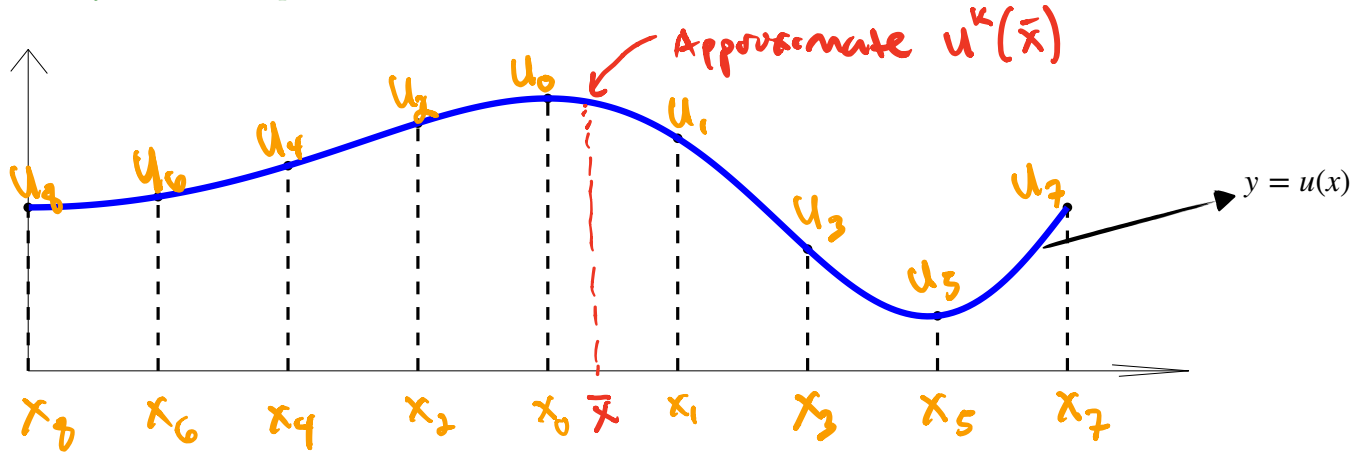


# Finite Differences

Method 2 & 3: Polynomial interpolation and method of undetermined coefficients



Goal is to approximate  $k$ th derivative of  $u$  at  $\bar{x}$  with a formula of the form:

$$\frac{d^k u}{dx^k} \Big|_{x=\bar{x}} \approx \sum_{j=0}^n c_j^k u_j$$

weight

$x_0 = 0$   
 $x_1 = h$   
 $x_2 = -h$   
 $n=2$   
 $\bar{x} = x_0$

$$u'(x_0) = \frac{1}{2h} u(x_1) - \frac{1}{2h} u(x_2) = c_1' u_1 - c_2' u_2$$

Question: How do we determine the coefficients  $c_j^k$ ?

Given  $u_0, u_1, \dots, u_n$ ,  $k$ ,  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n$

## Method 2: Polynomial interpolation

Recall Lagrange's interpolation formula:

$$p_n(x) = \sum_{j=0}^n L_j(x) u_j$$

where

$$L_j(x) = \frac{(x-x_0)(x-x_1)\cdots(x-x_{j-1})(x-x_{j+1})\cdots(x-x_n)}{(x_j-x_0)(x_j-x_1)\cdots(x_j-x_{j-1})(x_j-x_{j+1})\cdots(x_j-x_n)} \} \text{ } n^{\text{th}} \text{ degree polynomial}$$

$n^{\text{th}}$  degree polynomial

$$L_j(x_i) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i=j \\ 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$$

Guarantees that:  $p_n(x_i) = u_i$   
 $i=0,1,\dots,n$

Cardinal property

Ex.  $x_0=1$ ,  $x_1=3$ ,  $x_2=3.5$ .

$$p_2(x) = \frac{(x-3)(x-3.5)}{(1-3)(1-3.5)} u_0 + \frac{(x-1)(x-3.5)}{(3-1)(3-3.5)} u_1 + \frac{(x-1)(x-3)}{(3.5-1)(3.5-3)} u_2$$

$$p_2(3) = 0 + u_1 + 0$$

Approximation:

$$\left. \frac{d^k}{dx^k} u \right|_{x=\bar{x}} \approx \left. \frac{d^k}{dx^k} P_n \right|_{x=\bar{x}} = \left. \frac{d^k}{dx^k} \left( \sum_{j=0}^n L_j(x) u_j \right) \right|_{x=\bar{x}}$$

$$= \sum_{j=0}^n \underbrace{\left[ \left. \frac{d^k}{dx^k} L_j(x) \right|_{x=\bar{x}} \right]}_{C_j^k} u_j$$

$$= \sum_{j=0}^n C_j^k u_j$$

Error error analysis follows the error in the polynomial interpolation.

### Method 3: Method of undetermined coefficients

$$\left. \frac{d^k}{dx^k} u \right|_{x=\bar{x}} \approx \sum_{j=0}^n C_j^k u_j$$

- Choose  $\{C_j^k\}_{j=0}^n$  so that the formula is exact for as high degree polynomials as possible.
- There are  $n+1$  parameters  $\{C_j^k\}_{j=0}^n$ , so we can hope to make the formula exact for polynomials:  
 $\{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n\}$

- Better to work with polynomials:

$$\sum_{i=0}^n \left\{ 1, x-\bar{x}, \frac{(x-\bar{x})^2}{2!}, \frac{(x-\bar{x})^3}{3!}, \dots, \frac{(x-\bar{x})^n}{n!} \right\}$$

Set of equations: For  $i=0,1,\dots,n$

$$\frac{1}{i!} \sum_{j=0}^n c_j^k (x_j - \bar{x})^i = \left. \frac{1}{i!} \frac{d^k}{dx^k} (x - \bar{x})^i \right|_{x=\bar{x}}$$

$$= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i=k \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Leads to a Vandermonde type linear system:

## System:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ (x_0 - \bar{x}) & (x_1 - \bar{x}) & (x_2 - \bar{x}) & \dots & (x_n - \bar{x}) \\ \frac{(x_0 - \bar{x})^2}{2!} & \frac{(x_1 - \bar{x})^2}{2!} & \frac{(x_2 - \bar{x})^2}{2!} & \dots & \frac{(x_n - \bar{x})^2}{2!} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{(x_0 - \bar{x})^n}{n!} & \frac{(x_1 - \bar{x})^n}{n!} & \frac{(x_2 - \bar{x})^n}{n!} & \dots & \frac{(x_n - \bar{x})^n}{n!} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_0^k \\ c_1^k \\ c_2^k \\ c_3^k \\ \vdots \\ c_n^k \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

←  $k^{\text{th}}$  row where you count from zero

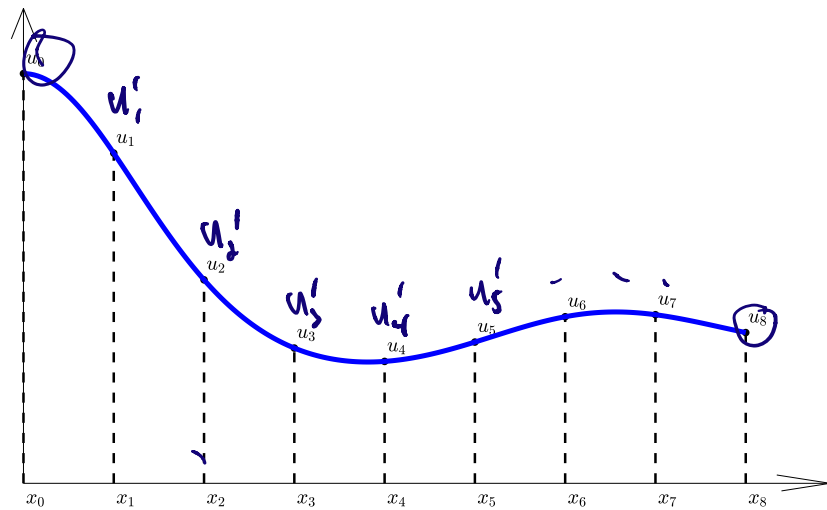
- This gives the same result as Method 2 for the coefficients, using exact arithmetic.
- Method 3 is numerically unstable for large  $n$ .

### Fornberg's algorithm

- Clever algorithm for doing the computations in method 2.
- Webpage, links to codes for this algorithm: [weights](#)

## Differentiation matrices

- ✦ Discrete form of a differential operator
- ✦ Operates on a vector of function samples
- ✦ Produces a vector containing approximations of some derivative.



Example: first derivative

$$\frac{1}{2h} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_0 \\ u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \\ u_4 \\ u_5 \\ u_6 \\ u_7 \\ u_8 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u'_1 \\ u'_2 \\ u'_3 \\ u'_4 \\ u'_5 \\ u'_6 \\ u'_7 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{O}(h^2) \\ \mathcal{O}(h^2) \\ \mathcal{O}(h^2) \\ \mathcal{O}(h^2) \\ \mathcal{O}(h^2) \\ \mathcal{O}(h^2) \\ \mathcal{O}(h^2) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{1}{2h}u_0 + \frac{1}{2h}u_1 &= u'_1 + \mathcal{O}(h^2) \\ \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2h}u_1 &= u'_1 + \frac{1}{2h}u_0 + \mathcal{O}(h^2) \end{aligned}$$

Or we can produce a square differentiation matrix by accounting for the boundaries:

[illegible]

### Example: second derivative

[illegible]