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**CS 460/560**  
**Computer Graphics**  
**Professor Richard Eckert**  
**Lecture # 17**  
**April 2, 2001**



## Lecture 16

- Parametric Bezier Polynomial Curves
- Parametric B-Spline Polynomial Curves

## Parametric Curves

- x and y expressed as explicit functions of a parameter, t
  - $x = f(t)$
  - $y = g(t)$
- Range of parameter also given
  - Delimits the extent of the curve
- To plot, let t vary over its range
  - Points on curve are generated
- Easily extended to curves in 3-D
  - $z = h(t)$

## Polynomials

- Explicit Form of n-degree polynomial:
  - $y = a_0 + a_1*x + a_2*x^2 + \dots + a_n*x^n$
- Assume we have a set of n+1 known control points: (xi,yi)
- Get polynomial coefficients  $a_i$  from the control points
- Two Methods:
  - Interpolation
  - Approximation

## Approximating Polynomials

- Curve determined by control point
- But does NOT go through all of them
- Control Points act as magnets
- Better for many graphics applications
- Most commonly used:
  - Bezier curves
  - B-spline curves

- Bezier Curves

- See CS-460/560 Notes:
  - Bezier Polynomial Curves
  - <http://www.cs.binghamton.edu/~reckert/460bezier.htm>

- B-Spline Curves

- See CS-460/560 Notes:
  - B-spline Polynomial Curves
  - <http://www.cs.binghamton.edu/~reckert/460bspline.htm>

## Bezier Polynomial Curves

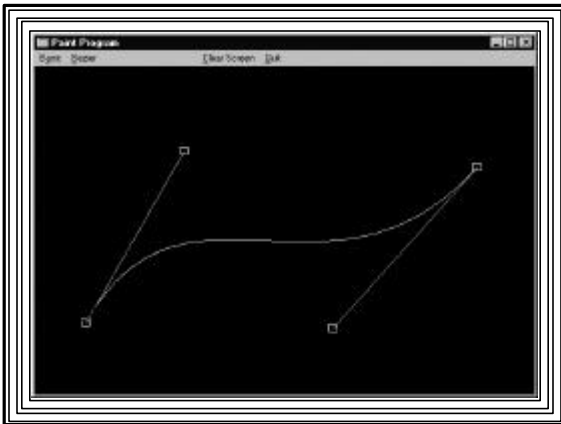
- Parametric equations for a 2-D cubic polynomial curve:
  - $x = ax*t^3 + bx*t^2 + cx*t + dx$
  - $y = ay*t^3 + by*t^2 + cy*t + dy$
  - $0 \leq t \leq 1$
- Shape of curve determined by polynomial coefficients:
  - (ax,bx,cx,dx, ay,by,cy,dy)

## Easily extended to 3-D

- Just add a third parametric equation:  
$$z = az^*t^3 + bz^*t^2 + cz^*t + dz$$

## Control Points

- Want to easily determine shape of curve
- Specify four control points:  
 $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ ,  $P_1(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ ,  $P_2(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ ,  $P_3(x_3, y_3, z_3)$
- Could use interpolating polynomial
- More useful: approximating polynomial
  - Doesn't interpolate all control points
  - Many ways to do the approximating



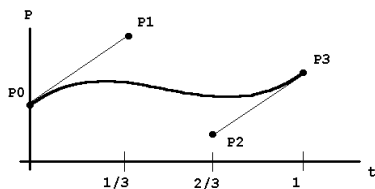
## Uniform Cubic Bezier Polynomial

- Important kind of approximating polynomial
- Assume a generic parametric cubic polynomial:  
$$P = a^*t^3 + b^*t^2 + c^*t + d, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$$
- Determined by control points  $P_0, P_1, P_2, P_3$ 
  - $P$  could be  $x, y,$  or  $z$
  - $a$  could be  $ax, ay,$  or  $az$
  - $P_0$  could be  $x_0, y_0, z_0,$  etc.

## Uniform Bezier Polynomial

$$P = a^*t^3 + b^*t^2 + c^*t + d, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$$

- Control points uniformly separated in  $t$   
 $P_0$  at  $t=0$ ,  $P_1$  at  $t=1/3$ ,  $P_2$  at  $t=2/3$ ,  $P_3$  at  $t=1$

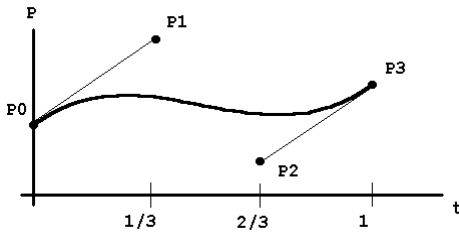


## Boundary conditions:

$$P = a^*t^3 + b^*t^2 + c^*t + d, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$$

1. Curve must interpolate control point  $P_0$   
 $P = P_0$  when  $t=0$   
So  $P_0 = d$
2. Curve must interpolate control point  $P_3$   
 $P = P_3$  when  $t=1$   
so  $P_3 = a + b + c + d$

## Uniform Cubic Bezier Curve



$$P = a*t^3 + b*t^2 + c*t + d, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$$

3. Slope of curve at  $t=0$  must be equal to that of the line that joins control points  $P_0$  and  $P_1$

$$dP/dt(\text{at } t=0) = \text{slope of } P_0-P_1$$

$$dP/dt = 3*a*t^2 + 2*b*t + c$$

$$\text{slope of } P_0-P_1 = (P_1-P_0)/(1/3-0)$$

$$\text{So: } c = 3*(P_1-P_0)$$

4. Slope of curve at  $t=1$  must be equal to that of the line that joins control points  $P_2$  and  $P_3$

$$dP/dt(\text{at } t=1) = \text{slope of } P_2-P_3$$

$$3*a + 2*b + c = (P_3-P_2)/(1 - 2/3)$$

$$3*a + 2*b + c = 3*(P_3-P_2)$$

## Solving for Polynomial Coefficients

• Equations:

$$0 + 0 + 0 + d = P_0$$

$$a + b + c + d = P_3$$

$$0 + 0 + c + 0 = 3*(P_1-P_0)$$

$$3*a + 2*b + c + 0 = 3*(P_3-P_2)$$

This can be expressed in matrix form:

$$\begin{array}{cccc|c|c|c} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & a & = & P_0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & b & & P_3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & c & & 3*(P_1-P_0) \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & 0 & d & & 3*(P_3-P_2) \end{array}$$

In other words:

$$A * C = V$$

$C = [a, b, c, d]$ , the coefficient vector

$V = [P_0, P_3, 3*(P_1-P_0), 3*(P_3-P_2)]$

$A =$  the above 4x4 matrix

• To solve multiply by A-inverse

$$A^{-1} * A * C = A^{-1} * V$$

$$C = A^{-1} * V$$

• Use Gauss-Jordan elimination or other techniques to get A-inverse

• Result:

$$A^{-1} = \begin{array}{cccc|c} 2 & -2 & 1 & 1 & \\ -3 & 3 & -2 & -1 & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \end{array}$$

So:  $C = A^{-1} * V$

$$C = \begin{array}{cccc|c|c|c} a & 2 & -2 & 1 & 1 & P_0 & \\ b & -3 & 3 & -2 & -1 & * & P_3 & \\ c & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 3(P_1-P_0) & \\ d & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3(P_3-P_2) & \end{array}$$

Final Result:

$$\begin{array}{cccc|c|c|c} a & -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 & P_0 & \\ b & 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 & * & P_1 & \\ c & -3 & 3 & 0 & 0 & P_2 & \\ d & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & P_3 & \end{array}$$

### Uniform Bezier Result

- A constant 4 X 4 matrix multiplied by a vector whose components are the control points
- Constant matrix called the Bezier geometry matrix
- Other kinds of polynomial curves will have their polynomial coefficients given by a similar equation
  - Matrix elements of the constant 4 X 4 geometry matrix will change

### Writing Bezier Result in Compact Form

- Points P on curve are given by:
 
$$P = a*t^3 + b*t^2 + c*t + d, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$$
- Can be written in a more compact form:
 
$$P = T * B_g * P_c$$

T: row vector of parameter powers  $[t^3 \ t^2 \ t \ 1]$   
 B<sub>g</sub>: the constant 4 X 4 Bezier Geometry matrix  
 P<sub>c</sub>: column vector of the control points

### Blending Function Representation

- Multiply matrix equation & rearrange
- Gives a different form:

$$P = \sum_{i=0}^3 P_i * B_i(t)$$

- P<sub>i</sub>: the control points (P0, P1, P2, P3)
- B<sub>i</sub>(t): "Bernstein Blending Functions"

- Blending Function form:

- A weighted sum of the control points
- Weighting factors: the Blending Functions
- Value of Blending function gives "pull" of corresponding control point on curve at any point t

- The blending functions are given by:

$$B_i(t) = C(3,i) * t^i * (1-t)^{(3-i)}$$

- C(3,i) is the number of combinations of 3 things taken i at a time:
- $C(3,i) = 3! / (i! * (3-i)!)$

### The Bernstein Blending Functions

- For the cubic Bezier polynomial:

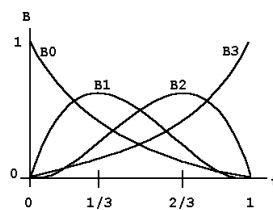
$$B_0(t) = (1-t)^3$$

$$B_1(t) = 3 * t * (1-t)^2$$

$$B_2(t) = 3 * t^2 * (1-t)$$

$$B_3(t) = t^3$$

### The Bernstein Blending Functions



$$B_0 = (1-t)^3$$

$t=0 \rightarrow 1, \quad t=1 \rightarrow 0$

$$B_1 = 3*t*(1-t)^2$$

Maximum at  $t=1/3$

$$B_2 = 3*t^2*(1-t)$$

Maximum at  $t=2/3$

$$B_3 = t^3$$

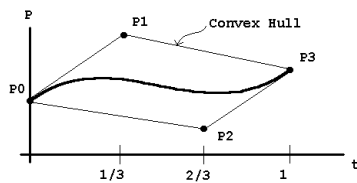
$t=0 \rightarrow 0, \quad t=1 \rightarrow 1$

- B0 has maximum value of 1 (100%) at  $t=0$ 
  - All other blending functions give 0 there
    - Control pt. P0 pulls with 100% "force" at  $t=0$
    - None of the other control points pulls at all
    - So curve must go through P0 (as we know)
- B3 has maximum value of 1 (100%) at  $t=1$ 
  - All other blending functions give 0 there
  - So curve must go through P3

- B1 has its maximum value at  $t=1/3$ 
  - Value is less than 1
  - Other Blending functions non-zero but with values  $< B1$ 's
  - So curve cannot pass through P1
  - Curve pulled hardest by P1
- Similarly at  $t=2/3$ , P2 pulls hardest

## Properties of Bezier Curves

- $B_k \leq 1$ , so:
  - Control points lie outside curve
    - curve lies inside "Convex Hull" of control points
  - Important for clipping



## More Bezier Curve Properties

- "Pull" of a control point is proportional to "distance" (in  $t$ ) from the control point
- Bezier Curves are invariant under affine transformations
  - So just transform control points and redraw the curve

## Plotting Bezier Curves

- Brute Force Method:
  1. Get control points  $P0=(x0,y0)$ ,  $P1=(x1,y1)$ ,  $P2=(x2,y2)$ ,  $P3=(x3,y3)$ .
    - Could use interactive locator device (mouse)
  2. Compute values of a, b, c, d from control points
    - Really  $ax, bx, cx, dx$  and  $ay, by, cy, dy$
    - Use matrix equations
    - (Alternative: use blending functions)

3. for ( $t=0$ ;  $t \leq 1$ ;  $t += \text{delta}$ )
  - Compute P (x & y) from polynomial equations
  - if ( $t==0$ )
    - MoveTo(x,y)
  - else
    - LineTo(x,y)
- Delta: a small increment (e.g. 0.05)
- Would give approximation to curve consisting of straight-line segments

## Improving Performance

- Brute force is much too much work  
 $P = a*t^3 + b*t^2 + c*t + d$   
 – Each iteration: 5 floating point multiplies  
 $c*t, t^*t, b*(t^*t), t^*(t^*t), a*(t^*(t^*t))$   
 – and 3 floating point adds
- Using Horner's rule for polynomial evaluation:  
 $P = ((a*t+b)*t+c)*t$   
 – 3 multiplies and 3 adds

- Can do much better
- Use technique of Forward Differences
- Will improve performance  
 – only 3 floating point adds during each iteration!

## Forward Differences

- Get new x,y values from old while stepping  
 $x_{i+1} = x_i + \Delta x$
- Look at x equation:  
 $x = at^3 + bt^2 + ct + d$
- Assume equal increments in t,  $\delta t = \delta$   
 $t_{i+1} = t_i + \delta, \Delta x = x_{i+1} - x_i$   
 $\Delta x = a(t+\delta)^3 + b(t+\delta)^2 + c(t+\delta)t + d - at^3 - bt^2 - ct - d$
- Result (first forward difference):  
 $\Delta x = 3a\delta t^2 + (3a\delta^2 + 2b\delta)t + a\delta^3 + b\delta^2 + c\delta$   
 Reduced to quadratic

- Do again to simplify  $\Delta x$   
 $\Delta x = \Delta x + \Delta(\Delta x) = \Delta x + \Delta^2 x$   
 $\Delta^2 x = \Delta x(t+\delta) - \Delta x(t)$   
 $\Delta^2 x = 3a\delta(t+\delta)^2 + (3a\delta^2 + 2b\delta)(t+\delta) + k - 3a\delta t^2 - (3a\delta^2 + 2b\delta)t - k$   
 where  $k = a\delta^3 + b\delta^2 + c\delta$
- Result (second forward difference):  
 $\Delta^2 x = 6a\delta^2 t + 6a\delta^3 + 2b\delta^2$   
 Reduced to linear equation  
 For next step let  $k1 = 6a\delta^3 + 2b\delta^2$

- Do again to simplify  $\Delta^2 x$   
 $\Delta^2 x = \Delta^2 x + \Delta(\Delta^2 x) = \Delta^2 x + \Delta^3 x$   
 $\Delta^3 x = \Delta^2 x(t+\delta) - \Delta^2 x(t)$   
 $\Delta^3 x = 6a\delta^2(t+\delta) + k1 - 6a\delta^2 t - k1$
- Result (third forward difference):  
 $\Delta^3 x = 6a\delta^3$
- Final Results( recurrence relations):  
 $x = x + \Delta x$   
 $\Delta x = \Delta x + \Delta^2 x$   
 $\Delta^2 x = \Delta^2 x + \Delta^3 x$   
 Three adds on each iteration

## Initial Values

- Need to calculate only once  
 $x_0 = a*t_0^3 + b*t_0^2 + c*t_0 + d$   
 $\Delta x_0 = 3a\delta*t_0^2 + (3a\delta^2 + 2b\delta)*t_0 + a\delta^3 + b\delta^2 + c\delta$   
 $\Delta^2 x_0 = 6a\delta^2*t_0 + 6a\delta^3 + 2b\delta^2$   
 $\Delta^3 x_0 = 6a\delta^3$

### Example Using Forward Difference Calculations

$$x = t^3 + 2t^2 + 3t + 1, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 10$$

For simplicity take  $\delta = 1$

$$a=1, b=2, c=3, d=1$$

$$t_0=0$$

$$x_0 = 1$$

$$\Delta x_0 = 1 + 2 + 3 = 6$$

$$\Delta^2 x_0 = 6 + 2 \cdot 2 = 10$$

$$\Delta^3 x_0 = 6$$

### Example Forward Difference Calculations

t	0	1	2	3	4	5
x	1	7	23	55	109	191
$\Delta x$	6	16	32	54	82	116
$\Delta^2 x$	10	16	22	28	34	40
$\Delta^3 x$	6	6	6	6	6	6