

Lecture 24: Bicubic Surfaces & Splines

December 5, 2019

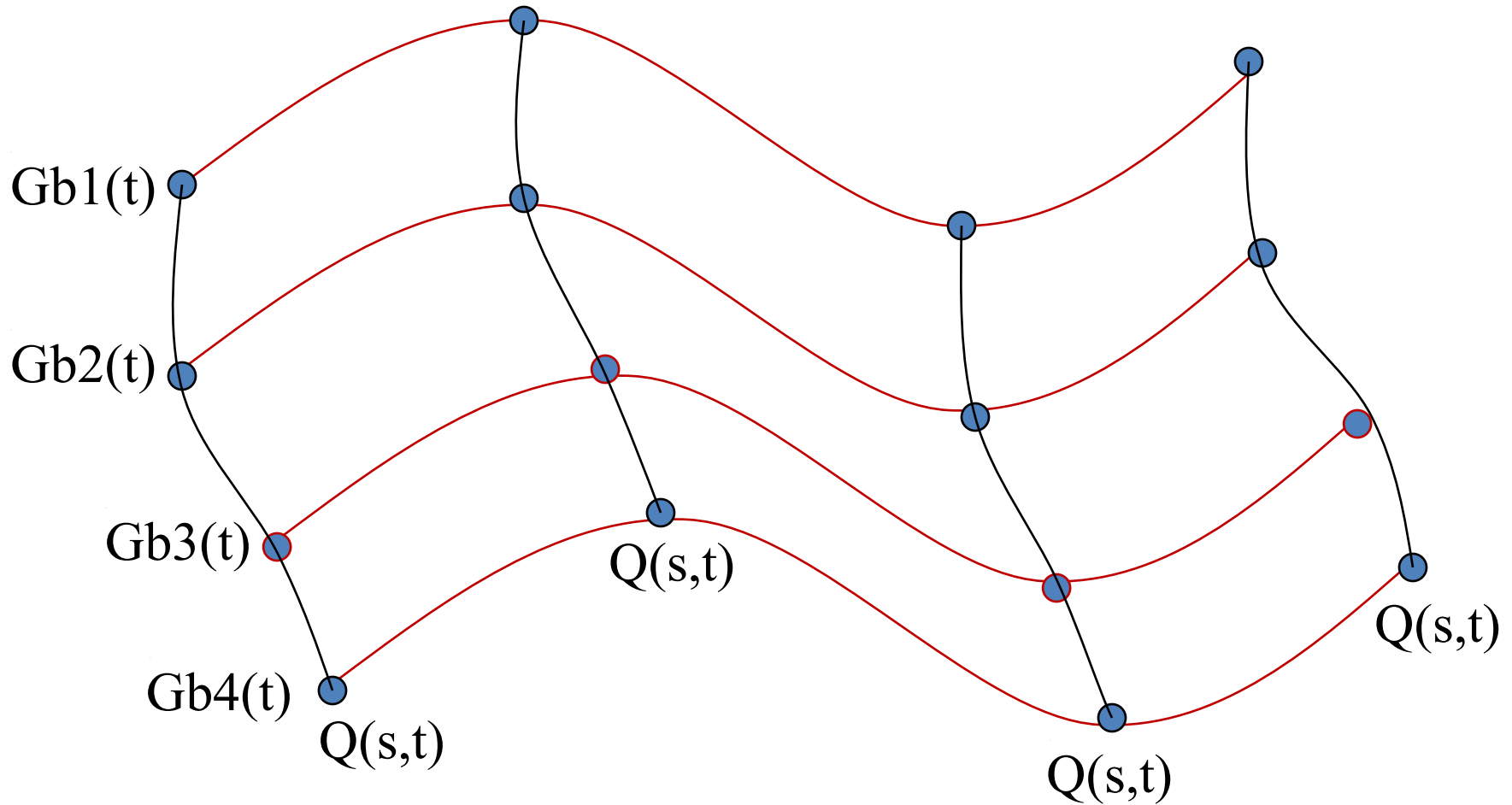
Parametric Bicubic Surfaces

- The goal is to go from curves in space to curved surfaces in space.
- To do this, we will parameterize a surface in terms of two free parameters, s & t
- We will extend the Bezier curve in detail.
- Other surfaces are similar in concept.

Building a Bezier Surface Patch

- 1) Imagine a Bezier curve $G_{b1}(t)$ in space.
- 2) Imagine three more Bezier curves, $G_{b2}(t)$, $G_{b3}(t)$ and $G_{b4}(t)$
- 3) Let all four curves be parameterized by a single t
- 4) For $t=0$, we have four points: $G_{b1}(0)$, $G_{b2}(0)$, $G_{b3}(0)$ and $G_{b4}(0)$. Use these as the control points for another Bezier curve.
- 5) Repeat step #4 for all values of t

Bicubic Surfaces



Mapping from (s,t) to (x,y,z)

Basic Math – Version 1

$$Q(s, t) = SMb Gb(t)$$

$$S = [s^3 \quad s^2 \quad s \quad 1], T = [t^3 \quad t^2 \quad t \quad 1]$$

$$Mb = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, Gb(t) = \begin{bmatrix} Gb1(t) \\ Gb2(t) \\ Gb3(t) \\ Gb4(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Gbi(t) = TMb Gi$$

... and the Geometry

Specify four 4x3 geometry matrices, one for per curve.

$$G1 = \begin{bmatrix} x_{1,1} & y_{1,1} & z_{1,1} \\ x_{1,2} & y_{1,2} & z_{1,2} \\ x_{1,3} & y_{1,3} & z_{1,3} \\ x_{1,4} & y_{1,4} & z_{1,4} \end{bmatrix} \quad G2 = \begin{bmatrix} x_{2,1} & y_{2,1} & z_{2,1} \\ x_{2,2} & y_{2,2} & z_{2,2} \\ x_{2,3} & y_{2,3} & z_{2,3} \\ x_{2,4} & y_{2,4} & z_{2,4} \end{bmatrix} \quad G3 = \begin{bmatrix} x_{3,1} & y_{3,1} & z_{3,1} \\ x_{3,2} & y_{3,2} & z_{3,2} \\ x_{3,3} & y_{3,3} & z_{3,3} \\ x_{3,4} & y_{3,4} & z_{3,4} \end{bmatrix} \quad G4 = \begin{bmatrix} x_{4,1} & y_{4,1} & z_{4,1} \\ x_{4,2} & y_{4,2} & z_{4,2} \\ x_{4,3} & y_{4,3} & z_{4,3} \\ x_{4,4} & y_{4,4} & z_{4,4} \end{bmatrix}$$

Here is the first Bezier curve of the four.

$$Gb1(t)^T = \begin{bmatrix} (-t^3 + 3t^2 - 3t + 1)x_{1,1} + (3t^3 - 6t^2 + 3t)x_{1,2} + (-3t^3 + 3t^2)x_{1,3} + t^3x_{1,4} \\ (-t^3 + 3t^2 - 3t + 1)y_{1,1} + (3t^3 - 6t^2 + 3t)y_{1,2} + (-3t^3 + 3t^2)y_{1,3} + t^3y_{1,4} \\ (-t^3 + 3t^2 - 3t + 1)z_{1,1} + (3t^3 - 6t^2 + 3t)z_{1,2} + (-3t^3 + 3t^2)z_{1,3} + t^3z_{1,4} \end{bmatrix}$$

The surface ...

Recall we are building three functions of two variables.

$$Q(s, t)^T = \begin{bmatrix} x(s, t) \\ y(s, t) \\ z(s, t) \end{bmatrix}$$

Look just at the first – the x coordinate - function ...

$$\begin{aligned} x(s, t) = & \underline{(-s^3 + 3s^2 - 3s + 1)} \left((-t^3 + 3t^2 - 3t + 1) x_{1,1} + (3t^3 - 6t^2 + 3t) x_{1,2} + (-3t^3 + 3t^2) x_{1,3} + t^3 x_{1,4} \right) \\ & + \underline{(3s^3 - 6s^2 + 3s)} \left((-t^3 + 3t^2 - 3t + 1) x_{2,1} + (3t^3 - 6t^2 + 3t) x_{2,2} + (-3t^3 + 3t^2) x_{2,3} + t^3 x_{2,4} \right) \\ & + \underline{(-3s^3 + 3s^2)} \left((-t^3 + 3t^2 - 3t + 1) x_{3,1} + (3t^3 - 6t^2 + 3t) x_{3,2} + (-3t^3 + 3t^2) x_{3,3} + t^3 x_{3,4} \right) \\ & + \underline{s^3} \left((-t^3 + 3t^2 - 3t + 1) x_{4,1} + (3t^3 - 6t^2 + 3t) x_{4,2} + (-3t^3 + 3t^2) x_{4,3} + t^3 x_{4,4} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Alternative Decomposition

Break apart the x, y and z parts of the surface patch Q

$$Q_x(u, v) = \begin{vmatrix} v^3 & v^2 & v & 1 \\ -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & x_{13} & x_{14} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} & x_{23} & x_{24} \\ x_{31} & x_{32} & x_{33} & x_{34} \\ x_{41} & x_{42} & x_{43} & x_{44} \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} u^3 \\ u^2 \\ u \\ 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$Q_y(u, v) = \begin{vmatrix} v^3 & v^2 & v & 1 \\ -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} y_{11} & y_{12} & y_{13} & y_{14} \\ y_{21} & y_{22} & y_{23} & y_{24} \\ y_{31} & y_{32} & y_{33} & y_{34} \\ y_{41} & y_{42} & y_{43} & y_{44} \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} u^3 \\ u^2 \\ u \\ 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$Q_z(u, v) = \begin{vmatrix} v^3 & v^2 & v & 1 \\ -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} z_{11} & z_{12} & z_{13} & z_{14} \\ z_{21} & z_{22} & z_{23} & z_{24} \\ z_{31} & z_{32} & z_{33} & z_{34} \\ z_{41} & z_{42} & z_{43} & z_{44} \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} u^3 \\ u^2 \\ u \\ 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

Example Geometry

$$G_x = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 & 3 \\ 5 & 6 & 3 & 5 \\ 3 & 5 & 6 & 3 \\ 4 & 3 & 5 & 6 \\ 5 & 4 & 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Points = \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

... here it is in algebra

Note the very simple form of the x and y components.

$$x(s, t) = 3t$$

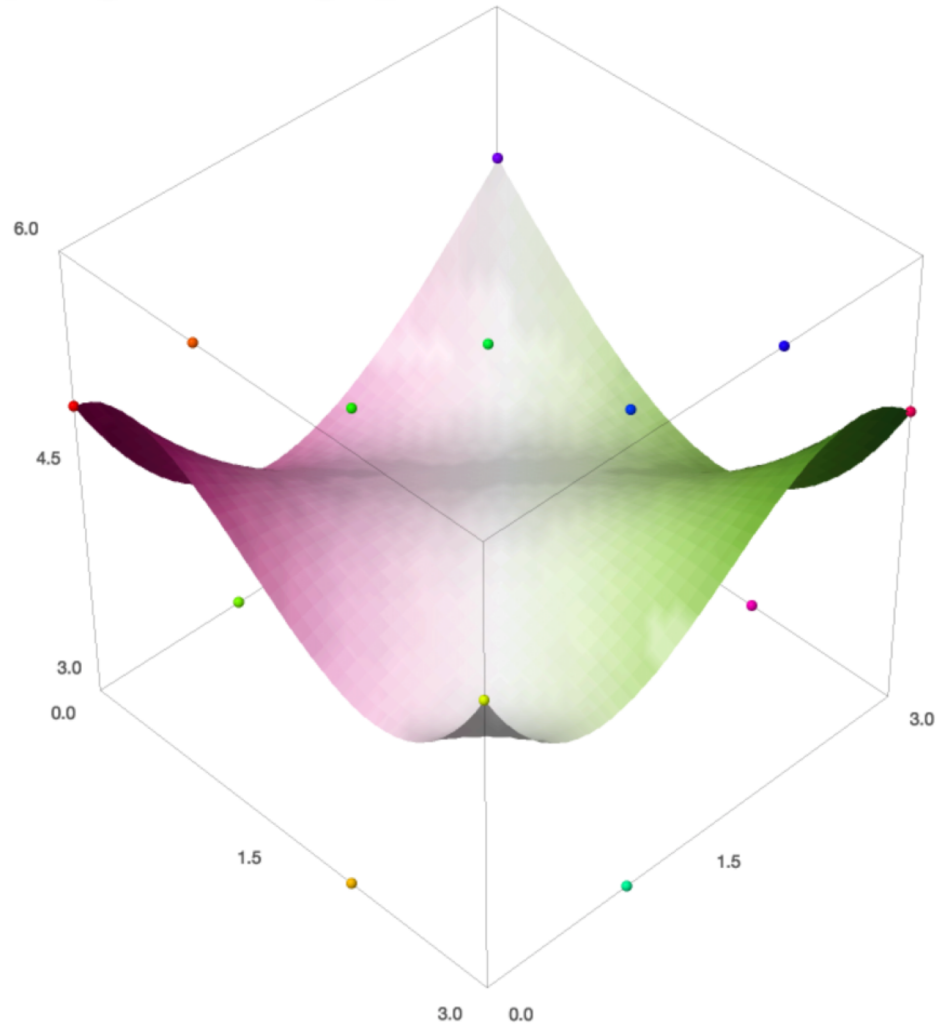
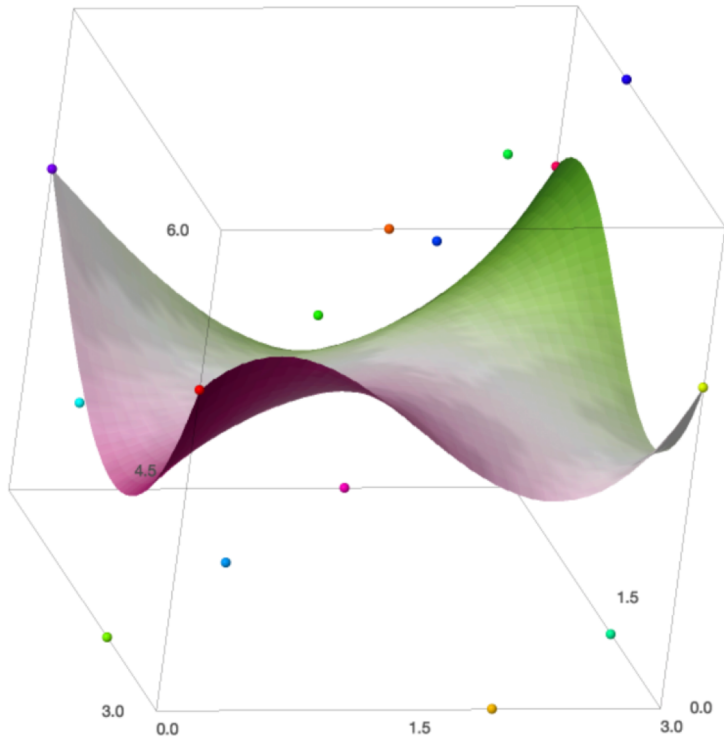
$$y(s, t) = 3s$$

$$z(s, t) = (-3t^3 - 24t^2 - 3 + 21t)s^3 + (33t^3 + 9t^2 + 9 - 36t)s^2 \\ + (-36t^3 + 27t^2 - 6 + 9t)s + 9t^3 + 5 - 12t^2 + 3t$$

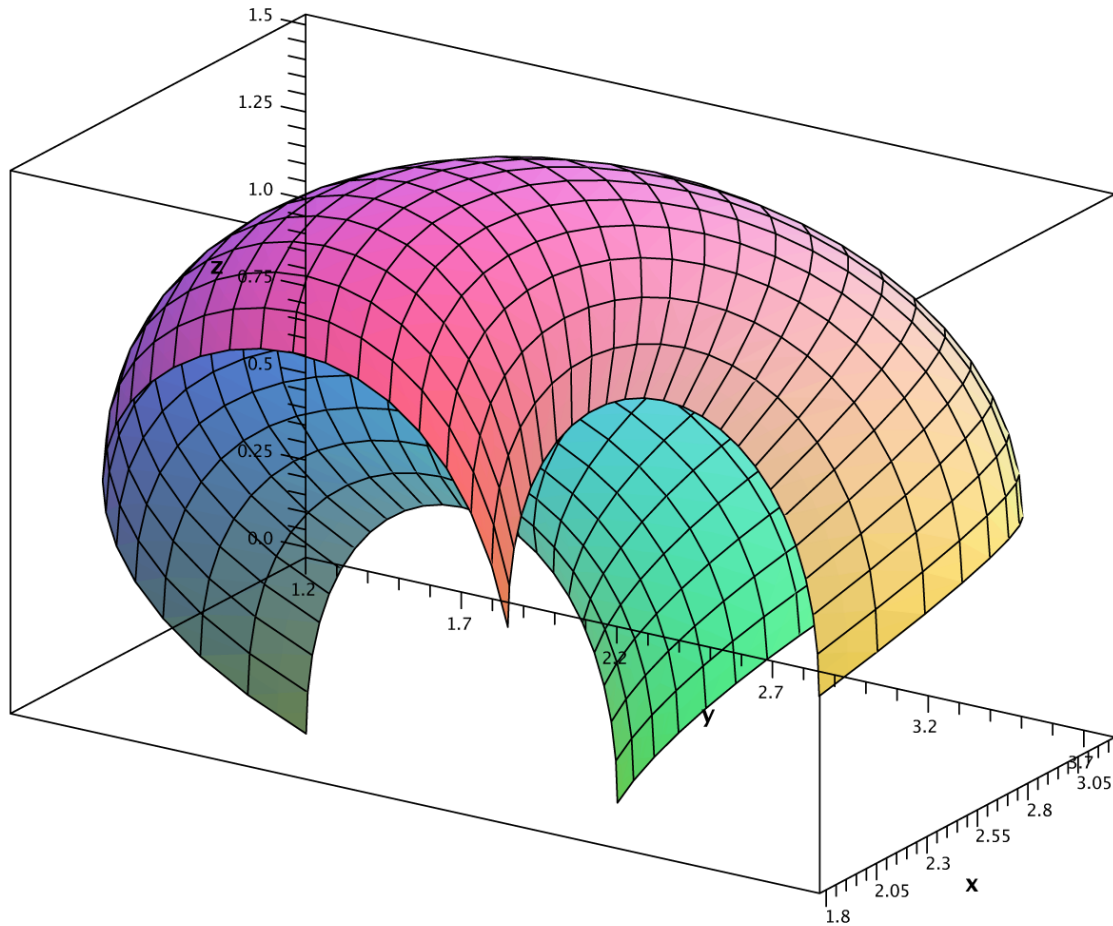
Can you relate the x and y forms back to the geometry?

What is the height (z) of the surface at Q(0,0)?

... and here it is in 3D

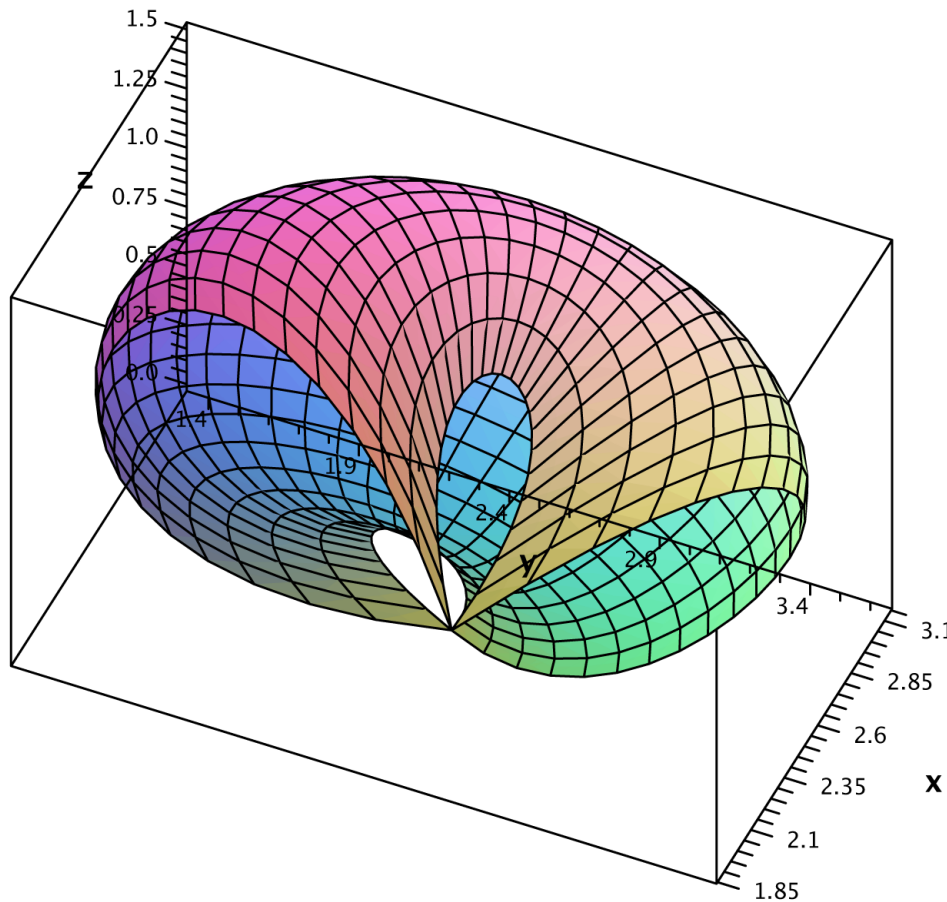


Another Example



$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$
$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$
$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$
$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

And another example



$$\begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2.5 \\ 2.5 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 2.5 \\ 2.5 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 2.5 \\ 2.5 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 2.5 \\ 2.5 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

And Now in SageMath

localhost:8888/notebooks/CS410%20Fall2019/lectures/cs410/

CS410 Fall2019/lectures/ cs410lec25n01 Last Checkpoint: 2 minutes ago (autosaved) Logout

File Edit View Insert Cell Kernel Widgets Help Trusted SageMath 8.8

In [34]:

```

var('x11,x12,x13,x14,x21,x22,x23,x24,x31,x32,x33,x34,x41,x42,x43,x44')
var('y11,y12,y13,y14,y21,y22,y23,y24,y31,y32,y33,y34,y41,y42,y43,y44')
var('z11,z12,z13,z14,z21,z22,z23,z24,z31,z32,z33,z34,z41,z42,z43,z44')
GX = Matrix(SR, 4, 4, (x11,x12,x13,x14,x21,x22,x23,x24,x31,x32,x33,x34,x41,x42,x43,x44))
GY = Matrix(SR, 4, 4, (y11,y12,y13,y14,y21,y22,y23,y24,y31,y32,y33,y34,y41,y42,y43,y44))
GZ = Matrix(SR, 4, 4, (z11,z12,z13,z14,z21,z22,z23,z24,z31,z32,z33,z34,z41,z42,z43,z44))
pretty_print(LatexExpr('Q_x(u,v) = '),SV.transpose(), MB.transpose(), GX, MB, TV)
pretty_print(LatexExpr('Q_y(u,v) = '),SV.transpose(), MB.transpose(), GY, MB, TV)
pretty_print(LatexExpr('Q_z(u,v) = '),SV.transpose(), MB.transpose(), GZ, MB, TV)

```

$$Q_x(u,v) = \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & x_{13} & x_{14} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} & x_{23} & x_{24} \\ x_{31} & x_{32} & x_{33} & x_{34} \\ x_{41} & x_{42} & x_{43} & x_{44} \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} u^3 \\ u^2 \\ u \\ 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$Q_y(u,v) = \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} y_{11} & y_{12} & y_{13} & y_{14} \\ y_{21} & y_{22} & y_{23} & y_{24} \\ y_{31} & y_{32} & y_{33} & y_{34} \\ y_{41} & y_{42} & y_{43} & y_{44} \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} u^3 \\ u^2 \\ u \\ 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$Q_z(u,v) = \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} z_{11} & z_{12} & z_{13} & z_{14} \\ z_{21} & z_{22} & z_{23} & z_{24} \\ z_{31} & z_{32} & z_{33} & z_{34} \\ z_{41} & z_{42} & z_{43} & z_{44} \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} u^3 \\ u^2 \\ u \\ 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

The next three equations are correct by the nature of how SageMath is constructing them. Quickly can them to gain a general impression for what is taking place. Then, recognized that while symbolic math packages allow us to see equations in the full

Back to Curves - New Requirements

Note that these 3rd-order segments are neither exactly Hermite nor Bezier curves:

- 1) The curve from P_i to P_{i+3} is only drawn between P_{i+1} and P_{i+2} (otherwise segments would overlap)
- 2) The curve is not constrained to pass through either P_{i+1} or P_{i+2} .

Therefore, what is their equation?

B-Splines

By convention, the geometry matrix and basis matrix for B-Splines are:

$$G_B = \begin{bmatrix} P_i \\ P_{i+1} \\ P_{i+2} \\ P_{i+3} \end{bmatrix} \quad M_{Bs} = \frac{1}{6} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 \\ -3 & 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 4 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

B-Spline Blending Functions

$$\text{Blend} = T M_{Bs}$$

$$\text{Blend} = \begin{bmatrix} t^3 & t^2 & t & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \frac{1}{6} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 \\ -3 & 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 4 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

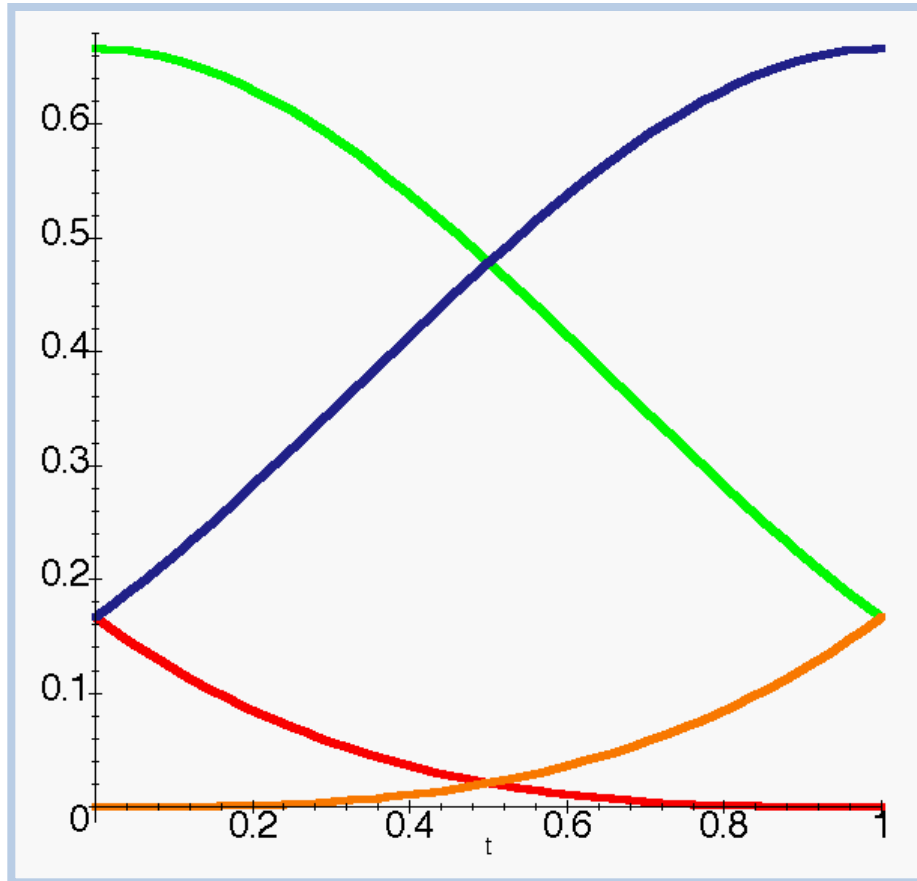
$$B_0 = \frac{1}{6}(-t^3 + 3t^2 - 3t + 1)P_i = -\frac{1}{6}(t-1)^3 P_i$$

$$B_1 = \frac{1}{6}(3t^3 - 6t^2 + 4)P_{i+1}$$

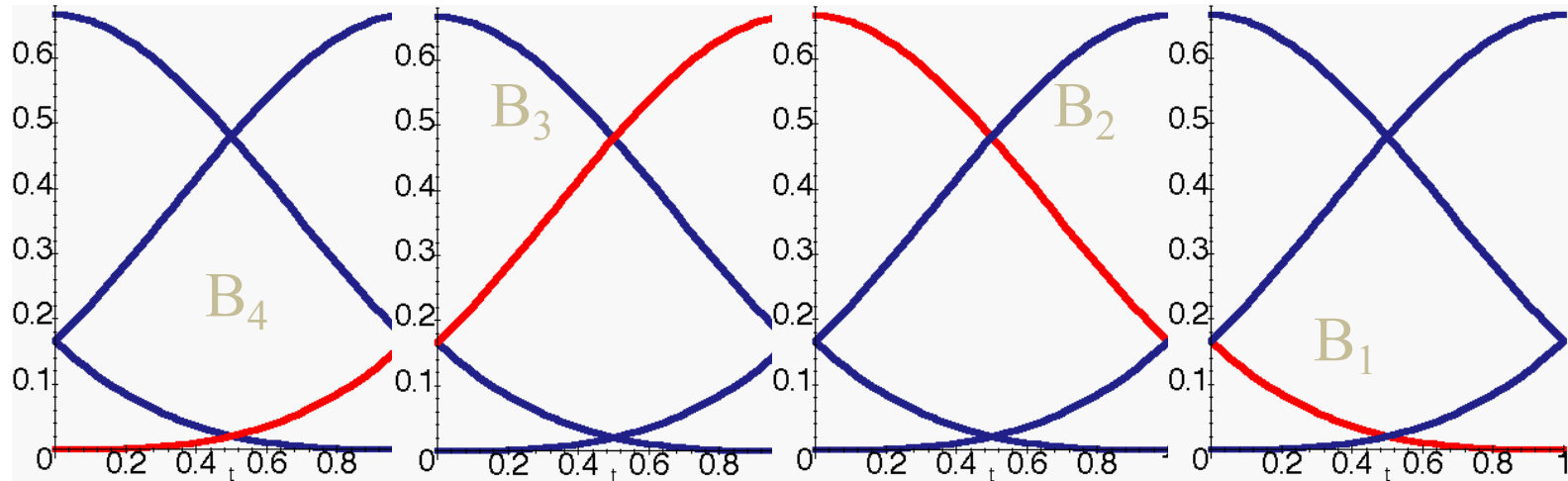
$$B_2 = \frac{1}{6}(-3t^3 + 3t^2 + 3t + 1)P_{i+2}$$

$$B_3 = \frac{1}{6}(t^3)P_{i+3}$$

Plot of Blending Functions



See Cycle in Blending Functions



As the Spline Sequences from one segment to the next, control points are passed from B_4 , to B_3 , to B_2 and finally to B_1 . Consequently, the weight exerted on the curve rises then falls as indicated by the red curve above.

SageMath Notebook

The screenshot shows a SageMath Jupyter Notebook interface. The browser address bar indicates the URL is localhost:8888/notebooks/CS410%20Fall2019/lectures/cs410lec25n0. The notebook title is 'cs410lec25n02' and it shows 'Last Checkpoint: 4 minutes ago (autosaved)'. The interface includes a menu bar with 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Insert', 'Cell', 'Kernel', 'Widgets', and 'Help'. Below the menu bar are various icons for file operations and a 'Run' button. The main content area displays a code cell with the following code:

```
In [19]: var('t')
var('x1,y1,z1,x2,y2,z2,x3,y3,z3,x4,y4,z4')
TV = Matrix(SR, 4, 1, ((t**3,t**2,t,1)))
MB = Matrix(ZZ, 4, 4, ((-1,3,-3,1),(3,-6,3,0),(-3,0,3,0),(1,4,1,0)))
MB = MB.transpose()
MB = (1/6)*MB
GB = Matrix(SR, 4, 3, ((x1,y1,z1),(x2,y2,z2),(x3,y3,z3),(x4,y4,z4))).transpose()
QT = GB * MB * TV
pretty_print(GB, MB, TV)
pretty_print(LatexExpr("x(t) = "), QT[0,0])
pretty_print(LatexExpr("y(t) = "), QT[1,0])
pretty_print(LatexExpr("z(t) = "), QT[2,0])
```

The code defines a variable t and a vector T of basis functions $[t^3, t^2, t, 1]^T$. It also defines a 4×4 matrix M and a 4×3 matrix G of control points. The product $Q = G \cdot M \cdot T$ is computed and printed. The resulting matrix equation is:

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 \\ y_1 & y_2 & y_3 & y_4 \\ z_1 & z_2 & z_3 & z_4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{6} & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{6} \\ \frac{1}{2} & -1 & 0 & \frac{2}{3} \\ -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{6} \\ \frac{1}{6} & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} t^3 \\ t^2 \\ t \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example of B-Spline

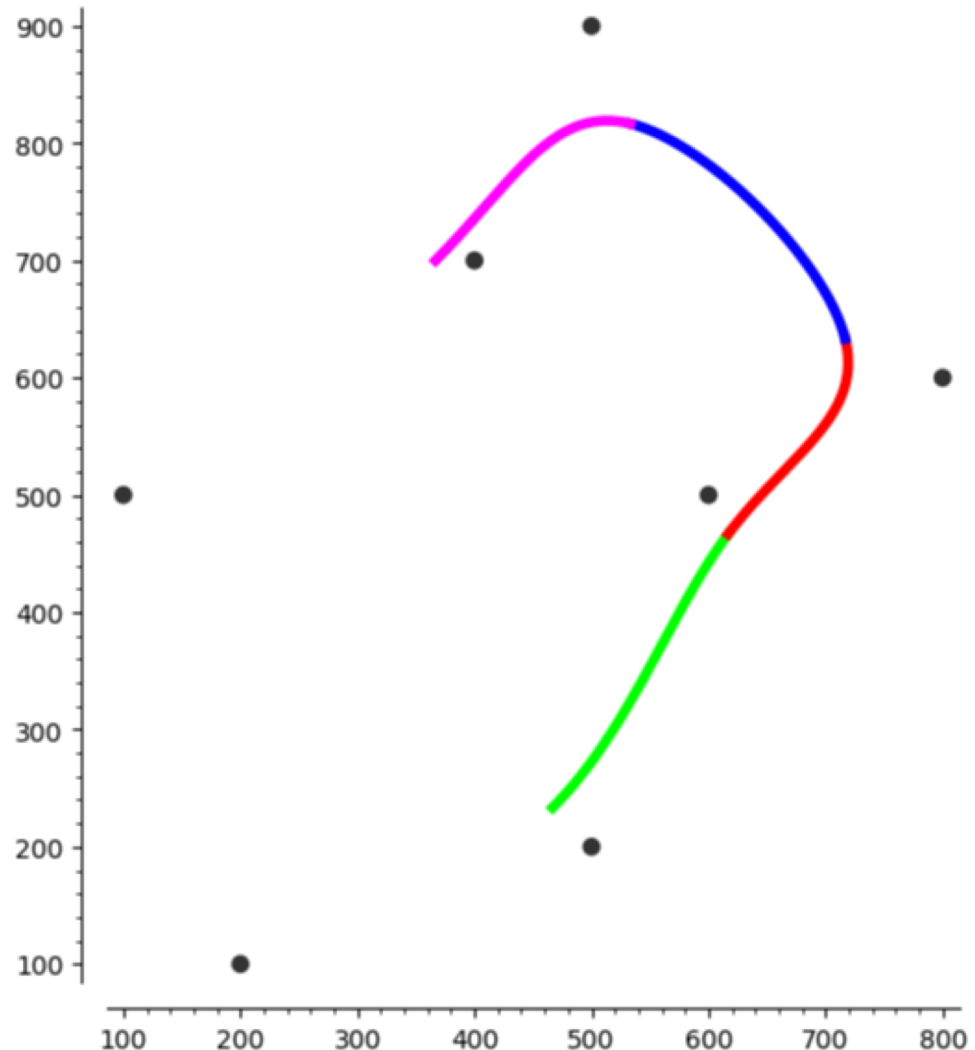
$$G_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 & 6 & 8 \\ 1 & 2 & 5 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$G_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 6 & 8 & 5 \\ 2 & 5 & 6 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$G_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 8 & 5 & 4 \\ 5 & 6 & 9 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

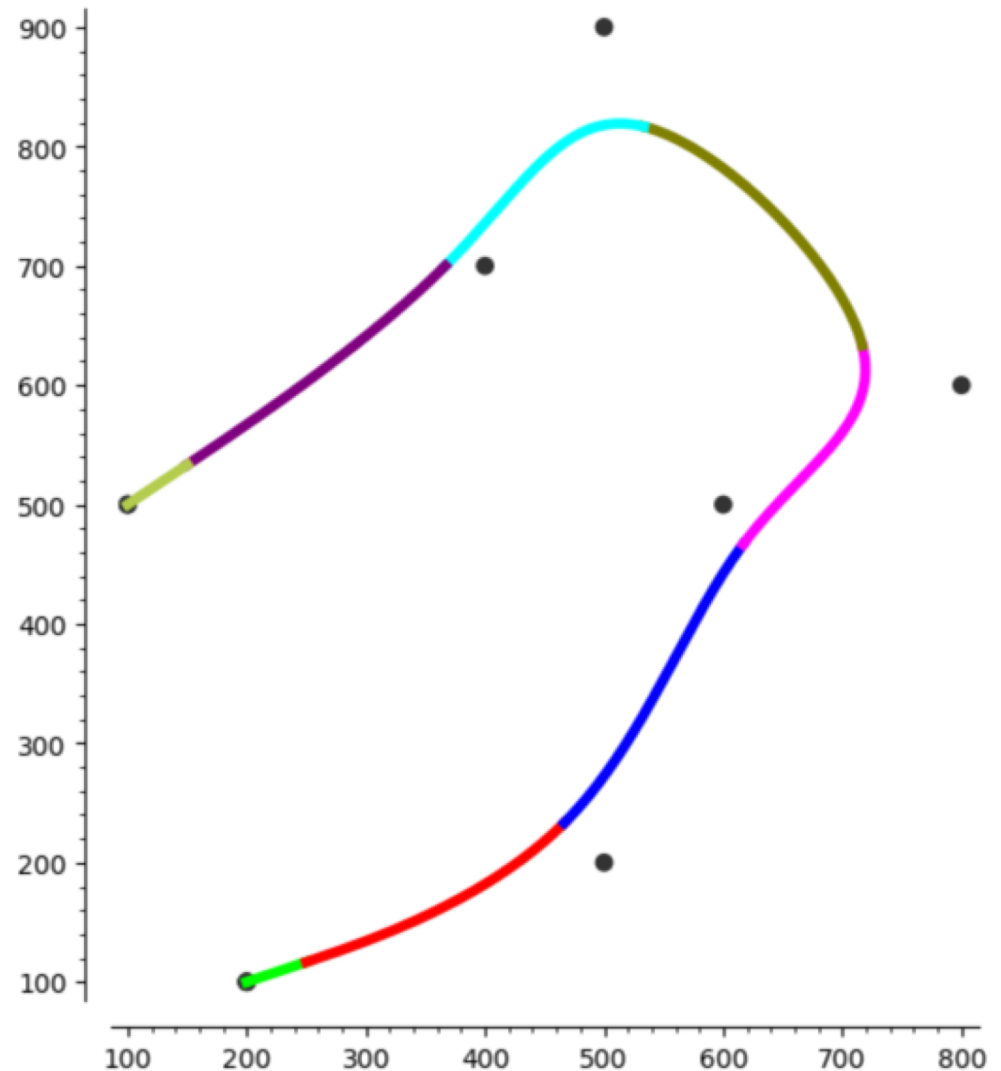
$$G_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 8 & 5 & 4 & 1 \\ 6 & 9 & 7 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Q_j(t) = G_j B(t)$$



Replicating Control Points

P1	=	(200, 100, 0)
P2	=	(200, 100, 0)
P3	=	(200, 100, 0)
P4	=	(500, 200, 0)
P5	=	(600, 500, 0)
P6	=	(800, 600, 0)
P7	=	(500, 900, 0)
P8	=	(400, 700, 0)
P9	=	(100, 500, 0)
P10	=	(100, 500, 0)
P11	=	(100, 500, 0)



More Variations

We have just described *uniform, non-rational* B-Splines

Uniform means that the control points are evenly spaced (in terms of the parameter t).

It is also possible to have non-uniform B-Splines. Why? because it is easier to interpolate starting and ending points, and it is possible to reduce the continuity at specific join points.

Non-uniform B-Splines

- Every control point must have a corresponding t -value
 - This is called a “knot vector”
- If the spacing (in t) between two control points is small, then a sharp curve will result.
- If the spacing (in t) is zero, the curve becomes discontinuous.

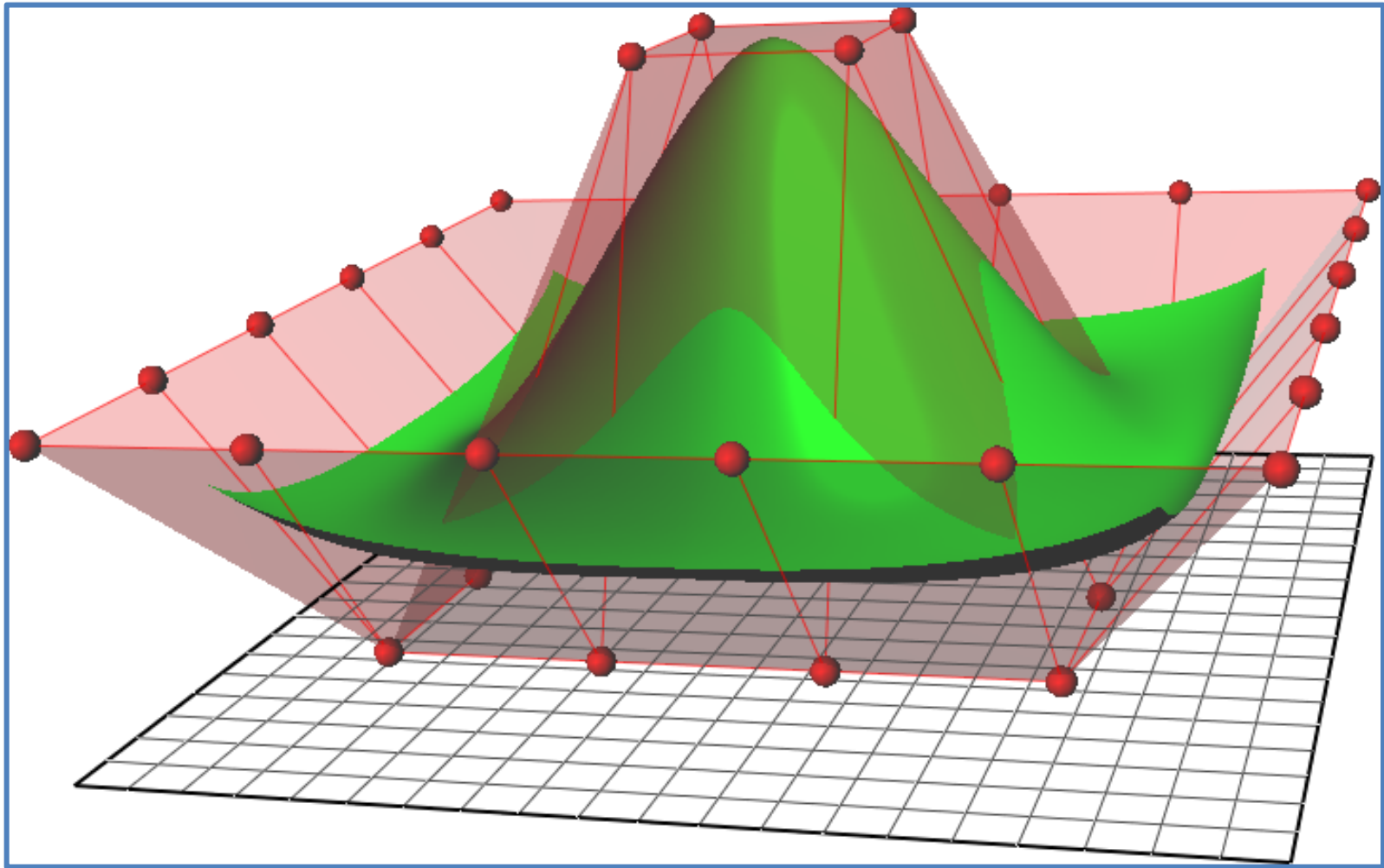
The Standard Knot Vector

- The “standard knot vector” begins and ends with a four-fold knot:
 - e.g., for 5 control points $T = (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5, 5, 5,)$
- This means that the B-Spline will not lose the last point(s), and will behave correctly near the endpoints.

A Brief Comment on NURBS

- Naming: Non-Uniform Rational B-Spline
 - Non-Uniform -> knot vector.
 - Rational -> defined with x, y, z, w .
 - Points are rational, i.e. $p_x = x / w$
 - B-Spline -> uses B-Spline geometry
- NURBS Surface
 - Compose curves to generate surface
 - Recall Bezier Curve to Bezier Surface approach
- The inclusion of w means
 - Perspective projection does not distort.

Simple NURBS Illustration



This image from Wikimedia and part of the Wikipedia description of NURBS.