Christiano Advanced Macro Fall, 2013 Homework #1, due October 2

1. Consider the Runge function discussed in class, $f : [-5,5] \rightarrow R$. Study the accuracy of two approximation methods. In the first, construct an n-point grid in the domain of f in which there is a fixed interval between the n grid points ('fixed interval method'). In the second, construct an n-point grid in the domain of f in which the grid points correspond to the zeros of a Chebyshev polynomial ('Chebyshev method'). For the Chebyshev method, it is useful to have a mapping from any set, [a, b], into [-1, 1]. Following is one possibility, with b > a:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \varphi & : & [a,b] \rightarrow [-1,1] \\ \\ \varphi \left(x \right) & = & 2 \frac{x-a}{b-a} - 1. \end{array}$$

Obviously, φ is invertible. Interpolate the Runge function using the fixed interval method and using the Chebyshev method setting n = 10 and 12. Graph the interpolating functions over the domain of f, [-5, 5]. Show that with the fixed interval method, the interpolating function is diverging from the Runge function, while it is getting closer in the case of the Chebyshev method.