

CS 450: Numerical Analysis¹

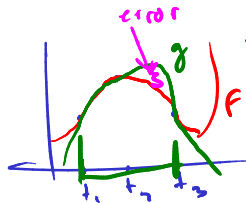
Interpolation

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:



$$f(t_i) = y_i$$

• infinite # of interpolant

• $(m-1)$ -degree polynomial/interpolant is unique

• error $\max_{t \in [t_1, t_m]} |f(t) - g(t)|$
 \uparrow true function

- Interpolant is usually constructed as linear combinations of *basis functions*

$$\{\phi_j\}_{j=1}^n = \phi_1, \dots, \phi_n \text{ so } f(t) = \sum_j x_j \phi_j(t).$$

$$\phi_j(t) = y_j$$

• interpolant exists and is unique if $n = m$

• Vandermonde matrix A , $a_{ij} = \phi_j(t_i)$

$$y = A x, \quad y_i = \sum_j \phi_j(t_i) x_j$$

Polynomial Interpolation

- The choice of *monomials* as basis functions, $\phi_j(t) = t^{j-1}$ yields a degree $n - 1$ polynomial interpolant:

$$a_{ij} = t_i^{j-1}$$

- Polynomial interpolants are easy to evaluate and do calculus on:

Horner's rule

$$f(t) = x_1 + \underbrace{t}_{\leftarrow} (x_2 + \underbrace{t}_{\leftarrow} (x_3 + \dots))$$

n products and $n-1$ additions

Conditioning of Interpolation

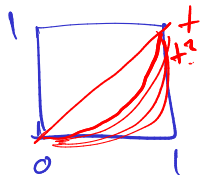
- Conditioning of interpolation matrix A depends on basis functions and coordinates t_1, \dots, t_m : e_1, \dots, e_n

$$\underline{t_i \approx t_j} \Rightarrow \underline{e_k(t_i) \approx e_k(t_j)}$$

$$e_i \approx e_j \Rightarrow \underline{e_i(t_k) \approx e_j(t_k)}$$



- The Vandermonde matrix tends to be ill-conditioned:



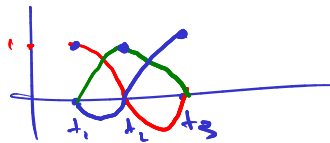
$$\kappa(A) \sim \Theta(2^n)$$

Lagrange Basis

$$A=I \Leftarrow e_j(t_j)=1, e_j(t_i)=0_{i \neq j}$$

- n -points fully define the unique $(n-1)$ -degree polynomial interpolant in the Lagrange basis:

$$e_j(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } t = t_j \\ 0 & \text{if } t = t_i \text{ for } i \neq j \end{cases}$$



$$I x = y$$

$$x = y$$

well ► Lagrange polynomials yield an ideal Vandermonde system, but the basis functions are hard to evaluate and do calculus on:

naively, evaluation requires $O(n^2)$ work

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:

$$\phi_j(t) = \phi_{j-1}(t)(t - t_j) \quad O(n)$$

- enables fast computation of coefficients
- divided difference formula $O(n^2)$

- The Newton basis yields a triangular Vandermonde system:

a_{ij} for $i < j$,

$A =$ 

$$\phi_j(t_i) = \prod_{k=1}^{j-1} (t_i - t_k) = 0$$

$$Ax = b \text{ with cost } O(n^2)$$

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*:

$$\langle p, q \rangle_w \stackrel{\text{weight-function}}{=} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p(t) q(t) w(t) dt$$

e_1, \dots, e_n are orthonormal if

$$\langle e_i, e_j \rangle_w = \delta_{ij} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\|e\| = \sqrt{\langle e, e \rangle_w}$$

Legendre Polynomials

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

ψ_1, \dots, ψ_n (non-orthonormal basis)

$$\hat{\phi}_k(t) = \frac{\psi_k(t)}{\|\psi_k(t)\|}, \quad e_k(t) = \hat{\phi}_k(t) - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \underbrace{\langle \hat{\phi}_k(t), \phi_i(t) \rangle_w}_{\text{projection}} \phi_i(t)$$

- 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 $\hat{\phi}_i(1) = 1$.

$\{1, t, t^2\}$

$$e_1(t) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$e_2(t) = t - \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{2} \cdot t \, dt = t$$

$$e_3(t) = t^2 - \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{2} \cdot t^2 \, dt = t^2 - \frac{1}{3}$$



$$(3t^2 - 1)/2$$

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:

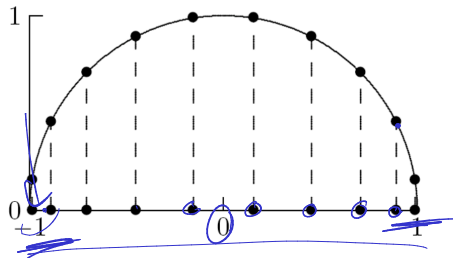
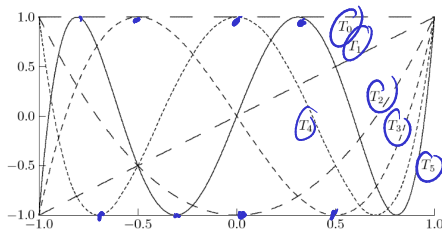
• $\phi_1(t) = 1, \phi_2(t) = t, \phi_{i+1}(t) = \underline{2t\phi_i(t) - \phi_{i-1}(t)}$

- orthonormal w.r.t.

$$w(t) = \begin{cases} 1/(1-t^2)^{1/2} & -1 \leq t \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- columns of Vandermonde matrix w. Chebyshev basis & nodes are orthogonal

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 of 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

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

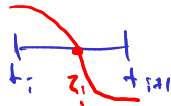
$$E(t) = E(t_i) + \int_{t_i}^t E'(w_0) dw_0$$

for each (t_i, t_{i+1})

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

there are $n-1$ zeros $z_i \in (t_i, t_{i+1})$, $E'(z_i) = 0$

$$E'(w_0) = \int_{z_1}^{w_0} \int_{y_2}^{w_1} \dots \int_{y_n}^{w_{n-1}} f^{(n+1)}(w_n) dw_n \dots dw_1$$



Interpolation Error Bounds

- Consequently, polynomial interpolation satisfies the following error bound:

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

$\underbrace{h = t_n - t_1} \quad \quad \quad \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}$

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

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

Piecewise Polynomial Interpolation

- ▶ The k th piece of the interpolant is typically chosen as polynomial on $[t_i, t_{i+1}]$
- ▶ *Hermite* interpolation ensures consecutive interpolant pieces have same derivative at each *knot* t_i :

Spline Interpolation

- ▶ A *spline* is a $(k - 1)$ -time differentiable piecewise polynomial of degree k :
- ▶ The resulting interpolant coefficients are again determined by an appropriate *generalized Vandermonde system*:

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:
- ▶ ϕ_i^1 is a linear hat function that increases from 0 to 1 on $[t_i, t_{i+1}]$ and decreases from 1 to 0 on $[t_{i+1}, t_{i+2}]$.
- ▶ ϕ_i^k is positive on $[t_i, t_{i+k+1}]$ and zero elsewhere.
- ▶ The B-spline basis spans all possible splines of degree k with nodes $\{t_i\}_{i=1}^n$.
- ▶ The B-spline basis coefficients are determined by a Vandermonde system that is lower-triangular and banded (has k subdiagonals), and need not contain differentiability constraints, since $f(t)$ is a sum of ϕ_i^k s.