

The content of this document is partially & with less detail covered in Bathel's book section 5.5.3 (pages 461-463)

Derivation of Gauss quadrature weights and points:  
 $w_i$ 's                       $f_i$

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we noticed in class that the derivation of 2 point ( $n=2$ ) Gauss quadrature weights ( $w_i$ ) and points ( $f_i$ ) resulted in a 4x4 nonlinear system:

$$\begin{cases} w_1 + w_2 = 2 \\ w_1 f_1 + w_2 f_2 = 0 \\ w_1 f_1^2 + w_2 f_2^2 = \frac{2}{3} \\ w_1 f_1^3 + w_2 f_2^3 = 0 \end{cases}$$

Herein, we present a methodology that simplifies the derivation of weights & points.

Basically, we derive  $f_i$  in 1st step ( $n$  unknowns) and then obtain  $w_i$  (the other  $n$  unknowns) as opposed to solving all  $n$  unknowns at once.

Given : number of Gauss points  $n$

Goal : Gauss points  $f_i$  (  $n$  unknowns ) and Gauss weights  $w_i$  (  $n$  unknowns )

Since we have  $2n$  unknowns we should be able to exactly integrate polynomials of orders  $p \leq 2n-1$  as polynomial of order  $2n-1$  has  $2n$  coefficients:

$$A(f) = a_0 + a_1 f + \dots + a_{2n-1} f^{2n-1}$$

we should have:

$$\int_{-1}^1 A(f) df = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i A(f_i) \quad (1)$$

as before one can find  $w_i$  &  $f_i$  by direct evaluation of both sides of equation (1) and equating factors of  $a_0, \dots, a_{2n-1}$ :

$$\int_{-1}^1 f^j df = \frac{2a_0}{3} + \frac{2a_2}{5} + \dots + \frac{1+(-1)^j}{j+1} a_j + \dots + \frac{1}{2n+1} a_{2n-2}$$

$$= w_1 (a_0 + a_1 f_1 + \dots + a_{2n+1} f_1^{2n-1}) + w_2 (a_0 + a_1 f_2 + \dots + a_{2n+1} f_2^{2n-1}) +$$

...

$$w_n (a_0 + a_1 f_n + \dots + a_{2n+1} f_n^{2n-1})$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} w_1 + w_2 + \dots + w_n = 2 \\ w_1 f_1 + w_2 f_2 + \dots + w_n f_n = 0 \\ \vdots \\ w_1 f_1^i + w_2 f_2^i + \dots + w_n f_n^i = \frac{(-1)^i + 1}{i+1} \\ \vdots \\ w_1 f_1^{2n-1} + w_2 f_2^{2n-1} + \dots + w_n f_n^{2n-1} = \frac{(-1)^{2n-1} + 1}{2n} \end{cases} \quad 0 \leq i \leq 2n-1$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \vdots \\ w_1 f_1^{2n-1} + w_2 f_2^{2n-1} + \dots + w_n f_n^{2n-1} = 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Clearly the solution to this  $2n \times 2n$  nonlinear system of equations is very challenging!

in alternative approach we define

$$P(f) = (f - f_1) \dots (f - f_n) \quad \text{polynomial of order } n$$

and divide  $A(f)$  by  $P(f)$  to obtain:

$$A(f) = \overset{\text{divisor}}{P(f)} \overset{\text{quotient}}{Q(f)} + \overset{\text{remainder}}{R(f)} \quad (2)$$

← dividend
↓ order  $2n-1$ 
↓ order  $n$

$$\text{order of } Q = \text{order of } A - \text{order of } P = 2n-1 - n = n-1$$

$$\text{order of } R = \text{order of } A - 1 = n-1 \quad (3)$$

so we can express  $Q$  as

$$Q(f) = q_0 + \dots + q_{n-1} f^{n-1} \quad (4)$$

Also for  $R(f)$  we observe

for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$

$$A(f_i) = P(f_i) Q(f_i) + R(f_i)$$

but since

$$P(f) = (f - \xi_1)(f - \xi_2) \dots (f - \xi_n) \rightarrow$$

$$P(\xi_i) = 0$$

and

$$A(\xi_i) = R(\xi_i) \quad \text{we denote } A(\xi_i) \text{ by } A_i$$

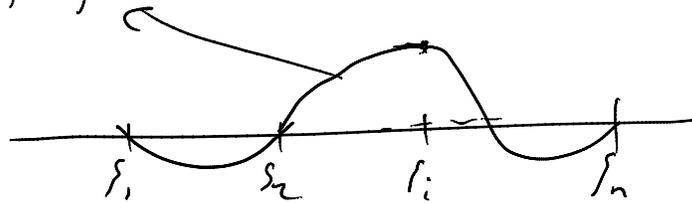
so functions  $A$  &  $R$  match at  $n$   $\xi_i$  points:

Noting that  $R$  is order  $n-1$  we can use

Lagrange polynomials below to construct  $R$

Lagrange polynomial  $\leftarrow l_i(\xi_j) = \delta_{ij}$

is zero at all  $\xi_j$   $j \neq i$  and 1 at  $\xi_i$



$l_i$  can easily be expressed as:  $\prod_{j=1, j \neq i}^n (f - \xi_j)$

$$l_i(f) = \frac{(f - \xi_1) \dots (f - \xi_{i-1})(f - \xi_{i+1}) \dots (f - \xi_n)}{(\xi_i - \xi_1) \dots (\xi_i - \xi_{i-1})(\xi_i - \xi_{i+1}) \dots (\xi_i - \xi_n)}$$

$$\prod_{j=1, j \neq i}^n (\xi_i - \xi_j)$$

it's easy to verify that  $l_i(\xi_i) = 1$  &  $l_i(\xi_j) = 0$   $j \neq i$  and it's evident that  $l_i$  in expression above is of order  $n-1$

So the function:

$$\bar{R}(f) = \sum_{j=1}^n A_j l_j(f) \quad (7)$$

satisfies these conditions

$$\bar{R}(f_i) = \sum_{j=1}^n A_j l_j(f_i) = \sum_{j=1}^n A_j \delta_{ij} = A_i$$

$\bar{R}$  is clearly an order  $n-1$  polynomial ( $l_i$ 's are all order  $n-1$ )

From (3) & (5) we also note that

$R$  is order  $n-1$  and

$$R(f_i) = A_i$$

So 2 polynomials of order  $n-1$   $R, \bar{R}$  match @  $n$  points  $f_i \implies \boxed{R = \bar{R}} \quad (8)$

So from (2), (4), (6), (7), and (8) we have

$$A(f) = P(f) Q(f) + R(f) =$$

$$P(f) (q_0 + q_1 f + \dots + q_{n-1} f^{n-1}) + \bar{R}(f) \implies$$

$$\boxed{A(f) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} q_i P(f) f^i + \sum_{i=1}^n A_i l_i(f)} \quad (9)$$

Now

$$\int A(f) = \int \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} q_i P(f) f^i + \sum_{i=1}^n A_i l_i(f) \right\} df \implies$$

$$\int_{-1}^1 A(f) = \int_{-1}^1 \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} q_i P(f) f^i + \sum_{i=1}^n A_i l_i(f) \right\} df \Rightarrow$$

$$\int_{-1}^1 A(f) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} q_i \left( \int_{-1}^1 P(f) f^i df \right) + \sum_{i=1}^n A_i \int_{-1}^1 l_i(f) df \quad (10)$$

At the same time we want the quadrature formula to hold that is

$$\int_{-1}^1 A(f) = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i A(f_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n A_i w_i \quad (11)$$

By direct comparison of (10) & (11) we observe that

Step A: determination of  $f_1, \dots, f_n$

$f_1, \dots, f_n$  satisfy

$$\text{for } i=0, \dots, n-1 \quad \int_{-1}^1 f^i P(f) df = 0 \quad (12)$$

n nonlinear equations yielding the values of  $f_i$

where  $P(f)$  was  $P(f) = (f-f_1) \dots (f-f_n)$

Step B: Now that  $f_i$ 's are determined  $l_i$ 's are fully determined from equation 6:

$$l_i(f) = \frac{(f-f_1) \dots (f-f_{i-1})(f-f_{i+1}) \dots (f-f_n)}{(f_i-f_1) \dots (f_i-f_{i-1})(f_i-f_{i+1}) \dots (f_i-f_n)} \quad (6)$$

comparison of second summations of (10) & (11) yields:

$$w_i = \int_{-1}^1 l_i(f) df \quad (12)$$

$$\omega_i = \int_{-1}^1 l_i(\xi) d\xi \quad (13)$$

Equations (12) & (13) provide values  $\xi_i$  &  $\omega_i$  in two steps

Example

Gauss quadrature for  $n=2 \implies$

$$P(\xi) = (\xi - \xi_1)(\xi - \xi_2)$$

equation 12 yields (note that  $n=2$ )

$$\begin{aligned} i=0 & \int_{-1}^1 (\xi - \xi_1)(\xi - \xi_2) d\xi = 0 \implies \int_{-1}^1 (\xi^2 - (\xi_1 + \xi_2)\xi + \xi_1\xi_2) d\xi = 0 \implies \frac{2}{3} + 2\xi_1\xi_2 = 0 \\ i=1 & \int_{-1}^1 \xi(\xi - \xi_1)(\xi - \xi_2) d\xi = 0 \implies \int_{-1}^1 (\xi^3 - (\xi_1 + \xi_2)\xi^2 + \xi_1\xi_2\xi) d\xi = 0 \implies \frac{2(\xi_1 + \xi_2)}{3} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_1\xi_2 = \frac{-1}{3} \\ \xi_1 + \xi_2 = 0 \end{aligned} \implies \xi_1^2 = \frac{1}{3} \implies$$

$$\xi_1 = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \quad \xi_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$$

(14)

Step B derivation of weights

from (13)

$$\omega_i = \int_{-1}^1 l_i(\xi) d\xi$$

$$w_i = \dots$$

but

$$l_1(f) = \frac{(f - f_2)}{(f_1 - f_2)} = \frac{(f - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}})}{(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}})} = \frac{\sqrt{3}f - 1}{-2}$$

$$\Rightarrow w_1 = \int_{-1}^1 \left( \frac{\sqrt{3}f - 1}{-2} \right) df = \frac{-1}{2} \left( \frac{\sqrt{3}f^2}{2} - f \right) \Big|_{-1}^1 = \frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$$

similarly  $l_2(f) = \frac{(f - f_1)}{(f_2 - f_1)} = \frac{(f + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}})}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} - (-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}})} = \frac{\sqrt{3}f + 1}{2}$

$$w_2 = \int_{-1}^1 \left( \frac{\sqrt{3}f + 1}{2} \right) df = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\sqrt{3}f^2}{2} + f \right) \Big|_{-1}^1 = \frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$$

$$\text{So } \boxed{f_1 = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, f_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, w_1 = 1, w_2 = 1}$$

as we obtained these results before

## Connection between Gauss points and the Roots of Legendre Polynomials

From equation (13) and definition of  $P(f)$  we have:

$$\text{For } i=0, \dots, n-1 \quad \int_{-1}^1 f^i P(f) df = 0 \quad (13)$$

$$P(f) = (f - f_1)(f - f_2) \dots (f - f_n)$$

this means polynomial  $P(\xi)$  of order  $n$  is orthogonal to all polynomials of order 0 to order  $n-1$  for the inner product  $\langle P, q \rangle = \int_{-1}^1 P(\xi)q(\xi)d\xi$  for polynomials  $p$  &  $q$  over  $[-1, 1]$

But we know that Legendre polynomials  $P_n(\xi)$  are an orthonormal family of polynomials for  $\langle P, q \rangle = \int_{-1}^1 P(\xi)q(\xi)d\xi$

$P_n(x)$
0
1
$\frac{1}{2}x$
2
$\frac{1}{2}(3x^2 - 1)$
3
$\frac{1}{2}(5x^3 - 3x)$
4
$\frac{1}{8}(35x^4 - 30x^2 - 3)$
5
$\frac{1}{8}(63x^5 - 70x^3 - 15x)$
6
$\frac{1}{16}(231x^6 - 315x^4 + 105x^2 - 5)$
7
$\frac{1}{16}(429x^7 - 693x^5 + 315x^3 - 35x)$
8
$\frac{1}{128}(6435x^8 - 12012x^6 - 6930x^4 - 1260x^2 + 35)$
9
$\frac{1}{128}(12155x^9 - 25740x^7 + 18018x^5 - 4620x^3 + 315x)$
10
$\frac{1}{256}(46189x^{10} - 109395x^8 + 90090x^6 - 30030x^4 + 3465x^2 - 63)$

Pasted from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legendre\\_polynomials](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legendre_polynomials)

So  $P(\xi)$  in (13) is  $P_n(\xi)$  ( $n$ 'th order Legendre polynomial) except possibly the factor of  $\xi^n$  (in that case  $P(\xi) = \xi^n P_n(\xi)$ ) this factor is 1 were as in Legendre polynomials this may be different from 1)

Clearly in  $P(\xi) = (\xi - \xi_1) \dots (\xi - \xi_n)$

$\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n$  are roots of  $P$  }  $\Rightarrow$   
 $P = \alpha P_n$

$\xi_1, \dots, \xi_i, \dots, \xi_n$  are roots of  $P_n$

this can be easily seen in the table above. For example for  $n=2$

$$\frac{1}{2} (3\xi^2 - 1) = 0 \Rightarrow \xi_1 = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \quad \xi_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$$

and so forth.

Finally it can be shown that the weights are:

$$w_i = \int_{-1}^1 \delta(\xi - \xi_i) d\xi =$$

$\rightarrow$  Legendre polynomial order  $n$

(Abramowitz & Stegun 1972, p. 887)  
 • Abramowitz, Milton; Stegun, Irene A., eds. (1965), "Chapter 25.4, Integration", *Handbook of Mathematical Functions with Formulas, Graphs, and Mathematical Tables*, New York: Dover, ISBN 978-0486612720, MR 0167642.

Pasted from <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaussian\\_quadrature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaussian_quadrature)>

Note: we have already observed the benefits of Legendre polynomials for example in spectral methods and the extra credit problem in HW2