



DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED MATHEMATICS

應用數學系

**The Hong Kong Polytechnic University  
Department of Applied Mathematics**

**Colloquium**

**Optimal basis algorithm and its application to  
interpolation and matrix scaling**

by

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**Abstract**

We present the optimal basis (OB) problem and the OB algorithm that we proposed in BIT (1997) 37, 591-599. The OB problem is formulated as follows. Given  $m+1$  points  $\{x_i\}_0^m$  in  $R^n$  which generate an  $m$ -dimensional linear manifold, construct for this manifold a maximally linearly independent basis that consists of vectors of the form  $x_i - x_j$ . This problem is present in, e.g., stable variants of the secant and interpolation methods, where it is required to approximate the Jacobian matrix  $f'$  of a nonlinear mapping  $f$  by using values of  $f$  computed at  $m + 1$  points. In this case, it is also desirable to have a combination of finite differences with maximal linear independence. As a natural measure of linear independence, we consider the Hadamard condition number which is minimized to find an optimal combination of  $m$  pairs  $\{x_i, x_j\}$  that defines the optimal basis. This problem is not NP-hard, but can be reduced to the minimum spanning tree problem, which is solved by the greedy algorithm in  $O(m^2)$  time. The complexity of this reduction is equivalent to one  $m \times n$  matrix-matrix multiplication, and according to the Coppersmith-Winograd estimate, is below  $O(n^{2.376})$  for  $m = n$ . We discuss possible applications of the OB algorithm for constructing simple non-diagonal prescaling procedures for iterative linear algebra solvers.

**Date : 20 November, 2018 (Tuesday)**

**Time : 11:00a.m. – 12:00noon**

**Venue : TU801, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University**

**\*\*\* ALL ARE WELCOME \*\*\***