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# MATH2089

## Numerical Methods

### Lecture 3

Nonlinear equations:  
Bisection method,  
Fixed point iteration,  
Newton-Raphson method and  
Secant method

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# Solving Nonlinear Equations

- For a number of equations, analytical solutions may be directly obtained from functions available on calculators and computers, such as in the form  $y = ax^2 + bx + c = 0$

For example,  $y = x^2 - 3x + 2 = 0 \rightarrow (x - 1)(x - 2) = 0$

The roots of  $x$  are 1 and 2 respectively

- In many engineering applications, many algebraic equations generally do not have analytical solutions

# Examples

- Geometrical concentration factor in solar-energy collection

$$C = \frac{\pi(h / \cos A)^2 F}{0.5\pi D^2 (1 + \sin A - 0.5 \cos A)}$$

where  $A$  is rim angle,  $F$  is fractional coverage,  $D$  is diameter of collector and  $h$  is height of collector. If  $C = 0.892$ ,  $F = 0.8$ ,  $D = 14.0$ ,  $h = 300.0$ , determine  $A$ ?  
Rearranging, we need to solve for

$$f(A) = \frac{72000\pi / (\cos A)^2}{98\pi(1 + \sin A - 0.5 \cos A)} - 1200 = 0$$

## Examples (continue)

- Friction factor of suspension of fibrous particles

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{f}} = \left( \frac{1}{k} \right) \ln \left( Re \sqrt{f} \right) + \left( 14 - \frac{5.6}{k} \right)$$

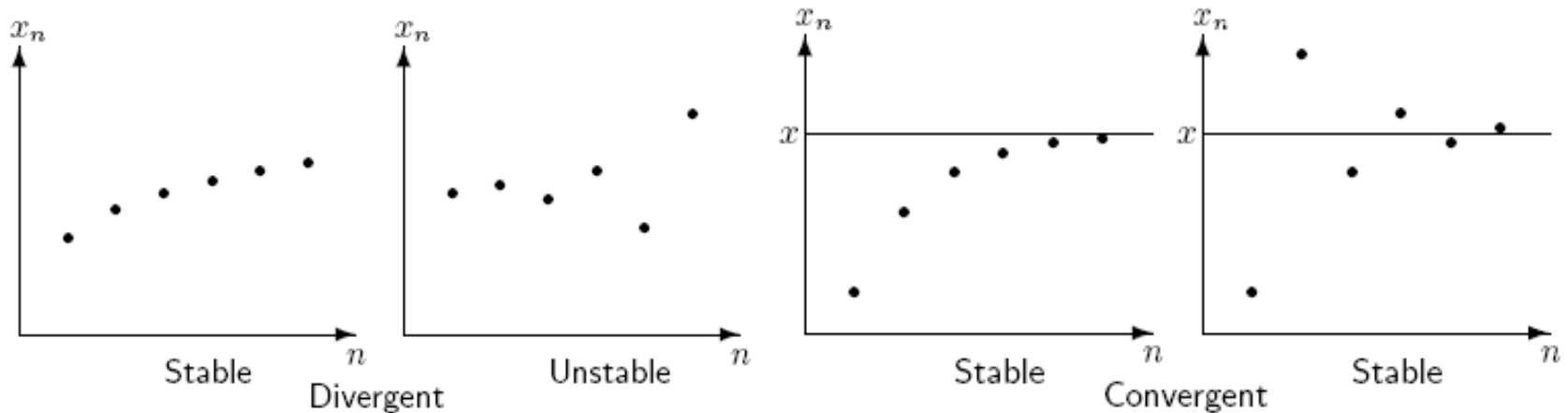
where  $Re$  is Reynolds number and  $k$  is a constant determined by the suspension concentration. For 0.8% concentration,  $k = 0.28$ . What is  $f$  when  $Re = 3500$ ?  
Rearranging, we can solve for

$$g(f) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{f}} - \left( \frac{1}{0.28} \right) \ln \left( 3750 \sqrt{f} \right) - 7 = 0$$

# Iterative Methods

- Such equations may be solved by seeking an *initial approximation* and improving this approximation using *iterative methods*
- If successive applications of the iterative method result in approximations which approach the solution, the iterative method is considered to be converged
- An appropriate *error estimate* is needed to detect if the method has **converged** sufficiently

# Iterative Methods (continue)



- An iterative method may be inherently unstable or only for some initial approximations unstable
- A *correct, efficient and robust algorithm* requires an appropriate selection of both the approximate and iterative method

# Useful Theorems

## Taylor's Theorem

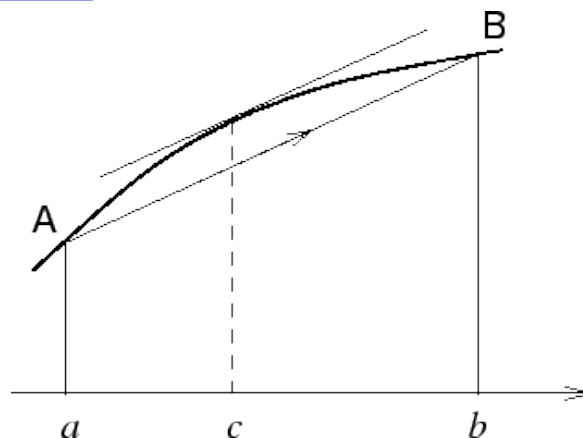
- Assume that the function  $f(x)$  and its derivatives are all continuous on  $[a, b]$ . If both  $x_0$  and  $x_0 + h$  lie in the interval  $[a, b]$  and  $h = x - x_0$  then

$$f(x_0 + h) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(x_0)}{k!} h^k + O(h^{n+1})$$

is the  $n$ -th degree Taylor polynomial expansion of  $f(x)$  about  $x_0$ . Note that this theorem is very useful in deriving numerical methods!

# Useful Theorems (continue)

## Mean Value Theorem



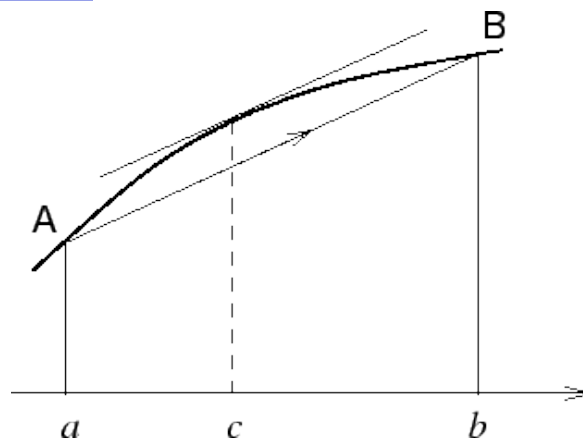
- Assume that  $f \in C[a,b]$  and  $f'(x)$  exists for all  $x \in [a,b]$ . Then there should exist a number  $c$  with  $c \in [a,b]$  such that

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$$



# Useful Theorems (continue)

## Mean Value Theorem



- Geometrically, the mean value theorem says that there is at least one number  $c \in [a, b]$  such that the slope of the tangent line to the graph  $y = f(x)$  at a point  $(c, f(c))$  equals the slope of secant line through the points  $(a, f(a))$  and  $(b, f(b))$

# Initial Approximations

- Solutions are required within a given range and initial estimates can be found by

- ❑ Random search
- ❑ Systematic search, e.g. interval halving
- ❑ Simplified equations
- ❑ Graphical method

- For example, consider the following equation:

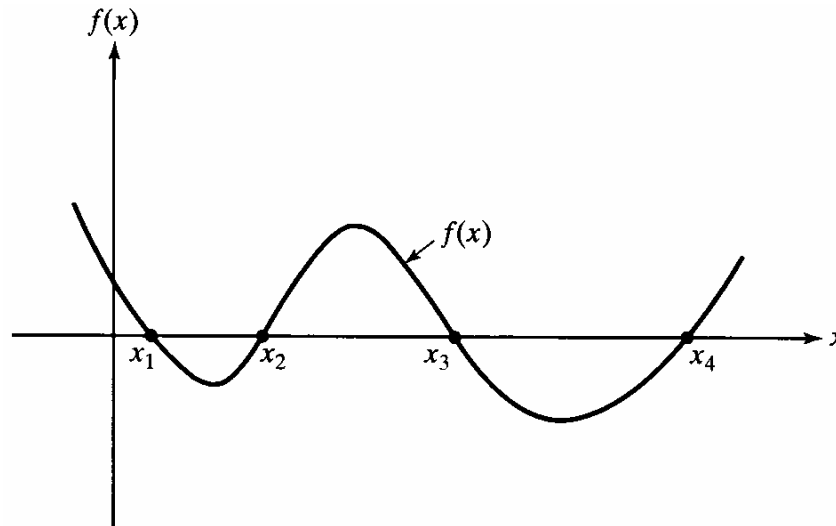
$$x^5 - x - 500 = 0$$

Initial estimate can be found by neglecting the middle term

$$x \approx 500^{1/5}$$

# Initial Approximations (continue)

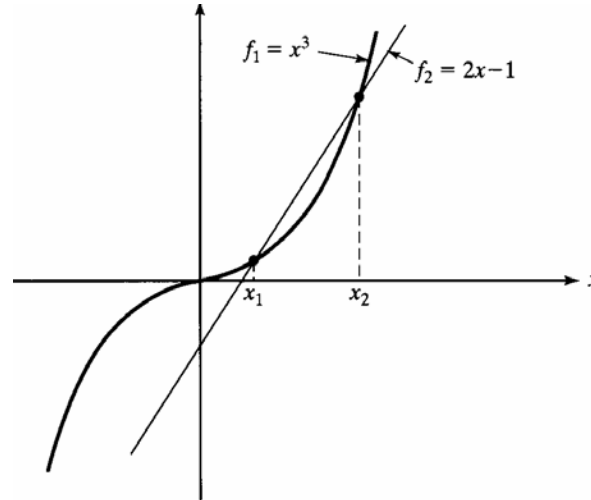
## Graphical Method



- For the equation  $x^5 - x - 500 = 0$ , the root occurs when the function  $f(x)$  crosses the  $x$ -axis. It has four roots. Real root of an equation may be interpreted graphically except for complex equations

# Initial Approximations (continue)

## Graphical Method



- Split  $f(x) = 0$  into two parts:  $f(x) = f_1 - f_2 = 0 \rightarrow f_1 = f_2$  and the point of intersection of the two parts denotes the roots of the equation. The function is split into

$$f(x) = x^3 - (2x - 1) = f_1 - f_2$$

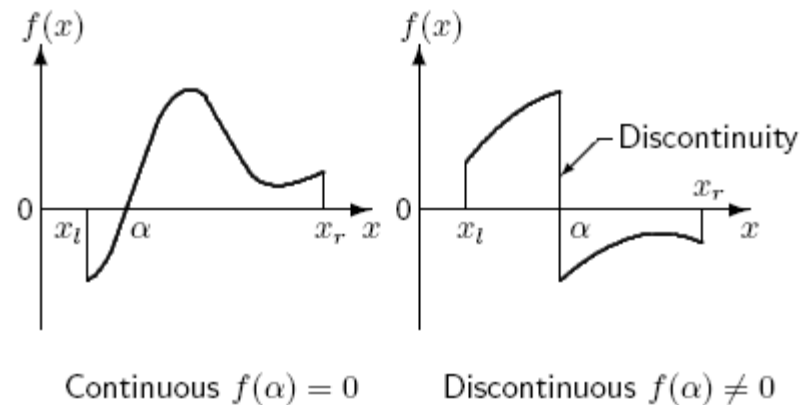
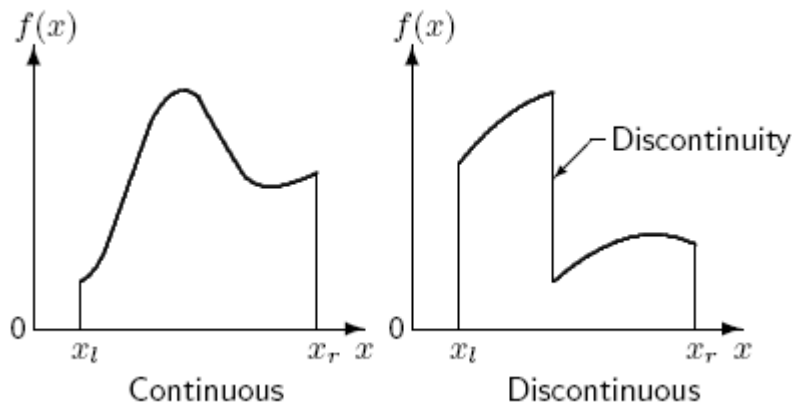
# Initial Approximations (continue)

## Graphical Method

- Usually used to find good starting points for other more accurate and efficient methods or to obtain rough estimates of roots!

# Interval Halving (Bisection) Method

- Requires an initial range,  $x_l < x < x_r$ , with sign change so that  $f(x_l)f(x_r) < 0$
- For each iteration, halve the interval, evaluate the function at the midpoint and make the new interval the half with a sign change
- Ensure the function is continuous as if the function is not continuous it may converge to a discontinuity



## Interval Halving (Bisection) Method (continue)

- Initial estimate of the solution is

$$x_o = (x_l + x_r)/2$$

- Initial error is

$$E_i = |x_l - x_r|/2$$

and the number of iterations,  $N$ , required to reduce this error to  $E_r$  is

$$N = \log_2\left(\frac{E_i}{E_r}\right)$$

# Steps of Solution

Step 1: Set a value of  $\varepsilon$  and choose the interval of uncertainty  $(a^{(1)}, b^{(1)})$  that  $f(a^{(1)}) \times f(b^{(1)}) < 0$  (Figure 1)

- Step 2: Compute  $x_m^{(1)} = (a^{(1)} + b^{(1)})/2$
- Step 3: If  $|f(x_m^{(1)})| \leq \varepsilon$ , halt the procedure and get the estimated root as  $x_m^{(1)}$ , otherwise  $|f(x_m^{(1)})| > \varepsilon$ , go to Step 4

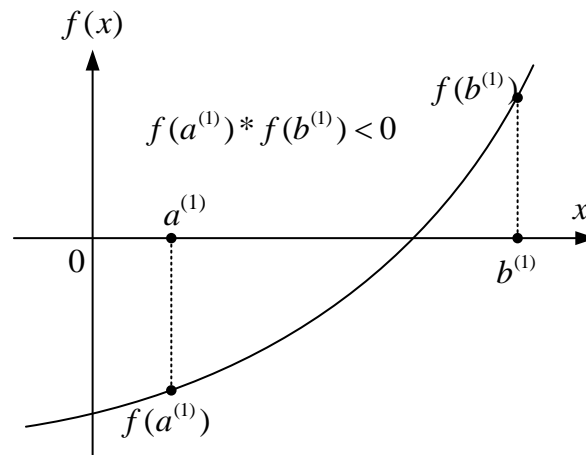


Figure 1



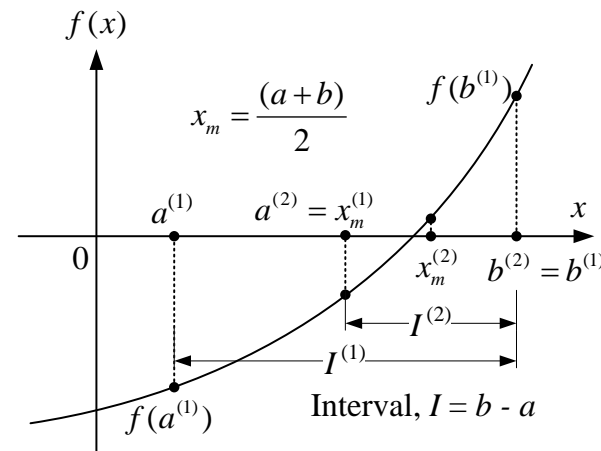
## Steps of Solution (continue)

Step 4a: If  $f(x_m^{(1)}) \times f(b^{(1)}) < 0$ , set  $(a^{(2)}, b^{(2)}) = (x_m^{(1)}, b^{(1)})$  (Figure 2) and go to Step 2

➤ **Step 4b: If  $f(x_m^{(1)}) \times f(b^{(1)}) > 0$  , set  $(a^{(2)}, b^{(2)}) = (a^{(1)}, x_m^{(1)})$  and go to Step 2**

➤ **Step 2: Compute**  $x_m^{(2)} = (a^{(2)} + b^{(2)})/2$

➤ Step 3: Check if  $|f(x_m^{(2)})| \leq \varepsilon$ ,  
answer =  $x_m^{(2)}$ , or  $|f(x_m^{(1)})| > \varepsilon$   
go to Step 4 to find a new  
interval  $(a^{(3)}, b^{(3)})$



## Figure 2

# Convergence

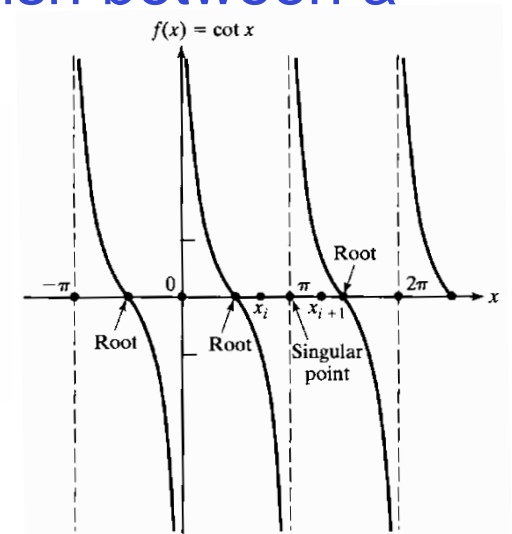
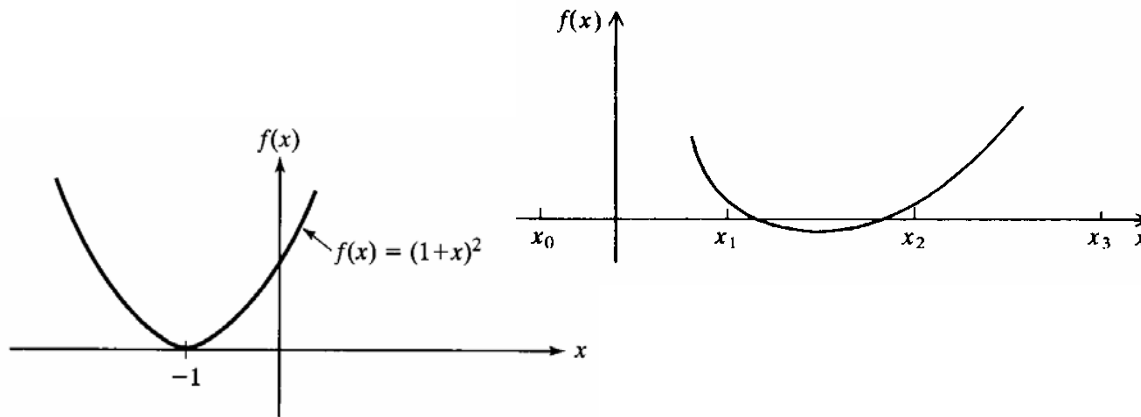
- The interval ( $I = b - a$ ) is halved each time ( $I^{(2)} = \frac{1}{2} I^{(1)}$ ), the last value of  $x_m$  differs from the root by less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  the last interval

$$I^{(i+1)} = b^{(i+1)} - a^{(i+1)} = \frac{I^{(i)}}{2} = \frac{I^{(i-1)}}{2^2} = \frac{(b^{(1)} - a^{(1)})}{2^i}$$

$$\text{Error after } i \text{ iterations} < \frac{(b^{(1)} - a^{(1)})}{2^i}$$

# Convergence (continue)

- If the graph  $f(x)$  touches the  $x$  axis tangentially,  $f(x)$  does not undergo a sign change, the method cannot find the root
- The bisection method will not work if the interval  $(a, b)$  contains a double root
- The method may not be able to distinguish between a singular point and a root



## Convergence (continue)

- If  $f(x)$  can be evaluated quickly, the bisection method is recommended
- The method cannot be used to find the complex roots of an equation

# Example of Bisection Method

- Using the interval halving, a solution to  $x^2 - 2 = 0$  is required between the roots 1 and 2
  - ❑ Show that the interval halving method will converge
  - ❑ Starting with this interval calculate the number of iterations required if the final error must be 0.02
  - ❑ Perform these iterations to obtain the answer to four significant figures

# Fixed Point Iteration

- The function  $f(x) = 0$  can be rewritten as  $x = F(x)$  (or  $x = g(x)$ ) to give an iterative procedure

$$x_{n+1} = F(x_n) \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

- This procedure may converge or diverge depending on the choice of  $F(x)$ . We can define the convergence criterion as

$$|x_{n+1} - x_n| \leq \varepsilon \quad \text{or} \quad \left| \frac{x_{n+1} - x_n}{x_{n+1}} \right| \leq \varepsilon$$

# Convergence

- Based on  $x_{n+1} = F(x_n)$ , let  $S$  denote a solution and  $e_n$  the error in  $x_n$  so that  $x_n = S + e_n$ . Therefore,

$$S + e_{n+1} = F(S + e_n)$$

The right-hand side can be expanded in a Taylor series about  $S$  as

$$S + e_{n+1} = F(S) + e_n F'(S) + \frac{e_n^2}{2!} F''(S) + \dots$$

Since  $S$  is the solution,  $S = F(S)$ . Therefore,

$$e_{n+1} = e_n F'(S) + \frac{e_n^2}{2!} F''(S) + \dots$$

## Convergence (continue)

- If  $e_n$  is sufficiently small and provided that  $F'(S) \neq 0$  then

$$e_{n+1} \approx e_n F'(S)$$

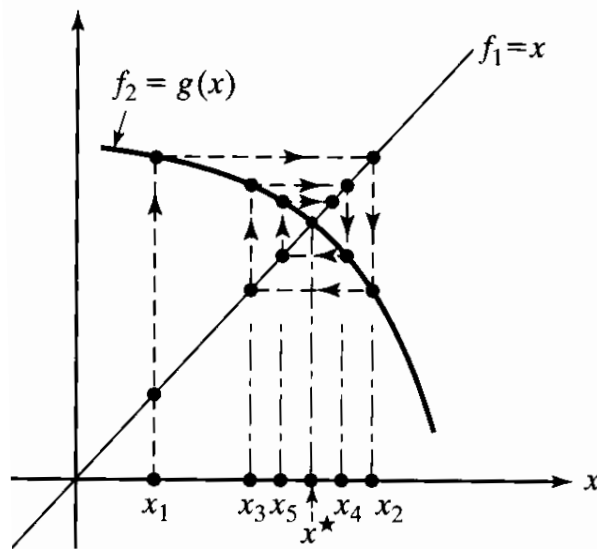
For  $x_{n+1} = F(x_n)$  to be convergent, it is necessary that  $|e_{n+1}| < |e_n|$ . It can be achieved if  $|F'(S)| < 1$ . Therefore, the iterative process is convergent if there is some range around  $S$  for which  $|F'(S)| < R < 1$

Since  $e_{n+1} < O(e_n)$ , the fixed point iteration is a first order method, i.e. a fixed number of decimal places improvement in accuracy occurs at each iteration



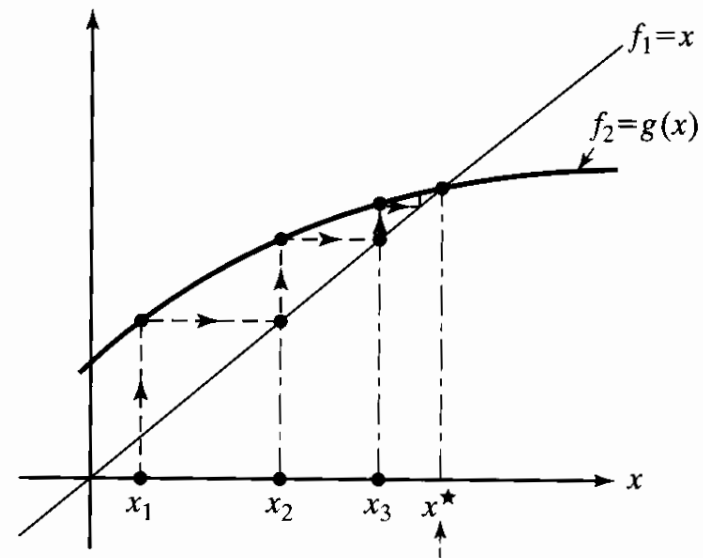
# Convergence (continue)

- Convergence criterion  $|F'(S)| < R < 1$  possesses a simple geometric interpretation



(Correct root)

(a)  $-1 < g'(x) < 0$ ; Convergent.

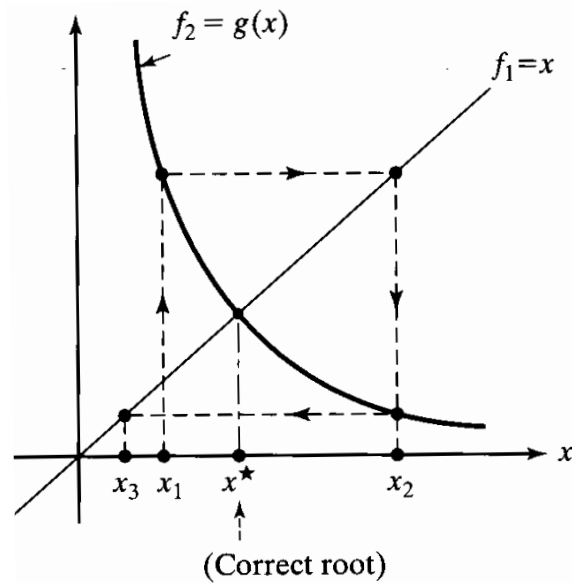


(Correct root)

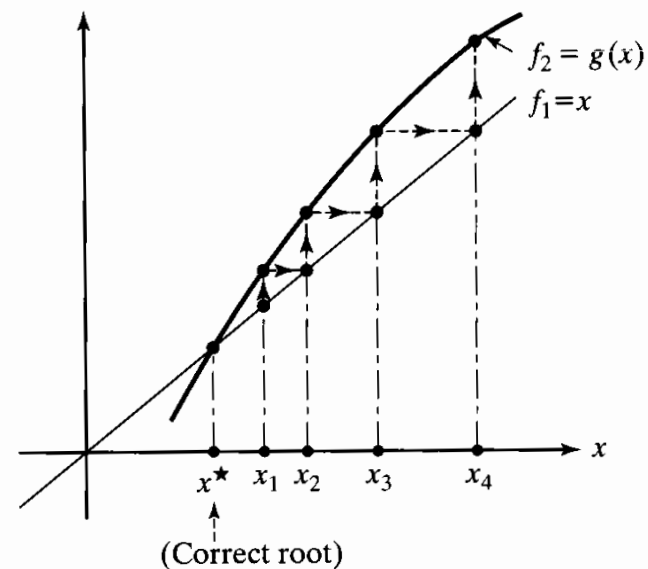
(b)  $0 < g'(x) < 1$ ; Convergent.

# Convergence (continue)

- Convergence criterion  $|F'(S)| < R < 1$  possesses a simple geometric interpretation



(c)  $g'(x) < -1$ ; Divergent.



(d)  $g'(x) > 1$ ; Divergent.

- What if  $F'(S) = 1$ ? Based on  $e_{n+1} \approx e_n F'(S)$ , the error will remain constant

# Error Estimate

- Based on  $e_{n+1} \approx e_n F'(S)$ ,  $x_{n+1} - S \approx (x_n - S)F'(S)$
- It can be shown that  $x_{n+1} \approx (x_n - S)\{F'(S) - 1\} + x_n$
- Finally,  $x_n - S = e_n \approx \frac{x_{n+1} - x_n}{F'(x_{n+1}) - 1}$
- Note that  $F'(S)$  can not be evaluated until solution is known. But it can be approximated by  $F'(x_{n+1})$
- Iterations are performed when  $\left| \frac{x_{n+1} - x_n}{F'(x_{n+1}) - 1} \right| < \varepsilon |x_{n+1}|$

## Some Features

- The method is very simple; however, it may not always converge with an arbitrarily chosen form of the function  $F(x)$
- The condition to be satisfied for convergence to the correct root is given by  $|F'(S)| < 1$
- The convergence of the process is oscillatory if  $-1 < F'(x) < 0$ , and asymptotic if  $0 < F'(x) < 1$ . The divergent of the process can occur if  $|F'(S)| > 1$

# Example of Fixed Point Iteration Method

- The function  $f(x) = e^x - 3x^2 = 0$  has 3 roots near 0, 1 and 4. Use the fixed point iteration method to find the 3 roots to 5 significant figures.

- Solution:

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{e^x}{3}}$$

g(x)=sqrt(exp(x)/3)	
i	x
1	1.000000
2	0.9518897
3	0.9292650
4	0.9188121
5	0.9140225
6	0.9118362
7	0.9108400
8	0.9103864
9	0.9101800
10	0.9100860
11	0.9100433
12	0.9100238
13	0.9100150
14	0.9100109

$$x = -\sqrt{\frac{e^x}{3}}$$

g(x)=-sqrt(exp(x)/3)	
i	x
1	0.000000
2	-0.5773503
3	-0.4325829
4	-0.4650559
5	-0.4575660
6	-0.4592828
7	-0.4588887
8	-0.4589791
9	-0.4589584
10	-0.4589632
11	-0.4589621

# Example of Fixed Point Iteration Method (continue)

- Solution: Function  $f(x) = e^x - 3x^2 = 0$

$$x = \frac{e^x}{3x}$$

g(x)=exp(x)/(3*x)	
i	x
1	4.0000000
2	4.5498458
3	6.9319433
4	49.263865
5	1.68025E+19
6	<b>diverge!</b>

$$x = \ln(3x^2)$$

g(x)=ln(3*x^2)	
i	x
1	4.0000000
2	3.8712010
3	3.8057419
4	3.7716342
5	3.7536290
6	3.7440585
7	3.7389527
8	3.7362234
9	3.7347629
10	3.7339810
11	3.7335622
12	3.7333379
13	3.7332177
14	3.7331533
15	3.7331188

# Newton-Rhapson Method

- A well known and powerful method
- Derived by considering first-order Taylor's series expansion of  $f(x)$  about an arbitrary point  $x_1$

$$f(x) \approx f(x_1) + (x - x_1)f'(x_1) = 0$$

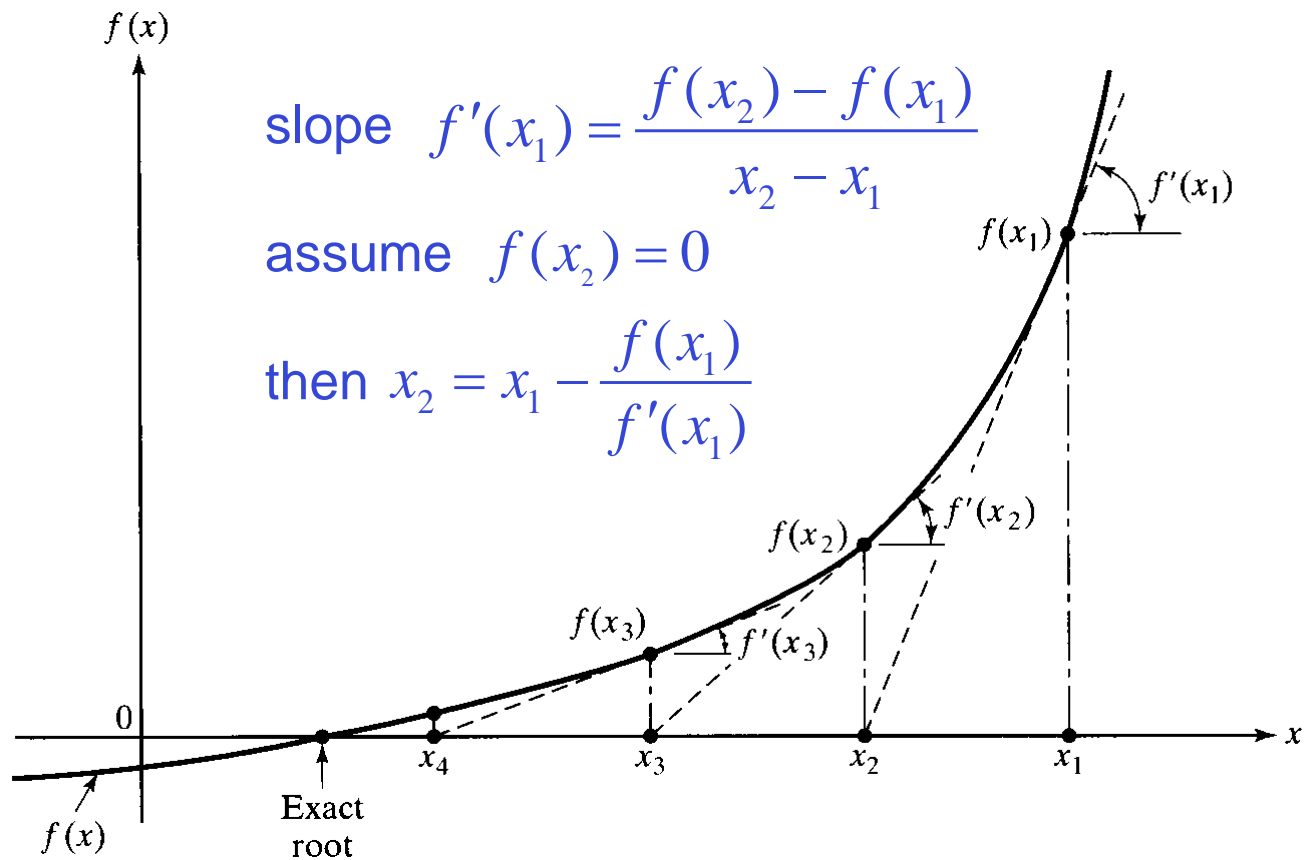
- Since the higher order derivative terms were neglected in the approximation of  $f(x)$ , the solution yields the next approximation to the root as

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

From above,  $x_2$  is an improved approximation to the root

# Newton-Rhapson Method (continue)

➤ Graphically,





## Newton-Rhapson Method (continue)

- Iterative process can be generalized as

$$x_{i+1} = x_i - \frac{f(x_i)}{f'(x_i)}, \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

until the approximation  $x_{i+1}$  satisfies the **convergence criterion**  $\varepsilon$ ,

$$\left| f(x_{i+1}) \right| \leq \varepsilon$$

# Steps of Solution

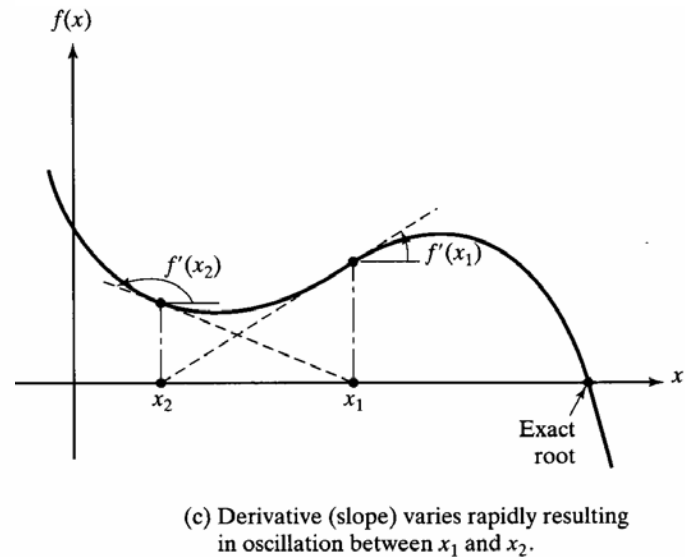
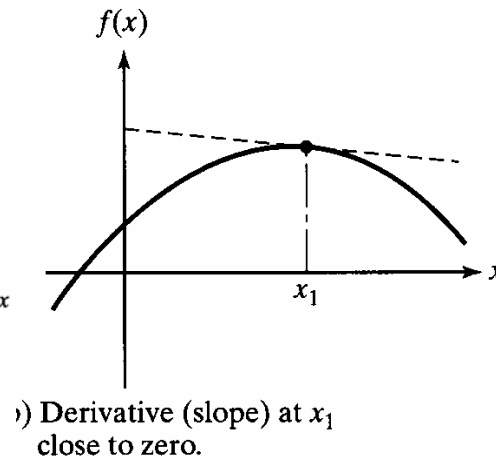
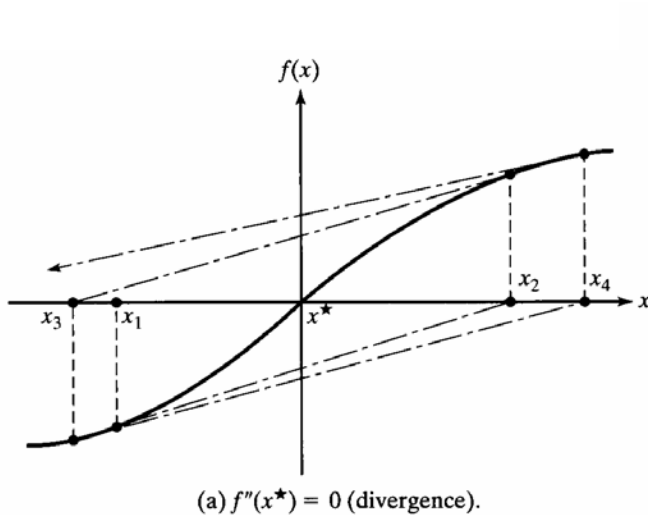
- Step 1: Set a value of  $\varepsilon$  and choose a starting point  $x_1$  and compute  $f(x_1)$  and  $f'(x_1)$
- Step 2: Calculate  $x_2 = x_1 - \frac{f(x_1)}{f'(x_1)}$
- Step 3: If  $|f(x_2)| \leq \varepsilon$ ,  $x_2$  satisfies the convergence criterion and is the answer. If  $|f(x_2)| > \varepsilon$ , go to Step 1 with  $x_2$  as the starting value
- Repeat Steps 1-3 for  $x_{i+1} = x_i - \frac{f(x_i)}{f'(x_i)}$ ,  $i = 3, 4, 5, \dots$  until the procedure satisfies the convergence criterion  $|f(x_{i+1})| \leq \varepsilon$

## Some Features

- The Newton's method requires the continuous function  $f(x)$  and continuous derivatives  $f'(x)$
- The Newton's method is most powerful if  $f'(x)$  can be evaluated
- The Newton's method can also be used for finding complex roots, using complex number as the initial guess for the root

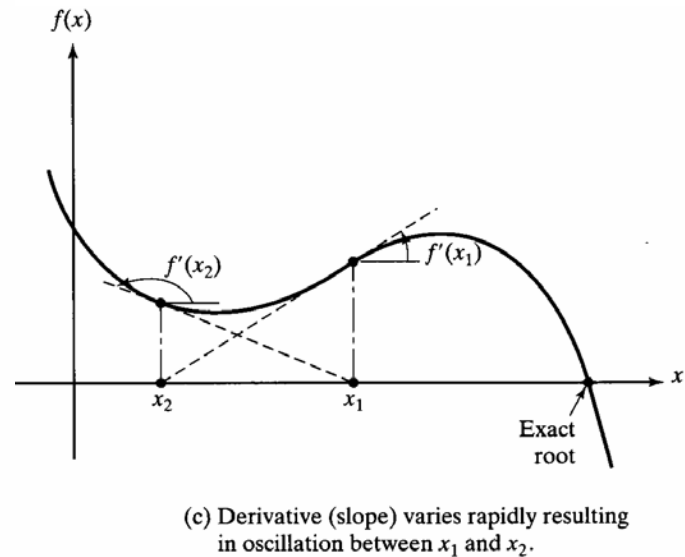
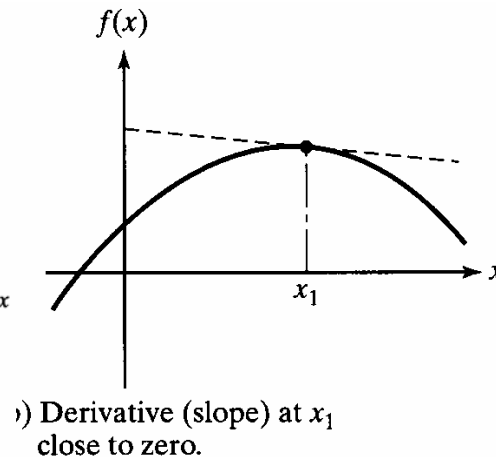
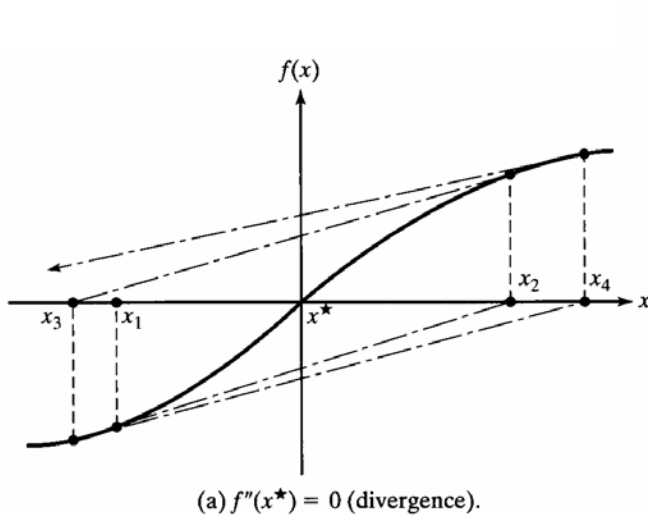
# Some Features (continue)

- Newton's method converges very fast in most cases. However it may not converge, if
  - ❑ initial guess  $x_1$  is very far from the exact root – (a)
  - ❑  $f'(x)$  is close to zero – (b)
  - ❑  $f'(x)$  varies substantially near the root – (c)



# Some Features (continue)

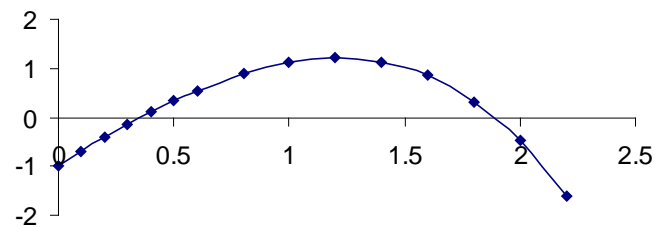
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# Example of Newton-Raphson Method

- Use the Newton-Raphson method to solve  $f(x) = 3x + \sin x - e^x$  with a convergence criterion  $\varepsilon = 0.001$

- Solution:



$$f'(x) = 3 + \cos x - e^x$$

i	x	f(x)	f'(x)
1	0	-1.0000	3.0000
2	0.33333	-0.068426	2.5494
3	0.36017	-6.2977E-04	

i	x	f(x)	f'(x)
1	2	-0.47976	-4.8052
2	1.9002	-0.040396	-4.0107
3	1.8901	-2.7642E-04	-3.9339

i	x	f(x)	f'(x)
1	1	1.1232	0.82202
2	-0.36639	-2.1506	3.2404
3	0.29729	-0.16141	2.6099
4	0.35914	-3.2080E-03	2.5041
5	0.36042	-4.2605E-06	2.5018

i	x	f(x)	f'(x)
1	1.5	1.0158	-1.4110
2	2.2199	-1.7501	-6.8109
3	1.9629	-0.30414	-4.5021
4	1.8953	-2.0835E-02	-3.9734
5	1.8901	-2.7642E-04	-3.9339

# Secant Method

- Suppose  $f(x)$  is assumed to be linear in the vicinity of the exact root.  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are assumed to be close to the root. A straight line is drawn through the two points  $(x_1, f(x_1))$  and  $(x_2, f(x_2))$  and intersect the x-axis at  $x_3$ . The line through two points on the curve is called the secant line
- If  $f(x)$  is truly linear,  $x_3$  would be the root. However, for non-linear function,  $x_3$  should be close to the root

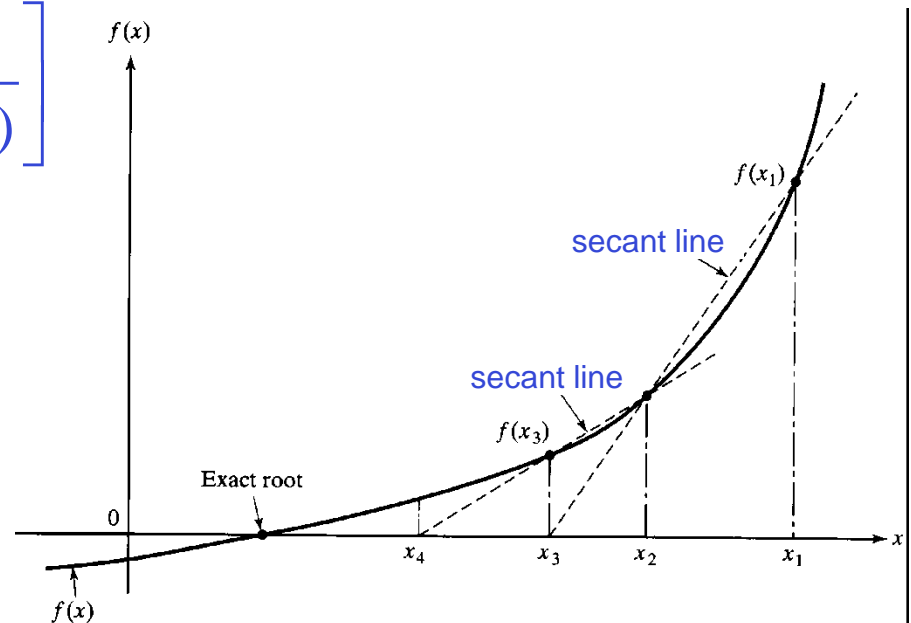
# Secant Method (continue)

- Referring to the figure, based on similar two triangles

$$\frac{f(x_2) - f(x_1)}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{0 - f(x_2)}{x_3 - x_2}$$

- Rewriting in the form to solve  $x_3$

$$x_3 = x_2 - f(x_2) \left[ \frac{x_2 - x_1}{f(x_2) - f(x_1)} \right]$$





# Steps of Solution

- Step 1: Start with two initial approximations  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  and a small value of  $\varepsilon$ . Calculate  $f(x_1)$  and  $f(x_2)$

- Step 2: Find the new approximation,  $x_{n+1}$  as

$$x_{i+1} = x_i - \frac{f(x_i)(x_i - x_{i-1})}{f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})} \quad i = 2, 3, 4, \dots$$

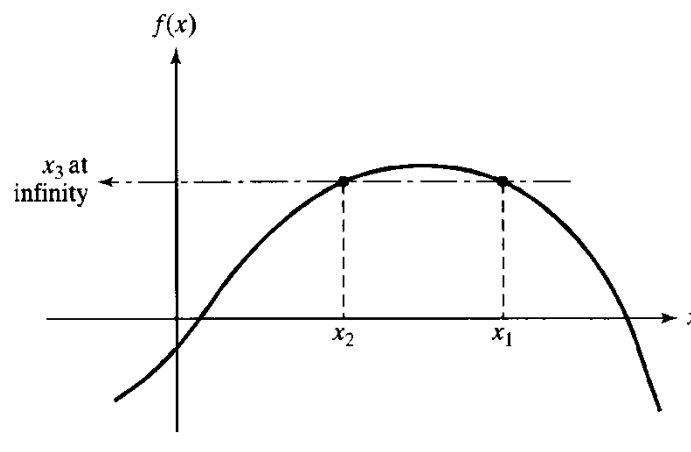
- Verify the convergence. If  $|f(x_{i+1})| \leq \varepsilon$ , halt the process by taking  $x_{i+1}$  as a root. Otherwise, update the iteration number as  $i = i + 1$  and go to Step 2

# Some Features

- The Secant method is preferred over the Newton-Raphson method, when the evaluation of  $f'(x)$  is difficult

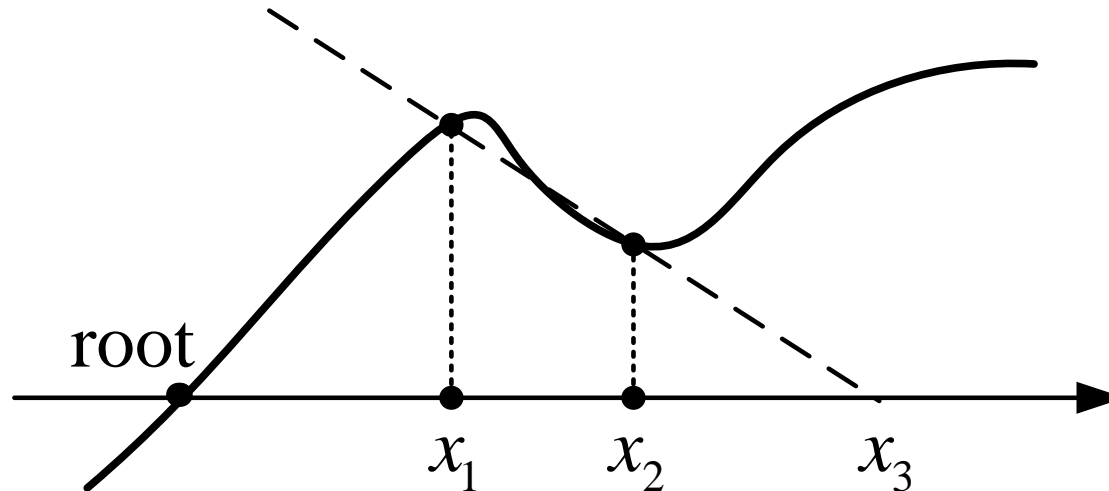
- Since  $f'(x_i) \approx \left[ \frac{f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})}{x_i - x_{i-1}} \right]$ , the process may not

converge if  $f(x_1) \approx f(x_2)$  in which the next approximation ( $x_3$ ) will be near infinity (see Figure below)



## Some Features (continue)

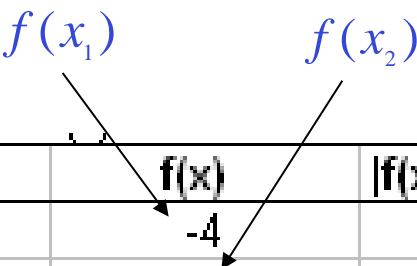
- If the function is far from linear near the root, the successive iterates can fly off to points far from the root, as seen in Figure below



# Example of Secant Method

- Use the Secant method to solve  $x^3 + x^2 - 3x = 3$  with  $(x_1, x_2) = (1, 2)$  and a convergence criterion  $\varepsilon = 10^{-5}$

- Solution:



i	x	f(x)	f(x)  < ε ?
1	1	-4	no
2	2	3	no
3	1.571429	-1.364428	no
4	1.705411	-0.2477435	no
5	1.735136	2.929758E-02	no
6	1.731993	-5.470760E-04	no
7	1.732051	1.821188E-06	yes

# Systems of Nonlinear Equations

- The problem of finding the solution of a set of nonlinear equations can be solved using Newton-Rhapson Method
- Take for example,

$$f_1(x, y) = 0$$

$$f_2(x, y) = 0$$

Applying Taylor series expansions about point  $(x_i, y_i)$  for point  $(x_{i+1}, y_{i+1})$

$$f_1(x_{i+1}, y_{i+1}) = f_1(x_i, y_i) + (x_{i+1} - x_i) \frac{\partial f_1(x_i, y_i)}{\partial x} + (y_{i+1} - y_i) \frac{\partial f_1(x_i, y_i)}{\partial y} = 0$$

$$f_2(x_{i+1}, y_{i+1}) = f_2(x_i, y_i) + (x_{i+1} - x_i) \frac{\partial f_2(x_i, y_i)}{\partial x} + (y_{i+1} - y_i) \frac{\partial f_2(x_i, y_i)}{\partial y} = 0$$

# Systems of Nonlinear Equations (continue)

- Truncating the series gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{Bmatrix} f_1(x_i, y_i) \\ f_2(x_i, y_i) \end{Bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1(x_i, y_i)}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial f_1(x_i, y_i)}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial f_2(x_i, y_i)}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial f_2(x_i, y_i)}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} x_{i+1} - x_i \\ y_{i+1} - y_i \end{Bmatrix}$$

- Rewrite this to solve as the system of equations

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1(x_i, y_i)}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial f_1(x_i, y_i)}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial f_2(x_i, y_i)}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial f_2(x_i, y_i)}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \Delta x_i \\ \Delta y_i \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{Bmatrix} -f_1(x_i, y_i) \\ -f_2(x_i, y_i) \end{Bmatrix} \quad \text{where} \quad \begin{Bmatrix} \Delta x_i \\ \Delta y_i \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{Bmatrix} x_{i+1} - x_i \\ y_{i+1} - y_i \end{Bmatrix}$$

# Systems of Nonlinear Equations (continue)

- Solve for  $\begin{Bmatrix} \Delta x_i \\ \Delta y_i \end{Bmatrix}$  by Gaussian elimination and then improve the an estimate of the root  $\begin{Bmatrix} x_{i+1} \\ y_{i+1} \end{Bmatrix}$  as  $\begin{matrix} x_{i+1} = x_i + \Delta x_i \\ y_{i+1} = y_i + \Delta y_i \end{matrix}$
- Repeat this process with  $i$  replaced by  $i + 1$  until  $f_1(x, y)$  and  $f_2(x, y)$  are close to 0
- It is interesting to observe that Newton's method, as applied to a set of nonlinear equations, reduces the problem to solving a set of linear equations in order to determine the values that improve the accuracy of the estimates