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Subject: Re: clip polyhedron mesh

Posted by [Dick Jackson](#) on Wed, 20 May 2015 18:39:17 GMT

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Hi Guni,

On Tuesday, 19 May 2015 10:51:48 UTC-7, guni wrote:

> Dear all,

> I have a 3-dimensional polyhedron mesh where two polyhedrons are overlapped. I want to clip the polyhedron to make new polyhedrons where one portion belong the overlapping region and other non-overlapping region. If somebody knows how to do this, please let me know.

First, it's a much simpler problem if you know you're working with \*convex\* polyhedra.

A Google search on [intersection of convex polyhedra algorithm] shows that at least \*somebody\* knows how to do this. :-) For example:

"Finding the intersection of two convex polyhedra" from 1977:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/0304397578900518>

There are lengthy algorithms that might take a lot of work to implement. Some even give solutions for intersecting convex and non-convex polyhedra.

> 2nd option: I saw IDL's 'mesh\_clip' but it is a clip using a planar surface. I don't prefer to clip using a plane, but in case if I have to use it, how I can get the coordinates of the overlapping portion?

Something like this came up some time ago, and it may be the easiest way to go (assuming convex polyhedra). If you use each polygon from mesh 1 as a clipping plane into mesh 2 (and keep the correct piece each time!), when you're done, you'll be left with the intersection. This link includes another link to a useful example:

[https://groups.google.com/forum/#!searchin/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/intersection\\$20polyhedron/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/qAvnBjaws\\_oY/JaiOeUS3KpoJ](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!searchin/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/intersection%20polyhedron/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/qAvnBjaws_oY/JaiOeUS3KpoJ)

> 3rd option: I also saw some discussions like polygon union/intersection ([https://groups.google.com/forum/#!searchin/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/polygon\\$20intersection/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/uVplUkvt-94/Sd3NwjH-BxEJ](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!searchin/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/polygon%20intersection/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/uVplUkvt-94/Sd3NwjH-BxEJ)) where Mati Maeron suggested shape\_overlap.pro. But I cannot find his library and the script. I checked in this link <http://www.astro.washington.edu/docs/idl/htmlhelp/slibrary23.html>. Does anyone know where I can get his library and script?

I haven't tracked it down, but I'm guessing that those discussions are about polygons in 2-D, not polyhedra in 3-D.

I hope this helps!

Cheers,

-Dick

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P.S.: This was a nice example you gave:

> Anyway my script/polyhedron is something like this. Dick helped me to create polyhedrons, but here I used iplot, and ipolygon.

```
>
> ;;1st polyhedron
> x=randomu(seed,4)
> y=randomu(seed,4)
> z=randomu(seed,4)
> xyz=[transpose(x),transpose(y),transpose(z)]
> iPLOT,xyz,LINestyle=6,AXIS_STYLE=2,identifier='1'
> QHULL,xyz,Vert
> conn=[REPLICATE(3,[1,N_ELEMENTS(Vert)/3]),Vert]
> iPOLYGON,xyz,/DATA,CONNECTIVITY=conn,visualization='1',trans
parency=50,/FILL_BACKGROUND,FILL_COLOR='SKY BLUE'
>
> ;;2nd polyhedron
> x=randomu(seed,12)
> y=randomu(seed,12)
> z=randomu(seed,12)
> xyz=[transpose(x),transpose(y),transpose(z)]
> iPLOT,xyz,LINestyle=6,/OVERPLOT,identifier='2'
> QHULL,xyz,Vert
> conn=[REPLICATE(3,[1,N_ELEMENTS(Vert)/3]),Vert]
> iPOLYGON,xyz,/DATA,CONNECTIVITY=conn,visualization='2',trans
parency=50,/FILL_BACKGROUND,FILL_COLOR='red'
>
> Thanks,
> Guni
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