Chapter 3 Numerical Integration

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- Gaussian Integration
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• Why numerical integration?

It can be used to calculate derivatives!

Cauchy's theorem:

$$\frac{f^{(n)}(z^*)}{n!} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_C \frac{f(z)}{(z-z^*)^{n+1}} dz , \qquad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Mechanics: Simple pendulum problem, · · · .

Statistical Physics: Partition function, thermal averages, ...

$$Z = \sum_{i} e^{-\beta E_{i}}$$
, $\langle A \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{i} A_{i} e^{-\beta E_{i}}$, $\beta = \frac{1}{k_{B}T}$.

E&M: Electric field, \cdots .

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) = \int d^3 \mathbf{r}' \rho(\mathbf{r}') \frac{\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^3} .$$

Solid State Physics: Overlap integral

$$\int dV \phi^*(\mathbf{r}) \chi(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r})$$
.

Molecular integrals

$$\int \int dV_1 dV_2 \Phi_a^*(\mathbf{r}_1) \Phi_a(\mathbf{r}_1) \; \frac{1}{r_{12}} \; \Phi_b^*(\mathbf{r}_2) \Phi_b(\mathbf{r}_2) \; ,$$

$$\int \int dV_1 dV_2 \Phi_a^*(\mathbf{r}_1) \Phi_b(\mathbf{r}_1) \; \frac{1}{r_{12}} \; \Phi_a^*(\mathbf{r}_2) \Phi_b(\mathbf{r}_2) \; .$$

• Pendulum Problem

The equation of motion is

$$ml\frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2} = -mg\sin\theta \ . \tag{1}$$

For small θ , solution is easy

$$\theta(t) = \theta_0 \sqrt{\frac{g}{l}} t, \quad \theta(t=0) = \theta_0.$$
 (2)

For real system, we solve Eq. (1) as follows

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{d\theta}{dt} \right)^2 = \frac{g}{l} (\cos \theta - \cos \theta_0),$$

$$dt = \sqrt{\frac{l}{2g}} \frac{d\theta}{\sqrt{\cos\theta - \cos\theta_0}} \ . \tag{3}$$

$$T = 4\sqrt{\frac{l}{2g}} \int_0^{\theta_0} \frac{d\theta}{\sqrt{\cos\theta - \cos\theta_0}} . \tag{4}$$

Do $\sin x = \sin(\theta/2)/\sin(\theta_0/2)(change\ variable), \Rightarrow$

$$T = 4\sqrt{\frac{l}{g}}K(\sin\frac{\theta_0}{2}) \quad (numerical) ,$$

the complete elliptic integral of the first kind.

$$K(k) = \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{1 - k^2 \sin^2 x}} = F(k, \frac{\pi}{2}) .$$
 (5)

This integral diverges at k = 1.

The elliptic integrals are commonly used in many physics problems and they are tabulated in many reference books.

The elliptic integral of the first kind (Lagendre):

$$F(k,\phi) = \int_0^\phi \frac{dx}{\sqrt{1 - k^2 \sin^2 x}}$$

$$= \int_0^{\sin \phi} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{(1 - x^2)(1 - k^2 x^2)}}.$$
(6)

The elliptic integral of the second kind:

$$E(k,\phi) = \int_0^{\phi} dx \sqrt{1 - k^2 \sin^2 x}$$

$$= \int_0^{\sin \phi} dx \sqrt{\frac{1 - k^2 x^2}{1 - x^2}}.$$
(7)

The elliptic integral of the third kind:

$$H(h,k,\phi) = \int_0^\phi \frac{dx}{(1+h\sin^2 x)\sqrt{1-k^2\sin^2 x}}$$
$$= \int_0^{\sin\phi} \frac{dx}{(1+hx^2)\sqrt{(1-x^2)(1-k^2x^2)}} (8)$$

There are other kinds of elliptic integrals.

Many integrals can be transferred into elliptic integrals.

• Review

Basic rules:

1.
$$\int dx (Af(x) + Bg(x)) = A \int dx f(x) + B \int dx g(x)$$

2.
$$\int d\phi(x)F'[\phi(x)] = F[\phi(x)] + C$$

3.
$$\int UdV = UV - \int VdU$$

Common integrals:

1. Rational functions: P(x)/Q(x), both P(x)&Q(x) are polynomials. They are all integrable in principle, either directly or write it as a linear combination of the following functions:

$$\frac{A}{x-a}, \frac{A}{(x-a)^k}, \frac{Ax+B}{ax^2+bx+c}, \frac{Ax+B}{(ax^2+bx+c)^k}$$

- 2. Let R(u(x), v(x)) be a function obtainable by finite number of the four operations, $+, -, \times, /$ with u(x), v(x) and constants.
 - (a) $\int dx R(\sin x, \cos x)$: set t = tan(x/2).
 - (b) $\int dx R(x, (\frac{ax+b}{cx+d})^{1/n})$: set $t = (\frac{ax+b}{cx+d})^{1/n}$.
 - (c) $\int dx R(x, \sqrt{ax^2 + bx + c})$: set u = x + b/2a, then $\int du R(u, \sqrt{u^2 + k^2}), \quad u = ktan(t).$

$$\int du R(u, \sqrt{u^2 - k^2}), \quad u = k/\sin(t) .$$

$$\int du R(u, \sqrt{k^2 - u^2}), \quad u = k\sin(t) .$$

3. Integration Table

• Definition and Objective

<u>Definition</u>: if there exists a function F(x) whose derivative is f(x) = dF(x)/dx, then the definite integral

$$I(f) = \int_{a}^{b} dx f(x) = F(b) - F(a) . \tag{9}$$

Most integrals cannot be evaluated by Eq. (9).

Let's divide the interval [a, b] by many sub-intervals

$$x_i = a + ih, x_0 = a, x_n = b; \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

then the simplest approximation for the integral is

$$I(f) \approx h \times \sum_{i=1}^{n} f(x_i)$$
 (10)

Formally, we write

$$I(f) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} W_i f_i + E_n, \quad f_i = f(x_i) ,$$
 (11)

and E_n is the error of the algorithm.

Objective: to find best x_i and W_i such that $\Sigma_i^n W_i f_i$ could approximate I(f) effectively.

The naive formula corresponds to $W_i = h$.

• Trapezoid Rule

Try two points approximation, i.e.,

$$I(f) \approx T = W_0 f_0 + W_1 f_1 .$$

We want this to be useful for all integrals, and so we will require that it be exact for the simplest integrands, f(x) = 1 and f(x) = x.

$$\int_{x_0}^{x_1} dx 1 = x_1 - x_0 = W_0 + W_1 ,$$

and

$$\int_{x_0}^{x_1} dx x = \frac{x_1^2 - x_0^2}{2} = W_0 x_0 + W_1 x_1 .$$

Thus

$$W_0 = W_1 = \frac{x_1 - x_0}{2} = \frac{h}{2} .$$

The trapezoid rule:

$$\int_{x_0}^{x_1} dx f(x) = \frac{h}{2} (f_0 + f_1) - \frac{h^3}{12} f''(c), \ x_0 \le c \le x_1.(12)$$

$$T_n(f) = h\left(\frac{f_0}{2} + f_1 + \dots + f_{n-1} + \frac{f_n}{2}\right).$$
 (13)

Equivalently, the trapezoid rule can be obtained by approximating integrand f(x) by a linear polynomial

$$f(x) \approx P_1(x) = \frac{(b-x)f(a) + (x-a)f(b)}{b-a}$$
.

Fig. 5.1

Fig. 5.2

• Sequence of h

It is generally true that as h is decreased, numerical approximation to I(f) becomes more accurate. Is it matter how do we decrease h?

If n is doubled repeatedly, then the function values used in each $T_{2n}(f)$ will include all of the earlier function values used in the preceding $T_n(f)$.

• Simpson's Rule

Try three points approximation

$$I(f) \approx S = W_0 f_0 + W_1 f_1 + W_2 f_2 .$$

$$\int_{x_0}^{x_2} dx 1 = x_2 - x_0 = W_0 + W_1 + W_2 ,$$

$$\int_{x_0}^{x_2} dx x = \frac{x_2^2 - x_0^2}{2} = W_0 x_0 + W_1 x_1 + W_2 x_2 ,$$

$$\int_{x_0}^{x_2} dx x^2 = W_0 x_0^2 + W_1 x_1^2 + W_2 x_2^2 .$$

The Simpson's rule:

$$\int_{x_0}^{x_2} dx f(x) = \frac{h}{3} (f_0 + 4f_1 + f_2) - \frac{h^5}{90} f^{(4)}(c) . \qquad (14)$$

$$S_n(f) = \frac{h}{3} (f_0 + f_n) \qquad (n = 2k)$$

$$+ \frac{4h}{3} (f_1 + f_3 + \dots + f_{2k-1})$$

$$+ \frac{2h}{3} (f_2 + f_4 + \dots + f_{2k-2}) .$$

Equivalently,

$$f(x) \approx P_2(x) = \frac{(x-b)(x-c)}{(a-b)(a-c)} f(a) + \frac{(x-c)(x-a)}{(b-c)(b-a)} f(b) + \frac{(x-a)(x-b)}{(c-a)(c-b)} f(c) .$$

Four points approximation \Rightarrow The Simpson's 3/8 rule:

$$\int_{x_0}^{x_3} dx f(x) = \frac{h}{3} (f_0 + 3f_1 + 3f_2 + f_3) - \frac{3h^5}{80} f^{(4)}(c) . (15)$$

Five points approximation \Rightarrow The Boole's rule:

$$\int_{x_0}^{x_4} dx f(x) = \frac{2h}{45} (7f_0 + 32f_1 + 12f_2 + 32f_3 + 7f_4)
- \frac{8h^7}{945} f^{(6)}(c) .$$
(16)

The process could be continued indefinitely.

:

Example 1 (Sn) or Table 5.2

• Errors and Corrections

Do Taylor expansion for f(x) about x = a and x = b, and then perform integration:

$$\int_{a}^{b} dx f(x) = hf(a) + \frac{h^{2}}{2!}f'(a) + \frac{h^{3}}{3!}f''(a) + \frac{h^{4}}{4!}f'''(a) + \frac{h^{5}}{5!}f^{(4)}(a)$$
$$\int_{a}^{b} dx f(x) = hf(b) - \frac{h^{2}}{2!}f'(b) + \frac{h^{3}}{3!}f''(b) - \frac{h^{4}}{4!}f'''(b) + \frac{h^{5}}{5!}f^{(4)}(b)$$

Do Taylor expansion for f'(x) about x = a at x = b and vice versa. Combine two to get

$$f''(a) + f''(b) = \frac{2}{h} [f'(b) - f'(a)] - \frac{h}{2} [f'''(b) - f'''(a)] - \frac{h^2}{2} [f^{(4)}(b) + f^{(4)}(a)] + \cdots$$

Do the same for f'''(x) to get

$$f^{(4)}(b) + f^{(4)}(a) = \frac{2}{h} [f'''(b) - f'''(a)] + \cdots$$

$$\int_{a}^{b} dx f(x) = \frac{h}{2} [f(b) + f(a)] - \frac{h^{2}}{12} [f'(b) - f'(a)] + \frac{h^{4}}{720} [f'''(b) - f'''(a)] + \cdots$$

Euler-McClaurin integration rule:

$$\int_{x_0}^{x_n} dx f(x) = h\left(\frac{f_0}{2} + f_1 + f_2 + f_{n-1} + \frac{f_n}{2}\right) + E_n$$

$$E_n = \frac{h^2}{12} \left[f'(x_0) - f'(x_n) \right] - \frac{h^4}{720} \left[f'''(x_0) - f'''(x_n) \right] + \cdots$$

Corrected trapezoid rule:

$$I(f) \approx T_n(f) - \frac{h^2}{12} [f'(b) - f'(a)]$$
.

Such correction will not perform well if f(x) is not two times continuously differentiable on [a,b].

Similar analysis for the Simpson's rule leads to

$$E_n^S(f) = I(f) - S_n(f) = -\frac{h^4(b-a)}{180} f^{(4)}(c_n)$$
.

and we have corrected Simpson's rule:

$$I(f) \approx S_n(f) - \frac{h^4}{180} [f'''(b) - f'''(a)].$$

Simpson's rule will not perform well if f(x) is not four times continuously differentiable on [a,b].

Some other numerical algorithms must be used.

Richardson Extrapolation

Error estimation:
$$I - I_n = \frac{c}{n^p}$$
, $n = \frac{b-a}{h}$.

Trapezoid: p = 2; Simpson's: p = 4. (not always!)

$$I - I_{2n} = \frac{c}{2^p n^p}$$
, $2^p [I - I_{2n}] = I - I_n$.

$$I = \frac{2^p I_{2n} - I_n}{2^p - 1} \equiv R_{2n}$$
, the improved estimate of I

Richardson's error estimate

$$I - I_{2n} = R_{2n} - I_{2n} = \frac{I_{2n} - I_n}{2^p - 1}$$
.

Extrapolation (Romberg Integration Scheme)

$$T_{m,k} = \frac{4^k T_{m,k-1} - T_{m-1,k-1}}{4^k - 1}$$
.

Example on page 157-158: (i) calculate ratio
$$R_m$$
, A First ... Computational Physics
$$R_m = \frac{T_{m-1,0} - T_{m,0}}{T_{m,0} - T_{m+1,0}} = 4?$$

(ii) points where $f^{(k)}(x)$ is not analytical.

Periodic Integrands

$$f(x+\tau) = f(x), \quad -\infty < x < \infty$$
.

Let $b-a=n\tau$, then $f^{(k)}(a)=f^{(k)}(b)\Rightarrow the$ asymptotic error is zero. (previous example)

The trapezoid rule is the preferred integration algorithm when we are dealing with smooth periodic integrands.

• Change of Variables/Improper Integrals

This is a common trick used in all kinds of problems.

$$\int_0^\infty dx f(x) = \lim_{A \to \infty} \int_0^A dx f(x) .$$

$$\int_0^\infty = \int_0^a + \int_a^\infty = I_1 + I_2$$
.

Make variable change $x \to 1/y \ (x \to (1+y)/(1-y)),$

$$I_2 = \int_0^{1/a} dy \frac{f(y^{-1})}{y^2} .$$

Other choices:

$$x \to \frac{1+y}{1-y}, \quad x \to \frac{y}{y-1}, \quad x \to e^{-y}, \quad etc.$$

Series expansion, subtract the singularity away, integration by parts, etc.:

$$I = \int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{(1+x)\sqrt{x}} \cdots .$$

(example on page 166-168)

Print out book "A First Course in Computational Physics" pages 164-168. Use the examples.

• Gaussian Integration

Minimax approximation of order n

$$max_{a < x < b} |f(x) - p_n(x)| = \rho_n(f)$$
,

where $p_n(x)$ is a polynomial of degree $\leq n$.

n	$ ho_n(f)$	n	$ ho_n(f)$	n	$\rho_n(f)$	
1	5.30E-2	4	4.63E-4	7	4.62E-7	$f(x) = e^{-x^2}$
2	1.79E-2	5	1.62E-5	8	9.64E-8	$0 \le x \le 1$
3	6.63E-4	6	7.82E-6	9	8.05E-9	

A standard map:

$$[a, b] \Rightarrow [-1, 1]$$
 by
$$\tilde{x} = -1 + 2\frac{x - a}{b - a}.$$

We want

$$I(f) = \int_{-1}^{1} dx f(x) \doteq I_n(f) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i f(x_i)$$

and require that the nodes $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ and weights $\{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ be chosen so that $I_n(f) = I(f)$ for all polynomials f(x) of as large a degree as possible.

1.
$$n = 1 , \int_{-1}^{1} dx f(x) \doteq w_{1} f(x_{1})$$

$$f(x) = 1 \Rightarrow 2 = w_{1}$$

$$f(x) = x \Rightarrow 0 = x_{1}$$

$$\int_{-1}^{1} dx f(x) \doteq 2f(0) \equiv I_{1}(f) .$$

2.
$$n = 2$$
 , $\int_{-1}^{1} dx f(x) \doteq w_1 f(x_1) + w_2 f(x_2)$
 $f(x) = 1 \Rightarrow 2 = w_1 + w_2$
 $f(x) = x \Rightarrow 0 = w_1 x_1 + w_2 x_2$
 $f(x) = x^2 \Rightarrow \frac{2}{3} = w_1 x_1^2 + w_2 x_2^2$
 $f(x) = x^3 \Rightarrow 0 = w_1 x_1^3 + w_2 x_2^3$
 $w_1 = w_2 = 1, x_2 = -x_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$
 $\int_{-1}^{1} dx f(x) \doteq f(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}) + f(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}) \equiv I_2(f)$.

3. n > 2 There are 2n unspecified coefficients so we force the integration formula to be exact for the 2n monomilas

$$f(x) = 1, x, x^2, \dots, x^{2n-1}$$
.

This leads to a set of 2n nonlinear equations, a formidable task!

Table 5.8

Gauss-Legendre Integration

With the use of the theory of orthogonal polynomials, one can determine those nodes and weights.

The nodes $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ are the zeros of the Legendre polynomial of degree n on the interval [-1, 1].

The weights $\{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ can be obtained from the following *linear equations*:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i x_i^k = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{k+1} & k \text{ even} \\ 0 & k \text{ odd} \end{cases} \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, 2n - 1.$$

Gauss-Laguerre Integration

$$I = \int_0^\infty dx e^{-x} f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i f(x_i)$$
.

These nodes and weights are tabulated, e.g., Tables 4.1 and 4.2.

A First ... Computational Physics Table 4.1 (page 177) Table 7.2 (p 181)

• Multidimensional Integration

$$I = \int_a^b dx \int_c^d dy f(x, y).$$

1. For rectangular region, it is easy:

$$I = \int_c^d dy F(y), \quad F(y) = \int_a^b dx f(x, y).$$

or

$$I = \int_a^b dx G(x), \qquad G(x) = \int_c^d dy f(x, y).$$

2. For curved region, say b: x = g(y),

$$I = \int_c^d dy F(y), \quad F(y) = \int_a^{g(y)} dx f(x, y).$$

3. Try change of variables.

The integration is much harder and time consuming.

Tabulated formulae (math handbooks)

$$I = \int dx dy f(x, y) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i f(x_i, y_i) + R$$

$$I = \int dx dy dz f(x, y, z) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i f(x_i, y_i, z_i) + R$$

• Monte Carlo Integration

Sample Mean algorithm:

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$$I_n = (b-a) < f > = (b-a) \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i)$$

You can think of $w_i = (b-a)/n$.

Hit or Miss algorithm:

$$I_n = A \frac{n_s}{n}$$

Error Estimation:

$$\sigma_n = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum f^2(x_i) - \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum f(x_i)\right)^2} / \sqrt{n-1} .$$

If the numerical goes as order n^{-k} in one dimension integration, then the error in d dimensions goes as $n^{-k/d}$. In contrast, Monte Carlo errors vary as order $n^{-1/2}$ independent of d.

Importance Sampling:

$$\int_a^b dx f(x) = \int_a^b dx p(x) \frac{f(x)}{p(x)}.$$

Chapter 3 Review

Numerical Integration is Very Important!

- The trapezoid rule: (h = (b - a)/n)

$$T_n(f) = h\left(\frac{f_0}{2} + f_1 + \dots + f_{n-1} + \frac{f_n}{2}\right),$$

 $I(f) \approx T_n(f) - \frac{h^2}{12} \left[f'(b) - f'(a)\right] (asymptotic).$

– The Simpson's rule: (h = (b - a)/n, n = 2k)

$$S_n(f) = \frac{h}{3}(f_0 + f_n) + \frac{4h}{3}(f_1 + f_3 + \dots + f_{2k-1}) + \frac{2h}{3}(f_2 + f_4 + \dots + f_{2k-2}),$$

$$I(f) \approx S_n(f) - \frac{h^4}{180} \left[f'''(b) - f'''(a) \right].$$

- Romberg Integration Scheme (Extrapolation)

$$T_{m,k} = \frac{4^k T_{m,k-1} - T_{m-1,k-1}}{4^k - 1} .$$

- Change of Variables.
- Gaussian Integration.
- Monte Carlo Integration.

Example 1. Three integrations:

$$I_{1} = \int_{0}^{1} dx e^{-x^{2}} = 0.74682413281234$$

$$I_{2} = \int_{0}^{4} \frac{dx}{1+x^{2}} = \arctan(4) = 1.3258176636680$$

$$I_{3} = \int_{0}^{2\pi} \frac{dx}{2+\cos(x)} = \frac{2\pi}{\sqrt{3}} = 3.6275987284684$$

	T_n –	I_1	$T_n - I_2$		$T_n - I_3$	
n	Error	Ratio	Error	Ratio	Error	Ratio
2	1.55E-2		-1.33E-1		-5.61E-1	
4	3.84E-3	4.02	-3.59E-3	37.00	-3.76E-2	14.9
8	9.59E-4	4.01	5.64E-4	-6.37	-1.93E-4	195.0
16	2.40E-4	4.00	1.44E-4	3.92	-5.19E-9	37600.0
32	5.99E-5	4.00	3.60E-5	4.00		
64	1.50E-5	4.00	9.01E-6	4.00		
128	3.74E-6	4.00	2.25E-6	4.00		

	$S_n - I_1$		S_n-I_2		$S_n - I_3$	
n	Error	Ratio	Error	Ratio	Error	Ratio
2	-3.56E-4		8.66E-2		-1.26	
4	-3.12E-5	11.4	3.95E-2	2.20	1.37E-1	-9.2
8	-1.99E-6	15.7	1.95E-3	20.3	1.23E-2	11.20
16	-1.25E-7	15.9	4.02E-6	485.	6.43E-5	191.0
32	-7.79E-9	16.0	2.33E-8	172.	1.71E-9	37600
64	-4.87E-10	16.0	1.46E-9	16.0		
128	-3.04E-11	16.0	9.15E-11	16.0		

Example 2. Integral I_1 . (Correction)

n	I_1-T_n	E_n^T	CT_n	$I_1 - CT_n$	Ratio
$\overline{2}$	1.545E-2	1.533E-2	0.746698561877	1.26E-4	
4	3.840E-3	3.823E-2	0.746816175313	7.96E-6	15.8
8	9.585E-4	9.580E-4	0.746823634224	4.99E-7	16.0
16	2.395E-4	2.395E-4	0.746824101633	3.12E-8	16.0
32	5.988E-5	5.988E-5	0.746824130863	1.95E-9	16.0
64	1.497E-5	1.497E-5	0.746824132690	2.22E-10	16.0
∞			0.746824132812		

Example 3. Integral:

$$I = \int_0^1 dx \sqrt{x} = \frac{2}{3} \ .$$

n	$I - S_n$	Ratio	$I-T_n$	$I-G_n$
2	2.860E-2		6.31E-2	-7.22E-3
4	1.012E-2	2.82	2.34E-2	-1.16E-3
8	3.587E-3	2.83	8.54E-3	-1.69E-4
16	1.268E-3	2.83	3.09E-3	-2.30E-5
32	4.485E-4	2.83	1.11E-3	-3.00E-6

f', f'', f''' does not exist at x = 0.

Integral I_1 by Gaussian Integration:

n	$I_1 - G_n$	I_2-G_n	I_3-G_n
2	2.29E-4	-2.33E-2	8.23E-1
3	$9.55\mathrm{E} ext{-}6$	-3.49E-2	-4.30E-1
4	-3.35E-7	-1.90E-3	1.77 E-1
5	6.05E-9	1.70E-3	-8.12E-2
6	$-7.77 \mathrm{E}\text{-}11$	2.74E-4	3.55E-2
7	8.60E-13	-6.45E-5	-1.58E-2
10		1.27E-6	1.37E-3
15		7.40E-10	-2.33E-5
20			3.96E-7

Error Function

Error function:

$$erf(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^x dt e^{-t^2}$$

Complementary error function:

$$erfc(x) \equiv 1 - erf(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{x}^{\infty} dt e^{-t^2}$$

The functions have the following

limiting values and symmetries:

$$erf(0) = 0$$
 $erf(\infty) = 1$ $erf(-x) = erf(x)$

$$erfc(0) = 1$$
 $erfc(\infty) = 0$ $erfc(-x) = 2 - erfc(x)$