## **Simplification & Approximation**

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European Research Council

## Outline

- Motivations
- Simplification
- Approximation
- Guarantees
- Remaining Challenges

#### Material from...



Mario Botsch

#### and...

. . .

- David Cohen-Steiner
- Mathieu Desbrun
- Florent Lafarge
- Manish Mandad

## Motivations

- Multi-resolution hierarchies for
  - efficient geometry processing
  - level-of-detail (LOD) rendering



### **Complexity-Error Tradeoff**



error

complexity

## **Problem Statement**

• Given: 
$$\mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{F})$$

• Find:  $\mathcal{M}' = (\mathcal{V}', \mathcal{F}')$  such that

1.  $|\mathcal{V}'| = n < |\mathcal{V}|$  and  $||\mathcal{M} - \mathcal{M}'||$  is minimal, or

2. 
$$\|\mathcal{M} - \mathcal{M}'\| < \epsilon$$
 and  $|\mathcal{V}'|$  is minimal

$$\begin{array}{c} \overbrace{}\\ \overbrace{}\\ \overbrace{}\\ \mathcal{M} \end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} \overbrace{}\\ \overbrace{}\\ \mathcal{M} \end{array} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \overbrace{}\\ \overbrace{}\\ \mathcal{M} \end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} \overbrace{}\\ \overbrace{}\\ \mathcal{M} \end{array} \end{array}$$

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hard! [Agarwal-Suri 1998]

 $\rightarrow$  look for sub-optimal solution

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$$\|\mathcal{M} - \mathcal{M}'\| < \epsilon$$
 and  $|\mathcal{V}'|$  is minimal

Additional fairness criteria

 normals, triangle shape, appearance attributes, ...

- Vertex Clustering
- Iterative Decimation
- Extensions

- Vertex Clustering
- Iterative Decimation
- Extensions

- Cluster Generation
  - Uniform 3D grid
  - Map vertices to cluster cells
- Computing a representative
- Mesh generation
- Topology changes



- Cluster Generation
  - Hierarchical approach
  - Top-down or bottom-up
- Computing a representative
- Mesh generation
- Topology changes





- Cluster Generation
- Computing a representative
  - Average/median vertex position
  - Error quadrics
- Mesh generation
- Topology changes

### **Computing a Representative**





• Average vertex position  $\rightarrow$  Low-pass filter

### **Computing a Representative**





• Median vertex position  $\rightarrow$  Sub-sampling

#### **Computing a Representative**





• Error quadrics

### **Error Quadrics**

• Squared distance to plane

$$p = (x, y, z, 1)^T, \ q = (a, b, c, d)^T$$

$$dist(q,p)^2 = (q^T p)^2$$

$$Q_q = \begin{bmatrix} a^2 & ab & ac & ad \\ ab & b^2 & bc & bd \\ ac & bc & b^2 & cd \\ ad & bd & cd & d^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

### **Error Quadrics**

• Sum distances to vertex' planes

$$\sum_{i} dist(q_i, p)^2$$

Point location that minimizes the error

$$\begin{bmatrix} q_{11} & q_{12} & q_{13} & q_{14} \\ q_{21} & q_{22} & q_{23} & q_{24} \\ q_{31} & q_{32} & q_{33} & q_{34} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} p^* = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Cluster Generation
- Computing a representative
- Mesh generation
  - Clusters  $p\{p_0,...,p_n\}$ ,  $q\{q_0,...,q_m\}$
  - Connect (p,q) if there was an edge  $(p_i,q_j)$
- Topology changes

- Cluster Generation
- Computing a representative
- Mesh generation
- Topology changes
  - If different sheets pass through one cell
  - Not manifold



- Vertex Clustering
- Iterative Decimation
- Extensions

## **Iterative Decimation**

- General Setup
- Decimation operators
- Error metrics
- Fairness criteria
- Topology changes

## **General Setup**

Repeat:

- pick mesh region
- apply decimation operator

Until no further reduction possible

# **Greedy Optimization**

#### For each region

- evaluate quality after decimation
- enqueue(quality, region)

Repeat:

- pick best mesh region
- apply decimation operator
- update queue

Until no further reduction possible

## **Iterative Decimation**

- General Setup
- Decimation operators
- Error metrics
- Fairness criteria
- Topology changes

- What is a "region" ?
- What are the DOF for re-triangulation?
- Classification
  - Topology-changing vs. topology-preserving
  - Subsampling vs. filtering





Select all triangles sharing this vertex



Remove the selected triangles, creating the hole





- Remove vertex
- Re-triangulate hole
  - Combinatorial DOFs
  - Sub-sampling



- Merge two adjacent triangles
- Define new vertex position
  - Continuous DOF
  - Filtering



- Collapse edge into one end point
  - Special vertex removal
  - Special edge collapse
- No DOFs
  - One operator per half-edge
  - Sub-sampling

## Edge Collapse




















#### **Incremental Decimation**

- General Setup
- Decimation operators
- Error metrics
- Fairness criteria
- Topology changes

## Local Error Metrics

- Local distance to mesh [Schroeder et al. 92]
  - Compute average plane
  - No comparison to *original* geometry



#### **Local Error Metrics**

# Volume [A. et al.]. *Mesh Approximation using a Volume-Based Metric*. Pacific Graphics 99.



## Local Error Metrics

• Volume preserving [Lindstrom-Turk]. Fast and memory efficient polygonal simplification. IEEE Visualization 98.



Implemented in



- Simplification envelopes [Cohen et al. 96]
  - Compute (non-intersecting) offset surfaces
  - Simplification guarantees to stay within bounds



- (Two-sided) Hausdorff distance: Maximum distance between two shapes
  - In general  $d(A,B) \neq d(B,A)$
  - Compute-intensive



Valette et al. Mesh Simplification using a two-sided error minimization. 2012.

- One-sided Hausdorff distance
  - From original vertices to current surface



- Error quadrics [Garland, Heckbert 97]
  - Squared distance to planes at vertex
  - No bound on true error



#### **Error Quadrics**



#### **Incremental Decimation**

- General Setup
- Decimation operators
- Error metrics
- Fairness criteria
- Topology changes

### Fairness Criteria

- Rate quality of decimation operation
  - Approximation error
  - Triangle shape
  - Dihedral angles
  - Valence balance
  - Color differences

. . .



## Fairness Criteria

- Rate quality after decimation
  - Approximation error
  - Triangle shape
  - Dihedral angles
  - Valance balance
  - Color differences





#### **Incremental Decimation**

- General Setup
- Decimation operators
- Error metrics
- Fairness criteria
- Topology changes

# **Topology Changes**

- Merge vertices across non-edges
  - Changes mesh topology
  - Need spatial neighborhood information
  - Generates non-manifold meshes



# **Topology Changes**

- Merge vertices across non-edges
  - Changes mesh topology
  - Need spatial neighborhood information
  - Generates non-manifold meshes



#### Comparison

- Vertex clustering
  - fast, but difficult to control simplified mesh
  - topology changes, non-manifold meshes
  - global error bound, but often not close to optimum
- Iterative decimation with quadric error metrics
  - good trade-off between mesh quality and speed
  - explicit control over mesh topology

## Simplification

- Vertex Clustering
- Iterative Decimation
- Extensions

#### Extensions

- Out-of-core [Garland-Shaffer, Wu-Kobbelt, Isenburg]
- View-dependent [Hoppe]
- Structure-aware [Salinas, Lafarge, A.]

#### Structure-Aware





*Salinas, Lafarge, A. Structure-Aware Mesh Decimation.* Computer Graphics Forum 2015

#### **Approximation**

### Variational Shape Approximation

Rationale: cast surface approximation as a variational k-partitioning problem



Cohen-Steiner, A., Desbrun. Variational Shape Approximation. SIGGRAPH 2004.



#### Simpler Setting: 2D Partitioning







density function

# Lloyd Iteration

- Alternate:
  - Voronoi partitioning
  - Relocate sites to centroids
- Minimizes energy
  - Necessary condition for optimality: Centroidal Voronoi tessellation





#### Variational Shape Approximation

- Rationale: cast surface approximation as a variational k-partitioning problem
  - for each region, find best-fit linear proxy
    - "best fit" for a given metric





### Variational Shape Approximation

- Distortion
  - = integrated error between region and proxy
- Total distortion = sum of proxy distortion
- Best k-approximation = minimum distortion

#### Overview


## **K-Means Clustering**

Starting with k-generators

Alternate:

- cluster by closest proximity (creates regions R<sub>i</sub>)
- find new generators c<sub>i</sub> of regions R<sub>i</sub>

# Partition Optimization

**Clustering for Approximation** 

- Replace points by proxies
- Min approximation error
- Equi-distribute energy among proxies



#### **Error Metrics**

- L<sup>2</sup>
  - asymptotically, aspect ratio is

s 
$$\sqrt{\kappa_1/\kappa_2}$$

- hyperbolic regions troublesome
  - no unique minimum
- convergence in L<sup>2</sup> does not guarantee in normals
  - example: Schwarz's Chinese lantern
  - [Shewchuck 04] gradient bounds harder than interpolation

• L<sup>2,1</sup> 
$$\iint_{x \in X} \|\mathbf{n}(x) - \mathbf{n}_i\|^2 dx$$

- asymptotically, aspect ratio is  $\kappa_1/\kappa_2$
- hyperbolic regions ok
- captures normal field



- node vertex
  - where 3+ regions meet
  - 2+ on boundary



node wedge



- Two-pass flooding algorithm (~multi-source Djisktra's shortest path algorithm)
- first pass: flood only region boundaries (to enforce the constrained edges)
- second pass: flood interior areas



#### First pass



#### Second pass













#### Metrics



## Example



### Example



## Example



















400KT

#### Guarantees

## Guarantees?

#### • Error bound

- One-sided Hausdorff [Klein, Botsch]
- Two-sided Hausdorff [Valette]

#### Topology

- Intersection-free
- Homeomorphism [Oudot, Boissonnat]
- Isotopy [Chazal, Cohen-Steiner]

## **Tolerance Volume**

- Simplification Envelopes. Cohen et al. SIGGRAPH 96.
- Multiresolution Decimation based on Global Error. Ciampalini et al. The Visual Computer 97.
- Surface Simplification Inside a Tolerance Volume. Guéziec. IBM RR 97.
- Adaptively Sampled Distance Fields. Frisken et al. SIGGRAPH 2000.
- **Permission Grids: Practical, Error-Bounded Simplification.** Zelinka & Garland. ACM TOG 2002.
- **GPU-based Tolerance Volumes for Mesh Processing.** Botsch et al. Pacific Graphics 2004.
- Simplification of Surface Mesh using Hausdorff Envelope. Borouchaki & Frey. 2005.

# **Tolerance Volume**

• Simplification Envelopes [Cohen et al 96]



- GPU-based Tolerance Volumes for Mesh Processing [Botsch et al. 04]
  - Linear approximation of signed distance field



# **Tolerance Volume**

• Simplification Envelopes

[Cohen et al 96]

- GPU-based Tolerance Volumes for Mesh Processing [Botsch et al. 04]
  - Linear approximation of signed distance field
  - Fast marching to compute distance values and store as 3D distance texture



#### **Intersection Free**

Intersection Free Simplification [Gumhold, Borodin, Klein], International Journal of Shape Modeling 2003.



#### **Intersection Free**

Intersection Free Simplification [Gumhold, Borodin, Klein], International Journal of Shape Modeling 2003.



#### Isotopic Approximation within a Tolerance Volume [Mandad, Cohen-Steiner, A.]





- Input:
  - Tolerance volume of a surface geometry
- Output:
  - Surface triangle mesh
  - Properties:
    - Within tolerance volume



**Geometric Guarantee** 

**Motivation:** control global approximation error

- Input:
  - Tolerance volume of a surface geometry
- Output:
  - Surface triangle mesh
  - Properties:
    - Within tolerance volume
    - Homotopic equivalent to tolerance volume



#### **Topological Guarantee**

**Motivation:** simulation, machining, printing etc.

- Input:
  - Tolerance volume of a surface geometry
- Output:
  - Surface triangle mesh
  - Properties:
    - Within tolerance volume
    - Homotopic equivalent to tolerance volume
    - Minimum number of vertices



Motivation: low triangle count

- Input:
  - Tolerance volume of a surface geometry
- Output:
  - Surface triangle mesh
  - Properties:
    - Within tolerance volume
    - Homotopic equivalent to tolerance volume
      Minimum number of vertices NP-hard
    - Low vertex count



Motivation: low triangle count

# Approach

# **Starting Point**

A Condition for Isotopic Approximation. Proceedings of ACM Symposium on Solid Modeling and Applications 2004. Chazal, Cohen-Steiner.

if

- S' is included in a topological thickening M of S
- S' separates sides of M
- S' is connected and its genus does not exceed the genus of S

Then, S' and S are isotopic.

# Approach

• Input: Tolerance Volume  $\Omega$ 



# Approach

- **Input:** Tolerance Volume  $\Omega$
- S : Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  with sampling  $\sigma$ 
  - One **function value** (F) per connected component



σ radii balls at S cover ∂Ω
- Input: Tolerance Volume Ω
- S : Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  with sampling  $\sigma$ 
  - One **function value** (F) per connected component
- Construct Triangulation on subset of S



- Input: Tolerance Volume Ω
- S : Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  with sampling  $\sigma$ 
  - One **function value** (F) per connected component
- Construct Triangulation on subset of S
- Piecewise linear function f on the triangulation interpolating F



- Input: Tolerance Volume Ω
- S : Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  with sampling  $\sigma$ 
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- Construct Triangulation on subset of S
- Piecewise linear function f on the triangulation interpolating F



Zero-set separates tolerance boundaries

- Input: Tolerance Volume Ω
- S : Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  with sampling  $\sigma$ 
  - One **function value** (F) per connected component
- Construct Triangulation on subset of S
- Piecewise linear function f on the triangulation interpolating F
- Error:  $\mu(s) = |F(s) f(s)|$ 
  - GOOD :  $\mu(s) \leq 1$
  - BAD : otherwise
- Zero-set (Z) : closed intersection-free surface mesh



- Input: Tolerance Volume Ω
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- Zero-set (Z) : closed intersection free surface mesh
- Simplification using edge collapse



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    - One **function value** (F) per connected component
- Construct Triangulation on subset of S
- Piecewise linear function **f** on the triangulation interpolating **F**
- Error:  $\mu(s) = |F(s) f(s)|$ 
  - GOOD : μ(s) ≤ 1
  - BAD : otherwise
- Zero-set (Z) : closed intersection free surface mesh



• Simplification using edge collapse



Refinement

- Input: Tolerance Volume Ω
- S : Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  with sampling  $\sigma$ 
  - One **function value** (F) per connected component
- Construct Triangulation on subset of S
- Piecewise linear function f on the triangulation interpolating F
- Error: μ(s) = |F(s) f(s)|
  - GOOD : μ(s) ≤1
  - <u>– BAD : o</u>therwise
- <u>Zero-set (Z)</u>: closed intersection free surface mesh



• Simplification using edge collapse



Refinement

Initialization

- Input: Tolerance Volume Ω
- S : Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  with sampling  $\sigma$ 
  - One **function value** (F) per connected component
- Construct Triangulation on subset of S
- Piecewise linear function f on the triangulation interpolating F
- Error:  $\mu(s) = |F(s) f(s)|$ 
  - GOOD : μ(s) ≤ 1
  - BAD : otherwise
- Zero-set (Z) : closed intersection free surface mesh



• Simplification using edge collapse

Fine-to-Coarse



Refinement

### Algorithm

# Algorithm (Initialization)

• Point sample of  $\partial\Omega$  and label S



# Algorithm (Initialization)

- Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  and label S
- Delaunay Triangulation T of loose bounding-box



- Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  and label S
- Delaunay Triangulation T of loose bounding-box
- While (BAD points)

Refinement

Simplification

Insert steiner point to T



- Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  and label S
- Delaunay Triangulation T of loose bounding-box
- While (BAD points)
  - Insert steiner point to T



- Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  and label S
- Delaunay Triangulation T of loose bounding-box
- While (BAD points)
  - Insert steiner point to T



- Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  and label S
- Delaunay Triangulation T of loose bounding-box
- While (BAD points)
  - Insert steiner point to T



- Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  and label S
- Delaunay Triangulation T of loose bounding-box
- While (**BAD** points)
  - Insert steiner point to T

topology

Refinement

Simplification

anisotropy



#### $Delaunay \rightarrow Non Delaunay$

- Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  and label S
- Delaunay Triangulation T of loose bounding-box
- While (BAD points)
  - Insert steiner point to T
- Collapse edges of ∂X (preserving classification of S)



Simplification

Refinement

- Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  and label S
- Delaunay Triangulation T of loose bounding-box
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Refinement

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Refinement

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  - Insert steiner point to T
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- Insert Z in T



- Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  and label S
- Delaunay Triangulation T of loose bounding-box
- While (BAD points)
  - Insert steiner point to T
- Collapse edges of ∂X (preserving classification of S)
- Insert Z in T
- Collapse edges of Z



- Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  and label S
- Delaunay Triangulation T of loose bounding-box
- While (BAD points)
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- Collapse edges of ∂X (preserving classification of S)
- Insert Z in T
- Collapse edges of Z



- Point sample of  $\partial \Omega$  and label S
- Delaunay Triangulation T of loose bounding-box
- While (BAD points)
  - Insert steiner point to T
- Collapse edges of ∂X (preserving classification of S)
- Insert Z in T
- Collapse edges of Z



### Recap









### Recap



### Recap



• Edge collapse on ∂X



- Edge collapse on ∂X
- Mutual Tessellation







Mutual Tessellation

Classification of simplices based on  $\partial \Omega_i$ 

- Edge collapse on ∂X
- Mutual Tessellation
- Edge collapse on Z



- Edge collapse on ∂X
- Mutual Tessellation
- Edge collapse on Z
- Edge collapse between X and Z which may induce further edge collapses of Z

# Simplification

• Edge collapse?
- Validity of Triangulation
  - Combinatorial Topology [Dey et al 1998]



Combinatorial topology preserved upon collapse of edge AB



- Validity of Triangulation
  - Combinatorial Topology [Dey et al 1998]
  - Valid Embedding Kernel of 1-ring



within kernel



Empty kernel

• Validity of Triangulation

Refinement

**Simplification** 

- Combinatorial Topology [Dey et al 1998]
- Valid Embedding Kernel of 1-ring



empty

non-empty

- Validity of Triangulation
  - Combinatorial Topology [Dey et al 1998]
  - Valid Embedding Kernel of 1-ring
- Preserve classification of S Non convex problem





Point sampling of kernel K<sub>T</sub> during simulation of edge collapse



Edge PQ to be collapsed

Valid Embedding kernel Kernel to preserve Classification

Re

- Validity of Triangulation
  - Combinatorial Topology [Dey et al 1998]
  - Valid Embedding Kernel of 1-ring
- Preserve classification of S Non convex problem
- Minimize error: Sum of squared distance between target vertex and 2-ring planes



- Validity of Triangulation
  - Combinatorial Topology [Dey et al 1998]
  - Valid Embedding Kernel of 1-ring
- Preserve classification of S Non convex problem
- Minimize error: Sum of squared distance between target vertex and 2-ring planes
- Faithful normals (same as in refinement)

nit.

Re

tinement

#### Results

## Blade (steps)



### Blade (varying tolerance)



#### Blade



#### Robustness to defects



#### Comparisons

#### **Comparisons** — Hausdorff distance (output to input)





Vertex count

#### Comparisons — Hausdorff distance (output to input)





# Simplification Envelopes & Large Tolerance



Input

Simplification envelopes

Our approach

Large tolerance

#### • Error metric

- Sobolev norm (geometry + normals + …)
- Two-sided
  - Not symmetrized
  - Mass transport: Wasserstein distance [Mérigot, Peyré, Solomon]
- Robustness to wide range of defects
  - Mass transport [Digne, Cohen-Steiner, Desbrun, A.]
- Structure-aware

Progressive algorithm



Polygons?



[D'Azevedo 00], Are Bilinear Quadrilaterals Better Than Linear Triangles?

#### Beyond approximation

- Abstraction [Sheffer, Mitra et al. 2009] Abstraction of Man-Made Shapes.



- Beyond approximation
  - Meaningful LODs. [Verdié, Lafarge, A. 2013]

