

ChE352
Numerical Techniques for Chemical Engineers
Professor Stevenson

Lecture 2

Engineering topics of interest

Computer programming 

Biochemistry 

Food science 

Linguistics 

Machine learning 

Power plants 

Research skills 

Sustainability 

Optimization algorithms 

Materials science 

Renewable energy 

Nuclear engineering 

Geochemistry 

Electrochemistry 

Cosmetic sciences 


Data analysis 

Engineering management 

Environmental chemistry 

Electrical & mechanical eng. 

Process Simulation 

How many licks does it take to
get to the center of a tootsie
pop? 

Numerical methods apply to all parts of engineering

Important data types for this class

```
1 # integer
3.14 # floating point (key to this class)
'3.14' # string
[1, 2.0, '3'] # list (any types)
np.array([1, 2, 3]) # array (one type)
{1, 2, '3'} # set
{"H": 1, "He": 2, "Li": '3'} # dictionary
```

What is each type good for?

Test-driven design

- Testing is easier than writing correct code
- Automated testing is the best kind

Example: find Z (compressibility) in the Soave-Redlich-Kwong equation of state:

$$Z^3 - Z^2 + (A - B - B^2)Z - AB = 0$$

Plugging in values of Z , A , B as a test is very simple. You can write a test function right now, without knowing anything about solver code.

Testing can be all you need

```
def is_srk_solution(Z, A, B):  
    srk = Z**3 - Z**2 + (A - B - B**2)*Z - A*B  
    return abs(srk) < 1e-3
```

$$Z^3 - Z^2 + (A - B - B^2)Z - AB = 0$$

Testing can be all you need

```
def is_srk_solution(Z, A, B):  
    srk = Z**3 - Z**2 + (A - B - B**2)*Z - A*B  
    return abs(srk) < 1e-3
```

Run the test on a range of possible solutions:

```
A, B = 2.0, 3.0 # inputs  
low, high, step = 0.0, 10.0, 1e-4  
for Z in np.arange(low, high, step):  
    if is_srk_solution(Z, A, B):  
        print('Found solution:', Z)
```

Python error messages

```
for Z in np.arange(low, high, step):  
    if is_sk_solution(Z, A, B):  
        print('Found solution:', Z)
```

Running this code gives:

```
NameError: name 'is_sk_solution' is not defined
```

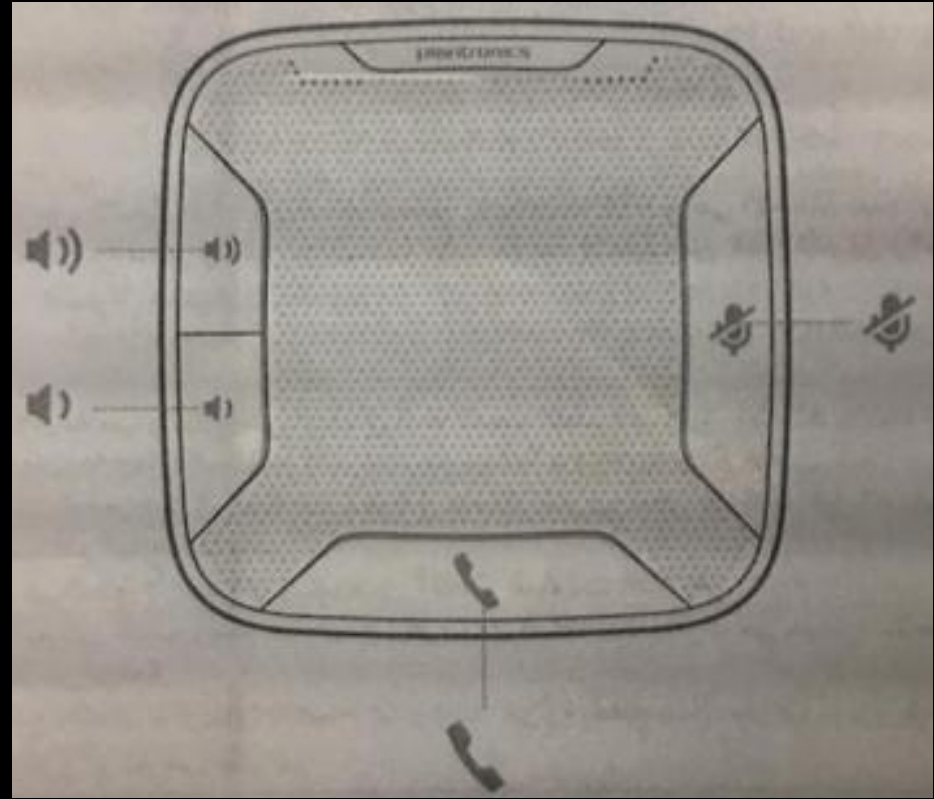
What went wrong?

Python error message tips

- Google your error messages
 - Especially the class of exception
- Run your code often, so you know which change caused any new errors
 - This is much easier if your code is fast
- `print()` key variables to show more details
 - If there's no output at all, add print statements early in the code, see which outputs appear

Program for Readability

- Readable code is about *empathy*
- Put yourself in a reader's place
- Describe your assumptions clearly
- The code says *what* you're doing - the comments say *why*



Bad programmers
comment their code
like this diagram

Readability example

What do you think this function does?

```
def relerr(p, r, eps=1e-6):  
    return (p - r) / (abs(r) + eps)
```

How can we make it more readable?

Readability example

```
# Relative error of prediction vs reference
def relative_error(prediction,
                    reference,
                    epsilon=1e-6):
    error = prediction - reference
    # epsilon prevents divide-by-zero issues
    return error / (abs(reference) + epsilon)
```

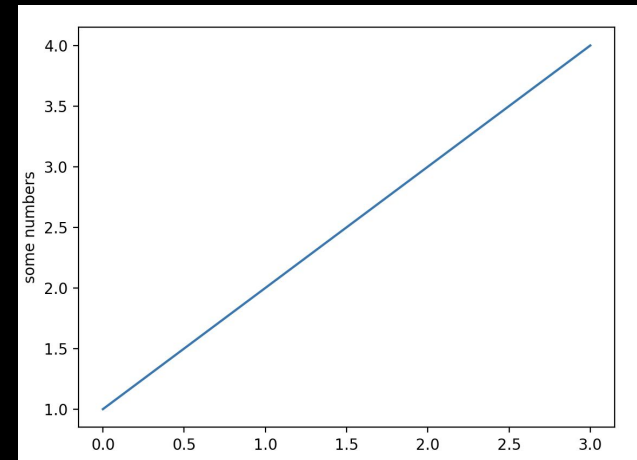
You don't have to code from scratch

- Start with a basic example
 - Cite your code sources!
- Slowly change it into what you want
- Run it every few minutes

<https://matplotlib.org/stable/tutorials/introductory/pyplot.html>

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
plt.plot([1, 2, 3, 4])
plt.ylabel('some numbers')
plt.show()
```

Not the code I wanted, but enough to help
So I will copy it and cite it at the top



You don't have to code from scratch

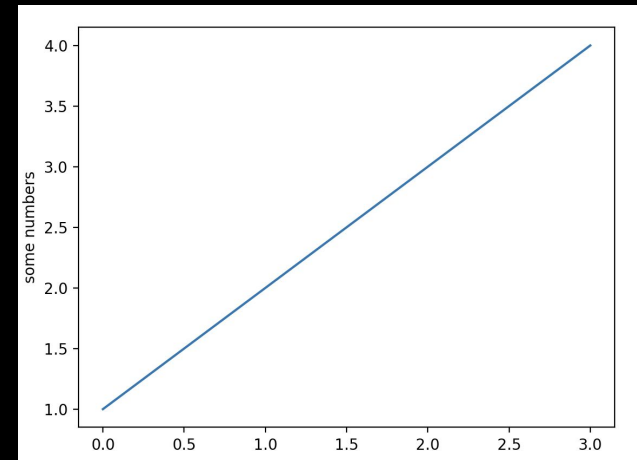
Open up Google Colab, make a new notebook, and try the example below.

Then, modify it to plot something else

<https://matplotlib.org/stable/tutorials/introductory/pyplot.html>

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
plt.plot([1, 2, 3, 4])
plt.ylabel('some numbers')
plt.show()
```

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```
import time
```

```
print('Lecture paused')
```

```
time.sleep(600) # seconds
```

```
print('More Python')
```

NumPy = Numerical Python

- Python is designed to be *flexible* to use
 - `mixed_type_list = [1, 2.0, '3']`
- Numpy is a package for doing math (especially linear algebra) *fast*
 - `eigenvalues, eigenvectors = eig(A)`
 - Can calculate eigenvectors of a million-entry matrix in seconds
 - Great tool for turning science & math into code

Numpy arrays

```
import numpy as np
x = np.array([1, 4, 3])
y = np.array([[1, 4, 3], [9, 2, 7]])
print('x.shape:', x.shape, ' x.size:', x.size)
print('y.shape:', y.shape, ' y.size:', y.size)
```

```
x.shape: (3,)  x.size: 3
y.shape: (2, 3)  y.size: 6
```

tuple of ints

int

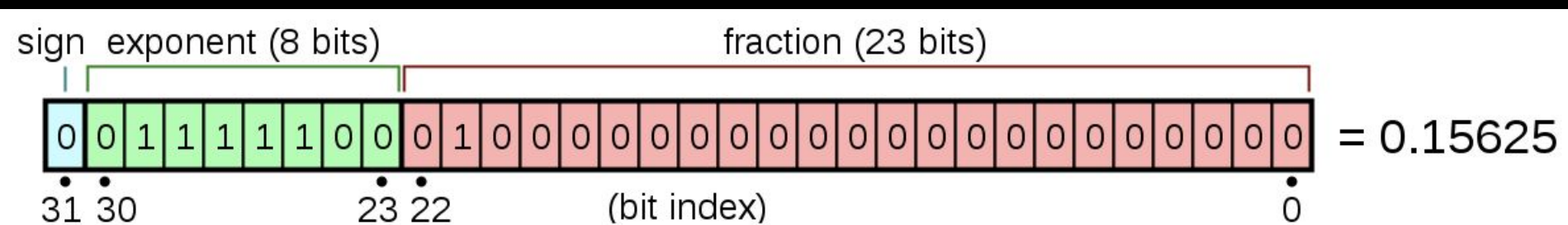
Loss of precision

How many real numbers are there?

How much information can be stored
in a single real number?

What is floating point?

- Computer math is almost always floating point
- Like scientific notation on binary numbers



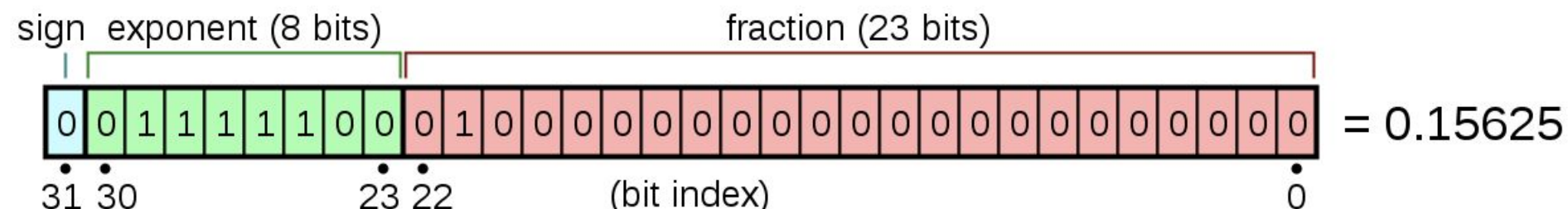
- Not every real number can be represented

How many decimal digits can we store in 23 bits?

What numbers can't be represented?

What is floating point?

- Computer math is almost always floating point
- Like scientific notation on binary numbers



- np.float32 holds ~7 decimal digits
- np.float64 holds ~16 decimal digits
- Not every real number can be represented
- Too big = overflow, too small = underflow
- Only binary fractions (no exact 1/3, 1/5, etc)

Python warmup continued

- I will provide class time and help to work on kaggle.com/learn/python - today and at office hours
- Graded by automated tests: you need all right answers, but the only penalty is to keep trying
- Any parts you don't finish in class will become HW #1