

## Chap 4. Bézier Curves

### 4.1 Bézier Curves

A Bézier curve of degree  $n$  is defined by

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = l_{b_0} B_0^n(t) + l_{b_1} B_1^n(t) + \cdots + l_{b_n} B_n^n(t),$$

where  $B_i^n(t) = \binom{n}{i} (1-t)^{n-i} t^i$  : Bernstein polynomial.

$$\binom{n}{i} = \begin{cases} \frac{n!}{i!(n-i)!} & \text{if } 0 \leq i \leq n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

### 4.2 Derivatives Revisited

$$\mathbf{x}'(t) = n [ \Delta l_{b_0} B_0^{n-1}(t) + \cdots + \Delta l_{b_{n-1}} B_{n-1}^{n-1}(t) ],$$

where  $\Delta l_{b_i} = l_{b_{i+1}} - l_{b_i}$ .  $\hookrightarrow$  a Bézier curve of degree  $(n-1)$ .  
↳ vectors.

$$\frac{d^k \mathbf{x}(t)}{dt^k} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!} [\Delta^k l_{b_0} B_0^{n-k}(t) + \cdots + \Delta^k l_{b_{n-k}} B_{n-k}^{n-k}(t)],$$

where  $\Delta^k l_{b_i} = \Delta^{k-1} l_{b_{i+1}} - \Delta^{k-1} l_{b_i}$  and  $\Delta^0 l_{b_i} = l_{b_i}$ .

Ex

$$\Delta^2 l_{b_i} = \Delta l_{b_{i+1}} - \Delta l_{b_i} = l_{b_{i+2}} - 2l_{b_{i+1}} + l_{b_i}$$

$$\Delta^3 l_{b_i} = \Delta^2 l_{b_{i+1}} - \Delta^2 l_{b_i} = l_{b_{i+3}} - 3l_{b_{i+2}} + 3l_{b_{i+1}} - l_{b_i}$$

$$\Delta^4 l_{b_i} = \Delta^3 l_{b_{i+1}} - \Delta^3 l_{b_i} = l_{b_{i+4}} - 4l_{b_{i+3}} + 6l_{b_{i+2}} - 4l_{b_{i+1}} + l_{b_i}$$

$$\left[ \begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}^{(k)}(0) &= \frac{n!}{(n-k)!} \Delta^k l_{b_0} \\ \mathbf{x}^{(k)}(1) &= \frac{n!}{(n-k)!} \Delta^k l_{b_{n-k}} \end{aligned} \right]$$

Ex

For a cubic Bézier curve  $\mathbf{x}(t)$ ,

$$\mathbf{x}''(0) = 6 \Delta^2 l_{b_0} = 6(l_{b_2} - 2l_{b_1} + l_{b_0}).$$

#### 4.3 The de Casteljau Algorithm Revisited

[ for  $i=1, \dots, n$

[ for  $\epsilon=0, \dots, n-i$

$$lb_i^{\epsilon}(t) = (1-t)lb_{\epsilon}^{n-i}(t) + tlb_{\epsilon+1}^{n-i}(t)$$

o.  $\mathbf{x}(t) = lb_0^n(t)$  : the point on the curve.

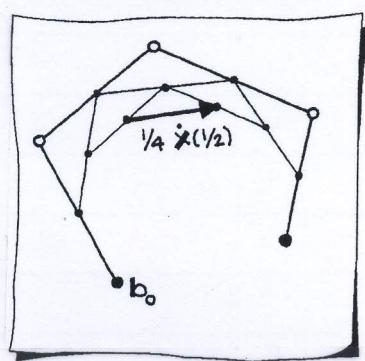
o. The de Casteljau algorithm subdivides the curve into a left and a right segment. Their control polygons are given by

$$lb_0, lb_0^1, \dots, lb_0^n \text{ and } lb_0^n, lb_1^{n-1}, \dots, lb_n.$$

o. The de Casteljau algorithm provides a way for computing the first derivative and the second derivative

$$\mathbf{x}'(t) = n [lb_1^{n-1}(t) - lb_0^{n-1}(t)]$$

$$\mathbf{x}''(t) = n(n-1) [lb_2^{n-2}(t) - 2lb_1^{n-2}(t) + lb_0^{n-2}(t)]$$



#### 4.4 The Matrix Form and Monomials Revisited

o.  $\mathbf{x}(t) = N^T B$ , where  $N = \begin{bmatrix} B^0(t) \\ \vdots \\ B^n(t) \end{bmatrix}$  and  $B = \begin{bmatrix} lb_0 \\ \vdots \\ lb_n \end{bmatrix}$

o.  $\mathbf{x}(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + \dots + a_n t^n$ ,

where  $a_0 = lb_0$  and  $a_i = \frac{n!}{(n-i)!} \frac{\Delta^i lb_0}{i!} = \binom{n}{i} \Delta^i lb_0$ ,  
for  $i=1, \dots, n$ .

## 4.5 Degree Elevation

- c. A Bézier curve of degree  $n$  may be represented as a Bézier curve of degree  $(n+1)$ .

Ex

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = (1-t)^2 \mathbf{b}_0 + 2(1-t)t \mathbf{b}_1 + t^2 \mathbf{b}_2 : \text{ a quadratic curve.}$$

Multiplying by  $1 = [(1-t)+t]$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}(t) &= [(1-t)^3 + (1-t)^2 t] \mathbf{b}_0 + 2[(1-t)^2 t + (1-t)t^2] \mathbf{b}_1 \\ &\quad + [(1-t)t^2 + t^3] \mathbf{b}_2 \\ &= (1-t)^3 \mathbf{b}_0 + 3(1-t)^2 t \left[ \frac{1}{3} \mathbf{b}_0 + \frac{2}{3} \mathbf{b}_1 \right] \\ &\quad + 3(1-t)t^2 \left[ \frac{2}{3} \mathbf{b}_1 + \frac{1}{3} \mathbf{b}_2 \right] + t^3 \mathbf{b}_2. \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \mathbf{x}(t) = B_0^3(t) \mathbf{b}_0 + B_1^3(t) \left[ \frac{1}{3} \mathbf{b}_0 + \frac{2}{3} \mathbf{b}_1 \right] + B_2^3(t) \left[ \frac{2}{3} \mathbf{b}_1 + \frac{1}{3} \mathbf{b}_2 \right] + B_3^3(t) \mathbf{b}_2.$$

Ex 4.2

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = (1-t)^2 \mathbf{b}_0 + 2(1-t)t \mathbf{b}_1 + t^2 \mathbf{b}_2,$$

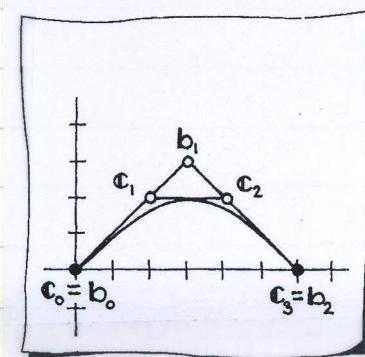
$$\text{where } \mathbf{b}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{b}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{b}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Degree elevation will produce

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = (1-t)^3 \mathbf{c}_0 + 3(1-t)^2 t \mathbf{c}_1 + 3(1-t)t^2 \mathbf{c}_2 + t^3 \mathbf{c}_3,$$

$$\text{where } \mathbf{c}_0 = \mathbf{b}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{c}_3 = \mathbf{b}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{c}_1 = \frac{1}{3} \mathbf{b}_0 + \frac{2}{3} \mathbf{b}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{c}_2 = \frac{2}{3} \mathbf{b}_1 + \frac{1}{3} \mathbf{b}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$



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Degree elevation of a Bézier curve of degree  $n$  to a Bézier curve of degree  $(n+1)$ :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} C_0 = l b_0 \\ \vdots \\ C_i = \frac{i}{n+1} l b_{i-1} + (1 - \frac{i}{n+1}) l b_i \\ \vdots \\ C_{n+1} = l b_n \end{array} \right.$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & * & * & \dots & * & * \\ & 1 & & & & \\ & & 1 & & & \\ & & & 1 & & \\ & & & & 1 & \\ & & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} l b_0 \\ \vdots \\ l b_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} C_0 \\ \vdots \\ C_{n+1} \end{bmatrix}$$

$\hookrightarrow (n+2) \times (n+1)$  matrix  
 $DB = C$

- The process of degree elevation may be repeated.  
 The resulting sequence of central polygons converges to the curve. However, convergence is too slow.

### Ex 4.3

For  $n=2$ ,

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1/3 & 2/3 & 0 \\ 0 & 2/3 & 1/3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} l b_0 \\ l b_1 \\ l b_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} C_0 \\ C_1 \\ C_2 \\ C_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

## 4.6 Degree Reduction

- The inverse process of degree reduction is more important. Some CAD systems allow degrees up to 40, others use cubic curves. Reducing a curve of degree 40 to cubic is non-trivial. In practice, several cubic segments will be needed, involving an interplay between subdivision and degree reduction.
- Degree reduction approximates a curve of degree  $(n+1)$  by a curve of degree  $n$ . To approximate the solution of  $D^T B = C$ , we solve  $D^T D B = D^T C$ .
- The matrix  $D^T D$  is independent of the given data, but dependent only on  $n$ . To solve many degree reduction problems, we store the LU factorization of  $D^T D$ .

### Ex 4.4

For  $n+1=3$ ,  $D^T D = \frac{1}{9} \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 8 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 10 \end{bmatrix}$

For the degree-elevated cubic curve  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  with  $C_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $C_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $C_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $C_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , we get

$$D^T C = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 12 & 8 \\ 22 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{corresponds to the } y\text{-components} \\ \text{corresponds to the } x\text{-components} \end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow B = (D^T D)^{-1} (D^T C) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 3 \\ 6 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\therefore B_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, B_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, B_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- In general, the degree-reduced curve may not pass through the original curve endpoint  $C_0$  and  $C_{n+1}$ .

## 4.8 Functional Bézier Curves

- The graph of a functional curve can be thought of as a parametric curve of the form

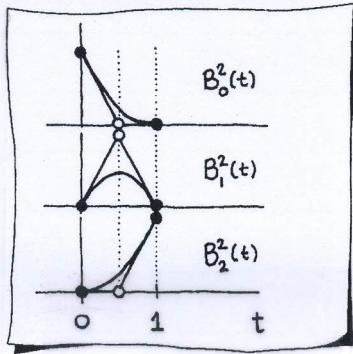
$$[\vec{y}] = \begin{bmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} t \\ g(t) \end{bmatrix}. \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{(Another name is} \\ \text{a nonparametric curve)} \end{array}$$

- One dimension is restricted to be a linear polynomial.
- How to write a (polynomial) functional curve in Bézier form

$$g(t) = b_0 B_0^n(t) + \dots + b_n B_n^n(t), \quad (b_i: \text{scalar values or Bézier ordinates})$$

$$\Rightarrow l_b(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ b_0 \end{bmatrix} B_0^n(t) + \dots + \begin{bmatrix} j/n \\ b_j \end{bmatrix} B_j^n(t) + \dots + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ b_n \end{bmatrix} B_n^n(t).$$

## 4.9 More on Bernstein Polynomials



### Properties

- Partition of unity:  $B_0^n(t) + \dots + B_n^n(t) = 1$
- $0 \leq B_i^n(t) \leq 1$ .
- Convex hull property of the Bézier curve
- Symmetry of the Bernstein polynomials:

$$B_i^n(t) = B_{n-i}^n(1-t)$$

$\Rightarrow$  This is reflected in Bézier curves by the symmetry property.