Multi-phase Volume Segmentation with Tetrahedral Mesh

Volume segmentation is efficient for reconstructing material structure, which is important for several analyses, e.g., simulation with finite element method, measurement of quantitative information like surface area, surface curvature, volume, etc. We are concerned about the representations of the 3D volumes, which can be categorized into two groups: fixed voxel grids [1] and unstructured meshes [2]. Among these two representations, the voxel grids are more popular since manipulating a fixed grid is easier than an unstructured mesh, but they are less efficient for quantitative measurements. In many cases, the voxel grids are converted to explicit meshes, however the conversion may reduce the accuracy of the segmentations, and the effort for meshing is also not trivial. On the other side, methods using unstructured meshes have difficulty in handling topology changes. To reduce the complexity, previous methods only represent the surfaces, thus they only segment a single region without exterior or interior information (e.g. holes). Finally, yet importantly, previous methods of both representations have issues with multi-material segmentation, where vacuum and overlapping between surfaces occur. This paper proposes a method for volume segmentation using a tetrahedral mesh. The compelling advantages of our method include: natural multi-material support; output is tetrahedral mesh that can be utilized for simulation and analysis directly; and the ability to control the resolution for compact meshes. We are also experimenting to prove our advantages on high accuracy; and the potentiality to accompany shape prior information during segmentation.