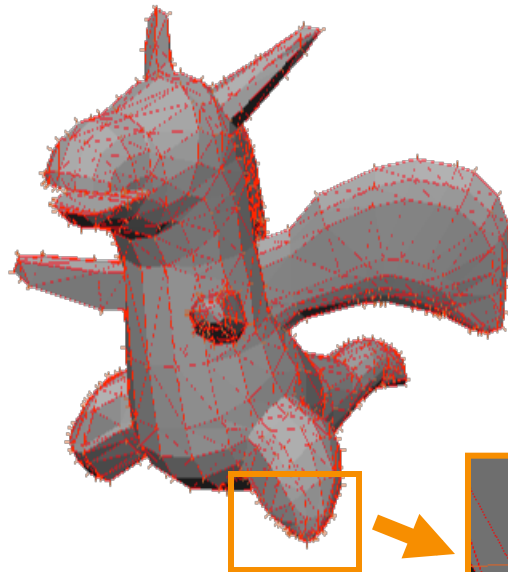
- Normals
- Curvature

Warps

- Rotate
- Deform

Filters

- Smooth
- Sharpen
- Truncate
- Bevel





Polygonal Mesh Processing

Analysis

- Normals
- Curvature



Warps

- Rotate
- Deform

Filters

- Smooth
- Sharpen
- Truncate
- Bevel

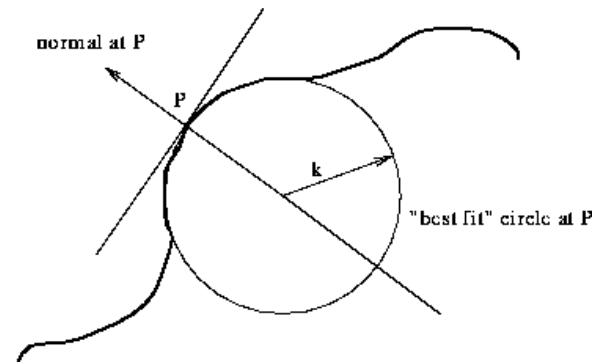


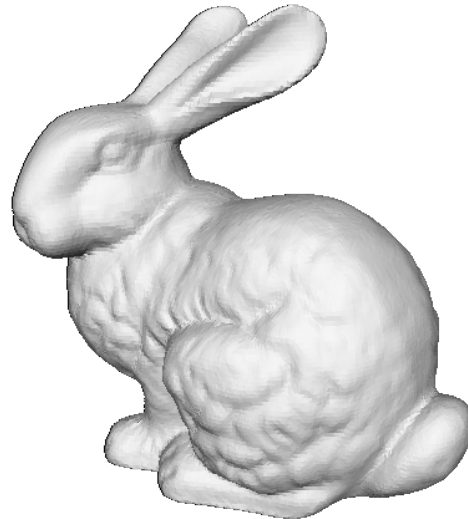
Figure 32: curvature of curve at P is $1/k$



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Analysis

- Normals
- Curvature

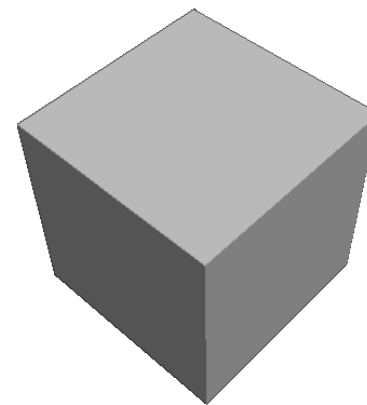
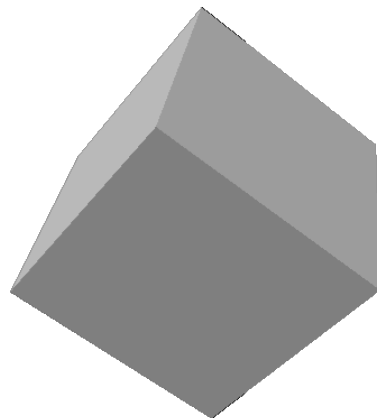


Warps

- Rotate
- Deform

Filters

- Smooth
- Sharpen
- Truncate
- Bevel





Polygonal Mesh Processing

Analysis

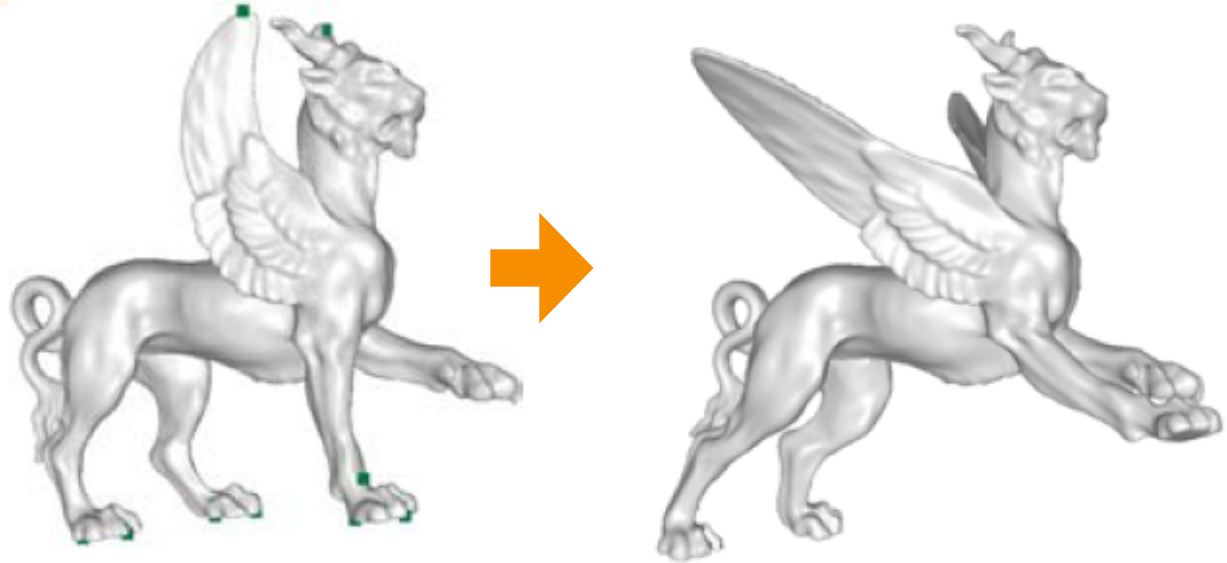
- Normals
- Curvature

Warps

- Rotate
- Deform

Filters

- Smooth
- Sharpen
- Truncate
- Bevel





Polygonal Mesh Processing

Analysis

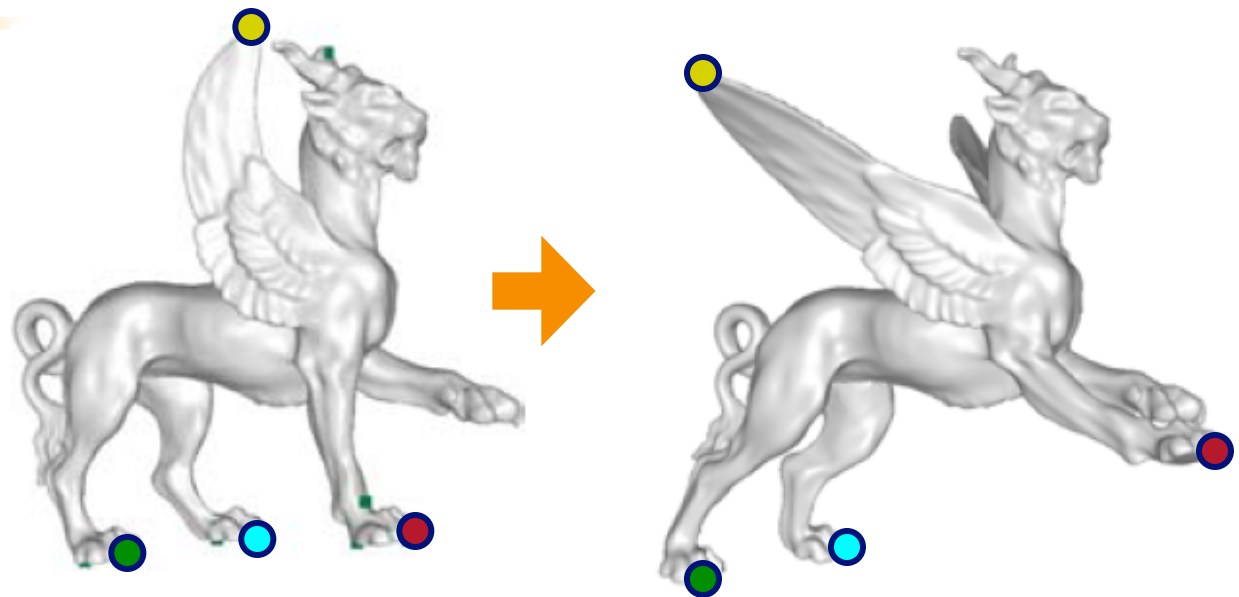
- Normals
- Curvature

Warps

- Rotate
- Deform

Filters

- Smooth
- Sharpen
- Truncate
- Bevel





Polygonal Mesh Processing

Analysis

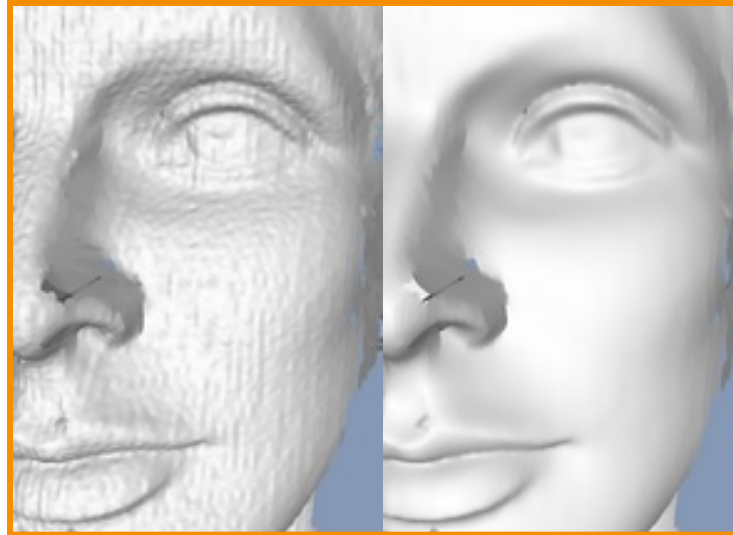
- Normals
- Curvature

Warps

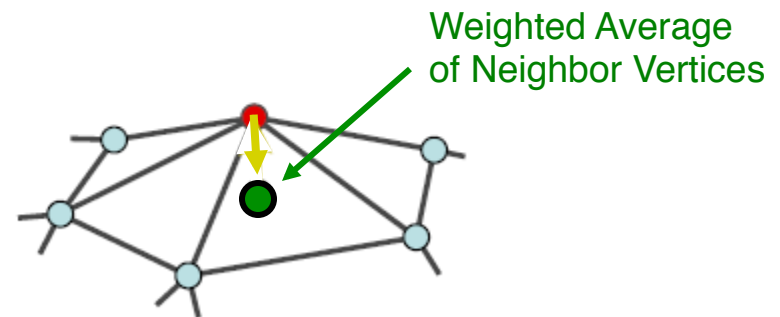
- Rotate
- Deform

Filters

- Smooth
- Sharpen
- Truncate
- Bevel



Thouis “Ray” Jones



Olga Sorkine



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Analysis

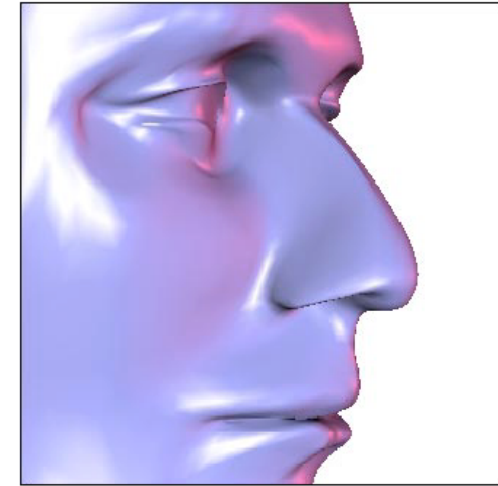
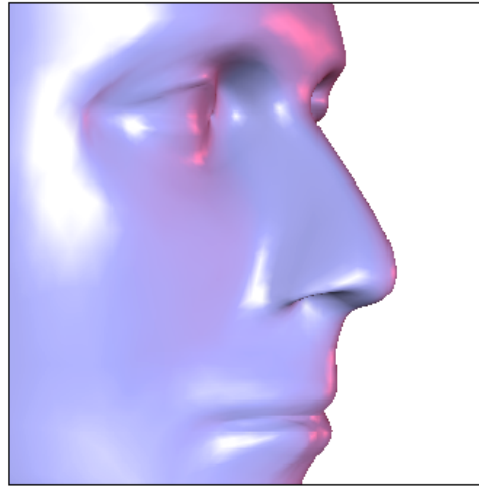
- Normals
- Curvature

Warps

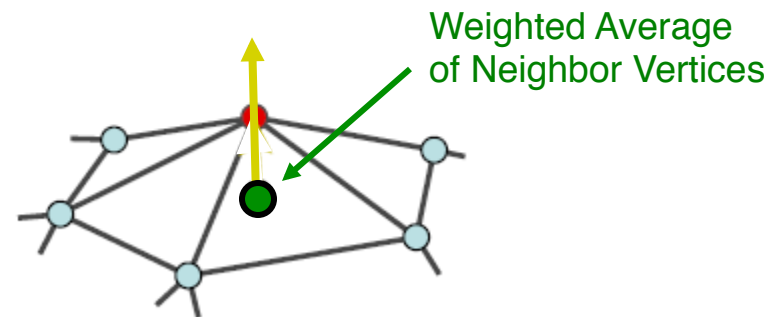
- Rotate
- Deform

Filters

- Smooth
- Sharpen
- Truncate
- Bevel



Desbrun



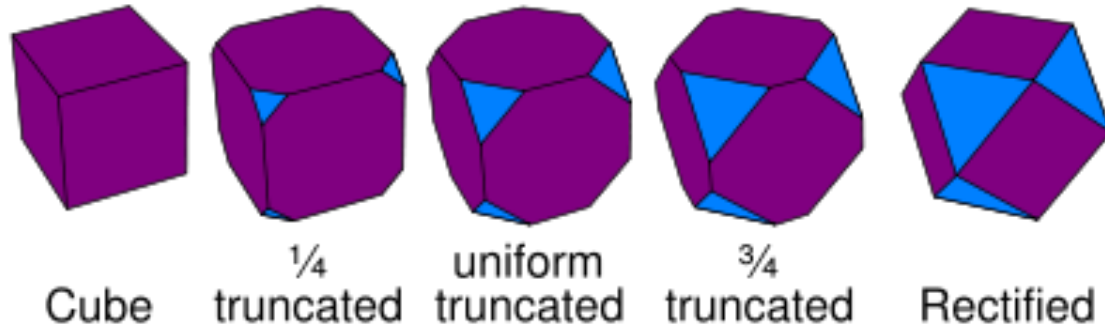
Olga Sorkine



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Analysis

- Normals
- Curvature

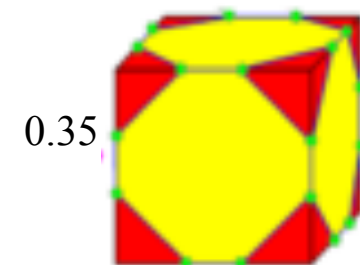
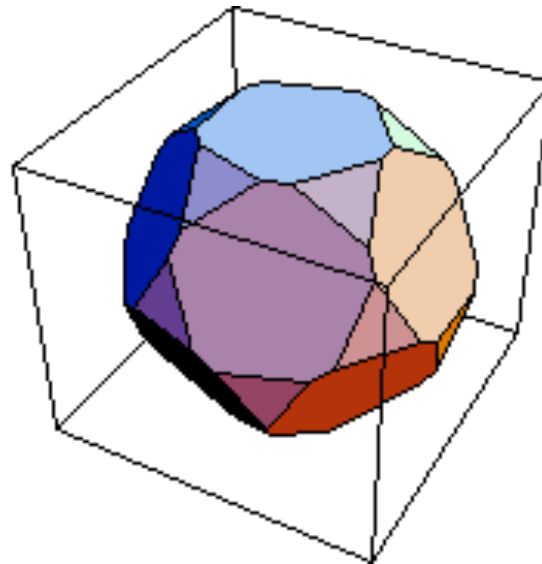


Warps

- Rotate
- Deform

Filters

- Smooth
- Sharpen
- **Truncate**
- Bevel



0.35

Conway



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Wikipedia

Analysis

- Normals
- Curvature



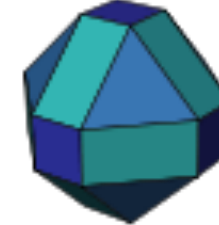
(regular polyhedron)
Cube



1/2 cantellated
(beveled cube)



Uniform cantellation
Rhombicuboctahedron



1/2 cantellated
(beveled octahedron)



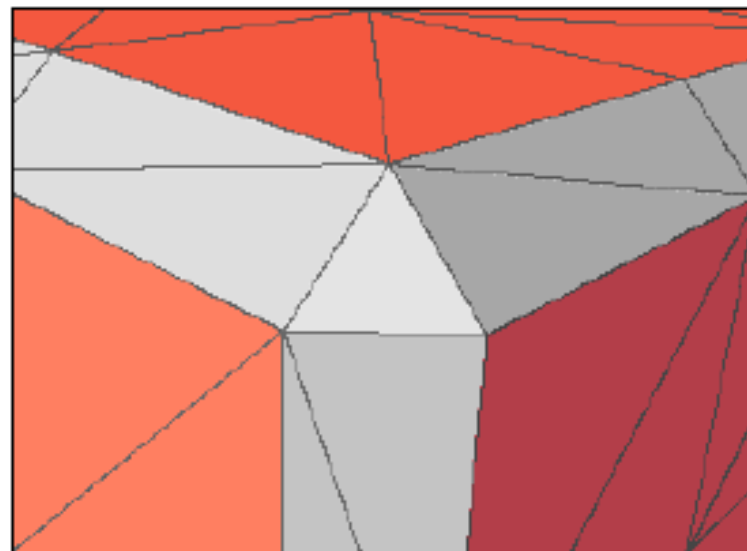
(regular dual)
Octahedron

Warps

- Rotate
- Deform

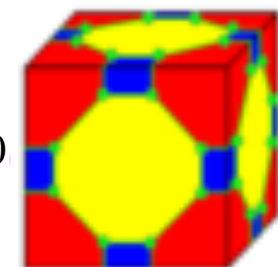
Filters

- Smooth
- Sharpen
- Truncate
- Bevel



Jarek Rossignac

0.40



Conway



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Remeshing

- Subdivide
- Resample
- Simplify

Topological fixup

- Fill holes
- Fix cracks
- Fix self-intersections

Boolean operations

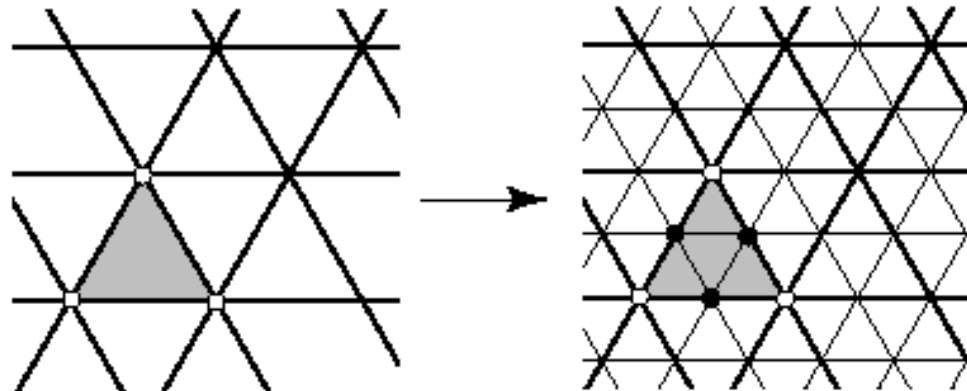
- Crop
- Subtract



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Remeshing

- **Subdivide**
- Resample
- Simplify

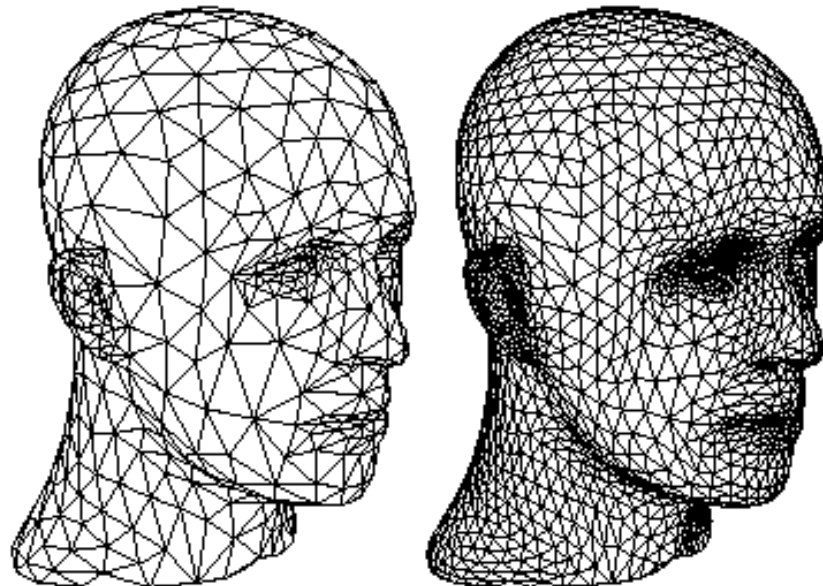


Topological fixup

- Fill holes
- Fix cracks
- Fix self-intersections

Boolean operations

- Crop
- Subtract





Polygonal Mesh Processing

Remeshing

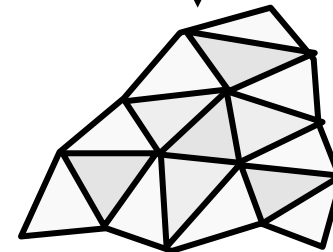
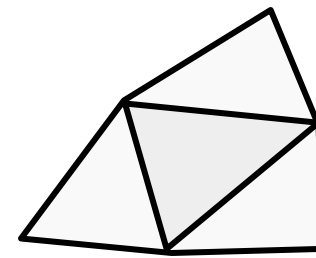
- **Subdivide**
- Resample
- Simplify

Topological fixup

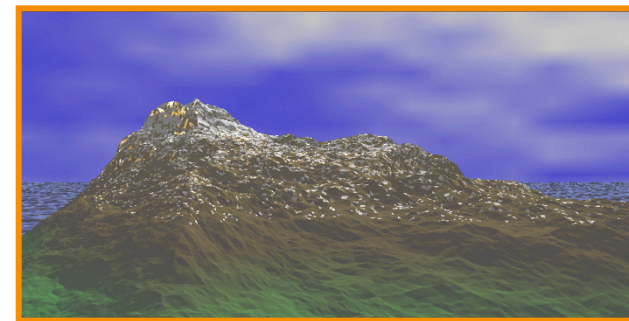
- Fill holes
- Fix cracks
- Fix self-intersections

Boolean operations

- Crop
- Subtract



Fractal Landscape



*Dirk Balfanz, Igor Guskov,
Sanjeev Kumar, & Rudro Samanta,*



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Remeshing

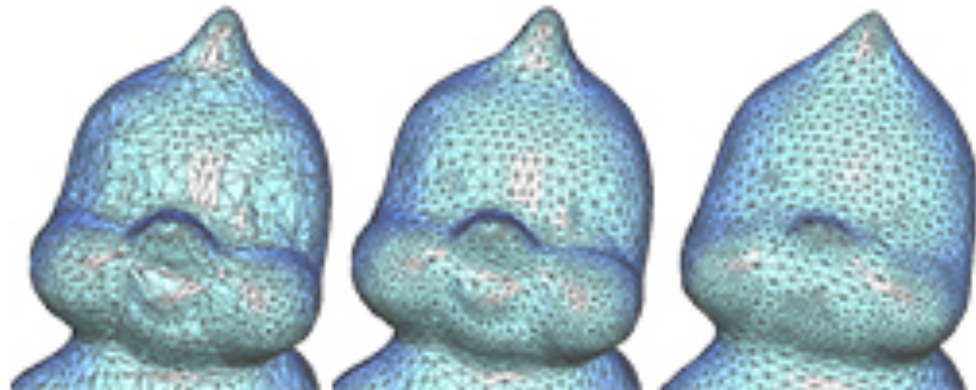
- Subdivide
- Resample
- Simplify

Topological fixup

- Fill holes
- Fix cracks
- Fix self-intersections

Boolean operations

- Crop
- Subtract



Original

Resampled

- more uniform distribution
- triangles with nicer aspect



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Remeshing

- Subdivide
- Resample
- Simplify

Topological fixup

- Fill holes
- Fix cracks
- Fix self-intersections

Boolean operations

- Crop
- Subtract





Polygonal Mesh Processing

Remeshing

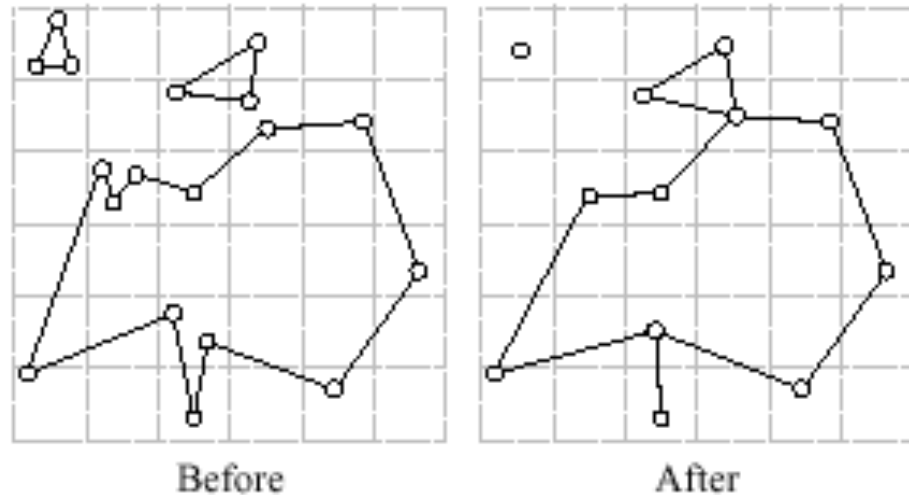
- Subdivide
- Resample
- Simplify

Topological fixup

- Fill holes
- Fix cracks
- Fix self-intersections

Boolean operations

- Crop
- Subtract



Vertex Clustering



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Remeshing

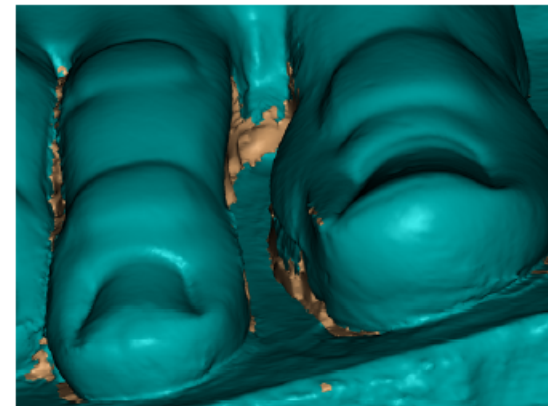
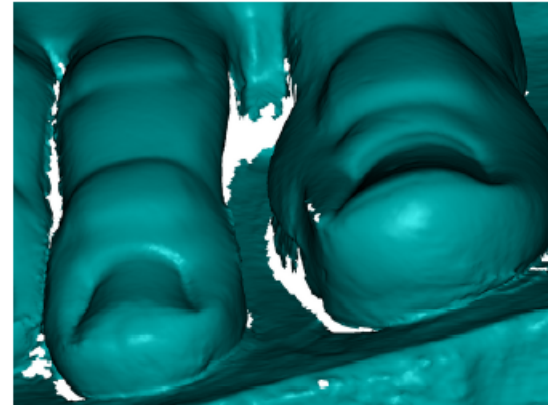
- Subdivide
- Resample
- Simplify

Topological fixup

- Fill holes
- **Fix cracks**
- Fix self-intersections

Boolean operations

- Crop
- Subtract





Polygonal Mesh Processing

Remeshing

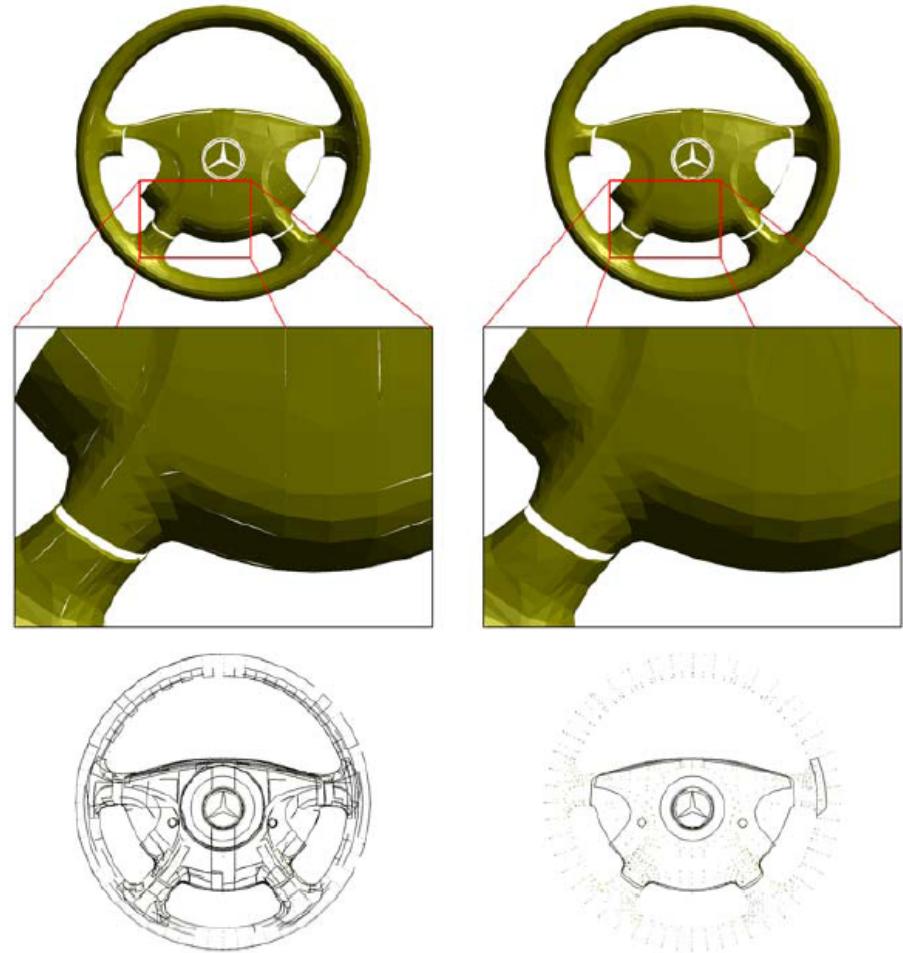
- Subdivide
- Resample
- Simplify

Topological fixup

- Fill holes
- Fix cracks
- Fix self-intersections

Boolean operations

- Crop
- Subtract





Polygonal Mesh Processing

Remeshing

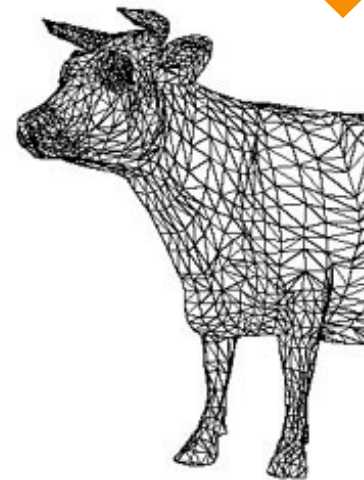
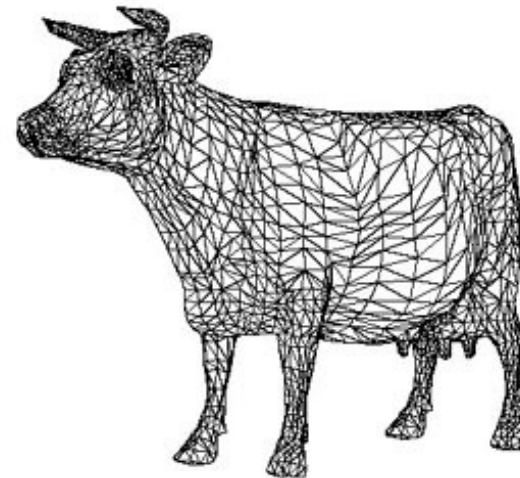
- Subdivide
- Resample
- Simplify

Topological fixup

- Fill holes
- Fix cracks
- Fix self-intersections

Boolean operations

- Crop
- Subtract





Polygonal Mesh Processing

Remeshing

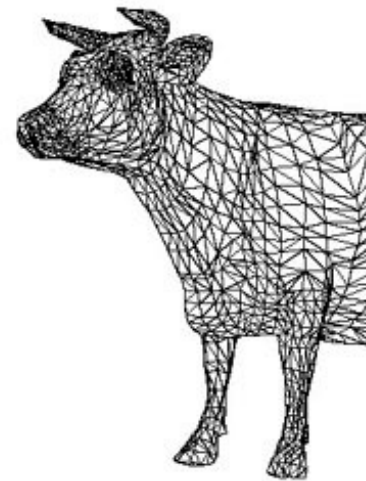
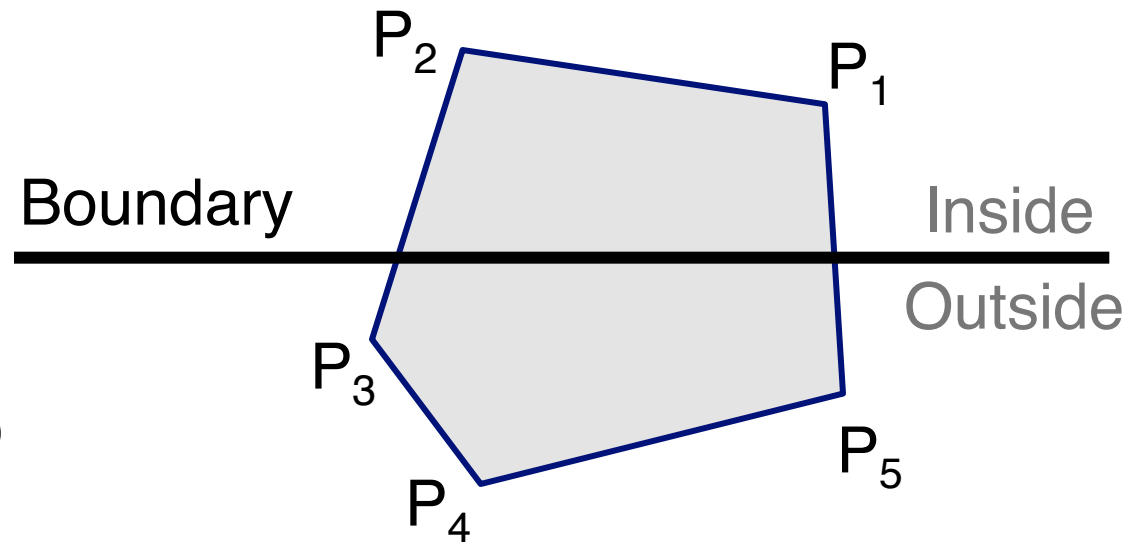
- Subdivide
- Resample
- Simplify

Topological fixup

- Fill holes
- Fix cracks
- Fix self-intersections

Boolean operations

- Crop
- Subtract





Polygonal Mesh Processing

Remeshing

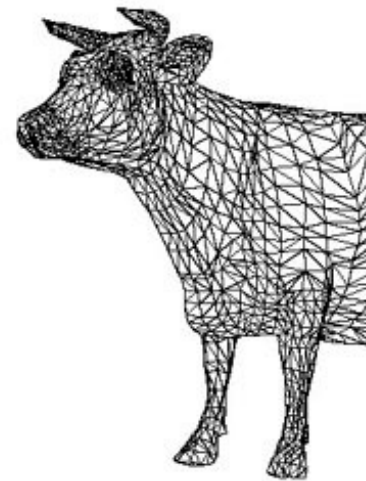
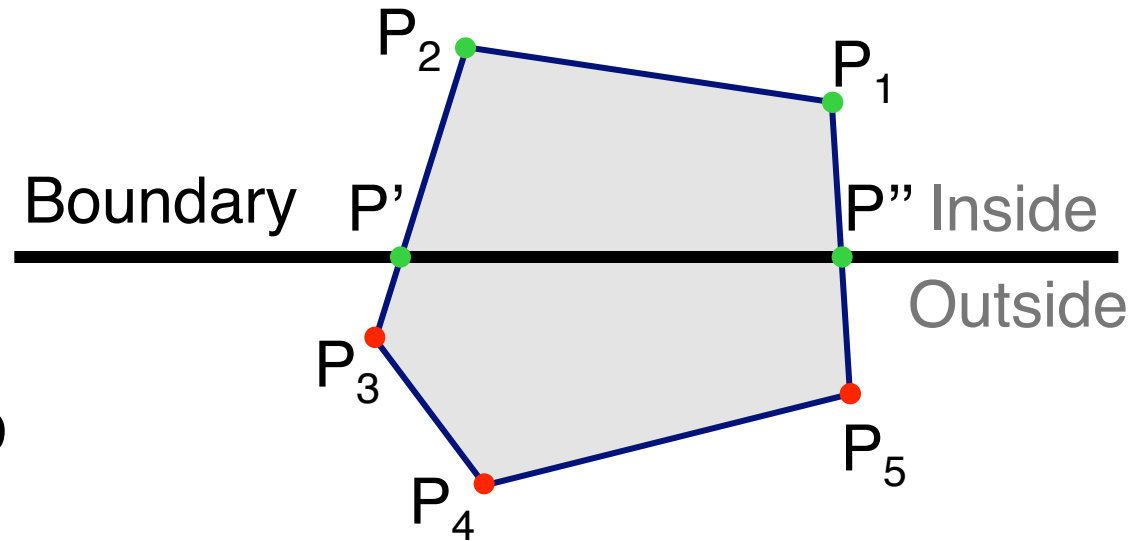
- Subdivide
- Resample
- Simplify

Topological fixup

- Fill holes
- Fix cracks
- Fix self-intersections

Boolean operations

- Crop
- Subtract

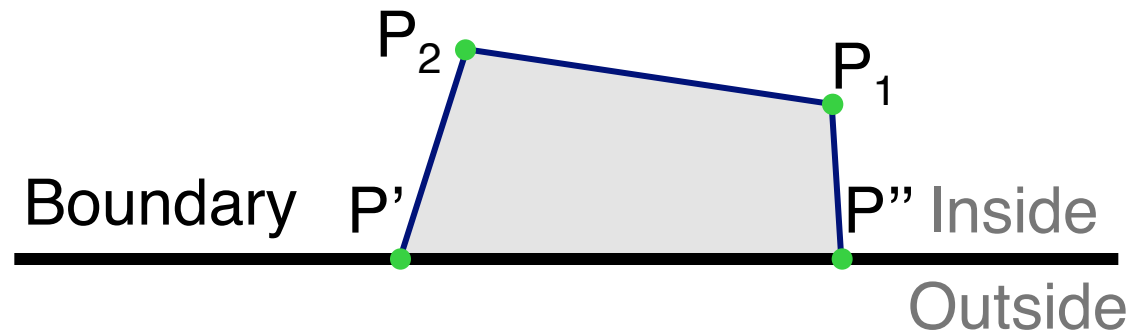




Polygonal Mesh Processing

Remeshing

- Subdivide
- Resample
- Simplify

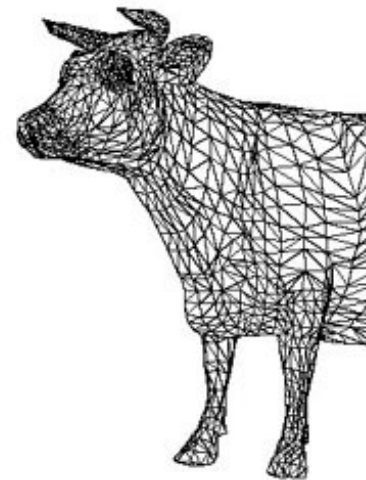


Topological fixup

- Fill holes
- Fix cracks
- Fix self-intersections

Boolean operations

- Crop
- Subtract





Polygonal Mesh Processing

Remeshing

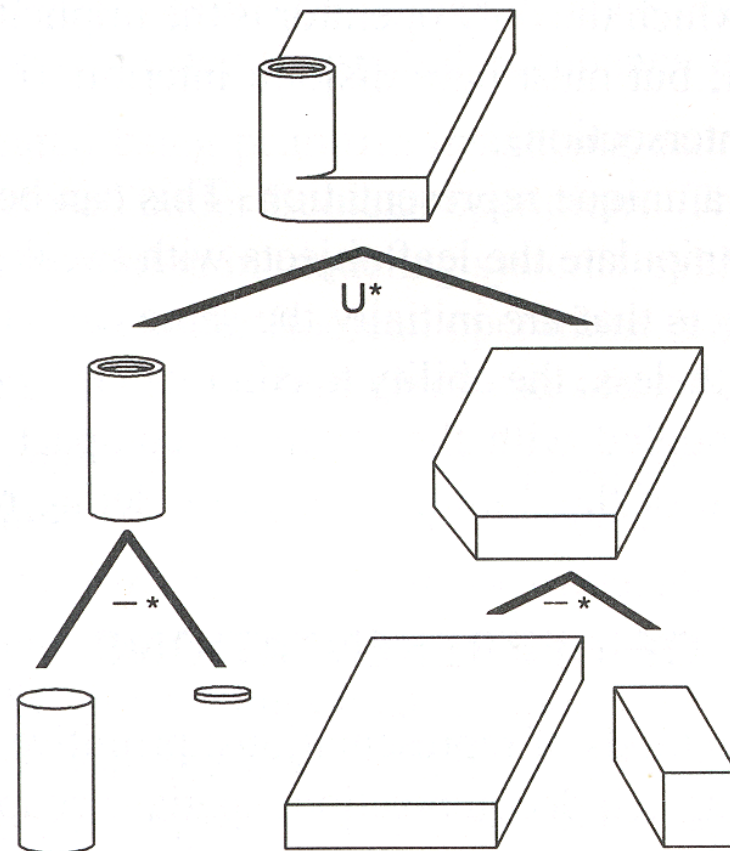
- Subdivide
- Resample
- Simplify

Topological fixup

- Fill holes
- Fix cracks
- Fix self-intersections

Boolean operations

- Crop
- Subtract



FvDFH Figure 12.27



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Procedural generation

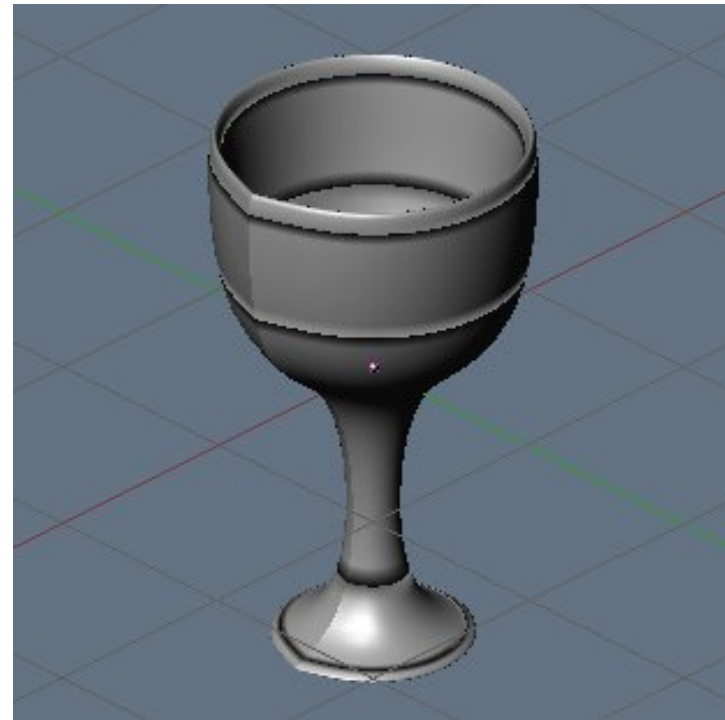
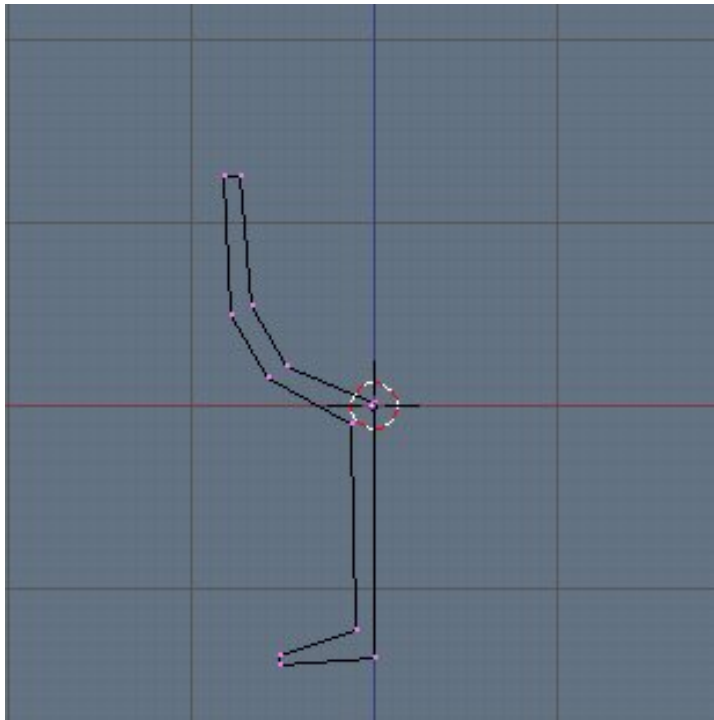
- Surface of revolution
- Sweep



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Procedural generation

- Surface of revolution
- Sweep

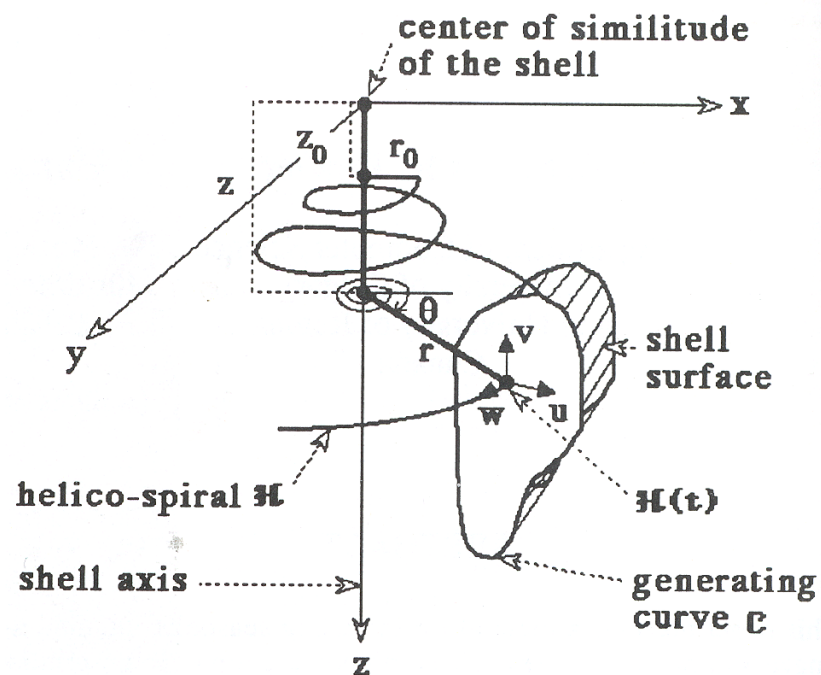




Polygonal Mesh Processing

Procedural generation

- Surface of revolution
- Sweep



Fowler et al., 1992



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Procedural generation

- Surface of revolution
- Sweep





Polygonal Mesh Processing

Most operations use a few low-level operations:

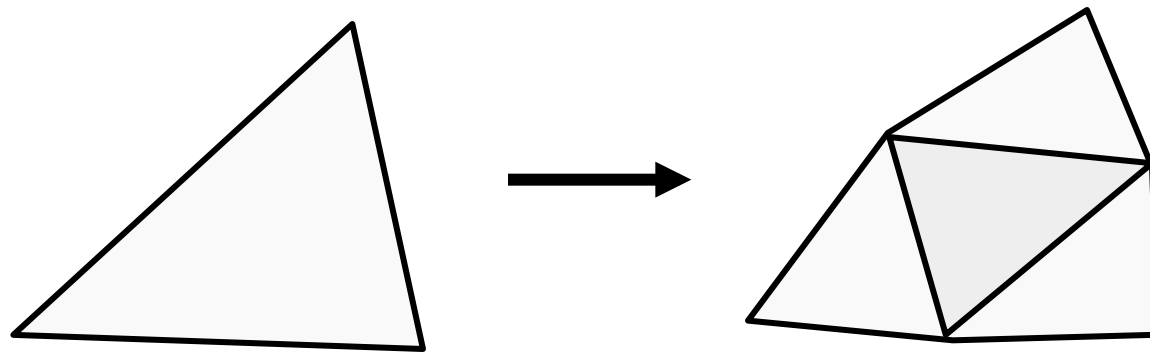
- Subdivide face
- Subdivide edge
- Collapse edge
- Merge vertices
- Remove vertex



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Most operations use a few low-level operations:

- **Subdivide face**
- Subdivide edge
- Collapse edge
- Merge vertices
- Remove vertex



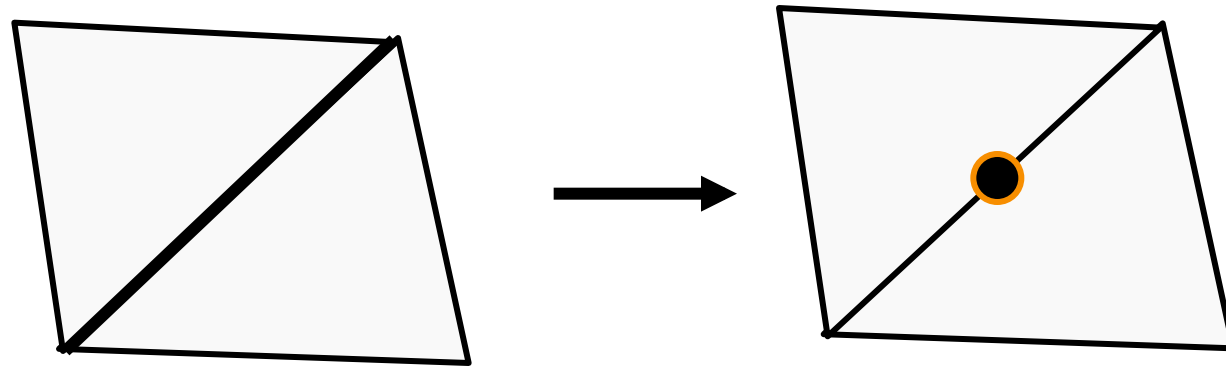
Subdivide face



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Most operations use a few low-level operations:

- Subdivide face
- **Subdivide edge**
- Collapse edge
- Merge vertices
- Remove vertex



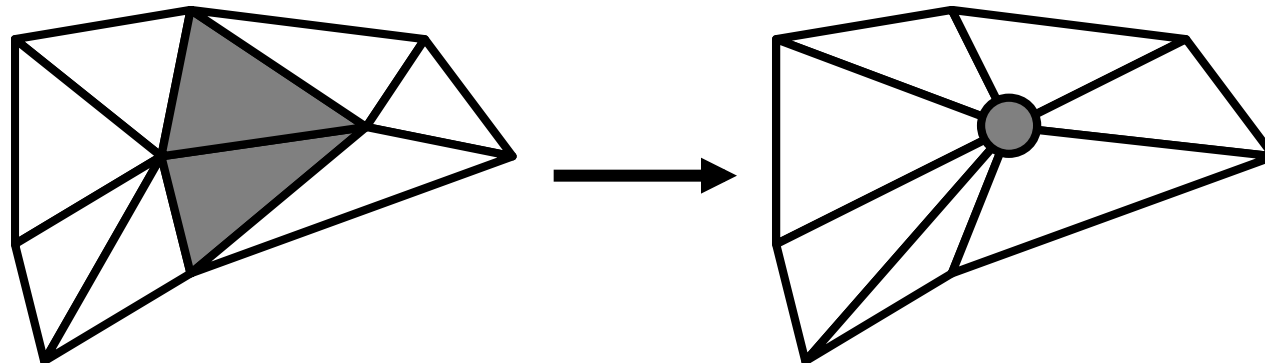
Subdivide edge



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Most operations use a few low-level operations:

- Subdivide face
- Subdivide edge
- Collapse edge
- Merge vertices
- Remove vertex



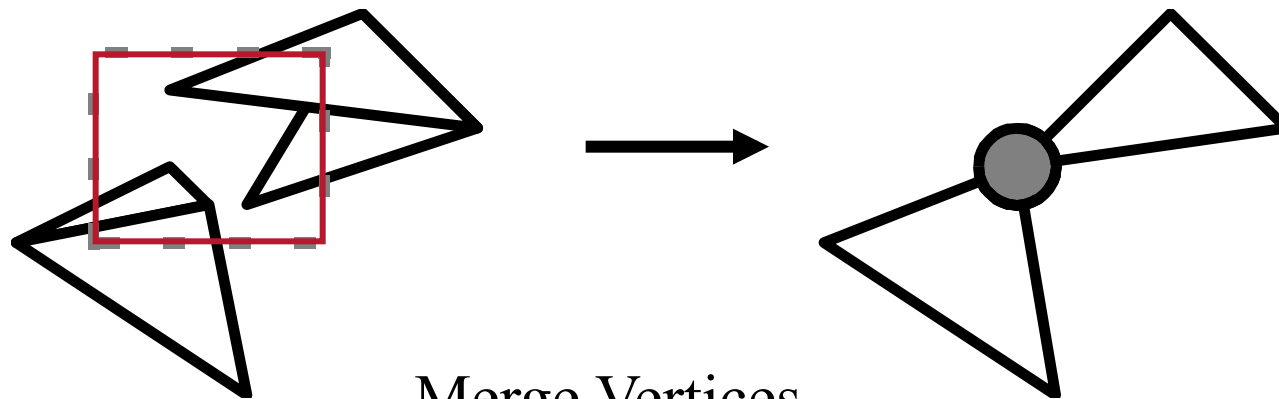
Collapse edge



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Most operations use a few low-level operations:

- Subdivide face
- Subdivide edge
- Collapse edge
- Merge vertices
- Remove vertex



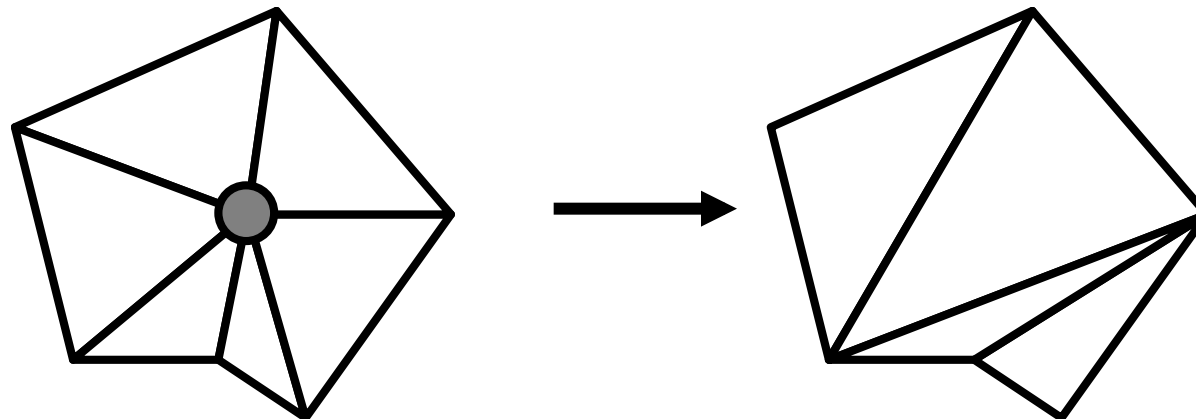
Merge Vertices



Polygonal Mesh Processing

Most operations use a few low-level operations:

- Subdivide face
- Subdivide edge
- Collapse edge
- Merge vertices
- Remove vertex



Remove Vertex



Outline

Acquisition

Processing

Representation ←



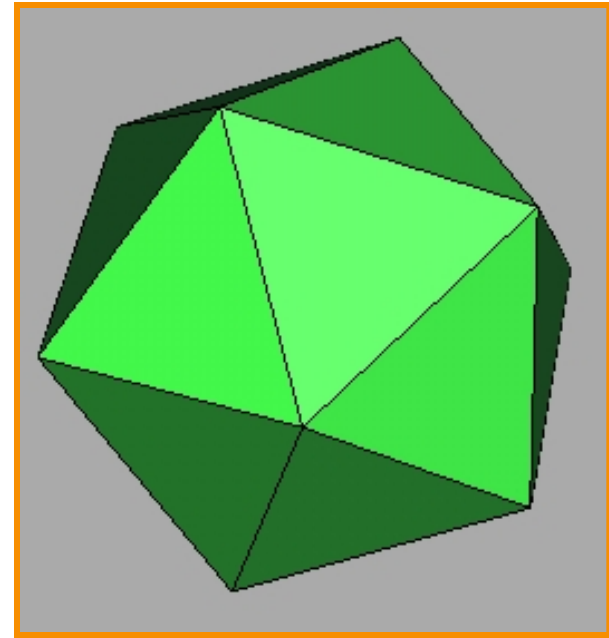
Polygon Mesh Representation

Data structures determine algorithms

- Data structure must support key operations of algorithm efficiently

Examples:

- Drawing a mesh
- Removing a vertex
- Smoothing a region
- Intersecting polyhedra

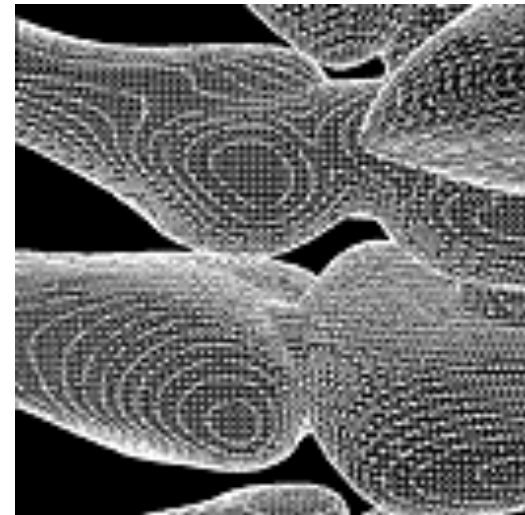
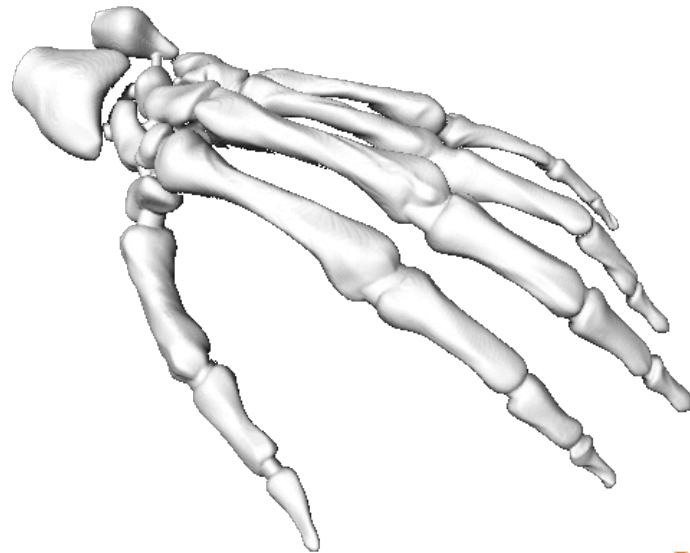


Different data structures for different algorithms



Polygon Mesh Representation

Important properties of mesh representation?



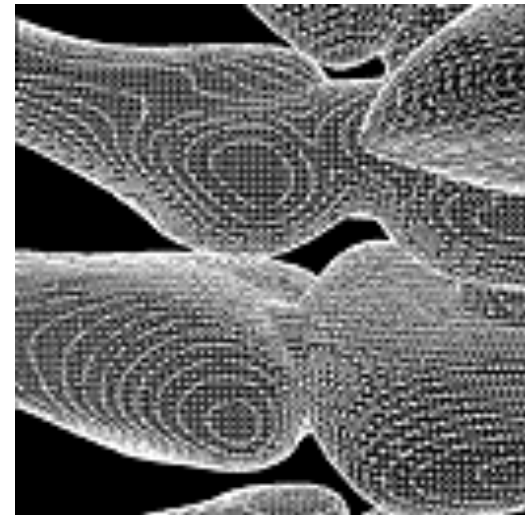
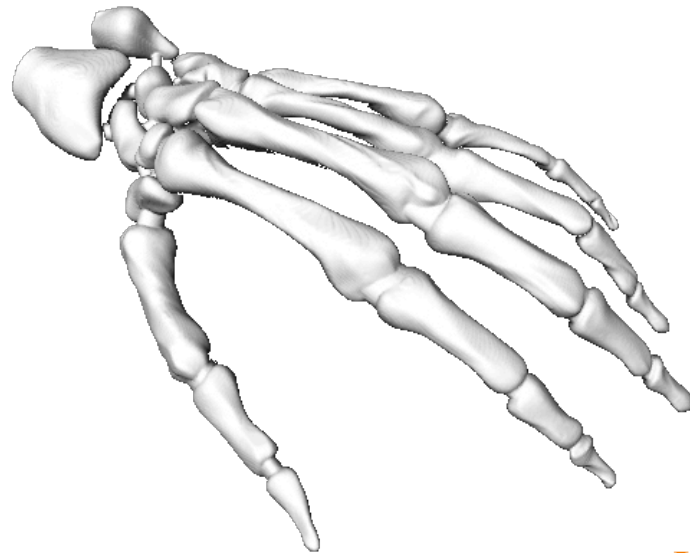
Large Geometric Model Repository
Georgia Tech



Polygon Mesh Representation

Important properties of mesh representation?

- Efficient traversal of topology
- Efficient use of memory
- Efficient updates



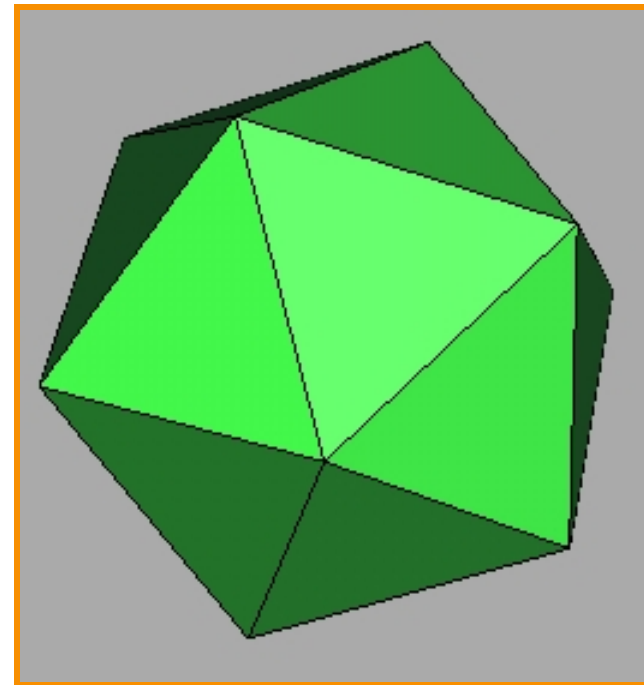
Large Geometric Model Repository
Georgia Tech



Polygon Mesh Representation

Possible data structures

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

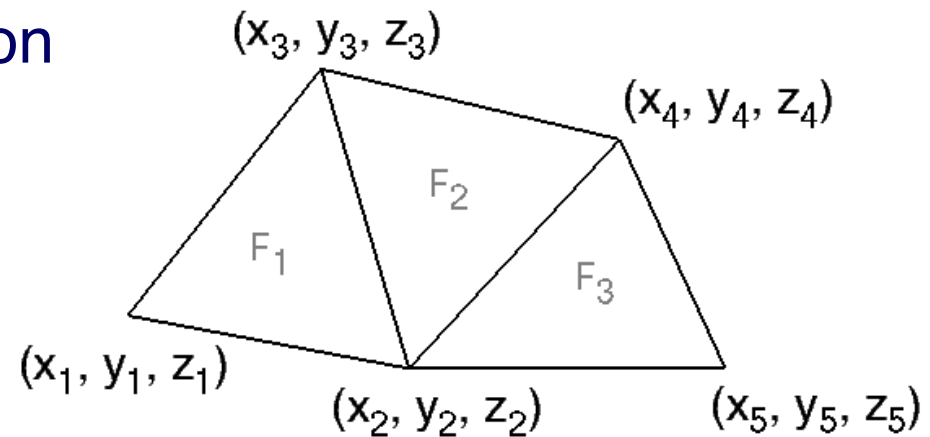
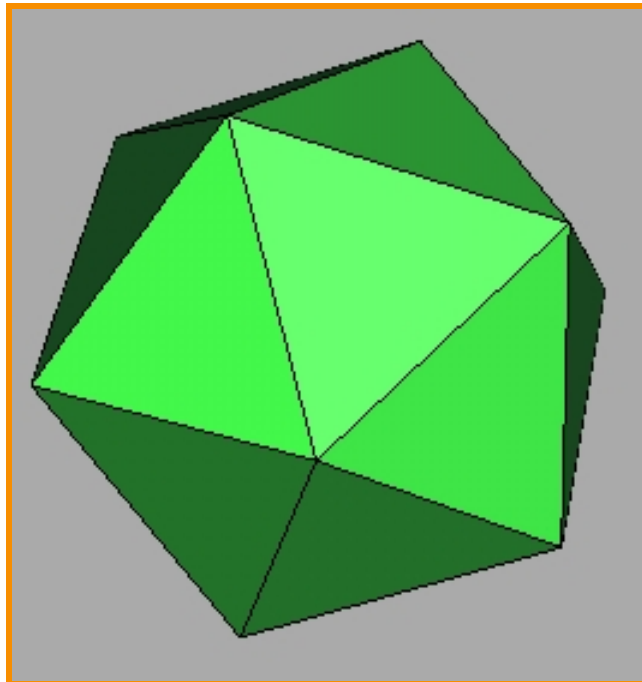




Independent Faces

Each face lists vertex coordinates

- Redundant vertices
- No adjacency information



FACE TABLE

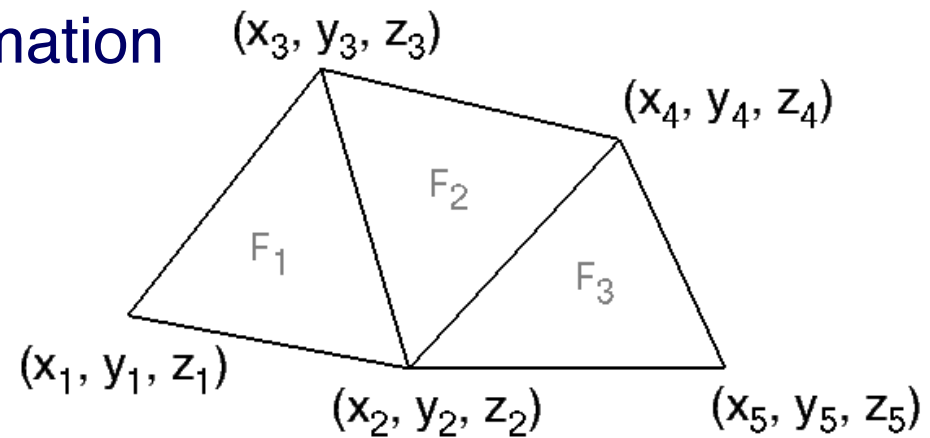
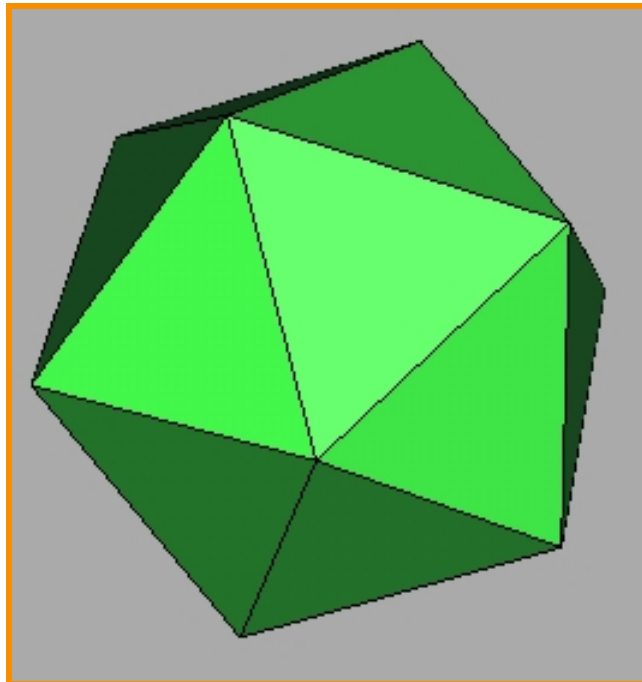
F_1	(x_1, y_1, z_1)	(x_2, y_2, z_2)	(x_3, y_3, z_3)
F_2	(x_2, y_2, z_2)	(x_4, y_4, z_4)	(x_3, y_3, z_3)
F_3	(x_2, y_2, z_2)	(x_5, y_5, z_5)	(x_4, y_4, z_4)



Vertex and Face Tables

Each face lists vertex references

- Shared vertices
- Still no adjacency information



VERTEX TABLE			
V ₁	X ₁	Y ₁	Z ₁
V ₂	X ₂	Y ₂	Z ₂
V ₃	X ₃	Y ₃	Z ₃
V ₄	X ₄	Y ₄	Z ₄
V ₅	X ₅	Y ₅	Z ₅

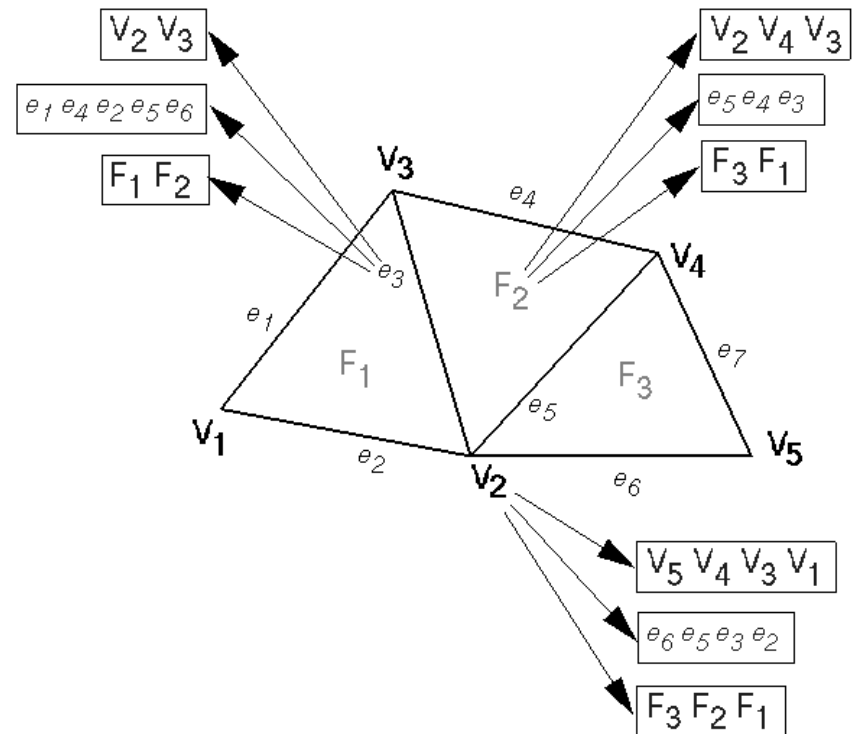
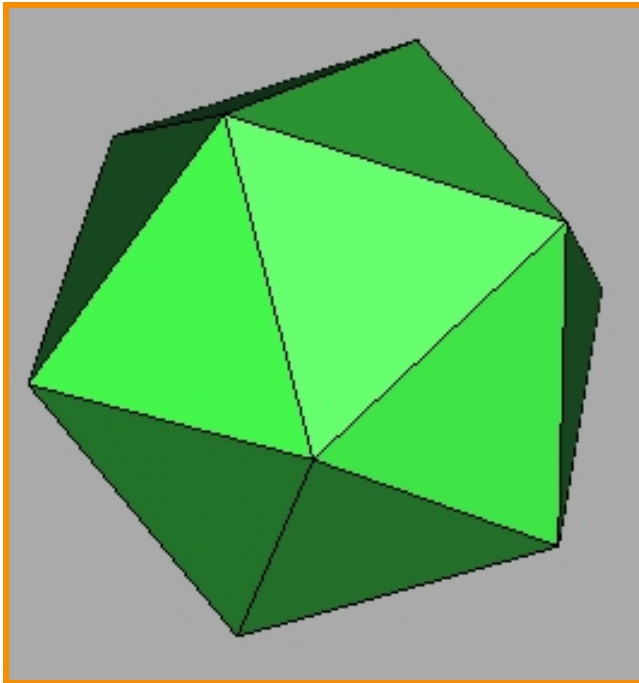
FACE TABLE			
F ₁	V ₁	V ₂	V ₃
F ₂	V ₂	V ₄	V ₃
F ₃	V ₂	V ₅	V ₄



Adjacency Lists

Store all vertex, edge, and face adjacencies

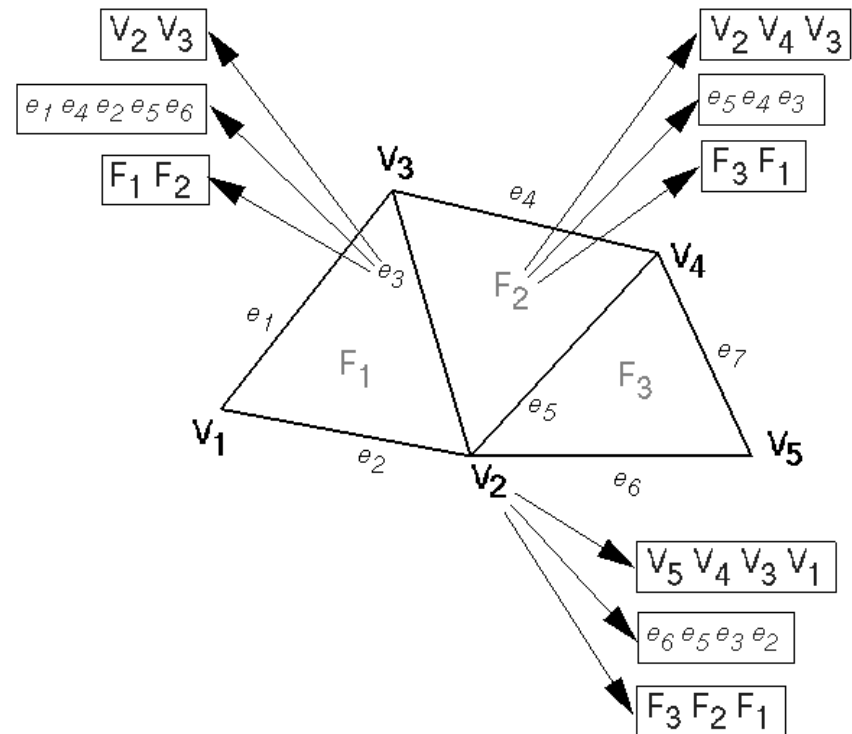
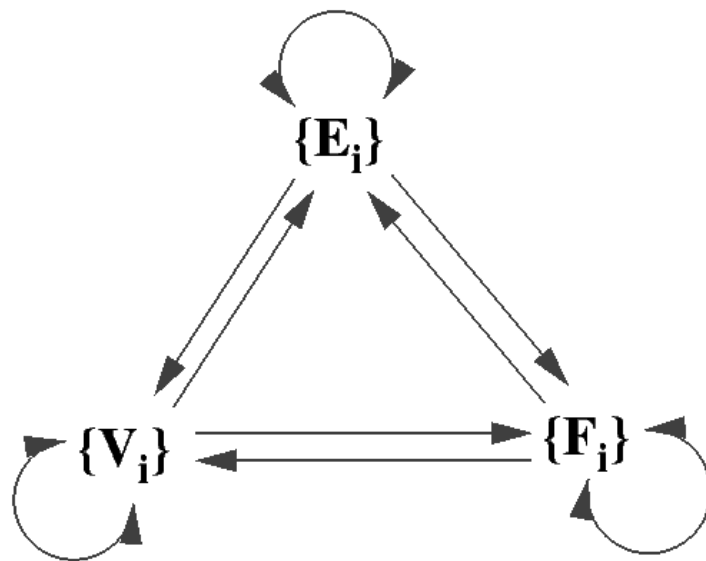
- Efficient adjacency traversal
- Extra storage





Partial Adjacency Lists

Can we store only some adjacency relationships and derive others?

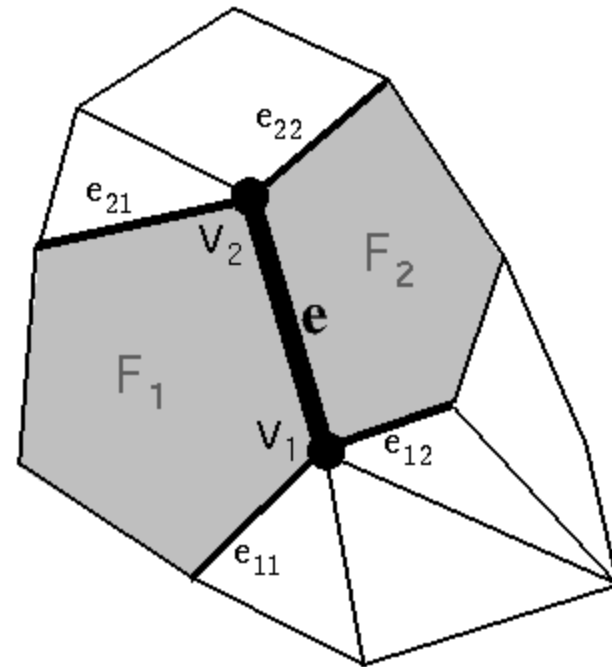
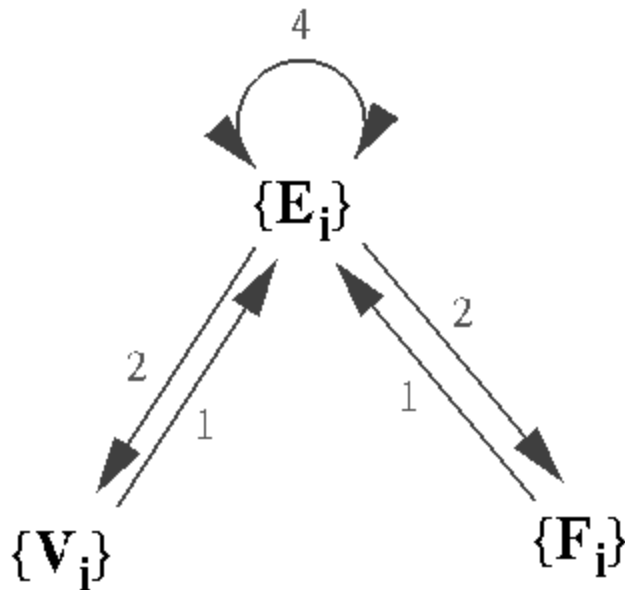




Winged Edge

Adjacency encoded in edges

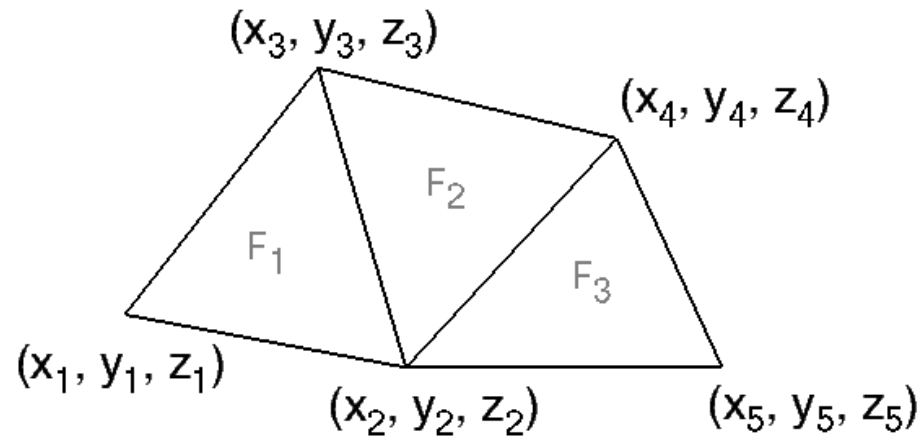
- All adjacencies in $O(1)$ time
- Little extra storage (fixed records)
- Arbitrary polygons





Winged Edge

Example:



VERTEX TABLE				
V ₁	X ₁	Y ₁	Z ₁	e ₁
V ₂	X ₂	Y ₂	Z ₂	e ₆
V ₃	X ₃	Y ₃	Z ₃	e ₃
V ₄	X ₄	Y ₄	Z ₄	e ₅
V ₅	X ₅	Y ₅	Z ₅	e ₆

EDGE TABLE					11	12	21	22
e ₁	V ₁	V ₃	F ₁		e ₂	e ₂	e ₄	e ₃
e ₂	V ₁	V ₂	F ₁		e ₁	e ₁	e ₃	e ₆
e ₃	V ₂	V ₃	F ₁	F ₂	e ₂	e ₅	e ₁	e ₄
e ₄	V ₃	V ₄		F ₂	e ₁	e ₃	e ₇	e ₅
e ₅	V ₂	V ₄	F ₂	F ₃	e ₃	e ₆	e ₄	e ₇
e ₆	V ₂	V ₅	F ₃		e ₅	e ₂	e ₇	e ₇
e ₇	V ₄	V ₅		F ₃	e ₄	e ₅	e ₆	e ₆

FACE TABLE	
F ₁	e ₁
F ₂	e ₃
F ₃	e ₅

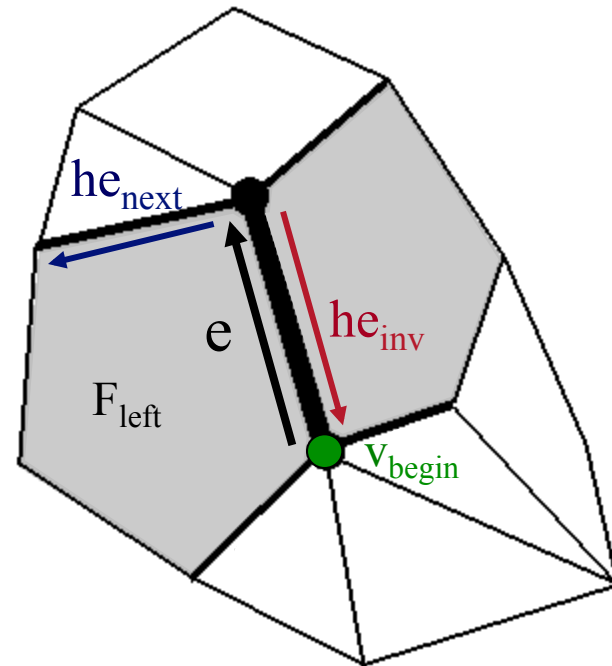


Half Edge

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 meshes

- Most common surface representation
- Fast rendering

Processing operations

- Must consider irregular vertex sampling
- Must handle/avoid topological degeneracies

Representation

- Which adjacency relationships to store depend on which operations must be efficient