

## Fourier interpolation/differentiation

We have considered polynomial interpolation as a means to produce numerical derivatives. We shall continue with this plan soon, using Chebyshev, or more generally Jacobi polynomial interpolants.

Before going in that direction, however, we consider an alternative: Fourier expansion!

How would we compute a Fourier approximation (interpolant) for a function given only on an equispaced mesh?

Ans: we rely on Fourier-coefficient integral formula together with the trapezoidal rule!

## Benefits:

- 1) Straightforward evaluation of the interpolant coefficients
- 2) Very fast convergence for smooth and periodic functions. (See e.g. problem 1, Set II.)

## Disadvantages:

- 1) Restricted to periodic functions.

We will remove the restrictions later. For now we consider periodic problems.

## Fourier Coefficients

Let  $u$  denote a smooth  $2\pi$ -periodic function.

The coefficients  $\hat{u}_k$  in the Fourier expansion

$$u(x) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{u}_k e^{ikx}$$

are given by

$$\hat{u}_k = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} u(x) e^{-ikx} dx$$

Idea: use the trapezoidal rule, which, gives excellent

convergence for smooth and periodic functions (cf. problem

sets I and II, additional discussion below). Equispaced points!

In any case: what do we obtain when we approximate

$e_k$  by means of the trapezoidal rule?

It suffices to see what results as the trapezoidal rule is applied to  $e^{ikx}$ !

The result is (using  $N$  points  $x_j = \frac{2\pi}{N}j$ ):

$$\frac{2\pi}{N} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} e^{\frac{2\pi ik}{N}j} =$$

$$= \frac{2\pi}{N} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \left[ e^{\frac{2\pi ik}{N}} \right]^j =$$

$$= \frac{2\pi}{N} \frac{\left[ e^{\frac{2\pi ik}{N}} \right]^N - 1}{e^{\frac{2\pi ik}{N}} - 1} =$$

$$= 2\pi \cdot \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } k \text{ is not a multiple of } N \\ 1 & \text{if } k \text{ is a multiple of } N. \end{cases}$$

$k \not\equiv 0 (N)$   
 $k \equiv 0 (N)$

Thus, the trapezoidal approximation for the integral of  $u$  equals

$$2\pi \sum_{\substack{k=-\infty \\ k \equiv 0 (N)}}^{\infty} \hat{u}_k =$$

$$= 2\pi \cdot (\dots \hat{u}_{-2N} + \hat{u}_{-N} + \hat{u}_0 + \hat{u}_N + \hat{u}_{2N} \dots)$$

(The exact integral equals  $2\pi \hat{u}_0$ !)

## Discrete Fourier Expansions

In the previous class we showed that the trapezoidal approximation, using the  $N$  points  $x_j = \frac{2\pi}{N}j$ , ( $0 \leq j \leq N-1$ ), for the integral of a  $2\pi$ -periodic function

$$u(x) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{u}_k e^{ikx}$$

equals 
$$2\pi \sum_{\substack{k=-\infty \\ k \equiv 0 \pmod{N}}}^{\infty} \hat{u}_k =$$

$$= 2\pi \cdot (\dots \hat{u}_{-2N} + \hat{u}_{-N} + \hat{u}_0 + \hat{u}_N + \hat{u}_{2N} \dots)$$

(The exact integral equals  $2\pi \cdot \hat{u}_0$ .)

(Note that, in particular, for a function

$$v \in \text{span} \left\{ e^{ikx} \mid 0 \leq |k| \leq N-1 \right\} \text{ we have}$$

the exact relation

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} v(x) dx = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} v(x_j).$$

We thus define the trapezoidal approximation

$$\tilde{u}_k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} u(x_j) e^{-ikx_j} \quad (k=0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots)$$

for the Fourier coefficients  $\hat{u}_k$ .

Note that the approximate coefficients  $\tilde{u}_k$  are

$N$ -periodic:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{u}_{k \pm N} &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} u(x_j) e^{-i(k \pm N)x_j} = \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} u(x_j) e^{-ikx_j} \underbrace{e^{\mp 2\pi i j}}_{=1} = \tilde{u}_k \end{aligned}$$

In view of type of manipulations we are considering

we define

$$\langle u, v \rangle_N = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} u(x_j) \overline{v(x_j)}$$

The trapezoidal rule expression on page 183

tells us that, letting

$$E_\ell(x) = e^{i\ell x} \quad (\ell \in \mathbb{Z})$$

and  $N \geq 1$ , for  $k, m \in \mathbb{Z}$  we have

$$\langle E_k, E_m \rangle = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } k - m = \ell N \quad (\ell \in \mathbb{Z}) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



This a discrete analog of the orthonormality relation

$$(E_k, E_m) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} e^{i(k-m)x} dx = \delta_{km}.$$

In view of the periodicity of Fourier coefficients

we have

$$\tilde{u}_{-N/2} = \tilde{u}_{N/2} \quad (N \text{ even}).$$

These two modes are said to be "aliased".

For simplicity we restrict treatment to even

values of  $N$ , and we consider the set of modes

$$E_k \text{ with } -\frac{N}{2} \leq k \leq \frac{N}{2}.$$

In view of periodicity, in our treatment the

coefficients are modified so that both the  $-N/2$  and

$N/2$  coefficients are present, with half weight each;

the discrete Fourier coefficients are thus re-defined

according to

$$(1) \quad \tilde{u}_k = \frac{1}{Nc_k} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} u(x_j) e^{-ikx_j} \quad (-N/2 \leq k \leq N/2)$$

where

$$c_k = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } |k| < N/2 \\ 2 & \text{for } k = \pm N/2. \end{cases}$$

(Other alternatives are also often used in practice,

such as assigning the full weight to  $\tilde{u}_{-N/2}$  and

setting  $\tilde{u}_{N/2} = 0$ .)

This is the (forward) discrete Fourier transform

of  $u(x)$  associated with the discretization

$$\left\{ x_j = \frac{2\pi}{N} j : j = 0, \dots, N-1 \right\}$$

Note that, by periodicity, we have only  $N$  independent discrete coefficients.

Fact: the discrete Fourier expansion is interpolatory.

In other words, defining  $I_N(u)$  by

$$\left(I_N(u)\right)(x) = \sum_{k=-\frac{N}{2}}^{\frac{N}{2}} \tilde{u}_k e^{ikx},$$

given by (1)

for any given function  $u$  defined in  $[0, 2\pi]$

we have

$$\left(I_N(u)\right)(x_l) = u(x_l) \quad (2)$$

for  $0 \leq l \leq N-1$ .

Proof: we have

$$\left( I_N(u) \right)(x) = \sum_{k=-\frac{N}{2}}^{\frac{N}{2}} \left( \frac{1}{N c_k} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} u(x_j) e^{-ikx_j} \right) e^{ikx} =$$

$$\sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \underbrace{\left[ \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=-\frac{N}{2}}^{\frac{N}{2}} \frac{1}{c_k} e^{ik(x-x_j)} \right]}_{h_j(x)} u(x_j) \quad (3)$$

But, using p. 181 we have

$$h_j(x_l) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=-\frac{N}{2}}^{\frac{N}{2}} \frac{1}{c_k} e^{ik(x_l-x_j)} =$$

$$= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=-\frac{N}{2}}^{\frac{N}{2}} \frac{1}{c_k} e^{ik \frac{2\pi}{N} (l-j)} =$$

$$= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} e^{ik \frac{2\pi}{N} (l-j)} = \begin{cases} 0 & l-j \neq 0 \pmod{N} \\ 1 & l-j \equiv 0 \pmod{N}, \end{cases}$$

and, thus, equation (2) follows.

Fact: we have

$$h_j(x) = \frac{1}{N} \sin \left[ N \frac{x - x_j}{2} \right] \cot \left[ \frac{x - x_j}{2} \right] \quad (4)$$

(proof omitted; similar to **Dirichlet** kernel derivation; see p. 27 STW.)

Equations (3) and (4) provide the analog

$$\left( I_N(u) \right)(x) = \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} h_j(x) u(x_j) \quad (5)$$

of the Lagrange interpolation formula in the context of discrete Fourier interpolation.

Differentiation of equation (5) can be used as a basis for a PDE solver, even for

large values of  $N$ .

Note: use of (5) to obtain derivatives at

all  $N$  points  $x_0, \dots, x_{N-1}$  requires  $\mathcal{O}(N^2)$

cost as  $N$  grows.

Note: The relations (1) and (2), which

we rewrite here as

$$\tilde{u}_k = \frac{1}{N\Delta x} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} u(x_j) e^{-ikx_j}$$

$$u(x_q) = \sum_{k=-\frac{N}{2}}^{\frac{N}{2}} \tilde{u}_k e^{ikx_q}$$

are the discrete analogs of the direct and

inverse Fourier transform.

Alternative to  $O(N^2)$  algorithm:

the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT)

(Cooley-Tukey 1965, Gauss  $\sim$  1806)

The calculation of the discrete Fourier transform

$$F_k = \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} e^{2\pi ijk/N} f_j$$

can be reduced as follows:

$$F_k = \sum_{j=0}^{N/2-1} e^{2\pi ik(2j)/N} f_{2j} + \sum_{j=0}^{N/2-1} e^{2\pi ik(2j+1)/N} f_{2j+1}$$

or, letting  $W \equiv e^{2\pi i/N}$

$$F_k = \sum_{j=0}^{N/2-1} e^{2\pi ikj/(N/2)} f_{2j} + W^k \sum_{j=0}^{N/2-1} e^{2\pi ikj/(N/2)} f_{2j+1}$$

or,

$$F_k = F_k^e + W^k F_k^o$$

Thus we have reduced the problem to evaluation of two transforms of size  $N/2$ .

Direct evaluation of these requires

$$2 \left( \frac{N}{2} \right)^2 = \frac{N^2}{2} \text{ operations.}$$

Cheaper! And we can repeat!

We eventually get to

$$F_k^{eoeoeoe\cdots oee} = f_n \quad \text{for some } n$$

and we are done. If  $N = 2^p$ , then

a total of  $p = \log_2 N$  steps suffice.

At  $N$  operations per step, a total cost of  $N \log_2(N)$  results.

How about  $N$  not equal to a power of 2?



This is also Ok, works well as long as  $N$  does not contain large prime factors.

(One can always use a discretization with an adequate value of  $N$ , equal to products of powers of small primes.)

Matlab format

$$\left\{ v(j) = u(x_{j-1}) \right\}_{j=1}^N, \quad x_j = \frac{2\pi j}{N}$$

$\tilde{v} = \text{fft}(v)$  returns  $\left\{ \tilde{v}_k \right\}_{k=1}^N$  where

$$\tilde{v}(k) = \sum_{j=1}^N v(j) e^{-2\pi i(j-1)(k-1)/N}$$

The inverse FFT is given by

$$v = \text{ifft}(\tilde{v})$$

returns the physical values

$$\left\{ v(j) \right\}_{j=1}^N \quad \text{given by}$$

$$v(j) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \tilde{v}(k) e^{2\pi i(j-1)(k-1)/N}$$

It is important to keep in mind the following relationships:

$$u(x_j) = v(j+1), \quad x_j = \frac{2\pi j}{N}, \quad 0 \leq j \leq N-1$$

$$\tilde{u}_k = \frac{1}{N} \tilde{v}(k+1) \quad 0 \leq k \leq \frac{N}{2} - 1$$

$$\tilde{u}_k = \frac{1}{N} \tilde{v}(k+N+1) \quad -\frac{N}{2} + 1 \leq k \leq -1$$

$$\tilde{u}_{-N/2} = \tilde{u}_{N/2} = \frac{1}{2N} \tilde{v}\left(\frac{N}{2} + 1\right)$$

$$\underbrace{u(x_0), \dots, u(x_{N-1})}_{V(N)}$$

$$\tilde{u}_0, \dots, \tilde{u}_{\frac{N}{2}-1}, 2\tilde{u}_{\frac{N}{2}}, \dots, \tilde{u}_{-1}$$

$$\frac{\tilde{v}(1)}{N}, \frac{\tilde{v}(N/2)}{N}, \frac{\tilde{v}(N/2+1)}{N}, \frac{\tilde{v}(N/2+2)}{N}, \dots, \frac{\tilde{v}(N)}{N}$$

Discrete Fourier approach: high-order approximation,  
convergence, fast (FFT).

Limitation: Periodicity requirement

IDEA!

Given a smooth function

$$f: [-1, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

consider  $f(\cos(\theta))$ : periodic function of  $\theta$

Fourier series (cosine series)

$$f(\cos(\theta)) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k \cos(k\theta)$$

where

$$a_k = \frac{2}{\pi c_k} \int_0^{\pi} f(\cos(\theta)) \cos(k\theta) d\theta$$

$$(c_0 = 2, c_k = 1 \text{ for } k > 0)$$

$$x = \cos(\theta)$$

$$\theta = \arccos(x)$$

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k \underbrace{\cos(k \arccos(x))}_{\text{polynomial}}$$

## Chebyshev approximation

Given a smooth function

$$f: [-1, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

consider  $f(\cos(\theta))$ :  $2\pi$ -periodic function of  $\theta$ .

This is also an even function of  $\theta$ , and thus

1) All of its sine coefficients vanish:

$$f(\cos(\theta)) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k \cos(k\theta); \text{ and}$$

2) Its Fourier coefficients  $a_k$  can be obtained as integrals

between 0 and  $\pi$ : letting  $c_0 = 2$  and  $c_k = 1$  for  $k > 0$ ,

we have

$$a_k = \frac{1}{\pi c_k} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \underbrace{f(\cos(\theta)) \cos(k\theta)}_{\text{even}} d\theta,$$

and, thus

$$a_k = \frac{2}{\pi c_k} \int_0^{\pi} f(\cos(\theta)) \cos(k\theta) d\theta. \quad (1)$$

The discrete Fourier expansion methods can be used to obtain approximate versions of the coefficients  $a_k$  using the trapezoidal rule on the complete  $2\pi$  periodicity interval  $[-\pi, \pi]$  (in the variable  $\theta$ ), and using equispaced discretization points in the variable  $\theta$ . But since

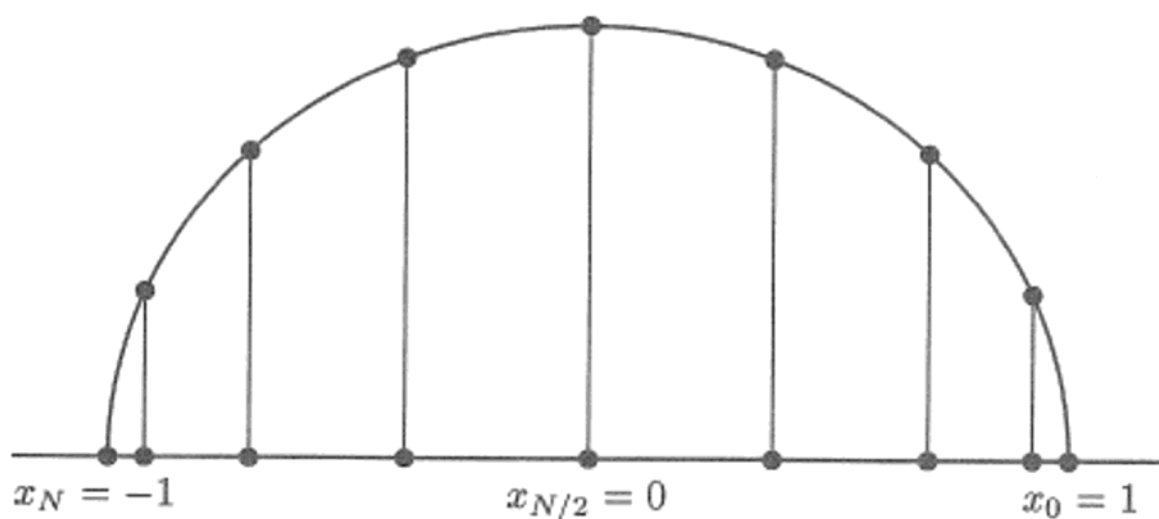
$$f(\cos(\theta)) \cos(k\theta)$$

is an even function, the sum is reduced, as in (1), to twice a sum over discretization points  $\theta_j$  in the interval  $[0, \pi]$ .

Of course, this requires use of the function values

$f(\cos(\theta_j))$  of the function  $f$  at points

$$x_j = \cos(\theta_j)$$



The Chebyshev points  $x_j$  are the projections onto the  $x$ -axis of equally spaced points on the unit circle

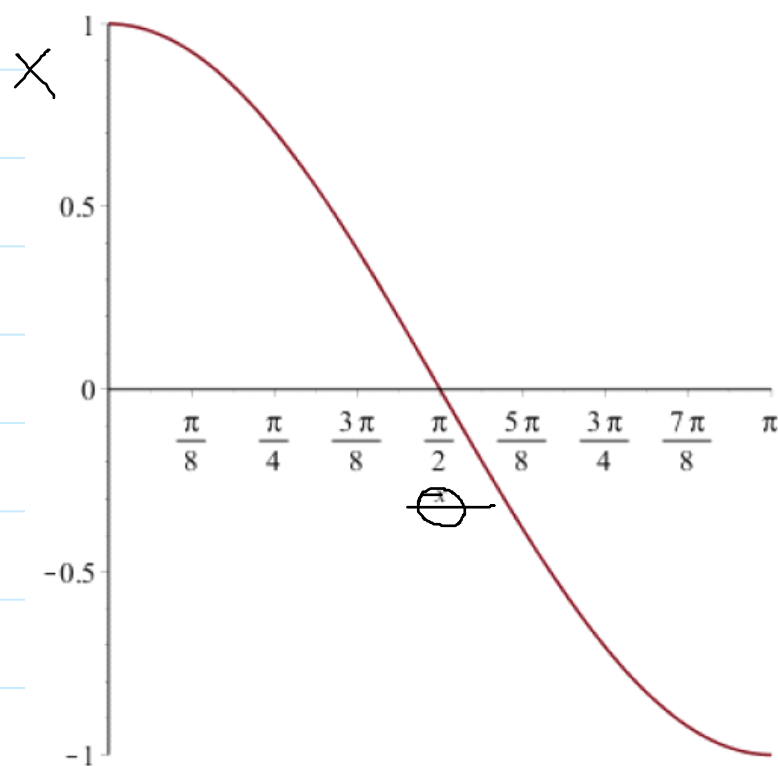
Several different choices can be made for the equispaced

points  $\theta_j$ , including both endpoints, only one

endpoint, or neither endpoint (the latter

using  $\theta_1 = h/2, \theta_2 = 3h/2, \theta_3 = 5h/2, \dots, \theta_n = \pi - h/2$

The change of variables  $x = \cos(\theta)$  inverts the directions:  $x$  goes from 1 to -1 as  $\theta$  goes from 0 to  $\pi$ .



This graph also shows how equispaced points  $\theta_j$  are transformed into points  $x_j = \cos(\theta_j)$  which accumulate toward the endpoints  $x = \pm 1$  of the  $x$  interval.



The cosine expansions of the form

$$f(\cos(\theta)) = \sum_k a_k \cos(k\theta)$$

containing either finitely-many or infinitely-many terms (as may arise from e.g. a discrete or a continuous transform, respectively) can be re-expressed in the  $x$  variable:

$$f(x) = \sum_k a_k \cos(k \arccos(x)).$$

Let us call

$$T_k(x) = \cos(k \arccos(x)).$$

We show that  $T_k(x)$  is a polynomial of degree  $k$ .

(Chebyshev is sometimes spelled Tchebyshev, which explains the use of the  $T_k$  notation.)

To do this we first note the trigonometric relation

$$\cos((k+1)\theta) + \cos((k-1)\theta) = 2 \cos(\theta) \cos(k\theta)$$

which tells us that

$$T_{k+1}(x) + T_{k-1}(x) = 2xT_k(x) \quad (2)$$

This is a "three-term recurrence relation".

Given that, clearly

$$T_0(x) = 1 \text{ and } T_1(x) = x$$

it follows inductively that  $T_k(x)$  is a polynomial of degree  $k$  for all non-negative integers  $k$ , as claimed.

Note also that, importantly, the relation (2)

enables recursive evaluation of all  $T_k(x)$

at any given  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  without recourse to (expensive) evaluation of the cos and arccos functions.

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### Chebyshev Expansion

Using the Chebyshev polynomials  $T_k(x)$  we re-express the expansion

$$f(\cos(\theta)) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k \cos(k\theta)$$

in the "Chebyshev expansion" form

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k T_k(x)$$

Converges fast for arbitrary, non-periodic (smooth) functions. We will exploit such expansions for computational purposes.