

Given  $x_1 = 0$ ,  $x_2 = \Delta x$ ,  $x_3 = 2\Delta x$

Now

$$\tilde{f}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^3 \prod_{j \neq i} \frac{x - x_j}{x_i - x_j} f_i$$

$$= \frac{(x - \Delta x)(x - 2\Delta x)}{(-\Delta x)(-2\Delta x)} f_1 + \frac{x(x - 2\Delta x)}{\Delta x(\Delta x - 2\Delta x)} f_2 + \frac{x(x - \Delta x)}{2\Delta x(2\Delta x - \Delta x)} f_3$$

$$= \frac{x^2 - 3x\Delta x + 2(\Delta x)^2}{2(\Delta x)^2} f_1 + \frac{x^2 - 2x\Delta x}{-(\Delta x)^2} f_2 + \frac{x^2 - x\Delta x}{2(\Delta x)^2} f_3$$

Taylor Expanding  $f_1, f_2, f_3$ , we get

$$f_1 = f(x_1) = f(0)$$

$$f_2 = f(x_2) = f(0) + f'(0)\Delta x + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)f''(0)(\Delta x)^2 + \mathcal{O}((\Delta x)^3)$$

$$f_3 = f(0) + f'(0)2\Delta x + f''(0)2(\Delta x)^2 + \mathcal{O}((\Delta x)^3)$$

Replacing  $f_1, f_2, f_3$  in  $\tilde{f}(x)$  gives

$$\tilde{f}(x) = \left\{ \frac{x^2 - 3x\Delta x + 2(\Delta x)^2}{2(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{x^2 - 2x\Delta x}{-(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{x^2 - x\Delta x}{2(\Delta x)^2} \right\} f(0)$$

$$+ \left\{ -\frac{x(x - 2\Delta x)}{\Delta x} + \frac{x^2 - x\Delta x}{\Delta x} \right\} f'(0) + \left\{ -\frac{x(x - 2\Delta x)}{2} + \frac{x^2 - x\Delta x}{2} \right\} f''(0)$$

$$+ \left\{ \frac{x^2 - 2x\Delta x}{-(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{x^2 - x\Delta x}{2(\Delta x)^2} \right\} \mathcal{O}((\Delta x)^3)$$

Of order  $\sim 1$ , so can drop for approximation

$$\tilde{f}(x) =$$

$$\tilde{f}(x) = \left\{ \frac{x^2 - 3x\Delta x + 2(\Delta x)^2 - 2x^2 + 4x\Delta x + x^2 - x\Delta x}{2(\Delta x)^2} \right\} f(0)$$

$$+ \left\{ \frac{-x^2 + 2x\Delta x + x^2 - x\Delta x}{\Delta x} \right\} f'(0) + \left\{ \frac{-x^2 + 2x\Delta x + 2x^2 - 2x\Delta x}{2} \right\} f''(0) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^3)$$

$$= f(0) + f'(0)x + \frac{1}{2}f''(0)x^2 + \mathcal{O}((\Delta x)^3)$$

Thus  $\hat{f} - f = \mathcal{O}((\delta x)^3)$  where  $\delta x = \max(x_i, \Delta x)$ ,  
since that term will dominate at higher powers