Numerical Methods in Economics

MIT Press, 1998

Notes for Chapter 7: Numerical Integration and Differentiation
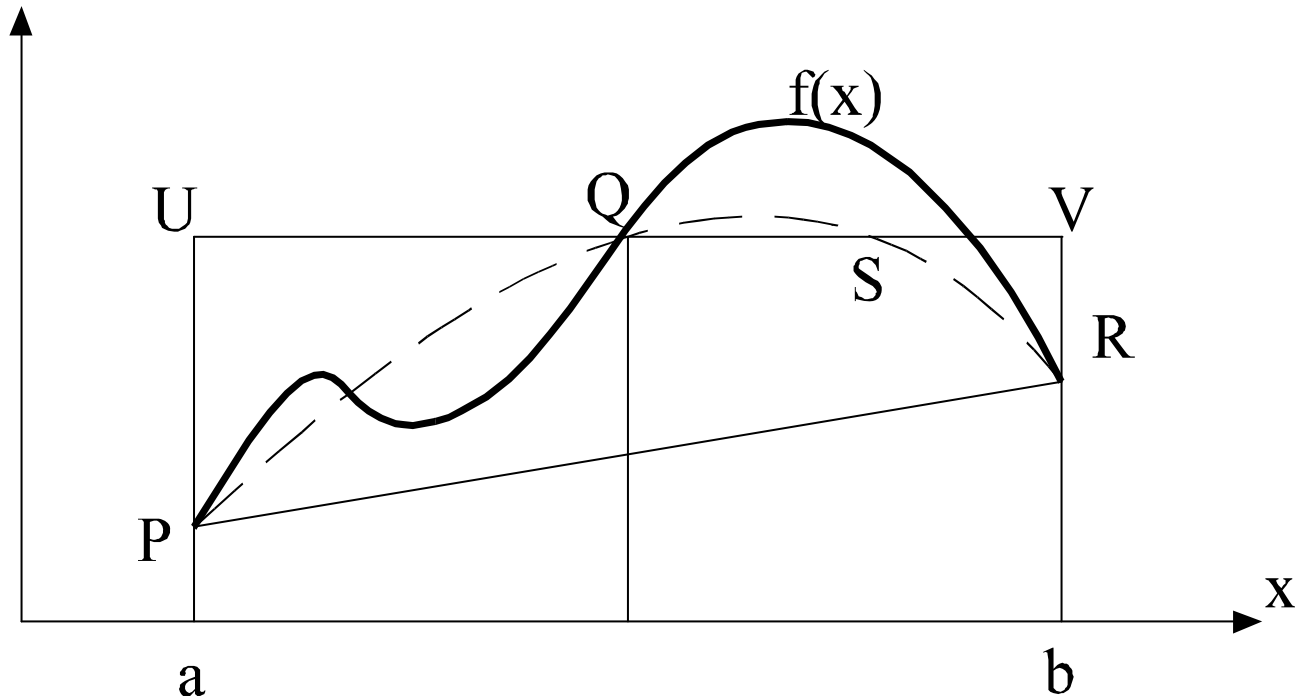
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Integration

- Most integrals cannot be evaluated analytically

- Integrals frequently arise in economics

  - Expected utility

  - Discounted utility and profits over a long horizon

  - Bayesian posterior

  - Likelihood functions

  - Solution methods for dynamic economic models

Newton-Cotes Formulas

- Idea: Approximate function with low order polynomials and then integrate approximation

- Step function approximation:

    - Compute constant function equalling $f(x)$ at midpoint of $[a, b]$
    - Integral approximation is $aUQVb$ box

- Linear function approximation:

    - Compute linear function interpolating $f(x)$ at a and b
    - Integral approximation is trapezoid $aPRb$

- Parabolic function approximation:

  - Compute parabola interpolating $f(x)$ at a, b, and $(a + b)/2$

  - Integral approximation is area of $aPQRb$

- Midpoint Rule: piecewise step function approximation

$$\int_a^b f(x) \; dx = (b - a) \; f\left(\frac{a + b}{2}\right) + \frac{(b - a)^3}{24} f''(\xi)$$

  – Simple rule: for some $\xi \in [a, b]$

$$\int_a^b f(x) \; dx = (b - a) \; f\left(\frac{a + b}{2}\right) + \frac{(b - a)^3}{24} f''(\xi)$$

  – Composite midpoint rule:

  * nodes: $x_j = a + (j - \frac{1}{2})h$, $j = 1, 2, \ldots, n$, $h = (b - a)/n$
  * for some $\xi \in [a, b]$

$$\int_a^b f(x) \; dx = h \sum_{j=1}^{n} f\left(a + (j - \frac{1}{2})h\right) + \frac{h^2(b - a)}{24} f''(\xi)$$

- Trapezoid Rule: piecewise linear approximation

  - Simple rule: for some $\xi \in [a, b]$

  $$\int_a^b f(x) \ dx = \frac{b-a}{2} \ [f(a) + f(b)] - \frac{(b-a)^3}{12} \ f''(\xi)$$

  - Composite trapezoid rule:

    * nodes: $x_j = a + (j - \frac{1}{2})h$, $j = 1, 2, \ldots, n$, $h = (b-a)/n$
    * for some $\xi \in [a, b]$

    $$\int_a^b f(x) \ dx = \frac{h}{2} \ [f_0 + 2f_1 + \cdots + 2f_{n-1} + f_n] \\ - \frac{h^2 (b-a)}{12} \ f''(\xi)$$

- Simpson's Rule: piecewise quadratic approximation

  - for some $\xi \in [a, b]$

  $$\int_a^b f(x) \, dx = \left(\frac{b-a}{6}\right) \left[f(a) + 4f\left(\frac{a+b}{2}\right) + f(b)\right]$$
  $$- \frac{(b-a)^5}{2880} f^{(4)}(\xi)$$

  - Composite Simpson's rule: for some $\xi \in [a, b]$

  $$\int_a^b f(x) \, dx = \frac{h}{3} \left[f_0 + 4f_1 + 2f_2 + 4f_3 + \cdots + 4f_{n-1} + f_n\right]$$
  $$- \frac{h^4(b-a)}{180} f^{(4)}(\xi)$$

- Obscure rules for degree 3, 4, etc. approximations.

Gaussian Formulas

- All integration formulas are of form

$$\int_a^b f(x)\,dx \doteq \sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i f(x_i) \tag{7.2.1}$$

for some *quadrature nodes* $x_i \in [a, b]$ and *quadrature weights* ω_i.

- Newton-Cotes use arbitrary x_i

- Gaussian quadrature uses good choices of x_i nodes and ω_i weights.

- Exact quadrature formulas:

- Let $\mathcal{F}_k$ be the space of degree k polynomials

- A quadrature formula is exact of degree k if it correctly integrates each function in $\mathcal{F}_k$

- Gaussian quadrature formulas use n points and are exact of degree $2n - 1$

Theorem 1 *Suppose that $\{\varphi_k(x)\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ is an orthonormal family of polynomials with respect to $w(x)$ on $[a, b]$.*

1. *Define q_k so that $\varphi_k(x) = q_k \, x^k + \cdots$.*

2. *Let x_i, $i = 1, ..., n$ be the n zeros of $\varphi_n(x)$*

3. *Let $\omega_i = -\dfrac{q_{n+1}/q_n}{\varphi_n'(x_i) \, \varphi_{n+1}(x_i)} > 0$*

   Then

1. *$a < x_1 < x_2 < \cdots < x_n < b$;*

2. *if $f \in C^{(2n)}[a, b]$, then for some $\xi \in [a, b]$,*

$$\int_a^b w(x) \, f(x) \, dx = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_i \, f(x_i) + \frac{f^{(2n)}(\xi)}{q_n^2 (2n)!};$$

3. *and $\sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_i f(x_i)$ is the unique formula on n nodes that exactly integrates $\int_a^b f(x) \, w(x) \, dx$ for all polynomials in $\mathcal{F}_{2n-1}$.*

Gauss-Chebyshev Quadrature

- Domain: $[-1, 1]$

- Weight: $(1 - x^2)^{-1/2}$

- Formula:

$$\int_{-1}^{1} f(x)(1 - x^2)^{-1/2}\, dx = \frac{\pi}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} f(x_i) + \frac{\pi}{2^{2n-1}} \frac{f^{(2n)}(\xi)}{(2n)!} \tag{7.2.4}$$

for some $\xi \in [-1, 1]$, with quadrature nodes

$$x_i = \cos\left(\frac{2i - 1}{2n} \pi\right), \quad i = 1, ..., n. \tag{7.2.5}$$

Arbitrary Domains

- Want to approximate $\int_a^b f(x)\, dx$

  - Different range, no weight function
  - Linear change of variables $x = -1 + 2(y - a)(b - a)$
  - Multiply the integrand by $(1 - x^2)^{1/2} / (1 - x^2)^{1/2}$.
  - C.O.V. formula

$$\int_a^b f(y)\, dy = \frac{b - a}{2} \int_{-1}^1 f\left(\frac{(x + 1)(b - a)}{2} + a\right) \frac{(1 - x^2)^{1/2}}{(1 - x^2)^{1/2}}\, dx$$

  - Gauss-Chebyshev quadrature produces

$$\int_a^b f(y)\, dy \doteq \frac{\pi(b - a)}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^n f\left(\frac{(x_i + 1)(b - a)}{2} + a\right) \left(1 - x_i^2\right)^{1/2}$$

  where the x_i are Gauss-Chebyshev nodes over $[-1, 1]$.

Gauss-Legendre Quadrature

- Domain: $[-1, 1]$

- Weight: 1

- Formula:

$$\int_{-1}^{1} f(x)\, dx = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_i f(x_i) + \frac{2^{2n+1}(n!)^4}{(2n+1)!\,(2n)!} \cdot \frac{f^{(2n)}(\xi)}{(2n)!}$$

  for some $-1 \leq \xi \leq 1$.

- Convergence:

  - use $n! \doteq e^{-n-1}\, n^{n+1/2}\, \sqrt{2\pi n}$

  - error bounded above by $\pi 4^{-n}\, M$

$$M = \sup_{m} \left[\max_{-1 \leq x \leq 1} \frac{f^{(m)}(x)}{m!} \right]$$

  - Exponential convergence for analytic functions

- In general,

$$\int_{a}^{b} f(x)\, dx \doteq \frac{b-a}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_i f\left(\frac{(x_i+1)(b-a)}{2} + a \right)$$

- Use values for Gaussian nodes and weights from tables instead of programs; tables will have 16 digit accuracy

Table 7.2: Gauss – Legendre Quadrature

N	x_i	ω_i
2	± 0.5773502691	$0.1000000000(1)$
3	± 0.7745966692	0.5555555555
	0	0.8888888888
5	± 0.9061798459	0.2369268850
	± 0.5384693101	0.4786286704
	0	0.5688888888
10	± 0.9739065285	$0.6667134430(-1)$
	± 0.8650633666	0.1494513491
	± 0.6794095682	0.2190863625
	± 0.4333953941	0.2692667193
	± 0.1488743389	0.2955242247

Life-cycle example:

- $c(t) = 1 + t/5 - 7(t/50)^2$, where $0 \leq t \leq 50$.

- Discounted utility is $\int_0^{50} e^{-\rho t} u(c(t)) \, dt$

- $\rho = 0.05$, $u(c) = c^{1+\gamma}/(1+\gamma)$.

- Errors in computing $\int_0^{50} e^{-.05t} \left(1 + \frac{t}{5} - 7 \left(\frac{t}{50} \right)^2 \right)^{1-\gamma} dt$

	$\gamma=$	.5	1.1	3	10
Truth		1.24431	.664537	.149431	.0246177
Rule:	GLeg 3	5(-3)	2(-3)	3(-2)	2(-2)
	GLeg 5	1(-4)	8(-5)	5(-3)	2(-2)
	GLeg 10	1(-7)	1(-7)	2(-5)	2(-3)
	GLeg 15	1(-10)	2(-10)	9(-8)	4(-5)
	GLeg 20	7(-13)	9(-13)	3(-10)	6(-7)

Gauss-Hermite Quadrature

- Domain: $[-\infty, \infty]]$

- Weight: e^{-x^2}

- Formula:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)e^{-x^2}dx = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_i f(x_i) + \frac{n!\sqrt{\pi}}{2^n} \cdot \frac{f^{(2n)}(\xi)}{(2n)!}$$

for some $\xi \in (-\infty, \infty)$.

Table 7.4: Gauss – Hermite Quadrature

N	x_i	ω_i
2	± 0.7071067811	0.8862269254
3	$\pm 0.1224744871(1)$	0.2954089751
	0	$0.1181635900(1)$
4	$\pm 0.1650680123(1)$	$0.8131283544(-1)$
	± 0.5246476232	0.8049140900
7	$\pm 0.2651961356(1)$	$0.9717812450(-3)$
	$\pm 0.1673551628(1)$	$0.5451558281(-1)$
	± 0.8162878828	0.4256072526
	0	0.8102646175
10	$\pm 0.3436159118(1)$	$0.7640432855(-5)$
	$\pm 0.2532731674(1)$	$0.1343645746(-2)$
	$\pm 0.1756683649(1)$	$0.3387439445(-1)$
	$\pm 0.1036610829(1)$	0.2401386110
	± 0.3429013272	0.6108626337

- Normal Random Variables

  - Y is distributed $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$

  - Expectation is integration:

$$E\{f(Y)\} = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-1/2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(y) e^{-\frac{(y-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \, dy$$

  - Use Gauss-Hermite quadrature

    * linear COV $x = (y - \mu)/\sqrt{2}\,\sigma$
    * COV formula:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(y) e^{-(y-\mu)^2/(2\sigma^2)} \, dy = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(\sqrt{2}\,\sigma\,x + \mu) e^{-x^2} \sqrt{2}\,\sigma \, dx$$

    * COV quadrature formula:

$$E\{f(Y)\} \doteq \pi^{-\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_i f(\sqrt{2}\,\sigma\,x_i + \mu)$$

  where the ω_i and x_i are the Gauss-Hermite quadrature weights and nodes over $[-\infty, \infty]$.

- Portfolio example

  - An investor holds one bond which will be worth 1 in the future and equity whose value is Z, where $\ln Z \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$.

  - Expected utility is

$$U = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-1/2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u(1 + e^z) e^{-(z-\mu)^2/2\sigma^2} \, dz \qquad (7.2.12)$$

$$u(c) = \frac{c^{1+\gamma}}{1 + \gamma}$$

  and the certainty equivalent of (7.2.12) is $u^{-1}(U)$.

  - Errors in certainty equivalents: Table 7.5

Rule γ:	$-.5$	-1.1	-2.0	-5.0	-10.0
GH2	1(-4)	2(-4)	3(-4)	6(-3)	3(-2)
GH3	1(-6)	3(-6)	9(-7)	7(-5)	9(-5)
GH4	2(-8)	7(-8)	4(-7)	7(-6)	1(-4)
GH7	3(-10)	2(-10)	3(-11)	3(-9)	1(-9)
GH13	3(-10)	2(-10)	3(-11)	5(-14)	2(-13)

- The certainty equivalent of (7.2.12) with $\mu = 0.15$ and $\sigma = 0.25$ is 2.34. So, relative errors are roughly the same.

Gauss-Laguerre Quadrature

- Domain: $[0, \infty]]$

- Weight: e^{-x}

- Formula:

$$\int_0^\infty f(x)e^{-x}dx = \sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i f(x_i) + (n!)^2 \frac{f^{(2n)}(\xi)}{(2n)!}$$

  for some $\xi \in [0, \infty)$.

- General integral

  – Linear COV $x = r(y - a)$

  – COV formula

$$\int_a^\infty e^{-ry} f(y) \ dy \doteq \frac{e^{-ra}}{r} \sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i f\left(\frac{x_i}{r} + a\right)$$

  where the ω_i and x_i are the Gauss-Laguerre quadrature weights and nodes over $[0, \infty]$.

Table 7.6: Gauss – Laguerre Quadrature

N	x_i	ω_i
2	0.5857864376	0.8535533905
	0.3414213562(1)	0.1464466094
3	0.4157745567	0.7110930099
	0.2294280360(1)	0.2785177335
	0.6289945082(1)	0.1038925650(−1)
4	0.3225476896	0.6031541043
	0.1745761101(1)	0.3574186924
	0.4536620296(1)	0.3888790851(−1)
	0.9395070912(1)	0.5392947055(−3)
7	0.1930436765	0.4093189517
	0.1026664895(1)	0.4218312778
	0.2567876744(1)	0.1471263486
	0.4900353084(1)	0.2063351446(−1)
	0.8182153444(1)	0.1074010143(−2)
	0.1273418029(2)	0.1586546434(−4)
	0.1939572786(2)	0.3170315478(−7)

- Present Value Example

  - Use Gauss-Laguerre quadrature to compute present values.

  - Suppose discounted profits equal

  $$\eta \left(\frac{\eta - 1}{\eta} \right)^{\eta - 1} \int_0^\infty e^{-rt} m(t)^{1-\eta} \, dt.$$

  - Errors: Table 7.7

		$r = .05$ $\lambda = .05$	$r = .10$ $\lambda = .05$	$r = .05$ $\lambda = .20$
Truth:		49.7472	20.3923	74.4005
Errors:	GLag 4	3(-1)	4(-2)	6(0)
	GLag 5	7(-3)	7(-4)	3(0)
	GLag 10	3(-3)	6(-5)	2(-1)
	GLag 15	6(-5)	3(-7)	6(-2)
	GLag 20	3(-6)	8(-9)	1(-2)

  - Gauss-Laguerre integration implicitly assumes that $m(t)^{1-\eta}$ is a polynomial.

    * When $\lambda = 0.05$, $m(t)$ is nearly constant
    * When $\lambda = 0.20$, $m(t)^{1-\eta}$ is less polynomial-like.

Do-It-Yourself Gaussian Formulas

- Question: What should you do if your problem does not fit one of the conventional integral problems?

- Answer: Create your own Gaussian formula!

- Theorem: Let $w(x)$ be a weight function on $[a, b]$, and suppose that all moments exist; i.e.,

$$\int_a^b f(x) x^i dx < \infty, \quad i = 1, 2, ...$$

Then for all n there exists *quadrature nodes* $x_i \in [a, b]$ and *quadrature weights* ω_i such that the approximation

$$\int_a^b w(x) f(x) \, dx = \sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i \, f(x_i)$$

is exact for all degree $2n - 1$ polynomials. Furthermore, the nodes are the zeros of the monic polynomial

$$p(x) = x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + a_{n-2} x^{n-2} ... + a_0$$

where the coefficients are chosen to minimize the integral

$$\int_a^b p(x)^2 \, w(x) \, dx$$

and the weights are chosen to satisfy the linear equations

$$\int_a^b x^k w(x) \, dx = \sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i \, (x_i)^k, \quad k = 0, 1, .., 2n - 1$$

which is overdetermined but has a unique solution.

General Applicability of Gaussian Quadrature

Theorem 2 *(Gaussian quadrature convergence) If f is Riemann Integrable on $[a, b]$, the error in the n-point Gauss-Legendre rule applied to $\int_a^b f(x)\,dx$ goes to 0 as $n \to \infty$.*

Comparisons with Newton-Cotes formulas: Table 7.1

Rule	n	$\int_0^1 x^{1/4}dx$	$\int_1^{10} x^{-2}dx$	$\int_0^1 e^x dx$	$\int_1^{-1}(x+.05)^+dx$
Trapezoid	4	0.7212	1.7637	1.7342	0.6056
	7	0.7664	1.1922	1.7223	0.5583
	10	0.7797	1.0448	1.7200	0.5562
	13	0.7858	0.9857	1.7193	0.5542
Simpson	3	0.6496	1.3008	1.4662	0.4037
	7	0.7816	1.0017	1.7183	0.5426
	11	0.7524	0.9338	1.6232	0.4844
	15	0.7922	0.9169	1.7183	0.5528
G-Legendre	4	0.8023	0.8563	1.7183	0.5713
	7	0.8006	0.8985	1.7183	0.5457
	10	0.8003	0.9000	1.7183	0.5538
	13	0.8001	0.9000	1.7183	0.5513
Truth		.80000	.90000	1.7183	0.55125

Multidimensional Integration

- Most economic problems have several dimensions

  – Multiple assets

  – Multiple error terms

- Multidimensional integrals are much more difficult

  – Simple methods suffer from curse of dimensionality

  – There are methods which avoid curse of dimensionality

Product Rules

- Build product rules from one-dimension rules

- Let x_i^ℓ, ω_i^ℓ, $i = 1, \cdots, m$, be one-dimensional quadrature points and weights in dimension ℓ from a Newton-Cotes rule or the Gauss-Legendre rule.

- The *product rule*

$$\int_{[-1,1]^d} f(x) dx \doteq \sum_{i_1=1}^{m} \cdots \sum_{i_d=1}^{m} \omega_{i_1}^1 \omega_{i_2}^2 \cdots \omega_{i_d}^d \ f(x_{i_1}^1, x_{i_2}^2, \cdots, x_{i_d}^d)$$

- Gaussian structure prevails

  - Suppose $w^\ell(x)$ is weighting function in dimension ℓ
  - Define the d-dimensional weighting function.

  $$W(x) \equiv W(x_1, \cdots, x_d) = \prod_{\ell=1}^{d} w^\ell(x_\ell)$$

  - Product Gaussian rules are based on product orthogonal polynomials.

- Curse of dimensionality:

  - m^d functional evaluations is m^d for a d-dimensional problem with m points in each direction.
  - Problem worse for Newton-Cotes rules which are less accurate in $\mathbb{R}^1$.

Monomial Formulas: A Nonproduct Approach

- Method

  - Choose $x^i \in D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, $i = 1, ..., N$
  - Choose $\omega_i \in \mathbb{R}$, $i = 1, ..., N$

- Quadrature formula

$$\int_D f(x)\, dx \doteq \sum_{i=1}^{N} \omega_i\, f(x^i) \qquad (7.5.3)$$

- A monomial formula is complete for degree ℓ if

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} \omega_i\, p(x^i) = \int_D p(x)\, dx \qquad (7.5.3)$$

  for all polynomials $p(x)$ of total degree ℓ; recall that $\mathcal{P}_\ell$ was defined in chapter 6 to be the set of such polynomials.
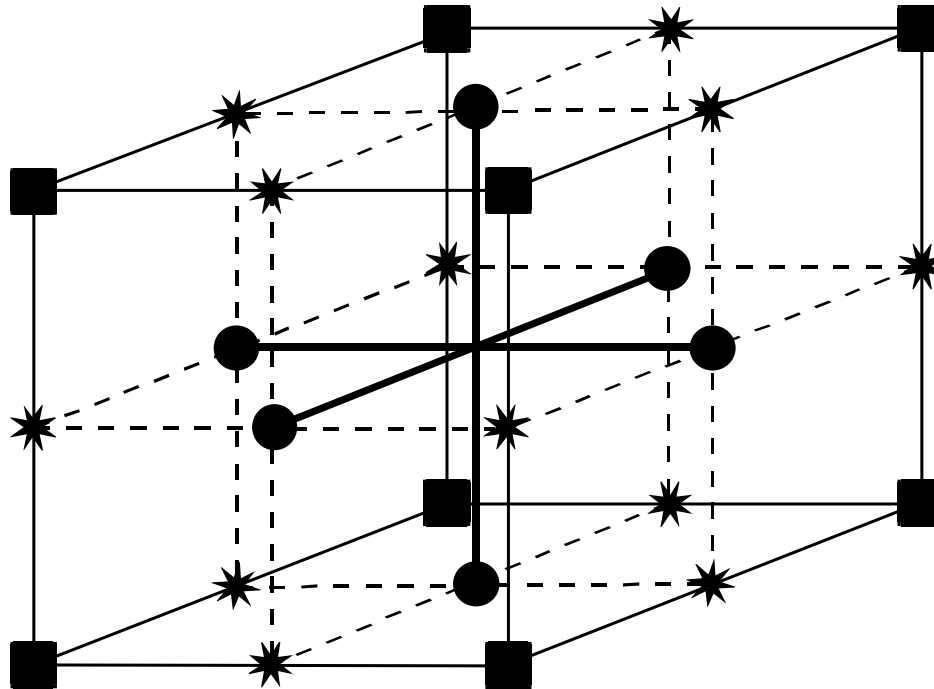
- For the case $\ell = 2$, this implies the equations

$$\begin{array}{ll} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \omega_i & = \int_D 1 \cdot dx \\ \sum_{i=1}^{N} \omega_i x_j^i & = \int_D x_j\, dx,\ j = 1, \cdots, d \\ \sum_{i=1}^{N} \omega_i x_j^i x_k^i & = \int_D x_j x_k\, dx,\ j, k = 1, \cdots, d \end{array} \qquad (7.5.4)$$

  - $1 + d + \frac{1}{2}d(d+1)$ equations
  - N weights ω_i and the N nodes x^i each with d components, yielding a total of $(d+1)N$ unknowns.

- Example of recent application

  - BLP computations use Monte Carlo integration methods
  - Skrainka (last week) is using a monomial rule in five dimensions. Errors are over 100 times better.

Quadrature Node Sets

- Natural types of nodes:

  – The center

  – The circles: centers of faces

  – The stars: centers of edges

  – The squares: vertices

- Some monomial formulas will take some combinations of these sets

- Other types of collections are possible

- Simple examples

  - Let $e^j \equiv (0, \ldots, 1, \ldots, 0)$ where the '1' appears in column j.

  - $2d$ points and exactly integrates all elements of $\mathcal{P}_3$ over $[-1,1]^d$

  $$\int_{[-1,1]^d} f \doteq \omega \sum_{i=1}^{d} \left(f(ue^i) + f(-ue^i) \right)$$

  $$u = \left(\frac{d}{3} \right)^{1/2}, \quad \omega = \frac{2^{d-1}}{d}$$

  - For $\mathcal{P}_5$ the following scheme works:

  $$\int_{[-1,1]^d} f \doteq \omega_1 f(0) + \omega_2 \sum_{i=1}^{d} \left(f(ue^i) + f(-ue^i) \right)$$
  $$+ \omega_3 \sum_{\substack{1 \le i < d, \\ i < j \le d}} \left(f(u(e^i \pm e^j)) + f(-u(e^i \pm e^j)) \right)$$

  where

  $$\omega_1 = 2^d(25 \ d^2 - 115 \ d + 162), \quad \omega_2 = 2^d(70 - 25d)$$
  $$\omega_3 = \frac{25}{324} \ 2^d, \quad u = (\frac{3}{5})^{1/2}.$$

- Smolyak (a.k.a., sparse) grids (see pictures on next slide)

Existence Result for Monomial Formulas

Theorem 3 *(Mysovskikh) Let $w(x)$ be a nonnegative weighting function on $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ such that each moment*

$$\int_D w(x) x_1^{i_1} \cdots x_d^{i_d} \, dx_1 \cdots dx_d$$

exists for $i_1, \cdots, i_d \geq 0$, $i_1 + \cdots + i_d \leq m$. Then, for some $N \leq (m+d)!/(m!d!)$, there exists N positive weights, ω_i, and N nodes, x^i, such that for each multi-index $|\alpha| \leq m$,

$$\int_D w(x) x^\alpha \, dx = \sum_{i=1}^N \omega_i (x^i)^\alpha.$$

- Purely existential

- Solving equations is difficult. However, recent advances in solving polynomial systems make this feasible for small problems, and possibly even for moderately large systems when one imposes symmetry conditions

- Formulas do not suffer from curse of dimensionality

- See Stroud and Secrest book for a large list of formulas.