

## Exercise Sheet № 6 Interpolation and Splines

Before any tasks are solved, I want to introduce some conventions and common notations used throughout this submission. The main topic of this exercise sheet is interpolation. For an interpolation problem, we are given a dataset  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  supported by the  $n + 1$  nodes  $\mathcal{X}$ . Note that  $\mathcal{X}$  denotes an ordered  $n + 1$ -tuple of the form  $(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ , where  $\forall i = 1, \dots, n: x_{i-1} < x_i$ . The data-vector  $\mathbf{y}$  can be any arbitrary vector. Generally speaking, for interpolation we are given  $n + 1$  data-points  $\mathbf{y}$  from an unknown function  $f: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , where  $D \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ . Our goal is to find a function  $p: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , such that  $\forall i = 0, \dots, n: f(x_i) = p(x_i)$ . We call  $p$  the *interpolating function*, or *interpolant*, of  $f$ .

Within this submission we will mostly assume, that  $p \in \mathbb{R}_n[x]$ , where

$$\mathbb{R}_n[x] = \left\{ f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i \mid a_i \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

The set  $\mathbb{R}_n[x]$  forms a commutative algebra with the point-wise multiplication and addition of functions. The canonical basis for  $\mathbb{R}_n[x]$  is chosen as:

$$\{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n\}$$

### Lemma 6.1

Let  $p(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n \alpha_i x^i$  and  $x_0, \dots, x_n$  be  $n + 1$  distinct values, such that  $p(x_i) = 0$ , then it follows that  $\forall i = 0, \dots, n: \alpha_i = 0$ .

*Proof.* Since  $p(x_i) = 0$ , we get that  $x_i$  is a root of  $p$ , thus:

$$p(x) = K \prod_{i=0}^n (x - x_i)$$

If  $K \neq 0$ , then  $\deg p = n + 1$ , which is a contradiction to  $\deg p \leq n$ , therefore  $K = 0$ , which in return means  $\alpha_i = 0$ , since:

$$p(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n \alpha_i x^i = K \prod_{i=0}^n (x - x_i) = 0$$

□

### Definition 6.1: lerp

Let  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , then we call  $\text{lerp}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2)$  the affine space spanned by the following map:

$$k = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} \quad d = y_1 - kx_1$$

$$\text{lerp}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = \text{im}(kx + d)$$

If  $d = 0$ ,  $\text{lerp}$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Alternatively,  $\text{lerp}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2)$  may also be represented as a convex-combination of the following form:

$$\text{lerp}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = \{(1 - t)\mathbf{x}_1 + t\mathbf{x}_2 \mid t \in [0, 1]\}$$

A third way of defining  $\text{lerp}$  is as a function  $\text{lerp}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  with:

$$\text{lerp}[\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2](x) = (1 - x)\mathbf{x}_1 + x\mathbf{x}_2$$

*Definition 6.2: Average of a function*

Let  $f \in \mathcal{C}(I)$  where  $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  is an interval and  $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Then the average value of  $f$  on  $I$ , denoted here  $\text{avg}_I f$  is defined as

$$\text{avg}_I f = \frac{1}{|I|} \int_I f(x) \, dx$$

*Lemma 6.2: Aitken*

Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a set of nodal points,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , then the interpolating polynomials for Neville's method satisfy:

$$p_n(x) = p_{n,n}(x) = \frac{(x - x_0)p_{n,n-1}(x) + (x_n - x)p_{n-1,n-1}(x)}{x_n - x_0} \quad (1)$$

where  $p_{i,k}$  is a polynomial with  $\deg p_{i,k} \leq k$ , defined on the nodes  $x_{i-k}, \dots, x_i$ .

## 6.1 Lagrange-Interpolation

### Task 6.1: Polynomial Interpolation via Lagrange's Method

1. Prove that given distinct nodal points  $x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_n$ , the Lagrange-polynomials  $\ell_{jn}$  defined by

$$\ell_{jn}(x) = \prod_{\substack{k=0 \\ k \neq j}}^n \frac{x - x_k}{x_j - x_k} \quad x \in \mathbb{R} \quad 0 \leq j \leq n$$

form a basis for the vector space  $\mathbb{R}_n[x]$  of polynomials of degree  $n$  or less.

2. Given the following nodal points and function values:

$\mathcal{X}$	0	0.5	1	1.5
$\mathbf{y}$	1	2	3	4

Table 1: Data for task 6.1

compute the Lagrange polynomials  $\ell_{jn}$  for  $0 \leq j \leq n$  and  $n = 1, 2, 3$  and the corresponding Lagrange interpolating polynomials  $p_n$ .

3. Given distinct nodal points  $x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_n$  stored in the array write a python script containing the function `LagrangeInterpPoly(x_data)` which returns a plot (in a single frame) of the Lagrange basis functions  $\ell_{jn}$  and a plot of the interpolating polynomial  $p_n(x)$ . Test your script using the data given in table 1.

Subtask 1:

We want to prove, that  $\text{span}_{j=0}^n(\ell_{jn}) = \mathbb{R}_n[x]$ . Notice the following:

$$\ell_{jn}(x_i) = \prod_{\substack{k=0 \\ k \neq j}}^n \frac{x_i - x_k}{x_j - x_k} = \delta_{ij}$$

Let  $p \in \text{span}_{j=0}^n(\ell_{jn})$  and  $f \in \mathbb{R}_n[x]$ :

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_i) &\stackrel{!}{=} p(x_i) = \sum_{j=0}^n \alpha_j \ell_{jn}(x_i) = \sum_{j=0}^n \alpha_j \delta_{ij} = \alpha_i \\ \Rightarrow p(x) &= \sum_{j=0}^n f(x_j) \ell_{jn}(x) \end{aligned}$$

Let  $h(x) = f(x) - p(x)$ , then  $h(x_i) = 0$  and  $\deg h \leq n$ , by lemma 6.1 we get  $h(x) = 0$ , thus  $0 = f(x) - p(x) \Leftrightarrow f(x) = p(x)$ . To show that  $p$  is unique, let  $q \in \text{span}_{j=0}^n(\ell_{jn})$  with  $\forall i = 0, \dots, n: q(x_i) = p(x_i)$ , then it follows that  $g(x) = q(x) - p(x) = 0$ , thereby  $q(x) = p(x)$ . Hence  $\text{span}_{j=0}^n(\ell_{jn}) = \mathbb{R}_n[x]$ .

Subtask 2:

$j$	0	1	2	3
$n = 1$				
$\ell_{j1}(x)$	$1 - 2x$	$2x$		
$p_1(x)$	$2x + 1$			
$n = 2$				
$\ell_{j2}(x)$	$(x-1)(2x-1)$	$4x(1-x)$	$x(2x-1)$	
$p_2(x)$	$2x+1$			
$n = 3$				
$\ell_{j3}(x)$	$-\frac{4}{3}x^3 + 4x^2 - \frac{11}{3}x + 1$	$4x(1-x)(x - \frac{3}{2})$	$x(-4x^2 + 8x - 3)$	$\frac{4}{3}x(x-1)(x - \frac{1}{2})$
$p_3(x)$	$2x+1$			

Table 2: Lagrange Polynomials and interpolating functions for various  $n$

Since this is quite a repetitive task, I opted to utilize the sympy package in python. The following snippet provides a simple method of computing the Lagrange polynomials symbolically:

```

1 import numpy as np
2 import sympy as sp
3 x = sp.symbols('x')
4
5 def ljn(xv, j, n):
6     xt = np.delete(xv, j)[:n]
7     return np.prod((x-xt) / (xv[j] - xt))
8
9 def pn(xv, y, n):
10    pn = 0
11    for j in range(n+1):
12        pn += y[j] * ljn(xv, j, n)
13    return sp.simplify(pn)
14
15 x_data = [0, 1/2, 1, 3/2]
16 y_data = [1,2,3,4]
17
18 for n in [1,2,3]:
19     print(n)
20     for j in range(n+1):
21         display(ljn(x_data, j, n))
22     display(pn(x_data, y_data, n))

```

The code above was run in a jupyter-notebook, hence the `display()` calls. To use the snippet as a regular script, replace `display()` with regular `print()` calls.

Subtask 3:

Since we generally do not need a symbolic representation of  $p_n$ , we are only interested in it's values along a given interval. Therefore the supplied algorithm computes the values of  $\ell_{jn}$  and  $p_n$  respectively on an additional parameter  $\mathbf{x}$ , which may be any 1-dimensional ndarray from the numpy package. The process for a particular  $x_j$  is detailed below. First we store the current  $x_j$  in a corresponding variable and create a temporary node-vector  $\mathbf{x}_t = [x_0 \ \cdots \ x_{j-1} \ x_{j+1} \ \cdots \ x_n]$ . Given the x-axis  $\mathbf{t}$  we want to evaluate  $\ell_{jn}$  over, we now compute the „outer difference“ of the two vectors  $\mathbf{t}$  and  $\mathbf{x}_t$ , which looks like the following:

$$\mathbf{t} \ominus \mathbf{x}_t = \begin{bmatrix} t_1 \mathbf{1}_{n-1}^T - \mathbf{x}_t^T \\ t_2 \mathbf{1}_{n-1}^T - \mathbf{x}_t^T \\ \vdots \\ t_m \mathbf{1}_{n-1}^T - \mathbf{x}_t^T \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} t_1 - x_0 & t_1 - x_1 & \cdots & t_1 - x_{j-1} & t_1 - x_{j+1} & \cdots & t_1 - x_n \\ t_2 - x_0 & t_2 - x_1 & \cdots & t_2 - x_{j-1} & t_2 - x_{j+1} & \cdots & t_2 - x_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ t_m - x_0 & t_m - x_1 & \cdots & t_m - x_{j-1} & t_m - x_{j+1} & \cdots & t_m - x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{1}_n \in \mathbb{R}^n \quad \mathbf{1}_n = [1 \ 1 \ \cdots \ 1]^T$$

Notice that each row of  $\mathbf{t} \ominus \mathbf{x}_t$  now has the numerators of the factors. Next we perform an element-wise division:

$$(\mathbf{t} \ominus \mathbf{x}_t) \oslash (x_j \mathbf{1}_n - \mathbf{x}_t) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{t_1 - x_0}{x_j - x_0} & \frac{t_1 - x_1}{x_j - x_1} & \dots & \frac{t_1 - x_{j-1}}{x_j - x_{j-1}} & \frac{t_1 - x_{j+1}}{x_j - x_{j+1}} & \dots & \frac{t_1 - x_n}{x_j - x_n} \\ \frac{t_2 - x_0}{x_j - x_0} & \frac{t_2 - x_1}{x_j - x_1} & \dots & \frac{t_2 - x_{j-1}}{x_j - x_{j-1}} & \frac{t_2 - x_{j+1}}{x_j - x_{j+1}} & \dots & \frac{t_2 - x_n}{x_j - x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{t_m - x_0}{x_j - x_0} & \frac{t_m - x_1}{x_j - x_1} & \dots & \frac{t_m - x_{j-1}}{x_j - x_{j-1}} & \frac{t_m - x_{j+1}}{x_j - x_{j+1}} & \dots & \frac{t_m - x_n}{x_j - x_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

Computing the element-product of the  $k$ -th row yields the evaluation of the Lagrange polynomial  $\ell_{jn}$  in  $t_k$ . The python package numpy provides vectorized functions for all the described operations, thus the algorithm should be sufficiently fast.

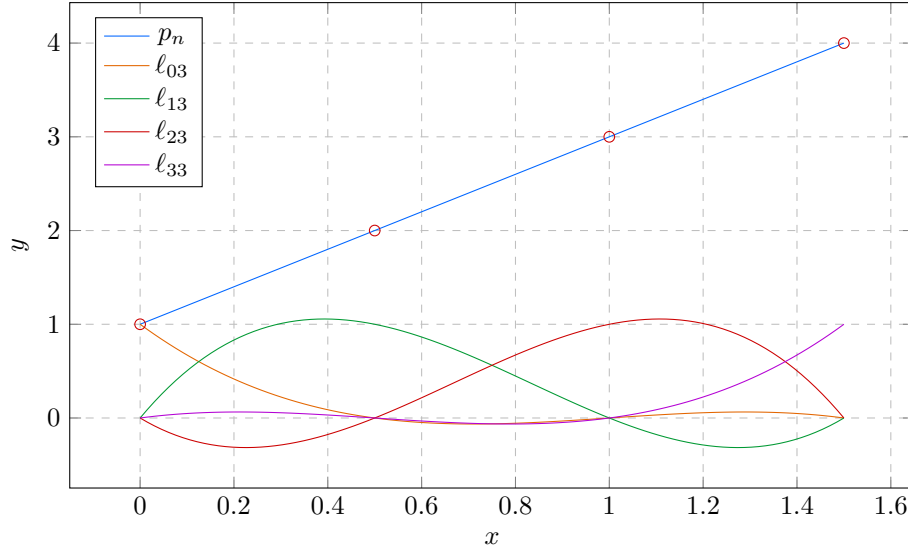


Figure 1: Interpolating Polynomial  $p_n(x)$  and the corresponding Lagrange polynomials for table 1

The data generation for the figure above can be found in the submitted jupyter notebook `lagrange_test.ipynb`. The implementation of the lagrange interpolation can be found in the submitted python-file `Lagrange.py`.

*Addendum:* Although the provided algorithm does work with multiple datasets for  $\mathbf{y}$ , changing the nodes  $\mathbf{x}$  requires a recomputation of all basis-polynomials, which can become quite computationally intensive if  $m$  is large. A more fitting approach is the *Barycentric form*, [Jea04], which decomposes each basis-polynomial into three parts:

$$\ell_j(x) = \ell(x) \frac{w_j}{x - x_j}$$

$$w_j = \prod_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j}}^n \frac{1}{x_j - x_i} \quad \ell(x) = \prod_{i=1}^n (x - x_i)$$

We call  $w_j$  the *barycentric weight* of  $\ell_j$ . Factoring  $\ell(x)$  from the linear combination of  $f$  yields the *first barycentric form*

$$p(x) = \ell(x) \sum_{j=0}^n \frac{w_j}{x - x_j} y_j \quad (2)$$

Notice that eq. (2) has no analytical problems, however evaluating the sum close to any  $x_i$  in an implementation may produce grave numerical errors, since  $x$  values very close<sup>1</sup> to any  $x_i$  will cause the multiplication of „very small“ values with „very large“ values, relatively speaking. To avoid such errors, any implementation needs to check whether  $p$  is evaluated in  $x_i$  and simply return  $y_i$  instead of computing the sum.

<sup>1</sup>depending on the given architecture

Equation (2) can be further improved. Notice that the constant function 1 has the following representation in the Lagrange basis:

$$1 = \ell(x) \sum_{j=0}^n \frac{w_j}{x - x_j}$$

Thus dividing  $p(x)$  from eq. (2) yields:

$$p(x) = \frac{p(x)}{1} = \frac{\ell(x) \sum_{j=0}^n \frac{w_j}{x - x_j} y_j}{\ell(x) \sum_{j=0}^n \frac{w_j}{x - x_j}} = \frac{\sum_{j=0}^n \frac{w_j}{x - x_j} y_j}{\sum_{j=0}^n \frac{w_j}{x - x_j}} \quad (3)$$

The formula for  $p(x)$  from eq. (3) reduces the evaluation effort to  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  floating-point operations, as the weights  $w_j$  can be computed beforehand.

## 6.2 Newton-Interpolation

### Task 6.2: Polynomial Interpolation via Newton's Method

- Given the data points `x_data` and `y_data`, write a python script containing
  - the function `compute_coeffs(x_data, y_data)` which returns the coefficient array `coeffs` in the divided difference table for Newton's Interpolation method
  - the function `eval_poly(coeffs, x_data, x)` which evaluates the interpolant  $p$  at any point  $x$  via Horner's method.
- The data points in table 3 lie on the graph of the function  $f(x) = 4.8 \cdot \cos \frac{\pi x}{20}$ . Using your python script from Subtask 1, interpolate this data by Newton's method at  $x = 0, 0.5, 1, \dots, 8$  and compare the results with the „exact“ values  $y_i = f(x_i)$ .

$\mathcal{X}$	0.15	2.30	3.15	4.85	6.25	7.95
$y$	4.79867	4.49013	4.2243	3.47313	2.66674	1.51909

Table 3: Data for task 6.2

Subtask 1: [Han11, p. 97] introduces the following algorithm for computing the coefficients  $c_i$ :

Algorithm 1: Coefficients for divided differences

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```

1  input:  $y \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ , nodes  $\mathcal{X}$ 
2  output:  $c \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ 
3
4  compute_coeffs( $y$ ,  $\mathcal{X}$ ):
5       $c = y$ 
6      for  $k = 1, \dots, n$  do
7          for  $i = n, n-1, \dots, k$  do
8               $c[i] = \frac{c[i] - c[i-1]}{\mathcal{X}[i] - \mathcal{X}[i-k]}$ 
9          end
10     end
11     return  $c$ 

```

---

Note, that evaluating the interpolant requires a slightly modified version of horner's method, [Han11]:

Algorithm 2: Modified Horner's method for newton interpolation

---

```

1  input:  $c \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ , nodes  $\mathcal{X}$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ 
2  output:  $p(x) \in \mathbb{R}$ 
3
4  eval_poly( $c$ ,  $\mathcal{X}$ ,  $x$ ):
5       $p = c[n]$ 
6      for  $k = n-1, \dots, 0$  do
7           $p = c[k] + (x - \mathcal{X}[k])p$ 
8      end
9      return  $p$ 

```

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Using the python package numpy, the code from algorithm 2 can utilize numpy's vectorized operations and thus runs rather quickly if we want to evaluate  $p(x)$  over a large x-axis  $\mathbf{x}$ .

Subtask 2:

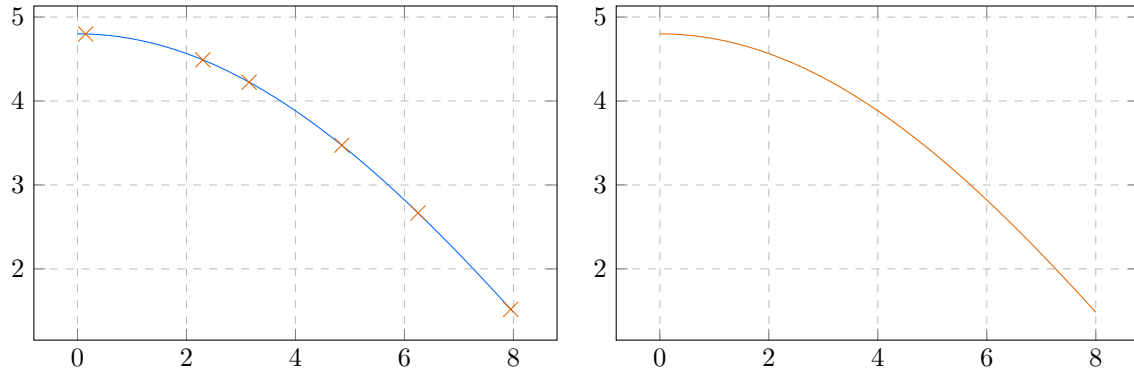


Figure 2: Plot of  $f(x)$  (left) and  $p(x)$  (right) over  $[0, 8]$  and the sample points

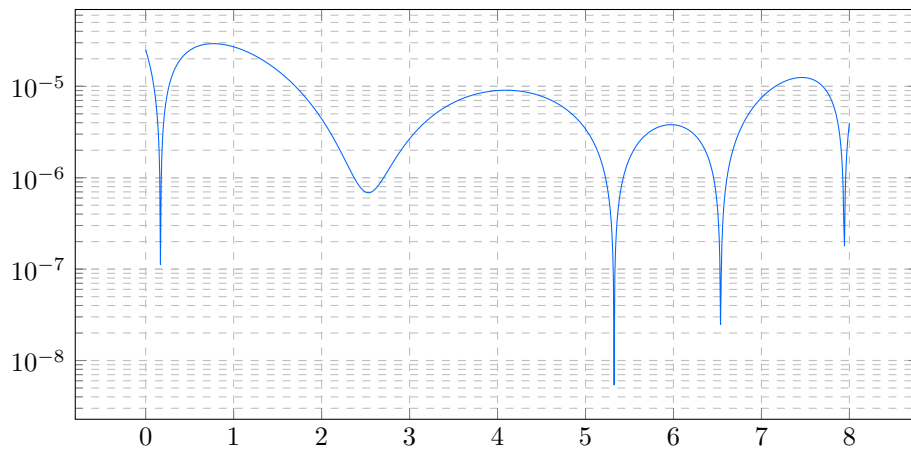


Figure 3: Absolute error  $|f(x) - p(x)|$  over  $[0, 8]$

$x_i$	$f(x_i)$	$p(x_i)$	$ f(x_i) - p(x_i) $
0	4.800000	4.800025	$2.509448 \cdot 10^{-5}$
0.5	4.785203	4.785178	$2.471042 \cdot 10^{-5}$
1	4.740904	4.740877	$2.706328 \cdot 10^{-5}$
1.5	4.667376	4.667361	$1.491978 \cdot 10^{-5}$
2	4.565071	4.565067	$4.415098 \cdot 10^{-6}$
2.5	4.434622	4.434621	$6.970328 \cdot 10^{-7}$
3	4.276831	4.276829	$2.665362 \cdot 10^{-6}$
3.5	4.092673	4.092666	$6.641327 \cdot 10^{-6}$
4	3.883282	3.883273	$8.997872 \cdot 10^{-6}$
4.5	3.649949	3.649941	$7.787585 \cdot 10^{-6}$
5	3.394113	3.394109	$3.411524 \cdot 10^{-6}$
5.5	3.117351	3.117352	$1.622021 \cdot 10^{-6}$
6	2.821369	2.821373	$3.794143 \cdot 10^{-6}$
6.5	2.507993	2.507994	$4.673448 \cdot 10^{-7}$
7	2.179154	2.179147	$7.491871 \cdot 10^{-6}$
7.5	1.836880	1.836868	$1.242922 \cdot 10^{-5}$
8	1.483282	1.483286	$3.968906 \cdot 10^{-6}$

Table 4: Numerical evaluations of  $f$  and  $p$  at various  $x$ -values and their absolute error

The data-generation for figs. 2 and 3 as well as table 4 can be found in the submitted jupyter-notebook `newton_testing.ipynb`. The implementation of algorithms 1 and 2 can be found in the submitted python-file `Newton.py`.



### 6.3 Neville Interpolation

#### Task 6.3: Polynomial Interpolation via Neville's Method

1. Write a python script containing the function `Neville(x_data, y_data, x)` which evaluates the interpolant  $p_n$  using Neville's method at  $x$ , where  $p_n$  passes through the data-points specified by  $\mathbf{y}$  and  $\mathcal{X}$ .
2. This subtask is an example of *inverse interpolation*. Test your script from Subtask 1 by determining the root of  $f(x) = 0$  via Neville's method given the data from table 5

$\mathcal{X}$	4	3.9	3.8	3.7
$\mathbf{y}$	-0.06604	-0.02724	0.01282	0.05383

Table 5: Data for task 6.3

Neville Interpolation is particularly useful for evaluating  $p(x)$  only for a few values, as stated in the lecture notes. By lemma 6.2, we get the following representation  $p_{i,k}$ :

$$p_{i,k} = \begin{cases} \frac{(x-x_{i-k})p_{i,k-1} + (x_i-x)p_{i-1,k-1}}{x_i-x_{i-k}} & k = 1, \dots, n \quad i = k, \dots, n \\ y_i & k = 0 \quad i = k, \dots, n \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

Using eq. (4), we arrive at the following table of helper functions to evaluate  $p(x)$ :

	$p_{i,0}$	$p_{i,1}$	$p_{i,2}$	$\dots$	$p_{i,n}$
$p_0 \quad x_0$	$y_0$				
$p_1 \quad x_1$	$y_1$	$\frac{(x-x_0)y_1 + (x_1-x)y_0}{x_1-x_0}$			
$p_2 \quad x_2$	$y_2$	$\frac{(x-x_1)y_2 + (x_2-x)y_1}{x_2-x_1}$	$\frac{(x-x_0)p_{2,1} + (x_2-x)p_{1,1}}{x_2-x_0}$		
$\vdots \quad \vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\ddots$	
$p_n \quad x_n$	$y_n$	$\frac{(x-x_{n-1})y_n + (x_n-x)y_{n-1}}{x_n-x_{n-1}}$	$\frac{(x-x_{n-2})p_{n,1} + (x_n-x)p_{n-1,1}}{x_n-x_{n-2}}$	$\dots$	$\frac{(x-x_0)p_{n,n-1} + (x_n-x)p_{n-1,n-1}}{x_n-x_0}$

Table 6: The various helper functions for Neville Interpolation produced by eq. (4)

Notice that  $p_{n,n} = p$ . Using table 6, we can find the following iterative method for computing  $p(x)$ :

#### Algorithm 3: Iterative Evaluation for Neville Interpolation

```

1  input: nodes  $\mathcal{X}$ ,  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ 
2  output:  $p(x) \in \mathbb{R}$ 
3
4  Neville( $\mathcal{X}, \mathbf{y}, x$ ):
5       $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{y}$ 
6      for  $k = 1, \dots, n$  do
7          for  $i = 0, \dots, n-k$  do
8               $\mathbf{p}[i] = \frac{(x-\mathcal{X}[i+k])\mathbf{p}[i] + (\mathcal{X}[i]-x)\mathbf{p}[i+1]}{\mathcal{X}[i]-\mathcal{X}[i+k]}$ 
9          end
10     end
11     return  $\mathbf{p}[0]$ 

```

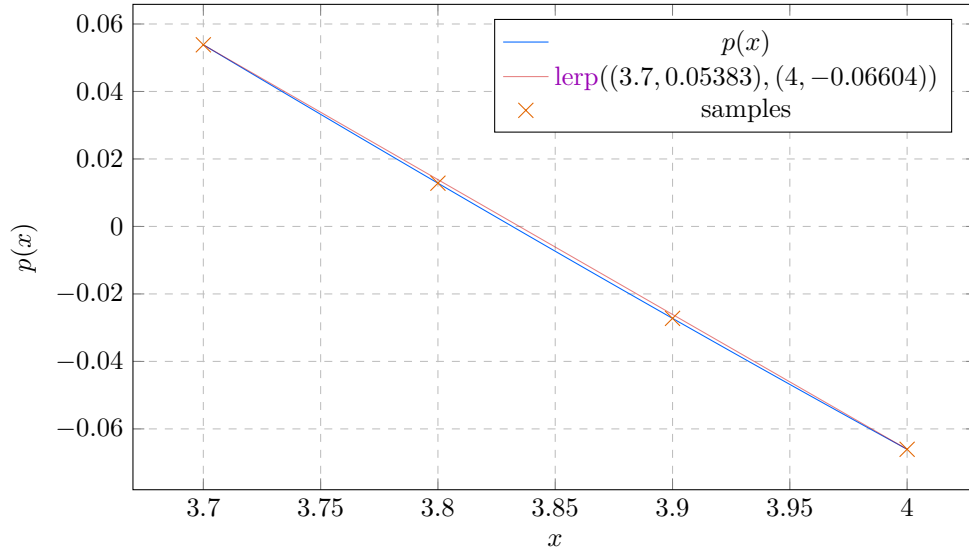


Figure 4: Plot of the interpolant  $p$  over  $[3.7, 4]$

Subtask 2:

Assuming the dataset  $\mathbf{y}$  is monotonous around a possible zero of  $f$ , like e.g. in table 5, we can linearly interpolate the function  $f$  using Neville's method. Let  $\tilde{p}$  be a first-order polynomial, then by table 6,  $\tilde{p}$  is of the following form

$$\tilde{p}(x) = \frac{(x - x_{i-1})y_i + (x_i - x)y_{i-1}}{x_i - x_{i-1}} \quad (5)$$

where, without loss of generality  $f(x_{i-1}) > 0$  and  $f(x_i) < 0$ , then by request,  $\tilde{p}(x_{i-1}) = f(x_{i-1}) > 0$  and  $\tilde{p}(x_i) = f(x_i) < 0$ . Since  $\tilde{p}$  is continuous, it admits a unique zero  $x_z$  in the interval  $(x_{i-1}, x_i)$ . Solving eq. (5) yields:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{p}(x_z) = 0 &\Leftrightarrow (x_z - x_{i-1})y_i + (x_i - x_z)y_{i-1} = 0 \\ &\Leftrightarrow (x_z - x_{i-1})y_i = -(x_i - x_z)y_{i-1} \Leftrightarrow (x_z - x_{i-1})\frac{y_i}{y_{i-1}} = x_z - x_i \\ x_i - x_{i-1}\frac{y_i}{y_{i-1}} &= x_z \left(1 - \frac{y_i}{y_{i-1}}\right) \\ \Rightarrow x_z &= \frac{x_i - x_{i-1}\frac{y_i}{y_{i-1}}}{1 - \frac{y_i}{y_{i-1}}} = \frac{\frac{x_i y_{i-1} - x_{i-1} y_i}{y_{i-1}}}{\frac{y_{i-1} - y_i}{y_{i-1}}} = \frac{x_i y_{i-1} - x_{i-1} y_i}{y_{i-1} - y_i} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

If  $|x_i - x_{i-1}|$  is sufficiently small, we can reasonably take the first estimate for  $x_z$  produced by eq. (6). However, one might want to introduce iteration to further improve the estimate. Given  $x_{z,0}$ , we can check whether  $p(x_{z,0}) > 0$  or  $p(x_{z,0}) < 0$  and then resolve  $\tilde{p}_k(x_{z,k}) = 0$  with modified  $y_i$  and  $x_i$ . This leads us to the following algorithm, based on the bisection method:

Algorithm 4: Iterative Inverse Interpolation using Neville's method

---

```

1  input: nodes  $\mathcal{X}$ ,  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ ,  $i, k \in \mathbb{N}$ 
2  output:  $x_{z,k} \in \mathbb{R}$ 
3
4  InvNeville( $\mathcal{X}, \mathbf{y}, i, k$ ):
5       $y_l = \mathbf{y}[i]$ 
6       $y_r = \mathbf{y}[i+1]$ 
7       $x_l = \mathcal{X}[i]$ 
8       $x_r = \mathcal{X}[i+1]$ 
9
10     for  $l = 1, \dots, k$  do
11          $x_z = \frac{x_l y_r - x_r y_l}{y_r - y_l}$ 
12          $y_z = \text{Neville}(\mathcal{X}, \mathbf{y}, x_z)$ 
13         if  $y_z > 0$  then  $x^{\wedge} = x_z$ 
14             if  $y_l > 0$  then
15                  $y_l = y_z$ 
16                  $x_l = x_z$ 
17             else if  $y_r > 0$  then

```

---

```

18          $y_r = y_z$ 
19          $x_r = x_z$ 
20     end
21     else if  $y_z < 0$  then
22         if  $y_l < 0$  then
23              $y_l = y_z$ 
24              $x_l = x_z$ 
25         else if  $y_r < 0$  then
26              $y_r = y_z$ 
27              $x_r = x_z$ 
28         end
29     end
30 end
31 return  $x_z$ 

```

Adaptions or extensions of algorithm 4 may lead to *inverse quadratic interpolation*<sup>2</sup> or *Muller's method*, which use Lagrange-Interpolation and Newton's method respectively.

One problem of algorithm 4 is the fact, that for large  $k$ , we expect  $y_z \rightarrow 0$ , as we want to find a root of  $f$ . Therefore, any „real“ machine will produce divisions by zero eventually, and the algorithm will fail. Thus the implementation should provide checks whether or not  $y_z$  is approximately zero<sup>3</sup>.

Running an implementation of algorithm 4 produces  $x_z \approx 3.8317084549112$  after just 6 iterations, where  $p(x_z) = -1.9821 \cdot 10^{-16}$ , see fig. 5 below.

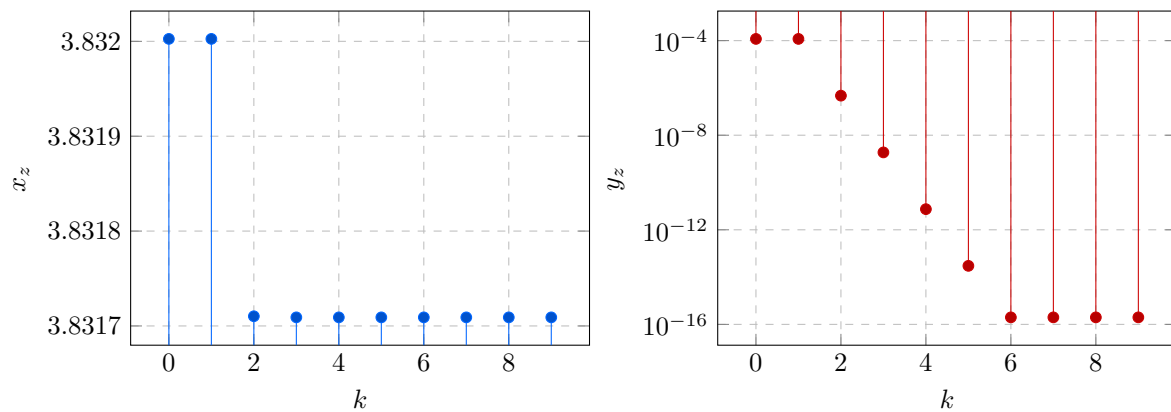


Figure 5: Evolution of  $x_z$  (left) and  $y_z$  (right) after  $k$  iterations

The data-generation for figs. 4 and 5 can be found in the submitted jupyter-notebook `neville_testing.ipynb`. The implementation of algorithms 3 and 4 can be found in the submitted python-file `Neville.py`.

<sup>2</sup>Epp07, see p.182-185.

<sup>3</sup>this is very dependent on the underlying architecture the implementation is used on

## 6.4 Hermite-Interpolation

### Task 6.4: Polynomial Interpolation via Hermite's Method

1. Compute the Hermite Polynomial that agrees with the data from table 7 by hand.

$\mathcal{X}$	1.3	1.6	1.9
$f(x)$	0.620086	0.4554022	0.2818186
$f'(x)$	-0.5220232	-0.5698959	-0.5811571

Table 7: Data for task 6.4

2. Given  $n + 1$  nodes  $\mathcal{X}$  stored in the array `x_data`, and function values  $f(x_i)$  and  $f'(x_i)$ , stored in the arrays `y_data` and `y_prime` respectively, write a python script containing the function `HermiteInterp(x_data, y_data, y_prime, x)` which returns the plot of the Hermite interpolant  $H(x)$  and prints it's polynomial value at the given point  $x$ . Test your script using the data from table 7 and determine the Hermite polynomial approximation at  $x = 1.5$ .

Subtask 1:

1.3	0.620086					
		-0.5220232				
1.3	0.620086		-0.08974267			
		-0.548946		0.066365567		
1.6	0.4554022		-0.069833		0.002649887	
		-0.5698959		0.06796555		-0.002746533
1.6	0.4554022		-0.02905367		0.001001967	
		-0.578612		0.06856667		
1.9	0.2818186		-0.00848367			
		-0.5811571				
1.9	0.2818186					

Table 8: Divided differences for Hermite interpolation using data from table 7

Subtask 2: Since we are only concerned with first derivatives of  $f$ , we can setup the first two columns of the divided differences for Hermite interpolation very easily:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x} &= [x_0 \ x_0 \ x_1 \ x_1 \ \cdots \ x_n \ x_n]^T \\ \mathbf{c}_1 &= [y_0 \ y_0 \ y_1 \ y_1 \ \cdots \ y_n \ y_n]^T \\ \mathbf{c}_2 &= \left[ f'(x_0) \ \frac{y_1 - y_0}{x_1 - x_0} \ f'(x_1) \ \cdots \ \frac{y_n - y_{n-1}}{x_n - x_{n-1}} \ f'(x_n) \right]\end{aligned}$$

Then we simply apply divided differences using  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{c}_2$  to construct our coefficient vector  $\mathbf{c}$ . Given  $\mathbf{c}$ , we can compute  $H_n(x)$  using the recurrence relation found in [Cla22, p. 56]:

$$H_{n+1}(x) = H_n(x) + [x_0, \dots, x_n, x]f \cdot \prod_{i=0}^n (x - x_i)$$

This leads us to the following algorithm for evaluating  $H_n(x)$ .

Algorithm 5: Evaluation for Hermite Interpolation

---

```

1  input: nodes  $\mathcal{X}$ ,  $\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}_p \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ 
2  output:  $p_n(x) \in \mathbb{R}$ 
3
4  Hermiteval( $\mathcal{X}$ ,  $\mathbf{y}$ ,  $\mathbf{y}_p$ ,  $x$ ):
5       $\mathbf{c} = \text{Hermite}(\mathcal{X}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}_p)$ 
6       $H = \mathbf{c}[0]$ 
7       $\mu = x - \mathbf{x}[0]$ 
8      for  $c_k, x_k$  in  $\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{x}$  do
9           $H = H + c_k \cdot \mu$ 
10          $\mu = \mu \cdot (x - x_k)$ 
11      end
12      return  $p$ 

```

---

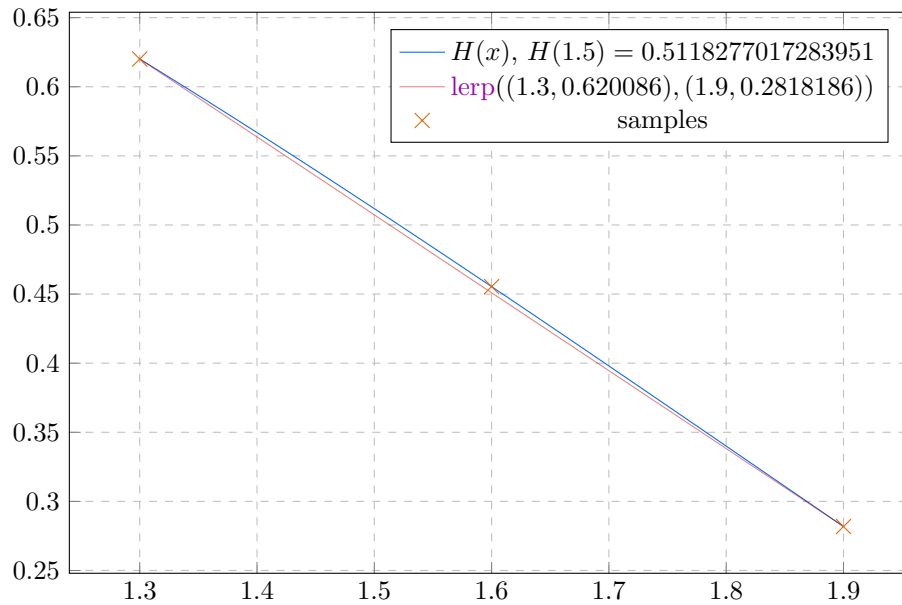


Figure 6: Plot of  $H$  from table 7 over  $[1.3, 1.9]$

The data-generation for fig. 6 can be found in the submitted jupyter-notebook `hermite_testing.ipynb`. The implementation of divided-differences for hermite interpolation and algorithm 5 can be found in the submitted python-file `Hermite.py`.

## 6.5 Runge's Phenomenon

### Task 6.5: Polynomial Wiggle and Runge's Phenomenon

In this task, we use data-points, that lie on the graph of  $f(x) = \frac{1}{1+8x^2}$ , gathered in tables 9 to 11.

$x$	-1	-0.5	0	0.5	1
$y$	$\frac{1}{9}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	1	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{9}$

Table 9: First dataset for task 6.5

$x$	-1	-0.75	-0.5	-0.25	0	0.25	0.5	0.75	1
$y$	$\frac{1}{9}$	$\frac{2}{11}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	1	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{11}$	$\frac{1}{9}$

Table 10: Second dataset for task 6.5

$x$	-1	-0.8	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2	0	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1
$y$	$\frac{1}{9}$	$\frac{25}{153}$	$\frac{25}{97}$	$\frac{25}{57}$	$\frac{25}{33}$	1	$\frac{25}{33}$	$\frac{25}{57}$	$\frac{25}{97}$	$\frac{25}{153}$	$\frac{1}{9}$

Table 11: Third dataset for task 6.5

1. Write a python script that plots the function  $f(x)$ , the newton interpolants  $p_{N,i}$  and lagrange interpolants  $p_{L,i}$  for  $i = 4, 8, 10$ , using the the three sets of samples points tables 9 to 11.
2. Discuss what happens to the approximation error  $p_n(x) - f(x)$  as the degree of the interpolating polynomial increases.

Subtask 1: Since the newton-interpolant  $p_{N,i} \in \mathbb{R}_i[x]$  is a unique polynomial with  $i + 1$  known values  $(x_k, y_k)$ , the lagrange interpolant  $p_{L,i}$  is identical<sup>4</sup> to  $p_{N,i}$ . Due to this reasoning, the following plots will only contain one method<sup>5</sup>.

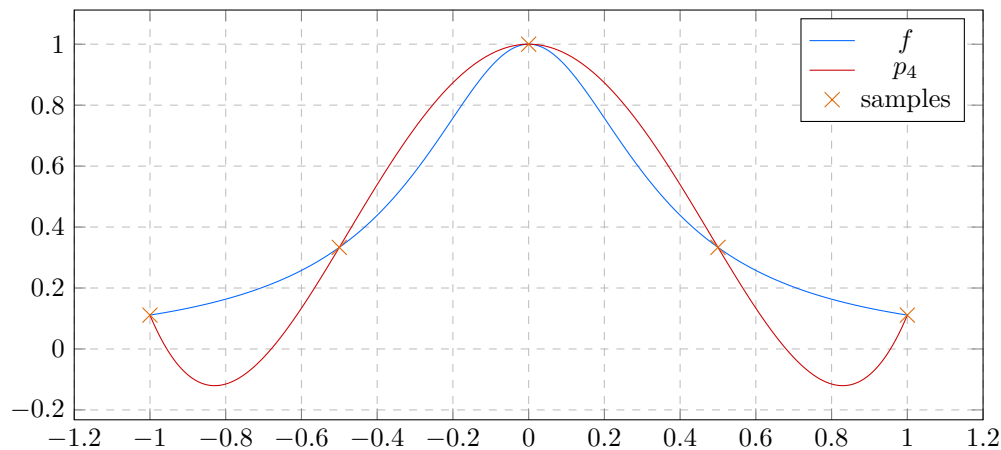


Figure 7: Lagrange-Interpolation with 5 samples

<sup>4</sup>Since any polynomial of degree  $n$  is uniquely defined by  $n + 1$  points, every „classical“ polynomial interpolation method, i.e. Lagrange, Newton and Neville should all produce identical interpolants. If we lessen the constraints for Hermite Interpolation, i.e. use it's degeneration into Newton's method, Hermite-Interpolation will also produce the same interpolant.

<sup>5</sup>namely Lagrange-Interpolation

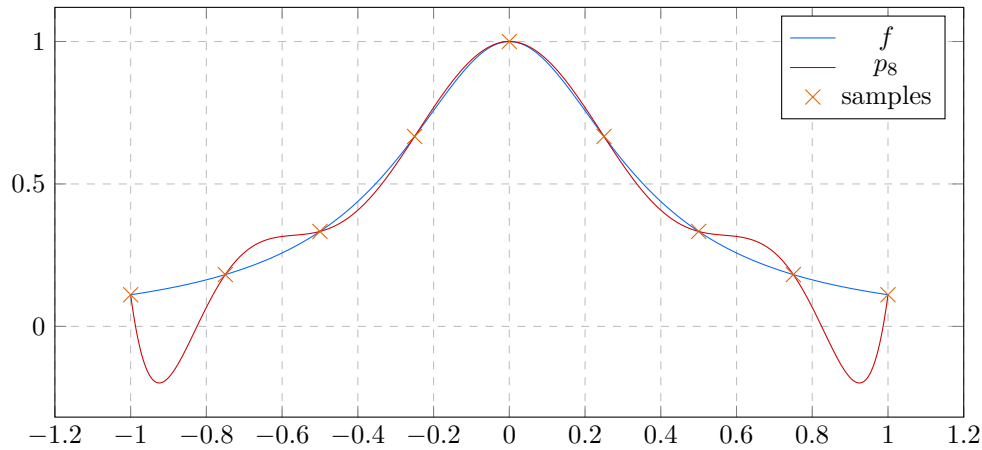


Figure 8: Lagrange-Interpolation with 9 samples

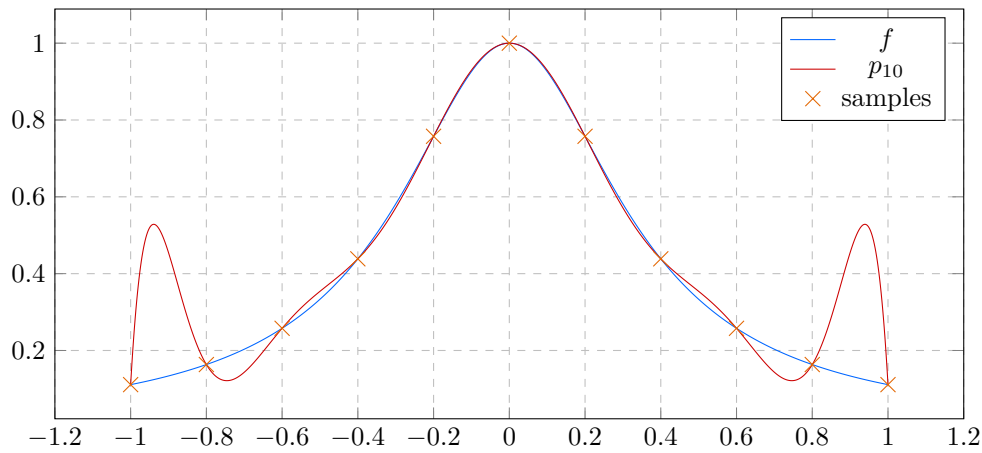


Figure 9: Lagrange-Interpolation with 11 samples

Subtask 2:

As we can clearly see in figs. 7 to 9, the overall approximation of  $f$  through  $p_n$  becomes better on  $(x_1, x_{n-1})$  with growing  $n$ . However as fig. 9 clearly shows,  $p_n$  starts to oscillate on the „boundary“ intervals  $(x_0, x_1)$  and  $(x_{n-1}, x_n)$  quite a lot. This oscillation, or „wiggle“, is labelled **Runge's phenomenon**. Formally, Runge's phenomenon is the result of the following upper bound of the interpolation error<sup>6</sup>:

$$\|f - p_n\|_\infty \leq \|\omega_n\|_\infty \frac{M}{(n+1)!} \quad (7)$$

where  $\|f^{(n+1)}\|_\infty \leq M$  and  $\omega_n = \prod_{i=0}^n (x - x_i)$ . Equation (7) shows us, that even if  $\frac{d^{n+1}f}{dx^{n+1}}$  is bounded, the interpolation error may still become very large, as  $\|\omega_n\|_\infty$  can get very large. As stated in [Cla22, p. 55], determining a basis of  $\mathbb{R}_n[x]$ , such that  $\|\omega_n\|_\infty$  becomes minimal leads us to Chebyshev-Interpolation.

To further show how Runge's phenomenon is relevant, we plot the average and maximum error for  $n = 1, \dots, 99$  in the figure below.

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<sup>6</sup>given that  $f \in C^{n+1}([x_0, x_n])$

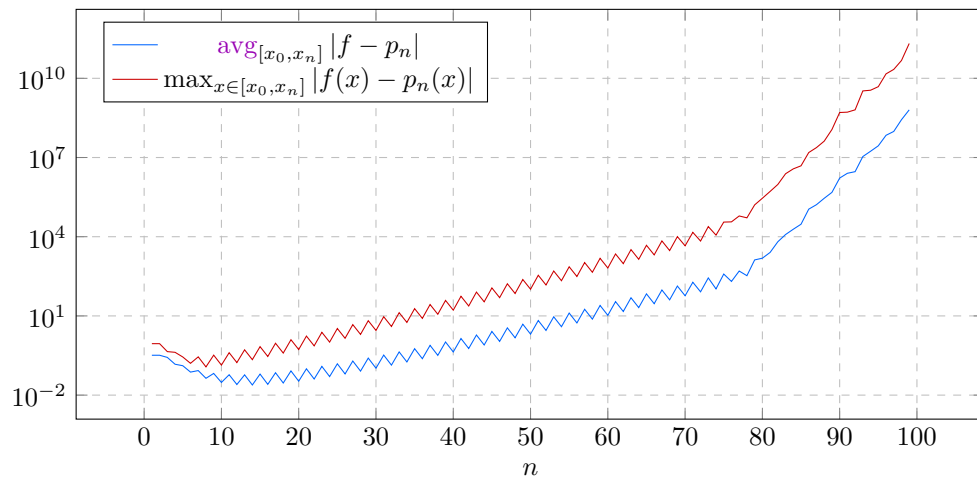


Figure 10: Evolution of interpolation error for rising  $n$ , when using Lagrange-interpolation

All data generation for the provided plots is gathered in the submitted files `Runge.py` and `runge_error.py`.



*Addendum:* Since we are dealing with a known function  $f(x): \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , which is continuously differentiable, we can gather information to further improve the interpolation with Hermite's method. We will however only take  $f'(x)$  into account in the following experiment.

$$f'(x) = -\frac{16x}{(1+8x^2)^2}$$

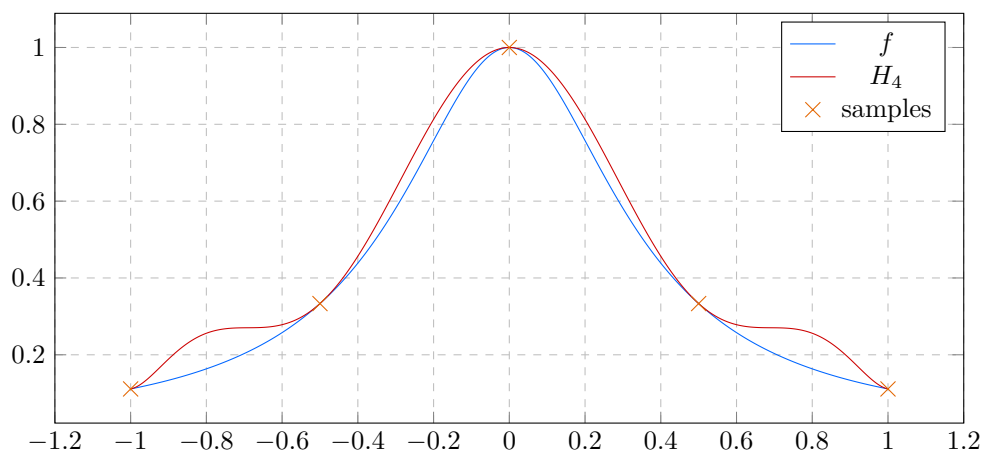


Figure 11: Hermite-Interpolation with 5 samples

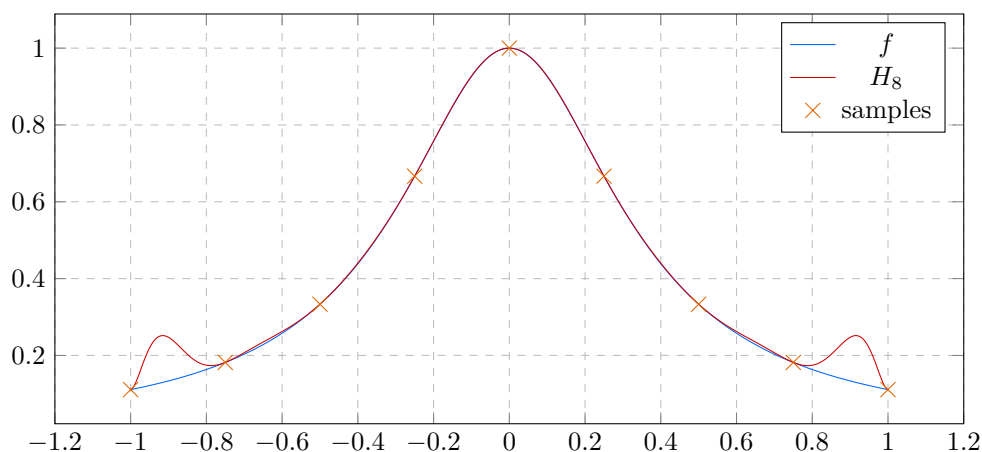


Figure 12: Hermite-Interpolation with 9 samples

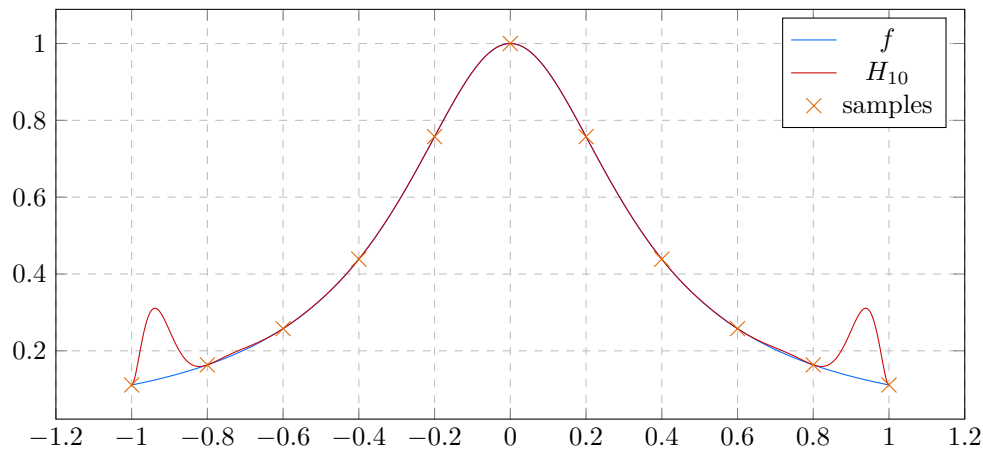


Figure 13: Hermite-Interpolation with 11 samples

Notice that Runge's phenomenon still occurs on the edges of the interval, however compared with fig. 9, the magnitude of the „wiggles“ is comparably smaller.

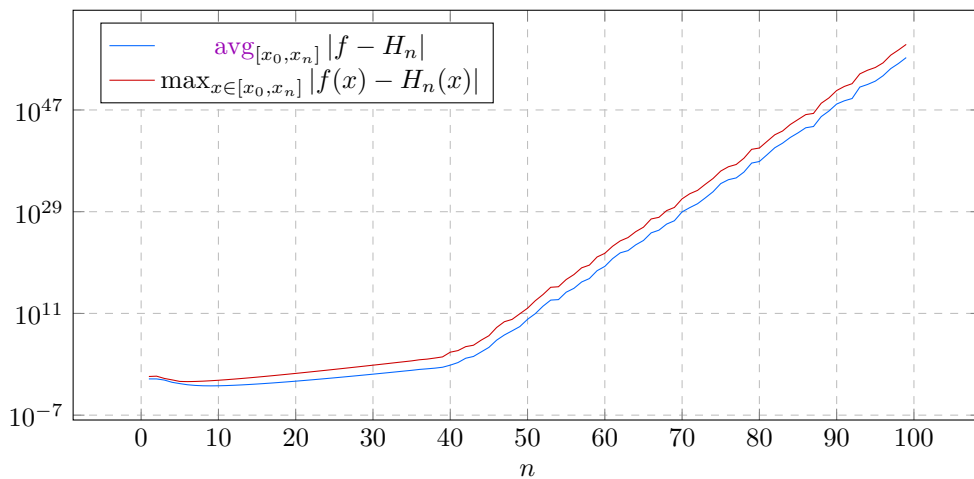


Figure 14: Evolution of interpolation error for rising  $n$ , when using Hermite-interpolation

As we can clearly see in fig. 14, even though hermite-interpolation may start out „better“, the interpolation error starts becoming very large for  $n \approx 40$  and rises exponentially. This is also the case of Lagrange-interpolation, see fig. 10, but the steep incline only starts at  $n \approx 80$ .

## References

- [Cla22] Christian Clason. *Numerische Mathematik 1*. 2022.
- [Epp07] James F. Epperson. *An Introduction to Numerical Methods and Analysis, Revised Edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2007. ISBN: 978-0-470-04963-1.
- [Han11] Norbert Köckler Hans Rudolf Schwarz. *Numerische Mathematik*. Ed. by Barbara Gerlach Ulrike Schmickler-Hirzebruch. 8th ed. Vieweg+Teubner, Springer Fachmedien Wiesbaden GmbH, 2011. ISBN: 978-3-8348-1551-4.
- [Jea04] Lloyd Trefethen Jean-Paul Berrut. ‘Barycentric Lagrange Interpolation’. In: *Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics* 46.3 (2004), pp. 501–517.