

## Conditions

Use Bisection method to calculate the first root for :

$$f(d) = 257d^2 - 640d = 0$$

$$a = 0.0000 \quad b = 5.0000$$

$$\text{Tolerance} = 0.0500$$

## Solution

The **bisection method** in mathematics is a root-finding method which repeatedly bisects an interval and then selects a subinterval in which a root must lie for further processing. It is a very simple and robust method, but it is also relatively slow. Because of this, it is often used to obtain a rough approximation to a solution which is then used as a starting point for more rapidly converging methods. The method is also called the **binary search method** or the **dichotomy method**

The method is applicable when we wish to solve the equation  $f(x) = 0$  for the real variable  $x$ , where  $f$  is a continuous function defined on an interval  $[a, b]$  and  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$  have opposite signs. In this case  $a$  and  $b$  are said to bracket a root since, by the intermediate value theorem, the  $f$  must have at least one root in the interval  $(a, b)$ .

At each step the method divides the interval in two by computing the midpoint  $c = (a+b) / 2$  of the interval and the value of the function  $f(c)$  at that point. Unless  $c$  is itself a root (which is very unlikely, but possible) there are now two possibilities: either  $f(a)$  and  $f(c)$  have opposite signs and bracket a root, or  $f(c)$  and  $f(b)$  have opposite signs and bracket a root. The method selects the subinterval that is a bracket as a new interval to be used in the next step. In this way the interval that contains a zero of  $f$  is reduced in width by 50% at each step. The process is continued until the interval is sufficiently small.

Explicitly, if  $f(a)$  and  $f(c)$  are opposite signs, then the method sets  $c$  as the new value for  $b$ , and if  $f(b)$  and  $f(c)$  are opposite signs then the method sets  $c$  as the new  $a$ . (If  $f(c)=0$  then  $c$  may be taken as the solution and the process stops.) In both cases, the new  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$  have opposite signs, so the method is applicable to this smaller interval.

$$f(a) = f(0) = 0$$

$$f(b) = f(5) = 3225$$

Because the function is continuous, there must be a root within the interval. (Actually, it's obvious to notice, that the root is  $x=640/257 \approx 2,4902723735408560311284046692607$ )

In the first iteration, the end points of the interval which brackets the root are  $a = 0$  and  $b = 5$ .

$$\text{So, } c = \frac{a+b}{2} = 2.5.$$

$$f(c) = 6.25$$

As  $f(c) > 0$  and  $f(c) < f(b)$  so the next b-point will be c.

$$\text{New } c = \frac{0+2.5}{2} = 1.25$$

$$f(c) = -398.438$$

As  $f(c) < 0$  so the new a is 1.25, the new b is 2.5

$$\text{New } c = \frac{1.25+2.5}{2} = 1.875$$

$$f(c) = -296.484$$

$$a = 1.875$$

$$b = 2.5$$

$$\text{New } c = \frac{1.875+2.5}{2} = 2.1875$$

And so on and so for:

Iteration	an			f(cn)
		bn	cn	
1	0	5	2,5	6,25
2	0	2,5	1,25	-398,4375
3	1,25	2,5	1,875	-296,484375
4	1,875	2,5	2,1875	-170,2148438
5	2,1875	2,5	2,34375	-88,25683594
6	2,34375	2,5	2,421875	-42,57202148
7	2,421875	2,5	2,4609375	-18,55316162
8	2,4609375	2,5	2,48046875	-6,24961853
9	2,48046875	2,5	2,490234375	-0,024318695

As the tolerance was 0.05, we have a root  $x = \underline{\underline{2,490234375}}$

We can compare this value with a value 2,4902723735408560311284046692607, which was noticed before. As we see, the calculator's value is very close to the value, given by Bisection method.