

Question: Find a polynomial that passes through three given points. Use it to find $\int_0^1 e^{-x^2} dx$ with an accuracy of ± 0.01 .

Theorem: Lagrange Interpolation

If $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $f \in \mathcal{C}^{(n+1)}$, $x_k \in [a, b]: k = 0, 1, \dots, n$

then $f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n f(x_k) \prod_{k \neq j=0}^n \frac{(x-x_j)}{(x_k-x_j)} + \frac{f^{(n+1)}(c)}{(n+1)!} \prod_{k=0}^n (x-x_k)$, where $c \in (a, b)$.

Theorem: Simpson's rule

If $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $f \in \mathcal{C}^4$, $h = \frac{b-a}{n}$, $x_0 = a$, $x_n = b$, $x_k = a + kh: k = 0, 1, \dots, n$ and n is the number of intervals

then $\int_a^b f(x) dx = \frac{h}{6} (f(x_0) + 4 \sum_{\text{odd } k=1}^{n-1} f(x_k) + 2 \sum_{\text{even } k=2}^{n-2} f(x_k) + f(x_n)) - \frac{nh^5}{180} f^{(4)}(c)$, where $c \in (a, b)$.