

18.335 / 6.7310 Introduction to Numerical Methods

Course Overview

- handouts, syllabus, psets, etc.
 - Canvas + Piazza + Gradescope
 - github.com/mitmath/18335
 - Optional Julia tutorial this Friday (Feb. 7) 4-5:30 pm @ 2-190
 - Parallel courses this semester (by Prof. Johnson)
 - : 18.S190 Interdisciplinary Numerical Methods
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Numerical analysis:

Fast algorithms for approximately solving } math + time
the problem of "continuous math" } + accuracy

Example: nonlinear equations

$f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, f is continuous

Find $f(x) = 0$

- f is a general polynomial of degree ≥ 5 :

no root formula using $+$, $-$, \times , \div , $\sqrt{\quad}$

- Goal: approximately find the root using only $+$, $-$, \times , \div
- Naive method: Bisection method

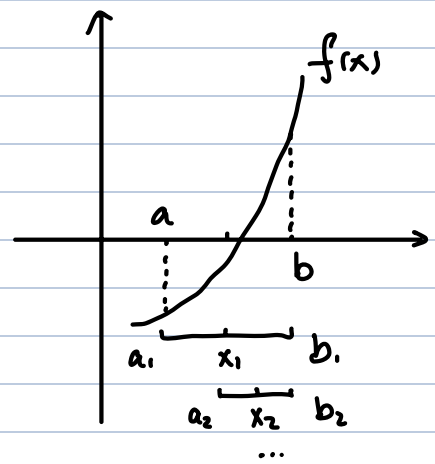
$$f(a)f(b) < 0 \Rightarrow \exists \text{ root } x^* \in [a, b]$$

$$x_n = \frac{a_n + b_n}{2}$$

$$\text{if } \text{sign}(f(x_n)) = \text{sign}(f(a_n))$$

$$a_{n+1} = x_n, \quad b_{n+1} = b_n$$

$$\text{otherwise } a_{n+1} = a_n, \quad b_{n+1} = x_n$$



Error analysis:

$$e_n := |x_n - x^*| \leq \frac{1}{2}(b_n - a_n) = \frac{b-a}{2^n} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow +\infty$$

$$e_{n+1} \approx \frac{1}{2}e_n \quad \text{Linear convergence}$$

Can we do it faster? (Have only access to $f(x)$)

Yes. One possible method:

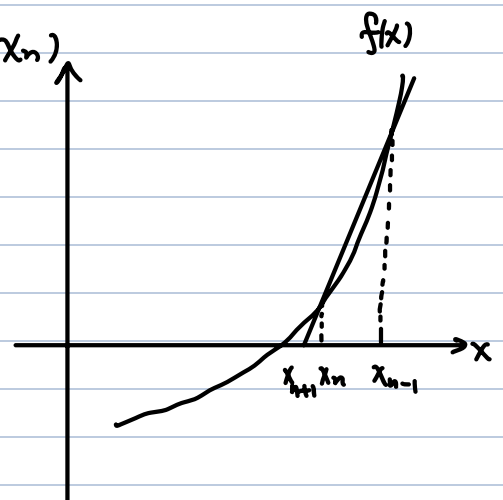
• Secant method

$$f(x) \approx f(x_n) + f'(x_n)(x - x_n)$$

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

$$= 0$$

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



Error analysis:

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

$$= e_n - \frac{f(x_n)(e_n - e_{n-1})}{f(x_n) - f(x_{n-1})}$$

$$= \frac{f(x_n)e_{n-1} - f(x_{n-1})e_n}{f(x_n) - f(x_{n-1})}$$

$$= \frac{f(x_n)e_n^{-1} - f(x_{n-1})e_{n-1}^{-1}}{f(x_n) - f(x_{n-1})} e_n e_{n-1}$$

claim: $C_n \approx C$

$$\text{check: } f(x_n) \approx f'(x^*)e_n + \frac{1}{2}f''(x^*)e_n^2$$

$$f(x_{n-1}) \approx f'(x^*)e_{n-1} + \frac{1}{2}f''(x^*)e_{n-1}^2$$

$$\approx \frac{1}{2}f''(x^*) \underbrace{\frac{e_n - e_{n-1}}{x_n - x_{n-1}}}_{=1}$$

(Since $x_n - x_{n-1} = (x_n - x^*) - (x_{n-1} - x^*)$)

$$C_n = \frac{x_n - x_{n-1}}{f(x_n) - f(x_{n-1})} \cdot \frac{f(x_n)e_n^{-1} - f(x_{n-1})e_{n-1}^{-1}}{x_n - x_{n-1}}$$

$$\approx \frac{1}{f'(x^*)} \cdot \frac{1}{2}f''(x^*) =: C$$

We arrive at

$$e_{n+1} = C e_n e_{n-1}$$

$$\text{Let } e_{n+1} \approx A e_n^p \quad (p > 1)$$

$$A e_n^p \approx C e_n \left(\frac{e_n}{A} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} = \frac{C}{A^{\frac{1}{p}}} e_n^{1+\frac{1}{p}}$$

$$\Rightarrow A^{1+\frac{1}{p}} = C e_n^{1+\frac{1}{p}-p}$$

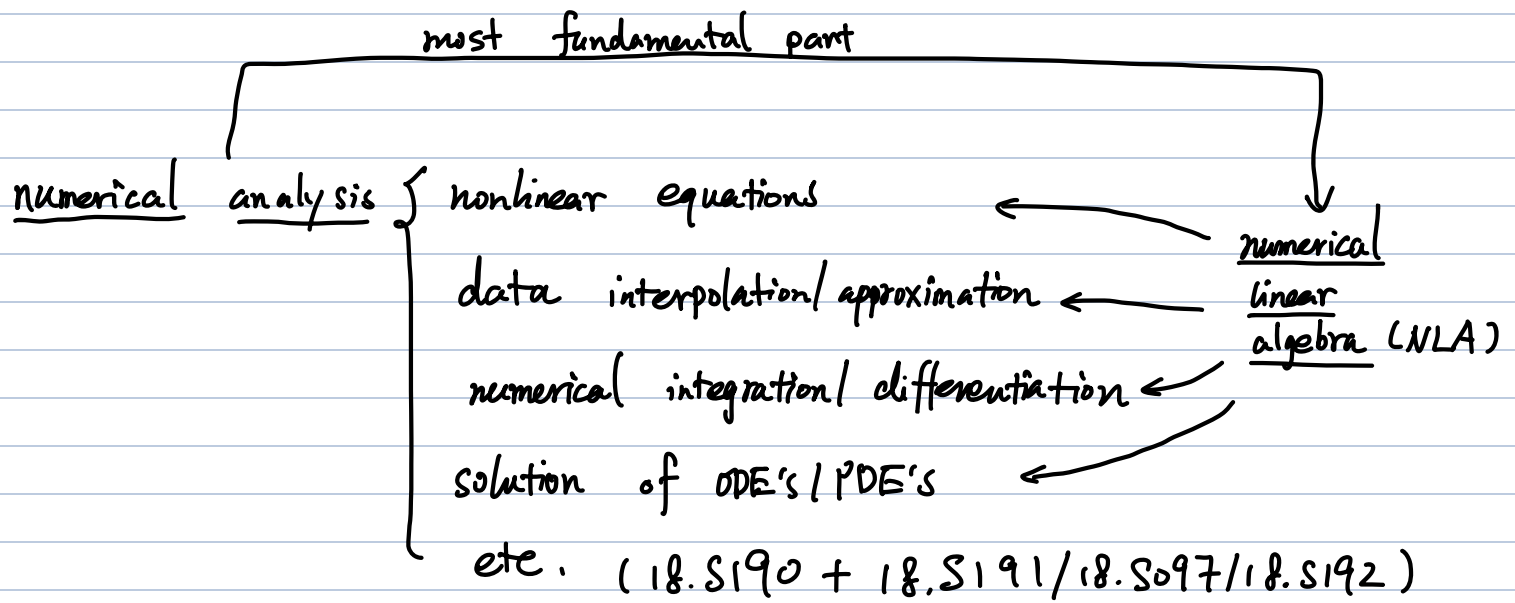
Since $e_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow +\infty$,

$$\text{we should have } 1 + \frac{1}{p} - p = 0 \Rightarrow p = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \approx 1.618$$

That is $e_{n+1} \approx C^{0.618} e_n^{1.618}$ faster than bisection

Superlinear convergence





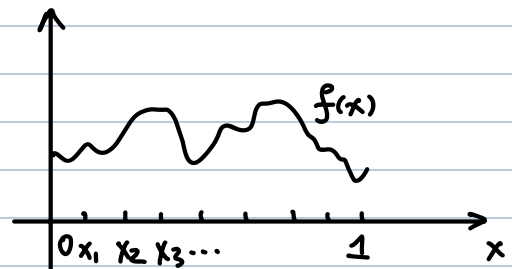
Example: Numerical methods for PDEs

a) Poisson equations

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u := \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = f \\ u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0 \end{cases}$$

In 1D, $\frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} = f$

$u(0) = u(1) = 0$



Discretization:

$$u(x_i) \approx u_i$$

$$f(x_i) \approx f_i$$

$$h = x_{i+1} - x_i$$

$$\frac{d^2 u}{dx^2}(x_i) \approx \frac{u_{i+1} - 2u_i + u_{i-1}}{h^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 & & \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 \\ & & & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{bmatrix} = h^2 \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ \vdots \\ f_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Solve large linear system

$$Au = f$$

b) Schrödinger Equation

$$-\Delta u + Vu = Eu$$

u : wave function

V : potential

E : Quantized energy
(eigenvalues)

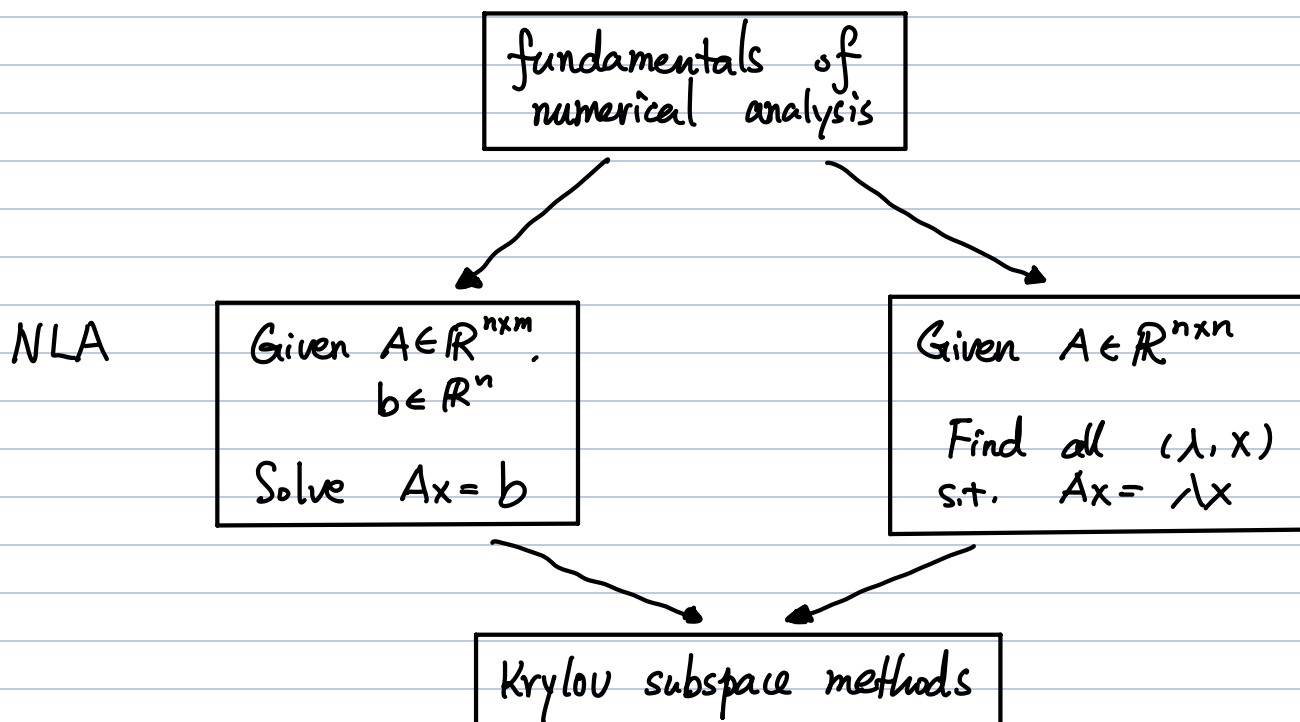
• Discretization:

$$\frac{1}{h^2} \begin{bmatrix} 2+V_1 h^2 & -1 & & \\ -1 & 2+V_2 h^2 & & \\ & & \ddots & -1 \\ & & -1 & 2+V_n h^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{bmatrix} = E \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Au = Eu$$

Solve large eigenvalue problems

Outline



Other topics: Nonlinear optimization
Numerical integration
FFT etc