

## Chapter Two. Iterative Methods for Nonlinear (Scalar) Equations

$$f(x) = 0 \quad \text{solution}$$

nonlinear function,  $x \in [a, b]$ .

$$f(x) \in C[a, b]$$

### Section I. Bisection Method

$$\overbrace{a \qquad \qquad b}^{\longrightarrow} \quad \text{Assume } f(a)f(b) < 0.$$

Let  $c = \frac{a+b}{2}$ . If  $f(a)f(c) > 0$ , replace  $a$  with  $c$ ;  
otherwise, replace  $b$  with  $c$ .

Specify a tolerance  $\epsilon > 0$  for an iterative method.  
e.g.  $\epsilon = 10^{-6}, 10^{-8}, 10^{-10}$

①. do {

$$\text{step 1. } c = \frac{a+b}{2}$$

step 2. if  $f(a)f(c) > 0$ ,  $a = c$ ; else  $b = c$ ;

{while ( $|f(b-a)| > \epsilon$ )

$$x = c$$

②. while ( $|f(b-a)| > \epsilon$ ) {

$$\text{step 1. } c = \frac{a+b}{2}$$

step 2. if  $f(a)f(c) > 0$ ,  $a = c$ ; else  $b = c$ ;

$$c = \frac{a+b}{2}; \quad x = c,$$

Example :  $f(x) = x - e^{-x}$   $[-1, 1]$ .  
 $x^* \approx 0.567143.$

## Section II. Fixed Point Method.

$$f(x) = 0.$$

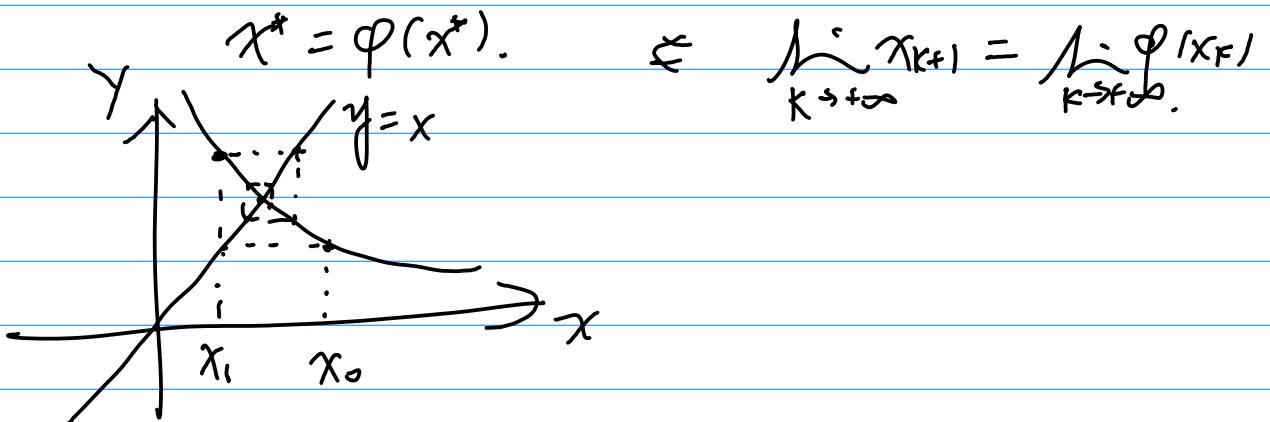
$x_0$  : initial guess.  $x_0 \rightarrow x_1 \rightarrow x_2 \rightarrow \dots$   
a sequence of approximate solutions.

Let  $k = 0, 1, 2 \dots$

$$x_{k+1} \leftarrow \varphi(x_k)$$

If the sequence  $\{x_k\}$  converges. to  $x^*$ ,

the limit  $x^*$  is a fixed point of  
the iterat or the funct  $\varphi(x)$ .



If  $\varphi(x) \in (a, b)$ . and  $\varphi'(x) \in [a, b]$ ,  
 then  $\varphi(x)$  has a fixed point on  $[a, b]$ .

Let  $f(x) = x - \varphi(x)$ .  $a < \varphi(x) < b$

$$f(a) = a - \varphi(a) \leq 0$$

$$f(b) = b - \varphi(b) \geq 0$$

1).  $f(a) = 0 \Rightarrow a$  is a fixed point

2).  $f(b) = 0 \Rightarrow b$  is a fixed point.

3)  $f(a) < 0, f(b) > 0$

$f(x)$  has a zero  $x^*$  in the interval

$$\text{i.e. } f(x^*) = x^* - \varphi(x^*) = 0. \Rightarrow x^* = \varphi(x^*)$$

If  $|\varphi(x) - \varphi(y)| < L|x - y|$  with  $L \in (0, 1)$ .  
 compression.

then the fixed point is unique

and the sequence  $\{x_k\}$  generated by the  
 iteration

$$x_{k+1} = \varphi(x_k) \quad k=0, 1, 2, \dots$$

is convergent.

Proof: If the fixed point is not unique. i.e.

$$\begin{cases} x^* = \varphi(x^*) \\ x^{**} = \varphi(x^{**}) \end{cases}$$

$$|x^* - x^{**}| = |\varphi(x^*) - \varphi(x^{**})| < L|x^* - x^{**}|$$

$$(1-L)|x^* - x^{**}| < 0 \Rightarrow \text{contradiction}$$

$$|x_{k+1} - x_k| = |\varphi(x_k) - \varphi(x_{k-1})| \leq L|x_k - x_{k-1}|$$

$$\leq L^k |x_1 - x_0|. \quad k > 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow |x_{k+p} - x_k| \leq \sum_{i=k}^{k+p-1} |x_{i+1} - x_i| \leq \sum_{i=k}^{k+p-1} L^i \cdot |x_1 - x_0| \\ \leq |x_1 - x_0| \cdot \sum_{i=k}^{k+p-1} L^i \leq \frac{L}{1-L} |x_1 - x_0|$$

$\Rightarrow \{x_k\}$  Cauchy seq.  $\Rightarrow$  converges (+)

If  $\varphi(x) \in C([a, b])$ .  $\varphi'(x) \in (a, b)$

and  $|\varphi'(x)| \leq L$   $L \in (0, 1)$ .

the function  $\varphi(x)$  has a unique fixed point

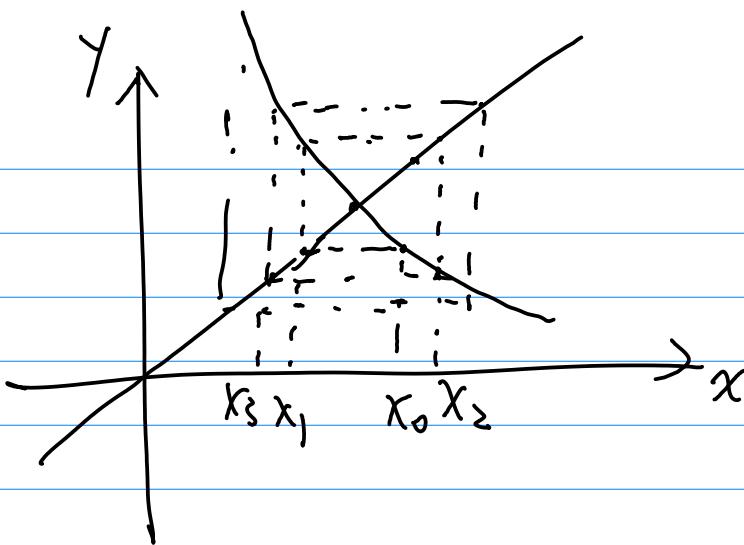
and the seq.  $\{x_k\}$  generated by

$$x_{k+1} = \varphi(x_k)$$

converges to the fixed-point

$$\varphi(x) - \varphi(y) = \varphi'(x)(x-y)$$

$$\Rightarrow |\varphi(x) - \varphi(y)| = |\varphi'(x)| \cdot |x-y| \leq L|x-y|$$



Example 2.  $f(x) = x - e^{-x} = 0$

$$x - \varphi(x) = 0. \quad ① \Rightarrow f(x) = x - \varphi(x).$$

$$\varphi(x) = x - f(x).$$

$$②. f(x) = \varphi(x) - x.$$

$$\varphi(x) = x + f(x)$$

$$③. x - \varphi(x) = p(x)f(x) \Rightarrow \varphi(x) = x - p(x)f(x)$$

preconditions.

$$-L \leq \varphi'(x) = 1 - p'(x)f(x) - p(x)f'(x) \leq L$$

$$1 - L \leq p'(x)f(x) + p(x)f'(x) \leq L + 1.$$

if  $p(x)$  constant,  $p'(x) = 0$

$$0 < 1 - L \leq p \cdot f(x) \leq L + 1$$

$$1 - L \leq p f'(x) \leq L + 1$$

$$\varphi(x) = e^{-4x}$$

$$x = \varphi(x)$$

# Aitken technique (acceleration)

$$x_{n+1} = \varphi(x_n)$$

$$\text{Let } x^* = \lim x_n.$$

then  $x^* - x_{n+1} = e_{n+1}$ .

$$x^* - x_n = e_n.$$

$$e_{n+1} = x^* - x_{n+1} = \varphi(x^*) - \varphi(x_n) \approx \varphi'(g_n)(x^* - x_n)$$

With  $g_n$  be in the middle of  $x^*$  and  $x_n$   
 provided that  $\varphi(x)$  is continuously differentiable  
 in a neighborhood of  $x^*$

As  $g_n$  is (assumed to be) close to  $x^*$ ,  
 we may treat  $\varphi'(g_n)$  as a constant,  $C$ .

$$e_{n+1} \approx \varphi'(g_n)(x^* - x_n) = \varphi'(g_n)e_n \approx Ce_n.$$

$$e_{n+1} = Ce_n \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$$\begin{cases} e_1 \approx Ce_0 \\ e_2 \approx Ce_1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x^* - x_1 \approx C(x^* - x_0) \\ x^* - x_2 \approx C(x^* - x_1) \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{x^* - x_2}{x^* - x_1} \approx \frac{x^* - x_1}{x^* - x_0} \Rightarrow (x^* - x_1)^2 \approx (x^* - x_2)(x^* - x_0)$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1^2 - 2x^*x_1 + x_0 \cdot x_2 - (x_2 + x_0)x^*$$

$$\Rightarrow x^* \approx \frac{x_1^2 - x_0 \cdot x_2}{2x_1 - (x_0 + x_2)} \quad \frac{x_1^2 - x_0 \cdot x_2}{x_1^2 - x_0 \cdot x_2}$$

It is reasonable to take  $Z = \frac{x_1^2 - x_0 \cdot x_2}{2x_1 - x_0 - x_2}$  as

a more accurate approximation of  $x^*$  than  $x_0, x_1, x_2$ .

Accelerated iteration: for  $k=0, 1, 2 \dots$

Step 1. Let  $y_0 = x_k$ .  $y_1 = \varphi(y_0)$ .  $y_2 = \varphi(y_1)$

$$x_{k+1} = \frac{y_1^2 - y_0 y_2}{2y_1 - y_0 - y_2}$$

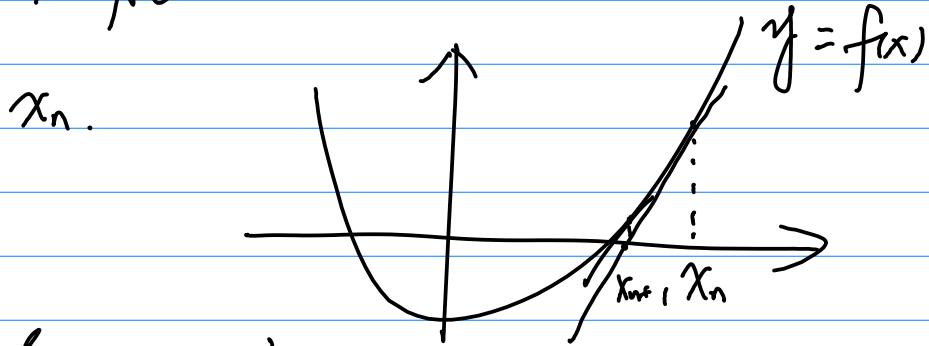
Step 2. Check if  $|x_{k+1} - \varphi(x_{k+1})|$  is less than some prespecified tolerance  $\varepsilon$ . If it is, stop the iteration; otherwise, go back to step 1.

Remark: One may check  $|x_{k+1} - x_k|$  to determine whether to stop the iteration.

Example 2.  $f(x) = e^x - x - 1 = 0$ .

$$x = \varphi(x) = x + f(x) \quad \varphi'(x) = e^x$$

Section 3. Newton Iteration.



Linearization.

Approximate the curve around  $x_n$  with the tangent passing through  $(x_n, f(x_n))$ .

$$l(x) = f(x_n) + f'(x_n)(x - x_n).$$

Find the intersection of the tangent line with the  $x$ -axis.

$$\therefore l(x_{n+1}) = f(x_n) + f'(x_n)(x_{n+1} - x_n) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)} \quad \text{for } n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$$\varphi(x) = x - \frac{f(x)}{f'(x)}$$

The Newton method itself is a fixed point iteration.

$$x_{n+1} = \varphi(x_n).$$

$$\varphi'(x) = 1 - \frac{(f'(x))^2 - f(x)f''(x)}{(f'(x))^2} = \frac{f(x)f''(x)}{(f'(x))^2}.$$

$f(x) \in C^2(a, b)$ . twice continuously differentiable.

Observation: When (as long as) the initial guess is sufficiently close to a zero-point of  $f(x)$ , the Newton iteration converges, provided that  $|f'(x)|$  and  $|f''(x)|$  have reasonable size.

Convergence by checking error propagation

$$\text{error } \epsilon_n = x^* - x_n.$$

$$0 = f(x_{n+1}) = f(x_n) + f'(x_n)(x_{n+1} - x_n). \quad (1)$$

$$0 = f(x^*) = f(x_n) + f'(x_n)(x^* - x_n) + \frac{1}{2}f''(x_n)(x^* - x_n)^2. \quad (2)$$

$$(2) - (1) : 0 = f(x_n)(x^* - x_{n+1}) + \frac{1}{2}f''(x_n)(x^* - x_n)^2$$

$$f(x_n)\epsilon_{n+1} = -\frac{1}{2}f''(x_n)\epsilon_n^2.$$

$$\epsilon_{n+1} = \left( -\frac{\frac{1}{2}f''(x_n)}{f'(x_n)} \right) \epsilon_n^2. \quad (3)$$

The Newton iteration is a quadratic method.

(Convergence rate  $\approx$  quadratic)

Condition: The coefficient  $\frac{f''(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}$  is approximately constant.

$$f(x_n) = f(x_0) - f(x^*) = f'(x_0)(x_n - x^*) = -f'(x_0)\epsilon_n$$

Example.  $f(x) = (1+x)(1-x)^2$ .

Example.  $f(x) = x(x^2-2)+2$ .

Example.  $f(x) = x^3 - x - 3$

Example.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{x} & x \geq 0 \\ -\sqrt{|x|} & x < 0 \end{cases}$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} \quad x > 0.$$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{\sqrt{x_n}}{\frac{1}{2\sqrt{x_n}}} = x_n - 2x_n = -x_n$$

Example.  $f(x) = xe^{-x}$ .

By the examples, we see that the Newton method is not guaranteed to converge

Convergence: 1. twice continuously differentiable  
2. good initial guess

? How about the multiplicity of the root of  $f(x) = 0$  is greater than 1.

Assume  $x^*$  is a zero of  $f(x)$  with multiplicity  $p > 1$ .

$$\text{i.e. } f(x) = (x-x^*)^p h(x) \quad h(x^*) \neq 0$$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)} \equiv \varphi(x_n)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(x) &= x - \frac{f(x)}{f'(x)} = x - \frac{(x-x^*)^p h(x)}{p(x-x^*)^{p-1} h(x) + (x-x^*)^p h'(x)} \\ &= x - \frac{(x-x^*)^p h(x)}{p h(x) + (x-x^*)^p h'(x)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\varphi'(x^*) = 1 - \frac{h(x^*) \cdot p}{p^2 h''(x^*)} = 1 - \frac{1}{p} \in (0, 1).$$

The iteration just converges linearly.  
(not quadratically)

The Newton method with damping.

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}, \quad n=0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Let  $\delta_n = -\frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}$ . We call  $\delta_n$  as the Newton step.

$$x_{n+1} = x_n + \delta_n$$

$$g(x) = \frac{1}{2} f^2(x).$$

$$g(x) = g(x^* + \lambda(\underline{x} - x^*))$$

$$\varphi(\lambda) = g(x_n + \lambda \delta_n) \quad (\lambda \geq 0)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi'(\lambda) &= \left. \frac{d}{d\lambda} g(x_n + \lambda \delta_n) \right|_{\lambda=0} \\ &= f(x_n) f'(x_n) \delta_n = -f(x_n) f'(x_n) \cdot \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)} = -f^2(x_n) \\ &< 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\varphi(\lambda) \approx \varphi(0) + \varphi'(0)\lambda$$

$$\varphi'(0) < 0$$

When  $\lambda$  is small (sufficiently small)

$$\varphi(\lambda) < \varphi(0)$$

In the Newton iteration with damping,  
we introduce a parameter  $\lambda_n$ .

$$x_{n+1} = x_n + \lambda_n s_n.$$

so that  $g(x_{n+1}) < g(x_n)$  (\*)

Step 0. Let  $\lambda_n = 1$

{ Step 1. Let  $z_{n+1} = x_n + \lambda_n s_n$

Step 2. Check if  $|f(z_{n+1})| < |f(x_n)|$ . (1).

If  $|f(z_{n+1})| \geq |f(x_n)|$ , set  $\lambda_n \leftarrow \lambda_n / 2$  and  
go back to step 1.; otherwise.

$$\text{let } x_{n+1} = z_{n+1}.$$

Remark: ① For different functions, one may  
add extra checking. For example,  
if  $f(x) = x \ln(x)$ . one need to check if  
 $z_{n+1} > 0$

②. In order to avoid working with too  
small steps, one should stop the iteration  
for damping after a few times  
(say, 4-6).

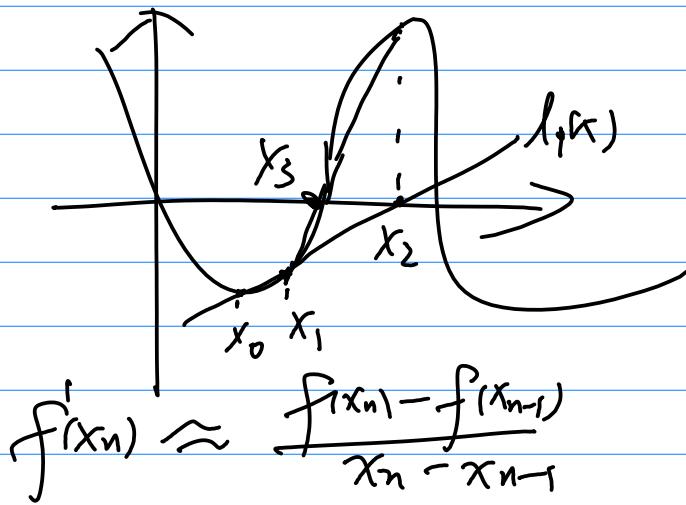
The method is also called a modified  
Newton method.

Optimize  $f(x)$  :  $f'(x) = 0$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f'(x_n)}{f''(x_n)}$$

$f''(x_n) > 0$  ?  $< 0$  ?

## Section 4. The Secant Method.



$$f'(x_n) \approx \frac{f(x_n) - f(x_{n-1})}{x_n - x_{n-1}}$$

Locally, approximate the function  $f(x)$  with a secant line

$$l(x) = f(x_n) + \frac{f(x_n) - f(x_{n-1})}{x_n - x_{n-1}} (x - x_n)$$

Choose  $x_{n+1}$  so that  $l(x_{n+1}) = 0$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{\frac{f(x_n) - f(x_{n-1})}{x_n - x_{n-1}}} \quad n=1, 2, \dots$$

provided that two initial guess  $x_0, x_1$  are given.

$$f(x) = (x-1) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{(1-x)^2}\right)$$