

Part I

**ME010202 Advanced
Topology**

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Compactness

11.1 Variations of Compactness

In this chapter, we have two other notions of compactness - countable compactness and sequential compactness.¹

Compact A topological space is compact iff every open cover of it has a finite subcover. ([Joshi,] 6.1.1) [Heine-Borel]

Countably Compact A topological space is countably compact iff every countable, open cover of it has a finite subcover. ([Joshi,] 11.1.1)

Sequentially Compact A topological space is sequentially compact iff every sequence in it has a convergent subsequence. ([Joshi,] 11.1.8) [Bolzano-Weierstrass]

Countable compactness is a weaker notion compared to compactness.² However, sequentially compact and compact are not necessarily comparable.³

We have seen earlier that compactness has the following properties 1. compactness is weakly hereditary([Joshi,] 6.1.10) 2. compactness is preserved under continuous functions([Joshi,] 6.1.8) 3. every continuous real functions on compact space is bounded and attains its extrema([Joshi,] 6.1.6) 4. every continuous real function on a compact, metric space is uniformly continuous by Lebesgue covering lemma.([Joshi,] 6.1.7)

Countably compact spaces, Sequentially compact spaces have all the four properties listed above.

11.1.1 Countable compactness

Weakly hereditary property

A subspace (A, \mathcal{T}_A) being countably compact doesn't imply that (X, \mathcal{T}) is countably compact. However, if (X, \mathcal{T}) is a countably compact space and A

¹For \mathbb{R} , Compactness & Sequentially compactness are equivalent to the completeness axiom.

²Every compact space is countably compact.

³ $\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2$ are non-comparable, if $\mathcal{T}_1 \not\subset \mathcal{T}_2$ and $\mathcal{T}_2 \not\subset \mathcal{T}_1$.([Joshi,] 4.2.1)

is a closed subset of X , then $(A, \mathcal{T}_{/A})$ is also a countably compact space. In other words, countably compactness is weakly hereditary.

Theorem 11.1. *Countable compactness is weakly hereditary. ([Joshi,] 11.1.3)*

Synopsis. *Let A be a closed subset of countably compact space, X . If A has a countable open cover \mathcal{U} , then we can obtain a respective countable, open cover for X by attaching $X - A$ to the extensions of members of \mathcal{U} to X . This cover has a finite subcover. Then restricting them to A , we get a finite subcover of \mathcal{U} .*

Proof. Suppose X is a countably compact space. And A is a closed subset of X . We need to show that A is countably compact. Without loss of generality,⁴ assume that A is a proper subset of X . Then $X - A$ is a non-empty, open subset of X .

Let \mathcal{U} be a countable open cover of A . Then $\mathcal{U} = \{U_1, U_2, \dots\}$ where each element $U_k \in \mathcal{U}$ is an open subset of A . Since A is a subspace of X , every open set U_k in A is of the form $G \cap A$ for some open set G in X . Therefore, there exists open sets $V(U_k)$ for each U_k such that $A \cap V(U_k) = U_k$.⁵

Define $\mathcal{V} = \{X - A, V(U_1), V(U_2), \dots\}$. Clearly, \mathcal{V} is a countable open cover⁶ of X . We have X is countably compact, thus \mathcal{V} has a finite subcover, say \mathcal{V}' . Without loss of generality assume⁷ that $X - A \in \mathcal{V}'$. Suppose $X - A \notin \mathcal{V}'$, then we can define another finite subcover $\mathcal{V}' \cup \{X - A\}$. Thus $\mathcal{V}' = \{X - A, V(U_{n_1}), V(U_{n_2}), \dots, V(U_{n_k})\}$.

Then the corresponding subcover $\mathcal{U}' = \{U_{n_1}, U_{n_2}, \dots, U_{n_k}\}$ is a finite subcover of \mathcal{U} . Since countable open cover \mathcal{U} and closed subset A are arbitrary, every closed subset of X with relative topology is countably compact. Therefore, countable compactness is weakly hereditary. \square

Remark. *Proof depends on the following,*

1. *There is an extension map, $\psi : P(A) \rightarrow P(X)$ that preserve open sets (and closed sets). This ψ is an open map which not a true inverse of the restriction, $r : P(X) \rightarrow P(A)$, defined by $r(G) = G \cap A$ for every subset G of X .*
2. *Also we rely on the subset A being closed. Suppose X have many countable open covers, but X has only uncountable open covers corresponding to a particular countable open cover of A . In such a case, X being countably compact is insufficient for A to be countably compact.*

The behaviour of continuous functions

We will now study the nature of continuous functions defined on countably compact spaces. Suppose X, Y are topological space and function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is continuous. If X is countably compact, then $f(X)$ is also countably compact.

⁴Suppose A is not a proper subset of X . Then $X = A$ and A is countably compact.

⁵Relative topology, $\mathcal{T}_{/A} = \{G \cap A : G \in \mathcal{T}\}$

⁶ $X - A$ is open in X . If $y \notin A$, then $y \in X - A$. If $y \in A$, then $y \in U_k$ for some k .

⁷Otherwise, you will have to consider two cases: $X - A \in \mathcal{V}'$ and $X - A \notin \mathcal{V}'$

Continuous images of countably compact spaces are countably compact. In other words, countable compactness is preserved under continuous functions.⁸

Theorem 11.2. *Countable compactness is preserved under continuous functions. ([Joshi,] 11.1.2)*

Synopsis. *Let X be countably compact and $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be continuous. Suppose \mathcal{U} is a countable cover of $f(X)$, then X has a countable cover \mathcal{V} obtained by taking inverse images. Since X is countably compact, \mathcal{V} has a finite subcover \mathcal{V}' . Now taking images of members of \mathcal{V}' , we get a finite subcover \mathcal{U}' of $f(X)$.*

Proof. Suppose X is a countably compact space, Y is a topological space and $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is a continuous function. Let $\mathcal{U} = \{U_1, U_2, \dots\}$ be a countable cover of $f(X)$ by set open in $f(X)$. We have to show that \mathcal{U} has a finite subcover.

Define $\mathcal{V} = \{f^{-1}(U_1), f^{-1}(U_2), \dots\}$. Then \mathcal{V} is a countable open cover of X , since $f^{-1}(U_k)$ are open subsets of X and,

$$\begin{aligned} \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} U_k = f(X) &\implies f^{-1}\left(\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} U_k\right) = X \\ &\implies \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} f^{-1}(U_k) = X \end{aligned}$$

We have, \mathcal{V} is a countable open cover of X , which is a countably compact space. Therefore \mathcal{V} has a finite subcover $\mathcal{V}' = \{f^{-1}(U_{n_1}), f^{-1}(U_{n_2}), \dots, f^{-1}(U_{n_k})\}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \bigcup_{j=1}^k f^{-1}(U_{n_j}) = X &\implies f^{-1}\left(\bigcup_{j=1}^k U_{n_j}\right) = X \\ &\implies \bigcup_{j=1}^k U_{n_j} = f(X) \end{aligned}$$

Clearly $\mathcal{U}' = \{U_{n_1}, U_{n_2}, \dots, U_{n_k}\}$ is a finite subcover of \mathcal{U} . Thus every countable open cover of $f(X)$ by sets open in $f(X)$ has a finite subcover. Therefore, continuous images of countably compact spaces are countably compact. \square

Remark. 1. *For a continuous function, $f : X \rightarrow Y$ the inverse images of open sets are open in X . The relation $f^{-1} \subset f(X) \times X$ is not a function. However, we may consider a function, $\psi : P(Y) \rightarrow P(X)$ such that $\psi(U) = f^{-1}(U)$ for any subset U of Y . This ψ is an open map which maps open subsets of Y to open subsets of X .*

Theorem 11.3. *Every continuous, real-valued function on a countably compact, metric space is bounded and attains its extrema. ([Joshi,] 11.1.7)*

⁸A topological property is preserved under continuous functions if whenever a space has that property so does every continuous image of it. ([Joshi,] 6.1.9)

Synopsis. Let X be a countably compact space and function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous. Then $f(X) \subset \mathbb{R}$ is countably compact. Real line \mathbb{R} is metrisable⁹. Then $f(X)$ is countably compact, metric space. Therefore $f(X)$ compact¹⁰. The subset $f(X)$ of \mathbb{R} is bounded and closed, since every compact subset of \mathbb{R} is bounded and closed. Thus $f(X)$ contains its supremum and infimum. Therefore, f is bounded and attains its extrema.

Proof. Let X be a countably compact space and $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous, real-valued function on the countably compact space, X . We have to show that f is bounded and attains its extrema.

Since countable compactness is preserved under continuous functions, $f(X)$ is countably compact subset of \mathbb{R} . Since, $f(X)$ is a subset of the metric space, \mathbb{R} and metrisability is hereditary, $f(X)$ is again metrisable. (suppose) We have, every countably compact, metric space is compact. Then $f(X)$ is a compact subset of \mathbb{R} .

Since every compact subset of \mathbb{R} is bounded and closed, $f(X)$ is bounded and closed. Since every closed subset of \mathbb{R} contains supremum and infimum, $f(X)$ contains its extrema. Therefore, every continuous, real-valued function on a countably compact space is bounded and attains its extrema.

We have assumed that every countably compact, metric space is compact. This result will be proved in the last section of this chapter. \square

Remark. Since countably compact, metric spaces are compact. The above theorem can be used to prove that continuous, real-valued functions on a compact, metric space attains its extrema.

Due to the Lebesgue covering lemma, next result is quite simple.*

Theorem 11.4. Every continuous, real-valued function on a countably compact, metric space is uniformly continuous.

Proposition 11.5. Let X be a first countable, Hausdorff space. Then every countably compact subset A of X is closed. ([Joshi,] Exercises 11.1.7)

11.1.2 Sequential Compactness

Weakly hereditary property

Theorem 11.6. Sequential compactness is weakly hereditary. ([Joshi,] Exercises 11.1.3)

The behaviour of continuous functions

Theorem 11.7. Sequential compactness is preserved under continuous functions. ([Joshi,] Exercises 11.1.4)

⁹[Joshi,] 4.2 Example 4, \mathbb{R} with usual metric $d : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $d(x, y) = |x - y|$

¹⁰[Joshi,] 11.1.11 On metric spaces, countable compactness \implies compactness.

Synopsis. Let X be sequentially compact and function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be continuous. Then any sequence, $\{y_k\}$ in $f(X)$ has a sequence, $\{x_k\}$ in X such that $f(x_k) = y_k$. Sequence $\{x_k\}$ has a subsequence $\{x_{n_k}\}$ converging to x , then sequence $\{f(x_{n_k})\}$ in $f(X)$ has the subsequence $\{f(x_{n_k})\}$ converging to $f(x)$.

Proof. Let X be a sequentially compact space, function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be continuous and $\{y_n\}$ be a sequence in $f(X)$ subset of Y . Construct a sequence $\{x_n\}$ such that $f(x_k) = y_k, \forall k$.

Every sequence in X has a convergent subsequence. Thus $\{x_n\}$ has a subsequence $\{x_{n_k}\}$ converging to $x \in X$. The image of this subsequence $\{f(x_{n_k})\}$ is a subsequence of $\{y_k\}$. We claim that, $\{f(x_{n_k})\}$ converges to $f(x) \in f(X)$.

Let U be an open set containing $f(x)$, then $f^{-1}(U)$ is an open set containing x . Since $\{x_{n_k}\}$ converges to x . There exists an integer n such that for every $k \geq n$, $x_k \in f^{-1}(U)$. Clearly, for each $k \geq n$, $f(x_k) \in U$. Since U is arbitrary, $\{f(x_{n_k})\}$ converges to $f(x)$. Therefore, the image of any sequentially compact space is sequentially compact. In other words, sequentially compactness is preserved under continuous functions. \square

Remark. 1. Given a sequence $\{y_n\}$ in $f(X)$, there is a sequence of subsets $\{U_n\}$ in $P(Y)$ such that $U_n = f^{-1}(y_n)$. Since each U_n is non-empty, we can construct a sequence $\{x_n\}$ in X using a choice function. The convergent subsequence of $\{y_n\}$ depends on the selection of this choice function.

Given every sequentially compact, metric space is countably compact. We may assert the properties of countably compact, metric spaces on sequentially compact, metric spaces.

Theorem 11.8. Every continuous, real-valued function on a sequentially compact, metric space is bounded and attains its extrema.

Theorem 11.9. Every continuous, real-valued function on a sequentially compact, metric space is uniformly continuous. ([Joshi,] Exercises 11.1.6)

11.1.3 Countable Compactness on T_1 spaces

In this section, we are going to see four different characterisations of countable compactness in T_1 spaces. The first two characterisations doesn't have anything to do with the T_1 axiom.

T_1 Space A topological space X satisfy T_1 axiom if for any two distinct points $x, y \in X$, there exists an open set $U \subset X$ containing x but not y . ([Joshi,] 7.1.2)

countable compactness A topological space is countably compact if every countable open cover has a finite subcover. ([Joshi,] 11.1.1)

finite intersection property A family \mathcal{F} of subsets of X has finite intersection property (f.i.p.) if every finite subfamily of \mathcal{F} has a non-empty intersection. ([Joshi,] 10.2.6)

accumulation point A point $x \in X$ is accumulation point of a subset $A \subset X$ if every open set containing x has atleast one point of A other than x . ([Joshi,] 5.2.7)

limit point A point $x \in X$ is a limit point of a sequence $\langle x_k \rangle$ in X if for every open set U containing x , there exists an integer $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $x_k \in U$ for every $k \geq N$. ([Joshi,] 4.1.7)

cluster point A point $x \in X$ is a cluster point of a sequence $\langle x_k \rangle$ in X if for any neighbourhood V of x , the sequence $\langle x_k \rangle$ assumes a point in V infinitely many times.¹¹

Countable compactness in T_1 spaces

Theorem 11.10. *In a T_1 space X , following statements are equivalent,*

1. X is countably compact
2. Every countably family of closed subsets of X with finite intersection property have non-empty intersection.
3. Every infinite subset $A \subset X$ has an accumulation point.¹²
4. Every sequence $\langle x_k \rangle$ in X has a cluster point.
5. Every infinite open cover of X has a proper subcover. [Arens-Dugundji]

Proof. $1 \implies 2$

Suppose X is countably compact. Let $\mathcal{C} = \{C_1, C_2, \dots\}$ be a countable family of closed subsets of X with empty intersection. Define $\mathcal{U} = \{X - C_1, X - C_2, \dots\}$ is a family of open subsets of X . By de Morgan's law,¹³

$$\bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} C_k = \phi, \text{ then } X = X - \left(\bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} C_k \right) = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} (X - C_k)$$

We have \mathcal{U} is a countable cover of X and X is countably compact space. Thus \mathcal{U} has a finite subcover $\mathcal{U}' = \{X - C_{n_1}, X - C_{n_2}, \dots, X - C_{n_k}\}$.

$$\mathcal{U}' \text{ is a cover of } X, \text{ then } X = \bigcup_{j=1}^k (X - C_{n_j})$$

$$X - \bigcup_{j=1}^k (X - C_{n_j}) = \bigcap_{j=1}^k (X - (X - C_{n_j})) = \bigcap_{j=1}^k C_{n_j} = \phi$$

Now $\mathcal{C}' = \{C_{n_1}, C_{n_2}, \dots, C_{n_k}\}$ has empty intersection. This is a contradiction to the finite intersection property of \mathcal{C} . Thus \mathcal{C} has non-empty intersection. Therefore, every countably family of closed subsets of X have non-empty intersection.

¹¹ x is a cluster point of $\langle x_k \rangle$ if for every integer N , there exists $k > N$ such that $x_k \in V$. In other words, $\langle x_k \rangle$ is frequently in V . ([Joshi,] 10.1.9)

¹²Every infinite subset of \mathbb{R} has a limit point is equivalent to the completeness axiom.

¹³Complement of Intersection = Union of complements, $X - (C \cap D) = (X - C) \cup (X - D)$,

2 \implies 1

Let $\mathcal{U} = \{U_1, U_2, \dots\}$ be a countable cover of X . Then $\mathcal{C} = \{X - U_1, X - U_2, \dots\}$ is a countable family of closed subsets of X .

Let $\mathcal{U}' = \{U_{n_1}, U_{n_2}, \dots, U_{n_k}\}$ be any finite subfamily of \mathcal{U} . Suppose X is not countably compact, then \mathcal{U} doesn't have a finite subcover. Therefore, \mathcal{U}' is not a cover of X . And \mathcal{C} is a family of closed sets with finite intersection property.

Therefore by assumption, the countable family of closed sets \mathcal{C} has a non-empty intersection.

$$\bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} C_k \neq \phi, \text{ then } \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} C_k = \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} (X - U_k) = X - \left(\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} U_k \right) \neq \phi$$

Then \mathcal{U} is not a cover of X as well. This is a contradiction, therefore X is countably compact.

1 \implies 3

Suppose X is countably compact. Let A be an infinite subset of X . Suppose A doesn't have an accumulation point.

Let B be a countably infinite subset of A . Then B also doesn't have any accumulation point. Therefore, the derived set B' is empty. Thus B is a closed subset of X . Since countable compactness is weakly hereditary, subspace B is again countably compact.

For each point $b \in B$, there is an open set V_b such that $V_b \cap B = \{b\}$, since $b \in B$ is not an accumulation point. Thus $\mathcal{U} = \{V_b \cap B : b \in B\}$ is a countable open cover of B . Clearly, \mathcal{U} doesn't have any finite subcover.

This is a contradiction to B being countably compact. Therefore, A has an accumulation point. \square

11.1.4 Variations of Compactness on Metric Spaces

In this document, we will see that from metric space point of view these two notions were equivalent to the compactness and were used alternatively. For example : in functional analysis (semester 3), you will find definitions like 'a normed space is compact iff every sequence in it has a convergent subsequence', which is clearly sequential compactness for a topologist.

Lindeloff A topological space is Lindeloff iff every open cover has a countable subcover.

First countable A topological space is first countable iff every point in it has a countable local base.

Second countable A topological space is second countable iff it has a countable base.

Base A family of subsets \mathcal{B} of X is a base of a topological space if every open set can be expressed as union of some members of \mathcal{B}

Base Characterisation A family of subsets \mathcal{B} of X is a base of a topological space iff for every $x \in X$, and for every neighbourhood U of x , there is a member $B \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $x \in B \subset U$.

Local Base A family of subsets \mathcal{L} of X is a local base at point $x \in X$ if for every neighbourhood U of x , there is a member $L \in \mathcal{L}$ such that $x \in L \subset U$.

Equivalence

We are going to see when these three notions: compactness, countable compactness and sequentially compactness are equivalent.

Theorem 11.11. *Countably compact, metric spaces are second countable.*

Synopsis. *For every positive real number r , there exists a non-empty maximal subsets A_r with every pair of points atleast r distance apart. A_r are finite. The union of maximal subsets $A_{\frac{1}{n}}$ for each natural number n is a countable, dense subset D of X . Thus countably compact, metric spaces are separable. The family \mathcal{B} of all open balls with center at $d \in D$ and rational radius is a countable, base for X . Thus countably compact, metric spaces are second countable.*

Proof. Let $(X; d)$ be a countably compact, metric space. For each positive real number $r \in \mathbb{R}$, $r > 0$ construct a family of subsets $A_r \subset X$ such that it is a maximal set of points which are atleast r distances apart.

Then A_r is finite for every positive real number r . Suppose A_r is infinite for some real number $r > 0$, then A_r has a accumulation point, say x by the Characterisation of countable compactness of X .

Then every neighbourhood of x must intersect A_r at infinitely many points, since every metric space is a T_1 space. Consider $B(x, \frac{r}{2})$. Since any two points of $B(x, \frac{r}{2})$ are less than r distances apart, the intersection $B(x, \frac{r}{2}) \cap A_r$ can have atmost one point in it. Thus for every positive real number r , A_r is finite.

Define $D = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{\frac{1}{n}}$. We claim that D is a countable, dense subset of X .

Let $x \in X$ and $B(x, r)$ be an open ball containing x , then there exists integer $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\frac{1}{n} < r$.¹⁴

Then $B(x, r) \cap D \neq \emptyset$, since $B(x, r) \cap A_{\frac{1}{n}} \neq \emptyset$. Suppose $B(x, r) \cap A_{\frac{1}{n}} = \emptyset$, then $A_{\frac{1}{n}}$ is not maximal. Since, x is atleast $r > \frac{1}{n}$ distance apart from each points of $A_{\frac{1}{n}}$. Therefore, D intersects with every open set and thus dense in X .

We have have a countable, dense subset D of X . Therefore, X is separable. Now define $\mathcal{B} = \{B(x, r) : r \in \mathbb{Q}, x \in D\}$. Clearly, \mathcal{B} is a countable base for X . By the construction of \mathcal{B} , X is second countable.¹⁵ \square

¹⁴By archimedean property of integers, we have $\forall r \in \mathbb{R}$, $r > 0$, $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $nr > 1$.

¹⁵Every separable, metric space is second countable.

Countable Compactness, Lindeloff \iff Compactness

Theorem 11.12. *A topological space X is compact iff it is countably compact, Lindeloff space.*

Proof. Let X be a compact space. Let \mathcal{U} be a countable open cover of X , then \mathcal{U} has a finite subcover \mathcal{U}' . Therefore, every compact space is countably compact.¹⁶

Conversely, suppose X is a countably compact, Lindeloff space. Since X is Lindeloff, every open cover \mathcal{U} has a countable subcover \mathcal{U}' . Since X countably compact, every countable open cover \mathcal{U}' has a finite subcover \mathcal{U}'' . Thus every open cover \mathcal{U} has a finite subcover \mathcal{U}'' . Therefore every countably compact, Lindeloff space is compact. \square

Countable Compactness, First Countable \implies Seq. Compactness

Theorem 11.13. *Every countably compact, first countable space is Sequentially compact.*

Proof. Let X be a countably compact, first countable space. Let $\{x_n\}$ be a sequence in X . By, equivalent conditions¹⁷ of countably compact spaces, every sequence in countably compact space X has a cluster point, say x . We have, X is first countable. Therefore, X has a countable local base \mathcal{L} at $x \in X$. How to construct a subsequence of $\{x_n\}$ converging to x ?¹⁸ \square

Remark. *Every sequentially compact space is countably compact.**

Theorem 11.14. *In a second countable space, all the three forms of compactness are equivalent. ([Joshi,] 11.1.10)*

Proof. Every second countable space is both first countable and Lindeloff. Every countably compact, Lindeloff space is countably compact. Therefore every countably compact, second countable space compact. Again, every countably compact, first countable space is sequentially compact. Therefore every countably compact, second countable space is sequentially compact. Conversely, every compact space is countably compact and every sequentially compact space is countably compact.¹⁹ \square

Theorem 11.15. *In a metric space, all the three forms of compactness are equivalent. ([Joshi,] 11.1.11)*

Proof. In a metric space each form of compactness implies second countability. And in second countable spaces, they are all equivalent. \square

¹⁶Countable compactness is a weaker notion than compactness.

¹⁷[Joshi,] 11.1 Conditions 1,2, and 4 are equivalent. $2 \implies 4$ without T_1 axiom is out of scope.

¹⁸[Joshi,] Exercise 10.1.11

¹⁹Countable compactness is a weaker notion than sequential compactness as well.

Part II

ME010203 Numerical Analysis with Python

Chapter 12

Expressions

Chapter 13

Calculus

Chapter 14

Interpolation & Curve Fitting

Definitions 14.1. Given $(n + 1)$ data points (x_k, y_k) , $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$, the problem of estimating $y(x)$ using a function $y : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ that satisfy the data points is the interpolation problem. ie, $y(x_k) = y_k$, $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$.

Definitions 14.2. Given $(n + 1)$ data points (x_k, y_k) , $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$, the problem of estimating $y(x)$ using a function $y : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ that is sufficiently close to the data points is the curve-fitting problem.
ie, Given $\epsilon > 0$, $|y(x_k) - y_k| < \epsilon$, $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$.

Remark. The data could be from scientific experiments or computations on mathematical models. The interpolation problem assumes that the data is accurate. But, curve-fitting problem assumes that there are some errors involved which are sufficiently small.

Definitions 14.3. Given $(n + 1)$ data points (x_k, y_k) , $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$, the problem of estimating $y(x)$ using a polynomial function of degree n that satisfy the data points is the polynomial interpolation problem.

Remark. Polynomial is the simplest interpolant. ([Kiusalaas,] 3.2)

14.1 Polynomial Interpolation

There exists a unique polynomial of degree n that satisfy $(n + 1)$ distinct data points. There are a few methods to find this polynomial : 1. Lagrange's method 2. Newton's method 3. Neville's method. The Neville's method is out of scope.

14.1.1 Lagrange's Method

Interpolation polynomial¹ is given by,

$$P(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n y_i l_i(x), \text{ where } l_i(x) = \prod_{j=0, j \neq i}^n \frac{x - x_j}{x_i - x_j} \quad (14.1)$$

¹Using P_n to represent some polynomial of degree n . It is quite a confusing a notation when it comes to Newton's method as author construct a psuedo-recursive definition.

Remark. Lagrange's cardinal functions l_i , are polynomials of degree n and

$$l_i(x_j) = \delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 0, & i \neq j \\ 1, & i = j \end{cases}$$

Proposition 14.4. Error in polynomial interpolation is given by

$$f(x) - P(x) = \frac{(x - x_0)(x - x_1) \cdots (x - x_n)}{(n + 1)!} f^{(n+1)}(\xi) \quad (14.2)$$

where $\xi \in (x_0, x_n)$

Remark. The error increases as x moves away from the unknown value ξ .

14.1.2 Newton's Method

The interpolation polynomial is given by,

$$P(x) = a_0 + a_1(x - x_0) + \cdots + a_n(x - x_0)(x - x_1) \cdots (x - x_{n-1}) \quad (14.3)$$

where $a_i = \nabla^i y_i$, $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$.

Remark. For Newton's Method, it is assumed that $x_0 < x_1 < \cdots < x_n$.

Remark. Lagrange's method is conceptually simple. But, Newton's method is computationally more efficient than Lagrange's method.

Computing coefficients a_i of the polynomial

The coefficients are given by,

$$a_0 = y_0, \quad a_1 = \nabla y_1, \quad a_2 = \nabla^2 y_2, \quad a_3 = \nabla^3 y_3, \dots, \quad a_n = \nabla^n y_n \quad (14.4)$$

Remark. The divided difference $\nabla^i y_i$ are computed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla y_1 &= \frac{y_1 - y_0}{x_1 - x_0} \\ \nabla y_2 &= \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} & \nabla^2 y_2 &= \frac{\nabla y_2 - \nabla y_1}{x_2 - x_1} \\ \nabla y_3 &= \frac{y_3 - y_2}{x_3 - x_2} & \nabla^2 y_3 &= \frac{\nabla y_3 - \nabla y_2}{x_3 - x_2} & \nabla^3 y_3 &= \frac{\nabla^2 y_3 - \nabla^2 y_2}{x_3 - x_2} \end{aligned}$$

x_0	y_0				
x_1	y_1	∇y_1			
x_2	y_2	∇y_2	$\nabla^2 y_2$		
\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\ddots	
x_n	y_n	∇y_n	$\nabla^2 y_n$	\dots	$\nabla^n y_n$

Table 14.1: Newton's Method $\nabla^i y_i$ Computation Table

14.1.3 Limitations of Polynomial Interpolation

Chapter 15

Matrix Operations

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