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# Interpolation in the unit disk based on Radon projections and function values

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**Abstract.** We consider the problem of interpolation of bivariate functions on the unit disk by polynomials. The data known for the function consist of Radon projections along chords in multiple directions and function values at points lying on the unit circle. We prove a sufficient condition for a configuration of chords and points to be regular, i.e. the interpolation problem to be poised. Regularity of a particular scheme of chords and points is considered. Numerical experiments are presented.

## 1 Introduction and preliminaries

In medicine, biology, materials science, radiology, geophysics, oceanography, archeology, astrophysics, and other sciences, the idea of tomography (imaging by sections or sectioning) is used. Modern methods of tomography involve gathering projection data from multiple directions and applying this data into a tomographic reconstruction software algorithm processed by a computer. Various types of signal acquisition can be used in similar algorithms in order to create a 3D image. However, in the general case the output from these reconstruction procedures appears as 2D slice images.

There exist different reconstruction algorithms: filtered back projection, iterative reconstruction, direct methods, etc. These procedures give inexact results: they represent a compromise between accuracy and computation time required.

Because of the importance of such methods for applications in science and practice they have been intensively investigated by many mathematicians [2], [5], [11], [12], [13], [14], and others. Besides the algorithms based on the inverse Radon transform (see [12], [13] and the bibliography therein), other direct interpolation and fitting methods have been recently studied (see [1], [4], [6], [7], [8], [9], [11]).

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We denote by  $\Pi_n^2$  the set of all algebraic polynomials in two variables of total degree at most  $n$  and real coefficients. Then,  $\Pi_n^2$  is a linear space of dimension  $\binom{n+2}{2}$ , and  $P \in \Pi_n^2$  if and only if

$$P(x, y) = \sum_{i+j \leq n} \alpha_{ij} x^i y^j, \quad \alpha_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Let  $\mathbf{B} := \{\mathbf{x} = (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \|\mathbf{x}\| \leq 1\}$  be the unit disk in the plane, where  $\|\mathbf{x}\| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ . Given  $t \in [-1, 1]$  and an angle of measure  $\theta \in [0, \pi)$ , the equation  $x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta - t = 0$  defines a line  $\ell$  perpendicular to the vector  $\langle \cos \theta, \sin \theta \rangle$  and passing through the point  $(t \cos \theta, t \sin \theta)$ . The set  $I(\theta, t) := \ell \cap \mathbf{B}$  is a *chord* of the unit disk  $\mathbf{B}$  which can be parameterized in the manner

$$\begin{cases} x = t \cos \theta - s \sin \theta, \\ y = t \sin \theta + s \cos \theta, \end{cases} \quad s \in [-\sqrt{1-t^2}, \sqrt{1-t^2}],$$

where the quantity  $\theta$  is the direction of  $I(\theta, t)$  and  $t$  is the distance of the chord from the origin. Suppose that for a given function  $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  the integrals of  $f$  exist along all line segments on the unit disk  $\mathbf{B}$ . *Radon projection* (or *X-ray*) of the function  $f$  over the segment  $I(\theta, t)$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{R}_\theta(f; t) := \int_{I(\theta, t)} f(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} = \int_{-\sqrt{1-t^2}}^{\sqrt{1-t^2}} f(t \cos \theta - s \sin \theta, t \sin \theta + s \cos \theta) ds.$$

Clearly,  $\mathcal{R}_\theta(\cdot; t)$  is a linear functional. Since  $I(\theta, t) \equiv I(\theta + \pi, -t)$  it follows that  $\mathcal{R}_\theta(f; t) = \mathcal{R}_{\theta+\pi}(f; -t)$ . Thus, the assumption above for the direction of the chords  $0 \leq \theta < \pi$  incurs no loss of generality.

It is well-known that the set of Radon projections

$$\{\mathcal{R}_\theta(f; t) : -1 \leq t \leq 1, 0 \leq \theta < \pi\}$$

determines  $f$  uniquely (see [10], [14]). According to a more recent result in [15], an arbitrary function  $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$  with compact support in  $\mathbf{B}$  is uniquely determined by any infinite set of *X-rays*. Since the function  $f \equiv 0$  has all its projections equal to zero, it follows that the only function which has the zero Radon transform is the constant zero function. It was shown by Marr [11] that every polynomial  $P \in \Pi_n^2$  can be reconstructed uniquely by its projections only on a finite number of directions.

Another important property (see [11], [3]) is the following:

**Lemma 1.** *If  $P \in \Pi_n^2$  then for each fixed  $\theta$  there exists a univariate polynomial  $p$  of degree  $n$  such that*

$$\mathcal{R}_\theta(P; t) = \sqrt{1-t^2} p(t), \quad -1 \leq t \leq 1,$$

and

$$p(-1) = 2P(-\cos \theta, -\sin \theta) \text{ and } p(1) = 2P(\cos \theta, \sin \theta).$$

The space  $\Pi_n^2$  has a standard basis of the power functions  $\{x^i y^j\}$ . Studying various problems for functions on the unit disk, it is often helpful to use some orthonormal basis. In [2], the following orthonormal basis of  $\Pi_n^2$  was constructed. Denote the Chebyshev polynomial of second kind of degree  $m$  as usual by

$$U_m(t) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{\sin(m+1)\theta}{\sin\theta}, \quad t = \cos\theta$$

and the bivariate *ridge polynomial* in direction  $\theta$  by

$$U_m(\theta; \mathbf{x}) := U_m(x \cos\theta + y \sin\theta).$$

For  $\theta_{mj} := \frac{j\pi}{m+1}$ ,  $m = 0, \dots, n$ ,  $j = 0, \dots, m$ , the ridge polynomials

$$U_{mj}(\mathbf{x}) := U_m(\theta_{mj}; \mathbf{x}) \quad m = 0, \dots, n, \quad j = 0, \dots, m, \quad (1)$$

form an orthonormal basis of  $\Pi_n^2$  on the unit disk  $\mathbf{B}$ .

The following important relation was proved by Marr [11] and we shall call it *Marr's formula*.

**Lemma 2.** *For each  $t \in (-1, 1)$ ,  $\theta$  and  $\varphi$ , we have*

$$\mathcal{R}_\varphi(U_m(\theta; \cdot); t) = \frac{2}{m+1} \sqrt{1-t^2} U_m(t) \frac{\sin(m+1)(\varphi-\theta)}{\sin(\varphi-\theta)}.$$

## 2 Interpolation problem for Radon projections type of data

For a given scheme of chords  $I_k$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, \binom{n+2}{2}$ , of the unit circle  $\partial\mathbf{B}$ , find a polynomial  $P \in \Pi_n^2$  satisfying the conditions:

$$\int_{I_k} P(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} = \gamma_k, \quad k = 1, \dots, \binom{n+2}{2}. \quad (2)$$

If (2) has a unique solution for every given set of values  $\{\gamma_k\}$ , the interpolation problem is called *poised* and the scheme of chords – *regular*.

The first known scheme which is regular for every degree  $n$  of the interpolating polynomial was found by Hakopian [9]. Hakopian's scheme consists of all  $\binom{n+2}{2}$  chords, connecting given  $n+2$  points on the unit circle  $\partial\mathbf{B}$ . Bojanov and Xu [4] proposed a regular scheme consisting of  $2\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor + 1$  equally spaced directions with  $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1$  chords, associated with the zeros of the Chebyshev polynomials of certain degree, in each direction.

Another family of regular schemes was provided by Bojanov and Georgieva [1]. There the Radon projections are taken along  $n+1$  directions

$$\Theta := \{\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n\}, \quad 0 \leq \theta_0 < \dots < \theta_n < \pi.$$

To every direction  $\theta_k$  are associated  $n - k + 1$  chords with the distances

$$1 > t_{kk} > t_{k,k+1} > \dots > t_{kn} > -1.$$

This results in  $\binom{n+2}{2}$  chords of the unit circle,  $\{I(\theta_k, t_{ki})\}_{k=0, i=k}^n$ . The scheme is thus fully described by  $(\Theta, T)$ , where  $T := \{t_{ki}\}$  is the upper triangular matrix of chord distances to the origin.

The following regularity result for schemes of this type was proved by Bojanov and Georgieva [1].

**Theorem 1.** *For  $(\Theta, T)$  as above, the interpolation problem*

$$\int_{I(\theta_k, t_{ki})} P(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} = \gamma_{ki}, \quad k = 0, \dots, n, \quad i = k, \dots, n, \quad P \in \Pi_n^2, \quad (3)$$

is poised if

$$\det \mathbf{U}_k \neq 0 \quad \text{for } k = 0, \dots, n,$$

where

$$\mathbf{U}_k = \mathbf{U}_k^{(n)} := \begin{pmatrix} U_k(t_{kk}) & U_{k+1}(t_{kk}) & \dots & U_n(t_{kk}) \\ U_k(t_{k,k+1}) & U_{k+1}(t_{k,k+1}) & \dots & U_n(t_{k,k+1}) \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ U_k(t_{kn}) & U_{k+1}(t_{kn}) & \dots & U_n(t_{kn}) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Several regular schemes of this type were suggested by Georgieva and Ismail [6] and by Georgieva and Uluchev [7]. In particular, we will make use of the following result from [6].

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $t_{ki} = \eta_i = \cos \frac{(i+1)\pi}{n+2}$ ,  $k = 0, \dots, n$ ,  $i = k, \dots, n$  be the zeros of the Chebyshev polynomial of second kind  $U_{n+1}$ . Then  $\det \mathbf{U}_k \neq 0$  for  $k = 0, \dots, n$ , and thus the problem (3) is poised.*

### 3 Interpolation problem for mixed type of data

We consider interpolation using mixed type of data – both Radon projections and function values at points lying on the unit circle. Let

- $\Theta := \{\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n\}$ ,  $0 \leq \theta_0 < \dots < \theta_n < \pi$ ;
- $T := \{t_{ki}\}$  be an upper triangular matrix with  $1 > t_{kk} > \dots > t_{k,n-1} > -1$ ,  $k = 0, \dots, n - 1$ ;
- $X := \{\mathbf{x}_0, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n\}$ , where  $\mathbf{x}_k$  are points on the unit circle.

The problem is to find a polynomial  $P \in \Pi_n^2$  satisfying the  $\binom{n+2}{2}$  interpolation conditions

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{I(\theta_k, t_{ki})} P(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} &= \gamma_{ki}, & k = 0, \dots, n - 1, \quad i = k, \dots, n - 1, \\ P(\mathbf{x}_k) &= f_k, & k = 0, \dots, n. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

The difference to problem (3) is that we replace the interpolation condition on the last chord in each direction  $\theta_k$  with a function value interpolation condition at a point  $\mathbf{x}_k$ . If (4) has a unique solution for every given set of values  $\{\gamma_{ki}\}$  and  $\{f_k\}$ , the interpolation problem (4) is called *poised* and the scheme of chords and points  $(\Theta, T, X)$  – *regular*.

In the following we state and prove a condition for the interpolation problem (4) to be poised with a particular choice of  $X$ .

**Theorem 3.** *For a given set of chords and points  $(\Theta, T, X)$  with  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_k = (-\cos \theta_k, -\sin \theta_k)\}_{k=0}^n$ , the interpolation problem (4) is poised if*

$$\det \mathbf{U}_k^* \neq 0, \quad k = 0, \dots, n,$$

where

$$\mathbf{U}_k^* := \begin{pmatrix} U_k(t_{kk}) & U_{k+1}(t_{kk}) & \dots & U_{n-1}(t_{kk}) & U_n(t_{kk}) \\ U_k(t_{k,k+1}) & U_{k+1}(t_{k,k+1}) & \dots & U_{n-1}(t_{k,k+1}) & U_n(t_{k,k+1}) \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ U_k(t_{k,n-1}) & U_{k+1}(t_{k,n-1}) & \dots & U_{n-1}(t_{k,n-1}) & U_n(t_{k,n-1}) \\ U_k(-1) & U_{k+1}(-1) & \dots & U_{n-1}(-1) & U_n(-1) \end{pmatrix}.$$

*Proof.* It is sufficient to show that the only bivariate polynomial  $P \in \Pi_n^2$  satisfying zero interpolation conditions is the trivial polynomial,  $P(\mathbf{x}) \equiv 0$ . For  $P \in \Pi_n^2$ , let  $a_{mj}(P)$  denote the coefficients of  $P$  in the basis of ridge polynomials, see (1),

$$a_{mj}(P) := \int_{\mathbf{B}} P(\mathbf{x}) U_{mj}(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}, \quad P(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{m=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^m a_{mj}(P) U_{mj}(\mathbf{x}).$$

By Lemma 1, for each  $k$  we can write

$$\mathcal{R}_{\theta_k}(P; t) = \sqrt{1-t^2} p_k(t)$$

with some univariate polynomial  $p_k(t)$  of degree at most  $n$ . Expanding  $p_k$  in Chebyshev-Fourier series, we obtain

$$\mathcal{R}_{\theta_k}(P; t) = \sqrt{1-t^2} \sum_{i=0}^n b_{ki}(P) U_i(t)$$

where

$$b_{ki}(P) := 2 \int_{-1}^1 \mathcal{R}_{\theta_k}(P; t) U_i(t) dt = 2 \int_{\mathbf{B}} P(\mathbf{x}) U_i(\theta_k; \mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}. \quad (5)$$



Note that the set  $\mathcal{M}$  consists of  $\binom{n+2}{2}$  linear functionals on  $\Pi_n^2$ . Then, for a fixed pair of indices  $(m, j)$ , there exists a representation of the form

$$b_{mj}(P) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \sum_{i=k}^{n-1} c_{ki} \mathcal{R}_{\theta_k}(P; t_{ki}) + \sum_{k=0}^n d_k P(\mathbf{x}_k) \quad \text{for all } P \in \Pi_n^2$$

if and only if

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{R}_{\theta_k}(P; t_{ki}) = 0, & k = 0, \dots, n-1, \quad i = k, \dots, n-1, \\ P(\mathbf{x}_k) = 0, & k = 0, \dots, n \end{cases} \implies b_{mj}(P) = 0. \quad (8)$$

This follows from simple linear algebra arguments.

Assume that the left hand side of (8) holds. We shall prove by induction on  $k$  that  $b_{mj}(P) = 0$ ,  $m = 0, \dots, n$ , for all  $j = 0, \dots, n$ .

First consider the case  $k = 0$ . The assumption

$$\mathcal{R}_{\theta_0}(P; t_{00}) = \dots = \mathcal{R}_{\theta_0}(P; t_{0,n-1}) = 0 \quad \text{with } -1 < t_{0,n-1} < \dots < t_{00} < 1$$

gives  $n$  zeros of the polynomial  $p_0(t)$  in  $(-1, 1)$ . Moreover, by Lemma 1, we have the equality  $p_0(-1) = 2P(\mathbf{x}_0) = 2P(-\cos \theta_0, -\sin \theta_0)$ . From  $P(\mathbf{x}_0) = 0$  it follows that  $p_0(t)$  has another zero at  $t = -1$ . Therefore

$$0 \equiv p_0(t) = \sum_{i=0}^n b_{0i}(P) U_i(t)$$

and hence  $b_{0i}(P) = 0$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, n$ , because of the linear independence of the Chebyshev polynomials  $\{U_i(t)\}$ .

From the definition of  $a_{00}$ , from (5) and since  $U_0(t)$  is a constant, we get  $a_{00} = \frac{1}{2} b_{00}(P)$ . Therefore, in the first induction step we have shown that

$$P(\mathbf{x}) = a_{10} U_{10}(\mathbf{x}) + a_{11} U_{11}(\mathbf{x}) + \dots + a_{nn} U_{nn}(\mathbf{x}).$$

Assume that after  $k$  induction steps, we have proved that  $b_{ij}(P) = 0$  for  $i < k$  and that  $P$  reduces to

$$P(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=k}^n \sum_{j=0}^i a_{ij} U_{ij}(\mathbf{x}).$$

In other words,  $P(\mathbf{x})$  is a linear combination of  $U_{ij}$  with  $i \geq k$ . Applying Marr's formula (Lemma 2), we see that its Radon projection  $\mathcal{R}_{\theta_k}(P; t)$  must therefore be a linear combination of  $U_i$  with  $i \geq k$  as well. Thus,

$$\mathcal{R}_{\theta_k}(P; t) = \sqrt{1-t^2} (b_{kk}(P) U_k(t) + \dots + b_{kn}(P) U_n(t)),$$

and it follows that  $b_{ki}(P) = 0$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, k-1$ . In order to prove that the remaining coefficients are equal to zero we use the assumptions

$$\mathcal{R}_{\theta_k}(P; t_{kk}) = \dots = \mathcal{R}_{\theta_k}(P; t_{k,n-1}) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad P(\mathbf{x}_k) = 0.$$



We now fix some  $k \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ . By definition,  $(t_{ki})_i$  are the zeroes of  $U_n$ . Thus, the last column has exactly one nonzero entry,  $U_n(-1) = (n+1)(-1)^n$ , and the determinant of  $\mathbf{U}_k^*$  can be expanded as

$$\det \mathbf{U}_k^* = (n+1)(-1)^n \det \mathbf{U}_k^{(n-1)}$$

with

$$\mathbf{U}_k^{(n-1)} = \begin{pmatrix} U_k(t_{kk}) & U_{k+1}(t_{kk}) & \dots & U_{n-1}(t_{kk}) \\ U_k(t_{k,k+1}) & U_{k+1}(t_{k,k+1}) & \dots & U_{n-1}(t_{k,k+1}) \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ U_k(t_{k,n-1}) & U_{k+1}(t_{k,n-1}) & \dots & U_{n-1}(t_{k,n-1}) \end{pmatrix}$$

as in Theorem 1. By Theorem 2, the determinants of all  $\mathbf{U}_k^{(n-1)}$  are nonzero, which finishes the proof.

## 5 Numerical experiments

For simplicity, we have implemented our interpolation scheme using the monomial basis  $\{x^i y^j\}$ . For integrating a basis function along the chord  $I(\theta, t)$ , we use the binomial theorem to obtain the formula

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{I(\theta, t)} x^i y^j d\mathbf{x} &= \int_{-\sqrt{1-t^2}}^{\sqrt{1-t^2}} (t \cos \theta - s \sin \theta)^i (t \sin \theta + s \cos \theta)^j ds \\ &= \sum_{p=0}^i \sum_{q=0}^j \binom{i}{p} \binom{j}{q} t^{p+q} (\cos \theta)^{j+p-q} (\sin \theta)^{i-(p-q)} \times \\ &\quad \times \frac{(-1)^{i-p}}{i+j-p-q+1} (1-t^2)^{\frac{1}{2}(i+j-p-q+1)} (1 - (-1)^{i+j-p-q+1}). \end{aligned}$$

In the following, we present interpolation results for two different functions on the unit disk.

**Example 1.** We approximate the mexican hat function

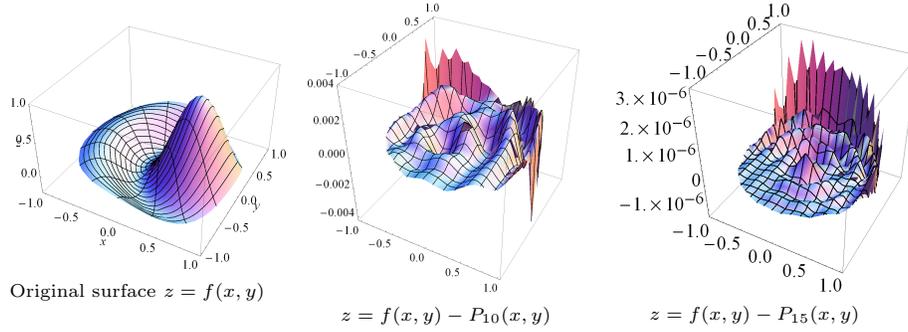
$$f(x, y) = \frac{\sin(2\pi((x-0.2)^2 + y^2 + 10^{-18}))}{2\pi((x-0.2)^2 + y^2 + 10^{-18})}$$

using the mixed interpolatory scheme  $(\Theta, T, X)$  from Theorem 4 with the choice of angles

$$\Theta = \left\{ \theta_k = \frac{k\pi}{n+1} \right\}_{k=0}^n.$$

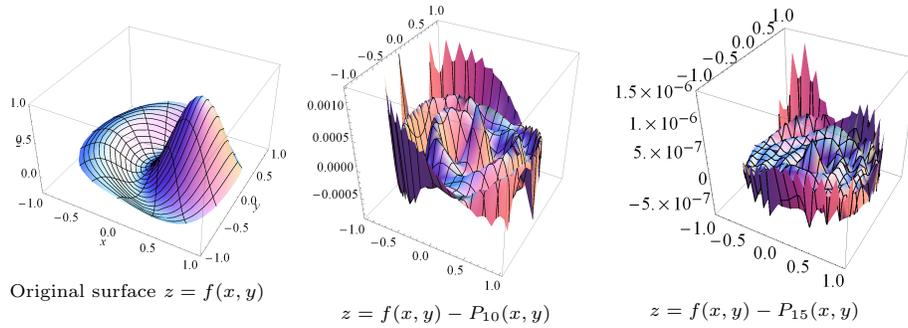
In Figure 1, we show the original function  $f(x, y)$  as well as the errors obtained from this scheme with  $n = 10$  and  $n = 15$ .

The relative  $L_2$ -errors on the unit disk are  $\|f - P_{10}\|_2/\|f\|_2 = 0.00217349$  and  $\|f - P_{15}\|_2/\|f\|_2 = 1.08932 \times 10^{-6}$ .



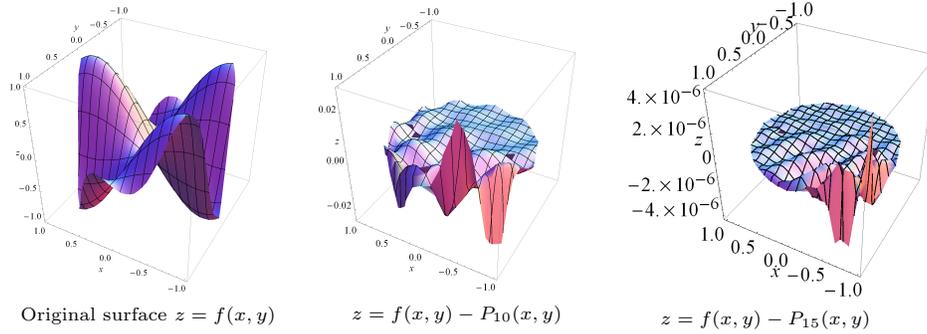
**Fig. 1.** The mexican hat function and errors resulting from the mixed scheme with  $n = 10$  and  $n = 15$ .

For comparison, we perform interpolation using the scheme  $(\Theta, T)$  from Theorem 2 using only Radon projections. The angles  $\Theta$  are as above. Figure 2 displays the function and the errors for  $n = 10$  and  $n = 15$  using this scheme. The relative  $L_2$ -errors in this case are  $\|f - P_{10}\|_2/\|f\|_2 = 0.000980462$  and  $\|f - P_{15}\|_2/\|f\|_2 = 5.14322 \times 10^{-7}$ .



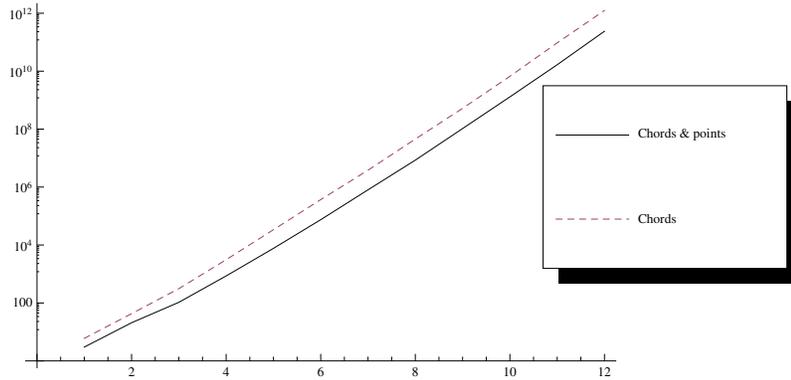
**Fig. 2.** The mexican hat function and errors resulting from the scheme using only Radon projections with  $n = 10$  and  $n = 15$ .

**Example 2.** We interpolate the function  $f(x, y) = \sin(2x) \cos(5y)$  using the mixed scheme as in Example 1. The surface  $z = f(x, y)$  and the error functions for  $n = 10$  and  $n = 15$  are presented in Figure 3. Here, the relative  $L_2$ -errors on the unit disk are  $\|f - P_{10}\|_2/\|f\|_2 = 0.00482072$  and  $\|f - P_{15}\|_2/\|f\|_2 = 6.01142 \times 10^{-7}$ .



**Fig. 3.** The function  $f(x, y) = \sin(2x) \cos(5y)$  and errors resulting from the mixed scheme with  $n = 10$  and  $n = 15$ .

**Condition numbers.** Finally, in Figure 4, we show the condition numbers of the matrices obtained from the mixed scheme and the scheme using only Radon projections. The  $x$ -axis corresponds to the degree  $n$  of the interpolation polynomial. Note that, while the errors obtained from our new scheme were slightly worse, it enjoys the advantage of a slightly lower condition number.



**Fig. 4.** Comparison of condition numbers.  $x$ : polynomial degree  $n$ ,  $y$ : condition number

**Concluding remarks.** We have presented a regular interpolation scheme based on mixed input data, namely, Radon projections and pointwise function values on the boundary of the unit disk. The scheme’s property of reproducing certain function values on the boundary of the computational domain exactly may be advantageous in applications. Our numerical experiments indicate that, for a given polynomial degree, the new scheme from Theorem 4 results in roughly twice the interpolation error of the scheme from Theorem 2, while the condition number is slightly lower.

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# Doctoral Program

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