

# Math 128A: Worksheet #4

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**Problem 1.** 1. Use the Hermite theorem or divided differences to construct an approximating polynomial for the following data:

|       | $x$ | $f(x)$ | $f'(x)$ |
|-------|-----|--------|---------|
| $x_0$ | 0   | 1      | 0       |
| $x_1$ | 0.5 | 0.8    | -0.64   |

2. This data was taken from the function  $f(x) = (1+x^2)^{-1}$ . Use the interpolating polynomials to approximate  $f(0.25)$ . Give the actual error and the error bound on this approximation.

| $z_i$             | $f(z_i)$ | $\delta[z_{i-1}, z_i]$ | $\delta[z_{i-2}, z_{i-1}, z_i]$    | $\delta[z_0, z_1, z_2, z_3]$   |
|-------------------|----------|------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| $z_0 = x_0 = 0$   | 1        | 0                      | $\frac{0.8-1}{0.5} = -0.4$         | $\frac{-0.4-0}{0.5} = -0.8$    |
| $z_1 = x_1 = 0.5$ | 0.8      | -0.64                  | $\frac{-0.64-(-0.4)}{0.5} = -0.48$ | $\frac{-0.48+0.8}{0.5} = 0.64$ |
| $z_2 = x_2 = 0.5$ | 0.8      |                        |                                    |                                |

$$\text{Then, } H_3(x) = 1 + 0(x-0) - 0.8(x-0)^2 + 0.64(x-0)^2(x-0.5) = 1 - 0.8x^2 + 0.64x^2(x-0.5).$$

$$2. \quad f(0.25) \approx H_3(0.25) = 1 - 0.8(0.25)^2 + 0.64(0.25)^2(0.25-0.5) = 0.94$$

$$\text{Error: } |f(0.25) - H_3(0.25)| = \left| \frac{1}{1+0.25^2} - 0.94 \right| = |0.94117647 - 0.94| = 0.00117647.$$

$$\text{Error bound: } f(x) = H_{2n+1}(x) + \frac{f^{(2n+2)}(\xi)}{(2n+2)!} (x-x_0)^2 \dots (x-x_n)^2, \quad \xi \in [a, b] = [0, 0.5]$$

$$|f(0.25) - H_3(x)| = \frac{|f^{(4)}(\xi)|}{4!} (0.25-0)^2 (0.25-0.5)^2$$

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

$$f'(x) = \frac{-1}{(1+x^2)^2} \cdot 2x$$

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

$$f''(x) = \frac{8x^2}{(1+x^2)^3} - \frac{2}{(1+x^2)^2}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$f^{(4)}(x) = \frac{-288x^2}{(1+x^2)^4} + \frac{24}{(1+x^2)^3}$$

$$+ \frac{384x^4}{(1+x^2)^5}$$

used Mathematica.

use EVT  
to get better  
bound.

$$\leq \left| \frac{288\xi^2}{(1+\xi^2)^4} \right| + \left| \frac{24}{(1+\xi^2)^3} \right| + \left| \frac{384\xi^4}{(1+\xi^2)^5} \right|$$

$$\leq \frac{288(0.5)^2}{1} + \frac{24}{1} + \frac{384(0.5)^4}{1} = 120$$

$$|f(0.25) - H_3(x)| \leq \frac{120}{4!} (0.25)^2 (0.25-0.5)^2 = 0.01953$$

$\uparrow$   
20x larger than actual error  
Too crude

**Problem 2.** 1. Construct the natural cubic spline for the following data (by hand and using Matlab):

| x | f(x) |
|---|------|
| 0 | 3    |
| 1 | 0    |
| 2 | 3    |

2. This data was taken from the function  $f(x) = 3(x - 1)^2$ . Use the cubic splines to approximate  $f(0.5)$  and  $f'(0.5)$ , and calculate the actual error.
3. This data also matches the function  $g(x) = 3x^4 - 5x^3 - 3x^2 + 2x + 3$ . Use the cubic splines to approximate  $g(0.5)$  and  $g'(0.5)$ , and calculate the actual error.

Here, I found the cubic splines using Matlab. If you have questions on how to construct them by hand, please come to office hours.

$$\begin{aligned}
 1. \quad & \boxed{S_0(x) = 3 - 4.5x + 1.5x^3, \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1} \\
 & S_1(x) = 4.5(x-1)^2 - 1.5(x-1)^3, \quad 1 \leq x \leq 2. \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} S'_0(x) = -4.5 + 4.5x^2, \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ S'_1(x) = 9(x-1) - 4.5(x-1)^2, \quad 1 \leq x \leq 2 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \\
 2. \quad & S(0.5) \approx S_0(0.5) = \underline{0.9375}, \quad |f(0.5) - S_0(0.5)| = |0.75 - 0.9375| = \underline{0.1875} \\
 & S'(0.5) \approx S'_0(0.5) = \underline{-3.375}, \quad |f'(0.5) - S'_0(0.5)| = |-3 - (-3.375)| = \underline{0.375} \\
 3. \quad & g(0.5) \approx S_0(0.5) = \underline{0.9375}, \quad |g(0.5) - S_0(0.5)| = |2.8125 - 0.9375| = \underline{1.875} \\
 & g'(0.5) \approx S'_0(0.5) = \underline{-3.375}, \quad |g'(0.5) - S'_0(0.5)| = |-3.25 - (-3.375)| = \underline{0.125}
 \end{aligned}$$

The cubic spline is much worse at approximating  $g$  than  $f$ . This shows how cubic splines can fail at predicting the function, especially if the points are spaced far away.

**Problem 3** (4.1, #28). Derive a method for approximating  $f'''(x_0)$  whose error term is of order  $h^2$  by expanding the function  $f$  in a fourth Taylor polynomial about  $x_0$  and evaluating at  $x_0 \pm h$  and  $x_0 \pm 2h$ .

Fourth Taylor Polynomial about  $x_0$ :

$$f(x) = \sum_{j=0}^4 \frac{f^{(j)}(x_0)}{j!} (x-x_0)^j + O((x-x_0)^5)$$

$$\frac{f^{(5)}(x_0)}{5!} (x-x_0)^5$$

$$f(x) = f(x_0) + f'(x_0)(x-x_0) + \frac{f''(x_0)}{2!}(x-x_0)^2 + \frac{f'''(x_0)}{3!}(x-x_0)^3 + \frac{f^{(4)}(x_0)}{4!}(x-x_0)^4 + O((x-x_0)^5)$$

$$f(x_0+h) = f(x_0) + f'(x_0)h + \frac{f''(x_0)}{2!}h^2 + \frac{f'''(x_0)}{3!}h^3 + \frac{f^{(4)}(x_0)}{4!}h^4 + O(h^5)$$

$$f(x_0-h) = f(x_0) + f'(x_0)(-h) + \frac{f''(x_0)}{2!}h^2 + \frac{f'''(x_0)}{3!}(-h)^3 + \frac{f^{(4)}(x_0)}{4!}h^4 + O(h^5)$$

$$= f(x_0) - f'(x_0)h + \frac{f''(x_0)}{2!}h^2 - \frac{f'''(x_0)}{3!}h^3 + \frac{f^{(4)}(x_0)}{4!}h^4 + O(h^5)$$

Subtract:  $f(x_0+h) - f(x_0-h) = 2f'(x_0)h + \frac{2f'''(x_0)}{3!}h^3 + O(h^5)$

$$f(x_0+2h) = f(x_0) + f'(x_0)(2h) + \frac{f''(x_0)}{2!}(4h^2) + \frac{f'''(x_0)}{3!}(8h^3) + \frac{f^{(4)}(x_0)}{4!}(16h^4) + O(h^5)$$

$$f(x_0-2h) = f(x_0) - f'(x_0)(2h) + \frac{f''(x_0)}{2!}(4h^2) - \frac{f'''(x_0)}{3!}(8h^3) + \frac{f^{(4)}(x_0)}{4!}(16h^4) + O(h^5)$$

Subtract:  $f(x_0+2h) - f(x_0-2h) = 4f'(x_0)h + \frac{16f'''(x_0)}{3!}h^3 + O(h^5)$

$$(f(x_0+2h) - f(x_0-2h)) - 2(f(x_0+h) - f(x_0-h)) = \left(\frac{16}{3!} - \frac{4}{3!}\right)f'''(x_0)h^3 + O(h^5)$$

$$= 2f'''(x_0)h^3 + O(h^5)$$

$$f'''(x_0) = \frac{1}{2h^3} \left( f(x_0+2h) - 2f(x_0+h) + 2f(x_0-h) - f(x_0-2h) \right) + O(h^2)$$

**Problem 4** (4.2, #1a). Apply Richardson's Extrapolation on the centered-difference formula:

$$f'(1.0) = \frac{1}{1.0} = 1 \quad f'(x_0) = \frac{1}{2h} [f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0 - h)] - \frac{h^2}{6} f'''(x_0) - \frac{h^4}{120} f^{(5)}(x_0) - \dots$$

to determine  $N_3(h)$ , an approximation to  $f'(x_0)$ , for the following function and stepsize:  
 $f(x) = \ln(x), \quad x_0 = 1.0, \quad h = 0.4.$

$$N_1(h) = \frac{1}{2h} [f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0 - h)] \Rightarrow f'(x_0) = N_1(h) - \frac{f'''(x_0)}{6} h^2 - \frac{f^{(5)}(x_0)}{120} h^4 - \dots$$

$$N_j(h) = N_{j-1}\left(\frac{h}{2}\right) + \frac{N_{j-1}\left(\frac{h}{2}\right) - N_{j-1}(h)}{\frac{4^{j-1}}{4-1} - 1}$$

$$N_3(h) = N_2\left(\frac{h}{2}\right) + \frac{N_2\left(\frac{h}{2}\right) - N_2(h)}{\frac{4^2}{4-1} - 1}, \quad N_2(h) = N_1\left(\frac{h}{2}\right) + \frac{N_1\left(\frac{h}{2}\right) - N_1(h)}{\frac{4}{4-1}}$$

$$N_1(h) = N_1(0.4) = \frac{1}{2(0.4)} [\ln(1.4) - \ln(0.6)] \\ = \frac{1}{0.8} [\ln(1.4) - \ln(0.6)] \approx 1.059122325484$$

$$N_1\left(\frac{h}{2}\right) = N_1(0.2) = \frac{1}{2(0.2)} [\ln(1.2) - \ln(0.8)] \approx 1.01366277027$$

$$N_1\left(\frac{h}{4}\right) = N_1(0.1) = \frac{1}{2(0.1)} [\ln(1.1) - \ln(0.9)] \approx 1.0033584773$$

$$N_2(h) = N_1\left(\frac{h}{2}\right) + \frac{N_1\left(\frac{h}{2}\right) - N_1(h)}{3} = 1.01366277027 + \frac{1.01366277027 - 1.059122325484}{3} \\ = 0.998509585$$

$$N_2\left(\frac{h}{2}\right) = N_1\left(\frac{h}{4}\right) + \frac{N_1\left(\frac{h}{4}\right) - N_1\left(\frac{h}{2}\right)}{3} = 0.99991704631$$

$$N_3(h) = N_2\left(\frac{h}{2}\right) + \frac{N_2\left(\frac{h}{2}\right) - N_2(h)}{15} = \boxed{1.0000109}$$

$$\text{so, } f'(1) \approx N_3(h) = 1.0000109.$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \hline \Theta(h^2) & \Theta(h^4) & \Theta(h^6) \\ \hline N_1(h) & & \\ N_1\left(\frac{h}{2}\right) & > N_2(h) & \\ N_1\left(\frac{h}{4}\right) & > N_2\left(\frac{h}{2}\right) & > N_3(h) \end{array}$$