

- 0.1. Following the same line of argument that led to Eq. (5.28), show that the error on the integral evaluated using Simpson's rule is given, to leading order n , by Eq. (5.29).

Let us define two step sizes, $h_1 = (b - a)/N$ and $h_2 = (b - a)/2N = h_1/2$. Integrating using Simpson's rule gives us an approximation error of order h^4 , so we may write

$$I = I_1 + ch_1^4$$

where I is the true value of the integral, I_1 is the numerical value obtained using Simpson's rule, and ch_1^4 is the error (c is an unknown constant).

We may do the same with the smaller step size, writing $I = I_2 + ch_2^4$. Equating these two gives us

$$I_1 + ch_1^4 = I_2 + ch_2^4.$$

Using $h_1 = 2h_2$, we may rearrange this to find

$$I_2 - I_1 = 15ch_2^4.$$

Identifying the error on our second evaluation as $\epsilon_2 = ch_2^4$, we see

$$\epsilon_2 = \frac{1}{15}(I_2 - I_1).$$