# Subdivision Surfaces 

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## CS 4810: Graphics

Acknowledgment: slides by Jason Lawrence, Misha Kazhdan, Allison Klein, Tom Funkhouser, Adam Finkelstein and David Dobkin

## Subdivision

- How do you make a smooth curve?


We want to "smooth out" severe angles
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## Subdivision Surfaces

- Coarse mesh \& subdivision rule oDefine smooth surface as limit of sequence of refinements

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)


## Key Questions

- How to subdivide the mesh?
oAim for properties like smoothness
- How to store the mesh?
oAim for efficiency of implementing subdivision rules



## General Subdivision Scheme

- How to subdivide the mesh?

Two parts:
"Refinement:
-Add new vertices and connect (topological)
"Smoothing:
-Move vertex positions (geometric)

## Loop Subdivision Scheme

- How to subdivide the mesh?

Refinement:
"Subdivide each triangle into 4 triangles by splitting each edge and connecting new vertices


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## Loop Subdivision Scheme

- How to subdivide the mesh:

Refinement
Smoothing:
»Existing Vertices: Choose new location as weighted average of original vertex and its neighbors


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## Loop Subdivision Scheme

- General rule for moving existing interior vertices:

What about vertices that have more or less than 6 neighboring faces?

new_position = (1-k $\beta$ )original_position + sum( $\beta^{*}$ each_original_vertex)

## Loop Subdivision Scheme

- General rule for moving existing interior vertices:

What about vertices that have more or less than 6 neighboring faces?


## Where do existing vertices move?

- How to choose $\beta$ ?
oAnalyze properties of limit surface
olnterested in continuity of surface and smoothness
olnvolves calculating eigenvalues of matrices
"Original Loop

$$
\beta=\frac{1}{k}\left(\frac{5}{8}-\left(\frac{3}{8}+\frac{1}{4} \cos \frac{2 \pi}{k}\right)^{2}\right)
$$

»Warren

$$
\beta=\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\frac{3}{8 k} n>3 \\
\frac{3}{16} n=3
\end{array}\right.
$$

## Loop Subdivision Scheme

- How to subdivide the mesh:

Refinement
Smoothing:
"Inserted Vertices: Choose location as weighted average of original vertices in local neighborhood


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## Boundary Cases?

- What about extraordinary vertices and boundary edges?:
oExisting vertex adjacent to a missing triangle
oNew vertex bordered by only one triangle



## Boundary Cases?

- Rules for extraordinary vertices and boundaries:


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## Loop Subdivision Scheme



Pixar

## Loop Subdivision Scheme



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## Loop Subdivision Scheme

Geri's Game, Pixar

## Subdivision Schemes

- There are different subdivision schemes oDifferent methods for refining topology oDifferent rules for positioning vertices
»Interpolating versus approximating


Face split for triangles


## Subdivision Schemes



Loop
Butterffy


Catmull-Clark

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## Subdivision Smoothness

To determine the smoothness of the subdivision:

- Repeatedly apply the subdivision scheme
- Look at the neighborhood in the limit.



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## Subdivision Matrix

- Compute the new positions/vertices as a linear combination of previous ones.



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## Subdivision Matrix

- Compute the new positions/vertices as a linear combination of previous ones.
- To find the limit position of $p_{0}$, repeatedly apply the subdivision matrix.

$$
\left(\begin{array}{l}
p_{0}^{(n)} \\
p_{1}^{(n)} \\
p_{2}^{(n)} \\
p_{3}^{(n)} \\
p_{4}^{(n)} \\
p_{5}^{(n)} \\
p_{6}^{(n)}
\end{array}\right)=\frac{1}{16}\left(\begin{array}{ccccccc}
10 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
6 & 6 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\
6 & 2 & 6 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
6 & 0 & 2 & 6 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\
6 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 6 & 2 & 0 \\
6 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 6 & 2 \\
6 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 2 & 6
\end{array}\right)^{n}\left(\begin{array}{c}
p_{0} \\
p_{1} \\
p_{2} \\
p_{3} \\
p_{4} \\
p_{5} \\
p_{6}
\end{array}\right)
$$

## Subdivision Matrix

- Compute the new positions/vertices as a linear combination of previous ones.
- To find the limit position of $p_{0}$, repeatedly apply the subdivision matrix.

$$
\binom{p_{0}^{(n)}}{p_{1}^{(n)}} \quad\left(\begin{array}{ccccccc}
10 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
6 & 6 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2
\end{array}\right)^{n}\left(\begin{array}{l}
p_{0} \\
p_{1}
\end{array}\right.
$$

If, after a change of basis we have $M=A^{-l} D A$, where $D$ is a diagonal matrix, then:

$$
M^{n}=A^{-l} D^{n} A,
$$

Since $D$ is diagonal, raising $D$ to the $n$-th power just amounts to raising each of the diagonal entries of $D$ to the $n$-th power.

## Subdivision Modeling

- ZBrush Modeling Session


## Key Questions

- How to refine the mesh?
o Aim for properties like smoothness
- How to store the mesh?
oAim for efficiency for implementing subdivision rules


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## Polygon Meshes

- Mesh Representations
olndependent faces
oVertex and face tables oAdjacency lists oWinged-Edge



## Independent Faces

- Each face lists vertex coordinates



## Independent Faces

- Each face lists vertex coordinates $\times$ Redundant vertices $\times$ No topology information


| FACE TABLE |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| $F_{1}$ | $\left(x_{1}, y_{1}, z_{1}\right)\left(x_{2}, y_{2}, z_{2}\right)\left(x_{3}, y_{3}, z_{3}\right)$ |
| $F_{2}$ | $\left(x_{2}, y_{2}, z_{2}\right)\left(x_{4}, y_{4}, z_{4}\right)\left(x_{3}, y_{3}, z_{3}\right)$ |
| $F_{3}$ | $\left(x_{2}, y_{2}, z_{2}\right)\left(x_{5}, y_{5}, z_{5}\right)\left(x_{4}, y_{4}, z_{4}\right)$ |

## Vertex and Face Tables

- Each face lists vertex references



## Vertex and Face Tables

- Each face lists vertex references $\checkmark$ Shared vertices


| VERTEXTABLE |  |  |  |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $x_{1}$ |  | $r_{1}$ | $z_{1}$ |
| $v_{2}$ | $x_{2}$ | $r_{2}$ | $z_{2}$ |
| $v_{3}$ | $x_{3}$ | $r_{3}$ | $z_{3}$ |
| $v_{4}$ | $x_{4}$ | $r_{4}$ | $z_{4}$ |
| $v_{5}$ | $x_{5}$ | $r_{5}$ | $z_{5}$ |

FACE TABLE

| $F_{1}$ | $V_{1}$ | $V_{2}$ | $v_{3}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $F_{2}$ | $V_{2}$ | $V_{4}$ | $v_{3}$ |
| $F_{3}$ | $V_{2}$ | $v_{5}$ | $v_{4}$ |

## Vertex and Face Tables

- Each face lists vertex references $\checkmark$ Shared vertices $\times$ Still no topology information $\quad\left(x_{3}, y_{3}, z_{3}\right)$


| VERTEX TABLE |  |  |  |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $v_{1}$ | $x_{1}$ | $\gamma_{1}$ | $z_{1}$ |
| $v_{2}$ | $x_{2}$ | $\gamma_{2}$ | $z_{2}$ |
| $v_{3}$ | $x_{3}$ | $r_{3}$ | $z_{3}$ |
| $v_{4}$ | $x_{4}$ | $y_{4}$ | $z_{4}$ |
| $v_{5}$ | $x_{5}$ | $\gamma_{5}$ | $z_{5}$ |

FACE TABLE

$$
\begin{array}{|l|lll}
\hline F_{1} & v_{1} & v_{2} & v_{3} \\
F_{2} & v_{2} & v_{4} & v_{3} \\
F_{3} & v_{2} & v_{5} & v_{4} \\
\hline
\end{array}
$$

## Adjacency Lists

- Store all vertex, edge, and face adjacencies



## Adjacency Lists

- Store all vertex, edge, and face adjacencies $\checkmark$ Efficient topology traversal



## Adjacency Lists

- Store all vertex, edge, and face adjacencies
$\checkmark$ Efficient topology traversal
$\times$ Extra storage
$\times$ Variable size arrays


