

# Functional Adaptive Model Estimation

GARETH M. JAMES\* and BERNARD W. SILVERMAN†

## Abstract

In this article we are interested in modeling the relationship between a scalar,  $Y$ , and a functional predictor,  $X(t)$ . We introduce a highly flexible approach called "Functional Adaptive Model Estimation" (FAME) which extends generalized linear models (GLM), generalized additive models (GAM) and projection pursuit regression (PPR) to handle functional predictors. The FAME approach can model any of the standard exponential family of response distributions that are assumed for GLM or GAM while maintaining the flexibility of PPR. For example standard linear or logistic regression with functional predictors, as well as far more complicated models, can easily be applied using this approach. A functional principal components decomposition of the predictor functions is used to aid visualization of the relationship between  $X(t)$  and  $Y$ . We also show how the FAME procedure can be extended to deal with multiple functional and standard finite dimensional predictors, possibly with missing data. The FAME approach is illustrated on simulated data as well as on the prediction of arthritis based on bone shape. We end with a discussion of the relationships between standard regression approaches, their extensions to functional data and FAME.

*Some key words:* Functional predictor; Functional principal components; Generalized linear models; Generalized additive models; Projection pursuit regression.

## 1 Introduction

It is increasingly common to encounter regression problems where either the predictor, the response or both are functional in nature. A majority of the previous work in this area involves a functional response. For instance, Moyeed and Diggle (1994) and Zeger and Diggle (1994) model the relationship between response,  $Y(t)$ , and predictor,  $X(t)$ , both measured over time, using the equation,

$$Y(t) = \alpha_0(t) + \beta_0^T X(t) + \varepsilon(t) \quad (1)$$

where  $\alpha_0(t)$  is a smooth function of  $t$ ,  $\beta_0$  is a fixed but unknown vector of regression coefficients and  $\varepsilon(t)$  is a zero mean stationary Gaussian process. Hoover *et al.* (1998), Wu *et al.* (1998) and Lin and Ying (2001) use the varying-coefficient models proposed in Hastie and Tibshirani (1993) to extend (1) by allowing the regression coefficients to vary over time. Fahrmeir and Tutz (1994) and Liang and Zeger (1986) suggest an even more general framework where the response is modeled as a member of the exponential family of distributions.

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\*Marshall School of Business, University of Southern California

†St Peter's College, University of Oxford

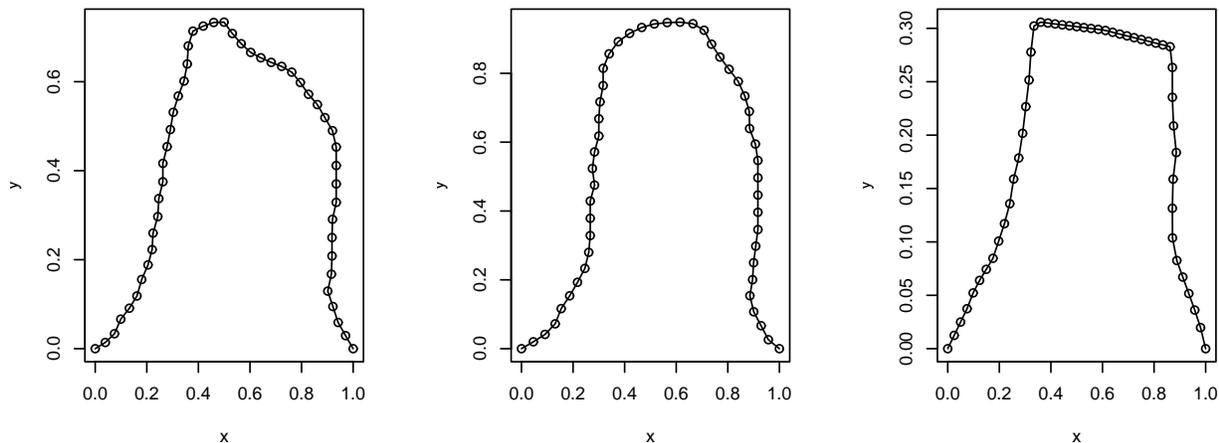


Figure 1: Two dimensional images of the intercondylar notch from the knee joint of three skeletons exhumed from St. Peter's Church, Barton-upon-Humber.

We are interested in an alternative situation where the predictors are functional but the response is scalar. An example of such a situation is provided in Figure 1. These images come from an excavation in the north of England that exhumed the skeletons of 2000 adults dating from between 1000 and 1500 C.E. (Shepstone *et al.*, 1999). The plots show two dimensional cross-sectional outlines of the intercondylar notch from the knee joint on the femur bone of three such individuals. For each joint in the sample an indicator of osteoarthritis of the knee was recorded. For example the first two joints here contained no evidence of osteoarthritis while the third did. It has been conjectured that certain bone shapes may affect the biomechanics of the joint and lead to osteoarthritis. Hence we are interested in whether the shape of the bone can be used as a predictor of osteoarthritis and if so what type of shape provides the strongest evidence.

This type of structure arises in numerous applications. Muller and Stadtmuller (2004) provide illustrations in astronomy (Hall *et al.*, 2000), DNA expression arrays with repeated measures (Alter *et al.*, 2000) and engineering (Hall *et al.*, 2001). However, there has been limited methodological work in this area. Hastie and Mallows (1993), Ramsay and Silverman (1997), Chapter 10 and Cardot *et al.* (2003b) discuss performing linear regression where the response is a scalar and the predictors functional. Ferraty and Vieu (2002) develop a nonparametric regression procedure. James and Hastie (2001) and Ferraty and Vieu (2003) use functional linear discriminant analysis models to perform classification for categorical responses with functional predictors. Marx and Eilers (1999), James (2002) and Muller and Stadtmuller (2004) suggest somewhat more general methods which provide extensions of generalized linear models (McCullagh and Nelder, 1989) to functional predictors. In this article we introduce a procedure that facilitates the modeling of highly non-linear response surfaces on general classes of response distributions using functional predictors. For standard  $p$ -dimensional predictors, non-linearity can be achieved through the use of procedures such as generalized additive models (Hastie and Tibshirani, 1990) or, if even more flexibility is required, through projection pursuit regression (Friedman and Stuetzle, 1981). Our approach, which we call “functional adaptive model estimation (FAME)”, combines characteristics of projection pursuit regression with generalized linear and additive models.

In Section 2 we present and motivate the FAME model for data with a single functional predictor as well as providing a fitting algorithm. We also develop asymptotic results under the restriction that the FAME

model can be represented using a finite dimensional basis. These results are used to provide confidence intervals and significance tests for model parameters. Several extensions are provided in Section 3. We first illustrate a procedure for applying the FAME methodology where there is measurement error in the predictors and demonstrate this approach on a simulated data set. We also provide extensions to multiple functional and finite dimensional covariates and apply this method to the femur bone data. Section 4 presents a simulation study which compares the performance of the FAME approach with other possible methods. Finally, Section 5 provides a discussion of the relationship of the FAME methodology to other finite dimensional and functional approaches.

## 2 Functional adaptive model estimation

In order to motivate our approach we first briefly review generalized linear models (GLM), generalized additive models (GAM) and projection pursuit regression (PPR). Generalized linear models provide a flexible framework for regressing response variables from the exponential family of distributions. One models the relationship between predictors  $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_p)$  and response  $Y$  using the link function  $g(\mu) = \beta_0 + \sum_{j=1}^p X_j \beta_j$  where  $\mu = E(Y|\mathbf{X})$ . While GLMs cover a wide class of response distributions they still assume a linear relationship between the predictors and  $g(\mu)$ . This linearity assumption is relaxed with generalized additive models using the link  $g(\mu) = \beta_0 + \sum_{j=1}^p f_j(X_j)$  where  $f_j$  is a smooth function estimated as part of the fitting procedure. GAMs allow for non-linear but still additive relationships between the predictors and  $g(\mu)$ . The additivity of GAM has the advantage that it allows one to identify the effect of each predictor individually while holding all other predictors constant but it significantly restricts the range of functions that can be fit.

Projection pursuit regression removes the additivity constraint by modeling a Gaussian response using

$$Y = \beta_0 + \sum_{k=1}^r f_k(\mathbf{X}^T \beta_k) + \varepsilon$$

where both  $f_k$  and  $\beta_k$  are estimated in the fitting procedure and  $r$  is arbitrary. PPR has several advantages over both GLM and GAM. First, it allows one to model a larger class of functions. For example, GAM can not model the simple interaction  $g(\mu) = X_1 X_2$  while PPR can. In fact by setting  $r$  large enough one can model any continuous function. Second, by studying the  $\beta_k$ 's one learns in which directions the variability of the predictors provide the most information about the response. However, because PPR does not utilize a link function it has less flexibility in terms of response distributions that can be modeled. Roosen and Hastie (1993) and more recently Lingjaerde and Liestol (1998) remove this constraint by adding a link of the form

$$g(\mu) = \beta_0 + \sum_{k=1}^r f_k(\mathbf{X}^T \beta_k). \tag{2}$$

This method is called generalized projection pursuit (GPP). The GLM and GAM link functions may both be considered special cases of (2).

## 2.1 The FAME Model

The aim of this paper is to extend GPP to data with functional predictors using our “functional adaptive model estimation” procedure. FAME can model non-Gaussian responses with the ease of GLM and GAM, has the flexibility of PPR to fit non-linear response surfaces and can be applied to functional data. One possible approach to fitting GPP to such data would be to sample the functional predictor,  $X(t)$ , over a fine grid of  $p$  time points to create a vector  $\mathbf{X}$ , thus removing the functional aspect of the problem. However, this approach has several potential problems. First, it necessitates modeling a very high-dimensional vector of coefficients, which may lead to an extremely unstable fit. Second, in many applications, individuals may be measured at different sets of time points and/or have differing numbers of observations. For such data, it is not possible to create finite dimensional predictors by simple discretization and so (2) can not be directly applied. A more successful approach is to replace the summation  $\mathbf{X}^T \beta_k$  with its functional analog, the integral

$$Z_{ik} = \int X_i(t) \beta_k(t) dt \quad (3)$$

where  $\beta_k(t)$  is a coefficient function giving the weighting placed on  $X(t)$  at each time. This method has a couple of advantages over the more ad hoc discretization approach. First, through the use of a smooth function to estimate  $\beta(t)$ , it properly utilizes the inherent correlation between nearby time points, effectively reducing the high dimensional nature of the data. Second, by utilizing smoothing techniques the integral can be calculated even on sparsely sampled predictors where the discretization approach would fail.

Combining (2) and (3) gives the FAME link

$$g(\mu_i) = \beta_0 + \sum_{k=1}^r f_k(Z_{ik}) = \beta_0 + \sum_{k=1}^r f_k \left( \int X_i(t) \beta_k(t) dt \right). \quad (4)$$

Equation 4 extends standard projection pursuit regression in two directions by introducing a link function to allow for non-Gaussian responses and replacing the summation  $\mathbf{X}^T \beta_k$  with an integral over  $X(t) \beta_k(t)$  to allow for functional predictors. Formally the FAME model can be written as

$$p(y_i; \theta_i, \phi) = \exp \left( \frac{y_i \theta_i - b(\theta_i)}{a(\phi)} + c(y_i, \phi) \right), \quad (5)$$

$$g(\mu_i) = \beta_0 + \sum_{k=1}^r f_k(Z_{ik}), \quad (6)$$

$$Z_{ik} = \int X_i(t) \beta_k(t) dt, \quad i = 1, \dots, N \quad (7)$$

where (5) is the response distribution, assumed to be a member of the exponential family with  $\mu_i = E(Y_i|X_i)$  and the  $f_k$ 's and  $\beta_k$ 's are suitably smooth curves. The relationship between predictor and response is specified through the unobserved latent variables  $Z_1, \dots, Z_r$  which are linear functions of  $X(t)$ . Note that (5) and (6) are related through the standard exponential family identity  $\mu = b'(\theta)$ . As with standard PPR the FAME model can experience confounding of parameters. In particular,  $\beta_k$  and  $f_k$  are confounded because identical values of  $f_k(Z_k)$  can be achieved by multiplying  $\beta_k$  by a constant and adjusting  $f_k$  accordingly. Hence we restrict

$$\int \beta_k(t) dt = 1 \quad k = 1, \dots, r. \quad (8)$$

Using (8)  $\beta_k(t)$  can be interpreted as a weighting function on the predictor at any given time. In addition, for  $r > 1$ ,  $f_k$  and  $f_j$  may be confounded. Thus we constrain

$$\text{cor}(Z_{ik}, Z_{ij}) = 0 \quad (9)$$

for all  $j \neq k$ . Equation (9) is analogous to the restriction placed on the eigenvectors in a principal components analysis and should have the additional advantage of reducing collinearity between terms.

As specific examples of FAME we consider two of the most common situations. First, for a Gaussian response with identity link the FAME model becomes

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \sum_{k=1}^r f_k \left( \int X_i(t) \beta_k(t) dt \right) + \varepsilon_i, \quad \varepsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma_y^2),$$

a functional analogue of projection pursuit regression. When the response is Bernoulli and a logistic link is used the FAME model reduces to

$$Y_i \sim \text{Bern}(p_i), \quad \log \left( \frac{p_i}{1-p_i} \right) = \beta_0 + \sum_{k=1}^r f_k \left( \int X_i(t) \beta_k(t) dt \right). \quad (10)$$

An alternative formulation of FAME can help facilitate interpretation. Consider the decomposition of the predictor function into a sum over its principal component curves,

$$X_i(t) = \bar{X}(t) + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \zeta_{im} \rho_m(t), \quad (11)$$

where  $\rho_m(t)$  represents the  $m$ th principal component curve and  $\zeta_{im}$  the corresponding weighting for the  $i$ th individual. Principal component curves have similar interpretations to their finite dimensional counterparts with the  $m$ th component explaining the largest proportion of the variability in the predictors subject to being orthogonal to the first  $m-1$  terms. Combining (7) and (11) we can reformulate  $Z_{ik}$  as

$$Z_{ik} = \alpha_k + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \zeta_{im} \beta_{km}^* \quad (12)$$

where  $\alpha_k = \int \bar{X}(t) \beta_k(t) dt$  is the mean of  $Z_{ik}$  and  $\beta_{km}^* = \int \beta_k(t) \rho_m(t) dt$ . Using this parameterization,  $\beta_{km}^*$  gives the weight placed on the  $m$ th principal component curve in constructing  $Z_{ik}$ . For example, if  $r = 1$  and  $\beta_{km}^* = 0$  for all  $m > 1$  then an individual's score on the first principal component would solely determine their value for  $Z_{ik}$  and hence  $\mu_i$ . We explore these two different formulations of FAME further in Section 3.

## 2.2 FAME fitting procedure

In this section we present a fitting algorithm for FAME which is based on maximizing a penalized likelihood. In practice we only ever observe  $X_i(t)$  at a finite set of time points so the predictors must be estimated using the observed values. Let  $X_i(t) = \mathbf{B}(t)^T \gamma_i$ ,

$$\beta_k(t) = \mathbf{B}(t)^T \eta_k \quad \text{and} \quad f_k(t) = \mathbf{s}(t)^T \delta_k \quad (13)$$

where  $\mathbf{B}(t)$  and  $\mathbf{s}(t)$  are both orthogonal finite  $q$ -dimensional bases, chosen prior to fitting the model. We utilize cubic splines. If one assumes that the predictors have been measured without error, then the estimation can be achieved by interpolating the observations as nearly as possible, using  $\mathbf{B}(t)$ . In Section 3.1 we address the case in which the predictors are measured with error. For the FAME model given by (5)-(7) the log likelihood, up to additive constants, is

$$l(f_k, \beta_0, \beta_k, \phi) = \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \frac{y_i \theta_i - b(\theta_i)}{a(\phi)} + c(y_i, \phi) \right] \quad (14)$$

subject to  $g(\mu_i) = \beta_0 + \sum_{k=1}^r f_k(Z_{ik})$ .

To initialize the FAME procedure we employ interpolating cubic splines with minimum integrated squared second derivative to estimate the  $X_i$ 's. This is just one of many bases that could be used. An iterative approach is then used to maximize a penalized version of (14). We start by fitting the model with  $r = 1$ . At the first stage,  $\beta_0$  and  $f_1$  are held fixed and  $\beta_1$  is estimated. The fit is achieved by maximizing (14) over  $\eta_1$  subject to a penalty term  $P(\beta)$  to ensure a smooth fit. There are several possible choices for  $P(\beta)$ . A common smoothness penalty involves using

$$P_1(\beta) = \lambda_\beta \int \beta_k''(t)^2 dt \quad (15)$$

which penalizes large second derivatives of  $\beta_k$ . However, in the original basis space the  $X_i$ 's tend to vary little, if at all, in certain directions meaning that it is impossible to produce reasonable estimates of  $\beta_k$  in those dimensions. Hence it may be beneficial to penalize  $\beta_k$  away from these directions using

$$P_2(\beta) = \lambda_\beta \sum_{m=1}^q \int (\beta_k(t) \rho_m(t) / s_m)^2 dt \quad (16)$$

where  $\rho_m$  is the  $m$ th principal component function of  $X_i$  and  $s_m$  is the corresponding standard deviation of the principal component scores.  $P_2(\beta)$  imposes a high penalty on  $\beta_k$ 's that have significant variability in the directions of  $X_i$  with little variance. It is interesting to note that (16) has similarities to condition 1 in Cardot *et al.* (2003b). In this paper we explore both penalty approaches. The parameter  $\lambda_\beta$  can be selected using cross-validation and a standard non-linear optimization package used to maximize the penalized likelihood over  $\eta_k$ .

The second stage involves estimating  $\beta_0$  and  $f_1$  with all other parameters held constant. Notice however, that with  $\beta_1$  fixed the  $Z_{i1}$ 's are also fixed and hence  $\beta_0$  and  $f_1$  can be estimated using any standard GAM package. The FAME procedure iterates through these two steps until the penalized likelihood converges. Then  $\beta_1, f_1$  and the  $Z_{i1}$ 's are fixed and the process is repeated for the  $r = 2$  model, producing estimates of  $\beta_2, f_2$  and the  $Z_{i2}$ 's subject to zero correlation between  $Z_{i1}$  and  $Z_{i2}$ . This continues until  $r$  reaches the preset maximum value. This nested structure has the advantage that to reduce the number of components in the link function one simply eliminates the redundant values of  $f_k$  and  $\beta_k$  without needing to refit the model.

### 2.3 Finite Dimensional Asymptotic Theory

In this section we derive asymptotic results for the FAME model under the assumptions of equation (13) i.e. that the  $\beta_k$ 's and  $f_k$ 's can be represented by finite dimensional bases and hence the FAME model is finite. Let

$\xi^0 = (\beta_0, \eta_1, \dots, \eta_r, \delta_1, \dots, \delta_r)$  denote the true vector of parameters for the FAME model given by (5)-(7). For notational simplicity we will assume  $\phi$  to be known. However, the theory can easily be extended to the case where  $\phi$  is also estimated. We denote by  $\hat{\xi}_N$  the corresponding estimators obtained from the penalized maximum likelihood fitting procedure. We show, under mild conditions, that  $\hat{\xi}_N$  is a consistent estimator for  $\xi^0$  and that  $\sqrt{N}(\hat{\xi}_N - \xi^0)$  asymptotically has a Gaussian distribution. These results are then used to provide asymptotic confidence intervals for  $\beta_k(t)$  and significance levels for  $f_k$ .

Let  $l(\xi)$  be the likelihood function for the FAME model and

$$I_N = -E_{\xi^0}(l''(\xi^0)) = -E_{\xi^0} \left[ \frac{\partial^2 l}{\partial \xi \partial \xi} \right]$$

be the corresponding information matrix. In order to prove our results we make the following assumptions.

A-1 There exist functions  $M_i$  such that

$$\left| \frac{\partial^3}{\partial \xi_j \partial \xi_k \partial \xi_l} \left( \frac{Y_i \theta_i - b(\theta_i)}{a(\phi)} + c(y_i, \phi) \right) \right| \leq M_i(Y_i)$$

where  $P_{\xi^0}(\frac{1}{N} \sum_i M_i(Y_i) < m_1) \rightarrow 1$  for some  $m_1 < \infty$  and all  $\xi$ .

A-2  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} E_{\xi^0}(-l''(\xi^0)) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} I_N/N = \bar{I}$  where  $\bar{I}$  is a positive definite matrix with finite components.

A-3  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N^2} \text{Var}_{\xi^0}(l''(\xi^0)_{jk}) = 0$  for all  $j$  and  $k$ .

A-4 There exists an  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $m_2 < \infty$  such that

$$E_{\xi^0} \left[ \left| \frac{(Y_i - \mu_i)}{g'(\mu_i) \text{Var}(y_i)} \sum_{k=1}^r \frac{\partial f_k(Z_{ik})}{\partial \xi_j} \right|^{2+\varepsilon} \right] \leq m_2$$

for all  $i$  and  $j$ .

(A-1) and (A-3) place bounds on the third derivative and variance of the second derivative of the likelihood functions. For all common members of the exponential family, they will hold under very general conditions on  $f_k$  and  $X_i(t)$ . (A-2) requires that the information provided by  $Y_i$  and  $X_i(t)$  approaches infinity. This assumption is standard in any linear models framework such as GLM. If, for example, the predictors converged to a constant,  $I_N/N$  would approach zero and a consistent estimator would not exist. Finally, (A-4) is required to ensure asymptotic normality of the estimators. Again for all standard members of the exponential family (A-4) will hold under general conditions on  $f_k$  and  $f'_k$ . Utilizing these assumptions Theorems 1 and 2 prove asymptotic consistency and normality of the solutions of the FAME likelihood equations.

**Theorem 1** Assuming (A-1) through (A-3) and (13) hold, asymptotically a sequence  $\{\hat{\xi}_N\}$  of solutions of the FAME likelihood equations exists and is consistent for estimating  $\xi^0$ .

**Theorem 2** Let  $\hat{\xi}_N$  be a consistent solution of the FAME likelihood equations. Then assuming (A-1) through (A-4) and (13) hold,

$$\sqrt{N}(\hat{\xi}_N - \xi^0) \Rightarrow N(0, \bar{I}^{-1}).$$

Proofs of these results can be found at [www-rcf.usc.edu/~gareth](http://www-rcf.usc.edu/~gareth). The proofs utilize standard methods from maximum likelihood theory with the added complication that the observations are not identically distributed. In practice  $\bar{I}$  will be approximated by  $I_N/N = \frac{1}{N} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{I_i^*}{\text{Var}(y_i)g'(\mu_i)^2} + D_\Omega \right]$  where

$$I_i^* = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & f_1'(Z_{i1})\gamma_i^{*T} & f_2'(Z_{i2})\gamma_i^{*T} & \cdots & \mathbf{s}^T(Z_{i1}) & \mathbf{s}^T(Z_{i2}) & \cdots \\ f_1'(Z_{i1})\gamma_i^* & f_1'(Z_{i1})^2\gamma_i^*\gamma_i^{*T} & f_1'(Z_{i1})f_2'(Z_{i2})\gamma_i^*\gamma_i^{*T} & \cdots & f_1'(Z_{i1})\gamma_i^*\mathbf{s}^T(Z_{i1}) & f_1'(Z_{i1})\gamma_i^*\mathbf{s}^T(Z_{i2}) & \cdots \\ f_2'(Z_{i2})\gamma_i^* & f_1'(Z_{i1})f_2'(Z_{i2})\gamma_i^*\gamma_i^{*T} & f_2'(Z_{i2})^2\gamma_i^*\gamma_i^{*T} & \cdots & f_2'(Z_{i2})\gamma_i^*\mathbf{s}^T(Z_{i1}) & f_2'(Z_{i2})\gamma_i^*\mathbf{s}^T(Z_{i2}) & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \\ \mathbf{s}(Z_{i1}) & f_1'(Z_{i1})\mathbf{s}(Z_{i1})\gamma_i^{*T} & f_2'(Z_{i2})\mathbf{s}(Z_{i1})\gamma_i^{*T} & \cdots & \mathbf{s}(Z_{i1})\mathbf{s}^T(Z_{i1}) & \mathbf{s}(Z_{i1})\mathbf{s}^T(Z_{i2}) & \cdots \\ \mathbf{s}(Z_{i2}) & f_1'(Z_{i1})\mathbf{s}(Z_{i2})\gamma_i^{*T} & f_2'(Z_{i2})\mathbf{s}(Z_{i2})\gamma_i^{*T} & \cdots & \mathbf{s}(Z_{i2})\mathbf{s}^T(Z_{i1}) & \mathbf{s}(Z_{i2})\mathbf{s}^T(Z_{i2}) & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix} \quad (17)$$

and  $\gamma_{ij}^* = \gamma_{ij} - \frac{\int B_j(t)dt}{\int B_q(t)dt} \gamma_{iq}$  for  $1 \leq j \leq q-1$ .  $D_\Omega$  is a block diagonal matrix corresponding to the penalty terms on  $\beta_k(t)$  and  $f_k(t)$ . For example when using  $P_1(\beta)$ , the penalty on  $\eta_k$  is  $\Omega_{\eta_k} = \lambda_\beta \int \mathbf{B}''(t)\mathbf{B}''^T(t)dt$ .

Theorem 2 suggests approaches for calculating pointwise confidence intervals on  $\beta_k(t)$  and significance levels on  $f_k$ . We summarize these results in Corollaries 1 and 2.

**Corollary 1** Let  $\hat{\beta}_k(t) = \mathbf{B}^T(t)\hat{\eta}_k$ . Then under the assumptions given in Theorem 2, for any fixed  $t$ ,

$$P \left\{ \hat{\beta}(t) - \Phi_{1-\alpha/2}^{-1} \sqrt{\mathbf{B}^T(t)\Sigma_{\hat{\eta}_k}\mathbf{B}(t)/N} \leq \beta(t) \leq \hat{\beta}(t) + \Phi_{1-\alpha/2}^{-1} \sqrt{\mathbf{B}^T(t)\Sigma_{\hat{\eta}_k}\mathbf{B}(t)/N} \right\} \rightarrow 1 - \alpha$$

where  $\Sigma_{\hat{\eta}_k}$  is equal to the block diagonal component of  $\bar{I}^{-1}$  corresponding to  $\eta_k$  and  $\Phi$  is the standard normal cdf.

**Corollary 2** Let  $\Sigma_{\delta_k}$  be the block diagonal component of  $\bar{I}_{(-\eta_k)}^{-1}$  corresponding to  $\delta_k$  where  $\bar{I}_{(-\eta_k)}$  is equal to  $\bar{I}$  with all elements involving  $\eta_k$  removed. Then under (A-1), (A-3), (A-4), (13) and the null hypothesis of no relationship between  $Y$  and  $X(t)$

$$X_1^2 = N\hat{\delta}_1^T \Sigma_{\delta_1}^{-1} \hat{\delta}_1 \Rightarrow \chi_q^2. \quad (18)$$

Under the null hypothesis that there are exactly  $r$  terms in the model

$$X_{r+1}^2 = \hat{\delta}_{r+1}^T \Sigma_{\delta_{r+1}}^{-1} \hat{\delta}_{r+1} \Rightarrow \chi_q^2. \quad (19)$$

Notice that under the null hypothesis of no relationship between response and predictor  $f_k' = 0$  so that the information matrix given by (17) is non-singular which is a violation of (A-2). In fact it is easily seen that there is no consistent estimator of  $\beta(t)$  in this case. However, a small modification of the proof of Theorem 2 shows that  $\hat{\delta}_1$  will still converge to a normal distribution with the information matrix given by the terms in (17) that correspond to  $\beta_0$  and  $\delta_1$  i.e.

$$I_i^* = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \mathbf{s}^T(Z_{i1}) \\ \mathbf{s}(Z_{i1}) & \mathbf{s}(Z_{i1})\mathbf{s}^T(Z_{i1}) \end{bmatrix}.$$

The ability to remove the terms involving  $\eta_1$  from the information matrix can significantly increase the power of the test. Corollary 2 suggests an iterative approach for choosing  $r$ . First fit FAME with  $r = 1$  and

calculate the significance of the first term using (18). Then proceed stepwise adding additional terms and testing significance using (19) until the  $r + 1$ st term fails the test.

### 3 Extensions

#### 3.1 FAME with measurement error

In some circumstances it may be more reasonable to assume that the predictors,  $X_i(t)$ , have not been observed exactly. For example, one often has measurement error in medical experiments. In this case if we denote the observed values by  $X_i^{obs}(t)$  and the measurement error by  $e_i(t)$  then

$$X_i^{obs}(t) = X_i(t) + e_i(t), \quad i = 1, \dots, N. \quad (20)$$

with  $X_i(t) = \mathbf{B}(t)^T \gamma_i$ . We make the standard choice of modeling the error terms at each observed time as uncorrelated Gaussian random variables with variance  $\sigma_x^2$ . Hence if the  $i$ th individual is observed at times  $t_{i1}, \dots, t_{in_i}$  then from (5)-(7) and (20) the log likelihood, up to additive constants, is

$$l(\sigma_x^2, f_k, \beta_0, \beta_k, \phi, X_i) = \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \frac{y_i \theta_i - b(\theta_i)}{a(\phi)} + c(y_i, \phi) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{l=1}^{n_i} \left[ \log \sigma_x^2 + \frac{1}{\sigma_x^2} \left( X_i^{obs}(t_{il}) - X_i(t_{il}) \right)^2 \right] \right] \quad (21)$$

subject to  $g(\mu_i) = \beta_0 + \sum_{k=1}^r f_k(Z_{ik})$ . The assumption of independence of the error terms may, in some circumstances, be an oversimplification. Provided the predictors are observed at enough time points a correlation term could potentially be estimated but we have not found this necessary in practice.

The FAME algorithm with measurement error in the predictors is fit in a similar manner to that outlined in Section 2.2 with the addition of one extra step in the iteration. Instead of initializing the procedure by fixing the  $X_i$ 's one uses the current values of the other parameters as well as the observed measurements,  $X_i^{obs}(t)$ , and the responses,  $Y_i$ , to provide an updated estimate of the  $X_i$ 's. It is an interesting feature of this problem that the responses provide additional information in the estimation of the  $X_i$ 's. We again start with  $r = 1$  but at each step use the current estimates of  $\beta_1, \beta_0$  and  $f_1$  along with the response to update the  $X_i$ 's. The fit is obtained by maximizing (21) over the  $\gamma_i$ 's subject to the penalty term

$$\lambda_x \int X_i''(t)^2 dt \quad (22)$$

which ensures smooth fits of the  $X_i$ 's. To reduce computational burden  $\lambda_x$  is chosen prior to fitting the model using cross-validation on the predictors alone. The maximization of the penalized likelihood can be achieved relatively quickly using any standard non-linear optimization package because it is possible to calculate the derivatives analytically. An estimate of  $\sigma_x^2$  is also produced using the maximum likelihood value

$$\sigma_x^2 = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^N n_i} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^{n_i} \left( X_i^{obs}(t_{il}) - X_i(t_{il}) \right)^2.$$

We then estimate  $\beta_0, f_1$  and  $\beta_1$  just as in the zero measurement error case and iterate until the penalized likelihood converges. At this point we fix  $\beta_1, f_1, \sigma_x^2$ , the  $X_i$ 's and  $Z_{i1}$ 's and increase  $r$  by one. This process continues, with the  $X_i$ 's now fixed, until the maximum value for  $r$  is reached.

Figure 2 illustrates the FAME with measurement error approach on a simulated data set where the predictors were sampled with uncertainty. The model was run with  $r = 1$ , so we drop the subscript  $k$  in our discussion. To produce the simulated data we first generated  $\beta, f$  and 100  $X_i$ 's. These curves were all produced using third order polynomials with random Gaussian coefficients. The observed values of the predictors were obtained by sampling each  $X_i$  at 50 random time points and adding Gaussian noise. Finally, the responses were generated from a Gaussian distribution with mean  $f(Z)$  where  $Z$  was given by (7). We used 15-dimensional cubic b-splines as the basis for  $\beta$  and the  $X_i$ 's and  $P_2(\beta)$  as the penalty term on  $\beta$ . Both  $\lambda_\beta$  and  $\lambda_x$  were chosen by cross-validation. The function  $f$  was fit using the GAM package in R. Figure 2(a) gives the true  $\beta$  curve, its estimate and 95% pointwise confidence intervals produced from Corollary 1. For this simulation we found that the best results for  $\beta$  were obtained using the penalty term  $P_2(\beta)$  although a fairly similar fit was produced using  $P_1(\beta)$ . Figure 2(b) gives the observed responses and the mean response function together with its FAME fit. Notice that even though the responses have considerable noise and the  $Z_i$ 's that generate the mean function are never observed it is possible to accurately recover all the components of the data. The  $\beta$  curve shows that individuals with low predictors at early and late times will have high  $Z$  scores and vice versa. The mean curve indicates that subjects with low  $Z$  scores will have high responses and vice versa. Thus individuals with high values of  $X_i$  at the early and late time periods will have high responses. Values of  $X_i$  in the middle time periods have comparatively less influence on  $Z_i$  and hence on the response. The fact that the response surface is clearly non-linear indicates that a standard functional GLM (James, 2002), which assumes linearity and a fixed link  $g$ , would not be adequate for this data. Another possible approach here would be to use a more advanced functional GLM approach which also estimates the link. Such a method could be expected to give similar results to FAME with  $r$  restricted to one.

In this example the first four principal component curves explain almost 100% of the variability in the  $X_i$ 's. Hence from (12) we see that

$$Z_i \approx \alpha + \sum_{m=1}^4 \zeta_{im} \beta_m^* \quad (23)$$

where  $\zeta_{im}$  is the loading for the  $m$ th principal component on the  $i$ th predictor,  $X_i$ . Equation 23 provides an alternative method of presenting the FAME results, which is often more illuminating about the relationship between  $X_i$  and  $Z_i$  than the raw  $\beta$  curve. For this data  $\beta^{*T} = (-20.296, -0.386, -0.006, 0.015)$  so in calculating  $Z_i$  almost all the weight is placed on the first component loading. Figures 2(c) and (d) provide plots of the first two principal component curves. The  $+$  and  $-$  curves correspond respectively to the mean function plus or minus three times the principal component. Hence an individual whose predictor curve looks like the  $+$  curve for PC 1 would have  $\zeta^T = (3, 0, 0, 0)$  and their  $Z$  would be  $20.296 \times 3$  below the average. The effect of this value of  $Z$  on the response can in turn be seen in Figure 2(b). Similar observations can be made for the other principal component curves. However, since the other components have much smaller  $\beta^*$  coefficients they have a comparatively low effect on the  $Z$  score and hence the response. A formulation such as (23) allows one to easily assess the types of variation in the predictors that have the greatest impact on the response. Notice that in this example  $\beta$  had a similar shape to the first principal component curve. This helps explain the superior performance of  $P_2(\beta)$  which shrinks towards the dominant directions of variability.

### 3.2 Multivariate Data

The FAME model presented in Section 2 was for a single predictor. However, extending the model to multiple functional and finite dimensional covariates is straightforward. Suppose that for each individual

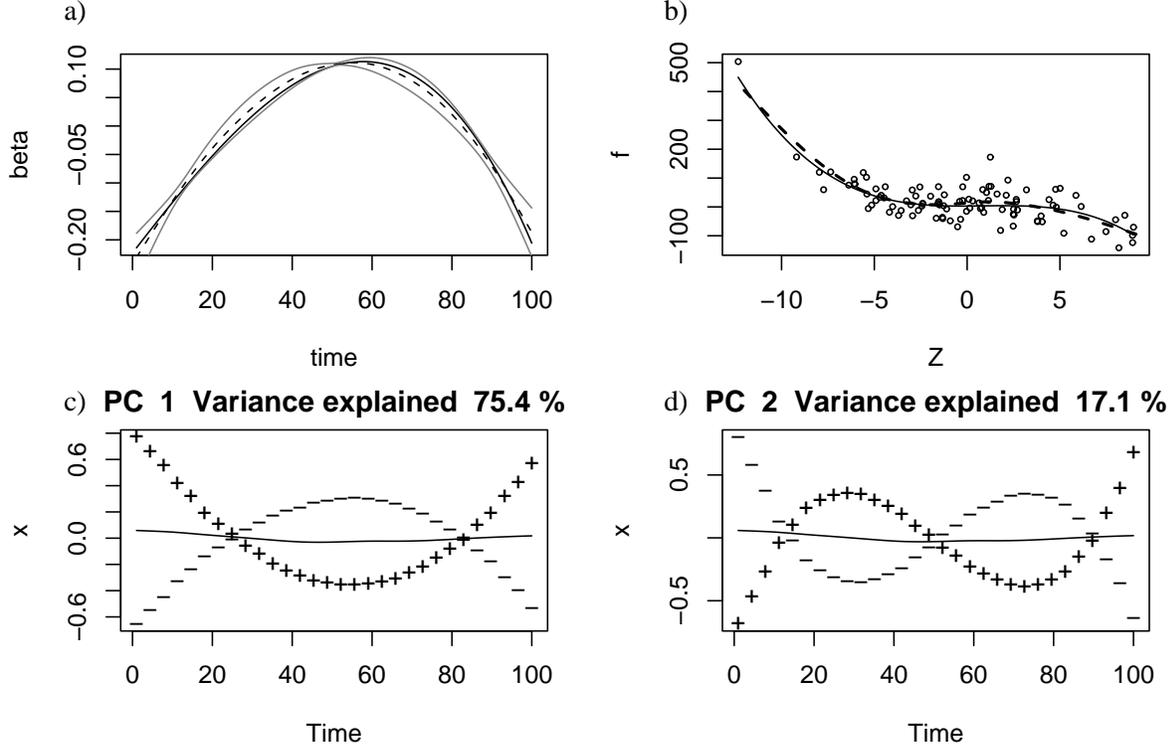


Figure 2: (a) and (b) Results from the FAME fit to a simulated data set. Solid black curves indicate the truth, dashed lines give estimates and grey lines represent 95% confidence intervals. (c) and (d) The first two principal component curves of the predictors on the simulated data set.

we observe measurements from the predictor functions  $X_{i1}, \dots, X_{ip}$  and a vector of standard covariates  $\omega_i^T = (\omega_{i(p+1)}, \dots, \omega_{i(p+s)})$ . The FAME model can be augmented in one of two ways. The first approach, most directly analogous to PPR, uses the same link function as standard FAME, (6), but replaces (7) by

$$Z_{ik} = \sum_{j=1}^p \int X_{ij}(t) \beta_{kj}(t) dt + \omega_i^T \beta_{k\omega}. \quad (24)$$

Equation 24 models  $Z_{ik}$  as a linear combination of all the predictors. In all other respects the FAME model remains identical. The second approach, more closely akin to GAM, fits a separate smooth function for each predictor. In this case (6) becomes

$$g(\mu_i) = \beta_0 + \sum_{j=1}^p f_j(Z_{ij}) + \sum_{j=p+1}^{p+s} f_j(\omega_{ij}) \quad (25)$$

where  $Z_{ij} = \int X_{ij}(t) \beta_j(t) dt$ . The first approach includes the second as a special case and has the advantage of providing a more flexible fit. However, it becomes very difficult to separate out the individual effects of each predictor using (24) while this is still possible with (25). Hence, as a general rule one should utilize the first approach when the ultimate goal is prediction of the response and the second if inference about the individual predictors is desired. We illustrate this technique on the femur bone data set.

	$\beta^*$			EDF	$f_1$	
	PC 1	PC 2	PC 3		$\chi^2$	p-value
Term 1	0.181 (0.024, 0.338)	0.005 (-0.145, 0.155)	-0.032 (-0.152, 0.088)	1	7.5	0.0062

Table 1: A table for the femur bone data. The first three columns contain the weights of  $\beta$  on the corresponding principal components of the predictors. Confidence intervals are provided in parentheses. The remaining columns give the estimated degrees of freedom and significance values for  $f_1$ .

The femur bone data consists of two-dimensional functions describing cross-sectional images of bones from 96 individuals. The data were preprocessed to produce a matrix of 50 two-dimensional points, equally spaced by arc length, giving the outline of a specific section of each individual’s femur bone. An image for a typical subject is provided in Figure 3(a). Full details of the preprocessing are given in Ramsay and Silverman (2002). By indexing the observations from 1 to 50 moving in a clockwise direction we can plot the data using two curves for each individual, one each for the  $x$  and  $y$  directions. Figures 3(b) and (c) show the  $x$  and  $y$  curves that correspond to Figure 3(a). For each person the data also include an indicator for osteoarthritis. We wish to use the  $x$  and  $y$  curves as predictors of arthritis. Since the curves here are really just two dimensions of a single function we are not primarily interested in the individual effect of  $x$  and  $y$  so it is natural to apply the multivariate version of FAME using (24).

Unlike the simulated data in the previous section which contained noisy observations of each curve, for this data we essentially have measurements of the entire function with no noise. Thus we fit the no measurement error version of FAME using a variety of values for  $r$ , 15-dimensional cubic b-spline bases and both  $P_1(\beta)$  and  $P_2(\beta)$ . The fit using  $P_2(\beta)$  and  $r = 1$  is given in Figure 3. The  $\beta$  curves, along with 95% confidence intervals, for the  $x$  and  $y$  directions are provided in Figures 3(d) and (e) respectively. The confidence intervals suggest no clear trend in the  $x$  direction and positive, but decreasing, weight on the second half of observations in the  $y$  direction. Unfortunately, the two-dimensional nature of the data makes the  $\beta$  curves more difficult to interpret. However, as in the one-dimensional case, one can analyze the data by decomposing the predictor functions into their first few principal component curves and examining the corresponding values of  $\beta^*$ . The first three principal component curves are given in Figures 3(f) through (h) and  $\beta^*$  is provided in Table 1. The first component accounts for a high proportion of all variability and primarily corresponds to variation in the  $y$  direction. The next two components relate more strongly to variability in the  $x$  direction. By examining  $\beta^*$  it is clear that most of the weight in calculating  $Z_i$  is placed on the first component indicating that this type of variation in the  $y$  direction is the most important predictor of arthritis. In fact, judging from the confidence intervals for  $\beta^*$  provided in parentheses the first component is the only significant term. The variability in the other components explains the wide confidence intervals in the first half of Figure 3(d). The last three columns of Table 1 provide the estimated degrees of freedom as well as significance values for the smooth term,  $f_1(Z_i)$ . The edf indicates that a linear fit is optimal and the p-value suggests that the bone images are highly significant predictors of arthritis. The slope of the smooth term was negative which, when combined with the positive value of  $\beta_1^*$ , indicates that individuals with shrunken bones in the  $y$  direction are at greater risk for developing arthritis. We next repeated the procedure with  $r = 2$ . The second term placed most of its weight on the second principal component but was not statistically significant.

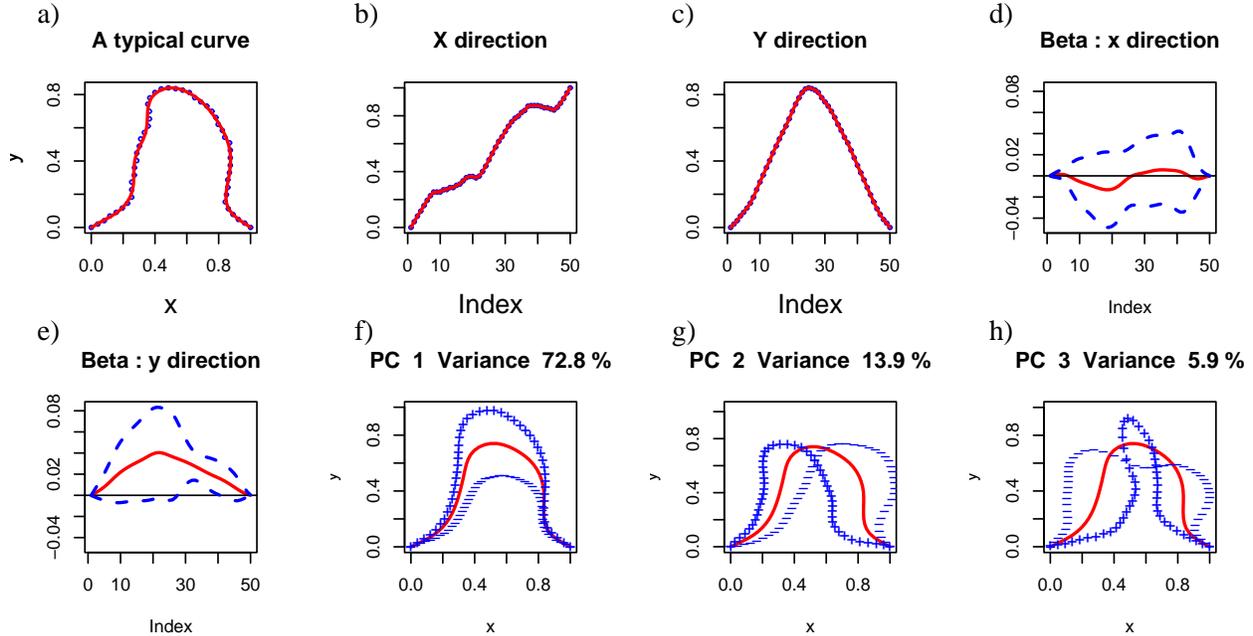


Figure 3: Plots for the femur bone data showing a typical curve (a)-(c),  $\beta$  curves (solid) with confidence intervals (dashed) for the FAME fit (d) and (e) and the first three principal component curves (f)-(h).

## 4 Simulation study

### 4.1 FAME predictive performance

This section provides the results from a simulation study designed to test the performance of FAME in comparison with other approaches. We compared six different procedures on four test distributions. The first two methods were FAME with penalties  $P_1(\beta)$  and  $P_2(\beta)$  and 15-dimensional cubic b-spline bases. The third procedure, Functional Generalized Linear Models “FGLM” (James, 2002) provides a GLM fit to functional predictors. It is essentially identical to FAME with  $r = 1$ ,  $f_1$  restricted to be linear and the link  $g$  taken to be fixed. With the fourth approach, “S. Spline”, we fit a cubic smoothing spline to each individual predictor curve, produced estimates of the curve at each of ten equally spaced time points and used these ten observations as predictors in a standard linear regression. For the fifth method, “All points”, the original measurements for each curve were sorted by time of observation and then used as predictors in a linear regression. This approach is only feasible if all the subjects have the same number of observations and may perform poorly if individual curves are observed at very different time points. The final procedure, “Average”, just involved taking the mean of the existing observations for each curve and using this value as the predictor in a simple linear regression.

For each of the four simulations a test data set of 1000 observations was drawn from a given distribution. Each observation consisted of measurements along a predictor curve and a corresponding scalar response. In addition 100 training data sets were produced from the same distribution and fit with each of the six procedures. The goal was to use the training data and the predictors from the test data to provide as accurate predictions as possible for the 1000 test responses. The results for all four simulations are shown in Table 2 with standard errors over the 100 training data sets in parentheses. All results are shown as a percentage

Method	Simulation			
	1	2	3	4
FAME $P_1(\beta)$	3(0.1)	29(0.8)	38(1.5)	33(1.3)
FAME $P_2(\beta)$	3(0.1)	26(0.5)	33(0.4)	29(0.6)
FGLM	3(0.1)	60(0.3)	62(0.6)	63(0.6)
S. Spline	4(0.2)	66(0.5)	73(1.4)	67(1.0)
All points	60(1.6)	110(1.8)	137(4.3)	113(2.6)
Average	106(0.7)	101(0.3)	103(0.6)	102(0.4)

Table 2: Results from the four simulation studies with standard errors in parentheses. Results are shown as a percentage of the mean squared error produced by simply using the average of the training responses to predict the test responses.

of the mean squared error produced by simply using the average of the training responses to predict the test responses. For example, on the first simulation the predictions from FAME produced mean squared deviations from the actual test responses that were only 3% of those obtained using the average of the training data. Taking the complement of this number gives the percentage of test sample error explained by using the predictor curves and is analogous to  $R^2$ . For instance FAME explained 97% of all the variability in the test responses in simulation 1.

The first simulation, intended to illustrate a situation where many simple approaches may work, involved producing responses that were a linear functional of the predictor curves. For each observation two predictor curves,  $X_{i1}$  and  $X_{i2}$ , were produced and each curve was sampled at ten random time points without measurement error. The curves were generated using cubic functions with randomly chosen Gaussian coefficients. Each response was then produced by taking a linear combination of the coefficients for each of the two predictor curves and adding a small amount of random noise. A total of 50 observations were produced for each training data set. Since the data had little measurement error and did not involve any non-linear transformation of the predictors one would expect FAME to lose much of its advantage over other methods. Table 2 shows that FAME, using either type of penalty function, produced considerably improved results over those from using the training response mean. As one would expect given the linearity of the data FGLM produced almost identical results. In problems involving linear data with more measurement error one may even expect FGLM to slightly outperform FAME because it should produce less variable results. The smoothing spline fit, S. Spline, gave similar, though slightly inferior results. The other two methods, All points and Average, both resulted in far inferior fits with the latter actually producing worse results than simply using the mean of the training response.

The second simulation used the distribution of the data from Section 3.1 with  $\sigma_x = 0.1$  and  $\sigma_y = 50$ . These data had a non-linear relationship between the predictors and response, a situation where FAME might be expected to provide significant improvements over other approaches. In fact both FAME methods produced considerably superior results over the other, linear, methods. FGLM was the best of the linear approaches but still produced error rates approximately twice those of FAME. More complicated versions of FGLM exist in which the link function is also estimated. It is likely such an approach would produce results more similar to FAME with  $r = 1$ . S. Spline gave similar fits to FGLM but the other two methods failed completely. In this example the penalty term  $P_2(\beta)$  gave slightly better results but it is possible that further fine tuning of the smoothing parameter  $\lambda_\beta$  would reduce the difference in performance.

The final two simulations were designed to test the robustness of FAME to violations of the Gaussian

error assumptions for both the predictors and response. In Simulation 3 we replicated the data from the previous simulation but used noise from a  $t$ -distribution with three degrees of freedom, appropriately scaled to maintain the original standard deviations. This change in the error distribution produced only a minor deterioration in the performance of FAME. While a  $t$ -distribution is heavier tailed than the Gaussian it still has a symmetrical bell shape. For the final simulation we utilized errors from the exponential distribution, standardized to have mean zero and the correct standard deviations. Again there were only minor deteriorations noted in the FAME fit suggesting that the procedure is fairly robust to violations of the model assumptions.

## 4.2 Coverage, significance and power

We also performed simulations to test the true pointwise coverage of the confidence intervals on  $\beta(t)$  and the type one error probability and power of hypothesis tests for a relationship between  $Y$  and  $X(t)$ . The results of these simulations are summarized in Figure 4. Figure 4(a) gives the true coverage levels of 90%, 95% and 99% confidence intervals from FAME fits to 100 simulated data sets for various values of the smoothing parameter  $\lambda_\beta$ . The data was simulated from essentially the same distribution as the second simulation of the previous section with  $\sigma_x = 0$ , as is assumed for the asymptotic results, and the sample of  $X(t)$ 's fixed across data sets to maintain comparability. For all reasonable values of the smoothing parameter the coverage levels are generally very close to, and in some cases even above, those predicted. When the parameter is set too high the coverage is reduced but one would expect the effect of the smoothing term to diminish with larger sample sizes. We also performed simulations with measurement error in the predictors and non Gaussian error terms. We found little change in the coverage for small amounts of measurement error and only an average reduction of 1% in the coverage for the  $t$  and exponential error distributions explored in the previous section.

To test significance levels and power we produced 200 data sets with predictors generated in an identical fashion to the previous simulation but with categorical  $(0, 1)$  responses. The log odds for the  $i$ th response was modeled using  $\beta_0 + \beta_1 Z_i$ . For  $\beta_1 = 0$  we estimated the probability of a type one error for a particular nominal significance level,  $\alpha$ , by calculating the fraction of p-values less than  $\alpha$ . We used an identical approach to calculate power for various values of  $\beta_1 > 0$ . The results are summarized in Figure 4(b). With  $\beta_1 = 0$  the observed and nominal significance levels are all very close. For comparison we also calculated the type one error probabilities when using p-values from the final GAM fit which treats the latent  $Z_i$ 's as fixed. These errors were much higher. For example with  $\alpha = 0.1$  the type one error probability was actually 0.24. This illustrates the importance of incorporating the variability of the latent variables in the analysis. As  $\beta_1$  increases from zero the power increases in an approximately logistic fashion. These results were with  $\lambda_\beta = 200$ . We found the observed significance levels reduced even further if less flexibility was allowed in  $\beta(t)$  and were higher for more flexible fits. Finally, we tested the power for a fit with  $r = 2$  using log odds equal to  $\beta_0 + \beta_1 Z_1 + \beta_2 Z_2^2$  where  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  represented two different linear combinations of the predictors. The powers for detecting significant effects for the first term,  $f_1$ , and the second term,  $f_2$ , are shown respectively in Figures 4(c) and (d). Both figures are plotted as a function of  $\beta_1$ . The power levels for  $f_1$  are all high. The power for  $f_2$  with  $\alpha = 0.01$  is relatively low while for  $\alpha = 0.05$  and  $0.1$  the power is moderate and increasing with  $\beta_1$ . In general, power will decrease as  $r$  increases because more flexible fits are produced. As one might expect, it is only possible to detect multiple  $f_k$ 's provided the sample size is relatively large or the signal is clear.

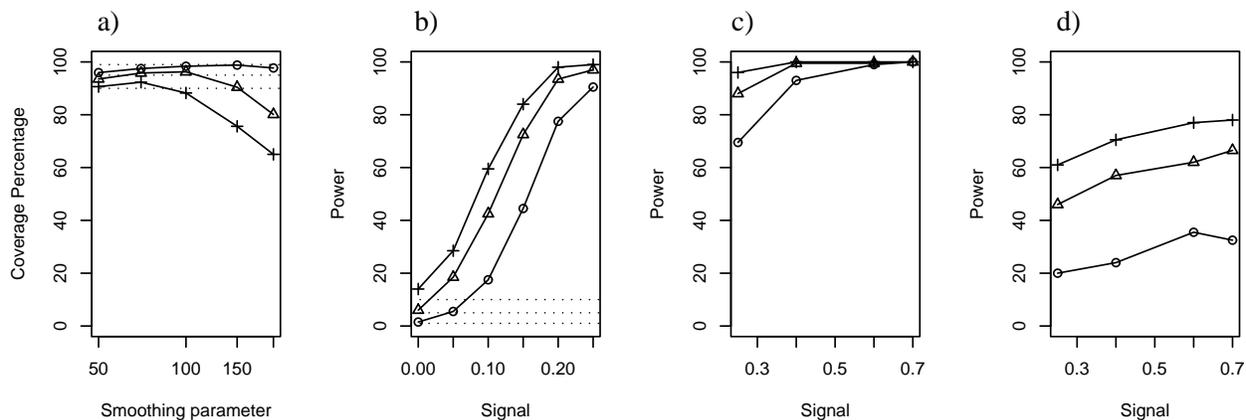


Figure 4: (a) Coverage levels with pluses, triangles and circles respectively indicating 90%, 95% and 99% confidence intervals with dotted lines corresponding to theoretical coverage. (b) Significance levels and power for various values of  $\beta_1$  with pluses, triangles and circles respectively corresponding to  $\alpha = 10\%$ ,  $5\%$  and  $1\%$  and dotted lines indicating the correct significance levels. Note the  $Z_i$ 's ranged fairly uniformly between  $-10$  and  $10$  so, for example, at  $\beta_1 = .1$  the range of the log odds was 2. (c) Power for  $f_1$ . (d) Power for  $f_2$ .

## 5 Discussion

In this paper we have suggested a general methodology for fitting a flexible class of models to data consisting of functional predictors and scalar responses. Figure 5, which provides a summary of methods for modeling predictor-response data, indicates the relationship between FAME and other standard approaches. The six procedures in the upper boxes can all be used on data sets with standard  $p$ -dimensional predictors. Models range from least to most flexible moving from left to right. The top row corresponds to methods assuming a Gaussian response. Linear regression provides the simplest approach. Additive models give extra flexibility by permitting non-linear fits for each predictor. Finally, projection pursuit regression allows an almost unlimited range of possible relationships. Neural nets (Hastie *et al.*, 2001, Chapter 11) and boosting (Freund and Schapire, 1997) methods provide similar highly flexible fits and can be placed in the same category as PPR. The second row of Figure 5 gives extensions of these three methods to non-Gaussian responses through the use of a link between the mean of the response and the predictors.

All of the first six approaches require adaptation before they can be used for data with functional predictors. The bottom two rows of Figure 5 correspond to their functional extensions. Some of these methods have been previously explored but most have not. Functional linear regression is discussed in Ramsay and Silverman (1997) and functional GLM techniques are developed in Marx and Eilers (1999), James (2002) and Muller and Stadtmuller (2004). However, we are not aware of any previous work on the other four functional modeling types. FAME, which corresponds to the bottom right box, provides an extension of generalized projection pursuit to functional data of which the other methods can all be seen as special cases. Since neural networks with one hidden layer are a special case of projection pursuit regression, we note that FAME also provides a natural method for fitting neural networks to functional data.

The FAME methodology suggests a number of interesting areas for future work. First, the asymptotic hypothesis tests of Section 2.3 are only one of several possible approaches that might be taken. For example,

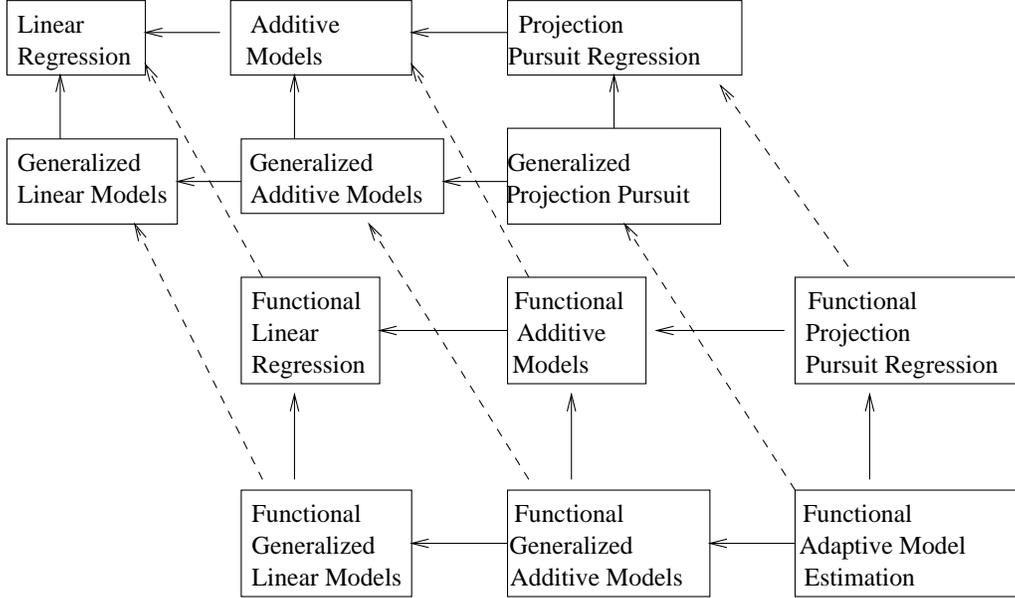


Figure 5: A chart indicating the relationships among the various standard regression methodologies and their functional extensions. Arrows point from more to less general models.

Cardot *et al.* (2003a) develop hypothesis tests for functional linear models. The asymptotic theory could also be extended to arbitrary smooth functional data. We have given results for a finite dimensional FAME model but in principle it should be possible to derive similar results without this restriction. In particular the approach of Muller and Stadtmuller (2004), who develop fully functional asymptotics for a generalized functional linear model, may be adapted to the FAME model. Second, in implementing FAME we utilize high dimensional bases for the  $\beta_k$ 's and  $X_i$ 's. The exact choice of a basis and its dimension are not critical because of the use of penalty terms to regularize the fits. However, the simulations of Section 4 suggest that there is some sensitivity to a reasonable choice for the penalty coefficient  $\lambda_\beta$ . In this paper we utilized standard cross-validation but one might also use less computational approaches such as generalized cross-validation or possibly BIC or AIC type criterion. Third, for very sparse data, fitting each  $X_i(t)$  individually could provide inaccurate estimates. It may be possible to produce better answers by building strength across the predictors by assuming common covariances. This approach is taken for functional data in James (2002) and James and Sugar (2003). Finally, while in practice we have found that the constraints placed on the  $\beta_k$ 's and the  $Z_k$ 's seem to produce identifiable parameter estimates a general functional proof does not exist. However, Chiou and Muller (2004) do give a proof of identifiability for a non-functional "multiple index" model which is similar to FAME. This approach could potentially be adapted to the functional domain so we briefly outline their conditions and proof in the appendix. On the surface, their proof can be extended to the functional case by simply replacing the vectors by functions and the inner products of vectors by integrals of products of functions. However this raises a larger question as to the meaning of identifiability in a functional data analysis setting. While there will, in principle, be sets of predictors that allow us to distinguish between any given parameter functions, these predictors may be functions that are unlikely to be realized in practice. A detailed analysis of identifiability would therefore require additional constraints on either or both of the predictor functions or the parameter functions. To give a full treatment, one would clearly have to allow families of constraints beyond simple Sobolev space constraints on the square-integrals

of derivatives of functions, and so a careful consideration of both the philosophical and mathematical aspects of this issue is a topic for considerable further research.

Another interesting problem for future research is the development of a functional generalized additive models procedure. Linear regression, generalized linear models and projection pursuit all naturally extend to functional data because they involve first taking a linear function of the predictors. In these cases the summation over  $X_j\beta_j$  can be replaced by an integral over  $X(t)\beta(t)$ . However, no such linear function of the predictors is employed in additive models, making it unclear how best to proceed. One possibility would be to assume that the predictor functions lie approximately in a finite dimensional space by, for example, taking the first  $K$  principal component curves. An additive model could then be fit to the  $K$  weights for each curve and the results interpreted by examining the form of the principal component curves.

## A Appendix

Chiou and Muller (2004) prove identifiability for a non-functional model similar in nature to FAME. Here we give their key conditions and provide a brief outline of the proof. Chiou and Muller require a number of technical conditions which, in particular, ensure that the space of predictors is asymptotically dense. They also assume that the  $f_k$ 's are strictly monotone. They then impose a restriction on the magnitude of the coefficient vector  $\beta_k$  which is similar, though not identical, to the one we use in (8). In addition they state the following condition.

(M6) For any linearly independent set of vectors  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r \in \mathbb{R}^p$ , such that  $\alpha_k = \beta_k$  does not hold for all  $k = 1, \dots, r$ , for  $r \geq 2$ , there exists a  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  such that the level set  $L_c = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^p \mid \sum_{k=1}^r f_k(\mathbf{x}^T \beta_k) = c\}$  has the following property: There exist  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in L_c$  and  $k_0 \in \{1, \dots, r\}$  such that  $\mathbf{x}_1^T \alpha_k = \mathbf{x}_2^T \alpha_k, k \neq k_0$  for  $1 \leq k \leq r$ , and  $\mathbf{x}_1^T \alpha_{k_0} \neq \mathbf{x}_2^T \alpha_{k_0}$ .

Under these conditions Chiou and Muller prove identifiability using the following argument. Suppose there exists  $f_k, \tilde{f}_k, \beta_k, \tilde{\beta}_k$  such that

$$\sum_{k=1}^r f_k(\mathbf{x}^T \beta_k) = \sum_{k=1}^r \tilde{f}_k(\mathbf{x}^T \tilde{\beta}_k) \quad (26)$$

for all  $\mathbf{x}$  i.e. the model is not identifiable. But by (M6) and monotonicity of the  $f_k$ 's there exist  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in L_c$  such that  $\tilde{f}_k(\mathbf{x}_1^T \tilde{\beta}_k) = \tilde{f}_k(\mathbf{x}_2^T \tilde{\beta}_k)$  for  $k \neq k_0$  and  $\tilde{f}_{k_0}(\mathbf{x}_1^T \tilde{\beta}_{k_0}) \neq \tilde{f}_{k_0}(\mathbf{x}_2^T \tilde{\beta}_{k_0})$ . Hence

$$\sum_{k=1}^r \tilde{f}_k(\mathbf{x}_1^T \tilde{\beta}_k) \neq \sum_{k=1}^r \tilde{f}_k(\mathbf{x}_2^T \tilde{\beta}_k). \quad (27)$$

But since  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in L_c$  we know  $\sum_{k=1}^r f_k(\mathbf{x}_1^T \beta_k) = \sum_{k=1}^r f_k(\mathbf{x}_2^T \beta_k)$  and hence by (26)

$$\sum_{k=1}^r \tilde{f}_k(\mathbf{x}_1^T \tilde{\beta}_k) = \sum_{k=1}^r f_k(\mathbf{x}_1^T \beta_k) = \sum_{k=1}^r f_k(\mathbf{x}_2^T \beta_k) = \sum_{k=1}^r \tilde{f}_k(\mathbf{x}_2^T \tilde{\beta}_k).$$

This is a contradiction of (27) so, since the space of predictors is assumed to be asymptotically dense the  $\beta_k$ 's are identifiable. In addition, since there is a constraint on the magnitude of the  $\beta_k$ 's the  $f_k$ 's are also identifiable.

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