New Third-Order Schroder-Type Method for Finding Zeros of Nonlinear Equations Having Unknown Multiplicity

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Abstract The aims of this paper are, firstly, to define a new third-order Schroder-type method for finding zeros of nonlinear equations having unknown multiplicity and secondly, to introduce a new formula for approximating the multiplicity of the iterative method. In terms of computational cost the new iterative method requires four evaluations of functions per iteration. It is proved that the new method has a convergence of order three. Numerical comparisons are included to demonstrate exceptional convergence speed of the proposed method.

Keywords Schroder-type method, Root-finding, Nonlinear equations, Multiple roots, Order of convergence, Efficiency index

1. Introduction

Solving nonlinear equations is one of the most important problems in numerical analysis. In this paper, we consider iterative methods to find a multiple root \( \alpha \) of multiplicity \( m \), i.e., \( f^{(j)}(\alpha) = 0, \ j = 0,1,...,m-1 \) and \( f^{(m)}(\alpha) \neq 0 \), of a nonlinear equation

\[
f(x) = 0, \tag{1}
\]

where \( f : I \subset \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R} \) is a scalar function on an open interval \( I \) and it is sufficiently smooth in the neighbourhood of \( \alpha \). In recent years, some modifications of the Newton-type methods for multiple roots have been proposed and analysed [3, 6-8]. We have found that there are not many methods known to handle the case when multiplicity is unknown, hence we present a new method for finding multiple zeros of a nonlinear equation, based on four evaluations of the function per iteration. In this study we have developed a new iterative method for finding multiple roots of nonlinear equations of a higher order than the existing well-known iterative methods [4-6]. Furthermore, in this paper we have shown further development of the second-order methods [4-6]. In addition, the new iterative method has a better efficiency index than the classical Schroder method and Noor et al. methods [4]. Hence, the proposed third-order method is significantly better when compared with these established methods.

2. Basic Definitions

In order to establish the order of convergence of the new third-order method, we use the following definitions.

**Definition 1** Let \( f(x) \) be a real-valued function with a root \( \alpha \) and let \( \{x_n\} \) be a sequence of real numbers that converge towards \( \alpha \). The order of convergence \( p \) is given by

\[
\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{x_{n+1} - \alpha}{(x_n - \alpha)^p} = \zeta \neq 0, \tag{1}
\]

where \( p \in \mathbb{R}^+ \) and \( \zeta \) is the asymptotic error constant [1, 3, 9].

**Definition 2** Let \( e_k = x_k - \alpha \) be the error in the \( k \)th iteration, then the relation

\[
e_{k+1} = \zeta e_k^p + O(e_{k+1}^{p+1}), \tag{2}
\]

is the error equation. If the error equation exists, then \( p \) is the...
order of convergence of the iterative method \cite{1,3,9}.

**Definition 3** Let $r$ be the number of function evaluations of the method. The efficiency of the method is measured by the concept of efficiency index and defined as

$$\sqrt[p]{r},$$  

where $p$ is the order of convergence of the method \cite{1,3,9}.

**Definition 4** Suppose that $x_{n-2}, x_{n-1}$ and $x_n$ are three successive iterations closer to the root $\alpha$. Then the computational order of convergence may be approximated by

$$\text{COC} \approx \frac{\ln|\delta_n + \delta_{n-1}|}{\ln|\delta_{n-1} + \delta_{n-2}|},$$

where $\delta_i = f(x_i) \div f'(x_i)$, \cite{6,7}.

### 3. Development of the Method and Convergence Analysis

In this section we define a new third-order iterative method for finding multiple roots of a nonlinear equation. In order to construct the new iterative method we require one function and three derivatives evaluations.

The scheme is given as

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - 2 \left\{ f(x_n) f'(x_n) f''(x_n) f^*(x_n) \right\}$$

$$\times \left[ 2 f'(x_n)^3 - 3 f(x_n) f'(x_n) f^*(x_n) + f''(x_n) f(x_n)^2 \right]^{-1}$$

where $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $x_0$ is the initial guess and provided that the denominator of (5) is not equal to zero.

We have found that the formula (5) can also be expressed as

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - 2 \left\{ f'(x_n)^3 - 3 f(x_n) f'(x_n) f''(x_n) + f''(x_n) f(x_n)^2 \right\}$$

$$\times \left[ 2 f'(x_n)^3 - 3 f(x_n) f'(x_n) f^*(x_n) + f''(x_n) f(x_n)^2 \right]^{-1} \left\{ f(x_n) \right\}$$

$$+ f''(x_n) f(x_n)^2 \right]^{-1} \left\{ f(x_n) \right\}$$

where

$$t_1 = \frac{f'(x_n)}{f(x_n)}, \quad t_2 = \frac{f''(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}, \quad t_3 = \frac{f'''(x_n)}{f''(x_n)}.$$  

**Theorem 1**

Let $\alpha \in I$ be a multiple zero of a sufficiently differentiable function $f: I \subset \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ for an open interval $I$ with multiplicity $m$, which includes $x_0$ as an initial guess of $\alpha$. Then the iterative method defined by scheme (5) has third-order convergence.

**Proof**

Let $\alpha$ be a multiple root of multiplicity $m$ of a sufficiently differentiable function $f(x)$, $e = x - \alpha$.

Using the Taylor series expansion of $f(x), f'(x), f''(x), f^*(x)$ about $\alpha$, we have

$$f(x_n) = \left( \frac{f^{(m)}(\alpha)}{m!} \right) e_n^m \left[ 1 + A_1 e_n + A_2 e_n^2 + \cdots \right],$$

$$f'(x_n) = \left( \frac{f^{(m)}(\alpha)}{(m-1)!} \right) e_n^{m-1} \left[ 1 + B_1 e_n + B_2 e_n^2 + \cdots \right],$$

$$f^*(x_n) = \left( \frac{f^{(m)}(\alpha)}{(m-2)!} \right) e_n^{m-2} \left[ 1 + C_1 e_n + C_2 e_n^2 + \cdots \right],$$

$$f''(x_n) = \left( \frac{f^{(m)}(\alpha)}{(m-3)!} \right) e_n^{m-3} \left[ 1 + D_1 e_n + D_2 e_n^2 + \cdots \right],$$

where $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and

$$T_k = \frac{f^{(m+k)}(\alpha)}{f^{(m)}(\alpha)},$$

$$A_k = \frac{m! T_k}{(m+k)!},$$

$$B_k = \frac{(m-1) T_k}{(m+k-1)!},$$

$$C_k = \frac{(m-2) ! T_k}{(m+k-2)!},$$

$$D_k = \frac{(m-3)! T_k}{(m+k-3)!},$$

Substituting appropriate expressions in (5),

$$e_{n+1} = e_n - 2 \left\{ f(x_n) f'(x_n)^2 - f(x_n)^2 f^*(x_n) \right\}$$

$$\times \left[ 2 f'(x_n)^3 - 3 f(x_n) f'(x_n) f^*(x_n) + f''(x_n) f(x_n)^2 \right]^{-1} \left\{ f(x_n) \right\}$$

Simplifying (18), we obtain the asymptotic error constant

$$e_{n+1} = \left\{ \frac{(2(m+1)T_2 + (m+2)T_1^2)}{m(m+1)^2(m+2)} \right\} e_n^3.$$  

The expression (19) establishes the asymptotic error constant for the third-order of convergence for the new Schroder-type method defined by (5).
4. Formulas for Approximating the Multiplicity

In this section, we state some of the recently presented formulas to approximate the multiplicity \( m \) of the method given in [7]. First we state the classical Lagouanelle formula [2] for approximating the multiplicity \( m \) given as

\[
\hat{m}_1 \approx \frac{f'(x_{n-1})^2}{f''(x_{n-1}) - f'(x_{n-1}) f'''(x_{n-1})} = \frac{1}{1 - r_i f_1^{-1}}, \tag{20}
\]

and the new improved formula for approximating the multiplicity \( m \) expressed as

\[
\hat{m}_2 \approx 2 \left( f''(x_{n}) - f'(x_{n}) f'(x_{n}) f'''(x_{n}) \right) \times 2 f''(x_{n}) - 3 f'(x_{n}) f'(x_{n}) f''(x_{n}) + f'''(x_{n}) f'(x_{n})^2\]^{-1} \tag{21}

In [7] Thukral presented new alternative formulas for approximating the multiplicity \( m \) which are expressed as

\[
\hat{m}_3 \approx \left( x_{n-1} - x_{n} \right) f'(x_{n-1}) f'(x_{n})^{-1} = \left( x_{n-1} - x_{n} \right)^{-1} \tag{22}
\]

\[
\hat{m}_4 \approx \frac{1 - r_i}{1 + r_i - r_i f_1^{-1}}, \tag{23}
\]

\[
\hat{m}_5 \approx \frac{1 + r_i}{1 + r_i - r_i f_1^{-1}}, \tag{24}
\]

\[
\hat{m}_6 \approx \frac{r_i^2 + r_i + r_i^3}{r_i - r_i + r_i}, \tag{25}
\]

\[
\hat{m}_7 \approx \frac{2r_i + 3r_i + 3r_i}{2r_i + 3r_i}, \tag{26}
\]

where

\[
r_i = \frac{f'(x_{n})}{f''(x_{n})}, \quad r_2 = \frac{f'(x_{n})}{f'''(x_{n})}, \quad r_3 = \frac{f'(x_{n})}{f'''(x_{n})}, \tag{27}
\]

The approximations of \( m \) are obtained by these formulas are based on the estimates of (5) and the errors of the above approximants are given by

\[
e_n = |m - \hat{m}|, \tag{28}
\]

and the performance of these formulas are displayed in the table 4 and 5.

5. The Established Methods

For the purpose of comparison, four iterative methods presented in [4] are considered. Since these methods are well established, the essential formulas are used to calculate the approximate solution of the given nonlinear equations and thus compare the effectiveness of the new third-order method.

The first of the methods is the classical Schroder second-order method presented in [5] and is expressed as

\[
x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f'(x_n) f''(x_n)}{f''(x_n)^2 - f'(x_n) f'''(x_n)}, \tag{29}
\]

where \( t_1, t_2 \) are given by (8).

The other four second-order methods are by Noor et al. and are presented in [4], and the general form of the method is expressed as

\[
x_{n+1} = x_n - f'(x_n) f''(x_n) g(x_n; \beta) \times \left( f''(x_n)^2 - f'(x_n) f'''(x_n) g(x_n; \beta) \right)^{-1}, \tag{30}
\]

with a suitable choice of \( g(x_n; \beta) = e^{-\beta \Delta x_n} \) and a parameter \( \beta = 1 \), the four particular methods are formed as

\[
x_{n+1} = x_n - f'(x_n) f''(x_n) \times \left( f''(x_n)^2 - f'(x_n) f'''(x_n) g(x_n; \beta) \right)^{-1} \tag{31}
\]

\[
x_{n+1} = x_n - f'(x_n) f''(x_n) \times \left( f''(x_n)^2 - f'(x_n) f'''(x_n) g(x_n; \beta) \right)^{-1} \tag{32}
\]

\[
x_{n+1} = x_n - f'(x_n) f''(x_n) \times \left( f''(x_n)^2 - f'(x_n) f'''(x_n) g(x_n; \beta) \right)^{-1} \tag{33}
\]

\[
x_{n+1} = x_n - f'(x_n) f''(x_n) \times \left( f''(x_n)^2 - f'(x_n) f'''(x_n) g(x_n; \beta) \right)^{-1} \tag{34}
\]

Further details of construction of the above formulas are given [4].

6. Numerical Results

In this section, we shall present the numerical results obtained by employing the iterative methods (5), (29)-(33) to solve some nonlinear equations with unknown multiplicity \( m \). To demonstrate the performance of the new higher order iterative methods, we use ten particular nonlinear equations. The consistency and stability of the results are determined by examining the convergence of the new iterative methods. The findings are generalised by illustrating the effectiveness of the higher order methods for determining the multiple root.
of a nonlinear equation. Consequently, the errors obtained by each of the methods are displayed in the following tables. In fact, the errors displayed are of absolute value and insignificant approximations by the various methods have been omitted in the following tables. The numerical computations listed in the tables were performed on an algebraic system called Maple.

The new third-order method requires four function evaluations and has the order of convergence three. To determine the efficiency index of the new method, definition 3 will be used. Hence, the efficiency index of the new method given by (5) is \( \sqrt[3]{3} \approx 1.316 \) whereas the efficiency index of the second-order methods (29)-(34) is given by \( \sqrt{2} \approx 1.260 \). We can see that the efficiency index of the new third-order method has a better efficiency index than the second-order methods. The test functions, multiplicity \( m \) and their exact root \( \alpha \) are displayed in table 1. The difference between the root \( \alpha \) and the approximation \( x_n \) for test functions with initial guess \( x_0 \) are displayed in table 2. Table 2 shows the absolute errors obtained by each of the iterative methods described, we see that the new third order method is producing better results than the established methods. Furthermore, the computational order of convergence (COC) are displayed in table 3. From the table 3, we observe that the COC perfectly coincides with the theoretical result.

In addition, the difference between the multiplicity \( m \) and the approximation \( \hat{m} \) based on the present method (5) are displayed in table 4. In table 4 we see a remarkable precision of the multiplicity \( m \) and there is no significant difference between the Lagouanelle formula (20) and the recently introduced formulas (22)-(26). Furthermore, in table 5 we display the difference between the multiplicity \( m \) and the approximation \( m \) based on the Schroder method (29). As before, we find that there is no significant difference between the formulas, they are all performing equally. As expected, we see a remarkable precision of the multiplicity \( m \) based on new formula (5) approximants are significant better than the approximants of the Schroder method (29). In fact, \( x_n \) is calculated by using the same total number of function evaluations (TNFE) for all methods.

### Table 1. Test functions, multiplicity \( m \), root \( \alpha \) and initial guess \( x_0 \)

| Functions | \( m \) | Roots | Initial guess |
|-----------|--------|-------|--------------|
| \( f_1(x) = (x^3 + 4x + 1)^m \) | \( m = 501 \) | \( \alpha = 1.365230... \) | \( x_0 = 1.7 \) |
| \( f_2(x) = (xe^x - \sin(x)^2 + 3\cos(x) + 5)^m \) | \( m = 10 \) | \( \alpha = -1.207647... \) | \( x_0 = -1.5 \) |
| \( f_3(x) = ((x - 1)^3 - 1)^m \) | \( m = 111 \) | \( \alpha = 2 \) | \( x_0 = 2.1 \) |
| \( f_4(x) = (\exp(x^2 + 7x - 30) - 1)^m \) | \( m = 50 \) | \( \alpha = 3 \) | \( x_0 = 3.1 \) |
| \( f_5(x) = (\cos(x) + x)^m \) | \( m = 99 \) | \( \alpha = -0.739085... \) | \( x_0 = -0.8 \) |
| \( f_6(x) = (\sin(x)^2 - x^2 + 1)^m \) | \( m = 20 \) | \( \alpha = 1.404491... \) | \( x_0 = 1.8 \) |
| \( f_7(x) = (e^{-x^2} - e^{-x^2} - x^8 + 10)^m \) | \( m = 5 \) | \( \alpha = 1.239417... \) | \( x_0 = 1.4 \) |
| \( f_8(x) = (6x^5 + 5x^4 - 4x^3 + 3x^2 - 2x + 1)^m \) | \( m = 100 \) | \( \alpha = -1.57248... \) | \( x_0 = -1.8 \) |
| \( f_9(x) = (\tan(x) - e^x - 1)^m \) | \( m = 71 \) | \( \alpha = 1.371045... \) | \( x_0 = 1.5 \) |
| \( f_{10}(x) = (\ln(x^2 + 3x + 5) - 2x + 7)^m \) | \( m = 1000 \) | \( \alpha = 5.469012... \) | \( x_0 = 5.9 \) |
### Table 2. Comparison of iterative methods

| $f_i$ | (29) | (31) | (32) | (33) | (34) | (5)       |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|
| $f_1$ | 0.203e-16 | 0.440e-13 | 0.202e-16 | 0.127e-18 | 0.414e-17 | 0.931e-61 |
| $f_2$ | 0.391e-2  | 0.857e-3  | 0.379e-5  | 0.256   | 0.134e-1  | 0.146e-14  |
| $f_3$ | 0.129e-7  | 0.798e-6  | 0.129e-7  | 0.129e-7 | 0.129e-7  | 0.505e-33  |
| $f_4$ | 0.566e-6  | 0.405e-3  | 0.342    | 0.342   | 0.550e-6  | 0.760e-26  |
| $f_5$ | 0.332e-11 | 0.639e-7  | 0.332e-11 | 0.332e-11 | 0.345e-11 | 0.937e-31  |
| $f_6$ | 0.134e-6  | 0.235e-3  | 0.134e-6  | 0.134e-6 | 0.120e-6  | 0.303e-23  |
| $f_7$ | 0.287e-8  | 0.246e-7  | 0.394e-1  | 0.394e-1 | 0.262e-8  | 0.107e-34  |
| $f_8$ | 0.847e-5  | 0.891e-8  | 0.128    | 0.128   | 0.872e-5  | 0.656e-19  |
| $f_9$ | 0.234e-2  | 0.457e-2  | 0.171    | 0.171   | 0.228e-2  | 0.376e-9   |
| $f_{10}$ | 0.878e-20 | 0.363e-6  | 0.878e-20 | 0.878e-20 | 0.725e-21 | 0.649e-25  |

### Table 3. Performance of COC

| $f_i$ | (29) | (31) | (32) | (33) | (34) | (5)       |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|
| $f_1$ | 2.0000 | 1.9999 | 2.0000 | 2.0000 | 2.0000 | 2.9803   |
| $f_2$ | 1.6499 | 1.8087 | 1.1907 | 1.6245 | 1.5674 | 3.0151   |
| $f_3$ | 1.9969 | 1.9838 | 1.9969 | 1.9969 | 1.9969 | 2.9352   |
| $f_4$ | 1.9835 | 1.8904 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.9836 | 2.9996   |
| $f_5$ | 2.0007 | 2.0008 | 2.0007 | 2.0007 | 2.0007 | 2.9263   |
| $f_6$ | 1.9972 | 1.9117 | 1.9972 | 1.9972 | 1.9974 | 2.8734   |
| $f_7$ | 1.9951 | 1.9910 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.9952 | 3.0000   |
| $f_8$ | 1.9656 | 2.0007 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.9653 | 3.0026   |
| $f_9$ | 1.5019 | 1.4494 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.5033 | 2.8470   |
| $f_{10}$ | 2.0000 | 1.9934 | 2.0000 | 2.0000 | 2.0000 | 3.0000   |
Table 4. Performance of multiplicity $m$, based on the approximants of (5)

| $f_i$  | (20)   | (22)   | (23)   | (24)   | (25)   | (26)   | (21)   |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| $f_1$  | 0.913e-60 | 0.913e-60 | 0.750e-61 | 0.111e-60 | 0.750e-61 | 0.457e-60 | 0.358   |
| $f_2$  | 0.988e-1  | 0.987e-1  | 0.898e-1  | 0.701e-1  | 0.898e-1  | 0.501e-1  | 0.794   |
| $f_3$  | 0.125e-29 | 0.125e-29 | 0.624e-30 | 0.623e-30 | 0.624e-30 | 0.624e-30 | 121.0  |
| $f_4$  | 0.399e-23 | 0.399e-23 | 0.225e-24 | 0.240e-24 | 0.225e-24 | 0.199e-23 | 78.0   |
| $f_5$  | 0.413e-28 | 0.413e-28 | 0.135e-27 | 0.135e-27 | 0.135e-27 | 0.207e-28 | 94.6   |
| $f_6$  | 0.475e-21 | 0.475e-21 | 0.175e-21 | 0.169e-21 | 0.175e-21 | 0.238e-21 | 9.64   |
| $f_7$  | 0.166e-32 | 0.166e-32 | 0.134e-32 | 0.132e-32 | 0.134e-32 | 0.832e-33 | 2.74   |
| $f_8$  | 0.338e-16 | 0.338e-16 | 0.416e-16 | 0.418e-16 | 0.416e-16 | 0.169e-16 | 22.6   |
| $f_9$  | 0.381e-6  | 0.381e-6  | 0.348e-6  | 0.347e-6  | 0.348e-6  | 0.190e-6  | 26.2   |
| $f_{10}$ | 0.419e-24 | 0.419e-24 | 0.203e-22 | 0.205e-22 | 0.203e-22 | 0.210e-24 | 32.5   |

Table 5. Performance of multiplicity $m$, based on the approximants of (29)

| $f_i$  | (20)   | (22)   | (23)   | (24)   | (25)   | (26)   | (21)   |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| $f_1$  | 0.199e-15 | 0.199e-15 | 0.163e-16 | 0.163e-16 | 0.163e-16 | 0.199e-15 | 0.163e-16 |
| $f_2$  | 0.389e-1  | 0.389e-1  | 0.425e-1  | 0.425e-1  | 0.425e-1  | 0.389e-1  | 0.425e-1 |
| $f_3$  | 0.319e4  | 0.319e4  | 0.160e-4  | 0.160e-4  | 0.160e-4  | 0.319e4  | 0.160e-4 |
| $f_4$  | 0.297e-3  | 0.297e-3  | 0.167e-4  | 0.167e-4  | 0.167e-4  | 0.297e-3  | 0.167e-4 |
| $f_5$  | 0.146e-8  | 0.146e-8  | 0.477e-8  | 0.477e-8  | 0.477e-8  | 0.146e-8  | 0.477e-8 |
| $f_6$  | 0.210e-4  | 0.210e-4  | 0.773e-5  | 0.773e-5  | 0.773e-5  | 0.210e-4  | 0.773e-5 |
| $f_7$  | 0.445e-6  | 0.445e-6  | 0.359e-6  | 0.359e-6  | 0.359e-6  | 0.445e-6  | 0.359e-6 |
| $f_8$  | 0.436e-2  | 0.436e-2  | 0.537e-2  | 0.537e-2  | 0.537e-2  | 0.436e-2  | 0.537e-2 |
| $f_9$  | 2.32  | 2.32  | 2.13  | 2.13  | 2.13  | 2.32  | 2.13 |
| $f_{10}$ | 0.567e-19 | 0.567e-19 | 0.275e-17 | 0.275e-17 | 0.275e-17 | 0.567e-19 | 0.275e-17 |

7. Conclusions

In this paper, a new third-order iterative method for solving nonlinear equations with multiple roots has been introduced. Convergence analysis proves that the new method preserve the order of convergence. The prime motive for presenting the new method was to establish a higher order of convergence method than the existing second order methods [4]. The effectiveness of the new third-order method is examined by showing the accuracy of the multiple roots of several nonlinear equations. After an extensive experimentation, it can be concluded that the convergence of the new third-order method is remarkably fast. The main purpose of demonstrating the new method for different types of nonlinear equations was purely to illustrate the accuracy of the approximate solution, the stability of the convergence, the consistency of the results and to determine the efficiency of the new iterative method. We have shown numerically,
and verified, that the new iterative method converge to the order three. Empirically, we have found that the approximants obtained by the new third order method is producing better precision of the multiplicity \( m \) than the approximants of classical Schroder second order method. Finally, we have constructed a new higher order iterative method with better efficiency index than the existing second order methods, but unfortunately the new method is not of optimal order, hence further investigation is essential.

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