

~ Numerical Differentiation and Integration ~

Numerical Differentiation

Chapter 23

High Accuracy Differentiation Formulas

- High-accuracy divided-difference formulas can be generated by including additional terms from the Taylor series expansion.

$$f(x_{i+1}) = f(x_i) + f'(x_i)h + \frac{f''(x_i)}{2}h^2 + \dots$$

$$f'(x_i) = \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)}{h} - \frac{f''(x_i)}{2}h - \dots$$

$$f''(x_i) = \frac{f'(x_{i+1}) - f'(x_i)}{h} = \frac{f(x_{i+2}) - 2f(x_{i+1}) + f(x_i)}{h^2} + O(h)$$

$$f'(x_i) = \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)}{h} - \frac{f(x_{i+2}) - 2f(x_{i+1}) + f(x_i)}{2h^2}h + O(h^2)$$

$$f'(x_i) = \frac{-f(x_{i+2}) + 4f(x_{i+1}) - 3f(x_i)}{2h} + O(h^2)$$

- Inclusion of the 2nd derivative term has improved the accuracy to $O(h^2)$.
- Similar improved versions can be developed for the *backward* and *centered* formulas

Forward finite-divided-difference formulas

First Derivative

$$f'(x_i) = \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)}{h}$$

$$f'(x_i) = \frac{-f(x_{i+2}) + 4f(x_{i+1}) - 3f(x_i)}{2h}$$

Error

$O(h)$

$O(h^2)$

Second Derivative

$$f''(x_i) = \frac{f(x_{i+2}) - 2f(x_{i+1}) + f(x_i)}{h^2}$$

$$f''(x_i) = \frac{-f(x_{i+3}) + 4f(x_{i+2}) - 5f(x_{i+1}) + 2f(x_i)}{h^2}$$

Error

$O(h)$

$O(h^2)$

Backward finite-divided-difference formulas

First Derivative

$$f'(x_i) = \frac{f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})}{h}$$

$$f'(x_i) = \frac{3f(x_i) - 4f(x_{i-1}) + f(x_{i-2})}{2h}$$

Error

$O(h)$

$O(h^2)$

Second Derivative

$$f''(x_i) = \frac{f(x_i) - 2f(x_{i-1}) + f(x_{i-2}))}{h^2}$$

$$f''(x_i) = \frac{2f(x_i) - 5f(x_{i-1}) + 4f(x_{i-2}) - f(x_{i-3}))}{h^2}$$

Error

$O(h)$

$O(h^2)$

Centered finite-divided-difference formulas

First Derivative

$$f'(x_i) = \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_{i-1}))}{2h}$$

$$f'(x_i) = \frac{-f(x_{i+2}) + 8f(x_{i+1}) - 8f(x_{i-1}) + f(x_{i-2}))}{12h}$$

Error

$O(h^2)$

$O(h^4)$

Second Derivative

$$f''(x_i) = \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - 2f(x_i) + f(x_{i-1}))}{h^2}$$

$$f''(x_i) = \frac{-f(x_{i+2}) + 16f(x_{i+1}) - 30f(x_i) + 16f(x_{i-1}) - f(x_{i-2}))}{12h^2}$$

Error

$O(h^2)$

$O(h^4)$

Derivation of the centered formula for $f''(x_i)$

$$f(x_{i+1}) = f(x_i) + f'(x_i)h + \frac{f''(x_i)}{2}h^2 + \dots$$

$$f''(x_i) = \frac{2(f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i) - f'(x_i)h)}{h^2}$$

$$= \frac{2(f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i) - \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_{i-1})}{2h}h)}{h^2}$$

$$= \frac{2f(x_{i+1}) - 2f(x_i) - f(x_{i+1}) + f(x_{i-1}))}{h^2}$$

$$f''(x_i) = \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - 2f(x_i) + f(x_{i-1}))}{h^2}$$

Differentiation Using MATLAB

	x	f(x)
<i>i-2</i>	0	1.2
<i>i-1</i>	0.25	1.1035
<i>i</i>	0.50	0.925
<i>i+1</i>	0.75	0.6363
<i>i+2</i>	1	0.2

First, create a file called **fx1.m** which contains $y=f(x)$:

function y = fx1(x)

y = 1.2 - .25*x - .5*x.^2 - .15*x.^3 -.1*x.^4 ;

Command window:

```
>> x=0:.25:1
```

```
0      0.25      0.5      0.75      1
```

```
>> y = fx1(x)
```

```
1.2    1.1035    0.925    0.6363    0.2
```

```
>> d = diff(y) ./ diff(x)    % diff() takes differences between
                             % consecutive vector elements
```

```
d =  -0.3859   -0.7141   -1.1547   -1.7453
```

Forward: x = 0 0.25 0.50 0.75 1

Backward: x = 0.25 0.50 0.75 1

Example :

$$f(x) = -0.1x^4 - 0.15x^3 - 0.5x^2 - 0.25x + 1.2$$

$$f'(x) = -0.4x^3 - 0.45x^2 - x - 0.25$$

At $x = 0.5$ True value for First Derivative = **-0.9125**

Using finite divided differences and a step size of $h = 0.25$ we obtain:

	x	$f(x)$
$i-2$	0	1.2
$i-1$	0.25	1.1035
i	0.50	0.925
$i+1$	0.75	0.6363
$i+2$	1	0.2

	Forward $O(h)$	Backward $O(h)$
Estimate	-1.155	-0.714
ε_t (%)	26.5	21.7

Forward difference of accuracy $O(h^2)$ is computed as:

$$f'(0.5) = \frac{-0.2 + 4(0.6363) - 3(0.925)}{2(0.25)} = -0.8593 \quad \varepsilon_t = 5.82\%$$

Backward difference of accuracy $O(h^2)$ is computed as:

$$f'(0.5) = \frac{3(0.925) - 4(1.1035) + 1.2}{2(0.25)} = -0.8781 \quad \varepsilon_t = 3.77\%$$

Richardson Extrapolation

- There are two ways to improve derivative estimates when employing finite divided differences:
 - Decrease the step size, or
 - Use a higher-order formula that employs more points.
- A third approach, based on **Richardson extrapolation**, uses two derivative estimates (with $O(h^2)$ error) to compute a third (with $O(h^4)$ error), more accurate approximation. We can derive this formula following the same steps used in the case of the integrals:

$$h_2 = h_1 / 2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad D \cong \frac{4}{3} D(h_2) - \frac{1}{3} D(h_1)$$

Example: using the previous example and Richardson's formula, estimate the first derivative at $x=0.5$ Using **Centered Difference approx. (with error $O(h^2)$)** with $h=0.5$ and $h=0.25$:

$$D_{h=0.5}(x=0.5) = (0.2-1.2)/1 = -1$$

$$[\varepsilon_t = |(-.9125+1)/-.9125| = 9.6\%]$$

$$D_{h=0.25}(x=0.5) = (0.6363-1.103)/0.5 = -0.9343$$

$$[\varepsilon_t = |(-.9125+0.9343)/-.9125| = 2.4\%]$$

The improved estimate is:

$$D = 4/3(-0.9343) - 1/3(-1) = -0.9125$$

$$[\varepsilon_t = (-.9125+.9125)/-.9125 = 0\% \rightarrow \text{perfect!}]$$

Derivatives of Unequally Spaced Data

- Derivation formulas studied so far (especially the ones with $O(h^2)$ error) require multiple points to be spaced evenly.
- Data from experiments or field studies are often collected at unequal intervals.
- Fit a ***Lagrange interpolating polynomial***, and then calculate the 1st derivative.

As an example, second order *Lagrange interpolating polynomial* is used below:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) = & f(x_{i-1}) \frac{(x - x_i)(x - x_{i+1})}{(x_{i-1} - x_i)(x_{i-1} - x_{i+1})} \\ & + f(x_i) \frac{(x - x_{i-1})(x - x_{i+1})}{(x_i - x_{i-1})(x_i - x_{i+1})} \\ & + f(x_{i+1}) \frac{(x - x_{i-1})(x - x_i)}{(x_{i+1} - x_{i-1})(x_{i+1} - x_i)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) = & f(x_{i-1}) \frac{2x - x_i - x_{i+1}}{(x_{i-1} - x_i)(x_{i-1} - x_{i+1})} \\ & + f(x_i) \frac{2x - x_{i-1} - x_{i+1}}{(x_i - x_{i-1})(x_i - x_{i+1})} \\ & + f(x_{i+1}) \frac{2x - x_{i-1} - x_i}{(x_{i+1} - x_{i-1})(x_{i+1} - x_i)} \end{aligned}$$

*Note that any three points, x_{i-1} , x_i and x_{i+1} can be used to calculate the derivative. ***The points do not need to be spaced equally.***

Example:

The *heat flux* at the soil-air interface can be computed with *Fourier's Law*:

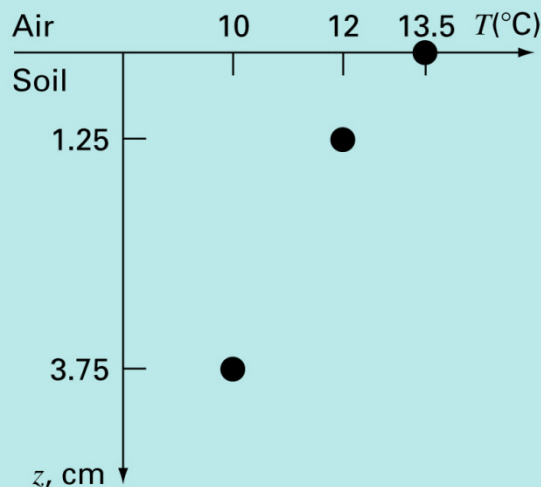
$$q(z=0) = -k\rho C \left. \frac{dT}{dz} \right|_{z=0}$$

q = heat flux
 k = coefficient of thermal diffusivity in soil ($\approx 3.5 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$)
 ρ = soil density ($\approx 1800 \text{ kg/m}^3$)
 C = soil specific heat ($\approx 840 \text{ J/kg} \cdot \text{C}^\circ$)
 *Positive flux value means heat is transferred from the air to the soil

Calculate dT/dz ($z=0$) first and then determine the heat flux.

A temperature gradient can be measured down into the soil as shown below.

MEASUREMENTS



$$\begin{aligned}
 f'(z=0) &= 13.5 \frac{2(0) - 1.25 - 3.75}{(0 - 1.25)(0 - 3.75)} \\
 &\quad + 12 \frac{2(0) - 0 - 3.75}{(1.25 - 0)(1.25 - 3.75)} \\
 &\quad + 10 \frac{2(0) - 0 - 1.25}{(3.75 - 0)(3.75 - 1.25)} \\
 &= -14.4 + 14.4 - 1.333 = -1.333 \text{ } ^{\circ}\text{C} / \text{cm}
 \end{aligned}$$

which can be used to compute the *heat flux* at $z=0$:

$$q(z=0) = -3.5 \times 10^{-7} (1800) (840) (-133.3 \text{ } ^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{m}) = 70.56 \text{ W/m}^2$$