MAP 2220 – FUNDAMENTOS DE ANÁLISE NUMÉRICA

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3.5 Cubic Spline Interpolation[1]

The previous sections concerned the approximation of arbitrary functions on closed intervals using a single polynomial. However, high-degree polynomials can oscillate erratically, that is, a minor fluctuation over a small portion of the interval can induce large fluctuations over the entire range. We will see a good example of this in Figure 3.14 at the end of this section.

An alternative approach is to divide the approximation interval into a collection of subintervals and construct a (generally) different approximating polynomial on each subinterval. This is called **piecewise-polynomial approximation.**

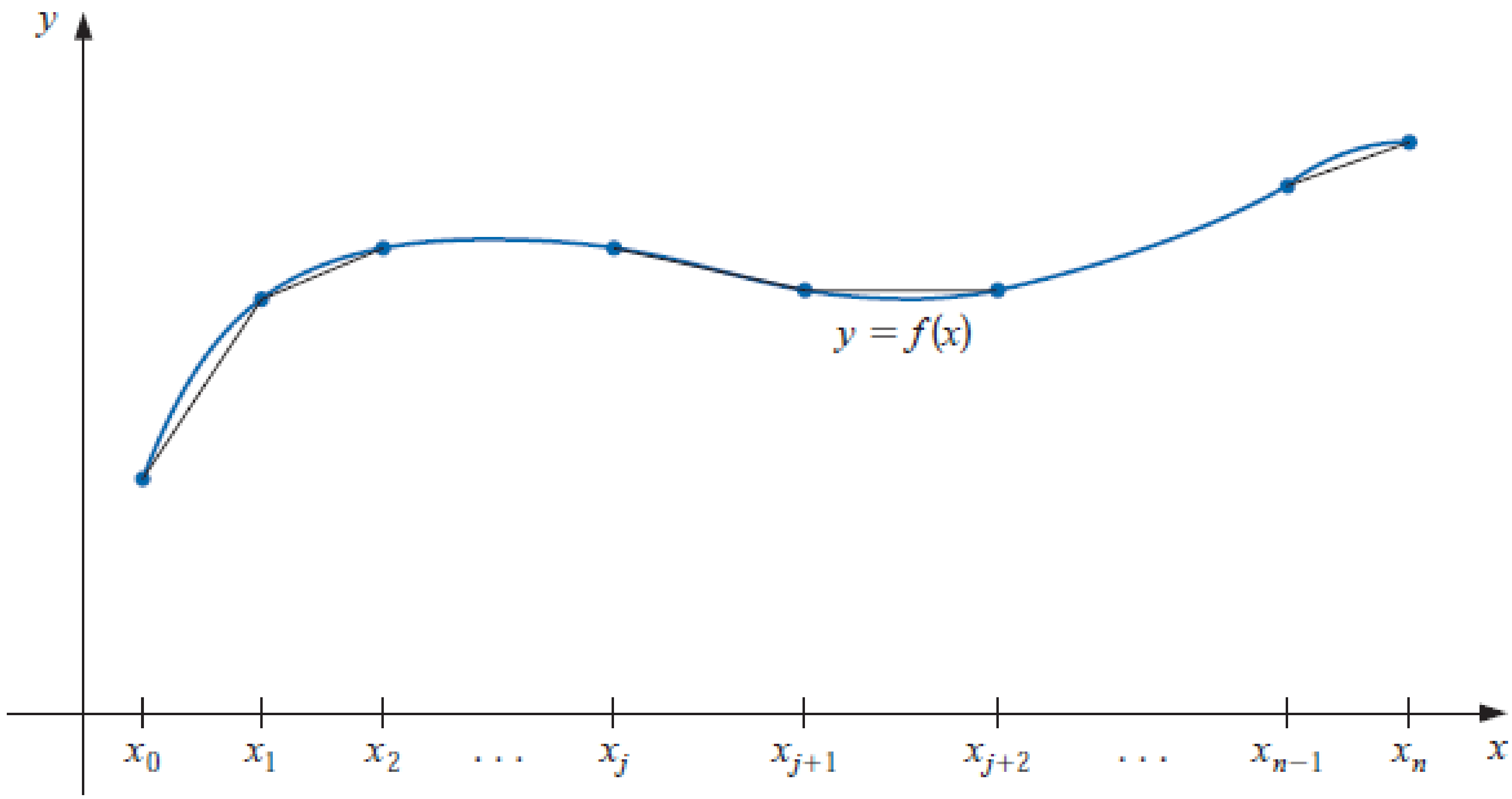
Piecewise-Polynomial Approximation

The simplest piecewise-polynomial approximation is **piecewise-linear** interpolation, which consists of joining a set of data points

$$\{(x_0, f(x_0)), (x_1, f(x_1)), \ldots, (x_n, f(x_n))\}$$

by a series of straight lines, as shown in Figure 3.7.

Figure 3.7



A disadvantage of linear function approximation is that there is likely no differentiability at the endpoints of the subintervals, which, in a geometrical context, means that the interpolating function is not "smooth." Often it is clear from physical conditions that smoothness is required, so the approximating function must be continuously differentiable.

An alternative procedure is to use a piecewise polynomial of Hermite type. For example, if the values of f and of f' are known at each of the points $x_0 < x_1 < \cdots < x_n$, a cubic Hermite polynomial can be used on each of the subintervals $[x_0, x_1], [x_1, x_2], \ldots, [x_{n-1}, x_n]$ to obtain a function that has a continuous derivative on the interval $[x_0, x_n]$.

To determine the appropriate Hermite cubic polynomial on a given interval is simply a matter of computing $H_3(x)$ for that interval. The Lagrange interpolating polynomials needed to determine H_3 are of first degree, so this can be accomplished without great difficulty. However, to use Hermite piecewise polynomials for general interpolation, we need to know the derivative of the function being approximated, and this is frequently unavailable.

The simplest type of differentiable piecewise-polynomial function on an entire interval $[x_0, x_n]$ is the function obtained by fitting one quadratic polynomial between each successive pair of nodes. This is done by constructing a quadratic on $[x_0, x_1]$ agreeing with the function at x_0 and x_1, another quadratic on $[x_1, x_2]$ agreeing with the function at x_1 and x_2, and so on. A general quadratic polynomial has three arbitrary constants—the constant term, the coefficient of x, and the coefficient of x^2—and only two conditions are required to fit the data at the endpoints of each subinterval. So flexibility exists that permits the quadratics to be chosen so that the interpolant has a continuous derivative on $[x_0, x_n]$. The difficulty arises because we generally need to specify conditions about the derivative of the interpolant at the endpoints x_0 and x_n. There is not a sufficient number of constants to ensure that the conditions will be satisfied. (See Exercise 26.)

Cubic Splines

The most common piecewise-polynomial approximation uses cubic polynomials between each successive pair of nodes and is called **cubic spline interpolation**. A general cubic polynomial involves four constants, so there is sufficient flexibility in the cubic spline procedure to ensure that the interpolant is not only continuously differentiable on the interval, but also has a continuous second derivative. The construction of the cubic spline does not, however, assume that the derivatives of the interpolant agree with those of the function it is approximating, even at the nodes. (See Figure 3.8.)

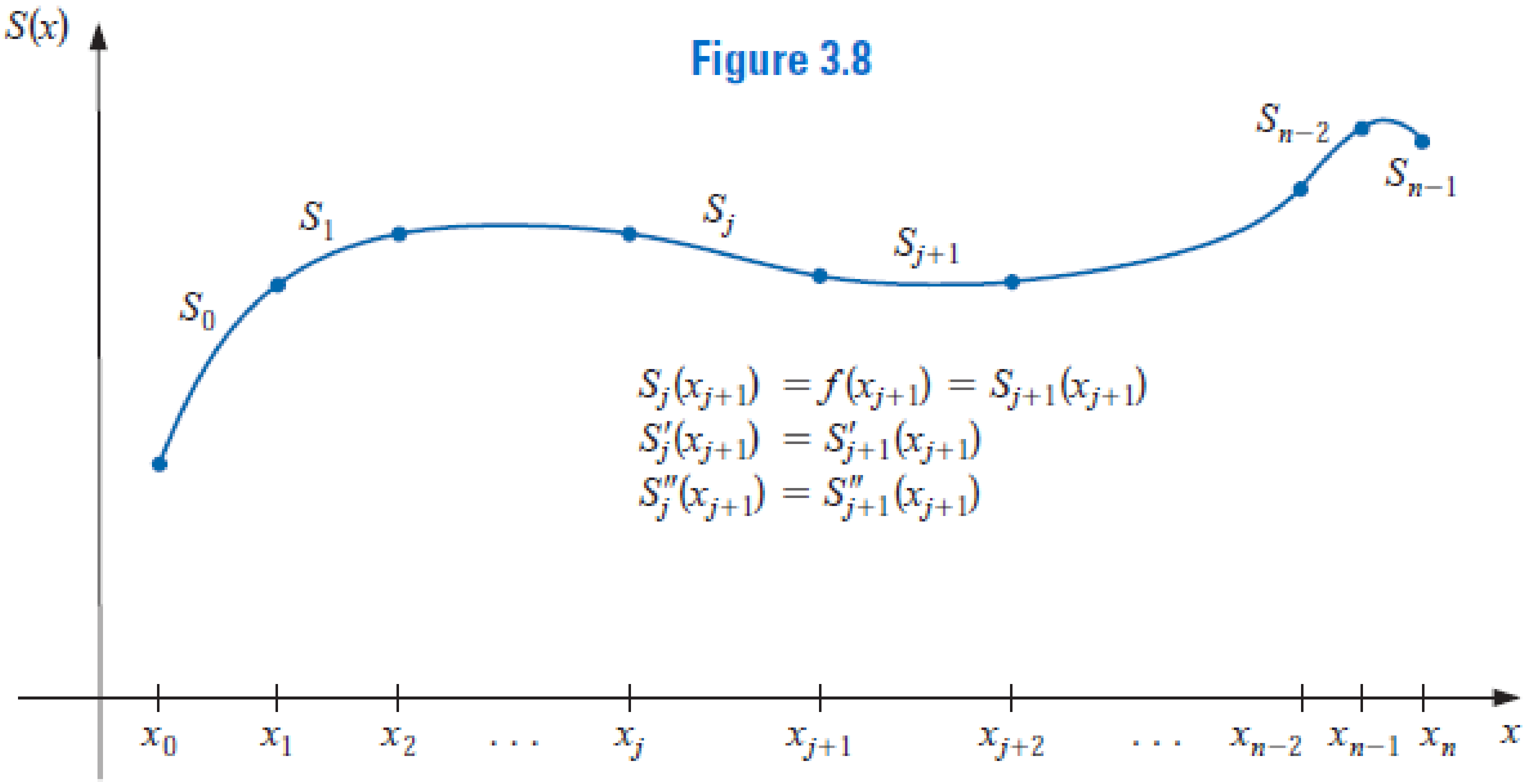
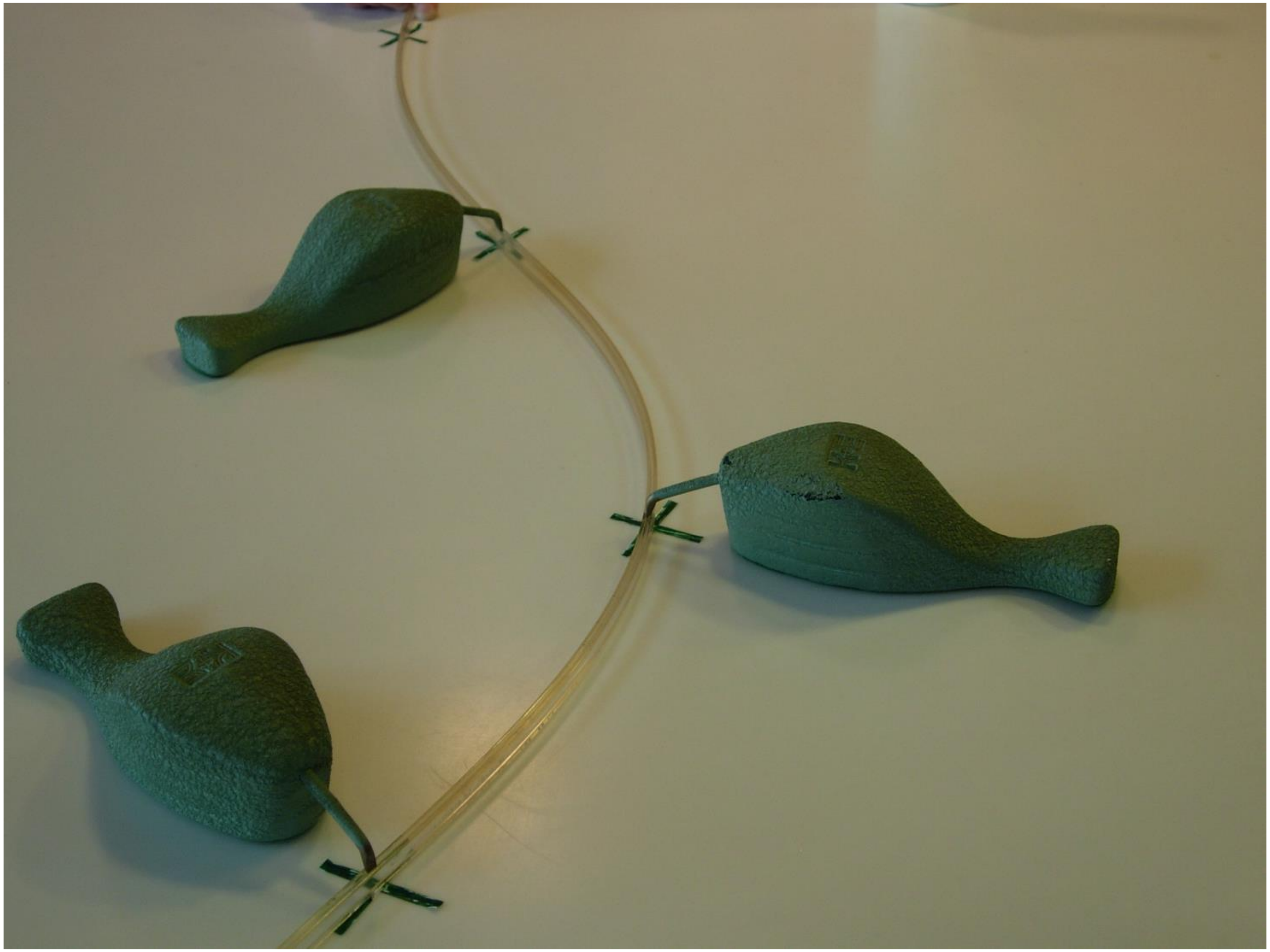
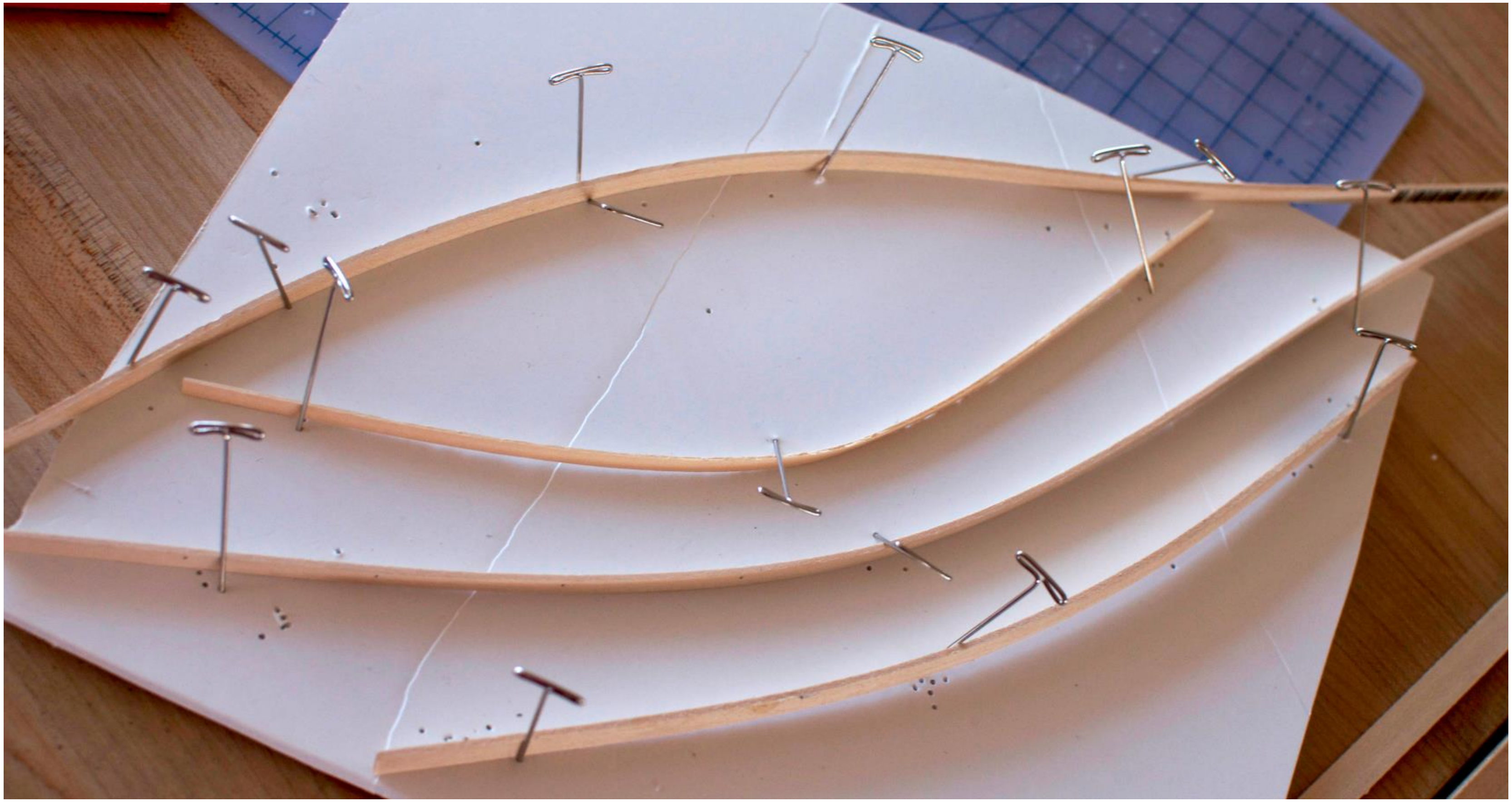


Figure 3.8





Definition 3.10

Given a function f defined on $[a, b]$ and a set of nodes $a = x_0 < x_1 < \cdots < x_n = b$, a **cubic spline interpolant** S for f is a function that satisfies the following conditions:

(a) $S(x)$ is a cubic polynomial, denoted $S_j(x)$, on the subinterval $[x_j, x_{j+1}]$ for each $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n-1$;

(b) $S_j(x_j) = f(x_j)$ and $S_j(x_{j+1}) = f(x_{j+1})$ for each $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n-1$;

(c) $S_{j+1}(x_{j+1}) = S_j(x_{j+1})$ for each $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n-2$; (*Implied by* **(b)**.)

(d) $S'_{j+1}(x_{j+1}) = S'_j(x_{j+1})$ for each $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n-2$;

(e) $S''_{j+1}(x_{j+1}) = S''_j(x_{j+1})$ for each $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n-2$;

(f) One of the following sets of boundary conditions is satisfied:

- **(i)** $S''(x_0) = S''(x_n) = 0$ (**natural** *(or free)* **boundary**);
- **(ii)** $S'(x_0) = f'(x_0)$ and $S'(x_n) = f'(x_n)$ (**clamped boundary**). ■

Example 1

Construct a natural cubic spline that passes through the points $(1, 2)$, $(2, 3)$, and $(3, 5)$.

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Solution This spline consists of two cubics. The first for the interval [1, 2], denoted

$$S_0(x) = a_0 + b_0(x-1) + c_0(x-1)^2 + d_0(x-1)^3,$$

and the other for [2, 3], denoted

$$S_1(x) = a_1 + b_1(x-2) + c_1(x-2)^2 + d_1(x-2)^3.$$

There are 8 constants to be determined, which requires 8 conditions. Four conditions come from the fact that the splines must agree with the data at the nodes. Hence

$$2 = f(1) = a_0, \quad 3 = f(2) = a_0 + b_0 + c_0 + d_0, \quad 3 = f(2) = a_1, \quad \text{and}$$
$$5 = f(3) = a_1 + b_1 + c_1 + d_1.$$

Two more come from the fact that $S_0'(2) = S_1'(2)$ and $S_0''(2) = S_1''(2)$. These are

$$S_0'(2) = S_1'(2): \quad b_0 + 2c_0 + 3d_0 = b_1 \quad \text{and} \quad S_0''(2) = S_1''(2): \quad 2c_0 + 6d_0 = 2c_1$$

The final two come from the natural boundary conditions:

$$S_0''(1) = 0: \quad 2c_0 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad S_1''(3) = 0: \quad 2c_1 + 6d_1 = 0.$$

Solving this system of equations gives the spline

$$S(x) = \begin{cases} 2 + \frac{3}{4}(x-1) + \frac{1}{4}(x-1)^3, & \text{for } x \in [1,2] \\ 3 + \frac{3}{2}(x-2) + \frac{3}{4}(x-2)^2 - \frac{1}{4}(x-2)^3, & \text{for } x \in [2,3] \end{cases}$$

■

Construction of a Cubic Spline

As the preceding example demonstrates, a spline defined on an interval that is divided into n subintervals will require determining $4n$ constants. To construct the cubic spline interpolant for a given function f, the conditions in the definition are applied to the cubic polynomials

$$S_j(x) = a_j + b_j(x - x_j) + c_j(x - x_j)^2 + d_j(x - x_j)^3,$$

for each $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n - 1$. Since $S_j(x_j) = a_j = f(x_j)$, condition **(c)** can be applied to obtain

$$a_{j+1} = S_{j+1}(x_{j+1}) = S_j(x_{j+1}) = a_j + b_j(x_{j+1} - x_j) + c_j(x_{j+1} - x_j)^2 + d_j(x_{j+1} - x_j)^3,$$

for each $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n - 2$.

The terms $x_{j+1} - x_j$ are used repeatedly in this development, so it is convenient to introduce the simpler notation

$$h_j = x_{j+1} - x_j,$$

for each $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n - 1$. If we also define $a_n = f(x_n)$, then the equation

$$a_{j+1} = a_j + b_j h_j + c_j h_j^2 + d_j h_j^3 \tag{3.15}$$

holds for each $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n - 1$.

In a similar manner, define $b_n = S'(x_n)$ and observe that

$$S_j'(x) = b_j + 2c_j(x - x_j) + 3d_j(x - x_j)^2$$

implies $S_j'(x_j) = b_j$, for each $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n-1$. Applying condition (**d**) gives

$$b_{j+1} = b_j + 2c_jh_j + 3d_jh_j^2, \tag{3.16}$$

for each $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n-1$.

Another relationship between the coefficients of S_j is obtained by defining $c_n = S''(x_n)/2$ and applying condition (**e**). Then, for each $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n-1$,

$$c_{j+1} = c_j + 3d_jh_j. \tag{3.17}$$

Solving for d_j in Eq. (3.17) and substituting this value into Eqs. (3.15) and (3.16) gives, for each $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n-1$, the new equations

$$a_{j+1} = a_j + b_jh_j + \frac{h_j^2}{3}(2c_j + c_{j+1}) \tag{3.18}$$

and

$$b_{j+1} = b_j + h_j(c_j + c_{j+1}). \tag{3.19}$$

The final relationship involving the coefficients is obtained by solving the appropriate equation in the form of equation (3.18), first for b_j,

$$b_j = \frac{1}{h_j}(a_{j+1} - a_j) - \frac{h_j}{3}(2c_j + c_{j+1}), \tag{3.20}$$

and then, with a reduction of the index, for b_{j-1}. This gives

$$b_{j-1} = \frac{1}{h_{j-1}}(a_j - a_{j-1}) - \frac{h_{j-1}}{3}(2c_{j-1} + c_j).$$

Substituting these values into the equation derived from Eq. (3.19), with the index reduced by one, gives the linear system of equations

$$h_{j-1}c_{j-1} + 2(h_{j-1} + h_j)c_j + h_j c_{j+1} = \frac{3}{h_j}(a_{j+1} - a_j) - \frac{3}{h_{j-1}}(a_j - a_{j-1}), \tag{3.21}$$

for each $j = 1, 2, \ldots, n-1$. This system involves only the $\{c_j\}_{j=0}^{n}$ as unknowns. The values of $\{h_j\}_{j=0}^{n-1}$ and $\{a_j\}_{j=0}^{n}$ are given, respectively, by the spacing of the nodes $\{x_j\}_{j=0}^{n}$ and the values of f at the nodes. So once the values of $\{c_j\}_{j=0}^{n}$ are determined, it is a simple matter to find the remainder of the constants $\{b_j\}_{j=0}^{n-1}$ from Eq. (3.20) and $\{d_j\}_{j=0}^{n-1}$ from Eq. (3.17). Then we can construct the cubic polynomials $\{S_j(x)\}_{j=0}^{n-1}$.

The major question that arises in connection with this construction is whether the values of $\{c_j\}_{j=0}^{n}$ can be found using the system of equations given in (3.21) and, if so, whether these values are unique. The following theorems indicate that this is the case when either of the boundary conditions given in part (f) of the definition are imposed. The proofs of these theorems require material from linear algebra, which is discussed in Chapter 6.

Theorem 3.11

Natural Splines

If f is defined at $a = x_0 < x_1 < \cdots < x_n = b$, then f has a unique natural spline interpolant S on the nodes $x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n$; that is, a spline interpolant that satisfies the natural boundary conditions $S''(a) = 0$ and $S''(b) = 0$. ■

Proof The boundary conditions in this case imply that $c_n = S''(x_n)/2 = 0$ and that

$$0 = S''(x_0) = 2c_0 + 6d_0(x_0 - x_0),$$

so $c_0 = 0$. The two equations $c_0 = 0$ and $c_n = 0$ together with the equations in (3.21) produce a linear system described by the vector equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$, where A is the $(n+1) \times (n+1)$ matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \\ h_0 & 2(h_0 + h_1) & h_1 & \ddots & & & \vdots \\ 0 & h_1 & 2(h_1 + h_2) & h_2 & \ddots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & h_{n-2} & 2(h_{n-2} + h_{n-1}) & & h_{n-1} \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

Theorem 6.21 A strictly diagonally dominant matrix A is nonsingular. Moreover, in this case, Gaussian elimination can be performed on any linear system of the form $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ to obtain its unique solution without row or column interchanges, and the computations will be stable with respect to the growth of round-off errors. ■

and **b** and **x** are the vectors

$$\mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{3}{h_1}(a_2 - a_1) - \frac{3}{h_0}(a_1 - a_0) \\ \vdots \\ \frac{3}{h_{n-1}}(a_n - a_{n-1}) - \frac{3}{h_{n-2}}(a_{n-1} - a_{n-2}) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} c_0 \\ c_1 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

The matrix A is strictly diagonally dominant, that is, in each row the magnitude of the diagonal entry exceeds the sum of the magnitudes of all the other entries in the row. A linear system with a matrix of this form will be shown by Theorem 6.21 in Section 6.6 to have a unique solution for $c_0, c_1, \ldots, c_n$. ■ ■ ■

ALGORITHM 3.4

Natural Cubic Spline

To construct the cubic spline interpolant S for the function f, defined at the numbers $x_0 < x_1 < \cdots < x_n$, satisfying $S''(x_0) = S''(x_n) = 0$:

INPUT $n; x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n; a_0 = f(x_0), a_1 = f(x_1), \ldots, a_n = f(x_n)$.

OUTPUT a_j, b_j, c_j, d_j for $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n-1$.

(*Note:* $S(x) = S_j(x) = a_j + b_j(x - x_j) + c_j(x - x_j)^2 + d_j(x - x_j)^3$ *for* $x_j \le x \le x_{j+1}$.)

Step 1 For $i = 0, 1, \ldots, n-1$ set $h_i = x_{i+1} - x_i$.

Step 2 For $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n-1$ set

$$\alpha_i = \frac{3}{h_i}(a_{i+1} - a_i) - \frac{3}{h_{i-1}}(a_i - a_{i-1}).$$

Step 3 Set $l_0 = 1$; (*Steps 3, 4, 5, and part of Step 6 solve a tridiagonal linear system using a method described in Algorithm 6.7.*)
$\mu_0 = 0$;
$z_0 = 0$.

Step 4 For $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n-1$
set $l_i = 2(x_{i+1} - x_{i-1}) - h_{i-1}\mu_{i-1}$;
$\mu_i = h_i / l_i$;
$z_i = (\alpha_i - h_{i-1} z_{i-1}) / l_i$.

Step 5 Set $l_n = 1$;
$z_n = 0$;
$c_n = 0$.

Step 6 For $j = n-1, n-2, \ldots, 0$
set $c_j = z_j - \mu_j c_{j+1}$;
$b_j = (a_{j+1} - a_j)/h_j - h_j(c_{j+1} + 2c_j)/3$;
$d_j = (c_{j+1} - c_j)/(3h_j)$.

Step 7 OUTPUT $(a_j, b_j, c_j, d_j$ for $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n-1)$;
STOP.

Example 2

At the beginning of Chapter 3 we gave some Taylor polynomials to approximate the exponential $f(x) = e^x$. Use the data points $(0, 1)$, $(1, e)$, $(2, e^2)$, and $(3, e^3)$ to form a natural spline $S(x)$ that approximates $f(x) = e^x$.

Construction of a Cubic Spline

$$S_j(x) = a_j + b_j(x - x_j) + c_j(x - x_j)^2 + d_j(x - x_j)^3,$$

$$S_j(x_j) = a_j = f(x_j), \quad h_j = x_{j+1} - x_j, \quad b_j = \frac{1}{h_j}(a_{j+1} - a_j) - \frac{h_j}{3}(2c_j + c_{j+1}), \quad d_j = (c_{j+1} - c_j)/(3h_j).$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \\ h_0 & 2(h_0 + h_1) & h_1 & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & h_1 & 2(h_1 + h_2) & h_2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & h_{n-2} & 2(h_{n-2} + h_{n-1}) & h_{n-1} \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{3}{h_1}(a_2 - a_1) - \frac{3}{h_0}(a_1 - a_0) \\ \vdots \\ \frac{3}{h_{n-1}}(a_n - a_{n-1}) - \frac{3}{h_{n-2}}(a_{n-1} - a_{n-2}) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} c_0 \\ c_1 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{bmatrix}$$

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Solution We have $n = 3$, $h_0 = h_1 = h_2 = 1$, $a_0 = 1$, $a_1 = e$, $a_2 = e^2$, and $a_3 = e^3$. So the matrix A and the vectors $\mathbf{b}$ and $\mathbf{x}$ given in Theorem 3.11 have the forms

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 4 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 3(e^2 - 2e + 1) \\ 3(e^3 - 2e^2 + e) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} c_0 \\ c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The vector-matrix equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ is equivalent to the system of equations

$$c_0 = 0,$$

$$c_0 + 4c_1 + c_2 = 3(e^2 - 2e + 1),$$

$$c_1 + 4c_2 + c_3 = 3(e^3 - 2e^2 + e),$$

$$c_3 = 0.$$

This system has the solution $c_0 = c_3 = 0$, and to 5 decimal places,

$$c_1 = \frac{1}{5}(-e^3 + 6e^2 - 9e + 4) \approx 0.75685, \quad \text{and} \quad c_2 = \frac{1}{5}(4e^3 - 9e^2 + 6e - 1) \approx 5.83007.$$

Solving for the remaining constants gives

$$b_0 = \frac{1}{h_0}(a_1 - a_0) - \frac{h_0}{3}(c_1 + 2c_0)$$

$$= (e - 1) - \frac{1}{15}(-e^3 + 6e^2 - 9e + 4) \approx 1.46600,$$

$$b_1 = \frac{1}{h_1}(a_2 - a_1) - \frac{h_1}{3}(c_2 + 2c_1)$$

$$= (e^2 - e) - \frac{1}{15}(2e^3 + 3e^2 - 12e + 7) \approx 2.22285,$$

$$b_2 = \frac{1}{h_2}(a_3 - a_2) - \frac{h_2}{3}(c_3 + 2c_2)$$

$$= (e^3 - e^2) - \frac{1}{15}(8e^3 - 18e^2 + 12e - 2) \approx 8.80977,$$

$$d_0 = \frac{1}{3h_0}(c_1 - c_0) = \frac{1}{15}(-e^3 + 6e^2 - 9e + 4) \approx 0.25228,$$

$$d_1 = \frac{1}{3h_1}(c_2 - c_1) = \frac{1}{3}(e^3 - 3e^2 + 3e - 1) \approx 1.69107,$$

and

$$d_2 = \frac{1}{3h_2}(c_3 - c_1) = \frac{1}{15}(-4e^3 + 9e^2 - 6e + 1) \approx -1.94336.$$

The natural cubic spine is described piecewise by

$$S(x) = \begin{cases} 1 + 1.46600x + 0.25228x^3, & \text{for } x \in [0, 1], \\ 2.71828 + 2.22285(x-1) + 0.75685(x-1)^2 + 1.69107(x-1)^3, & \text{for } x \in [1, 2], \\ 7.38906 + 8.80977(x-2) + 5.83007(x-2)^2 - 1.94336(x-2)^3, & \text{for } x \in [2, 3]. \end{cases}$$

The spline and its agreement with $f(x) = e^x$ are shown in Figure 3.10. ■

Figure 3.10

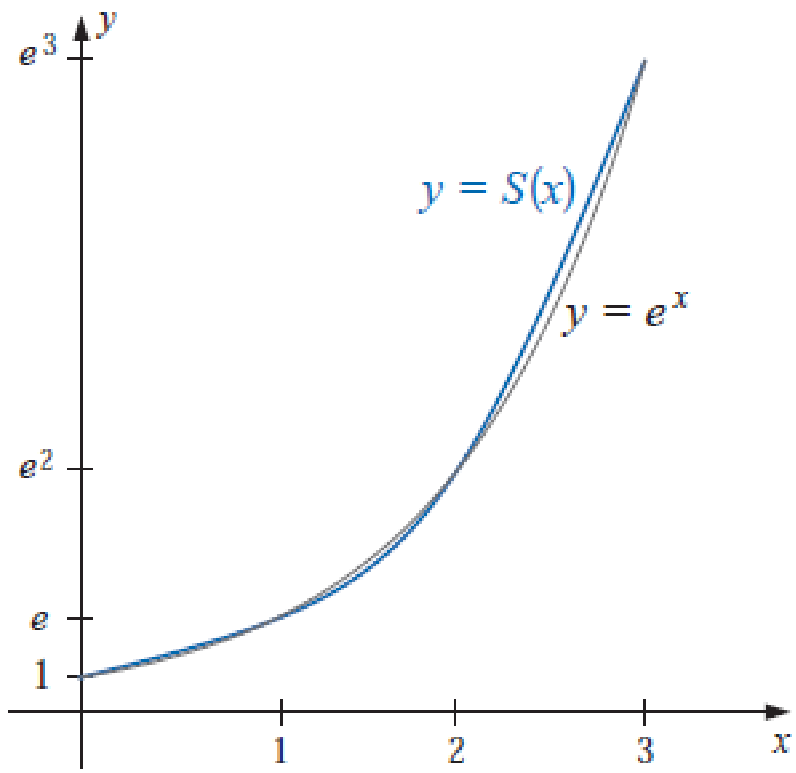


Illustration To approximate the integral of $f(x) = e^x$ on $[0, 3]$, which has the value

$$\int_0^3 e^x\,dx = e^3 - 1 \approx 20.08553692 - 1 = 19.08553692,$$

we can piecewise integrate the spline that approximates f on this integral. This gives

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^3 S(x) = &\int_0^1 1 + 1.46600x + 0.25228x^3\,dx\\ &+ \int_1^2 2.71828 + 2.22285(x-1) + 0.75685(x-1)^2 + 1.69107(x-1)^3\,dx\\ &+ \int_2^3 7.38906 + 8.80977(x-2) + 5.83007(x-2)^2 - 1.94336(x-2)^3\,dx.\end{aligned}$$

Integrating and collecting values from like powers gives

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^3 S(x) = &\left[x + 1.46600\frac{x^2}{2} + 0.25228\frac{x^4}{4}\right]_0^1\\ &+ \left[2.71828(x-1) + 2.22285\frac{(x-1)^2}{2} + 0.75685\frac{(x-1)^3}{3} + 1.69107\frac{(x-1)^4}{4}\right]_1^2\\ &+ \left[7.38906(x-2) + 8.80977\frac{(x-2)^2}{2} + 5.83007\frac{(x-2)^3}{3} - 1.94336\frac{(x-2)^4}{4}\right]_2^3\\ = &(1 + 2.71828 + 7.38906) + \frac{1}{2}(1.46600 + 2.22285 + 8.80977)\\ &+ \frac{1}{3}(0.75685 + 5.83007) + \frac{1}{4}(0.25228 + 1.69107 - 1.94336)\\ = &19.55229.\end{aligned}$$

Clamped Splines

Theorem 3.12

If f is defined at $a = x_0 < x_1 < \cdots < x_n = b$ and differentiable at a and b, then f has a unique clamped spline interpolant S on the nodes $x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n$; that is, a spline interpolant that satisfies the clamped boundary conditions $S'(a) = f'(a)$ and $S'(b) = f'(b)$. ■

Proof Since $f'(a) = S'(a) = S'(x_0) = b_0$, Eq. (3.20) with $j = 0$ implies

$$f'(a) = \frac{1}{h_0}(a_1 - a_0) - \frac{h_0}{3}(2c_0 + c_1).$$

Consequently,

$$2h_0c_0 + h_0c_1 = \frac{3}{h_0}(a_1 - a_0) - 3f'(a).$$

Similarly,

$$f'(b) = b_n = b_{n-1} + h_{n-1}(c_{n-1} + c_n),$$

so Eq. (3.20) with $j = n - 1$ implies that

$$\begin{aligned} f'(b) &= \frac{a_n - a_{n-1}}{h_{n-1}} - \frac{h_{n-1}}{3}(2c_{n-1} + c_n) + h_{n-1}(c_{n-1} + c_n) \\ &= \frac{a_n - a_{n-1}}{h_{n-1}} + \frac{h_{n-1}}{3}(c_{n-1} + 2c_n), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$h_{n-1}c_{n-1} + 2h_{n-1}c_n = 3f'(b) - \frac{3}{h_{n-1}}(a_n - a_{n-1}).$$

Equations (3.21) together with the equations

$$2h_0c_0 + h_0c_1 = \frac{3}{h_0}(a_1 - a_0) - 3f'(a)$$

and

$$h_{n-1}c_{n-1} + 2h_{n-1}c_n = 3f'(b) - \frac{3}{h_{n-1}}(a_n - a_{n-1})$$

determine the linear system $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$, where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2h_0 & h_0 & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \\ h_0 & 2(h_0 + h_1) & h_1 & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & h_1 & 2(h_1 + h_2) & h_2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & h_{n-2} & 2(h_{n-2} + h_{n-1}) & h_{n-1} \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & h_{n-1} & 2h_{n-1} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{h_0}(a_1 - a_0) - 3f'(a) \\ \frac{3}{h_1}(a_2 - a_1) - \frac{3}{h_0}(a_1 - a_0) \\ \vdots \\ \frac{3}{h_{n-1}}(a_n - a_{n-1}) - \frac{3}{h_{n-2}}(a_{n-1} - a_{n-2}) \\ 3f'(b) - \frac{3}{h_{n-1}}(a_n - a_{n-1}) \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} c_0 \\ c_1 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

This matrix A is also strictly diagonally dominant, so it satisfies the conditions of Theorem 6.21 in Section 6.6. Therefore, the linear system has a unique solution for $c_0, c_1, \ldots, c_n$. ■ ■ ■

ALGORITHM **3.5**

Clamped Cubic Spline

To construct the cubic spline interpolant S for the function f defined at the numbers $x_0 < x_1 < \cdots < x_n$, satisfying $S'(x_0) = f'(x_0)$ and $S'(x_n) = f'(x_n)$:

INPUT n; $x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_n$; $a_0 = f(x_0), a_1 = f(x_1), \ldots, a_n = f(x_n)$; $FPO = f'(x_0)$; $FPN = f'(x_n)$.

OUTPUT a_j, b_j, c_j, d_j for $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n-1$.

(*Note:* $S(x) = S_j(x) = a_j + b_j(x - x_j) + c_j(x - x_j)^2 + d_j(x - x_j)^3$ *for* $x_j \le x \le x_{j+1}$.)

Step 1 For $i = 0, 1, \ldots, n-1$ set $h_i = x_{i+1} - x_i$.

Step 2 Set $\alpha_0 = 3(a_1 - a_0)/h_0 - 3FPO$;
$\alpha_n = 3FPN - 3(a_n - a_{n-1})/h_{n-1}$.

Step 3 For $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n-1$

$$\text{set } \alpha_i = \frac{3}{h_i}(a_{i+1} - a_i) - \frac{3}{h_{i-1}}(a_i - a_{i-1}).$$

Step 4 Set $l_0 = 2h_0$; (*Steps 4,5,6, and part of Step 7 solve a tridiagonal linear system using a method described in Algorithm 6.7.*)
$\mu_0 = 0.5$;
$z_0 = \alpha_0 / l_0$.

Step 5 For $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n-1$
set $l_i = 2(x_{i+1} - x_{i-1}) - h_{i-1}\mu_{i-1}$;
$\mu_i = h_i / l_i$;
$z_i = (\alpha_i - h_{i-1} z_{i-1}) / l_i$.

Step 6 Set $l_n = h_{n-1}(2 - \mu_{n-1})$;
$z_n = (\alpha_n - h_{n-1} z_{n-1}) / l_n$;
$c_n = z_n$.

Step 7 For $j = n-1, n-2, \ldots, 0$
set $c_j = z_j - \mu_j c_{j+1}$;
$b_j = (a_{j+1} - a_j)/h_j - h_j(c_{j+1} + 2c_j)/3$;
$d_j = (c_{j+1} - c_j)/(3h_j)$.

Step 8 OUTPUT (a_j, b_j, c_j, d_j for $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n-1$);
STOP.

■

Example 4

Example 2 used a natural spline and the data points $(0, 1)$, $(1, e)$, $(2, e^2)$, and $(3, e^3)$ to form a new approximating function $S(x)$. Determine the clamped spline $s(x)$ that uses this data and the additional information that, since $f'(x) = e^x$, so $f'(0) = 1$ and $f'(3) = e^3$.

Solution As in Example 2, we have $n = 3$, $h_0 = h_1 = h_2 = 1$, $a_0 = 0$, $a_1 = e$, $a_2 = e^2$, and $a_3 = e^3$. This together with the information that $f'(0) = 1$ and $f'(3) = e^3$ gives the the matrix A and the vectors $\mathbf{b}$ and $\mathbf{x}$ with the forms

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 4 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 3(e-2) \\ 3(e^2-2e+1) \\ 3(e^3-2e^2+e) \\ 3e^2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} c_0 \\ c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The vector-matrix equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ is equivalent to the system of equations

$$2c_0 + c_1 = 3(e-2),$$

$$c_0 + 4c_1 + c_2 = 3(e^2 - 2e + 1),$$

$$c_1 + 4c_2 + c_3 = 3(e^3 - 2e^2 + e),$$

$$c_2 + 2c_3 = 3e^2.$$

Solving this system simultaneously for c_0, c_1, c_2 and c_3 gives, to 5 decimal places,

$$c_0 = \frac{1}{15}(2e^3 - 12e^2 + 42e - 59) = 0.44468,$$

$$c_1 = \frac{1}{15}(-4e^3 + 24e^2 - 39e + 28) = 1.26548,$$

$$c_2 = \frac{1}{15}(14e^3 - 39e^2 + 24e - 8) = 3.35087,$$

$$c_3 = \frac{1}{15}(-7e^3 + 42e^2 - 12e + 4) = 9.40815.$$

Solving for the remaining constants in the same manner as Example 2 gives

$$b_0 = 1.00000, \quad b_1 = 2.71016, \quad b_2 = 7.32652,$$

and

$$d_0 = 0.27360, \quad d_1 = 0.69513, \quad d_2 = 2.01909.$$

This gives the clamped cubic spine

$$s(x) = \begin{cases} 1 + x + 0.44468x^2 + 0.27360x^3, & \text{if } 0 \le x < 1, \\ 2.71828 + 2.71016(x-1) + 1.26548(x-1)^2 + 0.69513(x-1)^3, & \text{if } 1 \le x < 2, \\ 7.38906 + 7.32652(x-2) + 3.35087(x-2)^2 + 2.01909(x-2)^3, & \text{if } 2 \le x \le 3. \end{cases}$$

The graph of the clamped spline and $f(x) = e^x$ are so similar that no difference can be seen. ■

We can also approximate the integral of f on $[0, 3]$, by integrating the clamped spline. The exact value of the integral is

$$\int_0^3 e^x \, dx = e^3 - 1 \approx 20.08554 - 1 = 19.08554.$$

Because the data is equally spaced, piecewise integrating the clamped spline results in the same formula as in (3.22), that is,

$$\int_0^3 s(x) \, dx = (a_0 + a_1 + a_2) + \frac{1}{2}(b_0 + b_1 + b_2) + \frac{1}{3}(c_0 + c_1 + c_2) + \frac{1}{4}(d_0 + d_1 + d_2).$$

Hence the integral approximation is

$$\int_0^3 s(x) \, dx = (1 + 2.71828 + 7.38906) + \frac{1}{2}(1 + 2.71016 + 7.32652) + \frac{1}{3}(0.44468 + 1.26548 + 3.35087) + \frac{1}{4}(0.27360 + 0.69513 + 2.01909)$$
$$= 19.05965.$$

The absolute error in the integral approximation using the clamped and natural splines are

$$\text{Natural} : |19.08554 - 19.55229| = 0.46675$$

and

$$\text{Clamped} : |19.08554 - 19.05965| = 0.02589.$$

For integration purposes the clamped spline is vastly superior. This should be no surprise since the boundary conditions for the clamped spline are exact, whereas for the natural spline we are essentially assuming that, since $f''(x) = e^x$,

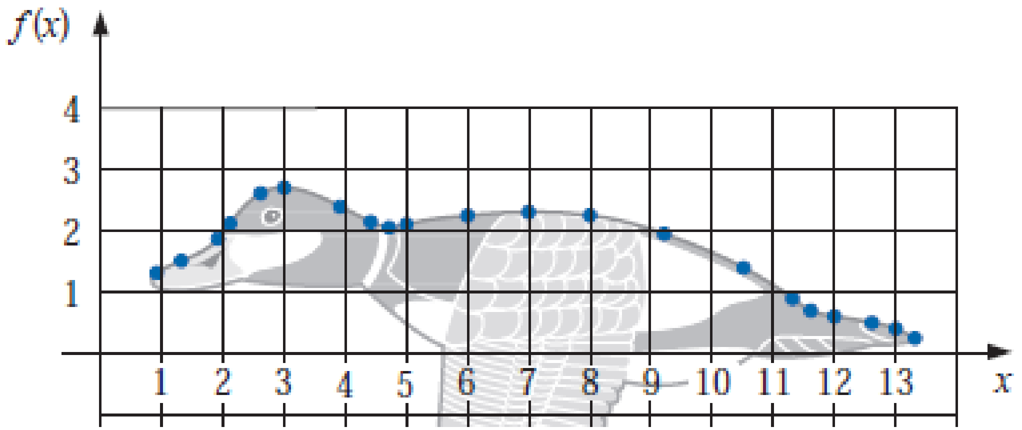
$$0 = S''(0) \approx f''(0) = e^1 = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad 0 = S''(3) \approx f''(3) = e^3 \approx 20.$$

Illustration

Table 3.18 lists the coordinates of 21 data points relative to the superimposed coordinate system shown in Figure 3.12. Notice that more points are used when the curve is changing rapidly than when it is changing more slowly.

Table 3.18

x	0.9	1.3	1.9	2.1	2.6	3.0	3.9	4.4	4.7	5.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	9.2	10.5	11.3	11.6	12.0	12.6	13.0	13.3
$f(x)$	1.3	1.5	1.85	2.1	2.6	2.7	2.4	2.15	2.05	2.1	2.25	2.3	2.25	1.95	1.4	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.25

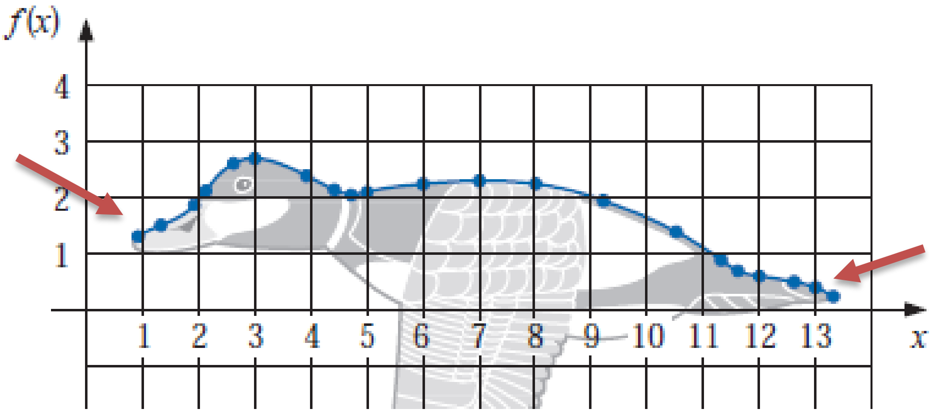


Using Algorithm 3.4 to generate the natural cubic spline for this data produces the coefficients shown in Table 3.19. This spline curve is nearly identical to the profile, as shown in Figure 3.13.

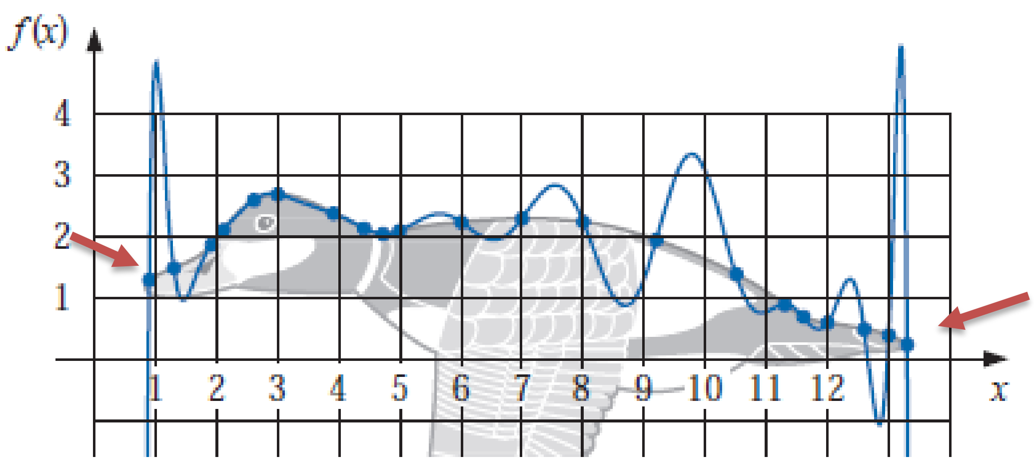
Table 3.19

j	x_j	a_j	b_j	c_j	d_j
0	0.9	1.3	5.40	0.00	−0.25
1	1.3	1.5	0.42	−0.30	0.95
2	1.9	1.85	1.09	1.41	−2.96
3	2.1	2.1	1.29	−0.37	−0.45
4	2.6	2.6	0.59	−1.04	0.45
5	3.0	2.7	−0.02	−0.50	0.17
6	3.9	2.4	−0.50	−0.03	0.08
7	4.4	2.15	−0.48	0.08	1.31
8	4.7	2.05	−0.07	1.27	−1.58
9	5.0	2.1	0.26	−0.16	0.04
10	6.0	2.25	0.08	−0.03	0.00
11	7.0	2.3	0.01	−0.04	−0.02
12	8.0	2.25	−0.14	−0.11	0.02
13	9.2	1.95	−0.34	−0.05	−0.01
14	10.5	1.4	−0.53	−0.10	−0.02
15	11.3	0.9	−0.73	−0.15	1.21
16	11.6	0.7	−0.49	0.94	−0.84
17	12.0	0.6	−0.14	−0.06	0.04
18	12.6	0.5	−0.18	0.00	−0.45
19	13.0	0.4	−0.39	−0.54	0.60
20	13.3	0.25			

Figure 3.13



For comparison purposes, Figure 3.14 gives an illustration of the curve that is generated using a Lagrange interpolating polynomial to fit the data given in Table 3.18. The interpolating polynomial in this case is of degree 20 and oscillates wildly. It produces a very strange illustration of the back of a duck, in flight or otherwise.



Theorem 3.13

Let $f \in C^4[a,b]$ with $\max_{a \le x \le b} |f^{(4)}(x)| = M$. If S is the unique clamped cubic spline interpolant to f with respect to the nodes $a = x_0 < x_1 < \cdots < x_n = b$, then for all x in $[a,b]$,

$$|f(x) - S(x)| \le \frac{5M}{384} \max_{0 \le j \le n-1} (x_{j+1} - x_j)^4. \quad \blacksquare$$

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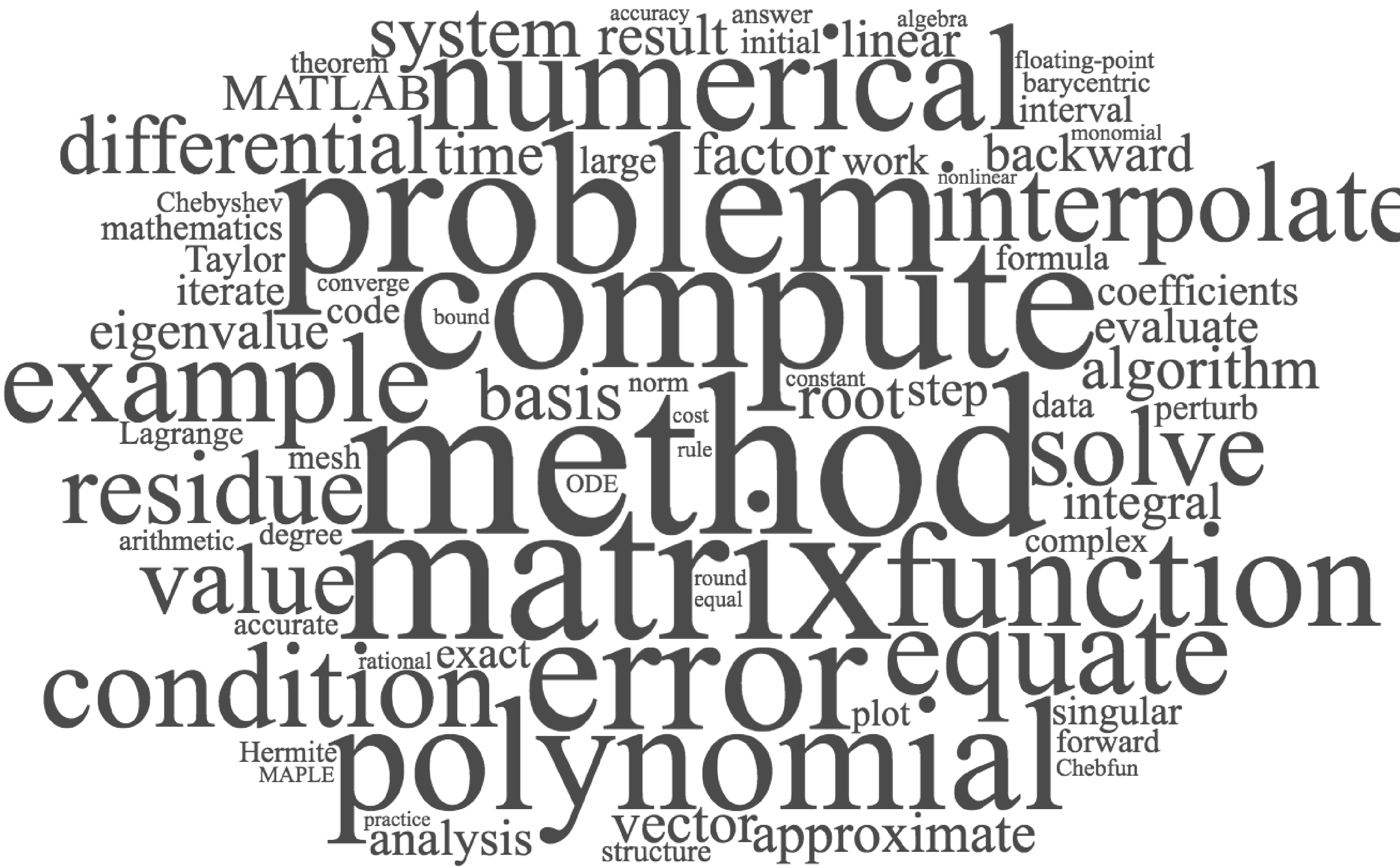
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numerical
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work
backward
monomial
nonlinear
Chebyshev
problem
interpolate
mathematics
Taylor
formula
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