

11.3YC1 - Closed Newton-Coates Formulae

The closed Newton-Coates formulae for approximating an integral over a single interval use equally spaced points along the interval. These formulae are called “closed” because the end points a, b are used in the calculation. These approximations can be derived using Lagrange interpolating functions which are covered later in the 2nd/3rd term course.

Some of the standard closed Newton-Coates formulae and their errors are given below:

Trapezoidal Rule (2 f 's)

$$\int_a^b f(x)dx = \frac{h}{2}(f(a) + f(b)) - \frac{h^3}{12}f''(\zeta), \quad h = b - a$$

Simpson's Rule (3 f 's)

$$\int_a^b f(x)dx = \frac{h}{3}(f(a) + 4f(a+h) + f(b)) - \frac{h^5}{90}f^{(4)}(\zeta), \quad h = (b-a)/2$$

Simpson's 3/8 Rule (4 f 's)

$$\int_a^b f(x)dx = \frac{3h}{8}(f(a) + 3f(a+h) + 3f(a+2h) + f(b)) - \frac{3h^5}{80}f^{(4)}(\zeta),$$
$$h = (b-a)/3$$

where in each case ζ lies between a and b and we assume that the function f has as many derivatives as we require.

Open Newton-Coates Formulae

These formulae similar to those above and are called “open” because the end points a, b are not used. Some of the standard open Newton-Coates formulae and their errors are given below:

Midpoint Rule (1 f)

$$\int_a^b f(x)dx = 2hf(a+h) + \frac{h^3}{3}f''(\zeta), \quad h = (b-a)/2$$

Anonymous (2 f 's)

$$\int_a^b f(x)dx = \frac{3h}{2}(f(a+h) + f(a+2h)) + \frac{3h^3}{4}f''(\zeta), \quad h = (b-a)/3$$

Anonymous (3 f 's)

$$\int_a^b f(x)dx = \frac{4h}{3}(2f(a+h) - f(a+2h) + 2f(a+3h)) + \frac{14h^5}{45}f^{(4)}(\zeta),$$
$$h = (b-a)/4$$

where in each case ζ lies between a and b , and we assume that the function f has as many derivatives as we require.

Examples

Open and Closed Newton-Coates formulae results for

$$\int_1^2 (1+x)^{-1} dx = \ln 3 - \ln 2 = 0.405465 \dots$$

Number of f 's		1	2	3	4	5
closed	approx.		0.41667	0.40556	0.40551	0.40547
	abs. error		0.01120	0.00009	0.00004	0.00000
open	approx.	0.40000	0.40179	0.40539	0.40541	
	abs. error	-0.00547	-0.00368	-0.00008	-0.00005	

$$\int_1^3 (1+x)^{-1} dx = \ln 4 - \ln 2 = 0.693147 \dots$$

Number of f 's		1	2	3	4	5
closed	approx.		0.75000	0.69444	0.69375	0.69317
	abs. error		0.05685	0.00130	0.00060	0.00003
open	approx.	0.66667	0.67500	0.69206	0.69238	
	abs. error	-0.02648	-0.01815	-0.00108	-0.00077	

$$\int_1^{10} (1+x)^{-1} dx = \ln 11 - \ln 2 = 1.704748 \dots$$

Number of f 's		1	2	3	4	5
closed	approx.		2.65909	1.80944	1.76165	1.71691
	abs. error		0.95434	0.10469	0.05690	0.01216
open	approx.	1.38462	1.46250	1.63594	1.65154	
	abs. error	-0.32013	-0.24225	-0.06881	-0.05321	

Error Analysis for Trapezoidal Rule (single interval)

The error E in the Trapezoidal Rule approximation is found from

$$I = \int_a^b f(x) dx = \frac{h}{2}(f(a) + f(b)) + E$$

where $h = b - a$. It makes things easier if we introduce the midpoint $c = (a + b)/2$ and rewrite the above as

$$E = \int_{c-h/2}^{c+h/2} f(x) dx - \frac{h}{3}(f(c-h/2) + f(c+h/2)) .$$

First look at the integral I . Taylor expand $f(x)$ about $x = c$ to get

$$I = \int_{c-h/2}^{c+h/2} \left(f(c) + (x-c)f'(c) + \frac{(x-c)^2}{2}f''(c) + \dots \right) dx .$$

Using the substitution $s = x - c$ this simplifies to:

$$I = \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} \left(f(c) + sf'(c) + \frac{s^2}{2}f''(c) + \dots \right) ds$$

and evaluates to

$$I = \left[sf(c) + \frac{s^2}{2}f'(c) + \frac{s^3}{3!}f''(c) + \dots \right]_{s=-h/2}^{s=h/2} .$$

The even powers of s above cancel out at $s = \pm h/2$ leaving

$$I = \left[sf(c) + \frac{s^3}{3!}f''(c) + \dots \right]_{s=-h/2}^{s=h/2}$$

which evaluates to

$$I = hf(c) + \frac{h^3}{24}f''(c) + \dots$$

The other part comes out similarly as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{h}{2}(f(c-h/2) + f(c+h/2)) &= \frac{h}{2} \left(2f(c) + \frac{2}{2!} \frac{h^2}{2^2} f''(c) + \dots \right) \\ &= hf(c) + \frac{h^3}{8} f''(c) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Combining these Taylor expansions we get as an approximation, neglecting terms of higher order than h^3

$$E \approx \left(hf(c) + \frac{h^3}{24} f''(c) \right) - \left(hf(c) + \frac{h^3}{8} f''(c) \right) = -\frac{h^3}{12} f''(c)$$

a more rigorous calculation taking all orders into account gives the exact result

$$E_{TR} = -\frac{h^3}{12} f''(\zeta)$$

where ζ lies between a and b .

Error Analysis Results for some Composite Rules

In all cases ζ is a number lying between a and b , but the ζ is different for each rule.

Composite Trapezoidal Rule

Combining the results for the single Trapezoidal Rule after some algebra and use of the intermediate value theorem gives

$$E_{CTR} = -(b-a) \frac{h^2}{12} f''(\zeta)$$

Composite Midpoint Rule

The result in this case is

$$E_{CMR} = (b-a) \frac{h^2}{6} f''(\zeta)$$

Composite Simpson's Rule

The result in this case is

$$E_{CSR} = -(b-a) \frac{h^4}{180} f^{(4)}(\zeta)$$

Error Analysis for Simpson's Rule (single interval)

The error E in the Simpson's Rule approximation is found from

$$I = \int_a^b f(x) dx = \frac{h}{3} (f(a) + 4f(\frac{a+b}{2}) + f(b)) + E$$

where $h = (b-a)/2$. It makes things easier if we introduce the midpoint $c = (a+b)/2$ and rewrite the above as

$$E = \int_{c-h}^{c+h} f(x) dx - \frac{h}{3} (f(c-h) + 4f(c) + f(c+h)) .$$

First look at the integral I . Taylor expand $f(x)$ about $x = c$ to get

$$I = \int_{c-h}^{c+h} \left(f(c) + (x-c)f'(c) + \frac{(x-c)^2}{2} f''(c) + \frac{(x-c)^3}{3!} f^{(3)}(c) + \dots \right) dx .$$

Using the substitution $s = x - c$ this simplifies to:

$$I = \int_{-h}^h \left(f(c) + sf'(c) + \frac{s^2}{2} f''(c) + \frac{s^3}{3!} f^{(3)}(c) + \frac{s^4}{4!} f^{(4)}(c) + \dots \right) ds$$

and evaluates to

$$I = \left[sf(c) + \frac{s^2}{2} f'(c) + \frac{s^3}{3!} f''(c) + \frac{s^4}{4!} f^{(3)}(c) + \frac{s^5}{5!} f^{(4)}(c) + \dots \right]_{s=-h}^{s=h} .$$

The even powers of s above cancel out at $s = \pm h$ leaving

$$I = \left[sf(c) + \frac{s^3}{3!}f''(c) + \frac{s^5}{5!}f^{(4)}(c) + \cdots \right]_{s=-h}^{s=h}$$

which evaluates to

$$I = 2hf(c) + \frac{h^3}{3}f''(c) + \frac{h^5}{60}f^{(4)}(c) + \cdots$$

The other part comes out similarly as

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{h}{6}(f(c-h) + 4f(c) + f(c+h)) \\ &= \frac{h}{3} \left(6f(c) + \frac{2h^2}{2!}f''(c) + \frac{2h^4}{4!}f^{(4)}(c) + \cdots \right) \\ &= 2hf(c) + \frac{h^3}{3}f''(c) + \frac{h^5}{36}f^{(4)}(c) + \cdots \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we terminate the Taylor expansions at terms involving h^5 to get

$$E = \left(2hf(c) + \frac{h^3}{3}f''(c) + \frac{h^5}{60}f^{(4)}(c) \right) - \left(2hf(c) + \frac{h^3}{3}f''(c) + \frac{h^5}{36}f^{(4)}(c) \right)$$

This comes out to

$$E = -\frac{h^5}{90}f^{(4)}(c) + O(h^7)$$

This comes out to It can be shown that a more detailed treatment gives

$$E = -\frac{h^5}{90}f^{(4)}(\zeta)$$

where ζ lies between a and b .