

Rapid determination of three-dimensional convex shapes by dispersion processing using Java RMI

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Abstract

To quickly determine the interior and exterior of a three-dimensional (3D) shape, one must apply shape recognition and contact determination algorithms. However, in general, a 3D figure largely differs from a two-dimensional figure, and is described by a large dataset. Consequently, the determination process is time intensive. To alleviate this problem, determination methods of 3D complex shapes are often based on solid angles, but this approach is inapplicable to many shapes unless the computer is equipped with a graphics processing unit. On the other hand, the use of embedded personal computers such as 3D printers and portable 3D scanners is increasing in modern data processing, and environments free of special devices are also required.

In this paper, we show that high-speed processing of convex object can be achieved by parallel computing using a plurality of relatively inexpensive Raspberry Pi3s.

Keywords — Parallel computing, Java RMI, 3D Modeling, Inside/outside determination

I. INTRODUCTION

Interior-exterior determination of three-dimensional (3D) shapes is an important technology not only in 3D modeling and contact detection, but also in shape recognition and region determination [1-3]. However, 3D shapes largely differ from two-dimension (2D) shapes, and are described by large datasets that greatly lengthen the time of the determination processing [4-6]. Therefore, the processing is usually performed using a graphics processing unit (GPU), but the algorithm must conform to the GPU after adding a device [7-9]. For this reason, methods for improving the overall processing speed have focused on the parallel connection of a plurality of relatively inexpensive small personal computers (PCs) [10-12]. In this case, a typical program must be supplemented by a network program that performs the parallel processing. Although the auxiliary program requires optimization, a device-aware system does not need to

be constructed. In other words, the parallelism is easy to implement, is not restricted by the development environment, and can be programmed using ordinary control flow [13,14].

In this paper, we show that interior-exterior determination can be performed at high-speed by parallel processing of multiple Raspberry Pi 3 devices, which are widely used and have shown remarkable performance improvement with the development of Internet of Things (IoT).

II. RELATED RESEARCH

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A. The shape determination method

The internal and external environments of a 3D shape can be determined by extending the 2D Crossing Number Algorithm or the Winding Number Algorithm. This section explains the 2D algorithms and their 3D extensions in detail.

a) Crossing Number Algorithm

The 2D Crossing Number Algorithm distinguishes the internal and external points of a 2D shape by counting the number of edge-crossings of a straight line passing through the shape from each point (Fig. 1).

Although this method determines the internal and external points at relatively high-speed, it can cause an erroneous judgment (Fig. 2) [5,15-17].

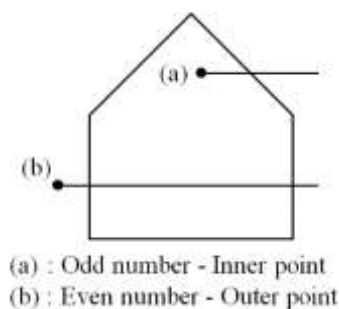
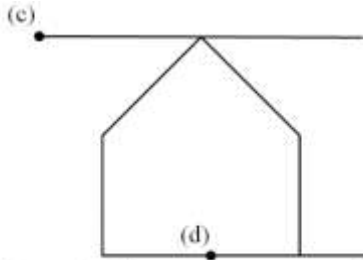


Fig. 1. Exterior-interior determination by the ray method

In three dimensions, the Crossing Number Algorithm extends a straight line in all directions and counts the number of intersections with an object. However, like its 2D equivalent, this approach can misjudge the situation of ambiguous points [18,19].



(c) : Intersect at the vertex - erroneous detection
(d) : Exists on the edge - erroneous detection

Fig. 2. Example of erroneous detection by the ray method

b) Winding Number Algorithm

The 2D Winding Number Algorithm detects the internal and external points of a shape using angles.

For example, as shown in Fig. 3 and 4, if one sequentially moves from point V_1 to point V_5 in the counterclockwise direction, the internal-external determination is performed by adding the angles subtended from the point of interest to successive pairs of vertices (in clockwise direction, the angles will be negative; see Fig. 5) [20]. If the angles sum to 2π or 0, the point is inside and outside the shape, respectively. By this analysis, the point in Fig.3 is discerned as internal, whereas that in Fig. 4 is external.

Summarizing the above results, the n-squared determination result is expressed as follows:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \theta_i = \begin{cases} 2\pi, & \text{inner} \\ 0, & \text{outer} \end{cases}$$

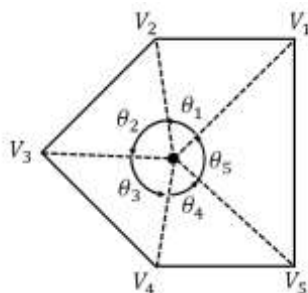


Fig. 3. Inner point discerned by the Winding Number Algorithm

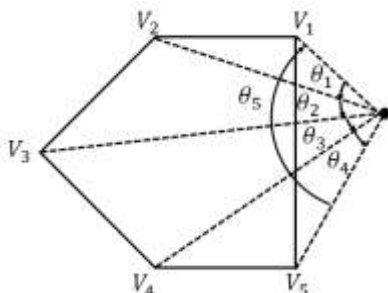


Fig. 4. Outer point discerned by the Winding Number Algorithm

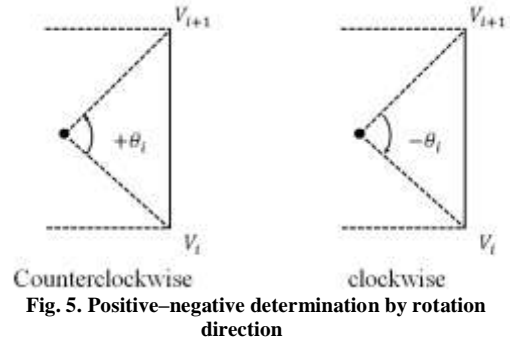


Fig. 5. Positive-negative determination by rotation direction

The 3D Winding Number Algorithm replaces the angle by the solid angle. When based on the solid angle, the determination algorithm must consider the surface area of a sphere (Fig. 6) [21]. The determination will cover the entire sphere of an internal point (Fig. 7), but only part of the sphere for an external point (Fig. 8) [20,21].

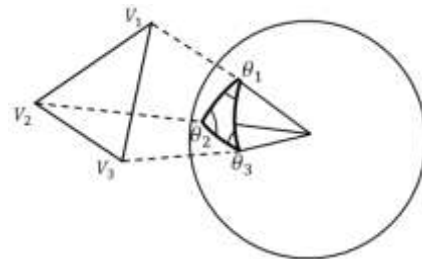


Fig. 6. Spherical trigonometry

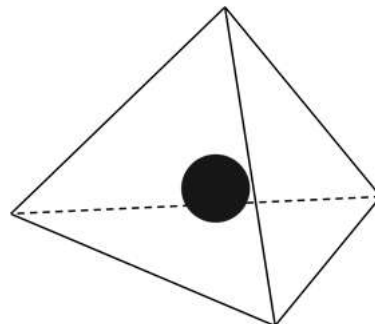


Fig. 7. Projection of an internal point

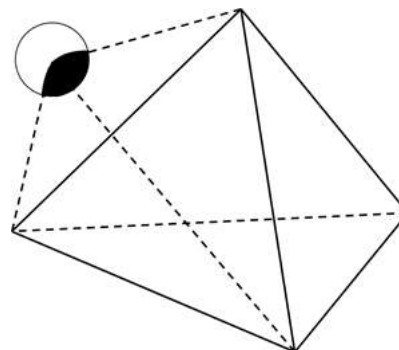


Fig. 8. Projection of an outside point

In general, the 3D Winding Number Algorithm performs the following calculation:

$$S_j = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \theta_i - \pi \right) \quad (j \geq 1)$$

$$S_{all} = \sum_{j=1}^m S_j = \begin{cases} 4\pi, & \text{outer} \\ 0, & \text{inner} \end{cases}$$

Here, S_{all} is the vertex size over all planes, m is the number of polygons comprising the object surface, and the sphere has unit radius [20-22].

Note that the solid angle determination is positive when viewed from the outside and negative when viewed from the inside, as shown in Fig. 9. This determination based on the input order of the data is also used in polygon-display algorithms, and is a general data structure of 3D objects [23-25].

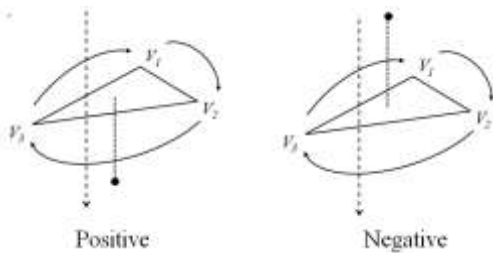


Fig. 9. Positive-negative determination by rotation direction in the 3D Winding Number Algorithm

The winding number determination correctly discerns the internal and external points even of complex shapes, but the numerous circular functions require a long processing time [16, 17].

B. GPU and parallel processing

Although it requires a special device, a method based on general purpose GPUs returns the determination results at high-speed by generating a huge number of threads [26-28]. However, unlike normal development methods, this approach needs a host-side program and a device-side program, which must usually be developed (Fig. 10) [26].

Furthermore, in the Single instruction, multiple thread (SIMT) format of such a program, the control flow is restricted for efficiency [26-29].

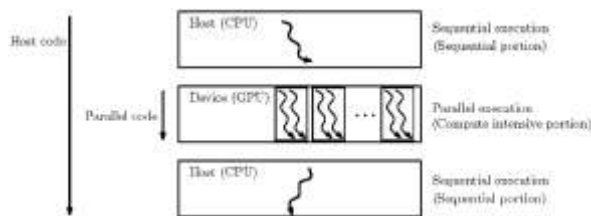


Fig. 10. Programming model and execution

C. Parallel processing via network

The authors of [12] achieved high-speed judgment with no special device by connecting multiple PCs in parallel via a network. When performing parallel computing over a network, inputs and outputs are

commonly sequenced as bytes using a socket programming. The communication begins by specifying the IP address and the port number. Therefore, despite its versatility, this method must consider the data structures and network environments of the other PCs in the network.

To overcome this difficulty, rather than processing the transmission and reception as byte sequences, our method performs parallel processing on an object-by-object basis. The proposed method is demonstrated on a Java Remote Method Invocation (RMI) in the following example.

Java RMI is a middleware that enables distributed computing. A Java RMI application automates the processing between the server and the client, while both parties are unaware of the above conversion. Furthermore, as the object can be passed as an argument and a return value when calling a method, even complex data structures can be easily handled. In addition, programs can be called by all computers in the network, meaning that a program running on a remote computer can be called and used like a computer's own function (Fig. 11) [30-32].

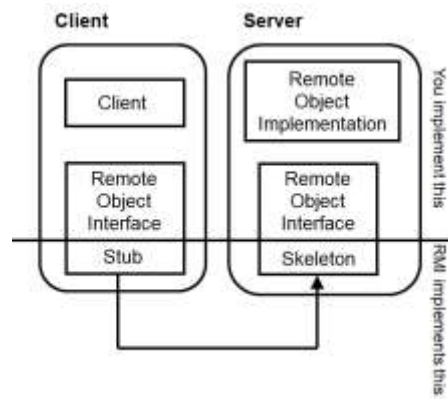


Fig. 11. How Java RMI works [32]

III. RESEARCH CONTENT

As the solid angle processing in the 3D Winding Number Algorithm is time-intensive, our internal-external determination method adopts a vector formulation. We also clarify whether the parallel distributed processing delivers high-speed results on PCs with relatively low performance, such as those used in IoT devices.

A. Internal-external determination by the vector-based method

The algorithm in the proposed method uses a vector rather than the solid angle.

First, all polygons are projected onto the plane as shown in Fig. 12. Next, the target polygon is specified by the determination processes shown in Fig. 13 and 14. The splitting function [33, 34] is given by

$$f_{AB}(x_1, x_2) = (b_2 - a_2)(x_1 - a_1) + (a_1 - b_1)(x_2 - a_2) \dots (A)$$

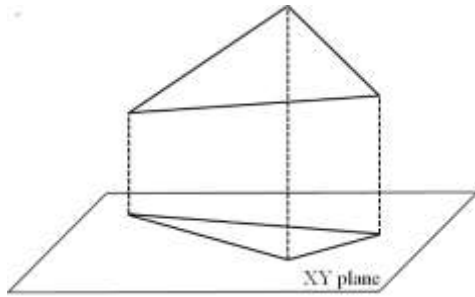


Fig. 12. Projection on the plane

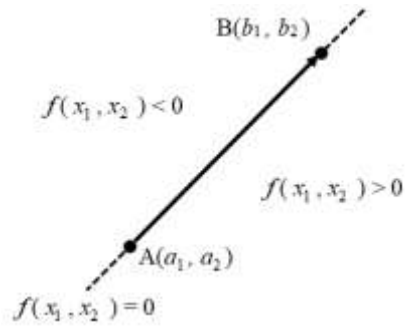


Fig. 13. Splitting function[33, 34]

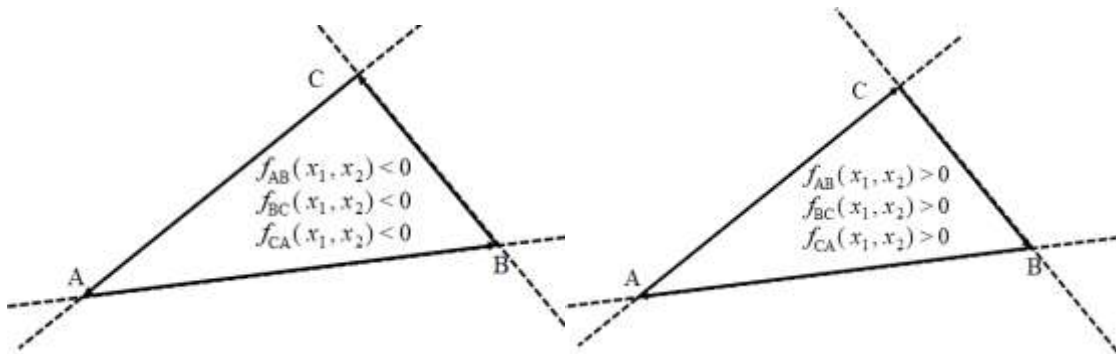


Fig. 14. Internal determination method (positive/negative matches inside the polygon)

If (A) lies on a straight line, the inside-outside determination is performed by changing the projection direction from the XY plane to the YZ plane, as shown in Fig. 15.

Based on the cross product and inner product, the algorithm decides whether the target coordinates belong to the upper part of the polygon. This judgment is made in order from the upper part (Fig. 16). Finally, the areas are merged to give the inside-outside judgments along the axis.

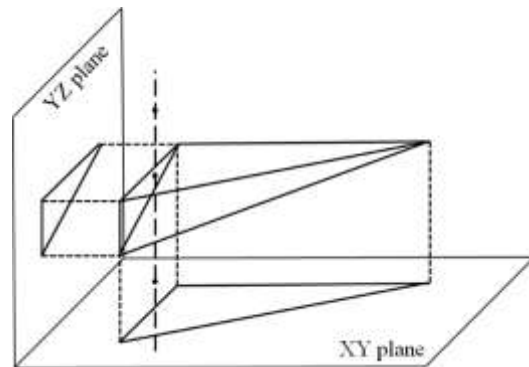


Fig. 15 If function (A) is = 0

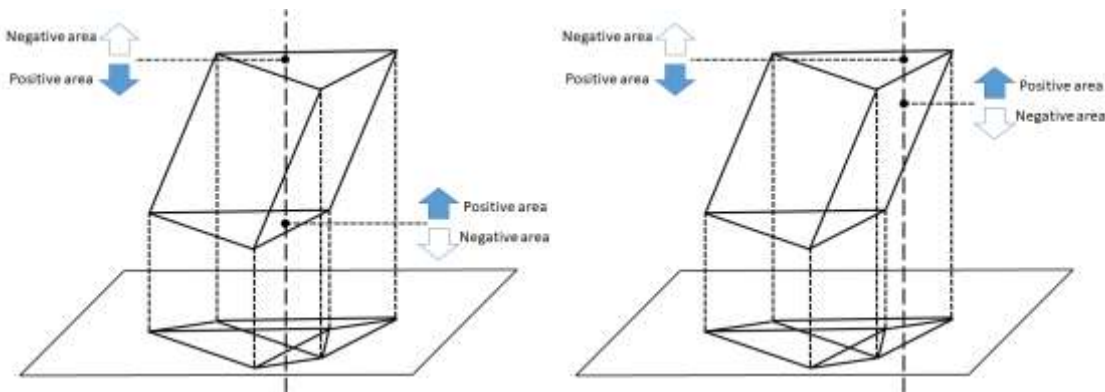


Fig. 16. Determining the sign of the area of each polygon

B. Determination processing by the server-client method

The proposed method was implemented in a Java RMI. In the server-client environment, the vector-based inside-outside determination algorithm is implemented in a plurality of servers, and each server processes one area of the determination (see Fig. 17).

The decision result of each server is finally merged on the client side to obtain the result (Fig. 18). Note that the number of servers depends on the number of constructions.



- (1) Send the discovery area from the client to each server.
- (2) The inside / outside determination of the given area by each server is performed.
- (3) Sends the results of internal / external at the server to the client.
- (4) After all the results are complete, merge them at the client and output the results.

Fig. 17. Server-client relationship in the parallel implementation of the proposed method

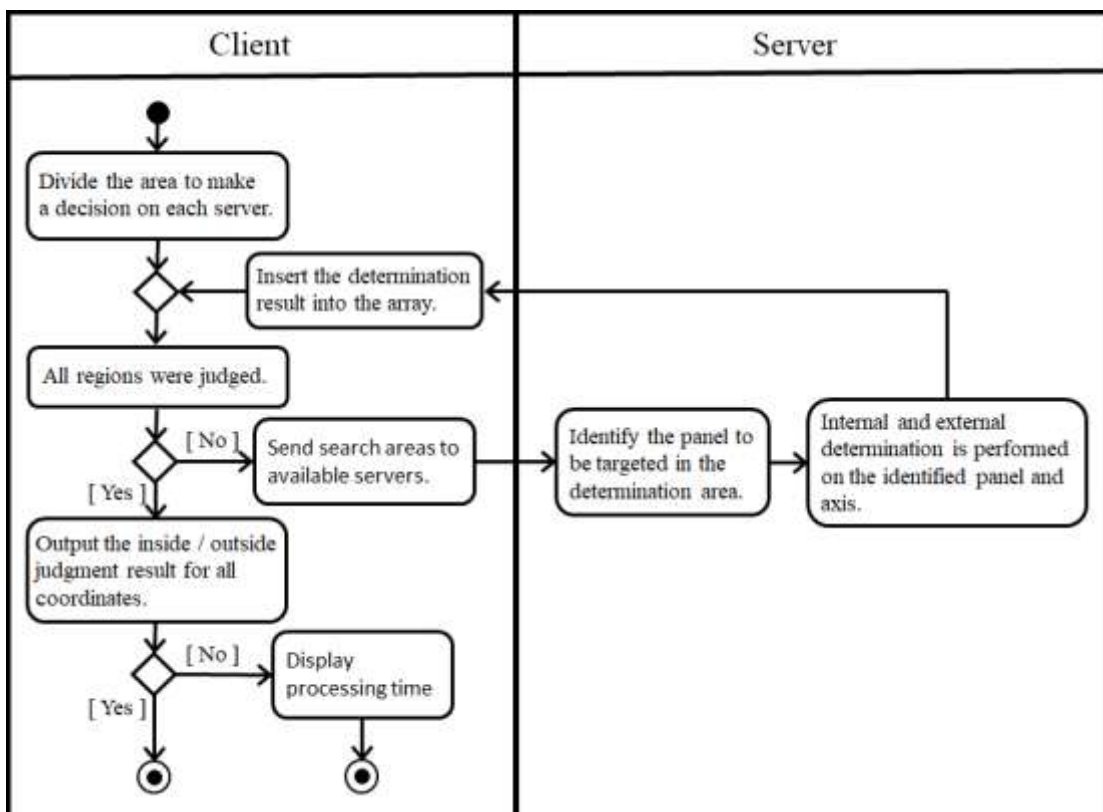


Fig. 18. Program flow of client and server

IV. EXPERIMENT

In the verification experiment, the calculation range was set to $-50 \leq x < 50$, $-50 \leq y < 50$, $-50 \leq z < 50$ (Integers), and the determination was performed on Figs. 19-22. The numbers of vertices and 2D polygons of the three-dimensional shape constituting each figure are shown in Table 1.

Each Raspberry Pi 3 judged the interiors and exteriors in regions comprising 5, 10, and 25 square pixels $x \times y$ and 101 pixels along the z direction. In addition, the number of Raspberry Pi 3 devices in the

parallel calculations was varied as 1, 4, 8 and 16. The specifications of the devices are given in Tables 2-4.

The results are shown in Figs. 23-26, and the processing times of obtaining the determination results are listed in Table 5. Furthermore, Figs. 27-30 display the speed changes of processing each figure the number of Raspberry Pi 3 devices increased from 1 to 16.

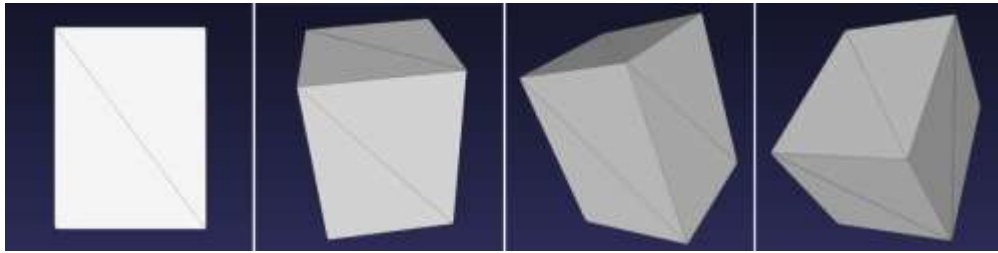


Fig. 19. Sample data 1

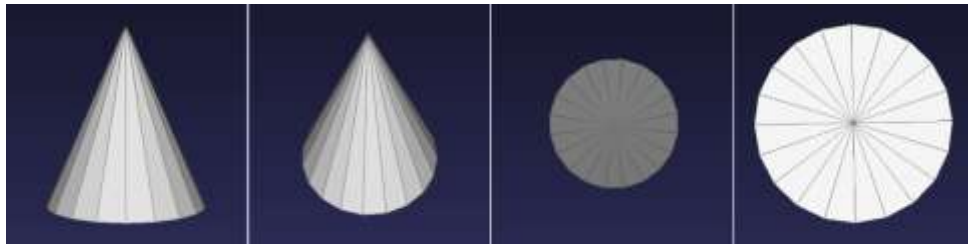


Fig. 20. Sample data 2

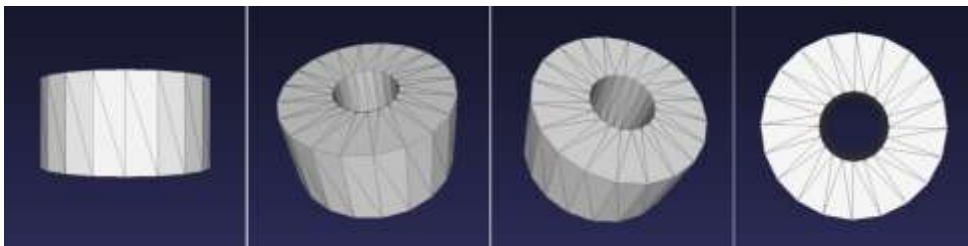


Fig. 21. Sample data 3

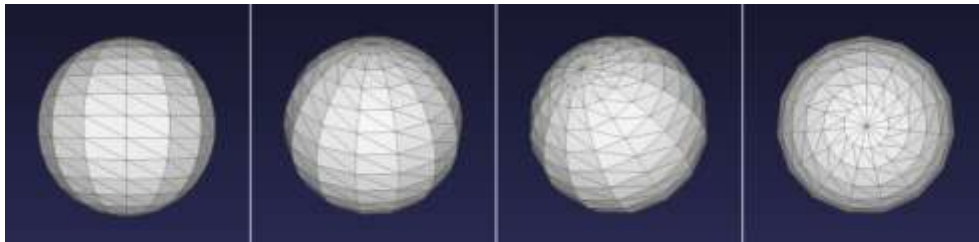


Fig. 22. Sample data 4

TABLE 1. Corresponding shape

	Number of vertices	Number of polygons
Sample data 1 (Fig. 19.)	8	12
Sample data 2 (Fig. 20.)	22	40
Sample data 3 (Fig. 21.)	80	160
Sample data 4 (Fig. 22.)	212	420

TABLE 2. Main specifications of Raspberry Pi 3B

	Specification
CPU	Broadcom BCM2837 1.2 GHz ARM Cortex-A53
RAM	1 GB LPDDR2 (900 MHz)
Ethernet	RJ-45 x1: 100BASE-TX 10BASE-T
Storage	MicroSD card slot
power supply	+5 V (2.5 A) micro USB socket

TABLE 3. Main specifications of Client

	Specification
CPU	Intel Core i7-7700HQ @ 2.80GHz
RAM	32 GB DDR4 (2400MHz)
Ethernet	RJ-45 x1: 1000 BASE-T
Storage	SSD 240GB

TABLE 4. Experimental environment

	Specification
Client	OS: CentOS Linux release 7.4.1708 Java Development Kit: javac 1.8.0_131
Server	OS: CentOS Linux release 7.2.1511 Java Development Kit: javac 1.8.0_191 Ethernet: 100 Mbps (as the theoretical value)

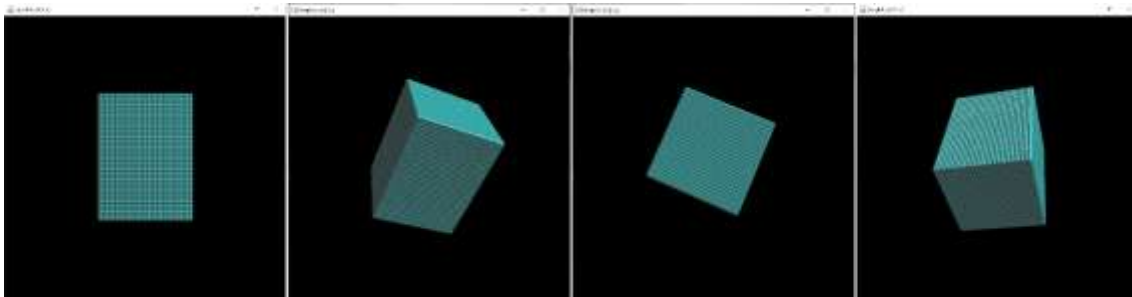


Fig. 23. Result (Sample data 1)

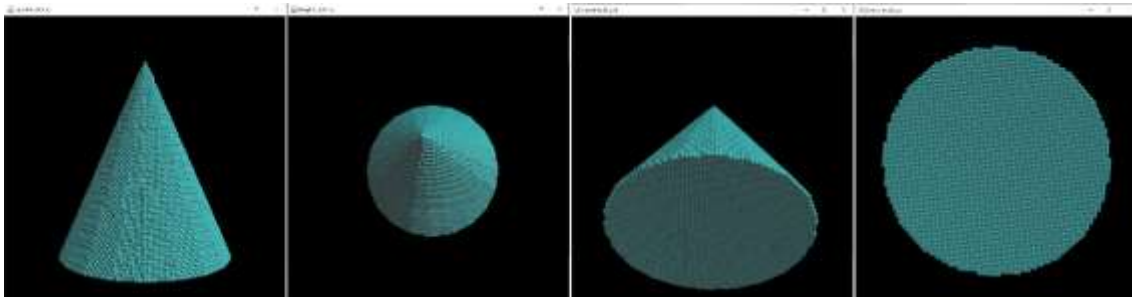


Fig. 24. Result (Sample data 2)

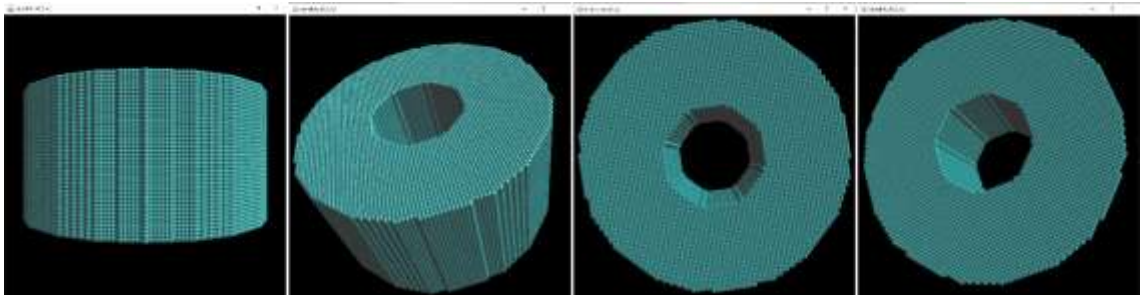


Fig. 25. Result (Sample data 3)

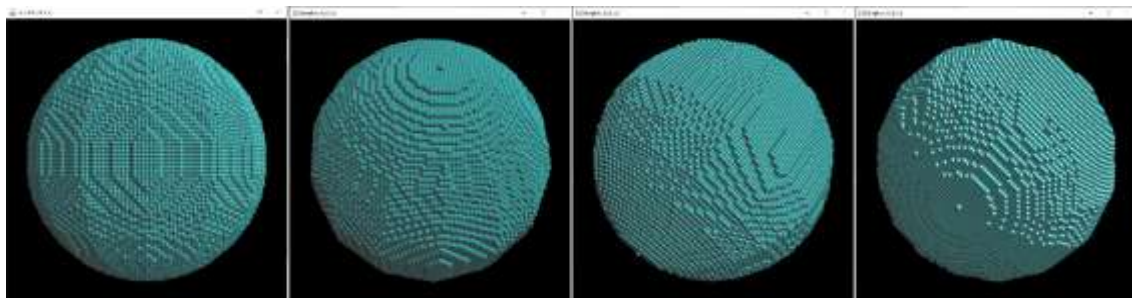


Fig. 26. Result (Sample data 4)

TABLE 5. Computation time (Sample data 1)

Number of nodes	Time [ms]				
	4 square	5 square	10 square	20 square	25 square
1	53883.8	51023.6	47440	46469.4	46515.4
4	13683.8	13149.6	12840.6	15681.6	12469.0
8	7104.0	6803.4	7417.6	13925.8	11946.4
16	3807.0	3703.2	4126.2	13295.0	11599.8

TABLE 6. Computation time (Sample data 2)

Number of nodes	Time [ms]				
	4 square	5 square	10 square	20 square	25 square
1	109494.0	106919.2	103369.8	102914.6	102612.8
4	27762.0	27103.2	26573.8	31268.0	27389.4
8	14257.2	13890.6	14334.2	19314.2	20430.0
16	7538.8	7484.8	7931.2	14192.0	20359.4

TABLE 7. Computation time (Sample data 3)

Number of nodes	Time [ms]				
	4 square	5 square	10 square	20 square	25 square
1	183240.8	180364.4	177244.6	176471.0	176460.2
4	45918.6	45303.0	44574.6	45558.0	55384.4
8	23256.0	22952.2	23702.0	30737.8	33526.0
16	11907.8	11903.2	15395.4	29354.8	31992.6

TABLE 8. Computation time (Sample data 4)

Number of nodes	Time [ms]				
	4 square	5 square	10 square	20 square	25 square
1	261480.2	257660.4	254542.0	254386.2	254348.0
4	65589.8	64859.6	64187.2	68765.0	67870.8
8	33094.2	32897.8	33994.2	36868.6	41042.0
16	17177.0	16863.0	18814.6	23316.6	27017.2

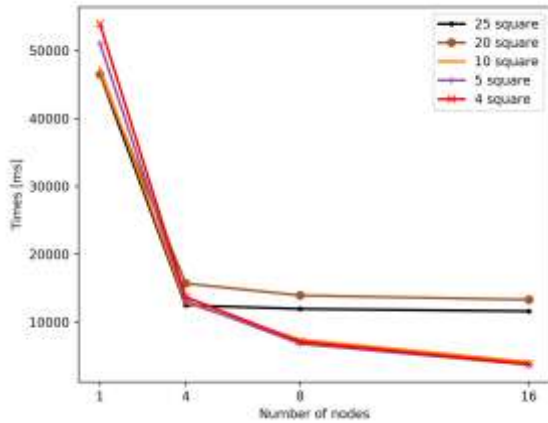


Fig. 27. Computation time (Sample data 1)

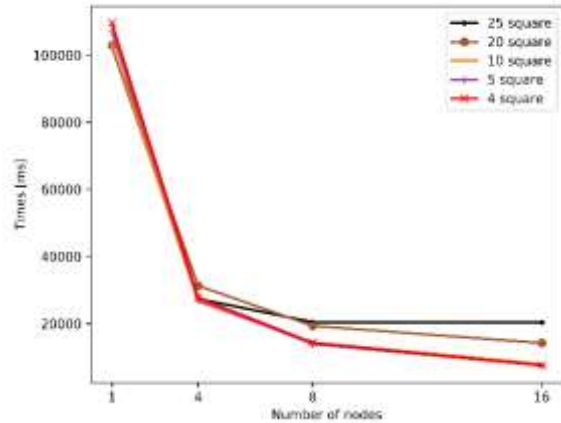


Fig. 28. Computation time (Sample data 2)

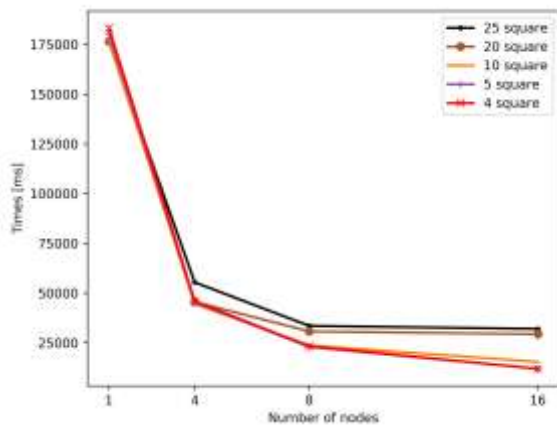


Fig. 29. Computation time (Sample data 3)

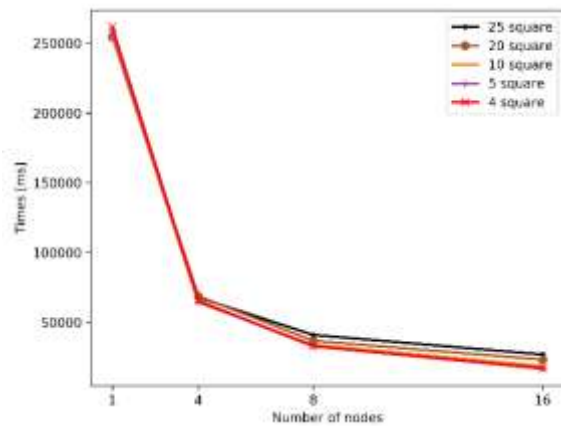


Fig. 30. Computation time (Sample data 4)

V. CONCLUSIONS

Determining the interior and exterior points of shapes and objects is important not only in fields such as 3D shape modeling and contact determination, but also in region detection and shape recognition. However, unlike 2D shapes, 3D shapes are described by huge amounts of data that seriously slow the determination process.

To reduce the processing time, shape data can often be processed in parallel. The present paper confirmed that parallel operations deliver high-speed result even on relatively low-performance devices such as Raspberry Pi 3 devices, which are used in the IoT field and are expected to be popularized in future.

If an algorithm solid angles is executed on the GPU, a large number of threads will guarantee high-speed results, but requires the creation of a program on the device side.

This study proposed that parallel processing can be implemented without the client being conscious of the network, and that the method implemented in each server can be called easily from the client side. In other words, various devices can be easily used without knowledge of the device side.

In future work, the allocation must consider the machine power of each server to boost the processing speed.

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