

Division using Newton Raphson method

Suppose that $f \in C^2[a, b]$. but $p_0 \in [a, b]$ be an approximation to p such that $f'(p_0) \neq 0$ and $|p - p_0|$ is small .

Consider the first Taylor Polynomial for $f(x)$ expanded about p_0 and evaluated at $x = p$

$$f(p) = f(p_0) + (p - p_0) f'(p_0) + \frac{(p - p_0)^2}{2} f''(\xi(p))$$

Since $f(p) = 0$, This equation gives

$$f(p_0) + (p - p_0) f'(p_0) + \frac{(p - p_0)^2}{2} f''(\xi(p)) = 0$$

Newton Raphson method is derived by assuming that since $|p - p_0|$ is small , the term involving $(p - p_0)^2$ is much smaller.

so
$$f(p_0) + (p - p_0) f'(p_0) = 0$$

Solving for p gives

$$p = p_0 - \frac{f(p_0)}{f'(p_0)}$$

This sets the stage for Newton's method which starts with an initial approximation p_0 and generates the sequence $\{p_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ by

$$p_n = p_{n-1} - \frac{f(p_{n-1})}{f'(p_{n-1})} \quad \forall n \geq 1$$

Newton raphson method for division

We have to compute

$$z = \frac{z}{d}$$

→ first find $\frac{1}{d}$ and then multiply this with z

* The method we use for computing $1/d$ is based on Newton-Raphson iteration to determine the root of $f(x)=0$

$$x_{i+1} = x_i - \frac{f(x_i)}{f'(x_i)}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x} - d$$

$$f'(x) = -\frac{1}{x^2}$$

$$\therefore x_{i+1} = x_i - \frac{\frac{1}{x_i} - d}{-\frac{1}{x_i^2}}$$

$$x_{i+1} = x_i (2 - x_i d)$$

Computationally, two multiplications and one subtraction is required for each iteration.

Error analysis:

Let $\delta_i = \frac{1}{d} - x_i$ be the error at the i^{th} iteration. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{i+1} &= \frac{1}{d} - x_{i+1} = \frac{1}{d} - x_i (2 - x_i d) \\ &= \frac{1}{d} - 2x_i + x_i^2 d \\ &= d \left(\frac{1}{d} - x_i \right)^2 \\ &= d (\delta_i)^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\delta_{i+1} = d (\delta_i)^2$$

Since $d < 1$ we have $\delta_{i+1} < (\delta_i)^2$ Proving quadratic Convergence.

Choosing the initial estimate

if the initial value x_0 is chosen such that $0 < x_0 < \frac{2}{d}$, leading $|\delta_0| < \frac{1}{d}$, convergence is guaranteed.

→ before doing the newton raphson method normalize the d to make sure that $d \in \left[\frac{1}{2}, 1 \right)$ this make the Convergence faster.

Table based methods for initial approximation of x_0 in Newton Raphson method

A table-based method improves the initial approximation x_0 for $1/d$ by using pre-computed values stored in lookup table.

Step 1:: Normalize the d to the range $[0.5, 1)$

Step 2:: Use the MSB's of d to index the table

→ This means that we divide the range $[0.5, 1)$ into discrete intervals.

→ if we take 6 bits of d we create 64-entry table ($2^6 = 64$)

Step 3:: Store pre-computed values of $1/d$ for each interval, store a pre-computed approximation of $1/d$

Step 4:: Use the table value for initial x_0

Step 5:: At the end apply the correction to the result.

Generating look up table

Pre-compute table for d in $[0.5, 1)$ using 6-bit indexing

→ 6 bit indexing $\Rightarrow 2^6 = 64$ values

→ divide $[\frac{1}{2}, 1)$ into 64 parts

→ Using linear approximation find the estimate of $1/d$ using the below formula

$$x_0 = 4(\sqrt{3} - 1) - 2d$$

→ This formula I found in Computer Arithmetic Algorithms and Hardware Designs by Behrooz Parhami

- Use x_0 as the initial estimate for the iteration
- Usually within 2-3 iterations are sufficient.