

## NUMERICAL ANALYSIS : ASSIGNMENT 1

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### Exercise 2.

Reformulate the following functions, if needed, to avoid loss of significant digits.

- (1)  $f(x) = \sqrt{1+x} - \sqrt{x}$  for  $x \gg 1$ .
- (2)  $f(x) = \sqrt{1+x} - \sqrt{x}$  for  $x \approx 0$ .
- (3)  $f(x) = \sqrt{1+x} - 1$  for  $x \gg 1$ .
- (4)  $f(x) = \sqrt{1+x} - 1$  for  $x \approx 0$ .
- (5)  $f(x) = \ln(x+1) - \ln(x)$  for  $x \gg 1$ .
- (6)  $f(x) = \ln(x+1) - \ln(x)$  for  $x \approx 0$ .

### Solution 2.

- (1) As  $x \gg 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sqrt{1+x} - \sqrt{x} \\ &= \sqrt{x} - \sqrt{x} \\ &= 0 \\ &= f(x+1) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, there is a loss of significant digits.

Therefore, the function needs to be reformulated.

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sqrt{1+x} - \sqrt{x} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x} + \sqrt{x}} \end{aligned}$$

This expression can never be zero, hence, there is no loss of significant digits.

- (2) As  $x \approx 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sqrt{1+x} - \sqrt{x} \\ &= \sqrt{1} \\ &= 1 \\ &= f(x+1) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, there is a loss of significant digits.

Therefore, the function needs to be reformulated.

$$f(x) = \left( 1 + \frac{x}{2} - \frac{x^2}{8} + \frac{x^3}{16} - \dots \right) - \sqrt{x}$$

As this expression is unique for every  $x$ , there is no loss of significant digits.

(3) As  $x \gg 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sqrt{1+x} - 1 \\ &= \sqrt{x} - 1 \\ f(x+1) &= \sqrt{2+x} - 1 \\ &= \sqrt{x} - 1 \\ \therefore f(x) &= f(x+1) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, there is a loss of significant digits.

Therefore, the function needs to be reformulated.

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sqrt{1+x} - 1 \\ &= \frac{x}{\sqrt{1+x} + 1} \\ \therefore f(x+1) &= \frac{x+1}{\sqrt{2+x} + 1} \\ &\neq f(x) \end{aligned}$$

Hence, in this formulation, there is no loss of significant digits.

(4) As  $x \approx 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sqrt{1+x} - 1 \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, there is a loss of significant digits.

Therefore, the function needs to be reformulated.

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sqrt{1+x} - 1 \\ &= \left( 1 + \frac{x}{2} - \frac{x^2}{8} + \frac{x^3}{16} - \dots \right) + 1 \\ &= \frac{x}{2} - \frac{x^2}{8} + \frac{x^3}{16} - \dots \end{aligned}$$

Hence, in this formulation, there is no loss of significant digits.

(5) As  $x \gg 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \ln(x+1) - \ln(x) \\ &= \ln\left(\frac{x+1}{x}\right) \\ &= \ln(1) \\ &= f(x+1) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, there is a loss of significant digits.  
Therefore, the function needs to be reformulated.

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \ln\left(\frac{x+1}{x}\right) \\ &= \ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Hence, in this formulation, there is no loss of significant digits.  
(6) As  $x \approx 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \ln(x+1) - \ln(x) \\ &= \ln\left(\frac{x+1}{x}\right) \\ &= \ln(1) \\ &= f(x+1) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, there is a loss of significant digits.  
Therefore, the function needs to be reformulated.

$$f(x) = \left(x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \dots\right) - \ln(x)$$

Hence, in this formulation, there is no loss of significant digits.

### Exercise 3.

Let  $\tilde{x}$  and  $\tilde{y}$  be approximations of the numbers  $x$  and  $y$ , respectively.  
Show

(1)

$$\left|e_{\frac{x}{y}}\right| \leq \frac{|x||e_y| + |y||e_x|}{|y||\tilde{y}|}$$

### Solution 3.

(1)

$$\begin{aligned}
\left| e_{\frac{x}{y}} \right| &= \left| \frac{x}{y} - \frac{\tilde{x}}{\tilde{y}} \right| \\
&= \left| \frac{x\tilde{y} - \tilde{x}y}{y\tilde{y}} \right| \\
&= \left| \frac{x(y - e_y) - (x - e_x)y}{y\tilde{y}} \right| \\
&= \left| \frac{xy - xe_y - xy + ye_x}{y\tilde{y}} \right| \\
&= \left| \frac{xe_y - ye_x}{y\tilde{y}} \right| \\
&= \frac{|xe_y - ye_x|}{|y\tilde{y}|} \\
&\leq \frac{|x||e_y| + |y||e_x|}{|y||\tilde{y}|}
\end{aligned}$$

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