

# Understanding Multivariate Computation using the Kolmogorov Superposition Theorem

Matthew Knepley

Computer Science and Engineering  
University at Buffalo

Firedrake 2019, Durham University  
Durham, UK    September 27, 2019



## KST Representation Collaboration

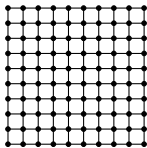


Jonas Actor

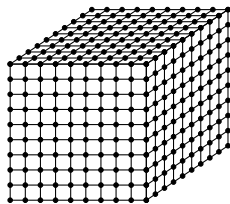
# Curse of Dimensionality



10 nodes



$10^2$  nodes



$10^3$  nodes

Cost of simulation / computation grows **exponentially**

Do functions of three variables  
exist at all?<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Pólya and Szegő, Problems and Theorems of Analysis, 1925 (German), transl. 1945, reprinted 1978

**Q:** Can any function of three variables be expressed using functions of only two variables?<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Hilbert, Göttinger Nachrichten, 1900

<sup>3</sup>Arnol'd, Dokl. Akad. Nauk SSSR 114:5, 1957

**Q:** Can any function of three variables be expressed using functions of only two variables?<sup>2</sup>

Ex: Cardano's Formula for roots of a cubic equation

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**Q:** Can any function of three variables be expressed using functions of only two variables?<sup>2</sup>

Ex: Cardano's Formula for roots of a cubic equation

**A:** Any *continuous* function of three variables can be expressed using *continuous* functions of only two variables.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Hilbert, Göttinger Nachrichten, 1900

<sup>3</sup>Arnol'd, Dokl. Akad. Nauk SSSR 114:5, 1957

**Q:** Can any function of three variables be expressed using only univariate functions and addition?

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<sup>4</sup>Kolmogorov, Dokl. Akad. Nauk SSSR 114:5, 1957



**Q:** Can any function of three variables be expressed using only univariate functions and addition?

**A:** Yes<sup>4</sup>, for any continuous  $f : [0, 1]^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{q=0}^{2n} \chi \left( \sum_{p=1}^n \psi_{p,q}(x_p) \right).$$

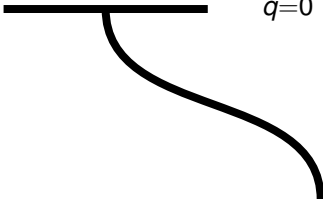
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<sup>4</sup>Kolmogorov, Dokl. Akad. Nauk SSSR 114:5, 1957

# What's going on here?

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{q=0}^{2n} \chi_q \left( \sum_{p=1}^n \psi_{p,q}(x_p) \right)$$

# What's going on here?

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{q=0}^{2n} \chi_q \left( \sum_{p=1}^n \psi_{p,q}(x_p) \right)$$


Original function  $f : [0, 1]^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

# What's going on here?

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{q=0}^{2n} \chi_q \left( \underbrace{\sum_{p=1}^n \psi_{p,q}(x_p)} \right)$$

Inner function  $\psi_{p,q} : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

# What's going on here?

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{q=0}^{2n} \chi_q \left( \sum_{p=1}^n \psi_{p,q}(x_p) \right)$$



Addition

# What's going on here?

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{q=0}^{2n} \chi_q \left( \sum_{p=1}^n \psi_{p,q}(x_p) \right)$$

Outer function  $\chi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

# What's going on here?

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{q=0}^{2n} \chi_q \left( \sum_{p=1}^n \psi_{p,q}(x_p) \right)$$



Function composition

$$\begin{aligned} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) &= \chi_0(\psi_{\mathbf{x},0}(\mathbf{x}) + \psi_{\mathbf{y},0}(\mathbf{y})) \\ &+ \chi_1(\psi_{\mathbf{x},1}(\mathbf{x}) + \psi_{\mathbf{y},1}(\mathbf{y})) \\ &+ \chi_2(\psi_{\mathbf{x},2}(\mathbf{x}) + \psi_{\mathbf{y},2}(\mathbf{y})) \\ &+ \chi_3(\psi_{\mathbf{x},3}(\mathbf{x}) + \psi_{\mathbf{y},3}(\mathbf{y})) \\ &+ \chi_4(\psi_{\mathbf{x},4}(\mathbf{x}) + \psi_{\mathbf{y},4}(\mathbf{y})) \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = & \chi_0(\lambda_x \psi(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda_y \psi(\mathbf{y})) \\ & + \chi_1(\lambda_x \psi(\mathbf{x} + \epsilon) + \lambda_y \psi(\mathbf{y} + \epsilon)) \\ & + \chi_2(\lambda_x \psi(\mathbf{x} + 2\epsilon) + \lambda_y \psi(\mathbf{y} + 2\epsilon)) \\ & + \chi_3(\lambda_x \psi(\mathbf{x} + 3\epsilon) + \lambda_y \psi(\mathbf{y} + 3\epsilon)) \\ & + \chi_4(\lambda_x \psi(\mathbf{x} + 4\epsilon) + \lambda_y \psi(\mathbf{y} + 4\epsilon)) \end{aligned}$$

Single  $\psi$  function (Sprecher)

$$\begin{aligned}
f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = & \chi(\lambda_x \psi(\mathbf{x}) \quad + \lambda_y \psi(\mathbf{y})) \\
& + \chi(\lambda_x \psi(\mathbf{x} + \epsilon) \quad + \lambda_y \psi(\mathbf{y} + \epsilon) \quad + \delta) \\
& + \chi(\lambda_x \psi(\mathbf{x} + 2\epsilon) + \lambda_y \psi(\mathbf{y} + 2\epsilon) + 2\delta) \\
& + \chi(\lambda_x \psi(\mathbf{x} + 3\epsilon) + \lambda_y \psi(\mathbf{y} + 3\epsilon) + 3\delta) \\
& + \chi(\lambda_x \psi(\mathbf{x} + 4\epsilon) + \lambda_y \psi(\mathbf{y} + 4\epsilon) + 4\delta)
\end{aligned}$$

Single  $\chi$  function (Lorentz) and  $\psi$  function (Sprecher)

$$\Psi^q(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{p=1}^n \psi_{p,q}(x_p)$$

is independent of  $f$ , so that

$$KST : f \rightarrow \chi$$

$$xy = \exp^{\ln x + \ln y}$$

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Modulus of continuity of *exp*  
compensates for flatness of *ln*

$$xy = \exp^{\ln x + \ln y}$$

Controlling regularity of  $\phi$   
is the key to efficiency

(Vitushkin 1964)

Inner functions  $\phi$  cannot be smooth

$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$  cross-derivatives in  $f$

$\mathcal{O}(n)$  derivatives in  $\phi$  and  $\chi$

(Diaconis and Shahshahani 1984)  
Exactly characterizes the nullspace  
for projection pursuit

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \approx \sum_{q=1}^Q \chi_q \left( \sum_{p=1}^n \lambda_{pq} x_p \right)$$



(Sprecher 1965)

Explicitly constructs a  $\phi$   
that is Hölder  $\left(\frac{\ln 2}{\ln 2n+2}\right)$

(Braün and Griebel 2009)

Demonstrates that such a function  
cannot be computed efficiently

(Actor 2018)

Constructs a Lipschitz(2)  $\phi$

A remapping of Sprecher's  $\phi$   
that is efficiently computable

- Need hierarchy
- Need nonlinearity
- Need to control regularity

Function composition is a  
powerful nonlinear mechanism  
missing from FEM

**Thank You!**

<http://cse.buffalo.edu/~knepley>