

10.2.3.

Proposition: For f continuously differentiable on $[a, b]$ where $f(a)f(b) < 0$, the sequence of midpoints of subintervals in $[a, b]$, $\{x^{(k)}\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$, converges to a number x^* in (a, b) such that $f(x^*) = 0$, and each iterate $x^{(k)}$ satisfies $|x^{(k)} - x^*| \leq \frac{b-a}{2^k}$.

Proof: Let the sequence $\{a_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ be the left endpoints of the interval for each iteration k of the bisection method. Let $\{b_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ be the right endpoints for each iteration.

We know $a_0 = a \leq a_1 \leq a_2 \leq \dots \leq b_0 = b$ and $b_0 \geq b_1 \geq b_2 \geq \dots \geq a_0 = a$.

Since $\{a_k\}$ is monotonically increasing and bounded above, and $\{b_k\}$ is monotonically decreasing and bounded below, both sequences converge by Monotone Convergence Theorem.

We know that $b_k - a_k = \frac{b_{k-1} - a_{k-1}}{2} = \dots = \frac{b-a}{2^k}$ and $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} b_k = x^*$. Also $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f(a_k)f(b_k) = (f(x^*))^2 \leq 0$, implying $f(x^*) = 0$.

If a_k and b_k converges to x^* , then $|x^{(k)} - x^*| \leq \frac{b-a}{2^k}$ by
Convergence of a Sequence □