

Maximally smooth splines on triangulations

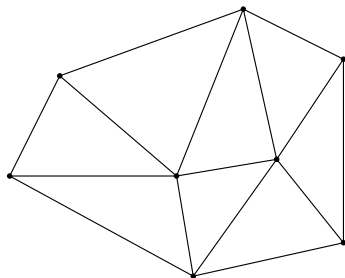
Hendrik Speleers

University of Rome Tor Vergata

Joint work with T. Lyche and C. Manni

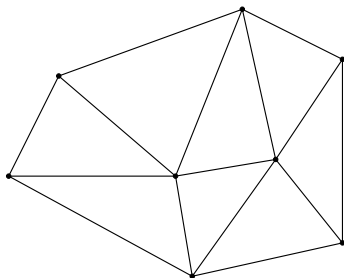


Goal



- Build **smooth** splines on **arbitrary** (possibly refined) triangulations
- Equip them with a **good** local basis
- Have **efficient** algorithms for their manipulation

Splines on triangulations

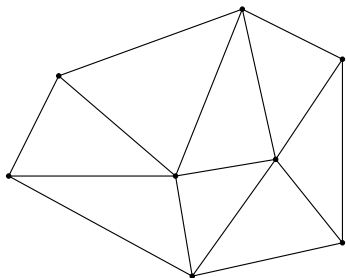


- Let \mathcal{T}_0 be a triangulation of a polygonal domain $\Omega \in \mathbb{R}^2$
- A spline space on \mathcal{T}_0 :

$$\mathbb{S}_p^r(\mathcal{T}_0) := \{f \in C^r(\Omega) : f|_{\Delta} \in \mathbb{P}_p, \forall \Delta \in \mathcal{T}_0\}$$

with $\mathbb{P}_p :=$ space of polynomials of degree $\leq p$

Splines on triangulations



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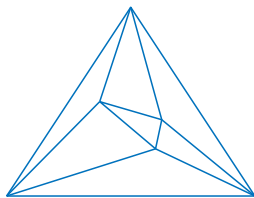
- Practical request: **stable dimension & local construction**

Stable dimension

A **stable dimension** only depends on degree, smoothness, topology
(# vertices, edges, triangles in \mathcal{T}_0)

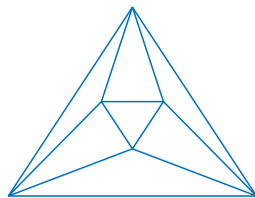
Stable dimension

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(# vertices, edges, triangles in \mathcal{T}_0)



dim = 6

$S_2^1(\mathcal{T}_0)$



dim = 7

Morgan–Scott triangulation

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$$\text{Lower Bound} \leq \dim(\mathbb{S}_p^r(\mathcal{T}_0)) \leq \text{Upper Bound}$$

L. Schumaker, *Bounds on the dimension of spaces of multivariate piecewise polynomials*, Rocky Mnt. Math., 1984

A. Ibrahim, L. Schumaker, *Super spline spaces of smoothness r and degree $d \geq 3r + 2$* , Constr. Approx., 1991

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$$\dim(\mathbb{S}_3^1(\mathcal{T}_0)) = ???$$

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Why smooth splines of low degrees?

- Smoother splines give the **same approximation order** as less smooth splines of the same degree, using fewer degrees of freedom
- Polynomials of low degrees tend to **oscillate less** than those of high degrees

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- But for C^r splines on an arbitrary triangulation we need **high degrees**

Single element construction (finite element):

Degree $4r + 1$ for C^r : $\rightarrow \mathbb{S}_5^1$ (Argyris), \mathbb{S}_9^2 , \mathbb{S}_{13}^3 , ...

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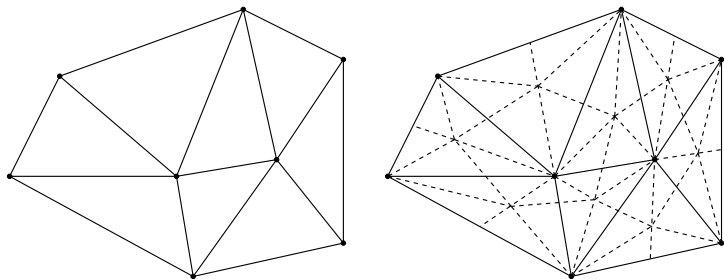
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Solution: consider refined triangulations

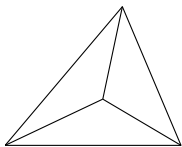
Triangulation with subpatches



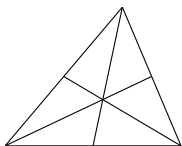
A splitting \mathcal{T}_1 of each triangle in \mathcal{T}_0 into subpatches:

$$\mathbb{S}'_p(\mathcal{T}_1) := \{f \in C^r(\Omega) : f|_T \in \mathbb{P}_p, \forall T \in \mathcal{T}_1\}$$

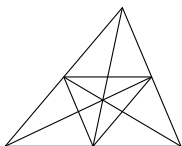
Triangulation with subpatches: popular splits



CT



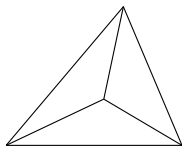
PS6



PS12

M.J. Lai and L.L. Schumaker, *Spline Functions on Triangulations*, Cambridge University Press, 2007

Triangulation with subpatches: popular splits

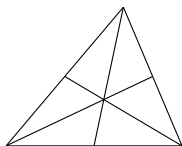


CT

S_3^1

S_7^2

S_9^3

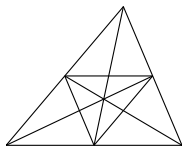


PS6

S_2^1

S_5^2

S_7^3



PS12

S_2^1

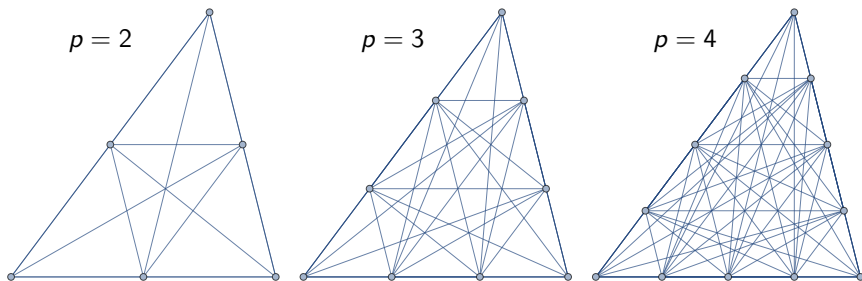
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Triangulation with subpatches: Wang–Shi splits

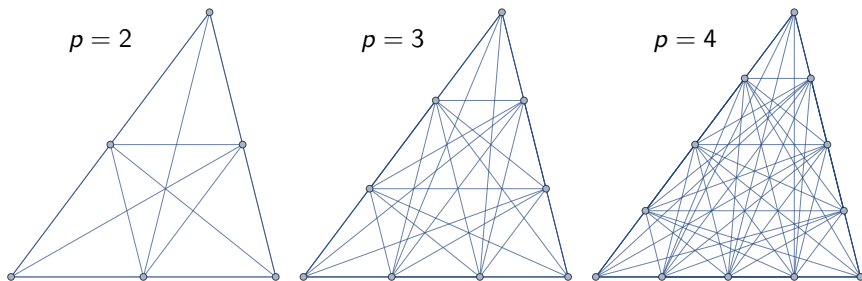
WS_p-split: complete graph of $p + 1$ uniform points on each edge



R.H. Wang and X.Q. Shi, $S_{\mu+1}^{\mu}$ surface interpolations over triangulations, in: *Approximation, Optimization and Computing: Theory and Applications*, Elsevier Science Publishers, pp. 205–208, 1990

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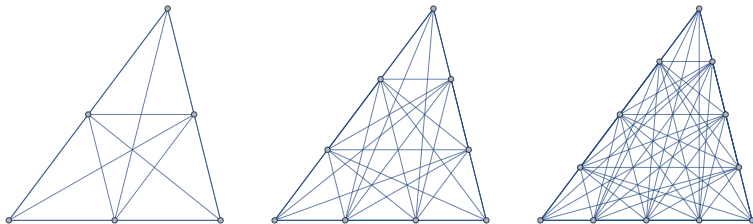


- $S_p^{p-1}(\Delta_{WS_p})$ on such partition Δ_{WS_p}
- cross-cut partitions

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Dimension formula

On a cross-cut partition Δ_c of a simply connected domain in \mathbb{R}^2 with m interior cross cuts, we have $\dim \mathbb{S}_p^{p-1}(\Delta_c) = \dim \mathbb{P}_p + m$, $p \in \mathbb{N}$ provided at most $p + 1$ lines cross at each interior vertex

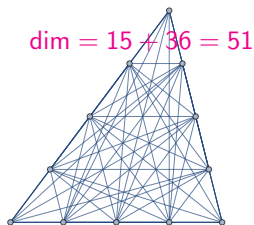
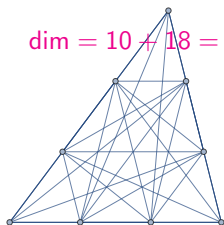
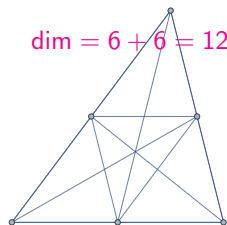


WS_p -split: $m = 3p(p - 1)$ cross cuts

T. Lyche, C. Manni, and H. Speleers, *Construction of C^2 cubic splines on arbitrary triangulations*, *Found. Comput. Math.*, 22:1309–1350, 2022

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Dimension formula: local and global

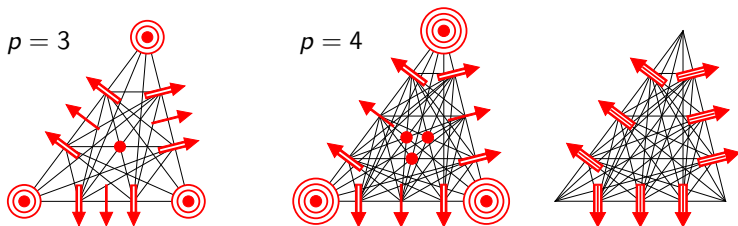
- Dimension comparisons with no split Δ :
 - $\dim(\mathbb{S}_2^1(\triangle)) = 12 \iff \dim(\mathbb{S}_5^1(\Delta)) = 21$
 - $\dim(\mathbb{S}_3^2(\triangle)) = 28 \iff \dim(\mathbb{S}_9^2(\Delta)) = 55$
 - $\dim(\mathbb{S}_4^3(\triangle)) = 51 \iff \dim(\mathbb{S}_{13}^3(\Delta)) = 105$

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- Degrees of freedom for Δ_{WS_p} :



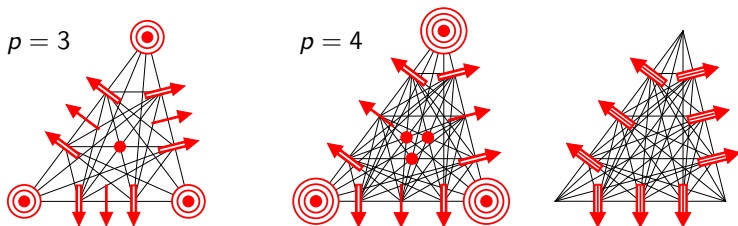
- $\dim(\mathbb{S}_3^2(\mathcal{T}_1)) = 6n_v + 3n_e + n_t$
- $\dim(\mathbb{S}_4^3(\mathcal{T}_1)) = 10n_v + 6n_e + 3n_t$

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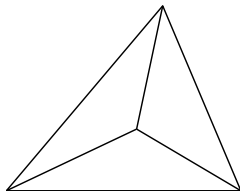
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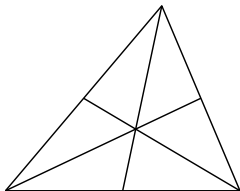
$$\dim(\mathbb{S}_p^{p-1}(\mathcal{T}_1)) = \binom{p+1}{2} n_v + \binom{p}{2} n_e + \binom{p-1}{2} n_t$$

Macro-triangles: many subpatches...

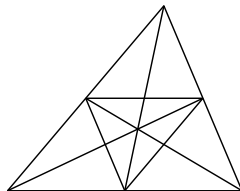
C^1 cubic



C^1 quadratic

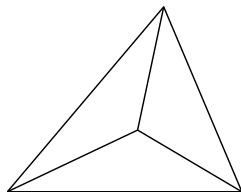


C^1 quadratic

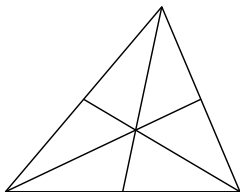


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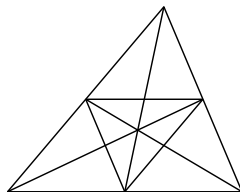
C^1 cubic



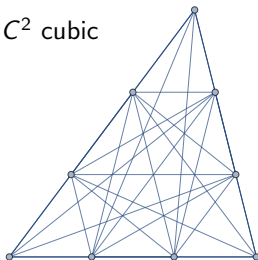
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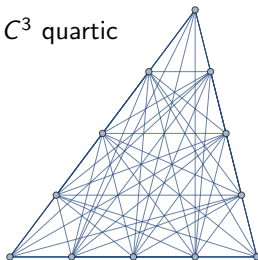


C^2 cubic



75 subpatches

C^3 quartic



250 subpatches

Looking for a good basis

The set of **Bernstein polynomials** are defined by

$$B_{i,j,k}(u, v, w) = \frac{p!}{i!j!k!} u^i v^j w^k, \quad i + j + k = p$$

where (u, v, w) are the barycentric coordinates w.r.t. triangle

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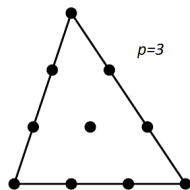
They form a basis for the polynomial space \mathbb{P}_p :

$$g \in \mathbb{P}_p \quad \Rightarrow \quad g(u, v, w) = \sum_{i+j+k=p} c_{i,j,k} B_{i,j,k}(u, v, w)$$

Looking for a good basis

Properties of Bernstein polynomials:

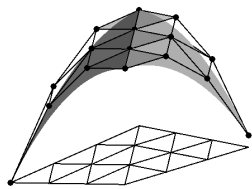
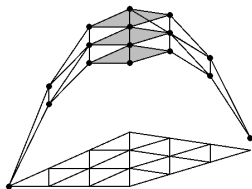
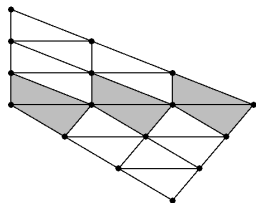
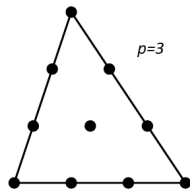
- nonnegative partition of unity
- differentiation formula, recurrence relation
- domain points and control points



Looking for a good basis

Properties of Bernstein polynomials:

- nonnegative partition of unity
- differentiation formula, recurrence relation
- domain points and control points
- simple conditions for smooth joins to neighboring triangles



Looking for a good basis

Building a global basis on a triangulation using the MDS principle:

A **minimal determining set (MDS)** is a set with the minimal number of domain points such that the corresponding coefficients equal to zero give the zero function

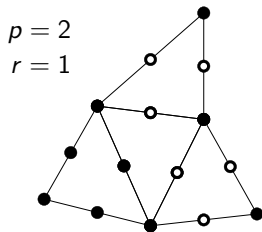
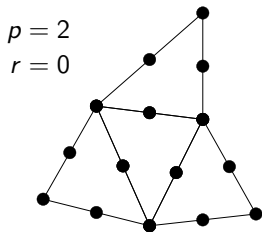
- determine all smoothness conditions
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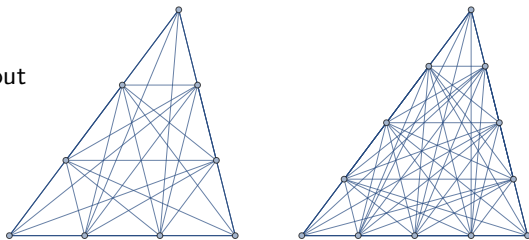
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But... what about



Looking for a **very** good basis

We would like a B-spline like basis for $\mathbb{S}_p^{p-1}(\Delta_{WS_p})$:

- local support
- nonnegative partition of unity
- differentiation formula, recurrence relation
- Marsden-like identity: explicit representation of polynomials
 - ⇒ can be used to build dual functionals and quasi-interpolants
- simple conditions for smooth joins to neighboring triangles
 - ⇒ can be used to build a global MDS basis

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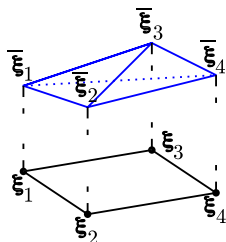
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Try **simplex splines** (multivariate B-splines)

C.A. Micchelli, *On a numerically efficient method for computing multivariate B-splines*, in: *Multivariate Approximation Theory*, Birkhäuser, pp. 211–248, 1979

W. Dahmen, *On multivariate B-splines*, *SIAM J. Numer. Anal.*, 17:179–191, 1980

Simplex lifting



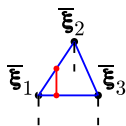
$$s = 2, n = 3$$

- Given a sequence of $n + 1$ points $\Xi := \{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_{n+1}\}$ in \mathbb{R}^s
- Assume nondegenerate $\langle \Xi \rangle$: $\text{vol}_s(\langle \Xi \rangle) > 0$
- $\bar{\xi}_1, \dots, \bar{\xi}_{n+1}$ points in \mathbb{R}^n whose projection $\pi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^s$ onto the first s coordinates satisfies $\pi(\bar{\xi}_i) = \xi_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, n + 1$.
- The simplex $\sigma := \langle \bar{\xi}_1, \dots, \bar{\xi}_{n+1} \rangle$ has positive volume

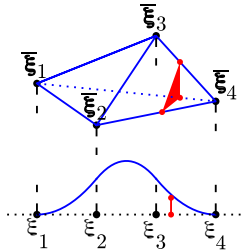
Simplex splines: geometric definition

- $\Xi := \{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_{n+1}\} \in \mathbb{R}^s$ (knots)
- $\sigma := \langle \bar{\xi}_1, \dots, \bar{\xi}_{n+1} \rangle \in \mathbb{R}^n$ (lifted simplex)
- $p := n - s \geq 0$ (degree)

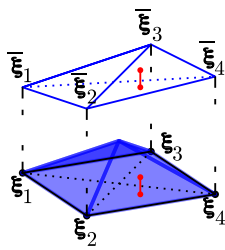
$$M_{\Xi} : \mathbb{R}^s \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad M_{\Xi}(\mathbf{x}) := \begin{cases} \frac{\text{vol}_p(\sigma \cap \pi^{-1}(\mathbf{x}))}{\text{vol}_n(\sigma)}, & \text{if } \text{vol}_s(\langle \Xi \rangle) > 0 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



univariate linear



univariate quadratic



bivariate linear

Simplex splines: properties

- **Knot dependence:** M_{Ξ} only depends on Ξ ; in particular, it is independent of the choice of σ and the ordering of the knots
- **Nonnegativity:** M_{Ξ} is a nonnegative piecewise polynomial of total degree p and support $\langle \Xi \rangle$
- **Normalization:** M_{Ξ} has unit integral
- **The ABC recurrence relations ($n = p + s$):**

- *Differentiation formula (A-recurrence):* For any $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^s$

$$(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) M_{\Xi} = (p + s) \sum_{i=1}^{p+s+1} a_i M_{\Xi \setminus \xi_i}, \quad \sum_i a_i \xi_i = \mathbf{u}, \quad \sum_i a_i = 0$$

- *Recurrence relation (B-recurrence):* For any $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^s$

$$M_{\Xi}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{p+s}{p} \sum_{i=1}^{p+s+1} b_i M_{\Xi \setminus \xi_i}(\mathbf{x}), \quad \sum_i b_i \xi_i = \mathbf{x}, \quad \sum_i b_i = 1$$

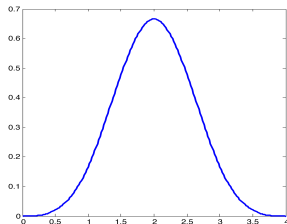
- *Knot insertion formula (C-recurrence):* For any $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^s$

$$M_{\Xi} = \sum_{i=1}^{p+s+1} c_i M_{\Xi \cup \mathbf{y} \setminus \xi_i}, \quad \sum_i c_i \xi_i = \mathbf{y}, \quad \sum_i c_i = 1$$

Simplex splines: univariate case

$$s = 1$$

- $M_{\Xi} =$ univariate B-spline of degree p with knots Ξ normalized to have integral one in the nondegenerate case



Simplex splines: bivariate case

$$s = 2$$

The lines in the complete graph of Ξ are called **knot lines**, providing a partition of $\langle \Xi \rangle$ into polygonal regions

- The simplex spline M_{Ξ} is a polynomial of degree

$$p = \#\Xi - 3$$

in each region of this partition

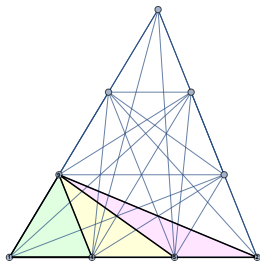
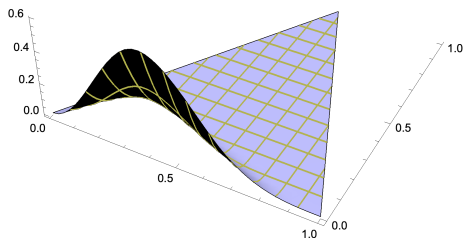
- Across a knot line:

$$M_{\Xi} \in C^{p+1-\mu}$$

μ = number of knots on that knot line, including multiplicities

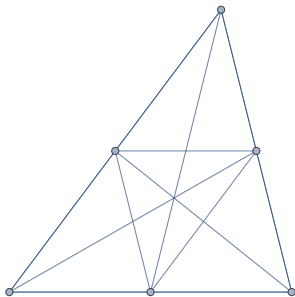
- At any boundary line: zero or univariate B-spline

Simplex splines: cubic example, $p = 3$, $s = 2$



- $p + s + 1 = 6$ knots with double knot at vertex
- Across horizontal boundary line: $C^{p+1-\mu} = C^{4-5} = C^{-1}$
- Univariate cubic B-spline restricted to that line
- $C^{p+1-\mu} = C^{4-3} = C^1$ across left boundary line
- Across remaining knot lines: $C^{p+1-\mu} = C^{4-2} = C^2$

C^1 quadratics

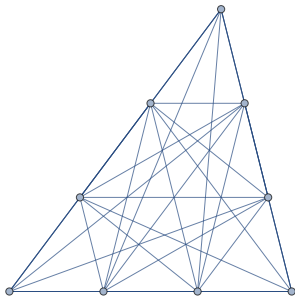


A nonnegative partition of unity (scaled) simplex spline basis

$$B_1, \dots, B_{12}$$

E. Cohen, T. Lyche, and R.F. Riesenfeld, *A B-spline-like basis for the Powell-Sabin 12-split based on simplex splines*, Math. Comput., 82:1667–1707, 2013

C^2 cubics

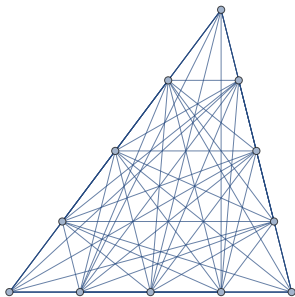


A nonnegative partition of unity (scaled) simplex spline basis

$$B_1, \dots, B_{28}$$

T. Lyche, C. Manni, and H. Speleers, *Construction of C^2 cubic splines on arbitrary triangulations*, *Found. Comput. Math.*, 22:1309–1350, 2022

C^3 quartics

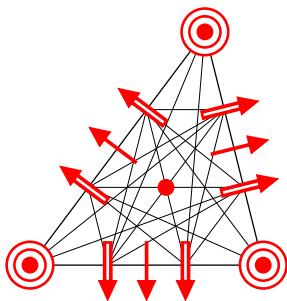


A nonnegative partition of unity (scaled) simplex spline basis

$$B_1, \dots, B_{51}$$

T. Lyche, C. Manni, and H. Speleers, *A local simplex spline basis for C^3 quartic splines on arbitrary triangulations*, Appl. Math. Comput., 462:128330, 2024

C^2 cubics: details of construction



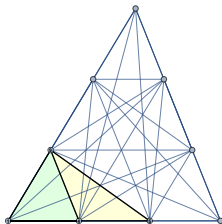
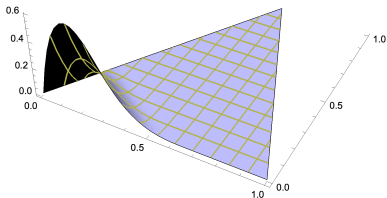
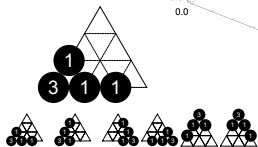
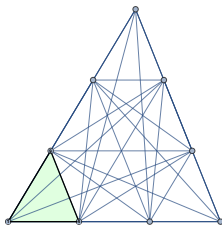
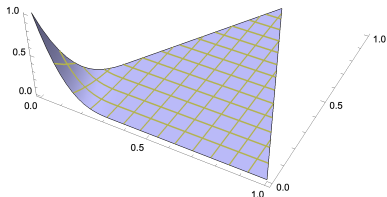
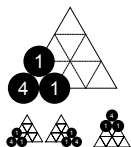
A nonnegative partition of unity (scaled) simplex spline basis

$$B_1, \dots, B_{28}$$

T. Lyche, C. Manni, and H. Speleers, *Construction of C^2 cubic splines on arbitrary triangulations*, *Found. Comput. Math.*, 22:1309–1350, 2022

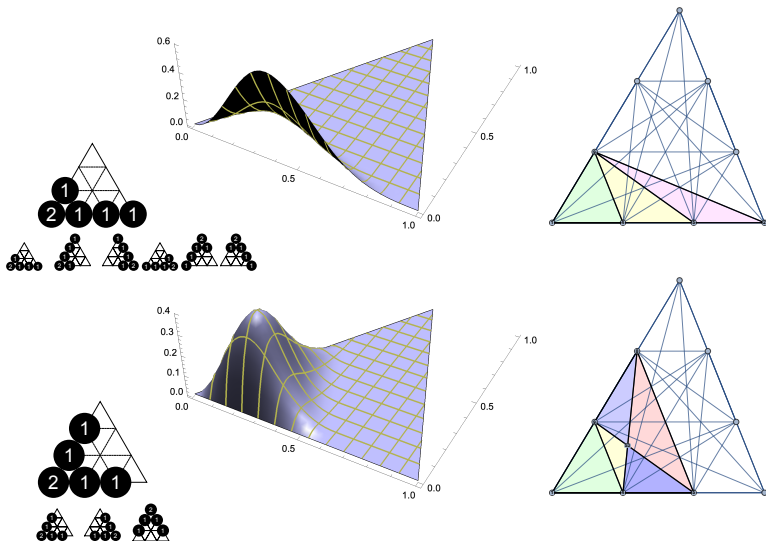
C^2 cubics: construction of B_1, \dots, B_9

B_1, \dots, B_9 related to value and first derivatives at vertices



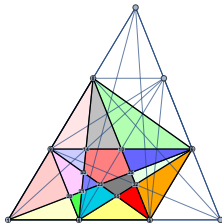
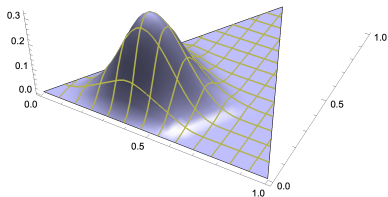
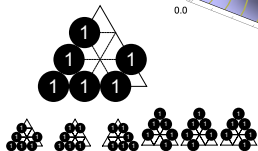
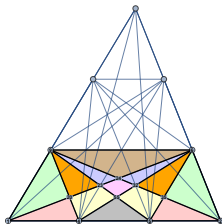
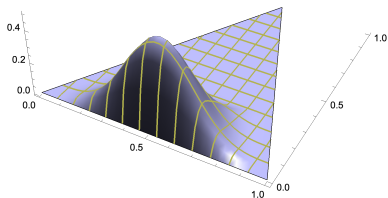
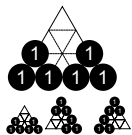
C^2 cubics: construction of B_{10}, \dots, B_{18}

B_{10}, \dots, B_{18} related to second derivatives at vertices



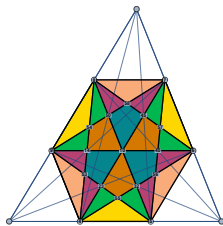
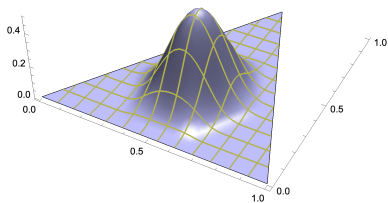
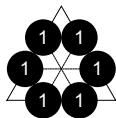
C^2 cubics: construction of B_{19}, \dots, B_{27}

B_{19}, \dots, B_{27} related to first and second derivatives across edges



C^2 cubics: construction of B_{28}

B_{28} related to interior value



C^{p-1} splines of degree p : properties

Properties of the (scaled) simplex spline basis $p = 2, 3, 4$:

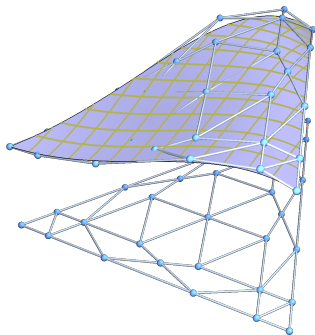
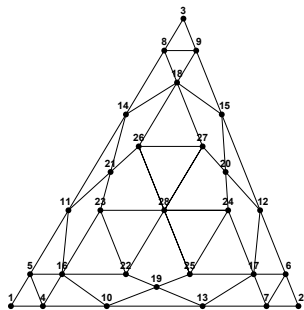
- **Basis**: they are linearly independent on $\Delta \Rightarrow$ basis of $\mathbb{S}_p^{p-1}(\Delta_{\text{WS}_p})$
- **Nonnegativity**: they form a nonnegative partition of unity
- **Classical B-splines** when restricted to boundary
- **Simplex recurrence relations** for their manipulation
- **Marsden-like identity**: representation of polynomials

$$(1 + \mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{x})^p = \sum_i \psi_i(\mathbf{y}) B_i(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^2, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Delta$$

with $\psi_i(\mathbf{y}) := \prod_{j=1}^p (1 + \mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{r}_{i,j})$ for almost all i

- They can be extended in a **Bernstein–Bézier fashion** to compute smooth surfaces on arbitrary triangulations

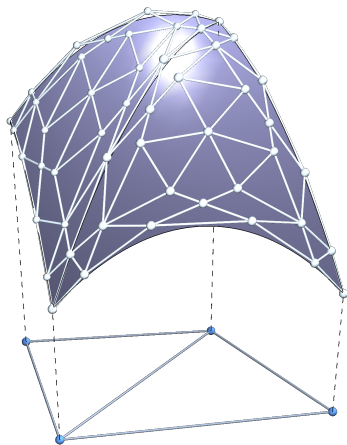
Domain points and control net for $p = 3$



Domain points and a possible control net for $p = 3$

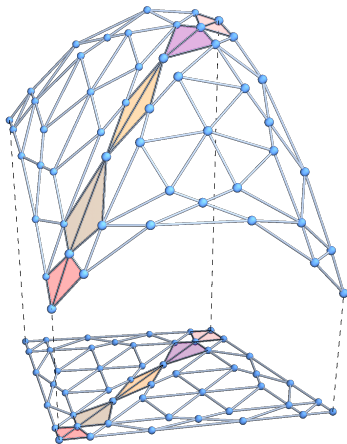
The control mesh is at a distance $O(h^2)$ from the surface where h is the longest side of the triangle

Smoothness across an edge for $p = 3$



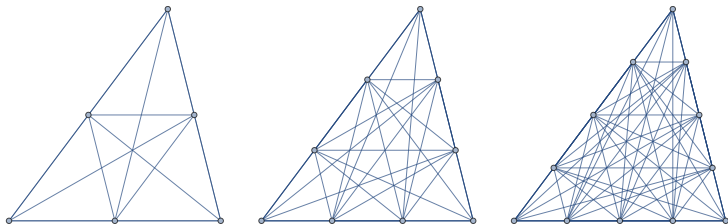
C^0, C^1, C^2 smoothness conditions analogous to the Bernstein representation in triangular polynomial case

Smoothness across an edge for $p = 3$



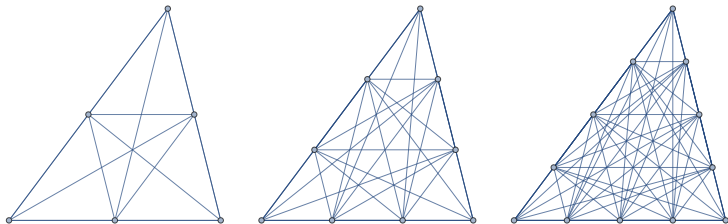
C^1 conditions in the C^2 cubic case

Conclusions









- The WS_p -splines, $p = 2, 3, 4$ allow to **locally** construct $C^1/C^2/C^3$ quadratic/cubic/quartic splines on **any** triangulation
- They seem extremely complicated, but
 - the computation can be done in a Bernstein–Bézier fashion using a **simplex spline basis** on each macro-triangle which forms a nonnegative partition of unity
 - for their manipulation one can exploit the features of simplex splines (**recurrence relations**)

Conclusions



- The WS_p -splines, $p = 2, 3, 4$ allow to **locally** construct $C^1/C^2/C^3$ quadratic/cubic/quartic splines on **any** triangulation
- Local approximation methods can be developed by exploiting **Marsden-like identity**
- Tailored **quadrature rules** can be constructed by exploiting the inter-element maximal smoothness
 - 4 nodes suffice for integration of C^1 quadratics
 - 10 nodes suffice for integration of C^2 cubics

References

-  E. Cohen, T. Lyche, and R.F. Riesenfeld, *A B-spline-like basis for the Powell–Sabin 12-split based on simplex splines*, *Math. Comput.*, 82:1667–1707, 2013
-  S. Eddargani, T. Lyche, C. Manni, and H. Speleers, *Quadrature rules for C^1 quadratic spline finite elements on the Powell–Sabin 12-split*, *Comput. Methods Appl. Mech. Eng.*, 430:117196, 2024
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-  T. Lyche, C. Manni, and H. Speleers, *A local simplex spline basis for C^3 quartic splines on arbitrary triangulations*, *Appl. Math. Comput.*, 462:128330, 2024
-  M. Marsala, C. Manni, and H. Speleers *Maximally smooth cubic spline quasi-interpolants on arbitrary triangulations*, *Comput. Aided Geom. Design*, 112:102348, 2024
-  R.H. Wang and X.Q. Shi, $S_{\mu+1}^{\mu}$ *surface interpolations over triangulations*, in: *Approximation, Optimization and Computing: Theory and Applications*, Elsevier Science Publishers, pp. 205–208, 1990

Announcement

SIAM Conference on Computational Geometric Design

July 28–30, 2025

Montréal Convention Center

Montréal, Québec, Canada

<https://www.siam.org/conferences-events/siam-conferences/gd25/>



Keynote speakers

Henry Bucklow (ITI CADfix), Géraldine Morin (U Toulouse), Helmut Pottman (TU Wien), Alla Sheffer (U British Columbia), Wenping Wang (Texas A&M)

Deadline dates

Minisymposium proposal: January 13, 2025

Abstract submission: January 27, 2025