

# On automatic robust and efficient mesh generation and adaptation for EDA

Hang Si

Tetrahedron VII Workshop  
Barcelona, Spain  
Oct. 09-11, 2023

cadence®



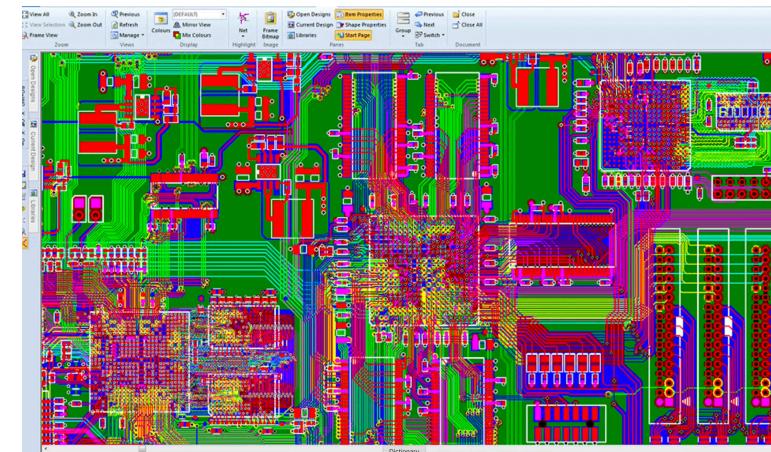
# Meshing in EDA

# EDA (Electronic Design Automation) and EDA softwares

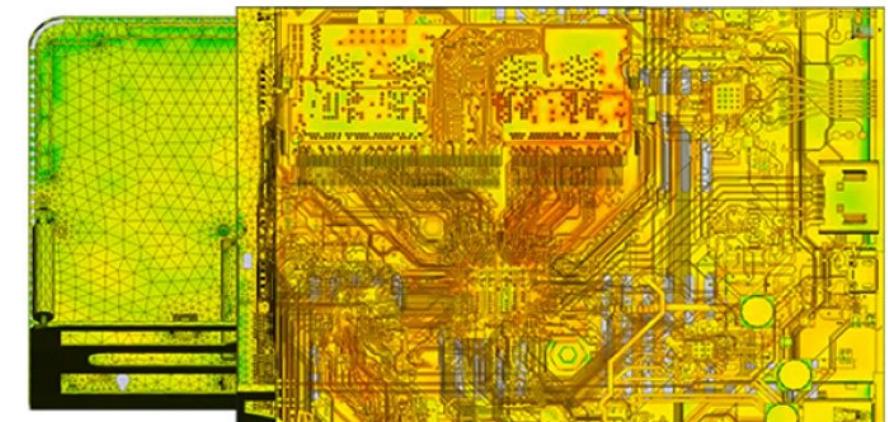
- EDA is a category of software tools for designing electronic systems such as **integrated circuits (ICs)** and **printed circuit boards (PCBs)**.
- Cadence develops software, hardware and solutions for the computing, chip, 5G communications, automotive and aerospace industries.



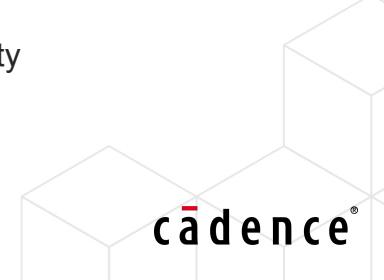
Michael Green  
What is chip design?  
<https://magreen.medium.com>



Asianometry: EDA Software, designing billions  
of circuits with code  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihz2WY-E2C8>



Cadence, Clarity



# Outline

- Meshing in EDA
- Delaunay-based 2d/3d mesh generation
- Surface mesh generation
- Remarks and outlook



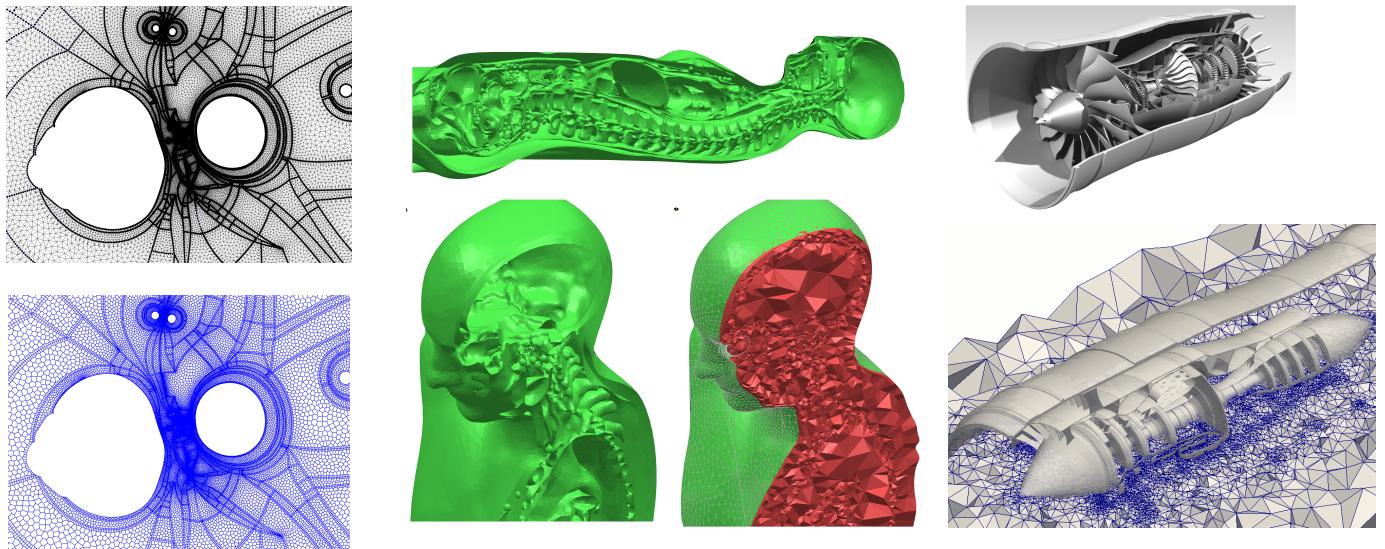
## Delaunay-based 2d/3d mesh generation

# Delaunay and Voronoi meshes

- Nice geometric properties: nearest neighbors, MaxMin angle, in relation to convex polytope theory
- Dual of Voronoi diagrams (crucial property in FEM and FVM methods)
- High mesh quality (good angles) and regularity.
- Fast algorithms have been developed
- Robust (open source) softwares: Triangle, Detri2, TetGen

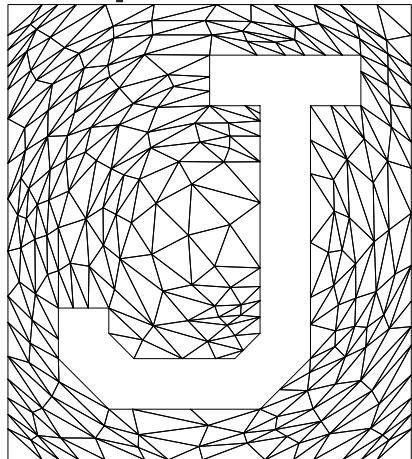


Georgy F. Voronoy (1868-1908)

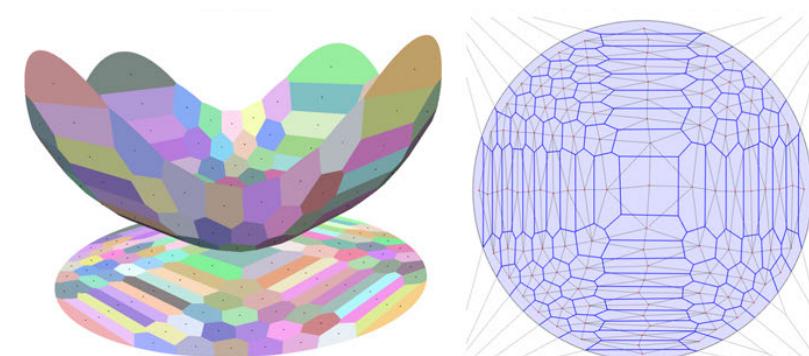
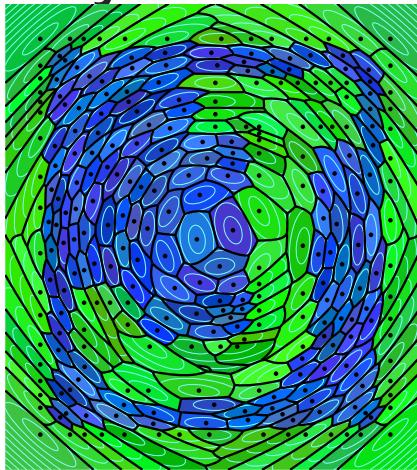


Boris N. Delaunay (1890-1980)

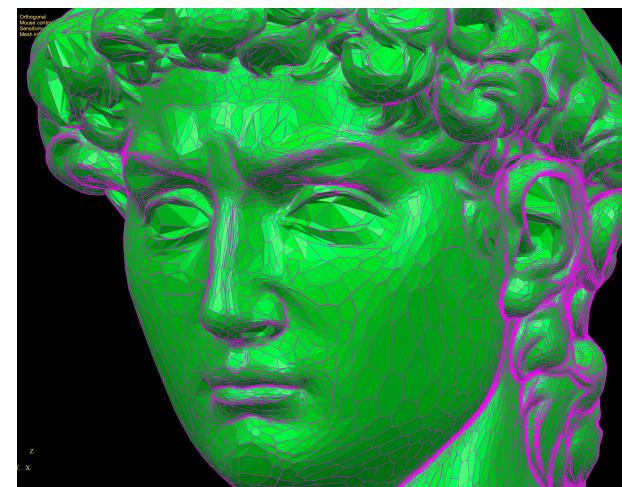
# Anisotropic Delaunay and Voronoi meshes



An anisotropic Delaunay mesh wrt a metric field  
Labelle & Shewchuk (not always exists)



Optimal Voronoi tessellation, Budninskiy et al, TOG 2016  
(Only valid for convex functions)

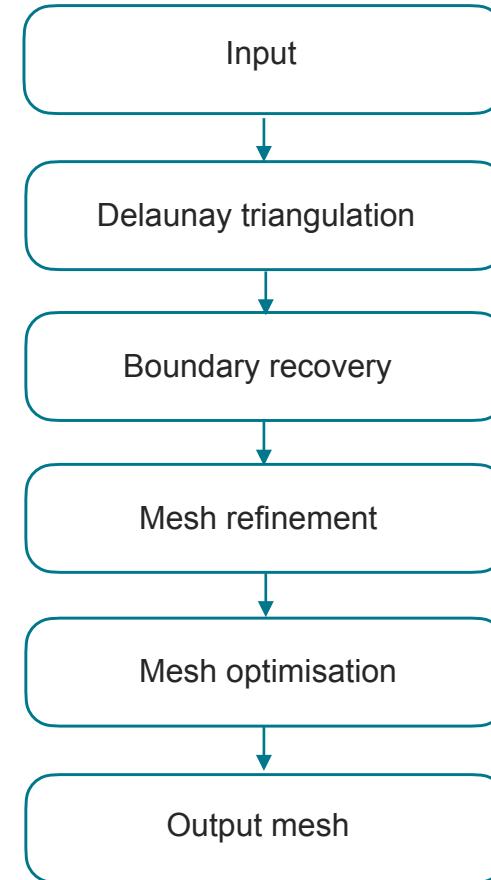


Anisotropic Delaunay surface mesh

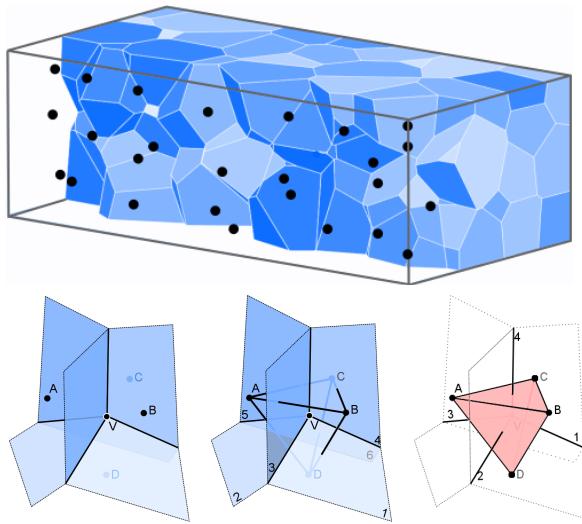
# A Delaunay-based Mesh Generation Framework (2d/3d)

**Input:** a set of points, line segments, facets

1. **Delaunay triangulation:** create the DT from input points.
2. **Boundary Recovery:** insert all input segments and facets to create a constrained (Delaunay) triangulation (CDT).
3. **Mesh refinement:** insert new points into the CDT according to (user-defined) element shape and size requirements.
4. **Mesh optimisation:** improve the mesh quality by vertex smoothing, edge/face swaps, and vertex insertions/deletions

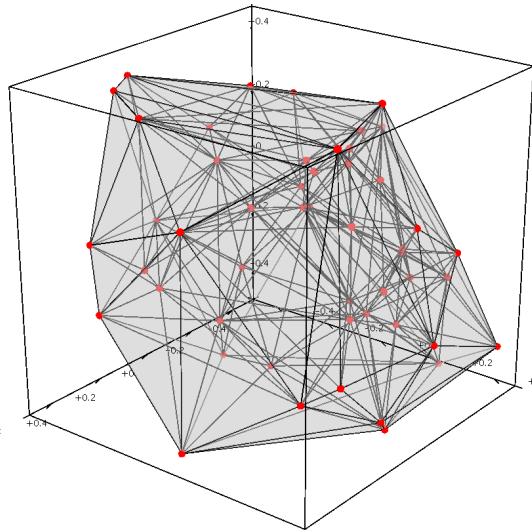


# Delaunay triangulations

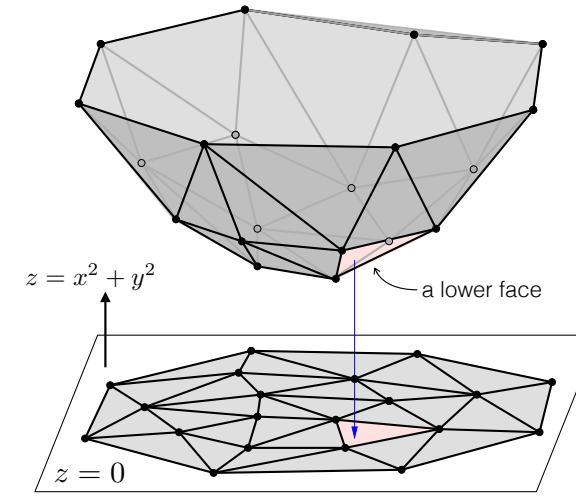


Dual of Voronoi diagrams

Figure from J. Pellerin's thesis



empty circumsphere property

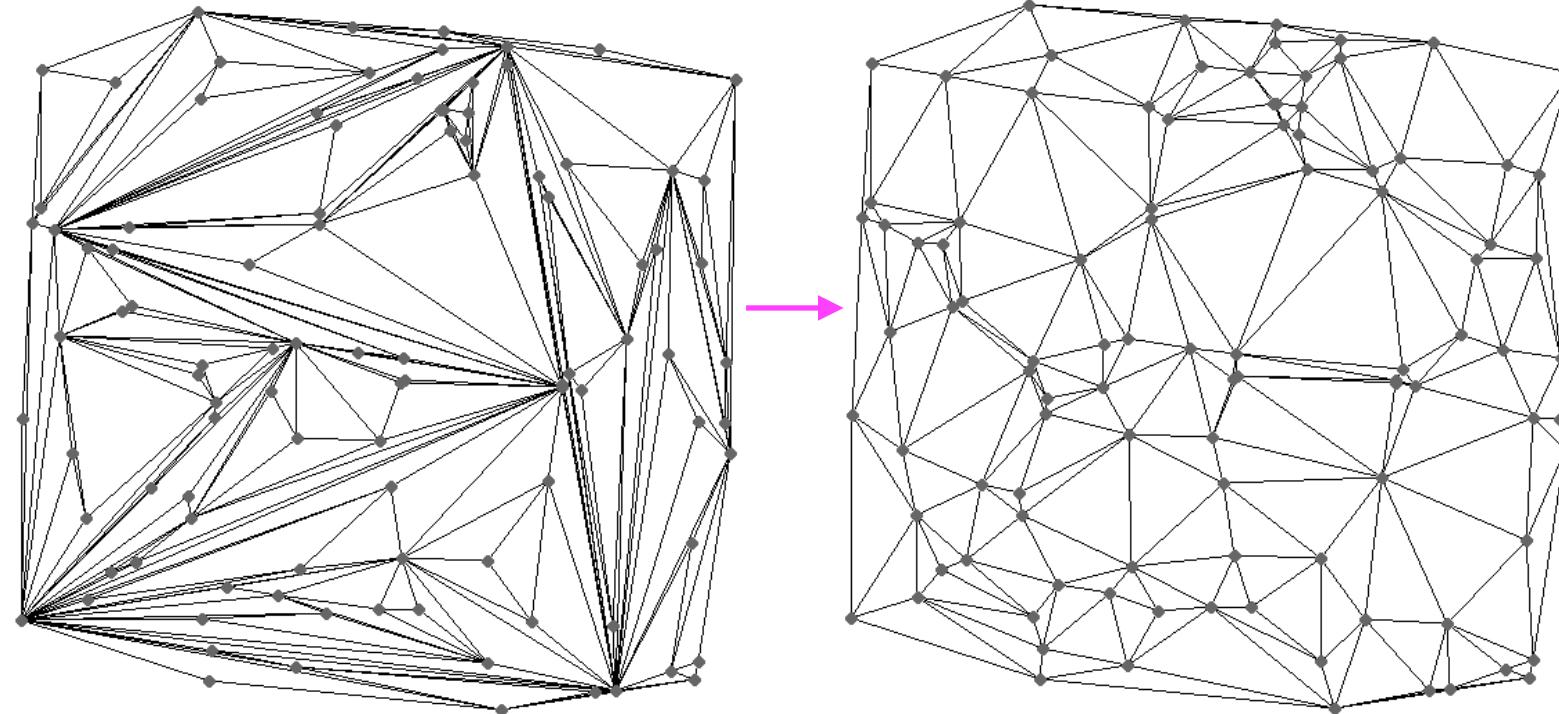
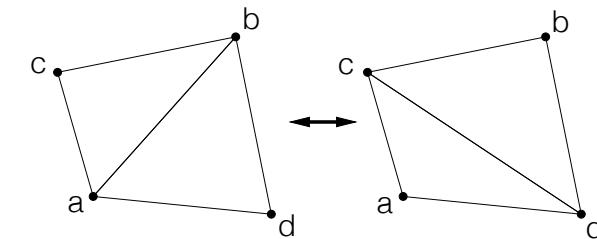


projections of convex hulls

# Lawson's Flip Algorithm [1972, 1977]

- Let  $S = \{\mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2, \dots, \mathbf{p}_n\}$  be a finite set of points in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .
- Compute an initial triangulation  $\mathcal{T}$  of a point set  $S$ .

```
while  $\exists$  a locally non-Delaunay edge  $\mathbf{ab} \in \mathcal{T}$ 
    flip  $\mathbf{ab}$ ;
end while
```



# Correctness and runtime

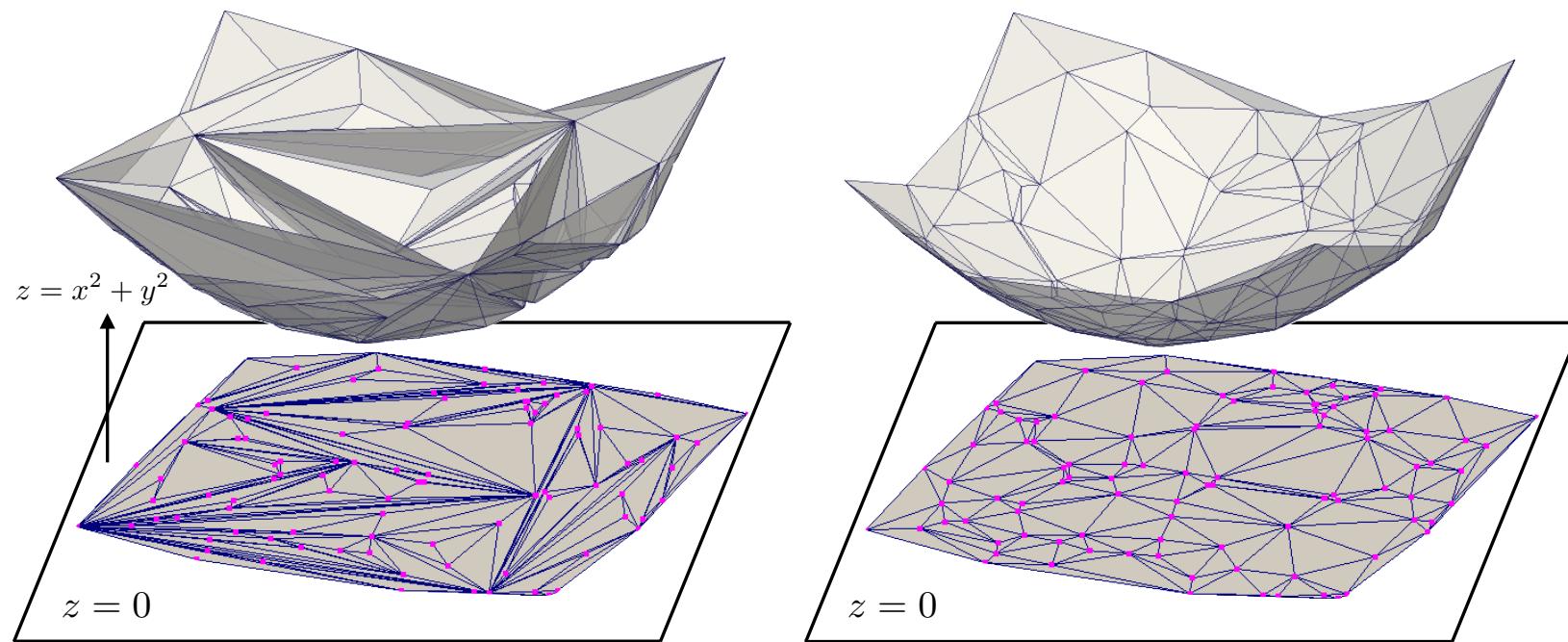


FIGURE 17. Top: Bottom: The lifted view of the Lawson's flip algorithm which transforms a non-convex surface (left) in 3d into a convex one (right).

# Flip graph

**2.4. The (undirected) flip graph.** One can use flips to traverse the set of all triangulations of a point set  $S$ . We can form a *flip-graph*  $\mathcal{G}$  of  $S$ . Each triangulation is a node of  $\mathcal{G}$ , and each edge of  $\mathcal{G}$  between two nodes  $u$  and  $v$  means there is a flip that changes the triangulation  $u$  to  $v$ . Figure 19 shows an example. The termination of Lawson's flip algorithm implies that the flip-graph for any point set in the plane is connected, i.e., one can go from any triangulation of  $S$  to any other triangulation.

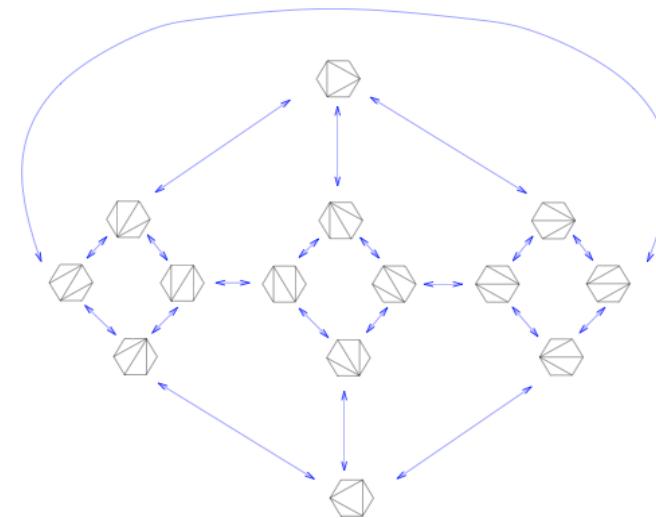


FIGURE 19. The flip graph of a set of the vertex set of a convex 6-gon.

# Incremental flip algorithm

**Algorithm:** IncrementalFlip( $S = \{\mathbf{p}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}_n\}$ )  
**Input:** a sequence  $S$  of  $n$  points in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ;  
**Output:** the Delaunay triangulation  $\mathcal{D}$  of  $S$ ;  
1 initialize  $\mathcal{D}_0$  with only one larger triangle  $t_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{y}\mathbf{z}}$ ;  
2 **for**  $i = 1$  to  $n$  **do**  
3 find the triangle  $\tau \in \mathcal{D}_{i-1}$  containing  $\mathbf{p}_i$ ;  
4 insert  $\mathbf{p}_i$  by a 1-3 flip;  
5 initial the stack  $L$  with link edges of  $\mathbf{p}_i$ ;  
6 LawsonFlip( $L$ );  
7 **endfor**  
8 remove all triangles containing  $\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{y}$ , and  $\mathbf{z}$  from  $\mathcal{D}_n$ ;

FIGURE 22. The incremental-flip algorithm.

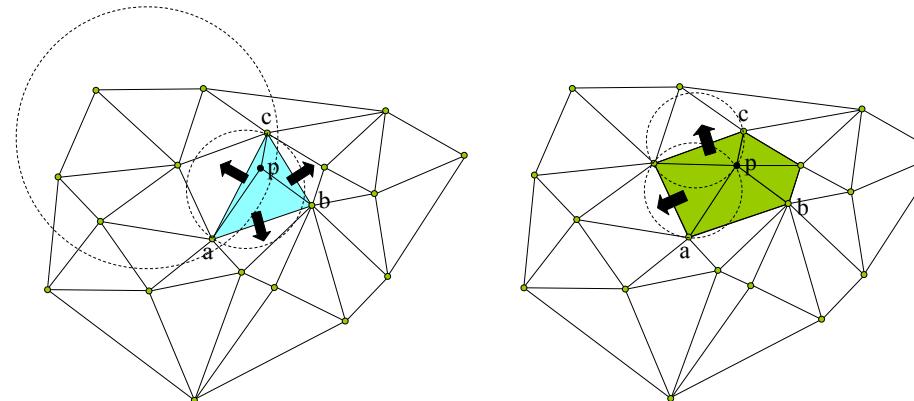
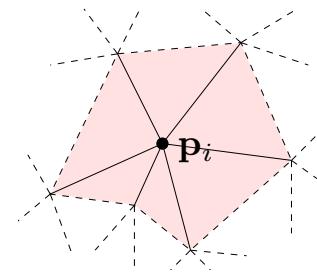
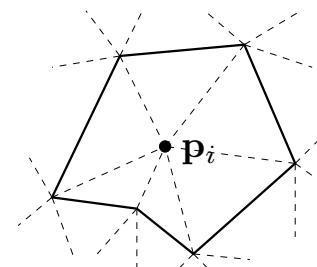


FIGURE 23. Recovery Delaunay property by the Lawson's flip algorithm.



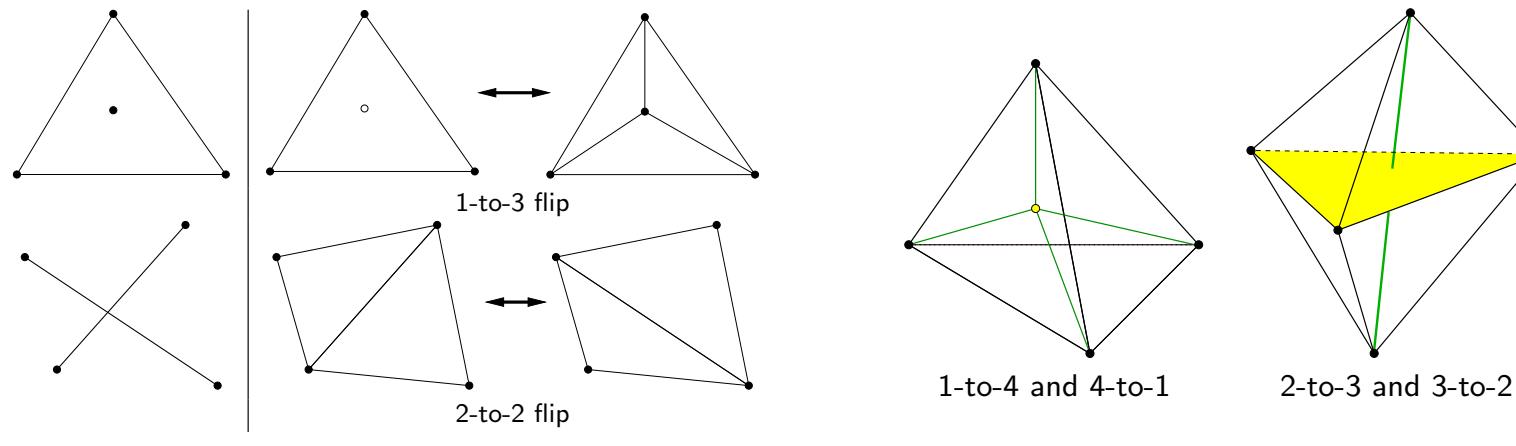
the star of  $\mathbf{p}_i$



the link of  $\mathbf{p}_i$

# Flips in any dimension

- **Radon's partitions**[Radon 1921]: Any set of  $d + 2$  points in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  can be partitioned into two disjoint sets whose convex hulls intersect.

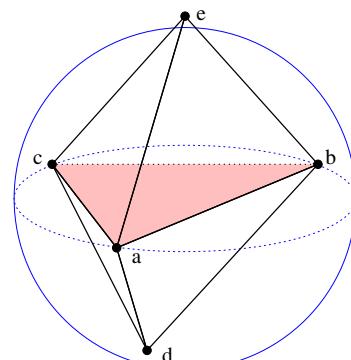


2d

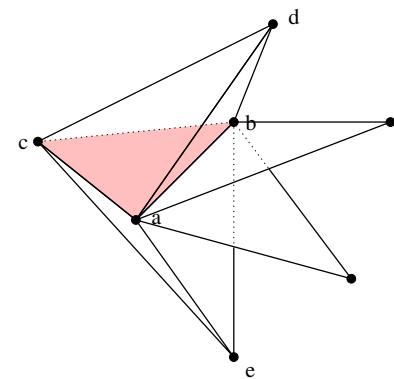
3d

# Flips in 3d

**Lemma [Joe 1989]:** There exists a 3d non-Delaunay triangulation which contains a cycle of non-locally Delaunay and unflippable faces.



a locally Delaunay face  
(shaded)



face (a,b,c) is unflippable

TABLE 1  
Vertex coordinates.

Index	x	y	z
1	0.054	0.099	0.993
2	0.066	0.756	0.910
3	0.076	0.578	0.408
4	0.081	0.036	0.954
5	0.082	0.600	0.726
6	0.085	0.327	0.731
7	0.123	0.666	0.842
8	0.161	0.303	0.975

TABLE 2  
Pseudo-locally optimal non-Delaunay triangulation (left) and Delaunay triangulation (right). A tetrahedron is described by its four vertex indices.

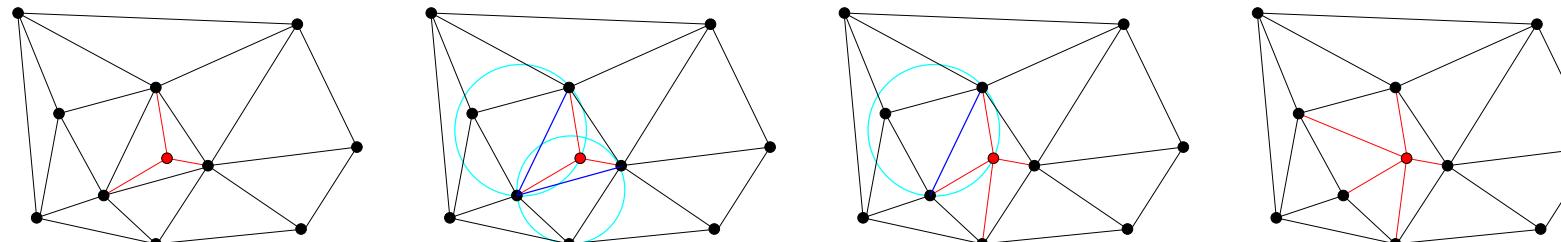
1	2	3	5	1	2	3	5
1	2	4	6	1	2	5	6
1	2	4	7	1	2	6	8
1	2	5	6	1	3	4	6
1	2	7	8	1	3	5	6
1	3	4	6	1	4	6	8
1	3	5	6	2	3	5	7
1	4	7	8	2	5	6	8
2	3	5	7	2	5	7	8
2	4	5	6	3	4	6	8
2	4	5	7	3	5	6	7
3	4	6	8	3	6	7	8
3	5	6	7	5	6	7	8
3	6	7	8				
4	5	6	8				
4	5	7	8				
5	6	7	8				

Joe's example [Joe 1989]

# Incremental flip in 3d

- Let  $S = \{\mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2, \dots, \mathbf{p}_n\}$  be a finite set of points in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . And we assume  $S$  is in general position.
- Let  $[\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}]$  be a sufficiently large tetrahedron that contains all points of  $S$ .

```
1  Let  $\mathcal{D}_0$  consists of only the tetrahedron  $[\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}]$ ;  
2  for  $i = 1$  to  $n$  do  
3      find  $[\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}] \in \mathcal{D}_i$  that contains  $\mathbf{p}_i$ ;  
4      add  $\mathbf{p}_i$  with a 1-to-4 flip;  
5      while  $\exists$  triangle  $[\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}]$  not locally Delaunay;  
6          flip  $[\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}]$ ;  
7      endwhile  
8  endfor
```

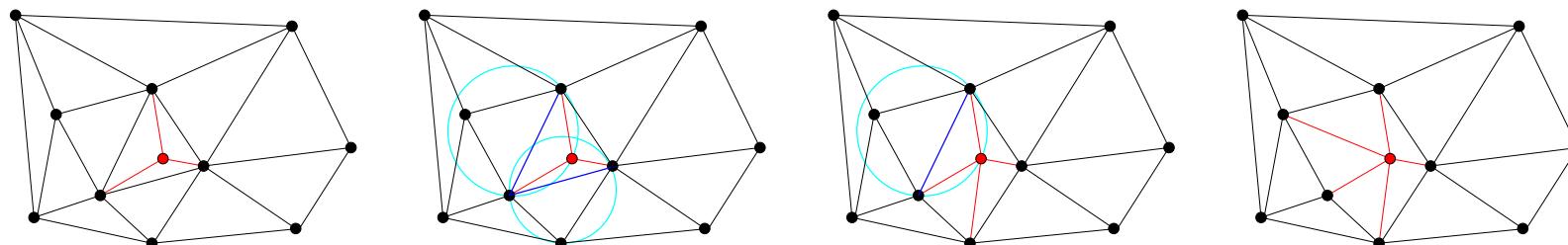


Edelsbrunner, H. & Shah, N. R. Incremental topological flipping works for regular triangulations, Algorithmica, 1996, 15, 223-241

# Implementation choices

- Let  $S = \{\mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2, \dots, \mathbf{p}_n\}$  be a finite set of points in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . And we assume  $S$  is in general position. ← **sort the input points by BRIO + Hilbert order**
- Let  $[\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}]$  be a sufficiently large tetrahedron that contains all points of  $S$ .
  - 1 Let  $\mathcal{D}_0$  consists of only the tetrahedron  $[\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}]$ ; ← no need of this step when using an infinite vertex
  - 2 **for**  $i = 1$  to  $n$  **do**
  - 3     find  $[\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}] \in \mathcal{D}_i$  that contains  $\mathbf{p}_i$ ;
  - 4     add  $\mathbf{p}_i$  with a 1-to-4 flip;
  - 5     **while**  $\exists$  triangle  $[\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}]$  not locally Delaunay; ← **Use Bowyer-Watson cavity algorithm**
  - 6         flip  $[\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}]$ ;
  - 7     **endwhile**
  - 8 **endfor**

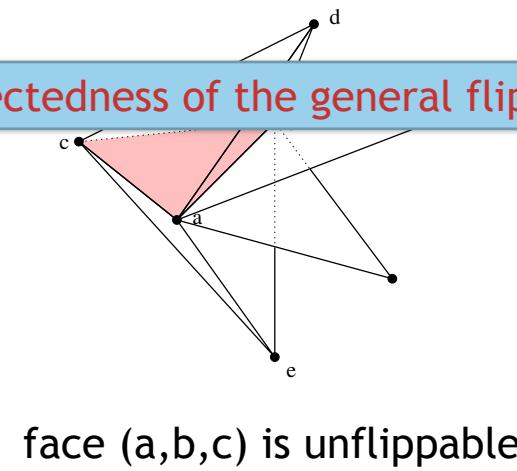
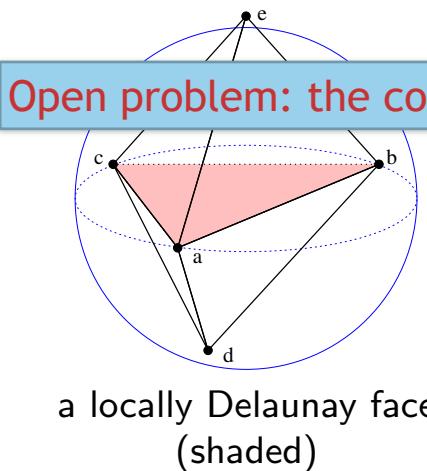
**Use filtered robust predicates to do point orientation3d and point-in-sphere tests**



Célestin Marot, Jeanne Pellerin, and Jean-François Remacle. One machine, one minute, three billion tetrahedra. *International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering*, 117(9):967–990, 2019.

# Flips in 3d

**Lemma [Joe 1989]:** There exists a 3d non-Delaunay triangulation which contains a cycle of non-locally Delaunay and unflippable faces.



Open problem: the connectedness of the general flip graphs in 3d and 4d.

TABLE 1  
Vertex coordinates.

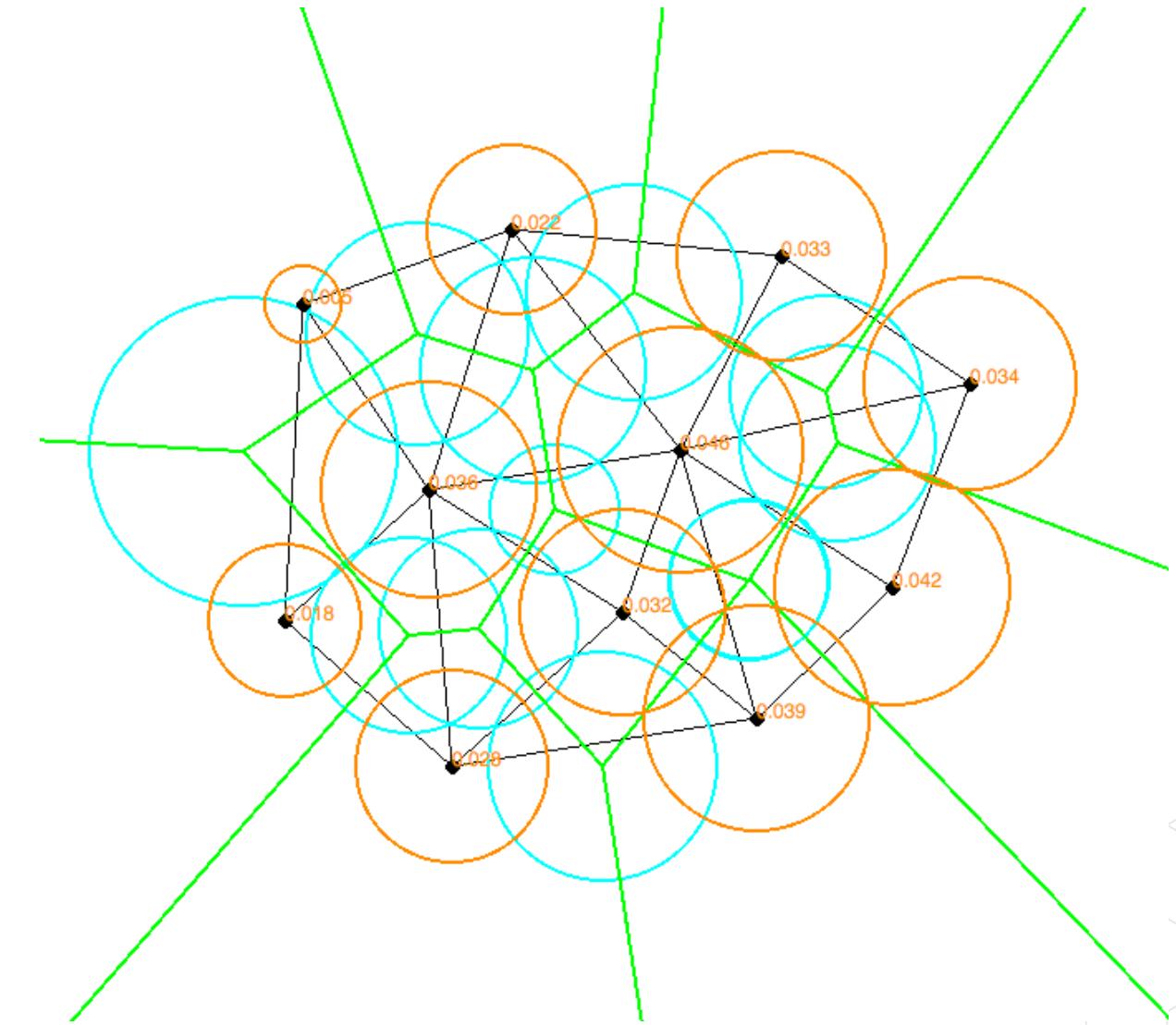
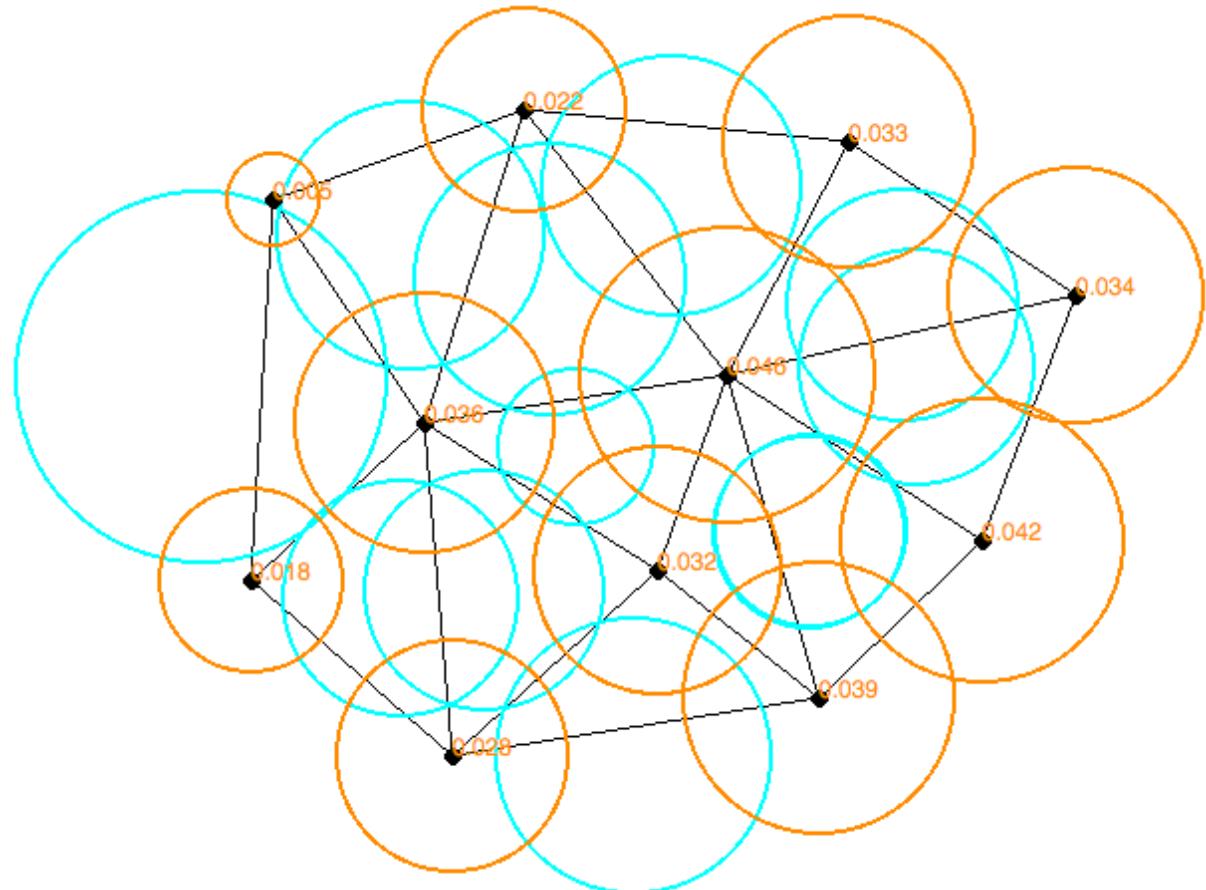
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Delaunay triangulation (right). A tetrahedron is described by its four vertex indices.

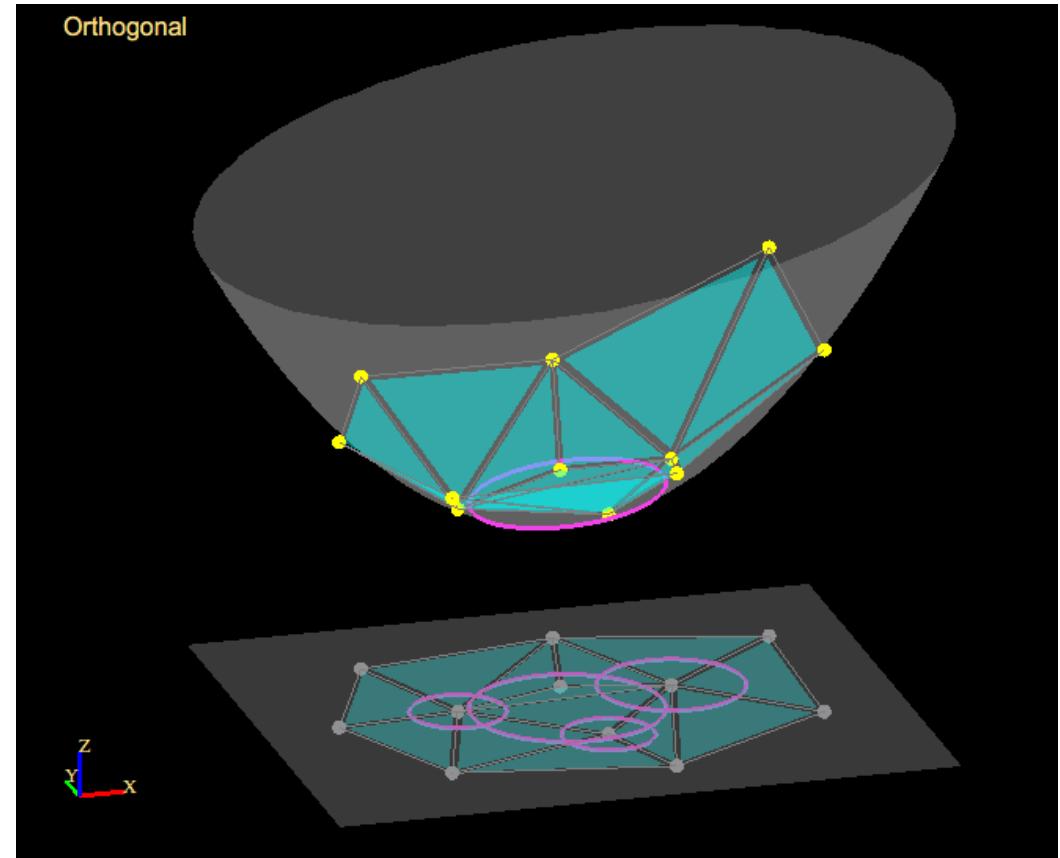
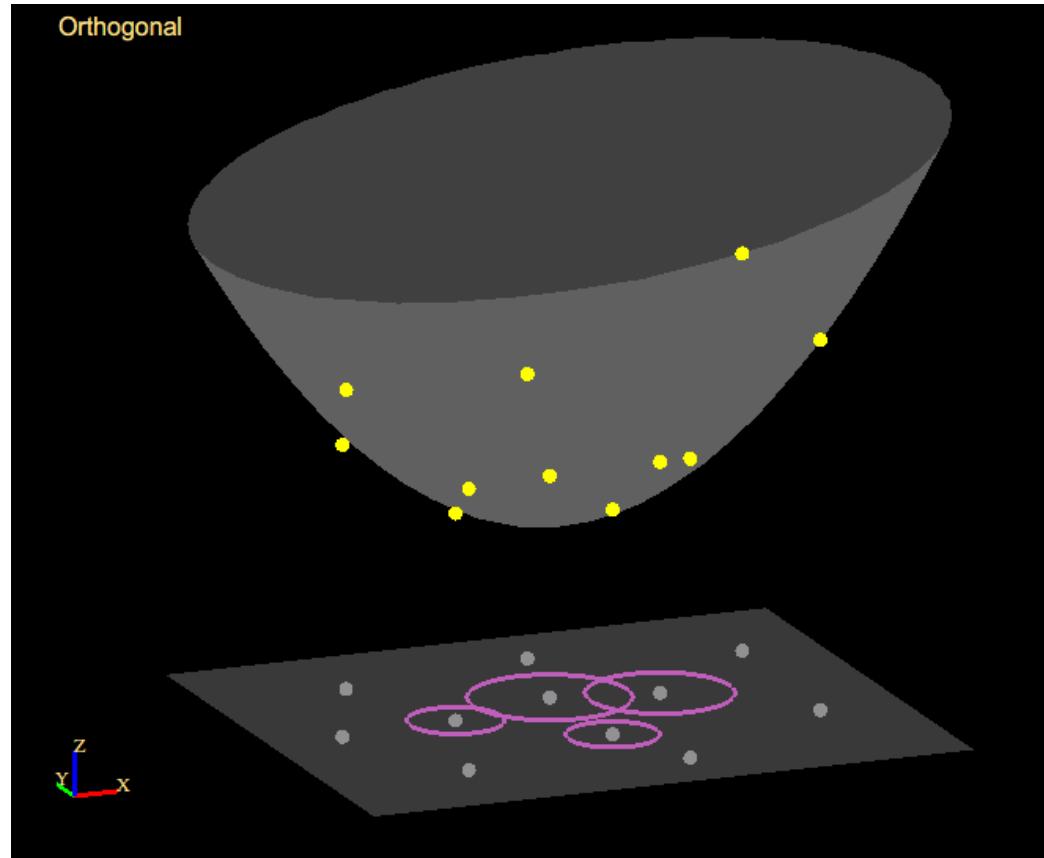
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1	2	4	7	1	2	6	8
1	2	5	6	1	3	4	6
1	2	7	8	1	3	5	6
1	3	4	6	1	4	6	8
1	3	5	6	2	3	5	7
1	4	7	8	2	5	6	8
2	3	5	7	2	5	7	8
2	4	5	6	3	4	6	8
2	4	5	7	3	5	6	7
3	4	6	8	3	6	7	8
3	5	6	7	5	6	7	8
3	6	7	8				
4	5	6	8				
4	5	7	8				
5	6	7	8				

Joe's example [Joe 1989]

# Weighted Delaunay Triangulations

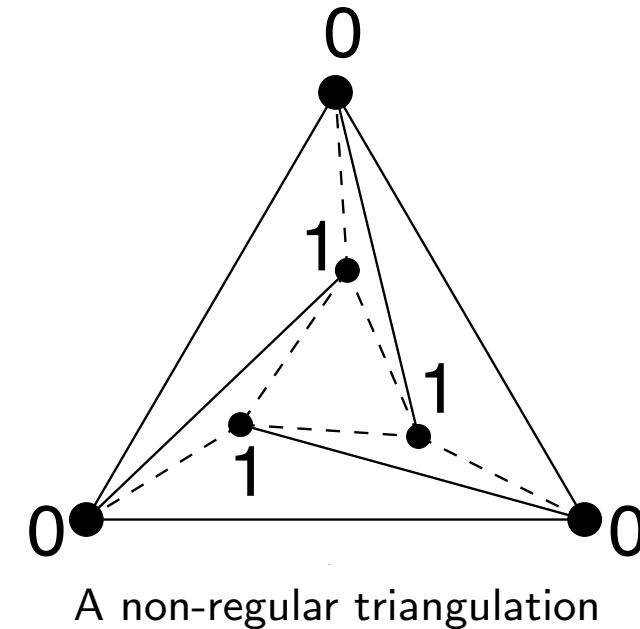


# Weighted Delaunay triangulations



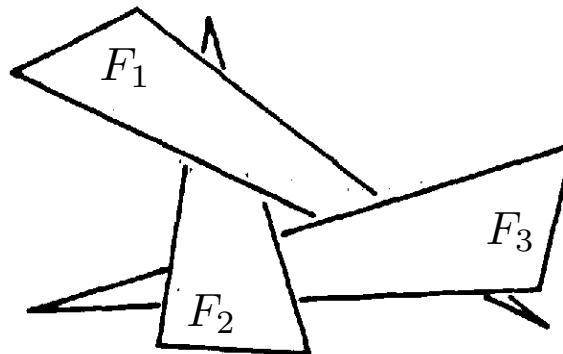
# Non-weighted Delaunay Triangulations

- A subdivision of a point set  $S$  is **non-regular** if it is not a regular subdivision of  $S$ .
- There are many non-regular subdivisions. For example, most triangulations of cyclic polytopes are non-regular [Rambau 1996].

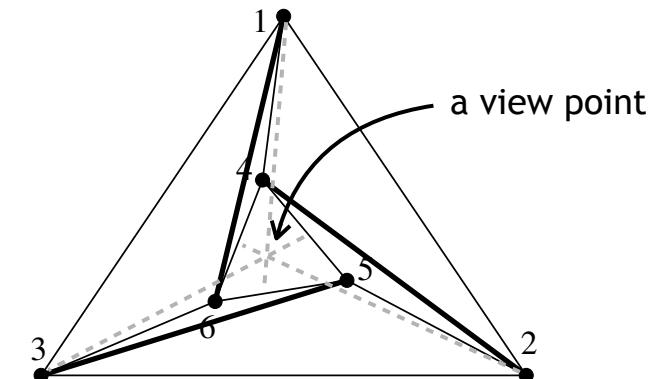


# The acyclic theorem [Edelsbrunner 1990]

- The **in\_front/behind** relation: Let  $x$  be a point and  $P$  and  $Q$  be two disjoint convex objects in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . We say that  $P$  is *in front of*  $Q$  with respect to  $x$  if there is a ray  $L$  starting at  $x$  that first passes through  $P$  and then through  $Q$ .
- **Theorem [Edelsbrunner 1990]:** The in\_front/behind relation defined for the faces of any regular subdivision and for fixed viewpoint  $x$  in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  is acyclic.



$$F_1 \prec F_2 \prec F_3 \prec F_1$$



$$t_{1,4,6} \prec t_{3,5,6} \prec t_{2,4,5} \prec t_{1,4,6}$$

# The Flip Graph of Regular Triangulations

- **Theorem[Gelfand-Kapranov-Zelevinskii 1990]:** For every set  $A$  of  $n$  points in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , there is a polytope  $\Sigma(A)$  of dimension  $n - d - 1$  with the following correspondence:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{regular triangulation of } A & \longleftrightarrow & \text{vertices of } \Sigma(A) \\ \text{flips between them} & \longleftrightarrow & \text{edges of } \Sigma(A) \\ \text{poset of regular triangulation of } A & \longleftrightarrow & \text{poset of faces of } \Sigma(A) \end{array}$$

This is called the **secondary polytope** of  $A$ .

- **Corollary:** The flip graph of regular triangulations is connected.

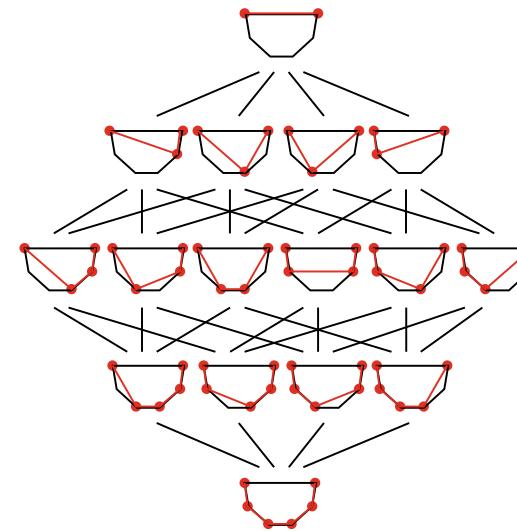
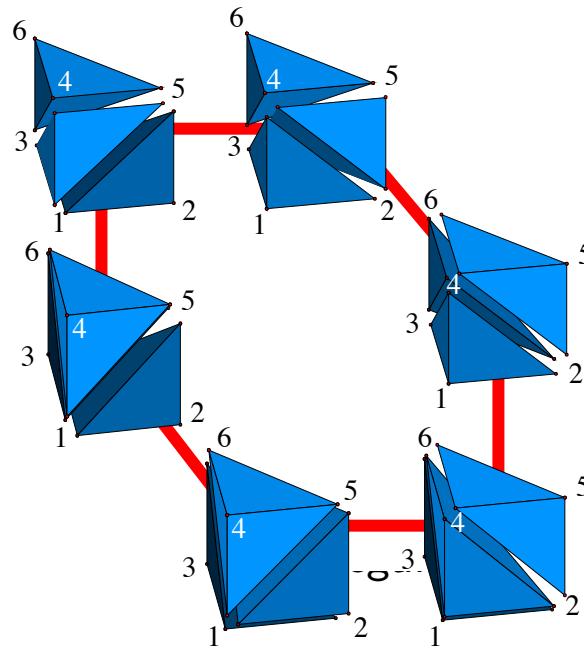
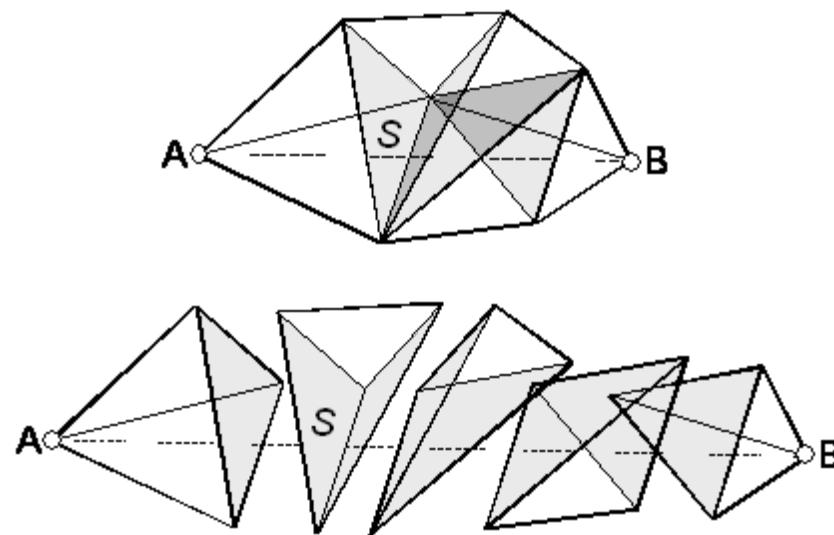
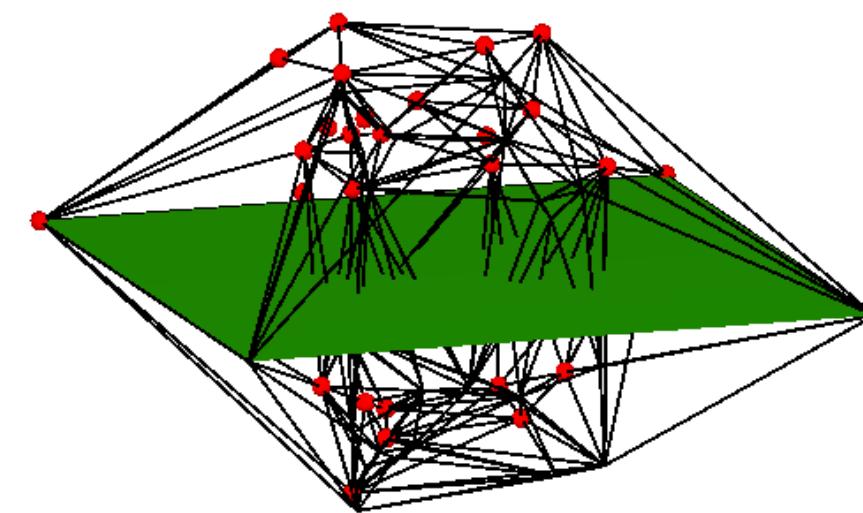


Figure 6.7: The height of a section defines a poset on all triangulations of  $C(6, 1)$ .

# Boundary Recovery



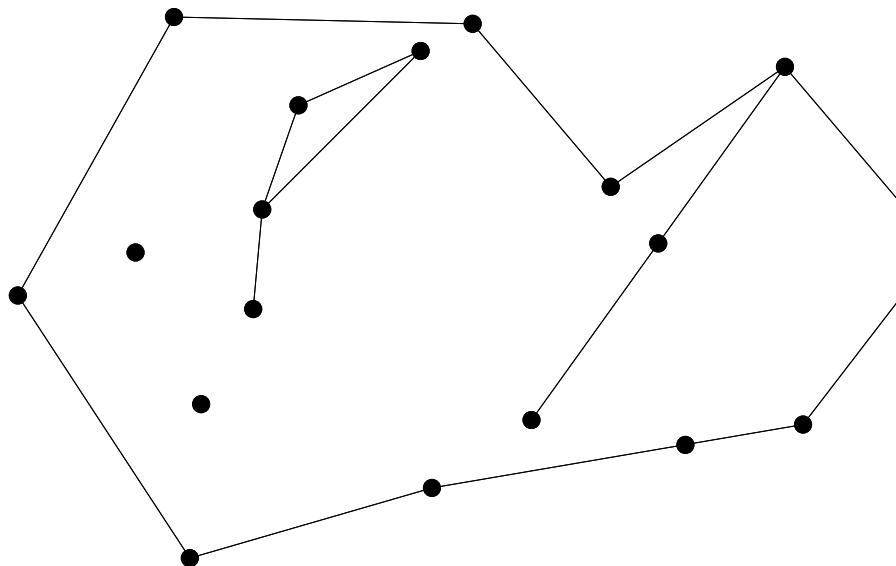
How to recover the edge AB?  
images from [Owen 1998]



How to recover the rectangular face

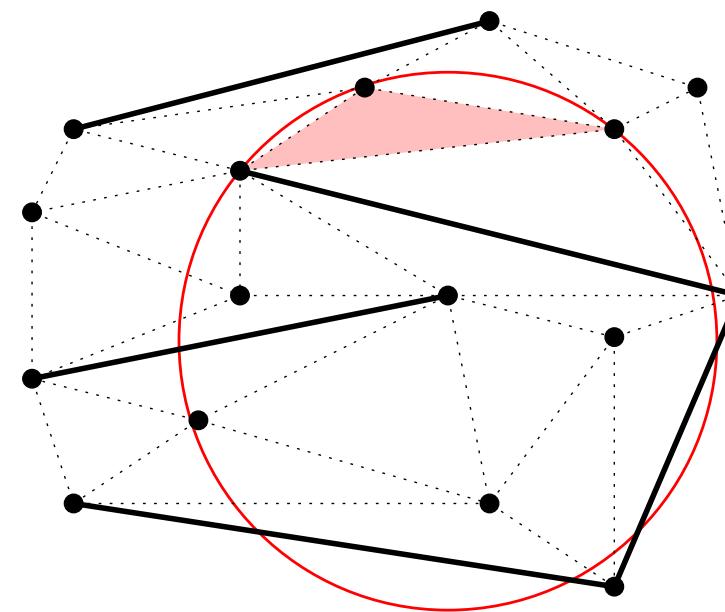
# Planar straight-line graphs (PSLGs)

**2.1. Planar straight-line graphs.** Consider now the input is a finite set of points  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ , together with a finite set of line segments,  $L$ , each connecting two points in  $S$ . We require any two line segments of  $L$  be disjointed or met at most in a common endpoint. We call  $G = (S, L)$  a *planar straight-line graph* (PSLG), see Figure 2.1 Left for an example.



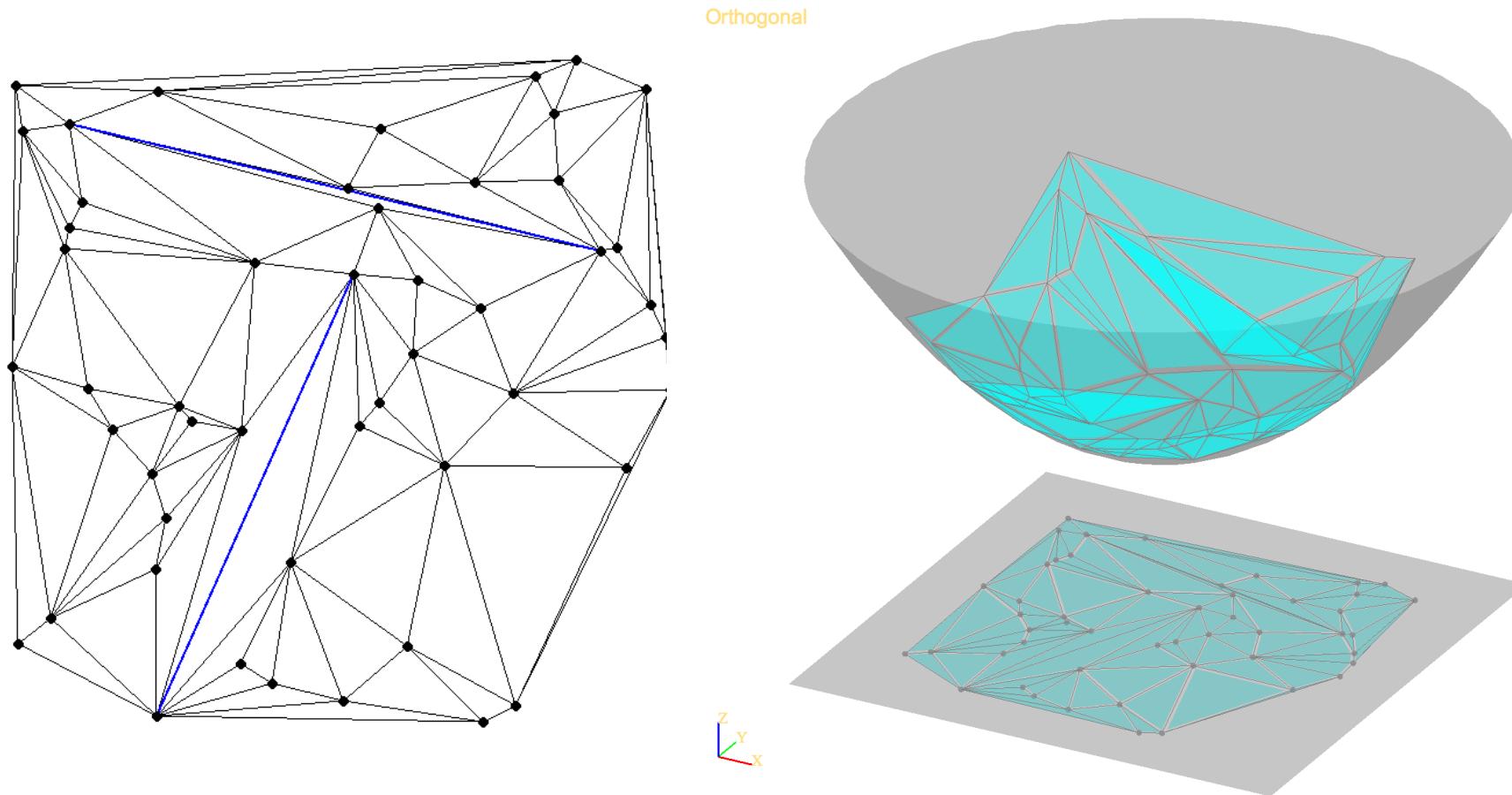
A PSLG  $(S, L)$

A **constrained Delaunay triangulation** (CDT) is a triangulation whose triangles are all constrained Delaunay [Lee & Lin 1986].

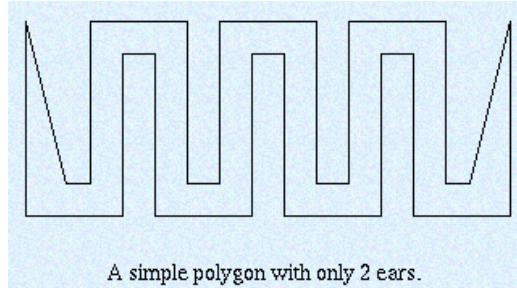


a constrained Delaunay  
triangulation

## The lifting transformation of CDTs



**Theorem 1.1** (Two-Ear theorem [8]). *Every simple polygon with more than 3 vertices has at least two ears.*

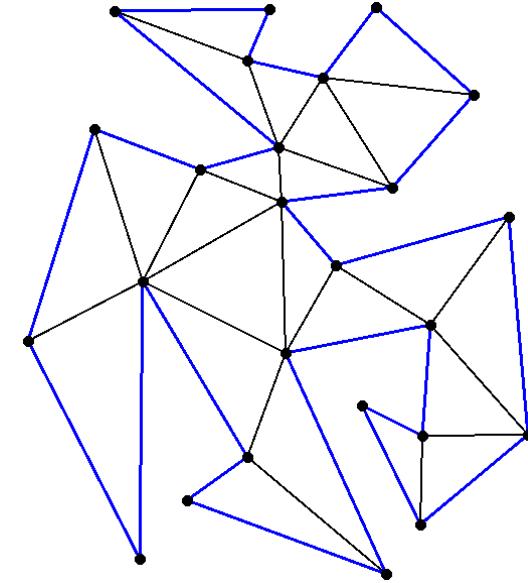
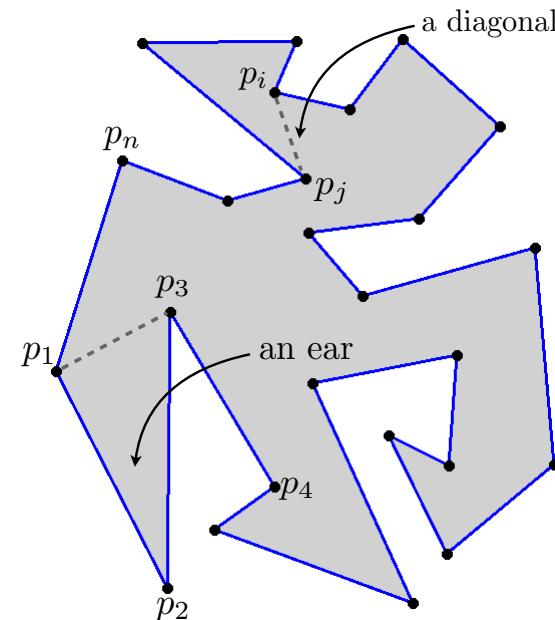


The Ear-Clipping algorithm to triangulate a simple polygon.

```

1 while  $P$  contains more than 3 vertices do
2   Find an ear  $\{a_{i-1}, a_i, a_{i+1}\}$  of  $P$ ;
3   Output a triangle  $\{a_{i-1}, a_i, a_{i+1}\}$ ;
4   Update  $P := P \setminus \text{conv}\{a_{i-1}, a_i, a_{i+1}\}$ ;
5 endwhile

```



From this algorithm, it is easy to see that every triangulation of a simple polygon with  $n$  vertices has exactly  $n - 2$  triangles and  $n - 3$  diagonals. These counts can also be derived from the Euler's formula (we leave it as an exercise).

the worst case of finding one ear takes  $O(n^2)$  time.

**Algorithm:** IncrementalCDT( $S, L$ )  
**Input:** A PSLG  $(S, L)$ ,  $k := |L|$ ;  
**Output:** the CDT  $\mathcal{T}$  of  $(S, L)$ ;  
1 construct an initial CDT  $\mathcal{T}_0$  of  $S$ ;  
2 **for**  $i = 1$  to  $k$  **do**  
3   **if**  $s_i \in L$  and  $s_i \notin \mathcal{T}_{i-1}$  **then**  
4     RecoverEdge( $s_i, \mathcal{T}_{i-1}$ ); ←  
5     Let  $E$  be the set of new edges in  $\mathcal{T}_{i-1}$ ;  
6     ConstrainedLawsonFlip( $E$ );  
7   **endif**  
8 **endfor**

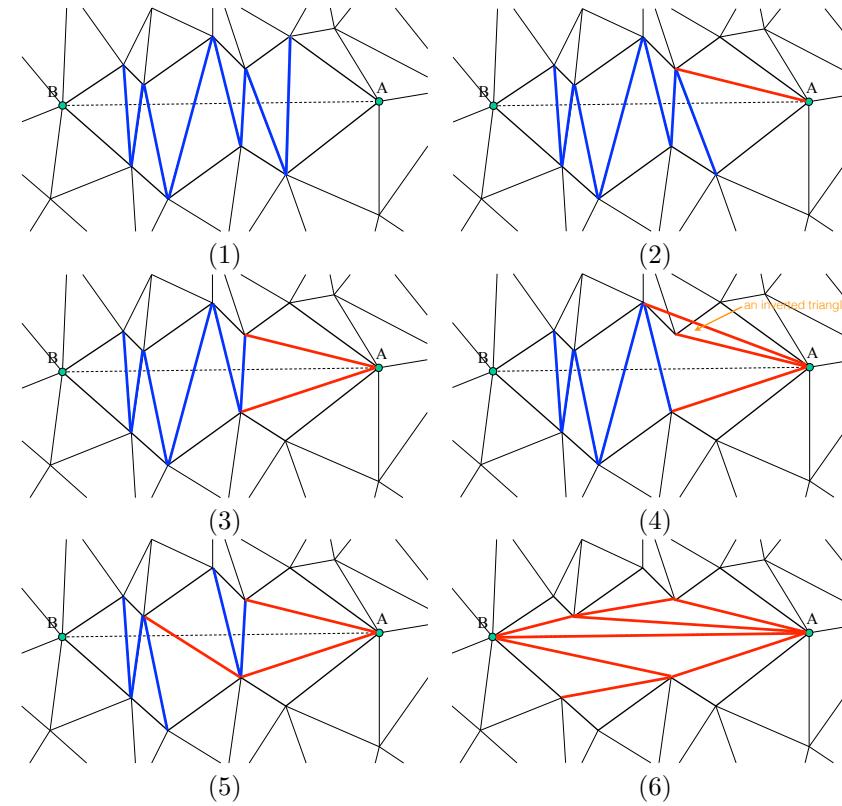
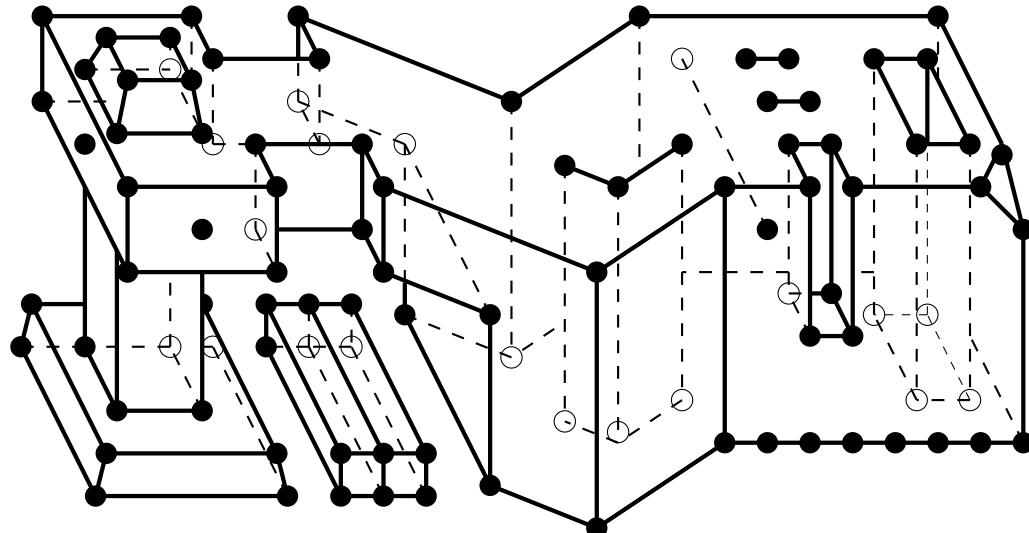


FIGURE 15. Recover an edge by flips. (Figures from S. Owen).

# Piecewise linear complexes

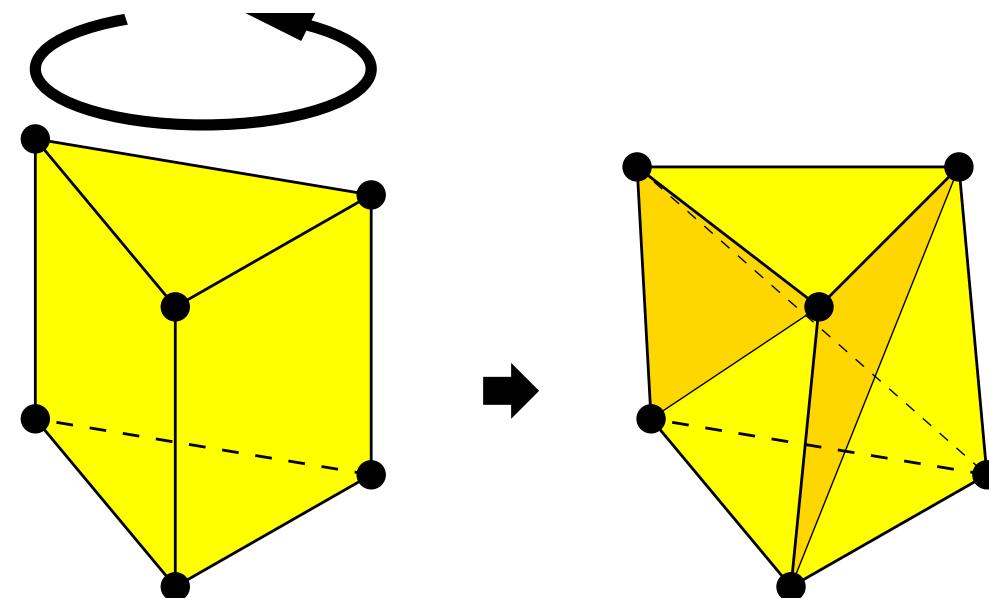
- A 3D *piecewise linear complex* (PLC) [Miller et al'96] is a collection  $\mathcal{X}$  of vertices, edges, polygons, and polyhedra, collectively called *cells*, such that
  - (1) the boundary of each cell in  $\mathcal{X}$  is also cells in  $\mathcal{X}$ ; and
  - (2) if  $f, g \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $f \cap g \neq \emptyset$ , then  $f \cap g$  is a union of cells in  $\mathcal{X}$ .



— figure by J. Shewchuk

# Some polyhedra need Steiner points (additional points)

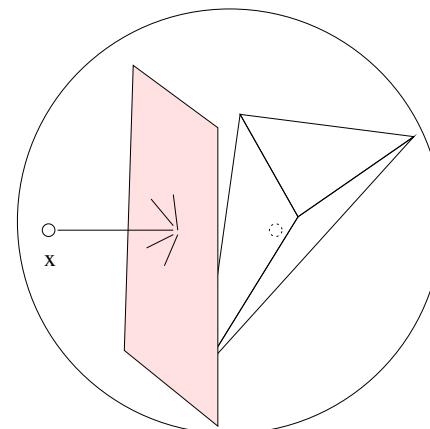
- A simple polyhedron  $P$  may not have a tetrahedralization without using additional points (Steiner points<sup>(1)</sup>) [Lennes 1911, Schönhardt 1928].
- The problem of deciding whether  $P$  can be tetrahedralized without Steiner points is NP-complete [Rupper & Seidel 1992].



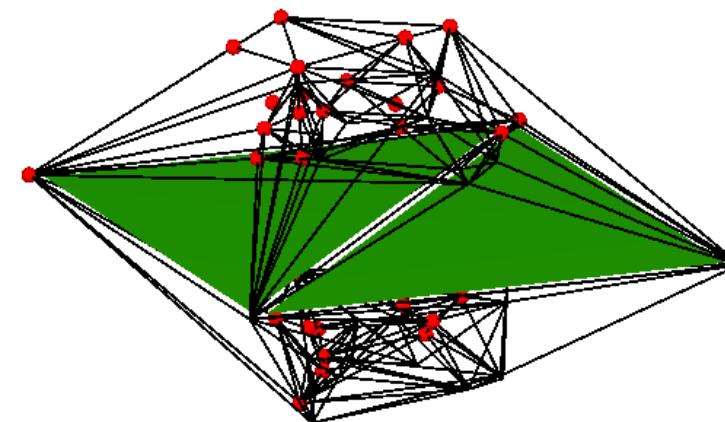
The Schönhardt Polyhedron [1928]

(1) Jakob Steiner (1796 – 1863), a Switzerland native and a geometer from Berlin.

- We generalize the definition of 2d CDT of [**Lee & Lin 1986**] into 3D.
- A tetrahedron is **constrained Delaunay** if: (i) it does not intersect any constraint in its interior; and (ii) its circumsphere contains no vertex that is visible from its interior.
- A tetrahedralization  $\mathcal{T}$  of a PLC  $\mathcal{X}$  is a **constrained Delaunay tetrahedralization** (CDT) if every tetrahedron in  $\mathcal{T}$  is constrained Delaunay [**Shewchuk 1998**].

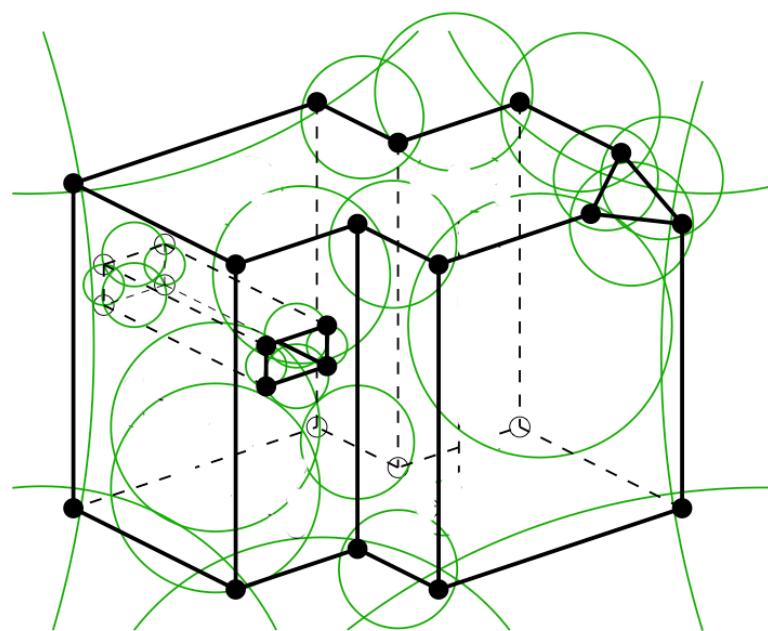


a constrained Delaunay tetrahedron



a constrained Delaunay tetrahedralization (CDT)

- An edge  $e$  in a PLC  $\mathcal{X}$  is *strongly Delaunay* if there exists a circumball of  $e$  such that no other vertex of  $\mathcal{X}$  lies inside or on the boundary of the ball.
- **Theorem [Shewchuk 1998].** If every edge of the PLC is strongly Delaunay, then it has a CDT.
- A *Steiner CDT* of  $\mathcal{X}$  is a CDT of  $\mathcal{X} \cup \mathcal{S}$ , where  $\mathcal{S}$  is a set of *Steiner points*.

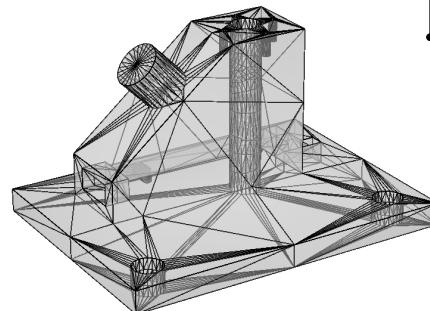


Courtesy of J. Shewchuk

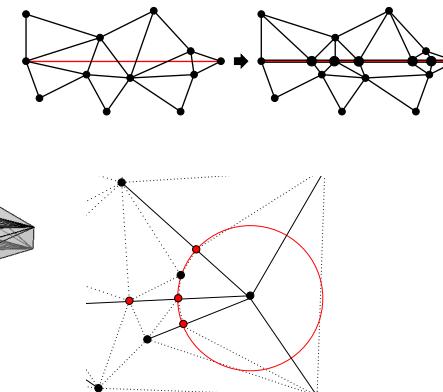
# A CDT algorithm

Given a 3D PLC  $\mathcal{X}$ , a Steiner CDT of  $\mathcal{X}$  is generated in three steps:

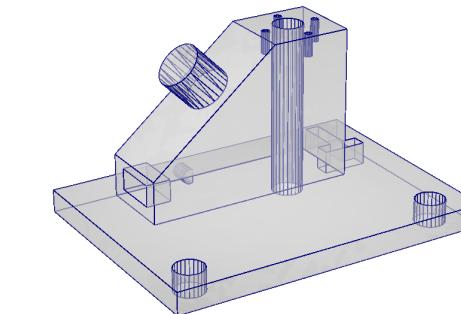
- (1) **Initialization:** Creating a Delaunay tetrahedralization of the vertices of  $\mathcal{X}$ ;
- (2) **Segment insertion:** Splitting all non-Delaunay segments of  $\mathcal{X}$  by inserting Steiner points, until all subsegments are Delaunay;
- (3) **Polygon insertion:** Generating the Steiner CDT of  $\mathcal{X}$ .



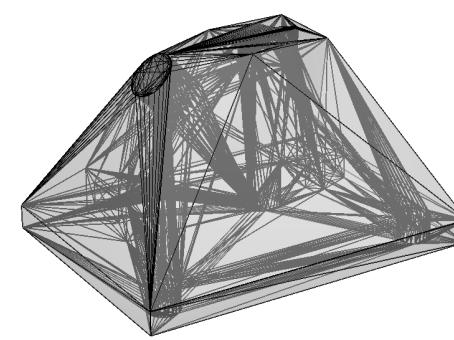
(2) Segment insertion



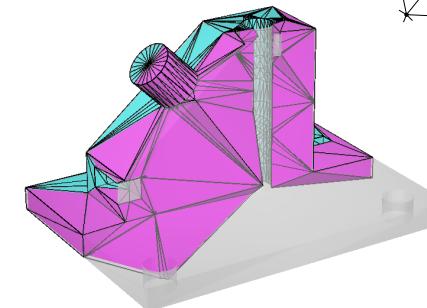
[Si & Grtner 2005]



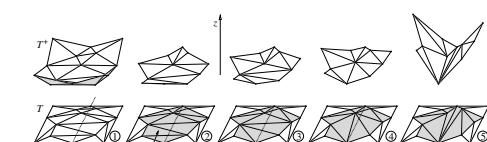
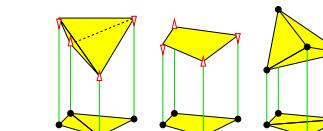
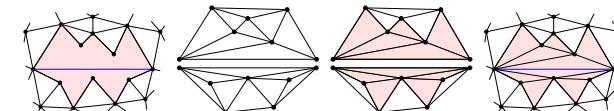
An input PLC  $\mathcal{X}$



(1) Initialization

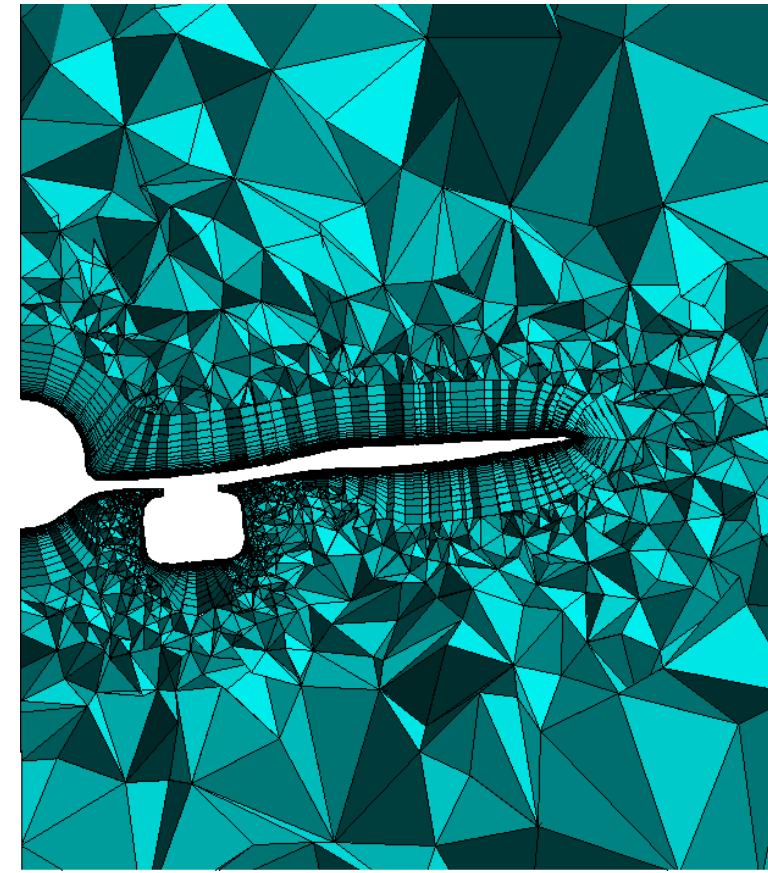
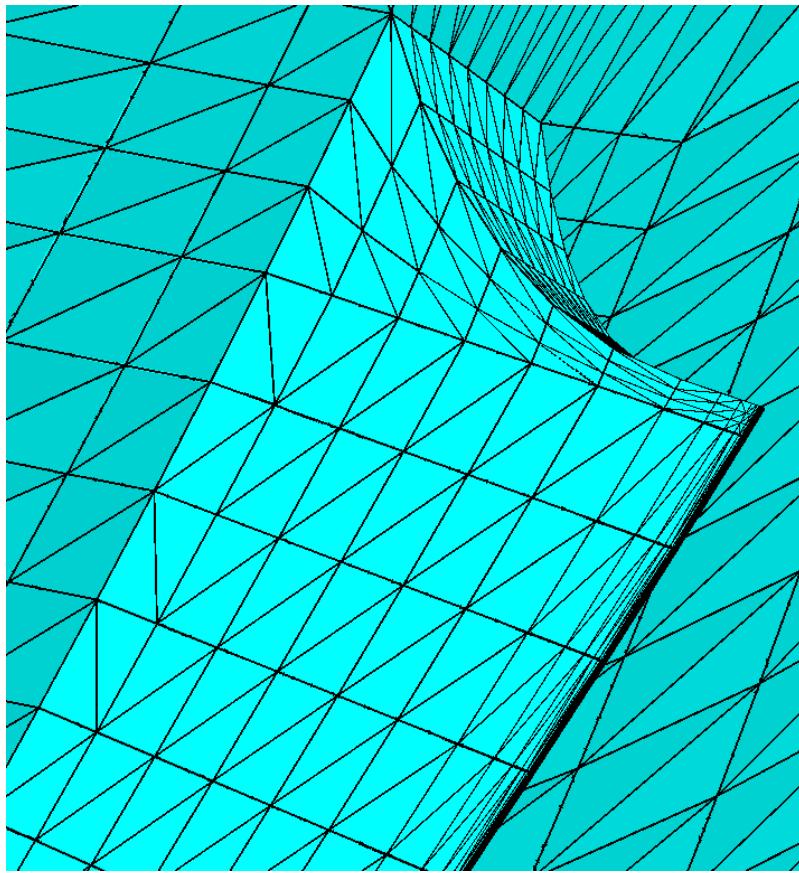


(2) Segment insertion



[Shewchuk 2003] [Si & Shewchuk 2014]

- In many applications, a pre-discretized surface mesh is used as input, and it is required that this surface mesh be exactly preserved in the generated tetrahedral mesh, i.e., no subdivision of the surface mesh is allowed.



courtesy of acelab utexas

# Three classical methods

- (1) Use **edge/face swaps** together with interior Steiner points insertion [**George, Hecht, & Saltel 1991**] (in TetMesh-GHS3D).
- (2) Insert Steiner points at where the boundaries and  $\mathcal{T}$  intersect, **delete vertices** or **relocate them** from the boundaries afterwards [**Weatherill & Hassan 1994**].
- (3) Combine methods (1) and (2) [**George, Borouchaki, & Saltel 2003**] (in TetMesh-GHS3D).

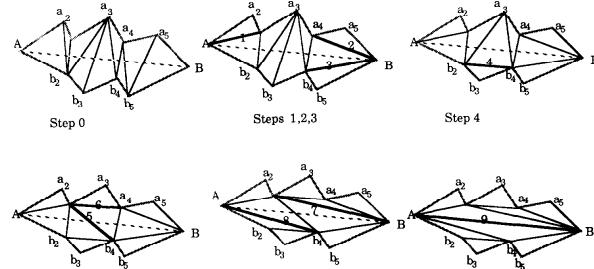


Fig. 11. Step 0, steps 1, 2, 3, step 4, steps 5, 6, steps 7, 8, and step 9.

(1) [George, Hecht, and Saltel 1991]

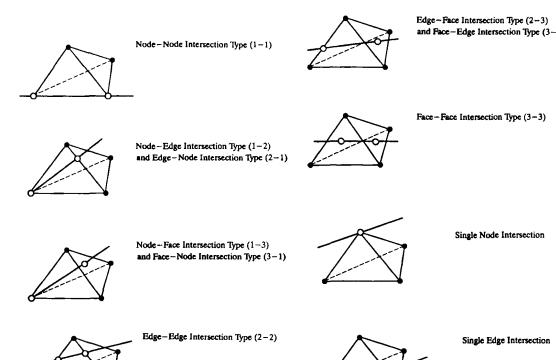
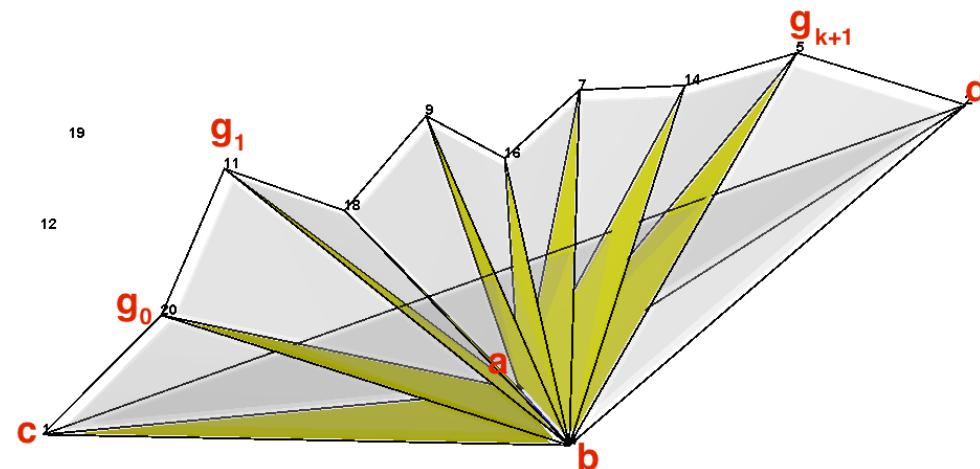


Figure 5. Types of edge-tetrahedron intersections for missing surface edges

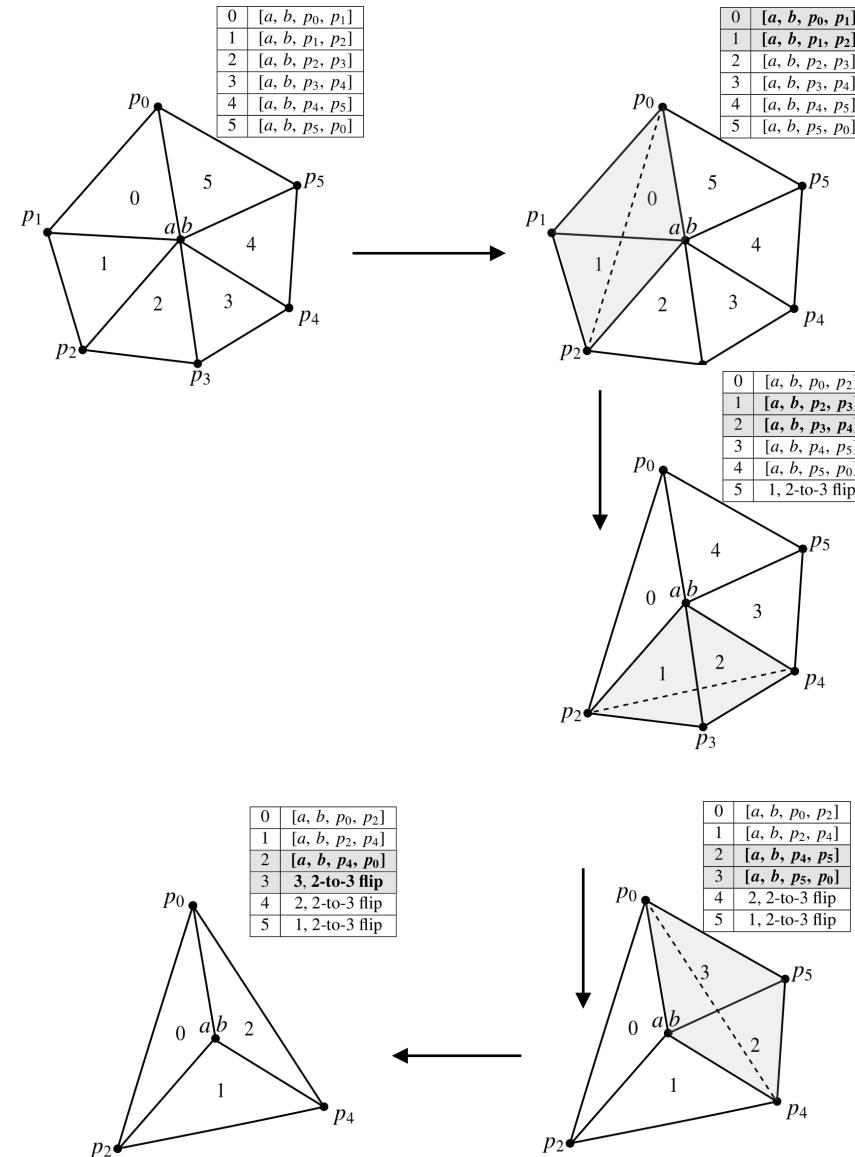
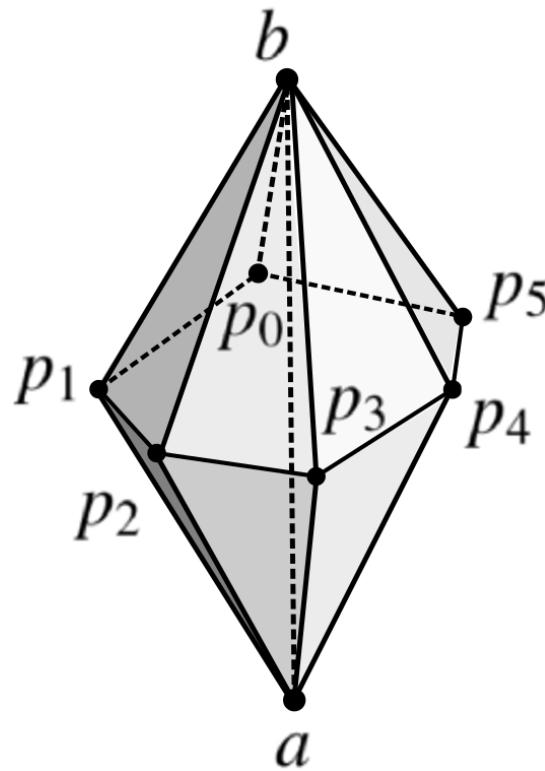
(2) [Weatherill and Hassan 1994]

# Recover edge (face) by flips

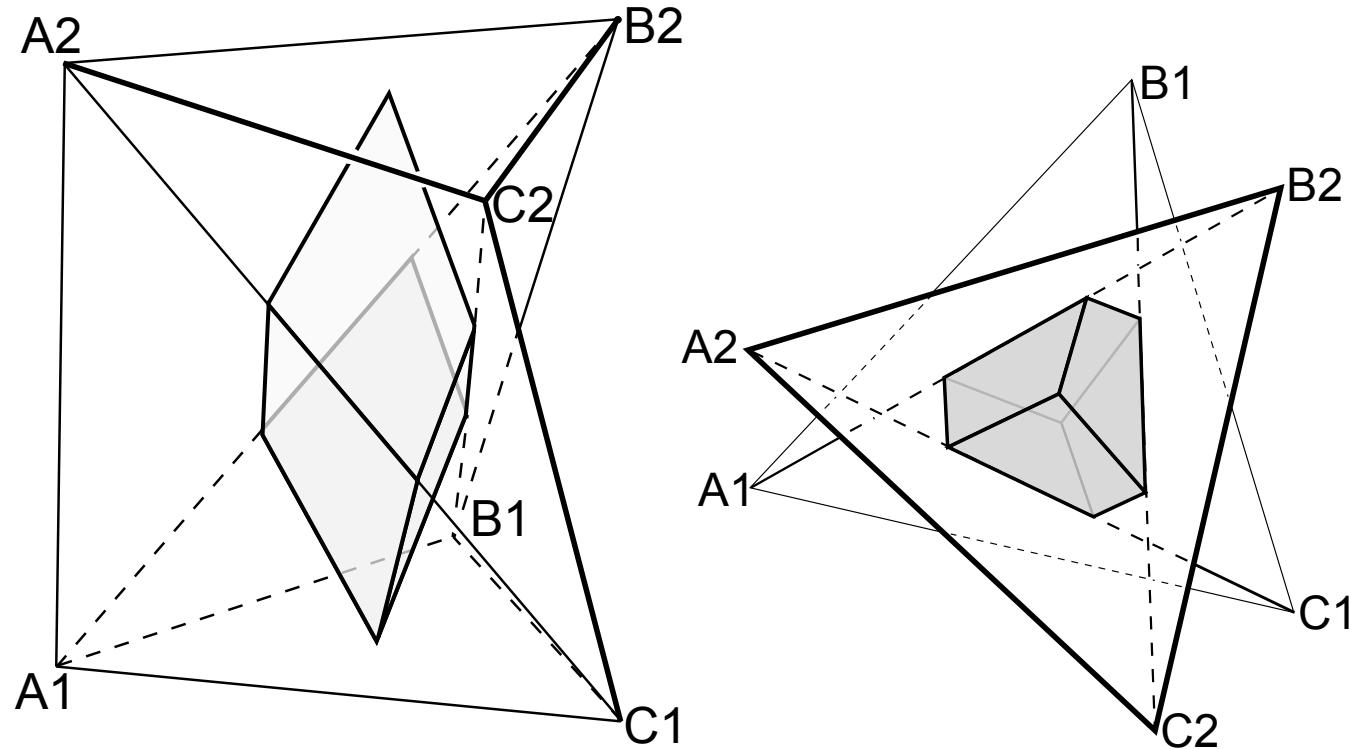
- Edge (and face) recovery by flips:
  - ▶ Maintain a list  $L$  of all faces that are intersecting an edge (or a face);
  - ▶ Remove each face in  $L$  by either a 2-to-3 flip or by the edge removal algorithm;
  - ▶ Stop either (i)  $L$  is empty, or (ii) no face in  $L$  can be removed;



## The general $n\text{-}m\text{-flip}$

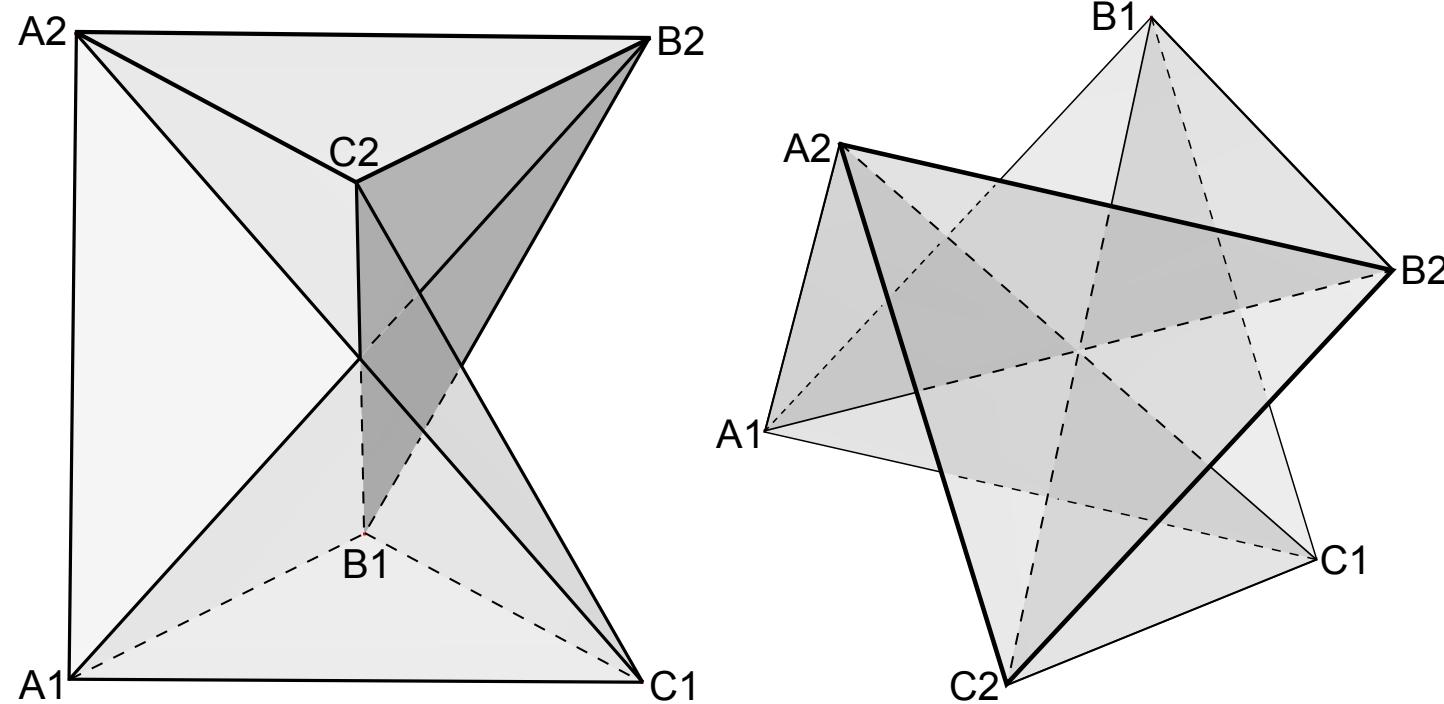


# Where to insert interior Steiner points?



**Figure:** The (open) valid domain for placing Steiner points inside the Schönhardt polyhedron. A side view (left) and a top view (right) are shown.

# Where to insert interior Steiner points (cont'd)?

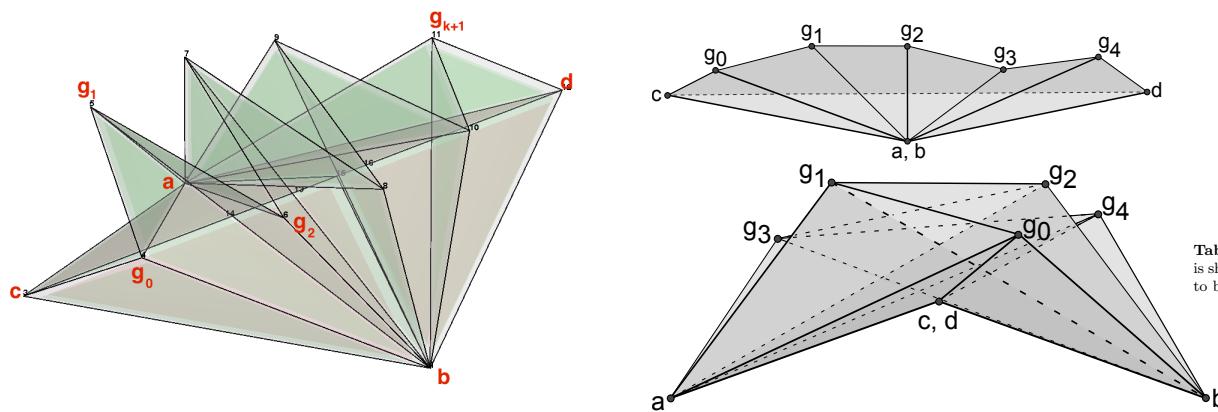


**Fig. 9** The Schönhardt polyhedron with a rotation angle of  $\vartheta = 60^\circ$ . The edges  $A_1B_2$  and  $A_2C_1$ ,  $A_1B_2$  and  $B_1C_2$ , and  $A_2C_1$  and  $B_1C_2$  are coplanar since the dihedral angles between some faces is  $0^\circ$ . A side view (left) and a top view (right) are shown.

# Add interior Steiner points

Now the polyhedron  $\sigma_n$ ,  $n = 6 + k$ , where  $k \geq 0$ , is constructed by choosing the boundary faces listed in Table.

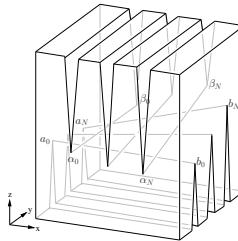
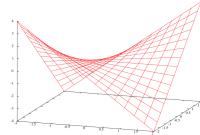
(1)	$(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{d}), (\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{d})$
(2)	$(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{g}_0), (\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{g}_0), (\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{d}, \mathbf{g}_{k+1}), (\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{d}, \mathbf{g}_{k+1})$
(3)	$(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{g}_i, \mathbf{g}_{i+1}), (\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{g}_i, \mathbf{g}_{i+1})$ , where $i = 0, \dots, k$



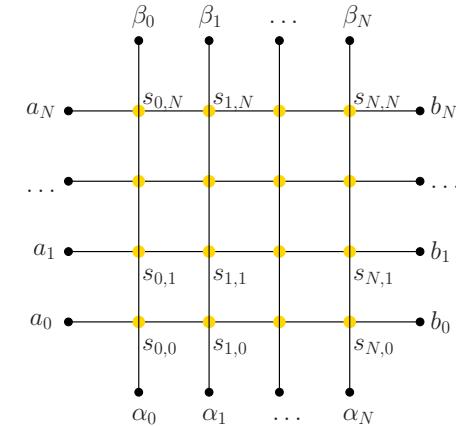
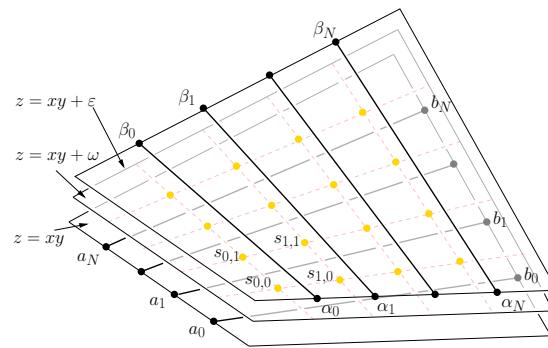
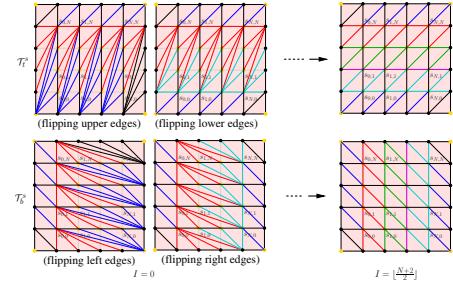
**Table 4** A choice of the coordinates of the vertices of a  $\sigma_{12}$ . The geometry of this polyhedron is shown in Figure 14. With these coordinates, this polyhedron needs at least 4 Steiner points to be decomposed.

**Theorem 4** Given  $n \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 6}$ , one can construct an a 3d polyhedron  $\sigma_n$  with  $n$  vertices which has the property that one needs exactly  $\lceil \frac{n-5}{2} \rceil$  interior Steiner points to decompose it.

# Add interior Steiner points

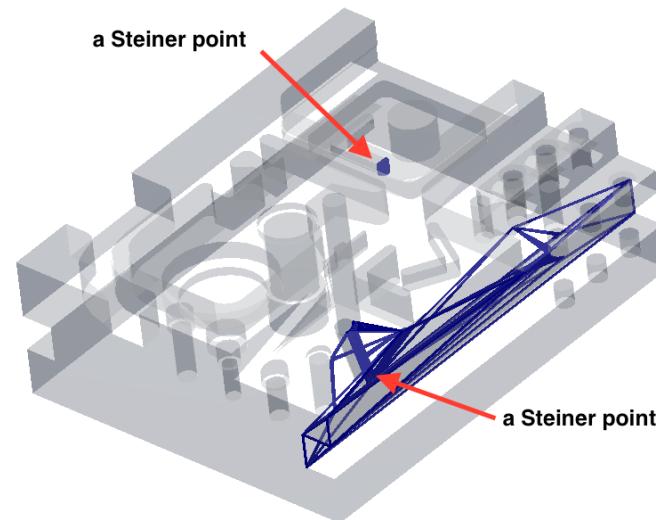
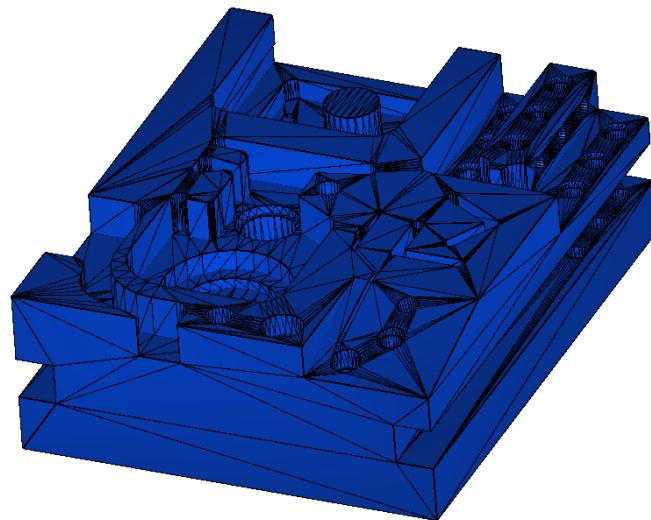


**Figure:** Left: A saddle surface (a hyperbolic paraboloid). Right: The Chazelle polyhedron with three notches, i.e.,  $N = 2$ , on the top and the bottom faces, respectively.

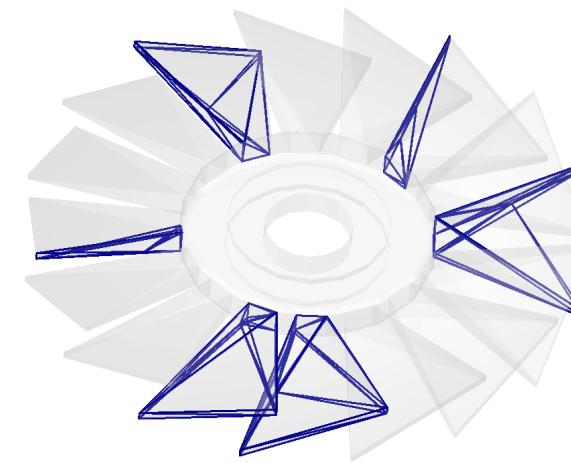
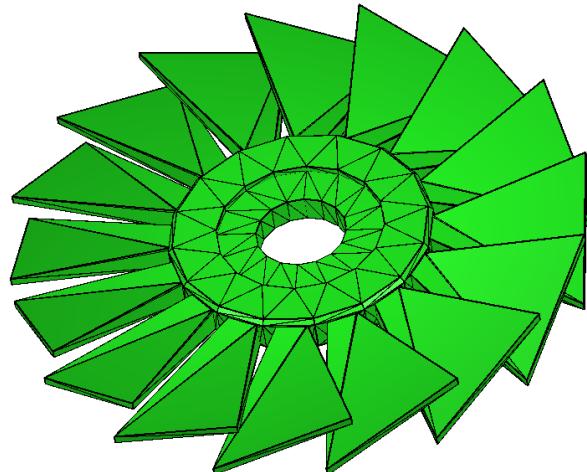


**Figure:** The interior Steiner points,  $\{s_{i,j} \mid i, j = 0, \dots, N\}$ , are placed directly at the intersections of the two set of lines in the  $xy$ -plane and all lie on the saddle surface  $z = xy + \omega$ , where  $0 < \omega < \varepsilon$ .

**Theorem** The reduced Chazelle polyhedron  $\Phi_{N,\varepsilon}^s$  needs  $(N + 1)^2$  interior Steiner points as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ .



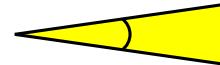
Input: 2760 points, 5560 triangles  
Output: added 2 Steiner points



Input: 448 points, 1120 triangles  
Output: added 8 Steiner points

## How Meshes Affect Solution

Skinny elements cause problems.



Small angles cause poor conditioning.

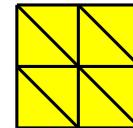


Large angles cause discretization error  
& big errors in interpolated derivatives.

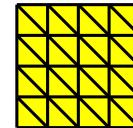
For tetrahedra, this applies to the dihedral angles.

(Not the plane angles!)

The number of elements matters.

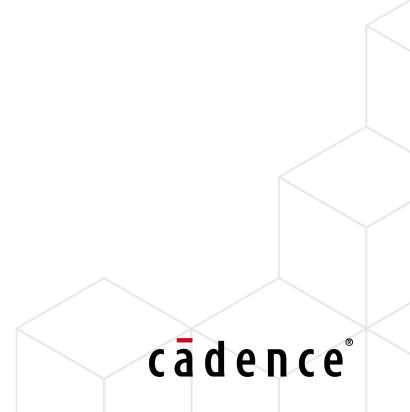


Fewer elements ➔ faster solution.



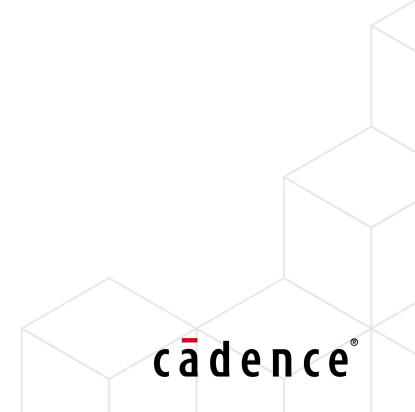
More elements ➔ more accurate solution.

J. Shewchuk, IMR, 2005



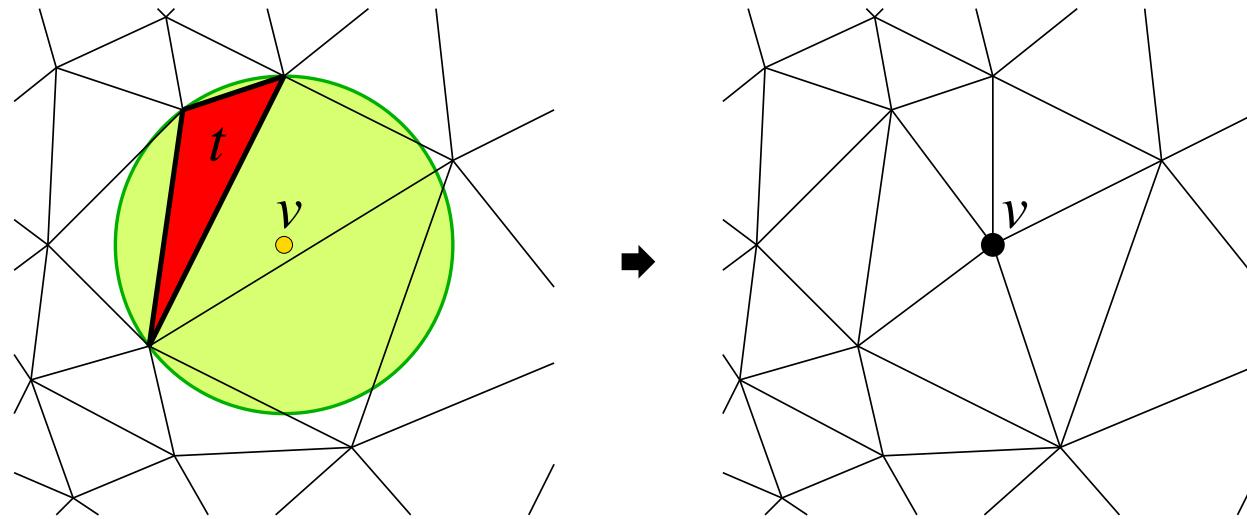
# Steiner point generation

- Advancing-front: [Lo 1991, Löhner 1996, Marcum & Weatherill 1995];
- Sphere packing: [Shimada & Gossard 1995, Miller et al 1996];
- Octree-based: [Mitchell & Vavasis 2000];
- Longest edge subdivision: [Rivara 1997];
- Delaunay Refinement: [Chew 1989, Ruppert 1995, Shewchuk 1998];



# Delaunay Refinement

[Alert: here comes the **MAIN IDEA** behind all Delaunay refinement algorithms]

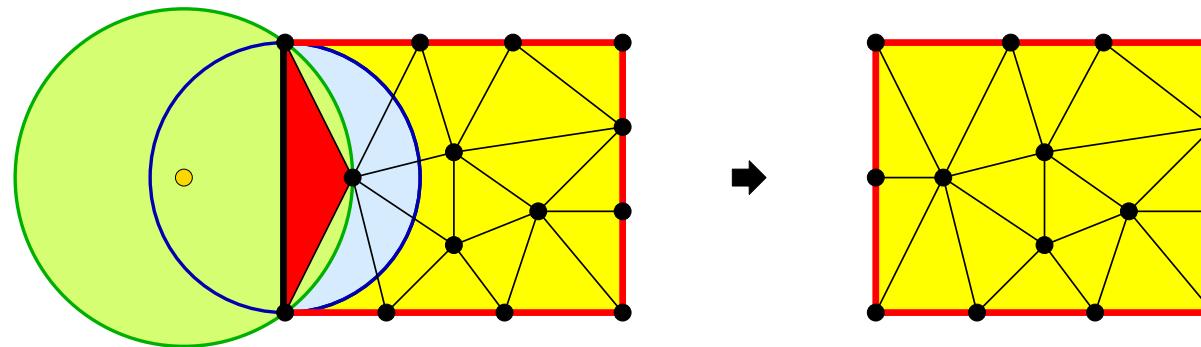


Kill each skinny triangle by inserting vertex at circumcenter.  
(Bowyer–Watson algorithm.)

All new edges are at least as long as circumradius of  $t$   
(because  $v$  is at center of empty circumcircle).

J. Shewchuk, IMR, 2005

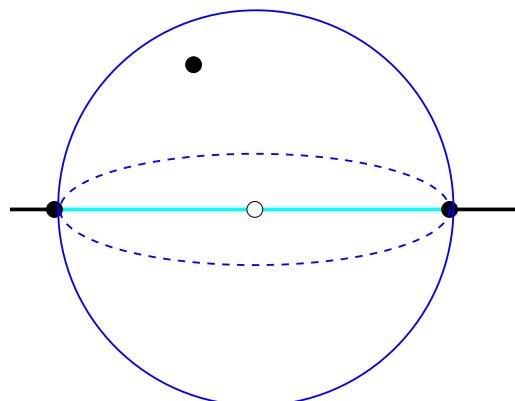
## What if a circumcenter is outside the domain?



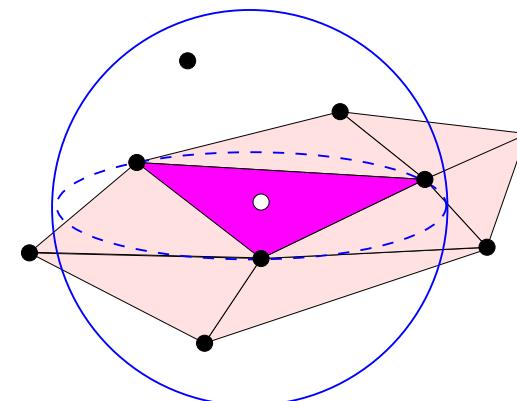
Then a boundary segment is encroached. Split it.

# Steiner points insertion rules

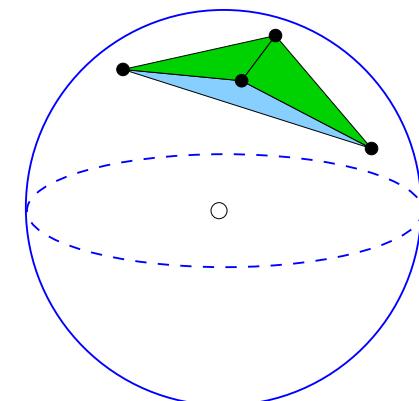
- **Rule 1:** Split a segment if it is encroached.
- **Rule 2:** Split a subface if it is encroached. However, if the new vertex would encroaches upon a segment, reject the vertex. Split the encroached segment(s) instead.
- **Rule 3:** Split a badly-shaped tetrahedron. However, if the new vertex would encroached upon a subface or a segment, reject the vertex. Split the encroached subface(s) or segment(s) instead.



Rule 1



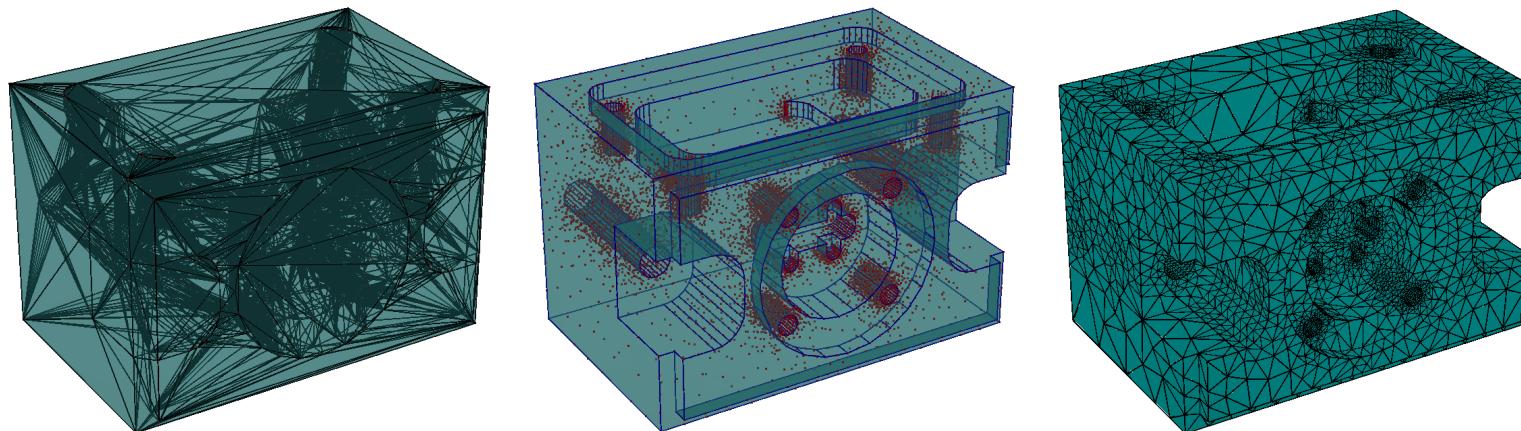
Rule 2



Rule 3

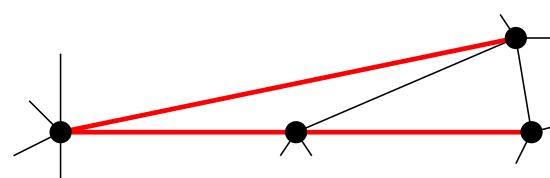
# Delaunay refinement

```
DELAUNAYREFINEMENT ( $\mathcal{X}$ ,  $\rho_0$ )
//  $\mathcal{X}$  is a PLC;  $\rho_0$  is a radius-edge ratio bound.
1 Initialize a set  $V$  of the vertices of  $\mathcal{X}$ ;
2 Initialize a Delaunay tetrahedralization  $\mathcal{D}$  of  $V$ ;
3 repeat:
4   Create a new point by rule  $i$ ,  $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ ;
5   Add  $\mathbf{v}$  to  $V$ , update  $\mathcal{D}$  of  $V$ ;
6 until {no new point can be generated};
7 return  $\mathcal{D}$  of  $V$ ;
```

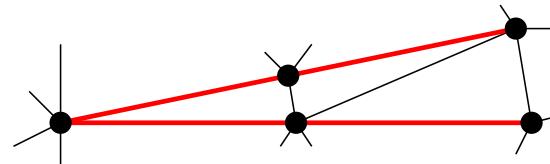


Ruppert and Shewchuk's Algorithm [Ruppert 1995, Shewchuk 1998]

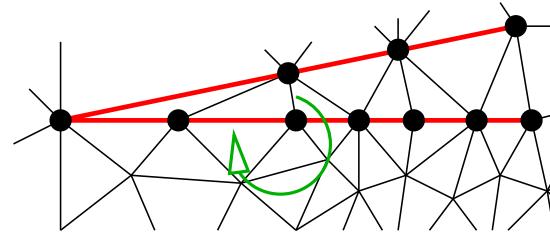
- Observation: small angles are “edge length reducers”.



A subsegment is split.  
New vertex encroaches upon  
another subsegment.



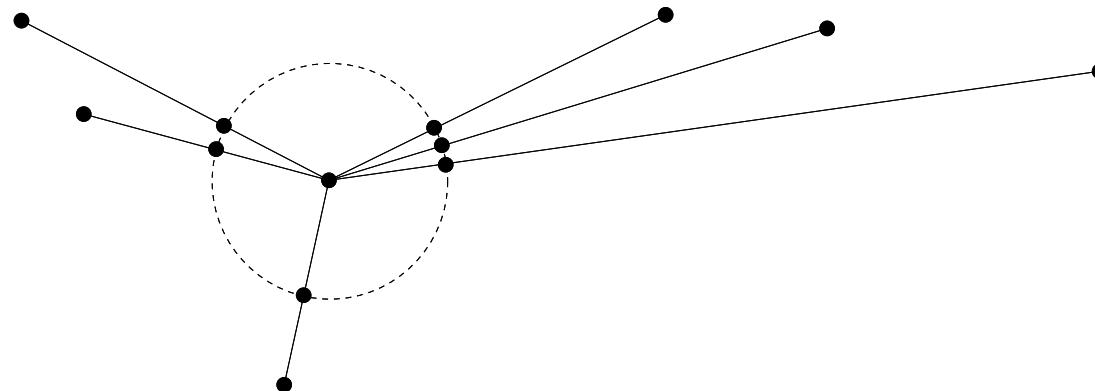
Another vertex is inserted,  
creating a very short edge.  
**Oops!**



Skinny tetrahedra get split.  
Small edge lengths propagate.  
Subsegment split again!

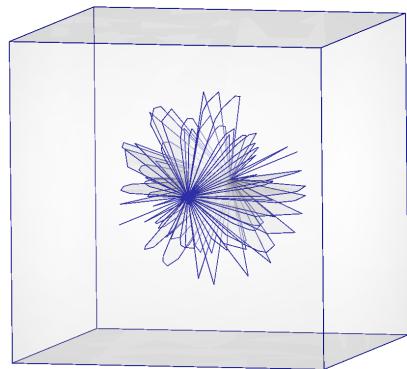
## *Fixing the Algorithm*

- “Groom” input by splitting segments with augmenting points.
- All segments at same length?

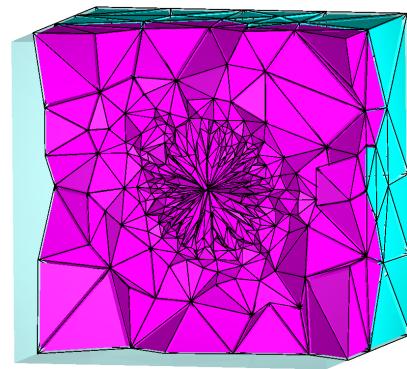


Sangria seminar, 03.10.03 – p.9/18

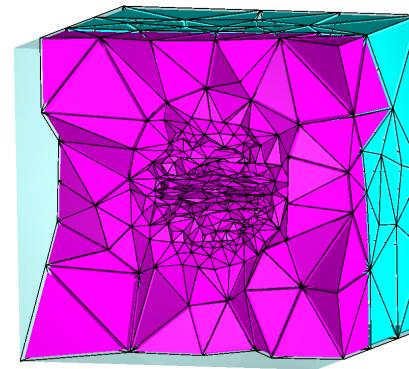
# Constrained Delaunay refinement



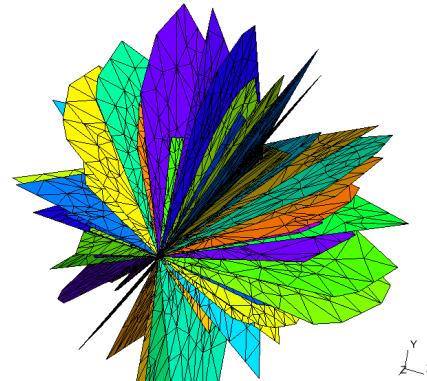
Input test-64-6  
161 vertices, 70 polygons



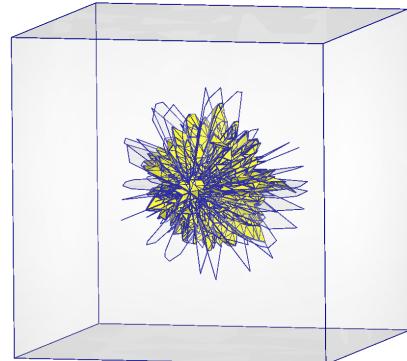
Tet mesh, 3,733 vertices  
(cut along the Z-axis)



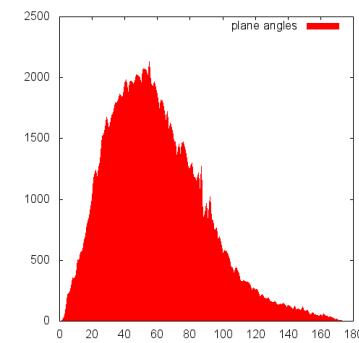
Tet mesh, 23,727 tets  
(cut along the Y-axis)



refined “fan blades”



remaining skinny tetrahedra  
(radius-edge ratios  $> 2$ )



plane angles

Constrained Delaunay Refinement [[Shewchuk & Si 2014](#)]

# Centroid Voronoi Tessellation

$$\inf_{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N, D_1, \dots, D_N} \sum_{i=1}^N \int_{D_i} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i\|^2 \rho(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}.$$

Two necessary conditions for the minimizer of (1)[Lloyd 1982]

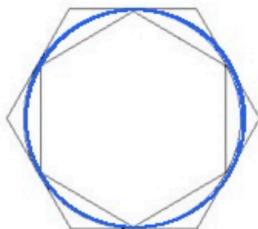
1.  $D_i$  is the Voronoi region  $V_i$  of  $\mathbf{x}_i$ .
2.  $\mathbf{x}_i$  is the centroid of the  $V_i$ , namely

$$\mathbf{x}_i = \frac{\int_{V_i} \mathbf{x} \rho(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}}{\int_{V_i} \rho(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}}.$$

Therefore the minizer is called [Centroid Voronoi Tessellation\(CVT\)](#).

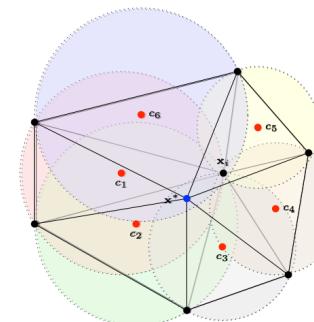
[CVT and its application: Du, Faber and Gunzburger 1999, Du, Gunzburger and Ju 2003, Du and Wang 2002, 2003, Huang, Qing and Wang 2008.](#)

## Duality between ODT and CVT



[Inscribe approximation vs. Circumscribe approximation](#)

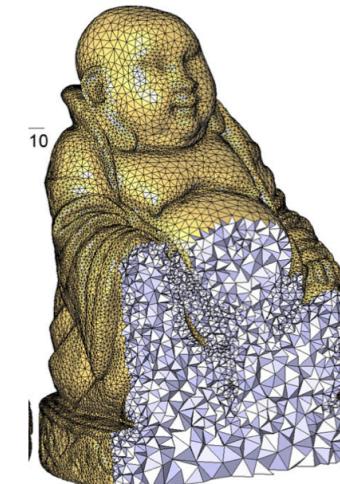
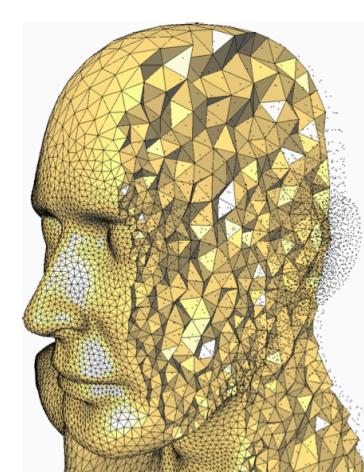
# ODT Smoothing



Let  $\mathbf{c}_j$  be the center of the circum-sphere of  $\tau_j$ . Then the optimal location  $\mathbf{x}^*$  can be written as

$$\mathbf{x}^* = \frac{\sum_{\tau_j \in \Omega_i} |\tau_j| \mathbf{c}_j}{\Omega_i}.$$

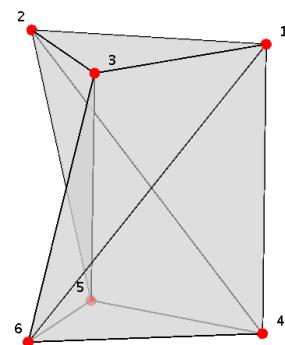
- Chen. [Mesh smoothing schemes based on optimal Delaunay triangulations](#). 13th International Meshing Roundtable. 109-120, 2004.
- Alliez, Cohen-Steiner, Yvinec and Desbrun. [Variational tetrahedral meshing](#). ACM SIGGRAPH 2005 Courses. 2005.



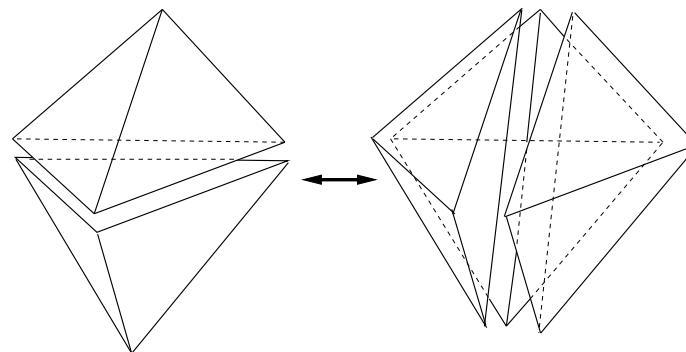
From Alliez et al ACM Transactions on Graphics. 2005 and Tournous et al. ACM Trans. Graph.2009.

In 1998, **Tim Baker** (1948–2006) wrote:

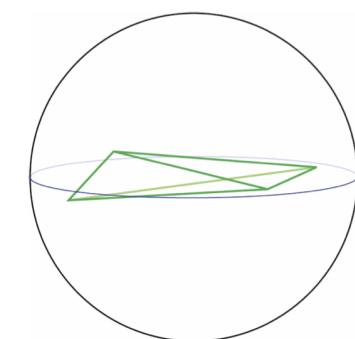
*In three dimensions the theory is far from developed. The **main difficulties** are the following: (1) there exist configurations of boundary points and faces for which no conforming grid of tetrahedra exists unless extra points are inserted, (2) although 3D analogues of diagonal swapping exist, it does not appear possible to convert an arbitrary triangulation into the corresponding Delaunay triangulations, (3) the presence of slivers, formed by four coplanar points, can arise and indeed will often arise when efforts are made to create a constrained Delaunay triangulation that conforms with a prescribed boundary.*



The Schönhardt polyhedron

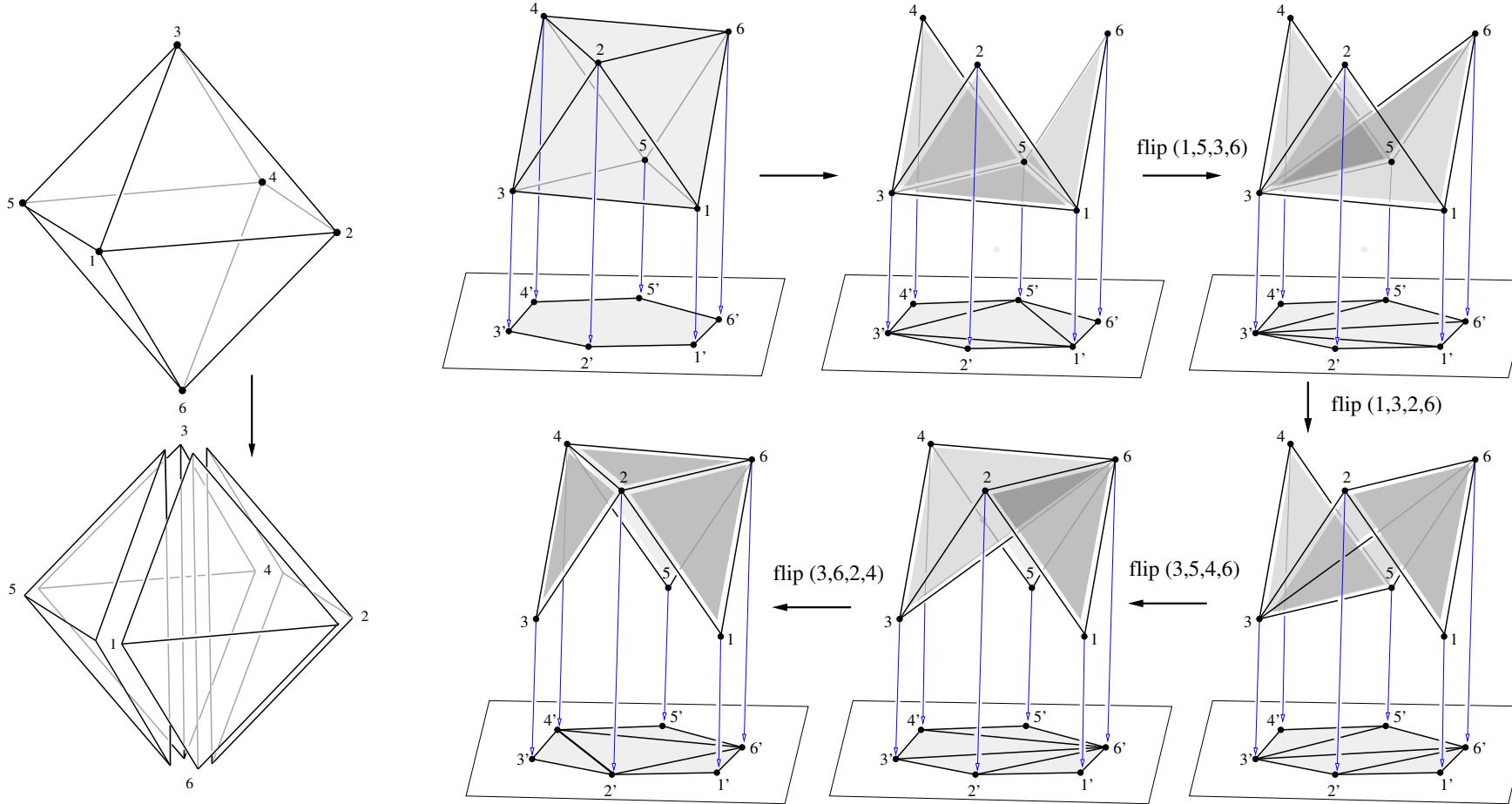


flip 2-to-3  
3-to-2



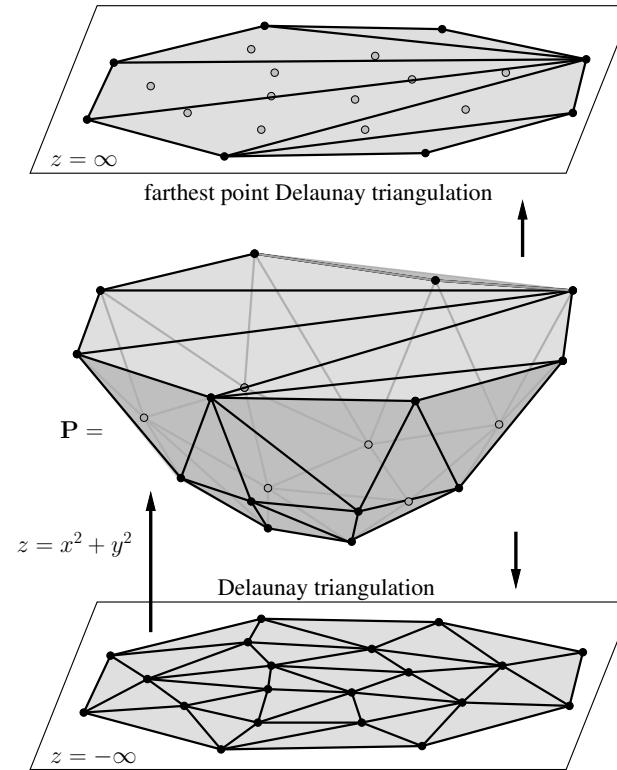
Sliver

# Monotone sequences of flips and triangulations



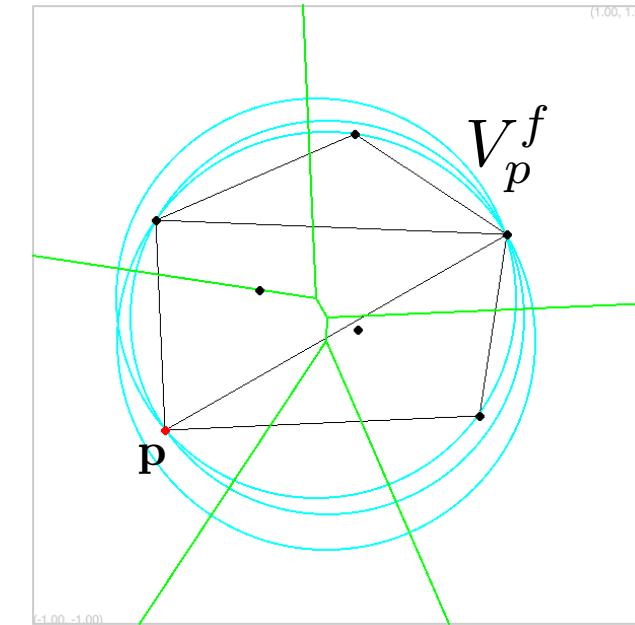
Sleator, Thurston, and Tarjan, *Rotation distance, triangulations, and hyperbolic geometry*, J. Amer. Math. Soc. 1988

# Transforming triangulations via flips

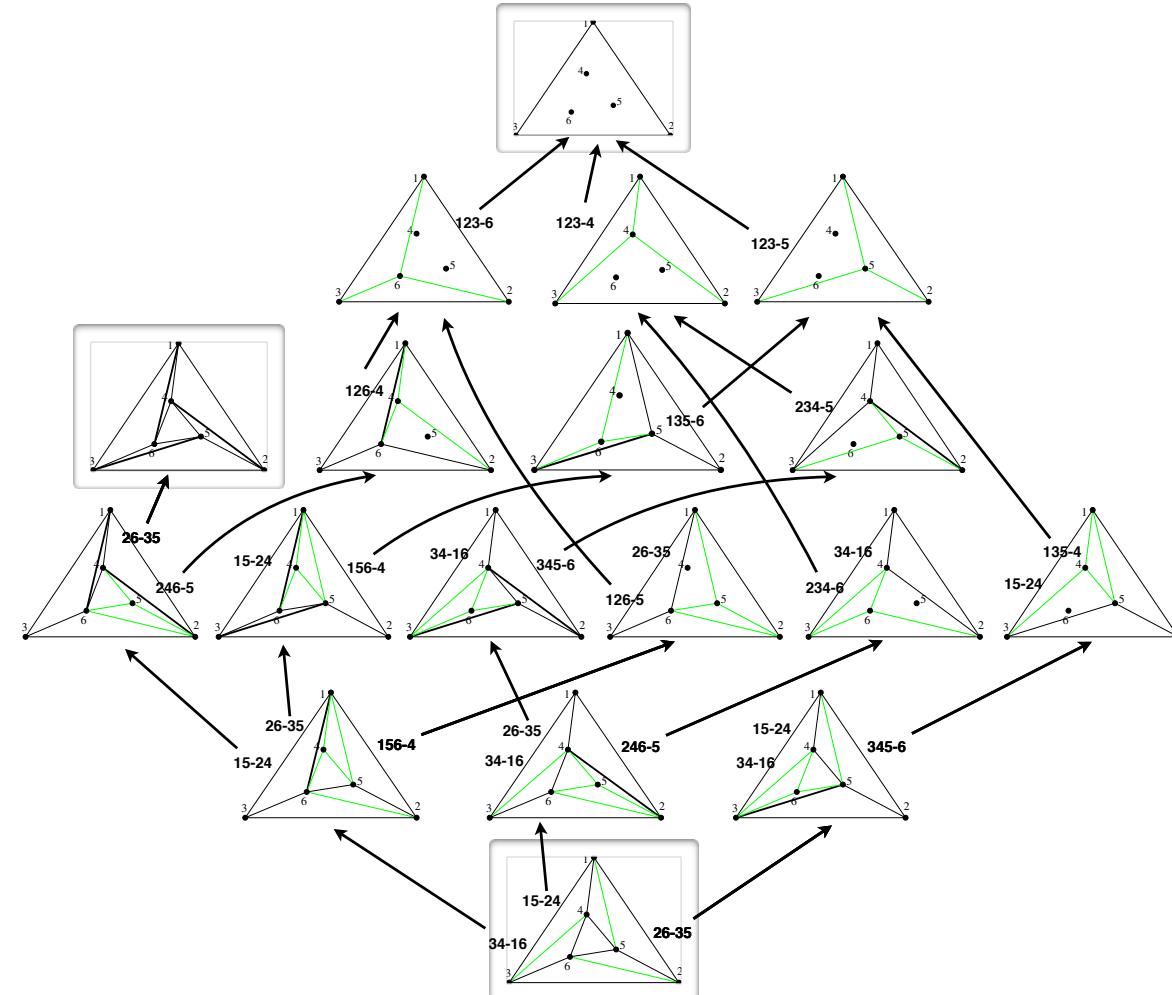
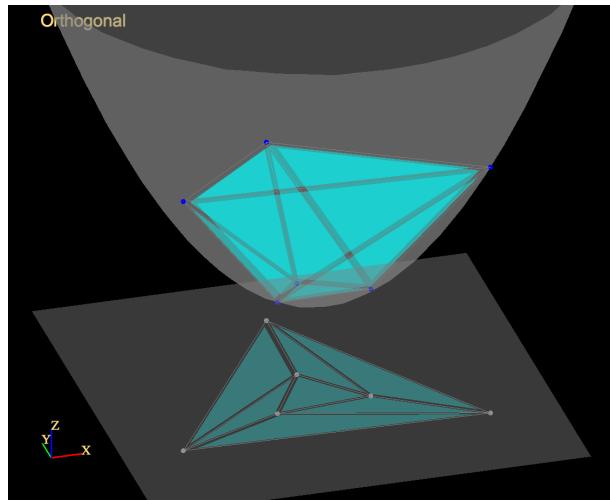


The furthest point Voronoi Diagram

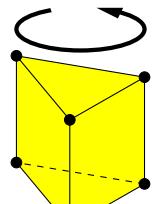
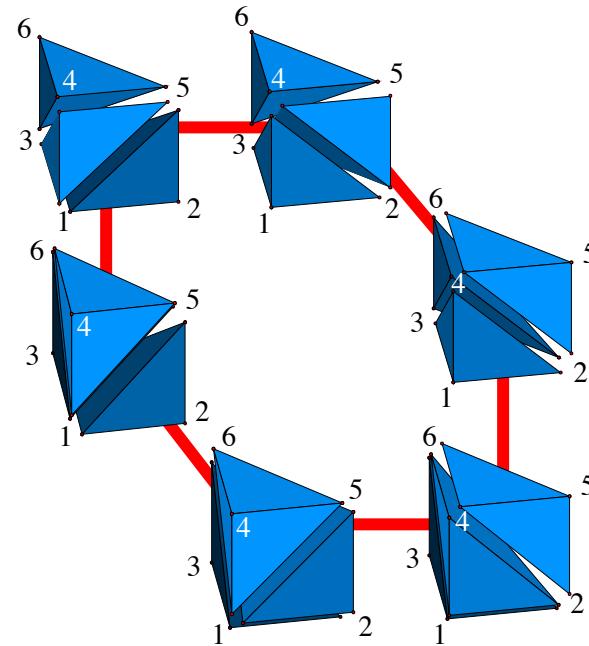
$$V_p^f = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d, \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}\| \geq \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q}\|, \forall \mathbf{q} \in S\}$$



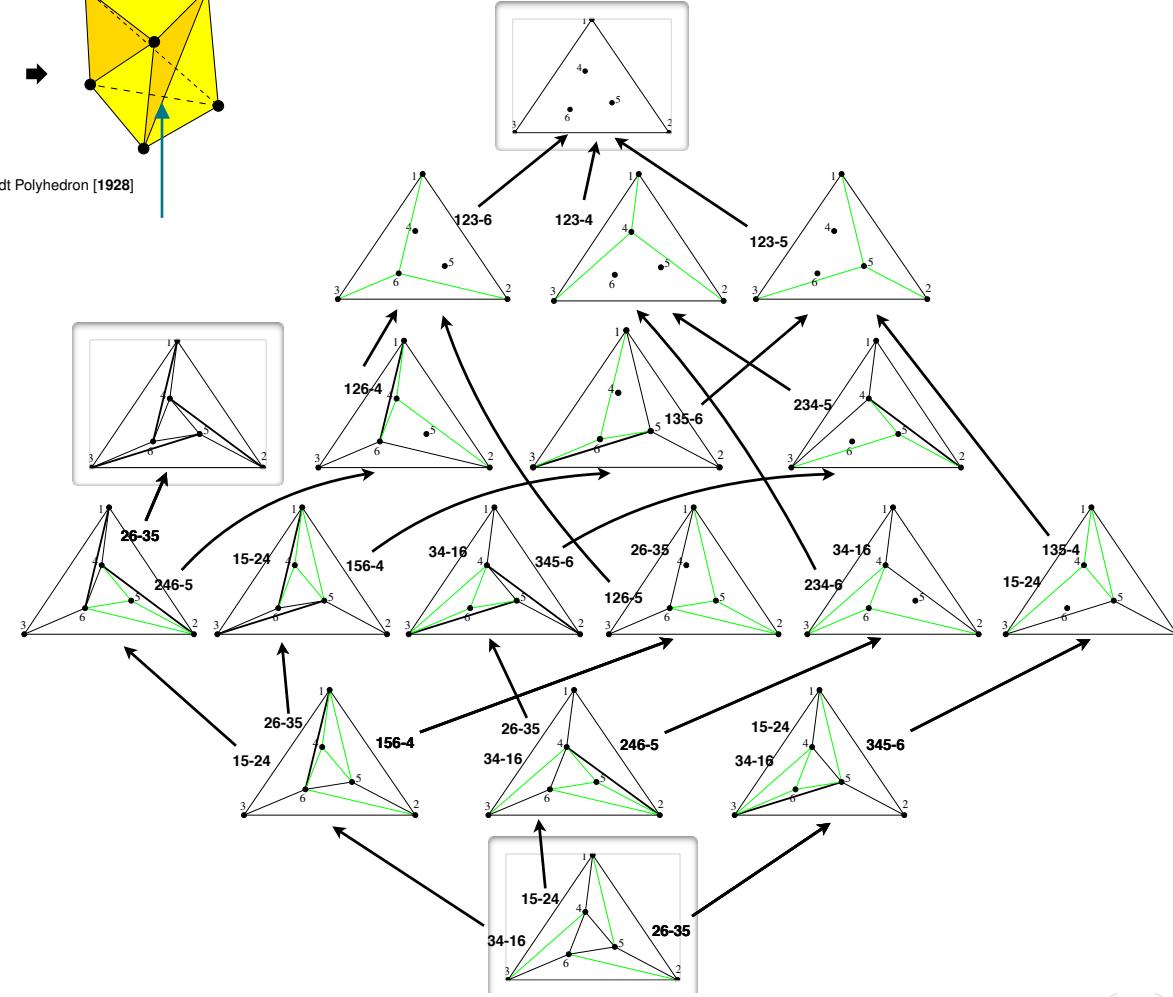
# The directed flip graph



# The directed flip graph



The Schönhardt Polyhedron [1928]



# The directed flip graph (continued)

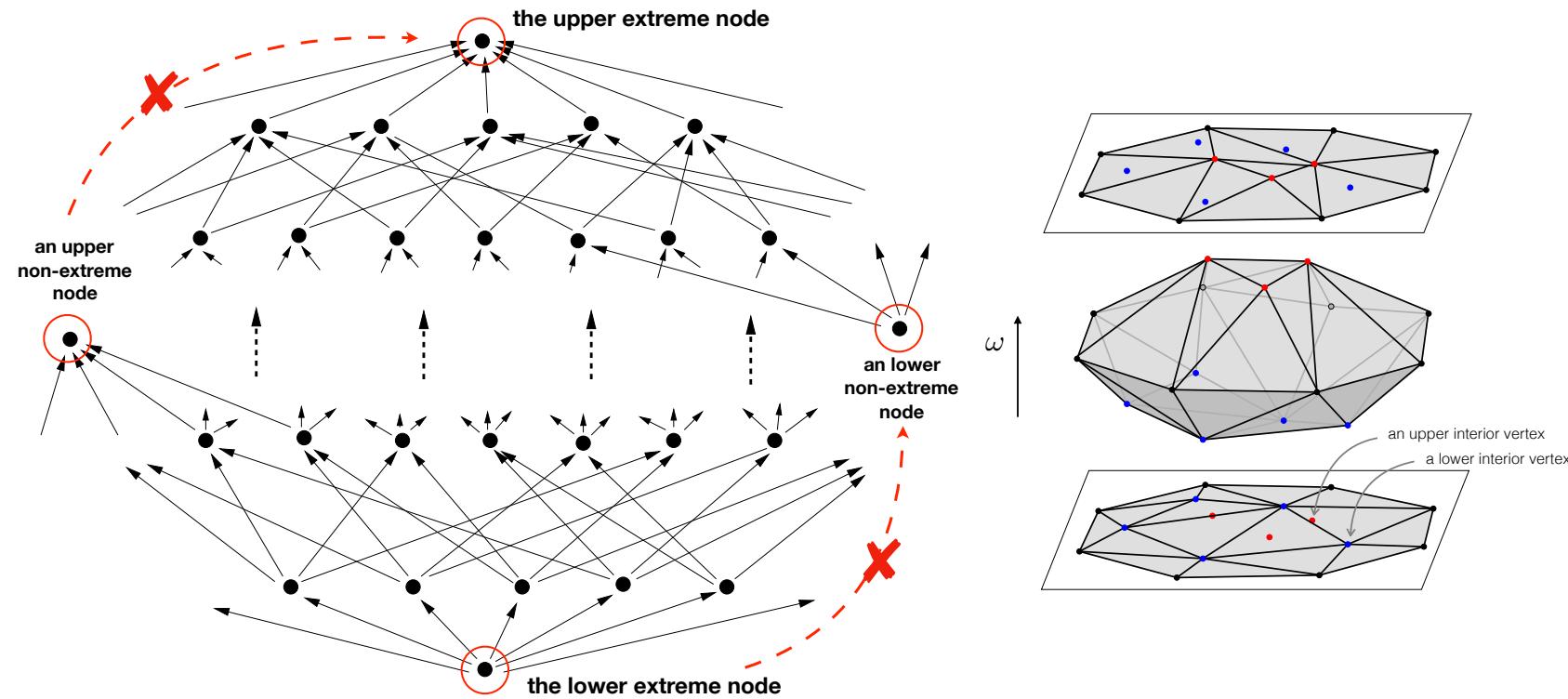
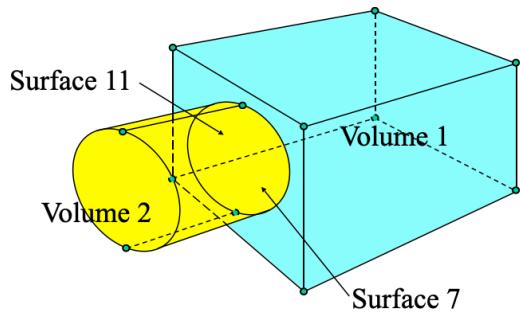
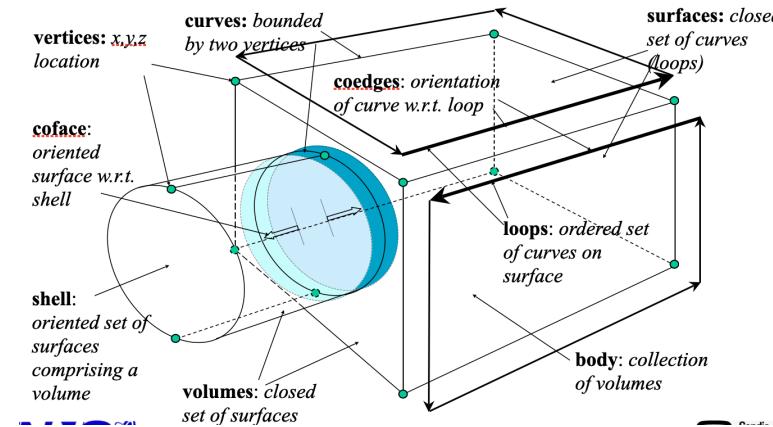
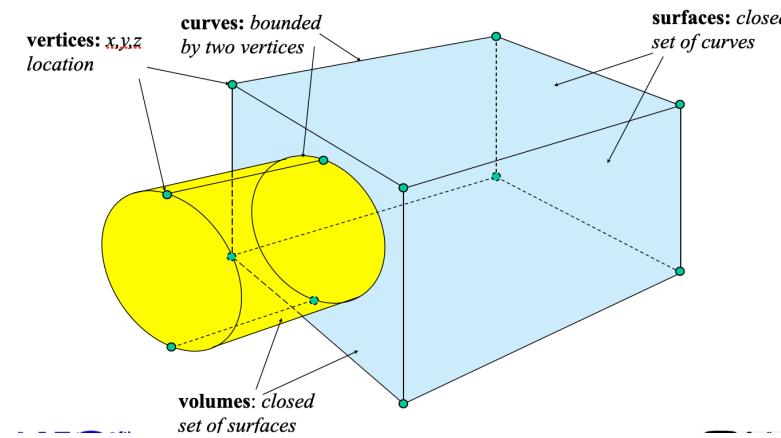


Figure 27: Left: Assume  $\omega$  is neither convex nor concave. An example of a poset of triangulations of  $(A, \omega)$ . Extreme nodes, upper non-extreme nodes, and lower non-extreme nodes are shown. Right: The lower and upper interior vertices of a point set  $(A, \omega)$ .

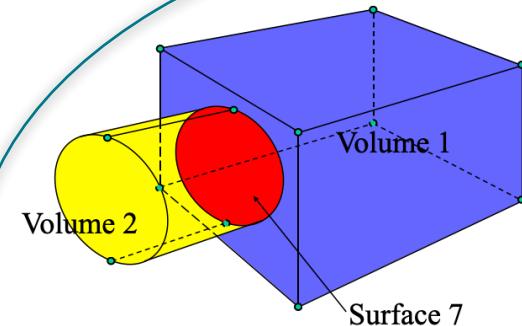
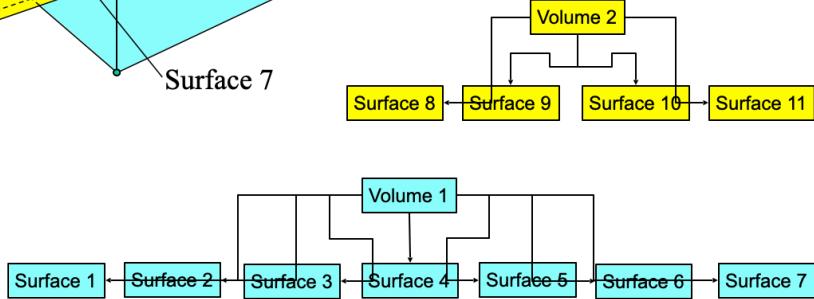


# Surface mesh generation

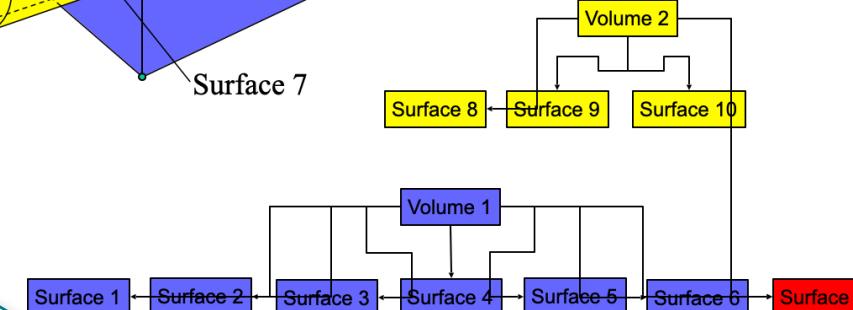
# B-reps (Boundary representations)



**Manifold Geometry:**  
*Each volume maintains its own set of unique surfaces*

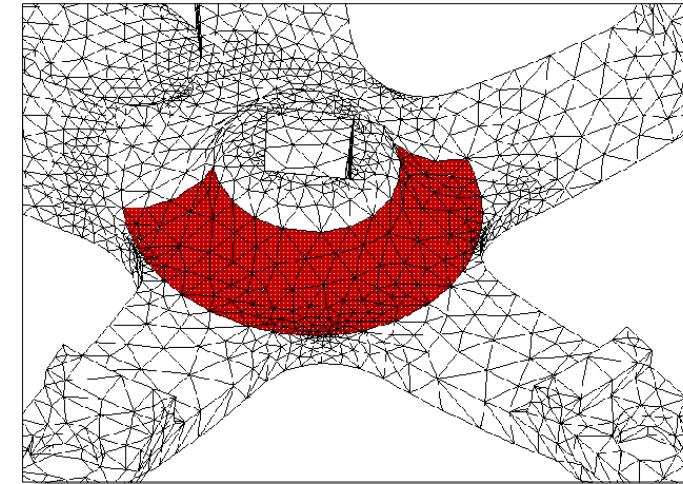
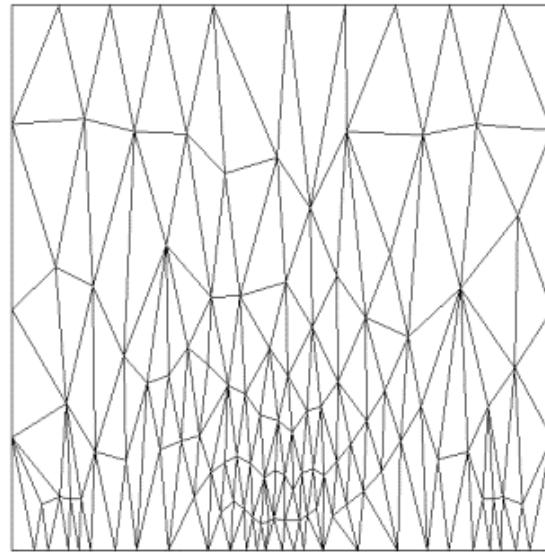


**Non-Manifold Geometry:**  
*Volumes share matching surfaces*



## Parametric Space Mesh Generation

- Use essentially the same isotropic methods for 2D mesh generation, except distances and angles are now measured with respect to the local metric tensor  $\mathbf{M}(X)$ .
- Can use Delaunay (George, 99) or Advancing Front Methods (Tristano,98)



Steve Owen, 14th IMR, short course

# Metric (differential geometry)

A Riemannian metric  $\mathbf{g}$  on a smooth manifold  $M$  is a smoothly chosen inner product  $\mathbf{g}_x : T_x M \times T_x M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  on each of the tangent spaces  $T_x M$  of  $M$  satisfying:

- (1)  $\mathbf{g}(u, v) = \mathbf{g}(v, u), \forall u, v \in T_x M;$
- (2)  $\mathbf{g}(u, v) \geq 0, \forall v \in T_x M;$  and
- (3)  $\mathbf{g}(v, v) = 0 \iff v = 0.$

A special case, when  $M = \mathbb{R}^d$ , the real  $d$ -dim Euclidean space,  $\mathbf{g}$  is a  $d \times d$  symmetric positive definite matrix.

A metric allows defining distances, areas and angles on the manifold  $M$ . The length of a vector  $v \in T_x M$ :

$$\|v\| = \sqrt{\mathbf{g}(v, v)} = \sqrt{v^T \mathbf{g} v} \text{. in matrix form}$$

The angle  $\theta$  between two vectors  $u, v \in T_x M$  is:

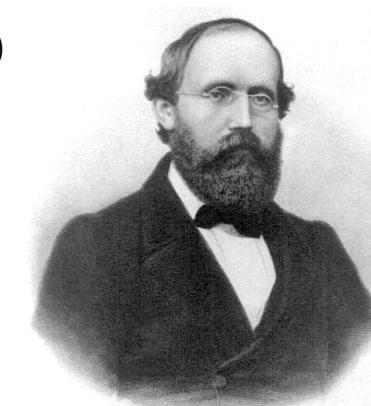
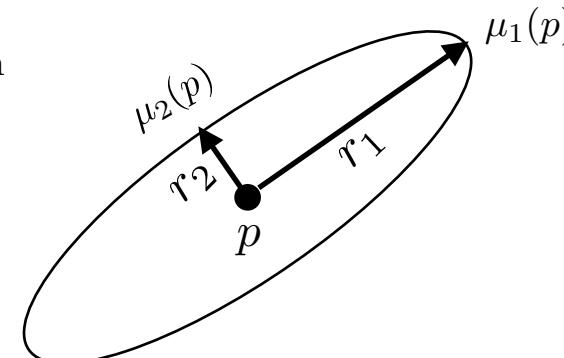
$$\cos(\theta) = \frac{\mathbf{g}(u, v)}{\|u\| \|v\|}$$

Let  $\gamma$  be a curve from  $a$  to  $b$  in  $M$ , the curve length

$$l_{\mathbf{g}}(\gamma) = \int_a^b \sqrt{\|\gamma'(t)\|} dt, t \in [a, b].$$

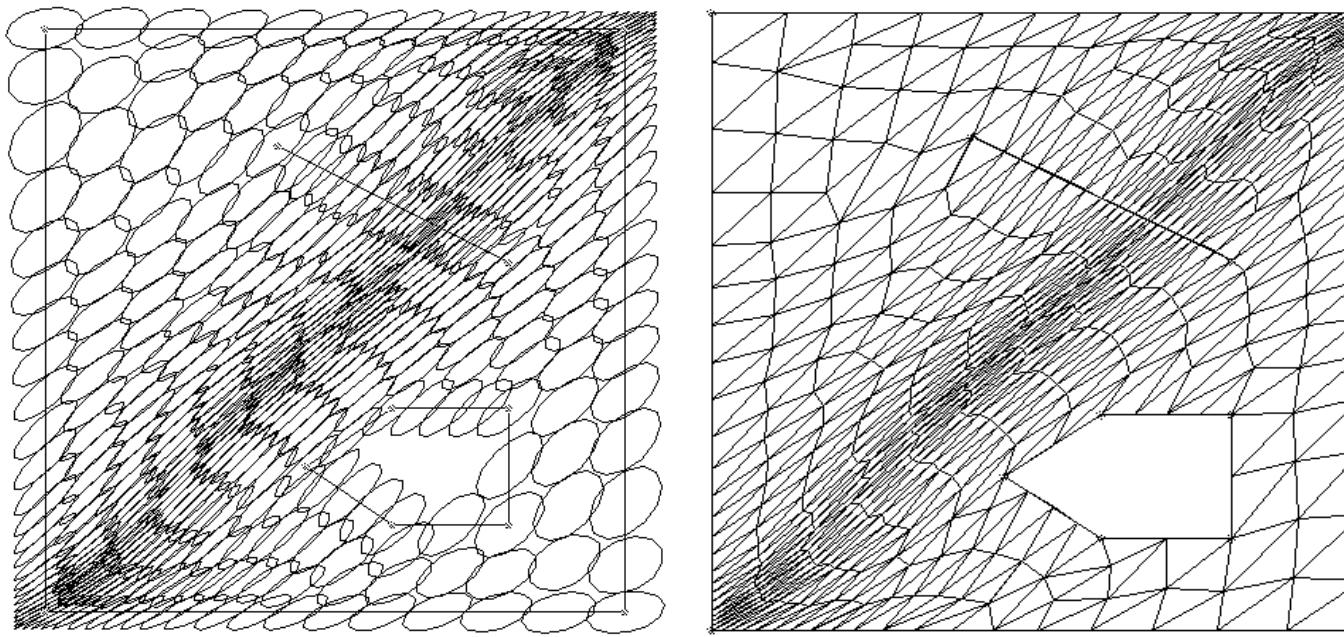


Carl Friedrich Gauß (1777-1855)



Bernhard Riemann (1826-1866)

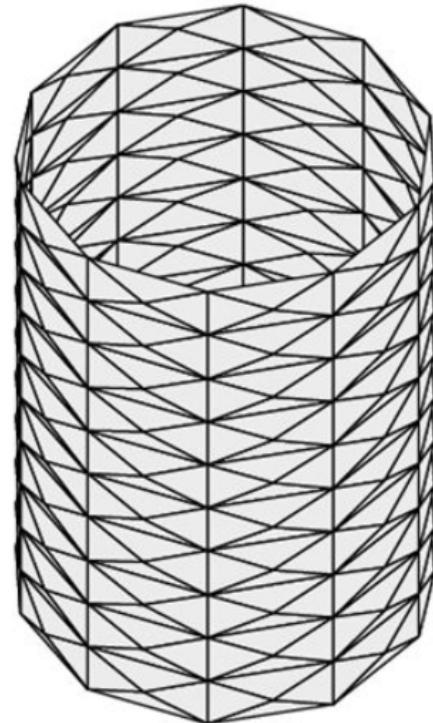
# Metric-based anisotropic mesh generation/adaptation



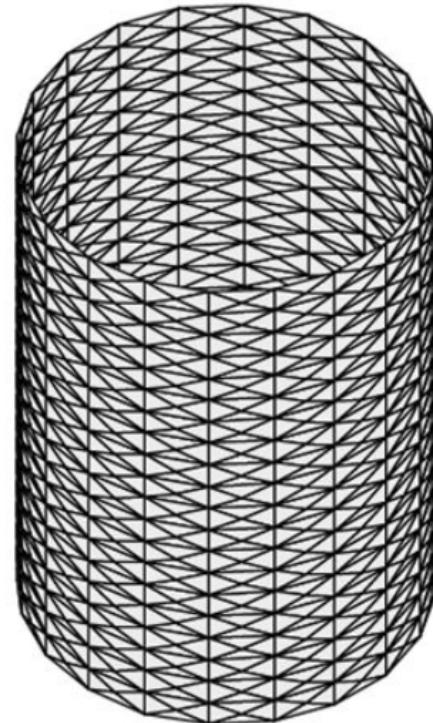
- Ellipses packing Li Teng Ungor (99) , Yamakawa Shimada (03)
- Anisotropic Delaunay refinement Borouchaki George et al. (97) Frey Alauzet (2004), Dobrzynsk Frey (08)
- Continuous mesh Loseille Alauzet (09)
- Anisotropic mesh optimization Pliant method Bossen Heckbert (96) Li Shepard Beall (2005)
- Anisotropic Voronoi diagrams, Labelle Shewchuck (03), Boissonnat et al(08).

# Geometry approximation

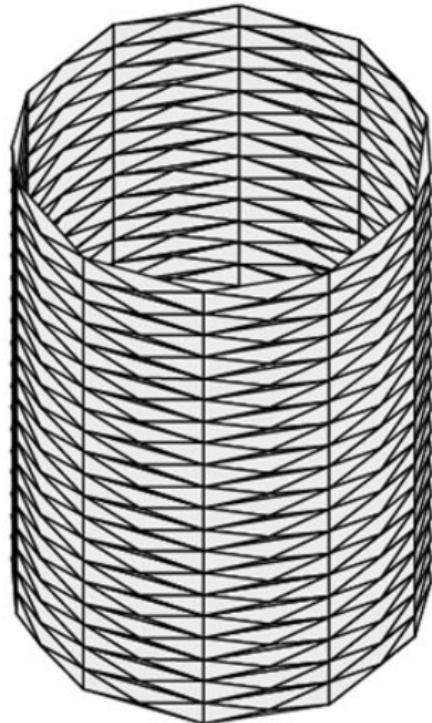
## Schwarz lantern



**M=10, N=10**



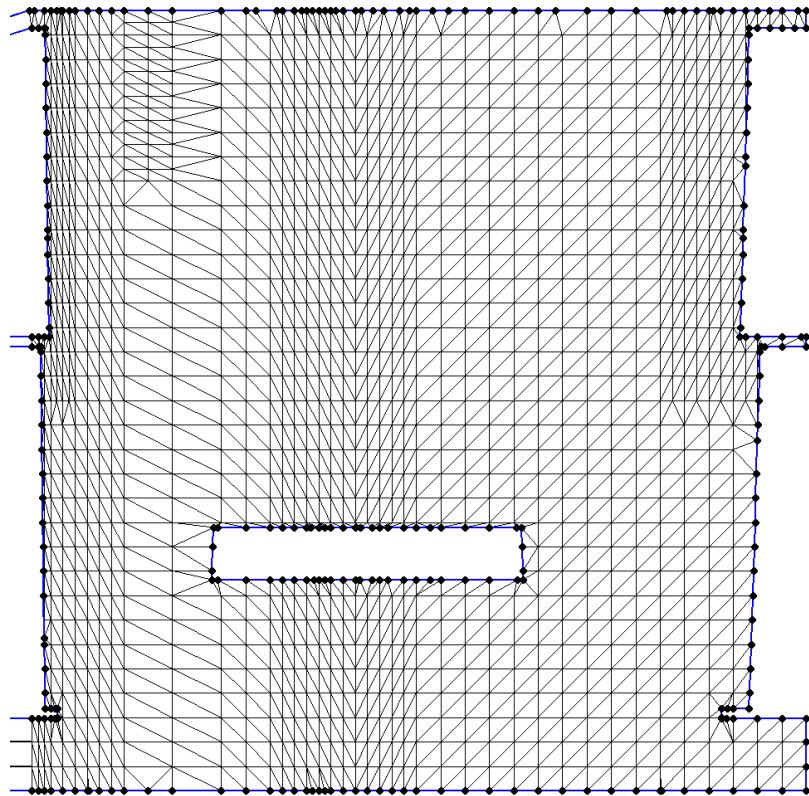
**M=20, N=20**



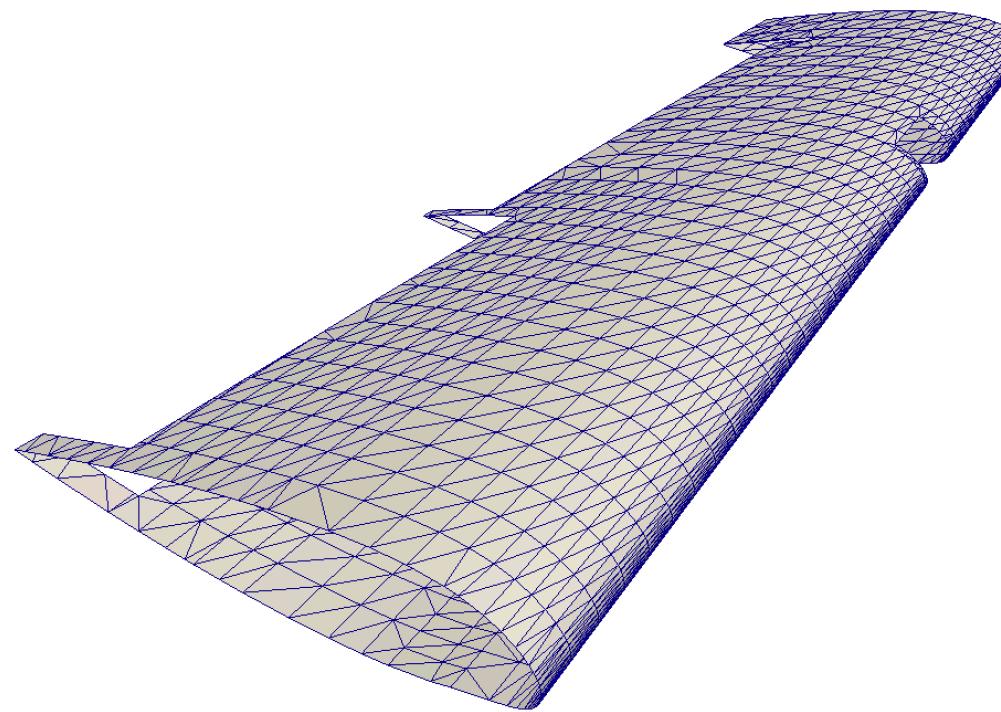
**M=20, N=10**

**Figure:** Schwartz's lantern: an example of Hausdorff convergence only.

# Example: wing 33

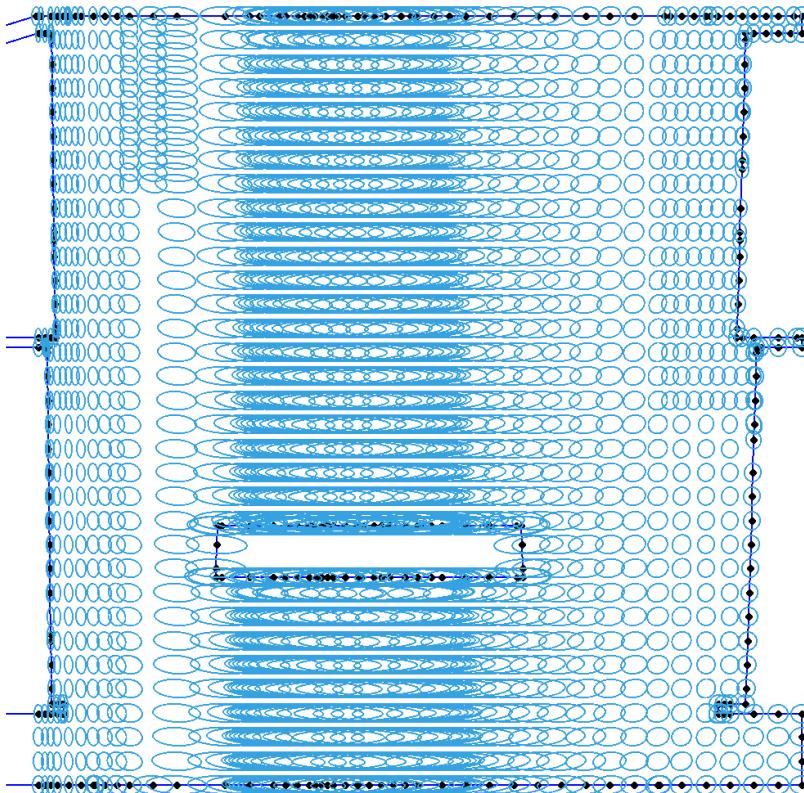


**uv**

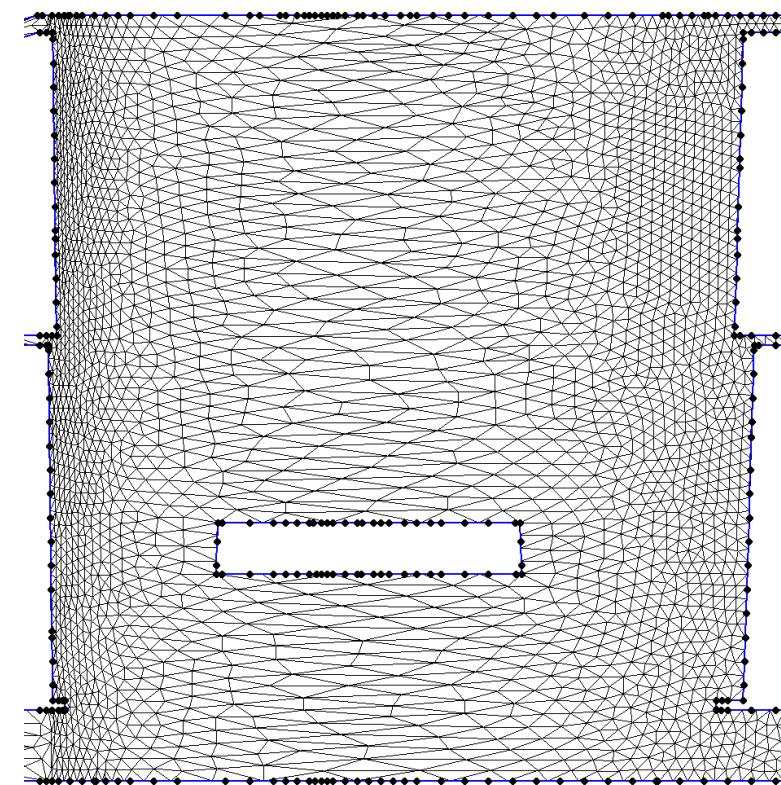


**xyz**

# Example: wing 33

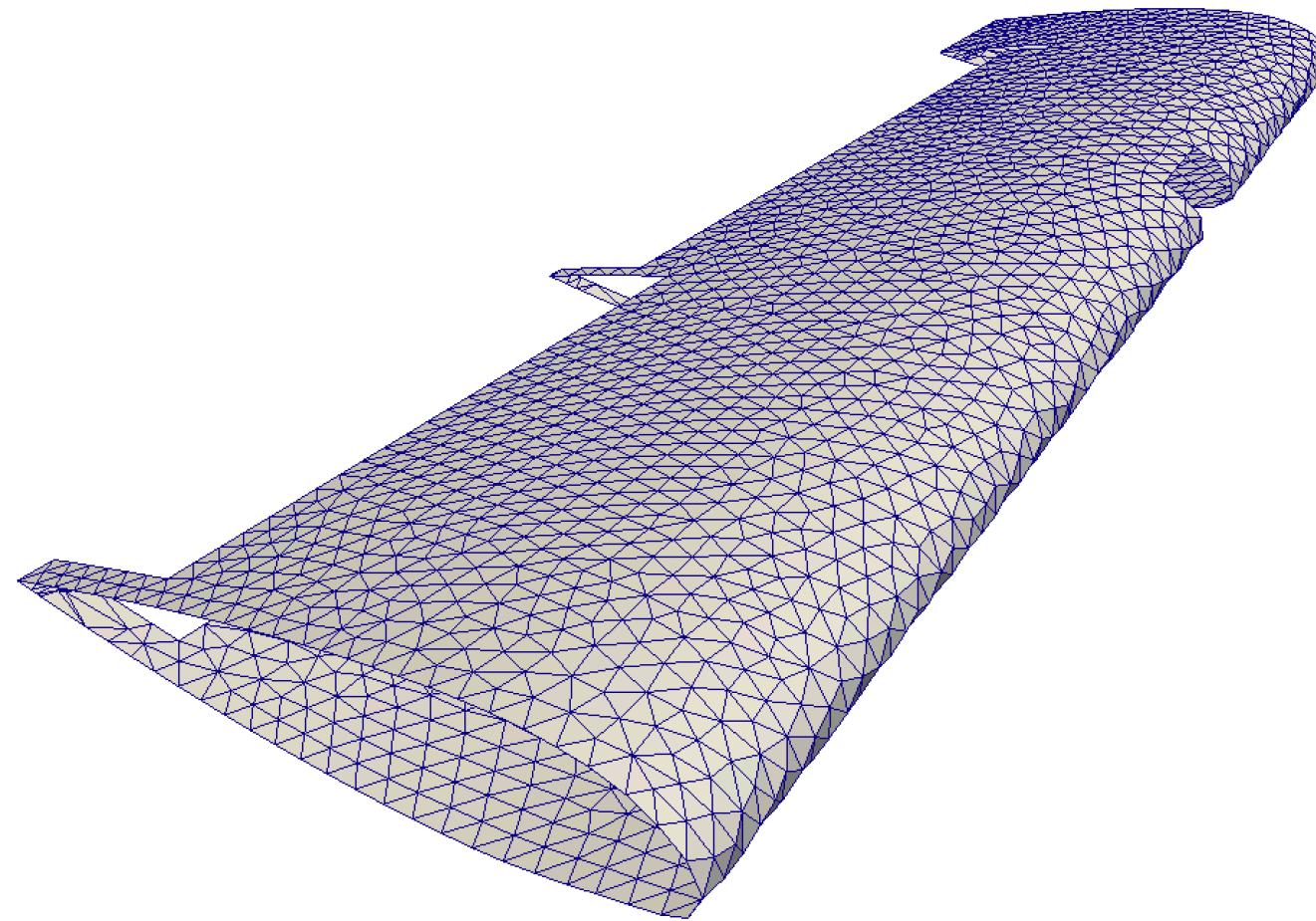


**Riemann metric**



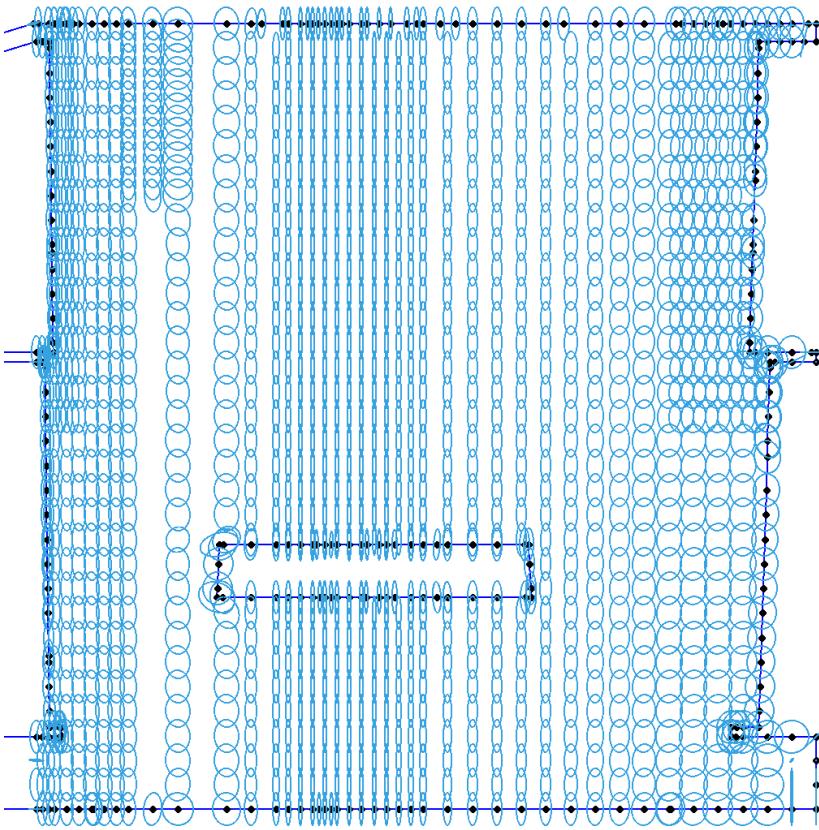
**anisotropic mesh**

# Example: wing 33

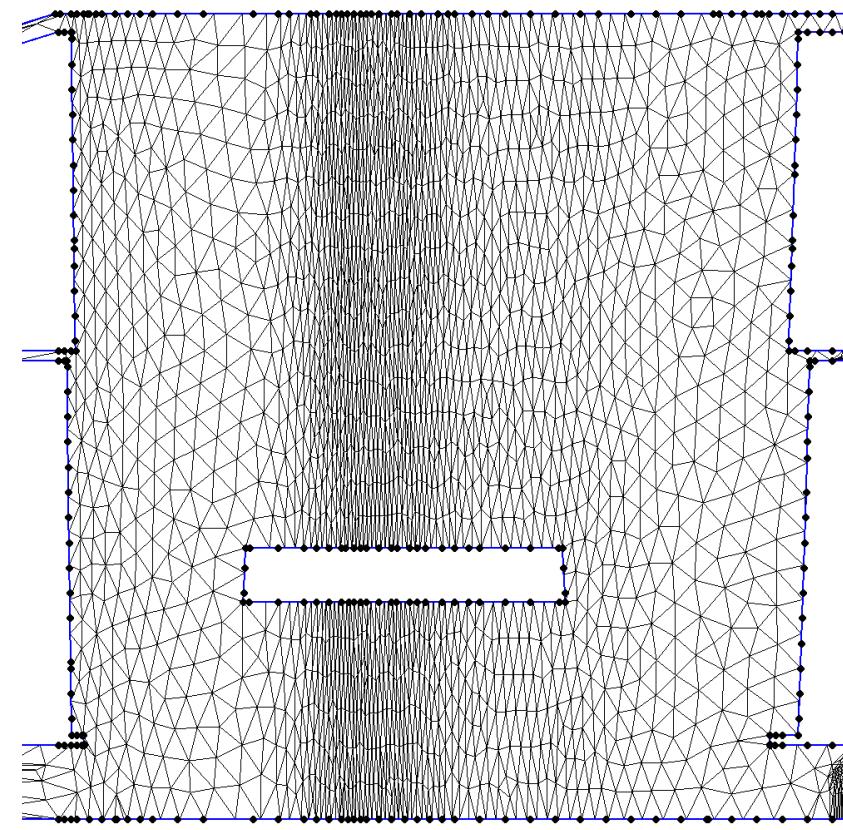


**surface mesh from anisotropic Riemann metric**

# Example: wing 33

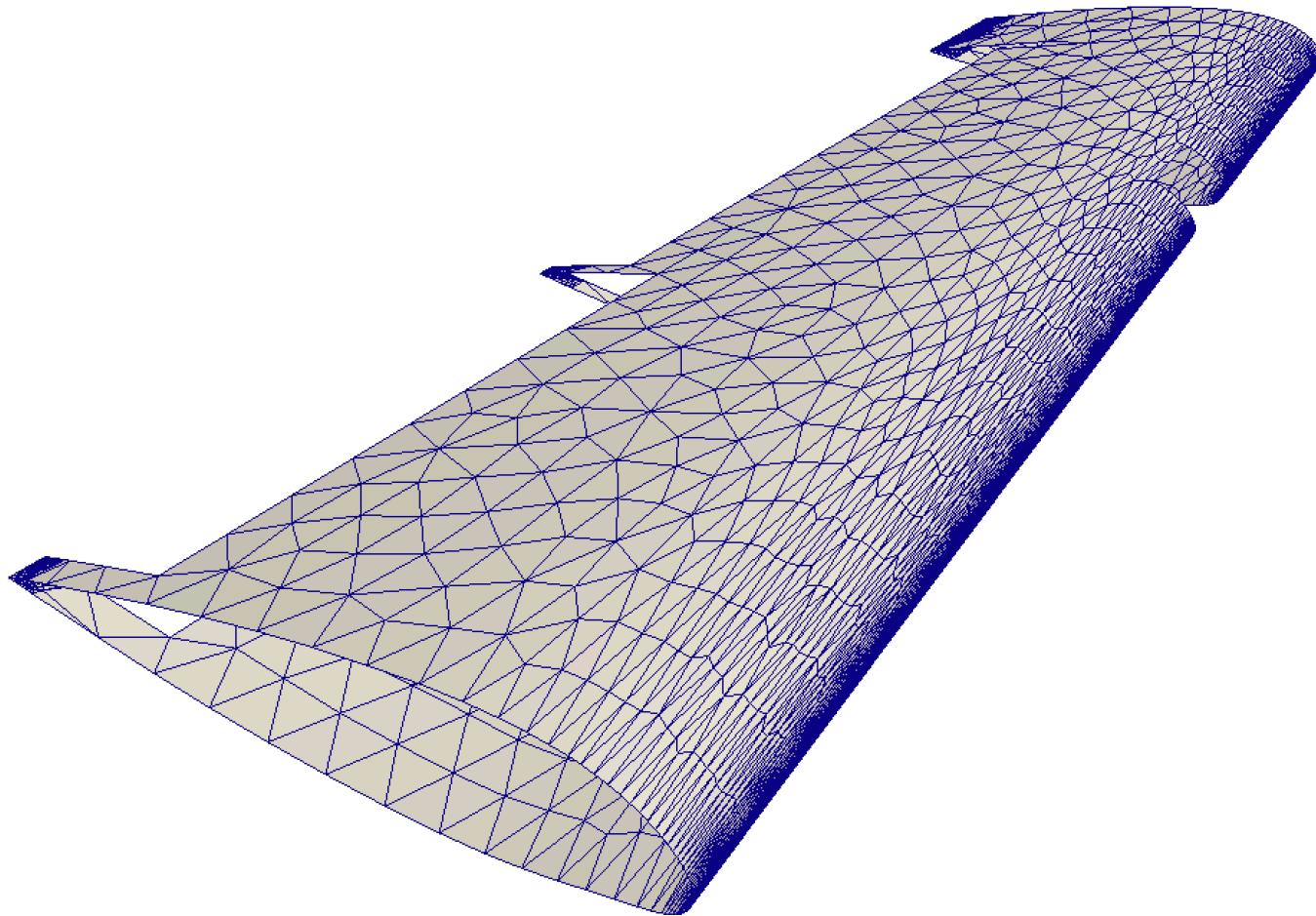


**Riemann + curvature metric**



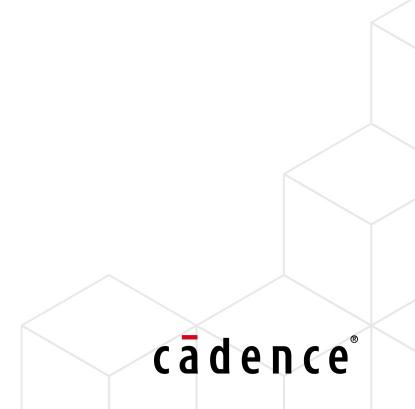
**anisotropic mesh**

# Example: wing 33

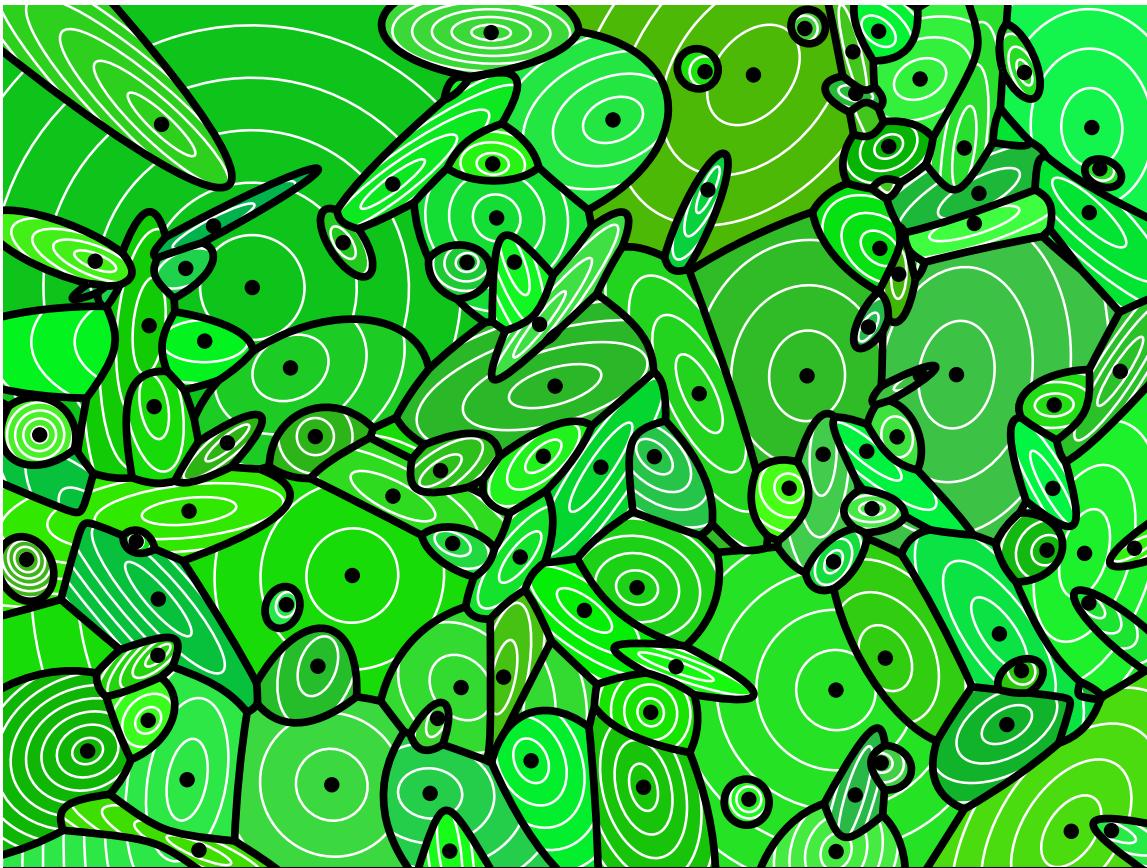


**surface mesh from anisotropic Riemann + curvature metric**

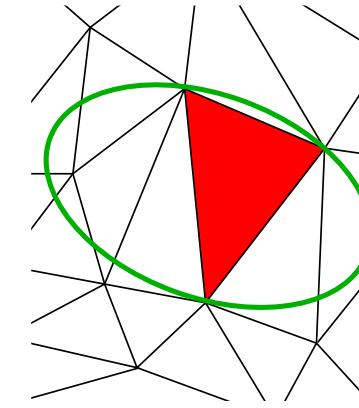
# Anisotropic Delaunay refinement



# Non uniform metric



An anisotropic Voronoi diagram



Delaunay triangulation  
is not globally defined.  
No “empty circum-ellipse”  
property.

F. Labelle and J. Shewchuk, 2016

# Labelle and Shewchuck approach

Let  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  be a domain  
with a metric field defined on  $D$  :

$$\forall p \in D \longrightarrow M_p.$$

$$d_p(x, y) = \sqrt{(x - y)^t M_p (x - y)}$$

Anisotropic Voronoi diagram

$P$  a set of sites in  $D$

$\forall p \in P$ , Voronoi cell  $V(p)$

$$V(p) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d \quad : \quad d_p(p, x) \leq d_q(q, x), \\ \forall q \in P, q \neq p\}$$

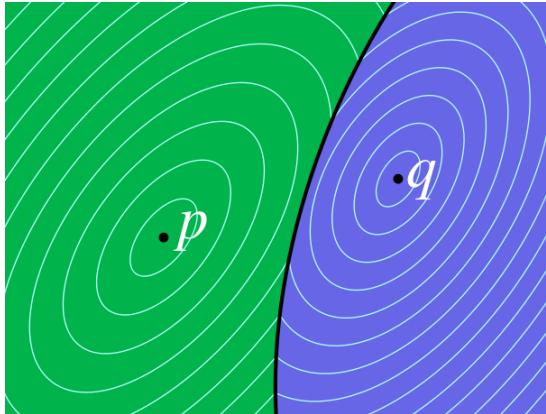
Cells are not connected.

The dual is not a triangulation.

Labelle and Shewchuck approach :

refine the set of sites until  
the dual is a triangulation.

Works only in 2D.



# Locally uniform Anisotropic Delaunay Mesh (M. Yvinec, INRIA)

Build a mesh such that:

the star of each vertex is Delaunay  
and well shaped  
wrt the metric at that vertex.

$V$  set of vertices,  $v \in V$ :

$M_v$  metric at  $v$

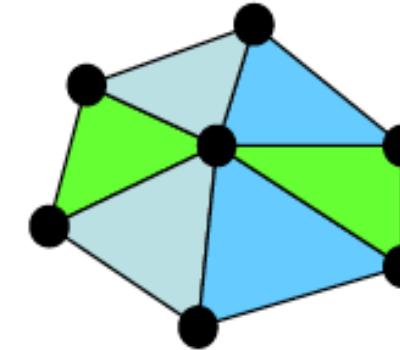
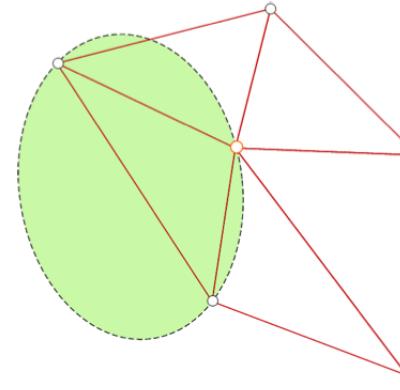
$\text{Del}_v(V)$  Delaunay triangulation of  $V$

computed with metric  $M_v$

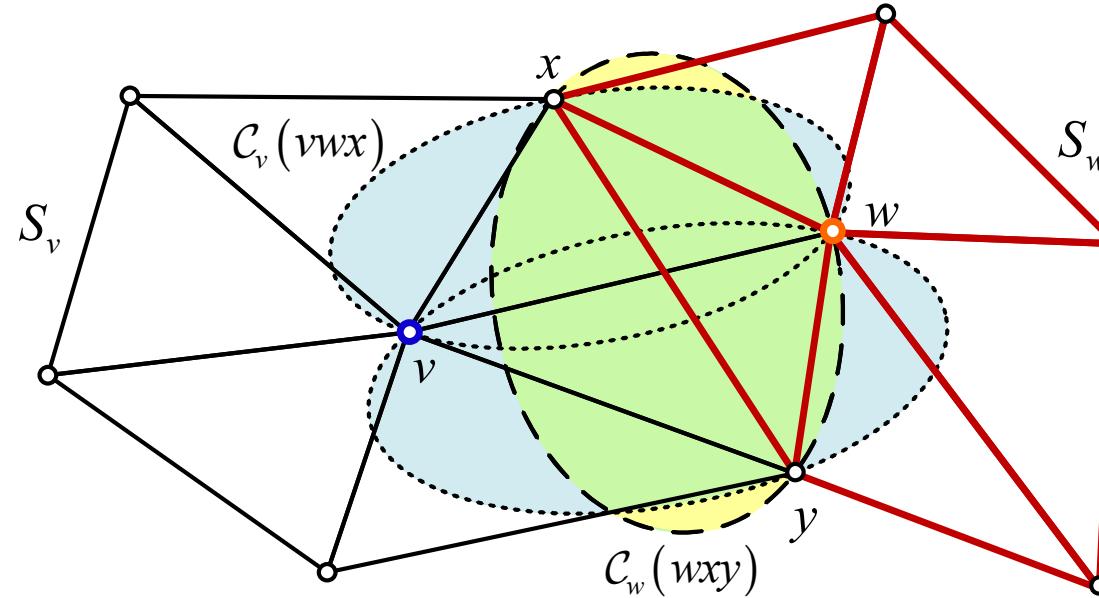
$S_v$ : the star of  $v$  in  $\text{Del}_v(V)$

## Overview of the meshing algorithm

- ▶ Maintain the set of stars  $S(V) = \{S_v : v \in V\}$
- ▶ Refine  $V$  until stars are consistent



# Locally uniform Anisotropic Delaunay Mesh (M. Yvinec, INRIA)



Inconsistency : some simplex  $\tau$  with vertices  $\{v, w, \dots\}$   
appears in star  $S_v$  but not in star  $S_w$ .

# Anisotropic Delaunay Refinement (M. Yvinec, INRIA)

$V$  current set of sites,  $S(V) = \{S_v : v \in V\}$  the star set

Domain  $\Omega$ : each star  $S_v$  is restricted to  $\Omega$

i.e.  $S_v = \{\tau \in \text{Del}_v(V) : v \in \tau \text{ and } c_v(\tau) \in \Omega\}$

Apply following refinement rules with priority order:

1. **Sizing field - Distortion**

While  $\exists \tau \in S_v$  s.t.  $r_v(\tau) \geq \alpha$  If( $c_v(\tau)$ ), refine  $\tau$

2. **Radius-edge ratio**

While  $\exists \tau \in S_v$  s.t.  $\rho_v(\tau) \geq \rho_0$ , refine  $\tau$

3. **Slivers**

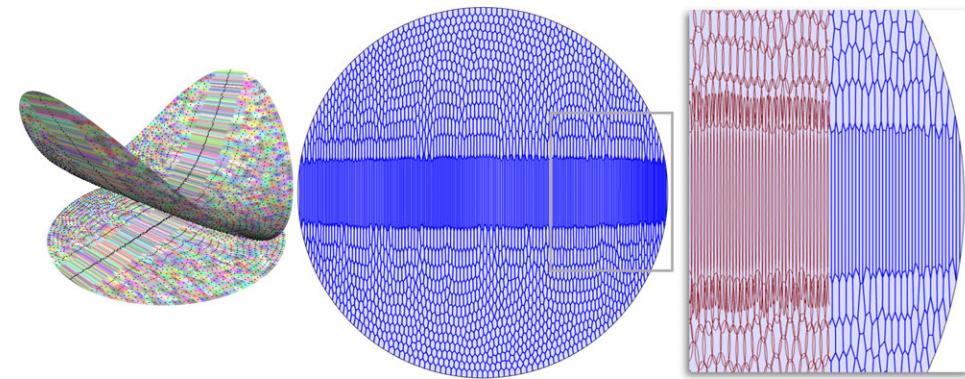
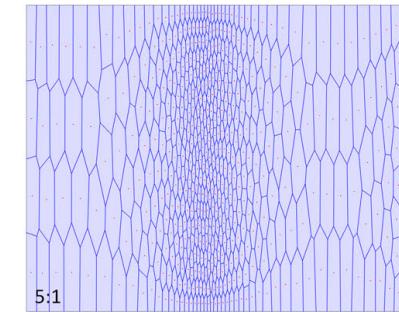
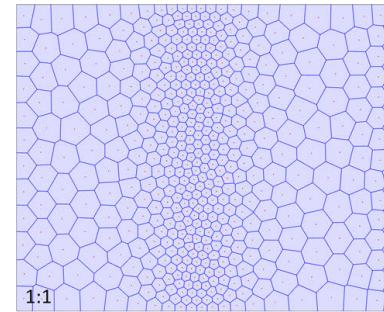
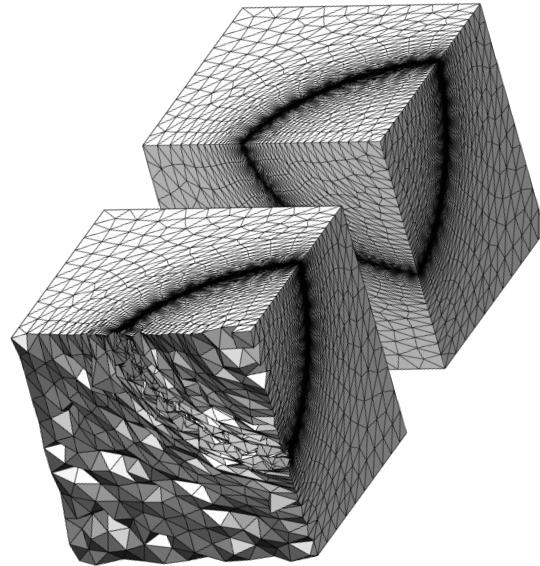
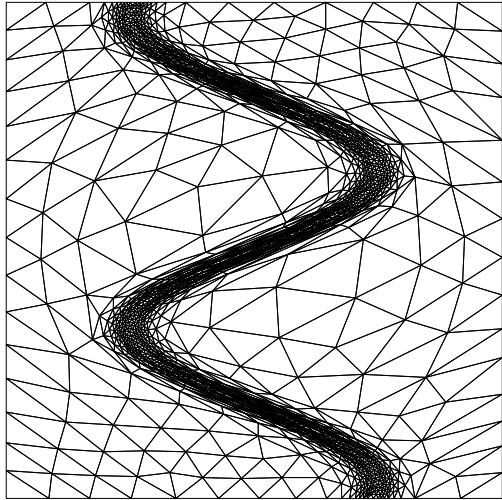
While  $\exists$  a sliver  $\tau \in S_v$  ( $\rho_v(\tau) \leq \rho_0$ ,  $\sigma_v(\tau) \leq \sigma_0$ ), refine  $\tau$

4. **Inconsistencies**

While  $\exists$  an inconsistent simplex  $\tau \in S_v$ , refine  $\tau$



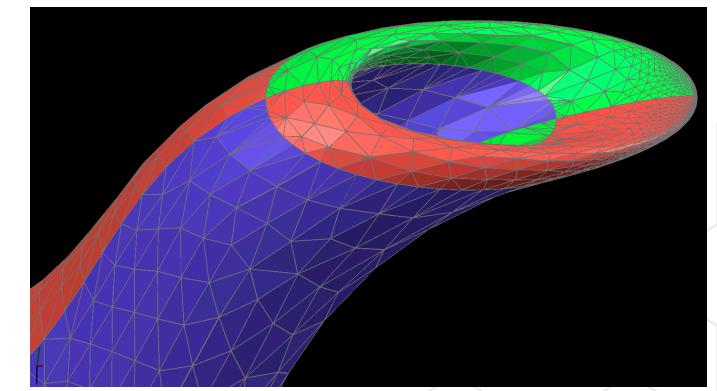
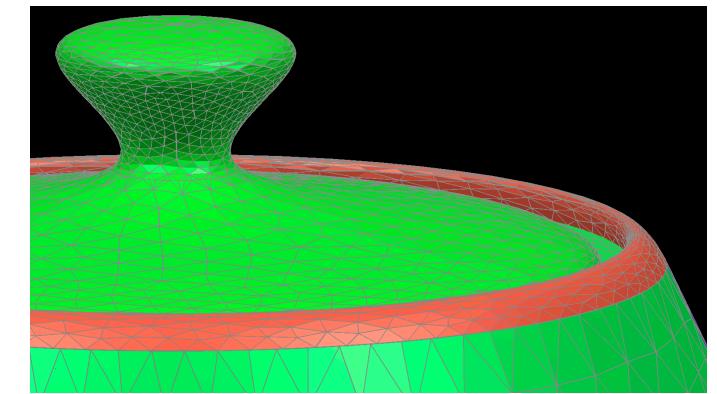
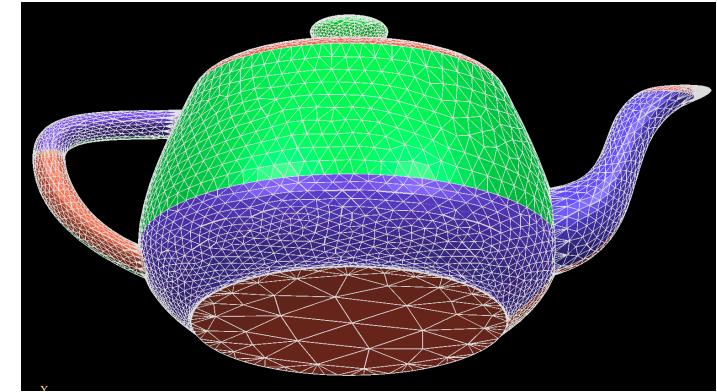
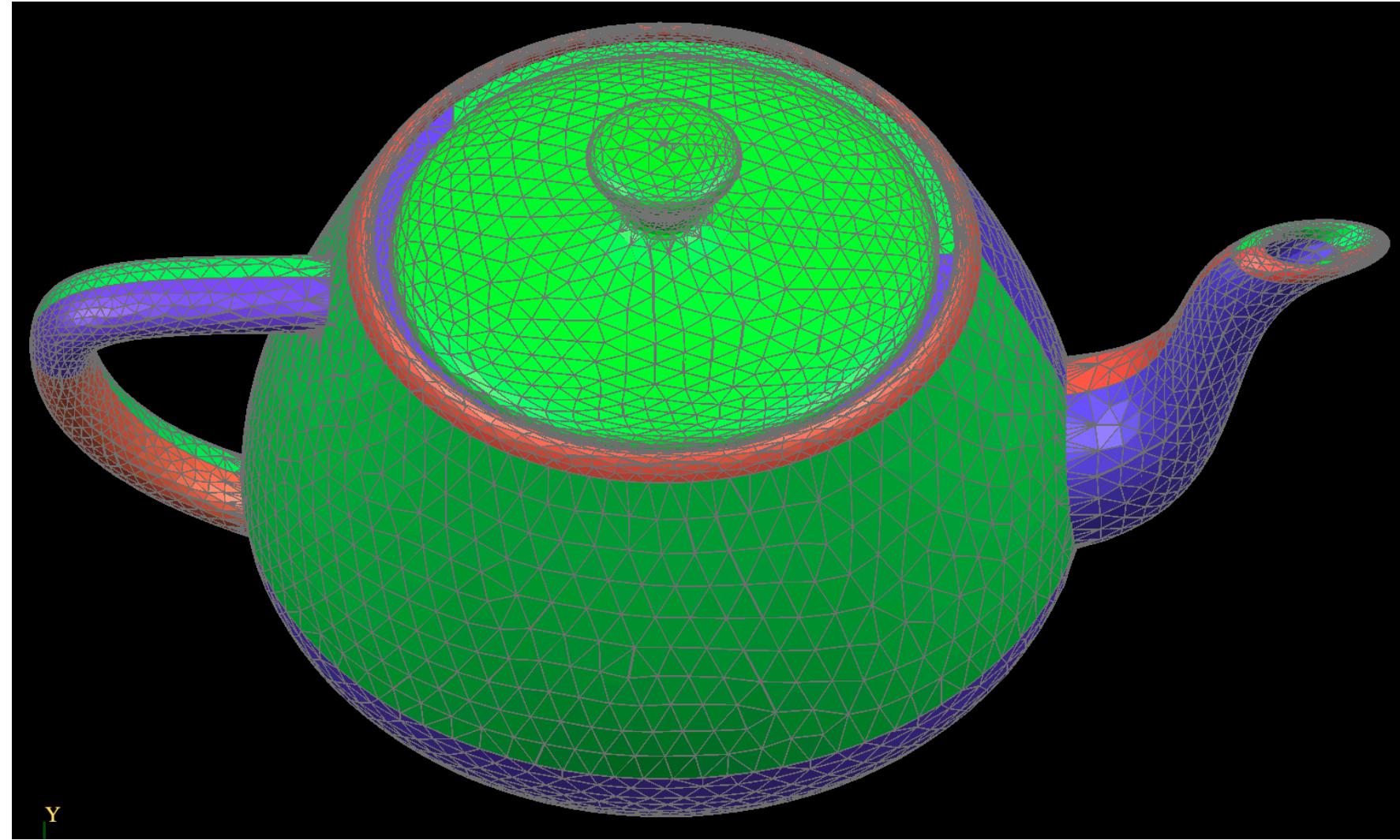
# Anisotropic mesh improving



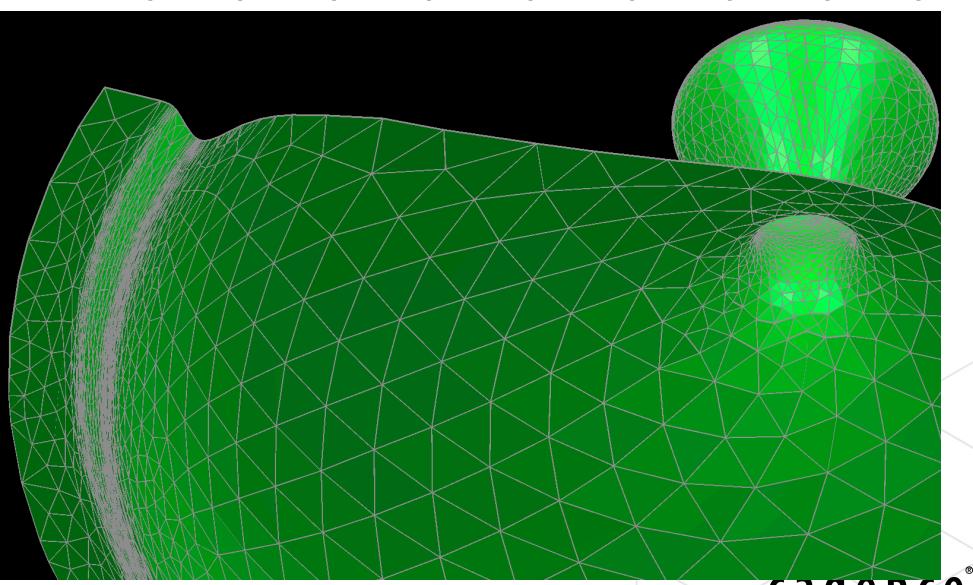
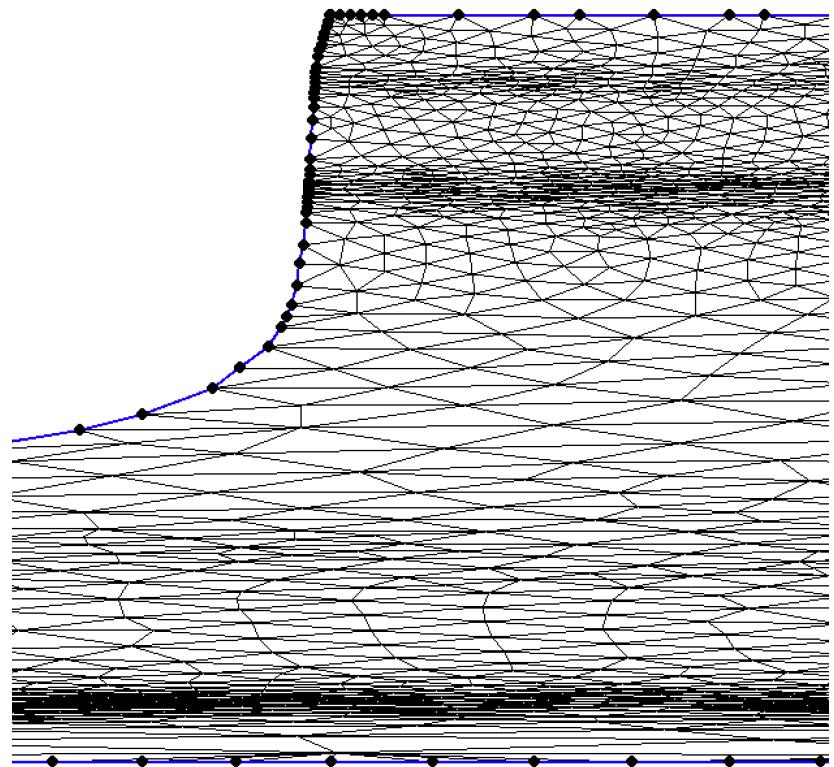
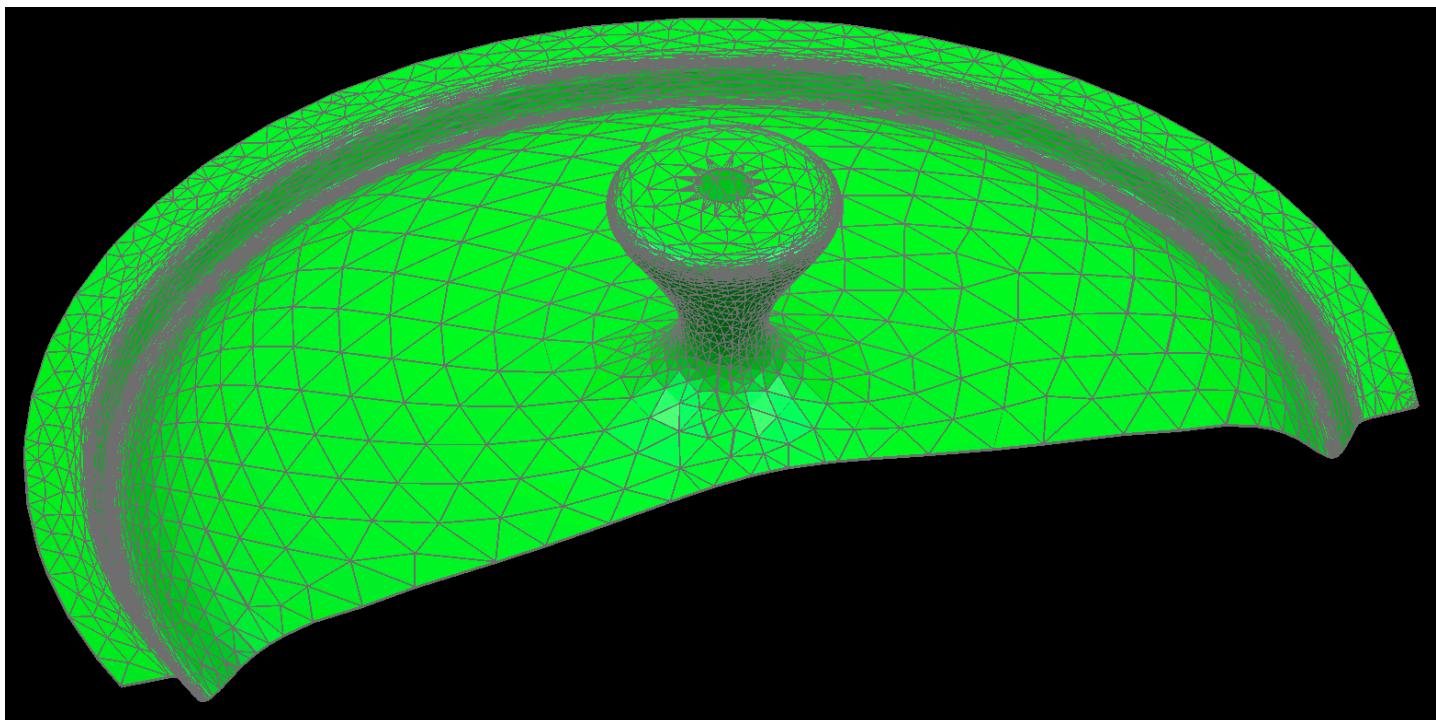
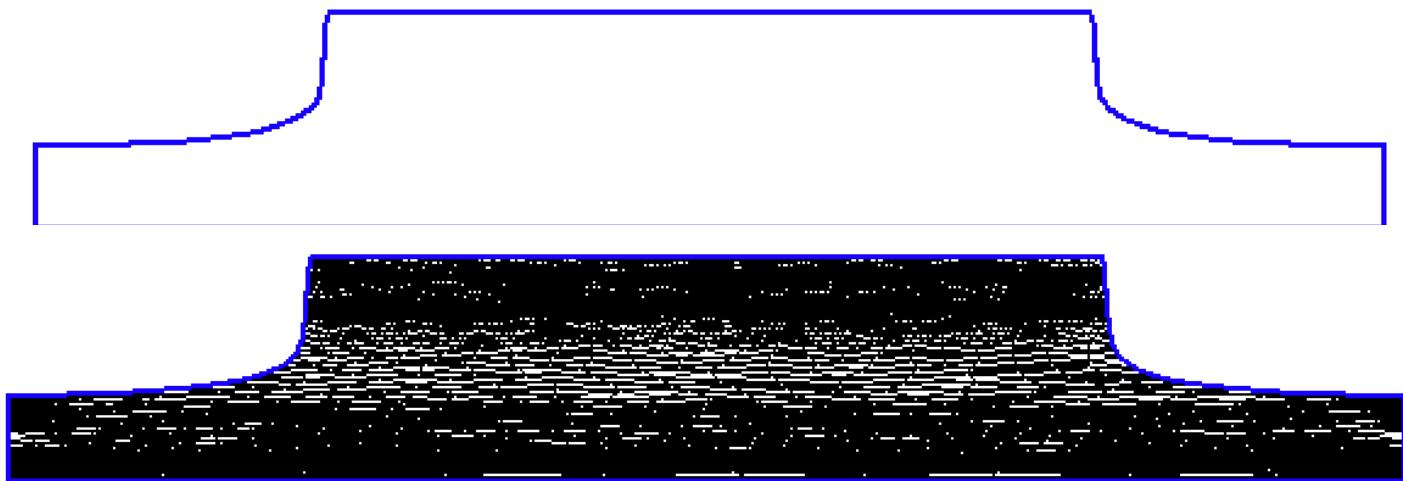
X. Fu, Y. Liu, J. Snyder, B. Guo, Anisotropic Simplicial Meshing Using Local Convex Functions. ACM Transactions on Graphics, Volume 33, Issue No. 6, Article Number 182, pp 1–11, 2014

M. Budniskiy, B. Liu, F. De Goes, Y. Tong, P. Alliez, M. Desbrun, Optimal Voronoi Tessellations with Hessian-based Anisotropy. ACM Transactions on Graphics, Volume 35, Issue No. 6, Article No. 242, pp 1–12, 2016

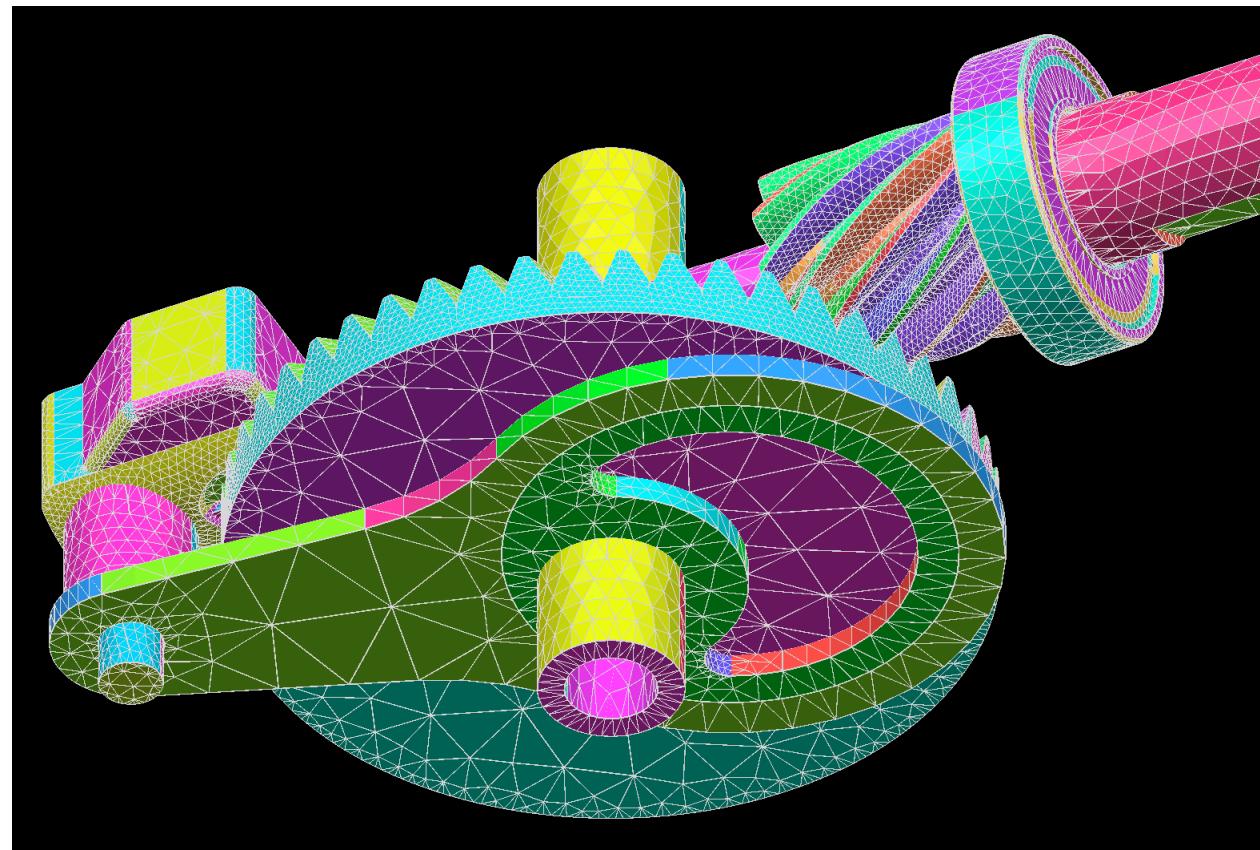
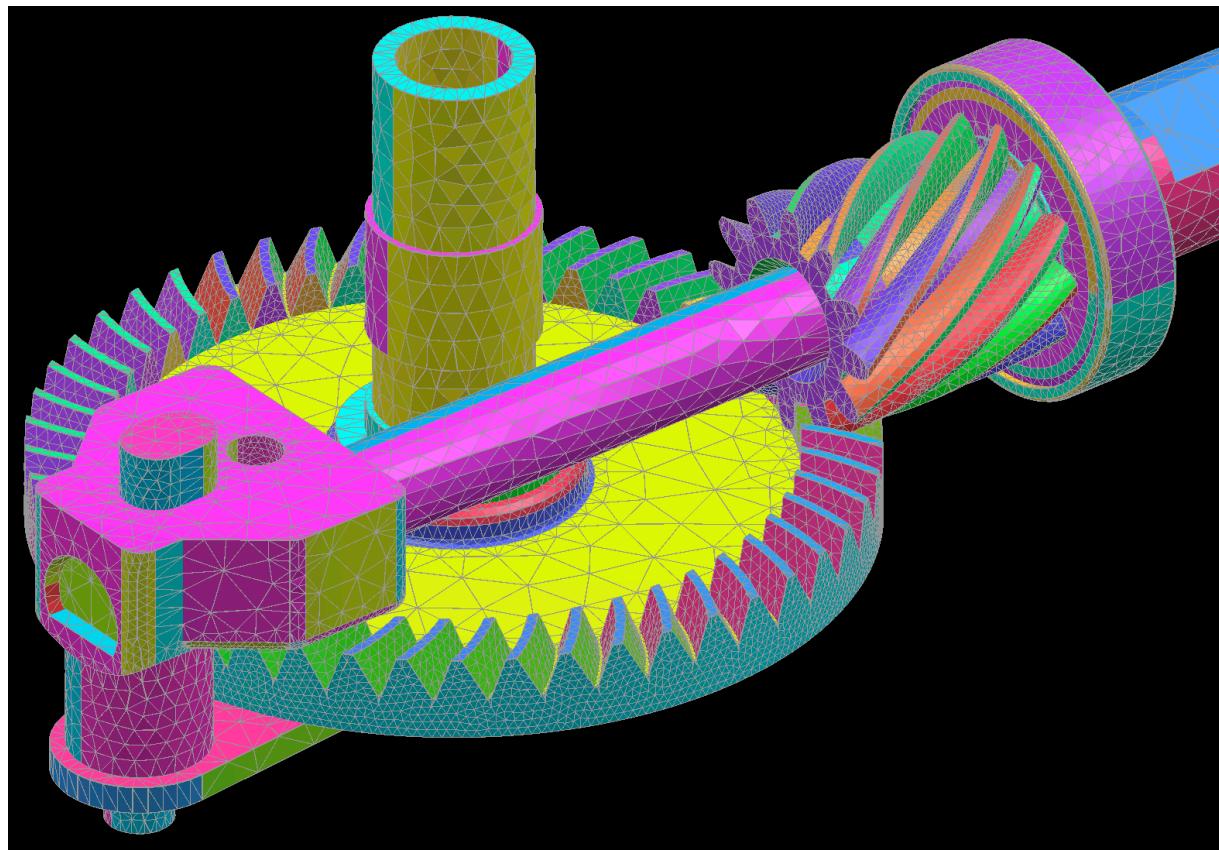
# Teapot (step)

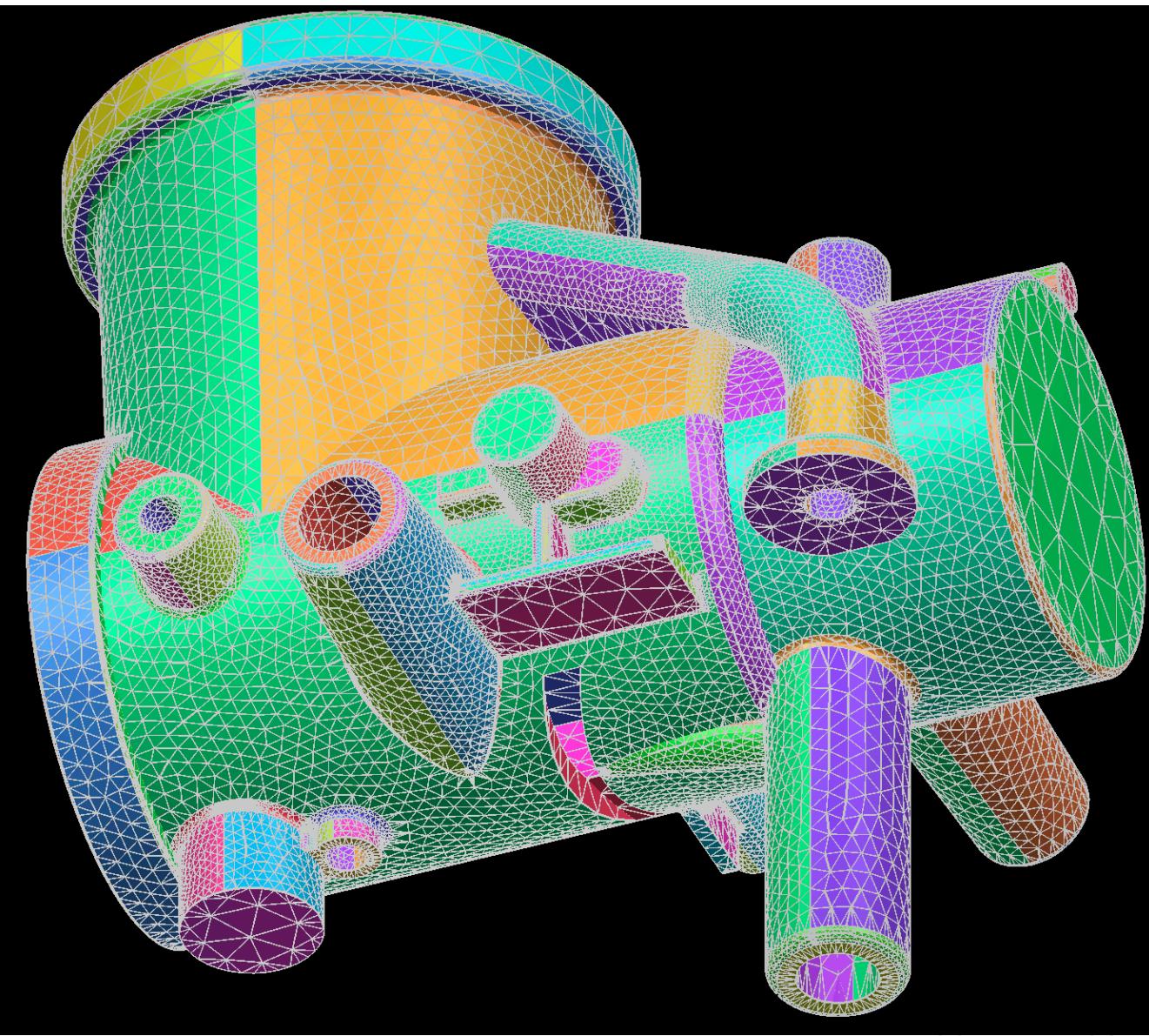
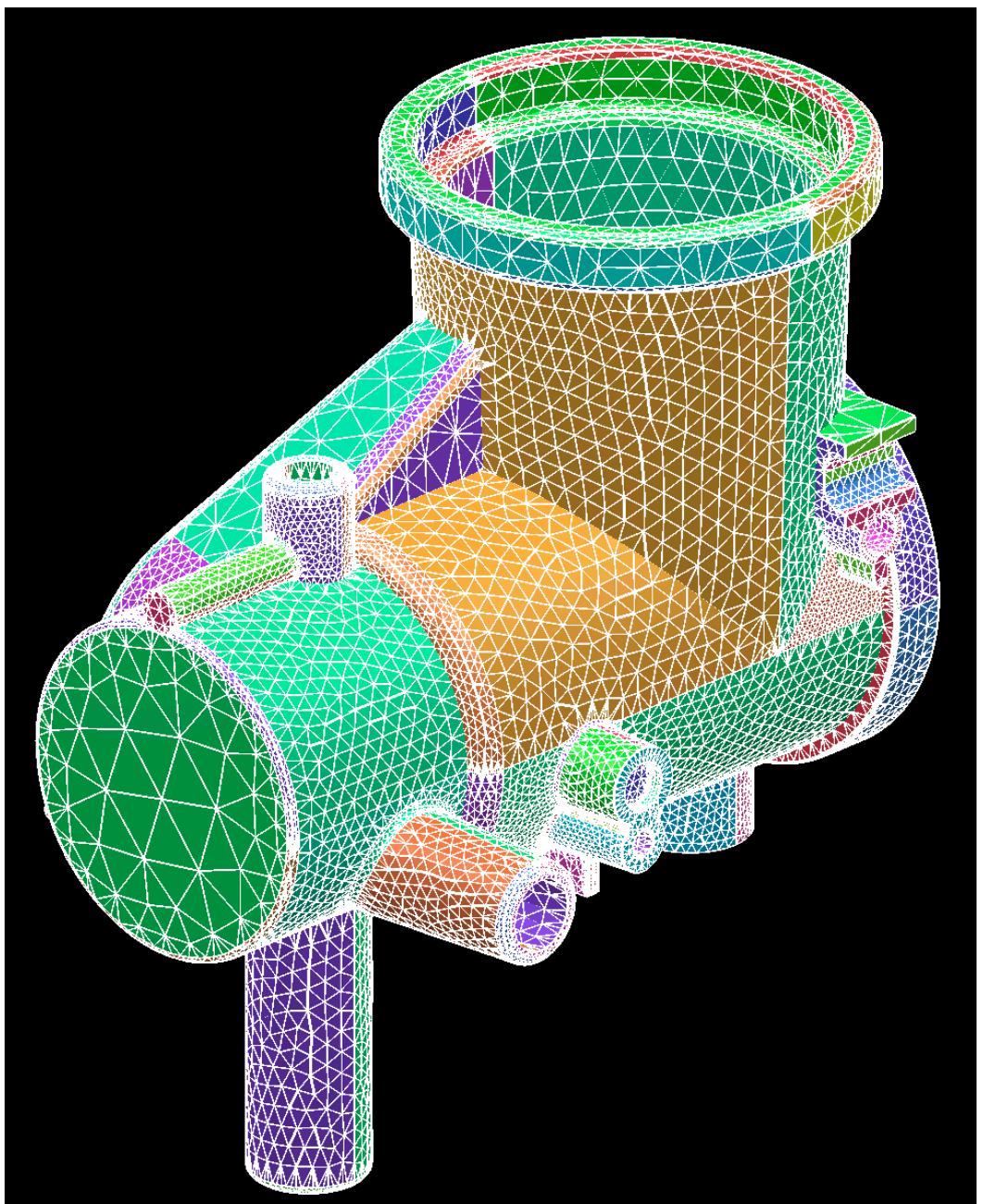


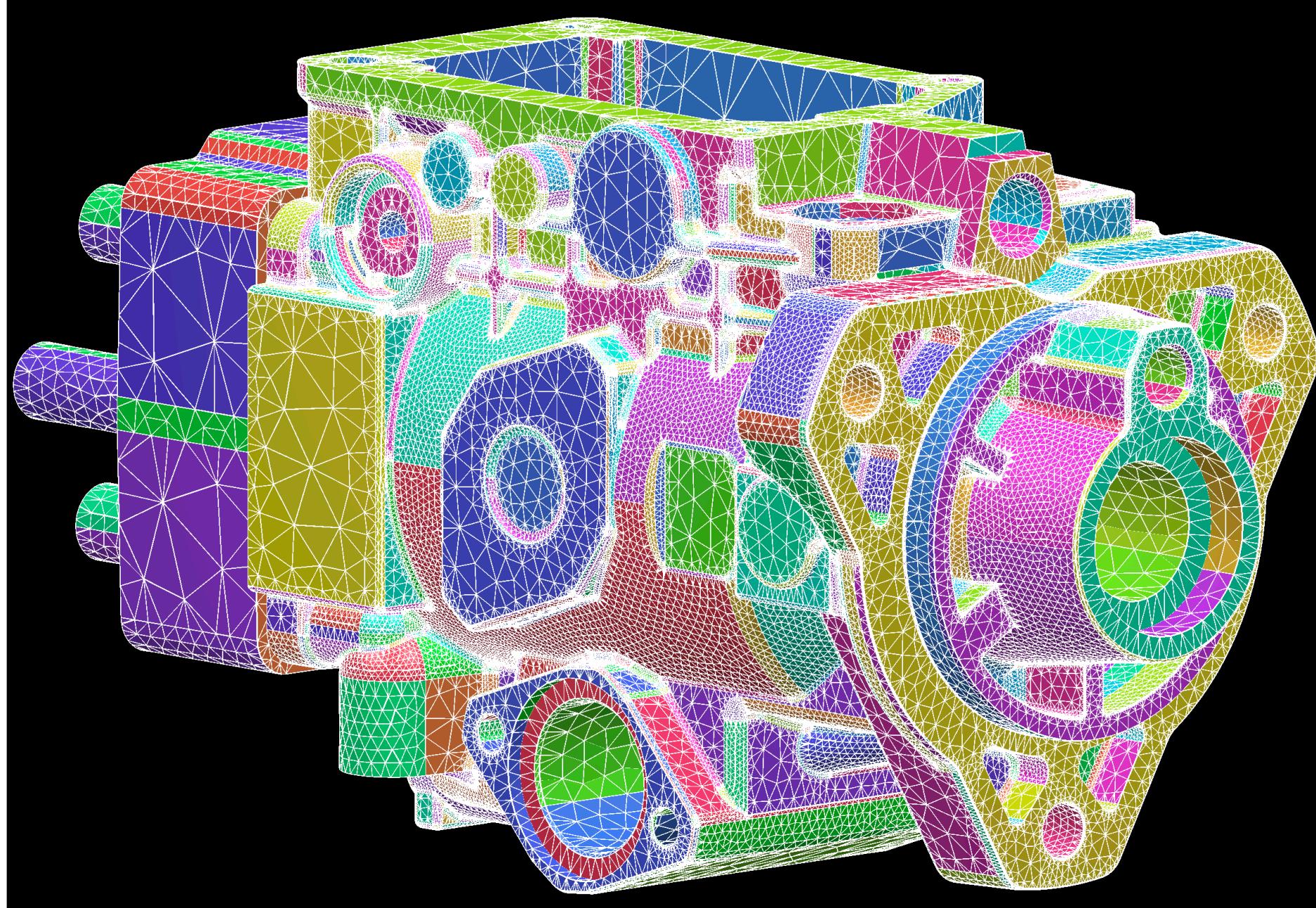
surface patch 11



cadence®







## Surface Remeshing Based on Conformal Uniformization

Key Idea : Convert 3D meshing to 2D

- ① Flatten a curved surface onto a planar domain using conformal(angle-preserving) mappings;
- ② Generate a high quality mesh on the planar domain;
- ③ Pull back the triangulation from the planar domain to the curved surface.

A conformal mapping maps the planar Delaunay triangulations to the geodesic Delaunay triangulations on the surface. The sampling density on the plane can be adapted, such that the sampling on the surface normal cycle is uniform. This produces high quality surface meshes.

Gu talk, IMR 2023

## Discrete surface Ricci flow

### Definition (Discrete Surface Ricci Flow)

Given a marked surface  $(S, V)$  with a polyhedral metric  $d$  and a triangulation  $T$ , suppose the target Gaussian curvature  $\bar{K} : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is given, then the Ricci flow is defined as

$$\frac{d\lambda(v_i, t)}{dt} = \bar{K}(v_i) - K(v_i, t),$$

during the flow,  $T$  is updated to be Delaunay.

Gu talk, IMR 2023



## Theorem (Discrete Surface Uniformization)

*Given a polyhedral metric  $d$  on a closed marked surface  $(S, V)$ , and target curvature  $\bar{K} : V \rightarrow (-\infty, 2\pi)$ , such that  $\bar{K}$  satisfies the Gauss-Bonnet condition  $\sum K(v) = 2\pi\chi(S)$ , there is a  $\bar{d}$  discrete conformal to  $d$ , and  $\bar{d}$  realized the curvature  $\bar{k}$ .  $\bar{d}$  is unique up to a scaling, and can be obtained by the discrete surface Ricci flow.*

The discrete uniformization theorem guarantees the existence and the uniqueness of the solution to the discrete surface Ricci flow, which can be obtained by optimizing the convex discrete surface Ricci energy.

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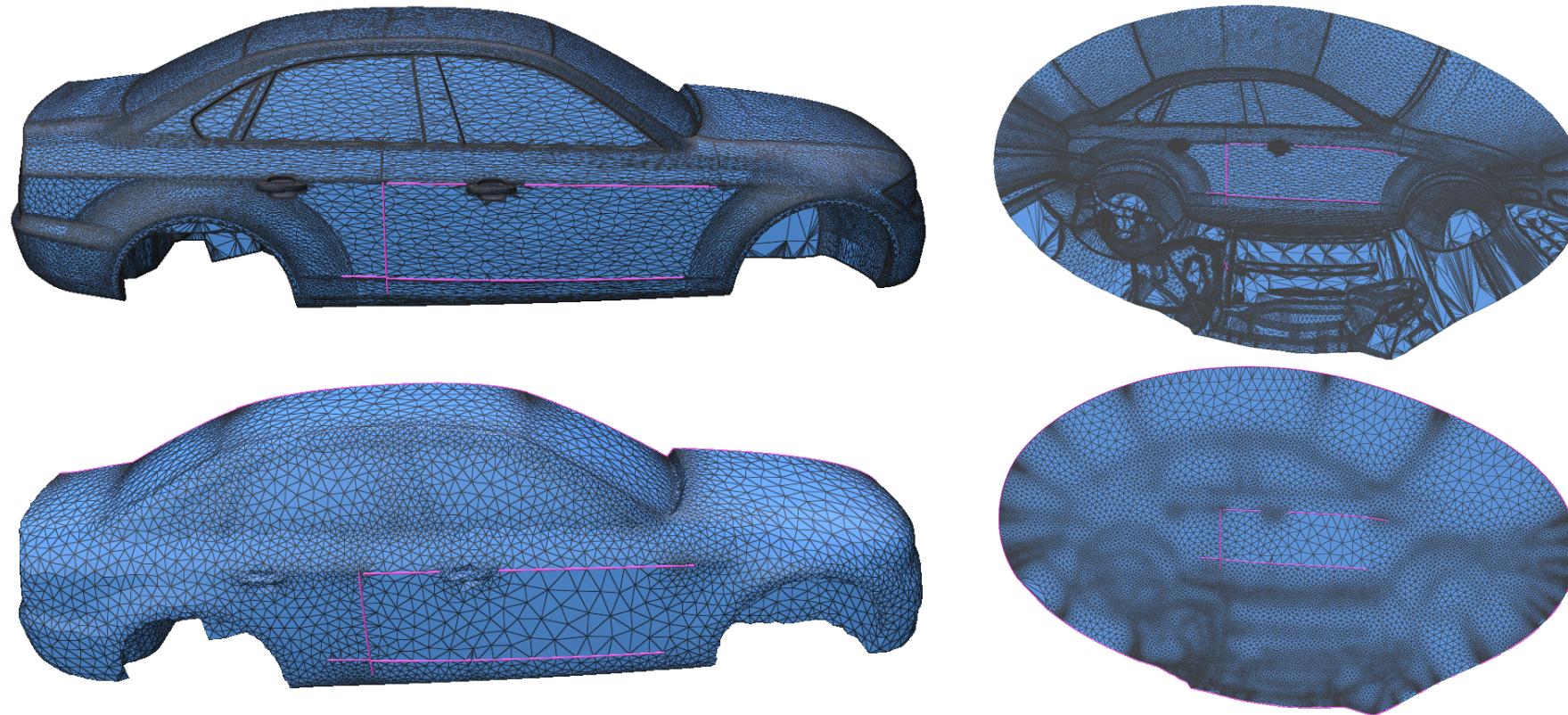


Figure: Conformal parameterization and remesh result.

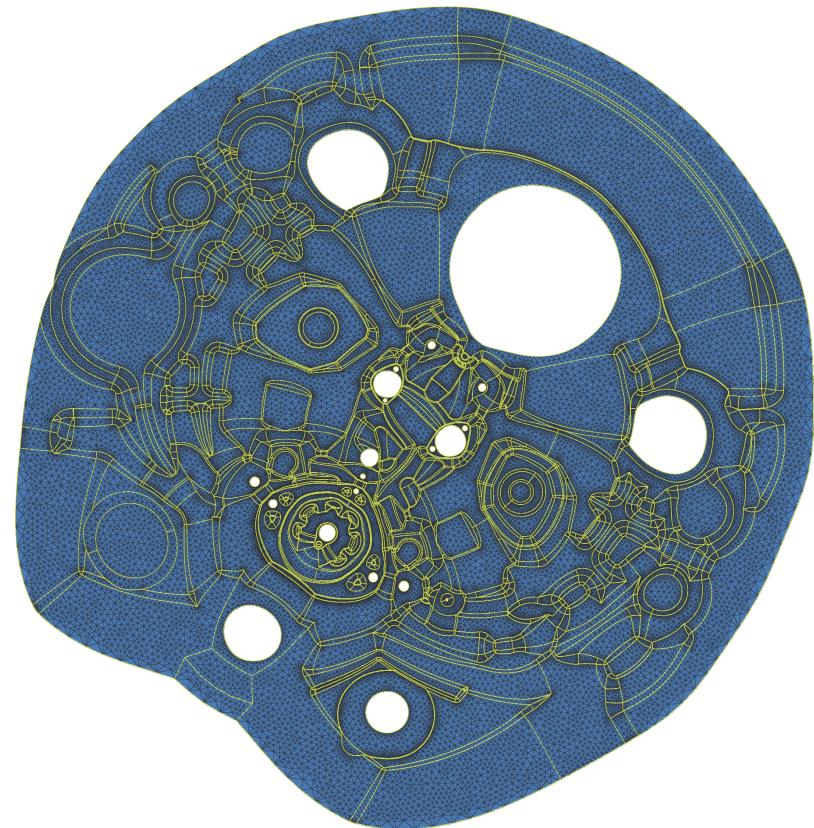
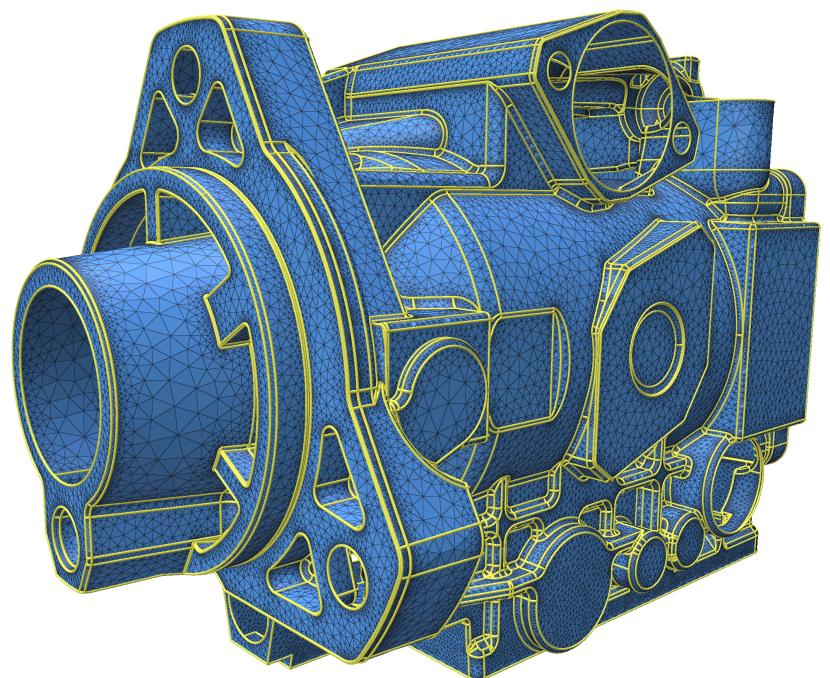
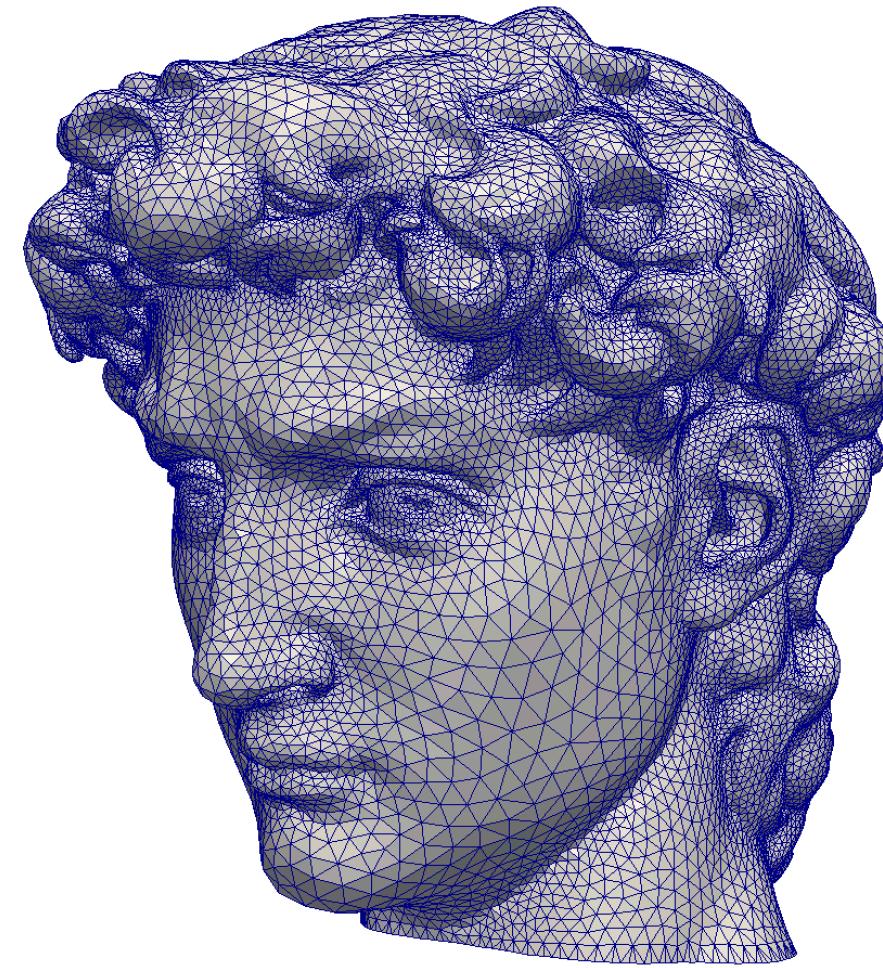
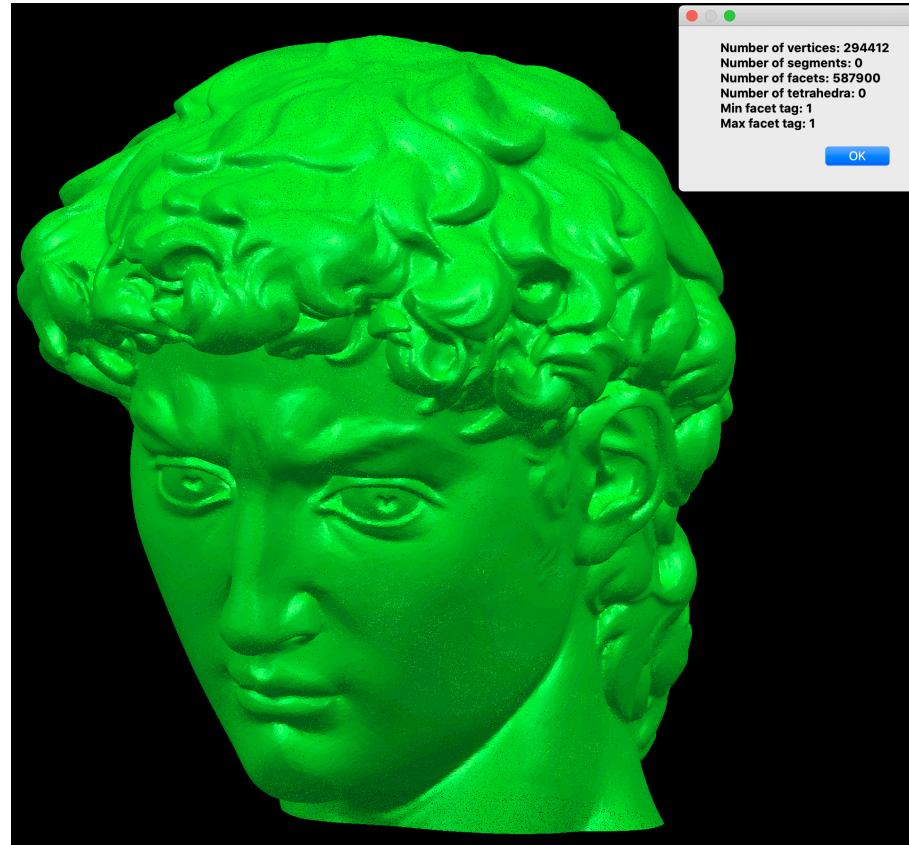
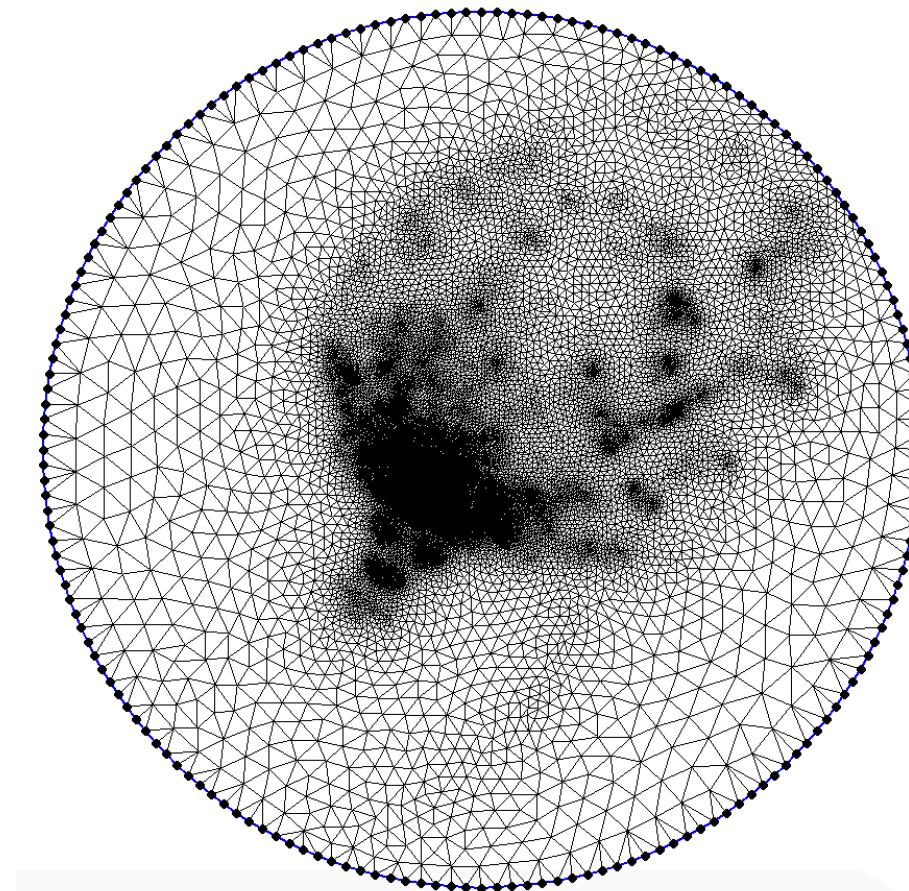
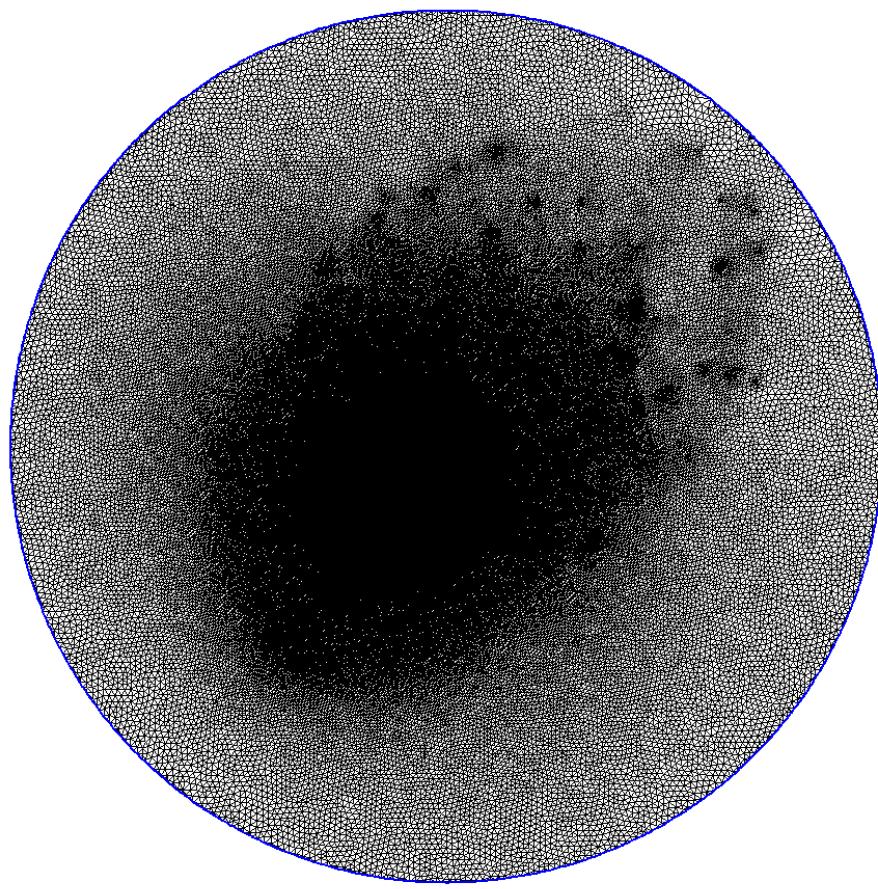
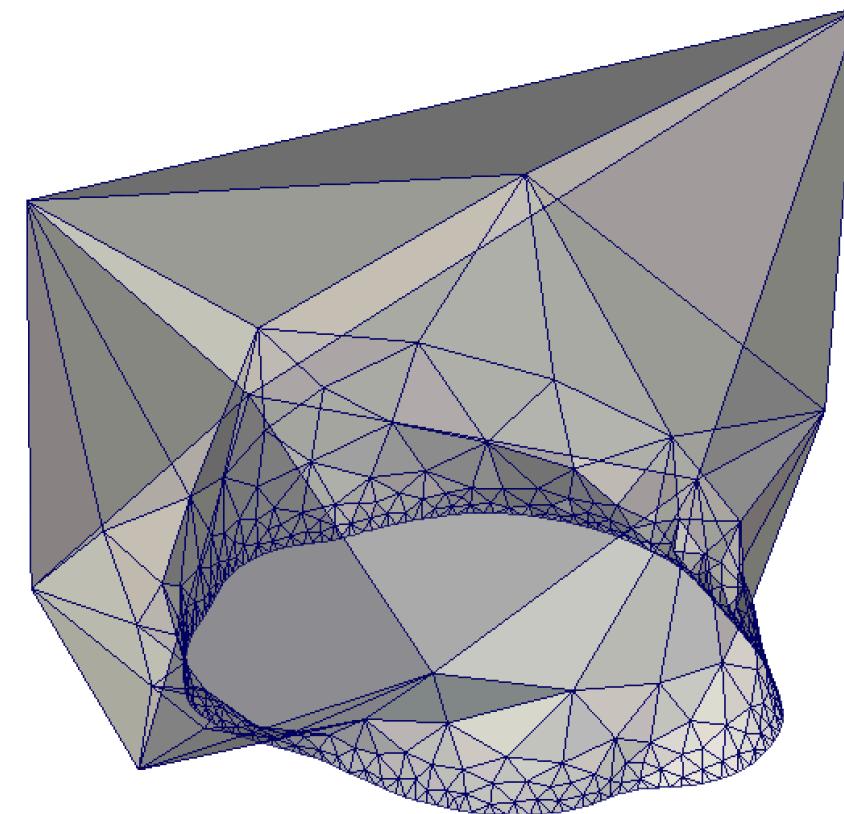
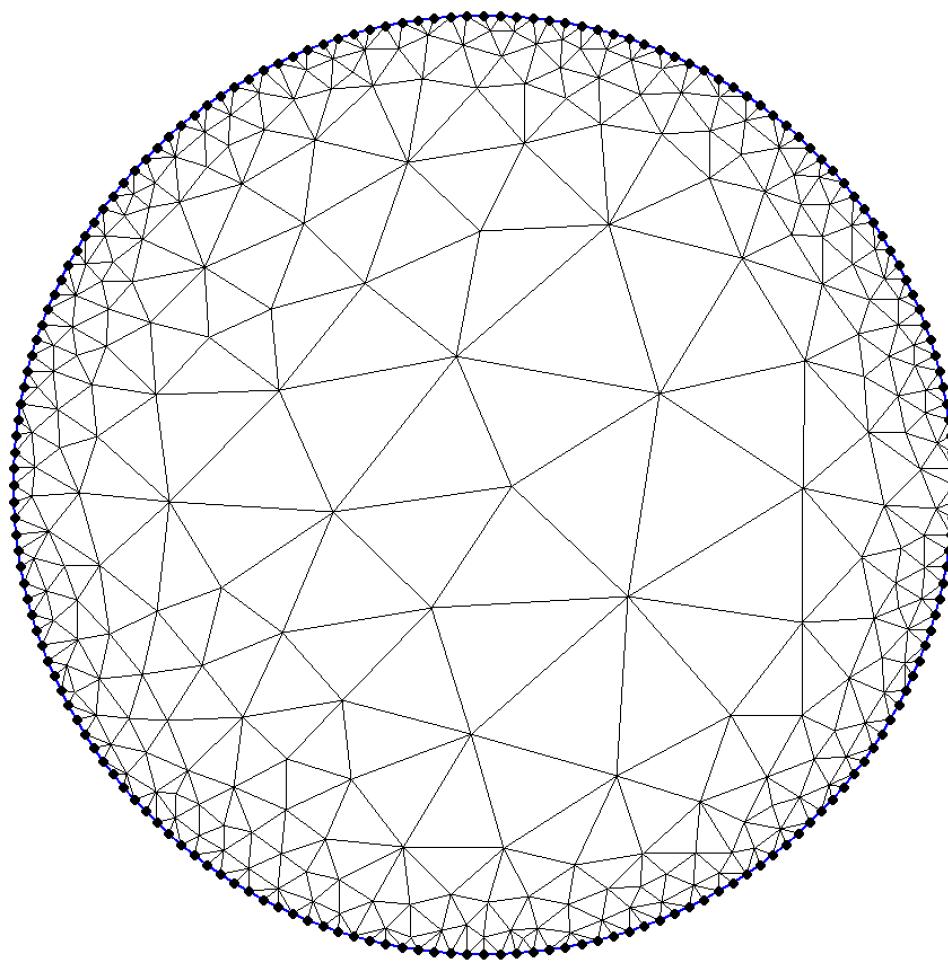
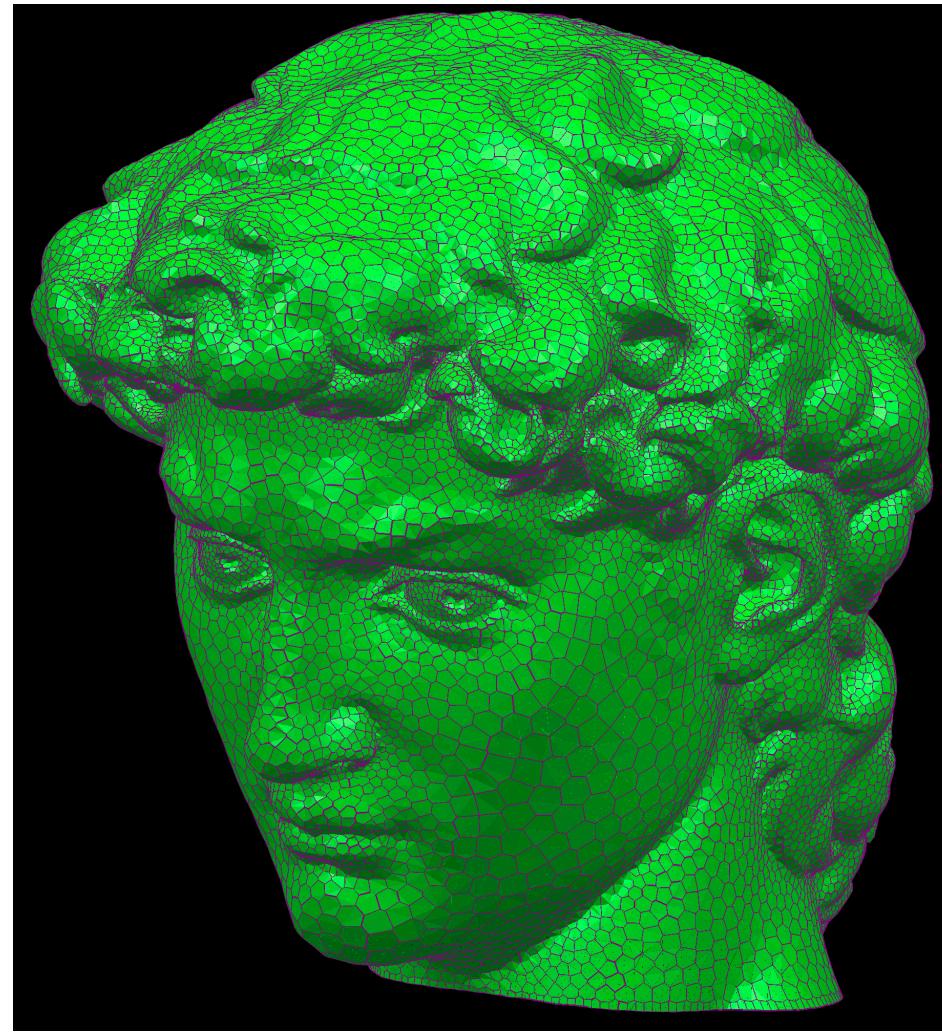
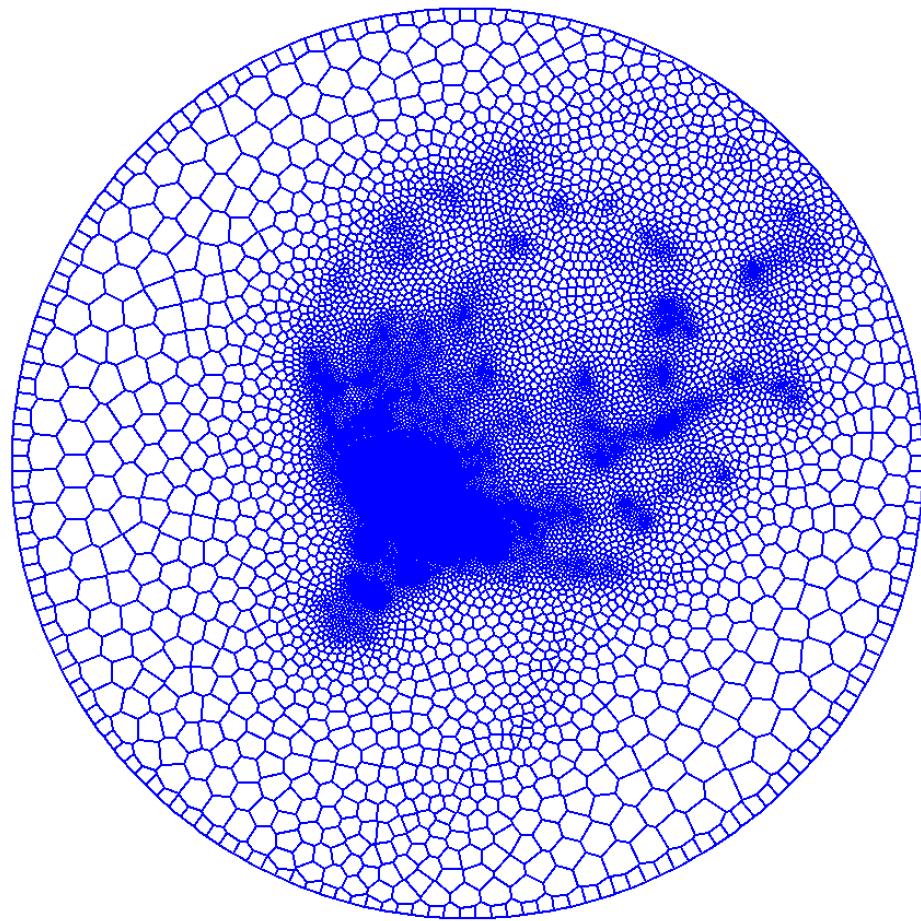


Figure: remesh result.











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