

A report on the exam project number 14 - cubic sub-spline for data with derivatives

A.T. Hopkinson

29/06/2021

This report details the implementation of a cubic sub-spline for data with derivatives. It will explain how the sub-spline is made and the conditions and coefficients used to make it. The results of this will then be demonstrated using a simple $\cos(x)$ function as then the cubic sub-spline can be easily compared to this. After the derivative and integral of the sub-spline was found and also plotted.

1 Introduction to sub-splines

Sub-splines are piecewise polynomials but unlike splines do not demand maximal differentiability of the spline. They can therefore do things such as minimize the wiggles and lumps that can be present with other splines. An example of a sub-spline is the Akima sub-spline. For this project I have built a cubic sub-spline using the data x_i, y_i, y'_i where y'_i is the derivative of y_i at point x_i . The sub-spline formula is given in equation (1).

$$S_i(x) = y_i + b_i(x - x_i) + c_i(x - x_i)^2 + d_i(x - x_i)^3 \quad (1)$$

2 The coefficients b_i, c_i, d_i

As the cubic sub-spline is in the form of equation (1), the coefficients are determined by three conditions given in equations (2), (3), (4).

$$S_i(x_{i+1}) = y_{i+1} . \quad (2)$$

$$S'_i(x_i) = y'_i . \quad (3)$$

$$S'_i(x_{i+1}) = y'_{i+1} . \quad (4)$$

Solving these equations gives the following for each of the coefficients,

$$b_i = y'_i . \quad (5)$$

$$c_i = \frac{3(p_i - b_i)}{h_i} - dp_i . \quad (6)$$

$$d_i = \frac{dp_i - 2c_i}{3h_i} . \quad (7)$$

where $h_i = x_{i+1} - x_i$, $p_i = (y_{i+1} - y_i)/h_i$ and $dp_i = (y'_{i+1} - y'_i)/h_i$. These can then be used to build a cubic sub-spline.

3 Testing the cubic sub-spline

Once the coefficients had been calculated and the cubic sub-spline had been made, it had to be tested to make sure it works. To do this a simple function of $\cos(x)$ was chosen as its derivative is $-\sin(x)$. This would be an easy example to show if the sub-spline worked or not as it would be obvious upon viewing. For comparison the Akima sub-spline was also plotted as this would give me a sense of how well my sub-spline compared to one from D.V. Fedorov (2021) [1]. This example can be seen in figure (3).

Example of the subspline for $\cos(x)$ compared with $\cos(x)$ The cubic-sub-spline compared with a Akima sub-spline

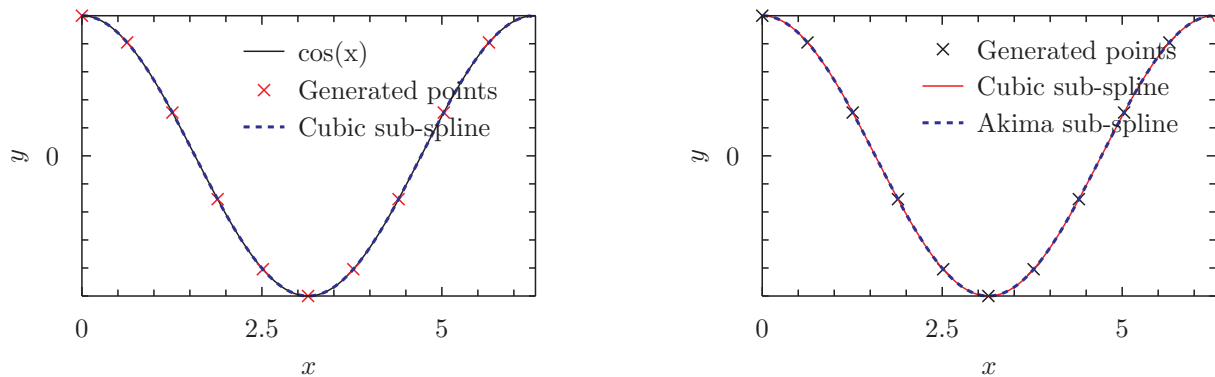


Figure 1: A plot of a cos function and its derivative. There is two sub-splines for the $\cos(x)$ points, a cubic sub-spline and Akima sub-spline.

As can be seen here both my cubic sub-spline and the Akima sub-spline fit the simple $\cos(x)$ points well and do a good job as splines without any wiggles.

4 derivative and integral

Once this was done I found the derivative and integral of the spline. This was done using similar methods to the interpolation homework. Binsearch was used to get an interval and then either the differentiated equation (8) or integrated equation (9) was returned. This method worked and produced figure (4). As you would expect for a sub-spline that should be showing a $\cos(x)$ line the derivative and integral are both $\sin(x)$ functions and show that the derivative and integral of the spline work.

$$derivative = b_i + 2c_i(x - x_i) + 3d_i(x - x_i)^2. \quad (8)$$

$$integral = y_i(x - x_i) + \frac{b_i(x - x_i)^2}{2} + \frac{c_i(x - x_i)^3}{3} + \frac{d_i(x - x_i)^4}{4}. \quad (9)$$

References

- [1] Fedorov, D.V. (2021), "Introduction to numerical methods",

Example of the derivative and integral of the cubic sub-spline

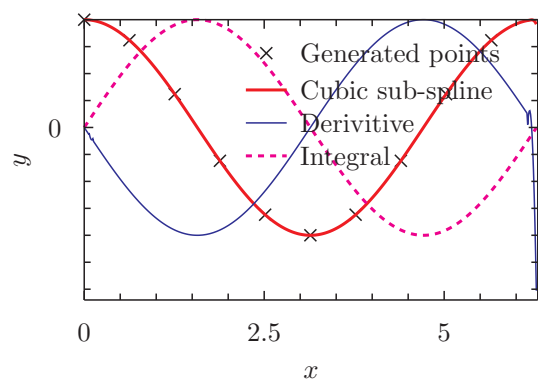


Figure 2: A plot of the cubic sub-spline, its derivative and its integral.