(1) Find the smallest IEEE 64bit floating point number $x_1 > 16$ (i.e., the next double precision number after 16), and the largest IEEE 64bit floating point number $x_2 < 16$ (i.e., the previous double precision number before 16). In both cases, find all bits of x_1 or x_2 and the difference from 16, and write the difference as a multiple of the machine epsilon eps. You can use the Matlab function num2bitchar provided to find the bits of IEEE 64bit floating point numbers.

I foresee a potential error in my understanding, so I present two answers for x_1 and x_2 .

- (a) We can add the subnormal, smallest representational number (SRT), $SRT = 2^{-52} \times 2^{-1022} = 2^{-1074}$. While technically a number, observe that due to technical limits, $x_1 = SRT + 16 = 16$. In fact, $\forall r \in \mathbb{R}, r + SRT = r$
- (b) Alternatively Choose $\epsilon_{mach}(16) = 3.552713678800501e^{-15}$. Choose $x_1 = 16 + \epsilon_{mach}(16) > 16$, and observe due to finite memory that $\sharp \epsilon < \epsilon_{mach}$ s.t $16 + \epsilon > 16$. In fact, due to limitations, $\forall \epsilon < \epsilon_{mach}(16)$, $16 + \epsilon = 16$. WLOG, x_2 is chosen similarly. Results of MATLAB code are below.

logical

multipleEPS =

1

(2) Rearrange the expression $1.0000001 - \sqrt{1.0000002}$ to compute without loss of significance. Compute in MATLAB the values of the original and rearranged expressions.

Let
$$a = 1.0000001$$
 and let $b = 1.000002$ Observe

$$a-\sqrt{b}=a-\sqrt{b}\times\frac{a+\sqrt{b}}{a+\sqrt{b}}=\frac{a^2-b}{a+\sqrt{b}}. \text{ Results of MATLAB code are below.}$$
 >> hw2

originalExpressionEvaluation =

5.107025913275720e-15

reworkedExpressionEvaluation =

5.107025402573192e-15