

## 2. Divided Differences Interpolation:

**\*\*Newton's Divided Difference Interpolating Polynomial:**

- The **zeroth divided difference** of the function  $f$  with respect to  $x_i$ , denoted  $f[x_i]$ , is simply the value of  $f$  at  $x_i$  :  
$$f[x_i] = f(x_i)$$

- The **first divided difference** of  $f$  with respect to  $x_i$  and  $x_{i+1}$  is denoted  $f[x_i, x_{i+1}]$  and defined as

$$f[x_i, x_{i+1}] = \frac{f[x_{i+1}] - f[x_i]}{x_{i+1} - x_i}$$

- The **second divided difference**,  $f[x_i, x_{i+1}, x_{i+2}]$ , is defined as

$$f[x_i, x_{i+1}, x_{i+2}] = \frac{f[x_{i+1}, x_{i+2}] - f[x_i, x_{i+1}]}{x_{i+2} - x_i}$$

- Have been determined, the **kth divided difference** relative to  $x_i, x_{i+1}, x_{i+2}, \dots, x_{i+k}$  is

$$\begin{aligned} & f[x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_{i+k-1}, x_{i+k}] \\ &= \frac{f[x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_{i+k}] - f[x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_{i+k-1}]}{x_{i+k} - x_i} \end{aligned}$$

- The process ends with the single **nth divided difference**,

$$f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n] = \frac{f[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n] - f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}]}{x_n - x_0}$$

$x$	$f(x)$	First divided differences	Second divided differences	Third divided differences
$x_0$	$f[x_0]$			
		$f[x_0, x_1] = \frac{f[x_1] - f[x_0]}{x_1 - x_0}$		
$x_1$	$f[x_1]$		$f[x_0, x_1, x_2] = \frac{f[x_1, x_2] - f[x_0, x_1]}{x_2 - x_0}$	
		$f[x_1, x_2] = \frac{f[x_2] - f[x_1]}{x_2 - x_1}$		$f[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3] = \frac{f[x_1, x_2, x_3] - f[x_0, x_1, x_2]}{x_3 - x_0}$
$x_2$	$f[x_2]$		$f[x_1, x_2, x_3] = \frac{f[x_2, x_3] - f[x_1, x_2]}{x_3 - x_1}$	
		$f[x_2, x_3] = \frac{f[x_3] - f[x_2]}{x_3 - x_2}$		$f[x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4] = \frac{f[x_2, x_3, x_4] - f[x_1, x_2, x_3]}{x_4 - x_1}$
$x_3$	$f[x_3]$		$f[x_2, x_3, x_4] = \frac{f[x_3, x_4] - f[x_2, x_3]}{x_4 - x_2}$	
		$f[x_3, x_4] = \frac{f[x_4] - f[x_3]}{x_4 - x_3}$		$f[x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5] = \frac{f[x_3, x_4, x_5] - f[x_2, x_3, x_4]}{x_5 - x_2}$
$x_4$	$f[x_4]$		$f[x_3, x_4, x_5] = \frac{f[x_4, x_5] - f[x_3, x_4]}{x_5 - x_3}$	
		$f[x_4, x_5] = \frac{f[x_5] - f[x_4]}{x_5 - x_4}$		
$x_5$	$f[x_5]$			

### Divided Difference Table

Hence, the interpolating polynomial is

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_n(x) = & f[x_0] + f[x_0, x_1](x - x_0) \\
 & + f[x_0, x_1, x_2](x - x_0)(x - x_1) + \dots \\
 & + f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n](x - x_0)(x - x_1) \dots (x - x_{n-1})
 \end{aligned}$$

So  $P_n(x)$  can be rewritten in a form called **Newton's Divided-Difference or (corresponding Collocation Polynomial)**:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_n(x) = & f[x_0] \\
 & + \sum_{k=1}^n f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k](x - x_0)(x - x_1) \dots (x - x_{k-1})
 \end{aligned}$$

#### Example 1:

Consider the data in the following table:

$x_i$	0	1	3	6	10
$f(x_i)$	1	-6	4	169	921

## Newton's Divided Difference Formula

**First**, we construct the divided-difference table from this data.  
The divided differences in the table are computed as follows:

The **zeroth divided difference**

$$\begin{aligned}f[x_0] &= f(x_0) = 1 \\f[x_1] &= f(x_1) = -6 \\f[x_2] &= f(x_2) = 4 \\f[x_3] &= f(x_3) = 169 \\f[x_4] &= f(x_4) = 921\end{aligned}$$

The **first divided difference**

$$\begin{aligned}f[x_0, x_1] &= \frac{f[x_1] - f[x_0]}{x_1 - x_0} = \frac{-6 - 1}{1 - 0} = -7 \\f[x_1, x_2] &= \frac{f[x_2] - f[x_1]}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{4 - (-6)}{3 - 1} = 5 \\f[x_2, x_3] &= \frac{f[x_3] - f[x_2]}{x_3 - x_2} = \frac{169 - 4}{6 - 3} = 55 \\f[x_3, x_4] &= \frac{f[x_4] - f[x_3]}{x_4 - x_3} = \frac{921 - 169}{10 - 6} = 188\end{aligned}$$

The **second divided difference**

$$\begin{aligned}f[x_0, x_1, x_2] &= \frac{f[x_1, x_2] - f[x_0, x_1]}{x_2 - x_0} = \frac{5 - (-7)}{3 - 0} = 4 \\f[x_1, x_2, x_3] &= \frac{f[x_2, x_3] - f[x_1, x_2]}{x_3 - x_1} = \frac{55 - 5}{6 - 1} = 10 \\f[x_2, x_3, x_4] &= \frac{f[x_3, x_4] - f[x_2, x_3]}{x_4 - x_2} = \frac{188 - 55}{10 - 3} = 19\end{aligned}$$

The **third divided difference**

$$\begin{aligned}f[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3] &= \frac{f[x_1, x_2, x_3] - f[x_0, x_1, x_2]}{x_3 - x_0} = \frac{10 - 4}{6 - 0} = 1 \\f[x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4] &= \frac{f[x_2, x_3, x_4] - f[x_1, x_2, x_3]}{x_4 - x_1} = \frac{19 - 10}{10 - 1} = 1\end{aligned}$$

The **fourth divided difference**

$$\begin{aligned}f[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4] &= \frac{f[x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4] - f[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3]}{x_4 - x_0} \\&= \frac{1 - 1}{10 - 0} = 0\end{aligned}$$

**Second**, The resulting divided-difference table is

$x$	$f(x)$	$1^{st} DD$	$2^{nd} DD$	$3^{rd} DD$	$4^{th} DD$
0	1	-7			
1	-6	5	4		
3	4	55	10	1	0
6	169	188	19	1	
10	921				

**Third**, It follows that the interpolating polynomial  $P_n(x)$  can be obtained using the Newton divided-difference formula as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_n(x) &= f[x_0] + f[x_0, x_1](x - x_0) \\
 &\quad + f[x_0, x_1, x_2](x - x_0)(x - x_1) + \dots \\
 &\quad + f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n](x - x_0)(x - x_1) \dots (x - x_{n-1})
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_n(x) &= 1 + (-7)(x - 0) + (4)(x - 0)(x - 1) \\
 &\quad + (1)(x - 0)(x - 1)(x - 3) \\
 &\quad + (0)(x - 0)(x - 1)(x - 3)(x - 6)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$P_n(x) = 1 - 7x + 4x^2 - 4x + x^3 - 4x^2 + 3x$$

$$\therefore P_3(x) = x^3 - 8x + 1$$

To find  $f(4)$

$$\therefore f(x) \approx P_3(x) = x^3 - 8x + 1$$

$$\therefore f(4) \approx (4)^3 - 8 * (4) + 1 = 33$$

### Example 2:

Use Newton's divided difference formula to show that an interpolation for  $\sqrt[3]{20}$  from the points

$(0,0), (1,1), (8,2), (27,3), (64,4)$ , on  $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$  is quite invalid.

**Solution:**

$$f[x_0] = f(x_0) = 0$$

$$f[x_1] = f(x_1) = 1$$

$$f[x_2] = f(x_2) = 2$$

$$f[x_3] = f(x_3) = 3$$

$$f[x_4] = f(x_4) = 4$$

$$f[x_0, x_1] = \frac{f[x_1] - f[x_0]}{x_1 - x_0} = \frac{1 - 0}{1 - 0} = 1$$

$$f[x_1, x_2] = \frac{f[x_2] - f[x_1]}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{2 - 1}{8 - 1} = 0.142857$$

$$f[x_2, x_3] = \frac{f[x_3] - f[x_2]}{x_3 - x_2} = \frac{3 - 2}{27 - 8} = 0.052632$$

$$f[x_3, x_4] = \frac{f[x_4] - f[x_3]}{x_4 - x_3} = \frac{4 - 3}{64 - 27} = 0.027027$$

$$f[x_0, x_1, x_2] = \frac{f[x_1, x_2] - f[x_0, x_1]}{x_2 - x_0} = \frac{0.142857 - 1}{8 - 0} = -0.107143$$

$$f[x_1, x_2, x_3] = \frac{f[x_2, x_3] - f[x_1, x_2]}{x_3 - x_1} = \frac{0.052632 - 0.142857}{27 - 1} = -0.00347$$

$$f[x_2, x_3, x_4] = \frac{f[x_3, x_4] - f[x_2, x_3]}{x_4 - x_2} = \frac{0.027027 - 0.052632}{64 - 8} = -0.000457$$

$$f[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3] = \frac{f[x_1, x_2, x_3] - f[x_0, x_1, x_2]}{x_3 - x_0} = \frac{-0.00347 - (-0.107143)}{27 - 0} = 0.00384$$

$$f[x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4] = \frac{f[x_2, x_3, x_4] - f[x_1, x_2, x_3]}{x_4 - x_1}$$

$$= \frac{-0.000457 - (-0.00347)}{64 - 1} = 0.000048$$

$$f[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4] = \frac{f[x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4] - f[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3]}{x_4 - x_0}$$

$$= \frac{0.000048 - 0.00384}{64 - 0} = -0.000059$$

$x_i$	$f(x_i)$	$1^{st}DD$	$2^{nd}DD$	$3^{rd}DD$	$4^{th}DD$
0	0	1			
1	1		-0.107143		
8	2	0.142857		0.00384	
27	3		-0.00347		-0.000059
64	4	0.052632		0.000048	
			-0.000457		
		0.027027			

To find  $f(20)$ , let

$$x_0 = 0, x_1 = 1, x_2 = 8, x_3 = 27, x_4 = 64$$

$$P_n(x) = f[x_0] + f[x_0, x_1](x - x_0)$$

$$+ f[x_0, x_1, x_2](x - x_0)(x - x_1) + \dots$$

$$+ f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n](x - x_0)(x - x_1) \dots (x - x_{n-1})$$

$$P_4(x) = 0 + (1)(x - 0) + (-0.107143)(x - 0)(x - 1)$$

$$+ (0.00384)(x - 0)(x - 1)(x - 8)$$

$$+ (-0.000059)(x - 0)(x - 1)(x - 8)(x - 27)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\therefore f(20) &\approx P_4(20) \\
&= (1)(20 - 0) + (-0.107143)(20 - 0)(20 - 1) \\
&\quad + (0.00384)(20 - 0)(20 - 1)(20 - 8) \\
&\quad + (-0.000059)(20 - 0)(20 - 1)(20 - 8)(20 - 27)
\end{aligned}$$

Please complete the solution...

**Example 3:**

Consider the data in the following table

$x$	-1	0	1	2
$f(x)$	3	-4	5	-6

use Newton's divided difference to estimate  $f(-1.5)$ .

**Solution:**

$$\begin{aligned}
f[x_0] &= f(x_0) = 3 \\
f[x_1] &= f(x_1) = -4 \\
f[x_2] &= f(x_2) = 5 \\
f[x_3] &= f(x_3) = -6
\end{aligned}$$

$$f[x_0, x_1] = \frac{f[x_1] - f[x_0]}{x_1 - x_0} = \frac{-4 - 3}{0 - (-1)} = -7$$

$$f[x_1, x_2] = \frac{f[x_2] - f[x_1]}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{5 - (-4)}{0 - 1} = 9$$

$$f[x_2, x_3] = \frac{f[x_3] - f[x_2]}{x_3 - x_2} = \frac{-6 - 5}{2 - 1} = -11$$

$$f[x_0, x_1, x_2] = \frac{f[x_1, x_2] - f[x_0, x_1]}{x_2 - x_0} = \frac{9 - (-7)}{1 - (-1)} = 8$$

$$f[x_1, x_2, x_3] = \frac{f[x_2, x_3] - f[x_1, x_2]}{x_3 - x_1} = \frac{-11 - 9}{2 - 0} = -10$$

$$f[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3] = \frac{f[x_1, x_2, x_3] - f[x_0, x_1, x_2]}{x_3 - x_0} = \frac{-10 - 8}{2 - (-1)} = -6$$

$x_i$	$f(x_i)$	$1^{st}DD$	$2^{nd}DD$	$3^{rd}DD$
-1	3	-7		
0	-4	9	8	
1	5	-11	-10	-6
2	-6			

To find  $f(1.5)$ , let

$$x_0 = -1, x_1 = 0, x_2 = 1, x_3 = 2$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_n(x) &= f[x_0] + f[x_0, x_1](x - x_0) \\
 &\quad + f[x_0, x_1, x_2](x - x_0)(x - x_1) + \dots \\
 &\quad + f[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n](x - x_0)(x - x_1) \dots (x - x_{n-1})
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_3(x) &= 3 + (-7)(x - (-1)) + (8)(x - (-1))(x - 0) \\
 &\quad + (-6)(x - (-1))(x - 0)(x - 1)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$P_3(x) = -6x^3 + 8x^2 + 7x - 4$$

$$\therefore f(1.5) \approx P_3(x) = -6(-1.5)^3 + 8(-1.5)^2 + 7(-1.5) - 4$$

Please complete the solution...

**Home work1: (H.W. 1):**

Given that



$f(-2) = 46, f(-1) = 4, f(3) = 156$  and  $f(4) = 484$ , compute  $f(0)$  by Newton's divided difference formula.

**Home work2: (H.W. 2):**

- (1) Complete the following divided difference table.
- (2) Find the interpolating polynomial.

$i$	$x_i$	$f[x_i]$	$f[x_{i-1}, x_i]$	$f[x_{i-2}, x_{i-1}, x_i]$	$f[x_{i-3}, \dots, x_i]$	$f[x_{i-4}, \dots, x_i]$
0	1.0	0.7651977	-0.4837057			
1	1.3	0.6200860	-0.5489460			
2	1.6	0.4554022		-0.0494433		
3	1.9					
4	2.2	0.1103623				