

Problem 1 (20 points)

1. (7 points each) For each of the following expressions, identify the value of x for which there is subtraction of nearly identical numbers and find an alternate form that avoids the problem:

(a) $f(x) = (1 - \sec(x))/\tan^2(x)$

(b) $f(x) = 1/(1+x) - 1/(1-x)$

a) $x \rightarrow 0$; $f(x) = 1/(1+\sec(x))$

b) $x \rightarrow 0$; $f(x) = x/(1+x) - x/(1-x)$

2. (6 points) Evaluate the quantity $x\sqrt{x^2 + 3.07} - x^2$ to 3 decimal places for $x = 9^{10}$.

Use : $f(x) = 3.07/(x + \sqrt{x^2+3.07})$

$f(9^{10}) = 4.40233701 \times 10^{-10}$