

# Numerical Methods in Engineering

## INTERPOLATION

Lectures 20-22:

Read Chapter 18, Sections 1-5

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# Lecture 20

## INTRODUCTION TO INTERPOLATION

- Introduction
- Interpolation Problem
- Existence and Uniqueness
- Linear and Quadratic Interpolation
- Newton's Divided Difference Method
- Properties of Divided Differences

# Introduction

Interpolation was used for long time to provide an estimate of a tabulated function at values that are not available in the table.

What is  $\sin(0.15)$ ?

x	$\sin(x)$
0	0.0000
0.1	0.0998
0.2	0.1987
0.3	0.2955
0.4	0.3894

Using **Linear Interpolation**  $\sin(0.15) \approx \mathbf{0.1493}$   
**True value** (4 decimal digits)  $\sin(0.15) = \mathbf{0.1494}$

# The Interpolation Problem

Given a set of  $n+1$  points,

$$(x_0, f(x_0)), (x_1, f(x_1)), \dots, (x_n, f(x_n))$$

Find an  $n^{\text{th}}$  order polynomial  $f_n(x)$   
that passes through all points, such that:

$$f_n(x_i) = f(x_i) \quad \text{for } i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$$

# Example

An experiment is used to determine the viscosity of water as a function of temperature. The following table is generated:

**Problem:** Estimate the viscosity when the temperature is 8 degrees.

Temperature (degree)	Viscosity
0	1.792
5	1.519
10	1.308
15	1.140

# Interpolation Problem

Find a polynomial that fits the data points exactly.

$$V(T) = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k T^k$$

$$V_i = V(T_i)$$

$V$  : Viscosity

$T$  : Temperature

$a_k$  : Polynomial  
coefficients

Linear Interpolation:  $V(T) = 1.73 - 0.0422 T$   
 $V(8) = 1.3924$

# Existence and Uniqueness

Given a set of  $n+1$  points:

$$(x_0, f(x_0)), (x_1, f(x_1)), \dots, (x_n, f(x_n))$$

**Assumption:** are **distinct**

$$x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n$$

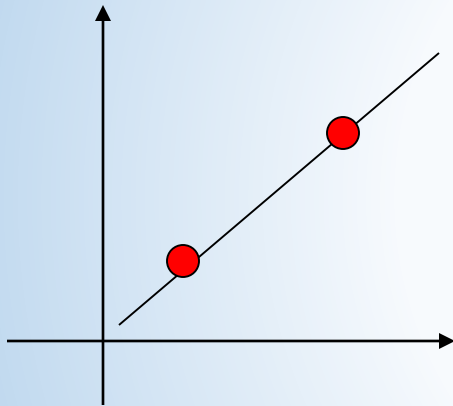
**Theorem:**

There is a **unique** polynomial  $f_n(x)$  of **order  $\leq n$**  such that:

$$f_n(x_i) = f(x_i) \quad \text{for} \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, n$$

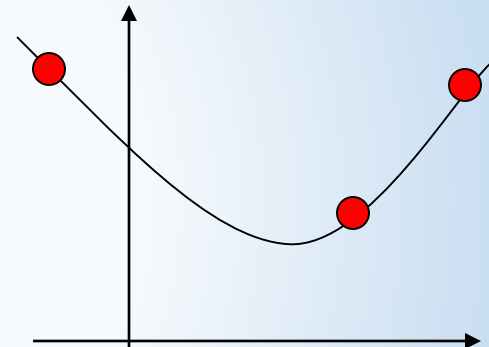
# Examples of Polynomial Interpolation

## Linear Interpolation



- Given any two points, there is one polynomial of order  $\leq 1$  that passes through the two points.

## Quadratic Interpolation



Given any three points there is one polynomial of order  $\leq 2$  that passes through the three points.



# Linear Interpolation

Given any two points,  $(x_0, f(x_0)), (x_1, f(x_1))$

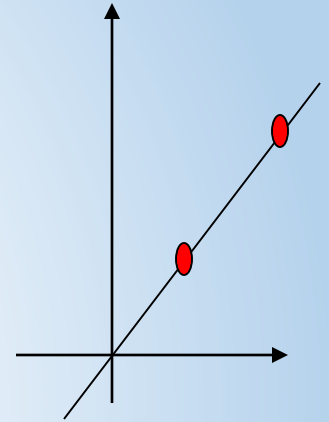
The line that interpolates the two points is:

$$f_1(x) = f(x_0) + \frac{f(x_1) - f(x_0)}{x_1 - x_0} (x - x_0)$$

Example :

Find a polynomial that interpolates (1,2) and (2,4).

$$f_1(x) = 2 + \frac{4-2}{2-1} (x-1) = 2x$$



# Quadratic Interpolation

- Given any **three points**:  $(x_0, f(x_0))$ ,  $(x_1, f(x_1))$ , and  $(x_2, f(x_2))$
- The **polynomial** that interpolates the three points is:

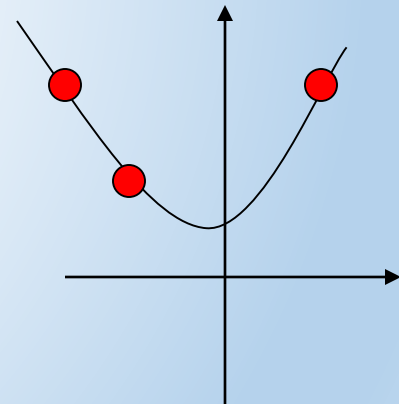
$$f_2(x) = b_0 + b_1(x - x_0) + b_2(x - x_0)(x - x_1)$$

where :

$$b_0 = f(x_0)$$

$$b_1 = f[x_0, x_1] = \frac{f(x_1) - f(x_0)}{x_1 - x_0}$$

$$b_2 = f[x_0, x_1, x_2] = \frac{\frac{f(x_2) - f(x_1)}{x_2 - x_1} - \frac{f(x_1) - f(x_0)}{x_1 - x_0}}{x_2 - x_0}$$



# General $n^{\text{th}}$ Order Interpolation

Given any  **$n+1$  points**:  $(x_0, f(x_0)), (x_1, f(x_1)), \dots, (x_n, f(x_n))$

The **polynomial** that interpolates all points is:

$$f_n(x) = b_0 + b_1(x - x_0) + b_2(x - x_0)(x - x_1) + \dots + b_n(x - x_0) \dots (x - x_{n-1})$$

$$b_0 = f(x_0)$$

$$b_1 = f[x_0, x_1]$$

....

$$b_n = f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n]$$

# Divided Differences

$$f[x_k] = f(x_k)$$

Zeroth order DD

$$f[x_0, x_1] = \frac{f[x_1] - f[x_0]}{x_1 - x_0}$$

First order DD

$$f[x_0, x_1, x_2] = \frac{f[x_1, x_2] - f[x_0, x_1]}{x_2 - x_0}$$

Second order DD

.....

$$f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k] = \frac{f[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k] - f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}]}{x_k - x_0}$$

# Divided Difference Table

## Newton's Interpolation Method

x	F[ ]	F[ , ]	F[ , , ]	F[ , , , ]
x <sub>0</sub>	F[x <sub>0</sub> ]	F[x <sub>0</sub> ,x <sub>1</sub> ]	F[x <sub>0</sub> ,x <sub>1</sub> ,x <sub>2</sub> ]	F[x <sub>0</sub> ,x <sub>1</sub> ,x <sub>2</sub> ,x <sub>3</sub> ]
x <sub>1</sub>	F[x <sub>1</sub> ]	F[x <sub>1</sub> ,x <sub>2</sub> ]	F[x <sub>1</sub> ,x <sub>2</sub> ,x <sub>3</sub> ]	
x <sub>2</sub>	F[x <sub>2</sub> ]	F[x <sub>2</sub> ,x <sub>3</sub> ]		
x <sub>3</sub>	F[x <sub>3</sub> ]			

$$f_n(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n \left\{ F[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_i] \prod_{j=0}^{i-1} (x - x_j) \right\}$$

# Divided Difference Table

x	F[ ]	F[ , ]	F[ , , ]
0	-5	2	-4
1	-3	6	
-1	-15		

$x_i$	$f(x_i)$
0	-5
1	-3
-1	-15

Entries of the divided difference table are obtained from the data table using simple operations.

# Divided Difference Table

x	F[ ]	F[ , ]	F[ , , ]
0	-5	2	-4
1	-3	6	
-1	-15		

$x_i$	$f(x_i)$
0	-5
1	-3
-1	-15

The first two column of the table are the data columns.

Third column: First order differences.

Fourth column: Second order differences.

# Divided Difference Table

x	F[ ]	F[ , ]	F[ , , ]
0	-5	2	-4
1	-3	6	
-1	-15		

$x_i$	$y_i$
0	-5
1	-3
-1	-15

$$\frac{-3 - (-5)}{1 - 0} = 2$$

$$f[x_0, x_1] = \frac{f[x_1] - f[x_0]}{x_1 - x_0}$$



# Divided Difference Table

x	F[ ]	F[ , ]	F[ , , ]
0	-5	2	-4
1	-3	6	
-1	-15		

$x_i$	$y_i$
0	-5
1	-3
-1	-15

$$\frac{-15 - (-3)}{-1 - 1} = 6$$

$$f[x_1, x_2] = \frac{f[x_2] - f[x_1]}{x_2 - x_1}$$

# Divided Difference Table

x	F[ ]	F[ , ]	F[ , , ]
0	-5	2	-4
1	-3	6	
-1	-15		

$x_i$	$y_i$
0	-5
1	-3
-1	-15

$$\frac{6 - (2)}{-1 - (0)} = -4$$

$$f[x_0, x_1, x_2] = \frac{f[x_1, x_2] - f[x_0, x_1]}{x_2 - x_0}$$

# Divided Difference Table

x	F[ ]	F[ , ]	F[ , , ]
0	-5	2	-4
1	-3	6	
-1	-15		

$x_i$	$y_i$
0	-5
1	-3
-1	-15

$$f_2(x) = -5 + 2(x-0) - 4(x-0)(x-1)$$

$$f_2(x) = F[x_0] + F[x_0, x_1](x-x_0) + F[x_0, x_1, x_2](x-x_0)(x-x_1)$$

# Two Examples

**Obtain the interpolating polynomials for the two examples:**

x	y
1	0
2	3
3	8

x	y
2	3
1	0
3	8

What do you observe?

# Two Examples

x	Y		
1	0	3	1
2	3	5	
3	8		

$$\begin{aligned}P_2(x) &= 0 + 3(x-1) + 1(x-1)(x-2) \\ &= x^2 - 1\end{aligned}$$

x	Y		
2	3	3	1
1	0	4	
3	8		

$$\begin{aligned}P_2(x) &= 3 + 3(x-2) + 1(x-2)(x-1) \\ &= x^2 - 1\end{aligned}$$

**Ordering the points should not affect the interpolating polynomial !**

# Properties of Divided Difference

Ordering the points should not affect the divided difference:

$$f[x_0, x_1, x_2] = f[x_1, x_2, x_0] = f[x_2, x_1, x_0]$$

# Example

- Find a polynomial to interpolate the data.

x	f(x)
2	3
4	5
5	1
6	6
7	9

# Example

x	f(x)	f[ , ]	f[ , , ]	f[ , , , ]	f[ , , , , ]
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-1.6667</b>	<b>1.5417</b>	<b>-0.6750</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>-1.8333</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-1</b>		
<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>			
<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>				

$$f_4 = 3 + 1(x-2) - 1.6667(x-2)(x-4) + 1.5417(x-2)(x-4)(x-5) - 0.6750(x-2)(x-4)(x-5)(x-6)$$



# Summary

Interpolating Condition :  $f(x_i) = f_n(x_i)$  for  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$

- \* The interpolating Polynomial is unique.
- \* Different methods can be used to obtain it
  - Newton Divided Difference
  - Lagrange Interpolation
  - Other methods

Ordering the points should not affect the interpolating polynomial.

# Lecture 21

## LAGRANGE INTERPOLATION

# The Interpolation Problem

Given a set of  $n+1$  points:

$$(x_0, f(x_0)), (x_1, f(x_1)), \dots, (x_n, f(x_n))$$

Find an  $n^{\text{th}}$  order polynomial:  $f_n(x)$   
that passes through all points, such that:

$$f_n(x_i) = f(x_i) \quad \text{for } i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$$

# Lagrange Interpolation

**Problem:**

Given

$x_i$		$x_1$	....	$x_n$
$y_i$	$y_0$	$y_1$	....	$y_n$

Find the polynomial of least order  $f_n(x)$  such that:

$$f_n(x_i) = f(x_i) \quad \text{for } i = 0, 1, \dots, n$$

**Lagrange Interpolation Formula:**

$$f_n(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n f(x_i) \ell_i(x)$$

$$\ell_i(x) = \prod_{j=0, j \neq i}^n \frac{(x - x_j)}{(x_i - x_j)}$$

# Lagrange Interpolation

$\ell_i(x)$  are called the cardinals.

The cardinals are  $n^{th}$  order polynomials :

$$\ell_i(x_j) = \begin{cases} 0 & i \neq j \\ 1 & i = j \end{cases}$$

# Lagrange Interpolation Example

$$P_2(x) = f(x_0)\ell_0(x) + f(x_1)\ell_1(x) + f(x_2)\ell_2(x)$$

$$\ell_0(x) = \frac{(x-x_1)(x-x_2)}{(x_0-x_1)(x_0-x_2)} = \frac{(x-1/4)(x-1)}{(1/3-1/4)(1/3-1)}$$

$$\ell_1(x) = \frac{(x-x_0)(x-x_2)}{(x_1-x_0)(x_1-x_2)} = \frac{(x-1/3)(x-1)}{(1/4-1/3)(1/4-1)}$$

$$\ell_2(x) = \frac{(x-x_0)(x-x_1)}{(x_2-x_0)(x_2-x_1)} = \frac{(x-1/3)(x-1/4)}{(1-1/3)(1-1/4)}$$

x	1/3	1/4	1
y	2	-1	7

$$P_2(x) = 2\{-18(x-1/4)(x-1)\} - 1\{16(x-1/3)(x-1)\} \\ + 7\{2(x-1/3)(x-1/4)\}$$

# Example

Find a polynomial to interpolate:

Both Newton's interpolation method and Lagrange interpolation method must give the same answer.

x	y
0	1
1	3
2	2
3	5
4	4

# Newton's Interpolation Method

0	1	2	$-3/2$	$7/6$	$-5/8$
1	3	-1	2	$-4/3$	
2	2	3	-2		
3	5	-1			
4	4				



# Interpolating Polynomial

$$f_4(x) = 1 + 2(x) - \frac{3}{2}x(x-1) + \frac{7}{6}x(x-1)(x-2) - \frac{5}{8}x(x-1)(x-2)(x-3)$$

$$f_4(x) = 1 + \frac{115}{12}x - \frac{95}{8}x^2 + \frac{59}{12}x^3 - \frac{5}{8}x^4$$

# Interpolating Polynomial Using Lagrange Interpolation Method

$$f_4(x) = \sum_{i=0}^4 f(x_i) \ell_i = \ell_0 + 3\ell_1 + 2\ell_2 + 5\ell_3 + 4\ell_4$$

$$\ell_0 = \frac{(x-1)}{(0-1)} \frac{(x-2)}{(0-2)} \frac{(x-3)}{(0-3)} \frac{(x-4)}{(0-4)} = \frac{(x-1)(x-2)(x-3)(x-4)}{24}$$

$$\ell_1 = \frac{(x-0)}{(1-0)} \frac{(x-2)}{(1-2)} \frac{(x-3)}{(1-3)} \frac{(x-4)}{(1-4)} = \frac{x(x-2)(x-3)(x-4)}{-6}$$

$$\ell_2 = \frac{(x-0)}{(2-0)} \frac{(x-1)}{(2-1)} \frac{(x-3)}{(2-3)} \frac{(x-4)}{(2-4)} = \frac{x(x-1)(x-3)(x-4)}{4}$$

$$\ell_3 = \frac{(x-0)}{(3-0)} \frac{(x-1)}{(3-1)} \frac{(x-2)}{(3-2)} \frac{(x-4)}{(3-4)} = \frac{x(x-1)(x-2)(x-4)}{-6}$$

$$\ell_4 = \frac{(x-0)}{(4-0)} \frac{(x-1)}{(4-1)} \frac{(x-2)}{(4-2)} \frac{(x-3)}{(4-3)} = \frac{x(x-1)(x-2)(x-3)}{24}$$

# Lecture 22

**INVERSE INTERPOLATION**

**ERROR IN POLYNOMIAL INTERPOLATION**

# Inverse Interpolation

Problem : Given a table of values

Find  $x$  such that :  $f(x) = y_k$ , where  $y_k$  is given

$x_i$	$x_0$	$x_1$	....	$x_n$
$y_i$	$y_0$	$y_1$	....	$y_n$

One approach:

Use polynomial interpolation to obtain  $f_n(x)$  to interpolate the data then use Newton's method to find a solution to  $x$

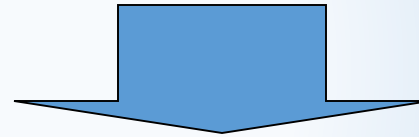
$$f_n(x) = y_k$$

# Inverse Interpolation

## Inverse interpolation:

1. Exchange the roles of  $x$  and  $y$ .

$x_i$	$x_0$	$x_1$	....	$x_n$
$y_i$	$y_0$	$y_1$	....	$y_n$



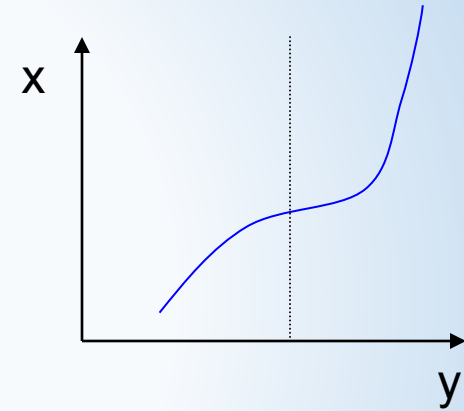
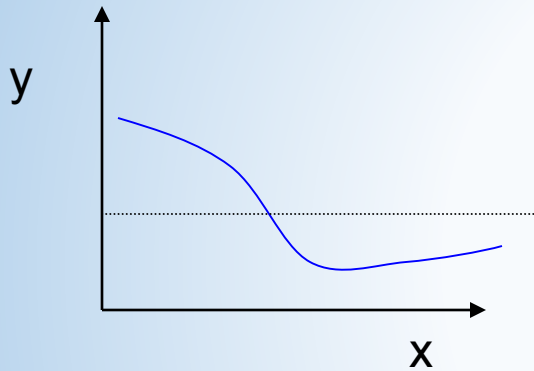
2. Perform polynomial Interpolation on the new table.

$y_i$	$y_0$	$y_1$	....	$y_n$
$x_i$	$x_0$	$x_1$	....	$x_n$

3. Evaluate

$$x = f_n(y_k)$$

# Inverse Interpolation



# Inverse Interpolation

## Question:

What is the limitation of inverse interpolation?

- The original function has an inverse.
- $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n$  must be distinct.

# Inverse Interpolation

## Example

Problem :

x	1	2	3
y	3.2	2.0	1.6

Given the table. Find  $x$  such that  $f(x) = 2.5$

3.2	1	-.8333	1.0417
2.0	2	-2.5	
1.6	3		

$$x = f_2(y) = 1 - 0.8333(y - 3.2) + 1.0417(y - 3.2)(y - 2)$$

$$x = f_2(2.5) = 1 - 0.8333(-0.7) + 1.0417(-0.7)(0.5) = 1.2187$$



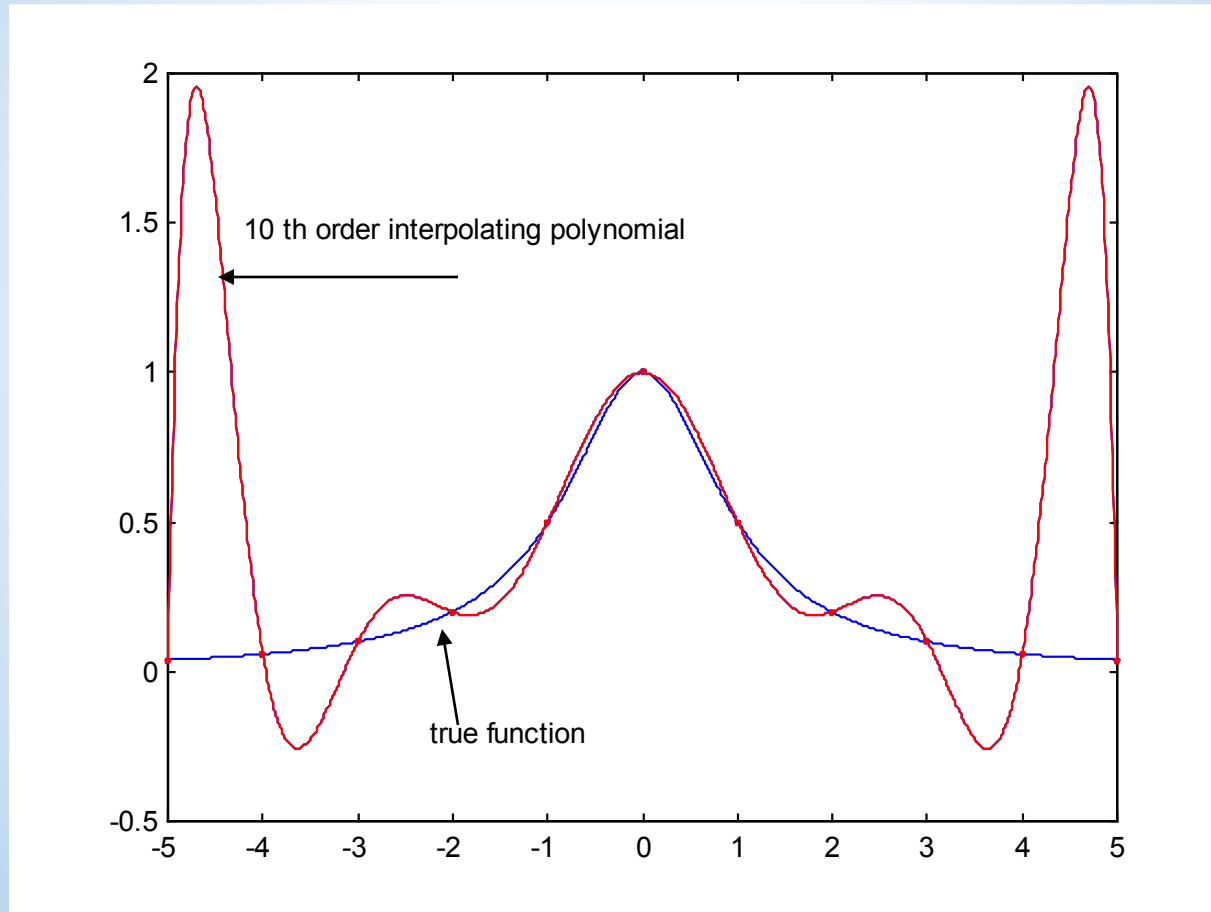
# Errors in polynomial Interpolation

- Polynomial interpolation may lead to large errors (especially for **high order** polynomials).

**BE CAREFUL !**

- When an  $n^{\text{th}}$  order interpolating polynomial is used, the error is related to the  $(n+1)^{\text{th}}$  order derivative.

# 10<sup>th</sup> Order Polynomial Interpolation



# Errors in polynomial Interpolation

## Theorem

Let  $f(x)$  be a function such that :

$f^{(n+1)}(x)$  is continuous on  $[a, b]$ , and  $\left| f^{(n+1)}(x) \right| \leq M$ .

Let  $P(x)$  be any polynomial of degree  $\leq n$

that interpolates  $f$  at  $n + 1$  equally spaced points

in  $[a, b]$  (including the end points). Then :

$$\left| f(x) - P(x) \right| \leq \frac{M}{4(n+1)} \left( \frac{b-a}{n} \right)^{n+1}$$

# Example

$$f(x) = \sin(x)$$

We want to use 9<sup>th</sup> order polynomial to interpolate  $f(x)$  (using 10 equally spaced points) in the interval  $[0, 1.6875]$ .

$$|f^{(n+1)}| \leq 1 \quad \text{for } n > 0$$

$$M = 1, \quad n = 9$$

$$|f(x) - P(x)| \leq \frac{M}{4(n+1)} \left( \frac{b-a}{n} \right)^{n+1}$$

$$|f(x) - P(x)| \leq \frac{1}{4(10)} \left( \frac{1.6875}{9} \right)^{10} = 1.34 \times 10^{-9}$$

# Summary

- The interpolating polynomial is unique.
- Different methods can be used to obtain it.
  - Newton's divided difference
  - Lagrange interpolation
  - Others
- Polynomial interpolation can be sensitive to data.
- **BE CAREFUL** when high order polynomials are used.