

Review: • Intermediate Value Thm:

$a < b$, $f(a) \cdot f(b) < 0$, f cont. \Rightarrow exists $c \in [a, b]$ such that $f(c) = 0$ (root)

• Bisection : $c = \frac{a+b}{2}$

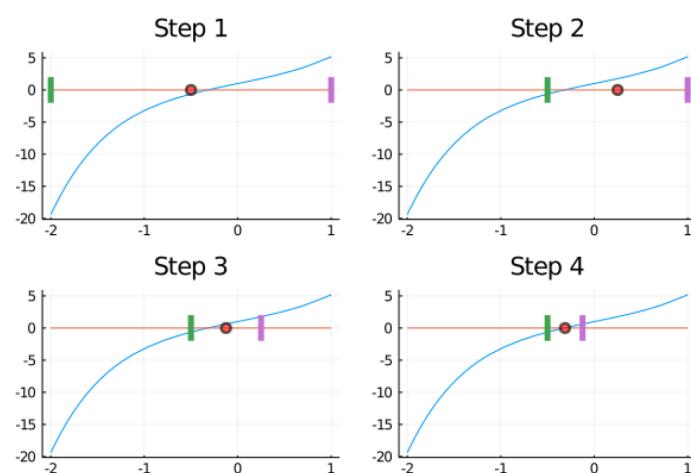


Figure 3: Evolution of the bracketing points a and b as well as the midpoint c in the first four steps of the Bisection Algorithm for finding a root of $0.2x^5 + x^3 + 3x + 1 = 0$. It is very clear that the algorithm home in on a root!

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IF |f(c)| < tol
    x* = c ; break
ELSE IF f(a) · f(c) < 0
    b = c
ELSE
    a = c
END
  
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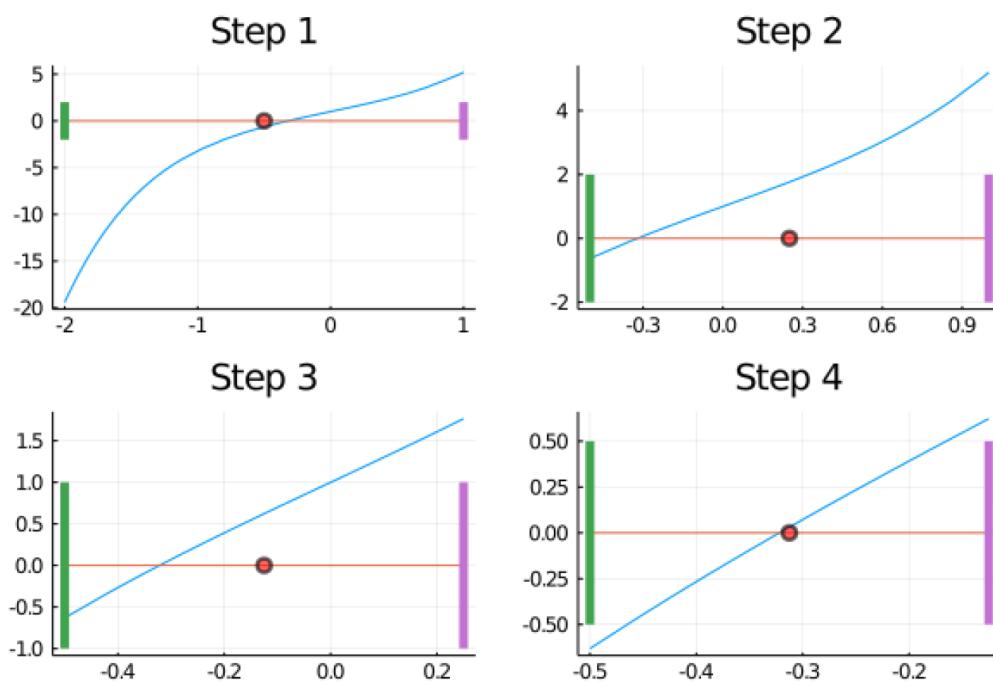
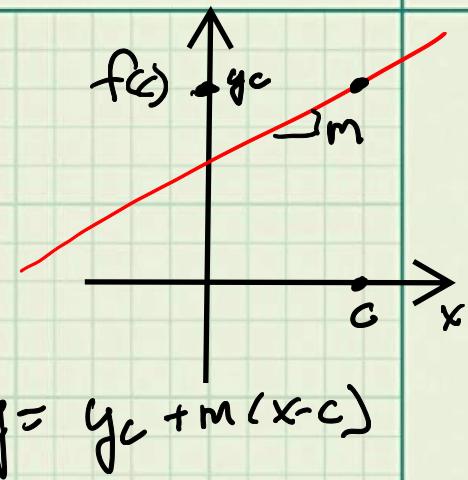
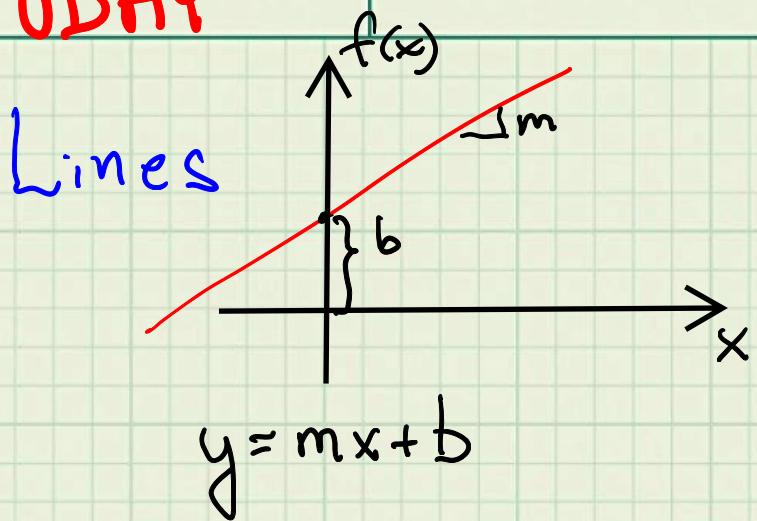


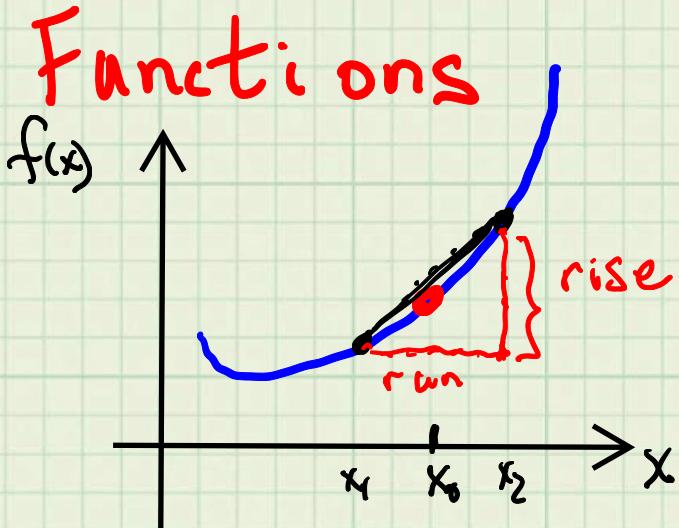
Figure 4: Zooms of the first four steps of the Bisection Algorithm for finding a root of $0.2x^5 + x^3 + 3x + 1 = 0$ that lies between -1 and 2 . Observe that as we zoom into the function at a point, it looks more and more like a straight line!

TODAY



$$c=0 \Rightarrow y_c = b = \text{the } y\text{-intercept}$$

Numerical Derivatives & Linear Approximations to Nonlinear Functions



"slope" of a function at a point

$$\text{slope} = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{f(x_2) - f(x_1)}{x_2 - x_1}$$

Question: How to select x_2 & x_1 ?

Calculus Answer: $x_1 = x_0$ and $x_2 = x_0 + h$
where $h \approx 0$ is very very small, but not zero.

Calculus Notation:

$$\frac{df(x_0)}{dx} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)}{h}$$
 "Called the derivative of f at x_0 .

**Three Numerical Approximations
to a derivative of a
function**

$$\frac{df(x_0)}{dx} \approx \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)}{h}$$

forward
difference
approx

$$\frac{df(x_0)}{dx} \approx \frac{f(x_0) - f(x_0 - h)}{h}$$

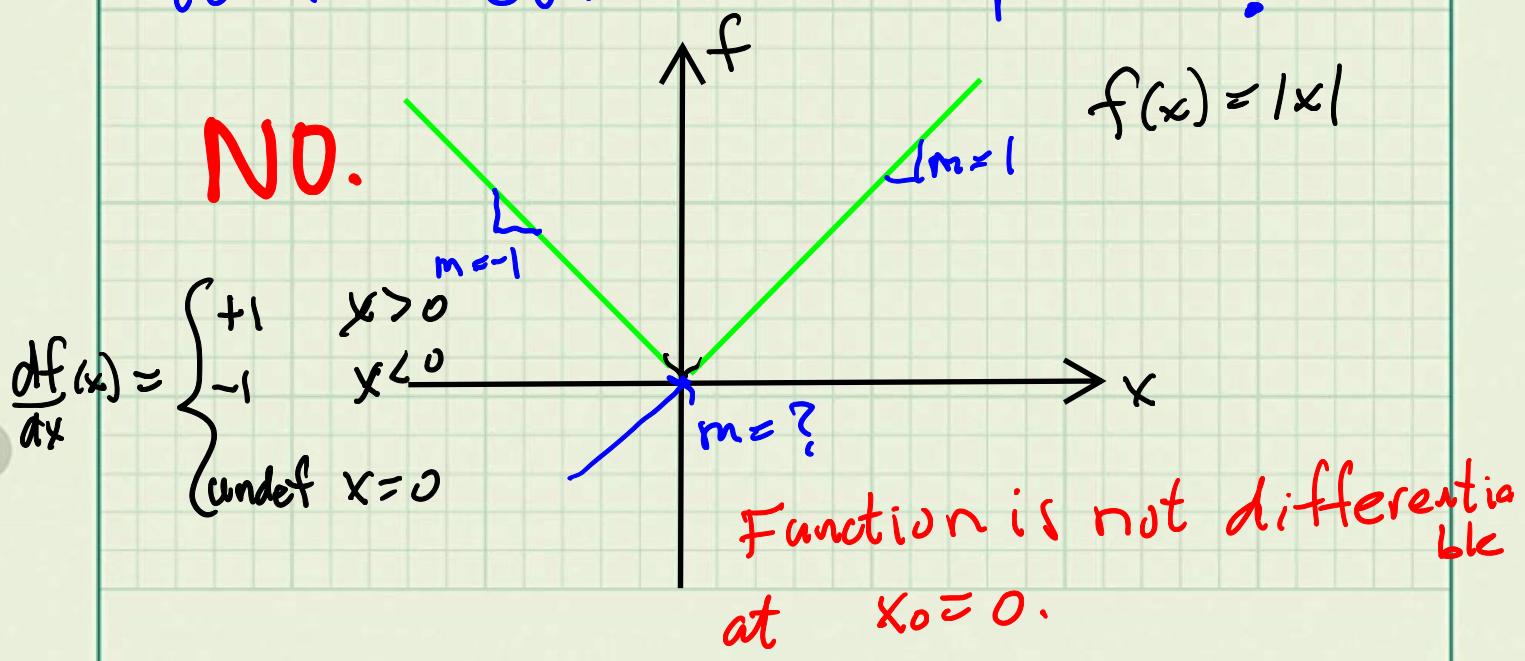
backward diff.
approximation

$$\frac{df(x_0)}{dx} \approx \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0 - h)}{2h}$$

symmetric diff.
approximation

Remark: The forward and backward difference approximations to the analytical derivative are exact for linear functions, while the symmetric difference approximation is exact for quadratic functions ($f(x) = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2$).

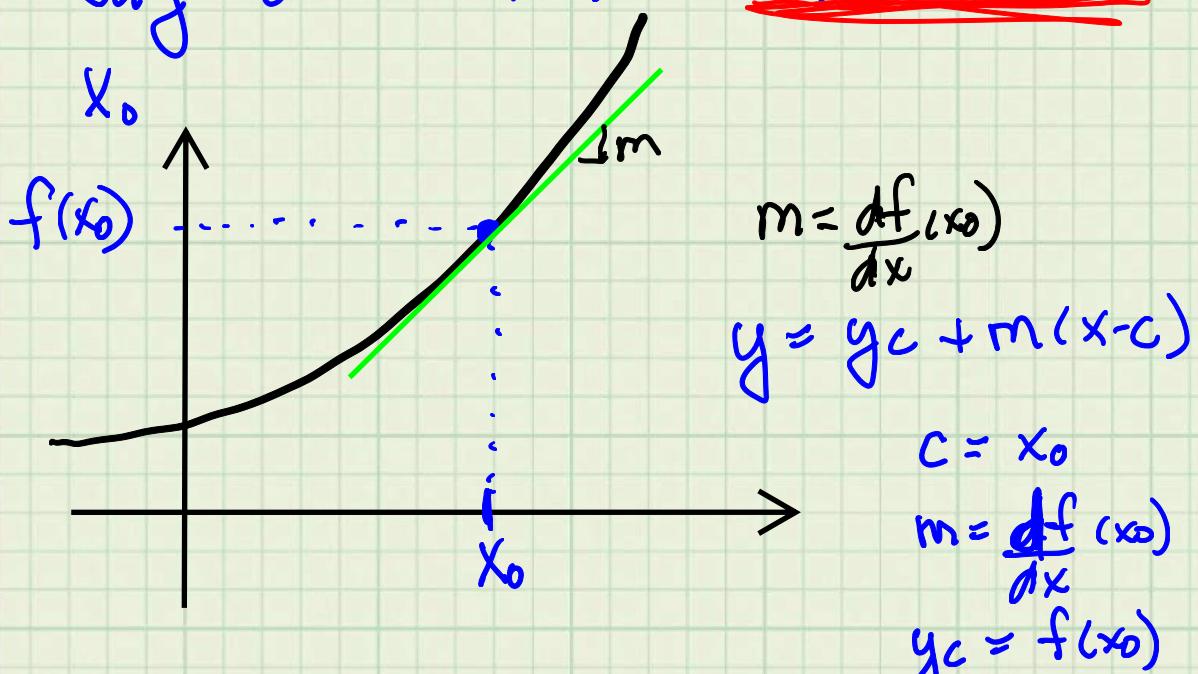
Question: Can you always associate a "slope" (derivative) to a function at a point?



Linear Approximation of a Function at a Point

Assumption: We can associate a slope to a point x_0 .

We say that $f(x)$ is differentiable at



$$f(x) \approx f(x_0) + \frac{df}{dx}(x_0)(x - x_0)$$

Most important formula coming from Calc I.

Newton's Method (1669)

Very clever way to find roots
of nonlinear functions

Suppose x_k is our current estimate
of a root of $f(x)$, $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Seek next x_k , call it x_{k+1} , that
is (we hope) a better approx
of the root :

$$\text{Write } f(x) \approx f(x_k) + \underbrace{\frac{df(x_k)}{dx}}_{\text{linear}}(x - x_k)$$

We want to choose x_{k+1} such that

$$f(x_{k+1}) \approx 0$$

If we TRUST our linear approx
then this what we do.

$$f(x_{k+1}) \approx 0 \Leftrightarrow 0 = f(x_k) + \frac{df(x_k)}{dx} (x_{k+1} - x_k)$$

Solve for x_{k+1} !

If $\frac{df(x_k)}{dx} \neq 0$, then

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \frac{f(x_k)}{\frac{df(x_k)}{dx}}$$

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \left[\frac{df(x_k)}{dx} \right]^{-1} f(x_k)$$

