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Geometric Modeling 2010

Assignment sheet 10 (Blobbies, due July 16th 2010)

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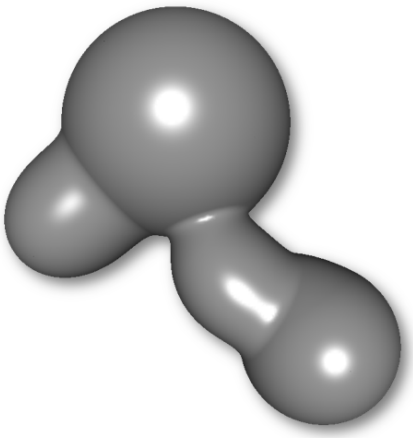
(1) Blobby Objects [1+2+9 points]

Blobbies are implicitly defined objects. Traditionally, the function

$$C(r) = -\tfrac{4}{9} r^6 / R^6 + \tfrac{17}{9} r^4 / R^4 - \tfrac{22}{9} r^2 / R^2 + 1 \quad if \quad 0 \le r \le R$$
$$C(r) = 0 \quad if \quad r > R$$

is used to describe Metaballs/Blobbies. In contrast to exponential decay functions this function has the property that it reaches 0 at R and has the value 1/2 at R/2. If several of these functions are placed in space with overlapping tails and an implicit surface is drawn, organically looking shapes arise.



a. Blobbies are defined by a centre and a radius. Allow adding points to a 3D-world that act as centers for Blobbies.

b. Add a second point to every Blobby that acts as a handle for resizing the Blobby.

c. Compute the implicit Blobby function on a 3D-grid for several Blobbies and use the marching cubes module to triangulate the implicit surface. The user should be able to set the surface threshold and the grid resolution. A good value to start for the surface threshold is 0.5 . Recompute when radius or centre changes.

(2) Normals [7+1 points]

a. Compute surface normals for the surface vertices and display them as small lines sticking out of the surface.

b. Set the normals of the displayed vertices to achieve smoother shading.

Some GeoX Remarks:

GeoX allows Per-Vertex-Lighting and provides a marching cubes implementation.

A user can swap between face-lighting and vertex-lighting by the button "**Light F/V"** To use this lighting, you have to set a normal for every **Point3D** (via point.normal = …). This is required for correct light computation. If it is not set then everything will be black or white.

Please also see **ExampleExperimentMarchingCubes** for an example:

The first function shows a cube with different colors for every cube. Play around with the **Handles** and **Light F/V** button. The normals do not automatically recompute, so if you pull a corner then the lighting will NOT change accordingly.

The second function shows you how one maching-cube is triangulated using the marching cubes function. The vertices are filled with a random value in [0..1], so for every new function call you get a new triangulation of this cube.