#### Solution to Form #1

```
In [1]: [1,2,3]
    ans =
        1     2     3

In [8]: [1,2,3]*[1;2;3]=?

In []:
```

#### The first source of error is roundoff error

#### Just storing a number in a computer requires rounding

# **Freefall Model (revisited)**

## Octave solution (will run same on Matlab)

Set default values in Octave for linewidth and text size

```
In [14]: %plot --format svg

In [15]: set (0, "defaultaxesfontname", "Helvetica")
    set (0, "defaultaxesfontsize", 18)
    set (0, "defaulttextfontname", "Helvetica")
    set (0, "defaulttextfontsize", 18)
    set (0, "defaultlinelinewidth", 4)
```

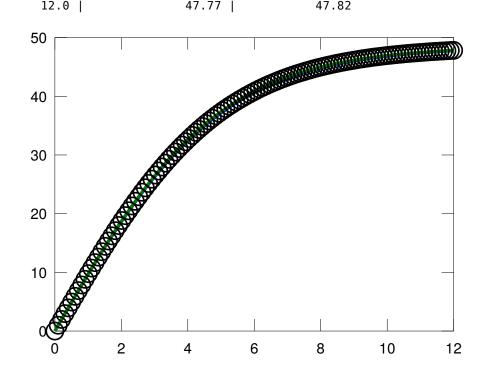
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Define time from 0 to 12 seconds with N timesteps function defined as freefall

```
In [16]: | function [v_analytical,v_terminal,t]=freefall(N)
            t=linspace(0,12,N)';
            c=0.25; m=60; g=9.81; v_terminal=sqrt(m*g/c);
            v_analytical = v_terminal*tanh(g*t/v_terminal);
            v_numerical=zeros(length(t),1);
            delta_time =diff(t);
            for i=1:length(t)-1
                v_numerical(i+1)=v_numerical(i)+(g-c/m*v_numerical(i)^2)*delta_time
         (i);
            end
            % Print values near 0,2,4,6,8,10,12 seconds
            indices = round(linspace(1,length(t),7));
            fprintf('time (s)|vel analytical (m/s)|vel numerical (m/s)\n')
            fprintf('----\n')
            M=[t(indices), v_analytical(indices), v_numerical(indices)];
            fprintf('%7.1f | %18.2f | %15.2f\n',M(:,1:3)');
            plot(t,v_analytical,'-',t,v_numerical,'o-')
         end
```

In [19]: [v\_analytical,v\_terminal,t]=freefall(120);

```
time (s)|vel analytical (m/s)|vel numerical (m/s)
    0.0
                         0.00
                                             0.00
                                            18.82
    2.0
                        18.76
    4.0
                        32.64
                                            32.80
    6.1
                        40.79
                                            40.97
    8.0
                        44.80
                                            44.94
   10.0
                        46.84
                                            46.93
                                            47.82
   12.0
                        47.77
```



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# Types of error

### Freefall is example of "truncation error"

#### Truncation error results from approximating exact mathematical procedure

We approximated the derivative as  $\delta v/\delta t \approx \Delta v/\Delta t$ 

Can reduce error by decreasing step size ->  $\Delta t$ =delta\_time

# Another example of truncation error is a Taylor series (or Maclaurin if centered at a=0)

Taylor series: 
$$f(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x - a)^2 + \frac{f'''(a)}{3!}(x - a)^3 + \dots$$

We can approximate the next value in a function by adding Taylor series terms:

| Approximation          | formula   |
|------------------------|---|
| $0^{th}$ -order        | $f(x_{i+1}) = f(x_i) + R_1$   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> -order | $f(x_{i+1}) = f(x_i) + f'(x_i)h + R_2$  |
| $2^{nd}$ -order        | $f(x_{i+1}) = f(x_i) + f'(x_i)h + \frac{f''(x_i)}{2!}h^2 + R_3$                                 |
| $n^{th}$ -order        | $f(x_{i+1}) = f(x_i) + f'(x_i)h + \frac{f''(x_i)}{2!}h^2 + \dots + \frac{f^{(n)}}{n!}h^n + R_n$ |

Where  $R_n = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} h^{n+1}$  is the error associated with truncating the approximation at order n.

The  $n^{th}$ -order approximation estimates that the unknown function, f(x), is equal to an  $n^{th}$ -order polynomial.

In the Freefall example, we estimated the function with a 1<sup>st</sup>-order approximation, so

$$v(t_{i+1}) = v(t_i) + v'(t_i)(t_{i+1} - t_i) + R_1$$

$$v'(t_i) = \frac{v(t_{i+1}) - v(t_i)}{t_{i+1} - t_i} - \frac{R_1}{t_{i+1} - t_i}$$

$$\frac{R_1}{t_{i+1}-t_i} = \frac{v''(\xi)}{2!}(t_{i+1}-t_i)$$

or the truncation error for a first-order Taylor series approximation is

$$\frac{R_1}{t_{i+1}-t_i}=O(\Delta t)$$

- 1. digital representation of a number is rarely exact
- 2. arithmetic (+,-,/,\*) causes roundoff error

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