

In a nutshell: Muller's method

Given a continuous real-valued function f of a real variable with three initial approximations of a root x_{-2} , x_{-1} and x_0 where $|f(x_{-2})| \geq |f(x_{-1})| \geq |f(x_0)| > 0$, rearranging them if necessary. If one is zero, we have already found a root. This algorithm uses iteration, quadratic interpolation and a solution to the quadratic equation to approximate a root.

Parameters:

ϵ_{step}	The maximum error in the value of the root cannot exceed this value.
ϵ_{abs}	The value of the function at the approximation of the root cannot exceed this value.
N	The maximum number of iterations.

- Let $k \leftarrow 0$.
- If $k > N$, we have iterated N times, so stop and return signalling a failure to converge.
- If $|f(x_{-2})| \geq |f(x_{-1})| \geq |f(x_0)| > 0$ does not hold, rearrange the values so as to ensure this is true.
- The next approximation to the root will be x_k plus the smaller root of the quadratic polynomial that interpolates the points $(x_{k-2} - x_k, f(x_{k-2}))$, $(x_{k-1} - x_k, f(x_{k-1}))$ and $(0, f(x_k))$.

$$a \leftarrow \frac{(f(x_{k-1}) - f(x_{k-2}))x_k + (f(x_{k-2}) - f(x_k))x_{k-1} + (f(x_k) - f(x_{k-1}))x_{k-2}}{(x_{k-1} - x_{k-2})(x_{k-2} - x_k)(x_k - x_{k-1})}$$

$$(f(x_{k-1}) - f(x_{k-2}))x_k^2 + 2((f(x_{k-2}) - f(x_k))x_{k-1} + x_{k-2}(f(x_k) - f(x_{k-1})))x_k$$

$$\text{Let } b \leftarrow \frac{-(f(x_{k-2}) - f(x_k))x_{k-1}^2 - (f(x_k) - f(x_{k-1}))x_{k-2}^2}{(x_{k-1} - x_{k-2})(x_{k-2} - x_k)(x_k - x_{k-1})}$$

$$c \leftarrow f(x_k)$$

If $a = 0$, the three points are in a straight line, so let $x_{k+1} \leftarrow x_k - \frac{c}{b}$;

otherwise, if $b^2 - 4ac < 0$, the roots are imaginary, so return signalling a failure to converge;

otherwise, if $b > 0$, let $x_{k+1} \leftarrow x_k - \frac{2c}{b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}$,

if $b < 0$, let $x_{k+1} \leftarrow x_k - \frac{2c}{b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}$,

otherwise it must be that $b = 0$, so let $x_{k+1} \leftarrow x_k - \sqrt{-\frac{c}{a}}$.

- If x_{k+1} is not a finite floating-point number, so return signalling a failure to converge.
 - If $|x_{k+1} - x_k| < \epsilon_{\text{step}}$ and $|f(x_{k+1})| < \epsilon_{\text{abs}}$, return x_{k+1} .
- Increment k and return to Step 2.

Convergence

If h is the error, it can be show that the error decreases according to $O(h^\mu)$ where $\mu \approx 1.8393$ is the real root of $x^3 - x^2 - x - 1 = 0$.