

---

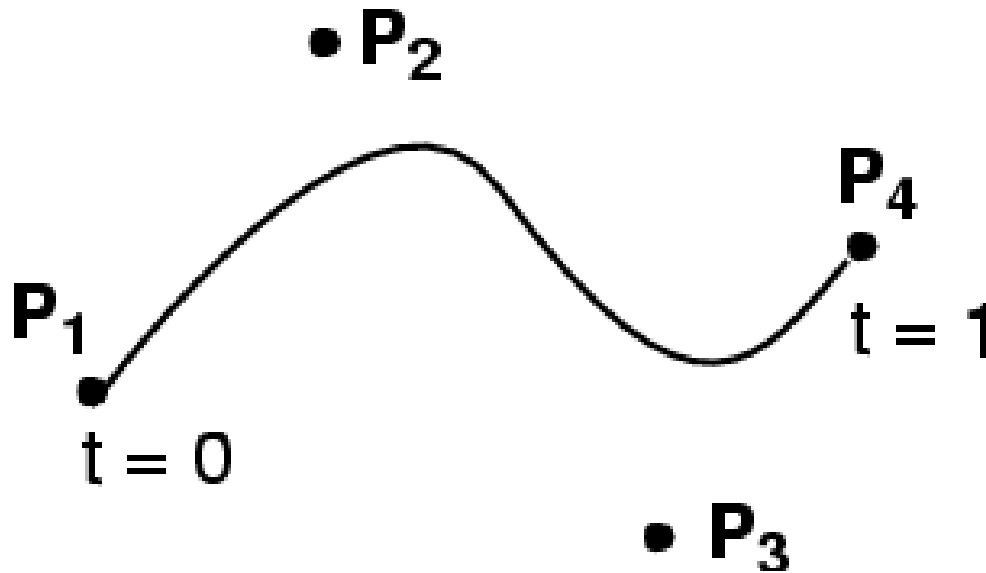
6.837 Computer Graphics

# Curve Properties & Conversion, Surface Representations

# Cubic Bezier Splines

---

- $P(t) = (1-t)^3 P_1$   
+  $3t(1-t)^2 P_2$   
+  $3t^2(1-t) P_3$   
+  $t^3 P_4$



# Bernstein Polynomials

- For Bézier curves, the basis polynomials/vectors are Bernstein polynomials

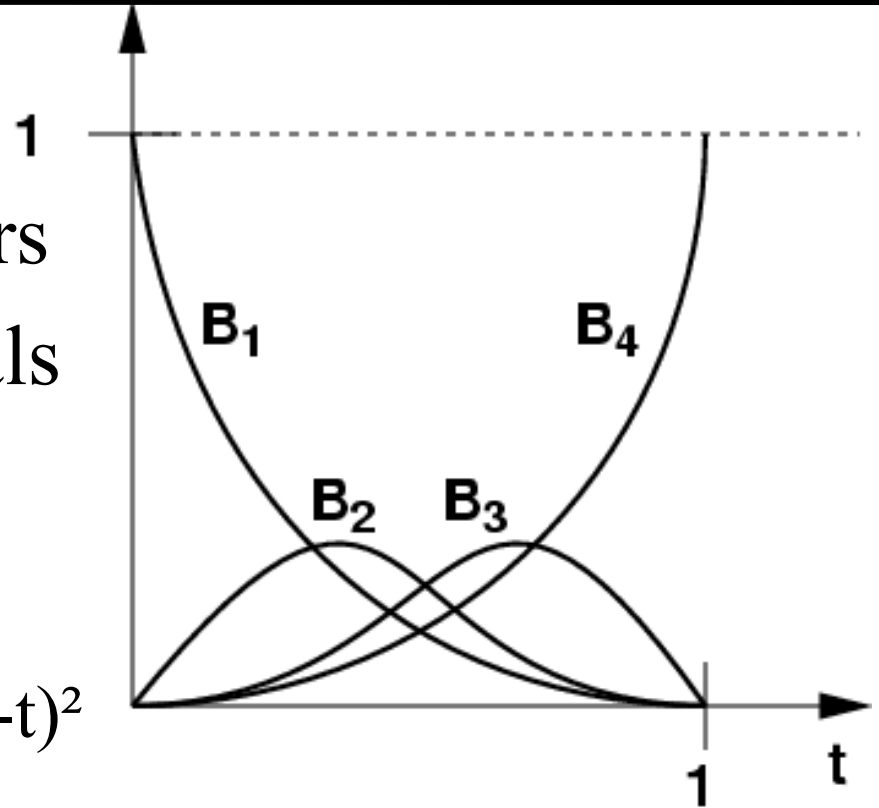
- For cubic Bezier curve:

$$B_1(t) = (1-t)^3 \quad B_2(t) = 3t(1-t)^2$$

$$B_3(t) = 3t^2(1-t) \quad B_4(t) = t^3$$

(careful with indices, many authors start at 0)

- Defined for any degree



# General Spline Formulation

---

$$Q(t) = \mathbf{G}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{T}(t) = \text{Geometry } \mathbf{G} \cdot \text{Spline Basis } \mathbf{B} \cdot \text{Power Basis } \mathbf{T}(t)$$

- Geometry: control points coordinates assembled into a matrix ( $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_{n+1}$ )
- Power basis: the monomials  $1, t, t^2, \dots$
- Cubic Bézier:

$$P(t) = \begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 \\ y_1 & y_2 & y_3 & y_4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ t \\ t^2 \\ t^3 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Questions?

---

# Linear Transformations & Cubics

---

- What if we want to transform each point on the curve with a linear transformation  $\mathbf{M}$ ?

$$P'(t) = \mathbf{M} \begin{pmatrix} P_{1,x} & P_{2,x} & P_{3,x} & P_{4,x} \\ P_{1,y} & P_{2,y} & P_{3,y} & P_{4,y} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ t \\ t^2 \\ t^3 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Linear Transformations & Cubics

---

- What if we want to transform each point on the curve with a linear transformation  $\mathbf{M}$ ?
  - Because everything is linear, it is the same as transforming only the control points

$$\begin{aligned} P'(t) &= \mathbf{M} \left( \begin{array}{cccc} P_{1,x} & P_{2,x} & P_{3,x} & P_{4,x} \\ P_{1,y} & P_{2,y} & P_{3,y} & P_{4,y} \end{array} \right) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ t \\ t^2 \\ t^3 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \left( \mathbf{M} \begin{pmatrix} P_{1,x} & P_{2,x} & P_{3,x} & P_{4,x} \\ P_{1,y} & P_{2,y} & P_{3,y} & P_{4,y} \end{pmatrix} \right) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ t \\ t^2 \\ t^3 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

# Affine Transformations

---

- Homogeneous coordinates also work
  - Means you can translate, rotate, shear, etc.
  - Note though that you need to normalize  $P'$  by  $1/w'$

$$P'(t) = \mathbf{M} \begin{pmatrix} P_{1,x} & P_{2,x} & P_{3,x} & P_{4,x} \\ P_{1,y} & P_{2,y} & P_{3,y} & P_{4,y} \\ \color{red}{1} & \color{red}{1} & \color{red}{1} & \color{red}{1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ t \\ t^2 \\ t^3 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= \left[ \mathbf{M} \begin{pmatrix} P_{1,x} & P_{2,x} & P_{3,x} & P_{4,x} \\ P_{1,y} & P_{2,y} & P_{3,y} & P_{4,y} \\ \color{red}{1} & \color{red}{1} & \color{red}{1} & \color{red}{1} \end{pmatrix} \right] \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ t \\ t^2 \\ t^3 \end{pmatrix}$$



# Questions?

---

# The Plan for Today

---

- Differential Properties of Curves & Continuity
- B-Splines
- Surfaces
  - Tensor Product Splines
  - Subdivision Surfaces
  - Procedural Surfaces
  - Other

# Differential Properties of Curves

---

- Motivation
  - Compute normal for surfaces
  - Compute velocity for animation
  - Analyze smoothness

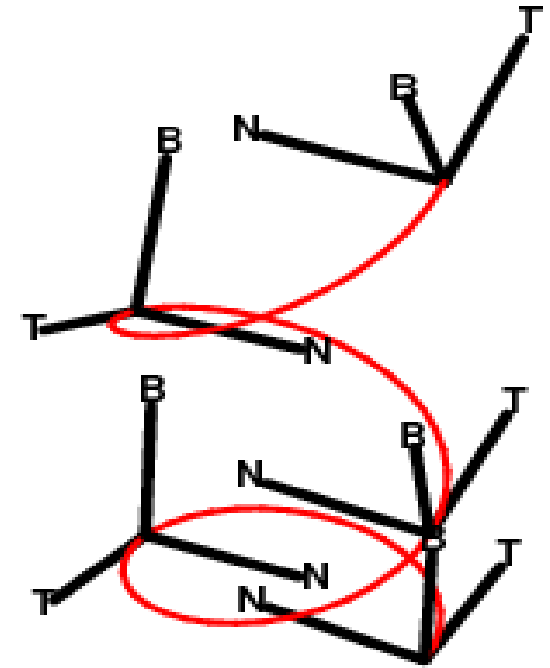


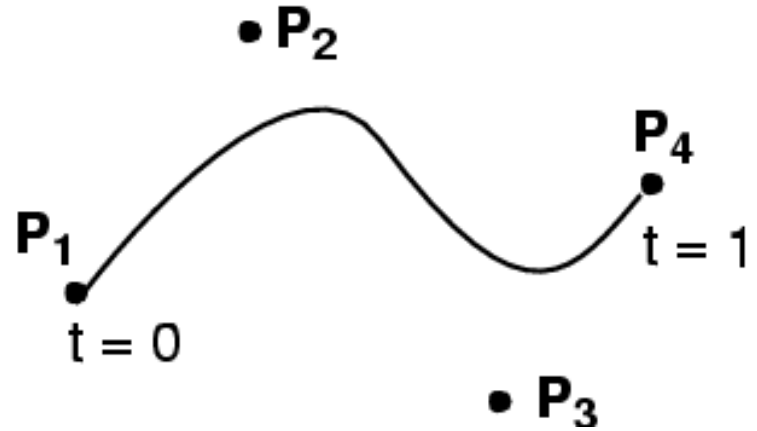
Image courtesy of [Kristian Molhave](#) on Wikimedia Commons. License: CC-BY-SA. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <http://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

# Velocity

---

- First derivative w.r.t.  $t$
- Can you compute this for Bezier curves?

$$\begin{aligned} P(t) = & (1-t)^3 P_1 \\ & + 3t(1-t)^2 P_2 \\ & + 3t^2(1-t) P_3 \\ & + t^3 P_4 \end{aligned}$$



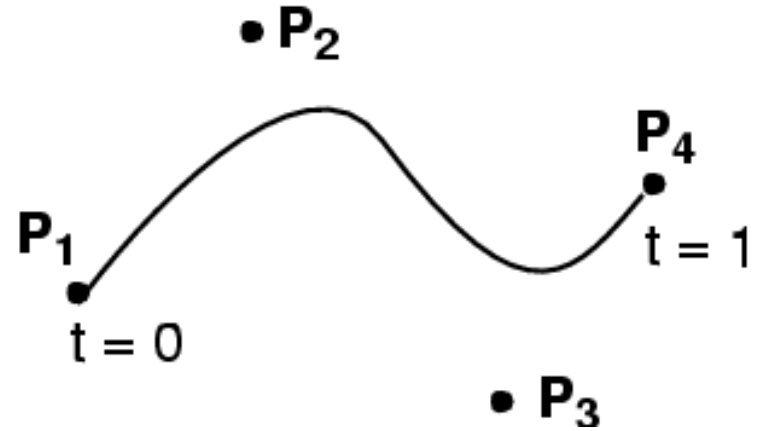
- You know how to differentiate polynomials...

# Velocity

---

- First derivative w.r.t.  $t$
- Can you compute this for Bezier curves?

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(t) = & (1-t)^3 P_1 \\
 & + 3t(1-t)^2 P_2 \\
 & + 3t^2(1-t) P_3 \\
 & + t^3 P_4
 \end{aligned}$$



- $$\begin{aligned}
 P'(t) = & -3(1-t)^2 P_1 \\
 & + [3(1-t)^2 - 6t(1-t)] P_2 \\
 & + [6t(1-t) - 3t^2] P_3 \\
 & + 3t^2 P_4
 \end{aligned}$$

Sanity check:  $t=0$ ;  $t=1$

# Linearity?

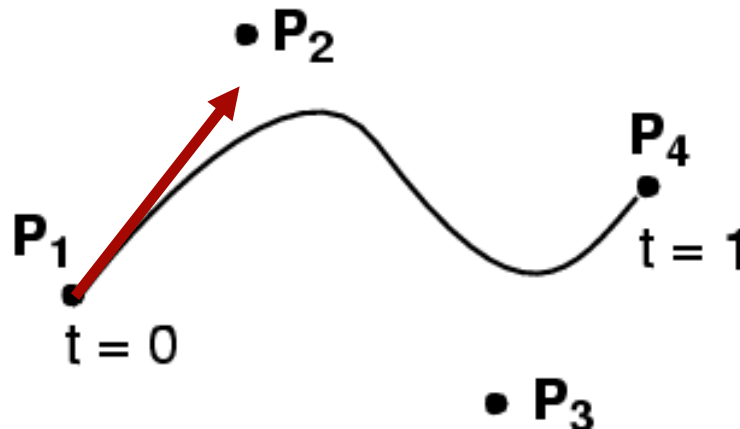
---

- Differentiation is a linear operation
  - $(f+g)' = f' + g'$
  - $(af)' = a f'$
- This means that the derivative of the basis is enough to know the derivative of any spline.
- Can be done with matrices
  - Trivial in monomial basis
  - But get lower-order polynomials

# Tangent Vector

---

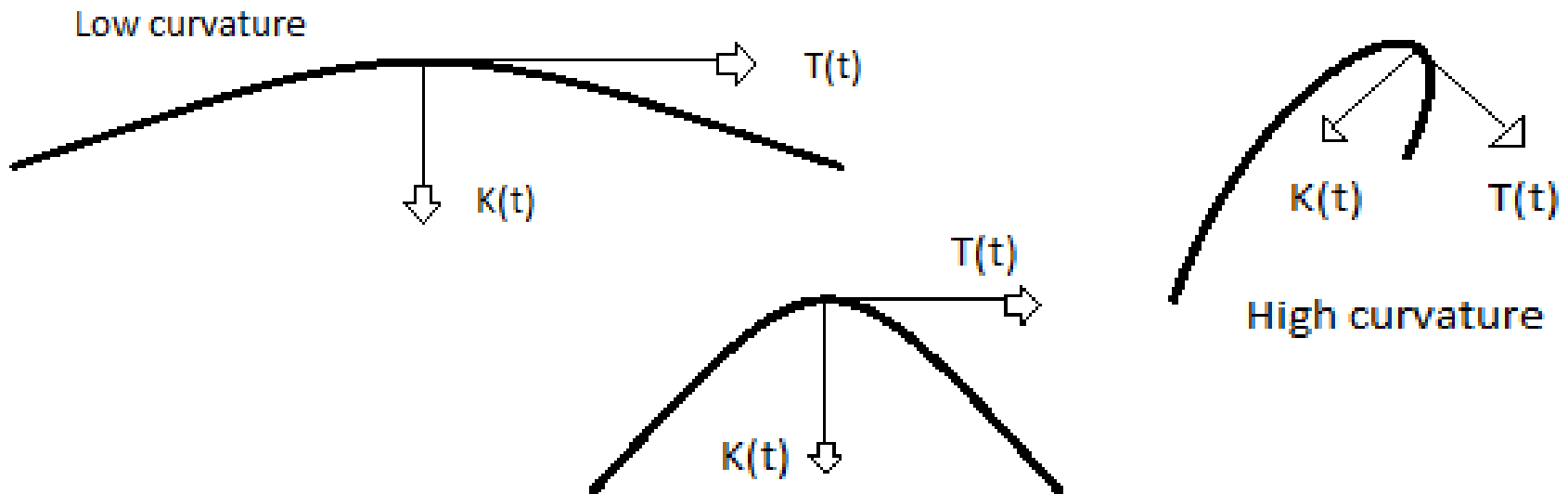
- The tangent to the curve  $P(t)$  can be defined as  $T(t) = P'(t) / \|P'(t)\|$ 
  - normalized velocity,  $\|T(t)\| = 1$
- This provides us with one orientation for swept surfaces later



Courtesy of Seth Teller.

# Curvature Vector

- Derivative of unit tangent
  - $K(t) = T'(t)$
  - Magnitude  $\|K(t)\|$  is constant for a circle
  - Zero for a straight line
- Always orthogonal to tangent, ie.  $K \cdot T = 0$

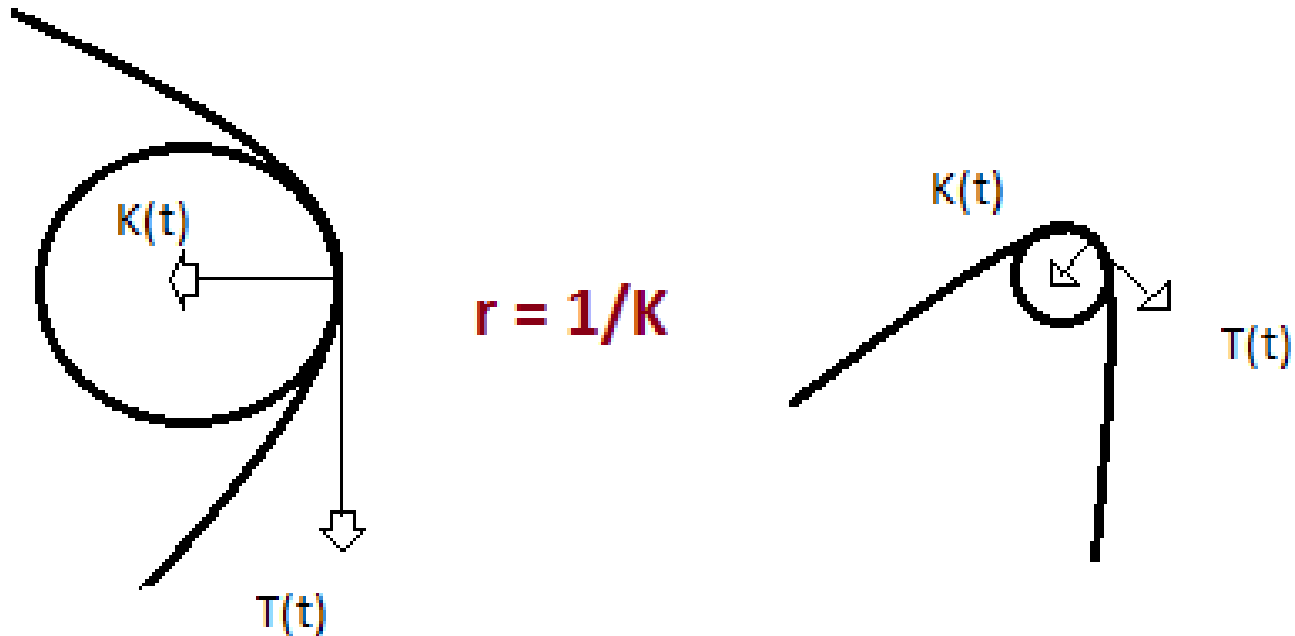




# Geometric Interpretation

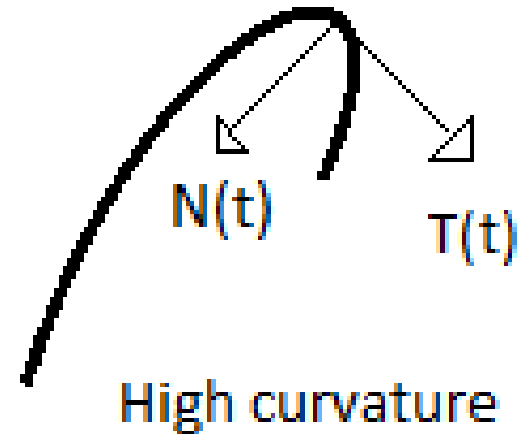
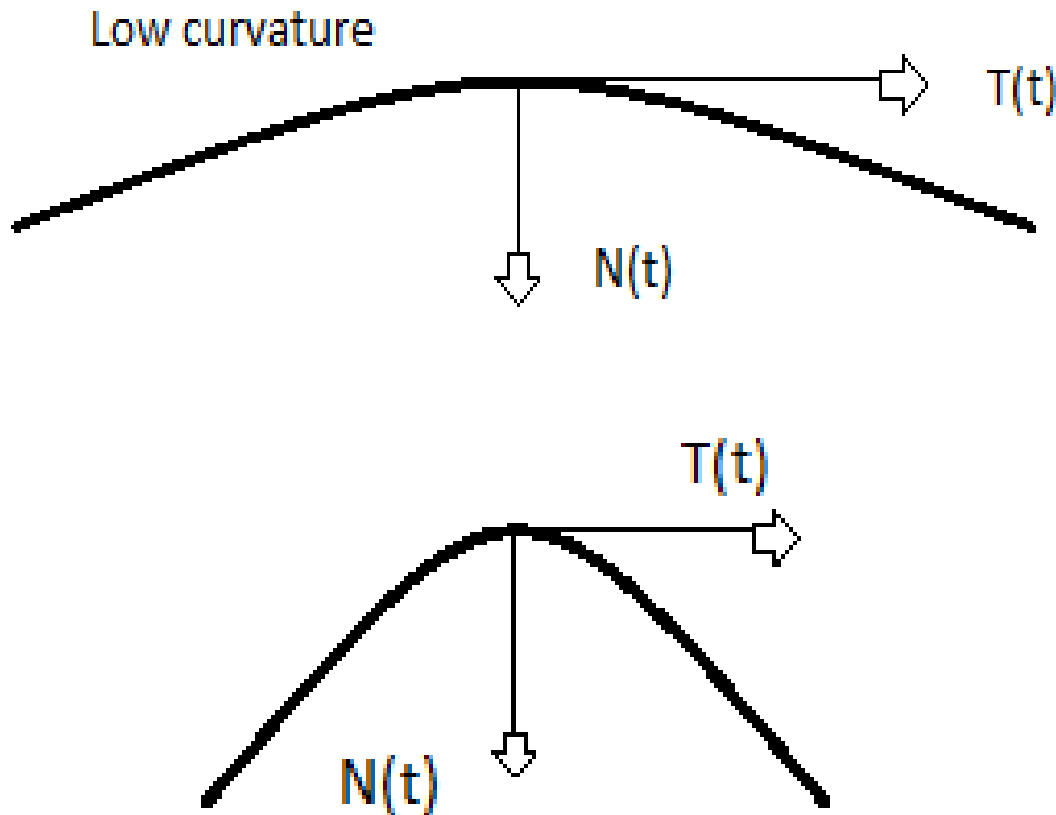
---

- $K$  is zero for a line, constant for circle
  - What constant?  $1/r$
- $1/\|K(t)\|$  is the radius of the circle that touches  $P(t)$  at  $t$  and has the same curvature as the curve



# Curve Normal

- Normalized curvature:  $T'(t)/\|T'(t)\|$



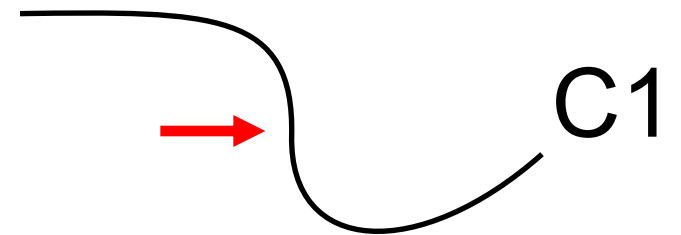
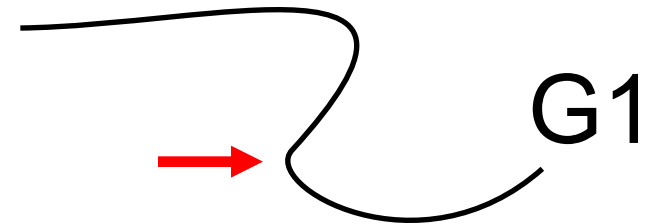
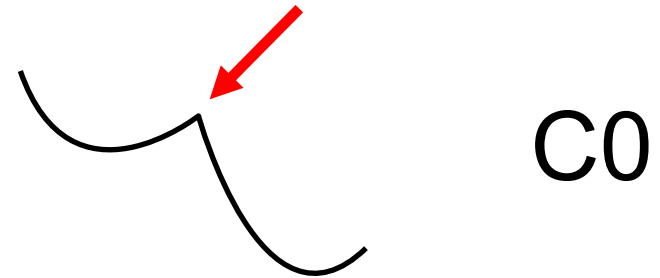
# Questions?

---

# Orders of Continuity

---

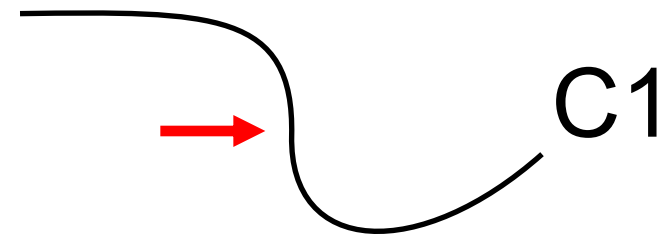
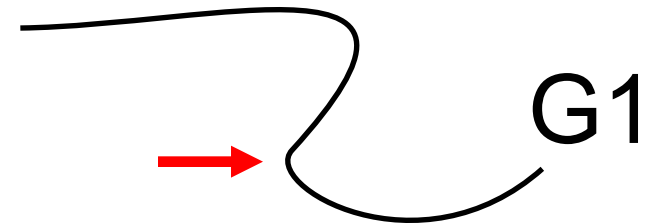
- $C0$  = continuous
  - The seam can be a sharp kink
- $G1$  = geometric continuity
  - Tangents **point to the same direction** at the seam
- $C1$  = parametric continuity
  - Tangents **are the same** at the seam, implies  $G1$
- $C2$  = curvature continuity
  - Tangents and their derivatives are the same



# Orders of Continuity

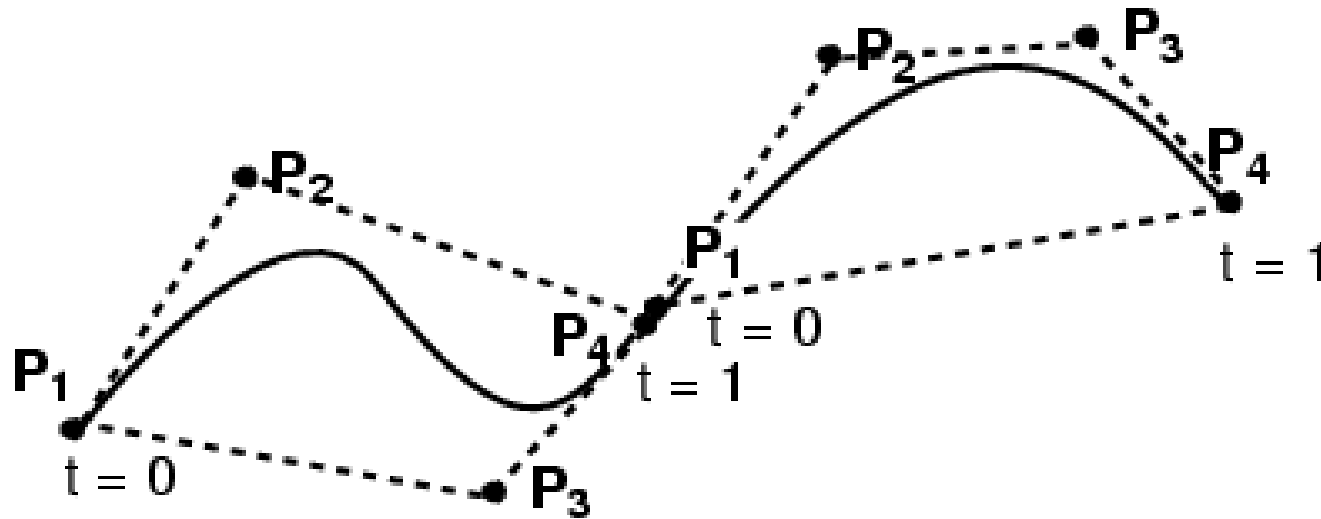
---

- G1 = geometric continuity
  - Tangents **point to the same direction** at the seam
  - good enough for modeling
- C1 = parametric continuity
  - Tangents **are the same** at the seam, implies G1
  - often necessary for animation



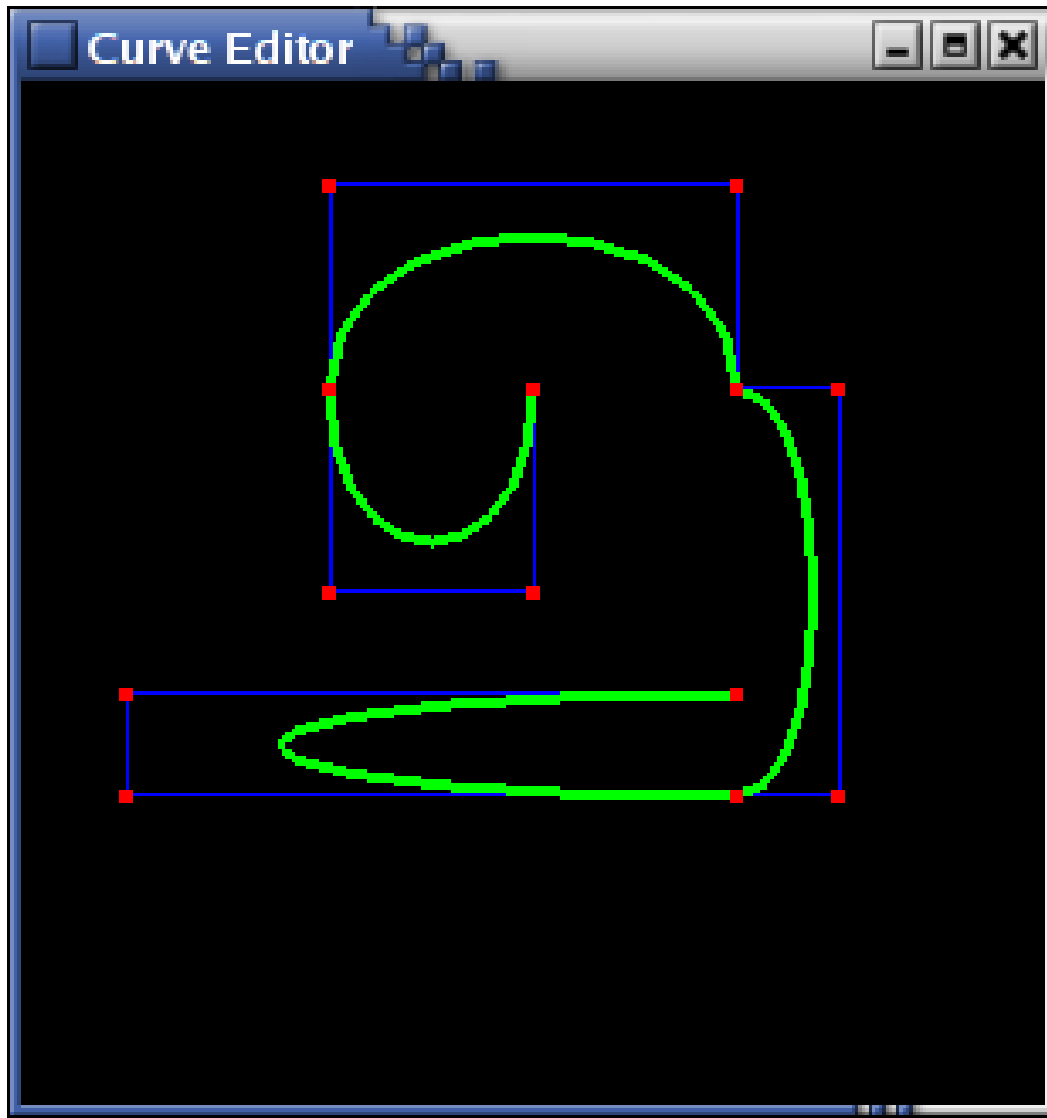
# Connecting Cubic Bézier Curves

---



- How can we guarantee C0 continuity?
- How can we guarantee G1 continuity?
- How can we guarantee C1 continuity?
- C2 and above gets difficult

# Connecting Cubic Bézier Curves



- Where is this curve
  - C0 continuous?
  - G1 continuous?
  - C1 continuous?
- What's the relationship between:
  - the # of control points, and the # of cubic Bézier subcurves?

# Questions?

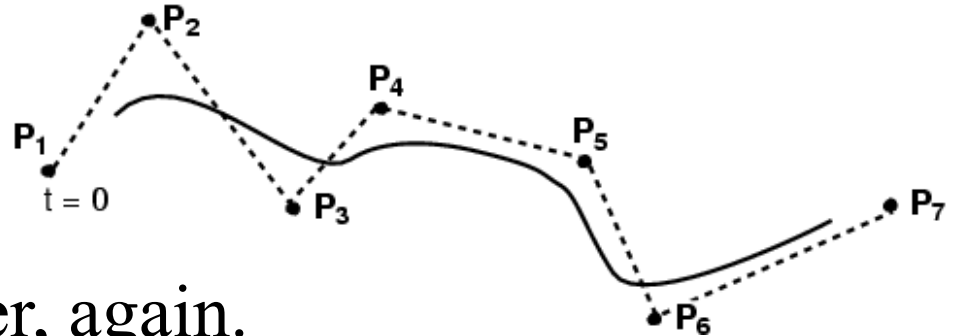
---



# Cubic B-Splines

---

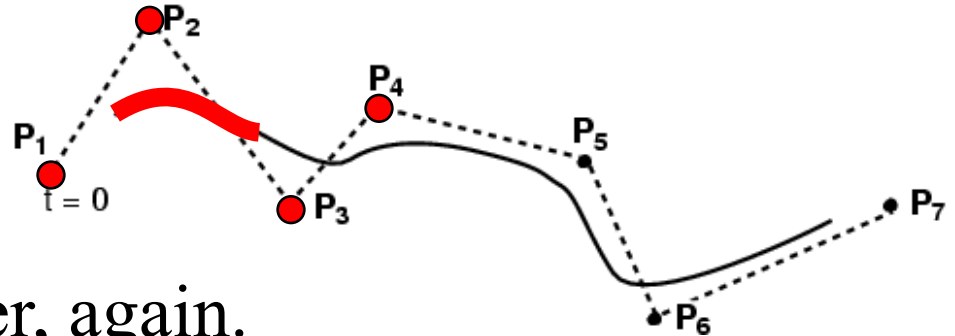
- $\geq 4$  control points
- Locally cubic
  - Cubics chained together, again.



Courtesy of Seth Teller.

# Cubic B-Splines

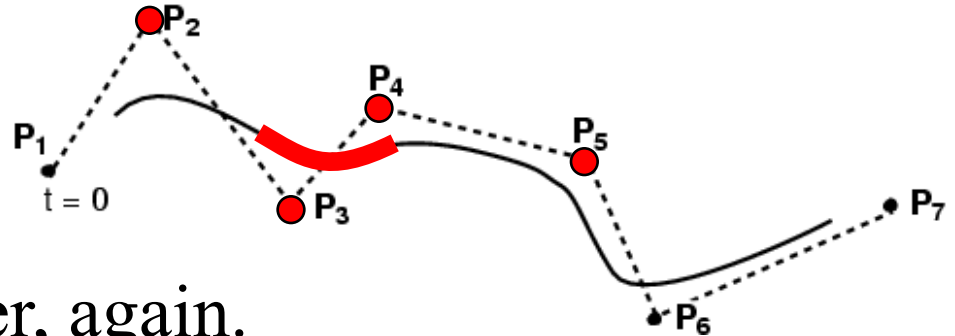
- $\geq 4$  control points
- Locally cubic
  - Cubics chained together, again.



Courtesy of Seth Teller.

# Cubic B-Splines

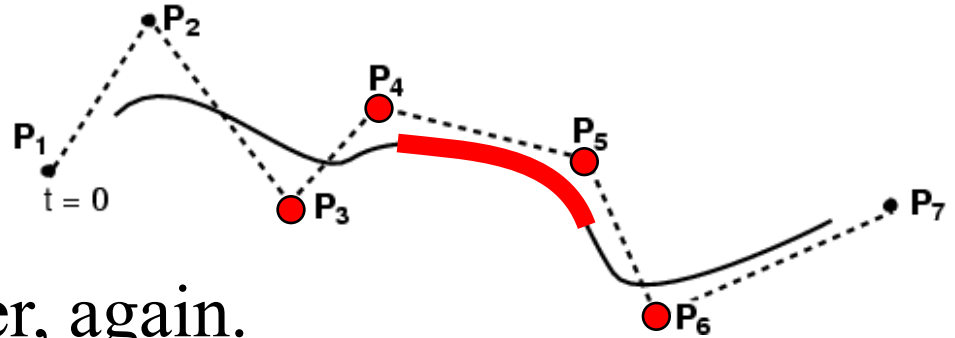
- $\geq 4$  control points
- Locally cubic
  - Cubics chained together, again.



Courtesy of Seth Teller.

# Cubic B-Splines

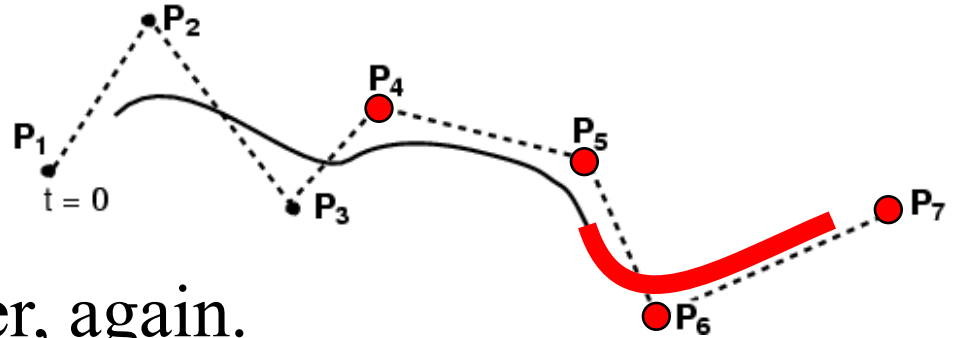
- $\geq 4$  control points
- Locally cubic
  - Cubics chained together, again.



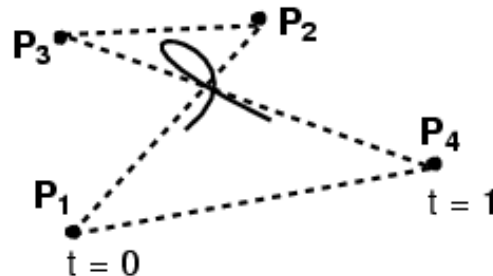
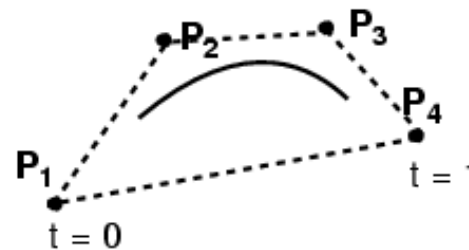
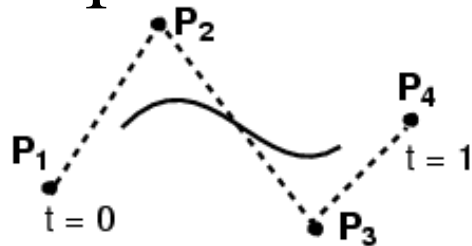
Courtesy of Seth Teller.

# Cubic B-Splines

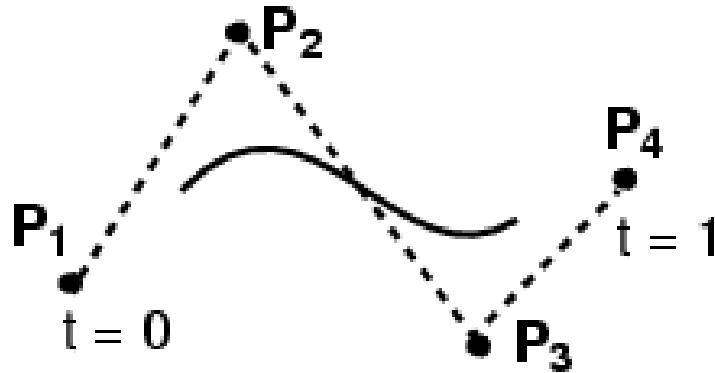
- $\geq 4$  control points
- Locally cubic
  - Cubics chained together, again.
- Curve is not constrained to pass through any control points



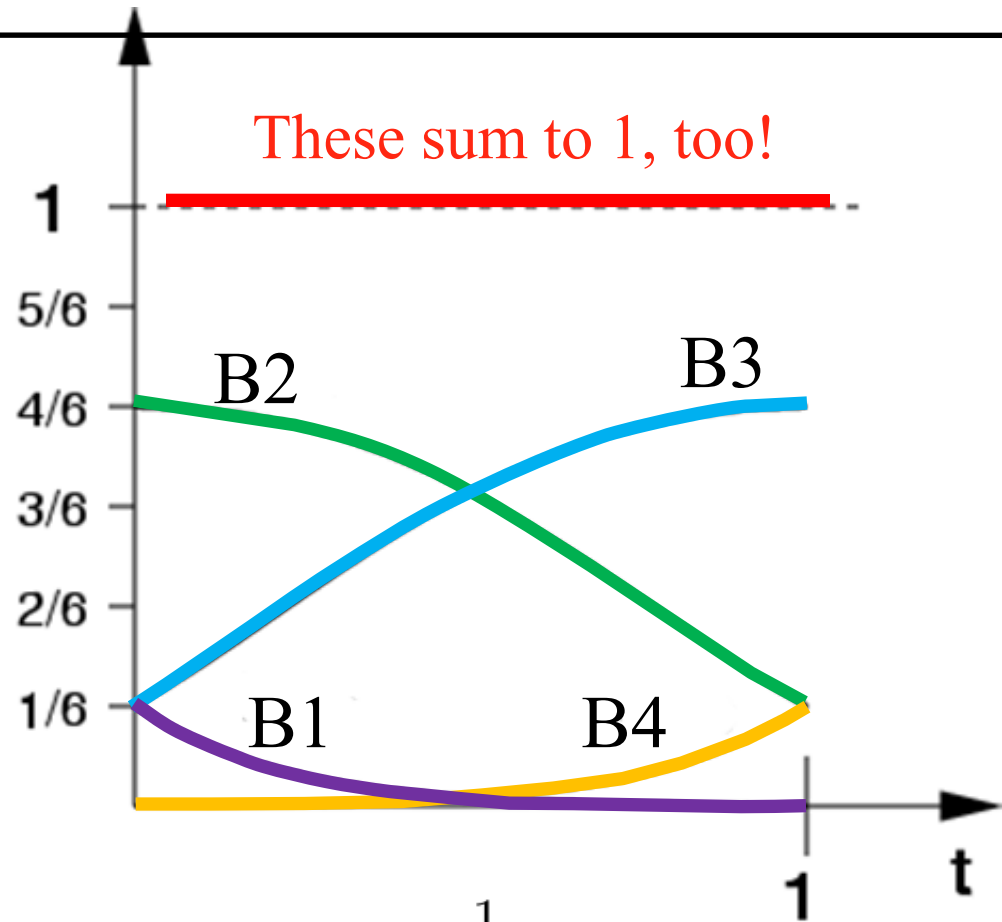
Courtesy of Seth Teller.



# Cubic B-Splines: Basis



A B-Spline curve is also bounded by the convex hull of its control points.



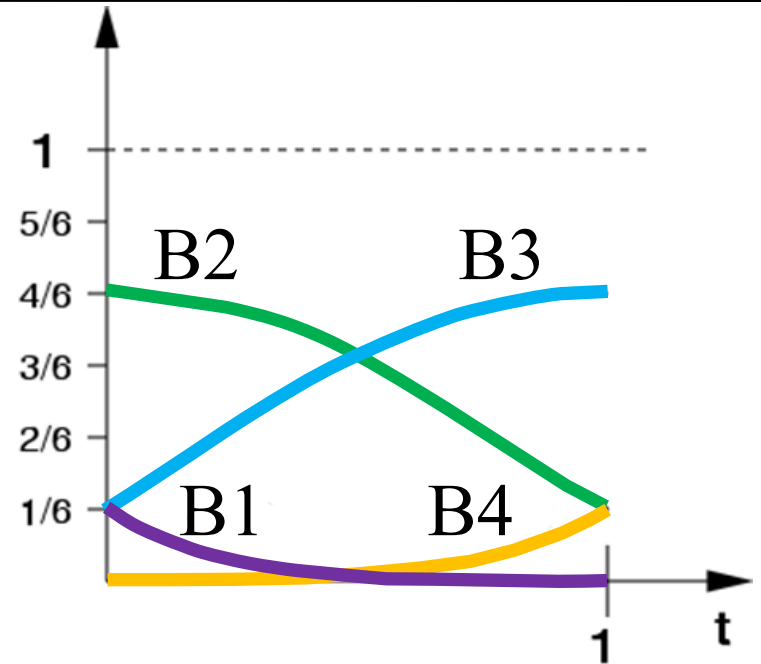
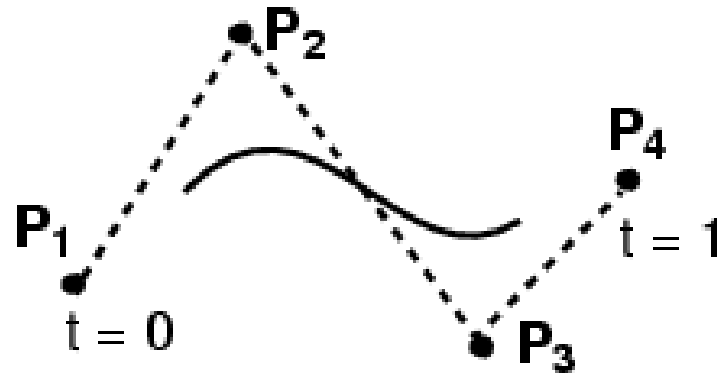
$$B_1(t) = \frac{1}{6}(1-t)^3$$

$$B_3(t) = \frac{1}{6}(-3t^3 + 3t^2 + 3t + 1)$$

$$B_2(t) = \frac{1}{6}(3t^3 - 6t^2 + 4)$$

$$B_4(t) = \frac{1}{6}t^3$$

# Cubic B-Splines: Basis

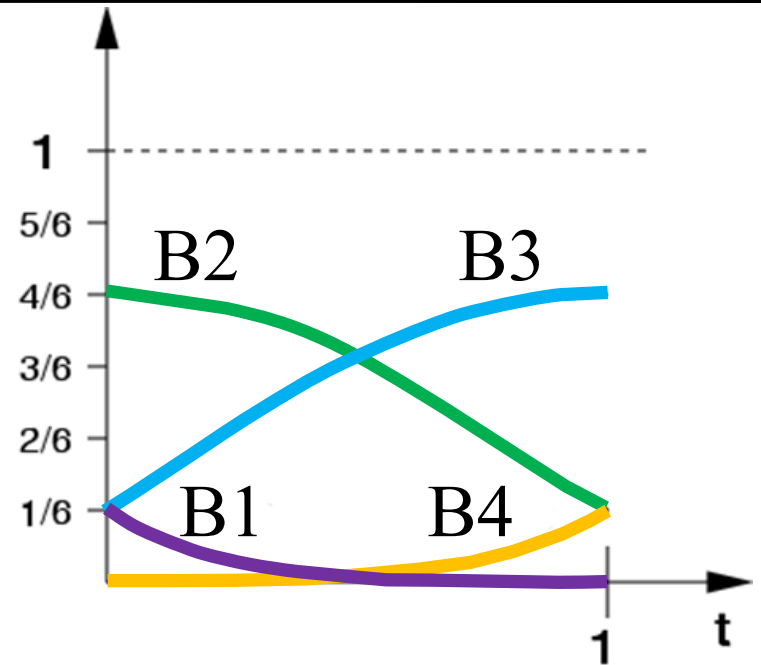
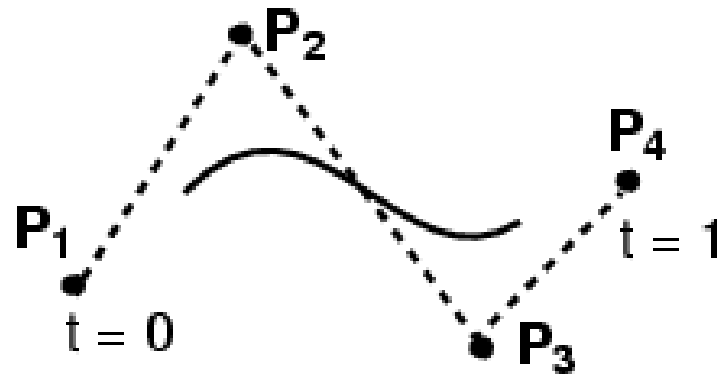


$$Q(t) = \frac{(1-t)^3}{6}P_1 + \frac{3t^3 - 6t^2 + 4}{6}P_2 + \frac{-3t^3 + 3t^2 + 3t + 1}{6}P_3 + \frac{t^3}{6}P_4$$

$$Q(t) = \mathbf{GBT}(t)$$

$$B_{B-Spline} = \frac{1}{6} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 3 & -1 \\ 4 & 0 & -6 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 3 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Cubic B-Splines: Basis



$$Q(t) = \frac{(1-t)^3}{6}P_1 + \frac{3t^3 - 6t^2 + 4}{6}P_2 + \frac{-3t^3 + 3t^2 + 3t + 1}{6}P_3 + \frac{t^3}{6}P_4$$

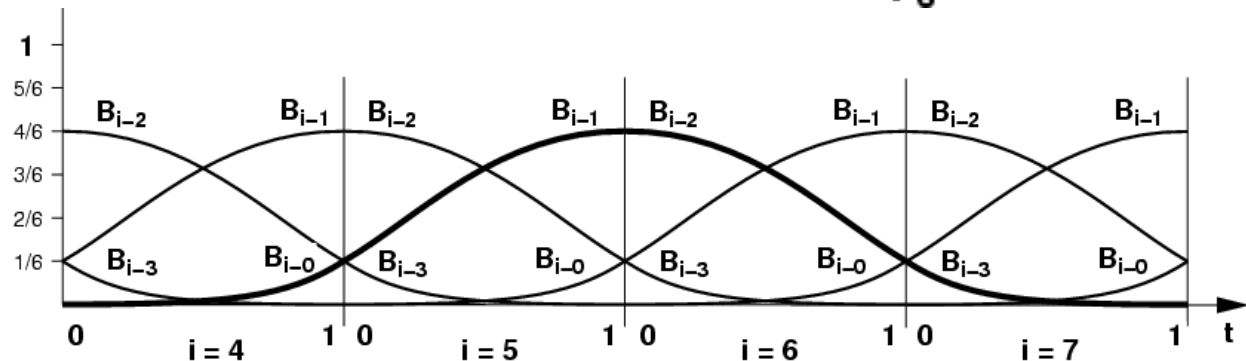
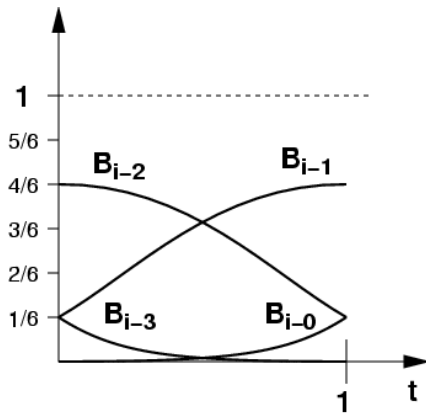
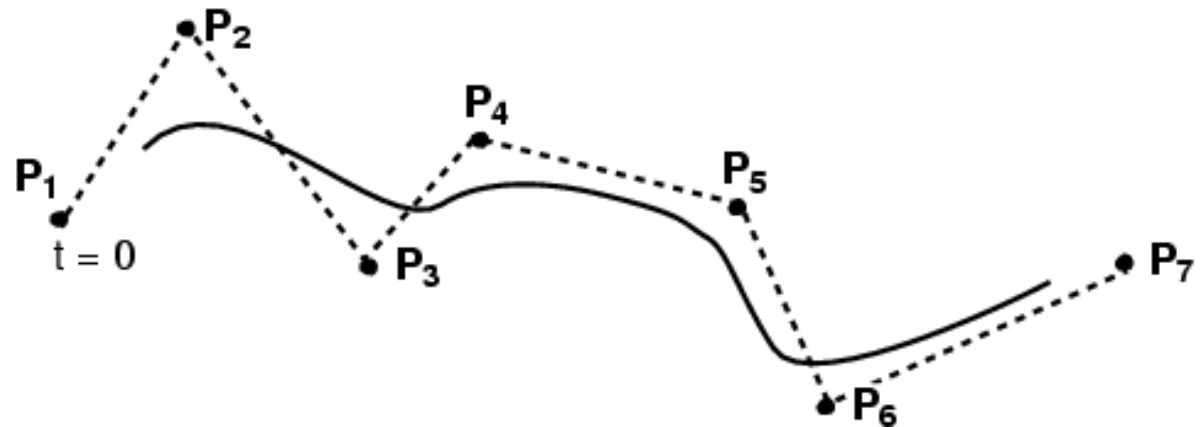
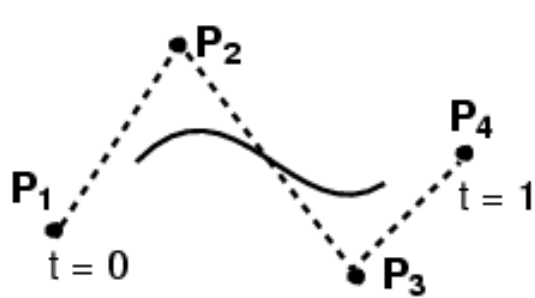
$$Q(t) = \mathbf{GBT}(t)$$

$$B_{B-Spline} = \frac{1}{6} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 3 & -1 \\ 4 & 0 & -6 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 3 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



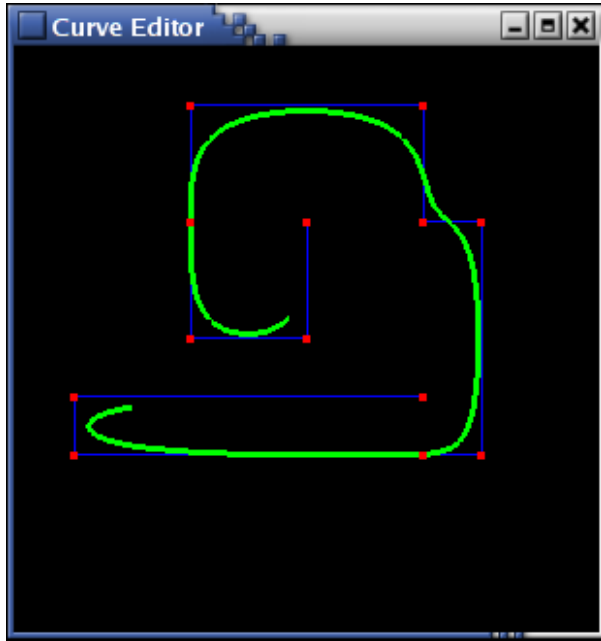
# Cubic B-Splines

- Local control (windowing)
- Automatically C2, and no need to match tangents!

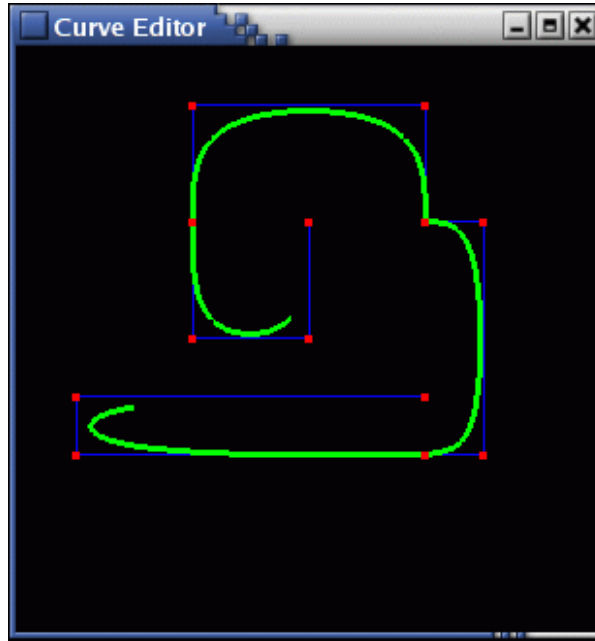


Courtesy of Seth Teller. Used with permission.

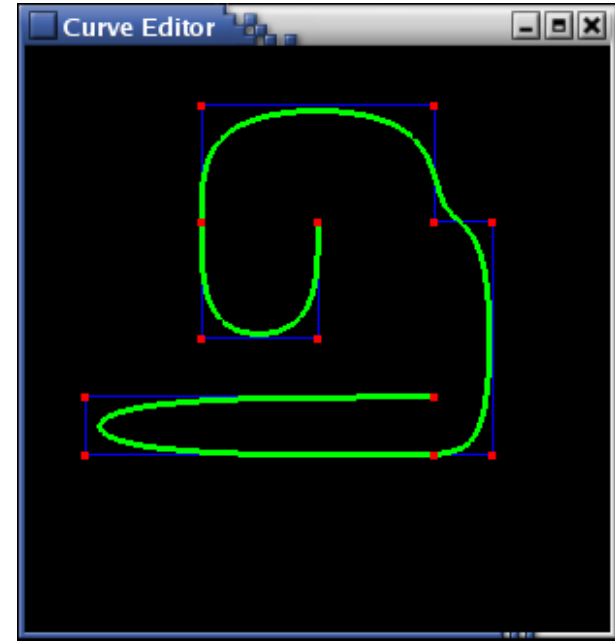
# B-Spline Curve Control Points



Default B-Spline



B-Spline with  
derivative  
discontinuity

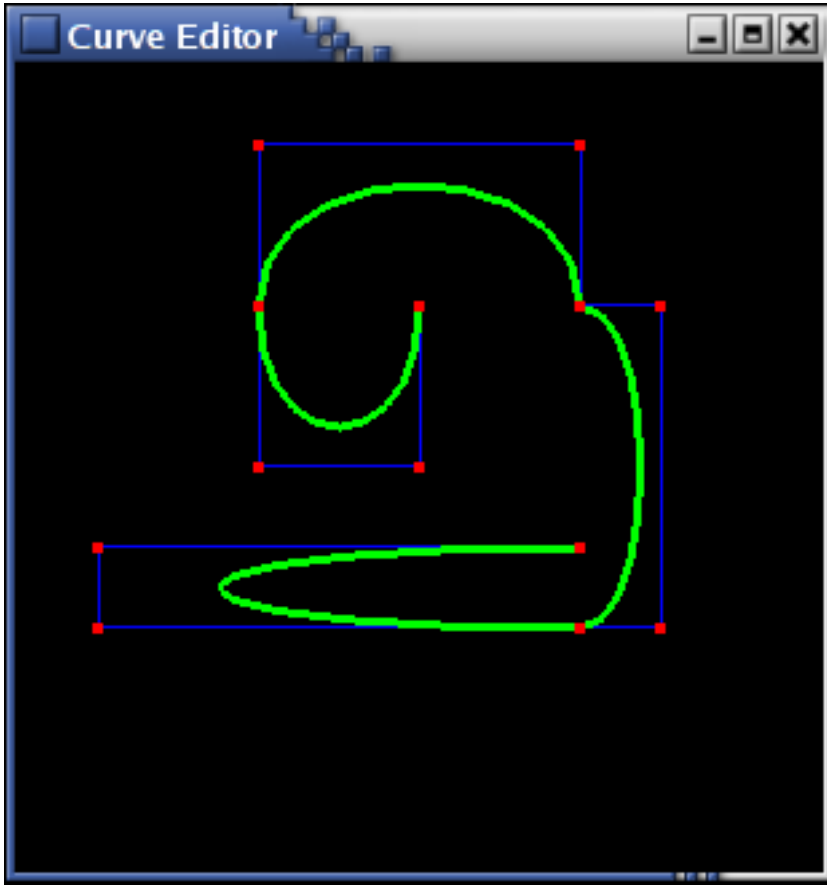


B-Spline which passes  
through  
end points

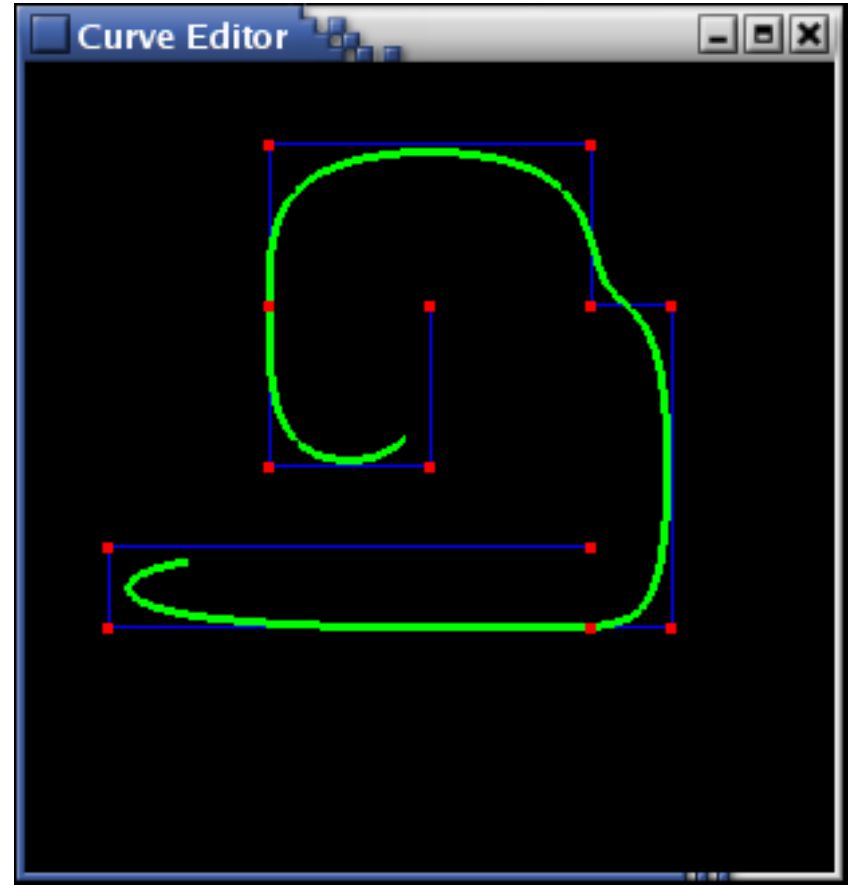
Repeat interior control  
point

Repeat end points

# Bézier $\neq$ B-Spline



Bézier



B-Spline

**But both are cubics, so one can be converted into the other!**

# Converting between Bézier & BSpline

$$Q(t) = \mathbf{G} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{T}(t) = \text{Geometry } \mathbf{G} \cdot \text{Spline Basis } \mathbf{B} \cdot \text{Power Basis } \mathbf{T}(t)$$

- Simple with the basis matrices!

– Note that this only works for  
a single segment of 4  
control points

$$B_{Bezier} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- $P(t) = \mathbf{G} \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{T}(t) =$

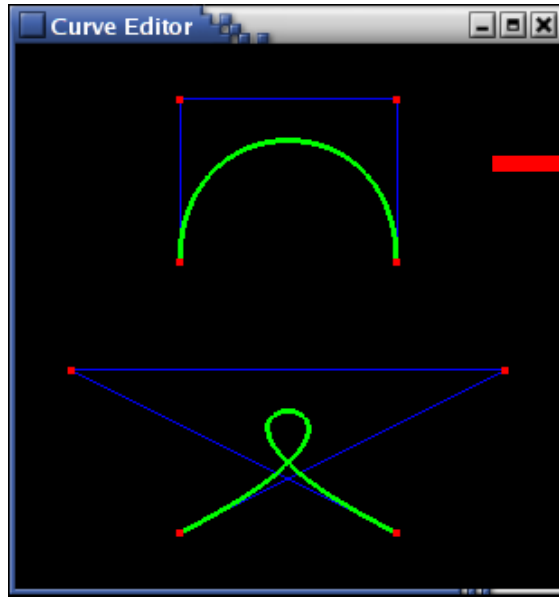
$$\mathbf{G} \mathbf{B}_1 (\mathbf{B}_2 - 1 \mathbf{B}_2) \mathbf{T}(t) =$$

$$(\mathbf{G} \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{B}_2 - 1) \mathbf{B}_2 \mathbf{T}(t) \quad B_{B-Spline} = \frac{1}{6} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 3 & -1 \\ 4 & 0 & -6 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 3 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

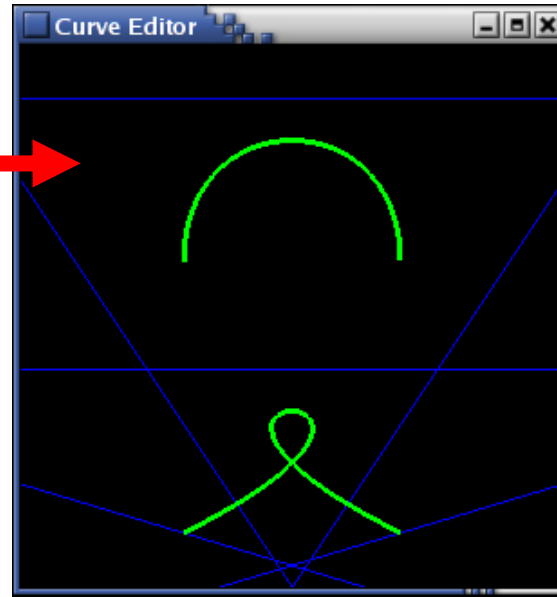
- $\mathbf{G} \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{B}_2 - 1$  are the control points  
for the segment in new basis.

# Converting between Bézier & B-Spline

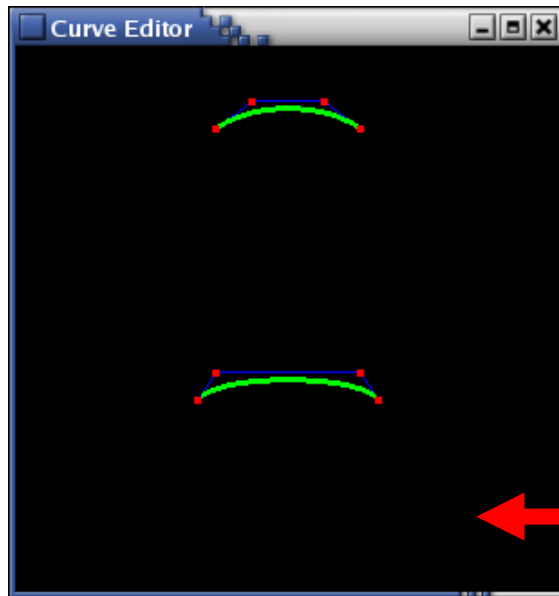
original  
control  
points as  
Bézier



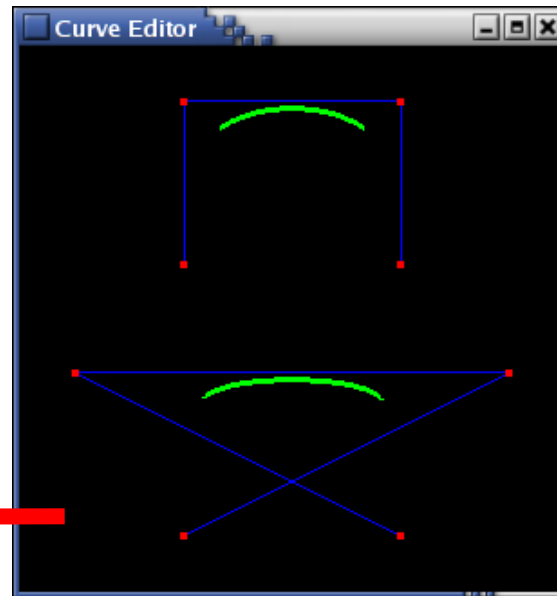
new  
BSpline  
control  
points to  
match  
Bézier



new Bézier  
control  
points to  
match  
B-Spline



original  
control  
points as  
B-Spline



# NURBS (Generalized B-Splines)

---

- Rational cubics
  - Use homogeneous coordinates, just add  $w$  !
    - Provides an extra weight parameter to control points
- NURBS: Non-Uniform Rational B-Spline
  - **non-uniform** = different spacing between the blending functions, a.k.a. “knots”
  - **rational** = ratio of cubic polynomials (instead of just cubic)
    - implemented by adding the homogeneous coordinate  $w$  into the control points.

# Questions?

---

# Representing Surfaces

---

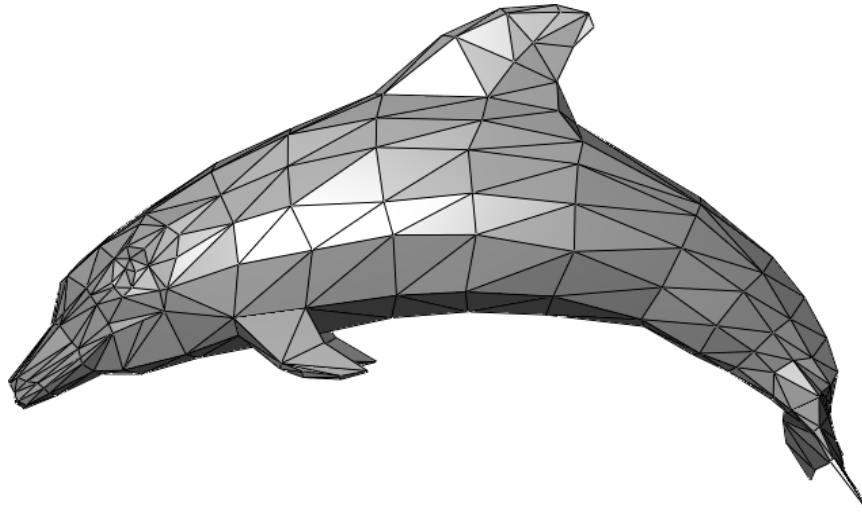
- Triangle meshes
  - Surface analogue of polylines, this is what GPUs draw
- **Tensor Product Splines**
  - Surface analogue of spline curves
- **Subdivision surfaces**
- **Implicit surfaces, e.g.  $f(x,y,z)=0$**
- **Procedural**
  - e.g. surfaces of revolution, generalized cylinder
- From volume data (medical images, etc.)



# Triangle Meshes

---

- What you've used so far in Assignment 0
- Triangle represented by 3 vertices
- **Pro:** simple, can be rendered directly
- **Cons:** not smooth, needs many triangles to approximate smooth surfaces (tessellation)



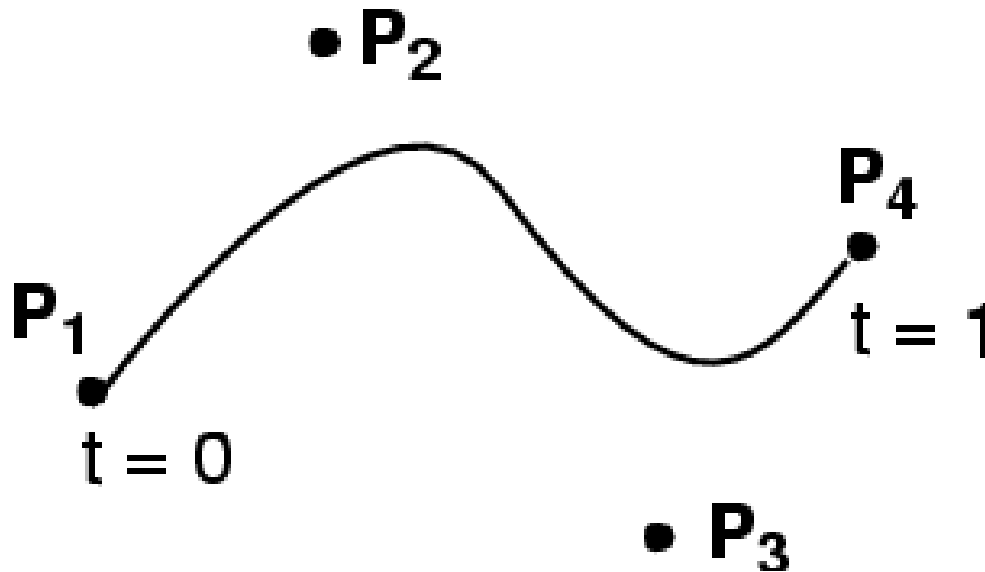
This image is in the public domain. Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#).

# Smooth Surfaces?

---

- $P(t) = (1-t)^3 \quad P_1$   
+  $3t(1-t)^2 \quad P_2$   
+  $3t^2(1-t) \quad P_3$   
+  $t^3 \quad P_4$

What's the  
dimensionality of a  
curve? 1D!



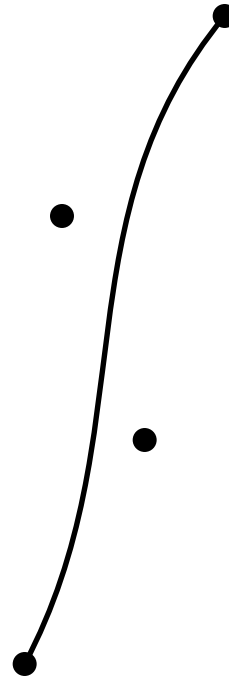
What about a  
surface?

# How to Build Them? Here's an Idea

---

- $P(u) = (1-u)^3$  P1  
+  $3u(1-u)^2$  P2  
+  $3u^2(1-u)$  P3  
+  $u^3$  P4

(Note! We relabeled  
*t* to *u*)

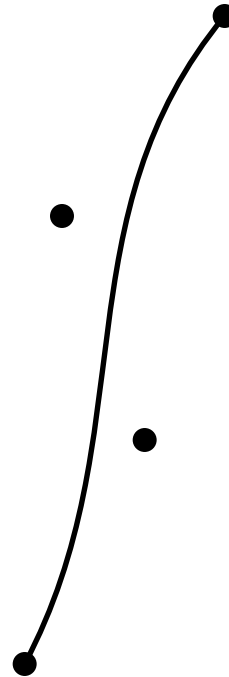


# How to Build Them? Here's an Idea

---

- $P(u) = (1-u)^3$  P1  
+  $3u(1-u)^2$  P2  
+  $3u^2(1-u)$  P3  
+  $u^3$  P4

(Note! We relabeled  
*t* to *u*)

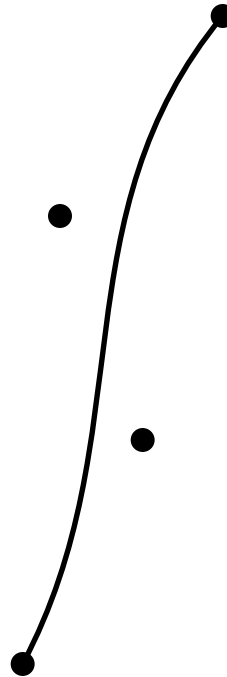


# How to Build Them? Here's an Idea

---

- $P(u) = (1-u)^3$  P1  
+  $3u(1-u)^2$  P2  
+  $3u^2(1-u)$  P3  
+  $u^3$  P4

(Note! We relabeled  
*t* to *u*)

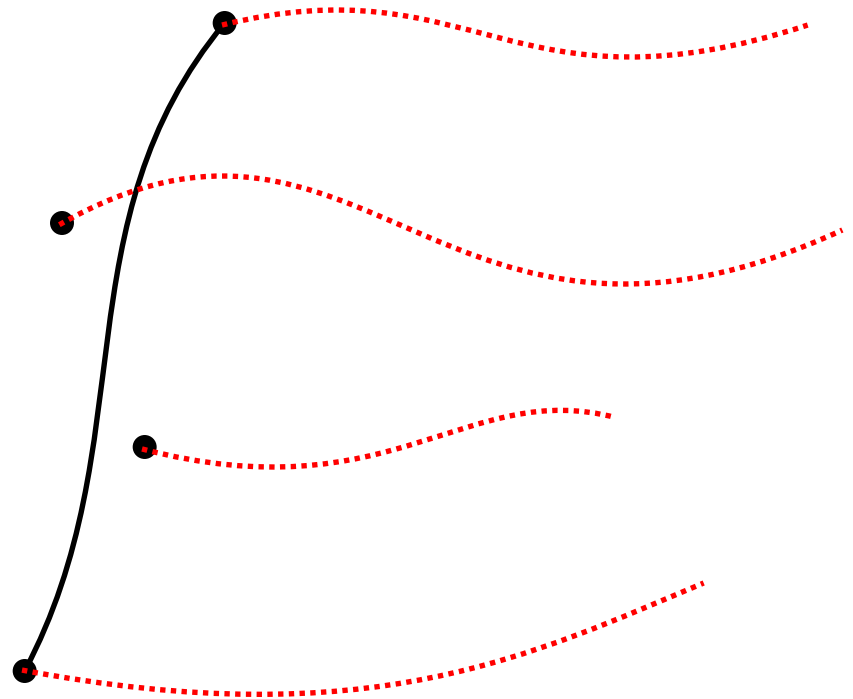


# How to Build Them? Here's an Idea

---

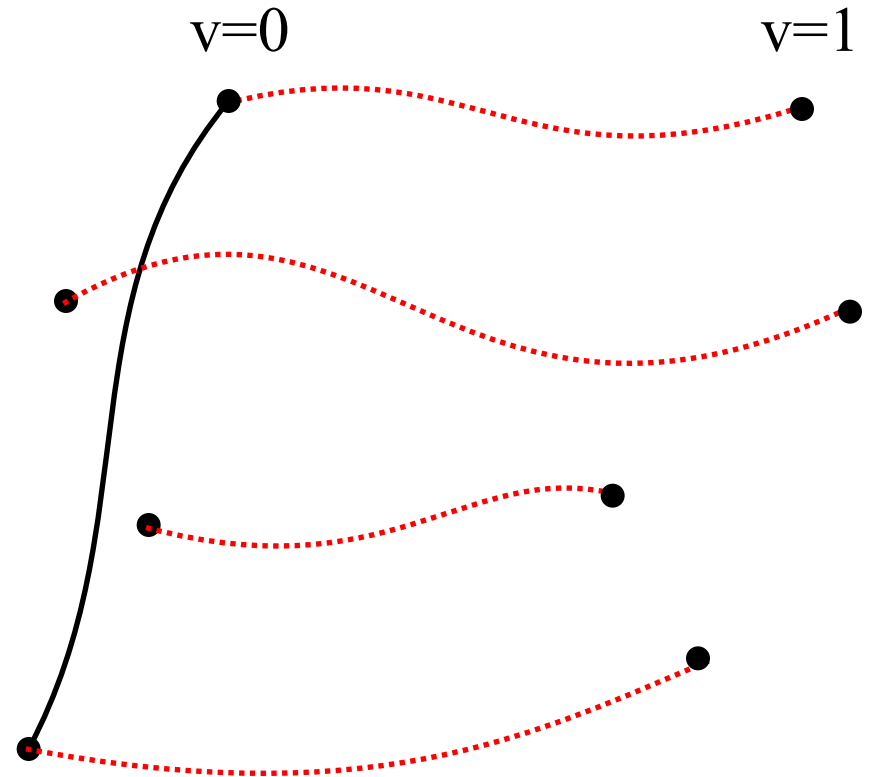
- $P(u) = (1-u)^3$  P1  
+  $3u(1-u)^2$  P2  
+  $3u^2(1-u)$  P3  
+  $u^3$  P4

(Note! We relabeled  
*t* to *u*)



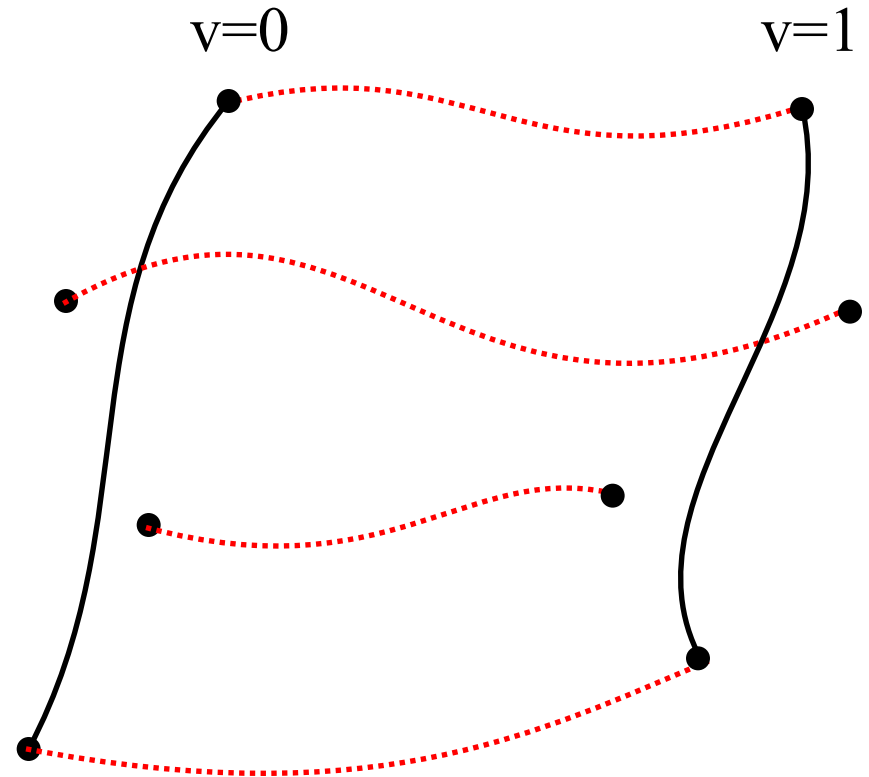
# Here's an Idea

- $P(u, \mathbf{v}) = (1-u)^3 P1(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $3u(1-u)^2 P2(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $3u^2(1-u) P3(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $u^3 P4(\mathbf{v})$
- Let's make  
the Pis move along  
curves!



# Here's an Idea

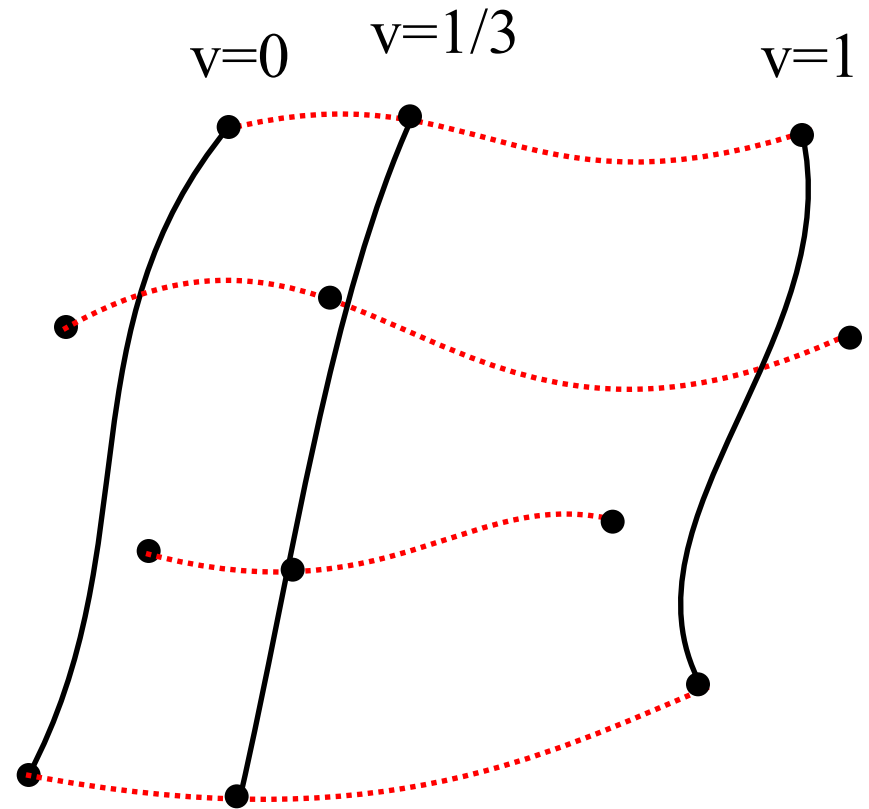
- $P(u, \mathbf{v}) = (1-u)^3 P1(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $3u(1-u)^2 P2(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $3u^2(1-u) P3(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $u^3 P4(\mathbf{v})$
- Let's make  
the Pis move along  
curves!





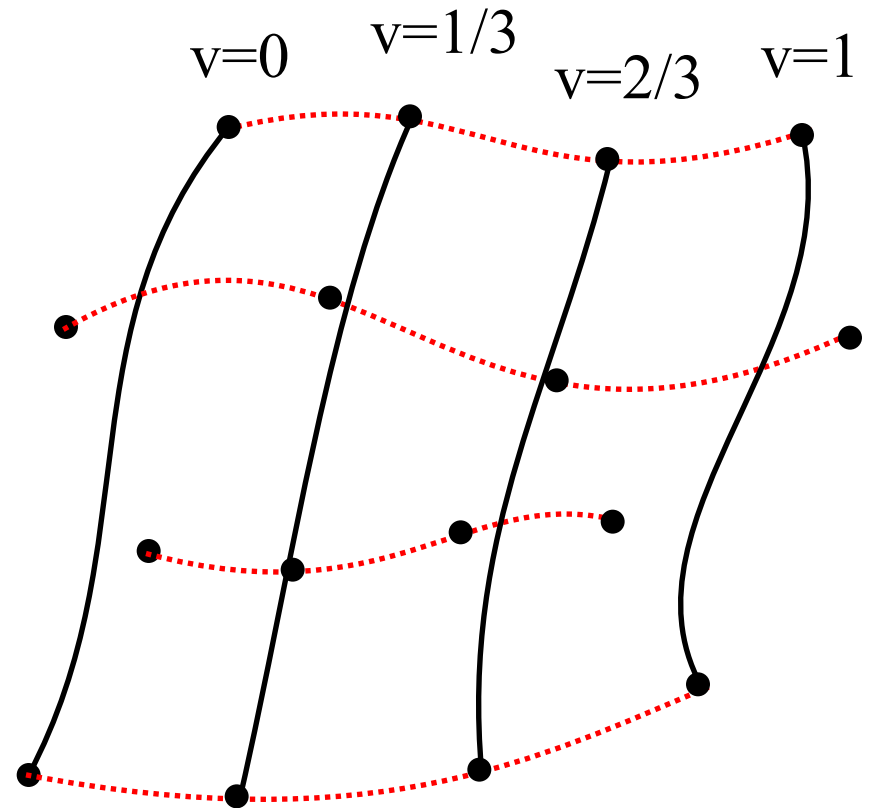
# Here's an Idea

- $P(u, \mathbf{v}) = (1-u)^3 P1(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $3u(1-u)^2 P2(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $3u^2(1-u) P3(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $u^3 P4(\mathbf{v})$
- Let's make  
the Pis move along  
curves!



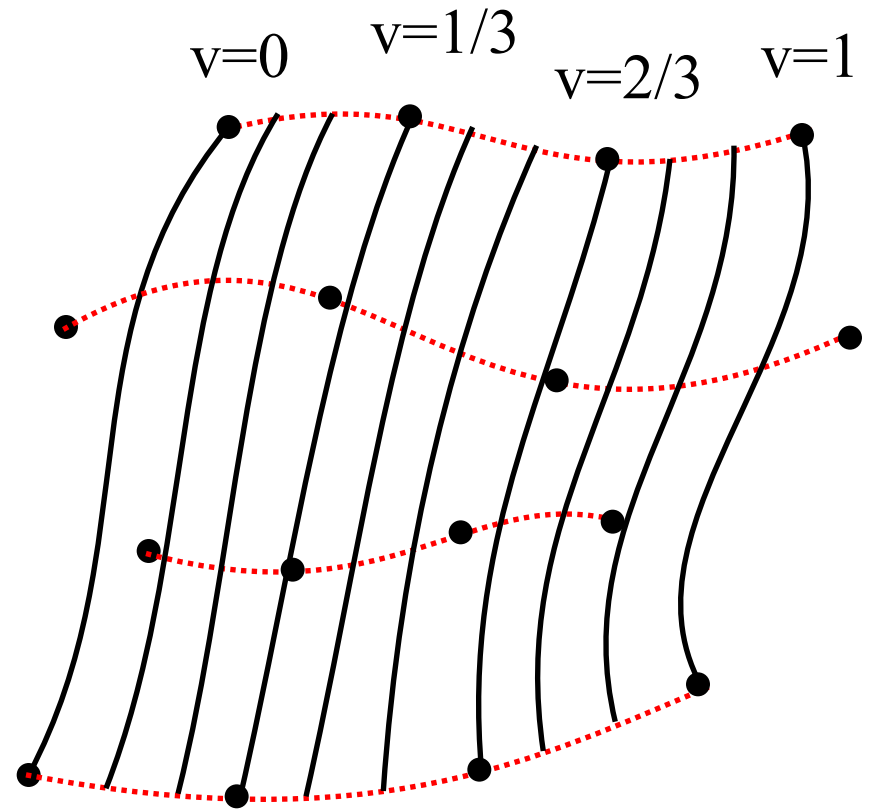
# Here's an Idea

- $P(u, \mathbf{v}) = (1-u)^3 \quad P1(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $3u(1-u)^2 \quad P2(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $3u^2(1-u) \quad P3(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $u^3 \quad P4(\mathbf{v})$
- Let's make  
the Pis move along  
curves!



# Here's an Idea

- $P(u, \mathbf{v}) = (1-u)^3 P1(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $3u(1-u)^2 P2(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $3u^2(1-u) P3(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $u^3 P4(\mathbf{v})$
- Let's make  
the Pis move along  
curves!

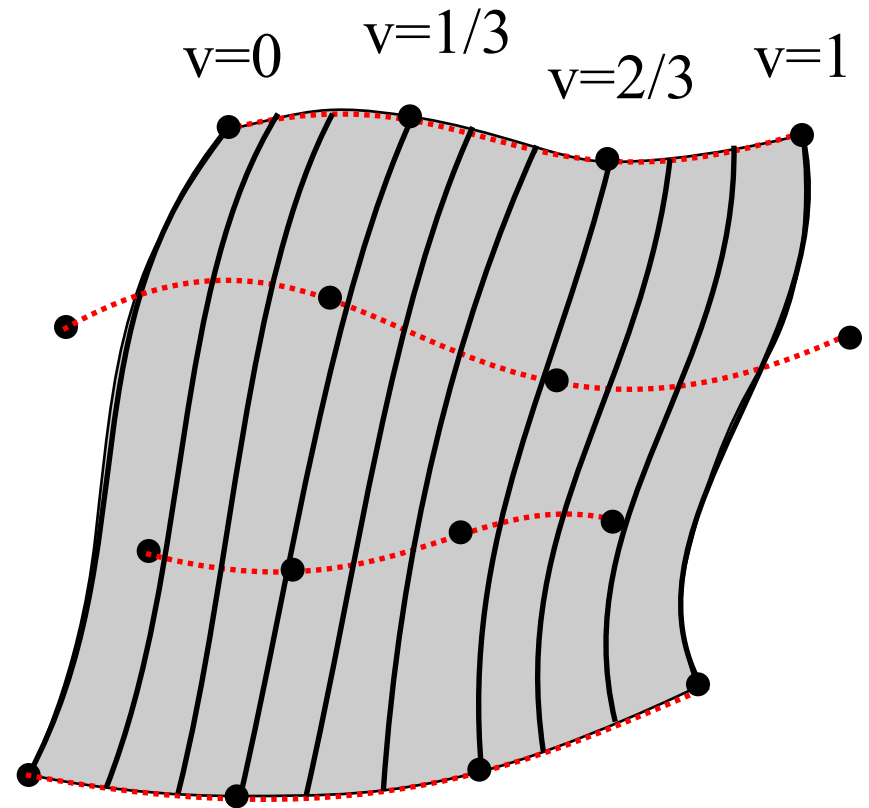


# Here's an Idea

- $P(u, \mathbf{v}) = (1-u)^3 P1(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $3u(1-u)^2 P2(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $3u^2(1-u) P3(\mathbf{v})$   
+  $u^3 P4(\mathbf{v})$

A 2D surface patch!

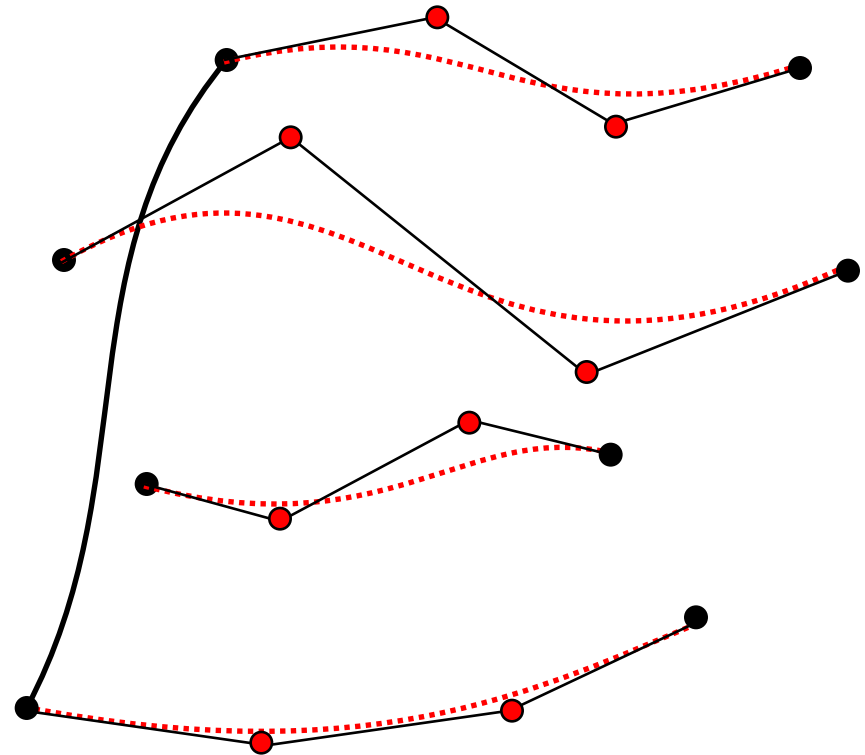
- Let's make  
the Pis move along  
curves!



# Tensor Product Bézier Patches

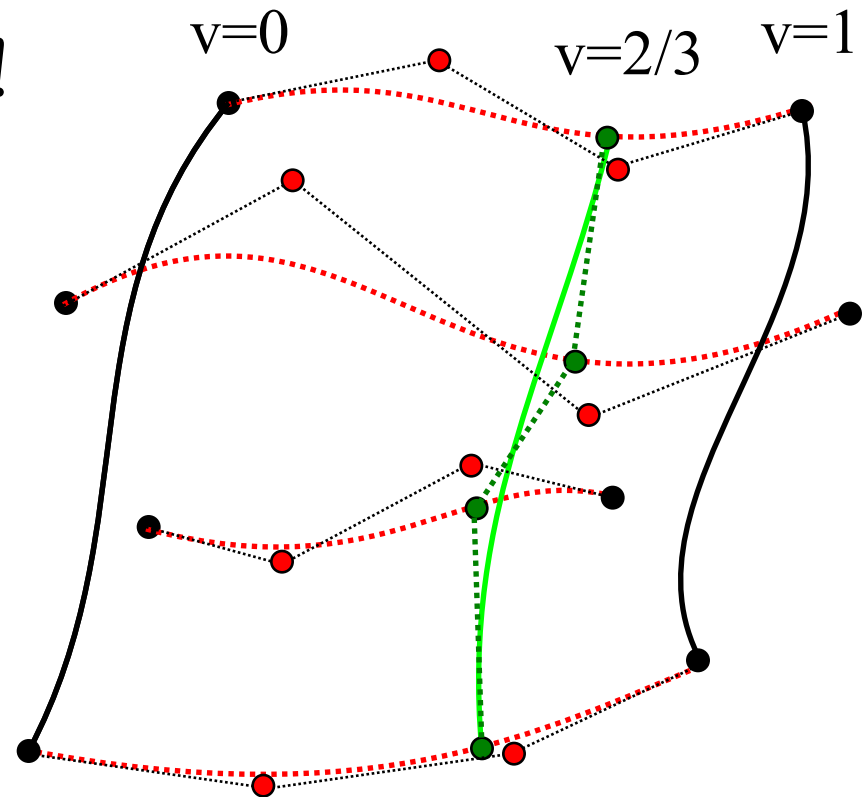
---

- In the previous,  $P_i$ s were just some curves
- What if we make **them** Bézier curves?



# Tensor Product Bézier Patches

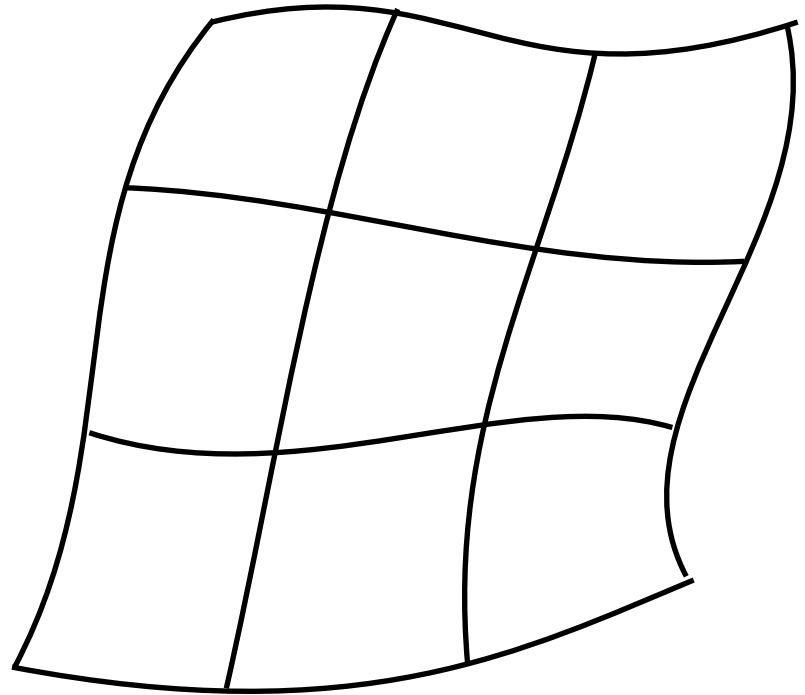
- In the previous,  $P_i$ s were just some curves
- What if we make **them** Bézier curves?
- Each  $u=\text{const.}$  **and**  $v=\text{const.}$  curve is a Bézier curve!
- Note that the boundary control points (except corners) are NOT interpolated!



# Tensor Product Bézier Patches

---

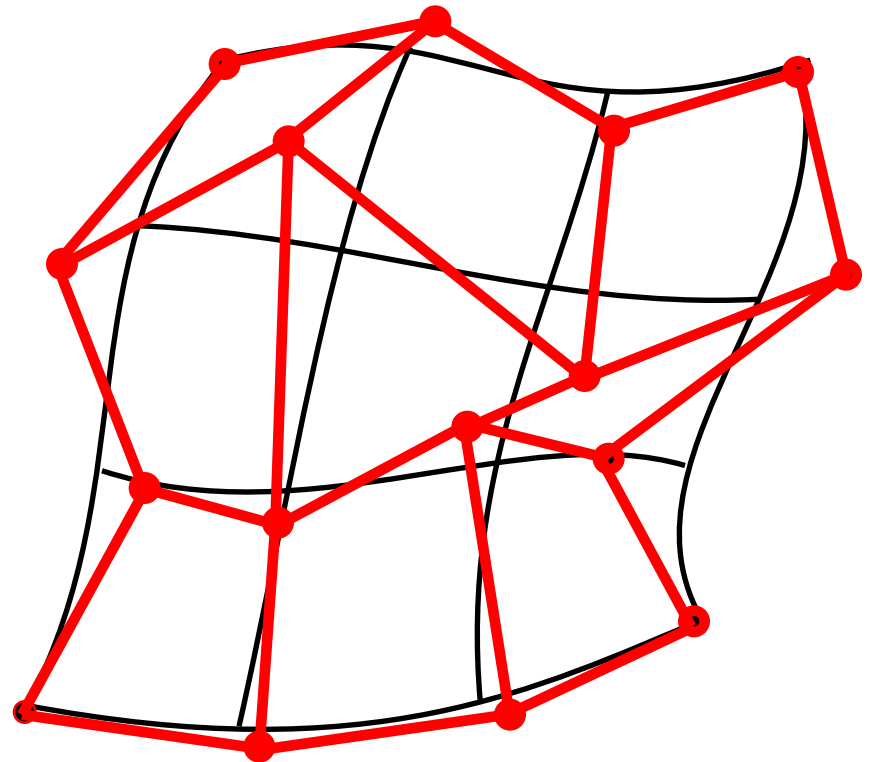
**A bicubic Bézier  
surface**



# Tensor Product Bézier Patches

---

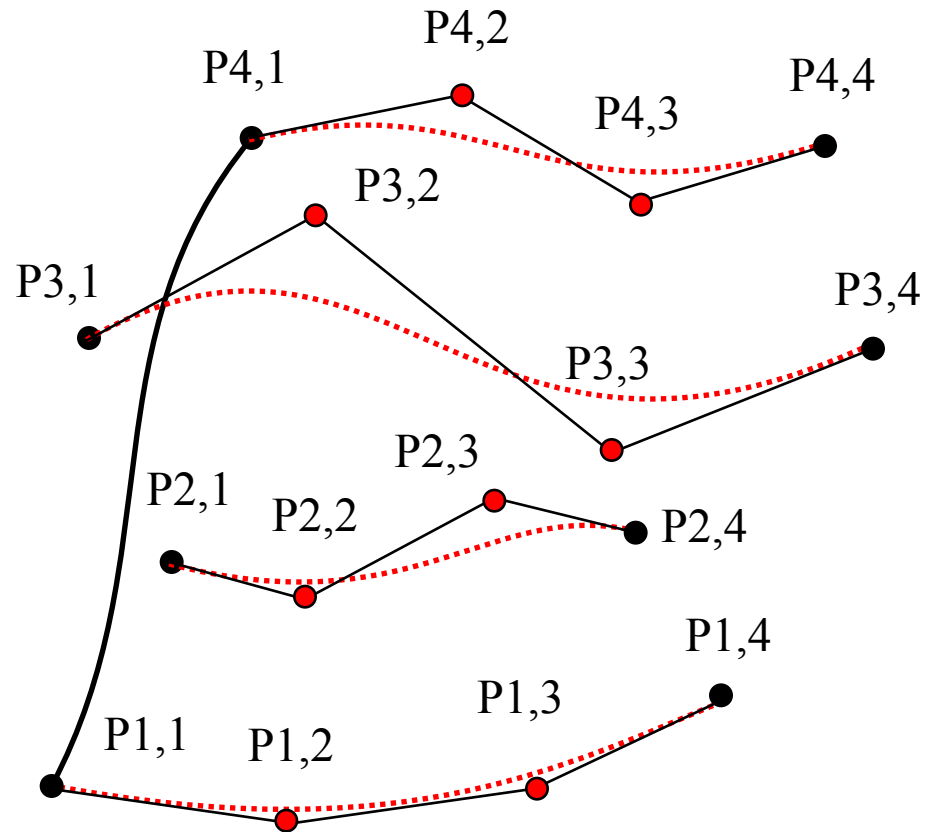
The “Control Mesh”  
16 control points





# Bicubics, Tensor Product

- $P(u,v) = B_1(u) * P_1(v)$   
+  $B_2(u) * P_2(v)$   
+  $B_3(u) * P_3(v)$   
+  $B_4(u) * P_4(v)$
- $P_i(v) = B_1(v) * P_{i,1}$   
+  $B_2(v) * P_{i,2}$   
+  $B_3(v) * P_{i,3}$   
+  $B_4(v) * P_{i,4}$



# Bicubics, Tensor Product

- $P(u,v) = B_1(u) * P_1(v)$   
+  $B_2(u) * P_2(v)$   
+  $B_3(u) * P_3(v)$   
+  $B_4(u) * P_4(v)$
- $P_i(v) = B_1(v) * P_{i,1}$   
+  $B_2(v) * P_{i,2}$   
+  $B_3(v) * P_{i,3}$   
+  $B_4(v) * P_{i,4}$

$$P(u, v) = \sum_{i=1}^4 B_i(u) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^4 P_{i,j} B_j(v) \right]$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^4 \sum_{j=1}^4 P_{i,j} B_{i,j}(u, v)$$

$$B_{i,j}(u, v) = B_i(u) B_j(v)$$

# Bicubics, Tensor Product

- $P(u,v) = B_1(u) * P_1(v) + B_2(u) * P_2(v) + B_3(u) * P_3(v) + B_4(u) * P_4(v)$
- $P_i(v) = B_1(v) * P_{i,1} + B_2(v) * P_{i,2} + B_3(v) * P_{i,3} + B_4(v) * P_{i,4}$

$$P(u, v) =$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^4 \left[ \sum_{j=1}^4 \right]$$

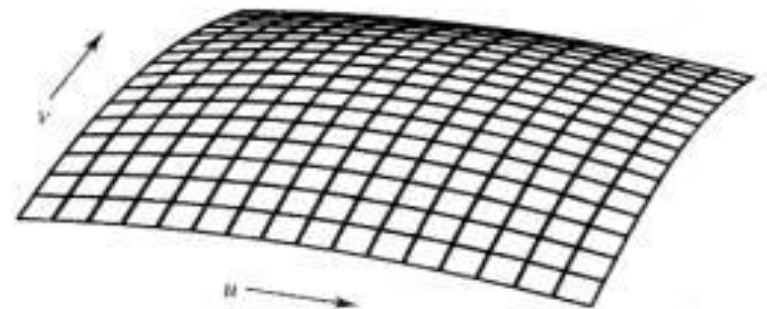
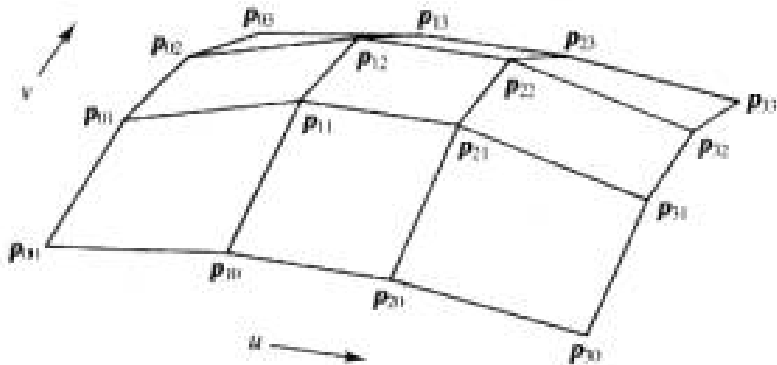
16 control points  $P_{i,j}$   
16 2D basis functions  $B_{i,j}$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^4 \sum_{j=1}^4 P_{i,j} B_{i,j}(u, v)$$

$$B_{i,j}(u, v) = B_i(u) B_j(v)$$

# Recap: Tensor Bézier Patches

- Parametric surface  $P(u,v)$  is a bicubic polynomial of two variables  $u$  &  $v$
- Defined by  $4 \times 4 = 16$  control points  $P_{1,1}, P_{1,2}, \dots, P_{4,4}$
- Interpolates 4 corners, approximates others
- Basis are product of two Bernstein polynomials:  $B_1(u)B_1(v); B_1(u)B_2(v); \dots B_4(u)B_4(v)$



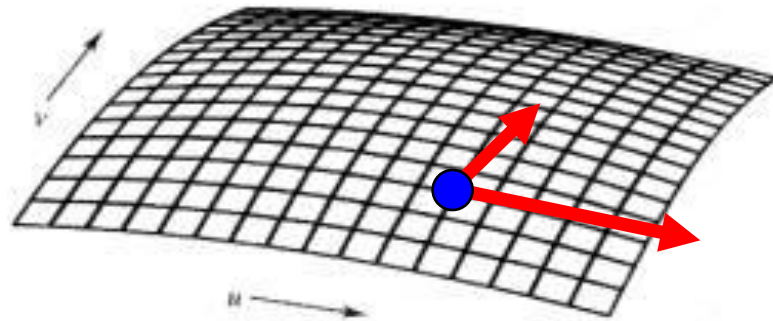
# Questions?

---

# Tangents and Normals for Patches

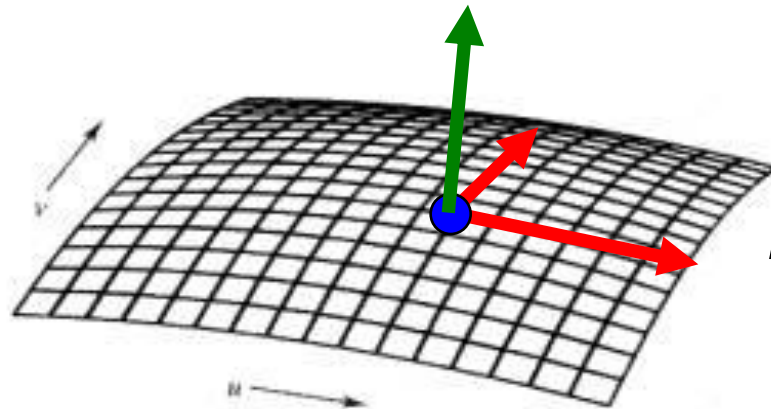
---

- $P(u,v)$  is a **3D point** specified by  $u, v$
- The **partial derivatives**  $\partial P/\partial u$  and  $\partial P/\partial v$  are 3D vectors
  - Both are tangent to surface at  $P$



# Tangents and Normals for Patches

- $P(u,v)$  is a **3D point** specified by  $u, v$
- The **partial derivatives**  $\partial P/\partial u$  and  $\partial P/\partial v$  are 3D vectors
  - Both are tangent to surface at  $P$
  - Normal is perpendicular to both, i.e.,  
$$n = (\partial P/\partial u) \times (\partial P/\partial v)$$



**$n$  is usually not unit, so must normalize!**

# Questions?

---



# Recap: Matrix Notation for Curves

---

- Cubic Bézier in matrix notation

point on curve  
(2x1 vector)

$$P(t) = \begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{pmatrix} =$$

Canonical  
“power basis”

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 \\ y_1 & y_2 & y_3 & y_4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ t \\ t^2 \\ t^3 \end{pmatrix}$$

“Geometry matrix”  
of control points P1..P4  
(2 x 4)

“Spline matrix”  
(Bernstein)

# Hardcore: Matrix Notation for Patches

- Not required,  
but convenient!

$x$  coordinate of  
surface at  $(u,v)$

$$P(u, v) = \sum_{i=1}^4 B_i(u) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^4 P_{i,j} B_j(v) \right]$$

$$P^x(u, v) =$$

Column vector of  
basis functions ( $v$ )

$$(B_1(u), \dots, B_4(u)) \begin{pmatrix} P_{1,1}^x & \dots & P_{1,4}^x \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ P_{4,1}^x & \dots & P_{4,4}^x \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} B_1(v) \\ \vdots \\ B_4(v) \end{pmatrix}$$

Row vector of  
basis functions ( $u$ )

4x4 matrix of  $x$  coordinates  
of the control points

# Hardcore: Matrix Notation for Patches

---

- Curves:

$$P(t) = \mathbf{G} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{T}(t)$$

- Surfaces:

$$P^x(u, v) = \mathbf{T}(u)^T \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{G}^x \mathbf{B} \mathbf{T}(v)$$



A separate 4x4 geometry  
matrix for x, y, z

- $\mathbf{T}$  = power basis  
 $\mathbf{B}$  = spline matrix  
 $\mathbf{G}$  = geometry matrix

# Super Hardcore: Tensor Notation

---

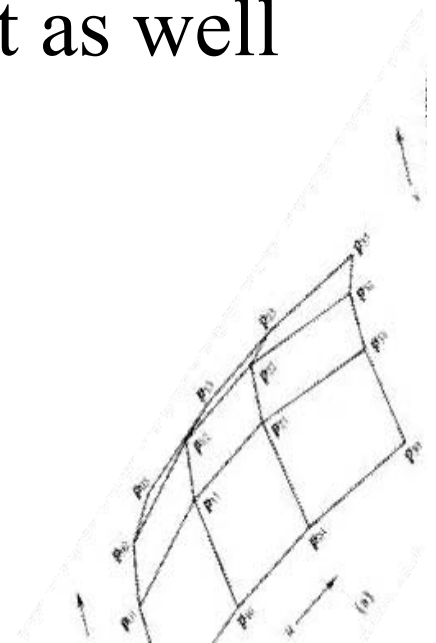
- You can stack the  $\mathbf{G}_x$ ,  $\mathbf{G}_y$ ,  $\mathbf{G}_z$  matrices into a geometry **tensor** of control points
  - I.e.,  $G_{kij}$  = the  $k$ th coordinate of control point  $P_{i,j}$
  - A cube of numbers!

$$P^k(u, v) = \mathbf{T}^l(u) \mathbf{B}_l^i \mathbf{G}_{ij}^k \mathbf{B}_m^j \mathbf{T}^m(v)$$

- “Definitely not required, but nice!”
  - See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multilinear\\_algebra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multilinear_algebra)

# Tensor Product B-Spline Patches

- Bézier and B-Spline curves are both cubics
  - Can change between representations using matrices
- Consequently, you can build tensor product surface patches out of B-Splines just as well
  - Still 4x4 control points for each patch
  - 2D basis functions are pairwise products of B-Spline basis functions
  - Yes, simple!



# Tensor Product Spline Patches

---

- Pros
  - Smooth
  - Defined by reasonably small set of points
- Cons
  - Harder to render (usually converted to triangles)
  - Tricky to ensure continuity at patch boundaries
- Extensions
  - Rational splines: Splines in homogeneous coordinates
  - NURBS: Non-Uniform Rational B-Splines
    - Like curves: ratio of polynomials, non-uniform location of control points, etc.

# Utah Teapot: Tensor Bézier Splines

---

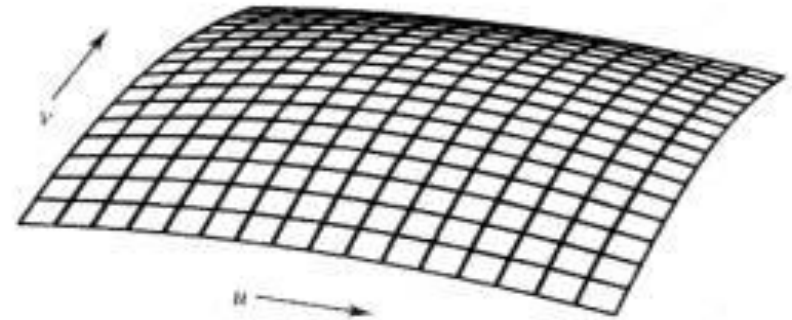
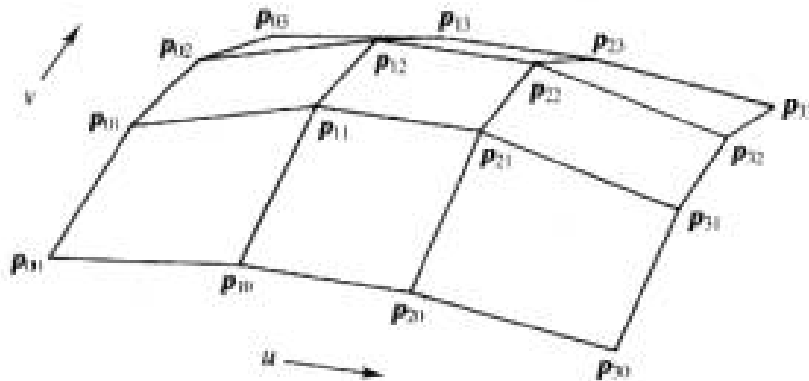
- Designed by Martin Newell



Image courtesy of [Dhatfield](#) on Wikimedia Commons. License: CC-BY-SA. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <http://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

# Cool: Displacement Mapping

- Not all surfaces are smooth...

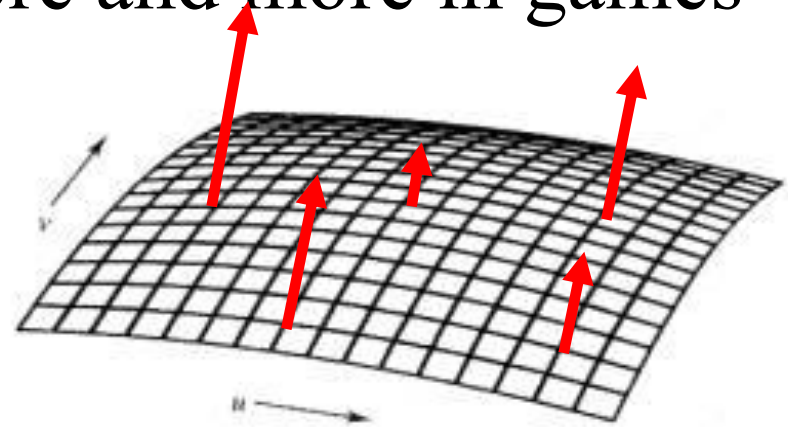
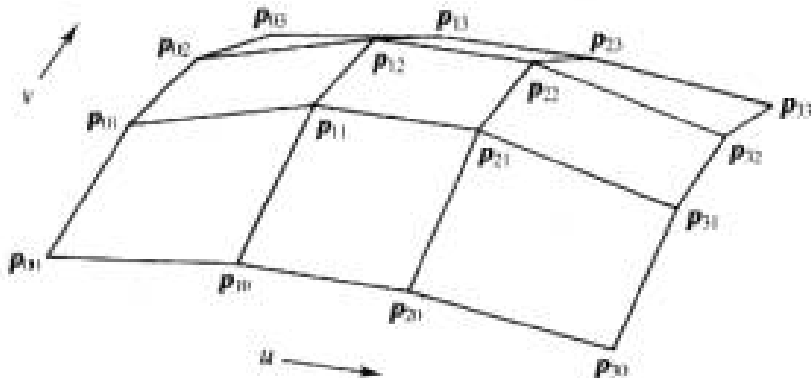


© Addison-Wesley. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <http://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.



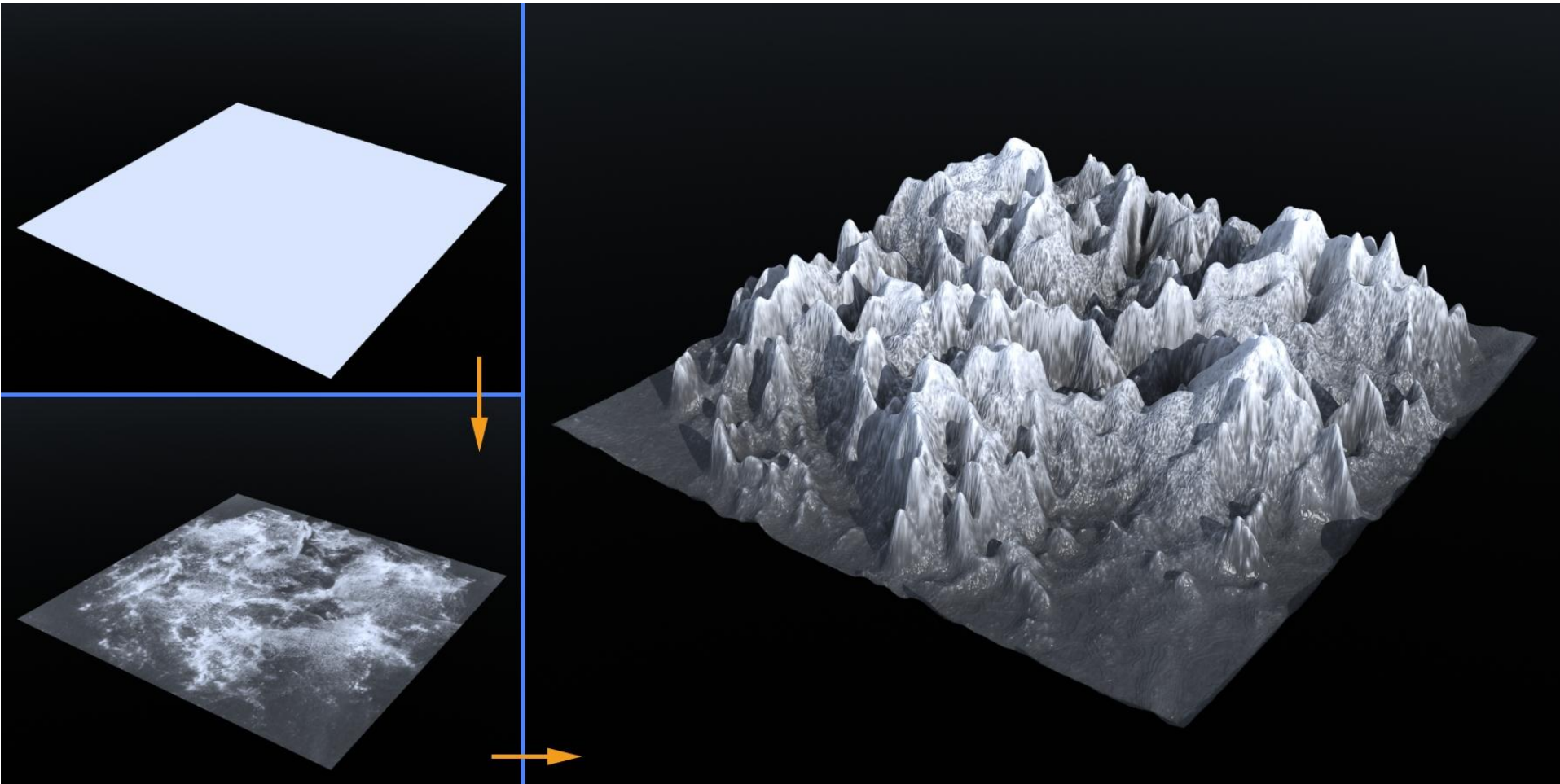
# Cool: Displacement Mapping

- Not all surfaces are smooth...
- “Paint” displacements on a smooth surface
  - For example, in the direction of normal
- Tessellate smooth patch into fine grid, then add displacement  $D(u,v)$  to vertices
- Heavily used in movies, more and more in games



# Displacement Mapping Example

---



This image is in the public domain. Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#).

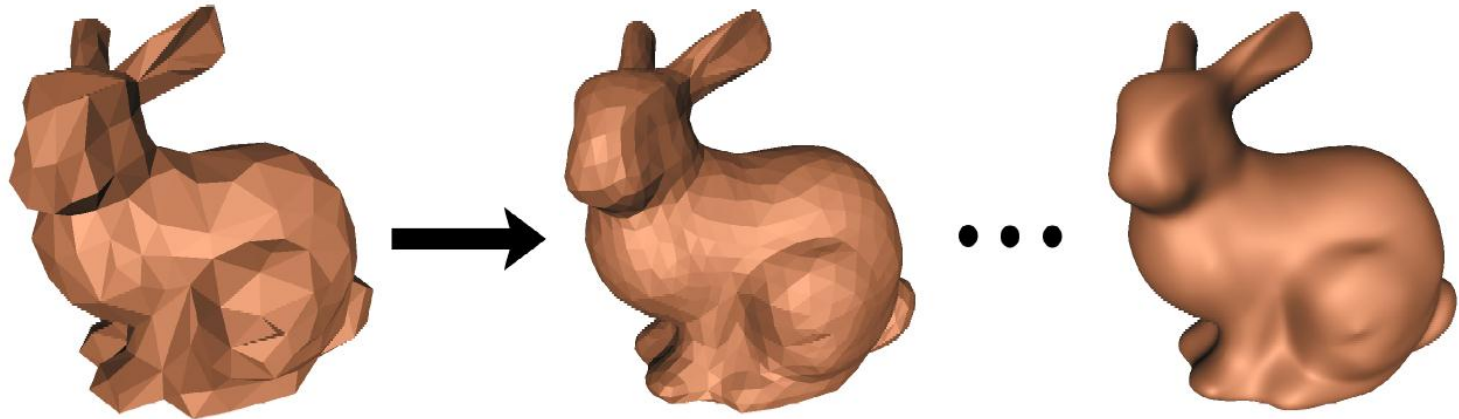
# Questions?

---

# Subdivision Surfaces

---

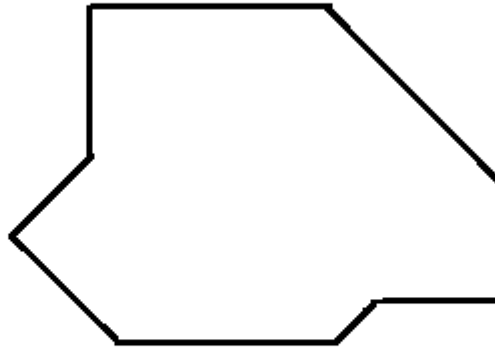
- Start with polygonal mesh
- Subdivide into larger number of polygons, smooth result after each subdivision
  - Lots of ways to do this.
- The limit surface is smooth!



© IEEE. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <http://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

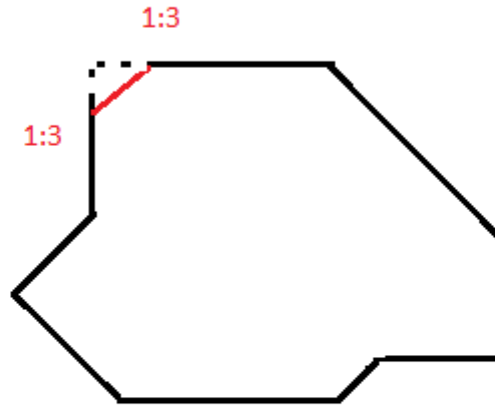
# Corner Cutting

---



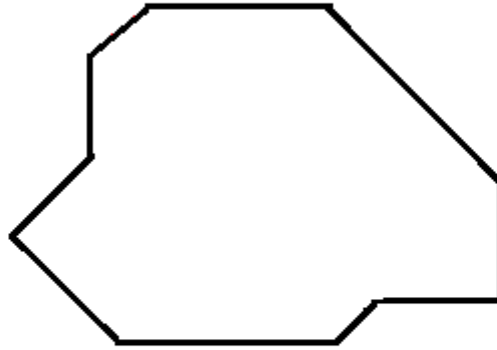
# Corner Cutting

---



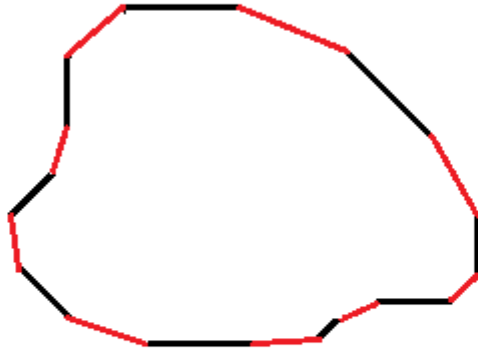
# Corner Cutting

---



# Corner Cutting

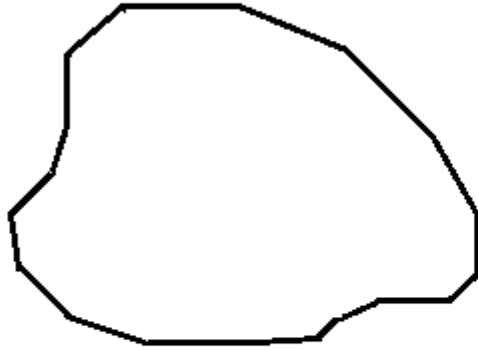
---





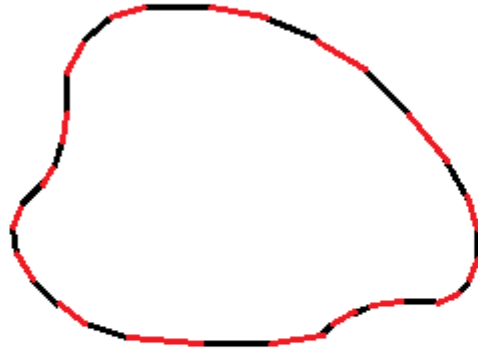
# Corner Cutting

---



# Corner Cutting

---



# Corner Cutting

---



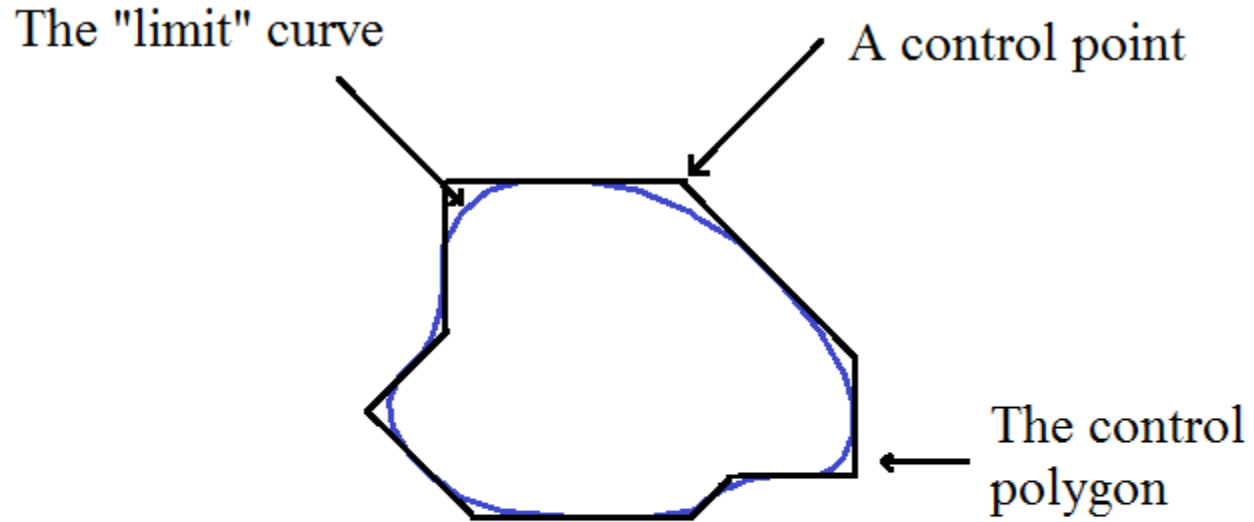
# Corner Cutting

---



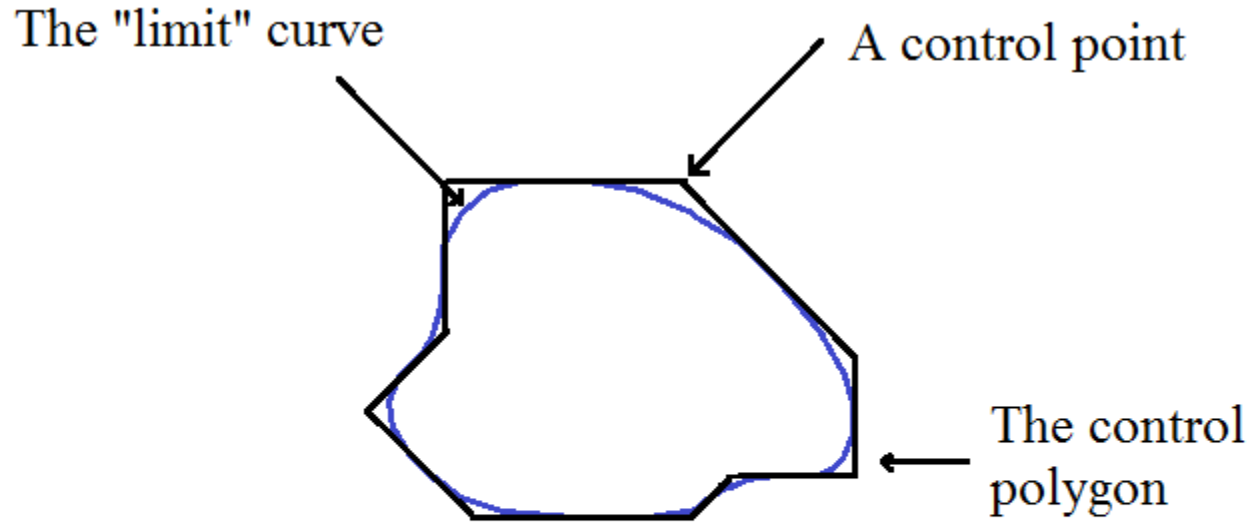
# Corner Cutting

---



# Corner Cutting

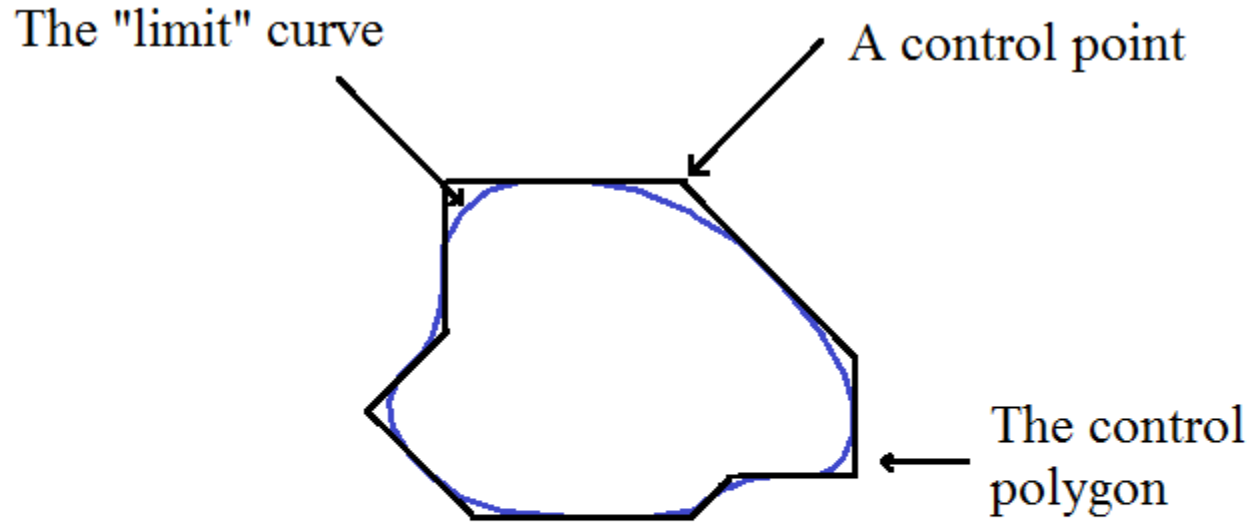
---



**It turns out corner cutting  
(Chaikin's Algorithm)  
produces a quadratic B-  
Spline curve! (Magic!)**

# Corner Cutting

---

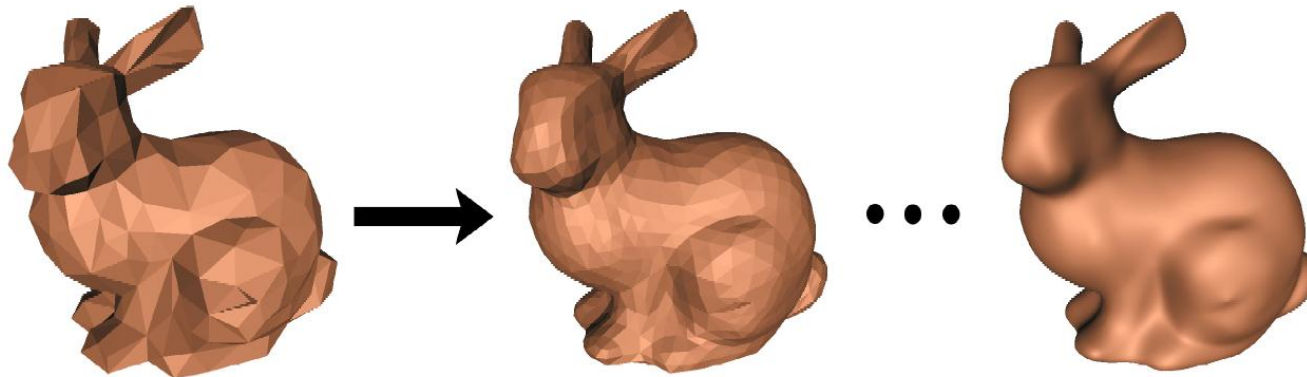


**(Well, not totally unexpected,  
remember de Casteljau)**

# Subdivision Curves and Surfaces

---

- Idea: cut corners to smooth
- Add points and compute weighted average of neighbors
- Same for surfaces
  - Special case for irregular vertices
    - vertex with more or less than 6 neighbors in a triangle mesh

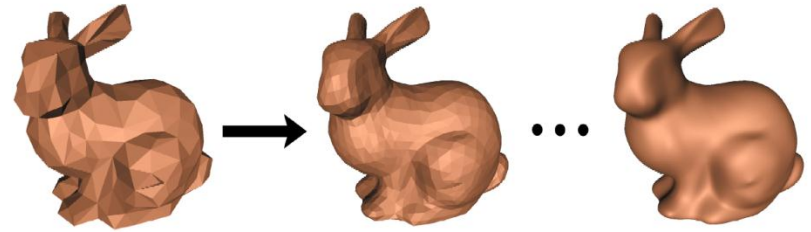


Warren et al.



# Subdivision Curves and Surfaces

- Advantages
  - Arbitrary topology
  - Smooth at boundaries
  - Level of detail, scalable
  - Simple representation
  - Numerical stability, well-behaved meshes
  - Code simplicity
- Little disadvantage:
  - Procedural definition
  - Not parametric
  - Tricky at special vertices



© IEEE. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <http://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

# Flavors of Subdivision Surfaces

---

- Catmull-Clark
  - Quads and triangles
  - Generalizes bicubics to arbitrary topology!
- Loop, Butterfly
  - Triangles
- Doo-Sabin,  $\sqrt{3}$ , biquartic...
  - and a whole host of others
- Used **everywhere** in movie and game modeling!
- See <http://www.cs.nyu.edu/~dzorin/sig00course/>

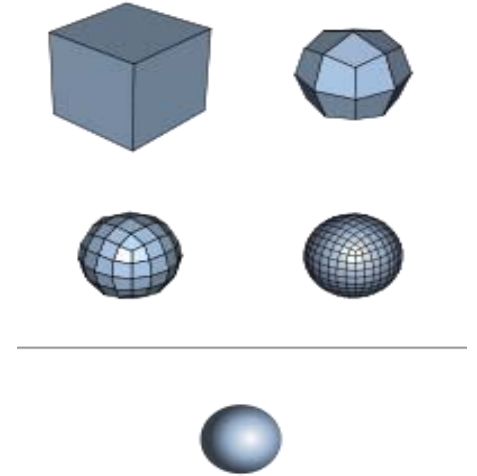


Image courtesy of [Romainbehar](#) on Wikimedia Commons.  
License: CC-BY-SA. This content is excluded from our  
Creative Commons license. For more information, see  
<http://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

# Subdivision + Displacement

---



Original rough mesh



Original mesh with  
subdivision



Original mesh with  
subdivision and  
displacement

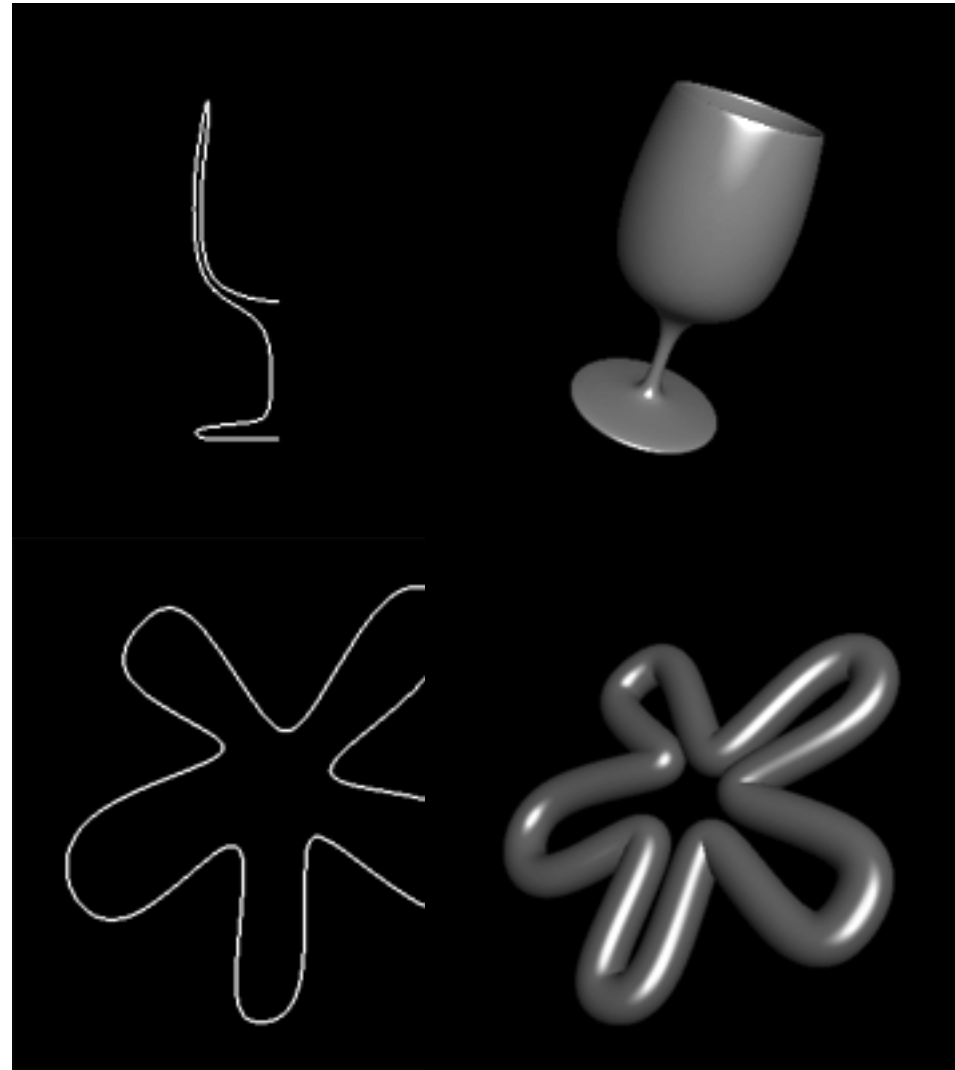
© source unknown. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <http://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

# Questions?

---

# Specialized Procedural Definitions

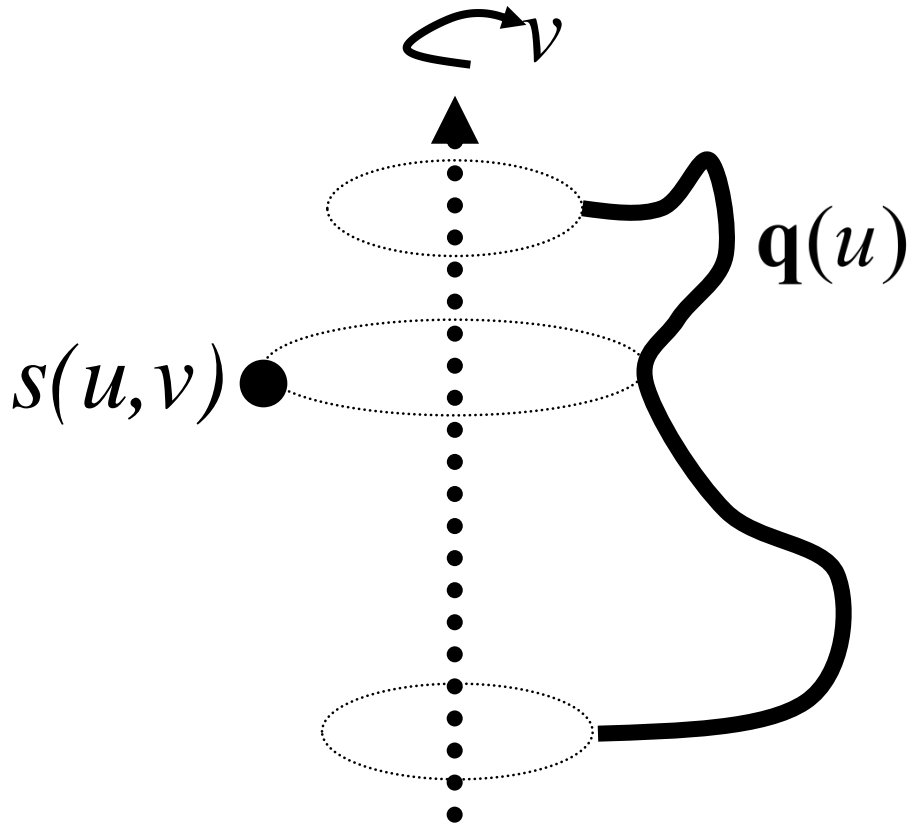
- Surfaces of revolution
  - Rotate given 2D profile curve
- Generalized cylinders
  - Given 2D profile and 3D curve, sweep the profile along the 3D curve
- **Assignment 1!**



# Surface of Revolution

---

- 2D curve  $q(u)$  provides one dimension
  - Note: works also with 3D curve
- Rotation  $R(v)$  provides 2nd dimension



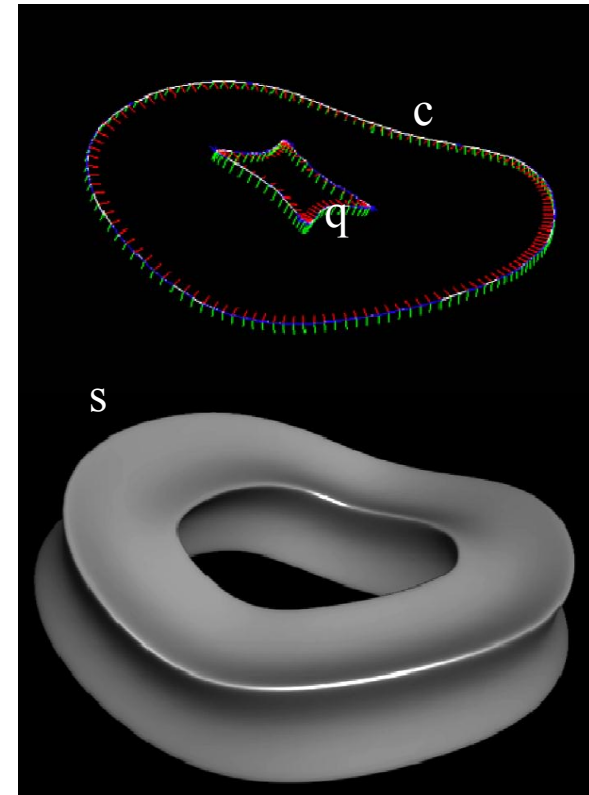
$s(u, v) = \mathbf{R}(v)\mathbf{q}(u)$   
where  $\mathbf{R}$  is a matrix,  
 $\mathbf{q}$  a vector,  
and  $s$  is a point on  
the surface

# General Swept Surfaces

- Trace out surface by moving a profile curve along a trajectory.
  - profile curve  $\mathbf{q}(u)$  provides one dim
  - trajectory  $\mathbf{c}(u)$  provides the other
- Surface of revolution can be seen as a special case where trajectory is a circle

$$\mathbf{s}(u, v) = \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{c}(v)) \mathbf{q}(u)$$

where  $\mathbf{M}$  is a matrix that depends on the trajectory  $\mathbf{c}$

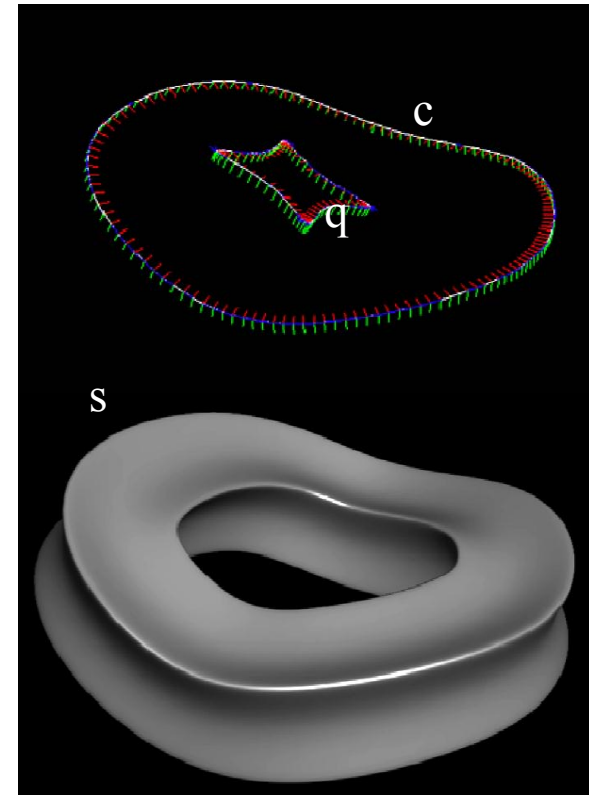


# General Swept Surfaces

- How do we get  $\mathbf{M}$ ?
  - Translation is easy, given by  $\mathbf{c}(v)$
  - What about orientation?
- Orientation options:
  - Align profile curve with an axis.
  - **Better**: Align profile curve with frame that “follows” the curve

$$\mathbf{s}(u, v) = \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{c}(v)) \mathbf{q}(u)$$

where  $\mathbf{M}$  is a matrix that depends on the trajectory  $\mathbf{c}$





# Frames on Curves: Frenet Frame

- Frame defined by 1st (tangent), 2nd and 3rd derivatives of a 3D curve
- Looks like a good idea for swept surfaces...

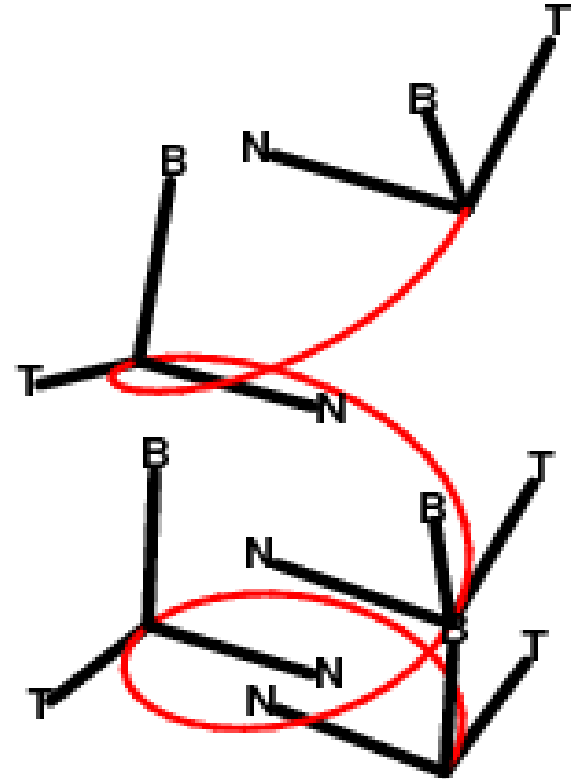
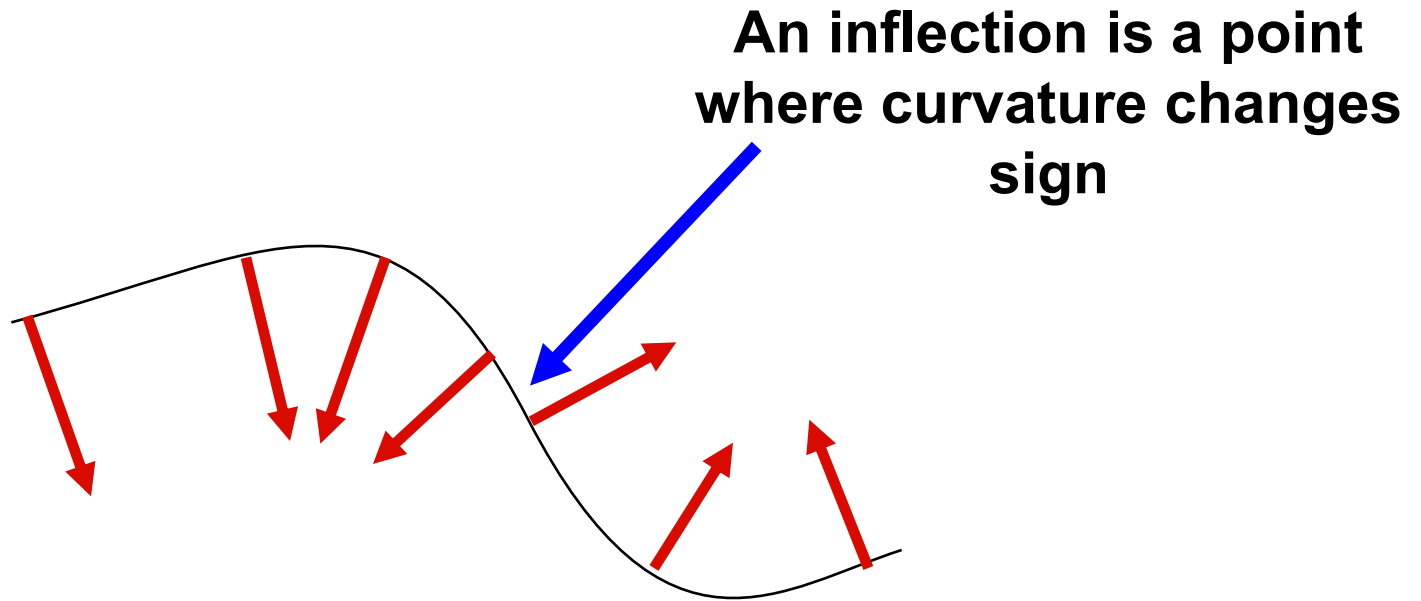


Image courtesy of [Kristian Molhave](#) on Wikimedia Commons. License: CC-BY-SA. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <http://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

# Frenet: Problem at Inflection!

---

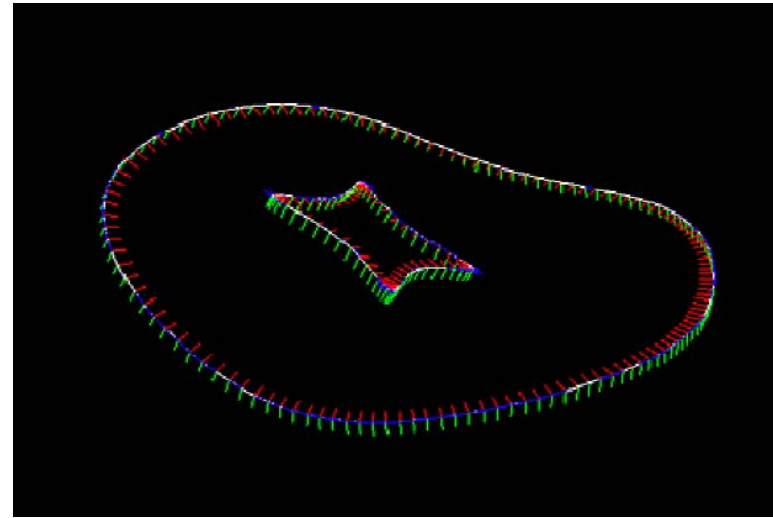
- Normal flips!
- Bad to define a smooth swept surface



# Smooth Frames on Curves

---

- Build triplet of vectors
  - include tangent (it is reliable)
  - orthonormal
  - coherent over the curve
- Idea:
  - use cross product to create orthogonal vectors
  - exploit discretization of curve
  - use previous frame to bootstrap orientation
  - **See Assignment 1 instructions!**

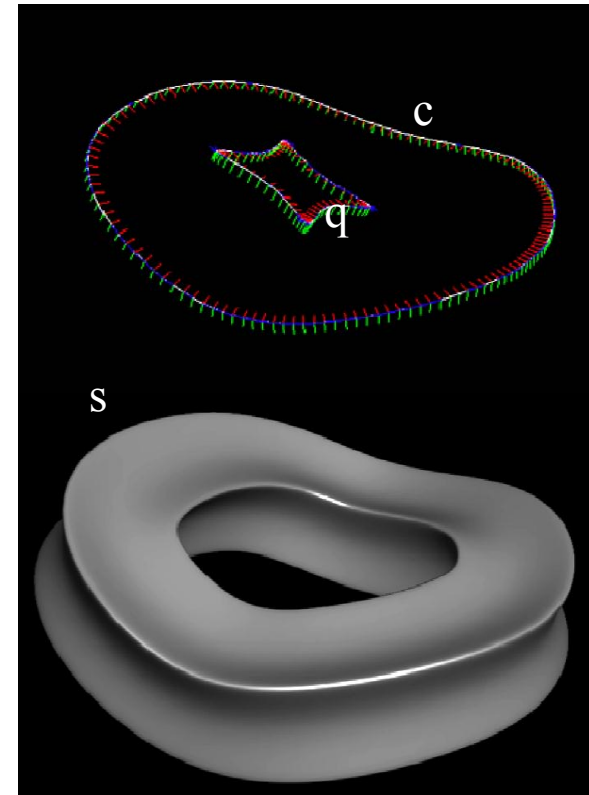


# Normals for Swept Surfaces

- Need partial derivatives w.r.t. both  $u$  and  $v$   
$$\mathbf{n} = (\partial \mathbf{s} / \partial u) \times (\partial \mathbf{s} / \partial v)$$
  - *Remember to normalize!*
- One given by tangent of profile curve, the other by tangent of trajectory

$$\mathbf{s}(u, v) = \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{c}(v)) \mathbf{q}(u)$$

where  $\mathbf{M}$  is a matrix that depends on the trajectory  $\mathbf{c}$



# Questions?

---

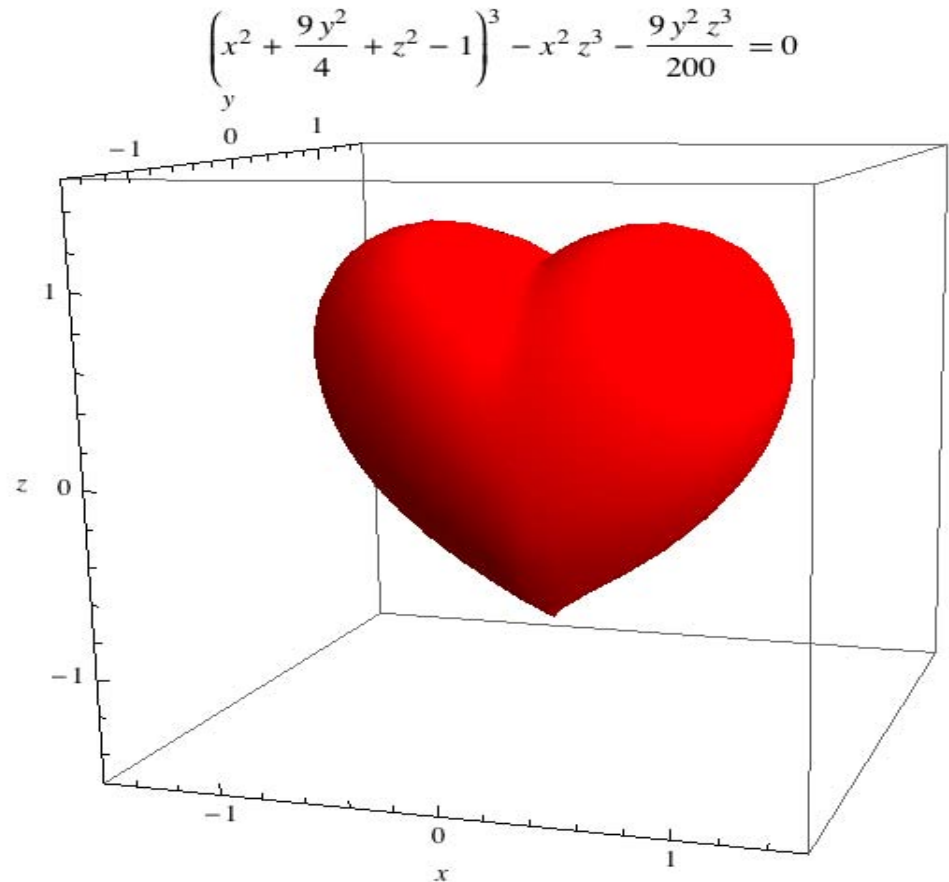
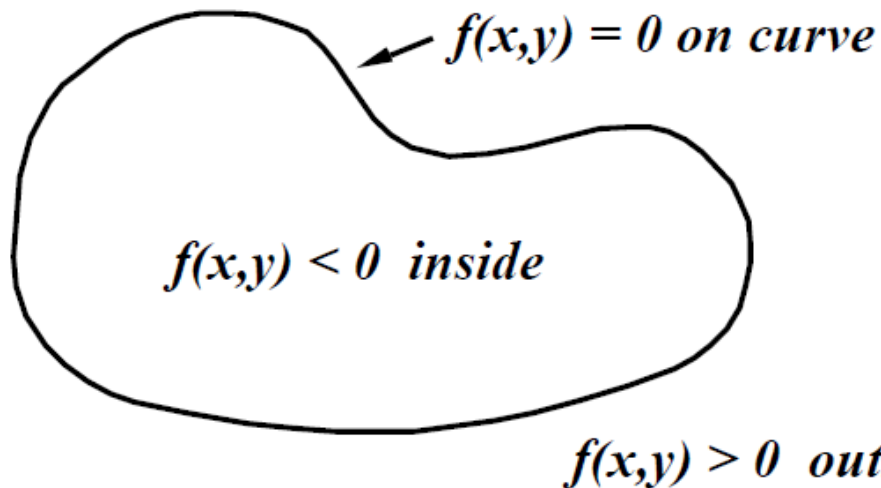
# Implicit Surfaces

- Surface defined implicitly by a function

$f(x, y, z) = 0$  (on surface)

$f(x, y, z) < 0$  (inside)

$f(x, y, z) > 0$  (outside)



This image is in the public domain. Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#).

# Implicit Surfaces

---

- Pros:
  - Efficient check whether point is inside
  - Efficient Boolean operations
  - Can handle weird topology for animation
  - Easy to do sketchy modeling
- Cons:
  - Does not allow us to easily generate a point on the surface

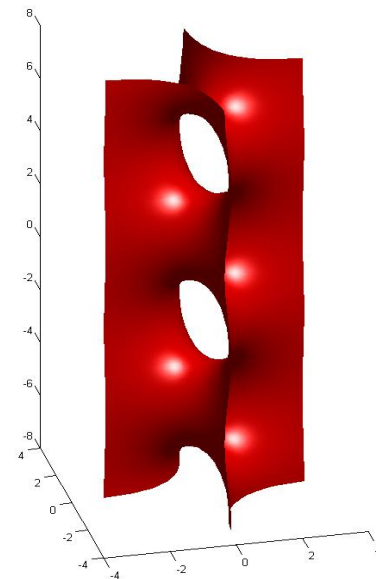


Image courtesy of [Anders Sandberg](#) on Wikimedia Commons. License: CC-BY-SA. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <http://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

# Questions?

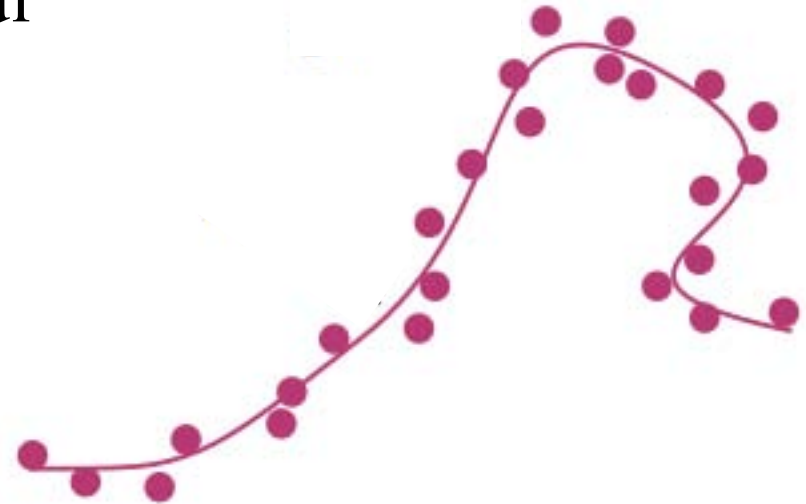
---



# Point Set Surfaces

---

- Given only a noisy 3D point cloud (no connectivity), can you define a reasonable surface using only the points?
  - Laser range scans only give you points, so this is potentially useful



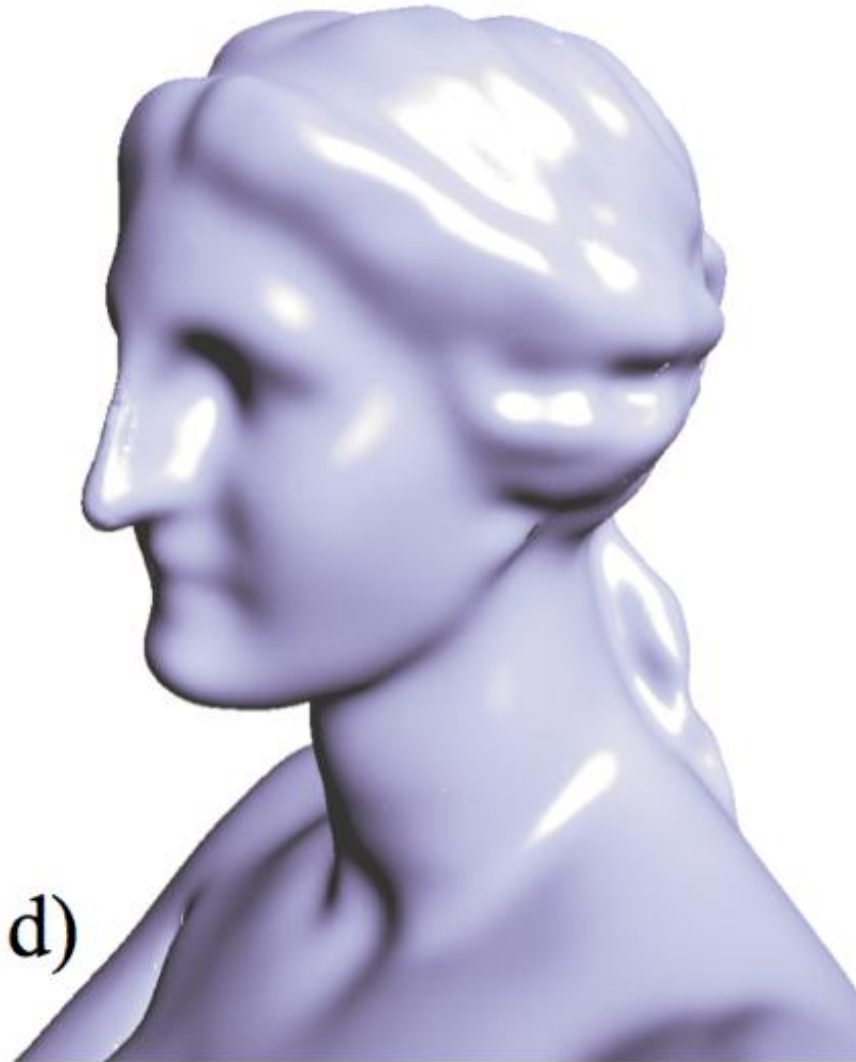
© IEEE. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <http://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

From Point Set Surfaces, (Alexa et al. 2001).

# Point Set Surfaces

From *Point Set Surfaces*, used  
with permission from ACM, Inc

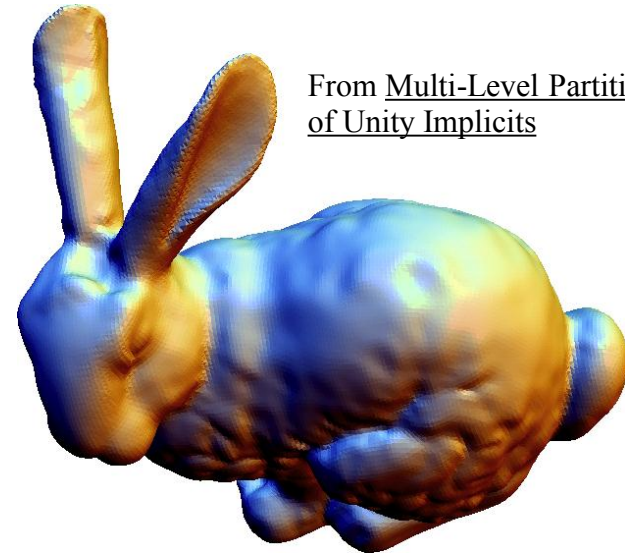
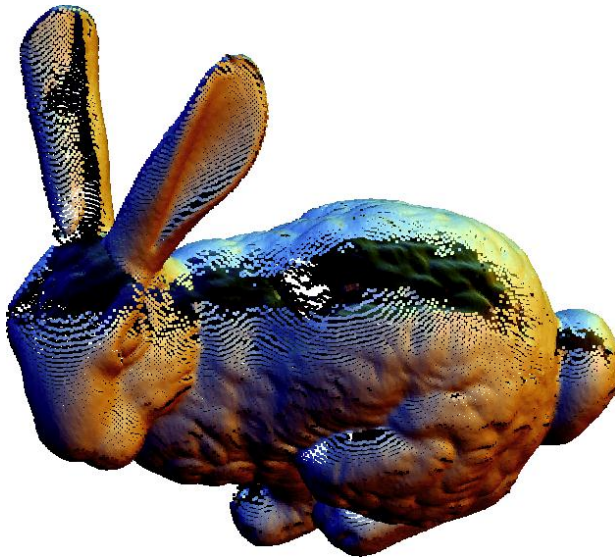
Alexa et al. 2001



# Point Set Surfaces

---

- Modern take on implicit surfaces
- Cool math: Moving Least Squares (MLS), partitions of unity, etc.



From Multi-Level Partition of Unity Implicits

Ohtake et al. 2003

© ACM, Inc. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <http://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

- Not required in this class, but nice to know.

# Questions?

---

# That's All for Today

---

- Further reading
  - Buss, Chapters 7 & 8
- Subvision curves and surfaces
  - <http://www.cs.nyu.edu/~dzorin/sig00course/>

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

## 6.837 Computer Graphics

Fall 2012

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.