# Foundations of Geometric Algebra Computing ICNAAM 2012, Kos, 21.09.2012



**Dr.-Ing. Dietmar Hildenbrand** LOEWE Priority Program Cocoon Technische Universität Darmstadt





# **Overview**

- Foundations of Geometric Algebra (GA)
- GA Applications
- One GA example
- GA Computing
  - precompiler for standard programming languages
- Molecular dynamics application







### **History of Geometric Algebra&Calculus**



Family Tree for Geometric Calculus 300 BC Synthetic Geometry 250 AD Euclid Syncopated Algebra Diophantes M (First printing A 1482) Analytic Geometry 1637 N Descartes Boole L 1854 1 Complex Algebra N 1798 Wessel, Gauss E 1844 1843 Extensive Algebra Ouaternions Grassmann Hamilton 1862 1854 Matrix Algebra 1878 1881 Cayley Clifford Algebra Vector Calculus Determinants Clifford Gibbs 1878 Sylvester 1890 1908 Tensor Calculus Ricci Differential Forms 1928 E. Cartan Spin Algebra Pauli, Dirac Geometric Algebra & Calculus





### **History of Geometric Algebra&Calculus**



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. . .



Outer Product













Outer Product





cross product and scalar product are special cases of these general products







Preface of "Ausdehnungslehre" (Extensive Algebra) of 1862:

"I remain completely confident that the labor I have expended on the science presented here and which has demanded a signicant part of my life, as well as the most strenuous application of my powers, will not be lost. It is true that I am aware that the form which I have given the science is imperfect and must be imperfect. But I know and feel obliged to state (though I run the risk of seeming arrogant) that even if this work should again remain unused for another seventeen years or even longer, without entering into the actual development of science, still that time will come when it will be brought forth from the dust of oblivion and when ideas now dormant will bring forth fruit " forth fruit.

and he went on to say: "there will come a time when these ideas, perhaps in a new form, will arise anew and will enter into a living communication with contemporary developments."









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# William K. Clifford





- Geometric Product
- For vectors

 $uv = u \wedge v + u \cdot v.$ 

Quaternions of Hamilton





- Normally called Clifford algebra in honor of Clifford
- He called it geometric algebra



# **David Hestenes**





("New Foundations of Classical Mechanics", ...)

- developed calculus
  - ("Clifford Algebra to Geometric Calculus:
    - A Unified Language for
    - Mathematics and Physics")
- developed the Conformal Geometric Algebra



Geometric Algebra <-> Clifford Algebra?





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# Goal of geometric algebra



 Mathematical language close to the geometric intuition





# **Conformal Geometric Algebra (CGA)**



- 5 basis vectors:
  - $e_1, e_2, e_3$
  - $e_0$  : origin
  - $e_{\infty}$ : point at infinity





#### **Basis elements of CGA**



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# Plane and sphere as vector expression



sphere

 $S=P-\frac{1}{2}r^2e_\infty$ 

plane

$$\pi = \mathbf{n} + de_{\infty}$$



# Intersection of geometric objects



- a,b are sphere
- $a \wedge b$ 
  - describes the intersection of the spheres
  - represents a circle





### Intersection of sphere and line



•  $Pp = s_1 \wedge l$ 





#### **Circle and line**







### **Geometric Operations**

- Rotation about L (through the origin)
- Rotor

 $e^{-\frac{\phi}{2}l}$ 

= Quaternion

$$Q=\cos(\frac{\phi}{2})+L\sin(\frac{\phi}{2})$$

 Note.: the line can be arbitrary
-> Rotation about an arbitrary axis(dual quaternion)





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# The inner product



 $a \cdot b$ 

# a,b 3D vectors

-> scalar product





#### **Distances**



#### $a \cdot b$

#### One formula for

- distance of two points
- distance between point and plane
- is a point inside or outside of a sphere?  $a^2 = -2S \cdot P$





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# Angles



 $cos(\theta) = a \cdot b$ One formula for the angle between

- 2 lines
- 2 planes
- 2 circles
- ...





#### **Properties of Conformal Geometric Algebra**

- Easy calculations with geometric objects and transformations
  - Geometric intuitiveness
  - Simplicity
  - Compactness
- Unification of mathematical systems
  - Complex numbers
  - Vector algebra
  - Quaternions
  - Projective geometry
  - Plücker coordinates
  - ....



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### **First commercial product**



- since 2007:
  - Real time lighting engine Enlighten
  - Geometrics, Cambridge UK
  - Unreal Game Engine





# **Our Applications**



Robot kinematics







 Computer animation/ Virtual reality





[Tolani et al. 2000]





 Approximation of geometric objects to point clouds of laser scans





- Finite Element Solver
  - compact expressions for
    - velocities
    - forces
  - combining rotational and linear parts
  - [Elmar Brendel et al]













Molecular dynamics simulation





# **Application within Cocoon**



#### EM simulation

| Vector Algebra   | Geometric Algebra  | Geometric Algebra   |
|--|--|---|
| $\nabla \cdot E = \rho$  | $\nabla \cdot E = \rho$  | $\boldsymbol{\nabla} \boldsymbol{E} = \boldsymbol{\rho} - \partial_t (\boldsymbol{I} \boldsymbol{B})$ |
| $\nabla \times E = -\partial_t B$  | $\nabla \wedge \boldsymbol{E} = -\partial_t (I \boldsymbol{B})$          |   |
|  |  | $\mathbf{V} \mathbf{B} = 0 + I(\mathbf{J} + \partial_t \mathbf{E})$                                   |
| $\begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{\nabla} \cdot \mathbf{B} &= 0 \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{B} & \mathbf{L} + \partial \mathbf{E} \end{vmatrix}$ | $ \nabla \cdot B  = 0$   | $\Leftrightarrow$   |
| $\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{J} + \mathbf{O}_t \mathbf{E}$  | $\mathbf{V} \wedge \mathbf{B} = I(\mathbf{J} + \mathbf{O}_t \mathbf{E})$ | $\mathbf{V}(IB) = -(J + O_tE)$  |
|  | <b>Replace</b> :<br>scalar product with<br>inner product                 | Geometric Product:<br>Combine inner and<br>outer product  |
|  | cross product with outer product   | $a b = a \cdot b + a \wedge b$  |

Finally combine them to a single multivector:

 $\nabla (\boldsymbol{E} + I \boldsymbol{B}) + \partial_t (\boldsymbol{E} + I \boldsymbol{B}) = \rho - \boldsymbol{J}$ 

One formula for Maxwell equations



#### **Horizon Example**



- Compute the horizon circle with
  - observer P
  - Earth S







# Warum Horizont-Aufgabe?



- Nachweis von
  - Nähe der algebraischen Beschreibung zur geometrischen Vorstellung
  - Einfachheit/Kompaktheit der Algorithmen





#### **The Solution**



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• *P*, *S*, ... *C*?





# The Solution



• Which sphere intersects with the sphere *S* at the horizon circle?





# **The Solution**



• Which sphere intersects with the sphere *S* at the horizon circle?

Sphere K with center P and radius such that it touches S





# The solution



- Which sphere intersects with the sphere S at the horizon circle? Sphere K with center P and radius such that it touches S
- The radius of K?






- Which sphere intersects with the sphere S at the horizon circle? Sphere K with center P and radius such that it touches S
- The radius a of *K*?







- Which sphere intersects with the sphere S at the horizon circle? Sphere K with center P and radius such that it touches S
- The radius a of *K*?
  - $a^2 = -2S \cdot P$
- How to describe the sphere *K*?







- Which sphere intersects with the sphere S at the horizon circle? Sphere K with center P and radius such that it touches S
- The radius a of *K*?

 $a^2 = -2S \cdot P$ 

• How to describe the sphere *K*?

$$K = P - \frac{1}{2}a^2e_{\infty} = P + (S \cdot P)e_{\infty}$$







- Which sphere intersects with the sphere S at the horizon circle? Sphere K with center P and radius such that it touches S
- The radius a of *K*?

 $a^2 = -2S \cdot P$ 

How to describe the sphere K?

$$K = P - \frac{1}{2}a^2e_{\infty} = P + (S \cdot P)e_{\infty}$$

• The formula for the horizon circle *C*?







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How to describe the sphere K?

$$K = P - \frac{1}{2}a^2e_{\infty} = P + (S \cdot P)e_{\infty}$$

• The formula for the horizon circle *C*?

 $C=S\wedge K$ 

$$C = S \wedge (P + (S \cdot P)e_{\infty}).$$





#### **Properties of Geometric Algebra**



- geometrically intuitive?
- simple?
- compact?
- role of coordinates?

 $C = S \wedge (P + (S \cdot P)e_{\infty}).$ 





# How to support the widespread use of geometric algebra?



• What form of geometric algebra do we need today?

"there will come a time when these ideas, perhaps in a new form, will arise anew and will enter into a living communication with contemporary developments." [Grassmann 1862]

- Making it accessible for as many people as possible and their applications
- -> provide a suitable computing technology



### **Geometric Algebra Computing**







## **Goals of Geometric Algebra Computing**





- <u>Geometric</u> <u>algebra</u> <u>algorithms</u> <u>op</u>timizer (www.gaalop.de)
- Easy development process
  - integration in standard programming languages
  - Intuitive and compact descriptions based on geometric algebra
  - leading to
    - reduction in development time
    - better maintainability
- High performance and robustness of the implementation



## **Proof-of-Concept Application**





- Visual and interactive development
- Compact algorithms (about 30%)
- First implementation:
  - 50 times slower than conventional implementation
- Eurographics 2006:
  - Paper " Competitive runtime performance for inverse kinematics algorithms using conformal geometric algebra " by Dietmar Hildenbrand, Daniel Fontijne, Yusheng Wang, Marc Alexa and Leo Dorst
  - First geometric algebra implementation that was faster than the conventional implementation











#### **Table based Compilation Example**



Geometric product multiplication table in 3D GA:

|                |       | b                      |       | b <sub>1</sub> | <b>b</b> <sub>2</sub> | b <sub>3</sub>        |          |          |          |           |
|----------------|-------|------------------------|-------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
|                |       |                        | $E_1$ | $E_2$          | $E_3$                 | $E_4$                 | $E_5$    | $E_6$    | $E_7$    | $E_8$     |
| a              |       |                        | 1     | $e_1$          | $e_2$                 | $e_3$                 | $e_{12}$ | $e_{23}$ | $e_{13}$ | $e_{123}$ |
|                | $E_1$ | 1                      | 0     | 0              | 0                     | 0                     | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| a <sub>1</sub> | $E_2$ | $e_1$                  | 0     | $E_1$          | $E_5$                 | <i>E</i> <sub>7</sub> | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| a <sub>2</sub> | $E_3$ | $e_2$                  | 0     | $-E_5$         | $E_1$                 | $E_6$                 | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| a3             | $E_4$ | $e_3$                  | 0     | - <i>E</i> 7   | $-E_6$                | $E_1$                 | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         |
|                | $E_5$ | $e_{12}$               | 0     | 0              | 0                     | 0                     | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         |
|                | $E_6$ | $e_{23}$               | 0     | 0              | 0                     | 0                     | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         |
|                | $E_7$ | <i>e</i> <sub>13</sub> | 0     | 0              | 0                     | 0                     | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         |
|                | $E_8$ | $e_{123}$              | 0     | 0              | 0                     | 0                     | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         |

#### • GA algorithm:

```
a=a1*e1+a2*e2+a3*e3;
b=b1*e1+b2*e2+b3*e3;
?c=a*b;
```



#### resulting C code:

c[1]=a1\*b1+a2\*b2+a3\*b3; c[5]=a1\*b2-a2\*b1; c[6]=a2\*b3-a3\*b2;

c[7]=a1\*b3-a3\*b1;



#### **Table based Compilation Example**



Geometric product multiplication table in 3D GA:

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|----------------|-------|------------------------|-------|----------------|-----------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
|                |       |                        | $E_1$ | $E_2$          | $E_3$                 | $E_4$   | $E_5$    | $E_6$    | $E_7$    | $E_8$     |
| a              |       |                        | 1     | $e_1$          | $e_2$                 | $e_3$   | $e_{12}$ | $e_{23}$ | $e_{13}$ | $e_{123}$ |
|                | $E_1$ | 1                      | 0     | 0              | 0                     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| a <sub>1</sub> | $E_2$ | $e_1$                  | 0     | $E_1$          | $E_5$                 | $E_7$   | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| a <sub>2</sub> | $E_3$ | $e_2$                  | 0     | $-E_{5}$       | $E_1$                 | $E_6$   | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| a3             | $E_4$ | $e_3$                  | 0     | - <i>E</i> 7   | $-E_6$                | $(E_1)$ | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         |
|                | $E_5$ | $e_{12}$               | 0     | 0              | 0                     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         |
|                | $E_6$ | $e_{23}$               | 0     | 0              | 0                     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         |
|                | $E_7$ | <i>e</i> <sub>13</sub> | 0     | 0              | 0                     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         |
|                | $E_8$ | $e_{123}$              | 0     | 0              | 0                     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         |

• GA algorithm:

```
a=a1*e1+a2*e2+a3*e3;
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c[7]=a1\*b3-a3\*b1;



#### **Advantage**



Sum of products -> SIMD





#### **Horizon Example in Gaalop**



| M Gaalop                        |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| and I                           | EAALOB   |
| 12                              | GEOMETRIC ALBEBRA ALGORITMMB DPTIMIZER                                 |
| New File                        | File 🔊 Save File 🔽 Close 🐇 Configure de gaalon tha Plugin 💌 🦓 Ontimize |
|                                 |  |
| Welcome Horizon.c               | u  |
| <pre>P = VecN3(px,py,pz);</pre> | // view point  |
| M = e0;                         | // center point of earth set to origin                                 |
| S = M-0.5*r*r*einf;             | // sphere representing earth   |
| K = P+(P.S) * einf;             | // sphere around P   |
| ?C=S^K;                         | //intersection circle  |

#### • based on the CLUCalc language (www.clucalc.info)



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#### **Horizon Example in Gaalop**



32-dim multivector array with optimized coefficient computations

• ... to be further optimized from the storage point of view



#### **Horizon Example in Gaalop**



32-dim multivector array with optimized coefficient computations

• ... to be further optimized from the storage point of view

## This kind of very easy arithmetic expressions lead to high runtime performance and robustness





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```
#pragma gpc begin
...
Import of multivectors (if needed)
...
#pragma clucalc begin
...
Geometric Algebra code based on CLUCalc
...
#pragma clucalc end
...
Export of multivectors (if needed)
...
#pragma gpc end
```







Visualization of the horizon example

```
void horizon() {
    #pragma clucalc begin
    :Black;
    :P = VecN3(1,1,0);
    r = 1;
    :Blue;
    :S = e0-0.5*r*r*einf;
    :Color(0,1,0,0.2);
    :K = P+(P.S)*einf;
    :Red;
    :C = S^K;
#pragma clucalc end
}
```







Horizon computations in C++

```
#include <iostream>
#include <gp.h>
int main() {
 #pragma gpc begin
    #pragma clucalc begin
      P = VecN3(1, 1, 0);
      r = 1:
      S = e0 - 0.5 * r * r * einf;
      C = S^{(P+(P,S))*einf}
      ?homogeneousCenter = C*einf*C;
      ?scale = -homogeneousCenter.einf;
      ?EuclideanCenter = homogeneousCenter / scale;
    #pragma clucalc end
    std::cout << mv_get_bladecoeff(homogeneousCenter,e0) << std::endl;
    std::cout << mv_get_bladecoeff(EuclideanCenter.e0) << std::endl;
    std::cout << mv_get_bladecoeff(EuclideanCenter,e1)
    << "," << mv_get_bladecoeff(EuclideanCenter,e2)
    << "," << mv_get_bladecoeff(EuclideanCenter.e3);
  #pragma gpc end
  return 0:
```





Gaalop GPC for OpenCL







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- Horizon example
- in OpenCL

```
__kernel void horizonKernel(__global
float * circleCenters , __global const float * points ,
const unsigned int num_points)
  const int id = get_global_id(0);
 #pragma gpc begin
   P = VecN3(points[id])
              points [id+num_points],
              points [id+2*num_points]);
   #pragma clucalc begin
      r = 1;
      S = e0 - 0.5 * r * r * einf:
      C = S^{(P+(P,S))} einf);
      ?homogeneousCenter = C*einf*C;
      ?scale = -homogeneousCenter.einf;
      ?EuclideanCenter = homogeneousCenter / scale;
   #pragma clucalc end
    circleCenters = mv_to_stridedarray(EuclideanCenter,
                                         id, num_points, e1,e2,e3);
 #pragma gpc end
```



#### **Advantages for GPUs**



Sum of products -> SIMD



#### Few special cases



#### **List of Precompiler Functions**



| $coeff = mv_getbladecoeff(mv, blade);$                  | Get the coefficient of blade  |
|---|---|
|   | blade of multivector mv.  |
| array = mv_to_array(mv, blades,);                       | Write the blades blades ,<br>of multivector mv to<br>array array. Example<br>array = mv_to_array<br>(mv,e1,e2,e3,e0, einf);.                                  |
| array = mv_to_stridedarray(mv,index,stride,blades ,);   | Write the blades blades ,<br>of multivector mv<br>to array array with<br>stride stride. Example<br>array = mv_to_array<br>(mv,nummvs,<br>e1,e2,e3,e0, einf);. |
| vector = $mv_to_vector(mv, blades,);$                   | Write the multivector <b>mv</b> to<br>vector <b>vector</b> .  |
| $mv = mv_from_vector(vector, blades,);$                 | Construct multivector mv<br>from vector vector.   |
| $mv = mv_from_array(array, blades,);$                   | Construct multivector mv<br>from array array  |
| mv = mv_from_stridedarray(array,index,stride,blades ,); | Construct multivector mv<br>from array array with stride<br>stride.   |



## Gaalop GPC for OpenCL ...



• ... available for Windows and Linux (www.gaalop.de).

Application example: Molecular dynamics …





#### **Molecular Dynamics in a Nutshell**



- A Molecule is a compound of several atoms,
- which are assumed to be static inside the molecule.
- Every atom sends out attraction or repulsion forces to every other atom.
- These forces then result in a movement of the molecules according to Newton's and Euler's laws.
- This is simulated for 1000s of molecules in parallel.





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#### **Molecular dynamics simulation**



Lennard Jones potential



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#### Molecular dynamics simulation



- Lennard Jones force
  - is the negative gradient of the Lennard Jones potential

$$F(\mathbf{r}) = -\nabla_{\mathbf{r}} V$$

and results in the following force vector acting upon a pair of atoms

$$F(\mathbf{r}) = 24\epsilon \frac{\mathbf{r}}{|\mathbf{r}|} \left[ 2\frac{\sigma^{12}}{|\mathbf{r}|^{13}} - \frac{\sigma^6}{|\mathbf{r}|^7} \right]$$

- All forces (and torques) acting on a particular molecule can be summed up to a single net force.
- With Newton's law *F*=*m*\**a* this force results in an accelaration of the molecule.



#### **Conventional molecular dynamics solver**



Conventional Velocity Verlet timestep integration method

1. Calculate: 
$$\vec{x}(t + \Delta t) = \vec{x}(t) + \vec{v}(t) \Delta t + \frac{1}{2}\vec{a}(t)(\Delta t)^2$$

2. Calculate: 
$$\vec{v}(t + \frac{\Delta t}{2}) = \vec{v}(t) + \frac{\vec{a}(t)\Delta t}{2}$$

3. Derive  $\vec{a}(t + \Delta t)$  from the interaction potential.

4. Calculate: 
$$\vec{v}(t + \Delta t) = \vec{v}(t + \frac{\Delta t}{2}) + \frac{\vec{a}(t + \Delta t)\Delta t}{2}$$
  
www.wikipedia.de

Note that those steps have to be computed separately

- 1. for the translation part
- 2. for the rotational part



#### CGA molecular dynamics solver



#### Velocity Verlet in Conformal Geometric Algebra:

with

$$\dot{D} = \frac{1}{2}DV_b \left( = \frac{1}{2}V_b D = \frac{1}{2}DV_b D^{-1}D \right)$$
$$\ddot{D} = \frac{1}{2}\dot{D}V_b + \frac{1}{2}D\dot{V}_b = \frac{1}{4}DV_b^2 + \frac{1}{2}D\dot{V}_b$$

and with the Euclidean pseudoscalar

$$e_{123} = e_1 \wedge e_2 \wedge e_3$$

Florian Seybold (HLRS), based on David Hestenes's work

 CGA combines translational and rotational parts into one compact algorithm.

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## **General Solver concept**



- solver is separated into 3 parts
  - 1. molecule verlet time integration step 1
    - updates the molecule's position and orientation
    - N computations for N molecules
  - 2. computation of potential forces
    - updates each molecule's force and torque
    - n x (n-1) computations for n atoms
  - 3. molecule verlet time integration step 2
    - updates the molecule's linear and angular velocity
    - N computations for N molecules



## **OpenCL-Solver concept**



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#### Implementation



Gaalop Precompiler for OpenCL code:

with

$$\dot{D} = \frac{1}{2}DV_b \left( = \frac{1}{2}V_b D = \frac{1}{2}DV_b D^{-1}D \right)$$
$$\ddot{D} = \frac{1}{2}\dot{D}V_b + \frac{1}{2}D\dot{V}_b = \frac{1}{4}DV_b^2 + \frac{1}{2}D\dot{V}_b$$

and with the Euclidean pseudoscalar

 $e_{123} = e_1 \wedge e_2 \wedge e_3$ 



#### **Results**



Better runtime performance

#### Better Numerical Stability (Energy Conservation)



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## Conclusion



Geometrically intuitive



Fast and robust implementations




## Reference

- "Foundations of Geometric Algebra Computing"
- Dietmar Hildenbrand
- Springer, 2013



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