

# On Nearest Neighbor Implementation of Projective Fusers

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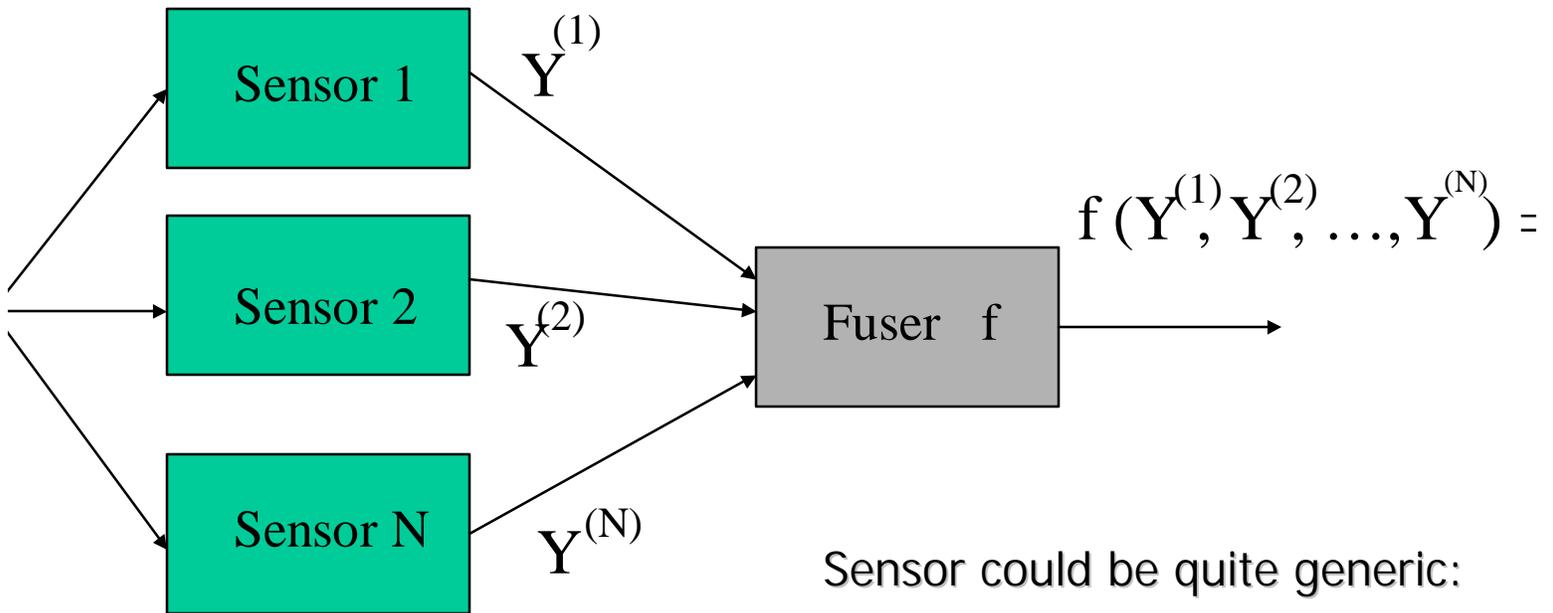
**Missile Defense Agency**



# Outline of Presentation

- Overview of Generic Sensor Fusion Problem
  - Specific methods
  - Isolation fusers
- Projective Fusers
  - Class of projective fusers
- Nearest Neighbor Projective Fuser
  - Finite-sample performance bound
  - Application to sigmoid neural networks, methane hydrates exploration

# Generic Sensor Fusion Problem



$X$  and  $Y^{(i)}$  are related by an **unknown** distribution  $P_{X, Y^{(i)}}$

design a fuser with performance guarantees based on measurements

. Rao, Journal of Franklin Institute, 1994,1999.

Sensor could be quite generic:

- Hardware device
  - Ultrasonic and infrared sensors
- Software module
  - Function estimators
- Database
  - Archived measurements
- Combination of hardware and software
  - Camera and detection software

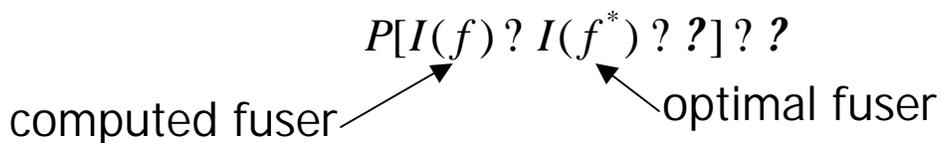
# Finite Sample Guarantees

## Known sensor distributions

- If all joint sensor distributions are known, optimal fuser can be obtained in principle
  - Not sufficient to know individual sensor distributions
  - Not guaranteed to be easily computable

## Only measurements are given

- Performance guarantee limits:  
Cannot guarantee “close-to-optimal results” with probability one
- Best possible result:
  - With a high probability the measurement-based fuser is at least as good as the best



- Roughly speaking, fusion problem is estimation of regression (infinite-dimensional quantity) using only finite set of measurements

# Overview of Solutions: Finite Sample Guarantees

## General Solution

- Showed that the problem is solvable in principle
- Under finiteness of scale-sensitive dimension of fuser class finite sample guarantees can be provided

## Specific Fuser Methods

- Vector space methods
  - Linear fusers
  - Kurkova's neural networks
- Sigmoid neural networks
- Non-linear statistical estimators
  - Nadaraya-Watson estimator
  - regressograms

We developed finite sample guarantees for the fuser

**Example:** Fuser class forms a vector space of dimension  $d$

- Sample size estimate

$$\frac{512}{\epsilon^2} \left( d \ln \frac{64e}{\epsilon} + \ln \frac{64e}{\epsilon} + \ln \frac{8}{\epsilon} \right)$$

to ensure  $P[I(f) \neq I(f^*)] \leq \epsilon$

irrespective of sensor distributions

# Isolation Fusers

## Method:

1. choose fuser class with isolation property – contains an identity function for every input variable
2. compute empirically best fuser based on measurements

### – Examples:

- Linear and piecewise-linear fusers
- Projective fusers

## Performance

- Given enough sample size, fuser is at least as good as best sensor in a probabilistic sense

N.S.V. Rao, Information Fusion,  
IEEE Trans PAMI,

# Function Estimation

Problem: To estimate a function  $f : [0,1]^d \rightarrow [0,1]$

Based on sample  $(X_1, f(X_1)), (X_2, f(X_2)), \dots, (X_l, f(X_l))$

or estimate  $\hat{f}$

Expected error is defined by

$$I(\hat{f}) = \int (f(X) - \hat{f}(X))^2 dP_X$$

User Design: Given  $N$  function estimators  $\hat{f}_1, \hat{f}_2, \dots, \hat{f}_N$

compute fuser  $f_F : [0,1]^N \rightarrow [0,1]$

such that  $f_F(X, \hat{f}_1, \hat{f}_2, \dots, \hat{f}_N)$  approximates  $f(X)$

# Projective Fusers - Definition

Method: Fuser  $f_P$  using estimators  $\hat{f}_1, \hat{f}_2, \dots, \hat{f}_N$

Partition the input space in to blocks

$$P = \{B_1, B_2, \dots, B_k\}, B_i \subseteq [0,1]^d, \forall i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$$

Assign to each block  $B_i$  an estimator  $\hat{f}_i$  such that

$$f_P(X, \hat{f}_1, \dots, \hat{f}_N) = \hat{f}_i(X)$$

for all  $X \in B_i$

Informally:

- Divide the domain into blocks
- Use one of the estimators in each each block

# Illustration

## Optimal Fuser

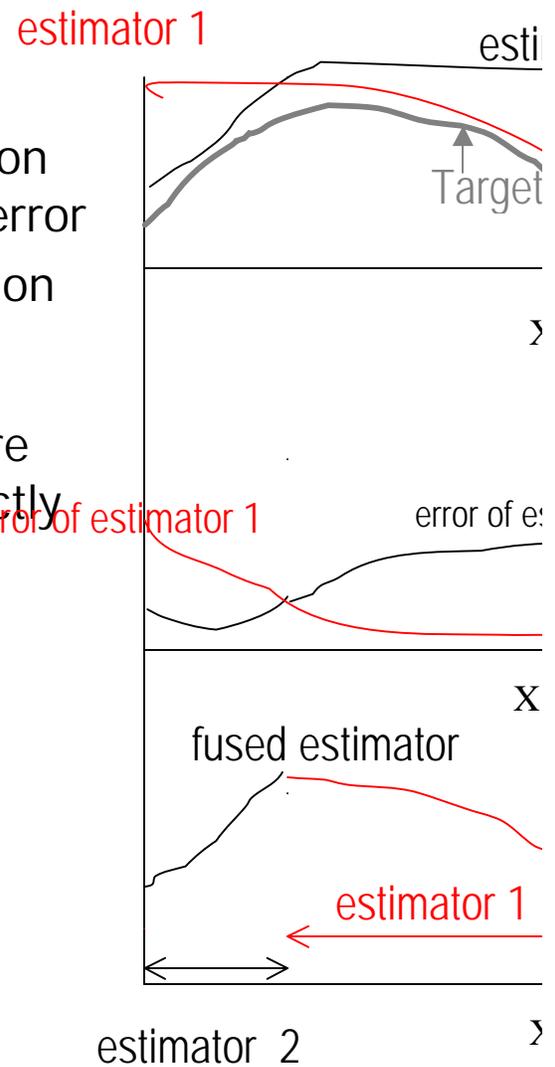
- Compute error regressions of information sources: project one with lowest local error
- Fuser is better than best sub-combination

## Challenges:

- In practice only finite measurements are given: error regressions cannot be exactly known

## Our results: **measurement-based approximation**

- Cellular decomposition method
- Nearest neighbor projective fuser



# Optimal Projective Fuser $f_{LE}$

## Method:

Compute error regressions of sensors

Project the sensor corresponding to lower envelope of regressions

Blocks are decided by the lower envelope

## Properties:

- At least as good as when applied on a subset of sensors
- Possess isolation property — hence the performance guarantee
- Complementary performance compared to linear fusers

## Performance Results

- Need to know the error distributions to exactly compute it
- Based on iid sample only an approximation can be computed
  - Asymptotic result: As sample size goes to infinity, fuser is at least as good as best subset of sensors [Fusion 1999, MFI 99]
  - Finite sample result: Given sufficient sample size, fuser is close to optimal with a high probability [Fusion 2002]

# Projective vs. Linear Fusers

## Complementary Performance:

Projective fuser is better if sensors are locally efficient

Linear fuser is better if errors are "symmetric"

# Sample-Based Projective Fuser

## Method:

- estimate the errors using adaptive cells method
- project estimators according to lower envelope of estimated regressions

## Asymptotic Result $I(\hat{f}_{LE}) \approx I(f_{LE})$ as $l \rightarrow \infty$ ?

- As sample size goes to infinity, fuser is at least as good as subset of sensors [Fusion 1999, MFI 99]

## Properties

- Cells sizes must be carefully chosen
- Does not provide any guarantee for finite sample

# Nearest Neighbor Projective Fuser

## Basic Idea

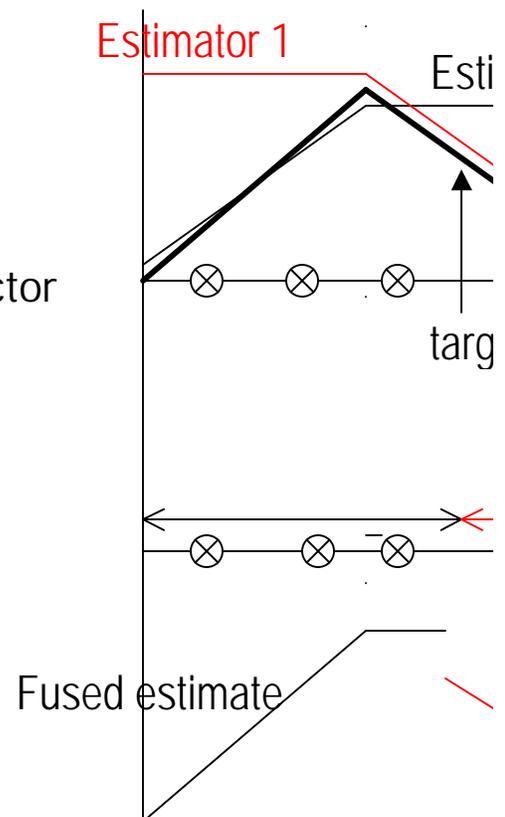
- Decompose into Voronoi regions of measurements
- Given a test point
  - Identify Voronoi region that contains it
  - Use the estimator with least error as a predictor

## Performance

Computational: polynomial-time computable

Finite-sample result: given finite sample, fuser performs almost as good as optimal with a high probability

- first finite sample result for projective fusers



# Definition: Nearest Neighbor Projective Fusers:

## Voronoi Decomposition:

Decompose domain into blocks  $V(X_2), \dots, V(X_l)$

$V(X_j)$  consists of all points closer to  $X_j$  than any other  $X_i$

Given  $X$ :

$NN(X)$  : index to  $V(X_k)$  such that  $X \in V(X_k)$

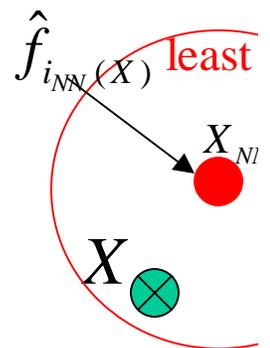
- simply the Voronoi cell that contains  $X$

$i_{NN}(X)$ : estimator with lowest error at nearest sample point  $X_{NN(X)}$

$$i_{NN}(X) = \underset{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}}{\operatorname{argmin}} [f(X_{NN(X)}) - \hat{f}_i(X_{NN(X)})]^2$$

## Nearest Neighbor Projective Fuser $\hat{f}_{NN}$

$$\hat{f}_{NN}(X, \hat{f}_1, \dots, \hat{f}_N) = \hat{f}_{i_{NN}(X)}(X)$$



# Finite-Sample Results: Projective Fusers

General Condition: Each estimator  $\hat{f}_i$  has finite total variation

This result includes a wide class of estimators:

- Smooth estimators:
  - sigmoid neural networks with bounded weights
  - potential functions
  - radial basis functions
  - smooth kernel estimators
- Non-smooth estimators
  - K-nearest neighbors
  - Regression trees
  - Nadaraya-Watson estimator
  - Regressograms

## Performance Guarantee

$$P \{ I(\hat{f}_{NN}) \leq I(f_{LE}) + \epsilon \} \geq 1 - \epsilon$$

# Functions of Bounded Variation

Informally:

Distance covered by walking along the function is finite

Examples:

functions on compact domain with finite number of jumps

functions on compact domain with bounded derivative

Lipschitz functions on compact domains

One dimensional:  $h: [a, A] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Partition  $A \ni y_0 < y_1 < \dots < y_n \in A$

Set of all partitions:  $\mathcal{P}[a, A]$

For all partitions we have bounded  $\sum_{k=1}^n |h(y_k) - h(y_{k-1})| \leq M$

For multi-dimensional, bounded in each dimension

# Sample-Size Estimate: Projective Fusers

Let  $V_i$  be the total variation of  $\hat{f}_i$  and  $V = \sum_{i=1}^N V_i$

Given sample of size

$$\frac{256}{\epsilon^2} \ln(1/\epsilon) + \frac{128V}{\epsilon} \ln^2(128/\epsilon) + \ln(16/\epsilon)$$

We guarantee

$$P\{I(\hat{f}_{NN}) \leq I(f_{LE}) + \epsilon\} \geq 1 - \epsilon$$

irrespective of the underlying distributions, i.e. estimators can be arbitrarily correlated.

Informally, error of  $\hat{f}_{NN}$  is within optimal, namely  $I(f_{LE})$ , with probability  $1 - \epsilon$

Implies asymptotic result

# Outline of Finite-Sample Bound

Embed fusers,  $\hat{f}_{NN}$  and  $f_{LE}$ , in function class of bounded variation  $F_V$

Use Vapnik's argument to show

$$P\{I(\hat{f}_{NN}) - I(f_{LE}) > \epsilon\} \leq P\left\{\sup_{g \in F_V} |\hat{I}(g) - I(g)| > \epsilon/2\right\}$$

Use fat-shattering index of  $F_V$  to obtain the sample size

$$\frac{256}{\epsilon^2} \{18 \text{fat}_{F_V}(\epsilon/256) \ln^2(128/\epsilon^2) + \ln(16/\epsilon)\}$$

$$\text{fat}_{F_V}(\epsilon) \leq 1 + \frac{V}{2\epsilon}$$

# Application: Sigmoid Neural Network Estimators

Using neural networks: for function approximation

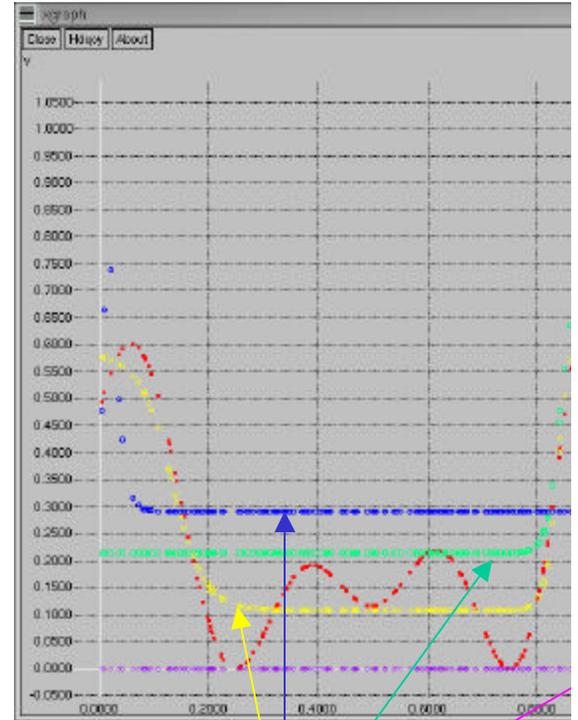
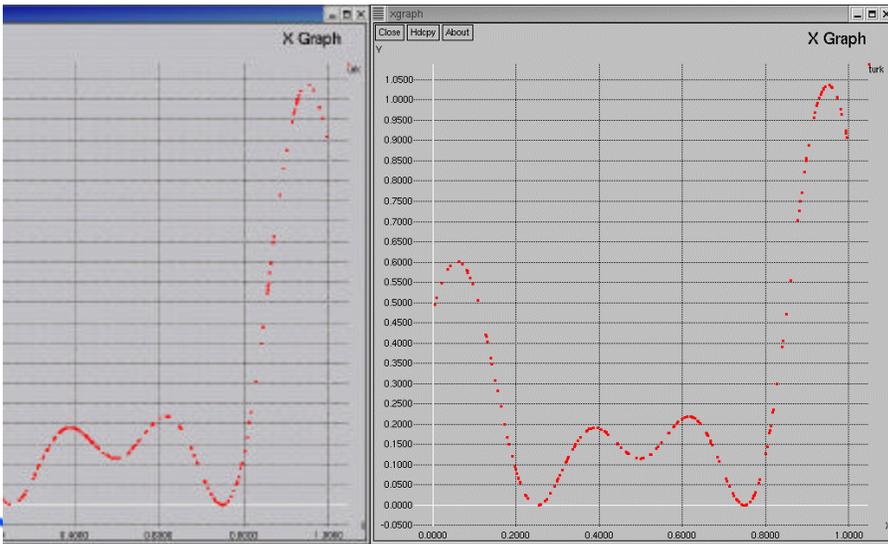
function approximation problem is NP-hard

most training algorithms yield sub optimal results

backpropagation algorithm is sensitive to starting weights and learning rate

training data

test data



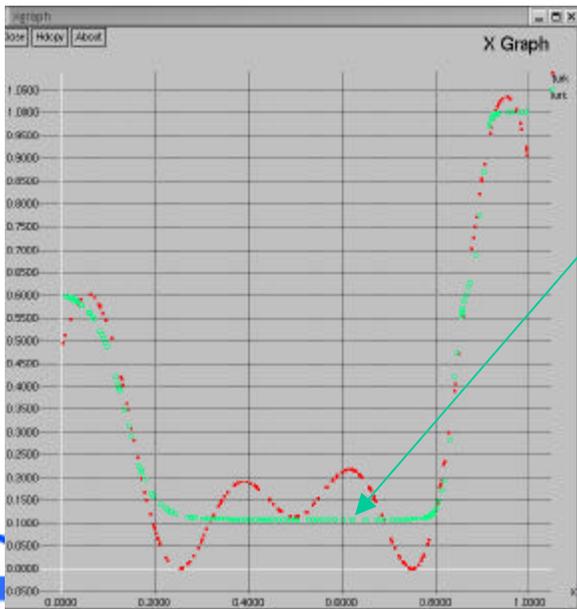
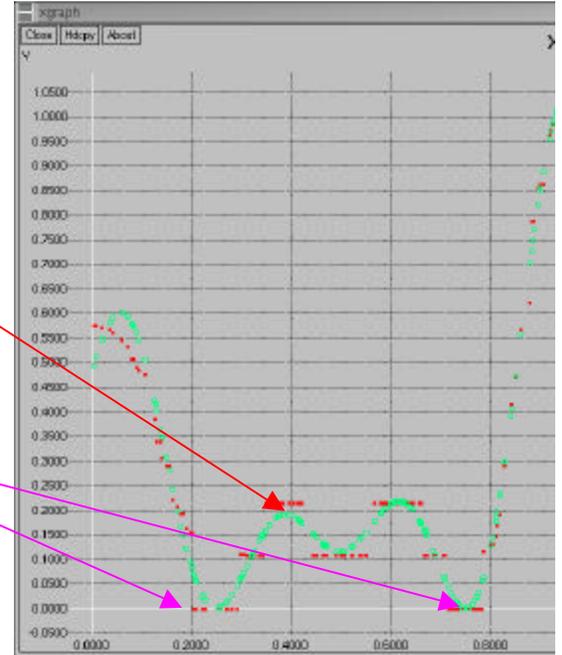
Sigmoid neural network  
different starting weight  
and learning rates

# d Neural Network Estimators

## Best neighbor projective fuser

uses locally best estimators

Note the **worst overall estimator** is good at certain parts



## Linear fuser

Picks a single weight for entire domain

# Embrittlement Predictions

laborator : Jy-An Wang (Nuclear Sci. and Tech. Division, ORNL)

Overall Goal: Predict residual defects in materials due to neutron-induced damage in light-water reactors

Transition temperature shift – vital indicator of embrittlement level

– Several predictors available

- Fluence-based models
- Eason's models
- Reg. Guide 1.99 model
- Feedforward neural network models
- Nearest-neighbor model

Fusion Approach: Combine all the predictors

- General Electric boiling water reactor data
  - **Isolation Fuser** (linear least squares)
    - 56.5% and 32.8% reduction in uncertainty plate and weld data, respectively, over model
  - **Nearest Neighbor Projective Fuser**
    - 67.3% and 52.4% reduction in uncertainty in plate and weld data, respectively, over best model

# Conclusions

represented class of projective fusers:

- Optimal projective fuser corresponds to lower envelope of regression

- Only an approximation can be computed based on sample

nearest Neighbor Projective Fuser:

- sample based approximation to optimal projective fuser

- polynomial-time computable

- provides finite sample guarantee