

Interpolation and approximation

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Chapter 1

Interpolation

1 Introduction

Interpolation means various things. In the simplest iteration, I give you values (or approximate values) of a function at finitely many points and ask you to guess the function. The function can be anything so we have to make restrictions. Take some function space norm, like C^m norm or Sobolev norm. Find the function with norm as small as possible or almost as small as possible. There's no reason to think the correct answer is the function with smallest norm.

Is there a function that agrees with the data whose norm is bounded by the given bound, exactly or approximately? If no, the data is not consistent with the smoothness assumption. If yes, we would like to find it.

We are interested in theorems and algorithms, implemented on a computer.

There is a theory for interpolating functions of 1 variable. Fit a polynomial to adjacent points; fudge the functions so that they match perfectly. On the line, the points come in order. Given sets in the plane, there's no order; the geometry is much more subtle.

For example, in \mathbb{R}^2 , suppose we are given a bunch of points on the x -axis, and 2 points off the axis. Is it possible to interpolate the data with $\|F\|_{C^2} \lesssim 1$? If the values of the y derivative are sufficiently close, we can interpolate, otherwise no. We had better not just examine nearby points; information can come from far away. Any algorithm that constructs an interpolate by looking at the 100 points closest to it is bound to fail. If the set looks like this, we have to recognize it and respond to it.

Let E be the set and $N = \#E$. There are algorithms that take time $O(N \log N)$.

I'm only interested in algorithms that always work, not those that require geometric conditions on the points.

Suppose we want $\|F\|_{C^4} \lesssim 1$. Draw the zero set of a polynomial of degree 3. Suppose all but a few points lie on that set. This is really the same problem as before. Given F , I will not see a difference with $F + GP$ except on the points that are off the zero-set. To test this hypothesis, you had better recognize this is going on, that the clusters with points that are outside have the important information, and respond to it. Nobody tells you the zero set is

around; you are only given the finite set of points. You need to recognize the curve is sitting there. Already, this subject has input from real algebraic geometry.

This is not the worst possible case for C^m . Consider $C^4(\mathbb{R}^3)$. Imagine there's some algebraic surface which is the zero set of a polynomial of low degree and on the surface there is some curve, which is the intersection of the surface with another. All but a few lie really close to the surface, and of the ones close to the surface, all but a few lie close to the curve. That affects where the information is coming from. (Real algebraic geometry was for a long time disjoint from anything else, but it's starting to make connections. We won't take textbook theorems from real algebraic geometry and apply them.)

Interpolation with exact values are well understood in $C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$. They're also well understood in Sobolev spaces $W^{m,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. We require $p \geq 1$. If $p > \frac{n}{m}$, then $W^{m,p}(\mathbb{R}^n) \subset C^0$. The problem makes sense in this regime. A lot is known when $p > n$. For $\frac{n}{m} < p < n$, not much is known.

Let X be a Banach space of continuous functions on \mathbb{R}^n . Assume $X = C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$. (There are obvious modifications for other spaces.) Let $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be finite with $\#E = N$. Consider $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Define

$$\|f\|_{X(E)} = \inf \{ \|F\|_X : F \in X \text{ such that } F = f \text{ on } E \}. \quad (1.1)$$

Often this inf is not a min. Say that F is an A -optimal extension of f if $F = f$ on E and $\|F\|_X \leq A \|f\|_{X(E)}$.

The two main problems are

1. Compute the order of magnitude of $\|f\|_{X(E)}$. (We say 2 real numbers are the same order of magnitude if the ratio is bounded above and below by constants independent of the data. We want to compute a number guaranteed to have the same order of magnitude.)
2. Compute a A -optimal extension of f .

Computing a function is a more delicate thing because a computer will only deal with a finite number of values, while a function has infinitely many. What we mean is the following. Sit at a terminal, enter the data. The computer then displays "Please wait, I'm thinking about it." The computer then executes an algorithm. "Thank you for your patience, I now understand the interpolant F and will respond to your queries." Give a point, the computer will respond with at least F at that point. We can also demand the derivatives up to order m at that point.

This is an extremely demanding notion of computing a function. Take a Bessel function, or even $\sin x$. Depending on what the computer does—suppose it does basic arithmetic—no amount of computation will yield $\sin x$ exactly. It computes $\sin x$ to a given accuracy. But I want *the* value.

I imagine a computer with standard von Neumann architecture. Let's say the computer can deal with exact real numbers. (My coauthors and I have taken into account round-off error into account rigorously; let's not deal with that!) It has RAM, flow of control. Given

two real numbers, it can add, subtract, multiply, or divide them; we assume no round-off error. The computer can take one number in a register and put it in RAM, fetch from RAM, has input and output.

For some results, I assume the computer can compute 2^m , and take logarithms.

I'm only interested in efficient algorithms, those that make minimal use of resources of the computer. There are 2 relevant resources: number of computer operations (multiply, fetch, etc.), and the size of the RAM (how many real numbers to store).

Let's make some trivial lower bounds. We had better read the problem, which takes time N . One could imagine an online version which throws away data as it arrives, but it's reasonable to think that the memory required is also N .

For problem 2, we also have a lower bound of N . We had better store the problem, e.g., if I query a point I gave the computer, it needs to remember what the value was. A lower bound for the query work is 1.

For problem 1, there are algorithms that solve this problem where the work is $O(N \log N)$ and the memory is $O(N)$. I believe this is sharp.

For problem 2, there is an A -algorithm, for which the one-time work is $O(N \log N)$, storage is $O(N)$, and query work is $O(\log N)$. Again I believe this is sharp. There are 3 kinds of resources which one would like to minimize: one-time work, storage, and query work. One can optimize all of them at the same time.

There's a reason this solves no practical problems; the constant A is too big. It depends only on the choice of the function space. It is large because of one particular lemma deep inside the machine of the proof. I continue to hope that one can remove the lemma and replace it by something else.

We use Whitney's extension problem and Whitney's extension theorem, and something from computer science called the well-separated pairs decomposition.

2 Whitney extension: Interpolation given Taylor polynomials

2.1 Whitney extension

Problem 1.2.1 (Whitney, 1934): Given $W \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ compact, $m \geq 1$, $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, does there exist $F \in C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ such that $F = f$ on E ? If so, how small can we take its norm? What can we say about its derivatives of F (up to order m) at a given point? Can we take F to depend linearly on f ? (Define $X(E) = \{f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : \exists F \in X \text{ such that } F = f \text{ on } E\}$, $\|f\|_{X(E)} = \inf \{\|F\|_X : F \in X, F = f \text{ on } E\}$. Does there exist $T : X(E) \rightarrow X$ bounded linear map such that $Tf|_E = f$ for all $f \in X(E)$?)

Whitney solved this in 1 dimension (paper called blah blah blah part 1; part 2 never appeared).

In addition to this he proved the very important Whitney extension theorem. For $F \in$

$C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, define the Taylor expansion

$$J_x(F) : y \mapsto \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} \frac{1}{\alpha!} (\partial^\alpha F(x)) (y - x)^\alpha. \quad (1.2)$$

Whitney's question is the following: Suppose we are given at every point of $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ a Taylor polynomial, $\vec{P} = (P^x \in \mathcal{P})_{x \in E}$, where \mathcal{P} is the set of polynomials of degree $\leq m$. This is called a **Whitney field**. How can we tell whether there exists $F = C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ such that $J_x(F) = P^x$ for all $x \in E$? What are necessary conditions? This is a simpler question; we need to understand it first.

Suppose I gave you 30 minutes; you are not allowed to leave the room unless you come up with necessary conditions. Those obviously necessary conditions you come up with will be sufficient; there is a procedure to construct the function.

Here are necessary conditions.

1. Denote $\partial^\alpha P^x(x) = (\partial_z^\alpha P^x(z))|_{z=x}$. Then $|\partial^\alpha P^x(x)| \leq M$ for $x \in E$, $|\alpha| \leq m$.
2. $|\partial^\alpha (P^x - P^y)(x)| \leq M|x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}$. for $x, y \in E$, $|\alpha| \leq m$.

(If 2 points x, y are close then P^x and P^y are close; Taylor's theorem with remainder tells us how close.)

(Let's declare $0^0 = 0$ for this condition.)

(We haven't extracted all the omph yet. We haven't use the fact that they're continuous. Using the modulus of continuity we get the following.)

3. $\frac{|\partial^\alpha (P^x - P^y)(x)|}{|x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}} \rightarrow 0$ as $|x - y| \rightarrow 0^+$, $x, y \in E$.

Theorem 1.2.2 (Whitney's extension theorem, 1934). *These conditions imply that there exist $F \in C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with C^m -norm $\leq CM$ such that $J_X(F) = P^x$ for all $x \in E$, where C depends only on m, n .*

This depends on a very fundamental idea that had a huge influence on analysis.

2.2 Well-separated pairs

Given $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $\#E = N$, $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, compute $\|f\|_{\text{Lip}} = \max_{x, y \in E, x \neq y} \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{|x - y|}$. This is trivial; a high school student learning programming can do it. Looping over all x and y takes $O(N^2)$ operations because you look at every x and y . Is that the best you can do?

Suppose you allow yourself wiggle room; you compute it to a small error, say 10^{-3} . Using the well-separated pairs decomposition theorem, we can compute $\|f\|_{\text{Lip}}$ to within a factor 1 ± 10^{-3} using $O(N \log N)$ operations. The constant depends on the accuracy required and the dimension n .

Suppose we just tried to beat N^2 , how can we do it? Can we compute many of the quotients at the same time? Suppose

$$E \times E \setminus \text{Diag} \supset E' \times E''. \quad (1.3)$$

We can compute $\max_{x \in E', y \in E''} \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{|x - y|}$ in far fewer steps than $\#E' \cdot \#E''$.

Suppose E', E'' have good geometry—they are well-separated: the distance between E' and E'' is large compared to the diameter of E', E'' . Then I can take representative points $\bar{x} \in E', \bar{y} \in E''$ and compute

$$\frac{1}{|\bar{x} - \bar{y}|} \max_{x \in E', y \in E''} |f(x) - f(y)|. \quad (1.4)$$

Take $f(x)$ as small as possible and $f(y)$ as large as possible, or vice versa. The number of operations has decreased from the product of $\#E'$ and $\#E''$ to the sum.

We aim to partition $E \times E$ into many products of this type. We actually don't need to compute all of the numbers (1.4), we just need the maximum. We can also approximate it by $\frac{1}{|\bar{x} - \bar{y}|} |f(\bar{x}) - f(\bar{y})|$.

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2.3 Proof of Whitney's extension theorem

We work in $C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$. We have compact $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. For each $x \in E$, we are given $P^x \in \mathcal{P}$, polynomials of degree $\leq m$. We would like to know whether there exists a function in $C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with these prescribed Taylor polynomials.

We sketch the interesting parts of the proof of Whitney's extension theorem.

- There is some geometry, an argument with a fundamental idea in analysis.
- Construct a partition of unity.
- Construct F and check that it works.

Proof. Step 1: Geometry

Take a enormous cube which contains E , say the middle $\frac{1}{10}$ contains E . We are not happy with this cube, so we bisect it in each dimension, to get 2^n cubes. Look at each of the pieces and ask, are we happy? For each cube we are unhappy with, bisect again, and repeat.

What does it mean to be happy? Whitney's rule is simple. Given a cube Q , consider Q^* , the cube with the same center but 5 times the side length. We are happy with Q if Q^* is disjoint from E . This generates a decomposition of the big cubes minus E into infinitely many subcubes.

Every point not in E is in one of the Whitney cubes (if your point belongs to E , you will never be happy); every point in E is not contained in a Whitney cube (there is a small enough neighborhood of it not intersecting E). Any 2 Whitney cubes are disjoint.

Each cube Q is comparable to E . $d(E, Q)$ is greater than the side length δ_Q of Q . Let Q^+ be the parent. Q^+ dilated by 5 intersects E .

In summary, $Q^\circ \setminus E$ is partitioned into Whitney cubes, and

- $Q \in \text{Wh}$ implies $d(Q, E) \sim \delta_Q$. ($\delta_Q \leq d(Q, E) \leq 10\delta_Q$.)

- Good geometry: Neighboring cubes are about the same size. $Q^{\text{closure}} \cap Q'^{\text{closure}} \neq \emptyset$ then $\frac{1}{2} \leq \frac{\delta_Q}{\delta_{Q'}} \leq 2$.

(If Q were $< \frac{1}{2}$ the size, then its parent would be contained in Q' and hence also be good, and wouldn't have been cut.)

Idea of making a decomposition was used by Calderon, Zygmund, 1954, on some function in L^1 . You are happy if the average over the cube is $> \alpha$. The fact that you got the cube from cutting up something you were not happy with, gives you a lot of control.

Step 2: Partition of unity

Let $\varphi^0 = 1$ on Q^0 (with side length 1), $\varphi^0 = 0$ outside $1.01Q^0$, with φ^0 smooth and $0 \leq \varphi^0 \leq 1$ everywhere. Suppose $|\partial^\alpha \varphi_Q(x)| \leq C\delta_Q^{-|\alpha|}$ for $|\alpha| \leq m+5$.

We take the picture and translate it and dilate it.

For Q with side length δ_Q and center Q , define $\varphi_Q(x) = \varphi^0\left(\frac{x-x_Q}{\delta_Q}\right)$.

These functions don't sum to 1, so we define

$$\theta_Q(x) = \frac{\varphi_Q(x)}{\sum_{Q'} \varphi_{Q'}(x)} \quad (1.5)$$

for $x \in Q^{\text{closure}} \setminus E$.

Only Q' that abuts \hat{Q} has a chance of entering into the computation for $\theta_{\hat{Q}}(x)$; they are about the same size as \hat{Q} ; the others are shielded. There are a bounded number of cubes that enter in the sum, so

$$1 \leq \sum_{Q'} \varphi_{Q'}(x) \leq C \quad (1.6)$$

$$|\partial^\alpha \sum_{Q'} \varphi_{Q'}(x)| \leq C\delta_{\hat{Q}}^{-|\alpha|} \quad (1.7)$$

$$\left| \partial^\alpha \left(\frac{1}{\sum_{Q'} \varphi_{Q'}(x)} \right) \right| \leq C\delta_{\hat{Q}}^{-|\alpha|}. \quad (1.8)$$

To see this, induct by how many times we differentiate. Differentiating gives something of the form

$$\frac{\prod_{i=1}^{s-1} \partial^{\alpha_j} (\sum_{Q'} \varphi_{Q'})}{(\sum_{Q'} \varphi_{Q'})^s}, \quad (1.9)$$

where $\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_s = \alpha$. This has to be dimensionally correct.

The partition of unity reflects the geometry of the cubes and satisfies

- $\theta_Q \geq 0$, $\text{Supp}(\theta_Q) \subset (1.01)Q$.
-

$$|\partial^\alpha \theta_Q(x)| \leq C\delta_Q^{-|\alpha|} \quad (1.10)$$

for $|\alpha| \leq m+5$.

$$\bullet \sum \theta_Q(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & x \in E \\ 0, & x \notin E. \end{cases}$$

Step 3: Construct the function.

Let's look at one of the Whitney cubes. Make a guess to what function should look like on this cube. P^{x_Q} is the best guess to how f should behave on Q . But if you have different cubes, there will be jumps at boundaries where they meet. Instead of using the sharp indicator function, we want to use the partition of unity to patch together the functions.

Let

$$F(x) = \sum_{Q \in \text{Wh}} \theta_Q(x) P^{x_Q}(x), \quad x \notin E \quad (1.11)$$

$$F(x) = (P^x)(x) \text{ if } x \in E. \quad (1.12)$$

Note F depends linearly on the data. Given x , there are only a bounded number of Q that determine what F is doing. We call a formula like this "bounded depth".

F is supposed to be a C^m function. The Taylor polynomial is equal to P^x at the point x . We hope that for $|\alpha| \leq m$,

$$\partial^\alpha F(x) = \begin{cases} \sum_{Q \in \text{Wh}} \partial^\alpha (\theta_Q(x) P^{x_Q}(x)) & \text{if } x \notin E \\ (\partial^\alpha P^x)(x) & \text{if } x \in E. \end{cases} \quad (1.13)$$

We verify that it satisfies the definition of C^m function; these quantities are the derivatives of F .

What happens on points close to E ? We worry that the derivatives might blow up as we approach E .

$$\partial^\alpha F(x) = \sum_{\beta+\gamma=\alpha} \text{coeff}(\beta, \gamma) \underbrace{\partial^\beta \theta_Q(x)}_{C \delta_Q^{-|\beta|}} \partial^\gamma P^{x_Q}(x) \quad (1.14)$$

If δ_Q is small, we are in bad shape. There is a very clever trick, Whitney 1934 which gets around this. There's a reason that gets into trouble, we haven't used the hypotheses!

For $x \in \hat{Q}$, let

$$F = \sum \theta_Q (P^{x_Q} - P^{x_{\hat{Q}}}) + P^{x_{\hat{Q}}} \quad (1.15)$$

$$\partial^\alpha F(x) = \sum_{\beta+\gamma=\alpha} \text{coeff}(\beta, \gamma) \partial^\beta \theta_Q(x) \cdot \partial^\gamma (P^{x_Q} - P^{x_{\hat{Q}}})(x) + (\partial^\alpha P^{x_{\hat{Q}}})(x). \quad (1.16)$$

By assumption $\partial^\alpha P^{x_{\hat{Q}}}(x)$ is bounded. Again $|\partial^\beta \theta_Q(x)| \leq C \delta_Q^{-|\beta|}$ might be large. But the difference $\partial^\gamma (P^{x_Q} - P^{x_{\hat{Q}}})(x)$ is small.

We have $d(x_Q, x_{\hat{Q}}) \leq C \delta_Q$, $\delta_{\hat{Q}} \sim \delta_Q$. One hypothesis is that

$$|\partial^\gamma (P^x - P^y)(x)| \leq C |x - y|^{m-|\gamma|}. \quad (1.17)$$

We use this useful fact about polynomials: If $|\partial^\alpha P(x_0)| \leq A\delta^{-|\alpha|}$ for $|\alpha| \leq \deg p$, and $|x_0 - y_0| \leq C\delta$, then

$$|\partial^\alpha P(y_0)| \leq C'A\delta^{-|\alpha|} \quad (1.18)$$

for $|\alpha| \leq \deg p$.

We use this to move the basepoint from $x_{\hat{Q}}$ to x_Q .

$$|\partial^\gamma (P^{x_Q} - P^{x_{\hat{Q}}})(x)| \leq C\delta_Q^{m-|\gamma|} \quad (1.19)$$

$$|\partial^\beta \theta_Q(x)| \leq C\delta_Q^{-|\beta|} \quad (1.20)$$

□

2.4 Using the well-separated pairs decomposition to compute the Lipschitz constant

We want to compute $\|f\|_{\text{Lip}} = \max_{x,y \in E, x \neq y} \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{|x - y|}$ efficiently, to within a constant (e.g. 1.01) factor.

$E \times E \setminus \text{Diag}$ can be partitioned into $E'_\nu \times E''_\nu$ for $\nu = 1, \dots, \nu_{\max}$ with the following good properties.

- $\nu_{\max} \leq CN$.
- $d(E'_\nu, E''_\nu) > 10^5 [\text{diam } E'_\nu + \text{diam } E''_\nu]$
- The decomposition can be computed in $O(N \log N)$ steps. (To compute $E'_\nu \times E''_\nu$ we exhibit one point $(x'_\nu, x''_\nu) \in \mathbb{E}'_\nu \times \mathbb{E}''_\nu$.)

Assume this is true; I show how to compute the Lipschitz constant. Then I show the mathematical part by showing the first two bullet points. The punch line of the math discussion is that it's true thanks to the decomposition of a set into Whitney cubes. Define

$$|||f||| = \max_{\nu=1, \dots, \nu_{\max}} \frac{f(x'_\nu) - f(x''_\nu)}{|x'_\nu - x''_\nu|}. \quad (1.21)$$

We claim

$$|||f||| \leq \|f\|_{\text{Lip}} \leq 1.001 |||f||| \quad (1.22)$$

The left inequality is clear.

Assume $|f(x'_\nu) - f(x''_\nu)| \leq |x'_\nu - x''_\nu|$ for each ν . We must prove

$$|f(x') - f(x'')| \leq (1.01)|x' - x''|. \quad (1.23)$$

for all x', x'' distinct. Suppose not. Pick x', x'' with $|x' - x''|$ as small as possible.

$$|f(x') - f(x'')| > 1.01|x' - x''| \quad (1.24)$$

for $(x', x'') \in E'_\nu \times E''_\nu$ for some ν . Fix that ν . $(x'_\nu, x''_\nu) \in E'_\nu \times E''_\nu$. Then $x', x'_\nu \in E'_\nu$ implies $|x' - x'_\nu| \leq \text{diam } E'_\nu$ and $x'', x''_\nu \in E''_\nu$ implies $|x'' - x''_\nu| \leq \text{diam } E''_\nu$, and

$$|x' - x'_\nu| + |x'' - x''_\nu| \leq 10^{-5}|x' - x''|. \quad (1.25)$$

Then

$$|f(x') - f(x'')| \leq \underbrace{|f(x') - f(x'_\nu)|}_{\leq 1.01|x' - x'_\nu|} + \underbrace{|f(x'_\nu) - f(x''_\nu)|}_{\leq |x'_\nu - x''_\nu|} + \underbrace{|f(x''_\nu) - f(x'')|}_{\leq 1.01|x'' - x''_\nu|} \quad (1.26)$$

$$\leq 2.01[|x' - x'_\nu| + |x'' - x''_\nu|] + |x' - x''| \quad (1.27)$$

$$\leq (1 + 2.01 \cdot 10^{-5})|x' - x''|. \quad (1.28)$$

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2.5 Well-separated pairs decomposition, proof

The idea is simple. Suppose that $E \subseteq Q_\nu \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. Let's look at $Q^\circ \times Q^\circ$. Make a Whitney decomposition of the complement of the diagonal. Each is comparable to its distance from the diagonal. We make these cubes $Q_\nu = Q'_\nu \times Q''_\nu$ such that

$$d(Q_\nu, \text{Diag}) \sim 10^5 \delta_{Q_\nu}. \quad (1.29)$$

I take $E'_\nu \times E''_\nu = E \times E \cap Q'_\nu \times Q''_\nu$, by setting

$$E'_\nu = E \cap Q'_\nu \quad (1.30)$$

$$E''_\nu = E \cap Q''_\nu \quad (1.31)$$

Then

$$d(E'_\nu, E''_\nu) \geq d(Q'_\nu, Q''_\nu) \quad (1.32)$$

$$\sim 10^5(\text{diam } Q'_\nu + \text{diam } Q''_\nu) \quad (1.33)$$

$$\geq 10^5(\text{diam } E'_\nu + \text{diam } E''_\nu) \quad (1.34)$$

There's a slight embarrassment that we need $\nu_{\max} \leq CN$, whereas the number of Whitney cubes are infinitely. Fortunately, most of these E'_ν, E''_ν are empty.

Lemma 1.2.3. *The number of nonempty $E'_\nu \times E''_\nu$ is at most CN .*

Proof. Suppose Q is a dyadic cube with Q'_ν and Q''_ν are contained in Q ($Q'_\nu, Q''_\nu \subset Q$) and

$$\delta_Q < 2^{20}\delta_{Q'_\nu} + 2^{20}\delta_{Q''_\nu} \quad (1.35)$$

$$E \cap Q'_\nu, E \cap Q''_\nu \neq \emptyset. \quad (1.36)$$

Then we say that Q accounts for Q'_ν and Q''_ν .

Unfortunately, it could be that no cube accounts for the pair. Consider 2 tiny intervals, one slightly $< \frac{1}{2}$ and the other slightly $> \frac{1}{2}$, so that the distance between them is 10^6 times the side length. The smallest dyadic interval that contains them is the whole unit interval

This seems an unusual situation; in a typical case it will not happen.

We first count the pairs that are accounted by something, and then fix it up.

$$\sum \# \{Q'_\nu \times Q''_\nu : \text{some dyadic } Q \text{ accounts for } Q'_\nu, Q''_\nu\} \leq CN. \quad (1.37)$$

I'll look at all dyadic Q that contain points of E . Under inclusion, such cubes form a tree T ; stop cutting when Q contains a single point of E .

If there is a cube Q that accounts for Q'_ν, Q''_ν , then after a bounded number of cuts, there is a branch. (By definition, Q is at most a constant times larger than Q'_ν, Q''_ν .) The number of dyadic cubes that account for something is \leq a constant times the number of nodes in the graph where the graph branches.

We need to estimate the number of branch points in the tree. Elementary fact about tree: the number of branch points is the number of leaves minus 1. To see this, induct on the size of the graph.

The number of leaves is the number of points of E , so the number of branch points is $\leq \#E - 1$.

Consider pairs Q that account for something, and branch points ≤ 11 levels below it. For every Q that accounts for something, there is a branch point ≤ 11 levels below it. For each branch point there are at most 11 dyadic Q above it. Hence the number of dyadic Q that account for some $Q'_\nu \times Q''_\nu$ is less than $11\#E$.

It can happen there are pairs not accounted for. Let \mathcal{D}_0 be the set of all dyadic cubes. For $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$, let \mathcal{D}_ξ be all $Q + \xi$, $Q \in \mathcal{D}_0$. For a cube not accounted for in \mathcal{D}_0 , consider it in \mathcal{D}_ξ . We can talk about whether Q accounts for something with respect to \mathcal{D}_ξ . For any fixed ξ , the number of $Q' \times Q''$ accounted for by \mathcal{D}_ξ is $\leq C\#E$.

Picking ξ at random, what is the probability that two fixed cubes Q'_ν, Q''_ν lie on different squares of the 2^{11} -times-larger grid and hence aren't accounted for? Unlikely. We have Q'_ν, Q''_ν is accounted for by some $Q = \mathcal{D}_\xi$ with probability $> \frac{1}{2}$.

We estimate the number of pairs $(Q'_\nu \times Q''_\nu, \xi)$ such that Q accounts for $Q'_\nu \times Q''_\nu$ in \mathcal{D}_ξ in 2 ways.

$$\mathbb{E}_\xi(\cdot) = \sum_{Q'_\nu \times Q''_\nu} \mathbb{P}(Q'_\nu \times Q''_\nu \text{ is accounted for by some } Q \in \mathcal{D}_\xi) \geq \frac{1}{2} \# \{Q'_\nu \times Q''_\nu\}. \quad (1.38)$$

$$\mathbb{E}_\xi(\cdot) \leq C\#E. \quad (1.39)$$

□

Note in each of the Cartesian products $E'_\nu \times E''_\nu$, each of E'_ν, E''_ν is the intersection of E with a cube.

One convenient way to write down the well-separated pairs decomposition theorem is to write down the cube.

How to compute it efficiently? It can be; the number of steps is $O(N \log N)$. We write down all the relevant cubes; for each $Q'_\nu \times Q''_\nu$, we exhibit one particular point.

Let $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. For all $x \in E$ given $P^x \in \mathcal{P}$, does there exist $F \in C^m$ such that $J_x F = P^x$ for all $x \in E$? If so, how small can we take the C^m norm of F ?

First do one-time work, $O(N \log N)$. Then we can answer queries.

Let $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $\#E = N$. We want $F \in C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ such that $F = f$ on E , with norm of F'' as small as possible.

We look for $[(P^x)_{x \in E}, M]$, satisfying the following constraints with M as small as possible.

$$(P^x)(x) = f(x) \quad \forall x \in E \quad (1.40)$$

$$|\partial^\alpha(P^x)(x)| \leq M \quad \forall x \in E, |\alpha| \leq m \quad (1.41)$$

$$|\partial^\alpha(P^x - P^y)(x)| \leq M|x - y|^{m-|\alpha|} \quad \forall x, y \in E \text{ distinct}, |\alpha| \leq m. \quad (1.42)$$

For finite E , the $o(\cdot)$ condition is vacuous.

This problem can be reduced to linear programming. This is a big LP: there are N constraints, N constraints, and N^2 constraints in the three sets. The well-separated pairs decomposition reduces this to $O(N)$ constraints.

In the WSPD, we get $E'_\nu \times E''_\nu$, $\nu = 1, \dots, \nu_{\max}$, $\nu_{\max} \leq CN$. Pick $(x'_\nu, x''_\nu) \in E'_\nu \times E''_\nu$ for each ν . We can replace the third constraints by

$$|\partial^\alpha(P^{x'_\nu} - P^{x''_\nu})(x'_\nu)| \leq M|x'_\nu - x''_\nu|^{m-|\alpha|} \quad \forall x'_\nu, x''_\nu, 1 \leq \nu', \nu'' \leq \nu_{\max} \text{ distinct}, |\alpha| \leq m. \quad (1.43)$$

This is similar to the proof that when you estimate the Lipschitz constant, you can just estimate it over the representatives. We have

$$\text{diam } E'_\nu + \text{diam } E''_\nu \leq ad(E'_\nu, E''_\nu), \quad (1.44)$$

and P^x for each $x \in E$. Given (1.43), we will prove that

$$|\partial^\alpha(P^{x'} - P^{x''})(x')| \leq 1.01|x' - x''|^{m-|\alpha|} \quad (1.45)$$

for any $x', x'' \in E$, $|\alpha| < m$. Suppose not. Pick a counterexample (x', x'', α_0) with $|x' - x''|$ as small as possible.

$$(x', x'') \in E \times E \setminus \text{Diag} \quad (1.46)$$

$$(x', x''), (x'_\nu, x''_\nu) \in E'_\nu \times E''_\nu \quad (1.47)$$

By minimality, $|x' - x'_\nu|, |x'' - x''_\nu| \leq a|x' - x''|$.

$$|\partial^\alpha(P^{x'} - P^{x'_\nu})(x'_\nu)| \leq |x' - x'_\nu|^{m-|\alpha|} \leq a|x'_\nu - x''_\nu|^{m-|\alpha|} \quad (1.48)$$

$$|\partial^\alpha(P^{x''} - P^{x''_\nu})(x''_\nu)| \leq |x'' - x''_\nu|^{m-|\alpha|} \leq a|x'_\nu - x''_\nu|^{m-|\alpha|} \quad (1.49)$$

$$|\partial^\alpha(P^{x'_\nu} - P^{x''_\nu})(x'_\nu)| \leq |x'_\nu - x''_\nu|^{m-|\alpha|} \quad (1.50)$$

We can move the point at which we evaluate the polynomial. We get

$$|\partial^\alpha(P^{x''} - P^{x''_\nu})(x'_\nu)| \leq Ca|x'_\nu - x''_\nu|^{m-|\alpha|} \quad (1.51)$$

$$|\partial^\alpha(P^{x'} - P^{x''})(x'_\nu)| \leq (L + Ca)|x'_\nu - x''_\nu|^{m-|\alpha|} \quad (1.52)$$

for $|\alpha| \leq m$. (We actually need a stronger version of “moving the basepoint”.)

The number of steps to solve a LP of size n is $\text{poly}(n)$, like n^3 . But we will get it down to $n \log n$.

10-2

3 Interpolation given points

3.1 Γ 's

In the problem we're interested in, we're only given the values, not the Taylor polynomials at the points. It's a linear programming problem; in principle we can do it, but in time N^3 . We'll get the time down to $N \log N$. We have to come up with a consistent set of Taylor polynomials. What might the Taylor polynomial be at one point?

For $m, n > 1$, we are given $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. We want to extend to a function $C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$. We ask the right question: if we fix one particular point, what might the Taylor polynomial be at that one point? Let

$$\Gamma(x, M) = \{J_x(F) : F = f \text{ on } E, \|F\|_{C^m} \leq M\} \subset \mathcal{P}. \quad (1.53)$$

This is a possibly empty convex set. What is the approximate size and shape of $\Gamma(x, M)$?

It would be great if we can find the exact possible C^m norm, but we don't know how; also there are lots of equivalent C^m norms. Think of the inequality up to a constant; we will find $\Gamma_{\text{computed}}(x, M)$ such that

$$\Gamma(x, c_1 M) \subset \Gamma_{\text{computed}}(x, M) \subset \Gamma(x, C_1 M), \quad (1.54)$$

$$\Gamma_{\text{computed}}(x, c_2 M) \subset \Gamma(x, M) \subset \Gamma_{\text{computed}}(x, C_2 M). \quad (1.55)$$

These sets Γ have a lot of information. They're useful and even if we couldn't use them to compute interpolants we would still want to use them. Suppose that I want to interpolate data. They come from some experiment or observations. The f we're trying to find is presumably a smooth function of the data, but it's highly unlikely that the function is the interpolant with smallest norm. What do we believe? We believe it matches the data and the C^m norm is not that large.

Pick a point, what can we say? Suppose we observe where we are at discrete points in time. Pick some particular time, what can I say about position, velocity, acceleration? Given what you believe about your interpolant, we would like to know what kind of uncertainty there is in the interpolant.

If we can decide whether Γ is empty, that tells us approximately the best possible norm of the interpolant.

When we prove theorems and construct interpolants, these Γ 's are what we use to construct them.

3.2 Γ_ℓ 's

First we look at $\Gamma(x, M)$ at one particular point $x \in E$. We guess Γ_{computed} , and prove correctness by constructing interpolants. We have to not find the jet at one point, but a family of jets that are mutually consistent.

For $x \in E$ and M fixed, we construct

$$\Gamma_\ell(x, M) \supset \Gamma(x, M) \quad (1.56)$$

for $\ell > 0$, convex, possibly empty. Define by induction on ℓ . Let different points in E talk to each other and reduce the size to $\Gamma_{\ell+1}(x, M)$.

We induct on ℓ . Let

$$\Gamma_0(x, M) := \{P \in \mathcal{P} : P(x) = f(x), |\partial^\alpha P(x)| \leq M \text{ for } |\alpha| \leq M\}. \quad (1.57)$$

This is all the info that comes if you ignore all other points except x .

Suppose we know $\Gamma_\ell(x, M)$ for all $x \in E$. Suppose $\Gamma_\ell(x, M) \supset \Gamma(x, M)$. We will define $\Gamma_{\ell+1}(x, M)$ for all $x \in E$ such that $\Gamma_\ell(x, M) \supset \Gamma_{\ell+1}(x, M) \supset \Gamma(x, M)$.

Let $x \in E$, $P \in \Gamma_\ell(x, M)$. Then let $P \in \Gamma_{\ell+1}(x, M)$ iff for all $y \in E \setminus \{x\}$ there exists $P' \in \Gamma_\ell(y, M)$ such that

$$|\partial^\alpha(P - P')(x)| \leq M|x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}. \quad (1.58)$$

How complicated are these sets? They are much too complicated, but we will go ahead and prove math theorems about them. We will not define the Γ_ℓ this way, but differently to retain the key properties.

The Γ_ℓ 's are convex polytopes defined by linear constraints. But Γ_ℓ are polytopes defined by growing number of linear constraints. To get to the next steps, intersect polytopes. The number of constraints defining them will grow very fast. How to cope? Compute them approximately.

Define a blob, a 1-parameter family of growing convex sets. We say two blobs are C -equivalent if they are the same up to a constant C .

Before the Γ 's are getting rapidly more complicated, but we can arrange things so they aren't.

The more serious point: every y is talking to every x . It appears this definition requires N^2 steps. Fortunately, there is a clever way to use the well-separated pairs decomposition to compute something enough like them in time $N \log N$.

Theorem 1.3.1. $\Gamma(x, M) \subset \Gamma_\ell(x, M)$, and for $\ell_* = \ell_*(m, n)$, we have $\Gamma_{\ell_*}(x, M) \subset \Gamma(x, CM)$ for C depending only on m, n .

1

The number of times you iterate to get something comparable to the true Γ is a fixed number.

Facts:

- $\Gamma_\ell(x, M) \subset \mathcal{P}$ is a (possibly empty) convex set.
- $\Gamma_\ell(x, M) \subset \Gamma_\ell(x, M')$ if $M \leq M'$, by induction (conditions grow weaker as M grows).
- Given $x, y \in E$, given $P \in \Gamma_\ell(x, M)$, there exists

$$P' \in \Gamma_{\ell-1}(y, M) \quad \text{such that } |\partial^\alpha(P - P')(x)| \leq M|x - y|^{m-\alpha} \quad (1.59)$$

We talk only about Γ 's and their cousin the σ 's.

We want $F = C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ such that $\|F\|_{C^m} \leq CM$ and $J_x(F) \in \Gamma_0(x, M)$ for all $x \in E$.

There are two ways to construct Γ_ℓ 's. We show another. Then we introduce the related sets σ .

3.3 Finiteness theorems

We use the finiteness and refined finiteness theorems.

Theorem 1.3.2 (Finiteness Theorem). *Let $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $\#E = N < \infty$, $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Given $M > 0$, suppose that for every subset $S \subset E$ with at most $k^\#$ points (depending only on m, n), there exists $F^S \in C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ of norm $\leq M$ such that $F^S = f$ on S . Then there exists $F \in C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ of norm $\leq CM$ (C depending only on m, n) such that $F = f$ on E .*

To use this we would need to look at $\sim N^{k^\#}$ sets. We need a refinement.

Theorem 1.3.3 (Refined finiteness theorem). *Fix m, n . Let $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $\#E = N$. Then there exist $S_1, \dots, S_L \subset E$ with the following properties:*

- $\#(S_\ell) \leq k^\#$ for each ℓ ,
- $L \leq CN$,
- Let $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and let $M > 0$. Suppose that for each $\ell = 1, \dots, L$ there exists $F_\ell \in C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with norm $\leq M$ such that $F_\ell = f$ on S_ℓ . Then there exists $F \in C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ of norm $\leq CM$ such that $F = f$ on E .

$$(I.e., \max_{\ell=1, \dots, L} \|f\|_{S_\ell} \leq \|f\|_E \leq C \max_{\ell=1, \dots, L} \|f\|_{S_\ell}.)$$

Here $k^\#$ and C depend only on m, n .

The S_1, \dots, S_L can be computed from E in $O(N \log N)$ computer operations.

¹So far E has been finite. The analogue is not true for C^m of infinite sets. One needs something more. That is the Glazer refinement. This is what Glazer refinement looks like for finite sets.

Digression on outliers: Suppose we collect data from a physics experiment, and the machine malfunctions or the technician falls asleep. We get data points that are completely wrong and should be discarded. You discover that the smallest possible norm is enormous, and would like to discard some data. If you are allowed to discard a few to bring the interpolant way down, which should you ignore? As a consequence of the refined finiteness theorem, there is a theorem with an algorithm attached.

Theorem 1.3.4. *Fix m, n . Given $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $\#E = N$, there exists an enumeration of E , $E = \{x_1, \dots, x_N\}$ such that the following holds.*

Let $S \subset E$ and suppose there exists an interpolant of norm $\leq M$ for $f|_{E \setminus S}$, with $\#S = Z$. Then $f|_{E \setminus \{x_1, \dots, x_{CZ}\}}$ has an interpolant with norm $\leq CM$.

The points x_1, \dots, x_N can be computed using $\leq CN \log N$ operations per point.

Suppose we have a contest against God to remove outliers. God instantaneously know the very best set of Z outliers to remove. We are at a disadvantage. Let's cheat to give us a chance to prevail anyway. We can throw away 50 times as many points, and declare victory if our norm is within 50 times. The theorem says, then we can win anyway.

It's remarkable this can be done at all; I don't think this is optimal.

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3.4 σ_ℓ 's

We will cover

- σ 's
- connection of finiteness theorem to Γ 's
- Infinite E 's (new ingredients)
- The key properties of Γ 's and σ 's.
- Outliers

Let $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ finite, $m \geq 1$ fixed. Let $\Gamma(x, M) = \{J_x(F) : F \in C^m \text{ with norm } \leq M, F = f \text{ on } E \setminus \{x\}\}$. For $x \in E$, we defined $\Gamma_\ell(x, M)$ by

$$\Gamma_0(x, M) := \{P \in \mathcal{P} : P(x) = f(x), |\partial^\alpha P(x)| \leq M \text{ for } |\alpha| \leq m\} \supset \Gamma(x, M) \quad (1.60)$$

$$\Gamma_{\ell+1}(x, M) := \{P \in \Gamma_\ell(x, M) : \forall y \in E \setminus \{x\}, \exists P' \in \Gamma_\ell(y, M), |\partial^\alpha (P - P')(x)| \leq M|x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}, |\alpha| \leq m\}. \quad (1.61)$$

If I have 2 interpolants for the same function, then their difference is an interpolant for 0. So the interpolants for 0 tell us how much arbitrariness there is in the interpolants.

WLOG consider $M = 1$. Let

$$\sigma(x) = \{J_x(F) : F \in \mathcal{C}^m, \text{norm} \leq 1, F = 0 \text{ on } E\} \quad (1.62)$$

$$\sigma_0(x) = \{P : \forall |\alpha| \leq m, |\partial^\alpha P(x)| \leq 1, P(x) = 0\} \quad (1.63)$$

$$\sigma_{\ell+1}(x) = \{P \in \sigma_\ell(x) : \forall y \in E \setminus \{x\}, \exists P' \in \sigma_\ell(y) \text{ such that } \forall |\alpha| \leq m, |\partial^\alpha(P - P')(x)| \leq |x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}\} \quad (1.64)$$

For $P, P' \in \Gamma(x, M)$, $P - P' \in 2M \cdot \sigma(x)$. For $P \in \Gamma(x, M)$, $Q \in 2M\sigma(x)$, $P + Q \in \Gamma(x, 3M)$. If $\Gamma(x, M_0) \ni P_0$ is nonempty, then for all $M \geq 5M_0$,

$$P_0 + M\sigma(x) \subset \Gamma(x, M) \subset P_0 + 10M\sigma(x) \quad (1.65)$$

To understand the Γ 's, we need to find the magnitude of the smallest M_0 such that $\Gamma(x, M_0)$ is nonempty, and produce one element.

For $P, Q \in \mathcal{P}$, define the pointwise product $P \odot_x Q = J_x(PQ)$, and $J_x(FG) = J_x(F) \odot_x J_x(G)$. For $P(x) = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} a_\alpha x^\alpha$ and $Q(x) = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} a_\beta x^\beta$, $PQ(x) = \sum_{|\alpha|, |\beta| \leq m} a_\alpha a_\beta x^{\alpha+\beta}$, $P \odot_0 Q = \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta| \leq m} a_\alpha b_\beta x^{\alpha+\beta}$.

For $\|F\|_{C^m} \leq 1$, $F = 0$ on E , $J_x(F) = P$, apply this with the Whitney extension theorem. Interpolants work locally on different scales; patch them together. The cutoff functions will behave quite badly. Consider $x = 0$. Let $P = J_0(F)$. Suppose $|\partial^\alpha F(0)| \leq \delta^{m-|\alpha|}$, $|\partial^\alpha Q(0)| \leq \delta^{-|\alpha|}$ for $\delta \leq 1$. If $P \in \sigma(0)$ then $Q \odot_0 P \in C\sigma(0)$, for C depending only on m, n .

There exists $\theta \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ such that $\text{Supp } \theta \in B(0, \delta)$, $J_0(\theta) = Q$, $|\partial^\alpha \theta| \leq C\delta^{-|\alpha|}$ everywhere, for $|\alpha| \leq m$.

What does this mean when $\delta = 1$? All the coefficients are bounded. There exists some C^∞ function supported on the unit ball whose Taylor polynomial at 0 is Q and whose derivatives are bounded. This is clear by multiplying by a cutoff function. For $\delta \neq 1$, this follows from $\delta = 1$ by rescaling.

Look at $F \cdot \theta$. $\partial^\alpha(F \cdot \theta)$ is a sum of terms

$$|\partial^\beta F(x) \partial^\gamma \theta(x)| \leq C\delta^{-|\gamma|} \quad (1.66)$$

where $\beta + \gamma = \alpha$. If $|\partial^\beta F(0)| \leq \delta^{m-|\beta|}$ for all $|\beta| \leq m$ and $|\partial^{\hat{\beta}} F(x)| \leq 1$ for $|\hat{\beta}| = m$, then $|\partial^\beta F(x)| \leq C\delta^{m-|\beta|}$ for $|\beta| \leq m$.

(To check effortlessly something is scale-invariant, assign units.)

We've proven that if $P \in \sigma(0)$, then $Q \odot_0 P \in C\sigma(0)$.

Definition 1.3.5: Let $\sigma \subset \mathcal{P}$ be any convex symmetric set. Let $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $C_w > 0$, $\delta_{\max} > 0$.

Then σ is **Whitney convex** at x , with Whitney constant C_w below length scale δ_{\max} , iff for all $P, Q \in \mathcal{P}$, $0 < \delta \leq \delta_{\max}$, if $|\partial^\alpha P(x)| \leq \delta^{m-|\alpha|}$ and $|\partial^\alpha Q(x)| \leq \delta^{-|\alpha|}$ for all $|\alpha| \leq m$, and if also $P \in \sigma$, then $P \odot_x Q \in C_w \sigma$.

If I don't specify the length scale, it is 1.

Remark 1.3.6: Given $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, construct $\sigma(x)$ from interpolants. Then for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\sigma(x)$ is Whitney convex at x , with Whitney constant defined by m, n below length scale $\delta_{\max} = 1$.

The definition of the C^m norm is somewhat unnatural—taking different dimensional quantities (different order derivatives) and taking the max. This unnaturalness is reflected in the length scale. We can also define \dot{C}^m norm which takes a sup over derivatives with order precisely m .

Check by induction on ℓ that $\sigma_\ell(x)$ is also Whitney convex with constant that depends on ℓ, m, n below length scale 1.

Let $x \in E$, $M > 0$, $\ell \geq 0$. Then $\Gamma_\ell(x, M)$ is a (possibly empty) convex subset of \mathcal{P} , $\sigma_\ell(x)$ is a convex symmetric set in \mathcal{P} . For $M \ll M'$, $\Gamma_\ell(x, M) \subset \Gamma_\ell(x, M')$, $\Gamma_{\ell+1}(x, M) \subset \Gamma_\ell(x, M)$.

If $x, y \in E$, $P \in \Gamma_\ell(x, M)$, $\ell \geq 1$, then there exists $P' \in \Gamma_{\ell-1}(y, CM)$, C , depending only on m, n, ℓ , such that $|\partial^\alpha(P - P')(x)| \leq CM|x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}$, for $|\alpha| \leq m$.

If $P, P' \in \Gamma_\ell(x, M)$, then $P - P' \in CM\sigma_\ell(x)$. If $P \in \Gamma_\ell(x, M)$, $Q \in M\sigma_\ell(x)$ then $P + Q \in \Gamma_\ell(x, CM)$. $\sigma_\ell(x)$ is Whitney convex at x , with Whitney constant C below length scale 1.

We talk about the finiteness theorem.

3.5 Proof of finiteness theorem given non-emptiness

Define

$$\Gamma(x, M, S) = \{J_x(F) : F = f \text{ on } S, \|F\|_{C^m} \leq M\} \quad (1.67)$$

$$\hat{\Gamma}_\ell(x, M) = \bigcap_{S \subset E, \#S \leq k_\ell} \Gamma(x, M, S) \subset \mathcal{P} \quad (1.68)$$

convex. We need to prove this is nonempty. We use the following basic theorem in convex geometry.

Theorem 1.3.7 (Helly's Theorem). *Suppose that K_1, \dots, K_N are convex (and not necessarily compact) subsets of \mathbb{R}^D . Suppose that any $D + 1$ of the K_i have a point in common. Then $K_1 \cap \dots \cap K_N \neq \emptyset$.*

If there are infinitely many convex compact sets, then this is still true. If you take infinitely many convex sets, not necessarily compact, then this is not true; for a counterexample take $(0, \frac{1}{n}]$.

Proof. Given $L \geq D + 1$, we show that if any L of the K 's intersect, then also $L + 1$ of the K 's intersect.

Consider K_1, \dots, K_{L+1} . For each $i = 1, \dots, L + 1$, pick x_i in the intersection of all these K 's except K_i . We obtain x_1, \dots, x_{L+1} .

Look for coefficients $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_{L+1} \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\beta_1 + \dots + \beta_{L+1} = 0 \quad (1.69)$$

$$\beta_1 x_1 + \dots + \beta_{L+1} x_{L+1} = 0. \quad (1.70)$$

There are $D+1$ equations, and at least $D+2$ unknowns, so there is a nonzero solution. Put the positive ones on the LHS and the negative ones on the RHS: after possibly relabeling,

$$\lambda_1 x_1 + \cdots + \lambda_a x_a = \mu_1 x_{a+1} + \cdots + \mu_b x_{a+b} \quad (1.71)$$

$$\lambda_1 + \cdots + \lambda_a = \mu_1 + \cdots + \mu_b. \quad (1.72)$$

The λ 's and μ 's are nonnegative and not all 0; we can rescale so that

$$\lambda_1 + \cdots + \lambda_a = \mu_1 + \cdots + \mu_b = 1. \quad (1.73)$$

We claim in $\lambda_1 x_1 + \cdots + \lambda_a x_a = \mu_1 x_{a+1} + \cdots + \mu_b x_{a+b} \in \bigcap_{i=1}^{L+1} K_i$. The LHS lies in $\bigcap_{i=a+1}^{a+b} K_i$ and the RHS lies in $\bigcap_{i=1}^a K_i$. This completes the induction step and proves the theorem. \square

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Theorem 1.3.8. *There is ℓ_* depending only on m, n such that $\Gamma_{\ell_*}(x, M) \neq \phi$ implies $\Gamma(x, CM) \neq \phi$, and therefore there exists $F \in C^m$ with norm $\leq CM$ such that $F = f$ on E .*

We will assume this and prove the following.

Theorem (Finiteness theorem, Theorem 1.3.2). *Suppose for every $S \subset E$ with $\#(S) \leq k^\#$ depending only on m, n that there exists $F^S \in C^m$ with norm $\leq M$ such that $F = f$ on S . Then there exists $F \in C^m$ with norm $\leq CM$, C depending only on m, n such that $F = f$ on E .*

We will use this to define other Γ 's.

Proof. Let k_0, k_1, k_2, \dots be an increasing sequence, to be fixed later. Define

$$\Gamma(x, S) = \{J_x F : F = f \text{ on } S, F \in C^m \text{ with norm } \leq \hat{c}M\} \quad (1.74)$$

$$\hat{\Gamma}_\ell(x, M) = \bigcap_{S \subset E, \#(S) \leq k_\ell} \Gamma(x, S). \quad (1.75)$$

Here, $\Gamma(x, S) \subset \mathcal{P}$ of dimension D . We want to show $\hat{\Gamma}_\ell(x, M) \neq \phi$. To show this, by Helly's Theorem 1.3.7 we must show $\Gamma(x, S_1) \cap \cdots \cap \Gamma(x, S_{D+1}) \neq \phi$ for any $S_1, \dots, S_{D+1} \subset E$, with $\#(S_i) \leq k_\ell$ for each i . We need to show

$$\Gamma(x, S_1 \cup S_2 \cup \cdots \cup S_{D+1}) \subset \Gamma(x, S_0) \quad (1.76)$$

for each $i = 1, \dots, D+1$. This is OK provided that $(D+1)k_\ell \leq k^\#$. I will take $\ell = \ell_*$. Take $\ell = \ell_*$. So $\hat{\Gamma}_{\ell_*}(x, M) \neq \phi$ provided $k^\# \geq (D+1)k_{\ell_*}$.

Let's use the same trick again to compare the $\hat{\Gamma}$'s with the Γ 's. We show they behave somewhat like the Γ 's.

Claim: Suppose that $\ell \geq 1$. Let $P \in \hat{\Gamma}_\ell(x, M)$. Let $y \in E \setminus \{x\}$. Then there exists $P' \in \hat{\Gamma}_{\ell-1}(y, M)$ such that $|\partial^\alpha(P - P')(x)| \leq M|x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}$ for $|\alpha| \leq m$.

Fix x, y, P . Then $\Gamma^\#(S) = \{J_y F : F \in C^m \text{ with norm } \leq \hat{c}M, F = f \text{ on } S \cup \{x, y\}, J_x(F) = P\}$.

Look at $\bigcap_{S \subset E, \#(S) \leq k_{\ell-1}} \Gamma^\#(S) \neq \phi$. By Helly's Theorem it suffices to show: Given $S_1, \dots, S_{D+1} \subset E$ with $\#(S_i) \leq k_{\ell-1}$, the intersection

$$\bigcap_{i=1}^{D+1} \Gamma^\#(S_i) \neq \phi. \quad (1.77)$$

We have $\bigcap_{i=1}^{D+1} \Gamma^\#(S_i) \supset \Gamma^\#(\bigcup_{i=1}^{D+1} S_i \cup \{x, y\})$; it suffices to show that is nonempty. Let $S = \bigcup_{i=1}^{D+1} S_i \cup \{x, y\}$. Given $S \subset E$ with $\#(S) \leq k_\ell$, $\#S \leq (D+1)k_{\ell-1} + 2$. Choose k_ℓ so that this is $\leq k_\ell$. $P \in \Gamma(x, S)$, so there exists F such that the C^m norm is $\leq \hat{c}M$, $F = f$ on S , $J_x(F) = P$. Define $P' = J_y F$. That P' belongs $\Gamma^\#(S)$.

Let $k_0 = 5$. Take $k_{\ell+1} = (D+1)k_\ell + 2$, $k_\# \geq (D+1)k_\ell$.

Pick

$$P' \in \bigcap_{S \subset E, \#(S) \leq k_{\ell-1}} \Gamma^\#(S) \subset \bigcap_{S \subset E, \#(S) \in k_{\ell-1}} \Gamma(y, S) = \hat{\Gamma}_{\ell-1}(y, M). \quad (1.78)$$

Then $\Gamma^\#(S) \subset \hat{\Gamma}(y, S)$. That proves the claim.

We know $\hat{\Gamma}_{\ell_*}(x, M) \neq \phi$, and given $P \in \hat{\Gamma}_\ell(x, M)$ and given $y \in E \setminus \{x\}$, there exists $P' \in \Gamma_{\ell-1}(y, M)$ such that $|\partial^\alpha(P - P')(x)| \leq M|x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}$.

We show by induction on ℓ that $\hat{\Gamma}_\ell(x, M) \subset \Gamma_\ell(x, M)$. For $\ell = 0$, $P_0 \in \hat{\Gamma}_0(x, M) = \bigcap_{S \subset E, \#(S)=5} \Gamma(x, S) \subset \Gamma(x, \{x\})$. There exists $F \in C^m$ with norm $\leq \hat{c}M$ such that $J_x F = P$ and $F = f$ on $\{x\}$. Then $P_0(x) = f(x)$ and $|\partial^\alpha P_0(x)| \leq \hat{M}$, so $P_0 \in \Gamma_0(x, M)$.

For the induction step, assume $\Gamma_{\ell-1}(x, M) \subset \Gamma_{\ell-1}(x, M)$. We show that $\hat{\Gamma}_\ell(x, M) \subset \Gamma_\ell(x, M)$ for all $x \in E$. Let $x \in E$, and let $P \in \hat{\Gamma}_\ell(x, M)$.

- Then $P \in \hat{\Gamma}_{\ell-1}(x, M) \subset \Gamma_{\ell-1}(x, M)$.
- Let $y \in E \setminus \{x\}$. Then there exists $P' \in \hat{\Gamma}_{\ell-1}(y, M) \subset \Gamma_{\ell-1}(y, M)$ such that $|\partial^\alpha(P - P')(x)| \leq M|x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}$ for $|\alpha| \leq m$.

So by definition of Γ_ℓ , we have $P \in \Gamma_\ell(x, M)$.

$\hat{\Gamma}_{\ell_*}(x, M)$ is nonempty by Helly, and is contained in $\Gamma_{\ell_*}(x, M)$, so that is nonempty. This finishes the proof of the finiteness theorem. \square

3.6 Outliers

Work in $C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Let $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, with norm

$$\|f\|_E := \inf \{\|F\|_{C^m} : F \in C^m, F = f \text{ on } E\}. \quad (1.79)$$

Theorem 1.3.9. Suppose $\#E = N$. Then E can be enumerated as $E = \{x_1, \dots, x_N\}$ such that for any $1 \leq z \leq N$ and any $S \subset E$ with $\#(S) \leq z$. We have

$$\|f\|_{E \setminus \{x_1, \dots, x_{cz}\}} \leq C \|f\|_{E \setminus S}, \quad (1.80)$$

where x depends only on m, n . Moreover the enumeration can be computed by successively producing x_1, x_2, \dots , each x_i requiring $\leq CN \log N$ operations.

Proof. The order of magnitude of $\|f\|_S$, $\|f\|_S^{\text{computed}}$, can be computed in $\leq C$ operations, depending only on m, n . Start with an empty list. E , Compute the S_ℓ 's, then the $\|f\|_{S_\ell}^{\text{computed}}$, then pick ℓ_* to maximize $\|f\|_{S_\ell}^{\text{computed}}$. Start writing down x 's: Append to our list the elements of S_{ℓ_*} (in any order). Then remove the elements of S_{ℓ_*} from E . Repeat until E is empty.

I would like to prove this by induction on the number of elements of E . We induct on z . $z = 0$ is trivial. Now the induction step. Let's look at the first time we enter the loop.

Fix S such that $\#(S) \leq z$. How well does God's S do? If $\|f\|_{E \setminus S} \geq c_1 \|f\|_E$, we can do anything we want. This is the trivial case. Consider $\|f\|_{E \setminus S} \leq c_1 \|f\|_F$. I claim that S must contain at least one of the points of S_{ℓ_*} . Suppose not, $S_{\ell_*} \subset E \setminus S$. Then

$$\|f\|_{E \setminus S} \geq \|f\|_{S_{\ell_*}} \geq c' \|f\|_{S_{\ell_*}}^{\text{computed}} = \max_{1 \leq \ell \leq L} c' \|f\|_{S_\ell}^{\text{computed}} \geq c' \max_{1 \leq \ell \leq L} \|f\|_{S_\ell} \geq c'' \|f\|_E. \quad (1.81)$$

So S contains at least one point of S_{ℓ_*} . Replace E with $E \setminus S_{\ell_*}$, S with $S \setminus S_{\ell_*}$, z with $z - 1$. $S_{\ell_*} = \{x_1, \dots, x_{k\#}\}$. We have $\#(S \setminus S_{\ell_*}) \leq z - 1$, $S \setminus S_{\ell_*} \subset E \setminus S_{\ell_*}$. $(E \setminus S_{\ell_*}) \setminus (S \setminus S_{\ell_*}) = E \setminus S$. \square

It would be nice to remember something, instead of having to start over each step. This is a good question. [10-11](#)

4 The infinite case

Two remarks, on the difference between finity and infinity.

1. Given $F \in C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$, $F = f$ on E where E is finite, and $\|F\|_{C^m} \leq M$, what can I say about $\partial^\alpha F(x)$ when $|\alpha| = m$, $x \in E$? Essentially nothing, other than $|\partial^\alpha F(x)| \leq M$.

Consider modifying F by taking a cutoff function

$$\theta_y(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } |x| \leq \frac{\delta}{2} \\ 0, & \text{if } |x| > \delta \end{cases} \quad (1.82)$$

with $|\partial^\alpha \theta_\delta(x)| \leq \frac{C}{\delta^{|\alpha|}}$ for $|\alpha| \leq m$. Then for $|\beta| = m$, $\partial^\alpha(x^\beta \theta_\delta(x))$ is a sum of terms $(\partial^{\alpha'} x^\beta)(\partial^{\alpha''} \theta_\delta)$, where $\alpha' + \alpha'' = \alpha$. This is

$$O(\delta^{m-|\alpha'|})O(\delta^{-|\alpha''|}) = O(\delta^{m-|\alpha|}). \quad (1.83)$$

F is an interpolant with C^m norm $O(M)$. Consider $x = 0 \in E$. Then $F \pm Mx^\beta \theta_\delta(x)$ is again an interpolant satisfying the same condition. For $|\beta| = m$,

$$\partial^\beta[F(x) \pm Mx^\beta \theta_\delta(x)]|_{x=0} = \partial^\beta F(x) \pm tM\beta! \quad (1.84)$$

If I tell you the acceleration of a car is at most so much, and tell you where it is at every billionth of a second, that doesn't give you information on acceleration.

For $E = \mathbb{R}^m$, given all function values, the derivatives are uniquely determined. This is a fundamental difference.

2. The finiteness theorem for infinite sets is false. Consider $f \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^1)$, F on \mathbb{R}^1 . For every finite S there exists $P \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^1)$ such that $F^S = P$ on S and $\|P\|_{C^1} \leq 2$. However, we can have $F \notin C^1$; consider F with a kink. Even less can we hope to control the norm with sets of a bounded size.

(C^1 is not the same as Lipschitz. However, if a function is C^1 , its Lipschitz norm is comparable to its C^1 norm.)

Let $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be compact, $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. How can we tell whether there exists $F \in C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ such that $F = f$ on E ? If such an F exists, then how small can we take its C^m norm?

We can assume E is closed and f is continuous on E . We can assume E is compact by looking at intersections with bounded compact sets.

G. Glazer (1958) solved this problem for $C^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Here's the train of ideas. Suppose $x_0 \in E$ and I think there's an interpolant $F \in C^1$. I know its value at x_0 . The problem is to define its gradient. We want to know whether $\nabla F(x_0)$ can be $\xi_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

For distinct $x, y \in E$ near x_0 , we require $\frac{f(y)-f(x)-\xi_0 \cdot (y-x)}{|x-y|} \rightarrow 0$ as $x, y \rightarrow x_0$. This is not sufficient, as shown by Glazer's counterexample.

PICTURE

Does there exist $F \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$ such that $F = f$ on E ? We can estimate the gradient in directions along the curve.

At the interesting points, we can calculate the directional derivative in 2 linearly independent directions so we can compute the whole gradient.

At 0 the line is flat, so it seems we can only compute the gradient in the x direction. But at the interesting points we have determined the whole gradient, by taking their limit we can compute the whole gradient at 0.

The way to solve this problem is to generalize it. I'll explain how to generalize it, why this is a special case, and solve the generalized problem through an iteration (which takes you outside the special case).

4.1 Bundles

Fix $m, n \geq 1$, $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ compact. Let \mathcal{P} be the vector space of all polynomials of degree $\leq m$ on \mathbb{R}^n . Recall that we have jet multiplication, $P \odot_x Q = J_x(PQ)$, $J_x F = m$ th order Taylor polynomial of F at x , $J_x(FG) = J_x(F) \odot_x J_x(G)$. Let $\mathcal{R}_x = (\mathcal{P}, \odot_x)$ be the ring of jets at x .

Definition 1.4.1: A **bundle** is a family of the form

$$\mathcal{H} = (H_x)_{x \in E} \tag{1.85}$$

where for $x \in E$, either $H_x = P^x + I(x)$ where $P^x \in \mathcal{P}$ and $I(x)$ is an ideal in \mathcal{R}_x , or $H_x = \phi$.

The ring is a finite-dimensional vector space with multiplication. So H_x is an affine subspace. We have a family of affine subspaces of \mathcal{P}_x parameterized by points of E . They are allowed to be empty, and have something to do with multiplication.

Definition 1.4.2: The **fiber** of \mathcal{H} at x is H_x . If $\mathcal{H} = (H_x)_{x \in E}$, $\mathcal{H}' = (H'_x)_{x \in E}$, then \mathcal{H} is a **subbundle** of \mathcal{H}' if $H_x \subseteq H'_x$ for each $x \in E$.

In geometry, bundles are supposed to vary smoothly, but we don't make such restriction. In fact the dimension need not even be a measurable function of x .

Definition 1.4.3: A **section** of $\mathcal{H} = (H_x)_{x \in E}$ is a C^m function F such that $J_x F \in H_x$ for each $x \in E$.

Question: Given a bundle \mathcal{H} , decide whether it has a section. If it has a section, compute approximately the smallest C^m norm of a section.

We show that our original question is a special case of this. I'll construct a bundle and show that the C^m function exists iff the bundle has a section.

The bundle as follows: $I(x)$ is the ideal of all polynomials in \mathcal{P} that vanish at x . P_x is the constant polynomial in \mathbb{R}^n whose value everywhere is $f(x)$. Look at $H_x = P_x + I(x)$, the set of all polynomials in $P \in \mathcal{P}$ such that $P(x) = f(x)$, and $\mathcal{H} = (H_x)_{x \in E}$. $F \in C^m$ is a section of \mathcal{H} iff for all $x \in E$, $J_x F \in H_x$, i.e., $(J_x F)(x) = f(x)$, i.e., $F(x) = f(x)$. Thus a section is just an extension.

Thus the question generalizes the classic Whitney problem.

Now we bring in Glazer's idea of iterated limits.

4.2 Glazer refinement

Given $\mathcal{H} = (H_x)_{x \in E}$, we perform "Glazer refinement" to replace \mathcal{H} by a sub-bundle $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{H})$ with 3 properties:

1. $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{H})$ is a subbundle of \mathcal{H} .
2. $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{H})$ and \mathcal{H} has the same section. The stuff I throw away can never arise as the jet of a section.
3. $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{H})$ can be computed from \mathcal{H} .

We will iterate this refinement to get a limit.

If any particular fiber is empty, the bundle can have no section. The only interesting case is when all fibers are nonempty. But the Glazer refinement may have empty fibers, so there are no sections, even though it wasn't obvious from the beginning. It could be that it has empty fibers during the second iteration, then also there can be no sections, etc. That's why the empty set is allowed as a fiber.

The following lemma is adapted from Milman... adapted from a lemma in Glazer. I'll state a hard theorem; the proof will come later.

Start with any bundle and iteratively do Glazer refinement. At some point the process stabilizes and it stays the same. Use a simple lemma that says from that point on it stabilizes.

Spirit of proof: If I start with a vector space of dimension d , and produce a subspace each time, I can only iterate finding a subspace d times. It's clever but not deep.

A Glazer stable bundle has a section iff it has no empty fibers. That's the only obstruction.

I make an observation. Suppose $F \in C^m$, $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ distinct, $P^x = J_x F$ and $P^y = J_y F$. Taylor's Theorem tells us

$$\sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} \left(\frac{\partial^\alpha (P^x - P^y)(x)}{|x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}} \right)^2 \rightarrow 0 \quad (1.86)$$

as $|x - y| \rightarrow 0$. Let $\mathcal{H} = (H_x) \in E$, $x_0 \in E$, $P_0 \in H_{x_0}$. Pick $k = k(m, n)$. We have $P_0 \in \widetilde{H}_{x_0}$ iff

$$\min \left\{ \sum_{i,j \in \{0, \dots, k\}, x_i \neq x_j} \left(\frac{\partial^\alpha (P_i - P_j)(x_j)}{|x_i - x_j|^{m-|\alpha|}} \right)^2 : \forall i \in [k], P_i \in H_{x_i} \right\} \rightarrow 0 \quad (1.87)$$

as $x_1, \dots, x_k \rightarrow x_0$, when $x_1, \dots, x_k \in E$. **FIX: order of quantifiers—should \forall be outside?** We check the conditions. The jet of F at x_0 belongs to the Glazer refinement. I will pick P_i to be the jet of f at x_i .

I'm minimizing a quadratic form over a linear subspace, in a fixed finite dimension. The minimum is obtained from linear algebra in fixed dimension.

Exercise: suppose you work in C^1 . What does it mean for Whitney's original 1934 problem? It agrees with what Glazer did.

I'll point out 2 properties of the Glazer refinement, the only ones used in the proof of the simple lemma.

1. Suppose $\mathcal{H} = (H_x)_{x \in E}$ is a bundle, and $\widetilde{\mathcal{H}} = (\widetilde{H}_x)_{x \in E}$ is its Glazer refinement.

\widetilde{H}_x is determined from $\{H_y : y \text{ in small neighborhood of } x \text{ in } E\}$.

2. $\dim \widetilde{H}_x \leq \liminf_{E \ni y \rightarrow x} \dim H(y)$.

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I give a careful proof of the Glazer refinement bundle. Then I prepare for the proof on the main theorem on the Γ 's.

A Glazer refinement of \mathcal{H} is $\widetilde{\mathcal{H}} = (\widetilde{H}_x)_{x \in E}$, where for each $x_0 \in E$, \widetilde{H}_{x_0} consists of all $P_0 \in H_{x_0}$ such that

$$\min \left\{ \sum_{i,j=0}^{\bar{k}} \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} \left(\frac{\partial^\alpha (P_i - P_j)(x_i)}{|x_i - x_j|^{m-|\alpha|}} \right)^2 : P_1 \in H_{x_1}, \dots, P_{\bar{k}} \in H_{\bar{x}_k} \right\} \rightarrow 0 \quad (1.88)$$

as $x_1, \dots, x_{\bar{k}} \in E$ tend to x_0 .

The two key properties we use are

1. If $\mathcal{H}^1 = (H_x^1)_{x \in E}$ and $\mathcal{H}^2 = (H_x^2)_{x \in E}$ for all $x \in E$ close enough to x_0 , then the Glazer refinement of \mathcal{H}^1 and \mathcal{H}^2 have the same fiber at x_0 .

2. (semicontinuity) $\dim \widetilde{H}_{x_0} = \liminf_{E \ni x \rightarrow x_0} \dim H_x$. If $p \in \widetilde{H}_{x_0}$, then

$$\lim_{x_1 \rightarrow x_0} \min \left\{ \left(\frac{|\partial^\alpha(P_1 - P_0)(x_0)|}{|x_1 - x_0|^{m-|\alpha|}} \right)^2 : P_1 \in H_{x_1} \right\} = 0. \quad (1.89)$$

Given $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $\delta > 0$ such that for all $x \in E \cap B(x_0, \delta)$, there exists $P_1 \in H_x$ such that $|\partial^\alpha(P_1 - P_0)(x_0)| < \varepsilon$.

Iterated Glazer refinement: start with $\mathcal{H} = (H_x)_{x \in E}$. Define $\mathcal{H}^0, \mathcal{H}^1, \dots$ by induction, $\mathcal{H}^0 = \mathcal{H}$, $\mathcal{H}^{\ell+1} = \text{Glazer refinement of } \mathcal{H}^\ell$.

The idea came from the iterated paratangent space, adapted by Beerstone and Milman to a more general version; now it finds its way here, but it is basically the same proof of the same fact.

Lemma 1.4.4. *Suppose $D = \dim \mathcal{P}$. Then $\mathcal{H}^{2D+1} = \mathcal{H}^\ell$ for all $\ell \geq 2D + 1$.*

The proof is a glorified version of the fact: for any process that passes from a vector space to a vector subspace, you can only iterate $D + 1$ time.

Proof. We prove by induction on ℓ that (*) if $\dim H_x^{2\ell+1} = D - \ell$ then $H_x^{\ell'} = H_x^{2\ell+1}$ for all $\ell' \geq 2\ell + 1$.

Base case ($\ell = 0$): If $\dim H_x^1 \geq D$ then $H_x^{\ell'} = H_x^1$ for all $\ell' \geq 1$. For all x near x_0 , H_x is all of \mathcal{P} . So the Glazer refinement is all of \mathcal{P} .

We assume (*) for ℓ and prove it for $\ell + 1$. Suppose

$$\dim H_{x_0}^{2(\ell+1)+1} \geq D - (\ell + 1). \quad (1.90)$$

If

$$\dim H_{x_0}^{2\ell+1} \geq D - \ell, \quad (1.91)$$

then by the induction hypothesis we're done. So we may assume (1) $\dim H_{x_0}^{2\ell+1} < D - \ell$. So we may assume

$$H_{x_0}^{2\ell+1} = H_{x_0}^{2\ell+2} = H_{x_0}^{2\ell+3} \quad (1.92)$$

$$H_{x_0}^{2\ell+3} = D - \ell - 1. \quad (1.93)$$

We may assume: (2) There exist $y \in E$ arbitrarily near x_0 such that $\dim H_y < \dim H_y^{2\ell+1}$. (If this is not true, then in sufficiently small neighborhood of x_0 , $H_y^{2\ell+2+i} = H_y^{2\ell+1+i}$. Then their Glazer refinements agree.)

Now a tricky point. Apply the inductive hypothesis. The Glazer refinement didn't stabilize starting at $H_y^{2\ell+1}$, therefore $\dim H_y^{2\ell+1} < D - \ell$. Then

$$\dim H_y^{2\ell+2} < \dim H_y^{2\ell+1} < D - \ell \quad (1.94)$$

so $\dim H_y^{2\ell+2} \leq D - \ell - 2$ for y arbitrarily close to x_0 .

Aha! $\dim H_{x_0}^{2\ell+3} \leq \liminf_{E \ni y \rightarrow x_0} \dim H_y^{2\ell+2} \leq D - \ell - 2$.

Contradiction. □

The question “Does a given bundle have a section?” reduces to “Does a given Glazer stable bundle have a section?”

Lemma 1.4.5. *Given m, n there exist $C, k^\#, \bar{k}$ with the following property: Let $\mathcal{H} = (H_x)_{x \in E}$ be a Glazer stable bundle with no empty fibers, $H_x \subset \mathcal{P} = \{m\text{th degree polys on } \mathbb{R}^n\}$. Then*

1.

$$\min \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^k \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} |\partial^\alpha P_i(x_i)|^2 + \sum_{i,j=0, x_i \neq x_j}^{\bar{k}} \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} \frac{|\partial^\alpha (P_i - P_j)(x_i)|^2}{|x_i - x_j|^{2(m-|\alpha|)}} : P_0 \in H_{x_0}, \dots, P_{\bar{k}} \in H_{x_{\bar{k}}} \right\} \leq K^2 \quad (1.95)$$

(independent of $x_0, \dots, x_{\bar{k}} \in E$).

2. *There exists $F \in C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ such that $J_x F \in H_x$ for all $x \in E$, and $\|F\|_{C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq CK$, for the best K in (1).*

3. *Given $x_0 \in E$, $P_0 \in H_{x_0}$, there exists $F_0 \in C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ -section of \mathcal{H} such that $J_{x_0} F = P_0$.*

Throw away irrelevant stuff until can't by Glazer refinement. Is there more irrelevant stuff? No, once you got to the Glazer stable bundle, everything can arise as the section of a jet.

I only know how to prove the quantitative version with norm.

Finiteness principle: if for all subsets with $\bar{k} + 1$ points you can find a section, then you get a section over the whole finite set, with controlled norm. The previous version of the finiteness theorem follows from this. The reason we had to do extra stuff is that in the finite case you don't see Glazer refinement.

To see (3) from the others: Given $P_0 \in H_{x_0}$, define a new bundle. At every point except x_0 the fiber is unchanged. At x_0 it consists only of P_0 . If the original had no empty fibers then so does this. It is Glazer stable if the original is. Why? Take a basepoint. For any other than x_0 , I can pick a small neighborhood not containing x_0 . The only problem is x_0 . We can check it at x_0 . It has a section. The modified bundle has a section; it is a section of the original with jet at x_0 equal to P_0 .

(Suppose I give you K and P_0 . Is there some number $K'(K, P_0)$ with the property that it is comparable from this process from fixing a P_0 ? I think no.)

4.3 Linear extension of bounded depth

I prepare for the proof of the finiteness theorem, so that not only do we get an interpolant, it depends in a linear way on the data. Suppose I have an operator $T : f \rightarrow F$, $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $F \in C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$. We say T is of **depth** k if for $|\alpha| \leq m$, writing

$$\partial^\alpha T f(x) = \sum_{y \in E} \lambda_y^\alpha(x) f(y), \quad (1.96)$$

at most k of the coefficients $\lambda_y^\alpha(x)$ are nonzero for each fixed x . In other words, $J_x(Tf)$ depends on the values of f at $\leq k$ points of E .

Theorem 1.4.6. *There exists linear $T : (E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ of depth $\leq C(m, n)$ such that $Tf = f$ on E ,*

$$\|Tf\|_{C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)} < C'(m, n) \|F\|_{C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)} \quad (1.97)$$

for any $F \in C^m$ such that $F = f$ on E .

This immediately implies the refined finiteness theorem 1.3.3. The Tf in Theorem 1.4.6 has norm $\leq CM$ and $Tf = f$ on E .

We can partition $E \times E \setminus \text{Diag}$ into $E'_\nu \times E''_\nu$ for $\nu = 1, \dots, L$, $L \leq CN$. Take $(x'_\nu, x''_\nu) \in E'_\nu \times E''_\nu$. Suppose given $(P^x)_{x \in E}$,

$$\max_{x \neq y; x, y \in E; |\alpha| \leq m} \left\{ \frac{\partial^\alpha (P^x - P^y)(x)}{|x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}} \right\} \leq C(m, n) \max_{v=1, \dots, L} \frac{|\partial^\alpha (P^{x'_\nu} - P^{x''_\nu})(x'_\nu)|}{|x'_\nu - x''_\nu|^{m-|\alpha|}}. \quad (1.98)$$

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Setup: $\mathcal{H} = (H_x)_{x \in E}$ Glazer stable, $P_0 \in H_{x_0}$, there exists $F \in C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ such that $J_x(F) \in H_x$ for all $x \in E$, $J_{x_0}(F) = P_0$. Let

$$K = \sup \left\{ \min_{x_1, \dots, x_k \in E} \sum_{x_i \neq x_j} \sum_{|x| \leq m} \left(\frac{\partial^\alpha (P_i - P_j)(x_j)}{|x_i - x_j|^{m-|\alpha|}} \right)^2 : P_1 \in H_{x_1}, \dots, P_k \in H_{x_k} \right\}. \quad (1.99)$$

This is finite; I won't prove this. It's analogous to the fact that a continuous function on a compact set is bounded.

Question: can we bound $\|F\|_{C^m}$ in terms of P_0 and K ? No.

We work in $C^1(\mathbb{R}^1)$. Let

$$E = [0, 1] \quad (1.100)$$

$$H_x^{(\delta)} = \{0\} \text{ if } x \in [\delta, 1] \quad (1.101)$$

$$H_x^{(\delta)} = \mathcal{P} \text{ if } x \in [0, \delta) \quad (1.102)$$

$$x_0 = 0 \quad (1.103)$$

$$P_0 = 1 \in H_{x_0}^{(\delta)}. \quad (1.104)$$

For each δ , this bundle is Glazer stable. If $x \geq \delta$, take 0. If $x < \delta$, there is a neighborhood entirely in $[0, \delta)$; there the bundle is everything. Consider a C^1 function whose jet belongs to $H_x^{(\delta)}$ everywhere. The function is 0 on $[\delta, 1]$ and its value at $[0, \delta)$ is 1, so that the C^1 has norm at least $\frac{1}{\delta}$.

Recap: We have two theorems:

1. (Theorem 1.4.6) There exists a linear extension T with bounded depth, with $Tf|_E = f$ for all $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $\|Tf\|_{C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C \|F\|_{C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)}$.
2. (Refined finiteness theorem 1.3.3) For each $m, n \geq 1$ there exist $k^\#, C$ depending on m, n such that: Let $\mathbb{E} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be finite, $\#E = N$. Then there exist $S_1, \dots, S_k \subset E$ such that

- $\#S_\ell \leq k^\#$ for all ℓ
- $L \leq CN$
- Let $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Suppose for each ℓ there exists $F_\ell \in C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with norm ≤ 1 such that $F_\ell = f$ on S_ℓ . Then there exists $F \in C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ of norm $\leq C$ such that $F = f$ on E .

We show 1 (Theorem 1.4.6) implies 2 (Theorem 1.3.3) by well-separated pairs decomposition.

Proof. We can partition $E \times E \setminus \text{Diag}$ into $E'_\nu \times E''_\nu$, $\nu = 1, \dots, L$, such that $d(E'_\nu, E''_\nu) > 10^9[\text{diam}(E'_\nu) + \text{diam}(E''_\nu)]$. Pick representatives $(x'_\nu, x''_\nu) \in E'_\nu \times E''_\nu$. Given $(P^x)_{x \in E}$, if

$$|\partial^{\alpha'} P^{x'_\nu}(x'_\nu)| \leq M \quad (1.105)$$

$$|\partial^{\alpha''} P^{x''_\nu}(x''_\nu)| \leq M \quad (1.106)$$

$$|\partial^\alpha (P^{x'_\nu} - P^{x''_\nu})| \leq M |x'_\nu - x''_\nu|^{m-|\alpha|} \quad (1.107)$$

for all $m = 1, \dots, L$, $|\alpha| \leq m$, then

$$|\partial^\alpha (P^x - P^y)(y)| \leq CM |x - y|^{m-|\alpha|} \quad (1.108)$$

for all $x, y \in E$, $|\alpha| \leq m$. Whitney's extension theorem gives $F \in C^m$ with norm $C'M$ such that $J_x F = P^x$ for all $x \in E$.

For each x ,

- $J_{x'_\nu}(Tf)$ depends only on $f|_{S'_\nu}$ with $\#(S'_\nu) \leq k^\#$,
- $J_{x''_\nu}(Tf)$ depends only on $f|_{S''_\nu}$ with $\#(S''_\nu) \leq k^\#$.

Each of these has $\leq 2k^\# + 2$ elements.

What do we know about Tf ? It agrees with f on E and has C^m norm as small as possible up to constant multiple C . Then

$$\|Tf\|_{C^m} \sim \max_\nu \left\{ |\partial^\alpha (J_{x'_\nu}(Tf))|, |\partial^\alpha (J_{x''_\nu}(Tf))|, \frac{|\partial^\alpha [J_{x'_\nu}(Tf) - J_{x''_\nu}(Tf)](x''_\nu)|}{|x'_\nu - x''_\nu|^{m-|\alpha|}} \right\} \quad (1.109)$$

for $|\alpha| \leq m$, $\nu = 1, \dots, L$. The norm is \geq because for any function the derivatives of the Taylor polynomial are equal to the derivatives of the function itself, which are bounded by the C^m norm. Use Taylor's theorem.

For \leq , use Whitney's extension theorem. F is a competitor to Tf , but Tf has been picked so that its norm is as small as possible up to a constant, so the norm is dominated by that of F which is dominated by the max.

For each ℓ , look at $f_\ell = F_\ell|_E$. The defining property is that $f_\ell = f$ on $S_\ell = S'_\ell \cup S''_\ell \cup \{x'_\ell, x''_\ell\}$. Then $\|Tf_\ell\|_{C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C$. Apply (1.109) to f_ℓ and we conclude that $|\partial^\alpha [J_{x'_\nu}(Tf) - J_{x''_\nu}(Tf)]| \leq C |x'_\nu - x''_\nu|^{m-|\alpha|}$ for all $|\alpha| \leq m$.

We have managed to control all the terms on the RHS of (1.109) so $\|Tf\|_{C^m}$ is controlled. \square

Proving Theorem 1 will take a while. Recall $\Gamma_\ell(x, M) \subset \mathcal{P}$. $\Gamma_\ell(x, M) \neq \emptyset$ implies $\Gamma_\ell(x, M') \sim P_x + M'\sigma(x)$ for some P_x . Start with

$$\Gamma_0(x, M) = \{P \in \mathcal{P} : |\partial^\alpha P(x)| \leq M, |\alpha| \leq m-1, P(x) = f(x)\}. \quad (1.110)$$

For $x \in E$, $P_{\ell+1}(x, M)$ consists of all $P \in \Gamma_\ell(x, M)$ such that for all $y \in E$, there exists $P' \in \Gamma_\ell(y, M)$ such that

$$|\partial^\alpha(P - P')(x)| \leq M|x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}, \quad (|\alpha| \leq m-1) \quad (1.111)$$

Let

$$\sigma_0(x) = \{P \in \mathcal{P} : |\partial^\alpha P(x)| \leq 1 (|\alpha| \leq m), P(x) = 0\} \quad (1.112)$$

and $\sigma_{\ell+1}(x)$ consists of all $P \in \sigma_\ell(x)$ such that for all $y \in E$, there exists $P' \in \sigma_\ell(y)$ such that $|\partial^\alpha(P - P')(x)| \leq |x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}$, $|\alpha| \leq m-1$.

If $P_x \in \Gamma_\ell(x, M)$ then

$$P_x + M\sigma_\ell(x) \subset \Gamma_\ell(x, 5M) \subset P_x + 2M\sigma_\ell(x). \quad (1.113)$$

If $\Gamma_\ell(x, M) \neq \emptyset$, then “morally” $\Gamma_\ell(x, M)$ is a translate of $M\sigma_\ell(x)$.

Lemma 1.4.7. *There exists linear maps of bounded depth $k^\#$ (depending only on m, n, ℓ) $P_{x,\ell} : (E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}$ such that for any x, M, L , if $\Gamma_\ell(x, M) \neq \emptyset$, then*

$$P_{x,\ell} + M\sigma_\ell(x) \subset \Gamma_\ell(x, CM) \subset P_{x,\ell} + C'M\sigma_\ell(x), \quad (1.114)$$

with C, C' depending only on m, n, ℓ .

Lemma 1.4.8. *Given $P \in \Gamma_{\ell+1}(x, M)$ there exists $P' \in \Gamma_\ell(y, CM)$ such that $|\partial^\alpha(P - P')(x)| \leq CM|x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}$ for all α , and furthermore we can take P' to be linear of bounded depth as a function of (f, P) (P' depends only on P and the values of f at $\leq k^\#$ points).*

I will prove a few nice facts on convex sets that are used in the proof of Lemmas 1.4.7 and 1.4.8.

Given a convex set, there is an ellipsoid inside it such that if you dilate the ellipsoid at the center by \sqrt{d} it contains the convex set.

There is a nice proof of this. We'll consider the centrally symmetric case, and I won't get the sharp dependence on dimension. Consider all ellipsoids contained in the symmetric convex set, centered at the origin. There is a sup, and a sequence of ellipsoids; one can extract a convergent subsequence, and hence there is an ellipsoid of maximal volume. (Or just take one that is $> 99\%$ of the maximal volume.)

It is unchanged by applying a linear transformation in \mathbb{R}^n , so WLOG I can assume it is the unit ball B , contained in a centrally symmetric convex set K .

Dilate it by a large factor depending on the dimension. Suppose it doesn't contain $x \in K$. Also $-x \in K$. Consider the convex hull of B and x . If x is far away this looks like a cylinder.

We can make B smaller and stretch it in the direction of x . If x is far enough away, this has larger volume, contradiction.

Remember Helly's Theorem: given K_1, \dots, K_N convex in \mathbb{R}^D , if any $D + 1$ of the K_n have nonempty intersection, then K_1, \dots, K_N has nonempty intersection. We use this to understand intersection of convex symmetric sets.

Lemma 1.4.9. *Given D , there exist $K(D), C(D)$ such that the following holds:*

Let $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_N$ be symmetric convex sets in \mathbb{R}^D . Then there exist $i_1, \dots, i_k \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ such that

- $k \leq K(D)$
- $\bigcap_{i=1}^N \sigma_i \subset \sigma_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap \sigma_{i_k} \subset C(\sigma_1 \cap \dots \cap \sigma_N)$, C_2 depending only on D . (The constant is known.)

Use John's ellipsoid theorem with Helly's Theorem. [10-25](#)

We'll prove some properties of convex sets, and then show we can construct functions to depend linearly with bounded depth on data.

Theorem 1.4.10 (John ellipsoid). *Let $K \subset \mathbb{R}^D$ be convex, bounded, with non-empty interior. There exists an ellipsoid $E \subset K$ such that if $E^* = E$ dilated about its center by a factor \sqrt{D} then $K \subset E^*$.*

We proved this for K symmetric ($v \in K \iff -v \in K$) and E centered at the origin, with some constant depending on D . Now I combine this with Helly's Theorem to prove Lemma 1.4.9.

Proof of Lemma 1.4.9. We assume σ 's are bounded with nonempty interior. Then $\bigcap_{i=1}^N \sigma_i$ is bounded with nonempty interior. Let E be the John ellipsoid for $\bigcap_{i=1}^N \sigma_i$. We may assume E is the unit cube Q , because it is equivalent to a unit ball up to a factor of \sqrt{D} . We have

$$Q \subset \bigcap_{i=1}^N \sigma_i \subset C_1(D)Q, \quad (1.115)$$

$$Q = \{(x_1, \dots, x_D) \in \mathbb{R}^D : |x_i| \leq 1, \text{ each } i\}. \quad (1.116)$$

Fix j , and look at

$$\bigcap_{i=1}^N \sigma_i \cap \{(x_1, \dots, x_D) \in \mathbb{R}^D : x_j > C_1(D)\} = \phi \quad (1.117)$$

By Helly's Theorem, there exist $i_1(j), \dots, i_D(j)$ such that $\sigma_{i_1(j)} \cap \dots \cap \sigma_{i_D(j)} \cap \{(x_1, \dots, x_D) \in \mathbb{R}^D : x_j > C_1(D)\} = \phi$. Then

$$\bigcap_{k=1}^D \sigma_{i_k(j)} \subset \{(x_1, \dots, x_D) \in \mathbb{R}^D : \forall j, |x_j| \leq C_1(D)\} \quad (1.118)$$

$$Q \subset \bigcap_{j=1}^D \bigcap_{k=1}^D \sigma_{i_k(j)} \subset \{(x_1, \dots, x_D) \in \mathbb{R}^D : \forall j, |x_j| \leq C_1(D)\} = C_1(D)Q \quad (1.119)$$

Let's drop the bounded nonempty interior assumption. What does a general symmetric convex look like in \mathbb{R}^d ? It can be in a strict subspace, and can contain subspaces.

Exercise: Suppose σ is any symmetric convex set in \mathbb{R}^D . Then we can write $\mathbb{R}^D = V_0 \oplus V_1 \oplus V_\infty$ such that

$$\sigma = \{(x_0, x_1, x_\infty) : x_0 = 0, x_1 \in \hat{\sigma}, x_\infty \in V_\infty\} \quad (1.120)$$

where $\hat{\sigma}$ is bounded with nonempty interior in V_∞ .

Once a symmetric convex set contains V_∞ we can look at the quotient set \mathbb{R}^D/V_∞ . If the intersection is in a subspace, look at a particular σ . Suppose by way of contradiction that each σ has nonempty interior; then the intersection has nonempty interior. If one of them has nonempty interior, is in a subspace, then we intersect everything with that subspace. In that subspace does everything have nonempty interior? If so, we're good, otherwise, throw in another σ . This can only go on at most D times, we have thrown in at most D more sets. At the cost of increasing $K(D)$ a little bit, we've reduced the general case to the special case. \square

Let \mathcal{P} be polynomials of degree $\leq m-1$ in \mathbb{R}^n , $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ finite. For all $x \in E$, given $\Gamma_0(x, M) = f(x) + M\sigma_0(x)$ or ϕ , $M < |P(x)|$ (here $f \in \mathcal{P}$ and $M\sigma_0(x) \in \mathcal{P}$ where \mathcal{P} is convex and symmetric), where

$$\sigma_0(x) = \{P \in \mathcal{P} : P(x) = 0, |\partial^\alpha P(x)| \leq 1, |\alpha| \leq m-1\} \quad (1.121)$$

for $|\alpha| \leq m-1$. Given $F(x) = \varphi(x)$, for $x \in E$, let $f(x)$ be the constant polynomial whose value everywhere is $\varphi(x)$.

By induction on ℓ , for $x \in E$, $M > 0$, let $\Gamma_\ell(x, M)$ consists of all $P \in \Gamma_\ell(x, M)$ such that for all $y \in E$, there exists $P' \in \Gamma_\ell(y, M)$ such that $|\partial^\alpha (P - P')(x)| \leq M|x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}$ for all $|\alpha| \leq m-1$. If $\Gamma_\ell(x, M) \ni P$, then

$$P + M\sigma_\ell(x) \subset \Gamma_\ell(x, 2M) \subset P + 3M\sigma_\ell(x). \quad (1.122)$$

I look at a map T taking datum to a polynomial. The linear map is of bounded depth if there is a constant only depending on m, n, ℓ with the property that Tf at a point depending on that many points.

Induct on ℓ .

For convex sets let $\Gamma \sim \Gamma'$, $\Gamma(M) \sim \tilde{\Gamma}(M)$, $\Gamma(M) \subset \tilde{\Gamma}(CM)$, $\tilde{\Gamma}(M) \subset \Gamma(CM)$.

$$\Gamma_\ell(x, M) \sim f_\ell(x) + M\sigma_\ell(x), \quad (1.123)$$

Suppose $f_\ell(x)$ depends on $(f(y))_{y \in E}$, linear and of bounded depth. We want to say the same about $\Gamma_{\ell+1}$. Fix x_0 . $\Gamma_{\ell+1}(x_0, M)$ consists of $P \in \mathcal{P}$ such that

$$\forall y \in E, \exists P' \in \Gamma_\ell(y, M) \text{ such that } |\partial^\alpha (P - P')(x_0)| \leq M|x_0 - y|^{m-|\alpha|}. \quad (1.124)$$

$$P \in f_\ell(y) + M\sigma_\ell(y) \quad (1.125)$$

$$B(x_0, y) = \{S \in \mathcal{P} : |\partial^\alpha S(x_0)| \leq |x_0 - y|^{m-|\alpha|} \text{ for } |\alpha| \leq m-1\} \quad (1.126)$$

$$P - P' \in MB(x_0, y) \quad (1.127)$$

$$P \in f_\ell(y) + M \underbrace{[\sigma_\ell(y) + B(x_0, y)]}_{\sigma_\ell(x_0, y)}. \quad (1.128)$$

$\xRightarrow{?}$

$$\Gamma_{\ell+1}(x_0, M) := \bigcap_{y \in E} [f_\ell(y) + M\sigma(x_0, y)]. \quad (1.129)$$

There are two steps. First, we reduce intersecting over all E to a bounded number of y 's by the lemma. Then the proof is easy.

Corollary 1.4.11. *In \mathbb{R}^D , suppose $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_D \subset \mathbb{R}^D$ are symmetric and convex. There exist $\sigma_{i_1}, \dots, \sigma_{i_k}$, $k \leq K(D)$ such that the following holds. Let $P \in \bigcap_{i=1}^N [v_i + M\sigma_i]$. Let $\widehat{P} \in \bigcap_{i=1}^k [v_{i_k} + M\sigma_{i_k}]$. Then $P - \widehat{P} \in C(D)M\sigma_i$ for all $i = 1, \dots, N$.*

Proof. $P, \widehat{P} \in v_{i_k} + M\sigma_{i_k}$ for each $k = 1, \dots, K$, so $P - \widehat{P} \in 2M\sigma_{i_k}$ for each $k = 1, \dots, K$. Then

$$\frac{P - \widehat{P}}{2M} = \sigma_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap \sigma_{i_k} \subset C(D) \bigcap_{i=1}^N \sigma_i. \quad (1.130)$$

□

Pick $\sigma_{i_1}, \dots, \sigma_{i_k}$ as in the lemma. We will find a \widehat{P} that depends linearly on the v_{i_k} . The corollary shows $P - \widehat{P}$ is in the intersection, so we can use \widehat{P} instead of P at the price of increasing by a constant factor, in characterizing $\Gamma_{\ell+1}$. K is at most a constant determined by the dimension of the space of polynomials. That's the induction step.

Each σ_i bounded of nonempty interior, so has a John ellipsoid. It's a symmetric convex set so it's centered at the origin, and is the set where a quadratic form is ≤ 1 .

$$\sigma_{i_k} = \{v \in \mathbb{R}^D : q_k(v) \leq 1\}. \quad (1.131)$$

To say that $v \in v_{i_k} + M\sigma_{i_k}$ means that $q_k(v - v_{i_k}) \leq M^2$. Sum these:

$$v \mapsto \sum_{k=1}^K q_k(v - v_{i_k})^2. \quad (1.132)$$

Pick v to minimize this. The minimizer depends linearly on the v_{i_k} . It's of the order of magnitudy M^2 , for the minimizing v , each is at most a constant times M^2 . (Note that in going from individual guys to the sum we lose a factor of K , so it's vital that K only depends on the dimension.)

11-6

4.4 Proof of main theorem

Lots of theorems have been reduced to other theorems, which have all been reduced to one theorem.

We work in $C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Let $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be finite; we defined convex (maybe empty) $\Gamma_\ell(x, M) \subset \mathcal{P}$ (the polynomials of degree $\leq m-1$ on \mathbb{R}^n) for $x \in E$, $M > 0$, $\ell \geq 0$ and convex symmetric $\sigma_\ell(x)$ for $x \in E$, $\ell \geq 0$.

We note some properties:

- If $p \in \Gamma_{\ell+1}(x, M)$ and $y \in E$, then there exists $P' \in \Gamma_\ell(y, M)$ such that $|\partial^\alpha(P - P')(x)| \leq M|x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}$ for $|\alpha| \leq m-1$.
- If $p \in \sigma_{\ell+1}(x)$ and $y \in E$ then there exist $P' \in \sigma_\ell(y)$ such that $|\partial^\alpha(P - P')(x)| \leq |x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}$ for $|\alpha| \leq m-1$.
- $\Gamma_\ell(x, M) \subset \Gamma_\ell(x, M')$ if $M \leq M'$.
- If $\Gamma_\ell(x, M) \ni P$ then $\Gamma_\ell(x, M) \subset P + C_1 M \sigma_\ell(x) \subset \Gamma_\ell(x, C_2 M)$ for constants depending only on m, n, ℓ .
- For $0 \leq \ell \leq \ell_*$ (depending only on m, n), $\sigma_\ell(x)$ is Whitney convex (Definition 1.3.5).

Theorem 1.4.12. *Assume the above. Let $x_0 \in E$, $M_0 > 1$, and let $P_0 \in \Gamma_{\ell_*}(x_0, M_0)$ where ℓ_* is large enough, depending on m, n . Then there exist $F \in C^m(\mathbb{R}^n)$ such that*

1. $|\partial^\alpha F| \leq CM$ (C depending only on m, n) on all of \mathbb{R}^n , for $|\alpha| = m$.
2. $J_{x_0}(F) = P_0$
3. $J_x(F) \in \Gamma_0(x, CM)$, C depending only on m, n for all $x \in E$.

The finiteness theorem and the algorithm for discarding outliers reduce to this. Efficient calculation doesn't reduce to this; that will happen afterward; these properties are the only ones we use; we will use well-separated pairs decomposition.

All constants will depend only on m, n, ℓ . The same letter can mean different constants in different occurrences.

There will be a local version of this problem.

Given Q_0 is a cube with side length $\delta_{Q_0} \leq 1$, $x_0 \in 5Q_0 \cap E$, $P_0 \in \Gamma_\ell(x_0, M)$, we want $F \in C^m(\frac{65}{64}Q_0)$ such that

1. $|\partial^\alpha F| \leq CM$ on $\frac{65}{64}Q_0$ for $|\alpha| = m$.
2. $J_{x_0}(F) = P_0$.
3. $J_x(F) \in \Gamma_0(x, CM)$ for all $x \in E \cap \frac{65}{64}Q_0$.

Call this a **local interpolation problem** $LIP(Q_0, x_0, P_0)$. We show that every LIP can be solved.

We also assume if $p \in \Gamma_0(x, M)$ then $|\partial^\alpha P(x)| \leq CM$ for $|\alpha| \leq m - 1$.

If we can solve the LIP, split E into a grid of cubes of size 1 and for each one, apply this. There is something to do only if $5Q_0$ contains some point of E . We would like to find P_0 for each cube. We don't have to worry about consistency, because we can patch them with a partition of unity where length scale is 1 so there are no large derivatives.

Everything completely depends on the size and shape of the σ_ℓ . Let me argue in 2 extreme cases, which have completely different lines of reasoning.

1. All the σ_ℓ are small.

For $P^x \in \gamma_{\ell-1}(x, M)$, $P^y \in \Gamma_{\ell-1}(y, M)$, there is $P' \in \Gamma_{\ell-2}(y, M)$ such that $|\partial^\alpha(P^x - P')(x)| \lesssim CM|x - y|^{m-|\alpha|}$. ($|\partial^\alpha Q(0)| \lesssim 1$, $|\partial^\alpha Q(x)| \lesssim 1$ for $|x| \lesssim 1$.)

But $P^y - P' \in CM\sigma_{\ell-2}(y)$. If these are sufficiently small, you don't have to worry about P^x being consistent with P^y , it happens automatically.

2. All the σ_ℓ are large.

Let Q_0 be the unit cube. Let $P_0 \in \Gamma_\ell(x_0, M)$, $P' \in \Gamma_{\ell-1}(x, M)$, $|\partial^\alpha(P' - P_0)(x)| \leq CM$. Replace P' with $P' + S$ where S is a polynomial to be picked. If $S \in M\sigma_{\ell-1}(x)$, I can correct P' so that it agrees with P_0 . If σ is big enough, then $P_0 \in \Gamma_{\ell-1}(x, CM)$ for all $x \in E \cap \frac{65}{64}Q_0$.

A general σ_ℓ will be big in some direction and small in another; we drive towards the extremes.

There are 2 things to worry about: assign polynomial to each relevant point in $E \cap \frac{65}{64}Q_0$; we want them to be mutually consistent and belong to Γ 's. If σ 's tiny, don't worry about mutual consistency, just get in Γ 's, consistency is assured. If σ 's large, the reverse is true; take the polys to be the same; it is in Γ automatically.

There are 2 motivations for possible choices of polynomials, we have to take them both into account. By looking at size and shape, we know what assignment to make.

How do we measure an intermediate case? I describe the notion of a basis. In general it depends on the length scale. For the moment work with the unit cube, $\delta = 1$.

Definition 1.4.13: Say that $\sigma \subset \mathcal{P}$ is a convex symmetric set. Let

$$\mathcal{M} = \{\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k) \in \mathbb{Z}^n : \text{each } \alpha_i \geq 0, |\alpha| = \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_k \leq m - 1\} \quad (1.133)$$

and $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{M}$. A **\mathcal{A} -basis for σ with basis constant C** at x_0 is a collection of polynomials $(P_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}}$ for each $P_\alpha \in \mathcal{P}$ such that $\partial^\beta P_\alpha(x_0) = \delta_{\beta\alpha}$ for $\beta, \alpha \in \mathcal{A}$, $|\partial^\beta P_\alpha(x_0)| \leq C$ for $\beta \in \mathcal{M}$, $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$, and $P_\alpha \in C\sigma$ for each α .

For example, say $x_0 = 0$, and P_α consists of monomials. Each monomial can be thought of as a unit vector in \mathcal{P} . We're saying that these P_α 's are of bounded length, and if you only look at their projections onto the coordinates, they would form an identity matrix.

This is the first attempt to understand in which directions σ is big. It is large in directions in the basis. We're going to look at small cubes; let's get the scaling factors straight. Let's say $m = 1$. Let's say we've arranged so that the m th derivatives are dimensionless quantities, $\partial^\alpha F$ is dimensionless with $|\alpha| = m$. Let F have dimensions (meters) m , $\partial^\alpha P_\alpha(x_0) = 1$, P_α with dimension (meters) $^{|\alpha|}$. Let $\sigma \subset \mathcal{P}$ be convex symmetric with $0 < \delta \leq 1$, C constant, $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{M}$, $P_\alpha \in \mathcal{P}(\alpha \in \mathcal{A})$. $(P_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}}$ is a (\mathcal{A}, δ, C) basis for σ at x_0 iff:

- $|\partial^\beta P_\alpha(x_0)| \leq C\delta^{|\alpha|-|\beta|}$ for $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$, $\beta \in \mathcal{M}$
- $\partial^\beta P_\alpha(x_0) = \delta_{\beta\alpha}$ for $\beta, \alpha \in \mathcal{A}$.
- $\delta^{m-|\alpha|}P_\alpha \in C\sigma$ for all $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$.

The extreme cases are when \mathcal{A} is all \mathcal{M} or empty.

We will decompose A into sets that are easier. We make sure they give rise to solutions that can be patched together.

There will be an ordering on the set of labels \mathcal{A} (labels for local interpolation problem); prove by induction that any LIP which carries the label \mathcal{A} can be solved. The base case is the label \mathcal{M} (the least element). The LIP is trivial. For the induction step, take some label for which we don't know what to do, but know what to do for all smaller labels. Do Calderon-Zygmund decomposition such that the problem can be solved on the parts because they have smaller labels. Put them together by a Whitney partition of unity. Do this so that local solutions are consistent.

I first define the ordering on multi-indices. Let $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$, $\beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n)$. Compare $\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_n$ and $\beta_1 + \dots + \beta_n$. If they are the same, then delete the last index and compare, repeating as necessary. This defines a total order.

Now I describe the order relation on sets of multi-indices.

Suppose \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} are distinct subsets of \mathcal{M} . Consider the symmetric difference, and take the least element with respect to the ordering I just defined,

$$\gamma = \min\{(\mathcal{A} \setminus \mathcal{B}) \cup (\mathcal{B} \setminus \mathcal{A})\}. \quad (1.134)$$

If $\gamma \in \mathcal{A}$ then $\mathcal{A} < \mathcal{B}$. If $\gamma \in \mathcal{B}$ then $\mathcal{B} < \mathcal{A}$. This is a total order relation. If $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{B}$, then $\gamma \in \mathcal{B} \setminus \mathcal{A}$, so $\mathcal{B} < \mathcal{A}$. \mathcal{M} is the minimal label and the empty set is the maximal label.