4.3 Romberg Integration

We can view Romberg's method as the natural generalization of the routine `qsimp` in the last section to integration schemes that are of higher order than Simpson's rule. The basic idea is to use the results from k successive refinements of the extended trapezoidal rule (implemented in `trapzd`) to remove all terms in the error series up to but not including $O(1/N^{2k})$. The routine `qsimp` is the case of $k = 2$. This is one example of a very general idea that goes by the name of *Richardson's deferred approach to the limit*: Perform some numerical algorithm for various values of a parameter h, and then extrapolate the result to the continuum limit $h = 0$.

Equation (4.2.4), which subtracts off the leading error term, is a special case of polynomial extrapolation. In the more general Romberg case, we can use Neville's algorithm (see §3.1) to extrapolate the successive refinements to zero stepsize. Neville's algorithm can in fact be coded very concisely within a Romberg integration routine. For clarity of the program, however, it seems better to do the extrapolation by function call to `polint`, already given in §3.1.

```
#include <math.h>
#define EPS 1.0e-6
#define JMAX 20
#define JMAXP (JMAX+1)
#define K 5
```
Here EPS is the fractional accuracy desired, as determined by the extrapolation error estimate; JMAX limits the total number of steps; K is the number of points used in the extrapolation.

```
float qromb(float (*func)(float), float a, float b)
```
Returns the integral of the function func from a to b. Integration is performed by Romberg's method of order 2K, where, e.g., K=2 is Simpson's rule.
```
{
    void polint(float xa[], float ya[], int n, float x, float *y, float *dy);
    float trapzd(float (*func)(float), float a, float b, int n);
    void nrerror(char error_text[]);
    float ss,dss;
    float s[JMAXP],h[JMAXP+1];          These store the successive trapezoidal approxi-
    int j;                                   mations and their relative stepsizes.

    h[1]=1.0;
    for (j=1;j<=JMAX;j++) {
        s[j]=trapzd(func,a,b,j);
        if (j >= K) {
            polint(&h[j-K],&s[j-K],K,0.0,&ss,&dss);
            if (fabs(dss) <= EPS*fabs(ss)) return ss;
        }
        h[j+1]=0.25*h[j];
        This is a key step: The factor is 0.25 even though the stepsize is decreased by only
        0.5. This makes the extrapolation a polynomial in h^2 as allowed by equation (4.2.1),
        not just a polynomial in h.
    }
    nrerror("Too many steps in routine qromb");
    return 0.0;                          Never get here.
}
```

The routine `qromb`, along with its required `trapzd` and `polint`, is quite powerful for sufficiently smooth (e.g., analytic) integrands, integrated over intervals which contain no singularities, and where the endpoints are also nonsingular. `qromb`, in such circumstances, takes many, *many* fewer function evaluations than either of the routines in §4.2. For example, the integral

$$\int_0^2 x^4 \log(x + \sqrt{x^2 + 1}) dx$$

converges (with parameters as shown above) on the very first extrapolation, after just 5 calls to `trapzd`, while `qsimp` requires 8 calls (8 times as many evaluations of the integrand) and `qtrap` requires 13 calls (making 256 times as many evaluations of the integrand).

CITED REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING:

Stoer, J., and Bulirsch, R. 1980, *Introduction to Numerical Analysis* (New York: Springer-Verlag), §§3.4–3.5.

Dahlquist, G., and Bjorck, A. 1974, *Numerical Methods* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall), §§7.4.1–7.4.2.

Ralston, A., and Rabinowitz, P. 1978, *A First Course in Numerical Analysis*, 2nd ed. (New York: McGraw-Hill), §4.10–2.

4.4 Improper Integrals

For our present purposes, an integral will be "improper" if it has any of the following problems:

- its integrand goes to a finite limiting value at finite upper and lower limits, but cannot be evaluated *right on* one of those limits (e.g., $\sin x/x$ at $x = 0$)
- its upper limit is ∞ , or its lower limit is $-\infty$
- it has an integrable singularity at either limit (e.g., $x^{-1/2}$ at $x = 0$)
- it has an integrable singularity at a known place between its upper and lower limits
- it has an integrable singularity at an unknown place between its upper and lower limits

If an integral is infinite (e.g., $\int_1^\infty x^{-1} dx$), or does not exist in a limiting sense (e.g., $\int_{-\infty}^\infty \cos x dx$), we do not call it improper; we call it impossible. No amount of clever algorithmics will return a meaningful answer to an ill-posed problem.

In this section we will generalize the techniques of the preceding two sections to cover the first four problems on the above list. A more advanced discussion of quadrature with integrable singularities occurs in Chapter 18, notably §18.3. The fifth problem, singularity at unknown location, can really only be handled by the use of a variable stepsize differential equation integration routine, as will be given in Chapter 16.

We need a workhorse like the extended trapezoidal rule (equation 4.1.11), but one which is an *open* formula in the sense of §4.1, i.e., does not require the integrand to be evaluated at the endpoints. Equation (4.1.19), the extended midpoint rule, is the best choice. The reason is that (4.1.19) shares with (4.1.11) the "deep" property