



Geometrically nonlinear finite element modelling of linear elastic truss structures

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1.1. Newton-Raphson solution of nonlinear (system of) equations

Inspired and adapted from the 'Nonlinear Modeling of Structures' course of Prof. Thierry J. Massart at the ULB

Newton-Raphson procedure for 1 NL equation

N-R in the structure of a NL FE code

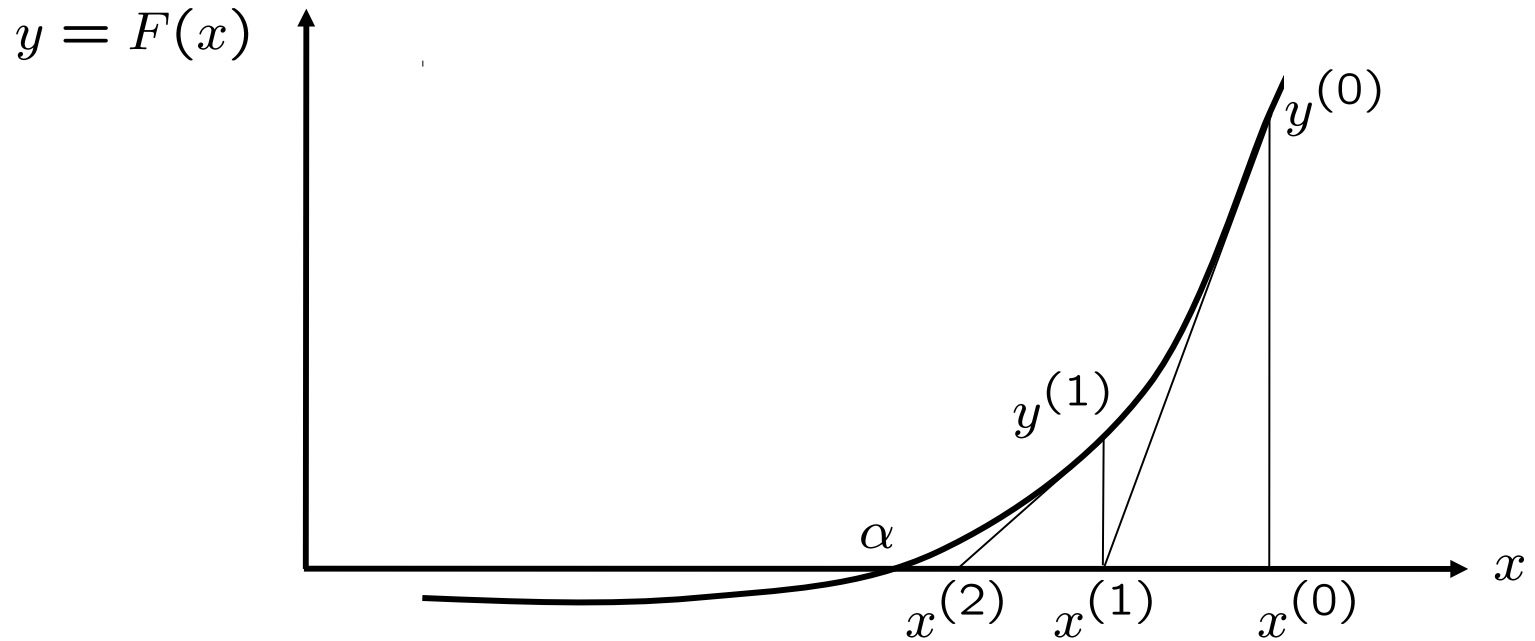
Lab: Solve 1 NL equation using N-R in MatLab



Newton-Raphson procedure

Problem statement

Find a new approximation based on an initial value and the slope of the function at this point





Newton-Raphson procedure

Iterative scheme

Re-write $F(x) = 0$ under the form $x = f(x)$

Construct a series of successive approximations

$$x^{(1)} = f(x^{(0)})$$

$$x^{(k)} = f(x^{(k-1)})$$

Newton-Raphson approximation

$$x^{(1)} = x^{(0)} - \frac{F(x^{(0)})}{F'(x^{(0)})}$$

$$x^{(k+1)} = x^{(k)} - \frac{F(x^{(k)})}{F'(x^{(k)})}$$

Requires the knowledge of the function derivative

Quadratic local convergence, if the derivative is right

This last point is CRUCIAL for a proper convergence!



Newton-Raphson procedure

Interpretation from a series development

Assume a first approximation is available $x^{(k)}$

Express the value of the function as a first order development

$$F(x^{(k+1)}) = F(x^{(k)}) + F'(x^{(k)})(x^{(k+1)} - x^{(k)}) + \frac{F''(x^{(k)})}{2!}(x^{(k+1)} - x^{(k)})^2 + \dots$$

If this new value has to vanish (to find the root)

$$F(x^{(k+1)}) = 0$$

Using the first order development, a new approximation is

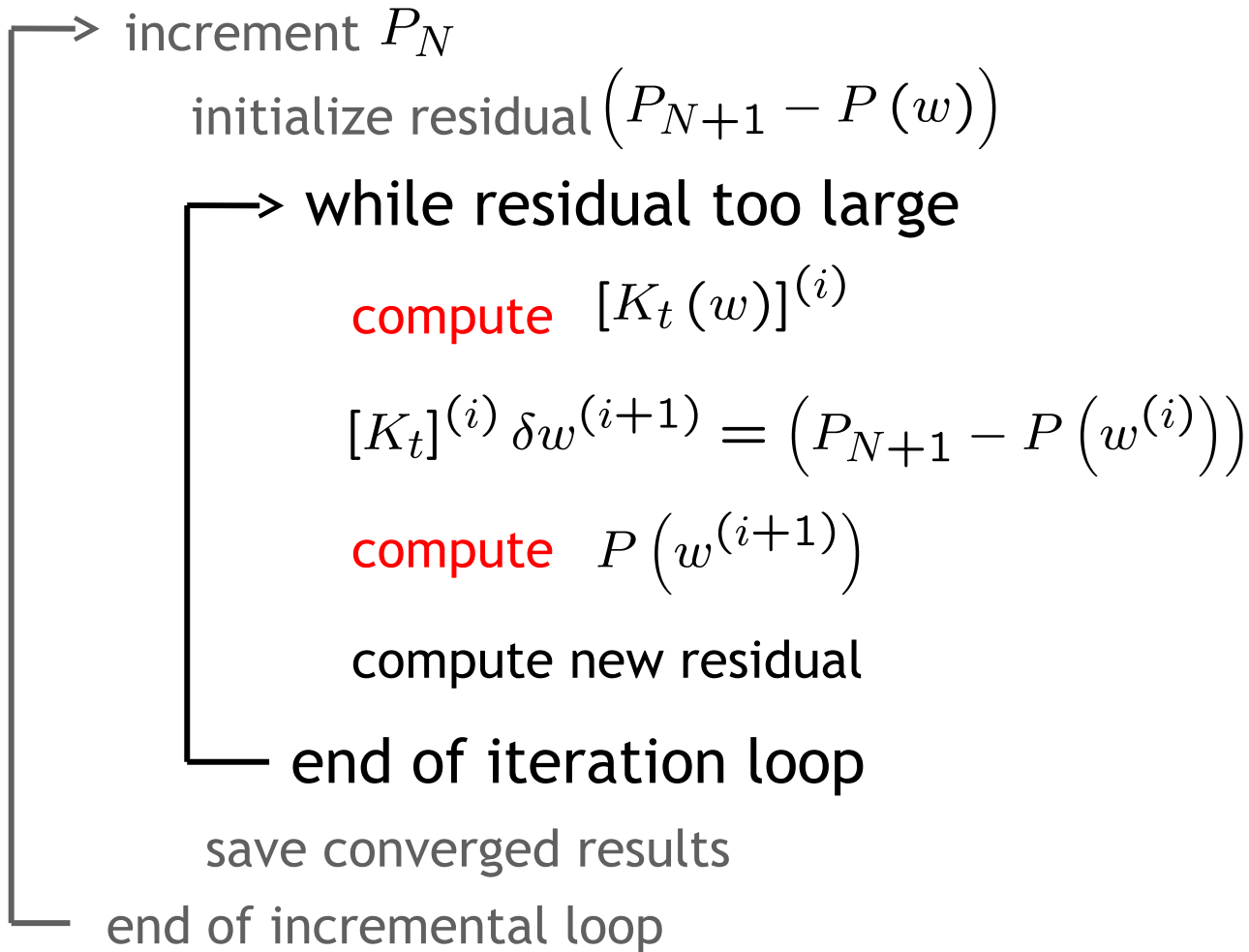
$$F(x^{(k)}) + F'(x^{(k)})(x^{(k+1)} - x^{(k)}) \approx 0$$

$$x^{(k+1)} = x^{(k)} - \frac{F(x^{(k)})}{F'(x^{(k)})}$$



Newton-Raphson procedure

Incremental-iterative loop





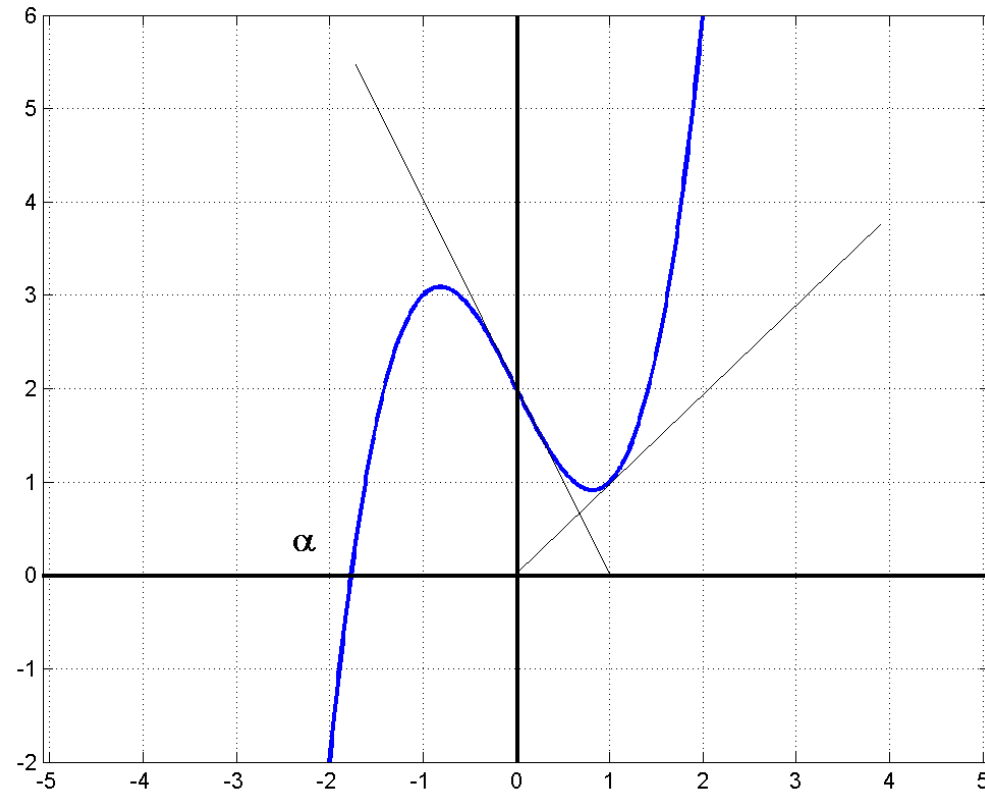
Newton-Raphson procedure

Potential shortcomings

Vanishing derivatives

Deadlocks between particular points

$$F(x) = x^3 - 2x + 2$$





Newton-Raphson procedure

For a system of equations

$$F_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0$$

...

$$F_n(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0$$

The iterative scheme becomes

Initial approximation $\{x^{(0)}\} = \{x_1^{(0)}, \dots, x_n^{(0)}\}^T$

A new approximation is found by solving

$$[J_F(\{x^{(k)}\})] (\{x^{(k+1)}\} - \{x^{(k)}\}) = -\{F(\{x^{(k)}\})\}$$

↑
Jacobian matrix



Newton-Raphson procedure

Flowchart

Define a set of successive loading states $F_{ext,n}$

Loop on the loading states (steps or increments)

Formulate the problem for the step $n \rightarrow n + 1$

Find q_{n+1} such that $F_{int}(q_{n+1}) - F_{ext,n+1} = 0$

With as first approximation $q_{n+1}^{(0)} = q_n$

Iterate until a precision threshold is reached with

$$F_{int,n}^{(k)} = F_{int}(q_{n+1}^{(k)})$$

$$q_{n+1}^{(k+1)} = q_{n+1}^{(k)} - \left(\frac{\partial F_{int}}{\partial q} \right)_{q_{n+1}^{(k)}}^{-1} \left(F_{ext,n+1} - F_{int,n}^{(k)} \right)$$

End of step



Newton-Raphson procedure

Graphical interpretation

