

# INTERPOLATING VALUES USING A TETRAHEDRAL MESH

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# 1 The Math

A 3D tetrahedron, a polyhedron having four triangular faces and four vertices, is defined by its four vertices  $v_1, v_2, v_3$  and  $v_4$ , where  $v_n$  is a 3 dimensional point in Cartesian space  $v_n = [x_n \ y_n \ z_n]^T$ . The barycentric coordinates are defined so that the first vertex  $v_1$  maps to barycentric coordinates  $\lambda_1 = [1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0]$ ,  $v_2 \rightarrow [0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0]$ , etc. and that the sum of barycentric parameters  $\sum \lambda_n = 1$ .

This is a linear transformation and the problem can be written in matrix form so that  $v = R\lambda$  with  $R = [v_1|v_2|v_3|v_4]$  and  $\lambda = [\lambda_1 \ \lambda_2 \ \lambda_3]^T$ . The condition  $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 = 1$  can be augmented into the matrix to form the final equation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_{1x} & v_{2x} & v_{3x} & v_{4x} \\ v_{1y} & v_{2y} & v_{3y} & v_{4y} \\ v_{1z} & v_{2z} & v_{3z} & v_{4z} \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \lambda = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

Where  $x, y$ , and  $z$  define a 3D point in Cartesian space. The barycentric coordinates  $\lambda$  can be solved as the solution of the linear equation 1.

Given a subspace  $V = \text{span}(\vec{e}_1|\vec{e}_2|\dots)$  where  $\vec{e}_n$  is the basis for  $V$  and  $\vec{x}, \vec{e}_n \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , the projection of  $\vec{x}$  onto  $V$  is defined as:

$$\text{proj}_V \vec{x} = A (A^T A)^{-1} A^T \vec{x} \quad (2)$$

The face of a tetrahedron is defined by the three vertices  $v_1, v_2$  and  $v_3$ , where  $v_n \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . A point  $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3$  is projected into the triangle:

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{a} &= \vec{v}_2 - \vec{v}_1 \\ \vec{b} &= \vec{v}_3 - \vec{v}_1 \\ \text{proj}_V \vec{x} &= A (A^T A)^{-1} A^T \vec{x} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} a_x & b_x \\ a_y & b_y \\ a_z & b_z \end{bmatrix} \left( \begin{bmatrix} a_x & a_y & a_z \\ b_x & b_y & b_z \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_x & b_x \\ a_y & b_y \\ a_z & b_z \end{bmatrix} \right)^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} a_x & a_y & a_z \\ b_x & b_y & b_z \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$