

TR/12

JULY 1972

ON BLENDING-FUNCTION INTERPOLATION

by

Robert E. Barnhill and Gregory M. Nielson.

1. Introduction.

The purpose of this note is to discuss the relationship between blending-function methods [2,3,4,] and cross-product methods [6]. A general theorem on projections is quoted. This theorem includes blending-function methods as a special case and leads to simpler proofs of some of Gordon's theorems.

2. Orthogonal Projections.

The following is a theorem in Bachman and Narici [1, p. 414]:

Theorem 1. Let X be a Hilbert space with E_1 and E_2 as orthogonal projections that commute and are onto the closed subspaces M_1 , and M_2 , respectively. If $E \equiv E_1 + E_2 - E_1 E_2$, then E is an orthogonal projection onto $\overline{M_1 \cup M_2}$. (Moreover, if I is the identity operator, then $I - E = (I - E_1)(I - E_2)$.)

The application of this theorem to blending-functions is as follows: Let $\phi_1(x), \dots, \phi_k(x)$ be an orthonormal set of functions in $L_2(a, b)$ and $M_1 \equiv \{\sum_i a_i(y) \phi_i(x) : a_i(y) \text{ piecewise continuous}\}$ and let $\psi_1(y), \dots, \psi_k(y)$ be an orthonormal set of functions in $L^2(c, d)$ and $M_2 \equiv \{\sum_j b_j(x) \psi_j(y) : b_j(x) \text{ piecewise continuous}\}$. For a function of two variables,, $F(x,y)$,

projections of the form $E_1(F) = P_x(F) \equiv \sum_{i=1}^k a_i(y)\varphi_i(x)$ and $E_2(F) = P_y(F) \equiv \sum_{j=1}^{k'} b_j(x)\psi_j(y)$ are considered. For the case of least squares approximation, $a_i(y) \equiv \int_a^b F(x,y)\varphi_i(x) dx$ and $b_j(x) \equiv \int_c^d F(x,y)\psi_j(y) dy$ dually [2].

We now use the above to simplify the proof of the following theorem due to Gordon [2].

Theorem 2. ("Bivariate orthogonal expansions")

Let $F(x,y)$ be piecewise continuous on $[a,b] \times [c,d]$. Of all functions of the form $\tilde{f}(x,y) = \sum_{i=1}^k g_i(y)\varphi_i(x) + \sum_{j=1}^{k'} h_j(x)\psi_j(y)$, the g_i and h_j piecewise continuous, such that

$$(F, \varphi_i)_{(x)} \equiv \int_a^b F(x,y)\varphi_i(x) dx = \int_a^b \tilde{f}(x,y)\varphi_i(x) dx$$

and

$$(F, \psi_j)_{(y)} \equiv \int_c^d F(x,y)\psi_j(y) dy = \int_c^d \tilde{f}(x,y)\psi_j(y) dy,$$

the function $f = P_x(F) + P_y(F) - P_x P_y(F)$ uniquely minimizes $\|F - \tilde{f}\|$.

Proof: The fact that f is admissible, i.e.,

$(F, \varphi_i)_{(x)} = (f, \varphi_i)_{(x)}$ and $(F, \psi_j)_{(y)} = (f, \psi_j)_{(y)}$, follows from

its definition: Let $\tilde{f}_x \equiv \sum_i a_i(y)\varphi_i(x)$ and $\tilde{f}_y \equiv \sum_j b_j(x)\psi_j(y)$.

By the properties of orthogonal projections, $(F - P_x(F), \tilde{f}_x)_{(x)} = 0$ i.e., $F - P_x(F)$ is orthogonal to M_1 . Similarly,

$(F - P_y(F), \tilde{f}_y)_{(y)} = 0$. Since the inner product on the space is

$(F, G) = \int_a^b \int_a^b F(x, y)G(x, y)dx dy$ it is obvious that

$(F - P_x(F), \tilde{f}_y) = 0 = (F - P_y(F), \tilde{f}_x)$. Expand

$$\begin{aligned} \|F - \tilde{f}_x - \tilde{f}_y\|^2 &= \|F\|^2 - 2[(F, \tilde{f}_x) + (F, \tilde{f}_y)] + \|\tilde{f}_x + \tilde{f}_y\|^2 \\ &= \|F\|^2 - 2[(P_x(F), \tilde{f}_x) + (P_y(F), \tilde{f}_y) + (P_y(F), \tilde{f}_x) \\ &\quad + (P_x(F), \tilde{f}_y) - (P_y(F), \tilde{f}_x) - (P_x(F), \tilde{f}_y)] \\ &\quad + \|\tilde{f}_x + \tilde{f}_y\|^2 . \end{aligned}$$

Since $P_x P_y(F) - P_y(F)$ is orthogonal M_1 , i.e.,

$(P_x P_y(F) - P_y(F), \tilde{f}_x) = 0 = (P_x P_y(F) - P_y(F), \tilde{f}_y)$, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \|F - \tilde{f}_x - \tilde{f}_y\|^2 &= \|F\|^2 - 2[(P_x(F) + P_y(F) - P_x P_y(F), \tilde{f}_x + \tilde{f}_y)] + \|\tilde{f}_x + \tilde{f}_y\|^2 \\ &= \|F\|^2 - \|P_x(F) + P_y(F) - P_x P_y(F)\|^2 \\ &\quad + \|\tilde{f}_x + \tilde{f}_y\|^2 , \end{aligned}$$

from which the conclusion follows.

Q.E.D.

The set M_1 is $\{\sum_i a_i(y)\varphi_i(x)\}$; M_2 is $\{\sum_j b_j(x)\psi_j(y)\}$,

with $M_1 \cup M_2$ then being $\{\sum_i a_i(y)\varphi_i(x) + \sum_j b_j(x)\psi_j(y)\}$.

Now $M_1 \cup M_2 = \{\sum_{i,j} B_{ij}\varphi_i(x)\psi_j(y)\}$ and the tensor (cross-) product

approximation to F is $E_1 E_2(F)$. It is the best approximation

to F from $M_1 \cap M_2$ [2] and hence is the orthogonal projection of F onto $M_1 \cap M_2$. Now $M_1 \cap M_2 \subset M_1 \cup M_2$ implies that

$$\|F - E_1(F) - E_2(F) + E_1E_2(F)\|^2 \leq \|F - E_1E_2(F)\|^2.$$

The next theorem gives a precise statement of the improvement obtained.

Theorem 3. Under the above conditions.

$$\begin{aligned} & \|F - E_1E_2(F)\|^2 - \|F - E_1(F) - E_2(F) + E_1E_2(F)\|^2 \\ &= \|E_1(F) - E_2E_1(F)\|^2 + \|E_2(F) - E_2E_1(F)\|^2 \\ &= \|E_1(F) - E_2(F)\|^2 \gamma \{ \|E_1(F)\| - \|E_2(F)\| \}^2 \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Proof; By Theorem 1,

$$\|F - E_1(F) - E_2(F) + E_1E_2(F)\|^2 = \|F\|^2 - \|E_1(F) + E_2(F) - E_1E_2(F)\|^2.$$

Using successively the facts that $(F - E_2(F), E_2(F)) = 0$,

$(E_1[F - E_2(F)], E_2(F)) = 0$, and that E_1 and E_2 commute,

we find that

$$\|F - E_1(F) - E_2(F) + E_1E_2(F)\|^2 = \|F\|^2 - \|E_2(F)\|^2 - \|E_1(F)\|^2 + \|E_1E_2(F)\|^2.$$

By the above remarks concerning $E_1E_2(F)$, $\|F - E_1E_2(F)\|^2 =$

$$\|F\|^2 - \|E_1E_2(F)\|^2, \quad \text{from which the conclusion follows.} \quad \text{Q.E.D.}$$

3. Connection with Stancu's results.

For interpolation along sections, different definitions of the projections P_x and P_y are required than for the above

least squares interpolation. If $L_i(F) = g_i(y)$, $i = \overline{1, K}$, and

$M_j(F) = h_j(x)$, $j = \overline{1, K^1}$, are required, then the corresponding $\varphi_i(x)$ and $\psi_j(y)$ are required to be biorthonormal with respect to the linear functionals L_i and M_j , respectively.

Let $P_x(F) \equiv \sum_i L_i(F)\varphi_i(x)$ and $P_y(F) \equiv \sum_j M_j(F)\psi_j(y)$. If we let

$$(1) \quad R_B(F) \equiv F(x,y) - P_x(F) - P_y(F) + P_x P_y(F),$$

then $R_B(F)$ can be related to the cross-product remainder. In Stancu's [6] notation, the cross-product remainder can be

represented as $R(F) = T(F) - \sum_{i,j} B_j(A_i(F))$, where

$$T = T_2 T_1, \quad T_1(F) = \sum_i A_i(F) + R_1(F), \quad T_2(F) = \sum_j B_j(F) + R_2(F),$$

and T_1 operates on the function $F(x,y)$ as a function of its first variable and T_2 dually. For this situation, Stancu shows that

$$(2) \quad R(F) = R_1(T_2(F)) + R_2(T_1(F)) - R_2(R_1(F)).$$

For interpolation along sections, T , T_1 , and T_2 are all point evaluations at (x,y) , $A_i(F) \equiv L_i(F)\varphi_i(x)$, and $B_j(F) \equiv M_j(F)\psi_j(y)$.

Theorem 3. Under the above conditions,

$$(3) \quad R_B(F) = R_2 R_1(F).$$

Proof : $R(F) = T(F) - \sum_{i,j} B_j(A_i(F))$. Subtract

$R_1(T_2(F)) + R_2(T_1(F)) - 2R_2(R_1(F))$ from both sides of this equation.

Thus

$$(4) \quad R_2(R_1(F)) = R(F) - \sum_{i,j} B_j(A_i(F)) - R_1(T_2(F)) \\ - R_2(T_1(F)) + 2R_2(R_1(F)).$$

Now

$$R_1(T_2(F)) + R_2(T_1(F)) - 2R_2(R_1(F)) \\ = R_1(T_2(F) - R_2(F)) + R_2(T_1(F) - R_1(F)) \\ = R_1(\sum_j B_j(F)) + R_2(\sum_i A_i(F)) \\ = T_1(\sum_j B_j(F)) - \sum_i A_i(\sum_i A_i(\sum_i B_j(F))) \\ + T_2(\sum_i A_i(F)) - \sum_i B_j(\sum_j B_j(\sum_i A_i(F))) \\ = \sum_j B_j(F) - 2 \sum_{i,j} A_i(B_j(F)) + \sum_i A_i(F) .$$

Substitution of this in equation (4) yields

$$R_2(R_1(F)) = F(x,y) - \sum_i A_i(F) - \sum_i A_i(F) - \sum_j B_j(F) + \sum_{i,j} A_i(B_j(F)) \equiv R_B(F) .$$

Q.E.D,

Gordon has derived remainder terms for specific examples that are of the form $R_B(F) = R_2R_1(F)$. The following corollary shows that this is a general result.

Corollary. Let $T = T_2T_1$ be a bounded linear functional that commutes with R_1 and R_2 .

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
R_B(T(F)) &= T(F) - \sum_i L_i(T_2(F)) T_1(\varphi_i(x)) \\
&\quad - \sum_j M_j(T_1(F)) T_2(\psi_j(y)) \\
&\quad + \sum_{i,j} L_i M_j(F) T_1(\varphi_i(x)) T_2(\psi_j(y)) .
\end{aligned}$$

Proof: Apply $T = T_2 T_1$ to equation (1).

The importance of this corollary is that, when the problem functional T , which operates on functions of two variables, can be written as a composition of linear functionals T_1 , and T_2 which operate on functions of one variable, then

$R_B(T(F)) = R_2 R_1(T(F))$ and the appropriate blending-function approximation is obtained by operating with T on the interpolatory blending-function. (The latter is the procedure used in practice.)

The point is that R_1 and R_2 are the one-dimensional interpolation remainders throughout, instead of being e.g., quadrature remainders if $T(F) = \int_c^b \int_a^b F(x, y) dx dy$. If the variables in T cannot be separated into the product of a T_1 and T_2 , then the above does not hold. However, blending-function methods are inherently of a (generalized) cross-product type in that

$R_B(\varphi_1(x)g(y)) = 0 = R_B(f(x)\psi_j(y))$, i.e., the precision is of a rectangular type and spaces analogous to Sard's [5] $B_{p,q}$ are appropriate.

We remark in conclusion that the use of projections can simplify other proofs, e.g., the minimum norm property for interpolating blending-functions [3]. In addition, it leads

to $(P_x + P_y - P_x P_y)(F)$ as the approximation to use, since $F - P_x(F)$ and $P_y(F) - P_x P_y(F)$ are both orthogonal to M_1 , $F - P_y(F)$ and $P_x(F) - P_y P_x(F)$ are both orthogonal to M_2 , and hence $(P_x + P_y - P_x P_y)(F)$ is orthogonal to $M_1 \cup M_2$. (Equivalently, the factorization $I - E = (I - E_1)(I - E_2)$ of Theorem 1 could be considered.)

Acknowledgments. The research of R. E. Barnhill was supported by the National Science Foundation with Grant GP 20293 to the University of Utah, by the Science Research Council with Grant B/SR/9652 at Brunei University, and by a N.A.T.O. Senior Fellowship in Science. The research of G. M. Nielson was supported by a National Science Foundation Trainee ship at the University of Utah, The kind assistance of Dr. William J. Gordon in discussing and furnishing copies of his work is also acknowledged.

REFERENCES

1. Bachman, George and Lawrence Narici, Functional Analysis, Academic Press, New York (1966).
2. Gordon, William J., "Blending-Function methods of bivariate and multivariate interpolation and approximation," General Motors Research Publication GMR-834, October, 1968.
3. Gordon, William J., "Spline-blended surface interpolation through curve networks," *Journal of Mathematics and Mechanics*, 18, 931-952, 1969.
4. Gordon, William J., Distributive lattices and the approximation of multivariate functions. I.J.Schoenberg (ed.), *Approximations with Special Emphasis on Spline Functions*, 223-278, 1969.
5. Sard, Arthur, Linear Approximation. Math. Surveys, No.9, Amer.Math.Soc, Providence, R.I. 1963.
6. Stancu, D. D., "The remainder of certain linear approximation formulas in two variables," *J. SIAM Num.Anal.*, Ser. B, Vol.1, p.137-162.