



# Theoretical Problems

## Numerical analysis 2022

**Author:** Wenchong Huang (EbolaEmperor)

**Institute:** School of Mathematical Science, Zhejiang University

**Date:** September 20th, 2022



*Elegantly learning.*

# 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  $\varepsilon$ . 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.

$$(10 \times 4 + 8 + 5 + 10 + 10 + 6 + 10 + 10) \times 1.1 = 111.1$$

## 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  $\xi$  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  $\xi$  from the above two equations. Is  $\xi$  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  $\xi$  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  $\xi$ .

### 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  $f^{(5)}(x) = f[0, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2]$  yields

xi!

$$2520\xi^2 = 30 \implies \xi = \sqrt{\frac{1}{84}} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{21}} \approx 0.1091 \in (0, 2)$$

### 5 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:

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

1 fixi - pxi! does not reach its maximum at 2

### 10 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

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

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

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

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

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:

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

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

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

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

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

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.