# Intrinsic Supersmoothness 

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## plan of the talk

1. What is supersmoothness?
2. History and contributions
3. What is the supersmoothness good for?
4. What about non-polynomial "splines"? Can they have supersmoothness?
5. Some more detailed results
6. Conclusions and conjectures

## what is supersmoothness

A $C^{r}$-differentiable piecewise polynomial function on a $n$-dimensional simplicial complex $\Delta \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n}$ is called a spline. Let $S_{d}^{r}(\Delta)$ denote the vector space of $C^{r}$ splines on a fixed $\Delta$.

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Let $\sigma \in \Delta$ be a $k$-dimensional simplex in $\Delta, k<n$. If for any $s \in S_{d}^{r}(\Delta)$, it follows that $s \in C^{\mu}(\sigma)$, where $\mu>r$, then we say that $S_{d}^{r}(\Delta)$ has supersmoothness $\mu$ at $\sigma$.

## what is supersmoothness: Clough-Tocher example



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s \in S_{d}^{1}(\Delta) \quad \rightarrow \quad s \in C^{2}\left(v_{0}\right)
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$\operatorname{dim} S_{2}^{1}(\Delta)=\operatorname{dim} P_{2}=6$

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BUT there is a big difference between these two examples
$C^{2}\left(v_{0}\right)$ is true $C^{2}$ differentiability at $v_{0}$, while $C^{5}\left(v_{0}\right)$, for $d>5$, is equality of all partial derivatives of order five at $v_{0}$.

Why?

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Why?
Because if $s$ were order five differentiable at $v_{0}$ then it would have been order four differentiable in a neighborhood of $v_{0}$.

## what is supersmoothness: example

$$
s(x, y)=\left\{\begin{array}{cc}
0 & \text { if } \\
y^{2} & \text { if } \\
x<0
\end{array}\right.
$$

Such $s(x, y)$ is not even continuous on $\mathbf{R}^{2}$. However, $s \in C^{0}((0,0))$ and, moreover,

$$
\frac{\partial s}{\partial x}(0,0)=\frac{\partial s}{\partial y}(0,0)=0
$$

Thus, $s$ has supersmoothness one at the origin but not differentiability of order one at the origin.

Continuity of this $C^{-1}\left(\mathbf{R}^{2}\right)$ spline at the origin is of course the true continuity.

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- $\mu$ does NOT depend on $d$, it depends on $\Delta$ and $r$
- univariate splines have no supersmoothness
- supersmoothness is not always "superdifferentiability"


## history and contributions

1980. The Clough-Tocher example is discovered.
G. Farin, Bézier polynomials over triangles; Report TR/91, Dept. of Mathematics, Brunel University, Uxbridge, UK, 1980

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2013. Do all multivariate splines have some supersmoothness?
T. Sorokina, Supersmoothness of bivariate splines and geometry of the underlying partition, submitted, 2013, see my webpage.
2013. Do other functions have supersmoothness?
B. Shekhtman and T. Sorokina, Intrinsic Supersmoothness, submitted, 2013, arXiv:1302.5102.

## computing dimensions: $\operatorname{dim} S_{2}^{1}\left(\Delta_{n}\right)=$ ?



Figure: $\operatorname{dim} S_{2}^{1}\left(\Delta_{1}\right)=6 \quad$ Figure : $\operatorname{dim} S_{2}^{1}\left(\Delta_{3}\right)=6 \quad$ Figure : $\operatorname{dim} S_{2}^{1}\left(\Delta_{9}\right)=6$

## bivariate splines: more toy examples



Figure: $\operatorname{dim} S_{1}^{\mathcal{T}}=3$
Figure: $\operatorname{dim} S_{1}^{\mathcal{T}^{\prime}}=3$


Figure : $\operatorname{dim} S_{1}^{\mathcal{T}^{\prime \prime}}=3$

## can we do better than algebraic geometers?

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

Journal of Approximation Theory 132 (2005) 72-76

Journal of Approximation<br>Theory

# Smooth planar $r$-splines of degree $2 r$ 

Ştefan $O$. Tohăneanu<br>Department of Mathematics, Texas A\&M University, College Station, TX 77843-3368, USA<br>Received 24 February 2004; received in revised form 4 October 2004: accepted in revised form 27 October 2004

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#### Abstract

Alfeld and Schumaker [Numer. Math. 57 (1990) 651-661] give a for mula for the dimension of the space of piecewise polynomial functions (splines) of degree $d$ and smoothness $r$ on a generic triangulation of a planar simplicial complex $\Delta$ (for $d \geqslant 3 r+1$ ) and any triangulation (for $d \geqslant 3 r+2$ ). In Schenck and Stiller [Manuscripta Math. 107 (2002) 43-58], it was conjectured that the Alfeld-Schumaker formula actually holds for all $d \geqslant 2 r+1$. In this note, we show that this is the best result possible; in particular, there exists a simplicial complex $\Delta$ such that for any $r$, the dimension of the spline space in degree $d=2 r$ is not given by the formula of Alfeld and Schumaker [Numer. Math. 57 (1990) 651-661]. The proof relies on the explicit computation of the nonvanishing of the first local cohomology module described in Schenck and Stillman [J. Pure Appl. Algebra 117 \& 118 (1997) 535-548]. Published by Elsevier Inc.


MSC: primary 13D40: secondary 52B20


$$
\begin{aligned}
& S_{d}^{r}(\Delta) \text { for } r \leq 2 d \\
& \operatorname{dim} S_{d}^{r}(\Delta)=?
\end{aligned}
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Then supersmoothness implies ....

$s \in S_{d}^{r}$ (left blue pentagon) implies $s$ has supersmoothness $\mu:=r+\left\lfloor\frac{r+1}{2}\right\rfloor$ at $(1,1)$ across the red edge ONLY

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$s \in S_{d}^{r}($ right blue pentagon $)$ implies $s$ has supersmoothness $\mu:=r+\left\lfloor\frac{r+1}{2}\right\rfloor$ at $(3,1)$ across the red edge ONLY

$s \in S_{d}^{r}($ right blue pentagon $)$ implies $s$ has supersmoothness $\mu:=r+\left[\frac{r+1}{2}\right]$ at $(3,1)$ across the red edge ONLY

Then the overlap implies ....

$s \in S_{d}^{r}$ (blue rhombus) implies $s$ has supersmoothness
$\mu:=r+\left\lfloor\frac{r+1}{2}\right\rfloor$ across the red edge. Thus $S_{d}^{r}(\Delta)=S_{d}^{r, \mu}(\Delta)$

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Then we play this game of again and
$\mu$ becomes $r+\left\lfloor\frac{r+3}{2}\right\rfloor$. We play this game again and again and ....

the true partition emerges..... there has never been a red edge

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Then we apply the usual Bernstein-Bézier techniques and ....


- red smoothness conditions in the corners can be considered independently of those in the white area
- since $d \leq 2 r$, the smoothness conditions inside the white area are so tight that it is just one polynomial.

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Then we simply count the domain points (too boring to present it here) and get the exact dimension.

## sometimes one has to use algebraic geometry

Theorem
For all integers $d \geq 0$ and $n \geq 1$,

$$
\operatorname{dim} S_{d}^{1}\left(A_{n}\right)=\binom{d+n}{n}+n\binom{d-1}{n}
$$

where $A_{n}$ is the Alfeld split of a simplex in $\mathbf{R}^{n}$ with one interior split point into $n+1$ subsimplices.
A. Kolesnikov and T. Sorokina, Multivariate $C^{1}$-continuous splines on the Alfeld split of a simplex, submitted, 2013, see my webpage. The proof would have been impossible without
Theorem
Let $s \in S_{d}^{1}\left(A_{n}\right)$. Then $s \in C^{n}\left(v_{0}\right)$.

## what about non-polynomial splines

B. Shekhtman, T. Sorokina, Intrinsic supersmoothness, 2013, submitted, arXiv:1302.5102
Using only standard tools from multivariate calculus, we show that if we continuously glue two smooth functions along a curve with a "corner", the resulting continuous function must be differentiable at the corner, as if to compensate for the singularity of the curve. Moreover, locally, this property characterizes non-smooth curves. We also generalize this phenomenon to higher order derivatives. In particular, this shows that supersmoothness has little to do with properties of polynomials.
T. Sorokina, Supersmoothness of bivariate splines and geometry of the underlying partition, 2013, submitted
Using only standard Bernstein-Bézier tools, we show that many types of supersmoothness have everything to do with polynomial nature of splines.

## supersmoothness at singular point

## Theorem (2012)

Let $\gamma \subset \mathbb{R}^{2}$ be the trace of a Jordan arc that divides the open disk $\Omega$ into two subsets $\Omega_{1}$ and $\Omega_{2}$. Let $\gamma$ is not smooth at $P \in \gamma$. Let $f_{1}, f_{2}$ be $C^{1}$ functions on $\Omega$ continuously glued along $\gamma$, that is, let

$$
F(x, y):= \begin{cases}f_{1}(x, y) & \text { if }(x, y) \in \Omega_{1} \\ f_{2}(x, y) & \text { if }(x, y) \in \Omega_{2}\end{cases}
$$

be a continuous function on $\Omega$. Then the piecewise function $F$ is differentiable at $P$, that is, $\nabla f_{1}(P)=\nabla f_{2}(P)$.


## local characterization of non-smooth curves

Theorem (2012)
The trace of a Jordan arc $\gamma$ is smooth at $P$ if and only if there exists a neighborhood $U$ of $P$ and a function $h$ continuously differentiable on $U$ such that

$$
h(x, y)=0 \text { if }(x, y) \in \gamma \cap U, \text { and } \nabla h(P) \neq \mathbf{0}
$$

## supersmoothness of higher derivatives

## Theorem (2012)

Let functions $f_{1}, \ldots, f_{n+2}$, be $n$ times continuously differentiable on $\Omega$ and let $F$ be defined piecewise on each sector $\Delta_{j}$ by $\left.F\right|_{\Delta_{j}}:=f_{j}$, $j=1, \ldots, n+2$. If $F \in C^{n}(\Omega)$ then $F$ has all derivatives of order $n+1$ at the origin, that is, $F \in C^{n+1}(\mathbf{0}), n \geq 0$.


## the book on splines

M. J. Lai, L. L. Schumaker, Spline Functions on Triangulations, Cambridge University Press (Cambridge), 2007.

## bivariate splines: dim on a cell

Let a cell $\triangle$ have $n$ edges, $\left\{e_{i}\right\}_{i=1}^{n}$, whose slopes are $\left\{a_{i}\right\}_{i=1}^{n}$, respectively. We note that any cell can be rotated so that the slopes are defined. Given a set $\mathcal{T}$ of strongly supported smoothness functionals associated with $\triangle$

$$
\operatorname{dim} S_{d}^{\mathcal{T}}(\triangle)=\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=0}^{d}\left(j-r_{i, j}\right)+\sum_{j=0}^{d}\left(j+1-\varepsilon_{j}\right)_{+}
$$

where

$$
\varepsilon_{j}:=\sum_{i=1}^{n} m_{i, j}
$$

$m_{i, j}:= \begin{cases}0, & \text { if there exists } I \text { with } a_{i}=a_{l} \text { and } r_{l, j}<r_{i, j}, \\ 0, & \text { if there exists } I>i \text { with } a_{i}=a_{l} \text { and } r_{l, j}=r_{i, j}, \\ j-r_{i, j}, & \text { otherwise. }\end{cases}$

## Theorem (2013)

Let $S_{d}^{\mathcal{T}}(\triangle)$ with strongly supported $\mathcal{T}$ be defined on a cell $\triangle$ with $n$ edges. Given $\mu \in\{1, \ldots, n\}$ and $\nu \in\{0, \ldots, d\}$, let $r_{\mu, \nu}<\nu$ be the smoothness value in $\mathcal{T}$ associated with the edge $e_{\mu}$ on level $\nu$. If $\mathcal{T}^{\prime}:=\mathcal{T} \cup \tau_{\nu, e_{\mu}}^{r_{\nu, \mu}+1}$ remains strongly supported, then $S_{d}^{\mathcal{T}}(\triangle)=S_{d}^{\mathcal{T}^{\prime}}(\triangle)$ if and only if

$$
\varepsilon_{\nu} \leq \nu+1
$$

and either
(i) $e_{\mu}$ has no collinear counterpart or
(ii) $e_{\mu}$ has a collinear counterpart with strictly higher smoothness value on level $\nu$.

## bivariate splines: more examples



Figure: $\operatorname{dim} S_{1}^{\mathcal{T}}=4$
Figure : $\operatorname{dim} S_{1}^{\mathcal{T}^{\prime}}=4$

## bivariate splines: more examples



Figure : $\operatorname{dim} S_{3}^{\mathcal{T}}=10$
Figure : $\operatorname{dim} S_{3}^{\mathcal{T}^{\prime}}=10$

Example: $\mathbf{r}=\{(1,2),(1,2)\}, \overline{\mathbf{r}}=\{2,2\}, d=3, \operatorname{dim}=12$


Example: $\mathbf{r}=\{(4,5),(4,5),(3,4)\}, \overline{\mathbf{r}}=\{5,5,4\}, d=6, \operatorname{dim}=33$


## example $\operatorname{dim}=48$

Two non-collinear edges have smoothness 7 and 6 . Three pairs of collinear edges have pairs of smoothness $(7,7),(5,7),(6,7)$. Then for $d=8$ the two non-collinear edges can be removed.


In fact, the new space $S_{8}^{r}$ with $\mathbf{r}=\{(7,7),(5,7),(6,7)\}$ is the same as $S_{8}^{7}$.

## Theorem (2013)

Let $\triangle$ be a cell with $m$ slopes and $m$ pairs of collinear edges.
Suppose $\mathcal{T}$ is defined by the following smoothness conditions: for each pair of collinear edges $\left(e_{i}, \tilde{e}_{i}\right)$, let $\left(r_{i}, \rho_{i}\right)$ be the smoothness across $e_{i}$ and $\tilde{e}_{i}$, respectively, with the convention $r_{i} \leq \rho_{i} \leq d$. Suppose $\mathcal{T}^{\prime}$ is defined by the following smoothness conditions: for each pair of collinear edges $\left(e_{i}, \tilde{e}_{i}\right)$, let $\rho_{i}$ be the smoothness across both of them. Then

$$
S_{d}^{\mathcal{T}}(\triangle)=S_{d}^{\mathcal{T}^{\prime}}(\triangle) \text {, whenever } \quad d \leq d^{*}:=\left\lfloor\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m} r_{i}+1}{m-1}\right\rfloor \text {. }
$$

Theorem (2010)
Let $\Delta$ be a cell, and let smoothness $r \geq 1$. Suppose the number of different slopes $m \leq r+2$. Then

$$
S_{r+1}^{r}(\Delta)=S_{r+1}^{r}(\widetilde{\Delta})
$$

where $\widetilde{\Delta}$ is a cell obtained from $\Delta$ by removing the edges with no collinear counterparts.
Example: $r=3, d=4, m=5$. Three black edges can be removed.


## mixed derivatives

Theorem (2012)
Let $\Delta$ be a cell with no non-collinear and $2 /$ collinear edges meeting at $v$. Then for any $s \in S_{d}^{I-1}(\Delta)$ any l-th order mixed derivative

$$
\frac{\partial^{\prime} s}{\partial u_{i_{1}} \cdots \partial u_{i_{l}}}(v)
$$

where $u_{i_{1}}, \ldots, u_{i_{l}}$ are pairwise distinct directions of non-collinear edges, exists.

## one directional derivative

## Theorem (2012)

Let $\triangle$ be a cell with four non-collinear edges meeting at the point $v$. Then there exists a unique straight line passing through $v$ with the property that for any smooth quadratic spline $s$ on $\triangle$, the restriction of $s$ on this line is a univariate quadratic polynomial.


## conclusions

- supersmoothness can help to compute and explain dimension
- supersmoothness could be a property of every multivariate spline
- the more symmetry the space has the less supersmoothness it possesses
- symmetry of both the partition and the smoothness functionals affects supersmoothness
- it appears that non-generic triangulations induce less supersmoothness
- what about really high values of $n$....

