



# Subdivision Surfaces

COS 426, Spring 2016  
Princeton University

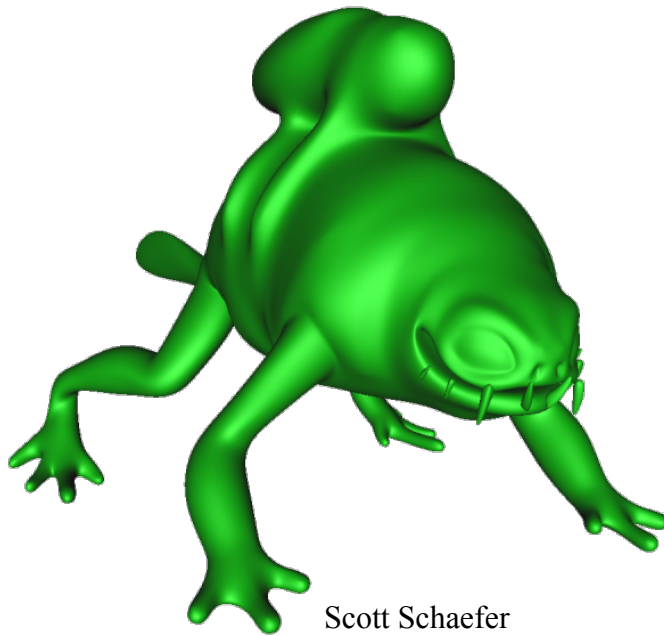
# 3D Object Representations



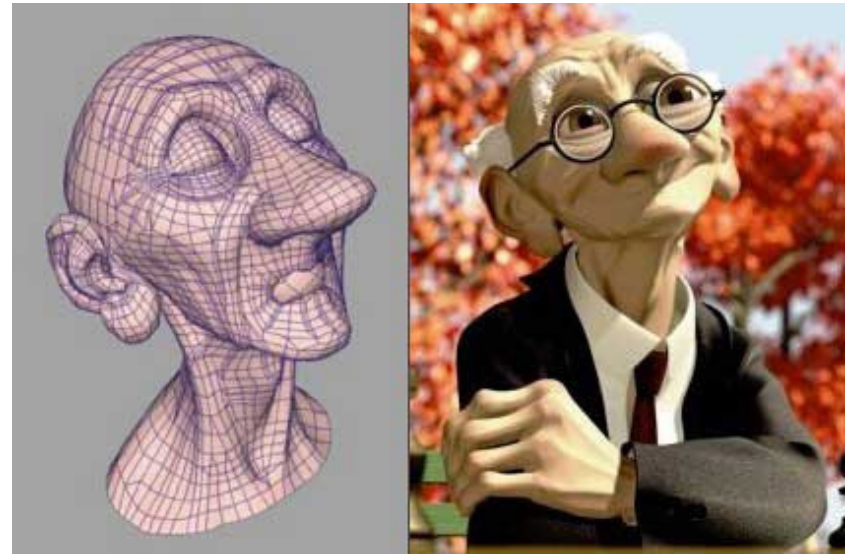
- Raw data
  - Range image
  - Point cloud
- Surfaces
  - Polygonal mesh
  - **Subdivision**
  - Parametric
  - Implicit
- Solids
  - Voxels
  - BSP tree
  - CSG
  - Sweep
- High-level structures
  - Scene graph
  - Application specific

# Subdivision Surfaces

- Used in movie and game industries
- Supported by most 3D modeling software



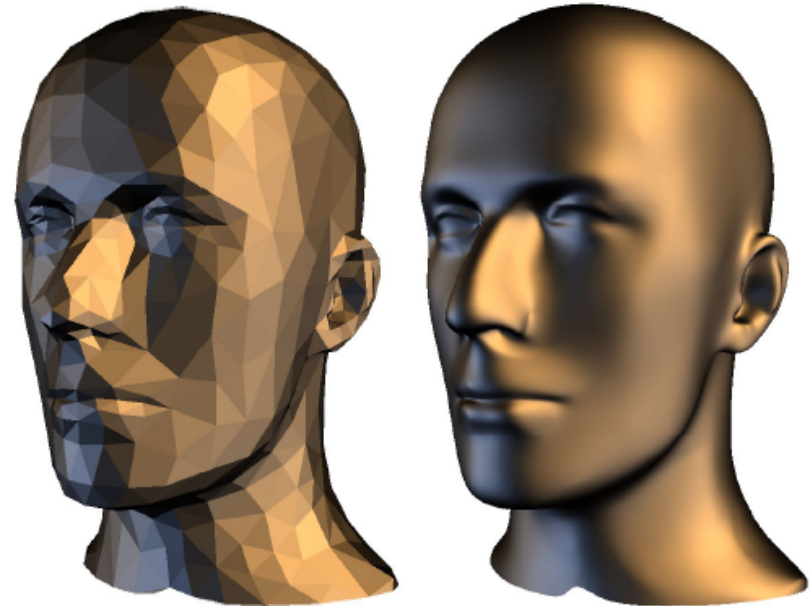
Scott Schaefer



Geri's Game © Pixar Animation Studios

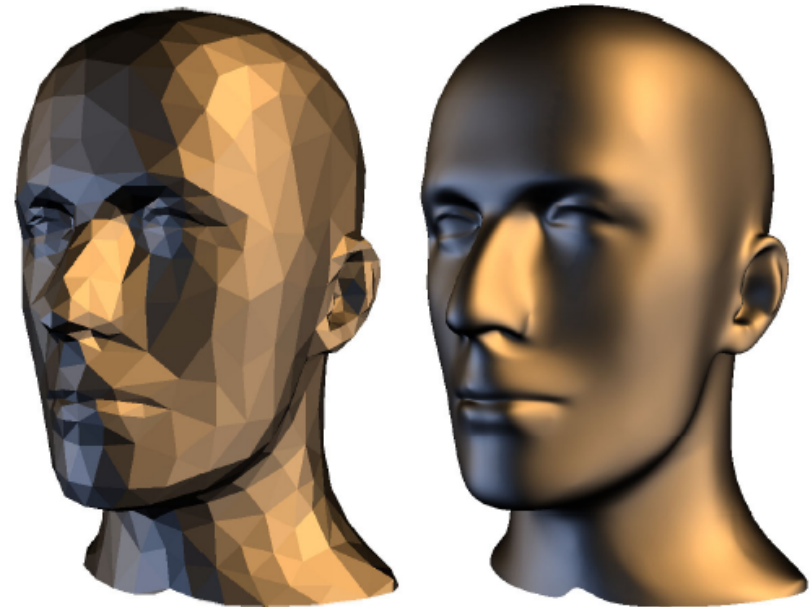
# Subdivision Surfaces

- What makes a good surface representation?
  - Accurate
  - Concise
  - Intuitive specification
  - Local support
  - Affine invariant
  - Arbitrary topology
  - Guaranteed continuity
  - Natural parameterization
  - Efficient display
  - Efficient intersections




# Subdivision Surfaces

- What makes a good surface representation?
  - Accurate
  - Concise
  - Intuitive specification
  - Local support
  - Affine invariant
  - Arbitrary topology
  - **Guaranteed continuity**
  - Natural parameterization
  - Efficient display
  - Efficient intersections

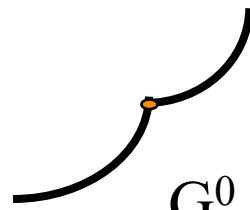


# Continuity

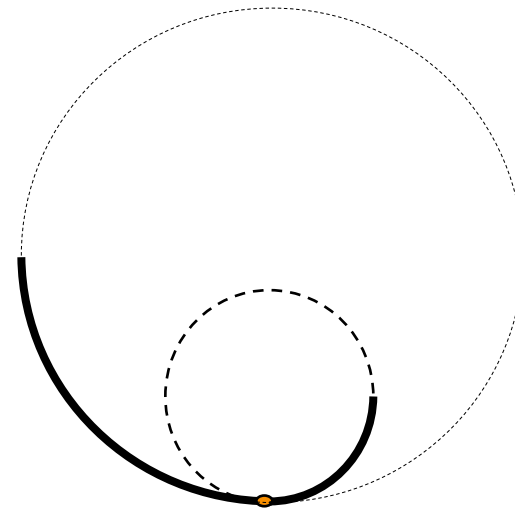
A curve / surface with  $G^k$  continuity has a continuous  $k$ -th derivative, geometrically.



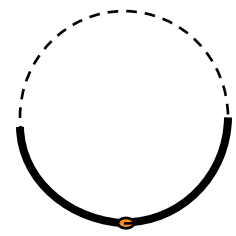
No continuity  
( $G^{-1}$ ?)



$G^0$



$G^1$



$G^2$

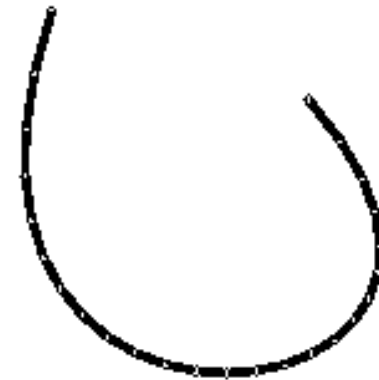
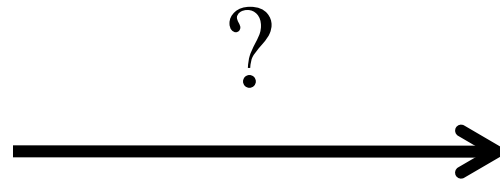
Related to (but not the same as)  $C^k$  continuity, which refers to continuity with respect to parameter

$$\text{e.g.: } f_x(u) = r_x \cos(2\pi u)$$

# Subdivision



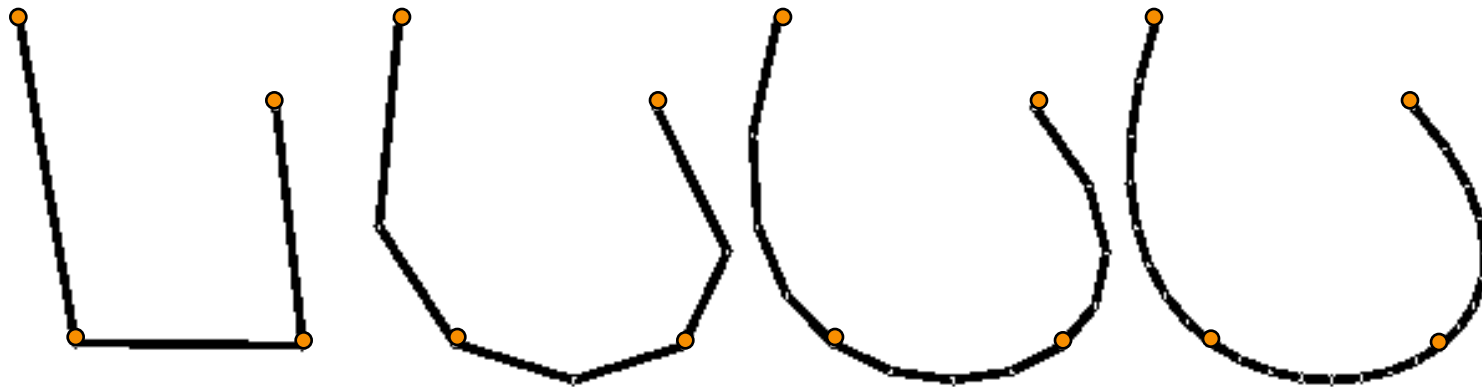
- How do you make a curve with guaranteed continuity?



# Subdivision



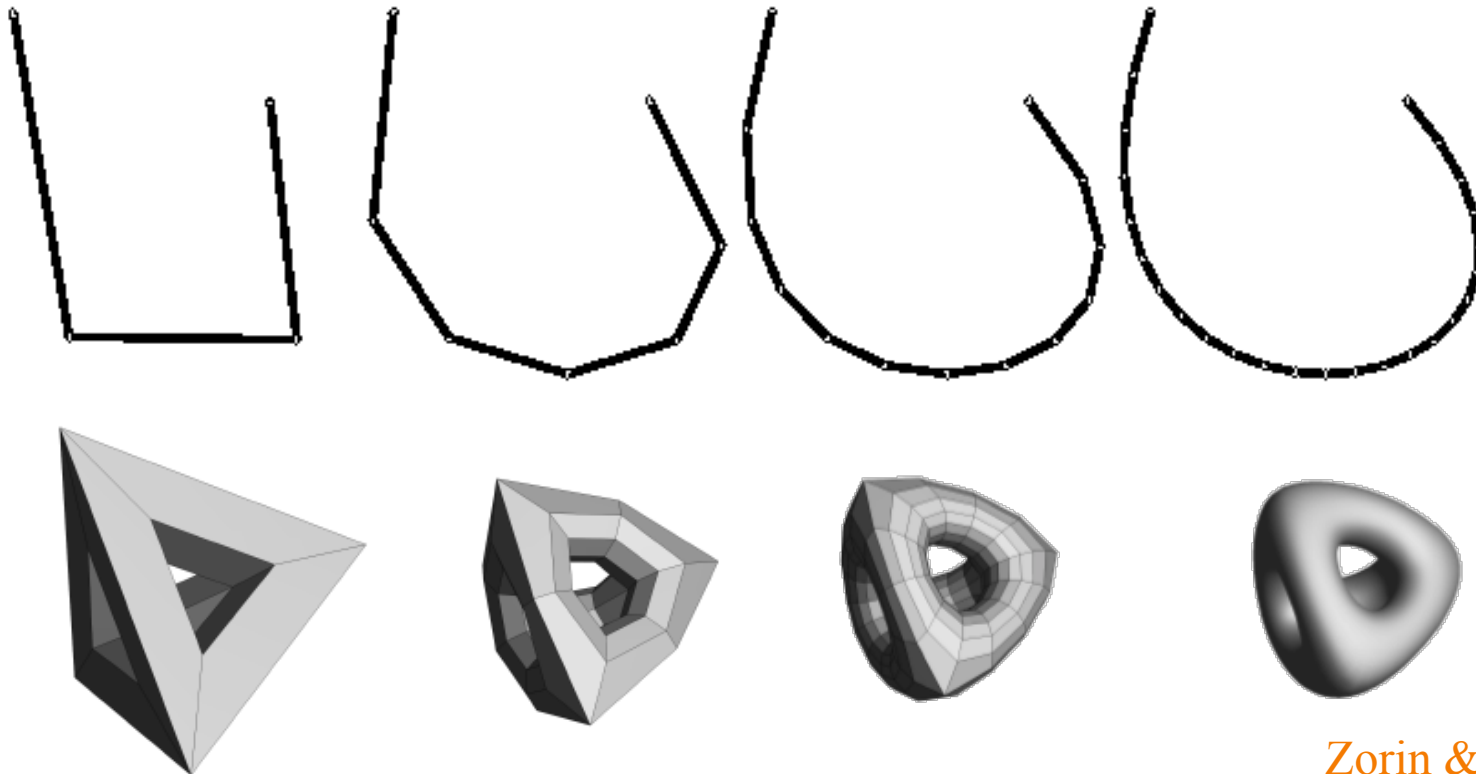
- How do you make a curve with guaranteed continuity? ...





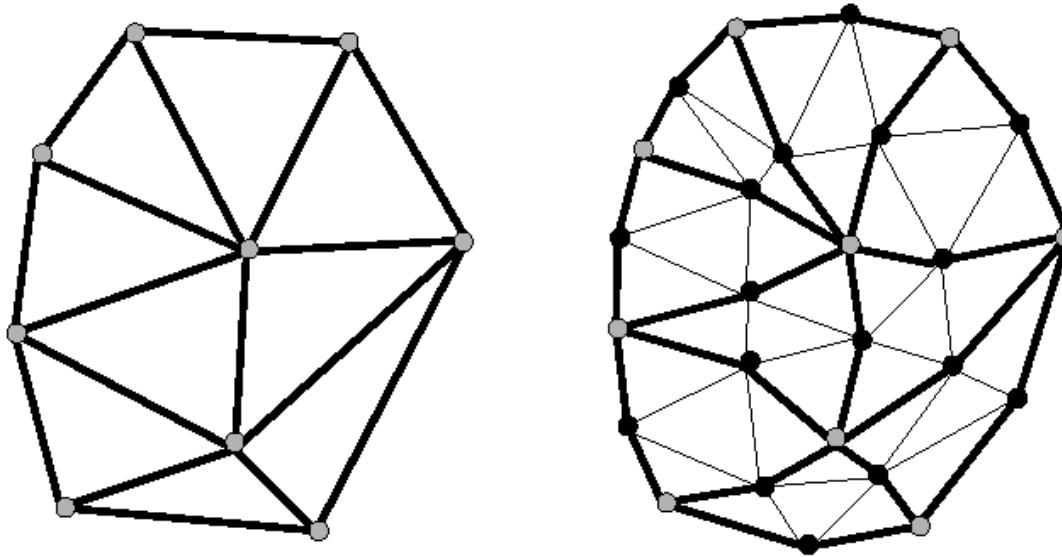
# Subdivision

- How do you make a surface with guaranteed continuity?



# Subdivision Surfaces

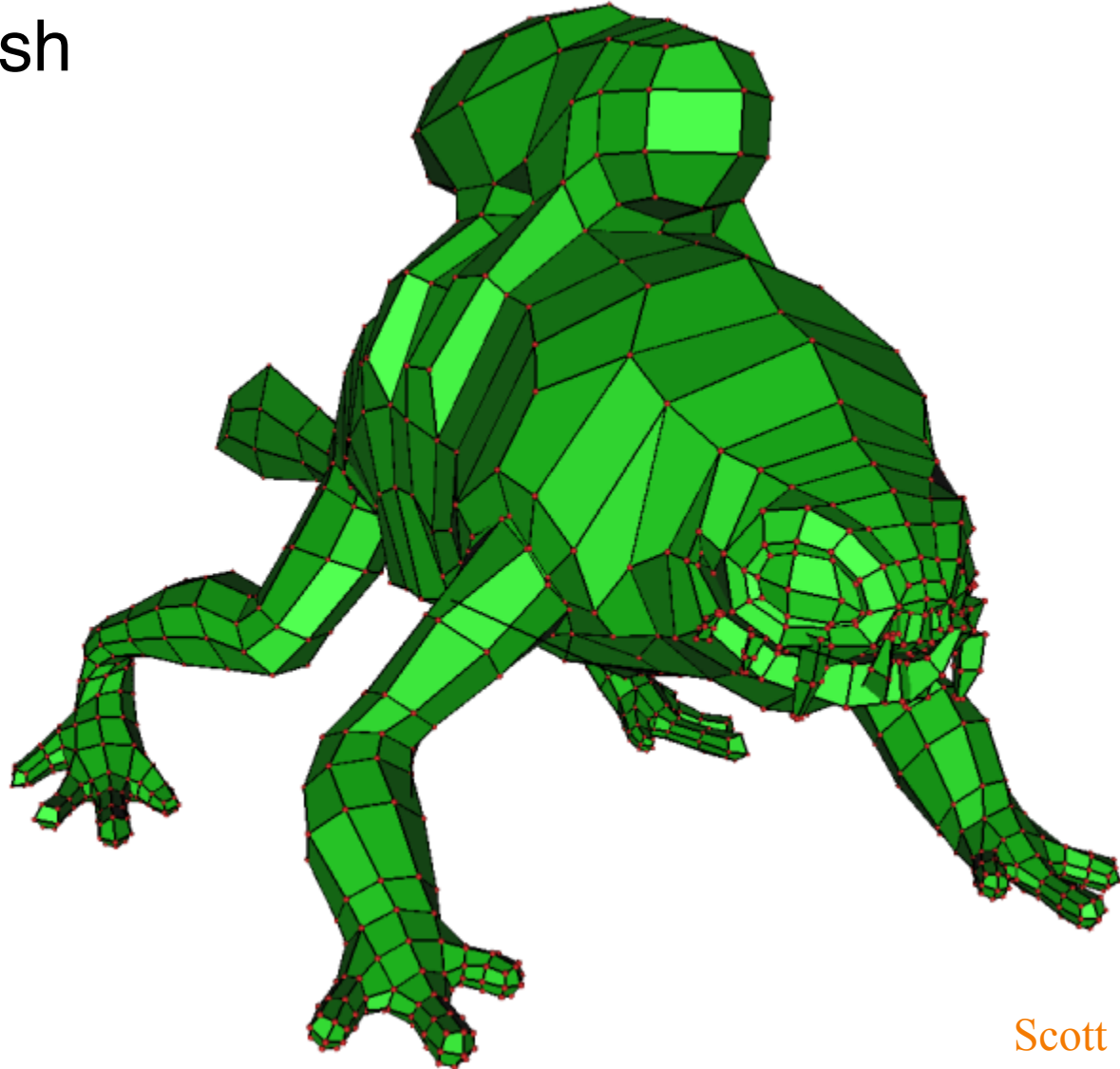
- Repeated application of
  - Topology refinement (splitting faces)
  - Geometry refinement (weighted averaging)



# Subdivision Surfaces – Examples



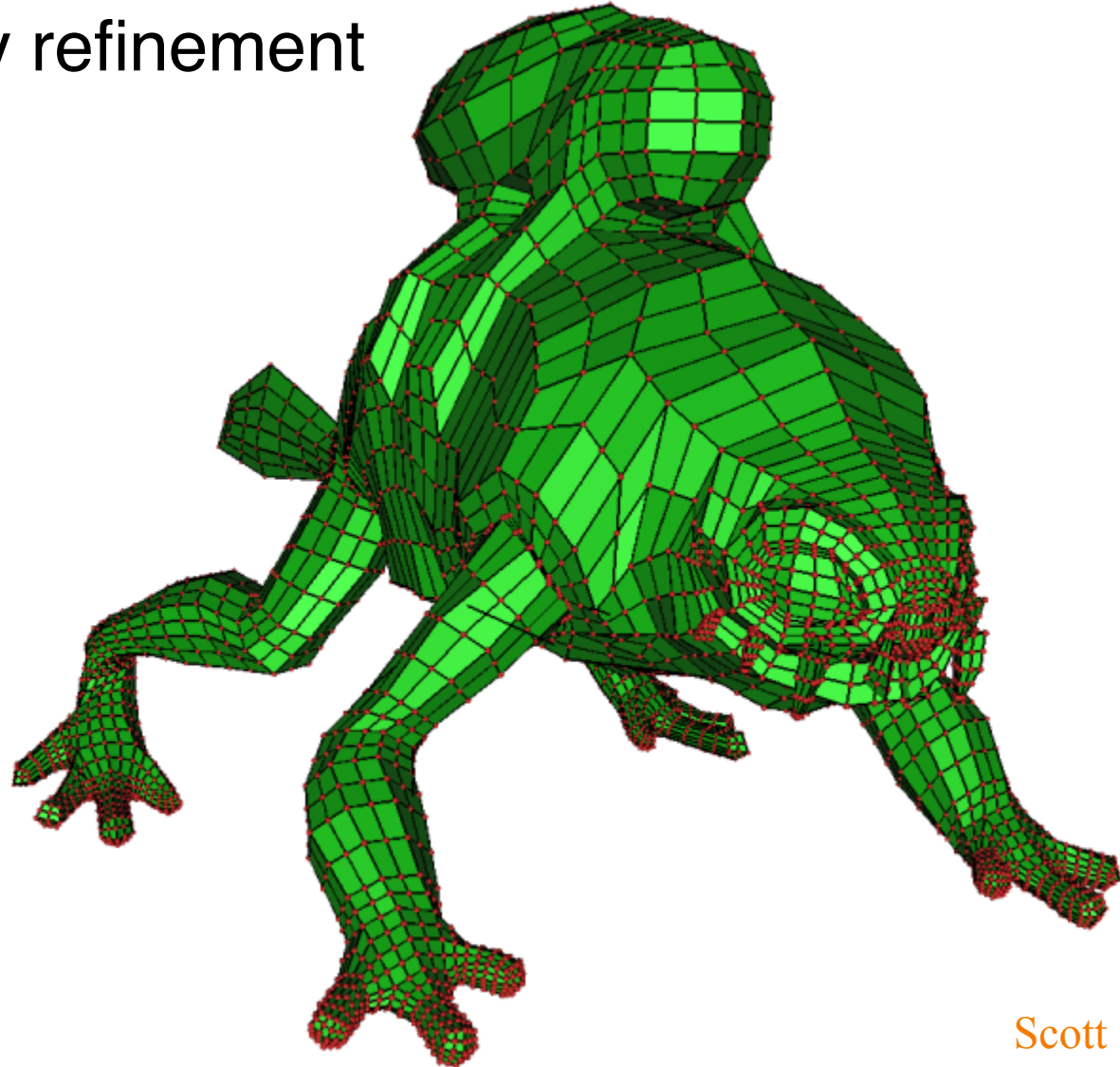
- Base mesh



# Subdivision Surfaces – Examples



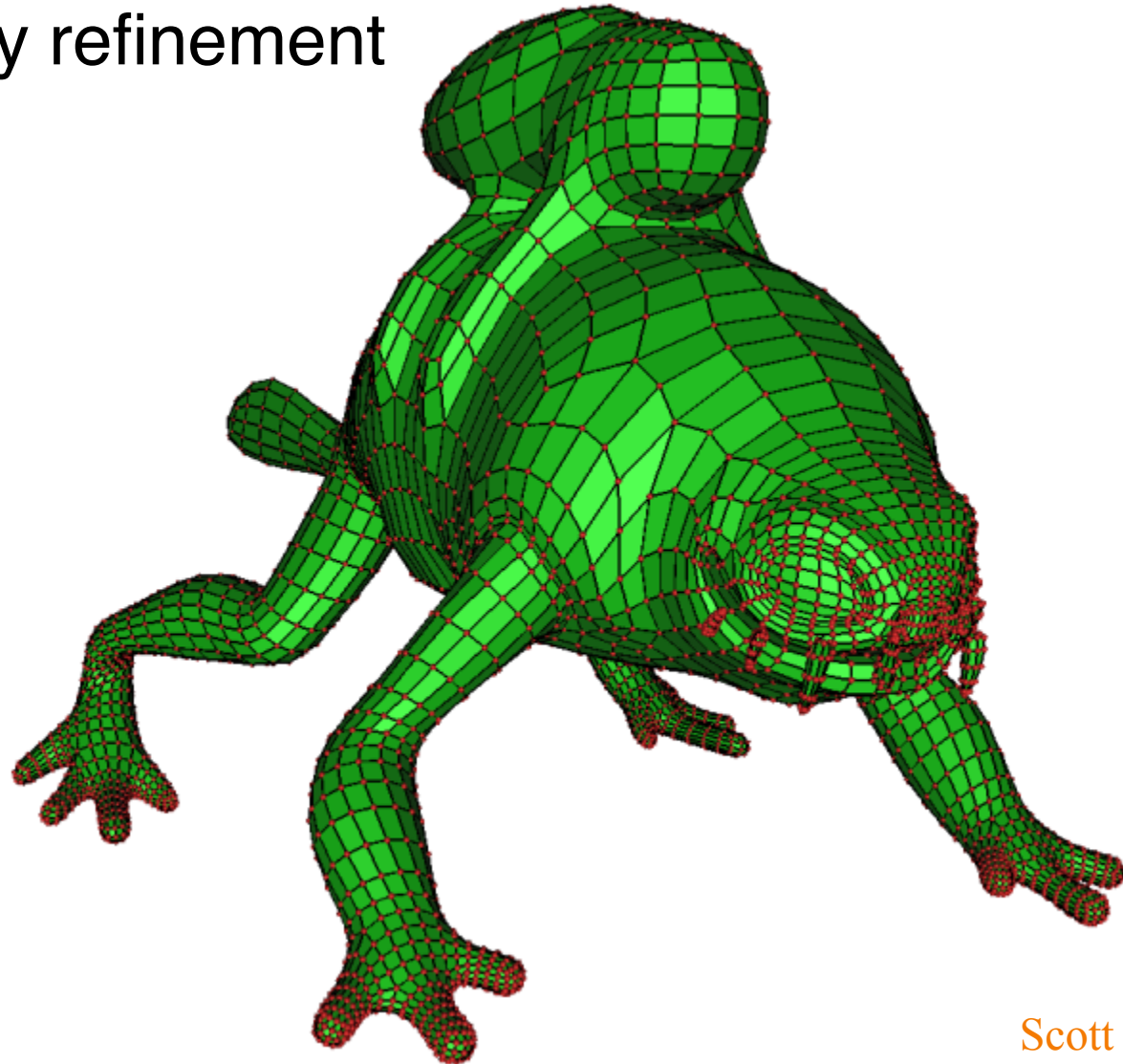
- Topology refinement



# Subdivision Surfaces – Examples



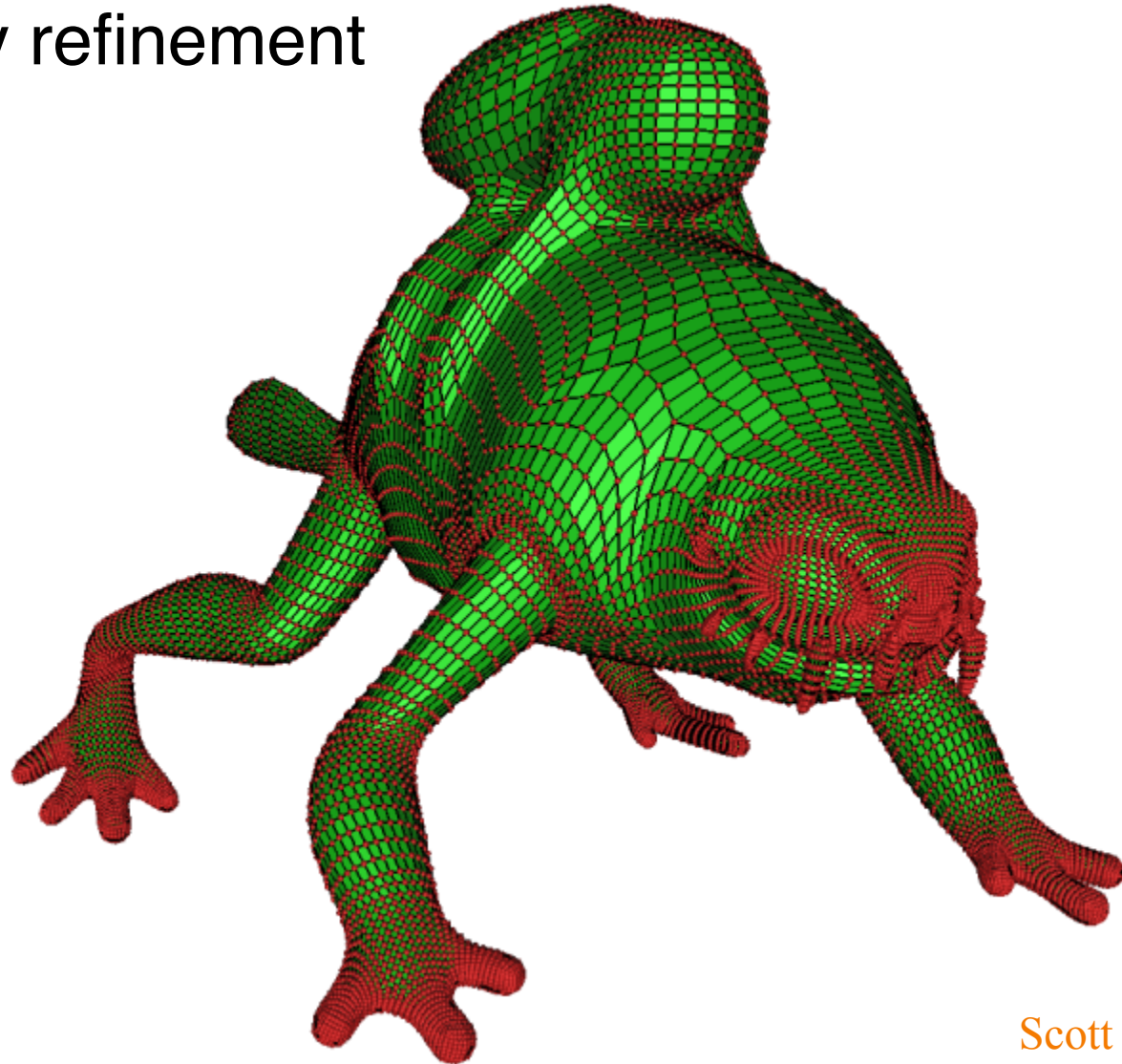
- Geometry refinement



# Subdivision Surfaces – Examples



- Topology refinement

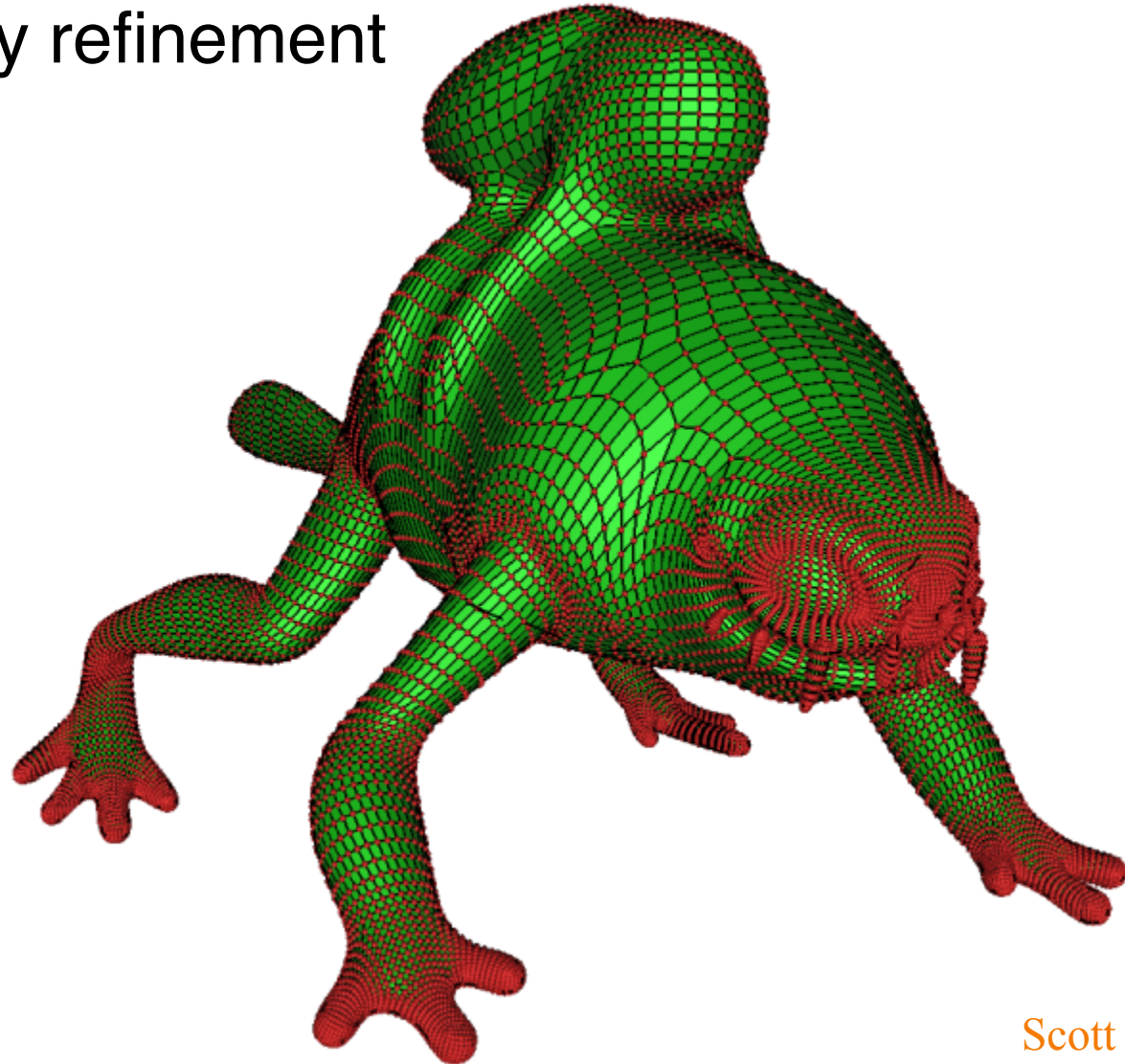




# Subdivision Surfaces – Examples



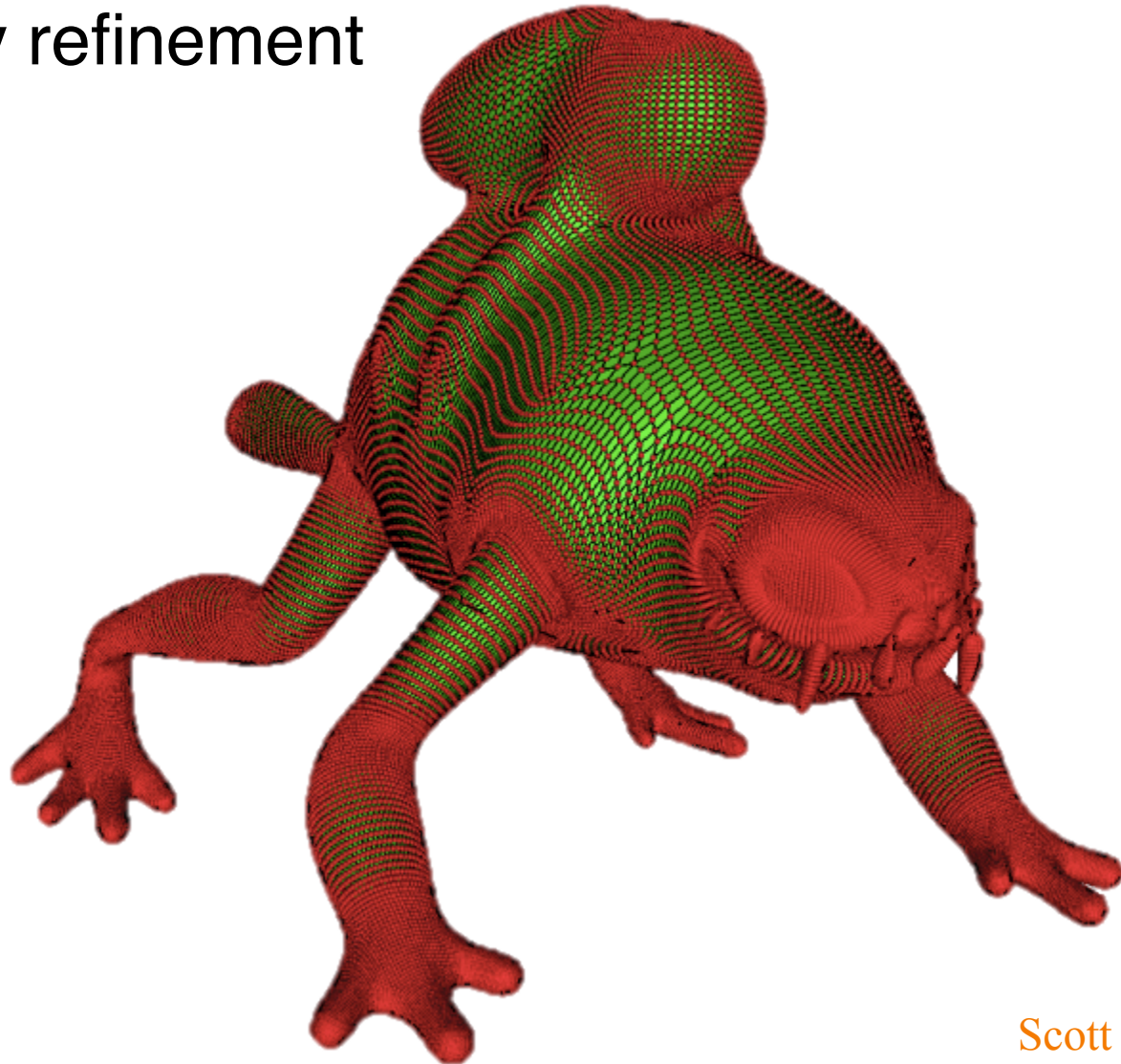
- Geometry refinement



# Subdivision Surfaces – Examples



- Topology refinement



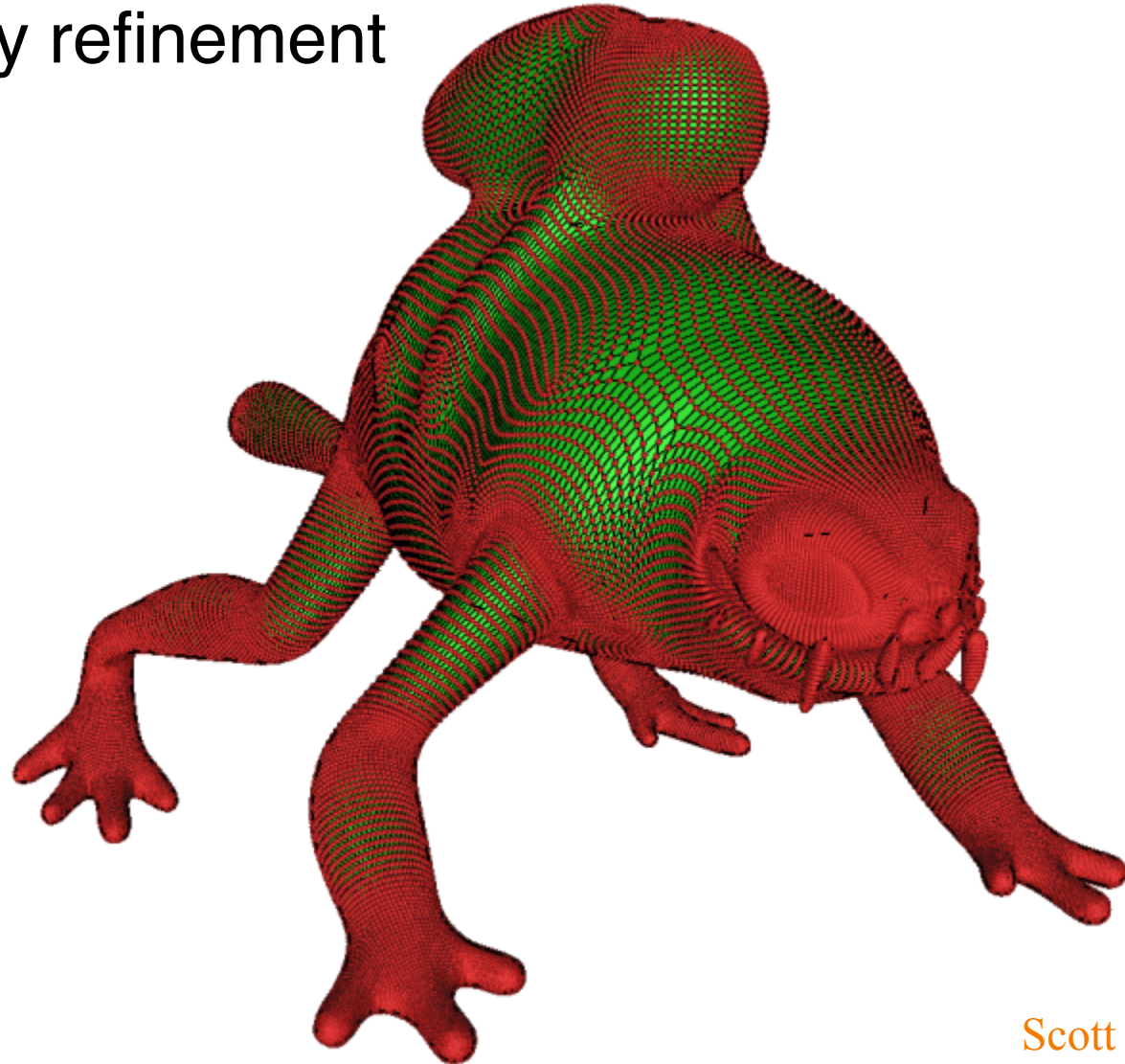
Scott Schaefer



# Subdivision Surfaces – Examples



- Geometry refinement

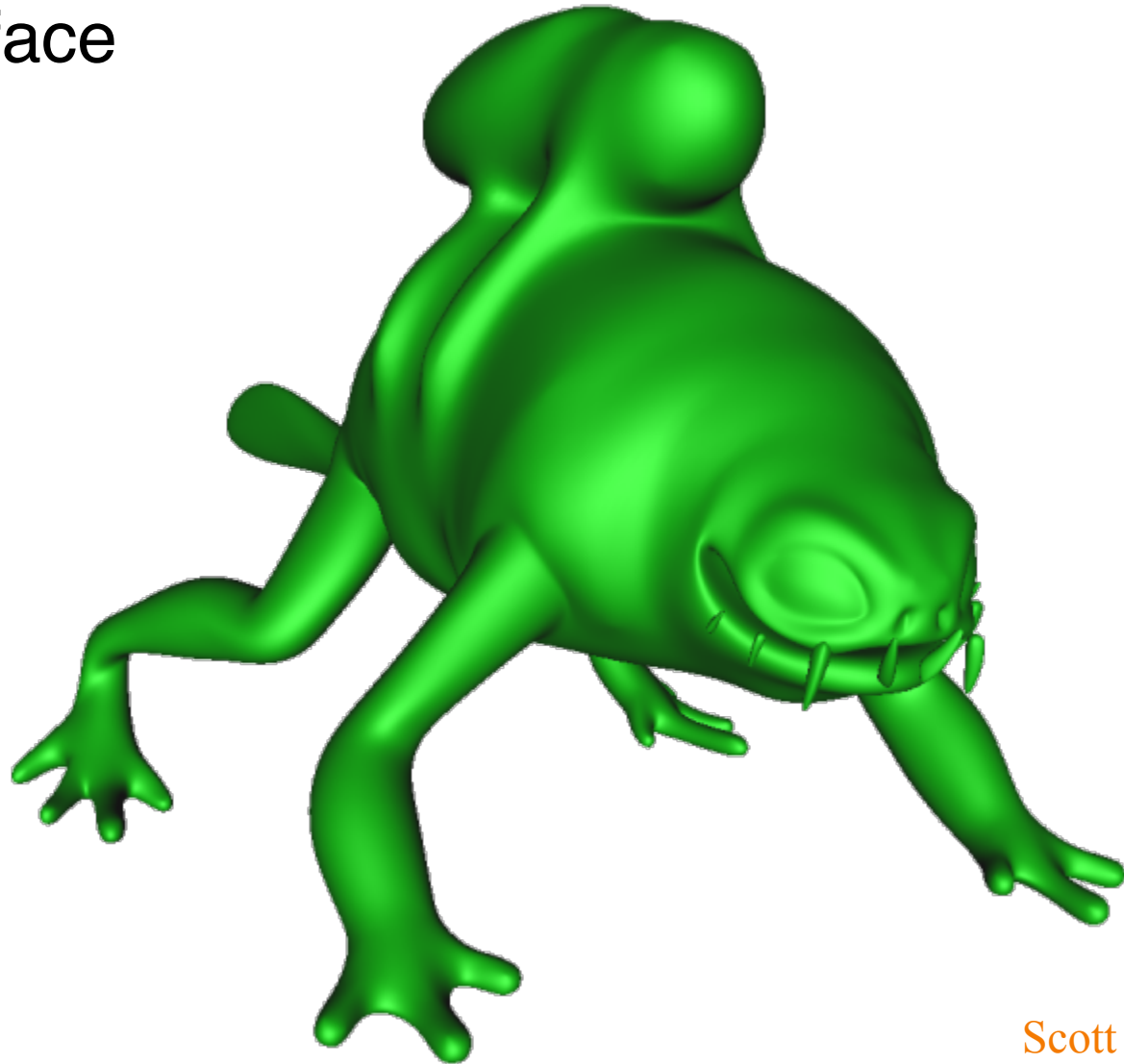


Scott Schaefer

# Subdivision Surfaces – Examples



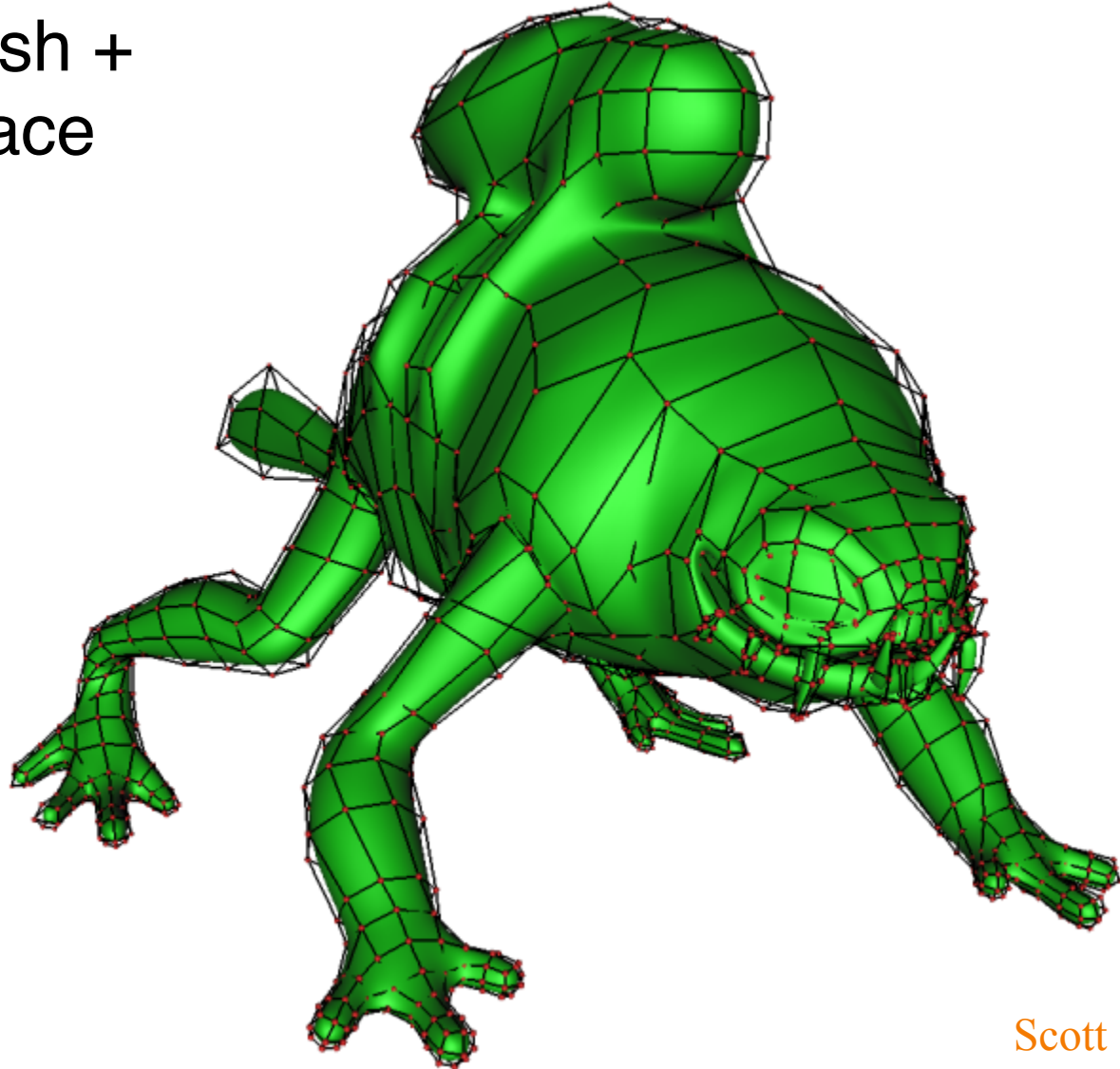
- Limit surface



# Subdivision Surfaces – Examples

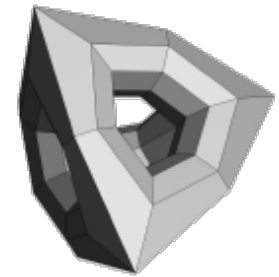
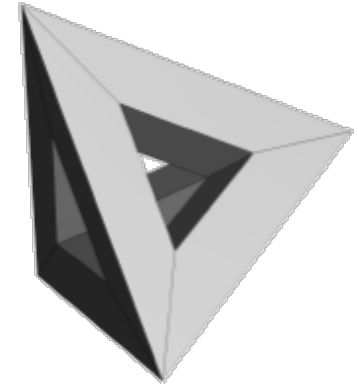


- Base mesh + limit surface



# Design of Subdivision Rules

- What types of input?
  - Quad meshes, triangle meshes, etc.
- How to refine topology?
  - Simple implementations
- How to refine geometry?
  - Smoothness guarantees in limit surface
    - » Continuity ( $C^0$ ,  $C^1$ ,  $C^2$ , ...?)
  - Provable relationships between limit surface and original control mesh
    - » Interpolation of vertices?



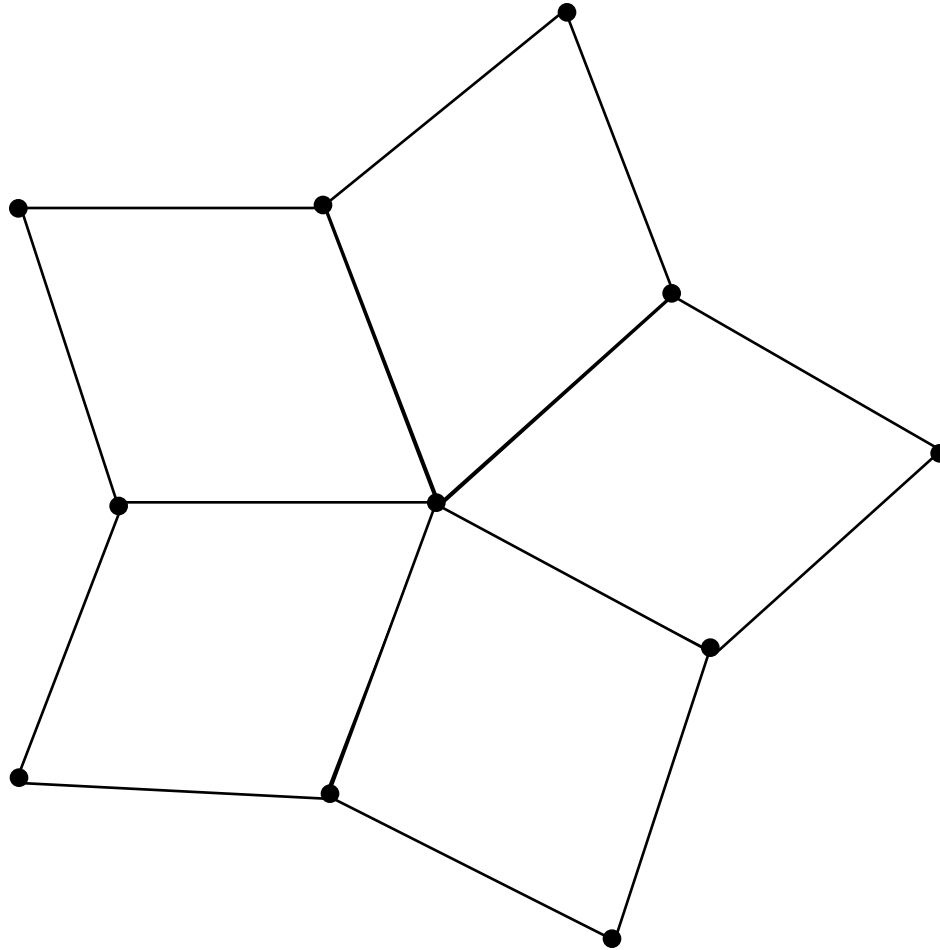


# Linear Subdivision

- Type of input
  - Quad mesh -- four-sided polygons (*quads*)
  - Any number of quads may touch each vertex
- Topology refinement rule
  - Split every quad into four at midpoints
- Geometry refinement rule
  - Average vertex positions

This is a simple example to demonstrate how subdivision schemes work

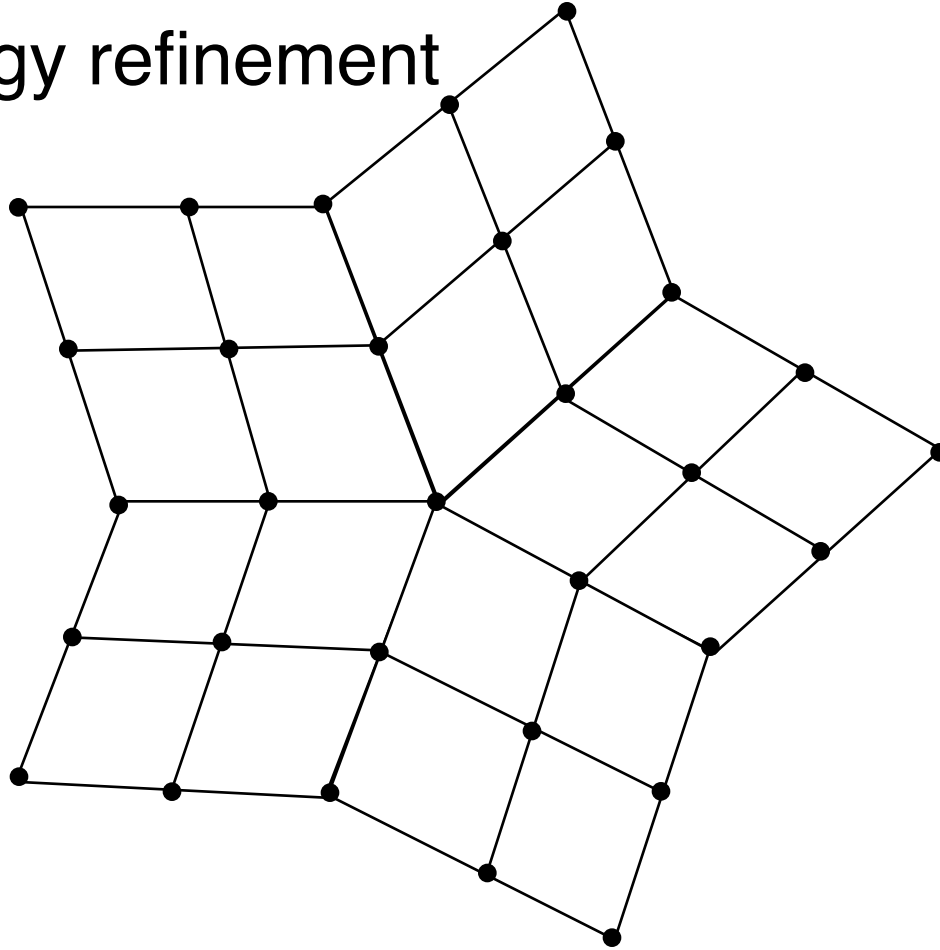
# Linear Subdivision



# Linear Subdivision



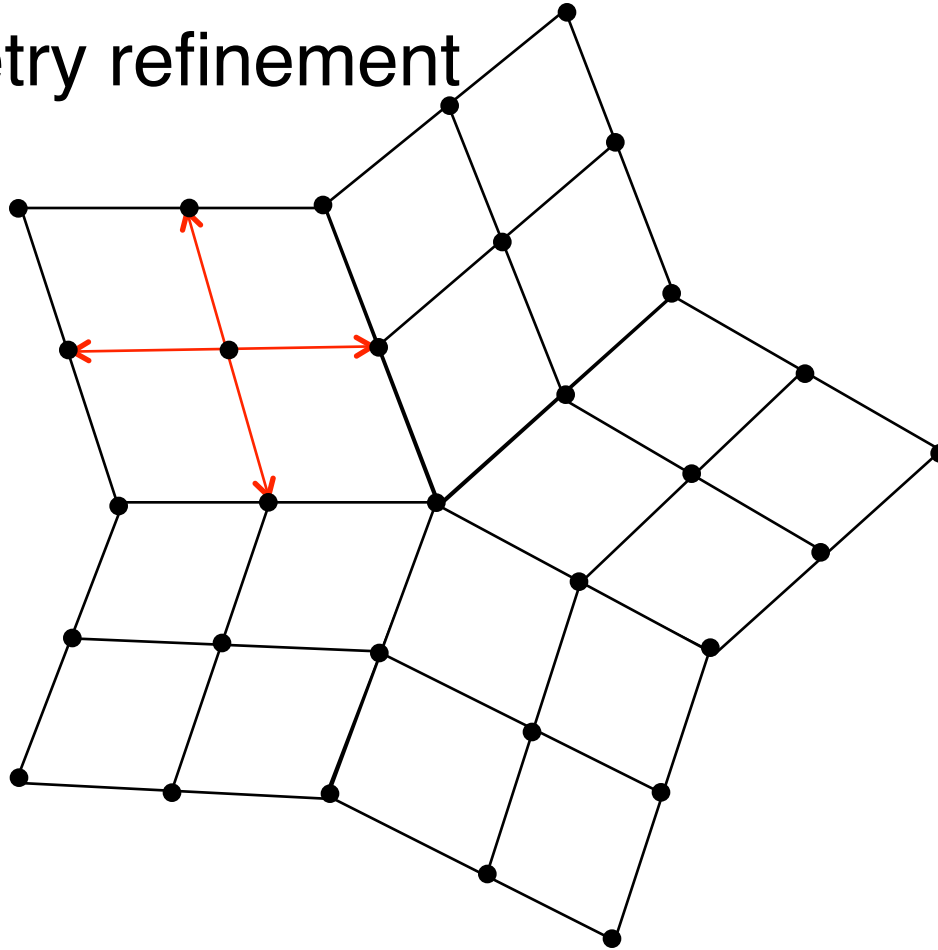
- Topology refinement



# Linear Subdivision



- Geometry refinement







# Linear Subdivision

LinearSubivision  $(F_0, V_0, k)$

for  $i = 1 \dots k$  levels

$(F_i, V_i) = \text{RefineTopology}(F_{i-1}, V_{i-1})$

$\text{RefineGeometry}(F_i, V_i)$

return  $(F_k, V_k)$



# Linear Subdivision

RefineTopology (  $F, V$  )

$newV = V$

$newF = \{$

for each face  $F_i$

    Insert new vertex  $c$  at centroid of  $F_i$  into  $newV$

for  $j = 1$  to 4

    Insert in  $newV$  new vertex  $e_j$  at  
    centroid of each edge (  $F_{i,j}, F_{i,j+1}$  )

for  $j = 1$  to 4

    Insert new face (  $F_{i,j}, e_j, c, e_{j-1}$  ) into  $newF$

return (  $newF, newV$  )



# Linear Subdivision

RefineGeometry(  $F$ ,  $V$  )

$newV = V$

$newF = F$

for each vertex  $V_i$  in  $newV$

$weight = 0$ ;

$newV[i] = (0,0,0)$

for each face  $F_j$  connected to  $V_i$

$newV[i] += \text{centroid of } F_j$

$weight += 1.0$ ;

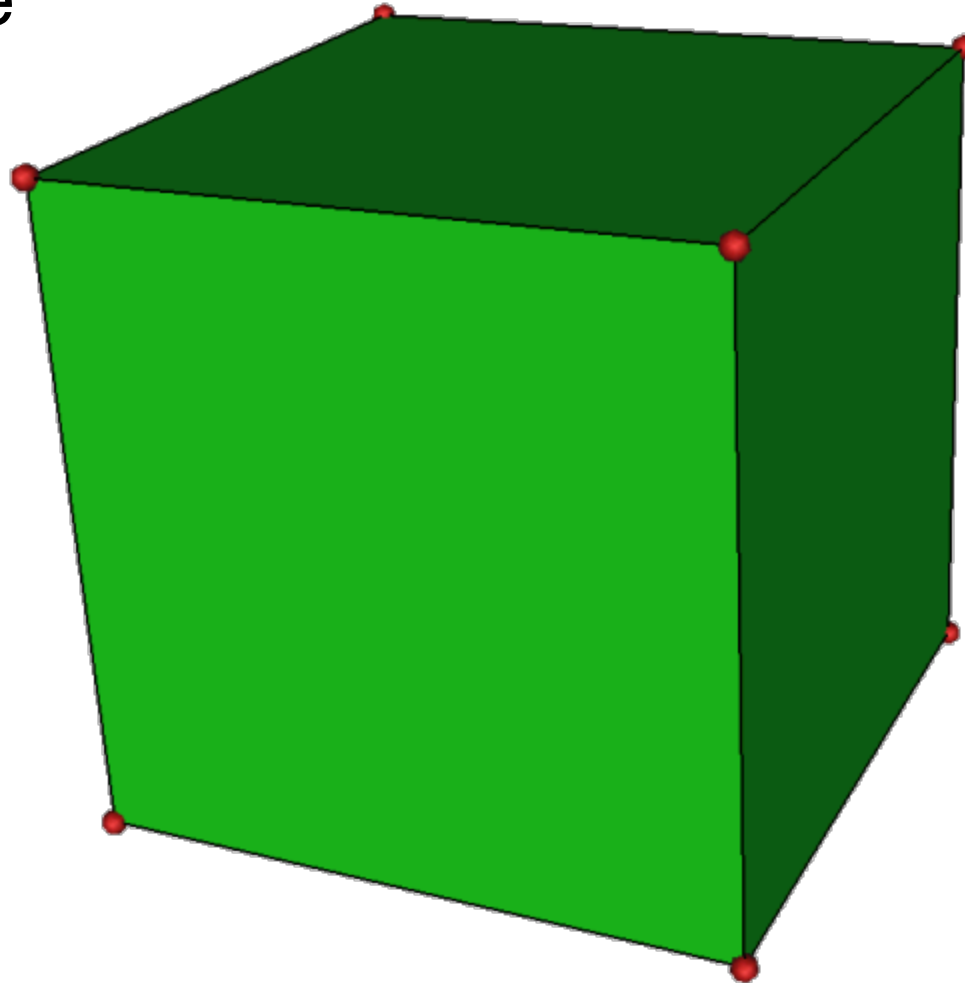
$newV[i] /= weight$

return ( $newF$ ,  $newV$ )

# Linear Subdivision



- Example



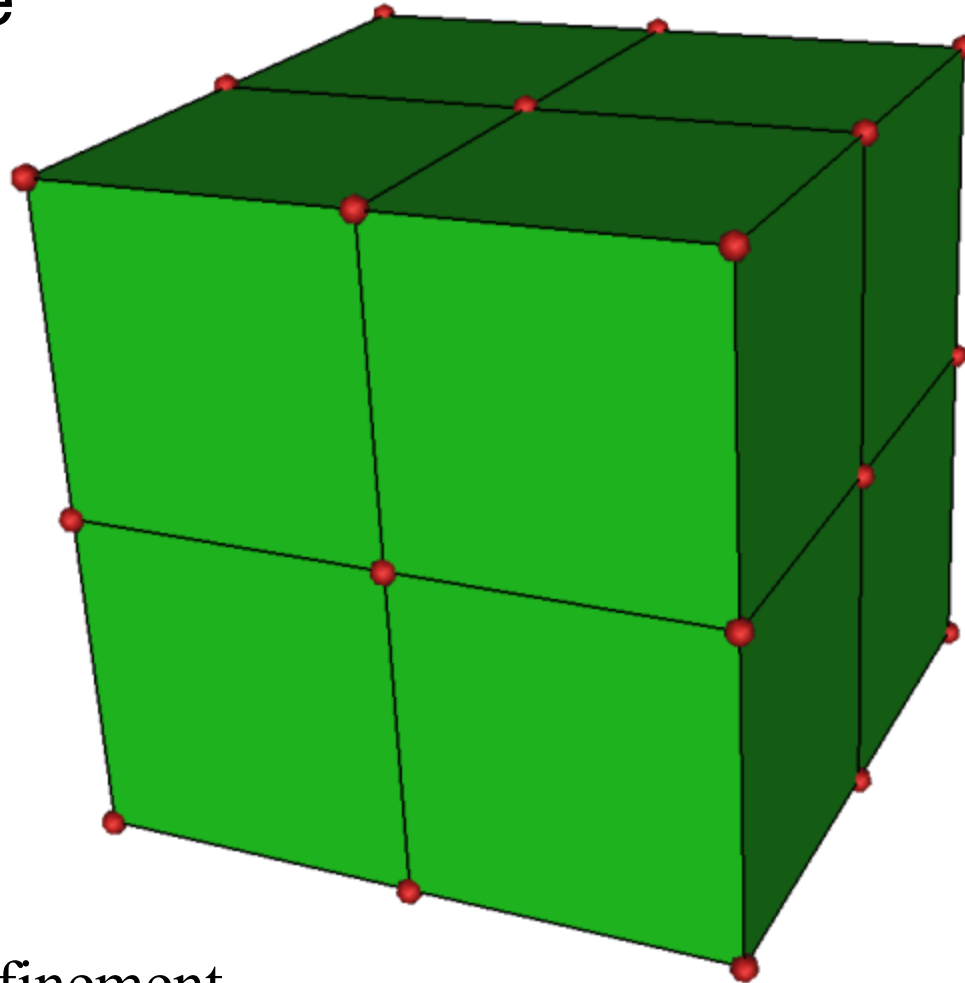
Input mesh

Scott Schaefer

# Linear Subdivision



- Example



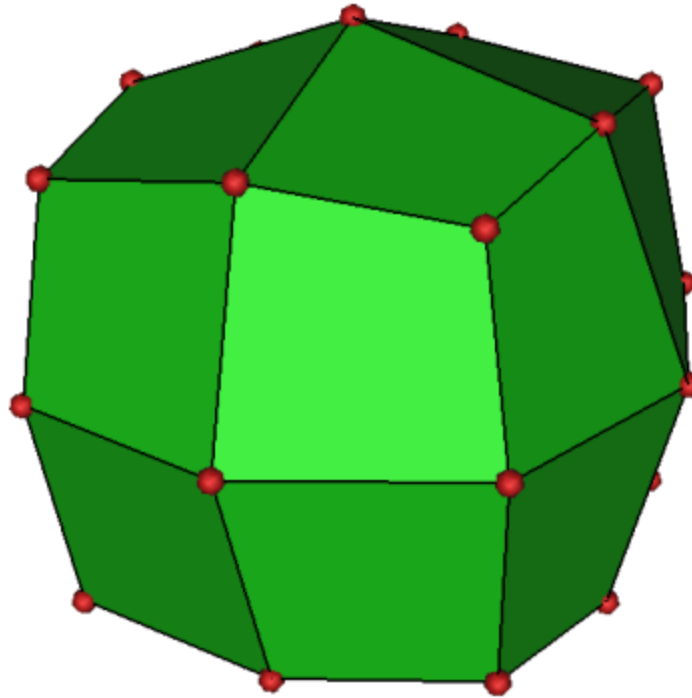
Topology refinement

Scott Schaefer

# Linear Subdivision



- Example



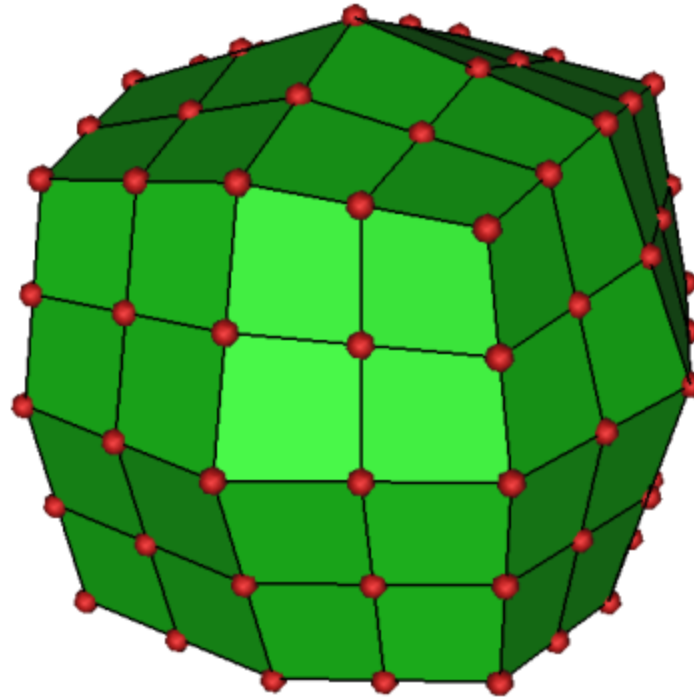
Geometry refinement

Scott Schaefer

# Linear Subdivision



- Example



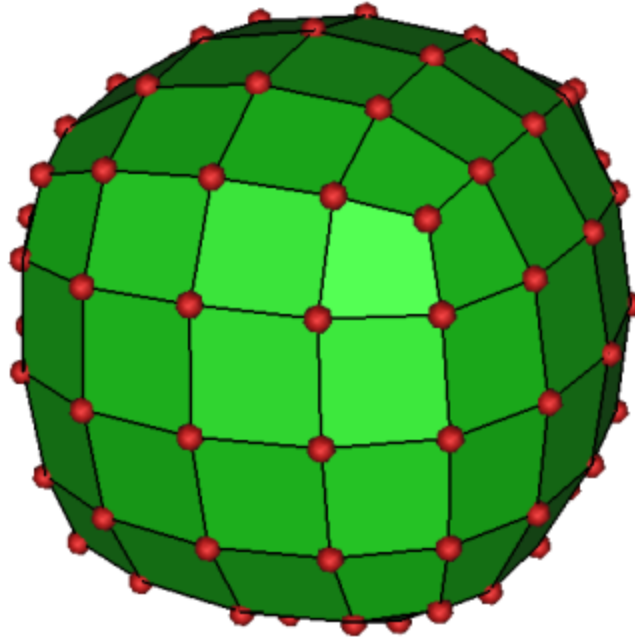
Topology refinement

Scott Schaefer

# Linear Subdivision



- Example



Geometry refinement

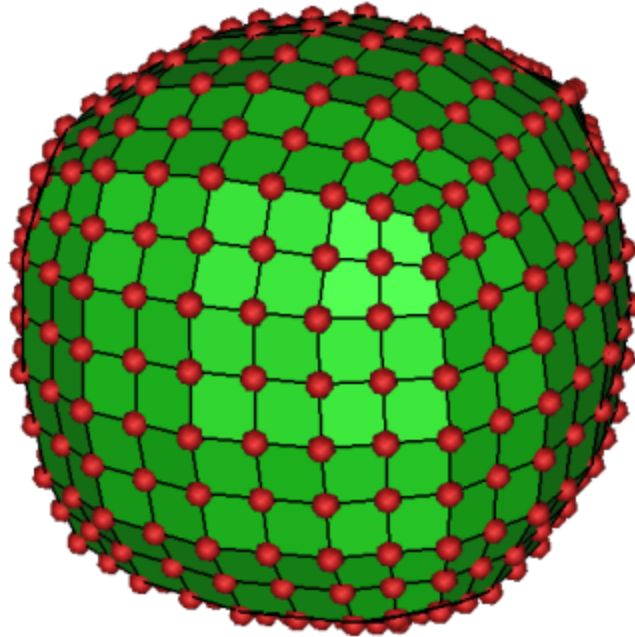
Scott Schaefer



# Linear Subdivision



- Example



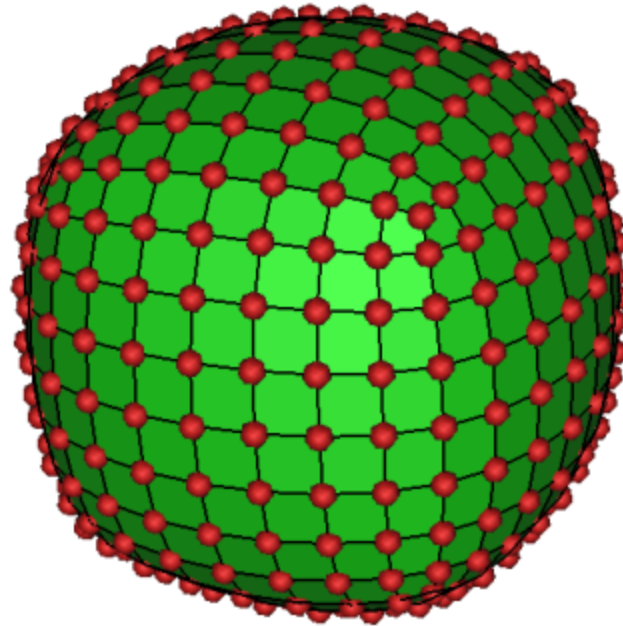
Topology refinement

Scott Schaefer

# Linear Subdivision



- Example



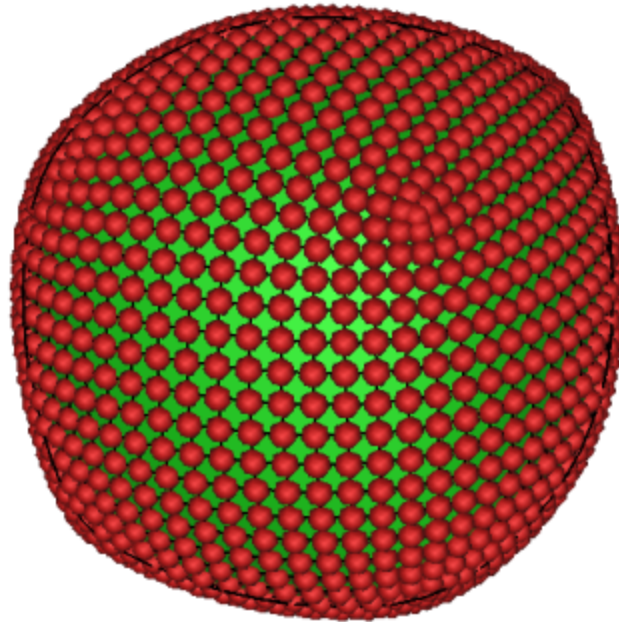
Geometry refinement

Scott Schaefer

# Linear Subdivision



- Example



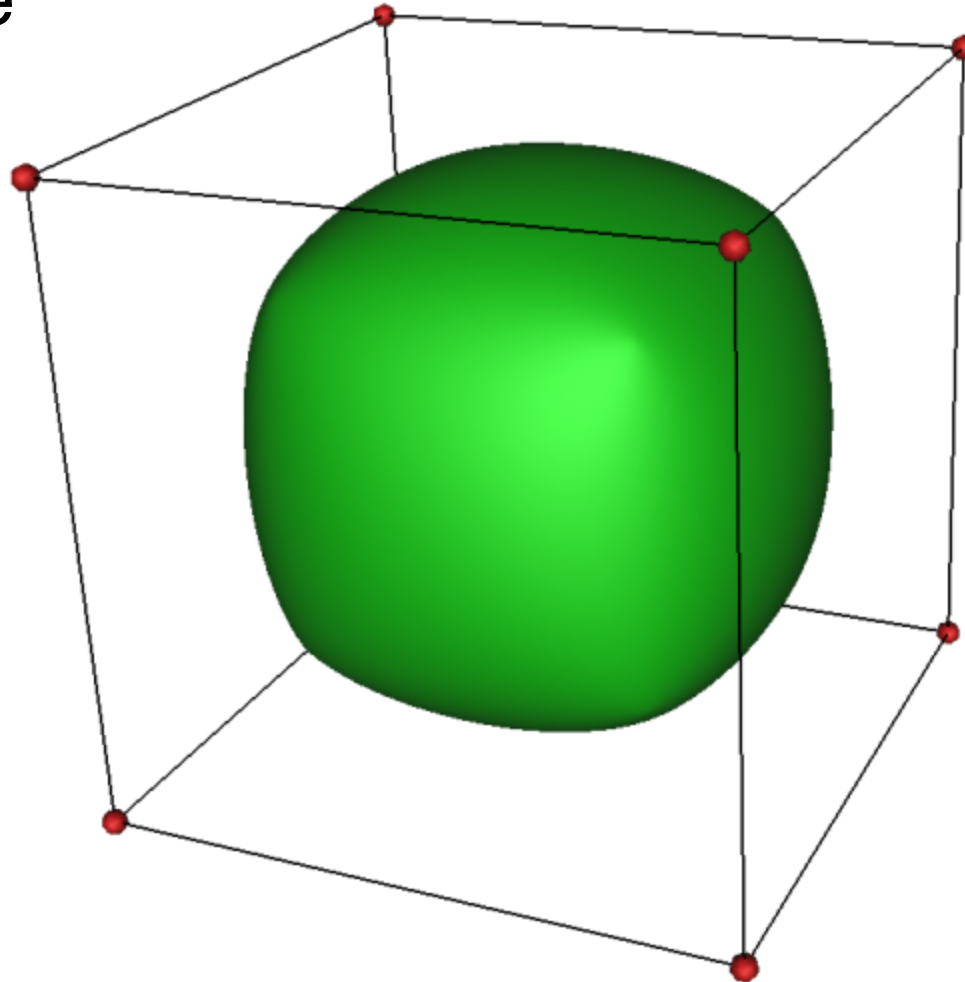
Topology refinement

Scott Schaefer

# Linear Subdivision



- Example



Final result

Scott Schaefer

# Subdivision Schemes

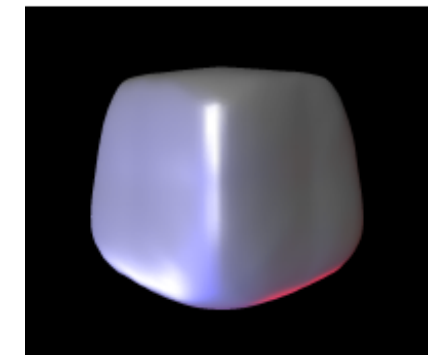
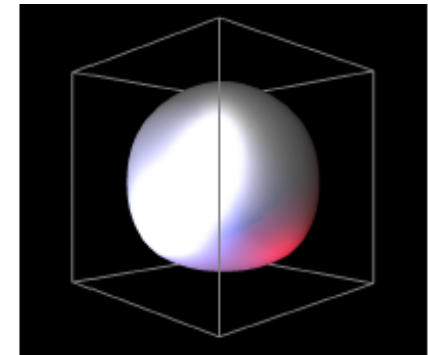
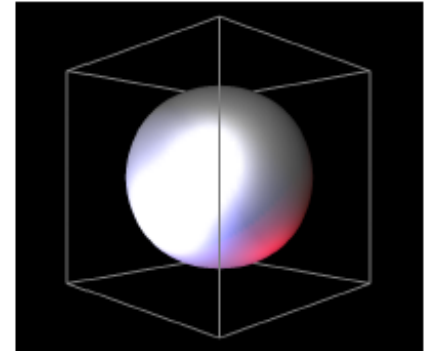


- Common subdivision schemes
  - Catmull-Clark
  - Loop
  - Many others

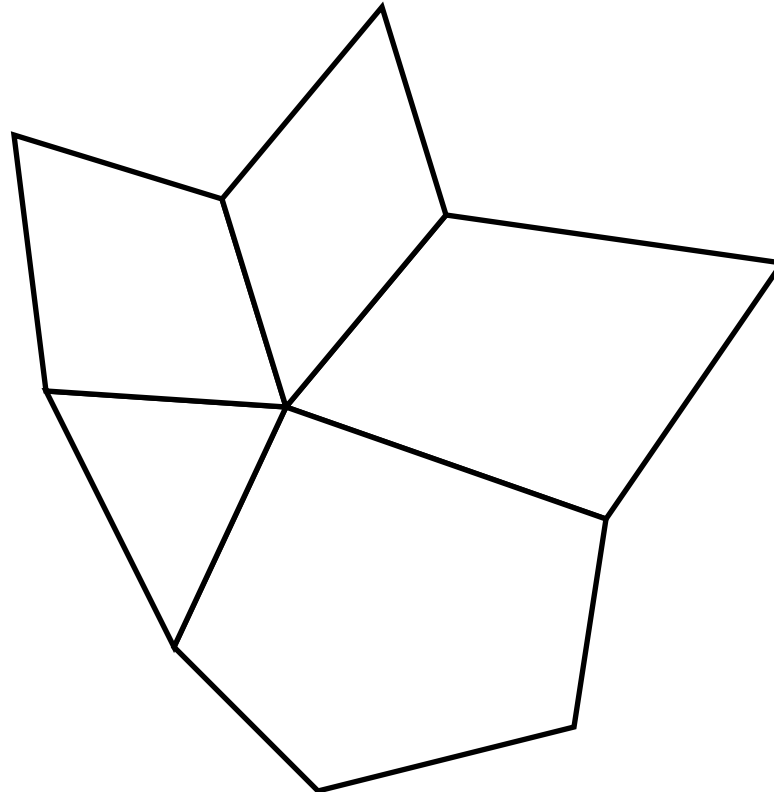
- Differ in ...
  - Input topology
  - How refine topology
  - How refine geometry

... which makes differences in ...

- Provable properties

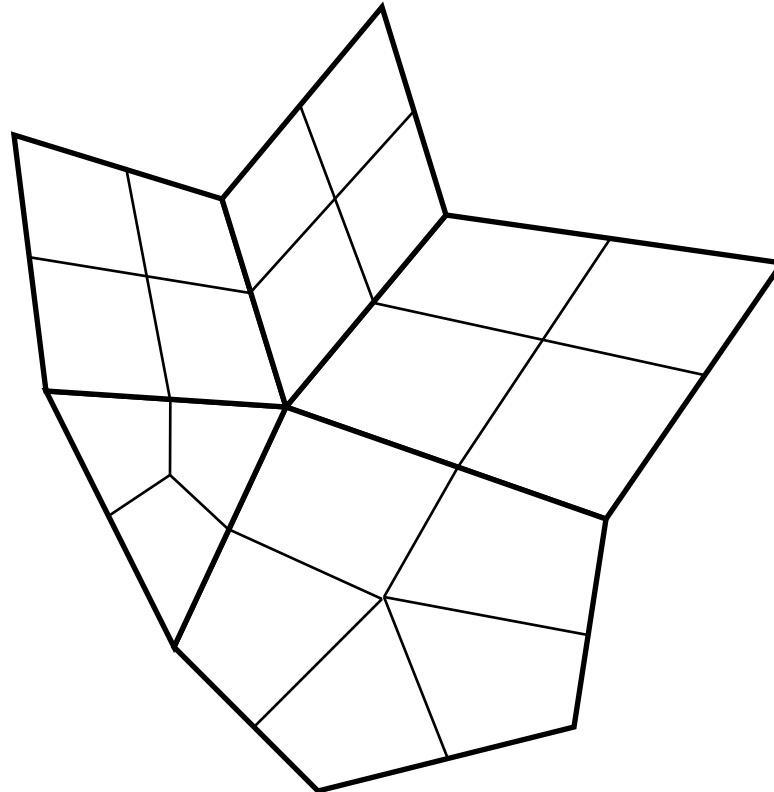


# Catmull-Clark Subdivision



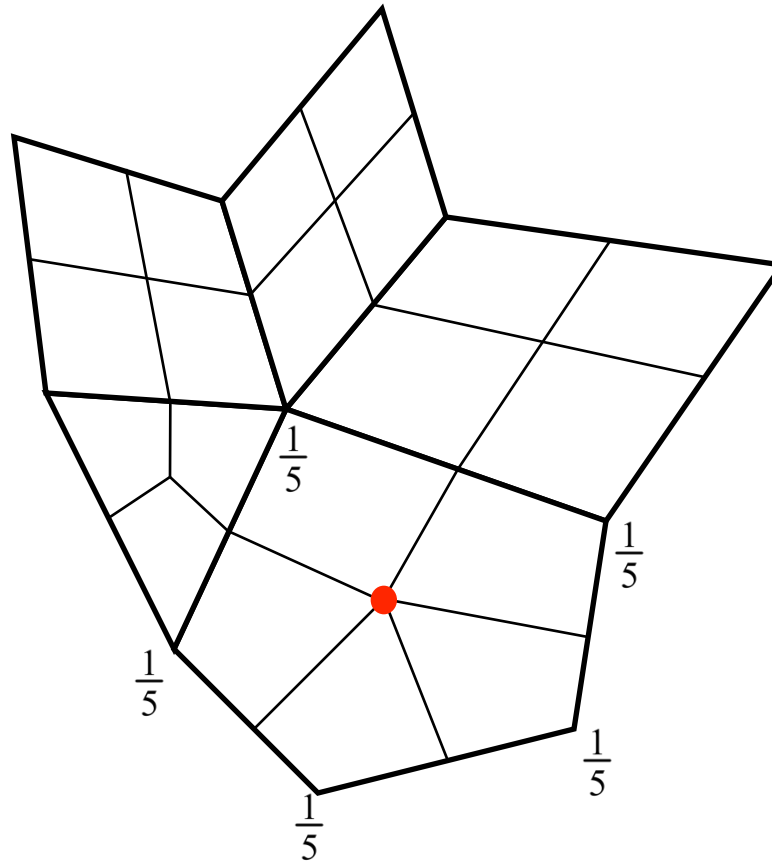
Scott Schaefer

# Catmull-Clark Subdivision



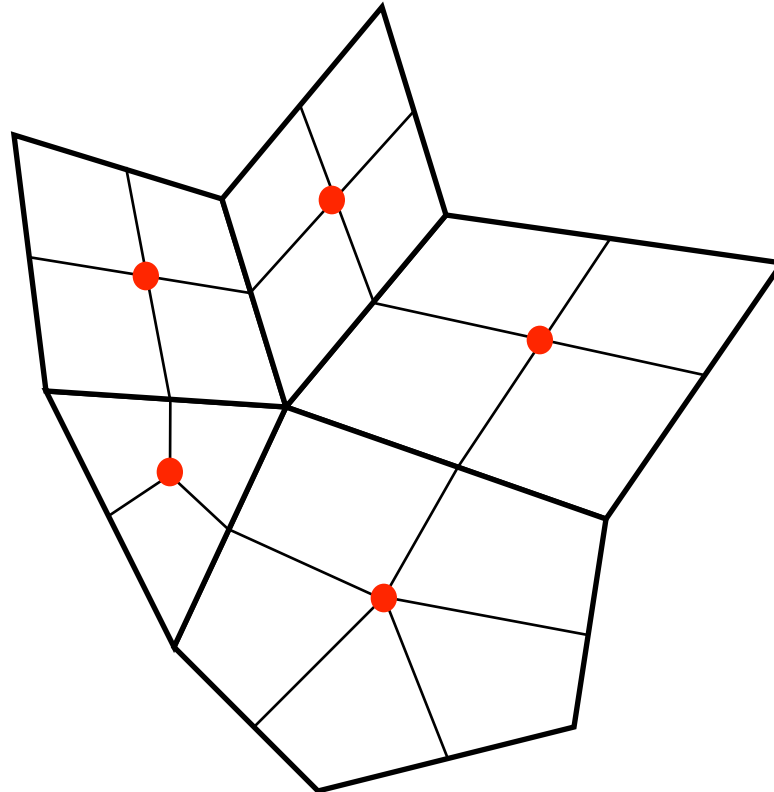
Scott Schaefer

# Catmull-Clark Subdivision

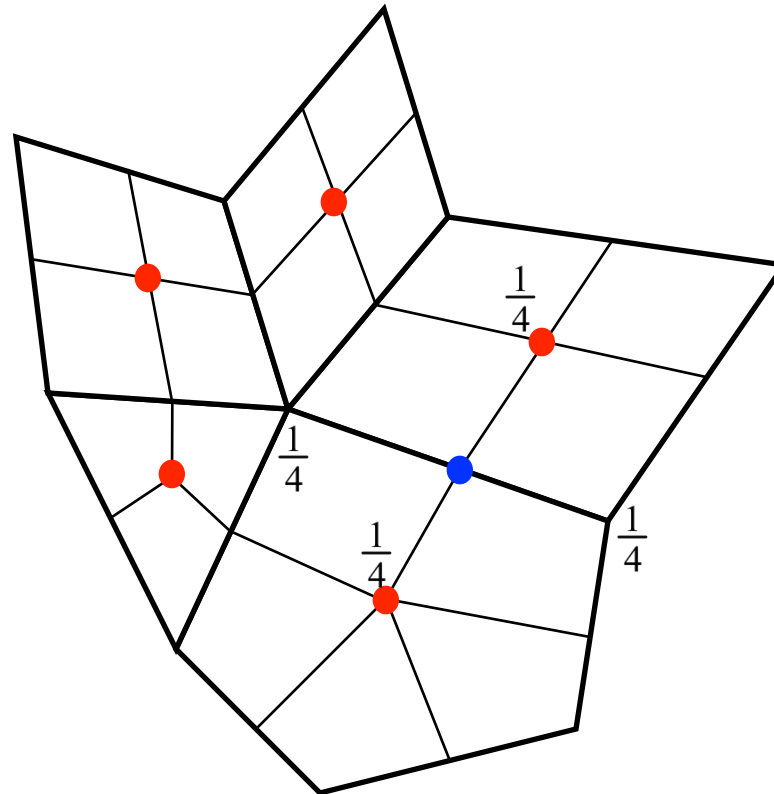




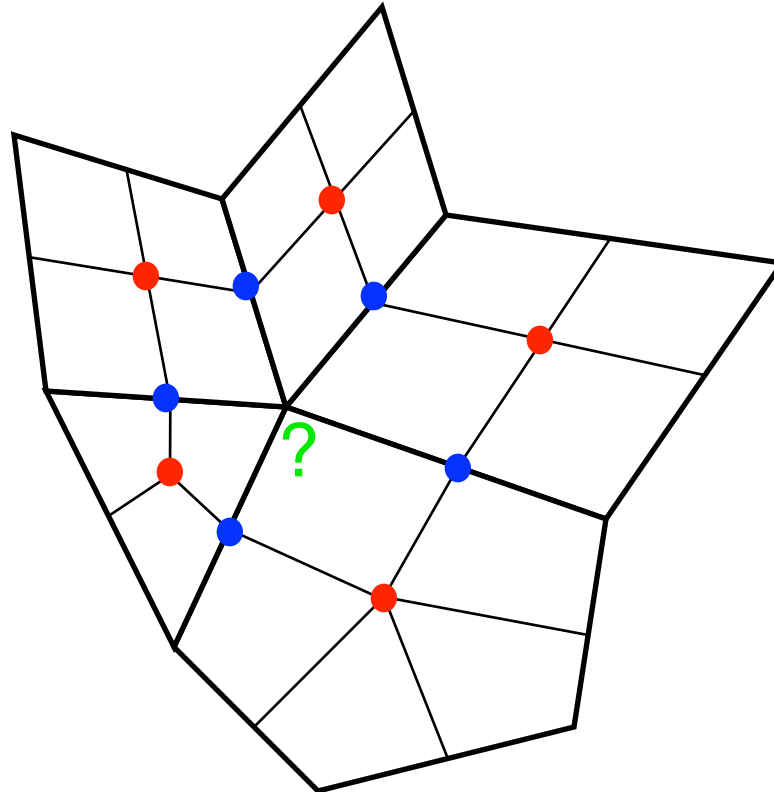
# Catmull-Clark Subdivision



# Catmull-Clark Subdivision



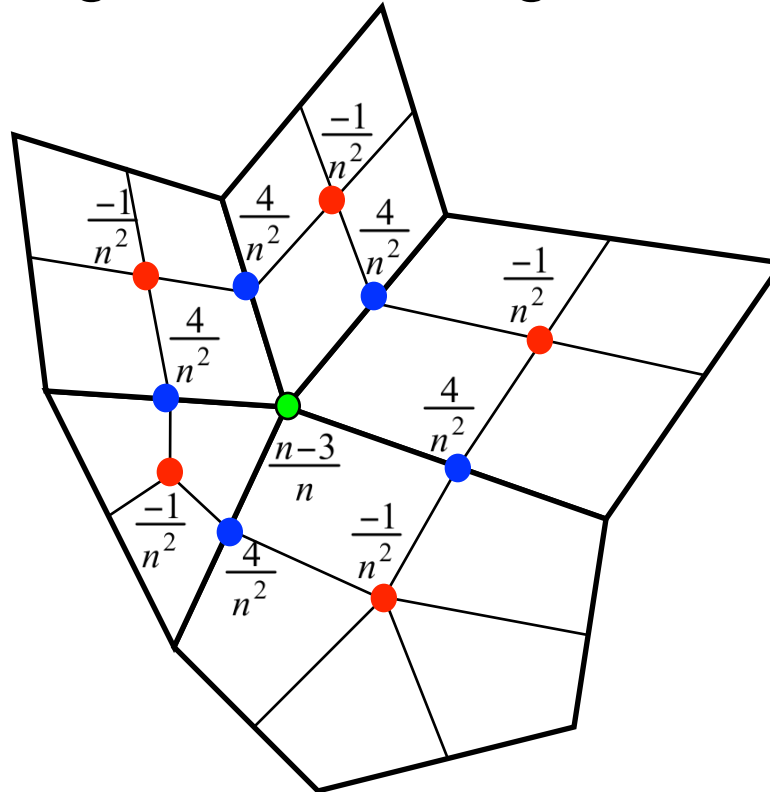
# Catmull-Clark Subdivision



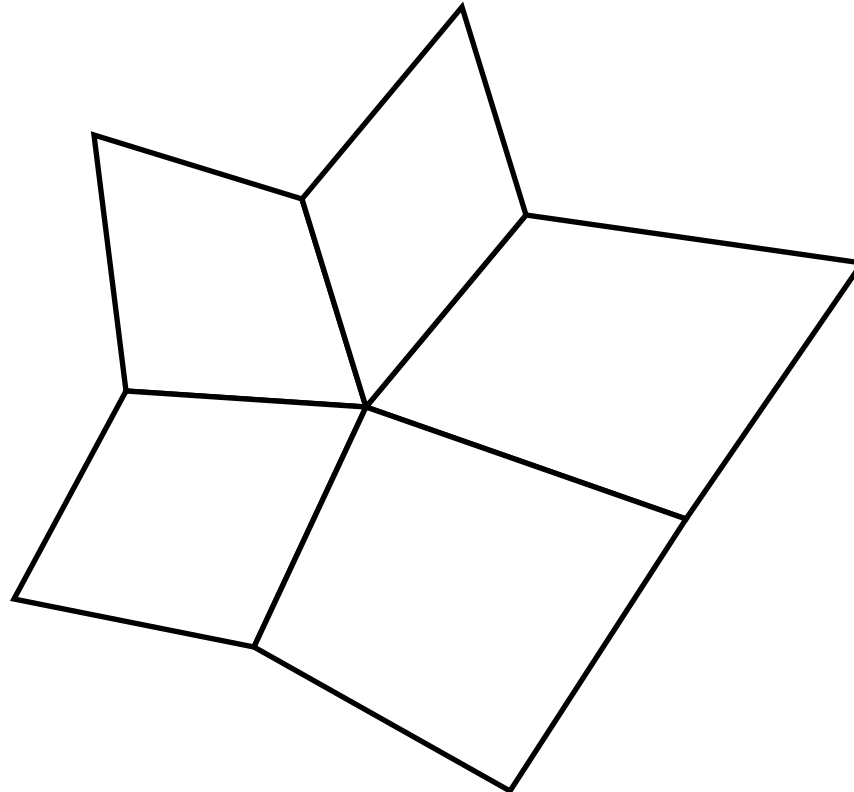


# Catmull-Clark Subdivision

$$\text{New } \bullet = \left( 4 * \text{avg of } \bullet - 1 * \text{avg of } \bullet + (n-3) * \bullet \right) / n$$

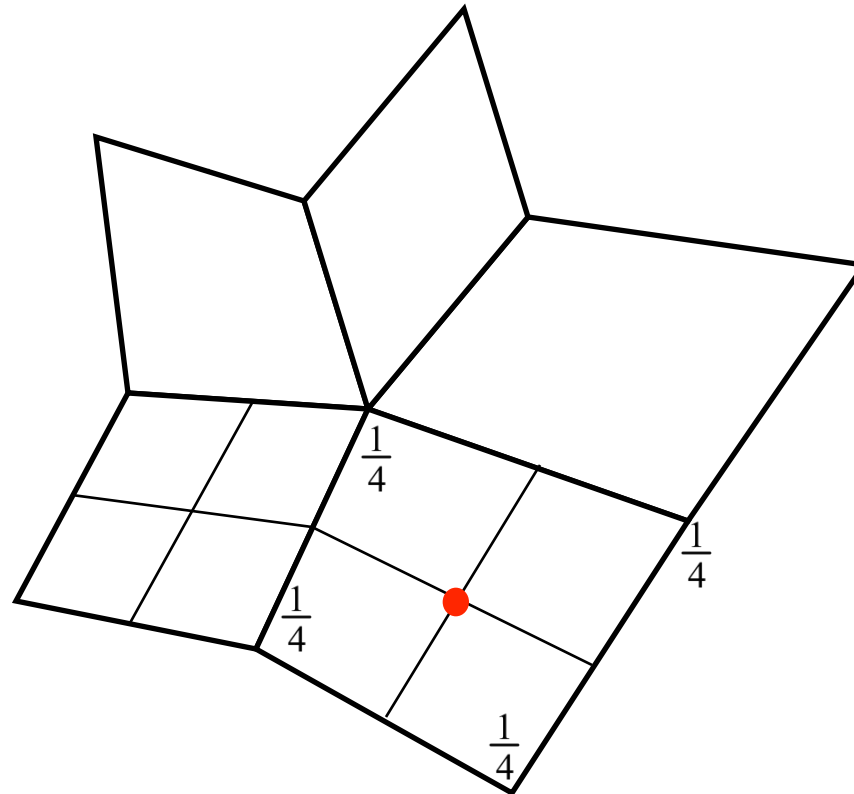


# Catmull-Clark Subdivision

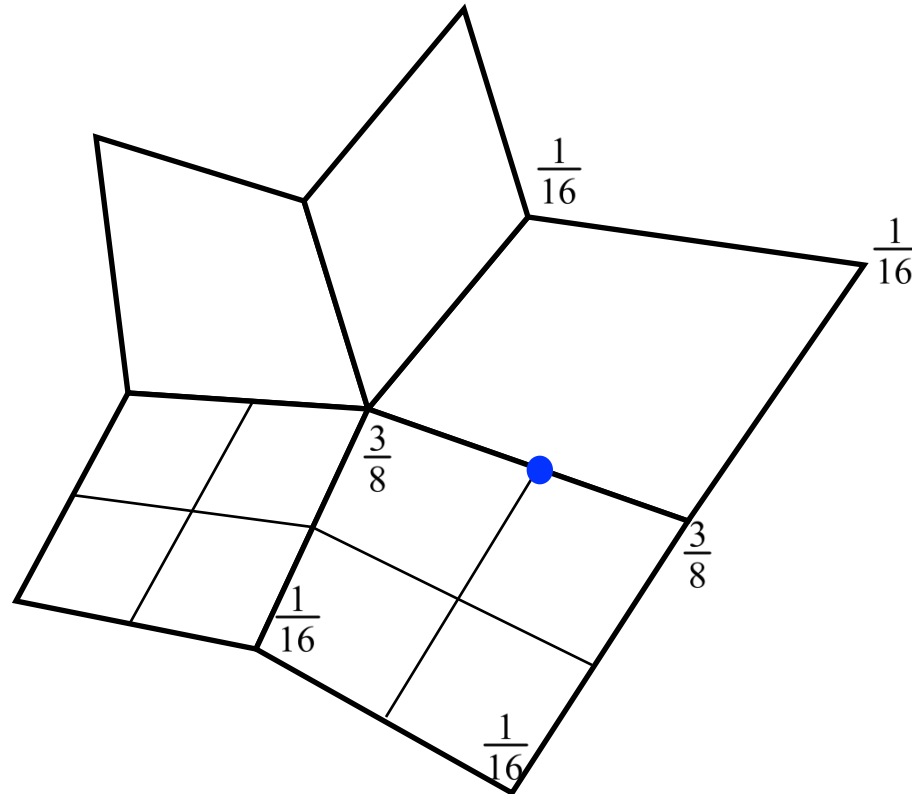


Scott Schaefer

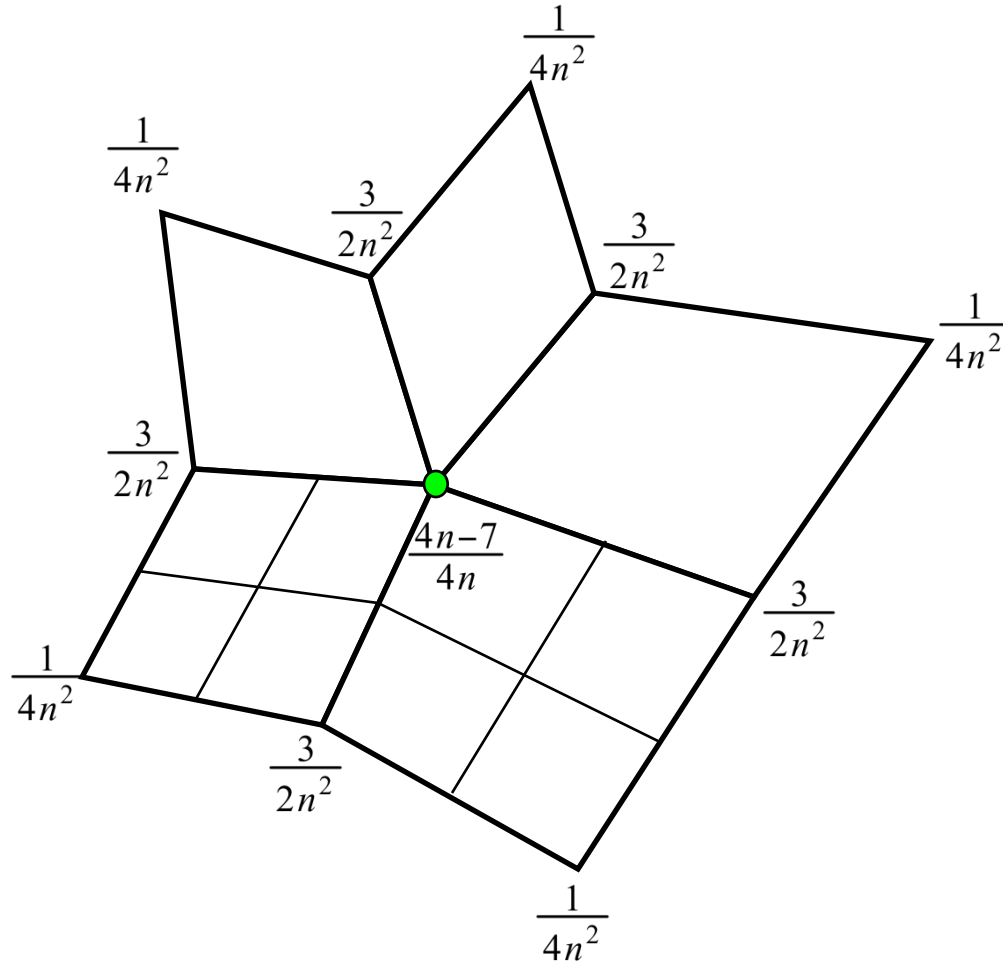
# Catmull-Clark Subdivision



# Catmull-Clark Subdivision



# Catmull-Clark Subdivision





# Catmull-Clark Subdivision



Linear  
Subdivision



Catmull-Clark  
Subdivision

# Catmull-Clark Subdivision



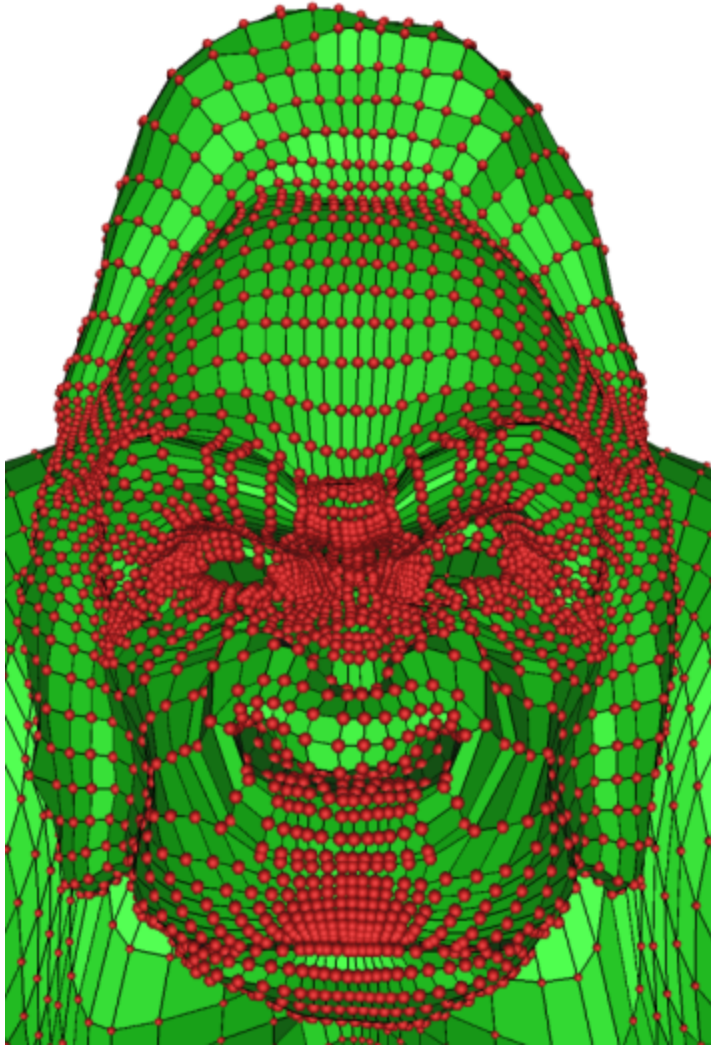
Scott Schaefer

# Catmull-Clark Subdivision



Scott Schaefer

# Catmull-Clark Subdivision



Scott Schaefer

# Catmull-Clark Subdivision



Scott Schaefer



# Catmull-Clark Subdivision

- One round of subdivision produces all quads
- Smoothness of limit surface
  - $C^2$  almost everywhere
  - $C^1$  at vertices with valence  $\neq 4$
- Relationship to control mesh
  - Does not interpolate input vertices
  - Within convex hull
- Most commonly used subdivision scheme in the movies...



Pixar



# Catmull-Clark Subdivision



Geri's Game

Pixar

# Subdivision Schemes

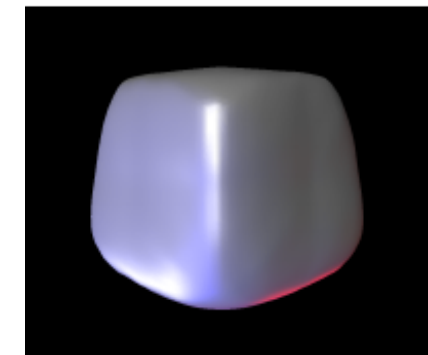
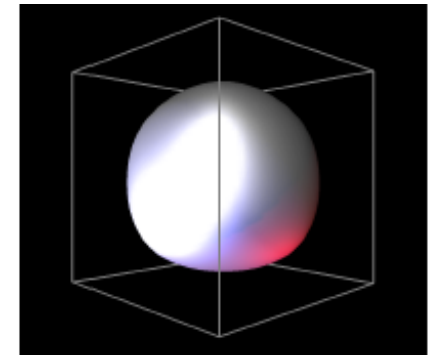
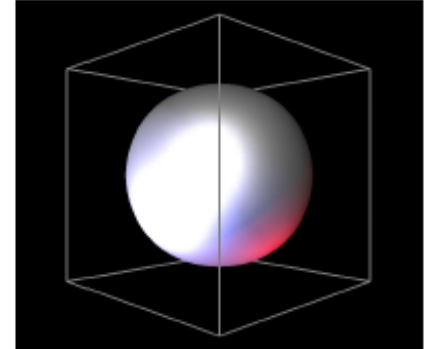


- Common subdivision schemes
  - Catmull-Clark
  - Loop
  - Many others

- Differ in ...
  - Input topology
  - How refine topology
  - How refine geometry

... which makes differences in ...

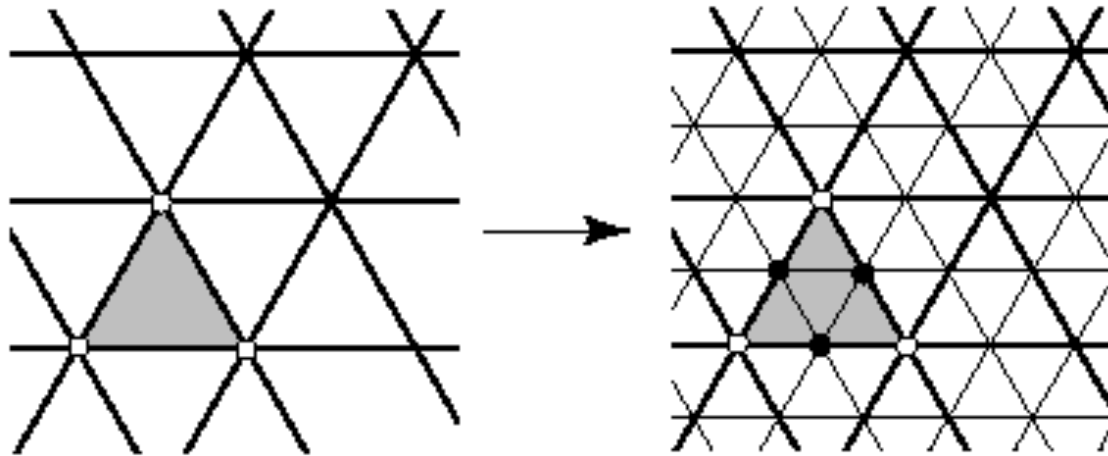
- Provable properties





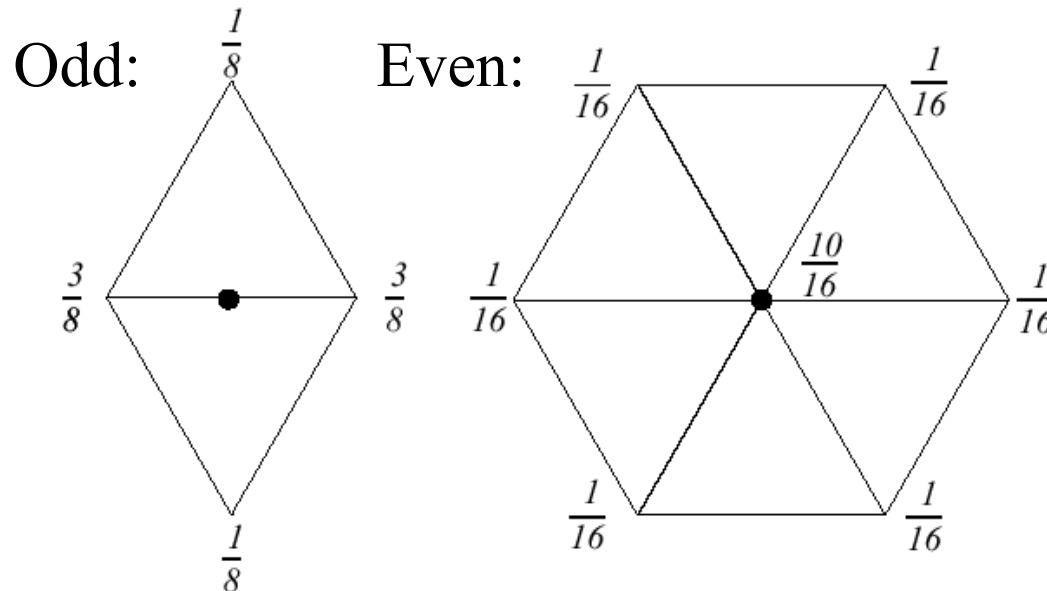
# Loop Subdivision

- Operates on pure triangle meshes
- Subdivision rules
  - Linear subdivision
  - Averaging rules for “even / odd” (white / black) vertices



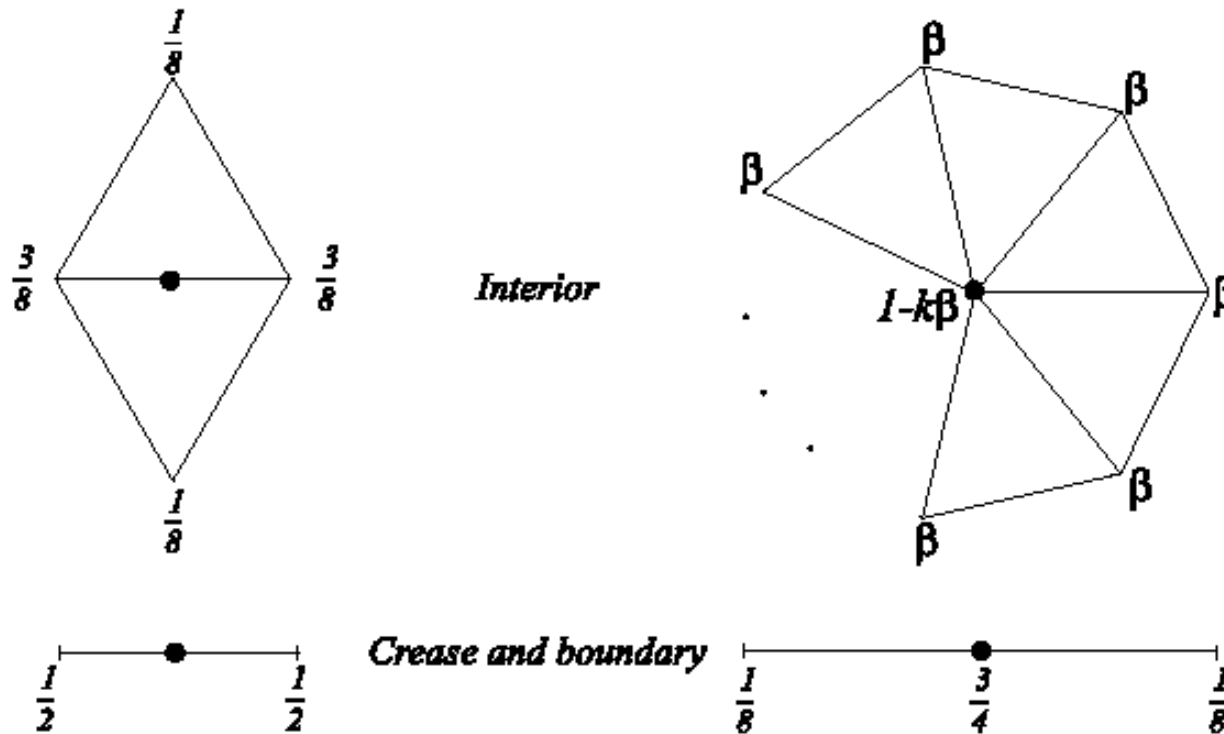
# Loop Subdivision

- Averaging rules
  - Weights for “odd” and “even” vertices



# Loop Subdivision

- Rules for *extraordinary vertices* and *boundaries*:



a. Masks for odd vertices

b. Masks for even vertices



# Loop Subdivision

- How to choose  $\beta$ ?
  - Analyze properties of limit surface
  - Interested in continuity of surface and smoothness
  - Involves calculating eigenvalues of matrices

» Original Loop

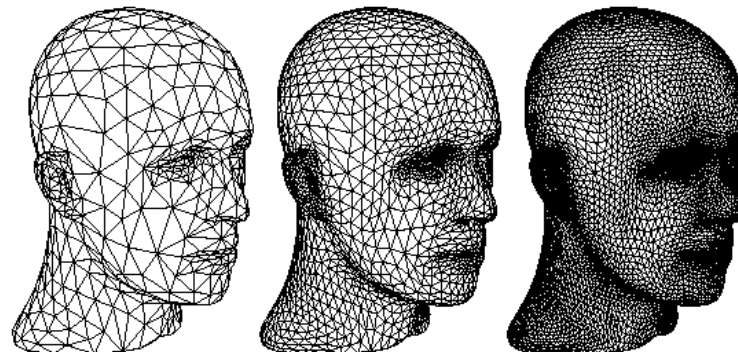
$$\beta = \frac{1}{n} \left( \frac{5}{8} - \left( \frac{3}{8} + \frac{1}{4} \cos \frac{2\pi}{n} \right)^2 \right)$$

» Warren

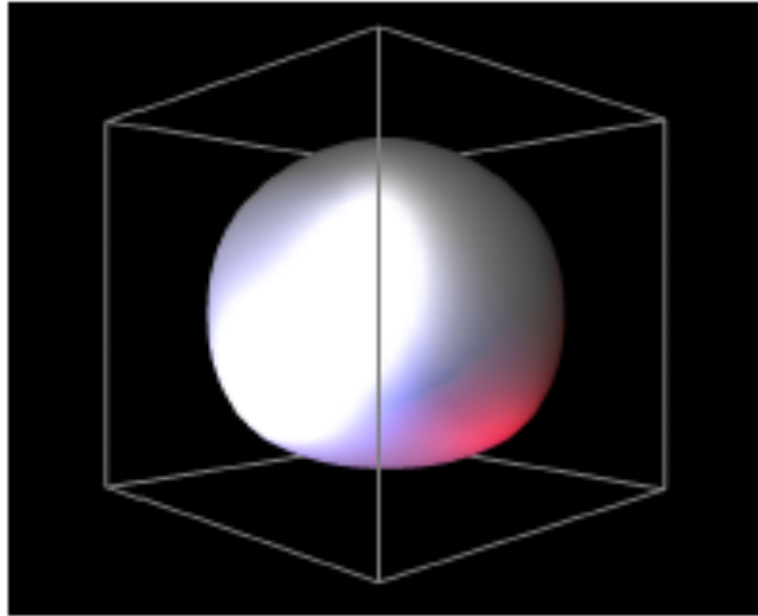
$$\beta = \begin{cases} \frac{3}{8n} & n > 3 \\ \frac{3}{16} & n = 3 \end{cases}$$

# Loop Subdivision

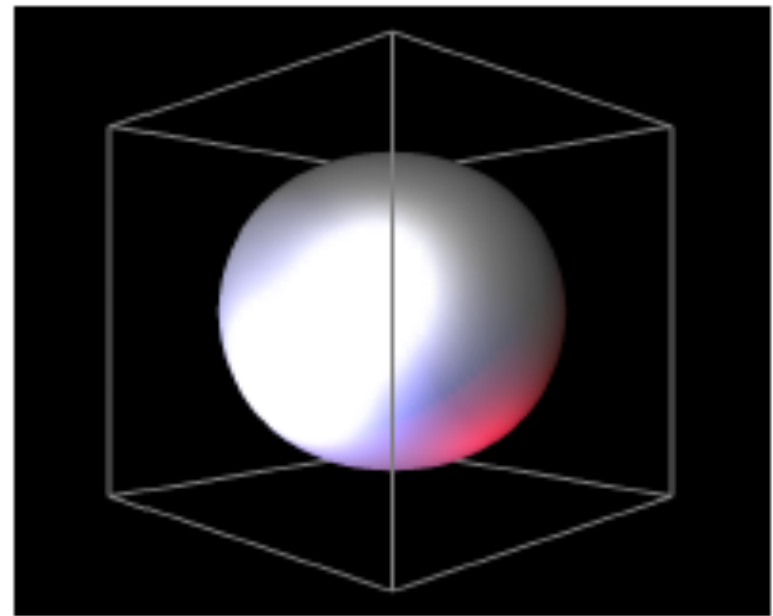
- Operates only on triangle meshes
- Smoothness of limit surface
  - $C^2$  almost everywhere
  - $C^1$  at vertices with valence  $\neq 6$
- Relationship to control mesh
  - Does not interpolate input vertices
  - Within convex hull



# Subdivision Schemes

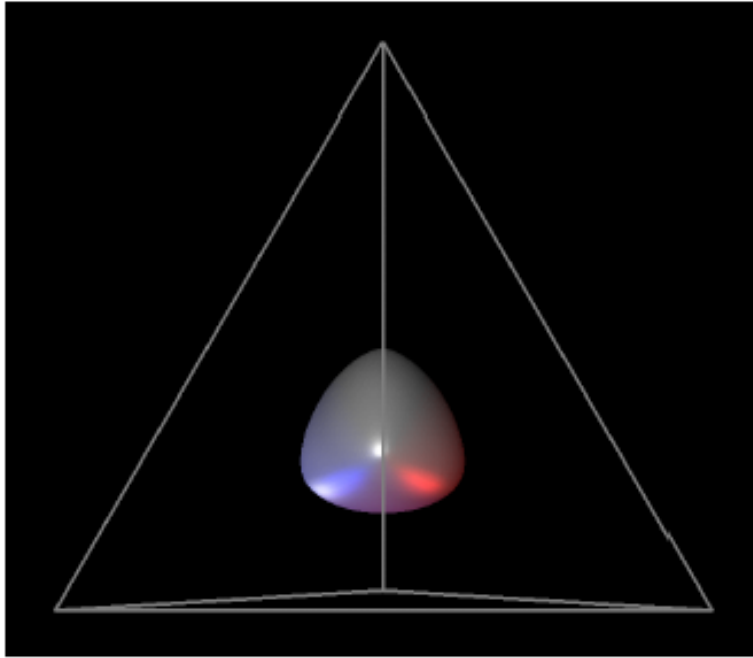


Loop

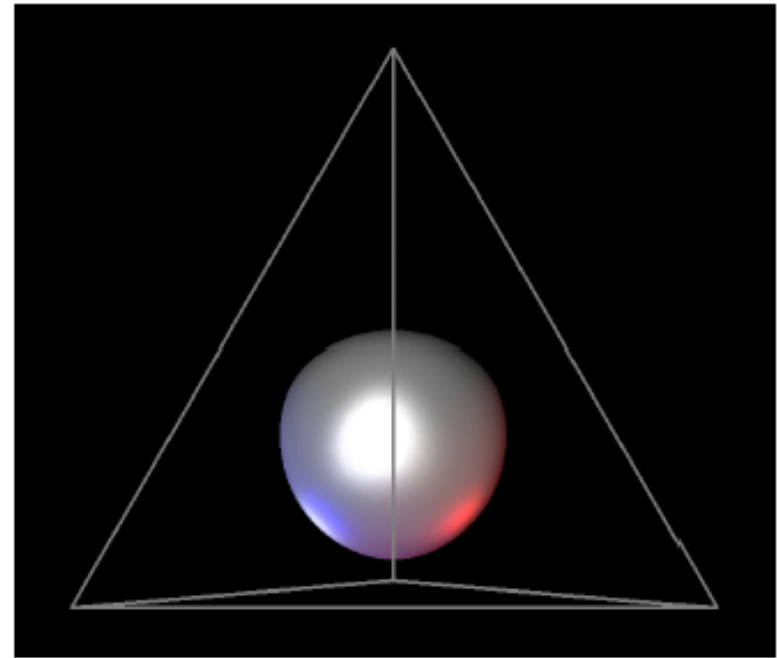


Catmull-Clark

# Subdivision Schemes



Loop



Catmull-Clark

# Subdivision Schemes

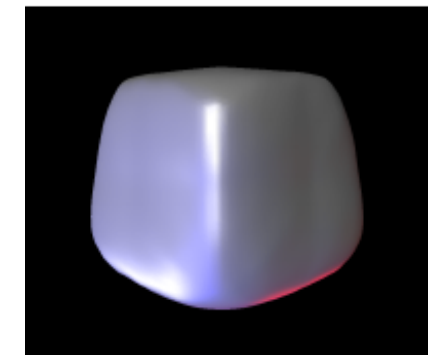
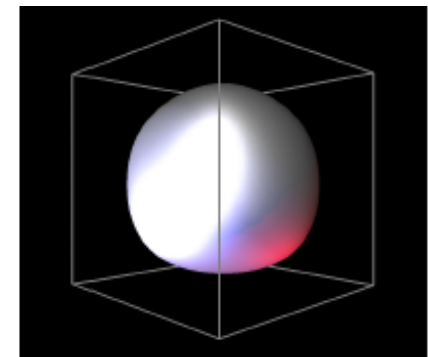
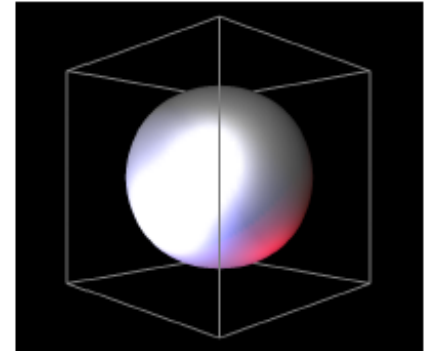


- Common subdivision schemes
  - Catmull-Clark
  - Loop
  - Many others

- Differ in ...
  - Input topology
  - How refine topology
  - How refine geometry

... which makes differences in ...

- Provable properties







# Subdivision Schemes

- Other subdivision schemes

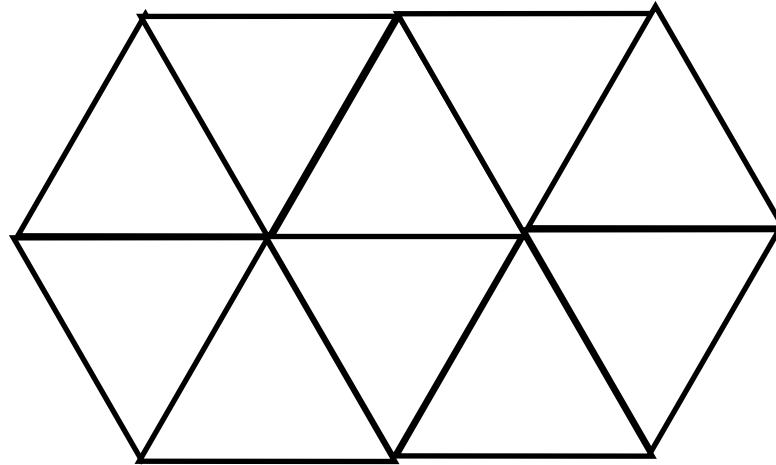
Face split		
	<i>Triangular meshes</i>	<i>Quad. meshes</i>
<i>Approximating</i>	Loop ( $C^2$ )	Catmull-Clark ( $C^2$ )
<i>Interpolating</i>	Mod. Butterfly ( $C^1$ )	Kobbelt ( $C^1$ )

Vertex split
Doo-Sabin, Midedge ( $C^1$ )
Biquartic ( $C^2$ )

# Other Subdivision Schemes



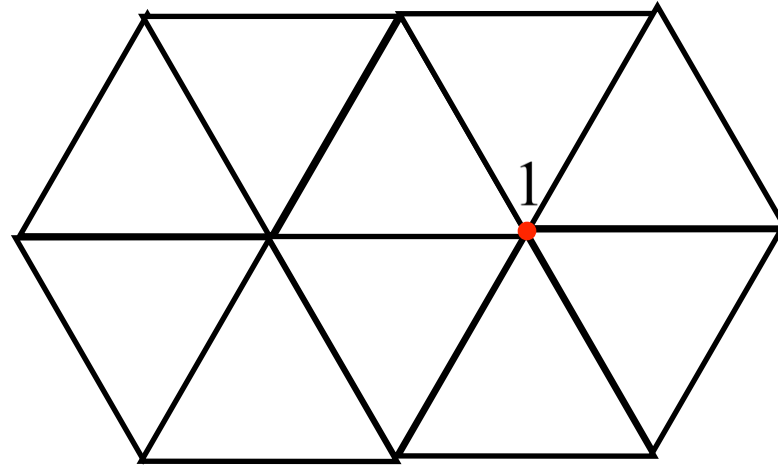
- Butterfly subdivision



# Other Subdivision Schemes



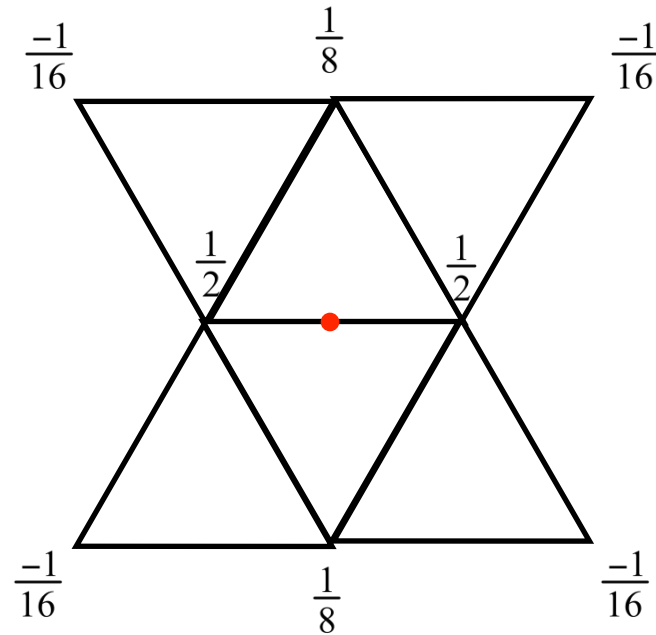
- Butterfly subdivision



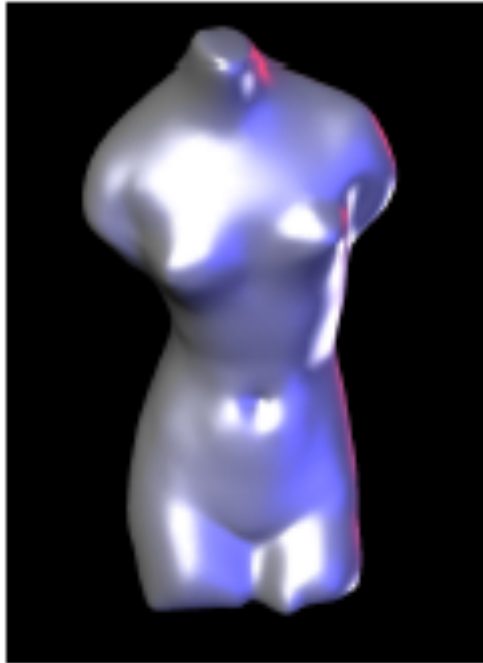
# Other Subdivision Schemes



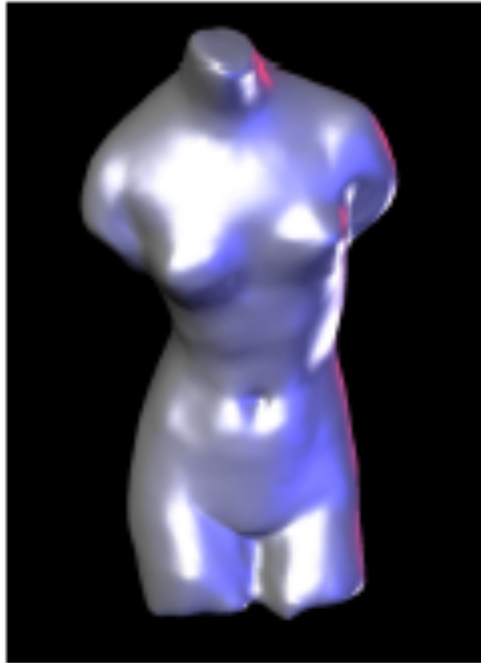
- Butterfly subdivision



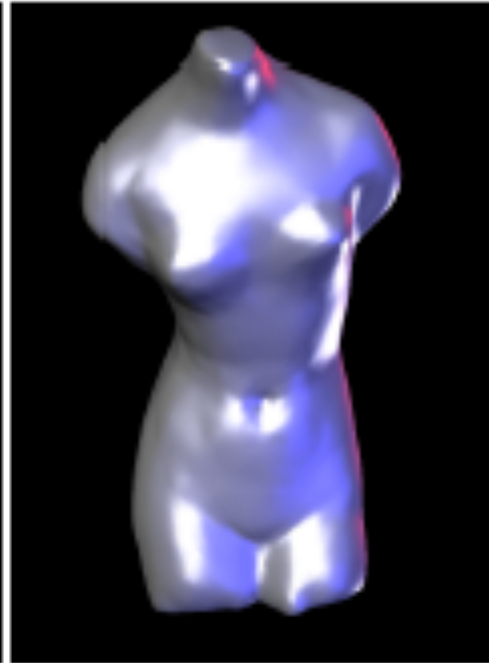
# Other Subdivision Schemes



Loop



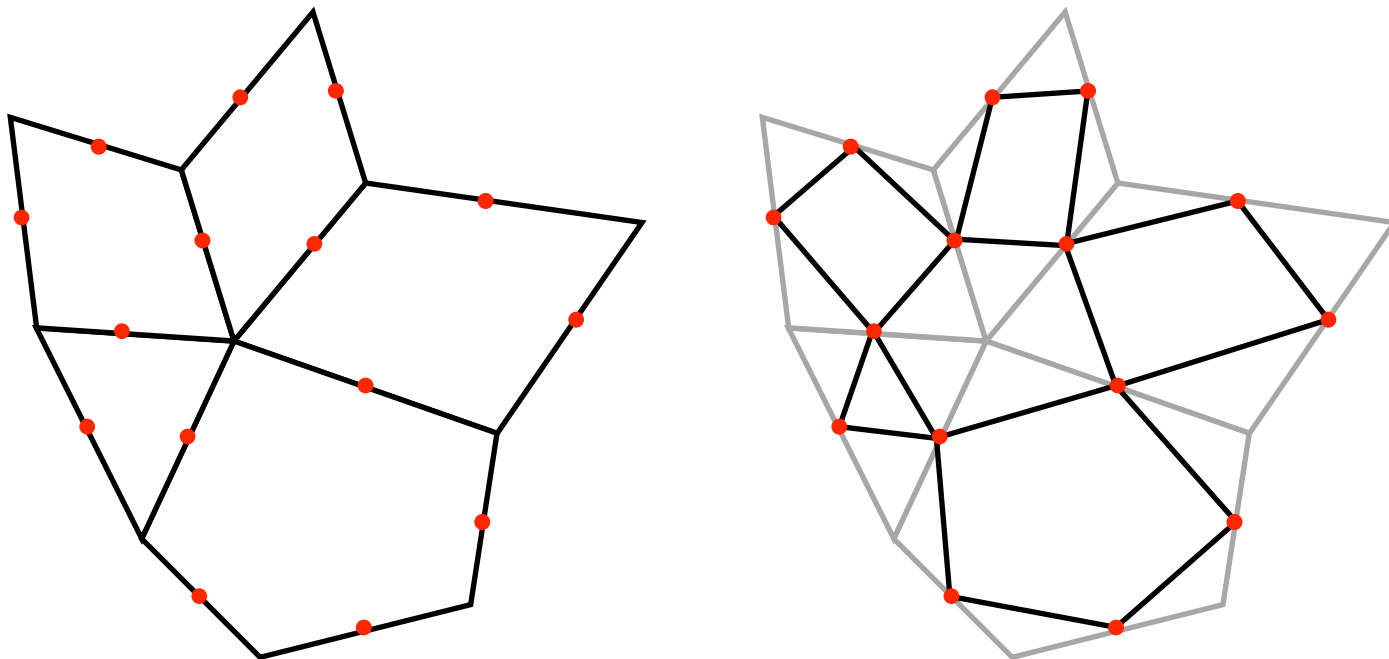
Butterfly



Catmull-Clark

# Other Subdivision Schemes

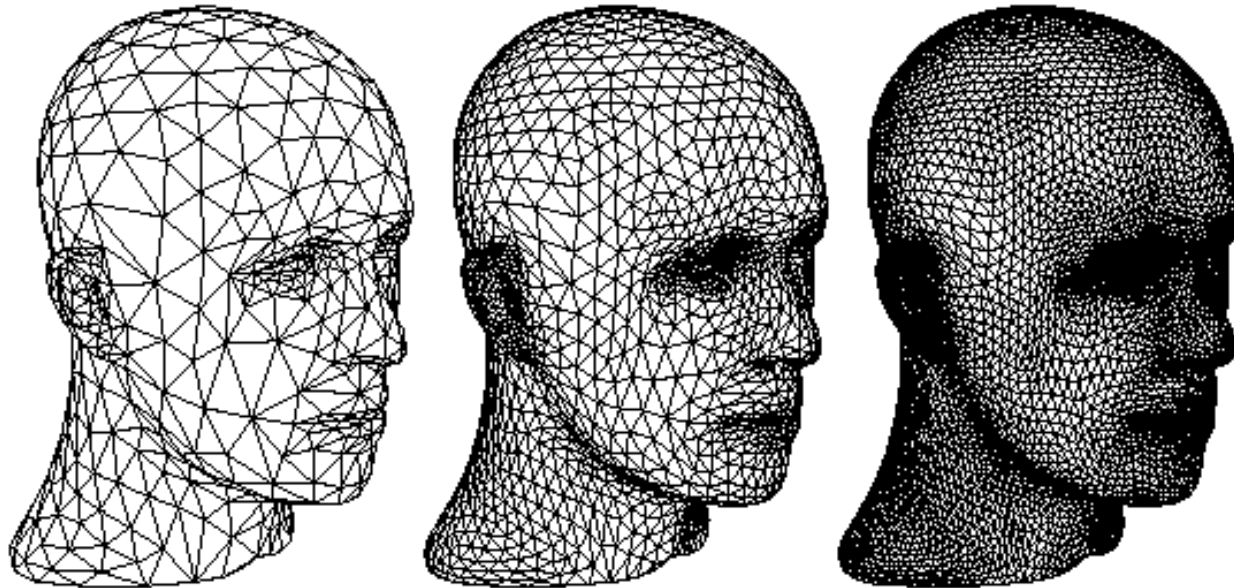
- Vertex-split subdivision  
(Doo-Sabin, Midedge, Biquartic)



One step of Midedge subdivision

# Drawing Subdivision Surfaces

- Goal:
  - Draw best approximation of smooth limit surface
  - With limited triangle budget



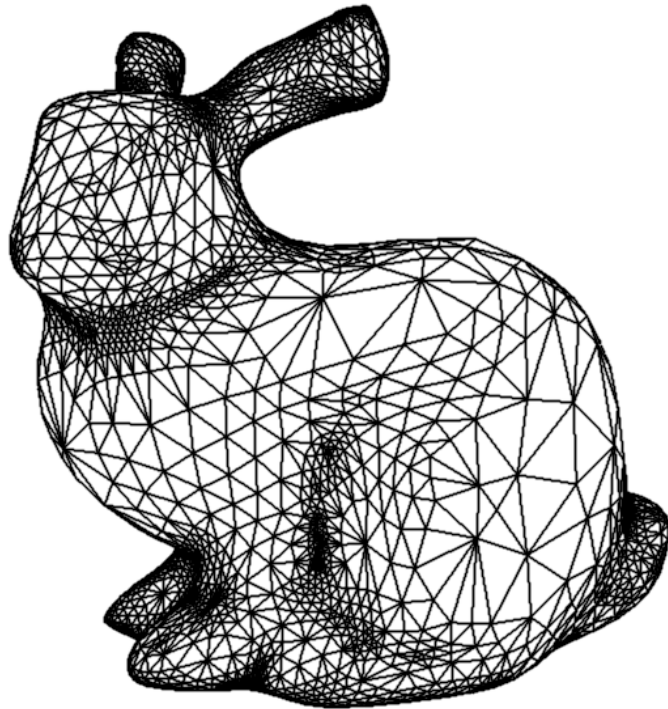


# Drawing Subdivision Surfaces

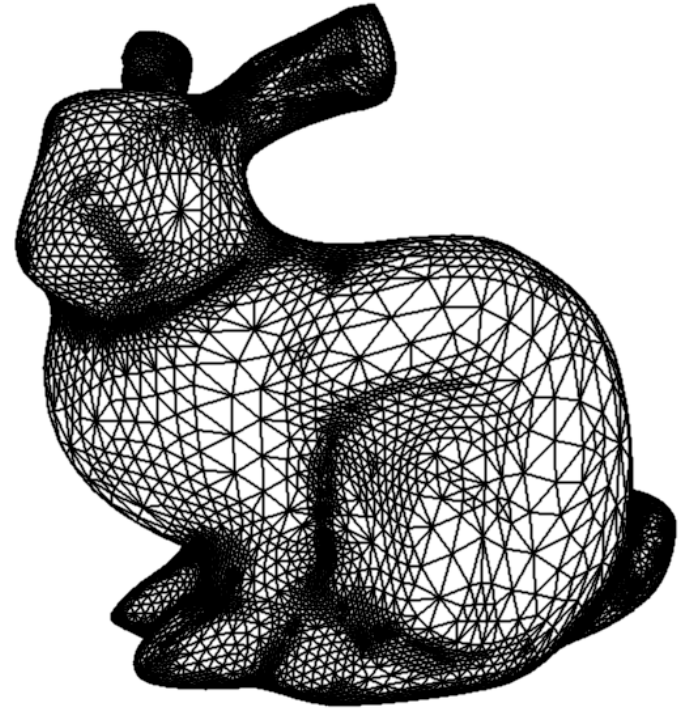
- Goal:
  - Draw best approximation of smooth limit surface
  - With limited triangle budget
- Solution:
  - Stop subdivision at different levels across the surface
  - Stop-criterion depending on quality measure
- Quality of approximation can be defined by
  - Projected (screen) area of final triangles
  - Local surface curvature



# Adaptive Subdivision



10072 Triangles



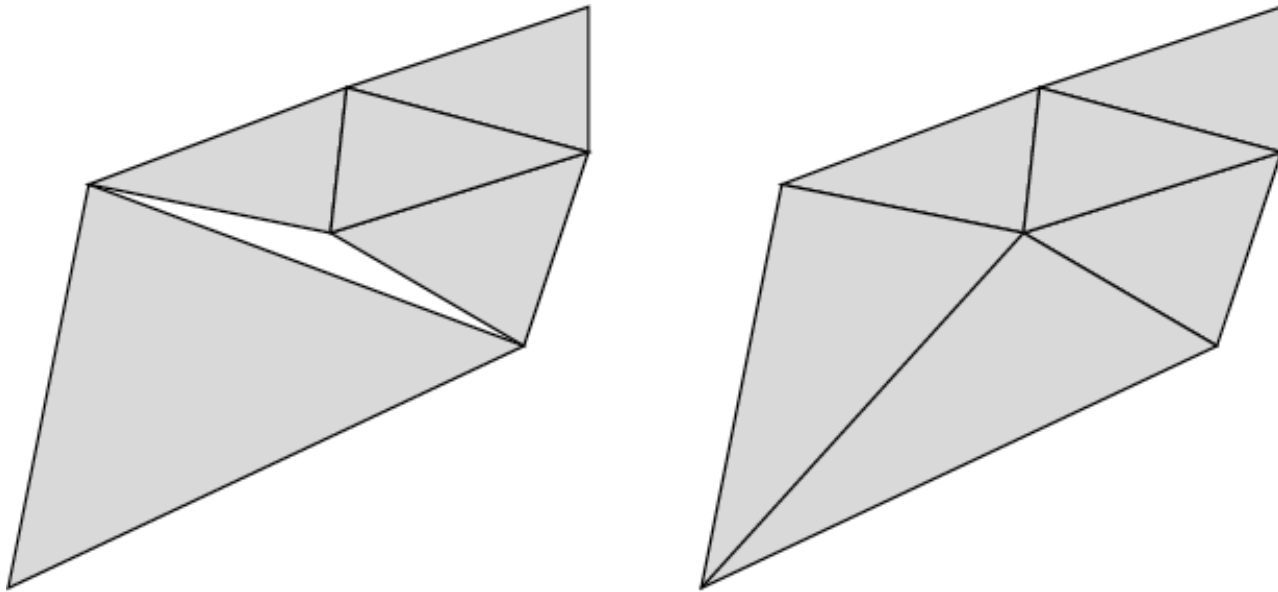
228654 Triangles

[Kobbelt 2000]

# Adaptive Subdivision



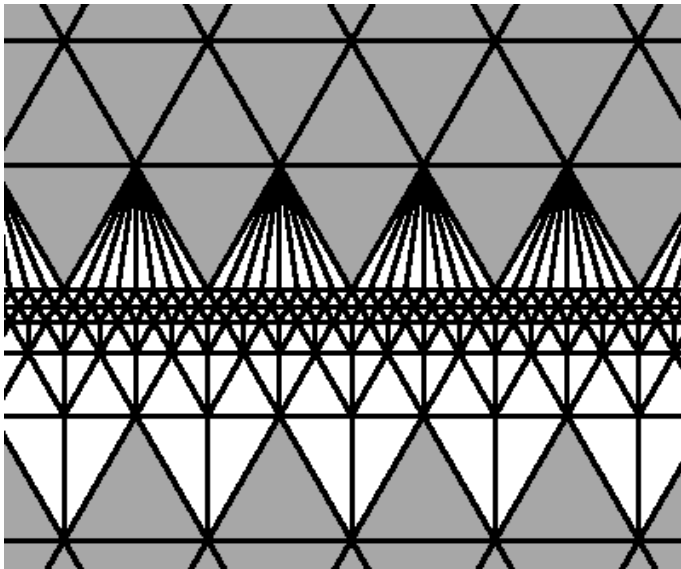
- Problem:
  - Different levels of subdivision may lead to gaps in the surface



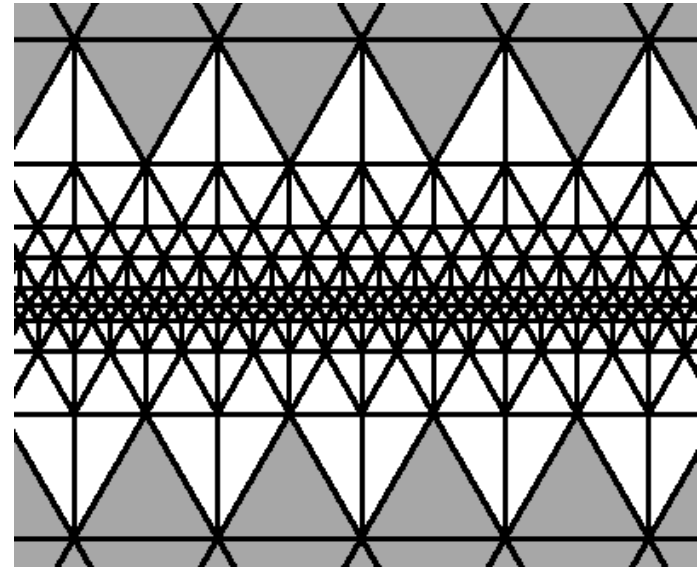
# Adaptive Subdivision



- Solution:
  - Replacing incompatible coarse triangles by *triangle fan*
  - Balanced subdivision: neighboring subdivision levels must not differ by more than one



Unbalanced



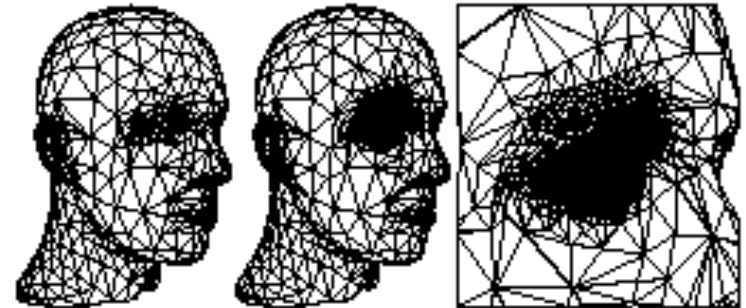
Balanced

[Kobbelt 2000]

# Subdivision Surface Summary



- Advantages:
  - Simple method for describing complex surfaces
  - Relatively easy to implement
  - Arbitrary topology
  - Intuitive specification
  - Local support
  - Guaranteed continuity
  - Multiresolution



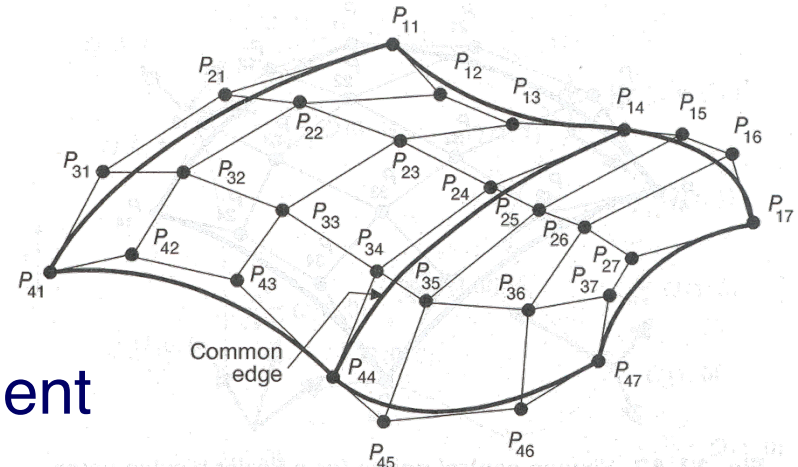
- Difficulties:
  - Parameterization
  - Intersections

# Comparison



## Parametric surfaces

- Provide parameterization
- More restriction on topology of control mesh
- Some require careful placement of control mesh vertices to guarantee continuity (e.g., Bezier)



## Subdivision surfaces

- No parameterization
- Subdivision rules can be defined for arbitrary topologies
- Provable continuity for all placements of control mesh vertices

# Comparison



Feature	Polygonal Mesh	Parametric Surface	Subdivision Surface
Accurate	No	Yes	Yes
Concise	No	Yes	Yes
Intuitive specification	No	Yes	Yes
Local support	Yes	Yes	Yes
Affine invariant	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arbitrary topology	Yes	No	Yes
Guaranteed continuity	No	Yes	Yes
Natural parameterization	No	Yes	No
Efficient display	Yes	Yes	Yes
Efficient intersections	No	No	No