

MAD3703, Numerical Analysis I, MWF, 2:30-3:20, room Love 102  
Lecture February 6:

# BISECTION METHOD

**example**  $f(x) = x^2 - 2$ ,  $a = 0$ ,  $b = 2$

$$a_1 = 0 \quad b_1 = 2 \quad p_1 = 1 \quad (1)$$

$$a_2 = 1 \quad b_2 = 2 \quad p_2 = 1.5 \quad (2)$$

$$a_3 = 1 \quad b_3 = 1.5 \quad p_3 = 1.25 \quad (3)$$

$$a_4 = 1.25 \quad b_4 = 1.5 \quad p_4 = 1.375 \quad (4)$$

$$\dots \quad (5)$$

**example**  $f(x) = (x + 2)(x + 1)^2 x(x - 1)^3(x - 2)$ ,  $a = -1.5$ ,  $b = 2.5$

$$a_1 = -1.5 \quad f(a_1) = (+)(+)(-)(-)(-) < 0 \quad (6)$$

$$b_1 = 2.5 \quad f(b_1) = (+)(+)(+)(+)(+) > 0 \quad (7)$$

$$p_1 = 0.5 \quad f(p_1) = (+)(+)(+)(-)(-) > 0 \quad (8)$$

$$a_2 = -1.5 \quad f(a_1) = (+)(+)(-)(-)(-) < 0 \quad (9)$$

$$b_2 = 0.5 \quad f(b_2) = (+)(+)(+)(-)(-) > 0 \quad (10)$$

$$p_2 = -0.5 \quad f(p_2) = (+)(+)(-)(-)(-) < 0 \quad (11)$$

$$a_3 = -0.5 \quad f(a_3) = (+)(+)(-)(-)(-) < 0 \quad (12)$$

$$b_3 = 0.5 \quad f(b_3) = (+)(+)(+)(-)(-) > 0 \quad (13)$$

$$\dots \quad (14)$$

root converges to  $p = 0$ . Why?

**example:** “how big  $n$  in order to guarantee  $|p - p_n| < \epsilon$ ?” :

1. Using method of induction, one can show that  $|b_n - a_n| = |b_1 - a_1|/2^{n-1}$ .

2. Since  $p_n = (a_n + b_n)/2$ , one must have  $|p - p_n| \leq |b_n - a_n|/2$ .

3.

$$|p - p_n| \leq |b_n - a_n|/2 = |b_1 - a_1|/2^n \quad (15)$$

4. Suppose hypothetically that  $f(x) = x^2 - 2$ ,  $a = 0$ ,  $b = 2$ , and  $\epsilon = 10^{-10}$ . Then solve the following equation for  $n$ :

$$|b - a|/2^n \leq \epsilon \quad (16)$$

$$2/2^n \leq 10^{-10} \quad (17)$$

$$2^{n-1} \geq 10^{10} \quad (18)$$

$$n - 1 \geq \log(10^{10})/\log(2) \quad (19)$$

$$n \geq 37 \quad (20)$$

**FIXED POINT METHOD** The root finding problem  $f(x) = 0$  can be transformed into an equivalent fixed point problem  $x = g(x)$  in which the fixed point algorithm is applied:

$$p^{(k+1)} = g(p^{(k)}). \quad (21)$$

As long as  $g$  is a contraction mapping on some interval  $[a, b]$ ,  $g$  maps this interval onto itself, and  $p^{(0)}$  in the interval, then the fixed point method is guaranteed to converge.

**Example application of fixed point method**  $f(x) = 0$  where  $f(x) = x^3 - 2$  is the same as  $g(x) = x$  where  $g(x) = (2/3)x + 2/(3x^2)$ .

**In class group work for February 6** How many iterations of the bisection method guarantee that the root  $x^{(k)}$  is within  $\epsilon$  of the actual root for the problem  $f(x) = 0$  where  $f(x) = x^5 - 2$  and a valid bracketing interval is the starting interval.