Differentiation-Discrete Functions

Electric Engineering Majors

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Transforming Numerical Methods Education for STEM Undergraduates

Differentiation –Discrete Functions

Forward Difference Approximation

$$f'(x) = \frac{\lim_{\Delta x \to 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$$

For a finite ' Δx '

$$f'(x) \approx \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$$

Graphical Representation Of Forward Difference Approximation



Figure 1 Graphical Representation of forward difference approximation of first derivative.

Example 1

To increase the reliability and life of a switch, one needs to turn the switch off as close to zero crossing as possible. To find this time of zero crossing, the value of E(t)/E'(t) is to be found at all times given in Table 1, where E(t) is the voltage and t is the time. To keep the problem simple, you are asked to find the approximate value of E(t)/E'(t) at t = 10.

See Table 1 for voltage as a function of time data.

Use Forward Divided Difference approximation of the first derivative to calculate E(t)/E'(t) at t = 10. Use a step size of $\Delta t = 1$.

Example 1 Cont.

 Table 1
 Voltage as a function of time.

Time, t (s)	Voltage, $E(t)(V)$	Time, t (s)	Voltage, $E(t)$ (V)
1	0.62161	13	-0.21078
2	0.36236	14	0.087499
3	0.070737	15	0.37798
4	-0.22720	16	0.63469
5	-0.50485	17	0.83471
6	-0.73739	18	0.96017
7	-0.90407	19	0.99986
8	-0.98999	20	0.95023
9	-0.98748	21	0.81573
10	-0.89676	22	0.60835
11	-0.72593	23	0.34664
12	-0.49026	24	0.053955

Example 1 Cont.

Solution $E'(t_i) \approx \frac{E(t_{i+1}) - E(t_i)}{\Delta t}$ $t_{i} = 10$ $t_{i+1} = 11$ $\Delta t = t_{i+1} - t_i$ = 11 - 10=1 $E'(10) \approx \frac{E(11) - E(10)}{\Delta t}$ $\approx \frac{-0.72593 - (-0.89676)}{1}$ ≈ 0.17083 V/s

Example 1 Cont.

 $\frac{E(10)}{E'(10)} \approx \frac{-0.89676}{0.17083} \\ \approx -5.2495 \,\mathrm{s}$

Direct Fit Polynomials

In this method, given '*n*+1' data points $(x_0, y_0), (x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$ one can fit a n^{th} order polynomial given by $P_n(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + a_nx^n$

To find the first derivative,

$$P'_{n}(x) = \frac{dP_{n}(x)}{dx} = a_{1} + 2a_{2}x + \dots + (n-1)a_{n-1}x^{n-2} + na_{n}x^{n-2}$$

Similarly other derivatives can be found.

To increase the reliability and life of a switch, one needs to turn the switch off as close to zero crossing as possible. To find this time of zero crossing, the value of E(t)/E'(t) is to be found at all times given in Table 2, where E(t) is the voltage and t is the time. To keep the problem simple, you are asked to find the approximate value of E(t)/E'(t) at t = 10.

See Table 2 for voltage as a function of time data.

Using the third order polynomial interpolant for Voltage, find the value of E(t)/E'(t) at t = 10.

Table 2Voltage as a function of time.

Time, t (s)	Voltage, $E(t)(V)$	Time, t (s)	Voltage, $E(t)$ (V)
1	0.62161	13	-0.21078
2	0.36236	14	0.087499
3	0.070737	15	0.37798
4	-0.22720	16	0.63469
5	-0.50485	17	0.83471
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12	-0.49026	24	0.053955

Solution

For the third order polynomial (also called cubic interpolation), we choose the velocity given by $E(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 + a_3 t^3$

Since we want to find the voltage at t = 10, and we are using a third order polynomial, we need to choose the four points closest to t = 10 and that also bracket t = 10 to evaluate it.

The four points are $t_0 = 8$, $t_1 = 9$, $t_2 = 10$ and $t_3 = 11$.

$$t_o = 8, E(t_o) = -0.98999$$

 $t_1 = 9, E(t_1) = -0.98748$
 $t_2 = 10, E(t_2) = -0.89676$
 $t_3 = 11, E(t_3) = -0.72593$

such that

$$E(8) = -0.98999 = a_0 + a_1(8) + a_2(8)^2 + a_3(8)^3$$

$$E(9) = -0.98748 = a_0 + a_1(9) + a_2(9)^2 + a_3(9)^3$$

$$E(10) = -0.89676 = a_0 + a_1(10) + a_2(10)^2 + a_3(10)^3$$

$$E(11) = -0.72593 = a_0 + a_1(11) + a_2(11)^2 + a_3(11)^3$$

Writing the four equations in matrix form, we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 8 & 64 & 512 \\ 1 & 9 & 81 & 729 \\ 1 & 10 & 100 & 1000 \\ 1 & 11 & 121 & 1331 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.98999 \\ -0.98748 \\ -0.89676 \\ -0.72593 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solving the above four equations gives

$$a_0 = 3.1382$$

 $a_1 = -1.0742$
 $a_2 = 0.080582$
 $a_3 = -0.0013510$

Hence

$$E(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 + a_3 t^3$$

= 3.1382 - 1.0742t + 0.080582t^2 - 0.0013510t^3, 8 \le t \le 11



The derivative of voltage at t=10 is given by

$$E'(10) = \frac{d}{dt} E(t)\Big|_{t=10}$$

Given that

 $E(t) = 3.1382 - 1.0742t + 0.080582t^{2} - 0.0013510t^{3}, 8 \le t \le 11$

$$E'(t) = \frac{d}{dt}E(t)$$

= $\frac{d}{dt}(3.13812 - 1.0742t + 0.080582t^2 - 0.0013510t^3)$
= $-1.0742 + 0.16116t - 0.0040530t^2$, $8 \le t \le 11$

 $E'(10) = -1.0742 + 0.16116t - 0.0040530t^{2}$ = 0.13210 V/s

 $\frac{E(10)}{E'(10)} = \frac{-0.89676}{0.13210}$ = -6.7872 s

Lagrange Polynomial

In this method, given $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$, one can fit a $(n-1)^{th}$ order Lagrangian polynomial given by

$$f_n(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n L_i(x) f(x_i)$$

where 'n ' in $f_n(x)$ stands for the n^{th} order polynomial that approximates the function y = f(x) given at (n+1) data points as $(x_0, y_0), (x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_{n-1}, y_{n-1}), (x_n, y_n)$, and

$$L_{i}(x) = \prod_{\substack{j=0 \ j \neq i}}^{n} \frac{x - x_{j}}{x_{i} - x_{j}}$$

 $L_i(x)$ a weighting function that includes a product of (n-1) terms with terms of j = i omitted.

Lagrange Polynomial Cont.

Then to find the first derivative, one can differentiate $f_n(x)$ once, and so on for other derivatives.

For example, the second order Lagrange polynomial passing through $(x_0, y_0), (x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2)$ is

$$f_2(x) = \frac{(x - x_1)(x - x_2)}{(x_0 - x_1)(x_0 - x_2)} f(x_0) + \frac{(x - x_0)(x - x_2)}{(x_1 - x_0)(x_1 - x_2)} f(x_1) + \frac{(x - x_0)(x - x_1)}{(x_2 - x_0)(x_2 - x_1)} f(x_2)$$

Differentiating equation (2) gives

$$f_{2}'(x) = \frac{2x - (x_{1} + x_{2})}{(x_{0} - x_{1})(x_{0} - x_{2})} f(x_{0}) + \frac{2x - (x_{0} + x_{2})}{(x_{1} - x_{0})(x_{1} - x_{2})} f(x_{1}) + \frac{2x - (x_{0} + x_{1})}{(x_{2} - x_{0})(x_{2} - x_{1})} f(x_{2})$$

Differentiating again would give the second derivative as

$$f_{2}''(x) = \frac{2}{(x_{0} - x_{1})(x_{0} - x_{2})} f(x_{0}) + \frac{2}{(x_{1} - x_{0})(x_{1} - x_{2})} f(x_{1}) + \frac{2}{(x_{2} - x_{0})(x_{2} - x_{1})} f(x_{2})$$

Example 3

To increase the reliability and life of a switch, one needs to turn the switch off as close to zero crossing as possible. To find this time of zero crossing, the value of E(t)/E'(t) is to be found at all times given in Table 3, where E(t) is the voltage and t is the time. To keep the problem simple, you are asked to find the approximate value of E(t)/E'(t) at t = 10.

See Table 3 for voltage as a function of time data.

Use the second order Lagrangian polynomial interpolation to calculate the value of E(t)/E'(t) at t = 10.

Example 3 Cont.

Table 2Voltage as a function of time.

Time, t (s)	Voltage, $E(t)(V)$	Time, t (s)	Voltage, $E(t)(V)$
1	0.62161	13	-0.21078
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11	-0.72593	23	0.34664
12	-0.49026	24	0.053955

Example 3 Cont.

Solution:

For second order Lagrangian polynomial interpolation, we choose the voltage given by

$$E(t) = \left(\frac{t-t_1}{t_0-t_1}\right)\left(\frac{t-t_2}{t_0-t_2}\right)E(t_0) + \left(\frac{t-t_0}{t_1-t_0}\right)\left(\frac{t-t_2}{t_1-t_2}\right)E(t_1) + \left(\frac{t-t_0}{t_2-t_0}\right)\left(\frac{t-t_1}{t_2-t_1}\right)E(t_2)$$

Since we want to find the voltage at t = 10, and we are using a second order Lagrangian polynomial, we need to choose the three points closest to t = 10 that also bracket t = 10 to evaluate it.

The three points are $t_0 = 9$, $t_1 = 10$, and $t_2 = 11$.

Differentiating the above equation gives

$$E'(t) = \frac{2t - (t_1 + t_2)}{(t_0 - t_1)(t_0 - t_2)} E(t_0) + \frac{2t - (t_0 + t_2)}{(t_1 - t_0)(t_1 - t_2)} E(t_1) + \frac{2t - (t_0 + t_1)}{(t_2 - t_0)(t_2 - t_1)} E(t_2)$$

Example 3 Cont.

Hence

$$E'(10) = \frac{2(10) - (10 + 11)}{(9 - 10)(9 - 11)} (-0.98748) + \frac{2(10) - (9 + 11)}{(10 - 9)(10 - 11)} (-0.89676) + \frac{2(10) - (9 + 10)}{(11 - 9)(11 - 10)} (-0.72593)$$

= -0.5(-0.98748) + 0(-0.89676) + 0.5(-0.72593)

= 0.13077 V/s

 $\frac{E(10)}{E'(10)} = \frac{-0.89676}{0.13077}$

 $= -6.8573 \,\mathrm{s}$

Additional Resources

For all resources on this topic such as digital audiovisual lectures, primers, textbook chapters, multiple-choice tests, worksheets in MATLAB, MATHEMATICA, MathCad and MAPLE, blogs, related physical problems, please visit

http://numericalmethods.eng.usf.edu/topics/discrete_02 dif.html

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