

Numerical Differentiation Using Difference Table.

Aim:- Implement numerical differentiation using a difference table in python.

Provide a fn $y=f(x)$ & a set of data points. Compute the numerical derivative at specific points using the forward difference method.

Discuss the sensitivity of numerical differentiation to the choice of step size.

Present physics problems like compute the velocity or acceleration of a particle based on position data.

Theory:-

Numerical Differentiation.

Consider a set of tabulated values (x_i, y_i) , $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ of a fn. The process of computing the derivatives or derivatives of that fn at some value of x from the given set of value is called Numerical Differentiation.

If the value of x are equispaced & the derivative is required near the beginning of the table of values

(x_i, y_i) we employ Gregory - Newton - Forward

Interpolation Formula:

It is written as,

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

x	y	Δy	$\Delta^2 y$	$\Delta^3 y$
x_0	y_0	$\Delta y_0 = y_1 - y_0$	$\Delta^2 y_0 = \Delta y_1 - \Delta y_0$	$\Delta^3 y_0 = \Delta^2 y_1 - \Delta^2 y_0$
x_1	y_1	$\Delta y_1 = y_2 - y_1$	$\Delta^2 y_1 = \Delta y_2 - \Delta y_1$	
x_2	y_2	$\Delta y_2 = y_3 - y_2$		
x_3	y_3			

This is a forward difference Table.

Principle :- Derivative of a function can be calculated using Newton's forward difference interpolation formula.

$$y = y_0 + P \Delta y_0 + \frac{P(P-1)}{2!} \Delta^2 y_0 + \frac{P(P-1)(P-2)}{3!} \Delta^3 y_0 + \dots$$

Where $P = \frac{x - x_0}{h}$

x = test value for which the derivative are to be determined

x_0 & y_0 = Data at the beginning of the tabulated set (x_1, y_1) of the function.

h = Successive difference between x_i 's.

$\Delta y_0, \Delta^2 y_0$ = are the first & second order forward differences of y_i

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{h} \left[\Delta y_0 + \frac{(2P+1)}{2!} \Delta^2 y_0 + \frac{(3P^2+6P+2)}{3!} \Delta^3 y_0 + \dots \right] \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{1}{h^2} \left[\Delta^2 y_0 + (P-1) \Delta^3 y_0 + \dots \right] \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

using equation (2) & (3) we can find the first & second derivative of the function of the desired value of x

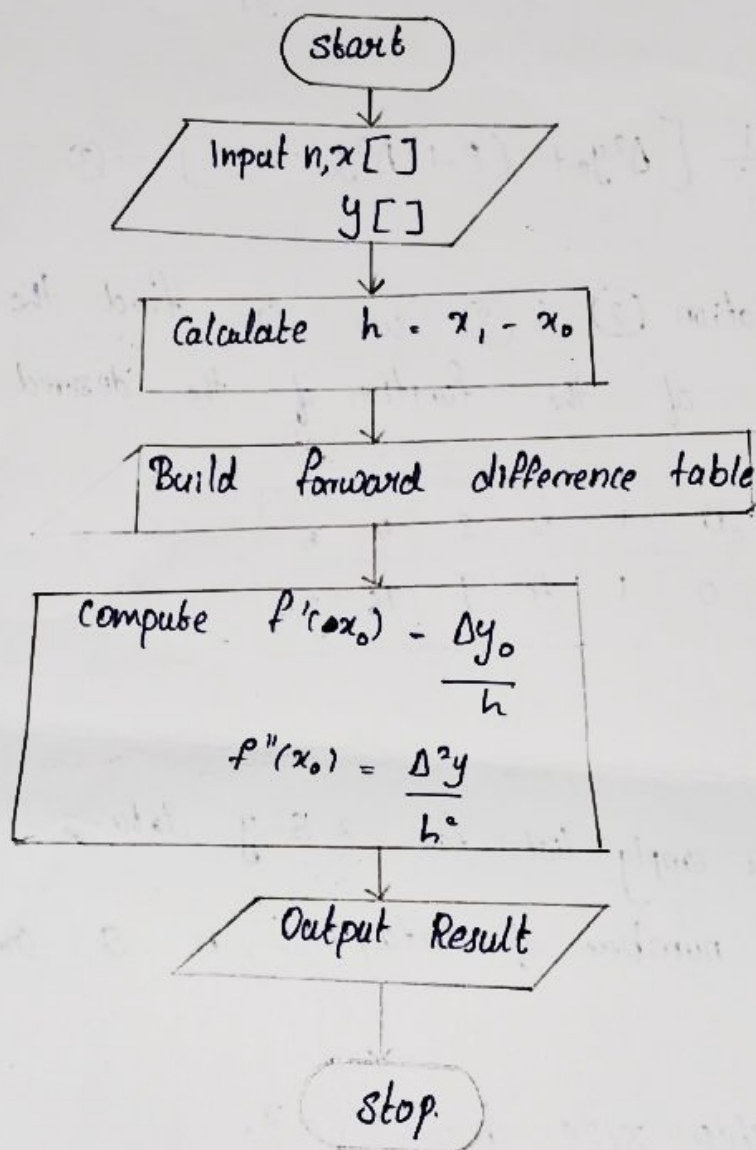
Principle :-

x	0	1	2	3	4	5
$y = f(x)$	0	1	4	9	16	25

Algorithm.

1. Create an empty list for x & y data.
2. Input the number of datapoint, n & corresponding x, y values
3. Calculate step size $h = x_1 - x_0$
4. Create a forward difference table from y -values
5. Compute $f'(x_0) \approx \Delta y_0 / h$ & second derivative $f''(x_0) = \frac{\Delta^2 y_0}{h^2}$
6. Output result.

Flow chart



Procedure :- Code.

import math

$x = [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]$

$y = [0, 1, 4, 9, 16, 25]$

$n = \text{len}(x)$

$h = x[1] - x[0]$

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def forward_difference_table(x,y):
    n = len(y)
    diff_table = [y.copy()]
    for i in range(1,n):
        row = []
        for j in range(n-i):
            delta = diff_table[i-1][j+1] - diff_table[i-1][j]
            diff_table[i-1][j+1] = delta
            row.append(delta)
        diff_table.append(row)
    return diff_table
Print("Forward difference table:")
diff_table = forward_difference_table(x,y)
for row in diff_table:
    Print(row)

x_test = 1.5
P = (x_test - x[0])/h
dy = (1/h) * (diff_table[1][0] + ((2*P-1)/
    math.factorial(2)) * diff_table[2]
    [0] + ((3*P**2-6*P+2)/
    math.factorial(3)) * diff_table[3][0])
d2y = (1/h**2) * (diff_table[2][0] +
    (P-1) * diff_table[3][0])
Print(f"At x = {x_test}:")
Print(f"First derivative (dy/dx) ≈ {dy}")
Print(f"Second derivative (d²y/dx²) ≈ {d2y}")

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⇒ output → Forward difference table :

[0, 1, 4, 9, 16, 25]
[1, 3, 5, 7, 9]
[2, 2, 2, 2]
[0, 0, 0]
[0, 0]
[0]

At $x = 1.5$

First Derivative $(dy/dx) \approx 3.0$

Second Derivative $(d^2y/dx^2) \approx 2.0$