MAP 2220 – FUNDAMENTOS DE ANÁLISE NUMÉRICA

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MAP2220

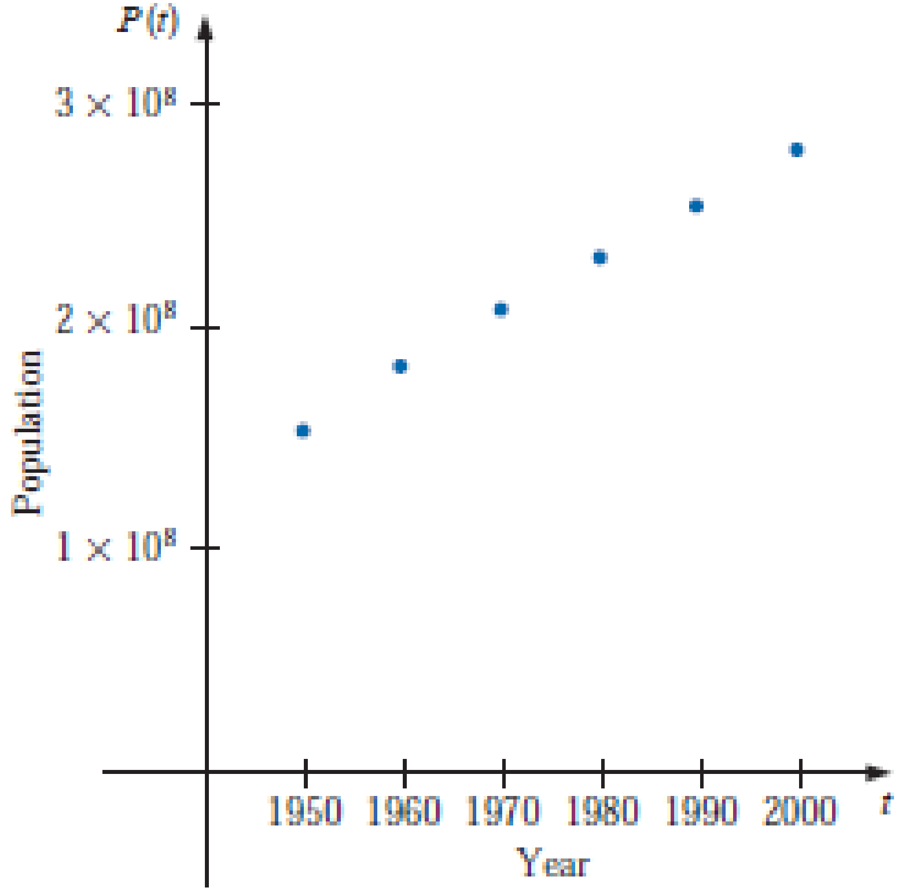
3 Interpolation and Polynomial Approximation 105

CHAPTER 3 Interpolation and Polynomial Approximation

Introduction

A census of the population of the United States is taken every 10 years.

Year	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population (in thousands)	151,326	179,323	203,302	226,542	249,633	281,422



1975 ? interpolation

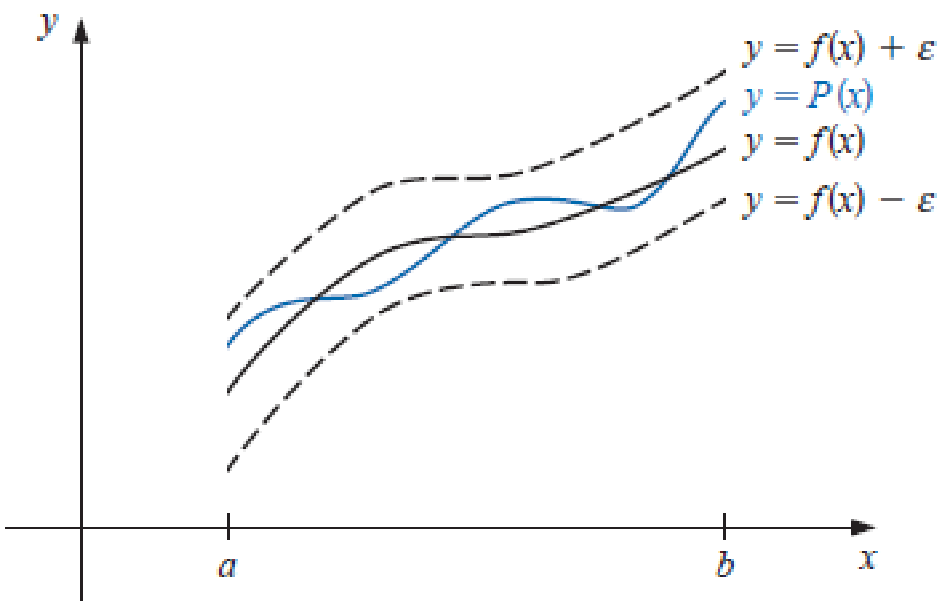
2020 ? extrapolation

3.1 Interpolation and the Lagrange Polynomial

One of the most useful and well-known classes of functions mapping the set of real numbers into itself is the *algebraic polynomials*, the set of functions of the form

$$P_n(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0,$$

where n is a nonnegative integer and $a_0, \ldots, a_n$ are real constants.

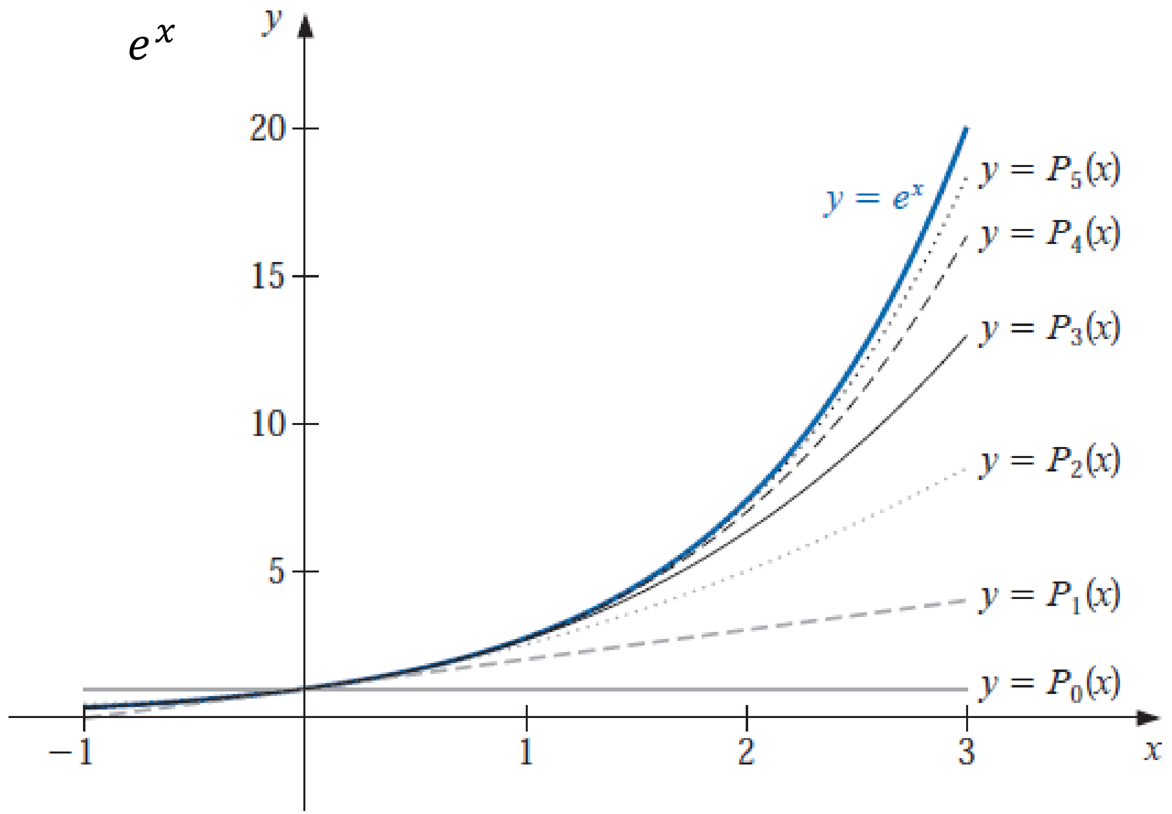


Theorem 3.1 (Weierstrass Approximation Theorem)

Suppose that f is defined and continuous on $[a, b]$. For each $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a polynomial $P(x)$, with the property that

$$|f(x) - P(x)| < \epsilon, \quad \text{for all } x \text{ in } [a, b].$$

Polinômios de Taylor seriam bons interpoladores ?



$$P_0(x) = 1, \quad P_1(x) = 1 + x, \quad P_2(x) = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2}, \quad P_3(x) = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{6},$$

$$P_4(x) = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{6} + \frac{x^4}{24}, \quad \text{and} \quad P_5(x) = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{6} + \frac{x^4}{24} + \frac{x^5}{120}.$$

Erro dependente da distância relativa ao ponto de expansão

Although better approximations are obtained for $f(x) = e^x$ if higher-degree Taylor polynomials are used, this is not true for all functions. Consider, as an extreme example, using Taylor polynomials of various degrees for $f(x) = 1/x$ expanded about $x_0 = 1$ to approximate $f(3) = 1/3$. Since

$$f(x) = x^{-1},\ f'(x) = -x^{-2},\ f''(x) = (-1)^2 2 \cdot x^{-3},$$

and, in general,

$$f^{(k)}(x) = (-1)^k k! x^{-k-1},$$

the Taylor polynomials are

$$P_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \frac{f^{(k)}(1)}{k!}(x-1)^k = \sum_{k=0}^{n}(-1)^k (x-1)^k.$$

To approximate $f(3) = 1/3$ by $P_n(3)$ for increasing values of n, we obtain the values in Table 3.1—rather a dramatic failure! When we approximate $f(3) = 1/3$ by $P_n(3)$ for larger values of n, the approximations become increasingly inaccurate.

n	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$P_n(3)$	1	−1	3	−5	11	−21	43	−85

Lagrange Interpolating Polynomials

Define the functions

$$L_0(x) = \frac{x - x_1}{x_0 - x_1} \quad \text{and} \quad L_1(x) = \frac{x - x_0}{x_1 - x_0}.$$

The linear **Lagrange interpolating polynomial** through (x_0, y_0) and (x_1, y_1) is

$$P(x) = L_0(x) f(x_0) + L_1(x) f(x_1) = \frac{x - x_1}{x_0 - x_1} f(x_0) + \frac{x - x_0}{x_1 - x_0} f(x_1).$$

Note that

$$L_0(x_0) = 1, \quad L_0(x_1) = 0, \quad L_1(x_0) = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad L_1(x_1) = 1,$$

which implies that

$$P(x_0) = 1 \cdot f(x_0) + 0 \cdot f(x_1) = f(x_0) = y_0$$

$$P(x_1) = 0 \cdot f(x_0) + 1 \cdot f(x_1) = f(x_1) = y_1.$$

So P is the unique polynomial of degree at most one that passes through (x_0, y_0) and (x_1, y_1).

Example 1 Determine the linear Lagrange interpolating polynomial that passes through the points $(2, 4)$ and $(5, 1)$.

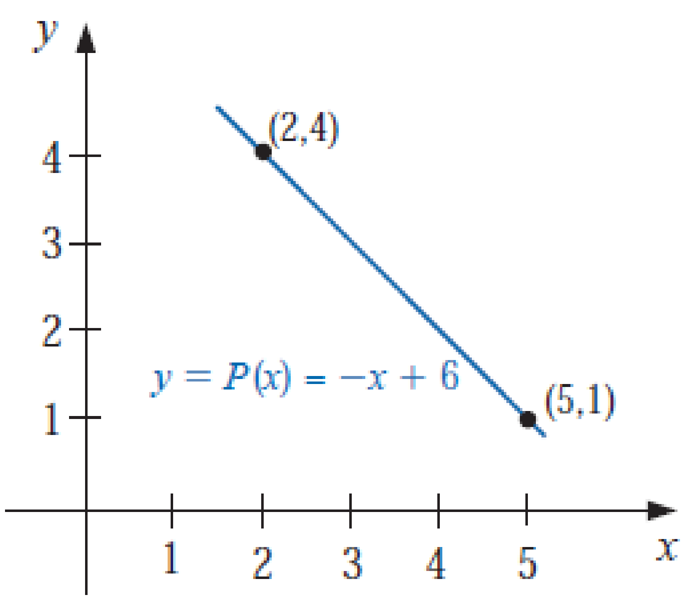
Solution In this case we have

$$L_0(x) = \frac{x-5}{2-5} = -\frac{1}{3}(x-5) \quad \text{and} \quad L_1(x) = \frac{x-2}{5-2} = \frac{1}{3}(x-2),$$

so

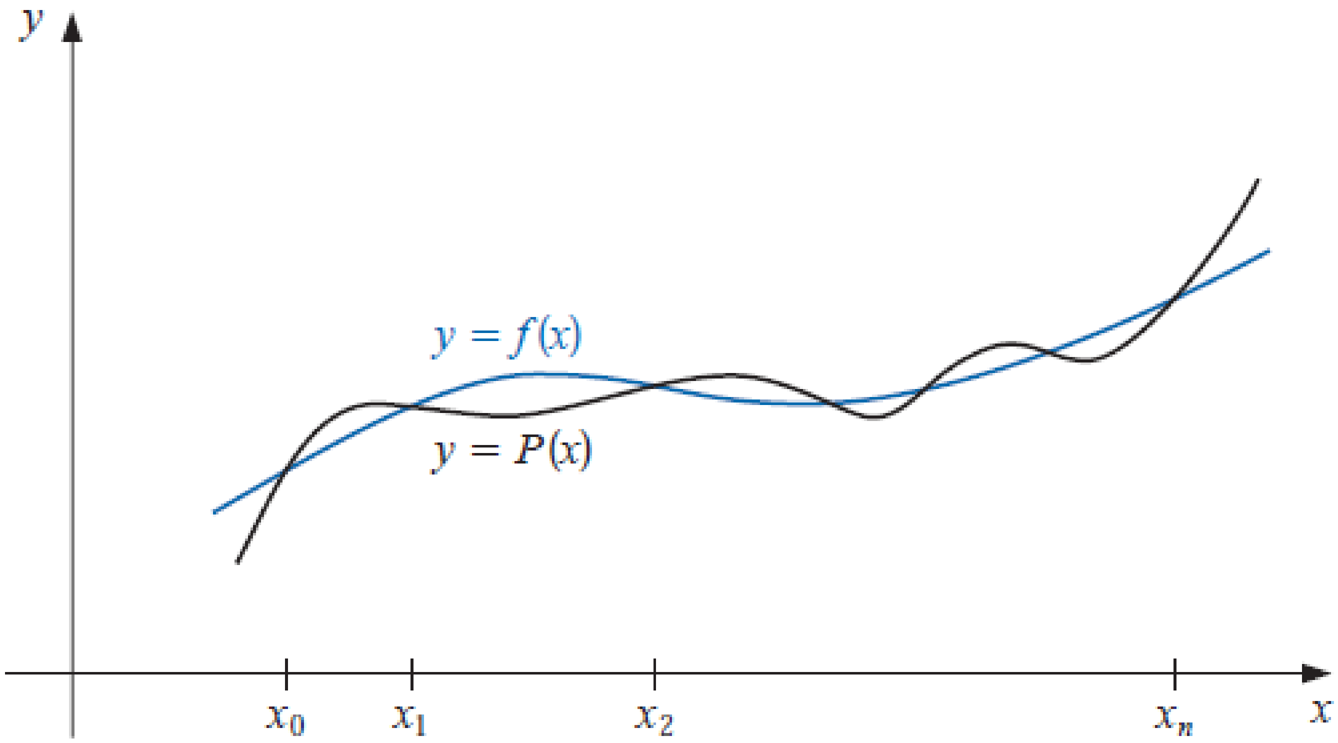
$$P(x) = -\frac{1}{3}(x-5)\cdot 4 + \frac{1}{3}(x-2)\cdot 1 = -\frac{4}{3}x + \frac{20}{3} + \frac{1}{3}x - \frac{2}{3} = -x + 6.$$

The graph of $y = P(x)$ is shown in Figure 3.3. ■



To generalize the concept of linear interpolation, consider the construction of a polynomial of degree at most n that passes through the $n+1$ points

$$(x_0, f(x_0)),\ (x_1, f(x_1)), \ldots, (x_n, f(x_n)).$$



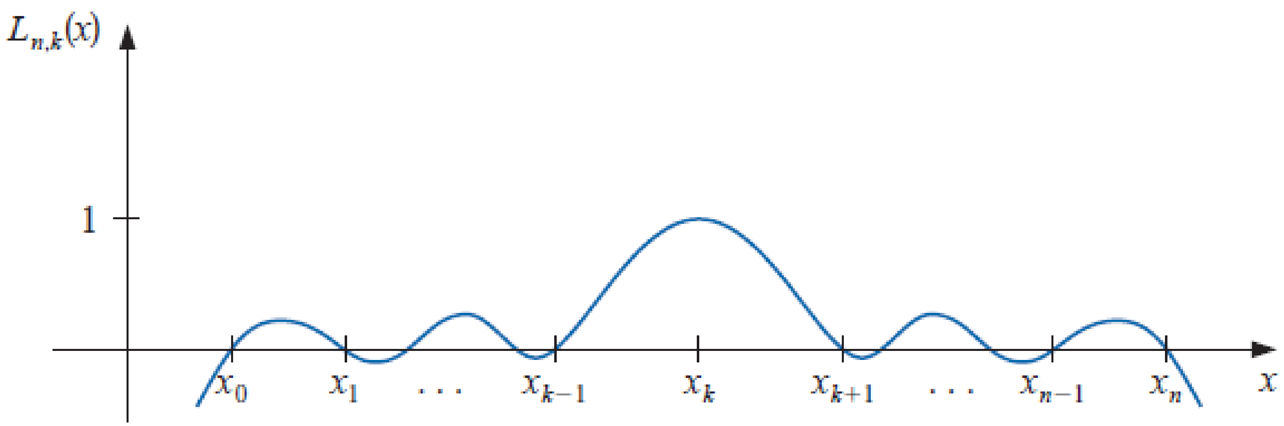
In this case we first construct, for each $k = 0, 1, \ldots, n$, a function $L_{n,k}(x)$ with the property that $L_{n,k}(x_i) = 0$ when $i \neq k$ and $L_{n,k}(x_k) = 1$. To satisfy $L_{n,k}(x_i) = 0$ for each $i \neq k$ requires that the numerator of $L_{n,k}(x)$ contain the term

$$(x - x_0)(x - x_1)\cdots(x - x_{k-1})(x - x_{k+1})\cdots(x - x_n).$$

To satisfy $L_{n,k}(x_k) = 1$, the denominator of $L_{n,k}(x)$ must be this same term but evaluated at $x = x_k$. Thus

$$L_{n,k}(x) = \frac{(x - x_0)\cdots(x - x_{k-1})(x - x_{k+1})\cdots(x - x_n)}{(x_k - x_0)\cdots(x_k - x_{k-1})(x_k - x_{k+1})\cdots(x_k - x_n)}.$$

A sketch of the graph of a typical $L_{n,k}$ (when n is even) is shown in Figure 3.5.



Theorem 3.2

If $x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n$ are $n+1$ distinct numbers and f is a function whose values are given at these numbers, then a unique polynomial $P(x)$ of degree at most n exists with

$$f(x_k) = P(x_k), \quad \text{for each } k = 0, 1, \ldots, n.$$

This polynomial is given by

$$P(x) = f(x_0)L_{n,0}(x) + \cdots + f(x_n)L_{n,n}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} f(x_k)L_{n,k}(x), \tag{3.1}$$

where, for each $k = 0, 1, \ldots, n$,

$$L_{n,k}(x) = \frac{(x-x_0)(x-x_1)\cdots(x-x_{k-1})(x-x_{k+1})\cdots(x-x_n)}{(x_k-x_0)(x_k-x_1)\cdots(x_k-x_{k-1})(x_k-x_{k+1})\cdots(x_k-x_n)} \tag{3.2}$$

$$= \prod_{\substack{i=0 \\ i\neq k}}^{n} \frac{(x-x_i)}{(x_k-x_i)}.$$

■

We will write $L_{n,k}(x)$ simply as $L_k(x)$ when there is no confusion as to its degree.

Example 2

(a) Use the numbers (called *nodes*) $x_0 = 2$, $x_1 = 2.75$, and $x_2 = 4$ to find the second Lagrange interpolating polynomial for $f(x) = 1/x$.

(b) Use this polynomial to approximate $f(3) = 1/3$.

Solution **(a)** We first determine the coefficient polynomials $L_0(x)$, $L_1(x)$, and $L_2(x)$. In nested form they are

$$L_0(x) = \frac{(x-2.75)(x-4)}{(2-2.5)(2-4)} = \frac{2}{3}(x-2.75)(x-4),$$

2.75

$$L_1(x) = \frac{(x-2)(x-4)}{(2.75-2)(2.75-4)} = -\frac{16}{15}(x-2)(x-4),$$

$$L_2(x) = \frac{(x-2)(x-2.75)}{(4-2)(4-2.5)} = \frac{2}{5}(x-2)(x-2.75).$$

Also, $f(x_0) = f(2) = 1/2$, $f(x_1) = f(2.75) = 4/11$, and $f(x_2) = f(4) = 1/4$, so

$$P(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{2} f(x_k)L_k(x)$$

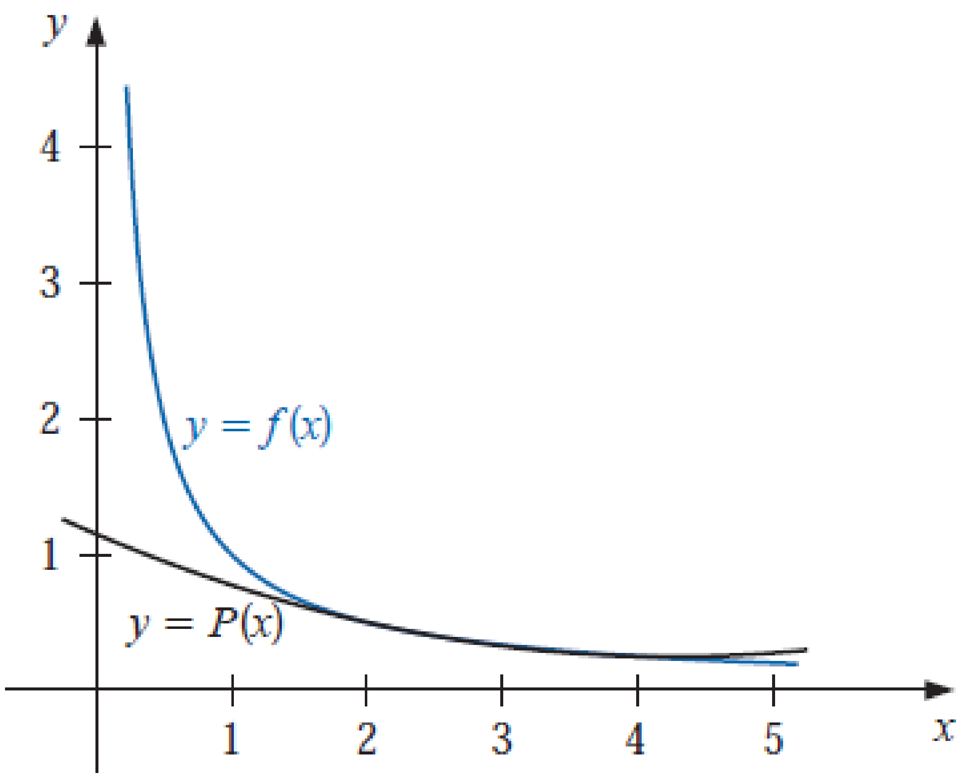
$$= \frac{1}{3}(x-2.75)(x-4) - \frac{64}{165}(x-2)(x-4) + \frac{1}{10}(x-2)(x-2.75)$$

$$= \frac{1}{22}x^2 - \frac{35}{88}x + \frac{49}{44}.$$

(b) An approximation to $f(3) = 1/3$ (see Figure 3.6) is

$$f(3) \approx P(3) = \frac{9}{22} - \frac{105}{88} + \frac{49}{44} = \frac{29}{88} \approx 0.32955.$$

Recall that in the opening section of this chapter (see Table 3.1) we found that no Taylor polynomial expanded about $x_0 = 1$ could be used to reasonably approximate $f(x) = 1/x$ at $x = 3$. ■



Theorem 3.3

Suppose $x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n$ are distinct numbers in the interval $[a, b]$ and $f \in C^{n+1}[a, b]$. Then, for each x in $[a, b]$, a number $\xi(x)$ (generally unknown) between $x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n$, and hence in (a, b), exists with

$$f(x) = P(x) + \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi(x))}{(n+1)!}(x - x_0)(x - x_1)\cdots(x - x_n), \tag{3.3}$$

where $P(x)$ is the interpolating polynomial given in Eq. (3.1). ■

Proof Note first that if $x = x_k$, for any $k = 0, 1, \ldots, n$, then $f(x_k) = P(x_k)$, and choosing $\xi(x_k)$ arbitrarily in (a, b) yields Eq. (3.3).

If $x \neq x_k$, for all $k = 0, 1, \ldots, n$, define the function g for t in $[a, b]$ by

$$g(t) = f(t) - P(t) - [f(x) - P(x)]\frac{(t - x_0)(t - x_1)\cdots(t - x_n)}{(x - x_0)(x - x_1)\cdots(x - x_n)}$$

$$= f(t) - P(t) - [f(x) - P(x)]\prod_{i=0}^{n}\frac{(t - x_i)}{(x - x_i)}.$$

Since $f \in C^{n+1}[a, b]$, and $P \in C^{\infty}[a, b]$, it follows that $g \in C^{n+1}[a, b]$. For $t = x_k$, we have

$$g(x_k) = f(x_k) - P(x_k) - [f(x) - P(x)]\prod_{i=0}^{n}\frac{(x_k - x_i)}{(x - x_i)} = 0 - [f(x) - P(x)] \cdot 0 = 0.$$

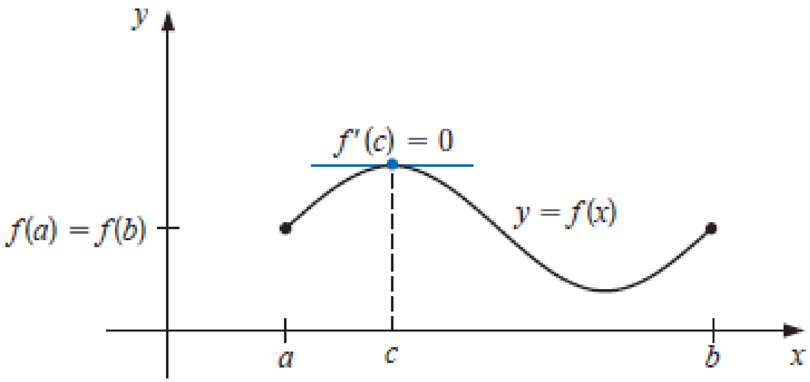
Moreover,

$$g(x) = f(x) - P(x) - [f(x) - P(x)]\prod_{i=0}^{n}\frac{(x - x_i)}{(x - x_i)} = f(x) - P(x) - [f(x) - P(x)] = 0.$$

(...)

Theorem 1.7 (Rolle's Theorem)

Suppose $f \in C[a,b]$ and f is differentiable on (a,b). If $f(a) = f(b)$, then a number c in (a,b) exists with $f'(c) = 0$. (See Figure 1.3.) ■



Theorem 1.10 (Generalized Rolle's Theorem)

Suppose $f \in C[a,b]$ is n times differentiable on (a,b). If $f(x) = 0$ at the $n+1$ distinct numbers $a \le x_0 < x_1 < \ldots < x_n \le b$, then a number c in (x_0, x_n), and hence in (a,b), exists with $f^{(n)}(c) = 0$. ■

(...)

Thus $g \in C^{n+1}[a,b]$, and g is zero at the $n+2$ distinct numbers $x, x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n$. By Generalized Rolle's Theorem 1.10, there exists a number ξ in (a,b) for which $g^{(n+1)}(\xi) = 0$. So

$$0 = g^{(n+1)}(\xi) = f^{(n+1)}(\xi) - P^{(n+1)}(\xi) - [f(x) - P(x)]\frac{d^{n+1}}{dt^{n+1}}\left[\prod_{i=0}^{n}\frac{(t-x_i)}{(x-x_i)}\right]_{t=\xi}. \quad (3.4)$$

However $P(x)$ is a polynomial of degree at most n, so the $(n+1)$st derivative, $P^{(n+1)}(x)$, is identically zero. Also, $\prod_{i=0}^{n}[(t-x_i)/(x-x_i)]$ is a polynomial of degree $(n+1)$, so

$$\prod_{i=0}^{n}\frac{(t-x_i)}{(x-x_i)} = \left[\frac{1}{\prod_{i=0}^{n}(x-x_i)}\right]t^{n+1} + (\text{lower-degree terms in } t),$$

and

$$\frac{d^{n+1}}{dt^{n+1}}\prod_{i=0}^{n}\frac{(t-x_i)}{(x-x_i)} = \frac{(n+1)!}{\prod_{i=0}^{n}(x-x_i)}.$$

Equation (3.4) now becomes

$$0 = f^{(n+1)}(\xi) - 0 - [f(x) - P(x)]\frac{(n+1)!}{\prod_{i=0}^{n}(x - x_i)},$$

and, upon solving for $f(x)$, we have

$$f(x) = P(x) + \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!}\prod_{i=0}^{n}(x - x_i).$$ ■ ■ ■

The error formula in Theorem 3.3 is an important theoretical result because Lagrange polynomials are used extensively for deriving numerical differentiation and integration methods. Error bounds for these techniques are obtained from the Lagrange error formula.

Note that the error form for the Lagrange polynomial is quite similar to that for the Taylor polynomial. The nth Taylor polynomial about x_0 concentrates all the known information at x_0 and has an error term of the form

$$\frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi(x))}{(n+1)!}(x - x_0)^{n+1}.$$

The Lagrange polynomial of degree n uses information at the distinct numbers $x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n$ and, in place of $(x - x_0)^n$, its error formula uses a product of the $n + 1$ terms $(x - x_0)$, $(x - x_1), \ldots, (x - x_n)$:

$$\frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi(x))}{(n+1)!}(x - x_0)(x - x_1)\cdots(x - x_n).$$

Example 3

In Example 2 we found the second Lagrange polynomial for $f(x) = 1/x$ on $[2, 4]$ using the nodes $x_0 = 2$, $x_1 = 2.75$, and $x_2 = 4$. Determine the error form for this polynomial, and the maximum error when the polynomial is used to approximate $f(x)$ for $x \in [2, 4]$.

Solution Because $f(x) = x^{-1}$, we have

$$f'(x) = -x^{-2}, \quad f''(x) = 2x^{-3}, \quad \text{and} \quad f'''(x) = -6x^{-4}.$$

As a consequence, the second Lagrange polynomial has the error form

$$\frac{f'''(\xi(x))}{3!}(x-x_0)(x-x_1)(x-x_2) = -(\xi(x))^{-4}(x-2)(x-2.75)(x-4), \quad \text{for } \xi(x) \text{ in } (2, 4).$$

The maximum value of $(\xi(x))^{-4}$ on the interval is $2^{-4} = 1/16$. We now need to determine the maximum value on this interval of the absolute value of the polynomial

$$g(x) = (x-2)(x-2.75)(x-4) = x^3 - \frac{35}{4}x^2 + \frac{49}{2}x - 22.$$

Because

$$D_x\left(x^3 - \frac{35}{4}x^2 + \frac{49}{2}x - 22\right) = 3x^2 - \frac{35}{2}x + \frac{49}{2} = \frac{1}{2}(3x-7)(2x-7),$$

the critical points occur at

$$x = \frac{7}{3}, \text{ with } g\left(\frac{7}{3}\right) = \frac{25}{108}, \quad \text{and} \quad x = \frac{7}{2}, \text{ with } g\left(\frac{7}{2}\right) = -\frac{9}{16}.$$

Hence, the maximum error is

$$\frac{f'''(\xi(x))}{3!}|(x-x_0)(x-x_1)(x-x_2)| \le \frac{1}{16 \cdot 6}\left|-\frac{9}{16}\right| = \frac{3}{512} \approx 0.00586.$$

■

Example 4

Suppose a table is to be prepared for the function $f(x) = e^x$, for x in $[0, 1]$. Assume the number of decimal places to be given per entry is $d \geq 8$ and that the difference between adjacent x-values, the step size, is h. What step size h will ensure that linear interpolation gives an absolute error of at most 10^{-6} for all x in $[0, 1]$?

Solution Let $x_0, x_1, \ldots$ be the numbers at which f is evaluated, x be in [0,1], and suppose j satisfies $x_j \leq x \leq x_{j+1}$. Eq. (3.3) implies that the error in linear interpolation is

$$|f(x) - P(x)| = \left|\frac{f^{(2)}(\xi)}{2!}(x - x_j)(x - x_{j+1})\right| = \frac{|f^{(2)}(\xi)|}{2}|(x - x_j)||(x - x_{j+1})|.$$

The step size is h, so $x_j = jh$, $x_{j+1} = (j + 1)h$, and

$$|f(x) - P(x)| \leq \frac{|f^{(2)}(\xi)|}{2!}|(x - jh)(x - (j + 1)h)|.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}|f(x) - P(x)| &\leq \frac{\max_{\xi \in [0,1]} e^{\xi}}{2} \max_{x_j \leq x \leq x_{j+1}} |(x - jh)(x - (j + 1)h)| \\ &\leq \frac{e}{2} \max_{x_j \leq x \leq x_{j+1}} |(x - jh)(x - (j + 1)h)|.\end{aligned}$$

Consider the function $g(x) = (x - jh)(x - (j + 1)h)$, for $jh \le x \le (j + 1)h$. Because

$$g'(x) = (x - (j + 1)h) + (x - jh) = 2\left(x - jh - \frac{h}{2}\right),$$

the only critical point for g is at $x = jh + h/2$, with $g(jh + h/2) = (h/2)^2 = h^2/4$.

Since $g(jh) = 0$ and $g((j + 1)h) = 0$, the maximum value of $|g'(x)|$ in $[jh, (j + 1)h]$ must occur at the critical point which implies that

$$|f(x) - P(x)| \le \frac{e}{2} \max_{x_j \le x \le x_{j+1}} |g(x)| \le \frac{e}{2} \cdot \frac{h^2}{4} = \frac{eh^2}{8}.$$

Consequently, to ensure that the the error in linear interpolation is bounded by 10^{-6}, it is sufficient for h to be chosen so that

$$\frac{eh^2}{8} \le 10^{-6}. \quad \text{This implies that} \quad h < 1.72 \times 10^{-3}.$$

Because $n = (1 - 0)/h$ must be an integer, a reasonable choice for the step size is $h = 0.001$. ■

EXERCISE SET 3.1

1. For the given functions $f(x)$, let $x_0 = 0$, $x_1 = 0.6$, and $x_2 = 0.9$. Construct interpolation polynomials of degree at most one and at most two to approximate $f(0.45)$, and find the absolute error.

   a. $f(x) = \cos x$
   b. $f(x) = \sqrt{1+x}$
   c. $f(x) = \ln(x+1)$
   d. $f(x) = \tan x$

2. For the given functions $f(x)$, let $x_0 = 1$, $x_1 = 1.25$, and $x_2 = 1.6$. Construct interpolation polynomials of degree at most one and at most two to approximate $f(1.4)$, and find the absolute error.

   a. $f(x) = \sin \pi x$
   b. $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x-1}$
   c. $f(x) = \log_{10}(3x-1)$
   d. $f(x) = e^{2x} - x$

3. Use Theorem 3.3 to find an error bound for the approximations in Exercise 1.

4. Use Theorem 3.3 to find an error bound for the approximations in Exercise 2.

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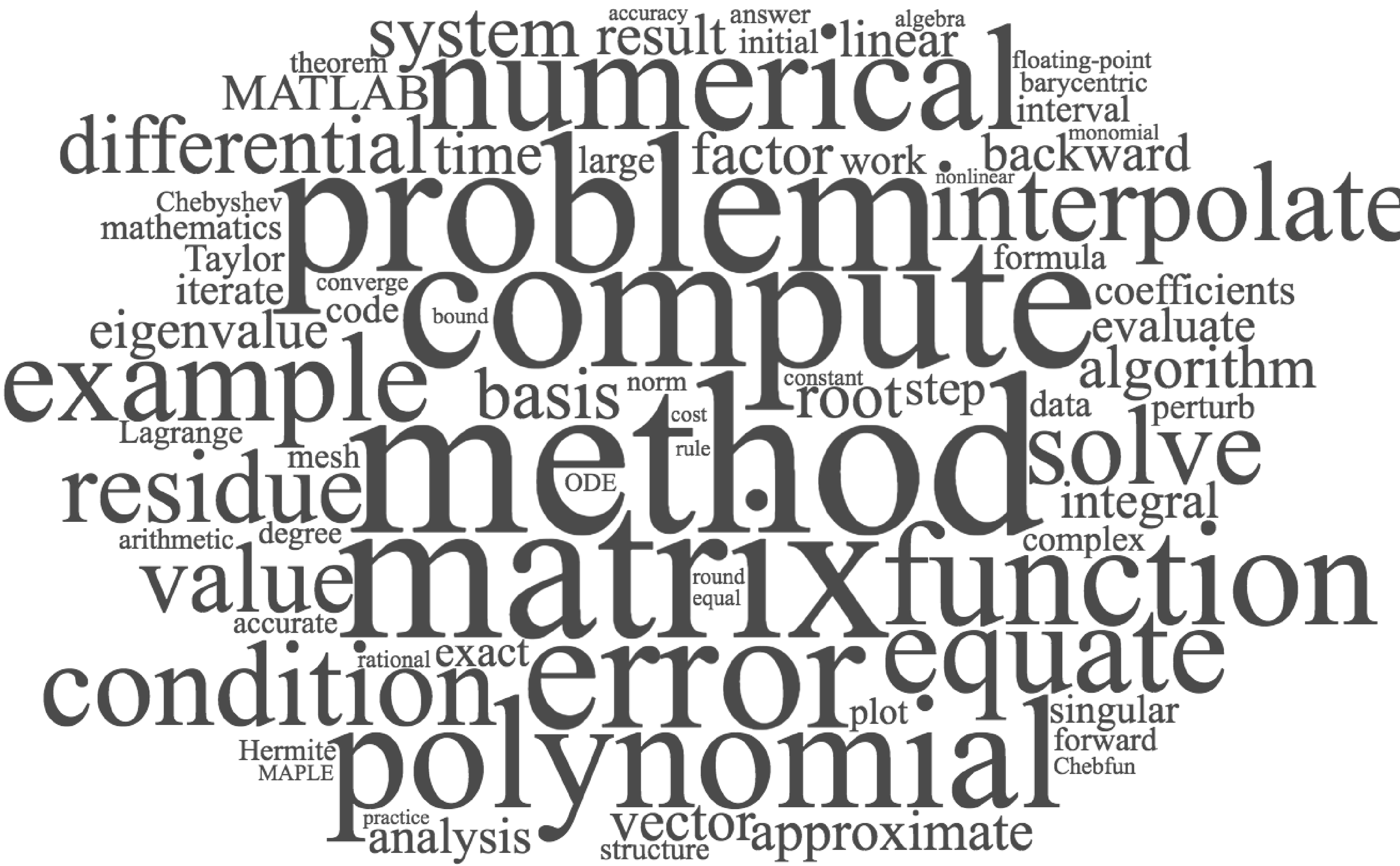
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