

Topic : Newton Raphson Method - Roots of Equations  
Simulation : Pitfall - Slow convergence around inflection points  
Language : Mathematica 4.1  
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Date : 2 July 2002  
Abstract : The following example illustrates slow convergence of the Newton-Raphson method due to an inflection point occurring in the vicinity of the root.

■ **INPUTS: Enter the Following**

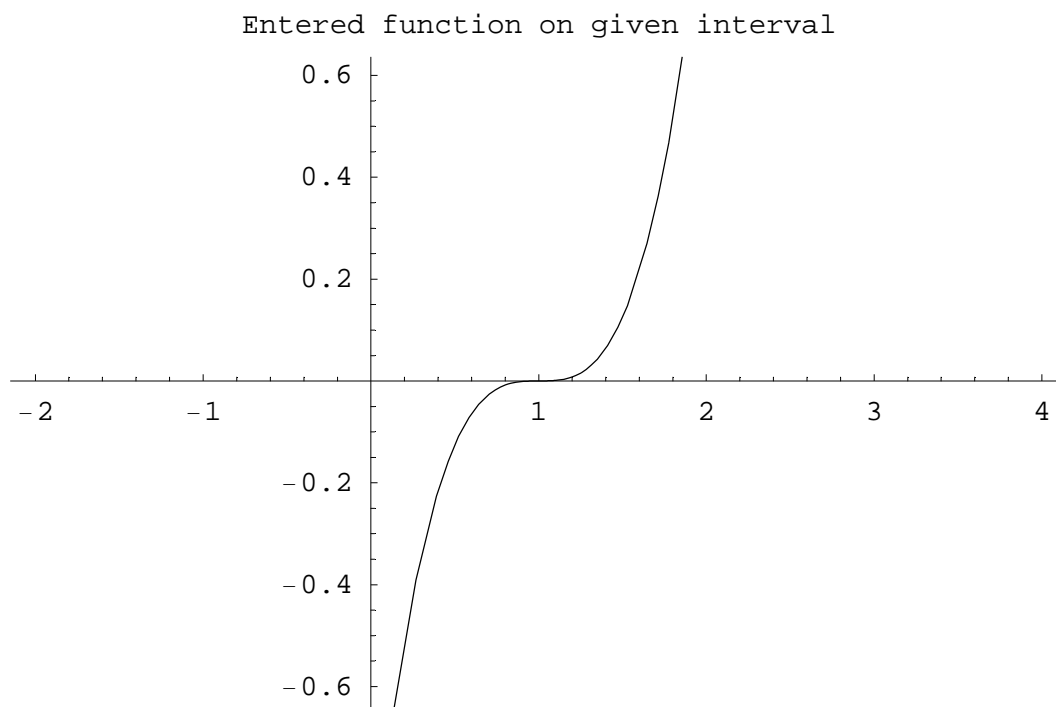
Function in  $f[x]$  0

```
In[434]:= f[x_] := (x - 1) ^ 3
```

Range of 'x' you want to see the function

```
In[435]:= xbegin = -2;  
xend = 4;
```

```
In[437]:= curve = Plot[f[x], {x, xbegin, xend}, PlotLabel ->  
"Entered function on given interval", TextStyle -> {FontSize -> 11}];
```



Initial guess

```
In[438]:= x0 = -1;
```

Maximum number of iterations

```
In[439]:= nmaximum = 10;
```

Because this method uses a line tangent to the function at the initial guess, we must calculate the derivative of the function to find the slope of the line at this point. Here we will define the derivative of the function  $f(x)$  as  $g(x)$ .

```
In[440]:= g[x_] := f'[x]
```

## Iteration 1

---

```
In[441]:= x1 = x0 - f[x0] / g[x0]
```

```
Out[441]= - $\frac{1}{3}$ 
```

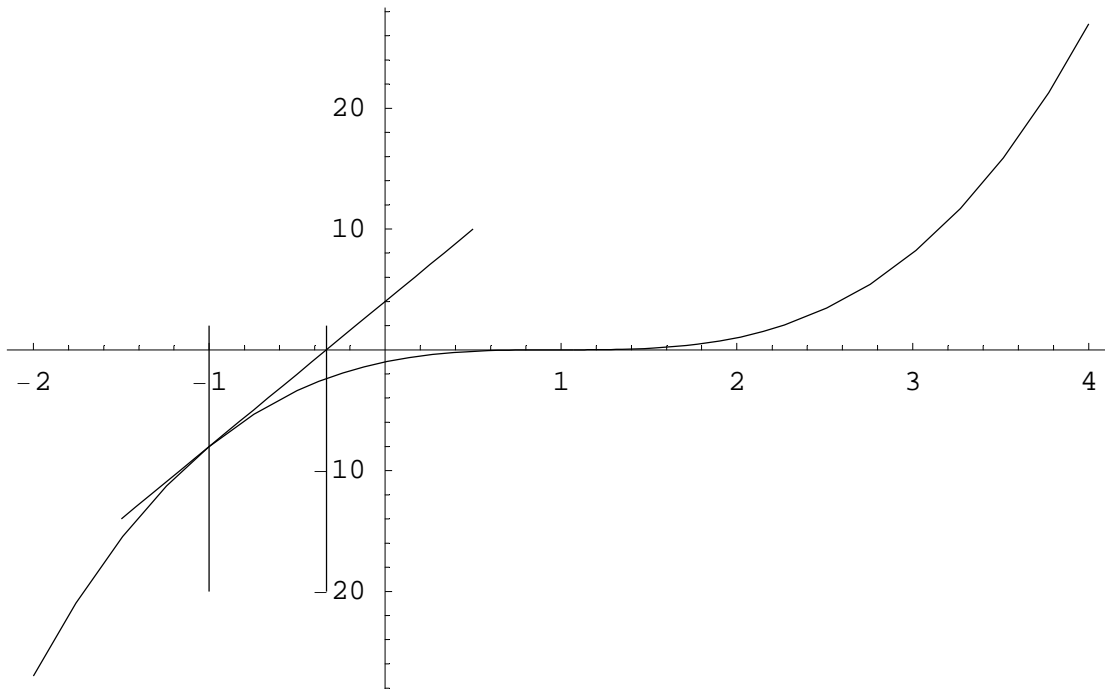
```
In[442]:= ea = Abs[(x1 - x0) / x1 * 100]
```

```
Out[442]= 200
```

```
In[443]:= tanline[x_] := f[x0] + ((0 - f[x0]) / (x1 - x0)) * (x - x0)
```

```
In[444]:= tline = Plot[tanline[x], {x, -1.5, 0.5}];
```

```
In[445]:= Show[curve, tline, Graphics[Line[{{x0, 2}, {x0, -20}}]],
Graphics[Line[{{x1, 2}, {x1, -20}}]], Axes -> True, PlotRange -> All,
PlotLabel -> "Entered function on given interval with upper and
lower guesses and estimated root", TextStyle -> {FontSize -> 11}];
l function on given interval with upper and lower guesses and estimated
```



## Iteration 2

---

```
In[446]:= x2 = x1 - f[x1] / g[x1]
```

```
Out[446]:=  $\frac{1}{9}$ 
```

```
In[447]:=  $\epsilon_a = \text{Abs}[(x2 - x1) / x2 * 100]$ 
```

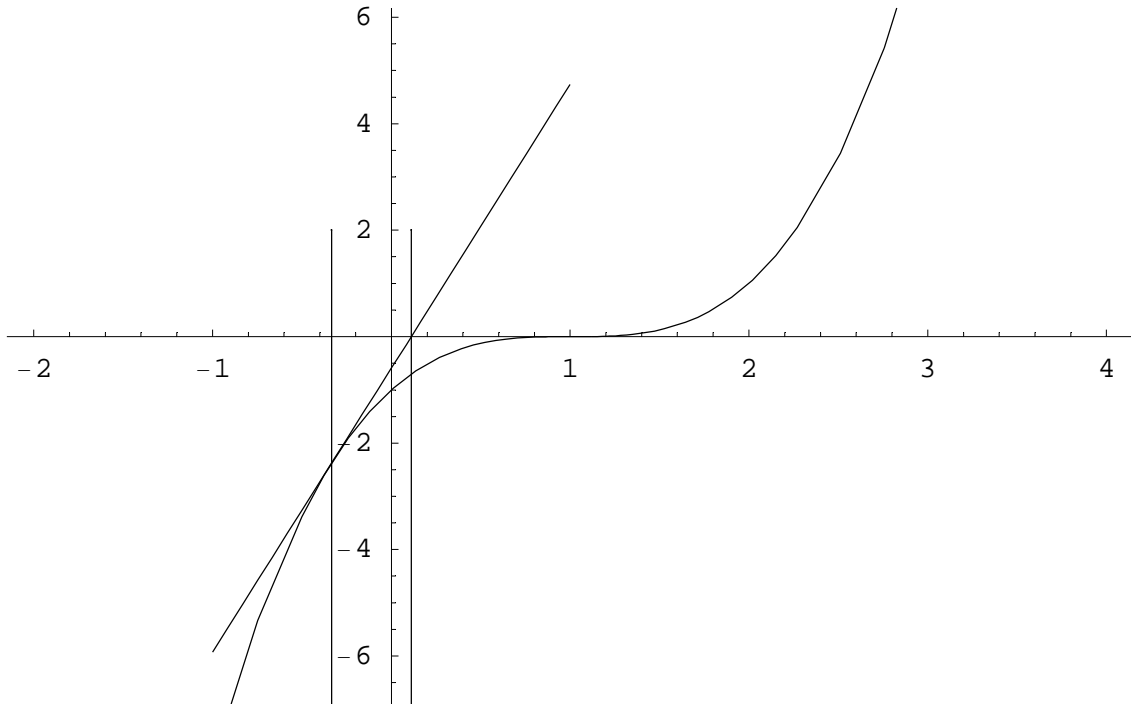
```
Out[447]:= 400
```

```
In[448]:= tanline[x_] := f[x1] + ((0 - f[x1]) / (x2 - x1)) * (x - x1)
```

```
In[449]:= tline = Plot[tanline[x], {x, -1, 1}];
```

```
In[450]:= Show[Graphics[Line[{{x1, 2}, {x1, -20}}]], curve,
Graphics[Line[{{x2, 2}, {x2, -20}}]], tline, Axes → True,
PlotLabel → "Entered function on given interval with upper and
lower guesses and estimated root", TextStyle → {FontSize → 11}];
```

d function on given interval with upper and lower guesses and estimated



### Iteration 3

---

```
In[451]:= x3 = x2 - f[x2] / g[x2]
```

```
Out[451]=  $\frac{11}{27}$ 
```

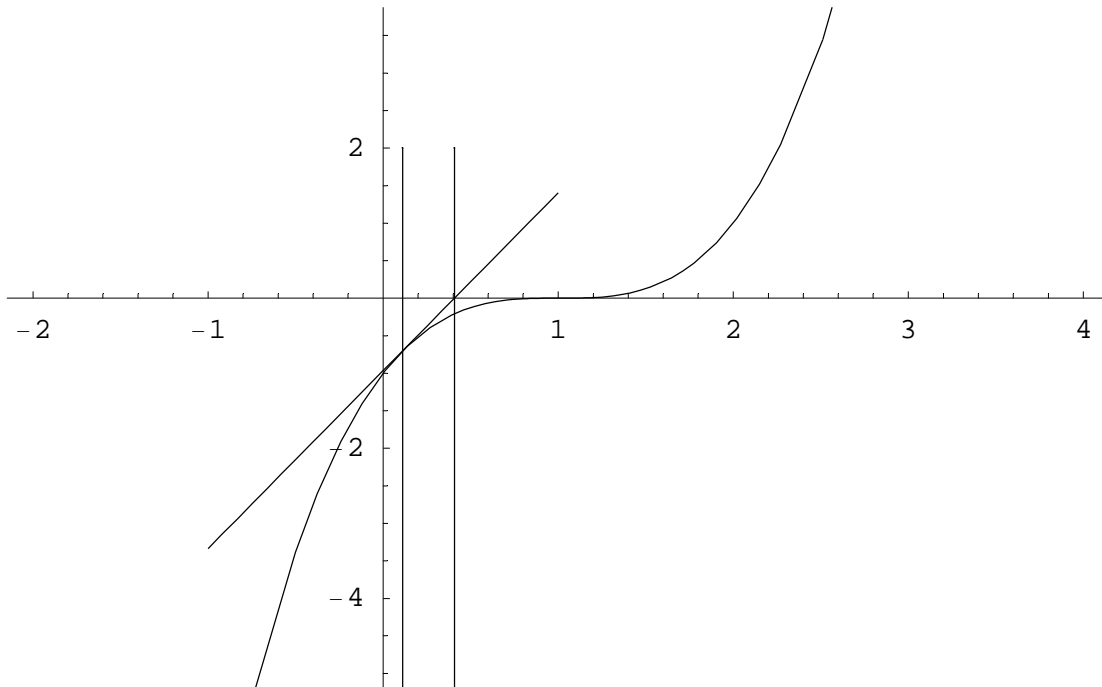
```
In[452]:= εa = Abs[(x3 - x2) / x3 * 100]
```

```
Out[452]=  $\frac{800}{11}$ 
```

```
In[453]:= tanline[x_] := f[x2] + ((0 - f[x2]) / (x3 - x2)) * (x - x2)
```

```
In[454]:= tline = Plot[tanline[x], {x, -1, 1}];
```

```
In[455]:= Show[Graphics[Line[{{x2, 2}, {x2, -20}}]], curve,
Graphics[Line[{{x3, 2}, {x3, -20}}]], tline, Axes → True,
PlotLabel → "Entered function on given interval with upper and
lower guesses and estimated root", TextStyle → {FontSize → 11}];
. function on given interval with upper and lower guesses and estimated
```



## Iteration 4

---

```
In[456]:= x4 = x3 - f[x3] / g[x3]
```

```
Out[456]=  $\frac{49}{81}$ 
```

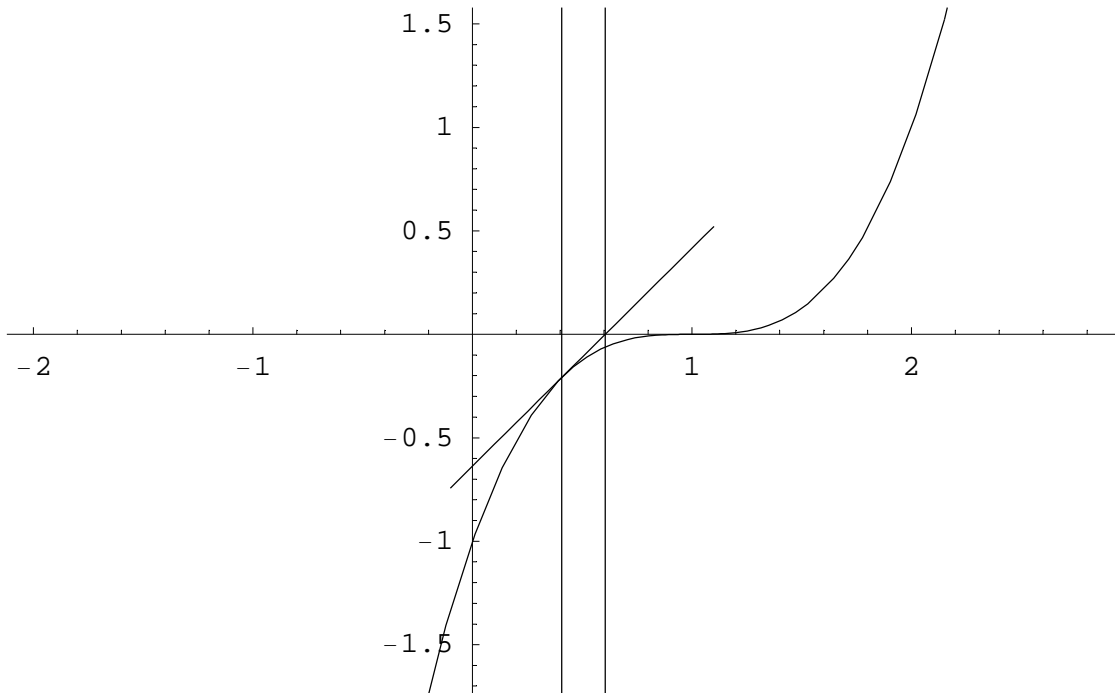
```
In[457]:= εa = Abs[(x4 - x3) / x4 * 100]
```

```
Out[457]=  $\frac{1600}{49}$ 
```

```
In[458]:= tanline[x_] := f[x3] + ((0 - f[x3]) / (x4 - x3)) * (x - x3)
```

```
In[459]:= tline = Plot[tanline[x], {x, -0.1, 1.1}];
```

```
In[460]:= Show[Graphics[Line[{{x4, 2}, {x4, -20}}]], curve,
Graphics[Line[{{x3, 2}, {x3, -20}}]], tline, Axes → True,
PlotLabel → "Entered function on given interval with upper and
lower guesses and estimated root", TextStyle → {FontSize → 11}];
| function on given interval with upper and lower guesses and estimated
```



## Summary

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### ■ Value of root as a function of iterations

Here the Newton-Raphson method algorithm is applied to generate the values of the roots, thru error, absolute relative true error, approximate error, absolute relative approximate error, and the number of significant digits at least correct in the estimated root as a function of number of iterations.

```
In[461]:= Clear[xr];
```

```
In[462]:= SetPrecision[xr, 40]
```

```
Out[462]= xr
```

```
In[463]:= Array[xr, nmaximum];
```

```
In[464]:= For[i = 1; xr[0] = x0, i <= nmaximum, i++,  
           xr[i] = xr[i - 1] - f[xr[i - 1]] / g[xr[i - 1]] // N]  
  
In[465]:= xrplot = Table[xr[i], {i, 0, nmaximum}];
```

## ■ Absolute relative approximate error

```
In[466]:= Array[ea, nmaximum];  
  
In[467]:= For[i = 1, i <= nmaximum, i++, ea[i] = Abs[(xr[i] - xr[i - 1]) / xr[i] * 100]]  
  
In[468]:= ea[0] = x0;  
  
In[469]:= eaplot = Table[ea[i], {i, 0, nmaximum - 1}];  
  
In[470]:= ListPlot[eaplot, PlotJoined -> True,  
                  PlotRange -> All, AxesOrigin -> {1, Min[eaplot]},  
                  PlotLabel -> "Absolute relative approximate error  
                  as a function of number of iterations"];
```

Absolute relative approximate error as a function of number of iterations

