CSCI 420 Computer Graphics
Lecture 26

Visualization

Height Fields and Contours
Scalar Fields
Volume Rendering
Vector Fields
[Angel Ch. 2.11]

Jernej Barbic
University of Southern California

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Scientific Visualization

- Generally do not start with a 3D triangle model
- Must deal with very large data sets
  - MRI, e.g. 512 x 512 x 200 = 50MB points
  - Visible Human 512 x 512 x 1734 = 433 MB points
- Visualize both real-world and simulation data
- User interaction
- Automatic search for relevant data

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Types of Data

- Scalar fields (3D volume of scalars)
  - E.g., x-ray densities (MRI, CT scan)
- Vector fields (3D volume of vectors)
  - E.g., velocities in a wind tunnel
- Tensor fields (3D volume of tensors [matrices])
  - E.g., stresses in a mechanical part
- Static or dynamic through time

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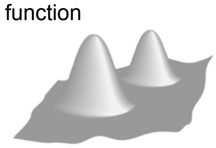
Height Field

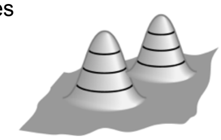
- Visualizing an explicit function

z = f(x,y)



- Adding contour curves

g(x,y) = c



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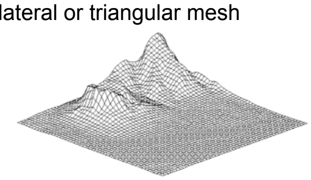
Meshes

- Function is sampled (given) at x_i, y_i, $0 \le i, j \le n$
- Assume equally spaced

$$x_i = x_0 + i\Delta x \qquad z_{ij} = f(x_i, y_j)$$
$$y_j = y_0 + j\Delta y$$

- Generate quadrilateral or triangular mesh
- [Assignment 1]



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Contour Curves

- Recall: implicit curve f(x,y) = 0
- f(x,y) < 0 inside, f(x,y) > 0 outside
- Here: contour curve at f(x,y) = c
- Implicit function f sampled at regular intervals for x,y

$$x_i = x_0 + i\Delta x$$
$$y_j = y_0 + j\Delta y$$

- How can we draw the curve?

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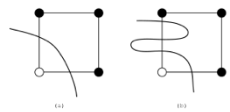
Marching Squares

- Sample function f at every grid point x_i, y_j
- For every point $f_{i\,j} = f(x_i, y_j)$ either $f_{i\,j} \leq c$ or $f_{i\,j} > c$
- Distinguish those cases for each corner x
  - White: $f_{i\,j} \leq c$
  - Black: $f_{i\,j} > c$
- Now consider cases for curve
- Assume "smooth"

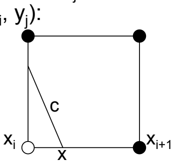


Interpolating Intersections

- Approximate intersection
  - Midpoint between x_i, x_{i+1} and y_j, y_{j+1}
  - Better: interpolate
- If $f_{i\,j} = a$ is closer to c than $b = f_{i+1\,j}$ then intersection is closer to (x_i, y_j):

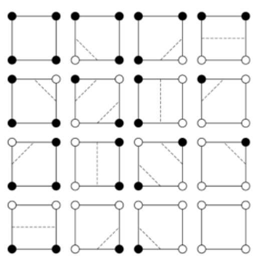
$$\frac{x - x_i}{x_{i+1} - x} = \frac{c - a}{b - c}$$

- Analogous calculation for y direction

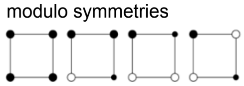


Cases for Vertex Labels

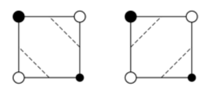
16 cases for vertex labels



4 unique cases modulo symmetries

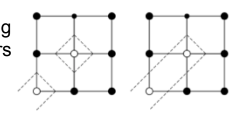


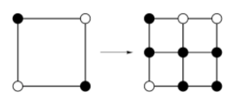
Ambiguities of Labelings



Ambiguous labels

Different resulting contours



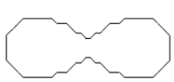


Resolution by subdivision (if such higher resolution available / possible)

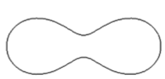
Marching Squares Examples

- Ovals of Cassini, 50 x 50 grid

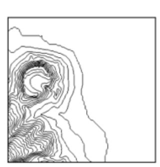
$$f(x,y) = (x^2 + y^2 + a^2)^2 - 4a^2x^2 - b^4$$
$$a = 0.49, b = 0.5$$



Midpoint



Interpolation



Contour plot of Honolulu data

Outline

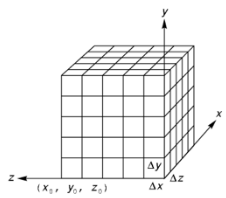
- Height Fields and Contours
- Scalar Fields
- Volume Rendering
- Vector Fields

Scalar Fields

- Volumetric data sets
- Example: tissue density
- Assume again regularly sampled

$$x_i = x_0 + i\Delta x$$
$$y_j = y_0 + j\Delta y$$
$$z_k = z_0 + k\Delta z$$

- Represent as voxels

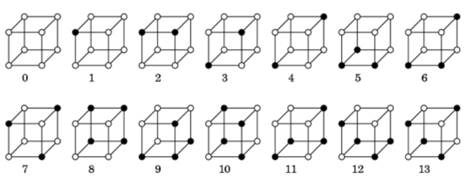


Isosurfaces

- f(x,y,z) represents volumetric data set
- Two rendering methods
  - Isosurface rendering
  - Direct volume rendering (use all values [next])
- Isosurface given by f(x,y,z) = c
- Recall implicit surface g(x, y, z):
  - g(x, y, z) < 0 inside
  - g(x, y, z) = 0 surface
  - g(x, y, z) > 0 outside
- Generalize right-hand side from 0 to c

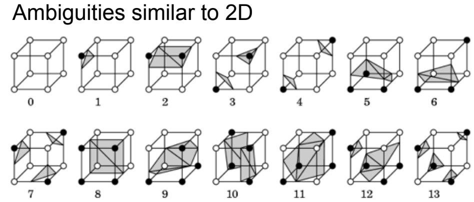
Marching Cubes

- Display technique for isosurfaces
- 3D version of marching squares
- 14 cube labelings (after elimination of symmetries)



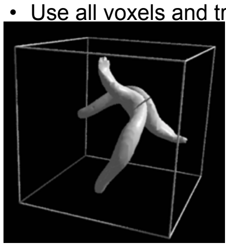
Marching Cube Tessellations

- Generalize marching squares, just more cases
- Interpolate as in 2D
- Ambiguities similar to 2D

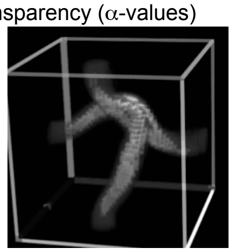


Volume Rendering

- Sometimes isosurfaces are unnatural or do not give sufficient information
- Use all voxels and transparency (α-values)



Ray-traced isosurface



Volume rendering

Surface vs. Volume Rendering

- 3D model of surfaces
- Convert to triangles
- Draw primitives
- Lose or disguise data
- Good for opaque objects

- Scalar field in 3D
- Convert it to RGBA values
- Render volume "directly"
- See data as given
- Good for complex objects

Sample Applications

- Medical
  - Computed Tomography (CT)
  - Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
  - Ultrasound
- Engineering and Science
  - Computational Fluid Dynamic (CFD)
  - Aerodynamic simulations
  - Meteorology
  - Astrophysics

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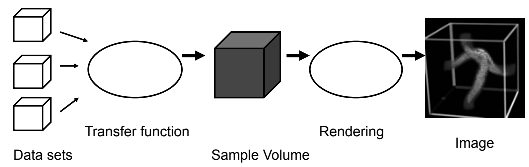
Volume Rendering Pipeline

- Transfer function: converts input data set to colors and opacities
  - Example input: 256 x 256 x 256 x 8 bytes = 128 MB
  - Convert to 24 bit color, 8 bit opacity



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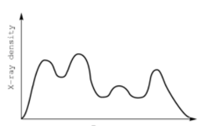
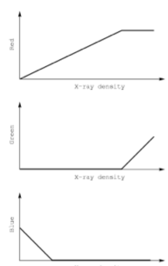
Transfer Functions

- Transform scalar data values to RGBA values
- Apply to every voxel in volume
- Highly application dependent
- Start from data histogram
- Opacity for emphasis





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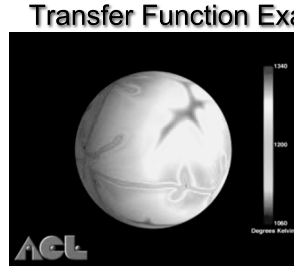
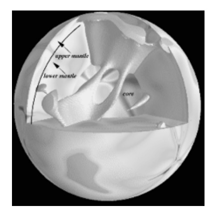
Transfer Function Example



Mantle Heat Convection



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Volume Ray Casting

- Three volume rendering techniques
  - Volume ray casting
  - Splatting
  - 3D texture mapping
- Ray Casting
  - Integrate color through volume
  - Consider lighting (surfaces?)
  - Use regular x,y,z data grid when possible
  - Finite elements when necessary (e.g., ultrasound)
  - 3D-rasterize geometrical primitives

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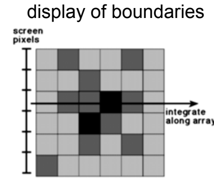
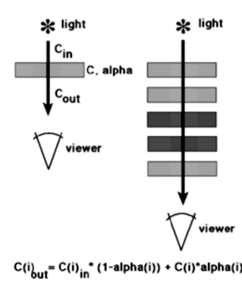
Accumulating Opacity

- α = 1.0 is opaque
- Composite multiple layers according to opacity
- Use local gradient of opacity for enhanced display of boundaries





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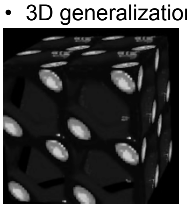
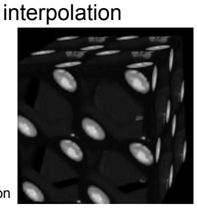
Trilinear Interpolation

- Interpolate to compute RGBA away from grid
- Nearest neighbor yields blocky images
- Use trilinear interpolation
- 3D generalization of bilinear interpolation



Nearest neighbor



Trilinear interpolation

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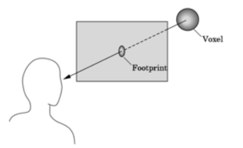
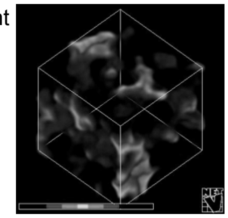
Splatting

- Alternative to ray tracing
- Assign shape to each voxel (e.g., Gaussian)
- Project onto image plane (splat)
- Draw voxels back-to-front
- Composite (α-blend)





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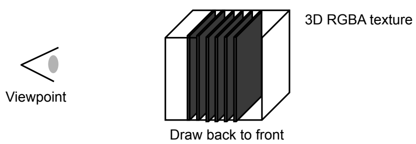
3D Textures

- Alternative to ray tracing, splatting
- Build a 3D texture (including opacity)
- Draw a stack of polygons, back-to-front
- Efficient if supported in graphics hardware
- Few polygons, much texture memory



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Example: 3D Textures

Emil Praun' 01

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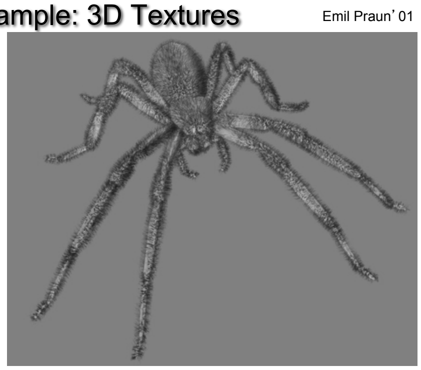
Example: 3D Textures

Emil Praun' 01



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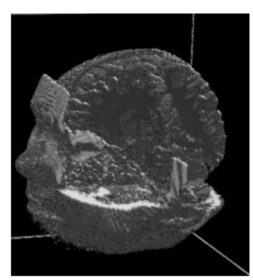
Other Techniques

- Use CSG for cut-aways



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Acceleration of Volume Rendering

- Basic problem: Huge data sets
- Must program for locality (cache)
- Divide into multiple blocks if necessary
  - Example: marching cubes
- Use error measures to stop iteration
- Exploit parallelism

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Outline

- Height Fields and Contours
- Scalar Fields
- Volume Rendering
- Vector Fields

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Vector Fields

- Visualize vector at each (x,y,z) point
  - Example: velocity field
  - Example: hair
- Hedgehogs
  - Use 3D directed line segments (sample field)
  - Orientation and magnitude determined by vector
- Animation
  - Use for still image
  - Particle systems

Blood flow in
human carotid artery

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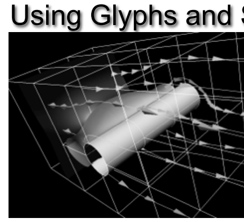
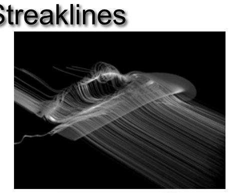
Using Glyphs and Streaklines





Glyphs for air flow
University of Utah

Glyph = marker (for example,
an arrow) used for data visualization

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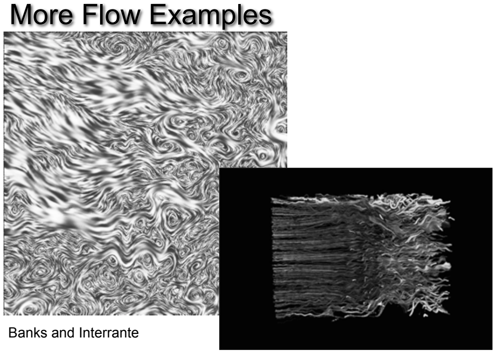
More Flow Examples



Banks and Interrante

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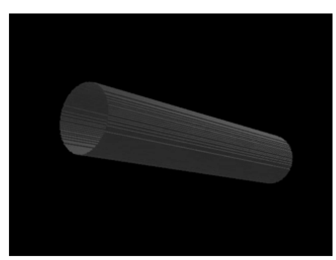
Example: Jet Shockwave



P. Sutton
University of Utah

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Summary

- Height Fields and Contours
- Scalar Fields
  - Isosurfaces
  - Marching cubes
- Volume Rendering
  - Volume ray tracing
  - Splatting
  - 3D Textures
- Vector Fields
  - Hedgehogs
  - Animated and interactive visualization

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