

Genocchi-Hermite formula

[Norlund24:p.16] mistakenly attributes the (univariate) Genocchi-Hermite formula

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta(x_0, \dots, x_n) f &= \int_0^1 \int_0^{s_1} \cdots \int_0^{s_{n-1}} D^n f((1-s_1)x_0 + \cdots + (s_{n-1}-s_n)x_{n-1} + s_n x_n) \, ds_n \cdots \, ds_1 \\ &=: \int_{[x_0, \dots, x_n]} D^n f\end{aligned}$$

to [Hermite59a], possibly because that paper carries the suggestive title “Sur l’interpolation”. ■

At the end of a paper ([Hermite78a]) on polynomial interpolation to data at the n points a_1, \dots, a_n in the complex plane, Hermite does give a formula involving the righthand-side of the above, namely the formula

$$f(x) - Pf(x) = (x - a_1) \cdots (x - a_n) \int_{[a_n, \dots, a_1, x]} D^n f.$$

Thus, it requires the observation that

$$f(x) - Pf(x) = (x - a_1) \cdots (x - a_n) \Delta(a_n, \dots, a_1, x) f$$

to deduce the (Hermite-)Genocchi formula from [Hermite78a]. (He also gives the rather more complicated formula

$$f(x) - Pf(x) = (x - a_1)^\alpha \cdots (x - a_n)^\lambda \int_{[a_n, \dots, a_1, x]} [s_n - s_{n-1}]^{\alpha-1} \cdots [1 - s_1]^{\lambda-1} D^{\alpha+\cdots+\lambda} f$$

for the error in case of repeated interpolation.)

In contrast, Genocchi [Genocchi69a] is explicitly concerned with a representation formula for the divided difference. However, the ‘divided difference’ he represents is the following:

$$\Delta(x, x + h_1) \Delta(\cdot, \cdot + h_2) \cdots \Delta(\cdot, \cdot + h_n) = (\Delta_{h_1}/h_1) \cdots (\Delta_{h_n}/h_n)$$

and for it he gets the representation

$$\int_0^1 \cdots \int_0^1 D^n f(x + h_1 t_1 + \cdots + h_n t_n) \, dt_1 \cdots \, dt_n.$$

[Norlund24:p.16] cites [Genocchi78a,b] as places where formulations equivalent to the (Hermite-)Genocchi formula can be found. So far, I’ve been only able to find [Genocchi78b]. It is a letter to Hermite, in which Genocchi brings, among other things, the above representation formula to Hermite’s attention, refers to a paper of his in [Archives

de Grunert, t. XLIX, 3e cahier] as containing a corresponding error formula for Newton interpolation. He states that he, in continuing work, had obtained such a representation also for Ampère's fonctions interpolatoires (aka divided differences), and finishes with the formula

$$\int_0^1 \cdots \int_0^1 s_1^{n-1} s_2^{n-2} \cdots s_{n-1} D^n f(x_0 + s_1(x_1 - x_0) + \cdots + s_1 s_2 \cdots s_n(x_n - x_{n-1})) ds_1 \cdots ds_n.$$

for $\Delta(x_0, \dots, x_n)f$, and says that it is equivalent to the formula

$$\Delta(x_0, \dots, x_n)f = \int \cdots \int D^n f(s_0 x_0 + s_1 x_1 + \cdots + s_n x_n) ds_1 \cdots ds_n$$

in which the conditions $s_0 + \cdots + s_n = 1$, $s_i \geq 0$, all i , are imposed.

[Steffensen27:17f] proves the Genocchi-Hermite formula but calls it Jensen's formula, because of Jensen94, and gives RungeWillers2x as a further source.

[Potra, F.-A., Ptak, V; Nondiscrete induction and iterative processes; Pitman (Boston); 1984;:p.190] use, without attribution but, as they say, in analogy with

$$\Delta(x, y)f = \int_0^1 Df(x + t(y - x)) dt,$$

the first of these last-mentioned two formulae. In fact, they use this for functions of many variables, in which case $D^n f$ is meant to be the n -linear map of n -fold differentiation.