

Retrieval of Shape using Curves and Contours

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ABSTRACT

Proposed method is dealing with multi-dimensional data modeling, extrapolation and interpolation using the set of high-dimensional feature vectors. Identification of handwriting, signature, faces or fingerprints need data modeling and each model of the pattern is built by a choice of characteristic key points and multi-dimensional modeling functions. Novel modeling via nodes combination and parameter γ as N -dimensional function enables data parameterization and interpolation for feature vectors. Multi-dimensional data is modeled and interpolated via different functions for each feature: polynomial, sine, cosine, tangent, cotangent, logarithm, exponent, arc sin, arc cos, arc tan, arc cot or power function.

Keywords: image retrieval; pattern recognition; data modeling; vector interpolation; PFC method; feature reconstruction; probabilistic modeling

INTRODUCTION

The idea of paper is connected with different curve modeling for the same set of curve points (nodes). The problem of multidimensional data modeling appears in many branches of science and industry. Image retrieval, data reconstruction; object identification or pattern recognition are still the open problems in artificial intelligence and computer vision. The paper is dealing with these questions via modeling of high-dimensional data for applications of image segmentation in image retrieval and recognition tasks. Handwriting based author recognition offers a huge number of significant implementations which make it an important research area in pattern recognition. There are so many possibilities and applications of the recognition algorithms that implemented methods have to be concerned on a single problem: retrieval, identification, verification or recognition. This paper is concerned with two parts: image retrieval and recognition tasks. Image retrieval is based on modeling of unknown features via combination of N -dimensional functions for each feature. In the case of biometric writer recognition, each person is represented by the set of modeled letters or symbols. The sketch of proposed method consists of three steps: first handwritten letter or symbol must be modeled by a vector of features (N -dimensional data), then compared with unknown letter and finally there is a decision of identification. Author recognition of handwriting and signature is based on the choice of feature vectors and modeling functions. So high-dimensional data interpolation in handwriting identification [20] is not only a pure mathematical problem but important task in pattern recognition and artificial intelligence such as: biometric recognition, personalized handwriting recognition [3-5], automatic forensic document examination [6,7], classification of ancient manuscripts [8]. Also writer recognition [9] in monolingual handwritten texts is an extensive area of study and the methods independent from the language are well-seen [10-13]. Proposed method represents language-independent and text-independent approach because it identifies the author via a set of letters or symbols from the sample.

Writer recognition methods in the recent years are going to various directions [14-18]: writer recognition using multi-script handwritten texts, introduction of new features, combining different types of features, studying the sensitivity of character size on writer identification, investigating writer identification in multi-script environments, impact of ruling lines on writer identification, model perturbed handwriting, methods based on run-length features, the edge-direction and edge-hinge features, a combination of codebook and visual features extracted from chain code and polygonized representation of contours, the autoregressive coefficients, codebook and efficient code extraction methods, texture analysis with Gabor filters and extracting features, using Hidden Markov Model [19] or Gaussian Mixture Model [1]. So hybrid soft computing is essential: no method is dealing with writer identification via N -dimensional data modeling or interpolation and multidimensional points comparing as it is presented in this paper. The paper wants to approach a problem of curve interpolation and shape modeling by characteristic points in handwriting identification [2]. Proposed method relies on nodes combination and functional modeling of curve points situated between the basic set of key points. The functions that are used in calculations represent whole family of elementary functions with inverse functions: polynomials, trigonometric, cyclometric, logarithmic, exponential and power function. Nowadays methods apply mainly polynomial functions, for example Bernstein polynomials in Bezier curves, splines [25] and NURBS. But Bezier curves don't represent the interpolation method and cannot be used for example in signature and handwriting modeling with characteristic points (nodes). Numerical methods [21-23] for data interpolation are based on polynomial or trigonometric functions, for example Lagrange, Newton, Aitken and Hermite methods. These methods have some weak sides and are not sufficient for curve interpolation in the situations when the curve cannot be built by polynomials or trigonometric functions [24].

This paper presents novel method of high-dimensional interpolation in hybrid soft computing and takes up method of multidimensional data modeling. The method requires information about data (image, object, and curve) as the set of N -dimensional feature vectors. So this paper wants to answer the question: how to retrieve the image using N -dimensional feature vectors and to recognize a handwritten letter or symbol by a set of high-dimensional nodes via hybrid soft computing?

MULTIDIMENSIONAL MODELING OF FEATURE VECTORS

Proposed method is computing (interpolating) unknown (unclear, noised or destroyed) values of features between two successive nodes (N -dimensional vectors of features) using hybridization of mathematical analysis and numerical methods, Calculated values (unknown or noised features such as coordinates, colors, textures or any coefficients of pixels, voxels and doxels or image parameters) are interpolated and parameterized for real number $\alpha_i \in [0;1]$ ($i = 1,2,...,N-1$) between two successive values of feature. This method uses the combinations of nodes (N -dimensional feature vectors) $p_1=(x_1,y_1,...,z_1)$, $p_2=(x_2,y_2,...,z_2),..., p_n=(x_n,y_n,...,z_n)$ as $h(p_1,p_2,...,p_m)$ and $m=1,2,...,n$ to interpolate unknown value of feature (for example y) for the rest of coordinates:

$$c_1 = \alpha_1 \cdot x_k + (1-\alpha_1) \cdot x_{k+1}, \dots, c_{N-1} = \alpha_{N-1} \cdot z_k + (1-\alpha_{N-1}) \cdot z_{k+1}, k = 1,2,...,n-1,$$

$$c = (c_1, \dots, c_{N-1}), \alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{N-1}), \gamma_i = F_i(\alpha_i) \in [0;1], i = 1,2,...,N-1$$

$$y(c) = \gamma \cdot y_k + (1-\gamma)y_{k+1} + \gamma(1-\gamma) \cdot h(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m) \tag{1}$$

$$\alpha_i \in [0;1], \gamma = F(\alpha) = F(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{N-1}) \in [0;1].$$

Then $N-1$ features c_1, \dots, c_{N-1} are parameterized by $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{N-1}$ between two nodes and the last feature (for example y) is interpolated via formula (1). Of course there can be calculated $x(c)$ or $z(c)$ using (1). Two examples of h (when $N = 2$) computed for MHR method [26] with good features because of orthogonal rows and columns at Hurwitz-Radon family of matrices:

$$h(p_1, p_2) = \frac{y_1}{x_1} x_2 + \frac{y_2}{x_2} x_1 \tag{2}$$

or

$$h(p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4) = \frac{1}{x_1^2 + x_3^2} (x_1 x_2 y_1 + x_2 x_3 y_3 + x_3 x_4 y_1 - x_1 x_4 y_3) + \frac{1}{x_2^2 + x_4^2} (x_1 x_2 y_2 + x_1 x_4 y_4 + x_3 x_4 y_2 - x_2 x_3 y_4)$$

The simplest nodes combination is

$$h(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m) = 0 \tag{3}$$

and then there is a formula of interpolation:

$$y(c) = \gamma \cdot y_i + (1-\gamma)y_{i+1}$$

Formula (1) gives the infinite number of calculations for unknown feature determined by choice of F and h . Nodes combination is the individual feature of each

modeled data. Coefficient $\gamma=F(\alpha)$ and nodes combination h are key factors in data interpolation and object modeling.

N-dimensional functions in modeling

Unknown values of features, settled between the nodes, are computed using (1). Key question is dealing with coefficient γ . The simplest way of calculation means $h = 0$ and $\gamma_i = \alpha_i$. Then proposed method represents a linear interpolation. Each interpolation requires specific values of α_i and γ in (1) depends on parameters $\alpha_i \in [0;1]$:

$$\gamma = F(\alpha), F: [0;1]^{N-1} \rightarrow [0;1], F(0, \dots, 0) = 0, F(1, \dots, 1) = 1$$

and F is strictly monotonic for each α_i separately. Coefficient γ_i are calculated using appropriate function and choice of function is connected with initial requirements and data specifications. Different values of coefficients γ_i are connected with applied functions $F_i(\alpha_i)$. These functions $\gamma_i = F_i(\alpha_i)$ represent the examples of modeling functions for $\alpha_i \in [0;1]$ and real number $s > 0, i = 1,2,...,N-1$. Each function is applied for different modelling:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_i &= \alpha_i^s, \gamma_i = \sin(\alpha_i^s \cdot \pi/2), \gamma_i = \sin^s(\alpha_i \cdot \pi/2), \gamma_i = 1 - \cos(\alpha_i^s \cdot \pi/2), \\ \gamma_i &= 1 - \cos^s(\alpha_i \cdot \pi/2), \gamma_i = \tan(\alpha_i^s \cdot \pi/4), \gamma_i = \tan^s(\alpha_i \cdot \pi/4), \\ \gamma_i &= \log_2(\alpha_i^s + 1), \gamma_i = \log_2^s(\alpha_i + 1), \\ \gamma_i &= (2^{\alpha_i} - 1)^s, \gamma_i = 2/\pi \cdot \arcsin(\alpha_i^s), \gamma_i = (2/\pi \cdot \arcsin \alpha_i)^s, \\ \gamma_i &= 1 - 2/\pi \cdot \arccos(\alpha_i^s), \gamma_i = 1 - (2/\pi \cdot \arccos \alpha_i)^s, \\ \gamma_i &= 4/\pi \cdot \arctan(\alpha_i^s), \gamma_i = (4/\pi \cdot \arctan \alpha_i)^s, \\ \gamma_i &= (\pi/2 - \alpha_i^s \cdot \pi/4), \gamma_i = \text{ctg}^s(\pi/2 - \alpha_i \cdot \pi/4), \\ \gamma_i &= 2 - 4/\pi \cdot \text{arctg}(\alpha_i^s), \gamma_i = (2 - 4/\pi \cdot \text{arctg} \alpha_i)^s \end{aligned}$$

or any strictly monotonic function between points (0;0) and (1;1). For example interpolations of function $y=2^x$ for $N = 2, h = 0$ and $\gamma = \alpha^s$ with $s = 0.8 \text{ ctg}$ (FIGURE 1) is much better than linear interpolation.

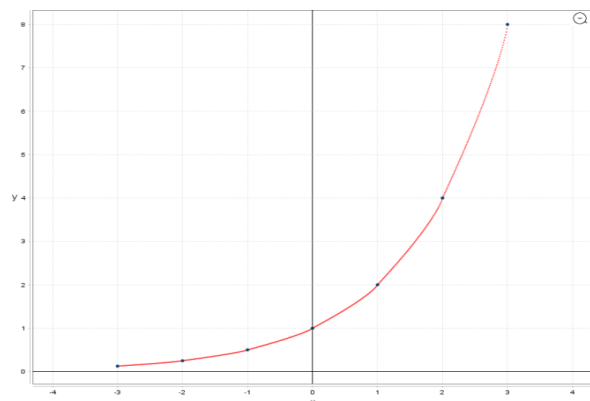


FIGURE 1: Two-dimensional modeling of function $y=2^x$ with seven nodes and $h=0, \gamma=\alpha^{0.8}$

Functions γ_i are strictly monotonic for each variable $\alpha_i \in [0;1]$ as $\gamma = F(\alpha)$ is N -dimensional modeling function, for example:

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \gamma_i, \gamma = \prod_{i=1}^{N-1} \gamma_i$$

and every monotonic combination of γ_i such as

$$\gamma = F(\alpha), F: [0;1]^{N-1} \rightarrow [0;1], F(0, \dots, 0) = 0, F(1, \dots, 1) = 1$$

For example when $N = 3$ there is a bilinear interpolation:

$$\gamma_1 = \alpha_1, \gamma_2 = \alpha_2, \gamma = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2) \tag{4}$$

or a bi-quadratic interpolation:

$$\gamma_1 = \alpha_1^2, \gamma_2 = \alpha_2^2, \gamma = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha_1^2 + \alpha_2^2) \tag{5}$$

or a bi-cubic interpolation:

$$\gamma_1 = \alpha_1^3, \gamma_2 = \alpha_2^3, \gamma = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha_1^3 + \alpha_2^3) \quad (6)$$

or others modeling functions γ . Choice of functions γ_i and value s depends on the specifications of feature vectors and individual requirements. What is very important: two data sets (for example a handwritten letter or signature) may have the same set of nodes (feature vectors: pixel coordinates, pressure, speed, angles) but different h or γ results in different interpolations (Fig.2-4). Here are three examples of reconstruction (Fig.2-4) for $N = 2$ and four nodes: (-1.5;-1), (1.25;3.15), (4.4;6.8) and (8;7). Formula of the curve is not given. Algorithm of proposed retrieval, interpolation and modeling consists of five steps: first choice of nodes p_i (feature vectors), then choice of nodes combination $h(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m)$, choice of modeling function $\gamma = F(\alpha)$, determining values of $\alpha \in [0;1]$ and finally the computations (1)

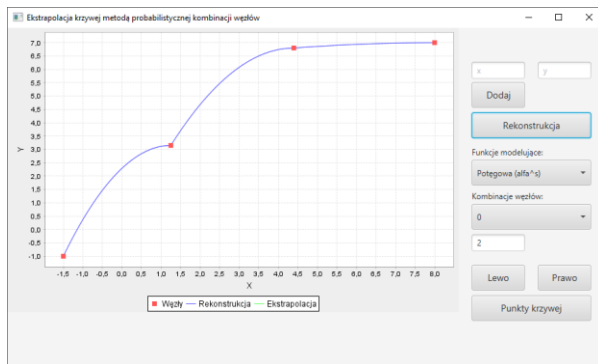


FIGURE 2: 2D modeling for $\gamma = \alpha^2$ and $h = 0$

And other interpolations for the same set of nodes:

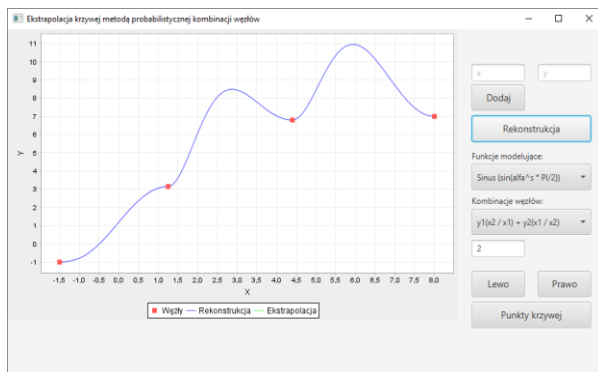


FIGURE 3: 2D reconstruction for $\gamma = \sin(\alpha^2 \cdot \pi/2)$ and h in (2).

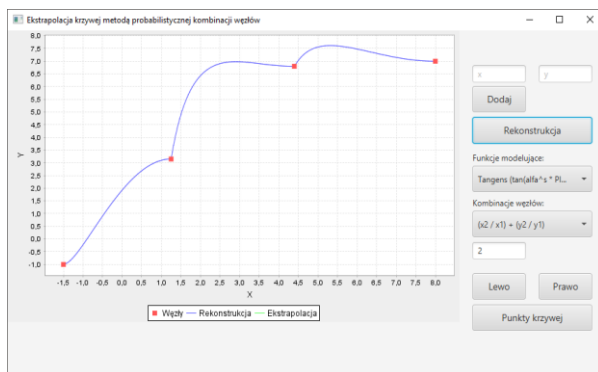


FIGURE 4: 2D interpolation for $\gamma = \tan(\alpha^2 \cdot \pi/4)$ and $h = (x_2/x_1) + (y_2/y_1)$

So there are different data reconstructions with different modeling functions. As it can be observed, there is one extremum between two nodes for modeling with $h \neq 0$ (Fig.3-4). Comparing with polynomial or spline interpolations, there is one very important question: **how to avoid extremum between each pair of nodes and how to minimize interpolation error?** Generally current methods do not answer this key question. Nowadays methods of interpolations rely mainly on polynomials, especially on cubic splines. It means that there are interpolation polynomials $W(x)$ of degree 3 for every range of two successive interpolation nodes (x_i, y_i) and (x_{i+1}, y_{i+1}) . This method of cubic splines is C^2 class – this fact is very important in many applications of cubic interpolation. But second important feature of this method is interpolation error for function $f(x)$:

$$|f(x) - W(x)| \leq 5M |(x - x_i)(x - x_{i+1})|,$$

$$M = \sup_{x \in [a,b]} |f''(x)|.$$

So interpolation error depends on second derivative in the range of nodes $[a;b]$ and this value cannot be estimated in general. Cubic spline can have extremum and may differ from interpolated function $f(x)$ very much. Also interpolation polynomial $W_n(x)$ of degree n (Lagrange or Newton) for $n+1$ nodes $(x_0, y_0), (x_1, y_1) \dots (x_n, y_n)$ is connected with unpredictable error in general with calculations of derivative rank $n+1$:

$$|f(x) - W_n(x)| \leq \frac{M_{n+1}}{(n+1)!} |(x - x_0)(x - x_1) \dots (x - x_n)|,$$

$$M_{n+1} = \sup_{x \in [a,b]} |f^{(n+1)}(x)|.$$

Proposed method with $h = 0$ and $\alpha \in [0;1]$ represents formulas as convex combinations of nodes' coordinates:

$$x(\alpha) = \alpha \cdot x_k + (1 - \alpha)x_{k+1}, \quad y(\alpha) = \gamma_k \cdot y_k + (1 - \gamma_k)y_{k+1}.$$

and interpolation error in general between two nodes looks as follows:

$$\mathcal{E}_k \leq |y_{k+1} - y_k|.$$

Proposed method is dealing with such significant features:

- no extremum between two nodes;
- interpolation error does not depend on the value of derivative in the nodes or outside the nodes (even if derivative does not exist);
- interpolated function can be smooth in the nodes (class C^1);
- reconstruction of the function that much differs from the shape of polynomial, and not only function but any curve, also closed;
- extrapolation is calculated with the same formulas for $\alpha \notin [0;1]$;
- the idea of linear interpolation is applied for other modeling functions, not only $\gamma = \alpha^s$;
- convexity between the nodes is fixed using two modeling functions:

$$\gamma_k = \alpha^s \quad \text{or} \quad \gamma_k = \sin(\alpha^s \cdot \pi/2)$$

with real parameter $s > 0$

These two kinds of modeling functions are the simplest function, chosen via many calculations as follows:

- $\gamma_k = \alpha^s$ if convexity is not changing between the nodes (x_k, y_k) and (x_{k+1}, y_{k+1}) ;
- $\gamma_k = \sin(\alpha^s \cdot \pi/2)$ if convexity is changing between the nodes (x_k, y_k) and (x_{k+1}, y_{k+1})

THEOREM If:

1. There are given nodes of continuous function
 $y = f(x): (x_0, y_0), (x_1, y_1) \dots (x_n, y_n), n \geq 2;$
2. There are formulas to calculate values between the nodes:

$$x(\alpha) = \alpha \cdot x_k + (1 - \alpha)x_{k+1},$$

$$y(\alpha) = \gamma_k \cdot y_k + (1 - \gamma_k)y_{k+1}.$$

$\alpha \in [0;1], k = 2,3 \dots n-1, \gamma_k = \alpha^s$ or $\gamma_k = \sin(\alpha^s \cdot \pi/2)$ with real parameter $s > 0;$

3. Three successive nodes are monotonic, for example let's assume:

$$y_0 > y_1 > y_2 \text{ or } y_0 < y_1 < y_2$$

Then there is the method of 2D curve interpolation and extrapolation such as:

T.1: There is no extremum between two successive nodes – interpolated function is monotonic in the range of two nodes.

T.2: Interpolated curve is class C^0 (continuous) or C^1 (continuous and smooth).

T.3: Interpolation error does not depend on the value of derivative in the nodes or outside the nodes (even if derivative does not exist).

T.4: Convexity between two nodes (x_k, y_k) and (x_{k+1}, y_{k+1}) is fixed using modeling functions $\gamma_k = \alpha^s$ (if convexity is not changing) or $\gamma_k = \sin(\alpha^s \cdot \pi/2)$ (if convexity is changing).

T.5: Extrapolation is calculated with the same formulas for $\alpha \notin [0;1]$.

Proof:

T.1: Convex combination to calculate $x(\alpha)$ and $y(\alpha)$ between two nodes with strictly monotonic function γ_k gives us monotonic interpolation of the curve with no extremum between two nodes.

T.2: Interpolated curve is class C^0 (continuous) just from definition of $x(\alpha)$ and $y(\alpha)$. Also smooth interpolation between nodes is achieved with the same. Only smooth function in the inner nodes must be proved. Here is shown how to achieve smooth function in the inner nodes – let's assume then $y_k \neq y_{k+1}$ for each k . If $y_k = y_{k+1}$ for any k , then according to T.1 there must be the simplest linear interpolation between nodes (x_k, y_k) and (x_{k+1}, y_{k+1}) and interpolated curve is not smooth in nodes (x_k, y_k) and (x_{k+1}, y_{k+1})

For first three monotonic nodes $(x_0, y_0), (x_1, y_1)$ and (x_2, y_2) there are calculations to fix parameter s for modeling function γ_1 between nodes (x_0, y_0) and (x_2, y_2) interpolating node (x_1, y_1) inside:

$$\alpha = \frac{x_2 - x_1}{x_2 - x_0} \in (0;1), \quad t = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{y_2 - y_0} \in (0;1).$$

If convexity is not changing between (x_0, y_0) and (x_2, y_2) , then $\gamma_1 = \alpha^s$ and $s = \log_{\alpha} t$.

If convexity is changing between (x_0, y_0) and (x_2, y_2) , then $\gamma_1 = \sin(\alpha^s \cdot \pi/2)$ and $s = \log_{\alpha} \left(\frac{2}{\pi} \arcsin t \right)$.

A1 (beginning of the loop in algorithm for $k = 2,3 \dots n-1$): Having modeling function γ_1 between nodes (x_0, y_0) and (x_2, y_2) , it is possible for any $\alpha^* \rightarrow 0$ calculate

$$x(\alpha^*) = \alpha^* \cdot x_0 + (1 - \alpha^*)x_2, \quad y(\alpha^*) = \gamma_1 \cdot y_0 + (1 - \gamma_1)y_2.$$

Then left difference quotient c is computed in the node (x_2, y_2) :

$$c = \frac{y_2 - y(\alpha^*)}{x_2 - x(\alpha^*)}.$$

Of course if value of derivative in (x_2, y_2) is known, $c = f'(x_2) \neq 0$. Then parameter u is fixed to obtain left (c) and right difference quotient equal in (x_2, y_2) – it means smooth in this node. If y_3 preserves the same monotonicity like y_2 and y_1 ($y_1 > y_2 > y_3$ or $y_1 < y_2 < y_3$) then

$$u = 1 - c(1 - \alpha^*) \frac{x_3 - x_2}{y_3 - y_2}.$$

If y_3 does not preserve the same monotonicity like y_2 and y_1 then (because of different sign of left and right difference quotient)

$$u = 1 + c(1 - \alpha^*) \frac{x_3 - x_2}{y_3 - y_2}.$$

And as it was: if convexity is not changing between (x_2, y_2) and (x_3, y_3) , then $\gamma_2 = \alpha^s$ and

$$s = \log_{\alpha^*} u.$$

If convexity is changing between (x_2, y_2) and (x_3, y_3) , then $\gamma_2 = \sin(\alpha^s \cdot \pi/2)$ and

$$s = \log_{\alpha^*} \left(\frac{2}{\pi} \arcsin u \right).$$

So smooth interpolation function in the node (x_2, y_2) is achieved. And smooth interpolation for next range of nodes (x_3, y_3) and (x_4, y_4) is starting like loop **A1** for $k=3$. And so on till last range of nodes (x_{n-1}, y_{n-1}) and (x_n, y_n) for $k = n-1$ in **A1**.

T.3: According to T.1 – interpolation error between two nodes for each k is equal:

$$\varepsilon_k \leq |y_{k+1} - y_k|.$$

T.4: These modeling functions are the simplest functions to achieve convexity changing or not.

T.5: Extrapolation left of first node (x_0, y_0) is done with modeling function γ_1 and $\alpha > 1$. Extrapolation right of last node (x_n, y_n) is done with modeling function γ_{n-1} and $\alpha < 0$. Then modeling function γ_{n-1} must have domain with $\alpha < 0$. If not, there is possibility to define:

$$x(\alpha) = \alpha \cdot x_{k+1} + (1 - \alpha)x_k,$$

$$y(\alpha) = \gamma_k \cdot y_{k+1} + (1 - \gamma_k)y_k.$$

This theorem describes main features of proposed method.

CONCLUSIONS

The autor's method enables interpolation and modeling of high-dimensional data using features' combinations and different coefficients γ : polynomial, sinusoidal, cosinusoidal, tangent, cotangent, logarithmic, exponential, arc sin, arc cos, arc tan, arc cot or power function. Functions for γ calculations are chosen individually at each data modeling and it is treated as N -dimensional function: γ depends on initial requirements and features' specifications. Novel method leads to data interpolation as handwriting or signature identification and image retrieval via discrete set of feature vectors in N -dimensional feature space. So this method makes

possible the combination of two important problems: interpolation and modeling in a matter of image retrieval or writer identification. Main features of the method are: this interpolation develops a linear interpolation in multidimensional feature spaces into other functions as N -dimensional functions; nodes combination and coefficients γ are crucial in the process of data parameterization and interpolation: they are computed individually for a single feature; modeling of closed curves.

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