

# Nonlinear Equations

A nonlinear equation in one or more variables is a nonlinear function from  $R^n$  to  $R$ . We assume that we have a real nonlinear function in several variables  $f(x)$ . for example:

$$f: R^2 \rightarrow R \text{ such that } f(x, y) = 2x^2 + 3y^2 = 1 \text{ or} \\ f(x, y) = 2x^2 + 3y^2 - 1 = 0$$

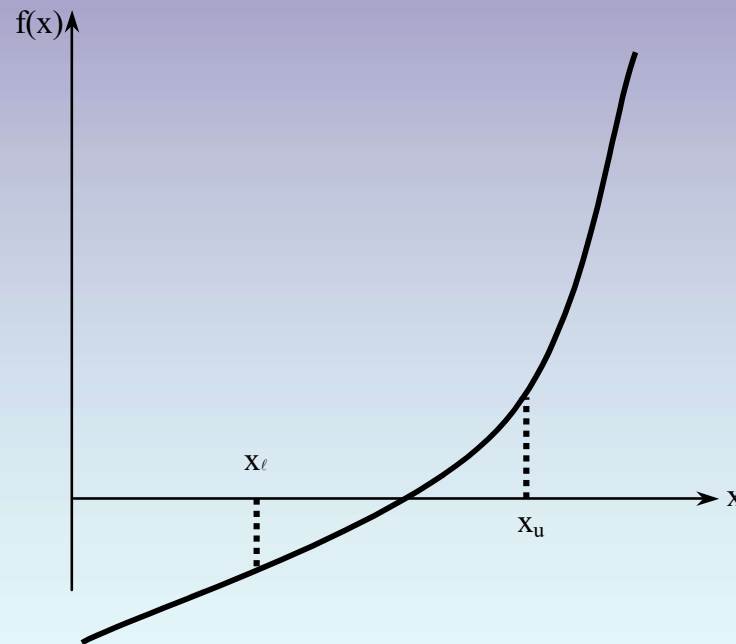
$$f: R^3 \rightarrow R \text{ such that } f(x, y, z) = x^2 - y^2 + z^2 - 2xz - yz + 4x = -12 \\ \text{or } f(x, y, z) = x^2 - y^2 + z^2 - 2xz - yz + 4x + 12 = 0$$

Any nonlinear equation can be solved numerically with or without using differentiation.

# 1- Bisection Method

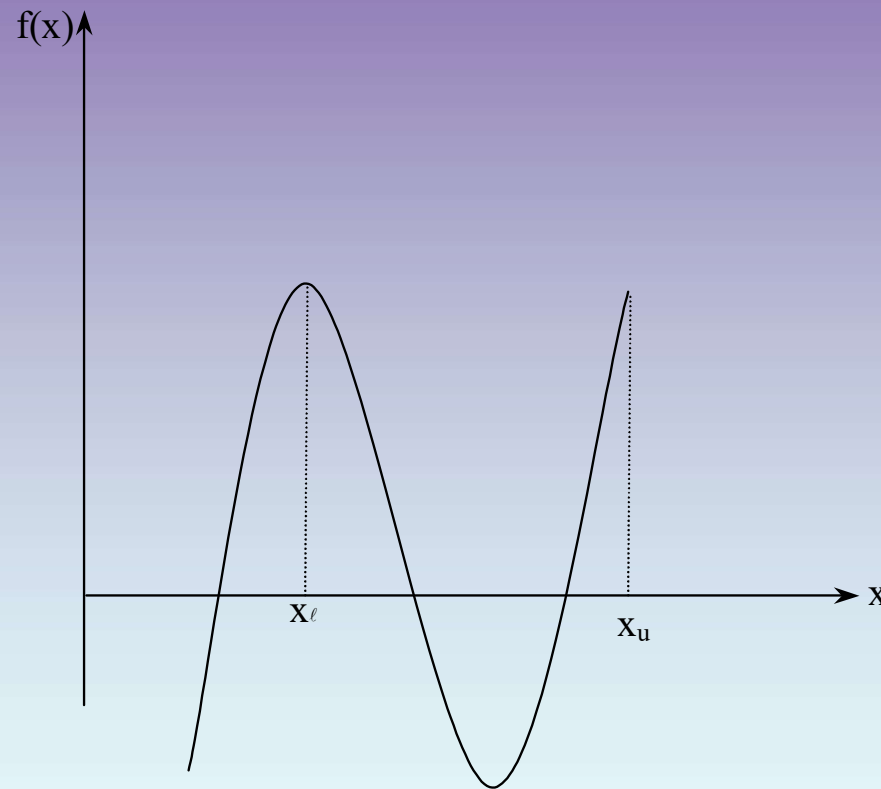
## Theorem

An equation  $f(x)=0$ , where  $f(x)$  is a real continuous function, has at least one root between  $x_l$  and  $x_u$  if  $f(x_l) f(x_u) < 0$ .



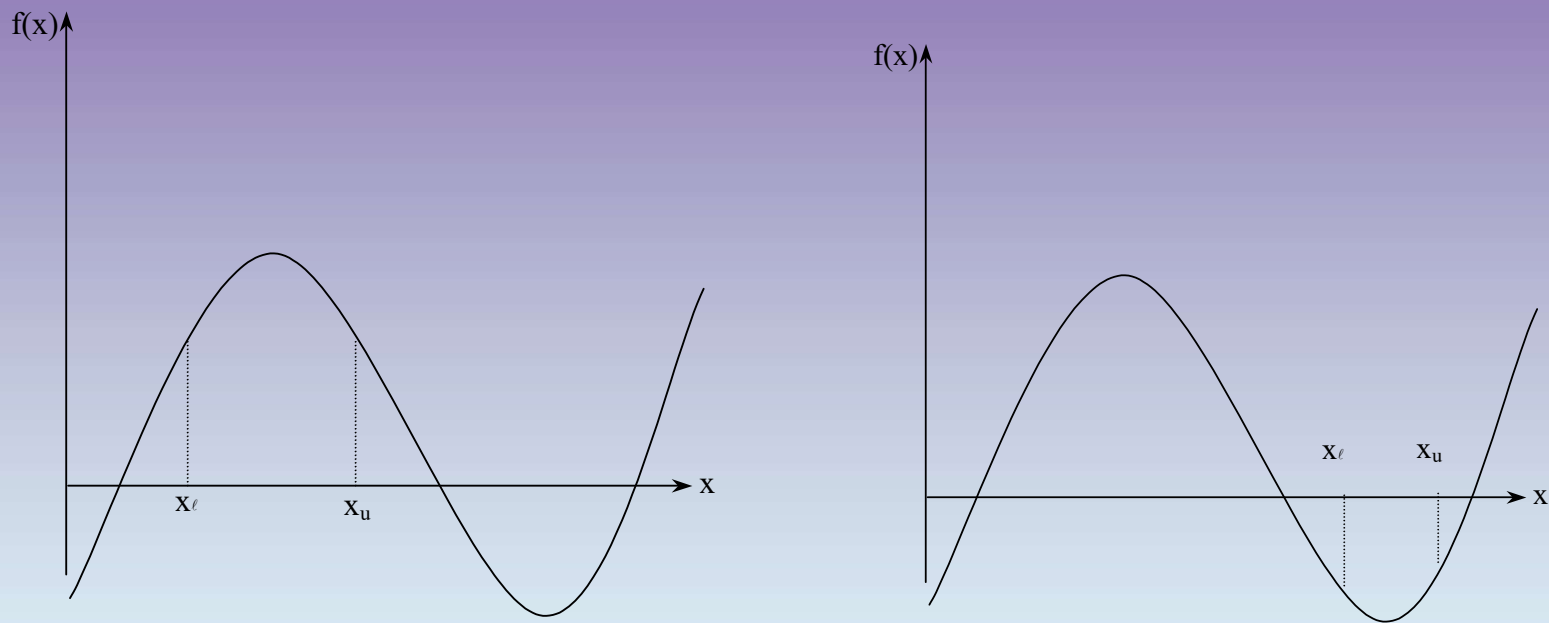
**Figure 1** At least one root exists between the two points if the function is real, continuous, and changes sign.

# Basis of Bisection Method



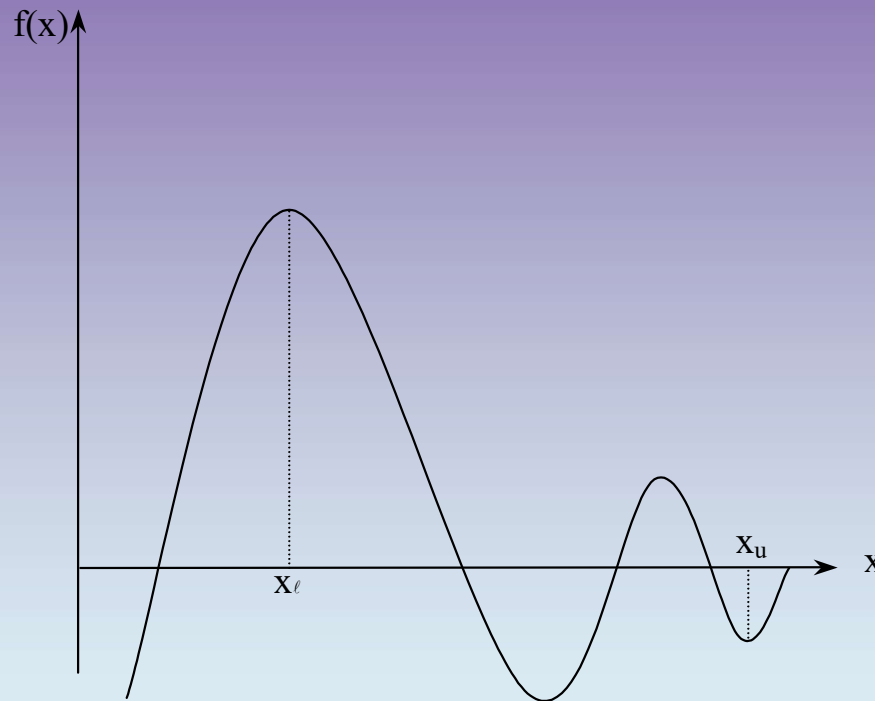
**Figure 2** If function  $f(x)$  does not change sign between two points, roots of the equation  $f(x) = 0$  may still exist between the two points.

# Basis of Bisection Method



**Figure 3** If the function  $f(x)$  does not change sign between two points, there may not be any roots for the equation  $f(x) = 0$  between the two points.

# Basis of Bisection Method

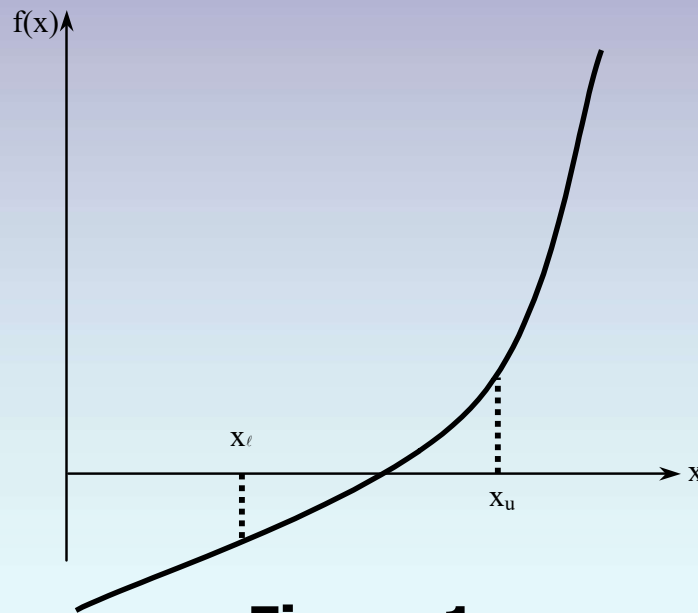


**Figure 4** If the function  $f(x)$  changes sign between two points, more than one root for the equation  $f(x) = 0$  may exist between the two points.

# Algorithm for Bisection Method

# Step 1

Choose  $x_l$  and  $x_u$  as two guesses for the root such that  $f(x_l)f(x_u) < 0$ . This was demonstrated in Figure 1.

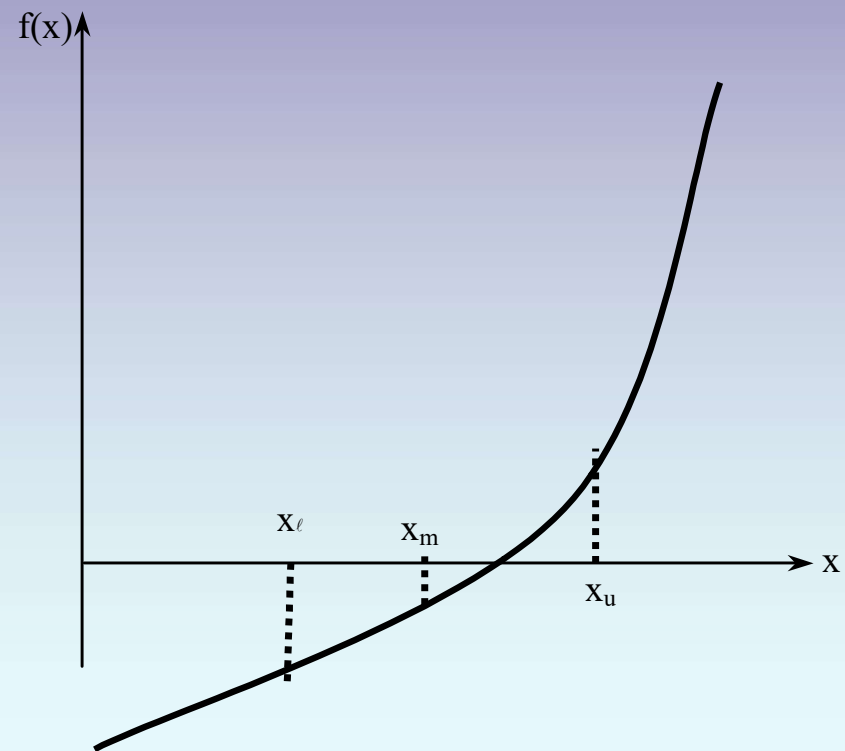


**Figure 1**

# Step 2

Estimate the root,  $x_m$  of the equation  $f(x) = 0$  as the midpoint between  $x_\ell$  and  $x_u$  as

$$x_m = \frac{x_\ell + x_u}{2}$$



**Figure 5** Estimate of  $x_m$



# Step 3

Now check the following

- a) If  $f(x_l)f(x_m) < 0$ , then the root lies between  $x_l$  and  $x_m$ ; then  $x_l = x_l$ ;  $x_u = x_m$ .
- b) If  $f(x_l)f(x_m) > 0$ , then the root lies between  $x_m$  and  $x_u$ ; then  $x_l = x_m$ ;  $x_u = x_u$ .
- c) If  $f(x_l)f(x_m) = 0$ ; then the root is  $x_m$ . Stop the algorithm if this is true.

# Step 4

Find the new estimate of the root

$$x_m = \frac{x_\ell + x_u}{2}$$

Find the absolute relative approximate error

$$|\epsilon_a| = \left| \frac{x_m^{new} - x_m^{old}}{x_m^{new}} \right| \times 100$$

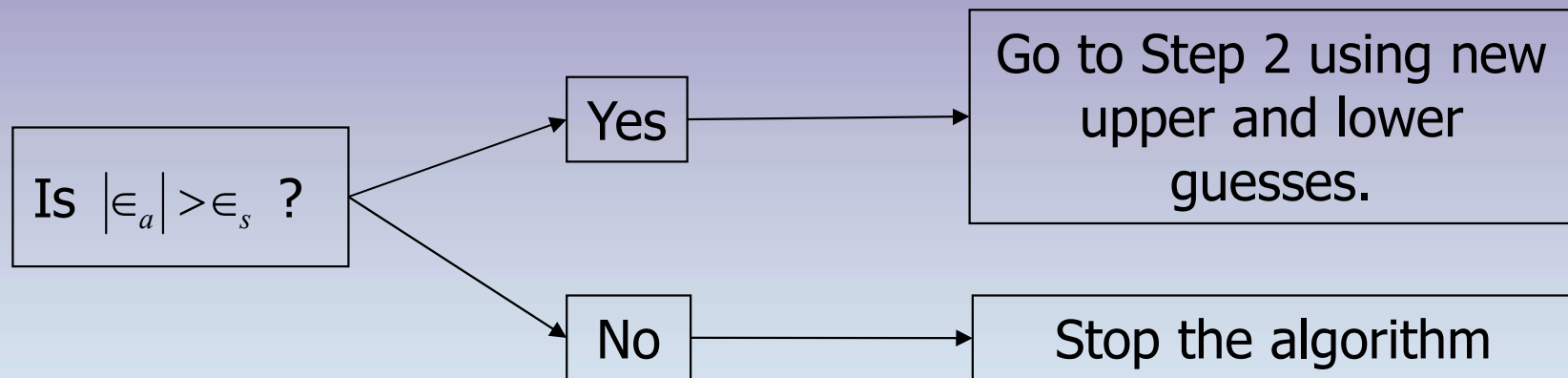
where

$x_m^{old}$  = previous estimate of root

$x_m^{new}$  = current estimate of root

# Step 5

Compare the absolute relative approximate error  $|\epsilon_a|$  with the pre-specified error tolerance  $\epsilon_s$ .



Note one should also check whether the number of iterations is more than the maximum number of iterations allowed. If so, one needs to terminate the algorithm and notify the user about it.

# Example 1

Use the bisection method of finding roots of equation

$$x^3 - 0.165x^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4} = 0$$

$$0 \leq x \leq 0.11$$

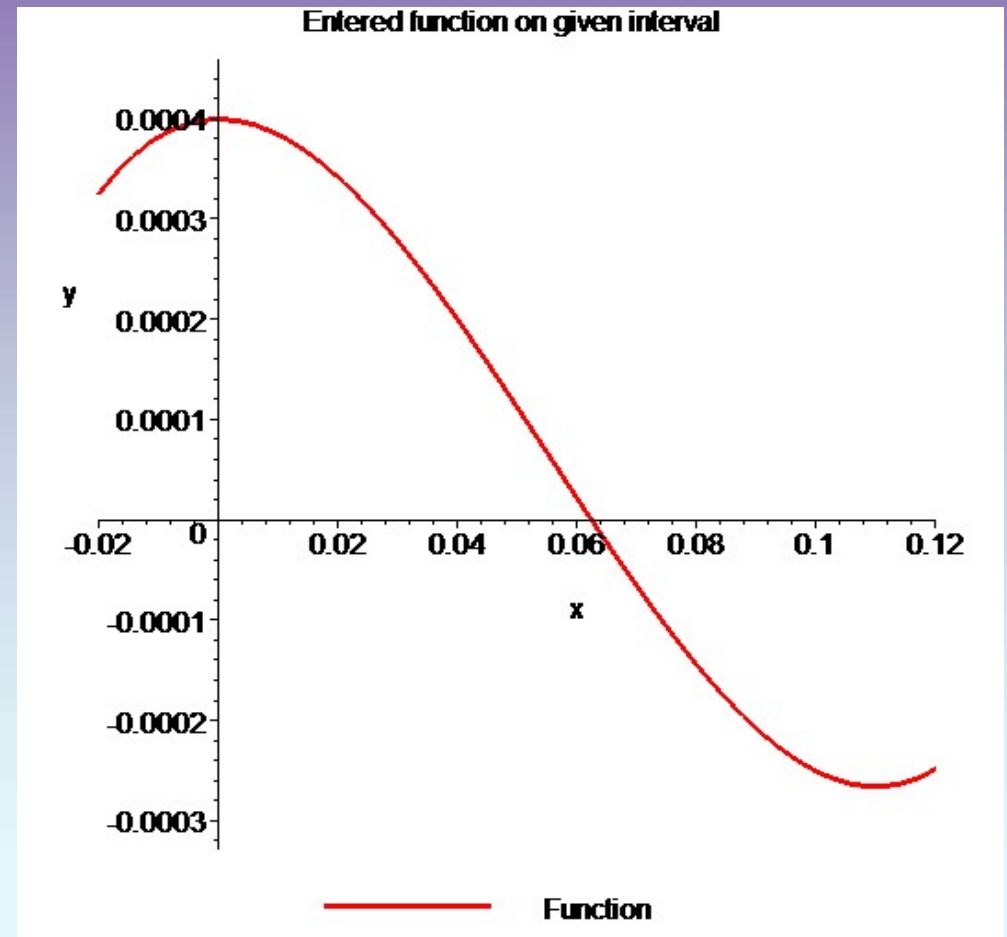
- a) Conduct three iterations to estimate the root of the above equation.
- b) Find the absolute relative approximate error at the end of each iteration.

# Solution

To aid in the understanding of how this method works to find the root of an equation, the graph of  $f(x)$  is shown to the right,

where

$$f(x) = x^3 - 0.165x^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4}$$



Let us assume

$$x_\ell = 0.00$$

$$x_u = 0.11$$

Check if the function changes sign between  $x_\ell$  and  $x_u$ .

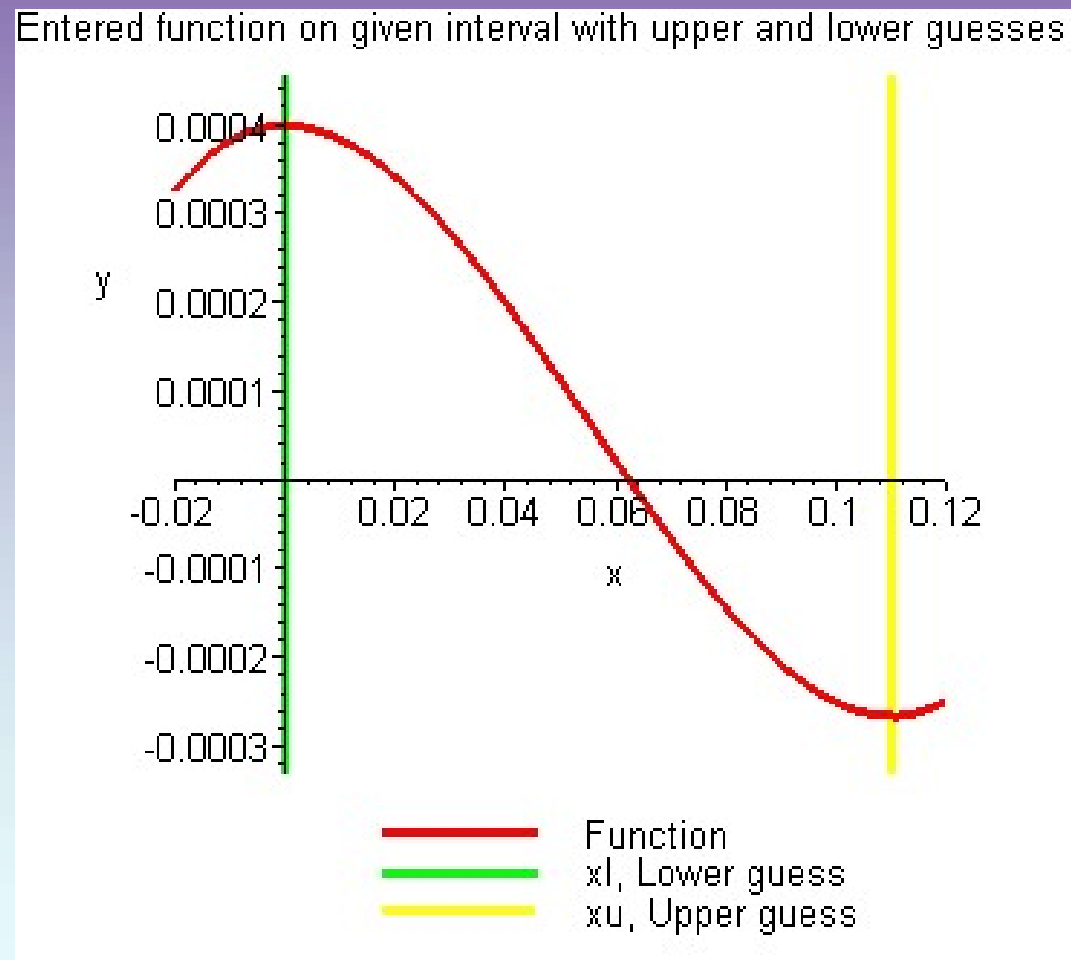
$$f(x_\ell) = f(0) = (0)^3 - 0.165(0)^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4} = 3.993 \times 10^{-4}$$

$$f(x_u) = f(0.11) = (0.11)^3 - 0.165(0.11)^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4} = -2.662 \times 10^{-4}$$

Hence

$$f(x_\ell)f(x_u) = f(0)f(0.11) = (3.993 \times 10^{-4})(-2.662 \times 10^{-4}) < 0$$

So there is at least one root between  $x_\ell$  and  $x_u$ , that is between 0 and 0.11



**Figure 8** Graph demonstrating sign change between initial limits

## Iteration 1

The estimate of the root is  $x_m = \frac{x_\ell + x_u}{2} = \frac{0 + 0.11}{2} = 0.055$

$$f(x_m) = f(0.055) = (0.055)^3 - 0.165(0.055)^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4} = 6.655 \times 10^{-5}$$

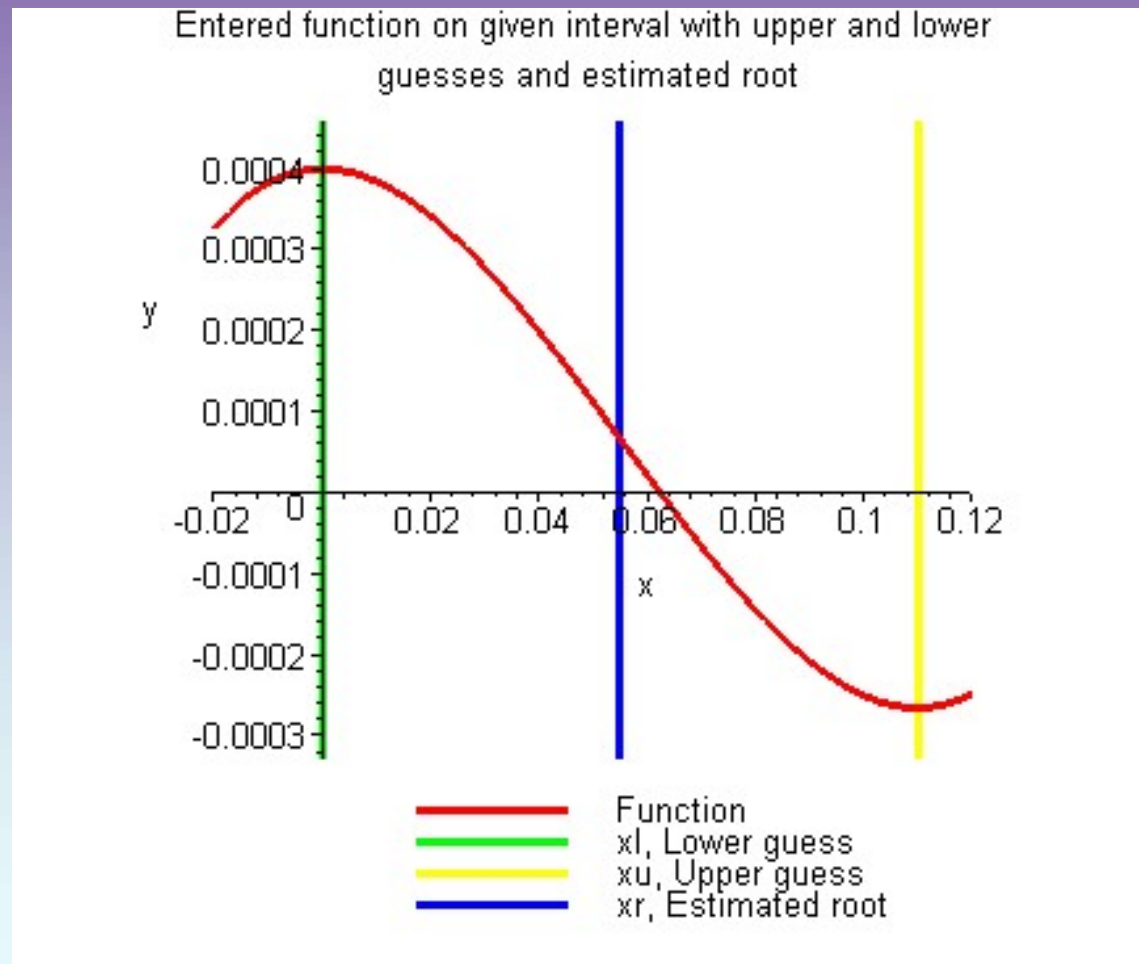
$$f(x_l)f(x_m) = f(0)f(0.055) = (3.993 \times 10^{-4})(6.655 \times 10^{-5}) > 0$$

Hence the root is bracketed between  $x_m$  and  $x_u$ , that is, between 0.055 and 0.11. So, the lower and upper limits of the new bracket are

$$x_l = 0.055, \quad x_u = 0.11$$

At this point, the absolute relative approximate error  $|\epsilon_a|$  cannot be calculated as we do not have a previous approximation.





**Figure 9** Estimate of the root for Iteration 1

## Iteration 2

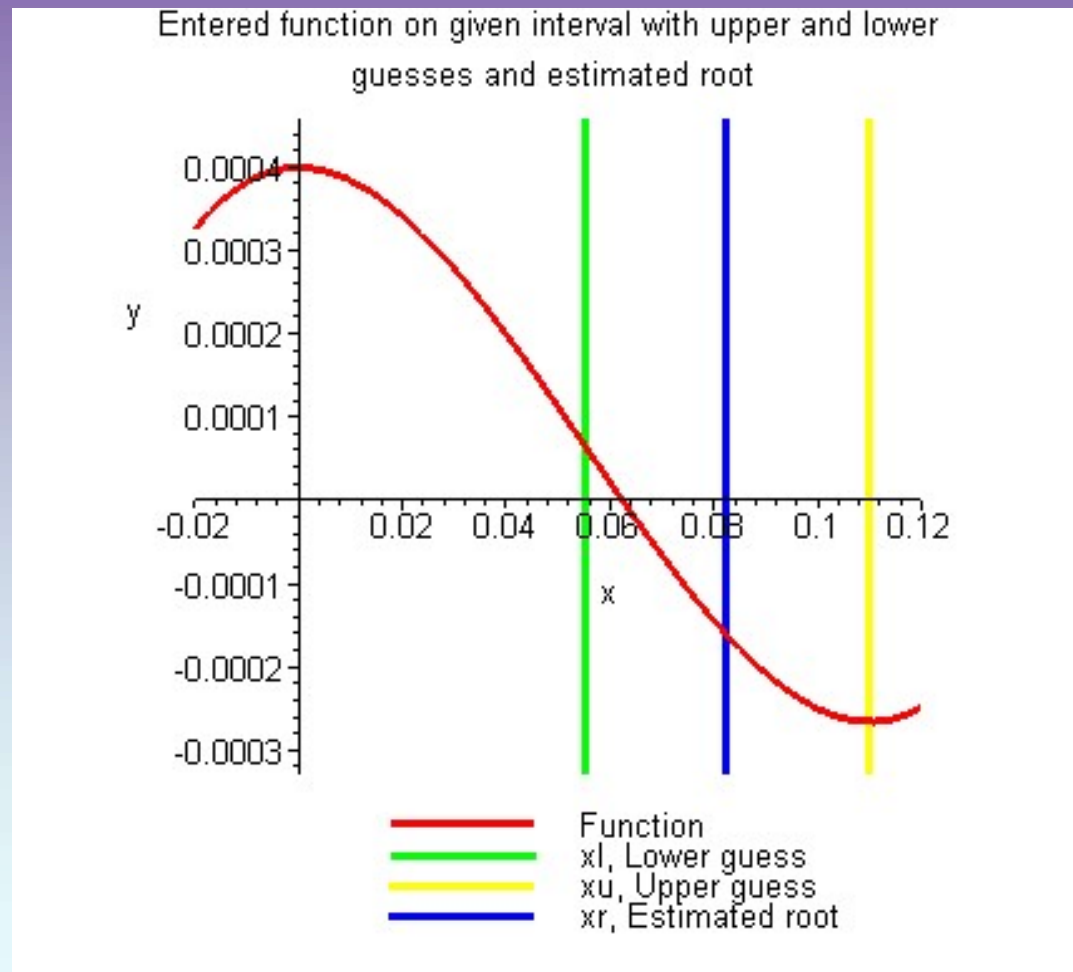
The estimate of the root is  $x_m = \frac{x_\ell + x_u}{2} = \frac{0.055 + 0.11}{2} = 0.0825$

$$f(x_m) = f(0.0825) = (0.0825)^3 - 0.165(0.0825)^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4} = -1.622 \times 10^{-4}$$

$$f(x_l)f(x_m) = f(0.055)f(0.0825) = (-1.622 \times 10^{-4})(6.655 \times 10^{-5}) < 0$$

Hence the root is bracketed between  $x_l$  and  $x_m$ , that is, between 0.055 and 0.0825. So, the lower and upper limits of the new bracket are

$$x_l = 0.055, \quad x_u = 0.0825$$



**Figure 10** Estimate of the root for Iteration 2

The absolute relative approximate error  $|\epsilon_a|$  at the end of Iteration 2 is

$$\begin{aligned} |\epsilon_a| &= \left| \frac{x_m^{new} - x_m^{old}}{x_m^{new}} \right| \times 100 \\ &= \left| \frac{0.0825 - 0.055}{0.0825} \right| \times 100 \\ &= 33.333\% \end{aligned}$$

None of the significant digits are at least correct in the estimate root of  $x_m = 0.0825$  because the absolute relative approximate error is greater than 5%.

### Iteration 3

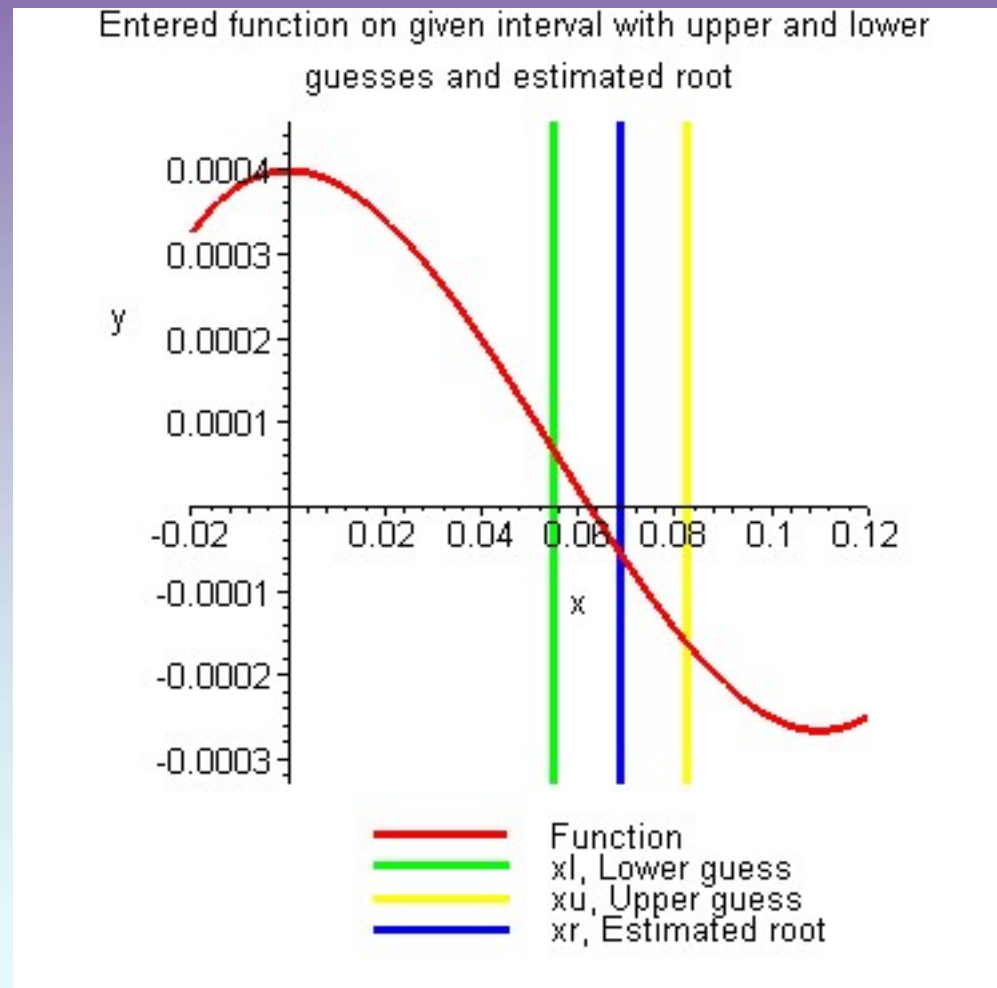
The estimate of the root is  $x_m = \frac{x_\ell + x_u}{2} = \frac{0.055 + 0.0825}{2} = 0.06875$

$$f(x_m) = f(0.06875) = (0.06875)^3 - 0.165(0.06875)^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4} = -5.563 \times 10^{-5}$$

$$f(x_l)f(x_m) = f(0.055)f(0.06875) = (6.655 \times 10^{-5})(-5.563 \times 10^{-5}) < 0$$

Hence the root is bracketed between  $x_l$  and  $x_m$ , that is, between 0.055 and 0.06875. So, the lower and upper limits of the new bracket are

$$x_l = 0.055, \quad x_u = 0.06875$$



**Figure 11** Estimate of the root for Iteration 3

The absolute relative approximate error  $|\epsilon_a|$  at the end of Iteration 3 is

$$\begin{aligned} |\epsilon_a| &= \left| \frac{x_m^{new} - x_m^{old}}{x_m^{new}} \right| \times 100 \\ &= \left| \frac{0.06875 - 0.0825}{0.06875} \right| \times 100 \\ &= 20\% \end{aligned}$$

Still, none of the significant digits are at least correct in the estimated root of the equation as the absolute relative approximate error is greater than 5%.

Seven more iterations were conducted, and these iterations are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1** Root of  $f(x)=0$  as function of number of iterations for bisection method.

Iteration	$x_\ell$	$x_u$	$x_m$	$ \epsilon_a  \%$	$f(x_m)$
1	0.00000	0.11	0.055	-----	$6.655 \times 10^{-5}$
2	0.055	0.11	0.0825	33.33	$-1.622 \times 10^{-4}$
3	0.055	0.0825	0.06875	20.00	$-5.563 \times 10^{-5}$
4	0.055	0.06875	0.06188	11.11	$4.484 \times 10^{-6}$
5	0.06188	0.06875	0.06531	5.263	$-2.593 \times 10^{-5}$
6	0.06188	0.06531	0.06359	2.702	$-1.0804 \times 10^{-5}$
7	0.06188	0.06359	0.06273	1.370	$-3.176 \times 10^{-6}$
8	0.06188	0.06273	0.0623	0.6897	$6.497 \times 10^{-7}$
9	0.0623	0.06273	0.06252	0.3436	$-1.265 \times 10^{-6}$
10	0.0623	0.06252	0.06241	0.1721	$-3.0768 \times 10^{-7}$



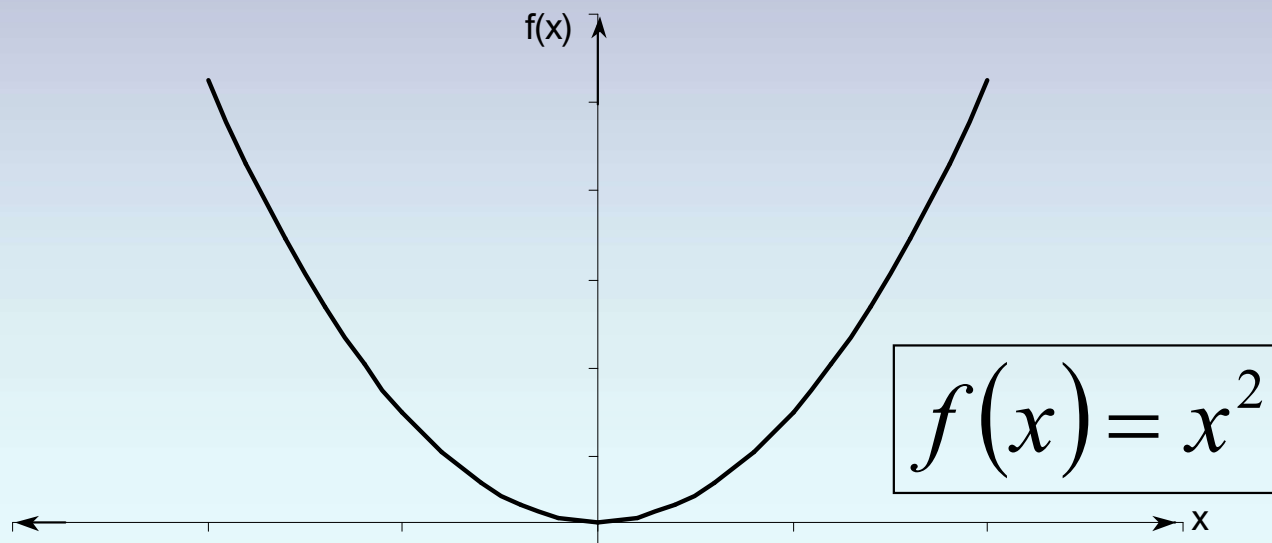
# Advantages

- Always convergent
- The root bracket gets halved تخفض للنصف with each iteration - guaranteed.

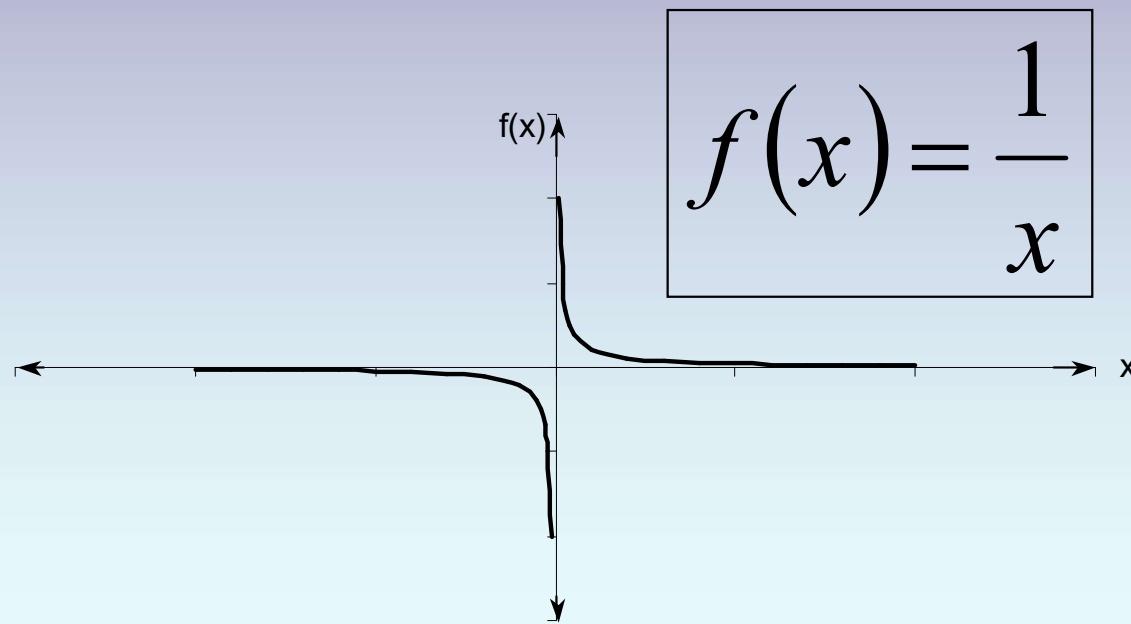
# Drawbacks

- Slow convergence
- If one of the initial guesses is close to the root, the convergence is slower

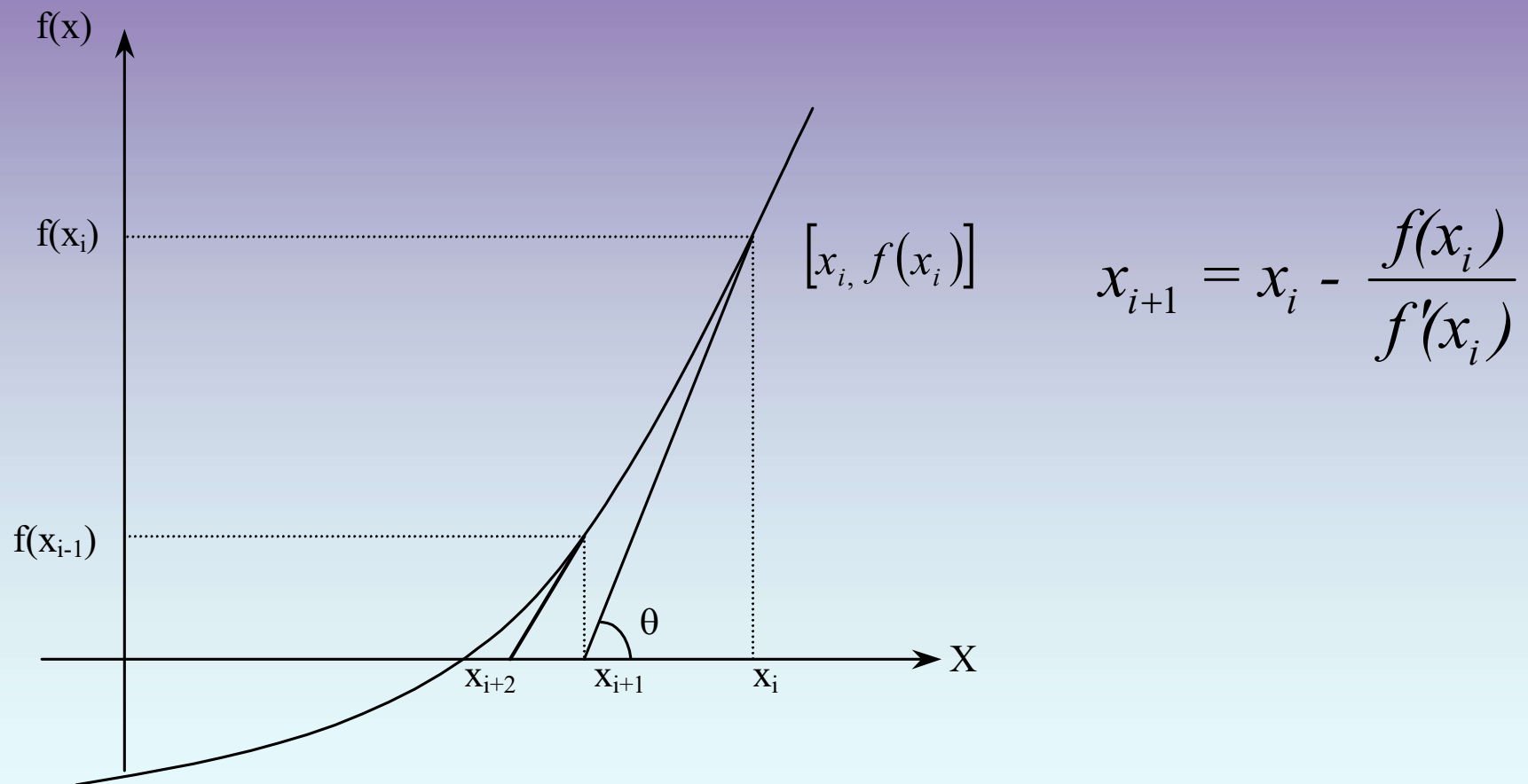
- If a function  $f(x)$  is such that it just touches the x-axis it will be unable to find the lower and upper guesses.



- Function changes sign but root does not exist

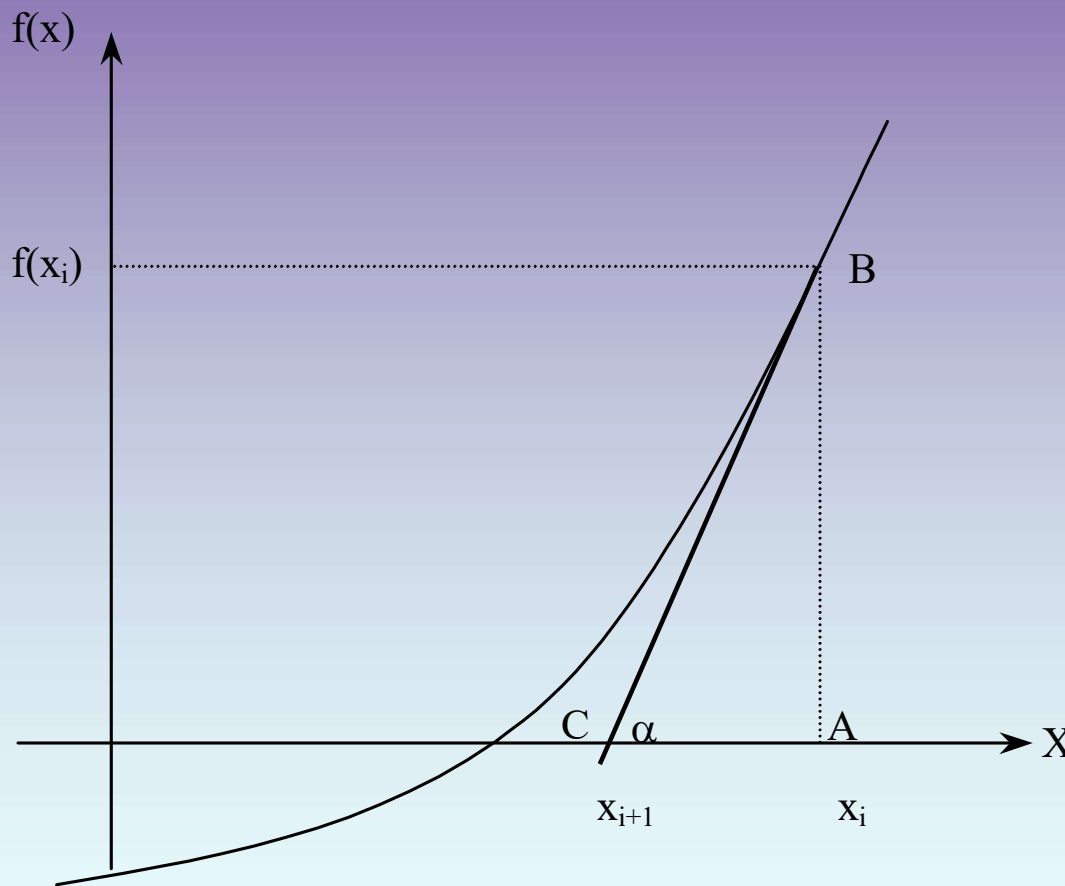


# 2-Newton-Raphson Method



**Figure 1** Geometrical illustration of the Newton-Raphson method.

# Derivation



$$\tan(\alpha) = \frac{AB}{AC}$$

$$f'(x_i) = \frac{f(x_i)}{x_i - x_{i+1}}$$

$$x_{i+1} = x_i - \frac{f(x_i)}{f'(x_i)}$$

**Figure 2** Derivation of the Newton-Raphson method.

# Algorithm for Newton-Raphson Method

# Step 1

Evaluate  $f'(x)$  symbolically.



# Step 2

Use an initial guess of the root,  $x_i$  , to estimate the new value of the root,  $x_{i+1}$  , as

$$x_{i+1} = x_i - \frac{f(x_i)}{f'(x_i)}$$

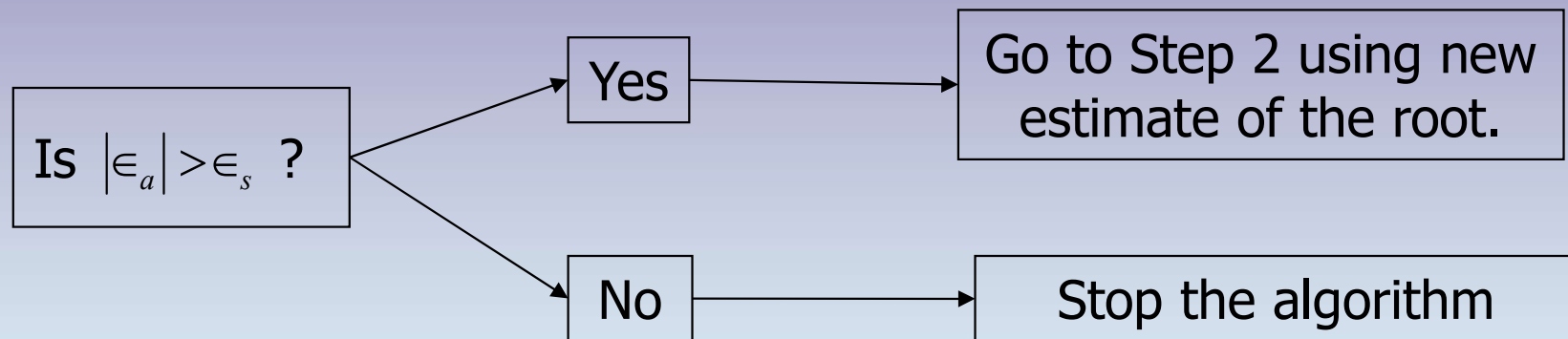
# Step 3

Find the absolute relative approximate error  $|\epsilon_a|$  as

$$|\epsilon_a| = \left| \frac{x_{i+1} - x_i}{x_{i+1}} \right| \times 100$$

# Step 4

Compare the absolute relative approximate error with the pre-specified relative error tolerance  $\epsilon_s$ .



Also, check if the number of iterations has exceeded the maximum number of iterations allowed. If so, one needs to terminate the algorithm and notify the user.

# Example 1

Use Newton-Raphson method of finding roots of equation

$$x^3 - 0.165x^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4} = 0$$

$$0 \leq x \leq 0.11$$

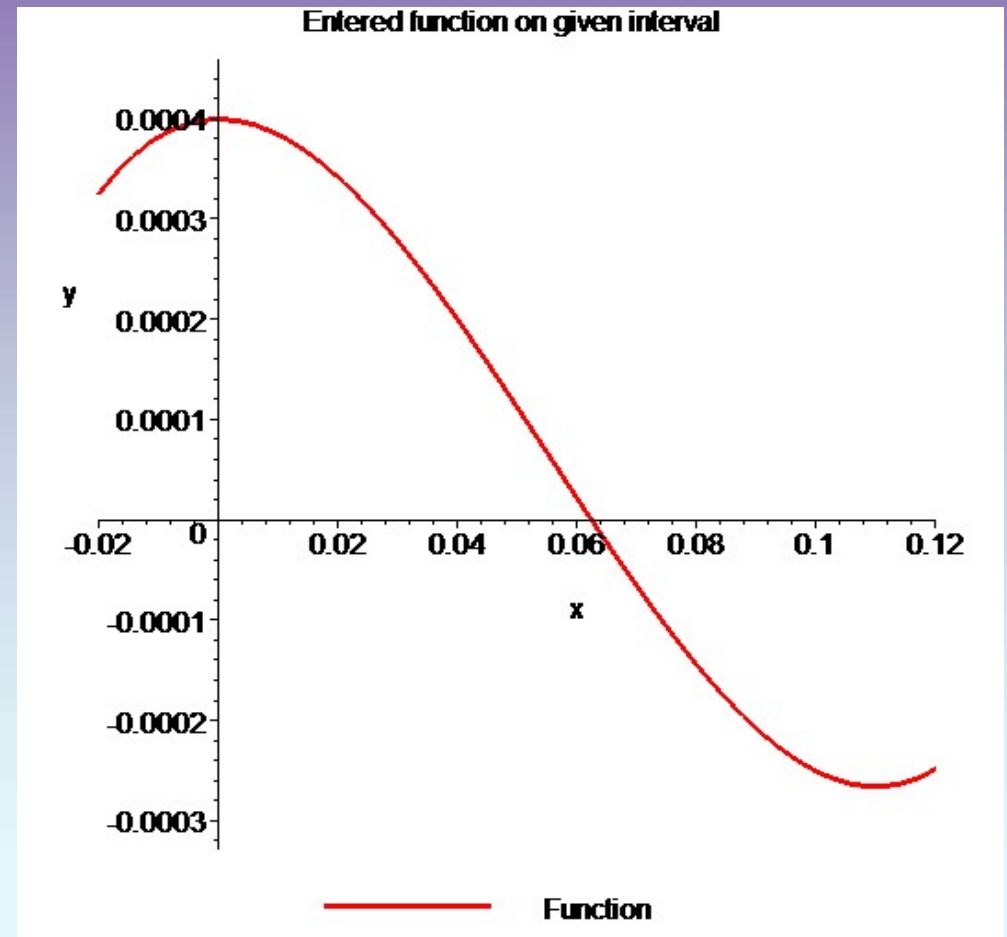
- a) Conduct three iterations to estimate the root of the above equation.
- b) Find the absolute relative approximate error at the end of each iteration.

# Solution

To aid in the understanding of how this method works to find the root of an equation, the graph of  $f(x)$  is shown to the right,

where

$$f(x) = x^3 - 0.165x^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4}$$



Solve for  $f'(x)$

$$f(x) = x^3 - 0.165x^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4}$$

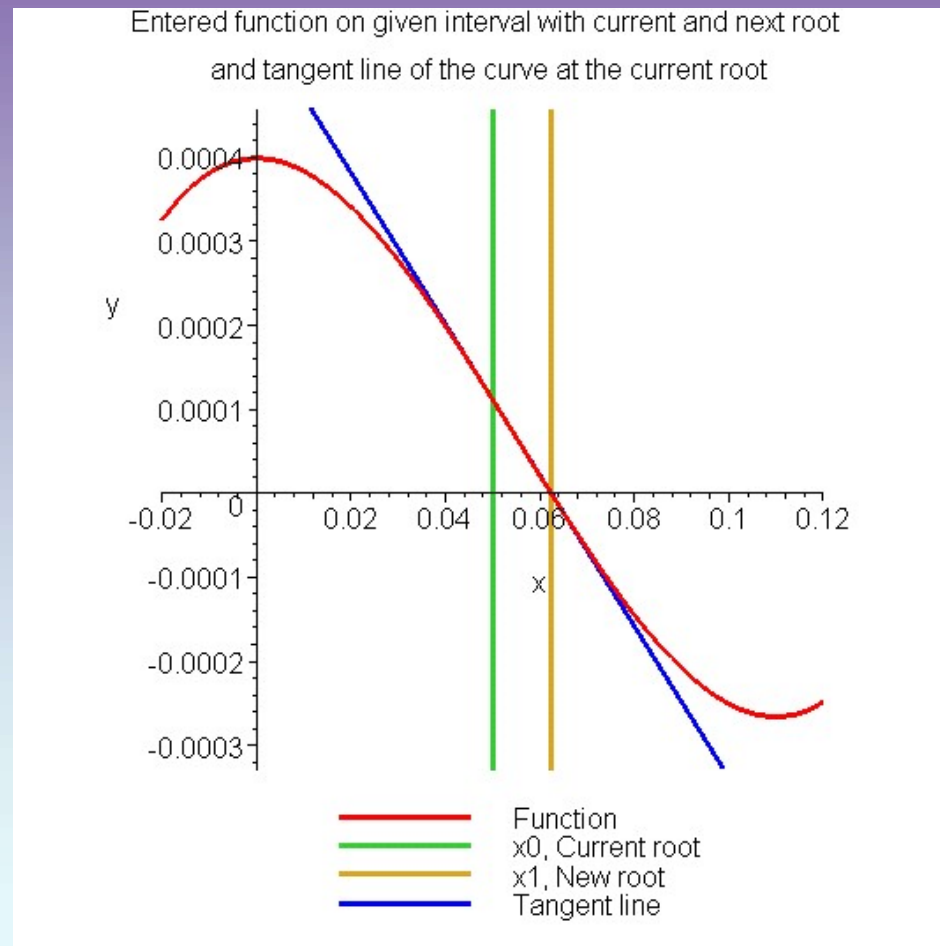
$$f'(x) = 3x^2 - 0.33x$$

Let us assume the initial guess of the root of  $f(x) = 0$  is  $x_0 = 0.05\text{m}$  .

## Iteration 1

The estimate of the root is

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 &= x_0 - \frac{f(x_0)}{f'(x_0)} \\&= 0.05 - \frac{(0.05)^3 - 0.165(0.05)^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4}}{3(0.05)^2 - 0.33(0.05)} \\&= 0.05 - \frac{1.118 \times 10^{-4}}{-9 \times 10^{-3}} \\&= 0.05 - (-0.01242) \\&= 0.06242\end{aligned}$$



**Figure 5** Estimate of the root for the first iteration.



The absolute relative approximate error  $|\epsilon_a|$  at the end of Iteration 1 is

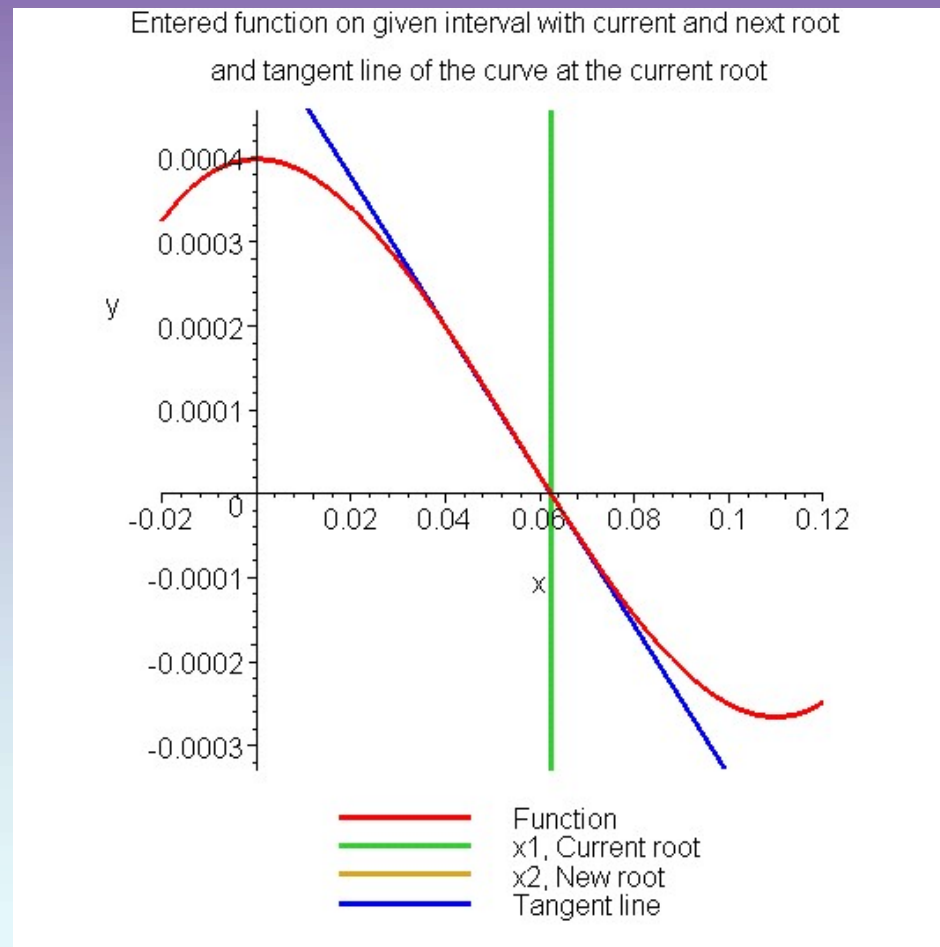
$$\begin{aligned} |\epsilon_a| &= \left| \frac{x_1 - x_0}{x_1} \right| \times 100 \\ &= \left| \frac{0.06242 - 0.05}{0.06242} \right| \times 100 \\ &= 19.90 \% \end{aligned}$$

The number of significant digits at least correct is 0, as you need an absolute relative approximate error of 5% or less for at least one significant digits to be correct in your result.

## Iteration 2

The estimate of the root is

$$\begin{aligned}x_2 &= x_1 - \frac{f(x_1)}{f'(x_1)} \\&= 0.06242 - \frac{(0.06242)^3 - 0.165(0.06242)^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4}}{3(0.06242)^2 - 0.33(0.06242)} \\&= 0.06242 - \frac{-3.97781 \times 10^{-7}}{-8.90973 \times 10^{-3}} \\&= 0.06242 - (4.4646 \times 10^{-5}) \\&= 0.06238\end{aligned}$$



**Figure 6** Estimate of the root for the Iteration 2.

The absolute relative approximate error  $|\epsilon_a|$  at the end of Iteration 2 is

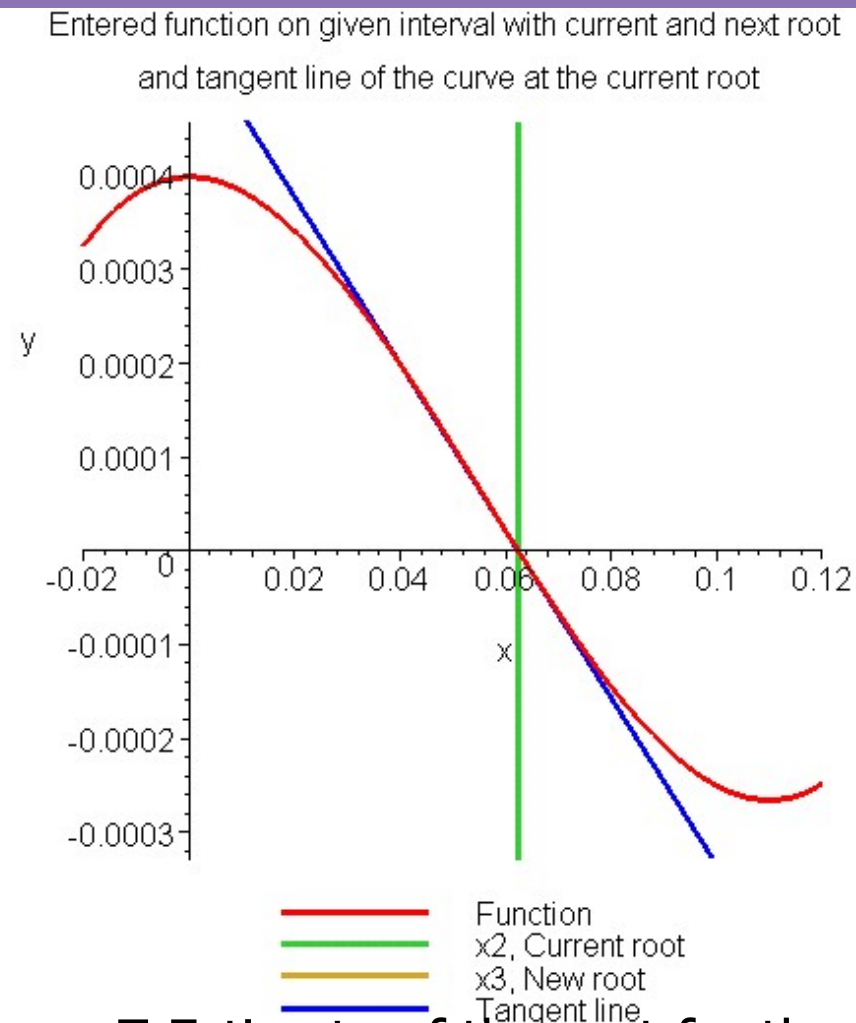
$$\begin{aligned} |\epsilon_a| &= \left| \frac{x_2 - x_1}{x_2} \right| \times 100 \\ &= \left| \frac{0.06238 - 0.06242}{0.06238} \right| \times 100 \\ &= 0.0716 \% \end{aligned}$$

The maximum value of  $m$  for which  $|\epsilon_a| \leq 0.5 \times 10^{2-m}$  is 2.844. Hence, the number of significant digits at least correct in the answer is 2.

### Iteration 3

The estimate of the root is

$$\begin{aligned}x_3 &= x_2 - \frac{f(x_2)}{f'(x_2)} \\&= 0.06238 - \frac{(0.06238)^3 - 0.165(0.06238)^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4}}{3(0.06238)^2 - 0.33(0.06238)} \\&= 0.06238 - \frac{4.44 \times 10^{-11}}{-8.91171 \times 10^{-3}} \\&= 0.06238 - (-4.9822 \times 10^{-9}) \\&= 0.06238\end{aligned}$$



**Figure 7** Estimate of the root for the Iteration 3.

The absolute relative approximate error  $|\epsilon_a|$  at the end of Iteration 3 is

$$\begin{aligned} |\epsilon_a| &= \left| \frac{x_2 - x_1}{x_2} \right| \times 100 \\ &= \left| \frac{0.06238 - 0.06238}{0.06238} \right| \times 100 \\ &= 0\% \end{aligned}$$

The number of significant digits at least correct is 4, as only 4 significant digits are carried through all the calculations.

# Advantages

- Converges fast (quadratic convergence), if it converges.
- Requires only one guess



# Drawbacks

1. Divergence at inflection points

Selection of the initial guess or an iteration value of the root that is close to the inflection point of the function  $f(x)$  may start diverging away from the root in the Newton-Raphson method.

For example, to find the root of the equation  $f(x) = (x-1)^3 + 0.512 = 0$ .

The Newton-Raphson method reduces to 
$$x_{i+1} = x_i - \frac{(x_i^3 - 1)^3 + 0.512}{3(x_i - 1)^2}.$$

Table 1 shows the iterated values of the root of the equation.

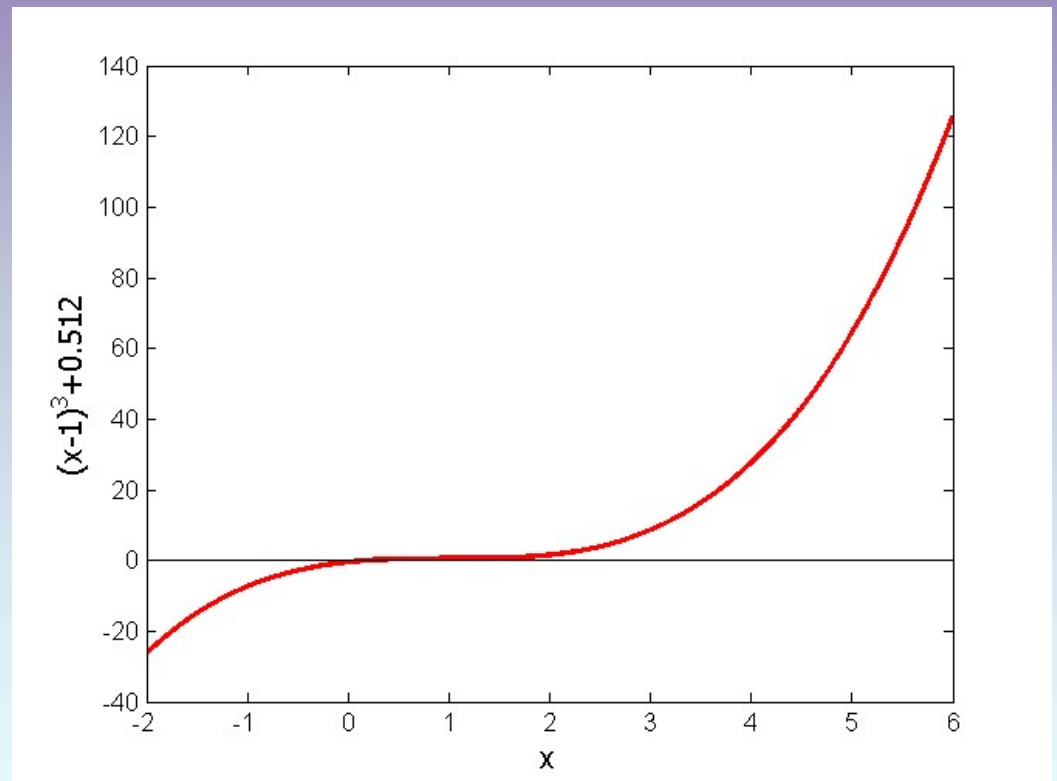
The root starts to diverge at Iteration 6 because the previous estimate of 0.92589 is close to the inflection point of  $x = 1$ .

Eventually after 12 more iterations the root converges to the exact value of  $x = 0.2$ .

# Drawbacks – Inflection Points

**Table 1** Divergence near inflection point.

Iteration Number	$x_i$
0	5.0000
1	3.6560
2	2.7465
3	2.1084
4	1.6000
5	0.92589
6	-30.119
7	-19.746
18	0.2000



**Figure 8** Divergence at inflection point for  $f(x) = (x-1)^3 + 0.512 = 0$

# Drawbacks – Division by Zero

## 2. Division by zero

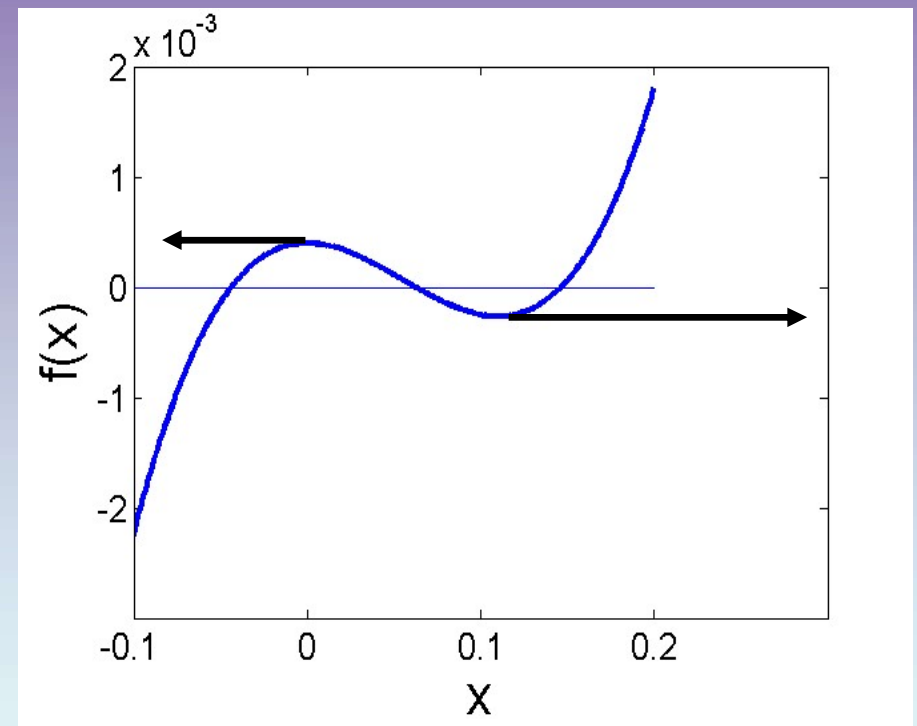
For the equation

$$f(x) = x^3 - 0.03x^2 + 2.4 \times 10^{-6} = 0$$

the Newton-Raphson method reduces to

$$x_{i+1} = x_i - \frac{x_i^3 - 0.03x_i^2 + 2.4 \times 10^{-6}}{3x_i^2 - 0.06x_i}$$

For  $x_0 = 0$  or  $x_0 = 0.02$ , the denominator will equal zero.



**Figure 9** Pitfall of division by zero or near a zero number

# Drawbacks – Root Jumping

## 4. Root Jumping

In some cases where the function  $f(x)$  is oscillating and has a number of roots, one may choose an initial guess close to a root. However, the guesses may jump and converge to some other root.

For example

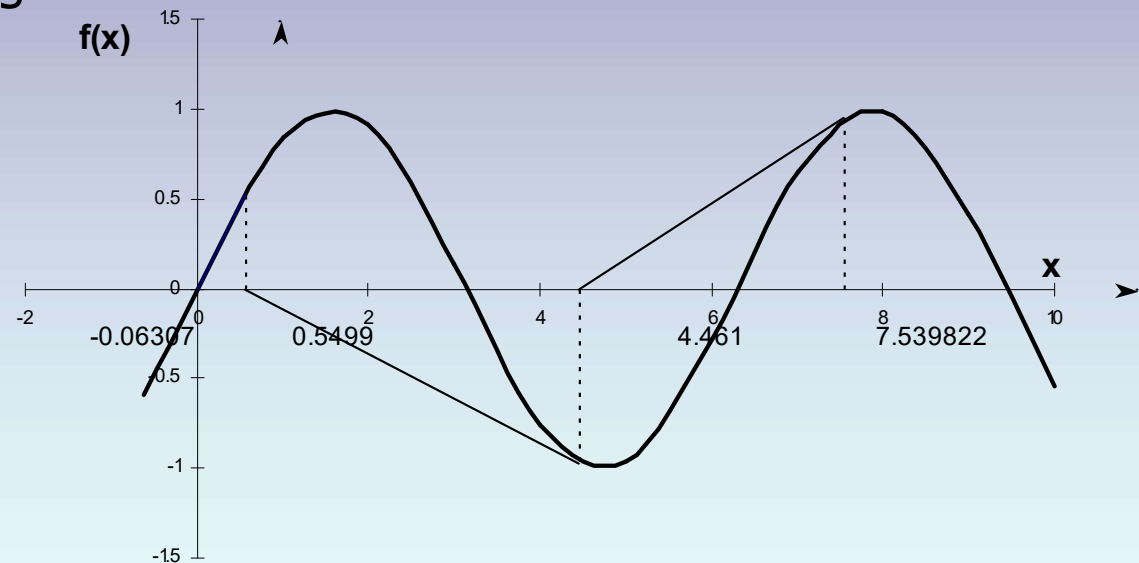
$$f(x) = \sin x = 0$$

Choose

$$x_0 = 2.4\pi = 7.539822$$

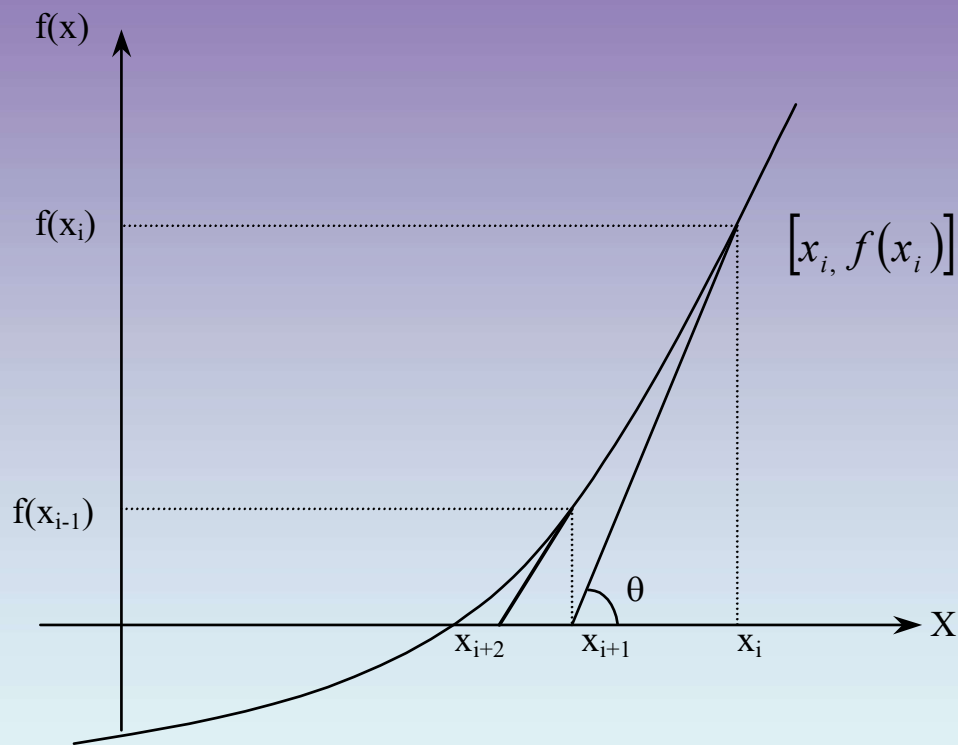
It will converge to  $x = 0$

instead of  $x = 2\pi = 6.2831853$



**Figure 11** Root jumping from intended location of root for  $f(x) = \sin x = 0$

# 3-Secant Method



**Figure 1** Geometrical illustration of the Newton-Raphson method.

Newton's Method

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

Approximate the derivative

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

Substituting Equation (2) into Equation (1) gives the Secant method

$$x_{i+1} = x_i - \frac{f(x_i)(x_i - x_{i-1})}{f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})}$$

# Algorithm for Secant Method

## Step 1

Calculate the next estimate of the root from two initial guesses

$$x_{i+1} = x_i - \frac{f(x_i)(x_i - x_{i-1})}{f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})}$$

Find the absolute relative approximate error

$$|\epsilon_a| = \left| \frac{x_{i+1} - x_i}{x_{i+1}} \right| \times 100$$

# Step 2

Find if the absolute relative approximate error is greater than the prespecified relative error tolerance.

If so, go back to step 1, else stop the algorithm.

Also check if the number of iterations has exceeded the maximum number of iterations.

# Example 1

Use the Secant method of finding roots of equation

$$x^3 - 0.165x^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4} = 0$$

$$0 \leq x \leq 0.11$$

- a) Conduct three iterations to estimate the root of the above equation.
- b) Find the absolute relative approximate error at the end of each iteration.

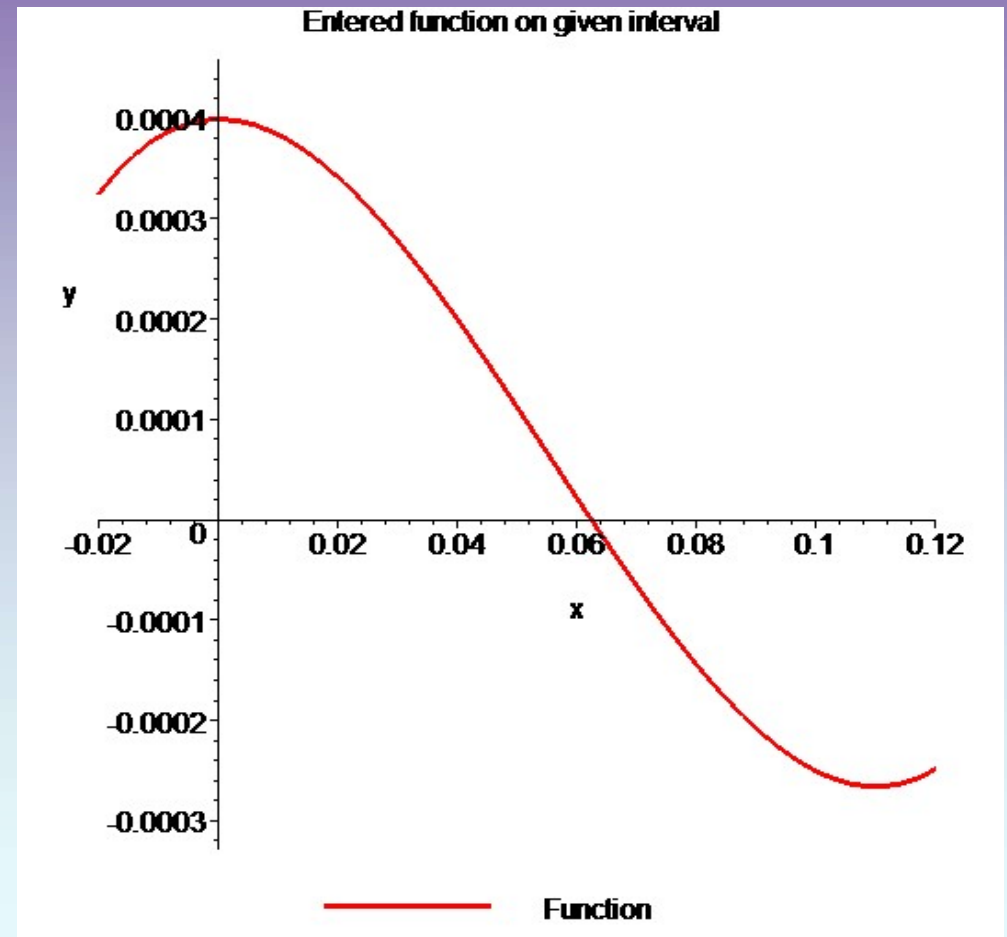


# Solution

To aid in the understanding of how this method works to find the root of an equation, the graph of  $f(x)$  is shown to the right,

where

$$f(x) = x^3 - 0.165x^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4}$$



Let us assume the initial guesses of the root of  $f(x)=0$  as  $x_{-1} = 0.02$  and  $x_0 = 0.05$ .

### Iteration 1

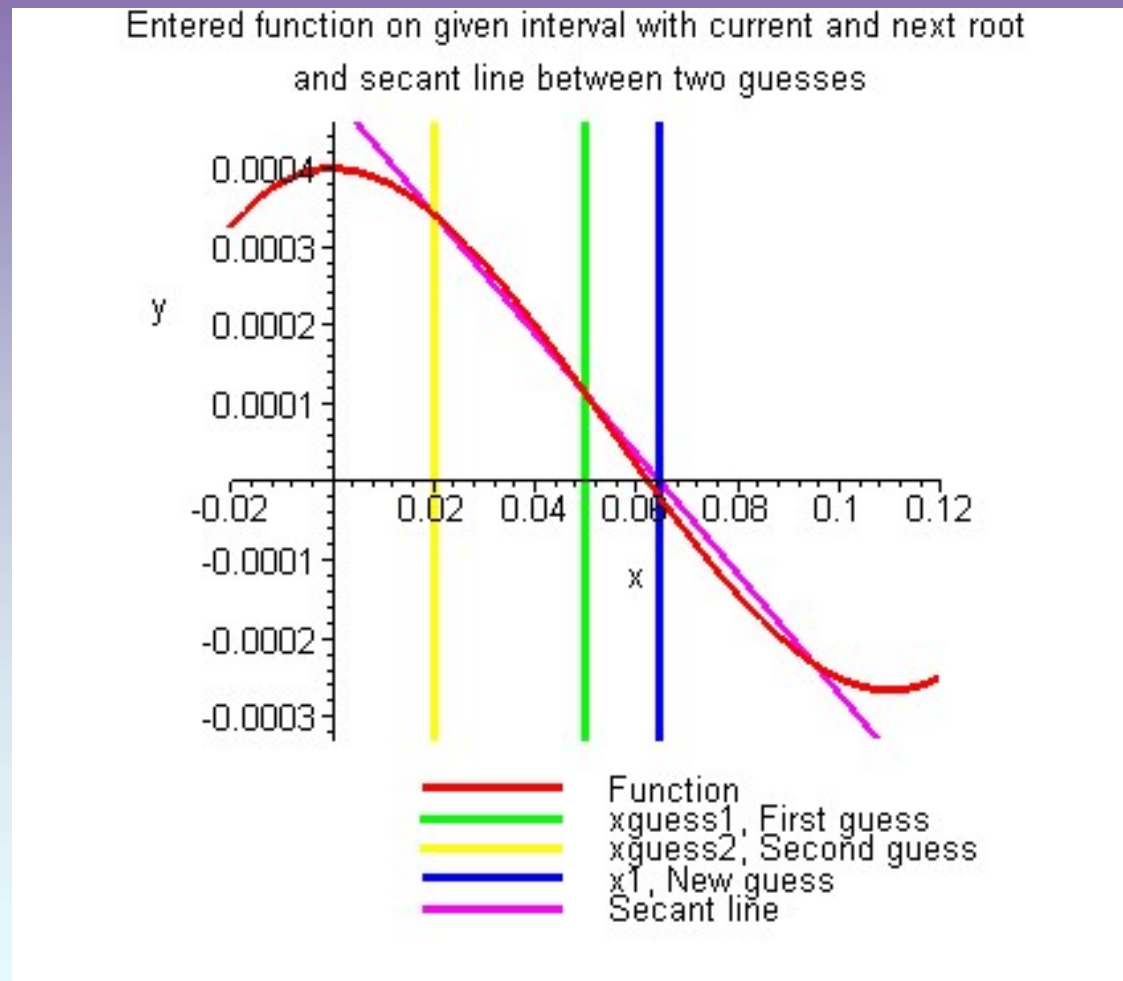
The estimate of the root is

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 &= x_0 - \frac{f(x_0)(x_0 - x_{-1})}{f(x_0) - f(x_{-1})} \\&= 0.05 - \frac{(0.05^3 - 0.165(0.05)^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4})(0.05 - 0.02)}{(0.05^3 - 0.165(0.05)^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4}) - (0.02^3 - 0.165(0.02)^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4})} \\&= 0.06461\end{aligned}$$

The absolute relative approximate error  $|\epsilon_a|$  at the end of Iteration 1 is

$$\begin{aligned} |\epsilon_a| &= \left| \frac{x_1 - x_0}{x_1} \right| \times 100 \\ &= \left| \frac{0.06461 - 0.05}{0.06461} \right| \times 100 \\ &= 22.62\% \end{aligned}$$

The number of significant digits at least correct is 0, as you need an absolute relative approximate error of 5% or less for one significant digits to be correct in your result.



**Figure 5** Graph of results of Iteration 1.

## Iteration 2

The estimate of the root is

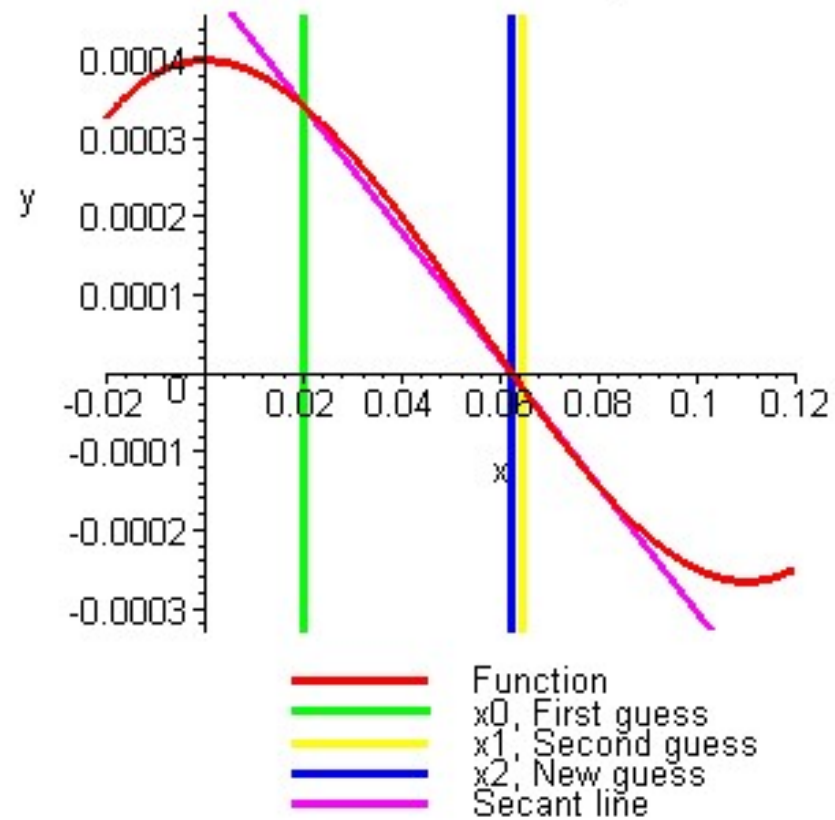
$$\begin{aligned}x_2 &= x_1 - \frac{f(x_1)(x_1 - x_0)}{f(x_1) - f(x_0)} \\&= 0.06461 - \frac{(0.06461^3 - 0.165(0.06461)^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4})(0.06461 - 0.05)}{(0.06461^3 - 0.165(0.06461)^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4}) - (0.05^3 - 0.165(0.05)^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4})} \\&= 0.06241\end{aligned}$$

The absolute relative approximate error  $|\epsilon_a|$  at the end of Iteration 2 is

$$\begin{aligned} |\epsilon_a| &= \left| \frac{x_2 - x_1}{x_2} \right| \times 100 \\ &= \left| \frac{0.06241 - 0.06461}{0.06241} \right| \times 100 \\ &= 3.525\% \end{aligned}$$

The number of significant digits at least correct is 1, as you need an absolute relative approximate error of 5% or less.

Entered function on given interval with current and next root  
and secant line between two guesses



**Figure 6** Graph of results of Iteration 2.

## Iteration 3

The estimate of the root is

$$\begin{aligned}x_3 &= x_2 - \frac{f(x_2)(x_2 - x_1)}{f(x_2) - f(x_1)} \\&= 0.06241 - \frac{(0.06241^3 - 0.165(0.06241)^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4})(0.06241 - 0.06461)}{(0.06241^3 - 0.165(0.06241)^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4}) - (0.05^3 - 0.165(0.06461)^2 + 3.993 \times 10^{-4})} \\&= 0.06238\end{aligned}$$

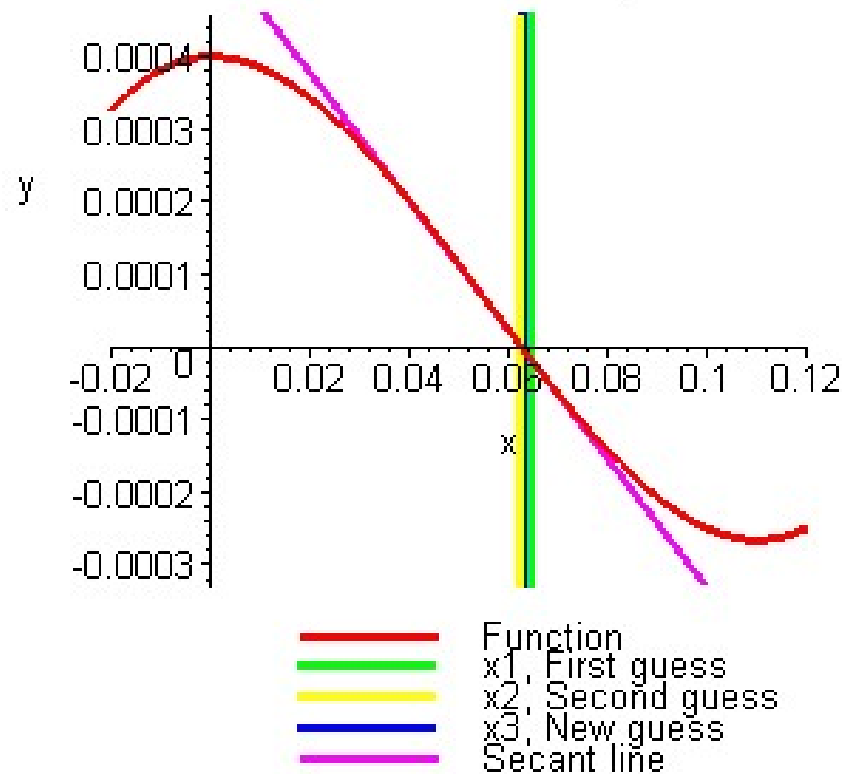


The absolute relative approximate error  $|\epsilon_a|$  at the end of Iteration 3 is

$$\begin{aligned} |\epsilon_a| &= \left| \frac{x_3 - x_2}{x_3} \right| \times 100 \\ &= \left| \frac{0.06238 - 0.06241}{0.06238} \right| \times 100 \\ &= 0.0595\% \end{aligned}$$

The number of significant digits at least correct is 5, as you need an absolute relative approximate error of 0.5% or less.

Entered function on given interval with current and next root  
and secant line between two guesses

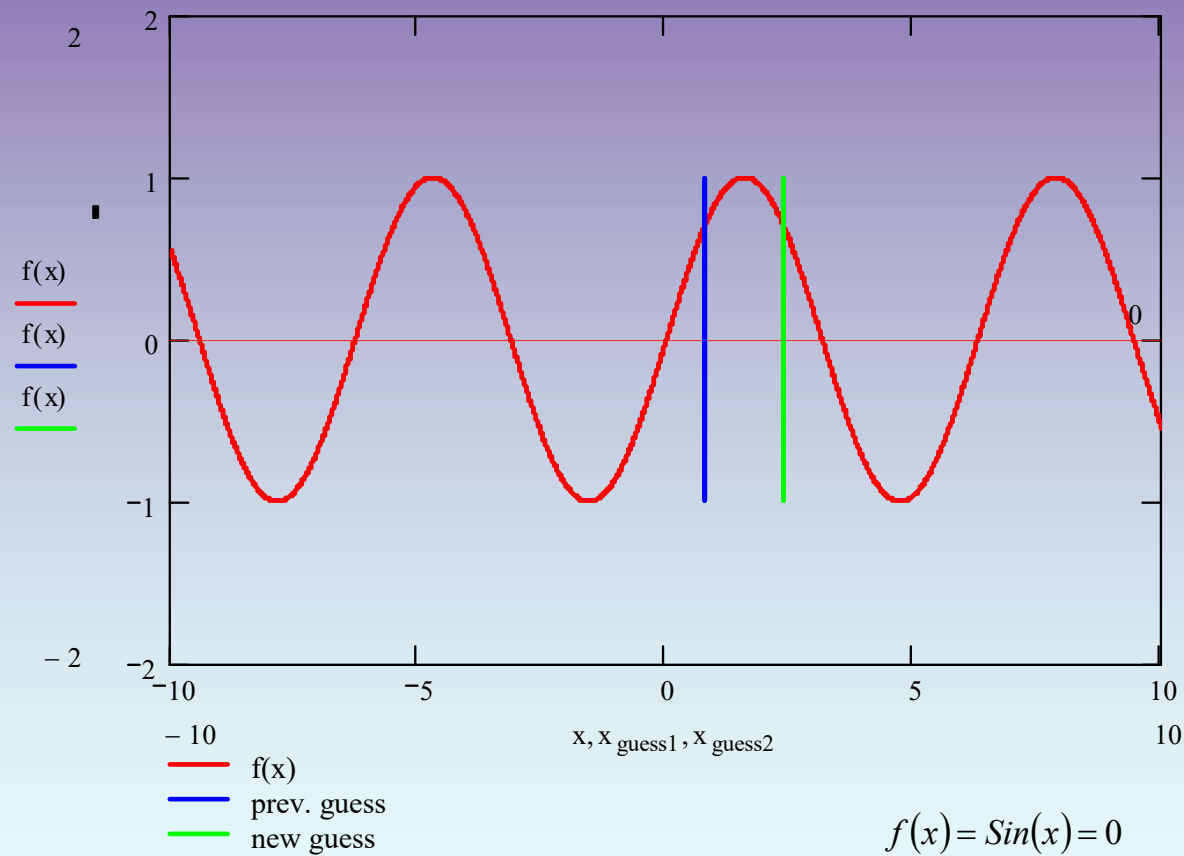


**Figure 7** Graph of results of Iteration 3.

# Advantages

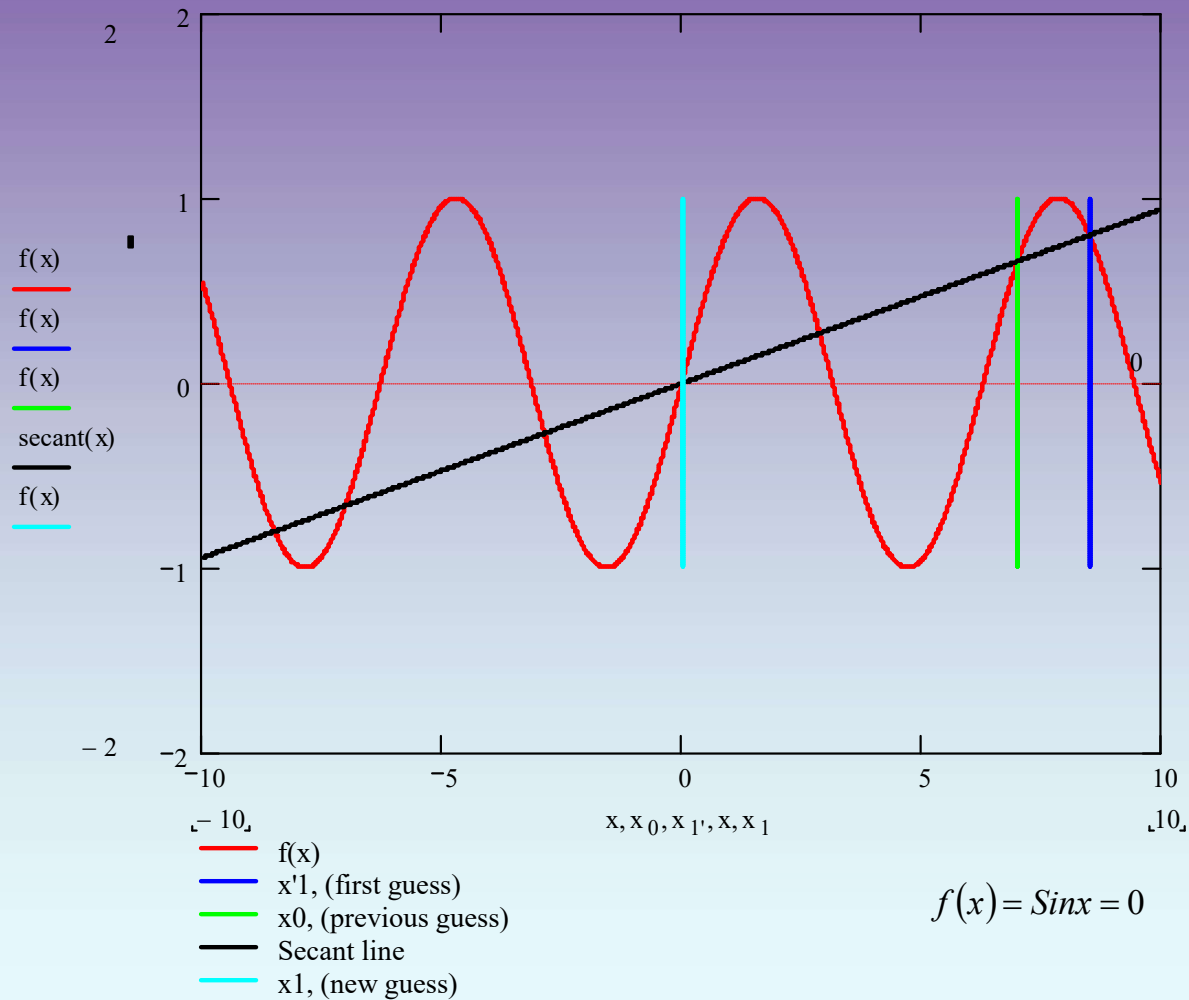
- Converges fast, if it converges
- Requires two guesses that do not need to bracket the root

# Drawbacks



Division by zero

# Drawbacks



## Root Jumping