

CS6210: Homework 2

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1. Consider the fixed point iteration $x_{k+1} = g(x_k)$, $k = \{0, 1, \dots\}$ and let all the assumptions of the Fixed Point Theorem hold. Use a Taylor's series expansion to show that the order of convergence depends on how many of the derivatives of g vanish at $x = x^*$. Use your result to state how fast (at least) a fixed point iteration is expected to converge if $g' = \dots = g^{(r)}(x^*) = 0$, where the integer $r \geq 1$ is given.

Solution:

The definition of the Taylor Series Expansion for a function $g(x)$ around $x = x^*$ is defined as:

$$\begin{aligned} g(x) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{g^{(n)}(x^*)}{n!} (x - x^*)^n \\ g(x_k) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{g^{(n)}(x^*)}{n!} (x_k - x^*)^n \\ x_{k+1} - x^* &= \xi_{k+1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{g^{(n)}(x^*)}{n!} \xi_k^n \end{aligned}$$

If $g'(x^*) = 0$, then

$$\xi_{k+1} = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{g^{(n)}(x^*)}{n!} \xi_k^n = \xi_k^2 \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{g^{(n)}(x^*)}{n!} \xi_k^{n-2}$$

Which shows that $g(x)$ is *minimally* quadratically convergent. Consequently, if $g^{(i)}(x^*) = 0$ for $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, r\}$, then the function has a divergence of *at least* $\mathcal{O}(r)$.

2. Consider the function $g(x) = x^2 + \frac{3}{16}$

(a) This function has two fixed points. What are they?

Solution:

In order to find the *fixed points* of the above function, we need to find the zeros

$$\begin{aligned}
x^2 + \frac{3}{16} &= x \\
x^2 - x + \frac{3}{16} &= 0 \\
\Rightarrow x_1 &= \frac{1}{4} \\
\Rightarrow x_2 &= \frac{3}{4}
\end{aligned}$$

- (b) Consider the fixed point iteration $x_{k+1} = g(x_k)$ for this g . For which of the points you have found in (a) can you be sure that the iterations will converge to that fixed point? Briefly justify your answer. You may assume that the initial guess is sufficiently close to the fixed point.

Solution:

Since the initial guess is said to be *sufficiently close to the fixed point*, we can assume that the given range is the following.

$$\frac{1}{4} \leq x \leq \frac{3}{4}$$

We need to check to make sure the function $f(x)$ is constrained in this domain, such that it won't go "over" or "under" when getting the next x_{k+1} point. To do so

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{16} &\leq x^2 \leq \frac{9}{16} \\
\frac{1}{16} + \frac{3}{16} &\leq x^2 + \frac{3}{16} \leq \frac{9}{16} + \frac{3}{16} \\
\frac{1}{4} &\leq f(x) \leq \frac{3}{4}
\end{aligned}$$

So $f(x)$ is contained in the interval $\frac{1}{4} \leq f(x) \leq \frac{3}{4}$ for choosing an initial x in the same interval. Therefore, we can now check to see if it will converge to each of the fixed points by checking the *slope* of the function

$$\begin{aligned}
g'(x) &= 2x \\
g'\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) &= \frac{1}{2} \\
g'\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) &= \frac{3}{2}
\end{aligned}$$

Since $g'\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) < 1$, it is a decreasing slope and the function will converge for $x_1 = \frac{1}{4}$. Like wise, $g'\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) > 1$ means that it will converge to $x_2 = \frac{3}{4}$, assuming that the initial value is *sufficiently close*.

- (c) For the point or points you found in (b), roughly how many iterations will be required to reduce the convergence error by a factor of 10?

Solution:

Page 49 of the text gives the equation to reduce the convergence error by a factor of 10. The number of iterations is defined as $k = \lceil 1/rate \rceil$, for which $rate = -\log_{10} |g'(x^*)|$. Using this equation, we can get the convergence rate to be

$$g'\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow rate = -\log_{10} |2^{-1}| = \frac{3}{10}$$

So it takes $k = \lceil 1/rate \rceil$ iterations to reduce the error by more than an order of magnitude, resulting in

$$k = \left\lceil \left(\frac{3}{10}\right)^{-1} \right\rceil = 4$$

3. It is known that the order of convergence of the secant method is $p = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \approx 1.618\dots$ and that of Newton's method is $p = 2$. Suppose that evaluating f' costs approximately α times the cost of approximating f . Determine approximately for what values of α Newton's method is more efficient (in terms of number of function evaluations) than the secant method. You may neglect the asymptotic error constants in your calculations. Assume that both methods are starting with initial guesses of a similar quality.

Solution:

4. The function

$$f(x) = (x-1)^2 e^x$$

has a double root at $x = 1$.

- (a) Derive Newton's iteration for this function. Show that the iteration is well-defined so long as $x_k \neq -1$ and that the convergence rate is expected to be similar to that of the bisection method (and certainly not quadratic).

Solution:

In order to build the methods, we need the following

$$f(x) = (x-1)^2 e^x$$

$$f'(x) = (x-1)^2 e^x + 2(x-1)e^x$$

$$f''(x) = (x-1)^2 e^x + 2(x-1)e^x + 2(x-1)^2 e^x + 2e^x$$

with Newton's method being defined as:

$$\begin{aligned}x_{k+1} &= x_k - \frac{f(x_k)}{f'(x_k)} \\&= x_k - \frac{(x_k - 1)^2 e^{x_k}}{2(x_k - 1)e^{x_k} + (x_k - 1)^2 e^{x_k}} \\&= x_k - \frac{x_k - 1}{x_k + 1}\end{aligned}$$

- (b) Implement Newton's method and observe its performance starting from $x_0 = 2$.

Solution:

- (c) How easy would it be to apply the bisection method? Explain.

Solution:

5. Given $a > 0$, we wish to compute $x = \ln(a)$ using addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and the exponential function e^x .

- (a) Suggest an iterative formula based on Newton's method, and write it in a way suitable for numerical computation.

Solution:

- (b) Show that your formula converges quadratically.

Solution:

- (c) Write down an iterative formula based on the secant method.

Solution:

- (d) State which of the secant and Newton's methods is expected to perform better in this case in terms of overall number of exponential function evaluations. Assume a fair comparison, *i.e.* same floating point system, "same quality" initial guesses, and identical convergence criterion.

Solution:

6. For $x > 0$ consider the equation

$$x + \ln(x) = 0$$

It is a reformulation of the equation of Example 3.4

- (a) Show analytically that there is exactly one root, $0 < x^* < \infty$

Solution:

- (b) Plot a graph of the function on the interval $[0.1, 1]$

Solution:

- (c) As you can see from the graph, the root is between 0.5 and 0.6. Write MATLAB routines for finding the root, using the following:

- i. The bisection method, with the initial interval $[0.5, 0.6]$. Explain why this choice of the initial interval is valid.

Solution:

- ii. A linearly convergent fixed point iteration, with $x_0 = 0.5$. Show that the conditions of the Fixed Point Theorem (for the function g you have selected) are satisfied.

Solution:

- iii. Newton's method, with $x_0 = 0.5$.

Solution:

- iv. The secant method, with $x_0 = 0.5$ and $x_1 = 0.6$.

Solution:

For each of the methods:

- Use $|x_k - x_{k-1}| < 10^{-10}$ as convergence criterion
- Print out the iterates and show the progress in the number of correct decimal digits throughout the iteration.
- Explain the convergence behavior and how it matches theoretical expectations