In-class assignment # 3

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Instructions: We're going to use the functions you wrote for the Bisection and Newton's method, as well as some of the additional root finding methods in the SciPy optimize package (specifically, the methods for scalar functions).

Your goal is straightforward: try to come up with multiple functions f(x) that have one or more roots in an interval [a, b] and which break one or more of the following methods: the Bisection Method, Newton's Method, the Secant Method (which is Newton's method with a numerically-computed derivative), and Brent's Method. In this case, "break" simply means to force the method to not find an existing root in that interval.

Experiment with several functions, intervals [a,b], and all of the methods described above. What are the characteristics of functions or chosen intervals [a,b] that tend to break root-finding algorithms? Are some algorithms more robust than others to choice of function and/or interval? Are any of these algorithms effectively unbreakable? Make some notes in ANSWERS.md, and we'll also discuss it in class.

What to turn in: Turn in ANSWERS.md, any source code you wrote, any plots you created (and the scripts you used to create them). Do not turn in object files or executables!