

§ 2.2 Fixed point iteration

Recall Newton's method iteration:

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}$$

This can be rewritten in the form:

$$x_{n+1} = F(x_n) \quad (*)$$

where $F(x) = x - \frac{f(x)}{f'(x)}$

An iteration of the form (*) is called fixed point iteration, since if $x_n \rightarrow x^*$ and $F(x)$ is continuous, then x^* must be a fixed point of $F(x)$, i.e. $x^* = F(x^*)$.

This is easily seen from def on continuity:

$$F(x^*) = F\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n\right) \stackrel{F \text{ cont.}}{=} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F(x_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{n+1} = x^*$$

Of course not all iterations of the form (*) converge, an easy counterexample being:

$$F(x) = 2x \quad \rightsquigarrow x_n = 2^n x_0 \text{ which diverges!}$$

The next theorem is very powerful and ubiquitous in applied math and gives a condition under which F.P. exists and is unique and iteration (*) converges to that particular fixed point.

But first recall the def: f is Lipschitz continuous with Lipschitz constant L ;

$$\forall x, y \quad |f(x) - f(y)| \leq L |x - y|$$

Theorem (Contractive mapping theorem)

Let C be a closed and bounded set of \mathbb{R} .

If F is Lipschitz continuous with Lipschitz constant $L < 1$, then F has a unique fixed point $x^* \in C$. Moreover iteration (*) converges to x^* regardless of initial iterate $x_0 \in C$.

proof:

$$|x_n - x_{n-1}| = |F(x_{n-1}) - F(x_{n-2})| \leq L |x_{n-1} - x_{n-2}|$$

This:

$$\begin{aligned} |x_n - x_{n-1}| &\leq L |x_{n-1} - x_{n-2}| \\ &\leq L^2 |x_{n-2} - x_{n-3}| \\ &\vdots \\ &\leq L^{n-1} |x_1 - x_0| \end{aligned}$$

Now we can write x_n as telescoping series:

$$\begin{aligned}x_n &= x_0 + (x_1 - x_0) + (x_2 - x_1) + \dots + (x_n - x_{n-1}) \\ &= x_0 + \sum_{k=1}^n (x_k - x_{k-1})\end{aligned}$$

$$\{x_n\} \text{ converges} \Leftrightarrow \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k - x_{k-1} \text{ converges.}$$

To show that the latter series converges it suffices to show that:

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |x_k - x_{k-1}| \text{ converges.}$$

This is true since $|x_k - x_{k-1}| \leq L^{k-1} |x_1 - x_0|$
which means series is dominated by a geometric series:

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |x_k - x_{k-1}| \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} L^{k-1} |x_1 - x_0| = \frac{1}{1-L} |x_1 - x_0|$$

$$\text{Now let } x_* = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x_0 + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^n x_k - x_{k-1}$$

By continuity of F , we have $x_* = F(x_*)$, so the limit is a fixed point.

What about uniqueness? Assume there are two fixed points x_* and y_* , with $x_* \neq y_*$ for contradiction. Then:

$$|x_* - y_*| = |F(x_*) - F(y_*)| \leq L |x_* - y_*|$$

$< |x_* - y_*|$
 \uparrow contradiction.

$\Rightarrow x_* = y_*$ and fixed point is unique.

One other way of proving contractive mapping theorem is to invoke Cauchy's criterion. (31)

A Cauchy sequence $\{x_n\}$ is a sequence s.t.

$$\forall \epsilon > 0 \exists N. \quad \forall n, m \geq N_0 \quad |x_n - x_m| < \epsilon$$

The real line \mathbb{R} is an example of a complete metric space where every Cauchy sequence converges inside the space (\mathbb{R})

So to show convergence of F.P. iteration we can also use Cauchy criterion: ($n \geq m \geq N_0$)

$$|x_n - x_m| = |x_n - x_{n-1} + x_{n-1} - x_{n-2} + x_{n-2} + \dots + x_{m+1} + x_{m+1} - x_m|$$

$$\leq |x_n - x_{n-1}| + |x_{n-1} - x_{n-2}| + \dots + |x_{m+1} - x_m|$$

$$\leq L^{n-1} |x_1 - x_0| + L^{n-2} |x_1 - x_0| + \dots + L^m |x_1 - x_0|$$

$$= L^m |x_1 - x_0| (1 + L + L^2 + \dots + L^{n-m-1})$$

$$= L^m |x_1 - x_0| \frac{1 - L^{n-m}}{1 - L}$$

$$\leq \frac{L^{N_0}}{1 - L} |x_1 - x_0| \quad \rightarrow \text{can be made as small as possible provided } N_0 \text{ is large enough.}$$

Example. Show that $\{x_n\}$ is convergent.

$$\begin{cases} x_0 = -15 \\ x_{n+1} = 3 - \frac{1}{2}|x_n| \end{cases}$$

$F(x) = 3 - \frac{1}{2}|x|$ is a contraction since:
triangle inequality.

$$|F(x) - F(y)| \leq \frac{1}{2} ||x| - |y|| \leq \frac{1}{2} |x - y|$$

\Rightarrow iteration must converge to the unique fixed point of F , which is 2.

Error analysis

Consider the F.P. iteration:

$$\begin{cases} x_0 = \text{given} \\ x_{n+1} = F(x_n) \end{cases}$$

with $x_n \rightarrow x^*$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Assuming $F \in C^1$; we can apply MVT

$$x_{n+1} - x^* = F(x_n) - F(x^*) = F'(\xi_n)(x_n - x^*),$$

for some ξ_n between x_n and x^* .

Thus having $|F'(\xi_n)| < 1$ guarantees convergence.

(you can see that this cdt \Rightarrow Lipschitz constant < 1)

Since close to fixed point $F'(\xi_n) \approx F'(x^*)$ we could ask what happens in the extreme case where

$$F'(x^*) = 0. ?$$

We shall see what happens in the more general case:

$$\begin{aligned} & F^{(k)}(x^*) = 0 \quad \text{for } 1 \leq k < q \quad (***) \\ \text{but } & F^{(q)}(x^*) \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

We use Taylor's theorem again:

$$\begin{aligned}
x_{n+1} - x_* &= F(x_n) - F(x_*) \\
&= F(x_* + x_n - x_*) - F(x_*) \\
&= F(x_*) + (x_n - x_*)F'(x_*) + \frac{1}{2}(x_n - x_*)^2 F''(\xi_n) + \dots \\
&\quad - F(x_*) \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^{q-1} \frac{(x_n - x_*)^k}{k!} F^{(k)}(x_*) + \frac{1}{q!} (x_n - x_*)^q F^{(q)}(\xi_n)
\end{aligned}$$

where ξ_n is between x_n and x_* .

Under assumption (**) the first $q-1$ derivatives of F vanish at x_* , so:

$$x_{n+1} - x_* = \frac{1}{q!} (x_n - x_*)^q F^{(q)}(\xi_n)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\Rightarrow |x_{n+1} - x_*| &\leq \underbrace{\frac{|F^{(q)}(\xi_n)|}{q!}}_{\text{bounded if } F^{(q)} \text{ is continuous}} |x_n - x_*|^q \\
&\leq M |x_n - x_*|^q
\end{aligned}$$

\Rightarrow
 $x_n \rightarrow x_*$ with order of convergence q .

Example We can show quadratic convergence of Newton's method using the above:

$$F(x) = x - \frac{f(x)}{f'(x)}$$

$$F'(x) = 1 - \frac{f'(x)f'(x) - f(x)f''(x)}{(f'(x))^2} = \frac{f(x)f''(x)}{(f'(x))^2}$$

Since x_* fixed point of F is a zero of f :

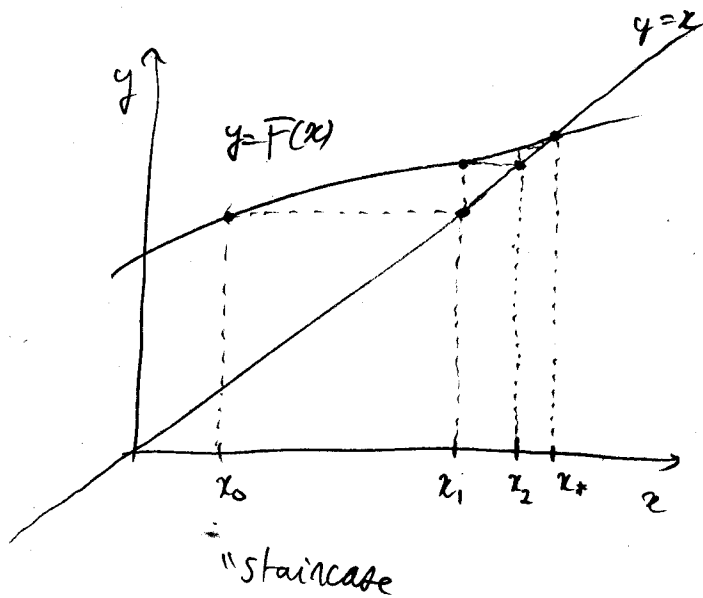
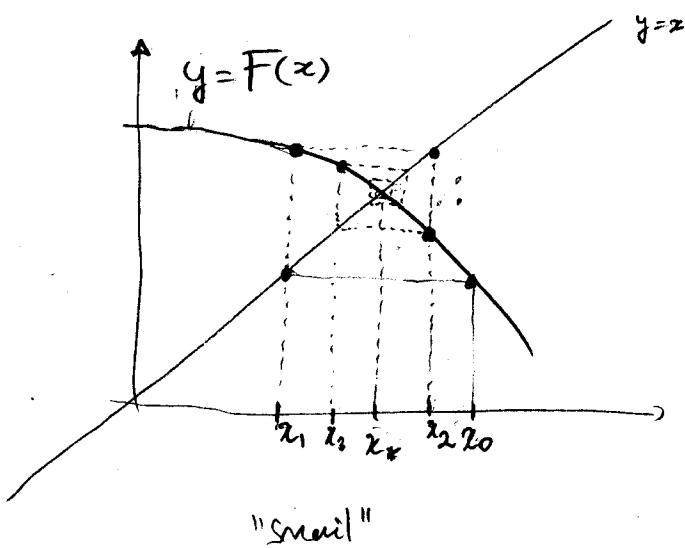
$$F'(x_*) = \frac{f(x_*)f''(x_*)}{[f'(x_*)]^2} = 0$$

$$F''(x) = \frac{(f')^2 (ff''' + f'f'') - (2f''f')(ff'')}{(f')^4}$$

$$\Rightarrow F''(x_*) = \frac{f''(x_*)}{f'(x_*)} \neq 0 \quad (\text{usually})$$

In general the order of convergence of a fixed point iteration is the first integer q for which $F^{(q)}(x_*) \neq 0$.

Graphical interpretation



Newton's method and multiple roots of a function

(35)

Def A root x_* of $f(x)$ is said to be a root of multiplicity q of f if we can write:

$$f(x) = (x - x_*)^q g(x)$$

$$\text{with } \lim_{x \rightarrow x_*} g(x) \neq 0$$

One can easily identify such zeros by looking at derivatives:

Thm $f \in C^1[a, b]$ has a simple zero in (a, b) iff
 $f(x_*) = 0$ but $f'(x_*) \neq 0$.

proof: \Rightarrow : if f has a simple zero at x_* then:

$$f(x_*) = 0 \text{ and}$$

$$f(x) = (x - x_*) g(x) \text{ with } \lim_{x \rightarrow x_*} g(x) \neq 0.$$

But $f \in C^1[a, b]$ so:

$$f'(x_*) = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_*} f'(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_*} g(x) + (x - x_*) g'(x)$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow x_*} g(x) \neq 0.$$

\Leftarrow : if $f(x_*) = 0$ but $f'(x_*) \neq 0$ we can use

Taylor's theorem around x_* :

$$f(x) = f(x_*) + f'(\xi(x))(x - x_*)$$

$$= (x - x_*) f'(\xi(x))$$

where $\xi(x)$ is some point between x and x_* .

We obviously have: $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_*} \xi(x) = x_*$ (26)
and by continuity of f' :

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_*} f'(\xi(x)) = f'(\lim_{x \rightarrow x_*} \xi(x)) = f'(x_*) \neq 0$$

We then choose $g(x) = f'(\xi(x))$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = (x - x_*)g(x)$$

$\Rightarrow x_*$ is a simple zero of f .

One can easily extend this theorem (HW) to higher multiplicities.

Thm The function $f \in C^m[a, b]$ has a zero x_* of multiplicity q if and only if:

$$0 = f(x_*) = f'(x_*) = f''(x_*) = \dots = f^{(q-1)}(x_*)$$

$$\text{but } 0 \neq f^{(q)}(x_*).$$

If x_* is not a simple zero of $f(x)$ then Newton's method may converge but not quadratically.

Example: $f(x) = e^x - x - 1$, $f(0) = e^0 - 0 - 1 = 0$
 $f'(0) = e^0 - 1 = 0$
 $f''(0) = e^0 \neq 0$

0 is a zero of multiplicity 2 of $f(x)$