

Question 1

Q1 (a) Using the first 4 data points,

i	x_i	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
0	1.6	2	15	-3.3333	-3.4226
1	2	8	12	-8.8095	
2	2.5	14	1.4286		
3	3.2	15			

taking $i=0$,

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

$$= \frac{8 - 2}{2 - 1.6} = 15$$

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

$$= \frac{12 - 15}{2.5 - 1.6} = -3.333$$

$$b_3 = \frac{f[x_3, x_2, x_1] - f[x_2, x_1, x_0]}{x_3 - x_0}$$

$$= \frac{-8.8095 - (-3.3333)}{3.2 - 1.6} = -3.4226$$

* $b_0 = 2$ (given in question - 1st y data point)

General Form:

$$y(x) = b_0 + b_1(x-x_0) + b_2(x-x_0)(x-x_1) + b_3(x-x_0)(x-x_1)(x-x_2)$$

$$y(3.3) = 2 + 15(3.3-1.6) + (-3.33)(3.3-1.6)(3.3-2) + (-3.423)(3.3-1.6)(3.3-2)(3.3-2.5)$$

$$= 14.09 \quad 14.0888 \quad \rightarrow 14.09$$

Q1(b) Choosing the following points shown in columns 2 and 3,

i	x_i	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
0	2	8	12	-8.8095	1.0119	0.4524
1	2.5	14	1.4286	-6.7857	2.1429	
2	3.2	15	-8.75	-2.5		
3	4	8	-12			
4	4.5	2				

For $i=0$,

$$b_0 = 8$$

* the points chosen was

such that the value $x=3.3$ was around the centre of the range.

$$b_1 = \frac{14 - 8}{2.5 - 2} = 12$$

$$b_2 = \frac{1.4286 - 12}{3.2 - 2} = -8.8095$$

$$b_3 = \frac{-6.7857 - (-8.8095)}{4 - 2} = 1.0119$$

$$b_4 = \frac{2.1429 - 1.0119}{4.5 - 2} = 0.4524$$

Substituting b_0, b_1, b_2, b_3 and b_4 into the general form shown in part (a)

$$y(x) = 8 + 12(x-2) - 8.81(x-2)(x-2.5) + 1.01(x-2)(x-2.5)(x-3.2) \\ + 0.45(x-2)(x-2.5)(x-3.2)(x-4)$$

$$y(3.3) = 14.5433$$

* refer to last page for cancelled working

Q1(c) Yes, there is a difference of $(14.51 - 14.09) = 0.42$ or $\frac{14.51 - 14.09}{14.51} \times 100 = 2.89\%$.

The x -value = 3.3 desired to be found is not in the range of values selected for part

(a). ~~whereas~~ Therefore, what is actually being done is extrapolation which is known to be less accurate.

On the other hand, the range of data points selected was such that the x -value of 3.3 is situated within the range. Hence, the method performed is interpolating the y -value at the x -value desired (3.33). This yields a much more accurate answer.

Q1(d) Using the Lagrange polynomial formula and expanding,

$$y(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{n=3} y_i(x) L_i(x) = y_0 L_0 + y_1 L_1 + y_2 L_2 + y_3 L_3$$

$$y(x) = y_0 \frac{(x-x_1)(x-x_2)(x-x_3)}{(x_0-x_1)(x_0-x_2)(x_0-x_3)} + y_1 \frac{(x-x_0)(x-x_2)(x-x_3)}{(x_1-x_0)(x_1-x_2)(x_1-x_3)} \\ + y_2 \frac{(x-x_0)(x-x_1)(x-x_3)}{(x_2-x_0)(x_2-x_1)(x_2-x_3)} + y_3 \frac{(x-x_0)(x-x_1)(x-x_2)}{(x_3-x_0)(x_3-x_1)(x_3-x_2)}$$

$$\cancel{y(3.3)} \quad x_0 = 1.6, \quad x_1 = 2.0, \quad x_2 = 2.5, \quad x_3 = 3.2$$

from part b,

$$x_0 = 2, \quad x_1 = 2.5, \quad x_2 = 3.2, \quad x_3 = 4 \\ y_0 = 8, \quad y_1 = \frac{12}{14}, \quad y_2 = 15, \quad y_3 = 8$$

Sub $\rightarrow y(x)$ and $x = 3.3$,

$$y(3.3) = \frac{28}{75} + \left(-\frac{182}{75} \right) + \left(\frac{65}{4} \right) + \left(\frac{26}{75} \right)$$

$$= 14.5433$$

* continuation on last page

Q1(e) More points mean higher order polynomial. A higher order polynomial ^{interpolation} does not mean it is more accurate. More often than not, a high order polynomial leads to 'wiggles' — it oscillates wildly. It can also result in large errors.

Question 1(b)

$$y(x) = 8 + 12(x-2) - 8.8095(x-2)(x-2.5) + 1.0119(x-2)(x-2.5)(x-3.2)$$

~~$$+ 0.4524(x-2)(x-2.5)(x-3.2)(x-4)$$~~

$$y(3.3) = 14.5433$$

* The table was rearranged and recalculated as a check

x_i	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
3.2	15	-8.75	-7.2917	1.0119	0.4524
4
2
2.5
4.5

The same answer was obtained.

Question 1(d)

Both methods yield the exact same result which is $y(3.3) = 14.5433$.

This is found to be true when both methods are done to the same ~~polyno~~ polynomial order. In this case, both were done to the third polynomial