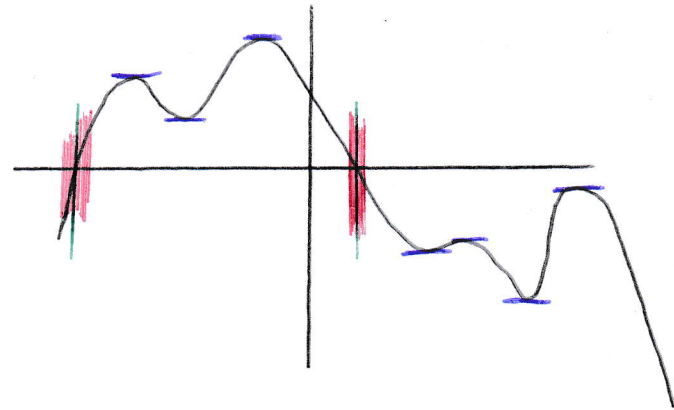


01/11/25

L RCS - VI

07/11/25

Locating Roots of a polynomial  
of any degree via change in  
sign between the function's  
stationary points



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✱ ∆ ∇ ∇ ∇ ∇ ∇ ∇ ∇

gavin simpson - @gdsimpson3

## Locating roots via change in sign

(i)

① Input:  $7n^5 + 9n^4 - 3n^2 + 4n + 2$  | input rules  
split through ("+" "-" "-") |  $\rightarrow$  Ascending powers  
 $\rightarrow$  ["7n^5" .....]  $\rightarrow$  [A, Exponent]  $\rightarrow$  missing powers allowed  
 $\rightarrow$   $7n^5 \rightarrow 7, 5 \rightarrow [7, 5]$   
 $15$  no  $n \rightarrow [2, 0]$   
 $15$  no  $n \rightarrow [7, 1]$   
 $\rightarrow [[7, 5], [9, 4], [-3, 2], [4, 1], [2, 0]]$   
missing powers  $\rightarrow$  won't be needed

② creating  $S(n)$

$$S(n) = (7 * (n ** 5)) + (9 * (n ** 4)) \dots$$

Loop & sum to variable

③ find min & maxes to check if there are roots  $\frac{1}{2}$

why?: if  $S(n)$  has no roots, program will crash, find min  
& max & see if it changes sign indicating roots

③.1  $\frac{d^n y}{d n^n} \rightarrow [7, 5] \rightarrow [7 * (5-1), 5-1]$  | loop & create  
according to way  
if 0, remove  
not needed  $\leftarrow \int \rightarrow [7, 5] \rightarrow [7 / (5+1), 5+1]$

③.2 technically only need stationary points, nature doesn't really matter?

Scenario 1  $\rightarrow$  1 stationary point, nature: min  $\rightarrow$  condition for root  
it must be  $\ominus$

Scenario 2  $\rightarrow$  8 stationary points  $\rightarrow$  to know root or not,  
find  $y$  at any two & see if  
(crosses via sign change)

(3)

find min/max to check if there are roots  $^{2/2}$

Scenario 3  $\Rightarrow$  No stationary points  $\Rightarrow$  what means: straight line

(3.2.1)

programmatically analyse if function has roots via stationary point count:

cases: 0, 1, n

0  $\Rightarrow$  straight line

1  $\Rightarrow$  check position & two trailing edges

n  $\Rightarrow$  check all roots & pass if diff sign's found

(3.3)

finding stationary points

roots of  $g'(x)$ , recursion? !potential!

(3.1.2)

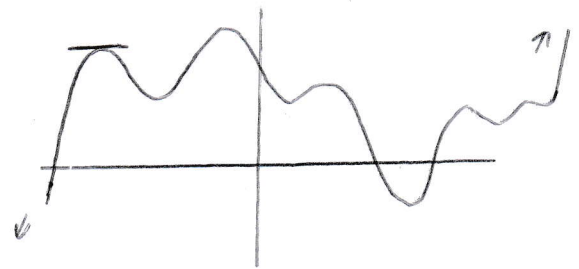
Derivative logic

$$[7, 5] \Rightarrow [7 * 5, \overset{5-1}{\cancel{5+1}}]$$

$$[2, 0] \Rightarrow [2 * 0, 0 - 1] \Rightarrow \text{must let this pass}$$

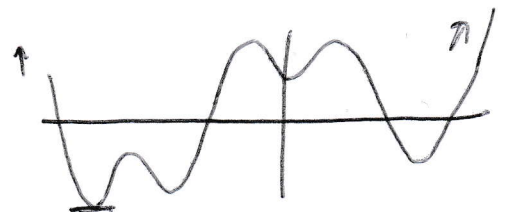
(4) finding Roots

1  $\Rightarrow$  find earliest stationary point and keep going backwards till theres a change in sign



2  $\Rightarrow$  then switch direction & go in smaller till next change

3  $\Rightarrow$  carry on till 0 or certain n.o. of d.p.



(4.1)

for n stationary points  $\Rightarrow$  option 1  $\Rightarrow$  go left to right & look for sign changes

start with first stationary point and go back, conduct Rootloc.

then go forwards till sign change and Rootloc

4.2 finding 2 stationary points with root between

- Loop through all points & sign change pair

- (1) & (2)  $\rightarrow$  no sign change

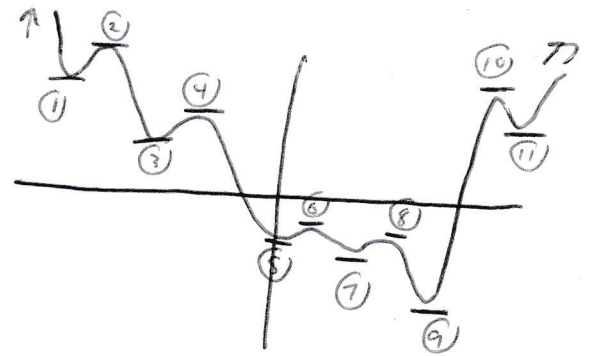
- (1) & (3)  $\rightarrow$  no

- (1) & (4)  $\rightarrow$  no

- (1) & (5)  $\rightarrow$  yes

- (1) & (2)  $\rightarrow$  no - (3) & (4)  $\rightarrow$  no

- (2) & (3)  $\rightarrow$  no - (4) & (5)  $\rightarrow$  yes



4.3 first root

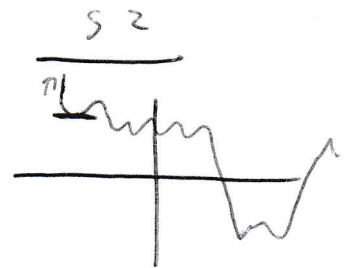
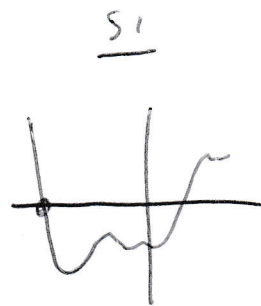
- set nature of point.

is min & above x axis,

then search ~~for~~ right

is max & below x axis,  
look right

similarly go left else



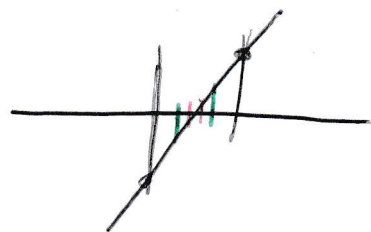
4) Root location

go from A to B in Big intervals,

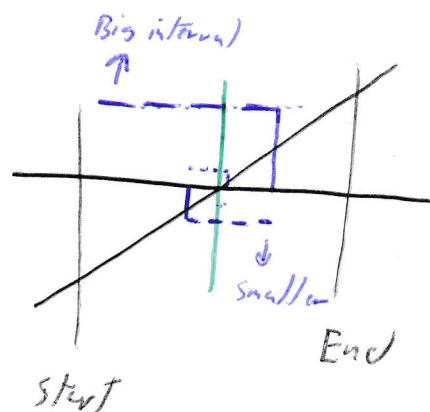
once sign changes, go back

in smaller intervals

Repeat till u find root to certain D.p



iii  
true = positive  
False = Negative



Direction = ~~+~~ \* 1 (-1) \*\* (iteration count)

↳ swap directions every iteration  
used in for loop range stops  
(direction \* interval)

concept : start  $\rightarrow$  sign change  
new start  
 $\downarrow$   
Sign change  $\leftarrow$  other direction  
start  $\rightarrow$  change...

↓ interval shortens  
↓ 2 direction swaps  
+ 1 iteration count

## Pseudocode

```
Start = ....
End = ....
Start Sign = true
End Sign = false
```

for Root in range(s, e, interval)  
# going from s to e in  
interval

End Sign = false

sign change  
either start works

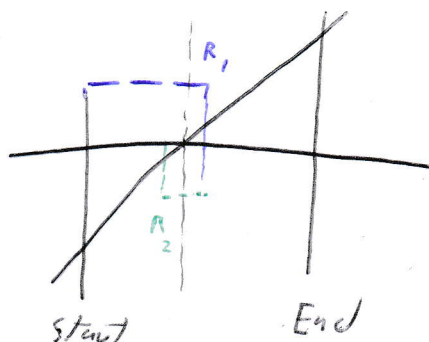
if (Root Sign != start sign) or (Root Sign == End sign)

~~# Rust is new stat~~

~~Start = Root~~

~~Direct~~ iteration count += 1  $\Rightarrow$  changes interval & direction

# next loop must go back from root to start  
# loop after must go from next to root



Start  $\rightarrow$  end  
 ~~$R_1 \rightarrow$~~  start  
 $R_2 \rightarrow R_1$

swap start & end  
 $R_n$  is new start



④ Root locating - Pseudocode

Start = ....

End = ....

Start Sign = ....

End Sign = ...

Interval =  $2 * (-1 * \text{Iteration count})$

direction =  $(-1) * (\text{iteration count})$

iteration count = 0

D.P Accuracy = ... # when to stop

True = Positive  
False = Negative

while D.P Accuracy not met:

← steps when  $f(n)=0$  or

[for Root in Range (start, end, interval \* direction):

if (Root Sign != Start Sign):

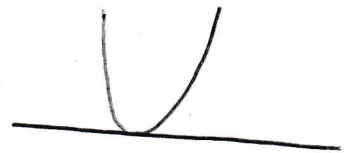
End = start

start = Root

interval = +1

Limitation: this mechanism would work in most cases except roots that touch

workaround: A touching root is a stationary point... Hence all stationary points could just be checked



Python limitation: Range(), increment steps cannot be type int

Custom loop →

condition = .....

if direction > 0:

condition = ....

else

change condition

Root = start  
while Root < end:  
    Root += interval

doesn't show condition

C1 = start < end

C2 = start > end

④ Custom loop

slow : ① <sup>③</sup> start  $\rightarrow$  <sup>④</sup> end : Pass Root @ R1  
           ② <sup>⑤</sup> start  $\leftarrow$  <sup>⑥</sup> R1 = R1  $\rightarrow$  start  
           ③ <sup>⑦</sup> R2  $\rightarrow$  <sup>⑧</sup> R1

conditions : ① Root = start  
                   while Root < End .... Root ++

\* Var Reassigns:

- ① Root = start  
End = End
- ② Root = R1  
End = start  
direction = Back
- ③ Root = R2  
End = R1
- ② Root = R1  
~~start = End~~ End = start  
while Root > End .... Root --
- ③ Root = R2  
End = R1  
while Root < End .... Root ++

we can have toggle for directions, true =  $\rightarrow$ , false =  $\leftarrow$

~~while True~~

start = start Param  
 End = End Param  
 interval = 2 \*\* (-1 \* iteration(count))  
 direction = (-1) \*\* (iteration(count))  
 iteration(count) = 0

- \* ① start = start  
     Root = start  
     End = End  
     direction =  $\rightarrow$
- ② Root = R1  
     End = start  
     start = Root  
     direction =  $\leftarrow$
- ③ Root = R2  
     End = start (R1)  
     start = Root

Overall Slow

$f(n)$



$\frac{dy}{dx}$



Stationary points



check if any  
point is a root



Look for sign

changes between  
Roots & create  
pairs



find <sup>root</sup> ~~convergence~~  
between pairs  
via convergence



then look at Edge  
Roots



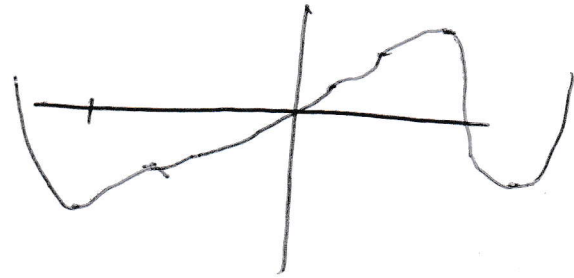
## Locating Roots VIA change in sign

(8)

finding stationary point pairs

~~[9, 8, 4]~~

[9, 7, 5, 3, -2, -4]  
↓  $s(7)=+$  ↓  $s(3)=+$  ↓  $s(-4)=-$   
 $s(9)=-$   $s(5)=+$   $s(-2)=-$



Best to take from left

[-4, -2, 3, 5, 7, 9]  
- + + + -

for Point in Range ( )

if not  $s_n(\text{point}) \text{ sign} == s_n(\text{Next point}) \text{ sign}$ :  
Root between them

make sure to exclude stationary roots from pair finding

finding stationary points

Scenario 1: 4 deg polynomial

$$f(x) = x^4 \dots \dots$$

$$f'(x) = x^3$$

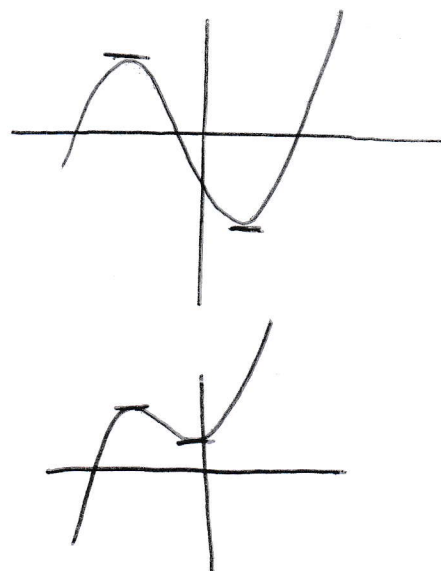
Root finder ( $f'(x)$ )

↳  $f''(x)$

Root finder ( $f''(x)$ )

↳ ...

cubic



Theoretically if Root finder returns true Roots, we don't need to worry about its long recursion

if  $f'(x)$  is 2nd degree, we can use the quadratic formula for the Roots which will give us the 2 stationary points of a cubic. This can be the end of recursion

Input: 3rd degree

Stat point will jump @ deg 2 & (handle) it as Quadratic

Root finder function

param:  $f(x)$

derivative  $\Rightarrow f'(x)$

stationary point finder  $\Rightarrow [[\alpha, \beta], [\gamma, \delta]]$

$\downarrow$   
pairs

2 edge roots

signchange func  $(\alpha, \beta) \rightarrow \text{Roots}[]$

edge root  $(\alpha, \text{mins}) \rightarrow \text{Roots}[]$

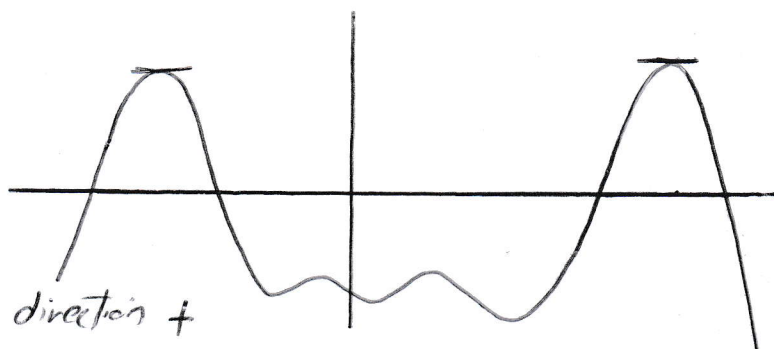
Return Roots

Edge Roots

Stationary Point [0]

Stationary Point [-1]

Pairs: direction -  
↑

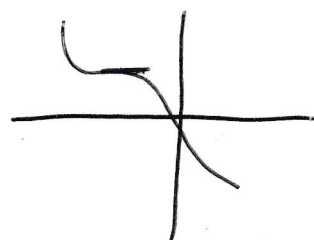
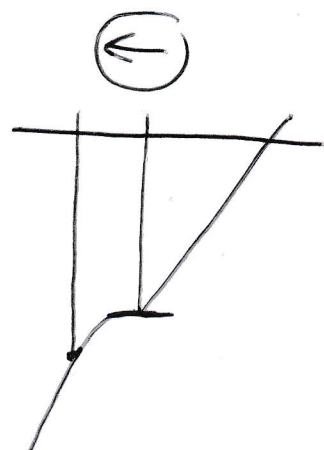
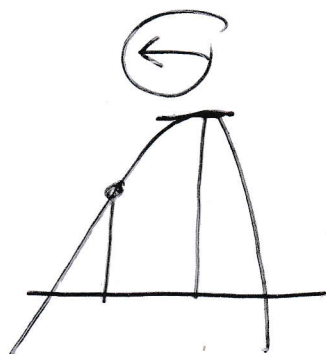
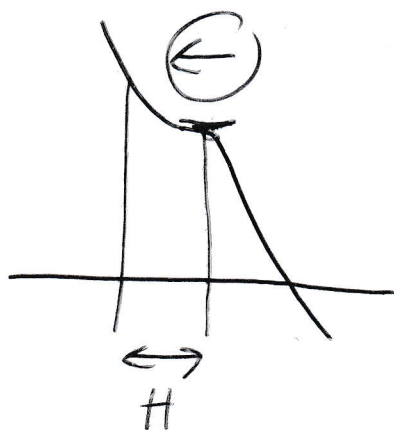


$[SP[0], -\text{inf}]$ ,  $[SP[-1], +\text{inf}]$

Checks: Is ~~SP[0]~~ max  $f > 0$ ,  $\Rightarrow$  yes Root

min  $f < 0 \Rightarrow$  yes Root

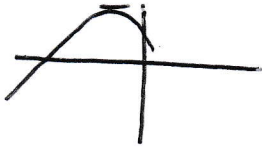
dealing with inflection  $\rightarrow$  look either side



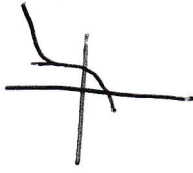
## Edge Roots 2

### Scenarios

(L) (u) (m)



(L) (u) (min)



(L) (d) (min)



(L) (d) (max)



with inflections



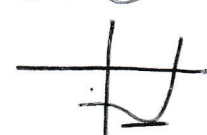
(R) (u) (max)



(R) (u) (min)



(R) (d) (min)



(R) (d) (max)



conditioning  $\Rightarrow$  (L): u & m  $\Rightarrow$  look left

(L): u & min  $\Rightarrow$  ignore

(L): d & max  $\Rightarrow$  ignore

(L): d & min  $\Rightarrow$  look left

(R): u & max  $\Rightarrow$  look right

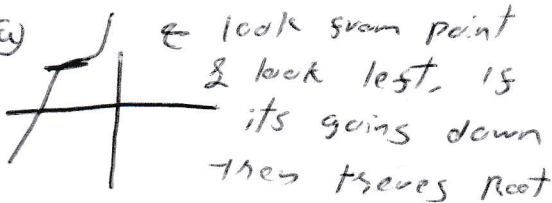
(R): u & min  $\Rightarrow$  ignore

(R): d & max  $\Rightarrow$  ignore

(R): d & min  $\Rightarrow$  look right

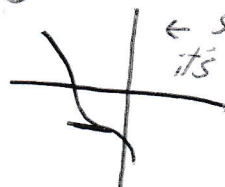
with inflection points  $\Rightarrow$  we want know if it's a max or min

(L) (u)



$\leftarrow$  look from point & look left, if its going down then there's root

(L) (d)



$\leftarrow$  same, since its (d) its closer to axis

(R) (u)



classification of nature could take inflection & call max/min dependent on direction its ~~go~~ from - add 100 in direction & see if going up or down