Curves and Surfaces in Computer Graphics

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Figures: namely J.Žára a kol.: Moderní počítačová grafika, 2.vyd., Computer Press, 2004, and private if not stated otherwise

1. Types of description

 Analytical - explicit, implicit or parametric description

 Interpolating – given points are interpolated by the curve

 Approximating – given points are approximated by the curve, some points lie on the curve; most often in CG

2. Approximating curves

 Given by control points, the points can also be multiple (it decreases the order of continuity)

 Polynomial equations => numerically instable in case of a high order => cubical curves are most often





Requirements

- Possibility to influence the shape by control points
- Possibility to use multiple control points
- Independence of shape of the choice of coordinate system
- Control as much local as possible
- Keeping the required order of continuity (also when connecting more curves/surfaces)
- Shape derived from the control points placement, variation diminishing
- Symmetry
- Computation simplicity
- Nice look subjective
- Generality

The method usually does not meet all.









3. Bezier curves

Since ~1960, French automobile industry
 The curves of degree *n* given by *n*+1 points

$$P(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} P_i B_i^n(t), t \in <0; 1 >$$

where t - parameter, P_i - control points,
 Bⁿ_i - Bernstein polynoms

$$B_{i}^{n}(t) = {\binom{n}{i}}t^{i}(1-t)^{n-i}, i = 0, 1, ..., n,$$

$${\binom{n}{0}} = {\binom{0}{0}} = 1$$





Bernstein polynoms of degree 3

Example of Bezier curve of degree 3 (a cubics)

Bezier curve properties



- It starts and ends in the outer control points
- A control point influences the whole curve
- Affine invariance, invariance to an affine transformation of the parameter
- Convex hull property
- Variation diminishing of c. points



 If more c. points than n+1, then either a grow of the curve degree or a need to connect more curves

Examples of Bezier curves







Bezier cubics with their control polygons

Computation

 Algorithm de Casteljau – a point P(t) obtained by repeated subdivision of line segments of the control polygon in the rate t

$$P_{j}^{i} = (1-t)P_{j-1}^{i-1} + tP_{j}^{i-1},$$

$$i = 1, 2, \dots, n, j = i, i+1, \dots, n$$

 $\bullet P_n^n$ is a point of the curve

Algorithm de Casteljau



Computation of a point in t=2/3 and the computation scheme



Subdivision of the control polygon into 2 parts, converges into the Bezier curve

4. B-spline curves

 Not necessary to increase the curve degree with a higher number of control points

$$P(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} P_i N_i^k(t), t \in <0; t_n >$$

$$N_i^1(t) = \underbrace{\begin{array}{c} 1 \text{ for } x_i \leq t < x_{i+1} \\ 0 \text{ in other cases} \end{array}}_{i=1}^{i=1}$$

 $\mathbf{0}$

$$N_{i}^{k}(t) = \frac{(t - x_{i})N_{i}^{k-1}(t)}{x_{i+k-1} - x_{i}} + \frac{(x_{i+k} - t)N_{i+1}^{k-1}(t)}{x_{i+k} - x_{i+1}}$$
$$\frac{0}{-1} = 0$$

where t - parameter, P_i - control points, N_i^k - basis functions, k - curve degree n+1 - number of control points x_i - knot vector

Examples of B-spline curves



B-spline curve properties

- It starts and ends in the outer control points
- A control point influences only max. k+1 intervals
- Affine invariance, invariance to an affine parameter transformation
- Convex hull property
- Variation diminishing property
- More control points than n+1 implies neither the necessity of order growth, nor of connection of more curves

Choice of knot vector

For non-periodic B-spline modelling open curves:
 k+n+1 values

$x_i = 0$	for $i = 0, 1,, k-1$
$x_i = i - k + 1$	for $k \leq i \leq n$
$x_i = n - k + 1$	for <i>i</i> = <i>n</i> +1, <i>n</i> +2,, <i>n</i> + <i>k</i>

• We obtain n-k+1 segments

 For periodic B-spline modelling closed curves: x_i=i, i=0,1,...,n+1

 For this choice we have to reduce the basis function to:

$$N_i^k(t) = N_0^k((t - i + n + 1) \mod(n + 1))$$

Examples 1

 B-spline given by 4 points, degree 3, open: we get 1 cubic segment knot vector is (0,0,0,1,1,1,1) the identical curve with the Bezier cubical curve

 B-spline given by 5 points, degree 3, open: we get 2 cubic segments knot vector is (0,0,0,1,2,2,2,2)

Examples 2

 B-spline given by 4 points, degree 3, closed: we get 4 cubic segments knot vector is (0,1,2,3,4) the curve does not start and end in the given points

 B-spline given by 5 points, degree 3, closed: we get 5 cubic segments knot vector is (0,1,2,3,4,5) the curve does not start and end in the given points

Coons B-spline curve

Uniform cubic B-spline curve, does not start and end in the outer control points

$$\begin{split} P_{j}(t) &= \frac{1}{6} \sum_{i=0}^{3} P_{j+i} C_{i}(t-j), t \in \langle j; j+1 \rangle, j = 0, ..., n-3 \\ C_{0}(s) &= -s^{3} + 3s^{2} - 3s + 1 = (1-s)^{3} \\ C_{1}(s) &= 3s^{3} - 6s^{2} + 4 \\ C_{2}(s) &= -3s^{3} + 3s^{2} + 3s + 1 \\ C_{3}(s) &= s^{3} \end{split}$$

 Advantage: an easier computation than Bspline, easy connection of curves, a change of a control point influences max. 4 segments

Examples – Coons cubic B-spline



Double control point



Triple control point



Examples - Coons cubic B-spline



P_o

Closed spline

 P_{2} P_{4} P_{4} P_{4} P_{4} P_{6} P_{8} P_{6} P_{8} P_{7} P_{8} P_{7}

Locality of shape change when a control point is moved

5. NURBs curves

 Non-uniform rational B-spline curves
 Non-uniformity – relates to the parameter, rationality – to the point weights and to the division by the sum of weights

$$P(t) = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i P_i N_i^k(t)}{\sum_{i=0}^{n} w_i N_i^k(t)}$$

 w_i – weights of control points, usually non-negative

NURBs curve properties

 As B-spline, but it can also describe cone sections (e.g., a circle) and has wider possibilities of control

 For unitary weights identical with a Bspline curve, for n+1 points and degree n

with Bezier



Computation

 Cox-de Boor algorithm – a generalization of de Casteljau, a repeated subdivision of control polygon in the parts which influence the current segment

6. Approximating surfaces

- Given by a matrix of control points (they form a net, a map of the surface – a control polyhedron)
- Equations are a combination of control points and pairs of basis functions for 2 parameters
- Properties correspond
 to the curves from which
 they are built



Bezier surfaces

$$P(u,v) = \sum_{i=0}^{m} \sum_{j=0}^{n} B_{i}^{m}(u) P_{i,j} B_{i}^{n}(v), u, v \in <0; 1 >$$



Bezier bicubic patch

Bezier surfaces examples





Biquadratic

Bicubic



Bezier surfaces examples



Fig.: http://mathonline.fme.vutbr.cz/pg/Algoritmy/ 07_TECHNICKE_PLOCHY.htm

B-spline surfaces

$$P(u,v) = \sum_{i=0}^{m} \sum_{j=0}^{n} N_i^k(u) P_{i,j} N_j^l(v), u, v \in <0; t_n >$$



Fig.: http://blog.wolfram.com/ wp-content/uploads/2009/01/ splines_in28.png

B-spline surfaces examples





Degrees 1 (periodic) and 3 (non-periodic)

Degrees 1 and 3 (2x nonperiodic)

B-spline surfaces examples



Degrees 2 (non-periodic) and 3 (periodic)



Degrees 3 (periodic) and 3 (non-periodic)

B-spline surfaces examples



Patch $N_2^2(u)N_3^3(v)$



Fig.: http://martha.pnoe.net/ blog/wp-content/uploads /2006/10/surfaces.jpg



Fig.: http://graphics.c.utokyo.ac.jp/~kanai/archives /uploads/2008/04/spray.png

NURBs surfaces

$$P(u,v) = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{m} \sum_{j=0}^{n} w_{i,j} P_{i,j} N_i^k(u) N_j^l(v)}{\sum_{i=0}^{m} \sum_{j=0}^{n} w_{i,j} N_i^k(u) N_j^l(v)}$$



Fig.: H.Novotná: Modelování v prostoru, 2009 Something else to show how beautiful tool the surfaces can be: Approximating surfaces, combined with fractals





A top and perspective views of a fractal bicubic surface generated by an L-system



Branching structures as the result of tensor product surface rewriting

Kolingerová I., Märtz P., Beneš B.: Tensor Product Surfaces as Rewriting Process, Proceedings of the Spring Conference on Computer Graphics, Častá-Papiernička, Slovakia, 2006, pp.107-112