Intrinsic Triangulations in **Geometry Processing**

SFB TRR109 Colloquium

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Intrinsic triangles





















Problem: a mesh encodes both the *geometry* of a surface and a *function spaces* on that surface.



Intrinsic triangulations decouple surface geometry from other concerns





I. Preliminaries









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II. Data structures for intrinsic triangulations



[**G.**, Sharp, & Crane. 2021. Integer coordinates for intrinsic geometry processing. ACM TOG]

- Integer data structure for intrinsic triangulations
- Quality guarantees for intrinsic remeshing



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- Integer data structure for intrinsic triangulations
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III. Simplification of intrinsic triangulations





[Liu, G., Chislett, Sharp, Jacobson & Crane. 2023. Surface Simplification using Intrinsic Error Metrics. *ACM TOG*]

- First algorithm for intrinsic simplification
- New distortion measurement via *intrinsic curvature error*



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IV. Discrete conformal maps & uniformization



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- First algorithm for intrinsic simplification
- New distortion measurement via *intrinsic curvature error*

[G., Springborn, & Crane. 2021. Discrete conformal equivalence of polyhedral surfaces. *ACM TOG*]

- Data structure for ideal hyperbolic polyhedra
- Interpolation for hyperbolic isometries
- Careful treatment of numerics







I. Preliminaries





Triangulations

Definition

A (surface) triangulation is a manifold 2-dimensional cell complex T = (V, E, F) whose faces are all triangles

• May be *irregular* (*e.g.*, two edges of a face may be glued together)



Intrinsic and extrinsic triangulations

Definition

An extrinsic triangulation is a triangulation equipped with a piecewise-linear embedding into \mathbb{R}^3 , *i.e.*, vertex positions $p: V \to \mathbb{R}^3$

Definition

An *intrinsic triangulation* is a triangulation equipped with positive edge lengths $\ell: E \to \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ satisfying the triangle inequality within each face



Correspondence

- Common case: intrinsic triangulation on top of extrinsic triangulation
 - *i.e.* isometric or at least homeomorphic to extrinsic triangulation
 - The *correspondence* is the homeomorphism mapping between them





Common subdivision

Definition

The common subdivision of two triangulations T_1, T_2 is the coarsest polygonal complex \mathcal{S} such that all faces of T_1 or T_2 are unions of faces of \mathcal{S}

Intuitively, the result of cutting T_1 along edges of T_2





The space of intrinsic triangulations is large

extrinsic triangulations

intrinsic triangulations



Delaunay triangulations

- Planar Delaunay triangulations have many nice properties: • Essentially unique, maximize angles lexicographically, minimize spectrum lexicographically, smoothest
- interpolation, positive cotan weights...
- Characterized by empty circumcircle condition



 $\alpha + \beta \le \gamma + \delta$







Intrinsic Delaunay triangulations

- [Indermitte, Liebling, Troyanov & Clemençon 2001, Bobenko & Springborn 2007]: empty intrinsic circumcircles
 - Maintain most nice properties. [Sharp, **G**. & Crane 2021; §4.1.1]
- Compute by a simple algorithm:
 - Flip any non-Delaunay edge until none remain







Intrinsic Delaunay triangulations provide good function spaces

input mesh

computation on input mesh



still has some artifacts...

computation on intrinsic Delaunay triangulation



A brief history of intrinsic triangulations

Foundations: [Alexandrov 1948; Regge 1961] Geometry Processing: [Fisher, Springborn, Bobenko & Schröder 2006; Bobenko



& Springborn 2007, Bobenko & Izmestiev 2008; Sun, Wu, Gu & Luo 2015; Sharp, Soliman & Crane 2019; Fumero, Möller & Rodolà 2020; Gillespie, Springborn & Crane 2021; Finnendahl, Schwartz & Alexa 2023]







I. Integer Coordinates for Intrinsic Triangulations

G., Sharp, & Crane. 2021. Integer coordinates for intrinsic geometry processing. ACM Transactions on Graphics

Correspondence data structures

Overlay Mesh

Integer coordinates combine the best of both worlds

[Fisher, Springborn, Bobenko & Schröder 2006]

- Explicit mesh of common subdivision
- Edge flips nonlocal & expensive
 - No further operations



Signposts



[Sharp, Soliman & Crane 2019]

- Floating point *signpost* vectors at vertices
- Supports many local mesh operations
- Common subdivision connectivity may be invalid











The integer coordinates data structure







roundabouts

(concretely, just 3 integers per mesh edge)

 \mathbf{G}



Normal coordinates

Geometry Processing: [Hass & Trnkova 2020]









Normal coordinates

Slight complication

Foundations: [Kneser 1929; Haken 1961] **Computational Topology:** [Schaefer+ 2008; Erickson & Nayyeri 2013] **Geometry Processing**: [Hass & Trnkova 2020]



• Standard setting: homotopy classes of closed curves on a topological surface (or closed surfaces in a topological 3-manifold)

• Our setting: edges of a geodesic triangulation on a Riemannian manifold



Encoding a curve with normal coordinates

• Just count intersections

Rules

- 1. No self-crossings
- 2. No U-turns

(also curves may only start or end at vertices of the triangulation)

automatically satisfied for geodesic triangulations







How much do normal coordinates tell us?

- Represents curve up to homotopy (on the surface punctured at vertices)
- Equivalently, encodes a sequence of triangles



Reconstructing the Curve



- 1. No self-crossings
- 2. No U-turns



Reconstructing the Curve

• Normality conditions determine curves within each triangle



Finding the exact curve geometry

- So far: triangle strip
- True curve is geodesic
 - Lay out in plane to find exact curve
- Normal coordinates determine edges exactly











Collections of Curves

- *e.g.* edges of a triangulation
- Could store multiple sets of normal coordinates
 - Expensive
- Instead, just store one set of normal coordinates

Store entire triangulation using one integer per edge







The integer coordinates data structure



normal coordinates



intrinsic triangulations





Normal coordinates are not enough for correspondence

• How do you tell what edge you have traced?



Normal coordinates are not enough for correspondence

• How do you tell what edge you have traced?



Normal coordinates are not enough for correspondence

- How do you tell what edge you have traced?
 - Disambiguate with roundabouts



Roundabouts

- Each black edge stores a pointer to the next yellow curve
- Resolves all ambiguity





edge curve roundabout

4




Data structure operations



• Supports a variety of connectivity changes:





changes



flat vertex removal

Edge flips

Normal Coordinates



 $n_{kl} = \max(n_{ki} + n_{lj}, n_{jk} + n_{li}) - n_{ij}$ (if there are no endpoints)







 $r_{kl} = r_{ki} + n_{ki}^{-} + \max(0, n_{il}^{+} - n_{lk}^{+} - n_{ki}^{+})$







Vertex insertion

- Unlike classic normal coordinates, <u>depends on geometry</u>
- Not a computational challenge:
 - 1. Locate curves via normal coordinates
 - 2. Count intersections
 - 3. Update roundabouts









Vertex removal

- Only remove <u>inserted</u> vertices
- Strategy: reduce to degree-3 case





changes





Vertex removal

- Only remove <u>inserted</u> vertices
- Strategy: reduce to degree-3 case







Applications





Delaunay refinement for planar meshing

• Crucial tool in 2D - remesh with guaranteed quality bounds [Chew 1993; Shewchuk 1997]







[Shewchuk 1997]





Intrinsic Delaunay refinement

 Intrinsic retriangulation algorithm proposed by [Sharp, Soliman & Crane 2019]

Theorem [G., Sharp & Crane 2021]

Let *M* be a mesh without boundary whose cone angles are all at least 60°. Then intrinsic Delaunay refinement produces a Delaunay mesh with triangle corner angles at least 30°



 60°





Common subdivisions of intrinsic Delaunay refinements

• Integer coordinates can be crucial to recovering the common subdivision







Intrinsic Delaunay refinement of meshes with boundary

• Extend algorithm to meshes with boundary







Intrinsic Delaunay refinement - validation

- Compute refinements & common subdivisions for Thingi10k dataset [Zhou & Jacobson 2016]
 - 7696 manifold meshes
- < 1s on most meshes; only took > 1m on 6 meshes
- 100% success rate for refinement & common subdivision
 - [Sharp, Soliman & Crane 2019] succeed on only 69.1% of meshes







Application: PDE-Based Geometry Processing

heat method for geodesic distance [Crane, Weischedel & Wardetzky 2013]



mesh

refinement





Application: Flip-Based Geodesic Paths

- FlipOut [Sharp & Crane 2020]:
 - computes geodesic paths via edge flips



[Sharp, Soliman & Crane 2019]

[Integer coordinates]



Try it out yourself

Reset View Screenshot 🔻 Controls

▼ Polyscope

► View

Appearance	
► Debug	
16.7 ms/frame (60.0 FPS)	
▼ Structures ×	
▼ Surface Mesh (2)	
▼ 50108	
Enabled Options	
#verts: 1140 #faces: 2276	
Color Smooth 🗸 Edges	
Edge Color 1.000 Width	
 intrinsic edges (surface graph) 	
▼ common subdivision	
Enabled Options	
#verts: 49463 #faces: 98902	1
Color Smooth Edges	
 coloring, input (face scalar) 	
 coloring, intrinsic (face scalar) 	-
	/



https://github.com/MarkGillespie/intrinsic-triangulations-demo







III. Simplifying Intrinsic Triangulations



Liu, **G.**, Chislett, Sharp, Jacobson, & Crane. 2023. Surface Simplification using Intrinsic Error Metrics. *ACM Transactions on Graphics*



Exact geometry preservation: a blessing and a curse





|V| ~ 27,000,000

|V|=871,434



Coarse meshes can be perfectly adequate

2504

CAR.

N.



▶ motivation

Coarse meshes can be perfectly adequate

runtime: 23.14 s

 $\lambda_2 = 1.511$

 $\lambda_3 = 1.639$

 $\lambda_1 = 0.484$

2504



III. Intrinsic simpl

runtime: 0.9 s

7

 $\lambda_4 = 1.907$

Near-identical, but 25x faster

 $\lambda_2 = 1.610$



 $\lambda_1 = 0.491$

► motivation





Traditional goal: extrinsic simplification

- Find a coarse mesh close in space to the original
 - Often designed to optimize for visual fidelity





▶ motivation

Intrinsic problems benefit from intrinsic simplification

- Extrinsic methods preserve irrelevant extrinsic details
- Intrinsic approach opens up a larger space of triangulations
- Extreme example: neardevelopable surfaces





▶ motivation

extrinsic simplification

intrinsic simplification

Inspiration: quadric error simplification



- Algorithm: repeatedly collapse cheapest edge
 - Efficient: all local operations
 - Accurate: accumulates error estimates



[Garland & Heckbert 1997]



motivation





Intrinsic simplification



• Algorithm: repeatedly remove cheapest vertex



2. Accumulated distortion measurements



intrinsic curvature error

Intrinsic simplification



Algorithm: repeatedly remove cheapest vertex



2. Accumulated distortion measurements



intrinsic curvature error



Intrinsic vertex removal

- Intrinsic view: replace curved vertex with flat patch
 - *i.e.*, parameterization problem







Intrinsic vertex removal

- Intrinsic view: replace curved vertex with flat patch
 - *i.e.*, parameterization problem







III. Intrinsic simplification intrinsic vertex removal





Vertex flattening

- Map 1-ring to plane such that:
 - (1) Distortion is low
 - (2) Boundary edge lengths are preserved
- Discrete conformal map [Springborn, Schröder & Pinkall 2008]
 - Fix u = 0 on boundary
 - Efficient 1D optimization problem

(If parameterization fails, pick a different vertex to remove)





Flat vertex removal







Intrinsic simplification



• Algorithm: repeatedly remove cheapest vertex



2. Accumulated distortion measurements *intrinsic curvature error*

Distortion: curvature redistribution





III. Intrinsic simplification intrinsic curvature error







Mass transport cost

 m_i

 m_i

 m_k

nonnegative mass distribution $m: V \to \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$







Comparing mass distributions

each distribution to its vertex

 \widetilde{m}_i

mass distribution transported to vertex *i*



III. Intrinsic simplification intrinsic curvature error

Goal: approximate cost of transporting



mass distribution transported to vertex *j*





Approximating the mass transport cost



vertex *i* stores an error vector \mathbf{t}_i







redistribute mass and error vectors



Specializing to curvature

- Challenge: curvature is signed
 - Just track positive and negative parts separately





Simplification with the curvature transport cost

nputmesh

coarsening via curvature transport cost







Other transport costs

• Track transport of other data (e.g. area) in same way

mesh

input

Can take weighted combinations of costs

coarsening via curvature transport cost





coarsening via area transport cost






Surface correspondence

- Simplified mesh *not* isometric to original surface
 - Breaks existing data structures
- But, only uses a few local operations
 - Correspondence easy for each operation
- Encode correspondence via list of operations
 - 1. Flip edge 1
 - 2. Scale vertex 5
 - *3. Remove vertex 5*
 - 4. Flip edge 8
 - 5. Flip edge 12
 - 6. Scale vertex 2











Prolongation

- Transfer piecewise-linear functions:
 - Just find values at vertices
 - Encode by a matrix





Pulling back vector fields

• Approximate differential of correspondence map

Encode by complex prolongation matrix





Intrinsic simplification — summary



- Algorithm: repeatedly remove cheapest vertex
- Correspondence: record operation history









Results



Surface hierarchies [V]=288k [V]=18k

input

|V|=72k

|*V*|=1,009,118





V=282

|V|=4k

|V|=1k



Hierarchies accelerate computation

- Accelerate many geometric tasks
 - Even helps with extrinsic problems





mean curvature flow 20x speedup



Distortion

18

|V| = 56k

 $|V^{c}| = 200$

anisotropic distortion i.e. quasiconformal dilatation (mean 1.115)



III. Intrinsic simplification

area distortion (mean 8.1%)

▶ results







Geodesic distance

(Computed via [Mitchell, Mount & Papadimitriou 1987])

|V| = 350k

ground truth



III. Intrinsic simplification

1000x smaller relative error: 0.03%

Vc/

1 = 400

result on simplified surface









Geodesic Voronoi diagrams

|V| = 63k

ground truth

7207.4 ms



 $|N^{c}| = 500$

result on simplified surface

3.2 ms (2252x faster)

only 1% vertices misclassified





Speedup vs error in geodesic distance



speedup/error: 3x / 0.0002%



► results

840x / 0.2%

4880x / 1.5%

Low rank all-pairs distance matrix approximation



Distance matrix of simplified mesh P rolongation operator $P: \mathbb{R}^{|V^c|} \to \mathbb{R}^{|V|}$





• Approximate distance matrix $\hat{D} = P\tilde{D}P^{\top}$

► results



Adaptive simplification









III. Intrinsic simplification









Performance

- Linear scaling
 - Constant work per vertex

Removes ~10,000 vertices per second time (s) **10²**

10¹

10⁰

 10^{-1}





10³ 10⁴ **10**⁵ 10⁶ # input vertices



Try it out yourself (... in the near future)

▼ Polyscope Reset View Screenshot 🔻 Controls ► View Appearance Debug ▼ Structures ▼ Curve Network (1) ▼ intrinsic edges Enabled Options nodes: 17526 edges: 16032 Color 0.00190 Radius good (node scalar) Point Cloud (5) ▼ Surface Mesh (3) flipped intrinsic mesh Enabled Options #verts: 500 #faces: 996 Color Flat 🔽 Edges negative (vertex vector) positive (vertex vector) original intrinsic mesh Enabled Options #verts: 2930 #faces: 5856 Color Flat 🔻 Edges ▼ spot Enabled Options #verts: 2930 #faces: 5856 Color Flat 🔍 Edges



Polyscope



Coming soon to https://github.com/HTDerekLiu/intrinsic-simplification



V. Discrete Uniformization



G., Springborn, & Crane. 2021. Discrete conformal equivalence of polyhedral surfaces. *ACM Transactions on Graphics*

The uniformization theorem [Poincare 1907; Koebe 1907; Troyanov 1991]

Any surface is conformally equivalent to a surface of constant curvature.





Image: [Crane, Pinkall & Schröder 2013]





The discrete uniformization theorem [Gu, Luo, Sun & Wu 2018; Springborn 2019]

Any positive vertex cone angles satisfying Gauss-Bonnet can be realized by some discrete conformal map.







The discrete spherical uniformization theorem [Springborn 2019]

Any simply-connected triangle mesh is discretely conformally equivalent to a mesh whose vertices lie on the unit sphere





Discrete uniformization in action [G., Springborn, & Crane. 2021]





bad meshes





Triangle mesh \leftrightarrow ideal polyhedron [Bobenko, Pinkall & Springborn 2010]



Euclidean triangle in circumcircle \leftrightarrow Klein ideal triangle





Ideal Delaunay triangulations



Hyperbolic correspondence problem



hyperbolic edge flip

ideal Delaunay triangulation

Correspondence between ideal polyhedra

- Adapt Euclidean techniques to hyperbolic setting
- Integer coordinates essential









hyperbolic integer coordinates

hyperbolic signposts





Projective interpolation

- [Springborn, Schröder & Pinkall 2008]: projective interpolation
 - Hyperbolic isometry
- In variable triangulation case, lay out triangles in hyperboloid model













Interpolation in the hyperboloid model

 $\tilde{\chi}$

fixed triangulation





Interpolation in the hyperboloid model

 \tilde{x}

fixed triangulation



variable triangulation

 \mathcal{X}

 ${\mathcal X}$









Final algorithm





flip to (Euclidean) Delaunay

find scale factors

lay out in plane



extract correspondence

compute common subdivision interpolate via hyperboloid





Uniformization results



Challenging datasets

difficult cones



* connected components of models from Thingi10k





ataset	# Models	Success rate	Average ti
MPZ les+ 2014]	114	100%	8s
ingi10k ou+ 2016]	32,744*	97.7%	57s†
in scans eo+ 2009]	78	100%	493s
ical surfaces /er+ 2011]	187	100%	15s

[†] average time on models with > 1000 vertices

Variable triangulation > fixed triangulation



Fixed triangulation (CETM)





Boundary conditions







IV. Discrete uniformization

convex



minimal area distortion



orthogonal

scale control







Try it out yourself



https://github.com/MarkGillespie/CEPS



IV. Discrete uniformization

projective interpolation in Blender

	ProjectiveInterpolation.blend		
Window Help Layout Modeling Sculpting U	V Editing Texture Paint Shading Animation Rendering Compositing Scripting +	↓ Scene	🕒 🛛 🗳 Viev
Nindow Telp Layout Modeling Sculpting O It Global < O	<pre>reacting rexture value Shading Animation Rendering Composition Schpang + View Text Edit Select Format Templates v Text ext import bpy import os # Set mesh filename. If your mesh is in the build directory, # you can just change bunny ceps.obj to your own filename current file_dir = os.path.join(os.path.dirname(_file_), '') build dir = os.path.abspath(os.path.join(current file_dir, '', 'build')) mesh_file = os.path.abspath(os.path.join(current file_dir, '', 'build')) # Load mesh into a Blender object, along with xy coordinates of parameters bpy.ops.import_scene.obj(filepath=mesh_file, split_mode='OFF') # Identify the imported mesh. Note that Blender selects a mesh when it is imported_object = bpy.context.selected_objects[0] # Rename the first UV map imported_object.data.uv_layers[0].name = 'UVMap_xy' # Read in z channel of uv map full_param_coords = [] with open(mesh_file) as f:</pre>	Collection Verts:14,291 Faces:28,578 Tris:2	Scene Collectio Scene Collectio Collectio Scene Collectio Collectio Scene Collectio Scene Collectio Scene Collectio Scene Collectio Scene Collectio Materials Meshes Neshes Neshes Neshes Neshes Scene Sce
		concedon verta.14,231 races.20,370 ms.20	, sho robjects.of I riven





Thanks for listening



• And thank you to all of my great coauthors!



Boris Springborn

Keenan Crane



Nicholas Sharp









Benjamin Chislett



Alec Jacobson



Supplemental Slides







Memoryless transport cost

Full transport cost


Robust hierarchies





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Tangent space approximations



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Signed curvature transport



 $\alpha_{ij} := \frac{1}{\sum_{l \in \mathcal{N}_i} |\tilde{K}|}$

$$\frac{|K_j|}{|K_l - K_l|}.$$

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