

A mathematical method for modeling the shape of apples

Part 1. Description of the method

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Summary. This study proposes a mathematical method for modeling the shape of apples, locules and pericarps with the use of Bézier curves. The concave and convex parts of apples cv. *Ligol* were described with three smoothly-joined Bézier curves. Contours were described based on images of an apple rotated at intervals of 36° relative to its natural axis of symmetry. A 3D model was formed by Bézier curves positioned along the apple's meridians. The shape of the locule and the pericarp was described with the use of two smoothly-joined Bézier curves each, rotated relative to the apple's longitudinal axis.

Key words: apple, cv. *Ligol*, shape, locule, pericarp, Bézier curves, method, mathematical model.

INTRODUCTION

Agricultural and food raw materials are processed with the use of modern sorting and packaging methods to supply high-quality and defect-free products and to place innovative food products on the market [1-17]. Fruit deformations caused by dehydration were modeled by Aregawi et al. [18]. The implementation of innovative technical solutions has to be preceded by research on agricultural products. The relevant studies and experiments can be very costly, but they can be replaced by numerical models. Numerical models describe the geometric properties of agricultural products which are used to design and optimize production processes. The existing models of fruits, vegetables and seeds, which are based on regular shapes (sphere, ellipsoid), have been extensively described in the literature. In reality, the shape of fruits belonging to various cultivars does not always correspond to regular geometric figures due to low modeling accuracy. Biological objects are characterized by considerable irregularities and variations in shape, and they may be difficult to model [19-20]. Scientists search for new numerical methods that rely on advanced

bioinformatics tools to accurately model the shape of biological materials. The geometric properties of biological objects are simulated with computer-aided design (CAD) tools [21-23]. Accurate models of biological objects that account for malformations and anatomic anomalies are still difficult to generate. There is a general scarcity of studies analyzing the shape and dimensions of biological objects. Various methods have been used to develop 3D models of agricultural and food raw materials, including machine vision, 3D scanning and mathematical modeling [19, 24-32]. Computer image analyses of fruit, including apples, constitute a separate group of studies [11, 33-43]. Computer graphics and differential geometry methods offer interesting alternatives for modeling the shape of biological objects [44-46]. Mieszkalski [47] proposed a mathematical model for describing the shape of apples cv. *Ligol* and *Jonagored* based on Bézier curves. In the presented model, the values of the parameters determining the basic geometric properties and the shape of fruits (within a species) can be modified, which supports modeling of geometric solids with sufficient accuracy for practical applications. The cited study relied on the findings of Rosell and Sanz [37] and Hongbo et al. [48].

The aim of this study was to develop a mathematical method for modeling the shape of apples cv. *Ligol* and their anatomical parts, the pericarp and the locule, with the use of Bézier curves.

MATERIALS

The study was performed on apples cv. *Ligol* characterized by spherical and conical shape. Apples were purchased in a wholesale market in Bronisze (Poland) and stored indoors at a constant temperature of 19°C and relative air humidity of 60%. Unbruised apples that differed in shape (Fig. 1) from the previously studied apples [47] were selected from a batch of 50 fruits.



Fig. 1. An apple cv. *Ligol* selected for modeling, photographed in 10 positions.

The basic dimensions of the analyzed apple (length, width, thickness; depth of the pedicel cavity h_1 and depth of the calyx basin h_2 – Figure 2) were measured with a caliper to the nearest 0.1 mm (Table 1).

The apple was photographed in a test stand presented in Figure 3. The apple was held by two clamps in its natural axis of symmetry. The line connecting the pedicel cavity with the calyx basin formed the apple’s natural axis of symmetry. The bottom clamp held the calyx basin, and the top clamp pressed down on the pedicel cavity. The apple was rotated at intervals of 36° to produce 10 photographs. Photographs were taken with the Panasonic LUMIX DMC-TZ3 camera. The lens was placed at a distance of 400 mm from the photographed object. Images with a resolution of 2560 x 1920 pixels were stored in JPEG files.

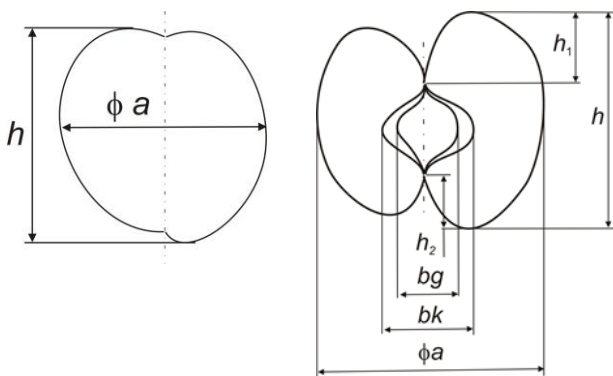


Fig. 2. Basic dimensions of an apple.

Table 1. Basic dimensions of the modeled apple

Parameter	Symbol	Value [mm]
Length	h	80.3
Width	b_1	88.5
Thickness	b_2	86.2
Depth of pedicel cavity	h_1	10.6
Depth of calyx basin	h_2	15.4

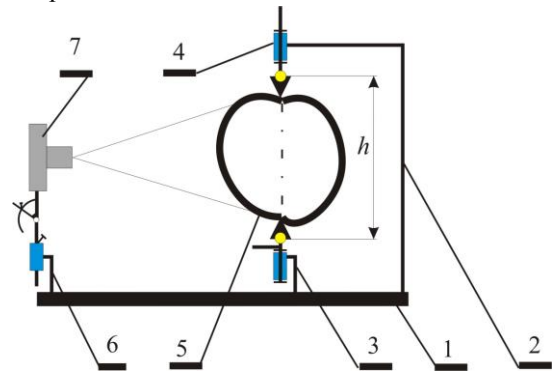


Fig. 3. Test stand: 1 – base, 2 – arm, 3 – bottom clamp, 4 – top clamp, 5 – apple, 6 – camera mount, 7 – camera

Every image was cropped and scaled. Images were loaded into the *Inkscape* graphic program, placed in a coordinate system, and three smoothly-joined Bézier curves were fitted to the image (Fig. 4). The intersection of the apple’s natural axis of symmetry and the x axis, which was adjacent to the lower part of the apple, marked the beginning of the coordinate system. An apple is a solid with concave and convex surface. The position of nodes $A_x, A_y, A_z, C_x, C_y, C_z$ of Bézier curves was determined based on the values of h_1 and h_2 .

The apple was halved to determine the shape of the locule and the pericarp. These anatomical features were modeled with two smooth-joined Bézier curves each (Fig. 5).

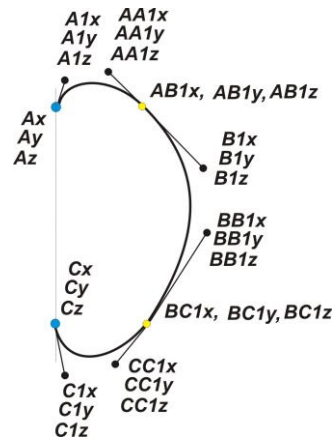


Fig. 4. Determination of the nodes and control points of three smooth-joined Bézier curves describing the contour of an apple

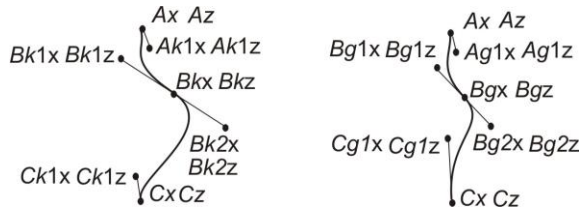


Fig. 5. Determination of the nodes and control points of two smooth-joined Bézier curves describing the external surface of the locule, and two smooth-joined Bézier curves describing the external surface of the pericarp.

MODEL DESCRIBING THE CONTOURS OF AN APPLE, LOCULE AND PERICARP WITH THE USE OF BÉZIER CURVES

The contours of an apple, its locule and pericarp were described by Bézier curves (third degree polynomials) with the use of matrix equations of the coordinates of contour points (Fig. 4, Fig. 5).

$$xn_t = T \cdot M \cdot Px^T \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\alpha n \cdot \pi}{180}\right), \quad (1)$$

$$yn_t = T \cdot M \cdot Py^T \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\alpha n \cdot \pi}{180}\right), \quad (2)$$

$$zn_t = T \cdot M \cdot Pz^T, \quad (3)$$

where:

the vector of parameter t has the following form:

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} \left(\frac{t}{N}\right)^3 & \left(\frac{t}{N}\right)^2 & \frac{t}{N} & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (4)$$

the Bézier basis matrix has the following form:

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & -6 & 3 & 0 \\ -3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (5)$$

Geometry matrices Pax , Pay and Paz of the top part (A) of the apple are presented below:

$$Pax = [Ax \quad Anx \quad AAnx \quad ABnx], \quad (6)$$

$$Pay = [Ay \quad Any \quad AAny \quad ABny], \quad (7)$$

$$Paz = [Az \quad Anz \quad AAnz \quad ABnz], \quad (8)$$

Geometry matrices Pbx , Pby and Pbz of the middle part (B) of the apple are presented below:

$$Pbx = [ABnx \quad Bnx \quad BBnx \quad BCnx], \quad (9)$$

$$Pby = [ABny \quad Bny \quad BBny \quad BCny], \quad (10)$$

$$Pbz = [ABnz \quad Bnz \quad BBnz \quad BCnz], \quad (11)$$

Geometry matrices Pcx , Pcy and Pcz of the bottom part (C) of the apple are presented below:

$$Pcx = [BCnx \quad CCnx \quad Cnx \quad Cx], \quad (12)$$

$$Pcy = [BCny \quad CCny \quad Cny \quad Cy], \quad (13)$$

$$Pcz = [BCnz \quad CCnz \quad Cnz \quad Cz]. \quad (14)$$

The following matrices were derived from equations (1, 2, 3 and 6 to 14):

matrices of Bézier curves $xA1, \dots, xA10$; $yA1, \dots, yA10$, $zA1, \dots, zA10$ describing the top part (A) of the apple,

matrices of Bézier curves $xB1, \dots, xB10$; $yB1, \dots, yB10$, $zB1, \dots, zB10$ describing the middle part (B) of the apple,

matrices of Bézier curves $xC1, \dots, xC10$; $yC1, \dots, yC10$, $zC1, \dots, zC10$ describing the bottom part (C) of the apple.

The *augment* function was used to connect the rows of matrices of Bézier curves describing apple parts A, B, C, producing matrices $XA, YA, ZA, XB, YB, ZB, XC, YC, ZC$:

$$XA = \text{augment}(xA1, xA2, \dots, xA10), \quad (15)$$

$$YA = \text{augment}(yA1, yA2, \dots, yA10), \quad (16)$$

$$ZA = \text{augment}(zA1, zA2, \dots, zA10), \quad (17)$$

$$XB = \text{augment}(xB1, xB2, \dots, xB10), \quad (18)$$

$$YB = \text{augment}(yB1, yB2, \dots, yB10), \quad (19)$$

$$ZB = \text{augment}(zB1, zB2, \dots, zB10), \quad (20)$$

$$XC = \text{augment}(xC1, xC2, \dots, xC10), \quad (21)$$

$$YC = \text{augment}(yC1, yC2, \dots, yC10), \quad (22)$$

$$ZC = \text{augment}(zC1, zC2, \dots, zC10). \quad (23)$$

The columns of matrices $XA, YA, ZA, XB, YB, ZB, XC, YC, ZC$ were connected using the *stack* function to produce matrices $X1, Y1, Z1$:

$$X1 = \text{stack}(XA, XB, XC), \quad (24)$$

$$Y1 = \text{stack}(YA, YB, YC), \quad (25)$$

$$Z1 = \text{stack}(ZA, ZB, ZC), \quad (26)$$

Matrices $X1, Y1, Z1$ were used to develop a 3D model describing the external surface of the apple.

For N – number of parallels relative to one Bézier curve, n – number of a Bézier curve. The contour of the apple was described by three joined Bézier curves. Bézier curves for ten positions of the apple were joined at nodes inside the pedicel cavity and the calyx basin. The joined Bézier curves were smoothed at nodes on the apple contour by positioning the control points of the joined curves on the same straight line.

Geometry matrices $Pkax$ and $Pkaz$ of the first Bézier curve describing the locule are presented below:

$$Pkax = [Ax \ Ak1x \ Bk1x \ Bkx], \quad (27)$$

$$Pkaz = [Az \ Ak1z \ Bk1z \ Bkz]. \quad (28)$$

The vector of parameter $t1$ has the following form:

$$T = \left[\left(\frac{t1}{N} \right)^3 \left(\frac{t1}{N} \right)^2 \frac{t1}{N} \ 1 \right]. \quad (29)$$

Geometry matrices $Pkbx$ and $Pkbz$ for the second Bézier curve describing the locule are presented below:

$$Pkbx = [Bkx \ Bk2x \ Ck1x \ Cx], \quad (30)$$

$$Pkbz = [Bkz \ Bk2z \ Ck1z \ Cz]. \quad (31)$$

The following matrices were derived from equations (1, 2 and 27 to 31):

matrices of the first Bézier curve describing the locule $xAk1, zAk1$,

matrices of the second Bézier curve describing the locule $xAk2, zAk2$.

Geometry matrices $Pgax$ and $Pgaz$ of the first Bézier curve describing the pericarp are presented below:

$$Pgax = [Ax \ Ag1x \ Bg1x \ Bgx], \quad (32)$$

$$Pgaz = [Az \ Ag1z \ Bg1z \ Bgz]. \quad (33)$$

The vector of parameter $t1$ has the following form:

$$T = \left[\left(\frac{t1}{N} \right)^3 \left(\frac{t1}{N} \right)^2 \frac{t1}{N} \ 1 \right]. \quad (34)$$

Geometry matrices $Pgbx$ and $Pgbz$ of the second Bézier curve describing the pericarp are presented below:

$$Pgbx = [Bgx \ Bg2x \ Cg1x \ Cx], \quad (35)$$

$$Pgbz = [Bgz \ Bg2z \ Cg1z \ Cz]. \quad (36)$$

The following matrices were derived from equations (1, 2 and 32 to 36):

matrices of the first Bézier curve describing the pericarp $xAg1, zAg1$,

matrices of the second Bézier curve describing the pericarp $xAg2, zAg2$.

The first Bézier curve and, consequently, the second Bézier curve were rotated to produce solids representing the locule and the pericarp. The matrix equations for solids produced by the rotation of the first Bézier curve have the following form:

$$XAk1t1, j = xAk1t1 \cdot \sin(\phi_j), \quad (37)$$

$$YAk1t1, j = xAk1t1 \cdot \cos(\phi_j), \quad (38)$$

$$ZAk1t1, j = zAk1t1, \quad (39)$$

where:

$$\phi_j = \frac{2 \cdot \pi \cdot j}{N}. \quad (40)$$

The range of variables was written in vector 41:

$$\begin{bmatrix} t \\ j \\ t1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \dots N \\ 0 \dots N \\ 0 \dots N - 1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (41)$$

A similar approach was used to derive the matrix equations of solids produced by the rotation of the second

Bézier curve $XAk2_{t,j}$, $YAk2_{t,j}$, $ZAk2_{t,j}$. The matrix equations of coordinates $XAg1_{t1,j}$, $YAg1_{t1,j}$, $ZAg1_{t1,j}$ and $XAg2_{t,j}$, $YAg2_{t,j}$, $ZAg2_{t,j}$ of points on the first and second Bézier curves were derived to describe the pericarp. The *stack* function was used to connect the columns of matrices of Bézier curves describing the locule:

$$Xka = \text{stack}(XAk1, XAk2), \quad (42)$$

$$Yka = \text{stack}(YAk1, YAk2), \quad (43)$$

$$Zka = \text{stack}(ZAk1, ZAk2), \quad (44)$$

and the pericarp:

$$Xga = \text{stack}(XAg1, XAg2), \quad (45)$$

$$Yga = \text{stack}(YAg1, YAg2), \quad (46)$$

$$Zga = \text{stack}(ZAg1, ZAg2). \quad (47)$$

Matrices *Xka*, *Yka* and *Zka* were used to develop a 3D model of the external surface of the locule, and matrices *Xga*, *Yga* and *Zga* were used to develop a 3D model of the external surface of the pericarp.

CONCLUSIONS

In the proposed method, Bézier curves are used to generate mathematical models of the shape of apples. The concave and convex parts of an apple are described with three smooth-joined Bézier curves. Contours are described with the use of photographs of an apple rotated at intervals of 36° relative to its natural axis of symmetry. A 3D model of an apple is formed by Bézier curves positioned along the apple's meridians. The shape of the locule and the pericarp is described with the use of two smooth-joined Bézier curves that are rotated relative to the apple's longitudinal axis.

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