



The Islamia University Of Bahawalpur,  
Department of Computer Science & IT  
Bahawalnagar Campus

Course: Numerical Analysis Program: BSCS-V (Spring 2020)

Topic: Cubic Splines method

Polynomial Approximation:-

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⇒ By Splines (Cubic splines) Method:-

We describing another approach for  
The polynomial approximation, i.e.  
Splines (Means clamping, 'i.e.') or  
simply cubic splines method.

⇒ What are splines?

As we have studied earlier  
for given points



The dot to dot interpolation  
There is a different straight  
lines b/w each pair of data points.  
These straight lines are known  
as linear splines.



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⇒ Why are splines needed?

Fitting a polynomial to the data (using Lagrange polynomials, for example), works very well when there are a small number of data points.

But if there were 100 data points, it would be silly to try to fit a polynomial of degree '99' through all of them.

It would be a great deal of work and anyway polynomials of high degree can be very oscillatory giving poor approximations b/w the data points to the underlying function.

⇒ How to apply Splines Method, for polynomial approximation;

Instead of using a polynomial valid for all  $x$ , we use one polynomial for  $x_1 < x < x_2$ , then a different polynomial for  $x_2 < x < x_3$ , then a different one again for  $x_3 < x < x_4$ , and so on. i.e. dot to dot interpolation; b/w the data points.

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The most commonly used splines are cubic splines.

→ We use a different polynomial of degree three b/w each pair of data points.  
Let

$S = S(x)$  denote a cubic spline  
Then

$$\rightarrow S(x) = a_1(x-x_1)^3 + b_1(x-x_1)^2 + c_1(x-x_1) + d_1$$

for interval

$$(x_1 < x < x_2)$$

$$\rightarrow S(x) = a_2(x-x_2)^3 + b_2(x-x_2)^2 + c_2(x-x_2) + d_2$$

For

$$(x_2 < x < x_3)$$

$$\rightarrow S(x) = a_3(x-x_3)^3 + b_3(x-x_3)^2 + c_3(x-x_3) + d_3$$

For

$$(x_3 < x < x_4)$$

And we need to find  $a_1, b_1, c_1, d_1, a_2, b_2, c_2, d_2$  to determine the full form for the spline 'S(x)'.



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Given the large number of quantities that have to be assigned (Four for every pair of adjacent data points) it is possible to give 'S' some very "nice properties".

→ \*  $S(x_1) = f_1$ ,  $S(x_2) = f_2$ ,  $S(x_3) = f_3, \dots$   
----- that 'S' interpolates the given data.

\*  $S(x)$  is continuous at the data points. This means that there are no corners at the data points - The whole curve is smooth.

\*  $S(x)$  is continuous. This reduces the occurrence of points of inflection appearing at the data points and leads to a smooth interpolant.

Even with all of these requirements, there are still two more properties we can assign to 'S'.

\* A "natural cubic spline" is one for which  $S''(x)$  is zero at the two end points.

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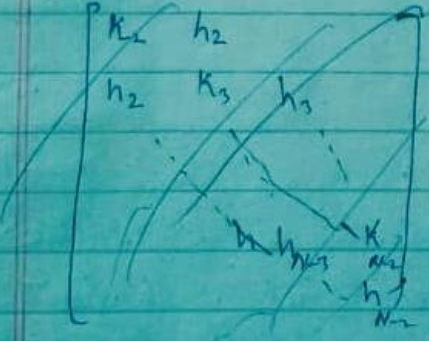
The natural cubic spline is, in some sense, the smoothest possible spline for it minimises a measure of the curvature.

⇒ "How a 'natural cubic' spline found?"

Suppose that there are 'N' data points. For a natural cubic spline we require

$$S''(x_1) = S''(x_N) = 0$$

And values of  $S''(x_i)$  taken at the other data points are found from the cubic spline equation



$$\begin{bmatrix} K_2 & h_2 \\ h_2 & K_3 & h_3 \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ & & h_{N-3} & K_{N-2} & h_{N-2} \\ & & & h_{N-2} & K_{N-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} S''(x_2) \\ S''(x_3) \\ \vdots \\ S''(x_{N-2}) \\ S''(x_{N-1}) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_2 \\ y_3 \\ \vdots \\ y_{N-2} \\ y_{N-1} \end{bmatrix}$$



(S2)

(S0)

Here

$$h_1 = x_2 - x_1, h_2 = x_3 - x_2, h_3 = x_4 - x_3, h_4 = x_5 - x_4$$

d

$$k_2 = 2(h_1 + h_2)$$

$$k_3 = 2(h_2 + h_3)$$

$$k_4 = 2(h_3 + h_4)$$

and

$$x_2 = 6 \left( \frac{f_3 - f_2}{h_2} - \frac{f_2 - f_1}{h_1} \right)$$

$$x_3 = 6 \left( \frac{f_4 - f_3}{h_3} - \frac{f_3 - f_2}{h_2} \right)$$

Admittedly the system of equations above looks unappealing, but this is a "nice" system of equations.

The matrix above is of that type since the diagonal entry is always twice as big as the sum of off-diagonal entries.

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Once the system of equations is solved for the second derivatives  $S''$ , the spline 'S' can be found as follows.

$$a_i = \frac{S''(x_{i+1}) - S''(x_i)}{6h_i}$$

$$b_i = \frac{S''(x_i)}{2}$$

$$c_i = \frac{f_{i+1} - f_i}{h_i} - \left( \frac{S''(x_{i+1}) + 2S''(x_i)}{6} \right) h_i$$

$$d_i = f_i$$

We now present an example for illustrating this approach.

EXP No. 1

Find The natural cubic spline which interpolates the data

$x_j$	1	3	5	8
$f_j$	0.85	0.72	0.34	0.67



Solution

$$x_1 = 1, x_2 = 3, x_3 = 5, x_4 = 8$$

$$f_1 = 0.85, f_2 = 0.72; f_3 = 0.34; f_4 = 0.67$$

$$h_1 = x_2 - x_1$$

$$= 3 - 1$$

$$h_1 = 2$$

$$h_2 = x_3 - x_2$$

$$= 5 - 3$$

$$h_2 = 2$$

Similarly

$$h_3 = x_4 - x_3$$

$$= 8 - 5$$

$$h_3 = 3$$

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For Natural Splines Condition  $S(x_1) = S(x_4) = 0$

For this case  $N = 4$

So we have a matrix is just  $2 \times 2$  and pair of equations are

$$h_1 S''(x_1) + 2(h_1 + h_2) S''(x_2) + h_2 S''(x_3) = r_2$$

$$2(h_1 + h_2) S''(x_2) + h_2 S''(x_3) = 6 \left( \frac{f_2 - f_1}{h_1} - \frac{f_2 - f_3}{h_2} \right)$$

$$2(2 + 2) S''(x_2) + 2 S''(x_3) = 6 \left( \frac{0.34 - 0.72}{2} - \frac{0.72 - 0.85}{2} \right)$$

$$= 6 \left( \frac{-0.38}{2} - \frac{0.13}{2} \right)$$

$$= 6(-0.125)$$

$$8 S''(x_2) + 2 S''(x_3) = -0.75 \quad (i)$$

Similarly 2nd equation

$$h_2 S''(x_2) + 2(h_2 + h_3) S''(x_3) + h_3 S''(x_4) = r_3$$

$$2 S''(x_2) + 10 S''(x_3) = 1.8 \quad (ii)$$

Multiply by 4 we get

$$8 S''(x_2) + 40 S''(x_3) = 7.2 \quad (ii-A)$$



Now By solving the eq (i) & (ii) (55)

Now by eq (i) & eq (ii-A)

$$\begin{aligned} 8\cancel{S''(x_2)} + 40S''(x_3) &= 7.2 \\ + 8\cancel{S''(x_2)} + 2S''(x_3) &= -0.75 \\ \hline \end{aligned}$$

$$38S''(x_3) = 7.95$$

$$\Rightarrow S''(x_3) = \frac{7.95}{38} = 0.20921053$$

$$S''(x_3) = 0.209211$$

Similarly By putting  $S''(x_3) = 0.209211$   
into eq (ii) we get

$$2S''(x_2) + 10(0.209211) = 1.8$$

$$2S''(x_2) + 2.09211 = 1.8$$

$$2S''(x_2) = 1.8 - 2.09211$$

$$2S''(x_2) = -0.29211$$

$$S''(x_2) = -0.146053$$

$$S''(x_2) = -0.146053$$

As our required Spline

$$S(x) = a_1(x-x_1)^3 + b_1(x-x_1)^2 + c_1(x-x_1) + d_1$$

Now find  $a_1, b_1, c_1$  &  $d_1$

As  $a_1 = \frac{S''(x_{i+1}) - S''(x_i)}{6h_i} \Rightarrow a_1 = \frac{S''(x_2) - S''(x_1)}{6h_1}$

$$a_1 = \frac{-0.146053 - 0}{6 \times 2}$$

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$a_1 = -0.01217108$

Now  $b_2 = \frac{S'(x_i)}{2}$

$b_1 = \frac{\frac{1}{2} S'(x_1)}{2} = \frac{0}{2} = 0$

$b_1 = 0$

$c_i = \frac{f_{i+1} - f_i}{h_i} - \left( \frac{S'(x_{i+1}) + 2S'(x_i)}{6} \right) h_i$

Similarly

$c_1 = -0.016346$

and  $d_2 = f_i$

$d_1 = f_1 = 0.85$

Now our required spline is putting above values into eq (iii)

$S(x) = -0.01217(x-1) - 0.016346(x-1) + 0.85$

For interval  $(1 < x < 3)$

Similarly for next interval  $(3 < x < 5)$

$S(x) = a_2(x-x_2)^3 + b_2(x-x_2)^2 + c_2(x-x_2) + d_2$

$S(x) = 0.029605(x-3) - 0.073026(x-3)^2 - 0.162368(x-3) + 0.72$

For interval  $(3 < x < 5)$

And For interval  $(5 < x < 8)$

$S(x) = a_3(x-x_3)^3 + b_3(x-x_3)^2 + c_3(x-x_3) + d_3$

$S(x) = -0.01162(x-5) + 0.104605(x-5)^2 - 0.099211(x-5) + 0.34$

For interval  $(5 < x < 8)$



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Now for interval  $(3 < x < 5)$

Spline is

$$S(x) = a_2(x-x_2)^3 + b_2(x-x_2)^2 + c_2(x-x_2) + d_2$$

First we find  $a_2, b_2, c_2, d_2$

As

$$a_i = \frac{S'(x_{i+1}) - S'(x_i)}{6h_i} ; b_i = \frac{S'(x_i)}{2}$$

$$c_i = \frac{f_{i+1} - f_i}{h_i} - \left( \frac{S'(x_{i+1}) + 2S'(x_i)}{6} \right) h_i$$

$$d_i = f_i$$

Now

$$a_2 = \frac{S'(x_3) - S'(x_2)}{6h_2}$$

As we have calculated

$$S'(x_2) = 0.209211$$

And

$$S'(x_3) = -0.146053$$

$$h_2 = 2$$

$$a_2 = \frac{0.209211 - (-0.146053)}{6 \times 2}$$

$$a_2 = \frac{0.355264}{12}$$

$$a_2 = 0.02960533$$

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$$b_2 = ? \quad \frac{S'(x_2)}{2} = \frac{-0.146053}{2}$$

$$b_2 = -0.0730265$$

$$c_2 = ?$$

$$c_2 = \frac{f_3 - f_2}{h_2} - \left( \frac{S'(x_2) + 2S'(x_3)}{6} \right) h_2$$

$$c_2 = \frac{0.34 - 0.72}{2} - \left( \frac{0.209211 + 2(-0.146053)}{6} \right) 2$$

$$c_2 = \frac{-0.38}{2} - \frac{(0.209211 - 0.292106)2}{6}$$

$$= -0.19 - \left( \frac{-0.082895}{6} \right) 2$$

$$c_2 = -0.19 - \left( \frac{-0.082895}{3} \right)$$

$$c_2 = -0.19 + 0.02763167$$

$$c_2 = \cancel{-0.2176317} - 0.1623683$$

$$\text{Now } d_2 = f_2 = 0.72$$

Our ~~rest~~ required spline for interval  
(3 < x < 5)

$$S(x) = 0.02960533(x - \bar{x}_2)^3 - 0.0730265(x - \bar{x}_2)^2 \\ - 0.1623683(x - \bar{x}_2) + 0.72$$



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Similarly spline for interval  $(5 < x < 8)$

$$S(x) = a_3(x-x_3)^3 + b_3(x-x_3)^2 + c_3(x-x_3) + d_3$$

Find  $a_3, b_3, c_3, d_3$

$$a_3 = \frac{S'(x_4) - S'(x_3)}{6h_3}$$

$$a_3 = \frac{0 - 0.209211}{6 \times 3}$$

$$a_3 = -0.01162283$$

$$b_3 = \frac{S'(x_3)}{2} = \frac{0.209211}{2} = 0.1046055$$

$$c_3 = \frac{f_4 - f_3}{h_3} - \left( \frac{S'(x_4) + 2S'(x_3)}{6} \right) h_3$$

$$= \frac{0.67 - 0.34}{3} - \left( \frac{2(0.209211)}{6} \right) \times 3$$

$$= \frac{0.33}{3} - 0.209211$$

$$= 0.11 - 0.209211$$

$$c_3 = -0.099211 ; d_3 = f_3 = 0.34$$

So our required spline for interval  $(5 < x < 8)$

$$S(x) = -0.01162(x-5)^3 + 0.104605(x-5)^2 - 0.099211(x-5) + 0.34$$

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Best of Luck