

### Functional Approximation

(Variables are scalar in this example)

$$f(x) \approx \sum_{n=0}^N c_n \phi_n(x) + \Delta(x) \quad \text{Figuring out } \Delta(x) \text{ is similar to solving whole problem}$$

Increase N until function converges

$\{\phi_n(x)\}$  favorite set of functions

$\{\underline{v}_n\}$  favorite set of vectors

$$\underline{w} \approx \sum_{n=0}^N c_n \underline{v}_n \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{length } M \\ N < M \end{array}$$

$$\underline{v}_n \in \{\mathbb{R}^m\}$$

$$\text{Basis: } \underline{e}_l = \sum_{n=0}^N d_{l,n} \underline{v}_n \quad \underline{w}^{approx} \approx \sum_{n=0}^N c_n \underline{v}_n = \sum_l a_l \underline{e}_l = \sum_{l,n} a_l d_{l,n} \underline{v}_n$$

$$\underline{e}_l \cdot \underline{e}_j = \delta_{jl} \rightarrow \text{orthonormal}$$

$$\underline{c} = \underline{a}^T \underline{D}$$

We want to do the same with functions. How do you take dot product?

$$\text{Define } \langle \phi_n | \phi_m \rangle = \int dx g(x) \phi_n^*(x) \phi_m(x) \quad \text{"works": } \langle \phi_m | \phi_n \rangle = \delta_{mn}$$

interesting range of x

weighting function

$$g(x) = k \quad x: 0 \rightarrow 2\pi \quad \phi_m = e^{imx} = \cos(mx) + i \cdot \sin(mx)$$

$$\frac{e^{imx} + e^{-imx}}{2} = \cos(mx)$$

$$g(x) = 1 \quad x: -1 \rightarrow +1 \quad \text{Legendre polynomials}$$

$$g(x) = e^{-x^2} \quad x: -\infty \rightarrow +\infty \quad \text{Hermite polynomials}$$

$$g(x) = \frac{2}{\pi \sqrt{1-x^2}} \quad x: -1 \rightarrow +1 \quad \text{Chebyshev polynomials}$$

1) We chose a basis  $\{\phi_n(x)\}$  and an inner product

$$\text{orthonormal: } \langle \phi_m | \phi_n \rangle = \delta_{mn}$$

2) We're trying to solve  $\hat{O}f(x) = q(x)$

unknown      given

("In most problems, these are all vectors, but that looks too scary to start with")

Look for solutions:  $f^{\text{unknown}}(x) \approx \sum c_n \phi_n(x)$

$$\int_a^b dx g(x) \phi_m^*(x) [\hat{O}f(x)] = \int_a^b dx g(x) \phi_m^*(x) q(x) \quad \text{solution will depend on } a, b, \underline{c}_n, m.$$

favorite  
range

$$F(a, b, \underline{c}_n, m) = v(m, a, b)$$

$$F(\underline{c}_n, m) = v(m) \quad \text{Now solve for } c_n.$$

If  $\hat{O}$  is a linear operator:

$$\hat{O}f^{\text{approx}}(x) = \hat{O} \sum c_n \phi_n(x) = \sum c_n (\hat{O} \phi_n)$$

and if  $\hat{O}\phi_n = \lambda_n \phi_n$  (i.e.  $\phi_n$  is an eigenfunction of  $\hat{O}$ )

$$\hat{O}f^{\text{approx}}(x) = \sum c_n \lambda_n \phi_n(x)$$

$$\int_a^b dx g(x) \phi_m^* \sum c_n \lambda_n \phi_n = \sum c_n \lambda_n \underbrace{\int_a^b dx g \phi_m^* \phi_n}_{\langle \phi_m | \phi_n \rangle = \delta_{mn}}$$

$$\int_a^b dx g(x) \phi_m^* \hat{O}f^{\text{approx}} = \sum_{n=0}^N c_n \lambda_n \delta_{mn} = c_m \lambda_m$$

$$c_m \lambda_m = \int dx g(x) \phi_m^*(x) q(x) \equiv b_m$$

$$c_m = \frac{1}{\lambda_m} \int dx g(x) \phi_m^*(x) q(x)$$

$$\hat{O} = \left[ k \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + h(x) \right] T(x) \quad \text{Often this is the operator}$$

$f(x)$

$\left. \begin{matrix} \sin \\ \cos \end{matrix} \right\}$  are eigenfunctions

Gives you a really messy equation:

$$\text{Suppose } \hat{O} = \hat{O}_1 + h(x) \quad \{\text{i.e. Schrodinger Equation}\}$$

$$\text{Suppose } \hat{O}_1 \phi_n = \lambda_n \phi_n$$

$$\int_a^b dx g(x) \phi_m^*(x) \hat{O} f^{approx} = c_m \lambda_m + \underbrace{\int dx g(x) \phi_m^*(x) h(x) \sum c_n \phi_n(x)}_{\sum c_n \int dx g(x) \phi_m^*(x) h(x) \phi_n(x)} \\ \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{H_{mn}}$$

$$c_m \lambda_m + \sum c_n H_{mn} = b_m$$

$$(\underline{H} + \underline{\Lambda}) \underline{c} = \underline{b} \quad m=1, \dots, N$$

$$\text{Linear Problem: } \underline{c} = (\underline{H} + \underline{\Lambda}) \backslash \underline{b}$$

$$\underline{\Lambda}_m \underline{I} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Must evaluate integrals  $H_{mn}$ : difficult to evaluate, quantum mechanics requires 6-dimensional integrals.  $\underline{H}$  becomes a large matrix when  $n$  gets large.

Also have Boundary Conditions:  $f(x=0) = f_0$

$$\text{Adds another equation: } \sum c_n \phi_n(x=0) = f_0$$

$$\underline{v} \cdot \underline{c} = f_0$$

How to solve? Can try to fit by least squares and just fit *all* the equations approximately. Can drop larger  $n$  terms to leave space for boundary conditions. Another way would be to not consider the boundary conditions and then craftily choose  $\phi_n$  so that they solve the boundary conditions.

To check if answer makes sense: write out the series and see if  $c_n$  converges

## Evaluate Residuals

$$\underline{R} = \hat{O}f - q$$

$$\max(\underline{R}) < \text{tol?}$$

$$||\underline{R}(x_i)|| < \text{tol?}$$

we will evaluate this later