

Chapter 10 - Numerical methods

Estimation



10.1 - Locating roots - Pg. 2 - 4

10.2 - Iteration - Pg. 5 - 7

10.3 - Newton-Raphson method - Pg. 8 - 9

10.4 - Application to modelling - Pg. 10 - 11

Personal notes:



10.1 - Locating roots

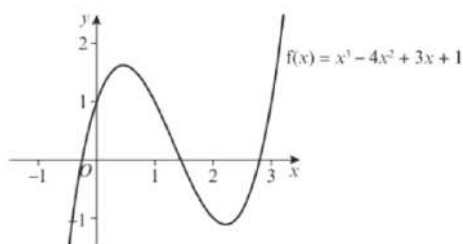
Notes

- Recall: The roots of $y = f(x)$ are the values of x such that $f(x) = 0$. Graphically, it is where the graph crosses the x - axis.
- If the function $f(x)$ is *continuous* and there is at least one root between the interval $[a, b]$, then _____ (as the graph crosses the x - axis). We could use the logic of "sign change" to determine the existence of roots between the interval.

Example

The diagram shows a sketch of the curve $y = f(x)$, where $f(x) = x^3 - 4x^2 + 3x + 1$.

- Explain how the graph shows that $f(x)$ has a root between $x = 2$ and $x = 3$.
- Show that $f(x)$ has a root between $x = 1.4$ and $x = 1.5$.



Practice

Show that $f(x) = e^x + 2x - 3$ has a root between $x = 0.5$ and $x = 0.6$

Investigation 1

Sketch the graph of $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$.

Work out the value of $f(1)$ and $f(-1)$.

Could you conclude there is a root between $x = -1$ and $x = 1$?

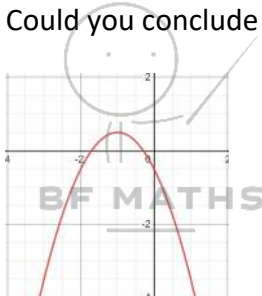
Why or why not?

Investigation 2

Given $f(x) = -(x + 1)^2 + 0.5$ and its graph is attached.

Work out $f(-2)$ and $f(0)$.

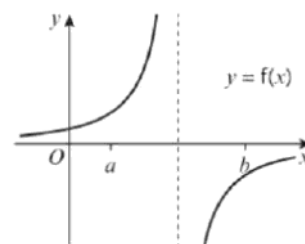
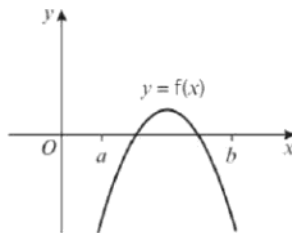
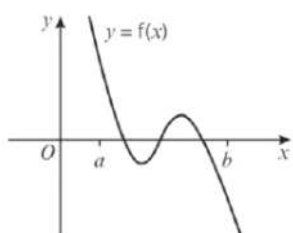
Could you conclude there is no root between $[-2, 0]$?



10.1 - Locating roots

Potential fallacy of sign-change method to locate a root

Graphical Representation



Problem

Sign changes between $[a,b]$...but

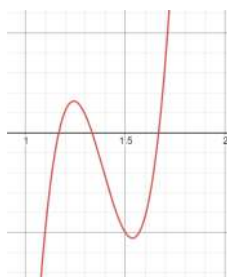
No sign change between $[a,b]$

Sign changes between $[a,b]$...but

Example

The graph of the function $f(x) = 54x^3 - 225x^2 + 309x - 140$ is shown in the diagram. A student observes that $f(1.1)$ and $f(1.6)$ are both negative and states that $f(x)$ has no roots in the interval $(1.1, 1.6)$.

- Explain by reference to the diagram why the student is incorrect.
- Calculate $f(1.3)$ and $f(1.5)$ and use your answer to explain why there are at least 3 roots in the interval $1.1 < x < 1.7$.



10.1 - Locating roots

Practice

- Using the same axes, sketch the graphs of $y = \ln x$ and $y = \frac{1}{x}$. Explain, with the aid of your diagram that the function $f(x) = \ln x - \frac{1}{x}$ has only one root. (Hint: consider the simultaneous equation of $y = \ln x$ and $y = \frac{1}{x}$)
- Show that this root lies in the interval $1.7 < x < 1.8$.
- Given that the root of $f(x)$ is α , show that $\alpha = 1.763$ correct to 3 decimal places. (Hint: consider lower bound and upper bound of 1.763)

Exam Practice

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$$g(x) = e^{x-1} + x - 6$$

The root of $g(x) = 0$ is α .

(c) By choosing a suitable interval, show that $\alpha = 2.307$ correct to 3 decimal places.

(3)



10.2 - Iteration

Notes

- Sign-change method helps us to *approximate the location of roots* (but unable to work out the exact root).
- we could also use iteration to *approximate the actual root* (for which $f(x) = 0$).
- To solve an equation of the form $f(x) = 0$ by an iterative method,
- Each iteration could either be _____.
- Two scenarios for _____ iteration:

Illustration (Converging - staircase)

$f(x) = x^2 - x - 1$ can be rearranged and produce the iterative formula $x_{n+1} = \sqrt{x_n + 1}$ when $f(x) = 0$.
Let $x_0 = 0.5$

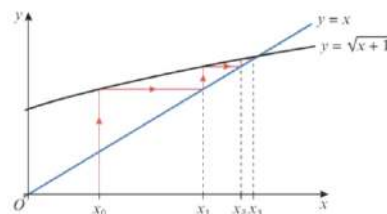


Illustration (Converging - cobweb)

$f(x) = x^2 - x - 1$ can be rearranged and produce the iterative formula $x_{n+1} = \frac{1}{x_n - 1}$ when $f(x) = 0$.
Let $x_0 = -2$

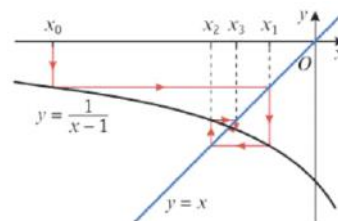
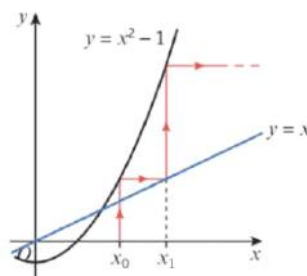


Illustration (Diverging)

$f(x) = x^2 - x - 1$ can be rearranged and produce the iterative formula $x_{n+1} = (x_n)^2 - 1$ when $f(x) = 0$.
Let $x_0 = 2$



10.2 - Iteration

Example

$$f(x) = x^2 - 4x + 1$$

a) Show that the equation $f(x) = 0$ can be written as $x = 4 - \frac{1}{x}$, $x \neq 0$.

Given $f(x)$ has a root, α , in the interval $3 < x < 4$.

b) $x_{n+1} = 4 - \frac{1}{x_n}$ with $x_0 = 3$ to find the value of x_1 , x_2 and x_3 .

Example

$$\text{Given } f(x) = x^3 - 3x^2 - 2x + 5,$$

a) Show that the equation $f(x) = 0$ has a root in the interval $3 < x < 4$.

b) Use the iterative formula $x_{n+1} = \sqrt{\frac{x_n^3 - 2x_n + 5}{3}}$ to calculate the values of x_1 , x_2 and x_3 , giving your answers to 4 decimal places, and taking:

i) $x_0 = 1.5$ ii) $x_0 = 4$

Practice

$$\text{Given } f(x) = x^2 - 5x - 3$$

a) Show that $f(x) = 0$ can be written as :

i) $x = \sqrt{5x + 3}$ ii) $x = \frac{x^2 - 3}{5}$

b) Let $x_0 = 5$. Work out x_1 , x_2 and x_3 to 5 decimal places.



10.2 - Iteration

Exam Practice

Edexcel C3 Jan 2013

$$g(x) = e^{x-1} + x - 6$$

(a) Show that the equation $g(x) = 0$ can be written as

$$x = \ln(6 - x) + 1, \quad x < 6. \quad (2)$$

The root of $g(x) = 0$ is α .

The iterative formula

$$x_{n+1} = \ln(6 - x_n) + 1, \quad x_0 = 2.$$

is used to find an approximate value for α .

(b) Calculate the values of x_1 , x_2 and x_3 to 4 decimal places. (3)

(c) By choosing a suitable interval, show that $\alpha = 2.307$ correct to 3 decimal places. (3)



10.3 - Newton-Raphson method

Notes

- In addition to *iteration*, we could also use Newton-Raphson formula to approximate the numerical value of the roots of $y = f(x)$ when $f(x) = 0$.
- The Newton-Raphson formula is :

- The formula will fail when _____ because

Example

Given $x = \cos x$, use Newton-Raphson procedure three times to find a third approximation to α with $x_0 = 0.5$.

Practice

Edexcel FP1 June 2013(R) Q3c

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^4 - x^3 + x - 3$$

The equation $f(x) = 0$ has a root β in the interval $[-2, -1]$.

- (c) Taking -1.5 as a first approximation to β , apply the Newton-Raphson process once to $f(x)$ to obtain a second approximation to β .
Give your answer to 2 decimal places.

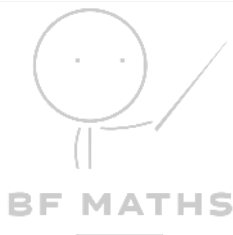
(5)

Edexcel FP1 Jan 2010 Q2c

$$f(x) = 3x^2 - \frac{11}{x^2}$$

- (c) Taking 1.4 as a first approximation to α , apply the Newton-Raphson procedure once to $f(x)$ to obtain a second approximation to α , giving your answer to 3 decimal places.

(5)



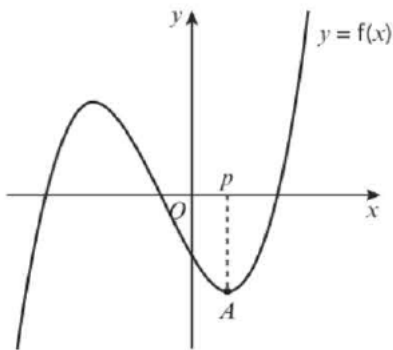
10.3 - Newton-Raphson method

Practice

The diagram shows part of the curve with equation $y = f(x)$, where $f(x) = x^3 + 2x^2 - 5x - 4$.

The point A , with x -coordinate p , is a stationary point on the curve. The equation $f(x) = 0$ has a root, α , in the interval $1.8 < \alpha < 1.9$.

- Explain why $x_0 = p$ is not suitable to use as a first approximation to α when applying the Newton-Raphson method to $f(x)$.
- Using $x_0 = 2$ as a first approximation to α , apply the Newton-Raphson procedure twice to find a second approximation to α , giving your answer to 3 decimal places. (Hint: See notes section in previous page)
- By considering the change of sign in $f(x)$ over an appropriate interval, show that your answer to part **b** is accurate to 3 decimal places.



10.4 - Application to modelling

Notes

- You can apply the same skills to estimate solutions real-life situation models.

Example

The price of a car in £s, x years after purchase, is modelled by the function

$$f(x) = 15\,000(0.85)^x - 1000 \sin x, \quad x > 0$$

- Use the model to find the value, to the nearest hundred £s, of the car 10 years after purchase.
- Show that $f(x)$ has a root between 19 and 20.
- Find $f'(x)$
- Taking 19.5 as a first approximation, apply the Newton-Raphson method once to $f(x)$ to obtain a second approximation for the time when the value of the car is zero. Give your answer to 3 decimal places.
- Criticise this model with respect to the value of the car as it gets older.



10.4 - Application to modelling

Practice

An astronomer is studying the motion of a planet moving along an elliptical orbit. She formulates the following model relating the angle moved at a given time, E radians, to the angle the planet would have moved if it had been travelling on a circular path, M radians:

$$M = E - 0.1 \sin E, E \geq 0$$

In order to predict the position of the planet at a particular time, the astronomer needs to find the value of E when $M = \frac{\pi}{6}$

- Show that this value of E is a root of the functions $f(x) = x - 0.1 \sin x - k$ where k is a constant to be determined.
- Taking 0.6 as a first approximation, apply the Newton-Raphson procedure once to obtain a second approximation for the value of E when $M = \frac{\pi}{6}$, to 3 decimal places.
- By considering a change of sign on a suitable interval of $f(x)$, show that your answer to part **b** is correct to 3 decimal places.

