

CS 450: Numerical Analysis¹

Interpolation

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

¹ *These slides have been drafted by Edgar Solomonik as lecture templates and supplementary material for the book “Scientific Computing: An Introductory Survey” by Michael T. Heath ([slides](#)).*

Interpolation

- ▶ Given $(t_1, y_1), \dots, (t_m, y_m)$ with *nodes* $t_1 < \dots < t_m$ an *interpolant* f satisfies:
- ▶ Interpolant is usually constructed as linear combinations of *basis functions* $\{\phi_j\}_{j=1}^n = \phi_1, \dots, \phi_n$ so $f(t) = \sum_j x_j \phi_j(t)$.

Polynomial Interpolation

- ▶ The choice of *monomials* as basis functions, $\phi_j(t) = t^{j-1}$ yields a degree $n - 1$ polynomial interpolant:
- ▶ Polynomial interpolants are easy to evaluate and do calculus on:

Conditioning of Interpolation

- ▶ Conditioning of interpolation matrix A depends on basis functions and coordinates t_1, \dots, t_m :
- ▶ The Vandermonde matrix tends to be ill-conditioned:

Lagrange Basis

- ▶ n -points fully define the unique $(n - 1)$ -degree polynomial interpolant in the *Lagrange basis*:
- ▶ Lagrange polynomials yield an ideal Vandermonde system, but the basis functions are hard to evaluate and do calculus on:

Newton Basis

- ▶ The *Newton basis* functions $\phi_j(t) = \prod_{k=1}^{j-1} (t - t_k)$ with $\phi_1(t) = 1$ seek the best of monomial and Lagrange bases:
- ▶ The Newton basis yields a triangular Vandermonde system:

Orthogonal Polynomials

- ▶ Recall that good conditioning for interpolation is achieved by constructing a well-conditioned Vandermonde matrix, which is the case when the columns (corresponding to each basis function) are orthonormal. To construct robust basis sets, we introduce a notion of *orthonormal functions*:

Legendre Polynomials

- The Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization procedure can be used to obtain an orthonormal basis with the same span as any given arbitrary basis:

$$\langle f, g \rangle_w = \int_{-1}^1 f(t)g(t)w(t)dt$$

$$p = \{1, t, t^2, \dots\}$$

$$\hat{e}_i = p_i - \sum_{j=0}^{i-1} \frac{\langle p_i, e_j \rangle_w}{\langle e_j, e_j \rangle_w} e_j$$

can choose

$$e_i = \hat{e}_i$$

$$e_i = \hat{e}_i / \|\hat{e}_i\| \quad \text{standard}$$

$$e_i = \hat{e}_i / \hat{e}_i(1) \quad \checkmark$$

- The *Legendre polynomials* are obtained by Gram-Schmidt on the monomial

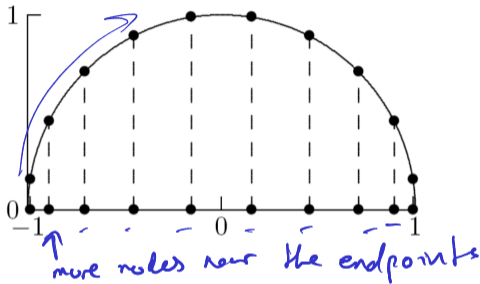
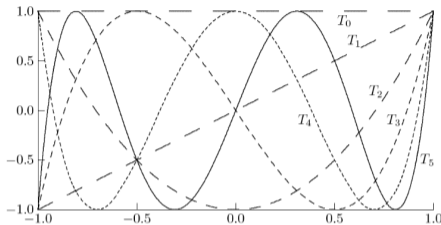
basis, with $w(t) = \begin{cases} 1 : -1 \leq t \leq 1 \\ 0 : \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ and normalized so $\hat{\phi}_i(1) = 1$.

Chebyshev Basis

Demo: Chebyshev interpolation
Activity: Chebyshev Interpolation

- ▶ *Chebyshev polynomials* $\phi_j(t) = \cos((j-1) \arccos(t))$ and *Chebyshev nodes* $t_i = \cos\left(\frac{2i-1}{2n}\pi\right)$ provide a way to pick *nodes* t_1, \dots, t_n along with a basis, to yield perfect conditioning:

Chebyshev Nodes Intuition



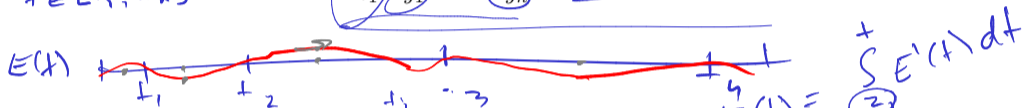
- ▶ Note *equi-oscillation* property, successive extrema of $T_k = \phi_k$ have the same magnitude but opposite sign.
- ▶ Set of k Chebyshev nodes are given by zeros of T_k and are abscissas of points uniformly spaced on the unit circle.

Error in Interpolation

We show by induction that given degree n polynomial interpolant \tilde{f} of f the error $E(t) = f(t) - \tilde{f}(t)$ has n zeros t_1, \dots, t_n and there exist y_1, \dots, y_n so

$$E(t) = \int_{t_1}^t \int_{y_1}^{w_0} \dots \int_{y_n}^{w_{n-1}} f^{(n+1)}(w_n) dw_n \dots dw_0 \quad (1)$$

Handwritten notes: $t \in [t_1, t_n]$ (true), \tilde{f} (interpolant)



$$0 = E(t_i) - E(t_{i-1}) = \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} E'(t) dt$$

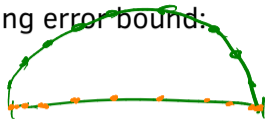
By induction apply thm. to $E'(t)$ with $n-1$ zeros

$$E'(t) = \int_{y_1}^{w_0} \dots \int_{y_n}^{w_{n-1}} \underbrace{E^{(n+1)}(w_n)}_{f^{(n+1)}(w_n)} dw_n \dots dw_1$$

Interpolation Error Bounds

- Consequently, polynomial interpolation satisfies the following error bound:

$$\forall t \in [t_1, t_n] \quad |E(t)| \leq \max_{s \in [t_1, t_n]} \frac{|f^{(n+1)}(s)|}{n!} \prod_{j=1}^n (t - t_j)$$



max error



max error

- Letting $h = t_n - t_1$ (often also achieve same for h as the node-spacing $t_{i+1} - t_i$), we obtain

$$|E(t)| = O(h^n)$$

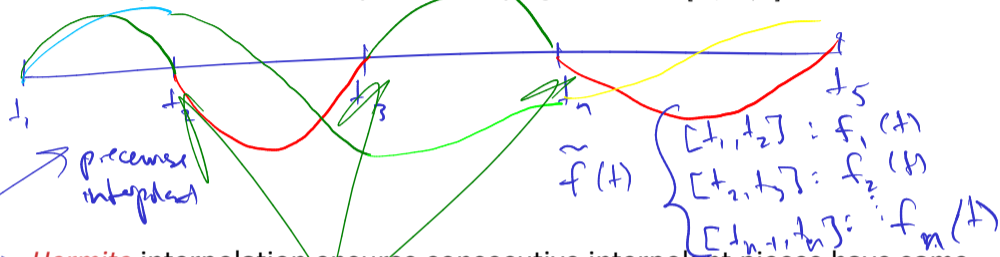
$$C = |f^{(n+1)}(s)| / n!$$

error is much less
with smaller interpolation
domain

piecewise interpolation

Piecewise Polynomial Interpolation

- ▶ The k th piece of the interpolant is a polynomial in $[t_i, t_{i+1}]$



- ▶ Hermite interpolation ensures consecutive interpolant pieces have same derivative at each **knot** t_i :

$$f_1(t_2) = f_2(t_2) \leftarrow n-1 \text{ conditions/equations}$$

$$f'_1(t_2) = f'_2(t_2) \leftarrow n-1 \text{ conditions/equations}$$

$$n + (n-1) + (n-1) \text{ equations} \\ \text{with } n(n-1) \text{ unknowns}$$

cubic piecewise interpolant (each piece is a cubic polynomial)
 $4(n-1)$ unknowns

Spline Interpolation

- ▶ A **spline** is a $(k - 1)$ -time differentiable piecewise polynomial of degree k :

at each knot k equations, so overall

$k(n-1)$ equations for continuity/differentiability

given n points, $n + k(n-1)$ equations, $(k+1)n$ unknowns
nodes k equations to choose, $k=3$ (cubic), 2 equations left,

- ▶ The resulting interpolant coefficients are again determined by an appropriate **generalized Vandermonde system**: $f''(t_1) = f''(t_n) = 0$

$n=2$
cubic
natural
spline



given $f(x_1) = y_1, x_1 \in [t_1, t_2]$ $f(x_2) = y_2, x_2 \in [t_2, t_3]$, $f(t_1) = y_1, f(t_2) = y_2, f(t_3) = y_3$

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & t_1 & t_1^2 & t_1^3 & 1 & t_2 & t_2^2 & t_2^3 \\ 1 & t_2 & t_2^2 & t_2^3 & 1 & t_2 & t_2^2 & t_2^3 \\ 1 & 2t_2 & 3t_2^2 & 4t_2^3 & 1 & t_2 & t_2^2 & t_2^3 \\ 2 & 6t_2 & 6 & 4t_2 & 1 & t_2 & t_2^2 & t_2^3 \\ \hline & & & & 1 & t_2 & t_2^2 & t_2^3 \\ & & & & 2 & 6t_2 & 6 & 4t_2 \\ & & & & 1 & t_2 & t_2^2 & t_2^3 \\ & & & & 2 & 6t_2 & 6 & 4t_2 \end{array} \right] \begin{array}{l} -1 \\ -2t_2 \\ -3t_2^2 \\ -2 \\ -6t_2 \end{array}$$

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} t \in [t_1, t_2] : \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 t + \alpha_3 t^2 + \alpha_4 t^3 \\ t \in [t_2, t_3] : \beta_1 + \beta_2 t + \beta_3 t^2 + \beta_4 t^3 \end{cases}$$

interpolate $f(t) = y_1 \Rightarrow f_1(t_1) = y_1, f(t_2) = y_2 \Rightarrow f_1(t_2) = f_2(t_2) = y_2$

$$\begin{array}{c} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \\ \alpha_3 \\ \alpha_4 \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{coeff} \\ \text{1st piece} \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{c} \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \\ \beta_3 \\ \beta_4 \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{coeff} \\ \text{2nd piece} \end{array} \right.$$

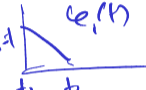
$$\begin{array}{c} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ y_2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ y_2 \end{array}$$

$$f_2(t_2) = y_3$$

B-Splines

B-splines provide an effective way of constructing splines from a basis:

- ▶ The basis functions can be defined recursively with respect to degree.


$$e_i^k(t) = \frac{t - t_i}{t_{k+i} - t_i}$$




degree

$$f_i^k(t) = e_i^k(t) f_i^{k-1}(t) - e_{i+1}^k(t) f_{i+1}^{k-1}(t)$$

point



$$f_i^0(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & : [t_i, t_{i+1}] \\ 0 & : \text{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$

- ▶ The i th degree k polynomial piece is positive on $[t_i, t_{i+k+1}]$ and zero everywhere else
- ▶ All possible splines of degree k with nodes $\{t_i\}_{i=1}^n$ can be represented in the basis.
- ▶ The resulting interpolant coefficients are again determined by an appropriate generalized Vandermonde system.