

Challenge Problem

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Curve Fitting

Abstract—This document contains the solution to interpolate the curve

Download all python codes from Download latex-tikz codes from

https://github.com/shivangi-975/EE5609-Matrix_Theory/blob/master/Challenge/Challenge.tex

1 PROBLEM

Suppose that we are given n distinct pairs of points $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$. How do you check whether all these points lie on a polynomial of degree at most m ? Given n distinct pairs of points, is there always a polynomial of degree at most $n-1$ which passes through all these points?

2 CONSTRUCTION

Given a set of n points with distinct x values, there is a unique interpolating polynomial of degree n or less that interpolates the points.

3 SOLUTION

Given n points, we construct n equations in n unknowns. Let a_k be the coefficient for x^k in the unknown polynomial, and let (x_k, y_k) be the data point (given in the problem). The k th equation is given

$$(a^n)(x_k^n) + \dots (a_1)(x_k) + a_0 = y_k \quad (3.0.1)$$

In matrix-vector form the equation looks like:

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1^n & x_1^n - 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ x_2^n & x_2^n - 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_n^n & x_n^n - 1 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_n \\ a_{n-1} \\ \vdots \\ a_0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} \quad (3.0.2)$$

If the points x_i are distinct, then the matrix is invertible, and that will always give us the coefficients of our polynomial and hence the equation of curve.