


Computer Aided Geometric Design

Rational Curves and NURBS

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Curves

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(An Institute of National Importance (INI) established by MHRD, Govt. of INDIA)

Rational Curves

- **Non Rational Curves:** defined by one polynomial
- **Rational Curves:** defined by the algebraic ratio of two polynomials.
- Draw their theories from perspective geometry.
- Each point is the ratio of two curves
- Just like homogeneous coordinates:

$$[x(u), y(u), z(u), w(u)] \rightarrow \left[\frac{x(u)}{w(u)}, \frac{y(u)}{w(u)}, \frac{z(u)}{w(u)} \right]$$

Advantages:

- ☐ Perspective invariant (the perspective image of rational curve is a rational curve, and can be evaluated in screen space.
- ☐ Can perfectly represent conic sections: circles, ellipses, etc.
- ☐ Piecewise cubic curve can not represent this.

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Rational B-Spline curve

A Rational B-spline curve is the projection of a non rational (polynomial) B-spline curve defined in four dimensional (4D) homogenous coordinate space, back into three dimensional (3D) physical space.

Specifically:

$$P(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} B_i^h N_{i,k}(t)$$

Non rational B-spline basis function

4-D homogenous control polygon vertices for the non-rational 4-D B-spline curve

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Rational B-Spline Curves

Projecting back into 3D space by dividing through by homogenous coordinate yield the rational B-spline curve.

$$P(t) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} B_i h_i N_{i,k}(t)}{\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} h_i N_{i,k}(t)} = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} B_i R_{i,k}(t)$$

rational B-spline basis function

3-D control polygon vertices for the rational B-spline curve

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Rational B-Spline Curves

$$R_{i,k}(u) = \frac{h_i N_{i,k}(u)}{\sum_{i=0}^n h_i N_{i,k}(u)}$$

$h_i > 0$ for all values of i

- Equation shows that $R_{i,k}(u)$ are a generalization of the non rational basis function $N_{i,k}(u)$.
- Substitute $h_i=1$: $R_{i,k}(u)=N_{i,k}(u)$.
- The rational basis function $R_{i,k}(u)$ have nearly all the analytical and geometric characteristics of their non-rational B-spline counterparts

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Rational B-Spline Curves

- ◆ Each rational basis function is positive or zero for all parameter values, i.e., $R_{i,k} \geq 0$
- ◆ The sum of the rational B-spline basis for any parameter value t is one, i.e.,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} R_{i,k}(t) = 1$$
- ◆ Except for $k=1$, each rational basis has precisely one maximum.
- ◆ A rational B-spline curve of order k (degree $k-1$) is C^{k-2} continuous everywhere.
- ◆ The maximum order of rational B-spline curve is equal to the number of defining polygon vertices.
- ◆ A rational B-spline curve exhibits the variation diminishing property.
- ◆ A rational B-spline curve generally follows the shape of the defining polygon.
- ◆ A rational B-spline curve lies within the union of convex hulls formed by k successive defining polygon vertices.
- ◆ Any projective transformation is applied to a rational B-spline curve by applying it to the defining polygon vertices; i.e., the curve is invariant with respect to a projective transformation. that this is a stronger condition than that for a non-rational B-spline which is only invariant with respect to an affine transformation.

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Difference between rational and non rational B Spline curves

- Ability to use h_i at each control point to control the behavior of the rational curves in general.
- Choice of H vector controls the behavior of the curve.

Further Rational B-spline are:

- ❑ Unified representation that can define a variety of curves and surfaces including conics.
- ❑ Can represent all wireframe, surface and solid entities, this allows unification and conversion from one modeling technique to another.

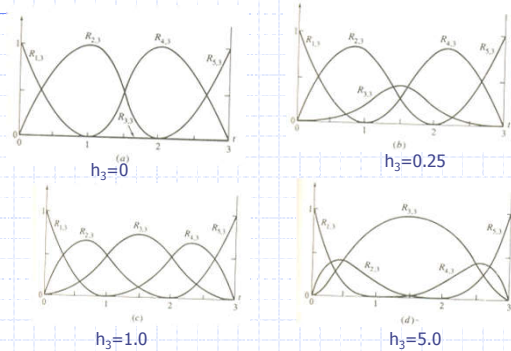
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Effect of the homogeneous coordinates h on the rational B Spline basis functions

◆ For $X=[0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 3\ 3]$, $n+1=5$, $k=3$ and $H=[1\ 1\ h_3\ 1\ 1]$



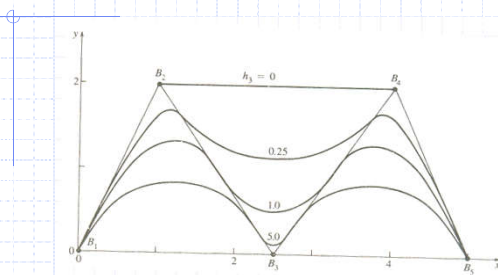
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Rational B Spline Curve for

◆ For $X=[0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 3\ 3]$, $n+1=5$, $k=3$ and $H=[1\ 1\ h_3\ 1\ 1]$



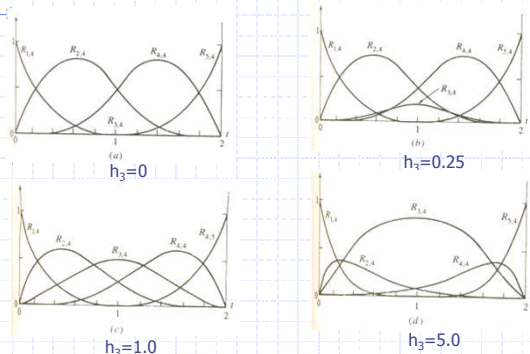
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Effect of the homogeneous coordinates h on the rational B Spline basis functions

◆ For $X=[0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 2\ 2\ 2\ 2]$, $n+1=5$, $k=4$ and $H=[1\ 1\ h_3\ 1\ 1]$



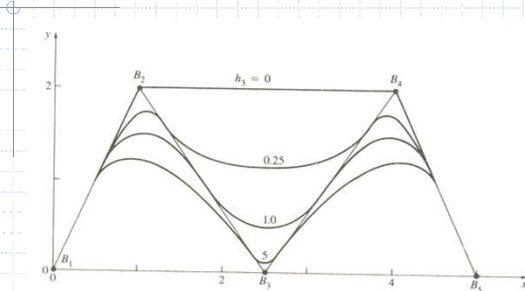
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Rational B Spline curve with Periodic/uniform knot vector

◆ For $X=[0\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 4\ 5\ 6\ 7]$, $n+1=5$, $k=3$ and $H=[1\ 1\ h_3\ 1\ 1]$



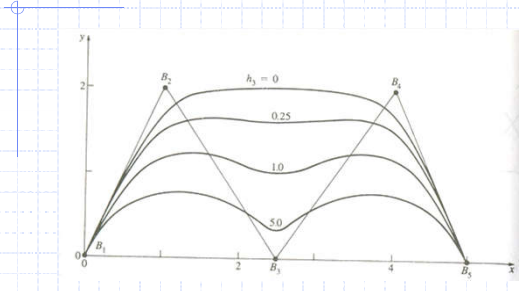
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Rational B Spline Curve with open uniform knot vector

◆ For $X=[0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 2\ 2\ 2\ 2]$, $n+1=5$, $k=3$ and $H=[1\ 1\ h_3\ 1\ 1]$

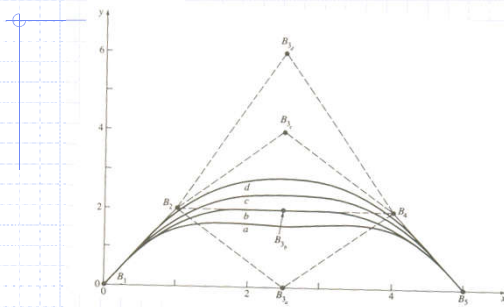


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Effect of moving single vertex



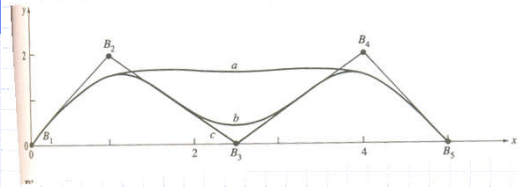
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Effect of multiple vertices

- a, $H=[1 \ 1 \ 0.25 \ 1 \ 1]$
 b, $H=[1 \ 1 \ 0.25 \ 0.25 \ 1 \ 1]$
 c, $H=[1 \ 1 \ 0.25 \ 0.25 \ 0.25 \ 1 \ 1]$



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derivatives of Rational B Spline

The derivatives of Rational B Spline curves can be obtained by formal differentiation. Specifically:

$$P'(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} B_i R'_{i,k}(t)$$

$$R'_{i,k}(t) = \frac{h_i N'_{i,k}(t)}{\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} h_i N_{i,k}(t)} - \frac{h_i N_{i,k}(t) \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} h_i N'_{i,k}(t)}{\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} h_i N_{i,k}(t) \right)^2}$$

Evaluating these results at $t=0$ and $t=n-k+2$ yields

$$P'(0) = (k-1) \frac{h_2}{h_1} (B_2 - B_1)$$

$$P'(n-k+2) = (k-1) \frac{h_n}{h_{n+1}} (B_{n+1} - B_n)$$

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Representation of conic sections

Provide a single mathematical description capable of blending the conic sections in to free form curves.

Consider a quadratic rational B spline defined by three vertices with knot vector $X=[0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1]$ and writing this as:

$$P(t) = \frac{h_1 N_{1,3}(t) B_1 + h_2 N_{2,3}(t) B_2 + h_3 N_{3,3}(t) B_3}{h_1 N_{1,3}(t) + h_2 N_{2,3}(t) + h_3 N_{3,3}(t)}$$

Assume $h_1=h_3=1$

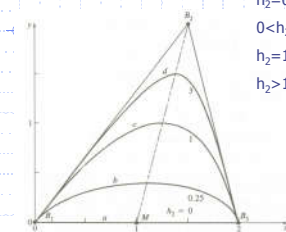
$$P(t) = \frac{N_{1,3}(t) B_1 + h_2 N_{2,3}(t) B_2 + N_{3,3}(t) B_3}{N_{1,3}(t) + h_2 N_{2,3}(t) + N_{3,3}(t)}$$

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Conic sections



At $t=1/2$

$$P(t) = \frac{(1-t)^2 B_1 + 2h_2 t(1-t) B_2 + t^2 B_3}{(1-t)^2 + 2h_2 t(1-t) + t^2}$$

- $h_2=0$ a straight line results.
 $0 < h_2 < 1$ an elliptic curve segment results.
 $h_2=1$ a parabolic curve segment results.
 $h_2 > 1$ a hyperbolic curve segment results.

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For $t=1/2$, $P(t)=S$ which yields

$$S = \frac{1}{1+h_2} \frac{B_1+B_3}{2} + \frac{h_2}{1+h_2} B_2$$

$$S = \frac{M}{1+h_2} + \frac{h_2}{1+h_2} B_2$$

writing the parametric equation of the straight line between M and B_2 gives

$$S = (1-u)M + uB_2 \quad \text{where } u \text{ is the parameter.}$$

Equating coefficients

$$u = \frac{h_2}{1+h_2} \quad \text{and} \quad h_2 = \frac{u}{1-u} = \frac{MS}{SB_2}$$

The parameter u controls the shape of the curve and its conic form. Hence, it is a good design tool.

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