

# I. Interpolation & Numerical Calculus

- Goals: - How to "read between the lines" of a numerical table
- (Piecewise) polynomial interpolation
  - Approximation of a function by poly. interp. (Measure of errors)
  - Compute derivatives/integrals approximately

Task: Given a table of some quantity  $q$

$i$	0	1	2	...	$n$
$x_i$	0.00	0.51	1.05	...	$x_n$
$q_i$	0.00	0.22	0.25	...	$q_n$

compute approximations of  $q(x)$

ie. easy to evaluate, derive,  
integrate

$$q'(x)$$

$$\int_a^b q(x) dx$$

?

no find a simple (& reasonable) function  $q(x)$  that matches the data

$$q(x_i) = q_i, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, n$$

## I.1 Polynomial interpolation

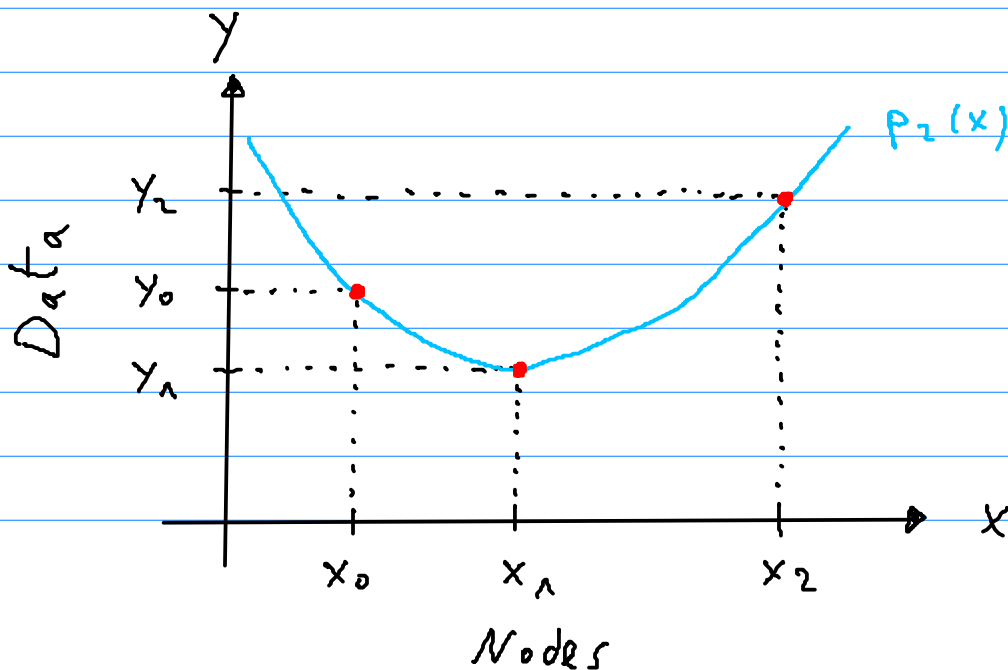
Given a set of  $n+1$  distinct nodes,  
 $x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_n$ , and corresponding data points  
 $y_0, y_1, \dots, y_n$ , find the  $n$ -th degree polynomial

$$P_n(x) = c_0 + c_1 \cdot x + c_2 \cdot x^2 + \dots + c_n \cdot x^n$$

that satisfies the  $n+1$  interpolation conditions (ICs)

$$P_n(x_j) = y_j \quad \text{for } j = 0, 1, \dots, n.$$

The  $n+1$  coefficients  $c_0, c_1, \dots, c_n$  of the so-called interpolating polynomial (IP)  $p_n(x)$  result from the  $n+1$  ICs (no linear system of equations (LSEs)).



Ex.: (1) Find IP through  $(x_0, y_0) = (1, 2)$

$$(x_1, y_1) = (3, 5)$$

$$(x_2, y_2) = (4, 4)$$

So we have to find the coefficients

$c_0, c_1, c_2$  of the IP  $p_2(x) = c_0 + c_1x + c_2x^2$

Fulfilling the ICs:

$$p_2(x_0) = p_2(1) = c_0 + c_1 + c_2 = 2$$

$$p_2(x_1) = p_2(3) = c_0 + 3c_1 + 9c_2 = 5$$

$$p_2(x_2) = p_2(4) = c_0 + 4c_1 + 16c_2 = 4$$

Or as

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 & 9 \\ 1 & 4 & 16 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_0 \\ c_1 \\ c_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solving this LSE gives

$$c_0 = -2, \quad c_1 = \frac{29}{6}, \quad c_2 = -\frac{5}{6}$$

MATLAB: -  $p = \text{polyfit}(x, y, n)$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{nodes} \quad \text{data} \quad \text{degree} \\ \text{vector containing the coefficients} \end{array} \right.$

- convenient evaluation by `polyval`

Instead of solving a LSEs, the IP can also be found directly by the Lagrange Interpolation formula (LI)

$$p_n(x) = \sum_{j=0}^n y_j \cdot L_j^n(x)$$

where

$$L_j^n(x) = \prod_{\substack{i=0 \\ i \neq j}}^n \frac{x - x_i}{x_j - x_i} \quad \text{for } j=0, 1, \dots, n$$

are the so-called Lagrange polynomials (LPs).

The LPs have the following properties:

(LP1)  $L_j^n(x)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n$

$$(LP2) \quad L_j^n(x_k) = \delta_{jk} = \begin{cases} 1, & j=k \\ 0, & j \neq k \end{cases}$$

(LP2) is the reason why the LI fulfills the ICs:

$$\begin{aligned}
p_n(x_i) &= \sum_{j=0}^n y_j \cdot L_j^n(x_i) \\
&= 0 + \dots + 0 + y_i \cdot \underbrace{L_i^n(x_i)}_1 + 0 + \dots + 0 \\
&= y_i \quad \checkmark
\end{aligned}$$

Ex.: (2) find IP through  $(x_0, y_0) = (1, 2)$

$$(x_1, y_1) = (3, 5)$$

$$(x_2, y_2) = (4, 4)$$

↖ same as Ex. (1)

with LI.

Compute the LPIs:

$$\begin{aligned} L_0^2(x) &= \frac{x-x_1}{x_0-x_1} \cdot \frac{x-x_2}{x_0-x_2} = \frac{x-3}{1-3} \cdot \frac{x-4}{1-4} \\ &= \frac{1}{6}(x-3)(x-4) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} L_1^2(x) &= \frac{x-x_0}{x_1-x_0} \cdot \frac{x-x_2}{x_1-x_2} = \frac{x-1}{3-1} \cdot \frac{x-4}{3-4} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2}(x-1)(x-4) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} L_2^2(x) &= \frac{x-x_0}{x_2-x_0} \cdot \frac{x-x_1}{x_2-x_1} = \frac{x-1}{4-1} \cdot \frac{x-3}{4-3} \\ &= \frac{1}{3}(x-1)(x-3) \end{aligned}$$

Now inserting into the LI

$$p_2(x) = 2 \cdot L_0^2(x) + 5 \cdot L_1^2(x) + 4 \cdot L_2^2(x)$$

$$= \dots = 2 + \frac{29}{6}x - \frac{5}{6}x^2$$

(like Ex. (1), indeed!)

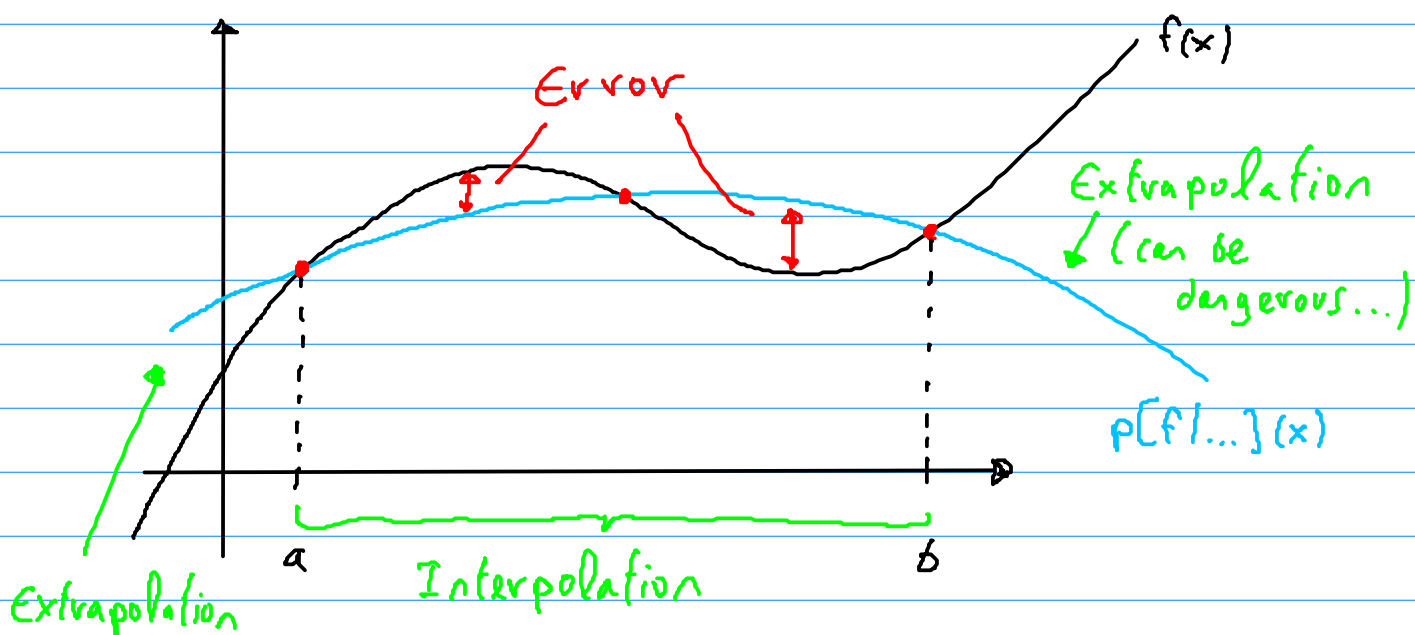
## I.2 Interpolation error

e.g. from measurements

So far we have considered arbitrary data.  
Now we assume that the data is generated by some function  $f$  and ask how well the IP approximates this function.

Let  $f: I = [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and we denote by  $p[f|x_0, \dots, x_n](x) \in \mathcal{P}^n$  the IP fulfilling the ICs

Vector space of polynomials up to and including  $n$

$$p[f|x_0, \dots, x_n](x_j) = f(x_j) \text{ for } j=0, 1, \dots, n.$$


continuously

For  $f$   $(n+1)$ -times  $\checkmark$  differentiable, one can show that for every  $x \in I = [a, b]$  there is a  $\xi(x) \in I$  such that

$\uparrow$   
depends on  $x$ !

$(n+1)$ -th derivative

$$e(x) = f(x) - p[f|x_0, \dots, x_n](x) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} \cdot \prod_{j=0}^n (x - x_j)$$

depends on  $f$       nodes

Here  $e(x)$  is a function over the whole interpolation interval  $I$ . Often, one is just interested in the biggest / maximum error over  $I$ :

$$\|e\|_{\infty} = \max_{x \in I} |e(x)| \quad (\text{Maximum norm})$$

$$= \max_{x \in I} \left| \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi(x))}{(n+1)!} \cdot \prod_{j=0}^n (x - x_j) \right|$$

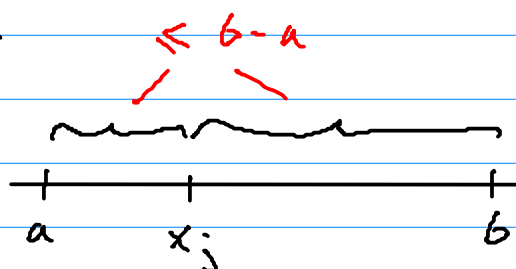
$$\leq \max_{x \in I} \left| \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi(x))}{(n+1)!} \right| \cdot \max_{x \in I} \left| \prod_{j=0}^n (x - x_j) \right|$$

$$= \frac{\|f^{(n+1)}\|_{\infty}}{(n+1)!} \cdot \underbrace{\left\| \prod_{j=0}^n (x - x_j) \right\|_{\infty}}_{\leq b-a}$$

Estimates

$$\leq \frac{\|f^{(n+1)}\|_{\infty}}{(n+1)!} (b-a)^{n+1}$$

The last estimate can best be understood graphically



The expression

"For  $f$   $(n+1)$ -times continuously differentiable"

will pop up quite a few times in the course.

To shorten, one says: -  $f \in C^{n+1}[I]$

-  $f$  smooth enough

-  $f$  sufficiently many times cont. diff.

Ex.: (3) Runge's example (1901)

→ Slides

We note: (i) global interpolation with large  $n$ , i.e. many nodes and data points, is in general not recommendable

(ii) local, i.e. piecewise, works well (for  $f$  smooth enough)



Estimates of the form

$$\|e\|_{\infty} \leq \frac{h^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \|f^{(n+1)}\|_{\infty}$$

h = b-a

are very common and one introduces a special notation known as the Big-O or Big-oh notation.

One writes

$$\|e\| = O(h^r)$$

some norm

if there are positive constants  $C$  and  $r$ , independent of  $h$ , such that

$$\|e\| \leq C \cdot h^r$$

for  $h$  small enough. In the present context,  $r$  is called the order of accuracy.

Ex.: (4)  $\|e\|_{\infty} \leq \frac{h^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \|f^{(n+1)}\|_{\infty} = O(h^{n+1})$

constants independent of  $h$ !

no slides

## I.3 Numerical differentiation

We all know how to differentiate a function analytically...

However, sometimes there are reasons to do this numerically:

- very complicated function (error prone)
  - ... e.g. quasi-Newton methods  $\rightsquigarrow$  Chap. 2
- function not known analytically
  - ... e.g. numerical solution of differential equations  $\rightsquigarrow$  Chap. 3 & 4

Idea: Find IP  $p[f|x_0, \dots, x_n]$  approx. the function  $f(x)$  and compute

$$f(x) \approx p[f|x_0, \dots, x_n](x)$$

$$f'(x) \approx p'[f|x_0, \dots, x_n](x)$$

$$f''(x) \approx p''[f|x_0, \dots, x_n](x)$$

⋮

So suppose we want to approx. the derivatives of a (sufficiently) smooth function

$$f: I = [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

Let  $p[f|x_0, \dots, x_n]$  be the IP, then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^k f}{dx^k}(x) &\approx \frac{d^k}{dx^k} p[f|x_0, \dots, x_n](x) = \frac{d^k}{dx^k} \sum_{j=0}^n L_j^n(x) \cdot f(x_j) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^n \frac{d^k L_j^n}{dx^k}(x) \cdot f(x_j) \end{aligned}$$

*k-th derivative* (pointing to  $d^k$ )  
*approx.* (pointing to  $\approx$ )

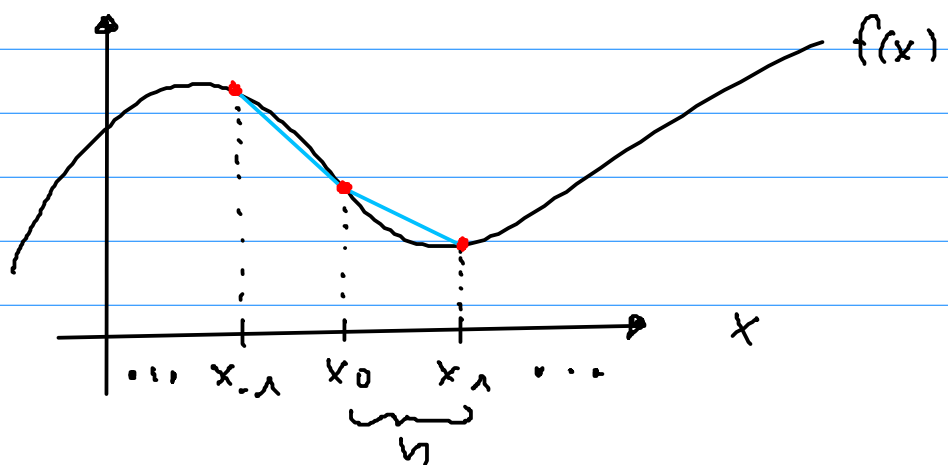
This general procedure leads to so-called finite difference (FD) approximations of derivatives.

Usually one uses equidistantly spaced nodes

$$x_j = x_0 + j \cdot h, \quad j \in \mathbb{Z}$$

*integers* (pointing to  $\mathbb{Z}$ )

where  $h$  is a constant spacing between nodes.



The resulting formulas are usually evaluated at  $x_0$ .

Using a linear IP:

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x_0) &\approx p'[f|x_0, x_1](x_0) = \frac{f(x_1) - f(x_0)}{x_1 - x_0} \\ &= \frac{f(x_0+h) - f(x_0)}{h} \\ &\quad \text{(so-called forward FD)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x_0) &\approx p'[f|x_{-1}, x_0](x_0) = \frac{f(x_0) - f(x_{-1})}{x_0 - x_{-1}} \\ &= \frac{f(x_0) - f(x_0-h)}{h} \\ &\quad \text{(so-called backward FD)} \end{aligned}$$

What about approx. to  $f''$ ?

Using a quadratic IP:

$$f'(x_0) \approx p'[f|x_{-1}, x_0, x_1] = \frac{f(x_1) - f(x_{-1})}{x_1 - x_{-1}}$$

$$= \frac{f(x_0+h) - f(x_0-h)}{2h}$$

$$f''(x_0) \approx p''[f|x_{-1}, x_0, x_1] = \frac{f(x_1) - 2f(x_0) + f(x_{-1}))}{h^2}$$

$$= \frac{f(x_0+h) - 2f(x_0) + f(x_0-h)}{h^2}$$

(so-called centered FD)

Ex.: (5) Approx. first derivative of  $f(x) = \sin(x)$   
at  $x = 1.2$  (exact  $f'(x) = \cos(x)$  of course :-)

→ slides

We observe

(i) The error  $e = |p'[f|\dots] - f'(x)|$  behaves  
as  $\begin{cases} O(h) \\ O(h^2) \end{cases}$  for  $\begin{cases} \text{forward/backward} \\ \text{centered} \end{cases}$  FD

(ii) The error grows if  $h$  is too small  
*Why? Due to the finite precision of floating point numbers*

The error estimator could be derived from the interpolation error... But there is another way with the help of Taylor expansions/series:

$$f(x+h) = f(x) + f'(x) \cdot h + \frac{f''(x)}{2} h^2 + \dots + \frac{f^{(k)}(x)}{k!} h^k + \frac{f^{(k+1)}(\xi)}{(k+1)!} h^{k+1}$$

↑ for some  $\xi \in [x, x+h]$

↘ remainder term  $\rightsquigarrow$  (sometimes error term)

Ex.: (6) forward FD approx of  $f'$ :

$$\frac{f(x_0+h) - f(x_0)}{h} = \frac{\cancel{f(x_0)} + f'(x_0) \cdot h + \frac{f''(x_0)}{2} h^2 + \dots - \cancel{f(x_0)}}{h}$$

$$= f'(x_0) + \frac{h}{2} f''(x_0) + \dots$$

? negligible

$$= f'(x_0) + \mathcal{O}(h)$$

$h > h^2 > h^3$   
 for  $h \ll 1$   
 small

So forward FD has order of accuracy  $\nu = 1$ . They are first order accurate

## I.4 Numerical integration (aka Quadrature)

Goal: Approx.

$$I(f) = \int_a^b f(x) dx$$

Idea: Use IP  $p[f|\dots]$  to approx.  $f(x)$  and integrate.   
 Why is this easier? Integrating polynomials is easy.

Def.: a finite calculation rule to compute an approx. to  $I(f)$

$$Q(f) = \sum_{j=0}^n w_j \cdot f(x_j)$$

is called quadrature rule (QR).

The  $x_j \in I=[a, b]$  are called the quadrature nodes (QNs) and the  $w_j$  the quadrature weights (QWs).

QRs can now easily be derived...

Let  $p[f|x_0, \dots, x_n]$  be the IP of  $f(x)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_a^b f(x) dx &\approx \int_a^b p[f|x_0, \dots, x_n] dx \\
 &= \int_a^b \sum_{j=0}^n \hat{L}_j^n(x) \cdot f(x_j) dx \\
 &= \sum_{j=0}^n \underbrace{\int_a^b \hat{L}_j^n(x) dx}_{QW} \cdot f(x_j) \\
 &= \sum_{j=0}^n \underbrace{w_j}_{QN} \cdot f(x_j) = Q[P]
 \end{aligned}$$

Rem.: The QWs do NOT depend on  $f$ !

For given QNs  $x_j$  compute them once and tabulate for posterity

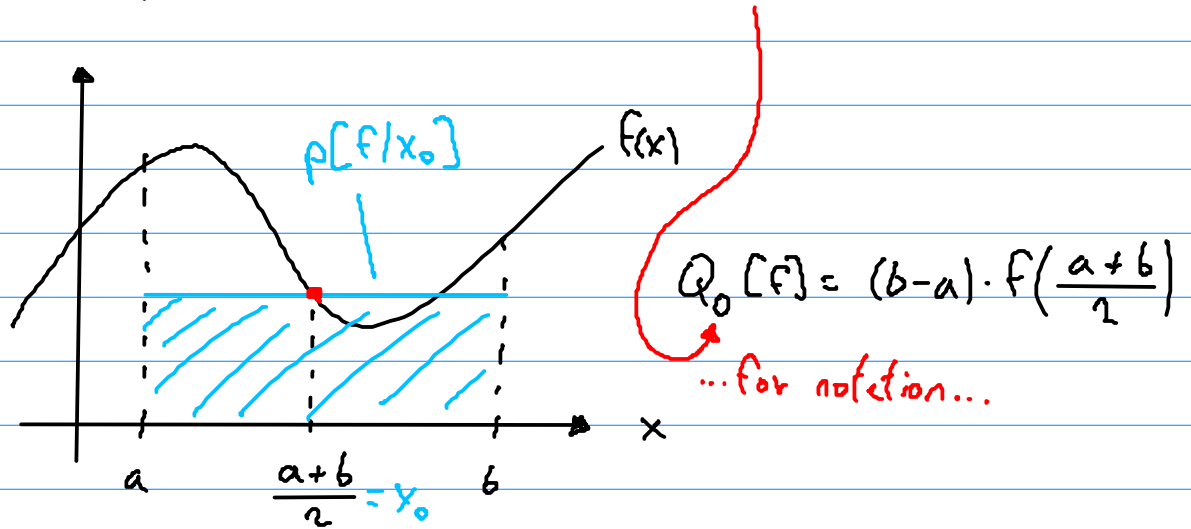
→ for equally spaced QNs over  $I=[a, b]$  this leads to so-called

Newton-Cotes QRs

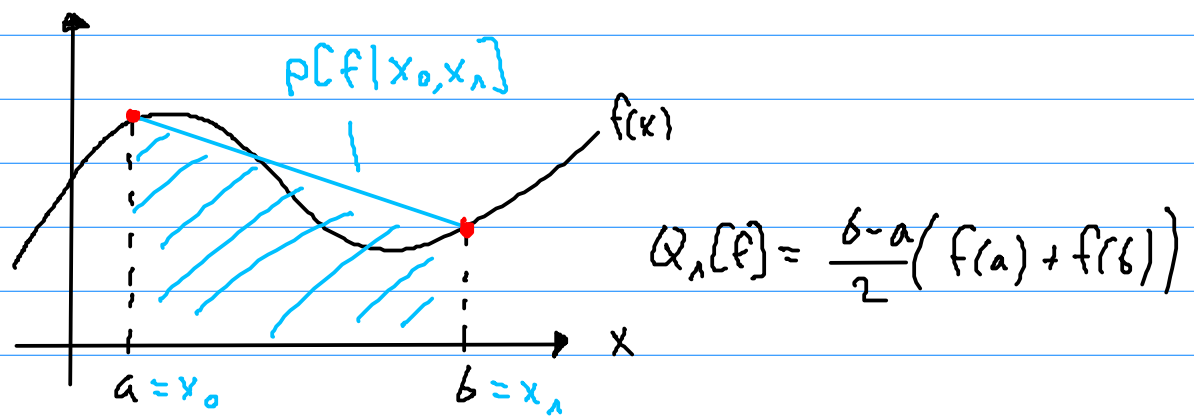


# Popular examples

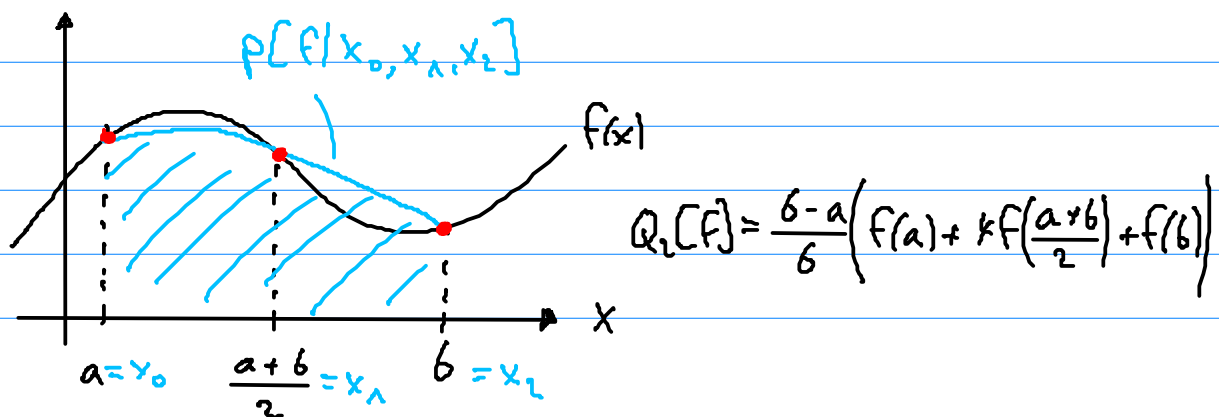
Ex.: (7) Midpoint rule (MR) ( $n=0$ )



(8) Trapezoidal rule (TR) ( $n=1$ )



(9) Simpson rule (SR) ( $n=2$ )



As a measure of quality one defines

Def.: the degree of exactness (DoE)  $q$  is defined as the maximum polynomial degree a QR can integrate exactly

We get directly:

TR	$q = 0 \rightsquigarrow 1$
TR	$q = 1$
SR	$q = 2 \rightsquigarrow 3$

Turns out that for even degree (and equidistantly spaced QNs) one wins a DoE for free :-)

Def.: We say that a QR is  $s$ -th order accurate if

$$E[F] = |Q[F] - I[F]| = \mathcal{O}((b-a)^s)$$

for suff. smooth  $F$ !

and call  $E[F]$  the quadrature error (QE).

It holds:  $s = q + 1$

As we have seen, high-degree (large  $n$ ) interp.  
is in general not recommended  
→ piecewise

Divide the integration interval  $I = [a, b]$   
in  $N$  subintervals

$$I_j = [x_{j-1}, x_j], \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

$$x_j = a + \underbrace{\frac{b-a}{N}}_h \cdot j, \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, N$$

and apply a QR over each  $I_j$ .

This leads to so-called composite QR (CQR)

Ex.: (10) composite TR

$$Q_0^N[f] = h \cdot \sum_{k=1}^N f\left(\frac{x_{k-1} + x_k}{2}\right)$$

(11) composite TR

$$Q_1^N[f] = h \cdot \left( \frac{1}{2} f(a) + \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} f(x_k) + \frac{1}{2} f(b) \right)$$

(12) composite SR

$$Q_2^N[f] = \frac{h}{6} \left( f(a) + 2 \cdot \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} f(x_k) + 4 \cdot \sum_{k=1}^N f\left(\frac{x_{k-1} + x_k}{2}\right) + f(b) \right)$$

The QE of a CQR is (obviously) the sum of QEs over each subinterval.

One can show that

$$E^N[f] = |Q_N^N[f] - I[f]|$$

$$\leq \frac{\|f^{(q+1)}\|_\infty}{(q+1)!} (b-a) h^{q+1} = \frac{\|f^{(5)}\|_\infty}{5!} (b-a) h^5$$

↙ DoE
↙ order of accuracy

Ex.: (13) Compute approx. of  $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{1+x} dx = \log(2)$

↪ 5 slides

## Adaptive quadrature

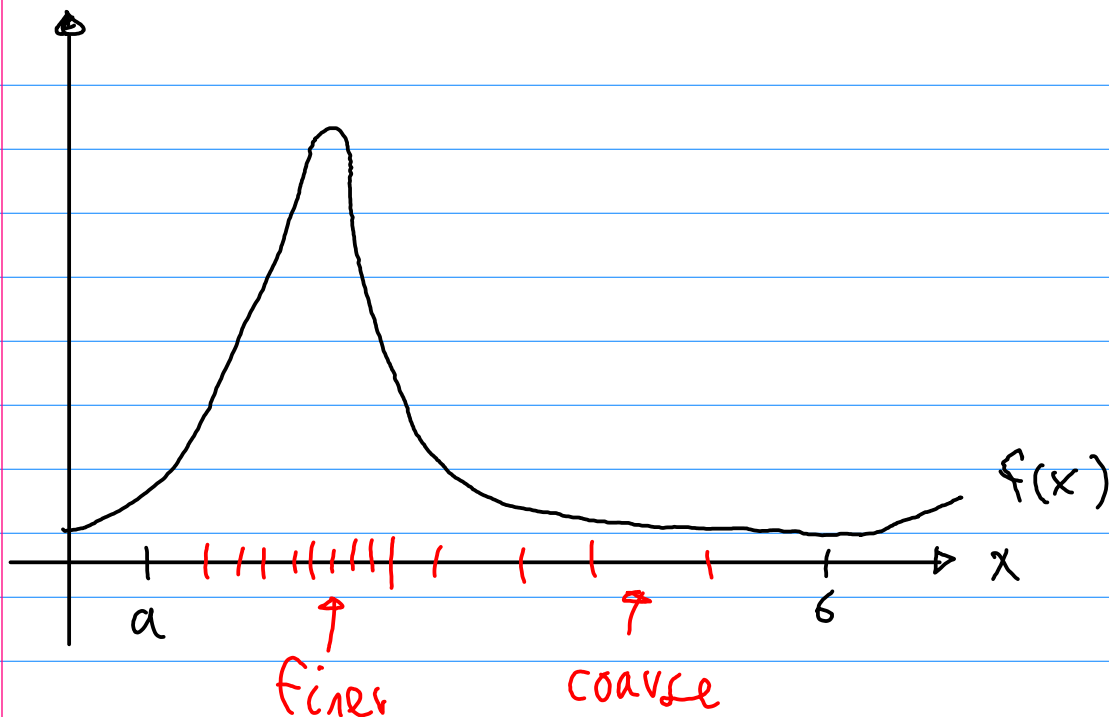
Goal: Approx.

$$I(f) = \int_a^b f(x) dx$$

up to a certain tolerance  $\epsilon$  as efficiently as possible

i.e.: with the least number of function  $f$  evaluations as possible (because they can be computationally expensive)

Idea: Instead of dividing the interval  $I = [a, b]$  into equally sized subintervals, put more subintervals where the function  $f(x)$  varies "faster" / the quadrature error is greatest.



Need an estimate of the error and refine where the error is bigger than the tolerance.

Idea: Compute an approximation of the integral with two methods

$$Q_1[f] \quad \text{method 1}$$

$$Q_2[f] \quad \text{method 2 (more precise than method 1)}$$

and compare the results to get an estimate of the quadrature error.

Adaptive quadrature (~ Pseudo-MATLAB-Code)

Function  $Q = \text{adapt\_quad}(f, a, b, \text{tol})$

$Q_1 = \text{quad}_1(f, a, b)$  method 1

$Q_2 = \text{quad}_2(f, a, b)$  method 2

$E = \text{abs}(Q_1 - Q_2)$

if  $E < \text{tol}$

$Q = Q_2$  (keep the more precise result)

else

$Q_L = \text{adapt\_quad}(f, a, \frac{a+b}{2}, \frac{\text{tol}}{2})$

$Q_R = \text{adapt\_quad}(f, \frac{a+b}{2}, b, \frac{\text{tol}}{2})$

$Q = Q_L + Q_R$

end  
end

Rem.: (i) Adaptive quadrature can be often very efficient, but not always.

There is no guarantee that the error is smaller than the chosen tolerance tol.

(ii) Choices for methods 1/2

Same method, but with half-subint.

$$Q_{\uparrow}[f] = Q_n^1[f]$$

$$Q_{\downarrow}[f] = Q_n^2[f]$$

Or method with higher order

$$Q_{\uparrow}[f] = Q_s^1[f]$$

$$Q_{\downarrow}[f] = Q_{s+1}^1[f]$$

E.g.:  $s=1$  (trapezoidal)

$s=1+1=2$  Simpson