Numerical Analysis Lecture Notes

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1 Solution of equations by iteration

Theorem 1. *(Existence of Root) Let f be a real-valued function, defined and continuous on a bounded closed interval $[a, b]$ of the real line. Assume further, that $f(a)f(b) \leq 0$; then, there exists ξ in $[a, b]$ such that $f(\xi) = 0$.*

Proof. The condition $f(a)f(b) \leq 0$ implies that $f(a)$ and $f(b)$ have opposite signs, or one of them is 0. If either $f(a)$ or $f(b)$ is 0, then we've found a root. Suppose that both endpoints are non-zero (in which case they have opposite signs). In this case, 0 must belong to the open interval whose endpoints are $f(a)$ and $f(b)$. The intermediate value theorem gives the existence of a root in the open interval (a, b). Thus, in both cases, a zero is guaranteed. □

- The converse of Theorem 1 is clearly false.

Theorem 2. *(Brouwer's Fixed Point Theorem) Suppose that g is a real-valued function, defined and continuous on a bounded closed interval $[a, b]$ of the real line, and let $g(x) \in [a, b]$ for all $x \in [a, b]$. Then, there exists $\xi \in [a, b]$ such that $\xi = g(\xi)$. ξ is called a fixed point of the function g.*

Proof. Define a function $f(x) = x - g(x)$. If we find a root ξ of f, then ξ is a fixed point of g. Then,

$$f(a)f(b) = (a - g(a))(b - g(b)) \leq 0 \tag{1}$$

By assumption, $a \leq g(a), g(b) \leq b$. Therefore, the first term is negative and the second term is positive. Therefore, $f(a)f(b) \leq 0$. By Theorem 1, there exists a $\xi \in [a, b]$ such that $f(\xi) = 0$. Then, for this ξ, $g(\xi) = \xi$. □

Definition 1. *(Simple Iteration) Suppose that g is a real-valued function, defined and continuous on a bounded closed interval $[a, b]$ of the real line, and let $g(x) \in [a, b]$ for all $x \in [a, b]$. Given that $x_0 \in [a, b]$, the recursion defined by*

$$x_{k+1} = g(x_k) \tag{2}$$

is called simple iteration; the numbers x_k, $k \geq 0$, are referred to as iterates.

- If this sequence converges, the limit must be a fixed of g, since g is continuous on a closed interval. Note that

$$\xi = \lim_{k\to\infty} x_{k+1} = \lim_{k\to\infty} g(x_k) = g\left(\lim_{k\to\infty} x_k\right) = g(\xi) \tag{3}$$

Definition 2. *(Contraction) Let g be a real-valued function, defined and continuous on a bounded closed interval $[a, b]$ of the real line. Then, g is said to be a contraction on $[a, b]$ if there exists a constant L such that $0 < L < 1$ and*

$$|g(x) - g(y)| \leq L|x - y| \quad \forall x, y \in [a, b] \tag{4}$$

Theorem 3. *(Contraction Mapping Theorem) Suppose that g is a real-valued function, defined and continuous on a bounded closed interval $[a, b]$ of the real line, and let $g(x) \in [a, b]$ for all $x \in [a, b]$. Suppose g is a contraction on $[a, b]$. Then, g has a unique fixed point ξ in the interval $[a, b]$. Moreover, the sequence (x_k) defined by simple iteration converges to ξ as $k \to \infty$ for any starting value x_0 in $[a, b]$.*

Let $\epsilon > 0$ be a certain tolerance, and let $k_0(\epsilon)$ denote the smallest positive integer such that x_k is no more than ϵ away from the fixed point ξ (i.e. $|x_k - \xi| \leq \epsilon$) for all $k \geq k_0(\epsilon)$. Then,

$$k_0(\epsilon) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{\ln |x_1 - x_0| - \ln(\epsilon(1 - L))}{\ln(1/L)} \right\rfloor + 1 \tag{5}$$

Definition 3. *(Stable, Unstable Fixed Point) Suppose that g is a real-valued function, defined and continuous on a bounded closed interval $[a, b]$ of the real line, and let $g(x) \in [a, b]$ for all $x \in [a, b]$, and let ξ denote a fixed point of g. ξ is a stable fixed point of g if the sequence (x_k) defined by the iteration $x_{k+1} = g(x_k)$, $k \geq 0$, converges to ξ whenever the starting value x_0 is sufficiently close to ξ. Conversely, if no sequence (x_k) defined by this iteration converges to ξ for any starting value x_0 close to ξ, except for $x_0 = \xi$, then we say that ξ is an unstable fixed point of g.*

- With this definition, a fixed point may be neither stable nor unstable.

Definition 4. *(Rate of Convergence) Suppose $\xi = \lim_{k\to\infty} x_k$. Define $E_k = |x_k - \xi|$.*

- The sequence (x_k) converges to ξ linearly if there exists a number $\mu \in (0, 1)$ such that
$$\lim_{k\to\infty} \frac{E_{k+1}}{E_k} = \mu \tag{6}$$

- The sequence (x_k) converges to ξ superlineraly if $\mu = 0$. That is, the sequence of μ_k generated at each step $\to 0$ as $k \to \infty$.

- The sequence (x_k) converges to ξ with order q if there exists a $\mu > 0$ such that
$$\lim_{k\to\infty} \frac{E_{k+1}}{E_k^q} = \mu \tag{7}$$

  In particular, if $q = 2$, then the sequence converges quadratically.

2 Solution of systems of linear equations