Geometric Modeling

Summer Semester 2012

Point-Based Modeling

3D Scanning · MLS-Surfaces · Reconstruction & Registration







Overview...

Topics:

- Subdivision Surfaces
- Implicit Functions
- Variational Modeling
- Point-Based Modeling
 - Introduction
 - 3D Acquisition Techniques
 - Data Processing Pipeline
 - Point Cloud Registration Algorithms
 - Moving-Least Squares Techniques
 - Point-Based Modeling

Point-Based Modeling Introduction

Modeling Zoo



Parametric Models







3D Scanning

3D Scanning Devices:

- Typically based on point-wise distance measurement
- Almost all scanners output point clouds
- We need further processing to create a useful model
- 3D scanning is one of the main driving forces for "pointbased modeling" research
 - Topology agnostic multi-resolution modeling is probably the other important one (e.g., rendering complex scenes like forests in real-time).

Problems

Point cloud (3D scanner data) related problems:

 Give a set of points, how does this define a continuous surface?

 \Rightarrow Surface reconstruction

• How to assemble partial scans to a full model?

 \Rightarrow Surface registration

- How to estimate normals, curvature, etc.?
 ⇒ Patch fitting, MLS
- How to deal with noise & outliers?

 \Rightarrow Surface smoothing, outlier detection

• Can we do modeling *just* with points?

Acquiring Point Clouds 3D Scanners

Types of 3D Scanners

Scanning Techniques:

- Time-of-flight
 - Time-of-flight laser scanner
 - Time-of-flight depth cameras (dynamic)
- Triangulation
 - Laser line sweep
 - Structured light
- Stereo / computer vision
 - Passive stereo
 - Active stereo / space time stereo
 - Other techniques

Time of Flight Laser Scanner (TOF)



Measurement Principle (phase-based PB):

- Send out laser beam
 - Modulated at about 3-30 Mhz (phase length 10-100m)
- Measure phase difference with a photosensor (PLL)
 - Can resolve distances up to (modulo) phase length
 - Measures distance to a single point
- Application: Outdoor scanning, buildings, drive-by / fly-by scanning

Time of Flight Laser Scanner

Video



Example Scans (Similar System)



Example Scans (Similar System)



Example Scans (Similar System)



Acquisition Systems

Acquisition Systems:

- Rotating scanner head
 - Rotating mirror for vertical scanning (calibrated)
 - Rotating scanning head (incl. rot. mirror) for horizontal scanning
 - Mode of operation:
 - Position scanner
 - Push a button and wait a few minutes
 - A panoramic depth map is acquired
- Drive-by systems
 - 2D laser scanners (one rotating mirror)
 - Mounted on a vehicle with positioning system (GPS, rotation/acceleration sensors, aux. scanners)

Drive-by System



This is what you get...



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Time of Flight Depth Cameras

Real-time depth camera:

- Sends out modulated light (similar frequencies, O(Mhz))
- Measures phase in every pixel
- Acquire moving geometry in real-time
- Quality is much worse than static scans (lots of noise)



[PMD real-time time-of-flight camera]



Example Scenes



"Swiss Ranger" Depth Camera



Triangulation Scanners



Measurement Principle (laser sheet scanners):

- Light the object with a light sheet
- View with camera from an angle
- We can compute the depth

Example Device





Example Device





Example Device





Structure Light Scanner

Idea:

- Replace laser by projector
- Project log(n) binary stripe codes instead of n light sheets
- Faster acquisition (exponential speedup)
 - Precision: Projector might be harder to focus
- Coding: Gray code
 - Any single bit error leads only to a shift by ±1



[source Wikipedia]



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Computer Vision Based Techniques



Stereo Matching

- Match points by similar color / shading
- Very general technique
- But: An inherently ill-posed problem
 - Typically bad reconstruction quality

Stereo Data



multi view matching (8 cameras)

(piecewise smooth variational surface on presegmented images solved with Bayesian belief propagation)

[Data set: Zitnick et al., Microsoft Research, Siggraph 2004]



multi view matching (6 cameras)

(photo-consistent space carving)

[Data set: Christan Theobald, MPII]

Improvement: Active Illumination

Stereo with active illumination:

- Project random pattern on the object
- Improves matching performance (more edges to match)
- "Space-Time Stereo"
 - Project a new random pattern each frame
 - Capture with two or more cameras
 - Gives good results, fully dynamic (animations)

Space Time Stereo



[Data set: James Davis, University of Santa Cruz]





[Davis et al. 2003] 27 / 142

Other Techniques

Other acquisition techniques:

- Computer vision:
 - Shape from shading
 - Shape from defocus
 - Shape from contours
 - Fluorescent fluid immersion scan (reflective / transparent objects)
- Other techniques:
 - Mechanical sampling
 - Radar (planes, satellites)

3D Scanner Point Cloud Processing Data Processing Pipeline

Processing Pipeline

We get:

- A big cloud of sample points
 - Position, probably also color / laser intensity values
- Typically: A set of depth images

What we want in the end:

- A "nice" surface representation
- Typically: Triangle mesh

Processing Pipeline

Processing Pipeline:

- Outlier removal throw away non-surface points (cause by scanner noise, dark surfaces, reflections etc.)
- Registration transform all scans into a common coordinate system
- 3. Surface smoothing remove local noise
- Normal direction estimation needed for shading, reconstruction
- 5. Unify normal directions (maybe: look up depth images)
- 6. Surface reconstruction
 - Convert into triangle mesh
 - Alternatively: estimate sample spacing / resample and render points directly (for example tangential ellipsoid splats)

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Automatic Outlier Removal



Automatic Outlier Removal



Algorithm

Very simple outlier removal algorithm:

- For each point compute its 20 nearest neighbors
- Compute the principal component analysis (plane fit with total least squares)
- If the *third* eigenvalue (normal direction) is larger than 1/(1+ε) times the *second* eigenvalue, delete the point as an outlier

PCA Plane Fitting (Recap)



Reminder:

 PCA can be interpreted as fitting a Gaussian distribution and computing the main axes
PCA Plane Fitting (Recap)

Plane Fitting in \mathbb{R}^3 :

- Sample mean and the two directions of maximum eigenvalues
- Smallest eigenvalue
 - Eigenvector points in normal direction
 - Aspect ratio (λ₃ / λ₂) is a measure of "flatness" (quality of fit)
- Total least squares optimal *normal direction* (up to sign) given by eigenvector with smallest eigenvalue







Processing Pipeline

Processing Pipeline:

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Surface Registration



more details on this later...

[Implementation: Martin Bokeloh (Diploma thesis)]

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Processing Pipeline

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Geometry Smoothing



Smoothing:

- This example: Bilateral geometry filter
- Removes noise while preserving sharp features
- More details on this later (MLS surface reconstruction)...

Processing Pipeline

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Normals for the Bunny...



original point cloud

PCA normals (k=20 nearest neighbors) **unified normals** (region growing)



◄ final shading

Processing Pipeline

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Surface Reconstruction

Reconstructing Triangle Meshes:

- Implicit methods
 - Fit an implicit surface
 - Use marching cubes
 - Postprocessing: Mesh simplification
- "Moving least squares (MLS)"
 - Special case of implicit surface fitting
 - more on this later...
- Voronoi methods
 - Compute Delaunay tetrahedrization
 - Filter out surface triangles (pole analysis)

Examples



Direct Point Splatting



Surface Registration Point Cloud Matching

Point Cloud Matching

Two problems:

- Local matching
 - The individual scans are already roughly aligned
 - Need to optimize the alignment ("snap in")
 - Non-linear optimization
- Global matching
 - No initial alignment is known
 - We need to solve the problem globally (unconditional convergence)



Point Cloud Matching

Two problems:

- Often two steps:
 - Global matching yields only a rough alignment
 - Followed by local alignment to compute accurate solution

Local Matching Algorithms

Local Matching Algorithms

- The standard algorithm: Iterated Closest Points (ICP)
 - Standard algorithm is easy to understand
 - Not too hard to implement (need some data structures)
 - Many variants to improve convergence speed and reliability
- Deformable ICP:
 - Allows deformations during matching
 - Compensate scanner calibration errors
 - Deformable matching
 - Tracking real-time animation scans (correspondences)
- Other techniques: for example NDT (normal distribution transform, useful for real-time applications)

Iterated Closest Points (ICP)



The main idea:

- Pairwise matching technique
 - Registers two scans
 - Multi-part matching is a different story (more on this later)
- We want to minimize the distance between the two parts
 - We set up a variational problem
 - Minimize distance "energy" by rigid motion of one part

Iterated Closest Points (ICP)

Problem:

- How to compute the distance
- This is simple if we know the *corresponding points*.
 - Of course, we have in general no idea of what corresponds...
- ICP-idea: set closest point as corresponding point
- Full algorithm:
 - Compute closest point points
 - Minimize distance to these closest points by a rigid motion
 - Recompute new closest points and iterate

Closest Points





Iteration



Variational Formulation

Variational Formulation:

$$\underset{\mathbf{t}\in\mathbb{R}^{3}}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \int_{B} dist(\mathbf{R}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{t}, A)^{2} d\mathbf{x} \approx \underset{\mathbf{t}\in\mathbb{R}^{3}}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (\mathbf{R}\mathbf{p}_{i}^{(A)} + \mathbf{t} - \mathbf{p}_{nearest(i)}^{(B)})^{2}$$

Variables: Orthogonal matrix R, translation vector t

Numerical Solution

Question: How to minimize this energy?

- The energy is quadratic
- There is only one problem...
 - Constraint optimization
 - We have to use an orthogonal matrix...
- This problem can (still) be solved exactly.



Solution

First step: computing the translation

 Easy to see: average translation is optimal (c.f. total least squares)

•
$$\mathbf{t} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathbf{p}_{i}^{(A)} - \mathbf{p}_{nearest(i)}^{(B)}$$

• This is independent of the rotation

Second step: compute the rotation

- (2a) Compute optimal linear map
- (2b) Orthogonalize

Optimal Linear Map

First:

- Subtract translation from points $\tilde{\mathbf{p}}_{i}^{(A)} = \mathbf{p}_{i}^{(A)} \mathbf{t}$
- Then: Solve an unconstrained least-squares problem

$$\forall i = 1..n: \mathbf{M} \widetilde{\mathbf{p}}_{i}^{(A)} = \mathbf{p}_{nearest(i)}^{(B)}$$

$$\forall i = 1..n: \begin{pmatrix} m_{1,1} & m_{2,1} & m_{3,1} \\ m_{1,2} & m_{2,2} & m_{3,2} \\ m_{1,3} & m_{2,3} & m_{3,3} \end{pmatrix} \widetilde{\mathbf{p}}_{i}^{(A)} = \mathbf{p}_{nearest(i)}^{(B)}$$

$$\mathbf{p}_{i}^{(A)} = \mathbf{p}_{nearest(i)}^{(B)}$$

• Finally: compute the orthogonal matrix **R** that is closest to **M**.

Least-Squares Optimal Rotation

How to compute a least-squares (Frobenius norm) orthogonal matrix that fits a general matrix:

- Compute the SVD: **M** = **UDV**^T
- The least-squares orthogonal fit is: R = UV^T (just set all singular values to one)
- We can compute this in one step:
 - Solve the least-squares matrix fitting problem using SVD
 - Omit the diagonal matrix straight ahead

Generalizations

Convergence speed:

- Convergence of basic "*point-to-point*" ICP is not so great
 - Typically: 20-50 iterations for simple examples
 - Problem: Zero-th order method (flip point correspondences in each step)
- Improvement: "point-to-plane" ICP
 - First order approximation
 - Match points to tangential planes rather than points
 - Converges much faster (3-5 iterations for similar examples)

Implementation



 $\underset{\mathbf{t}\in\mathbb{R}^{3}}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \int_{B} \left\langle \mathbf{R}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{t} - nearest(A), \mathbf{n}(nearest(A)) \right\rangle^{2} d\mathbf{x}$

$$\approx \underset{\mathbf{k}\in SO(3), \\ \mathbf{t}\in \mathbb{R}^{3}}{\arg\min} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left\langle \mathbf{R}\mathbf{p}_{i}^{(A)} + \mathbf{t} - \mathbf{p}_{nearest(i)}^{(B)}, \mathbf{n}_{nearest(i)}^{(B)} \right\rangle^{2}$$

Implementation



Implementation:

- We need normals for each point (unoriented) \rightarrow kNN+PCA
- Compute closest point, project distance vector to its normal
- Minimize the sum of all such distances:

$$\underset{\mathbf{t}\in\mathbb{R}^{3}}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left\langle \mathbf{R}\mathbf{p}_{i}^{(A)} + \mathbf{t} - \mathbf{p}_{nearest(i)}^{(B)}, \mathbf{n}_{nearest(i)}^{(B)} \right\rangle^{2}$$

Comparison



Point-to-plane: 3 iterations







(much more accurate result)

(accuracy problems)

Problem:

 No closed form solution for the optimal rotation with point-to-plane correspondences

Solution:

- Numerical solution
- Setup non-linear optimization problem (rotation, translation = 6 parameters)
- Use non-linear optimization technique
- Remaining problem: *Parametrization of the rotations*
 - Trouble with singularities (spherical topology)

Local Linearization

Standard technique: local linearization

- Transformation: T(x) = Rx + t
- Linearize rotations:

$$T_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\alpha) & \sin(\alpha) & 0 \\ -\sin(\alpha) & \cos(\alpha) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\beta) & 0 & \sin(\beta) \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin(\beta) & 0 & \cos(\beta) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\gamma) & \sin(\gamma) \\ 0 & -\sin(\gamma) & \cos(\gamma) \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\nabla T_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \alpha & \beta \\ -\alpha & 0 & \gamma \\ -\beta & -\gamma & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\Rightarrow T_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma}(\mathbf{x}) \approx \mathbf{x} + \nabla T_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma} \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \alpha & \beta \\ -\alpha & 0 & \gamma \\ -\beta & -\gamma & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \mathbf{I} \mathbf{x}$$

Local Linearization

Standard technique: local linearization

- Numerical solution: iterative solver
- We have a current rotation $\mathbf{R}^{(i-1)}$ from the last iteration:

$$T_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma}^{(i)}(\mathbf{x}) \approx \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \alpha & \beta \\ -\alpha & 0 & \gamma \\ -\beta & -y & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \mathbf{I} \mathbf{R}^{(i-1)}\mathbf{x}$$

• Solve for **t**, α , β , γ (linear expression \rightarrow quadratic opt.)

$$\underset{\mathbf{t}\in\mathbb{R}^{3}}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left\langle \mathbf{R}^{(i)} \mathbf{p}_{j}^{(A)} + \mathbf{t} - \mathbf{p}_{nearest(j)}^{(B)}, \mathbf{n}_{nearest(j)}^{(B)} \right\rangle^{2}$$

Local Linearization

Then:

- Project R⁽ⁱ⁾ back on the manifold of orthogonal matrices. (for example using the SVD-based algorithm discussed before)
- Then iterate, until convergence.

Why does this work?

- The parametrization is non-degenerate
 - For large α, β, γ, the norm of the matrix increases arbitrarily (i.e.: the object size increases, away from the data)
 - Therefore, the least-squares optimization will perform a number of small steps rather than collapse.

More Tricks & Tweaks

ICP Problems:

- Partial matching might lead to distortions / bias
 - Remove outliers (M-estimator, delete "far away points", e.g. 20% percentile in point-to-point distance)
 - Remove normal outliers (if connection direction deviates from normal direction)
- Sampling problems
 - Problem: for example flat surface with engraved letters
 - No convergence in that case
 - Improvement: Sample correspondence points with distribution to cover unit sphere of normal directions as uniformly as possible

Deformable ICP

Deformable ICP:

- Scanners are not perfectly calibrated
- Some deformation might be necessary in order to match objects
- Related problem: acquiring deformable shapes (e.g. humans in different poses)

Deformable ICP

Solution:

- Use a variational deformation model in combination with point-to-point or point-to-plane (preferable) constraints
- Regularization term: $\mathbf{f} \colon \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{R}^3$ (isometric deformation)

$$E^{(deform)}(\mathbf{f}) = \int_{\Omega} \left\| \left[\nabla \mathbf{f}^{\mathrm{T}} \nabla \mathbf{f} - \mathbf{I} \right] \right\|_{F}^{2} d\mathbf{x}$$

• Data matching term:

$$E^{(data)} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left\langle \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{p}_{j}^{(A)}) - \mathbf{p}_{nearest(j)}^{(B)}, \mathbf{n}_{nearest(j)}^{(B)} \right\rangle^{2}$$

• Minimize: $\underset{\text{deformations } \mathbf{f}}{\text{arg min}} E^{(match)}(\mathbf{f}) = E^{(data)}(\mathbf{f}) + E^{(deform)}(\mathbf{f})$

Example

Example:

- Two frames
- Stereo vision scan of a ballet dancer (8 cameras)
- Deformable shape matching:
 - A to B and
 - B to A
 - (repeating)





[data from Zitnick et al., Microsoft Research, 2004]
Global Matching

How to assemble the bunny (globally)?

Pipeline (rough sketch):

- Feature detection
- Feature descriptors
- Spectral validation



Feature Detection

Feature points (keypoints)

- Regions that can be identified locally
- "Bumps", i.e. points with maximum principal curvatures
 - Fitting a quadratic heightfield to point cloud data (MLS) to compute curvatures
 - "SIFT" features compute bumps at multiple scales:
 - Radius of geometry used for the fit as an additional parameter
 - Search for maxima in 3D surface-scale space
 - Output: list of keypoints

Descriptors

Feature descriptors:

- Rotation invariant description of local neighborhood (within scale of the feature point)
 - Translation already fixed by feature point
- In the bunny-case: histograms of principal curvature values
- Used to find match candidates
- Not 100% reliable (typically 3x 5x outlier ratio)

Spectral Correspondence Validation

We have:

- Candidate matches
- But every keypoint matches
 5 others on average
- At most one of these is correct



Validation Criterion:

 Euclidian distance should be preserved (Deformable models: preserve geodesic distance)

Spectral Validation

Find largest set of correspondences that are all compatible:

- Form a vector with one entry for each correspondence (connecting two features)
- Build a matrix:
 - Write descriptor matching score ∈ [0..1] on diagonal (1 = perfect match, 0 = unlikely)
 - Write pairwise compatibility \in [0..1] on off-diagonals
 - Score decreases if correspondences do not preserve distances
- Compute largest eigenvalue of this matrix
- Approximation for largest consistent cluster

Consistency Check



Quantization

Final Quantization:

- Set largest eigenvector entry to one
- Set all others to zero that are not compatible (fixed threshold)
- Repeat until all entries are quantized

Reference: M. Leordeanu, M. Hebert, A Spectral Technique for Correspondence Problems Using Pairwise Constraints, ICCV 2005.

Deformable Global Matching

This technique also works for deformable matching:

- Replace Euclidian distance by geodesic (intrinsic, on-the-surface) distance
- Computed by Dijkstra algorithm on nearest neighbor graph of point samples.



Deformable Global Matching

Compute correspondences of two deformed shapes:

- Assume isometric deformation
- Loop *n* times:



- Initialize k initial correspondences (local shape similarity)
- Randomly select best next correspondence
 - Consider candidates which preserve isometry invariance
- If no more can be selected output as a possible solution
- Compute solution score based on isometry error
- Output solution with the lowest score

Reference: A. Tevs, M. Bokeloh, M. Wand, A. Schilling, H.-P. Seidel, Isometric Registration of Ambiguous and Partial Data, CVPR 2009.





Given initial set of correspondences





Sample randomly a small set of initial correspondences, based on local shape similarity

$$p(m_{i,j}) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp\left(-\frac{(\mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{x}_i^S} - \mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{x}_j^T})^2}{2\sigma_d^2}\right)$$





Sample randomly a small set of initial correspondences, based on local shape similarity

$$p(m_{i,j}) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp\left(-\frac{(\mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{x}_i^S} - \mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{x}_j^T})^2}{2\sigma_d^2}\right)$$

Remove invalid correspondences





Based on geodesic distance sample next best correspondence

$$p(m_{i,j}|C) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{k=1}^{|C|} exp\left(-\frac{\left(d_{ki}^{S} - d_{kj}^{T}\right)^{2}}{2\sigma^{2}}\right)$$





Based on geodesic distance sample next best correspondence

$$p(m_{i,j}|C) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{k=1}^{|C|} exp\left(-\frac{\left(d_{ki}^{S} - d_{kj}^{T}\right)^{2}}{2\sigma^{2}}\right)$$





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Iterate while there are still correspondences to sample

$$p(m_{i,j}|C) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{k=1}^{|C|} exp\left(-\frac{\left(d_{ki}^S - d_{kj}^T\right)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$





Iterate while there are still correspondences to sample

$$p(m_{i,j}|C) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{k=1}^{|C|} exp\left(-\frac{\left(d_{ki}^{S} - d_{kj}^{T}\right)^{2}}{2\sigma^{2}}\right)$$



The search is repeated *n* times to compute *n* solutions. Finally *k* solutions with most matches are chosen





Spectral Matching [Leordeanu et al.]

Our solution





Surface Reconstruction Moving Least Squares Techniques

Moving Least Squares

Motivation:

- Point sets sample the object they describe only sparsely.
- There is an infinite amount of emptiness in between the finite sample set.
- How can we fill in surface points?

Goals:

- Compute surface representations *locally*.
- We do not want to solve a global approximation problem.
- Create smooth surfaces.
- Determine differential properties.

Moving Least Squares

Moving least squares (MLS):

- MLS is a standard technique for scattered data interpolation.
- We will consider:
 - The standard interpolation scheme.
 - How to define surface projection operators.

Weighted Least-Squares



Least-Squares

Least Squares Approximation:

$$\widetilde{y}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \lambda_i B_i(x)$$

Best Fit (weighted):

$$\underset{C_i}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{i=1}^n \left\| \left(\widetilde{y}(x_i) - y_i \right) \omega(x_i) \right\|^2$$

Least-Squares

Normal Equations: $(\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{W}^2 \mathbf{B}) \lambda = (\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{W}^2) \mathbf{y}$ Solution: $\lambda = (\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{W}^2 \mathbf{B})^{-1} \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{W}^2 \mathbf{y}$ Evaluation: $\widetilde{y}(x) = \langle \mathbf{b}(x), \lambda \rangle = \mathbf{b}(x)^T (\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{W}^2 \mathbf{B})^{-1} \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{W}^2 \mathbf{y}$

MLS approximation

$$\mathbf{b} \coloneqq \begin{bmatrix} B_1, \dots, B_n \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\mathbf{B} \coloneqq \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{b}(x_1) - \\ \vdots \\ -\mathbf{b}(x_n) - \end{bmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{y} \coloneqq \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{W} \coloneqq \begin{bmatrix} \omega(x_1) \\ \ddots \\ \omega(x_n) \end{bmatrix}$$

Moving Least-Squares

Moving Least Squares Approximation:



Moving Least-Squares

Moving Least Squares Approximation:



Summary: MLS

Standard MLS approximation:

- Choose set of basis functions
 - Typically monomials of degree 0,1,2
- Choose weighting function
 - Typicall choices: Gaussian, Wendland function, B-Splines
 - Solution will have the same continuity as the weighting function.
- Solve a weighted least squares problem at each point:

 $\widetilde{y}(x) = \mathbf{b}(x)^{\mathrm{T}} \left(\mathbf{B}(x)^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{W}(x)^{2} \mathbf{B}(x) \right)^{-1} \mathbf{B}(x)^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{W}(x)^{2} \mathbf{y}$

- Need to invert the "moment matrix" at each evaluation.
- Use SVD if sampling requirements are not guaranteed.

Surface Definition

Question: How to define surfaces via MLS?

- Two alternatives (as examples)
 - Implicit function definition for points with oriented normals.
 - Surface fitting for points without normals
- Many more variants known in literature...

Implicit Function Definition



$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{x})^{\mathrm{T}} \left(\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x})^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{W}(\mathbf{x})^{2} \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}) \right)^{-1} \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x})^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{W}(\mathbf{x})^{2} \mathbf{y} \qquad \mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} f_{1}(\mathbf{x}) \\ \vdots \\ f_{n}(\mathbf{x}) \end{pmatrix}$$

Projection Operator

Problem:

- We want to insert additional points in the proximity of other points
- Define a "projection operator":
 - Compute implicit function
 - Add a new point somewhere
 - Move (gradient decent, or Newton's method) point onto zerolevel set
 - Move in normal direction
 (i.e. gradient of approximated implicit function)
 - The operation that maps a point to the local zero level set by following the gradient (stationary point of an ODE) is called the "projection operator".

Implicit Function Definition

Projection:



Unoriented Point Sets

Problem:

- This requires normals with consistent orientation.
- Hard to get, in particular locally.
- For the general case, there is another MLS scheme that does not construct a signed implicit function.

Point Set Surfaces

Point Set Surfaces:

- Discussed here: a variant of [Alexa et al. 2001].
- Start with just points in space.
- Again use a weighting function.
- Then perform three steps:
 - First, compute a coordinate system
 - Second, compute a weighted least squares fit for higher order consistency.
 - Third, project point on the computed function fit.
1. Coordinate system

Establishing an MLS coordinates frame



Implementation:

- This can be done using *weighted* total least squares (PCA)
- The original paper uses a non-linear optimization

2. Basis Function Fit

Weighted least-squares fit to a moving basis system:



Implementation:

- Ordinary weighted least squares.
- Use the same spatial windowing function *w* for continuity.

3. Projection

Projection Step:

• Project evaluation point on surface



Continuity Control

Approximation / Interpolation:

- Weighting function shape & support determine tightness of fit.
- Special case: Integrable, singular weighting functions allow for interpolation
- Example: Fitting an MLS surface to a polynomial surface [Shen et al., Siggraph 2004]

Weighting Function

Weighting Function:



Vary ε to adjust tightness of fit.