

Homework 3

- 1.** Using the Theorem 3 in the lecture note for Chapter 3 could be a way to obtain a bound for the absolute error. Note $f(x) = x^{-2}$ is smooth on $[1, 2]$, so, for the Lagrange interpolating polynomial P , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x) - P(x)| &= \left| \frac{f^{(3)}(\xi(x))}{3!} (x-1) \left(x - \frac{11}{8}\right) (x-2) \right| \\ &= \left| -4\xi(x)^{-5} (x-1) \left(x - \frac{11}{8}\right) (x-2) \right| \\ &\leq 4 \cdot 1^{-5} \cdot \frac{9}{128} = \frac{9}{32} \approx 0.28125 \end{aligned}$$

because $\xi(x) \in [1, 2]$ and $(x-1)(x-11/8)(x-2)$ has two extrema on $[1, 2]$, which are at $x = 7/4$ and $x = 7/6$, where the former one gives the maximum absolute value of $(x-1)(x-11/8)(x-2)$ on $[1, 2]$.

(Idea for an alternative solution) We also can directly calculate the error term. Since $(f(x) - P(x))' = 0$ is a quartic equation, which can be always solved with an exact solution using radicals, the maximum of $|f(x) - P(x)|$ also can be calculated exactly, though it is difficult for a human. The maximum absolute error is approximately 0.041300, which is quite better than the answer above.

- 2.** Suppose $x \neq x_0$, otherwise we have $f(x_0) - P_n(x_0) = 0$. Denote $R_n(x) = f(x) - P_n(x)$, and let

$$g(t) = R_n(t) - R_n(x) \frac{(t - x_0)^{n+1}}{(x - x_0)^{n+1}}.$$

I will use somewhat different generalization of the Rolle's theorem than the Theorem 1.10 in the textbook:

Suppose $f \in C^n[a, b]$ and $f^{(n+1)}$ exists at $x = a$, with $f(a) = \dots = f^{(n)}(a) = 0$ and $f(b) = 0$. Then there is a number $c \in (a, b)$ with $f^{(n+1)}(c) = 0$.

This can be proved easily: find $\xi_1 \in (a, b)$ satisfying $f'(\xi_1) = 0$ using

Rolle's to f , find $\xi_2 \in (a, \xi_1)$ satisfying $f''(\xi_1) = 0$ using Rolle's to f' , and so on.

Now the problem became easy: since

$$g^{(j)}(t) = R_n^{(j)}(t) - (n+1) \cdots (n+2-j) \frac{(t-x_0)^{n+1-j}}{(x-x_0)^{n+1}}$$

so that

$$g^{(j)}(x_0) = f^{(j)}(x_0) - P_n^{(j)}(x_0) = 0.$$

Also, $g(x) = 0$. Thus, applying the generalization of the Rolle's theorem above, we have a constant $c =: \xi(x)$ between x_0 and x , depending only on x . Since both x_0 and x are on $[a, b]$, we have $\xi(x) \in (a, b)$.

3. See the code below for the implementation.

(a) $\sqrt{3} = f(0.5) \approx 1.70833333$.

(b) $\sqrt{3} = f(3) \approx 1.73138614$.

```
% Neville's Method

% Define f(x)
f = @(x) 3^x;           % for (a)
% f = @(x) sqrt(x);    % for (b)

X = [-2, -1, 0, 1, 2];
N = length(X);

% Q{i, j} = Q_{i-1, j-1}
Q = cell(N, N);

for i = 1:N
    Q{i, 1} = [f(X(i))];
end

% Calculating Q{i, j}
for j = 2:N
    for i = j:N
        % (x - x_{i-j})Q_{i, j-1}
        first_term = sum_poly( ...
            [Q{i, j-1} 0], ...
            -X(i-j+1) * Q{i, j-1} ...
        );
        % -(x - x_{i})Q_{i-1, j-1}
        second_term = sum_poly( ...
            -1 * [Q{i-1, j-1} 0], ...
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        X(i) * Q{i-1, j-1}      ...
    );

    Q{i, j} =
        sum_poly(first_term, second_term) / ...
        (X(i) - X(i-j+1));
end
end

% Evaluate the polynomial
x = 0.5;      % for (a)
% x = 3;      % for (b)
fprintf('f(%f) = %.8f\n', x, polyval(Q{N, N}, x))

% x * P = [P 0]
% a * P = a * P
% P + Q
function s = sum_poly(a, b)
    N = max(length(a), length(b));
    pa = [zeros(1, N - length(a)) a];
    pb = [zeros(1, N - length(b)) b];
    s = pa + pb;
    return
end

```

4. (a) Note $P_{1,2} = Q_{2,1}$ and $P_2 = Q_{2,0}$. With $x = 0.5$,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{27}{7} = Q_{2,2} &= \frac{(x-x_0)Q_{2,1} - (x-x_2)Q_{1,1}}{x_2-x_0} = \frac{5}{7}Q_{2,1} + 1, & Q_{2,1} &= 4; \\ 4 = Q_{2,1} &= \frac{(x-x_1)Q_{2,0} - (x-x_2)Q_{1,0}}{x_2-x_1} = \frac{Q_{2,0} + 5.6}{3}; & Q_{2,0} &= 6.4.\end{aligned}$$

(b)

$$\begin{aligned}P_{0,1,2}(1.5) &= Q_{2,2}(1.5) = \left. \frac{(x-x_0)Q_{2,1}(x) - (x-x_2)Q_{1,1}(x)}{x_2-x_0} \right|_{x=1.5} = 3.25; \\ P_{0,1,2,3}(1.5) &= Q_{3,3}(1.5) = \left. \frac{(x-x_0)Q_{3,2}(x) - (x-x_3)Q_{2,2}(x)}{x_3-x_0} \right|_{x=1.5} = 3.625.\end{aligned}$$

(b: alternative way) Since $P_{1,2,3}(x)$ is a quadratic polynomial with $P_{1,2,3}(1) = P_{1,2}(1) = 2$, $P_{1,2,3}(1.5) = 4$, and $P_{1,2,3}(2) = P_{1,2}(2) = 5$, we have $P_{1,2,3}(x) = -2x^2 + 9x - 5$, having $P_{0,1,2,3}(3) = 4$. So the graph of $P_{0,1,2,3}$ passes $(0, 1)$, $(1, 2)$, $(2, 5)$, and $(3, 4)$, we have

$$P_{0,1,2,3}(x) = -x^3 + 4x^2 - 2x + 1.$$

Thus $P_{0,1,2,3}(1.5) = 3.625$.

- 5.** Let P be a polynomial of least degree, and show $P = H_{2n+1}$. In this way, we can simultaneously show that H_{2n+1} is such a polynomial of *least* degree and is actually unique. Note H_{2n+1} is a polynomial agreeing with f and f' at given points, though we do not yet know that H_{2n+1} is of least degree. Thus, by the minimality of the degree of P , we have $\deg P \leq \deg H_{2n+1}$. Consequently, $\deg(H_{2n+1} - P) = \deg D \leq \deg H_{2n+1} \leq 2n + 1$. Then, $\deg D \leq 2n$. However, by the Rolle's theorem, we have $D'(\xi_i) = 0$ with some $x_i < \xi_i < x_{i+1}$ ($i = 0, \dots, n - 1$) so that $D'(x) = 0$ for $x = x_0, \dots, x_n, \xi_0, \dots, \xi_{n-1}$. According to the fundamental theorem of algebra, $D' \equiv 0$. Hence D is a constant, which should be 0, because, say, $D(x_0) = 0$.

(Alternative solution) $D(x_i) = D'(x_i) = 0$ for $i = 0, \dots, n$. Letting $D(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{2n+1} d_i x^i$ (d_i could be zero),

$$d_0 + d_1 x_0 + \dots + d_{2n+1} x_0^{2n+1} = 0, \quad d_1 + 2d_2 x_0 + \dots + (2n+1)d_{2n+1} x_0^{2n} = 0,$$

$$\vdots \qquad \qquad \qquad \vdots$$

$$d_0 + d_1 x_n + \dots + d_{2n+1} x_n^{2n+1} = 0, \quad d_1 + 2d_2 x_n + \dots + (2n+1)d_{2n+1} x_n^{2n} = 0,$$

i.e.,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_0 & \cdots & x_0^{2n+1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_n & \cdots & x_n^{2n+1} \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n+1)x_0^{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n+1)x_n^{2n} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} d_0 \\ \vdots \\ d_n \\ d_{n+1} \\ \vdots \\ d_{2n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0}.$$

Redefine n to be $n - 1$ in the formulae above for the sake of simplicity. The determinant of the $2n \times 2n$ square matrix on the left side can be calculated by the induction on the number ℓ of rows with leading zero in the following

form of matrix determinant: $(0 \leq \ell \leq m := 2n - \ell)$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & x_0 & \cdots & x_0^{2n-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_{m-1} & \cdots & x_{m-1}^{2n-1} \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n-1)x_0^{2n-2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n-1)x_{\ell-1}^{2n-2} \end{vmatrix} = (-1)^{\ell(\ell-1)/2} \prod_{0 \leq i < j \leq m-1} (x_j - x_i)^{\alpha_i \alpha_j}$$

where $\alpha_j = 2$ if $j < \ell$, and $\alpha_j = 1$ otherwise. When $\ell = 0$, we have nothing to do due to the Vandermonde determinant. Observe that expanding the determinant along m -th row, the other parts does not depend on x_{m-1} . As an induction step (assuming $0 \leq \ell < n$ so $\alpha_{m-1} = 1$),

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{m-1}} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & x_0 & \cdots & x_0^{2n-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_{m-1} & \cdots & x_{m-1}^{2n-1} \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n-1)x_0^{2n-2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n-1)x_{\ell-1}^{2n-2} \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \begin{vmatrix} 1 & x_0 & \cdots & x_0^{2n-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_{m-2} & \cdots & x_{m-2}^{2n-1} \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n-1)x_{m-1}^{2n-2} \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n-1)x_0^{2n-2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n-1)x_{\ell-1}^{2n-2} \end{vmatrix} \\ &= (-1)^{\ell(\ell-1)/2} \prod_{i < j < m-1} (x_j - x_i)^{\alpha_i \alpha_j} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{m-1}} \prod_{i=0}^{m-2} (x_{m-1} - x_i)^{\alpha_i}. \end{aligned}$$

By replacing x_{m-1} by x_ℓ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \begin{vmatrix} 1 & x_0 & \cdots & x_0^{2n-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_{m-2} & \cdots & x_{m-2}^{2n-1} \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n-1)x_\ell^{2n-2} \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n-1)x_0^{2n-2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n-1)x_{\ell-1}^{2n-2} \end{vmatrix} \\
&= (-1)^{\ell(\ell-1)/2} \prod_{i < j < m-1} (x_j - x_i)^{\alpha_i \alpha_j} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{m-1}} \prod_{i=0}^{m-2} (x_{m-1} - x_i)^{\alpha_i} \Big|_{x_{m-1}=x_\ell} \\
&= (-1)^{\ell(\ell-1)/2} \prod_{i < j < m-1} (x_j - x_i)^{\alpha_i \alpha_j} \cdot \left(\sum_{k=0}^{m-2} \alpha_k (x_{m-1} - x_k)^{\alpha_k-1} \prod_{\substack{i=0 \\ i \neq k}}^{m-2} (x_{m-1} - x_i)^{\alpha_i} \Big|_{x_{m-1}=x_\ell} \right) \\
&\quad \text{(the summand is zero when } k \neq \ell) \\
&= (-1)^{\ell(\ell-1)/2} \prod_{i < j < m-1} (x_j - x_i)^{\alpha_i \alpha_j} \prod_{\substack{i=0 \\ i \neq \ell}}^{m-2} (x_\ell - x_i)^{\alpha_i} \quad (\alpha_\ell = 1) \\
&= (-1)^{\ell(\ell-1)/2} \prod_{\substack{i < j < m-1 \\ i \neq \ell \neq j}} (x_j - x_i)^{\alpha_i \alpha_j} \prod_{i < \ell} (x_\ell - x_i)^{\alpha_i} \prod_{j > \ell} (x_j - x_\ell)^{\alpha_j} \prod_{\substack{i=0 \\ i \neq \ell}}^{m-2} (x_\ell - x_i)^{\alpha_i} \\
&= (-1)^{\ell(\ell-1)/2} \prod_{\substack{i < j < m-1 \\ i \neq \ell \neq j}} (x_j - x_i)^{\alpha_i \alpha_j} \left(\prod_{i < \ell} (x_\ell - x_i)^{\alpha_i} \prod_{j > \ell} (x_j - x_\ell)^{\alpha_j} \right)^2 \cdot (-1)^{m-1-(\ell+1)} \\
&= (-1)^{\ell(\ell-1)/2} \prod_{\substack{i < j < m-1 \\ i \neq \ell \neq j}} (x_j - x_i)^{\alpha_i \alpha_j} \prod_{\substack{i < j \\ i=\ell \text{ or } j=\ell \\ \alpha=\alpha_j \text{ if } i=\ell; \alpha_i \text{ o/w}}} (x_j - x_i)^{2\alpha} \\
&= (-1)^{\ell(\ell-1)/2} \prod_{i < j < m-1} (x_j - x_i)^{\tilde{\alpha}_i \tilde{\alpha}_j}
\end{aligned}$$

where $\tilde{\alpha}_i = \alpha_i$ if $i \neq \ell$ and $\tilde{\alpha}_\ell = 2$. (Note that $m-1-(\ell+1) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$.)

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \begin{vmatrix} 1 & x_0 & \cdots & x_0^{2n-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_{m-2} & \cdots & x_{m-2}^{2n-1} \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n-1)x_0^{2n-2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n-1)x_{\ell-1}^{2n-2} \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n-1)x_{\ell}^{2n-2} \end{vmatrix} \\
 &= (-1)^{\ell} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & x_0 & \cdots & x_0^{2n-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_{m-2} & \cdots & x_{m-2}^{2n-1} \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n-1)x_{\ell}^{2n-2} \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n-1)x_0^{2n-2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & (2n-1)x_{\ell-1}^{2n-2} \end{vmatrix} \\
 &= (-1)^{\ell} (-1)^{\ell(\ell-1)/2} \prod_{i < j < m-1} (x_j - x_i)^{\tilde{\alpha}_i \tilde{\alpha}_j} \\
 &= (-1)^{(\ell+1)\ell/2} \prod_{i < j \leq m-2} (x_j - x_i)^{\tilde{\alpha}_i \tilde{\alpha}_j}
 \end{aligned}$$

as desired. Thus, the determinant is zero iff there are duplicated points, but the problem asserted that all x_i 's are distinct. So the linear equation above has only the trivial solution.