## Progressive Simplification of Polygonal Curves

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## Curve Simplification

min-\# Simplification problem:

- Given a polygonal curve $\mathcal{C}$ and an $\varepsilon>0$ as an error threshold
- Objective: minimize the number of vertices in a simplification $\mathcal{S}$



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## Curve Simplification

Upper bound [Chan and Chin, 1996] A min-\# simplification can be computed in $O\left(n^{2}\right)$ time in $\mathbb{R}^{2}$




## Zoom out



## Zoom out



## Zoom out



Zoom out

## Progressive Simplification

Zoom in


Zoom out

## Progressive Simplification

Zoom in


Zoom out
Impose Consistency Across Many Scales

- Zoom in and out without flickering
- A sequence of $m$ scales: $0<\varepsilon_{1}<\cdots<\varepsilon_{m}$
- Require monotonicity: $\mathcal{S}_{m} \sqsubseteq \mathcal{S}_{m-1} \sqsubseteq \cdots \sqsubseteq \mathcal{C}$
- Minimize $\sum_{k=1}^{m}\left|\mathcal{S}_{k}\right|$ (optimality)
- An $O\left(n^{3} m\right)$ time algorithm for the progressive simplification problem
- works with various distance measures such as Hausdorff, Fréchet and area-based distances
- enables simplification for continuous scaling in $O\left(n^{5}\right)$ time



## Shortcut Graph

Shortcut:

- Given a polygonal curve $\mathcal{C}$, a shortcut ( $p_{i}, p_{j}$ ) is an ordered pair of vertices

Validity:

- Given $\mathcal{C}$ and an $\varepsilon>0,\left(p_{i}, p_{j}\right)$ is valid if $\varepsilon\left(p_{i}, p_{j}\right) \leq \varepsilon$


## Shortcut Graph

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- Given a curve $\mathcal{C}$ and an $\varepsilon>0$, the shortcut graph $G(\mathcal{C}, \varepsilon)$ captures all valid shortcuts



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- Given a curve $\mathcal{C}$ and an $\varepsilon>0$, the shortcut graph $G(\mathcal{C}, \varepsilon)$ captures all valid shortcuts

- Minimum-link path in $G(\mathcal{C}, \varepsilon)$ is an optimal simplification $\mathcal{S}$


## Minimal Progressive Simplification

Dynamic Programming

- Assign a cost value $c_{i, j}^{k} \in \mathbb{N}$ for each shortcut $\left(p_{i}, p_{j}\right) \in G\left(\mathcal{C}, \varepsilon_{k}\right)$ at scale $\varepsilon_{k}$
- $c_{i, j}^{k}$ relates to the cost of including $\left(p_{i}, p_{j}\right)$ in $\mathcal{S}_{k}$


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- Example: $\varepsilon_{1}<\varepsilon_{2}<\varepsilon_{3}$

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G\left(\mathcal{C}, \varepsilon_{1}\right)
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## Minimal Progressive Simplification

Dynamic Program

$$
c_{i, j}^{k}= \begin{cases}1 & \text { if } k=1 \\ 1+\min _{\pi \in \prod_{i, j}^{k-1}} \sum_{\left(p_{x}, p_{y}\right) \in \pi} c_{x, y}^{k-1} & \text { if } 1<k \leq m\end{cases}
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$\prod_{i, j}^{k}$ denotes the set of all paths in $G\left(\mathcal{C}, \varepsilon_{k}\right)$ from $p_{i}$ to $p_{j}$

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Algorithm
Construct simplifications from $\mathcal{S}_{m}$ down to $\mathcal{S}_{1}$

1. Compute costs $c_{i, j}^{k}$ at scale $\varepsilon_{k}$
2. Compute shortest path $P$ from $p_{i}$ to
$p_{j}$ in $G\left(\mathcal{C}, \varepsilon_{k}\right)$ for all $\left(p_{i}, p_{j}\right) \in S_{k+1}$
3. Link $P$ to obtain $\mathcal{S}_{k}$

Algorithm
Construct simplifications from $\mathcal{S}_{m}$ down to $\mathcal{S}_{1}$

Running time $m$ times

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3. Link $P$ to obtain $\mathcal{S}_{k}$

- Employ the algorithm by [Chan and Chin, 1996]
- Runs in $O\left(n^{2}\right)$ time in the plane

Algorithm
Construct simplifications from $\mathcal{S}_{m}$ down to $\mathcal{S}_{1}$ 1. Compute costs $c_{i, j}^{k}$ at scale $\varepsilon_{k}$
2. Compute shortest path $P$ from $p_{i}$ to $p_{j}$ in $G\left(\mathcal{C}, \varepsilon_{k}\right)$ for all $\left(p_{i}, p_{j}\right) \in S_{k+1}$
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## Running time

 $m$ times $O\left(n^{2}\right)$
## Minimal Progressive Simplification

- Run Dijkstra's algorithm on $O(n)$ nodes of $G\left(\mathcal{C}, \varepsilon_{k}\right)$
- Dijkstra's algorithm runs in $O\left(n^{2}\right)$ time on $G$ with integer weights

Algorithm
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3. Link $P$ to obtain $\mathcal{S}_{k}$

Running time $m$ times
$O\left(n^{2}\right)$
$O\left(n^{3}\right)$

## Minimal Progressive Simplification

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Algorithm
Construct simplifications from $\mathcal{S}_{m}$ down to $\mathcal{S}_{1}$ 1. Compute costs $c_{i, j}^{k}$ at scale $\varepsilon_{k}$
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3. Link $P$ to obtain $\mathcal{S}_{k}$

Running time $m$ times
$O\left(n^{2}\right)$
$O\left(n^{3}\right)$

Total Running Time

- Optimal progressive simplification computable in $O\left(n^{3} m\right)$ time
- Takes $O\left(n^{5}\right)$ time for continuous scaling

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Running time $m$ times
$O\left(n^{2}\right)$
$O\left(n^{3}\right)$
$O(n)$

- An $O\left(n^{3} m\right)$ time algorithm for the progressive simplification problem
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## Conclusion

## Further Results

- Technique to compute all shortcuts for a fixed $\varepsilon$ in $O\left(n^{2} \log n\right)$ time instead of $O\left(n^{3}\right)$ time
- Storage-efficient representation of the shortcut graph allowing to find shortest paths in $O(n \log n)$ time
- Experimental evaluation on a trajectory of a migrating vulture


## Thank you for your attention.

