

FWAM Session B: Function Approximation and Differential Equations

Alex Barnett¹ and **Keaton Burns^{1,2}**

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¹Center for Computational Mathematics, Flatiron Institute

²Center for Computational Mathematics, Flatiron Institute, and Department of Mathematics, MIT

LECTURE 1: interpolation, integration, spectral methods

Motivations

exact func. $f(x)$ described by ∞ number of points

how handle approximately (but accurately) in computer, using least cost (bytes)?

- Interpolation: cheap but accurate look-up table for expensive $f(x)$
data fitting: given non-noisy data $f(x_i)$ at some x_i , model $f(x)$ at other points x ?

Contrast: fit noisy data = learning (pdf for) params in model, via likelihood/prior

- (Numerical) integration:
eg computing expectation values given a pdf

Contrast: Monte Carlo (random, high-dim.) integration, Thurs am

- Differentiation:
get gradient ∇f in order to optimize or
- Spectral (often Fourier) methods:

If $f(x)$ is smooth, handle very accurately without much extra cost

Deterministic (non-random) methods.

Integr/diff crucial for numerical ODEs and PDEs

topic of

Goals LECTURE I

TODO

teach range of practical methods focusing on 1D

pointers to dimensions $d > 1$

concepts:

convergence order how does your accuracy improve vs number of discretization points

spectral methods

global (one expansion formula for the whole domain)

vs local (different expansions for x in different regions)

adaptivity automatically placing degrees of freedom only where they need to be

rounding error

interpolation = func. representation, key to all else

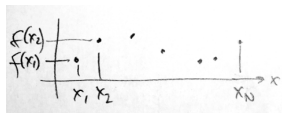
Interpolation in 1D ($d = 1$)

Say $y_j = f(x_j)$ known at nodes $\{x_j\}$

exact data, not noisy

want interpolant $\tilde{f}(x)$, s.t. $\tilde{f}(x_j) = y_j$

N -pt "grid"

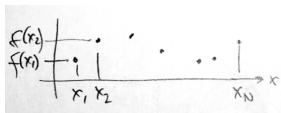


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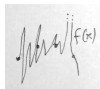
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hopeless w/o assumptions on f , eg smoothness, otherwise...

- extra info helps, eg f periodic, or $f(x) = \text{smooth} \cdot |x|^{-1/2}$

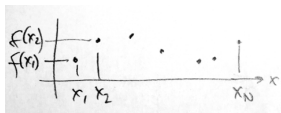


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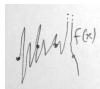
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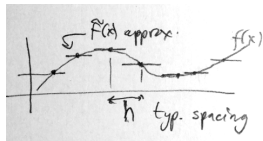


Simplest: use value at x_j nearest to x

"snap to grid"

Error $\max_x |\tilde{f}(x) - f(x)| = \mathcal{O}(h)$ as $h \rightarrow 0$

holds if f' bounded; can be nonsmooth but not crazy



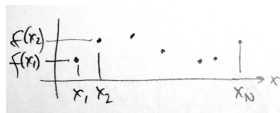
Recall notation " $\mathcal{O}(h)$ ": exists $C, h_0 > 0$ s.t. error $\leq Ch$ for all $h < h_0$

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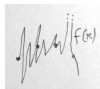
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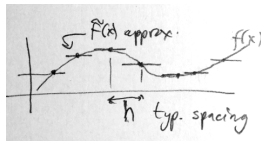


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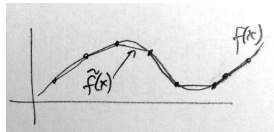
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Piecewise linear:

"connect the dots"

max error = $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$ as $h \rightarrow 0$

needs f'' bounded, ie smoother than before



Message: a higher order method is only higher order if f smooth enough

Interlude: convergence rates

Should know or measure convergence rate of any method you use

- “effort” parameter N eg # grid-points = $1/h^d$ where h = grid spacing, d = dim

We just saw algebraic conv. error = $\mathcal{O}(N^{-p})$, for order $p = 1, 2$

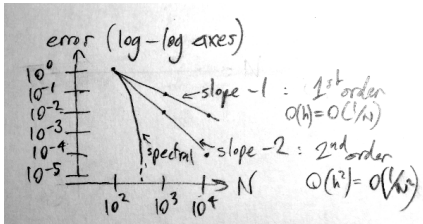
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Is only one graph in numerical analysis: “relative error vs effort”



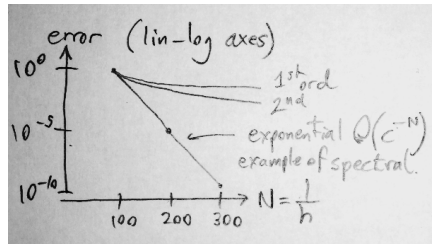
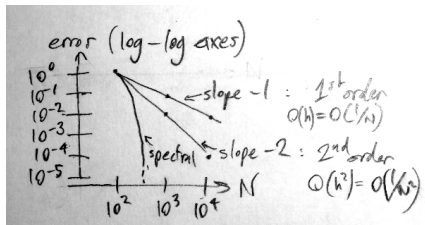
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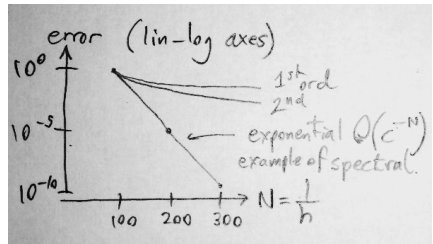
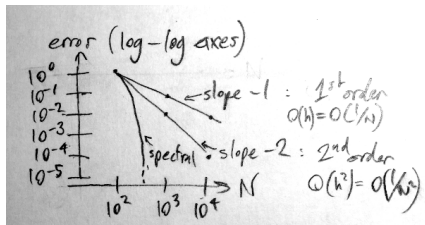
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Note how spectral gets many digits for small N

crucial for eg 3D prob.

“spectral” = “superalgebraic”, $\mathcal{O}(N^{-k})$ for any k

- how many digits to you want? for 1-digit (10% error), low order ok, easier to code

<rant> test your code w/ *known exact soln* to check error conv. <\rant>

What is the prefactor C in error $\leq Ch^k$? Has asymp. rate even kicked in yet? :)

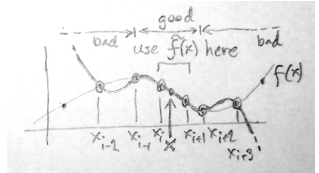
Higher-order interpolation for smooth f : the local idea

For any target x , use only set of nearest p nodes:

Exists unique degree- $(p-1)$ poly, $\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} c_k x^k$
which matches local data $(x_j, y_j)_{j=1}^p$

generalizes piecewise lin. idea

do **not** eval poly outside its central region!

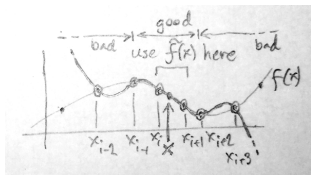


- error $\mathcal{O}(h^k)$, ie high order, but \tilde{f} *not* continuous ($\tilde{f} \notin C$) small jumps
if must have cont, recommend splines, eg cubic $p = 3$: $\tilde{f} \in C^2$, meaning \tilde{f}'' is cont.

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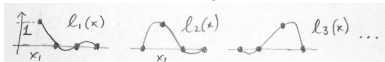
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How to find the degree- $(k-1)$ poly?

1) Crafty: solve square lin sys for coeffs $\sum_{k < p} x_j^k c_k = y_j$ $j = 1, \dots, p$
ie $V\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{y}$ $V = \text{"Vandermonde" matrix, is ill-cond. but works}$

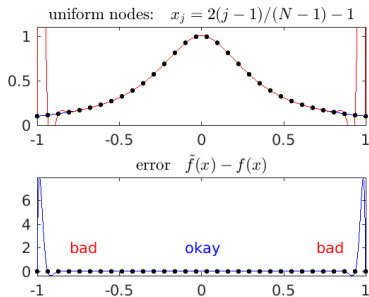
2) Traditional: barycentric formula $\tilde{f}(x) = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^p \frac{y_j}{x-x_j} w_j}{\sum_{j=1}^p \frac{1}{x-x_j} w_j}$ $w_j = \frac{1}{\prod_{i \neq j} (x_j - x_i)}$
[Tre13, Ch. 5]

Either way, $\tilde{f}(x) = \sum_{j=1}^p y_j \ell_j(x)$ where $\ell_j(x)$ is j th Lagrange basis func:



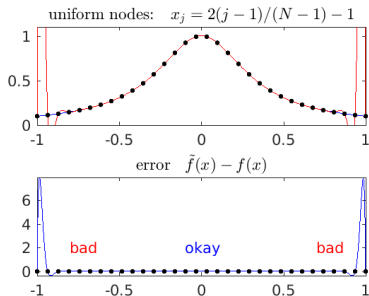
Global polynomial (Lagrange) interpolation?

Want increase order p . Use *all* data, get single $\tilde{f}(x)$, so $p = N$? “global”
 $p = N = 32$, smooth (analytic) $f(x) = \frac{1}{1+9x^2}$ on $[-1, 1]$: (Runge 1901)



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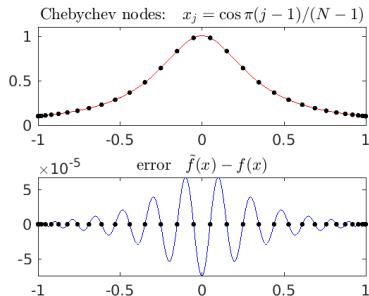
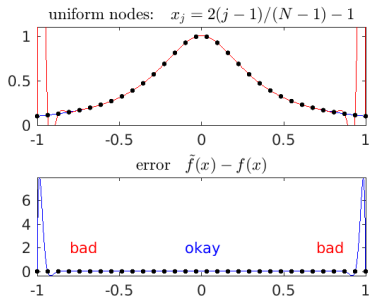
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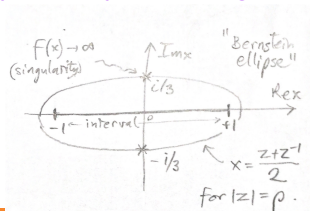
But exists good choice of nodes...

“Chebyshev”: means non-unif. grid density $\sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$

- our first spectral method

$\max \text{err} = \mathcal{O}(\rho^{-N})$ exponential conv!

$\rho > 1$ “radius” of largest ellipse in which f analytic



Node choice and adaptivity

Recap poly approx. $f(x)$ on $[a, b]$: are good & bad node sets $\{x_j\}_{j=1}^N$

Question: Do you get to *choose* the set of nodes at which f known?

- No: data fitting applications (or noisy variants: kriging, Gaussian processes, etc)
use local poly (central region only!), or something stable (eg splines)
- Yes: almost all else, interp., quadrature, PDE solvers so pick good nodes!

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Adaptivity idea global is inefficient if f smooth in most places, structured in a few

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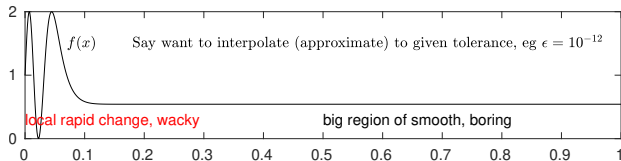
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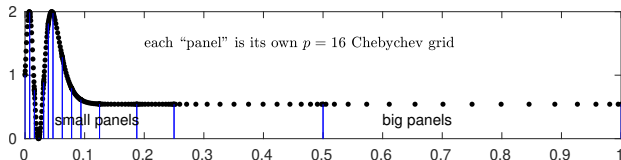
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automatically split
(recursively) panels
until $\max \text{err} \leq \epsilon$

via tests for local error

1D adaptive interpolator codes to try:

- [github/dbstein/function_generator](#) py+numba, fast (Stein '19)
- [chebfun for MATLAB](#) big- p Cheb. grids can exploit FFTs! (Trefethen et al.)

App.: replace nasty expensive $f(x)$ by cheap one!

optimal "look-up table"

Global interpolation of periodic functions I

Just did f on intervals $[a, b]$. global interp. (& integr., etc.) of smooth *periodic* f differs!

Periodic: $f(x + 2\pi) = f(x)$ for all x , $f(x) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{f}_k e^{ikx}$ Fourier series

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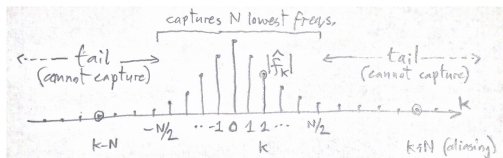
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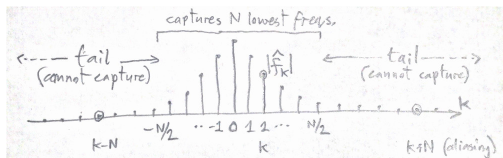
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How read off c_k from *samples* of f on a grid?

uniform grid best (unlike for poly's!); non-uniform needs linear solve, slow $\mathcal{O}(N^3)$ effort

Uniform grid $x_j = \frac{2\pi j}{N}$, set $c_k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N e^{ikx_j} f(x_j)$ simply $\mathbf{c} = \text{FFT}[\mathbf{f}]$

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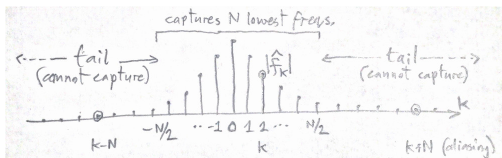
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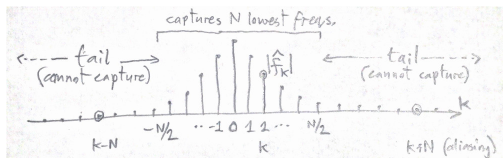
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Summary: given N samples $f(x_j)$, interp. error = truncation + aliasing

a crude bound is $\max_{x \in [0, 2\pi)} |\tilde{f}(x) - f(x)| \leq 2 \sum_{|k| \geq N/2} |\hat{f}_k|$

ie error controlled by size of tail

Global interpolation of periodic functions II

As grow grid N , how accurate is it? just derived err \sim sum of $|\hat{f}_k|$ in tail $|k| \geq N/2$

$$\text{Now } \hat{f}_k = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) e^{-ikx} dx = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f^{(p)}(x) \frac{e^{-ikx}}{(-ik)^p} dx \quad \text{integr. by parts } p \text{ times}$$

So for a periodic $f \in C^p$, recall means first p derivs of f bounded

$$\hat{f}_k = \mathcal{O}(k^{-p}), \text{ tail sum } \mathcal{O}(N^{1-p}) = \mathcal{O}(h^{p-1}) \quad \text{at least } (p-1)\text{th order acc.}$$

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Example of: f smoother \leftrightarrow faster \hat{f}_k tail decay \leftrightarrow faster convergence

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Example of: f smoother \leftrightarrow faster \hat{f}_k tail decay \leftrightarrow faster convergence

Even smoother case: f analytic, so $f(x)$ analytic in some complex strip $|\text{Im } x| \leq \alpha$
then $\hat{f}_k = \mathcal{O}(e^{-\alpha|k|})$, exponential conv in N (fun proof: shift the contour)
as with Bernstein ellipse, to get exp. conv. rate need understand f off its real axis (wild!)

Global interpolation of periodic functions II

As grow grid N , how accurate is it? just derived $\text{err} \sim \text{sum of } |\hat{f}_k| \text{ in tail } |k| \geq N/2$

$$\text{Now } \hat{f}_k = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) e^{-ikx} dx = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f^{(p)}(x) \frac{e^{-ikx}}{(-ik)^p} dx \quad \text{integr. by parts } p \text{ times}$$

So for a periodic $f \in C^p$, recall means first p derivs of f bounded

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Smoothest case: “band-limited” f with $\hat{f}_k = 0, |k| > k_{\max}$,
then interpolant exact once $N > 2k_{\max}$

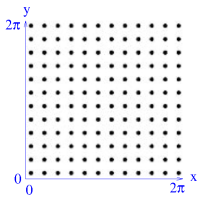
That’s theory. In real life you always *measure* your conv. order/rate!

Take-home: for f smooth & periodic, unif. grid global spectral acc.

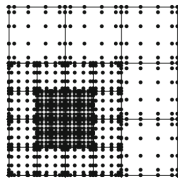
- use FFTs, cost $\mathcal{O}(N \log N)$, to go between $f(x_j)$ grid & \hat{f}_k Fourier coeffs

Flavor of interpolation in higher dims $d > 1$

If you can choose the nodes:
products of 1D interpolants
either global
or adaptively refined boxes



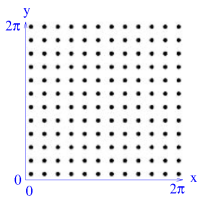
periodic, global



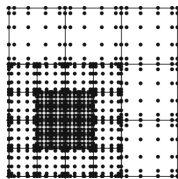
adaptive $p = 6 \times 6$ Cheby

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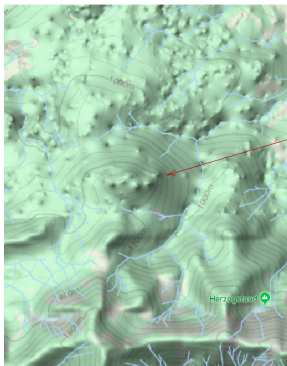
If cannot choose the nodes:
interp. $f(\mathbf{x})$ from scattered data
 $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}$ is hard

Eg google terrain: $f(\mathbf{x})$ rough \rightarrow v. low ord
are amusing jumps in node grids:

Or if know f smooth

fit local multivariate polynomial

If f noisy and smooth, many
methods
kriging, kernels, ***



height $f(\mathbf{x})$
interp from
unstructured
points in 2D,
kernel method

pock-marks!

interp from
Cartesian grid,
more accurate

Numerical integration

Usually the user gets to choose the nodes x_j

Once have interpolant \tilde{f} from data $f(x_j)$, can *integrate it exactly*

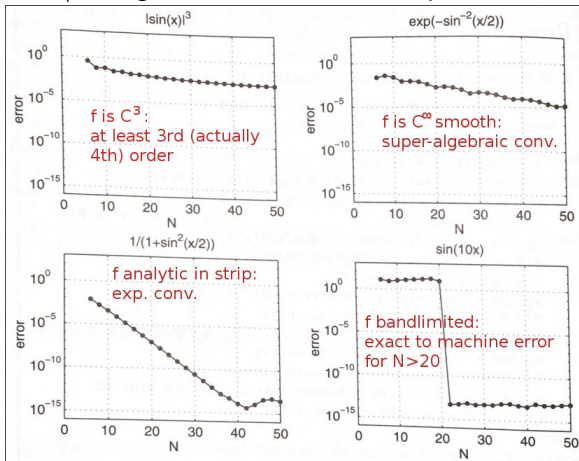
“interpolatory quadrature”

Eg: piecewise linear gives composite trap rule $\mathcal{O}(N^{-2})$

periodic spectral gives periodic trap rule $\mathcal{O}(c^{-N})$ if analytic

Differentiation

As w/ integration: once have interpolant, differentiate it exactly



TO DO

extrapolation

Rounding error [GC12, Ch. 5–6]

LECTURE II: numerical differential equations

For now we start with “elliptic”: time-independent problems

Motivations

eg steady-state (equilibrium) diffusion of a chemical

eg what electric potential caused by bunch of charges surrounded by H_2O ? (protein electrostatics)

Find u solving $\Delta u = f$, f = volume source term

Δ means Laplacian $\partial^2/\partial x^2 + \partial^2/\partial y^2 + \dots$ Δu is curvature of u

plus some BCs on u

eg viscous fluid flow: \mathbf{u} is velocity field, sat Stokes eqns

eg what is ground state of quantum system, solving $\Delta u = Eu$

Mike will in next talk overview this and 2 other flavors of PDE

References

- A Greenbaum and T P Chartier, *Numerical methods*, Princeton University Press, 2012.
- L. N. Trefethen, *Approximation theory and approximation practice*, SIAM, 2013, <http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/chebfun/ATAP>.