

CS 450: Numerical Analysis¹

Nonlinear Equations

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¹*These slides have been drafted by Edgar Solomonik as lecture templates and supplementary material for the book “Scientific Computing: An Introductory Survey” by Michael T. Heath ([slides](#)).*

Solving Nonlinear Equations

- ▶ Solving (systems of) nonlinear equations corresponds to root finding:

- ▶ $f(x^*) = 0$ *single-variate*

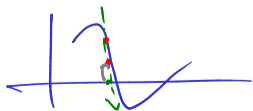
- ▶ $f(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0$ *multi-variate, scalar valued*

- ▶ $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$ *vector-valued* $f\left(\begin{bmatrix} \\ \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

- ▶ Algorithms for root-finding make it possible to solve systems of nonlinear equations and employ a similar methodology to finding minima in optimization.

- ▶ Main algorithmic approach: find successive roots of local linear approximations of f :

Newton's method



$$f(x) = 0$$

$$f(x_k + \delta x) = f(x_k) + \delta x f'(x_k) = 0$$

current guess

$$\delta x = -f(x_k) / f'(x_k)$$

$$x_{k+1} = x_k + \delta x = x_k - f(x_k) / f'(x_k)$$

Jacobian

$$J_f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_m} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_m} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} f_1(x) \\ \vdots \\ f_n(x) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

$$J_f(x) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$$

$$f(x) \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$f(x^{(k)} + \delta x) \approx f(x^{(k)}) + J_f(x^{(k)}) \delta x = 0$$

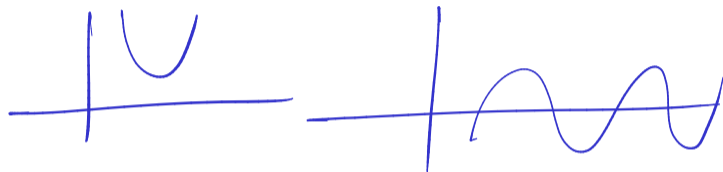
$$m=n$$

$$J_f(x^{(k)}) \delta x = -f(x^{(k)})$$
$$\delta x = -J_f(x^{(k)})^{-1} f(x^{(k)})$$

$$x^{(k+1)} = x^{(k)} - J_f(x^{(k)})^{-1} f(x^{(k)})$$

Nonexistence and Nonuniqueness of Solutions

- ▶ Solutions do not generally exist and are not generally unique, even in the univariate case:



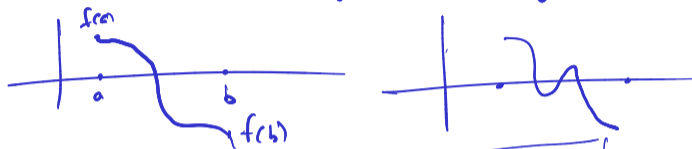
- ▶ Solutions in the multivariate case correspond to intersections of hypersurfaces:

_____ *Curves* _____

Conditions for Existence of Solution

- ▶ *Intermediate value theorem* for univariate problems:

bracketed $[a, b]$ $\text{sign}(f(a)) \neq \text{sign}(f(b))$



- ▶ A function has a unique *fixed point* $g(x^*) = x^*$ in a given closed domain if it is *contractive* and contained in that domain,

$$g(x) = f(x) + x$$

$$g(x^*) = x^*$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x^*) = 0$$

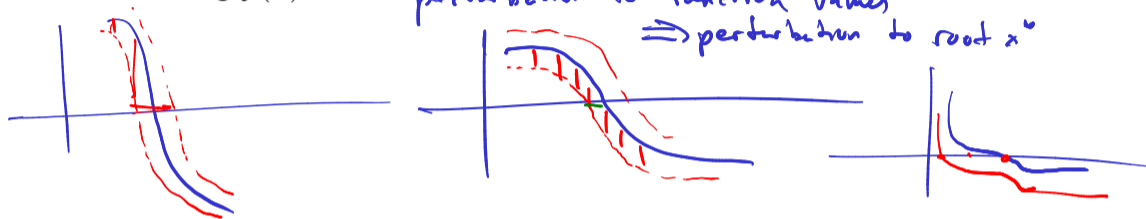
$$\|g(x) - g(z)\| \leq \underbrace{\gamma}_{\text{Lipschitz Constant}} \|x - z\|$$

Lipschitz Constant

Lipschitz continuity

Conditioning of Nonlinear Equations

- ▶ Generally, we take interest in the absolute rather than relative conditioning of solving $f(x) = 0$:



- ▶ The *absolute condition number* of finding a root x^* of f is $1/|f'(x^*)|$ and for a root x^* of f it is $\|J_f^{-1}(x^*)\|$:

$\kappa_{abs}(\text{root finding for } f \text{ for root } x^*) \text{ is } 1/|f'(x^*)|$

Multiple Roots and Degeneracy

root is simple if $m=1$

- ▶ If x^* is a root of f with multiplicity m , its $m-1$ derivatives are also zero at x^* ,

$$f(x^*) = \underline{f'}(x^*) = \underline{f''}(x^*) = \dots = \underline{f^{(m-1)}}(x^*) = 0.$$

$$f(x) = (x - x^*)^m h(x)$$

$$f'(x) = (x - x^*)^{m-1} h(x) + (x - x^*)^m h'(x)$$

$$= \underline{(x - x^*)^{m-1}} (h(x) + (x - x^*) h'(x))$$

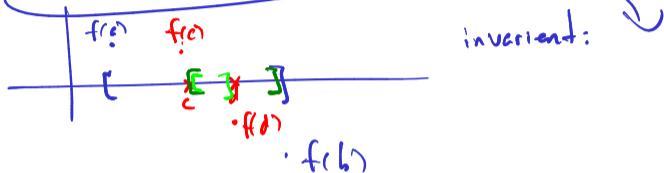
- ▶ Increased multiplicity affects conditioning and convergence:

$m > 1 \Rightarrow$ ill-posed

can modify problem / algorithm to handle $m > 1$

Bisection Algorithm

- Assume we know the desired root exists in a bracket $[a, b]$ and $\text{sign}(f(a)) \neq \text{sign}(f(b))$.



- Bisection subdivides the interval by a factor of two at each step by considering $f(c_k)$ at $c_k = (a_k + b_k)/2$:

Rates of Convergence

- Let x_k be the k th iterate and $e_k = x_k - x^*$ be the error, bisection obtains **linear convergence**, $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|e_k\| / \|e_{k-1}\| \leq C$:

at each step, we gain $O(1)$ digits of accuracy

for bisection

$$e_k / e_{k-1} \leq 1/2$$

$$e_k \leq \epsilon,$$

e.g.

$$\epsilon = .0001$$

$$O(\log(1/\epsilon))$$

digits of accuracy

- r th order convergence implies that $\|e_k\| / \|e_{k-1}\|^r \leq C$

$r > 1$ superlinear

$r = 2$ quadratic

$r = 3$ cubic

number of digits of accuracy improves
by factor of r

$O(\log_r(\log(1/\epsilon)))$ steps $O(\log(\log(1/\epsilon)))$

changing r , changes complexity by a constant

Convergence of Fixed Point Iteration

- Fixed point iteration: $x_{k+1} = g(x_k)$ is locally linearly convergent if for $x^* = g(x^*)$, we have $|g'(x^*)| < 1$: $x_k \rightarrow x^*$

$e_{k+1} = x_{k+1} - x^* = g(x_k) - g(x^*)$

Taylor-exp of g at x^*

$$= \cancel{g(x^*)} + g'(x^*)(x^* - x_k) + \dots - \cancel{g(x^*)}$$
$$= \underline{g'(x^*)(x^* - x_k)} + \mathcal{O}((x^* - x_k)^2)$$

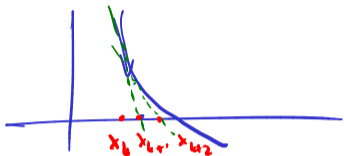
e_k

- It is quadratically convergent if $g'(x^*) = 0$:

$$e_{k+1} = g''(x^*) \underbrace{(x^* - x_k)^2}_{e_k} / 2 + \mathcal{O}((x^* - x_k)^3)$$

Newton's Method

- ▶ Newton's method is derived from a *Taylor series* expansion of f at x_k :



$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \underbrace{f(x_k) / f'(x_k)}$$

fixed-point function $g(x_k)$

- ▶ Newton's method is *quadratically convergent* if started sufficiently close to x^* so long as $f'(x^*) \neq 0$:

Secant Method

Demo: Secant Method

Demo: Convergence of the Secant Method

▶ The Secant method approximates $f'(x_k) \approx \frac{f(x_k) - f(x_{k-1})}{x_k - x_{k-1}}$:

▶ The convergence is *superlinear* but not quadratic:

Nonlinear Tangential Interpolants

- ▶ Secant method uses a linear interpolant based on points $f(x_k)$, $f(x_{k-1})$, could use more points and higher-order interpolant:

- ▶ Quadratic interpolation (Muller's method) achieves convergence rate $r \approx 1.84$:

Achieving Global Convergence

- ▶ Hybrid bisection/Newton methods:

- ▶ Bounded (damped) step-size:

Systems of Nonlinear Equations

- ▶ Given $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} f_1(\mathbf{x}) \\ \vdots \\ f_m(\mathbf{x}) \end{bmatrix}$ for $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, seek $\mathbf{x}^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$ so that $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$

- ▶ At a particular point \mathbf{x} , the *Jacobian* of \mathbf{f} , describes how \mathbf{f} changes in a given direction of change in \mathbf{x} ,

$$\mathbf{J}_f(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{df_1}{dx_1}(\mathbf{x}) & \cdots & \frac{df_1}{dx_n}(\mathbf{x}) \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{df_m}{dx_1}(\mathbf{x}) & \cdots & \frac{df_m}{dx_n}(\mathbf{x}) \end{bmatrix}$$

Multivariate Newton Iteration

- ▶ Fixed-point iteration $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_k)$ achieves local convergence so long as $|\lambda_{\max}(\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{g}}(\mathbf{x}^*))| < 1$:

- ▶ Newton's method corresponds to the fixed-point iteration

$$\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{f}}^{-1}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$$

Convergence of Newton Iteration

- ▶ Newton's method achieves quadratic local convergence if $\|\mathbf{J}_f^{-1}(\mathbf{x}^*)\|$ is bounded:

Convergence of Newton Iteration (II)

- ▶ Quadratic convergence is achieved when the Jacobian of a fixed-point iteration is zero at the solution, which is true for Newton's method:

Estimating the Jacobian using Finite Differences

- ▶ To obtain $\mathbf{J}_f(\mathbf{x}_k)$ at iteration k , can use finite differences:

- ▶ $n + 1$ function evaluations are needed: $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x} + h\mathbf{e}_i) \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, which correspond to $m(n + 1)$ scalar function evaluations.

Secant Updating Methods

In solving a nonlinear equation, seek approximate Jacobian $\mathbf{J}_f(\mathbf{x}_k)$ for each \mathbf{x}_k

- ▶ Find $\mathbf{B}_{k+1} = \mathbf{B}_k + \delta\mathbf{B}_k \approx \mathbf{J}_f(\mathbf{x}_{k+1})$, so as to approximate *secant equation*

$$\mathbf{B}_{k+1} \underbrace{(\mathbf{x}_{k+1} - \mathbf{x}_k)}_{\delta\mathbf{x}} = \underbrace{\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_{k+1}) - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_k)}_{\delta\mathbf{f}}$$

- ▶ *Broyden's method* is given by minimizing $\|\delta\mathbf{B}_k\|_F$:

$$\delta\mathbf{B}_k = \frac{\delta\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{B}_k\delta\mathbf{x}}{\|\delta\mathbf{x}\|^2} \delta\mathbf{x}^T$$

Newton-Like Methods

- ▶ Can dampen step-size to improve reliability of Newton or Broyden iteration:

- ▶ *Trust region methods* provide general step-size control: