

18-660: Numerical Methods for Engineering Design and Optimization

Xin Li Department of ECE Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh, PA 15213



Overview

- Nonlinear Equation Solver
 - Newton-Raphson method
 - Binary search

Nonlinear Algebraic Equation

Many physical systems are nonlinear and must be mathematically described as a nonlinear equation

F(x) = 0

Example: nonlinear ordinary differential equation

$$F[\dot{x}(t), x(t), u(t)] = 0$$
 $x(0) = X$

- x(t): N-dimensional vector of unknown variables
- u(t): Vector of input sources
 - *F* : Nonlinear operator
 - *X* : Initial condition

Nonlinear Algebraic Equation

$$F(x) = 0$$

Closed-form solution cannot be derived for a general nonlinear equation

Iterative algorithm must be applied to find an approximate solution (i.e., numerical solution)

Newton-Raphson method is a widely-used algorithm to solve nonlinear algebraic equation



Linearize F(x) via first-order Taylor series expansion and solve iteratively

Taylor series approximation

¬ For a convergent series and sufficiently small $\Delta x^{(k)}$

$$F\left[x^{(k)} + \Delta x^{(k)}\right] = F\left[x^{(k)}\right] + F'\left[x^{(k)}\right] \cdot \Delta x^{(k)} + \cdots$$

Newton-Raphson method relies on 1st-order Taylor expansion
 The function F(•) must be smooth and its derivative exists



Global convergence is not guaranteed in general
 Many techniques exist to improve convergence

A simple example:



A simple example:



Damping can be applied to limit the extent of the linearized projection within one iteration

$$F[x^{(k+1)}] \approx F[x^{(k)}] + F'[x^{(k)}] \cdot [x^{(k+1)} - x^{(k)}] = 0$$

Accurate if x^(k) and x^(k+1) are close

Start Newton-Raphson iteration from a good initial solution

In practice, a good initial solution may be unknown

An alternative approach is to randomly select multiple initial solutions and apply Newton-Raphson method to each of them

$$F(x) = \log(x) = 0$$
$$F'(x) = \frac{1}{x}$$

Start from an initial solution $x^{(0)} = 0.1$

$$F[x^{(0)}] = \log(0.1) = -2.30$$
$$F'[x^{(0)}] = \frac{1}{0.1} = 10$$

$$F(x) = \log(x) = 0 \qquad x^{(0)} = 0.1$$

$$F'(x) = \frac{1}{x} \qquad F[x^{(0)}] = -2.30$$

$$F'[x^{(0)}] = 10$$

$$F[x^{(1)}] \approx F[x^{(0)}] + F'[x^{(0)}] \cdot [x^{(1)} - x^{(0)}] = 0$$
$$-2.3 + 10 \cdot [x^{(1)} - 0.1] = 0$$
$$x^{(1)} = 0.33$$
$$F[x^{(1)}] = \log(0.33) = -1.11$$
$$F'[x^{(1)}] = \frac{1}{0.33} = 3$$

$$F(x) = \log(x) = 0 \qquad x^{(1)} = 0.33$$

$$F'(x) = \frac{1}{x} \qquad F[x^{(1)}] = -1.11$$

$$F'[x^{(1)}] = 3$$

$$F[x^{(2)}] \approx F[x^{(1)}] + F'[x^{(1)}] \cdot [x^{(2)} - x^{(1)}] = 0$$

-1.11 + 3 \cdot [x^{(2)} - 0.33] = 0
$$x^{(2)} = 0.70$$

$$F[x^{(2)}] = \log(0.70) = -0.36$$

$$F'[x^{(2)}] = \frac{1}{0.70} = 1.43$$

$$F(x) = \log(x) = 0 \qquad x^{(2)} = 0.70$$

$$F'(x) = \frac{1}{x} \qquad F[x^{(2)}] = -0.36$$

$$F'[x^{(2)}] = 1.43$$

$$F[x^{(3)}] \approx F[x^{(2)}] + F'[x^{(2)}] \cdot [x^{(3)} - x^{(2)}] = 0$$

$$-0.36 + 1.43 \cdot [x^{(3)} - 0.70] = 0$$

$$x^{(3)} = 0.95$$

$$F[x^{(3)}] = \log(0.95) = -0.05$$

$$F'[x^{(3)}] = \frac{1}{0.95} = 1.05$$

Extend to multi-dimensional case

$$F(x) = 0 \quad \begin{cases} F_1(x) = 0\\ F_2(x) = 0\\ \vdots \end{cases}$$

Apply first-order Taylor expansion for all F_i's

$$F_{1}[x^{(k+1)}] = F_{1}[x^{(k)}] + \frac{\partial F_{1}}{\partial x_{1}}\Big|_{k} \cdot [x_{1}^{(k+1)} - x_{1}^{(k)}] + \frac{\partial F_{1}}{\partial x_{2}}\Big|_{k} \cdot [x_{2}^{(k+1)} - x_{2}^{(k)}] + \dots = 0$$

$$F_{2}[x^{(k+1)}] = F_{2}[x^{(k)}] + \frac{\partial F_{2}}{\partial x_{1}}\Big|_{k} \cdot [x_{1}^{(k+1)} - x_{1}^{(k)}] + \frac{\partial F_{2}}{\partial x_{2}}\Big|_{k} \cdot [x_{2}^{(k+1)} - x_{2}^{(k)}] + \dots = 0$$

$$\vdots$$

Re-write into a matrix form



• The new $\Delta x^{(k)}$ can be solved by a linear solver



Newton-Raphson method is applicable, if and only if F(x) is smooth and its derivative exists

A bad example: piecewise-linear function



- If we use Newton-Raphson to solve the problem
 - Ind order derivative is not continuous



Binary search is an alternative algorithm that is efficient for one-dimensional non-smooth but continuous function

Key idea

- **Assume that the solution of F(x) = 0 is within an interval [a, b]**
- Iteratively shrink [a, b] to find the solution x

- Select initial interval [a, b] $F(a) \cdot F(b) < 0$
- Set c as the center of [a, b] $c = \frac{a+b}{2}$



If
$$F(a) \cdot F(c) < 0$$

Then $b = c$
Solution is within [a, c]



Then

$$\blacksquare \qquad If \qquad F(b) \cdot F(c) < 0$$

a = c

Solution is within [c, b]

Continue iteration until convergence is reached



$$\log(x) = 0$$
 where $x \in [0,10]$

Iteration #1 $a = 0 \quad \log(a) < 0$ $b = 10 \quad \log(b) > 0$ $c = 5 \quad \log(c) > 0$ $x \in [0,5]$

$$a = 0$$
 $\log(a) < 0$
 $b = 5$ $\log(b) > 0$ $(0, 2.5]$
 $c = 2.5$ $\log(c) > 0$

$$\log(x) = 0$$
 where $x \in [0,10]$

Iteration #3 a = 0 $\log(a) < 0$ b = 2.5 $\log(b) > 0$ $x \in [0,1.25]$ c = 1.25 $\log(c) > 0$

Iteration #4

$$a = 0 \qquad \log(a) < 0$$

$$b = 1.25 \qquad \log(b) > 0 \qquad \qquad x \in [0.625, 1.25]$$

$$c = 0.625 \qquad \log(c) < 0$$

Continue iteration until convergence is reached

Summary

- Nonlinear equation solver
 - Newton-Raphson method
 - Binary search