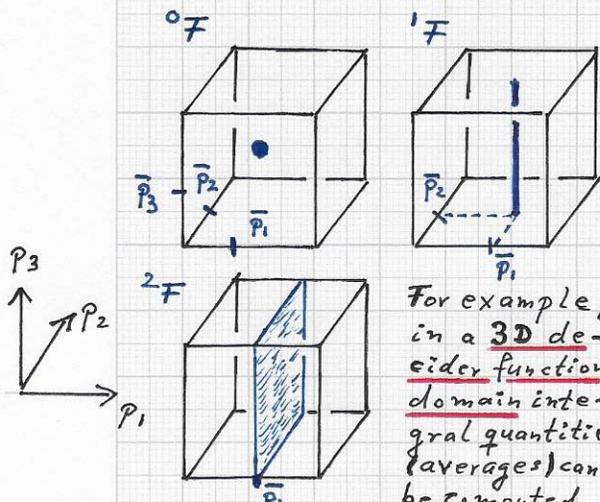


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Other possible integral characteristics, quantities of multi-variate decider functions:



For example, in a 3D decider function domain integral quantities (averages) can be computed

for 3D, 2D, 1D or 0D subdomains.

Integral quantities for d-dimensional sub domains are denoted by dF in the figure. Coordinate system - aligned quantities for a trivariate decider function are the following:

0F: $F(\bar{p}_1, \bar{p}_2, \bar{p}_3)$

1F: $\int_{p_1} F(p_1, \bar{p}_2, \bar{p}_3) dp_1$

$\int_{p_2} F(\bar{p}_1, p_2, \bar{p}_3) dp_2$

$\int_{p_3} F(\bar{p}_1, \bar{p}_2, p_3) dp_3$

2F: $\iint_{p_1, p_2} F(p_1, p_2, \bar{p}_3) dp_1 dp_2$

$\iint_{p_1, p_3} F(p_1, \bar{p}_2, p_3) dp_1 dp_3$

$\iint_{p_2, p_3} F(\bar{p}_1, p_2, p_3) dp_2 dp_3$

3F: $\iiint_{p_1, p_2, p_3} F(p_1, p_2, p_3) dp_1 dp_2 dp_3$

• Note. The discussed examples used a specific method for making the given functions (F1, F2, IDEAL) compatible with respect to integral properties: the average integral value Φ was used to enforce a unique and thus consistent integral value. One can use other scaling values to ensure compatibility. Further, the behavior and properties of some of these given functions could be relatively more important.

The functions $F_1(p_1), F_2(p_2), \dots$ of a multivariate decider function $F(p_1, p_2, \dots)$ represent integral/average behavior, e.g., $F_1(p_1) = \int_{p_2} F(p_1, p_2) dp_2$ defines integral/average behavior in p_2 -direction of the 2D domain.

One can consider the use of various other integral/average quantities in the higher-dimensional setting, e.g., consider

$F = F(p_1, p_2, p_3)$ and $F_{1,2}(p_1, p_2) = \int_{p_3} F(p_1, p_2, p_3) dp_3$.
(See left figure.)

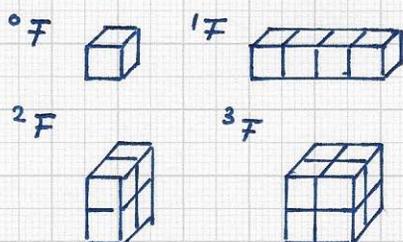
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Discrete approximations of integral/average characteristics via sets of uniform voxels representing 0D, 1D, 2D and 3D subdomains in a unit cube:

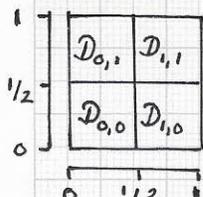


In the discrete setting, the definition of such integral/average quantities reduces to the computation of simple integrals (sums) of box function-based constant spline functions.

0F, 1F and 2F data for a simple bivariate example:



0F data 1F data 2F data



The unit square consists of subdomains D_{ij} with unknown values of associated $c_{i,j}$ coefficients. Given are "F data" of type 0F, 1F, 2F:

0F: $\phi(c_{1,0}) \Rightarrow \int_{D_{1,0}} = \frac{1}{4} c_{1,0}$

1F: $\phi(c_{0,1}, c_{1,1}) \Rightarrow \int_{D_{0,1} \cup D_{1,1}} = \frac{1}{4} (c_{0,1} + c_{1,1})$

2F: $\phi(c_{0,0}, c_{1,0}, c_{0,1}, c_{1,1}) \Rightarrow \int_{D_{0,0} \cup D_{1,0} \cup D_{0,1} \cup D_{1,1}} = \frac{1}{4} (c_{0,0} + \dots + c_{1,1})$

In the previous discussion, univariate decider functions were considered. A

univariate decider function has as its value an integral/average of an unknown multi-variate decider function to be constructed: $F_i(p_i)$ has

as its value - for a fixed value of p_i - the integral/average of all the other variables p_j ($j \neq i$); for example, $F_1(p_1) = \int \dots \int_{p_2, p_3, \dots, p_H} \dots$

$\dots F(p_1, p_2, p_3, \dots, p_H) dp_2 dp_3 \dots dp_H$

The figure on the previous page illustrates the generalization of the univariate decider function

(for the case of smooth functions defined on a continuous domain).

If such general integral/average characteristics are known or provided "via experiments," then it will be desirable to use this data in the construction process of the unknown multi-variate decider function $F(p_1, \dots, p_H)$.

A priori knowledge, conditions always to be satisfied or material samples can be the basis for such characteristics.

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The thoughts expressed on the previous pages and related aspects of material classification allow us to

summarize and point out important considerations at a higher level. The following points represent a selection:

- 1) When defining the (under- or over-determined) linear system to determine the coefficients of a box function-based representation of a multivariate decider function $F(p_1, p_2, \dots)$, one should include all available known integral/average properties of the unknown function $F: \mathcal{O}\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{1}\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{2}\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{3}\mathcal{D}, \dots$ integral properties of the introduced types ${}^0F, {}^1F, {}^2F, {}^3F, \dots$. The values of such properties can be "learned" via the use of available training data or are a priori known and user-specified "constraint data" that always must be satisfied.
- 2) Boolean and decider functions are very similar and closely related. A Boolean function has arguments with discrete, binary values, e.g., 0 and 1, and it generates a binary value - to determine whether "something IS or IS NOT the case (TRUE, FALSE). A decider function has real-valued arguments,

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in principle, and it generates a real value, in principle.

(Of course, in practical implementations, real numbers and real-number ranges are quantized / discretized.) A decider function is "more general" than a Boolean function as it represents the set $\{0, 1\}$ with the real interval $[0, 1]$; in fact, it replaces the discrete set $\{0, 1\}$ with the continuous range $[0, 1]$. The reason for this fact is simple: The described decider functions are based on probability; a truth value should be a value between 0 and 1. A decider function serves the purpose of making a DECISION; considering one, some or all available scale-specific similarity values between a classified and to-be-classified material, the function DECIDES whether the two materials belong to the same class or not - indicated via a probability value in the interval $[0, 1]$. This relationship should make it possible, in principle, to map a complex Boolean logic circuit to a corresponding (approximating) decider function design - and vice versa, keeping in mind the binary-value constraint of Boolean functions.

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(In various bivariate decider functions $F(p_1, p_2)$ discussed, F was referred to as a Boolean AND or OR function, already high-lighting this similarity between decider and Boolean functions.)

3) It is important to recall the MEANING of decider functions at this point. For example, consider the function $F_1(p_1)$, where $p_1 = .8$ and $F_1(.8) = .9$. This is the intended and assumed meaning: "A to-be-classified image of some material class has a degree-of-similarity of .8 when compared at texture-scale 1 against an already classified image of a known material class. For this value of the degree-of-similarity, .8, the probability that the to-be-classified image belongs to the class it is compared against is .9." It is crucial to recognize that this classification probability value (.9) results when using only one texture-scale, scale 1, in the classification process. Thus, in some or many classifications of to-be-classified images, it is likely that "high" classification probability values could result when considering only a small number of texture-scales.