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# AMSC 460 - Computational Methods

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## HOMEWORK 1 - Problem 1

Let  $f(x) = e^x + x^2 - 5x$ .

(a) The bracket  $[1.5, 2]$  contains a root. Explain why using the Intermediate Value Theorem. For this bracket, estimate the number of iterations  $N$  that would be needed to compute the root to an accuracy of  $10^{-4}$ .

```
clear all
format compact
close all
syms f(x) x y

f(x) = exp(x) + x^2 - 5*x;
double(f(1.5))

ans =
    -0.7683

double(f(2))

ans =
    1.3891
```

Because  $f(x)$  is continuous on  $[1.5, 2]$ ,  $f(1.5) = -0.7683 < 0$  and  $f(2) = 1.3891 > 0$ . Then by the Intermediate Theorem  $f(x)$  has at least one root on  $[1.5, 2]$ .

(b) The bracket given in (a) contains a root, but there is another root. Find a bracket for it. Then use the bisection method to find the two roots to an accuracy of  $10^{-4}$ .

```
double(f(0))
fprintf(['Because f(0)= %g > 0 f(1.5)= %g < 0. So find a root in', ...
        ' [0, 1.5]'], double(f(0)),double(f(1.5)))

ans =
    1
Because f(0)= 1 > 0 f(1.5)= -0.768311 < 0. So find a root in [0, 1.5]

bisection(@(x) exp(x) + x^2 - 5*x, 0, 1, 0.0001)

Undefined function 'bisection' for input arguments of type
'function_handle'.
```

```
Error in Hw1ds (line 36)
bisect(@(x) exp(x) + x^2 - 5*x, 0, 1, 0.0001)

bisect(@(x) exp(x) + x^2 - 5*x, 1.5, 2, 0.0001)
```

So roots are at  $x = 0.2805$  and at  $x = 1.7339$ .

## HOMEWORK 1 - Problem 2

Consider the cubic  $f(x) = x^3 - x - 1$ .

(a) Use the MATLAB command `fzero` to find a root in the interval  $[1, 2]$ .

```
fzero(@(x) x^3 - x - 1, 1)
```

(b) Show that  $f(x) = 0$  can be rewritten as a fixed point problem for both the functions (i)  $g_1(x) = x^3 - 1$ , and (ii)  $g_2(x) = (1+x)^{1/3}$ .

Let  $f(x) = x^3 - x - 1 = 0$ , then we can have  $x^3 - x - 1 = 0$   
and then  $x^3 - 1 = x$   
So we can write  $g_1(x) = x^3 - 1$ .

Also, we can have  $x^3 - x - 1 = 0$   
then  $x^3 = 1 + x$   
then  $x = (1 + x)^{1/3}$   
And write  $g_2(x) = (1 + x)^{1/3}$ .

(c) Which of the functions  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  is a contraction mapping near the root  $r$  from part (a)? Which of  $g_1$  or  $g_2$  will be successful in making the iteration  $x_{i+1} = g(x_i)$  converge locally to the root  $r$ ?

```
diff((1 + x)^(1/3))
```

Take the derivative of  $g_1$  and  $g_2$ , then we have  $g_1' = 3 * x^2$  and  $g_2' = 1/(3 * x^2)$ .  
Since  $g_1'(1) = 3$  and  $g_1'(2) = 12$  and  $g_1'$  is strictly increasing on  $[1, 2]$ ,  
 $g_2'$  is continuous and strictly decreasing on  $[1, 2]$ ,  
 $g_2'(1) = 0.21$  and  $g_2'(2) = 0.1602$   
So  $\exists L, 0 \leq L < 1$  s.t.  $|g_2'(x)| \leq L < 1 \quad \forall x \in [1, 2]$   $g_2'$  converges.  
Thus by the Contraction Mapping Theorem only  $g_2$  is a contraction on  $[1, 2]$ ,  
 $g_2$  will be successful in making the iteration  $x_{i+1} = g(x_i)$  converge locally to the root  $r$ .

(d) Write a script or function in MATLAB to carry out 10 steps of the fixed point iteration for both  $g_1$  and  $g_2$ , each starting with the guess  $x_0 = 0$ . What approximate root does your algorithm give for  $g_1$ ? For  $g_2$ ? Are your results consistent with the analysis from part (c)?

```
function x = fpi_root(g, x0, steps)
    x = x0;
    iter = 0;

    while ( iter < steps)
        xNew = g(x);
        x = xNew;
        iter = iter + 1;
        fprintf('\tAfter %g steps, root = %g\n', iter, xNew)
    end
end
```

```
g1 = @(x) x.^3 - 1;
g2 = @(x) (1 + x).^(1/3);

disp('Fixed point iteration for g1 starts with x0=0:')
fpi_root(g1,0,10)
fprintf('The approximate root I got for g1 is %.15g',ans)

disp('Fixed point iteration for g2 starts with x0=0:')
fpi_root(g2,0,10)
fprintf('The approximate root I got for g2 is %.15g',ans)
```

Only g2 is successful in making the iteration  $x_{i+1} = g(x_i)$  converge locally. The results consistent with the analysis from part (c).

## HOMEWORK 1 - Problem 3

(a) Write a MATLAB program to implement Newton's method for root finding.

Code for Newton's method:

```
clear all
syms x
f = input('Type your equation please: f = ');
x = input('The starting guess x0 = ');
xNew = x + 100;
fd = inline(diff(sym(f)));

iter = 0;
err = 100;

while err > 10^-8
    xNew = x - (f(x)./fd(x));
    err = abs(x-xNew);
    x = xNew;
    iter = iter + 1;
    fprintf('\tAfter %g steps, root = %.15g\n', iter, xNew)
end
```

(b) To compare root finding algorithms, we will approximate  $\sqrt{2}$  using two methods: Newton and Bisection. Using the equation  $f(x) = x^2 - 2 = 0$ , use your program from part (a) to ensure  $\sqrt{2}$  is obtained. For Newton, use  $x_0=2$ , and for Bisection use the starting bracket  $[1, 2]$ . In each case use  $10^{-8}$  for the error tolerance.

Use Newton's method:

```
clear all
syms x
f = @(x) x^2-2; % Given f(x) = x^2 - 2
x = 2; % The starting guess x0 = 2
xNew = x + 100;
fd = inline(diff(sym(f)));

iter = 0;
err = 100;

while err > 10^-8
```

```
xNew = x - (f(x)./fd(x));  
err = abs(x-xNew);  
x = xNew;  
iter = iter + 1;  
fprintf('\tAfter %g steps, root = %.15g\n', iter, xNew)  
end
```

Use Bisection method

```
f = @(x) x^2-2; a=1; b=2;  
fa = f(a); fb = f(b);  
k=0;  
  
while (b-a)/2 > 10^-8  
    c = (a+b)/2;  
    fc = f(c);  
    k = k+1;  
    fprintf('\tAfter %g steps, root = %.15g\n', k, c)  
  
    if fc == 0  
        break  
    end  
    if sign(fc)*sign(fa) < 0  
        b = c; fb = fc;  
    else  
        a = c; fa = fc;  
    end  
end  
xc = (a+b)/2;
```

(c) Modify the algorithms to keep track of the absolute error  $en = |r - x_n|$  at each iteration. Store these errors in a vector (for plotting purposes). Then plot the absolute errors on the same graph, and with a semilogarithmic y-axis (use semilogy in MATLAB). Which algorithm used the least steps to achieve the required error tolerance?

Modified Newton's method:

```
clear all  
syms x  
f = @(x) x^2-2; % Given f(x) = x^2 # 2  
x = 2; % The starting guess x0 = 2  
r = sqrt(2); % Given root = #2  
xNew = x + 100;  
fd = inline(diff(sym(f)));  
  
iter = 0;  
err = 100;  
en = 0;  
  
while err > 10^-8  
    xNew = x - (f(x)./fd(x));  
    err = abs(x-xNew);  
    x = xNew;  
    en = abs(r-x);  
    iter = iter + 1;
```

```

N(iter) = en;
fprintf(['\tAfter %g steps, root = %.15g',...
        ' absolute error = %.15g\n'], iter, xNew, en)
end

```

Modified Bisection method:

```

f = @(x) x^2-2; a=1; b=2;
fa = f(a); fb = f(b);
k=0; Ben = 0; r=sqrt(2);

while (b-a)/2 > 10^-8
    c = (a+b)/2;
    Ben = abs(r-c);
    fc = f(c);
    k = k+1;
    B(k) = Ben;
    fprintf(['\tAfter %g steps, root = %.15g',...
            ' absolute error = %.15g\n'], k, c, Ben)

    if fc == 0
        break
    end
    if sign(fc)*sign(fa) < 0
        b = c; fb = fc;
    else
        a = c; fa = fc;
    end
end
xc = (a+b)/2;

```

Plot of absolute errors

```

hold on; semilogy(B); semilogy(N);
title 'The graph of absolute error for Newton's method and Bisection
      method ';
legend({'Bisection method', 'Newton's method'});
hold off;

```

We can see the Newton's method used the least steps to achieve the required accuracy.

## HOMEWORK 1 - Problem 4

4. Suppose you wish to find values of  $x$  where  $f(x) = 0$ , but  $f$  is given first in terms of  $y$ , and then a second equation determines  $y$  for any given  $x$ . Let  $f(y) = y^3 + 3y + 1$ , and  $y + x = e^{(-6*y)}$ . To evaluate  $f$  given  $x$ , the second equation must first be solved for  $y$  and then this value substituted into  $f(y)$ .

(a) Describe how the bisection method could be used to find an  $x$  such that  $f(x) = 0$ .

According to the Intermediate Theorem we can find an interval where  $f$  changes sign. Then try different number  $a$  and  $b$  to get  $f(a) > 0$  and  $f(b) < 0$ , then we have  $f$  changes sign in the interval. Use bisection method to find the zero of  $f(y)$  in the interval. As the interval become smaller and smaller, we got the midpoint close enough to the zero. Then we can plug the zero of  $f(y)$  which is the  $y$  value into  $y + x = e^{(-6*y)}$  to find  $x$ .

the  $x$  value we need.

(b) Writing  $f$  as  $f(y(x))$ , explain how Newton's method could be used to find the root  $x$  such that  $f(x) = 0$ .

First we take a guess where is the zero of  $f(y(x))$  could be and denote it then we approximate the root by let  $y_{n+1} = y_n - [f(y_n)/f'(y_n)]$  until precise value is reached. then plug that  $y_{n+1}$  into  $y + x = e^{(-6*y)}$  to

(c) Using MATLAB (and any method you prefer), find the root  $x$  where  $f(x) = 0$ .

Use Bisection method

```
clear all
f = @(y) y^3 + 3*y + 1;
f(0); f(-1);
fprintf('Because f(0)= %g > 0 f(-1)= %g < 0. So find a root in', ...
        ' [-1, 0]'], f(0),f(-1))
```

```
a=-1; b=0;
fa = f(a); fb = f(b);
k=0;
```

```
while (b-a)/2 > 10^-8
    c = (a+b)/2;
    fc = f(c);
    k = k+1;
    fprintf('\tAfter %g steps, root = %.15g\n', k, c)
```

```
    if fc == 0
        break
    end
    if sign(fc)*sign(fa) < 0
        b = c; fb = fc;
    else
        a = c; fa = fc;
    end
end
```

```
xc = (a+b)/2;
fprintf('Then we have y = %.15g is an approximate zero of f(y)',c)
```

Plug this  $y$  into  $y + x = e^{(-6*y)}$

```
syms y x
y = xc;
x = exp(-6*y) - y;
fprintf('Then we have x = %.15g, and f(x) = 0',x)
```

```
fNew = @(h) ( 4*x*(h.^2) - (h.^3) - 6*(x^2)*h + 4*(x^3) );
fNew = @(h) ( 4*x*h.^3 - h.^4 - 6*x^2*h.^2 + 4*h*x^3 )./(h);
```

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