



INTERPOLATION FORMULA WITH TWO CONTINUOUS DERIVATIVES

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ABSTRACT

An interpolation formula with continuous first and second derivatives is derived. Furthermore the first and second derivatives at boundary points are the same as those given by a five-point central difference formula for derivatives.

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INTRODUCTION

In the course of numerical treatment, by mesh methods, of partial differential equations it is often necessary to interpolate and interpolate-differentiate. For some physics problems there is reason to think that the mathematical approximations should replicate the true equations at least to the extent of keeping functions and their first and second derivatives continuous.

Most of the interpolation formulae given in the literature¹ are based on the assumption that the investigated function may be approximated by a polynomial between the mesh points on which the function is tabulated. Ordinarily, it is assumed that the higher the degree of the polynomial used in the interpolation, the better is the investigated function approximated. If one uses such a formula to interpolate a function between a sequence of equidistant points, which we shall call for convenience junction points, one obtains an expression which is continuous and which has continuous derivatives between those junction points, but which in general has discontinuous derivatives at junction points. In some problems, however, it is often desirable to have an interpolation formula which, in addition to being continuous and having continuous derivative between the function points, has also continuous derivatives at the junction points. Such a formula, having a continuous first derivative at the junction points has been given by Dr. A. M. Sessler². In the present report we have expanded this formula by making the second derivative at the junctions also continuous, and by making the first and the second derivatives at the junctions equal to the first and second derivatives given by a five-point central difference formula for derivatives.³

II. Derivation of the Interpolation Formula.

We represent the investigated function between the points i and $i + 1$ by the expression

$$\begin{aligned}
 u = & u_i + \mu (a_{-2}u_{i-2} + a_{-1}u_{i-1} + a_0u_i + a_1u_{i+1} + a_2u_{i+2} + a_3u_{i+3}) \\
 & + \mu^2 (b_{-2}u_{i-2} + b_{-1}u_{i-1} + \dots + b_3u_{i+3}) \\
 & + \mu^3 (c_{-2}u_{i-2} + c_{-1}u_{i-1} + \dots + c_3u_{i+3}) \\
 & + \mu^4 (d_{-2}u_{i-2} + d_{-1}u_{i-1} + \dots + d_3u_{i+3}) \\
 & + \mu^5 (e_{-2}u_{i-2} + e_{-1}u_{i-1} + \dots + e_3u_{i+3})
 \end{aligned}$$

where the distance between two mesh points has been taken as unity, and where μ runs between zero and one. We further require that

$$\begin{aligned}
 u(i) &= u_i \\
 u(i + 1) &= u_{i + 1},
 \end{aligned}$$

and that the derivatives at the junction points be equal to the derivatives at these points as given by the five-point central difference formula for derivatives³, that is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 u'(i) &= \frac{1}{12} u_{i-2} - \frac{2}{3} u_{i-1} + \frac{2}{3} u_{i+1} - \frac{1}{12} u_{i+2} \\
 u''(i) &= -\frac{1}{12} u_{i-2} + \frac{4}{3} u_{i-1} - \frac{5}{2} u_i + \frac{3}{4} u_{i+1} - \frac{1}{12} u_{i+2}
 \end{aligned}$$

and similar expressions for the point $(i + 1)$.

As a result of these requirements one obtains the following set of equations

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_{-2} u_{i-2} + b_{-2} u_{i-2} + c_{-2} u_{i-2} + \dots + e_{-2} u_{i-2} &= 0 \\
 a_{-1} u_{i-1} + b_{-1} u_{i-1} + \dots + e_{-1} u_{i-1} &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

$$a_0 u_i + b_0 u_i + \dots + e_0 u_i = -u_i$$

$$a_1 u_{i+1} + b_1 u_{i+1} + \dots + e_1 u_{i+1} = u_{i+1}$$

$$a_2 u_{i+2} + b_2 u_{i+2} + \dots + e_2 u_{i+2} = 0$$

$$a_3 u_{i+3} + b_3 u_{i+3} + \dots + e_3 u_{i+3} = 0$$

$$a_{-2} u_{i-2} + 2b_{-2} u_{i-2} + 3c_{-2} u_{i-2} + \dots + 5e_{-2} u_{i-2} = 0$$

$$a_{-1} u_{i-1} + 2b_{-1} u_{i-1} + \dots + 5e_{-1} u_{i-1} = \frac{1}{12} u_{i-1}$$

$$a_0 u_i + 2b_0 u_i + \dots + 5e_0 u_i = -\frac{2}{3} u_i$$

$$a_1 u_{i+1} + 2b_1 u_{i+1} + \dots + 5e_1 u_{i+1} = 0$$

$$a_2 u_{i+2} + 2b_2 u_{i+2} + \dots + 5e_2 u_{i+2} = \frac{2}{3} u_{i+2}$$

$$a_3 u_{i+3} + 2b_3 u_{i+3} + \dots + 5e_3 u_{i+3} = -\frac{1}{12} u_{i+3}$$

$$2b_{-2} u_{i-2} + 6e_{-2} u_{i-2} + 12d_{-2} u_{i-2} + 20e_{-2} u_{i-2} = 0$$

$$2b_{-1} u_{i-1} + 6c_{-1} u_{i-1} + \dots + 20e_{-1} u_{i-1} = -1/12 u_{i-1}$$

$$2b_0 u_i + 6c_0 u_i + \dots + 20e_0 u_i = 4/3 u_i$$

$$2b_1 u_{i+1} + 6c_1 u_{i+1} + \dots + 20e_1 u_{i+1} = -5/2 u_{i+1}$$

$$2b_2 u_{i+2} + 6c_2 u_{i+2} + \dots + 20e_2 u_{i+2} = 4/3 u_{i+2}$$

$$2b_3 u_{i+3} + 6c_3 u_{i+3} + \dots + 20e_3 u_{i+3} = -1/12 u_{i+3}$$

$$a_{-2} = 1/12$$

$$a_{-1} = -2/3$$

$$a_0 = 0$$

$$a_1 = 2/3$$

$$a_2 = -1/12$$

$$a_3 = 0$$

$$2 b_{-2} = -1/12$$

$$2 b_{-1} = 4/3$$

$$2 b_0 = -5/2$$

$$2 b_1 = 4/3$$

$$2 b_2 = -1/12$$

$$2 b_3 = 0$$

From the solution of this system of 30 equations one obtains:

$$\begin{aligned}
 u = u_i &+ \mu (1/12 u_{i-2} - 2/3 u_{i-1} + 2/3 u_{i+1} - 1/12 u_{i+2}) \\
 &+ \mu^2 (-1/24 u_{i-2} + 2/3 u_{i-1} - 5/4 u_i + 2/3 u_{i+1} - 1/24 u_{i+2}) \\
 &+ \mu^3 (-3/8 u_{i-2} + 39/24 u_{i-1} - 35/12 u_i + 33/12 u_{i+1} \\
 &\quad - 11/8 u_{i+2} + 7/24 u_{i+3}) \\
 &+ \mu^4 (13/24 u_{i-2} - 8/3 u_{i-1} + 21/4 u_i - 31/6 u_{i+1} \\
 &\quad + 61/24 u_{i+2} - 1/2 u_{i+3}) \\
 &+ \mu^5 (-5/24 u_{i-2} + 25/24 u_{i-1} - 25/12 u_i + 25/12 u_{i+1} \\
 &\quad - 25/24 u_{i+2} + 5/24 u_{i+3})
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 u' &= 1/12 u_{i-2} - 2/3 u_{i-1} + 2/3 u_{i+1} - 1/12 u_{i+2} \\
 &+ \mu (-1/12 u_{i-2} + 4/3 u_{i-1} - 5/2 u_i + 4/3 u_{i+1} - 1/12 u_{i+2}) \\
 &+ \mu^2 (-9/8 u_{i-2} + 39/8 u_{i-1} - 35/4 u_i + 33/4 u_{i+1} - 33/8 u_{i+2} \\
 &\qquad\qquad\qquad + 7/8 u_{i+3}) \\
 &+ \mu^3 (13/6 u_{i-2} - 32/3 u_{i-1} + 21 u_i - 62/3 u_{i+1} \\
 &\qquad\qquad\qquad + 61/6 u_{i+2} - 2 u_{i+3}) \\
 &+ \mu^4 (-25/24 u_{i-2} + 125/24 u_{i-1} - 125/12 u_i + 125/12 u_{i+1} \\
 &\qquad\qquad\qquad - 125/24 u_{i+2} + 25/24 u_{i+3})
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 u'' &= -1/12 u_{i-2} + 4/3 u_{i-1} - 5/2 u_i + 4/3 u_{i+1} - 1/12 u_{i+2} \\
 &+ \mu (-9/4 u_{i-2} + 39/4 u_{i-1} - 35/2 u_i + 33/2 u_{i+1} \\
 &\qquad\qquad\qquad - 33/4 u_{i+2} + 7/4 u_{i+3}) \\
 &+ \mu^2 (13/2 u_{i-2} - 32 u_{i-1} + 63 u_i - 62 u_{i+1} + 61/2 u_{i+2} - 64 u_{i+3}) \\
 &+ \mu^3 (-25/6 u_{i-2} + 125/6 u_{i-1} - 125/3 u_i + 125/3 u_{i+1} \\
 &\qquad\qquad\qquad - 125/6 u_{i+2} + 25/6 u_{i+3})
 \end{aligned}$$

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FOOTNOTES

1. Booth A., "Numerical Methods." Butterworth Scientific Publications, 1955. Steffensen, J. F., "Interpolation," Chelsea Publishing Company, 1950. Scarborough, J. "Numerical Mathematical Analysis." John Hopkins Press, 1950. Milne, "Numerical Calculus," Princeton University Press, 1949.
2. The formula of Dr. A. M. Sessler is quoted by J. Laslett in MURA-99.
3. Booth (ibid), page 29.