



# Computational Methods

**NUMERICAL DIFFERENTIATION AND NUMERICAL  
INTEGRATION**

## QUOTE



# Numerical Differentiation

The derivative of the function  $f$  at  $x_0$  is

$$f'(x_0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)}{h}.$$

This formula gives an obvious way to generate an approximation to  $f'(x_0)$ ; simply compute

$$\frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)}{h}$$

for small values of  $h$ . Although this may be obvious, it is not very successful, due to our old nemesis round-off error. But it is certainly a place to start.

# Numerical Differentiation

The formula simplifies to

$$f'(x_0) = \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)}{h} - \frac{h}{2} f''(\xi).$$

For small values of  $h$ , the difference quotient  $[f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)]/h$  can be used to approximate  $f'(x_0)$  with an error bounded by  $M|h|/2$ , where  $M$  is a bound on  $|f''(x)|$  for  $x$  between  $x_0$  and  $x_0 + h$ . This formula is known as the **forward-difference formula** if  $h > 0$  and the **backward-difference formula** if  $h < 0$ .

# Numerical Differentiation

Use the forward-difference formula to approximate the derivative of  $f(x) = \ln x$  at  $x_0 = 1.8$  using  $h = 0.1$ , and determine bounds for the approximation errors.

**Solution** The forward-difference formula

$$\frac{f(1.8 + h) - f(1.8)}{h}$$

with  $h = 0.1$  gives

$$\frac{\ln 1.9 - \ln 1.8}{0.1} = \frac{0.64185389 - 0.58778667}{0.1} = 0.5406722.$$

Because  $f''(x) = -1/x^2$  and  $1.8 < \xi < 1.9$ , a bound for this approximation error is

$$\frac{|hf''(\xi)|}{2} = \frac{|h|}{2\xi^2} < \frac{0.1}{2(1.8)^2} = 0.0154321.$$

# Numerical Differentiation

## Three-Point Endpoint Formula

- $$f'(x_0) = \frac{1}{2h}[-3f(x_0) + 4f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0 + 2h)] + \frac{h^2}{3}f^{(3)}(\xi_0),$$

where  $\xi_0$  lies between  $x_0$  and  $x_0 + 2h$ .

## Three-Point Midpoint Formula

- $$f'(x_0) = \frac{1}{2h}[f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0 - h)] - \frac{h^2}{6}f^{(3)}(\xi_1),$$

where  $\xi_1$  lies between  $x_0 - h$  and  $x_0 + h$ .

# Numerical Differentiation

Values for  $f(x) = xe^x$  are given in Table. Use all the applicable three-point formulas to approximate  $f'(2.0)$ .

$x$	$f(x)$
1.8	10.889365
1.9	12.703199
2.0	14.778112
2.1	17.148957
2.2	19.855030

**Solution** The data in the table permit us to find four different three-point approximations.

We can use the endpoint formula with  $h = 0.1$  or with  $h = -0.1$ , and we can use the midpoint formula with  $h = 0.1$  or with  $h = 0.2$ .

# Numerical Differentiation

Using the endpoint formula with  $h = 0.1$  gives

$$\frac{1}{0.2}[-3f(2.0) + 4f(2.1) - f(2.2)] = 5[-3(14.778112) + 4(17.148957) - 19.855030] = 22.032310,$$

and with  $h = -0.1$  gives 22.054525.

Using the midpoint formula with  $h = 0.1$  gives

$$\frac{1}{0.2}[f(2.1) - f(1.9)] = 5(17.148957 - 12.7703199) = 22.228790,$$

and with  $h = 0.2$  gives 22.414163.



# Numerical Differentiation

## Second Derivative Midpoint Formula

- $$f''(x_0) = \frac{1}{h^2} [f(x_0 - h) - 2f(x_0) + f(x_0 + h)] - \frac{h^2}{12} f^{(4)}(\xi),$$

for some  $\xi$ , where  $x_0 - h < \xi < x_0 + h$ .

In Example we used the data shown in Table to approximate the first derivative of  $f(x) = xe^x$  at  $x = 2.0$ . Use the second derivative formula to approximate  $f''(2.0)$ .

$x$	$f(x)$
1.8	10.889365
1.9	12.703199
2.0	14.778112
2.1	17.148957
2.2	19.855030

# Numerical Differentiation

**Solution** The data permits us to determine two approximations for  $f''(2.0)$ . Using  $h = 0.1$  gives

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{0.01}[f(1.9) - 2f(2.0) + f(2.1)] &= 100[12.703199 - 2(14.778112) + 17.148957] \\ &= 29.593200,\end{aligned}$$

and using  $h = 0.2$  gives

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{0.04}[f(1.8) - 2f(2.0) + f(2.2)] &= 25[10.889365 - 2(14.778112) + 19.855030] \\ &= 29.704275.\end{aligned}$$

# Numerical Integration

## Trapezoidal Rule:

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = \frac{h}{2}[f(x_0) + f(x_1)] - \frac{h^3}{12}f''(\xi).$$

## Simpson's Rule:

$$\int_{x_0}^{x_2} f(x) dx = \frac{h}{3}[f(x_0) + 4f(x_1) + f(x_2)] - \frac{h^5}{90}f^{(4)}(\xi).$$

with equally-spaced nodes  $x_0 = a$ ,  $x_2 = b$ , and  $x_1 = a + h$ , where  $h = (b - a)/2$ .

# Numerical Integration

Compare the Trapezoidal rule and Simpson's rule approximations to  $\int_0^2 f(x) dx$  when  $f(x)$  is

(a)  $x^2$   
(d)  $\sqrt{1+x^2}$

(b)  $x^4$   
(e)  $\sin x$

(c)  $(x+1)^{-1}$   
(f)  $e^x$

**Solution** On  $[0, 2]$  the Trapezoidal and Simpson's rule have the forms

$$\text{Trapezoid: } \int_0^2 f(x) dx \approx f(0) + f(2) \quad \text{and}$$

$$\text{Simpson's: } \int_0^2 f(x) dx \approx \frac{1}{3}[f(0) + 4f(1) + f(2)].$$

# Numerical Integration

When  $f(x) = x^2$  they give

$$\text{Trapezoid: } \int_0^2 f(x) dx \approx 0^2 + 2^2 = 4 \quad \text{and}$$

$$\text{Simpson's: } \int_0^2 f(x) dx \approx \frac{1}{3}[(0^2) + 4 \cdot 1^2 + 2^2] = \frac{8}{3}.$$

The approximation from Simpson's rule is exact because its truncation error involves  $f^{(4)}$ , which is identically 0 when  $f(x) = x^2$ .

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
$f(x)$	$x^2$	$x^4$	$(x+1)^{-1}$	$\sqrt{1+x^2}$	$\sin x$	$e^x$
Exact value	2.667	6.400	1.099	2.958	1.416	6.389
Trapezoidal	4.000	16.000	1.333	3.326	0.909	8.389
Simpson's	2.667	6.667	1.111	2.964	1.425	6.421

## Exercises

Use the forward-difference formulas and backward-difference formulas to determine each missing entry in the following tables.

**a.**

$x$	$f(x)$	$f'(x)$
0.5	0.4794	
0.6	0.5646	
0.7	0.6442	

**b.**

$x$	$f(x)$	$f'(x)$
0.0	0.00000	
0.2	0.74140	
0.4	1.3718	

# Exercises

Use the most accurate three-point formula to determine each missing entry in the following tables.

**a.**

$x$	$f(x)$	$f'(x)$
1.1	9.025013	
1.2	11.02318	
1.3	13.46374	
1.4	16.44465	

**c.**

$x$	$f(x)$	$f'(x)$
2.9	-4.827866	
3.0	-4.240058	
3.1	-3.496909	
3.2	-2.596792	

**b.**

$x$	$f(x)$	$f'(x)$
8.1	16.94410	
8.3	17.56492	
8.5	18.19056	
8.7	18.82091	

**d.**

$x$	$f(x)$	$f'(x)$
2.0	3.6887983	
2.1	3.6905701	
2.2	3.6688192	
2.3	3.6245909	

## Exercises

Let  $f(x) = 3xe^x - \cos x$ . Use the following data to approximate  $f''(1.3)$  with  $h = 0.1$  and with  $h = 0.01$ .

$x$	1.20	1.29	1.30	1.31	1.40
$f(x)$	11.59006	13.78176	14.04276	14.30741	16.86187

Compare your results to  $f''(1.3)$ .



## Exercises

Approximate the following integrals using the Trapezoidal rule, and Simpson's rule.

a.  $\int_{0.5}^1 x^4 dx$

c.  $\int_1^{1.5} x^2 \ln x dx$

e.  $\int_1^{1.6} \frac{2x}{x^2 - 4} dx$

g.  $\int_0^{\pi/4} x \sin x dx$

b.  $\int_0^{0.5} \frac{2}{x - 4} dx$

d.  $\int_0^1 x^2 e^{-x} dx$

f.  $\int_0^{0.35} \frac{2}{x^2 - 4} dx$

h.  $\int_0^{\pi/4} e^{3x} \sin 2x dx$