

## 7. Numerical evaluation of definite integrals

Tento učební text byl podpořen z Operačního programu Praha - Adaptabilita

*Hana Hladíková*



Numerical approximation of definite integral is called **numerical quadrature**, the formulas are called

quadrature formulas. We approximate the value of an indefinite integral  $I(f) = \int_b^a f(x)dx$ , where  $f$  is continuous on the interval  $\langle a, b \rangle$ . If, moreover,  $f$  is smooth (its first derivative is continuous), then *geometrical interpretation* of  $I(f)$  is the area between the graph of  $f$  and  $x$ -axis on the interval  $\langle a, b \rangle$ .

Numerical methods are used if

- a) the function is given by a tablet,
- b) the integral cannot be evaluated directly,
- c) the evaluation is too complicated.

Substitute the given function by  $\varphi$  so that the integral of  $I(\varphi) = \int_b^a \varphi(x)dx$  can be evaluated more easily. Let  $I(f)$  be the exact value and  $I(\varphi)$  its approximation, i.e.  $I(f) \approx I(\varphi)$ .

Numerical evaluation of definite integral is stable (unlike numerical derivative). If  $\varphi$  is an approximation of the function  $f$  on  $\langle a; b \rangle$ , then  $I(\varphi)$  is an approximation of  $I(f)$ , because:

$$\left| \int_b^a f(x)dx - \int_b^a \varphi(x)dx \right| \leq \int_b^a |f(x) - \varphi(x)| dx \leq (b - a) \overbrace{\sup_{\langle a, b \rangle} (|f(x) - \varphi(x)|)}^{\epsilon} \leq (b - a)\epsilon$$

## Newton-Cotes quadrature formulas

The given interval  $\langle a, b \rangle$  will be divided into  $n$  subintervals  $\langle x_k, x_{k+1} \rangle$ ,  $a = x_0 < x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_{n-1} < x_n = b$ . We take *equidistant partition*, where  $x_{k+1} - x_k = h = \frac{b-a}{n}$ .

The integral is partitioned:

$$I = \int_a^b f(x)dx = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \left( \int_{x_k}^{x_{k+1}} f(x)dx \right).$$

On the interval  $\langle x_k, x_{k+N+1} \rangle$  substitute the function  $f$  by the Lagrange polynomial  $N$ -th degree and evaluate the integral of it. Such a formula is called **basic Newton-Cotes formula** - (basic NC formula).

The sum for the integral  $\langle a, b \rangle$  is **composed quadrature formula**.

We call the formula **quadrature formula of the order**  $n$  if it approximates exactly polynomial of degree  $n$  (for higher degrees than  $n$  we get a nonzero error).

## Newton-Cotes quadrature formula - rectangle rule

On the interval  $\langle x_k, x_{k+1} \rangle$  the function  $f$  will be substituted by a *constant function*  $L_0(x) = f\left(\frac{x_{k+1}+x_k}{2}\right)$  going through the points  $\left[\frac{x_{k+1}+x_k}{2}, f\left(\frac{x_{k+1}+x_k}{2}\right)\right]$ . We get **quadrature formula of order 0**.

$$\int_{x_k}^{x_{k+1}} f(x)dx \approx \int_{x_k}^{x_{k+1}} L_0(x)dx = (x_{k+1} - x_k) f\left(\frac{x_{k+1} + x_k}{2}\right) = h \cdot f\left(\frac{x_{k+1} + x_k}{2}\right) = I_{Rec}(f).$$

For  $f\left(\frac{x_{k+1}+x_k}{2}\right) > 0$  the value  $I_{Rec}(f)$  is the *area of the rectangle* with sides

$x_{k+1} - x_k$  a  $f\left(\frac{x_{k+1}+x_k}{2}\right)$ . See Fig. 7.1, where  $x_{k+\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{x_{k+1}+x_k}{2}$ .

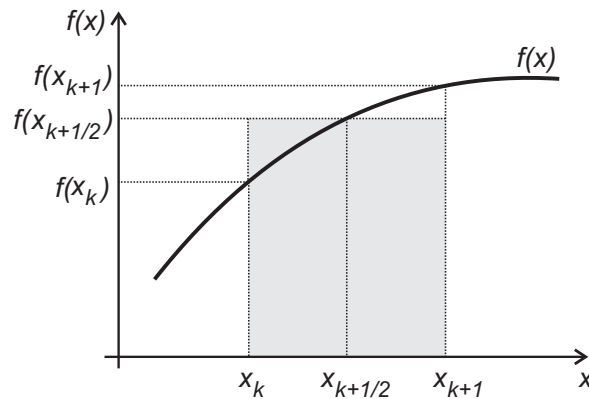


Fig. 7.1 Rectangular rule.

Composed formula:

$$\int_a^b f(x)dx \approx I_{Rec} = h \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} f\left(\frac{x_{i+1} + x_i}{2}\right)$$

**Remark:** Let  $f$  have on  $\langle a, b \rangle$  continuous second derivative, then:

$$I - I_{Rec} = \frac{b-a}{24} f''(\xi)h^2, \text{ where } \xi \in (a, b).$$

If  $M_2 = \max_{x \in \langle a, b \rangle} |f''(x)|$ , then

$$|I - I_{Obd}| \leq \frac{b-a}{24} M_2 h^2.$$

## Newton-Cotes quadrature formula - trapezoid rule

On  $\langle x_k, x_{k+1} \rangle$  the function  $f$  is substituted by a *linear polynomial*  $L_1(x)$  going through the points  $[x_k, f(x_k)]$  and  $[x_{k+1}, f(x_{k+1})]$ . We get **quadrature formula of order 1**

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{x_k}^{x_{k+1}} f(x)dx &\approx \int_{x_k}^{x_{k+1}} L_1(x)dx = \frac{(x_{k+1} - x_k)}{2} (f(x_k) + f(x_{k+1})) = \\ &= \frac{h}{2} (f(x_k) + f(x_{k+1})) = I_{Trap}. \end{aligned}$$

For  $f(x_{k+1}) > 0$  a  $f(x_k) > 0$  is  $I_{Trap}(f)$  the area of the trapezoid with the sides of the lengths  $f(x_{k+1})$  and  $f(x_k)$  and the height is  $x_{k+1} - x_k$ .

Geometrical interpretation is in the Fig. 7.2.

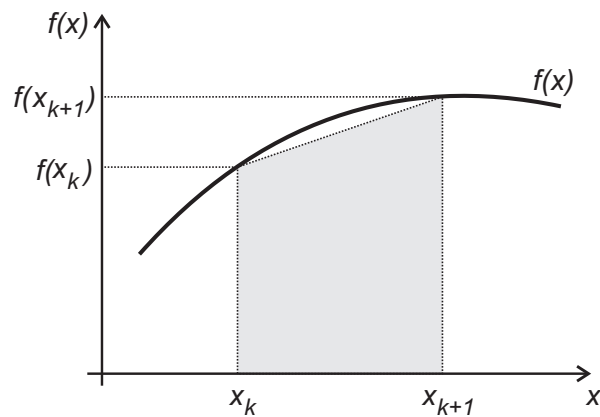


Fig. 7.2 Trapezoid rule .

The composed formula:

$$\int_a^b f(x)dx \approx I_{Trapez} = \frac{h}{2} [f(x_0) + 2f(x_1) + 2f(x_2) + \dots + 2f(x_{n-1}) + f(x_n)] =$$

$$= h \left[ \frac{1}{2}f(x_0) + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} f(x_i) + \frac{1}{2}f(x_n) \right].$$

**Remark:** If on  $\langle a, b \rangle$  the function  $f$  has a continuous second derivative, then:

$$I - I_{Trapez} = -\frac{b-a}{12} f''(\xi)h^2, \text{ kde } \xi \in (a, b).$$

If  $M_2 = \max_{x \in \langle a, b \rangle} |f''(x)|$ , then

$$|I - I_{Trapez}| \leq \frac{b-a}{12} M_2 h^2.$$

## Newton-Cotes quadrature formula - Simpson's rule

On  $\langle x_k, x_{k+2} \rangle$  the function  $f$  will be substituted by a *quadratic polynomial*  $L_2(x)$  going through the points  $[x_k, f(x_k)]$ ,  $[x_{k+1}, f(x_{k+1})]$  and  $[x_{k+2}, f(x_{k+2})]$ . We get the **quadrature formula of order 2**.

$$\int_{x_k}^{x_{k+2}} f(x)dx \approx \int_{x_k}^{x_{k+2}} L_2(x)dx = \frac{(x_{k+2} - x_k)}{6} (f(x_k) + 4f(x_{k+1}) + f(x_{k+2})) =$$

$$= \frac{h}{3} (f(x_k) + 4f(x_{k+1}) + f(x_{k+2})) = I_{Simp}.$$

The geometrical interpretation is on the Fig. 7.1.

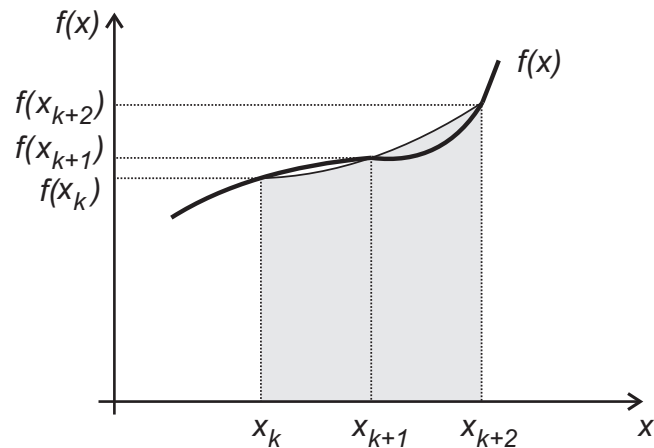


Fig. 7.3 Simpson's rule .

The composed formula for  $n$  even:

$$\int_a^b f(x)dx \approx I_{Simp} = \frac{h}{3}[f(x_0) + 4f(x_1) + 2f(x_2) + 4f(x_3) + 2f(x_4) + \dots \\ \dots + 2f(x_{n-2}) + 4f(x_{n-1}) + f(x_n)].$$

**Remark:** If on  $\langle a, b \rangle$  the function  $f$  has a continuous fourth derivative, then:

$$I - I_{Simps} = -\frac{b-a}{90} f^{(4)}(\xi)h^4, \text{ where } \xi \in (a, b).$$

If  $M_4 = \max_{x \in \langle a, b \rangle} |f^{(4)}(x)|$ , then

$$|I - I_{Simps}| \leq \frac{b-a}{90} M_4 h^4.$$

**Example 1:** Evaluate the approximate value  $\int_{-1}^1 e^x dx$  for  $n = 4$  using the foregoing rules, estimate the error and compare it to the exact value.  $h = \frac{1-(-1)}{4} = 0,5 \Rightarrow x_0 = -1; x_1 = -1 + 0,5 = -0,5; x_2 = 0; x_3 = 0,5; x_4 = 1.$

$$f(x) = f^{(1)}(x) = f^{(2)}(x) = f^{(4)}(x) = e^x, \quad e^x < 3, \quad x \in \langle -1, 1 \rangle$$

Exact value:

$$I = \int_{-1}^1 e^x dx = [e^x]_{-1}^1 = e^1 - e^{-1} = 2,350402387$$

(1) Rectangle rule:

$$I_{Rec} = 0,5 \left[ e^{\frac{-1+(-0,5)}{2}} + e^{\frac{-0,5+0}{2}} + e^{\frac{0+0,5}{2}} + e^{\frac{0,5+1}{2}} \right] = 2,326096$$

$$\text{Error estimation: } I - I_{Obd} \leq \frac{b-a}{24} M_2 h^2 \leq \frac{2}{24} \cdot 3 \cdot 0,5^2 = 0,0625$$

$$|I_{Rec} - I| = 0,024306$$

(2) Trapezoid rule:

$$I_{Trap} = \frac{0,5}{2} [e^{-1} + 2e^{-0,5} + 2e^0 + 2e^{0,5} + e^1] = 2,399166$$

$$\text{Error estimation: } I - I_{Lich} \leq \frac{b-a}{12} M_2 h^2 \leq \frac{2}{12} \cdot 3 \cdot 0,5^2 = 0,125$$

$$|I_{Trap} - I| = 0,048764$$

(3) Simpson's rule:

$$I_{Simps} = \frac{0,5}{3} [e^{-1} + 4e^{-0,5} + 2e^0 + 4e^{0,5} + e^1] = 2,351195$$

$$\text{Error estimation: } I - I_{Simps} \leq \frac{b-a}{90} M_4 h^4 \leq \frac{2}{90} \cdot 3 \cdot 0,5^4 = 0,0083$$

$$|I_{Simps} - I| = 0,0000792$$

#### MATLAB

**trapz(@ fce,a,b)** - integral by trapezoid rule of *fce* on  $\langle a, b \rangle$ ,  
**quad(@ fce,a,b)** - integr al by Simpson's rule of *fce* on  $\langle a, b \rangle$ ,  
**dblquad(@ fce,xmin,xmax,ymin,ymax)** - dvojný integrál,  
**triplequad(@ fce,xmin,xmax,ymin,ymax,zmin,zmax)** - trojný integrál.

Evaluate  $\int_0^2 x^2 dx$

We can insert a function using the command inline:

```
>> F = inline('(x.^2)')
```

```
>> Q = quad(F,0,2);
```

We can define a function:

```
>> Q = quad(@ mojefunkce,0,2);
```

where mojefunkce.m is an M-file:

```
function y = mojefunkce(x)
```

```
y = x.^2;
```

Symbolic toolbox: >> syms x

```
>> int(x^2,0,2)
```

```
ans =
```

```
4
```

For finding the antiderivative for a function use **int** with one parameter: **int(expression)**.

```
>> syms x
```

```
>> int(x^2-5)
```

```
ans =
```

```
1/3*x^3-5*x
```