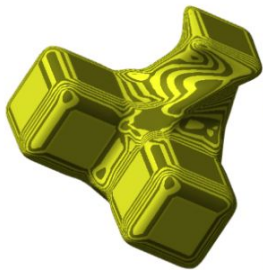


# What smooth surfaces can be constructed from **total degree 2 splines**?

Jorg Peters & Kęstas Karčiauskas



Jorg Peters U of Florida

GMP 2025

<https://www.cise.ufl.edu/~jorg/>

# Lower Bound Results

Total Degree 2 Splines    Jörg Peters

Degree estimates for  $C^k$ -piecewise polynomial  
subdivision surfaces

Hartmut Prautzsch<sup>a</sup> and Ulrich Reif<sup>b,\*</sup>

C2 subdivision requires polynomial  
pieces of degree  $2*3$

***"On the Complexity of Smooth Spline Surfaces from Quad Meshes"***

Jörg Peters and Jianhua Fan

*Computer Aided Geometric Design (CAGD)* vol. 27, no. 1, pp. 96-105, 2010 

***"Least Degree  $G^1$ -refinable Multi-sided Surfaces Suitable for Inclusion into  $C^1$  bi-2 Splines"***

Kestutis Karčiauskas, Jörg Peters

*CAD*, 2020 

***"A sharp degree bound on  $G^2$  refinable multi-sided surfaces"***

Kestutis Karčiauskas, Jörg Peters

*Solid and Physical Modeling*, 2020  talk

# Rich space of quadratic C1 splines!

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---

- + C1 with constant 2nd derivatives:  
Powell-Sabin Splines, Zwart-Powell Splines

Dierckx et al. (1992,7) Manni ,Sablonniere (2007), Speleers et al. (2006), Cohen et al. (2013); Windmolders and Dierckx (1999, 2000); Speleers et al. (2007, 2012, 2013); da Veiga et al. (2015), Lyche and Muntingh (2019)

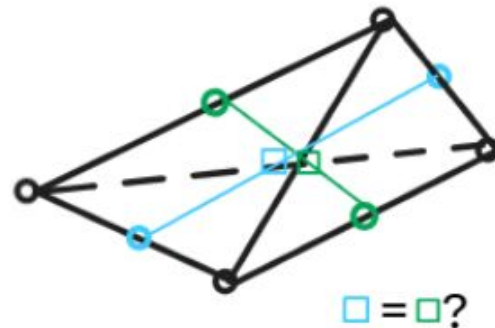
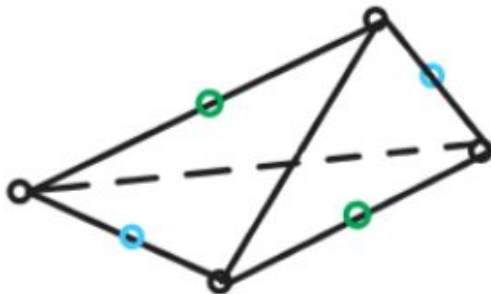
- + exact-parametrizable planar slices (conics)  
(no numerical ambiguity → occluding contours/silhouettes Capouellez Sig23)
- shape deficient (not quite rich enough)

# C1 splines use quadrilateral configurations

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- + C1 splines with constant 2nd derivatives  
Powell-Sabin Splines, Zwart-Powell Splines

Dierckx et al. (1992,7) Manni ,Sablonniere (2007), Speleers et al. (2006), Cohen et al. (2013); Windmolders and Dierckx (1999, 2000); Speleers et al. (2007, 2012, 2013); da Veiga et al. (2015), Lyche and Muntingh (2019)

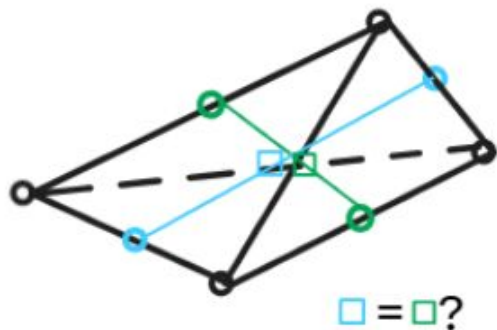


# C1 splines use quadrilateral configurations

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$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 4a & - & 2(a+d) & - & 4d \\ | & & | & & | \\ 2(a+b) & - & a+b & - & 2(c+d) \\ | & & | & & | \\ 4b & - & 2(b+c) & - & 4c \end{array}$$

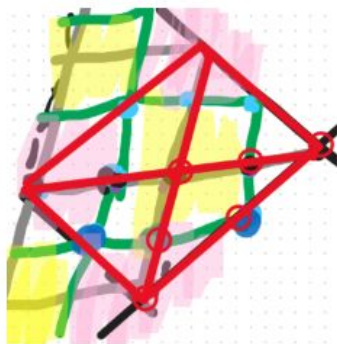
bi-linear

# C1 splines use quadrilateral configurations

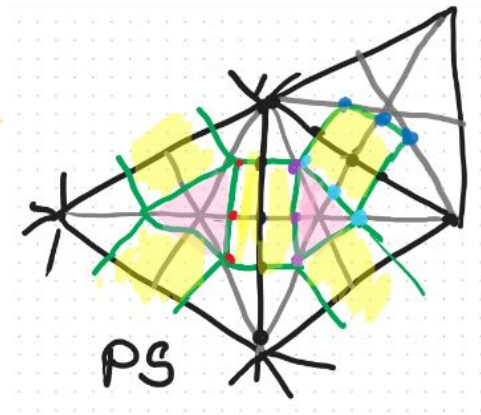
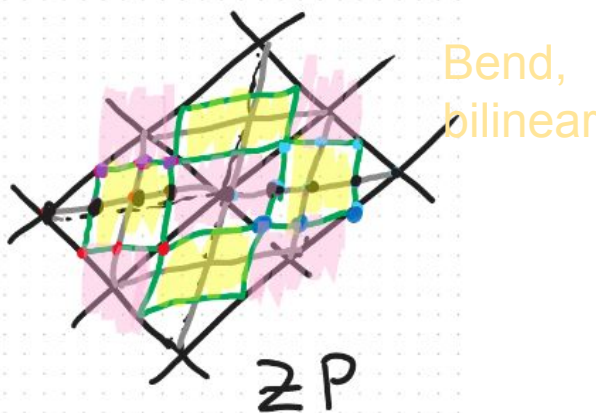
Total Degree 2 Splines Jorg Peters

- + C1 splines with constant 2nd derivatives  
Powell-Sabin Splines, Zwart-Powell Splines

Dierckx et al. (1992,7) Manni ,Sablonniere (2007), Speleers et al. (2006), Cohen et al. (2013); Windmolders and Dierckx (1999, 2000); Speleers et al. (2007, 2012, 2013); da Veiga et al. (2015), Lyche and Muntingh (2019)



Stiff,  
planar

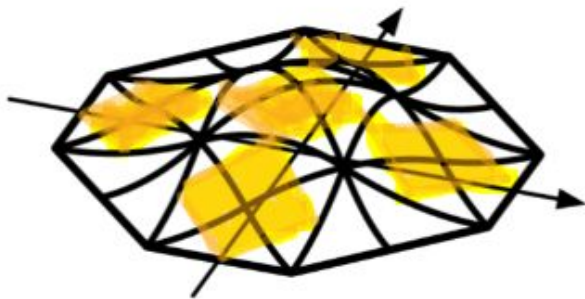


# C1 splines use quadrilateral configurations

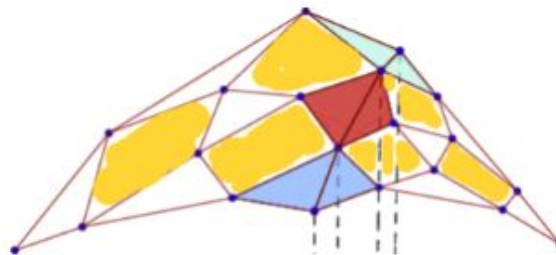
Total Degree 2 Splines Jorg Peters

- + C1 splines with constant 2nd derivatives  
Powell-Sabin Splines, Zwart-Powell Splines

Dierckx et al. (1992,7) Manni ,Sablonniere (2007), Speleers et al. (2006), Cohen et al. (2013); Windmolders and Dierckx (1999, 2000); Speleers et al. (2007, 2012, 2013); da Veiga et al. (2015), Lyche and Muntingh (2019)



(a) ZP spline




(b) PS spline

# Can total degree 2 splines model free-form surfaces?

Total Degree 2 Splines Jorg Peters

1. Can Powell-Sabin (PS) or Zwart-Powell (ZP) constructions model smooth general free-form surfaces?
2. Can total degree 2 pieces (quadratics) model smooth general free-form surfaces? If so, how? (local?)

Assumptions: degree 2 splines

- flat, straight edge, domain triangles   $\rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$
- G1 (C1) joined:

**Lemma 1** ( $G^1$  constraints, DeRose (1990); Peters (1990)). *Two polynomial pieces  $\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q} : (u, v) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  join  $G^1$  along the common boundary  $\mathbf{p}(u, 0) = \mathbf{q}(u, 0), u \in [0..1]$  if and only if there exist polynomials  $\lambda, \mu, \nu : [0..1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \mu\nu > 0$ , so that*

$$\overline{\lambda(u)} \overline{\partial_u \mathbf{p}(u, 0)} = \overline{\mu(u)} \overline{\partial_v \mathbf{p}(u, 0)} + \overline{\nu(u)} \overline{\partial_v \mathbf{q}(u, 0)}, \quad u \in [0..1]. \quad (G1)$$



# Can total degree 2 splines model free-form surfaces?

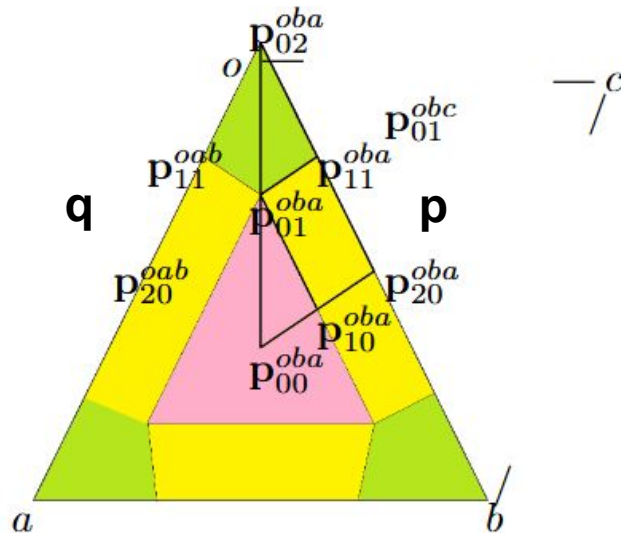
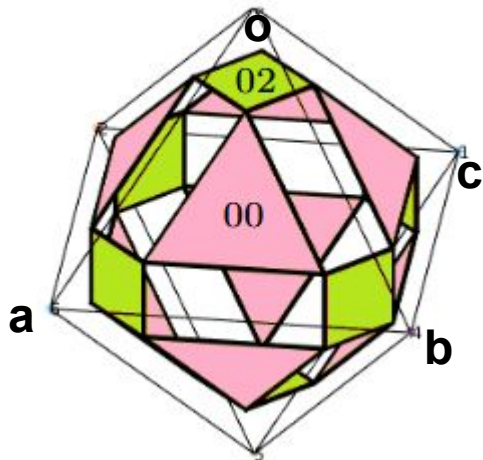
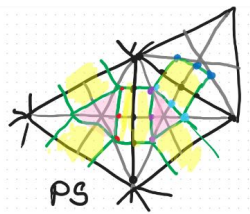
Total Degree 2 Splines Jorg Peters

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- A symmetric **counterexample** to free-form Powell-Sabin constructions
- Shape constraints for piecewise quadratic G1 surfaces of **genus other than 1**
- Special quadratic surface **constructions**

# A symmetric counterexample to free-form Powell-Sabin constructions

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$$\partial_v \mathbf{p}(u, 0) + \partial_v \mathbf{q}(u, 0) = b(u) \partial_u \mathbf{p}(u, 0), \quad u \in [0..1], \quad b : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

$(G_{sym}^1)$

1 1 1  $\rightarrow$  degree(b)=0 for PS spline

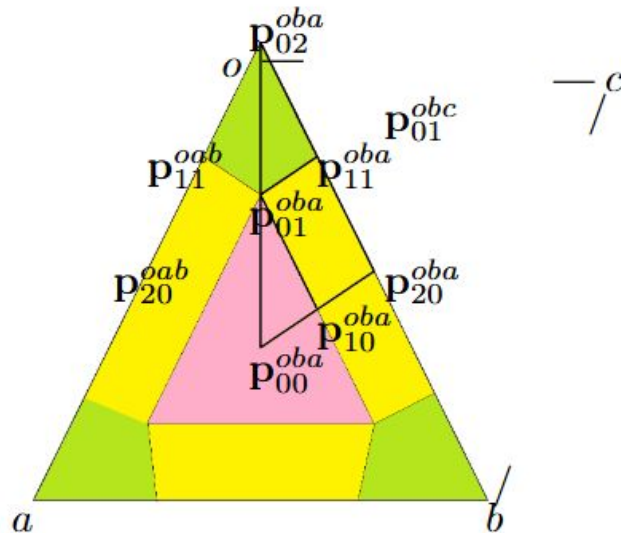
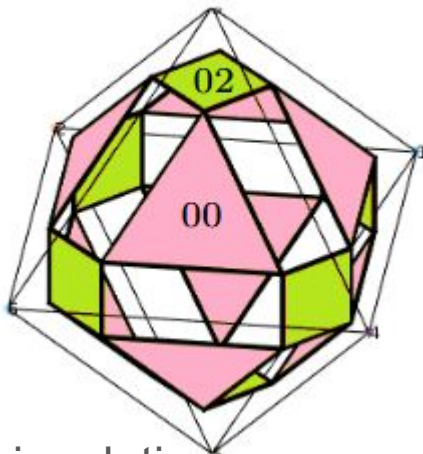
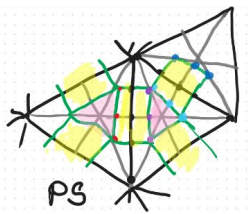
A diagram of a crystal structure, likely a dodecahedron, showing a central pink triangle labeled '00' and surrounding green triangles labeled '02'.

$$\partial_u \mathbf{p}(u, 0) = 2(1 - u)(\mathbf{p}_{01} - \mathbf{p}_{02}) + 2u(\mathbf{p}_{00} - \mathbf{p}_{01}).$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p}_{11} - \mathbf{p}_{02} \\ \mathbf{p}_{10} - \mathbf{p}_{01} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{q}_{11} - \mathbf{q}_{02} \\ \mathbf{q}_{10} - \mathbf{q}_{01} \end{bmatrix} = \beta \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p}_{01} - \mathbf{p}_{02} \\ \mathbf{p}_{00} - \mathbf{p}_{01} \end{bmatrix}$$

# A symmetric counterexample to free-form Powell-Sabin constructions

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Compute geometric relations:

$$\mathbf{p}_{11} - \mathbf{p}_{02} + \mathbf{q}_{11} - \mathbf{q}_{02} = (1 + c_n)(\mathbf{p}_{01} - \mathbf{p}_{02}), \quad c_n := \cos(2\pi/n)$$

$$\mathbf{p}_{10} - \mathbf{p}_{01} + \mathbf{q}_{10} - \mathbf{q}_{01} = (1 - c_3)(\mathbf{p}_{00} - \mathbf{p}_{01}).$$

$$1 + c_4 = 1 \neq \frac{3}{2} = (1 - c_3)$$

# A symmetric counterexample to free-form Powell-Sabin constructions

Total Degree 2 Splines Jorg Peters



$$1 + c_4 = 1 \neq \frac{3}{2} = (1 - c_3) \quad 13$$

# Can total degree 2 splines model free-form surfaces?

Total Degree 2 Splines Jorg Peters

---

- A symmetric counterexample to free-form Powell-Sabin constructions
- Shape constraints for piecewise quadratic G1 surfaces of genus other than 1
- Special quadratic surface constructions

# G1 splines

**Lemma 1** ( $G^1$  constraints, DeRose (1990); Peters (1990)). Two polynomial pieces  $\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q} : (u, v) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  join  $G^1$  along the common boundary  $\mathbf{p}(u, 0) = \mathbf{q}(u, 0), u \in [0..1]$  if and only if there exist polynomials  $\lambda, \mu, \nu : [0..1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \mu\nu > 0$ , so that

$$\lambda(u) \partial_u \mathbf{p}(u, 0) = \mu(u) \partial_v \mathbf{p}(u, 0) + \nu(u) \partial_v \mathbf{q}(u, 0), \quad u \in [0..1]. \quad (G1)$$

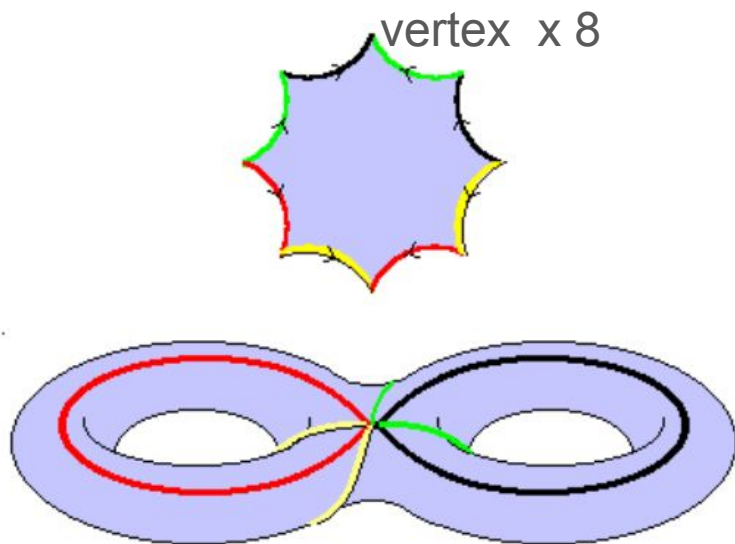
If  $\lambda, \mu$  and  $\nu$  are all constant

**Observation 1.** Given a point on the  $G^1$  surface surrounded without gap or overlap by surface pieces  $\mathbf{p}^i, i = 1, \dots, n$ . If, for each pair  $\mathbf{p}^i, \mathbf{p}^{i+1}$ , the reparameterization is a single affine map then the domains of the  $\mathbf{p}^i$  can be piecewise-affinely embedded into  $\mathbb{R}^2$  to surround the pre-image of the point without gap and overlap.



# Shape constraints for piecewise quadratic G1 surfaces of genus other than 1

**Lemma 5.** *Let  $M$  be a closed compact surface constructed by enforcing (G1) of Lemma 1 between the pieces. If  $M$  has genus other than 1 then at least one pair  $\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}$  has at least one of  $\lambda, \mu, \nu$  not constant.*



All G1 constraints are affine  
= all  $\lambda, \mu, \nu$  are constant

→

Sum of vertex angles =  $2\pi$

→ Polygon (fundamental domain) is rectangle

→ genus 1



# Shape constraints for piecewise quadratic G1 surfaces of genus other than 1

Total Degree 2 Splines Jorg Peters

**Lemma 5.** *Let  $M$  be a closed compact surface constructed by enforcing (G1) of Lemma 1 between the pieces. If  $M$  has genus other than 1 then at least one pair  $\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}$  has at least one of  $\lambda, \mu, \nu$  not constant.*

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{kl}^i = \frac{\partial \bar{\mathbf{u}}^i}{\partial \mathbf{u}^m} \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}^n}{\partial \bar{\mathbf{u}}^k} \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}^p}{\partial \bar{\mathbf{u}}^l} \Gamma_{np}^m + \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{u}^m}{\partial \bar{\mathbf{u}}^k \partial \bar{\mathbf{u}}^l} \frac{\partial \bar{\mathbf{u}}^i}{\partial \mathbf{u}^m}. \quad \text{Christoffel symbols} \quad \rightarrow \text{Xianfeng David Gu}$$

$$\text{choose } \Gamma_{\nu\sigma}^\mu = 0 \quad \text{affine } \rho, \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{u}^m}{\partial \bar{\mathbf{u}}^k \partial \bar{\mathbf{u}}^l} = 0$$

$$\rightarrow K=0 \text{ in Gauss Bonnet } \int_{\tilde{M}} K dA = 2\pi\chi(\tilde{M})$$

$$\rightarrow 0 = 2-2g$$

# Shape constraints for piecewise quadratic $G^1$ surfaces of genus other than 1

any reasonable  $G^1$  construction should allow for ( not rule out ) construction symmetry of the form  $\mu = \nu$

$$\begin{bmatrix} b(0)\partial_u \mathbf{q}(0,0) \\ b(1)\partial_u \mathbf{q}(1,0) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \partial_v \mathbf{p}(0,0) \\ \partial_v \mathbf{p}(1,0) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \partial_v \mathbf{q}(0,0) \\ \partial_v \mathbf{q}(1,0) \end{bmatrix}, \quad b(0) := \frac{\lambda(0)}{\nu(0)}, \quad b(1) := \frac{\lambda(1)}{\nu(1)}$$

**Theorem 1** (shape constraints). *Consider an endpoint  $\mathbf{e}$  of a boundary between a pair  $\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}$  of total degree 2 surface pieces satisfying (G1) with at least one non-constant triple  $\lambda, \mu, \nu$  with  $\mu = \nu$  and  $\mu \neq 0$  at  $\mathbf{e}$ . Then, at  $\mathbf{e}$ , the surface*

- *either has a flat region,*

*or else, and only if the number of patches joining at the vertex is an even  $2n$ ,*

- *an oscillation with  $n$  maxima and  $n$  minima.*

# Shape constraints for piecewise quadratic G1 surfaces of genus other than 1

**Theorem 1** (shape constraints). *Consider an endpoint  $\mathbf{e}$  of a boundary between a pair  $\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}$  of total degree 2 surface pieces satisfying (G1) with at least one non-constant triple  $\lambda, \mu, \nu$  with  $\mu = \nu$  and  $\mu \neq 0$  at  $\mathbf{e}$ . Then, at  $\mathbf{e}$ , the surface*

- either has a flat region,*

*or else, and only if the number of patches joining at the vertex is an even  $2n$ ,*

- an oscillation with  $n$  maxima and  $n$  minima.*

$$0 = \det[\mathbf{q}_u, \mathbf{p}_v, \mathbf{q}_v](u), \quad \mathbf{q}_u(u) := (\partial_u \mathbf{p})(u, 0), \quad \mathbf{p}_v(u) := (\partial_v \mathbf{p})(u, 0), \quad \mathbf{q}_v(u) := (\partial_v \mathbf{q})(u, 0)$$

Coefficient 1,2 of det polynomial of degree 3 set to zero

$$\mathbf{n}(0) \cdot \mathbf{q}_u(1) = 0 \text{ and } \mathbf{n}(1) \cdot \mathbf{q}_u(0) = 0$$

$$\mathbf{q}_u(0) \times \mathbf{q}_u(1) \neq 0 \rightarrow \text{flat}$$

$$0 = \mathbf{n}(0) \cdot ((\partial_u \partial_v \mathbf{p})(0, 0) + (\partial_u \partial_v \mathbf{q})(0, 0))$$

$\rightarrow$  flat or oscillating  $2n$  times

# Can total degree 2 splines model free-form surfaces?

- A symmetric counterexample to free-form Powell-Sabin constructions ✓
- Shape constraints for piecewise quadratic G1 surfaces of genus other than 1 ✓
- Special quadratic surface constructions

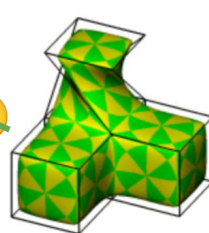
# Special quadratic surface constructions

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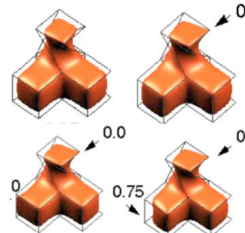
- Constructions restricted to domains of genus 1 😞
- Constructions leaving out cut points 😞
- Constructions using non-standard domains 😞
- Constructions as level sets of trivariate quadratics 😞
- Constructions with a singular parameterization (are flat) 😞
- Constructions using infinitely many pieces (simplest subdivision) 😞
- Constructions with additional degree 3 pieces 😞
- Constructions enforcing flat regions 😞
- Constructions enforcing saddles of high order (too many) 😞



(a) Simplest Subdivision



(b) Valence ( $2 \times n \in \{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ )



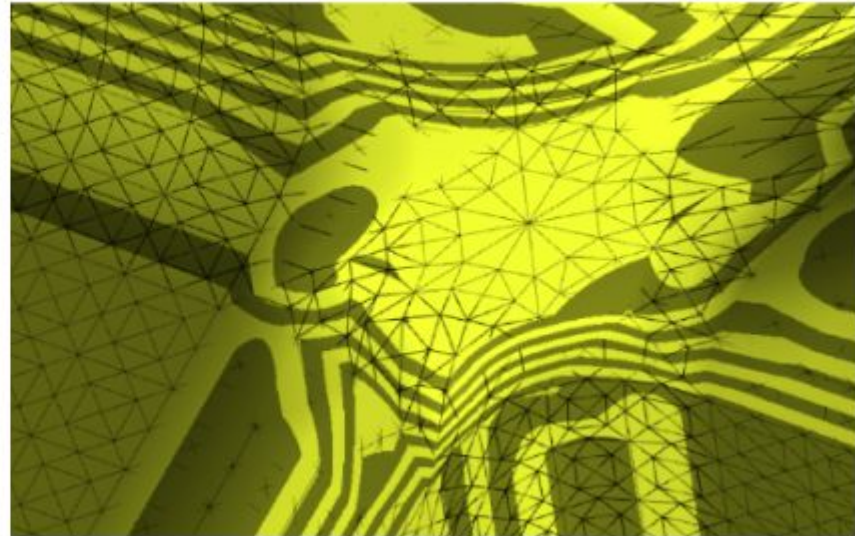
(c) Blend ratios in  $[0..1]$  for semi-smooth creases



# Special quadratic surface constructions

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Constructions enforcing flat regions





# Conclusion

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- No piecewise quadratic G1 surfaces of genus  $\neq 1$
- except for the intentional introduction of flat spots

