

MA579H Scientific Computing

Interpolation with Chebyshev Nodes & Error Bounds

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Lecture outline

- Runge phenomenon
- Interpolation with Chebyshev nodes
- Interpolation error
- Hermite interpolation

Runge phenomenon

Consider the Runge function $f : [-1, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by

$$f(x) := \frac{1}{(1 + 25x^2)}.$$

Then for equally spaced nodes x_0, \dots, x_n and values $f_j := f(x_j)$ for $j = 0 : n$, the interpolant $p_n(x)$ does not converge to $f(x)$. In fact $\max_{|x| \leq 1} |f(x) - p_n(x)| \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

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What about other nodes? For the Chebyshev nodes $x_j := \cos\left(\frac{(2j+1)\pi}{2n+2}\right)$ for $j = 0 : n$, we have $\max_{|x| \leq 1} |f(x) - p_n(x)| \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

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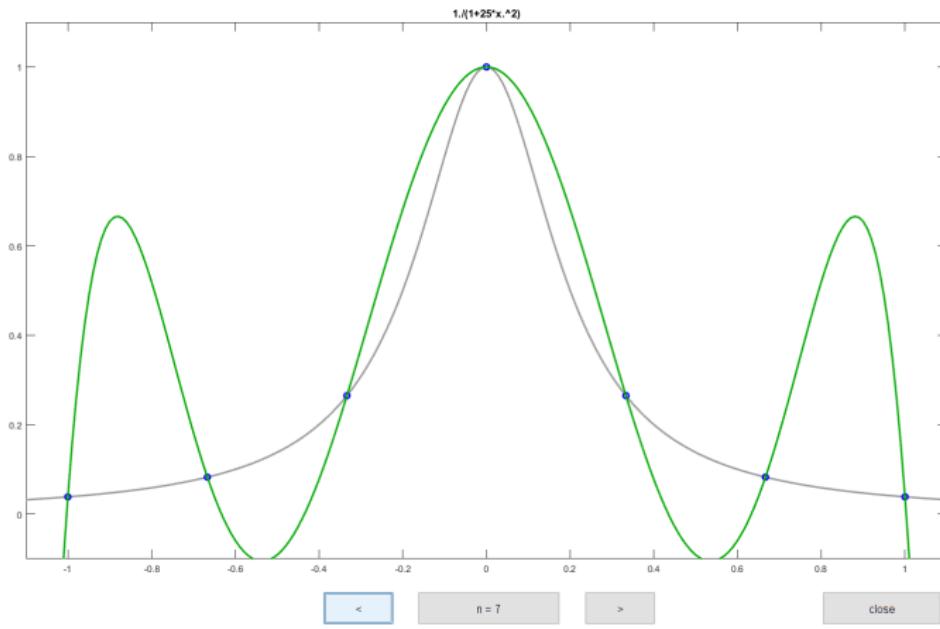
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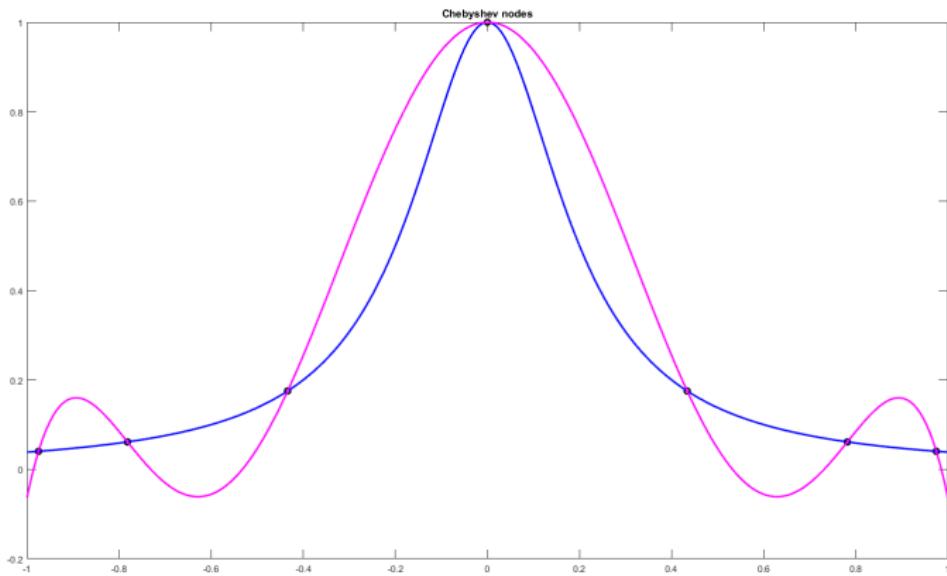
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The Runge phenomenon is eliminated by choosing Chebyshev nodes as interpolation points in $[-1, 1]$.

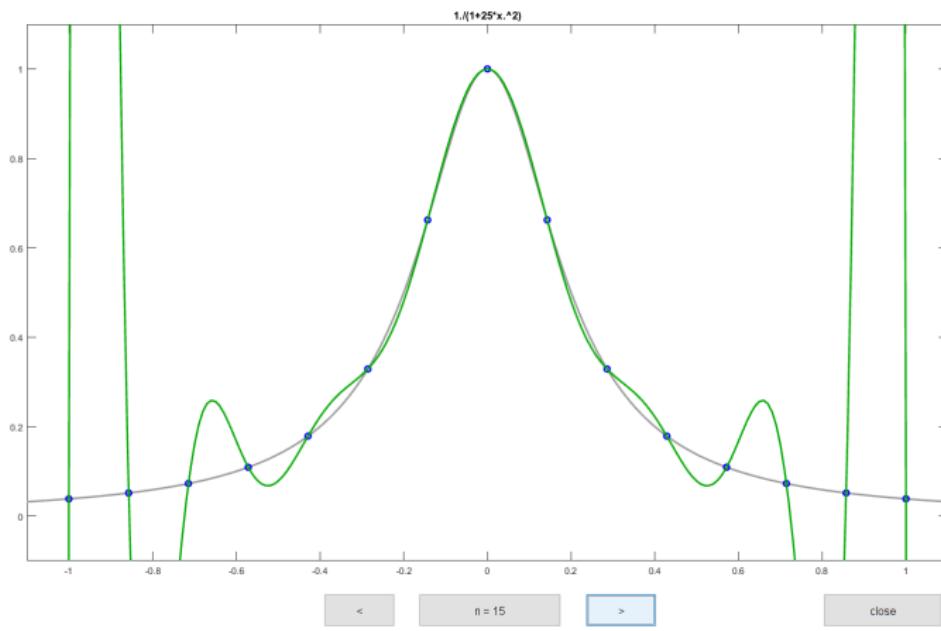
Runge phenomenon at equispaced nodes (n=7)



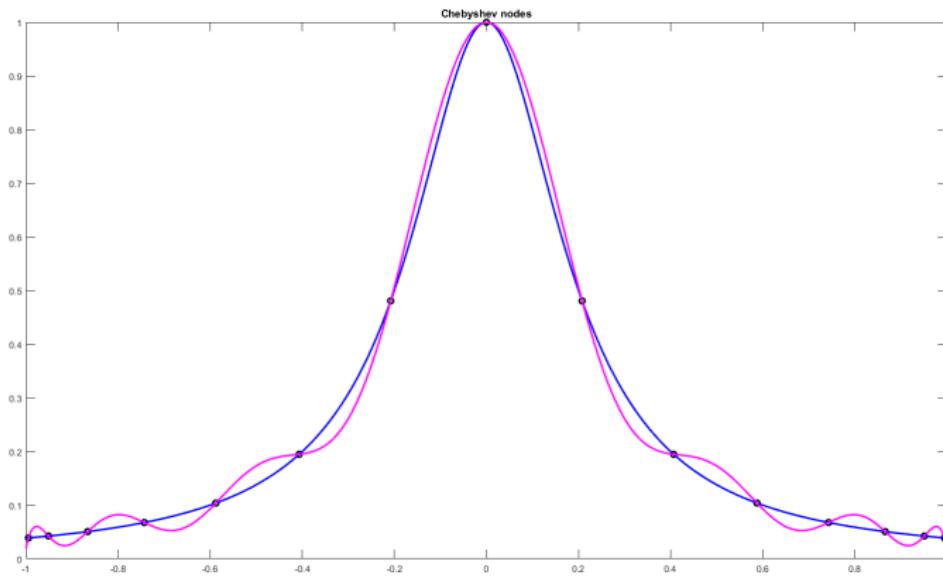
Runge phenomenon at Chebyshev nodes (n=7)



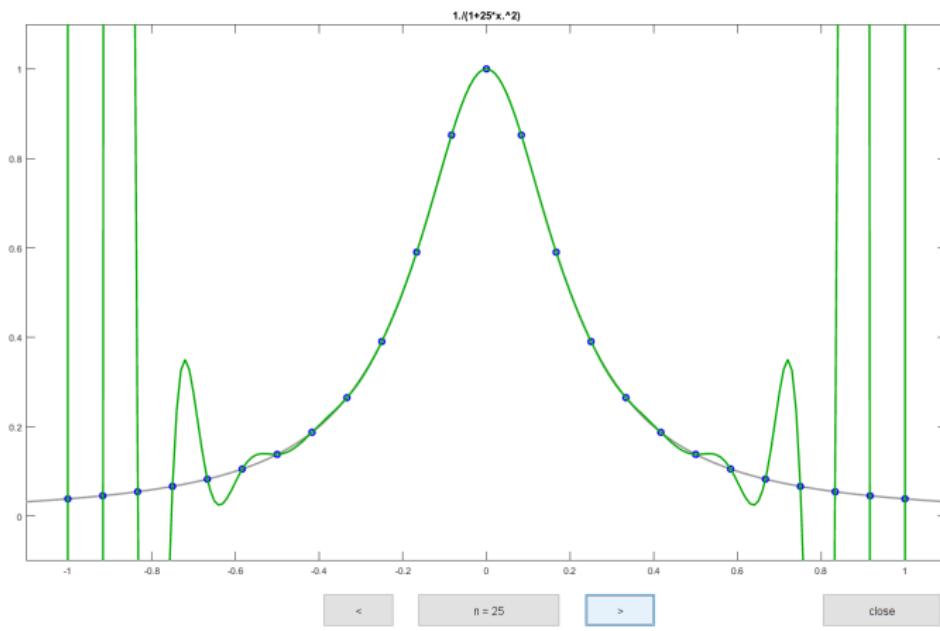
Runge phenomenon at equispaced nodes (n=15)



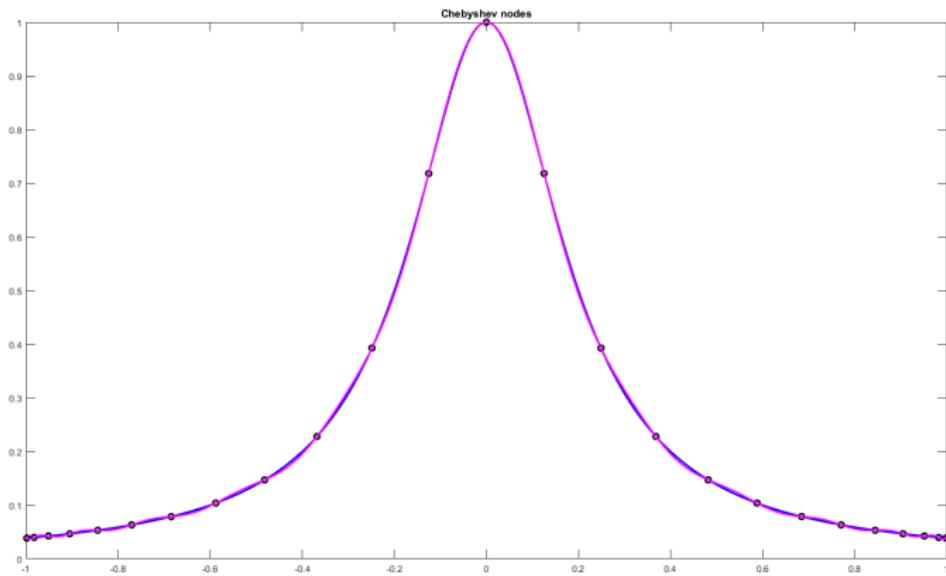
Runge phenomenon at Chebyshev nodes (n=15)



Runge phenomenon at equispaced nodes (n=25)



Runge phenomenon at Chebyshev nodes (n=25)



Chebyshev polynomials

Let $\theta \in [0, \pi]$ and $x \in [-1, 1]$. Define $T_n(x) := \cos(n \cos^{-1} x)$ for $n = 0, 1, \dots$. Note that $T_0(x) = 1$ and $T_1(x) = x$. In fact, $T_n(x)$ is a polynomial of degree n and is called the Chebyshev polynomial.

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Also $T_n(x)$ satisfies a three term recurrence relation. Set $x = \cos \theta$. Then

$$\cos((n+1)\theta) + \cos((n-1)\theta) = 2\cos\theta \cos n\theta$$

which gives

$$T_{n+1}(x) = 2xT_n(x) - T_{n-1}(x), \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

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For example,

$$T_2(x) = 2x^2 - 1, \quad T_3(x) = 4x^3 - 3x, \quad T_4(x) = 8x^4 - 8x^2 + 1.$$

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Note that

$$T_n(x) = 2^{n-1}x^n + \text{lower degree terms.}$$

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The recursion $T_{n+1}(x) = 2xT_n(x) - T_{n-1}(x)$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$ can be written

$$\begin{bmatrix} T_1(x) \\ T_2(x) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 2x \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ x \end{bmatrix}$$

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The polynomial $T_n(x)$ can also be written as

$$T_n(x) = \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \binom{n}{2j} x^{n-2j} (x^2 - 1)^j.$$

Chebyshev nodes

Since $T_n(x) = \cos(n \cos^{-1} x)$, we have $|T_n(x)| \leq 1$ for $x \in [-1, 1]$.
Further,

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Chebyshev nodes in $[-1, 1]$: The zeros $x_j := \cos\left(\frac{2j+1}{2n+2}\pi\right)$, $j = 0 : n$, of $T_{n+1}(x)$ are called Chebyshev nodes.

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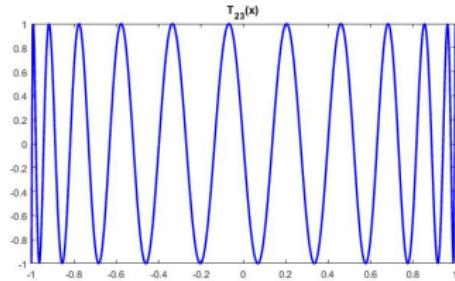
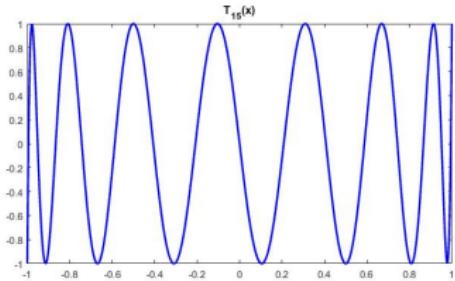
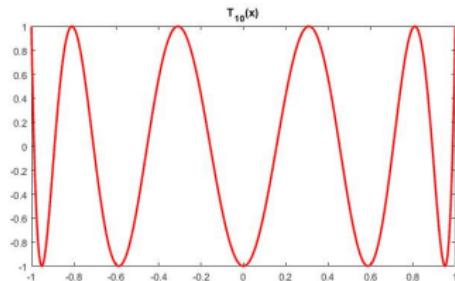
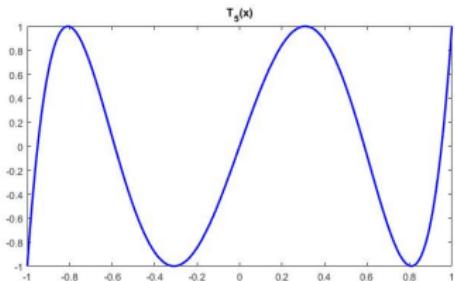
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The **Chebyshev nodes** in $[-1, 1]$ for constructing an interpolating polynomial of degree at most n passing through $n+1$ data points $(x_0, f_0), \dots, (x_n, f_n)$ are the zeros $x_j := \cos\left(\frac{2j+1}{2n+2}\pi\right)$, $j = 0 : n$, of $T_{n+1}(x)$.

Chebyshev polynomials



Barycentric Lagrange interpolation with Chebyshev nodes

The Lagrange interpolating polynomial for the nodes $(x_0, f_0), \dots, (x_n, f_n)$

$$p(x) = f_0\ell_0(x) + \dots + f_n\ell_n(x)$$

can be rewritten in barycentric form

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

where $w_j = 1 / \prod_{i \neq j} (x_j - x_i)$ for $j = 0 : n$.

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Remark: For the Chebyshev nodes $x_j = \cos(j\pi/n)$, $j = 0 : n$, in $[-1, 1]$, the barycentric interpolation is given by

$$p(x) = \frac{\sum'_{j=0}^n \frac{(-1)^j f_j}{x - x_j}}{\sum'_{j=0}^n \frac{(-1)^j}{x - x_j}}, \quad (1)$$

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where the primes on the summation signs signify that the terms $j = 0$ and $j = n$ are multiplied by $1/2$. The barycentric interpolation formula (1) remains valid for Chebyshev nodes in $[a, b]$.

Approximation

Let $C[a, b] := \{f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid f \text{ is continuous}\}$. For $f \in C[a, b]$, define

$$\|f\|_{\infty} := \max\{|f(x)| : x \in [a, b]\}.$$

Then $\|f\|_{\infty} = 0 \iff f = 0$, $\|\alpha f\|_{\infty} = |\alpha| \|f\|_{\infty}$ for $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\|f + g\|_{\infty} \leq \|f\|_{\infty} + \|g\|_{\infty}$. Thus $\|\cdot\|_{\infty}$ is a norm.

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Weierstrass approximation theorem: Let $f \in C[a, b]$ and $\epsilon > 0$. Then there is a polynomial $p(x)$ such that $\|f - p\|_{\infty} \leq \epsilon$. In other words,

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Let $p_n(x)$ be the interpolating polynomial for $(x_0, f_0), \dots, (x_n, f_n)$. Suppose that $f_j = f(x_j)$, $j = 0 : n$, for some continuous function f .

Question: Does $p_n(x)$ approximate $f(x)$ for large enough n ? In other words, does $\|p_n - f\|_{\infty} \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$?

Interpolation error

Let $f \in C[a, b]$ and $[x_0, \dots, x_n]$ be distinct nodes in $[a, b]$. Set $f_j = f(x_j)$ for $j = 0 : n$. Consider the Lagrange interpolating polynomial

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Define $\lambda_n(x) := |\ell_0(x)| + \cdots + |\ell_n(x)|$ and $\Lambda_n := \|\lambda_n\|_\infty$. Then $\lambda_n(x)$ is called the Lebesgue function and Λ_n is called the Lebesgue constant.

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Set $E_n(f) := \min\{\|f - p\|_\infty : p \in \mathcal{P}_n\}$. Then $|p_n(x)| \leq \Lambda_n \|f\|_\infty$ and

$$\|f - p_n\|_\infty \leq (1 + \Lambda_n)E_n(f).$$

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Fact: For equispaced nodes $\Lambda_n \sim \frac{2^n}{en \log n}$ and for Chebyshev nodes

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For equispaced nodes, the Runge function $f(x) := 1/(1 + 25x^2)$, $x \in [-1, 1]$, shows the worst growth of Λ_n .

Error term for smooth function

Let $C^n[a, b]$ denote the set of n times continuously differentiable functions on $[a, b]$.

Theorem: If $f \in C^{n+1}[a, b]$ and $p_n(x)$ be the unique polynomial of degree at most n passing through $(x_0, f(x_0)), \dots, (x_n, f(x_n))$. Then

$$f(x) - p_n(x) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\theta_x)}{(n+1)!} w(x)$$

for some $\theta_x \in [x_{\min}, x_{\max}]$, where x_{\min} and x_{\max} are the largest and the smallest nodes in $[x_0, \dots, x_n, x]$ and $w(x) := (x - x_0) \cdots (x - x_n)$.

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Proof: Define $F(t) := f(t) - p_n(t) - (f(x) - p_n(x))w(t)/w(x)$. Then $F(x) = 0$ and $F(x_j) = 0$ for $j = 0 : n$. By Rolle's theorem $F^{(n+1)}(t)$ has at least one zero in $[x_{\min}, x_{\max}]$.

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for some $\theta_x \in [x_{\min}, x_{\max}]$, where x_{\min} and x_{\max} are the largest and the smallest nodes in $[x_0, \dots, x_n, x]$ and $w(x) := (x - x_0) \cdots (x - x_n)$.

Proof: Define $F(t) := f(t) - p_n(t) - (f(x) - p_n(x))w(t)/w(x)$. Then $F(x) = 0$ and $F(x_j) = 0$ for $j = 0 : n$. By Rolle's theorem $F^{(n+1)}(t)$ has at least one zero in $[x_{\min}, x_{\max}]$.

Thus $F^{(n+1)}(\theta_x) = 0$ for some $\theta_x \in [x_{\min}, x_{\max}]$ which yields the desired result. ■

Error term for smooth function

Let $C^n[a, b]$ denote the set of n times continuously differentiable functions on $[a, b]$.

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Rolle's theorem: Let $f \in C[a, b]$ be differentiable on (a, b) . If $f(a) = f(b)$ then there exists $a < c < b$ such that $f'(c) = 0$.

Error term for smooth function

Thus, if $f \in C^{n+1}[a, b]$ then the interpolation error

$$|f(x) - p_n(x)| \leq \frac{\|f^{(n+1)}\|_{\infty}}{(n+1)!} |w(x)| = \frac{\|f^{(n+1)}\|_{\infty}}{(n+1)!} \prod_{j=0}^n |x - x_j|.$$

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Example: Let $p_4(x)$ be the interpolating polynomial of $f(x) = e^x$ at the nodes $-1, -1/2, 0, 1/2, 1$. Then

$$|e^x - p_4(x)| \leq \frac{|(x+1)(x+1/2)x(x-1/2)(x-1)|}{5!} e.$$

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x	$ e^x - p_4(x) $	Upper bound
-0.8	0.0008	0.0025
-0.25	0.0004	0.001
0.25	0.0004	0.001
0.8	0.0011	0.0025

Chebyshev's theorem

Goal: Choose nodes x_0, \dots, x_n in $[a, b]$ that minimize

$\max_{x \in [a, b]} \prod_{j=0}^n |x - x_j|$. Equivalently, solve the min-max problem

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Theorem (Chebyshev): We have

$$\min_{x_0, \dots, x_n} \max_{x \in [-1, 1]} \prod_{j=0}^n |(x - x_j)| = 2^{-n}$$

and the minimum is attained when

$$w(x) := \prod_{j=0}^n (x - x_j) = 2^{-n} T_{n+1}(x).$$

Thus, the minimum is attained when x_0, \dots, x_n are Chebyshev nodes in $[-1, 1]$.

Interpolation with Chebyshev nodes

Hence if $f \in C^{n+1}[-1, 1]$ then for Chebyshev nodes

$$|f(x) - p_n(x)| \leq \frac{\|f^{(n+1)}\|_\infty}{(n+1)!} \|w\|_\infty = \frac{\|f^{(n+1)}\|_\infty}{2^n(n+1)!}$$

where $w(x) := (x - x_0) \cdots (x - x_n)$ and $\|w\|_\infty = \max_{x \in [-1, 1]} |w(x)|$.

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Example: Let $p_4(x)$ be the unique Chebyshev interpolating polynomial of degree at most 4 that approximates $f(x) := e^x$ with Chebyshev nodes $x_0 := \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{10}\right)$, $x_1 = \cos\left(\frac{3\pi}{10}\right)$, $x_2 := \cos\left(\frac{5\pi}{10}\right)$, $x_3 := \cos\left(\frac{7\pi}{10}\right)$ and $x_4 := \cos\left(\frac{9\pi}{10}\right)$ in $[-1, 1]$.

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$$|e^x - p_4(x)| \leq \frac{|(x - x_0)(x - x_1)(x - x_2)(x - x_3)(x - x_4)|}{5!} e \leq \frac{e}{2^4 5!} \approx 0.00142.$$

Chebyshev nodes in $[a, b]$

Chebyshev nodes in $[a, b]$: $x_j := \frac{a+b}{2} + \frac{b-a}{2} \cos\left(\frac{2j+1}{2n+2}\pi\right)$, $j = 0 : n$.

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Thus for Chebyshev nodes in $[-1, 1]$ we have

$$\prod_{j=0}^n |(\phi(x) - \phi(x_j))| = \left(\frac{b-a}{2}\right)^{n+1} \prod_{j=0}^n |(x - x_j)| \leq \frac{1}{2^n} \left(\frac{b-a}{2}\right)^{n+1}.$$

Chebyshev interpolation error

Theorem: Let $f \in C^{n+1}[a, b]$. Then for the Chebyshev nodes

$$x_j := \frac{b+a}{2} + \frac{b-a}{2} \cos\left(\frac{2j+1}{2n+2}\pi\right) \text{ for } j = 0 : n, \text{ we have}$$

$$|f(x) - p_n(x)| \leq \frac{\|f^{(n+1)}\|_{\infty}}{(n+1)!} \|w\|_{\infty} = \left(\frac{b-a}{2}\right)^{n+1} \frac{\|f^{(n+1)}\|_{\infty}}{2^n(n+1)!},$$

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where $w(x) := (x - x_0) \cdots (x - x_n)$.

Example: Consider $f(x) := \sin(x)$ for $x \in [0, \pi/2]$. For Chebyshev nodes

$$|\sin(x) - p_n(x)| \leq \left(\frac{\pi/2 - 0}{2}\right)^{n+1} \frac{\|f^{(n+1)}\|_{\infty}}{2^n(n+1)!} \leq \left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right)^{n+1} \frac{1}{2^n(n+1)!}$$

For $n = 8$ the error bound is $\approx 0.1224 \times 10^{-8}$. For $n = 9$ the error is $\approx 0.4807 \times 10^{-10}$. Thus for Chebyshev nodes $p_9(x)$ approximates $\sin(x)$ correct to 10 decimal places.

Error term via divided difference

Suppose that $f \in C[a, b]$ and $f(x_j) = f_j$ for $j = 0 : n$. Consider the Newton interpolating polynomial $p_n(x) := \sum_{j=0}^n f[x_0, \dots, x_j] N_j(x)$.

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For fixed $x \in [a, b]$, let $q(t) \in \mathcal{P}_{n+1}$ be the Newton interpolating polynomial that interpolates $(x_0, f_0), \dots, (x_n, f_n), (x, f(x))$. Then

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If $f \in C^{n+1}[a, b]$ then comparing with error term of Lagrange interpolating polynomial we have

$$f[x_0, \dots, x_n, x] = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\theta_x)}{(n+1)!}$$

for some θ_x between the smallest and the largest nodes $[x_0, \dots, x_n, x]$.

Divided differences at repeated nodes

Theorem: If $f \in C^n[a, b]$ and $[x_0, \dots, x_n]$ are distinct nodes then

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This defines the n -th order divided difference of f at $n + 1$ times repeated node x_0 .

Hermite interpolation

Problem: Given distinct nodes $\mathbf{x} := [x_0, \dots, x_n]$, positive integers $[m_0, \dots, m_n]$ and $f \in C^{m-1}[a, b]$ with $m := \max(m_0, \dots, m_n)$, find a polynomial $p(x)$ of least degree such that for $j = 0 : n$,

$$p^{(i)}(x_j) = f^{(i)}(x_j) \text{ for } i = 0, 1, \dots, m_j - 1.$$

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The problem can be thought of as a limiting case of polynomial interpolation if we consider x_j to be a **repeated node of multiplicity m_j** for $j = 0 : n$, that is,

$$\underbrace{x_0, \dots, x_0}_{m_0}, \underbrace{x_1, \dots, x_1}_{m_1}, \dots, \underbrace{x_n, \dots, x_n}_{m_n}.$$

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Set $N := m_0 + \dots + m_n$. Then the Hermite interpolating polynomial $p(x)$ of degree $N - 1$ can be constructed from the **divided differences table for repeated nodes**.

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For $j = 0 : n$, set $f_j^{(i)} := f^{(i)}(x_j)$, $i = 0, 1, \dots, m_j - 1$.

Hermite interpolation

For example, if $m_j = 4$, then the divided differences are given by

x	f			
.
x_j	f_j			
x_j	f_j	f'_j		
x_j	f_j	f'_j	$f''_j/2$	
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Example: Find $p \in \mathcal{P}_3$ such that

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x	f			
x_0	f_0			
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x_1	f_1	f'_1	$f[x_0, x_1, x_1]$	
x_2	f_2	$f[x_1, x_2]$	$f[x_1, x_1, x_2]$	$f[x_0, x_1, x_1, x_2]$

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Example: Determine a polynomial $p(x)$ such that
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Thus

$$p(x) = 2 + 3 \cdot (x-1) + 1 \cdot (x-1)^2 + 2 \cdot (x-1)^2(x-2) - 1 \cdot (x-1)^2(x-2)^2.$$
