

Numerical Computing II

Homework 18: Quadrature

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March 1, 2010

Exercise 18.2

We're looking to determine weights w_1, w_2, w_3 such that

$$\int_0^1 f(x) dx \approx f(x_1)w_1 + f(x_2)w_2 + f(x_3)w_3$$

integrates quadratic polynomials exactly. That is, we want to determine weights that solve a system of equations where each weight contributes to perfectly integrate up to a quadratic polynomial. So we need to solve the system:

$$\begin{aligned}w_1 + w_2 + w_3 &= b - a \\x_1w_1 + x_2w_2 + x_3w_3 &= \frac{1}{2}(b^2 - a^2) \\x_1^2w_1 + x_2^2w_2 + x_3^2w_3 &= \frac{1}{3}(b^3 - a^3).\end{aligned}$$

We are given $x_1 = 0, x_2 = \frac{1}{2}, x_3 = 1$ and $a = 0, b = 1$. Then, we can use

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1/4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ w_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1/2 \\ 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

which corresponds to the Octave code:

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1 x1 = 0;
2 x2 = 1/2;
3 x3 = 1;
4
5 a = 0;
6 b = 1;
7
8 V = vander ([ x1 , x2 , x3 ] ) ;
9 V = fliplr (V) ' ;
10
11 y = [ b-a ; 1/2(b^2-a^2) ; 1/3(b^3-a^3) ] ;
12
13 sol = V\y ;

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This will yield the solution vector

$$\begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ w_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/6 \\ 2/3 \\ 1/6 \end{bmatrix}.$$

This means, we can say with exactness, if $f(x)$ is a quadratic polynomial or less, then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 f(x)dx &= f(x_1)w_1 + f(x_2)w_2 + f(x_3)w_3 \\ &= \frac{1}{6}f(0) + \frac{2}{3}f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{6}f(1) \end{aligned}$$

This will not integrate polynomials of higher degree exactly. This is because in the linear system of equations we solved, that is, the Vandermonde matrix with exactly three rows and three columns, we did not have enough data to force our weights to line up exactly with higher degree polynomials. If we had more data points, x_i , we would be able to determine weights which could integrate higher degree polynomials exactly. If we wanted to interpolate a third degree polynomial exactly, we would need a fourth weight. If we had a fourth weight, w_4 , we would need a fourth node x_4 to solve for the fourth weight, and thus, we would need the function evaluated at that fourth node.

For the interval $[1,2]$, we perform a change of variables. We define the function $x(t)$ on the interval $[-h,h]$ where $h \in \mathbb{R}$. We say $x(-h) = 1$ and $x(h) = 2$. Then, the function $x'(t) = \frac{1}{2h}$. We also define the function $g(t)$ such that:

$$\begin{aligned}
g(t) &= f(x(t)) \implies \\
\int_1^2 f(x)dx &= \int_{-h}^h f(x(t))x'(t)dt \\
&= \int_{-h}^h g(t)\frac{1}{2h}dt \\
&= \frac{1}{2h} \int_{-h}^h g(t)dt \\
&\approx \frac{1}{2h}(w_1g(-h) + w_2g(0) + w_3g(h)) \\
&\approx \frac{1}{2h}(w_1f(1) + w_2f(1/2) + w_3f(2))
\end{aligned}$$

Now, remembering from our system of equations for solving $f(t) = t$ and $f(t) = t^2$,

$$\begin{aligned}
-w_1h + w_3h &= 0 \\
w_1 + w_3 &= \frac{2h}{3}
\end{aligned}$$

We solve for $w_1 = w_3 = \frac{h}{3}$ and from $w_1 + w_2 + w_3 = 2h$, we solve $w_2 = \frac{4h}{3}$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_1^2 f(x), dx &\approx \frac{1}{2h}(w_1f(1) + w_2f(1/2) + w_3f(2)) \\
&\approx \frac{1}{2h}\left(\frac{h}{3}f(1) + \frac{4h}{3}f(1/2) + \frac{h}{3}f(2)\right) \\
&\approx \frac{1}{6}(f(1) + 4f(1/2) + f(2))
\end{aligned}$$

Exercise 18.4

Exercise 18.5

Exercise 18.6

Exercise 18.7