## **Computer Graphics I**

# Lecture 4: Geometric representation & triangulation

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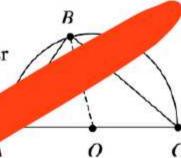
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### What is geometry?

The 9.5. Let  $\triangle ABC$  be inscribed in a semicircle with diameter

 $\bar{A}$   $\bar{C}$ .

Then  $\angle ABC$  angle.



#### Proof:

#### Statement

- 1. Draw radius OB. Then  $OB = OC = O_2$
- 2.  $m\angle OBC = m\angle BCA$  $m\angle OBA = m\angle BAC$
- 3.  $m\angle ABC = m\angle OBA +$
- 4.  $m\angle ABC + m\angle BC = 180$
- 5.  $m\angle ABC + m \angle OBA = 180$
- 6. 2 m 180
- 7. m = 90
- & LABC is a right angle

#### Given

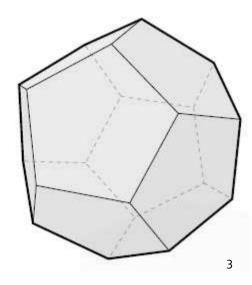
- sceles Triangle Theorem
- 3. Anga Postulate
- 4. The sum des of a triangle is 180
- 5. Substitution (Im-
- 6. Substitution (line 3)
- 7. Division Property of Equality
- 8. Definition of Right Angle

### What is geometry?

- 1. The study of shapes, sizes, patterns, and positions
- 2. The study of spaces where some quantities (lengths, angles, etc.) can be *measured*







### How can we describe geometry?

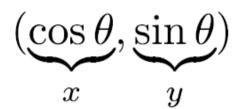
#### **IMPLICIT**

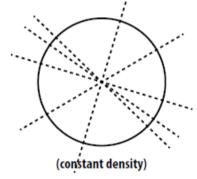
$$x^2 + y^2 = 1$$

#### LINGUISTIC

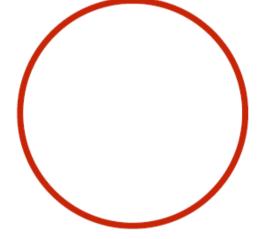
#### "unit circle"

#### **EXPLICIT**

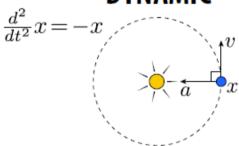




#### **TOMOGRAPHIC**



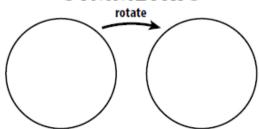
**DYNAMIC** 



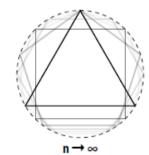
#### **CURVATURE**

$$\kappa = 1$$

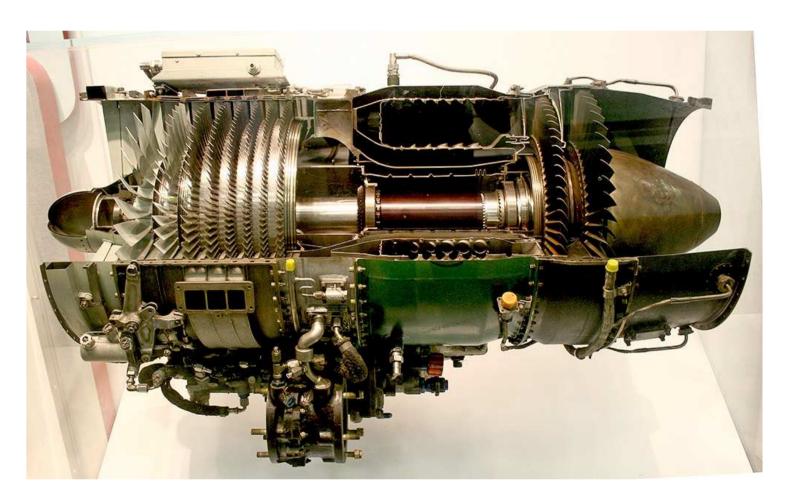
#### SYMMETRIC



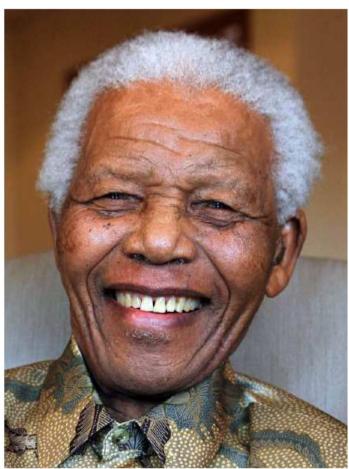
#### DISCRETE

















No "best" choice—geometry is hard!

"I hate meshes.
I cannot believe how hard this is.
Geometry is hard."

—David Baraff
Senior Research Scientist
Pixar Animation Studios

### Many ways to digitally encode geometry

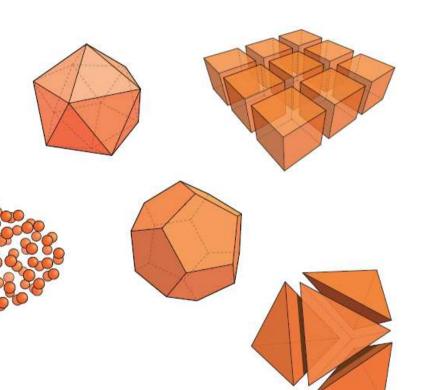
Many ways to digitally encode geometry

#### EXPLICIT

- point cloud
- polygon mesh
- subdivision, NURBS
- L-systems
- ...

#### IMPLICIT

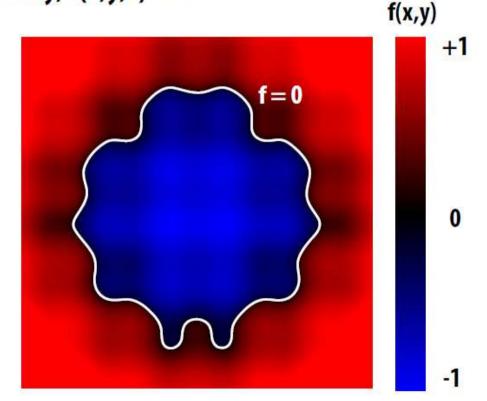
- level set
- algebraic surface
- ...
- Each choice best suited to a different task/type of geometry



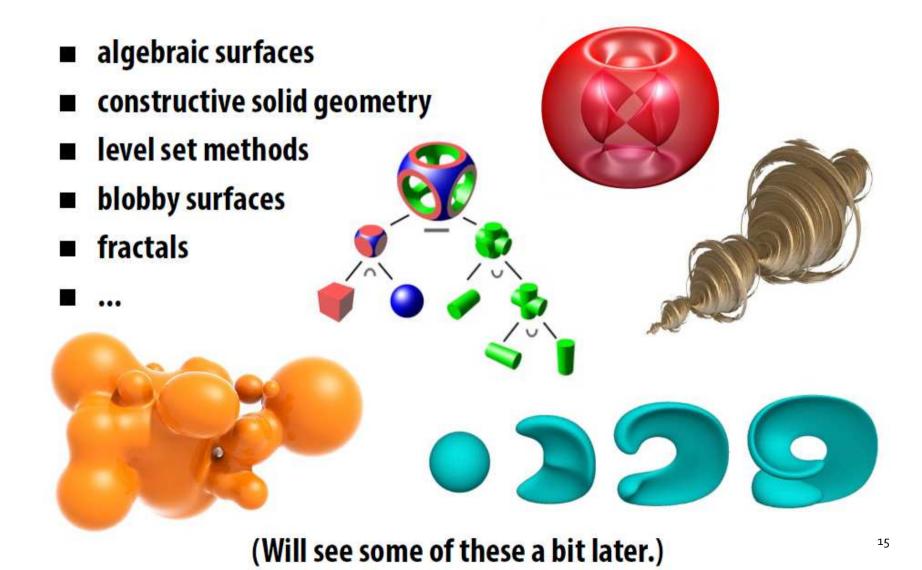
### 1. Different geometric representations

### "Implicit" representations of geometry

- Points aren't known directly, but satisfy some relationship
- E.g., unit sphere is all points x such that  $x^2+y^2+z^2=1$
- More generally, f(x,y,z) = 0



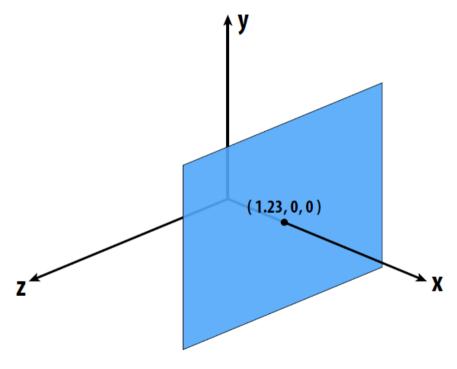
### Many implicit representations in graphics



#### Prons. & cons. of implicit surfaces

I'm thinking of an implicit surface f(x,y,z)=o.
 Find any point on it.

My function was f(x,y,z) = -1.23 (a plane): (a special case)

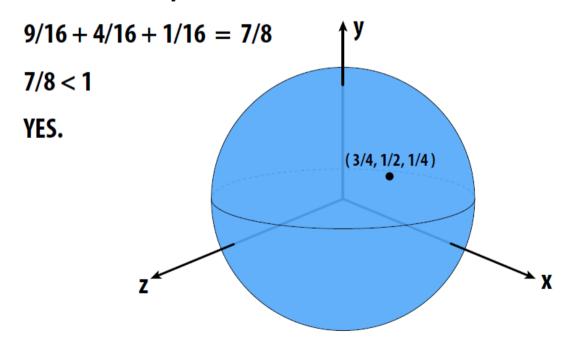


Implicit surfaces make some tasks hard (like sampling).

### Prons. & cons. of implicit surfaces

I have a new surface f(x,y,z) = x² + y² + z² - 1.
 I want to see if a point is inside it.

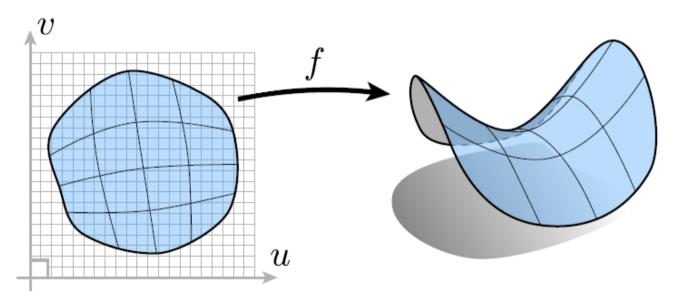
How about the point (3/4, 1/2, 1/4)?



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### "Explicit" representations of geometry

- All points are given directly
- **E.g., points on sphere are**  $(\cos(u)\sin(v),\sin(u)\sin(v),\cos(v)),$  for  $0 \le u < 2\pi$  and  $0 \le v \le \pi$
- More generally:  $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}^3; (u,v) \mapsto (x,y,z)$



■ (Might have a bunch of these maps, e.g., one per triangle.)

### Many explicit representations in graphics

triangle meshes

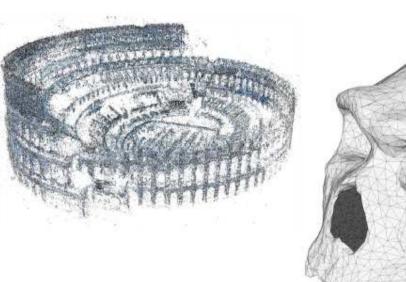
polygon meshes

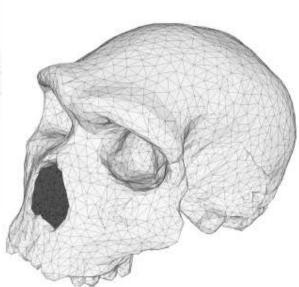
subdivision surfaces

NURBS

point clouds





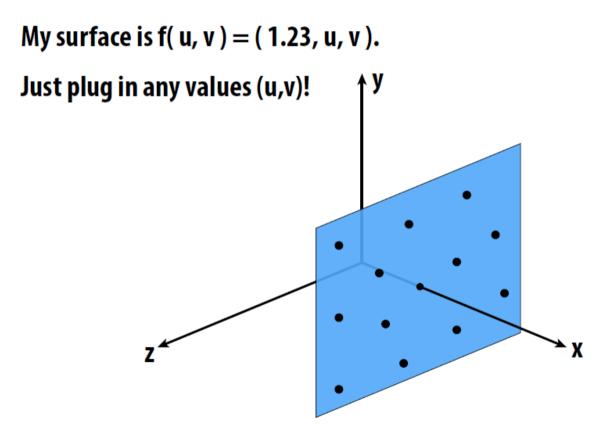


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(Will see some of these a bit later.)

### Prons. & cons. of explicit surfaces

Sampling an explicit surface



Explicit surfaces make some tasks easy (like sampling).

### Prons. & cons. of explicit surfaces

• Check if this point is inside the torus

My surface is  $f(u,v) = (2+\cos(u))\cos(v)$ ,  $2+\cos(u))\sin(v)$ ,  $\sin(u)$ )

How about the point  $(1,\sqrt{3},5/4)$ ?  $(1,\sqrt{3},5/4)$ 

#### Conclusion

 Some representations work better than others depends on the task!

 Different representations will also be better suited to different types of geometry.

 Let's take a look at some common representations used in computer graphics.

- Algebraic surfaces (implicit)
  - Surface is zero set of a polynomial in x, y, z ("algebraic variety")





$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$$



$$x^{2}+y^{2}+z^{2}=1$$
  $(R-\sqrt{x^{2}+y^{2}})^{2}+z^{2}=r^{2}$   $(x^{2}+\frac{9y^{2}}{4}+z^{2}-1)^{3}=$ 

$$(x^2 + \frac{9y^2}{4} + z^2 - 1)^3 =$$

What about more complicated shapes?

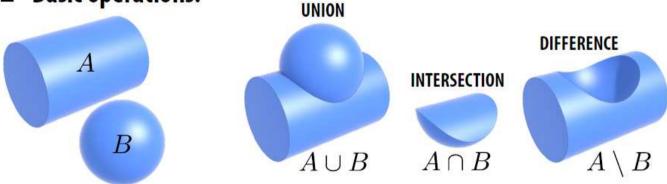
$$x^2z^3 + \frac{9y^2z^3}{80}$$





Very hard to come up with polynomials!

- Constructive solid geometry (implicit)
  - Build more complicated shapes via Boolean operations
  - Basic operations:



■ Then chain together expressions:  $(X \cap Y) \setminus (U \cup V \cup W)$ 

- **Blobby surfaces (implicit)** 
  - Instead of Booleans, gradually blend surfaces together:

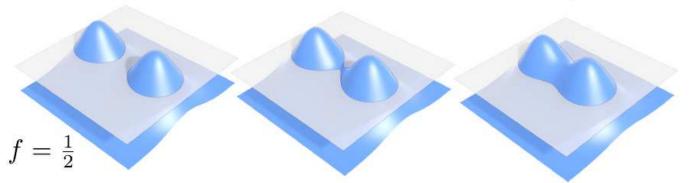


Easier to understand in 2D:

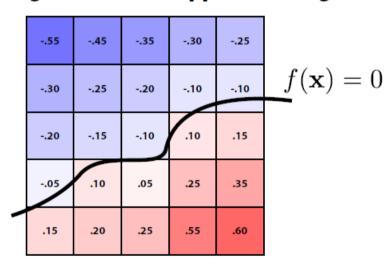
$$\phi_p(x) \coloneqq e^{-|x-p|^2}$$
 (Gaussian centered at p)

$$f := \phi_p + \phi_q$$

 $f:=\phi_p+\phi_q$  (Sum of Gaussians centered at different points)

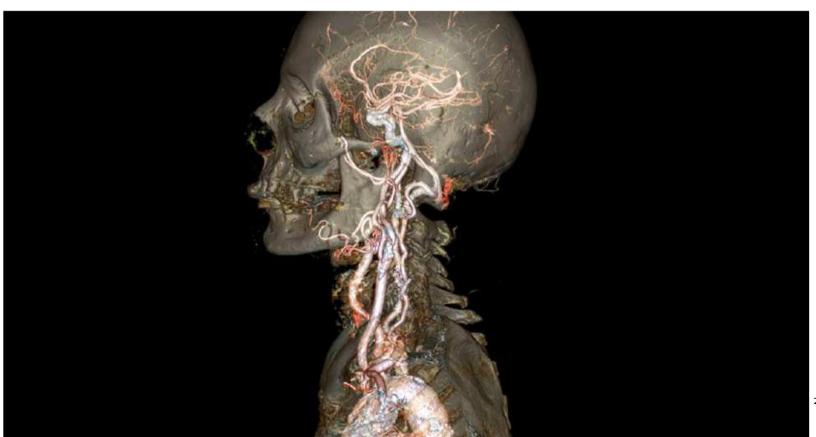


- Level set methods (implicit)
  - Implicit surfaces have some nice features (e.g., merging/splitting)
  - But, hard to describe complex shapes in closed form
  - Alternative: store a grid of values approximating function

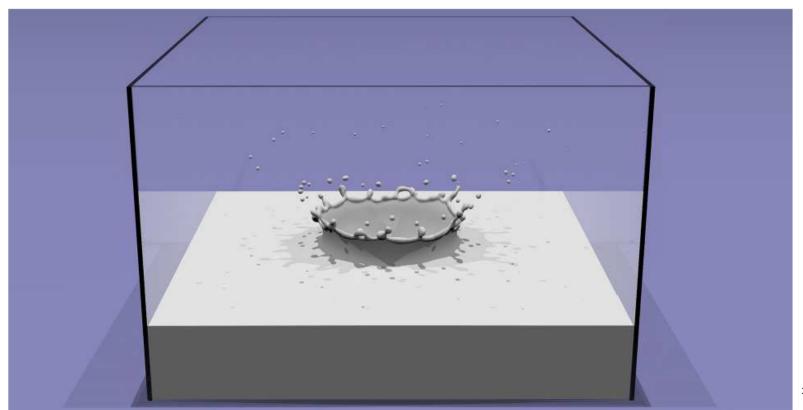


- Surface is found where interpolated values equal zero
- Provides much more explicit control over shape (like a texture)

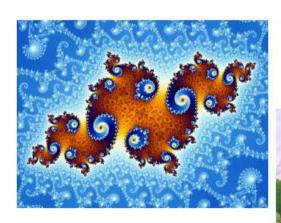
- Level sets from medical data (CT, MRI, etc.)
  - Level sets encode, e.g., constant tissue density



- Level sets in physical simulation
  - Level set encodes distance to air-liquid boundary



- Fractals (implicit)
  - No precise definition; exhibit self-similarity, detail at all scales
  - New "language" for describing natural phenomena
  - Hard to control shape!







• Iterated function systems



Implicit representations - pros & cons

#### Pros:

- description can be very compact (e.g., a polynomial)
- easy to determine if a point is in our shape (just plug it in!)
- other queries may also be easy (e.g., distance to surface)
- for simple shapes, exact description/no sampling error
- easy to handle changes in topology (e.g., fluid)

#### ■ Cons:

- expensive to find all points in the shape (e.g., for drawing)
- very difficult to model complex shapes

Point cloud (explicit)

■ Easiest representation: list of points (x,y,z)

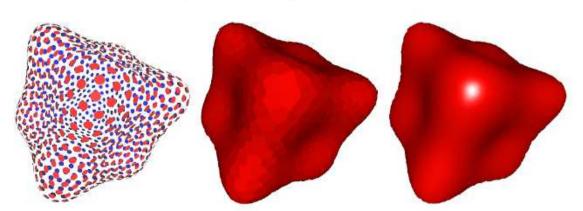
Often augmented with normals

Easily represent any kind of geometry

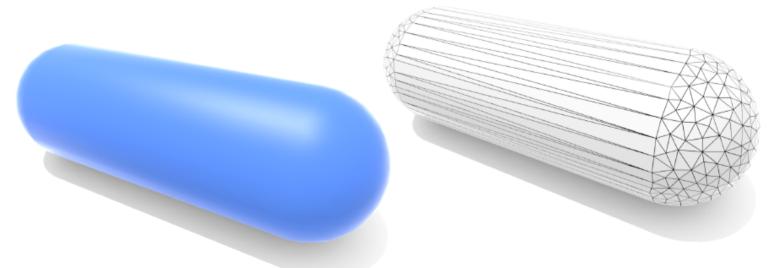
Useful for LARGE datasets (>>1 point/pixel)

Difficult to draw in undersampled regions

Hard to do processing / simulation

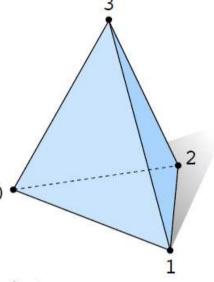


- Polygon mesh (explicit)
  - Store vertices and polygons (most often triangles or quads)
  - Easier to do processing/simulation, adaptive sampling
  - More complicated data structures
  - Perhaps most common representation in graphics



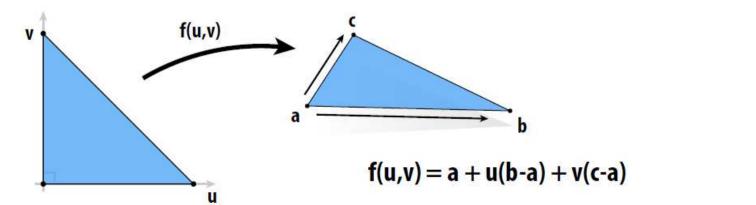
- Triangle mesh (explicit)
  - Store vertices as triples of coordinates (x,y,z)
  - Store triangles as triples of indices (i,j,k)
  - **■** E.g., tetrahedron:

	VERTICES			TRIANGLES		
	x	Y	Z	i	j	k
:	-1	-1	-1	0	2	1
:	1	-1	1	0	3	2
:	1	1	-1	3	0	1
:	-1	1	1	3	1	2

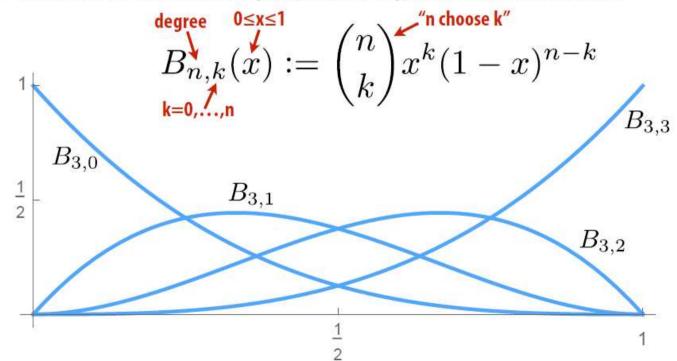


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■ Can think of triangle as *affine* map from plane into space:



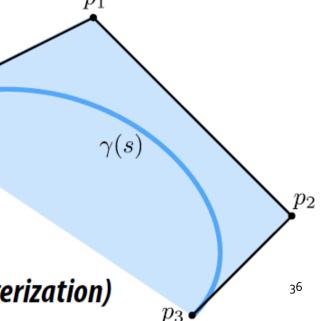
- Bernstein basis
  - Why limit ourselves to just affine functions?
  - More flexibility by using higher-order polynomials
  - Instead of usual basis  $(1, x, x^2, x^3, ...)$ , use Bernstein basis:



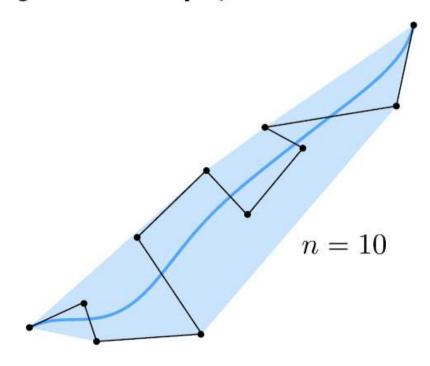
- Bézier curves (explicit)
  - A Bézier curve is a curve expressed in the Bernstein basis:

$$\gamma(s) := \sum_{k=0}^n B_{n,k}(s) p_k^{\text{control points}}$$

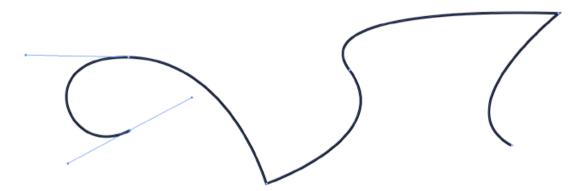
- For n=1, just get a line segment!
- For n=3, get "cubic Bézier":
- **■** Important features:
  - 1. interpolates endpoints
  - 2. tangent to end segments
  - 3. contained in convex hull (nice for rasterization)



- Higher-order Bézier curves?
  - What if we want a more interesting curve?
  - High-degree Bernstein polynomials don't interpolate well:



- B-Spline curves (Explicit)
  - Instead, use many low-order Bézier curve (B-spline)
  - Widely-used technique in software (Illustrator, Inkscape, etc.)



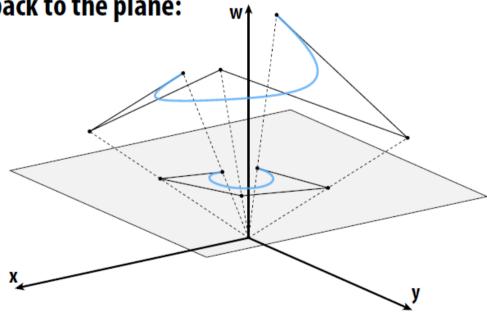
**■** Formally, piecewise Bézier curve:

B-spline 
$$\gamma(u) := \gamma_i \left( \frac{u - u_i}{u_{i+1} - u_i} \right), \qquad u_i \le u < u_{i+1}$$

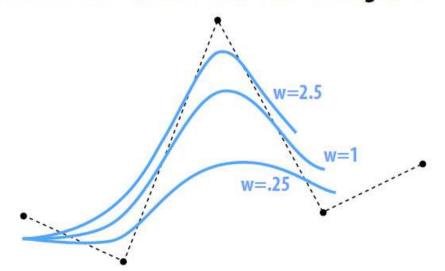
Location of u<sub>i</sub> parameters are called "knots"

- Rational B-splines (explicit)
  - B-Splines can't exactly represent *conics*—not even the circle!

■ Solution: interpolate in homogeneous coordinates, then project back to the plane:  $w_{\uparrow}$ 



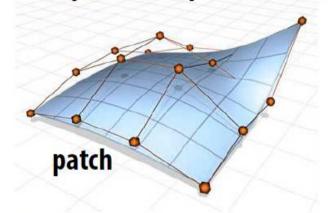
- NURBS (explicit)
  - (N)on-(U)niform (R)ational (B)-(S)pline
    - knots at arbitrary locations (non-uniform)
    - expressed in homogeneous coordinates (rational)
    - piecewise polynomial curve (B-Spline)
  - Homogeneous coordinate w controls "strength" of a vertex:

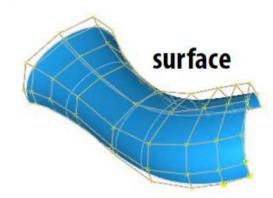


- NURBS Surface (explicit)
  - Much more common than using NURBS for curves
  - Use tensor product of scalar NURBS curves to get a patch:

$$S(u,v) := N_i(u)N_j(v)p_{ij}$$

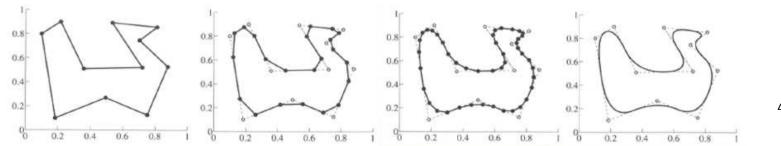
Multiple NURBS patches form a surface



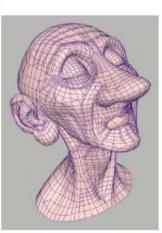


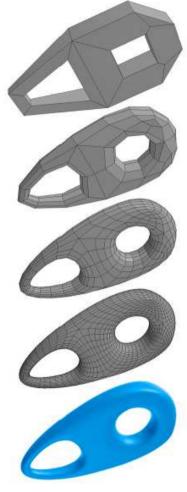
- Pros: easy to evaluate, exact conics, high degree of continuity
- Cons: Hard to piece together patches, hard to edit (many DOFs)

- Subdivision (explicit)
  - Alternative starting point for B-spline curves: *subdivision*
  - Start with control curve
  - Insert new vertex at each edge midpoint
  - Update vertex positions according to fixed rule
  - For careful choice of averaging rule, yields smooth curve
    - Average with "next" neighbor (Chaikin): quadratic B-spline
    - Lane-Riesenfeld: B-spline curve of any degree



- Subdivision Surfaces (Explicit)
  - Start with coarse polygon mesh ("control cage")
  - Subdivide each element
  - Update vertices via local averaging
  - Many possible rule:
    - Catmull-Clark (quads)
    - Loop (triangles)
    - ...
  - Common issues:
    - interpolating or approximating?
    - continuity at vertices?
  - Easier than NURBS for modeling; harder to guarantee continuity

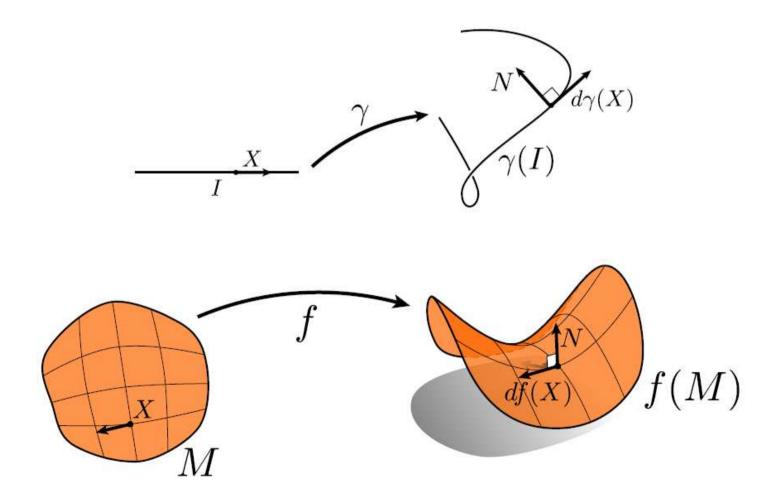




## 2. Geometric surface

## Tangent vector of a surface

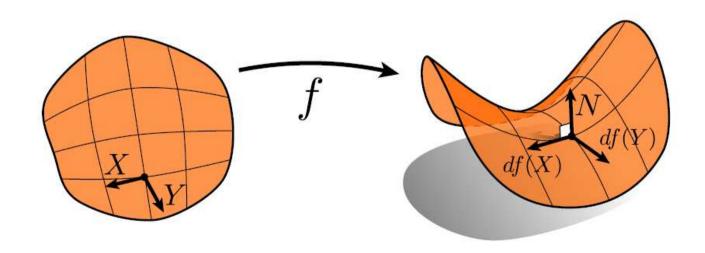
• How to evaluate the surface tangent?



### Surface normal

- How to evaluate the surface normal?
  - A normal is a vector orthogonal to all tangents

$$N \cdot df(X) = 0 \ \forall X$$

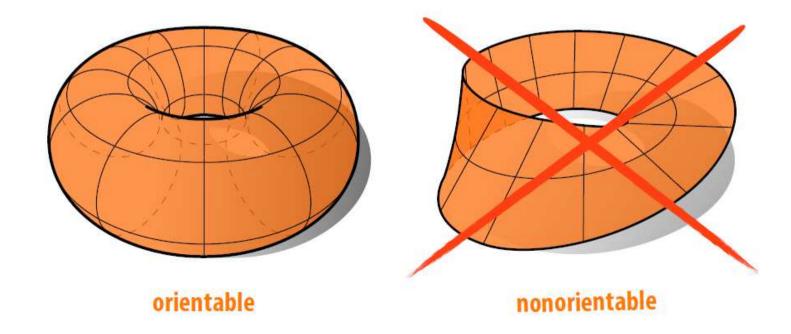


## Surface normal

Which direction does the normal point?

$$|N| = 1$$

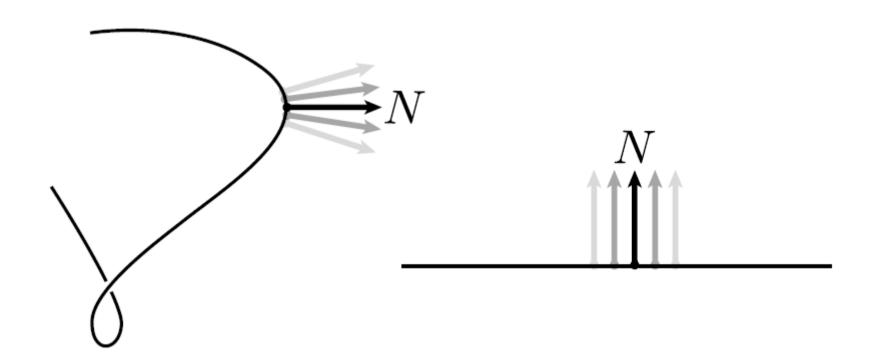
$$N \cdot df(X) = 0 \ \forall X$$



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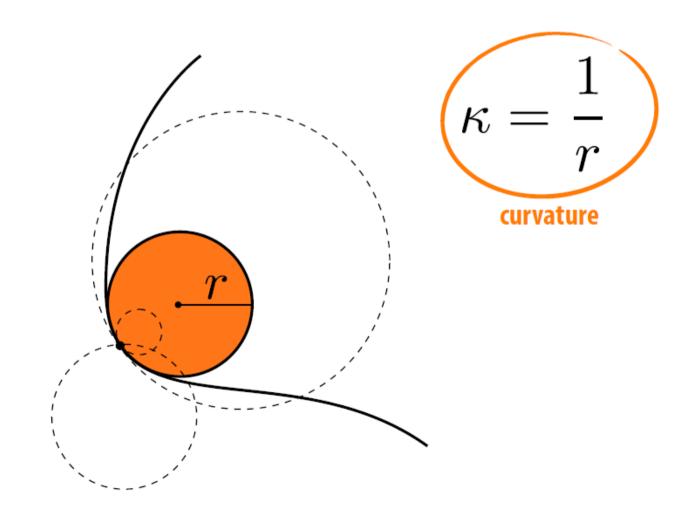
## Curvature

• Curvature is the rate of *change in normal* 



## Curvature

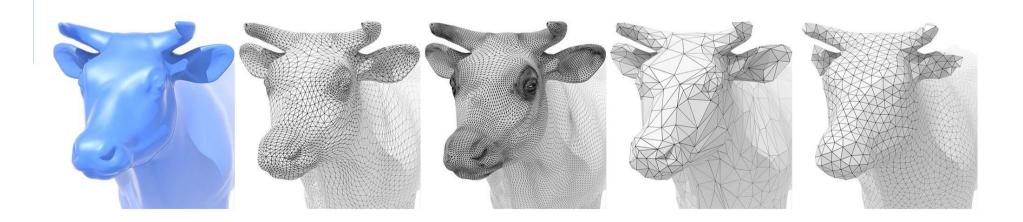
• Standard definition: radius of curvature



# 3. Mesh representation

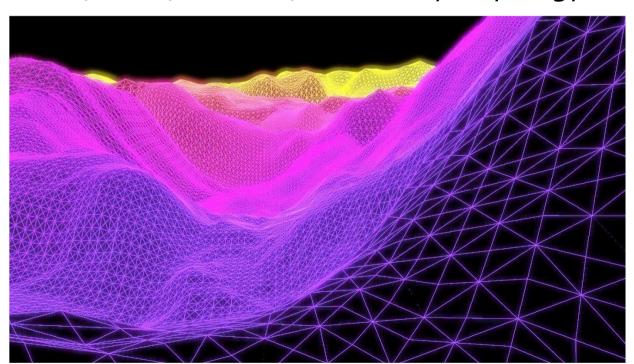
## Discretizing geometric representations

- Converting continuous surface representation into an assembly of discrete primitive elements
  - Triangles/quadrilaterals
  - A certain organization of primitive elements



### Mesh

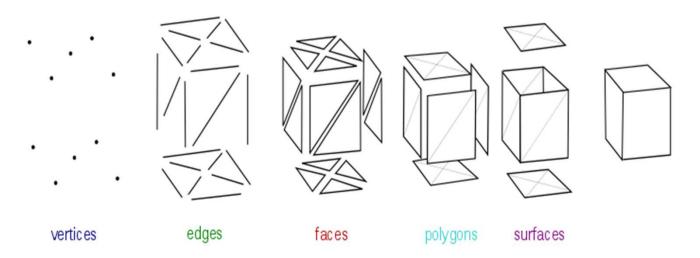
- Representation of shapes with a collection of geometrical primitives
  - Triangles/quadrilaterals
  - Vertices, faces, normals, collectivity (topology)



## Mesh organization

#### Polygon mesh

- A collection of vertices, edges and faces
  - Define the shape of a polyhedral object in 3D computer graphics and solid modeling
  - The faces usually consist of triangles, quadrilaterals, or other simple convex polygons

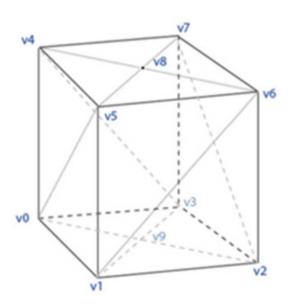


## Mesh organization

• Vertex-vertex representation

#### **Vertex-Vertex Meshes (VV)**

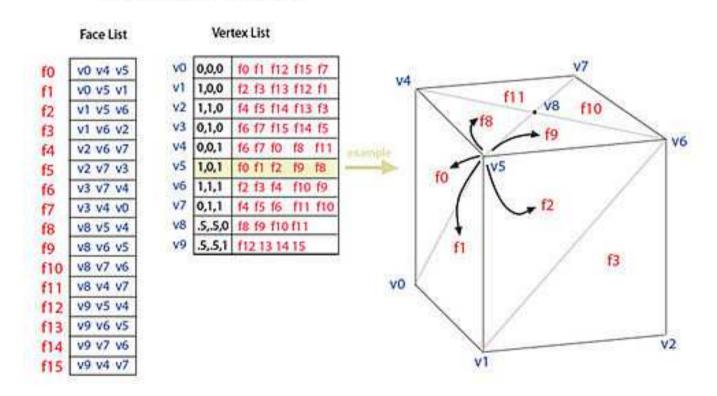
Vertex List		
v0	0,0,0	v1 v5 v4 v3 v9
v1	1,0,0	v2 v6 v5 v0 v9
v2	1,1,0	v3 v7 v6 v1 v9
v3	0,1,0	v2 v6 v7 v4 v9
v4	0,0,1	v5 v0 v3 v7 v8
v5	1,0,1	v6 v1 v0 v4 v8
v6	1,1,1	v7 v2 v1 v5 v8
v7	0,1,1	v4 v3 v2 v6 v8
v8	.5,.5,1	v4 v5 v6 v7
v9	.5,.5,0	v0 v1 v2 v3



## Mesh organization

Face-vertex representation

#### Face-Vertex Meshes



#### • Using vertex array:

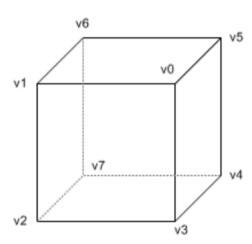
- Vertex position
- Vertex color
- Vertex normal
- Vertex texture coordinates

#### • Using index array:

- Face index: triangle elements, quadrilateral elements, etc.

### Traditional way of drawing geometries

```
glBegin(GL TRIANGLES); // draw a cube with 12
triangles
// front face =========
glVertex3fv(v0); // v0-v1-v2
glVertex3fv(v1);
glVertex3fv(v2);
glVertex3fv(v2); // v2-v3-v0
glVertex3fv(v3);
glVertex3fv(v0);
// right face =========
glVertex3fv(v0); // v0-v3-v4
glVertex3fv(v3);
glVertex3fv(v4);
glVertex3fv(v4); // v4-v5-v0
glVertex3fv(v5);
glVertex3fv(v0);
// draw other 4 faces
glEnd();
```



- Using vertex array
  - Transmit vertex array to GPU at once
  - Activate vertex array

```
glEnableClientState(GL_VERTEX_ARRAY);
```

Specify vertex data

```
glVertexPointer(3, GL_FLOAT, 0, vertices);
glColorPointer(3, GL_FLOAT, 0, colors);
glNormalPointer(3, GL_FLOAT, 0, normals);
```

Draw meshes based on face list index

```
glDrawElements(GL_TRIANGLES, 36, GL_UNSIGNED_BYTE, indices);
```

Deactivate vertex array

```
glDisableClientState(GL VERTEX ARRAY);
```

- An example code in OpenGL
  - http://www.songho.ca/opengl/gl\_vertexarray.html

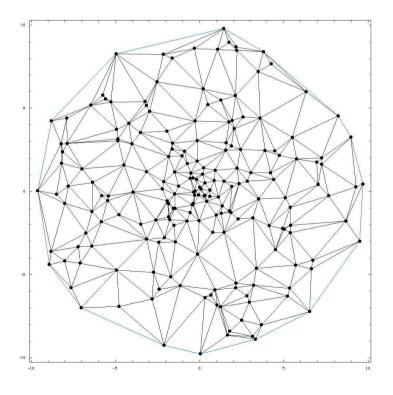
```
GLfloat vertices[] = {...};  // 8 of vertex coords
GLubyte indices[] = \{0,1,2, 2,3,0, // 36 \text{ of indices}\}
                     0,3,4, 4,5,0,
                     0.5.6. 6.1.0.
                     1,6,7, 7,2,1,
                     7,4,3, 3,2,7,
                     4,7,6, 6,5,4};
// activate and specify pointer to vertex array
glEnableClientState(GL VERTEX ARRAY);
glVertexPointer(3, GL FLOAT, 0, vertices);
// draw a cube
glDrawElements(GL TRIANGLES, 36, GL UNSIGNED BYTE, indices);
// deactivate vertex arrays after drawing
glDisableClientState(GL VERTEX ARRAY);
```

# 4. Triangulation

## Triangulation

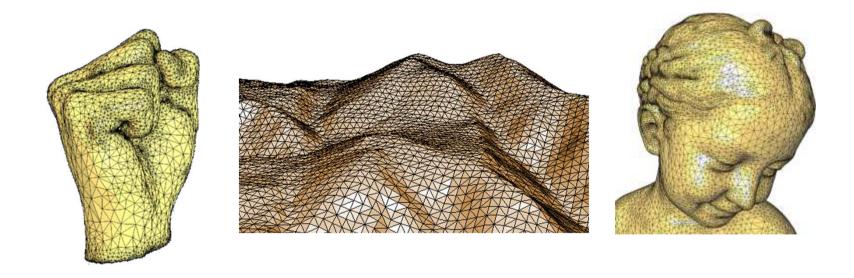
#### What is triangulation

 In trigonometry and geometry, triangulation is the process of determining the location of a point by forming triangles to it from known points



# Triangulation

- More examples
  - Triangulations of 3D surfaces



## Why we need triangulation?

#### Interpolation

- Interpolate interior continuous values
- Surface approximation
- Solving partial differential equations

#### Representing objects based on sample points

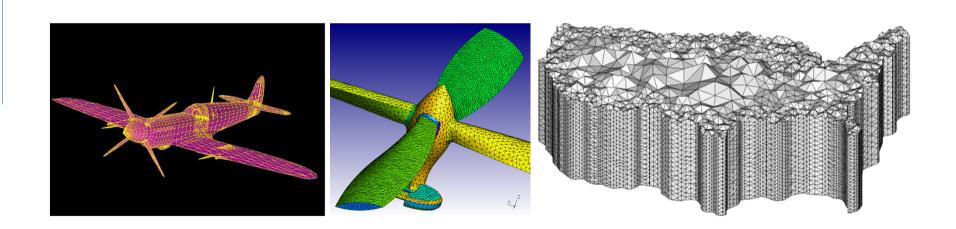
No topology among sample points

#### Surface reconstruction

Fitting triangular meshes from dense/sparse points

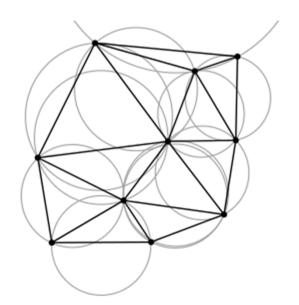
## Why we need triangulation?

- FEM mesh illustration
  - For CAD/CAE, simulation
  - Mostly triangulated mesh



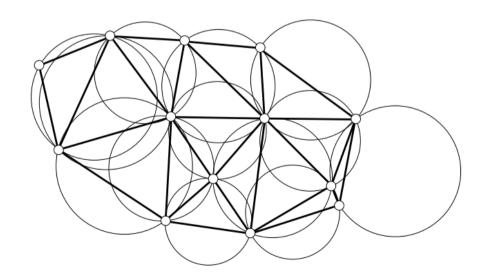
#### Delaunay triangulation for a point-set P:

- A triangulation DT(P) such that no point in P is inside the circumcircle of any triangle in DT(P)
- Delaunay triangulations maximize the minimum angle of all the angles of the triangles in the triangulation



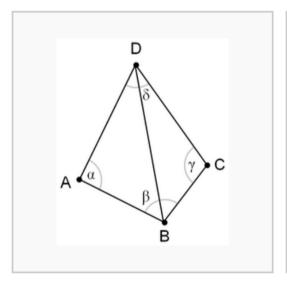
#### Property for Delaunay triangulation

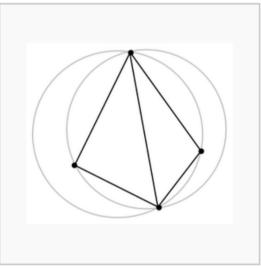
- Every triangle in a Delaunay triangulation has an empty open circumdisk
- Every point set has a Delaunay triangulation
- The Delaunay triangulation is unique if and only if no four or more points lie on a common empty circle

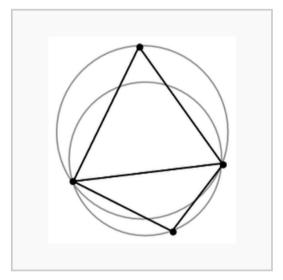


#### Flipping

 If two triangles do not meet the Delaunay condition, switching the connection produces two triangles with Delaunay condition

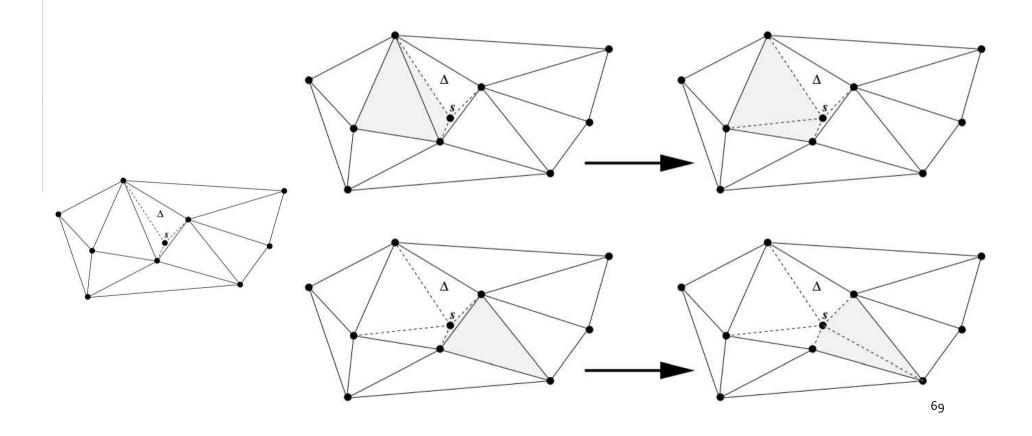




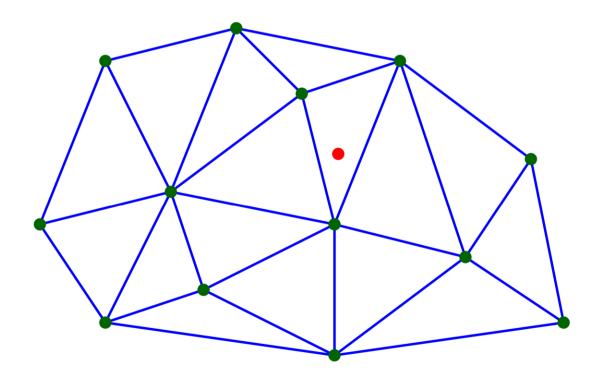


- How to make a Delaunay triangulation
  - Incremental construction
    - Incrementally create a triangulation by point insertion
    - Select a convex quadrilateral
    - Perform flipping
    - Scan until there is no non-Delaunay triangulation left

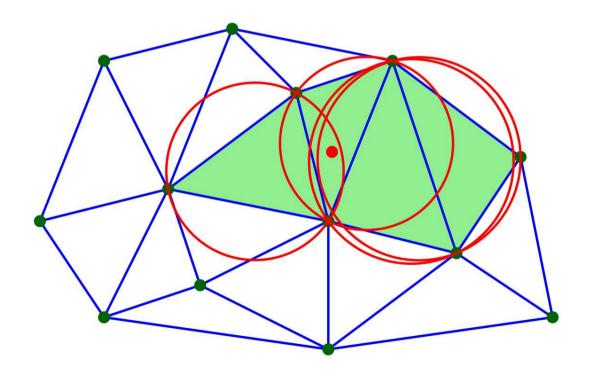
- How to make a Delaunay triangulation
  - Incremental construction



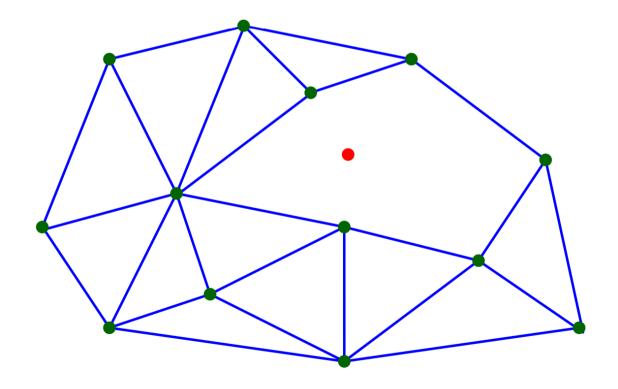
• Incremental Delaunay



- Incremental Delaunay
  - Find triangles in conflict

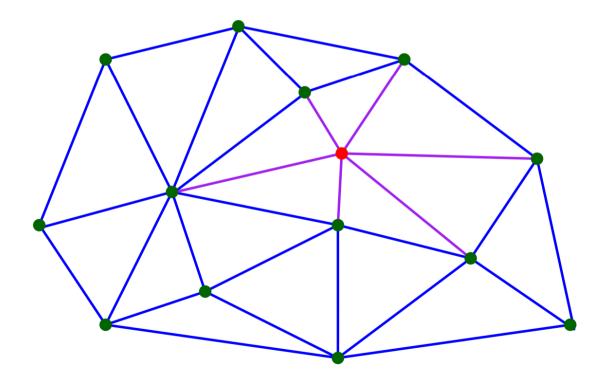


- Incremental Delaunay
  - Delete triangles in conflict



# Delaunay triangulation

- Incremental Delaunay
  - Triangulate the hole



- A Voronoi diagram is
  - a partitioning of a plane into regions based on distance to points
  - for each seed there is a corresponding region consisting of all points closer to that seed than to any other

 These regions are called Voronoi cells

#### Definition

- Let  $\Omega$  be a connected region in  $R^2$ , Let  $\mathbf{S} = \{\mathbf{s_1}, \mathbf{s_2}, \dots, \mathbf{s_n}\}$  be a set of n points in  $\Omega$
- We use ||p q|| to denote the Euclidean distance between two points p and q
- For  $s_i \in S$ , we define: R(S;  $s_i$ ) = { $p \in \Omega : ||p s_i|| < ||p s_j||$ ,  $s_j \in \Omega$ ,  $s_j != s_i$ }
- In other words, R(S; s<sub>i</sub>) is the set of points nearer to s<sub>i</sub> than to any other point in S
- The region  $\Omega$  is partitioned into R(**S**;  $\mathbf{s}_1$ ), R(**S**;  $\mathbf{s}_2$ ), . . . , R(**S**;  $\mathbf{s}_n$ ) and their boundaries
- This partition is called the Voronoi diagram of S, denoted by V(S)

#### Voronoi region

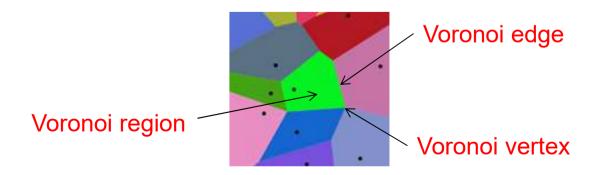
-  $R(S; s_i)$  is called the Voronoi region of  $s_i$ 

#### Voronoi edge

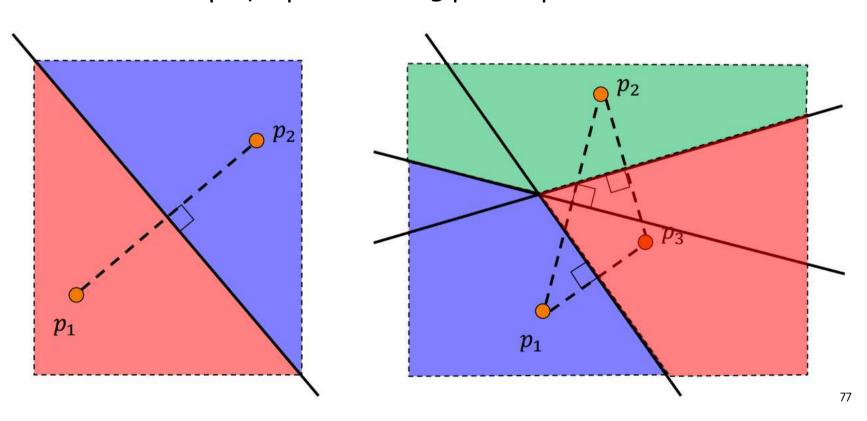
 The line segments shared by the boundaries of two Voronoi regions are called Voronoi edges

#### Voronoi vertex

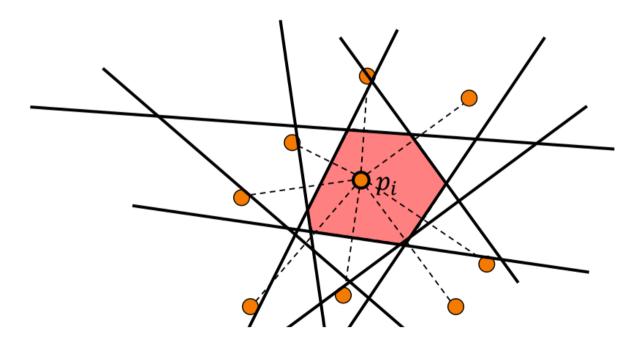
 The points shared by the boundaries of three or more Voronoi regions



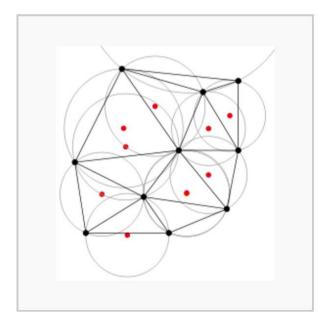
- How to compute Voronoi Diagram?
  - Half-space partition
  - For example, 2 points and 3 points partition

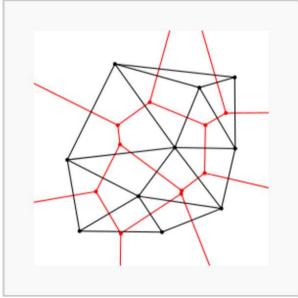


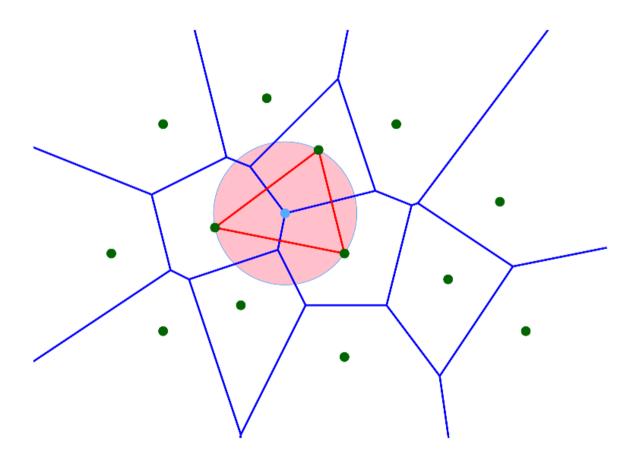
- How to compute Voronoi Diagram?
  - The Voronoi region associated to point  $p_i$  is the intersection of the half-spaces defined by the perpendicular bisectors

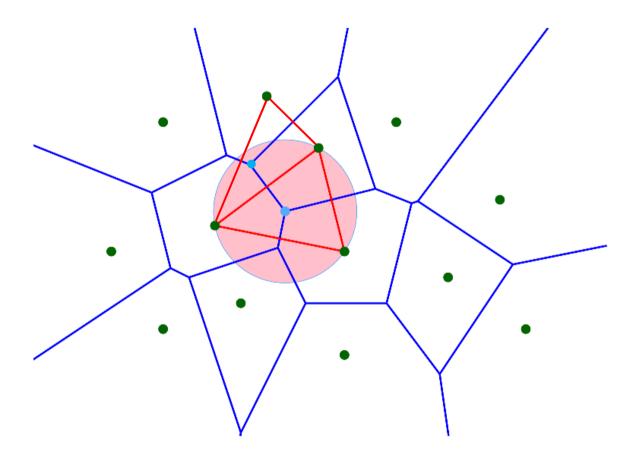


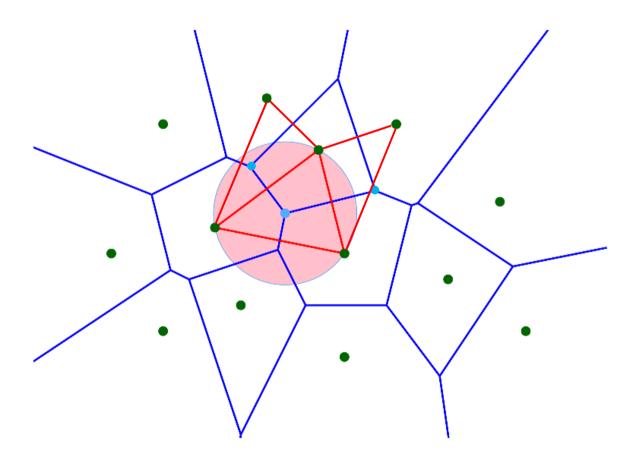
- Why we need Voronoi diagram?
  - Voronoi diagram of a set of points is <u>dual</u> to its Delaunay triangulation
  - Connecting the centers of the circumcircles produces the Voronoi diagram

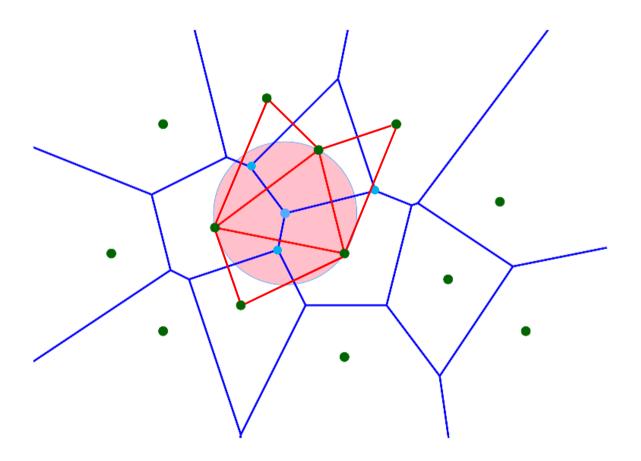


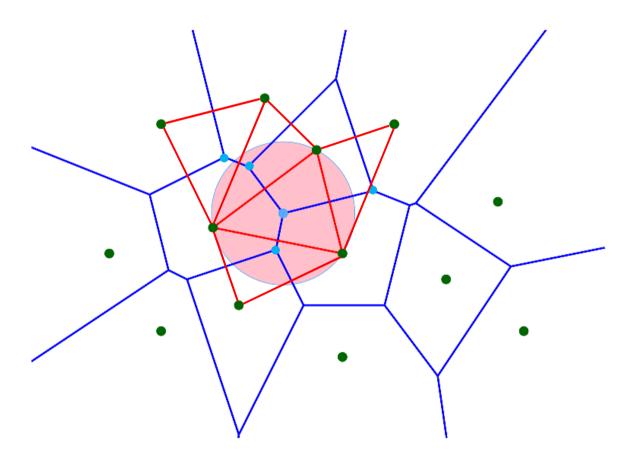


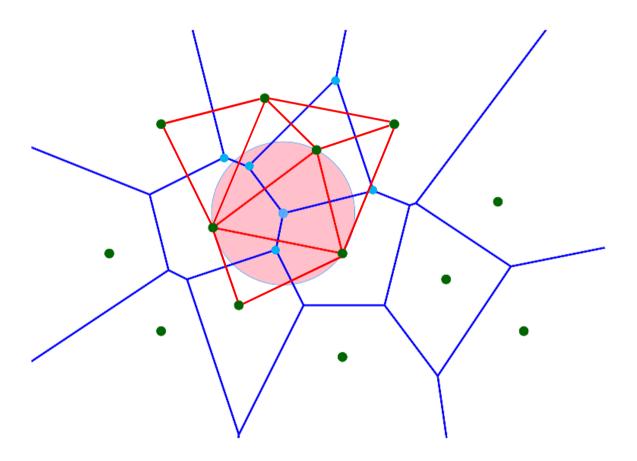












## **Constrained Delaunay triangulation**

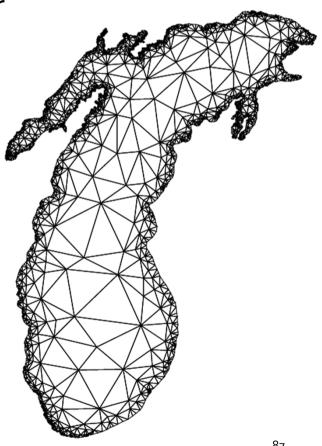
- A constrained Delaunay triangulation is a generalization of the Delaunay triangulation
  - Force certain required segments into the triangulation
  - Often a constrained Delaunay triangulation contains edges that do not satisfy the Delaunay condition

## **Constrained Delaunay triangulation**

#### Chew's second algorithm

 A Delaunay refinement algorithm for creating quality constrained
 Delaunay triangulations

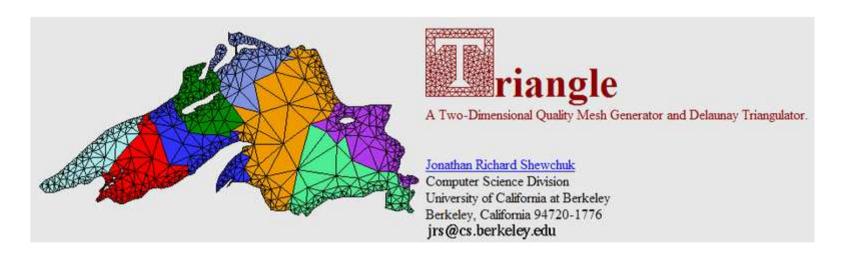
 Chew's second algorithm has been adopted as a two-dimensional mesh generator due to practical advantages in certain cases



## Triangulation toolbox

#### Triangle (CMU)

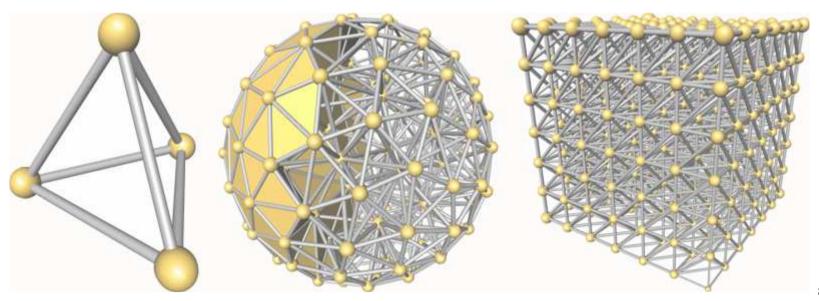
- A Two-Dimensional Quality Mesh Generator and Delaunay Triangulator
- https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~quake/triangle.html



### **CGAL**

### Computational geometric algorithms library

- A software project that provides easy access to efficient and reliable geometric algorithms in the form of a C++ library
- https://www.cgal.org/



#### **Next Lecture:**

Geometric modeling 1