

**THE LIMIT AT THE ORIGIN OF A SMOOTH  
FUNCTION SPACE**

**by**

**Carl de Boor  
Amos Ron**

**Computer Sciences Technical Report #834**

**March 1989**



## The limit at the origin of a smooth function space

Carl de Boor and Amos Ron  
 Computer Sciences Department  
 University of Wisconsin-Madison  
 Madison, Wisconsin 53706

### Abstract

We present a map  $H \rightarrow H_{\downarrow}$  that assigns to each finite-dimensional space of smooth functions a homogeneous polynomial space of the same dimension. We discuss applications of this map in the areas of multivariate polynomial interpolation, box spline theory and polynomial ideals.

### 1. Introduction

Let  $A_0$  be the space of all  $s$ -dimensional complex-valued functions analytic at the origin. For  $f \in A_0$ , we write its power series expansion at the origin as

$$f = f_0 + f_1 + f_2 + \dots, \quad (1)$$

where, for each  $j$ ,  $f_j$  is a homogeneous polynomial of degree  $j$ . We denote by  $f_{\downarrow}$  the *least term of  $f$* , i.e., the homogeneous polynomial  $f_k$  with  $k := \max\{j : f_j \neq 0, \forall i < j\}$ . For a finite-dimensional subspace  $H$  of  $A_0$ , we define

$$H_{\downarrow} := \text{span}\{f_{\downarrow} : f \in H\}. \quad (2)$$

Note that  $\deg f_{\downarrow} = k$  if and only if  $T_k(f) \neq 0 \neq T_{k+1}(f)$ , where  $T_k : H \rightarrow \pi_{<k} : f \mapsto f_0 + f_1 + \dots + f_{k-1}$ . This means that

$$\dim\{f_{\downarrow} : f \in H, \deg f_{\downarrow} = k \text{ or } f = 0\} = \dim \ker T_k - \dim \ker T_{k+1}. \quad (3)$$

Summing this equation over all  $k$ , we obtain

**Proposition 1.** *The space  $H_{\downarrow}$  is a homogeneous polynomial space of the same dimension as  $H$ .*

In [2], we provide the following simple algorithm for the computation of a basis for  $H_{\downarrow}$  from a given basis for  $H$ . Its description uses the inner product

$$\langle p, q \rangle := p(D)q(0) = q(D)p(0) = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_{\downarrow}^s} \frac{D^{\alpha} p(0) D^{\alpha} q(0)}{\alpha!}, \quad (4)$$

with  $p(D) := \sum_{\alpha} (D^{\alpha} p)(0) / \alpha!$   $D^{\alpha}$  the differential operator induced by the polynomial  $p$ .

**Algorithm 2 [2].** Given the basis  $(p_j)$  of the finite-dimensional subspace  $H$  of  $A_0$ .

For  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , carry out the following three steps:

$$\text{Step 1.} \quad q_k \leftarrow p_k - \sum_{j < k} q_j \frac{\langle r_j, p_k \rangle}{\langle r_j, q_j \rangle}$$

$$\text{Step 2.} \quad r_k \leftarrow q_{k \downarrow}$$

$$\text{Step 3.} \quad q_j \leftarrow q_j - q_k \frac{\langle r_k, q_j \rangle}{\langle r_k, q_k \rangle} \quad \text{if } \deg r_k > \deg r_j.$$

Then  $(r_j)$  is bi-orthogonal to  $(q_j)$  and provides a homogeneous orthogonal basis for  $H_{\downarrow}$ .

## 2. $H_{\downarrow}$ and multivariate polynomial interpolation

Let  $\Theta$  be a finite subset of  $\mathbb{R}^s$  ( $\mathbb{C}^s$  will do as well). For each  $\theta \in \Theta$ , let  $P_{\theta}$  be a finite-dimensional polynomial space. In the interpolation problem  $IP(\Theta; P)$ , we seek a polynomial space  $Q$  such that, for every smooth function  $f$ , there exists a unique  $q_f \in Q$  satisfying

$$p(D)f(\theta) = p(D)q_f(\theta), \quad \forall \theta \in \Theta, \quad p \in P_{\theta}. \quad (5)$$

We have

**Theorem 3 [2].** For given  $IP(\Theta; P)$ , define  $H := \text{span}\{e_{\theta}p : \theta \in \Theta, p \in P_{\theta}\}$ . Then the space  $H_{\downarrow}$  solves  $IP(\Theta; P)$ , and is of least degree among all the solutions  $Q$  of that interpolation problem in the sense that

$$\dim(\pi_j \cap H_{\downarrow}) \geq \dim(\pi_j \cap Q), \quad \forall j, \quad \forall Q.$$

## 3. The polynomials in a box spline space

The polynomial space associated with a given (polynomial) box spline  $B_X$  is defined as follows: Let  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^s \setminus \{0\}$  be a spanning multiset for  $\mathbb{R}^s$  and

$$\mathbb{K}(X) := \{K \subset X : \text{span}(X \setminus K) \neq \mathbb{R}^s\}.$$

Also, for  $Z \subset X$ , define the homogeneous polynomial  $p_Z := \prod_{x \in Z} \langle x, \cdot \rangle$ , with  $\langle x, y \rangle$  the scalar product of  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^s$ . The polynomial space  $\mathcal{H}(X)$ , defined by

$$\mathcal{H}(X) = \{f \in \pi : p_K(D)f = 0, \quad \forall K \in \mathbb{K}(X)\}, \quad (6)$$

is of importance in box spline theory since the box spline  $B_X$  is a piecewise- $\mathcal{H}(X)$  function.

In the context of exponential box splines, one deals with the following generalization of the above space: we associate with each direction  $x \in X$  an (arbitrary) constant  $\lambda_x$  and, correspondingly, we define the possibly non-homogeneous polynomials  $p_{Z, \lambda} := \prod_{x \in Z} (\langle x, \cdot \rangle - \lambda_x)$ . The exponential space  $\mathcal{H}(X, \lambda)$  is then defined analogously as

$$\mathcal{H}(X, \lambda) := \{f \text{ is entire} : p_{K, \lambda} f = 0, \quad \forall K \in \mathbb{K}(X)\}. \quad (7)$$

With the aid of  $\mathcal{H}(X, \lambda)$ , we identify elements in  $\mathcal{H}(X)$ . For  $f \in \mathcal{H}(X, \lambda)$  and  $K \in K(X)$ ,

$$0 = p_{K, \lambda}(D)f = p_K(D)f_{\downarrow} + \text{higher order terms}, \quad (8)$$

which implies that  $p_K(D)f_{\downarrow} = 0$  and hence  $f_{\downarrow} \in \mathcal{H}(X)$ . Consequently,

$$\mathcal{H}(X, \lambda)_{\downarrow} \subset \mathcal{H}(X),$$

hence, by Proposition 1,

$$\dim \mathcal{H}(X, \lambda) \leq \dim \mathcal{H}(X),$$

regardless of the choice of  $\lambda$ . Since, for a generic  $\lambda \in \mathbf{C}^X$ ,  $\mathcal{H}(X, \lambda)$  is spanned by  $\#\mathbb{B}(X)$  different exponentials, [1], with  $\mathbb{B}(X)$  the multiset of all bases for  $\mathbb{R}^s$  from  $X$ , one concludes that

$$\#\mathbb{B}(X) \leq \dim \mathcal{H}(X),$$

a result which is due to Dahmen and Micchelli, [4].

#### 4. A basis for $\mathcal{H}(X)$

We know from [3] that

$$\mathcal{H}(X, \lambda)_{\downarrow} = \mathcal{H}(X). \quad (9)$$

For a generic  $\lambda$ , the exponentials  $e_{\theta}$  in  $\mathcal{H}(X, \lambda)$  form a basis for it. The relevant set  $\Theta$  of frequencies  $\theta$  is easily determined: Each  $B \in \mathbb{B}(X)$  provides a  $\theta = \theta_B$  as the unique solution of the linear system  $\langle x, \theta \rangle = \lambda_x, \forall x \in B$ . Thus, a basis for the polynomial space  $\mathcal{H}(X)$  can be obtained as follows:

**Step 1.** Compute the exponential basis for a suitable  $\mathcal{H}(X, \lambda)$ .

**Step 2.** Apply to this basis the Algorithm 2 for the construction of a basis for  $H_{\downarrow}$  from a basis for  $H$ .

Note that the algorithm requires the determination of the least term of functions. This presents no numerical problem in the present situation in case  $X \subset \mathbb{Z}^s$ . For, then  $\lambda$  can be chosen so that each  $\theta$  is rational, and the algorithm’s calculations can be carried out in exact (i.e., integer) arithmetic.

#### 5. Subspaces of $\mathcal{H}(X)$

The observations based on (8) made about the action of differential operators on  $\mathcal{H}(X)$  and  $\mathcal{H}(X, \lambda)$  can be formulated in terms of polynomial ideals and extended to more general settings, [3]. We omit here these details, yet describe the application of these extensions to subspaces of  $\mathcal{H}(X)$ .

Note that the elements of  $\mathbb{K}(X)$  are exactly all subsets of  $X$  which intersect every element of  $\mathbb{B}(X)$ . Suppose now that  $\mathbb{B}_1$  is a subset of  $\mathbb{B}(X)$ . Let  $\mathbb{K}_1 := \{K \in X : K \cap B \neq \emptyset, \forall B \in \mathbb{B}_1\}$ . Define

$$\mathcal{H}_1 := \{f : p_K(D)f = 0, \forall K \in \mathbb{K}_1\}.$$

One checks that  $\mathcal{H}_1 \subset \mathcal{H}(X)$ .

**Theorem 4 [3].**

$$\#\mathbb{B}_1 \leq \dim \mathcal{H}_1. \quad (10)$$

The inequality in the theorem is sometimes strict. To guarantee equality, one may choose  $\mathbb{B}_1$  to be **order-closed**: suppose that  $X$  is ordered,  $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_{\#X}\}$  say. This order induces a partial ordering on  $\mathbb{B}(X)$ :

$$B_1 = \{y_1, \dots, y_s\} \leq B_2 = \{z_1, \dots, z_s\} \iff y_j \leq z_j, \forall j.$$

We call  $\mathbb{B}_1 \subset \mathbb{B}(X)$  *order-closed* if the condition

$$B_1 \leq B_2, B_2 \in \mathbb{B}_1 \implies B_1 \in \mathbb{B}_1$$

holds for all  $B_1, B_2 \in \mathbb{B}(X)$ .

**Theorem 5 [3].** *If  $\mathbb{B}_1$  is an order-closed subset of  $\mathbb{B}(X)$ , then*

$$\#\mathbb{B}_1 = \dim \mathcal{H}_1.$$

Similar results hold for subspaces of the more general space  $\mathcal{H}(X, \lambda)$ . These results allow us to identify the local approximation order of subspaces of  $\mathcal{H}(X, \lambda)$ , [3].

## References

1. Ben-Artzi, A. and A. Ron, Translates of exponential box splines and their related spaces, *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.* **309** (1988), 683–710.
2. de Boor, C. and A. Ron, On multivariate polynomial interpolation, CMS TSR 89-17, University of Wisconsin-Madison, November 1988.
3. de Boor, C. and A. Ron, On polynomial ideals of finite codimension with applications to box spline theory, CMS TSR 89-21, University of Wisconsin-Madison, December 1988.
4. Dahmen, W. and C.A. Micchelli, On the local linear independence of translates of a box spline, *Studia Math.* **82** (1985), 243–263.