

# Lecture 9 Review

Poisson and Gaussian probability distributions.

Pick random numbers from arbitrary probability distribution.

First peek at fitting data.

# Numerical Derivatives

We need to know how to take a derivative  $df(x)/dx$  of a function  $f(x)$  at  $x$ .

$$f'(x) \equiv \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \quad (\text{from calculus land})$$

Taylor series expand  $f(x+h)$ . Recall that  $h \ll 1$ :

$$f(x+h) = f(x) + hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2} f''(x) + \dots$$

$$f(x+h) = f(x) + hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2} f''(\zeta) \quad (\text{exact, also from calculus})$$

$\zeta$  unknown !! ( $x \leq \zeta \leq x+h$ )

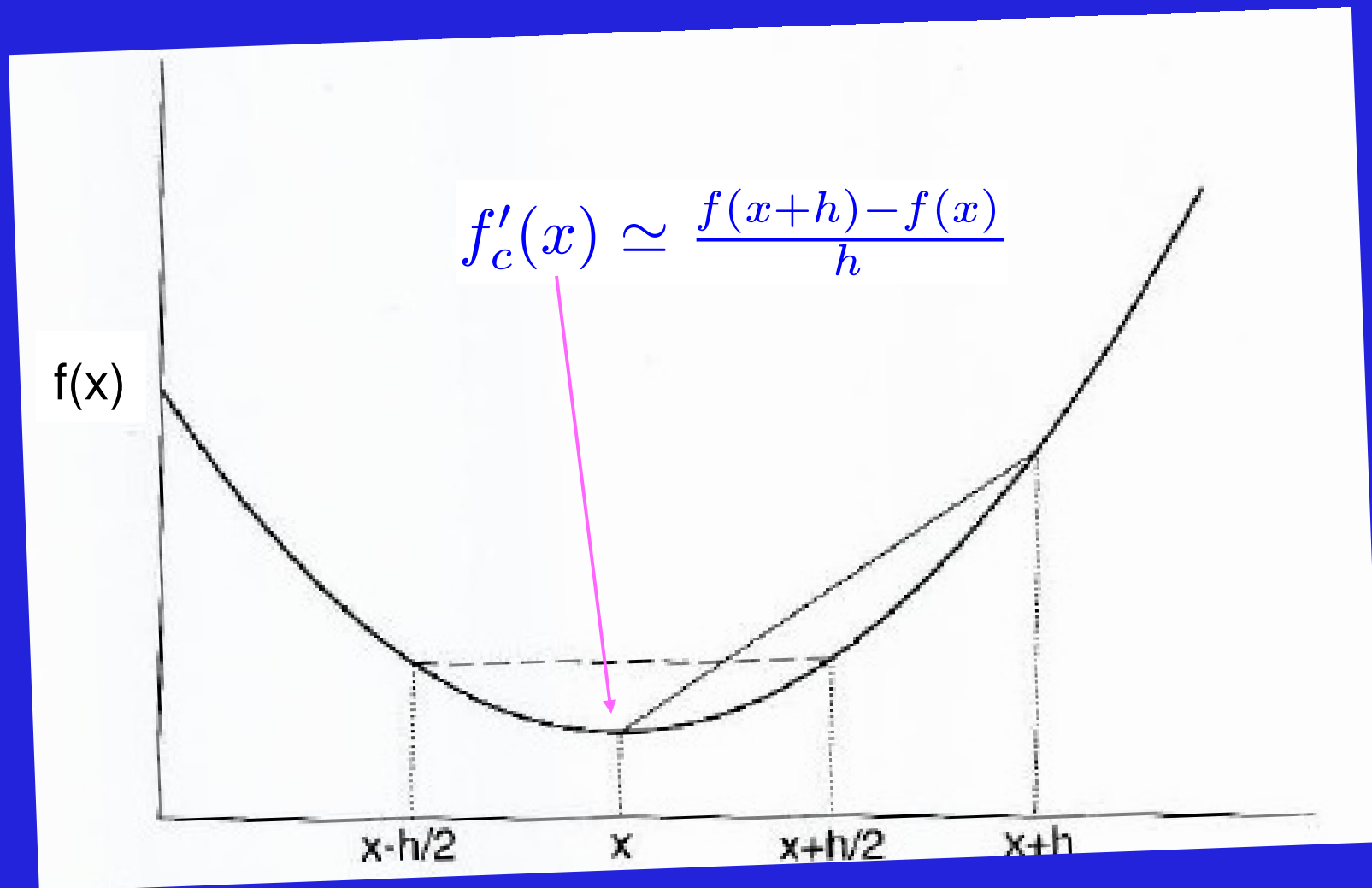
$$f'(x) = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} - \frac{h}{2} f''(\zeta)$$

“truncation error”

$$f'_c(x) \simeq \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

“forward derivative”

# Forward Derivative



Not too bad (truncation error  $\propto h$ ), but we can do better.

# Central Difference Derivative

Use alternative, but entirely equivalent, definition of  $df(x)/dx$  at  $x$ .

$$f'(x) \equiv \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h/2) - f(x-h/2)}{h}$$

Taylor series expand  $f(x + h/2)$ :

$$f(x + h/2) = f(x) + \frac{h}{2} f'(x) + \frac{h^2}{8} f''(x) + \frac{h^3}{48} f'''(x) + \dots$$

and  $f(x - h/2)$ :

$$f(x - h/2) = f(x) - \frac{h}{2} f'(x) + \frac{h^2}{8} f''(x) - \frac{h^3}{48} f'''(x) + \dots$$

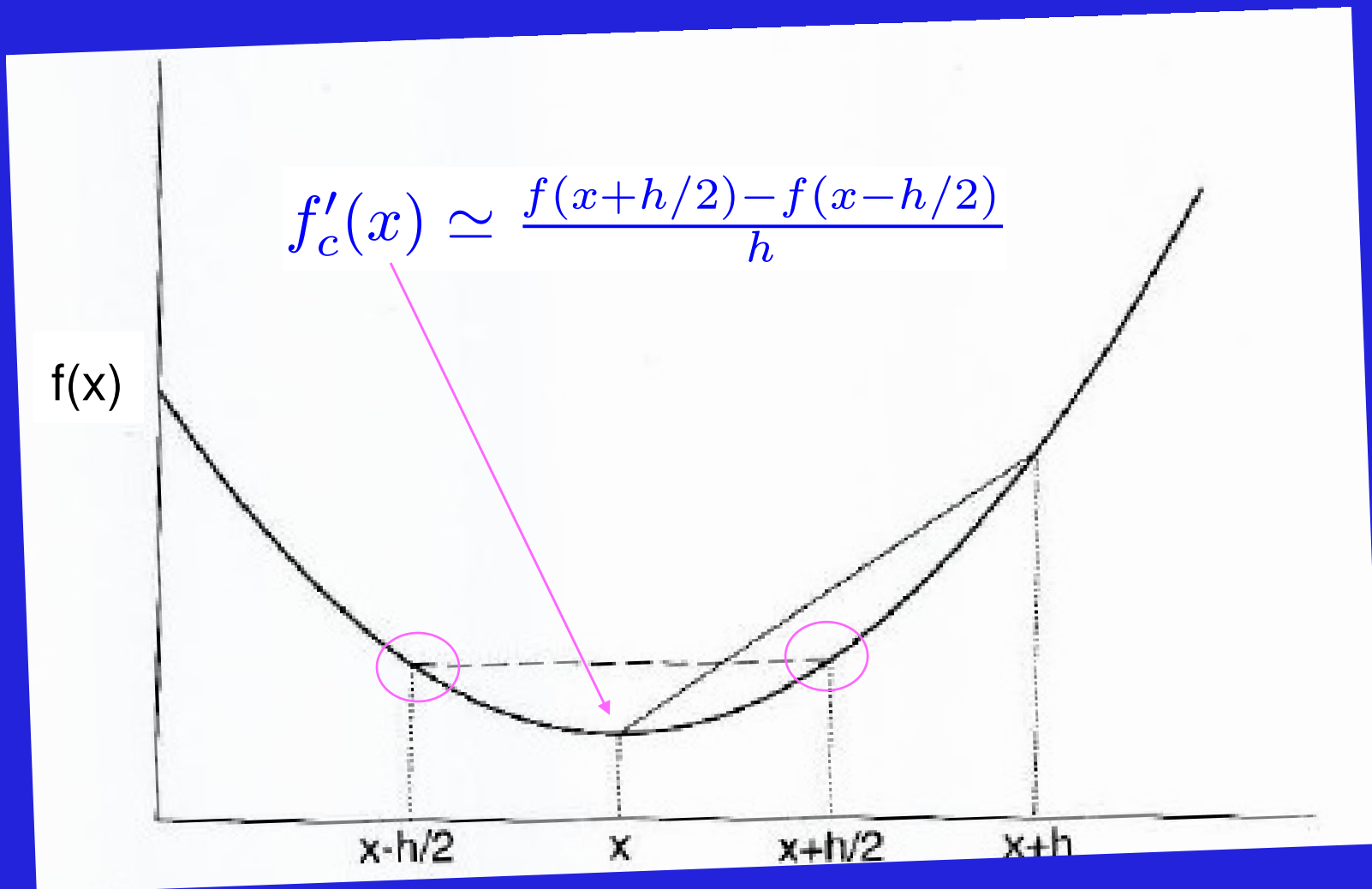
$$f'(x) = \frac{f(x+h/2) - f(x-h/2)}{h} - \frac{h^2}{24} f'''(\zeta)$$

$$f'_c(x) \simeq \frac{f(x+h/2) - f(x-h/2)}{h}$$

← Our workhorse derivative  
Truncation error  $\propto h^2$

“central difference derivative”

## Central Difference Derivative (2)



Again, our workhorse (truncation error  $\propto h^2$ )

# GSL Routine (see derivative.cc)

```
#include <iostream>
#include <iomanip>
#include <gsl/gsl_math.h>
#include <gsl/gsl_deriv.h>

using namespace std;

double f (double x, void * params)
{
    return pow (x, 1.5); // <----- CHANGE ME
}

int main ()
{
    gsl_function F;
    double result, abserr;

    F.function = &f; // no touch
    F.params = 0; // no touch
```

```
    cout << "f(x) = x^(3/2)" << endl;

    gsl_deriv_central (&F, 2.0, 1e-8,
&result, &abserr);
    cout << "x = 2.0" << endl;
    cout << "f'(x) = " <<
setprecision(11)<< result << " +/- "
<< abserr << endl;
    cout << "exact = " <<
setprecision(11) << 1.5 * sqrt(2.0)
<< endl << endl;

    gsl_deriv_forward (&F, 0.0, 1e-8,
&result, &abserr);
    printf ("x = 0.0\n");
    printf ("f'(x) = %.10f +/- %.10f\n",
result, abserr);
    printf ("exact = %.10f\n", 0.0);

    return 0;
}
```

## RUNGE-KUTTA (2<sup>nd</sup> ORDER)

$$\frac{dy}{dt}(y) = f(t, y) \Rightarrow y(t) = \int f(t, y) dt$$

DISCRETIZING,

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} f(t, y) dt$$



APPROXIMATE,

$$f(t, y) \approx f\left(t_{n+1/2}, y_{n+1/2}\right)$$

$$+ (t - t_{n+1/2}) \frac{df}{dt}\left(t_{n+1/2}\right)$$

$$+ \mathcal{O}(h^2)$$

SUB LAST EQN INTO FIRST  
AND NOTE:

$$\int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} (t - t_{n+1/2}) dt = \left. \frac{(t - t_{n+1/2})^2}{2} \right|_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}}$$
$$= 0$$

So,

$$\int f(t, y) dt \approx f(t_{n+1/2}, y_{n+1/2}) h$$

$$\Rightarrow y_{n+1} \approx y_n + h f(t_{n+1/2}, y_{n+1/2})$$

SO FAR SO GOOD, EXCEPT WE  
DON'T KNOW WHAT  $y_{n+1/2}$  IS.

WE ONLY CALCULATE STUFF AT  
 $t_n, t_{n+1}, \dots$  TO GET  $f(t_n, y_n)$ .



HOWEVER, WE USE APPROXIMATION

$$y_{n+1/2} \approx y_n + \frac{dy}{dt} h/2$$

$$\approx y_n + \frac{1}{2} h f(t_n, y_n)$$

FINALLY (OR ALMOST ANYWAY),

$$y_{n+1} \approx y_n + k_2$$

$$\text{w/ } k_2 = h f\left(t_n + \frac{h}{2}, y_n + \frac{k_1}{2}\right)$$

$$k_1 = h f(t_n, y_n)$$

"2<sup>nd</sup>-ORDER" RUNGE-KUTTA ALGORITHM  
FOR ODE SOLUTION.

THIS LOOKS VERY COMPLICATED.

LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING ☹

WRITE DIFFEQ'S IN STD FORMAT

$$\frac{d\vec{y}}{dt}(t) = \vec{f}(t, \vec{y})$$

$\vec{y}$  &  $\vec{f}$  ARE N-DIMENSIONAL VECTORS

$$\vec{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y^{(1)}(t) \\ y^{(2)}(t) \\ \vdots \\ y^{(N)}(t) \end{pmatrix}, \quad \vec{f} = \begin{pmatrix} f^{(1)}[t, \vec{y}] \\ f^{(2)}[t, \vec{y}] \\ \vdots \\ f^{(N)}[t, \vec{y}] \end{pmatrix}$$

WHY?

$$\frac{dy^{(1)}}{dt}(t) = f^{(1)}[t, \vec{y}] \leftarrow \text{no } y\text{-DERIVATIVES}$$

$$\frac{dy^{(2)}}{dt}(t) = f^{(2)}[t, \vec{y}] \leftarrow$$

CONSIDER NEWTON'S 2<sup>ND</sup> LAW

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = F(t, \frac{dx}{dt}, x)$$

WRITE IN STD FORM

$$y^{(1)}(t) \equiv x(t) \quad \underline{\text{EASY}}$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{dy^{(1)}}{dt} \equiv y^{(2)}(t) \quad \underline{\text{EASY.}}$$

so,

$$\frac{dy^{(1)}}{dt}(t) = y^{(2)}(t)$$

$$\frac{dy^{(2)}}{dt}(t) = F(t, y^{(1)}, y^{(2)})$$

EQUATIONS IN VECTOR FORM

w/

$$f^{(1)} = y^{(2)}(t)$$

$$f^{(2)} = F(t, y^{(1)}, y^{(2)})$$

EXAMPLE:

$$m \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} = -kx$$

$$\frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} = -\frac{k}{m} x$$

$$y^{(1)}(t) = x(t)$$

$$\frac{dy^{(1)}}{dt} = \boxed{f^{(1)} = y^{(2)}(t)}$$

$$\frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} = \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \left( \frac{dy^{(1)}}{dt} \right) = -\frac{k}{m} x$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} y^{(2)}(t) = -\frac{k}{m} x$$

$$\boxed{f^{(2)} = -\frac{k}{m} y^{(1)}}$$

4TH - ORDER      RUNGE - KUTTA

WE USE

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \frac{1}{6} (k_1 + 2k_2 + 2k_3 + k_4)$$

w/  $k_1 = h f(t_n, y_n)$

$$k_2 = h f(t_n + h/2, y_n + k_1/2)$$

$$k_3 = h f(t_n + h/2, y_n + k_2/2)$$

$$k_4 = h f(t_n + h, y_n + k_3)$$

YIKES ☹

# Summary

Numerical derivatives: forward and central difference.

ODE solver: 4th order Runge-Kutta

**Don't suffer in silence. Scream for help!!!**

