



# SIGGRAPH ASIA 2009

革新の波動  
*the pulse of innovation*



# Approximating Subdivision Surfaces with Gregory Patches for Hardware Tessellation

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*Microsoft Research*

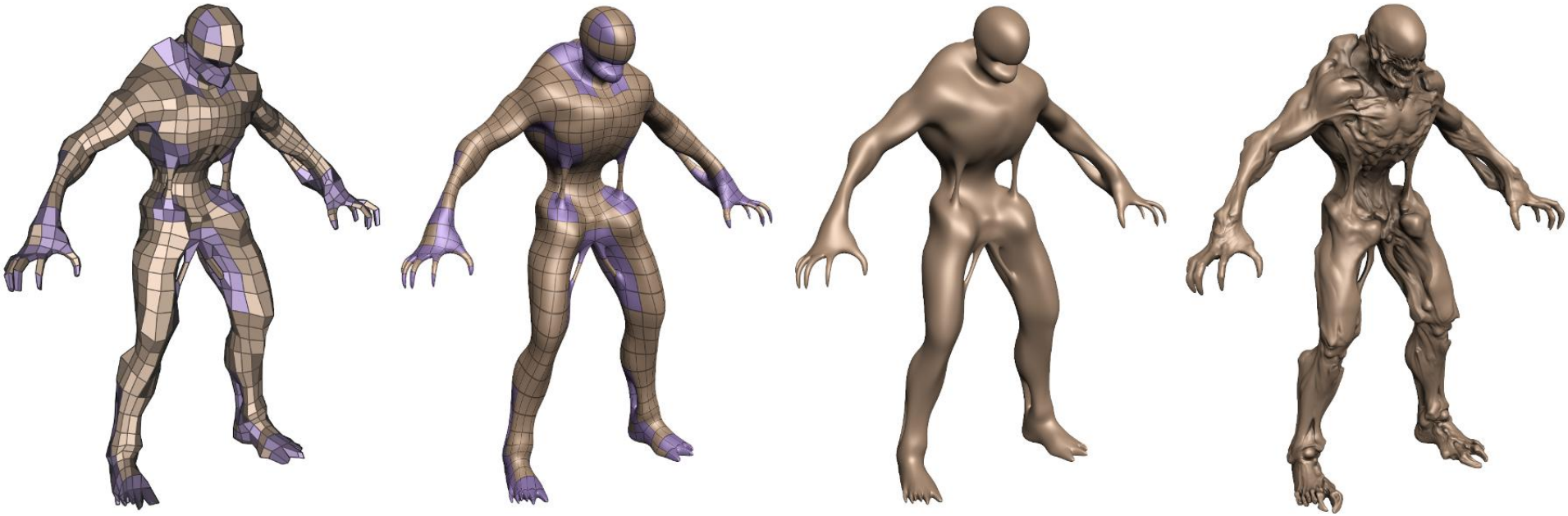
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*Texas A&M University*

Tianyun Ni  
*NVIDIA*

Ignacio Castaño  
*NVIDIA*



# Goal



Real-Time Displaced 'Subdivision Surfaces'

# Problem: Real-Time Animation

- Each vertex 'touched' at runtime
  - new position influenced by many *bones weights* or *morph targets*
- Costly for dense meshes
- Coarse meshes are used
  - faceting artifacts
- Dense static objects
  - high disk/bus consumption



# Solution: Hardware Tessellation

- Store/send coarse mesh to GPU
- Animate coarse mesh vertices
  - inexpensive
- Expand geometry on GPU
  - reduce bus traffic
  - exploit GPU parallelism
- Better shape fidelity
  - reduced faceting
  - displacement mapping



# Tessellation Pipeline

- Direct3D11 has support for programmable tessellation
- Two new programable shader stages:
  - Hull Shader (HS)
  - Domain Shader (DS)
- One fixed function stage:
  - Tessellator (TS)

Input Assembler

Vertex Shader

Hull Shader

Tessellator

Domain Shader

Geometry Shader

Setup/Raster

# Hull Shader (HS)

- Transforms control points from *irregular* control mesh data to *regular* patch data
- Computes edge tessellation factors



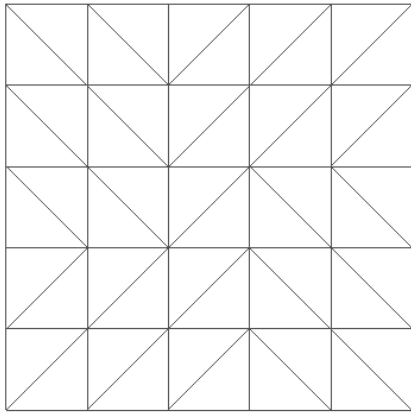
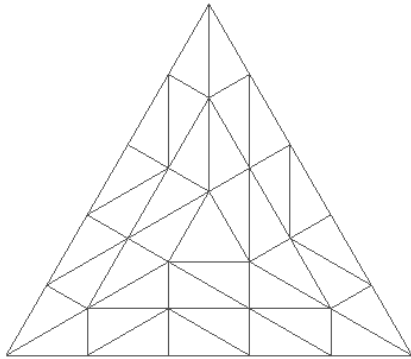
# Tessellator (TS)

- Fixed function stage, but configurable
- Domains:
  - Triangle, Quad, Line
- Spacing:
  - Discrete, Continuous, Pow2

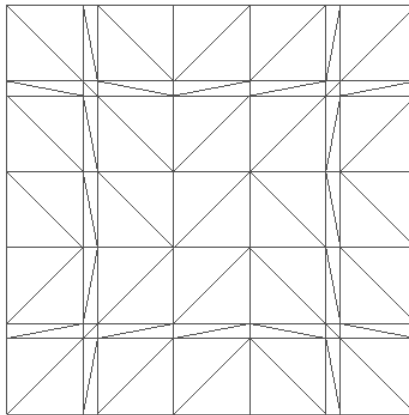
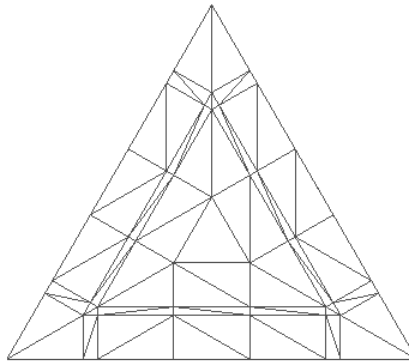




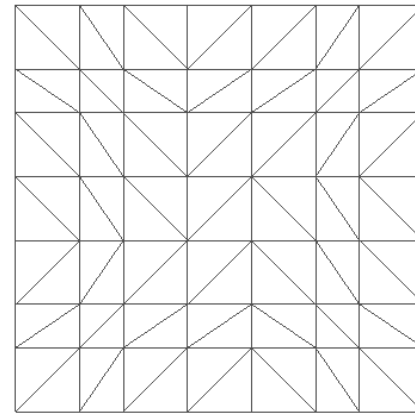
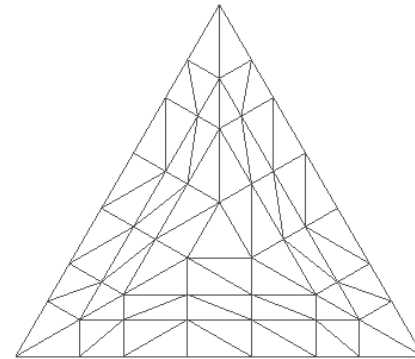
# Tessellator (TS)



Level 5



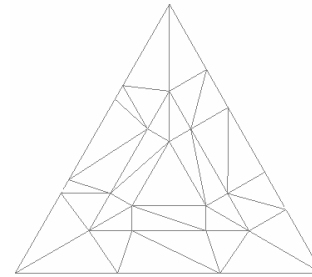
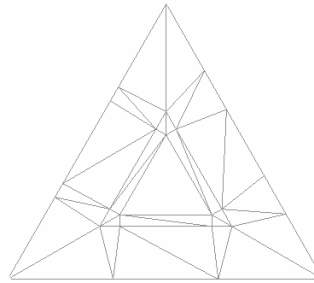
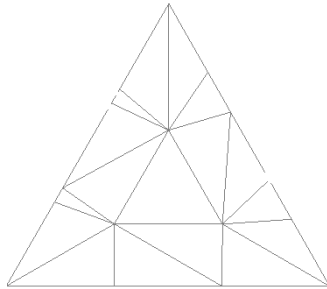
Level 5.4



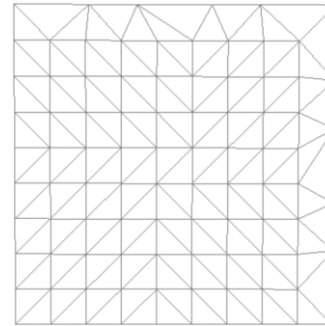
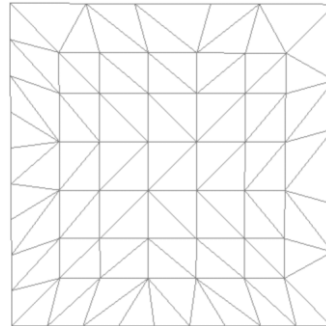
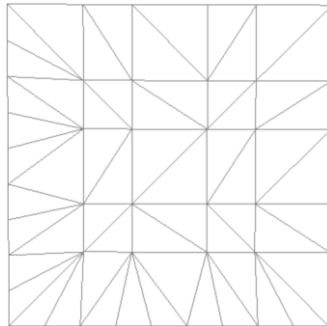
Level 6.6

# Tessellator (TS)

Left = 3.5  
Right = 4.4  
Bottom = 3.0



Top,Right = 4.5  
Bottom,Left = 9.0



Inside Tess:  
minimum

Inside Tess:  
average

Inside Tess:  
maximum

# Domain Shader (DS)

- Evaluate surface given parametric  $u, v$  coordinates
- Interpolate attributes
- Apply displacements

Input Assembler

Vertex Shader

Hull Shader

Tessellator

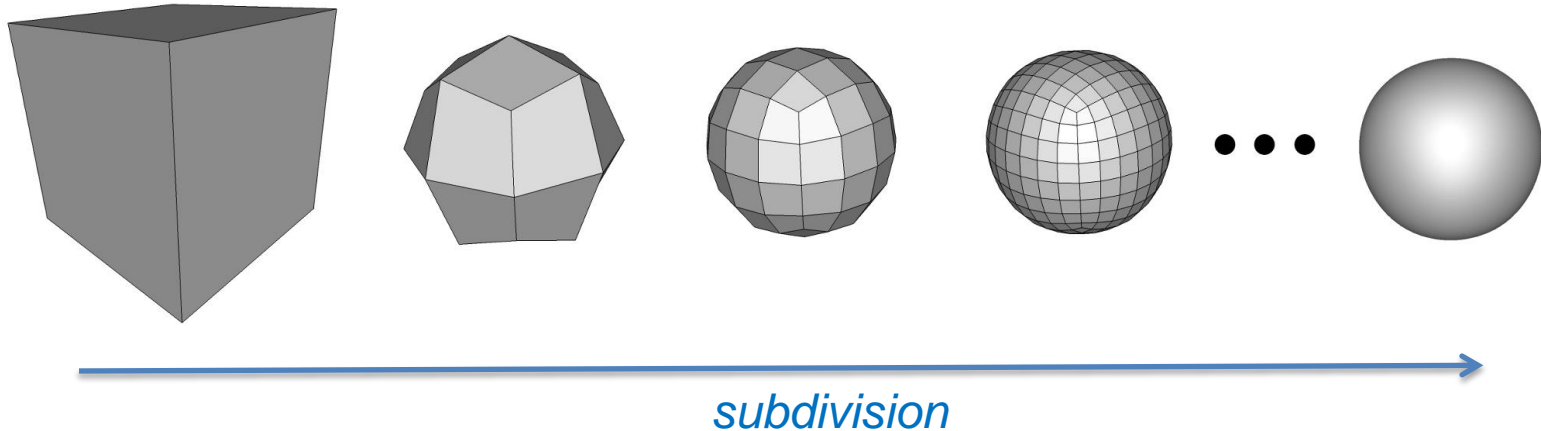
**Domain Shader**

Geometry Shader

Setup/Raster

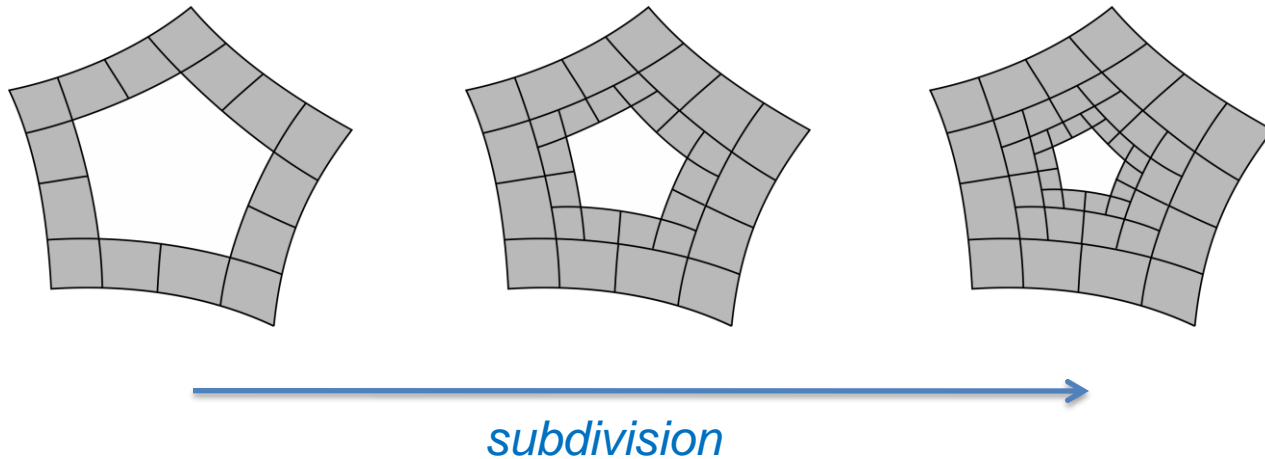
# Subdivision Surfaces

Catmull, E. AND Clark, J. 1978,  
*Recursively generated B-spline surfaces on arbitrary topological meshes*



- Already in the content creation pipeline
- Used extensively in film and game industries
- Coarse mesh input leads to smooth higher order surface

# Problem: Infinite number of patches



- Does not easily fit hardware tessellation paradigm
- Stam, J. 1998,  
*Exact evaluation of Catmull-Clark subdivision surfaces at arbitrary parameter values*
- Using exact evaluation possible, but expensive
  - Need two levels of subdivision to get started
  - Eigen basis function storage/evaluation costly

# Approximation Schemes

- Loop, C. AND Schaefer, S. 2008,  
*Approximating Catmull-Clark subdivision surfaces with bicubic patches*  
Quads only, continuous geometry, smooth normal field  
25 control points per patch
- Ni, T., Yeo. Y.I., Miles, A, AND Peters, J. 2008,  
*GPU smoothing of quad meshes*  
Quads only smooth geometry and normal field  
24 control points per patch
- Myles, A, Ni, T., AND Peters, J. 2008,  
*Fast Parallel construction of smooth surfaces from meshes with tri/quad/pent facets*  
3, 4, or 5 sided faces, smooth geometry and normal field  
19, 25, and 31 control points per patch
- This paper  
3, 4 sided Gregory patches  
15, 20 control points per patch

# Gregory Patches

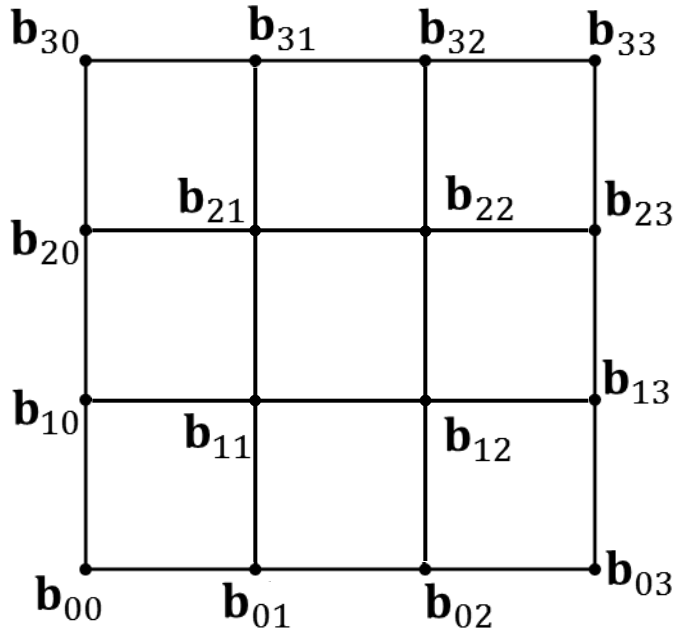
- Gregory, J. 1974,  
*Smooth interpolation without twist constraints*

Introduced to solve subtle problem with incompatible mixed partial derivatives, or “twists” at patch corners in the regular setting

- Chiyokura, H. AND Kimura, F., 1983  
*Design of solids with free-form surfaces*

Extended to irregular setting, introduced Bézier formulation

# Bicubic Bézier Patch



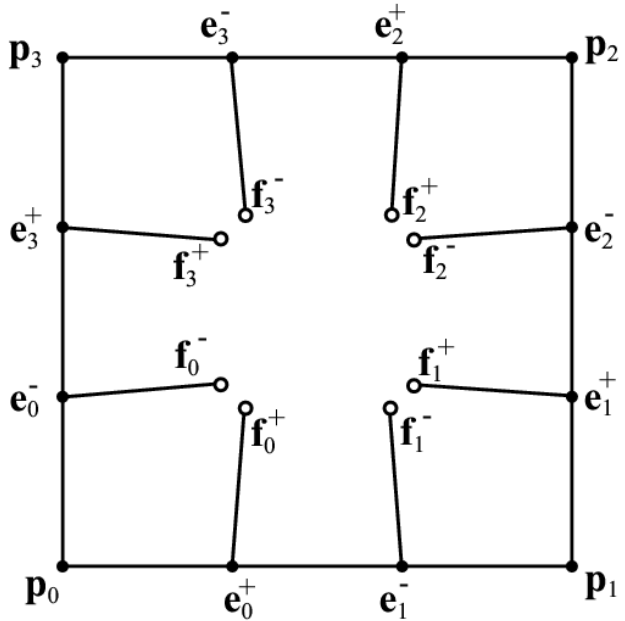
$$B(u, v) = \mathbf{b}^3(u) \cdot \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{b}^3(v)$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_{00} & \mathbf{b}_{01} & \mathbf{b}_{02} & \mathbf{b}_{03} \\ \mathbf{b}_{10} & \mathbf{b}_{11} & \mathbf{b}_{12} & \mathbf{b}_{13} \\ \mathbf{b}_{20} & \mathbf{b}_{21} & \mathbf{b}_{22} & \mathbf{b}_{23} \\ \mathbf{b}_{30} & \mathbf{b}_{31} & \mathbf{b}_{32} & \mathbf{b}_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{b}^3(u) = [(1-u)^3 \quad 3(1-u)^2u \quad 3(1-u)u^2 \quad u^3]$$



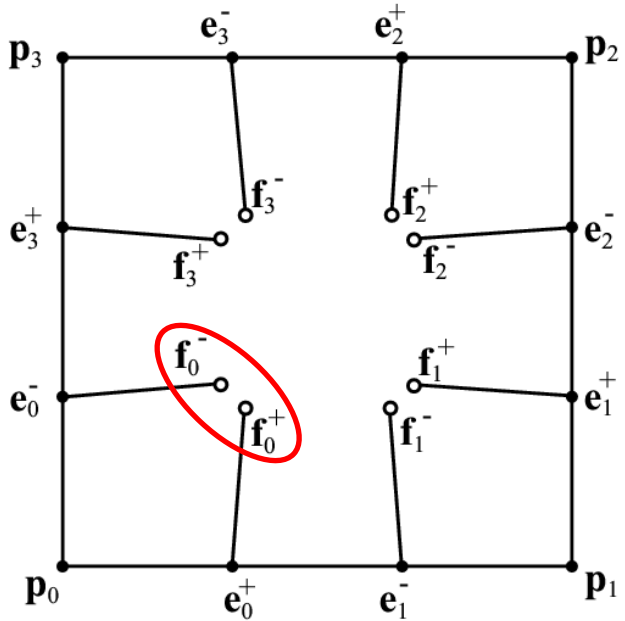
# Gregory Quad Patch



$$Q(u, v) = b^3(u) \cdot \mathbf{G}(u, v) \cdot b^3(v)$$

$$\mathbf{G}(u, v) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p}_3 & \mathbf{e}_0^- & \mathbf{e}_3^+ & \mathbf{p}_2 \\ \mathbf{e}_0^+ & \mathbf{F}_0(u, v) & \mathbf{F}_3(u, v) & \mathbf{e}_3^- \\ \mathbf{e}_1^- & \mathbf{F}_1(u, v) & \mathbf{F}_2(u, v) & \mathbf{e}_2^+ \\ \mathbf{p}_0 & \mathbf{e}_1^+ & \mathbf{e}_2^- & \mathbf{p}_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Gregory Quad Patch



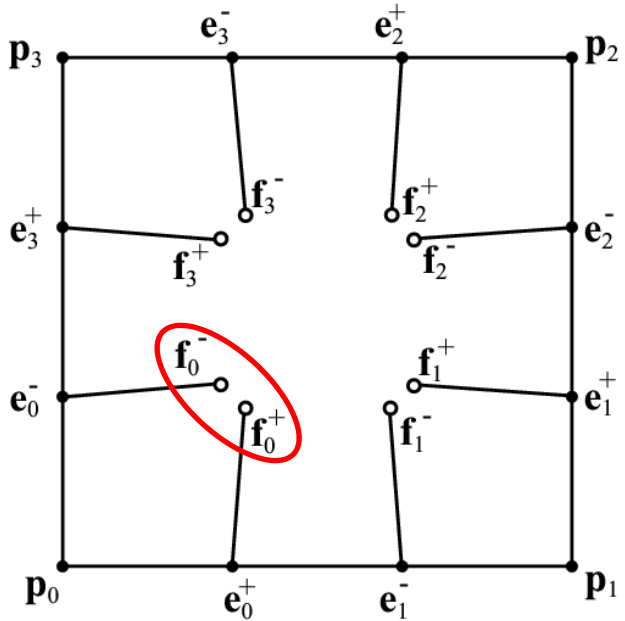
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$$\mathbf{F}_0(u, v) = \frac{u \mathbf{f}_0^+ + v \mathbf{f}_0^-}{u + v}$$

$\mathbf{F}_1, \mathbf{F}_2, \mathbf{F}_3$  are similar

# Gregory Quad Patch



$$Q(u, v) = b^3(u) \cdot \mathbf{G}(u, v) \cdot b^3(v)$$

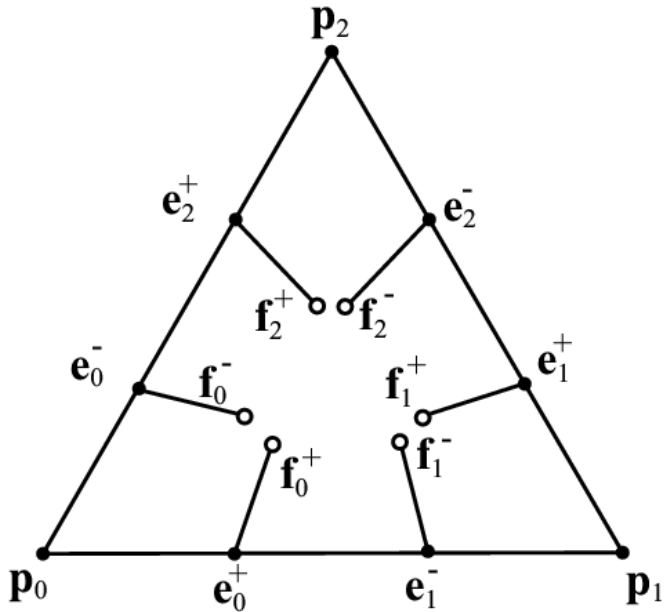
$$\mathbf{G}(u, v) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p}_3 & \mathbf{e}_0^- & \mathbf{e}_3^+ & \mathbf{p}_2 \\ \mathbf{e}_0^+ & \mathbf{F}_0(u, v) & \mathbf{F}_3(u, v) & \mathbf{e}_3^- \\ \mathbf{e}_1^- & \mathbf{F}_1(u, v) & \mathbf{F}_2(u, v) & \mathbf{e}_2^+ \\ \mathbf{p}_0 & \mathbf{e}_1^+ & \mathbf{e}_2^- & \mathbf{p}_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{F}_0(u, v) = \frac{u \mathbf{f}_0^+ + v \mathbf{f}_0^-}{u + v}$$

$\mathbf{F}_1, \mathbf{F}_2, \mathbf{F}_3$  are similar

Note that  $\mathbf{F}_0(0,0) = \mathbf{F}_1(1,0) = \mathbf{F}_2(1,1) = \mathbf{F}_3(0,1) = \frac{0}{0}$

# Gregory Triangle Patch

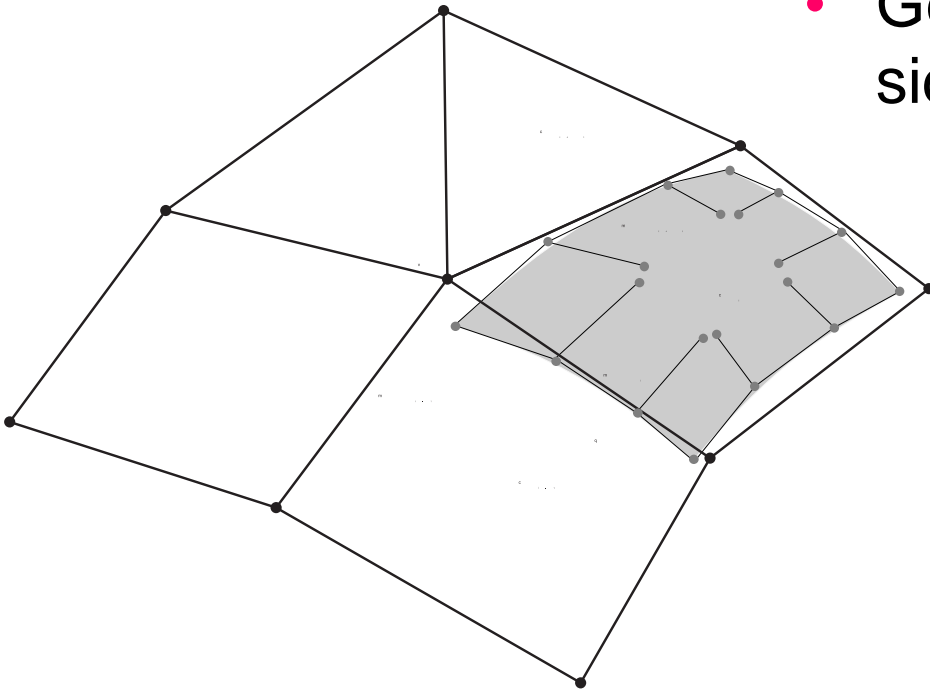


$$\begin{aligned}
 T(u, v, w) = & u^3 \mathbf{p}_0 + v^3 \mathbf{p}_1 + w^3 \mathbf{p}_2 \\
 & + 3uv(u + v)(u\mathbf{e}_0^+ + v\mathbf{e}_1^-) \\
 & + 3vw(v + w)(v\mathbf{e}_1^+ + w\mathbf{e}_2^-) \\
 & + 3wu(w + u)(w\mathbf{e}_2^+ + u\mathbf{e}_0^-) \\
 & + 12uvw(u\mathbf{F}_0 + v\mathbf{F}_1 + w\mathbf{F}_2)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{F}_0(v, w) = \frac{w \mathbf{f}_0^- + v \mathbf{f}_0^+}{v + w}, \quad \mathbf{F}_1(u, w) = \frac{u \mathbf{f}_1^- + w \mathbf{f}_1^+}{w + u}, \quad \mathbf{F}_2(u, v) = \frac{v \mathbf{f}_2^- + u \mathbf{f}_2^+}{u + v}$$

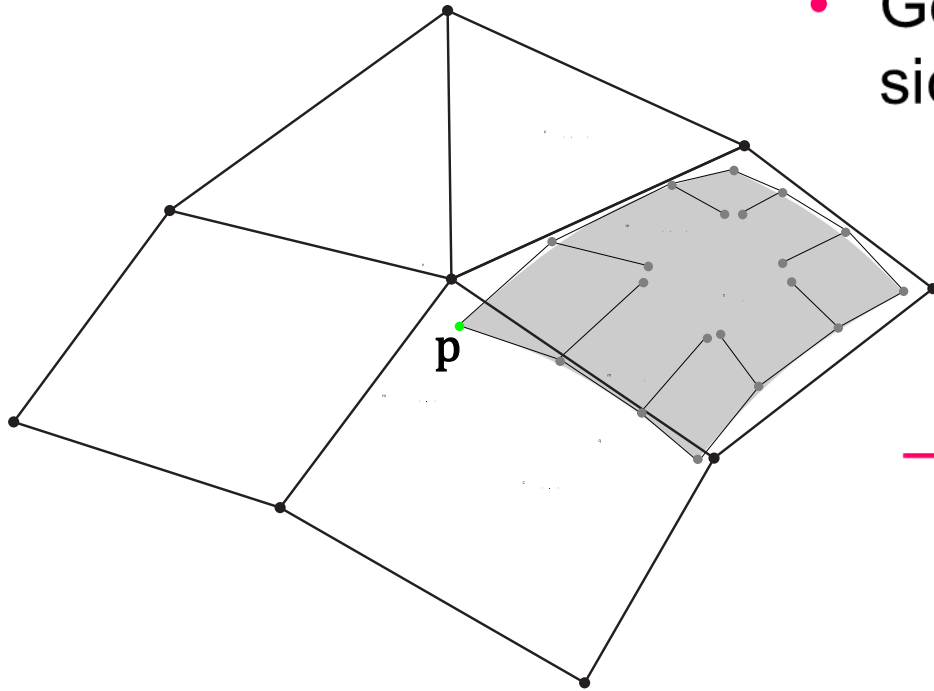
# Patch Construction

- General construction for 3 or 4 sided faces



Gregory patches in 1-1 correspondence with control mesh faces

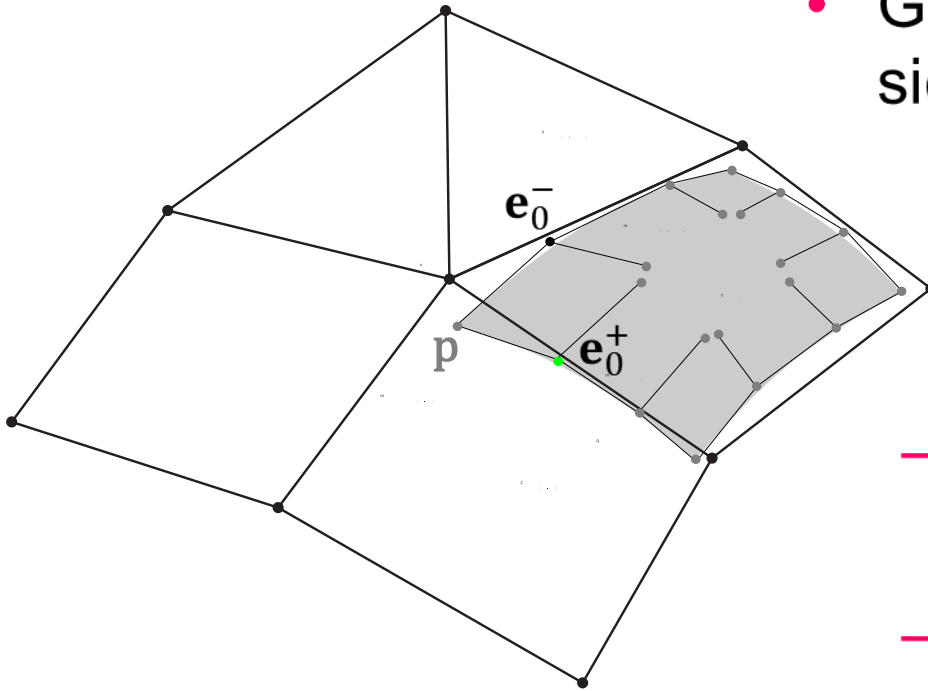
# Patch Construction



- General construction for 3 or 4 sided faces

— Corner Points  $p$

# Patch Construction

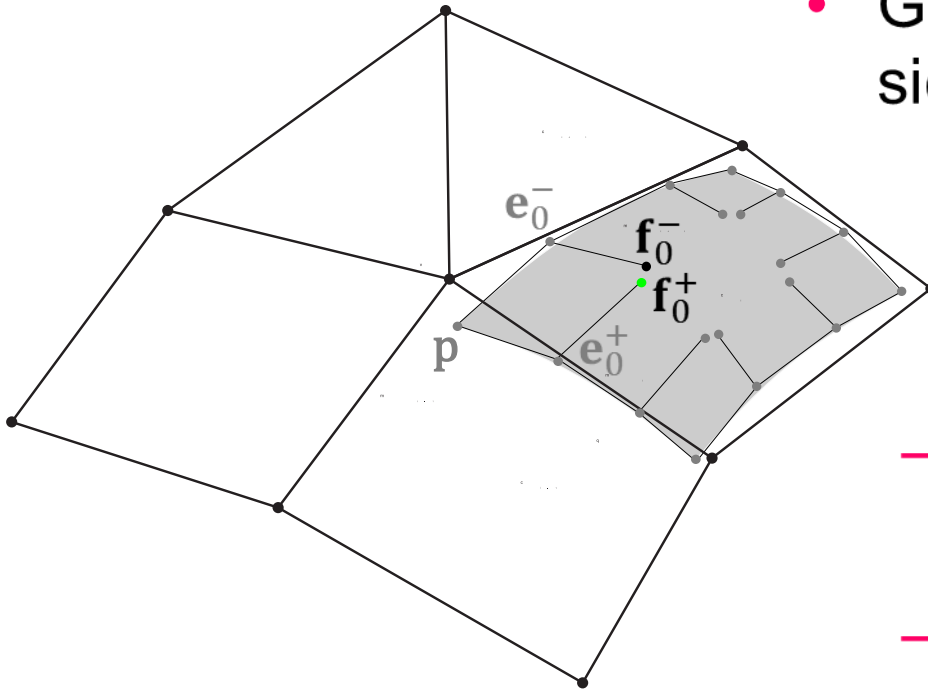


- General construction for 3 or 4 sided faces

— Corner Points  $p$

— Edge Points  $e_0^+$ ,  $e_0^-$

# Patch Construction

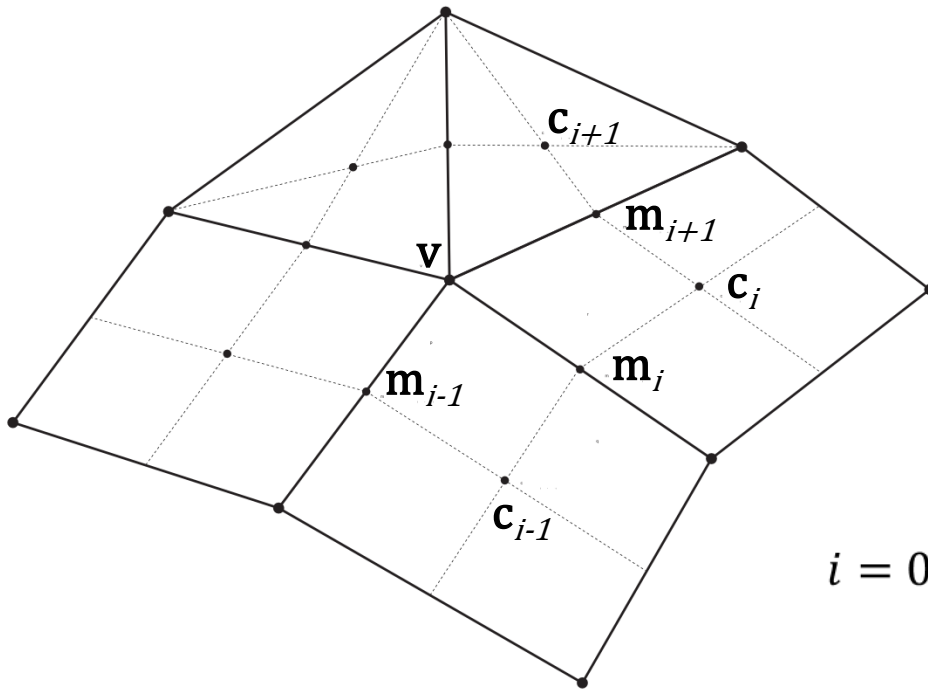


- General construction for 3 or 4 sided faces

- Corner Points  $p$
- Edge Points  $e_0^+, e_0^-$
- Face Points  $f_0^+, f_0^-$

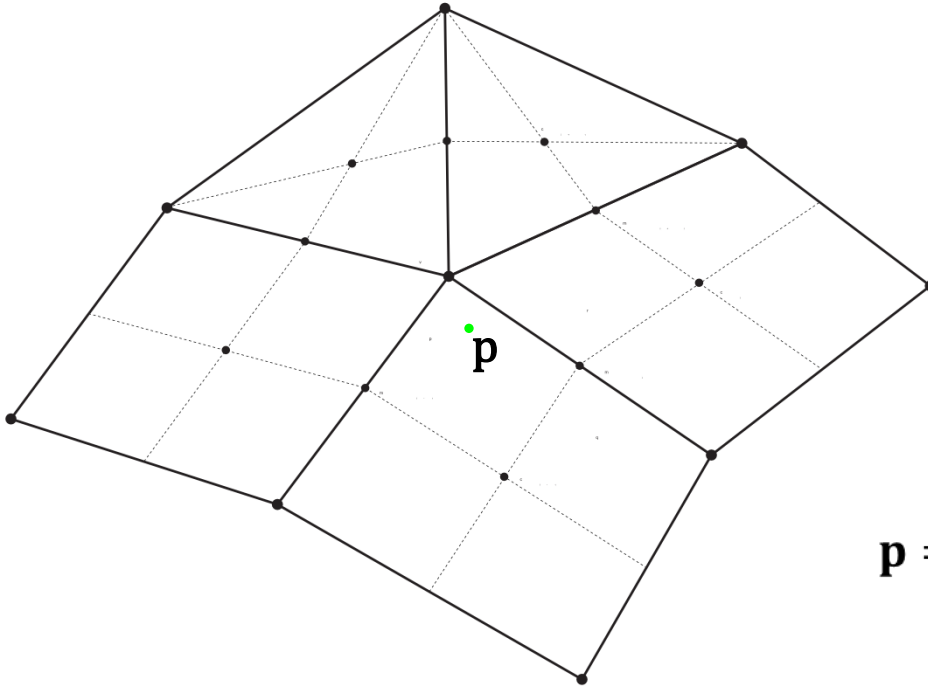


# Edge Midpoints/Face Centroids



$i = 0, \dots, n - 1$  where  $n$  is the valence of  $v$

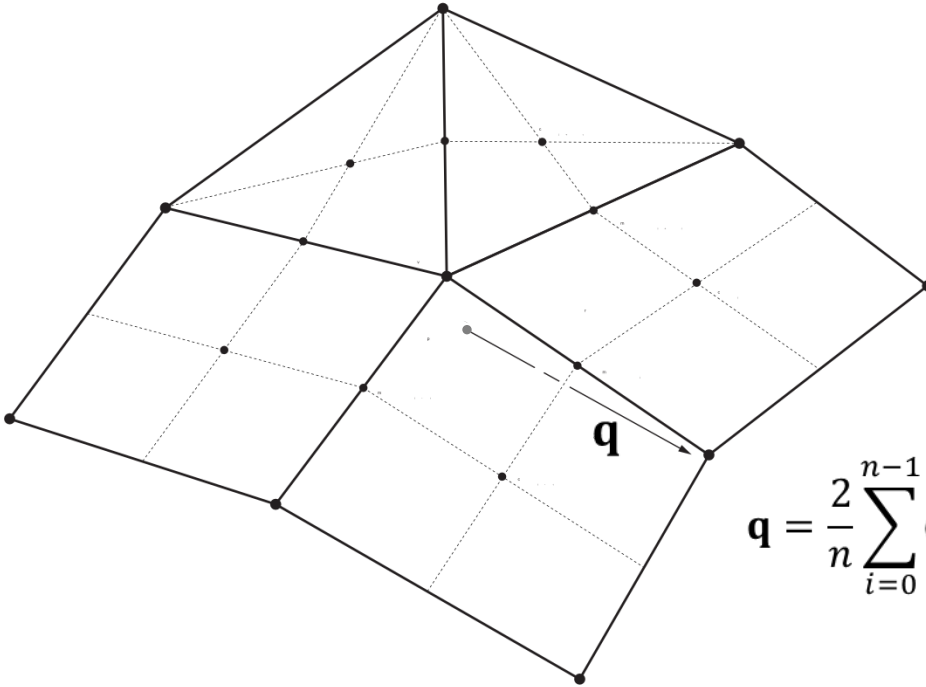
# Corner Point



$$\mathbf{p} = \frac{n-3}{n+5} \mathbf{v} + \frac{4}{n(n+5)} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (\mathbf{m}_i + \mathbf{c}_i)$$

Interpolate limit position of Catmull-Clark Surface

# Edge Points

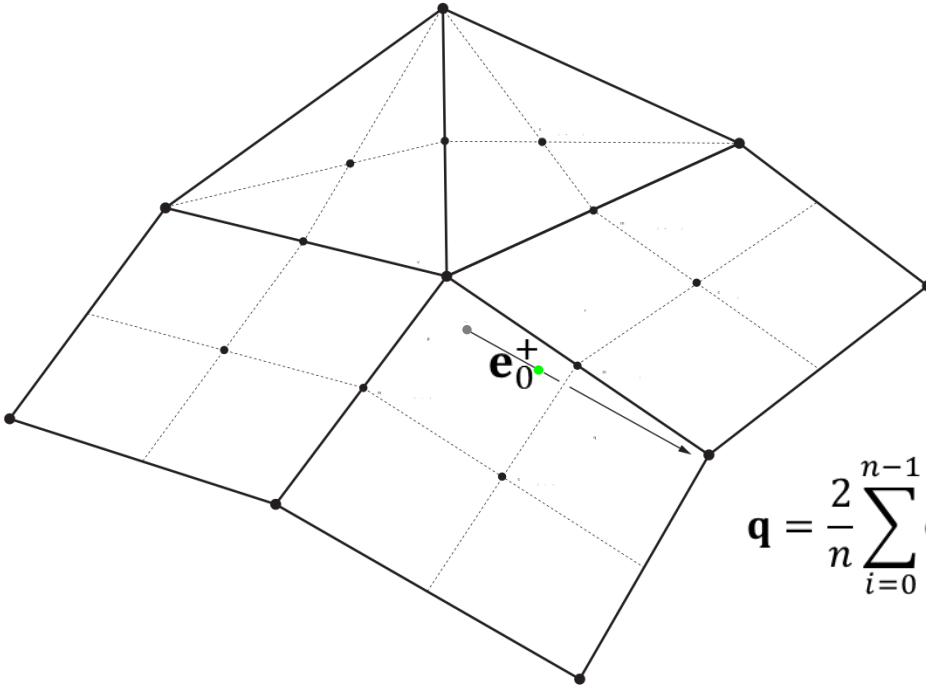


$$\mathbf{q} = \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \left( (1 - \sigma \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{n}\right)) \cos\left(\frac{2\pi i}{n}\right) \mathbf{m}_i + 2\sigma \cos\left(\frac{2\pi i + \pi}{n}\right) \mathbf{c}_i \right)$$

$$\sigma = (4 + \cos^2\left(\frac{\pi}{n}\right))^{-1/2}$$

Interpolate limit tangent of Catmull-Clark Surface

# Edge Points



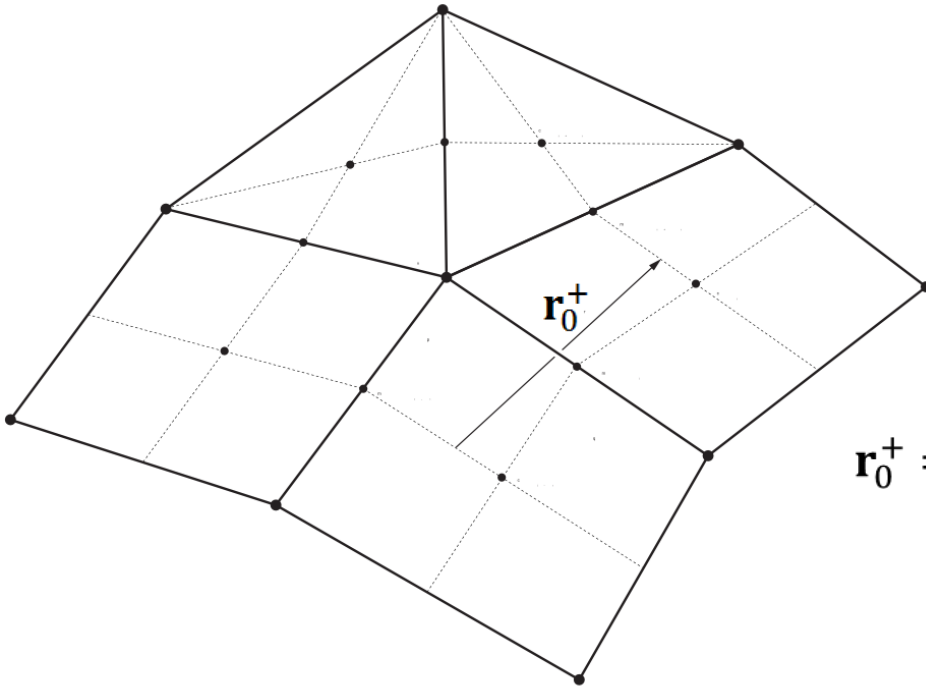
$$\mathbf{q} = \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \left( (1 - \sigma \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{n}\right)) \cos\left(\frac{2\pi i}{n}\right) \mathbf{m}_i + 2\sigma \cos\left(\frac{2\pi i + \pi}{n}\right) \mathbf{c}_i \right)$$

$$\sigma = (4 + \cos^2\left(\frac{\pi}{n}\right))^{-1/2}$$

$$\mathbf{e}_0^+ = \mathbf{p} + \frac{2}{3} \lambda \mathbf{q}$$

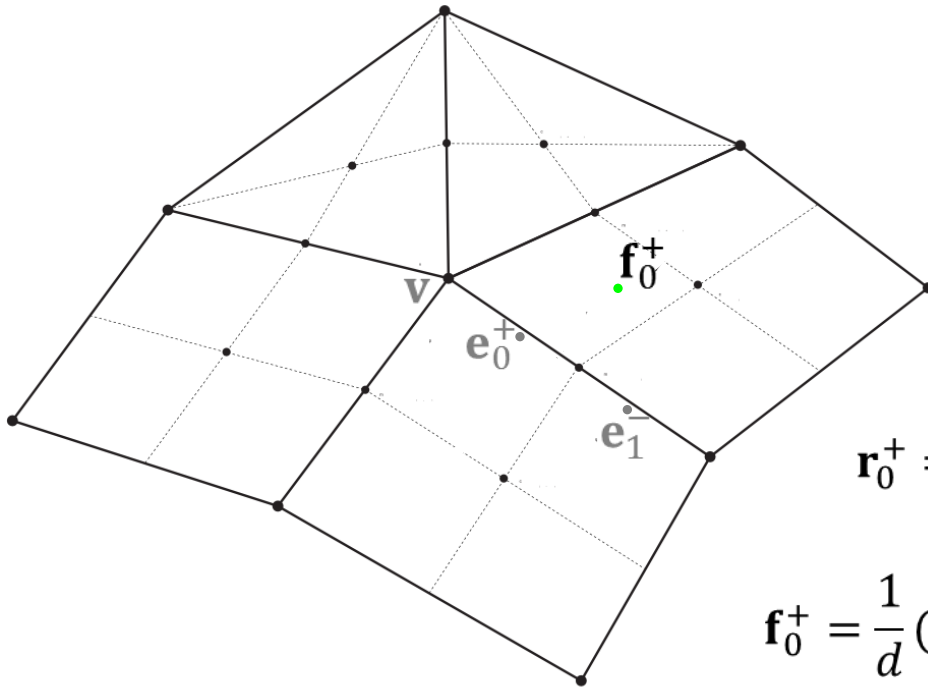
Interpolate limit tangent of Catmull-Clark Surface

# Face Points



$$\mathbf{r}_0^+ = \frac{1}{3}(\mathbf{m}_{i+1} - \mathbf{m}_{i-1}) + \frac{2}{3}(\mathbf{c}_i - \mathbf{c}_{i-1})$$

# Face Points



$$\mathbf{r}_0^+ = \frac{1}{3}(\mathbf{m}_{i+1} - \mathbf{m}_{i-1}) + \frac{2}{3}(\mathbf{c}_i - \mathbf{c}_{i-1})$$

$$\mathbf{f}_0^+ = \frac{1}{d}(c_1 \mathbf{v} + (d - 2c_0 - c_1)\mathbf{e}_0^+ + 2c_0 \mathbf{e}_1^- + \mathbf{r}_0^+)$$

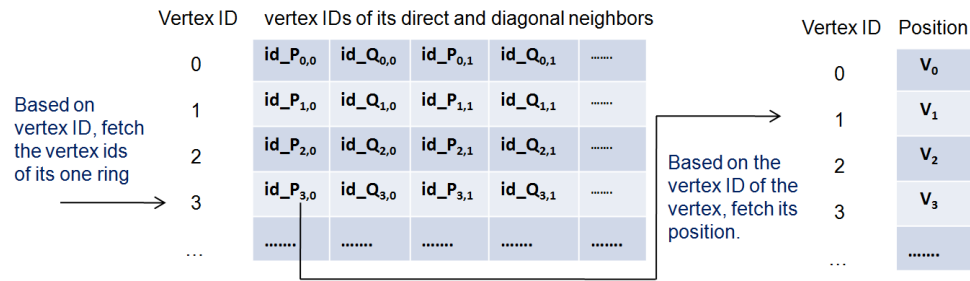
$$d = \begin{cases} 3 & \text{quad} \\ 4 & \text{triangle} \end{cases}$$

# Two GPU Implementations

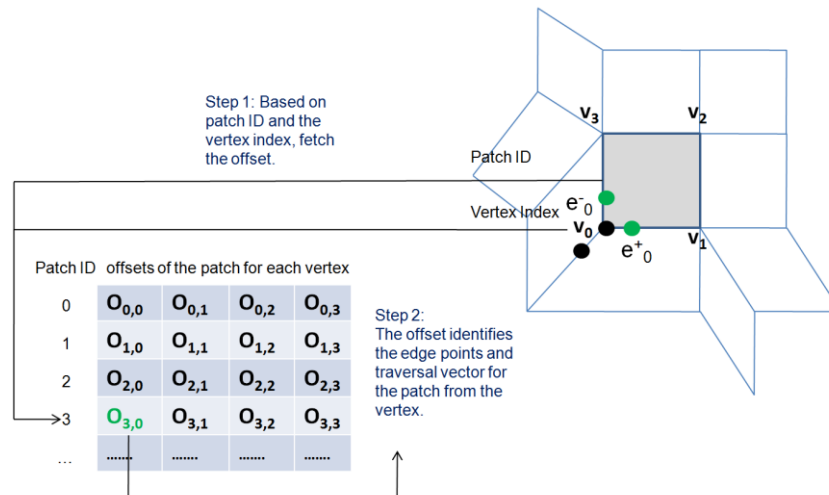
- Vertex/Hull Shaders
  - Exploit vertex-centric nature of computations
  - Avoid redundant computations
- Hull Shader Stencil Approach
  - Map patch construction to hull shader exclusively
  - Frees vertex shader for other tasks
- ‘Best’ implementation will depend on
  - LOD, low V/H better, high HSS better
  - Hardware vendor
  - Application

# Vertex/Hull Shader Approach

- Compute  $\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{e}_i^+, \mathbf{e}_i^-, \mathbf{r}_i^+, \mathbf{r}_i^-, i = 0, \dots, n - 1$ , in vertex shader



- Pass 4 (or 3) point primitive to hull shader



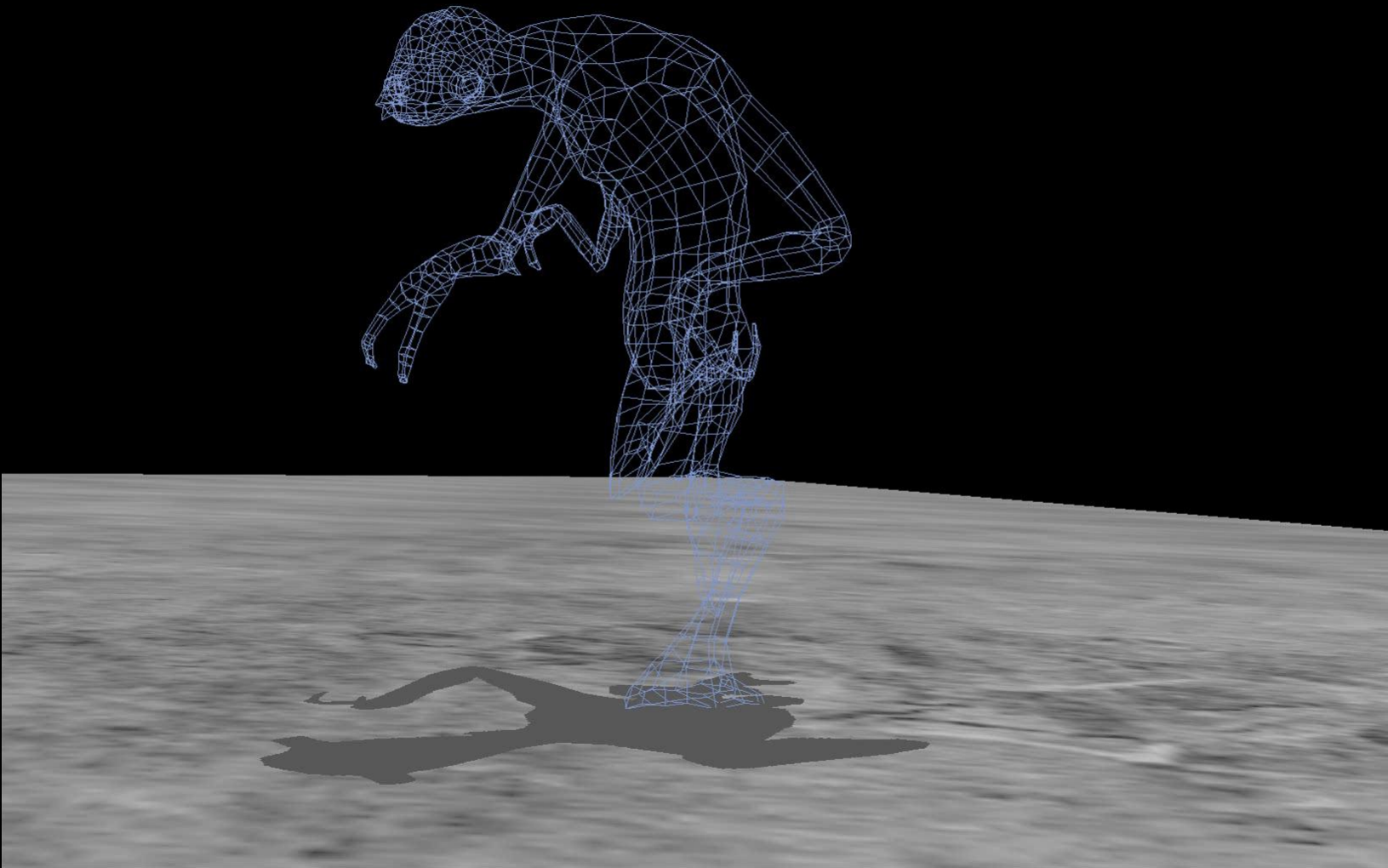


# Hull Shader Stencil Approach

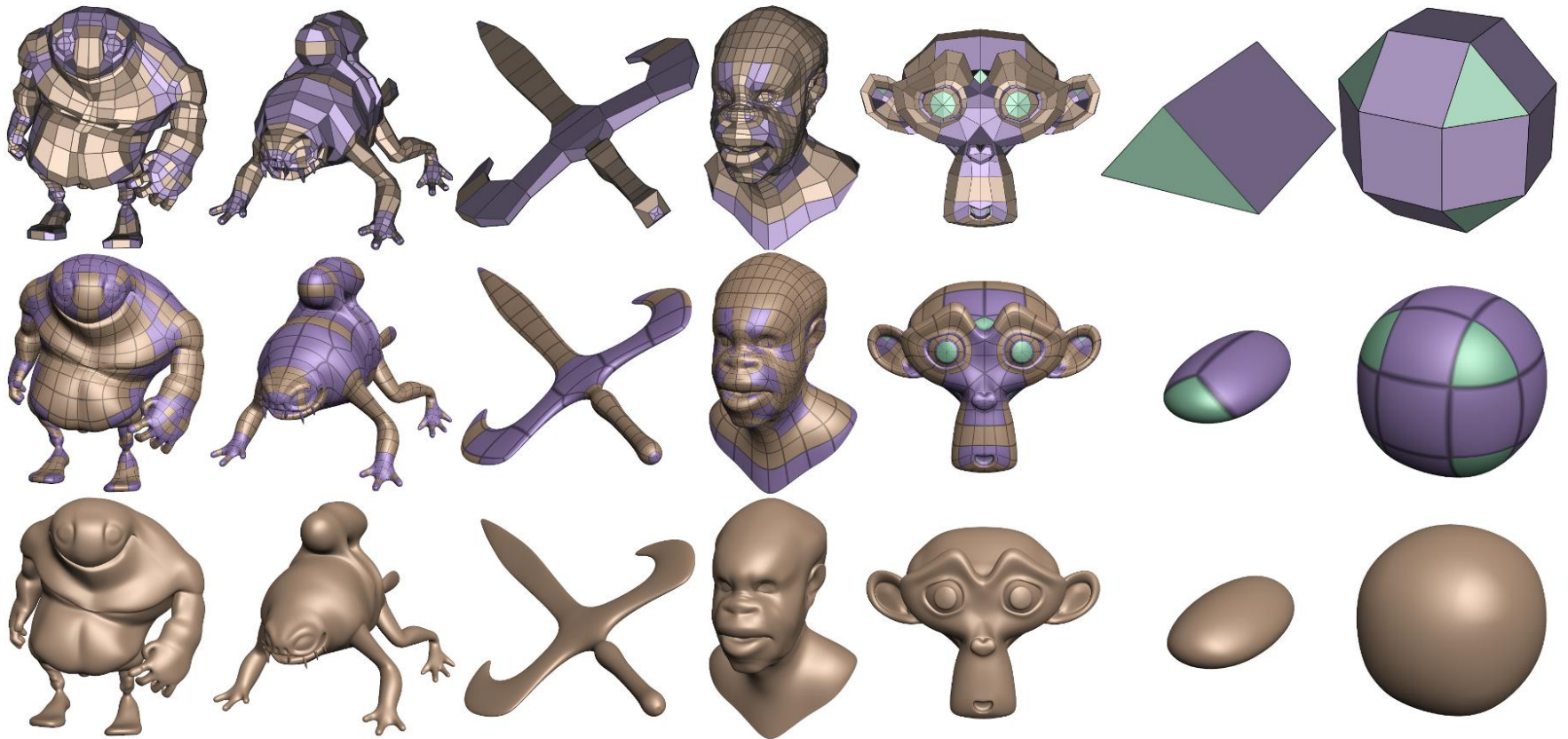
- Sort mesh into patch *connectivity types*
  - permutation of a face 1-ring neighborhood
- Each connectivity type determines a *weight matrix*
  - store these matrices in a texture
  - hull shader computes patch as matrix/vector product
- Advantages
  - simple code, low register/shared memory pressure
  - fits tessellator pipeline well
- Disadvantages
  - sparse matrix, many unnecessary fetches/products
  - redundant computations – corner/edges points

# Domain Shader

- Evaluates patches at  $u, v$  values generated by tessellator
- Two cases: 3 and 4 sided patches
- In both cases
  - evaluate the  $F_i$  (rational function of  $u$  and  $v$ )
  - use DeCasteljau's algorithm for position/normal
    - normal not 'correct', but continuous on edges
- Corner degeneracy  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ 
  - use conditional assignment
  - low impact on SIMD efficiency



# Results



# Conclusions

- Simple geometry construction
  - Handling boundaries in paper
- Lowest fetch overhead for domain shader
  - 20 control points for quads, 15 for triangles
  - Critical performance bottleneck
- Error to 'true' Catmull-Clark surface small
  - See paper
  - “artist intent” problem solved by migration to tool chain

Thank You