

# Shape Analysis with the Delaunay Triangulation

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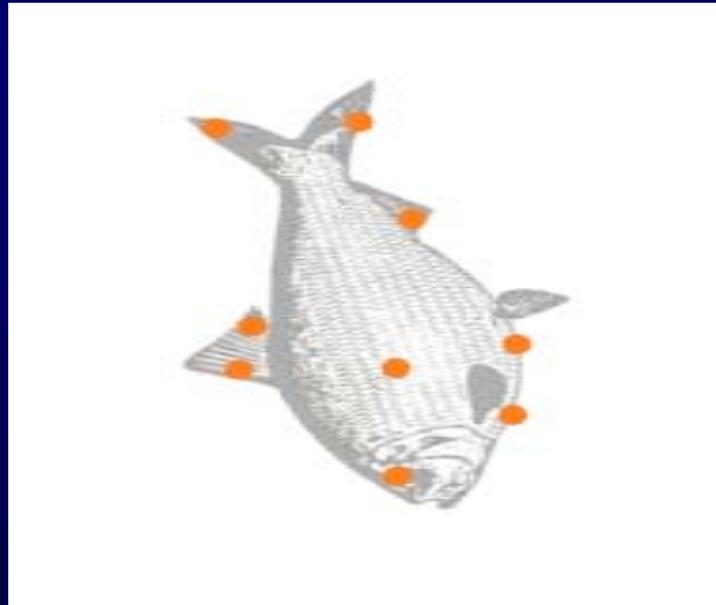
# Shape Analysis with the ~~Delaunay~~ Triangulation

**Delone**

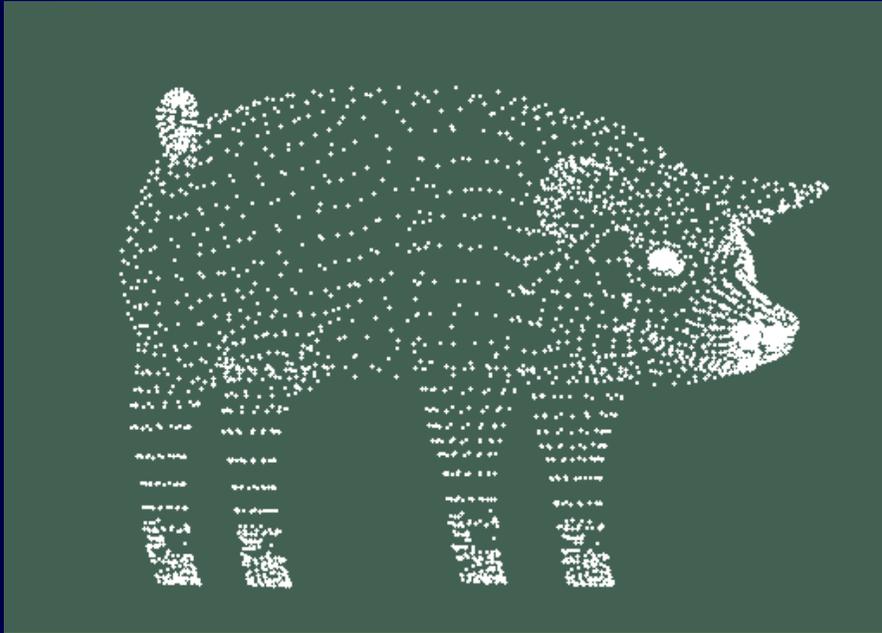
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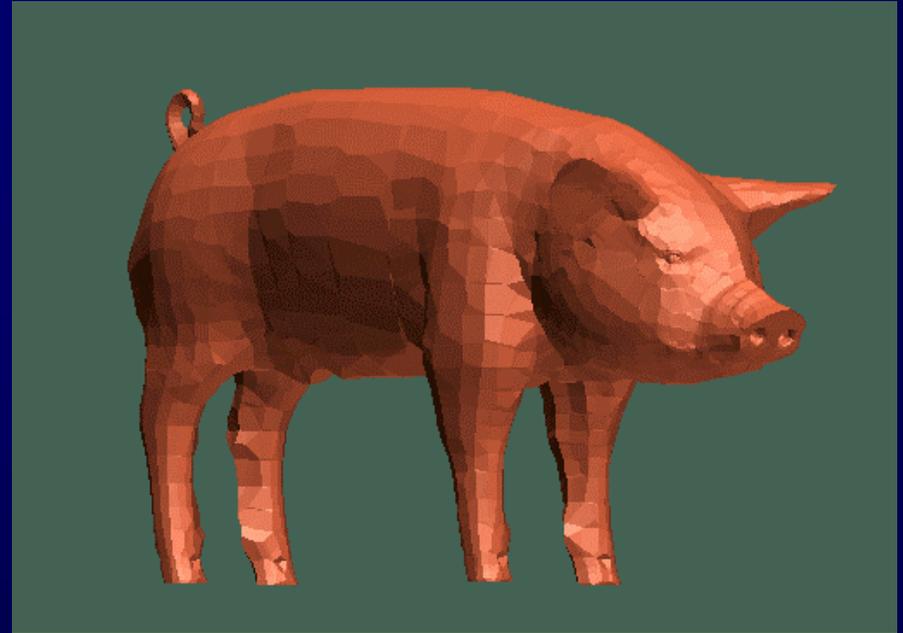
# Shape of a Point Set



# Surface Reconstruction



Input: *Samples*  
from object  
surface.



Output: Polygonal  
model.

# Point Set Capture



Cyberware model 15



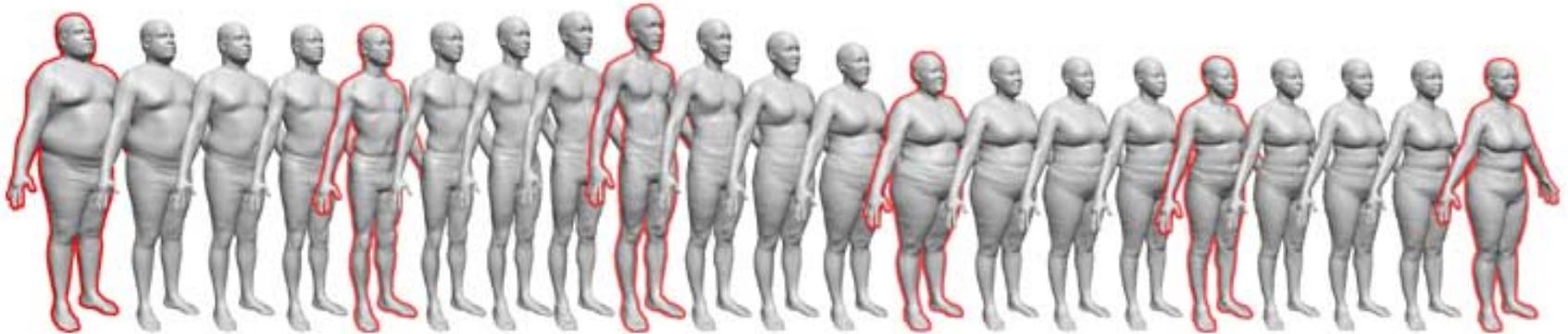
Point Grey Bumblebee

# Applications



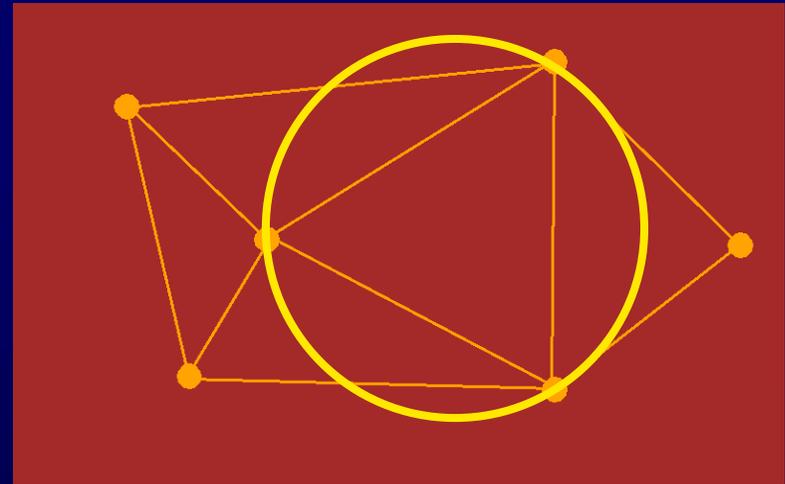
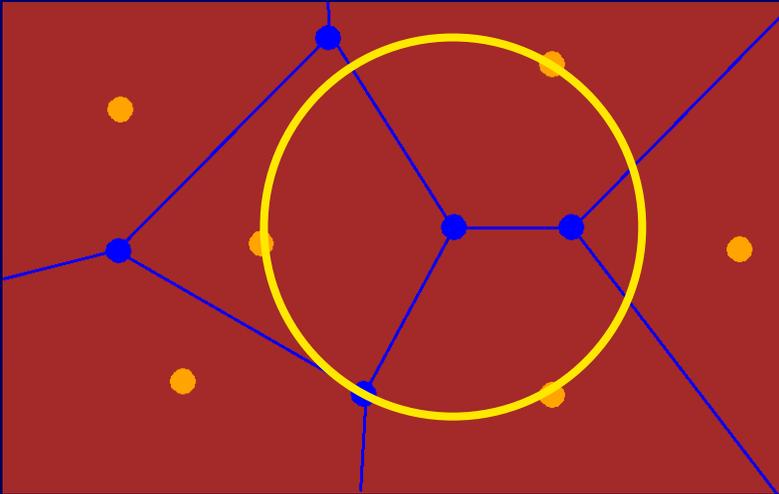
Delson et al, AMNH

Levoy et al,  
Stanford



Allen, Curless, Popovic, U Wash.

# Voronoi/Delaunay Structure

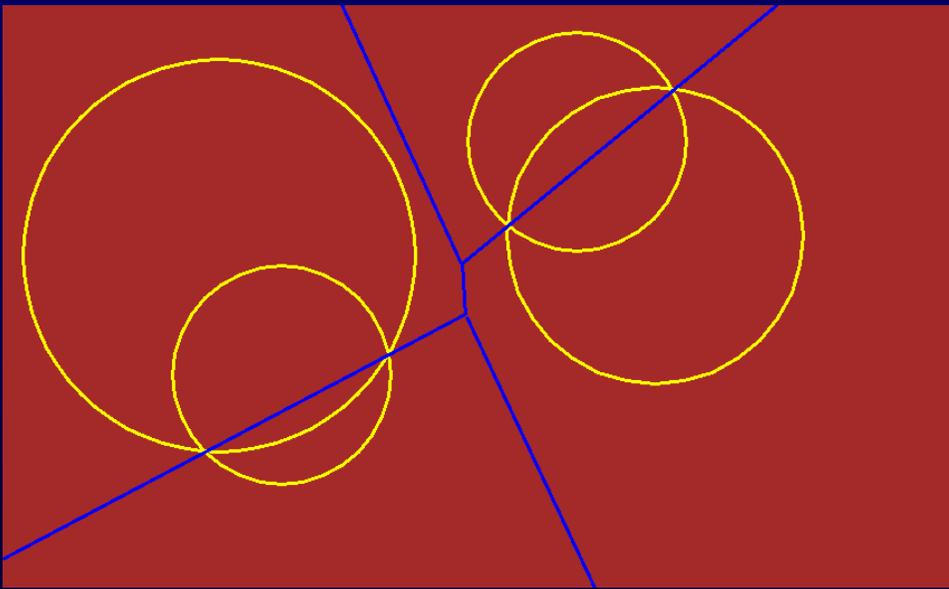


Voronoi ball ~  
Voronoi vertex ~  
Delaunay simplex

# Power Diagram

Weighted Voronoi diagram. Input: balls.

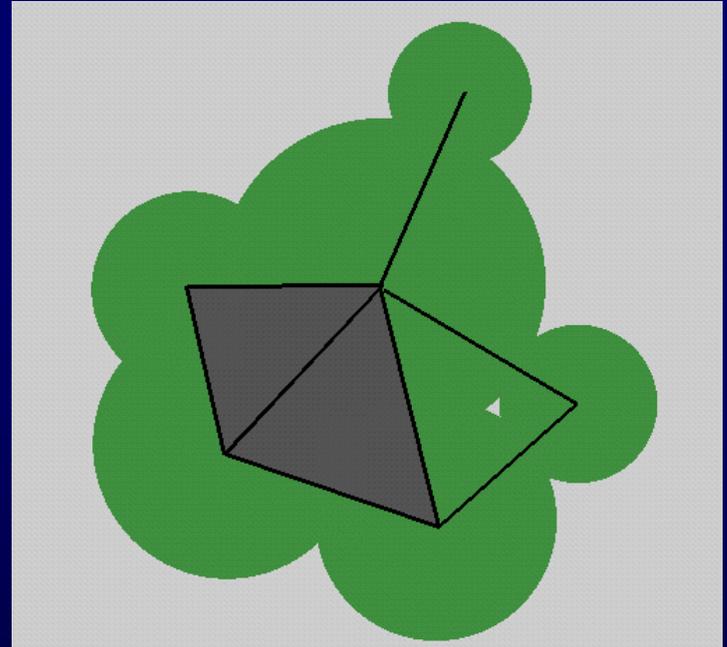
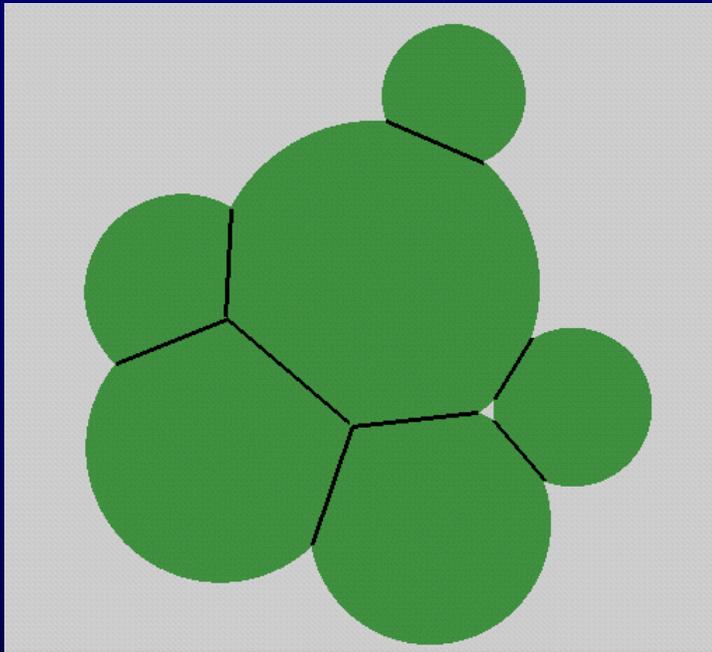
$$\text{Dist}(x, \text{ball}) = \text{dist}^2(x, \text{center}) - \text{radius}^2$$



Dual of regular triangulation.

Polyhedral cells,  
same algorithms  
(lift to convex  
hull)

# Alpha-shapes



Weighted Delaunay (regular triangulation)  
edges dual to weighted Voronoi edges  
intersecting union of balls.

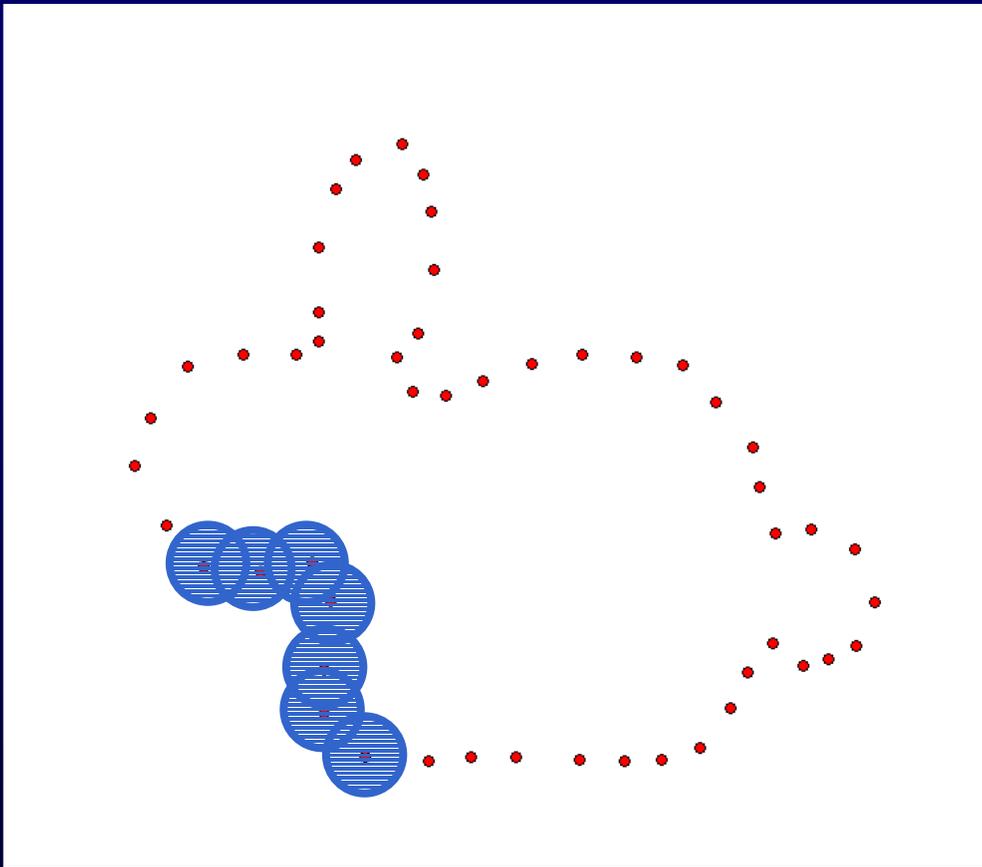
# Alpha-shapes

Edelsbrunner, Kirkpatrick, Seidel, 83

Edelsbrunner, 93: Alpha shape is homotopy equivalent to union of balls, close correspondence with union structure.

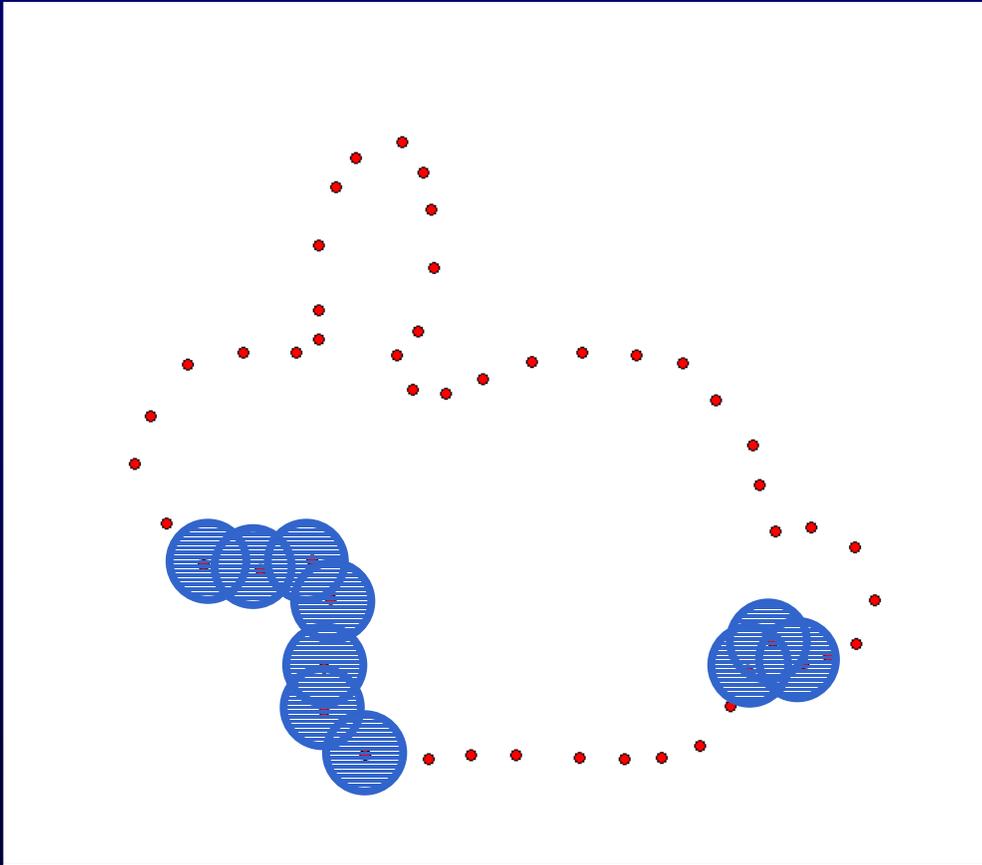
Edelsbrunner & Muecke, 94: 3D surface reconstruction.

# Alpha-shape reconstruction



Put small ball  
around each  
sample,  
compute  
alpha-shape.

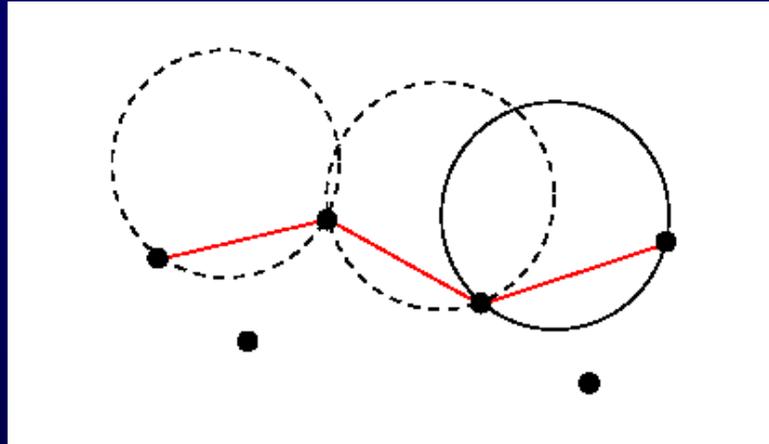
# Difficulty



Usually no  
ideal choice  
of radius.

# Ball-pivoting

Bernardini et al, IBM

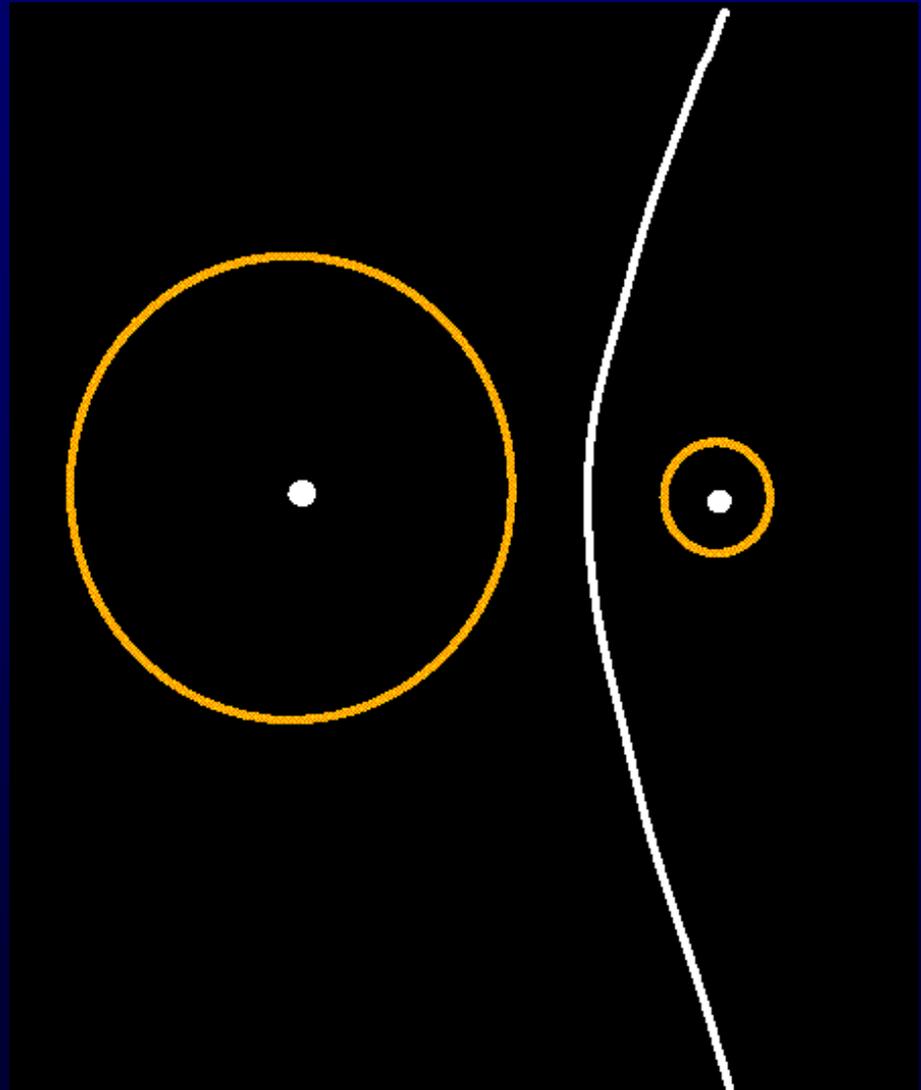


Fixed-radius ball "rolling" over points selects subset of alpha-shape.



# Medial Axis

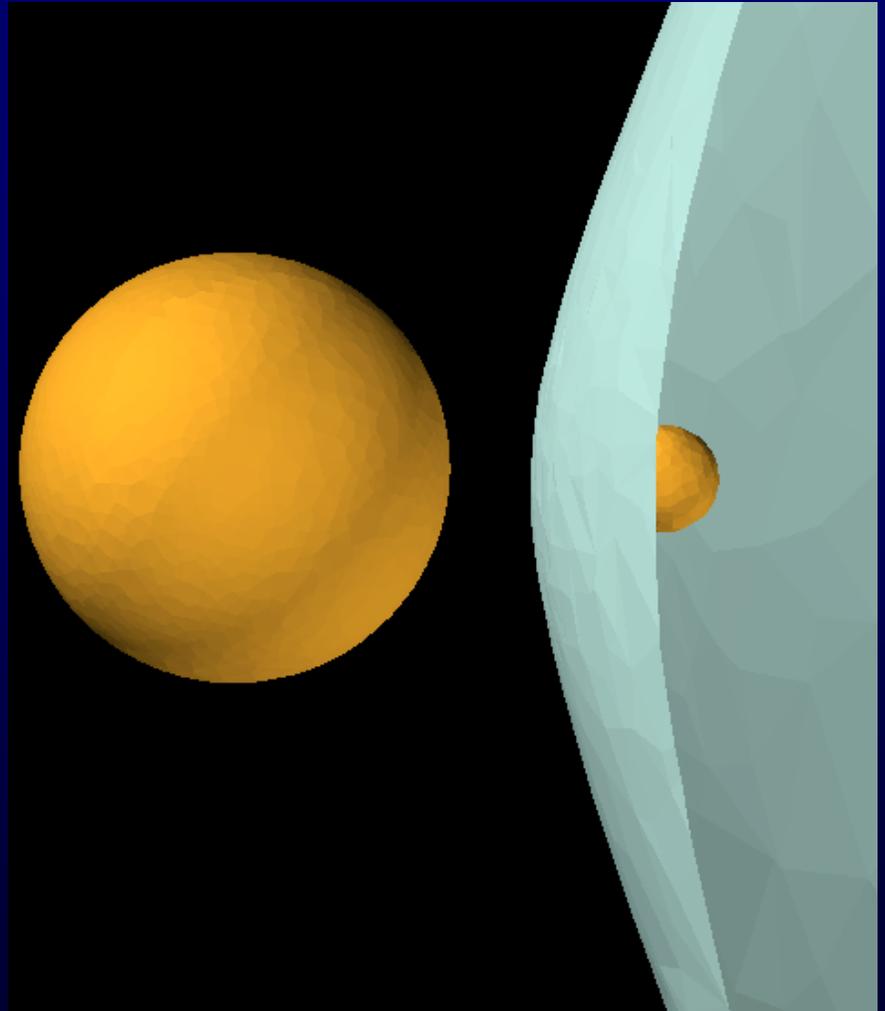
**Medial axis** is set of points with more than one closest surface point.



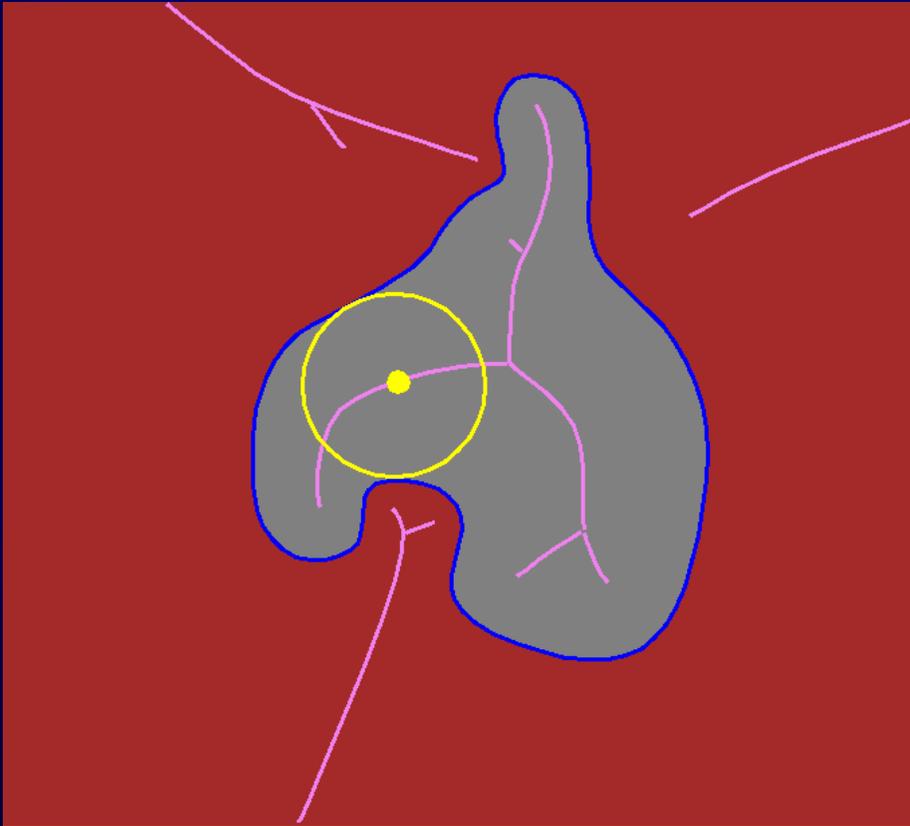
Blum, 67

# 3D Medial Axis

Medial axis of a surface forms a dual surface.



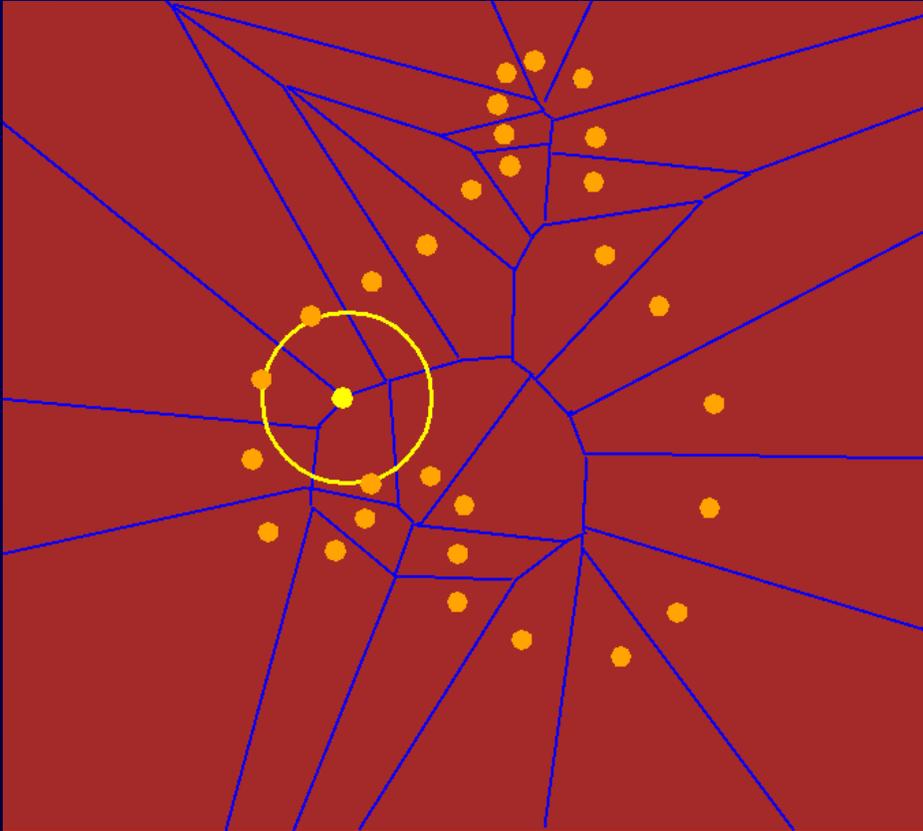
# Medial Axis



Maximal ball  
avoiding surface  
is a **medial ball**.

Every solid is a  
union of balls !

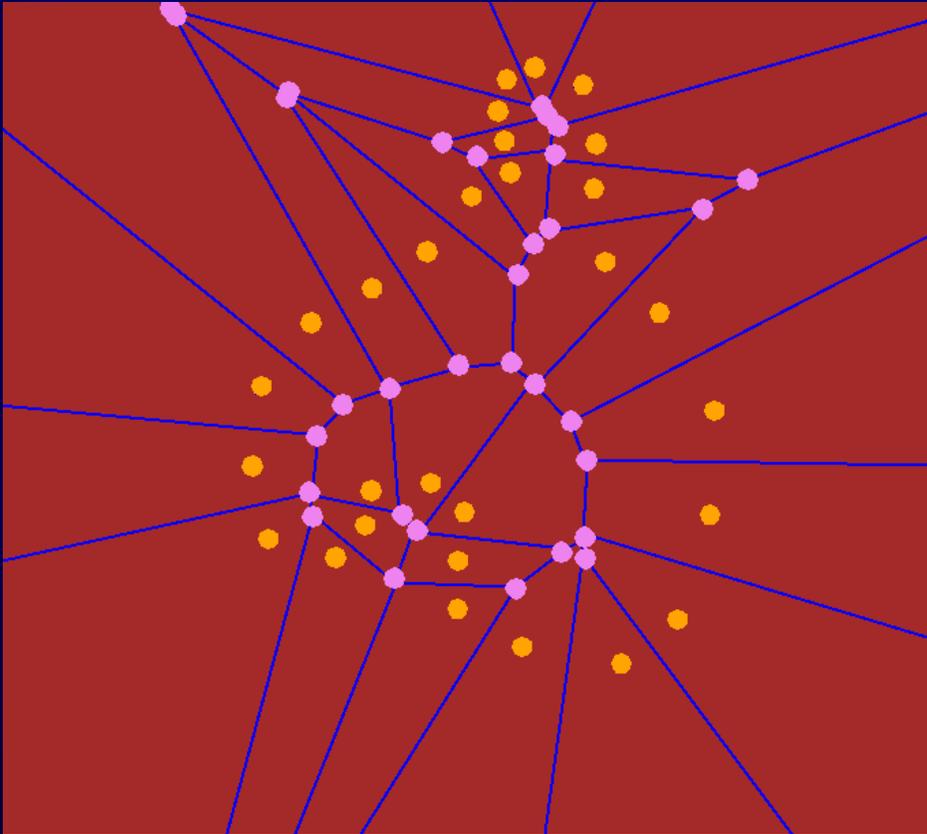
# Relation to Voronoi



Voronoi balls approximate medial balls.

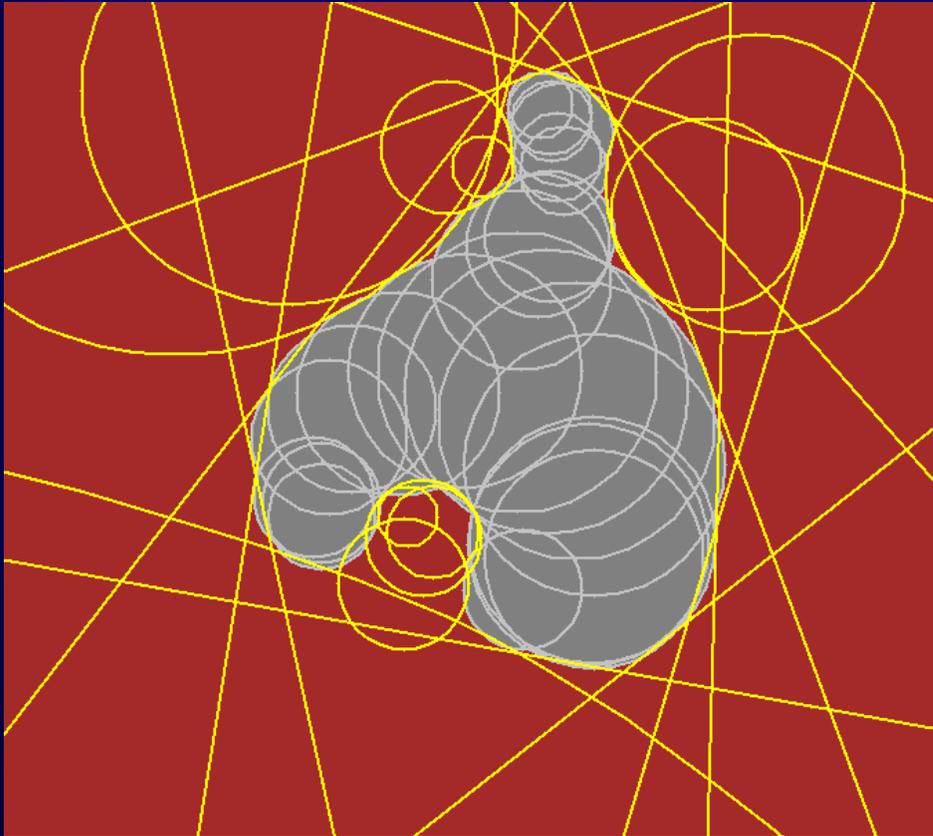
For dense surface samples in 2D, all Voronoi vertices lie near medial axis.

# Convergence



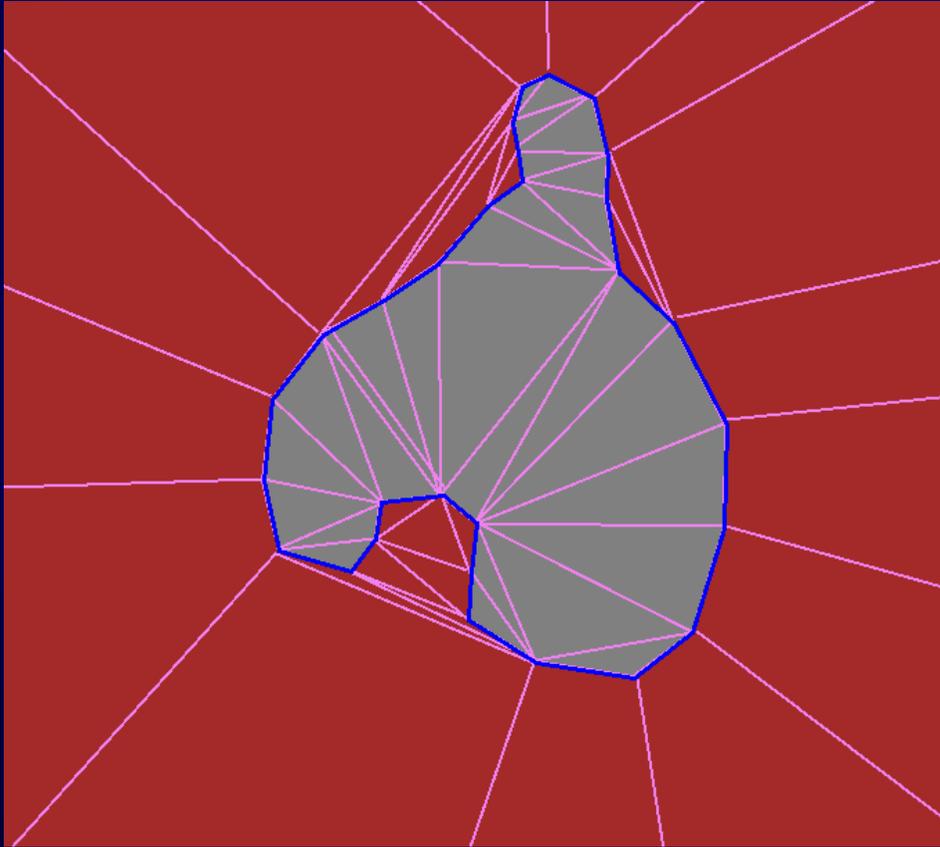
In 2D, set of Voronoi vertices converges to the medial axis as sampling density increases.

# Discrete unions of balls



Voronoi balls  
approximate the  
object and its  
complement.

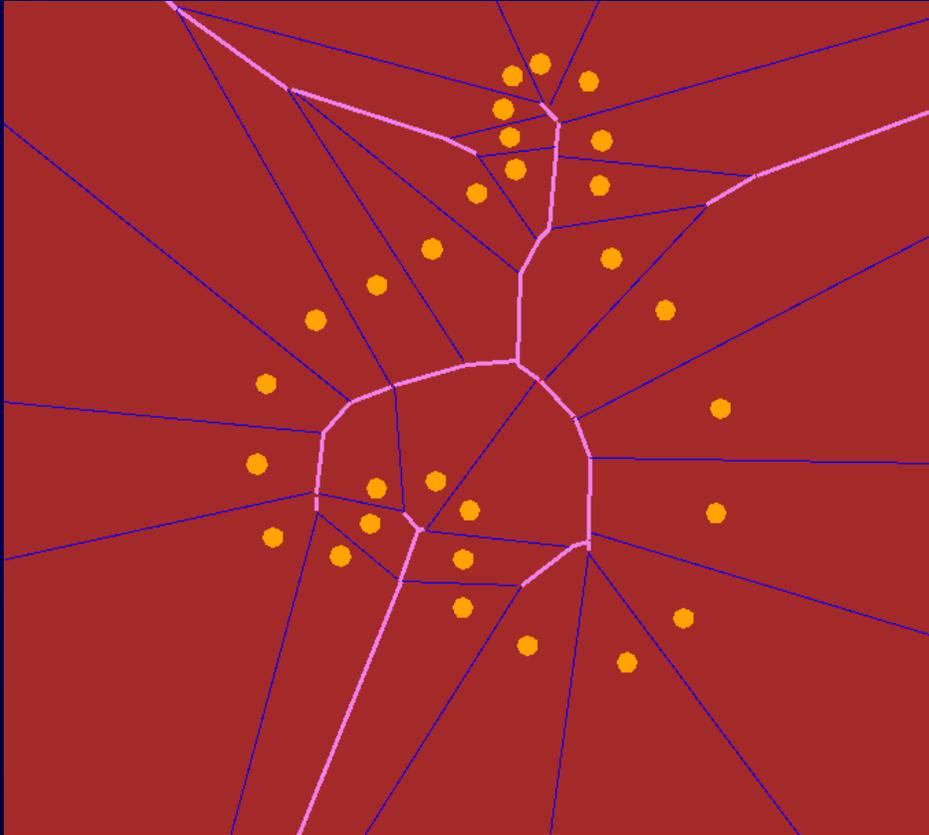
# 2D Curve Reconstruction



Blue Delaunay edges reconstruct the curve, pink triangulate interior/exterior.

Many algorithms, with proofs, for coloring edges.

# 2D Medial Reconstruction



Pink approximate medial axis.

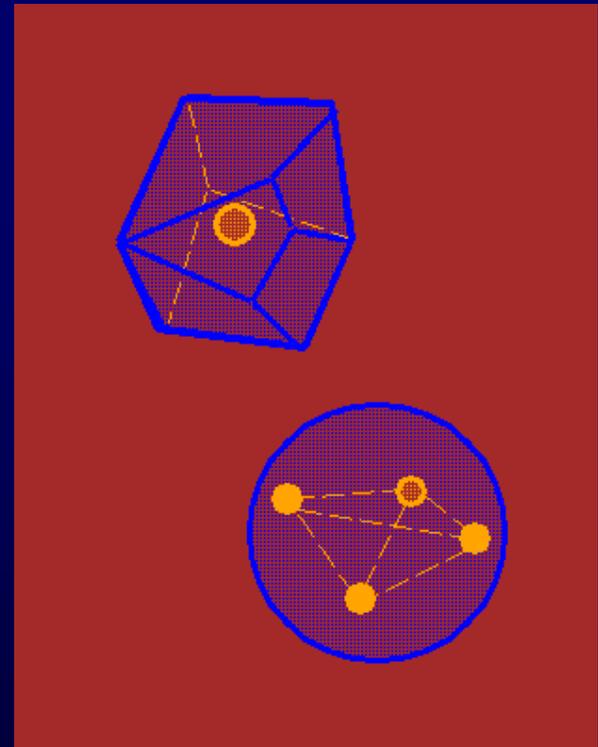
By **nerve theorem**, approximation is homotopy equivalent to object and its complement.

# 3D Voronoi/Delaunay

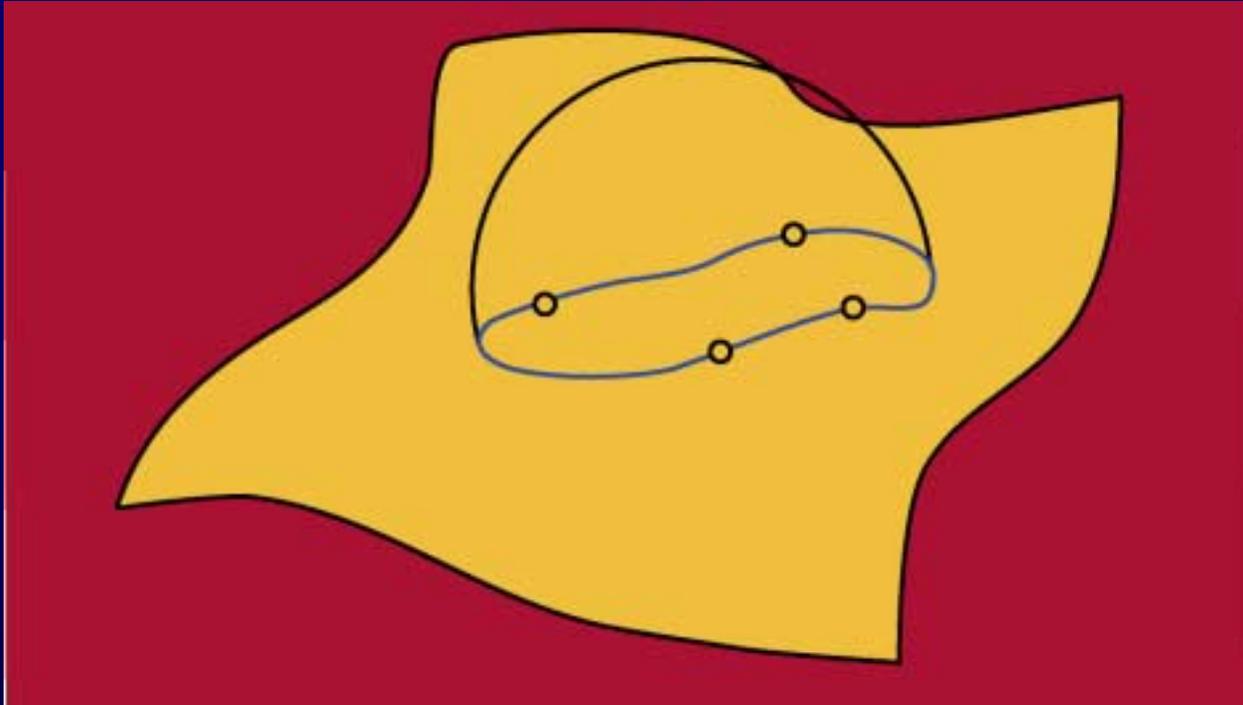
Voronoi cells are convex polyhedra.

Voronoi balls pass through 4 samples.

Delaunay tetrahedra.

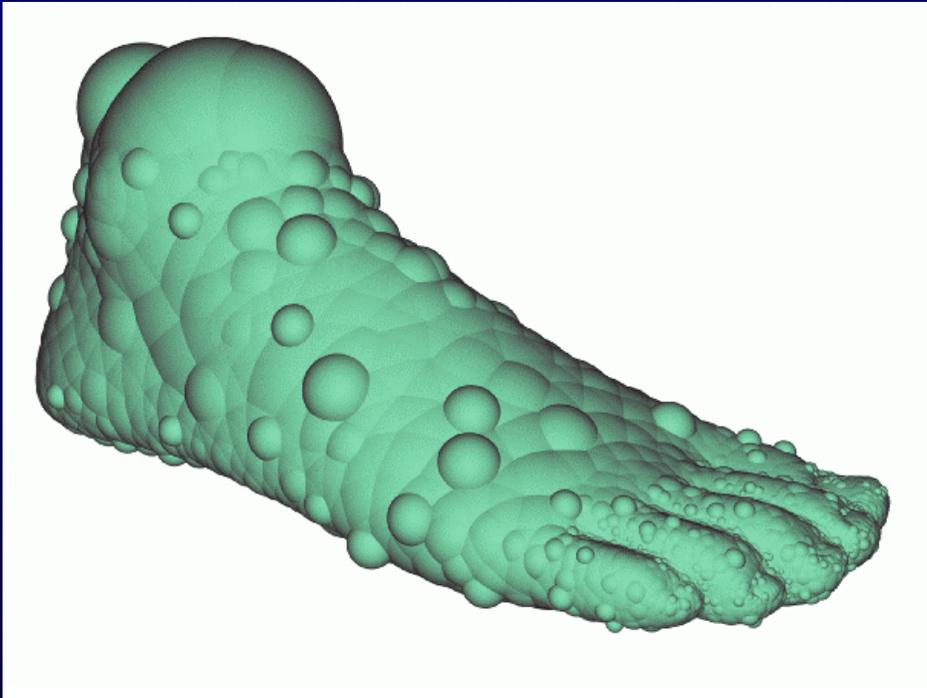


# Sliver tetrahedra



In 3D, some Voronoi vertices are **not** near medial axis ...

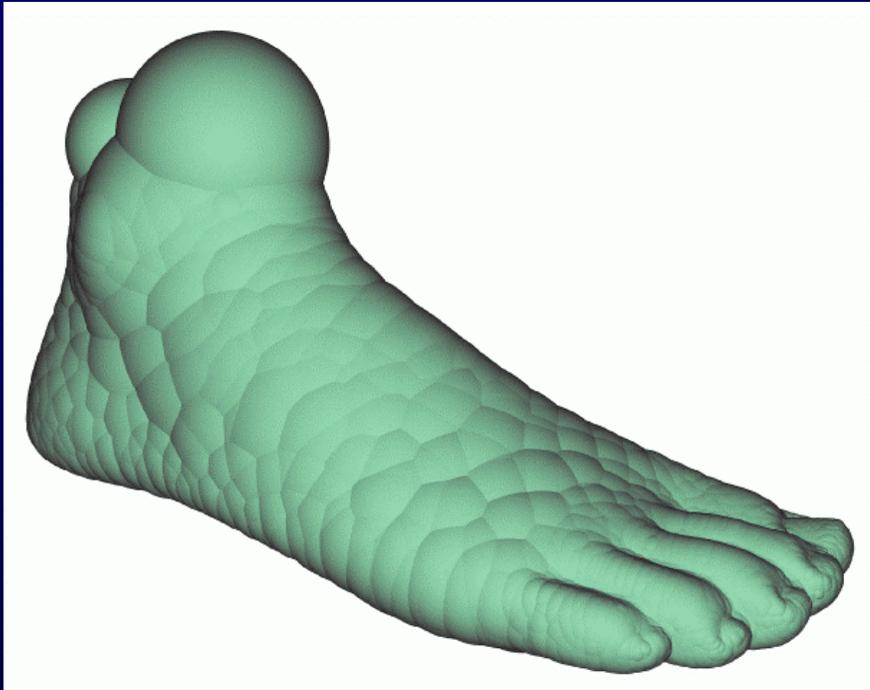
# Sliver tetrahedra



.... even when  
samples are  
arbitrarily  
dense.

Interior Voronoi  
balls

# Poles



Interior *polar* balls

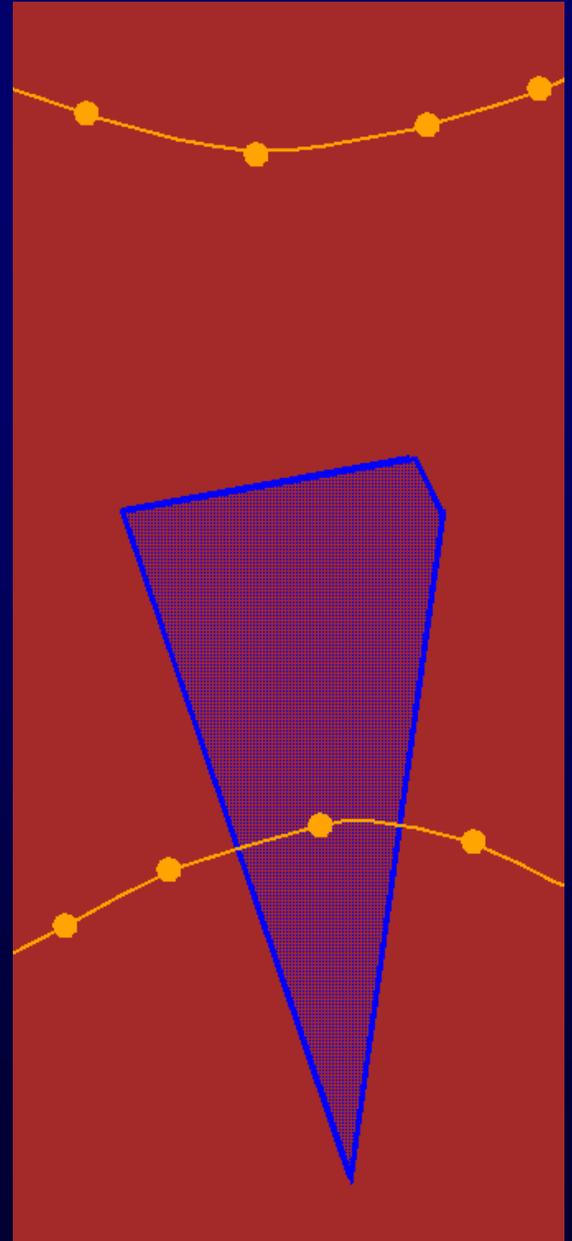
Subset of Voronoi vertices, the **poles**, approximate medial axis.

Amenta & Bern, 98  
"Crust" papers

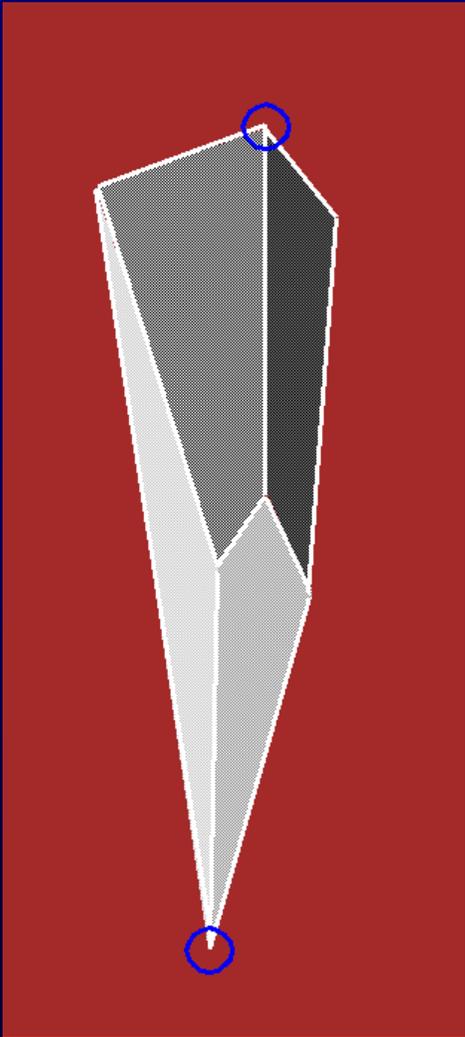
# Poles

For dense surface samples, Voronoi cells are:

- long and skinny,
- perpendicular to surface,
- with ends near the medial axis.



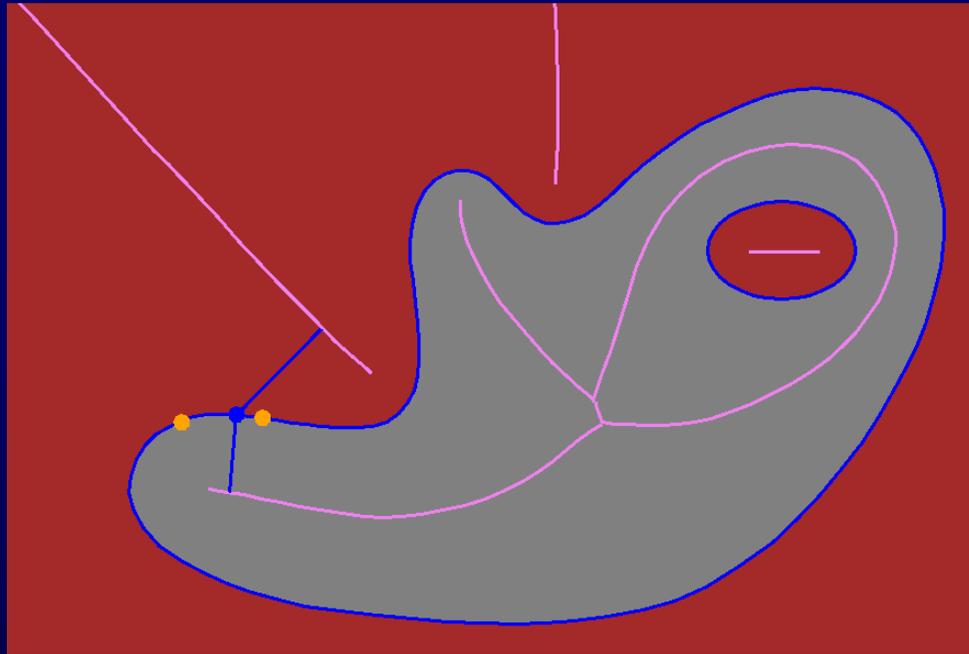
# Poles



**Poles** are Voronoi vertices at opposite ends.

To find: farthest Voronoi vertex from sample, farthest on opposite side.

# Sampling Requirement

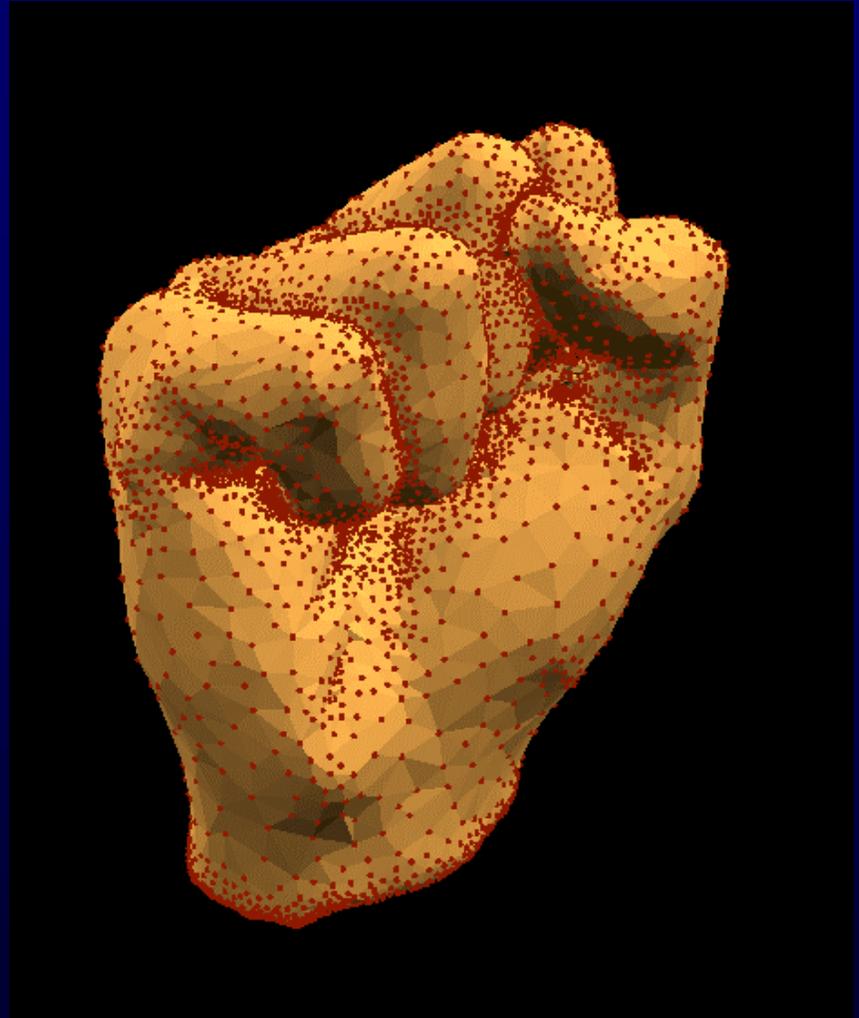


**$\epsilon$ -sample:** distance from any surface point to nearest sample is at most small constant  $\epsilon$  times distance to medial axis.

Note: surface has to be smooth.

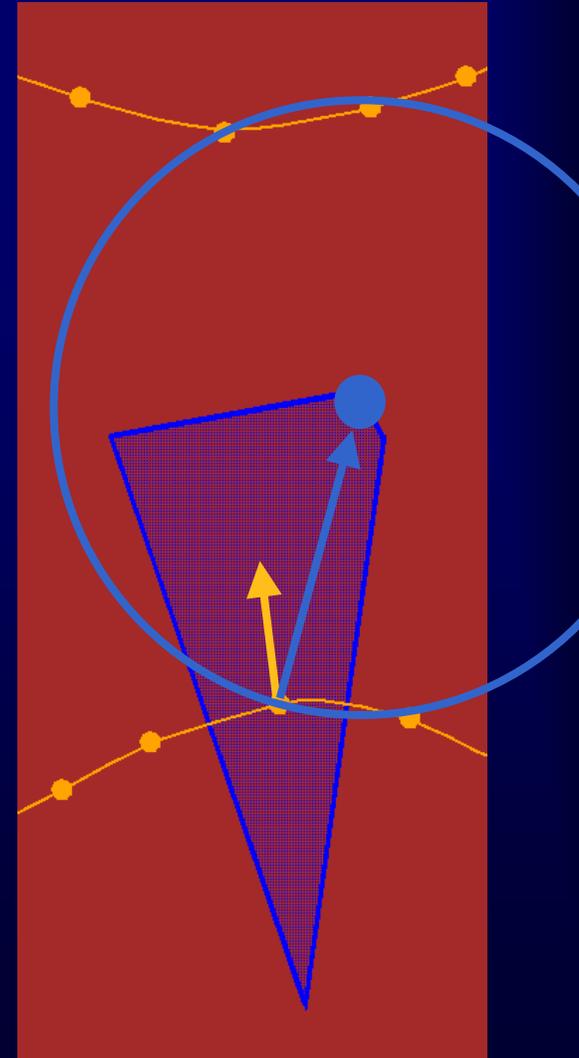
# Sampling Requirement

Intuition: dense sampling where curvature is high or near features.



# Large balls tangent

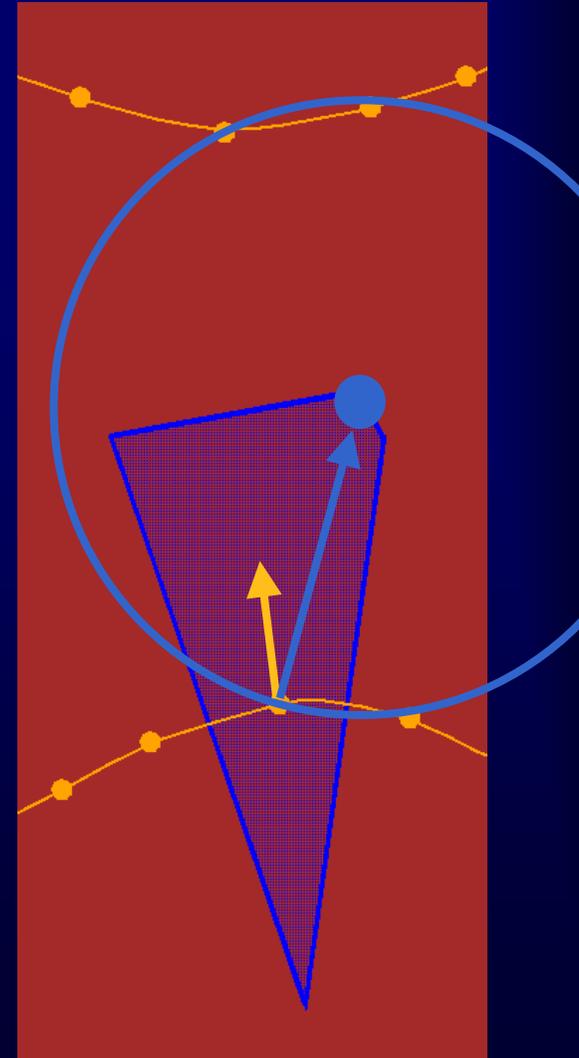
Any large ball (with respect to distance to medial axis) touching sample  $s$  has to be nearly tangent to the surface at  $s$ .



# Specifically

Given an  $\epsilon$ -sample from a surface  $F$ :

Angle between normal to  $F$  at sample  $s$  and vector from  $s$  to either pole =  $O(\epsilon)$



# Results

Look for algorithms where....

Input:  $\varepsilon$ -sample from surface  $G$

Output: PL-surface,

- near  $G$ , converges
- normals near  $G$ , converge
- PL manifold
- homeomorphic to  $G$

# Formal Algorithms

Amenta and Bern, crust

Amenta, Choi, Dey and Leekha, co-cone

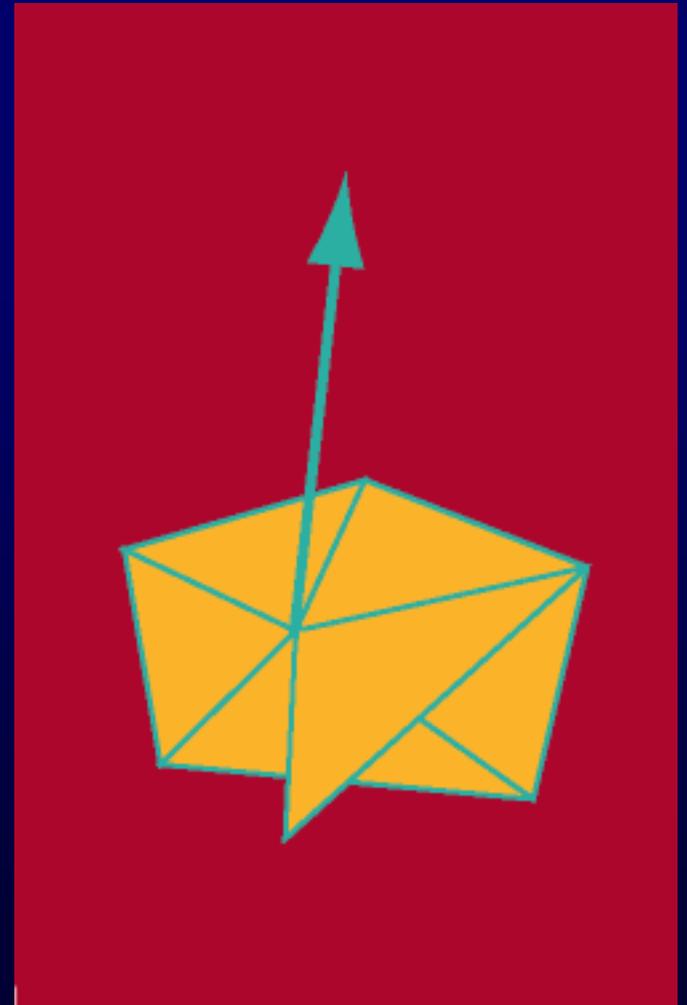
Boissonnat and Cazals, natural neighbor

Amenta, Choi and Kolluri, power crust

# Co-cone

Estimate normals,  
choose candidate  
triangles with good  
normals at each  
vertex.

Extract manifold  
from candidates.



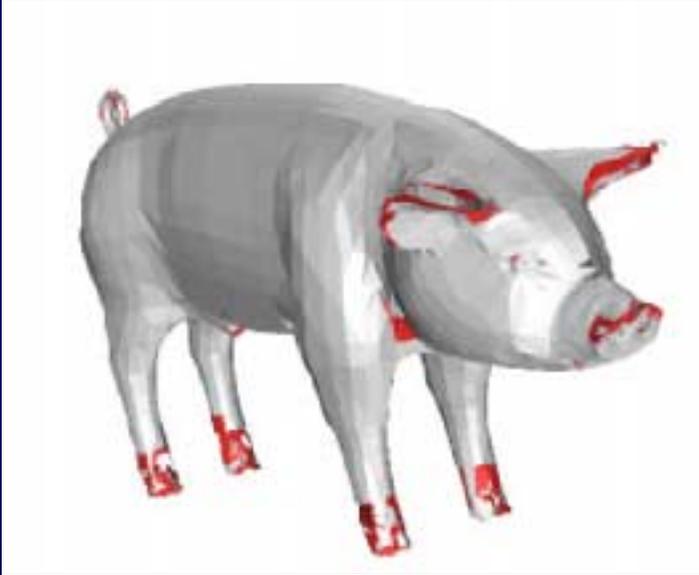
# Co-cone



Works well on  
clean data from  
a closed surface.

Amenta, Choi, Dey, Leekha  
2000

# Co-cone extensions

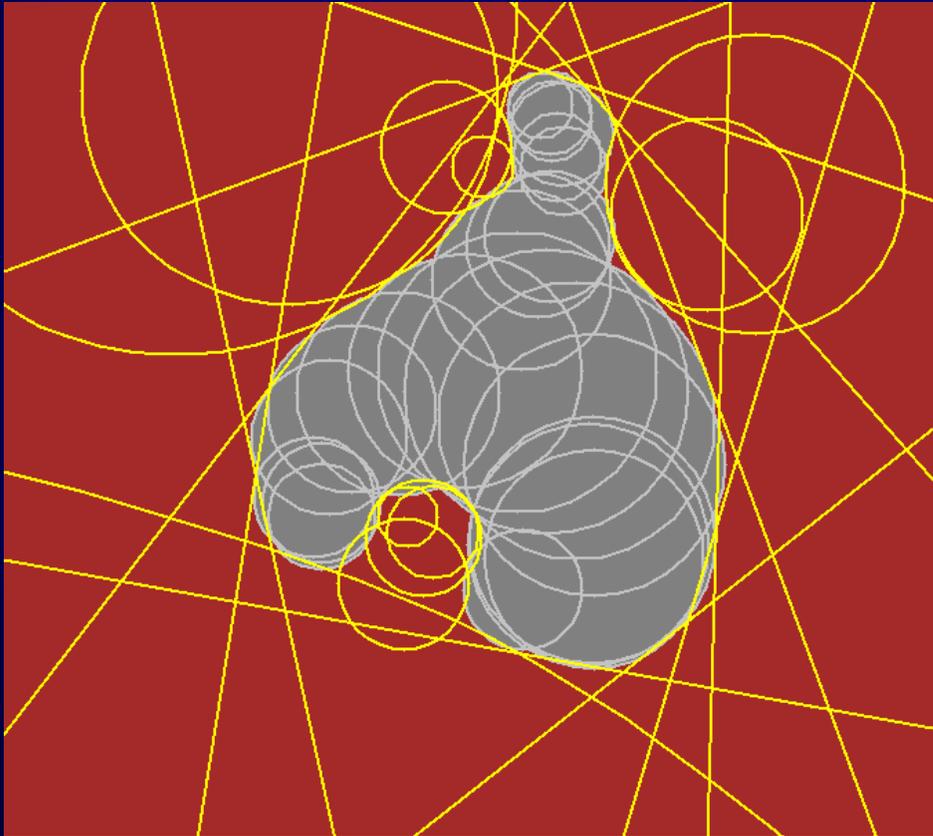


Dey & Giesen,  
undersampling errors.

Dey & Goswami,  
hole-filling.

Dey, Giesen & Hudson, divide and conquer  
for large data.

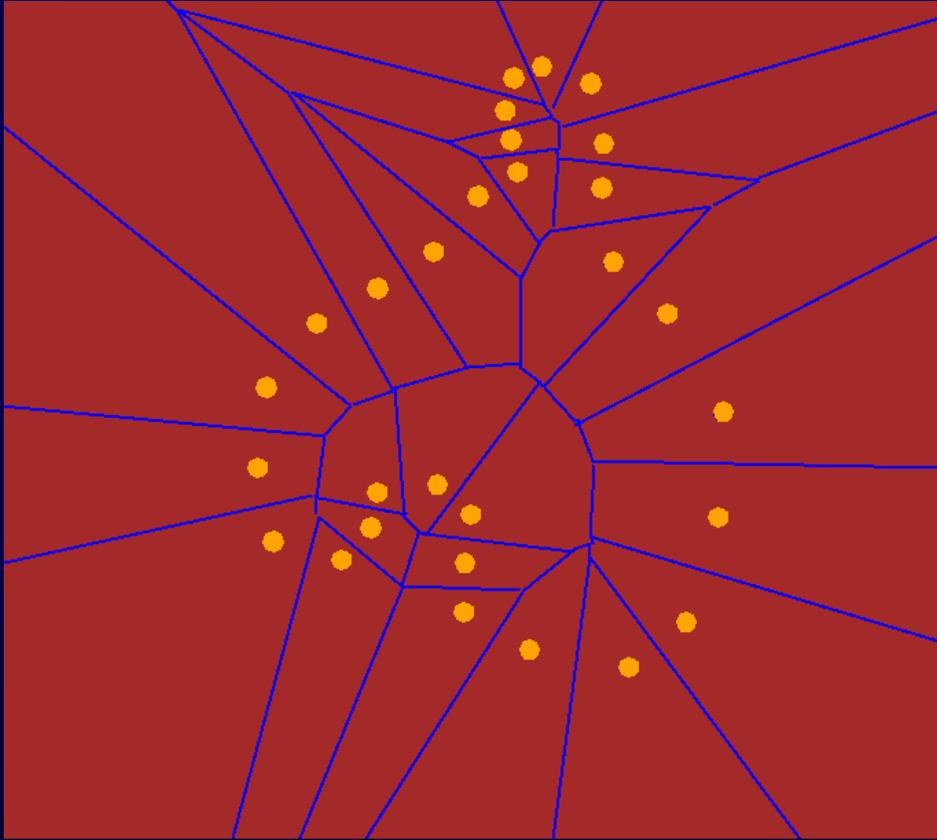
# Power Crust



Amenta, Choi and  
Kolluri, 01

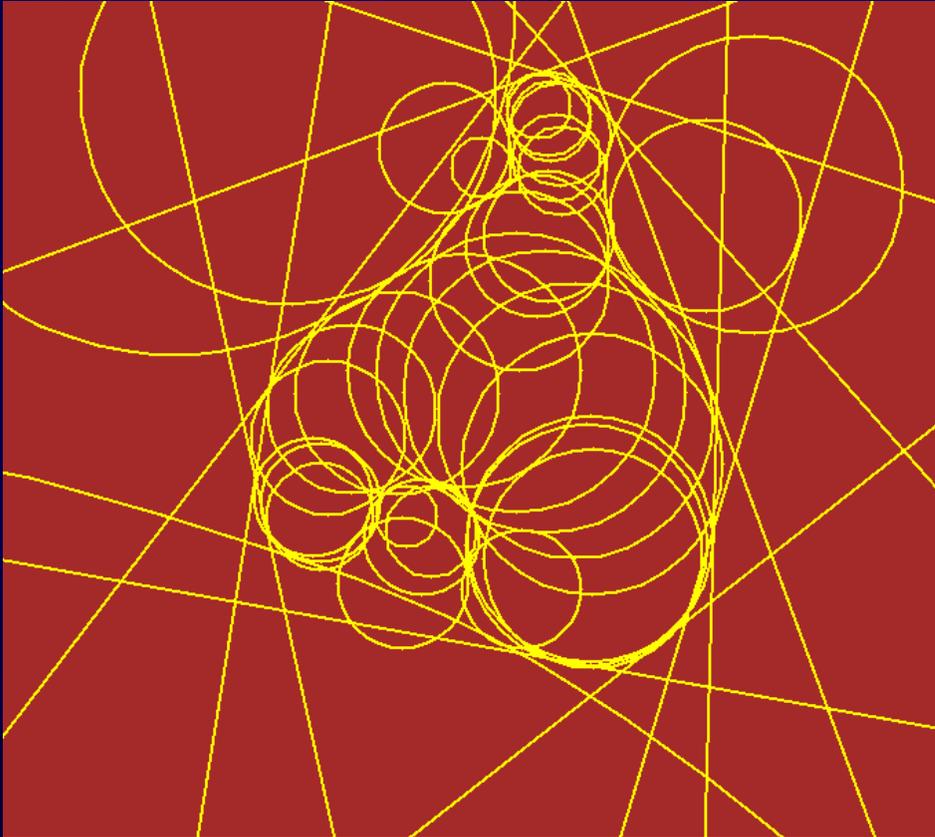
Idea: Approximate  
object as union of  
balls, compute  
polygonal surface  
from balls.

# Power Crust



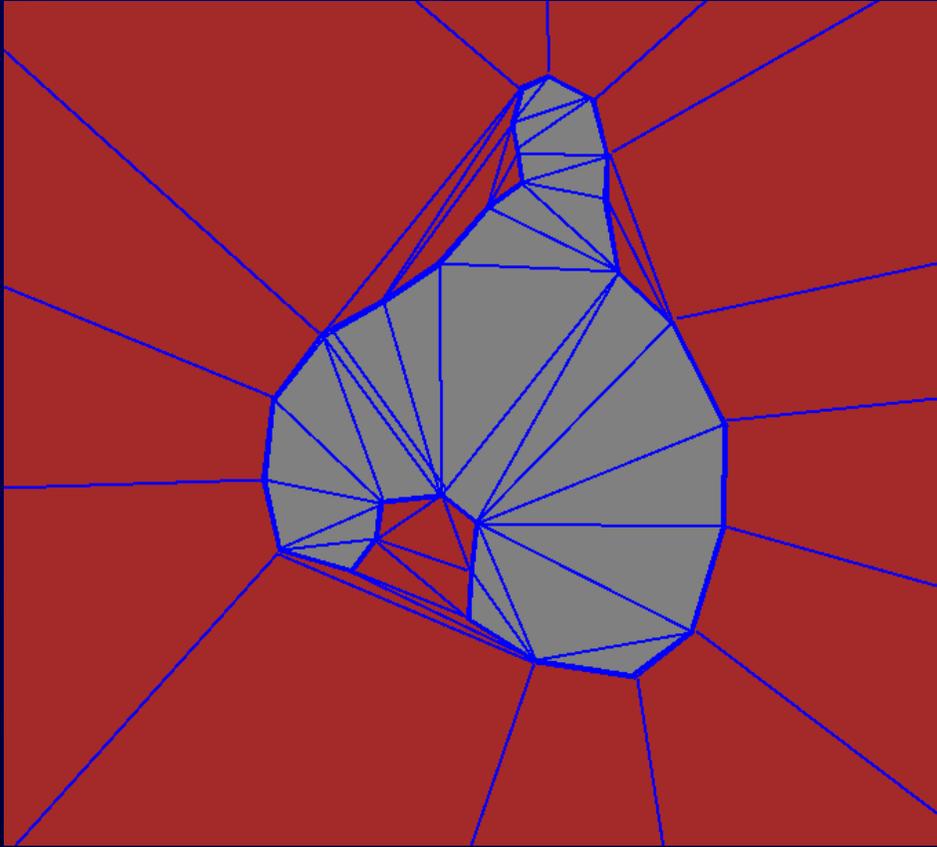
Start with all poles.

# Power Crust



Compute polygonal decomposition using power diagram.

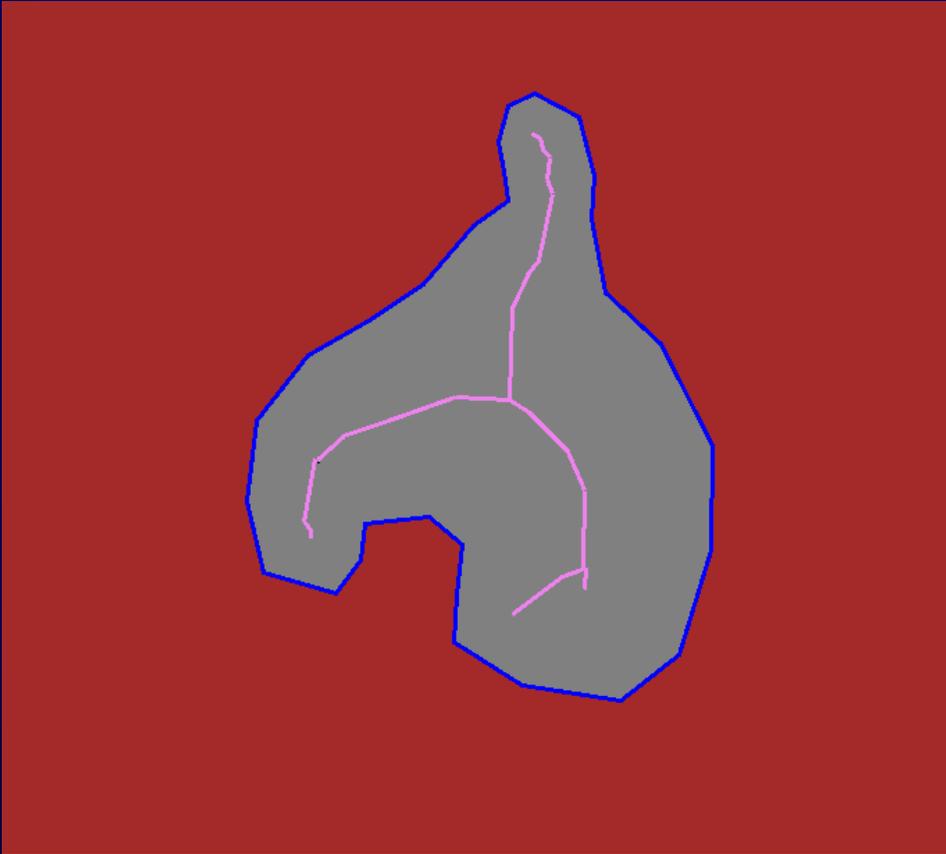
# Power Crust



Label power diagram cells **inside** or **outside** object (skipping details).

Inside cells form polyhedral solid.

# Power Crust



Boundary of solid gives output surface.

Connect inner poles with adjacent power diagram cells for approximate medial axis.

# Example



Laser range data, power crust, simplified approximate medial axis.

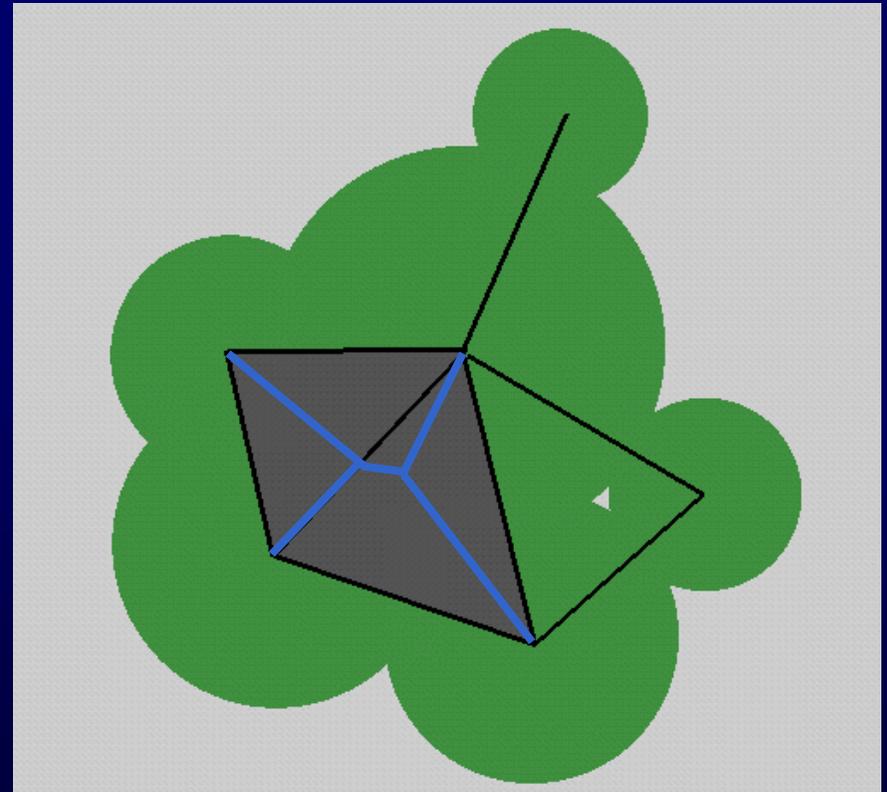
# Medial axis approximation

Dey & Zhao, 02  
Voronoi diagram  
far from surface.



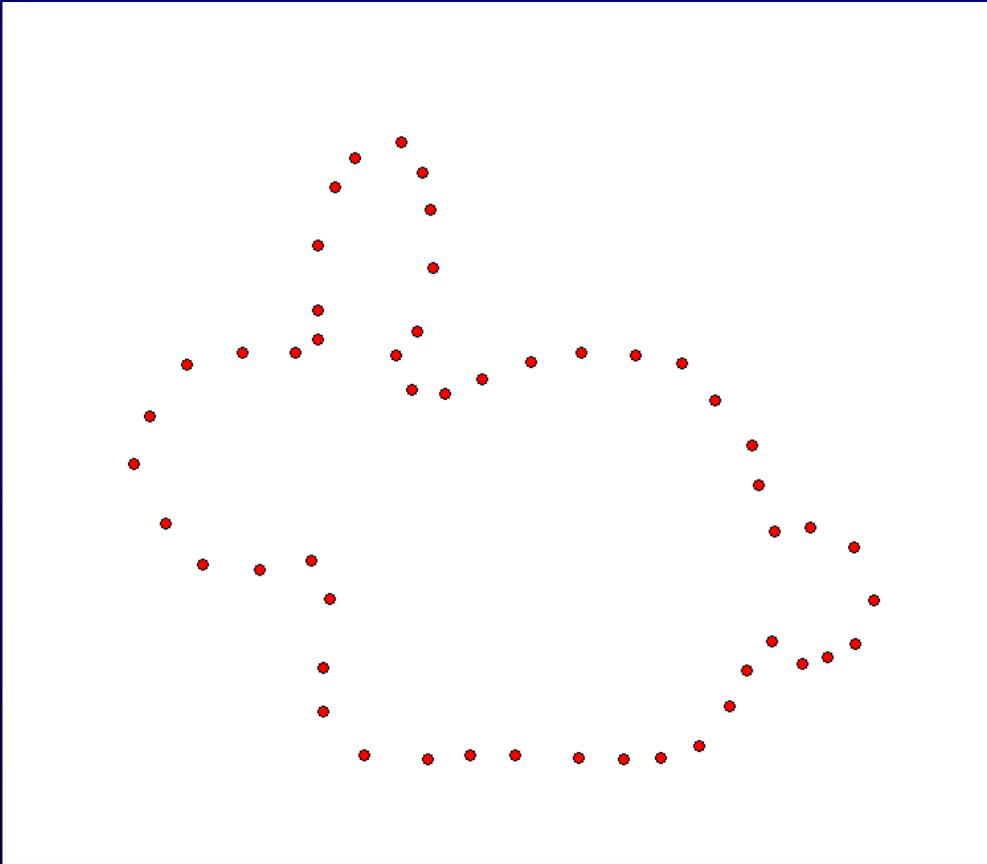
# Medial axis approximation

Medial axis of union of balls = lower dimensional parts of alpha shape + intersection with Voronoi diagram of union vertices.



Attali & Montanvert, 97, A & Kolluri, 01

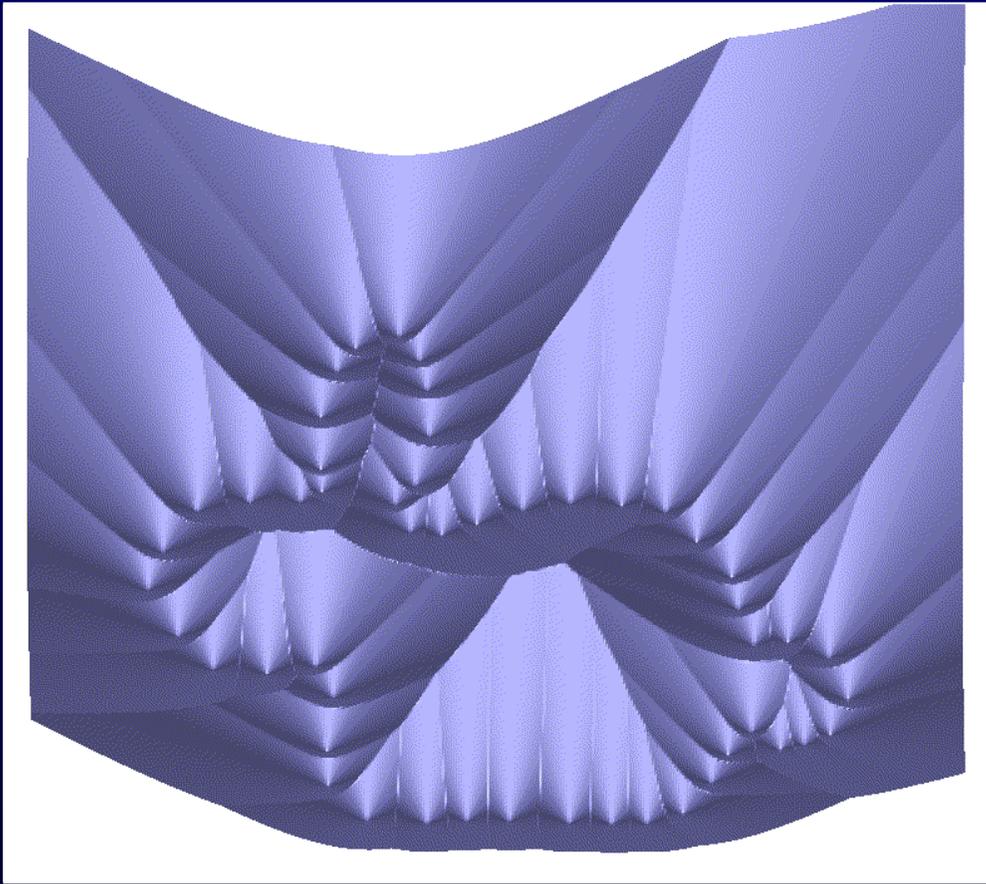
# Distance function



Giesen and John,  
01,02

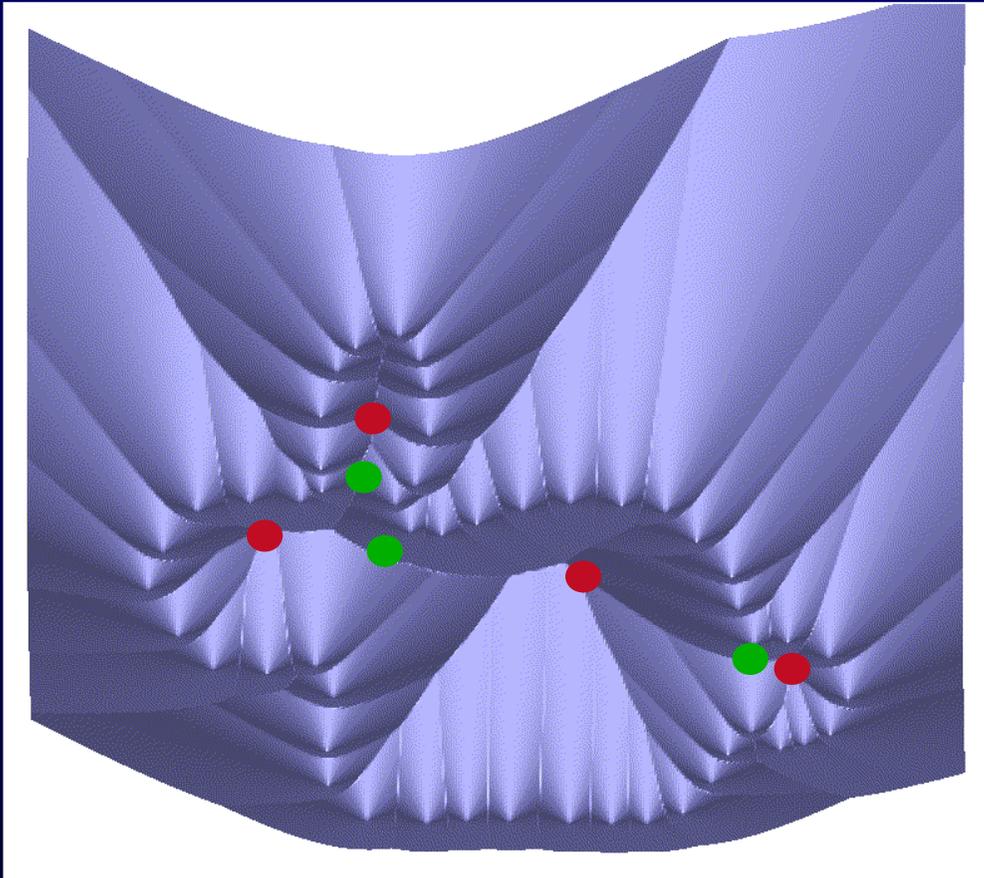
Distance from  
nearest sample.

# Distance function



Consider uphill flow .... Idea: interior is part that flows to interior maxima.

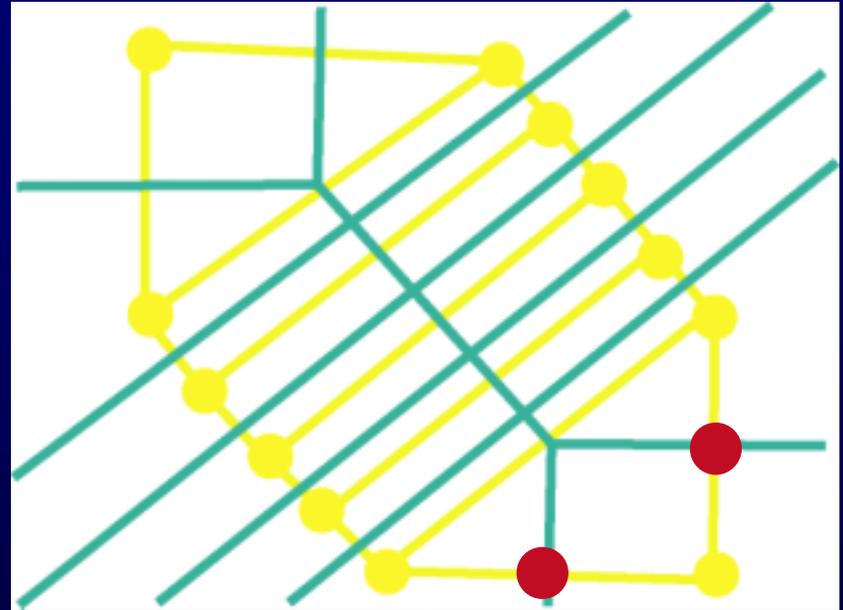
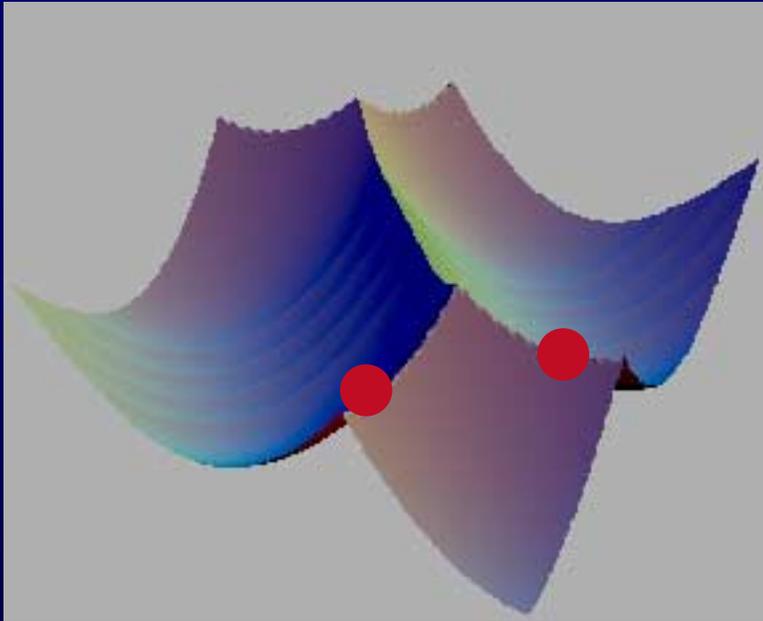
# Distance function



Compute flow  
combinatorially  
using  
Delaunay/Voronoi

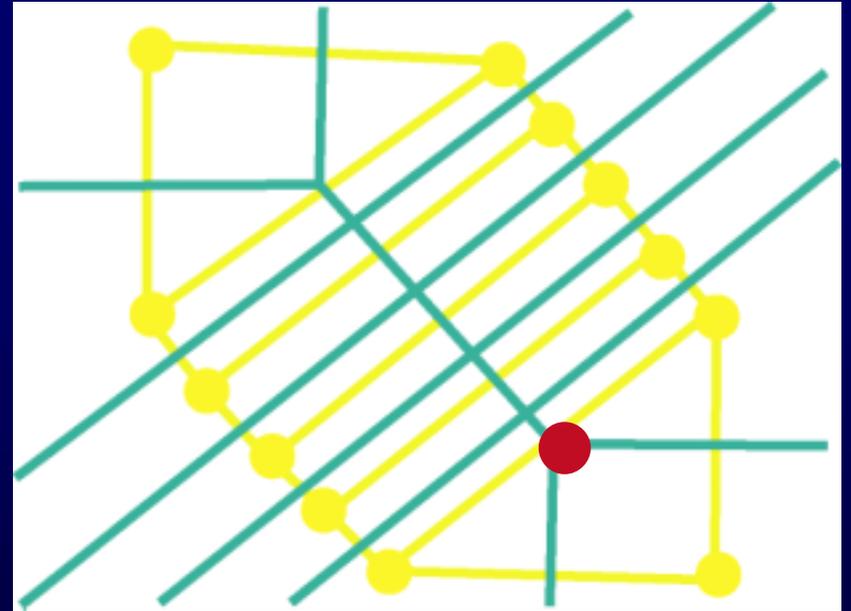
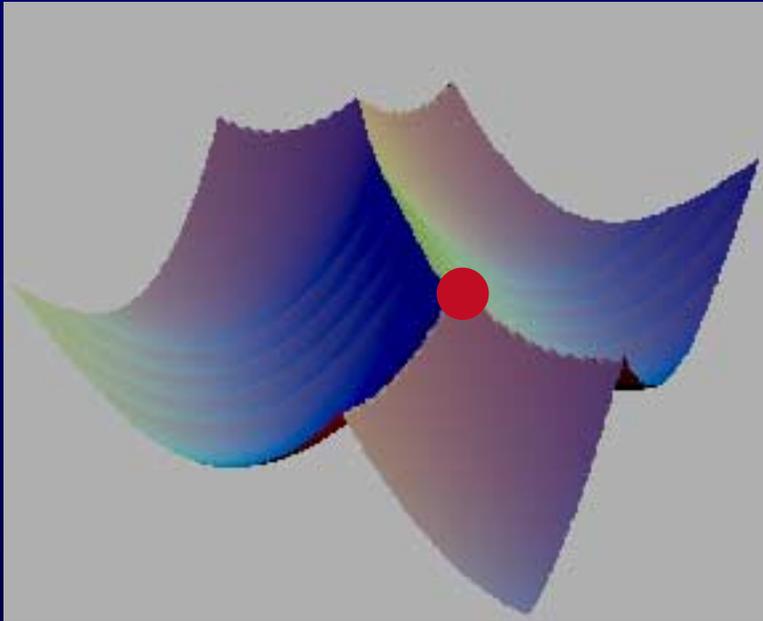
Max and (some) saddle points.

# Distance function structure



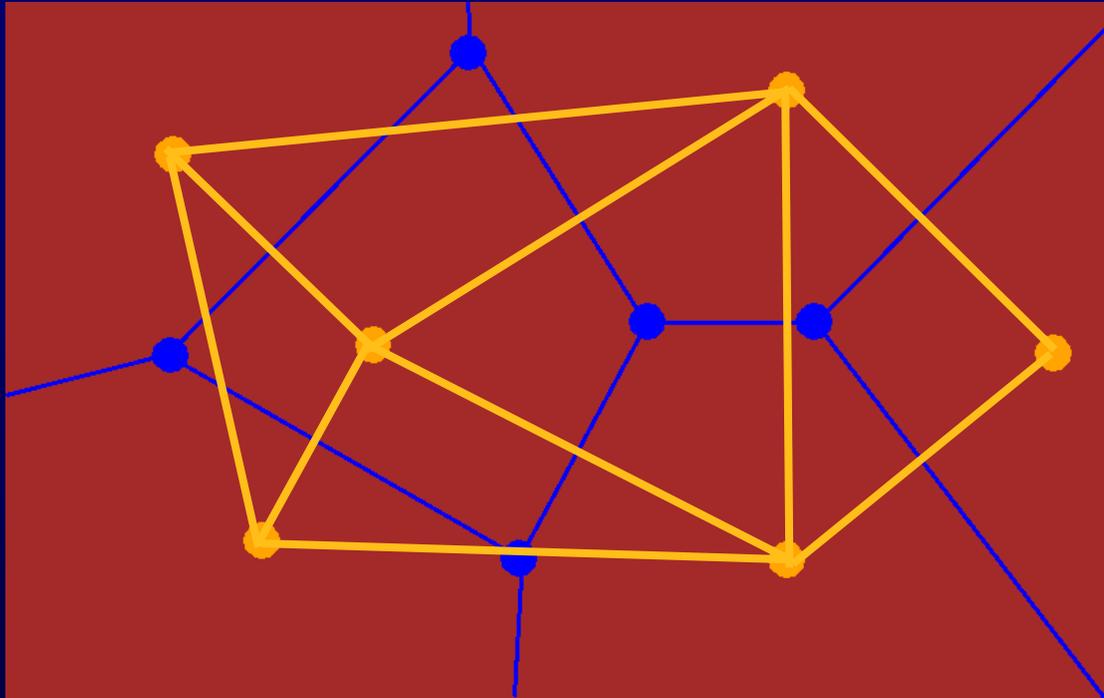
Critical points where dual Delaunay and Voronoi faces intersect.

# Distance function structure



Critical points where dual Delaunay and Voronoi faces intersect.

# Not all pairs are critical



# Wrap

Edelsbrunner - (95), Wrap, to appear....



The screenshot shows the Geomagic Studio website. At the top left is the logo "raindrop geomagic". Below it is a navigation menu with links for "Products", "Services", "Customer Success", "Purchase", "News & Events", and "Company". A secondary menu includes "home", "contact", "search", "sitemap", and "print page". The main content area features a large banner for "geomagic studio" with a 3D model of a hand and a CD-ROM. A dropdown menu is set to "STUDIO". Below the banner are navigation links: "Overview", "Features", "Benefits", "Specifications", "Product Demo", and "Product Sheet PDF". The main text reads: "The world's preferred reverse engineering software suite. Geomagic Studio automatically generates an accurate digital model from any physical part. The world's most recommended software suite for reverse engineering, Geomagic Studio is also ideal for emerging applications such as mass production of customized devices, build-to-order manufacturing and prototyping." To the right of the text are two images: "Physical Part" showing a 3D model of a mechanical part, and another image showing a 3D model of a gear.

Product!  
Based on  
similar  
flow idea.

# Running time

All  $O(n^2)$  because of complexity of 3D Delaunay triangulation. Practically, Delaunay is bottleneck.

Avoid Delaunay:

Bernardini et al. ball-pivoting.

Funke & Ramos, 01  $O(n \lg n)$  reconstruction algorithm, using **well-separated pair** decomposition.

# Tomorrow

Maybe Delaunay is OK?

Complexity of Delaunay triangulations  
of surface points

Computational issues