

Calculus, finite differences  
Interpolation, Splines, NURBS

CMSC 828 D

# Least Squares, SVD, Pseudoinverse

- $\mathbf{Ax}=\mathbf{b}$   $\mathbf{A}$  is  $m \times n$ ,  $\mathbf{x}$  is  $n \times 1$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  is  $m \times 1$ .
- $\mathbf{A}=\mathbf{USV}^t$  where  $\mathbf{U}$  is  $m \times m$ ,  $\mathbf{S}$  is  $m \times n$  and  $\mathbf{V}$  is  $n \times n$
- $\mathbf{USV}^t \mathbf{x}=\mathbf{b}$ . So  $\mathbf{SV}^t \mathbf{x}=\mathbf{U}^t \mathbf{b}$
- If  $\mathbf{A}$  has rank  $r$ , then  $r$  singular values are significant

$$\mathbf{V}^t \mathbf{x} = \text{diag}(\sigma_1^{-1}, \dots, \sigma_r^{-1}, 0, \dots, 0) \mathbf{U}^t \mathbf{b}$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{V} \text{diag}(\sigma_1^{-1}, \dots, \sigma_r^{-1}, 0, \dots, 0) \mathbf{U}^t \mathbf{b}$$

$$\mathbf{x}_r = \sum_{i=1}^r \frac{\mathbf{u}_i^t \mathbf{b}}{\sigma_i} \mathbf{v}_i \quad \sigma_r > \varepsilon, \quad \sigma_{r+1} \leq \varepsilon$$

- Pseudoinverse  $\mathbf{A}^+ = \mathbf{V} \text{diag}(\sigma_1^{-1}, \dots, \sigma_r^{-1}, 0, \dots, 0) \mathbf{U}^t$

–  $\mathbf{A}^+$  is a  $n \times m$  matrix.

– If  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = n$  then  $\mathbf{A}^+ = (\mathbf{A}^t \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}$

– If  $\mathbf{A}$  is square  $\mathbf{A}^+ = \mathbf{A}^{-1}$

# Well Posed problems

- Hadamard postulated that for a problem to be “well posed”
  1. Solution must exist
  2. It must be unique
  3. Small changes to the input data should cause small changes to the solution
- Many problems in science and computer vision result in “ill-posed” problems.
  - Numerically it is common to have condition 3 violated.
- Recall from the SVD  $\mathbf{x} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\mathbf{u}_i^t \mathbf{b}}{\sigma_i} \mathbf{v}_i$   $\sigma_r > \varepsilon, \sigma_{r+1} \leq \varepsilon$ 
  - If  $\sigma$ s are close to zero small changes in the “data” vector  $\mathbf{b}$  cause big changes in  $\mathbf{x}$ .
  - Converting ill-posed problem to well-posed one is called *regularization*.

# Regularization

- Pseudoinverse provides one means of regularization

- Another is to solve  $(\mathbf{A} + \epsilon \mathbf{I})\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$   $\mathbf{x} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\sigma_i}{\epsilon + \sigma_i^2} (\mathbf{u}_i^t \mathbf{b}) \mathbf{v}_i$

- Solution of the regular problem requires minimizing of  $\|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b}\|^2$
- This corresponds to minimizing

$$\|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b}\|^2 + \epsilon \|\mathbf{x}\|^2$$

- Philosophy – pay a “penalty” of  $O(\epsilon)$  to ensure solution does not blow up.
- In practice we may know that the data has an uncertainty of a certain magnitude ... so it makes sense to optimize with this constraint.

- Ill-posed problems are also called “ill-conditioned”

# Outline

- Gradients/derivatives
  - needed in detecting features in images
    - Derivatives are large where changes occur
  - essential for optimization
- Interpolation
  - Calculating values of a function at a given point based on known values at other points
  - Determine error of approximation
  - Polynomials, splines
- Multiple dimensions

# Derivative

- In 1-D  $\frac{df}{dx} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$

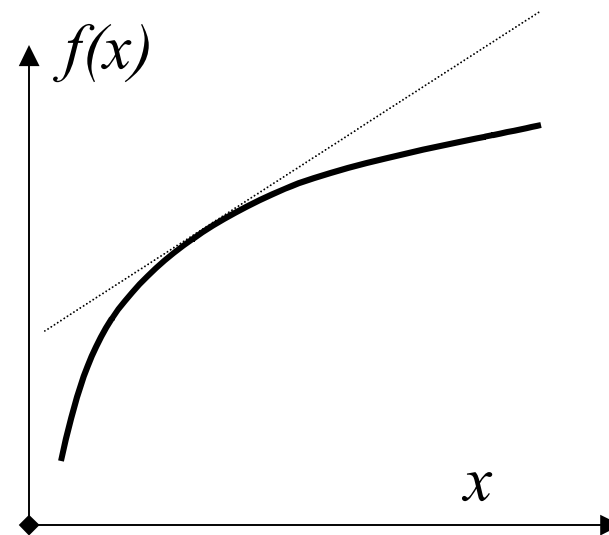
- Taylor series: for a continuous function

$$f(x+h) = f(x) + h \left. \frac{df}{dx} \right|_x + \frac{h^2}{2} \left. \frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} \right|_x + \dots + \frac{h^n}{n!} \left. \frac{d^n f}{dx^n} \right|_x + \dots$$

$$f(x-h) = f(x) - h \left. \frac{df}{dx} \right|_x + \frac{h^2}{2} \left. \frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} \right|_x + \dots + (-1)^n \frac{h^n}{n!} \left. \frac{d^n f}{dx^n} \right|_x + \dots$$

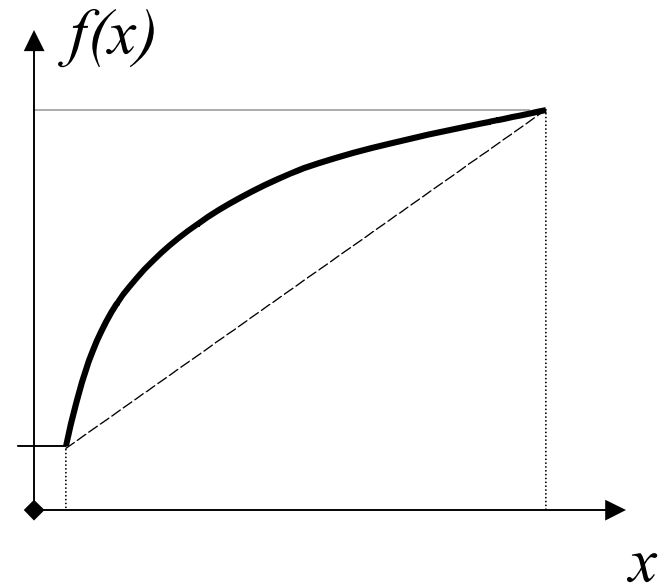
- Geometric interpretation

– Approximate smooth curve  
by values of tangent,  
curvature, etc.



# Remarks

- Mean value theorem:
  - $f(b)-f(a)=(b-a)df/dx|_c$        $a < c < b$
  - There is at least one point between  $a$  and  $b$  on the curve where the slope matches that of the straight line joining the two points

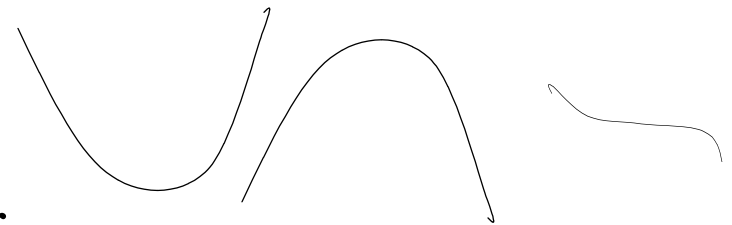


- $df/dx=0$

- represents a minimum, maximum or saddle point of the curve  $y=f(x)$

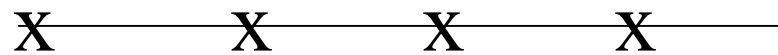
- $d^2f/dx^2 > 0$  minimum,  $d^2f/dx^2 < 0$  maximum

- $d^2f/dx^2 = 0$  saddle point



# Finite differences

- Approximate derivatives at points by using values of a function known at certain neighboring points
- Truncate Taylor series and obtain an expression for the derivatives
- Forward differences: use value at the point and forward



- Backward differences
 
$$\frac{df}{dx}\bigg|_x = h^{-1} (f(x+h) - f(x)) - \frac{h}{2} \frac{d^2 f}{dx^2}\bigg|_x + O(h^2)$$

$$\frac{df}{dx}\bigg|_x = h^{-1} (f(x) - f(x-h)) + \frac{h}{2} \frac{d^2 f}{dx^2}\bigg|_x + O(h^2)$$



# Finite Differences

- Central differences
  - Higher order approximation

$$2 \frac{df}{dx} \Big|_x = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} - \frac{h}{2} \frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} \Big|_x + \frac{f(x) - f(x-h)}{h} + \frac{h}{2} \frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} \Big|_x + O(h^2)$$

$$\frac{df}{dx} \Big|_x = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x-h)}{2h} + O(h^2)$$

- However we need data on both sides
- Not possible for data on the edge of an image
- Not possible in time dependent problems (we have data at current time and previous one)

# Approximation

- Order of the approximation  $O(h)$ ,  $O(h^2)$
- Sidedness, one sided, central etc.
- Points around point where derivative is calculated that are involved are called the “stencil” of the approximation.
- Second derivative

$$0 = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} - \frac{h}{2} \frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} \Big|_x - \frac{f(x) - f(x-h)}{h} + \frac{h}{2} \frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} \Big|_x + O(h^2)$$

$$\frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} = \frac{f(x+h) - 2f(x) + f(x-h)}{h^2} + O(h)$$

- One sided difference of  $O(h^2)$

$$\frac{df}{dx} = \frac{-3f(x) + 4f(x+h) - f(x+2h)}{2h} + O(h^2)$$

# Polynomial interpolation

- Instead of playing with Taylor series we can obtain fits using polynomial expansions.
  - 3 points fit a quadratic  $ax^2+bx+c$ 
    - Can calculate the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> derivatives
  - 4 points fit a cubic, etc.
- Given  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$  and values  $f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1 & x_1^2 & x_1^3 \\ 1 & x_2 & x_2^2 & x_2^3 \\ 1 & x_3 & x_3^2 & x_3^3 \\ 1 & x_4 & x_4^2 & x_4^3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ f_3 \\ f_4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1 & x_1^2 & x_1^3 \\ 1 & x_2 & x_2^2 & x_2^3 \\ 1 & x_3 & x_3^2 & x_3^3 \\ 1 & x_4 & x_4^2 & x_4^3 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ f_3 \\ f_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Vandermonde system – fast algorithms for solution.
- If more data than degree .. Can get a least squares solution.
- Matlab functions `polyfit`, `polyval`

# Remarks

- Can use the fitted polynomial to calculate derivatives
- If equation is solved analytically this provides expressions for the derivatives.
- Equation can become quite ill conditioned
  - especially if equations are not normalized.
  - $ax^2+bx+c$  can also be written as  $a^* (x-x_0)^2+b^* (x-x_0) + c^*$
  - *Find the polynomial through  $x_0-h, x_0, x_0+h$*

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -h & h^2 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & h & h^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ a_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_{-1} \\ f_0 \\ f_1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -h & h^2 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & h & h^2 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2h} & 0 & \frac{1}{2h} \\ \frac{1}{2h^2} & -\frac{1}{h^2} & \frac{1}{2h^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-a_0 = f_0,$$

$$a_1 = (f_1 - f_{-1})/2h$$

$$a_2 = (f_{-1} - 2f_0 + f_1)/2h^2$$

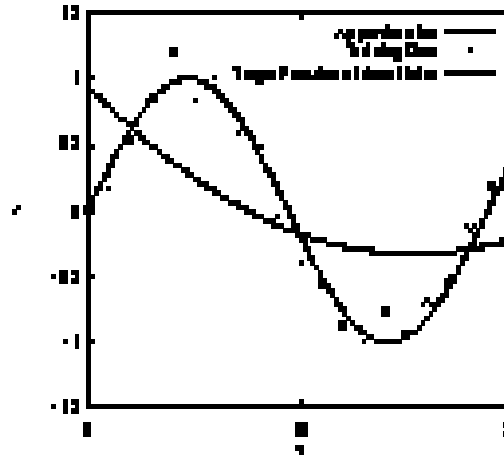
– Gives the expected values of the derivatives.

# Polynomial interpolation

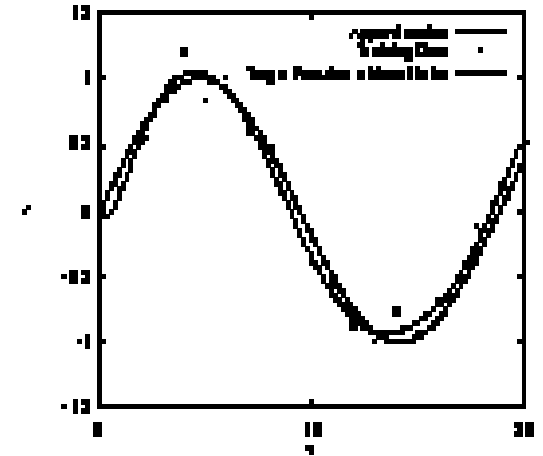
- Results from Algebra
  - Polynomial of degree  $n$  through  $n+1$  points is unique
  - Polynomials of degree less than  $x^n$  is an  $n$  dimensional space.
  - $1, x, x^2, \dots, x^{n-1}$  form a basis.
    - Any other polynomial can be represented as a combination of these basis elements.
  - Other sets of independent polynomials can also form bases.
- To fit a polynomial through  $x_0, \dots, x_n$  with values  $f_0, \dots, f_n$ 
  - Use Lagrangian basis  $l_k$ .
$$l_k = \prod_{\substack{i=0, \\ i \neq k}}^n \frac{x - x_i}{x_k - x_i}, \quad k = 0, \dots, n$$
  - $p(x) = a_0 l_0 + a_1 l_1 + \dots + a_n l_n$ .
  - Then  $a_i = f_i$
  - Many polynomial bases: Chebyshev, Legendre, Laguerre ...
  - Bernstein, Bookstein ...

# Increasing $n$

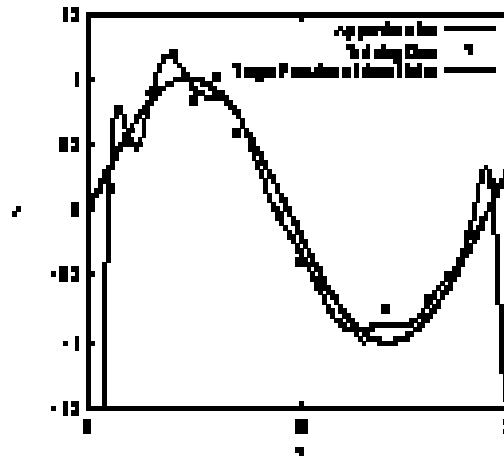
- As  $n$  increases we can increase the polynomial degree.
- However the function in between is very poorly interpolated.
- Becomes ill-posed.
- For large  $n$  *interpolant blows up*.
- Idea:
  - Taylor series provides good local approximations
  - Use local approximations
- Splines



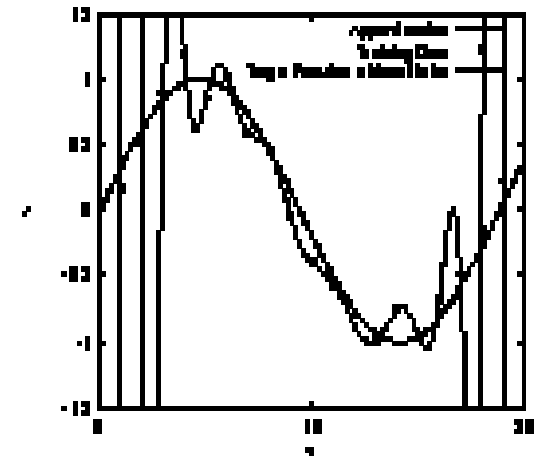
Order 2



Order 10



Order 16



Order 20

# Spline interpolation

- Piecewise polynomial approximation
  - E.g. interpolation in a table
  - Given  $x_k, x_{k+1}, f_k$  and  $f_{k+1}$  evaluate  $f$  at a point  $x$  such that

$$x_k < x < x_{k+1}$$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} f_{k+1} \frac{x - x_k}{x_{k+1} - x_k} + f_k \frac{x - x_{k+1}}{x_k - x_{k+1}}, & x_k \leq x \leq x_{k+1} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Construct approximations of this type on each subinterval

This method uses Lagrangian interpolants

- Endpoints are called *breakpoints*

- For higher polynomial degree we need more conditions

- e.g. specify values at points inside the interval  $[x_k < x < x_{k+1}]$

- Specifying function and derivative values at the end points

$x_k, x_{k+1}$  leads to cubic Hermite interpolation

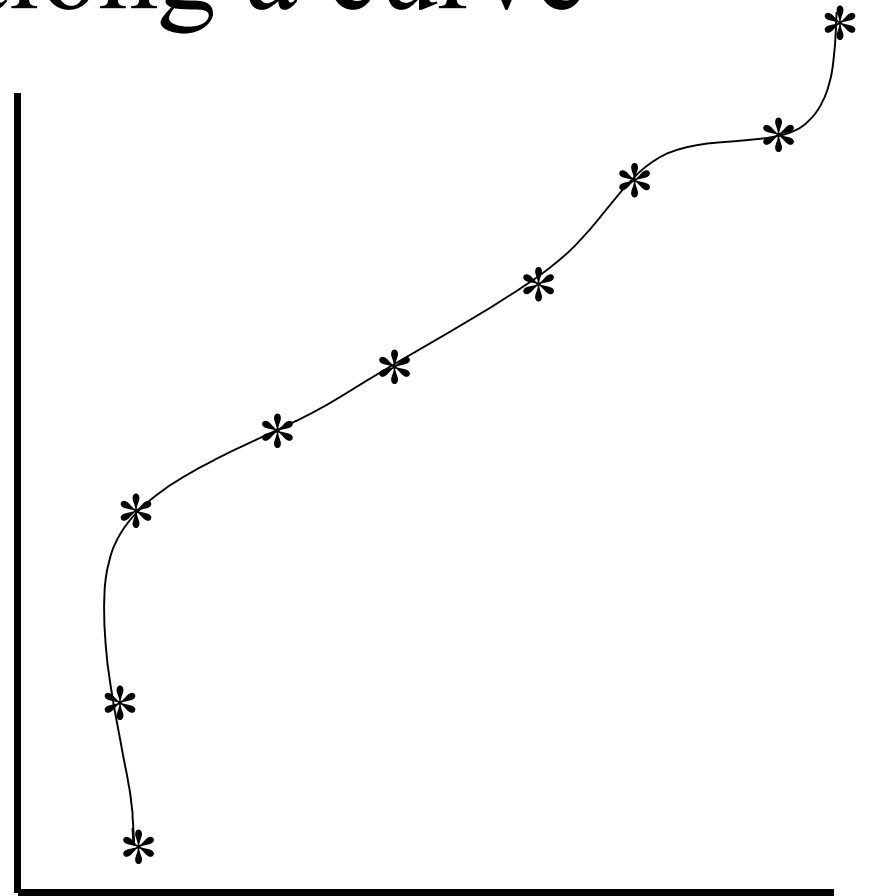
# Cubic Spline

- Splines – name given to a flexible piece of wood used by draftsmen to draw curves through points.
    - Bend wood piece so that it passes through known points and draw a line through it.
    - Most commonly used interpolant used is the cubic spline
    - Provides continuity of the function, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> derivatives at the breakpoints.
    - Given  $n+1$  points we have  $n$  intervals  $\{x_i, f_i\}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n + 1$
    - Each polynomial has four unknown coefficients
      - Specifying function values provides 2 equations
      - Two derivative continuity equations provides two more
- $$P_i(x) = f_i \quad i = 1, \dots, n + 1$$
- $$P_{i-1}''(x) = P_i''(x) \quad i = 2, \dots, n$$
- $$P_{i-1}'(x) = P_i'(x) \quad i = 2, \dots, n$$
- Left with two free conditions. Usually chosen so that second derivatives are zero at ends



# Interpolating along a curve

- Curve can be given as  $x(s)$  and  $y(s)$
- *Given*  $x_i, y_i, s_i$
- Can fit splines for  $x$  and  $y$
- Can compute tangents, curvature and normal based on this fit
- Things like intensity can vary along the curve. Can also fit  $I(s)$



# Two and more dimensions

- Gradient  $\nabla f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \mathbf{e}_1 + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \mathbf{e}_2 = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} \mathbf{e}_i$
- Directional derivative in the direction of a vector  $\mathbf{n}$   $\nabla f \cdot \mathbf{n} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \mathbf{e}_1 \cdot \mathbf{n} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \mathbf{e}_2 \cdot \mathbf{n} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} n_i$

- Geometric interpretation

  - $-\nabla f$  is normal to the surface  $f(\mathbf{x})=c$

  - $\mathbf{n} = \nabla f / |\nabla f|$

- Taylor series

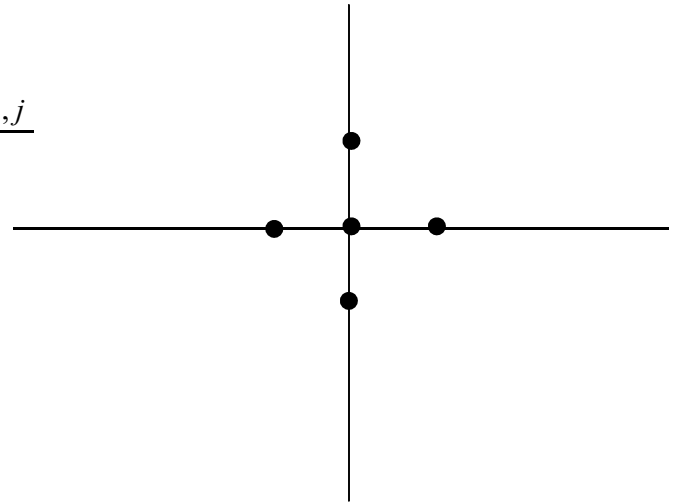
$$f(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{h}) = f(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{h} \cdot \nabla f(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{h} \mathbf{h}) : \nabla \nabla f(\mathbf{x}) + O(|\mathbf{h}|^3)$$

$$f(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{h}) = f(\mathbf{x}) + h_i \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} + \frac{1}{2} h_i h_j \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j} + O(|\mathbf{h}|^3)$$

# Finite differences

- Follows a similar pattern. One dimensional partial derivatives are calculated the same way.
- Multiple dimensional operators are computed using multidimensional stencils.

$$\nabla^2 f = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = \frac{f_{i+1,j} + f_{i,j+1} - 4f_{i,j} + f_{i,j-1} + f_{i-1,j}}{h^2}$$



# Interpolation

- Polynomial interpolation in multiple dimensions
- Pascals triangle
- Least squares
- Move to a local coordinate system

# Tensor product splines

- Splines form a local basis.
- Take products of one dimensional basis functions to make a basis in the higher dimension.

# NURBS

- Used for precisely specifying n-d data.
- October 3 Tapas Kanungo, NURBS: Non-Uniform Rational B-Splines

# Derivative of a matrix

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Suppose  $f(\mathbf{x})$  is a scalar-valued function of  $d$  variables  $x_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, d$ , which we represent as the vector  $\mathbf{x}$ . Then the derivative or gradient of  $f$  with respect to this vector is computed component by component, i.e.,

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}) = \text{grad}f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_1} \\ \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_2} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_d} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (12)$$

If we have an  $n$ -dimensional vector-valued function  $\mathbf{f}$  (note the use of boldface), of a  $d$ -dimensional vector  $\mathbf{x}$ , we calculate the derivatives and represent them as the *Jacobian matrix*

$$\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_1(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_d} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_n(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_n(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_d} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (13)$$

If this matrix is square, its determinant (Sect. A.2.5) is called simply the *Jacobian* or occasionally the *Jacobian determinant*.

# Jacobian and Hessian

We first recall the use of second derivatives of a scalar function of a scalar  $x$  in writing a Taylor series (or Taylor expansion) about a point:

$$f(x) = f(x_0) + \left. \frac{df(x)}{dx} \right|_{x=x_0} (x - x_0) + \frac{1}{2!} \left. \frac{d^2f(x)}{dx^2} \right|_{x=x_0} (x - x_0)^2 + O((x - x_0)^3). \quad (20)$$

Analogously, if our scalar-valued  $f$  is instead a function of a vector  $\mathbf{x}$ , we can expand  $f(\mathbf{x})$  in a Taylor series around a point  $\mathbf{x}_0$ :

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}_0) + \underbrace{\left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right]_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_0}}_{\mathbf{J}}^t (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0) + \frac{1}{2!} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)^t \underbrace{\left[ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \mathbf{x}^2} \right]_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_0}}_{\mathbf{H}} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0) + O(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0\|^3), \quad (21)$$

where  $\mathbf{H}$  is the *Hessian* matrix, the matrix of second-order derivatives of  $f(\cdot)$ , here