



University of British Columbia
CPSC 314 Computer Graphics
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Curves

<http://www.ugrad.cs.ubc.ca/~cs314/Vjan2013>

Reading

- FCG Chap 15 Curves
 - Ch 13 2nd edition

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Curves

Parametric Curves

- parametric form for a line:
$$x = x_0t + (1-t)x_1$$
$$y = y_0t + (1-t)y_1$$
$$z = z_0t + (1-t)z_1$$
- x, y and z are each given by an equation that involves:
 - parameter t
 - some user specified control points, x_0 and x_1
- this is an example of a parametric curve

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Splines

- a *spline* is a parametric curve defined by *control points*
 - term “spline” dates from engineering drawing, where a spline was a piece of flexible wood used to draw smooth curves
 - control points are *adjusted by the user* to control shape of curve

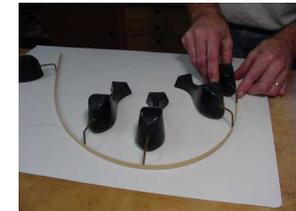
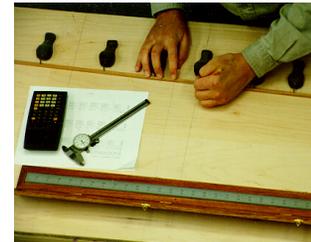
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Splines - History

- draftsman used ‘ducks’ and strips of wood (splines) to draw curves
- wood splines have second-order continuity, pass through the control points



a duck (weight)



ducks trace out curve

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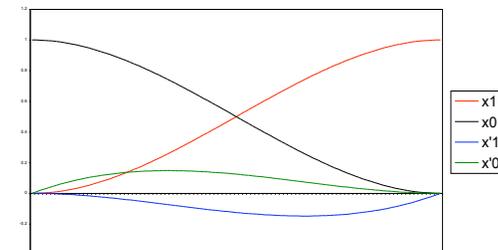
Hermite Spline

- *hermite spline* is curve for which user provides:
 - endpoints of curve
 - parametric derivatives of curve at endpoints
 - parametric derivatives are dx/dt , dy/dt , dz/dt
 - more derivatives would be required for higher order curves

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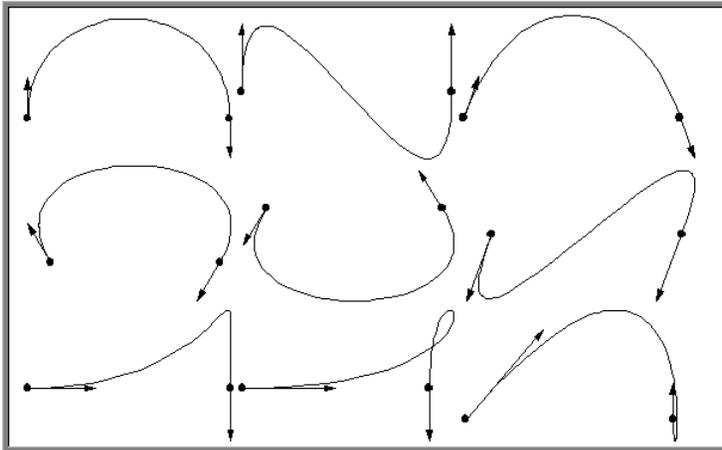
Basis Functions

- a point on a Hermite curve is obtained by multiplying each control point by some function and summing
- functions are called *basis functions*



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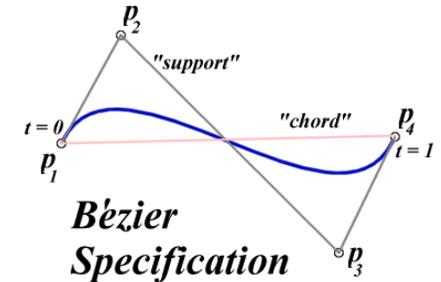
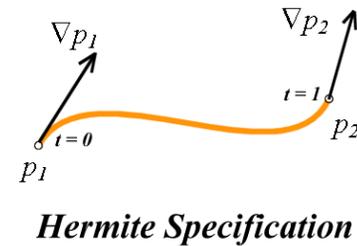
Sample Hermite Curves



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Bézier Curves

- similar to Hermite, but more intuitive definition of endpoint derivatives
- four control points, two of which are knots



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Bézier Curves

- derivative values of Bezier curve at knots dependent on adjacent points

$$\nabla p_1 = 3(p_2 - p_1)$$

$$\nabla p_4 = 3(p_4 - p_3)$$

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Bézier Blending Functions

- look at blending functions

- family of polynomials called order-3 Bernstein polynomials

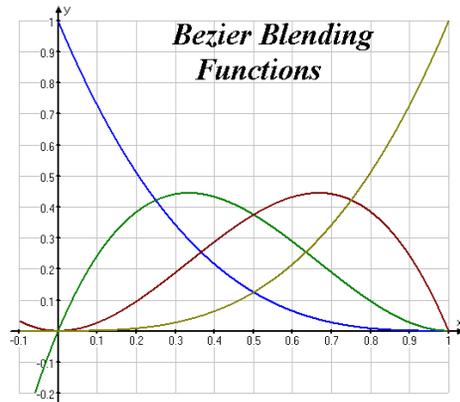
- $C(3, k) t^k (1-t)^{3-k}$; $0 \leq k \leq 3$
- all positive in interval $[0, 1]$
- sum is equal to 1

$$p(t) = \begin{bmatrix} (1-t)^3 \\ 3t(1-t)^2 \\ 3t^2(1-t) \\ t^3 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} p_1 \\ p_2 \\ p_3 \\ p_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

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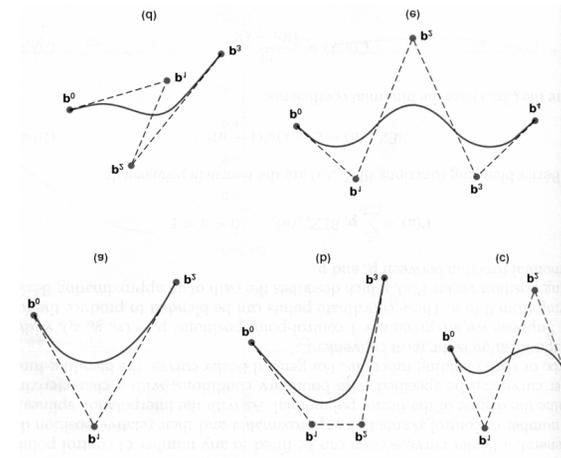
Bézier Blending Functions

- every point on curve is linear combination of control points
- weights of combination are all positive
- sum of weights is 1
- therefore, curve is a convex combination of the control points



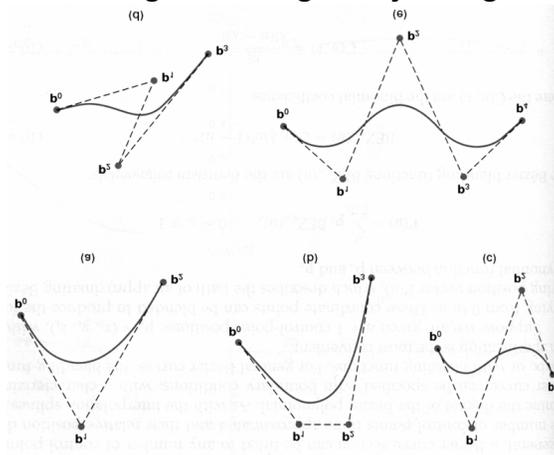
Bézier Curves

- curve will always remain within convex hull (bounding region) defined by control points

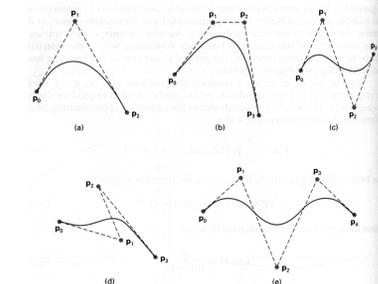
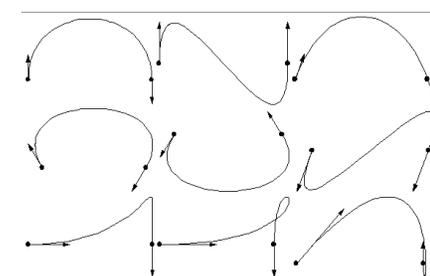
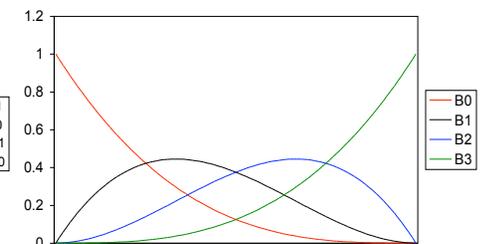
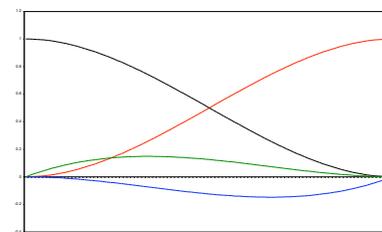


Bézier Curves

- interpolate between first, last control points
- 1st point's tangent along line joining 1st, 2nd pts
- 4th point's tangent along line joining 3rd, 4th pts

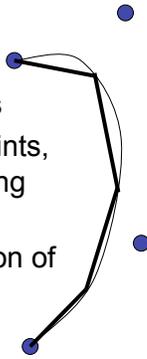


Comparing Hermite and Bézier



Rendering Bezier Curves: Simple

- evaluate curve at fixed set of parameter values, join points with straight lines
- advantage: very simple
- disadvantages:
 - expensive to evaluate the curve at many points
 - no easy way of knowing how fine to sample points, and maybe sampling rate must be different along curve
 - no easy way to adapt: hard to measure deviation of line segment from exact curve



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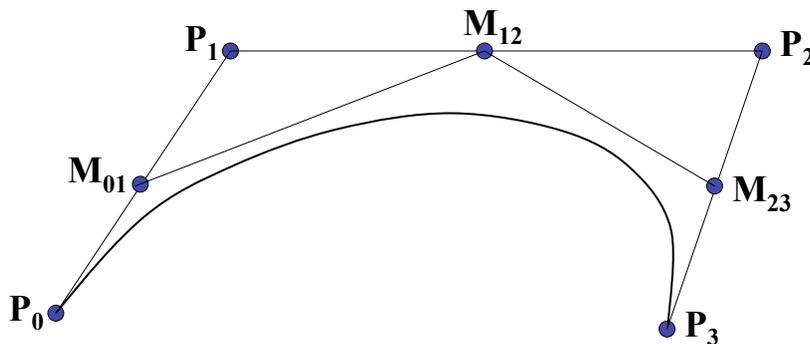
Rendering Beziers: Subdivision

- a cubic Bezier curve can be broken into two shorter cubic Bezier curves that exactly cover original curve
- suggests a rendering algorithm:
 - keep breaking curve into sub-curves
 - stop when control points of each sub-curve are nearly collinear
 - draw the control polygon: polygon formed by control points

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Sub-Dividing Bezier Curves

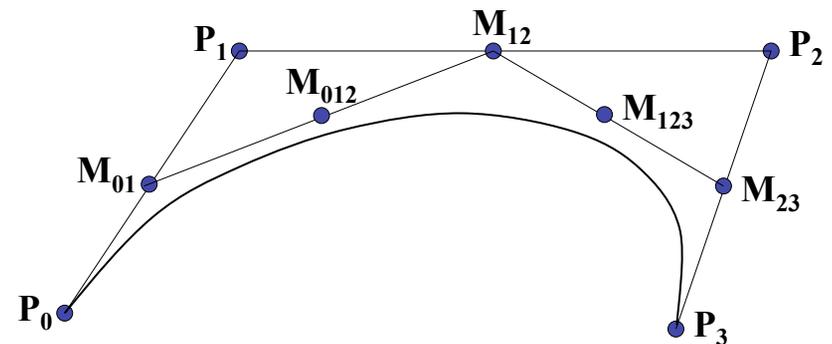
- step 1: find the midpoints of the lines joining the original control vertices. call them M_{01} , M_{12} , M_{23}



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Sub-Dividing Bezier Curves

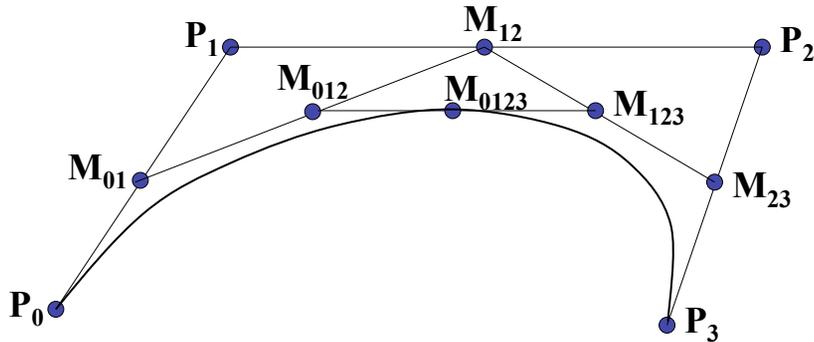
- step 2: find the midpoints of the lines joining M_{01} , M_{12} and M_{12} , M_{23} . call them M_{012} , M_{123}



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Sub-Dividing Bezier Curves

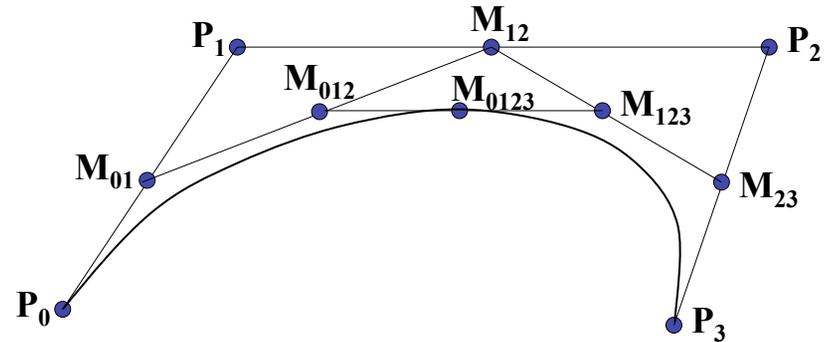
- step 3: find the midpoint of the line joining M_{012} , M_{123} . call it M_{0123}



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Sub-Dividing Bezier Curves

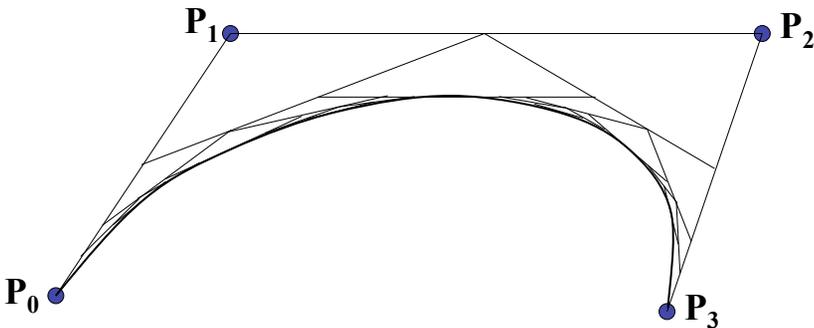
- curve $P_0, M_{01}, M_{012}, M_{0123}$ exactly follows original from $t=0$ to $t=0.5$
- curve $M_{0123}, M_{123}, M_{23}, P_3$ exactly follows original from $t=0.5$ to $t=1$



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Sub-Dividing Bezier Curves

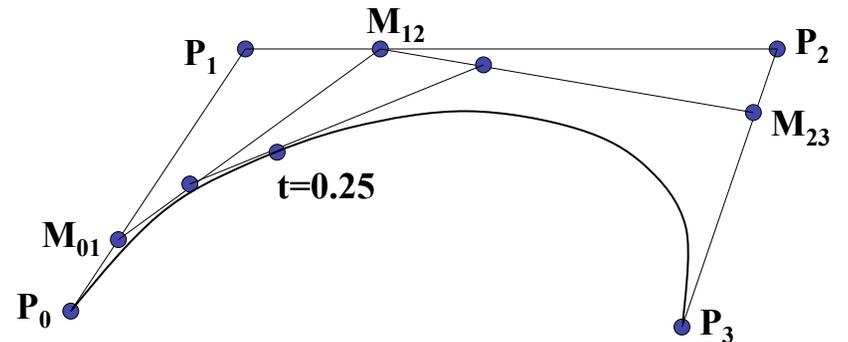
- continue process to create smooth curve



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de Casteljau's Algorithm

- can find the point on a Bezier curve for any parameter value t with similar algorithm
 - for $t=0.25$, instead of taking midpoints take points 0.25 of the way



demo: www.saltire.com/applets/advanced_geometry/spline/spline.htm

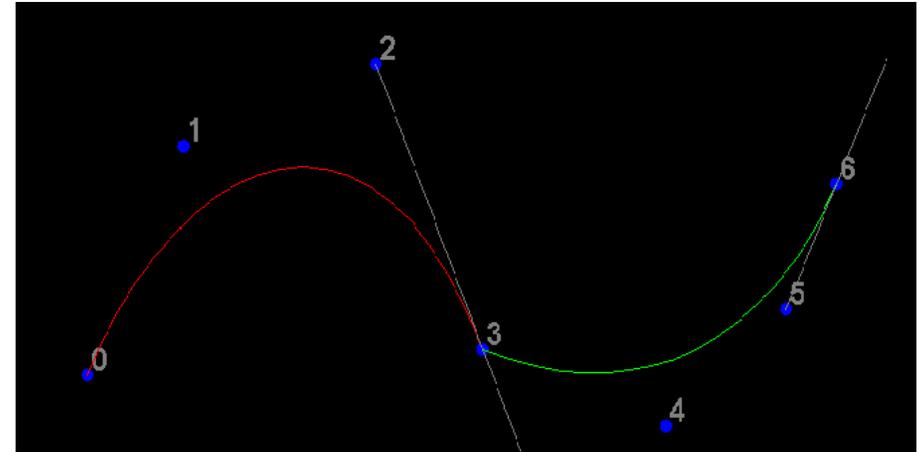
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Longer Curves

- a single cubic Bezier or Hermite curve can only capture a small class of curves
 - at most 2 inflection points
- one solution is to raise the degree
 - allows more control, at the expense of more control points and higher degree polynomials
 - control is not local, one control point influences entire curve
- better solution is to join pieces of cubic curve together into piecewise cubic curves
 - total curve can be broken into pieces, each of which is cubic
 - local control: each control point only influences a limited part of the curve
 - interaction and design is much easier

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Piecewise Bezier: Continuity Problems

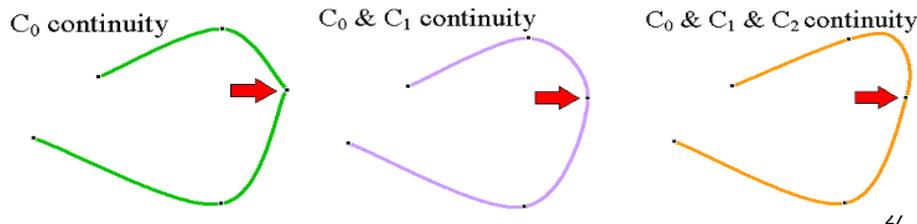


demo: www.cs.princeton.edu/~min/cs426/jar/bezier.html

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Continuity

- when two curves joined, typically want some degree of continuity across knot boundary
 - C_0 , “C-zero”, point-wise continuous, curves share same point where they join
 - C_1 , “C-one”, continuous derivatives
 - C_2 , “C-two”, continuous second derivatives



Geometric Continuity

- derivative continuity is important for animation
 - if object moves along curve with constant parametric speed, should be no sudden jump at knots
- for other applications, *tangent continuity* suffices
 - requires that the tangents point in the same direction
 - referred to as G^1 geometric continuity
 - curves could be made C^1 with a re-parameterization
 - geometric version of C^2 is G^2 , based on curves having the same radius of curvature across the knot

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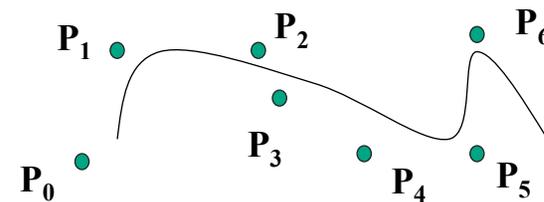
Achieving Continuity

- Hermite curves
 - user specifies derivatives, so C^1 by sharing points and derivatives across knot
- Bezier curves
 - they interpolate endpoints, so C^0 by sharing control pts
 - introduce additional constraints to get C^1
 - parametric derivative is a constant multiple of vector joining first/ last 2 control points
 - so C^1 achieved by setting $P_{0,3}=P_{1,0}=J$, and making $P_{0,2}$ and J and $P_{1,1}$ collinear, with $J-P_{0,2}=P_{1,1}-J$
 - C^2 comes from further constraints on $P_{0,1}$ and $P_{1,2}$
- leads to...

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B-Spline Curve

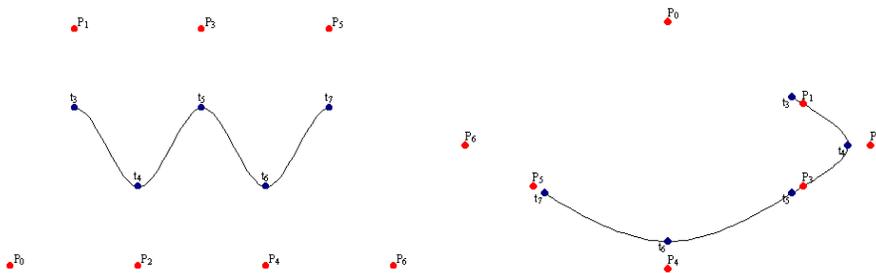
- start with a sequence of control points
- select four from middle of sequence
($P_{i-2}, P_{i-1}, P_i, P_{i+1}$)
 - Bezier and Hermite goes between p_{i-2} and p_{i+1}
 - B-Spline doesn't interpolate (touch) any of them but approximates the going through p_{i-1} and p_i



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B-Spline

- by far the most popular spline used
- C_0 , C_1 , and C_2 continuous



demo: www.siggraph.org/education/materials/HyperGraph/modeling/splines/demoprogram/curve.html

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B-Spline

- locality of points

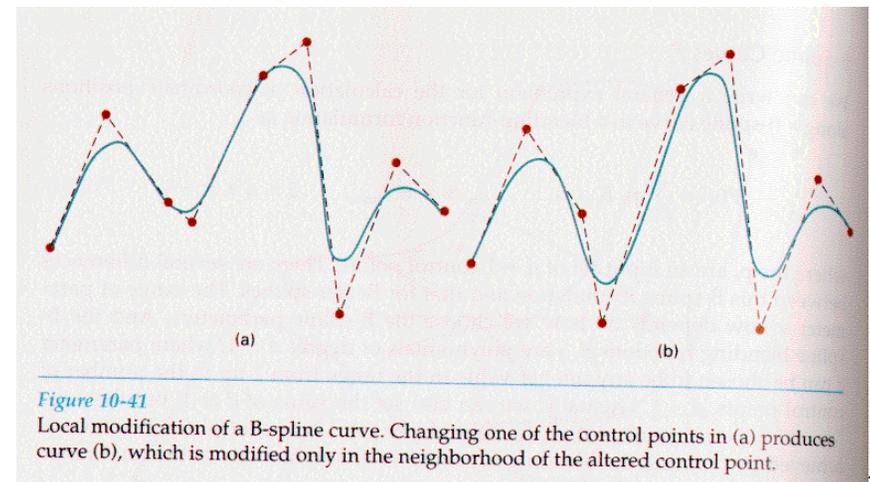


Figure 10-41

Local modification of a B-spline curve. Changing one of the control points in (a) produces curve (b), which is modified only in the neighborhood of the altered control point.

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