

# In a nutshell: Newton's method in $n$ dimensions

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Given a continuous and differentiable vector-valued function  $\mathbf{f}$  of a vector variable with one initial approximation of a root  $\mathbf{x}_0$  where the Jacobian at that point  $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{f})(\mathbf{x}_0)$  is invertible. If the value is already zero, we have already found a root. This algorithm uses iteration, Taylor series and solving systems of linear equations to approximate a root.

Parameters:

- $\varepsilon_{\text{step}}$     The maximum error in the value of the root cannot exceed this value.
- $\varepsilon_{\text{abs}}$     The value of the function at the approximation of the root cannot exceed this value.
- $N$          The maximum number of iterations.

1. Let  $k \leftarrow 0$ .
2. If  $k > N$ , we have iterated  $N$  times, so stop and return signalling a failure to converge.
3. Solve  $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{f})(\mathbf{x}_k)\Delta\mathbf{x}_k = -\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_k)$  for  $\Delta\mathbf{x}_k$  where  $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{f})(\mathbf{x})$  is the Jacobian of  $\mathbf{f}$  evaluated at the point  $\mathbf{x}$ .  
Let  $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} \leftarrow \mathbf{x}_k + \Delta\mathbf{x}_k$ .
  - a. If  $\mathbf{x}_{k+1}$  has any entries that are not finite floating-point numbers, return signalling a failure to converge.
  - b. If  $\|\mathbf{x}_{k+1} - \mathbf{x}_k\|_2 < \varepsilon_{\text{step}}$  and  $\|\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_{k+1})\|_2 < \varepsilon_{\text{abs}}$ , return  $\mathbf{x}_{k+1}$ .
4. Increment  $k$  and return to Step 2.

## Convergence

If  $h$  is the error, it can be shown that the error decreases according to  $O(h^2)$ . This technique is not guaranteed to converge if there is a root, for the Jacobian could be close to singular, causing the next approximation to be arbitrarily far from the previous approximation.