

## Lagrange Interpolation

Given

$$(x_0, y_0), (x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$$

with

$$x_0, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{R} \text{ s.t. } x_j \neq x_k \text{ for } j \neq k,$$

$$y_0, \dots, y_n \in \mathbb{R},$$

find a polynomial  $p_n \in P_n$  satisfying

$$p_n(x_j) = y_j \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, n.$$

( $P_n$  denotes the set of polynomials  $p: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of degree at most  $n$ .)

Would like to find  $p_n \in P_n$  of the form

$$(+)\ p_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n L_k(x) y_k$$

where  $L_k(x) \in P_n$  is to be chosen such that

$$L_k(x_j) = \begin{cases} 1 & j = k \\ 0 & j \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}, j \neq k \end{cases}$$

Hence,

$$L_k(x) = C_k \prod_{\substack{j=0 \\ j \neq k}}^n (x - x_j)$$

where  $C_k$  is such that  $L_k(x_k) = 1$ , that is

$$L_k(x) = \left\{ \prod_{\substack{j=0 \\ j \neq k}}^n (x - x_j) \right\} / \left\{ \prod_{\substack{j=0 \\ j \neq k}}^n (x_k - x_j) \right\}.$$

THM (Lagrange Interpolation Thm)

There exists a unique polynomial  $p_n \in P_n$  satisfying  $p_n(x_j) = y_j$  for  $j = 0, 1, \dots, n$ .

Proof

Existence follows from (+) on page ①.

As for the uniqueness suppose there is another polynomial  $q_n \in P_n$  such that  $q_n(x_j) = y_j$ . But then  $h_n := p_n - q_n \in P_n$  has  $(n+1)$  roots, namely  $x_0, \dots, x_n$  as

$$h_n(x_j) = p_n(x_j) - q_n(x_j) = y_j - y_j = 0.$$

Consequently,

$$h_n(x) \equiv 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad p_n(x) \equiv q_n(x). \quad \square$$

Ex

Find the unique polynomial  $p_2 \in P_2$  through  
 $(1, 1), (2, 4), (3, 8)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} p_2(x) &= L_0(x) \cdot 1 + L_1(x) \cdot 4 + L_2(x) \cdot 8 \\ &= \frac{(x-2)(x-3)}{(1-2)(1-3)} + 4 \frac{(x-1)(x-3)}{(2-1)(2-3)} + 8 \frac{(x-1)(x-2)}{(3-1)(3-2)} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(x^2 - 5x + 6) - 4(x^2 - 4x + 3) + 4(x^2 - 3x + 2) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{3}{2}x - 1 \end{aligned}$$

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$$p_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n L_k(x) y_k$$

is called the Lagrange interpolation polynomial of degree  $n$  for the set of points  $\{(x_j, y_j) \mid j=0, \dots, n\}$ .

Could also use the Lagrange interpolation to approximate a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with a polynomial. Given  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $x_j \neq x_l$  for  $j \neq l$

$$p_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n L_k(x) f(x_k)$$

is called the Lagrange interpolation polynomial of degree  $n$  for the function  $f$  with the interpolation points  $x_0, \dots, x_n$ .

Ex

Lagrange interpolation polynomial  
of degree (at most)  $P_2$  for  $f(x) = \cos x$   
with interpolation points  $0, \pi/6, \pi/3$ .

$$\begin{aligned} P_2(x) &= \cos 0 \cdot \frac{(x-\pi/6)(x-\pi/3)}{(0-\pi/6)(0-\pi/3)} + \cos \pi/6 \cdot \frac{(x-0)(x-\pi/3)}{(\pi/6-0)(\pi/6-\pi/3)} \\ &\quad + \cos \pi/3 \cdot \frac{(x-0)(x-\pi/6)}{(\pi/3-0)(\pi/3-\pi/6)} \\ &= \frac{18}{\pi^2} \left( x^2 - \frac{\pi}{2}x + \frac{\pi^2}{18} \right) - \frac{18\sqrt{3}}{\pi^2} \left( x^2 - \frac{\pi}{3}x \right) \\ &\quad + \frac{9}{\pi^2} \left( x^2 - \frac{\pi}{6}x \right) \\ &= \frac{27-18\sqrt{3}}{\pi^2} x^2 + \frac{(6\sqrt{3}-21/2)}{\pi} x + \frac{1}{\pi} \end{aligned}$$

THM (Interpolation Error)

Let  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be such that  $(n+1)$ st derivative  
of  $f$  exists at all  $x \in [a, b]$ , and  $p_n \in \mathbb{R}_n$   
be the Lagrange interpolation polynomial with distinct  
interpolation points  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n \in [a, b]$ . Then  
for all  $x \in [a, b]$ , we have

$$f(x) - p_n(x) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} \pi_{n+1}(x)$$

for some  $\xi \in (a, b)$ , where

$$\pi_{n+1}(x) = (x-x_0)(x-x_1)\dots(x-x_n).$$



## Proof

If  $x = x_j \exists j \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ , nothing to prove as  $f(x_j) = p_n(x_j)$  and  $\pi_{n+1}(x_j) = 0$ . Assume  $x \neq x_j$ , and define

$$\varphi: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$
$$\varphi(x) := f(x) - p_n(x) - \frac{f(x) - p_n(x)}{\pi_{n+1}(x)} \pi_{n+1}(x).$$

Now,  $\varphi$  has  $n+2$  roots on  $[a, b]$ , namely  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n$  and  $x$ . By MVT  $\varphi'$  has  $(n+1)$  roots,  $\varphi''$  has  $n$  roots,  $\varphi^{(n+1)}$  has one root on  $(a, b)$  say  $\xi$ . But then

$$0 = \varphi^{(n+1)}(\xi) = f^{(n+1)}(\xi) - p_{n+1}(\xi) - \frac{f(x) - p_n(x)}{\pi_{n+1}(x)} \pi_{n+1}^{(n+1)}(\xi)$$
$$= f^{(n+1)}(\xi) - \frac{f(x) - p_n(x)}{\pi_{n+1}(x)} (n+1)!$$

$$\implies f(x) - p_n(x) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} \pi_{n+1}(x)$$

as desired.  $\square$

## Corollary

With the assumptions of the previous thm, and additionally if  $f^{(n+1)}(x)$  is continuous on  $[a, b]$ , for all  $x \in [a, b]$  we have

$$|f(x) - p_n(x)| \leq M_{n+1} |\pi_{n+1}(x)| / (n+1)!$$

where  $M_{n+1}$  is such that  $|f^{(n+1)}(\tilde{x})| \leq M_{n+1} \forall \tilde{x} \in [a, b]$ . (5)

Ex

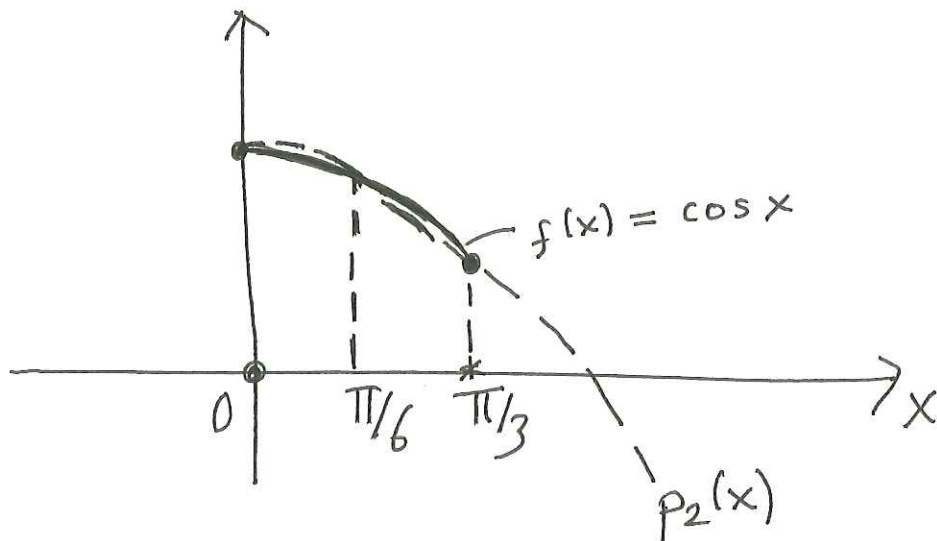
Consider

$$f(x) = \cos x \quad \text{and} \quad P_2(x) = \frac{27-18\sqrt{3}}{\pi^2}x^2 + \frac{6\sqrt{3}-21/2}{\pi}x + 1$$

(the interpolation polynomial with interpolation points  $0, \pi/6, \pi/3$ );  
see the example on page (4).

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x) - P_2(x)| &\leq \frac{1}{2} |(x-0)(x-\pi/6)(x-\pi/3)| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\pi}{12}\right)^2 \cdot \frac{\pi}{3} < \frac{1}{12} \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x \in [0, \pi/3]$ .



## Hermite Interpolation

Given

$$(x_j, y_j, z_j) \quad j = 0, \dots, n$$

where

 $x_0, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}$  are distinct, $y_0, \dots, y_n, z_0, \dots, z_n \in \mathbb{R},$ find a polynomial  $p \in P_{2n+1}$  such that $(+)$   $p(x_j) = y_j$  and  $p'(x_j) = z_j$   
for  $j = 0, 1, \dots, n.$ 

$$(*) \quad p(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n H_k(x) y_k + K_k(x) z_k$$

with

$$H_k(x) = [L_k(x)]^2 (1 - 2L'_k(x)(x-x_k))$$

$$K_k(x) = [L_k(x)]^2 (x-x_k)$$

Observe

$$(1) \quad H_k, K_k \in P_{2n+1} \implies p \in P_{2n+1} \quad \text{as in } (*)$$

$$(2) \quad H_k(x_j) = \begin{cases} 1 & j=k \\ 0 & j \neq k, j \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\} \end{cases}$$

$$H'_k(x_j) = 0 \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, n$$

$$(3) \quad K_k(x_j) = 0 \quad j=0, 1, \dots, n$$

$$K'_k(x_j) = \begin{cases} 1 & j=k \\ 0 & j \neq k, j \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\} \end{cases}$$

Consequently,

$p$  as in (\*) satisfies (+).

THM

There exists a unique polynomial  $p \in P_{2n+1}$  such that

$$p(x_j) = y_j, \quad p'(x_j) = z_j \quad j=0, 1, \dots, n.$$

Proof

Existence is shown by (\*).

As for the uniqueness assume  $q \in P_{2n+1}$  is such that

$$q(x_j) = y_j, \quad q'(x_j) = z_j \quad j=0, 1, \dots, n.$$

Define  $h \stackrel{\rightarrow}{=} p - q \in P_{2n+1}$ . We have  $h(x_j) = 0$  for  $j=0, 1, \dots, n$ , so by MVT

$$h'(r_j) = 0 \quad \exists r_j \in (x_j, x_{j+1})$$

for  $j=0, 1, \dots, n-1$ .

But this means  $h' \stackrel{\rightarrow}{=} \in P_{2n}$  has  $2n+1$  distinct roots, so  $h'(x) \equiv 0$  implying  $h(x)$  is a constant function. Since  $h(x_j) = 0$   $j=0, 1, \dots, n$ , we must have  $h(x) \equiv 0$  and  $p(x) \equiv q(x)$  proving the uniqueness.  $\square$



Hermite interpolation polynomial of degree  $2n+1$  for the set  $\{(x_j, y_j, z_j) \mid j=0, 1, \dots, n\}$

$$p(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n H_k(x) y_k + K_k(x) z_k$$

Hermite interpolation polynomial of degree  $2n+1$  for the function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with interpolation points  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n$ .

$$p(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n H_k(x) f(x_k) + K_k(x) f'(x_k)$$

(satisfies (1)  $p(x_k) = f(x_k)$  (2)  $p'(x_k) = f'(x_k)$  for  $k=0, 1, \dots, n$ )

Ex

Find the Hermite interpolation polynomial of degree 3 for  $f(x) = \cos x$  with interpolation points  $x_0 = 0$ ,  $x_1 = \pi/2$ .

$$p \in P_3 \quad p(0) = 1 \quad p(\pi/2) = 0 \\ p'(0) = 0 \quad p'(\pi/2) = -1$$

$$p(x) = H_0(x) \cdot 1 + K_1(x) \cdot (-1)$$

$$H_0(x) = \left[ \frac{(x - \pi/2)}{(0 - \pi/2)} \right]^2 \left( 1 - \frac{(-2)}{\pi} (x - 0) \right)$$

$$= \frac{4}{\pi^2} \underbrace{(x - \pi/2)^2}_{x^2 - \pi x + \pi^2/4} \left( 1 + \frac{2}{\pi} x \right) = \frac{8}{\pi^3} x^3 - \frac{4}{\pi^2} x^2 - \frac{2}{\pi} x + 1$$

$$K_0(x) = \left[ \frac{x - \pi/2}{0 - \pi/2} \right]^2 (x - 0) = \frac{4}{\pi^2} x^3 - \frac{4}{\pi} x^2 + x$$

(3)

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} p(x) &= \left( \frac{8}{\pi^3} x^3 - \frac{4}{\pi^2} x^2 - \frac{2}{\pi} x + 1 \right) - \left( \frac{4}{\pi^2} x^3 - \frac{4}{\pi} x^2 + x \right) \\ &= \left( \frac{8-4\pi}{\pi^3} \right) x^3 + \left( \frac{4\pi-4}{\pi^2} \right) x^2 - \left( \frac{2+\pi}{\pi} \right) x + 1. \end{aligned}$$

THM

Let  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be such that its  $(2n+2)$ th derivative exists on  $[a, b]$ , and  $p$  be the Hermite interpolation polynomial of degree  $2n+1$  with interpolation points  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n$ . Then for every  $x \in [a, b]$ , we have

$$f(x) - p(x) = \frac{f^{(2n+2)}(\xi)}{(2n+2)!} \pi_{n+1}(x)^2$$

for some  $\xi \in (a, b)$  where

$$\pi_{n+1}(x) = (x-x_0)(x-x_1) \dots (x-x_n).$$

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Proof is similar to the one for Lagrange interpolation polynomial but on

$$q(t) := f(t) - p(t) - \frac{f(x) - p(x)}{\pi_{n+1}(x)^2} \pi_{n+1}(t)^2.$$

Corollary

Let  $f$  and  $p$  be as in the previous thm, but with the additional assumption that  $(2n+2)$ th derivatives of  $f$  is continuous on  $[a, b]$ .

Then, we have

$$|f(x) - p(x)| \leq \frac{M_{2n+2}}{(2n+2)!} |\pi_{n+1}(x)|^2$$

for any  $M_{2n+2}$  such that  $|f^{(2n+2)}(\tilde{x})| \leq M_{2n+2} \forall \tilde{x} \in [a, b]$ . (4)