

# Polynomial, sparse and low-rank approximations

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Tutorial on Uncertainty Quantification -  
Efficient Methods for PDEs with Random Coefficients

## Uncertainty quantification

We consider a (numerical or experimental) model depending on a set of random parameters  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_d)$  that describe the uncertainties on the model, and some output variable of interest

$$Y = u(X).$$

- **Forward problems:** evaluation of statistics, probability of events, sensitivity indices...

$$\mathbb{E}(h(Y)) = \mathbb{E}(h \circ u(X)) = \int h(u(x_1, \dots, x_d)) p(x_1, \dots, x_d) dx_1 \dots dx_d$$

- **Inverse problems:** from (partial) observations of  $Y$ , estimate the distribution  $\mu$  of  $X$

$$d\mu(x_1, \dots, x_d)$$

Solving forward and inverse problems requires the **evaluation of the model for many instances of  $X$** .

This is **usually unaffordable** when one evaluation requires a costly numerical simulation (or experiment).

In practice, we rely on **approximations of the map**

$$X \mapsto u(X)$$

used as **predictive surrogate models** (reduced order models, metamodels) which are easy to operate with (evaluation, integration, derivation...).

This requires

- **approximation formats** (**model classes**) that exploit some specific features of the functions (e.g. regularity, low effective dimension, sparsity, low rank...), possibly deduced from some knowledge on the model,
- **algorithms** for constructing approximations from available information: samples (black box), model's equations (white or grey box)...

## Approximation for uncertainty quantification

An approximation  $\tilde{Y} = \tilde{u}(X)$  of  $Y = u(X)$  can be directly used for obtaining approximate solutions to forward and inverse problems, with a control of errors on quantities of interest, e.g.

$$|\mathbb{E}(Y) - \mathbb{E}(\tilde{Y})| \leq \int |u(x) - \tilde{u}(x)| d\mu(x) = \|u - \tilde{u}\|_{L^1_\mu},$$

but also to design variance reduction methods for Monte-Carlo methods, e.g. as a control variate

$$\mathbb{E}(Y) \approx \mathbb{E}(\tilde{Y}) + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N (u(X_k) - \tilde{u}(X_k)) := \hat{I}_N,$$

$$\mathbb{E}(|\hat{I}_N - \mathbb{E}(Y)|^2) = \mathbb{V}(\hat{I}_N) \leq \frac{1}{N} \|u - \tilde{u}\|_{L^2_\mu}^2.$$

# Approximation

The goal is to approximate a function  $u$  from a space  $M$  by a function  $u_n$  from a subset  $M_n$  (model class) described by  $n$  (or  $O(n)$ ) parameters.

We distinguish linear approximation, where  $M_n$  are linear spaces, from nonlinear approximation, where  $M_n$  are nonlinear sets.

The quality of an approximation  $u_n$  in  $M_n$  can be assessed by

$$d(u, u_n)$$

where  $d$  is a metric on  $M$ , and the quality of the model class is assessed by the best approximation error

$$e_n(u)_M = \inf_{v \in M_n} d(u, v)$$

Given a function  $u$ , and given a family of model classes  $(M_n)_{n \geq 1}$ , fundamental problems are to **determine if and how fast  $e_n(u)_M$  tends to 0**, and to **provide algorithms** which produce approximations  $u_n \in M_n$  such that

$$d(u, u_n) \leq C e_n(u)_M$$

with  $C$  independent of  $n$  or  $C(n)e_n(u)_M \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

## Worst-case and mean squared errors

For functions defined on a parameter space  $\mathcal{X}$  (equipped with a **measure  $\mu$** ) and with values in some **Banach space  $V$** , a classical setting is to consider functions from the **Bochner space**

$$M = L_{\mu}^p(\mathcal{X}; V) = V \otimes L_{\mu}^p(\mathcal{X})$$

equipped with the metric

$$d(u, v) = \|u - v\|_{L_{\mu}^p(\mathcal{X}; V)}.$$

Two typical cases are  $p = \infty$  (**worst-case setting**),

$$\|u - v\|_{L_{\mu}^{\infty}(\mathcal{X}; V)} = \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \|u(x) - v(x)\|_V$$

and  $p = 2$  (**mean-squared setting**),

$$\|u - v\|_{L_{\mu}^2(\mathcal{X}; V)}^2 = \int_{\mathcal{X}} \|u(x) - v(x)\|_V^2 d\mu(x) = \mathbb{E}(\|u(X) - v(X)\|_V^2)$$

where  $X \sim \mu$ .

Noting that  $\|u - v\|_{L_{\mu}^2(\mathcal{X}; V)} \leq \|u - v\|_{L_{\mu}^{\infty}(\mathcal{X}; V)}$ , approximation results in  $L^2$  can be deduced from stronger results in  $L^{\infty}$ .

## Model classes for vector-valued functions

For the approximation of a function  $u \in L^p_\mu(\mathcal{X}; V)$ , typical model classes are

- $M_n = V \otimes S_n$ , where  $S_n$  is a subspace of  $L^p_\mu(\mathcal{X})$  (e.g. polynomials, wavelets...), which results in an approximation

$$u_n(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \varphi_i(x)$$

with an explicit expression as a function of  $x$ .

- $M_n = L^p_\mu(\mathcal{X}; V_n) = V_n \otimes L^p_\mu(\mathcal{X})$ , where  $V_n$  is a low-dimensional subspace of  $V$ , which results in an approximation

$$u_n(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \varphi_i(x)$$

which is not explicit in terms of  $x$ .

When  $u(x)$  is solution of a parameter-dependent equation, the approximation  $u_n(x) \in V_n$  is obtained by some projection of  $u(x)$  on  $V_n$  that exploits the equations. This corresponds to projection-based model order reduction methods.



## Computing an approximation

An approximation  $u_n$  in a certain model class  $M_n$  can be obtained by

- an **interpolation** of  $u$  at a set of points  $\Gamma_n$ .

For a vector space  $M_n = V \otimes S_n$  and a set of points  $\Gamma_n \subset \mathcal{X}$  unisolvent for  $S_n$ , the interpolation  $u_n$  is such that

$$u_n(x) = u(x) \quad \forall x \in \Gamma_n,$$

and

$$\|u - u_n\|_{L^p} \leq (1 + L_n^{(p)}) e_n(u)_{L^p}$$

where  $L_n^{(p)}$  is the **norm of the interpolation operator** from  $L_\mu^p(\mathcal{X})$  to  $S_n$ , which depends on the quality of the set of points  $\Gamma_n$  for  $S_n$ .

For  $p = \infty$ ,  $L_n^{(\infty)}$  is the Lebesgue constant  $L_n^{(\infty)} = \sup_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \sum_{i=1}^n |\ell_i(x)|$  where  $\{\ell_i\}$  is a basis of  $S_n$  with the interpolation property.

## Computing an approximation

- A minimization of an empirical risk functional

$$\min_{v \in M_n} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^m \ell(u(x_k), v(x_k)) \approx \min_{v \in M_n} \mathbb{E}(\ell(u(X), v(X)))$$

where the  $x_k$  are samples of  $X$  and the risk  $\mathbb{E}(\ell(u(X), v(X)))$  provides some “distance”  $d(u, v)$  between  $u$  and  $v$ .

A better performance can be obtained by solving

$$\min_{v \in M_n} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^m w_k \ell(u(x_k), v(x_k))$$

where the  $x_k$  are samples in  $\mathcal{X}$  drawn from a suitable distribution  $d\nu(x) = \rho(x)d\mu(x)$  on  $\mathcal{X}$ , and the weights  $w_k = \rho(x_k)^{-1}$ .

## Computing an approximation

- a (weighted) **least-squares projection** of  $u \in L^2_\mu(\mathcal{X}; V)$ , which is solution of

$$\min_{v \in M_n} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^m \rho(x_k)^{-1} \|u(x_k) - v(x_k)\|_V^2$$

where the  $x_k$  are samples in  $\mathcal{X}$  drawn from a certain distribution  $d\nu(x) = \rho(x)d\mu(x)$  on  $\mathcal{X}$ .

For  $M_n = V \otimes S_n$  with  $S_n$  a  $n$ -dimensional subspace of  $L^2_\mu(\mathcal{X})$  with orthonormal basis  $\{\varphi_i\}_{i=1}^n$ , the quality of the least-squares projection depends on how far the **empirical Gram matrix**

$$G_{ij} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^m w_k \varphi_i(x_k) \varphi_j(x_k)$$

is from identity.

An **optimal weighted least-squares** method [Cohen and Migliorati 2017] is obtained with  $\rho(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \varphi_i(x)^2$ . Then for  $m \geq n\epsilon^{-2} \log(2n\eta^{-1})$ , this ensures that  $\mathbb{P}(\|G - I\| > \epsilon) \leq \eta$  and (in particular)

$$\mathbb{E}(\|u - u_n\|_{L^2}^2) \leq C e_n(u)_{L^2}^2 + \|u\|^2 \eta, \quad \text{with } C = 1 + \frac{1}{1 - \epsilon} \frac{n}{m}.$$

## Computing an approximation

- Given the **model's equations**

$$A(x)u(x) = f(x), \quad \text{with } A(x) : V \rightarrow W, f(x) \in W$$

an approximation  $u_n$  can be obtained through a **Galerkin projection**<sup>1</sup> of  $u$ , e.g. defined by

$$\min_{v \in M_n} \int_{\mathcal{X}} \|A(x)v(x) - f(x)\|_W^2 d\mu(x) \quad \text{or} \quad \min_{v \in M_n} \sup_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \|A(x)v(x) - f(x)\|_W$$

If  $A(x)$  is a linear operator such that  $\alpha\|v\|_V \leq \|A(x)v\|_W \leq \beta\|v\|_V$ , then

$$\|u - u_n\|_{L^p_\mu(\mathcal{X};V)} \leq \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \inf_{v \in M_n} \|u - v\|_{L^p_\mu(\mathcal{X};V)}$$

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<sup>1</sup>coined stochastic Galerkin projection

- 1 Polynomial approximation
- 2 Sparse approximation
- 3 Projection based model reduction
- 4 (Other) model classes for high-dimensional approximation

# Outline

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- 2 Sparse approximation
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# Polynomial spaces

Let  $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{X}_1 \times \dots \times \mathcal{X}_d \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ .

For each dimension  $k$ , we consider a family of univariate polynomials  $\{\psi_n^k\}_{n \geq 0}$  with  $\psi_n^k \in \mathbb{P}_n(\mathcal{X}_k)$ .

Then we define the **tensorised basis**

$$\psi_\alpha(x) = \psi_{\alpha_1}^1(x_1) \dots \psi_{\alpha_d}^d(x_d)$$

where  $\alpha$  is a multi-index in  $\mathbb{N}^d$ .

For a set  $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{N}^d$ , we consider the **space of polynomials**

$$\mathbb{P}_\Lambda(\mathcal{X}) = \text{span} \{ \psi_\alpha(x) : \alpha \in \Lambda \}$$

In general, the polynomial space  $\mathbb{P}_\Lambda(\mathcal{X})$  depends on the chosen univariate polynomial bases, except for **downward closed sets**  $\Lambda$  such that

$$\alpha \in \Lambda \text{ and } \beta \leq \alpha \Rightarrow \beta \in \Lambda$$

# Polynomial interpolation

Let  $\Gamma^k = (t_i^k)_{i \geq 0}$  be a sequence of points in  $\mathcal{X}_k$  such that the set  $(t_i^k)_{i=0}^n$  is unisolvent for  $\mathbb{P}_n(\mathcal{X}_k)$ , which means that for any  $a \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ , there exists a unique polynomial  $v \in \mathbb{P}_n(\mathcal{X}_k)$  such that

$$v(t_i^k) = a_i \quad \text{for all } 0 \leq i \leq n,$$

therefore allowing to define the interpolation operator  $\mathcal{I}_n^k : \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{X}_k} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_n(\mathcal{X}_k)$ .

Then for any downward closed set  $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{N}^d$ , the set

$$\Gamma_\Lambda = \{t_\alpha = (t_{\alpha_1}^1, \dots, t_{\alpha_d}^d) : \alpha \in \Lambda\}$$

is unisolvent for  $\mathbb{P}_\Lambda(\mathcal{X})$ , that uniquely defines an interpolation operator (oblique projection)

$$\mathcal{I}_\Lambda : \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{X}} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_\Lambda(\mathcal{X})$$

whose norm can be bounded using upper bounds of the norm of one-dimensional interpolation operators.



# Orthogonal polynomials

When using least-squares or Galerkin projections methods in  $L^2_\mu(\mathcal{X})$ , the use of orthonormal bases improves properties of numerical methods.

Let consider a product measure  $\mu = \mu_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mu_d$  with support  $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{X}_1 \times \dots \times \mathcal{X}_d$ . Let  $\{\psi_n^k\}_{n \geq 0}$  be an orthonormal polynomial basis in  $L^2_{\mu_k}(\mathcal{X}_k)$ , with

$$\psi_n^k \in \mathbb{P}_n(\mathcal{X}_k)$$

such that

$$\int_{\mathcal{X}_k} \psi_n^k(x_k) \psi_m^k(x_k) d\mu_k(x_k) = \delta_{nm}$$

Then the tensorized polynomial basis  $\{\psi_\alpha(x) = \psi_{\alpha_1}^1(x_1) \dots \psi_{\alpha_d}^d(x_d)\}_{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d}$  constitutes an orthonormal basis of  $L^2_\mu(\mathcal{X})$ .

Classical examples of univariate orthonormal polynomials are

- Legendre polynomials for  $\mu_k \sim U(-1, 1)$ ,
- Hermite polynomials for  $\mu_k \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

# Polynomial approximations

Consider  $\mathcal{X} = [-1, 1]^d \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  and the space  $\mathbb{P}_\Lambda(\mathcal{X})$  of polynomials with partial degree bounded by  $p$ , where

$$\Lambda = \{\alpha : \max_k \alpha_k \leq p\}.$$

with dimension  $n = \#\Lambda = (p + 1)^d$ .

Assume that  $u : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow V$  is analytic and can be analytically extended to  $\{z \in \mathbb{C}^d : |z_k| \leq \tau\} \supset \mathcal{X}$ , then

$$e_n(u)_{L^\infty(\mathcal{X})} \lesssim e^{-c_\tau n^{1/d}}$$

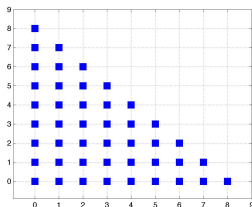
The convergence rate deteriorates with the dimension  $d$  (**curse of dimensionality**).

The key for circumventing the curse of dimensionality is to **exploit some sparsity**.

# Sparse polynomial spaces

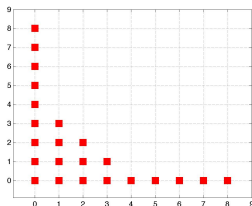
- Polynomials with bounded total degree

$$\Lambda = \{\alpha : \sum_k \alpha_k \leq p\} \text{ with } \#\Lambda = \frac{(d+p)!}{d!p!}$$



- Hyperbolic cross sets

$$\Lambda = \{\alpha : \prod_k (\alpha_k + 1) \leq p\} \text{ with } \#\Lambda \approx p \log(1 + p)^d$$



# Sparse polynomial spaces

- Additive polynomial functions: for

$$\Lambda = \{\alpha : \max_k \alpha_k \leq p \text{ and } \#\{k : \alpha_k \neq 0\} \leq 1\}$$

the space  $\mathbb{P}_\Lambda(\mathcal{X})$  corresponds to additive functions

$$\sum_{i=1}^d u_i(x_i)$$

with univariate polynomial functions  $u_i$  of degree  $p$ .

- Polynomial functions with low-order interactions: for

$$\Lambda = \{\alpha : \max_k \alpha_k \leq p \text{ and } \#\{k : \alpha_k \neq 0\} \leq m\}$$

the space  $\mathbb{P}_\Lambda(\mathcal{X})$  corresponds to functions with interactions of order  $m$

$$\sum_{i_1, \dots, i_m}^d u_{i_1, \dots, i_m}(x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_m})$$

with  $m$ -variate polynomial functions  $u_{i_1, \dots, i_m}$  of degree  $p$ .

# Outline

- 1 Polynomial approximation
- 2 Sparse approximation
- 3 Projection based model reduction
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Best  $n$ -term approximation

Let  $u \in M = L^p_\mu(\mathcal{X}; V)$  and let  $\{\psi_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathcal{F}}$  be a basis of  $L^p_\mu(\mathcal{X})$ , such that

$$u(x) = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathcal{F}} u_\alpha \psi_\alpha(x).$$

For a subset  $\Lambda \subset \mathcal{F}$ , let

$$M_\Lambda = \left\{ v(x) = \sum_{\alpha \in \Lambda} v_\alpha \psi_\alpha(x) : v_\alpha \in V \right\}.$$

Then we consider the **nonlinear model class**

$$M_n = \{v \in M_\Lambda : \Lambda \subset \mathcal{F}, \#\Lambda = n\} = \bigcup_{\#\Lambda=n} M_\Lambda$$

of functions that admit a representation with **at most  $n$  non zero coefficients** in the basis  $\{\psi_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathcal{F}}$ .

# Best $n$ -term approximation

A best approximation of  $u$  in  $M_n$  is called a **best  $n$ -term approximation** of  $u$  relatively to the given basis.

A best  $n$ -term approximation  $u_n$  is solution of

$$\min_{v \in M_n} \|u - v\|_{L^\mu(\mathcal{X}; \mathcal{V})} = \min_{\#\Lambda=n} \min_{v \in M_\Lambda} \|u - v\|_{L^\mu(\mathcal{X}; \mathcal{V})} := e_n(u)_{L^\mu}$$

where the minimum is taken over all subsets  $\Lambda$  with cardinal  $n$ .

This notion can be extended to more general dictionaries of functions.

Best  $n$ -term approximation

Assuming that the functions  $\psi_\alpha$  are normalized in  $L_\mu^p(\mathcal{X})$ ,

$$\min_{v \in M_\Lambda} \|u - v\|_{L_\mu^p(\mathcal{X}; V)} \leq \left\| \sum_{\alpha \notin \Lambda} u_\alpha \psi_\alpha \right\|_{L_\mu^p(\mathcal{X}; V)} \leq \sum_{\alpha \notin \Lambda} \|u_\alpha\|_V.$$

Therefore, by choosing a set  $\Lambda_n$  corresponding to the  $n$ -largest terms  $\|u_\alpha\|_V$ , we obtain a bound of the best  $n$ -term approximation error

$$e_n(u)_{L^p} \leq \sum_{\alpha \notin \Lambda_n} \|u_\alpha\|_V$$

If the sequence  $c = (\|u_\alpha\|_V)_\alpha \in \ell^r$  with  $r < 1$ , Stechkin's lemma yields

$$e_n(u)_{L^p} \leq Cn^{-s}, \quad s = \frac{1}{r} - 1$$

with  $C = \|c\|_{\ell^r} = (\sum_\alpha |c_\alpha|^r)^{1/r}$ .



Best  $n$ -term approximation

Assuming that  $\{\psi_\alpha\}$  is an orthonormal basis in  $L_\mu^2(\mathcal{X})$ ,

$$\min_{v \in M_\Lambda} \|u - v\|_{L_\mu^2(\mathcal{X}; V)}^2 = \left\| \sum_{\alpha \notin \Lambda} u_\alpha \psi_\alpha \right\|_{L_\mu^2(\mathcal{X}; V)}^2 = \sum_{\alpha \notin \Lambda} \|u_\alpha\|_V^2.$$

Therefore, by choosing a set  $\Lambda_n$  corresponding to the  $n$ -largest terms  $\|u_\alpha\|_V$ , we obtain the best  $n$ -term approximation error

$$e_n(u)_{L^2}^2 = \sum_{\alpha \notin \Lambda_n} \|u_\alpha\|_V^2$$

If the sequence  $c = (\|u_\alpha\|_V)_\alpha \in \ell^r$  with  $r < 1$ , **Stechkin's lemma** yields

$$e_n(u)_{L^2} \leq Cn^{-s}, \quad s = \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{2}$$

with  $C = \|c\|_{\ell^{r/2}}^{1/2}$ .

# Parameter-dependent equations

Consider the parameter-dependent equation

$$-\nabla \cdot (a(x)\nabla u(x)) = f \quad \text{in } D \subset \mathbb{R}^m, \quad u(x) = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial D,$$

with the uniform ellipticity assumption  $0 < \gamma \leq a(x) \leq \beta < \infty$ , and a particular parametrization

$$a(x) = a_0 + \sum_{i=1}^d a_i x_i, \quad x \in \mathcal{X} = [-1, 1]^d, \quad d \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{+\infty\}$$

Consider the Taylor expansion of  $u$  at 0

$$u(x) = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathcal{F}} u_\alpha x^\alpha, \quad u_\alpha = \frac{1}{\alpha!} \partial^\alpha u(0).$$

# Parameter-dependent equations

Bounds of  $\|u_\alpha\|_V$  can be obtained by complex analysis.

The solution admits an analytic extension to the complex domain (polydisc)  
 $\{z \in \mathbb{C}^d : |z_k| \leq 1\}$ .

If  $\rho = (\rho_i)_{i \geq 1}$  is any sequence such that

$$\sum_{i \geq 1} \rho_i |a_i| \leq a_0 - \zeta$$

for some  $0 < \zeta < \gamma$ , the solution admits an analytic extension  $u(z)$  to an even larger complex domain (polydisc)

$$\{z \in \mathbb{C}^d : |z_k| \leq \rho_k\}, \quad \rho_k > 1,$$

and

$$\|u_\alpha\|_V \leq \delta(\alpha), \quad \delta(\alpha) = C_\zeta \prod_{i \geq 1} \rho_i^{-\alpha_i}$$

## Parameter-dependent equations

Assuming that  $(\|a_i\|_{L^\infty(D)})_{i \geq 1} \in \ell^r$ , we can design a sequence  $\rho$  such that  $(\delta(\alpha))_{\alpha \in \mathcal{F}} \in \ell^r$ .

Therefore if  $(\|a_i\|_{L^\infty(D)})_{i \geq 1} \in \ell^r$  for some  $r < 1$ , then  $(\|u_\alpha\|_V)_{\alpha \in \mathcal{F}} \in \ell^r$  and the best  $n$ -term approximation in the canonical basis  $\{x^\alpha\}_\alpha$  is such that

$$e_n(u)_{L^\infty} \leq Cn^{-s}, \quad s = \frac{1}{r} - 1$$

We observe an algebraic convergence rate independent of the number of parameters, possibly infinite !

This result is still valid in the more general case of parameter-dependent operator equations

$$A(x)u(x) = f$$

where  $A(x) : V \rightarrow W$  is such that  $A(x) = A_0 + \sum_{i=1}^m A_i x_i$  and  $(\|A_i\|_{W \leftarrow V})_{i \geq 1} \in \ell^r$ .

The same performances are obtained by imposing to the sets  $\Lambda$  to be **downward closed**.

## More general parameter-dependent equations

For different types of models (different parametrizations, nonlinearity), the solution may not admit an analytic extension to a complex polydisc containing  $\mathcal{X}$ , so that Taylor expansion may not converge.

However, by using a Legendre polynomial basis (or rescaled Legendre basis), it is possible to exploit the fact that the solution admits an analytic extension on a smaller complex domain (contained in a polyellipse).

# Index sets based on estimates of coefficients

Assuming that we know an upper bound of the coefficients,

$$\|u_\alpha\|_V \leq \delta(\alpha) \quad (1)$$

a subset  $\Lambda_n^\delta$  is obtained by retaining the  $n$  largest values  $\delta(\alpha)$ . The resulting set is close to optimal if the bound (1) is sharp.

Upper bounds  $\delta(\alpha)$  can be obtained based on **a priori analysis** (a priori definition of the sequence  $\Lambda_n^\delta$ ) or based on **a posteriori analysis** (adaptive construction).

Assuming that there exists  $\gamma \geq 1$  such that

$$\gamma^{-1}\delta(\alpha) \leq \|u_\alpha\|_V \leq \delta(\alpha),$$

we have

$$\|u - u_{\Lambda_n^\delta}\|_{L_\mu^2(\mathcal{X};V)}^2 = \sum_{\alpha \notin \Lambda_n^\delta} \|u_\alpha\|_V^2 \leq \sum_{\alpha \notin \Lambda_n^\delta} \delta(\alpha)^2 = \min_{\#\Lambda_n=n} \sum_{\alpha \notin \Lambda_n} \delta(\alpha)^2 \leq \gamma^2 \min_{\#\Lambda_n=n} \sum_{\alpha \notin \Lambda_n} \|u_\alpha\|_V^2$$

and therefore

$$\|u - u_{\Lambda_n^\delta}\|_{L_\mu^2(\mathcal{X};V)} \leq \gamma e_n(u)_{L^2} \quad (\text{quasi-optimality})$$

# Index sets based on estimates of coefficients

In practice, we can define a sequence of subsets

$$\Lambda_p = \{\alpha : \delta(\alpha) \geq \epsilon(p)\}$$

with  $(\epsilon(p))_{p \geq 0}$  a decreasing sequence.

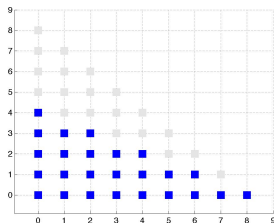
Assume that

$$\|u_\alpha\|_V \leq C \prod_k \rho_k^{-\alpha_k} = e^{-\sum_k \omega_k \alpha_k} := \delta(\alpha)$$

Taking  $\epsilon(p) = Ce^{-p}$ , we obtain

$$\Lambda_p = \left\{ \alpha : \sum_k \omega_k \alpha_k \leq p \right\}$$

which corresponds to polynomials with bounded weighted total degree.



## Index sets based on estimates of coefficients

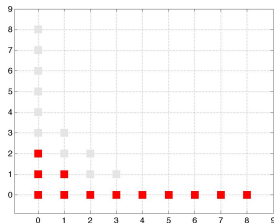
Assume that

$$\|u_\alpha\|_V \leq C \prod_k (1 + \alpha_k)^{-\omega_k} := \delta(\alpha)$$

Taking  $\epsilon(p) = Cp^{-1}$ , we obtain

$$\Lambda_p = \left\{ \alpha : \prod_k (1 + \alpha_k)^{\omega_k} \leq p \right\}$$

which is an anisotropic hyperbolic cross set.





# Adaptive constructions of index sets

Adaptive algorithms for sparse approximation construct an increasing sequence of subsets  $(\Lambda_n)_{n \geq 1}$  in  $\mathcal{F}$  and a sequence of approximations  $u_n \in M_{\Lambda_n}$  computed through interpolation, regression or other projection methods.

The sequence of subsets is defined by

$$\Lambda_n = \Lambda_{n-1} \cup A_n$$

where  $A_n$  is a subset of a candidate set  $N_n$ .

The definition of  $N_n$  requires a strategy for the exploration of the set  $\mathcal{F}$ .

The definition of  $A_n$  requires a selection strategy, usually based on error estimates.

## Adaptive constructions of index sets

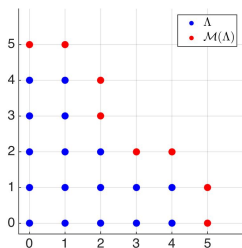
For a given downward closed set  $\Lambda$ , a natural neighborhood is given by the **margin** of  $\Lambda$

$$\mathcal{M}(\Lambda) = \{\alpha \in \mathcal{F} \setminus \Lambda : \exists \beta \in \Lambda \text{ s.t. } \|\alpha - \beta\|_1 = 1\}$$

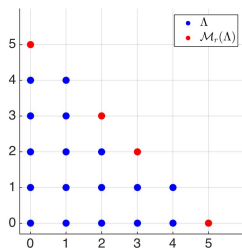
or the **reduced margin** of  $\Lambda$

$$\mathcal{M}_r(\Lambda) = \{\alpha \in \mathcal{F} \setminus \Lambda : \alpha - e_k \in \Lambda \text{ for all } k \text{ s.t. } \alpha_k > 1\}$$

a set  $\Lambda$  and its margin  $\mathcal{M}(\Lambda)$



a set  $\Lambda$  and its reduced margin  $\mathcal{M}_r(\Lambda)$



For a downward closed set  $\Lambda$ , an interesting property of the reduced margin  $\mathcal{M}_r(\Lambda)$  is that for any subset  $A \subset \mathcal{M}_r(\Lambda)$ ,  $\Lambda \cup A$  is downward closed.

# Outline

- 1 Polynomial approximation
- 2 Sparse approximation
- 3 Projection based model reduction**
- 4 (Other) model classes for high-dimensional approximation

# Parameter-dependent equations

We consider the case of models described by parameter-dependent equations

$$\mathcal{F}(u(x); x) = 0, \quad x \in \mathcal{X},$$

where the solution  $u(x)$  is in a **high-dimensional space**  $V$  (e.g. a finite element approximation space for PDEs).

The complexity limits the number of evaluations of  $u(x)$ .

However, for many problems, the **solution manifold**

$$\mathcal{M} = \{u(x) : x \in \mathcal{X}\}$$

has a **low effective dimension**, i.e. it can be well approximated by a **low dimensional subspace**  $V_n$  of  $V$ .

# Parameter-dependent equations

This is exploited by **projection-based model reduction methods** that consist in projecting the solution  $u(x)$  in a suitable subspace  $V_n$ , which results in an approximation

$$u_n(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \varphi_i(x)$$

where the  $v_i \in V$  form a basis of  $V_n$ , and  $\varphi_i : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

This can be interpreted as a **rank- $n$  approximation** of  $u$ , seen as an element of  $V \otimes \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{X}}$ .

For  $u \in L^p_{\mu}(\mathcal{X}; V)$ , this is equivalent to consider model classes

$$M_n = L^p_{\mu}(\mathcal{X}; V_n) = V_n \otimes L^p_{\mu}(\mathcal{X}).$$

## Measuring the quality of subspaces

Consider a Banach space  $V$  equipped with a norm  $\|\cdot\|_V$ .

For a given instance  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ , the quality of a subspace  $V_n$  is measured through the **best approximation error**

$$d(u(x), V_n) = \inf_{v \in V_n} \|u(x) - v\|_V$$

When we are interested in controlling the **worst-case error**, the map  $u$  is seen as an element of  $L^\infty(\mathcal{X}; V)$  and the quality of  $V_n$  is measured by

$$\inf_{v \in L^\infty(\mathcal{X}; V_n)} \|u - v\|_{L^\infty(\mathcal{X}; V)} = \sup_{x \in \mathcal{X}} d(u(x), V_n) = \sup_{f \in \mathcal{M}} d(f, V_n)$$

When  $\mathcal{X}$  is equipped with a measure and we are interesting in controlling a **mean-squared error**, the map is seen as an element of  $L^2_\mu(\mathcal{X}; V)$  and the quality of  $V_n$  is measured by

$$\inf_{v \in L^2_\mu(\mathcal{X}; V_n)} \|u - v\|_{L^2_\mu(\mathcal{X}; V)}^2 = \int_{\mathcal{X}} d(u(x), V_n)^2 d\mu(x) = \int_{\mathcal{M}} d(f, V_n)^2 d\nu(f)$$

where  $\nu = u_{\#}\mu$  is the push-forward measure of  $\mu$  through the solution map  $u$ .

# Optimal subspaces in the worst case setting

Optimal spaces  $V_n$  for the worst-case error are solution of

$$\inf_{\dim(V_n)=n} \inf_{v \in L^\infty(\mathcal{X}; V_n)} \|u - v\|_{L^\infty(\mathcal{X}; V)} = \inf_{\dim(V_n)=n} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{M}} d(f, V_n) := d_n(\mathcal{M})_V$$

$d_n(\mathcal{M})_V$  is the **Kolmogorov  $n$ -width** of the set  $\mathcal{M}$  in  $V$  which measures how well  $\mathcal{M}$  can be approximated by  $n$ -dimensional subspaces.

It quantifies the **ideal performance of linear approximation methods** since for any approximation of  $u$  of the form  $u_n(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \varphi_i(x)$ ,

$$\|u - u_n\|_{L^\infty(\mathcal{X}; V)} \geq d_n(\mathcal{M})_V.$$

Upper bounds for  $d_n(\mathcal{M})_V$  can be obtained by constructing particular approximations  $u_n(x)$  (e.g. polynomial approximations)

# Optimal subspaces in the mean-squared setting

Optimal spaces  $V_n$  in the mean-squared sense are solution of

$$\inf_{\dim(V_n)=n} \inf_{v \in L^2_\mu(\mathcal{X}; V_n)} \|u - v\|_{L^2_\mu(\mathcal{X}; V)}^2 = \inf_{\dim(V_n)=n} \int_{\mathcal{X}} d(u(x), V_n)^2 d\mu(x) := e_n(u)_{L^2}^2$$

$e_n(u)_{L^2}$  is another notion of linear  $n$ -width of the manifold  $\mathcal{M}$  equipped with the measure  $\nu = u\#\mu$ .

If  $V$  is a Hilbert space and  $\mu$  is a probability measure,

$$e_n(u)_{L^2}^2 = \inf_{\dim(V_n)=n} \int_{\mathcal{X}} \|u(x) - P_{V_n} u(x)\|_V^2 d\mu(x) = \inf_{\dim(V_n)=n} \mathbb{E}(\|u(X) - P_{V_n} u(X)\|_V^2)$$

and optimal spaces  $V_n$  are the  $n$ -dimensional **principal subspaces** of the  $V$ -valued random variable  $u(X)$ .

This corresponds to **principal component analysis** and the optimal approximation  $u_n(x) = P_{V_n} u(x)$  is the **truncated Karhunen-Loeve decomposition** of  $u(X)$ .



## $n$ -widths for parameter-dependent equations

Consider the parameter-dependent equation

$$-\nabla \cdot (a(x)\nabla u(x)) = f \quad \text{in } D \subset \mathbb{R}^m, \quad u(x) = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial D,$$

with the assumption  $0 < \gamma \leq a(x) \leq \beta < \infty, \forall x \in \mathcal{X}$ .

The problem admits a unique solution  $u(x) \in H_0^1(D) = V$  and  $\|u(x)\|_V \leq \frac{1}{\gamma} \|f\|_{H^{-1}(D)}$ . Therefore the solution manifold  $\mathcal{M}$  is a bounded subset of  $V$ . This says nothing about the convergence of  $d_n(\mathcal{M})_V$ .

If  $f \in H^{s-1}(D)$ ,  $a(x) \in C^s(D)$  and  $D$  is sufficiently regular, then  $\mathcal{M}$  is a bounded subset of  $H^{s+1}(D)$ , therefore compact in  $V$  when  $s \geq 1$ , and

$$d_n(\mathcal{M})_V \lesssim n^{-s/m}.$$

This performance is achieved by generic approximation spaces  $V_n$  such as splines on uniform meshes.

Finer assumptions are required to reveal an interest of projection-based model reduction methods.

# $n$ -widths for parameter-dependent equations

Consider a particular parametrization

$$a(x) = a_0 + \sum_{i=1}^d a_i x_i, \quad x_i \in [-1, 1].$$

From results on best  $n$ -term approximations using polynomial bases, we obtain bounds on the  $n$ -widths of  $\mathcal{M}$ .

If  $d < \infty$ , we have an exponential convergence of  $d_n(\mathcal{M})_V$ , with a deterioration of the convergence rate when  $m$  increases.

If  $d = \infty$  and  $(\|a_i\|_\infty)_{i \geq 1} \in \ell^r$  for some  $r < 1$ , then

$$d_n(\mathcal{M})_V \lesssim n^{-s}, \quad s = \frac{1}{r} - 1.$$

# $n$ -widths for parameter-dependent equations

More general results have been obtained for parameter-dependent equations

$$\mathcal{F}(u(a); a) = 0, \quad u(a) \in V,$$

where  $a$  belongs to some compact set  $\mathcal{A}$  of a complex Banach space  $A$  (e.g.  $L^\infty(D)$ ).

If  $u : a \in \mathcal{A} \mapsto u(a) \in \mathcal{M}$  is holomorphic, then

$$d_n(\mathcal{A})_A \lesssim n^{-s} \Rightarrow d_n(\mathcal{M})_V \lesssim n^{-r} \text{ with } r < s - 1.$$

For details, see [Cohen & DeVore 2015].

## Practical construction of subspaces in the mean-squared setting

Optimal subspaces  $V_n$  are usually out of reach but suboptimal constructions can be proposed.

In the **mean-squared setting**, **Empirical Principal Component Analysis** (or Proper Orthogonal Decomposition) defines subspaces  $V_n$  as solutions of

$$\min_{\dim(V_n)=n} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \|u(x^i) - P_{V_n} u(x^i)\|_V^2$$

where  $u(x^i)$  are samples of  $u(X)$ . The resulting spaces  $V_n$  are nested subspaces contained in  $\text{span}\{u(x^1), \dots, u(x^m)\}$ .

**Proper Generalized Decomposition** (or Generalized Spectral Decomposition) defines spaces  $V_n$  solution of

$$\min_{\dim(V_n)=n} \inf_{v \in L^2_\mu(X; V_n)} \int_X \Delta(u(x), v(x)) \mu(dx).$$

Assuming that  $\Delta(u, v) \sim \|u - v\|_V^2$ , the resulting spaces  $V_n$  are such that

$$\mathbb{E}(\|u(X) - P_{V_n} u(X)\|_V^2) \lesssim e_n(u)_{L^2}^2.$$

**Constructive algorithms** are obtained by imposing a nestedness property  $V_n \supset V_{n-1}$ . See [Nouy 2017].

# Practical construction of subspaces in the worst-case setting

In the **worst-case setting**, a **greedy algorithm** defines spaces

$$V_n = \text{span}\{u(x^1), \dots, u(x^n)\}$$

with adaptively chosen samples

$$x^{n+1} = \arg \max_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \|u(x) - P_{V_n} u(x)\|_V.$$

The quality of  $V_n$  is assessed by

$$\sigma_n = \sup_{f \in \mathcal{M}} \|f - P_{V_n} f\|_V$$

- If  $d_n(\mathcal{M})_V \lesssim n^{-s}$ , then  $\sigma_n \lesssim n^{-s}$ .
- If  $d_n(\mathcal{M})_V \lesssim e^{-an^\alpha}$ , then  $\sigma_n \lesssim e^{-bn^\alpha}$ .

See [ DeVore et al 2013 ]

## Practical construction of subspaces in the worst-case setting

In practice, samples are chosen such that

$$x^{n+1} = \arg \max_{x \in \mathcal{X}_N} \Delta(u(x), u_n(x))$$

where  $\mathcal{X}_N$  is a discrete (training) set in  $\mathcal{X}$ ,  $u_n(x)$  is some projection of  $u(x)$  onto  $V_n$  (typically a Galerkin projection) and  $\Delta(u(x), u_n(x))$  is an estimator of  $\|u(x) - u_n(x)\|$ . This is the basic idea of [reduced basis methods](#).

An algorithm using a [random selection of training sets](#)  $\mathcal{X}_N$  is analyzed in [Cohen et al 2018].

Any projection  $u_n(x)$  of  $u(x)$  onto  $V_n = \text{span}\{u(x^1), \dots, u(x^n)\}$  interpolates the solution map  $u$  at points  $\{x^1, \dots, x^n\}$ .

For parameter-dependent equations  $A(x)u(x) = f(x)$  with  $A(x) : V \rightarrow W$ , a Galerkin projection can be defined by

$$u_n(x) = \arg \min_{v \in V_n} \|A(x)v - f(x)\|_W.$$

If  $A(x)$  is linear and  $A(x)$  and  $f(x)$  depend polynomially in  $x$ ,  $u_n(x)$  is a rational interpolation of  $u(x)$ .

# Outline

- 1 Polynomial approximation
- 2 Sparse approximation
- 3 Projection based model reduction
- 4 (Other) model classes for high-dimensional approximation

# Model classes for high-dimensional approximation

Standard model classes include

- Linear models

$$a_1 x_1 + \dots + a_d x_d$$

- Polynomial models

$$\sum_{\alpha \in \Lambda} a_\alpha x^\alpha$$

where  $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{N}^d$  is a set of multi-indices, either fixed (linear approximation) or free (nonlinear approximation).

Other model classes include

- More general expansions

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i \psi_i(x)$$

where the  $\psi_i$  are either fixed (linear approximation) or freely selected in a dictionary of functions (nonlinear approximation).



# Model classes for high-dimensional approximation

- Additive models

$$u_1(x_1) + \dots + u_d(x_d)$$

or more generally

$$\sum_{\alpha \subset T} u_\alpha(x_\alpha)$$

where  $T \subset 2^{\{1, \dots, d\}}$  is either fixed (linear approximation) or a free parameter (nonlinear approximation).

- Multiplicative models

$$u_1(x_1) \dots u_d(x_d)$$

or more generally

$$\prod_{\alpha \in T} u_\alpha(x_\alpha)$$

where  $T \subset 2^{\{1, \dots, d\}}$  is either a fixed or a free parameter.

# Composition of functions

$$f(g(x)) = f(g_1(x), \dots, g_m(x))$$

with  $g$  is a map from  $\mathbb{R}^d$  to  $\mathbb{R}^m$  and  $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  has a low-dimensional parametrization.

- Linear transformations (ridge functions)

$$f(Wx), \quad W \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$$

A typical example is the perceptron

$$f(y) = a\sigma(w^T x + b)$$

- For large  $m$ , requires specific models for  $f$ , e.g.

$$f(g_1(x), \dots, g_m(x)) = f_1(g_1(x)) + \dots + f_m(g_m(x))$$

A sum of  $m$  perceptrons is a **shallow neural network** (with one hidden layer of width  $m$ )

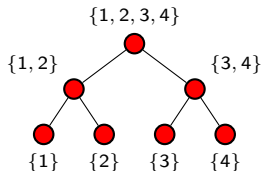
$$\sum_{i=1}^m a_i \sigma(w_i^T x + b_i)$$

## More compositions... deep neural networks

$$g_L \circ g_{L-1} \circ \dots \circ g_2 \circ g_1(x)$$

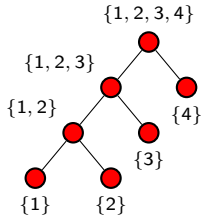
- Deep convolutional networks

$$f_{1,2,3,4} (f_{1,2} (f_1(x_1), f_2(x_2)), f_{3,4} (f_3(x_3), f_4(x_4)))$$



- Deep recurrent networks

$$f_{1,2,3,4} (f_{1,2,3} (f_{1,2} (f_1(x_1), f_2(x_2)), f_3(x_3)), f_4(x_4))$$



# Low rank tensor formats

A multivariate function  $v(x_1, \dots, x_d)$  is identified with an element of a tensor product space

$$\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{H}_d$$

where  $\mathcal{H}_\nu$  is a vector space of functions of the variable  $x_\nu$ .

- Function with rank one (elementary tensor)

$$v(x) = u_1(x_1) \dots u_d(x_d)$$

- Function with canonical rank  $r$

$$v(x) = \sum_{k=1}^r u_1^k(x_1) \dots u_d^k(x_d)$$

# Low rank tensor formats

- For a subset of variables  $\alpha \subset \{1, \dots, d\} := D$ ,  $v(x)$  can be identified with a bivariate function

$$v(x_\alpha, x_{\alpha^c}),$$

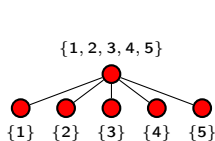
where  $x_\alpha$  and  $x_{\alpha^c}$  are complementary groups of variables. The canonical rank of this bivariate function is called the  $\alpha$ -rank of  $v$ , denoted  $\text{rank}_\alpha(v)$ , which is the minimal integer  $r_\alpha$  such that

$$v(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{r_\alpha} v_k^\alpha(x_\alpha) w_k^{\alpha^c}(x_{\alpha^c})$$

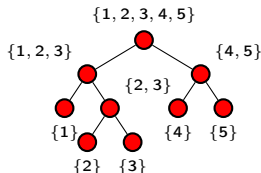
- For  $T \subset 2^D$  a collection of subsets of  $D$ , a tensor format is defined by

$$\mathcal{T}_r^T = \{v : \text{rank}_\alpha(v) \leq r_\alpha, \alpha \in T\}$$

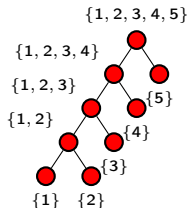
- Tree-based formats correspond to a tree-structured  $T$ .



Tucker format



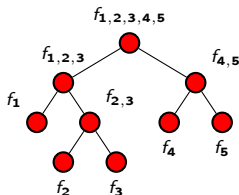
Hierarchical Tucker



Tensor Train format

# Tree-based tensor formats as deep networks

- A tensor  $v$  in  $\mathcal{T}_r^T$  admits a parametrization with parameters  $\{f_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in T}$  forming a **tree network of low dimensional multilinear functions (tensors)**.



$$v(x) = f_{1,2,3,4,5} (f_{1,2,3} (f_1(x_1), f_{2,3}(f_2(x_2), f_3(x_3))), f_{4,5} (f_4(x_4), f_5(x_5)))$$

where for  $1 \leq \nu \leq d$ ,  $f_\nu : \mathcal{X}_\nu \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{r_\nu}$ , and for any node  $\alpha$  with children  $\beta_1 \dots \beta_s$ ,

$$f_\alpha : \mathbb{R}^{r_{\beta_1}} \times \dots \times \mathbb{R}^{r_{\beta_s}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{r_\alpha}$$

is a **multilinear function**, which is identified with a **tensor** in  $\mathbb{R}^{r_\alpha \times r_{\beta_1} \times \dots \times r_{\beta_s}}$ .

- Corresponds to a **deep network with particular architecture and multilinear functions**.
- Very specific structure allowing the design of stable algorithms for constructing approximations in this format.

# Conclusions

A lot remains to be done for **nonlinear approximation tools**:

- characterize **classes of functions** for which these approximation tools achieve a certain performance (e.g. algebraic or exponential rates of convergence).
- find **problems** that involve these classes of functions,
- provide **algorithms** (interpolation, regression, Galerkin...) that achieve (almost) the ideal performance.

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