



Polygonal Meshes

Thomas Funkhouser
Princeton University
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3D Object Representations

Points

- Range image
- Point cloud

Solids

- Voxels
- BSP tree
- CSG
- Sweep

Surfaces

- Polygonal mesh
- Subdivision
- Parametric
- Implicit

High-level structures

- Scene graph
- Application specific



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Surfaces

- Polygonal mesh
- Subdivision
- Parametric
- Implicit

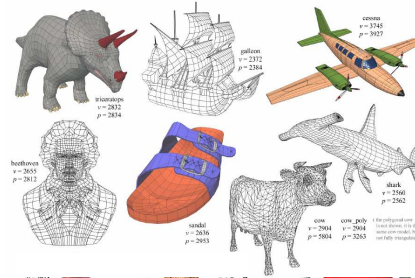
High-level structures

- Scene graph
- Application specific



3D Polygonal Mesh

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

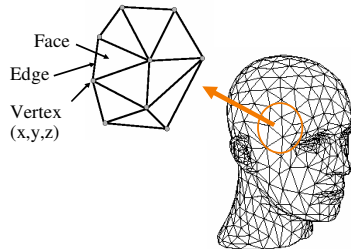


Isenberg



3D Polygonal Mesh

Geometry & topology



Zorin & Schroeder



Geometry background

Scene is usually approximated by 3D primitives

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

3D Point



Specifies a location

- Represented by three coordinates
- Infinitely small

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



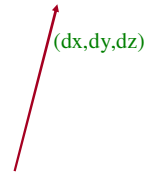
3D Vector



Specifies a direction and a magnitude

- Represented by three coordinates
- Magnitude $\|V\| = \sqrt{dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2}$
- Has no location

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

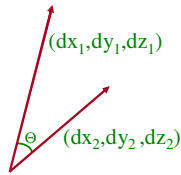


3D Vector



Dot product of two 3D vectors

- $V_1 \cdot V_2 = \|V_1\| \|V_2\| \cos(\Theta)$

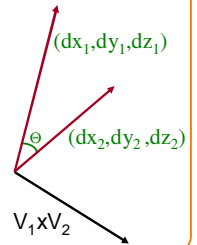


3D Vector



Cross product of two 3D vectors

- $V_1 \times V_2 = (dy_1 dx_2 - dz_1 dy_2, dz_1 dx_2 - dx_1 dz_2, dx_1 dy_2 - dy_1 dx_2)$
- $V_1 \times V_2 =$ vector perpendicular to both V_1 and V_2
- $\|V_1 \times V_2\| = \|V_1\| \|V_2\| \sin(\Theta)$



3D Line Segment



Linear path between two points

- Parametric representation:
» $P = P_1 + t(P_2 - P_1), (0 \leq t \leq 1)$

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



3D Ray



Line segment with one endpoint at infinity

- Parametric representation:
» $P = P_1 + tV, (0 \leq t < \infty)$

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



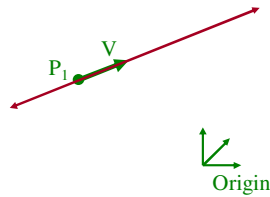
3D Line



Line segment with both endpoints at infinity

- Parametric representation:
 - $P = P_1 + tV, \quad (-\infty < t < \infty)$

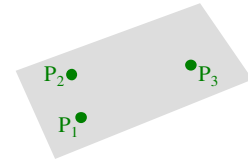
```
typedef struct {
    Point P1;
    Vector V;
} Line;
```



3D Plane



A linear combination of three points



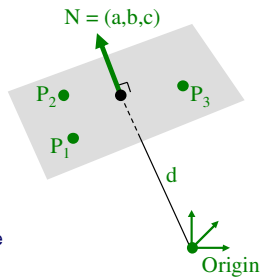
3D Plane



A linear combination of three points

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

```
typedef struct {
    Vector N;
    Distance d;
} Plane;
```



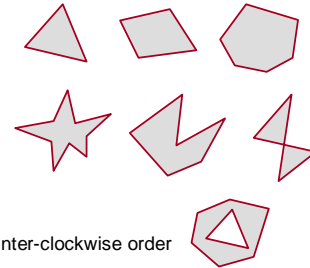
- N is the plane "normal"
 - Unit-length vector
 - Perpendicular to plane

3D Polygon



Set of points "inside" a sequence of coplanar points

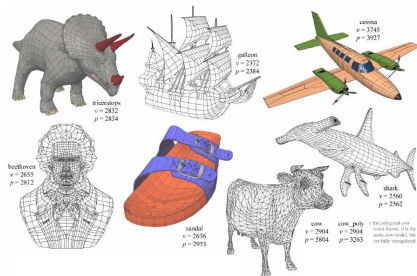
```
typedef struct {
    Point *points;
    int npoints;
} Polygon;
```



3D Polygonal Mesh



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



Isenberg

3D Polygonal Meshes



Why are they of interest?

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



Viewpoint

3D Polygonal Meshes



Properties

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



Outline



- Acquisition ←
- Processing
- Representation

Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



Interactive modeling

- o Polygon editors
- o Interchange formats

Scanners

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

Simulations

- o Physical processes

Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



Interactive modeling

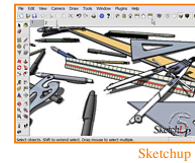
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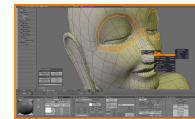
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Sketchup



Blender

Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



Interactive modeling

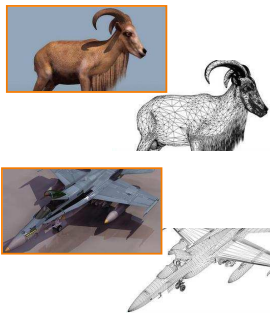
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Jose Maria De Esposa

Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



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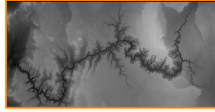
Digital Michelangelo Project
Stanford

Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



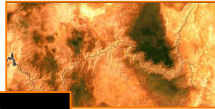
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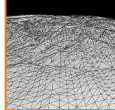
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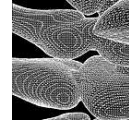
Large Geometric Model Repository
Georgia Tech

Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



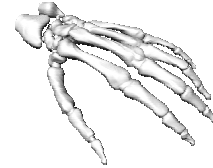
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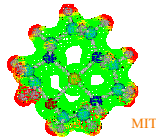
SGL

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MIT

Outline



Acquisition

Processing ←

Representation

Polygonal Mesh Processing



Warps

- Rotate
- Deform

Filters

- Smooth
- Sharpen
- Truncate
- Bevel

Analysis

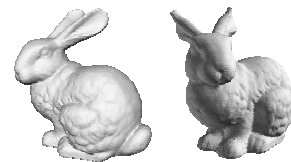
- Normals
- Curvature

Polygonal Mesh Processing



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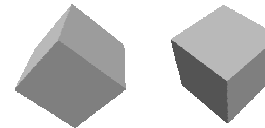


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Polygonal Mesh Processing



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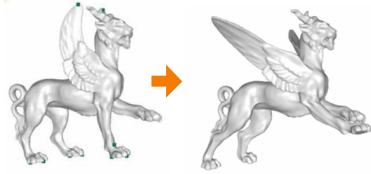
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Sheffer

Polygonal Mesh Processing



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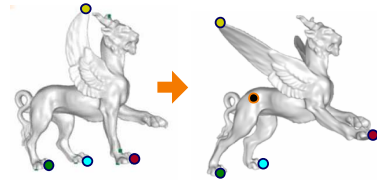
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Polygonal Mesh Processing



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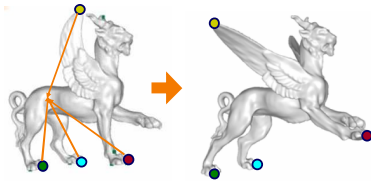
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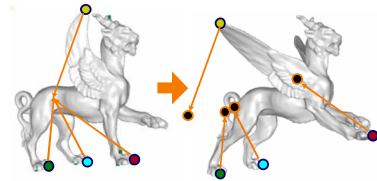
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Polygonal Mesh Processing



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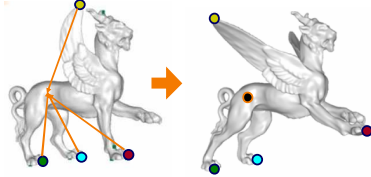
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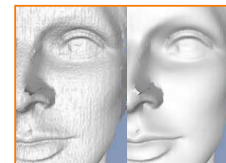
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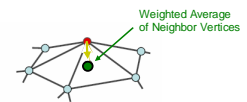
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Thouis "Ray" Jones



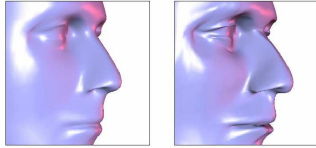
Olga Sorkine

Polygonal Mesh Processing



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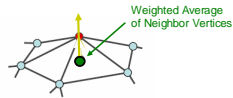
Desbrun

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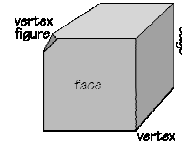
Olga Sorkine

Polygonal Mesh Processing



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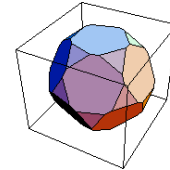


Filters

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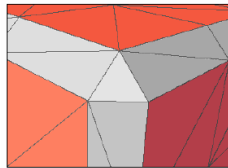
Conway

Polygonal Mesh Processing



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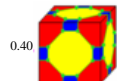
Jarek Rossignac

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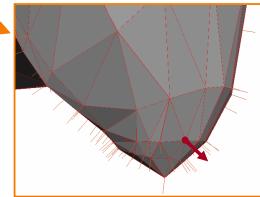


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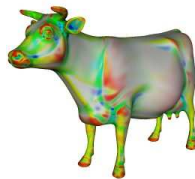


Polygonal Mesh Processing



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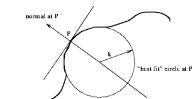


Figure 20: curvature of curve at P is $1/k$

Szymon Rusinkiewicz

Polygonal Mesh Processing



Remeshing

- Subdivide
- Resample
- Simplify

Topological fixup

- Fill holes
- Fix cracks
- Fix self-intersections

Boolean operations

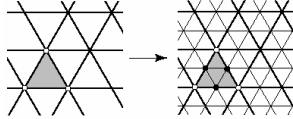
- Crop
- Subtract

Polygonal Mesh Processing



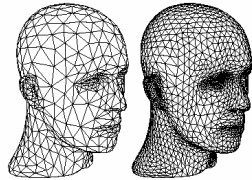
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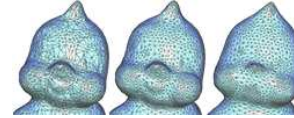
Zorin & Schroeder

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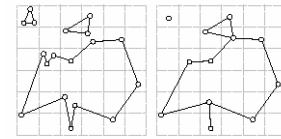
Garland

Polygonal Mesh Processing



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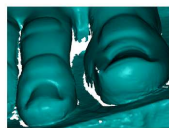
Rossignac

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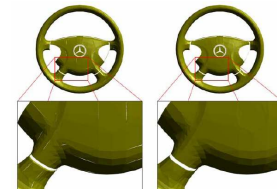
Podolak

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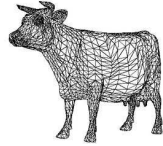
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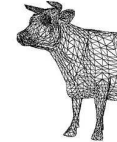
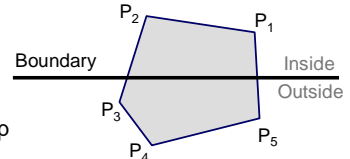
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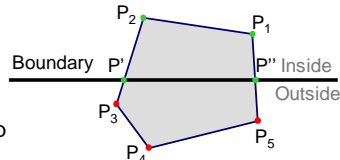
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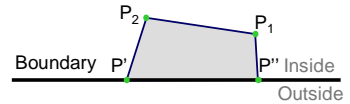
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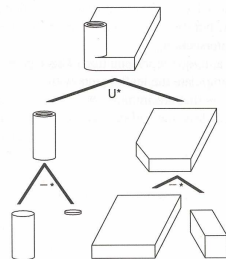
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FvDFH Figure 12.27

Polygonal Mesh Processing



Procedural generation

- Surface of revolution
- Sweep
- Fractalize

Polygonal Mesh Processing



Procedural generation

- Surface of revolution
- Sweep
- Fractalize



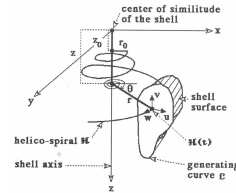
Blinn

Polygonal Mesh Processing



Procedural generation

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Fowler

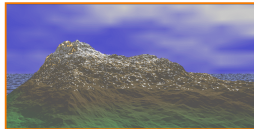
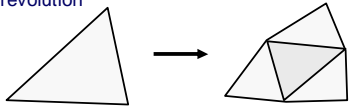


Polygonal Mesh Processing



Procedural generation

- Surface of revolution
- Sweep
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Dirk Ballanz, Igor Guskov,
Sanjeev Kumar, & Rudro Samanta.

Polygonal Mesh Processing



Most operations use a few low-level operations:

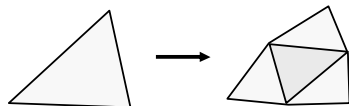
- Subdivide face
- Subdivide edge
- Collapse edge
- Merge vertices
- Remove vertex

Polygonal Mesh Processing



Most operations use a few low-level operations:

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



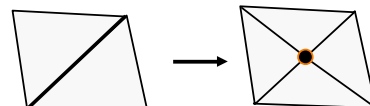
Subdivide face

Polygonal Mesh Processing



Most operations use a few low-level operations:

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



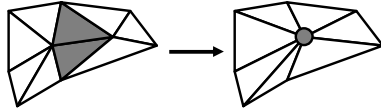
Subdivide edge

Polygonal Mesh Processing



Most operations use a few low-level operations:

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



Collapse edge

Polygonal Mesh Processing



Most operations use a few low-level operations:

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



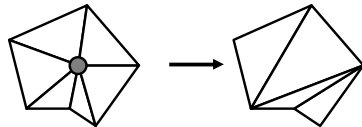
Merge Vertices

Polygonal Mesh Processing



Most operations use a few low-level operations:

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



Remove Vertex

Outline



Acquisition

Processing

Representation ←

Polygon Mesh Representation

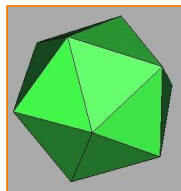


Data structures determine algorithms

- Data structure must support key operations of algorithm efficiently

Examples:

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

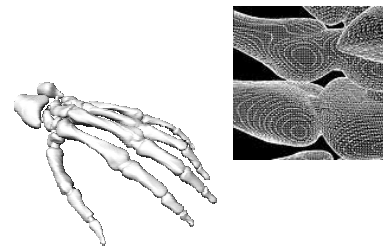


Different data structures for different algorithms

Polygon Mesh Representation



Important properties of mesh representation?

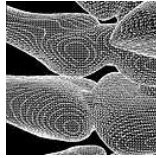
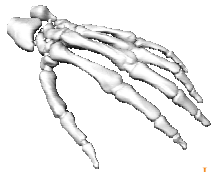


Polygon Mesh Representation



Important properties of mesh representation?

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



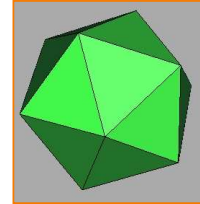
Large Geometric Model Repository
Georgia Tech

Polygon Mesh Representation



Possible data structures

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

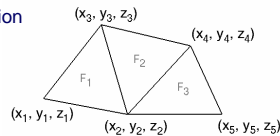
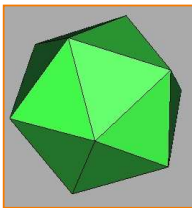


Independent Faces



Each face lists vertex coordinates

- Redundant vertices
- No adjacency information



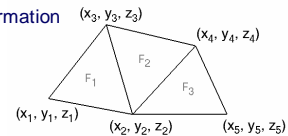
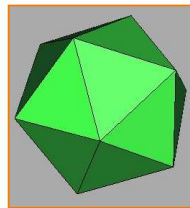
FACE TABLE			
F ₁	(x ₁ , y ₁ , z ₁)	(x ₂ , y ₂ , z ₂)	(x ₃ , y ₃ , z ₃)
F ₂	(x ₂ , y ₂ , z ₂)	(x ₄ , y ₄ , z ₄)	(x ₃ , y ₃ , z ₃)
F ₃	(x ₂ , y ₂ , z ₂)	(x ₅ , y ₅ , z ₅)	(x ₄ , y ₄ , z ₄)

Vertex and Face Tables



Each face lists vertex references

- Shared vertices
- Still no adjacency information



VERTEX TABLE			
V ₁	x ₁	y ₁	z ₁
V ₂	x ₂	y ₂	z ₂
V ₃	x ₃	y ₃	z ₃
V ₄	x ₄	y ₄	z ₄
V ₅	x ₅	y ₅	z ₅

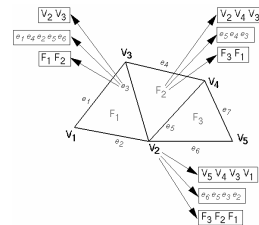
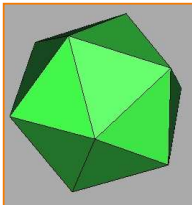
FACE TABLE		
F ₁	V ₁	V ₂ V ₃
F ₂	V ₂	V ₄ V ₃
F ₃	V ₂	V ₅ V ₄

Adjacency Lists



Store all vertex, edge, and face adjacencies

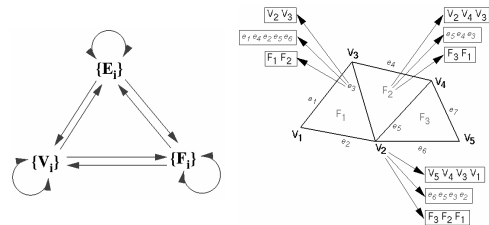
- Efficient adjacency traversal
- Extra storage



Partial Adjacency Lists



Can we store only some adjacency relationships and derive others?

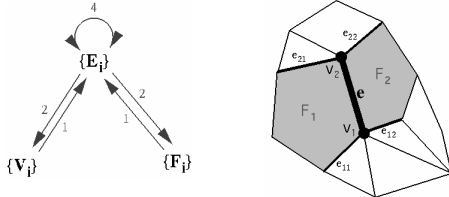


Winged Edge



Adjacency encoded in edges

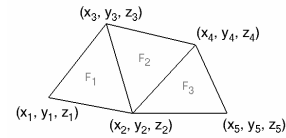
- All adjacencies in $O(1)$ time
- Little extra storage (fixed records)
- Arbitrary polygons



Winged Edge



Example:



VERTEX TABLE					EDGE TABLE								FACE TABLE		
V ₁	X ₁	Y ₁	Z ₁	e ₁	e ₁	V ₁	V ₃	F ₁	e ₂	e ₂	e ₄	e ₃	F ₁	e ₁	
V ₂	X ₂	Y ₂	Z ₂	e ₆	e ₂	V ₁	V ₂	F ₁	e ₁	e ₁	e ₃	e ₆	F ₂	e ₃	
V ₃	X ₃	Y ₃	Z ₃	e ₃	e ₃	V ₂	V ₃	F ₁	e ₂	e ₅	e ₁	e ₄	F ₂	e ₅	
V ₄	X ₄	Y ₄	Z ₄	e ₅	e ₄	V ₃	V ₄	F ₂	e ₁	e ₃	e ₇	e ₅	F ₃	e ₇	
V ₅	X ₅	Y ₅	Z ₅	e ₆	e ₅	V ₂	V ₅	F ₂	e ₃	e ₆	e ₄	e ₇			
					e ₆	V ₂	V ₅	F ₃	e ₅	e ₂	e ₇	e ₇			
					e ₇	V ₄	V ₅	F ₃	e ₄	e ₅	e ₆	e ₆			

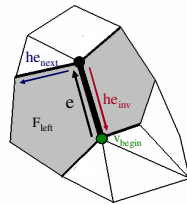
Half Edge



Adjacency encoded in edges

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

Similar to winged-edge, except adjacency encoded in half-edges



Simple Triangle Mesh

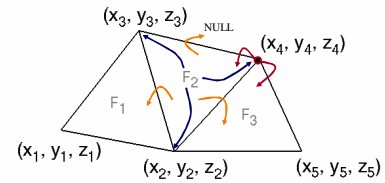


Do not store edges at all

- All faces have 3 vertices and 3 neighbors

Store adjacency in vertices and faces

- For each face: 3 vertices and 3 faces
- For each vertex: N faces



Summary



Polygonal meshes

- Easy acquisition
- 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