ENGG1003 - Monday Week 8

Solving nonlinear algebraic equations

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Lecture overview

1. Solving nonlinear algebraic equations pp. 175-176
   - general setting
   - problem: fluid level in measuring cup

2. Bisection method §7.4

3. Secant method §7.3
   - Newton's method

4. Extensions
   - bisection & secant methods: re-write as functions
   - timing code in Python
   - speed comparisons: bisection vs. secant

1) Solving nonlinear algebraic equations

- *linear* equations: $ax + b = 0$
  - solution $x = -b/a$

- *nonlinear* equations
  - quadratic $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$: solution $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$
  - cubic and quartic (orders 3 and 4): exact solutions exist but are *very* complicated
  - quintic (order 5) equations: exact solutions *do not exist* in general, proving that needs *serious* mathematics

- most equations in engineering applications have no exact “pen and paper” solutions!

Numerical solutions to equations

"Far better an approximate answer to the right question...
than an exact answer to the wrong question"
—John Tukey

General problem: find x satisfying

$$f(x) = 0$$

where $f(x)$ is a formula involving x

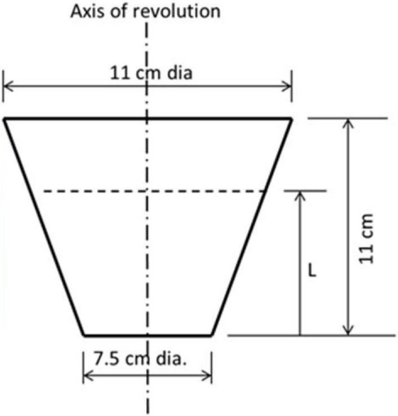
Example

$$f(x) = e^{-x}\sin(x) - \cos(x)$$

has solution $x = 7.85359326$ because

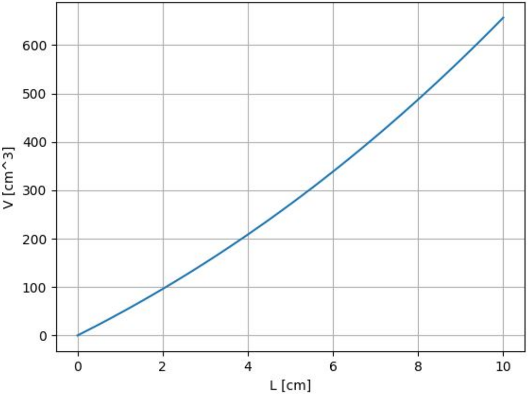
$$e^{-7.85359326}\sin(7.85359326) - \cos(7.85359326) = 0.000$$

Fluid level in truncated cone



- applications: water in dam, coal in conical hopper

Fluid level

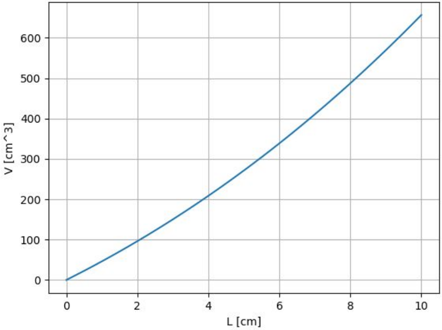


- volume V depends on depth L as follows:

$$V = 0.0268L^3 + 1.884L^2 + 44.15L$$

  - V (in millilitres, mL), L (in cm)

Fluid level



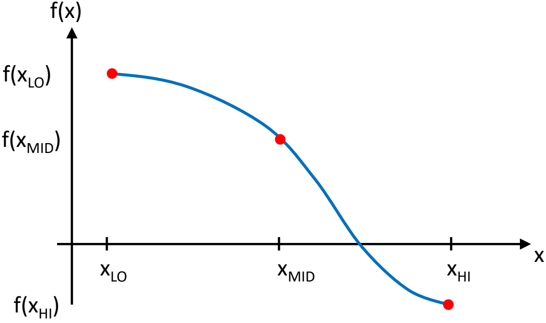
Q: depth L when cup holds 500 mL of water?

- need to solve equation

$$500 = 0.0268L^3 + 1.884L^2 + 44.15L$$

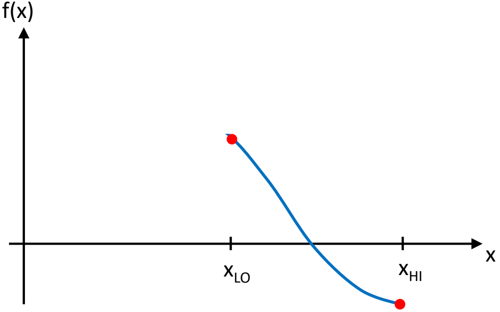
$$f(L) = 0.0268L^3 + 1.884L^2 + 44.15L - 500 = 0$$

2) Bisection method



- continuous function $f(x)$ on interval $[x_{\mathrm{LO}}, x_{\mathrm{HI}}]$, where value of f *changes sign* from x_{LO} to x_{HI}
- divide interval in two, $f(x) = 0$ in one subinterval
- select subinterval where sign of f changes & repeat

Bisection method

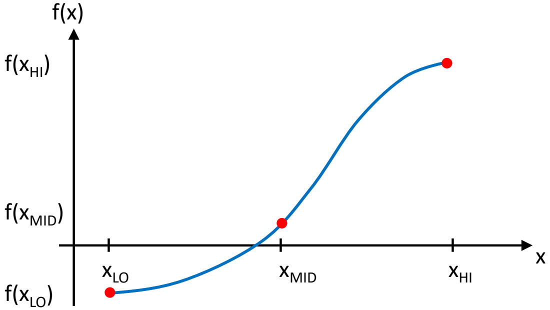


$$f(x_{\mathrm{MID}}) \times f(x_{\mathrm{LO}}) > 0$$

... select *upper subinterval* by updating $x_{\mathrm{LO}} = x_{\mathrm{MID}}$

... and repeat

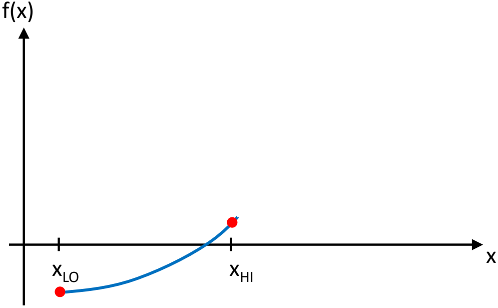
Bisection method



$$f(x_{\mathrm{MID}}) \times f(x_{\mathrm{LO}}) < 0$$

... select *lower subinterval* by updating $x_{\mathrm{HI}} = x_{\mathrm{MID}}$

Bisection method



... and repeat, with new midpoint

$$x_{\text{MID}} = (x_{\text{LO}} + x_{\text{HI}})/2$$

- each iteration halves the width of interval $[x_{\text{LO}}, x_{\text{HI}}]$
- continue until $f(x_{\text{MID}}) < \text{tolerance}$, eg: 10^{-6}

Bisection method: Python code

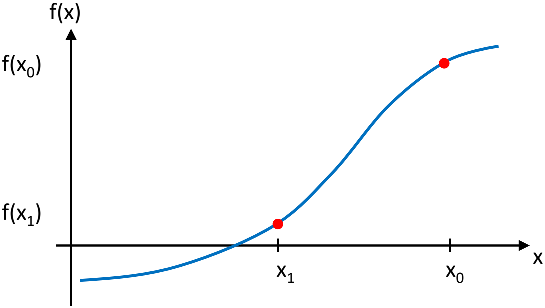
bisection.py

```
def f(L):
    return 0.0268*L**3 + 1.884*L**2 + 44.15*L - 500

eps = 1e-6
x_LO = 6
x_HI = 10

x_MID = (x_LO + x_HI)/2
itCnt = 0
while abs(f(x_MID)) > eps:
    if f(x_MID)*f(x_LO) > 0:
        x_LO = x_MID
    else:
        x_HI = x_MID
    x_MID = (x_LO + x_HI)/2
    itCnt += 1

print('Solution: {}'.format(x_MID))
print('Number of iterations: {}'.format(itCnt))
print('Check: f({:.8f}) = {:.8f}'.format(x_MID, f(x_MID)))
```

Bisection method: simulation results

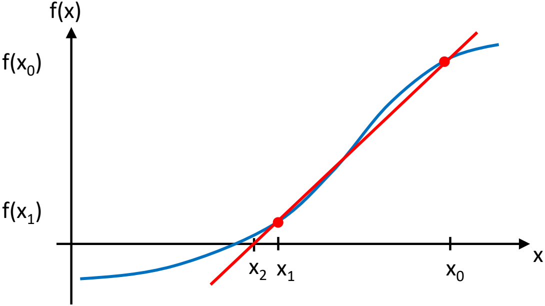
- code commentary
- simulation results
- live demo

3) Secant method



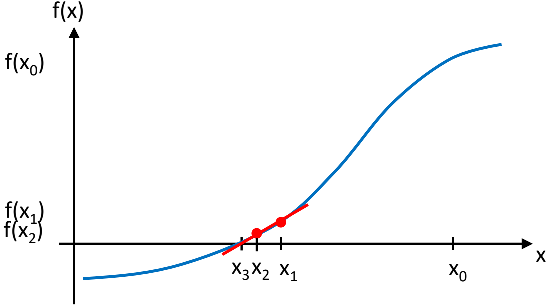
- start with two points $(x_0, f(x_0))$ and $(x_1, f(x_1))$
  - red dots
  - $f(x_0)$ and $f(x_1)$ do *not* necessarily have opposite signs

Secant method



- *secant* is line through $(x_0, f(x_0))$ and $(x_1, f(x_1))$
- define x_2 as point where secant intersects x-axis

Secant method



... and repeat, with x_3 defined as point where secant through $(x_1, f(x_1))$ and $(x_2, f(x_2))$ intersects x-axis

Secant method equations

Equation of secant connecting $(x_0, f(x_0))$ & $(x_1, f(x_1))$:

$$y = \frac{f(x_1) - f(x_0)}{x_1 - x_0} \cdot (x - x_1) + f(x_1)$$

Solving for intersection of secant with x-axis:

$$x_2 = x_1 - f(x_1) \cdot \frac{x_1 - x_0}{f(x_1) - f(x_0)}$$

Secant method equations

Equation of secant connecting $(x_0, f(x_0))$ & $(x_1, f(x_1))$:

$$y = \frac{f(x_1) - f(x_0)}{x_1 - x_0} \cdot (x - x_1) + f(x_1)$$

Solving for intersection of secant with x-axis:

$$x_2 = x_1 - f(x_1) \cdot \frac{x_1 - x_0}{f(x_1) - f(x_0)}$$

$$x_3 = x_2 - f(x_2) \cdot \frac{x_2 - x_1}{f(x_2) - f(x_1)}$$

$$x_4 = x_3 - f(x_3) \cdot \frac{x_3 - x_2}{f(x_3) - f(x_2)}$$

$$\vdots$$

Secant method: Python code

secant.py

```python
def f(L):
    return  0.0268*L**3 + 1.884*L**2 + 44.15*L - 500

eps = 1e-6
x0 = 6
x1 = 10
itCnt = 0        # iteration counter
while abs(f(x1)) > eps:
    # line (=secant) through (x0,f(x)) and (x1,f(x1)) intersects
    # horizontal axis at (x,0)
    x = x1 - f(x1)*((x1 - x0)/(f(x1) - f(x0)))
    x0 = x1
    x1 = x
    itCnt += 1

print('Solution: {}'.format(x))
print('Number of iterations: {}'.format(itCnt))
print('Check: f({:.8f}) = {:.8f}'.format(x,f(x)))
```

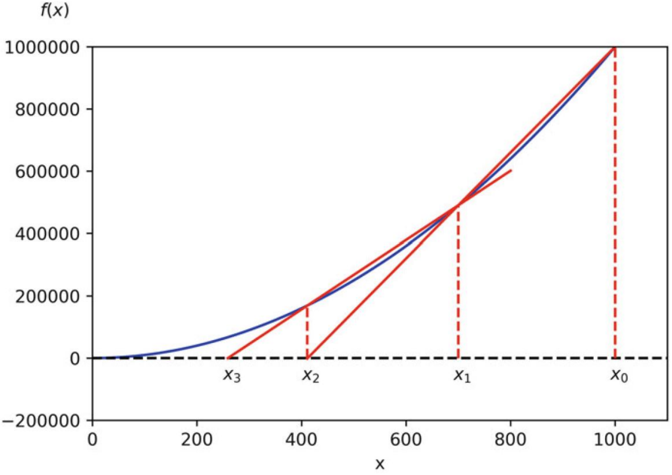
Secant method: simulation results

- code commentary
- simulation results
- live demo

Newton's method

- Newton's method is *really* popular
- aka Newton–Raphson method
- discussion of derivatives, and how they're needed in Newton's method
- we won't consider Newton's method in this course, as can't assume knowledge of calculus
- secant as approximation to Newton's method

Newton's method



4) Extensions

bisection_fn.py

```python
def f(L):
    return L**3 + 70.3*L**2 + 1647.39*L - 18656.72

def my_bisection(f, x_LO, x_HI, tol):
    x_MID = (x_LO + x_HI) / 2
    itCnt = 0
    while abs(f(x_MID)) > tol:
        if f(x_MID) * f(x_LO) > 0:
            x_LO = x_MID
        else:
            x_HI = x_MID
        x_MID = (x_LO + x_HI) / 2
        itCnt += 1
    return x_MID, itCnt

x, numIt = my_bisection(f, 6, 10, 1e-6)

print('Solution: {}'.format(x))
print('Number of iterations: {}'.format(numIt))
print('Check: f({:.8f}) = {:.8f}'.format(x,f(x)))
```

Bisection method as a function

- code commentary
- simulation results
- live demo

Secant method as a function

secant_fn.py

```
def f(L):
    return L**3 + 70.3*L**2 + 1647.39*L - 18656.72

def my_secant(f, x0, x1, tol):
    itCnt = 0
    while abs(f(x1)) > tol:
        x = x1 - f(x1) * ((x1 - x0) / (f(x1) - f(x0)))
        x0 = x1
        x1 = x
        itCnt += 1
    return x1, itCnt

x, numIt = my_secant(f, 6, 10, 1e-6)

print('Solution: {}'.format(x))
print('Number of iterations: {}'.format(numIt))
print('Check: f({:.8f}) = {:.8f}'.format(x,f(x)))
```

Secant method as a function

- code commentary
- simulation results
- live demo

Timing code in Python

- often useful to measure time taken to perform calculations; easy in Python!
- start by importing `time` module:

```
import time
```

- function `time.perf_counter()` returns value of a clock
  - `float` value (in seconds)
- elapsed time is *difference* between two successive calls

```
tStart = time.perf_counter()
xB, numItB = my_bisection(f, 6, 10, 1e-6)
tStop = time.perf_counter()
tBisect = tStop - tStart
```

Speed comparison: bisection vs. secant

- live demo `bisectionvssecant.py`
- code in #lecturecode

```
Solution (bisection): 8.15660098195076
Number of iterations (bisection): 26
Check: f(8.15660098) = -0.00000099
Run-time (bisection): 6.166e-05 seconds

Solution (secant): 8.156600987863818
Number of iterations (secant): 4
Check: f(8.15660099) = -0.00000052
Run-time (secant): 1.257e-05 seconds

Secant method is 4.9 times as fast as bisection method
```

Lecture summary

- Solving nonlinear algebraic equations
- Bisection method
- Secant method
  - Newton's method
- Extensions

More information

- Newton's method in textbook §7.2
  - needs *differentiation* from calculus (MATH1110)
  - in particular: need expression for *tangent lines* to function $f(x)$, written as $f'(x)$
- "optimised" versions of bisection and secant methods in textbook §7.3 and §7.4
  - maximise speed of computation by minimising number of function evaluations $f(x)$
- volume of truncated cone based on volumes of solids of revolution (needs calculus, MATH1110) https://bit.ly/3sOsaj4