# Parametric surfaces 

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## Reading

Optional reading:

- Angel and Shreiner readings for "Parametric Curves" lecture, with emphasis on 10.1.2, 10.1.3, 10.1.5, 10.6.2, 10.7.3, 10.9.4.
- Marschner and Shirley, 2.5.


## Further reading

- Bartels, Beatty, and Barsky. An Introduction to Splines for use in Computer Graphics and Geometric Modeling, 1987.


## Mathematical surface representations

- Explicit $z=f(x, y)$ (a.k.a., a "height field")
- what if the curve isn't a function, like a sphere?

- Implicit $g(x, y, z)=0$
$g(x, y, z)=x^{2}+y^{2}+z^{2}-r^{2}$


Isocontour from "marching squares"


Isocontour from "marching cubes"

- Parametric $S(u, v)=(x(u, v), y(u, v), z(u, v))$
- For the sphere:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& x(u, v)=r \cos (2 \pi v) \sin (p u) \\
& y(u, v)=r \sin (2 \pi v) \sin (\pi u) \\
& z(u, v)=r \cos (\pi u)
\end{aligned}
$$



As with curves, we'll focus on parametric surfaces.

## Constructing surfaces of revolution



Given: A curve $C(v)$ in the $x y$-plane:

$$
\underline{C(v)}=\left[\begin{array}{c}
C_{x}(v) \\
C_{y}(v) \\
0 \\
1
\end{array}\right]
$$

Let $R_{y}(\theta)$ be a rotation about the $y$-axis.
Find: A surface $S(u, v)$ which is $C(v)$ rotated about the $y$-axis, where $u, v \in[0,1]$.
Solution: $\quad S(n, v)=R_{y}(2 \pi u) C(v)$

## General sweep surfaces

The surface of revolution is a special case of a swept surface.

Idea: Trace out surface $S(u, v)$ by moving a profile curve $C(u)$ along a trajectory curve $T(v)$.


More specifically:

- Suppose that $C(u)$ lies in an $\left(x_{c}, y_{c}\right)$ coordinate system with origin $O_{c}$.
- For every point along $T(v)$, lay $C(u)$ so that $O_{c}$ coincides with $T(v)$.


## Orientation

The big issue:

- How to orient $C(u)$ as it moves along $T(v)$ ?

Here are two options:

1. Fixed (or static): Just translate $O_{c}$ along $T(v)$.

2. Moving. Use the Frenet frame of $T(v)$.

- Allows smoothly varying orientation.
- Permits surfaces of revolution, for example.


## Frenet frames

Motivation: Given a curve $T(v)$, we want to attach a smoothly varying coordinate system.


To get a 3D coordinate system, we need 3 independent direction vectors.

Tangent: $\quad \mathbf{t}(v)=$ normalize $\left[T^{\prime}(v)\right]$
Binormal: $\quad \mathbf{b}(v)=$ normalize $\left[T^{\prime}(v) \times T^{\prime \prime}(v)\right]$
Normal: $\quad \mathbf{n}(v)=\mathbf{b}(v) \times \mathbf{t}(v)$
As we move along $T(v)$, the Frenet frame ( $\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{n}$ ) varies smoothly.

## Frenet swept surfaces

Orient the profile curve $C(u)$ using the Frenet frame of the trajectory $T(v)$ :

- Put $C(u)$ in the normal plane .
- Place $O_{c}$ on $T(v)$.
- Align $x_{c}$ for $C(u)$ with $\mathbf{b}$.
- Align $y_{c}$ for $C(u)$ with $-\mathbf{n}$.


If $T(v)$ is a circle, you get a surface of revolution exactly!

Degenerate frames

Let's look back at where we computed the coordinate frames from curve derivatives:


$$
\begin{aligned}
t & =\operatorname{norm}\left(T^{\prime}(v)\right) \\
b & =\operatorname{nosm}\left(T^{\prime}(v) \times T^{\prime \prime}(v)\right) \\
n & =b \times t
\end{aligned}
$$

Where might these frames be ambiguous or undetermined?

$$
\begin{aligned}
& T^{\prime}(\Delta)=0 \rightarrow \text { arc length prameterization } \\
& T^{\prime}(S) \\
& T^{\prime \prime}(v)^{\prime \prime} \rightarrow T^{\prime \prime}(S)=0
\end{aligned}
$$

## Variations

Several variations are possible:

- Scale $C(u)$ as it moves, possibly using length of $T(v)$ as a scale factor.
- Morph $C(u)$ into some other curve $\tilde{C}(u)$ as it moves along $T(v)$.


Tensor product Bézier surfaces
Beer controlly polygon


Given a grid of control points $V_{i j}$, forming a control net, construct a surface $S(u, v)$ by:

- treating rows of $V$ (the matrix consisting of the $V_{i j}$ ) as control points for curves $V_{0}(u), \ldots, V_{n}(u)$.
- treating $V_{0}(u), \ldots, V_{n}(u)$ as control points for a curve parameterized by $v$.


## Tensor product Bézier surfaces, cont.

Let's walk through the steps:


Control net


Control polygon at $u=1 / 2$


Control curves in $u$


Curve at $S(1 / 2, v)$

Which control points are always interpolated by the surface?

$$
4 \text { corners }
$$

## Polynomial form of Bézier surfaces

Recall that cubic Bézier curves can be written in terms of the Bernstein polynomials:

$$
Q(u)=\sum_{i=0}^{n} V_{i} b_{i}(u)
$$

A tensor product Bézier surface can be written as:

$$
S(u, v)=\sum_{i=0}^{n} \sum_{j=0}^{n} V_{i j} b_{i}(u) b_{j}(v)
$$

In the previous slide, we constructed curves along $u$, and then along $v$. This corresponds to re-grouping the terms like so:

$$
S(u, v)=\sum_{j=0}^{n}\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} V_{i j} b_{i}(u)\right) b_{j}(v)
$$

But, we could have constructed them along $v$, then $u$ :

$$
S(u, v)=\sum_{i=0}^{n}\left(\sum_{j=0}^{n} V_{i j} b_{j}(v)\right) b_{i}(u)
$$

## Tensor product B-spline surfaces



As with spline curves, we can piece together a sequence of Bézier surfaces to make a spline surface. If we enforce $C^{2}$ continuity and local control, we get $B$ spline curves:


- treat rows of $B$ as control points to generate Bézier control points in $u$.
- treat Bézier control points in $u$ as B -spline control points in $v$.
- treat B-spline control points in $v$ to generate Bézier control points in $u$.


## Tensor product B-spline surfaces, cont.



Which B-spline control points are always interpolated by the surface?
None

Tensor product B-splines, cont.


Another example:


## NURBS surfaces

Uniform B-spline surfaces are a special case of NURBS surfaces.


## Trimmed NURBS surfaces

Sometimes, we want to have control over which parts of a NURBS surface get drawn.

For example:


We can do this by trimming the $u-v$ domain.

- Define a closed curve in the $u-v$ domain (a trim curve)
- Do not draw the surface points inside of this curve.

It's really hard to maintain continuity in these regions, especially while animating.

## Summary

What to take home:

- How to construct swept surfaces from a profile and trajectory curve:
- with a fixed frame
- with a Frenet frame
- How to construct tensor product Bézier surfaces
- How to construct tensor product B-spline surfaces

