

ME 395 Handwritten Homework

Given forward Taylor & backward Taylor expansion:

$$f(x_{i+1}) = f(x_i) + f'(x_i)h + \frac{f''(x_i)}{2}h^2 + O(h^3) \quad (I)$$

$$f(x_{i-1}) = f(x_i) - f'(x_i)h + \frac{f''(x_i)}{2}h^2 - O(h^3) \quad (II)$$

Adding (I) and (II) gives us:

$$f(x_{i+1}) + f(x_{i-1}) = 2f(x_i) + f''(x_i)h^2 + O(h^4)$$

Rearranging terms gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} f''(x_i) &= \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - 2f(x_i) + f(x_{i-1}) + O(h^4)}{h^2} \\ &= \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - 2f(x_i) + f(x_{i-1})}{h^2} + O(h^2) \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the 2nd order central finite difference filter is given by:

$$f''(x_i) \approx \frac{1}{h^2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f(x_{i-1}) \\ f(x_i) \\ f(x_{i+1}) \end{bmatrix}$$

which is accurate to $O(h^2)$.