



Faculty Of Engineering & Architecture

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equation

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Non – linear algebraic equation

In this will describe several different methods for solving $f(x) = 0$

Methods:

- Interval halving (bisection)
- Newton method
- False position method
- Secant method
- Fixed – point : $x = g(x)$ method

1-Interval halving:

- Its strategy is to begin with two values of $x=a$ and b that bracket a root of $f(x) = 0$

- It determines that the values $x=a$ and $x=b$ do bracket a root by finding that

$$f(a) * f(b) < 0$$

Because they are of opposite signs

- The method then successively divides the interval in half and replaces one end point with the midpoint so that again the root is bracket

$$c = \frac{a + b}{2}$$

- Error after (n) iterations $< \left| \frac{b - a}{2^{n+1}} \right|$
- A solution is correct within (p)

decimal places if the error is less than 0.5×10^{-p}

Example

Find a root of the function $f(x) = x^3 + x - 1$ by using the bisection method on the interval $[0,1]$

Solution

As noted, $f(a_0) * f(b_0) = (-1)(1) < 0$, so a root exists in the interval.

The interval midpoint is $c_0 = 1/2$.

The first step consists of evaluating $f(1/2) = -3/8 < 0$

Choosing the new interval $[a_1, b_1] = [1/2, 1]$

since $f(1/2) f(1) = < 0$

The second step consists of evaluating

$$f(c_1) = f(3/4) = 11/64 > 0$$

Leading to the new interval

$$[a_2, b_2] = [1/2, 3/4]$$

Continuing in this way yields the following interval

i	a_i	$f(a_i)$	c_i	$f(c_i)$	b_i	$f(b_i)$
0	0.000 0	-	0.500 0	-	1.000 0	+
1	0.500 0	-	0.750 0	+	1.000 0	+

2	0.500 0	-	0.625 0	-	0.750 0	+
3	0.625 0	-	0.687 5	+	0.750 0	+
4	0.625 0	-	0.656 2	-	0.687 5	+
5	0.656 2	-	0.671 9	-	0.687 5	+
6	0.671 9	-	0.679 7	-	0.687 5	+
7	0.679 7	-	0.683 6	+	0.687 5	+
8	0.679 7	-	0.681 6	-	0.683 6	+

9	0.681	-	0.682	+	0.683	+
	6		6		6	

$$c_{10} \approx 0.6821$$

The interval contain a root is

$$[0.6816, 0.6826]$$

The root is 0.6821 ± 0.0005

Example

Using the bisection method to find a root of $f(x) = \cos x - x$ in the interval $[0,1]$ to within six correct places

Solution

$$\frac{(b - a)}{2^{n+1}} < 0.5 \times 10^{-p}$$

$$\frac{1}{2^{n+1}} < 0.5 \times 10^{-6}$$

$$n > \frac{6}{\log 2} \approx \frac{6}{0.301} \approx 19.9$$

An algorithm for halving the interval (bisection):

To determine a root of $f(x) = 0$ that is accurate within a specified tolerance value given initial interval $[a,b]$ such that

$$f(a) f(b) < 0$$

Repeat

$$\text{Set } (c) = (a+b)/2$$

If $f(c)f(a) < 0$

Set $b=c$

Else set $a=c$

End if

Until $(|a-b| < \text{tolerance value})$ or $f(c) = 0$

The final value of c approximates the root it is error not more than $(1/2)|a-b|$.

Note: the method may give a false root if $(f(x))$ is discontinuous on $[a, b]$.