

COMP 361: Numerical Methods:  
Assignment 3

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Winter 2020

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Newton's method to compute the cube root of 6</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	10 first iterations using Newton's method . . . . .	3
1.2	Fixed point analytically . . . . .	4

# 1 Newton's method to compute the cube root of 6

**Problem:** Show how to use Newtons method to compute the cube root of 5. Numerically carry out the first 10 iterations of Newtons method, using  $x_0 = 1$ . Analytically determine the fixed points of the Newton iteration and determine whether they are attracting or repelling. If a fixed point is attracting then determine analytically if the convergence is linear or quadratic. Draw the  $x_{k+1}$  versus  $x_k$  diagram, again taking  $x_0 = 1$ , and draw enough iterations in the diagram, so that the long time behavior is clearly visible. For which values of  $x_0$  will Newtons method converge?

**Solution:**

## 1.1 10 first iterations using Newton's method

Cube root of 5 is a zero of the function  $g(x)$  such that:  
 $g(x) = x^3 - 5$

The first 10 iterations using Newton's method were carried out by using Python with Jupyter Notebook. Check out the source code and presentation in directory: program.Problem1.ipynb

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```
# The main algorithm
def newton_raphson(f, diff, init_x, max_iter=1000):
    x = init_x
    estimates = []
    listX = [x]
    for i in range(max_iter):
        deltaX = -f(x)/diff(x)
        x = x + deltaX
        listX.append(x)
        estimates.append(x)
    return x, listX, estimates
```

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The results after computing are:

Xi = 1 X(i+1) = 2.3333333333333333  
Xi = 2.3333333333333333 X(i+1) = 1.8616780045351473  
Xi = 1.8616780045351473 X(i+1) = 1.722001880058607  
Xi = 1.722001880058607 X(i+1) = 1.7100597366002945  
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## 1.2 Fixed point analytically

**Newton's method:**  $x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{g(x_n)}{g'(x_n)}$

Applying Newton's method

$$\begin{aligned}\implies f(x) &= x - \frac{x^3 - 5}{3x^2} = \frac{3x^3 - x^3 + 5}{3x^2} \\ &= \frac{2x^3 + 5}{3x^2}\end{aligned}$$

To find the fixed points, let  $x = f(x)$

$$\begin{aligned}x &= \frac{2x^3 + 5}{3x^2} \\ 3x^3 &= 2x^3 + 5 \\ x^3 &= 5 \\ \implies x &= \sqrt[3]{5}\end{aligned}$$

The fixed point of the Newton iteration is  $x = \sqrt[3]{5}$