MA385 Part 1: Solving nonlinear equations

1.6: Fixed Point Iteration [DRAFT!]

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25 September, 2025

Newton's method can be considered to be a special case of a very general approach called *Fixed Point Iteration* or *Simple Iteration*.

The basic idea is:

> *If we want to solve* $f(x) = 0$ *in* $[a, b]$*, find a function* $g(x)$ *such that, if* τ *is such that* $f(\tau) = 0$*, then* $g(\tau) = \tau$*. Choose* x_0 *and set* $x_{k+1} = g(x_k)$ *for* $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$*.*

0. News!

1. Week 4: Tutorials start next week (week beginning Monday, 29 Sep).
2. A tutorial sheet will be posted by Friday Sep; tutor will work with you on that. Questions will be similar in style to the final exam.
3. Tutorials are Mondays at 10 in AC-201 and Thursday at 2 in ENG-3036. Go to either. If available, please go to the Monday class (larger room).
4. Week 5: we'll have a lab, using Python/Jupyter.

0. Outline

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For more details, see Section 1.4 (Relaxation and Newton's method) of Süli and Mayers, *An Introduction to Numerical Analysis*

Also, Chapter 3 of Epperson:
https://search.library.nuigalway.ie/permalink/f/3b1kce/TN_cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9781118730966

1. Introduction

Yet again, we want to solve

Given a function $f(x)$, find $\tau \in [a, b]$ such that

$$f(\tau) = 0.$$

Again, we'll try to find a sequence $\{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k, \dots\}$, such that $x_k \to \tau$ as $k \to \infty$.

In this section, we'll consider one step methods, which, like Newton's method, compute x_{k+1} just from x_k.

Specifically, we try to choose a function $g(x)$ and set $x_{k+1} = g(x_k)$.

Example 1.6.1

Suppose $f(x) = e^x - 2x - 1$ and we are trying to find a solution to $f(x) = 0$ in $[1, 2]$. Then we can take $g(x) = \ln(2x + 1)$.

If we take $x_0 = 1$, then we get the following sequence:

k	x_k	$\lvert f(x_k)\rvert$	$\lvert \tau - x_k\rvert$
0	1.0000	0.2817	2.5643e-01
1	1.0986	0.1972	1.5782e-01
2	1.1623	0.1273	9.4148e-02
3	1.2013	0.0781	5.5092e-02
4	1.2246	0.0464	3.1868e-02
5	1.2381	0.0271	1.8310e-02
6	1.2460	0.0157	1.0479e-02
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	
10	1.2553	0.0017	1.1079e-03

1. Introduction

We have to be quite careful with this method: **not every choice is g is suitable**.

For example, suppose we want the solution to $f(x) = x^2 - 2 = 0$ in $[1, 2]$. We could choose $g(x) = x^2 + x - 2$. Then, if take $x_0 = 1$ we get the sequence:

Before we do that in a formal way, consider the following...

Example 1.6.2

Use the Mean Value Theorem to show that the fixed point method $x_{k+1} = g(x_k)$ converges if $|g'(x)| < 1$ for all x near the fixed point.

1. Introduction

This previous example is useful in two ways:

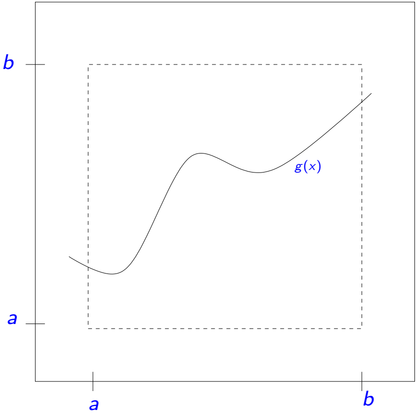
1. It introduces the tricks of using that $g(\tau) = \tau$ & $g(x_k) = x_{k+1}$.
2. It leads us towards the **contraction mapping theorem**.

Definition: fixed point

A function $g : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ is said to have a **fixed** point at $x = \tau$ if $g(\tau) = \tau$

Theorem 1.6.1 (Fixed Point Theorem)

Suppose the function g is cont's on $[a, b]$, and $a \leq g(x) \leq b$ for all $x \in [a, b]$. Then $g(x)$ has a *fixed point* in $[a, b]$.



Next suppose that g is a *contraction*. That is, $g(x)$ is continuous and defined on $[a, b]$ and there is a number $L \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$|g(\alpha) - g(\beta)| \leq L|\alpha - \beta| \text{ for all } \alpha, \beta \in [a, b]. \tag{1}$$

Theorem 1.6.2 (Contraction Mapping Theorem)

Suppose that the function g is a real-valued, defined, continuous, and

(a) maps every point in $[a, b]$ to some point in $[a, b]$, and
(b) is a contraction on $[a, b]$,

then

(i) $g(x)$ has a fixed point $\tau \in [a, b]$,
(ii) the fixed point is unique,
(iii) the sequence $\{x_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ defined by $x_0 \in [a, b]$ and $x_k = g(x_{k-1})$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots$ converges to τ.

3. How many iterations?

The algorithm generates as sequence $\{x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_k\}$. Eventually we must stop. Suppose we want the solution to be accurate to say 10^{-6}, how many steps are needed? That is, how big do we need to take k so that

$$|x_k - \tau| \leq 10^{-6}?$$

The answer is obtained by first showing that

$$|\tau - x_k| \leq \frac{L^k}{1-L}|x_1 - x_0|. \tag{2}$$

Example 1.6.3

Suppose we are using FPI to find the fixed point $\tau \in [1, 2]$ of $g(x) = \ln(2x+1)$ with $x_0 = 1$, and we want $|x_k - \tau| \leq 10^{-6}$, then we can use (2) to determine the number of iterations required.

4. Exercises

Exercise 1.6.1

Is it possible for g to be a contraction on $[a, b]$ but not have a fixed point in $[a, b]$? Give an example to support your answer.

Exercise 1.6.2 ($\star$ Homework problem)

Show that $g(x) = \ln(2x + 1)$ is a contraction on $[1, 2]$. Give an estimate for L. (Hint: Use the Mean Value Theorem).

Exercise 1.6.3

Suppose we wish to numerically estimate the famous *golden ratio*, $\tau = (1 + \sqrt{5})/2$, which is the positive solution to $x^2 - x - 1$. We could attempt to do this by applying fixed point iteration to the functions $g_1(x) = x^2 - 1$ or $g_2(x) = 1 + 1/x$ on the region $[3/2, 2]$.

(i) Show that g_1 is *not* a contraction on $[3/2, 2]$.

(ii) Show that g_2 *is* a contraction on $[3/2, 2]$, and give an upper bound for L.

Exercise 1.6.4

Consider the function $g(x) = x^2/4 + 5x/4 - 1/2$.

(i) It has two fixed points – what are they?

(ii) For each of these, find the largest region around them such that g is a contraction on that region.

Exercise 1.6.5

(i) Prove that if $g(\tau) = \tau$, and the fixed point method given by

$$x_{k+1} = g(x_k),$$

converges to the point τ (where $g(\tau) = \tau$), and

$$g'(\tau) = g''(\tau) = \cdots = g^{(p-1)}(\tau) = 0,$$

then it converges with order p. (Hint: you don't have to prove that the method converges; you can assume that. Also, use a Taylor Series).

(ii) We can think of Newton's Method for the problem $f(x) = 0$ as fixed point iteration with $g(x) = x - f(x)/f'(x)$. Use this, and Part (i), to show that, if Newton's method converges, it does so with order 2, providing that $f'(\tau) \neq 0$.