

Numerical Differentiation

- The method of obtaining the derivative of a function using a numerical technique is known as Numerical differentiation.
- There are essentially two situations where numerical differentiation is required, they are:
 - (i) The function values are known but the function is unknown — such ~~heat~~ functions are called tabulated functions.
 - (ii) The function to be differentiated is complicated and therefore, it is difficult to differentiate (various numerical differentiation methods can be applied to both tabulated & continuous functions).

Forward Difference Quotient:

Consider a small increment $\Delta x = h$ in x . According to Taylor's theorem, we have,

$$f(x+h) = f(x) + hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2} f''(\theta)$$

for $x \leq \theta \leq x+h$. By rearranging the terms, we get

$$f'(x) = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} - \frac{h^2}{2} f''(\theta)$$

Thus, if $-h$ is chosen to be sufficiently small, $f'(x)$ can be approximated by

$$\boxed{f'(x) = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}} \quad \rightarrow (1)$$

with a truncation error of

$$\boxed{E_t(h) = -\frac{h}{2} f''(\theta)} \quad \rightarrow (2)$$

Equation (1) is called the first order forward difference quotient. This is also known as two-point formula. The truncation error is in the order of h and can be decreased by decreasing h .

Similarly, we can show that the first-order backward difference quotient is

$$f'(x) = \frac{f(x) - f(x-h)}{h} \rightarrow (3)$$

- Q Estimate appx. derivative of $f(x) = x^2$ at $x=1$, for $h = 0.2, 0.1, 0.05$, and 0.01 using the first-order forward difference formula.

Ans:

$$f'(x) = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

$$\therefore f'(1) = \frac{f(1+h) - f(1)}{h}$$

~~for~~ for $h = 0.2$:

$$f'(1) = \frac{f(1.2) - f(1)}{0.2} = 2.2$$

~~for~~ for $h = 0.1$

$$f'(1) = \frac{f(1.1) - f(1)}{0.1} = 2.1$$

~~for~~ for $h = 0.05$

$$f'(1) = \frac{f(1.05) - f(1)}{0.05} = 2.05$$

~~for~~ for $h = 0.01$

$$f'(1) = \frac{f(1.01) - f(1)}{0.01} = 2.01$$

now, by calculus

$$\frac{d x^2}{d x} \Big|_{x=1} = 2x \Big|_{x=1} = 2$$

Note: The derivative approximation approaches the exact values as h decreases. The truncation error increases proportionally with increase ~~of~~ of h .

- Q. Compute the approx. derivatives of $f(x) = \sin x$ at $x=0.45$ radians at increasing values of h from 0.01 to 0.04 with a step size of 0.05.

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

Using two point formula,

$$f'(x) = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

given, $x=0.45$ radians

$$\therefore f(x) = \sin(0.45) = 0.4350 \text{ (rounded to 4 digits)}$$

<u>h</u>	<u>$f(x+h)$</u>	<u>$f'(x)$</u>	<u>Errors</u>
0.010	0.4439	0.8900	0.0104
0.015	0.4484	0.8933	0.0071
0.020	0.4529	0.8950	0.0059
0.025	0.4573	0.8935	0.0069
0.030	0.4618	0.8933	0.0021
0.035	0.4662	0.8914	0.0090
0.040	0.4706	0.8900	0.0104

o Central Difference Quotient:

$$f(x+h) = f(x) + hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2!} f''(x) + \frac{h^3}{3!} f'''(\theta_1) \rightarrow (1)$$

Similarly,

$$f(x-h) = f(x) - hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2!} f''(x) - \frac{h^3}{3!} f'''(\theta_2) \rightarrow (2)$$

Subtracting (2) from (1),

$$f(x+h) - f(x-h) = 2hf'(x) + \frac{h^3}{3!} [f'''(\theta_1) + f'''(\theta_2)] \rightarrow (3)$$

Thus, we have

$$f'(x) = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x-h)}{2h} \rightarrow (4)$$

with the truncation error of,

$$E_b(h) = -\frac{h^2}{12} [f'''(\theta_1) + f'''(\theta_2)] = -\frac{h^2}{6} f'''(\theta)$$

which is of order h^2 . (4) is called the second-order central difference quotient.

Note, this is the avg. of forward difference quotient & backward difference quotient. This is also known as three point formula.

Note! The approximation in three point formula.

- Q. Estimate approximation derivative of $f(x)=x^2$ at $x=1$, $h=0.2, 0.1, 0.05$ using central difference quotient.

Ans: At $x=1$,

$$f'(1) = \frac{f(1+h) - f(1-h)}{2h}$$

for $h=0.2$,

$$f'(1) = \frac{f(1.2) - f(0.8)}{2 \times 0.2} = 2$$

for $h=0.1$

$$f'(1) = \frac{f(1.1) - f(0.9)}{2 \times 0.1} = 2$$

for $h=0.05$

$$f'(1) = \frac{f(1.05) - f(0.95)}{2 \times 0.05} = 2$$

Analytical value,

$$\left. \frac{dx^2}{dx} \right|_{x=1} = 2$$

Error at each case (each h) is 0.

Note 1: In each case, the derivative is exact for all values of h [for the last problem]. This is because the quadratic approximation for a quadratic function has been used.

Note 2: The 5 point central difference formula is given by

$$f'(x) = \frac{-f(x+2h) + 8f(x+h) - 8f(x-h) + f(x-2h)}{12h} \rightarrow (i)$$

Note 3: (i) is a fourth order approximation and the error is of order h^4 .

Note 3: (i) is a fourth order approximation and the truncation error is of order h^4 . In this case truncation error approaches to 0 much faster compare to the 3 point formula.

Q: Estimate the approximation derivative of $f(x) = 4x^3$ at $x=1$ and $h=0.1$ with 5 point central difference quotient.

$$\text{Ans: } \therefore f'(1) = \frac{-f(1+2h) + 8f(1+h) - 8f(1-h) + f(1-2h)}{12h}$$

for $h=0.1$

$$\therefore f'(1) = \frac{-f(1.2) + 8f(1.1) - 8f(0.9) + f(0.8)}{12 \times 0.1}$$

$$= 12$$

Higher Order Derivative:

We can also obtain approximations to higher order derivatives using Taylor's expansion. To illustrate this, we derive here the formula for $f''(x)$. We know,

$$f(x+h) = f(x) + hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2!} f''(x) + \frac{h^3}{3!} f'''(x) + R,$$

and

$$f(x+h) = f(x) + hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2!} f''(x) + \frac{h^3}{3!} f'''(x) + R_2$$

Adding these two expansions gives

$$f(x+h) + f(x-h) = 2f(x) + h^2 f''(x) + R_1 + R_2$$

Therefore,

$$f''(x) = \frac{f(x+h) - 2f(x) + f(x-h)}{h^2} - \frac{R_1 + R_2}{h^2}$$

Thus, the approximation to second derivative is

$$f''(x) = \left[\frac{f(x+h) - 2f(x) + f(x-h)}{h^2} \right]$$

The truncation error is,

$$E_E(h) = -\frac{R_1 + R_2}{h^2}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{h^2} \frac{h^4}{4!} (f^{(4)}(\theta_1) + f^{(4)}(\theta_2))$$

$$= -\frac{h^2}{12} f^{(4)}(\theta)$$

∴ The error is of order h^2 .

Similarly, we can obtain other higher-order derivatives with the error of order h^3 and h^4 .

Q. Use 3pt. formula to estimate 2nd order derivative of $x^2 + 2x + 1$ at $x=0.5$ with $h=0.01$

Ans: $f'(0.5) = \frac{f(0.5+h) - 2f(0.5) + f(0.5-h)}{h^2}$

At $h=0.01$

$$f''(0.5) = \frac{f(0.51) - 2f(0.5) + f(0.49)}{h^2}$$

$$= 2$$

Q. $f(x) = \cos x$, find $f''(x)$ at $x = 0.75$ radian
from $h = 0.01$ to 0.05 with step size 0.005 .

Ans:- $f(x) = \cos x$

using ~~1000~~ b

$$f''(x) = \frac{f(x+h) - 2f(x) + f(x-h)}{h^2}$$

Given, $x = 0.75$, $\therefore f(x) = \cos(0.75) = 0.7317$

$$\therefore f''(x) = \frac{f(0.75+h) - 2f(0.75) + f(0.75-h)}{h^2}$$

<u>h</u>	<u>$f(x+h)$</u>	<u>$f(x-h)$</u>	<u>$f''(x)$</u>
0.010	0.7248	0.7384	-2
0.015	0.7214	0.7418	-0.25
0.020	0.7179	0.7452	-0.8
0.025	0.7144	0.7485	-0.7778
0.030	0.7109	0.7518	-0.8163
0.035	0.7074	0.7550	-0.25
0.040	0.7038	0.7584	-0.7407
0.045	0.7003	0.7616	-0.76
0.050	0.6967	0.7648	

Q. Apply 3 point difference formula of central quotient difference
 $h = 0.01$ of the following and find errors:
finding $f'(x)$ at $x = 0.1$ with

i) $\cosh x$

iv) $x^2 + 2x + 1$

vii) $e^x \sin x$

v) $\frac{1}{1+x^2}$

vi) $\ln(1+x)$

$$f'(x) \approx \frac{f(x+h) - f(x-h)}{2h}$$

given, $x=1$ & $h=0.1$

$$\therefore f'(x) = \frac{f(1+0.1) - f(1-0.1)}{2 \times 0.1} = \frac{f(1.1) - f(0.9)}{0.2}$$

(i) $f'(x) = \text{approx} \quad 1.1752$

by calculus:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \cosh x \Big|_{x=1} = 0.1752$$

$$\therefore \text{error} = |0.1752 - 1.1752| = 0.998$$

(ii) $f'(x) = 3.7533$

by calculus:

$$\frac{d}{dx} e^x \sin x \Big|_{x=1} = 3.7560$$

$$\therefore \text{error} = |3.7560 - 3.7533| = 0.0027$$

(iii) $f'(x) = 0.5004$

by calculus:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln(1+x) \Big|_{x=0} = 0.5$$

$$\therefore \text{error} = |0.5 - 0.5004| = 0.0004$$

(iv) $f'(x) = 4$

by calculus,

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x^2 + 2x + 1) \Big|_{x=1} = 4$$

$$\therefore \text{error} = |4-4| = 0$$

$$\text{Q) } f'(x) = \cancel{-0.5} = -0.5 - 0.49998$$

by calculus,

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{1+x^2} \right) \Big|_{x=1} = -0.5$$

$$\therefore \text{error: } |-0.5 + 0.49998| = 0.00002$$

o Differentiating Tabulated Functions:

Suppose that we are given a set of data points (x_i, f_i) $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ which correspond to the values of an unknown function $f(x)$ and we wish to estimate the derivatives at these points. Assume that the points are equally spaced with a step size of h .

If function values are available in tabulated form, we may approximate this function by an interpolation polynomial $p(x)$ and the derivative $p'(x)$.

We will use here Newton's interpolation polynomial.

Let, we consider the linear equation,

$$p_1(x) = a_0 + a_1(x - x_0) + R_1$$

where R_1 is the remainder term used for estimation.

Upon differentiation of this formula, we obtain,

$$p'_1(x) = a_1 + \frac{dR_1}{dx}$$

Then the approximate derivative of the function $f(x)$ is given by,

$$f'(x) = p'_1(x) = a_1$$

We know that,

$$a_1 = \frac{f[x_0, x_1]}{x_1 - x_0}$$
$$= \frac{f(x_1) - f(x_0)}{x_1 - x_0}$$

On substituting,

$$h = x_1 - x_0$$

$$x_1 = x + h$$

$$x_0 = x$$

we get

$$\boxed{\frac{f'(x) = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}}{h}} \rightarrow (1)$$

This is the two-point forward difference formula.

Let us consider the quadratic approx. Here, we need to use three points. Thus,

$$p_2(x) = a_0 + a_1(x - x_0) + a_2(x - x_0)(x - x_1) + R_2$$

Then, $p_2'(x) = a_1 + a_2[(x - x_0) + (x - x_1)] + \frac{dR_2}{dx}$

Thus we obtain

$$f'(x) = a_1 + a_2[(x - x_0) + (x - x_1)] \rightarrow (2)$$

let, $x_0 = x$, $x_1 = x + h$, $x_2 = x + 2h$, thus we have to remove a_0 and a_2 .

$$a_1 = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

$$a_2 = \frac{f[x_0, x_1, x_2]}{x_2 - x_0} = \frac{f[x_1, x_2] - f[x_0, x_1]}{x_2 - x_0}$$

$$= \frac{f(x_2) - f(x_1)}{x_1 - x_0} - \frac{f(x_1) - f(x_0)}{x_1 - x_0}$$

$$= \frac{f(x+2h) - 2f(x+h) + f(x)}{2h^2}$$

Substituting for a_1 & a_2 in (2) we get,

$$f'(x) = \frac{-3f(x) + 4f(x+h) - f(x+2h)}{2h} \rightarrow (3)$$

This is a three-point forward difference formula.

We can obtain a three-point backward difference formula by replacing h by $-h$ in (3). The 3-point backward difference formula is given by

$$f'(x) = \frac{3f(x) - 4f(x-h) + f(x-2h)}{2h} \rightarrow (4)$$

Similarly, we can obtain the three-point difference formula by letting $x_0 = x$, $x_1 = x+h$, $x_2 = x+2h$ in (2). Thus,

$$a_1 = \frac{f(x) - f(x-h)}{h}$$

$$a_2 = \frac{f(x+h) - 2f(x) + f(x-h)}{2h^2}$$

Substituting a_1 , a_2 in (2) we get,

$$f'(x) = \frac{f(x) + f(x+h) - f(x-2h)}{2h} \rightarrow (5)$$

This is the three point central difference formula.

- Q. The table below gives the values of distance travelled by a car at various time intervals during the initial running.

Time t (s)	5	6	7	8	9
Distance $s(t)$	10.0	14.5	19.5	25.5	32.0

Estimate velocity at time $t=5$, $t=7$ and $t=9$

Ans: We know, velocity is the derivative of displacement

At, $t=5$, we can use forward difference formula;

$$v(t) = \frac{-3s(t) + 4s(t+h) - s(t+2h)}{2h}$$

then,

$$v(5) = \frac{-3(10) + 4(14.5) - 19.5}{2(1)} = 4.25 \text{ km/s}$$

At $t=7$, we use three point central difference formula.

Therefore,

$$v(7) = \frac{s(8) - s(6)}{2h} = \frac{25.5 - 14.5}{2} = 5.5 \text{ km/s}$$

At $t=9$, we use the backward difference formula.

$$v(9) = \frac{3s(8) - 4s(7) + s(6)}{2h}$$

$$= \frac{3(32) - 4(25.5) + 19.5}{2} = 6.75 \text{ km/s}$$

o Higher order derivative in Tabulated form:

Second and higher order derivative can be obtained from the Newton's divided difference formula.

from the Newton's divided difference formula:

The second order differentiation:

$$(i) \text{ Forward: } f''(x) = \frac{2f(x) - 5f(x+h) + 4f(x+2h) - 4f(x+3h)}{h^2}$$

$$(ii) \text{ Backward: } f''(x) = \frac{2f(x) - 5f(x-h) + 4f(x-2h) - 4f(x-3h)}{h^2}$$

$$(iii) \text{ Central: } f''(x) = \frac{f(x+2h) - 2f(x) + f(x-2h)}{h^2}$$

Q. Use the table of the data given:

Time	5	6	7	8	9
Distance	10.0	14.5	19.5	25.5	32.0

To estimate acceleration at $t=7$.

$$a''(t) = \frac{f(t+h) - 2f(t) + f(t-h)}{h^2}$$

$$= \frac{f(8) - 2f(7) + f(6)}{1^2}$$

$$= \frac{25.5 - 2 \times 19.5 + 14.5}{1^2}$$

$$= 1 \text{ km/s}^2$$

Richardson Extrapolation:

Let us assume

$$x_K = x^* + M h^n \quad \rightarrow ①$$

x_K is the k^{th} estimate of soln x^* and $M h^n$ is the error term.

Let us replace, h by $9h$ & obtain another estimate for x^*

$$x_{(K+1)} = x^* + M 9^n h^n \quad \rightarrow ②$$

Multiplying ① by 9^n & solving for x^* ,

$$x^* = x_R = \frac{x_{K+1} - 9^n x_K}{1 - 9^n} \quad \rightarrow ③$$

This is known as Richardson extrapolation estimate.

Using this we can obtain a higher-order formula from a lower-order formula, thus improving the accuracy of the estimates. This process is called extrapolation.

$$\text{Now let, } f'(x) = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x-h)}{2h} - \frac{h^2}{6} f'''(0)$$

$$= D(h) - \frac{h^2}{6} f'''(0) \quad \rightarrow ④$$

where $D(u)$ is the estimate obtained using h as step size.
 Note that, $f'(x)$ is the exact soln. which is usually approx. by $D(h)$. If we remove the error term then we can obtain a better approximation.

Now, let us obtain better approximation for $f'(x)$ by replacing h by πh . Thus,

$$f'(x) = \frac{f(x+\pi h) - f(x-\pi h)}{2\pi h} - \frac{h^2 \pi^2}{6} f''(0) \rightarrow (4)$$

$$= D(\pi h) - \frac{h^2 \pi^2}{6} f''(0) \rightarrow (5)$$

We can eliminate the error term by multiplying (4) by π^2 & subtracting it with (5),

$$f'(x) = \frac{D(\pi h) - \pi^2 D(u)}{1 - \pi^2} \rightarrow (6)$$

This would give a better estimate of $f'(x)$ as we have eliminated the error term h^2 ; (6) becomes

$$f'(x) = \frac{f(x-2h) - 8f(x-h) + 8f(x+h) - f(x+2h)}{12h} \rightarrow (7)$$

Note that this is a five-point central difference formula which contains error only in the order in h^4 . We can repeat this process further to eliminate the error term containing h^6 and so on.

One of the most common choices of π is 0.5. Letting $\pi = 1/2$, (6) becomes

$$f'(x) = \frac{f(x-h) - 8(x-1/2h) + 8f(x+1/2h) - f(x+h)}{6h} \rightarrow (8)$$

Note that the use of this formula depends on the availability of function at $x \pm h/2$.

Q. Estimate first derivative at $x = 0.5$ from the given data using Richardson Extrapolation.

x	-0.5	-0.25	0	0.25	0.5	0.75	1.0
$f(x) = e^x$	0.6065	0.7788	1.0000	1.2840	1.6487	2.1170	2.7183

x	1.25	1.5
$f(x)$	3.4903	4.4817

Aim: Let, we estimate $f'(x)$ at $x=0.5$ & assume $h=0.5$ & $\eta_1=1/2$.

Then using three-point central formula, we have,

$$D(h) = D(0.5) = \frac{f(1.0) - f(0)}{2 \times 0.5} = 1.7183$$

$$D(\eta_1 h) = D(0.25) = \frac{f(0.75) - f(0.25)}{0.5} = 1.666$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{D(\eta_1 h) - \eta_1^2 D(h)}{1 - \eta_1^2}$$

$$\therefore f'(0.5) = \frac{1.666 - (0.25 \times 1.7183)}{0.75}$$

$$= 1.6486$$