



SIGGRAPH 2009

NEW ORLEANS

# Efficient substitutes of Subdivision Surfaces

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# Overview

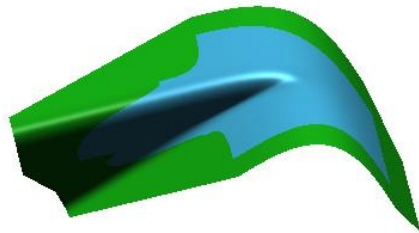
This course section develops the **background knowledge**.

It motivates and defines

- surface **smoothness** vs position and normal **channel**
- `exact' fitting vs approximation
- **splines** in B-spline form vs Bernstein Bezier form
- **subdivision surfaces**
- efficient **substitutes**: approximate and smooth

# Smoothness: Why do we want smooth surfaces?

- Continuously changing normals are important both artistically and to avoid errors in downstream algorithms.
  - Gouraud shading, Phong shading, silhouette
  - Bump mapping, Normal mapping,
  - Displacement mapping,...



Smoothness and creases

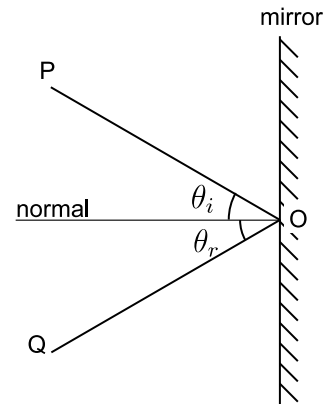
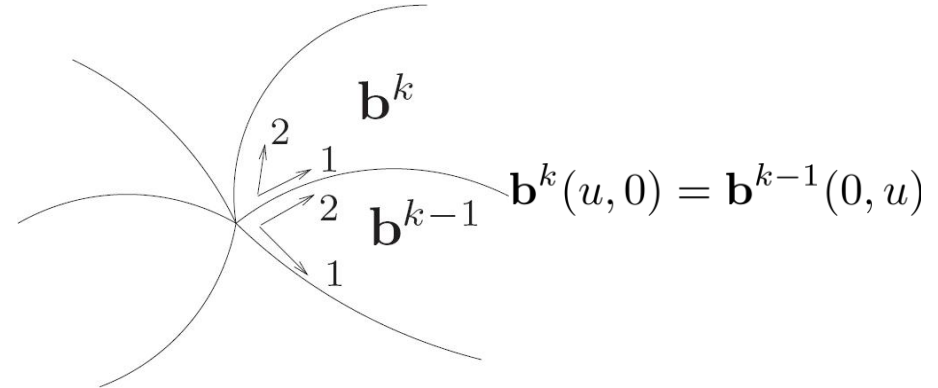
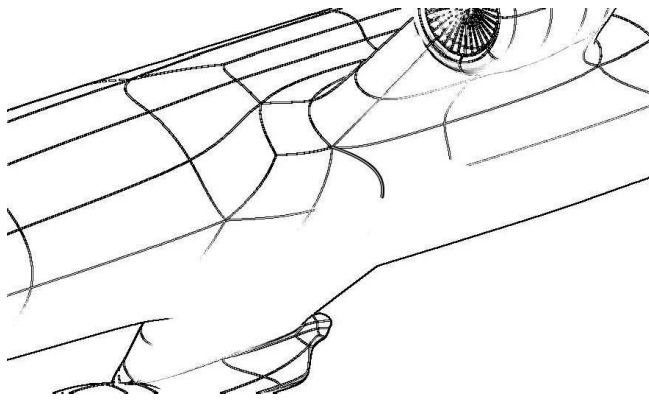


Diagram of specular reflection  
(Image courtesy of wikipedia)

# Surface smoothness = unique normal

- Mathematically: smoothly connected patches

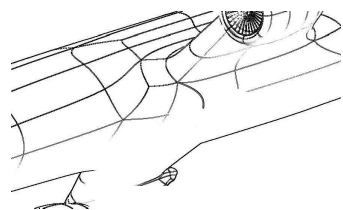


$$\mathbf{b}^k : \square \in R^2 \rightarrow R^3$$

# Surface smoothness – unique normal

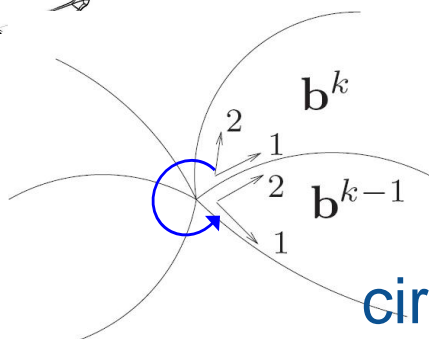
**$G^1$  continuity**

= equal derivatives  $\partial$  after change of variables  $\rho^k$



$$\partial \mathbf{b}^k(u, 0) = \partial (\mathbf{b}^{k-1} \circ \rho^k)(u, 0)$$

$$\rho^k : \square \in R^2 \rightarrow R^2$$



**circulant constraints:**

**Consistency of  $\rho^k$**

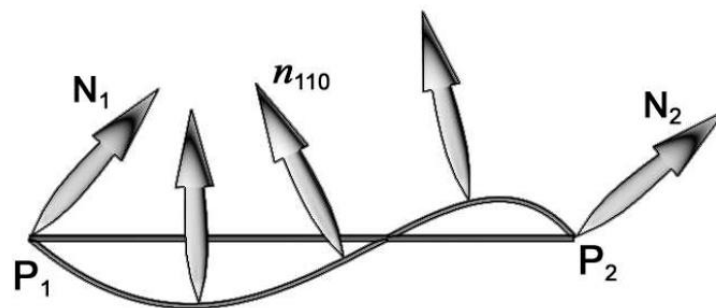
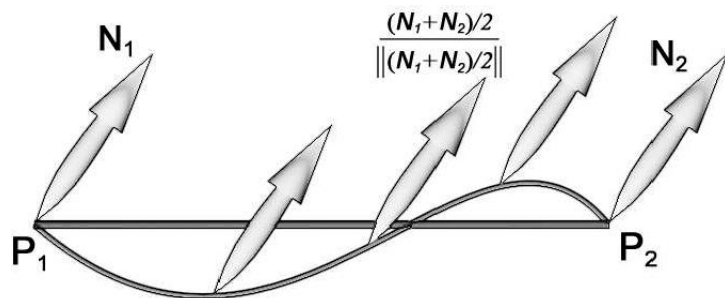
**vertex enclosure  $\partial_1 \partial_2 \mathbf{b}^k(0, 0)$**

*Tricky! (justification for approximate smoothness)*

# Filling the normal channel

Algorithmically:

- Separation of the position and the normal channel
- Fill normal channel with directions not necessarily orthogonal to the surface



(from PN triangles)

# Smoothness -- Summary

## Unique normal

- Is needed for art and downstream processing
- Mathematically:  $G^1$  continuity
- Algorithmically: position channel, normal channel

# Overview

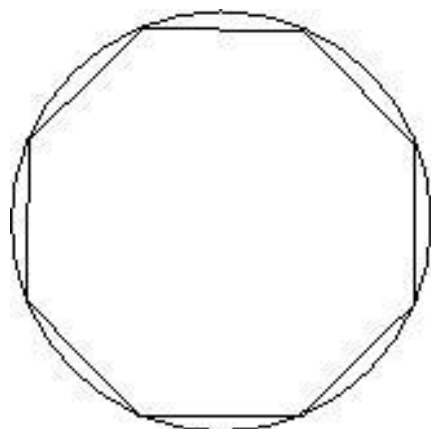
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It motivates and defines

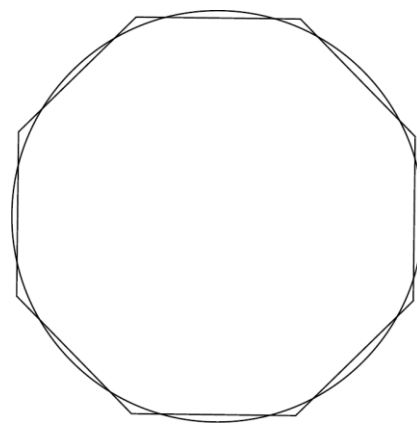
- surface **smoothness** vs position and normal **channel**
- **`exact' fitting** vs **approximation**
- splines in B-spline and Bernstein Bezier form
- subdivision surfaces
- efficient substitutes: approximate and smooth

# Exact vs approximate fitting

- Which polygon represents the circle better?



Interpolation  
`exact' fitting at points

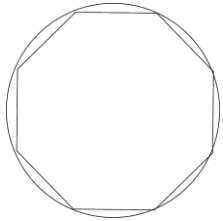


Approximation  
`mid'-structure

In Computer Graphics:

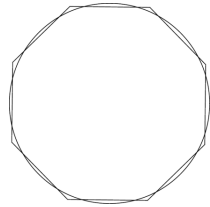
- pixel level: bi-linear polygonalization
- Tessellation: triangulation of surface

# Exact vs approximate fitting



Interpolation

`exact' fitting at points



Approximation

`mid'-structure

- *Watertight (no pixel dropout)*: Two adjacent patches tessellated independently should yield the same boundary points in  $\mathbf{R}^3$
- *Matter of convention!* Interpolation or approximation will do

# Fitting (evaluation) -- Summary

- Exact fitting (evaluation) is generally no better than approximate fitting
- Consistent fitting is crucial

# Overview

This course section develops the **background knowledge**.

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- surface **smoothness** -- position and normal **channel**
- debates 'exact' fitting vs approximation
- **Splines: B-spline form vs Bernstein Bezier form**
- subdivision surfaces
- efficient substitutes: approximate and smooth

# Splines: B-spline form

- Degree 2: no inflections -- flat spots for higher-order saddles (Euler's Thm)
- Cubic (degree 3) spline

- $\mathbf{x}(t) := \sum_{\ell} q_{\ell} N_{\ell}(t)$

- Fast stable evaluation=  
“knot insertion”

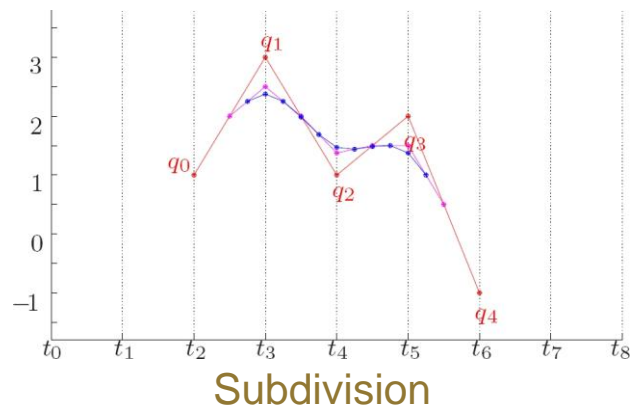
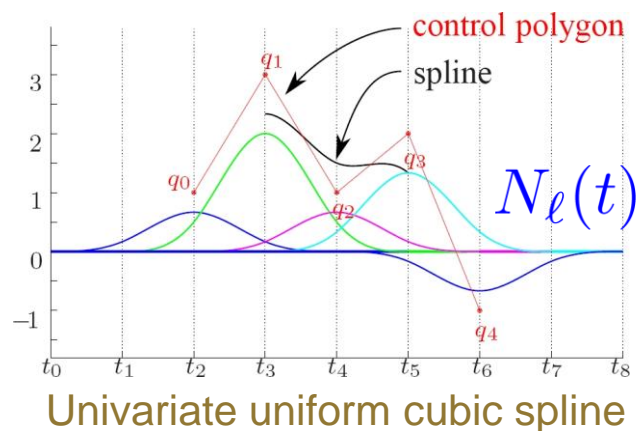
= control point averaging

- de Boor's algorithm

= depth first insertion at same parameter

- subdivision

= breadth first insertion, uniform

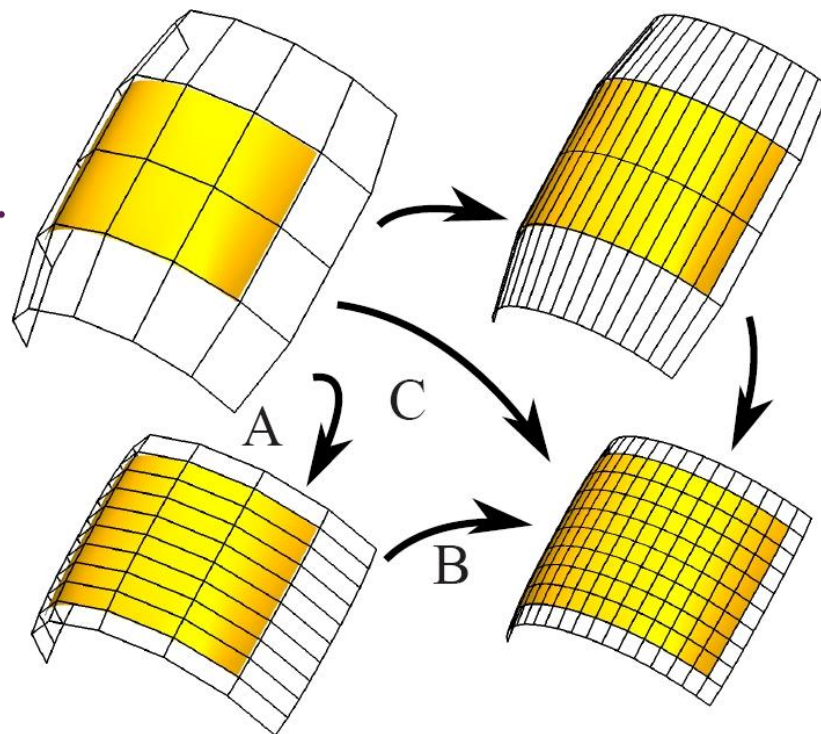


# Splines: B-spline form

- Bi-3 splines

$$\sum_{i=0}^3 \sum_{j=0}^3 q_{i,j} N_i(u) N_j(v).$$

- `gluNurbsSurface`
- De Boor's algorithm
- subdivision



Commutativity

# Splines: Bernstein-Bezier form (BB-form)

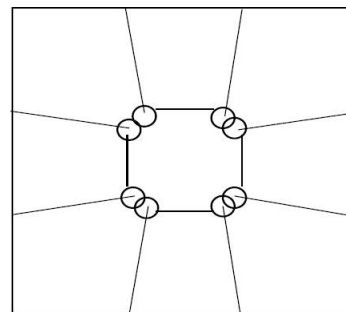
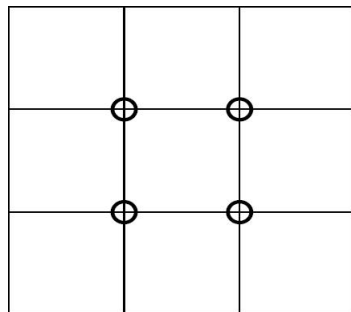
- Cubic spline
  - glMap1
  - De Casteljaou's algorithm

$$\sum_{i=0}^3 b_i B_i(u) \quad B_k(t) := \frac{3!}{(3-k)!k!} (1-t)^{3-k} t^k$$

- Bi-3 splines
  - glMap2

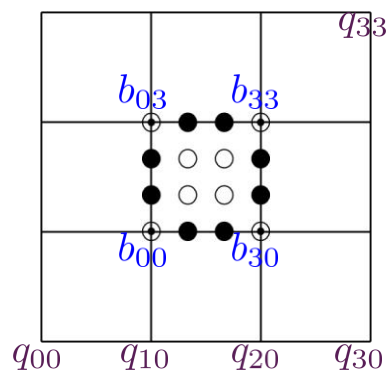
$$\sum_{i=0}^3 \sum_{j=0}^3 b_{i,j} B_i(u) B_j(v)$$

- Bi-3 patch      rational **Gregory patch** expensive normal



# Splines: B-spline to BB-form conversion

$$q \longrightarrow b$$

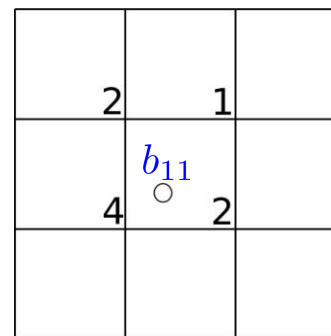
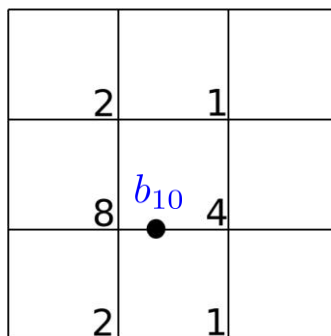
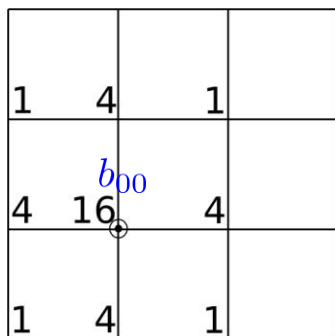


$$36b_{00} := 16q_{11} + 4(q_{21} + q_{12} + q_{01} + q_{10}) + q_{22} + q_{02} + q_{00} + q_{20}$$

$$18b_{10} := 8q_{11} + 2q_{10} + 2q_{12} + 4q_{21} + q_{20} + q_{22}$$

$$9b_{11} := 4q_{11} + 2(q_{12} + 2q_{21}) + q_{22}$$

B-splines and the BB-form are equally powerful!



# Splines -- Summary

## Splines

- are piecewise polynomials
- typically smoothly connected and
- can be represented in B-spline form or BB-form
  - Use the (uniform) B-spline form to have built-in smoothness
  - Use the BB-form to interpolate at corners

# Overview

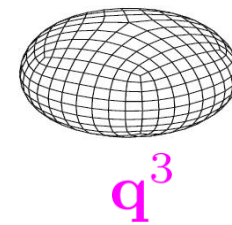
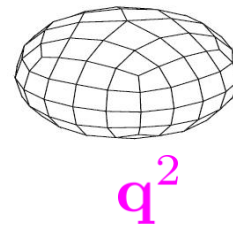
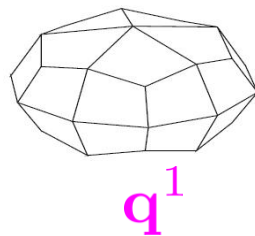
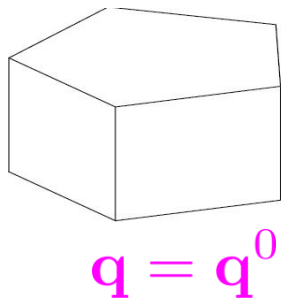
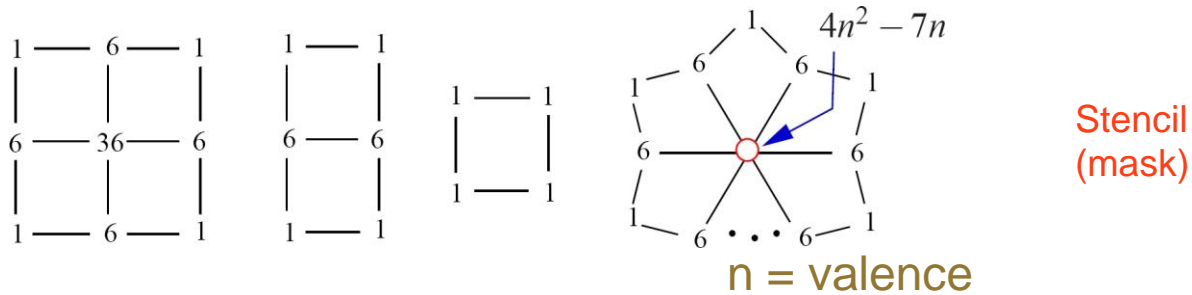
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- **subdivision surfaces**
- efficient substitutes: approximate and smooth

# Subdivision surfaces

- Algorithmically, a mesh refinement procedure that applies rules to determine
  - the position of new mesh points from old ones :  $\mathbf{q}^m = \mathbf{A}^m \mathbf{q}$
  - the new connectivity



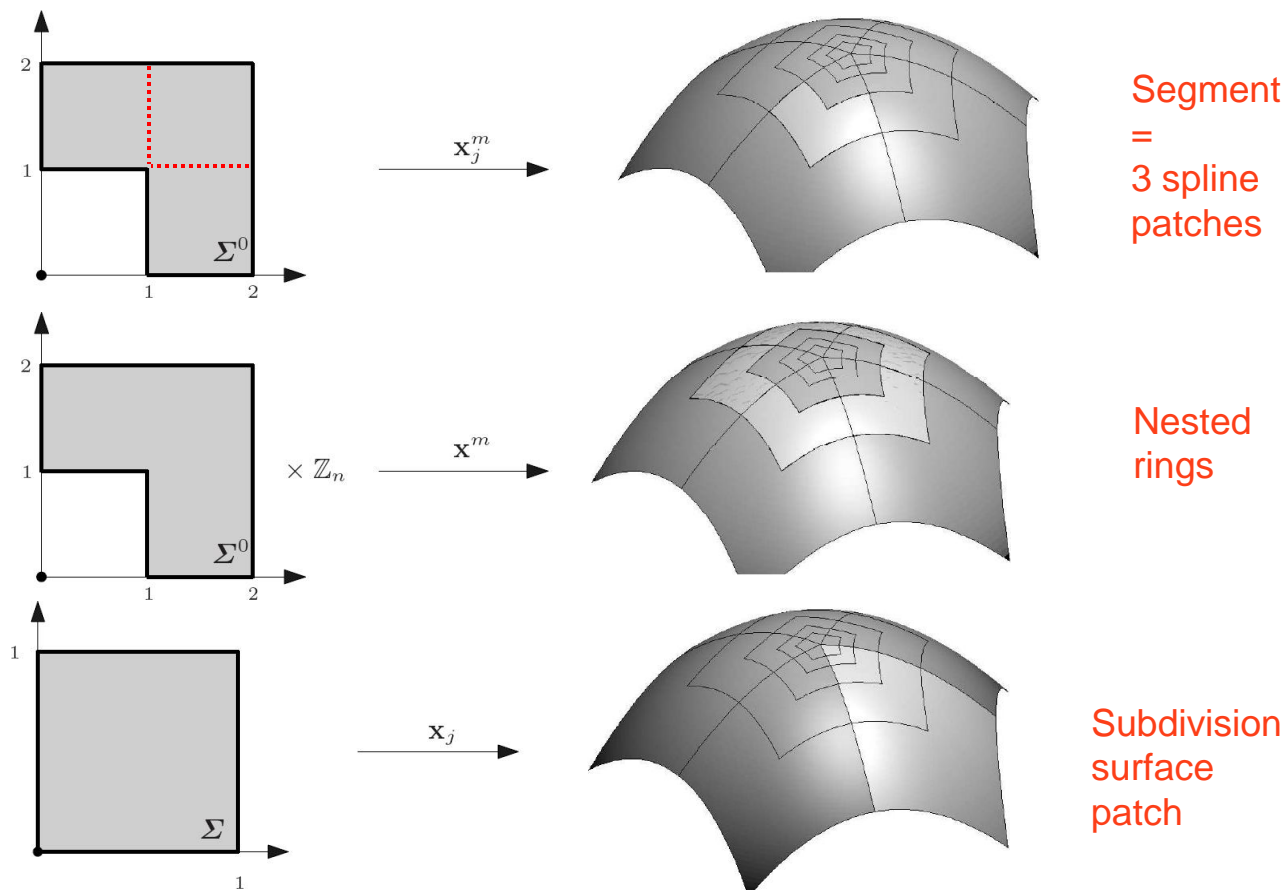
Catmull-Clark algorithm

# Subdivision Surfaces

*Mathematically*, a spline surface with isolated singularities.

From  
[Peters,  
Reif08]

Subdivision  
Surfaces



# Evaluation of Subdivision Surfaces

## ■ Standard Evaluation

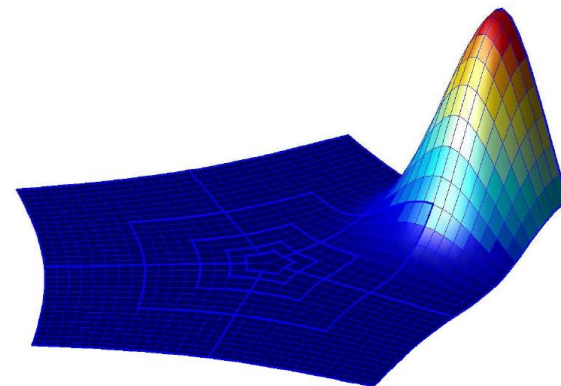
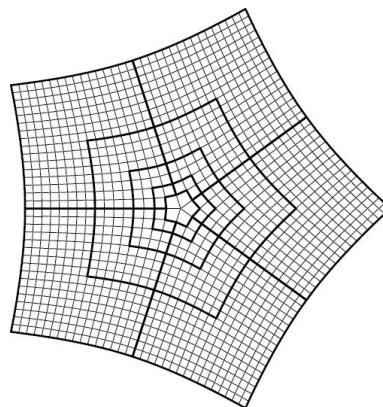
1. determine the ring  $m$  (by taking the logarithm of  $u, v$  base 2);
2. apply  $m$  subdivision steps (either by matrix  $A^m$  or stencil);
3. interpret the resulting control net at level  $m$  as L-shaped segments in B-spline form;
4. evaluate the bi-3 spline (by de Boor's algorithm).

## ■ Usually most efficient!

## ■ Especially for grids

## ■ parameterization

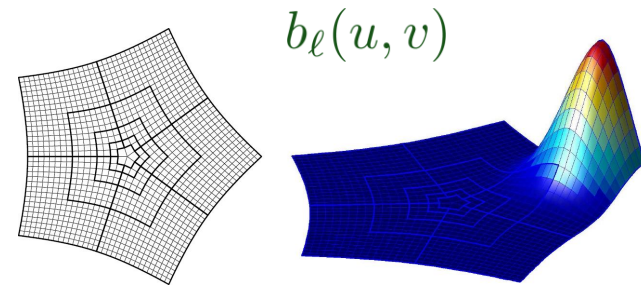
$$\sum_{i=0}^3 \sum_{j=0}^3 A^m q_{i,j} N_i(u) N_j(v).$$



# Evaluation of Subdivision Surfaces

- Standard Evaluation:

- determine  $m$ ;
- apply  $m$  steps;
- get spline;
- evaluate spline



- Alternatives for special cases only !

- Tabulation of Generating Functions [Bolz,...]

- No general creases, fixed max-level of refinement

$$\mathbf{x}(u, v) = \sum_{\ell} \mathbf{q}_{\ell} b_{\ell}(u, v)$$

- Patch selection 2. in eigenspace [DooSabin, Stam]

- Encode-decode  $A = V J V^{-1}$   $\mathbf{p} := V^{-1} \mathbf{q}$

- No creases, Isolated point, high  $m$  (level of refinement)  $A^m \mathbf{q} \rightarrow V J^m \mathbf{p}$

- Eigensystem evaluation [Micchelli, WarrenSchaefer,...]

- No creases, solve system of eq's

# Subdivision -- Summary

## Subdivision Surfaces

- are (infinitely many) piecewise polynomials
- Algorithmically: mesh refinement,  
Mathematically: spline with singularity
- Has a natural parametrization
- Best evaluated by standard technique (using the parameterization)

# Overview

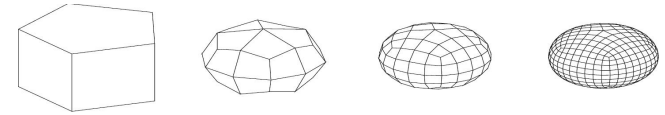
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# Efficient Substitutes: Can it be done simpler?

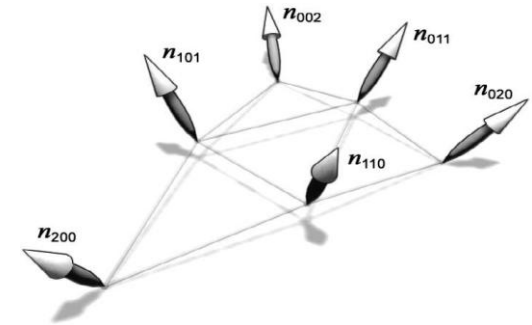
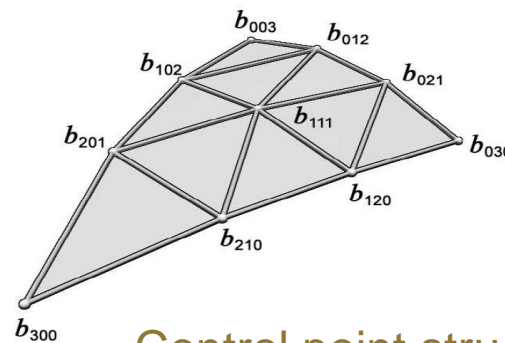
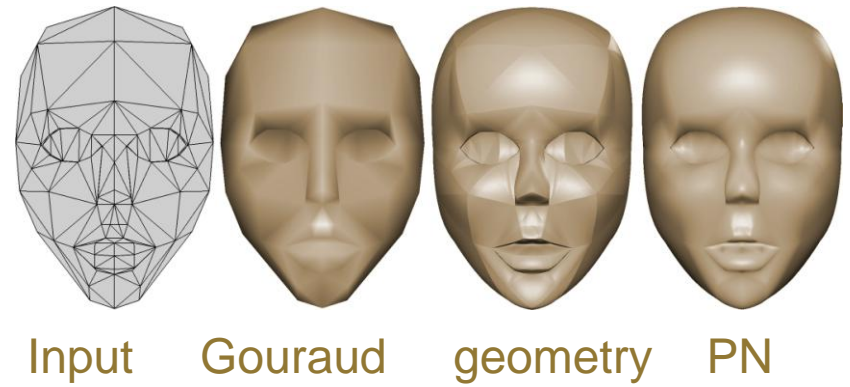
- Control polyhedra *mid-structures, proxy splines*



- Separate geometry and normal channels

- Refine geometry, refine normals

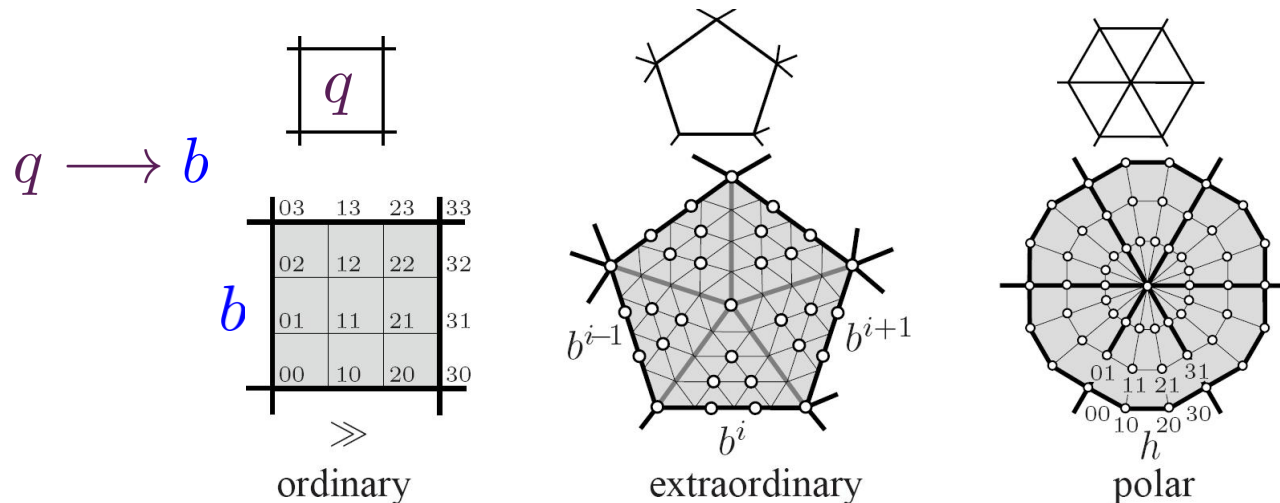
- *PN triangles* [VPBM01, BA08]
- *PN quads*
- (connectivity) **ACC** [LS08]  
*B-spline to BB*



Control point structure of **PN triangles**

# Efficient Substitutes: Smooth surfaces

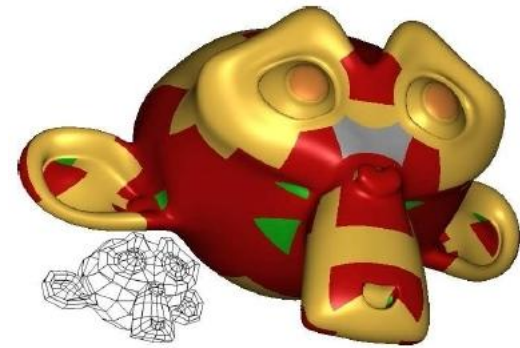
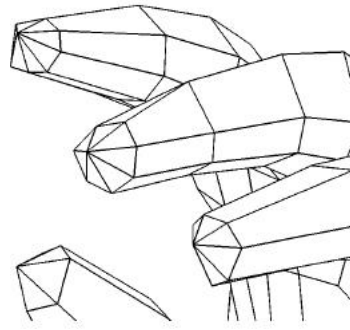
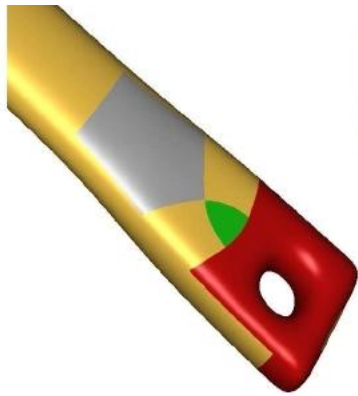
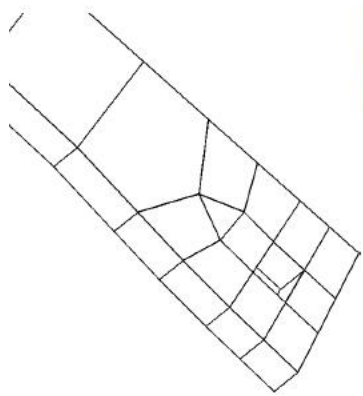
1. Control polyhedra
2. Separate geometry and normal channels (PN, ACC)
3.  $G^1$  surface constructions (smooth)
  - c-patches and many-sided  $P(m)$ -patches



Mesh-to-patch conversion

# $C^1$ surface constructions

c-patches and many-sided  $p(m)$ -patches



Quad/tri/pent model with  
hemi-sharp blends/creases (blade)

Quad/tri/pent polar models

# Efficient Substitutes -- Summary

- SubD surfaces = piecewise polynomial with **infinitely** many pieces
- Substitutes = piecewise polynomial with **finitely** many pieces

Besides (projected) control polyhedra there are **two** classes of efficient substitutes for subdivision surfaces:

- Approximately smooth (**PN, ACC**) and **G<sup>1</sup>** smooth
- **Triangular, quad** and **polar** patches are available
  - mimic both Catmull-Clark and triangle-based subdivision
- **Representations in their own right!**

# Efficiency Comparison

<i>efficiency</i>	<b>space</b>	<b>time</b>	<b>comment</b>
triangulation	–	–	fixed resolution
recursive subD	–		adaptivity?
non-recursive subD		–	creases?
tabulation	–	+	creases?
efficient substitutes	+	+	crease✓, adapt✓

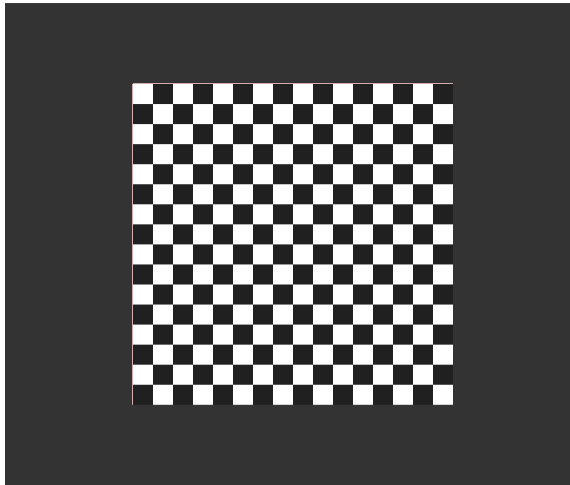
# Summary: Take home points

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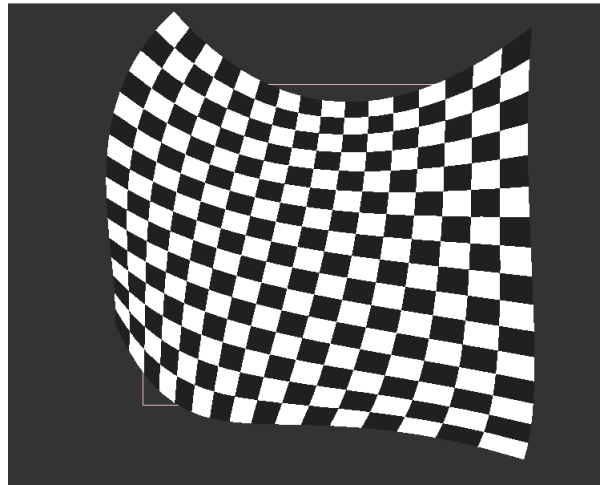
- surface **smoothness** vs position and normal **channel**
- debates 'exact' evaluation vs approximation
- **splines** in B-spline form vs Bernstein Bezier form
- **subdivision surfaces**
- **substitutes**: approximate (PN) and  $G^1$  smooth
- space and time efficiency is superior
- **Thank you!**
- **Questions?**



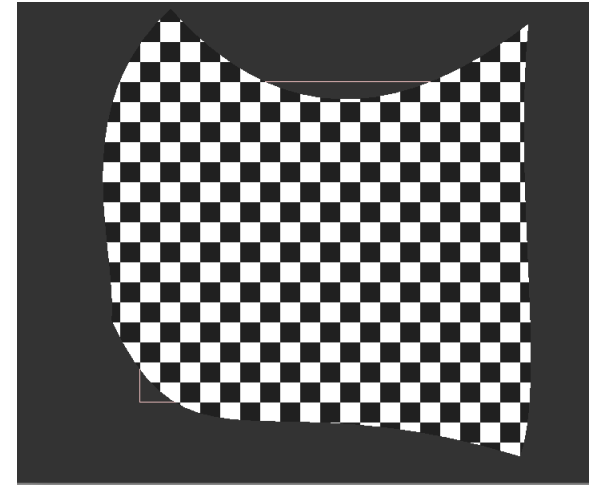
# Semi sharp blends can preserve texture



**Texture**



**After  
surface perturbation**

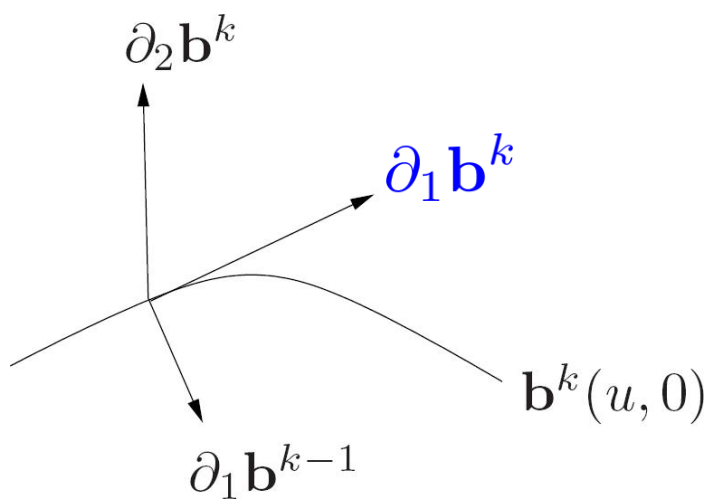
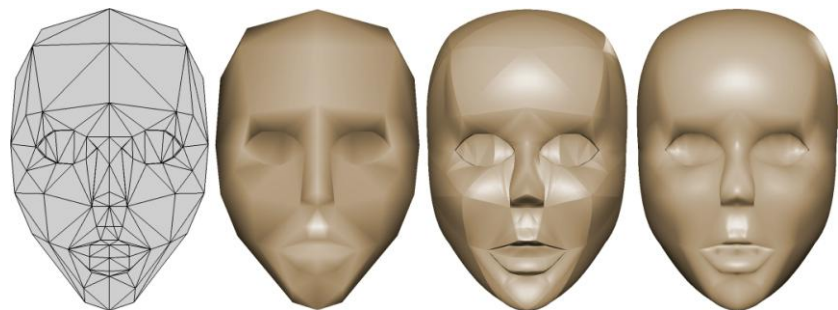


**With texture coordinates  
according to perturbation**

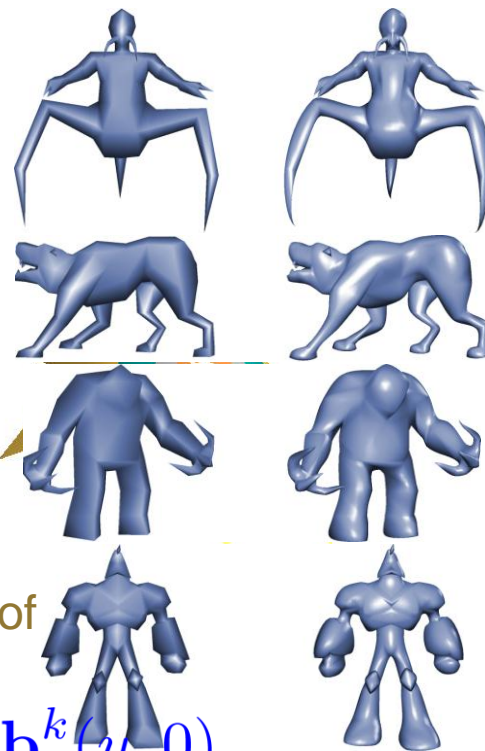
# Higher-quality surfaces?

- For high-end design,  $C^1$  continuity is not sufficient.
- Guided surfacing, L-S SGP08, bi-3  $C^2$  polar subdivision,...

# extra



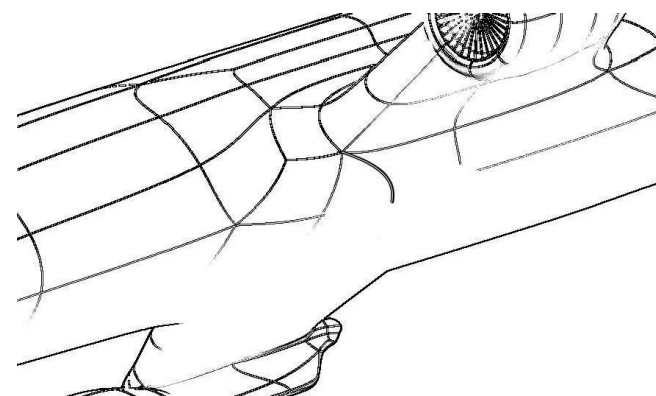
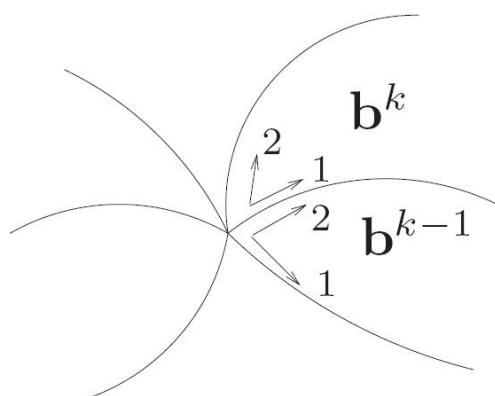
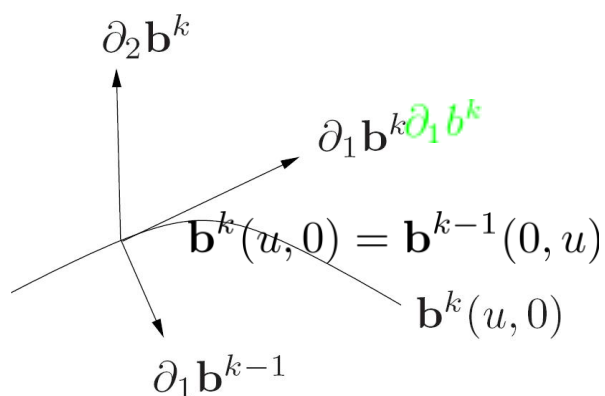
A nested sequence of



$$\beta^k(u) \partial_2 \mathbf{b}^k(u, 0) + \gamma^k(u) \partial_1 \mathbf{b}^{k-1}(0, u) = \alpha^k(u) \partial_1 \mathbf{b}^k(u, 0)$$

# Surface smoothness = unique normal

- $G^1$  continuity: equal derivatives after change of variables



$$\partial_2 \mathbf{b}^k(u, 0) + \partial_1 \mathbf{b}^{k-1}(0, u) = \alpha^k(u) \partial_1 \mathbf{b}^k(u, 0)$$

circulant constraints  
 vertex enclosure  
 Consistency of reparam's