
MATH 353: Engineering Mathematics III – Section 012

Spring 2014 (F.–J. Sayas)

Homework #5

Due March 28

1. (Review - do by hand – 5 points) Assume that we are working with floating point numbers with only 5 digits. Every single operation you perform has to be rounded-off to five significant digits (the exponents are not an issue). Show what you get when you compute

$$\frac{f(1.0001) - f(1)}{0.0001} \quad \frac{f(1.00001) - f(1)}{0.00001}$$

if $f(x) = x^3$.

2. (Review – do by hand – 5 points) Write the Newton formula for interpolation polynomial at the points

$$(1, 1), \quad (2, 2), \quad (3, 2), \quad (4, 1).$$

Evaluate it at $3/2$ and evaluate its derivative at the same point.

3. (By hand – 5 points) Exercise 5.1 in the book (page 252)
4. (By hand – 5 points) Exercise 5.2 in the book (page 252)
5. (Computer – 10 points) We want to check this double forward difference formula to approximate the derivative.

$$\frac{-f(x_0 + 2h) + 4f(x_0 + h) - 3f(x_0)}{2h} \approx f'(x_0)$$

- (a) Write a testing device (like the functions `testFwdDiff` and `testCentDiff` in the Lab) to test that

$$E_h = \left| \frac{-f(x_0 + 2h) + 4f(x_0 + h) - 3f(x_0)}{2h} - f'(x_0) \right| \approx C h^2$$

- (b) Check it with the function $f(x) = \exp(x)$ at $x_0 = 1$. Do experiments with $h = 0.1, 0.01, 0.001$ and verify that you get what you expect.
- (c) Do a loglog plot of (h, E_h) where $h = [0.5, 0.25, 0.125, \dots, 2^{-10}]$. In the loglog plot, use circular markers and lines. On top of this plot, show the line (h, h^2) to verify that the predicted behavior.
6. (By hand – 5 points) Recall the Taylor expansion formula

$$f(x + h) = f(x) + hf'(x) + h^2 \frac{1}{2} f''(x) + h^3 \frac{1}{6} f'''(x) + h^4 \frac{1}{24} f^{iv}(c),$$

where c is unknown between x and $x + h$. Use it to show that

$$\frac{f(x_0 + h) - 2f(x_0) + f(x_0 - h)}{h^2} = f''(x_0) + \mathcal{O}(h^2),$$

where by $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$ we mean something that can be bounded above by Ch^2 .

7. (Computer – 5 points) Follow the steps of Problem 5 to show that

$$E_h = \left| \frac{f(x_0 + h) - 2f(x_0) + f(x_0 - h)}{h^2} - f''(x_0) \right| \approx C h^2$$

for the function $f(x) = \log(x)$ at $x_0 = 1$ (Recall that for us –and for Matlab– `log` is the natural logarithm.)