## Robust Inside-Outside Segmentation using Generalized Winding Numbers

Alec Jacobson

Ladislav Kavan

Olga Sorkine-Hornung

Processing solid shapes requires volumetric representation


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## Explicit representations are essential

riangle mesh

tetrahedral mesh

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triangle mesh watertight

tetrahedral mesh made by TETGEN

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## Explicit representations are essential

triangle mesh watertight

tetrahedral mesh made by TETGEN
quality elements varying density conform to input

## Apparent surface descriptions of solids are unmeshable with current tools



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## Meshes are often output of human creativity



## Treating as scanned objects is inappropriate



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## Volume mesh should conform to input


only 4000 vertices
our output tet mesh only 4500 vertices

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only 4000 vertices
our output tet mesh only 4500 vertices

# Can mesh the entire convex hull, but what's inside? What's outside? 



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## Generalized function indicates insideness



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## Generalized function indicates insideness



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## Generalized function indicates insideness



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## Generalized function indicates insideness



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## Generalized function indicates insideness



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## Function guides a crisp segmentation



## Function guides a crisp segmentation



## Function guides a crisp segmentation



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## Output is minimal, ripe for post-processing

Refined mesh using Tetgen, Stellar, etc.


# Idea: mesh entire convex hull, segment inside tets from outside ones 

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If shape is watertight, winding number is perfect measure of inside

$$
w(\mathbf{p})=\frac{1}{2 \pi} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} d \theta
$$

If shape is watertight,
winding number is perfect measure of inside

$$
w(\mathbf{p})=\frac{1}{2 \pi} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} d \theta
$$

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Winding number uses orientation to treat insideness as signed integer

$$
w(\mathbf{p})=\frac{1}{2 \pi} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} d \theta
$$

## Naive discretization is simple and exact

$$
w(\mathbf{p})=\frac{1}{2 \pi} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} d \theta
$$

$$
w(\mathbf{p})=\frac{1}{2 \pi} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \theta_{i}
$$



## Generalizes elegantly to 3D via solid angle



$$
w(\mathbf{p})=\frac{1}{4 \pi} \iint_{\mathcal{S}} \sin (\phi) d \theta d \phi
$$

$$
w(\mathbf{p})=\frac{1}{4 \pi} \sum_{f=1}^{m} \Omega_{f}
$$

What happens if the shape is open?
$w(\mathbf{p})=\frac{1}{2 \pi} \oint_{c} d \theta$


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What happens if the shape is open?

$$
w(\mathbf{p})=\frac{1}{2 \pi} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} d \theta
$$



What happens if the shape is open?

$$
w(\mathbf{p})=\frac{1}{2 \pi} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} d \theta
$$



What happens if the shape is open?

$$
w(\mathbf{p})=\frac{1}{2 \pi} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} d \theta
$$



## What happens if the shape is open?

$w(\mathbf{p})=\frac{1}{2 \pi} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} d \theta$


Gracefully tends toward perfect indicator as shape tends towards watertight

What if shape is self-intersecting? Non-manifold?

$$
w(\mathbf{p})=\frac{1}{2 \pi} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} d \theta
$$



## Winding number jumps across boundaries, otherwise harmonic!

$$
w(\mathbf{p})=\frac{1}{2 \pi} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} d \theta
$$




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## Winding number jumps across boundaries, otherwise harmonic!

$$
w(\mathbf{p})=\frac{1}{2 \pi} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} d \theta
$$

See MAPLE proof in paper or Rahul Narain's recent proof http://goo.gl/5LJWf


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## Other interpolating implicit functions are confused by overlap...


[Shen et al. 2004]

## ...or resort to approximation


[Shen et al. 2004]
igl

## Sharp discontinuity across input eases precise, conformal segmentation

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## Sharp discontinuity across input eases precise, conformal segmentation



## Naive implementation is too expensive

$$
w(\mathbf{p})=\frac{1}{2 \pi} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \theta_{i}
$$



Winding number is sum of winding numbers: $O(m)$

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# Interesting fact reveals asymptotic speedup 

$\mathcal{C}$


# Interesting fact reveals asymptotic speedup 

$\mathcal{C}$


# Interesting fact reveals asymptotic speedup 

$\mathcal{C}$


## Interesting fact reveals asymptotic speedup

$\mathcal{C}$

$\overline{\mathcal{C}}$

$\mathcal{C} \cup \overline{\mathcal{C}}$

$w_{\mathcal{C} \cup \overline{\mathcal{C}}}(\mathbf{p})=0$

## Interesting fact reveals asymptotic speedup

$\mathcal{C}$
$\overline{\mathcal{C}}$
$\mathcal{C} \cup \overline{\mathcal{C}}$


$$
w_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathbf{p})+w_{\overline{\mathcal{C}}}(\mathbf{p})=w_{\mathcal{C} \cup \overline{\mathcal{C}}}(\mathbf{p})=0
$$

## Interesting fact reveals asymptotic speedup

$\mathcal{C}$
$\overline{\mathcal{C}}$
$\mathcal{C} \cup \overline{\mathcal{C}}$


$$
w_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathbf{p})=-w_{\overline{\mathcal{C}}}(\mathbf{p})
$$

## Interesting fact reveals asymptotic speedup

$\mathcal{C}$
$\overline{\mathcal{C}}$
$\mathcal{C} \cup \overline{\mathcal{C}}$

p

$$
w_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathbf{p})=-w_{\overline{\mathcal{C}}}(\mathbf{p})
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$$

## Interesting fact reveals asymptotic speedup



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## Divide and conquer!



## Divide and conquer!



## Divide and conquer!



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## Divide and conquer!



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## Divide and conquer!



## Divide-and-conquer evaluation performs asymptotically better



## Divide-and-conquer evaluation performs asymptotically better



# Divide-and-conquer evaluation performs asymptotically better 



# Idea: mesh entire convex hull, segment inside tets from outside ones 



# Segmentation is a labeling problem, labels should agree with w.n. 


graphcut energy optimization with nonlinear coherency term

+ optional facet or surface-manifoldness constraints


## Preprocessing and meshing convex hull dominates runtime



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## Winding number degrades gracefully


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## CDT maintains small features

Open boundaries


Input triangle mesh
Winding number

## We rely heavily on orientation



## We rely heavily on orientation



## We rely heavily on orientation



## Brings a new level of robustness to volume meshing for a variety of shapes



## Future work

- Even faster approximation
- Relationship to: diffusion curves, Mean Value Coordinates, etc.



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## Robust Inside-Outside Segmentation using Generalized Winding Numbers

http://igl.ethz.ch/projects/winding-number/ (paper, code, video)

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## Surface processing is distinct from volumetric



Brings a new level of robustness to volume meshing for a variety of shapes


We rasterize the winding number, rather than ray cast


We rasterize the winding number, rather than ray cast


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We rasterize the winding number, rather than ray cast


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We rasterize the winding number, rather than ray cast


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We rasterize the winding number, rather than ray cast


31 rays

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We rasterize the winding number, rather than ray cast


63 rays

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We rasterize the winding number, rather than ray cast


127 rays

191

We rasterize the winding number, rather than ray cast


255 rays

191

We rasterize the winding number, rather than ray cast


19

We rasterize the winding number, rather than ray cast


1023 rays

191

We rasterize the winding number, rather than ray cast


2047 rays

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Surface cleanup methods modify the input too much


## Surface cleanup methods modify the input too much


[Attene 2010]

Winding number tells more than just inside: how many times inside


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Winding number tells more than just inside: how many times inside


## Duplicate any multiply inside parts: consistently overlapping tet mesh



## Duplicate any multiply inside parts: consistently overlapping tet mesh



## Some ambiguities are just semantics



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## Some ambiguities are just semantics



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## Simple thresholding is not enough

is_outside $\left(e_{i}\right)= \begin{cases}\text { true } & \text { if } w\left(e_{i}\right)<0.5 \\ \text { false } & \text { otherwise }\end{cases}$


Each element in CDT

## Graphcut encourages coherency

$$
E=\sum_{i=1}^{m}[\underbrace{\left[u\left(x_{i}\right)+\gamma \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in N(i)} v\left(x_{i}, x_{j}\right)\right]}_{\text {data }}
$$



## Graphcut encourages coherency

$$
E=\sum_{i=1}^{m}\left[u\left(x_{i}\right)+\gamma \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in N(i)} v\left(x_{i}, x_{j}\right)\right]
$$

$$
u\left(x_{i}\right)= \begin{cases}\max \left(w\left(e_{i}\right)-0,0\right) & \text { if } x_{i}=\text { outside } \\ \max \left(1-w\left(e_{i}\right), 0\right) & \text { otherwise }\end{cases}
$$



## Graphcut encourages coherency

$$
E=\sum_{i=1}^{m}\left[u\left(x_{i}\right)+\gamma \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in N(i)} v\left(x_{i}, x_{j}\right)\right]
$$

$$
v\left(x_{i}, x_{j}\right)=\left\{\begin{array}{l}
0 \\
\frac{a_{i j} \exp \left(\left|w\left(e_{i}\right)-w\left(e_{j}\right)\right|^{2}\right)}{2 \sigma^{2}}
\end{array}\right.
$$



## Graphcut encourages coherency

$$
E=\sum_{i=1}^{m}\left[u\left(x_{i}\right)+\gamma \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in N(i)} v\left(x_{i}, x_{j}\right)\right]
$$

$\operatorname{argmin} E(\mathbf{x}) \quad$ use graphcut (maxflow) $\mathbf{x} \mid x_{i} \in[0,1]$


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subject to hard facet constraints


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E=\sum_{i=1}^{m}\left[u\left(x_{i}\right)+\gamma \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in N(i)} v\left(x_{i}, x_{j}\right)\right]
$$

$\operatorname{argmin} E(\mathbf{x}) \quad$ use graphcut (maxflow) $\mathbf{x} \mid x_{i} \in[0,1]$

## subject to hard facet constraints

"nonregular"
[Kolmogorov \& Zabin 2004]


## Graphcut encourages coherency

$$
E=\sum_{i=1}^{m}\left[u\left(x_{i}\right)+\gamma \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in N(i)} v\left(x_{i}, x_{j}\right)\right]
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## Graphcut encourages coherency

$E=\sum_{i=1}^{m}\left[u\left(x_{i}\right)+\gamma \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in N(i)} v\left(x_{i}, x_{j}\right)\right]$
$\operatorname{argmin} E(\mathbf{x}) \quad$ use graphcut (maxflow) $\mathbf{x} \mid x_{i} \in[0,1]$

## subject to hard facet constraints

use heuristic $\rightarrow$ local min.



## Graphcut encourages coherency

$E=\sum_{i=1}^{m}\left[u\left(x_{i}\right)+\gamma \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in N(i)} v\left(x_{i}, x_{j}\right)\right]$
$\operatorname{argmin} E(\mathbf{x}) \quad$ use graphcut (maxflow) $\mathbf{x} \mid x_{i} \in[0,1]$

## subject to hard facet constraints

+subject to hard manifoldness constraints


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## Hard constraints are optional: outliers



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## Even failure to create beautiful surface, can be success as volume representation

## Even failure to create beautiful surface, can be success as volume representation



## Even failure to create beautiful surface, can be success as volume representation



Auto. weights


Novel poses of textured input mesh

## Cleanup methods modify input too much, ...



## Cleanup methods modify input too much, ...



## ... but we rely heavily on orientation

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