Grid Generator, Prerequisites

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1 Problem Statement

Given a digital elevation model (DEM) of Earth's surface, we need a domain of point coordinates in three dimensions suitable for solving partial differential equations on. The domain extends downward from the DEM surface to a user-defined desired depth.

2 Requirements

2.1 Inputs

Data to be supplied by the user are:

- \bullet a digital elevation model (m above mean sea level) covering the desired area e.g. a GTOPO30 tile,
- longitude and latitude intervals (in degrees easting and northing),
- a desired depth (m).

2.2 Outputs

Data to be output by the program are three tab-delimited .txt files containing the separate (x, y, z)-coordinates of a computational grid spanning the longitude and latitude limits and down to the desired depth.

3 Architecture

3.1 Class Descriptions

3.1.1 Point

Data members are three doubles that constitute an (x, y, z)-coordinate. Public routines are getters, setters, and a showCoordinate() function, which displays the coordinate of the point in the terminal.

3.1.2 Line

Data members are an integer size N indicating the number of points in the line, a double h indicating the step size used, and coordinates, a dynamically-allocated (size N) array of Point objects. Points are added to the line by means of a function addPoint(int i, Point p), which inserts the Point p into coordinates at index i (the first element having index 0). Public routines are addPoint(int i, Point p) and showCoordinates(), which displays all the coordinates in the line in the terminal.

The idea with Line is to initialise it to a specific length, then fill coordinates with Point objects generated from the DEM.

3.1.3 Surface

In contrast to Line, Surface is not initialised to size then filled, but rather interpolates its internal points when constructed, given four boundary Line objects.

3.1.4 Domain

3.2 Mathematics

3.2.1 2D Transfinite interpolation

$$x(\xi,\eta) = (1-\xi)x(0,\eta) + \xi x(1,\eta) + (1-\eta)x(\xi,0) + \eta x(\xi,1) - (1-\eta)(1-\xi)x(0,0) - \xi(1-\eta)x(1,0) - (1-\xi)\eta x(0,1) - \eta \xi x(1,1),$$

$$y(\xi,\eta) = (1-\xi)y(0,\eta) + \xi y(1,\eta) + (1-\eta)y(\xi,0) + \eta y(\xi,1) - (1-\eta)(1-\xi)y(0,0) - \xi(1-\eta)y(1,0) - (1-\xi)\eta y(0,1) - \eta \xi y(1,1).$$

3.2.2 3D Transfinite Interpolation

As in [1], the formula for 3D transfinite interpolation is as follows:

$$U(\xi,\eta,\zeta) = (1-\xi)X(0,\eta,\zeta) + \xi X(1,\eta,\zeta),$$

$$V(\xi,\eta,\zeta) = (1-\eta)X(\xi,0,\zeta) + \eta X(\xi,1,\zeta),$$

$$W(\xi,\eta,\zeta) = (1-\zeta)X(\xi,\eta,0) + \zeta X(\xi,\eta,1),$$

$$UW(\xi,\eta,\zeta) = (1-\xi)(1-\zeta)X(0,\eta,0) + \zeta(1-\xi)X(0,\eta,1) + \xi(1-\zeta)X(1,\eta,0) + \xi\zeta X(1,\eta,1),$$

$$UV(\xi,\eta,\zeta) = (1-\xi)(1-\eta)X(0,0,\zeta) + \eta(1-\xi)X(0,1,\zeta) + \xi(1-\eta)X(1,0,\zeta) + \xi\eta X(1,1,\zeta),$$

$$VW(\xi,\eta,\zeta) = (1-\xi)(1-\eta)(1-\zeta)X(\xi,0,0) + \zeta(1-\eta)X(\xi,0,1) + \eta(1-\zeta)X(\xi,1,0) + \eta\zeta X(\xi,1,1),$$

$$UVW(\xi,\eta,\zeta) = (1-\eta)(1-\zeta)X(\xi,0,0) + (1-\xi)(1-\eta)\zeta X(0,0,1) + (1-\xi)\eta(1-\zeta)X(0,1,0) + \xi(1-\eta)(1-\zeta)X(1,0,0) + (1-\xi)\eta\zeta X(0,1,1) + \xi(1-\eta)\zeta X(1,0,1) + (1-\xi)\eta\zeta X(1,1,0) + \xi\eta\zeta X(1,1,1).$$

Putting these together gives the complete formula:

$$\begin{split} X(\xi,\eta,\zeta) &= U(\xi,\eta,\zeta) + V(\xi,\eta,\zeta) + W(\xi,\eta,\zeta) \\ &- UW(\xi,\eta,\zeta) - UV(\xi,\eta,\zeta) - VW(\xi,\eta,\zeta) \\ &+ UVW(\xi,\eta,\zeta). \end{split}$$

References

[1] Smith, Robert E (1998) Transfinite Interpolation Generation Systems. In Nigel P., et. al. *Handbook of Grid Generation*, CRC Press.