

VERROU: panorama of localization method

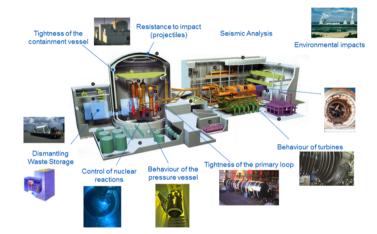
Bruno Lathuilière Funded by ANR Interflop ANR-20-CE46-0009.

EDF R&D, 30 april 2025

Numerical simulation at EDF

- Guarantee safety
- ► Improve performances/costs
- ► Ageing issues





Numerical software at EDF

Large number of in-house codes:

- code_aster (Thermo-mechanic)
- ► code saturne (CFD)
- ► open_telemac (free surface flow)
- ► salome (Simulation plateform)
- **...**

Code properties:

- ► Huge code base
- ► Various languages (C/C++, Fortran, Python ...)
- ► External libraries (MUMPS, numpy . . .)
- ▶ V&V



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```
Physical phenomena
   Modelisation error ← -
             Mathematical model
  Discretisation error ←-
              Numerical algorithm
               Bugs ←-
                Implementation
Floating point error ←-
               Computed solution
```

VERROU development:

- ► Binary instrumentation based on valgrind
- ► Asynchronous stochastic arithmetic
- ► Error estimation and error localization

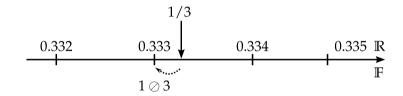


PLAN

- Context
- Verrou and stochastic rounding
- Delta-Debug
- Unstable branches
- Optimization tools
- Conclusions

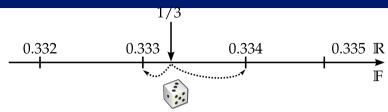
Floating point error

- ► Floating point representation with limited precision
 - ▶ [float] binary, 24 significand bits ($\simeq 10^{-7}$)
 - ▶ [double] binary, 53 significand bits ($\simeq 10^{-16}$)
 - ► [pedagogic example] decimal, 3 significand digits (% ‰)

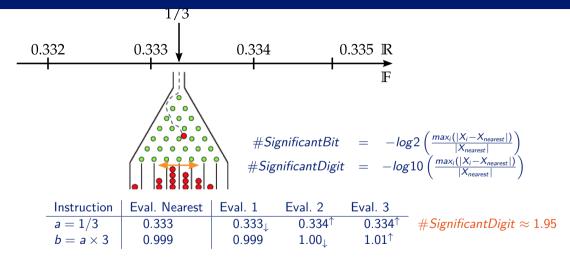


- ▶ Floating point computation \neq Real computation
 - ▶ rounding error $a \oplus b \neq a + b$
 - ▶ associativity loss $(a \oplus b) \oplus c \neq a \oplus (b \oplus c)$

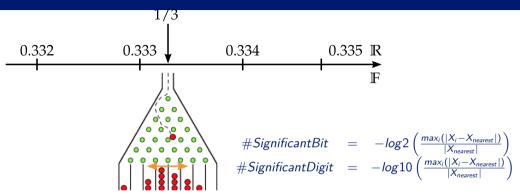
Stochastic arithmetic for numerical verification



Stochastic arithmetic for numerical verification



Stochastic arithmetic for numerical verification



Instruction	Eval. Nearest	Eval. 1	Eval. 2	Eval. 3	
a = 1/3	0.333	0.333↓	0.334↑	0.334↑	#SignificantDigit pprox 1.95
$b = a \times 3$	0.999	0.999	1.00	1.01^{\uparrow}	

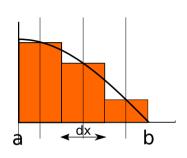
- ► Compatible with binary instrumentation (Verrou based on valgrind) or LLVM pass (Verificarlo)
- ► Few false positive detection (due to asynchronous approach and dedicated stochastic rounding mode)



Example: rectangle method

$$\int_a^b f(x)dx \approx \sum_i^n dx.f(x_i)$$

avec
$$dx = \frac{(b-a)}{n}$$
$$x_i = a + (i+0.5)dx$$



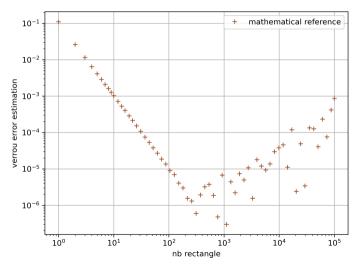
Listing – integrate.hxx

Example: convergence analysis

```
Listing – unitTest.cxx (Verification: \int_{-1}^{\frac{11}{2}} \cos(x) dx = 1)
22 void testConvergence (const float & step) {
    std::cout << std::scientific << std::setprecision(17);</pre>
    const size t maxN= 100000:
    for (unsigned int n = 1; n <= maxN;
          n = std::max (std::min(maxN, (size t)(step*n)), n+1)) {
26
      float res = integrate (std::cos,0., M PI 2, n);
29
      float err = std::abs(1 - res):
32
      // 3 columns output: Nrectangles Result Error
      std::cout << std::setw(10) << n << " " << res << " " << err << std::endl:
34
35 }
                                     1 1 11072075366973877e+00 1 10720753669738770e-01
                                    10 1 00102877616882324e+00 1 02877616882324219e-03
                                   100 1.00001001358032227e+00 1.00135803222656250e-05
                                  1000 9.99992489814758301e-01 7.51018524169921875e-06
                                 10000 1.00000333786010742e+00 3.33786010742187500e-06
                                100000 9.99139010906219482e-01 8.60989093780517578e-04
```

Example: convergence analysis

Plot 3rd column (available only for analytical test case)



Example: manual analysis

\$./unitTest > unittest.output.txt

```
unittest.output.txt
```

```
1 1.11072075366973877e+00 1.10720753669738770e-01 10 1.00102877616882324e+00 1.02877616882324219e-03 100 1.00001001358032227e+00 1.00135803222656250e-05 1000 9.99992489814758301e-01 7.51018524169921875e-06 100000 1.00000333786010742e+00 3.33786010742187500e-06 100000 9.99139010906219482e-01 8.60980993780517578e-04
```

Example: manual analysis

- \$./unitTest > unittest.output.txt
- \$ valgrind -tool=verrou -rounding-mode=random -libm=instrumented ./unitTest > unittest.output-random 1.txt

unittest.output.txt

1 1.11072075366973877e+00 1.10720753669738770e-01 $10\ 1.00102877616882324e+00\ 1.02877616882324219e-03$ 100 1.00001001358032227e+00 1.00135803222656250e-05 1000 9.99992489814758301e-01 7.51018524169921875e-06 10000 1.00000333786010742e+00 3.33786010742187500e-06 100000 9 991390109062194826-01 8 609890937805175786-04

unittest.output random 1.txt

1 1.11072075366973877e+00 1.10720753669738770e-01 $10\ 1.00102853775024414e+00\ 1.02853775024414062e-03$ 100 1.00001108646392822e+00 1.10864639282226562e-05 1000 1.00000536441802979e+00 5.36441802978515625e-06 10000 1.00001549720764160e+00 1.54972076416015625e-05 100000 1.00013923645019531e+00 1.39236450195312500e-04

Example: manual analysis

```
$ ./unitTest > unittest.output.txt

$ valgrind -tool=verrou -rounding-mode=random -libm=instrumented ./unitTest > unittest.output-random_1.txt

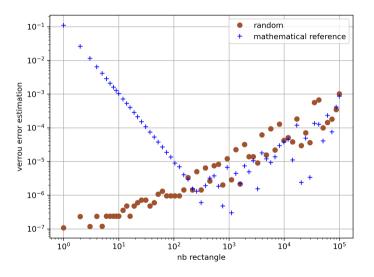
$ meld unittest.output.txt unittest.output-random_1.txt
```

unittest.output.txt

```
1 1.11072075366973877e+00 1.10720753669738770e-01 10 1.00102877616882324e+00 1.02877616882324219e-03 100 1.00001001358032227e+00 1.00135803222656250e-05 1000 9.9992489814758301e-01 7.51018524169921875e-06 100000 9.00000333786010742e+00 3.33786010742187500e-06 100000 9.99139010906219482e-01 8.60989093780517578e-04
```

```
\begin{array}{c} unittest.output\_random\_1.txt\\ 1 \ 1.11072075366973877e+00 \ 1.10720753669738770e-01\\ 10 \ 1.00102853775024414e+00 \ 1.02853775024414062e-03\\ 100 \ 1.00001108646392822e+00 \ 1.10864639282226552e-05\\ 1000 \ 1.000001536441802979e\pm00 \ 5.36441802978515625e-05\\ 10000 \ 1.00001549720764160e+00 \ 1.54972076416015625e-05\\ 100000 \ 1.00013923645019531e+00 \ 1.39236450195312500e-04\\ \end{array}
```

Error plot with 20 samples



Delta-debug: trial and error search algorithm

Delta-debug search: 1 verrou_dd_line --nruns=5 ddRun.sh ddCmp.py

```
runScript: ddRun.sh
```

```
1 #I/bin/bash
2 OUTDIR=$1
3 valgrind --tool=verrou --rounding-mode=random --↔
| libm=instrumented\
4 ./unitTest >${OUTDIR}/res.dat
```

```
cmpScript: ddCmp.py
```

ddmin	filename:line	demangled symbol name
ddmin0 ddmin1	<pre>integrate.hxx:17 integrate.hxx:16</pre>	testConvergence(float const &) testConvergence(float const &)

Valgrind developer point of view:

- ▶ need to generate a search space: list of symbols (or line) containing FP operations;
- ▶ need to run a specific configuration (set instrumented /not instrumented).



Code coverage for unstable branches detection

```
nearest coverage
                                                                      random coverage
        :8:template <typename T, class REALTYPE>
                                                                    :8:template <typename T, ><
6
        :9:REALTYPE integrate (const T& f, REALTYPE a, ←
                                                                    :9:REALTYPE integrate (co≫
                                                           6
            REALTYPE b, unsigned int n) {
        :10: // Integration step
                                                                    :10:
                                                                         // Integration step%
6
        :11: const REALTYPE dx = (b - a) / n:
                                                           6
                                                                    111:
                                                                         const REALTYPE dx =≫
             // Naive integration Loop
        :12:
                                                                    :12:
                                                                         // Naive integratio≫
6
        13:
             REALTYPE sum = 0.:
                                                                    13:
                                                                         REALTYPE sum = 0.:
             for (REALTYPE x = a + (REALTYPE)0.5 * dx :
                                                                    :14: for (REALTYPE x = a)
111000
                                                           111179
        :15:
                  x < b:
                                                                    :15:
                                                                              x < b:
110994
                                                           111173
       :16:
                  x += dx) {
                                                                    :16:
                                                                              x += dx) {
110994
            sum += dx * f(x):
                                                           111173
                                                                           sum += dx * f(x): \approx
        :17:
                                                                    :17:
        :18: }
                                                                    :18:
        :19: return sum;
                                                                    19:
                                                                         return sum:
        :20:}
                                                                    :20:}
```

- ▶ Need to recompile with coverage option (-fcoverage).
- ► Need to rerun delta-debug.
- ▶ Need time to interpret results due to false-positive.



BasicBloc coverage

	$ddmin1 \; \big(integrate.hxx{:}16\big) \; \; random$		nearest
1	:@iostream(74)unitTest.cxx(65)	1	:@iostream(74)unitTest.cxx(65)
1	:@unitTest.cxx(65)iostream(74)	1	:@unitTest.cxx(65)iostream(74)
11 1168	:@cmath(185)	110988	:@cmath(185)
6	:@integrate.hxx(15)cmath(185)	6	:@integrate.hxx(15)cmath(185)
111174	:@integrate.hxx(15-17) F?	110994	:@integrate.hxx(15-17) F?
4	:@iomanip(240)integrate.hxx(11,13-15) F?	4	:@iomanip(240)integrate.hxx(11,13-15) F?
1	:@iomanip(240)stl_algobase.h(237) ←	1	:@iomanip(240)stl_algobase.h(237) ←
	integrate.hxx $(11,13-15)$ F?		integrate.hxx(11,13-15) F?
	ostream(196) F		ostream(196) F
	ios_base.h(84,88,731)integrate.hxx(11,13-15) F?		ios_base.h(84,88,731)integrate.hxx(11,13-15) F?
	≈23 lines	skipped 🛰	

	ddmin0 (integrate.hxx:17) \mid random		nearest
1	:@iostream(74)unitTest.cxx(65)	1	:@iostream(74)unitTest.cxx(65)
1	:@unitTest.cxx(65)iostream(74)	1	:@unitTest.cxx(65)iostream(74)
110988	:@cmath(185)	110988	:@cmath(185)
6	:@integrate.hxx(15)cmath(185)	6	:@integrate.hxx(15)cmath(185)
110994	:@integrate.hxx(15-17) F?	110994	:@integrate.hxx(15-17) F?
4	:@iomanip(240)integrate.hxx(11,13-15) F?	4	:@iomanip(240)integrate.hxx(11,13-15) F?
1	:@iomanip(240)stl_algobase.h(237) ←	1	:@iomanip(240)stl_algobase.h(237) ←
	integrate.hxx(11,13-15) F?		integrate.hxx(11,13-15) F?
	ostream(196) F		ostream(196) F
	ios_base.h(84,88,731)integrate.hxx(11,13-15) F?		ios_base.h(84,88,731)integrate.hxx(11,13-15) F?
	≈23 lines	skipped ><	



Example: come back to code

Listing – integrate.hxx

```
13 REALTYPE sum = 0.;

14 for (REALTYPE x = a + (REALTYPE)0.5 * dx;

15 x < b;

16 x += dx) {

17 sum += dx * f(x);

18 }

19 return sum;
```

- ▶ Convert the floating point loop (x+=dx) into an integer loop (i++).
- ► Accumulation in double (*mixed precision*) or compensated algorithm.

Listing – integrate.hxx

```
13    double sum = 0.;
14    for (unsigned int i=0; i < n; i++) {
15         REALTYPE x = a + ((REALTYPE)0.5 +i) * dx;
16         sum += dx * f(x);
17    }
18    return (REALTYPE)sum;</pre>
```

Partial BasicBloc coverage

($ddmin1 (integrate.hxx:16) \mid random$	nearest				
1	:@iostream(74)unitTest.cxx(65)	1	:@iostream(74)unitTest.cxx(65)			
1	:@unitTest.cxx(65)iostream(74)	1	:@unitTest.cxx(65)iostream(74)			
11 1168	:@cmath(185)	11 0988 : ①cmath(185)				
6	:@integrate.hxx(15)cmath(185)	6	:@integrate.hxx(15)cmath(185)			
11 1174	:@integrate.hxx(15-17) F?	11 0994	:@integrate.hxx(15-17) F?			
4	:@iomanip(240)integrate.hxx(11,13-15) F?	4	:@iomanip(240)integrate.hxx(11,13-15) F?			
≈24 lines skipped ≈						
	≈24 lines	sкірреа «				
partial (I	ast iter) ddmin1 (integrate.hxx.16) random		partial (last iter) nearest			
partial (I			partial (last iter) nearest : ①cmath(185)			
• •	ast iter) ddmin1 (integrate.hxx.16) random	1				
• •	ast iter) ddmin1 (integrate.hxx.16) random :@cmath(185)	1	:@cmath(185)			
100062	ast iter) ddmin1 (integrate.hxx.16) random :@cmath(185) :@integrate.hxx(15)cmath(185)	99883	: ①cmath(185) : ②integrate.hxx(15)cmath(185)			
100062	ast iter) ddmin1 (integrate.hxx.16) random :⑦cmath(185) :⑦integrate.hxx(15)cmath(185) :⑦integrate.hxx(15-17) F? :⑦iomanip(240)stl_algobase.h(237) ↔	99883	: ⑦cmath(185) : ⑦integrate.hxx(15)cmath(185) : ⑦integrate.hxx(15-17) F? : ⑨iomanip(240)stl_algobase.h(237) ↔			

How to specify coverage point

► client request : verrou_dump_cover

Panorama of localization method, B. Lathuilière

cmatch: 100000 * *
apply: dump_cover
cmatch: 10000 * *
apply: dump_cover



Temporal Delta-debug

- verrou_dd_task (with manual definition in source or automatic for python line)
- verrou_dd_stdout (task automatically detected thanks to IOMatch)

1 verrou_dd_stdout --nruns=5 ddRun.sh ddCmp.py

ddmin	match line		
ddmin0	10000 *	k	*

(b) Result.

- (a) Search space.
- ► Warning : pay attention to bufferisation.
- ▶ It is possible to modify stdout (and so task) thanks a user script.

Help to optimize

Compatible with all localization tools:

- ► Subnormal numbers : daz/ftz rounding-mode
- ► Fma: –unfma (compatible with all rounding-modes)
- ► Mixed precision : —float (compatible with all rounding-modes)



Mixed precision

First of all, check the accuracy with double precision

Two strategies:

Delta-debug (and other localization tools) with -float option with the original code in double.

- ► The result can be checked with -float -rounding-mode=random options
- ► The Delta debug pinpoints operations and not data storage

Delta-debug (and other localization tools) with -rounding-mode=random with the code in float.

- ► Trick: select performance hotspots to rewrite the code.
- ► Possible to deals with floating point specialized function

Warning:

- ▶ Dynamic approach: understanding required to generalize to all datasets.
- ▶ Does the search spaces fit to your algorithm?
- ► More float does not mean necessarily faster:
 - ► Conversion cost, more subnormal numbers
 - Roof line malediction
- ► Need to adapt/control convergence criteria
- ▶ Read the bibliography: verrou is not able to find a preconditioner or an iterative refinement

Mixed precision search for inner/outer iteration

```
CMD="etest2 100 100 1 res.dat rh.dat
-e ii -i bicgstab -p ilu -ilu_fill 2
-print out -eprint out"
valgrind --tool=verrou
--float=yes
--exclude=exclude.ex
$CMD > $1/res.out

> cat exclude.ex
lis vector dot *
```

Stdout extract:

```
47 relative residual = 2.102138E-10
iteration:
iteration:
             48 relative residual = 2.340582E-11
iteration:
             49 relative residual = 7.864099E-12
iteration:
             50 relative residual = 4.231160E-12
             51 relative residual = 2.719284E-12
iteration:
iteration:
             52 relative residual = 8 079880E-13
linear solver status . normal end
iteration:
              2 relative residual = 7.941629E-02
initial vector v
                    : all components set to 0
precision
                    : double
linear solver
                    · RICCSTAR
preconditioner
                   · TLH(2)
convergence condition : ||b-Ax||_2 <= 1.0e-12 * ||b-Ax_0||_2
matrix storage format : CSR
iteration:
              1 relative residual = 9.351250E-02
iteration:
              2 relative residual = 6 529751E-02
iteration:
              3 relative residual = 2.403754E-02
iteration:
              4 relative residual = 1.016325E-02
```

End of stdout



search space	ddmir	subset
	all	$all \setminus \{dot\}$
outer-0 matrix storage format : CSR	ddmin15	OK
preconditioner : ILU	OK	OK
initial vector x : all components set to 0	OK	OK
outer-0 iteration: 10 relative residual = $*$	ddmin15	OK
outer-0 iteration: 20 relative residual = $*$	OK	OK
outer-0 iteration: 30 relative residual = *	OK	OK
outer-0 iteration: 40 relative residual = *	OK	OK
outer-0 linear solver status : normal end	OK	OK
<pre>outer iteration: 0 relative residual = *</pre>	OK	OK
outer-5 matrix storage format : CSR	ddmin0	ddmin0
outer-5 iteration: 10 relative residual = *	ddmin1	ddmin1
outer-5 iteration: 20 relative residual = $*$	ddmin16	ddmin2
outer-5 iteration: 30 relative residual = *	ddmin14	OK
outer-5 iteration: 40 relative residual = *	ddmin16	OK
outer-5 linear solver status : normal end	OK	OK
<pre>outer iteration: 5 relative residual = *</pre>	OK	OK
outer-10 matrix storage format : CSR	ddmin2	ddmin3
<pre>outer-10 iteration: 10 relative residual = *</pre>	ddmin3	ddmin4
outer-10 iteration: 20 relative residual = *	ddmin4	ddmin5
outer-10 iteration: 30 relative residual = *	ddmin5	ddmin6
outer-10 iteration: 40 relative residual = $*$	OK	OK
outer-10 linear solver status : normal end	OK	OK
outer iteration: 10 relative residual = *	ddmin6	ddmin7
outer-15 matrix storage format : CSR	ddmin7	ddmin8
outer-15 iteration: 10 relative residual = *	ddmin8	ddmin9
outer-15 iteration: 20 relative residual = $*$	ddmin9	ddmin10
outer-15 iteration: 30 relative residual = $*$	ddmin10	ddmin11
e outer-15 linear solver status : normal end	ddmin11	ddmin12



Interflop verification tools

Verrou is not the silver bullet tool. As a user I'm interested in other Interflop verification tools:

- ▶ Verificarlo https://github.com/verificarlo/verificarlo
 - ► Computation time (especially with shared memory)
 - ► Better Debugger compatibility
- ► Pene https://github.com/aneoconsulting/PENE
 - ► Windows Portability
 - ► avx512
- ► CADNA https://cadna.lip6.fr/
 - ► Algorithm which take into account accuracy estimation
 - ▶ Useful to perform synchronous/asynchronous comparison.
- ► FLDLib https://github.com/fvedrine/fldlib
 - ► High level of confidence for tricky kernel.

Conclusions and perspectives

- ► **VERROU** provides an easy floating point error estimation;
- ► **VERR**OU provides error localization;
- ► **VERR**O**U** is used with industrial code;
- ► VERROU is open-source and available: https://github.com/edf-hpc/verrou

Perspectives

- Performance improvements (instrumentation, vectorization, delta-debug parallelism ...)
- ► Localization improvements (delta-debug search space, amplification detection . . .)



Performance

type	doı	ıble	flo	at	
compilation option	00	O3	00	О3	
tool_none	×6.3	×6.4	×7.0	×8.4	
nearest	×10.0	x22.3	×10.6	$\times 27.9$	
nearest-nc	×10.1	×21.8	×10.4	×27.2	
random	×15.4	×41.2	×17.7	×54.1	
average	×17.4	×47.5	×21.0	×66.0	
random_det	×16.6	×46.0	×19.8	×64.7	
random_comdet	×16.8	×47.2	×20.2	×66.8	
random_scomdet	×19.4	×56.2	×23.4	×79.8	
average_det	×19.2	×53.1	×23.5	×77.5	
average_comdet	×20.2	×56.5	×24.9	x85.3	
average_scomdet	×20.0	×56.7	x25.3	x85.4	
sr_monotonic	×20.4	x57.4	x25.0	x81.5	
sr_smonotonic	×20.5	×57.0	x25.3	x83.1	

Number of samples

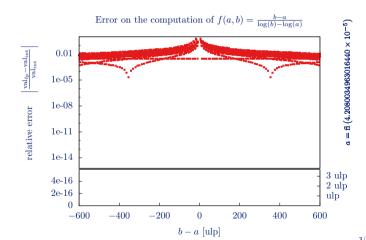
Confidence	Probability <i>p</i>								
level $1-\alpha$	0.66	0.75	0.8	0.85	0.9	0.95	0.99	0.995	0.999
0.66	3	4	5	7	11	22	108	216	1079
0.75	4	5	7	9	14	28	138	277	1386
0.8	4	6	8	10	16	32	161	322	1609
0.85	5	7	9	12	19	37	189	379	1897
0.9	6	9	11	15	22	45	230	460	2302
0.95	8	11	14	19	29	59	299	598	2995
0.99	12	17	21	29	44	90	459	919	4603
0.995	13	19	24	33	51	104	528	1058	5296
0.999	17	25	31	43	66	135	688	1379	6905

Confidence Intervals for Stochastic Arithmetic, Devan Sohier, Pablo De Oliveira Castro, François Févotte, Bruno Lathuilière, Eric Petit, Olivier Jamond

Bug fix example (1/3)

$$f(a,b) = \begin{vmatrix} a & \text{if } a = b \\ \frac{b-a}{\log(b) - \log(a)} & \text{if not} \end{vmatrix}$$

- ▶ outside the code
- ► around the problematic
- ► reference = interval arithmetic

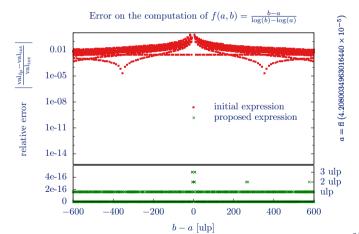




Bug fix example (1/3)

$$f(a,b) = \begin{vmatrix} a & \text{if } a = b \\ \frac{b-a}{\log(b) - \log(a)} & \text{if not} \end{vmatrix} \qquad \frac{\text{rewritting}}{\text{manual}} \qquad \qquad f(a,b) = \begin{vmatrix} a & \text{if } a = b \\ a \frac{\frac{b}{a} - 1}{\log(\frac{b}{a})} & \text{if not} \end{vmatrix}$$

- outside the code
- ► around the problematic
- ► reference = interval arithmetic





Bug fix example (1/3)

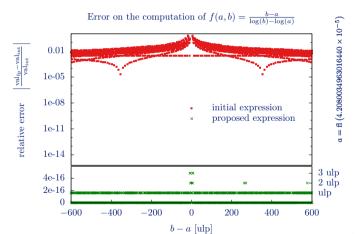
$$f(a,b) = \begin{vmatrix} a & \text{if } a = b \\ \frac{b-a}{\log(b) - \log(a)} & \text{if not} \end{vmatrix} \qquad \frac{\text{rewritting}}{\text{manual}} \qquad \qquad f(a,b) = \begin{vmatrix} a & \text{if } a = b \\ a \frac{\frac{b}{a} - 1}{\log(\frac{b}{a})} & \text{if not} \end{vmatrix}$$

Empirical study

- outside the code
- ► around the problematic
- reference = interval arithmetic

Proof

error bounded by 10 ulps

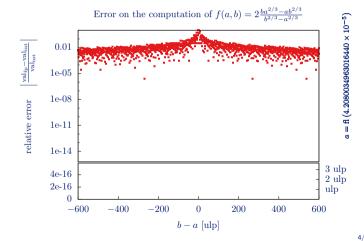




Bug fix example (2/3)

$$f(a,b) = \begin{vmatrix} a & \text{if } a = b \\ 2\frac{ba^{2/3} - ab^{2/3}}{b^{2/3} - a^{2/3}} & \text{if not} \end{vmatrix}$$

- ▶ outside the code
- ► around the problematic
- ► reference = interval arithmetic



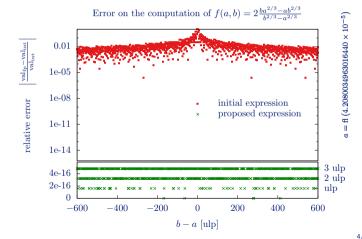


Bug fix example (2/3)

$$f(a,b) = \begin{vmatrix} a & \text{if } a = b \\ 2\frac{ba^{2/3} - ab^{2/3}}{b^{2/3} - a^{2/3}} & \text{if not} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$f(a,b) = 2\frac{a^{2/3}b^{2/3}}{a^{1/3} + b^{1/3}}$$

- outside the code
- ► around the problematic
- ► reference = interval arithmetic



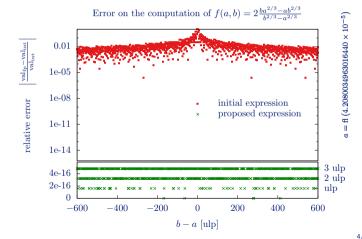


Bug fix example (2/3)

$$f(a,b) = \begin{vmatrix} a & \text{if } a = b \\ 2\frac{ba^{2/3} - ab^{2/3}}{b^{2/3} - a^{2/3}} & \text{if not} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$f(a,b) = 2\frac{a^{2/3}b^{2/3}}{a^{1/3} + b^{1/3}}$$

- outside the code
- ► around the problematic
- ► reference = interval arithmetic





Bug fix example (3/3)

$$f_n(a,b) = \begin{vmatrix} a & \text{if } a = b \\ (n-1)\frac{b^{\frac{1}{n}} - a^{\frac{1}{n}}}{a^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1 - b^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1} & \text{if not} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$f_n(a,b) = \frac{n-1}{\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} a^{\frac{i-n}{n}} b^{\frac{-i}{n}}}$$

