

# The Essentials of CAGD

## Chapter 12: Composite Surfaces

Gerald Farin & Dianne Hansford

CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group, An A K Peters Book  
[www.farinhansford.com/books/essentials-cagd](http://www.farinhansford.com/books/essentials-cagd)

©2000



# Outline

- 1 Introduction to Composite Surfaces
- 2 Composite Bézier Surfaces
- 3 B-spline Surfaces
- 4 B-Spline Surface Approximation
- 5 B-Spline Surface Interpolation
- 6 Subdivision Surfaces: Doo-Sabin
- 7 Subdivision Surfaces: Catmull-Clark

# Introduction to Composite Surfaces



**Composite surface:** surface composed of more than one patch

One Bézier patch rarely flexible enough to model a real life part

More common: many patches stitched together

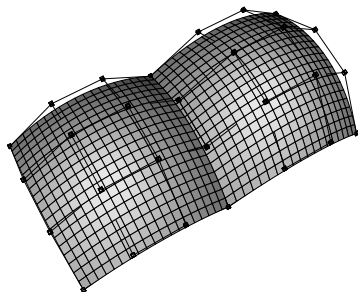
⇒ Composite Bézier surface or B-spline surface

Subdivision surfaces are another popular type of composite surface

– Used by many animation studios

– Figure taken from “A Bug’s Life” from Pixar Studios.

# Composite Bézier Surfaces



“Left” bicubic Bézier patch:

$$\mathbf{b}_{i,j} \quad 0 \leq i, j \leq 3 \quad \text{domain: } [u_0, u_1] \times [v_0, v_1]$$

“Right” bicubic Bézier patch:

$$\mathbf{b}_{i,j} \quad 3 \leq i \leq 6 \quad 0 \leq j \leq 3 \quad \text{domain: } [u_1, u_2] \times [v_0, v_1]$$

Both share a common control point and domain boundary

# Composite Bézier Surfaces

Smoothness between patches

Composite control net contains four rows of control points:

$\mathbf{b}_{0,0}, \dots, \mathbf{b}_{6,0}$

$\mathbf{b}_{1,0}, \dots, \mathbf{b}_{6,1}$

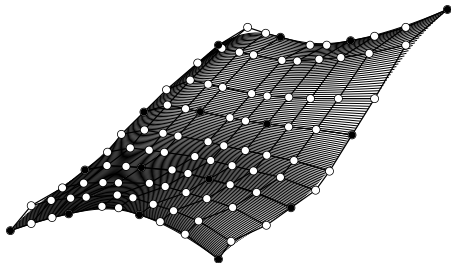
$\mathbf{b}_{2,0}, \dots, \mathbf{b}_{6,2}$

$\mathbf{b}_{3,0}, \dots, \mathbf{b}_{6,3}$

Each row interpreted as  
the piecewise Bézier polygon of a composite cubic curve  
over the knot sequence  $u_0, u_1, u_2$

Surface is  $C^1$  if all rows satisfy curve  $C^1$  conditions

# Composite Bézier Surfaces



Knots:  $u_i : 0, 1, 3, 4$  “horizontal”       $v_j : 0, 1, 2, 3$

For bicubics:

$$\mathbf{b}_{3,j} = \frac{\Delta_1}{\Delta} \mathbf{b}_{2,j} + \frac{\Delta_0}{\Delta} \mathbf{b}_{4,j} \quad j = 0, 1, 2, 3$$

$$\Delta_0 = u_1 - u_0 \quad \Delta_1 = u_2 - u_1 \quad \Delta = u_2 - u_0$$

$\Rightarrow$  Points  $\mathbf{b}_{2,j}, \mathbf{b}_{3,j}, \mathbf{b}_{4,j}$  must be collinear *and* in the same ratio:

$$\text{ratio}(\mathbf{b}_{2,j}, \mathbf{b}_{3,j}, \mathbf{b}_{4,j}) = \frac{\Delta_0}{\Delta_1}$$

# Composite Bézier Surfaces

$C^1$  conditions for composite surfaces are quite simple to handle

Rectangular network of patches

with  $u$ - and  $v$ -knot sequences

⇒ Inflexibility in shape control

If not all  $u$ -isoparametric curves have similar shape, then a common knot sequence for all of them is problematic

Same holds for the  $v$ -curves

# B-spline Surfaces

B-spline curve:

$$\mathbf{x}(u) = \mathbf{d}_0 N_0^n(u) + \dots + \mathbf{d}_{D-1} N_{D-1}^n(u) \Rightarrow \mathbf{x}(u) = N^T \mathbf{D}$$

B-spline surface  $\mathbf{x}(u, v)$ :

$$\mathbf{x}(u, v) = \begin{bmatrix} N_0^m(u) & \dots & N_{D-1}^m(u) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{d}_{0,0} & \dots & \mathbf{d}_{0,E-1} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \mathbf{d}_{D-1,0} & \dots & \mathbf{d}_{D-1,E-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} N_0^n(v) \\ \vdots \\ N_{E-1}^n(v) \end{bmatrix}$$

Abbreviated to

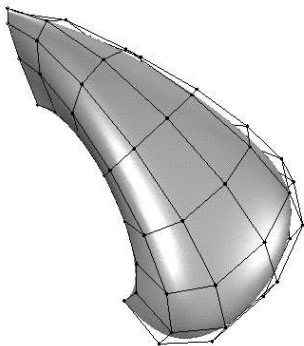
$$\mathbf{x}(u, v) = M^T \mathbf{D} N$$

Over knot sequences

$$u_0, u_1, \dots, u_{R-1} \quad v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{S-1}$$



# B-spline Surfaces



Bicubic B-spline surface  
over knot sequences  
 $u_i = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$   
 $v_j = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$

B-spline surfaces enjoy all the properties of Bézier patches

- Symmetry
- Affine invariance
- Convex hull property
- Etc.

One difference:

Boundary polygons/boundary curves  
correspondence

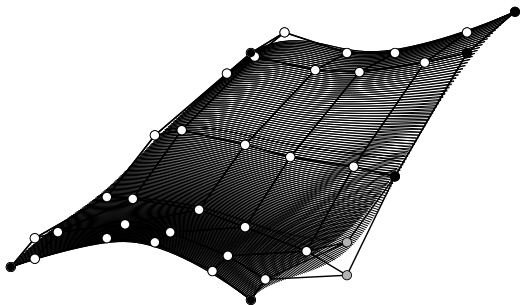
- Only with full multiplicity of end knots
- Analogous to endpoint interpolation property of B-spline curves

# B-spline Surfaces

## Local control:

If one control point is moved

Only up to  $(m + 1)(n + 1)$  patches in vicinity affected



Two control nets differ by only one control point

- Marked in gray for either net
- Surface differences appear through *Moiré patterns*  
“waves” not part of either surface

# B-spline Surfaces

**Isoparametric curve:** curve on surface formed by fixing one parameter

– For example:  $u = \bar{u}$

Represent *isocurve* as B-spline curve

$$\mathbf{C} = M^T \mathbf{D} = [\mathbf{c}_0, \dots, \mathbf{c}_{E-1}]$$

Factor  $\mathbf{x}(u, v) = M^T \mathbf{D} N$  as

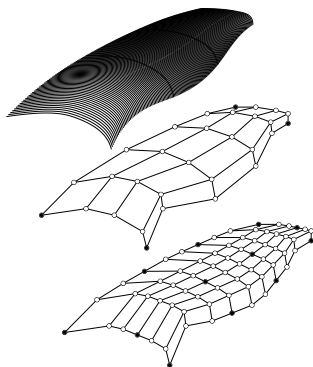
$$\mathbf{x}(\bar{u}, v) = \mathbf{C} N \Rightarrow \text{B-spline curve with variable } v$$

– As  $v$  varies,  $\mathbf{x}(\bar{u}, v)$  traces out the desired isocurve

Try forming isocurve  $\mathbf{x}(u, \bar{v})$

An isocurve control polygon may be treated as any other curve

# B-spline Surfaces



Top: bicubic B-spline surface  
Middle: B-spline control polygon  
Bottom: piecewise Bézier control net

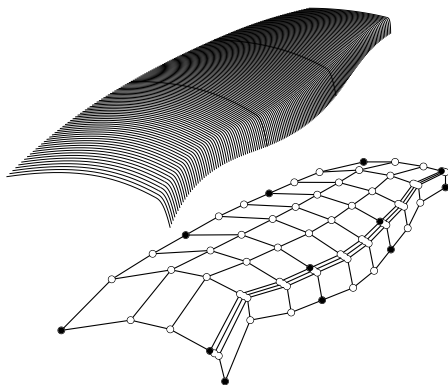
B-spline surface consists of a collection of individual polynomial patches

Each may be written in Bézier form

Obtain patch control nets:

- 1 Convert each row of control points into piecewise Bézier form
- 2 Convert each column of result into piecewise Bézier form

# B-spline Surfaces



Another example:

B-spline control net the same as previous figure

Different knot sequence in the  $u$ -direction

Knot sequences:  $u_i : 0, 1, 3, 4$        $v_j : 0, 1, 2, 3$

# B-Spline Surface Approximation

**Given:** Data points  $\mathbf{p}_k$ ;  $k = 0, \dots, K - 1$

**Find:** a B-spline surface that approximates the data

Need more information to solve problem:

B-spline surface specifications

- $u$ - and  $v$ -knot sequences

- $u$ - and  $v$ -degrees

Each data point  $\mathbf{p}_k$  associated with a pair of parameters  $(u_k, v_k)$

- Parameters expected to be in domain of B-spline surface

B-spline surface (written with linearized ordering of terms)

$$\mathbf{x}(u, v) = [N_0^m(u)N_0^n(v), \dots, N_{D-1}^m(u)N_{E-1}^n(v)] \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{d}_{0,0} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{d}_{D-1,E-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

## B-Spline Surface Approximation

For the  $k^{\text{th}}$  data point:  $\mathbf{p}_k = \mathbf{x}(u_k, v_k)$

$$\mathbf{x}(u, v) = [N_0^m(u_k)N_0^n(v_k), \dots, N_{D-1}^m(u_k)N_{E-1}^n(v_k)] \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{d}_{0,0} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{d}_{D-1,E-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

Combining all  $K$  of these equations

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p}_0 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{p}_{K-1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} N_0^m(u_0)N_0^n(v_0) & \dots & N_{D-1}^m(u_0)N_{E-1}^n(v_0) \\ & \vdots & \\ & \vdots & \\ & \vdots & \\ N_0^m(u_{K-1})N_0^n(v_{K-1}) & \dots & N_{D-1}^m(u_{K-1})N_{E-1}^n(v_{K-1}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{d}_{0,0} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{d}_{D-1,E-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{D}$$

Least squares solution found by solving  $\mathbf{M}^T\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{M}^T\mathbf{M}\mathbf{D}$

$\Rightarrow$  System of **normal equations**

# B-Spline Surface Approximation

Least squares solution

- may have unsatisfactory shape in some cases
- may not be solvable if “holes” exist in data distribution

Shape equations are a tool to overcome these problems

Motivation:

In a “nice” mesh, each control mesh quadrilateral is a parallelogram

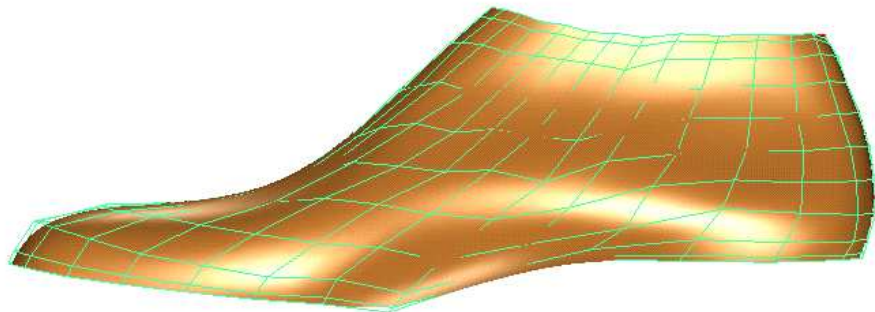
$$\mathbf{d}_{i,j} + \mathbf{d}_{i+1,j+1} - \mathbf{d}_{i+1,j} - \mathbf{d}_{i,j+1} = \mathbf{0}$$

Add each of the equations to the overdetermined system

Solve system using normal equations



# B-Spline Surface Approximation



Example: least squares B-spline surface fit to a shoe last

# B-Spline Surface Interpolation

## Bicubic B-spline surfaces interpolation problem

**Given:** a  $P \times Q$  rectangular array of data points  $\mathbf{p}_{i,j}$

**Find:** an interpolating bicubic B-spline surface

Corners of the patch go through the given data points

Surface knot sequences

$$u_i \text{ for } 0 \leq i < R \quad \text{and} \quad v_i \text{ for } 0 \leq i < S$$

where  $R = P + 4$  and  $S = Q + 4$

Surface control net

$$\mathbf{d}_{i,j} \quad 0 \leq i < D, \quad 0 \leq j < E$$

must have  $D = P + 2$  and  $E = Q + 2$  control points

# B-Spline Surface Interpolation

**Solution:** reduce it to a series of curve interpolation problems

Interpret the given  $P \times Q$  array of data points as a set of  $P$  rows of points

To each row with  $Q$  points, fit a B-spline curve

$\Rightarrow Q + 2$  control points in each row

Produces a  $P \times (Q + 2)$  net of control points  $\mathbf{c}_{i,j}$

$\mathbf{c}_{i,j}$  treated in a column-by-column fashion:

To each of these  $(Q + 2)$  columns, fit a B-spline curve through  $P$  points

$\Rightarrow$  results in  $P + 2$  control points in each column

**Final result:**  $(P + 2) \times (Q + 2)$  control net  $\mathbf{d}_{i,j}$

$\Rightarrow$  Surface interpolating the given  $P \times Q$  array of data points

This curve-based approach saves computing time:

Solve tridiagonal linear systems

– One matrix for all row problems and one matrix for all column problems

# B-Spline Surface Interpolation

Example:

**Given:** a  $2 \times 3$  array of data points

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p}_{0,0} & \mathbf{p}_{0,1} & \mathbf{p}_{0,2} \\ \mathbf{p}_{1,0} & \mathbf{p}_{1,1} & \mathbf{p}_{1,2} \end{bmatrix}$$

To each row, fit a B-spline curve  $\Rightarrow$  resulting in two control polygons

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{c}_{0,0} & \mathbf{c}_{0,1} & \mathbf{c}_{0,2} & \mathbf{c}_{0,3} & \mathbf{c}_{0,4} \\ \mathbf{c}_{1,0} & \mathbf{c}_{1,1} & \mathbf{c}_{1,2} & \mathbf{c}_{1,3} & \mathbf{c}_{1,4} \end{bmatrix}$$

Treat each of five columns as a set of curve data points

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{d}_{0,0} & \mathbf{d}_{0,1} & \mathbf{d}_{0,2} & \mathbf{d}_{0,3} & \mathbf{d}_{0,4} \\ \mathbf{d}_{1,0} & \mathbf{d}_{1,1} & \mathbf{d}_{1,2} & \mathbf{d}_{1,3} & \mathbf{d}_{1,4} \\ \mathbf{d}_{2,0} & \mathbf{d}_{2,1} & \mathbf{d}_{2,2} & \mathbf{d}_{2,3} & \mathbf{d}_{2,4} \\ \mathbf{d}_{3,0} & \mathbf{d}_{3,1} & \mathbf{d}_{3,2} & \mathbf{d}_{3,3} & \mathbf{d}_{3,4} \end{bmatrix}$$

$\mathbf{d}_{i,j}$  form the interpolating surface control mesh

# Subdivision Surfaces: Doo-Sabin

de Casteljau algorithm and de Boor algorithm

Two examples of subdivision schemes

Refine a polygon  $\Rightarrow$  polygon locally approximates a smooth curve

Both algorithms are actually repeated instances of *knot insertion*

# Subdivision Surfaces: Doo-Sabin

Chaikin's algorithm:

**Input:** a polygon (squares)

$\mathbf{d}_0, \mathbf{d}_1, \dots, \mathbf{d}_n$

**Output:** a refined polygon approximating a smooth curve

One step produces

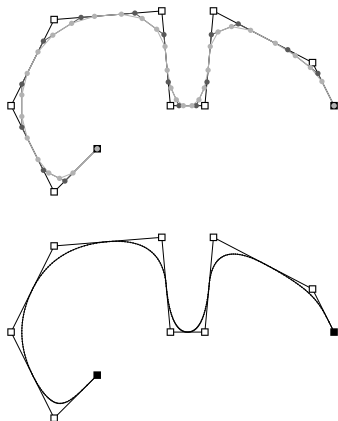
$$\mathbf{d}_0^1 = \mathbf{d}_0$$

$$\mathbf{d}_{2i-1} = \frac{3}{4}\mathbf{d}_i + \frac{1}{4}\mathbf{d}_{i-1}$$

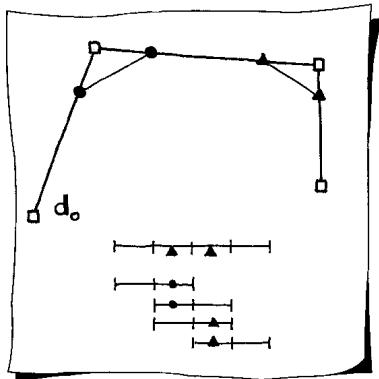
$$\mathbf{d}_{2i} = \frac{3}{4}\mathbf{d}_i + \frac{1}{4}\mathbf{d}_{i+1}$$

$$\mathbf{d}_{2n-1}^1 = \mathbf{d}_n$$

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



# Subdivision Surfaces: Doo-Sabin



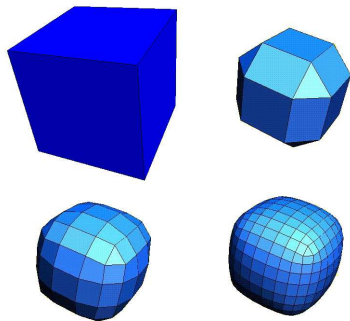
Chaikin's algorithm is a special application of knot insertion

Input polygon consists of de Boor points  $\mathbf{d}_i$  of a *quadratic B-spline*

Knot sequence: uniform

One step of algorithm equivalent to inserting a knot at the midpoint of each domain knot interval

# Subdivision Surfaces: Doo-Sabin



Carry curve concept to surfaces

Chaikin's algorithm generalized to the **Doo-Sabin algorithm**

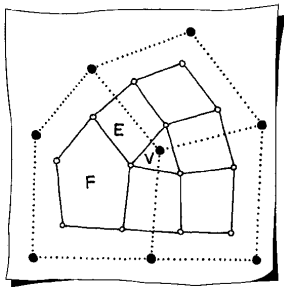
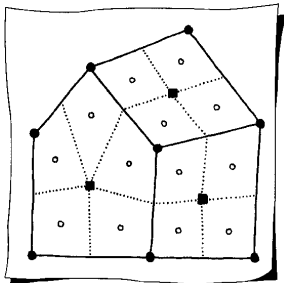
- Converges to biquadratic B-splines
- Defined over uniform knots

Doo-Sabin algorithm can be applied to polygonal meshes of arbitrary topology

- Polygons do not have to be be four-sided



# Subdivision Surfaces: Doo-Sabin



## One step of Doo-Sabin

- 1 For each face, form new vertices
  - a. Centroid
  - b. Edge midpoints
  - c. New vertex as average of face vertex, centroid, and two edge midpoints
- 2 Form new faces from new vertices
  - a. F-faces
  - b. E-faces
  - c. V-faces

Repeat until the polygonal mesh is desired smoothness

# Subdivision Surfaces: Doo-Sabin

Four quadrilaterals – vertices form a  $3 \times 3$  rectangular net:

$\Rightarrow$  control net of a biquadratic B-spline patch over uniform knot sequences

Neighboring rectangular patches are  $C^1$

– Non-four-sided faces  $\Rightarrow$  surface less smooth (in general)

Non-four-sided faces appear if

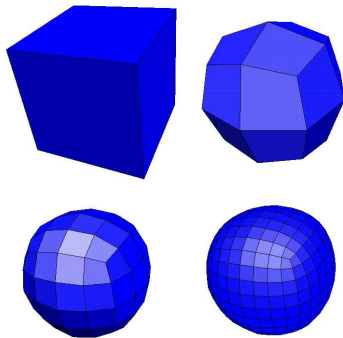
– In input mesh

– The input mesh has  $n \neq 4$  faces around a vertex

First step of Doo-Sabin creates a face with  $n$  vertices

**Extraordinary vertex:** non-four-sided face shrinks to a point

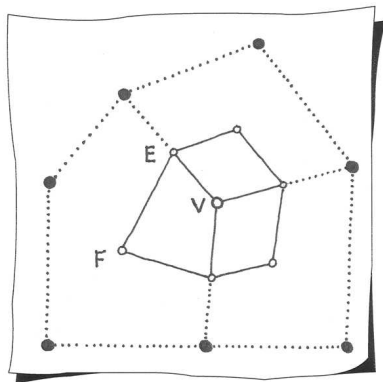
# Subdivision Surfaces: Catmull-Clark



**Catmull-Clark algorithm:** Generalization of cubic curve subdivision scheme

- Produce bicubic B-splines
- Generalized to work on polygonal meshes of arbitrary topology

# Subdivision Surfaces: Catmull-Clark



One step:

- 1 Form face points **f**:  
average face vertices
- 2 Form edge points **e**:  
average edge vertices and two face points
- 3 Form vertex points **v**:  
 $n$  faces around a vertex
- 4 Form faces of the new mesh:  
(**f**, **e**, **v**, **e**)

$$\mathbf{v} = \left[\frac{n-3}{n}\right](\text{old } \mathbf{v}) + \left[\frac{1}{n}\right](\text{ave } \mathbf{f}) + \left[\frac{2}{n}\right](\text{ave of midpoints of edges})$$

# Subdivision Surfaces: Catmull-Clark

Nine quadrilaterals –  $4 \times 4$  rectangular net

⇒ Control net of a bicubic B-spline surface over uniform knot sequences

Neighboring rectangular surfaces are  $C^2$

First step of Catmull-Clark produces all four-sided faces

**Extraordinary vertices:** place where continuity diminished

$n$  faces will share a vertex if

- an input face was  $n$ -sided
- input mesh had  $n$ -faces around a vertex

This non-rectangular element will shrink with more steps

# Subdivision Surfaces: Catmull-Clark

Graphics and animation industries have embraced subdivision surfaces

Appeal of subdivision surfaces:

Simple polygonal net easily becomes a smooth surface

- Same general shape

Flexible topology – Handles non-four-sided patches

- Example: sphere difficult to deal with only rectangular patches