

Meshfree Approximation with MATLAB

Lecture I: Introduction

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Dolomites Research Week on Approximation
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Outline

- 1 Some Historical Remarks
- 2 Scattered Data Interpolation
- 3 Distance Matrices
- 4 Basic MATLAB Routines
- 5 Approximation in High Dimensions and using Different Designs



Rolland Hardy

- Professor of Civil and Construction Engineering at Iowa State University (retired 1989).
- Introduced **multiquadrics** (MQs) in the early 1970s (see, *e.g.*, [Hardy (1971)]).
- His work was primarily concerned with applications in geodesy and mapping.



Robert L. Harder and Robert N. Desmarais

- Aerospace engineers at MacNeal-Schwendler Corporation (MSC Software), and NASA's Langley Research Center.
- Introduced **thin plate splines** (TPSs) in 1972 (see, *e.g.*, [Harder and Desmarais (1972)]).
- Work was concerned mostly with aircraft design.



Jean Duchon

- Senior researcher in mathematics at the Université Joseph Fourier in Grenoble, France.
- Provided foundation for the **variational approach** minimizing the integral of $\nabla^2 f$ in \mathbb{R}^2 in the mid 1970s (see [Duchon (1976), Duchon (1977), Duchon (1978), Duchon (1980)]).
- This also leads to thin plate splines.



Jean Meinguet

- Mathematics professor at Université Catholique de Louvain in Louvain, Belgium (retired 1996).
- Introduced **surface splines** in the late 1970s (see, *e.g.*, [Meinguet (1979a), Meinguet (1979b), Meinguet (1979c), Meinguet (1984)]).
- Surface splines and thin plate splines are both considered as **polyharmonic splines**.



Richard Franke

- Mathematician at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California (retired 2001).
- Compared various scattered data interpolation methods in [Franke (1982a)], and concluded MQs and TPSs were the best.
- Conjectured that the interpolation matrix for MQs is invertible.



Wolodymyr (Wally) Madych and Stuart Alan Nelson

- Both professors of mathematics. Madych at the University of Connecticut, and Nelson at Iowa State University (now retired).
- Proved Franke's conjecture (and much more) based on a variational approach in their 1983 manuscript [Madych and Nelson (1983)]. Manuscript was never published.



Charles Micchelli

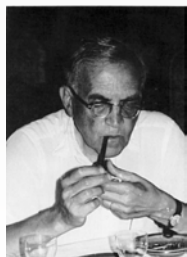
- Used to be a mathematician at IBM Watson Research Center. Now a professor at the State University of New York.
- Published [Micchelli (1986)] in which he also proved Franke's conjecture. His proofs are rooted in the work of [Bochner (1932), Bochner (1933)] and [Schoenberg (1937), Schoenberg (1938a), Schoenberg (1938b)] on positive definite and completely monotone functions.
- We will follow his approach throughout much of these lectures.



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Lecture I



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Ed Kansa

- Physicist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, California (retired).
- First suggested the use of radial basis functions for the solution of PDEs [Kansa (1986)].
- Later papers [Kansa (1990a), Kansa (1990b)] proposed “Kansa’s method” (or non-symmetric collocation).



Grace Wahba

- Professor of statistics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- Studied the use of thin plate splines for statistical purposes in the context of smoothing **noisy data** and data on spheres.
- Introduced ANOVA and cross validation approaches to the radial basis function setting (see, *e.g.*, [Wahba (1979), Wahba (1981), Wahba and Wendelberger (1980)]).
- One of the first monographs on the subject is [Wahba (1990)].



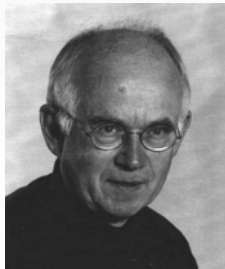
Nira Dyn

- Collaborated early with Grace Wahba on connections between numerical analysis and statistics via radial basis function methods (see [Dyn *et al.* (1979), Dyn and Wahba (1982)]).
- Professor of applied mathematics at Tel-Aviv University.
- Was one of the first proponents of radial basis function methods in the approximation theory community (see her surveys [Dyn (1987), Dyn (1989)]).
- Has since worked on many issues related to radial basis functions.



Robert Schaback

- Professor of mathematics at the University of Göttingen, Germany.
- Introduced **compactly supported radial basis functions** (CSRBFs) in [Schaback (1995a)].
- Another popular family of CSRBFs was presented by **Holger Wendland** (professor of mathematics at Sussex University, UK) in his Ph.D. thesis at Göttingen (see also [Wendland (1995)]).
- Both have contributed extensively to the field of radial basis functions. Especially the recent monograph [Wendland (2005)].



Meshfree **local regression methods** have been used independently in statistics for well over 100 years (see, *e.g.*, [Cleveland and Loader (1996)] and the references therein).



In fact, the basic moving least squares method (local regression) can be traced back at least to the work of [Gram (1883), Woolhouse (1870), De Forest (1873), De Forest (1874)].



Donald Shepard

- Professor at the Schneider Institutes for Health Policy at Brandeis University.
- As an undergraduate student at Harvard University he suggested the use of what are now called *Shepard functions* in the late 1960s.
- The publication [Shepard (1968)] discusses the basic inverse distance weighted Shepard method and some modifications thereof. The method was at the time incorporated into a computer program, SYMAP, for map making.



Peter Lancaster and Kes Šalkauskas

- Professors of mathematics at the University of Calgary, Canada (both retired).
- Published [Lancaster and Šalkauskas (1981)] introducing the **moving least squares method** (a generalization of Shepard functions).
- An interesting [Interview with Peter Lancaster].



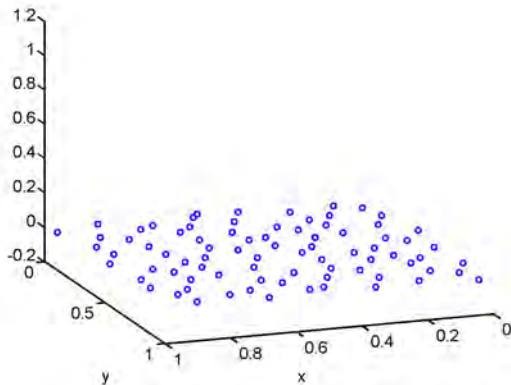
Problem (Scattered Data Fitting)

Given data (\mathbf{x}_j, y_j) , $j = 1, \dots, N$, with $\mathbf{x}_j \in \mathbb{R}^s$, $y_j \in \mathbb{R}$, find a (continuous) function \mathcal{P}_f such that $\mathcal{P}_f(\mathbf{x}_j) = y_j$, $j = 1, \dots, N$.



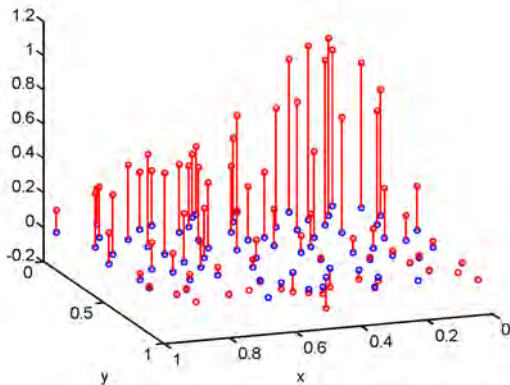
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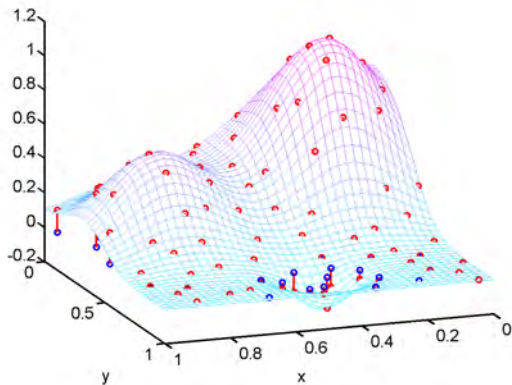
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Standard setup

A convenient and common approach:

Assume \mathcal{P}_f is a linear combination of certain **basis functions** B_k , *i.e.*,

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Solving the interpolation problem under this assumption leads to a system of linear equations of the form

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{y},$$

where the entries of the **interpolation matrix** \mathbf{A} are given by

$A_{jk} = B_k(\mathbf{x}_j)$, $j, k = 1, \dots, N$, $\mathbf{c} = [c_1, \dots, c_N]^T$, and $\mathbf{y} = [y_1, \dots, y_N]^T$



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In 1D it is well known that one can interpolate to arbitrary data at N distinct data sites using a **polynomial** of degree $N - 1$.

If the dimension is higher, there is the following negative result (see [Mairhuber (1956), Curtis (1959)]).

Theorem (Mairhuber-Curtis)

If $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^s$, $s \geq 2$, contains an interior point, then there exist no Haar spaces of continuous functions except for one-dimensional ones.



In order to understand this theorem we need

Definition

Let the finite-dimensional linear function space $\mathcal{B} \subseteq C(\Omega)$ have a basis $\{B_1, \dots, B_N\}$. Then \mathcal{B} is a *Haar space* on Ω if

$$\det A \neq 0$$

for any set of distinct $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N$ in Ω . Here A is the matrix with entries $A_{jk} = B_k(\mathbf{x}_j)$.



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Example

Univariate polynomials of degree $N - 1$ form an N -dimensional Haar space for data given at x_1, \dots, x_N .

Interpretation of Mairhuber-Curtis

The Mairhuber-Curtis theorem tells us that if we want to have a well-posed multivariate scattered data interpolation problem **we can no longer fix in advance the set of basis functions we plan to use for interpolation of arbitrary scattered data.**



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The Mairhuber-Curtis theorem tells us that if we want to have a well-posed multivariate scattered data interpolation problem **we can no longer fix in advance the set of basis functions we plan to use for interpolation of arbitrary scattered data.**

Instead, the **basis should depend on the data locations.**



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Example

It is not possible to perform unique interpolation with (multivariate) polynomials of degree N to data given at arbitrary locations in \mathbb{R}^2 .



Proof of Mairhuber-Curtis

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Let $s \geq 2$ and assume that \mathcal{B} is a Haar space with basis $\{B_1, \dots, B_N\}$ with $N \geq 2$.



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Since the determinant is a continuous function of \mathbf{x}_1 and \mathbf{x}_2 we must have had $\det = 0$ at some point along path. This contradicts (2). \square



We want to construct a (continuous) function \mathcal{P}_f that interpolates samples obtained from a test function f_s data sites $\mathbf{x}_j \in [0, 1]^s$, *i.e.*, want

$$\mathcal{P}_f(\mathbf{x}_j) = f_s(\mathbf{x}_j), \quad \mathbf{x}_j \in [0, 1]^s$$



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Basis for space of piecewise linear interpolating splines:

$$\{B_k = |\cdot - x_k| : k = 1, \dots, N\}$$

So

$$\mathcal{P}_f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^N c_k |x - x_k|, \quad x \in [0, 1]$$

and c_k determined by interpolation conditions

$$\mathcal{P}_f(x_j) = f_1(x_j), \quad j = 1, \dots, N$$



- Clearly, the basis functions $B_k = |\cdot - x_k|$ are dependent on the data sites x_k as suggested by Mairhuber-Curtis

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- This simplifies the analysis of the method, and is sufficient for many applications.
- In fact, relatively little is known about the case when centers and data sites differ.
- B_k are (radially) symmetric about their centers x_k
→ **radial basis function**



Now the coefficients c_k in the scattered data interpolation problem are found by solving the linear system

$$\begin{bmatrix} |x_1 - x_1| & |x_1 - x_2| & \dots & |x_1 - x_N| \\ |x_2 - x_1| & |x_2 - x_2| & \dots & |x_2 - x_N| \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ |x_N - x_1| & |x_N - x_2| & \dots & |x_N - x_N| \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_1(x_1) \\ f_1(x_2) \\ \vdots \\ f_1(x_N) \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$



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- Therefore, **our scattered data interpolation problem is well-posed.**



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For the scattered data interpolation problem on $[0, 1]^s$ we can take

$$\mathcal{P}_f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=1}^N c_k \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k\|_2, \quad \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^s, \quad (4)$$

and find the c_k by solving

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$$\begin{bmatrix} \|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_1\|_2 & \|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2\|_2 & \dots & \|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_N\|_2 \\ \|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_1\|_2 & \|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_2\|_2 & \dots & \|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_N\|_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \|\mathbf{x}_N - \mathbf{x}_1\|_2 & \|\mathbf{x}_N - \mathbf{x}_2\|_2 & \dots & \|\mathbf{x}_N - \mathbf{x}_N\|_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_s(\mathbf{x}_1) \\ f_s(\mathbf{x}_2) \\ \vdots \\ f_s(\mathbf{x}_N) \end{bmatrix}.$$

- Note that the basis is again data dependent
- Piecewise linear splines in higher space dimensions are usually constructed differently (via a cardinal basis on an underlying computational mesh)



Since distance matrices are non-singular for Euclidean distances in **any space dimension s** we have an immediate generalization:
For the scattered data interpolation problem on $[0, 1]^s$ we can take

$$\mathcal{P}_f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=1}^N c_k \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k\|_2, \quad \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^s, \quad (4)$$

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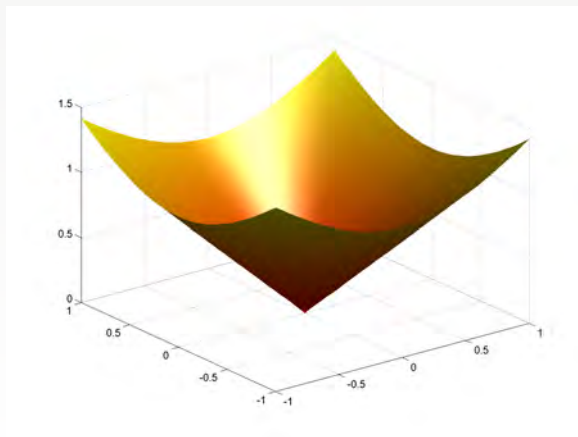
$$\begin{bmatrix} \|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_1\|_2 & \|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2\|_2 & \dots & \|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_N\|_2 \\ \|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_1\|_2 & \|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_2\|_2 & \dots & \|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_N\|_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \|\mathbf{x}_N - \mathbf{x}_1\|_2 & \|\mathbf{x}_N - \mathbf{x}_2\|_2 & \dots & \|\mathbf{x}_N - \mathbf{x}_N\|_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_s(\mathbf{x}_1) \\ f_s(\mathbf{x}_2) \\ \vdots \\ f_s(\mathbf{x}_N) \end{bmatrix}.$$

- Note that the basis is again data dependent
- Piecewise linear splines in higher space dimensions are usually constructed differently (via a cardinal basis on an underlying computational mesh)
- For $s > 1$ the space span $\{\|\cdot - \mathbf{x}_k\|_2, k = 1, \dots, N\}$ is **not** the same as piecewise linear splines



Norm RBF

A typical basis function for the Euclidean distance matrix fit,
 $B_k(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k\|_2$ with $\mathbf{x}_k = \mathbf{0}$ and $s = 2$.



In order to show the non-singularity of our distance matrices we use the Courant-Fischer theorem (see e.g., [Meyer (2000)]):

Theorem

Let A be a real symmetric $N \times N$ matrix with eigenvalues $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_N$, then

$$\lambda_k = \max_{\substack{\dim \mathcal{V} = k}} \min_{\substack{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{V} \\ \|\mathbf{x}\|=1}} \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_k = \min_{\dim \mathcal{V} = N-k+1} \max_{\substack{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{V} \\ \|\mathbf{x}\|=1}} \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}.$$



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Definition

A real symmetric matrix A is called *conditionally negative definite of order one* (or *almost negative definite*) if its associated quadratic form is negative, i.e.

$$\sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^N c_j c_k A_{jk} < 0 \tag{5}$$

for all $\mathbf{c} = [c_1, \dots, c_N]^T \neq \mathbf{0} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ that satisfy $\sum_{j=1}^N c_j = 0$.

Now we have

Theorem

An $N \times N$ matrix A which is almost negative definite and has a non-negative trace possesses one positive and $N - 1$ negative eigenvalues.



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Proof.

Let $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_N$ denote the eigenvalues of A . From the Courant-Fischer theorem we get

$$\lambda_2 = \min_{\dim \mathcal{V} = N-1} \max_{\substack{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{V} \\ \|\mathbf{x}\|=1}} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \leq \max_{\substack{\mathbf{c}: \sum c_k = 0 \\ \|\mathbf{c}\|=1}} \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{c} < 0,$$

so that A has at least $N - 1$ negative eigenvalues.

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so that A has at least $N - 1$ negative eigenvalues.

But since $\text{tr}(A) = \sum_{k=1}^N \lambda_k \geq 0$, A also must have at least one positive eigenvalue. □

Non-singularity of distance matrix

It is known that $\varphi(r) = r$ is a strictly conditionally negative definite **function** of order one, i.e., the **matrix** A with $A_{jk} = \|\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_k\|$ is almost negative definite.



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Also, since $A_{jj} = \varphi(0) = 0, j = 1, \dots, N$, implies $\text{tr}(A) = 0$.

Therefore, our distance matrix is non-singular by the above theorem.



One of our main MATLAB subroutines

- Forms the matrix of pairwise Euclidean distances of two (possibly different) sets of points in \mathbb{R}^s (`dsites` and `ctrs`).

```

1  function DM = DistanceMatrix(dsites,ctrs)
2  [M,s] = size(dsites); [N,s] = size(ctrs);
3  DM = zeros(M,N);
4  for d=1:s
5      [dr,cc] = ndgrid(dsites(:,d),ctrs(:,d));
6      DM = DM + (dr-cc).^2;
7  end
8  DM = sqrt(DM);

```



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```

```

>> [dr,cc] = ndgrid([0 1 2 3],[4 5 6 7])
dr =
     0     0     0     0
     1     1     1     1
     2     2     2     2
     3     3     3     3
cc =
     4     5     6     7
     4     5     6     7
     4     5     6     7
     4     5     6     7

```



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```

Works for any space dimension!



Alternate forms of DistanceMatrix.m

Program (DistanceMatrixA.m)

```

1  function DM = DistanceMatrixA(dsites, ctrs)
2  [M,s] = size(dsites); [N,s] = size(ctrs);
3  DM = zeros(M,N);
4  for d=1:s
5a     DM = DM + (repmat(dsites(:,d),1,N) - ...
5b                repmat(ctrs(:,d)',M,1)).^2;
6  end
7  DM = sqrt(DM);

```

Note: uses less memory than the `ndgrid`-based version

Remark

Both of these subroutines can easily be modified to produce a p -norm distance matrix by making the obvious changes to the code.

Alternate forms of DistanceMatrix.m (cont.)

Program (DistanceMatrixB.m)

```

1  function DM = DistanceMatrixB(dsites, ctrs)
2  M = size(dsites,1); N = size(ctrs,1);
3a DM = repmat(sum(dsites.*dsites,2),1,N) - ...
3b     2*dsites*ctrs' + ...
3c     repmat((sum(ctrs.*ctrs,2))',M,1);
4  DM = sqrt(DM);

```

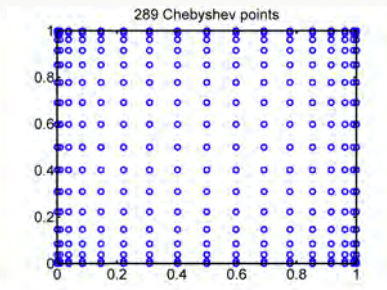
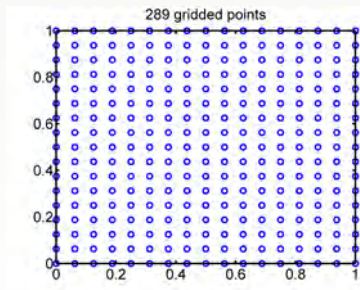
Note: For 2-norm distance only. Basic idea suggested by a former student – fast and memory efficient since no `for`-loop used



Depending on the type of approximation problem we are given, we may or may not be able to select where the data is collected, i.e., the location of the data sites or *design*.

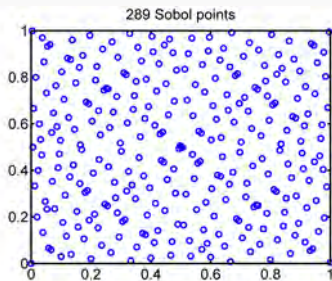
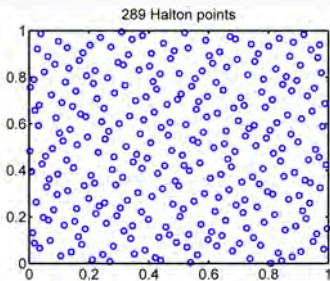
Standard choices in low space dimensions include

- tensor products of equally spaced points
- tensor products of Chebyshev points



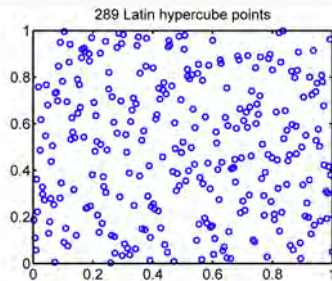
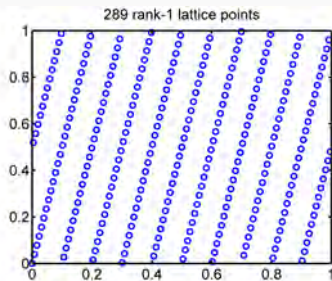
In higher space dimensions it is important to have space-filling (or low-discrepancy) quasi-random point sets. Examples include

- Halton points [▶ more info](#)
- Sobol' points
- lattice designs
- Latin hypercube designs
- and quite a few others (digital nets, Faure, Niederreiter, etc.)

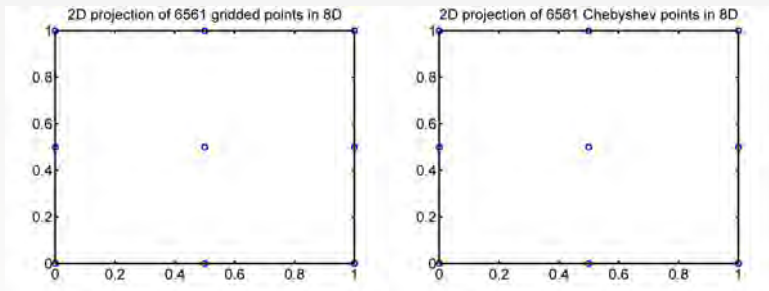


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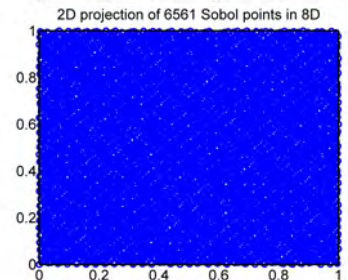
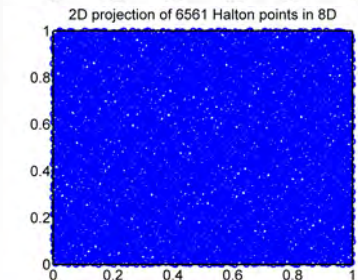
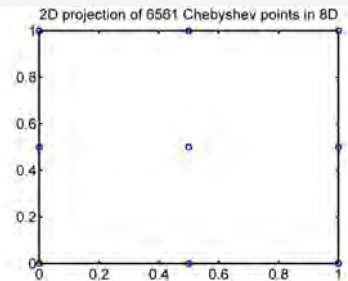
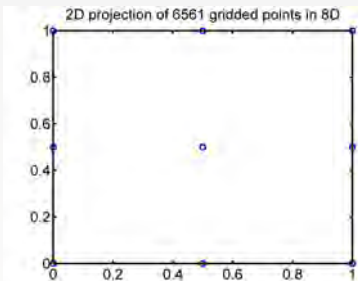
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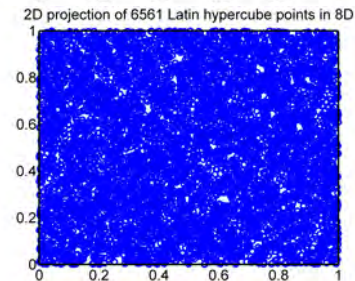
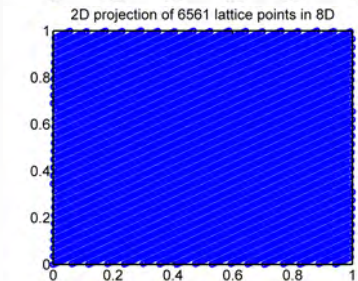
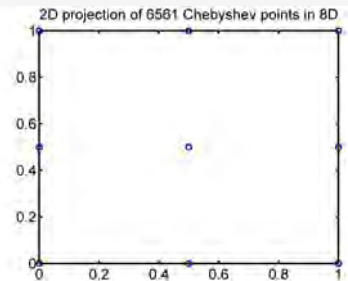
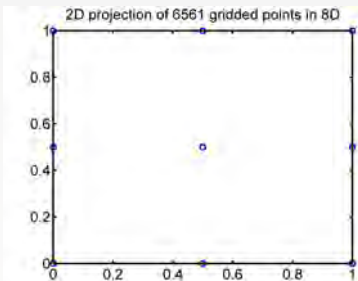
The difference between the standard (tensor product) designs and the quasi-random designs shows especially in higher space dimensions:



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Program (DistanceMatrixFit.m)

```
1  s = 3;
2  k = 2; N = (2^k+1)^s;
3  neval = 10; M = neval^s;
4  dsites = CreatePoints(N,s,'h');
5  ctrs = dsites;
6  epoints = CreatePoints(M,s,'u');
7  rhs = testfunctionsD(dsites);
8  IM = DistanceMatrix(dsites,ctrs);
9  EM = DistanceMatrix(epoints,ctrs);
10 Pf = EM * (IM\rhs);
11 exact = testfunctionsD(epoints);
12 maxerr = norm(Pf-exact,inf)
13 rms_err = norm(Pf-exact)/sqrt(M)
```

Note the simultaneous evaluation of the interpolant at the entire set of evaluation points on line 10.



Root-mean-square error:

$$\text{RMS-error} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{M} \sum_{j=1}^M [\mathcal{P}_f(\xi_j) - f(\xi_j)]^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \|\mathcal{P}_f - f\|_2, \quad (6)$$

where the $\xi_j, j = 1, \dots, M$ are the *evaluation points*.



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where the ξ_j , $j = 1, \dots, M$ are the *evaluation points*.

Remark

The basic MATLAB code for the solution of any kind of RBF interpolation problem will be very similar to `DistanceMatrixFit`. Moreover, the data used — even for the distance matrix interpolation considered here — can also be “real” data. Just replace lines 4 and 7 by code that generates the data sites and data values for the right-hand side.



Instead of reading points from files as in the book

```
function [points, N] = CreatePoints(N,s,gridtype)
% Computes a set of N points in  $[0,1]^s$ 
% Note: could add variable interval later
% Inputs:
% N: number of interpolation points
% s: space dimension
% gridtype: 'c'=Chebyshev, 'f'=fence(rank-1 lattice),
%           'h'=Halton, 'l'=latin hypercube, 'r'=random uniform,
%           's'=Sobol, 'u'=uniform
% Outputs:
% points: an Nxs matrix (each row contains one s-D point)
% N: might be slightly less than original N for
%     Chebyshev and gridded uniform points
% Calls on: chebsamp, lattice, haltonseq, lhsamp, i4_sobol,
%           gridsamp
% Also needs: fdnodes, gaussj, i4_bit_hil, i4_bit_lo0, i4_xor
```

Credits: Hans Bruun Nielsen [DACE], Toby Driscoll, Fred Hickernell,
Daniel Dougherty, John Burkardt

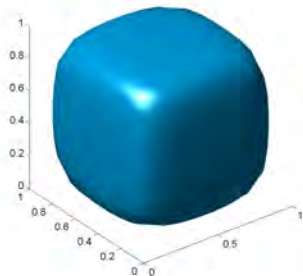
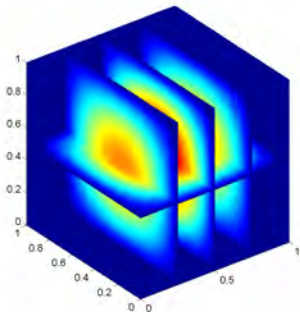


Test function

$$f_s(\mathbf{x}) = 4^s \prod_{d=1}^s x_d(1 - x_d), \quad \mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_s) \in [0, 1]^s$$

Program

```
function tf = testfunctionsD(x)
[N,s] = size(x);
tf = 4^s*prod(x.*(1-x),2);
```



The tables and figures below show some examples computed with `DistanceMatrixFit`.

The number M of evaluation points for $s = 1, 2, \dots, 6$, was 1000, 1600, 1000, 256, 1024, and 4096, respectively (*i.e.*, `neval` = 1000, 40, 10, 4, 4, and 4, respectively).

Note that, as the space dimension s increases, more and more of the (uniformly gridded) evaluation points lie on the boundary of the domain, while the data sites (which are given as Halton points) are located in the interior of the domain.

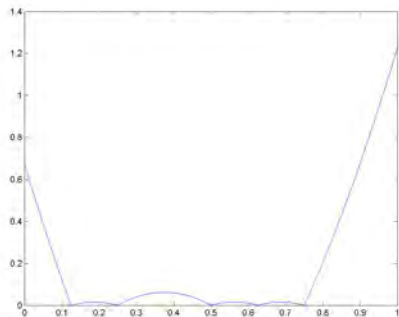
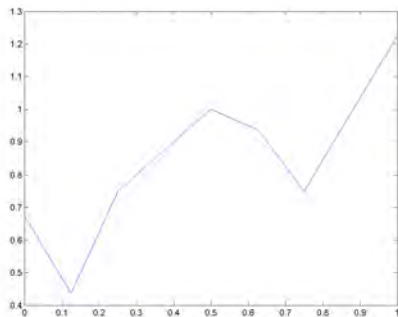
The value k listed in the tables is the same as the `k` in line 2 of `DistanceMatrixFit`.



k	1D		2D		3D	
	N	RMS-error	N	RMS-error	N	RMS-error
1	3	5.896957e-001	9	1.937341e-001	27	9.721476e-002
2	5	3.638027e-001	25	6.336315e-002	125	6.277141e-002
3	9	1.158328e-001	81	2.349093e-002	729	2.759452e-002
4	17	3.981270e-002	289	1.045010e-002		
5	33	1.406188e-002	1089	4.326940e-003		
6	65	5.068541e-003	4225	1.797430e-003		
7	129	1.877013e-003				
8	257	7.264159e-004				
9	513	3.016376e-004				
10	1025	1.381896e-004				
11	2049	6.907386e-005				
12	4097	3.453179e-005				

k	4D		5D		6D	
	N	RMS-error	N	RMS-error	N	RMS-error
1	81	1.339581e-001	243	9.558350e-002	729	5.097600e-002
2	625	6.817424e-002	3125	3.118905e-002		



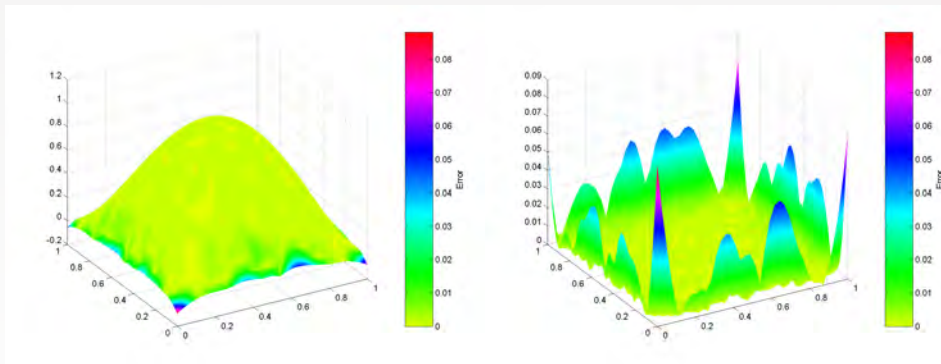


Left: distance matrix fit for $s = 1$ with 5 Halton points for f_1

Right: corresponding error

Remark

Note the piecewise linear nature of the interpolant. If we use more points then the fit becomes more accurate (see table) but then we can't recognize the piecewise linear nature of the interpolant.

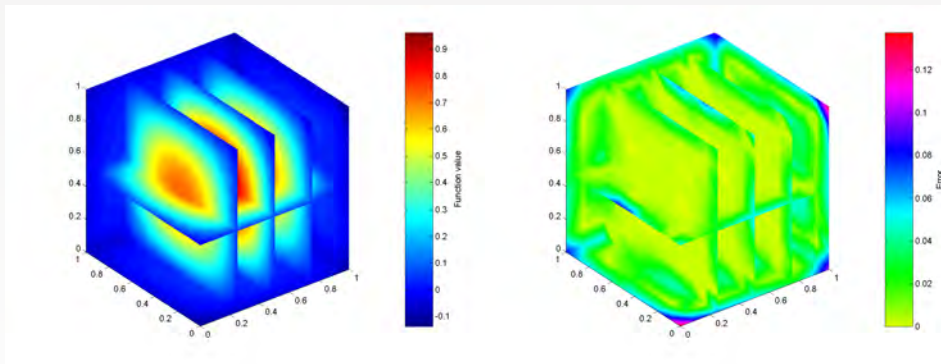


Left: distance matrix fit for $s = 2$ with 289 Halton points for f_2

Right: corresponding error

Interpolant is false-colored according to absolute error





Left: distance matrix fit for $s = 3$ with 729 Halton points for f_3 (colors represent function values)
 Right: corresponding error



Remark

We can see clearly that most of the error is concentrated near the boundary of the domain.

In fact, the absolute error is about one order of magnitude larger near the boundary than it is in the interior of the domain.

This is no surprise since the data sites are located in the interior.

Even for uniformly spaced data sites (including points on the boundary) the main error in radial basis function interpolation is usually located near the boundary.



Observations

From this first simple example we can observe a number of other features. Most of them are characteristic for the radial basis function interpolants.

- The basis functions $B_k = \|\cdot - \mathbf{x}_k\|_2$ are radially symmetric.
- As the MATLAB scripts show, the method is extremely simple to implement for any space dimension s .
 - No underlying computational mesh is required to compute the interpolant. The process of mesh generation is a major factor when working in higher space dimensions with polynomial-based methods such as splines or finite elements.
 - All that is required for our method is the pairwise distance between the data sites. Therefore, we have what is known as a **meshfree** (or *meshless*) method.



Observations (cont.)

- The accuracy of the method improves if we add more data sites.
 - It seems that the RMS-error in the tables above are reduced by a factor of about two from one row to the next.
 - Since we use $(2^k + 1)^s$ uniformly distributed random data points in row k this indicates a convergence rate of roughly $\mathcal{O}(h)$, where h can be viewed as something like the average distance or meshsize of the set \mathcal{X} of data sites.
- The interpolant used here (as well as many other radial basis function interpolants used later) requires the solution of a system of linear equations with a dense $N \times N$ matrix. This makes it very costly to apply the method in its simple form to large data sets.
- Moreover, as we will see later, these matrices also tend to be rather ill-conditioned.



General Radial Basis Function Interpolation

Use data-dependent linear function space

$$\mathcal{P}_f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j=1}^N c_j \varphi(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_j\|), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^s$$

Here $\varphi : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is strictly positive definite and radial



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Here $\varphi : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is strictly positive definite and radial

To find c_j solve interpolation equations

$$\mathcal{P}_f(\mathbf{x}_i) = f(\mathbf{x}_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

Leads to **linear system** with matrix

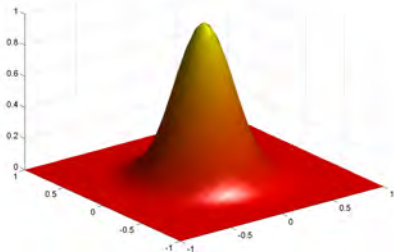
$$A_{ij} = \varphi(\|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|), \quad i, j = 1, \dots, N$$



Radial Basic Functions

$\varphi(r)$	Name
$e^{-(\varepsilon r)^2}$	Gaussian
$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+(\varepsilon r)^2}}$	inverse MQ
$\sqrt{1+(\varepsilon r)^2}$	multiquadric
$r^2 \log r$	thin plate spline
$(1-r)_+^4(4r+1)$	Wendland CSRBF

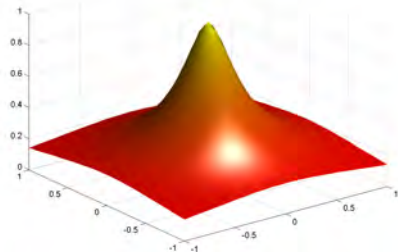
$r = \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k\|$ (radial distance)
 ε (positive shape parameter)



Radial Basic Functions

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$\sqrt{1+(\varepsilon r)^2}$	multiquadric
$r^2 \log r$	thin plate spline
$(1-r)_+^4(4r+1)$	Wendland CSRBF

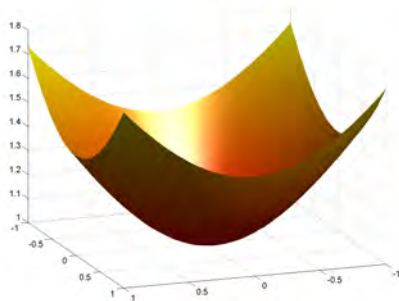
$r = \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k\|$ (radial distance)
 ε (positive shape parameter)



Radial Basic Functions

$\varphi(r)$	Name
$e^{-(\varepsilon r)^2}$	Gaussian
$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+(\varepsilon r)^2}}$	inverse MQ
$\sqrt{1+(\varepsilon r)^2}$	multiquadric
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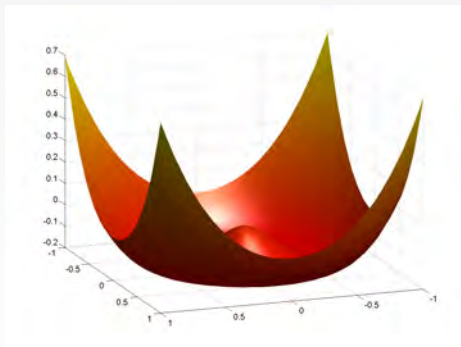
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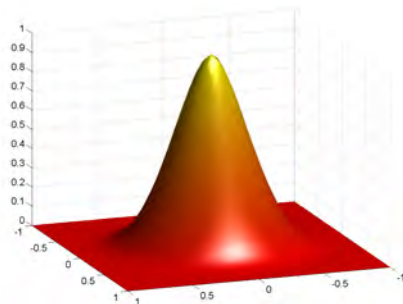
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 ε (positive shape parameter)



```

function rbf_definition
global rbf
%%% CPD0
    rbf = @(ep,r) exp(-(ep*r).^2);          % Gaussian RBF
% rbf = @(ep,r) 1./sqrt(1+(ep*r).^2);      % IMQ RBF
% rbf = @(ep,r) 1./(1+(ep*r).^2).^2;      % generalized IMQ
% rbf = @(ep,r) 1./(1+(ep*r).^2);        % IQ RBF
% rbf = @(ep,r) exp(-ep*r);              % basic Matern
% rbf = @(ep,r) exp(-ep*r).*(1+ep*r);    % Matern linear
%%% CPD1
% rbf = @(ep,r) ep*r;                    % linear
% rbf = @(ep,r) sqrt(1+(ep*r).^2);      % MQ RBF
%%% CPD2
% rbf = @tps;                            % TPS (defined in separate function tps.m)

function rbf = tps(ep,r)
rbf = zeros(size(r));
nz = find(r~=0); % to deal with singularity at origin
rbf(nz) = (ep*r(nz)).^2.*log(ep*r(nz));

```



Program (RBFInterpolation_sD.m)

```
1  s = 2;  N = 289;  M = 500;
2  global rbf;  rbf_definition;  epsilon = 6/s;
3  [dsites, N] = CreatePoints(N,s,'h');
4  ctrs = dsites;
5  epoints = CreatePoints(M,s,'r');
6  rhs = testfunctionsD(dsites);
7  DM_data = DistanceMatrix(dsites,ctrs);
8  IM = rbf(epsilon,DM_data);
9  DM_eval = DistanceMatrix(epoints,ctrs);
10 EM = rbf(epsilon,DM_eval);
11 Pf = EM * (IM\rhs);
12 exact = testfunctionsD(epoints);
13 maxerr = norm(Pf-exact,inf)
14 rms_err = norm(Pf-exact)/sqrt(M)
```



Bore-hole test function used in the computer experiments literature ([An and Owen (2001), Morris et al. (1993)]):

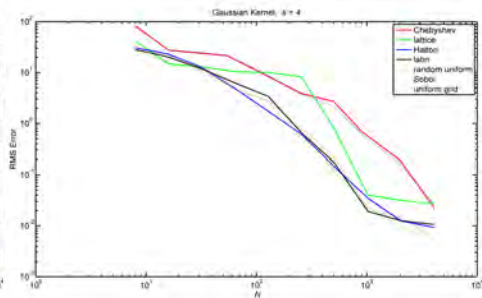
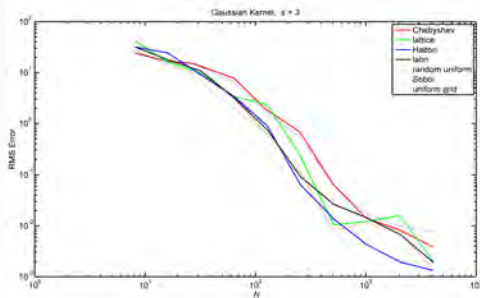
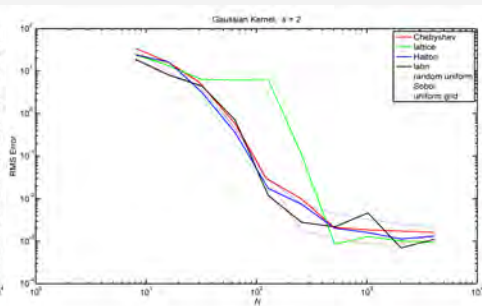
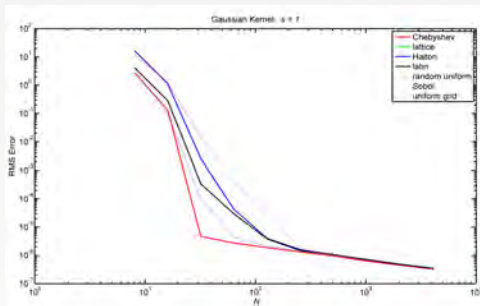
$$f(r_w, r, T_u, T_l, H_u, H_l, L, K_w) = \frac{2\pi T_u(H_u - H_l)}{\log\left(\frac{r}{r_w}\right) \left[1 + \frac{2LT_u}{\log\left(\frac{r}{r_w}\right)r_w^2 K_w} + \frac{T_u}{T_l} \right]}$$

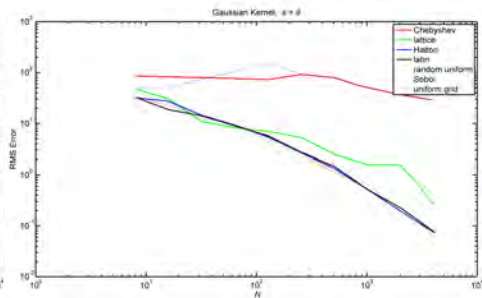
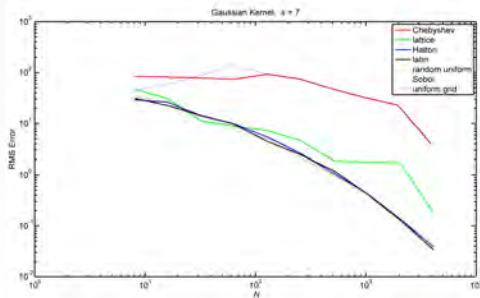
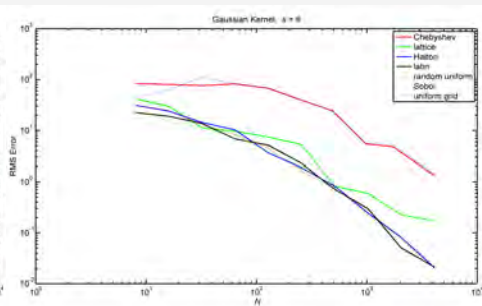
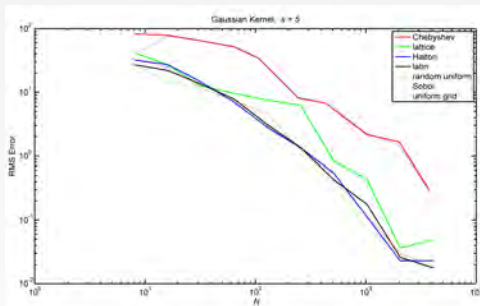
models flow rate of water from an upper to lower aquifer

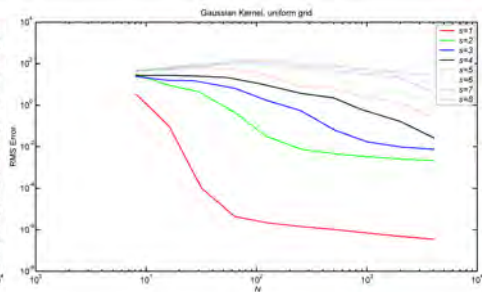
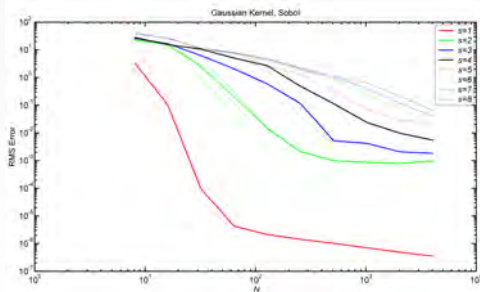
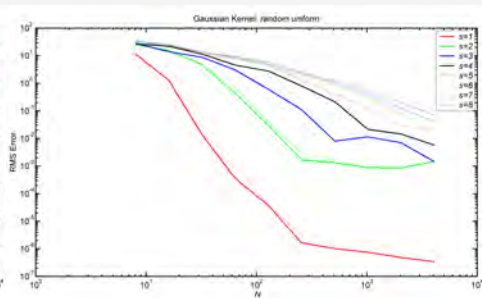
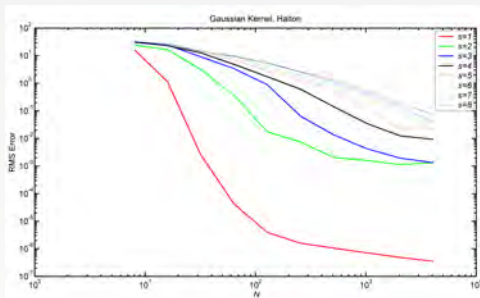
Meaning and range of values:

- radius of borehole: $0.05 \leq r_w \leq 0.15$ (m)
- radius of surrounding basin: $100 \leq r \leq 50000$ (m)
- transmissivities of aquifers: $63070 \leq T_u \leq 115600$,
 $63.1 \leq T_l \leq 116$ (m²/yr)
- potentiometric heads: $990 \leq H_u \leq 1110$, $700 \leq H_l \leq 820$ (m)
- length of borehole: $1120 \leq L \leq 1680$ (m)
- hydraulic conductivity of borehole: $9855 \leq K_w \leq 12045$ (m/yr)









- In the non-stationary setting the convergence rate deteriorates with increasing dimension – regardless of the choice of design



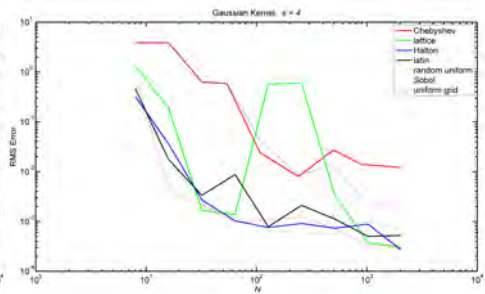
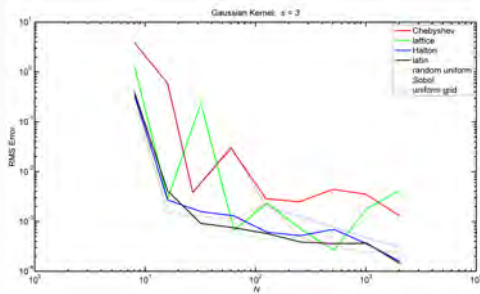
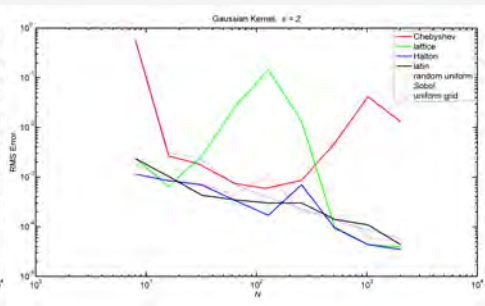
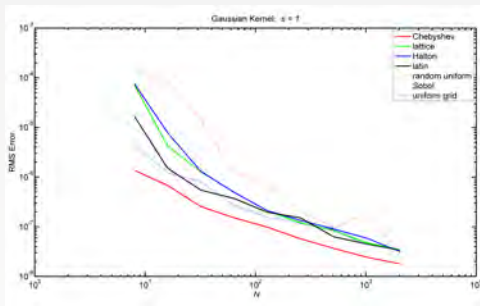
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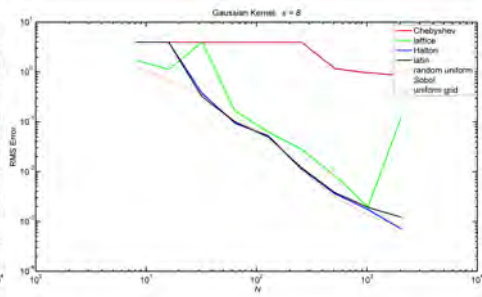
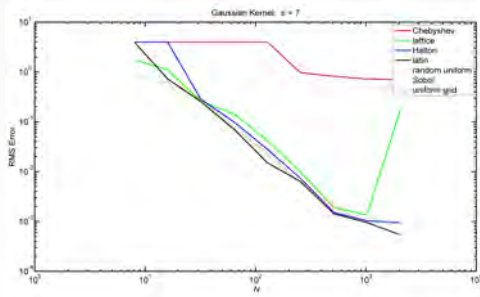
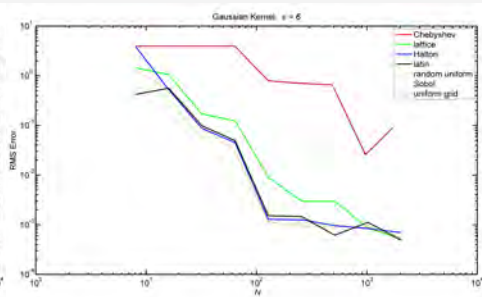
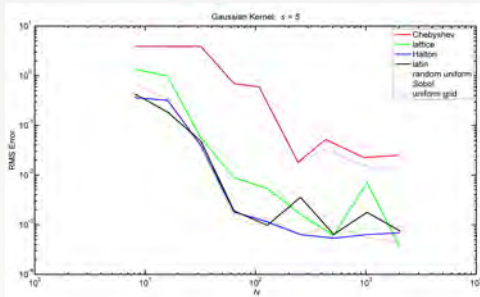
- We know that the stationary setting is even worse since it's saturated

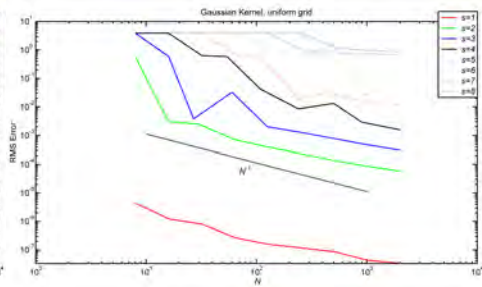
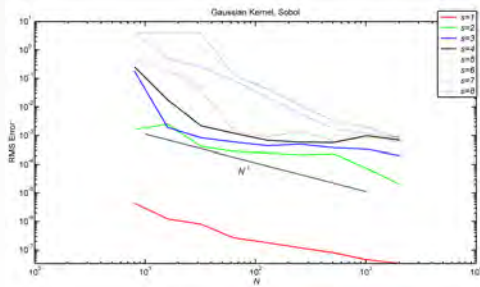
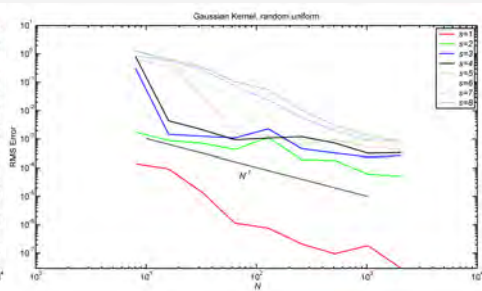
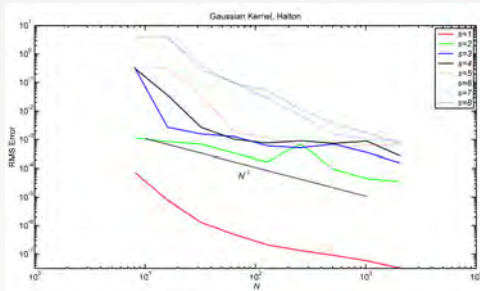


- In the non-stationary setting the convergence rate deteriorates with increasing dimension – regardless of the choice of design
- We know that the stationary setting is even worse since it's saturated
- Try an “optimal” non-stationary scheme...









- Convergence rates seem to hold (**dimension-independent?**) – provided we use space-filling design



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Halton Points

Halton points (see [Halton (1960), Wong *et al.* (1997)]) are created from **van der Corput sequences**.



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Construction of a van der Corput sequence:

Start with unique decomposition of an arbitrary $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ with respect to a prime base p , *i.e.*,

$$n = \sum_{i=0}^k a_i p^i,$$

where each coefficient a_i is an integer such that $0 \leq a_i < p$.



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where each coefficient a_i is an integer such that $0 \leq a_i < p$.

Example

Let $n = 10$ and $p = 3$. Then

$$10 = 1 \cdot 3^0 + 0 \cdot 3^1 + 1 \cdot 3^2,$$

so that $k = 2$ and $a_0 = a_2 = 1$ and $a_1 = 0$.

Next, define $h_p : \mathbb{N}_0 \rightarrow [0, 1)$ via

$$h_p(n) = \sum_{i=0}^k \frac{a_i}{p^{i+1}}$$



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Example

$$h_{3,10} = \left\{0, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{9}, \frac{4}{9}, \frac{7}{9}, \frac{2}{9}, \frac{5}{9}, \frac{8}{9}, \frac{1}{27}, \frac{10}{27}\right\}$$



Generation of Halton point set in $[0, 1)^s$:

- take s (usually distinct) primes p_1, \dots, p_s
- determine corresponding van der Corput sequences $h_{p_1, N}, \dots, h_{p_s, N}$
- form s -dimensional Halton points by taking van der Corput sequences as coordinates:

$$H_{s, N} = \{(h_{p_1}(n), \dots, h_{p_s}(n)) : n = 0, 1, \dots, N\}$$

set of $N + 1$ Halton points



Some properties of Halton points

- Halton points are *nested* point sets, *i.e.*, $H_{s,M} \subset H_{s,N}$ for $M < N$
- Can even be constructed sequentially
- In low space dimensions, the multi-dimensional Halton sequence quickly “fills up” the unit cube in a well-distributed pattern
- For higher dimensions ($s \approx 40$) Halton points are well distributed only if N is large enough
- The origin is not part of the point set produced by `haltonseq.m`

◀ Return

