



中国科学技术大学

University of Science and Technology of China

计算机图形学

Computer Graphics

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Introduction: Geometric Modeling

- Motivation
- Overview: Topics
- Basic modeling techniques

Geometric Modeling

- Start with a blank screen, design a geometric model
- Challenge: mathematical description of shape information
 - Computer friendly
 - User friendly
- Typical techniques:
 - Spline curves & surfaces
 - Constructive solid geometry (CSG)
 - Subdivision surfaces

Geometric Modeling



Geometric Processing

- A (discrete) sampling of the model is readily available
 - Typically: 3D scanner (point cloud)
- Challenge: make sense of large complex, unstructured data
 - Analyze and edit the geometry
- Typical issues
 - Noise removal, filtering
 - Surface reconstruction
 - Analysis (features, symmetry, hole-filling, etc...)
 - Parameterization (mapping textures)
 - Editing, deforming

Examples

Geometric Modeling

The Modern World...



designed on a computer
(the building)

designed on a computer as well
(the cars)

fortunately, not (yet) designed
on a computer
(the trees)

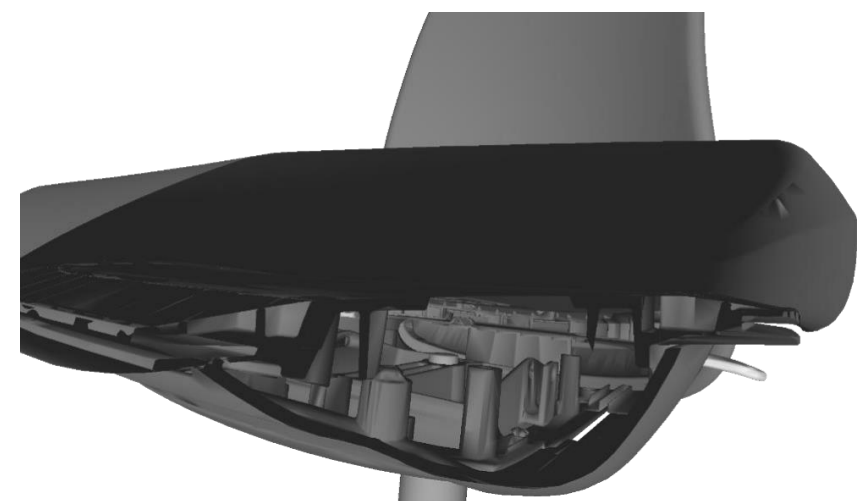
Impact of Geometric Modeling

We live in a world designed using CAD

- Almost any man-made structure designed w/computers
 - Architecture
 - Commodities
 - Bike, car
 - Spline curves inverted in automotive industry
 - Fonts
- Our abilities in geometric modeling shape the world we live in each day

Different Modeling Tasks

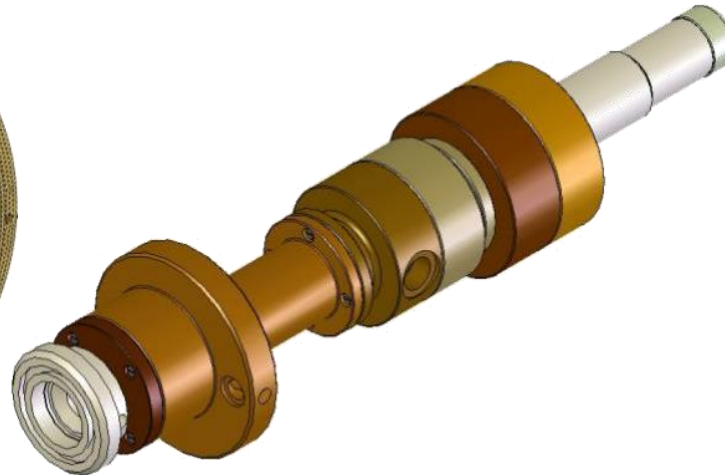
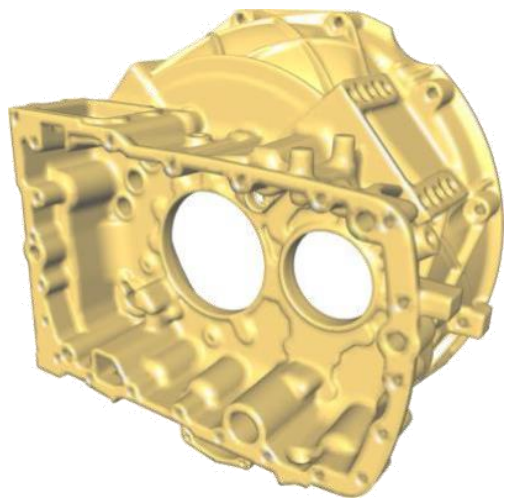
Different requirement for different setups



Different Modeling Needs

CAD / CAM

- Precision Guarantees
- Handle geometric constraints exactly (e.g. exact circles)
- Modeling guided by rules and constraints



Different Modeling Tasks

Photorealistic Rendering

- Has to “look” good
- Ad-hoc techniques are ok
- Using textures & shaders to “fake” details
- More complexity, but less rigorous



[Deussen et al: Realistic modeling and rendering of plant ecosystems, SIGGRAPH 1998]

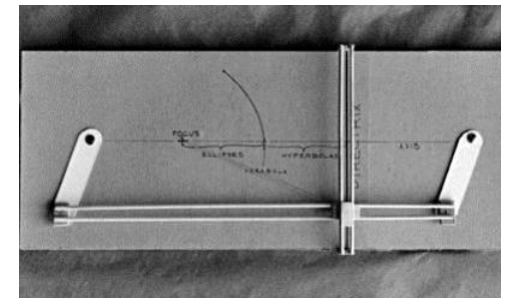
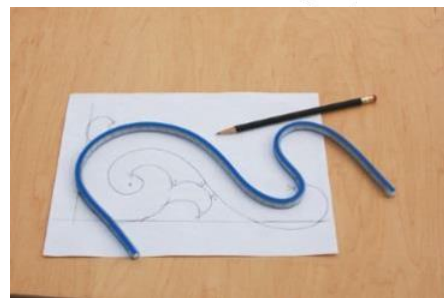
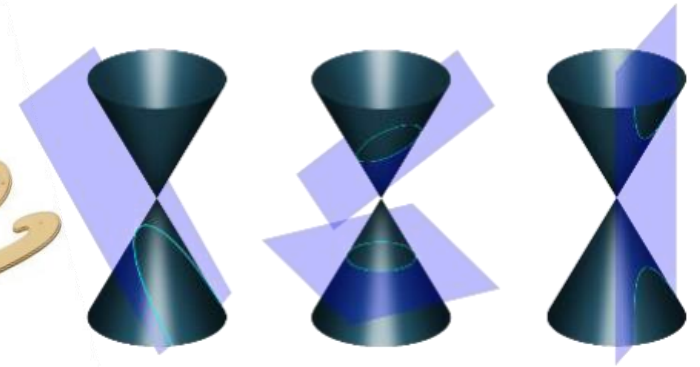
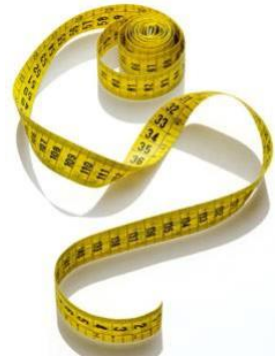
Geometric Modeling

A look back

Modeling the old way

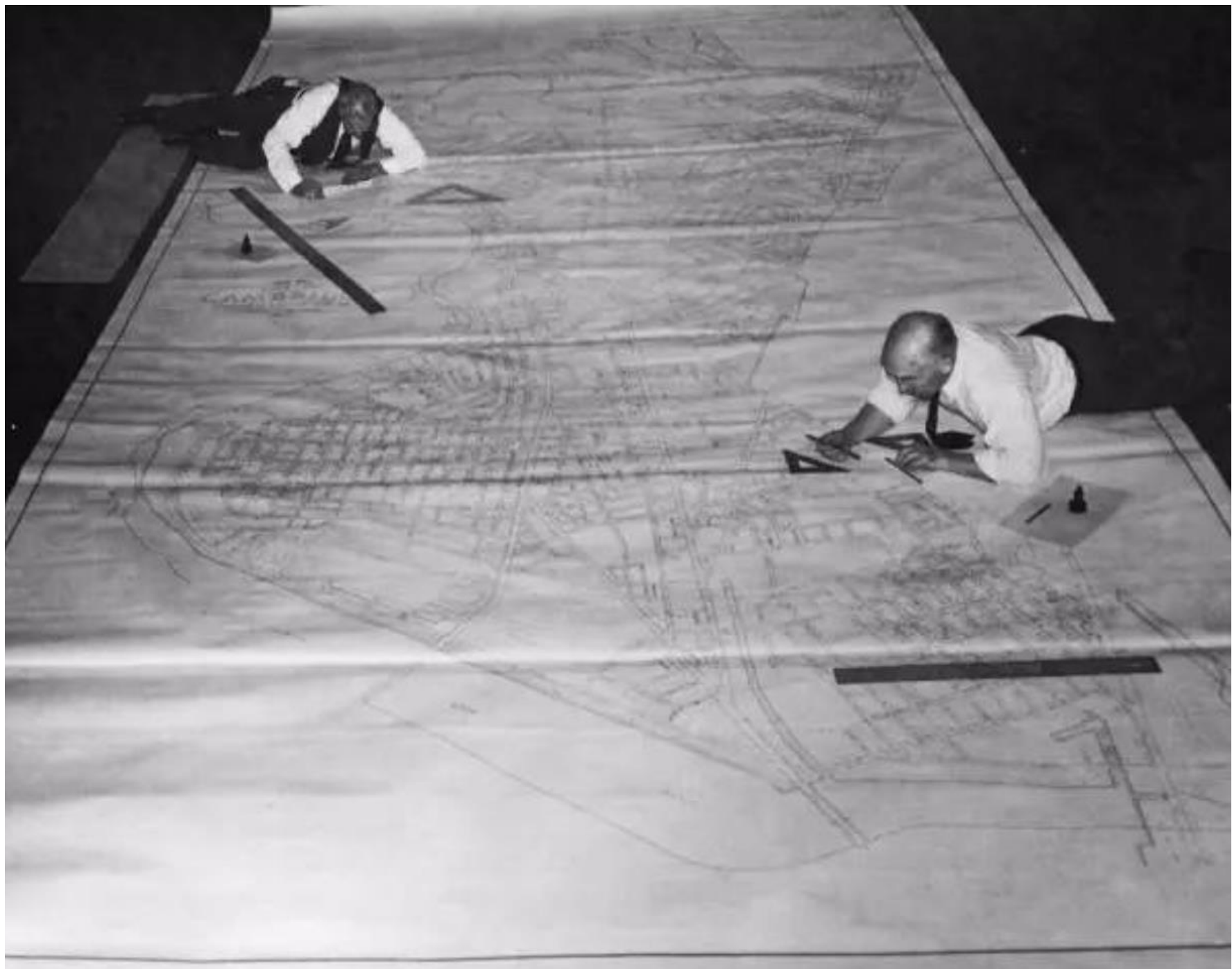
Basic tools

- Measuring and drafting tools











Industrial modeling developments

Industrial modeling: Two distinct shape classes

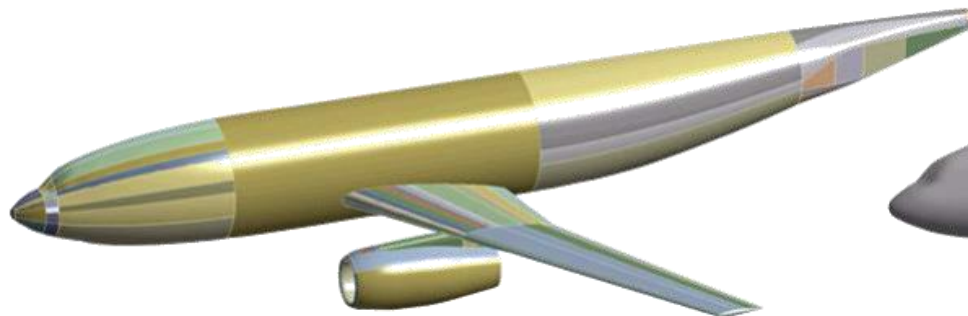
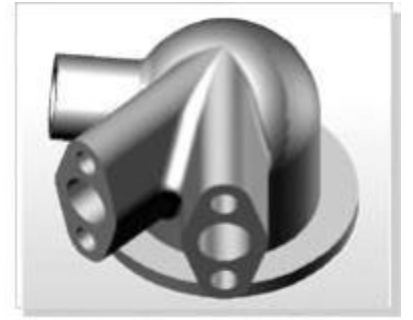
- Complex combination of elementary surfaces
 - Easy to model (blueprint)
 - Easy to produce
 - Easy technical evaluations (volume, moment of inertia)



Industrial modeling developments

Industrial modeling: Two distinct shape classes

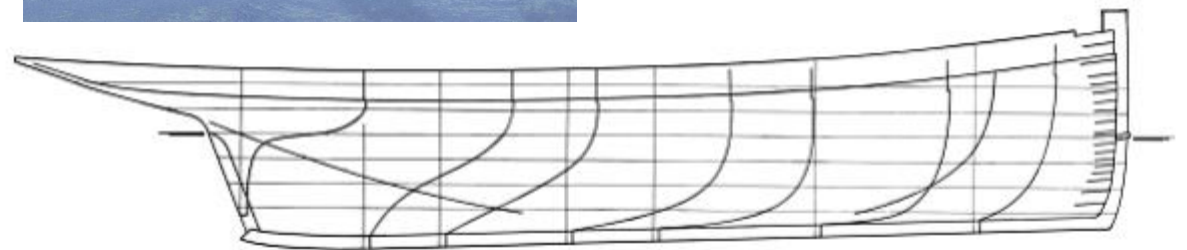
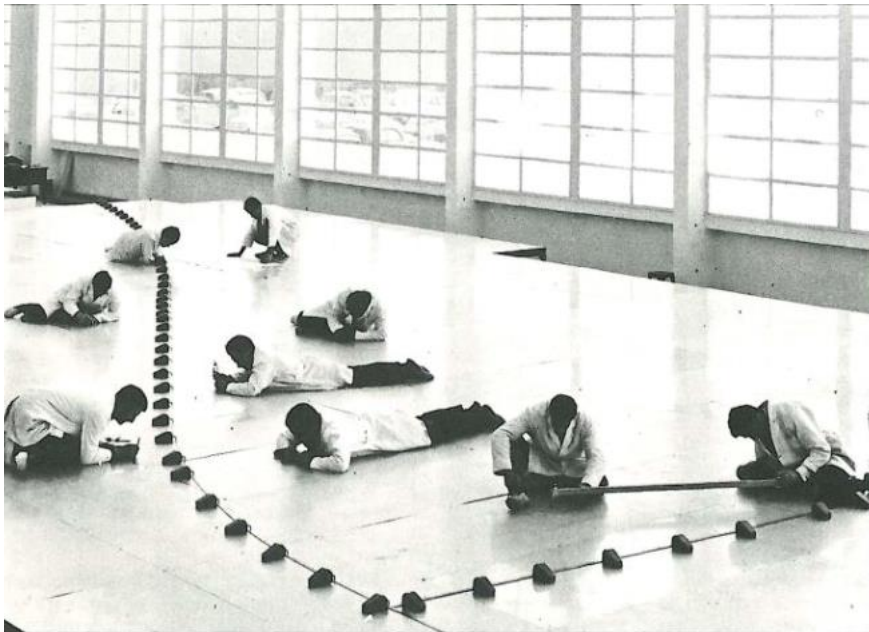
- Complex combination of elementary surfaces
 - Easy to model (blueprint)
 - Easy to produce
 - Easy technical evaluations (volume, moment of inertia)
- Free-form shapes
 - Required mainly by modern industries e.g. aeronautics, shipbuilding, auto industry
 - Not easy to describe mathematically
 - Harder technical evaluations



Early modeling of free-form curves and surfaces

Splines

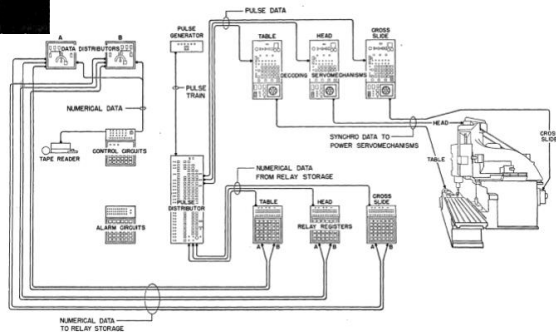
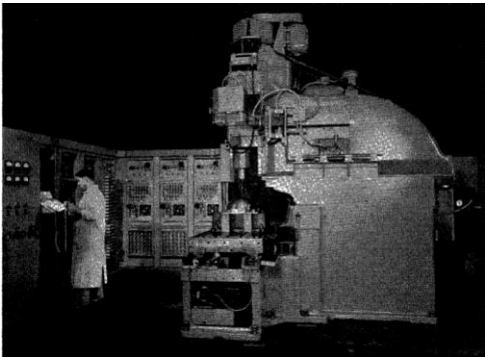
- Thin flexible band made out of wood, plastic or steel
- Can be held in shape using weights
- Smooth energy minimizing curves



Birth of computer aided design (CAD)

Two major events

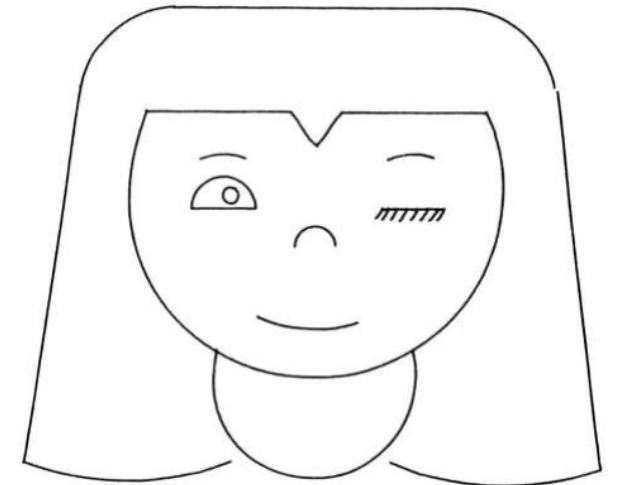
- The world's first NC 3D milling machine (MIT 1951)
 - Shapes can be described mathematically
 - Read shape information from drawing



Birth of computer aided design (CAD)

Two major events

- I. Sutherland sketchpad: A man machine graphical communication system (MIT 1963)
 - Shape became visible (Not just a formula)
 - Direct interaction with shape



Birth of computer aided design (CAD)

Development of mathematical descriptions of Free form curves and surfaces

- Ferguson curves and surfaces (Boeing 1961)
 - Vector description and use of parameters
- Coon surface patches (MIT 1964)
 - Control through positions and tangents
- de Casteljau Algorithm (Citroën 1959)
- Bézier curves (Renault 1971, UNISURF system)
- B-splines, NURBS, T-splines,...

Thank you!

Questions?