



Theoretical Problems

Numerical analysis 2022

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Chapter 1 Solving Nonlinear Equations

Problem 1.1 Consider the bisection method starting with the initial interval $[1.5, 3.5]$. In the following questions "the interval" refers to the bisection interval whose width changes across different loops.

- What is the width of the interval at the n th step?
- What is the maximum possible distance between the root r and the midpoint of the interval?

Solution Note that the interval's width is multiplied by $\frac{1}{2}$ at each step, and the initial width is 2, hence the width after the n th step is $\frac{1}{2^{n-1}}$.

The maximum distance is not greater than 1 obviously.

Since the loop terminated when $|f(c)| < \varepsilon$, we could construct an increasing function f whose root is $1.5 + \delta$, and $|f(x)| < \varepsilon$ everywhere, hence the bisection loop will terminate at first step, the distance between midpoint and root is $1 - \delta$. Let $\delta \rightarrow 0^+$, we know the distance could be infinitely close to 1.

Problem 1.2 In using the bisection algorithm with its initial interval as $[a_0, b_0]$ with $a_0 > 0$, we want to determine the root with its relative error no greater than ε . Prove that this goal of accuracy is guaranteed by the following choice of the number of steps,

$$n \geq \frac{\log(b_0 - a_0) - \log \varepsilon - \log a_0}{\log 2} - 1$$

Solution Suppose the root is $r \geq a_0$. The relative error after the n th step is

$$\frac{|r - c_n|}{|r|} \quad (1.1)$$

The following inequations hold

$$\frac{|r - c_n|}{|r|} \leq \frac{\frac{1}{2}(b_n - a_n)}{r} \leq \frac{\frac{1}{2}(b_n - a_n)}{a_0} = \frac{b_0 - a_0}{a_0 2^{n+1}} \quad (1.2)$$

Hence when (1.1) holds, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (n+1) \log 2 &\geq \log(b_0 - a_0) - \log \varepsilon - \log a_0 \\ \implies \log 2^{n+1} &\geq \log \left(\frac{b_0 - a_0}{\varepsilon a_0} \right) \\ \implies 2^{n+1} &\geq \frac{b_0 - a_0}{\varepsilon a_0} \implies \frac{b_0 - a_0}{a_0 2^{n+1}} \leq \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

Hence the conclusion is proved by (1.2).

Problem 1.3 Perform four iterations of Newton's method for the polynomial equation $p(x) = 4x^3 - 2x^2 + 3 = 0$ with the starting point $x_0 = -1$. Use a hand calculator and organize results of the iterations in a table.

Solution Firstly we derivate $p(x)$

$$p'(x) = 12x^2 - 4x$$

The results are shown as the following table.

n	x_n	$p(x_n)$	$p'(x_n)$	$x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}$
0	-1	-3	16	-0.8125
1	-0.8125	-0.46582	11.1719	-0.770804
2	-0.770804	-0.0201359	10.2129	-0.768832
3	-0.768832	-3.98011e-05	10.1686	-0.768828
4	-0.768828			

Problem 1.4 Consider a variation of Newton's method in which only the derivative at x_0 is used,

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_0)} \quad (1.3)$$

Find C and s such that

$$e_{n+1} = C e_n^s$$

where e_n is the error of Newton's method at step n , s is a constant, and C may depend on x_n , the given function f and its derivatives.

Solution Assume the root is r , then $e_n = x_n - r$. Let $g(x) = f(r + x)$. By (1.3), we derive

$$e_{n+1} = e_n - \frac{g(e_n)}{g'(e_0)} = \left(1 - \frac{g(e_n)}{e_n g'(e_0)}\right) e_n$$

Let $C(n) = 1 - \frac{g(e_n)}{e_n g'(e_0)}$ and $s = 1$, we got $e_{n+1} = C(n) e_n$, and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} C(n) = 1 - \frac{g'(0)}{g'(e_0)} = 1 - \frac{f'(r)}{f'(x_0)}$$

Problem 1.5 Within $(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$, will the iteration $x_{n+1} = \tan^{-1} x_n$ converge?

Solution As we all know that $0 < \tan^{-1} x < x$ ($x > 0$), so if $x_0 > 0$, we derive

$$0 < x_{n+1} = \tan^{-1} x_n < x_n$$

And sequence $\{x_n\}$ has lower bound 0, so $\{x_n\}$ is convergent by monotonic sequence theorem.

For $x_0 < 0$, $\{-x_n\}$ is convergent by the discussion above, hence $\{x_n\}$ is convergent.

For $x_0 = 0$, clearly $x_n = 0$ ($\forall n$).

Problem 1.6 Let $p > 1$. What is the value of the following continued fraction?

$$x = \frac{1}{p + \frac{1}{p + \frac{1}{p + \dots}}}$$

Prove that the sequence of values converges.

Solution We construct a sequence by $x_1 = \frac{1}{p}$ and $x_{n+1} = \frac{1}{p+x_n}$ ($n \geq 1$), then $x = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n$ if it exists.

Consider function $g(x) = \frac{1}{p+x}$, clearly $g(x) \in [0, 1]$ for all $x \in [0, 1]$. And

$$\lambda = \max_{x \in [0, 1]} |g'(x)| = \max_{x \in [0, 1]} \frac{1}{(x+p)^2} = \frac{1}{p^2} < 1$$

Hence g is a contraction in $[0, 1]$, and consider equation

$$x = g(x) = \frac{1}{p+x}$$

the roots are $\frac{-p \pm \sqrt{p^2+4}}{2}$, hence g has unique fixed-point $\alpha = \frac{-p + \sqrt{p^2+4}}{2}$ in $[0, 1]$.

Recall that $x_1 = \frac{1}{p} \in [0, 1]$, and $x_{n+1} = g(x_n)$. By Theorem 1.38, $\{x_n\}$ converges and $x = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \alpha$.

Problem 1.7 What happens in problem 1.2 if $a_0 < 0 < b_0$? Derive an inequality of the number of steps similar to that in problem 1.2. In this case, is the relative error still an appropriate measure?

Solution In this problem we let the absolutely error $|r - c_n| < \delta$, we derive

$$|r - c_n| \leq \frac{1}{2} (b_n - a_n) = \frac{b_0 - a_0}{2^{n+1}} \quad (1.4)$$

It is sufficient to let $\frac{b_0 - a_0}{2^{n+1}} < \delta$, hence $n \geq \frac{\log(b_0 - a_0) - \log \delta}{\log 2} - 1$.

We can't use relative error since r might be zero.

Chapter 2 Polynomial Interpolation

Problem 2.1 For $f \in \mathcal{C}^2[x_0, x_1]$ and $x \in (x_0, x_1)$, linear interpolation of f at x_0 and x_1 yields

$$f(x) - p_1(f; x) = \frac{f''(\xi(x))}{2}(x - x_0)(x - x_1) \quad (2.1)$$

Consider the case $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$, $x_0 = 1$, $x_1 = 2$.

- Determine $\xi(x)$ explicitly.
- Extend the domain of ξ continuously from (x_0, x_1) to $[x_0, x_1]$. Find $\max \xi(x)$, $\min \xi(x)$ and $\max f''(\xi(x))$.

Solution

1. The Lagrange's formula yields

$$p_1(f; x) = \frac{(x - 2)}{(1 - 2)} + \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{(x - 1)}{(2 - 1)} = -\frac{1}{2}x + \frac{3}{2}$$

Substitute it to (2.1), with $f''(x) = 2x^{-3}$, yield

$$\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{3}{2} = (x - 1)(x - 2)\xi^{-3}(x)$$

The result follows from it:

$$\xi(x) = \sqrt[3]{2x}$$

2. $\xi(x)$ is increasing in $[1, 2]$, hence

$$\max \xi(x) = \xi(2) = \sqrt[3]{4}, \quad \min \xi(x) = \xi(1) = \sqrt[3]{2}$$

Also

$$f''(\xi(x)) = 2 \left(\sqrt[3]{2x} \right)^{-3} = \frac{1}{x}$$

is decreasing in $[1, 2]$, hence

$$\max f''(\xi(x)) = f''(\xi(1)) = 1$$

Problem 2.2 Let \mathbb{P}_m^+ be the set of all polynomials of degree $\leq m$ that are non-negative on the real line,

$$\mathbb{P}_m^+ = \{p : p \in \mathbb{P}_m, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}, p(x) \geq 0\}$$

Find $p \in \mathbb{P}_{2n}^+$ such that $p(x_i) = f_i$ for $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ where $f_i \geq 0$ and x_i are distinct points on \mathbb{R} .

Solution Let $q(x) \in \mathbb{P}_n$ be the unique interpolation polynomial satisfies

$$q(x_i) = \sqrt{f_i}, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, n$$

Let $p(x) = q^2(x)$, then $p(x) \in \mathbb{P}_{2n}^+$ and

$$p(x_i) = q^2(x_i) = f_i, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, n$$

Hence $p(x)$ is what we need. The Lagrange's interpolation formula yields:

$$p(x) = \left(\sum_{i=0}^n \sqrt{f_i} \prod_{j=0, j \neq i}^n \frac{x - x_j}{x_i - x_j} \right)^2$$

Problem 2.3 Consider $f(x) = e^x$.

- Prove by induction that

$$\forall t \in \mathbb{R}, \quad f[t, t+1, \dots, t+n] = \frac{(e-1)^n}{n!} e^t \quad (2.2)$$

- From Corollary 2.22 we know

$$\exists \xi \in (0, n) \text{ s.t. } f[0, 1, \dots, n] = \frac{1}{n!} f^{(n)}(\xi) \quad (2.3)$$

Determine ξ from the above two equations. Is ξ located to the left or to the right of the midpoint $n/2$.

Solution

1. The Lagrange's formula yields

$$p(f; x) = \sum_{k=0}^n e^{t+k} \prod_{j=0, j \neq k}^n \frac{x - x_j}{x_k - x_j} = e^t \sum_{k=0}^n e^k \frac{(-1)^{n-k} \prod_{j=0, j \neq k}^n (x - x_j)}{k!(n-k)!}$$

Hence

$$f[t, t+1, \dots, t+n] = e^t \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(-1)^{n-k} e^k}{k!(n-k)!} = \frac{e^t}{n!} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} (-1)^{n-k} e^k = \frac{(e-1)^n}{n!} e^t$$

2. Let $t = 0$ in (2.2) and yield

$$f[0, 1, \dots, n] = \frac{(e-1)^n}{n!}$$

Substitute it to (2.3), with $f^{(n)}(x) = e^x$, yield

$$\frac{(e-1)^n}{n!} = \frac{e^\xi}{n!}$$

The result follows from it:

$$\xi = n \ln(e-1) > \frac{n}{2}$$

Hence ξ is located to the right of the midpoint.

Problem 2.4 Consider $f(0) = 5$, $f(1) = 3$, $f(3) = 5$, $f(4) = 12$.

- Use the Newton's formula to obtain $p_3(f; x)$;
- The data suggests that f has a minimum in $x \in (1, 3)$. Find an approximate value for the location x_{\min} of the minimum.

Solution

1. The result follows from Newton's interpolation formula:

$$p_3(f; x) = 5 - 2x + x(x-1) + \frac{1}{4}x(x-1)(x-3)$$

Transform it into the canonical form:

$$p_3(f; x) = \frac{1}{4}x^3 - \frac{9}{4}x + 5$$

2. Firstly, calculate the derivative of $p_3(f; x)$:

$$p'_3(f; x) = \frac{3}{4}x^2 - \frac{9}{4}$$

The first-order necessary condition $p'_3(f; x) = 0$ yields that

$$x_{\text{extreme}} = \pm\sqrt{3}$$

In $x \in (1, 3)$, the extreme point might be $x^* = \sqrt{3}$. The second-order condition shows that

$$p''_3(f; x^*) = \frac{3}{2}x^* = \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} > 0$$

Hence x^* is the minimum, and $x_{\min} = \sqrt{3} \approx 1.73205$.

Problem 2.5 Consider $f(x) = x^7$.

- Compute $f[0, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2]$.

- We know that this divided difference is expressible in terms of the 5th derivative of f evaluated at some $\xi \in (0, 2)$. Determine ξ .

Solution

1. Solve the Hermite's interpolation with a difference table. The result of Newton's form follows:

$$p(x) = x + 6x(x-1) + 15x(x-1)^2 + 42x(x-1)^3 + 30x(x-1)^3(x-2)$$

Hence

$$f[0, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2] = 30$$

2. The 5th derivative of f is

$$f^{(5)}(x) = 2520x^2$$

Then $\frac{f^{(5)}(x)}{5!} = f[0, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2]$ yields

$$\frac{2520}{5!}\xi^2 = 30 \quad \implies \quad \xi = \sqrt{\frac{10}{7}} \approx 1.42857 \in (0, 2)$$

Problem 2.6 f is a function on $[0, 3]$ for which one knows that

$$f(0) = 1, \quad f(1) = 2, \quad f'(1) = -1, \quad f(3) = f'(3) = 0$$

- Estimate $f(2)$ using Hermite's interpolation.
- Estimate the maximum possible error of the above answer if one knows, in addition, that $f \in C^5[0, 3]$ and $|f^{(5)}(x)| \leq M$ on $[0, 3]$. Express the answer in terms of M .

Solution

1. The Hermite's interpolation gives that

$$p(x) = 1 + x - 2x(x-1) + \frac{2}{3}x(x-1)^2 - \frac{5}{36}x(x-1)^2(x-3)$$

Hence, estimate $f(2)$ as

$$f(2) \approx p(2) = \frac{11}{18} \approx 0.611111$$

2. Theorem 2.35 gives that

$$f(x) - p(x) = \frac{f^{(5)}(\xi)}{120}x(x-1)^2(x-3)^2$$

The result follows directly:

$$|f(2) - p(2)| = \left| \frac{f^{(5)}(\xi)}{60} \right| \leq \frac{M}{60}$$

Problem 2.7 Define forward difference by

$$\Delta f(x) = f(x+h) - f(x), \quad \Delta^{k+1}f(x) = \Delta \Delta^k f(x) = \Delta^k f(x+h) - \Delta^k f(x)$$

and backward difference by

$$\nabla f(x) = f(x) - f(x-h), \quad \nabla^{k+1}f(x) = \nabla \nabla^k f(x) = \nabla^k f(x) - \nabla^k f(x-h)$$

Prove

$$\Delta^k f(x) = k!h^k f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k] \tag{2.4}$$

$$\nabla^k f(x) = k!h^k f[x_0, x_{-1}, \dots, x_{-k}] \tag{2.5}$$

where $x_j = x + jh$.

Solution The Lagrange's interpolation formula yields

$$f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k] = \sum_{i=0}^k f(x_i) \frac{1}{\prod_{j=1, j \neq i}^k (x_i - x_j)} = \sum_{i=0}^k \frac{(-1)^{k-i} f(x + ih)}{h^k i! (k-i)!}$$

It yields an equivalent form of (2.4):

$$\Delta^k f(x) = k! h^k f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k] = \sum_{i=0}^k \binom{k}{i} (-1)^{k-i} f(x + ih) \quad (2.6)$$

Now prove (2.6) by an induction. For $k = 1$, it could be verified directly:

$$\binom{1}{0} (-1)^{1-0} f(x) + \binom{1}{1} (-1)^{1-1} f(x + h) = f(x + h) - f(x) = \Delta f(x)$$

Suppose (2.6) holds for some $k \geq 1$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^{k+1} f(x) &= \Delta \left(\sum_{i=0}^k \binom{k}{i} (-1)^{k-i} f(x + ih) \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^k \binom{k}{i} (-1)^{k-i} f(x + (i+1)h) - \sum_{i=0}^k \binom{k}{i} (-1)^{k-i} f(x + ih) \\ &= f(x + (k+1)h) - (-1)^k f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^k \left(\binom{k}{i-1} (-1)^{k+1-i} f(x + ih) - \binom{k}{i} (-1)^{k-i} f(x + ih) \right) \\ &= f(x + (k+1)h) + (-1)^{k+1} f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^k (-1)^{k+1-i} f(x + ih) \left(\binom{k}{i-1} + \binom{k}{i} \right) \\ &= f(x + (k+1)h) + (-1)^{k+1} f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^k \binom{k+1}{i} (-1)^{k+1-i} f(x + ih) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{k+1} \binom{k+1}{i} (-1)^{k+1-i} f(x + ih) \end{aligned}$$

It shows that (2.6) holds for $(k+1)$. Hence (2.4) is proved by induction. Now we prove that

$$\Delta^k f(x) = \nabla^k f(x + kh) \quad (2.7)$$

by an induction. For $k = 1$, it could be verified directly:

$$\Delta f(x) = f(x + h) - f(x) = \nabla f(x + h)$$

Suppose (2.7) holds for some $k \geq 1$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^{k+1} f(x) &= \Delta \left(\Delta^k f(x) \right) = \Delta \left(\nabla^k f(x + kh) \right) = \nabla^k f(x + (k+1)h) - \nabla^k f(x + kh) \\ &= \nabla \left(\nabla^k f(x + (k+1)h) \right) = \nabla^{k+1} f(x + (k+1)h) \end{aligned}$$

Hence (2.7) is proved by induction. Finally, (2.5) follows immediately from (2.4), (2.7) and Corollary 2.15.

Problem 2.8 Assume f is differentiable at x_0 . Prove

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n] = f[x_0, x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n] \quad (2.8)$$

What about the partial derivate with respect to one of the other variables?

Solution Firstly, follows from Definition 2.34, we have

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} f[x_0] = f'(x_0) = f[x_0, x_0]$$

Prove (2.8) by an induction on n . For $n = 1$, verify it directly:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} f[x_0, x_1] &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} \left(\frac{f[x_1] - f[x_0]}{x_1 - x_0} \right) \\
&= \frac{-(x_1 - x_0) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} f[x_0] + f[x_1] - f[x_0]}{(x_1 - x_0)^2} \\
&= \frac{f[x_0, x_1] - f[x_0, x_0]}{x_1 - x_0} \\
&= f[x_0, x_0, x_1]
\end{aligned}$$

Suppose (2.8) holds for some $n \geq 1$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}] &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} \left(\frac{f[x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}] - f[x_0, \dots, x_n]}{x_{n+1} - x_0} \right) \\
&= \frac{-(x_{n+1} - x_0) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n] + f[x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}] - f[x_0, \dots, x_n]}{(x_{n+1} - x_0)^2} \\
&= \frac{-(x_{n+1} - x_0) f[x_0, x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n] + f[x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}] - f[x_0, \dots, x_n]}{(x_{n+1} - x_0)^2} \\
&= \frac{-f[x_0, x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n] + f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}]}{x_{n+1} - x_0} \\
&= f[x_0, x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}]
\end{aligned}$$

It shows that (2.8) holds for $(n+1)$, hence proved. Moreover, the order of x_0, \dots, x_n is not important, hence

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n] = f[x_0, \dots, x_{j-1}, x_j, x_j, x_{j+1}, \dots, x_n], \quad \forall j = 0, \dots, n$$

Problem 2.9 (A min-max problem) For $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$, determine

$$\min_{x \in [a, b]} \max_{a_i \in \mathbb{R}} |a_0 x^n + a_1 x^{n-1} + \dots + a_n| \quad (2.9)$$

where $a_0 \neq 0$ is fixed and the minimum is taken over all $a_i \in \mathbb{R}$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

Solution The map

$$p(x) \mapsto q(x) = \frac{1}{a_0} p \left(a + \frac{b-a}{2}(x+1) \right)$$

yields a bisection relation between polynomials of degree n defines in $[a, b]$ with leading coefficient a_0 and polynomials of degree n defines in $[0, 1]$ with leading coefficient 1. Chebyshev's Theorem gives that

$$\forall q \in \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_n, \quad \max_{x \in [-1, 1]} \left| \frac{T_n(x)}{2^{n-1}} \right| \leq \max_{x \in [-1, 1]} |q(x)|$$

where T_n is the Chebyshev's polynomial of order n . Hence the solution of the min-max problem $p_{\min}(x)$ satisfies

$$\frac{1}{a_0} p_{\min} \left(a + \frac{b-a}{2}(x+1) \right) = \frac{T_n(x)}{2^{n-1}}$$

The result follows immediately:

$$p_{\min}(x) = \frac{a_0}{2^{n-1}} T_n \left(\frac{2}{b-a}(x-a) - 1 \right)$$

The min value in (2.8) is $\frac{|a_0|}{2^{n-1}}$.

Problem 2.10 (Imitate the proof of Chebyshev's Theorem) Express the Chebyshev polynomial of degree $n \in \mathbb{N}$ as a polynomial T_n and change its domain from $[-1, 1]$ to \mathbb{R} . For a fixed $a > 1$, define $\mathbb{P}_n^a := \{p \in \mathbb{P}_n : p(a) = 1\}$ and a polynomial $\hat{p}_n(x) \in \mathbb{P}_n^a$,

$$\hat{p}_n(x) := \frac{T_n(x)}{T_n(a)}$$

Prove

$$\forall p \in \mathbb{P}_n^a, \quad \|\hat{p}_n\|_\infty \leq \|p\|_\infty$$

where the max-norm of a function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined as $\|f\|_\infty = \max_{x \in [-1, 1]} |f(x)|$.

Solution First we know that $\|\hat{p}_n\|_\infty = \frac{1}{|T_n(a)|}$. And by the property of T_n we have

$$\hat{p}_n(x'_k) = \frac{(-1)^k}{T_n(a)} \quad \text{for } x'_k = \cos \frac{k}{n} \pi, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n$$

Now we prove the conclusion by using reduction to absurdity. Suppose that:

$$\exists p \in \mathbb{P}_n^a, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \|p\|_\infty < \frac{1}{|T_n(a)|}$$

Let $q(x) = p(x) - \hat{p}_n(x) \in \mathbb{P}_n$, then $q(a) = 0$. And

$$q(x'_k) = p(x'_k) - \frac{(-1)^k}{T_n(a)}, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n$$

We have $\text{sgn}(q(x'_k)) \neq \text{sgn}(q(x'_{k-1}))$ for $k = 1, \dots, n$ since $\|p\|_\infty < \frac{1}{|T_n(a)|}$. By the continuity of q ,

$$\exists -1 = x_n < \xi_n < x_{n-1} < \dots < x_1 < \xi_1 < x_0 = 1, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad q(\xi_1) = \dots = q(\xi_n) = 0$$

However, $q(a) = 0$ and $a > 1$ shows that q has at least $n + 1$ zero points, that contradict to $q \in \mathbb{P}_n$.

Problem 2.11 Prove Lemma 2.48:

$$\forall k = 0, 1, \dots, n, \forall t \in (0, 1), \quad b_{n,k}(t) > 0 \quad (2.10)$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n b_{n,k}(t) = 1 \quad (2.11)$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n k b_{n,k}(t) = nt \quad (2.12)$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n (k - nt)^2 b_{n,k}(t) = nt(1 - t) \quad (2.13)$$

where

$$b_{n,k}(t) = \binom{n}{k} t^k (1 - t)^{n-k}$$

Solution (2.10) is clearly since $t \in (0, 1)$.

By the Binomial Theorem we have:

$$1 = (t + (1 - t))^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} t^k (1 - t)^{n-k} = \sum_{k=0}^n b_{n,k}(t)$$

Hence (2.11) is proved.

Again, by the Binomial Theorem we have:

$$(p + q)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} p^k q^{n-k}$$

Partial derivate with respect to p to both sides yields:

$$n(p + q)^{n-1} = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} k p^{k-1} q^{n-k}$$

Multiple a p to both sides, yield

$$np(p + q)^{n-1} = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} k p^k q^{n-k} \quad (2.14)$$

Now take $p = t$ and $q = 1 - t$, yield

$$nt = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} kt^k(1-t)^{n-k} = \sum_{k=0}^n kb_{n,k}(t)$$

Hence (2.12) is proved.

Follows from (2.14), partial derivate again with respect to p to both sides yields:

$$n(p+q)^{n-1} + n(n-1)p(p+q)^{n-2} = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} k^2 p^{k-1} q^{n-k}$$

Multiple a p to both sides, yield

$$np(p+q)^{n-1} + n(n-1)p^2(p+q)^{n-2} = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} k^2 p^k q^{n-k}$$

Now take $p = t$ and $q = 1 - t$, yield

$$nt + n(n-1)t^2 = \sum_{k=0}^n k^2 b_{n,k}(t)$$

By (2.11), (2.12) and the result above, we got:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^n (k - nt)^2 b_{n,k}(t) &= \sum_{k=0}^n k^2 b_{n,k}(t) - 2nt \sum_{k=0}^n kb_{n,k}(t) + (nt)^2 \sum_{k=0}^n b_{n,k}(t) \\ &= nt + n(n-1)t^2 - 2(nt)^2 + (nt)^2 = nt - nt^2 = nt(1-t) \end{aligned}$$

Hence (2.13) is proved.

Chapter 3 Splines

Problem 3.1 Consider $s \in \mathbb{S}_3^2$ on $[0, 2]$:

$$s(x) = \begin{cases} p(x) & \text{if } x \in [0, 1], \\ (2-x)^3 & \text{if } x \in [1, 2]. \end{cases}$$

Determine $p \in \mathbb{P}_3$ such that $s(0) = 0$. Is $s(x)$ a natural cubic spline?

Solution $p(x)$ should satisfy the following condition:

$$p(0) = 0, \quad p(1) = 1, \quad p'(1) = -3, \quad p''(1) = 6.$$

Use Hermite interpolation, we got

$$p(x) = 7x^3 - 18x^2 + 12x.$$

$s(x)$ is not a natural cubic spline since $s''(0) = -36 \neq 0$.

Problem 3.2 Given $f_i = f(x_i)$ of some scalar function at points $a = x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_n = b$, we consider interpolating f on $[a, b]$ with a quadratic spline $s \in \mathbb{S}_2^1$.

- (a) Why is an additional condition needed to determine s uniquely?
- (b) Define $m_i = s'(x_i)$ and $p_i = s|_{[x_i, x_{i+1}]}$. Determine p_i in terms of f_i, f_{i+1} and m_i for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$.
- (c) Suppose $m_1 = f'(a)$ is given. Show how m_2, m_3, \dots, m_{n-1} can be computed.

Solution (a) Denote $p_i = s|_{[x_i, x_{i+1}]} \in \mathbb{P}_2$, then there're $3(n-1)$ unknown coefficients in p_1, \dots, p_{n-1} . First,

$$p_i(x_i) = f_i, \quad p_i(x_{i+1}) = f_{i+1}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n-1$$

gives $2(n-1)$ equations. And

$$p'_i(x_{i+1}) = p'_{i+1}(x_{i+1}), \quad i = 1, \dots, n-2$$

gives $n-2$ equations. Now there're $3(n-1)$ unknowns and $3(n-1) - 1$ equations.

Hence an additional condition is needed.

(b) Suppose that $p_i(x) = a_i x^2 + b_i x + c_i$. The conditions give that:

$$\begin{cases} x_i^2 a_i + x_i b_i + c_i = f_i \\ x_{i+1}^2 a_i + x_{i+1} b_i + c_i = f_{i+1} \\ 2x_i a_i + b_i = m_i \end{cases}$$

Solve the linear equation of a_i, b_i and c_i , we got

$$\begin{aligned} a_i &= \frac{f_{i+1} - f_i}{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2} - \frac{m_i}{x_{i+1} - x_i} \\ b_i &= \frac{m_i(x_{i+1} + x_i)}{x_{i+1} - x_i} - \frac{2x_i(f_{i+1} - f_i)}{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2} \\ c_i &= f_i + \frac{x_i^2(f_{i+1} - f_i)}{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2} - \frac{m_i x_i x_{i+1}}{x_{i+1} - x_i} \end{aligned}$$

Hence p_i is determined.

(c) Determine p_1 in terms of f_1, f_2 and m_1 . Let $m_2 = p'_1(x_2)$.

Determine p_2 in terms of f_2, f_3 and m_2 . Let $m_3 = p'_2(x_3)$.

\vdots

Determine p_{n-1} in terms of f_{n-1}, f_n and m_{n-1} .

Problem 3.3 Let $s_1(x) = 1 + c(x+1)^3$ where $x \in [-1, 0]$ and $c \in \mathbb{R}$. Determine $s_2(x)$ on $[0, 1]$ such that

$$s(x) = \begin{cases} s_1(x) & \text{if } x \in [-1, 0] \\ s_2(x) & \text{if } x \in [0, 1] \end{cases}$$

is a natural cubic spline on $[-1, 1]$ with knots $-1, 0, 1$. How must c be chosen if one wants $s(1) = -1$?

Solution Let $s_2(x) = \alpha x^3 + \beta x^2 + \gamma x + \theta$. The following conditions should be satisfied.

$$s_2(0) = s_1(0) = 1 + c, \quad s_2'(0) = s_1'(0) = 3c, \quad s_2''(0) = s_1''(0) = 6c, \quad s_2(1) = s(1) = -1, \quad s_2''(1) = 0.$$

And these conditions give that:

$$\begin{cases} \theta = 1 + c \\ \gamma = 3c \\ 2\beta = 6c \\ \alpha + \beta + \gamma + \theta = -1 \\ 6\alpha + 2\beta = 0 \end{cases}.$$

Solve the linear system, and we got that $c = -\frac{1}{3}$.

Problem 3.4 Consider $f(x) = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}x\right)$ with $x \in [-1, 1]$.

- Determine the natural cubic spline interpolant to f on knots $-1, 0, 1$.
- As discussed in the class, natural cubic splines have the minimal total bending energy. Verify this by tanking $g(x)$ be (i) the quadratic polynomial that interpolates f at $-1, 0, 1$, and (ii) $f(x)$.

Solution (a) The natural cubic spline interpolant to f on knots $-1, 0, 1$ is

$$s(x) = \begin{cases} -\frac{1}{2}x^3 - \frac{3}{2}x^2 + 1 & \text{if } x \in [-1, 0], \\ \frac{1}{2}x^3 - \frac{3}{2}x^2 + 1 & \text{if } x \in [0, 1]. \end{cases}$$

(b) The bending energy of s is

$$\int_{-1}^1 [s''(x)]^2 dx = \int_{-1}^0 (-3x - 3)^2 dx + \int_0^1 (3x - 3)^2 dx = 6.$$

The quadratic polynomial that interpolates f at $-1, 0, 1$ is

$$p(x) = -x^2 + 1.$$

And its bending energy is

$$\int_{-1}^1 [p''(x)]^2 dx = \int_{-1}^1 4 dx = 8 > 6.$$

The bending energy of f is

$$\int_{-1}^1 [f''(x)]^2 dx = \int_{-1}^1 \left[-\frac{\pi^2}{4} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}x\right) \right]^2 dx = \frac{\pi^4}{16} \approx 6.0881 > 6.$$