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COMPUTATIONAL COMPLEXITY OF
ONE-POINT AND MULTIPOINT ITERATION

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ABSTRACT

Let φ be an iteration for approximating the solution of a problem f . We define a new efficiency measure $e(\varphi, f)$. For a given problem f , we define the optimal efficiency $E(f)$ and establish lower and upper bounds for $E(f)$ with respect to different families of iterations. We conjecture an upper bound on $E(f)$ for any iteration without memory.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Let φ be an iteration for approximating the solution of a problem f . We define a new efficiency measure $e(\varphi, f)$. The efficiency measure gives us a methodology for comparing iterations as well as permitting us to derive theoretical limits on iteration efficiency.

For a given problem f , we define the optimal efficiency $E(f)$ over all φ belonging to a family Φ . We establish lower and upper bounds for $E(f)$ with respect to different families of iterations. We conjecture an upper bound on $E(f)$ for any iteration without memory.

We summarize the results of this paper. Basic concepts are given in Section 2 and our efficiency measure is defined in Section 3. In the next two sections we establish lower and upper bounds on the optimal efficiency for solving a problem with respect to important families of algorithms. A conjecture on optimal efficiency is stated in Section 6 and a small numerical example is given in the last section.

2. BASIC CONCEPTS

We work over the field of real numbers. Let $cr(x)$ be a function and \backslash be a procedure which computes the value of $cr(x)$ for any given x . (We write X for \backslash if there is no ambiguity.) Let a be any number. We say $\mathcal{E} = (a, \backslash)$ is an algorithm for approximating a if the sequence $\{x^i\}$, generated by $x^{i+1} = cr(x^i)$, converges to a whenever x^0 is chosen near a and if $cr(x^i)$ is computed by the procedure \backslash for all i . $\mathcal{E} = (cr, \backslash)$ has order of convergence $p(a)$ if

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{c(x^{i+1}) - a}{c(x^i) - a} = p(a),$$

exists and is non-zero. We measure the goodness of the algorithm $\mathcal{E} = (a, X)$ by $p(a)$ and define the efficiency of the algorithm $\mathcal{E} = (cr, \backslash)$ to be

where $c(X)$ is the cost of performing the procedure \backslash . In this paper we consider only superlinear convergent algorithms, that is, $p(cr) > 1$. All logarithms are to base 2.

For any fixed positive integer n , consider the algorithm $\mathcal{E}^n = (a_n, \backslash_n)$ where $a_n = \underbrace{a \circ \circ \circ}_{n \text{ times}}$ ($\circ \circ \circ$ denotes composition) and \backslash_n is the procedure which computes $a_n(x)$ by

$$\begin{aligned} y_0 &= x, \\ y_{i+1} &= cr(y_i), \quad i=0, \dots, n-1, \\ a_n(x) &= y_n, \end{aligned}$$

with $a(y_i)$ being computed by \backslash for all i . One can easily check that

$p(\sigma_n) = p^n(\sigma)$ and $c(\lambda_n) = nc(\lambda)$. Note that

$$\frac{\log p(\sigma)}{c(\lambda)} = \frac{\log p^n(\sigma)}{nc(\lambda)} .$$

Therefore,

$$e(\Sigma) = e(\Sigma_n)$$

for any n . This invariance is clearly desirable for any useful efficiency measure, since Σ_n is just the algorithm which repeats Σ n times and hence Σ and Σ_n must have the same efficiency. Gentleman [70] shows that if any efficiency measure satisfies this invariance property then it must be of the form (2.1) or a strictly increasing function of that form. Hence (2.1) is essentially the unique way to define an efficiency measure. Furthermore, Traub [64, Equation C-11] shows that if the efficiency measure has the form (2.1) then efficiency is inversely proportional to the total cost of approximating α by the algorithm. More specifically, let Σ^1, Σ^2 be two algorithms for approximating α and let $k(\Sigma^1), k(\Sigma^2)$ be the total costs for generating two sequences which start with the same initial approximation and terminate when some fixed number of correct digits of α have been calculated. Then

$$(2.2) \quad \frac{k(\Sigma^1)}{k(\Sigma^2)} \sim \frac{e(\Sigma^2)}{e(\Sigma^1)} .$$

Therefore, it is desirable to have algorithms with high efficiency. An algorithm is called optimal in a certain class of algorithms if it has the highest efficiency among all algorithms in that class.

We now consider how to define the cost $c(\lambda)$. Paterson [72] defines $c(\lambda)$ as the number of multiplications or divisions, except by constants,

needed to perform the procedure λ . We call the associated efficiency the multiplicative efficiency. Kung [72] shows that unity is the sharp upper bound on the multiplicative efficiency, and Kung [73] uses the multiplicative efficiency to investigate the computational complexity of algebraic numbers. In this paper, we define $c(\lambda)$ to be the number of arithmetic operations needed to perform the procedure λ .

3. EFFICIENCY MEASURE FOR ITERATION

In the previous section we have defined the efficiency of an algorithm for approximating a number α . More specifically, we now study the efficiency of an algorithm for approximating a simple zero α_f of a function $f \in D$, where D is the set of analytic functions f which have simple zeros α_f . We consider algorithms $\Sigma = (\sigma, \lambda)$ where $\sigma = \varphi(f)$, φ is a one-point or multipoint iteration and $f \in D$. (See Kung and Traub [73].) If φ is a k -point iteration, $k=1,2,\dots$, then φ has the following property:

For $j=0,\dots,k-1$ there exists a function $u_{j+1}(y_0; y_1^0, \dots, y_{d_0+1}^0; \dots; y_1^j, \dots, y_{d_j+1}^j)$ of $1 + \sum_{i=0}^j (d_i+1)$ variables such that for all $f \in D$, if

$$(3.1) \quad \begin{cases} z_0(x) = x, \text{ } x \text{ belongs to the domain of } \varphi(f), \\ y_{i+1}^j(x) = f^{(i)}(z_j(x)), \\ z_{j+1}(x) = u_{j+1}(x; y_1^0(x), \dots, y_{d_0+1}^0(x); \dots; y_1^j(x), \dots, y_{d_j+1}^j(x)), \\ \text{for } j=0, \dots, k-1, \text{ } i=0, \dots, d_j, \text{ then} \end{cases}$$

$$(3.2) \quad \varphi(f)(x) = z_k(x).$$

In this paper we assume that

$$(3.3) \quad \text{all } u_j \text{ are rational functions;}$$

$$(3.4) \quad \text{if } f \text{ is transcendental, we use a rational subroutine to approximate } f^{(i)}, \text{ } i \geq 0, \text{ whenever } f^{(i)} \text{ is transcendental; and}$$

$$(3.5) \quad \text{all } f^{(i)}(z_j(x)) \text{ are algebraically independent.}$$

Assumption (3.5) means that we are not allowed to use any special property of f . In other words, we consider "general" f .

Recall that $X \in \mathcal{X}^k$ is a procedure which computes the value of $cp(f)(x)$ for any x . Because of (3.5), X must compute $cp(f)(x)$ according to (3.1) and (3.2). Let $a_j(X)$, $j=1, \dots, k$, denote the number of arithmetic operations needed to compute $u_j(y_1, \dots, y_k)$ given (y_1, \dots, y_k) by the procedure X . Moreover, if $f^{(i)}$ is rational, let $c(f^{(i)})$ denote the number of arithmetic operations for one evaluation of $f^{(i)}$; otherwise let $c(f^{(i)})$ denote the number of arithmetic operations used in the rational subroutine which approximates $f^{(i)}$. Then the total number of arithmetic operations needed to perform the procedure X is

$$c(X) = \sum_{i=0}^k v_i(cp) c(f^{(i)}) + \sum_{i=1}^k a_i(X)$$

where $v_i(cp)$ is the number of evaluations of $f^{(i)}$ required by cp .

If $p(cp)$ is the order of convergence of the iteration cp , then by definition (2.1) the efficiency of the algorithm $(cp(f), X)$ is

$$e(cp(f), X) = \frac{\log P(cp)}{c(X)} = \frac{\log P(cp)}{\sum_{i=0}^k v_i(cp) c(f^{(i)}) + \sum_{i=1}^k a_i(X)}$$

We define $e(cp, f)$, the efficiency of the iteration cp with respect to the problem f , by

$$e(cp, f) = \sup_X e(cp(f), X).$$

Let

$$a(cp) = \min_X \sum_{i=1}^k a_i(X).$$

Then

$$(3.6) \quad e(\varphi, f) = \frac{\log p(\varphi)}{\sum_{i \geq 0} v_i(\varphi) c(f^{(i)}) + a(\varphi)}.$$

This is the basic efficiency measure used in this paper.

Define

$$\sum_{i \geq 0} v_i(\varphi) c(f^{(i)})$$

to be the evaluation cost of φ with respect to f and define $a(\varphi)$ to be the combinatory cost of φ . The total cost, which appears in the denominator of (3.6), is the sum of these two costs.

Let

$$(3.7) \quad c_f = \min_{i \geq 0} c(f^{(i)}).$$

In this paper, we refer to c_f as the problem complexity. Let

$$(3.8) \quad v(\varphi) = \sum_{i \geq 0} v_i(\varphi).$$

Then by (3.6),

$$(3.9) \quad e(\varphi, f) \leq \frac{\log p(\varphi)}{v(\varphi) c_f + a(\varphi)}.$$

This gives an upper bound on $e(\varphi, f)$.

The efficiency measure defined by (3.6) is the first one to include both evaluation and combinatory costs. Ostrowski [66, Chapter 3] defines efficiency as $p(\varphi)^{\frac{1}{v(\varphi)}}$ where $v(\varphi)$ is defined by (3.8). This amounts to neglecting $a(\varphi)$ and taking $c(f^{(i)})$ to be unity for all i in (3.6). Our efficiency measure, defined by (3.6), does not take into account rounding errors or truncation errors caused by rational approximations for transcendental $f^{(i)}$, $i \geq 0$.

The following two examples illustrate the definitions.

Example 3.1. (Newton-Raphson Iteration)

$$\varphi(f)(x) = x - \frac{f(x)}{f'(x)} .$$

This is a one-point iteration with $p(\varphi) = 2$, $v_0(\varphi) = v_1(\varphi) = 1$, and $a(\varphi) = 2$.

Hence

$$e(\varphi, f) = \frac{1}{c(f) + c(f') + 2} ,$$

$$e(\varphi, f) \leq \frac{1}{2c_f + 2} .$$

Example 3.2.

$$z_0 = x,$$

$$z_1 = z_0 - \frac{f(z_0)}{f'(z_0)} ,$$

$$\varphi(f)(x) = z_1 - \frac{f(z_1)f(z_0)}{[f(z_1) - f(z_0)]^2} \cdot \frac{f(z_0)}{f'(z_0)} .$$

This is a two-point iteration with $p(\varphi) = 4$, $v_0(\varphi) = 2$, $v_1(\varphi) = 1$ and $a(\varphi) = 8$. (See Kung and Traub [73, Section 5].) Hence

$$e(\varphi, f) = \frac{2}{2c(f) + c(f') + 8} ,$$

$$e(\varphi, f) \leq \frac{2}{3c_f + 8} .$$

It is natural to ask for a given problem f what is the optimal value of $e(\varphi, f)$ for all φ belonging to some family Φ . Define

$$E_n(\Phi, f) = \sup_{\varphi \in \Phi} \{e(\varphi, f) \mid v(\varphi) = n\} .$$

Thus $E_n(\Phi, f)$ is the optimal efficiency over all $\varphi \in \Phi$ which use n evaluations.

Define

$$E(\Phi, f) = \sup\{E_n(\Phi, f) \mid n = 1, 2, \dots\}.$$

Thus $E(\Phi, f)$ is the optimal efficiency for all $\varphi \in \Phi$. We will establish lower and upper bounds for $E_n(\Phi, f)$ and $E(\Phi, f)$ with respect to different families of iterations. When there is no ambiguity, we write $E_n(\Phi, f)$ and $E(\Phi, f)$ as $E_n(f)$ and $E(f)$, respectively. Since in practice we are more concerned with efficiency for problems f with higher complexity, we are particularly interested in the asymptotic behavior of these bounds as $c_f \rightarrow \infty$.

4. THEOREMS ON EFFICIENCY OF ONE-POINT ITERATION

We consider first the family of one-point iteration $\{\gamma_n\}$. (See Kung and Traub [73, Section 3].) The important properties of $\{\gamma_n\}$ from our point of view are summarized in the following theorem proven by Traub [64, Section 5.1].

Theorem 4.1.

1. $v_i(\gamma_n) = 1, i=0, \dots, n-1, v_i(\gamma_n) = 0, i > n-1.$ Hence $v(\gamma_n) = n.$
2. $p(\gamma_n) = n.$

We now turn to an upper bound for $a(\gamma_n)$. Suppose that we have already obtained $f^{(i)}(x), i=0, \dots, n-1$ and we want to use them to form $\gamma_n(f)(x)$. This amounts to calculating the first $n-1$ derivatives of f^{-1} (the inverse function) at $f(x)$. This can be done in $O(n^3)$ arithmetic operations by the power series reversion technique reported in Knuth [1969, Section 4.7]. However if one uses the Fast Fourier Transform for polynomial multiplication then the power series reversion can be done in $O(n^2 \log n)$ arithmetic operations, and this implies that

$$(4.1) \quad a(\gamma_n) \leq \rho n^2 \log n$$

for some positive constant ρ . Then by (4.1) and Theorem 4.1,

$$(4.2) \quad e(\gamma_n, f) \geq \frac{\log n}{\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} c(f^{(i)}) + \rho n^2 \log n}.$$

For n small, $a(\gamma_n)$ can be calculated by inspection. For instance, since

$$\gamma_3(f)(x) = x - \frac{f(x)}{f'(x)} - \frac{f''(x)}{2f'(x)} \left[\frac{f(x)}{f'(x)} \right]^2,$$

one can easily observe that $a(\gamma_3) = 7$. Hence

$$(4.3) \quad e(\gamma_3, f) = \frac{\log 3}{c(f) + c(f') + c(f'') + 7}.$$

Let φ be any one-point iteration, with $v(\varphi) = n$, which satisfies a mild smoothness condition. Then by Traub [64, Section 5.4], Kung and Traub [73, Theorem 6.1] $v_i(\varphi) \geq 1$, $i=0, \dots, p(\varphi)-1$, and hence $p(\varphi) \leq n$. Clearly, $a(\varphi) \geq n-1$. Therefore, from (3.9),

$$(4.4) \quad e(\varphi, f) \leq \frac{\log n}{nc_f + n - 1} \equiv h(n).$$

It is straightforward to verify that

$$(4.5) \quad h(n) \leq \frac{\log 3}{3c_f + 2}, \text{ for } c_f > 4.$$

From (4.2), (4.3), (4.4) and (4.5) we have

Theorem 4.2.

For the family Φ of one-point iterations,

$$(4.6) \quad \frac{\log n}{\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} c(f^{(i)}) + \rho n \log n} \leq E_n(f) \leq \frac{\log n}{nc_f + n - 1}, \text{ for a constant } \rho > 0, \forall n,$$

$$(4.7) \quad \frac{\log 3}{c(f) + c(f') + c(f'') + 7} \leq E(f) \leq \frac{\log 3}{3c_f + 2}, \text{ for } c_f > 4.$$

Remark 4.1.

1. In (4.6) both lower and upper bounds for $E_n(f)$ are tight for f such that $c(f^{(i)}) \sim c_f$, $i < n$, and c_f is large, since lower bound/upper

bound $\rightarrow 1$ as $c_f \rightarrow \infty$.

2. For f such that $c(f) \sim c(f') \sim c(f'') \sim c_f$, and c_f is large, both lower and upper bounds for $E(f)$ in (4.7) are tight, since lower bound/upper bound $\rightarrow 1$ as $c_f \rightarrow \infty$. In this case, by (4.3), γ_3 is close to optimal among all one-point iterations.

5. THEOREMS ON EFFICIENCY OF MULTIPOINT ITERATION

We consider first the family of iterations $\{\Psi_n\}$ defined by Kung and Traub [73, Section 4]. The important properties of $\{\Psi_n\}$ from our point of view are summarized in

Theorem 5.1.

1. $v_0(\Psi_n) = n$. $v_i(\Psi_n) = 0$, $i > 0$. Hence $v(\Psi_n) = n$.
2. $p(\Psi_n) = 2^{n-1}$.

Kung and Traub [73, Appendix I] give a procedure λ for computing $\Psi_n(f)(x)$. It can be shown that

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_j(\lambda) = \frac{3}{2} n^2 + \frac{3}{2} n - 7.$$

Hence

$$a(\Psi_n) \leq \frac{3}{2} n^2 + \frac{3}{2} n - 7.$$

More generally, we assume that

$$(5.1) \quad a(\Psi_n) \leq r(n),$$

where $r(n) = r_2 n^2 + r_1 n + r_0$, $r_2 > 0$.

Then by (5.1) and Theorem 5.1,

$$(5.2) \quad e(\Psi_n, f) \geq \frac{n-1}{nc(f)+r(n)}.$$

We choose n so as to maximize the right hand side of (5.2). The maximum is achieved when $n=t$ where

$$t = 1 + \sqrt{\frac{\delta(f)}{r_2} + \delta}, \quad \delta = \frac{r_0 + r_1 + r_2}{r_2}.$$

Let

(5.3) $M = \text{round}(t)$.

Then from (5.2) we can easily prove

Theorem 5.2.

There exists a constant $\zeta < 0$ such that if $M = M(f)$ is chosen by (5.3) then

$$\underline{e(\Psi_M, f) \geq \frac{1}{c(f)} \left(1 + \frac{\zeta}{\sqrt{c(f)}}\right)}, \text{ for } c(f) \text{ large.}$$

From (5.2) and Theorem 5.2, we have

Corollary 5.1.

For the family Φ of one-point or multipoint iterations,

$$\underline{E_n(f) \geq \frac{n-1}{nc(f)+r(n)}, \text{ where } r(n) = r_2 n^2 + r_1 n + r_0, r_2 > 0; \text{ and}$$

$$\underline{E(f) \geq \frac{1}{c(f)} \left[1 + \frac{\zeta}{\sqrt{c(f)}}\right]}, \text{ for a constant } \zeta < 0, \text{ for } c(f) \text{ large.}$$

We turn to the family of iterations $\{\omega_n\}$ defined in Kung and Traub [73, Section 5]. The important properties of $\{\omega_n\}$ from our point of view are summarized in

Theorem 5.3.

1. $\underline{v_0(\omega_n) = n-1, v_1(\omega_n) = 1, v_i(\omega_n) = 0, i > 1. \text{ Hence } v(\omega_n) = n.}$
2. $\underline{p(\omega_n) = 2^{n-1}.}$

Kung and Traub [73, Appendix I] give a procedure λ for computing $\omega_n(f)(x)$. It can be shown that

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_j(\lambda) = \frac{3}{2} n^2 + \frac{3}{2} n - 4.$$

Hence

$$a(\omega_n) \leq \frac{3}{2} n^2 + \frac{3}{2} n - 4.$$

More generally, we assume that

$$(5.4) \quad a(\omega_n) \leq s(n)$$

where $s(n) = s_2 n^2 + s_1 n + s_0$, $s_2 > 0$. Then by (5.4) and Theorem 5.3,

$$(5.5) \quad e(\omega_n, f) \geq \frac{n-1}{(n-1)c(f)+c(f')+s(n)}.$$

We choose n so as to maximize the right hand side of (5.5). Then the maximum is achieved when $n = u$, where

$$u = 1 + \sqrt{\frac{c(f')}{s_2}} + \epsilon, \quad \epsilon = \frac{s_0 + s_1 + s_2}{r_2}.$$

Let

$$(5.6) \quad N = \text{round}(u).$$

Then from (5.5) we can easily prove

Theorem 5.4.

There exists a constant $\eta > 0$ such that if $N = N(f)$ is chosen by (5.6)

then

$$\underline{e(\omega_N, f) \geq \frac{1}{c(f) + \eta \sqrt{c(f')}}}, \text{ for } c(f') \text{ large.}$$

From (5.5) and Theorem 5.4, we have

Corollary 5.2.

For the family Φ of one-point or multipoint iterations,

$$\underline{E_n(f) \geq \frac{n-1}{(n-1)c(f)+c(f')+s(n)}, \text{ where } s(n) = s_2 n^2 + s_1 n + s_0, s_2 > 0; \text{ and}$$

$$\underline{E(f) \geq \frac{1}{c(f) + \eta \sqrt{c(f')}}}, \text{ for a constant } \eta > 0, \text{ for } c(f') \text{ large.}$$

We turn to more general families of multipoint iterations. Let cp be a Hermite interpolatory iteration with $v(cp) = n$. Then $p(cp) \in 2^{n-1}$ (Kung and Traub [73, Corollary 7.1]). Clearly, $a(cp) \leq n-1$. Hence by (3.9),

Since Y_n and u_n are Hermite interpolatory iterations, from (5.7) and Corollaries 5.1, 5.2, we have

Theorem 5.5.

For the family \mathcal{S} of Hermite interpolatory iterations,

$$\max\left(\frac{n-1}{nc(f)+r(n)}, \frac{n-1}{(n-1)c(f)+c(f')+s(n)}\right) \leq E_n(f) \leq \frac{n-1}{nc_f+n-1}, \quad \forall n,$$

$$\max\left(\frac{1}{c(f)}\left[1 + \frac{\xi}{\sqrt{c(f)}}\right], \frac{1}{c(f)+\pi\sqrt{c(f')}}\right) \leq E(f) \leq \frac{1}{c_f+1},$$

for c^* large, where $r(n) = r^*n + r^*n + r^*$, $r^* > 0$, $s(n) = s^*n + s^*n + s^*$, $s^* > 0$, $\xi < 0$ and $\pi > 0$.

Remark 5.1.

The lower and upper bounds for $E_n(f)$ and $E(f)$ stated in Theorem 5.5 are tight for f such that $c(f) \approx c^*$ and c^* is large, since lower bound/upper bound $\rightarrow 1$ as $c_f \rightarrow \infty$. In this case, by Theorem 5.2, Y_n is close to optimal among all Hermite interpolatory iterations.

Now, let cp be any multipoint iteration which uses evaluations of f only. Let $v(cp) = n$. Then $p(cp) \in 2^{n-1}$ (Kung and Traub [73, Theorem 7.2]). Clearly, $a(cp) \leq n-1$. Hence

$$(5.8) \quad e(\varphi, f) \leq \frac{n}{nc(f)+n-1} \leq \frac{1}{c(f)}.$$

Since Ψ_n is a multipoint iteration which uses evaluations of f only, from (5.8) and Corollary 5.1, we have

Theorem 5.6.

For the family Φ of multipoint iterations using values of f only,

$$\frac{n-1}{nc(f)+r(n)} \leq E_n(f) \leq \frac{n}{nc(f)+n-1}, \quad \forall n,$$

$$\frac{1}{c(f)} \left[1 + \frac{\zeta}{\sqrt{c(f)}} \right] \leq E(f) \leq \frac{1}{c(f)},$$

for $c(f)$ large, where $r(n) = r_2 n^2 + r_1 n + r_0$, $r_2 > 0$, and $\zeta < 0$.

Remark 5.2.

The lower and upper bounds for $E_n(f)$ and $E(f)$ stated in Theorem 5.6 are tight for f such that $c(f)$ is large, since lower bound/upper bound $\rightarrow 1$ as $c(f) \rightarrow \infty$. In this case, by Theorem 5.2, Ψ_M is close to optimal among all multipoint iterations using values of f only.

Remark 5.3.

For a given problem f let $E'(f)$, $E''(f)$ be the optimal efficiency achievable by one-point iteration and multipoint iteration, respectively. By Theorem 4.2 and Corollary 5.1,

$$E'(f) \leq \frac{\log 3}{3c_f + 2},$$

$$E''(f) \geq \frac{1}{c(f)} \left[1 + \frac{\zeta}{\sqrt{c(f)}} \right], \quad \zeta < 0, \text{ for } c(f) \text{ large.}$$

Hence

$$\frac{E''(f)}{E'(f)} \geq \frac{3c_f+2}{(\log 3)c(f)} \left[1 + \frac{c_f}{\sqrt{c(f)}} \right] \sim \frac{3}{\log 3} \cdot \frac{c_f}{c(f)}, \text{ for } c(f) \text{ large.}$$

In particular, if f is a problem such that $c_f = c(f)$ and c_f is large, then the ratio between optimal efficiencies achievable by multipoint iteration and one-point iteration is at least $\frac{3}{\log 3} \sim 1.89$.

6. A CONJECTURE

Kung and Traub [73] conjecture that if φ is any multipoint iteration with $v(\varphi) = n$ then $p(\varphi) \leq 2^{n-1}$. Suppose that this conjecture is true. Then by (3.9), for any multipoint iteration φ with $v(\varphi) = n$,

$$e(\varphi, f) \leq \frac{n-1}{nc_f + a(\varphi)}.$$

Clearly, $a(\varphi) \geq n-1$. Hence

$$e(\varphi, f) \leq \frac{n-1}{nc_f + n-1} \equiv k(n).$$

Observe that

$$k(n) \leq \frac{1}{c_f + 1}, \quad \forall n, \quad \forall c_f.$$

Therefore we propose the following conjecture. It states, essentially, that the optimal efficiency for solving the problem f with respect to all one-point or multipoint iterations is bounded by the reciprocal of the problem complexity.

Conjecture 6.1.

For the family Φ of one-point or multipoint iterations,

$$\underline{E_n(f)} \leq \frac{n-1}{nc_f + n-1},$$

$$\underline{E(f)} \leq \frac{1}{c_f + 1}.$$

7. NUMERICAL EXAMPLE

Let $f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{50} ix^i - 25$. We calculate its simple zero $\alpha = -1$. Calculations were done in double precision arithmetic on a DEC PDP-10 computer. About 16 digits are available in double precision. Numerical results show the following: Starting with $x_0 = -1.01$, to bring the error to about 10^{-16} , five Newton-Raphson iterations are required while one ω_6 iteration is required. (See Table 7.1.) We assume that we do not take advantage of the algebraic dependence of f and f' (see the assumption of (3.5)) and that we use Horner's rule for the evaluation of f and f' , treating each as an independent polynomial. Suppose that we use the procedure given by Kung and Traub [73, Appendix I] to compute $\omega_6(f)(x)$.

Let Σ^1 and Σ^2 be algorithms associated to Newton-Raphson iteration and ω_6 respectively. Then the total costs are

$$\begin{aligned}k(\Sigma^1) &= 5[2 \cdot 50 + 2 \cdot 49 + 2] = 10^3, \\k(\Sigma^2) &= 5 \cdot 2 \cdot 50 + 2 \cdot 49 + \frac{3}{2} \cdot 6^2 + \frac{3}{2} \cdot 6 - 4 = 657;\end{aligned}$$

and the efficiencies are

$$\begin{aligned}e(\Sigma^1) &= 1/[2 \cdot 50 + 2 \cdot 49 + 2] = 5/10^3, \\e(\Sigma^2) &= 5/[5 \cdot 2 \cdot 50 + 2 \cdot 49 + \frac{3}{2} \cdot 6^2 + \frac{3}{2} \cdot 6 - 4] = 5/657.\end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{k(\Sigma^1)}{k(\Sigma^2)} &= \frac{10^3}{657}, \\ \frac{e(\Sigma^2)}{e(\Sigma^1)} &= \frac{10^3}{657},\end{aligned}$$

as predicted by (2.2). (In general, approximate equality holds from (2.2).)

Let $x_{i+1} = \varphi(x_i)$. The errors when φ is Newton-Raphson and $\varphi = \omega_6$ are shown in Table 7.1.

	Newton-Raphson	ω_6
$x_0 - \alpha$	-1.0×10^{-2}	-1.0×10^{-2}
$x_1 - \alpha$	-2.1×10^{-3}	-2.2×10^{-16}
$x_2 - \alpha$	-1.0×10^{-4}	
$x_3 - \alpha$	-2.7×10^{-7}	
$x_4 - \alpha$	-1.8×10^{-12}	
$x_5 - \alpha$	-1.1×10^{-16}	

Table 7.1

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