

# Numerical Analysis: Midterm (50 marks)

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*You are not required to complete every question. Although the total marks on the exam sum to 55, your midterm grade will be calculated out of 50.*

⚙️ **Question 1** (Floating point arithmetic, **10 marks**). True or false?

1. Let  $(\bullet)_2$  denote binary representation. Then  $(0.1101)_2 + (0.0011)_2 = (1.0)_2$ .
2. Let  $\varepsilon_{64}$  denote the machine epsilon for the **Float64** format, i.e. `eps(Float64)`. Then the number 2 is representable exactly in this format, and the next representable number is  $2 + \varepsilon_{64}$ .
3. It holds that  $(10000)_2 \times (0.1010)_2 = (1010)_2$ .
4. In Julia, `Float64(.6) == Float32(.6)` evaluates to `true`.
5. The spacing (in absolute value) between successive single-precision (**Float32**) floating point numbers is constant.
6. Infinitely many distinct real numbers can be represented exactly in the **Float64** format, but only finitely many can be represented exactly in the **Float32** format.
7. It holds that  $(0.\overline{101})_2 = \frac{5}{7}$ .
8. Machine addition  $\hat{+}$  is an operation that is *associative* but not *commutative*.
9. The machine epsilon is the smallest number of the form  $2^{-n}$  with  $n \in \mathbf{N}$  that can be represented exactly in a floating point format.
10. In Julia, the expression `1 + eps()/3 == 1 + eps()` evaluates to `true`.
11. **Bonus.** In Julia, the expression `exp(eps()/2) == 1 + eps()` evaluates to `true`.

*Explain briefly:*

12. **Bonus.** In Julia, the expression `cos(eps()) == 1` evaluates to `true`.

*Explain briefly:*

⚙️ **Question 2** (Interpolation and approximation, **10 marks**). Are the following statements true or false? Prove or disprove. Recall that  $\mathcal{P}_d$  denotes the set of polynomials of degree at most  $d$ .

1. Assume that  $x_0 < x_1 < x_2 < x_3$  and  $y_0, y_1, y_2, y_3$  are given real numbers. Then there exists a polynomial  $p \in \mathcal{P}_3$  such that  $p(x_i) = y_i$  for all  $i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ .

*Justification:*

2. Assume that  $x_0 < x_1 < x_2$  and  $y_0, y_1, y_2$  are given real numbers. Then, there can exist *at most one* polynomial  $p \in \mathcal{P}_2$  such that  $p(x_i) = y_i$  for all  $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ .

*Justification:*

3. Let  $p \in \mathcal{P}_d$  be a polynomial of degree  $d > 0$ , and let  $q: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  be given by  $q(x) = p(x+1) - p(x)$ . Then it holds that  $q \in \mathcal{P}_{d-1}$ .

*Justification:*

4. For  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ , let  $x_i^n = i/n$  for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ . Assume that  $u: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is the smooth function given by  $u(x) = \sin(3x) + x^3$ , and let  $p_n \in \mathcal{P}_n$  denote the polynomial interpolation of  $u$  at the points  $x_0^n, x_1^n, \dots, x_n^n$ . Then it holds that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \max_{x \in [0,1]} |u(x) - p_n(x)| \right) = 0.$$

*Justification:*

⚙️ **Question 3** (Interpolation, open-ended question, **5 marks**). In polynomial interpolation, the error depends both on the function being interpolated and the choice of interpolation nodes. Consider two families of nodes on the interval  $[-1, 1]$ :

- Equally spaced nodes,
- Chebyshev nodes.

Discuss qualitatively (and illustrate with examples or plots if you wish) how the interpolation error behaves as the degree  $n$  increases in each case. Why does one choice of nodes perform better for large  $n$ , and what is the mathematical motivation for using Chebyshev nodes? *You may refer to Runge's phenomenon, but go beyond merely stating it.*

**□ Implementation exercise 1** (Interpolation, **5 marks**). Write Julia code that computes and plots the interpolating polynomial  $p \in \mathcal{P}_3$  through the following points:  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(1, 4)$ ,  $(2, 15)$ ,  $(3, 40)$ . The plot should display both the interpolation points and the graph of the interpolating polynomial over an appropriate range. Do not use any other library than the ones already imported.

```
using LinearAlgebra
using Plots
# Write your code here
```

⚙️ **Question 4** (Numerical integration, **5 marks**). Are the following statements true or false? Justify briefly.

1. The degree of precision of the following quadrature rule is 2:

$$\int_{-1}^1 u(x) \, dx \approx 2u(0).$$

*Justification:*

2. The degree of precision of the following rule is equal to 3:

$$\int_{-1}^1 u(x) \, dx \approx u\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) + u\left(\frac{1}{3}\right).$$

*Justification:*

3. For any natural number  $N > 0$ , there exists a quadrature rule with a degree of precision equal to  $2N - 1$  of the form

$$\int_{-1}^1 u(x) \, dx \approx \sum_{n=1}^N w_n u(x_n).$$

*Justification:*

4. Let  $x_i^N = i/N$  and consider the following approximation of  $\int_0^1 u(x) \, dx$ :

$$\hat{I}_N = \frac{1}{2N} \left( u(x_0^N) + 2u(x_1^N) + 2u(x_2^N) + \dots + 2u(x_{N-2}^N) + 2u(x_{N-1}^N) + u(x_N^N) \right). \quad (1)$$

Suppose first that  $u$  is the Runge function, given by  $u(x) = (1 + 25x^2)^{-1}$ . Then  $\hat{I}_N$  diverges in the limit  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

*Justification:*

5. Let  $u(x) = \cos(3x)$  and let  $\hat{I}_N$  be as in (1). Then it holds that

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \left( \left| \hat{I}_N - \int_0^1 u(x) \, dx \right| \right) = 0.$$

*Justification:*

6. (**Bonus.**) Fix  $u(x) = 2x - 1$  and let  $\hat{I}_N$  be as in (1). Then  $\hat{I}_N = 0$  for all  $N \geq 2$ .

*Justification:*

⚙️ **Question 5** (Gaussian–Hermite numerical integration, **10 marks**). The Gauss–Hermite quadrature formula with  $n$  nodes is an approximation of the form

$$I(u) := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u(x) e^{-x^2} dx \approx \sum_{i=1}^n w_i u(x_i) =: \hat{I}_n(u),$$

which is exact when  $u$  is a polynomial of degree  $\leq 2n - 1$ . Note that the nodes are numbered  $1, \dots, n$ . For this question, we take for granted that, for integers  $i \geq 0$ , it holds that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^i e^{-x^2} dx = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } i \text{ is odd,} \\ (i-1)!! \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2^i}}, & \text{if } i \text{ is even,} \end{cases}$$

where  $(i-1)!! := 1 \times 3 \times 5 \times \dots \times (i-1)$ . In particular, with all the integrals being over  $(-\infty, \infty)$ , the following special cases may be useful in your computations:

$$\int e^{-x^2} dx = \sqrt{\pi}, \quad \int x^2 e^{-x^2} dx = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}, \quad \int x^4 e^{-x^2} dx = \frac{3}{4}\sqrt{\pi}, \quad \int x^6 e^{-x^2} dx = \frac{15}{8}\sqrt{\pi}.$$

1. (**5 marks**) Find the nodes and weights of the Gauss–Hermite rule with  $n = 3$  nodes. By symmetry, we expect nodes of the form  $(-z, 0, z)$  and weights  $(w_1, w_2, w_1)$ , which reduces the number of unknowns to three.

*Your answer:*

2. (5 marks) Let  $\{H_0, H_1, \dots\}$  denote orthogonal polynomials for the inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)g(x) e^{-x^2} dx$$

which, in addition, satisfy the following two conditions:

- For all  $i \in \mathbf{N}$ , the polynomial  $H_i$  is of degree  $i$ .
- The leading coefficient of  $H_i$ , which multiplies  $x^i$ , is equal to 1.

Calculate  $H_0$ ,  $H_1$ ,  $H_2$  and  $H_3$ . What is the relationship between  $H_3$  and the quadrature rule found in the first item?

*Your answer:*

3. (Bonus, **2 marks**) Calculate  $H_4$  and, using this result, deduce the nodes and weights of the Gauss–Hermite quadrature with 4 points.

*Your answer:*



**Implementation exercise 2** (Numerical integration, **10 marks**). The midpoint quadrature rule reads

$$\int_{-1}^1 u(x) \, dx \approx 2u(0).$$

- **(3 marks)** Write a function `midpoint(u, a, b)` that returns, using this quadrature rule, an approximation of the integral

$$\int_a^b u(x) \, dx. \quad (2)$$

```
function midpoint(u, a, b)
    # Write your code here
```

```
end
```

- **(4 marks)** Write a function `composite_midpoint(u, a, b, N)` that returns an approximation of the integral (2), this time using a composite version of the midpoint rule. More precisely, the approximation should be obtained by partitioning the integration interval  $[a, b]$  into  $N$  cells, and applying the midpoint rule within each cell.

```
function composite_midpoint(u, a, b)
    # Write your code here
```

```
end
```

- **(3 marks)** Take  $u(x) = \cos(x)$ ,  $a = -1$  and  $b = 1$ . In this setting, plot the evolution of the error for  $N$  varying from 1 to 1000.

```
using Plots
# Write your code here
```