

1. Use three iterations of the secant method to get an approximation for the root of $f(x) = (x+1)(x-3)$. Let the initial guesses be $p_0 = 0$ and $p_1 = 1$.

Solution: We have $p_n = p_{n-1} - \frac{f(p_{n-1})(p_{n-1}-p_{n-2})}{f(p_{n-1})-f(p_{n-2})}$. So

$$p_2 = 1 - \frac{f(1)(1-0)}{f(1)-f(0)} = 1 - \frac{-4}{-4-(-3)} = 1 - \frac{-4}{-1} = -3,$$

$$p_3 = \dots = 0,$$

$$p_4 = \dots = -0.6.$$

So the root of f is approximately -0.6 .

2. Use one iteration of Newton's method to get an approximation for the root of $f(x) = (x+1)(x-3)$. Use the initial guess $p_0 = 0$.

$$\textit{Solution: } p_1 = p_0 - \frac{f(p_0)}{f'(p_0)} = 0 - \frac{-3}{-2} = -\frac{3}{2}.$$