

# Numerical Integration and Monte Carlo Integration

Elementary schemes for integration over one variable

Multi-dimensional integration

- dimension-by dimension

Problems with multi-dimensional numerical integrations

Monte Carlo sampling of high-dimensional integrals

- includes some aspects of analysis of statistical data

## Numerical integration in one dimension

Function of one variable  $x$ , assume no singularities

$$I = \int_a^b f(x) dx$$

Discretize the  $x$ -axis

-  $n+1$  equally spaced points including  $a, b$ :

$$[a, b] \rightarrow \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n\} \quad h \equiv x_i - x_{i-1}$$

Consider groups of  $m+1$  points ( $m$  intervals of size  $h$ )

Construct the order- $m$  polynomials fitting the  $m+1$  points

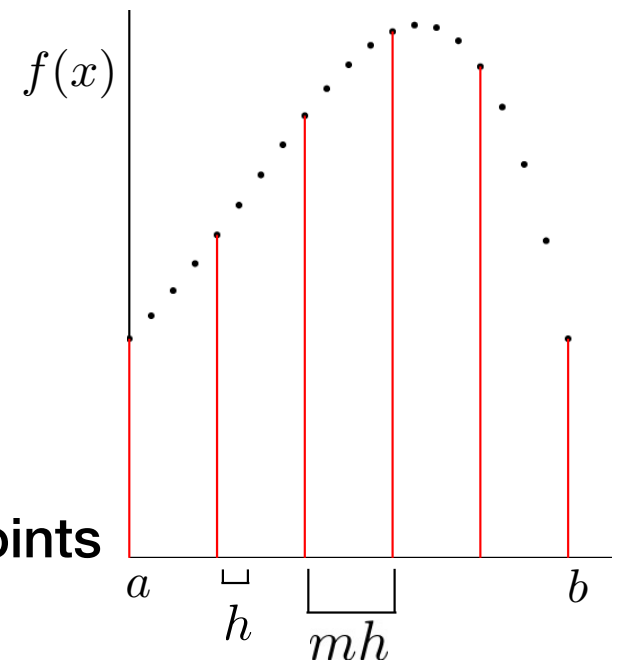
$$I = \sum_{i=1}^{n/m} I_i, \quad I_i = \int_{a+(i-1)mh}^{a+imh} P_i(x) dx$$

Simple formulas exist to construct the polynomials  $P_i(x)$

Integrate the polynomials exactly and add up

Leads to simple integration formulas (sums) for small  $m$

Error for one window typically of order  $O(h^{m+1})$  or  $O(h^{m+2})$



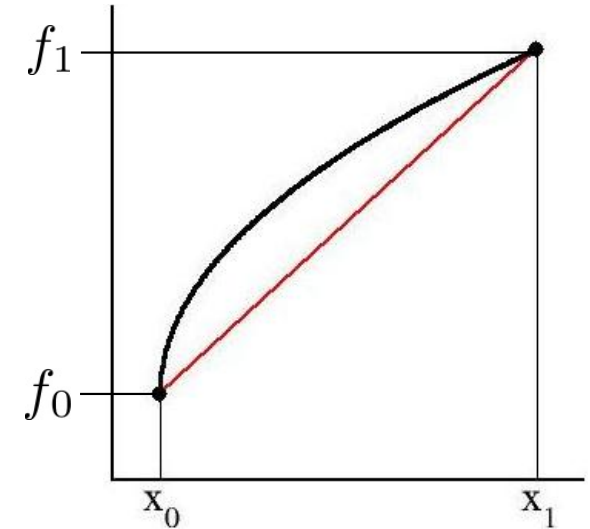
## Simplest case; m=1 (trapezoidal rule)

$$f(x_0 + \delta) = a + b\delta, \quad 0 \leq \delta \leq h$$

$$f(x_0) = f_0, \quad f(x_0 + h) = f_1$$

$$a = f_0, \quad b = (f_1 - f_0)/h$$

$$\begin{aligned} I_1 &= \int_{x_0}^{x_1} P_1(x) dx = \int_0^h P_1(\delta) d\delta = [a\delta + b\delta^2/2]_0^h \\ &= h(a + bh/2) = \frac{h}{2}(f_0 + f_1) \end{aligned}$$



Here we also see that the error (“step error”) is  $O(h^3)$

For the total error, we have to sum up step errors from (general m)

$$I = \sum_{i=1}^{n/m} I_i, \quad I_i = \int_{a+(i-1)mh}^{a+imh} P_i(x) dx \quad n/m = \frac{x_n - x_0}{mh}$$

Assuming no “lucky” error cancellations (from sign oscillations)

- error is  $O(h^{m+2})O(h^{-1}) \sim O(h^{m+1})$

## Second order; m=2 (Simpson's rule)

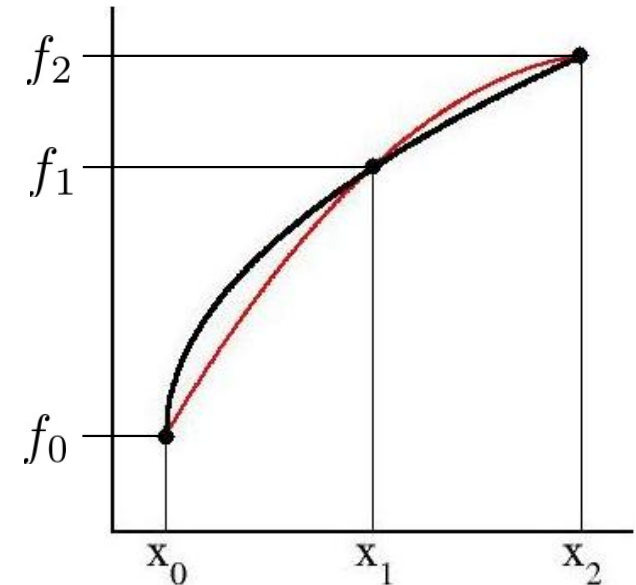
$$f(x_0 + \delta) = a + b\delta + c\delta^2, \quad 0 \leq \delta \leq 2h$$

$$f(x_0) = f_0, \quad f(x_0 + h) = f_1, \quad f(x_0 + 2h) = f_2$$

$$f_0 = a, \quad f_1 = a + bh + ch^2, \quad f_2 = a + 2bh + 4ch^2$$

**Solve for a,b,c, integrate polynomial →**

$$I_1 = \int_{x_0}^{x_2} P_1(x) dx = \frac{h}{3}(f_0 + 4f_1 + f_2)$$



**What is the order of the error?**

- from the polynomial it may seem  $O(h^4)$  (from missing integrated  $\delta^3$  term)

**Write expansion around  $x_1$  instead:**

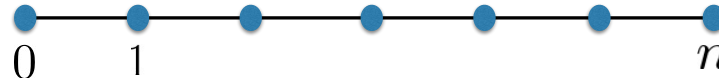
$$f(x_1 + \delta) = a + b\delta + c\delta^2 + d\delta^3 + e\delta^4, \quad -h \leq \delta \leq h$$

**When integrated in the symmetric window, all odd powers give 0**

**Same formula for  $I_1$  as above when a,b,c terms included, d term gives 0**

**Error is  $O(h^5)$ , becomes  $O(h^4)$  for range  $[x_0, x_n]$**

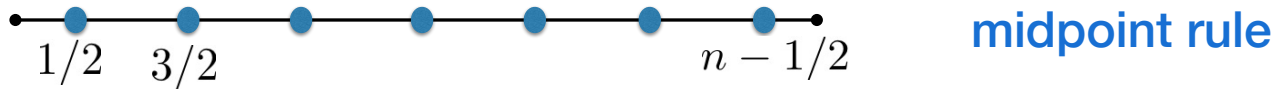
## Extended formulas



$$\int_{x_0}^{x_n} f(x) dx = h \left( \frac{1}{2} f_0 + f_1 + f_2 + f_3 + \dots + f_{n-1} + \frac{1}{2} f_n \right) + O(h^2) \quad \text{trapezoid}$$

$$\int_{x_0}^{x_n} f(x) dx = \frac{h}{3} (f_0 + 4f_1 + 2f_2 + 4f_3 + \dots + 4f_{n-1} + f_n) + O(h^4) \quad \text{Simpson}$$

For integrands with singularities at the end point(s); open interval formulas



midpoint rule

$$\int_{x_i}^{x_{i+1}} f(x_{i+1/2} + \delta) d\delta = \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} (f_{i+1/2} + b\delta + c\delta^2) d\delta = h f_{i+1/2} + O(h^3)$$

$$\int_{x_0}^{x_n} f(x) dx = h (f_{1/2} + f_{3/2} + \dots + f_{n-3/2} + f_{n-1/2}) + O(h^2)$$

Alternative: 

A horizontal line segment representing an open interval. There are blue dots representing nodes at positions labeled 1, 2, ..., n-1.

$$\int_{x_0}^{x_n} f(x) dx = h \left( \frac{3}{2} f_1 + f_2 + f_3 + \dots + f_{n-2} + \frac{3}{2} f_{n-1} \right) + O(h^2)$$

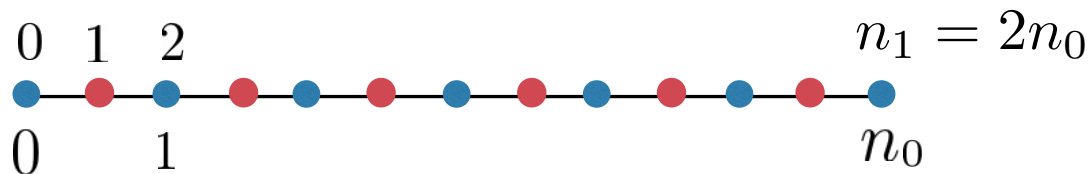
- interior points have  $O(h^3)$  errors, sum to  $O(h^2)$ , end points contribute  $O(h^2)$  errors

## Romberg integration

Idea: Use two or more trapezoidal integral estimates, extrapolate

- step sizes (decreasing order)  $h_0, h_1, \dots, h_m$ , integral estimates  $I_0, I_1, \dots, I_m$
- use polynomial of order  $n$  to fit and extrapolate to  $h=0$
- error for given  $h$  scales as  $h^2$  (+ higher even powers only)
- use polynomial  $P(x)$  with  $x=h^2$

Simplest case: 2 points ( $m=1$ ), using  $h_0=(b-a)/n_0$  and  $h_1=h_0/2$  ( $x_1=x_0/4$ )



Function evaluation once only for each point needed

$$I_0 = I_\infty + \epsilon x_0, \quad I_1 = I_\infty + \epsilon x_0/4$$

$$\rightarrow I_\infty = \frac{4}{3}I_1 - \frac{1}{3}I_0 + O(h_0^4) \quad [O(x_0^2)]$$

reducing  $h$  by 50%

- error should be 1/4 of previous
- $\epsilon$  is unknown factor, eliminated

Computation cost doubled, error reduced by two powers of  $h_0$ !

Generalizes easily to the case of  $m$  estimates (Friday)