

4.8 Newton's Method

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1–4 Use Newton's method with the specified initial approximation x_1 to find x_3 , the third approximation to the root of the given equation. (Give your answer to four decimal places.)

1. $x^3 + x + 1 = 0$, $x_1 = -1$

2. $x^7 - 100 = 0$, $x_1 = 2$

3. $x^3 + x^2 + 2 = 0$, $x_1 = -2$

4. $x^5 - 10 = 0$, $x_1 = 1.5$

5–6 Use Newton's method to approximate the given number correct to eight decimal places.

5. $\sqrt[4]{22}$

6. $\sqrt[10]{100}$

7–11 Use Newton's method to approximate the indicated root of the equation correct to six decimal places.

7. The root of $x^3 - 2x - 1 = 0$ in the interval $[1, 2]$

8. The root of $x^3 + x^2 + x - 2 = 0$ in the interval $[0, 1]$

9. The root of $x^4 + x^3 - 22x^2 - 2x + 41 = 0$ in the interval $[3, 4]$

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10. The positive root of $2 \sin x = x$

11. The root of $\tan x = x$ in the interval $(\pi/2, 3\pi/2)$

12–17 Use Newton's method to find all roots of the equation correct to six decimal places.

12. $x^5 = 5x - 2$

13. $x^4 = 1 + x - x^2$

14. $(x - 2)^4 = x/2$

15. $x^3 = 4x - 1$

16. $2 \cos x = 2 - x$

17. $\sin \pi x = x$

18–21 Use Newton's method to find all the roots of the equation correct to eight decimal places. Start by drawing a graph to find initial approximations.

18. $x^4 + 3x^3 - x - 10 = 0$

19. $x^9 - x^6 + 2x^4 + 5x - 14 = 0$

20. $\sqrt{x^2 - x + 1} = 2 \sin \pi x$

21. $\cos(x^2 + 1) = x^3$

 Answers

[E Click here for exercises.](#)[S Click here for solutions.](#)

1. -0.6860
2. 1.9308
3. -1.6978
4. 1.5850
5. 2.16573677
6. 1.58489319
7. 1.618034
8. 0.810536
9. 3.992020
10. 1.895494
11. 4.493409
12. $-1.582036, 0.402102, 1.371882$.
13. $1, -0.569840$
14. $1.132529, 3.117349$
15. $-2.114908, 0.254102, \text{ and } 1.860806$
16. $0, 1.109144, 3.698154$
17. $0, 0.736484, -0.736484$
18. $-3.20614267, 1.37506470$
19. 1.23571742
20. $0.15438500, 0.84561500$
21. 0.59698777

Solutions

[Click here for exercises.](#)

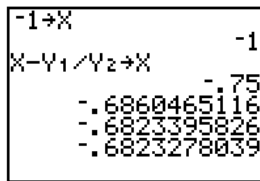
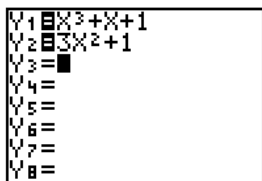
1. $f(x) = x^3 + x + 1 \Rightarrow f'(x) = 3x^2 + 1$,

$$\text{so } x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{x_n^3 + x_n + 1}{3x_n^2 + 1}, \quad x_1 = -1$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = -1 - \frac{-1 - 1 + 1}{3 \cdot 1 + 1} = -0.75 \Rightarrow$$

$$x_3 = -0.75 - \frac{(-0.75)^3 - 0.75 + 1}{3(-0.75)^2 + 1} \approx -0.6860.$$

Here is a quick and easy method for finding the iterations on a programmable calculator. (The screens shown are from the TI-82, but the method is similar on other calculators.) Assign $x^3 + x + 1$ to Y_1 and $3x^2 + 1$ to Y_2 . Now store -1 in X and then enter $X - Y_1/Y_2 \rightarrow X$ to get -0.75 . By successively pressing the ENTER key, you get the approximations x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots



2. $f(x) = x^7 - 100 \Rightarrow f'(x) = 7x^6$, so

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{x_n^7 - 100}{7x_n^6}, \quad x_1 = 2$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = 2 - \frac{128 - 100}{7 \cdot 64} = 1.9375 \Rightarrow$$

$$x_3 = 1.9375 - \frac{(1.9375)^7 - 100}{7(1.9375)^6} \approx 1.9308.$$

3. $f(x) = x^3 + x^2 + 2 = 0 \Rightarrow f'(x) = 3x^2 + 2x$,

$$\text{so } x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{x_n^3 + x_n^2 + 2}{3x_n^2 + 2x_n}, \quad x_1 = -2$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = -2 - \frac{-2}{8} = -1.75 \Rightarrow$$

$$x_3 = -1.75 - \frac{f(-1.75)}{f'(-1.75)} = -1.6978$$

4. $f(x) = x^5 - 10 \Rightarrow f'(x) = 5x^4$, so

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{x_n^5 - 10}{5x_n^4}, \quad x_1 = 1.5$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = 1.5 - \frac{(1.5)^5 - 10}{5(1.5)^4} \approx 1.5951 \Rightarrow$$

$$x_3 = 1.5951 - \frac{f(1.5951)}{f'(1.5951)} \approx 1.5850.$$

5. Finding $\sqrt[4]{22}$ is equivalent to finding the positive root of

$$x^4 - 22 = 0 \text{ so we take } f(x) = x^4 - 22 \Rightarrow$$

$$f'(x) = 4x^3 \text{ and } x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{x_n^4 - 22}{4x_n^3}. \text{ Taking } x_1 = 2, \text{ we}$$

get $x_2 = 2.1875, x_3 \approx 2.16605940, x_4 \approx 2.16573684$ and $x_5 \approx x_6 \approx 2.16573677$. Thus $\sqrt[4]{22} \approx 2.16573677$ to eight decimal places.

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6. Finding $\sqrt[10]{100}$ is equivalent to finding the positive root of

$$x^{10} - 100 = 0, \text{ so we take } f(x) = x^{10} - 100 \Rightarrow$$

$$f'(x) = 10x^9 \text{ and } x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{x_n^{10} - 100}{10x_n^9}. \text{ Taking}$$

$$x_1 = 1.5, \text{ we get } x_2 \approx 1.61012295, x_3 \approx 1.58659987,$$

$$x_4 \approx 1.58490143, x_5 \approx 1.58489319, \text{ and}$$

$x_6 \approx 1.58489319$. Thus $\sqrt[10]{100} \approx 1.58489319$ to eight decimal places.

7. $f(x) = x^3 - 2x - 1 \Rightarrow f'(x) = 3x^2 - 2$, so

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{x_n^3 - 2x_n - 1}{3x_n^2 - 2}. \text{ Taking } x_1 = 1.5, \text{ we get}$$

$$x_2 \approx 1.631579, x_3 \approx 1.618184, x_4 \approx 1.618034 \text{ and}$$

$x_5 \approx 1.618034$. So the root is 1.618034 to six decimal places.

8. $f(x) = x^3 + x^2 + x - 2 \Rightarrow f'(x) = 3x^2 + 2x + 1$, so

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{x_n^3 + x_n^2 + x_n - 2}{3x_n^2 + 2x_n + 1}. \text{ Taking } x_1 = 1, \text{ we get}$$

$$x_2 \approx 0.833333, x_3 \approx 0.810916, x_4 \approx 0.810536, \text{ and}$$

$x_5 \approx 0.810536$. So the root is 0.810536 to six decimal places.

9. $f(x) = x^4 + x^3 - 22x^2 - 2x + 41 \Rightarrow$

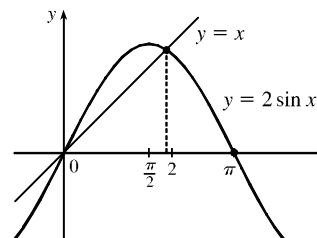
$$f'(x) = 4x^3 + 3x^2 - 44x - 2, \text{ so}$$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{x_n^4 + x_n^3 - 22x_n^2 + 41}{4x_n^3 + 3x_n^2 - 44x_n - 2}. \text{ Taking } x_1 = 4, \text{ we}$$

$$\text{get } x_2 \approx 3.992063, x_3 = 3.992020, \text{ and } x_4 \approx 3.992020. \text{ So}$$

the root in the interval $[3, 4]$ is 3.992020 to six decimal places.

10.



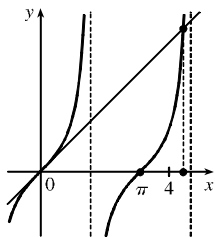
From the graph it appears that there is a root near 2, so we take $x_1 = 2$. Write the equation as $f(x) = 2 \sin x - x = 0$.

$$\text{Then } f'(x) = 2 \cos x - 1, \text{ so } x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{2 \sin x_n - x_n}{2 \cos x_n - 1}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = 2, x_2 \approx 1.900996, x_3 \approx 1.895512,$$

$x_4 \approx 1.895494 \approx x_5$. So the root is 1.895494, to six decimal places.

11.



From the graph, it appears there is a root near 4.5. So we take $x_1 = 4.5$. Write the equation as $f(x) = \tan x - x = 0$.

Then $f'(x) = \sec^2 x - 1$, so $x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{\tan x_n - x_n}{\sec^2 x_n - 1}$.

$$x_1 = 4.5, x_2 \approx 4.493614, x_3 \approx 4.493410,$$

$x_4 \approx 4.493409 \approx x_5$. To six decimal places, the root is 4.493409.

12. $f(x) = x^5 - 5x + 2 \Rightarrow f'(x) = 5x^4 - 5$, so

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{x_n^5 - 5x_n + 2}{5x_n^4 - 5}. \text{ Observe that } f(-2) = -20,$$

$f(-1) = 6, f(0) = 2, f(1) = -2$ and $f(2) = 24$ so there are roots in $[-2, -1], [0, 1]$ and $[1, 2]$. A sketch shows that these are the only intervals with roots.

$$[-2, -1]: x_1 = -1.5, x_2 \approx -1.593846, x_3 \approx -1.582241,$$

$$x_4 \approx -1.582036, x_5 \approx -1.582036$$

$$[0, 1]: x_1 = 0.5, x_2 = 0.4, x_3 \approx 0.402102, x_4 \approx 0.402102$$

$$[1, 2]: x_1 = 1.5, x_2 \approx 1.396923, x_3 \approx 1.373078,$$

$$x_4 \approx 1.371885, x_5 \approx 1.371882, x_6 \approx 1.371882$$

To six decimal places, the roots are $-1.582036, 0.402102$ and 1.371882 .

13. $f(x) = x^4 + x^2 - x - 1 \Rightarrow f'(x) = 4x^3 + 2x - 1$, so

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{x_n^4 + x_n^2 - x_n - 1}{4x_n^3 + 2x_n - 1}. \text{ Note that } f(1) = 0, \text{ so}$$

$x = 1$ is a root. Also $f(-1) = 2$ and $f(0) = -1$, so there is a root in $[-1, 0]$. A sketch shows that these are the only roots. Taking $x_1 = -0.5$, we have $x_2 = -0.575$,

$$x_3 \approx -0.569867, x_4 \approx -0.569840 \text{ and } x_5 \approx -0.569840.$$

The roots are 1 and -0.569840 , to six decimal places.

14. $f(x) = (x - 2)^4 - \frac{1}{2}x \Rightarrow f'(x) = 4(x - 2)^3 - \frac{1}{2}$, so

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{(x_n - 2)^4 - \frac{1}{2}x_n}{4(x_n - 2)^3 - \frac{1}{2}}. \text{ Observe that } f(1) = \frac{1}{2},$$

$f(2) = -1, f(3) = -\frac{1}{2}$ and $f(4) = 14$ so there are roots in $[1, 2]$ and $[3, 4]$ and a sketch shows that these are the only roots. Taking $x_1 = 1$, we get $x_2 \approx 1.111111$,

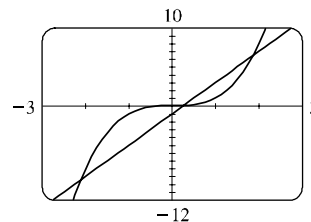
$$x_3 \approx 1.131883, x_4 \approx 1.132529 \text{ and } x_5 \approx 1.132529.$$

Taking $x_1 = 3$, we get $x_2 \approx 3.142857, x_3 \approx 3.118267$,

$$x_4 \approx 3.117350, x_5 \approx 3.117349 \text{ and } x_6 \approx 3.117349. \text{ To six}$$

decimal places, the roots are 1.132529 and 3.117349.

15.



From the graph, we see that $y = x^3$ and $y = 4x - 1$ intersect three times. Good first approximations are $x = -2, x = 0$, and $x = 2$. $f(x) = x^3 - 4x + 1 \Rightarrow f'(x) = 3x^2 - 4$,

$$\text{so } x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{x_n^3 - 4x_n + 1}{3x_n^2 - 4}.$$

$$x_1 = -2, x_2 = -2.125,$$

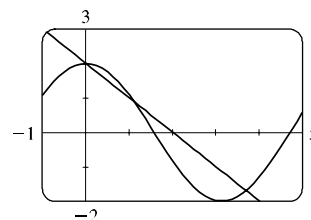
$$x_3 \approx -2.114975, x_4 \approx -2.114908 \approx x_5$$

$$x_1 = 0, x_2 = 0.25, x_3 \approx 0.254098, x_4 \approx 0.254102 \approx x_5$$

$$x_1 = 2, x_2 = 1.875, x_3 \approx 1.860979, x_4 \approx 1.860806 \approx x_5$$

To six decimal places, the roots are $-2.114908, 0.254102$, and 1.860806 .

16.



From the graph and by inspection, $x = 0$ is a root. Also, $y = 2 \cos x$ and $y = 2 - x$ intersect at $x \approx 1$ and at $x \approx 3.5$.

$f(x) = 2 \cos x + x - 2 \Rightarrow f'(x) = -2 \sin x + 1$, so

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{2 \cos x_n + x_n - 2}{-2 \sin x_n + 1}.$$

$$x_1 = 1, x_2 \approx 1.118026, x_3 \approx 1.109188,$$

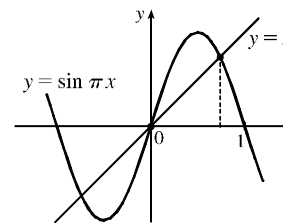
$$x_4 \approx 1.109144 \approx x_5$$

$$x_1 = 3.5, x_2 \approx 3.719159, x_3 \approx 3.698331,$$

$$x_4 \approx 3.698154 \approx x_5$$

To six decimal places, the roots are 0, 1.109144, and 3.698154.

17.



Clearly $x = 0$ is a root. From the sketch, there appear to be roots near -0.75 and 0.75 . Write the equation as

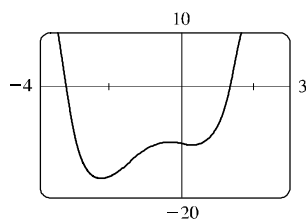
$f(x) = \sin \pi x - x = 0$. Then $f'(x) = \pi \cos \pi x - 1$, so

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{\sin \pi x_n - x_n}{\pi \cos \pi x_n - 1}. \text{ Taking } x_1 = 0.75 \text{ we get}$$

$$x_2 \approx 0.736685, x_3 \approx 0.736484 \approx x_4. \text{ To six decimal}$$

places, the roots are 0, 0.736484 and -0.736484 .

18.



From the graph, there appear to be roots near -3.2

and 1.4 . Let $f(x) = x^4 + 3x^3 - x - 10$

$$\Rightarrow f'(x) = 4x^3 + 9x^2 - 1, \text{ so}$$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{x_n^4 + 3x_n^3 - x_n - 10}{4x_n^3 + 9x_n^2 - 1}. \text{ Taking } x_1 = -3.2,$$

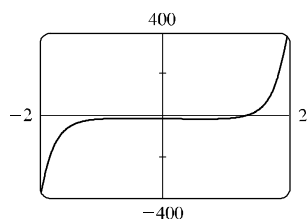
we get $x_2 \approx -3.20617358$, $x_3 \approx -3.20614267 \approx x_4$.

Taking $x_1 = 1.4$, we get $x_2 \approx 1.37560834$,

$x_3 \approx 1.37506496$, $x_4 \approx 1.37506470 \approx x_5$. To eight

decimal places, the roots are -3.20614267 and 1.37506470 .

19.



From the graph, we see that the only root appears to be near

1.25 . Let $f(x) = x^9 - x^6 + 2x^4 + 5x - 14$. Then

$$f'(x) = 9x^8 - 6x^5 + 8x^3 + 5, \text{ so}$$

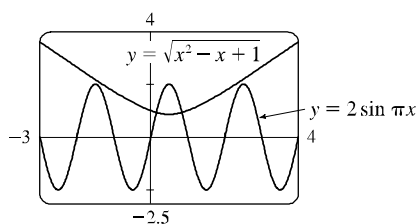
$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{x_n^9 - x_n^6 + 2x_n^4 + 5x_n - 14}{9x_n^8 - 6x_n^5 + 8x_n^3 + 5}. \text{ Taking}$$

$x_1 = 1.25$, we get $x_2 \approx 1.23626314$, $x_3 \approx 1.23571823$,

$x_4 \approx 1.23571742 \approx x_5$. To eight decimal places, the root of

the equation is 1.23571742 .

20.



From the graph, we see that there are roots of this equation

near 0.2 and 0.8 . $f(x) = \sqrt{x^2 - x + 1} - 2 \sin \pi x$

$$\Rightarrow f'(x) = \frac{2x - 1}{2\sqrt{x^2 - x + 1}} - 2\pi \cos \pi x, \text{ so}$$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{\sqrt{x_n^2 - x_n + 1} - 2 \sin \pi x_n}{\frac{2x_n - 1}{2\sqrt{x_n^2 - x_n + 1}} - 2\pi \cos \pi x_n}.$$

Taking $x_1 = 0.2$, we get $x_2 \approx 0.15212015$,

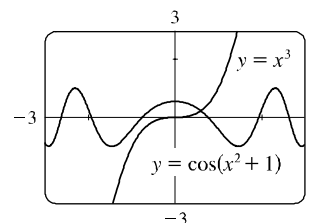
$x_3 \approx 0.15438067$, $x_4 \approx 0.15438500 \approx x_5$. Taking

$x_1 = 0.8$, we get $x_2 \approx 0.84787985$, $x_3 \approx 0.84561933$,

$x_4 \approx 0.84561500 \approx x_5$. So, to eight decimal places, the

roots of the equation are 0.15438500 and 0.84561500 .

21.



From the graph, we see that the only root of this

equation is near 0.6 . $f(x) = \cos(x^2 + 1) - x^3$

$$\Rightarrow f'(x) = -2x \sin(x^2 + 1) - 3x^2, \text{ so}$$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n + \frac{\cos(x_n^2 + 1) - x_n^3}{2x_n \sin(x_n^2 + 1) + 3x_n^2}. \text{ Taking } x_1 = 0.6,$$

we get $x_2 \approx 0.59699955$, $x_3 \approx 0.59698777 \approx x_3$. To eight

decimal places, the root of the equation is 0.59698777 .