# Volume and Solid Modeling 

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## Implicit Surfaces

- Real function $f(x, y, z)$
- Classifies points in space
- Image synthesis (sometimes)

Circle example $f(x, y)=x^{2}+y^{2}-1$

- inside $f>0$
- outside $f<0$
- on the surface $f=0$
- CAGD: inside $f<0$, outside $f>0$
- Surface $f^{1}(0)$ : Manifold if zero is a regular value of $f$



## Why Use Implicits?

- v. polygons
- smoother
- compact, fewer higher-level primitives
- harder to display in real time
- v. parametric patches

- easier to blend
- no topology problems
- lower degree
- harder to parameterize
- easier to ray trace
- well defined interior



## Surface Normals

- Surface normal usually gradient of function

$$
\nabla f(x, y, z)=(\delta f / \delta x, \delta f / \delta y, \delta f / \delta z)
$$

- Gradient not necessarily unit length
- Gradient points in direction of increasing $f$
- Outward when $f<0$ denotes interior
- Inward when $f>0$ denotes interior

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Circle example } \\
& f(\mathbf{x})=x^{2}+y^{2}-1 \\
& \mathbf{x}=(x, y)
\end{aligned}
$$



## Plane

- Plane bounds half-space
- Specify plane with point $\mathbf{p}$ and normal $N$
- Points in plane $\mathbf{x}$ are perp. to normal $N$
- $f$ is distance if $\|N\|=1$


$$
f(\mathbf{x})=(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{p}) \cdot N
$$

## Quadrics

$f(x, y, z)=A x^{2}+2 B x y+2 C x z+2 D x+$

$$
\begin{array}{r}
E y^{2}+2 F y z+2 G y+ \\
H z^{2}+2 I z+ \\
J
\end{array}
$$

- Sphere: $\mathrm{f}(\mathrm{x}, \mathrm{y}, \mathrm{z})=x^{2}+y^{2}+z^{2}-1$
- Cylinder: $\mathrm{f}(\mathrm{x}, \mathrm{y}, \mathrm{z})=x^{2}+y^{2}-1$
- Cone: $\mathrm{f}(\mathrm{x}, \mathrm{y}, \mathrm{z})=x^{2}+y^{2}-z^{2}$
- Paraboloid: $A x^{2}+E y^{2}-2 I z=0$



## Homogeneous Quadrics

Homogeneous coordinates

- [xyzw]
- Divide by w to find actual coords: [x/w y/w z/w 1]

$$
f(\mathbf{x})=\mathbf{x}^{\mathrm{T}} Q \mathbf{x} \quad f(x, y, z)=\left[\begin{array}{llll}
x & y & z & 1
\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{cccc}
A & B & C & D \\
B & E & F & G \\
C & F & H & I \\
D & G & I & J
\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c}
x \\
y \\
z \\
1
\end{array}\right]
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Transforming quadrics } \\
& \mathbf{x} Q \mathbf{x}^{\mathrm{T}}=0, \quad \mathbf{x}^{\prime}=\mathbf{x} T \\
& \text { find } Q^{\prime} \text { s.t. } \mathbf{x}^{\prime} Q^{\prime} \mathbf{x}^{\prime}{ }^{\mathrm{T}}=0 \\
& \mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}^{\prime} T^{*} \text { since } \mathbf{x} \text { homo. } \\
& \mathbf{x}^{\prime} T^{*} Q\left(\mathbf{x}^{\prime} T^{*}\right)^{\mathrm{T}}=0 \\
& \mathbf{x}^{\prime}\left(T^{*} Q T^{* \mathrm{~T}}\right) \mathbf{x}^{\prime}{ }^{\mathrm{T}}=0 \\
& \mathrm{Q}^{\prime}=T^{*} Q T^{*}{ }^{*} \mathrm{~T}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Torus

- Product of two implicit circles


$$
\begin{aligned}
& (x-R)^{2}+z^{2}-r^{2}=0 \\
& (x+R)^{2}+z^{2}-r^{2}=0 \\
& \left((x-R)^{2}+z^{2}-r^{2}\right)\left((x+R)^{2}+z^{2}-r^{2}\right) \\
& \left(x^{2}-R x+R^{2}+z^{2}-r^{2}\right)\left(x^{2}+R x+R^{2}+z^{2}-r^{2}\right) \\
& x^{4}+2 x^{2} z^{2}+z^{4}-2 x^{2} r^{2}-2 z^{2} r^{2}+r^{4}+2 x^{2} R^{2}+2 z^{2} R^{2}- \\
& 2 r^{2} R^{2}+R^{4} \\
& \left(x^{2}+z^{2}-r^{2}-R^{2}\right)^{2}+4 z^{2} R^{2}-4 r^{2} R^{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

- Surface of rotation
replace $x^{2}$ with $x^{2}+y^{2}$
$f(x, y, z)=\left(x^{2}+y^{2}+z^{2}-r^{2}-R^{2}\right)^{2}+4 R^{2}\left(z^{2}-r^{2}\right)$


## CSG

- Assume $f<0$ inside
- CSG ops by min/max ops
- Union: $\min f, g$
- Intersection: $\max f, g$
- Complement: -f
- Subtraction: max $f,-g$

- Problem: $\mathrm{C}^{1}$ discontinuity
- Can we smooth the blend crease?



## Blobs

- Blinn TOG 1(3) 1982
- Sum of Gaussians

$$
\begin{aligned}
& r_{i}^{2}(x, y, z)=x^{2}+y^{2}+z^{2} \\
& f(\mathbf{x})=-1+\sum \exp \left(-\left(\mathrm{B}_{i} / \mathrm{R}_{i}^{2}\right) r_{i}^{2}+\mathrm{B}_{i}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

B - blobbiness (positive)
R - radius of blob at rest

$r$ - radius function


## Soft Objects

- Wyvill, McPheeters \& Wyvill VC 86
- Exponential: too expensive, non-local
- Approximate $\exp \left(-r^{2}\right)$ with polynomial $C()$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& C(0)=1, C(R)=0, C^{\prime}(0)=0, C^{\prime}(\mathrm{R})=0 \\
& C\left(r^{2}\right)=-(4 / 9) r^{6} / R^{6}+(17 / 9) r^{4} / R^{4}-(22 / 9) r^{2} / R^{2} \\
& \quad+1 \\
& C(r)=2 r^{3} / R^{3}-3 r^{2} / R^{2}+1 \\
& C(r)=\left(1-\mathrm{r}^{2} / R^{2}\right)^{3} \quad\left(G^{2} \text { continuity }\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

Pair of quadratics (metaballs)


## Marching Cubes

Read volume in two slices at a time
For each cubic cell
Compute index using bitmask of vertices

Output polygon(s) stored at index translated to cell position
End for
Remove last slice, add new slice, repeat


## Marching Cube Cases

256 in all
15 modulo symmetry


## Marching Tet Cases

3 modulo symmetry


## Orientation

- Consistency allows polygons
 to be drawn with correct orientation
- Supports backface culling



## Problem: Ambiguity

- Some cell corner value configurations
 yield more than one consistent polygon
- Only for cubes, not tetrahedra (why?)
- In 3-D can yield holes in surface!
- How can we resolve these ambiguities?


Examples from Lewiner et al., Efficient Implementation of Marching Cubes' Cases with Topological Guarantees. J. Graphics, GPU \& Game Tools 8(2), 2003, pp. 1-15.

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- Topological Inference
- Sample a point in the center of the

$P(s, t)=$
(1-s)(1-t) $a+$ $s(1-t) b+$ $(1-s) t c+$ $s t d$ ambiguous face
- If data is discretely sampled, bilinearly interpolate samples


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- Topological Inference
- Sample a point in the center of the ambiguous face
- If data is discretely sampled, bilinearly
 interpolate samples
- Preferred Polarity
- Encode preference into table
$-\equiv$ cubes $\rightarrow$ tets
- MC edges across neighboring faces must
 share direction to avoid cracks/holes

