

NAG Library Chapter Introduction

D01 – Quadrature

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1 Scope of the Chapter

This chapter provides routines for the numerical evaluation of definite integrals in one or more dimensions and for evaluating weights and abscissae of integration rules.

2 Background to the Problems

The routines in this chapter are designed to estimate:

- (a) the value of a one-dimensional definite integral of the form

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx \quad (1)$$

where $f(x)$ is defined by you, either at a set of points $(x_i, f(x_i))$, for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, where $a = x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_n = b$, or in the form of a function; and the limits of integration a, b may be finite or infinite.

Some methods are specially designed for integrands of the form

$$f(x) = w(x)g(x) \quad (2)$$

which contain a factor $w(x)$, called the weight-function, of a specific form. These methods take full account of any peculiar behaviour attributable to the $w(x)$ factor.

- (b) the values of the one-dimensional indefinite integrals arising from (1) where the ranges of integration are interior to the interval $[a, b]$.
- (c) the value of a multi-dimensional definite integral of the form

$$\int_{R_n} f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) dx_n \cdots dx_2 dx_1 \quad (3)$$

where $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ is a function defined by you and R_n is some region of n -dimensional space.

The simplest form of R_n is the n -rectangle defined by

$$a_i \leq x_i \leq b_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n \quad (4)$$

where a_i and b_i are constants. When a_i and b_i are functions of x_j ($j < i$), the region can easily be transformed to the rectangular form (see page 266 of Davis and Rabinowitz (1975)). Some of the methods described incorporate the transformation procedure.

2.1 One-dimensional Integrals

To estimate the value of a one-dimensional integral, a quadrature rule uses an approximation in the form of a weighted sum of integrand values, i.e.,

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx \simeq \sum_{i=1}^N w_i f(x_i). \quad (5)$$

The points x_i within the interval $[a, b]$ are known as the abscissae, and the w_i are known as the weights.

More generally, if the integrand has the form (2), the corresponding formula is

$$\int_a^b w(x)g(x) dx \simeq \sum_{i=1}^N w_i g(x_i). \quad (6)$$

If the integrand is known only at a fixed set of points, these points must be used as the abscissae, and the weighted sum is calculated using finite-difference methods. However, if the functional form of the integrand is known, so that its value at any abscissa is easily obtained, then a wide variety of quadrature rules are available, each characterised by its choice of abscissae and the corresponding weights.

The appropriate rule to use will depend on the interval $[a, b]$ – whether finite or otherwise – and on the form of any $w(x)$ factor in the integrand. A suitable value of N depends on the general behaviour of $f(x)$; or of $g(x)$, if there is a $w(x)$ factor present.

Among possible rules, we mention particularly the Gaussian formulae, which employ a distribution of abscissae which is optimal for $f(x)$ or $g(x)$ of polynomial form.

The choice of basic rules constitutes one of the principles on which methods for one-dimensional integrals may be classified. The other major basis of classification is the implementation strategy, of which some types are now presented.

(a) Single rule evaluation procedures

A fixed number of abscissae, N , is used. This number and the particular rule chosen uniquely determine the weights and abscissae. No estimate is made of the accuracy of the result.

(b) Automatic procedures

The number of abscissae, N , within $[a, b]$ is gradually increased until consistency is achieved to within a level of accuracy (absolute or relative) requested by you. There are essentially two ways of doing this; hybrid forms of these two methods are also possible:

(i) whole interval procedures (non-adaptive)

A series of rules using increasing values of N are successively applied over the whole interval $[a, b]$. It is clearly more economical if abscissae already used for a lower value of N can be used again as part of a higher-order formula. This principle is known as **optimal extension**. There is no overlap between the abscissae used in Gaussian formulae of different orders. However, the Kronrod formulae are designed to give an optimal $(2N + 1)$ -point formula by adding $(N + 1)$ points to an N -point Gauss formula. Further extensions have been developed by Patterson.

(ii) adaptive procedures

The interval $[a, b]$ is repeatedly divided into a number of sub-intervals, and integration rules are applied separately to each sub-interval. Typically, the subdivision process will be carried further in the neighbourhood of a sharp peak in the integrand than where the curve is smooth. Thus, the distribution of abscissae is adapted to the shape of the integrand.

Subdivision raises the problem of what constitutes an acceptable accuracy in each sub-interval. The usual **global acceptability criterion** demands that the sum of the absolute values of the error estimates in the sub-intervals should meet the conditions required of the error over the whole interval. Automatic extrapolation over several levels of subdivision may eliminate the effects of some types of singularities.

An ideal general-purpose method would be an automatic method which could be used for a wide variety of integrands, was efficient (i.e., required the use of as few abscissae as possible), and was reliable (i.e., always gave results to within the requested accuracy). Complete reliability is unobtainable, and generally higher reliability is obtained at the expense of efficiency, and vice versa. **It must therefore be emphasised that the automatic routines in this chapter cannot be assumed to be 100% reliable. In general, however, the reliability is very high.**

2.2 Multi-dimensional Integrals

A distinction must be made between cases of moderately low dimensionality (say, up to 4 or 5 dimensions), and those of higher dimensionality. Where the number of dimensions is limited, a one-dimensional method may be applied to each dimension, according to some suitable strategy, and high accuracy may be obtainable (using product rules). However, the number of integrand evaluations rises very rapidly with the number of dimensions, so that the accuracy obtainable with an acceptable amount of computational labour is limited; for example a product of 3-point rules in 20 dimensions would require more than 10^9 integrand evaluations. Special techniques such as the Monte Carlo methods can be used to deal with high dimensions.

(a) Products of one-dimensional rules

Using a two-dimensional integral as an example, we have

$$\int_{a_1}^{b_1} \int_{a_2}^{b_2} f(x, y) dy dx \simeq \sum_{i=1}^N w_i \left[\int_{a_2}^{b_2} f(x_i, y) dy \right] \quad (7)$$

$$\int_{a_1}^{b_1} \int_{a_2}^{b_2} f(x, y) dy dx \simeq \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N w_i v_j f(x_i, y_j) \quad (8)$$

where (w_i, x_i) and (v_j, y_j) are the weights and abscissae of the rules used in the respective dimensions.

A different one-dimensional rule may be used for each dimension, as appropriate to the range and any weight function present, and a different strategy may be used, as appropriate to the integrand behaviour as a function of each independent variable.

For a rule-evaluation strategy in all dimensions, the formula (8) is applied in a straightforward manner. For automatic strategies (i.e., attempting to attain a requested accuracy), there is a problem in deciding what accuracy must be requested in the inner integral(s). Reference to formula (7) shows that the presence of a limited but random error in the y -integration for different values of x_i can produce a ‘jagged’ function of x , which may be difficult to integrate to the desired accuracy and for this reason products of automatic one-dimensional routines should be used with caution (see Lyness (1983)).

(b) Monte Carlo methods

These are based on estimating the mean value of the integrand sampled at points chosen from an appropriate statistical distribution function. Usually a variance reducing procedure is incorporated to combat the fundamentally slow rate of convergence of the rudimentary form of the technique. These methods can be effective by comparison with alternative methods when the integrand contains singularities or is erratic in some way, but they are of quite limited accuracy.

(c) Number theoretic methods

These are based on the work of Korobov and Conroy and operate by exploiting implicitly the properties of the Fourier expansion of the integrand. Special rules, constructed from so-called optimal coefficients, give a particularly uniform distribution of the points throughout n -dimensional space and from their number theoretic properties minimize the error on a prescribed class of integrals. The method can be combined with the Monte Carlo procedure.

(d) Sag–Szekeres method

By transformation this method seeks to induce properties into the integrand which make it accurately integrable by the trapezoidal rule. The transformation also allows effective control over the number of integrand evaluations.

(e) Automatic adaptive procedures

An automatic adaptive strategy in several dimensions normally involves division of the region into subregions, concentrating the divisions in those parts of the region where the integrand is worst behaved. It is difficult to arrange with any generality for variable limits in the inner integral(s). For this reason, some methods use a region where all the limits are constants; this is called a hyper-rectangle. Integrals over regions defined by variable or infinite limits may be handled by transformation to a hyper-rectangle. Integrals over regions so irregular that such a transformation is not feasible may be handled by surrounding the region by an appropriate hyper-rectangle and defining the integrand to be zero outside the desired region. Such a technique should always be followed by a Monte Carlo method for integration.

The method used locally in each subregion produced by the adaptive subdivision process is usually one of three types: Monte Carlo, number theoretic or deterministic. Deterministic methods are usually the most rapidly convergent but are often expensive to use for high dimensionality and not as robust as the other techniques.

3 Recommendations on Choice and Use of Available Routines

The following three sub-sections consider in turn routines for: one-dimensional integrals over a finite interval, and over a semi-infinite or an infinite interval; and multi-dimensional integrals. Within each sub-section, routines are classified by the type of method, which ranges from simple rule evaluation to automatic adaptive algorithms. The recommendations apply particularly when the primary objective is

simply to compute the value of one or more integrals, and in these cases the automatic adaptive routines are generally the most convenient and reliable, although also the most expensive in computing time.

Note however that in some circumstances it may be counter-productive to use an automatic routine. If the results of the quadrature are to be used in turn as input to a further computation (e.g., an ‘outer’ quadrature or an optimization problem), then this further computation may be adversely affected by the ‘jagged performance profile’ of an automatic routine; a simple rule-evaluation routine may provide much better overall performance. For further guidance, the article by Lyness (1983) is recommended.

3.1 One-dimensional Integrals over a Finite Interval

(a) Integrand defined at a set of points

If $f(x)$ is defined numerically at four or more points, then the Gill–Miller finite difference method (D01GAF) should be used. The interval of integration is taken to coincide with the range of x values of the points supplied. It is in the nature of this problem that any routine may be unreliable. In order to check results independently and so as to provide an alternative technique you may fit the integrand by Chebyshev series using E02ADF and then use routines E02AJF and E02AKF to evaluate its integral (which need not be restricted to the range of the integration points, as is the case for D01GAF). A further alternative is to fit a cubic spline to the data using E02BAF and then to evaluate its integral using E02BDF.

(b) Integrand defined as a function

If the functional form of $f(x)$ is known, then one of the following approaches should be taken. They are arranged in the order from most specific to most general, hence the first applicable procedure in the list will be the most efficient. **However, if you do not wish to make any assumptions about the integrand, the most reliable routines to use will be D01AJF (or D01ATF) and D01AHF, although these will in general be less efficient for simple integrals.**

(i) Rule-evaluation routines

If $f(x)$ is known to be sufficiently well behaved (more precisely, can be closely approximated by a polynomial of moderate degree), a Gaussian routine with a suitable number of abscissae may be used.

D01BBF or D01BCF with D01FBF may be used if it is required to examine the weights and abscissae.

D01BBF is faster and more accurate, whereas D01BCF is more general.

If $f(x)$ is well behaved, apart from a weight-function of the form

$$\left| x - \frac{a+b}{2} \right|^c \quad \text{or} \quad (b-x)^c(x-a)^d,$$

D01BCF with D01FBF may be used.

(ii) Automatic whole-interval routines

If $f(x)$ is reasonably smooth, and the required accuracy is not too high, the automatic whole-interval routines D01ARF or D01BDF may be used. D01ARF incorporates high-order extensions of the Kronrod rule and is the only routine which can also be used for indefinite integration.

(iii) Automatic adaptive routines

Firstly, several routines are available for integrands of the form $w(x)g(x)$ where $g(x)$ is a ‘smooth’ function (i.e., has no singularities, sharp peaks or violent oscillations in the interval of integration) and $w(x)$ is a weight function of one of the following forms.

1. if $w(x) = (b-x)^\alpha(x-a)^\beta(\log(b-x))^k(\log(x-a))^l$, where $k, l = 0$ or 1 , $\alpha, \beta > -1$: use D01APF;
2. if $w(x) = \frac{1}{x-c}$: use D01AQF (this integral is called the Hilbert transform of g);
3. if $w(x) = \cos(\omega x)$ or $\sin(\omega x)$: use D01ANF (this routine can also handle certain types of singularities in $g(x)$).

Secondly, there are some routines for general $f(x)$. If $f(x)$ is known to be free of singularities, though it may be oscillatory, D01AKF or D01AUF may be used.

The most powerful of the finite interval integration routines are D01AJF and D01ATF, which can cope with singularities of several types, and D01AHF. They may be used if none of the more specific situations described above applies. D01AHF is likely to be more efficient, whereas D01AJF and D01ATF are somewhat more reliable, particularly where the integrand has singularities other than at an end point, or has discontinuities or cusps, and is therefore recommended where the integrand is known to be badly behaved, or where its nature is completely unknown. It may sometimes be useful to use both routines as a check.

Most of the routines in this chapter require you to supply a function or subroutine to evaluate the integrand at a single point. D01ATF and D01AUF use the same methods as D01AJF and D01AKF respectively, but have a different user interface which can result in faster execution, especially on vector-processing machines (see Gladwell (1986)). They require you to provide a subroutine to return an array of values of the integrand at each of an array of points. This reduces the overhead of function calls, avoids repetition of computations common to each of the integrand evaluations, and offers greater scope for vectorization of your code.

If $f(x)$ has singularities of certain types, discontinuities or sharp peaks **occurring at known points**, the integral should be evaluated separately over each of the subranges or D01ALF may be used.

3.2 One-dimensional Integrals over a Semi-infinite or Infinite Interval

(a) Integrand defined at a set of points

If $f(x)$ is defined numerically at four or more points, and the portion of the integral lying outside the range of the points supplied may be neglected, then the Gill–Miller finite difference method, D01GAF, should be used.

(b) Integrand defined as a function

(i) Rule evaluation routines

If $f(x)$ behaves approximately like a polynomial in x , apart from a weight function of the form:

1. $e^{-\beta x}$, $\beta > 0$ (semi-infinite interval, lower limit finite); or
2. $e^{-\beta x}$, $\beta < 0$ (semi-infinite interval, upper limit finite); or
3. $e^{-\beta(x-\alpha)^2}$, $\beta > 0$ (infinite interval),

or if $f(x)$ behaves approximately like a polynomial in $(x+b)^{-1}$ (semi-infinite range), then the Gaussian routines may be used.

D01BAF may be used if it is not required to examine the weights and abscissae.

D01BBF or D01BCF with D01FBF may be used if it is required to examine the weights and abscissae.

D01BBF is faster and more accurate, whereas D01BCF is more general.

(ii) Automatic adaptive routines

D01AMF may be used, except for integrands which decay slowly towards an infinite end point, and oscillate in sign over the entire range. For this class, it may be possible to calculate the integral by integrating between the zeros and invoking some extrapolation process (see C06BAF).

D01ASF may be used for integrals involving weight functions of the form $\cos(\omega x)$ and $\sin(\omega x)$ over a semi-infinite interval (lower limit finite).

The following alternative procedures are mentioned for completeness, though their use will rarely be necessary.

1. If the integrand decays rapidly towards an infinite end point, a finite cut-off may be chosen, and the finite range methods applied.

2. If the only irregularities occur in the finite part (apart from a singularity at the finite limit, with which D01AMF can cope), the range may be divided, with D01AMF used on the infinite part.
3. A transformation to finite range may be employed, e.g.,

$$x = \frac{1-t}{t} \quad \text{or} \quad x = -\log_e t$$

will transform $(0, \infty)$ to $(1, 0)$ while for infinite ranges we have

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = \int_0^{\infty} (f(x) + f(-x)) dx.$$

If the integrand behaves badly on $(-\infty, 0)$ and well on $(0, \infty)$ or vice versa it is better to compute it as $\int_{-\infty}^0 f(x) dx + \int_0^{\infty} f(x) dx$. This saves computing unnecessary function values in the semi-infinite range where the function is well behaved.

3.3 Multi-dimensional Integrals

A number of techniques are available in this area and the choice depends to a large extent on the dimension and the required accuracy. It can be advantageous to use more than one technique as a confirmation of accuracy particularly for high-dimensional integrations. Many of the routines incorporate the transformation procedure REGION (a) which allows general product regions to be easily dealt with in terms of conversion to the standard n -cube region.

- (a) Products of one-dimensional rules (suitable for up to about 5 dimensions)

If $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ is known to be a sufficiently well behaved function of each variable x_i , apart possibly from weight functions of the types provided, a product of Gaussian rules may be used. These are provided by D01BBF or D01BCF with D01FBF. Rules for finite, semi-infinite and infinite ranges are included.

For two-dimensional integrals only, unless the integrand is very badly behaved, the automatic whole-interval product procedure of D01DAF may be used. The limits of the inner integral may be user-specified functions of the outer variable. Infinite limits may be handled by transformation (see Section 3.2); end point singularities introduced by transformation should not be troublesome, as the integrand value will not be required on the boundary of the region.

If none of these routines proves suitable and convenient, the one-dimensional routines may be used recursively. For example, the two-dimensional integral

$$I = \int_{a_1}^{b_1} \int_{a_2}^{b_2} f(x, y) dy dx$$

may be expressed as

$$I = \int_{a_1}^{b_1} F(x) dx, \quad \text{where} \quad F(x) = \int_{a_2}^{b_2} f(x, y) dy.$$

The user segment to evaluate $F(x)$ will call the integration routine for the y -integration, which will call another user segment for $f(x, y)$ as a function of y (x being effectively a constant). Note that, as Fortran 77 is not a recursive language, **a different library integration routine must be used for each dimension**. Apart from this restriction, the following combinations are not permitted: D01AJF and D01ALF, D01ANF and D01APF, D01APF and D01AQF, D01ANF and D01AQF, D01ANF and D01ASF, D01AMF and D01ASF, D01ATF and D01AUF. Otherwise the full range of one-dimensional routines are available, for finite/infinite intervals, constant/variable limits, rule evaluation/automatic strategies etc.

- (b) Sag–Szekeres method

Two routines are based on this method.

D01FDF is particularly suitable for integrals of very large dimension although the accuracy is generally not high. It allows integration over either the general product region (with built-in

transformation to the n -cube) or the n -sphere. Although no error estimate is provided, two adjustable parameters may be varied for checking purposes or may be used to tune the algorithm to particular integrals.

D01JAF is also based on the Sag–Szekeress method and integrates over the n -sphere. It uses improved transformations which may be varied according to the behaviour of the integrand. Although it can yield very accurate results it can only practically be employed for dimensions not exceeding 4.

(c) Number Theoretic method

Two routines are based on this method.

D01GCF carries out multiple integration using the Korobov–Conroy method over a product region with built-in transformation to the n -cube. A stochastic modification of this method is incorporated hybridising the technique with the Monte Carlo procedure. An error estimate is provided in terms of the statistical standard error. The routine includes a number of optimal coefficient rules for up to 20 dimensions; others can be computed using D01GYF and D01GZF. Like the Sag–Szekeress method it is suitable for large dimensional integrals although the accuracy is not high.

D01GDF uses the same method as D01GCF, but has a different interface which can result in faster execution, especially on vector-processing machines. You are required to provide two subroutines, the first to return an array of values of the integrand at each of an array of points, and the second to evaluate the limits of integration at each of an array of points. This reduces the overhead of function calls, avoids repetitions of computations common to each of the evaluations of the integral and limits of integration, and offers greater scope for vectorization of your code.

(d) A combinatorial extrapolation method

D01PAF computes a sequence of approximations and an error estimate to the integral of a function over a multi-dimensional simplex using a combinatorial method with extrapolation.

(e) Automatic routines (D01FCF and D01GBF)

Both routines are for integrals of the form

$$\int_{a_1}^{b_1} \int_{a_2}^{b_2} \cdots \int_{a_n}^{b_n} f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) dx_n dx_{n-1} \cdots dx_1.$$

D01GBF is an adaptive Monte Carlo routine. This routine is usually slow and not recommended for high-accuracy work. It is a robust routine that can often be used for low-accuracy results with highly irregular integrands or when n is large.

D01FCF is an adaptive deterministic routine. Convergence is fast for well behaved integrands. Highly accurate results can often be obtained for n between 2 and 5, using significantly fewer integrand evaluations than would be required by D01GBF. The routine will usually work when the integrand is mildly singular and for $n \leq 10$ should be used before D01GBF. If it is known in advance that the integrand is highly irregular, it is best to compare results from at least two different routines.

There are many problems for which one or both of the routines will require large amounts of computing time to obtain even moderately accurate results. The amount of computing time is controlled by the number of integrand evaluations allowed by you, and you should set this parameter carefully, with reference to the time available and the accuracy desired.

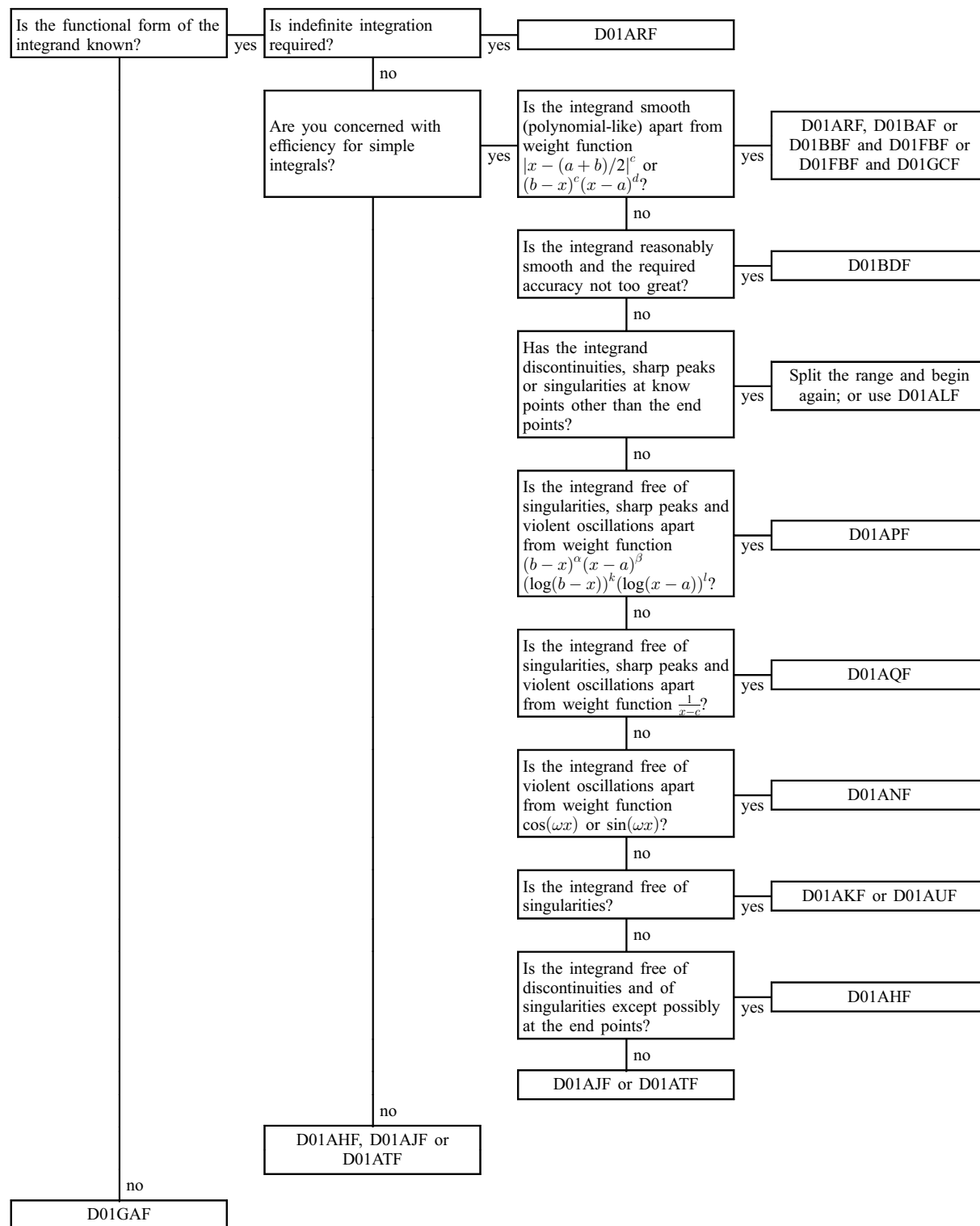
D01EAF extends the technique of D01FCF to integrate adaptively more than one integrand, that is to calculate the set of integrals

$$\int_{a_1}^{b_1} \int_{a_2}^{b_2} \cdots \int_{a_n}^{b_n} (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_m) dx_n dx_{n-1} \cdots dx_1$$

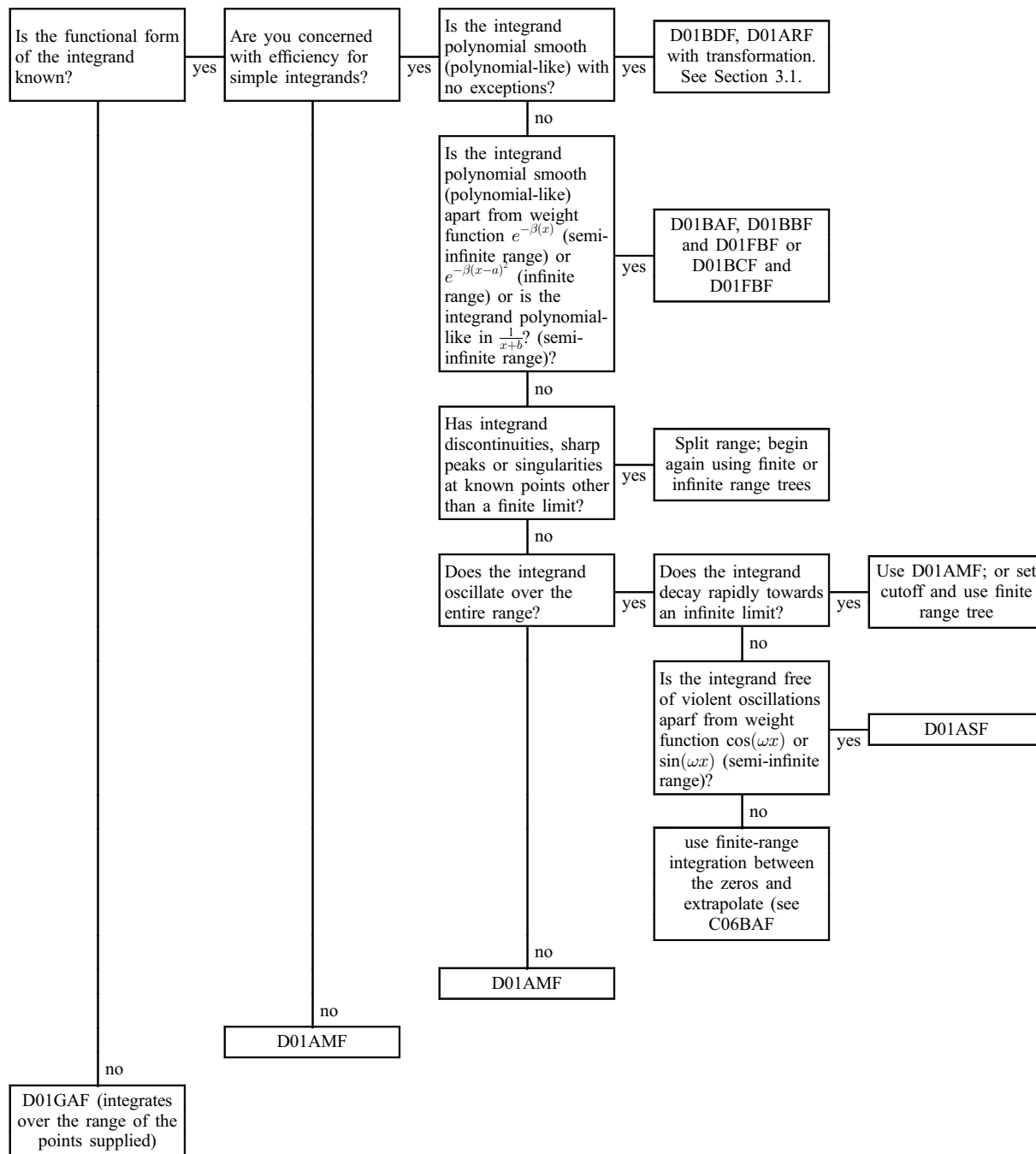
for a set of similar integrands $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_m$ where $f_i = f_i(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$.

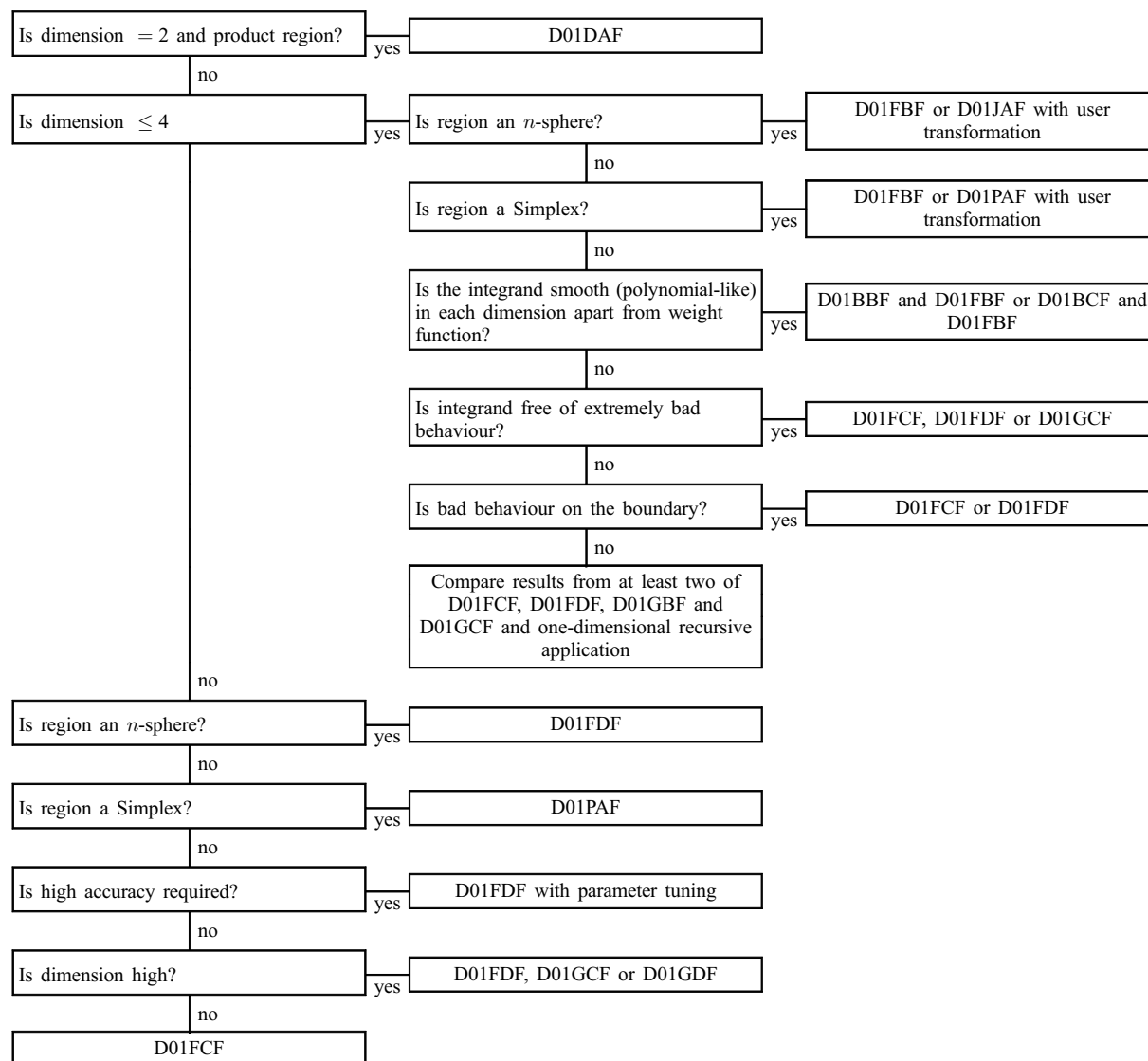
4 Decision Trees

Tree 1: One-dimensional integrals over a finite interval



Note: D01ATF and D01AUF are likely to be more efficient than D01AJF and D01AKF, which use a more conventional user-interface, consistent with other routines in the chapter.

Tree 2: One-dimensional integrals over a semi-infinite or infinite interval

Tree 3: Multi-dimensional integrals

Note: in the case where there are many integrals to be evaluated D01EAF should be preferred to D01FCF. D01GDF is likely to be more efficient than D01GCF, which uses a more conventional user-interface, consistent with other routines in the chapter.

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6 Routines Withdrawn or Scheduled for Withdrawal

None.

7 References

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