



Learning a robust shape parameter for radial basis functions approximation with continual learning

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Radial basis functions (RBFs) play an important role in function interpolation, being suited to deal with arbitrary sets of interpolation nodes. The accuracy of the interpolation depends on a parameter called the shape parameter. Although there are many approaches in literature on how to choose this, finding the optimal shape parameter value in general remains a challenge.

In this talk, I will present a novel approach to determine the shape parameter in RBFs:

1. We construct an optimisation problem to obtain a shape parameter that leads to an interpolation matrix with bounded condition number
2. We introduce a data-driven method to learn the map between sets of interpolation nodes and a suitable shape parameter
3. We propose a fall-back procedure to enforce a strict upper bound on the condition number of the interpolation matrix, as well as a continual learning strategy that improves the performance of the predictor by learning from previously run simulations.

This methodology is assessed in a series of numerical tests in interpolation tasks and in a RBF based finite difference (RBF-FD) method, in one and two-space dimensions.

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