

How does the brentq library perform binary search optimization

`scipy.optimize.brentq` is an exceptional and widely-used "solver" algorithm.

The term "bisection optimization" is a close approximation, but `brentq` is, in fact, more intelligent and faster than the simple bisection method.

The primary role of `brentq` is not "optimization" (finding a maximum or minimum) but "**root-finding**"—that is, **finding the value x that satisfies the equation $f(x) = 0$** .

In the context of the `solver_i.py` script, `brentq` was used to find the `CP` value that made the `Error(CP)` equal to zero.

The power of `brentq` lies in its nature as a **hybrid algorithm**. It ingeniously combines the advantages of three techniques to achieve the optimal balance of **speed** and **reliability**.

1. The "Safety Net": The Bisection Method

The foundation and "safety net" of `brentq` is the bisection method.

- **Mechanism:**
 1. An interval $[a, b]$ must be provided.
 2. `brentq` requires that $f(a)$ and $f(b)$ have **opposite signs** (one positive, one negative).
 3. This guarantees that the function's graph **must** cross the x-axis between a and b (i.e., a root $f(x) = 0$ is guaranteed to exist within the interval).
 4. The algorithm checks the midpoint m of the interval.
 5. If $f(m)$ is positive, the root must lie between $[m, b]$ (as $f(b)$ is negative).
 6. If $f(m)$ is negative, the root must lie between $[a, m]$ (as $f(a)$ is positive).
- **Result:** With each step, the search interval is **halved exactly**.
- **Advantage:** Extremely reliable. It **guarantees** convergence as long as the initial $f(a)$ and $f(b)$ have opposite signs.
- **Disadvantage:** Relatively "naive" and slow. It does not learn from the function's shape and only ever bisects the interval.

2. The "Accelerator": The Secant Method

`brentq` does not always use the slow bisection method. It attempts to use a "smarter" guessing method known as the **Secant Method**.

- **Mechanism:**
 1. The secant method considers the two current points, $(a, f(a))$ and $(b, f(b))$.
 2. It draws a **straight line (a secant line)** between them.
 3. It **guesses** that the root is likely where this straight line intersects the x-axis.
 4. This guess (referred to as s) is often **much closer** to the true root than the simple midpoint m .
- **Advantage:** Very fast convergence (superlinear convergence).

- **Disadvantage:** Not always reliable. It can sometimes produce a "bad guess" that falls outside the $[a, b]$ interval.

3. The "Ultimate Accelerator": Inverse Quadratic Interpolation

When `brentq` has access to three points, it attempts an even more advanced technique:

- **Mechanism:** Instead of drawing a straight line (based on 2 points), it fits a **parabola (a quadratic curve)** through the 3 points.
 - **Advantage:** Extremely fast convergence (approximately 1.8-order), even faster than the secant method.
 - **Disadvantage:** Even less reliable and can sometimes fail entirely.
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The `brentq` "Hybrid Strategy" (The Core)

The genius of `brentq` (developed by Richard Brent) lies in how it combines these three methods:

1. **Prefer the "Fast Lane":** The algorithm always **attempts** to use the fastest methods—Inverse Quadratic Interpolation or the Secant Method—to propose a "candidate root," s .
2. **Apply Strict Safety Checks:** Before accepting this candidate s , `brentq` performs rigorous checks:
 - Does this s fall within the "**safe**" **bisection interval** $[a, b]$?
 - Is the convergence "fast enough" compared to the previous step?
3. **Make an Intelligent Decision:**
 - **If s passes the checks:** `brentq` uses this "smart" guess s for the next step, thereby dramatically accelerating the search.
 - **If s fails the checks** (e.g., the secant method's guess was too wild): `brentq` **discards** the "smart" guess and **falls back** to performing one step of the "**slow but 100% reliable**" **bisection method**.

Conclusion: `brentq` operates on a foundation of guaranteed convergence (bisection) while opportunistically using the secant and interpolation methods as "turbo-chargers" to accelerate the process.

This is why it achieves the guaranteed convergence of the bisection method while, in most cases, converging as rapidly as the faster, less-reliable methods. In the context of the `solver` scripts, this allows it to find the precise `CP` value in very few steps (i.e., with few calls to the computationally expensive `calculate_fair_value` function).