

Interpolation

Suppose that we have a table of numerical values of a function:

$x : x_0 \ x_1 \ \dots \ x_n$
$y : y_0 \ y_1 \ \dots \ y_n$

where $y = f(x)$. Let I be the interval formed by these values of x . If the value of y is required for some $x \in I$, then it is called problem of interpolation and if value of y is required for some x outside the interval I , then it is called problem of extrapolation.

Assumptions for interpolation:

1. There are no sudden jumps or falls in the values, during the period under consideration.
2. The rise and fall in the values ^{of dependent variable} should be uniform.
3. When we apply calculus of finite differences, we assume that the given set of observations is capable of being expressed in a polynomial form.
4. There will be no consecutive missing values in series.

Polynomial interpolation: A polynomial p for which $p(x_i) = y_i$ when $0 \leq i \leq n$ is said to interpolate the table

$x : x_0 \ x_1 \ \dots \ x_n$
$y : y_0 \ y_1 \ \dots \ y_n$

Here, the points x_i are called nodes or arguments.

We have an important result in the form of a Theorem as

Theorem on Existence of Polynomial Interpolation:

If points x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n are distinct, then for arbitrary real values y_0, y_1, \dots, y_n there is a unique polynomial p of degree at most n such that $p(x_i) = y_i$ for $0 \leq i \leq n$.

Note: (1) When $n=0$ i.e., we are given only one node table

$x: x_0$
$y: y_0$

then we have the constant polynomial $p(x) = y_0$.

(2) When $n=1$ i.e., we are given

x_1	x_0	x_1
y_1	y_0	y_1

, then

the polynomial p defined by

$$\begin{aligned} p(x) &= \left(\frac{x-x_1}{x_0-x_1} \right) y_0 + \left(\frac{x-x_0}{x_1-x_0} \right) y_1 \\ &= y_0 + \left(\frac{y_1-y_0}{x_1-x_0} \right) (x-x_0) \end{aligned}$$

is a linear polynomial such that $p(x_0) = y_0$ and $p(x_1) = y_1$.
So, this p is used for linear interpolation.

Ques Find the polynomial of least degree that interpolates the table:

x	1.4	1.25
y	3.7	3.9

Sol Since only two pair of values of (x, y) are given, therefore we can interpolate at most 1 degree polynomial i.e., linear polynomial by using

$$p(x) = \left(\frac{x-x_1}{x_0-x_1} \right) y_0 + \left(\frac{x-x_0}{x_1-x_0} \right) y_1$$

$$\text{or } f(x) = y_0 + \left(\frac{y_1 - y_0}{x_1 - x_0} \right) (x - x_0)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = 3.7 + \left(\frac{3.9 - 3.7}{1.25 - 1.4} \right) (x - 1.4)$$
$$= 3.7 - \frac{4}{3} (x - 1.4) \quad \underline{A}$$

Note: In our further discussion, we shall study various ways of polynomial interpolation

- Lagrange's Interpolation
- Newton's divided difference interpolation
- Gregory-Newton's Forward Interpolation
- Gregory-Newton's Backward Interpolation

Also, we shall study errors in polynomial interpolation.

Error in polynomial interpolation:

When a function f is approximated on an interval $[a, b]$ by means of an interpolating polynomial p , the discrepancy between f and p will be (theoretically) zero at each node of interpolation.

A natural expectation is that the function f will be well approximated at all intermediate points and that as the number of nodes increases, this agreement will become better and better. But it is not always true.

For example: Consider the Dirichlet function f ,

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{when } x \text{ is rational} \\ 1, & \text{when } x \text{ is irrational} \end{cases}$$

If we choose nodes that are rational numbers, then

$$p(x) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad f(x) - p(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{when } x \text{ is rational} \\ 1, & \text{when } x \text{ is irrational} \end{cases}$$

Theorems on Interpolation Errors:

It is possible to assess the errors of interpolation by means of a formula that involves the $(n+1)$ st derivative of the function being interpolated. Here is the formal statement:

Theorem 1: Interpolation Errors I: (w/p)

If p is the polynomial of degree at most n that interpolates f at $(n+1)$ distinct nodes x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n belonging to an interval $[a, b]$ and if $f^{(n+1)}$ is continuous, then for each x in $[a, b]$ there is a ξ in (a, b) for which

$$f(x) - p(x) = \frac{1}{(n+1)!} f^{(n+1)}(\xi) \prod_{i=0}^n (x - x_i)$$

Note: A special case that often arises is the one in which the nodes are equally spaced.

Lemmal Upper Bound Lemma: (ω/b)

Suppose that $x_i = a + ih$ for $i=0, 1, \dots, n$ and that $h = (b-a)/n$. Then for any $x \in [a, b]$

$$\prod_{i=0}^n |x - x_i| \leq \frac{1}{4} h^{n+1} n!$$

Using this lemma, we can now find a bound on the interpolation error.

Theorem 2 Interpolation Errors II: (ω/b)

Let f be a function such that $f^{(n+1)}$ is continuous on $[a, b]$ and satisfies $|f^{(n+1)}(x)| \leq M$. Let p be the polynomial of degree $\leq n$ that interpolates f at $(n+1)$ equally spaced nodes in $[a, b]$, including the endpoints. Then on $[a, b]$,

$$|f(x) - p(x)| \leq \frac{1}{4(n+1)} M h^{n+1}$$

where $h = (b-a)/n$ is the spacing between nodes.

Ques: Assess the error if $\sin x$ is replaced by an interpolation polynomial that has ten equally spaced nodes in $[0, 1.6875]$

Sol Here $f(x) = \sin x$, $a = 0$, $b = 1.6875$, $n+1 = 10 \Rightarrow n = 9$

$$\therefore h = \frac{(b-a)}{n} = \frac{1.6875}{9} = 0.1875$$

$$\text{Also, } f^{(10)}(x) = -\sin x \Rightarrow |f^{(10)}(x)| \leq 1 \\ \Rightarrow M = 1$$

∴ By above theorem,

$$|f(x) - p(x)| \leq \frac{1}{4 \times 10} \times 1 \times (0.1875)^{10} = 1.34 \times 10^{-9}$$

Hence, $|f(x) - p(x)| \leq 0.134 \times 10^{-8}$

∴ The interpolation polynomial that has ten equally spaced nodes on the interval $[0, 1.6785]$ approximates $\sin x$ to at least eight decimal digits of accuracy.

Note: The error expression in polynomial interpolation can also be given in terms of divided differences:

Theorem 3 Interpolation Errors III (w/p)

If p is the polynomial of degree n that interpolates the function f at nodes x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n , then for any x that is not a node,

$$f(x) - p(x) = f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n, x] \prod_{i=0}^n (x - x_i)$$

Note: The following theorem shows that there is a relationship between divided differences and derivatives.

Theorem 4 Divided Differences and Derivatives (w/p)

If $f^{(n)}$ is continuous on $[a, b]$ and if x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n are any $(n+1)$ distinct points in $[a, b]$, then for some ξ in (a, b) ,

$$f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n] = \frac{1}{n!} f^{(n)}(\xi)$$

Corollary 1 Divided Differences Corollary

If f is a polynomial of degree n , then all of the divided differences $f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k] = 0$ for $k \geq n+1$.

Note: Sometimes we can interpolate the given function by a polynomial of degree less than n , when the data is given at $(n+1)$ nodes.

If such a polynomial exists and is of degree $k < n$, then its $(k+1)$ th order divided differences would all be zero.

(See its example after the proof of Newton's Divided Difference Interpolation Formula)

Finite Differences: Suppose $y = f(x)$ and it is given

$x:$	x_0	$x_0 + h$	$x_0 + 2h$	\dots	$x_0 + nh$
$y = f(x):$	$f(x_0)$	$f(x_0 + h)$	$f(x_0 + 2h)$	\dots	$f(x_0 + nh)$

or

$x:$	x_0	x_1	x_2	\dots	x_n
$y:$	y_0	y_1	y_2	\dots	y_n

where $x_n = x_0 + nh$
and
 $y_n = f(x_n)$
 $= f(x_0 + nh)$

where the nodes are equispaced and h is called interval of differencing.

We define the following operators

(i) Shift Operator E :

$$Ef(x) = f(x+h) \quad \text{or} \quad E y_r = y_{r+1}$$

$$\text{In general } E^n f(x) = f(x+nh) \quad \text{or} \quad E^n y_r = y_{n+r}$$

where n can be +ive or -ive and also it can take any fraction value.

$$\therefore E^{-1} f(x) = f(x-h), \quad E^{1/2} f(x) = f(x + \frac{1}{2}h)$$

$$\text{or } E^{-1} y_r = y_{r-1}, \quad E^{1/2} y_r = y_{r+\frac{1}{2}} \text{ etc.}$$

(ii) Forward difference operator Δ :

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

or

$$\Delta y_r = y_{r+1} - y_r$$

(iii) Backward difference operator ∇ :

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

or

$$\nabla y_r = y_r - y_{r-1}$$

Relation between these operators:

	E	Δ	∇
E	E	$1 + \Delta$	$(1 - \nabla)^{-1}$
Δ	E^{-1}	Δ	$(1 - \nabla)^{-1} - 1$
∇	$1 - E^{-1}$	$1 - (1 + \Delta)^{-1}$	∇

Mean value operator

$$\mu f(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left[f\left(x + \frac{h}{2}\right) + f\left(x - \frac{h}{2}\right) \right]$$

The above relationship can be proved as

$$(i) \quad \begin{aligned} \therefore \Delta f(x) &= f(x+h) - f(x) \\ &= E f(x) - f(x) \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \Delta f(x) = (E - 1) f(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\Delta = E - 1}$$

$$\therefore \boxed{E = 1 + \Delta}$$

$$(ii) \quad \begin{aligned} \therefore \nabla f(x) &= f(x) - f(x-h) \\ &= f(x) - E^{-1} f(x) \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \nabla f(x) = (1 - E^{-1}) f(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\nabla = 1 - E^{-1}}$$

$$\therefore \boxed{E^{-1} = 1 - \nabla}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{E = (1 - \nabla)^{-1}}$$

(iii) By (i) and (ii)

$$E = 1 + \Delta \text{ and } E = (1 - \nabla)^{-1}$$

$$\therefore 1 + \Delta = (1 - \nabla)^{-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\Delta = (1 - \nabla)^{-1} - 1}$$

Central difference Operator

$$S f(x) = f\left(x + \frac{h}{2}\right) - f\left(x - \frac{h}{2}\right)$$

$$\cdot S = E^{1/2} - E^{-1/2}$$

$$\cdot S = \Delta (1 + \Delta)^{-1/2}$$

$$\cdot S = \nabla (1 - \nabla)^{-1/2}$$

$$\cdot E = 1 + \frac{1}{2} \delta^2 + \delta \sqrt{1 + \frac{\delta^2}{4}}$$

$$\cdot \Delta = \frac{1}{2} \delta^2 + \delta \sqrt{1 + \frac{\delta^2}{4}}$$

$$\cdot \nabla = -\frac{1}{2} \delta^2 + \delta \sqrt{1 + \frac{\delta^2}{4}}$$

By (i) and (ii)

$$\nabla = 1 - E^{-1}, \quad E = 1 + \Delta$$

$$\therefore \boxed{\nabla = 1 - (1 + \Delta)^{-1}}$$

Que Show that

- (i) $\Delta + \nabla = E - E^{-1}$
- (ii) $\Delta + \nabla = \frac{\Delta}{\nabla} - \frac{\nabla}{\Delta}$
- (iii) $\Delta \nabla = \nabla \Delta = \Delta - \nabla$

Sol (i) We know that $\Delta = E - I$, $\nabla = I - E^{-1}$

$$\therefore \Delta + \nabla = (E - I) + (I - E^{-1}) = E - E^{-1} \quad \underline{\text{Proved}}$$

(ii) We know that $\Delta = E - I$, $\nabla = I - E^{-1}$

$$\therefore \Delta + \nabla = (E - I) + (I - E^{-1}) = E - E^{-1} \quad \textcircled{1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now, } \frac{\Delta}{\nabla} - \frac{\nabla}{\Delta} &= \frac{E - I}{I - E^{-1}} - \frac{I - E^{-1}}{E - I} \\ &= \frac{E(E - I)}{(E - I)} - \frac{(E - I)}{E(E - I)} \\ &= E - \frac{1}{E} = E - E^{-1} \quad \textcircled{2} \end{aligned}$$

From $\textcircled{1}$ & $\textcircled{2}$, $\Delta + \nabla = \frac{\Delta - \nabla}{\nabla - \Delta} \quad \underline{\text{Proved}}$

(iii) We know that $\Delta = E - I$, $\nabla = I - E^{-1}$

$$\therefore \Delta \nabla = (E - I)(I - E^{-1}) = E - I - I + E^{-1} = E + E^{-1} - 2$$

$$\nabla \Delta = (I - E^{-1})(E - I) = E - I - I + E^{-1} = E + E^{-1} - 2$$

$$\Delta - \nabla = (E - I) - (I - E^{-1}) = E + E^{-1} - 2$$

Hence $\Delta \nabla = \nabla \Delta = \Delta - \nabla \quad \underline{\text{Proved}}$

(4)

Forward differences: The differences

$y_1 - y_0, y_2 - y_1, \dots, y_n - y_{n-1}$ are denoted by

$\Delta y_0, \Delta y_1, \dots, \Delta y_{n-1}$ respectively and are called first order forward differences i.e., $\Delta y_r = y_{r+1} - y_r$.

Similarly $\Delta^2 y_r = \Delta(\Delta y_r) = \Delta(y_{r+1} - y_r) = \Delta y_{r+1} - \Delta y_r$
are called second order forward differences.

In general, $\Delta^n y_r = \Delta^{n-1} y_{r+1} - \Delta^{n-1} y_r$ (n th order forward differences)

These differences are shown below in forward difference table.

Forward difference table

(Here nodes are equispaced
i.e., $x_n = x_0 + nh$)

x	y	Δy	$\Delta^2 y$	$\Delta^3 y$
x_0	y_0	Δy_0		
x_1	y_1	Δy_1	$\Delta^2 y_0$	$\Delta^3 y_0$
x_2	y_2		$\Delta^2 y_1$	
x_3	y_3	Δy_2		

Note: $\Delta^n y_0 = y_n - {}^n C_1 y_{n-1} + {}^n C_2 y_{n-2} - {}^n C_3 y_{n-3} + \dots + (-1)^n y_0$ (1)

Proof We have $\Delta^n y_0 = (E-1)^n y_0$ ($\because \Delta = E-1$)
 $= [E^n - {}^n C_1 E^{n-1} + {}^n C_2 E^{n-2} - {}^n C_3 E^{n-3} + \dots + (-1)^n] y_0$
 $= y_n - {}^n C_1 y_{n-1} + {}^n C_2 y_{n-2} - {}^n C_3 y_{n-3} + \dots + (-1)^n y_0$.

Proved ($\because E^n y_r = y_{n+r}$)

Backward differences: The differences

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$y_1 - y_0, y_2 - y_1, \dots, y_n - y_{n-1}$ are denoted by

$\nabla y_1, \nabla y_2, \dots, \nabla y_n$ respectively and are called first order backward differences i.e., $\nabla y_r = y_r - y_{r-1}$

$$\text{Similarly } \nabla^2 y_h = \nabla(\nabla y_h) = \nabla(y_h - y_{h-1}) = \nabla y_h - \nabla y_{h-1}$$

are called second order backward differences.

In general, $\nabla^n y_r = \nabla^{n-1} y_r - \nabla^{n-1} y_{r-1}$ (n^{th} order backward differences)

These differences are shown below in backward difference table.

Backward difference table

(Here nodes are equispaced
i.e. $x_n = x_c + nh$)

x	y	∇y	$\nabla^2 y$	$\nabla^3 y$
x_0	y_0	∇y_1	$\nabla^2 y_2$	$\nabla^3 y_3$
x_1	y_1	∇y_2	$\nabla^2 y_3$	
x_2	y_2	∇y_3		
x_3	y_3			

Note: $\nabla^n y_n = y_n - {}^nC_1 y_{n-1} + {}^nC_2 y_{n-2} - {}^nC_3 y_{n-3} + \dots + (-1)^n y_0$

Proof We have $\nabla^n y_n = (I - E^{-1})^n y_n \quad (\because \nabla = (I - E^{-1}))$

$$= (I - {}^n C_1 E^{-1} + {}^n C_2 E^{-2} - {}^n C_3 E^{-3} + \dots + (-1)^n E^{-n}) y_n$$

$$= y_n - {}^n C_1 y_{n-1} + {}^n C_2 y_{n-2} - {}^n C_3 y_{n-3} + \dots + (-1)^n y_0$$

(since $E^n y_n = y_{n+1}$)

Note: $\Delta^n y_0 = \nabla^n y_n$ (from ① & ②) (see ① on previous page)

Ques Given that $y_5 = 4, y_6 = 3, y_7 = 4, y_8 = 10$ and $y_9 = 24$.

Find the value of Δy_6 and $\Delta^4 y_5$ by using difference table.

Forward

Sol A Difference table for given data is

x	y	Δy	$\Delta^2 y$	$\Delta^3 y$	$\Delta^4 y$
5	4	-1			
6	3	1	$2 = \Delta^2 y_5$	$3 = \Delta^3 y_5$	
7	4	6	$5 = \Delta^2 y_6$	$3 = \Delta^3 y_6$	$0 = \Delta^4 y_5$
8	10	14	$8 = \Delta^2 y_7$		
9	24				

\therefore From the table, $\Delta^2 y_6 = 5$ and $\Delta^4 y_5 = 0$

Note: We can find the required values without difference table,

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta^2 y_6 &= (E-1)^2 y_6 \quad (\because \Delta = E-1) \\ &= (E^2 - 2E + 1) y_6 \\ &= y_8 - 2y_7 + y_6 = 10 - 2 \times 4 + 3 = 10 - 8 + 3 = 5\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{and } \Delta^4 y_5 &= (E-1)^4 y_5 \\ &= (E^4 - 4E^3 + 6E^2 - 4E + 1) y_5 \\ &= y_9 - 4y_8 + 6y_7 - 4y_6 + y_5 \\ &= 24 - 4 \times 10 + 6 \times 4 - 4 \times 3 + 4 = 24 - 40 + 24 - 12 + 4 = 0\end{aligned}$$

Note: If $f(x)$ is a polynomial of degree n , i.e.,

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k x^k$$

then $\Delta^n f(x)$ is constant and is equal to $n! a_n h^n$ and

so $\Delta^m f(x) = 0$ when $m > n$

Hence if n pairs of values of x & y are given, then ⑦

$$\Delta^m y = 0$$

Ques: Find the missing values in the following table

$x:$	0	5	10	15	20	25
$y:$	6	10	-	17	-	31

Sol Let $y(10) = a, y(20) = b$

Forward difference table is

x	y	Δy	$\Delta^2 y$	$\Delta^3 y$	$\Delta^4 y$
0	6	4	$a-14$		
5	10	$a-10$	$27-2a$	$41-3a$	$6a+b-102$
10	a	$17-a$	$a+b-34$	$3a+b-61$	$143-4a-4b$
15	17	$b-17$		$82-a-3b$	
20	b		$48-2b$		
25	31	$31-b$			

As four entries are given, so 4th order differences are zero

$$\therefore 6a+b=102 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$4a+4b=143 \Rightarrow a+b = \frac{143}{4} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Subtract (2) from (1), } \quad 5a &= 102 - \frac{143}{4} = \frac{408-143}{4} = \frac{265}{4} \\ \Rightarrow a &= \frac{53}{4} = 13.25 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \text{From eqn. (1), } \quad b = 102 - 6 \times 13.25 = 102 - 79.50 = 22.50$$

$$\text{Hence } a = 13.25, b = 22.50$$

A

Ques Using the method of separation of symbols, show that

$$(i) \Delta^n u_{x-n} = u_x - n u_{x-1} + \frac{n(n-1)}{2!} u_{x-2} - \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)}{3!} u_{x-3} \\ + \dots + (-1)^n n u_{x-n+1} + (-1)^n u_{x-n}$$

$$(ii) u_0 + u_1 x + u_2 x^2 + \dots \infty = \frac{u_0}{(1-x)} + \frac{x \Delta u_0}{(1-x)^2} + \frac{x^2 \Delta^2 u_0}{(1-x)^3} + \dots \infty$$

Sol (i) $\Delta^n u_{x-n} = (E-1)^n u_{x-n} \quad (\because \Delta = E-1)$

$$= [E^n - {}^n C_1 E^{n-1} + {}^n C_2 E^{n-2} - {}^n C_3 E^{n-3} + \dots + (-1)^n] u_{x-n}$$

$$= u_x - n u_{x-1} + \frac{n(n-1)}{2!} u_{x-2} - \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)}{3!} u_{x-3} + \dots + (-1)^n u_{x-n}$$

$$(\because E^n y_n = y_{n+n})$$

Hence Proved

(ii) R.H.S.

$$= \frac{u_0}{(1-x)} + \frac{x \Delta u_0}{(1-x)^2} + \frac{x^2 \Delta^2 u_0}{(1-x)^3} + \dots \infty$$

$$= \frac{1}{(1-x)} \left[1 + \frac{x \Delta}{(1-x)} + \frac{x^2 \Delta^2}{(1-x)^2} + \dots \right] u_0$$

$$= \frac{1}{(1-x)} \left[1 + \frac{x(E-1)}{(1-x)} + \frac{x^2 (E-1)^2}{(1-x)^2} + \dots \right] u_0$$

$$= \frac{1}{(1-x)} \cdot \frac{1}{\left[1 - \frac{x(E-1)}{(1-x)} \right]} \cdot u_0 \quad (\text{Sum of infinite G.P.})$$

$$= \frac{1}{(1-x)} \left[1 - \frac{x(E-1)}{(1-x)} \right]^{-1} u_0$$

$$= \frac{1}{(1-x)} \frac{(1-xE)^{-1}}{(1-x)^{-1}} u_0 = (1-xE)^{-1} u_0$$

$$= (1+xE+x^2E^2+\dots) u_0$$

$$= u_0 + xu_1 + x^2u_2 + \dots \quad (\because E^n u_0 = u_x)$$

$$= L.H.S.$$

Hence Proved.

Factorial polynomial: The factorial polynomial of degree n (n is a positive integer) is defined as

$$x^{(n)} = x(x-h)(x-2h)\dots(x-\overline{n-1}h)$$

$$\text{and } x^{(0)} = 1$$

where h is the interval of differencing.

Note:

$$(1) \quad x^{(n)} = (x-\overline{n-1}h)x^{(n-1)}$$

(2) Also, we define $x^{(-1)} = \frac{1}{x+h}$

$$x^{(-n)} = \frac{1}{(x+h)(x+2h)\dots(x+nh)} = \frac{1}{(x+nh)^{(n)}} ,$$

$n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

(3) $\boxed{\Delta x^{(n)} = nh x^{(n-1)}}$ for positive and negative integer n

To see this for positive integer n ,

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta x^{(n)} &= \Delta [x(x-h)(x-2h)\dots(x-\overline{n-1}h)] \\ &= (x+h)x(x-h)\dots(x-\overline{n-2}h) - x(x-h)(x-2h)\dots(x-\overline{n-1}h) \\ &\quad (\because \Delta f(x) = f(x+h) - f(x)) \\ &= x(x-h)\dots(x-\overline{n-2}h) [(x+h) - (x-\overline{n-1}h)] \\ &= x^{(n-1)} [x+h - x + nh - h] \\ &= nh x^{(n-1)} \end{aligned}$$

Similarly we can verify it for negative integer n .

Also, $\boxed{\Delta (x+a)^{(n)} = nh (x+a)^{(n-1)}}$

(4) If we are given $\Delta f(x)$ in factorial notation and we want to find $f(x)$, then we use $\Delta^{-1} x^{(n)} = \frac{x^{(n+1)}}{(n+1)h}$ to get $f(x)$,

Ques Evaluate (i) $\Delta^3 \left(\frac{5x+12}{x^2+5x+6} \right)$ (ii) $\Delta^2 \left(\frac{1}{x(x+4)(x+8)} \right)$

Sol (i) $\Delta^3 \left(\frac{5x+12}{x^2+5x+6} \right) = \Delta^3 \left(\frac{5x+12}{(x+2)(x+3)} \right)$

$$= \Delta^3 \left(\frac{2}{x+2} + \frac{3}{x+3} \right) \quad (\text{by suppression method})$$

$$= \Delta^3 [2(x+1)^{(-1)} + 3(x+2)^{(-1)}]$$

$$= 2 \cdot (-1) (-2) (-3) (x+1)^{(-4)} + 3 (-1) (-2) (-3) (x+2)^{(-4)}$$

$$= \frac{-12}{(x+2)(x+3)(x+4)(x+5)} - \frac{9}{(x+3)(x+4)(x+5)(x+6)}$$

$$= \frac{-12(x+6) - 9(x+2)}{(x+2)(x+3)(x+4)(x+5)(x+6)}$$

$$= \frac{-21x - 90}{(x+2)(x+3)(x+4)(x+5)(x+6)} \quad \boxed{A}$$

(ii) $\Delta^2 \left(\frac{1}{x(x+4)(x+8)} \right)$

$$= \Delta^2 (x-4)^{(-3)} = (-3)(-4) \cdot 4^2 (x-4)^{(-5)}$$

$$= \frac{192}{x(x+4)(x+8)(x+12)(x+16)} \quad \boxed{A}$$

Or

Other method

$$\Delta \left(\frac{1}{x(x+4)(x+8)} \right) = \frac{1}{(x+4)(x+8)(x+12)} - \frac{1}{x(x+4)(x+8)}$$

$$= \frac{-12}{x(x+4)(x+8)(x+12)}$$

$$\therefore \Delta^2 \left(\frac{1}{x(x+4)(x+8)(x+12)} \right) = -12 \Delta \left(\frac{1}{x(x+4)(x+8)(x+12)} \right)$$

$$= -12 \left[\frac{1}{(x+4)(x+8)(x+12)(x+16)} - \frac{1}{x(x+4)(x+8)(x+12)} \right]$$

$$= -12 \left[\frac{x-(x+16)}{x(x+4)(x+8)(x+12)(x+16)} \right]$$

$$= \frac{192}{x(x+4)(x+8)(x+12)(x+16)} \quad A$$

Ques Express the polynomial $f(x) = 2x^3 + 3x^2 - 5x + 4$ in factorial notation and find its successive differences. Also obtain a function whose first order finite difference is $-f(x)$.

Sol

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= 2x^3 + 3x^2 - 5x + 4 \\ &= 2x(x-1)(x-2) + 9x^2 - 9x + 4 \\ &= 2x(x-1)(x-2) + 9x(x-1) + 4 \\ \therefore f(x) &= 2x^{(3)} + 9x^{(2)} + 4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &2x(x^2 - 3x + 2) \\ &= 2x^3 - 6x^2 + 4x \\ &9x(x-1) \\ &= 9x^2 - 9x \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Now, } \Delta f(x) = 6x^{(2)} + 18x^{(1)} = 6x(x-1) + 18x = 6x^2 + 12x$$

$$\Delta^2 f(x) = 12x^{(1)} + 18 = 12x + 18$$

$$\Delta^3 f(x) = 12$$

$$\Delta^n f(x) = 0, n \in \mathbb{N}, n > 3$$

Let $g(x)$ be a function such that $\Delta g(x) = f(x)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} g(x) &= \Delta^{-1} f(x) \\ &= \Delta^{-1} [2x^{(3)} + 9x^{(2)} + 4x^{(0)}] \\ &= \frac{2}{4}x^{(4)} + \frac{9}{3}x^{(3)} + 4x^{(1)} + C \\ &= \frac{1}{2}x(x-1)(x-2)(x-3) + 3x(x-1)(x-2) + 4x + C \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(x^4 - 6x^3 + 11x^2 - 6x) + 3(x^3 - 3x^2 + 2x) + 4x + C \\ &= \frac{1}{2}x^4 - \cancel{3}x^3 + \frac{11}{2}x^2 - 3x + \cancel{3x} - 9x^2 + 6x + 4x + C \\ &= \frac{1}{2}x^4 - \frac{7}{2}x^2 + 7x + C = \frac{1}{2}(x^4 - 7x^2 + 14x) + C \quad A \end{aligned}$$

where C is arbitrary constant

Note:Other method to write $f(x)$ in factorial notation

$$\text{Let } f(x) = 2x^3 + 3x^2 - 5x + 4 \\ = Ax^{(3)} + Bx^{(2)} + Cx^{(1)} + D \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$\text{Then } 2x^3 + 3x^2 - 5x + 4 = Ax(x-1)(x-2) + Bx(x-1) + Cx + D \\ = A(x^3 - 3x^2 + 2x) + B(x^2 - x) + Cx + D$$

Equating like coefficients on both sides,

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} A = 2 \\ -3A + B = 3 \\ 2A - B + C = -5 \\ D = 4 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} A = 2, B = 9 \\ C = -5 - 4 + 9 = 0 \\ & \& D = 4 \end{array}$$

$$\therefore \text{From eqn.(1), } f(x) = 2x^{(3)} + 9x^{(2)} + 4 \quad \text{Ans}$$

Ques Evaluate $\Delta^3 [(1-6x)(6-x)(5-3x)]$

Sol Let $f(x) = (1-6x)(6-x)(5-3x)$

Clearly $f(x)$ is a polynomial of third degree and
we know that $\Delta^n x^{(n)} = n(n-1)(n-2)\dots 1 \cdot h^n = n! h^n$

and $\Delta^m x^{(n)} = 0 \text{ if } m > n$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \Delta^3 [(1-6x)(6-x)(5-3x)] \\ &= \Delta^3 [(-6)(-1)(-3)x^{(3)} + \text{a polynomial of 2nd degree}] \\ &= (-6)(-1)(-3) \cdot 3! h^3 \\ &= -108 h^3 \\ &= -108 \quad (\text{if } h=1) \end{aligned}$$

Ques One entry in the following table is incorrect and y is a cubic polynomial in x . Use the difference table to locate and correct the error:

$x :$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$y :$	25	21	18	18	27	45	76	123

Sol Difference table for given data is

x	y	Δy	$\Delta^2 y$	$\Delta^3 y$	$\Delta^4 y$
0	25	-4			
1	21	-3	1	$2+\epsilon$	$4-4\epsilon$
2	18	$0+\epsilon$	$3+\epsilon$	$6-3\epsilon$	
3	$18+\epsilon$	$9-\epsilon$	$9-2\epsilon$	$0+3\epsilon$	$-6+6\epsilon$
4	27	18	$9+\epsilon$	$4-\epsilon$	$4-4\epsilon$
5	45	31	13	3	$-1+\epsilon$
6	76	47	16		
7	123				

Since the degree of polynomial is 3, the fourth order differences must be zero. Numerical largest fourth order difference is -6 which is corresponding to row of $x=3$. Thus y_3 has error. Let error be ϵ . Then error propagation is shown in the table.

As 4th order differences are zero

$$\therefore -6+6\epsilon=0 \Rightarrow \epsilon=1 \Rightarrow y_3=18+1=19$$

When the nodes are equispaced, we use the following formulae for interpolation:

Gregory-

1. Newton's Forward Difference Interpolation Formula:

Suppose given

$x : x_0 = x_0 + h = x_0 + 2h = \dots = x_0 + nh$
$f(x) : f(x_0) = y_0 \quad f(x_0 + h) = y_1 \quad f(x_0 + 2h) = y_2 \quad \dots \quad f(x_0 + nh) = y_n$

where h is the interval of differencing and we want to interpolate $f(x)$ at $x = x_0 + ph$. $\therefore p = \frac{x - x_0}{h}$

$$\therefore f(x) = f(x_0 + ph)$$

$$= E^p f(x_0)$$

$$= (1 + \Delta)^p y_0 \quad (\because E = 1 + \Delta)$$

$$= \left(1 + p\Delta + \frac{p(p-1)}{2!} \Delta^2 + \frac{p(p-1)(p-2)}{3!} \Delta^3 + \dots \right) y_0$$

$$\therefore f(x) = f(x_0 + ph) \approx y_0 + p\Delta y_0 + \frac{p(p-1)}{2!} \Delta^2 y_0 + \dots + \frac{p(p-1)\dots(p-n+1)}{n!} \Delta^n y_0$$

We prefer to use it to interpolate the value of the function near the beginning of set of tabulated value and $0 < p < 1$.

Gregory-

2. Newton's Backward Difference Interpolation Formula:

Suppose given

$x : x_0 = x_0 + h = x_0 + 2h = \dots = x_0 + nh$
$f(x) : f(x_0) = y_0 \quad f(x_0 + h) = y_1 \quad f(x_0 + 2h) = y_2 \quad \dots \quad f(x_0 + nh) = y_n$

where h is the interval of differencing and we want to interpolate $f(x)$ at $x = x_n - ph$ $\therefore p = \frac{x_n - x}{h}$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore f(x) &= f(x_n - \beta h) = E^{-\beta} f(x_n) \\ &= (1 - \nabla)^{\beta} f(x_n) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \therefore \nabla = I - E^{-1} \\ \Rightarrow E^{-1} = (I - \nabla) \end{array} \right. \\ &= \left(1 - \beta \nabla + \frac{\beta(\beta-1)}{2!} \nabla^2 - \frac{\beta(\beta-1)(\beta-2)}{3!} \nabla^3 + \dots \right) y_n \\ &\quad (\because f(x_n) = y_n)\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore f(x) = f(x_n - \beta h) \approx y_n - \beta \nabla y_n + \frac{\beta(\beta-1)}{2!} \nabla^2 y_n + \dots + \frac{(-1)^n \beta(\beta-1) \dots (\beta-n+1)}{n!} \nabla^n y_n$$

We prefer to use it to interpolate the value of the function near the end of set of tabulated value and $0 < \beta < 1$.

Ques The population of a city in the decennial census was as given below. Estimate the population for the year 1895 and 1925.

year x	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931
Population y (in thousands)	46	66	81	93	101

Difference table for given data is

Sol

x	y
1891	46
1901	66
1911	81
1921	93
1931	101

For $x = 1895$, we shall use Newton's forward difference formula,

$$x_0 = 1891, h = 10, x = 1895$$

$$\beta = \frac{x - x_0}{h} = \frac{1895 - 1891}{10} = 0.4$$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore y(1895) &\simeq y_0 + \frac{\beta \Delta y_0}{1!} + \frac{\beta(\beta-1)}{2!} \Delta^2 y_0 + \frac{\beta(\beta-1)(\beta-2)}{3!} \Delta^3 y_0 \\ &\quad + \frac{\beta(\beta-1)(\beta-2)(\beta-3)}{4!} \Delta^4 y_0 \\ &= 46 + (0.4)(20) + \frac{(0.4)(-0.6)(-5)}{2} + \frac{(0.4)(-0.6)(-1.6)(2)}{6} \\ &\quad + \frac{(0.4)(-0.6)(-1.6)(-2.6)(-3)}{24} \\ &= 54.8528 \simeq 55 \text{ thousands} \quad \underline{A}\end{aligned}$$

For $x = 1925$, we shall use Newton's backward difference formula

$$x_n = 1931, h = 10, x = 1925$$

$$\therefore \beta = \frac{x_n - x}{h} = \frac{1931 - 1925}{10} = 0.6$$

$$\begin{aligned}y(1925) &\simeq y_n - \frac{\beta \nabla y_n}{1!} + \frac{\beta(\beta-1)}{2!} \nabla^2 y_n - \frac{\beta(\beta-1)(\beta-2)}{3!} \nabla^3 y_n \\ &\quad + \frac{\beta(\beta-1)(\beta-2)(\beta-3)}{4!} \nabla^4 y_n \\ &= 101 - (0.6)(8) + \frac{(0.6)(-0.4)(-4)}{2} - \frac{(0.6)(-0.4)(-1.4)(-1)}{6} \\ &\quad + \frac{(0.6)(-0.4)(-1.4)(-2.4)(-3)}{24} \\ &= 96.8368 \simeq 97 \text{ thousands} \quad \underline{A}\end{aligned}$$

Que Given $\sin 45^\circ = 0.7071$, $\sin 50^\circ = 0.7660$, $\sin 55^\circ = 0.8192$ and $\sin 60^\circ = 0.8660$, find $\sin 52^\circ$ using Newton's forward interpolation formula.

Sol Forward difference table for given data is

x (in degrees)	$y = \sin x$	Δy	$\Delta^2 y$	$\Delta^3 y$
45	0.7071	0.0589		
50	0.7660	0.0532	-0.0057	-0.0007
55	0.8192	0.0468	-0.0064	
60	0.8660			

For $x = 52$, we choose $x_0 = 50$,

Here $h = 5$

$$\therefore \bar{p} = \frac{x - x_0}{h} = \frac{52 - 50}{5} = \frac{2}{5} = 0.4$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \therefore y(52) &\approx y_0 + \bar{p} \Delta y_0 + \frac{\bar{p}(\bar{p}-1)}{2!} \Delta^2 y_0 \\
 &= 0.7660 + (0.4)(0.0532) + \frac{(0.4)(-0.6)}{2} (-0.0064) \\
 &= 0.7660 + 0.02128 + 0.000768 \\
 &= 0.7880
 \end{aligned}$$

A

Ques For the following data obtain the backward differences, interpolation polynomial and estimate $f(x)$ at $x=0.35$.

x	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
$f(x)$	1.40	1.56	1.76	2.00	2.28

Sol Backward difference table for given data is

x	$f(x)$	$\nabla f(x)$	$\nabla^2 f(x)$	$\nabla^3 f(x)$	$\nabla^4 f(x)$
0.1	1.40	0.16			
0.2	1.56	0.20	0.04	0	
0.3	1.76	0.24	0.04	0	0
0.4	2.00		0.04	0	
0.5	2.28	0.28			

For Newton's backward differences interpolation polynomial

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{p} &= \frac{x_n - x}{h} = \frac{0.5 - x}{0.1} \quad (\because x_n = 0.5 \text{ and } h = 0.1) \\ &= 10(0.5 - x) = 5 - 10x = 5(1 - 2x) \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore f(x) \approx f(x_n) - \frac{\bar{p}}{1!} \nabla f(x_n) + \frac{\bar{p}(\bar{p}-1)}{2!} \nabla^2 f(x_n) \quad (\because \text{other terms vanish})$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = 2.28 - 5(1-2x)(0.28) + \frac{5(1-2x)(4-10x)}{2} (0.04)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = 2.28 - 1.4(1-2x) + 0.2(1-2x)(2-5x)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = (2.28 - 1.4 + 0.4) + 2.8x - 1.8x + 2x^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{f(x) = 2x^2 + x + 1.28} \quad \underline{A}$$

$$\text{and } f(0.35) = 2x(0.35)^2 + (0.35) + 1.28 = 1.875 \quad \underline{A}$$

Ques Find the number of men getting wages between ₹ 100 and 150 from the following data:

Wages in ₹	0-100	100-200	200-300	300-400
Frequency	9	30	35	42

Sol Let y denote number of men getting wages below ₹ x .
Then difference table is

x (Below ₹)	y (no. of men)	Δy	$\Delta^2 y$	$\Delta^3 y$
100	9	- - - 30	- - - 5	- - - 2
200	39	35	7	
300	74	42		
400	116			

Now, we find $y(150)$ by using Newton's forward interpolation formula:

$$\text{Here } x = 150, x_0 = 100, h = 100$$

$$\therefore \bar{p} = \frac{x-x_0}{h} = \frac{150-100}{100} = \frac{50}{100} = \frac{1}{2} = 0.5$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore y(150) &\approx y(100) + \bar{p} \Delta y(100) + \frac{\bar{p}(\bar{p}-1)}{2!} \Delta^2 y(100) + \frac{\bar{p}(\bar{p}-1)(\bar{p}-2)}{3!} \Delta^3 y(100) \\ &= 9 + (0.5)(30) + \frac{(0.5)(-0.5)(5)}{2} + \frac{(0.5)(-0.5)(-1.5)}{6}(2) \\ &= 9 + 15 - 0.625 + 0.125 \\ &= 23.5 \approx 24 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \text{Number of men getting wages between ₹ 100 and 150} \\ &= y(150) - y(100) = 24 - 9 = 15 \quad A \end{aligned}$$

Lagrange's Interpolation: Suppose it is given that

x :	x_0	x_1	... x_n
	$f(x)$	$f(x_0)$	$f(x_1)$... $f(x_n)$

where $x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ are not necessarily equally spaced.

We can interpolate f by the Lagrange form of the interpolation polynomial as $p_n(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n l_i(x) f(x_i)$ ————— (1)

where $l_i(x)$ are special polynomials of degree n known as cardinal polynomials for each $i=0, 1, \dots, n$ and have the property $l_i(x_j) = \delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \\ 1 & \text{if } i = j \end{cases}$

We can express each l_i as

$$l_i(x) = \prod_{\substack{j=0 \\ j \neq i}}^n \left(\frac{x - x_j}{x_i - x_j} \right) \quad (0 \leq i \leq n)$$

$$l_i(x) = \frac{(x - x_0)(x - x_1) \dots (x - x_{i-1})(x - x_{i+1}) \dots (x - x_n)}{(x_i - x_0)(x_i - x_1) \dots (x_i - x_{i-1})(x_i - x_{i+1}) \dots (x_i - x_n)} ————— (2)$$

Clearly $l_i(x_i) = 1$

and $l_i(x_j) = 0$ when $i \neq j$ (\because one of the factor will be 0 in the num.)

Note: To write the Lagrange's interpolating polynomial first we find all the cardinal polynomials by eqn. (2) and finally substitute all these values in equation (1).

OR

we can directly remember the form of Lagrange's interpolating polynomial as

$$P_n(x) = l_0(x)f(x_0) + l_1(x)f(x_1) + \dots + l_n(x)f(x_n)$$

i.e.

$$\boxed{P_n(x) = \frac{(x-x_1)(x-x_2)\dots(x-x_n)}{(x_0-x_1)(x_0-x_2)\dots(x_0-x_n)}f(x_0) + \frac{(x-x_0)(x-x_2)\dots(x-x_n)}{(x_1-x_0)(x_1-x_2)\dots(x_1-x_n)}f(x_1) \\ + \dots + \frac{(x-x_0)(x-x_1)\dots(x-x_{n-1})}{(x_n-x_0)(x_n-x_1)\dots(x_n-x_{n-1})}f(x_n)}$$

Note: (1) Lagrange's interpolating polynomial can be written when the values of $f(x)$ are given at equispaced or non-equispaced nodes.

Ques: Write out the cardinal polynomials appropriate to the problem of interpolating the following table, and give the Lagrange form of the interpolating polynomial:

$x :$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	1
$-f(x) :$	2	-1	7

Sol We have $l_0(x) = \frac{(x-\frac{1}{4})(x-1)}{(\frac{1}{3}-\frac{1}{4})(\frac{1}{3}-1)} = -18(x-\frac{1}{4})(x-1)$

$$l_1(x) = \frac{(x-\frac{1}{3})(x-1)}{(\frac{1}{4}-\frac{1}{3})(\frac{1}{4}-1)} = 16(x-\frac{1}{3})(x-1)$$

$$l_2(x) = \frac{(x-\frac{1}{3})(x-\frac{1}{4})}{(1-\frac{1}{3})(1-\frac{1}{4})} = +2(x-\frac{1}{3})(x-\frac{1}{4})$$

\therefore Interpolating polynomial in Lagrange's form is given by

$$P_2(x) = l_0(x)f(x_0) + l_1(x)f(x_1) + l_2(x)f(x_2)$$

$$\text{i.e., } p_2(x) = -30\left(x-\frac{1}{4}\right)(x-1) - 16\left(x-\frac{1}{3}\right)(x-1) + 14\left(x-\frac{1}{3}\right)\left(x-\frac{1}{4}\right)$$

A

Ques Find the Interpolating polynomial for (0, 2), (1, 3), (2, 12) and (5, 147) using Lagrange's interpolation formula.

Sol

Given

x :	0	1	2	5
f(x) :	2	3	12	147

By Lagrange's interpolation formula

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_3(x) &= \frac{(x-1)(x-2)(x-5)}{(0-1)(0-2)(0-5)} x_2 + \frac{(x-0)(x-2)(x-5)}{(1-0)(1-2)(1-5)} x_3 \\
 &\quad + \frac{(x-0)(x-1)(x-5)}{(2-0)(2-1)(2-5)} x_{12} + \frac{(x-0)(x-1)(x-2)}{(5-0)(5-1)(5-2)} x_{147} \\
 &= -\frac{1}{5}(x^3 - 8x^2 + 17x - 10) + \frac{3}{4}(x^3 - 7x^2 + 10x) \\
 &\quad - 2(x^3 - 6x^2 + 5x) + \frac{49}{20}(x^3 - 3x^2 + 2x) \\
 &= \left(-\frac{1}{5} + \frac{3}{4} - 2 + \frac{49}{20}\right)x^3 + \left(\frac{8}{5} - \frac{21}{4} + 12 - \frac{147}{20}\right)x^2 \\
 &\quad + \left(-\frac{17}{5} + \frac{15}{2} - 10 + \frac{49}{10}\right)x + 2 \\
 &= x^3 + x^2 - x + 2 \quad \underline{\text{A}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Note: Remember $(x-a)(x-b)(x-c)$

$$= x^3 - (a+b+c)x^2 + (ab+bc+ca)x - abc$$

Ques State and Prove Lagrange's interpolation formula.

Sol Lagrange's Interpolation Formula:

Suppose it is given that

$x :$	x_0	x_1	\dots	x_n
$f(x) :$	$f(x_0)$	$f(x_1)$	\dots	$f(x_n)$

where $x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ are not necessarily equally spaced.

Then we can interpolate f by the Lagrange interpolation formula

$$\textcircled{1} \quad f_n(x) \simeq f(x) = \frac{(x-x_1)(x-x_2)\dots(x-x_n)}{(x_0-x_1)(x_0-x_2)\dots(x_0-x_n)} f(x_0) + \frac{(x-x_0)(x-x_2)\dots(x-x_n)}{(x_1-x_0)(x_1-x_2)\dots(x_1-x_n)} f(x_1) \\ + \dots + \frac{(x-x_0)(x-x_1)\dots(x-x_{n-1})}{(x_n-x_0)(x_n-x_1)\dots(x_n-x_{n-1})} f(x_n)$$

Proof Since $(n+1)$ pairs of values are given, we can approximate $f(x)$ by a polynomial of degree n i.e.,

$$f(x) \simeq f_n(x) = a_0(x-x_1)(x-x_2)\dots(x-x_n) + a_1(x-x_0)(x-x_2)\dots(x-x_n) \\ + \dots + a_n(x-x_0)(x-x_1)\dots(x-x_{n-1}) \quad \textcircled{2}$$

$$\text{Now, } f_n(x_k) = f(x_k); \quad k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$$

$$\therefore a_k = \frac{f(x_k)}{(x_k-x_0)(x_k-x_1)\dots(x_k-x_{k-1})(x_k-x_{k+1})\dots(x_k-x_n)}; \\ k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$$

Substituting in $\textcircled{2}$, we get the formula $\textcircled{1}$.

Ques Resolve $\frac{3x^2+x+1}{(x-1)(x-2)(x-3)}$ into partial fractions by using Lagrange's interpolating formula.

Sol Let $f(x) = 3x^2 + x + 1$ and $x_0 = 1, x_1 = 2, x_2 = 3$

$$\therefore f(x_0) = f(1) = 3 + 1 + 1 = 5$$

$$f(x_1) = f(2) = 3 \times 4 + 2 + 1 = 15$$

$$f(x_2) = f(3) = 3 \times 9 + 3 + 1 = 31$$

\therefore By Lagrange's Interpolating formula, we have

$$f(x) = \frac{(x-x_1)(x-x_2)}{(x_0-x_1)(x_0-x_2)} f(x_0) + \frac{(x-x_0)(x-x_2)}{(x_1-x_0)(x_1-x_2)} f(x_1) + \frac{(x-x_0)(x-x_1)}{(x_2-x_0)(x_2-x_1)} f(x_2)$$

$$\therefore 3x^2 + x + 1 = \frac{(x-2)(x-3)}{(1-2)(1-3)} \times 5 + \frac{(x-1)(x-3)}{(2-1)(2-3)} \times 15 + \frac{(x-1)(x-2)}{(3-1)(3-2)} \times 31$$

$$\therefore \frac{3x^2+x+1}{(x-1)(x-2)(x-3)} = \frac{5}{2(x-1)} - \frac{15}{2(x-2)} + \frac{31}{2(x-3)} \quad A$$

Ques If $y_1 = 4, y_3 = 12, y_4 = 19$ and $y_x = 7$, find x using suitable interpolation formula.

Sol Given

y	$4=y_0$	$12=y_1$	$19=y_2$
x	$1=x_0$	$3=x_1$	$4=x_2$

. We have to find x for $y=7$.

By Lagrange's interpolation formula

$$x(y) \simeq \frac{(y-y_1)(y-y_2)}{(y_0-y_1)(y_0-y_2)} x_0 + \frac{(y-y_0)(y-y_2)}{(y_1-y_0)(y_1-y_2)} x_1 + \frac{(y-y_0)(y-y_1)}{(y_2-y_0)(y_2-y_1)} x_2$$

$$\therefore x(7) \simeq \frac{(7-12)(7-19)}{(4-12)(4-19)} x_1 + \frac{(7-4)(7-19)}{(12-4)(12-19)} x_3 + \frac{(7-4)(7-12)}{(19-4)(19-12)} x_4$$

$$= \frac{(-5)(-12)}{(-8)(-15)} + \frac{(3)(-12)}{(8)(-7)} x_3 + \frac{(3)(-5)}{(15)(7)} x_4 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{27}{14} - \frac{4}{7}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{19}{14} = \frac{26}{14} = \frac{13}{7} = 1.86 \quad A$$

Divided Differences: Suppose, we are given

x :	x_0	x_1	x_2	...	x_n
$f(x)$:	$f(x_0)$	$f(x_1)$	$f(x_2)$...	$f(x_n)$

The divided differences of order 1 are defined as

$$f[x_0, x_1] = \frac{f(x_1) - f(x_0)}{x_1 - x_0} = \frac{f(x_0) - f(x_1)}{x_0 - x_1} = f[x_1, x_0]$$

$$f[x_1, x_2] = \frac{f(x_2) - f(x_1)}{x_2 - x_1}$$

⋮

$$f[x_{n-1}, x_n] = \frac{f(x_n) - f(x_{n-1})}{x_n - x_{n-1}} = f[x_n, x_{n-1}]$$

The divided differences of order 2 are defined as

$$f[x_0, x_1, x_2] = \frac{f[x_1, x_2] - f[x_0, x_1]}{x_2 - x_0}$$

$$f[x_1, x_2, x_3] = \frac{f[x_2, x_3] - f[x_1, x_2]}{x_3 - x_1}$$

⋮

$$f[x_{n-2}, x_{n-1}, x_n] = \frac{f[x_{n-1}, x_n] - f[x_{n-2}, x_{n-1}]}{x_n - x_{n-2}}$$

Similarly, we define n^{th} order divided difference as

$$f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n] = \frac{f[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n] - f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]}{x_n - x_0}$$

Note: $f[x_0, x_1, x_2] = f[x_1, x_2, x_0] = f[x_0, x_2, x_1]$ etc.

In general, Invariance Theorem: The divided difference

$f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]$ is invariant under all permutations of the arguments x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k .

Ques If $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$ then find $f[a, b, c]$.

Sol $f[a, b] = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b-a} = \frac{\frac{1}{b^2} - \frac{1}{a^2}}{b-a} = \frac{a^2 - b^2}{a^2 b^2 (b-a)} = \frac{(a-b)(a+b)}{a^2 b^2 (b-a)}$

$$\therefore f[a, b] = -\frac{(a+b)}{a^2 b^2}$$

By symmetry $f[b, c] = -\frac{(b+c)}{b^2 c^2}$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore f[a, b, c] &= \frac{f[b, c] - f[a, b]}{c-a} = -\frac{\frac{(b+c)}{b^2 c^2} + \frac{(a+b)}{a^2 b^2}}{c-a} \\ &= -\frac{a^2(b+c) + c^2(a+b)}{a^2 b^2 c^2 (c-a)} \\ &= -\frac{a^2 b - a^2 c + a c^2 + b c^2}{a^2 b^2 c^2 (c-a)} \\ &= \frac{b c^2 - a^2 b + a c^2 - a^2 c}{a^2 b^2 c^2 (c-a)} \\ &= \frac{b(c^2 - a^2) + a c(c-a)}{a^2 b^2 c^2 (c-a)} \\ &= \frac{b(c+a) + a c}{a^2 b^2 c^2} = \frac{ab + bc + ca}{a^2 b^2 c^2} \quad \underline{\Delta}\end{aligned}$$

Ques Prove that the n th divided difference of $\frac{1}{x}$ based on the points $x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ is $\frac{(-1)^n}{x_0 x_1 x_2 \dots x_n}$ i.e.,

$$f[x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n] = \frac{(-1)^n}{x_0 x_1 x_2 \dots x_n}.$$

Sol We have $f[x_0, x_1] = \frac{f(x_1) - f(x_0)}{x_1 - x_0}$ $[\because f(x) = \frac{1}{x}]$

$$= \frac{\frac{1}{x_1} - \frac{1}{x_0}}{x_1 - x_0} = \frac{x_0 - x_1}{x_0 x_1 (x_1 - x_0)} = \frac{-1}{x_0 x_1}$$

\therefore The result is true for $n=1$.

Suppose the result is true for $n=k$ i.e.,

$$f[x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k] = \frac{(-1)^k}{x_0 x_1 x_2 \dots x_k} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{and } f[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k, x_{k+1}] = \frac{(-1)^k}{x_1 x_2 \dots x_k \cdot x_{k+1}} \quad (2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \therefore f[x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k, x_{k+1}] \\ &= \frac{f[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k, x_{k+1}] - f[x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k]}{x_{k+1} - x_0} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{\frac{(-1)^k}{x_1 x_2 \dots x_k \cdot x_{k+1}} - \frac{(-1)^k}{x_0 x_1 \dots x_k}}{x_{k+1} - x_0} \quad \text{by (1) and (2)}$$

$$= \frac{(-1)^k (x_0 - x_{k+1})}{x_0 x_1 x_2 \dots x_k \cdot x_{k+1} \cdot (x_{k+1} - x_0)}$$

$$= \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{x_0 x_1 x_2 \dots x_k \cdot x_{k+1}}$$

Hence the result is true for $n=k+1$.

∴ By the principle of mathematical induction method, the result is true for every positive integer n .

Newton's Divided Difference Interpolation Formula:

Given	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>$x :$</td><td>x_0</td><td>x_1</td><td>x_2</td><td>\dots</td><td>x_n</td></tr> <tr> <td>$f(x) :$</td><td>$f(x_0)$</td><td>$f(x_1)$</td><td>$f(x_2)$</td><td>\dots</td><td>$f(x_n)$</td></tr> </table>	$x :$	x_0	x_1	x_2	\dots	x_n	$f(x) :$	$f(x_0)$	$f(x_1)$	$f(x_2)$	\dots	$f(x_n)$
$x :$	x_0	x_1	x_2	\dots	x_n								
$f(x) :$	$f(x_0)$	$f(x_1)$	$f(x_2)$	\dots	$f(x_n)$								

where $x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ are not necessarily equally spaced.

Then Newton's divided difference interpolating polynomial is of the form

$$f(x) \simeq f_n(x) = f(x_0) + (x-x_0)f[x_0, x_1] + (x-x_0)(x-x_1)f[x_0, x_1, x_2] \\ + \dots + (x-x_0)(x-x_1)\dots(x-x_{n-1})f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]$$

Proof

$$\text{We have } f[x, x_0] = \frac{f(x) - f(x_0)}{x - x_0}$$

$$\therefore f(x) = f(x_0) + (x-x_0)f[x, x_0] \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Again, } f[x, x_0, x_1] = \frac{f[x, x_0] - f[x_0, x_1]}{(x-x_1)}$$

$$\therefore f[x, x_0] = f[x_0, x_1] + (x-x_1)f[x, x_0, x_1] \quad (2)$$

Similarly,

$$f[x, x_0, x_1, x_2] = f[x_0, x_1, x_2] + (x-x_2)f[x, x_0, x_1, x_2] \quad (3)$$

$$\vdots \\ f[x, x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}] = f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, x_n] + (x-x_n)f[x, x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]$$

Multiply eq. (2) by $(x-x_0)$, eq. (3) by $(x-x_0)(x-x_1)$, \dots
and last equation by $(x-x_0)(x-x_1)\dots(x-x_{n-1})$ and adding,

we get

$$f(x) = f(x_0) + (x-x_0)f[x_0, x_1] + (x-x_0)(x-x_1)f[x_0, x_1, x_2] \\ + \dots + (x-x_0)(x-x_1)\dots(x-x_{n-1})f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]$$

Ques Form the divided difference table for the following data

$x:$	0	1	2	4	5	6
$f(x):$	1	14	15	5	6	19

and find the interpolating polynomial and estimate the value of $f(3)$.

Sol: Divided difference table for given data is

x	$f(x)$	$f[,]$	$f[, ,]$	$f[, , ,]$	$f[, , , ,]$	$f[, , , , ,]$
0	1					
1	14	$\frac{14-1}{1-0} = 13$	$\frac{1-13}{2-0} = -6$	$\frac{-2+6}{4-0} = 1$	$\frac{1-1}{5-0} = 0$	
2	15	$\frac{15-14}{2-1} = 1$	$\frac{-5-1}{4-1} = -2$	$\frac{2+2}{5-1} = 1$	$\frac{1-1}{6-1} = 0$	$\frac{0-0}{6-0} = 0$
4	5	$\frac{5-15}{4-2} = -5$	$\frac{1+5}{5-2} = 2$	$\frac{6-2}{6-2} = 1$		
5	6	$\frac{6-5}{5-4} = 1$	$\frac{13-1}{6-4} = 6$			
6	19	$\frac{19-6}{6-5} = 13$				

\therefore By Newton's divided difference interpolation formula

$$f(x) \approx f(x_0) + (x-x_0)f[x_0, x_1] + (x-x_0)(x-x_1)f[x_0, x_1, x_2] \\ + (x-x_0)(x-x_1)(x-x_2)f[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3]$$

$$\text{i.e., } f(x) \approx 1 + 13(x-0) + (-6)(x-0)(x-1) + 1 \cdot (x-0)(x-1)(x-2) \\ = 1 + 13x - 6(x^2 - x) + x(x^2 - 3x + 2) \\ = x^3 - 9x^2 + 21x + 1 \quad \underline{A}$$

$$f(3) = (3)^3 - 9 \times (3)^2 + 21 \times (3) + 1$$

$$= 27 - 81 + 63 + 1 = 91 - 81 = 10 \quad \underline{A}$$

Ques Given that $\log_{10} 654 = 2.8156$, $\log_{10} 658 = 2.8182$, $\log_{10} 659 = 2.8189$, $\log_{10} 661 = 2.8202$, find $\log_{10} 656$ using interpolation formula.

Sol: Divided difference table for the given data is

x	$-f(x) = \log_{10} x$	$\Delta f(x)$	$\Delta^2 f(x)$	$\Delta^3 f(x)$
654	2.8156	0.00065	+0.00001	
658	2.8182	0.00070	-0.000017	-0.0000039
659	2.8189	0.00085		
661	2.8202			

∴ By Newton's Divided difference Interpolation formula,

$$f(x) \approx f(x_0) + (x-x_0) f[x_0, x_1] + (x-x_0)(x-x_1) f[x_0, x_1, x_2] \\ + (x-x_0)(x-x_1)(x-x_2) f[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3]$$

$$\text{i.e., } f(x) \approx 2.8156 + (x-654) \times 0.00065 + (x-654)(x-658)(0.00001) \\ + (x-654)(x-658)(x-659)(-0.0000039)$$

$$\therefore f(656) \approx 2.8156 + 2 \times 0.00065 + 2 \times (-2) \times 0.00001 \\ + (-2)(-2)(-3)(-0.0000039)$$

$$= 2.8156 + 0.00130 - 0.00004 + 0.0000468$$

$$= 2.8169$$

A