

The Heisenberg group

Scott Zimmerman

November 30, 2021

The Ohio State University at Marion
zimmerman.416@osu.edu



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

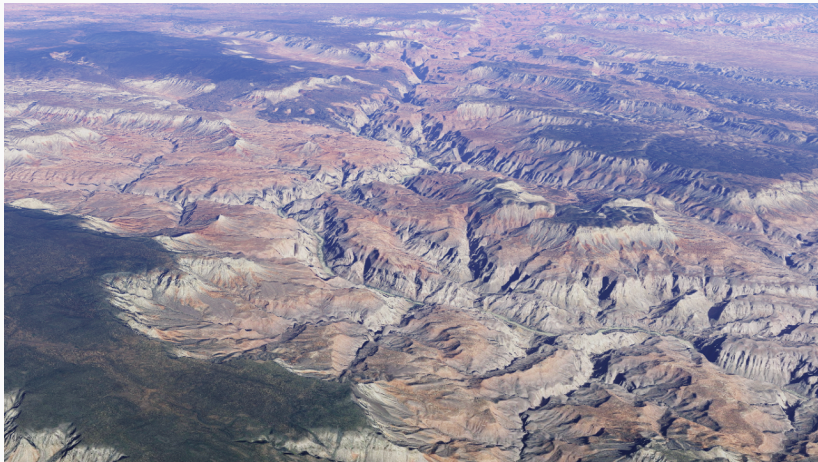
MARION

A scenario

Imagine that you are a drone pilot in training.

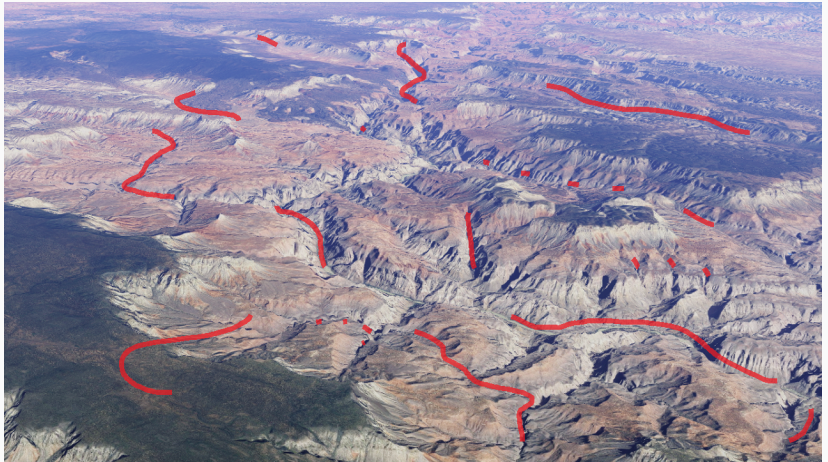
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How can you tell if the flight plan is feasible?

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The classical Whitney Extension Theorem

Theorem (Whitney 1934)

Suppose $K \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ is compact and $\{f_\alpha\}_{|\alpha| \leq m}$ are continuous real valued functions on K . If

$$f_\alpha(x) = \sum_{|\beta| \leq m-|\alpha|} \frac{f_{\alpha+\beta}(y)}{\beta!} (x-y)^\beta + R_\alpha(x, y)$$

for any $x, y \in K$ and any $|\alpha| \leq k$ where $\lim_{\substack{|x-y| \rightarrow 0 \\ x, y \in K}} \frac{R_\alpha(x, y)}{|x-y|^{m-|\alpha|}} = 0$, then we can construct $F \in C^m(K)$ such that $F|_K = f_0$ and $\partial^\alpha F|_K = f_\alpha$.

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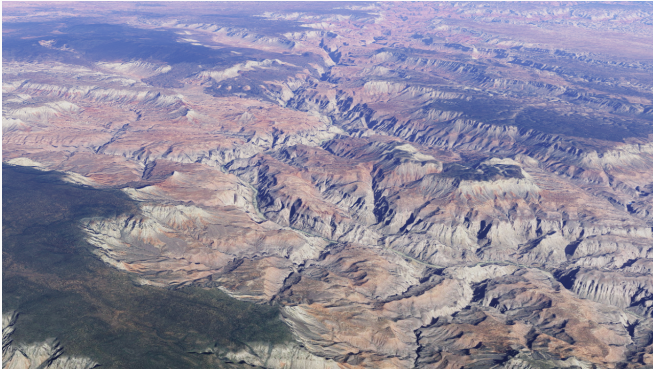
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Translation: If the data lines up “nicely”, then we can construct a smooth interpolation.

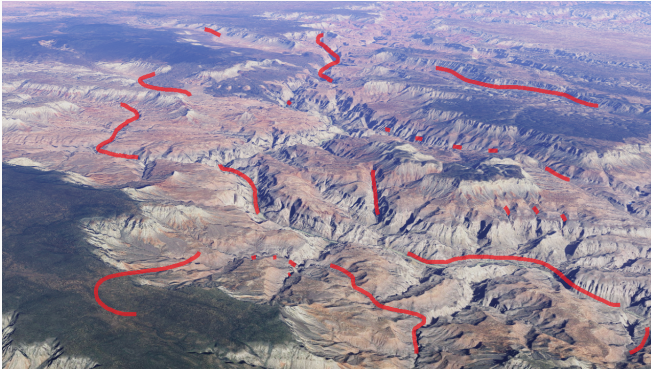
A different scenario

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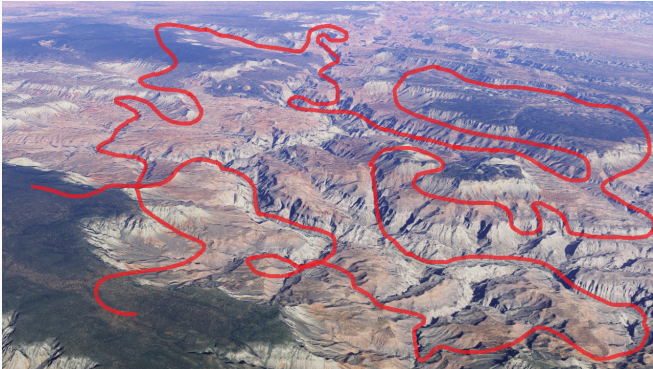
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What is different?

A different scenario

Imagine you are an fixed wing drone pilot in training.



How can you tell if the flight plan is feasible?

What is different? Your motion is restricted based on the data.

Sub-Riemannian manifolds

How do you drive to the roof of a parking garage?

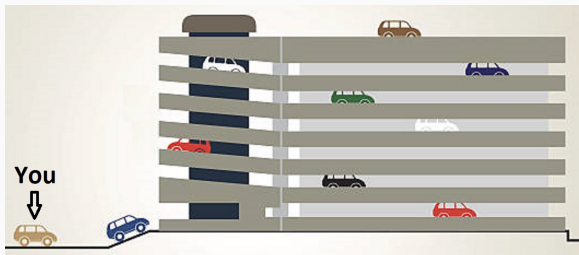


Photo credit: iStock by Getty Images

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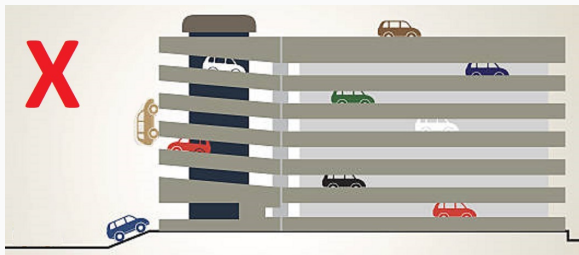


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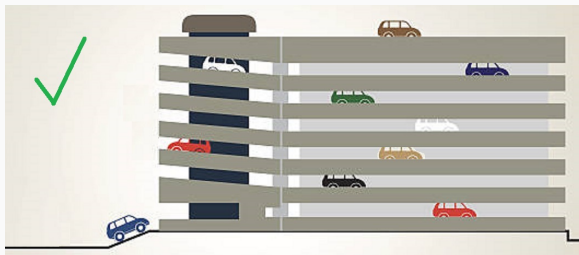
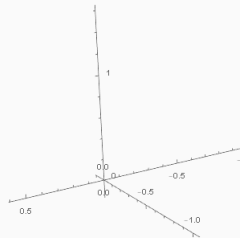
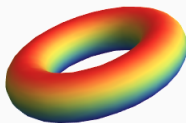
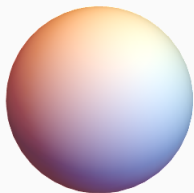


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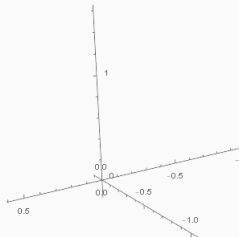
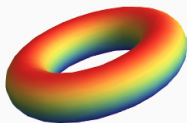
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In a **sub-Riemannian manifold**, motion is restricted to a subspace of directions at each point.

What is the Heisenberg group

The Heisenberg group

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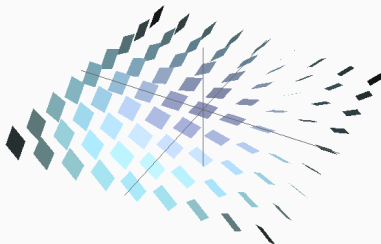
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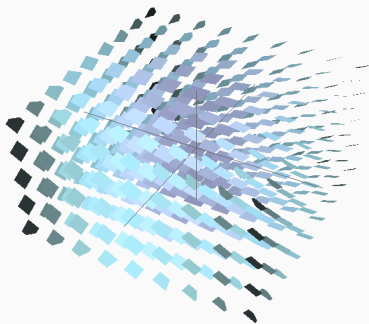
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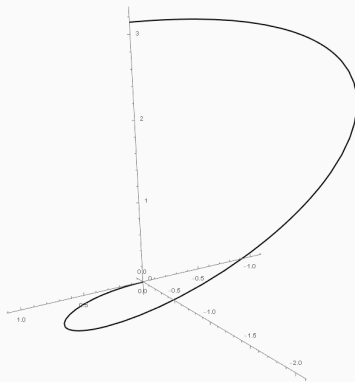
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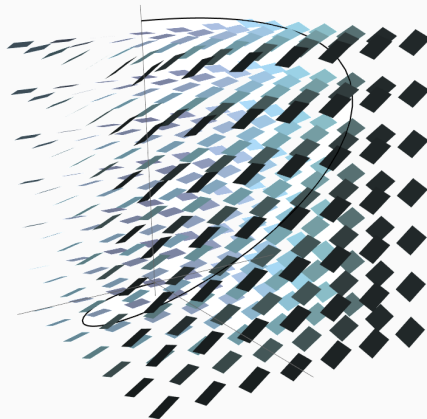
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Proposition

A curve $\gamma = (x, y, z)$ in \mathbb{H} is horizontal if and only if

$$z' = 2(x'y - xy').$$

The length of a horizontal curve

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$$|\hat{\mathbf{i}}| = 1 \quad |\hat{\mathbf{j}}| = 1 \quad |\hat{\mathbf{k}}| = 1,$$

and $\hat{\mathbf{i}}$, $\hat{\mathbf{j}}$, and $\hat{\mathbf{k}}$ are the building blocks of \mathbb{R}^3 .

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$$|X|_H = |\langle 1, 0, 2y \rangle|_H = 1^2 + 0^2 = 1, \text{ and}$$

$$|Y|_H = |\langle 0, 1, -2x \rangle|_H = 0^2 + 1^2 = 1.$$

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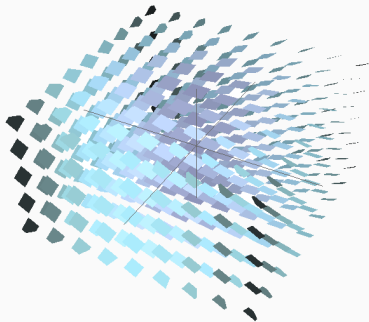
This is as small as possible when $x'(t)$ and $y'(t)$ are always 0.

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Remember: we can't move straight up!



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This must be true for **any** horizontal curve from the origin to p !

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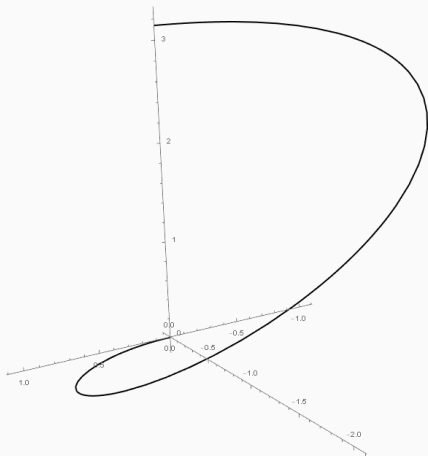
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Theorem

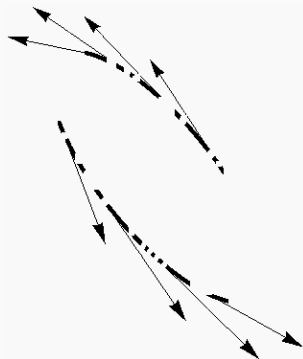
A horizontal curve from the origin to a point on the z -axis is a geodesic if and only if its projection to the xy -plane is a circle.

The Heisenberg group



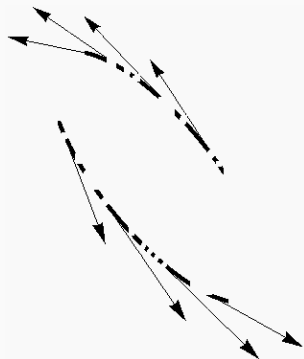
Whitney's Extension Theorem

Whitney's theorem



Recall: In 1934, Whitney described how to construct smooth interpolations of real valued data.

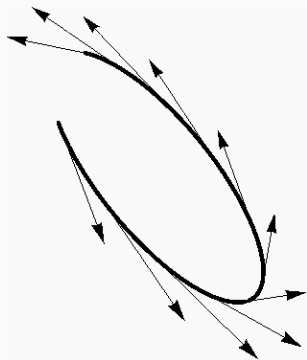
Whitney's theorem



Recall: In 1934, Whitney described how to construct smooth interpolations of real valued data.

In particular, he explained how to fill in the gaps of a curve like this one in \mathbb{R}^3 .

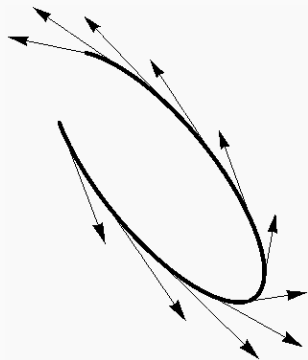
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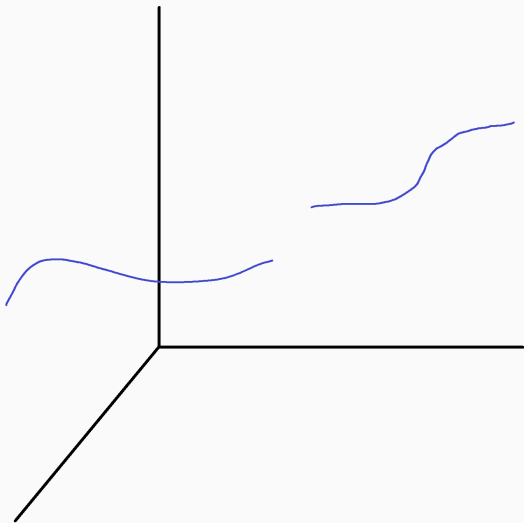
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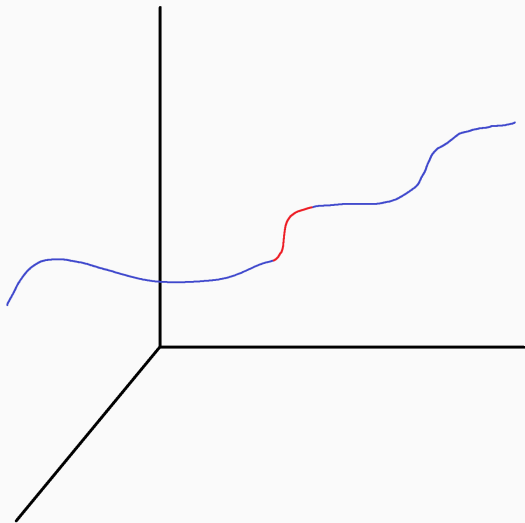
Question:

How do we fill in the gaps of a horizontal curve in \mathbb{H} ?

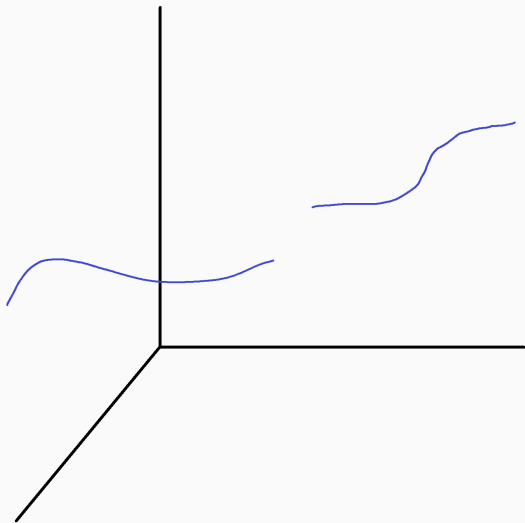
Interpolating data



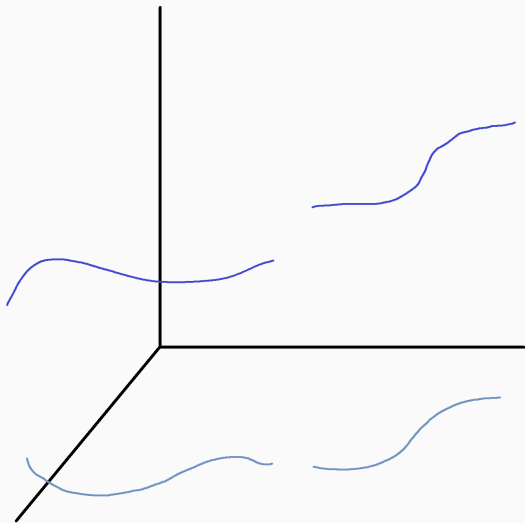
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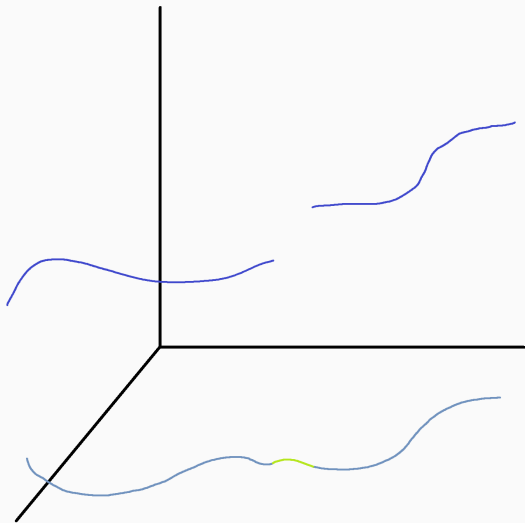
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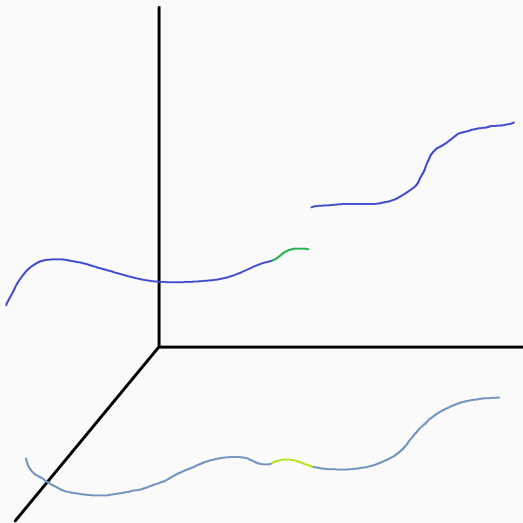
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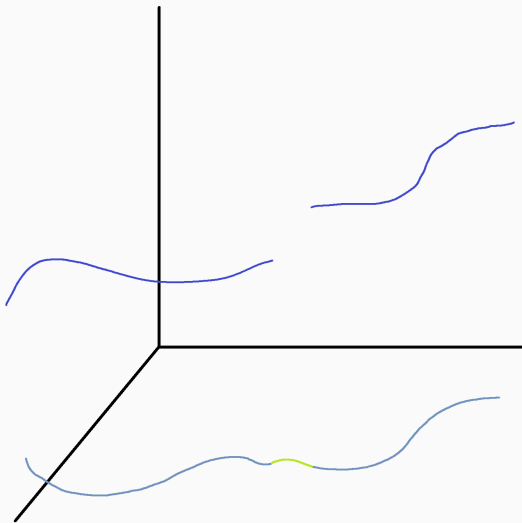
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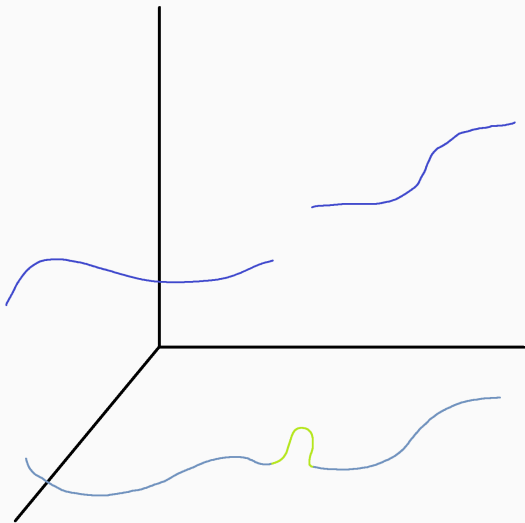
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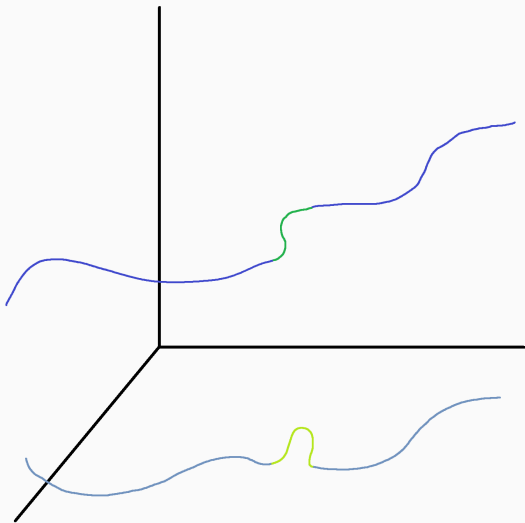
Interpolating data



Interpolating data



Interpolating data



Thank you!

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