Computer Aided Geometric Design

Curves

Bezier Curve

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Bezier Curve

Mathematically a parametric Bezier curve is defined by

$$P(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} B_i J_{n,i}(t)$$

where the Bezier or Bernstein basis or blending function is

$$J_{n,i}(t) = \binom{n}{i} t^i (1-t)^{n-i}$$

With

$$\binom{n}{i} = \frac{n!}{i!(n-i)!}$$

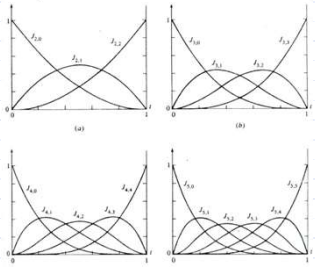
$J_{n,i}(t)$ is the i-th nth order Bernstein basis function, here n is the degree of the defining Bernstein basis function.

Thus degree of the polynomial curve segment, is one less than the number of points in the defining Bezier polygon.

Blending functions

Blending functions for several values of n

Notice the symmetry of the functions



(a) three polygon points n=2; (b) four polygon points, n=3;
(c) five polygon points, n=4; (d) six polygon points, n=5.

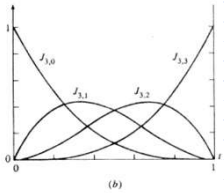
For example, each of the four blending functions shown in Figure for n=3 is a cubic. The maximum value of each blending function occurs at $t = i/n$.

$$J_{n,i}(t) = \binom{n}{i} \frac{i^i (n-i)^{n-i}}{n^n}$$

For example, for a cubic n=3, The maximum values for $J_{3,1}$ and $J_{3,2}$ occur at $1/3$ and $2/3$, respectively, with values

$$J_{3,1}\left(\frac{1}{3}\right) = \frac{4}{9}$$

$$J_{3,2}\left(\frac{2}{3}\right) = \frac{4}{9}$$



The derivatives of the basis function are obtained by formally differentiating equation $J_{n,i}(t) = \binom{n}{i} t^i (1-t)^{n-i}$. Specifically

$$J'_{n,i}(t) = \binom{n}{i} \{ i\, t^{i-1}(1-t)^{n-i} - (n-i) t^i (1-t)^{n-i-1} \} = 0$$

$$i\, t^{i-1}(1-t)^{n-i} - (n-i) t^i (1-t)^{n-i-1} = 0$$

$$i\, t^{i-1}(1-t)^{n-i} = (n-i) t^i (1-t)^{n-i-1}$$

$$\frac{i\, t^i}{t}(1-t)^{n-i} = (n-i) t^i \frac{(1-t)^{n-i}}{(1-t)}$$

$$\frac{i}{t} = \frac{(n-i)}{(1-t)}$$

$$\frac{(1-t)}{t} = \frac{(n-i)}{i}$$

$$\frac{1}{t} - 1 = \frac{n}{i} - 1$$

$$\frac{1}{t} = \frac{n}{i}$$

Examining eqns. for the first point on the curve i.e. at t=0 shows that

$$J_{n,0}(0) = \frac{n!\,(0)^i (1-0)^{n-0}}{n!\,(n-i)!} = 1 \qquad i = 0$$

$$J_{n,i}(0) = \frac{n!\,(0)^i (1-0)^{n-i}}{n!\,(n-i)!} = 0 \qquad i \neq 0$$

Thus $P(0) = B_0 J_{n,0}(0) = B_0$

This shows that the first point on the Bezier curve and on its defining polygon are coincident .

Similarly for the last point on the curve, i.e. at t=1

$$J_{n,n}(1) = \frac{n!\,(1)^i (0)^{n-n}}{n!\,(1)} = 1 \qquad i = n$$

$$J_{n,i}(1) = \frac{n!\,(1)^i (1-1)^{n-i}}{n!\,(n-i)!} = 0 \qquad i \neq n$$

Thus $P(1) = B_n J_{n,n}(1) = B_n$

This shows that the last point on the Bezier curve and the last point on its defining polygon are coincident.

Derivatives Bezier Curves

Although it is not necessary to numerically specify the tangent vectors at the ends of an individual Bezier curve, maintaining slope and curvature continuity when joining Bezier curves, determining surface normal for lighting or numerical control tool path calculations, or local curvature for smoothness or fairness calculations requires a knowledge of both first and second derivatives of a Bezier curve.

Recalling equation, the first derivative of a Bezier curve is

$$\mathrm{P}'(\mathrm{t}) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} B_i J'_{n,i}(t)$$

Second derivative is given by

$$\mathrm{P}''(\mathrm{t}) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} B_i J''_{n,i}(t)$$

Derivatives Bezier Curves

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$$J'_{n,i}(t) = \binom{n}{i}\{i\,t^{i-1}(1-t)^{n-i} - (n-i)t^i(1-t)^{n-i-1}\}$$

$$= \binom{n}{i} t^i (1-t)^{n-i}\left\{\frac{i}{t} - \frac{(n-i)}{(1-t)}\right\}$$

$$= \frac{(i-nt)}{t(1-t)} J_{n,i}(t)$$

Similarly the second derivative is

$$J''_{n,i}(t) = \left\{\frac{(i-nt)^2 - nt^2 - i(i-2t)}{t^2(1-t)^2}\right\} J_{n,i}(t)$$

Derivatives Bezier Curves

At the beginning and the ends of a Bezier curve i.e. at t=0 and t=1 numerical evaluation of above equations creates difficulties.

An alternate evaluation for the rth derivative at t=0 is given by

$$P^r(0) = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!}\sum_{i=0}^{r}(-1)^{r-i}\binom{r}{i} B_i$$

At t=1 by

$$P^r(1) = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!}\sum_{i=0}^{r}(-1)^{i}\binom{r}{i} B_{n-i}$$

Thus the first derivatives at the ends are

$$\mathrm{P}'(0) = n(B_1 - B_0)$$

And

$$\mathrm{P}'(1) = n(B_n - B_{n-1})$$

This illustrates that the tangent vector for a Bezier curve at the initial and final points has the same direction as the initial and final polygon spans.

Derivatives Bezier Curves

Similarly the second derivatives at the ends are

$$\mathrm{P}''(0) = n(n-1)(B_0 - 2B_1 + B_2)$$

And

$$\mathrm{P}''(1) = n(n-1)(B_n - 2B_{n-1} + B_{n-2})$$

Thus the second derivative of the Bezier curve at the initial and final points depends on the two nearest polygon spans i.e. on the nearest three polygon vertices.

Example on Derivatives

Consider the four points Bezier polygon

$$P(t) = B_0 J_{3,0}(t) + B_1 J_{3,1}(t) + B_2 J_{3,2}(t) + B_3 J_{3,3}(t)$$

Hence first derivative is

$$P'(t) = B_0 J'_{3,0}(t) + B_1 J'_{3,1}(t) + B_2 J'_{3,2}(t) + B_3 J'_{3,3}(t)$$

Differentiating the basis functions directly yields

$$J_{3,0}(t) = t^0(1-t)^3 \rightarrow J'_{3,0}(t) = -3(1-t)^2$$

$$J_{3,1}(t) = 3t(1-t)^2 \rightarrow J'_{3,1}(t) = 3(1-t)^2 - 6t(1-t)$$

$$J_{3,2}(t) = 3t^2(1-t) \rightarrow J'_{3,2}(t) = 6t(1-t) - 3(t)^2$$

$$J_{3,3}(t) = t^3 \rightarrow J'_{3,3}(t) = 3(t)^2$$

Example on Derivatives

Consider the four points Bezier polygon

$$P(t) = B_0 J_{3,0}(t) + B_1 J_{3,1}(t) + B_2 J_{3,2}(t) + B_3 J_{3,3}(t)$$

Hence first derivative is

$$P'(t) = B_0 J'_{3,0}(t) + B_1 J'_{3,1}(t) + B_2 J'_{3,2}(t) + B_3 J'_{3,3}(t)$$

Second derivative is

$$P''(t) = B_0 J''_{3,0}(t) + B_1 J''_{3,1}(t) + B_2 J''_{3,2}(t) + B_3 J''_{3,3}(t)$$

Differentiating the basis functions directly yields

$$J_{3,0}(t) = t^0(1-t)^3 \rightarrow J'_{3,0}(t) = -3(1-t)^2 \rightarrow J''_{3,0}(t) = 6(1-t)$$

$$J_{3,1}(t) = 3t(1-t)^2 \rightarrow J'_{3,1}(t) = 3(1-t)^2 - 6t(1-t) \rightarrow J''_{3,1}(t) = -6(2-3t)$$

$$J_{3,2}(t) = 3t^2(1-t) \rightarrow J'_{3,2}(t) = 6t(1-t) - 3(t)^2 \rightarrow J''_{3,2}(t) = 6(1-3t)$$

$$J_{3,3}(t) = t^3 \rightarrow J'_{3,3}(t) = 3(t)^2 \rightarrow J''_{3,3}(t) = 6t$$

Example on Derivatives

Evaluating the results at t=0 yields

$$J'_{3,0}(0) = -3, \quad J'_{3,1}(0) = 3, \quad J'_{3,2}(0) = 0, \quad J'_{3,3}(0) = 0$$

Substituting yields

$$P'(0) = -3B_0 + 3B_1 = 3(-B_0 + B_1)$$

Thus the direction of the tangent vector at the beginning of the curve is the same as that of the first polygon span

At the end of the curve, t=1 and

$$J'_{3,0}(1) = 0, \quad J'_{3,1}(1) = 0, \quad J'_{3,2}(1) = -3, \quad J'_{3,3}(1) = 3$$

Substituting yields

$$P'(1) = -3B_2 + 3B_3 = 3(-B_2 + B_3)$$

Thus, the direction of the tangent vector at the end of the curve is the same as that of the last polygon span.

Example on Derivatives

Evaluating the results at t=0 yields

$$J''_{3,0}(0) = 6, \quad J''_{3,1}(0) = -12, \quad J''_{3,2}(0) = 6, \quad J''_{3,3}(0) = 0$$

Substituting yields

$$P''(0) = 6B_0 - 12B_1 + 6B_2 = 6(B_0 - 2B_1 + B_2)$$

Thus second derivative or curvature of Bezier curve at start point depends on three nearest polygon points or two nearest polygon spans.

At the end of the curve, t=1 and

$$J''_{3,0}(1) = 0, \quad J''_{3,1}(1) = 6, \quad J''_{3,2}(1) = -12, \quad J''_{3,3}(1) = 6$$

Substituting yields

$$P''(1) = 6B_1 - 12B_2 + 6B_3 = 6(B_1 - 2B_2 + B_3)$$

Thus second derivative or curvature of Bezier curve at end point depends on three nearest polygon points or two nearest polygon spans.

Example on Derivatives

Evaluating the results at t=0 yields

$$J'_{3,0}(0) = -3, \quad J'_{3,1}(0) = 3, \quad J'_{3,2}(0) = 0, \quad J'_{3,3}(0) = 0$$

Substituting yields

$$P'(0) = -3P_0 + 3P_1 = 3(-P_0 + P_1)$$

Thus the direction of the tangent vector at the beginning of the curve is the same as that of the first polygon span

At the end of the curve, t=1 and

$$J'_{3,0}(1) = 0, \quad J'_{3,1}(1) = 0, \quad J'_{3,2}(1) = -3, \quad J'_{3,3}(1) = 3$$

Substituting yields

$$P'(1) = -3P_2 + 3P_3 = 3(-P_2 + P_3)$$

Thus, the direction of the tangent vector at the end of the curve is the same as that of the last polygon span.

The basis functions given above along with equations can be used to evaluate the derivations along the curve. Specifically, the first derivatives are

$$J'_{3,0}(t) = \frac{(0-3t)}{t(1-t)}(1-t)^3 = -3(1-t)^2$$

$$J'_{3,1}(t) = \frac{(1-3t)}{t(1-t)}(3t)(1-t)^2 = 3(1-3t)(1-t) = 3(1-4t+3t^2)$$

$$J'_{3,2}(t) = \frac{(2-3t)}{t(1-t)}(3t^2)(1-t) = 3t(2-3t)$$

$$J'_{3,3}(t) = \frac{3(1-t)}{t(1-t)}t^3 = (3t^2)$$

Notice that there is no difficulty in evaluating these results at either t=0 or t=1. Substituting into eqn. yields at first derivative at any point on the curve. For example, at t=1/2,

$$P'\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = -3\left(1-\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 B_0 + 3\left(1-\frac{3}{2}\right)\left(1-\frac{1}{2}\right)B_1 + \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)\left(2-\frac{3}{2}\right)B_2 + \frac{3}{4}B_3$$

$$= -\frac{3}{4}B_0 - \frac{3}{4}B_1 + \frac{3}{4}B_2 + \frac{3}{4}B_3 = -\frac{3}{4}(B_0 + B_1 - B_2 - B_3)$$

Similarly, the second derivatives are

$$J''_{3,0}(t) = \frac{\{(-3t)^2 - 3t^2\}}{t^2(1-t)^2}(1-t)^3 = 6(1-t)$$

$$J''_{3,1}(t) = \frac{\{(1-3t)^2 - 3t^2 - (1-2t)\}}{t^2(1-t)^2}(3t)(1-t)^2$$

$$= -6(2-3t)$$

$$J''_{3,2}(t) = \frac{\{(2-3t)^2 - 3t^2 - 2(1-2t)\}}{t^2(1-t)^2}3t^2(1-t)$$

$$= 6(1-3t)$$

$$J''_{3,3}(t) = \frac{\{(3-3t)^2 - 3t^2 - 3(1-2t)\}}{t^2(1-t)^2}t^3 = 6t$$

For t=1/2, these results yield

$$P''\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 6\left(1-\frac{1}{2}\right)B_0 - 6\left(2-\frac{3}{2}\right)B_1 + 6\left(1-\frac{3}{2}\right)B_2 + 3B_3$$

$$= 3B_0 - 3B_1 - 3B_2 + 3B_3 = 3(B_0 - B_1 - B_2 + B_3)$$

Continuity conditions

If one Bezier curve P(t) of degree n is defined by vertices B_i and an adjacent Bezier curve Q(s) of degree m by vertices C_i then first derivative continuity at the joint between the curves is given by

$$P'(1) = gQ'(0)$$

Where g is a scalar.

$$n(B_n - B_{n-1}) = m(C_1 - C_0)$$

$$(C_1 - C_0) = \frac{n}{m}(B_n - B_{n-1})$$

Since positional continuity is implied at the joint, $C_0 = B_n$ and

$$C_1 = \frac{n}{m}(B_n - B_{n-1}) + B_n$$

Thus the tangent vector directions at the joint are the same if the three vertices

B_{n-1}, $B_n = C_0$ and C_1 are collinear, i.e. B_n need only lie somewhere on the line between B_{n-1} and C_1.

If both direction and magnitude of the tangent vectors at the joint are to be equal then for equal degree curves (n=m), $B_n = C_0$ must be at midpoint of the line joining B_{n-1} and C_1 i.e.

$$(C_1 - C_0) = B_n - B_{n-1} = C_0 - B_{n-1}$$

$$C_1 + B_{n-1} = 2C_0 = 2B_n$$

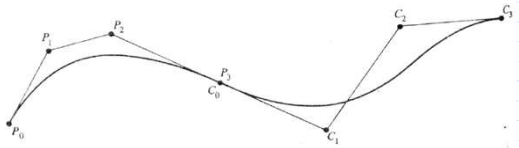


Figure illustrates this for n = m = 3 i.e. For two cubic Bezier curves.

Second derivative continuity between adjacent Bezier curves is given by

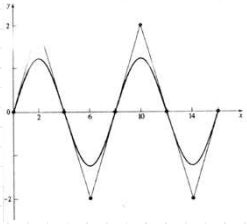
$$m(m-1)(C_0 - 2C_1 + C_2) = n(n-1)(B_{n-2} - 2B_{n-1} + B_n)$$

Using the conditions for C_0 and C_1 continuity at the joint given above yields

$$C_2 = \frac{n(n-1)}{m(m-1)} B_{n-2} - 2\left\{\frac{n(n-1)}{m(m-1)} + \frac{n}{m}\right\} B_{n-1} + \left\{1 + 2\frac{n}{m} + \frac{n(n-1)}{m(m-1)}\right\} B_n$$

For cubic Bezier curve

$$C_2 = B_{n-2} - 4(B_{n-1} - B_n)$$



Second derivative continuity between quartic Bezier curve

Additional flexibility in Bezier Curves

- Degree raising
- Sub division

Additional flexibility in Bezier curve

Sub division

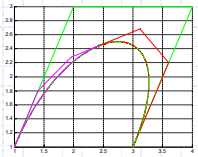
Additional flexibility can also be obtained by subdividing a Bezier curve into two new Bezier curves that, combined are identical with the original curve.

A Bezier curve can be divided at any parameter value in the range 0 to 1. The simplest choice at the midpoint i.e. t=1/2.

Here the results for midpoint subdivision are derived for the special case of cubic Bezier curves.

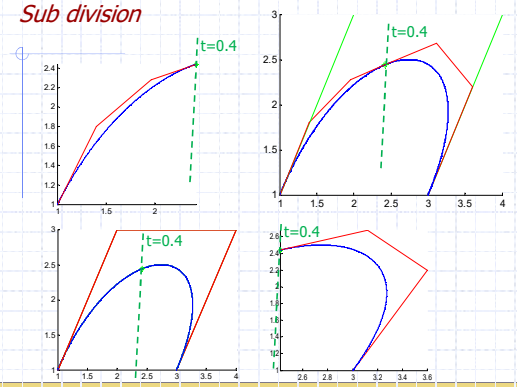
A cubic Bezier curve is given by

$$p(t) = (1-t)^3 B_0 + 3t(1-t)^2 B_1 + 3t^2(1-t)B_2 + t^3 B_3 \qquad 0 \le t \le 1$$



Additional flexibility in Bezier curve

Sub division



Sub division of Bezier Curve

With defining polygon given by B_0, B_1, B_2, B_3. The polygon C_0, C_1, C_2, C_3 then defining the Bezier curve $Q(u), 0 \le u \le 1$ corresponding to the first half of the original curve i.e. $p(t) = 0 \le t \le 1/2$ is required.

Similarly, the polygon D_0, D_1, D_2, D_3 that defines the Bezier curve $R(v)$, $0 \le v \le 1$ corresponding to the second half of the original curve; $p(t) = 1/2 \le t \le 1$ is also required.

The new defining polygon vertices C_i and D_i are obtained by equating the position and tangent vectors

at $u = 0, t = 0; u = 1, t = 1/2$

and $v = 0, t = 1/2\,;\ v = 1, t = 1;$

Using Bezier definitions

$$P(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} B_i J_{n,i}(t)$$

$$P'(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} B_i J'_{n,i}(t)$$

We obtain these equations

$$C_0 = B_0$$

$$3(C_1 - C_0) = \frac{3}{2}(B_1 - B_0)$$

$$3(C_3 - C_2) = \frac{3}{8}(B_3 + B_2 + B_1 - B_0)$$

$$C_3 = \frac{1}{8}(B_3 + 3B_2 + 3B_1 + B_0)$$

Sub division of Bezier Curve

Solution of these equations gives

$C_0 = B_0$

$C_1 = \frac{1}{2}(B_1 + B_0)$

$C_2 = \frac{1}{4}(B_2 + 2B_1 + B_0)$

$C_3 = \frac{1}{8}(B_3 + 3B_2 + 3B_1 + B_0)$

Similarly

$D_0 = \frac{1}{8}(B_3 + 3B_2 + 3B_1 + B_0)$

$D_1 = \frac{1}{4}(B_3 + 2B_2 + B_1)$

$D_2 = \frac{1}{2}(B_3 + B_2)$

$D_3 = B_3$

Results generalize to

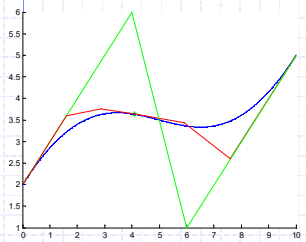
$$C_i = \sum_{j=0}^{i} \binom{i}{j} \frac{B_j}{2^i} \qquad i = 0, 1, \ldots\ldots, n$$

$$D_i = \sum_{j=i}^{n} \binom{n-i}{n-j} \frac{B_j}{2^{n-i}} \qquad i = 0, 1, \ldots\ldots, n$$

Applied successfully, the defining polygons converge to the Bezier curve itself

Sub division of Bezier Curve

Define a Bezier curve with four polygon vertices B_0[0 2 4], B_1[4 6 4], B_2[6 1 4] and B_3[10 5 4], then Subdivide this curve in two separate Bezier curves at t=0.4. Plot two new control polygons.



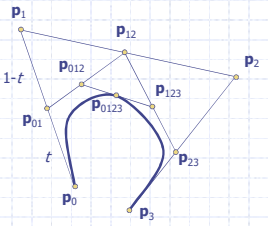
First Control Polygon		
0	2	4
1.6	3.6	4
2.88	3.76	4
4.096	3.632	4

Second Control Polygon		
4.096	3.632	4
5.92	3.44	4
7.6	2.6	4
10	5	4

de Casteljau's Algorithm

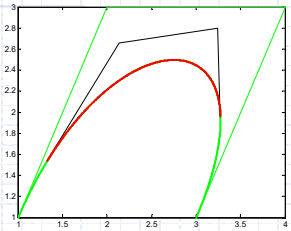
Curve Subdivision

- Cascading lerps
  - $\mathbf{p}_{01} = (1\text{-}t)\,\mathbf{p}_0 + t\,\mathbf{p}_1$
  - $\mathbf{p}_{12} = (1\text{-}t)\,\mathbf{p}_1 + t\,\mathbf{p}_2$
  - $\mathbf{p}_{23} = (1\text{-}t)\,\mathbf{p}_2 + t\,\mathbf{p}_3$
  - $\mathbf{p}_{012} = (1\text{-}t)\,\mathbf{p}_{01} + t\,\mathbf{p}_{12}$
  - $\mathbf{p}_{123} = (1\text{-}t)\,\mathbf{p}_{12} + t\,\mathbf{p}_{23}$
  - $\mathbf{p}_{0123} = (1\text{-}t)\,\mathbf{p}_{012} + t\,\mathbf{p}_{123}$
- Subdivides curve at $\mathbf{p}_{0123}$
  - $\mathbf{p}_0\ \mathbf{p}_{01}\ \mathbf{p}_{012}\ \mathbf{p}_{0123}$
  - $\mathbf{p}_{0123}\ \mathbf{p}_{123}\ \mathbf{p}_{23}\ \mathbf{p}_3$
- Repeated subdivision converges to curve



Trimming of Bezier Curve

Now complete relationship between two sets of control polygons



$q_i = p_i$

$q_j = p_j$

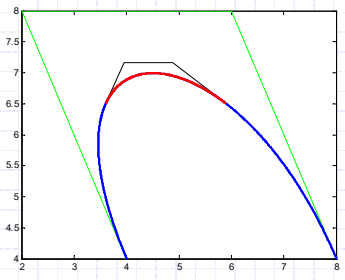
$$q_i' = \frac{u_j - u_i}{v_j - v_i} p_i'$$

$$q_j' = \frac{u_j - u_i}{v_j - v_i} p_j'$$

- Tangent vector magnitudes must change to accommodate a change in the range of the parametric variable and are simply scaled by the ratio of the ranges of parametric variable.
- This preserves the direction of tangent vectors and shape of the curve.

Trimming of Bezier Curve

Define a Bezier curve with four polygon vertices B_0[4 4], B_1[2 8], B_2[6 8] and B_3[8 4], then Trim this curve in a smaller new Bezier curves at t=0.3 to t=0.7. Plot new control polygon and curve.



Additional flexibility in Bezier curve

Degree Raising

If a Bezier curve with additional flexibility is required, the degree of the defining polynomial can be increased by increasing the number of defining polygon points.

For every point on a Bezier curve with n defining polygon vertices $B_0 \cdots B_n$ the same point on a new Bezier curve with n+1 defining polygon vertices is given by $B_0^* \cdots B^*_{n+1}$

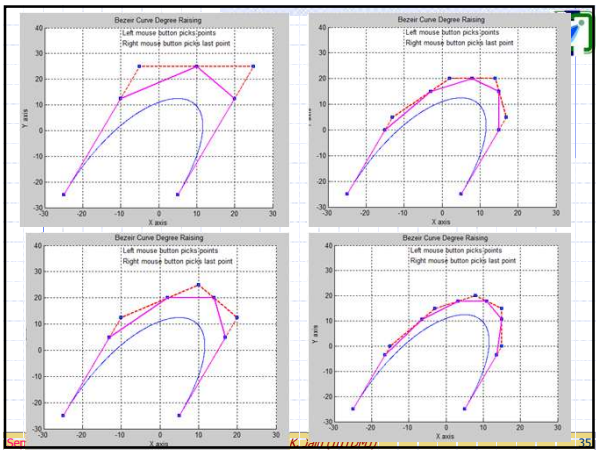
$$\mathrm{P(t)} = \sum_{i=0}^{n} B_i J_{n,i}(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} B^*_i J_{n+1,i}(t)$$

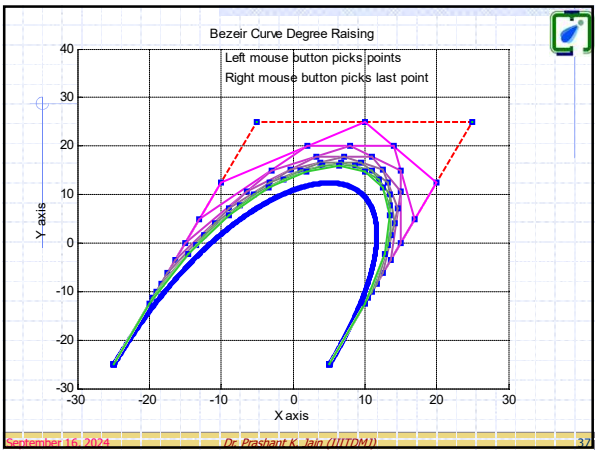
Where $B^*_0 = B_0$

$B^*_i = \propto_i B_{i-1} + (1 - \propto_i) B_i$

$\propto_i = \frac{i}{n+1}$ $\qquad i = 1, \ldots\ldots, n$

$B^*_{n+1} = B_n$

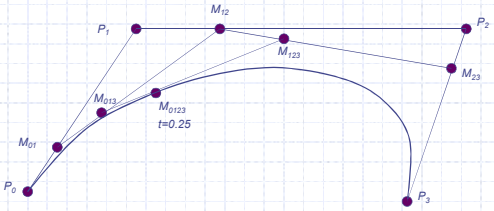




de Casteljau's Algorithm

Point on the curve

- A point on the Bezier curve for any parameter value *t* can also be find
- To find a point at *t=0.25*, instead of taking midpoints take points 0.25 of the way
- Point M_{0123} on the line M_{012}-M_{123} will be a point on the curve at t=0.25



Flow chart