

# 10) Numerical methods

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## 10.1) Locating roots

## Worked example

Show that  $f(x) = e^x + 3x - 2$  has a root between  $x = 0.2$  and  $x = 0.3$

## Your turn

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

$$f(0.5) = -0.351 \dots < 0$$

$$f(0.6) = 0.022 \dots > 0$$

Change of sign and  $f(x)$  continuous in the interval  $[0.5, 0.6]$

$\therefore$  Root in the interval  $[0.5, 0.6]$

## Worked example

Explain why there are no real roots to

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x-2} \text{ between } x = 1 \text{ and } x = 3$$

## Your turn

Explain why there are no real roots to

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x} \text{ between } x = -1 \text{ and } x = 1$$

$f(x)$  not continuous in the interval  
[−1, 1]

## Worked example

Using the same axes, sketch the graphs of

$$y = e^x \text{ and } y = \frac{1}{x}$$

a) Explain how your diagram shows that the function  $f(x) = e^x - \frac{1}{x}$  has only one root

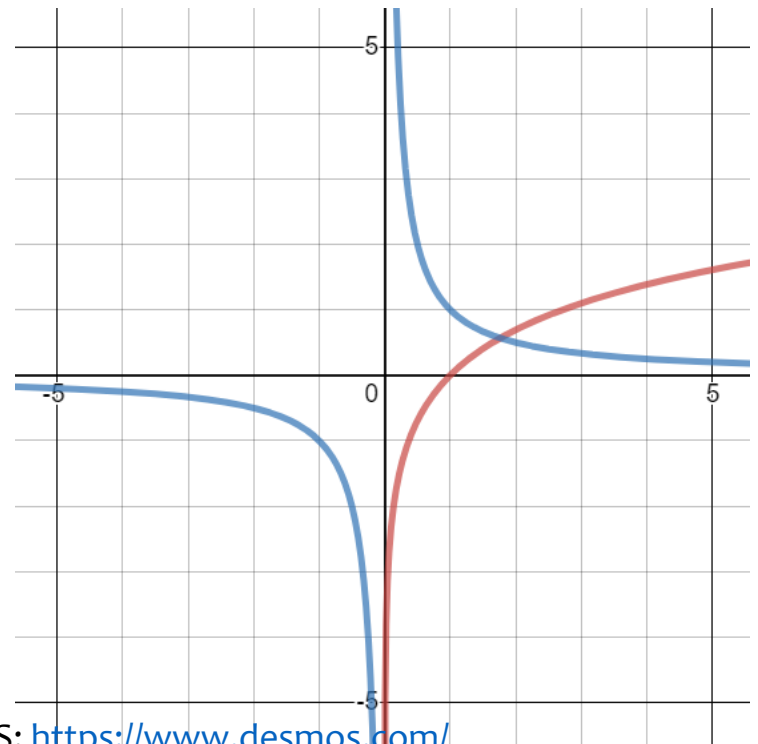
## Your turn

Using the same axes, sketch the graphs of

$$y = \ln x \text{ and } y = \frac{1}{x}$$

a) Explain how your diagram shows that the function  $f(x) = \ln x - \frac{1}{x}$  has only one root

a) The lines intersect where  $\ln x = \frac{1}{x} \rightarrow \ln x - \frac{1}{x} = 0$   
Thus the roots of  $f(x)$  correspond to the points of intersection, and there is only one point of intersection on the graph.



## Worked example

Using the same axes, sketch the graphs of

$$y = e^x \text{ and } y = \frac{1}{x}$$

- a) Explain how your diagram shows that the function  $f(x) = e^x - \frac{1}{x}$  has only one root
- b) Show that this root lies in the interval  $0.5 < x < 0.6$

## Your turn

Using the same axes, sketch the graphs of

$$y = \ln x \text{ and } y = \frac{1}{x}$$

- a) Explain how your diagram shows that the function  $f(x) = \ln x - \frac{1}{x}$  has only one root
- b) Show that this root lies in the interval  $1.7 < x < 1.8$

$$\text{b) } f(1.7) = -0.0576 \dots < 0$$

$$f(1.8) = 0.0322 \dots > 0$$

Change of sign and  $f(x)$  continuous in the interval  $[1.7, 1.8]$

$\therefore$  Root in the interval  $[1.7, 1.8]$

## Worked example

Using the same axes, sketch the graphs of

$$y = e^x \text{ and } y = \frac{1}{x}$$

- Explain how your diagram shows that the function  $f(x) = e^x - \frac{1}{x}$  has only one root
- Show that this root lies in the interval  $0.5 < x < 0.6$
- Show that the root is 0.567 to 3 decimal places

## Your turn

Using the same axes, sketch the graphs of

$$y = \ln x \text{ and } y = \frac{1}{x}$$

- Explain how your diagram shows that the function  $f(x) = \ln x - \frac{1}{x}$  has only one root
- Show that this root lies in the interval  $1.7 < x < 1.8$
- Show that the root is 1.763 to 3 decimal places

$$c) \quad f(1.7625) = -0.00064 < 0$$

$$f(1.7635) = 0.00024 > 0$$

Change of sign and  $f(x)$  continuous in the interval  $[1.7625, 1.7635]$

$$\therefore 1.7625 < \alpha < 1.7635,$$

$$\therefore \alpha = 1.763 \text{ correct to 3dp.}$$

## 10.2) Iteration

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## Worked example

$$f(x) = x^2 - 5x - 3$$

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

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

## Your turn

$$g(x) = x^2 - 6x + 2$$

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

i)  $x = \frac{x^2+2}{6}$     ii)  $x = \sqrt{6x-2}$     iii)  $x = 6 - \frac{2}{x}$

a) Shown

## Worked example

$$f(x) = x^2 - 5x - 3$$

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

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

b) Starting with  $x_0 = 3$  use each iterative formula to find a root of the equation  $f(x) = 0$ , rounding your answers to 3 decimal places

## Your turn

$$g(x) = x^2 - 6x + 2$$

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

i)  $x = \frac{x^2+2}{6}$     ii)  $x = \sqrt{6x-2}$     iii)  $x = 6 - \frac{2}{x}$

b) Starting with  $x_0 = 4$  use each iterative formula to find a root of the equation  $g(x) = 0$ , rounding your answers to 3 decimal places

b) i)  $x = 0.354$  (3 dp)  
ii)  $x = 5.646$  (3 dp)  
iii)  $x = 5.646$  (3 dp)

## Worked example

$$f(x) = e^{x-2} + x - 5$$

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

$$x = \ln(5 - x) + 2, \quad x < 5$$

## Your turn

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

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

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

a) Shown

## Worked example

$$f(x) = e^{x-2} + x - 5$$

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

$$x = \ln(5 - x) + 2, \quad x < 5$$

The root of  $f(x) = 0$  is  $\alpha$ .

The iterative formula

$$x_{n+1} = \ln(5 - x_n) + 2, \quad x_0 = 3$$

is used to find an approximate value for  $\alpha$

b) Calculate the values of  $x_1, x_2$  and  $x_3$  to four decimal places.

## Your turn

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

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

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

The root of  $f(x) = 0$  is  $\beta$ .

The iterative formula

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

is used to find an approximate value for  $\beta$

b) Calculate the values of  $x_1, x_2$  and  $x_3$  to four decimal places.

b)

$$x_0 = 2$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= \ln(6 - 2) + 1 \\ &= 2.3863 \end{aligned}$$

$$x_2 = 2.2847 \dots$$

$$x_3 = 2.3125$$

## Worked example

$$f(x) = e^{x-2} + x - 5$$

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

$$x = \ln(5 - x) + 2, \quad x < 5$$

The root of  $f(x) = 0$  is  $\alpha$ .

The iterative formula

$$x_{n+1} = \ln(5 - x_n) + 2, \quad x_0 = 3$$

is used to find an approximate value for  $\alpha$

b) Calculate the values of  $x_1, x_2$  and  $x_3$  to four

decimal places.

c) By choosing a suitable interval, show that  $\alpha = 2.792$  correct to 3 decimal places.

## Your turn

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

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

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

The root of  $f(x) = 0$  is  $\alpha$ .

The iterative formula

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

is used to find an approximate value for  $\alpha$

b) Calculate the values of  $x_1, x_2$  and  $x_3$  to four

decimal places.

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

c)

$$f(2.3065) = -0.00027 \dots < 0$$

$$f(2.3075) = 0.0044 \dots > 0$$

Sign change and  $g(x)$  continuous in the interval  $[2.3065, 2.3075]$

$$\therefore 2.3065 < \beta < 2.3075$$

$$\therefore \beta = 2.307 \text{ (3 dp)}$$

## Worked example

$$f(x) = x^3 - 5x^2 - 3x + 2$$

- (a) Show that the equation  $f(x) = 0$  has a root in the interval  $5 < x < 6$ .

## Your turn

$$g(x) = x^3 - 3x^2 - 2x + 5$$

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

(a)

$$g(3) = -1 < 0$$

$$g(4) = 13 > 0$$

Change of sign and  $g(x)$  continuous in the interval  $[3, 4]$

$\therefore$  root in the interval  $[3, 4]$

## Worked example

$$f(x) = x^3 - 5x^2 - 3x + 2$$

(a) Show that the equation  $f(x) = 0$  has a root in the interval  $5 < x < 6$ .

(b) Use the iterative formula

$$x_{n+1} = \sqrt{\frac{x_n^3 - 3x_n + 2}{5}}$$

to calculate the values of  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $x_3$ , giving your answers to 4 decimal places, and taking:

(i)  $x_0 = 0.5$     (ii)  $x_0 = 6$

## Your turn

$$g(x) = x^3 - 3x^2 - 2x + 5$$

(a) Show that the equation  $g(x) = 0$  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)  $x_0 = 4$

(b)

i)

$$x_1 = \sqrt{\frac{1.5^3 - 2(1.5) + 5}{3}} = 1.3385 \dots$$

$$x_2 = 1.2544 \dots$$

$$x_3 = 1.2200 \dots$$

**Convergent** as the change in the root on each iteration is decreasing. The iterative method will find the root.

ii)

$$x_1 = \sqrt{\frac{4^3 - 2(4) + 5}{3}} = 4.5092 \dots$$

$$x_2 = 5.4058$$

$$x_3 = 7.1219 \dots$$

**Divergent** as the change in the root on each iteration is increasing. The iterative method has failed to find the root.

## Worked example

$$f(x) = x^3 + 4x^2 + 3x - 12$$

(a) Show that the equation can be written as

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{3(4-x)}{4+x}}, x \neq -4$$

## Your turn

$$g(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 + 4x - 12$$

(a) Show that the equation can be written as

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{4(3-x)}{3+x}}, x \neq -3$$

(a) Shown



## Worked example

$$f(x) = x^3 + 4x^2 + 3x - 12$$

(a) Show that the equation can be written as

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{3(4-x)}{4+x}}, x \neq -4$$

The equation  $f(x) = 0$  has a single root between 1 and 2.

(b) Use the iterative formula

$$x_{n+1} = \sqrt{\frac{4(3-x_n)}{3+x_n}}, n \geq 0, x_0 = 1$$

to calculate the values of  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $x_3$ , giving your answers to 2 decimal places.

## Your turn

$$g(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 + 4x - 12$$

(a) Show that the equation can be written as

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{4(3-x)}{3+x}}, x \neq -3$$

The equation  $g(x) = 0$  has a single root between 1 and 2.

(b) Use the iterative formula

$$x_{n+1} = \sqrt{\frac{4(3-x_n)}{3+x_n}}, n \geq 0, x_0 = 1$$

to calculate the values of  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $x_3$ , giving your answers to 2 decimal places.

(b)

$$x_1 = \sqrt{\frac{4(3-1)}{3+1}} = 1.41$$

$$x_2 = 1.20$$

$$x_3 = 1.31$$

## Worked example

$$f(x) = x^3 + 4x^2 + 3x - 12$$

(a) Show that the equation can be written as

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{3(4-x)}{4+x}}, x \neq -4$$

The equation  $f(x) = 0$  has a single root between 1 and 2.

(b) Use the iterative formula

$$x_{n+1} = \sqrt{\frac{4(3-x_n)}{3+x_n}}, n \geq 0, x_0 = 1$$

to calculate the values of  $x_1, x_2$  and  $x_3$ , giving your answers to 2 decimal places.

(c) The root of  $f(x) = 0$  is  $\alpha$ . By choosing a suitable interval, prove that  $\alpha = 1.253$  (3 dp)

## Your turn

$$g(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 + 4x - 12$$

(a) Show that the equation can be written as

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{4(3-x)}{3+x}}, x \neq -3$$

The equation  $g(x) = 0$  has a single root between 1 and 2.

(b) Use the iterative formula

$$x_{n+1} = \sqrt{\frac{4(3-x_n)}{3+x_n}}, n \geq 0, x_0 = 1$$

to calculate the values of  $x_1, x_2$  and  $x_3$ , giving your answers to 2 decimal places.

(c) The root of  $g(x) = 0$  is  $\beta$ . By choosing a suitable interval, prove that  $\beta = 1.272$  (3 dp)

(c)

$$g(1.2715) = -0.00821 \dots < 0$$

$$g(1.2725) = 0.00827 \dots > 0$$

Sign change and  $g(x)$  continuous in the interval  $[1.2715, 1.2725]$

$$\therefore 1.2715 < \beta < 1.2725$$

$$\therefore \beta = 1.272 \text{ (3 dp)}$$

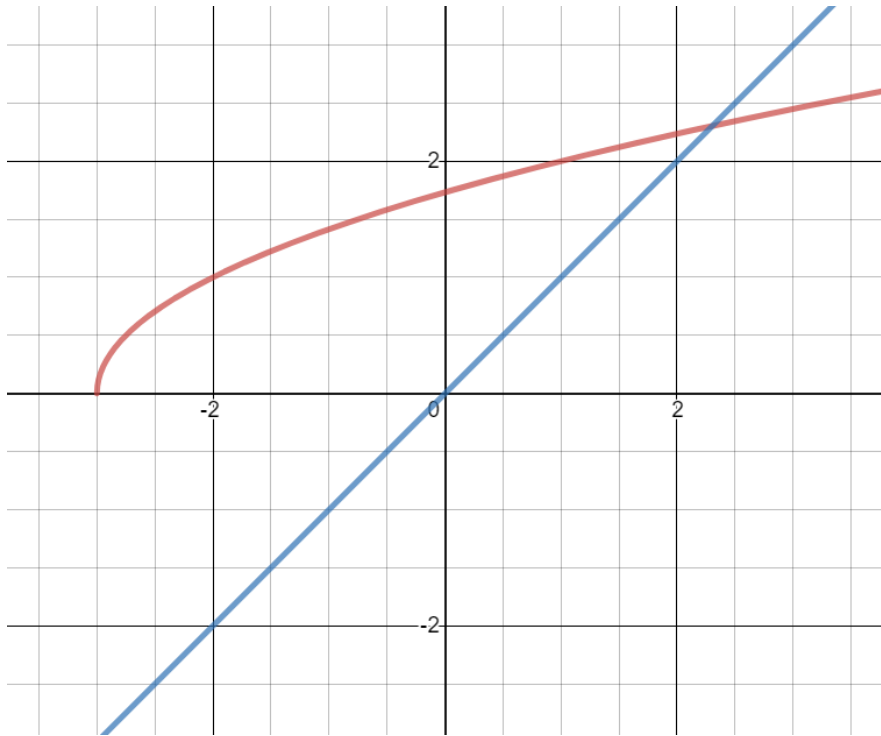
## Worked example

Use the graph of  $y = x$  and  $y = \sqrt{x + 3}$  to solve the equation

$$x^2 - x - 3 = 0$$

using the recurrence relation:

$$x_{n+1} = \sqrt{x_n + 3}, x_0 = 1$$



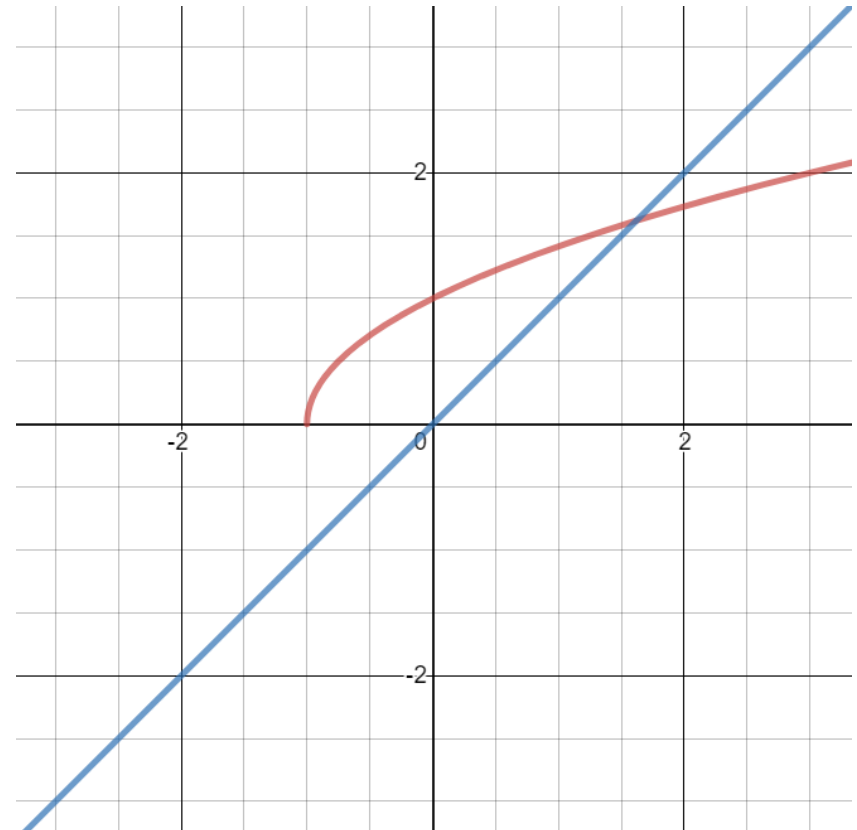
## Your turn

Use the graph of  $y = x$  and  $y = \sqrt{x + 1}$  to solve the equation

$$x^2 - x - 1 = 0$$

using the recurrence relation:

$$x_{n+1} = \sqrt{x_n + 1}, x_0 = 1$$



Staircase diagram converging to root

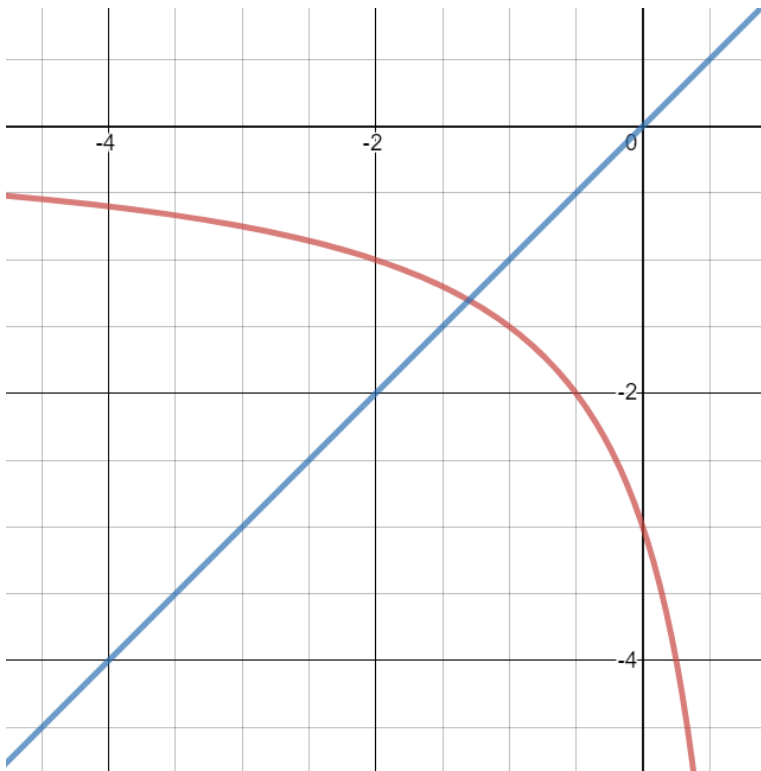
## Worked example

Use the graph of  $y = x$  and  $y = \frac{3}{x-1}$  to solve the equation

$$x^2 - x - 3 = 0$$

using the recurrence relation:

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{3}{x_n - 1}, x_0 = -4.5$$



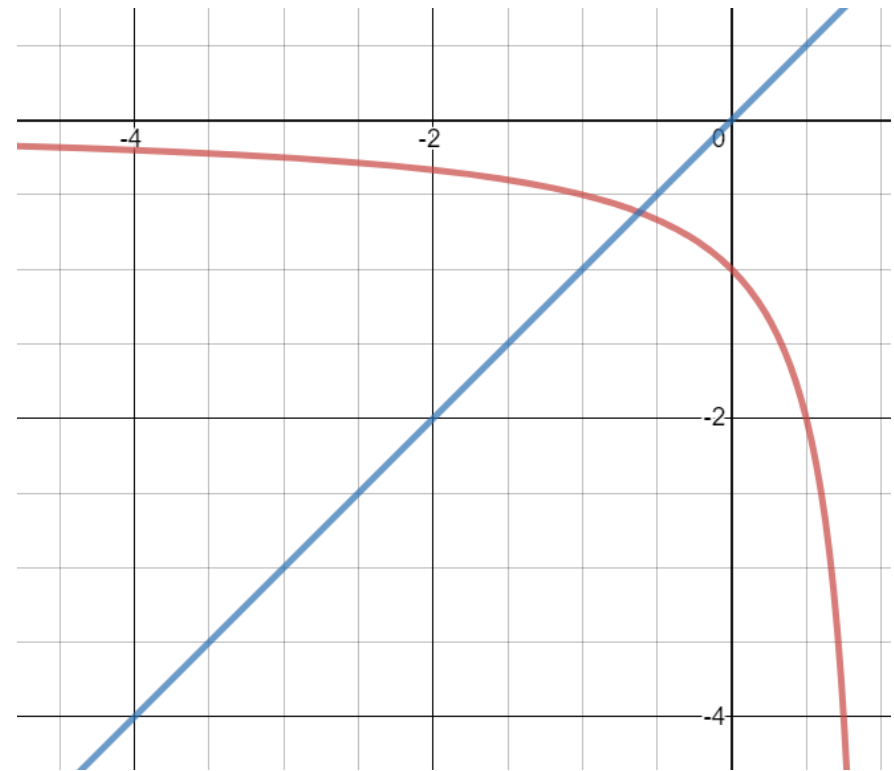
## Your turn

Use the graph of  $y = x$  and  $y = \frac{1}{x-1}$  to solve the equation

$$x^2 - x - 1 = 0$$

using the recurrence relation:

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{1}{x_n - 1}, x_0 = -2.5$$



Cobweb diagram converging to root

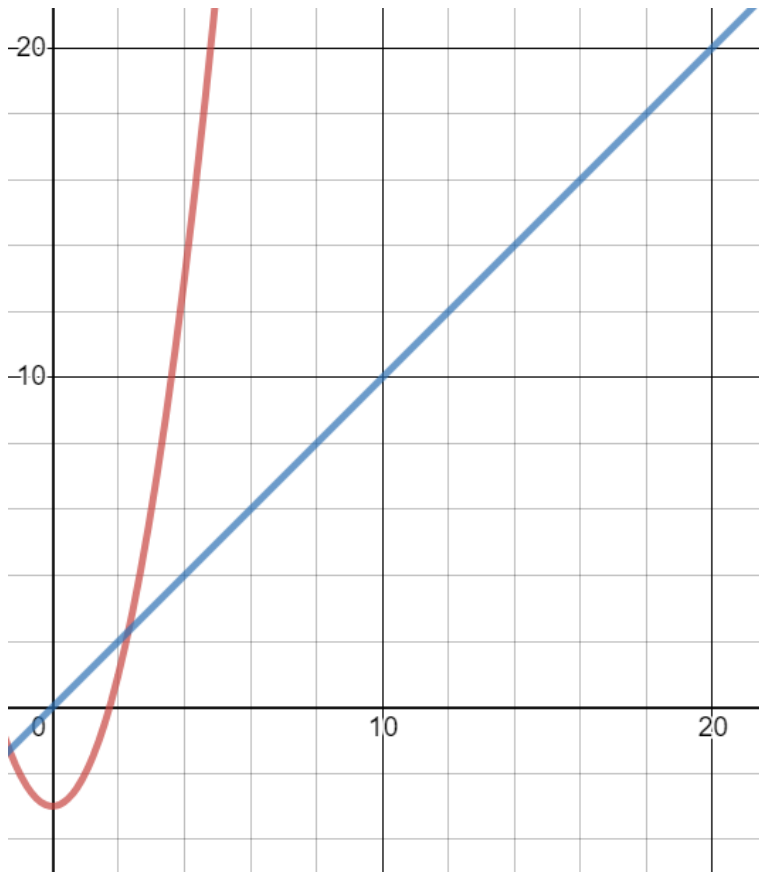
## Worked example

Use the graph of  $y = x$  and  $y = x^2 - 3$  to solve the equation

$$x^2 - x - 3 = 0$$

using the recurrence relation:

$$x_{n+1} = x_n^2 - 3, x_0 = 3$$



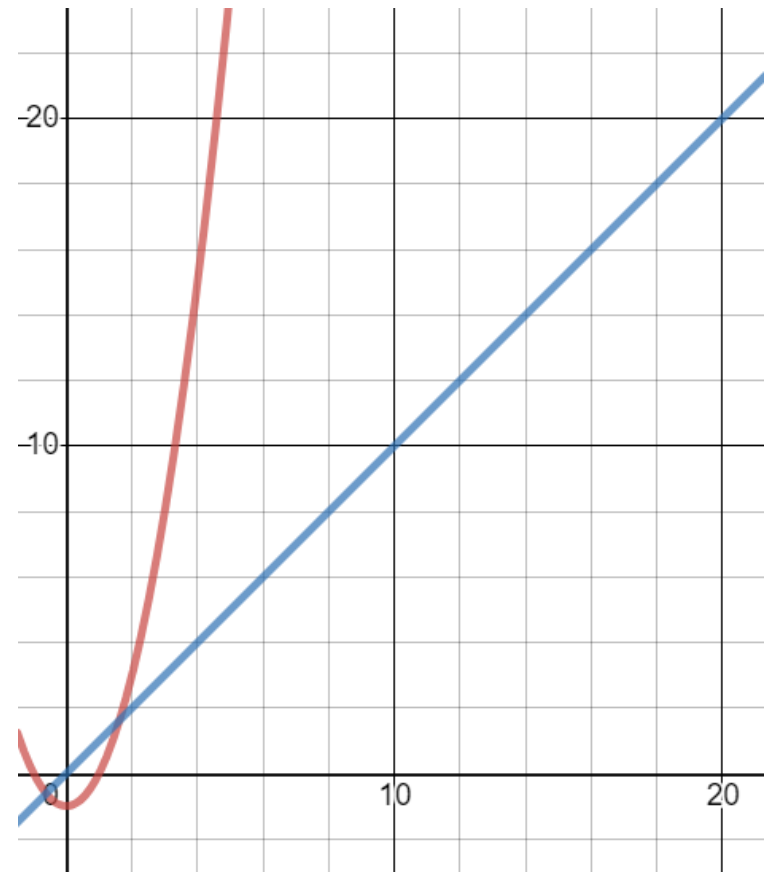
## Your turn

Use the graph of  $y = x$  and  $y = x^2 - 1$  to solve the equation

$$x^2 - x - 1 = 0$$

using the recurrence relation:

$$x_{n+1} = x_n^2 - 1, x_0 = 2$$



Root approximations diverging – iterative method fails

## 10.3) The Newton-Raphson method

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## Worked example

Using the Newton-Raphson process, state the recurrence relation for the following functions:

$$f(x) = x^4 - 3$$

$$g(x) = \sec x$$

$$h(x) = x^2 + x + 3$$

## Your turn

Using the Newton-Raphson process, state the recurrence relation for the following functions:

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

$$g(x) = \tan x$$
$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{\tan x_n}{\sec^2 x_n} = x_n - \frac{1}{2} \sin(2x_n)$$

$$h(x) = x^2 - x - 1$$
$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{(x_n)^2 - x_n - 1}{2x_n - 1}$$

## Worked example

Using three iterations of the Newton-Raphson process, starting with  $x_0 = 0.5$ , solve the equation

$$x = \sin x$$

## Your turn

Using three iterations of the Newton-Raphson process, starting with  $x_0 = 0.5$ , solve the equation

$$x = \cos x$$

$$\text{Let } f(x) = x - \cos x$$

$$f'(x) = 1 + \sin x$$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{x_n - \cos(x_n)}{1 + \sin(x_n)}, x_0 = 0.5$$

$$x_1 = 0.5 - \frac{0.5 - \cos(0.5)}{1 + \sin(0.5)} = 0.7552224 \dots$$

$$x_2 = 0.7391412$$

$$x_3 = 0.7390851$$

$$x = 0.739 \text{ (3 dp)}$$



## Worked example

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

The equation  $f(x) = 0$  has a root  $\alpha$  in the interval  $[-2, -3]$

Taking  $-2.5$  as a first approximation to  $\alpha$ , apply the Newton-Raphson process once to  $f(x)$  to obtain a second approximation to  $\alpha$ . Give your answer to 2 decimal places.

## Your turn

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

The equation  $g(x) = 0$  has a root  $\beta$  in the interval  $[-2, -1]$

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

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{\frac{1}{2}(x_n)^4 - (x_n)^3 + x_n - 3}{2(x_n)^3 - 3(x_n)^2 + 1}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_1 &= -1.5 - \frac{1.40625}{-12.5} = -1.3875 \dots \\ &= 1.39 \text{ (2 dp)}\end{aligned}$$

## Worked example

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

The equation  $f(x) = 0$  has a root  $\alpha$  in the interval  $[0, 1]$

Taking 0.4 as a first approximation to  $\alpha$ , apply the Newton-Raphson process once to  $f(x)$  to obtain a second approximation to  $\alpha$ .  
Give your answer to 3 decimal places.

## Your turn

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

The equation  $g(x) = 0$  has a root  $\beta$  in the interval  $[1, 2]$

Taking 1.4 as a first approximation to  $\beta$ , apply the Newton-Raphson process once to  $g(x)$  to obtain a second approximation to  $\beta$ .  
Give your answer to 3 decimal places.

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{3(x_n)^2 - \frac{11}{(x_n)^2}}{6x_n + \frac{22}{(x_n)^3}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_1 &= 1.4 - \frac{0.2677\dots}{16.4174\dots} = 1.38369\dots \\ &= 1.384 \text{ (3 dp)}\end{aligned}$$

## Worked example

$$f(x) = x^2 - 5x + 8$$

State why  $x_0 = 2.5$  is not suitable to use as a first approximation to the roots of  $f(x)$  when applying the Newton-Raphson method.

## Your turn

$$f(x) = x^2 + 7x + 8$$

State why  $x_0 = -3.5$  is not suitable to use as a first approximation to the roots of  $f(x)$  when applying the Newton-Raphson method.

$$f'(x) = 2x + 7 = 0 \rightarrow x = -3.5$$

Turning point at  $x = -3.5$

$$f'(-3.5) = 0$$

You cannot divide by 0 in the Newton-Raphson method.

Also the tangent to  $y = f(x)$  at  $x = -3.5$  would be horizontal, and therefore never intersect the  $x$ -axis.

## 10.4) Applications to modelling

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## Worked example

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

$$f(x) = 5000 (0.58)^x - 100 \sin x, \quad x > 0$$

- (a) Use the model to find the value, to the nearest hundred £s, of the car 5 years after purchase.

## Your turn

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

$$g(x) = 15000 (0.85)^x - 1000 \sin x, \quad x > 0$$

- (a) Use the model to find the value, to the nearest hundred £s, of the car 10 years after purchase.

(a) £3500

## Worked example

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

$$f(x) = 5000(0.58)^x - 100 \sin x, \quad x > 0$$

- (a) Use the model to find the value, to the nearest hundred £s, of the car 5 years after purchase.
- (b) Show that  $f(x)$  has a root between 7 and 8.

## Your turn

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

$$g(x) = 15000(0.85)^x - 1000 \sin x, \quad x > 0$$

- (a) Use the model to find the value, to the nearest hundred £s, of the car 10 years after purchase.
- (b) Show that  $g(x)$  has a root between 19 and 20.

(b)

$$g(19) = 543.11 \dots > 0$$

$$g(20) = -331.55 \dots < 0$$

Change of sign and  $g(x)$  continuous in the interval  $[19, 20]$

$\therefore$  root in the interval  $[19, 20]$

## Worked example

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

$$f(x) = 5000(0.58)^x - 100 \sin x, \quad x > 0$$

- Use the model to find the value, to the nearest hundred £s, of the car 5 years after purchase.
- Show that  $f(x)$  has a root between 7 and 8.
- Taking 7.5 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.

## Your turn

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

$$g(x) = 15000(0.85)^x - 1000 \sin x, \quad x > 0$$

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

(c)

$$g'(x) = (15\,000)(0.85)^x(\ln 0.85) - 1000 \cos x$$

$$\begin{aligned} g(19.5) &= 15000(0.85)^{19.5} - 1000 \sin(19.5) \\ &= 25.0693 \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g'(19.5) &= 15000(0.85)^{19.5}(\ln 0.85) - 1000 \cos(19.5) \\ &= -893.3009 \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$x_1 = 19.5 - \frac{g(19.5)}{g'(19.5)} = 19.528 \text{ (3 dp)}$$

## Worked example

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

$$f(x) = 5000(0.58)^x - 100 \sin x, \quad x > 0$$

- Use the model to find the value, to the nearest hundred £s, of the car 5 years after purchase.
- Show that  $f(x)$  has a root between 7 and 8.
- Taking 7.5 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.

## Your turn

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

$$g(x) = 15000(0.85)^x - 1000 \sin x, \quad x > 0$$

- Use the model to find the value, to the nearest hundred £s, of the car 10 years after purchase.
- Show that  $g(x)$  has a root between 19 and 20.
- Taking 19.5 as a first approximation, apply the Newton-Raphson method once to  $g(x)$  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.

(d) In reality, the car can never have a negative value so this model is not reasonable for cars that are approximately 20 or more years old.