

1 Lagrange Interpolation - 3 Points (Solved via System of Equations)

Example 1.1. *Given the points:*

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

find the interpolating polynomial using the method of solving a system of equations.

Solution 1.2. *We are looking for the quadratic interpolating polynomial in the form:*

$$P(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2$$

Step 1: Setting up the system of equations

We substitute the given points into the polynomial equation:

$$P(1) = a_0 + a_1 \cdot 1 + a_2 \cdot 1^2 = 2$$

$$P(2) = a_0 + a_1 \cdot 2 + a_2 \cdot 2^2 = 3$$

$$P(4) = a_0 + a_1 \cdot 4 + a_2 \cdot 4^2 = 1$$

This leads to the following system of equations:

$$a_0 + a_1 + a_2 = 2 \tag{1}$$

$$a_0 + 2a_1 + 4a_2 = 3 \tag{2}$$

$$a_0 + 4a_1 + 16a_2 = 1 \tag{3}$$

Step 2: Solving the system of equations

Subtract equation (1) from equation (2):

$$\begin{aligned} (a_0 + 2a_1 + 4a_2) - (a_0 + a_1 + a_2) &= 3 - 2 \\ a_1 + 3a_2 &= 1 \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

Subtract equation (2) from equation (3):

$$\begin{aligned} (a_0 + 4a_1 + 16a_2) - (a_0 + 2a_1 + 4a_2) &= 1 - 3 \\ 2a_1 + 12a_2 &= -2 \\ a_1 + 6a_2 &= -1 \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Now subtract equation (4) from equation (5):

$$\begin{aligned} (a_1 + 6a_2) - (a_1 + 3a_2) &= -1 - 1 \\ 3a_2 &= -2 \implies a_2 = -\frac{2}{3} \end{aligned}$$

Substitute $a_2 = -\frac{2}{3}$ into equation (4):

$$a_1 + 3 \left(-\frac{2}{3} \right) = 1$$

$$a_1 - 2 = 1 \implies a_1 = 3$$

Substitute $a_1 = 3$ and $a_2 = -\frac{2}{3}$ into equation (1):

$$a_0 + 3 + \left(-\frac{2}{3} \right) = 2$$

$$a_0 + \frac{7}{3} = 2 \implies a_0 = 2 - \frac{7}{3} = -\frac{1}{3}$$

Step 3: The interpolating polynomial

The quadratic interpolating polynomial is:

$$P(x) = -\frac{1}{3} + 3x - \frac{2}{3}x^2$$

Step 4: Verification

Check the polynomial at the given points:

$$P(1) = -\frac{1}{3} + 3 \cdot 1 - \frac{2}{3} \cdot 1^2 = -\frac{1}{3} + 3 - \frac{2}{3} = 2$$

$$P(2) = -\frac{1}{3} + 3 \cdot 2 - \frac{2}{3} \cdot 2^2 = -\frac{1}{3} + 6 - \frac{8}{3} = 3$$

$$P(4) = -\frac{1}{3} + 3 \cdot 4 - \frac{2}{3} \cdot 4^2 = -\frac{1}{3} + 12 - \frac{32}{3} = 1$$

Conclusion: The interpolating polynomial is correct.

Example 1.3. Given the points:

$$(0, 1), \quad (1, 0), \quad (3, 4)$$

find the interpolating polynomial using the method of solving a system of equations.

Solution 1.4. Assume $P(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2$. The system of linear equations

$$a_0 = 1$$

$$a_0 + a_1 \cdot 1 + a_2 \cdot 1^2 = 0$$

$$a_0 + a_1 \cdot 3 + a_2 \cdot 3^2 = 4$$

Simplify:

$$\begin{aligned}a_0 &= 1 \\1 + a_1 + a_2 &= 0 \\1 + 3a_1 + 9a_2 &= 4\end{aligned}$$

Solve:

$$a_2 = 1, \quad a_1 = -2.$$

Hence

$$\boxed{P(x) = 1 - 2x + x^2}.$$

2 Lagrange Interpolation for 3 Points (Solved via basis functions)

For each i -th point, the Lagrange basis polynomial

$$l_i(x) = \prod_{\substack{j=0 \\ j \neq i}}^n \frac{x - x_j}{x_i - x_j}$$

and

$$P(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n f(x_i)l_i(x) = y_0 \cdot l_0(x) + y_1 \cdot l_1(x) + y_2 \cdot l_2(x) + \dots + y_n \cdot l_n(x)$$

Example 2.1. *Given the points:*

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

find the interpolating polynomial using the Lagrange basic polynomials.

Solution 2.2. *The basis polynomials:*

$$\begin{aligned}l_0(x) &= \frac{(x-2)(x-4)}{(1-2)(1-4)} = \frac{(x-2)(x-4)}{3} \\l_1(x) &= \frac{(x-1)(x-4)}{(2-1)(2-4)} = -\frac{(x-1)(x-4)}{2} \\l_2(x) &= \frac{(x-1)(x-2)}{(4-1)(4-2)} = \frac{(x-1)(x-2)}{6}\end{aligned}$$

Interpolating polynomial:

$$\begin{aligned} P(x) &= 2l_0(x) + 3l_1(x) + 1l_2(x) \\ &= 2 \frac{(x-2)(x-4)}{3} + 3 \left(-\frac{(x-1)(x-4)}{2} \right) + \frac{(x-1)(x-2)}{6} \end{aligned}$$

Simplify to get:

$$P(x) = -\frac{1}{3} + 3x - \frac{2}{3}x^2.$$

Example 2.3. *Given the points:*

$$(0, 1), \quad (1, 0), \quad (3, 4)$$

find the interpolating polynomial using the Lagrange basic polynomials.

Solution 2.4. *Basis polynomials:*

$$\begin{aligned} l_0(x) &= \frac{(x-1)(x-3)}{(0-1)(0-3)} = \frac{(x-1)(x-3)}{3} \\ l_1(x) &= \frac{(x-0)(x-3)}{(1-0)(1-3)} = -\frac{x(x-3)}{2} \\ l_2(x) &= \frac{(x-0)(x-1)}{(3-0)(3-1)} = \frac{x(x-1)}{6} \end{aligned}$$

Interpolating polynomial:

$$P(x) = 1 \cdot l_0(x) + 0 \cdot l_1(x) + 4 \cdot l_2(x)$$

Simplify:

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

Example 2.5. *Given the points:*

$$\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c} x & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ \hline y & 1 & 3 & 2 & 4 \end{array}$$

find the interpolating polynomial using the Lagrange basic polynomials.

Solution 2.6. Basis polynomials $l_i(x)$ are:

$$\begin{aligned} l_0(x) &= \frac{(x-1)(x-2)(x-3)}{(0-1)(0-2)(0-3)} = -\frac{(x-1)(x-2)(x-3)}{6} \\ l_1(x) &= \frac{(x-0)(x-2)(x-3)}{(1-0)(1-2)(1-3)} = \frac{x(x-2)(x-3)}{2} \\ l_2(x) &= \frac{(x-0)(x-1)(x-3)}{(2-0)(2-1)(2-3)} = -\frac{x(x-1)(x-3)}{2} \\ l_3(x) &= \frac{(x-0)(x-1)(x-2)}{(3-0)(3-1)(3-2)} = \frac{x(x-1)(x-2)}{6} \end{aligned}$$

The Lagrange interpolating polynomial:

$$\boxed{P(x) = 1 \cdot l_0(x) + 3 \cdot l_1(x) + 2 \cdot l_2(x) + 4 \cdot l_3(x)}$$

Example 2.7. Given points:

$$(0, 1), \quad (1, 3), \quad (3, -2), \quad (4, 5)$$

Construct the interpolating polynomial $P(x)$ using Lagrange basis polynomials!

Solution 2.8. Step 1: Lagrange basis polynomials

$$\begin{aligned} l_0(x) &= \frac{(x-x_1)(x-x_2)(x-x_3)}{(x_0-x_1)(x_0-x_2)(x_0-x_3)} = \frac{(x-1)(x-3)(x-4)}{(0-1)(0-3)(0-4)} \\ &= \frac{(x-1)(x-3)(x-4)}{(-1)(-3)(-4)} = \frac{(x-1)(x-3)(x-4)}{-12} \\ l_1(x) &= \frac{(x-x_0)(x-x_2)(x-x_3)}{(x_1-x_0)(x_1-x_2)(x_1-x_3)} = \frac{(x-0)(x-3)(x-4)}{(1-0)(1-3)(1-4)} \\ &= \frac{x(x-3)(x-4)}{(1)(-2)(-3)} = \frac{x(x-3)(x-4)}{6} \\ l_2(x) &= \frac{(x-x_0)(x-x_1)(x-x_3)}{(x_2-x_0)(x_2-x_1)(x_2-x_3)} = \frac{(x-0)(x-1)(x-4)}{(3-0)(3-1)(3-4)} \\ &= \frac{x(x-1)(x-4)}{(3)(2)(-1)} = \frac{x(x-1)(x-4)}{-6} \\ l_3(x) &= \frac{(x-x_0)(x-x_1)(x-x_2)}{(x_3-x_0)(x_3-x_1)(x_3-x_2)} = \frac{(x-0)(x-1)(x-3)}{(4-0)(4-1)(4-3)} \\ &= \frac{x(x-1)(x-3)}{(4)(3)(1)} = \frac{x(x-1)(x-3)}{12} \end{aligned}$$

Step 2: Write the Interpolating Polynomial $P(x)$ The interpolating polynomial is:

$$P(x) = y_0 \cdot l_0(x) + y_1 \cdot l_1(x) + y_2 \cdot l_2(x) + y_3 \cdot l_3(x)$$

Substitute the y_i values:

$$\begin{aligned} P(x) &= 1 \cdot l_0(x) + 3 \cdot l_1(x) + (-2) \cdot l_2(x) + 5 \cdot l_3(x) \\ &= \frac{(x-1)(x-3)(x-4)}{-12} + 3 \cdot \frac{x(x-3)(x-4)}{6} \\ &\quad + (-2) \cdot \frac{x(x-1)(x-4)}{-6} + 5 \cdot \frac{x(x-1)(x-3)}{12} \end{aligned}$$

Simplify the coefficients:

$$\begin{aligned} P(x) &= \frac{(x-1)(x-3)(x-4)}{-12} + \frac{3}{6} \cdot x(x-3)(x-4) \\ &\quad + \frac{2}{6} \cdot x(x-1)(x-4) + \frac{5}{12} \cdot x(x-1)(x-3) \\ &= \frac{(x-1)(x-3)(x-4)}{-12} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot x(x-3)(x-4) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{3} \cdot x(x-1)(x-4) + \frac{5}{12} \cdot x(x-1)(x-3) \end{aligned}$$

Step 3: Expand Each Term

the first term:

$$\begin{aligned} (x-1)(x-3)(x-4) &= (x-1)[(x-3)(x-4)] \\ &= (x-1)(x^2 - 7x + 12) \\ &= x(x^2 - 7x + 12) - 1(x^2 - 7x + 12) \\ &= x^3 - 7x^2 + 12x - x^2 + 7x - 12 \\ &= x^3 - 8x^2 + 19x - 12 \end{aligned}$$

Then:

$$\frac{x^3 - 8x^2 + 19x - 12}{-12} = -\frac{1}{12}x^3 + \frac{2}{3}x^2 - \frac{19}{12}x + 1$$

The second term:

$$\begin{aligned} x(x-3)(x-4) &= x[(x-3)(x-4)] = x(x^2 - 7x + 12) \\ &= x^3 - 7x^2 + 12x \end{aligned}$$

Then:

$$\frac{1}{2}(x^3 - 7x^2 + 12x) = \frac{1}{2}x^3 - \frac{7}{2}x^2 + 6x$$

The third term:

$$\begin{aligned}x(x-1)(x-4) &= x[(x-1)(x-4)] = x(x^2 - 5x + 4) \\ &= x^3 - 5x^2 + 4x\end{aligned}$$

Then:

$$\frac{1}{3}(x^3 - 5x^2 + 4x) = \frac{1}{3}x^3 - \frac{5}{3}x^2 + \frac{4}{3}x$$

Finally the fourth term:

$$\begin{aligned}x(x-1)(x-3) &= x[(x-1)(x-3)] = x(x^2 - 4x + 3) \\ &= x^3 - 4x^2 + 3x\end{aligned}$$

Then:

$$\frac{5}{12}(x^3 - 4x^2 + 3x) = \frac{5}{12}x^3 - \frac{20}{12}x^2 + \frac{15}{12}x = \frac{5}{12}x^3 - \frac{5}{3}x^2 + \frac{5}{4}x$$

Step 4: Sum All Terms

The cubic terms x^3 :

$$-\frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{5}{12} = \frac{-1}{12} + \frac{6}{12} + \frac{4}{12} + \frac{5}{12} = \frac{14}{12} = \frac{7}{6}$$

The quadratic terms x^2 :

$$\frac{2}{3} - \frac{7}{2} - \frac{5}{3} - \frac{5}{3} = \frac{4}{6} - \frac{21}{6} - \frac{10}{6} - \frac{10}{6} = \frac{-37}{6}$$

The linear terms x :

$$-\frac{19}{12} + 6 + \frac{4}{3} + \frac{5}{4} = -\frac{19}{12} + \frac{72}{12} + \frac{16}{12} + \frac{15}{12} = \frac{84}{12} = 7$$

Finally the constant term is 1.

Step 5: Final Answer

$$P(x) = \frac{7}{6}x^3 - \frac{37}{6}x^2 + 7x + 1$$

Newton Interpolation (with divided differences)

Example 2.9. *Given the following points:*

$$(1, 2), \quad (2, 3), \quad (4, 5)$$

Find the Newton interpolating polynomial $P(x)$.

Solution 2.10. Step 1: Create the Divided Difference Table

x_i	$f[x_i]$	$f[x_i, x_{i+1}]$	$f[x_i, x_{i+1}, x_{i+2}]$
1	2		
2	3		
4	5		

Step 2: Compute First-Order Divided Differences

$$f[x_0, x_1] = \frac{f[x_1] - f[x_0]}{x_1 - x_0} = \frac{3 - 2}{2 - 1} = 1$$

$$f[x_1, x_2] = \frac{f[x_2] - f[x_1]}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{5 - 3}{4 - 2} = 1$$

Step 3: Compute Second-Order Divided Difference

$$f[x_0, x_1, x_2] = \frac{f[x_1, x_2] - f[x_0, x_1]}{x_2 - x_0} = \frac{1 - 1}{4 - 1} = 0$$

Step 4: Fill in the Divided Difference Table

x_i	$f[x_i]$	$f[x_i, x_{i+1}]$	$f[x_i, x_{i+1}, x_{i+2}]$
1	2	1	0
2	3	1	
4	5		

Step 5: Write the Newton Interpolating Polynomial

The Newton interpolation formula is:

$$P(x) = f[x_0] + f[x_0, x_1](x - x_0) + f[x_0, x_1, x_2](x - x_0)(x - x_1)$$

Substitute the values:

$$\begin{aligned} P(x) &= 2 + 1 \cdot (x - 1) + 0 \cdot (x - 1)(x - 2) \\ &= 2 + (x - 1) = x + 1 \end{aligned}$$

Final Answer

$P(x) = x + 1$

Example 2.11. Given the following points:

$$(1, 2), \quad (2, 5), \quad (4, 17)$$

Find the Newton interpolating polynomial $P(x)$.

Solution 2.12. *The divided differences table:*

$$\begin{aligned}
 f[x_0] &= 2 \\
 f[x_1] &= 5 \\
 f[x_2] &= 17 \\
 f[x_0, x_1] &= \frac{5 - 2}{2 - 1} = 3 \\
 f[x_1, x_2] &= \frac{17 - 5}{4 - 2} = 6 \\
 f[x_0, x_1, x_2] &= \frac{6 - 3}{4 - 1} = 1
 \end{aligned}$$

and the interpolating polynomial:

$$P(x) = 2 + 3(x - 1) + 1(x - 1)(x - 2) = 2 + 3x - 3 + x^2 - 3x - 2 = x^2 + 1$$

Example 2.13. *Given the following data points:*

$$(0, 3), \quad (1, 6), \quad (2, 11), \quad (3, 18)$$

Find the Newton interpolating polynomial $P(x)$ using divided differences.

Solution 2.14. Step 1: Create the Divided Difference Table Structure

We set up the table for x_i , $f[x_i]$, and their divided differences.

x_i	$f[x_i]$	$f[x_i, x_{i+1}]$	$f[x_i, x_{i+1}, x_{i+2}]$	$f[x_i, x_{i+1}, x_{i+2}, x_{i+3}]$
0	3			
1	6			
2	11			
3	18			

Step 2: Compute First-Order Divided Differences

$$\begin{aligned}
 f[x_0, x_1] &= \frac{6 - 3}{1 - 0} = 3 \\
 f[x_1, x_2] &= \frac{11 - 6}{2 - 1} = 5 \\
 f[x_2, x_3] &= \frac{18 - 11}{3 - 2} = 7
 \end{aligned}$$

Step 3: Compute Second-Order Divided Differences

$$\begin{aligned}
 f[x_0, x_1, x_2] &= \frac{5 - 3}{2 - 0} = \frac{2}{2} = 1 \\
 f[x_1, x_2, x_3] &= \frac{7 - 5}{3 - 1} = \frac{2}{2} = 1
 \end{aligned}$$

Step 4: Compute Third-Order Divided Difference

$$f[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3] = \frac{1-1}{3-0} = \frac{0}{3} = 0$$

Step 5: Fill in the Complete Divided Difference Table

x_i	$f[x_i]$	$f[x_i, x_{i+1}]$	$f[x_i, x_{i+1}, x_{i+2}]$	$f[x_i, x_{i+1}, x_{i+2}, x_{i+3}]$
0	3	3	1	0
1	6	5	1	
2	11	7		
3	18			

Step 6: Write the Newton Interpolating Polynomial

The Newton interpolation formula is:

$$P(x) = f[x_0] + f[x_0, x_1](x - x_0) + f[x_0, x_1, x_2](x - x_0)(x - x_1) \\ + f[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3](x - x_0)(x - x_1)(x - x_2)$$

Substitute the values:

$$P(x) = 3 + 3(x - 0) + 1(x - 0)(x - 1) + 0(x - 0)(x - 1)(x - 2) \\ = 3 + 3x + x^2 - x = x^2 + 2x + 3$$

Final Answer

$$P(x) = x^2 + 2x + 3$$

Check

We can verify that

$$P(0) = 0^2 + 2 \cdot 0 + 3 = 3, \\ P(1) = 1^2 + 2 \cdot 1 + 3 = 6, \\ P(2) = 2^2 + 2 \cdot 2 + 3 = 11, \\ P(3) = 3^2 + 2 \cdot 3 + 3 = 18.$$

The interpolating polynomial correctly passes through all given points.

Example 2.15. Given the following data:

- $f(1) = 2$
- $f'(1) = 3$

- $f(2) = 3$

Find the Hermite interpolating polynomial $P(x)$.

Solution 2.16. Step 1: Since we have both $f(1)$ and $f'(1)$, we will repeat the point $x = 1$. The data points become:

$$x_0 = 1, \quad x_1 = 1, \quad x_2 = 2$$

and

$$f[x_0] = f(1) = 2$$

$$f[x_1] = f'(1) = 2$$

$$f[x_2] = f(2) = 3$$

Step 2: Compute divided differences

- The First (First-Order) divided difference:

$$f[x_0, x_1] = f'(1) = 3$$

(By definition for repeated nodes)

- Next (First-Order) divided difference:

$$f[x_1, x_2] = \frac{f[x_2] - f[x_1]}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{3 - 2}{2 - 1} = 1$$

- The Second-Order divided difference:

$$f[x_0, x_1, x_2] = \frac{f[x_1, x_2] - f[x_0, x_1]}{x_2 - x_0} = \frac{1 - 3}{2 - 1} = -2$$

Step 3: Build the Hermite Interpolation Polynomial

The Hermite interpolation polynomial is:

$$P(x) = f[x_0] + f[x_0, x_1](x - x_0) + f[x_0, x_1, x_2](x - x_0)(x - x_1)$$

Substitute the values:

$$\begin{aligned} P(x) &= 2 + 3(x - 1) - 2(x - 1)(x - 1) = 2 + 3(x - 1) - 2(x - 1)^2 \\ &= 2 + 3x - 3 - 2(x^2 - 2x + 1) = -2x^2 + 7x - 3 \end{aligned}$$

Final Answer:

$$\boxed{P(x) = -2x^2 + 7x - 3}$$

Check: First we compute

$$P'(x) = -4x + 7,$$

and

$$P(1) = -2 \cdot 1^2 + 7 \cdot 1 - 3 = -2 + 7 - 3 = 2,$$

$$P'(1) = -4 \cdot 1 + 7 = 3$$

$$P(2) = -2 \cdot 2^2 + 7 \cdot 2 - 3 = -8 + 14 - 3 = 3.$$

Correct!

Example 2.17. Given the points:

$$\begin{aligned} x_0 = 1, & \quad f(1) = 2, & \quad f'(1) = 3 \\ x_1 = 2, & \quad f(2) = 5, & \quad f'(2) = 7 \end{aligned}$$

Find the Hermite interpolating polynomial $P(x)$.

Solution 2.18. First we construct the divided differences table.

Node	f or divided difference
1	2
1	$f[1, 1] = 3$
2	$f[1, 1, 2] = \frac{5-2}{2-1} = 3$
2	$f[1, 1, 2, 2] = \frac{7-3}{2-1} = 4$

The interpolating polynomial:

$$\begin{aligned} P(x) &= f[1] + f[1, 1](x-1) + f[1, 1, 2](x-1)^2 + f[1, 1, 2, 2](x-1)^2(x-2) \\ &= 2 + 3(x-1) + 3(x-1)^2 + 4(x-1)^2(x-2) \end{aligned}$$

3 Spline interpolation

Example 3.1. Given the points:

$$(0, 1), \quad (1, 3), \quad (2, 2)$$

Construct a linear Spline interpolating these points.

Solution 3.2. We have two intervals. The first is $[0, 1]$. The linear spline

$$S_1(x) = 1 + \frac{3-1}{1-0}(x-0) = 1 + 2x$$

The second interval is $[1, 2]$, and the linear spline is

$$S_2(x) = 3 + \frac{2-3}{2-1}(x-1) = 3 - (x-1) = 4 - x$$

Final Answer

$$S(x) = \begin{cases} S_1(x) = 1 + 2x & \text{for } x \in [0, 1] \\ S_2(x) = 4 - x & \text{for } x \in [1, 2] \end{cases}$$

Example 3.3. Given the points:

$$(0, 1), \quad (1, 2), \quad (3, 2)$$

Construct a spline interpolating these points, which is linear in the first interval and quadratic in the second interval.

Solution 3.4. Assume: $S_1(x)$ is linear on the interval $[0, 1]$:

$$S_1(x) = a_1x + b_1$$

and $S_2(x)$ is quadratic on the interval $[1, 3]$:

$$S_2(x) = a_2x^2 + b_2x + c_2$$

Conditions:

- $S_1(0) = 1 \rightarrow b_1 = 1$
- $S_1(1) = 2 \rightarrow a_1 + 1 = 2 \rightarrow a_1 = 1$
- $S_2(1) = 2 \rightarrow a_2 \cdot 1^2 + b_2 \cdot 1 + c_2 = 2$
- $S_2(3) = 2 \rightarrow a_2 \cdot 3^2 + b_2 \cdot 3 + c_2 = 2$
- $S_1'(1) = S_2'(1) \rightarrow a_1 = 2a_2 \cdot 1 + b_2$

Solution:

$$a_1 = 1 \rightarrow 2a_2 + b_2 = 1$$

$$\text{From } S_2(1) = 2 \rightarrow a_2 + b_2 + c_2 = 2$$

$$\text{From } S_2(3) = 2 \rightarrow 9a_2 + 3b_2 + c_2 = 2$$

Solution of this system is

$$a_2 = -0.5, \quad b_2 = 2, \quad c_2 = 0.5$$

which implies

$$S_1(x) = x + 1$$

and

$$S_2(x) = -0.5x^2 + 2x + 0.5$$

Final Answer

$$S(x) = \begin{cases} S_1(x) = x + 1 & \text{for } x \in [0, 1] \\ S_2(x) = -0.5x^2 + 2x + 0.5 & \text{for } x \in [1, 3] \end{cases}$$

3.1 Natural cubic Spline interpolation

Example 3.5. *Given the points:*

$$(1, 2), \quad (2, 3), \quad (3, 5)$$

Construct the natural cubic spline interpolating these points.

Solution 3.6. *We will define two spline segments:*

$$S(x) = \begin{cases} S_1(x) & x \in [1, 2] \\ S_2(x) & x \in [2, 3] \end{cases}$$

Each cubic spline has the form:

$$S_i(x) = a_i + b_i(x - x_i) + c_i(x - x_i)^2 + d_i(x - x_i)^3,$$

that is

$$S(x) = \begin{cases} a_1 + b_1(x - 1) + c_1(x - 1)^2 + d_1(x - 1)^3, & x \in [1, 2] \\ a_2 + b_2(x - 2) + c_2(x - 2)^2 + d_2(x - 2)^3, & x \in [2, 3] \end{cases}$$

Step 1: Conditions for $S(x)$

1. *Interpolation conditions:*

$$S_1(1) = 2, \quad S_1(2) = 3.$$

and

$$S_2(2) = 3, \quad S_2(3) = 5.$$

2. Continuity of first derivative at $x = 2$:

$$S'_1(2) = S'_2(2).$$

3. Continuity of second derivative at $x = 2$:

$$S''_1(2) = S''_2(2).$$

4. Natural spline boundary conditions:

$$S''_1(1) = 0, \quad S''_2(3) = 0.$$

Step 3: Apply the Conditions.

1.) The interpolation Conditions:

For $S_1(x) = a_1 + b_1(x - 1) + c_1(x - 1)^2 + d_1(x - 1)^3$.

$$S_1(1) = a_1 = 2,$$

$$S_1(2) = 2 + b_1(1) + c_1(1)^2 + d_1(1)^3 = 3 \Rightarrow b_1 + c_1 + d_1 = 1$$

and for $S_2(x) = a_2 + b_2(x - 2) + c_2(x - 2)^2 + d_2(x - 2)^3$

$$S_2(2) = a_2 = 3,$$

$$S_2(3) = 3 + b_2(1) + c_2(1)^2 + d_2(1)^3 = 5 \quad \Rightarrow b_2 + c_2 + d_2 = 2.$$

2.) Continuity of First Derivatives at $x = 2$: Hence

$$S'_1(x) = b_1 + 2c_1(x - 1) + 3d_1(x - 1)^2,$$

$$S'_2(x) = b_2 + 2c_2(x - 2) + 3d_2(x - 2)^2.$$

Therefore

$$S'_1(2) = b_1 + 2c_1(1) + 3d_1(1)^2 = b_1 + 2c_1 + 3d_1,$$

$$S'_2(2) = b_2 \quad \Rightarrow b_1 + 2c_1 + 3d_1 = b_2.$$

3.) Continuity of Second Derivatives at $x = 2$: First, we compute the second order derivatives

$$S''_1(x) = 2c_1 + 6d_1(x - 1),$$

$$S''_2(x) = 2c_2 + 6d_2(x - 2)$$

and we get

$$S''_1(2) = 2c_1 + 6d_1(1) = 2c_1 + 6d_1,$$

$$S''_2(2) = 2c_2 \quad \Rightarrow 2c_1 + 6d_1 = 2c_2.$$

4.) Natural Spline Boundary Conditions:

$$S_1''(1) = 2c_1 + 6d_1(0) = 2c_1 = 0 \quad \Rightarrow c_1 = 0.$$

and

$$S_2''(3) = 2c_2 + 6d_2(1) = 2c_2 + 6d_2 = 0.$$

Step 4: Solve the System of Equations

From $c_1 = 0$:

The first condition $b_1 + c_1 + d_1 = 1$ becomes:

$$b_1 + d_1 = 1.$$

From derivative continuity:

$$b_1 + 2 \cdot 0 + 3d_1 = b_2 \Rightarrow b_1 + 3d_1 = b_2.$$

From second derivative continuity:

$$2 \cdot 0 + 6d_1 = 2c_2 \Rightarrow 6d_1 = 2c_2 \Rightarrow c_2 = 3d_1.$$

From the condition:

$$b_2 + c_2 + d_2 = 2.$$

Substitute $c_2 = 3d_1$:

$$b_2 + 3d_1 + d_2 = 2.$$

From natural condition on $S_2''(3)$:

$$2c_2 + 6d_2 = 0$$

and

$$2 \cdot (3d_1) + 6d_2 = 0 \Rightarrow 6d_1 + 6d_2 = 0 \Rightarrow d_2 = -d_1$$

Now solve:

$$b_1 + d_1 = 1 \Rightarrow b_1 = 1 - d_1$$

and

$$b_2 = b_1 + 3d_1 = (1 - d_1) + 3d_1 = 1 + 2d_1.$$

Substitute into

$$\begin{aligned} b_2 + 3d_1 + d_2 &= 2 \\ (1 + 2d_1) + 3d_1 + (-d_1) &= 2 \\ 1 + 2d_1 + 3d_1 - d_1 &= 2 \\ 1 + 4d_1 &= 2 \Rightarrow d_1 = \frac{1}{4} \end{aligned}$$

Then:

$$b_1 = 1 - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$$

$$c_1 = 0$$

$$d_1 = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$b_2 = 1 + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{4} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{2}$$

$$c_2 = 3 \cdot \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$$

$$d_2 = -d_1 = -\frac{1}{4}$$

Step 5: Write the Spline Functions

For $x \in [1, 2]$:

$$\begin{aligned} S_1(x) &= 2 + \frac{3}{4}(x-1) + 0 + \frac{1}{4}(x-1)^3 = 2 + \frac{3x}{4} - \frac{3}{4} + \frac{x^3}{4} - \frac{3x^2}{4} + \frac{3x}{4} - \frac{1}{4} \\ &= \frac{x^3}{4} - \frac{3x^2}{4} + \frac{3x}{2} + 1. \end{aligned}$$

For $x \in [2, 3]$:

$$\begin{aligned} S_2(x) &= 3 + \frac{3}{2}(x-2) + \frac{3}{4}(x-2)^2 - \frac{1}{4}(x-2)^3 \\ &= 3 + \frac{3x}{2} - 3 + \frac{3x^2}{4} - 3x + 3 - \frac{x^3}{4} + \frac{3x^2}{2} - 3x + 2 \\ &= -\frac{x^3}{4} + \frac{9x^2}{4} - \frac{9x}{2} + 5. \end{aligned}$$

Final Answer

$$S(x) = \begin{cases} S_1(x) = \frac{x^3}{4} - \frac{3x^2}{4} + \frac{3x}{2} + 1 & \text{for } x \in [1, 2] \\ S_2(x) = -\frac{x^3}{4} + \frac{9x^2}{4} - \frac{9x}{2} + 5 & \text{for } x \in [2, 3] \end{cases}$$