Skin

CSE169: Computer Animation
Instructor: Steve Rotenberg
UCSD, Winter 2020
Renderable surfaces are built up from simple primitives such as triangles. They can also use smooth surfaces such as NURBS or subdivision surfaces, but these are often just turned into triangles by an automatic tessellation algorithm before rendering.
We can compute the interaction of light with surfaces to achieve realistic shading.

For lighting computations, we usually require a position on the surface and the normal.

GL does some relatively simple *local* illumination computations.

For higher quality images, we can compute *global* illumination, where complete light interaction is computed within an environment to achieve effects like shadows, reflections, caustics, and diffuse bounced light.
Gouraud & Phong Shading

- We can use triangles to give the appearance of a smooth surface by faking the normals a little.

- Gouraud shading is a technique where we compute the lighting at each vertex and interpolate the resulting color across the triangle.

- Phong shading is more expensive and interpolates the normal across the triangle and recomputes the lighting for every pixel.
Materials

- When an incoming beam of light hits a surface, some of the light will be absorbed, and some will scatter in various directions.
In high quality rendering, we use a function called a BRDF (bidirectional reflectance distribution function) to represent the scattering of light at the surface:

\[ f_r(\theta_i, \varphi_i, \theta_r, \varphi_r, \lambda) \]

The BRDF is a 5 dimensional function of the incoming light direction (2 dimensions), the outgoing direction (2 dimensions), and the wavelength.
Translucency

- Skin is a translucent material. If we want to render skin realistically, we need to account for subsurface light scattering.
- We can extend the BRDF to a BSSRDF by adding two more dimensions representing the translation in surface coordinates. This way, we can account for light that enters the surface at one location and leaves at another.
- Learn more about these in CSE168!
We may wish to ‘map’ various properties across the polygonal surface.

We can do this through texture mapping, or other more general mapping techniques.

Usually, this will require explicitly storing texture coordinate information at the vertices.

For higher quality rendering, we may combine several different maps in complex ways, each with their own mapping coordinates.

Related features include bump mapping, displacement mapping, illumination mapping…
Skin Rendering
Position vs. Direction Vectors

- We will almost always treat vectors as having 3 coordinates (x, y, and z)
- However, when we actually transform them by a 4x4 matrix, we expand them to 4 coordinates
- Vectors representing a position in 3D space are expanded into 4D as:

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
v_x & v_y & v_z & 1
\end{bmatrix}
\]

- Vectors representing direction (like a normal or an axis of rotation) are expanded as:

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
v_x & v_y & v_z & 0
\end{bmatrix}
\]
Position Transformation

\[ \mathbf{v}' = \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{v} \]

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
\mathbf{v}'_x \\
\mathbf{v}'_y \\
\mathbf{v}'_z \\
1
\end{bmatrix} =
\begin{bmatrix}
a_1 & b_1 & c_1 & d_1 \\
a_2 & b_2 & c_2 & d_2 \\
a_3 & b_3 & c_3 & d_3 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 1
\end{bmatrix}
\cdot
\begin{bmatrix}
\mathbf{v}_x \\
\mathbf{v}_y \\
\mathbf{v}_z \\
1
\end{bmatrix}
\]

\[ \mathbf{v}'_x = a_1 \mathbf{v}_x + b_1 \mathbf{v}_y + c_1 \mathbf{v}_z + d_1 \]

\[ \mathbf{v}'_y = a_2 \mathbf{v}_x + b_2 \mathbf{v}_y + c_2 \mathbf{v}_z + d_2 \]

\[ \mathbf{v}'_z = a_3 \mathbf{v}_x + b_3 \mathbf{v}_y + c_3 \mathbf{v}_z + d_3 \]

\[ 1 = 0 \mathbf{v}_x + 0 \mathbf{v}_y + 0 \mathbf{v}_z + 1 \]
Direction Transformation

\[ \mathbf{v}' = \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{v} \]

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
    v'_x \\
    v'_y \\
    v'_z \\
    0
\end{bmatrix} =
\begin{bmatrix}
    a_1 & b_1 & c_1 & d_1 \\
    a_2 & b_2 & c_2 & d_2 \\
    a_3 & b_3 & c_3 & d_3 \\
    0 & 0 & 0 & 1
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
    v_x \\
    v_y \\
    v_z \\
    0
\end{bmatrix}
\]

\[
v'_x = a_1 v_x + b_1 v_y + c_1 v_z
\]

\[
v'_y = a_2 v_x + b_2 v_y + c_2 v_z
\]

\[
v'_z = a_3 v_x + b_3 v_y + c_3 v_z
\]

\[
0 = 0 v_x + 0 v_y + 0 v_z + 0
\]
Smooth Skin Algorithm
Weighted Blending & Averaging

- Weighted sum: \[ x' = \sum_{i=0}^n w_i x_i \]

- Weighted average: \[ \sum_{i=0}^n w_i = 1 \]

- Convex average: \[ 0 \leq w_i \leq 1 \]
Rigid Parts

- Robots and mechanical creatures can usually be rendered with rigid parts and don’t require a smooth skin.
- To render rigid parts, each part is transformed by its joint matrix independently.
- In this situation, every vertex of the character’s geometry is transformed by exactly one matrix.

\[ v' = W \cdot v \]

where \( v \) is defined in joint’s local space.
A simple improvement for low-medium quality characters is to rigidly bind a skin to the skeleton. This means that every vertex of the continuous skin mesh is attached to a joint. In this method, as with rigid parts, every vertex is transformed exactly once and should therefore have similar performance to rendering with rigid parts.

$$v' = W \cdot v$$
Smooth Skin

- With the smooth skin algorithm, a vertex can be attached to more than one joint with adjustable weights that control how much each joint affects it.
- Verts rarely need to be attached to more than three joints.
- Each vertex is transformed a few times and the results are blended.
- The smooth skin algorithm has many other names: blended skin, skeletal subspace deformation (SSD), multi-matrix skin, matrix palette skinning...
Smooth Skin Algorithm

- The deformed vertex position is a weighted average:

\[
v' = w_1 (M_1 \cdot v) + w_2 (M_2 \cdot v) + \ldots + w_N (M_N \cdot v)
\]

or

\[
v' = \sum w_i (M_i \cdot v)
\]

where

\[
\sum w_i = 1
\]
Binding Matrices

- With rigid parts or simple skin, $v$ can be defined local to the joint that transforms it.
- With smooth skin, several joints transform a vertex, but it can’t be defined local to all of them.
- Instead, we must first transform it to be local to the joint that will then transform it to the world.
- To do this, we use a binding matrix $B_i$ for each joint that defines where the joint was when the skin was attached and premultiply its inverse with the world matrix:

$$M_i = W_i \cdot B_i^{-1}$$
Binding Matrices

- Let’s look closer at this:

\[ v' = W_i \cdot B_i^{-1} \cdot v \]

- $B_i$ is the world matrix that joint i had at the time the skeleton was matched to the skin (the binding pose)
- $B_i$ transforms verts from a space local to joint i into this binding pose
- Therefore, $B_i^{-1}$ transforms verts from the binding pose into joint i local space
- $W_i$ transforms from joint i local space to world space
- $v$ is a vertex in the skin mesh (in the binding pose)
- Therefore, the entire equation transforms the vertex from the binding pose ($v$), into joint local space ($B_i^{-1}$) and then into world space ($W_i$)
Normals

- To compute shading, we need to transform the normals to world space also.
- Because the normal is a direction vector, we don’t want it to get the translation from the matrix, so we only need to multiply the normal by the upper 3x3 portion of the matrix.
- For a normal bound to only one joint:

\[ n' = W \cdot n \]
**Normals**

- For smooth skin, we must blend the normal as with the positions, but the normal must then be renormalized:

\[
n' = \frac{\sum w_i (M_i \cdot n)}{\sum w_i (M_i \cdot n)}\]

- If the matrices have non-rigid transformations, then technically, we should use:

\[
n' = \frac{\sum w_i (M_i^{-1T} \cdot n)}{\sum w_i (M_i^{-1T} \cdot n)}\]
Algorithm Overview

Skin::Update()  
(view independent processing)
- Compute skinning matrix for each joint: \( M = W \cdot B^{-1} \) (you can precompute and store \( B^{-1} \) instead of \( B \))
- Loop through vertices and compute blended position & normal

Skin::Draw()  
(view dependent processing)
- Set GL matrix state to Identity (world)
- Loop through triangles and draw using world space positions & normals

Questions:
- Why not deal with \( B \) in Skeleton::Update()?
- Why not just transform vertices within Skin::Draw()?
Rig Data Flow

- Input DOFs
  \[ \Phi = [\phi_1 \ \phi_2 \ \ldots \ \phi_N] \]

- Rigging system
  (skeleton, skin...)

- Output renderable mesh
  (vertices, normals...)

\[ v', n' \]
Every joint computes a local matrix based on its DOFs and any other constants necessary (joint offsets…)

\[ L = L_{\text{joint}}(\phi_1, \phi_2, \ldots, \phi_N) \]

To find the joint’s world matrix, we compute the dot product of the local matrix with the parent’s world matrix

\[ W = W_{\text{parent}} \cdot L \]

Normally, we would do this in a depth-first order starting from the root, so that we can be sure that the parent’s world matrix is available when its needed.
Smooth Skin Algorithm

- The deformed vertex position is a weighted average over all of the joints that the vertex is attached to:

\[ v' = \sum w_i W_i \cdot B_i^{-1} \cdot v \]

- \( W \) is a joint’s world matrix and \( B \) is a joint’s binding matrix that describes where it’s world matrix was when it was attached to the skin model (at skin creation time).

- Each joint transforms the vertex as if it were rigidly attached, and then those results are blended based on user specified weights.

- All of the weights must add up to 1: \( \sum w_i = 1 \)

- Blending normals is essentially the same, except we transform them as direction vectors \((x,y,z,0)\) and then renormalize the results.

\[ n^* = \sum w_i W_i \cdot B_i^{-1} \cdot n, \quad n' = \frac{n^*}{|n^*|} \]
Skinning Equations

- **Skeleton**

\[
\begin{align*}
L &= L_{int}(\phi_1, \phi_2, \ldots, \phi_N) \\
W &= W_{parent} \cdot L
\end{align*}
\]

- **Skinning**

\[
\begin{align*}
v' &= \sum w_i \cdot W_i \cdot B_i^{-1} \cdot v \\
n^* &= \sum w_i \cdot W_i \cdot B_i^{-1} \cdot n \\
n' &= \frac{n^*}{\|n^*\|}
\end{align*}
\]
Using Skinning
Limitations of Smooth Skin

- Smooth skin is very simple and quite fast, but its quality is limited.
- The main problems are:
  - Joints tend to collapse as they bend more.
  - Very difficult to get specific control.
  - Unintuitive and difficult to edit.
- Still, it is built in to most 3D animation packages and has support in both OpenGL and Direct3D.
- If nothing else, it is a good baseline upon which more complex schemes can be built.
Limitations of Smooth Skin
Bone Links

- To help with the collapsing joint problem, one option is to use bone links.
- Bone links are extra joints inserted in the skeleton to assist with the skinning.
- They can be automatically added based on the joint’s range of motion. For example, they could be added so as to prevent any joint from rotating more than 60 degrees.
- This is a simple approach used in some real time games, but doesn’t go very far in fixing the other problems with smooth skin.
Another extension to the smooth skinning algorithm is to allow the verts to be modeled at key values along the joints motion. For an elbow, for example, one could model it straight, then model it fully bent. These shapes are interpolated local to the bones before the skinning is applied. We will talk more about this technique in the next lecture.
Muscles & Other Effects

- One can add custom effects such as muscle bulges as additional joints.
- For example, the bicep could be a translational or scaling joint that smoothly controls some of the verts in the upper arm. Its motion could be linked to the motion of the elbow rotation.
- With this approach, one can also use skin for muscles, fat bulges, facial expressions, and even simple clothing.
- We will learn more about advanced skinning techniques in a later lecture.
Rigging Process

- To rig a skinned character, one must have a geometric skin mesh and a skeleton.
- Usually, the skin is built in a relatively neutral pose, often in a comfortable standing pose.
- The skeleton, however, might be built in more of a zero pose where the joints DOFs are assumed to be 0, causing a very stiff, straight pose.
- To attach the skin to the skeleton, the skeleton must first be posed into a binding pose.
- Once this is done, the verts can be assigned to joints with appropriate weights.
Skin Binding

- Attaching a skin to a skeleton is not a trivial problem and usually requires automated tools combined with extensive interactive tuning
- Binding algorithms typically involve heuristic approaches
- Some general approaches:
  - Containment
  - Point-to-line mapping
  - Several others
With containment binding algorithms, the user manually approximates the body with volume primitives for each bone (cylinders, ellipsoids, spheres…)

The algorithm then tests each vertex against the volumes and attaches it to the best fitting bone.

Some containment algorithms attach to only one bone and then use smoothing as a second pass. Others attach to multiple bones directly and set skin weights.

For a more automated version, the volumes could be initially set based on the bone lengths and child locations.
Point-to-Line Mapping

- A simple way to attach a skin is treat each bone as one or more line segments and attach each vertex to the nearest line segment.

- A bone is made from line segments connecting the joint pivot to the pivots of each child.
Skin Adjustment

- **Mesh Smoothing**: A joint will first be attached in a fairly rigid fashion (either automatic or manually) and then the weights are smoothed algorithmically.
- **Weight Painting**: Some 3D tools allow visualization of the weights as colors (0…1 -> black…white). These can then be adjusted and ‘painted’ in an interactive fashion.
- **Direct Manipulation**: These algorithms allow the vertex to be moved to a ‘correct’ position after the bone is bent, and automatically compute the weights necessary to get it there.
Hardware Skinning

- The smooth skinning algorithm is simple and popular enough to have some direct support in 3D rendering hardware.
- Actually, it just requires standard vector multiply/add operations and so can be implemented in vertex shaders.
- In order to make the array of matrices available to the shader, it may be necessary to store it in a special texture map...
Skin Memory Usage

- For each vertex, we need to store:
  - Rendering data (position, normal, color, texture coords, tangents…)
  - Skinning data (number of attachments, joint index, weight…)
- If we limit the character to having at most 256 bones, we can store a bone index as a byte
- If we limit the weights to 256 distinct values, we can store a weight as a byte (this gives us a precision of 0.004%, which is fine)
- If we assume that a vertex will attach to at most 4 bones, then we can compress the skinning data to \((1+1) \times 4 = 8\) bytes per vertex (64 bits)
- In fact, we can even squeeze another 8 bits out of that by not storing the final weight, since

\[ w_3 = 1 - w_0 - w_1 - w_2 \]
Project 2: Skin
Assignment:

- Load a .skin file and attach it to the skeleton using the world space matrices to transform the positions and normals with the smooth skin algorithm
- Use basic lighting to display the skin shaded (use at least two different colored lights)
- Add some sort of interactive control for selecting and adjusting DOFs (can be a simple ‘next DOF’ key and ‘increase’ and ‘decrease’ key). The name and value of the DOF must be displayed somewhere
- Due Thursday, January 31, by 4:50 pm
Skin File

positions [num] {
    [x] [y] [z]
}
normals [num] {
    [x] [y] [z]
}
skinweights [num] {
    [numbinds] [joint_0] [weight_0] [j_1] [w_1] ... [j_{N-1}] [w_{N-1}]
}
triangles [num] {
    [index_0] [index_1] [index_2]
}
bindings [num] {
    matrix {
        [ax] [ay] [az] [bx] [by] [bz] [cx] [cy] [cz] [dx] [dy] [dz]
    }
}
Suggestions

- You might consider making classes for:
  - Vertex
  - Triangle
  - Skin

- Keep a clean interface between the skin and the skeleton. A Skeleton::GetWorldMatrix(int) function may be all that is necessary. This way, the skeleton doesn’t need to know anything about skin and the skin only needs to be able to grab matrices from the skeleton.

- Make sure that your skeleton creates the tree in the correct order for the joint indexing to work correctly.
Advanced Skinning
Global Deformations

- A global deformation takes a point in 3D space and outputs a deformed point

\[ x' = F(x) \]

- A global deformation is essentially a deformation of space
- Smooth skinning is technically not a global deformation, as the same position in the initial space could end up transforming to different locations in deformed space
Free-Form Deformations

- FFDs are a class of deformations where a low detail control mesh is used to deform a higher detail skin.
- Generally, FFDs are classified as global deformations, as they describe a mapping into a deformed space.
- There are a lot of variations on FFDs based on the topology of the control mesh.
Lattice FFDs

- The original type of FFD uses a simple regular lattice placed around a region of space.
- The lattice is divided up into a regular grid (4x4x4 points for a cubic deformation).
- When the lattice points are then moved, they describe smooth deformation in their vicinity.
The concept of FFDs was later extended to allow an arbitrary topology control volume to be used.
Axial Deformations & WIRES

- Another type of deformation allows the user to place lines or curves within a skin.
- When the lines or curves are moved, they distort the space around them.
- Multiple lines & curves can be placed near each other and will properly interact.
Surface Oriented FFDs

- This modern method allows a low detail polygonal mesh to be built near the high detail skin.
- Movement of the low detail mesh deforms space nearby.
- This method is nice, as it gives a similar type of control that one gets from high order surfaces (subdivision surfaces & NURBS) without any topological constraints.
Surface Oriented FFDs
Using FFDs

- FFDs provide a high level control for deforming detailed geometry
- Still, we must address the issue of how to animate and deform the FFD control mesh
- The verts in the mesh can be animated with the smooth skinning algorithm, shape interpolation, or other methods
Body Scanning
Body Scanning

- Data input has become an important issue for the various types of data used in computer graphics

- Examples:
  - Geometry: Laser scanners
  - Motion: Optical motion capture
  - Materials: Gonioreflectometer
  - Faces: Computer vision

- Recently, people have been researching techniques for directly scanning human bodies and skin deformations
Body Scanning

- Practical approaches tend to use either a 3D model scanner (like a laser) or a 2D image based approach (computer vision).
- The skin is scanned at various key poses and some sort of 3D model is constructed.
- Some techniques attempt to fit this back onto a standardized mesh, so that all poses share the same topology. This is difficult, but it makes the interpolation process much easier.
- Other techniques interpolate between different topologies. This is difficult also.
Body Scanning
Body Scanning
Anatomical Modeling
Anatomical Modeling

- The motion of the skin is based on the motion of the underlying muscle and bones. Therefore, in an anatomical simulation, the tissue beneath the skin must be accounted for.
- One can model the bones, muscle, and skin tissue as deformable bodies and then use physical simulation to compute their motion.
- Various approaches exist ranging from simple approximations using basic primitives to detailed anatomical simulations.
Bones are essentially rigid
Muscles occupy almost all of the space between bone & skin
Although they can change shape, muscles have essentially constant volume
The rest of the space between the bone & skin is filled with fat & connective tissues
Skin is connected to fatty tissue and can usually slide freely over muscle
Skin is anisotropic as wrinkles tend to have specific orientations
Simple Anatomical Models

- Some simplified anatomical models use ellipsoids to model bones and muscles.
Simple Anatomical Models

- Muscles are attached to bones, sometimes with tendons as well
- The muscles contract in a volume preserving way, thus getting wider as they get shorter
Simple Anatomical Models

- Complex musculature can be built up from lots of simple primitives
Simple Anatomical Models

- Skin can be attached to the muscles with springs/dampers and physically simulated with collisions against bone & muscle.
Detailed Anatomical Models

- One can also do detailed simulations that accurately model bone & muscle geometry, as well as physical properties.
- This is becoming an increasing popular approach, but requires extensive set up.
Detailed Anatomical Models