



# Polygonal Meshes

COS 426, Spring 2022

Princeton University

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**DEADPOOL**  
20TH CENTURY FOX (2016)

# 3D Object Representations



- Points

- Range image
- Point cloud

- Surfaces

- Polygonal mesh

- Parametric
- Subdivision
- Implicit

- Solids

- Voxels
- BSP tree
- CSG
- Sweep

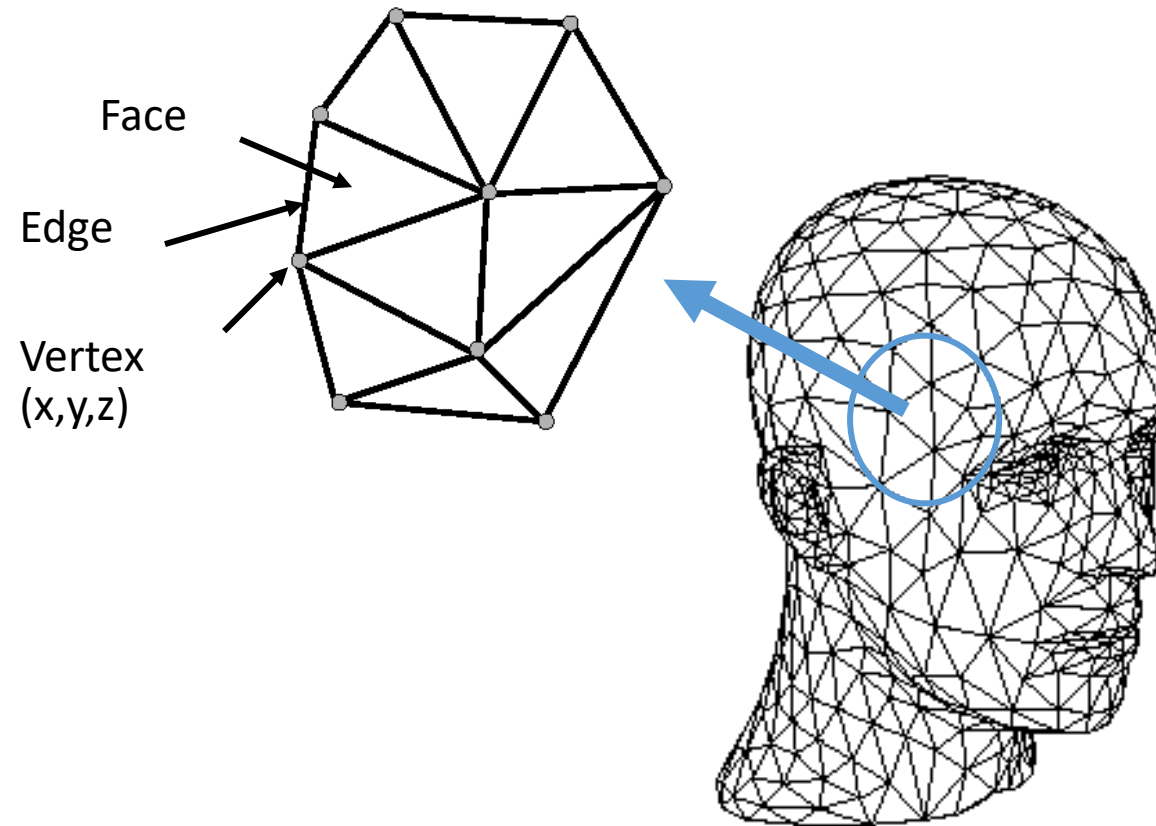
- High-level structures

- Scene graph
- Application specific

# 3D Polygonal Mesh



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



# 3D Polygonal Mesh



- The power of polygonal meshes

# 3D Polygonal Mesh



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

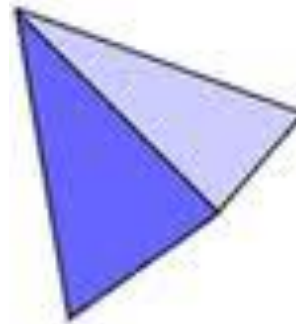
## Platonic Solids



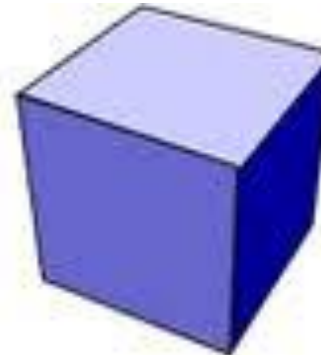
Dodecahedron



Icosahedron



Tetrahedron

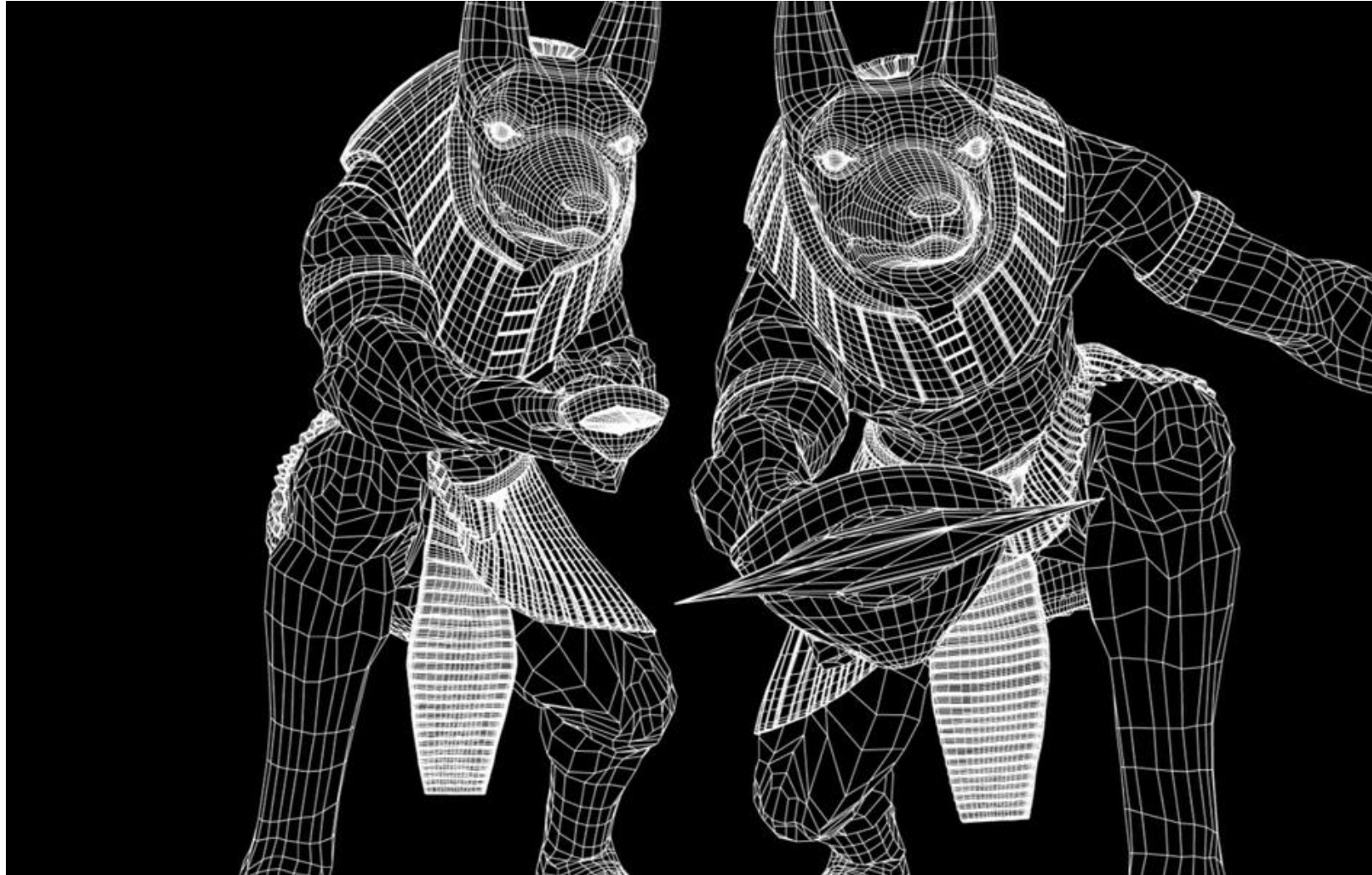


Cube

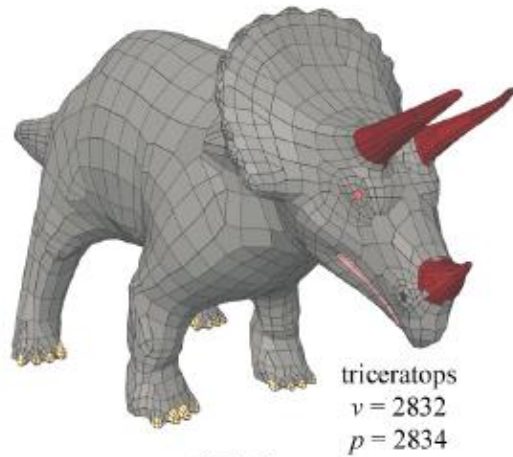


Octahedron

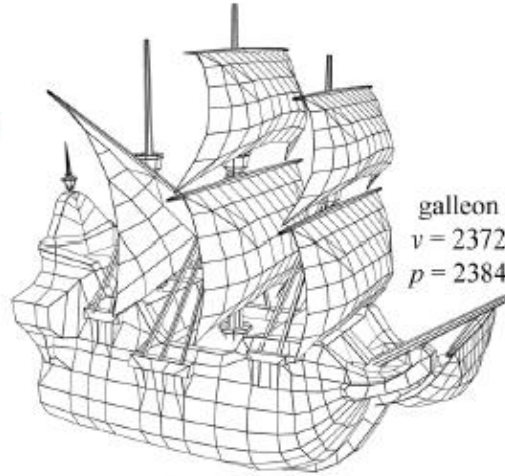
# 3D Polygonal Mesh



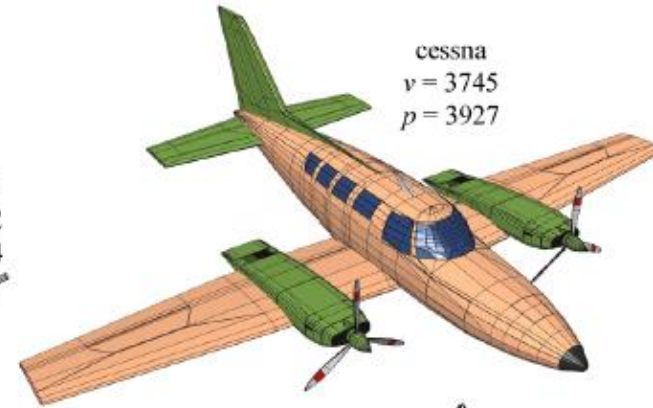
# 3D Polygonal Mesh



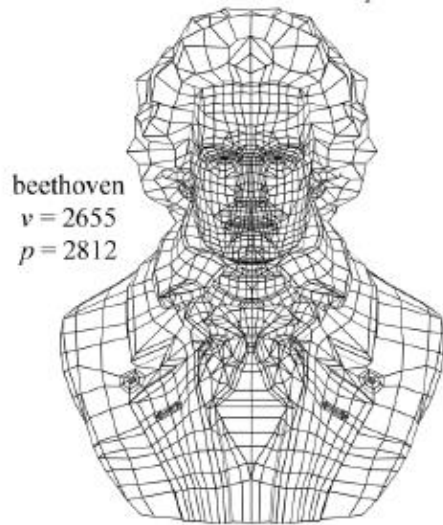
triceratops  
 $v = 2832$   
 $p = 2834$



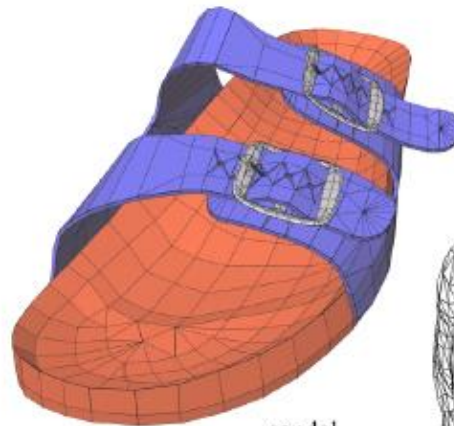
galleon  
 $v = 2372$   
 $p = 2384$



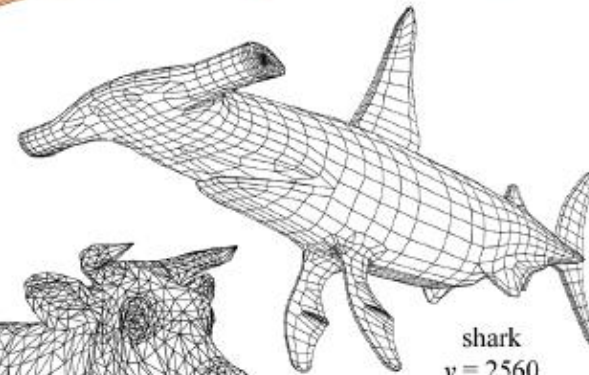
cessna  
 $v = 3745$   
 $p = 3927$



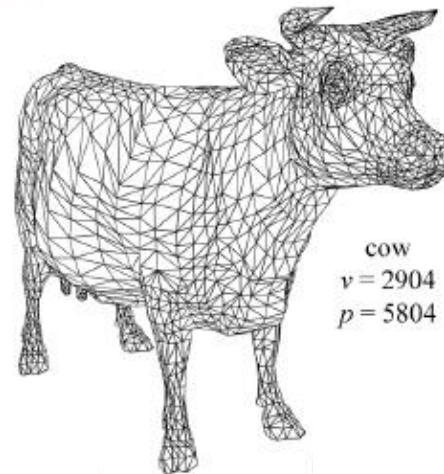
beethoven  
 $v = 2655$   
 $p = 2812$



sandal  
 $v = 2636$   
 $p = 2953$



shark  
 $v = 2560$   
 $p = 2562$



cow  
 $v = 2904$   
 $p = 5804$

cow\_poly  
 $v = 2904$   
 $p = 3263$

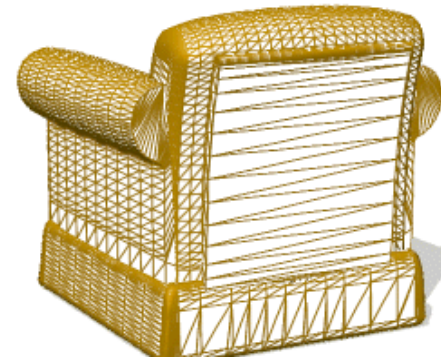
( the polygonal cow is not shown, it is the same cow model, but not fully triangulated )



# 3D Polygonal Meshes



- Why are they of interest?
  - Simple, common representation
  - Rendering with hardware support
  - Output of many acquisition tools



Viewpoint

# Outline



- Acquisition
- Representation
- Processing



# Polygonal Mesh Acquisition

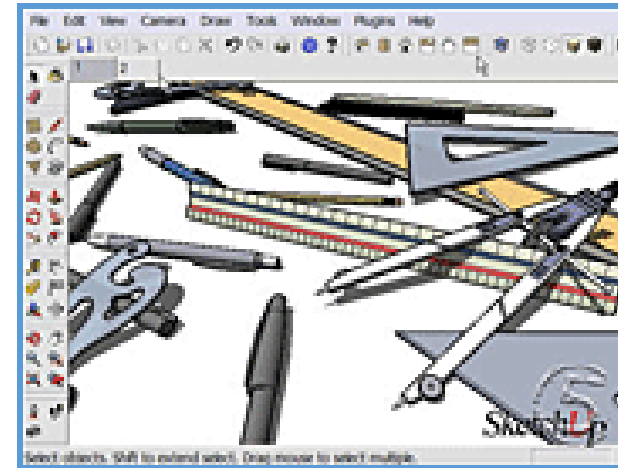


- Interactive modeling
- Scanners
- Procedural generation
- Conversion
- Simulations

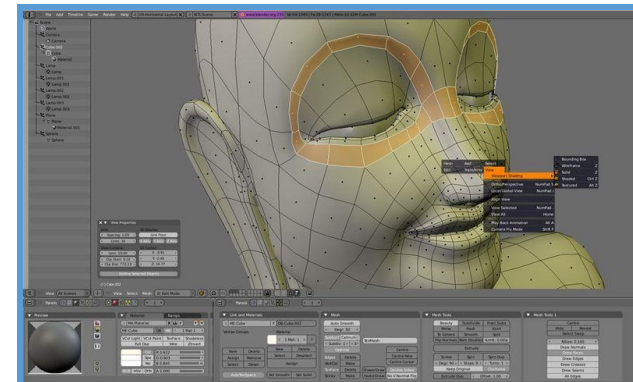
# Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



- Interactive modeling
- Scanners
- Procedural generation
- Conversion
- Simulations



Sketchup

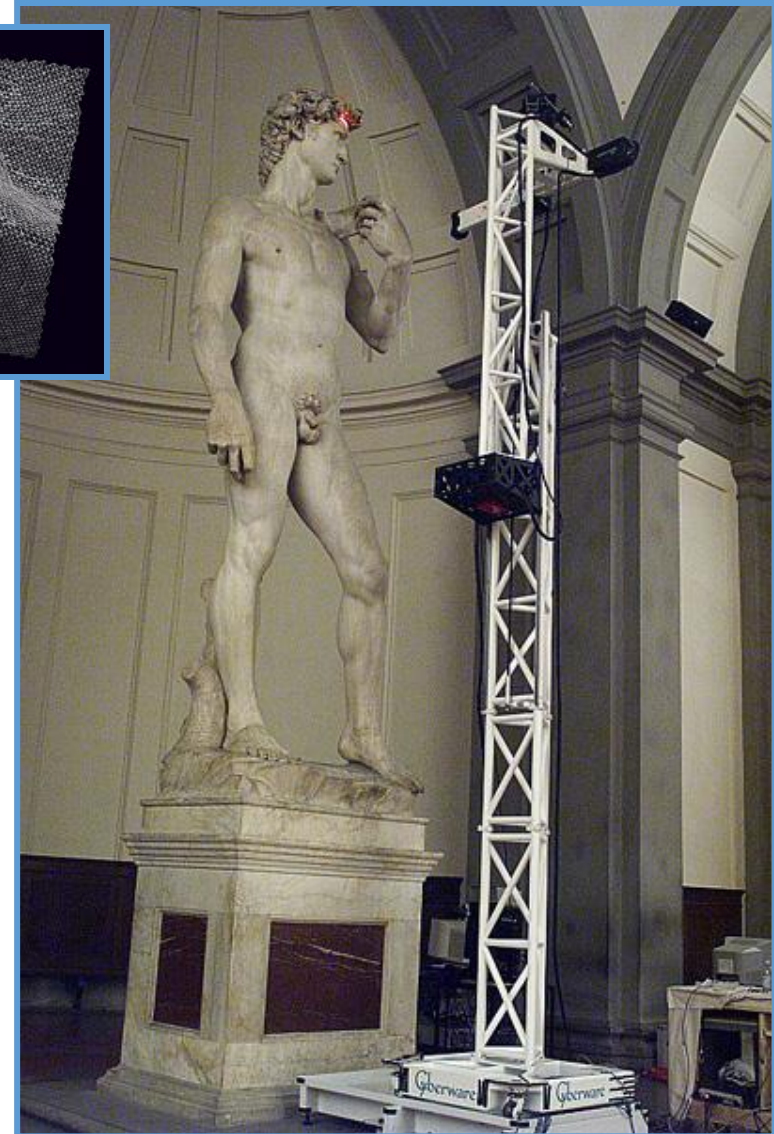
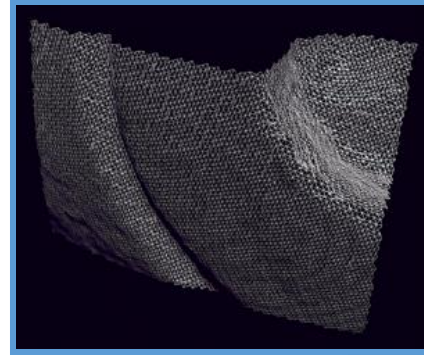


Blender

# Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



- Interactive modeling
- **Scanners**
- Procedural generation
- Conversion
- Simulations

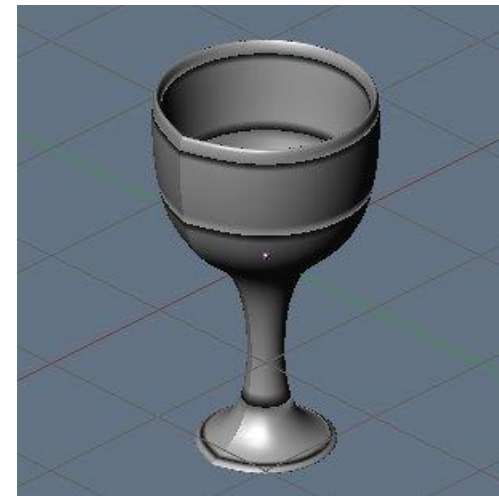
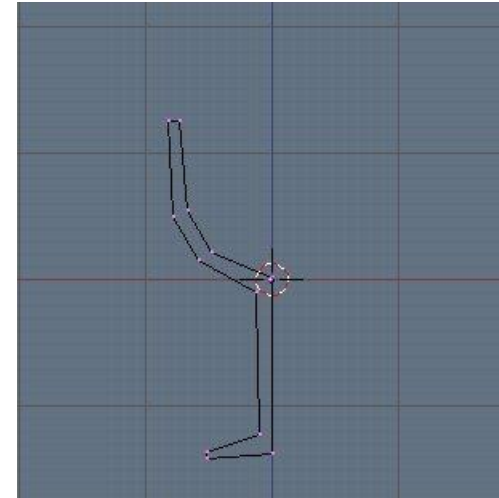


Digital Michelangelo Project  
Stanford

# Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



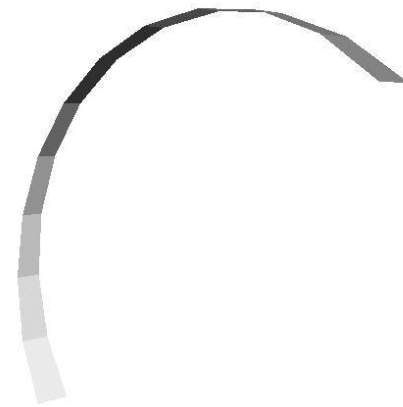
- Interactive modeling
- Scanners
- Procedural generation
- Conversion
- Simulations



# Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



- Interactive modeling
- Scanners
- Procedural generation
- Conversion
- Simulations



MakeAGIF.com

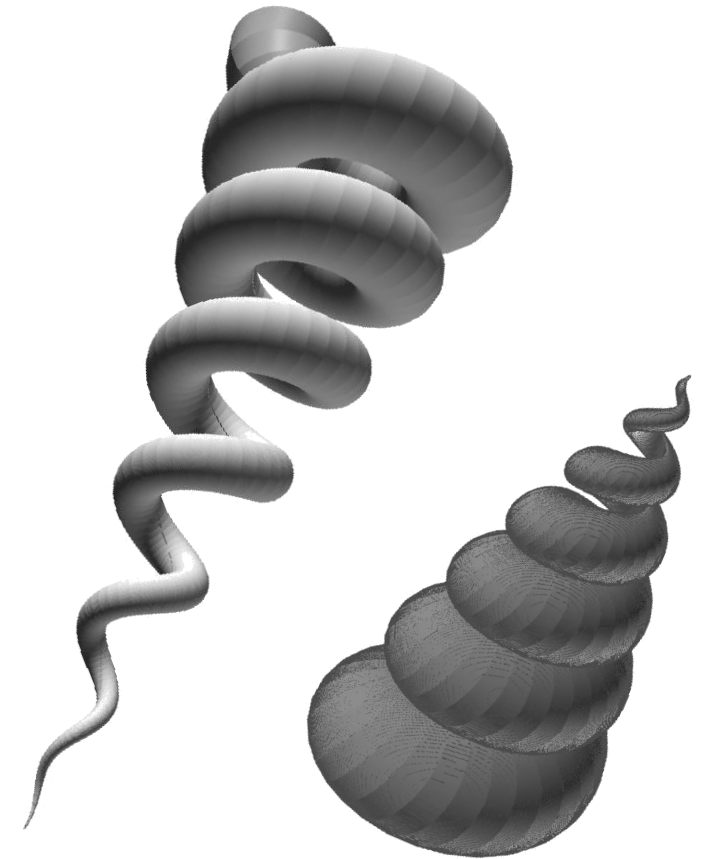
# Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



- Interactive modeling
- Scanners
- Procedural generation
- Conversion
- Simulations



Fowler et al., 1992



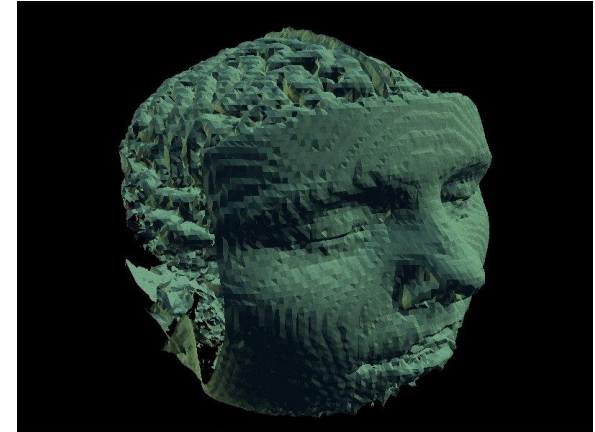
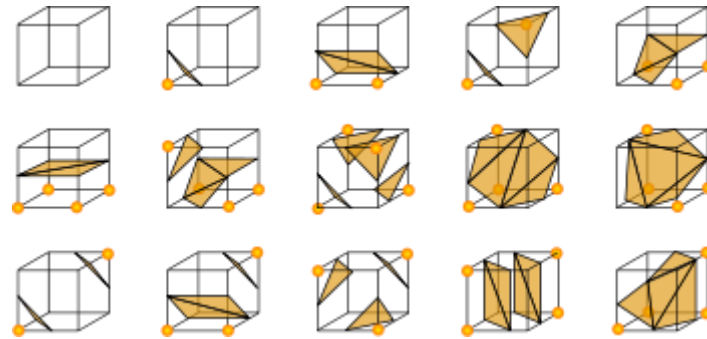
Peter Maag, COS 426, 2010



# Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



- Interactive modeling
- Scanners
- Procedural generation
- **Conversion**
- Simulations



Marching cubes

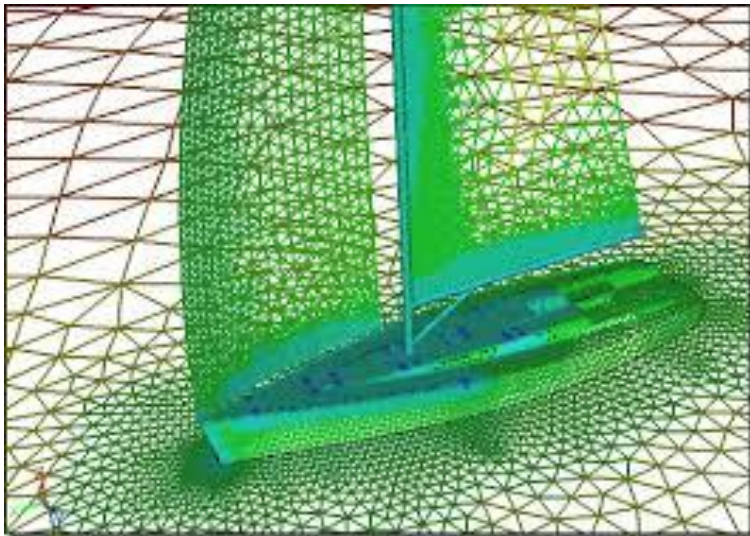


Jose Maria De Espona

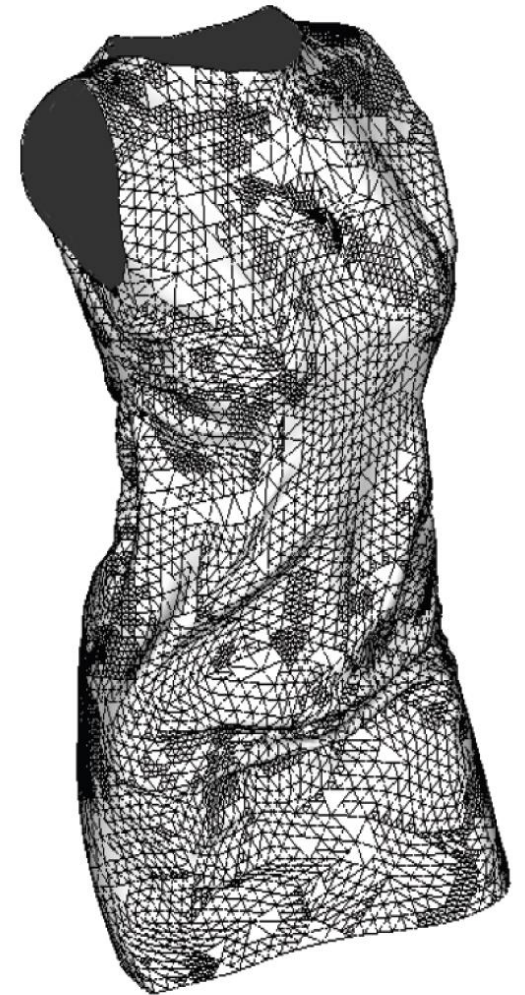
# Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



- Interactive modeling
- Scanners
- Procedural generation
- Conversion
- Simulations



sym scape



Lee et. al 2010

# Outline

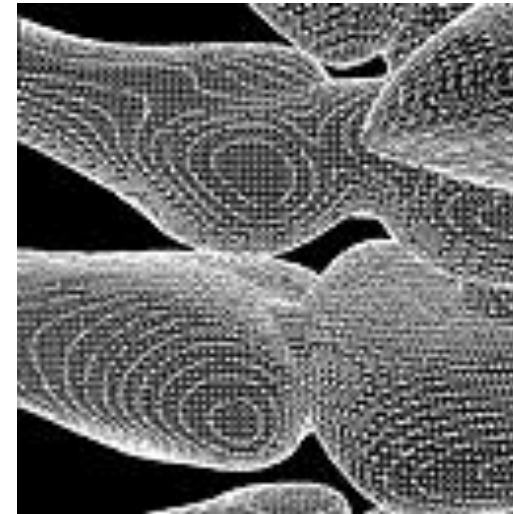
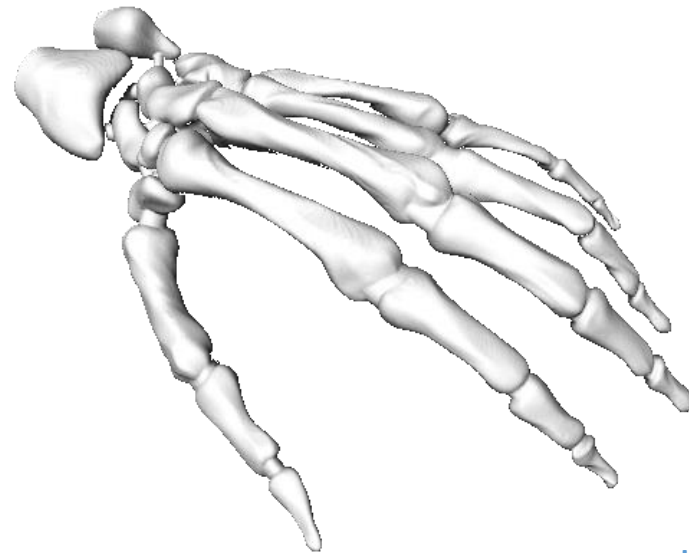


- Acquisition
- Representation ←
- Processing

# Polygon Mesh Representation



- Important properties of mesh representation?
  - Efficient traversal of topology
  - Efficient use of memory
  - Efficient updates

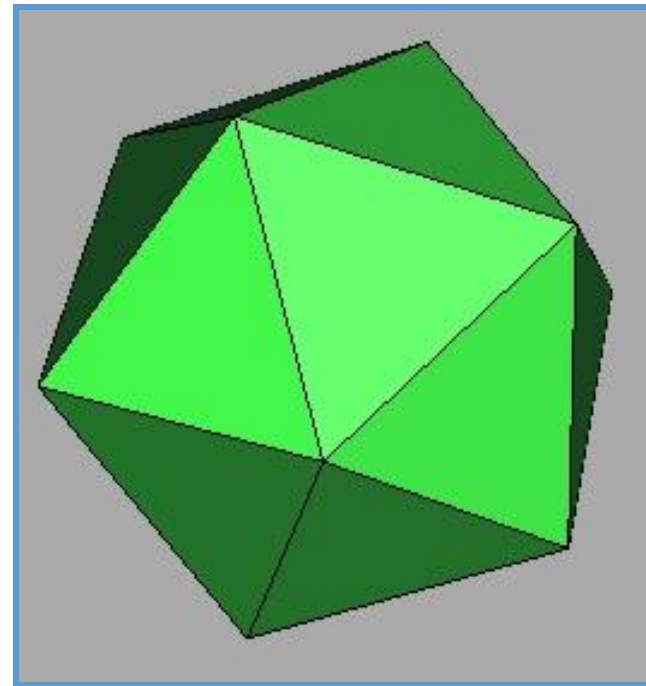


Large Geometric Model Repository  
Georgia Tech

# Polygon Mesh Representation



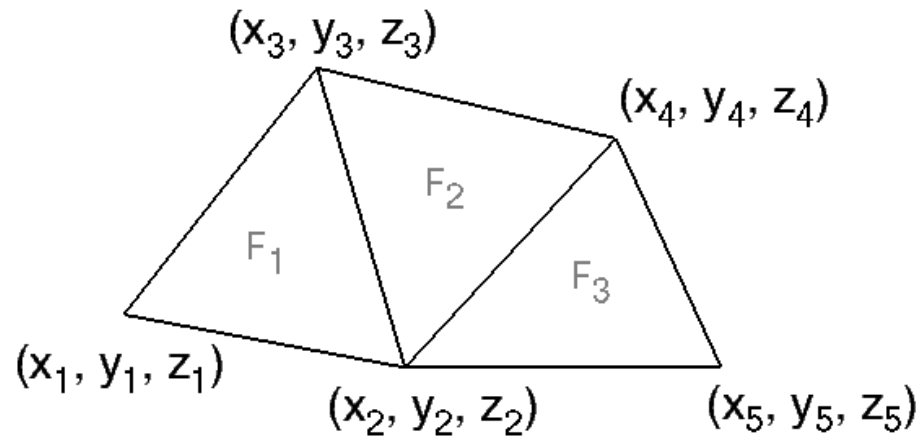
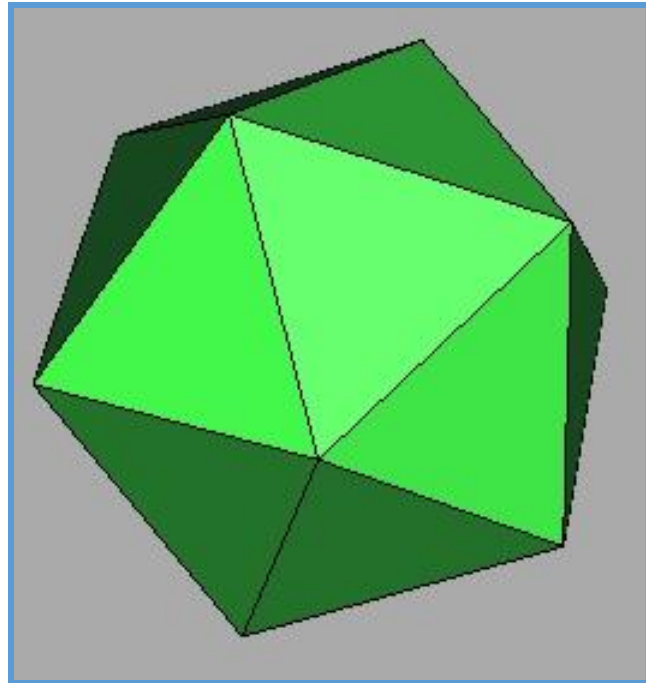
- Possible data structures



# Independent Faces



- Each face lists vertex coordinates
  - Redundant vertices
  - No adjacency information



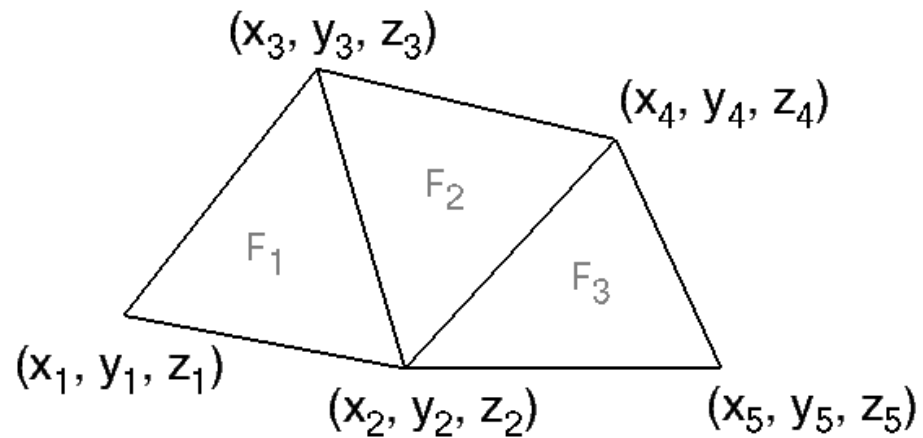
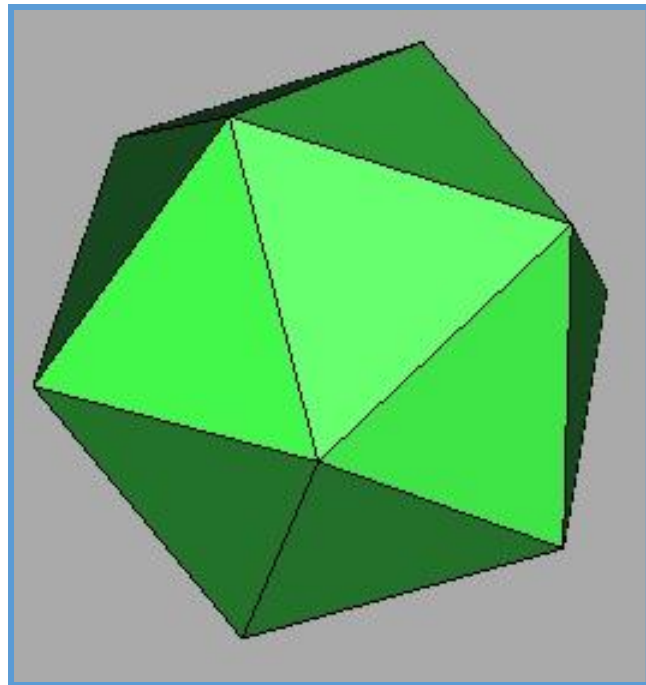
FACE TABLE

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

# Vertex and Face Tables (Indexed Vertices)



- Each face lists vertex references
  - Shared vertices
  - Still no adjacency information



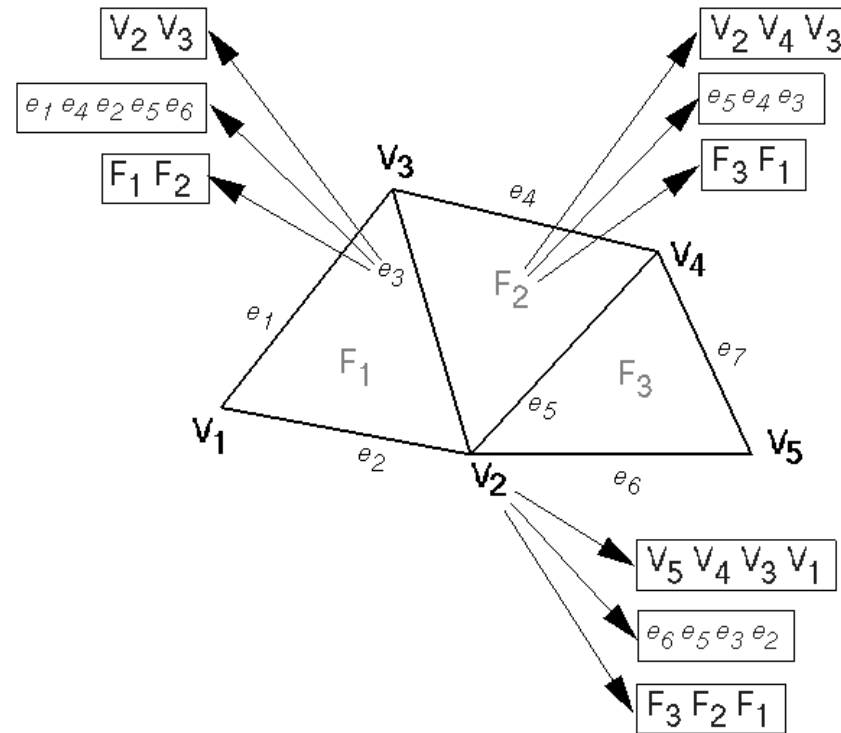
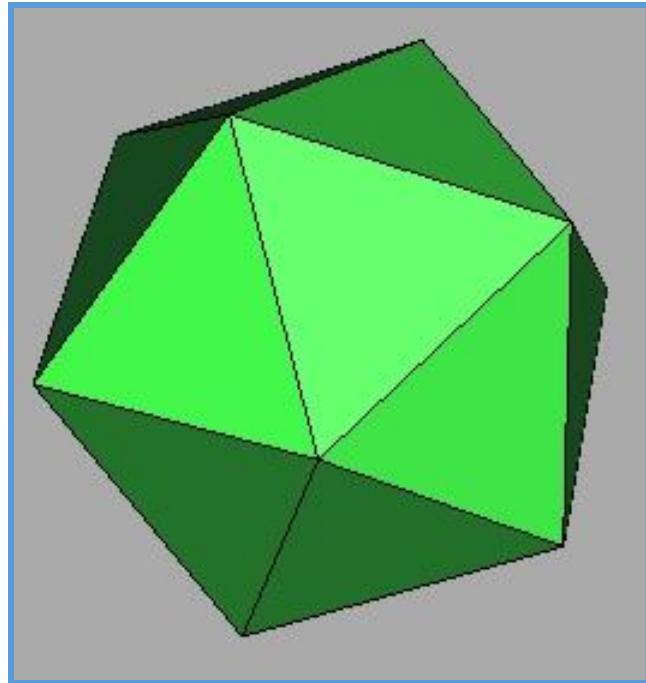
| VERTEX TABLE   |                |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| V <sub>1</sub> | X <sub>1</sub> | Y <sub>1</sub> | Z <sub>1</sub> |
| V <sub>2</sub> | X <sub>2</sub> | Y <sub>2</sub> | Z <sub>2</sub> |
| V <sub>3</sub> | X <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> |

# Full Adjacency Lists



- Store all vertex, edge, and face adjacencies
  - **Fast direct** adjacency traversal
  - Extra storage

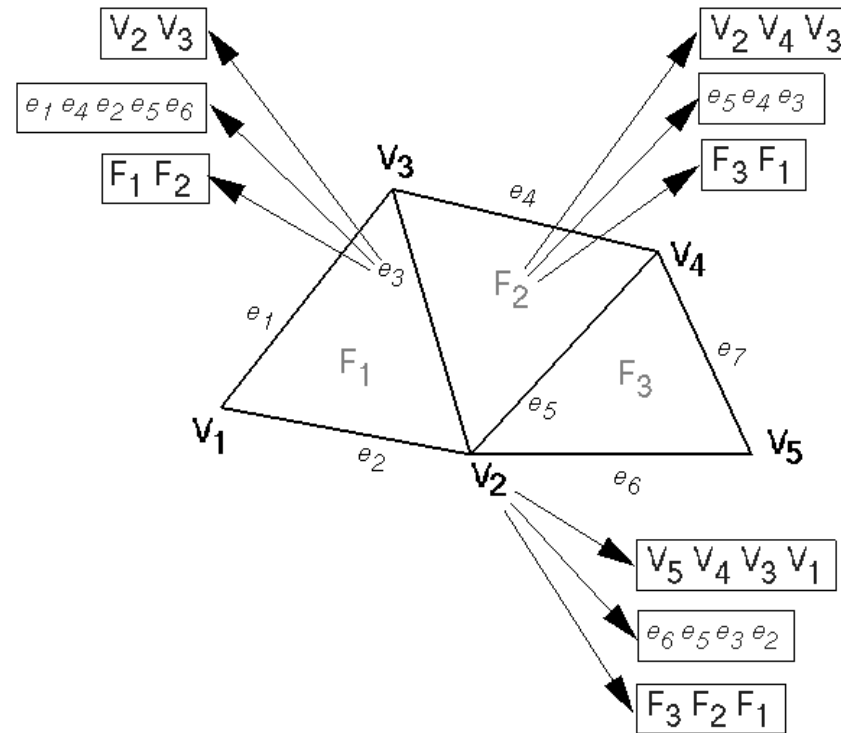
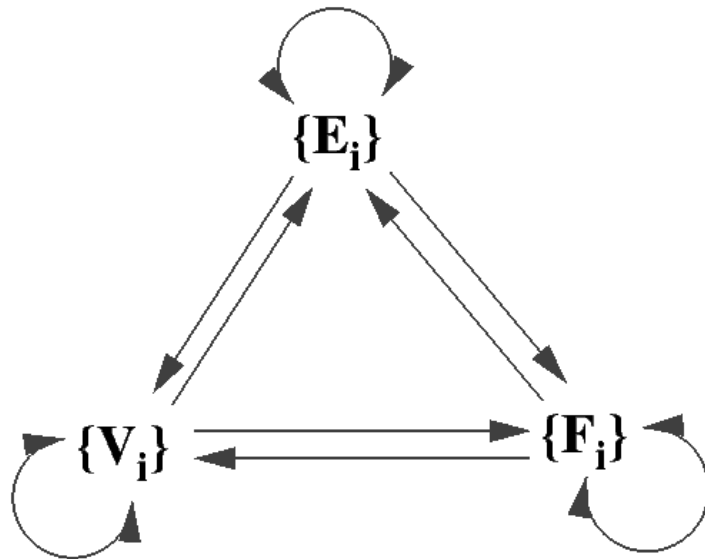




# Full Adjacency Lists



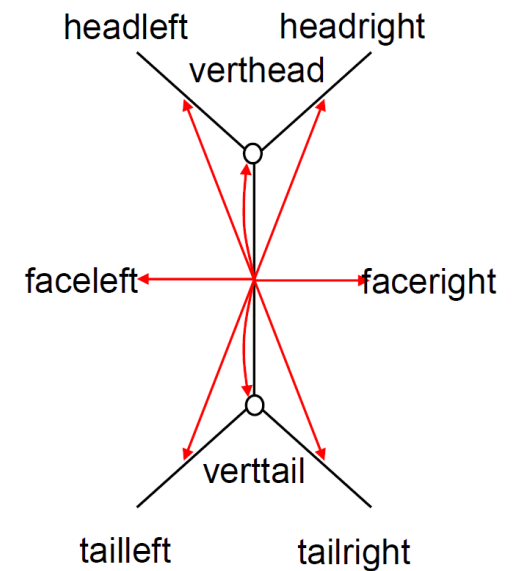
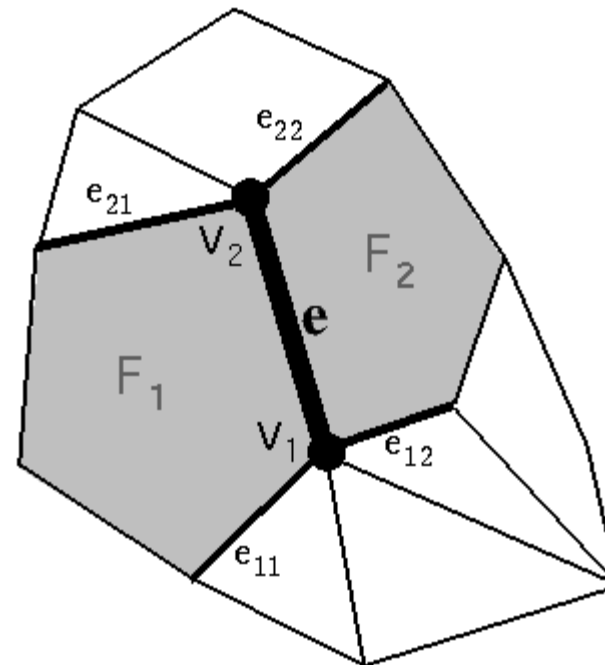
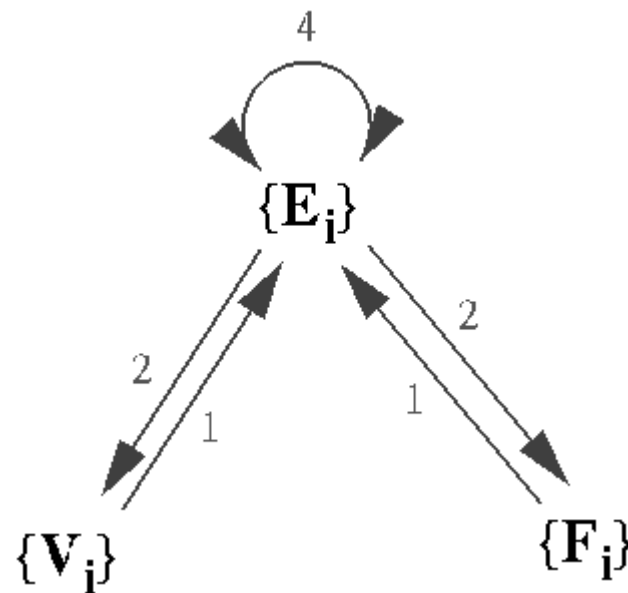
Adjacency relationships visualized:



# Partial Adjacency - Winged Edge



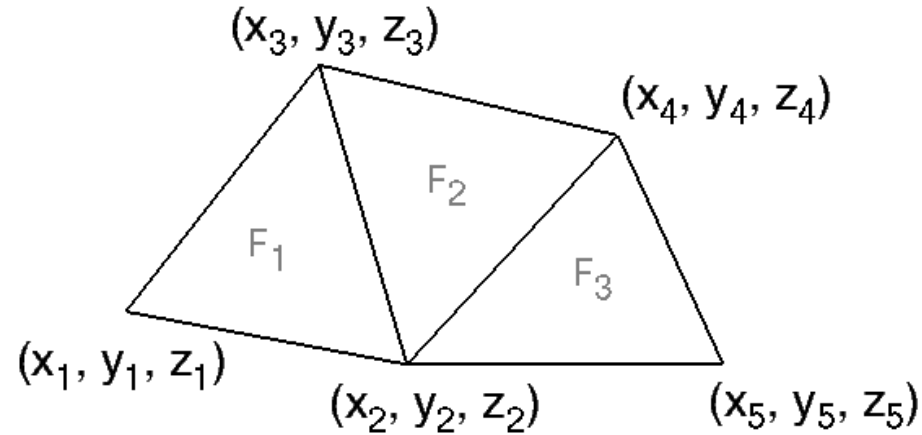
- Adjacency encoded in **edges**
  - All adjacencies in  $O(1)$  time
  - Little extra storage (fixed records)
  - Arbitrary polygons



# Winged Edge



- Example:



| VERTEX TABLE   |                |                |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| V <sub>1</sub> | X <sub>1</sub> | Y <sub>1</sub> | Z <sub>1</sub> | e <sub>1</sub> |
| V <sub>2</sub> | X <sub>2</sub> | Y <sub>2</sub> | Z <sub>2</sub> | e <sub>6</sub> |
| V <sub>3</sub> | X <sub>3</sub> | Y <sub>3</sub> | Z <sub>3</sub> | e <sub>3</sub> |
| V <sub>4</sub> | X <sub>4</sub> | Y <sub>4</sub> | Z <sub>4</sub> | e <sub>5</sub> |
| V <sub>5</sub> | X <sub>5</sub> | Y <sub>5</sub> | Z <sub>5</sub> | e <sub>6</sub> |

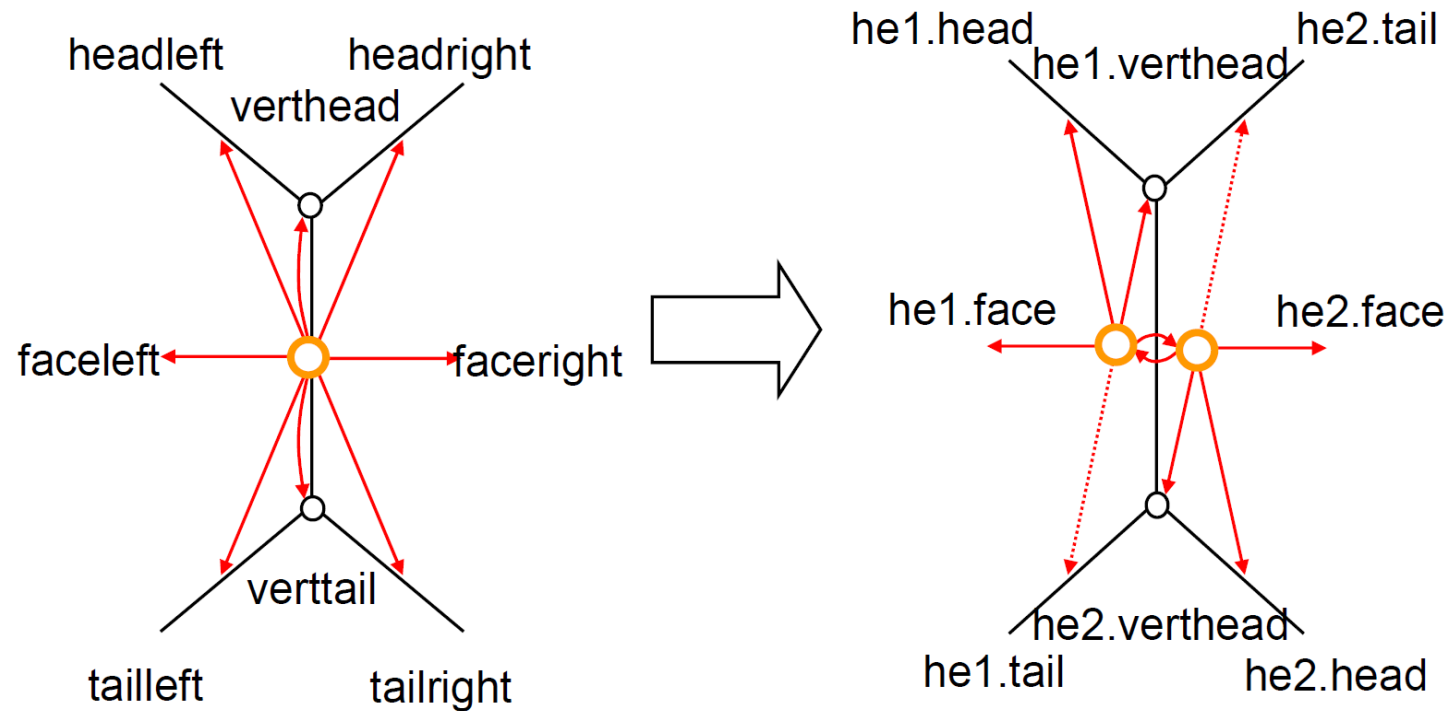
| EDGE TABLE     |                |                |                               | 11             | 12             | 21             | 22             |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| e <sub>1</sub> | V <sub>1</sub> | V <sub>3</sub> | F <sub>1</sub>                | e <sub>2</sub> | e <sub>2</sub> | e <sub>4</sub> | e <sub>3</sub> |
| e <sub>2</sub> | V <sub>1</sub> | V <sub>2</sub> | F <sub>1</sub>                | e <sub>1</sub> | e <sub>1</sub> | e <sub>3</sub> | e <sub>6</sub> |
| e <sub>3</sub> | V <sub>2</sub> | V <sub>3</sub> | F <sub>1</sub> F <sub>2</sub> | e <sub>2</sub> | e <sub>5</sub> | e <sub>1</sub> | e <sub>4</sub> |
| e <sub>4</sub> | V <sub>3</sub> | V <sub>4</sub> | F <sub>2</sub>                | e <sub>1</sub> | e <sub>3</sub> | e <sub>7</sub> | e <sub>5</sub> |
| e <sub>5</sub> | V <sub>2</sub> | V <sub>4</sub> | F <sub>2</sub> F <sub>3</sub> | e <sub>3</sub> | e <sub>6</sub> | e <sub>4</sub> | e <sub>7</sub> |
| e <sub>6</sub> | V <sub>2</sub> | V <sub>5</sub> | F <sub>3</sub>                | e <sub>5</sub> | e <sub>2</sub> | e <sub>7</sub> | e <sub>7</sub> |
| e <sub>7</sub> | V <sub>4</sub> | V <sub>5</sub> | F <sub>3</sub>                | e <sub>4</sub> | e <sub>5</sub> | e <sub>6</sub> | e <sub>6</sub> |

| FACE TABLE     |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| F <sub>1</sub> | e <sub>1</sub> |
| F <sub>2</sub> | e <sub>3</sub> |
| F <sub>3</sub> | e <sub>5</sub> |

# Half Edge



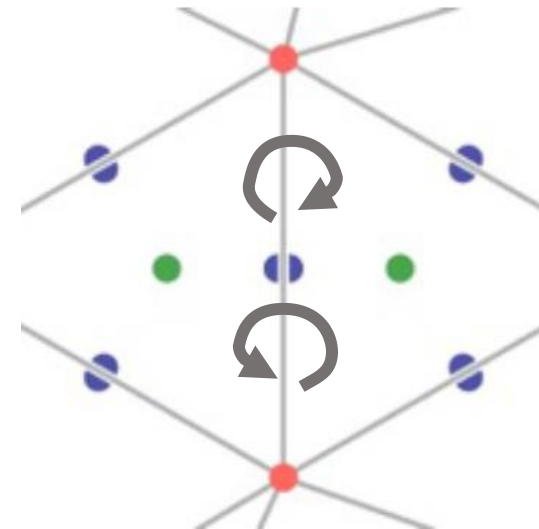
- traversals do not require “ifs” in code
- consistent orientation



# Half Edge ... in more detail



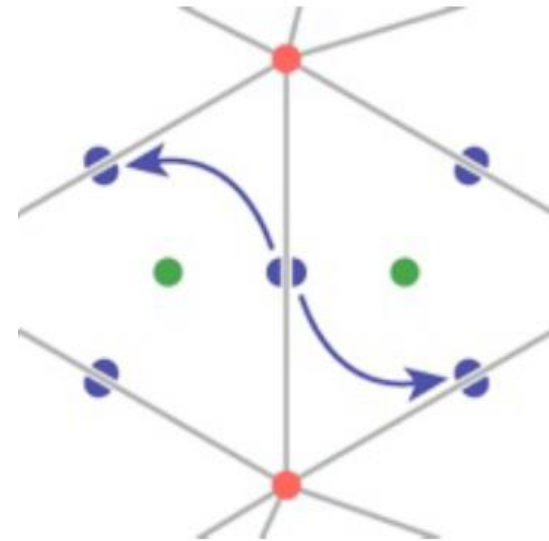
- Each **half-edge** stores:
  - Its twin half-edge



# Half Edge



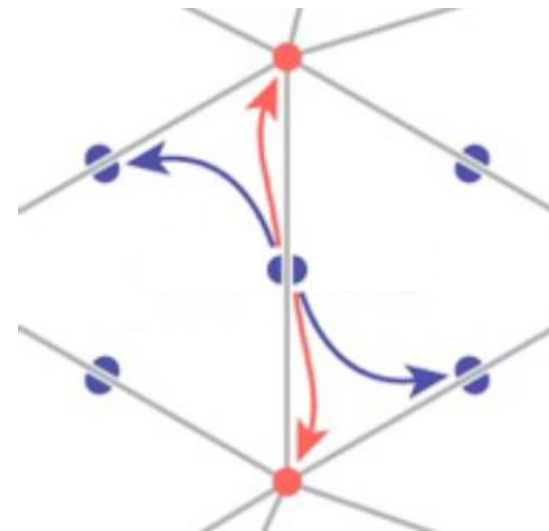
- Each **half-edge** stores:
  - Its twin half-edge
  - The next half-edge



# Half Edge



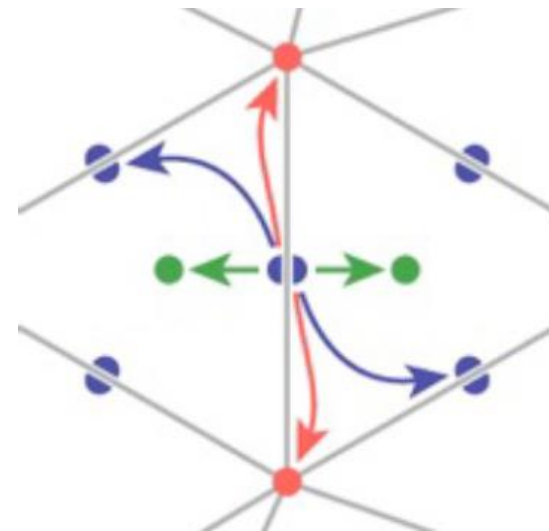
- Each **half-edge** stores:
  - Its twin half-edge
  - The next half-edge
  - The next vertex



# Half Edge



- Each **half-edge** stores:
  - Its twin half-edge
  - The next half-edge
  - **The next vertex**
  - **The incident face**

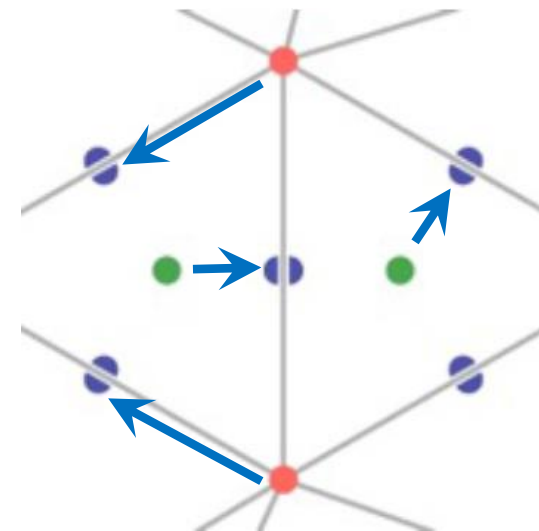




# Half Edge



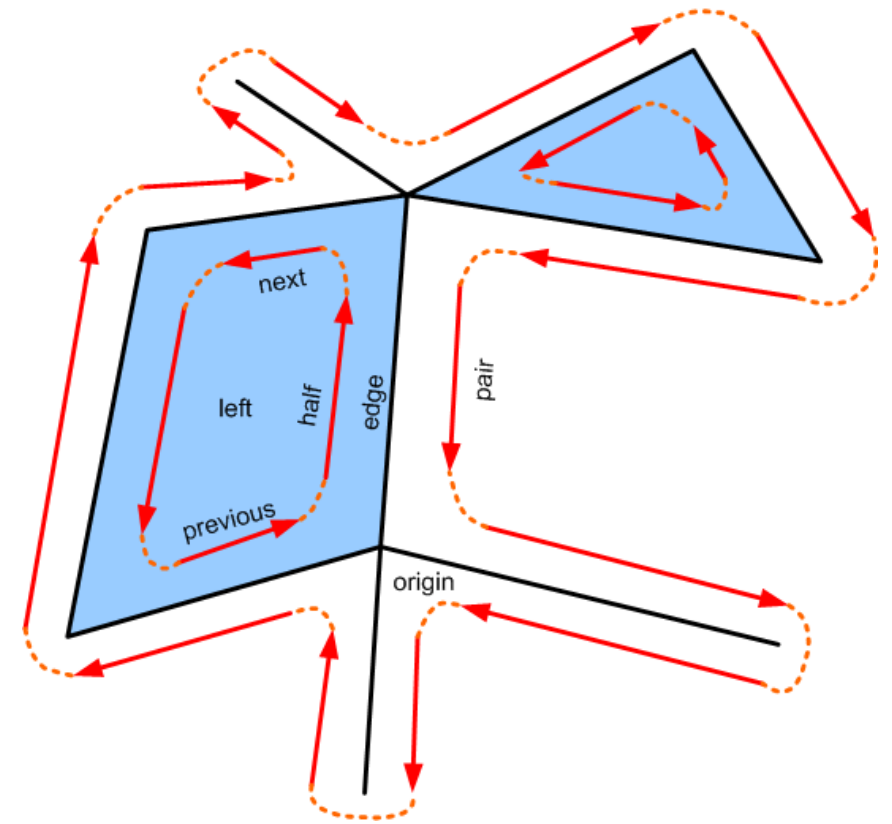
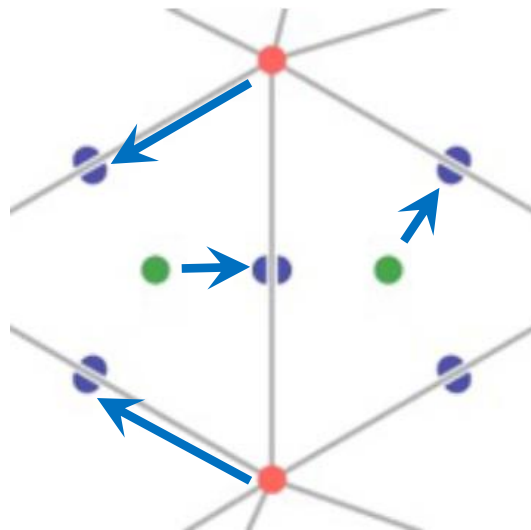
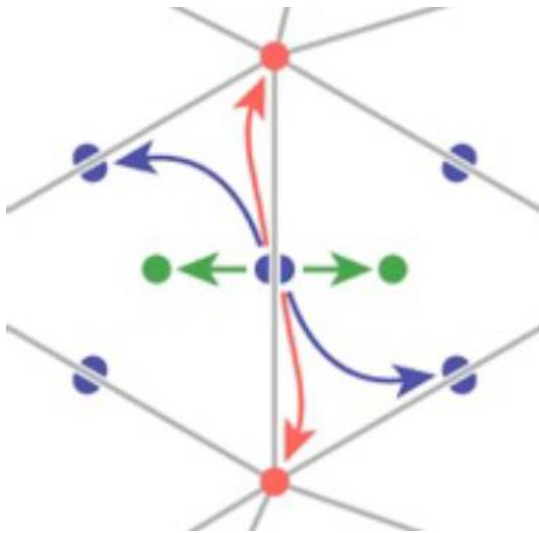
- Each **half-edge** stores:
  - Its twin half-edge
  - The next half-edge
  - **The next vertex**
  - The incident face
- Each face stores:
  - **1 adjacent half-edge**
- Each vertex stores:
  - **1 outgoing half-edge**



# Half Edge



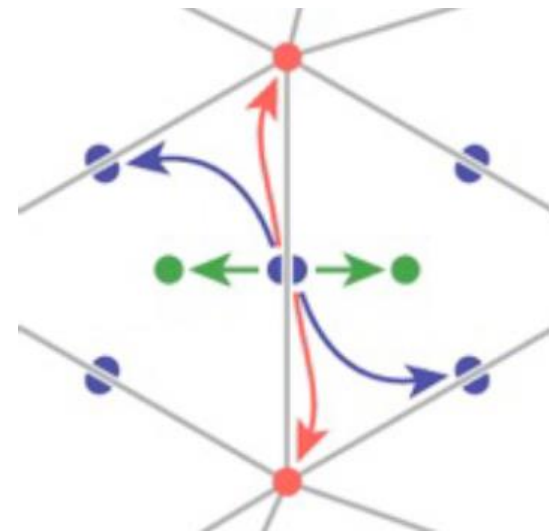
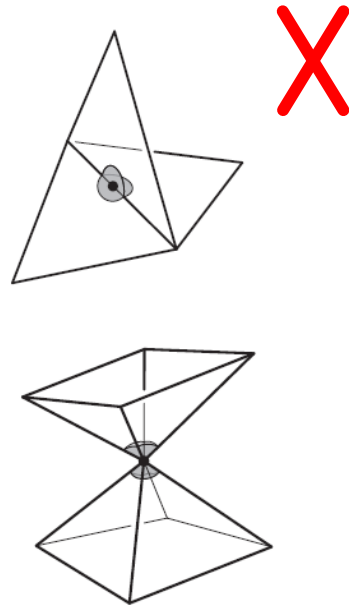
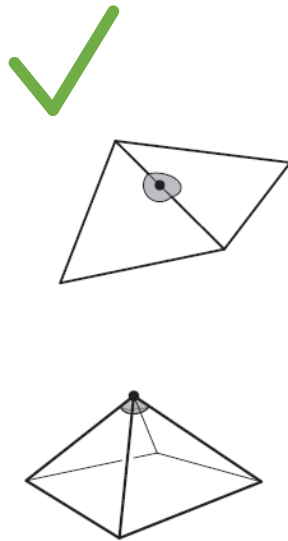
- Queries. How do you find:
  - All faces incident to an edge?
  - All vertices of a face?
  - All faces incident to a face?
  - All vertices incident to a vertex?



# Half Edge



- Adjacency encoded in edges
  - All adjacencies in  $O(1)$  time
  - Little extra storage (fixed records)
  - Arbitrary polygons
  - **Assumes 2-Manifold surfaces**



# Outline



- Acquisition
- Representation
- Processing

# Polygonal Mesh Processing

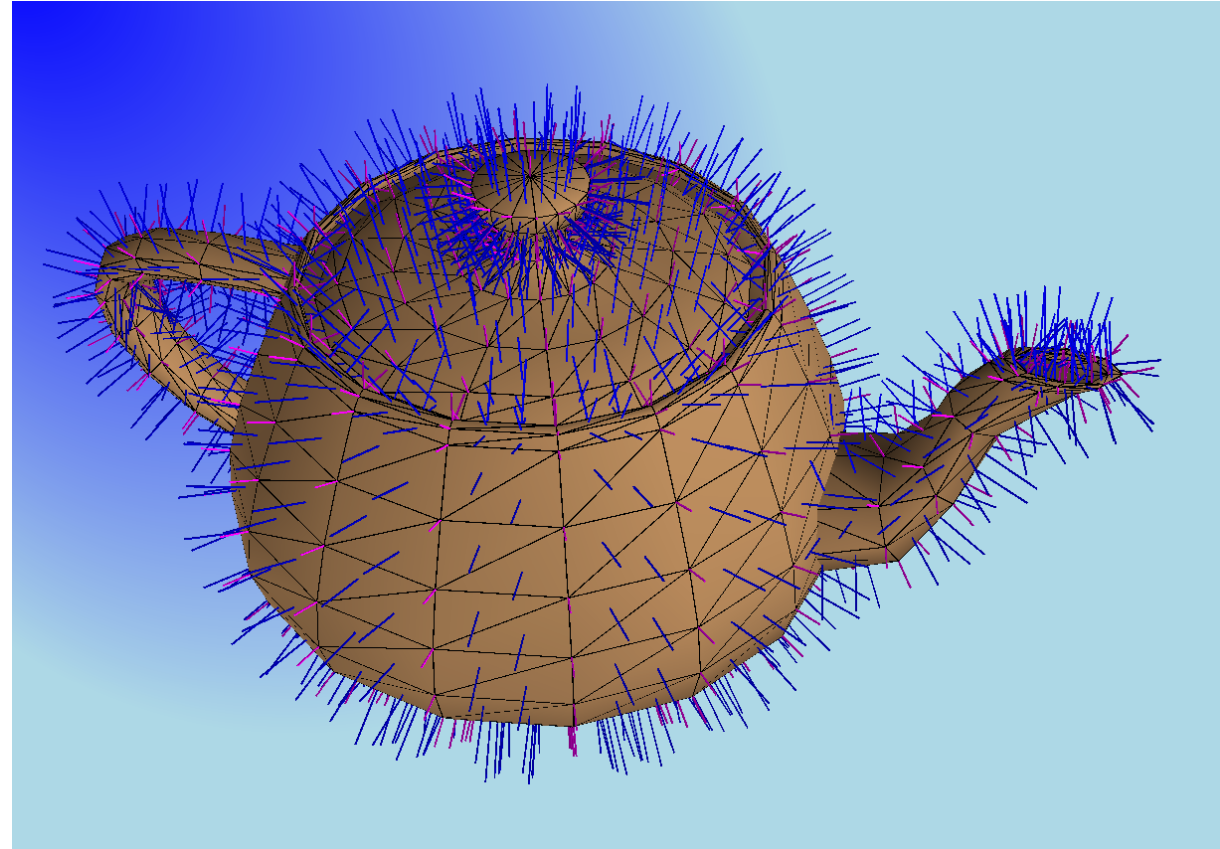


- Analysis
  - Normals
  - Curvature
- Warps
  - Rotate
  - Deform
- Filters
  - Smooth
  - Sharpen
  - Truncate
  - Bevel

# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- Analysis
  - Normals
    - Curvature
- Warps
  - Rotate
  - Deform
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  - Smooth
  - Sharpen
  - Truncate
  - Bevel

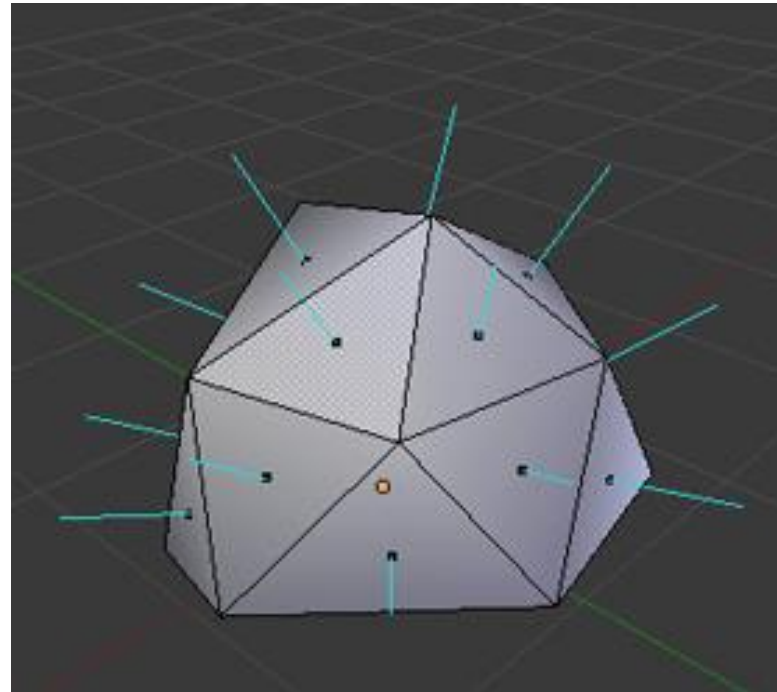
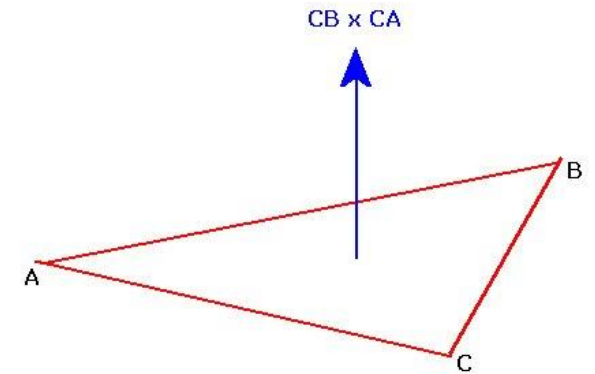


# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- Analysis
  - Normals
    - Curvature
- Warps
  - Rotate
  - Deform
- Filters
  - Smooth
  - Sharpen
  - Truncate
  - Bevel

Face normals:  
(use cross product)

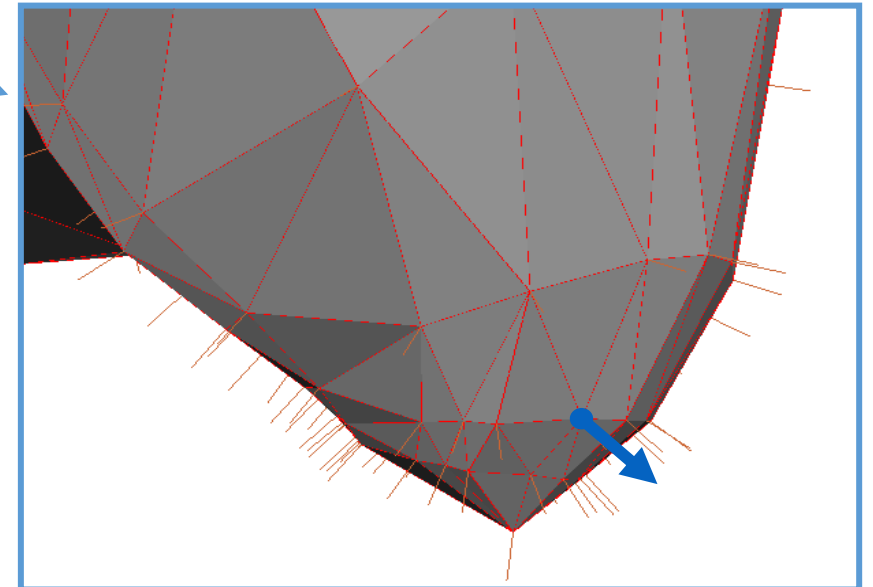
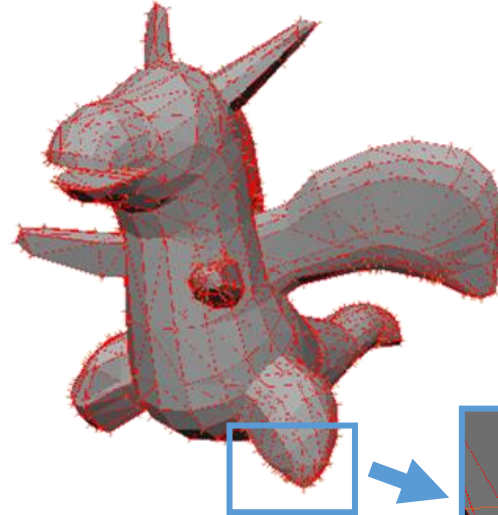


# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- Analysis
  - Normals
    - Curvature
- Warps
  - Rotate
  - Deform
- Filters
  - Smooth
  - Sharpen
  - Truncate
  - Bevel

Vertex normals:



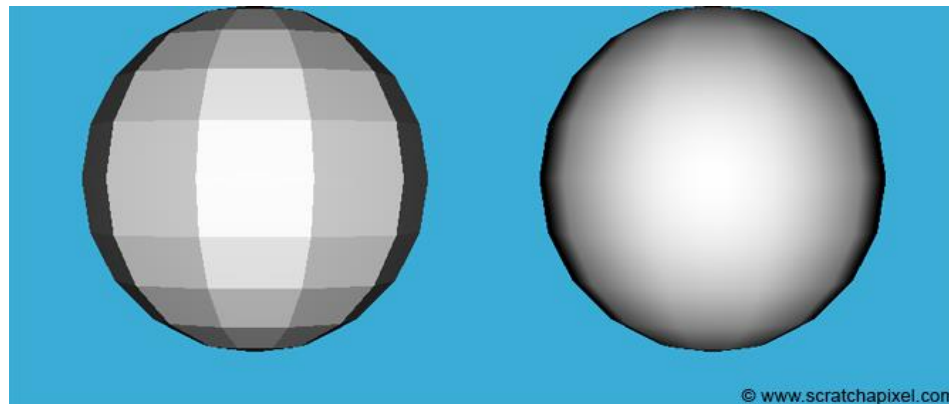
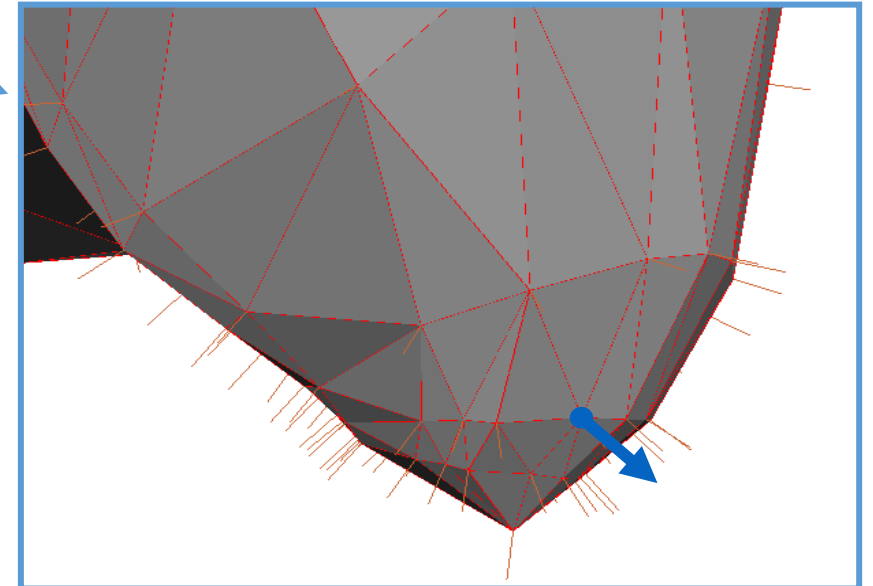
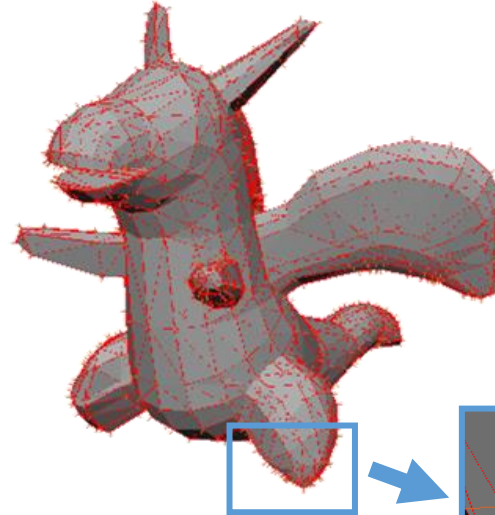


# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- Analysis
  - Normals
    - Curvature
- Warps
  - Rotate
  - Deform
- Filters
  - Smooth
  - Sharpen
  - Truncate
  - Bevel

Vertex normals:

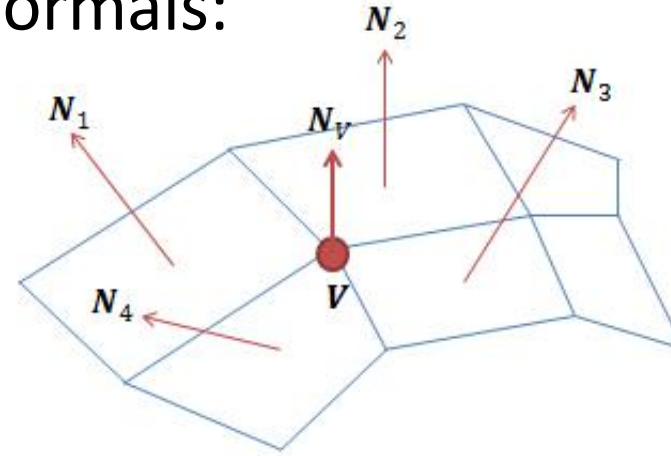


# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- Analysis
  - Normals
    - Curvature
- Warps
  - Rotate
  - Deform
- Filters
  - Smooth
  - Sharpen
  - Truncate
  - Bevel

Vertex Normals:



for each face

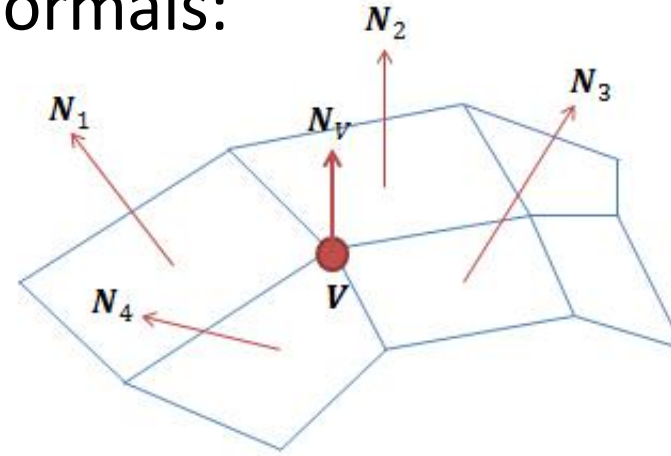
- calculate face normal
- add normal to each connected vertex normal

# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- Analysis
  - Normals
    - Curvature
- Warps
  - Rotate
  - Deform
- Filters
  - Smooth
  - Sharpen
  - Truncate
  - Bevel

Vertex Normals:



$$N_V = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n N_k}{|\sum_{k=1}^n N_k|}$$

for each face

- calculate face normal
- add normal to each connected vertex normal

for each vertex normal

- normalize

# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- Analysis
  - Normals
  - Curvature
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  - Rotate
  - Deform
- Filters
  - Smooth
  - Sharpen
  - Truncate
  - Bevel



color-coded curvature  
(red → higher curvature)

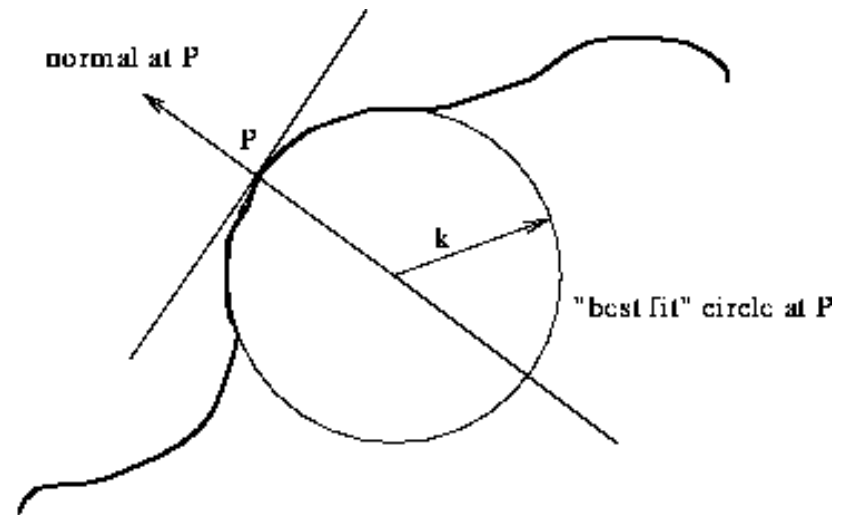
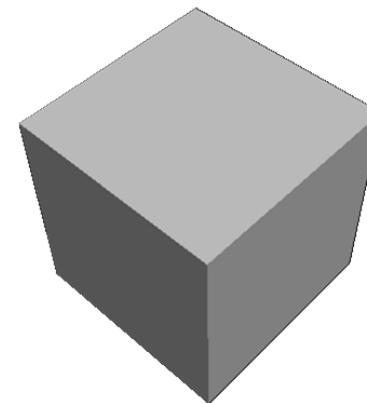
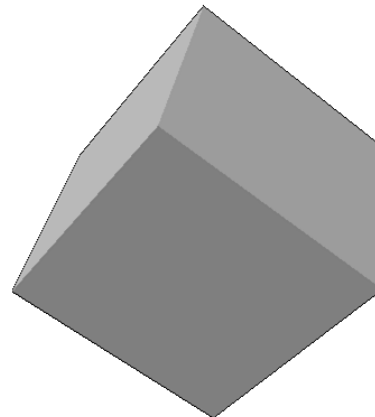
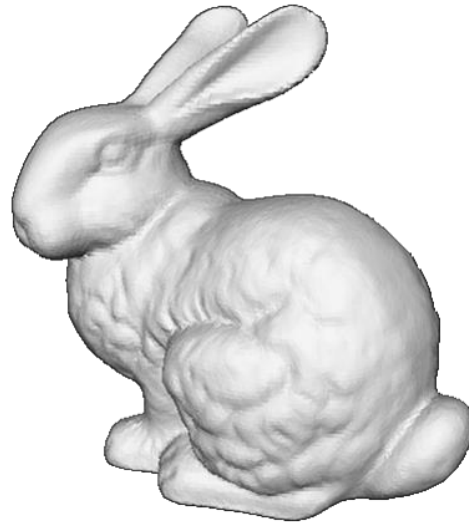


Figure 32: curvature of curve at  $P$  is  $1/k$

# Polygonal Mesh Processing



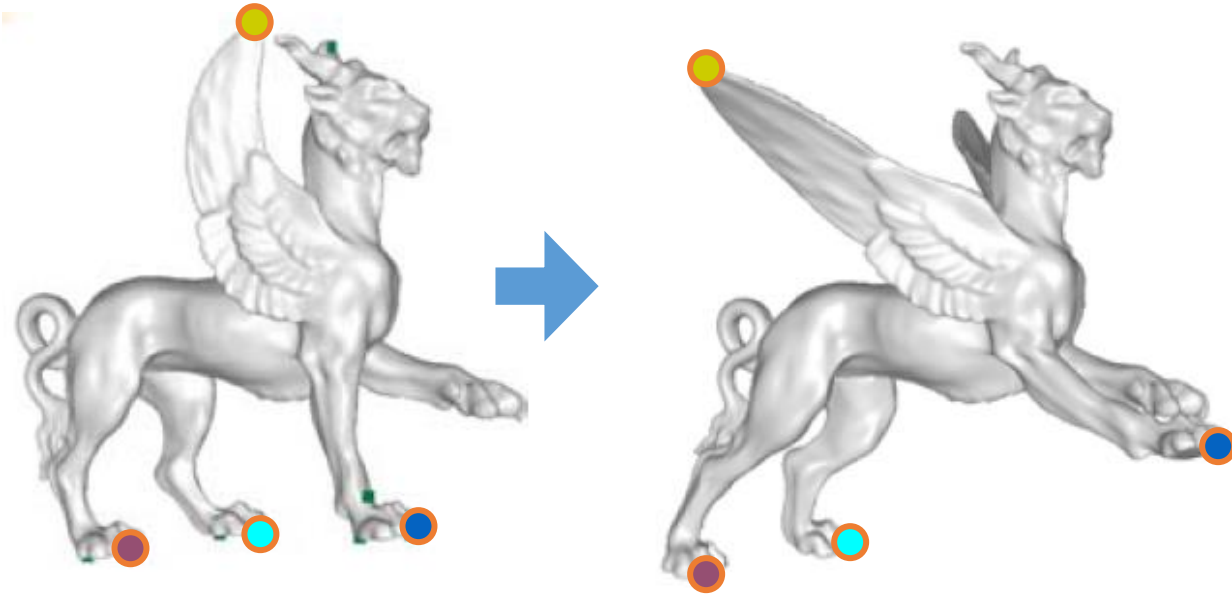
- Analysis
  - Normals
  - Curvature
- Warps
  - Rotate
  - Deform
- Filters
  - Smooth
  - Sharpen
  - Truncate
  - Bevel



# Polygonal Mesh Processing



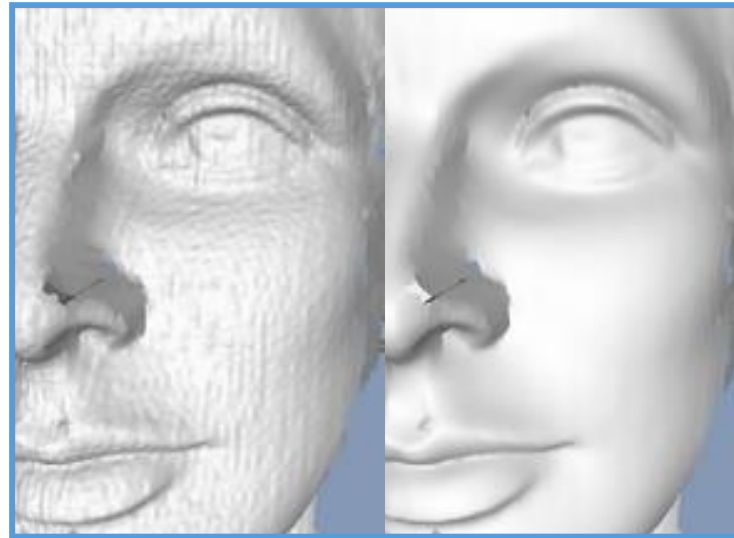
- Analysis
  - Normals
  - Curvature
- Warps
  - Rotate
  - Deform
- Filters
  - Smooth
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# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- Analysis
  - Normals
  - Curvature
- Warps
  - Rotate
  - Deform
- Filters
  - Smooth
  - Sharpen
  - Truncate
  - Bevel



Thouis "Ray" Jones

How?

# The Laplacian Operator

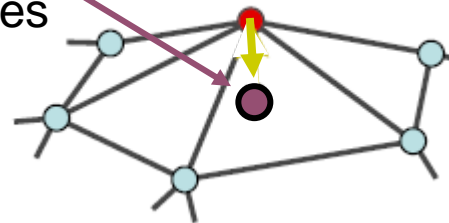


- Mesh formulation:

$$\delta_i = \frac{1}{d_i} \sum_{j \in N(i)} (\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j)$$

$d_i = |N(i)|$  is the number of neighbors.

Average of  
Neighboring  
Vertices



Olga Sorkine



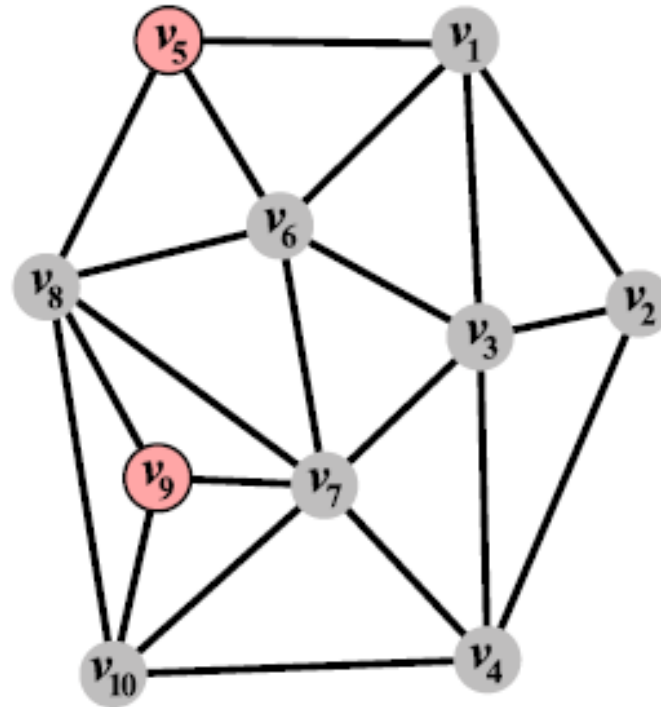
# The Laplacian Operator

- The Laplacian operator  $\Delta$

$$L(v_i) = \Delta(v_i) = \frac{\sum_{j \in 1_{ring_i}} v_j - v_i}{\#1_{ring_i}}$$

- In matrix form:

$$L_{ij} = \begin{cases} -w_{ij} & i \neq j \\ \sum_{j \in 1_{ring_i}} w_{ij} & i = j \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$



|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 4  | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 |    |    |    |    |
| -1 | 3  | -1 | -1 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| -1 | -1 | 5  | -1 | -1 | -1 |    |    |    |    |
|    | -1 | -1 | 4  |    | -1 |    |    |    | -1 |
| -1 |    |    |    | 3  | -1 |    | -1 |    |    |
| -1 |    | -1 |    | -1 | 5  | -1 | -1 |    |    |
|    |    | -1 | -1 |    | -1 | 6  | -1 | -1 | -1 |
|    |    |    |    | -1 | -1 | -1 | 5  | -1 | -1 |
|    |    |    |    |    |    | -1 | -1 | 3  | -1 |
|    |    |    | -1 |    |    | -1 | -1 | -1 | 4  |

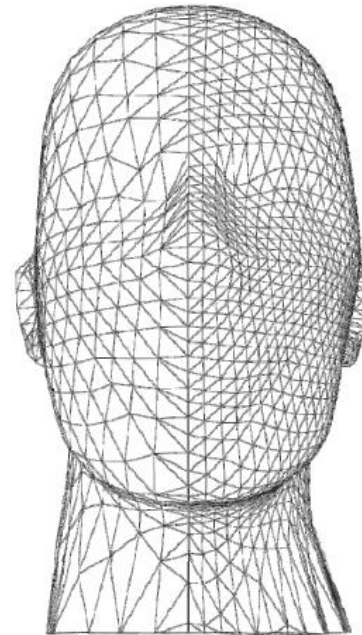
# The Laplacian Operator



- The Laplacian operator  $\Delta$

$$L(v_i) = \Delta(v_i) = \frac{\sum_{j \in 1ring_i} v_j - v_i}{\#1ring_i}$$

- However, Meshes are irregular



# The Laplacian Operator



- The Laplacian operator  $\Delta$

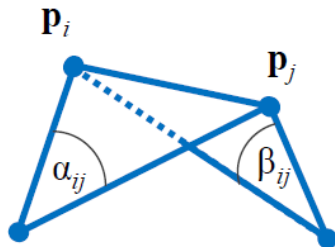
$$L(v_i) = \Delta(v_i) = \frac{\sum_{j \in 1\text{ring}_i} v_j - v_i}{\#1\text{ring}_i}$$

- However, Meshes are irregular

- Cotangent weights:

$$L(p_i) = \frac{\sum_{j \in 1\text{ring}_i} w_{ij} p_j}{\sum_{j \in 1\text{ring}_i} w_{ij}} - p_i$$

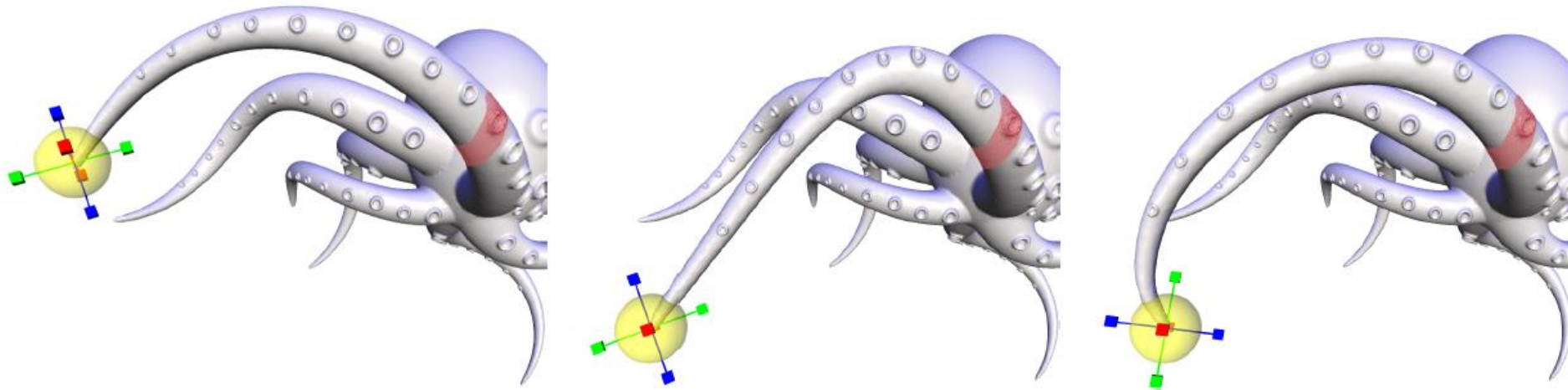
$$w_{ij} = \frac{\cot(\alpha_{ij}) + \cot(\beta_{ij})}{2}$$



# Solve Constrained Laplacian Optimization



- Applicable to:
  - Deformation, by adding constraints



# Solve Constrained Laplacian Optimization



- The Laplacian operator  $\Delta$

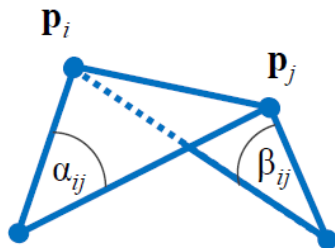
$$L(v_i) = \Delta(v_i) = \frac{\sum_{j \in 1\text{ring}_i} v_j - v_i}{\#1\text{ring}_i}$$

- However, Meshes are irregular

- Cotangent weights:

$$L(p_i) = \frac{\sum_{j \in 1\text{ring}_i} w_{ij} p_j}{\sum_{j \in 1\text{ring}_i} w_{ij}} - p_i$$

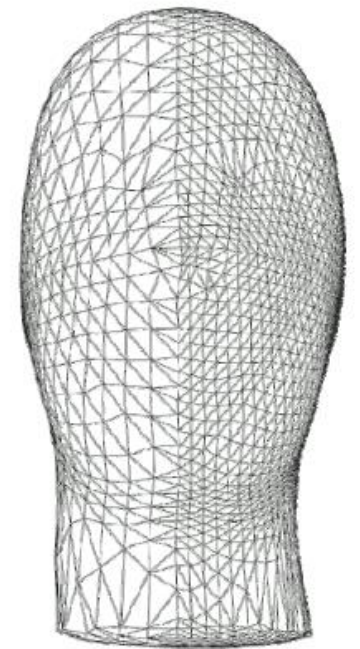
$$w_{ij} = \frac{\cot(\alpha_{ij}) + \cot(\beta_{ij})}{2}$$



Solve:

$$\left( \begin{array}{c|c} L & \\ \hline \omega I_{m \times m} & 0 \end{array} \right) \mathbf{x} = \left( \begin{array}{c} \delta^{(x)} \\ \omega c_{1:m} \end{array} \right)$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \underset{\mathbf{x}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left( \|L\mathbf{x} - \delta^{(x)}\|^2 + \sum_{j \in C} \omega^2 |x_j - c_j|^2 \right)$$



# Polygonal Mesh Processing



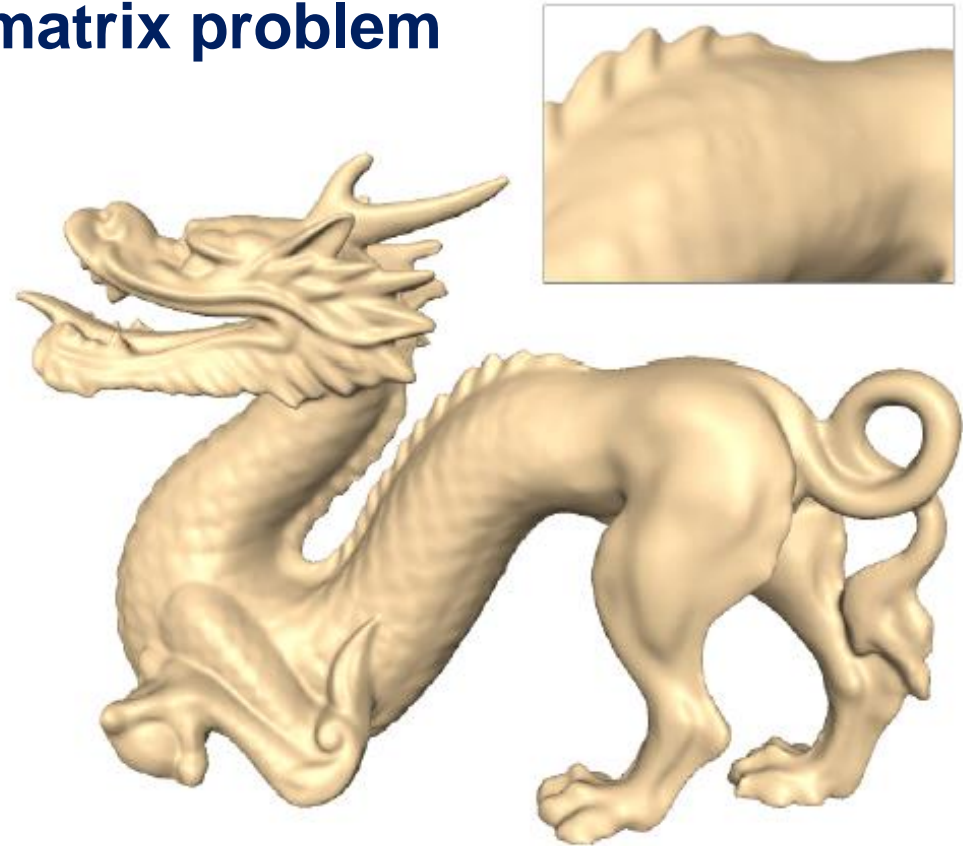
Deformation



# The Laplacian Operator



- Applicable to:
  - Deformation, by adding constraints
  - Blending, by **concatenating rows in matrix problem**



# The Laplacian Operator



- Applicable to:
  - Deformation, by adding constraints
  - Blending, by concatenating rows
  - Hole filling, by 0's on the RHS

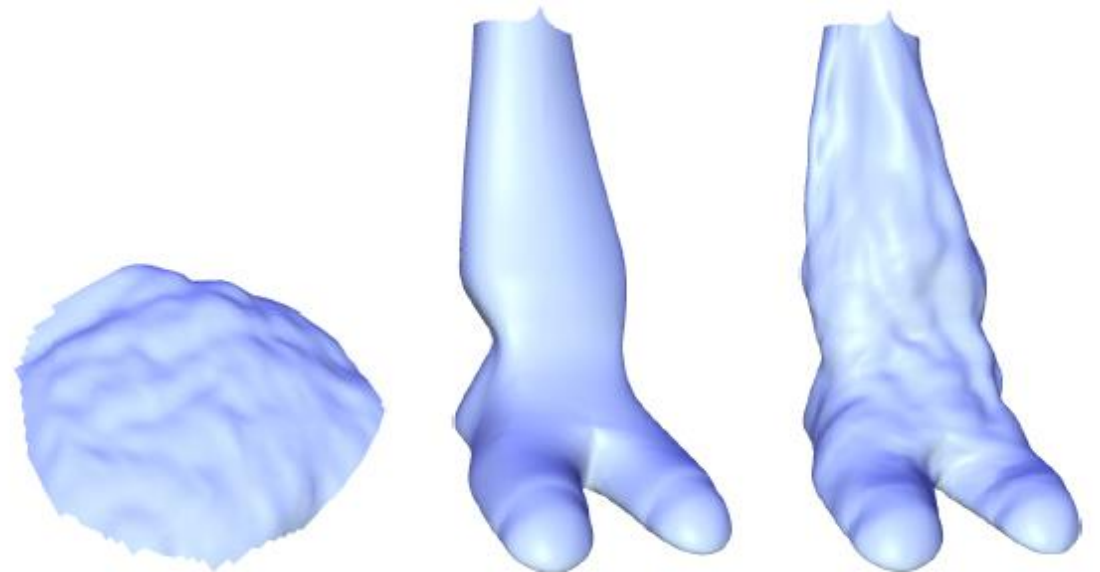




# The Laplacian Operator



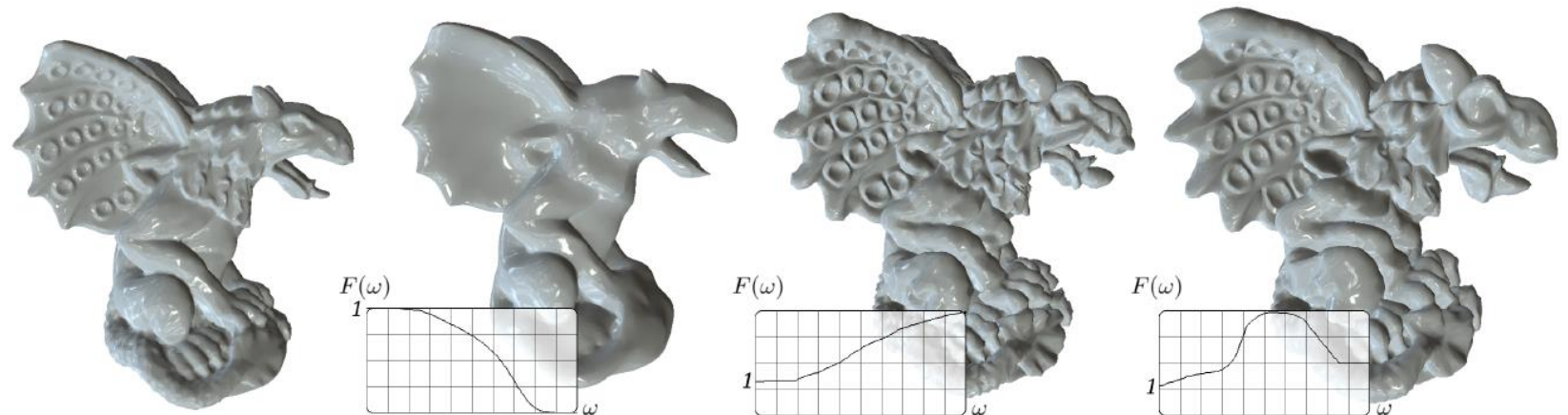
- Applicable to:
  - Deformation, by adding constraints
  - Blending, by concatenating rows
  - Hole filling, by 0's on the RHS
  - Coating (or detail transfer), by copying RHS values (after filtering)



# The Laplacian Operator



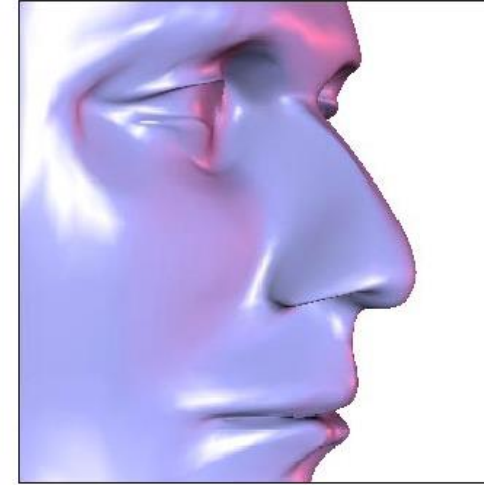
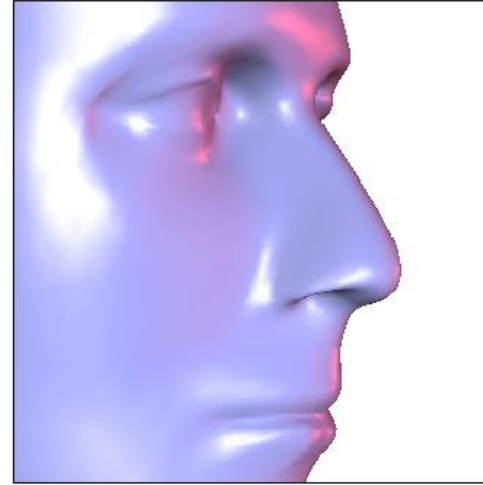
- Applicable to:
  - Deformation, by adding constraints
  - Blending, by concatenating rows
  - Hole filling, by 0's on the RHS
  - Coating (or detail transfer), by copying RHS values (after filtering)
  - Spectral mesh processing, through eigen analysis



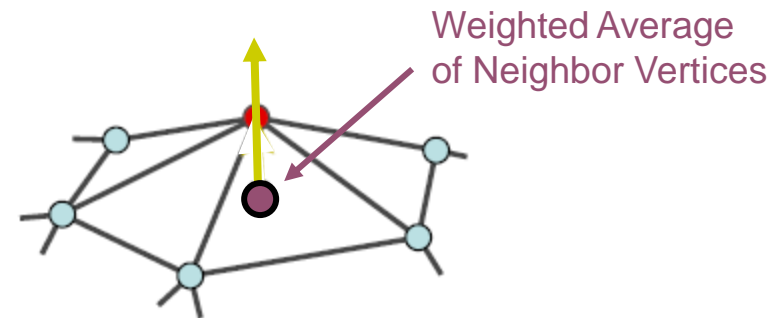
# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- Analysis
  - Normals
  - Curvature
- Warps
  - Rotate
  - Deform
- Filters
  - Smooth
  - Sharpen
  - Truncate



Desbrun

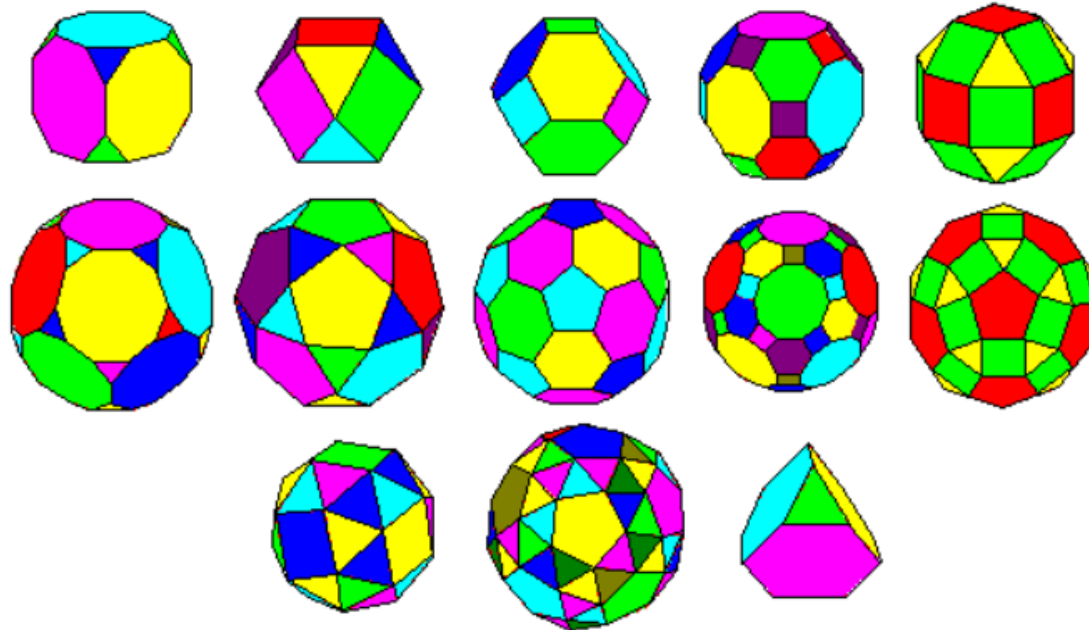


Olga Sorkine

# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- Analysis
  - Normals
  - Curvature
- Warps
  - Rotate
  - Deform
- Filters
  - Smooth
  - Sharpen
  - **Truncate**



Archimedean Polyhedra

<http://www.uwgb.edu/dutchs/symmetry/archpol.htm>

# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- Remeshing
  - Subdivide
  - Resample
  - Simplify
- Topological fixup
  - Fill holes
  - Fix self-intersections
- Boolean operations
  - Crop
  - Subtract

# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- **Remeshing**

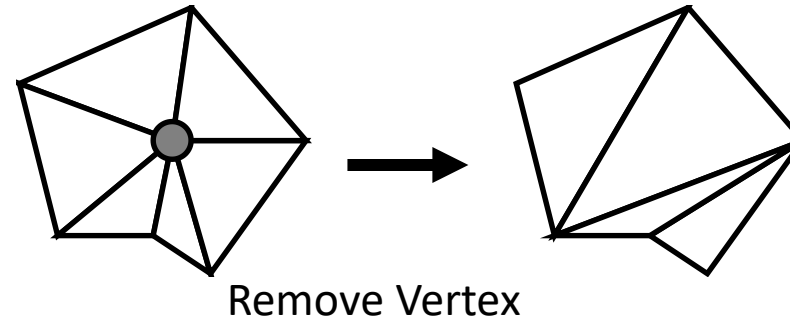
- Subdivide
- Resample
- Simplify

- Topological fixup

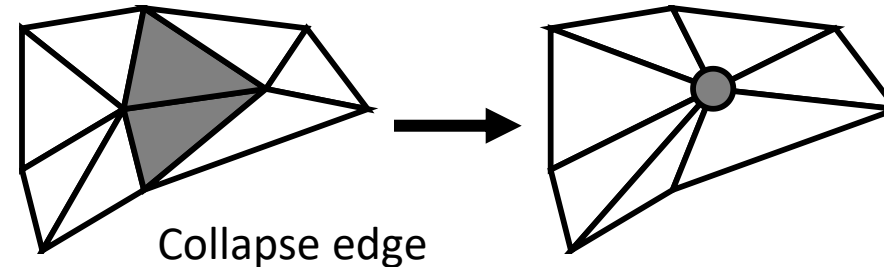
- Fill holes
- Fix self-intersections

- Boolean operations

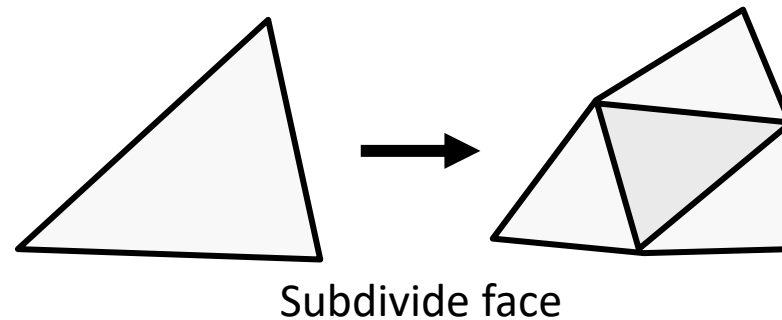
- Crop
- Subtract



Remove Vertex



Collapse edge

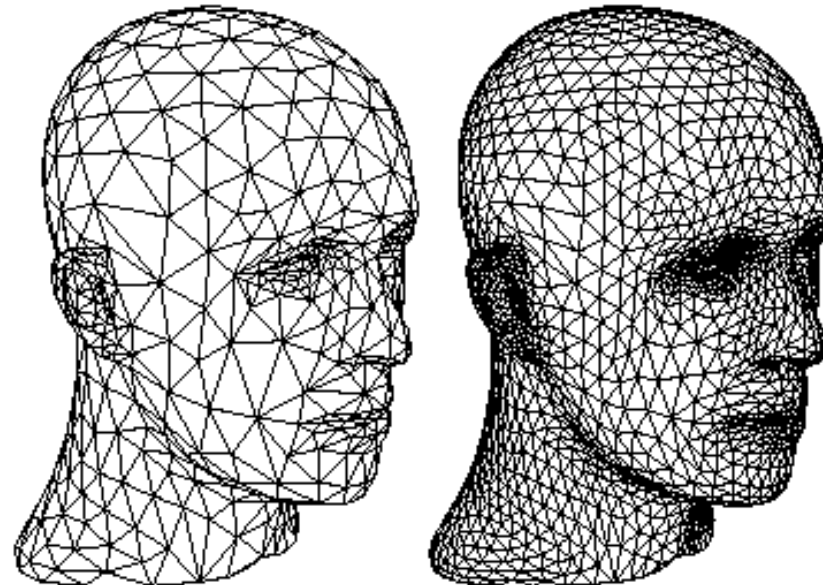
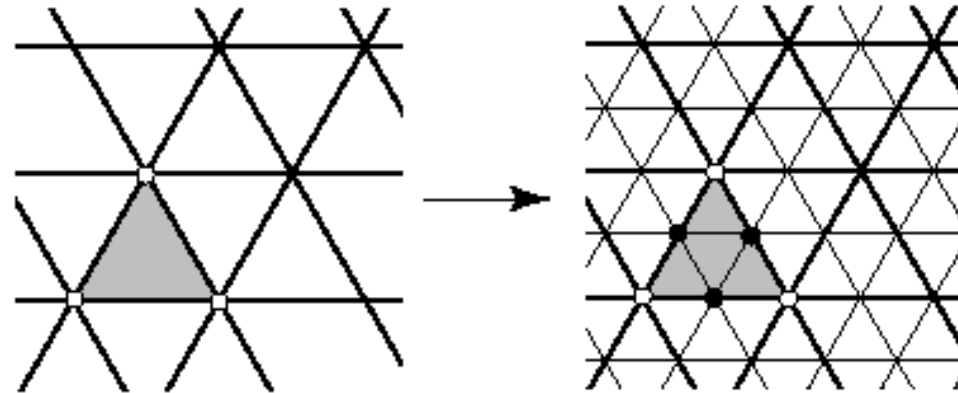


Subdivide face

# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- Remeshing
  - Subdivide
    - Resample
    - Simplify
- Topological fixup
  - Fill holes
  - Fix self-intersections
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  - Crop
  - Subtract



# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- Remeshing
  - Subdivide
    - Resample
    - Simplify
- Topological fixup
  - Fill holes
  - Fix self-intersections
- Boolean operations
  - Crop
  - Subtract

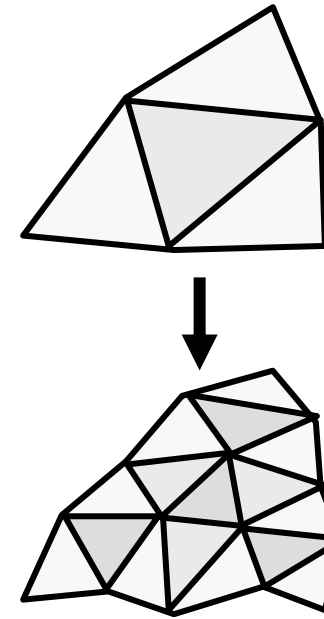




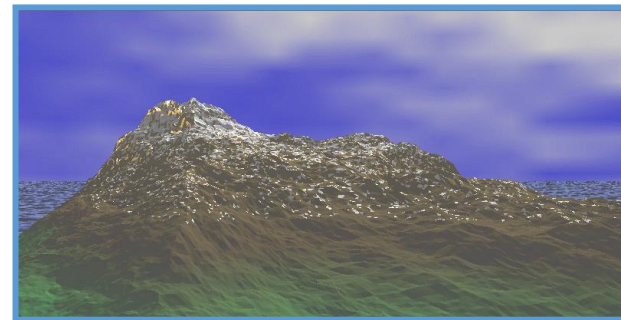
# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- Remeshing
  - Subdivide
    - Resample
    - Simplify
- Topological fixup
  - Fill holes
  - Fix self-intersections
- Boolean operations
  - Crop
  - Subtract



Fractal Landscape

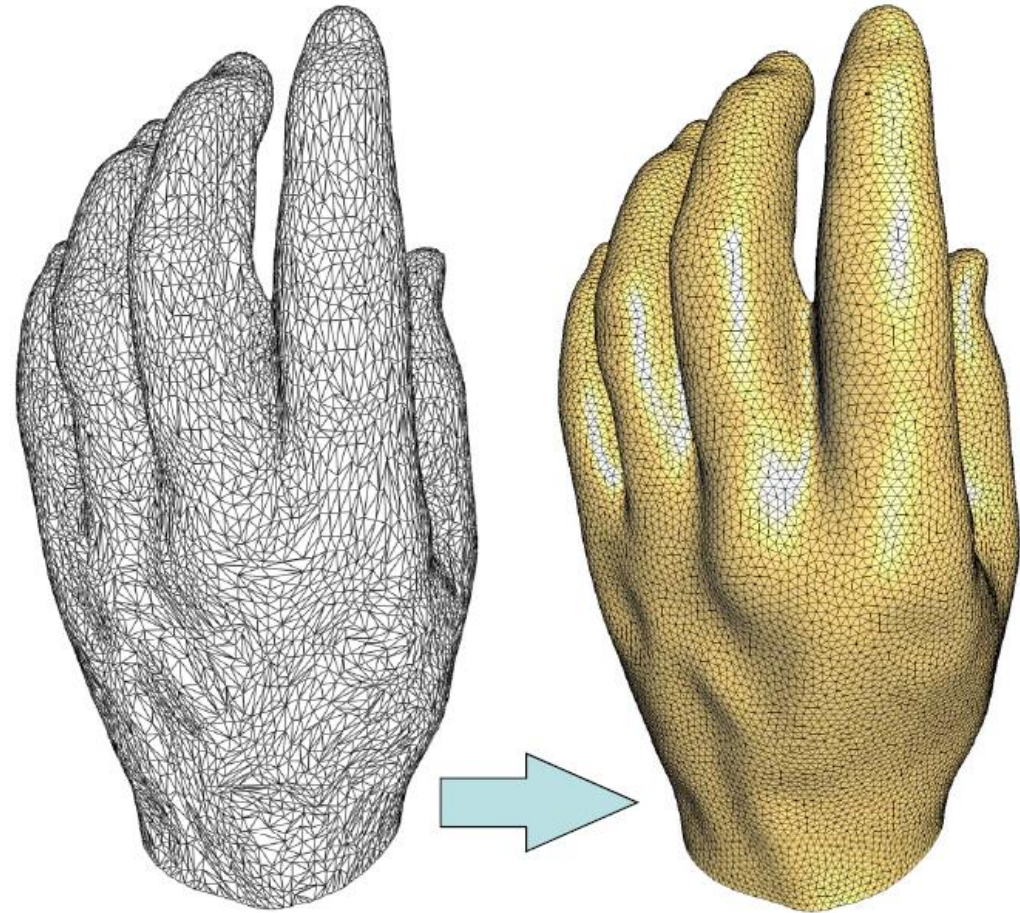


*Dirk Balfanz, Igor Guskov,  
Sanjeev Kumar, & Rudro Samanta,*

# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- Remeshing
  - Subdivide
  - Resample
  - Simplify
- Topological fixup
  - Fill holes
  - Fix self-intersections
- Boolean operations
  - Crop
  - Subtract



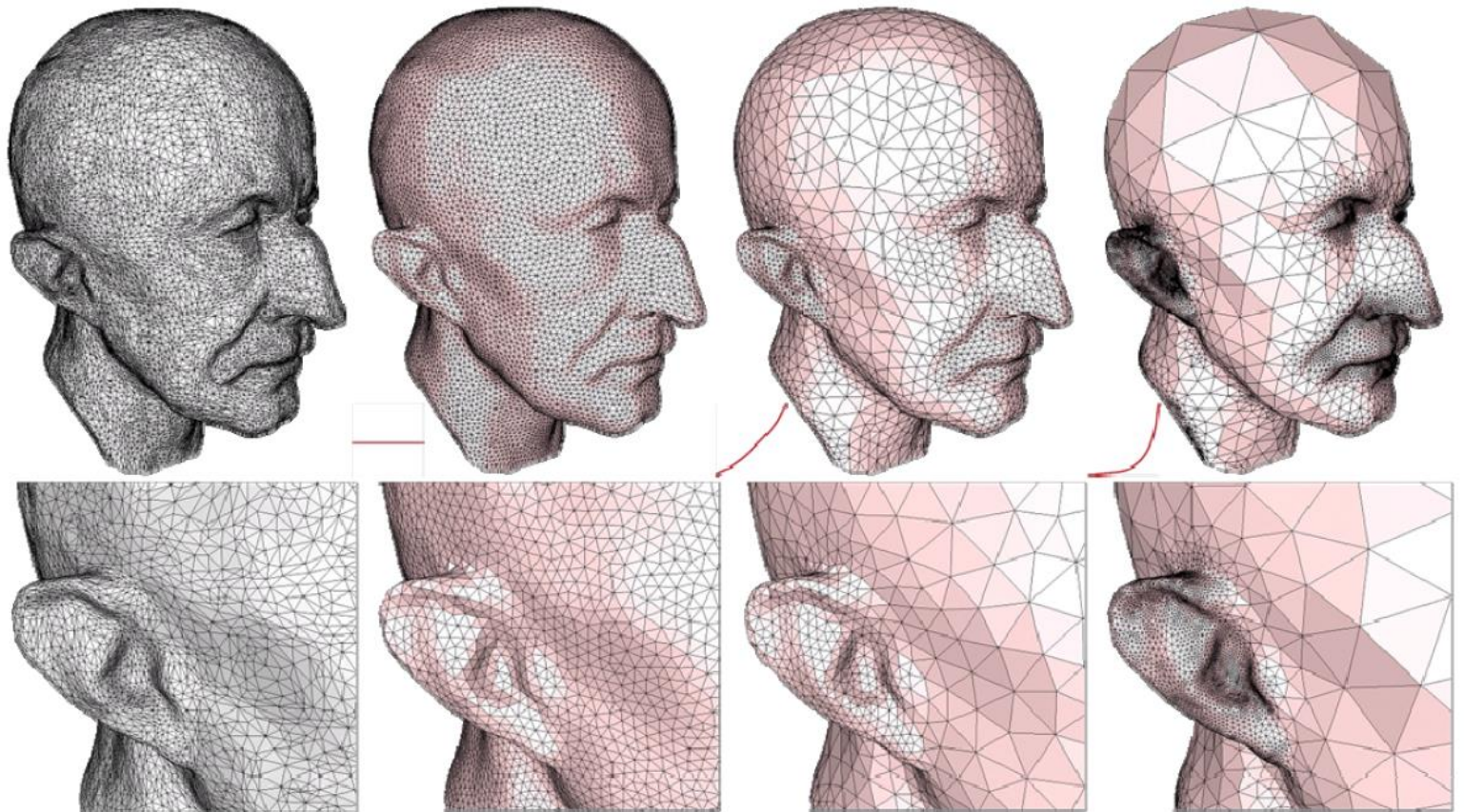
- more uniform distribution
- triangles with nicer aspect

Stanford

# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- Remeshing
  - Subdivide
  - Resample
  - Simplify
- Topological fixup
  - Fill holes
  - Fix self-intersections
- Boolean operations
  - Crop
  - Subtract



Input

Uniform

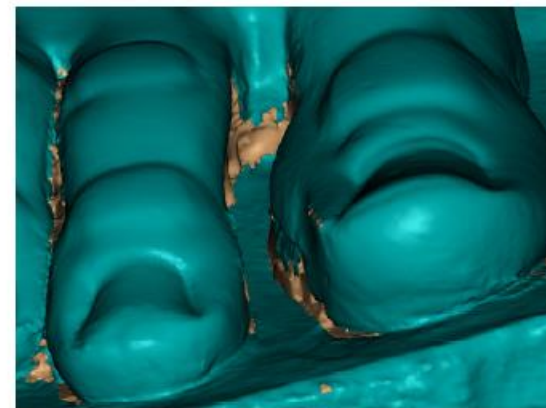
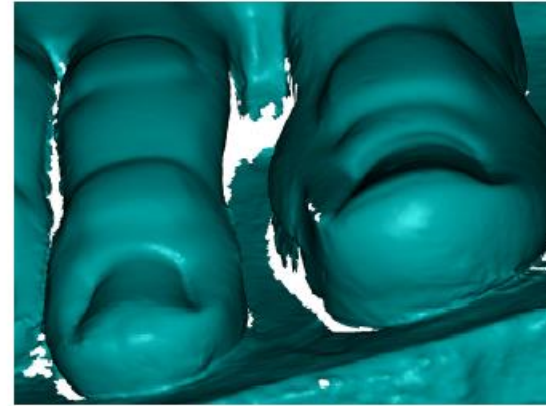
Adaptive

Stanford

# Polygonal Mesh Processing



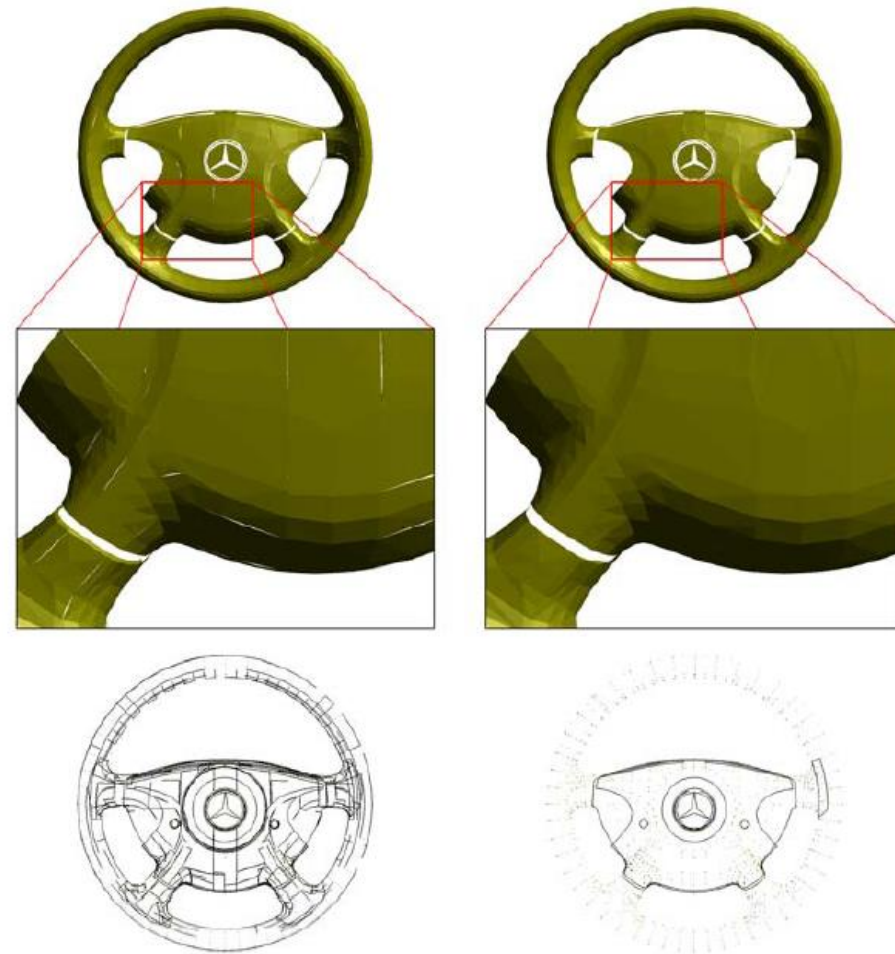
- Remeshing
  - Subdivide
  - Resample
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# Polygonal Mesh Processing



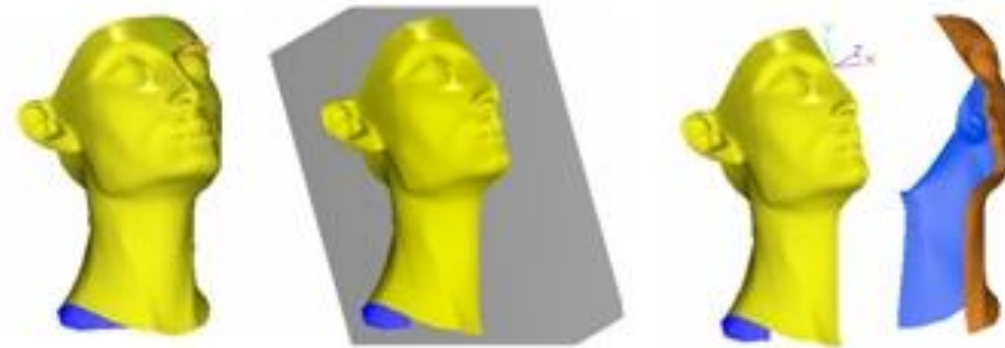
- Remeshing
  - Subdivide
  - Resample
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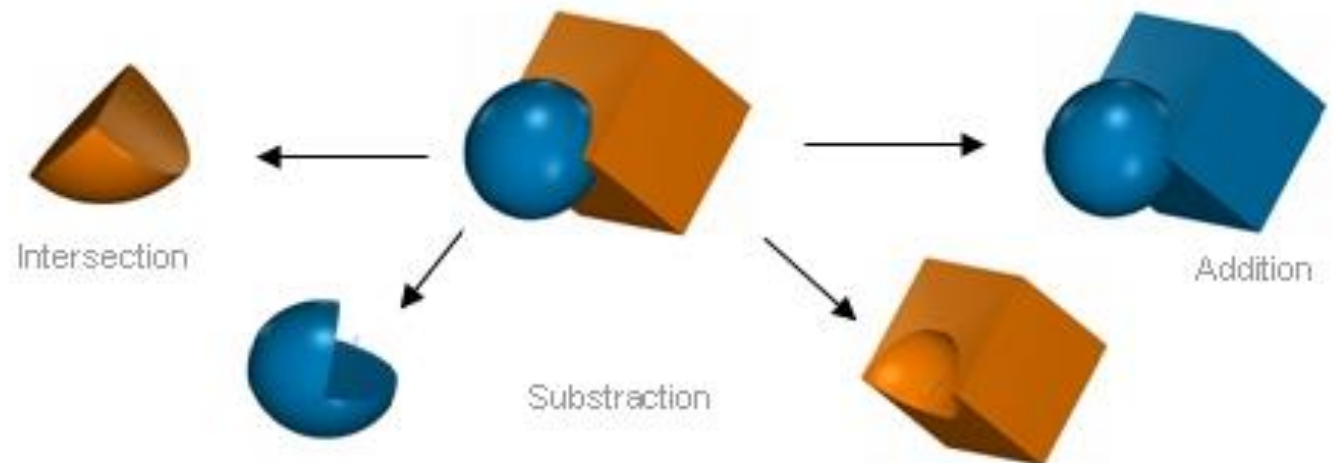
# Polygonal Mesh Processing



- Remeshing
  - Subdivide
  - Resample
  - Simplify
- Topological fixup
  - Fill holes
  - Fix self-intersections
- Boolean operations
  - Crop
  - Subtract
  - Etc.



Mesh separation processed by a boolean operation.



Several Boolean operations with 3DReshaper®

# 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

# 3D Polygonal Meshes



- Properties

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



Viewpoint



# 3D Polygonal Meshes



- Properties

- ☺ Efficient display
- ☺ Easy acquisition
- ☹ Accurate
- ☹ Concise
- ☹ Intuitive editing
- ☹ Efficient editing
- ☹ Efficient intersections
- ☹ Guaranteed validity
- ☹ Guaranteed smoothness



Viewpoint