

Triangulations and Meshes

Outline

- Triangulations, Delaunay triangulations
Voronoi diagrams, the space of spheres
Regular triangulations and power diagrams
- **Constrained and constrained Delaunay triangulations**
- Meshing using Delaunay refinement
- Meshing using other methods (octrees, advancing front)
- Quality of meshes
- Surface meshing
- Interpolation and reconstruction

Constrained Delaunay triangulations

Outline

- Constrained triangulations in 2D
existence
- Constrained Delaunay triangulations in 2D
existence and unicity
- Optimal triangulations
optimality of Delaunay triangulations
when Delaunay triangulation are not optimal
- Algorithmic of constrained Delaunay triangulations
- Constrained triangulations in 3D
existence problem
a sufficient existence condition

Constrained triangulations in 2D

Definition

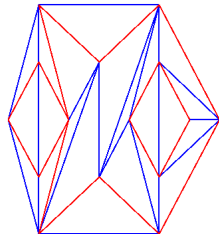
Input : a PSLG (planar straight line graph)

- a set of points P
- a set of segments S
- (P, S) is a 1dim simplicial complex i.e.
 - each endpoint of $s \in S$ is in P
 - two segments in S are disjoint or share an endpoint

A **constrained triangulation** of (P, S)

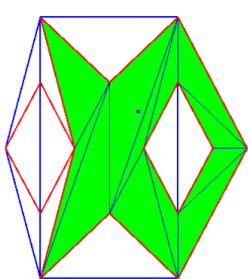
is a triangulation $T = T(P, S)$ such that :

- the set of vertices of T is P
- any segment $s \in S$ is an edge of T



Constrained triangulations in 2D

Application : triangulation of a polygonal region



- Build a constrained triangulation
- Mark internal facets

Constrained triangulations in 2D

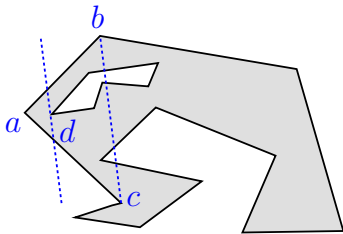
existence problem

Theorem

Any PSLG (P, S) admits a 2D constrained triangulation

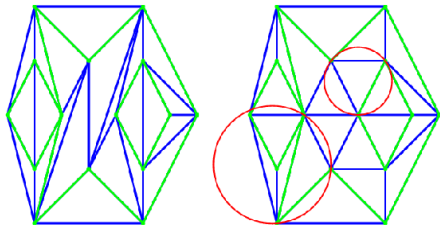
Proof.

The set of edges of any = a maximal set of segments
triangulation of P with endpoints in P
without intersection except at endpoints.



Constrained Delaunay triangulation

Definition 1



Definition 1 : Let (P, S) be a PSLG.

The constrained triangulation $T(P, S)$ is constrained Delaunay iff the circumcircle of any triangle t of T encloses no vertex visible from a point in the relative interior of t .

Visibility : p visible from q iff $\text{int}(pq) \cap S = \emptyset$

Constrained Delaunay triangulation

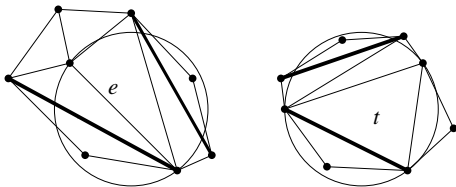
Definition 2

Definition 2 : Let (P, S) be a PSLG.

The constrained triangulation $T(P, S)$ is constrained Delaunay iff any edge e of T is either a segment of S or is constrained Delaunay.

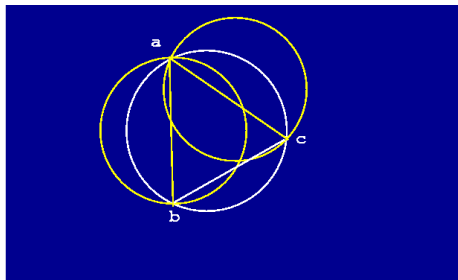
Simplex e is constrained Delaunay (cD for short) with respect to the PSLG (P, S) iff :

- $\text{int}(e) \cap S = \emptyset$
- \exists a circumcircle of e that encloses no vertex visible from a point in the relative interior of e .



Constrained Delaunay triangulation

Definition 1 \iff Definition 2



ab, bc, ca
constrained or
Delaunay constrained

\iff $\text{circum}(abc)$
encloses no vertex
visible from $\text{int}(abc)$

Constrained Delaunay triangulation

Existence and unicity in 2D

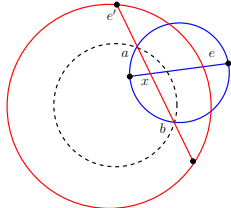
Theorem

Any PSLG (P, S) has a constrained Delaunay triangulation.
If (P, S) has no degeneracy, this triangulation is unique.

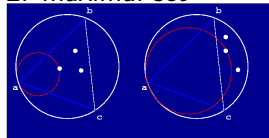
Proof.

SU set of cD -segment = a maximal set of segments
with endpoints in P
without intersection except at endpoints.

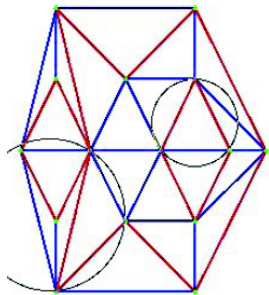
1. no intersection



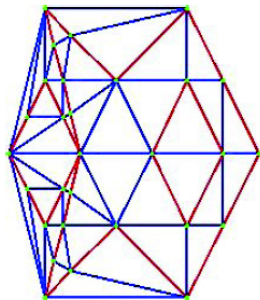
2. maximal set



Constrained Delaunay and conform triangulations



constrained Delaunay
all simplexes are
constrained Delaunay



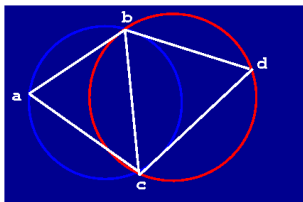
conform triangulation
Steiner vertices on edges
the triangulation is Delaunay

Locally Delaunay edges

Definition (Locally Delaunay edges (ID-edges))

Edge bc , incident to abc and abd , is locally Delaunay iff

$$a \notin \text{int}(\text{circumcircle}(bcd)) \iff d \notin \text{int}(\text{circumcircle}(abc))$$

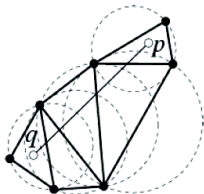


Local condition for constrained Delaunay triangulation

Theorem

Any triangulation of the PSLG (P, S) whose edges are either constrained edges or locally Delaunay edges is the constrained Delaunay triangulation of (P, S) .

Proof.



p vertex visible from $q \in t$

$t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n = t$ triangles intersected by pq

$\Pi(p, t_i)$ power of p wrt circumcircle(t_i)

$\Pi(p, t_0) < \Pi(p, t_1) \dots < \Pi(p, t_n)$

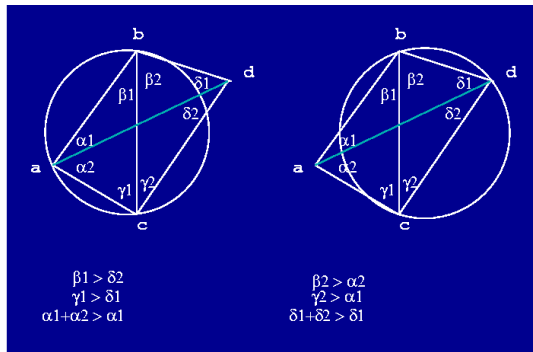
$\Pi(p, t_0) = 0 \implies \Pi(p, t_n = t) > 0$

\implies circumcircle(t) encloses no vertex

visible from $q \in t$



Delaunay flip and angular sequence



Angular sequence of a triangulation T : the sorted sequence of angles of the triangles of T

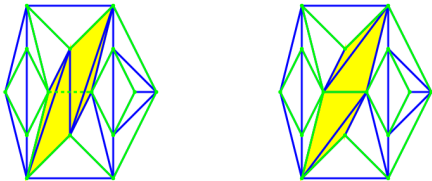
Delaunay flip : a flip that replaces a non ID-edge by an ID-edge.

Theorem

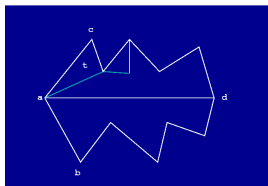
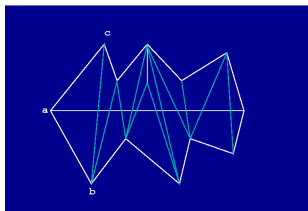
Any Delaunay flip increases the angular sequence.

Algorithmic of 2D constrained triangulations

- sweep line algorithm. $O(n \log n)$
- triangulation of a polygon is $\Theta(n)$
- incremental construction
insertion of an edge : $O(n)$ for each edge
 - insert vertices first
 - insert interior of segment next



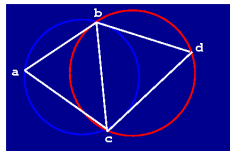
Insertion of a constrained edge



- scan the hole boundary inserting edges into a stack
- at each step do
 - while there is an ear pq , qr on top of the stack
 - pop pq and qr
 - form triangle pqr
 - push pr

A flip algorithm for constrained Delaunay triangulations

- 1 Start with any constrained triangulation of the PSLG (P, S)
- 2 Initialize a stack with edges that are neither constrained edges nor locally Delaunay edges
- 3 While stack is not empty
pop edge ad from stack
if ad is not locally Delaunay
flip ad and update the stack,
looking at the 4 wing edges ab, ac, db, dc



Theorem

The flip algorithm ends, and performs $O(n^2)$ flip.

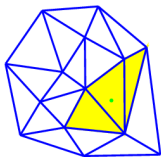
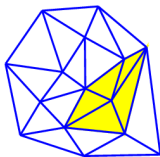
Proof 1. Use the angular sequence.

Proof 2. Use the paraboloid lift.

Algorithmic of 2D constrained Delaunay triangulations

Incremental construction

- insertion of a vertex



non Delaunay insertion of a constraint + Delaunay flips

Optimality of constrained Delaunay triangulations

Theorem

Among all the constrained triangulation of a PSLG (P, S) the constrained Delaunay triangulation optimizes:

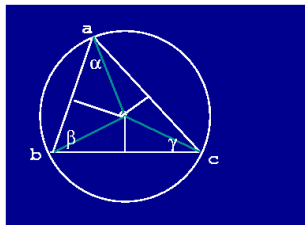
- *the MaxMin angle*
- *the MinMax circumradius*
- *the MinMax smallest enclosing circle radius*

Proof.

The constrained Delaunay triangulation is optimal for any measure improved by a Delaunay flip



Circumradius, angles and edge lengths



circumradius r

$$r = \frac{l_a}{2\sin\alpha} = \frac{l_b}{2\sin\beta} = \frac{l_c}{2\sin\gamma}$$

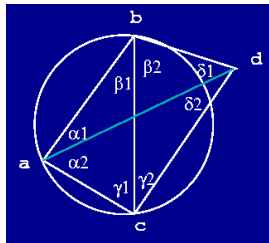
MinMax circumradius

Theorem

Delaunay flip decreases the maximum circumradius

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma_1 &> \delta_1 \\ \beta_2 &> \alpha_2\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}\text{circumradius}(abc) &= \frac{ab}{2\sin\gamma_1} < \text{circumradius}(abd) = \frac{ab}{2\sin\delta_1} \\ \text{circumradius}(bcd) &= \frac{cd}{2\sin\beta_2} < \text{circumradius}(adc) = \frac{cd}{2\sin\alpha_2}\end{aligned}$$



Smallest enclosing sphere

Theorem

x_c the circumcenter of the simplex t ,
 x_{min} the center of the smallest enclosing sphere of t
is such that :

1. if $x_c \in t$, $x_{min} = x_c$
2. otherwise $x_{min} =$ the point of t closest to x_c

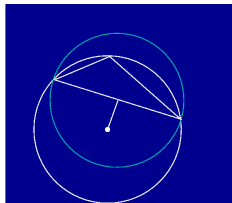
Proof.

case 1. x_c is a minimum of the distance to farthest vertex

case 2. Let $q \in t$ closest to x_c
and f the face of t such that $q \in \text{int}(f)$.

The vertices of f are equidistant to q .

smallest enclosing sphere of $t =$ smallest enclosing sphere of f .



The constrained Delaunay triangulation achieves MinMax smallest enclosing sphere

Theorem

A Delaunay flip decreases the maximum smallest enclosing circle radius.

Proof.

Theorem

In any dimension, the Delaunay triangulation of a set of points minimizes the maximum smallest enclosing sphere radius.



The Delaunay triangulation achieves MinMax smallest enclosing radius

Proof

$t = (p_0, p_1, \dots, p_d)$ a d -simplex

Barycentric coordinates

$\forall x \in R^d, \lambda_i(x), i = 0 \dots p$ such that

$$x = \sum_i \lambda_i(x) p_i, \quad \sum_i \lambda_i(x) = 1$$

Definition

$$F(t, x) = \sum_i \lambda_i(x) (p_i - x)^2 = \sum_i \lambda_i(x) p_i^2 - x^2$$

The Delaunay triangulation achieves MinMax smallest enclosing radius

(x_c, r_c) circumsphere of the simplex t .

(x_{min}, r_{min}) smallest enclosing sphere of t .

$$F(t, x) = \sum_i \lambda_i(x) (p_i - x)^2$$

$$F(t, x) = \sum_i \lambda_i(x) ((p_i - x_c)^2 + 2(p_i - x_c)(x_c - x) + (x_c - x)^2)$$

$$F(t, x) = r_c^2 - (x - x_c)^2 = -\text{power of } x \text{ wrt } (x_c, r_c)$$

$$\max_x F(t, x) = r_c^2 \text{ achieved for } x = x_c \quad (1)$$

$$\max_{x \in t} F(t, x) = r_{min}^2 \text{ achieved for } x = x_{min} \quad (2)$$

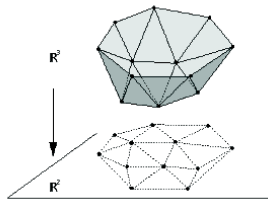
The Delaunay triangulation achieves MinMax smallest enclosing radius

Lift map on the paraboloid

$$p_i \longrightarrow \phi(p_i) = (p_i, p_i^2)$$

$$x \longrightarrow \phi(x) = (x, x^2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} F(t, x) &= \sum_i \lambda_i(x) p_i^2 - x^2 \\ &= \text{vertical distance } d(\phi(t), \phi(x)) \end{aligned}$$



S_P set of all simplices with vertices in P
 $\min_{t \in S_P, x \in t} F(t, x)$ achieved for $t \in \text{Del}(P)$

The Delaunay triangulation achieves MinMax smallest enclosing radius

P : a set of point

T : a triangulation of P

DT : the Delaunay triangulation of P

$$F_T(x) = F(t, x) \quad x \in t, t \in T \quad F_T(x_T) = \max_x F_T(t, x)$$

$$F_{DT}(x) = F(t, x) \quad x \in t, t \in DT \quad F_{DT}(x_{DT}) = \max_x F_{DT}(t, x)$$

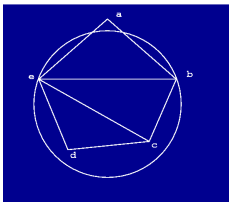
$$\max_{t \in T} r_{min}(t)^2 = F_T(x_T) \geq F_T(x_{DT}) \geq F_{DT}(x_{DT}) = \max_{t \in DT} r_{min}(t)^2$$

When Delaunay flip does not work

Delaunay triangulation does not optimize

- MinMax angle
- MaxMin elevation
- Total edge length

Using a flip to locally optimize a measure which is not optimized by Delaunay triangulation may leads to a lock.



example MinMax angle

$$\hat{c} > \hat{d} > \hat{e} = \hat{b} > \hat{a}$$

optimal triangulation : ad, ac
blocked situation : eb,ec

When Delaunay flip does not work

Two solutions to get out from a local minimum

- **simulated annealing** : allow flips which do not improve the triangulation measure
- Have more powerful local optimization operations, e.g. **edge insertion**

Edge insertion

Measure of the triangulation to be optimized :

$$f(T) = \min_{t \in T} \text{ or } \max_{t \in T} f(t)$$

example : $f(t) = \max \text{ angle of } t$, $f(T) = \max_{t \in T} f(t)$

Anchored measure

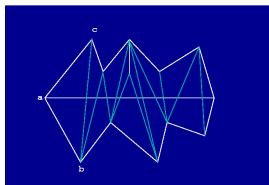
Triangle abc has an anchor in a iff any triangulation T such that $f(T) < f(abc)$ has an edge ad intersecting bc .

A measure is anchored iff any triangle has an anchor.

Basic operation : edge insertion

insertion of edge ad means :

- remove all edges intersecting ad
- retriangulated the two regions R_1 and R_2 formed when adding edge ad



Edge insertion

Theorem

Any anchored measure can be optimized through edge insertion

Proof.

While T is not optimal, there is an edge insertion improving the measure.

Let $t = abc$ such that $f(T) = f(t)$ and a be the anchor of t .

Let ad be the edge intersecting bc in the optimal triangulation T^*

Inserting ad improves the measure.

When inserting ad , regions R_1 and R_2

can be triangulated so that :

$$f(T(R_1)) < f(abc) \text{ and } f(T(R_2)) < f(abc)$$

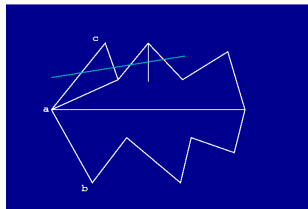
There is always an ear $t_1 = pqr$ of R_1

chopped by an edge of T^* .

$$f(pqr) < f(abc) :$$

T^* does not break anchor q

T does not break anchor p and r



Optimal triangulation through edge insertion

Algorithm

Initialize $T = T(P, S)$ a constrained triangulation

While

 there is a triangle $t = abc$ with $f(t) = f(T)$

 there is a free edge ad breaking the anchor of t

do

 insertion of ad yields triangulation T'

 if $f(T') < f(T)$, $T = T'$

 otherwise eliminate ad

free edge = edge intersecting no constrained edge
 not yet eliminated

Complexity : $O(n^3)$

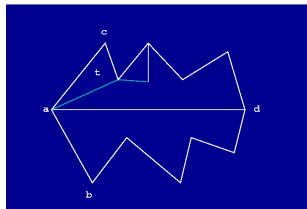
total nb of edges : $O(n^2)$

complexity of an insertion $O(n)$

Optimal triangulation through edge insertion

Triangulation of regions R_1 and R_2

While there is an ear t such that $f(t) < f(abc)$, add $t = abc$ to the triangulation. (Use a stack as in Graham walk)



- If triangulation of R_1 and R_2 ends up yielding $f(T') \leq f(abc)$ edge bc will never appear again
- Otherwise edge ad is eliminated.

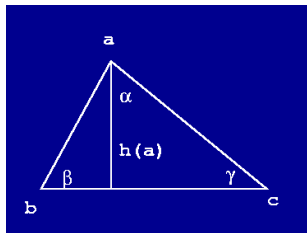
MaxMin elevation

Elevations of a triangle $t = abc$

$$h(a) = ab \sin \beta = ac \sin \gamma$$

$$h(b) = bc \sin \gamma = ba \sin \alpha$$

$$h(c) = ca \sin \alpha = cb \sin \beta$$



$$\sin \alpha \leq \sin \beta \leq \sin \gamma \implies h(a) \geq h(b) \geq h(c)$$

The smallest elevation arises from the vertex with maximum angle

MaxMin elevation

Theorem

Min elevation is an anchored measure.

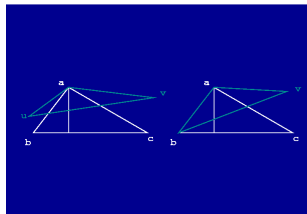
Proof.

Let $t = abc$ be a triangle
with $h_{min}(t) = h(a)$

Any triangulation T such that

- $t \notin T$
- T does not break anchor of t in a

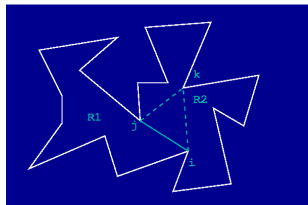
is such that $h_{min}(t) < h(a)$



Optimal triangulation of a polygon through dynamic programming

Decomposable measure

- $f(T(R)) = g(f(T(R_1)), f(T(R_2)), i, j)$
- g can be computed in time $O(1)$
- g is monotonous wrt $f(T(R_i))$
- $f(t)$ can be computed in time $O(1)$



Examples of decomposable measure:

min or max angle

min elevation

total edge length

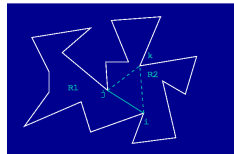
Optimal triangulation of a polygon through dynamic programming

R_{ij} polygon with vertices $i, i + 1 \dots j$

$$F(i, j) = +\infty \text{ if } ij \cap \partial R \neq \emptyset$$

$$F(i, j) = \text{Min}_T f(T(R_{ij})) \text{ otherwise}$$

$$= \min_{i < k < j} g(g(F(i, k), ijk, j, k), F(k, j), k, j)$$



$$\text{Min}_T F(T(R)) = F(1, n)$$

Compute $F(i, j)$ in increasing order of j and decreasing order of i

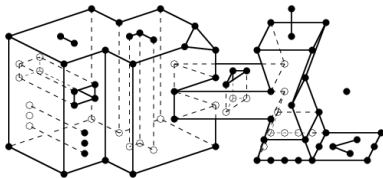
Complexity : $O(n^3)$

can be improved to $O(En)$ or even $O(n^2 + E^{3/2})$

where $E = O(n^2)$ is the nb of edges in the visibility graph

Constrained triangulation in 3D

- Input :** A piecewise linear complex (PLC) C , i.e. a set of faces of dimension 0,1,2 (vertices, edges, facets) such that :
- the boundary of any face of C is the union of faces of C
 - the intersection of two faces of C is either empty or the union of faces of C



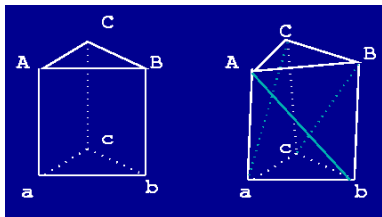
- Ouptut :** A 3D triangulation $T(C)$ such that :
- vertex set of $C =$ vertex set of $T(C)$
 - any edge of C is an edge of $T(C)$
 - any facet of C is the union of faces of $T(C)$

Constrained triangulation in 3D

In 3D, constrained triangulations do not always exist.

Schönhardt polyhedra

cannot be triangulated without adding extra (Steiner) vertices



Forbidden edges
 aB, bC, cA

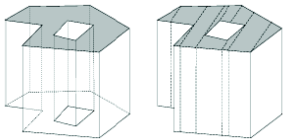
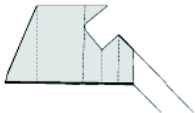
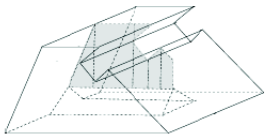
Types of tetrahedra
 $ABCa$
 $ABAc$
 $ABab$

Triangulation of a polyhedra

Vertical decomposition

Vertical decomposition of a polyhedra

Complexity $O(n^2)$



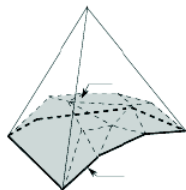
Triangulation of a polyhedra

Triangulation of a polyhedra

- 1 Elimination of convex vertices
- 2 Vertical decomposition

Yields a triangulation of size $O(n + r^2)$

r nb of reflex edges



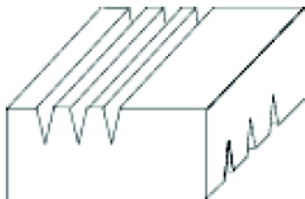
Triangulation of a polyhedra

Lower bound

Theorem

There are polyhedra with n vertices, any triangulation of which is $\Theta(n^2)$

Proof.



n notches on the paraboloid $z = xy$

n notches on the paraboloid $z = xy + \epsilon$

Any convex included in the polyhedra has a volume $\leq 1/n^2$

□

3D constrained triangulation

A sufficient condition for existence

A **Delaunay edge** : there is a circumsphere enclosing no vertex.

A **strongly Delaunay edge**: there is a circumsphere enclosing no vertex and passing through no other vertex.

Theorem

Any PLC such that :

- *the edges are strongly Delaunay*
- *there is no subset of five co-spherical vertices*

has a constrained triangulation

(which is in fact a constrained Delaunay triangulation).

Remark : “strongly” is necessary.

think of Schonhart polyhedra.

Constrained facets and constrained subfacets

Let C be a PLC whose edges are strongly Delaunay edges.
Let f be a facet of C and h_f the supporting hyperplan of f .
Let V_f be the subset of vertices of C in h_f ,
and let $\text{Del}(V_f)$ be the 2D Delaunay triangulation of V_f .
Being strongly Delaunay, any edge e of C included in h_f ,
is an edge of $\text{Del}(V_f)$.

Constrained subfacets : the triangle $t \in \text{Del}(V_f)$
that are included in f .

3D constrained Delaunay triangulation

sketch of the proof of the existence condition.

Constrained Delaunay simplices. Let C be a PLC.

A simplex s with vertices in C is said to be constrained Delaunay if

- $\text{int}(s)$ intersects no face f of C except if $s \subset f$.
- there is a circumsphere of s enclosing no vertex of C visible from some point in $\text{int}(s)$.

Obstacle to visibility are the (open) facets of C .

Proof of the existence condition.

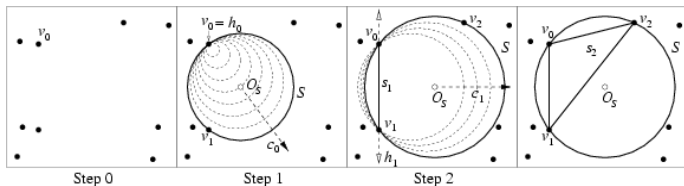
We show that the set of constrained Delaunay (cD) tetrahedra form a constrained triangulation of the PLC C .

- ① Any point in $\text{conv}(C)$ is included in a cD tetrahedra.
- ② cD tetrahedra form a simplicial complex.
- ③ Any constrained subfacets is a facet of a cD tetrahedra.



This triangulation is called the constrained Delaunay triangulation of C

Building constrained Delaunay tetrahedra



Let s be a k -cD simplex

S a circumsphere of s empty of visible vertex.

h a hyperplane including s

h^+ halfspace bounded by h

Move S in the pencil sharing $S \cap h$, growing $S \cap h^+$

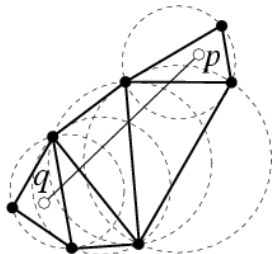
until S encounters a vertex u of C visible from some point of $\text{int}(s)$

Growing sphere th. (below) $\implies \text{conv}(s, u)$ is a $(k + 1)$ -cD simplex.

1. Any $p \in \text{conv}(C)$ belongs to a cD tet

For any point $p \in \text{conv}(C)$, we build a cD tet including p .

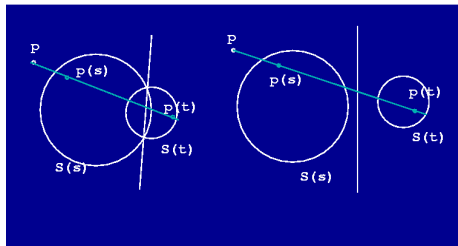
1. build a first cD tet t
2. if $p \in t$, done
else let $q \in t$
3. repeat while $p \notin t$
 $t = \text{cD tet}$
grown from the facet f of t
intersected by qp .



Carefull : growing a cD tet from a cD subfacet f requires the existence of a vertex of C in h_f^+ visible from some $p \in f$. (**Visibility th.** below)

End of the visibility theorem proof.

s and t strongly Delaunay edges
with empty circumferences $S(s)$ and $S(t)$.
If s covers t from p ,
 $\text{power}(p, S(s)) > \text{power}(p, S(t))$,
 \implies there is no cycle of covering edges.



Proof of the growing sphere theorem

Step 1.

C be a PLC with strongly Delaunay edges.

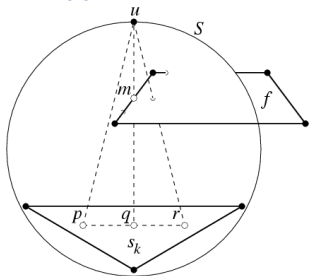
s is a cD simplex (edge or facet).

u is a vertex visible from $p \in \text{int}(s)$ such that

the circumsphere $S(s, u)$ encloses no vertex of C visible from some point of $\text{int}(s)$.

Step 1. Any point $r \in s$ is visible from u .

Proof.



Assume the reverse. Then, there are an edge $e \in C$ and a point $q \in s$ st :

- $e \cap uq =$ a point m
- m visible from p .

Then,

- there is a vertex of e in $S(s, u)$
(by Lemma 1.1 below)
- there is a vertex of C in $S(s, u)$
visible from p (by Lemma 1.2 below)

□

Lemma 1.1

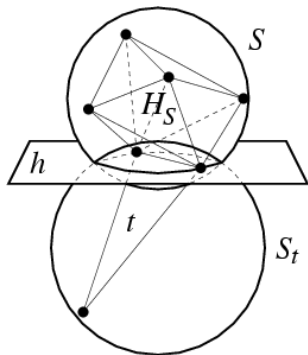
for the proof of the growing sphere theorem

Lemma (Lemma 1.1)

Let S be a sphere,
 H_S the convex hull of vertices of C in S
 e a strongly Delaunay edge
intersecting $\text{int}(H_S)$.
Then, one of the vertices of e is in S

Proof.

S_e empty circumsphere of e .
 h radical hyperplan of S and S_e ,
 h^+ halfspace with smaller power to S
than to S_e
 e is strongly Delaunay \implies
- any vertex in H_S is in h^+
- e has at least one vertex in h^+
hence in S



□

2. cD simplices form a simplicial complex

Two cD tet are

- either disjoint
- or share a lower dimensional common face

Proof.

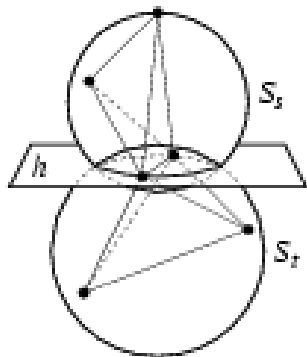
t_1 cD tet with circumsphere S_1

t_2 cD tet with circumsphere S_2

h radical hyperplan of S_1 and S_2

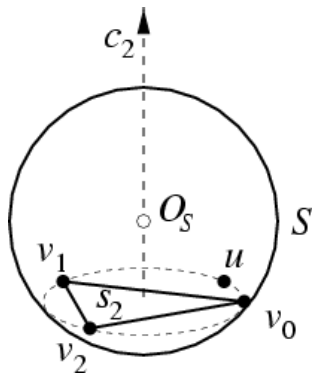
vertices of t_1 are in halfspace h^+

vertices of t_2 are in halfspace h^-



Any constrained subfacets is a facet of a
cD tetrahedra.

Growing a cD tetrahedra
from a constrained facet.



A 3D constrained Delaunay triangulation algorithm

Input : A PLC C

Output : A triangulation T such that :

- any vertex of C is a vertex of T
- any edge or facet in C is a union of faces in T

- 1 Initialize $T =$ Delaunay triangulation of vertices of C
- 2 While some edge e in C is not strongly Delaunay
split edge e
- 3 While some subfacet f in C is not in T
 - delete tetrahedra in T intersected by f
 - add f
 - triangulate both part of the hole.