

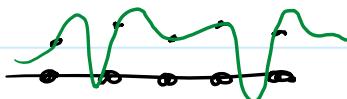
# Midterm 2 review

Tuesday, November 4, 2025 9:30 PM

## Interpolation

- If two polynomials, both degree  $n$  or less, agree at  $n+1$  or more points, then these are in fact the same polynomial

- Runge phenomenon is when a high degree polynomial interpolant oscillates wildly near boundaries



Can be fixed by using Chebyshev nodes which cluster near boundaries

- Error thm: if  $f \in C^{n+1}[a,b]$ ,  $\{x_0, \dots, x_n\}$  distinct nodes in  $[a,b]$ , and  $P_n$  is the degree  $n$ -or-less polynomial interpolant of  $f$  at these nodes, then  $\exists \xi \in [a,b]$  s.t.

$$f(x) = P(x) + f^{(n+1)}(\xi) \frac{1}{(n+1)!} (x-x_0)(x-x_1) \cdots (x-x_n)$$

Independent of uniform v. Chebyshev nodes,  
or how we find  $P_n$

- Finding  $P_n$  given  $\{(x_0, y_0), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}$

how you did it in 1890 → ① Newton Divided Differences

how you do a small example on an exam → ② Lagrange interpolating polynomial,

$$L_{n,k}(x) = \prod_{i \neq k} \frac{x - x_i}{x_k - x_i}$$

$$P_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n y_k \cdot L_{n,k}(x)$$

UNSTABLE

how a computer does it

→ ③ Barycentric Formula variation

Cost:  $O(n^2)$  every time we evaluate  $P_n$

## (3) Barycentric

$$\omega_k = \frac{\text{const}}{\prod_{i \neq k} (x_k - x_i)}$$

anything. Choose to limit overflow/underflow

precompute all weights  
 $O(n^2)$

$$P_n(x) = \frac{\sum_{k=0}^n \frac{y_k \cdot \omega_k}{x - x_k}}{\sum_{k=0}^n \frac{\omega_k}{x - x_k}}$$

costs  $O(n)$  to evaluate  
at each new  $x$

## (4) Monomial basis /

(5) Generic polynomial basis  $\phi_0, \dots, \phi_n$  for  $P_n$ :

$$P_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k \phi_k(x), \quad P_n(x_i) = y_i, \quad i=0, \dots, n$$

so solve

$$\begin{bmatrix} \phi_0(x_0) & \phi_1(x_0) & \dots & \phi_n(x_0) \\ \vdots & & & \\ \phi_0(x_n) & \phi_1(x_n) & \dots & \phi_n(x_n) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_0 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}$$

- lower triangular for Newton D.D. basis
- diagonal for Lagrange basis
- dense, ill-conditioned Vandermonde for monomial basis

## • Our two use cases:

(1)  $\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=0}^n$  just data, want to fit a curve  
we don't have control over locations  $x_i$

(2) We have a function  $f$ , want to approximate it by  $P_n$   
We choose nodes  $x_i$ , then set  $y_i = f(x_i)$

## • Hermite interpolation

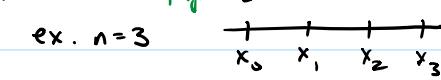
Use case (2),  $y_i = f(x_i)$  and  $\tilde{y}_i = f'(x_i)$ ,  $i=0, 1, \dots, n$

Insist  $p(x_i) = y_i$  and  $p'(x_i) = \tilde{y}_i$   $2n+2$  constraints

P is degree  $2n+1$  so it has  $2n+2$  coefficients

technique to construct fit looks like a fancier version of Lagrange

- Splines piecewise polynomials...

ex.  $n=3$ 

... that interpolate...

... and require  $S$  to be continuous  
(linear splines)... and  $S'$  is continuous  
(quadratic splines) ] + 1 boundary condition... and  $S''$  is continuous  
(cubic splines) ] + 2 boundary conditions

$$S(x) = \begin{cases} P_0(x) & x_0 \leq x < x_1 \\ P_1(x) & x_1 \leq x < x_2 \\ P_2(x) & x_2 \leq x \leq x_3 \end{cases}$$

↑  
"2" does not refer to degree 2

# eq'n

2n segments, interpolation gives 2 linear equations per segment

quadratic + n-1 (n-1) interior nodes, self-consistent derivatives here:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_i^-} S'(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_i^+} S'(x) \quad \text{i.e. } P_0'(x_i) = P_1'(x_i)$$

etc.

cubic + n-1 ... self-consistent second derivatives

# degrees of freedom, linear: 2n

quadratic: 3n

cubic: 4n

For  $C^2$  cubic splines,  
common B.C. include• Natural/free,  $S''(x_0) = 0$  and  $S''(x_n) = 0$ • Clamped  $S'(x_0) = f'(x_0)$  } if known.  
 $S'(x_n) = f'(x_n)$ • not-a-knot  $P_0'''(x_0) = P_1'''(x_1)$   
 $P_{n-2}'''(x_{n-1}) = P_{n-1}'''(x_n)$ • periodic  $S'(x_0) = S'(x_n)$   
 $S''(x_0) = S''(x_n)$ 

CAREFUL! Scipy  
lets you do this  
without specifying  $f'(x_0)$   
It assumes  $f'(x_0) = 0$

- How to solve:

Key: write  $P_j = a_j + b_j(x-x_j) + c_j(x-x_j)^2 + d_j(x-x_j)^3$ Find all  $\{a_j, b_j, c_j, d_j\}$ . Some are easy:  $a_j = f(x_j)$  ✓

By hand, just work through

On a computer, reduce to a tridiagonal system,  $n \times n$ ,  
which can be solved in  $O(n)$  time.

- Theory:

If  $f \in C^4[a,b]$  and  $\|f^{(4)}\|_{L^\infty} \leq M$  and  $S$  is  
the clamped cubic spline interpolant, then  $\forall x \in [a,b]$ 

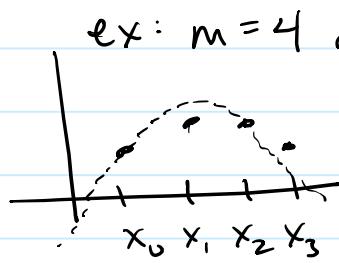
$$|f(x) - S(x)| \leq M \cdot \max_{0 \leq j \leq n-1} (x_{j+1} - x_j)^4$$

i.e. uniformly spaced, spacing  $h = O(1/n)$ ,

$$\underbrace{\text{error} = O(h^4)}_{\text{same is true for not-a-knot}} = O(1/n^4)$$

Same is true for not-a-knot

} not as good as  
interpolation w/ a  
degree  $n$  polynomial  
... but FAST ( $O(n)$  not  $O(n^2)$ )  
and no Runge phenomenon.

• discrete  $\ell^2$ 

ex:  $m=4$  datapoints, want  $p$  to be degree 2 or less

to help w/ generalization/  
extrapolation,  
prevent overfitting

Probably can't interpolate

$$\min_{\vec{a} \in \mathbb{R}^3} \sum_{i=0}^3 (\hat{y}_i - y_i)^2, \quad \hat{y}_i = p(x_i), \quad p(x) = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2$$

Find  $\vec{a} \in \mathbb{R}^3$

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_0 & x_0^2 \\ 1 & x_1 & x_1^2 \\ 1 & x_2 & x_2^2 \\ 1 & x_3 & x_3^2 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{4 \times 3}, \quad \hat{\vec{y}} = X \cdot \vec{a}$$

$$\text{so } \min_{\vec{a}} \|X \vec{a} - \hat{\vec{y}}\|_2^2$$

$g(\vec{a})$

Set  $\nabla g(\vec{a}) = 0$  to get

$$X^T X \vec{a} - X^T \hat{\vec{y}} = 0, \text{ ie. } X^T X \vec{a} = X^T \hat{\vec{y}} \quad (\text{NORMAL EQUATIONS})$$

Solve for  $\vec{a}$

or, if weighted  $\min \sum w_i (\hat{y}_i - y_i)^2$

$$\text{then solve } X^T W X \vec{a} = X^T W \hat{\vec{y}}, \quad W = \text{diag}(\vec{w})$$

• discrete  $\ell'$  or  $\ell^\infty$ 

are linear programs, ie. convert to form  $\min_{\vec{z}} c^T \vec{z}$

$$\begin{array}{l} \vec{z} \\ \text{st. } A \vec{z} = \vec{b} \\ \vec{b} \geq \vec{0} \end{array}$$

• Regularize, eg. Tikhonov

• Total least squares

• Continuous,  $L^2$ ,  $E = \|f - P\|_{L^2}^2$ , using  $\langle f, g \rangle_{L^2} = \int_a^b f(x)g(x)w(x)dx$

think of this as the limit of  $\{x_i\}_{i=0}^m$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$  wt. (optional)

Say,  $P(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2$ ,

" $X$ " is a quasimatrix w/  $\infty$  rows,  $[1, x, x^2]$   
 $\forall x \in [a, b]$  (still 3 columns)

informally,  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{\infty \times 3}$

so  $\underbrace{X^T X}_{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$  is tractable.

formally, define  $G \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$ ,  $G_{k,j} = \langle \phi_k, \phi_j \rangle_{L^2}$

and define  $\vec{b} \in \mathbb{R}^3$  (like  $x^T y$ )

$$b_k = \langle \phi_k, f \rangle$$

then solve  $G \vec{a} = \vec{b}$  for  $\vec{a} \in \mathbb{R}^3$

### • orthogonal bases

If  $\langle \phi_k, \phi_j \rangle_{L^2} = 0$  for  $k \neq j$  (i.e.  $\{\phi_j\}$  is orthogonal)

then  $G$  is a diagonal matrix, so  $G^{-1}$  is diagonal with

$(G^{-1})_{k,k} = \frac{1}{G_{k,k}}$ , and solving  $G \vec{a} = \vec{b}$  is simple:  $\vec{a} = G^{-1} \vec{b}$  means

$$a_k = \frac{b_k}{G_{k,k}} = \frac{\langle \phi_k, f \rangle_{L^2}}{\|\phi_k\|_{L^2}^2}$$

Legendre polynomials are orthogonal for  $L^2$  on  $[-1, 1]$  w/  $w(x) = 1$

Chebyshev polynomials are orthogonal for  $L^2$  on  $[-1, 1]$  w/  $w(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$

For both of them, the first  $n+1$  form a basis for  $\underbrace{\mathcal{P}}_{\text{vectorspace of polynomials w/ degree } \leq n}$

Created via Gram-Schmidt to  $\{1, x, x^2, \dots\}$

vectorspace of  
polynomials w/  
degree  $\leq n$

- Gram Schmidt (the variant that orthogonalizes, not orthonormalize)

Given a (non-orthogonal) basis  $\psi_0, \psi_1, \psi_2, \dots$

we'll construct an orthogonal basis  $\phi_0, \phi_1, \phi_2, \dots$

$$\phi_0 = \psi_0$$

$$\phi_1 = \psi_1 - \frac{\langle \psi_1, \phi_0 \rangle}{\|\phi_0\|^2} \cdot \phi_0$$

$$\phi_2 = \psi_2 - \frac{\langle \psi_2, \phi_0 \rangle}{\|\phi_0\|^2} \phi_0 - \frac{\langle \psi_2, \phi_1 \rangle}{\|\phi_1\|^2} \phi_1$$

etc.

} verify:

$$\langle \phi_0, \phi_1 \rangle = \langle \psi_0, \psi_1 \rangle - \frac{\langle \psi_1, \phi_0 \rangle}{\|\phi_0\|^2} \cdot \langle \phi_0, \phi_0 \rangle = 0 \checkmark$$

- Approximation by rational functions ch 8.4

2025, skip

- Fourier Series

On  $[-\pi, \pi]$ ,  $\{1\} \cup \{\cos(kx), \sin(kx)\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  is orthogonal

If we represent  $f$  in this basis,

$$f(x) = a_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k \cos(kx) + b_k \sin(kx)$$

Even though it's  $\infty$ , we can still find Fourier coefficients  $a_k, b_k$

Using orthogonality: define  $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x)g(x)dx$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \sin(jx), f(x) \rangle &= \langle \sin(jx), a_0 \rangle \stackrel{=} 0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k \langle \sin(jx), \cos(kx) \rangle \stackrel{=} 0 \\ &\quad + b_k \langle \sin(jx), \sin(kx) \rangle \stackrel{=} 0 \text{ if } j \neq k \\ &= a_j \cdot \|\sin(jx)\|^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{so } a_j = \frac{\langle \sin(jx), f(x) \rangle}{\|\sin(jx)\|^2} !$$

$$\text{Note: } \|f\|_{L^2}^2 = \langle f, f \rangle = \langle a_0 + \sum_k a_k \cos(kx) + b_k \sin(kx), a_0 + \sum_j a_j \cos(jx) + b_j \sin(jx) \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= a_0 \|\mathbf{1}\|_{L^2}^2 + \sum_k a_k^2 \|\cos(kx)\|_{L^2}^2 + b_k^2 \|\sin(kx)\|_{L^2}^2 \\ \text{so if } &\text{ is finite,} \quad \text{so is } \sum_k a_k^2 + b_k^2 < \infty, \quad \text{hence} \end{aligned}$$

$\sum_k a_k^2 + b_k^2 < \infty$ ,

so a necessary requirement is  $a_k, b_k \rightarrow 0$ .

### • Decay of Fourier coefficients

We saw if  $\|f\|_{L^2} < \infty$  then  $\sum a_k^2 + b_k^2 < \infty$   
 (we are being loose on technical details) so  $a_k, b_k \rightarrow 0$

If  $f$  is differentiable,

$$f(x) = a_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k \cos(kx) + b_k \sin(kx)$$

$$\text{then } f'(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} -k \cdot a_k \sin(kx) + k \cdot b_k \cos(kx)$$

and using the same orthogonality trick

$$\text{if } \|f'\|_{L^2} < \infty, \text{ then } \sum k^2 a_k^2 + k^2 b_k^2 < \infty$$

so  $a_k, b_k \rightarrow 0$  fast to

compensate for the growth of  $k^2$

general rule:

The smoother  $f$  is ...

(i.e. the more derivatives it has... taking into account the periodic extension, that is)

... the faster its Fourier series coefficients decay.

### • Gibbs phenomenon

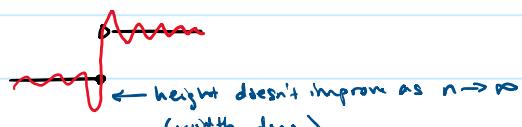
If  $f$  has a jump discontinuity, defining  $f_n(x) = a_0 + \sum_{k=1}^n a_k \cos(kx) + b_k \sin(kx)$

$$\text{then } \|f - f_n\|_{L^2} \rightarrow 0$$

but  $\|f - f_n\|_{L^\infty}$  doesn't

No "fix"

(nonequispaced nodes isn't relevant here)



### • Discrete Fourier Transform

Similar but not the same as Fourier Series.

[DFT]  $F: \mathbb{C}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^N$  a linear operator w/ matrix representation

$$F_{kj} = \omega^{kj}, \quad k, j = 0, 1, \dots, N-1 \quad \text{where } \omega = e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{N}}$$

$$F = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & \omega & \omega^2 & \cdots & \omega^{N-1} \\ 1 & \omega^2 & \omega^4 & \cdots & \omega^{2(N-1)} \\ \vdots & & & & \\ 1 & \omega^{N-1} & \omega^{2N-2} & \cdots & \omega^{(N-1)^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{The matrix } \tilde{F} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} F$$

is unitary

$$\text{i.e. } \tilde{F}^{-1} = \tilde{F}^*$$

( $A^* = \bar{A}^T$ , complex conjugate transpose)

- Fast Fourier Transform / FFT

Computing  $F \cdot \vec{v}$  for a  $N \times N$  DFT takes  $O(N^2)$  flops naively, but can be reduced to  $O(N \log N)$  flops using the FFT.

We did in class for when  $N$  is a power of 2, but it can be done for any  $N$ , even prime ones.

Because  $F^{-1} = \frac{1}{N} F^*$ , we also have a fast way to compute the inverse DFT (called the IFFT, for inverse FFT)