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Lafayette

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On Sufficient
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Degree Computation and Global Optimization

A Personal Perspective

R. Baker Kearfott

Department of Mathematics
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Stenger-2007



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Frank's Papers

- Frank Stenger, “An Algorithm for the Topological Degree of a Mapping in \mathbb{R}^n ,” *Numerische Mathematik* **25**, pp. 23–28 (1976).
- F. Stenger and C. Harvey, “A Two-Dimensional Analogue to the Method of Bisections for Solving Nonlinear Equations,” *Quarterly Journal of Applied Mathematics* **33**, pp. 351–368 (1976).

Computing the Topological Degree

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- The topological degree is a generalization of the *winding number* in complex analysis.
- If $F : \mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\partial\mathcal{D}$ is the boundary of \mathcal{D} , then the topological degree $d(F, \partial\mathcal{D})$ can be characterized as the number of times the image of $\partial\mathcal{D}$ under $F/\|F\|$ covers $e_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0)$ with a positive orientation minus the number of times e_1 is covered with a negative orientation.
- Frank characterized the topological degree as a sum of certain determinants, provided $\partial\mathcal{D}$ is *sufficiently refined*.
- The number of solutions $x^* \in \mathcal{D}$ is equal to $d(F, \partial\mathcal{D}) \pmod{2}$, and is equal to $d(F, \partial\mathcal{D})$ if F represents the real and imaginary parts of an analytic function in $\mathbb{C}^{(n/2)}$.

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Kearfott's Dissertation

- Kearfott developed an alternate formula for $d(F, \partial\mathcal{D})$ that involved counting matrices formed from the algebraic signs of components of F .
- Kearfott also implemented an algorithm for computing $d(F, \partial\mathcal{D})$ for $\mathcal{D} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ based on successive adaptive subdivision of simplexes by bisecting their longest edges.
- In Kearfott's initial algorithm, "sufficient refinement" was determined by a heuristic parameter p : If the contribution of a subregion did not change after p subdivisions, the subregion was deemed to be sufficiently refined.
- Kearfott incorporated the degree computation algorithm efficiently into a generalized bisection algorithm to compute a solution $x^* \in \mathcal{D}$, $F(x^*) = 0$.

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The Generalized Method of Bisection

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- is related to adaptive quadrature algorithms;
- is related to similar search algorithms that were being developed separately for various types of optimization problems.



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Bisection of Simplices

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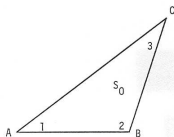


FIGURE 4.5
THE ORIGINAL SIMPLEX

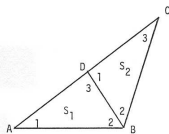


FIGURE 4.6
THE FIRST SUBDIVISION

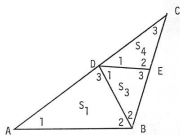


FIGURE 4.7
THE SECOND SUBDIVISION

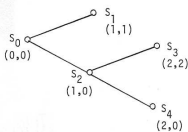


FIGURE 4.8
THE TREE



Foreseen Applications

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- **Applications Frank foresaw**

- Singular problems and non-smooth problems
- The hidden line problem and other problems in computer graphics



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Some Offshoots

- **Adaptive subdivision in finite element methods: the path Martin Stynes took**
- **Geometry of subdivision of simplexes**
 - First attempted in Kearfott, "A Proof of Convergence and an Error Bound for the Method of Bisection in \mathbb{R}^n ," *Math. Comp.* 32, 144, pp. 1147–1153 (1978).
 - Continued in and completed more definitively in Reiner Horst, "On Generalized Bisection of n -Simplexes," *Math. Comp.* 66, 218, pp. 691–698 (1997).
- **Further developments in computation of and application of the topological degree.**

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On Sufficient Refinement

- Combinatorial technicalities aside, sufficient refinement basically occurs when the subdivision is such that at least one component of F has constant sign on each simplex in the subdivision.
- The heuristic checked the signs of components of F at vertices of simplexes in the subdivision only, and failed in practice for many examples.
- Knowing bounds on the ranges of components of F can determine sufficient refinement.
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- A simple way of checking sufficient refinement is by interval evaluations of the components of F over sub-regions.

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Continuation Methods

- (1980's) Simplicial and continuation methods follow a one-dimensional solution set of a parametrized nonlinear system $H(x, \lambda) : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$.
- Such methods can in theory be used to solve $F(x) = 0$ by following paths from zeros of a starting function G to zeros of the target function F .
- Theory states that, for polynomial systems F , the if F is random and the coefficients of G are chosen randomly, the set of coefficients of G for which continuation does not lead to all solutions of $F = 0$ has measure zero.
- In practice, F constructed from science and engineering models is not random, and does not lie on that "set of measure zero."
- In practice, heuristic tolerances in the path-following algorithms often led to jumping across paths, especially in early algorithms.



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Continuation Methods

- (1980's) Simplicial and continuation methods follow a one-dimensional solution set of a parametrized nonlinear system $H(x, \lambda) : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$.
- Such methods can in theory be used to solve $F(x) = 0$ by following paths from zeros of a starting function G to zeros of the target function F .
- Theory states that, for polynomial systems F , the if F is random and the coefficients of G are chosen randomly, the set of coefficients of G for which continuation does not lead to all solutions of $F = 0$ has measure zero.
- In practice, F constructed from science and engineering models is not random, and does not lie on that "set of measure zero."
- In practice, heuristic tolerances in the path-following algorithms often led to jumping across paths, especially in early algorithms.



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 - Recursive reduction of dimension, such as in “A Summary of Recent Experiments to Compute the Topological Degree,” in *Applied Nonlinear Analysis*, ed. V. Lakshmikantham, Academic Press, 1979.
 - Use of moduli of continuity and Lipschitz constants to determine sufficient refinement (unpublished).
 - Kearfott was attracted to interval computations since they could give rigorous bounds on ranges with simple function evaluations.
- Kearfott eventually focussed on finding *all* roots, employing interval techniques.

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Bounding Ranges with Interval Arithmetic

- Each basic interval operation $\odot \in \{+, -, \times, \div, \text{etc.}\}$ is defined by

$$\mathbf{x} \odot \mathbf{y} = \{\mathbf{x} \odot \mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{x} \text{ and } \mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{y}\}.$$

- This definition can be made operational; for example, for $\mathbf{x} = [\underline{x}, \bar{x}]$ and $\mathbf{y} = [\underline{y}, \bar{y}]$, $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} = [\underline{x} + \underline{y}, \bar{x} + \bar{y}]$; similarly, ranges of functions such as \sin , \exp can be computed.
- Evaluation of an expression with this interval arithmetic gives *bounds* on the range of the expression.
- With *directed rounding* (e.g. using IEEE standard arithmetic), the computer can give mathematically rigorous bounds on ranges.

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Proving Existence and Uniqueness

Interval Newton Methods

Let $f(x) = 0$, $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ represent a system of nonlinear equations. Think of an interval Newton method as an operator sending \mathbf{x} to $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{N}(f; \mathbf{x}, \check{\mathbf{x}}) = \check{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{v}, \quad \text{where } \Sigma(\mathbf{A}, -f(\check{\mathbf{x}})) \subset \mathbf{v},$$

where \mathbf{A} is a Lipschitz matrix for f over \mathbf{x} and $\Sigma(\mathbf{A}, -f(\check{\mathbf{x}}))$ is that set $\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n\}$ such that there exists an $A \in \mathbf{A}$ with $A\mathbf{x} = -f(\check{\mathbf{x}})$.

Theorem

Suppose $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ is the image of \mathbf{x} under an interval Newton method. If $\tilde{\mathbf{x}} \subseteq \mathbf{x}$, it follows that there exists a unique solution of $f(x) = 0$ within \mathbf{x} .

Interval Newton Methods

A Practical Summary

- $\mathbf{N}(f; \mathbf{x}, \check{\mathbf{x}})$ can be computed similarly to a classical point multivariate Newton step, but with interval arithmetic.
- Any solutions of $f(\mathbf{x}) = 0$ in \mathbf{x} must be in $\mathbf{N}(f; \mathbf{x}, \check{\mathbf{x}})$. (Hence, an interval Newton can be used to reduce the volume of \mathbf{x} , an acceleration procedure.)
- $\mathbf{N}(f; \mathbf{x}, \check{\mathbf{x}}) \subset \mathbf{x}$ implies there is a unique solution to $f(\mathbf{x}) = 0$ in $\mathbf{N}(f; \mathbf{x}, \check{\mathbf{x}})$, and hence in \mathbf{x} .
- Another consequence: $\mathbf{N}(f; \mathbf{x}, \check{\mathbf{x}}) \cap \mathbf{x} = \emptyset$ implies \mathbf{x} is fathomed, and \mathbf{x} may be discarded.
- Interval Newton methods are locally quadratically convergent.



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GlobSol

A Brief Summary

- It began in 1985 as INTBIS, an *ACM Transactions on Mathematical Software* algorithm that implemented a branch-and-bound technique for finding all solutions to polynomial systems.
- With funding from various public and private sources, and with participation of graduate students, GlobSol developed into a software package for more general constrained and unconstrained global optimization and solution of nonlinear systems.
- A series of presentations and papers on GlobSol is available from <http://interval.louisiana.edu/preprints.htm>
- Interval techniques and traditional techniques in optimization are merging, and development is continuing.



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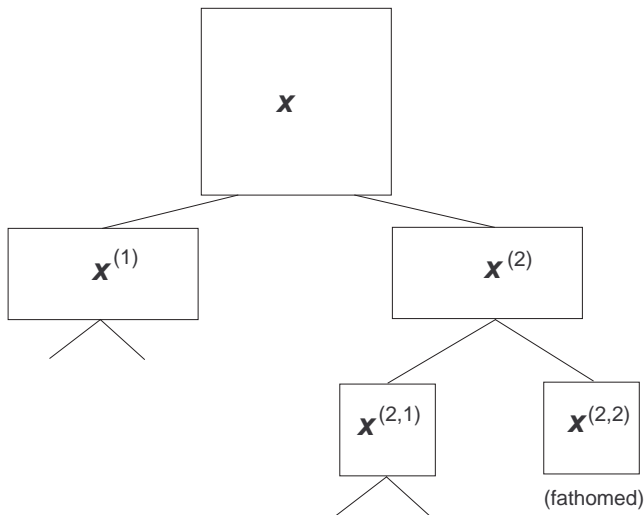
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A Box Search Tree

(With intervals, we usually use boxes, not simplices.)



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- Singularities and non-isolated solutions seem to be very common in applied optimization problems.
- Degree computation can be incorporated into global optimization algorithms.
- Conversely, interval methods can be incorporated into topological degree algorithms for other applications..

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Improvement of the Topological Degree Algorithm

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- More can be done along these lines, both in theory and in practice.

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