

Bisection - Good for More than Root Finding

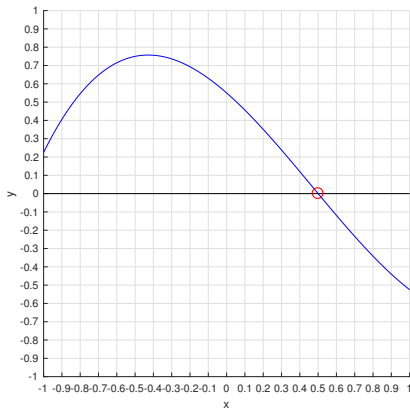
The 'Golden Ratio' is a mathematical constant given by the expression $\varphi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$. Much like π or e , φ is an irrational number that crops up in all kinds of unexpected places in science and mathematics.

- (a) Explain how one might use the Bisection method to approximate φ .
- (b) Based on your answer to (a), estimate the number of iterations needed to approximate φ to within 10^{-1} .
- (c) Carry out 3 iterations of bisection to estimate φ . How close did you get?

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Graphical Root Finding

Consider the function plotted below:



Draw a detailed figure to find x_5 using secant method. Based on your figure, can you give a guess as to what the value of the root is?

