Architectural geometry: Curves and Surfaces

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Explicit form

Implicit form

Parametric form

Explicit form



y = **f(x)**
$$y = \pm \sqrt{r^2 - x^2}, z = 0$$

- Coordinate system dependent
- Single valued
- No vertical tangent allowed
- Can not represent closed curves
- Difficult to define a boundary curve
- Easy to check a point (x, y) lies on the curve
- Difficult to get a point on the curve

Implicit form



f(x,y)=0
$$x^2 + y^2 - r^2 = 0, z = 0$$

- Coordinate system dependent
- Multiple valued
- Vertical tangent allowed
- Can not represent closed curves
- Difficult to define a boundary curve
- Easy to check a point (x, y) lies on the curve
- Difficult to get a point on the curve

Parametric form



 $(\mathbf{x}(t_{i+1}),\mathbf{y}(t_{i+1}))$

$$x = x(t), y = y(t)$$

 $x = r\cos t, y = r\sin t, z = 0$ $(0 \le t \le 2\pi)$

- Easy to evaluate a point
- Easy to evaluate orderly sequences of points

 $(\mathbf{x}(t_i),\mathbf{y}(t_i))$

- Easy to draw a curve
- Easy to define a bounded curve ex) $0 \le t \le 1$
- Difficult to see if a point lies on the curve
- Representation is not unique

$$x = r \frac{1 - t^2}{1 + t^2}, y = r \frac{2t}{1 + t^2}, z = 0$$
$$t = \tan \frac{\theta}{2} \quad (0 \le \theta \le 2\pi)$$

Parameterization



Line pass through s(0, -1) and q(t, 0) $\frac{x}{t} + \frac{y}{-1} = 1$ (2D stereographic projection)



Polynomial curves/surfaces



- Curve: C(t) = (x(t), y(t), z(t))
- Surface: S(s, t) = (x(s,t), y(s,t), z(s,t))
- Degree of curves and surfaces
 - Highest degree of parameter occurring in coordinate functions
- Polynomial vs. rational
 - Rational: polynomial + common denominator
 - Curve: C(t) = (x(t) / d(t), y(t) / d(t), z(t) / d(t))
 - Surface: S(s, t) = (x(s,t) /d(s,t), y(s,t) /d(s,t), z(s,t) /d(s,t))

Why cubic curve?



- Minimum degree for Spatial curve
- Minimum degree for Interior inflection point
- Computation cost
- Numerical error
- Minimum degree for C2 continuity
- Curve controllability

Why polynomials?



Can be easily, efficiently, and accurately processed in a computer

- Ex. Polynomial vs. trigonometric functions

- Simple and mathematically well understood
 - Ex. derivatives and integration
- Capable of precisely representing all the curves the users of the system need
- Widely used class of functions
 - Ex. Power basis form

$$P(t) = [x(t), y(t), z(t)] = \sum_{i=0}^{n} \mathbf{a}_{i} t^{i} \quad (0 \le t \le 1) \quad \mathbf{a}_{i} = (x_{i}, y_{i}, z_{i})$$



Parametric curves and surfaces



Tangent and normal



Tangent

Regular point / singular point

$$\lim_{h \to 0} \frac{c(t+h) - c(t)}{h} = c'(t) = (x'(t), y'(t), z'(t))$$

Normal

- Spatial curve: normal plane



Curvature



Osculating plane/circle

- Curvature center
- Curvature radius (radius of osculating circle): r
 - Curvature: k = 1/r



Curvature





Curvature of a curve



Inflection point

- Curvature k = 0 (Osculating circle \rightarrow tangent line)
- Sign of curvature is meaningful for only planar curve



Evolute of a curve



- The locus of the centers of all osculating circles of a planar curve c
 - Evolute *e* can be generated as envelope of the curve normals
- The normals of c corresponds to the tangents of e



Voronoi Diagram Research Center

Frenet frame





Curvature of a surface



 $\kappa_{p} < 0$

- Normal curvature
- Principal curvature
 - Kmax and Kmin
- Gaussian curvature
 - K = Kmax * Kmin
- Mean curvature
 - H = (Kmax + Kmin) / 2

 $\mathbf{C}(t)$





Classification of surface points





(a) Elliptic point $K > 0, H \neq 0$

(b) Hyperbolic point $K < 0, H \neq 0$





(c) Parabolic point $K = 0, H \neq 0$



(e) Planar point $\kappa_{\max} = \kappa_{\min} = 0$

(d) Umbilic point $\kappa_{\max} = \kappa_{\min} \neq 0$



(f) Elliptic, hyperbolic, and parabolic points on a torus

Classification of surface points



The principal, mean, and Gaussian curvatures distinguish the local geometry of a surface at a point \mathbf{p} as follows.

- **Elliptic Point:** $H \neq 0, K > 0$. At an elliptic point κ_{\min} and κ_{\max} have the same sign. Therefore the normal sections have the same profile, implying the surface near **p** has the shape of an ellipsoid.
- **Hyperbolic Point:** $H \neq 0, K < 0$. At a hyperbolic point κ_{\min} and κ_{\max} have opposite signs. So the surface near **p** has the shape of a saddle.
- **Parabolic Point:** $H \neq 0, K = 0$. So either $\kappa_{\min} = 0$ or $\kappa_{\max} = 0$. Therefore the surface is linear in one principal direction, and near **p** the surface has the shape of a parabolic cylinder. In computer vision applications the surface is said to be a *ridge* or a *trough*.
- **Umbilic Point:** $\kappa_{\min} = \kappa_{\max} \neq 0 \ (H \neq 0, K > 0)$. An umbilic point is a special case of an elliptic point. The normal curvature is constant (non-zero) and near **p** the surface has the shape of a sphere.
- Flat or Planar Point: $\kappa_{\min} = \kappa_{\max} = 0$ (H = K = 0). The normal curvature is identically zero and the surface near **p** is flat.





The curves, or portions of the curves, obtained by cutting a cone with a plane are conic sections.











- $\mathbf{P}(u,v) \mathbf{Q}(s,t) = 0$
- 3 equations with 4 unknowns, u, v, s and t
- Assigning an arbitrary value to one of the unknowns
- Convergence depends on the initial values of unknowns
- May not provide all the intersection curves

Intersection curves of surfaces



- Subdivision based method
 - Recursively subdivide each surface *S1* and *S2* until all of surface segments are close to the planar quadrilaterals
 - Quadrilaterals of S1 are tested for intersection / with those of S2
 - Use the intersection curves from the intersection / as initial guesses
 - Require more computations than previous method but have less chance of missing some intersection curves