

# Numerical Methods for Computational Science and Engineering

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Polynomial interpolation algorithms:

Consider: • data points  $(t_i, y_i)$   $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$   
 $\underbrace{\quad}_{\in I}$

• find interpolant  $p(t) \in \mathcal{P}_n$  and  
 evaluate  $p(x)$  for some  $x \in I$

• using the monomial basis

Find coefficients  $\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_n$  in  $p(t) = \sum_{i=0}^n \alpha_i t^i$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & t_0 & t_0^2 & \dots & t_0^n \\ 1 & t_1 & t_1^2 & \dots & t_1^n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & t_n & t_n^2 & \dots & t_n^n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_0 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_0 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Vandermonde matrix

Effort of finding  $\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_n$ :  $\Theta(n^3)$

• Using Lagrange polynomials:

$$p(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n y_i L_i(x)$$

Evaluating  $L_i(x)$  is  $\Theta(n)$  [Horner scheme]

$\Rightarrow$  Evaluating  $p(x)$  is  $\Theta(n^2)$

Series of interpolation problems:

- Fixed nodes  $t_0, \dots, t_n \in I$
- $N$  different data value sets  $\{y_0^k, \dots, y_n^k\}$ ,  $k \in \{1, \dots, N\}$
- For every  $k$ : find interpolant  $p_k \in \mathcal{P}_n$  and evaluate  $p_k(x_k)$ ,  $x_k \in I$ ,  $k \in \{1, \dots, N\}$

Complexity of monomial basis approach:

$$\underline{\Theta(n^3 N)} \quad \left( + \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{evaluating } N \text{ polynomials of deg } n}}{\Theta(nN)} \right)$$

Complexity of Lagrange basis approach:

$$\underline{\Theta(n^2 N)}$$

## 5.2.27 Barycentric interpolation approach

$$p(t) = \sum_{i=0}^n y_i L_i(t) = \sum_{i=0}^n y_i \frac{\prod_{\substack{j=0 \\ j \neq i}}^n \frac{t-t_j}{t_i-t_j}}$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^n y_i \lambda_i \prod_{\substack{j=0 \\ j \neq i}}^n (t-t_j)$$

$$\lambda_i := \frac{1}{(t_i-t_0)(t_i-t_1) \dots (t_i-t_{i-1})(t_i-t_{i+1}) \dots (t_i-t_n)} \quad i=0, \dots, n$$

$$p(t) = \sum_{i=0}^n y_i \frac{\lambda_i}{t-t_i} \prod_{j=0}^n (t-t_j) \quad (*)$$

$$\text{For } p_1(t) \equiv 1 \quad y_{i,1} = 1$$

$$1 = \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{\lambda_i}{t-t_i} \underbrace{\prod_{j=0}^n (t-t_j)}$$

$$\prod_{j=0}^n (t-t_j) = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=0}^n \frac{\lambda_i}{t-t_i}}$$

$$(*) \Rightarrow p(t) = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^n y_i \frac{\lambda_i}{t-t_i}}{\sum_{i=0}^n \frac{\lambda_i}{t-t_i}}$$

• Computing  $\lambda_0, \dots, \lambda_n$ :  $\underline{\Theta(n^2)}$

• Evaluating  $p(x_k) = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^n y_i^k \frac{\lambda_i}{x_k-t_i}}{\sum_{i=0}^n \frac{\lambda_i}{x_k-t_i}}$

Effort for each  $k$ :  $\underline{\Theta(n)}$   $k \in \{1, \dots, N\}$

Total computational complexity:  $\underline{\Theta(n^2 + nN)}$

Note: If nodes  $t_i$  are close to each other:  
numerical instability in computing  $\lambda_i$ 's  
(also in evaluating Lagrange polynomials)

Different basis approach: Newton basis

$$N_0(t) \equiv 1, \quad N_i(t) = \prod_{j=0}^{i-1} (t-t_j), \quad i=1, \dots, n$$

$\uparrow$   
 $i$ -degree polynomial  $\rightarrow$  linearly independent set  $\{N_0, \dots, N_n\}$

$$\underline{N_i(t_l) = 0} \quad \forall l < i$$

Find interpolant  $p(t) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i N_i(t)$

$$p(t_0) = a_0 + 0$$

$$p(t_1) = a_0 + a_1 N_1(t_1) + 0$$

$$p(t_2) = a_0 + a_1 N_1(t_2) + a_2 N_2(t_2) + 0$$

⋮

⇒ lower triangular system for  $[a_0, \dots, a_n]^T$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 \\ 1 & N_1(t_1) & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & N_1(t_2) & N_2(t_2) & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & 0 \\ 1 & N_1(t_n) & N_2(t_n) & \dots & N_n(t_n) & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_0 \\ \vdots \\ \gamma_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Effort for computing entries of the matrix:  $\Theta(n^2)$

Solving for  $[a_0, \dots, a_n]^T$ :  $\Theta(n^2)$  [forward substitution]

$N$  evaluations for  $[\gamma_0^k, \dots, \gamma_n^k]$   $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$

and computing  $p_k(x_k) : \Theta(n^2 + n^2 N) = \Theta(n^2 N)$

building system matrix once  $\nearrow$   
 $N$  forward substitutions  $\uparrow$

Note: The interpolant is unique (algebraically, Vandermonde, Lagrange & Newton interpolation are equivalent)

Example:  $\sin(\pi x)$  on  $[0, 0.2]$

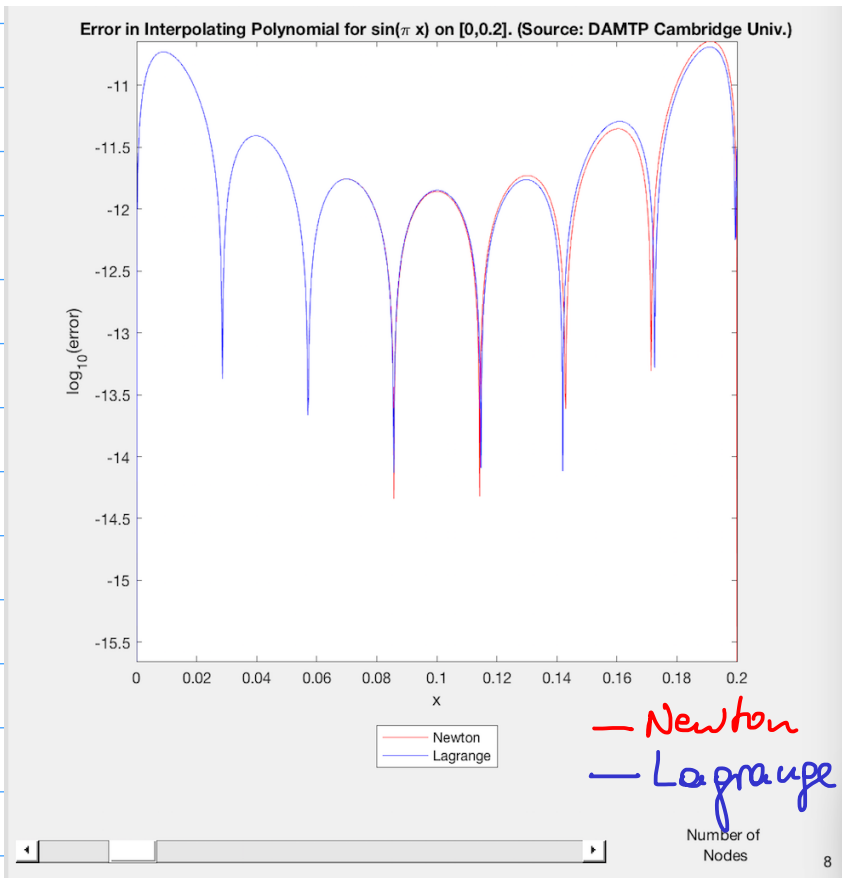
error in interpolating with Lagrange vs. Newton; nodes: equidistant

8 nodes

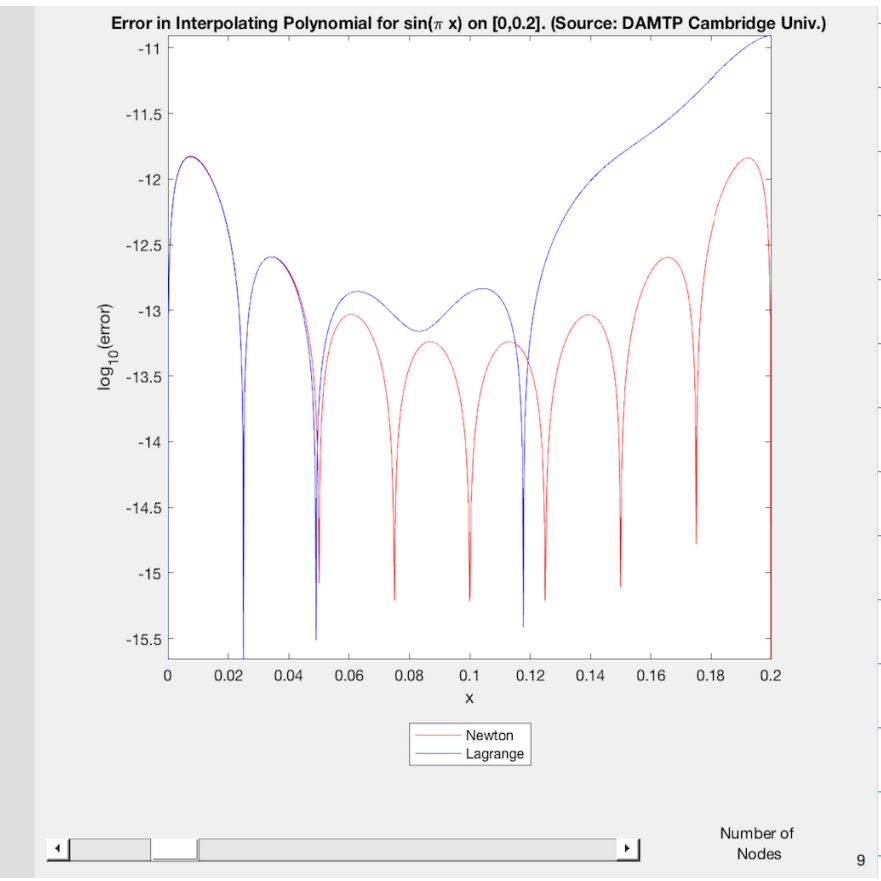
9 nodes

12 nodes

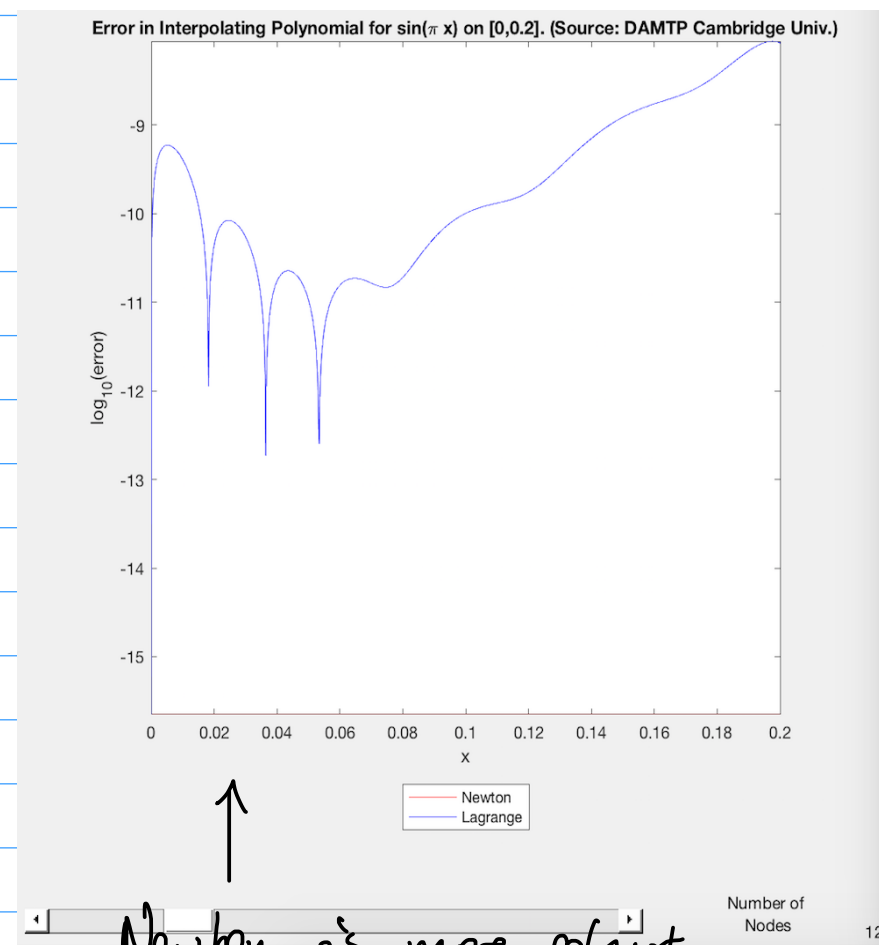
23 nodes



— Newton  
— Lagrange

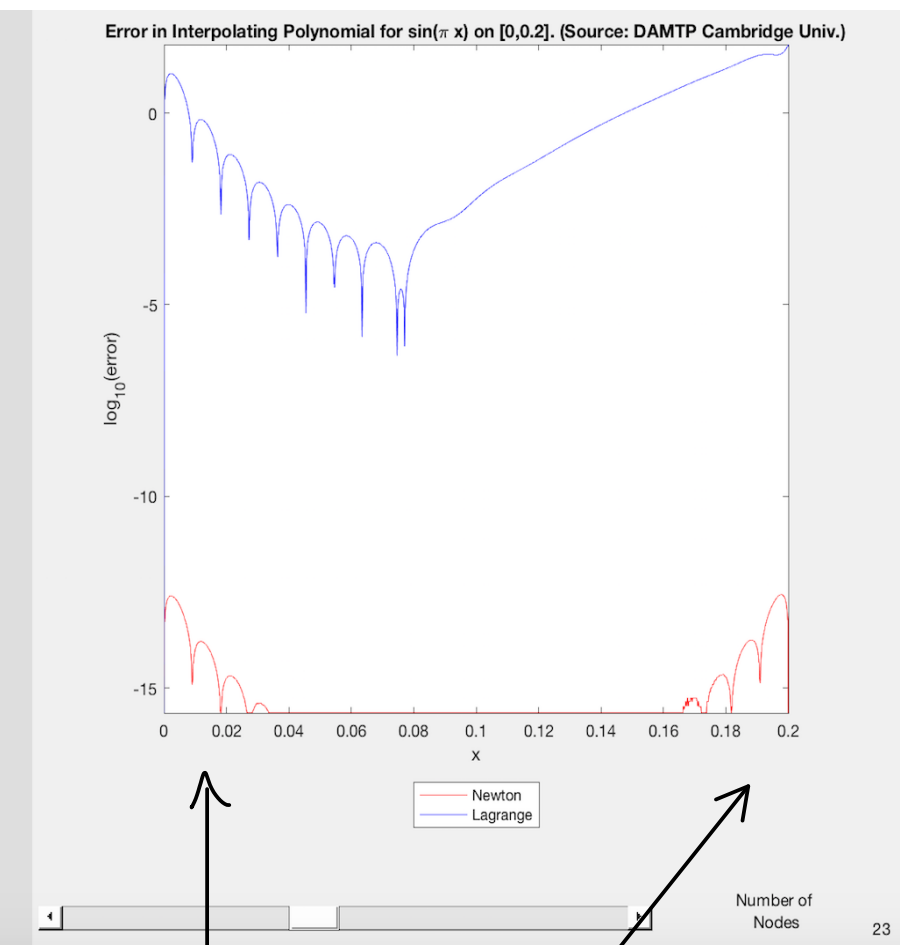


— Newton  
— Lagrange



— Newton  
— Lagrange

↑  
Newton is more robust



— Newton  
— Lagrange

higher degree  
≠  
better approximation

Runge's phenomenon  
interpolating with high deg.  
polynomials leads to osc./  
artifacts at the endpoints  
[when equidistant nodes used]

Different ways to avoid Runge's phenomenon:

- points more densely distributed close to the endpoints (cf. Chebyshev nodes)
- piecewise polynomial interpolation

"Update-friendly" implementation

What if a single data point is added or changed?

The Aitken-Neville Scheme

introducing partial interpolating polynomials:

$p_{k,l}$  := unique interpolating polynomial of degree  $l-k$  through  $(t_k, y_k), \dots, (t_l, y_l)$ ,

$p_{k,k}(x) \equiv y_k$  ("constant polynomial"),  $k = 0, \dots, n$ ,

$$p_{k,l}(x) = \frac{(x-t_k)p_{k+1,l}(x) - (x-t_l)p_{k,l-1}(x)}{t_l - t_k} \quad (=: \tilde{p}_{k,l}(x)) \quad (5.2.34)$$

degree  $l-k$

$$= p_{k+1,l}(x) + \frac{x-t_l}{t_l-t_k} (p_{k+1,l}(x) - p_{k,l-1}(x)), \quad 0 \leq k \leq l \leq n,$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} p_{k+1,l} : \text{interpolant } (t_{k+1}, y_{k+1}), \dots, (t_l, y_l) \\ p_{k,l-1} : \text{interpolant } (t_k, y_k), \dots, (t_{l-1}, y_{l-1}) \end{array} \right.$$

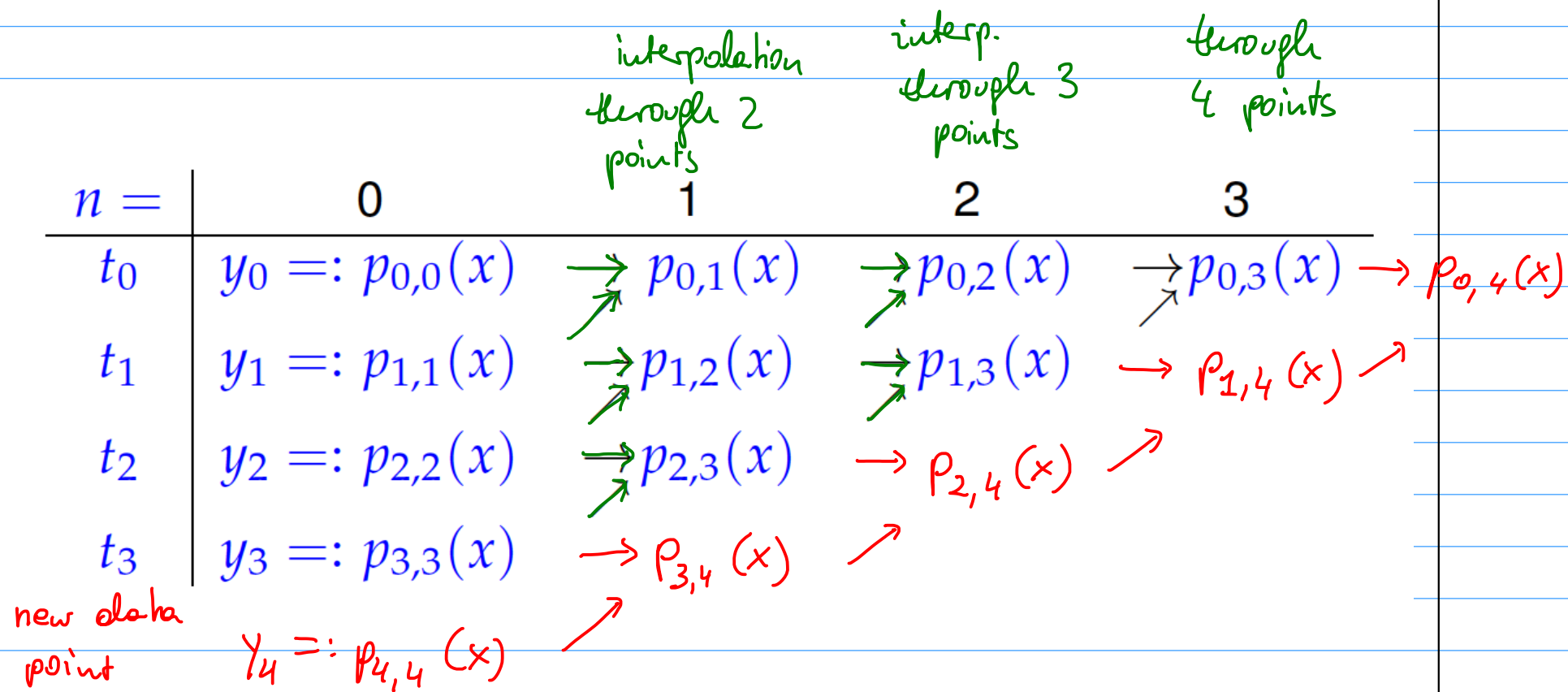
→ degree  $l-k-1$

Check:  $\tilde{p}_{k,l}(t_i) = y_i, \quad i = k, \dots, l$  (exercise)

is interpolating through  $(t_k, y_k), \dots, (t_l, y_l)$

By uniqueness:  $\tilde{p}_{k,l} = p_{k,l}$

Recursive computation of  $p_{0,n}(x)$ :



↑  
"update-friendly"

C++-code 5.2.35: Aitken-Neville algorithm

```

2 // Aitken-Neville algorithm for evaluation of interpolating polynomial
3 // IN: t, y: (vectors of) interpolation data points
4 // x: (single) evaluation point
5 // OUT: value of interpolant in x
6 double ANipoleval(const VectorXd& t, VectorXd y, const double x) {
7   for (int i = 0; i < y.size(); ++i) {
8     for (int k = i - 1; k >= 0; --k) {
9       // Recursion (5.2.34)
10      y(k) = y(k + 1) + (y(k + 1) - y(k)) * (x - t(i)) / (t(i) - t(k));
11    }
12  }
13  return y(0);
14 }
  
```

Two nested loops:  $\Theta(n^2)$

direct evaluation of  $p_{0,n}(x)$  at given point  $x$

Update-friendly computation of coefficients in Newton basis interpolation?

Recall:

$$a_j \in \mathbb{R}: a_0 N_0(t_j) + a_1 N_1(t_j) + \dots + a_n N_n(t_j) = y_j, \quad j = 0, \dots, n.$$

⇔ triangular linear system

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 1 & (t_1 - t_0) & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & 0 \\ 1 & (t_n - t_0) & \dots & \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} (t_n - t_i) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_0 \\ y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

with some calculations:

$$a_0 = y_0$$

$$a_1 = \frac{y_1 - y_0}{t_1 - t_0}$$

$$a_2 = \frac{\frac{y_2 - y_1}{t_2 - t_1} - \frac{y_1 - y_0}{t_1 - t_0}}{t_2 - t_0}$$

$$a_3 = \frac{\frac{\frac{y_3 - y_2}{t_3 - t_2} - \frac{y_2 - y_1}{t_2 - t_1}}{t_3 - t_1} - \frac{\frac{y_2 - y_1}{t_2 - t_1} - \frac{y_1 - y_0}{t_1 - t_0}}{t_2 - t_0}}{t_3 - t_0}$$

Divided difference scheme:

$$y[t_i] = y_i$$

$$y[t_i, \dots, t_{i+k}] = \frac{y[t_{i+1}, \dots, t_{i+k}] - y[t_i, \dots, t_{i+k-1}]}{t_{i+k} - t_i} \quad (\text{recursion}) \quad (5.2.52)$$

$$\begin{array}{l} t_0 \left| \begin{array}{l} y[t_0] \\ > y[t_0, t_1] \\ > y[t_0, t_1, t_2] \\ > y[t_0, t_1, t_2, t_3], \\ > y[t_1, t_2] \\ > y[t_1, t_2, t_3] \\ > y[t_2, t_3] \end{array} \right. \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} = a_0 \\ = a_1 \\ = a_3 \\ = a_4 \end{array} \quad (5.2.54)$$



C++-code 5.2.55: Divided differences, recursive implementation, in situ computation

```

2 // IN: t = node set (mutually different)
3 // y = nodal values
4 // OUT: y = coefficients of polynomial in Newton basis
5 void divdiff(const VectorXd& t, VectorXd& y) {
6     const unsigned n = y.size() - 1;
7     // Follow scheme (5.2.54), recursion (5.2.51)
8     for (unsigned l = 0; l < n; ++l)
9         for (unsigned j = l; j < n; ++j)
10            y(j+1) = (y(j+1)-y(l))/(t(j+1)-t(l));
11 }

```

Evaluation of polynomial in Newton form:  
based on Horner scheme

$$p \leftarrow a_n, \quad p \leftarrow (t - t_{n-1})p + a_{n-1}, \quad p \leftarrow (t - t_{n-2})p + a_{n-2}, \quad \dots$$

C++-code 5.2.58: Divided differences evaluation by modified Horner scheme

```

2 // Evaluation of polynomial in Newton basis (divided differences)
3 // IN: t = nodes (mutually different)
4 // y = values in t
5 // x = evaluation points (as Eigen::Vector)
6 // OUT: p = values in x */
7 void evaldivdiff(const VectorXd& t, const VectorXd& y, const
8     VectorXd& x, VectorXd& p) {
9     const unsigned n = y.size() - 1;
10
11     // get Newton coefficients of polynomial (non in-situ
12     // implementation!)
13     VectorXd coeffs; divdiff(t, y, coeffs);
14
15     // evaluate
16     VectorXd ones = VectorXd::Ones(x.size());
17     p = coeffs(n)*ones;
18     for (int j = n - 1; j >= 0; --j) {
19         p = (x - t(j))*ones.cwiseProduct(p) + coeffs(j)*ones;
20     }
21 }

```

$$p(t) = a_0 + a_1(t - t_0) + a_2(t - t_0)(t - t_1) + \dots + a_n \prod_{j=0}^{n-1} (t - t_j) \quad (5.2.56)$$

$$a_0 = y[t_0], a_1 = y[t_0, t_1], a_2 = y[t_0, t_1, t_2], \dots$$

Adding new data point  $(t_n, y_n)$ :

calculate  $y[t_n], y[t_{n-1}, t_n], \dots, y[t_0, \dots, t_n]$   
"update-friendly"  $\Theta(n)$

$\Theta(n)$  for evaluating  $p(t)$ .

# 5.5 Splines

Piecewise polynomial interpolation