

---

# NEWTON RAPHSON METHOD

---

Dr. M. Mesbahuddin Sarker  
IIT,JU

## Newton-Raphson Method

Let  $x_0$  be an approximate root of the equation  $f(x) = 0$

and

Let  $x = x_0 + h$  be an exact root so that  $f(x_0 + h) = 0$ , where  $h$  being a small quantity.

Now expanding  $f(x_0 + h)$  by Taylor's series, we get –

$$f(x_0 + h) = f(x_0) + hf'(x_0) + \frac{h^2}{2!} f''(x_0) + \dots$$

$$\therefore f(x_0) + hf'(x_0) + \frac{h^2}{2!} f''(x_0) = 0 \quad \because x_0 + h = 0$$

Since  $h$  is very small, neglecting the second and higher order terms of  $h$ , we obtain an approximate value of  $h$  say  $h_1$  from the above equation.

$$\therefore f(x_0) + h_1 f'(x_0) = 0 \Rightarrow h_1 = -\frac{f(x_0)}{f'(x_0)} \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

A better approximation than  $x_0$  is therefore may lie at  $x_1$  where

$$x_1 = x_0 + h_1$$

$$\therefore x_1 = x_0 - \frac{f(x_0)}{f'(x_0)} \dots\dots\dots \text{from (1)}$$

Now using  $x_1$  in the place of  $x_0$  and  $x_2$  in the place of  $x_1$  we get

Now replace  $x_1$  for  $x_0$   
and  $x_2$  for  $x_1$

$$x_2 = x_1 - \frac{f(x_1)}{f'(x_1)}, \text{ which is little better than before e.g. } x_1.$$

Similarly

$$x_3 = x_2 - \frac{f(x_2)}{f'(x_2)}, \text{ which is little better than } x_2.$$

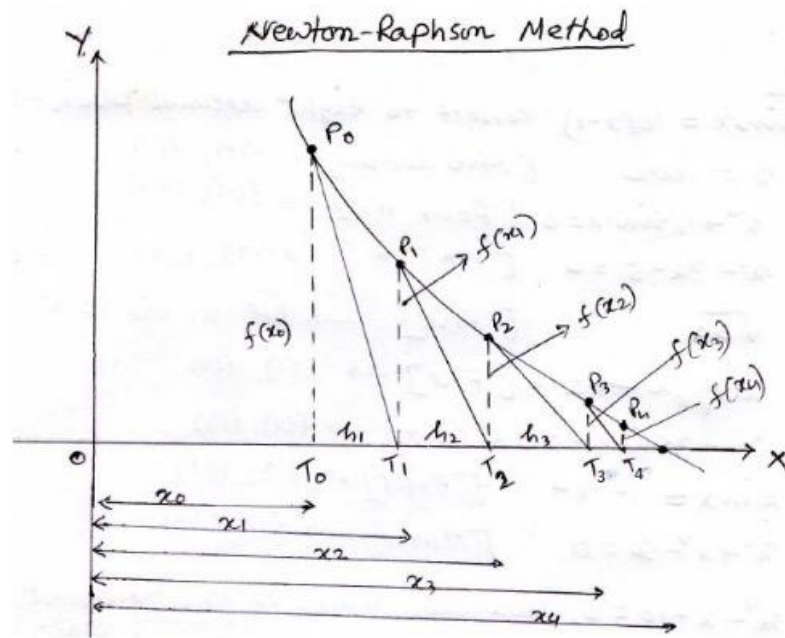
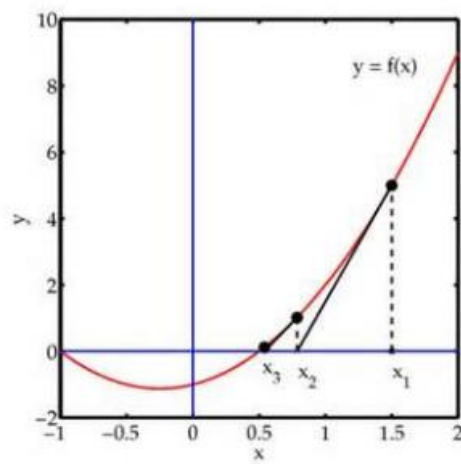
.....  
.....

Continuing like this, we iterate this process until

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}, \text{ where } n = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\dots\dots$$

This method of successive approximation is called the Newton-Raphson Method.

The method can be used for both algebraic and transcendental equations and works for complex equation with complex coefficients.



Ex: Find the root of  $2x^3 - 3x - 6 = 0$  by NR method correct to five decimal places.

Sol:

$$\text{Let } f(x) = 2x^3 - 3x - 6$$

$$f'(x) = 6x^2 - 3$$

$$\text{here, } f(1) = -7 < 0$$

$$f(2) = 4 > 0$$

So, at least one root lies between 1 and 2, let  $x_0 = 1.5$

By NR method, we get,

$$\begin{aligned} x_{n+1} &= x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)} \\ &= x_n - \frac{2x_n^3 - 3x_n - 6}{6x_n^2 - 3} \\ &= \frac{x_n(6x_n^2 - 3) - (2x_n^3 - 3x_n - 6)}{6x_n^2 - 3} \\ &= \frac{6x_n^3 - 3x_n - 2x_n^3 + 3x_n + 6}{6x_n^2 - 3} \\ &= \frac{4x_n^3 + 6}{6x_n^2 - 3} \end{aligned}$$

From (i) putting  $x_0 = 1.5$  we get

$$x_1 = \frac{4(1.5)^3 + 6}{6(1.5)^2 - 3} = 1.8571$$

$$x_2 = \frac{4(1.8571)^3 + 6}{6(1.8571)^2 - 3} = 1.7871$$

$$x_3 = \frac{4(1.7871)^3 + 6}{6(1.7871)^2 - 3} = 1.7838$$

$$x_4 = \frac{4(1.7838)^3 + 6}{6(1.7838)^2 - 3} = 1.7838$$

Hence the required root is 1.7838.

Ex:  $x^3 - 6x + 4 = 0$  Correct to five decimal places by NR method.

Sol:

$$\text{Let } f(x) = x^3 - 6x + 4$$

$$f'(x) = 3x^2 - 6$$

$$\text{here, } f(0) = 4 > 0$$

$$f(1) = -1 < 0$$

So at least one root lies between 0 and 1, let  $x_0 = 0.5$

By NR method we get,

$$\begin{aligned}x_{n+1} &= x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)} \\&= x_n - \frac{x_n^3 - 6x_n + 4}{3x_n^2 - 6} \\&= \frac{x_n(3x_n^2 - 6) - (x_n^3 - 6x_n + 4)}{3x_n^2 - 6} \\&= \frac{3x_n^3 - 6x_n - x_n^3 + 6x_n - 4}{3x_n^2 - 6} \\&= \frac{2x_n^3 - 4}{3x_n^2 - 6} \quad \dots(i)\end{aligned}$$

Taking  $x_0 = 0.5$  the relation (i) gives

$$x_1 = \frac{2(0.5)^3 - 4}{3(0.5)^2 - 6} = \frac{2(0.125) - 4}{3(0.25) - 6} = \frac{0.25 - 4}{0.75 - 6} = \frac{-3.75}{-5.25} = 0.71428$$

$$x_2 = \frac{2(0.71428)^3 - 4}{3(0.71428)^2 - 6} = \frac{2(0.3644) - 4}{3(0.5099) - 6} = \frac{0.7288 - 4}{1.5297 - 6} = \frac{-3.2712}{-4.4703} = 0.73189$$

$$x_3 = \frac{2(0.73189)^3 - 4}{3(0.73189)^2 - 6} = \frac{2(0.3923) - 4}{3(0.5357) - 6} = \frac{0.7846 - 4}{1.6071 - 6} = \frac{-3.2154}{-4.3929} = 0.73205$$

$$x_4 = \frac{2(0.73205)^3 - 4}{3(0.73205)^2 - 6} = \frac{2(0.3926) - 4}{3(0.5360) - 6} = \frac{0.7852 - 4}{1.6080 - 6} = \frac{-3.2148}{-4.3920} = 0.73205$$

So the required root is 0.73205.

Ex:  $3x - \cos(x) - 1 = 0$  by NR method correct to six decimal places.

Sol:

$$\text{Let } f(x) = 3x - \cos(x) - 1$$

$$f'(x) = 3 + \sin(x)$$

$$\text{Here, } f(0) = -1 - 1 = -2 < 0$$

$$f(1) = 3 - \cos(1) - 1 = 2 - 0.5403 = 1.4597 > 0$$

So one root lies between 0 and 1.

---

**Iteration 1:**

- $x_1 = x_0 - \frac{f(x_0)}{f'(x_0)}$
- $x_1 = 0.5 - \frac{3(0.5) - \cos(0.5) - 1}{3 + \sin(0.5)}$
- $x_1 \approx 0.607097$

**Iteration 2:**

- $x_2 = x_1 - \frac{f(x_1)}{f'(x_1)}$
- $x_2 \approx 0.607102$

**Iteration 3:**

- $x_3 = x_2 - \frac{f(x_2)}{f'(x_2)}$
- $x_3 \approx 0.607102$

So the answer is 0.607102



Ex: Find the root of  $\cos x - xe^x = 0$  by NR.

Sol:

$$\text{Let } f(x) = \cos x - xe^x$$

$$f'(x) = -\sin x - e^x - xe^x$$

$$f(0) = 1 > 0$$

$$f(1) = -2.17798 < 0$$

By NR method we get,

$$\begin{aligned}x_{n+1} &= x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)} \\&= x_n - \frac{\cos x_n - x_n e^{x_n}}{-\sin x_n - e^{x_n} - x_n e^{x_n}} \\&= \frac{-x_n \sin x_n - x_n e^{x_n} - x_n^2 e^{x_n} - \cos x_n + x_n e^{x_n}}{-\sin x_n - e^{x_n} - x_n e^{x_n}} \\&= \frac{-x_n^2 e^{x_n} - x_n \sin x_n - \cos x_n}{-\sin x_n - e^{x_n} - x_n e^{x_n}} \\&= \frac{x_n^2 e^{x_n} + x_n \sin x_n + \cos x_n}{\sin x_n + e^{x_n} + x_n e^{x_n}} \quad (1)\end{aligned}$$

Taking  $x_0 = 0.5$  in eqn. (1),

$$x_1 = \frac{(0.5)^2 e^{0.5} + 0.5 \sin 0.5 + \cos 0.5}{\sin 0.5 + e^{0.5} + 0.5 e^{0.5}} = 0.51803$$

$$x_2 = \frac{(0.51803)^2 e^{0.51803} + 0.51803 \sin 0.51803 + \cos 0.51803}{\sin 0.51803 + e^{0.51803} + 0.51803 e^{0.51803}} = 0.51776$$

$$x_3 = \frac{(0.51776)^2 e^{0.51776} + 0.51776 \sin 0.51776 + \cos 0.51776}{\sin 0.51776 + e^{0.51776} + 0.51776 e^{0.51776}} \approx 0.51776$$

So the required root is 0.51776.

Ex:  $x \log_{10} x - 1.2 = 0$  [Five decimal  $\implies f(2), f(3)$ ]

Let:

$$f(x) = x \log_{10} x - 1.2$$

$$f'(x) = \log_{10} x + x \cdot \frac{1}{x \ln 10} = \log_{10} x + \frac{1}{\ln 10}$$

$$f(2) = 2 \log_{10} 2 - 1.2 = 2(0.3010) - 1.2 = 0.6020 - 1.2 = -0.5979 < 0$$

$$f(3) = 3 \log_{10} 3 - 1.2 = 3(0.4771) - 1.2 = 1.4313 - 1.2 = 0.2313 > 0$$

By NR method:

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}$$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{x_n \log_{10} x_n - 1.2}{\log_{10} x_n + \frac{1}{\ln 10}}$$

By putting  $x_0 = 2.5$

$$x_1 = 2.5 - \frac{2.5 \log_{10} 2.5 - 1.2}{\log_{10} 2.5 + \frac{1}{\ln 10}} = 2.7465$$

$$x_2 = 2.7465 - \frac{2.7465 \log_{10} 2.7465 - 1.2}{\log_{10} 2.7465 + \frac{1}{\ln 10}} = 2.7406$$

$$x_3 = 2.7406 - \frac{2.7406 \log_{10} 2.7406 - 1.2}{\log_{10} 2.7406 + \frac{1}{\ln 10}} = 2.7406$$

So the one root is 2.7406.