

## Optimal Integration for Functions of Bounded Variation\*

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**Abstract.** The unique optimal information and the unique optimal linear algorithm are obtained for the integration of functions of bounded variation.

**1. Introduction.** For a class of real-valued functions, we seek an approximation to the integral of any function in the class, provided that the function values are given at  $n$  points. A summary of what is currently known about this problem may be found in [1, Section 6.4].

In this paper, we study the class  $F$  of real-valued functions of uniformly bounded variation on the unit interval. Concepts used in this paper are defined for very general settings in [1] and [2]. To aid the reader, they are defined in this paper for the special case of integration. We summarize the results of this paper.

(i) If  $n$  function evaluations are used, then the intrinsic uncertainty in the integral is at least  $1/2n$ , and  $\lceil 1/2\varepsilon \rceil$  function evaluations guarantee an  $\varepsilon$ -approximation.

(ii) The optimal function evaluation points are  $(2i - 1)/2n$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , and this optimal information is unique.

(iii) The optimal algorithm using the optimal information is the averaging algorithm:  $(1/n)\sum_{i=1}^n f((2i - 1)/2n)$ , and this is the unique optimal linear algorithm.

(iv) The averaging algorithm is within at most one unit of being an optimal complexity algorithm.

(v) The averaging algorithm is only a constant factor better than the composite trapezoidal and Simpson algorithms.

**2. Basic Concepts.** A function  $f$  defined on the unit interval is of *bounded variation* if there exists  $M > 0$  such that for any partition  $\pi$ ,  $0 \leq x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_n < x_{n+1} \leq 1$ ,  $\sum_{i=0}^n |f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)| < M$ . The *total variation* of  $f$  is defined as

$$V_f = \sup_{\pi} \sum_{i=0}^n |f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)|.$$

We say a class  $F$  of functions is of *uniformly bounded variation* if  $F = \{f: f: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbf{R} \text{ and } V_f \leq B\}$ , where  $B > 0$ . Without loss of generality, we take the bound  $B$  to be unity.

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We seek an approximation to  $\int_0^1 f(x) dx$ ,  $\forall f \in F$ , given function values at an  $n$ -partition, that is, at points  $0 \leq x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_n \leq 1$ . That is, the information  $N$  is defined as  $N: F \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ , and

$$(2.1) \quad N(f) = [f(x_1), f(x_2), \dots, f(x_n)] \quad \forall f \in F.$$

We denote  $x_0 = 0$ ,  $x_{n+1} = 1$ ,  $\Delta_i = x_{i+1} - x_i$  for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ , and  $\Delta = \max\{2\Delta_0, 2\Delta_n, \Delta_1, \Delta_2, \dots, \Delta_{n-1}\}$ . We have

LEMMA 2.1. (i)  $\Delta \geq 1/n$ ; (ii)  $\Delta = 1/n$  iff  $\Delta_0 = \Delta_n = 1/2n$  and  $\Delta_i = 1/n$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ .  $\square$

The proof is trivial, and is omitted.

Given information  $N$  and  $f \in F$ , the set of indistinguishable elements from  $f$  in  $F$  is

$$(2.2) \quad V(N, f) = \{\tilde{f} \in F: \tilde{f}(x_i) = f(x_i), i = 1, 2, \dots, n\}.$$

The following lemma measures the uncertainty in the integral caused by indistinguishable elements.

LEMMA 2.2. Let  $N$  be information corresponding to an  $n$ -partition and let  $f \in F$ . Then,

$$(2.3) \quad L \leq \int_0^1 \tilde{f}(x) dx \leq U \quad \text{for all } \tilde{f} \in V(N, f),$$

where

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{aligned} U &= f(x_1)\Delta_0 + f(x_n)\Delta_n \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \max\{f(x_i), f(x_{i+1})\}\Delta_i + \Delta(1 - \bar{V}_f)/2, \quad \text{and} \\ L &= f(x_1)\Delta_0 + f(x_n)\Delta_n \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \min\{f(x_i), f(x_{i+1})\}\Delta_i - \Delta(1 - \bar{V}_f)/2, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\bar{V}_f = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} |f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)|$ . Furthermore, there exist  $\tilde{f}_L, \tilde{f}_U \in V(N, f)$ , such that  $\int_0^1 \tilde{f}_L(x) dx = L$  and  $\int_0^1 \tilde{f}_U(x) dx = U$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* We first show that for  $\tilde{f} \in F$ ,

$$(2.5) \quad \begin{aligned} &\left[ \sup_{x_0 \leq x \leq x_1} \tilde{f}(x) - \tilde{f}(x_1) \right] + \left[ \sup_{x_n \leq x \leq x_{n+1}} \tilde{f}(x) - \tilde{f}(x_n) \right] \\ &\quad + 2 \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \left\{ \sup_{x_i \leq x \leq x_{i+1}} \tilde{f}(x) - \max\{\tilde{f}(x_i), \tilde{f}(x_{i+1})\} \right\} \\ &\leq 1 - \bar{V}_f. \end{aligned}$$

For an arbitrary  $\delta > 0$ , there exists  $\xi_i \in [x_i, x_{i+1}]$  such that  $\sup_{x_i \leq x \leq x_{i+1}} \tilde{f}(x) \leq \tilde{f}(\xi_i) + \delta$ ,  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ . Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left[ \sup_{x_0 \leq x \leq x_1} \tilde{f}(x) - \tilde{f}(x_1) \right] + \left[ \sup_{x_n \leq x \leq x_{n+1}} \tilde{f}(x) - \tilde{f}(x_n) \right] \\
& + 2 \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \left\{ \sup_{x_i \leq x \leq x_{i+1}} \tilde{f}(x) - \max\{\tilde{f}(x_i), \tilde{f}(x_{i+1})\} \right\} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} |\tilde{f}(x_{i+1}) - \tilde{f}(x_i)| \\
& \leq [\tilde{f}(\xi_0) - \tilde{f}(x_1)] + [\tilde{f}(\xi_n) - \tilde{f}(x_n)] \\
& + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \{2[\tilde{f}(\xi_i) - \max\{\tilde{f}(x_i), \tilde{f}(x_{i+1})\}] + |\tilde{f}(x_{i+1}) - \tilde{f}(x_i)|\} + 2n\delta \\
& \leq |\tilde{f}(\xi_0) - \tilde{f}(x_1)| + |\tilde{f}(\xi_n) - \tilde{f}(x_n)| \\
& + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} [|\tilde{f}(\xi_i) - \tilde{f}(x_i)| + |\tilde{f}(x_{i+1}) - \tilde{f}(\xi_i)|] + 2n\delta \\
& \leq V_{\tilde{f}} + 2n\delta \leq 1 + 2n\delta.
\end{aligned}$$

Since  $\delta$  is arbitrary,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left[ \sup_{x_0 \leq x \leq x_1} \tilde{f}(x) - \tilde{f}(x_1) \right] + \left[ \sup_{x_n \leq x \leq x_{n+1}} \tilde{f}(x) - \tilde{f}(x_n) \right] \\
& + 2 \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \left\{ \sup_{x_i \leq x \leq x_{i+1}} \tilde{f}(x) - \max\{\tilde{f}(x_i), \tilde{f}(x_{i+1})\} \right\} \\
& + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} |\tilde{f}(x_{i+1}) - \tilde{f}(x_i)| \leq 1,
\end{aligned}$$

and (2.5) follows.

Let  $\tilde{f} \in V(N, f)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_0^1 \tilde{f}(x) dx & \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \sup_{x_i \leq x \leq x_{i+1}} \tilde{f}(x_i) \right] \Delta_i \\
& = \tilde{f}(x_1) \Delta_0 + \tilde{f}(x_n) \Delta_n + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \max\{\tilde{f}(x_i), \tilde{f}(x_{i+1})\} \Delta_i \\
& + \left[ \sup_{x_0 \leq x \leq x_1} \tilde{f}(x) - \tilde{f}(x_1) \right] \Delta_0 + \left[ \sup_{x_n \leq x \leq x_{n+1}} \tilde{f}(x) - \tilde{f}(x_n) \right] \Delta_n \\
& + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \left\{ \sup_{x_i \leq x \leq x_{i+1}} \tilde{f}(x) - \max\{\tilde{f}(x_i), \tilde{f}(x_{i+1})\} \right\} \Delta_i \\
& \leq \tilde{f}(x_1) \Delta_0 + \tilde{f}(x_n) \Delta_n + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \max\{\tilde{f}(x_i), \tilde{f}(x_{i+1})\} \Delta_i \\
& + \frac{\Delta}{2} \left\{ \left[ \sup_{x_0 \leq x \leq x_1} \tilde{f}(x) - \tilde{f}(x_1) \right] + \left[ \sup_{x_n \leq x \leq x_{n+1}} \tilde{f}(x) - \tilde{f}(x_n) \right] \right\} \\
& + 2 \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \left\{ \sup_{x_i \leq x \leq x_{i+1}} \tilde{f}(x) - \max\{\tilde{f}(x_i), \tilde{f}(x_{i+1})\} \right\} \Delta_i \\
& \leq \tilde{f}(x_1) \Delta_0 + \tilde{f}(x_n) \Delta_n + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \max\{\tilde{f}(x_i), \tilde{f}(x_{i+1})\} \Delta_i + \Delta(1 - \bar{V}_{\tilde{f}})/2.
\end{aligned}$$

The last step follows from (2.5). Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 \tilde{f}(x) dx &\leq \tilde{f}(x_1)\Delta_0 + \tilde{f}(x_n)\Delta_n + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \max\{\tilde{f}(x_i), \tilde{f}(x_{i+1})\}\Delta_i + \Delta(1 - \bar{V}_f)/2 \\ &= f(x_1)\Delta_0 + f(x_n)\Delta_n + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \max\{f(x_i), f(x_{i+1})\}\Delta_i + \Delta(1 - \bar{V}_f)/2, \end{aligned}$$

i.e.,  $\int_0^1 \tilde{f}(x) dx \leq U$ . The result for  $L$  follows from that for  $U$  by replacing  $f$  by  $-f$ .

Let

$$I = \begin{cases} [0, x_1) & \text{if } 2\Delta_0 = \Delta, \\ (x_i, x_{i+1}) & \text{if } 2\Delta_0 < \Delta \text{ and } i = \min\{j: \Delta_j = \Delta \text{ and } 1 \leq j \leq n-1\}, \\ (x_n, 1] & \text{if } 2\Delta_0 < \Delta, \Delta_j < \Delta \text{ for } 1 \leq j \leq n-1 \text{ and } 2\Delta_n = \Delta. \end{cases}$$

Let

$$f_{\max}(x) = \begin{cases} f(x_1) & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq x_1, \\ f(x_n) & \text{if } x_n \leq x \leq 1, \\ f(x_i) & \text{if } x = x_i, i = 2, 3, \dots, n-1, \\ \max\{f(x_i), f(x_{i+1})\} & \text{if } x_i < x < x_{i+1}, i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1. \end{cases}$$

Finally, let

$$\tilde{f}_U(x) = \begin{cases} f_{\max}(x) + (1 - \bar{V}_f)/C_I & \text{if } x \in I, \\ f_{\max}(x) & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where

$$C_I = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } I = (x_i, x_{i+1}) \text{ for some } i, 1 \leq i \leq n-1. \\ 1 & \text{if } I = [0, x_1) \text{ or } I = (x_n, 1]. \end{cases}$$

It can be verified that  $V_{\tilde{f}_U} = 1$ ,  $\tilde{f}_U \in V(N, f)$ , and  $\int_0^1 \tilde{f}_U(x) dx = U$ . An analogous conclusion holds for  $\tilde{f}_L$ .  $\square$

**3. Optimal Information.** From Lemma 2.2 we know that for all  $\tilde{f} \in V(N, f)$ , the integral of  $\tilde{f}$ ,  $\int_0^1 \tilde{f}(x) dx$ , is confined to the interval  $[L, U]$ . We call

$$(3.1) \quad r(N, f) = (U - L)/2,$$

the *local radius of information*  $N$  at  $f$ . From (2.4) we have

$$(3.2) \quad r(N, f) = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} |f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)|\Delta_i + \Delta(1 - \bar{V}_f) \right\}.$$

We define

$$(3.3) \quad r(N) = \sup_{f \in F} r(N, f)$$

as the *global radius of information*. The quantity  $r(N, f)$  measures the intrinsic uncertainty of the integral of  $f$ , caused by indistinguishable elements in  $V(N, f)$ , and  $r(N)$  measures that of the worst  $f$  in  $F$ . We estimate the local and global radii of information in

**LEMMA 3.1.** *Let  $N$  be information corresponding to the  $n$ -partition  $0 = x_0 \leq x_1 \leq x_2 < \dots < x_n \leq x_{n+1} = 1$ . Then,*

$$(3.4) \quad r(N, f) \leq \Delta/2 \quad \text{for all } f \in F,$$

and

$$(3.5) \quad r(N) = \Delta/2. \quad \square$$

*Proof.* Since  $\Delta_i \leq \Delta$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ , by (3.2),

$$\begin{aligned} r(N, f) &= \frac{1}{2} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} |f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)| \Delta_i + \Delta(1 - \bar{V}_f) \right] \\ &\leq \frac{\Delta}{2} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} |f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)| + (1 - \bar{V}_f) \right] = \Delta/2, \end{aligned}$$

i.e.,  $r(N, f) \leq \Delta/2$ , proving (3.4). Let  $f \equiv 0$ . Then by (3.2),  $r(N, 0) = \Delta/2$ , i.e.,  $r(N) = \sup_{f \in F} r(N, f) = r(N, 0) = \Delta/2$ , proving (3.5).  $\square$

The information  $N(f)$  in (2.1) is said to be of *cardinality*  $n$ . Let  $\Psi(n)$  be the class of all information of cardinality  $n$ , and let  $r(n) = \inf_{N \in \Psi(n)} r(N)$ . Then information  $N \in \Psi(n)$  is called  *$n$ th optimal* if  $r(N) = r(n)$ . An  *$n$ th optimal information*  $N$  has the minimum radius of information, among all information in  $\Psi(n)$ .

Let  $N^*$  be information corresponding to the partition points  $x_i = (2i-1)/2n$ , where  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , and  $n \geq 2$ . We have

**THEOREM 3.1.**  $N^*$  is the unique  $n$ th optimal information with  $r(N^*) = r(n) = 1/2n$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* For the information  $N^*$ ,  $\Delta = 1/n$ . By (3.5),  $r(N^*) = 1/2n$ . On the other hand, for an arbitrary  $N \in \Psi(n)$ ,  $r(N) = \Delta/2 \geq 1/2n = r(N^*)$ , by Lemma 2.1(i), and the equality holds iff  $N = N^*$ , by Lemma 2.1(ii).  $\square$

*Remark 3.1.* (i) If the class of integrands  $F_1$  consists of functions with a uniformly bounded first derivative, then (see [1, Section 6.4])  $N^*$  is an  $n$ th optimal information with  $r(N^*) = 1/4n$ .

(ii) To define information in (2.1), the partition points  $x_i$  are independent of function values at the previously chosen partition points. This is *nonadaptive information*. If partition points are chosen sequentially, depending on the function values at the previously chosen partition points, we have *adaptive information*. For integration of functions of bounded variation, the integrand belongs to a balanced convex set. Therefore, one gains nothing by using adaptive information. For the proof, see [1, Section 2.7] or [2, Section 4.3].

**4. Optimal Algorithm.** Usually, one cannot compute the integral of a function exactly, and instead seeks an approximation to the integral using an *algorithm*  $\varphi$

$$(4.1) \quad \varphi: N(F) \rightarrow \mathbf{R}.$$

We define the *local algorithm error* of  $f$  as

$$(4.2) \quad e(\varphi, N, f) = \sup_{\tilde{f} \in V(N, f)} \left| \int_0^1 \tilde{f}(x) dx - \varphi(N(f)) \right|,$$

and the *global algorithm error* as

$$(4.3) \quad e(\varphi, N) = \sup_{f \in F} e(\varphi, N, f).$$

For a given  $f \in F$ , the integrals of indistinguishable elements  $\tilde{f} \in V(N, f)$  are in the interval  $[L, U]$ , where the sharp bounds  $L$  and  $U$  are given in (2.4). Therefore, for an arbitrary algorithm  $\varphi$ ,  $e(\varphi, N, f) \geq (U - L)/2$ , which by (3.1) is the local

radius of information  $r(N, f)$ . Thus, we have

$$(4.4) \quad e(\varphi, N, f) \geq r(N, f),$$

and

$$(4.5) \quad e(\varphi, N) \geq r(N) \quad \text{for all } \varphi.$$

Therefore,  $r(N, f)$  and  $r(N)$  are the lower bounds of local and global algorithm errors, respectively.

We present an algorithm, called the *central algorithm*, by choosing the center of  $[L, U]$  as  $\varphi^c(N(f))$ :

$$(4.6) \quad \varphi^c(N(f)) = (U + L)/2.$$

Then  $e(\varphi^c, N, f) = (U - L)/2 = r(N, f)$ , and  $e(\varphi^c, N) = r(N)$ . Since  $\varphi^c$  has the minimal  $e(\varphi^c, N)$  among all algorithms, it is called an *optimal error algorithm*.

From (2.4), we have

$$(4.7) \quad e(\varphi^c, N, f) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} |f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)| \Delta_i + \Delta(1 - \bar{V}_f) \right],$$

$$(4.8) \quad e(\varphi^c, N) = \Delta/2,$$

$$(4.9) \quad \varphi^c(N(f)) = f(x_1)\Delta_0 + f(x_n)\Delta_n + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{f(x_i) + f(x_{i+1})}{2} \Delta_i,$$

or

$$(4.10) \quad \begin{aligned} \varphi^c(N(f)) = & f(x_1)(\Delta_0 + \Delta_1/2) + \sum_{i=2}^{n-1} f(x_i) \frac{\Delta_{i-1} + \Delta_i}{2} \\ & + f(x_n) \left( \Delta_n + \frac{\Delta_{n-1}}{2} \right). \end{aligned}$$

An *algorithm* is *linear* if it is of the form

$$(4.11) \quad \varphi(N(f)) = \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i) H_i.$$

Therefore, the central algorithm is linear. We summarize the above in

**THEOREM 4.1.** *Given information  $N$ , the central algorithm  $\varphi^c$  is a linear optimal error algorithm, with local and global algorithm error equal to the local and global radius of information, respectively.  $\square$*

*Remark 4.1.* It is true in general (see [2, Sections 1.3 and 1.4]) that the central algorithm is optimal and that the local and global algorithm error of the central algorithm are equal to the local and global radius of information, respectively.  $\square$

Given the unique  $n$ th optimal information  $N^*$ , we compare the algorithm error of the central algorithm with those of other linear algorithms in

**THEOREM 4.2.** *The central algorithm  $\varphi^c$  using the unique  $n$ th optimal information  $N^*$  is*

$$(4.12) \quad \varphi^c(N^*(f)) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f \left( \frac{2i-1}{2n} \right).$$

*Furthermore, the linear optimal error algorithm is unique.  $\square$*

*Proof.* Let  $\varphi$  be an arbitrary noncentral linear algorithm, with  $\varphi(N^*(f)) = \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i)H_i$ , and let  $p$  be the largest subscript of  $H$  such that  $H_p \neq 1/n$ . Let

$$f_p(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x < x_p, \\ 1 & \text{if } x \geq x_p. \end{cases}$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} e(\varphi, N^*, f_p) &= \sup_{\tilde{f} \in V(N, f_p)} \left| \sum_{i=1}^n f_i H_i - \int_0^1 f(x) dx \right| \\ &= \max \left\{ \left| H_p + \frac{n-p}{n} - U \right|, \left| H_p + \frac{n-p}{n} - L \right| \right\} \\ &= \max \left\{ \left| H_p - \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{2n} \right|, \left| H_p - \frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{2n} \right| \right\} \\ &\geq \left| H_p - \frac{1}{n} \right| + \frac{1}{2n} > \frac{1}{2n} = e(\varphi^c, N^*). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $e(\varphi, N^*) \geq e(\varphi, N^*, f_p) > e(\varphi^c, N^*)$  and  $\varphi$  is not optimal.  $\square$

**5. Complexity.** Given information  $N$ , we seek an algorithm  $\varphi$  to compute an  $\varepsilon$ -approximation to the integral of any functions in  $F$ , with algorithm error  $e(\varphi, N) \leq \varepsilon$ , where  $\varepsilon > 0$ . We use the  $n$ th optimal information  $N^*$  and the central algorithm  $\varphi^c$  to obtain an  $\varepsilon$ -approximation. Then, from Theorem 3.1 and Theorem 4.1, we have  $e(\varphi^c, N^*) = r(N^*) = r(n) = 1/2n \leq \varepsilon$ . Therefore,  $n = \lceil 1/2\varepsilon \rceil$ . It is obvious that  $\lceil 1/2\varepsilon \rceil$  is the minimal number of function evaluations for which we can have an  $\varepsilon$ -approximation to the integral of any functions in  $F$ .

Assume that the cost of each arithmetic operation is 1 and that of each function evaluation is  $c$ . We first compute  $N(f) = y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$  with *information complexity*  $cn$ , where  $n$  is the cardinality of  $N$ . We then compute  $\varphi(y)$  with *combinatory complexity*  $\text{comp}(\varphi(y))$ . The *complexity of algorithm*  $\varphi$  is thus  $\text{comp}(\varphi, N) = cn + \sup_{f \in F} \text{comp}(\varphi(y))$ . By (4.12) we have

$$(5.1) \quad \text{comp}(\varphi^c, N^*) = (c+1) \left\lceil \frac{1}{2\varepsilon} \right\rceil.$$

We define the *problem complexity* of an  $\varepsilon$ -approximation as

$$(5.2) \quad \text{comp}(\varepsilon) = \inf_{\varphi, N} \{ \text{comp}(\varphi, N) : e(\varphi, N) \leq \varepsilon \},$$

and an *optimal complexity algorithm*  $\varphi^*$  as

$$(5.3) \quad \text{comp}(\varphi^*, N) = \text{comp}(\varepsilon), \quad \text{and} \quad e(\varphi^*, N) \leq \varepsilon \quad \text{for some } N.$$

As noted at the beginning of this section,  $n = \lceil 1/2\varepsilon \rceil$  is the minimal number of function evaluations to guarantee an  $\varepsilon$ -approximation. Thus, the information complexity is no less than  $c\lceil 1/2\varepsilon \rceil$ , and the combinatory complexity is no less than  $\lceil 1/2\varepsilon \rceil - 1$ . Therefore  $\text{comp}(\varepsilon) \geq (c+1)\lceil 1/2\varepsilon \rceil - 1$ . Comparing this with (5.1), we notice that the difference between  $\text{comp}(\varphi^c, N^*)$  and  $\text{comp}(\varepsilon)$  is at most 1. We propose the following

**CONJECTURE.** *The central algorithm using the optimal information is the optimal complexity algorithm, that is,*

$$(5.4) \quad \text{comp}(\varphi^c, N^*) = \text{comp}(\varepsilon). \quad \square$$

**6. Comparison With Other Algorithms.** We estimate the global algorithm error and algorithm complexity of some linear algorithms; the proofs are routine and are omitted.

(i) *Another Riemann Sum.* Let the partition points be  $x_i = (i - 1)/n$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , and  $\Delta = 2/n$ .

$$(6.1) \quad \varphi(N(f)) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f\left(\frac{i-1}{n}\right).$$

$$(6.2) \quad e(\varphi, N) = \frac{1}{n}.$$

The algorithm complexity for an  $\varepsilon$ -approximation is

$$(6.3) \quad \text{comp}(\varphi, N) = (c + 1) \left\lceil \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \right\rceil.$$

(ii) *Composite Trapezoidal Rule.* Let the partition points be  $x_i = (i - 1)/(n - 1)$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and  $\Delta = 1/(n - 1)$ .

$$(6.4) \quad \varphi(N(f)) = \frac{1}{2(n-1)} [f(0) + f(1)] + \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=2}^{n-1} f\left(\frac{i-1}{n-1}\right).$$

$$(6.5) \quad e(N, \varphi) = \frac{1}{n-1}.$$

The algorithm complexity for an  $\varepsilon$ -approximation is

$$(6.6) \quad \text{comp}(\varphi, N) = (c + 1) \left\lceil \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \right\rceil + c + 2.$$

(iii) *Composite Simpson's Rule.* Assume that  $n = 2m + 1$ . Let the partition points be  $x_i = (i - 1)/2m$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, 2m + 1$ , and  $\Delta = 1/2m$ .

$$(6.7) \quad \varphi(N(f)) = \frac{1}{6m} [f(0) + f(1)] + \frac{1}{3m} \sum_{i=2}^m f\left(\frac{i-1}{m}\right) + \frac{2}{3m} \sum_{i=1}^m f\left(\frac{2i-1}{2m}\right),$$

$$(6.8) \quad e(\varphi, N) = \frac{2}{3(n-1)}.$$

The algorithm complexity for an  $\varepsilon$ -approximation is

$$(6.9) \quad \text{comp}(\varphi, N) = (c + 1) \left\lceil \frac{2}{3\varepsilon} \right\rceil + c + 3.$$

Observe that the costs of the linear algorithms (i)–(iii) are within a constant factor of  $\text{comp}(\varepsilon)$ .

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