

# Cubic Splines

## Octave Project 2

### Description of the problem:

This project's goal is to code routines to construct cubic spline curves in both 2D and 3D. By definition a cubic spline curve is defined by given  $n + 1$  points  $(t_0, P_0), (t_1, P_1), \dots, (t_n, P_n)$  with  $t_i < t_{i+1}$ , there is a unique cubic spline  $p \in P_{3,2}^n[t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n]$  through the given points satisfying  $p''(t_0) = p''(t_n) = 0$ . The concept is to select  $n + 1$  points in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  or  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , then using a regular mesh  $[0, n] \in \mathbb{R}$ , finally construct and evaluate a cubic spline whose output will be plotted.

### Explanation of the method:

A cubic spline is a piecewise polynomial  $p \in P_{3,2}^n[t_0, t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n]$ . Let

$$p(t) = \begin{cases} p_1(t) & t \in [t_0, t_1) \\ p_2(t) & t \in [t_1, t_2) \\ p_3(t) & t \in [t_2, t_3) \\ \vdots & \\ p_n(t) & t \in [t_{n-1}, t_n) \end{cases}$$

Where  $p_i(t) \in \mathbb{P}_3, i = 1, \dots, n$ . Moreover we assume that  $p$  is continuous with first and second continuous in  $[t_0, t_n]$ . A basis for the space  $P_{3,2}^n[t_0, t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n]$

$$B = \{1, t, t^2, t^3, (t - t_1)_+^3, (t - t_2)_+^3, \dots, (t - t_{n-1})_+^3\}$$

Therefore  $p$  can be expressed as a linear combination of elements in  $B$  in the following way.

$$p_i(t_i) = a_0 + a_1 t_i + a_2 t_i^2 + a_3 t_i^3 + a_4(t_i - 1)_+^3 + a_5(t_i - 2)_+^3 + \dots + a_{n+2}(t - t_{n-1})_+^3$$

Given  $n + 1$  points  $P_0(x_0, y_0), P_1(x_1, y_1), P_2(x_2, y_2), \dots, P_n(x_n, y_n)$  and with

$(t_0, P_0), (t_1, P_1), (t_2, P_2), \dots, (t_n, P_n)$  with  $t_{i-1} < t_i$ , The cubic spline is determined by the solution in  $(a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n+2})$  of the system of equations

$$\begin{cases} a_0 + a_1 t_0 + a_2 t_0^2 + a_3 t_0^3 + a_4(t_0 - t_1)_+^3 + a_5(t_0 - t_2)_+^3 + \dots + a_{n+2}(t_0 - t_{n-1})_+^3 = P_0 \\ a_0 + a_1 t_1 + a_2 t_1^2 + a_3 t_1^3 + a_4(t_1 - t_1)_+^3 + a_5(t_1 - t_2)_+^3 + \dots + a_{n+2}(t_1 - t_{n-1})_+^3 = P_1 \\ a_0 + a_1 t_2 + a_2 t_2^2 + a_3 t_2^3 + a_4(t_2 - t_1)_+^3 + a_5(t_2 - t_2)_+^3 + \dots + a_{n+2}(t_2 - t_{n-1})_+^3 = P_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_0 + a_1 t_n + a_2 t_n^2 + a_3 t_n^3 + a_4(t_n - t_1)_+^3 + a_5(t_n - t_2)_+^3 + \dots + a_{n+2}(t_n - t_{n-1})_+^3 = P_n \end{cases}$$

This system of equation has  $n + 2$  unknowns and  $n$  equations, to fore a unique solution we must impose two more conditions  $p''(t_0) = p''(t_n) = 0$ .

$$p''(t_i) = 2a_2 + 6a_3 t_i + 6a_4(t_i - 1)_+ + 6a_5(t_i - 2)_+ + \dots + 6a_{n+2}(t - t_{n-1})_+^3$$

Additionally, we have to remove all the shifted elements that do not satisfy the conditions in each of the equations. The final system is.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} a_0 + a_1 t_0 + a_2 t_0^2 + a_3 t_0^3 = P_0 \\ a_0 + a_1 t_1 + a_2 t_1^2 + a_3 t_1^3 + a_4 (t_1 - t_1)_+^3 = P_1 \\ a_0 + a_1 t_2 + a_2 t_2^2 + a_3 t_2^3 + a_4 (t_2 - t_1)_+^3 + a_5 (t_2 - t_2)_+^3 = P_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_0 + a_1 t_n + a_2 t_n^2 + a_3 t_n^3 + a_4 (t_n - t_1)_+^3 + a_5 (t_n - t_2)_+^3 + \cdots + a_{n+2} (t_n - t_{n-1})_+^3 = P_2 \\ 2a_2 + 6a_3 t_0 + 6a_4 (t_0 - 1)_+ + 6a_5 (t_0 - 2)_+ + \cdots + 6a_{n+2} (t_0 - t_{n-1})_+^3 = (0,0) \\ 2a_2 + 6a_3 t_n + 6a_4 (t_n - 1)_+ + 6a_5 (t_n - 2)_+ + \cdots + 6a_{n+2} (t_n - t_{n-1})_+^3 = (0,0) \end{array} \right.$$

```
% create a zero matrix which will hold the result
% create n + 2 rows and n + 4 (or 5 if we have z)
% as the solution is given by
% a_0 -> a_(n + 2) and we add two more constrains
% so that is a unique solution
if(Dimension == 3)
    resultMatrix = zeros(n + 2, n + 5);
else
    resultMatrix = zeros(n + 2, n + 4);
endif
% insert the standard basis components
% a0 + a1*t + a2*t^2 + a3*t^3
for(i = 1 : n)
    for(j = 1 : 4)
        resultMatrix(i, j) = t(i)^(j - 1);
    endfor
endfor

% insert the right shifted basis components
for(i = 1 : n)
    for(j = 5 : n + 3)
        resultMatrix(i, j) = max(t(i) - t(j - 3), 0)^3;
    endfor
endfor

% add the additional constrains
% p''(t0) = p''(tn) = 0
% as p''(t0) is p''(0) we can simplify it as 2*a_2 = 0
resultMatrix(n + 1, 3) = 2;

% to simplify p''(tn)
resultMatrix(n + 2, 4) = 6 * t(n);
resultMatrix(n + 2, 3) = 2;
```

We can solve the system of equations by doing a RREF

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & t_0 & t_0^2 & t_0^3 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & x_0 & y_0 \\ 1 & t_1 & t_1^2 & t_1^3 & (t_1 - t_0)^3 & 0 & & 0 & x_1 & y_1 \\ 1 & t_2 & t_2^2 & t_2^3 & (t_2 - t_0)^3 & (t_2 - t_1)^3 & & 0 & x_2 & y_2 \\ \vdots & & & & & & \ddots & & & \\ 1 & t_n & t_n^2 & t_n^3 & (t_n - t_0)^3 & (t_n - t_1)^3 & & (t_n - t_{n-1})^3 & x_n & y_n \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 6t_0 & 0 & 0 & & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 6t_n & 6(t_n - t_0) & 6(t_n - t_1) & \cdots & 6(t_n - t_{n-1}) & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & x'_0 & y'_0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & & 0 & x'_1 & y'_1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & & 0 & x'_2 & y'_2 \\ \vdots & & & & & & \ddots & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & & 0 & x'_n & y'_n \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & & 0 & x'_{n+1} & y'_{n+1} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & x'_{n+2} & y'_{n+1} \end{pmatrix}$$

After the RREF the values we get in the last two columns will be the values for  $a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n+2}$ , the value of the  $x'$  column represent the values of  $a$  for  $p(x)$  and the values of  $y'$  column the ones of  $p(x)$ .

```
for(j = 5 : n + 2)
    resultMatrix(n + 2, j) = (t(n) - t(j - 3))*6;
endfor

resultMatrix(1:n, n + 3) = PX';
resultMatrix(1:n, n + 4) = PY';
if(Dimension == 3)
    resultMatrix(1:n, n + 5) = PZ';
endif

resultMatrix = rref(resultMatrix);

xCoef = resultMatrix(:, n + 3)';
yCoef = resultMatrix(:, n + 4)';

if(Dimension == 3)
    zCoef = resultMatrix(:, n + 5)';
endif
```

## Examples:

Cubic spline through  $(0,1), (1,3), (2,-1), (4,0)$

With a regular mesh  $[0,1,2,3]$

$$B = \{1, t, t^2, t^3, (t-1)_+^3, (t-2)_+^3\}$$

$$p_i(t_i) = a_0 + a_1 t_i + a_2 t_i^2 + a_3 t_i^3 + a_4 (t_i - 1)_+^3 + a_5 (t_i - 2)_+^3$$

$$p_i'(t_i) = a_1 + 2a_2 t_i + 3a_3 t_i^2 + 3a_4 (t_i - 1)_+^2 + 3a_5 (t_i - 2)_+^2$$

$$p_i''(t_i) = 2a_2 + 6a_3 t_i + 6a_4 (t_i - 1)_+ + 6a_5 (t_i - 2)_+$$

$$\begin{cases} p_0(t_0) = a_0 + a_1 t_0 + a_2 t_0^2 + a_3 t_0^3 + a_4 (t_0 - 1)_+^3 + a_5 (t_0 - 2)_+^3 \\ p_1(t_1) = a_0 + a_1 t_1 + a_2 t_1^2 + a_3 t_1^3 + a_4 (t_1 - 1)_+^3 + a_5 (t_1 - 2)_+^3 \\ p_2(t_2) = a_0 + a_1 t_2 + a_2 t_2^2 + a_3 t_2^3 + a_4 (t_2 - 1)_+^3 + a_5 (t_2 - 2)_+^3 \\ p_3(t_3) = a_0 + a_1 t_3 + a_2 t_3^2 + a_3 t_3^3 + a_4 (t_3 - 1)_+^3 + a_5 (t_3 - 2)_+^3 \\ p_i''(t_0) = 2a_2 + 6a_3 t_0 + 6a_4 (t_0 - 1)_+ + 6a_5 (t_0 - 2)_+ \\ p_i''(t_3) = 2a_2 + 6a_3 t_3 + 6a_4 (t_3 - 1)_+ + 6a_5 (t_3 - 2)_+ \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} a_0 = (0,1) \\ a_0 + a_1 + a_2 + a_3 = (1,3) \\ a_0 + 2a_1 + 4a_2 + 8a_3 + a_4 = (2,-1) \\ a_0 + 3a_1 + 9a_2 + 27a_3 + 8a_4 + a_5 = (4,0) \\ 2a_2 = (0,0) \\ 2a_2 + 18a_3 + 12a_4 + 6a_5 = (0,0) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 & 8 & 1 & 0 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 3 & 9 & 27 & 8 & 1 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 18 & 12 & 6 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{RREF} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{16}{15} & \frac{59}{15} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{15} & -\frac{29}{15} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{2}{5} & \frac{28}{5} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{3}{5} & -\frac{27}{5} \end{pmatrix}$$

Now the polynomial for x would be the values for  $a_{0...5}$  from the first columns and the one for y the values from the second column.

$$p(x) = \frac{16}{15}x - \frac{1}{15}x^3 + \frac{2}{5}(x-1)^3 - \frac{3}{5}(x-2)^3$$

$$p(y) = 1 + \frac{59}{15}y - \frac{29}{15}y^3 + \frac{28}{5}(y-1)^3 - \frac{27}{5}(y-2)^3$$

## Observations:

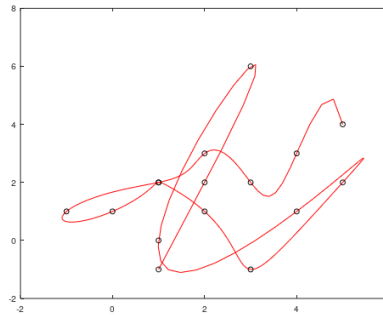
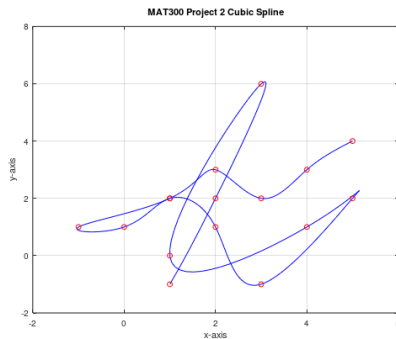


Figure 1: Gauss-Jordan

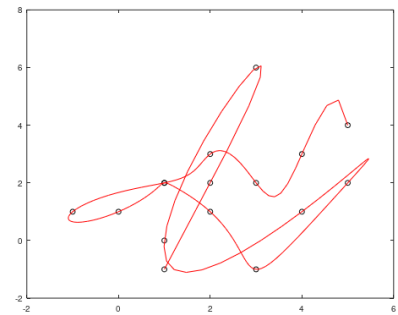


Figure 2: Lagrange Method

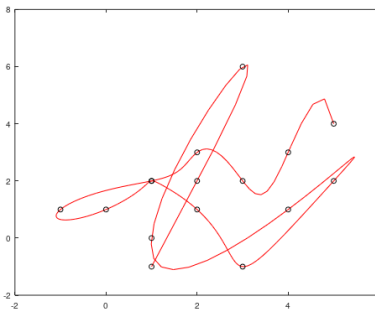


Figure 1: Newton Method

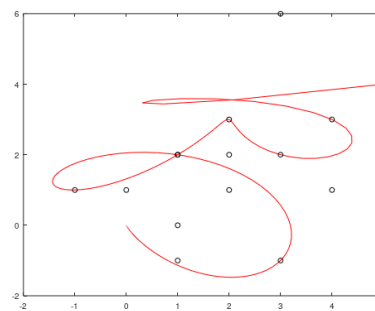


Figure 4: Gauss-Jordan

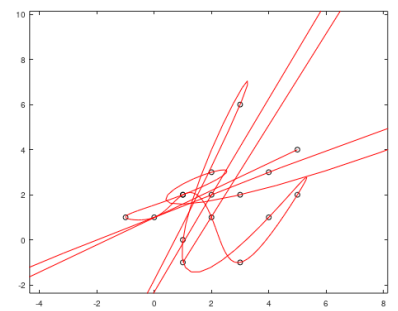


Figure 5: Lagrange

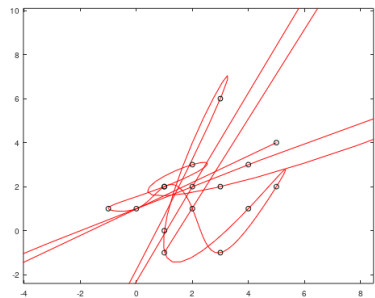


Figure 6: Newton

As we can see in figures 1, 2 and 3, previous methods using Chebyshev meshes still work but they start doing strange things in the endpoints, as expected. However, once we change the mesh to a regular mesh to make a fair comparison with cubic splines, we can see in figures 4, 5 and 6 that Gauss-Jordan completely breaks and the other two methods create very strange curves. Therefore, we can conclude that cubic spline is a much more reliable interpolation method.

## Bibliography:

MAT300 Lecture Notes: lecture9.