

Re: help: how to find all zero roots of a non-linear equation in a given interval

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In article <1142908679.591339.85570@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, "andywenj@xxxxxxxx" <andywenj@xxxxxxxx> writes:

thanks Peter and Jen for your help, though i do not quite understand what you mean,sorry.
Peter, do you mean the following approach:

- 1) set $h=0.01$ (small length), calculate derivative $f'(-1+h)$ and $f'(-1)$

no. you wanted to know _all_ roots. hence you must be sure not to overlook one. as long as you know that f' has no zero in a subinterval, there can be at most (at most!) one simple zero of f . this is the reason for this more complicated process in principle you use Newtons method now, but make the step shorter such that you end left of the zero:

$f(x_0) \neq 0$.
 $f(x_0+h) = f(x_0)+f'(xi)*h$ with xi inside $[x,x+h]$.
hence if $M \geq f'(xi) \geq m > 0$ for any xi in $[x,x+h]$
you can take the step h if $f(x_0) > 0$ and the step $-f(x_0)/M$ if $f(x_0) < 0$. this destroys the fast convergence of Newtons process, but is safe.
If
 $-M \leq f'(xi) \leq -m < 0$

the consideration of the signs is just reverted hence you must have sure bounds here for the value of f' on small intervals. in principle you might use the interval-arithmetic version of Newton's method in the subintervals. what I describe is a handcrafted version of this.

now it may occur that you detect a sign change of f at x and $x+h$ during this process: then, because you have no sign change in f' , you can be sure that there is exactly one simple root in this subinterval. then it makes sense to use a faster method with sure convergence (the brent-decker method for example, which is the essence of "fzero")
this approach is fine as long as there are only simple zeros.
a multiple zero would indicate itself as a zero of $f, f', f'' \dots$

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simultaneously, but due to roundoff effects you would not be able to see something else than a (hopefully small) interval there you can not safely decide the sign of these functions, and must step through this with very small steps, counting it all as a "possibly multiple" root with even or odd order, depending on whether you detect finally a safe sign change in f or not. hopefully this will not be the case for you.

hth
peter

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2) if  $f'(-1+h) * f'(-1) > 0$ ,  
   calculate  $\text{abs}(f(-1+h)) / \text{abs}(f'(-1+h))$   
   set next subinterval  $[-1+h, -1+h + \text{abs}(f(-1+h)) / \text{abs}(f'(-1+h))]$   
   else  
   use fzero to find root in  $[-1, -1+h]$   
   find roots in  $[-1+h, 0]$  in the same way  
endif
```

Another question, does this approach have an official name? so i can study it for more details.

Jen, sorry i did not post the specific form of $B(x)$ since it is by no means simple, so express the determinant analytically is not possible