

CAGD - Homework 4

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Task 3

In this task we want to derive a relation between the number of control points $n+1$ of a clamped B-spline curve of degree p and with simple knots, and the total number of control points of the curve's Bézier segments. We first determine the number of Bézier segments expressed in n and then find the number of control points.

Number of Bézier segments

In the case of only simple knots, including the endpoints, we know that the number of subintervals are given by

$$\#\text{subintervals} = \#\text{knots} - 1. \quad (1)$$

From (1), it is evident that in the present case, the number of Bézier segments is given by

$$\#\text{segments} = \#\text{knots} - 2p - 1. \quad (2)$$

Furthermore, we know that

$$\#\text{knots} - 1 = \#\text{controlpoints} + \text{degree},$$

or equivalently

$$\#\text{knots} - 1 = n + 1 + p. \quad (3)$$

Using (2) and (3), we have that

$$\#\text{segments} = n + 1 - p. \quad (4)$$

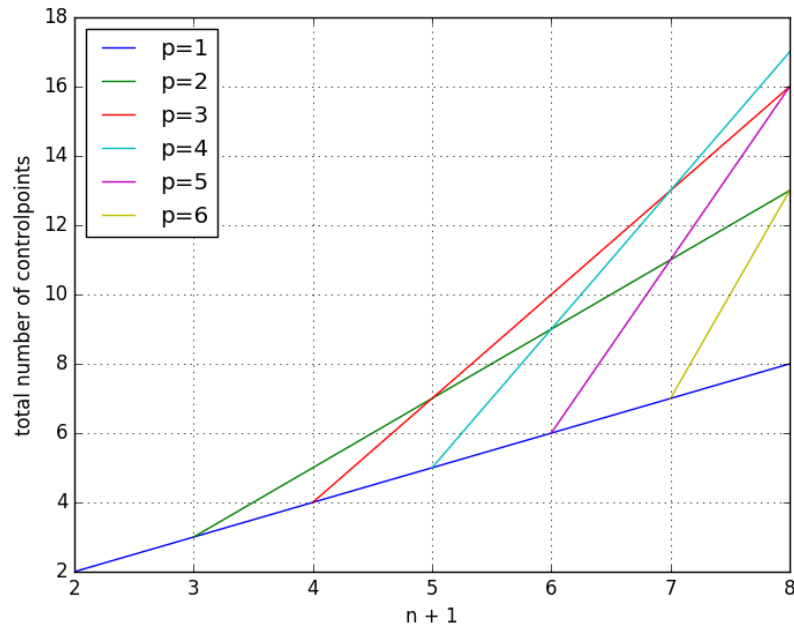
Number of control points

Every Bézier segments has the same degree p as the original curve, resulting in every segment needing $p + 1$ control points. As the inner control points are each used by two Bézier segments, one of the segment has $p + 1$ unique control points, while the others have p unique control points each. Using (4), we have that the total number of control points are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \#\text{total} &= p + 1 + p(n + 1 - p) \\ &= p(n + 1 - p) + 1. \end{aligned}$$

Comparison with control points of B-spline

In the plot below, the relation of $n + 1$ and the total number of control points of the Bézier segments can be seen. From (4) we have that $n + 1 > p$, yielding the somewhat strange appearance of the plot. We see that the number of total number of control points of the Bézier segments is larger than the number of control points of the corresponding B-splines, except for the case $p = 1$, where they are equal.



Appendix I