

Answers for Quiz 3

18.11.2003

YOU must write GOOD Mathematics, clearly explaining each step of your proof. Otherwise, no objection!

1. Prove by induction on k that

$$\Delta^k \mathbf{b}_i = \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^j \binom{k}{j} \mathbf{b}_{i+k-j}.$$

SOLUTION We prove it by induction k . The initial case $k = 0$ is clear. Let us suppose that it is true for any integer $k \geq 1$ and try to obtain the order $k + 1$ th from that of k th. For this purpose let us remark that

$$\Delta^{k+1} \mathbf{b}_i = \Delta^k (\Delta \mathbf{b}_i) = \Delta^k (\mathbf{b}_{i+1} - \mathbf{b}_i) = \Delta^k \mathbf{b}_{i+1} - \Delta^k \mathbf{b}_i.$$

We want to deduce that the coefficient of $\mathbf{b}_{i+k+1-j}$ in the expansion of $\Delta^{k+1} \mathbf{b}_i$ is equal to $(-1)^j \binom{k+1}{j}$. Thus applying the formula to the RHS of the equation of the induction hypothesis gives

$$\Delta^{k+1} \mathbf{b}_i = \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^j \binom{k}{j} \mathbf{b}_{i+k+1-j} - \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^j \binom{k}{j} \mathbf{b}_{i+k-j}.$$

The coefficient of the term $\mathbf{b}_{i+1+k-j}$ for $1 \leq j \leq k$ on the two summations above is

$$(-1)^j \binom{k}{j} - (-1)^{j-1} \binom{k}{j-1},$$

where j is replaced by $j - 1$ to get the term $\mathbf{b}_{i+1+k-j}$ from \mathbf{b}_{i+k-j} . These two binomial coefficients are combined using Pascal's identity to give the coefficient of the term $\mathbf{b}_{i+1+k-j}$, $(-1)^j \binom{k+1}{j}$. Here notice that for $j = 0$ only the first binomial is nonzero and for $j = k + 1$ the only nonzero binomial is the second. These two conditions establish the end values of the summation in the expansion $\Delta^{k+1} \mathbf{b}_i$. Thus the induction is complete

$$\Delta^{k+1} \mathbf{b}_i = \sum_{j=0}^{k+1} (-1)^j \binom{k+1}{j} \mathbf{b}_{i+k+1-j}.$$

2. Given the control points $(0, 0), (2, 2), (4, 0), (6, 2)$, let $\mathbf{X}(t)$ be the Bézier curve. Evaluate $\ddot{\mathbf{X}}(t)$ (the second derivative), *using the derivative formula for the Bézier curves*. (Direct derivative calculation will not be accepted in any circumstance)

SOLUTION We have the k th derivative formula

$$\mathbf{X}^{(k)}(t) = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!} \sum_{i=0}^{n-k} \Delta^k \mathbf{b}_i B_i^{n-k}(t).$$

Let us evaluate the differences,

$$\begin{aligned} &(0, 0), (2, 2), (4, 0), (6, 2) \\ &\Delta \mathbf{b}_i; (2, 2), (2, -2), (2, 2) \\ &\Delta^2 \mathbf{b}_0 = (0, -4), \Delta^2 \mathbf{b}_1 = (0, 4) \end{aligned}$$

Thus applying the formula and placing the difference we obtain

$$\ddot{\mathbf{X}}(t) = 6((1-t).(0, -4) + t.(0, 4)) = (0, 48t - 24).$$