

# Round-off Errors and Floating Point Arithmetic

- ▶ **Binary Machine Numbers:** any double precision non-zero *floating point number* has form

$$x = (-1)^s 2^{c-1023} (1 + f), \quad \text{with 64 bits.}$$

- ▶  $s$  = SIGN BIT: 0 for  $x > 0$  and 1 for  $x < 0$ .
- ▶  $c$  = CHARACTERISTIC, with 11 bits:

$$c = c_1 \cdot 2^{10} + c_2 \cdot 2^9 + c_3 \cdot 2^8 + c_4 \cdot 2^7 + c_5 \cdot 2^6 + c_6 \cdot 2^5 + c_7 \cdot 2^4 + c_8 \cdot 2^3 + c_9 \cdot 2^2 + c_{10} \cdot 2^1 + c_{11} \cdot 2^0,$$

with each  $c_j = 0$  or 1.

- ▶  $f$  = MANTISSA with 52 bits

$$f = f_1 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + \cdots + f_{52} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{52} = \sum_{j=1}^{52} f_j \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^j, \quad \text{each } f_j = 0 \text{ or } 1.$$

- ▶ **Floating Point:** Binary point always comes after 1, independent of  $c$ .
- ▶ Special cases for special numbers



# Street Numbers in Binary? (City of machines)



# Round-off Errors and Floating Point Arithmetic

## ► *k*-digit Decimal Machine Numbers:

$$x = \pm 0.d_1 d_2 \cdots d_k \times 10^n, \quad \text{where } 1 \leq d_1 \leq 9, \quad 0 \leq d_i \leq 9, i \geq 2.$$

## ► Any positive real number

$$\begin{aligned} y &= 0.d_1 d_2 \cdots d_k d_{k+1} d_{k+2} \cdots \times 10^n, \\ &\approx 0.d_1 d_2 \cdots d_k \times 10^n \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} fl(y) \quad (\textbf{chopping}) \\ &\approx 0.\delta_1 \delta_2 \cdots \delta_k \times 10^n \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} fl(y) \quad (\textbf{rounding}), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\textbf{rounding} = \textbf{chopping on } y + 5 \times 10^{n-(k+1)}.$$

- If  $d_{k+1} < 5$ : **rounding** = **chopping**.
- If  $d_{k+1} \geq 5$ : cut off  $d_{k+1}$  and below, then add 1 to  $d_k$ .

# Round-off Errors and Floating Point Arithmetic

## ► 5-digit Decimal Machine Numbers for $\pi$ :

$$\pi = 0.314159265 \dots \times 10^1$$

$$\approx 0.31415 \times 10^1 = 3.1415 \quad (\text{chopping})$$

$$\approx (0.31415 + 0.00001) \times 10^1 = 3.1416 \quad (\text{rounding}).$$

## Absolute error vs. relative error

Suppose that  $p^*$  is an approximation to  $p \neq 0$ .

► **absolute error** =  $|p - p^*|$ ,

► **relative error** =  $\frac{|p - p^*|}{|p|}$ .

$$\pi \approx 0.31415 \times 10^1 = 3.1415 (\text{chopping}), \quad \pi \approx 0.31416 \times 10^1 = 3.1416 (\text{rounding})$$

► **absolute errors:**

$$|\pi - 3.1415| \approx 9 \times 10^{-5}, \quad |\pi - 3.1416| \approx 7 \times 10^{-6}.$$

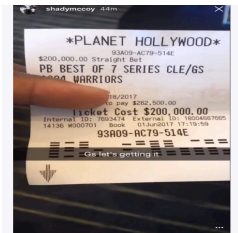
► **relative errors:**

$$\frac{|\pi - 3.1415|}{\pi} \approx 3 \times 10^{-5}, \quad \frac{|\pi - 3.1416|}{\pi} \approx 2 \times 10^{-6}.$$

Cool \$200,000 wager by LeSean McCoy, 2017



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David Payne Purdum  
@DavidPurdum



LeSean McCoy bet \$200,000 on Warriors to win Finals. It's largest bet Planet Hollywood took on Finals. Would pay \$62,500.  
1st @Romantic-gambler1  
8:34 AM - Jun 4, 2017



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LeSean McCoy bet \$200,000 on Eagles to win Finals. It's  
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14136 W000701 Book 01 Jun 2017 17:19:59  
93A09-AC79-514E  
8:54 AM - Jun 4, 2017



- ▶ Wager: Warriors to win NBA Finals
- ▶ McCoy made \$6M in 2017.  $\frac{\text{wager}}{\text{salary}} \approx 3\%$
- ▶ If lost, wager would be a **huge** absolute error, but **small** relative error, to his salary. He won \$62,500

## Relative error for $k$ -digit **chopping**

Suppose that  $y = 0.d_1d_2\cdots d_kd_{k+1}d_{k+2}\cdots \times 10^n$ , with  $d_1 \geq 1$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\left|\frac{y - fl(y)}{y}\right| &= \left|\frac{0.d_1d_2\cdots d_kd_{k+1}\cdots \times 10^n - 0.d_1d_2\cdots d_k \times 10^n}{0.d_1d_2\cdots \times 10^n}\right| \\ &= \left|\frac{0.d_{k+1}d_{k+2}\cdots \times 10^{n-k}}{0.d_1d_2\cdots \times 10^n}\right| = \left|\frac{0.d_{k+1}d_{k+2}\cdots}{0.d_1d_2\cdots}\right| \times 10^{-k}.\end{aligned}$$

But  $0.d_1d_2\cdots d_kd_{k+1}d_{k+2}\cdots \geq 0.1$ ,

$$\left|\frac{y - fl(y)}{y}\right| \leq \frac{1}{0.1} \times 10^{-k} = 10^{-k+1}.$$

## Relative error for $k$ -digit **rounding**

Suppose that  $y = 0.d_1d_2\cdots d_kd_{k+1}d_{k+2}\cdots \times 10^n$ , with  $d_1 \geq 1$ .

$$\left| \frac{y - fl(y)}{y} \right| \leq 0.5 \times 10^{-k+1}.$$

**Proof:** Exercise in text.

Floating Point Arithmetic Magic:

RELATIVE ERROR $\approx 10^{-k+1}$ INDEPENDENT OF $n$ .
---

## Machine addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division

$$x \oplus y = fl(fl(x) + fl(y)), \quad x \otimes y = fl(fl(x) \times fl(y)),$$

$$x \ominus y = fl(fl(x) - fl(y)), \quad x \oslash y = fl(fl(x) \div fl(y)).$$

**Some computations involve millions of these operations,  
the result could be very different from expected.**

Sometimes it takes numerical analysis to make it right

Cancellation of significant digits,  $k$  digit arithmetic,  $p < k$

## Cancellation of significant digits, $k$ digit arithmetic, $p < k$

Suppose that  $x$  and  $y$  do not differ much:

$$\begin{aligned}x &= 0.d_1 \cdots d_p \alpha_{p+1} \cdots \times 10^n \\&= 0.d_1 \cdots d_p \alpha_{p+1} \cdots \alpha_k \times 10^n + \epsilon_x = fl(x) + \epsilon_x, \\y &= 0.d_1 \cdots d_p \beta_{p+1} \cdots \times 10^n \\&= 0.d_1 \cdots d_p \beta_{p+1} \cdots \beta_k \times 10^n + \epsilon_y = fl(y) + \epsilon_y,\end{aligned}$$

with  $\epsilon_x, \epsilon_y \approx 10^{n-k}$ ,  $k > p$ .

## Cancellation of significant digits, $k$ digit arithmetic, $p < k$

Suppose that  $x$  and  $y$  do not differ much:

$$\begin{aligned}x &= 0.d_1 \cdots d_p \alpha_{p+1} \cdots \times 10^n \\&= 0.d_1 \cdots d_p \alpha_{p+1} \cdots \alpha_k \times 10^n + \epsilon_x = fl(x) + \epsilon_x, \\y &= 0.d_1 \cdots d_p \beta_{p+1} \cdots \times 10^n \\&= 0.d_1 \cdots d_p \beta_{p+1} \cdots \beta_k \times 10^n + \epsilon_y = fl(y) + \epsilon_y,\end{aligned}$$

with  $\epsilon_x, \epsilon_y \approx 10^{n-k}$ ,  $k > p$ . The floating-point form of  $x - y$  is

$$fl(fl(x) - fl(y)) \approx x - y - \epsilon_x + \epsilon_y.$$

if  $|x - y| \approx 10^{n-p}$ , then **relative error** is

$$\begin{aligned}\left| \frac{\text{error in computed } x - y}{x - y} \right| &= \left| \frac{(x - y) - fl(fl(x) - fl(y))}{x - y} \right| \\&\approx \left| \frac{|\epsilon_x| + |\epsilon_y|}{x - y} \right| \approx \frac{10^{n-k}}{10^{n-p}} = 10^{-(k-p)}.\end{aligned}$$

## Quadratic formula for $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$

$$x_1 = \frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \quad \text{and} \quad x_2 = \frac{-b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}.$$

One of  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  faces cancellation of significant digits if

$$|4ac| \ll b^2$$



## Quadratic formula for $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$

$$x_1 = \frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \quad \text{and} \quad x_2 = \frac{-b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}.$$

One of  $x_1, x_2$  faces cancellation of significant digits if

$$|4ac| \ll b^2 \implies \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac} \approx |b|$$

- ▶ If  $b > 0$ , then  $x_1$  is hard to calculate.
- ▶ If  $b < 0$ , then  $x_2$  is hard to calculate.

## Roots to Quadratic to Roots (I)

```
function xx = quadroot(x)
a = 1;
b = -(x(1)+x(2));
c = x(1)*x(2);
del = sqrt(b*b-4*a*c);
xx(1) = (-b+del)/(2*a);
xx(2) = (-b-del)/(2*a);
xx =xx(:);
```

*b* and *c*: Vieta's formulas

# Roots to Quadratic to Roots (II)

```
>> format long e
format long e
>> x = randn(2,1)
x = randn(2,1)

x =

    1.630235289164729e+00
    4.888937703117894e-01

>> xx = quadroot(x)
xx = quadroot(x)

xx =

    1.630235289164729e+00
    4.888937703117894e-01

>> x = [randn*1e5;randn*1e-12]
x = [randn*1e5;randn*1e-12]

x =

    1.034693009917860e+05
    7.268851333832379e-13

>> xx = quadroot(x)
xx = quadroot(x)

xx =

    1.034693009917860e+05
    0
```

Numerical instability: complete loss of significant digits in smaller root

## Solving $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ the better way

► Compute  $\delta = \sqrt{b^2 - 4 * a * c}$

► If  $b > 0$  then

$$x_1 = \frac{-b - \delta}{2a} = -\frac{|b| + \delta}{2a};$$

if  $b \leq 0$  then

$$x_1 = \frac{-b + \delta}{2a} = \frac{|b| + \delta}{2a}.$$

► Vieta's formula

$$x_2 = \frac{c}{a x_1}.$$

# Roots to Quadratic to Roots (III)

```
>> a = randn*1e-5; b = 1; c = - randn*1e-12;
a = randn*1e-5; b = 1; c = - randn*1e-12;
>> roots([a b c])
roots([a b c])

ans =

    3.295534380226372e+05
    2.938714670966580e-13

>> del = sqrt(b*b-4*a*c)
del = sqrt(b*b-4*a*c)

del =

    1

>> x(1) = (-b+del)/(2*a); x(2) = (-b-del)/(2*a)
x(1) = (-b+del)/(2*a); x(2) = (-b-del)/(2*a)

x =

           0
    3.295534380226372e+05

>> x(2) = (-b-del)/(2*a); x(1)=(c/a)/x(2)
x(2) = (-b-del)/(2*a); x(1)=(c/a)/x(2)

x =

    2.938714670966580e-13
    3.295534380226372e+05
```

Numerical stability: both roots accurately computed

## §1.3 Horner's Method for Fibonacci's Problem in 1224

Solve

$$f(x) = x^3 + 2x^2 + 10x - 20 = 0.$$

Fibonacci's Solution

$$x = 1 + 22 \left( \frac{1}{60} \right) + 7 \left( \frac{1}{60} \right)^2 + 42 \left( \frac{1}{60} \right)^3 + 33 \left( \frac{1}{60} \right)^4 + 4 \left( \frac{1}{60} \right)^5 + 40 \left( \frac{1}{60} \right)^6.$$

With Horner's nested sum method, let  $\tau = \frac{1}{60}$ :

$$x = 1 + \tau \cdot (22 + \tau \cdot (7 + \tau \cdot (42 + \tau \cdot (33 + \tau \cdot (4 + 40\tau))))).$$

## Pseudocode for Horner's Method (nested arithmetic)

Evaluate function  $f(x)$  for given  $x$ :

$$f(x) = a_1 + a_2 x + \cdots + a_n x^{n-1}$$

## Pseudocode for Horner's Method (nested arithmetic)

Evaluate function  $f(x)$  for given  $x$ :

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= a_1 + a_2 x + \cdots + a_n x^{n-1} \\ &= a_1 + x \cdot (a_2 + x \cdot (\cdots + x \cdot (a_{n-1} + x \cdot a_n) \cdots)) \end{aligned}$$



## Pseudocode for Horner's Method (nested arithmetic)

Evaluate function  $f(x)$  for given  $x$ :

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= a_1 + a_2 x + \cdots + a_n x^{n-1} \\ &= a_1 + x \cdot (a_2 + x \cdot (\cdots + x \cdot (a_{n-1} + x \cdot a_n) \cdots)) \end{aligned}$$

```
function SUM = horner(x,a)
%
% horner's method
%
n = length(a);
SUM = a(n)*ones(size(x));
for i=n-1:-1:1
    SUM = a(i) + x .* SUM;
end
return
```

# Numerical stability: a second order recursion

For any constants  $c_1$  and  $c_2$ ,

$$p_n = c_1 \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^n + c_2 3^n,$$

is a solution to the recursive equation

$$p_n = \frac{10}{3}p_{n-1} - p_{n-2}, \quad \text{for } n = 2, 3, \dots$$



$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |p_n| = \begin{cases} \infty & \text{if } c_2 \neq 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



$$\begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{8} \begin{pmatrix} 9p_0 - 3p_1 \\ 3p_1 - p_0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{given } p_0, p_1.$$

- ▶ condition  $c_2 = 3p_1 - p_0 = 0$  **hard to satisfy exactly in finite precision computations.**

Numerical values go crazy for  $p_0 = 1, p_1 = 1/3$ .

With five-digit rounding arithmetic,

$n$	Computed $\hat{p}_n$	Correct $p_n$	Relative Error
0	$0.10000 \times 10^1$	$0.10000 \times 10^1$	
1	$0.33333 \times 10^0$	$0.33333 \times 10^0$	
2	$0.11110 \times 10^0$	$0.11111 \times 10^0$	$9 \times 10^{-5}$
3	$0.37000 \times 10^{-1}$	$0.37037 \times 10^{-1}$	$1 \times 10^{-3}$
4	$0.12230 \times 10^{-1}$	$0.12346 \times 10^{-1}$	$9 \times 10^{-3}$
5	$0.37660 \times 10^{-2}$	$0.41152 \times 10^{-2}$	$8 \times 10^{-2}$
6	$0.32300 \times 10^{-3}$	$0.13717 \times 10^{-2}$	$8 \times 10^{-1}$
7	$-0.26893 \times 10^{-2}$	$0.45725 \times 10^{-3}$	$7 \times 10^0$
8	$-0.92872 \times 10^{-2}$	$0.15242 \times 10^{-3}$	$6 \times 10^1$

Numerical instability: More details in Chapter 5

# Rate of convergence: the Big $O$ (I)

Suppose

- ▶  $\{\beta_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is a sequence known to converge to 0,
- ▶  $\{\alpha_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is a sequence known to converge to  $\alpha$ .

If there exists a positive constant  $K$  such that

$$|\alpha_n - \alpha| \leq K |\beta_n| \quad \text{for large } n,$$

then we say that

$\{\alpha_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  converges to  $\alpha$  with **rate of convergence**  $O(|\beta_n|)$ :

$$\alpha_n = \alpha + O(|\beta_n|)$$

## Rate of convergence: the Big O (II)

- ▶ **Example:** Suppose that for all  $n \geq 1$ ,

$$\alpha_n = \cos \left( \frac{1 + n \cos (n^2 + 1)}{(1 + n)^2} \right), \quad \beta_n = \frac{1}{n^2}.$$

- ▶ **Then**  $\alpha = 1$ ,

$$|\alpha_n - 1| \leq \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{n^2}.$$

- ▶ **Therefore**  $\{\alpha_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  converges to  $\alpha = 1$  with *rate of convergence*  $O\left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right)$  :  $\alpha_n = 1 + O\left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right)$

- ▶ Not to be confused with *order of convergence* later on.

## Rate of convergence: the Big O (III)

**Definition:** Suppose that  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} G(h) = 0$  and  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} F(h) = L$ .  
If there exists a positive number  $K$  so that

$$|F(h) - L| \leq K |G(h)| \quad \text{for all sufficiently small } h, \text{ then}$$

$$F(h) = L + O(G(h)).$$

## Rate of convergence: the Big O (III)

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$$|F(h) - L| \leq K |G(h)| \quad \text{for all sufficiently small } h, \text{ then} \\ F(h) = L + O(G(h)).$$

► **Example I:** Show that

$$\sin(h) = h + O(h^3).$$

► **PROOF:** By Taylor expansion,

$$\sin(h) = h - \frac{1}{6} h^3 \cos(\bar{\xi}(h)),$$

for some number  $\bar{\xi}(h)$  between 0 and  $h$ . Hence

$$|\sin(h) - h| \leq \frac{1}{6} |h|^3.$$

► **Therefore**

$$\sin(h) = h + O(h^3).$$

## Rate of convergence: the Big O (IV)

**Definition:** Suppose that  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} G(h) = 0$  and  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} F(h) = L$ .  
If there exists a positive number  $K$  so that

$$|F(h) - L| \leq K |G(h)| \quad \text{for all sufficiently small } h, \text{ then}$$

$$F(h) = L + O(G(h)).$$



## Rate of convergence: the Big O (IV)

**Definition:** Suppose that  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} G(h) = 0$  and  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} F(h) = L$ . If there exists a positive number  $K$  so that

$$|F(h) - L| \leq K |G(h)| \quad \text{for all sufficiently small } h, \text{ then}$$

$$F(h) = L + O(G(h)).$$

► **Example II:** Taylor expand a function  $f(x)$  at  $x = x_0$ :

$$f(x) = f(x_0) + f'(x_0)(x - x_0) + \frac{1}{2}f''(\xi)(x - x_0)^2,$$

with  $\xi$  somewhere between  $x_0$  and  $x$ .

► If  $|f''(\xi)| \leq K$  for some constant  $K$ , then

$$f(x) = f(x_0) + f'(x_0)(x - x_0) + O((x - x_0)^2).$$

## Class algorithms vs. Commercial software

For any vector  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{R}^n$ , compute its norm

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = (x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \cdots + x_n^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \left( \sum_{k=1}^n x_k^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

- ▶ **INPUT:**  $n, x_1, \cdots, x_n$ .
- ▶ **OUTPUT:** Norm.
- ▶ **Step 1:** Set **SUM** = 0.
- ▶ **Step 2:** For  $k = 1, \cdots, n$  set **SUM** = **SUM** +  $x_k * x_k$ .
- ▶ **Step 3:** Set **Norm** =  $\sqrt{\text{SUM}}$ .
- ▶ **Step 4:** Output **Norm**.  
STOP.

## Class algorithms vs. Commercial software (I)

```
>>
>> n = 10;
>>
>> x = (1:n)';
>>
>> sum = 0;
>>
>> for k = 1:n
    sum = sum + x(k) * x(k);
end
>>
>> x_norm = sqrt(sum);
>>
>> disp([x_norm,abs(x_norm-norm(x)), abs(x_norm-sqrt(n*(n+1)*(2*n+1)/6))]);
19.62142    0.00000    0.00000
..
```

## Class algorithms vs. Commercial software (II)

```
>>
>> x = 1e200 * (1:n)';
>>
>> sum = 0;
>>
>> for k = 1:n
        sum = sum + x(k) * x(k);
    end
>>
>> x_norm = sqrt(sum);
>>
>> disp([norm(x),abs(x_norm-norm(x))])
    1.9621e+201          Inf
..
```

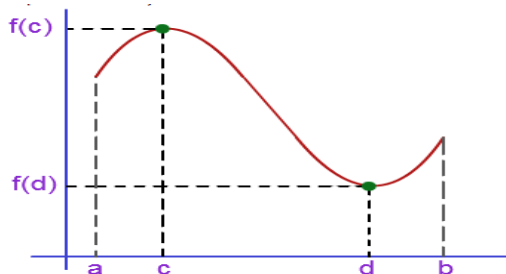
## Class algorithms vs. Commercial software (III)

```
>>
>> xmax = max(abs(x));
>>
>> if (xmax == 0)
        x_norm = 0;
    else
        y = x/xmax;
        sum = 0;
        for k = 1:n
            sum = sum + y(k) * y(k);
        end
        x_norm = xmax * sqrt(sum);
    end
>>
>> disp([norm(x),abs(x_norm-norm(x))])
1.9621e+201    0.0000e+00
```

## Material to skip in Chapter 2

- ▶ False position in Section 2.3

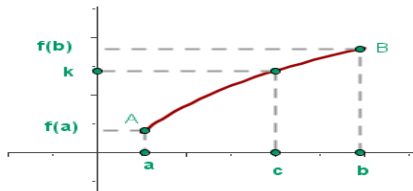
# Extreme Value Theorem



- ▶ Maximum  $f(c)$  and minimum  $f(d)$  attainable in  $[a, b]$  if  $f(x)$  continuous.
- ▶ Basis of much of data analysis, artificial intelligence.
- ▶ IF  $c \in (a, b)$  AND  $f(x)$  differentiable, then

$$f'(c) = 0.$$

# Intermediate Value Theorem



- ▶ If  $f(x)$  continuous, then  $c$  exists in  $[a, b]$  so  $f(c) = k$  for any  $k$  between  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$ .
- ▶ Basis of methods for solving  $f(x) = 0$ .

We will actually find  $c$  in equation  $f(c) = 0$  to some TOLERANCE.



## §2.1 Bisection Method

**theorem:** Given continuous function  $f(x)$  on an interval  $[a, b]$  with  $f(a) \cdot f(b) < 0$ , there must be a root  $p$  in  $(a, b)$  so that  $f(p) = 0$ .

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**theorem:** Given continuous function  $f(x)$  on an interval  $[a, b]$  with  $f(a) \cdot f(b) < 0$ , there must be a root  $p$  in  $(a, b)$  so that  $f(p) = 0$ .

PROOF: By Intermediate Value Thm, 0 is between  $f(a), f(b)$ .  $\square$

## §2.1 Bisection Method

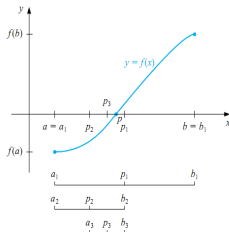
**theorem:** Given continuous function  $f(x)$  on an interval  $[a, b]$  with  $f(a) \cdot f(b) < 0$ , there must be a root  $p$  in  $(a, b)$  so that  $f(p) = 0$ .

PROOF: By Intermediate Value Thm, 0 is between  $f(a), f(b)$ .  $\square$

- ▶ To find a root  $p$ : set  $[a_1, b_1] = [a, b]$ .
- ▶ set  $p_1 = \frac{a_1 + b_1}{2}$  and compute  $f(p_1)$ .
  - ▶ if  $f(p_1) = 0$ , then quit with root  $p_1$   
(NEED BE VERY LUCKY, BUT COULD HAPPEN.)
  - ▶ if  $f(a_1) \cdot f(p_1) < 0$ , then set  $[a_2, b_2] = [a_1, p_1]$ ,
  - ▶ otherwise ( $f(p_1) \cdot f(b_1) < 0$ ) set  $[a_2, b_2] = [p_1, b_1]$ ,

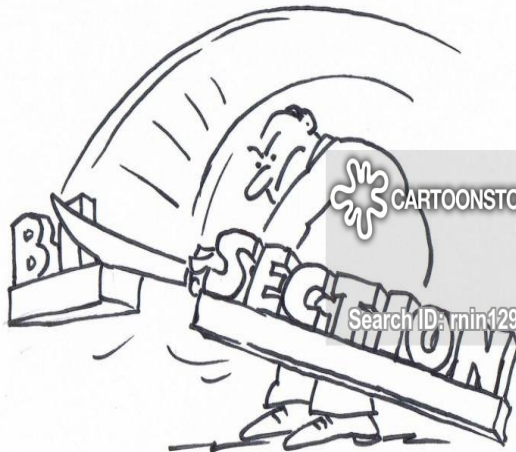
In both cases, new interval half  
as long as old one.

- ▶ repeat with  $p_2 = \frac{a_2 + b_2}{2}$ .



## Bisection Method in Cartoon

WORDPLAY by *Ken Nixon*



49.

# Naive Bisection Method

```
% Bisection Method

%Input: f(x) continuous on [a, b]
%       f(a) * f(b) < 0

%Output: p in (a, b) so f(p) = 0.

fa = f(a);
fb = f(b);

repeat
    c = (a+b)/2;
    fc = f(c);
    if (fc == 0)
        p = c;
        return;
    end
    if (fc * fa < 0)
        b = c;
    else
        a = c;
    end
end
```

```

function [x, out] = bisect(Fcn, Intv, params)
%%
% To find a solution to  $f(x) = 0$  given the continuous function
%  $f$  on the interval  $[a,b]$ , where  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$  have
% opposite signs:
%
% INPUT: function  $f(x)$  defined by function handle Fcn,
% interval  $[a,b] = [Intv.a, Intv.b]$ 
% tolerance params.tol, max # of iterations = params.MaxIt
% OUTPUT: root  $x$ , and data structure out.
% The success flag out.flg, is 0 for successful
% execution and non-zero otherwise. out.it is the number
% of iterations to reach within tolerance.
%
% Written by Ming Gu for Math128A, Spring 2021

TOL = params.tol;
NO = params.MaxIt;
a = Intv.a;
b = Intv.b;
if (a > b)
    a = Intv.b;
    b = Intv.a;
end
fa = sign(Fcn(a));
fb = sign(Fcn(b));
if (fa*fb > 0)
    error('Initial Interval may not contain root',msg);
end
if a==b
    error('Initial values for a and b must not equal',msg);
end

It = 0;
out.x = [a;b];
out.f = [Fcn(a);Fcn(b)];
while (It <= NO)
    c = (a+b)/2;
    out.x = [out.x;c];
    out.f = [out.f;Fcn(c)];
    fc = sign(Fcn(c));
    if (fc == 0)
        x = c;
        out.flg = 0;
        out.it = It;
        return;
    end
    if (fc * fa < 0)
        b = c;
    else
        a = c;
    end
    if (abs(b-a) <= TOL)
        x = (a+b)/2;
        out.flg = 0;
        out.it = It;
        return;
    end
    It = It + 1;
end
out.flg = 1;
out.it = NO;
x = (a+b)/2;

```

**Theorem 2.1** Suppose that  $f \in C[a, b]$  and  $f(a) \cdot f(b) < 0$ . The Bisection method generates a sequence  $\{p_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  approximating a zero  $p$  of  $f$  with

$$|p_n - p| \leq \frac{b - a}{2^n}, \quad \text{when } n \geq 1.$$



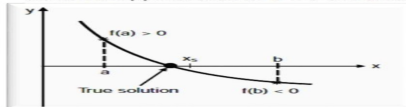
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Most versatile root-finder

### Bisection Method

Solution of  $f(x) = 0$  between  $x = a$  and  $x = b$



► Always works as long as  $f(a) f(b) > 0$ .



**Theorem 2.1** Suppose that  $f \in C[a, b]$  and  $f(a) \cdot f(b) < 0$ . The Bisection method generates a sequence  $\{p_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  approximating a zero  $p$  of  $f$  with

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Potential problems with Thm. 2.1 in optimization applications



- ▶ Both maximum  $f'(c) = 0$  and minimum  $f'(d) = 0$ . Thm. 2.1 can't tell which one.
- ▶ Thm. 2.1 condition does not work:  $f'(a) f'(b) > 0$ .

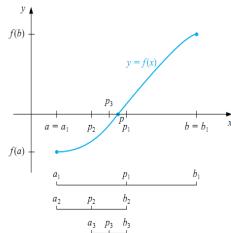
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- By construction

$$a_1 \leq a_2 \leq \cdots \leq a_n \leq \cdots \leq \cdots \leq b_n \leq \cdots \leq b_2 \leq b_1.$$

Thus sequences  $\{a_n\}$  and  $\{b_n\}$  monotonically converge to limits  $a_\infty \leq b_\infty$ , respectively.

- Since  $f(a_n) \cdot f(b_n) < 0$  for all  $n$ , it follows that  $f(a_\infty) \cdot f(b_\infty) \leq 0$ , thus a root  $p \in [a_\infty, b_\infty] \subset [a_n, b_n]$  exists.
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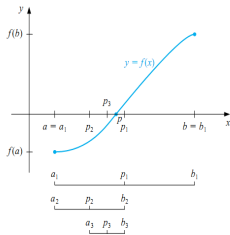
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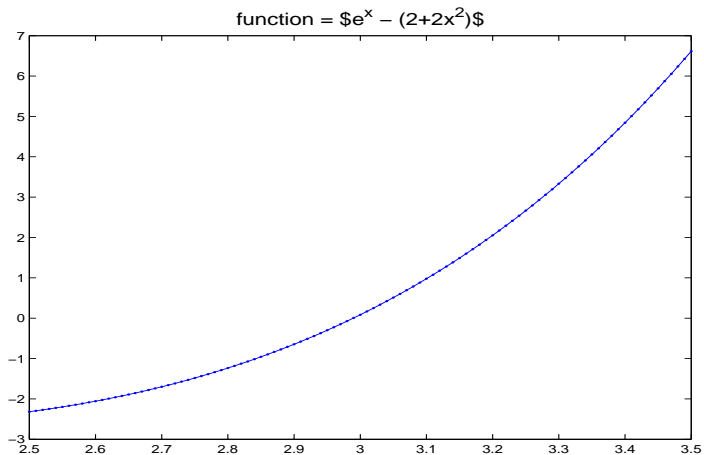
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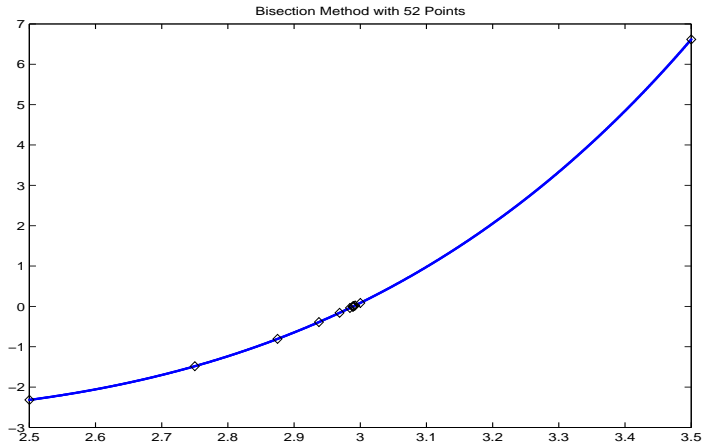


$$\text{By construction } b_n - a_n = \frac{b_{n-1} - a_{n-1}}{2} = \frac{b_{n-2} - a_{n-2}}{2^2} = \cdots = \frac{b_1 - a_1}{2^{n-1}} = \frac{b - a}{2^{n-1}}.$$

Put together,  $|p_n - p| \leq \frac{b - a}{2^n}$ . In fact,  $a_\infty = b_\infty = p$ .

## Example Function with Root





## §2.2 Fixed Point Iteration

The number  $p$  is a **fixed point** for a given function  $g$  if  $g(p) = p$ .

- ▶ Given a root-finding problem  $f(p) = 0$ , we can define functions  $g(x)$  with a fixed point at  $p$  in multiple ways:

$$g(x) = x - f(x), \quad g(x) = x + 3f(x), \quad \text{etc.}$$

- ▶ Conversely, given function  $g$  with fixed point at  $p$ , then the function

$$f(x) = x - g(x)$$

has a root at  $p$ .

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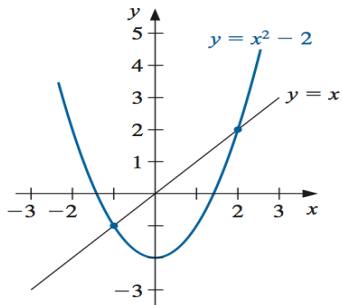
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# Fixed Point Example



# Fixed Point Iteration

Given initial approximation  $p_0$ , define *Fixed Point Iteration*

$$p_n = g(p_{n-1}), \quad n = 1, 2, \dots,$$

If iteration converges to  $p$ , then

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Easy to define. How does it work?
-----------------------------------

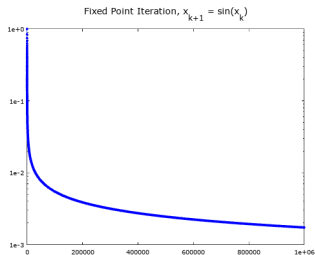
## Fixed Point Example $x - \sin(x) = 0$ : slow convergence

$$\begin{aligned} g(x) &= \sin(x) \in [-1, 1] \quad \text{for } x \in [-1, 1], \\ |g'(x)| &\leq 1 \in [0, 1]. \end{aligned}$$

```
..
>> n = 1000000;
>> x = zeros(n,1);
>> x(1) = 1;
>> for k=2:n
x(k) = sin(x(k-1));
end
>> semilogy(abs(x), 'b.-')
>> title('Fixed Point Iteration, x_{k+1} = sin(x_k)', 'FontSize', 14)
```

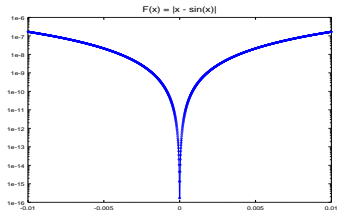
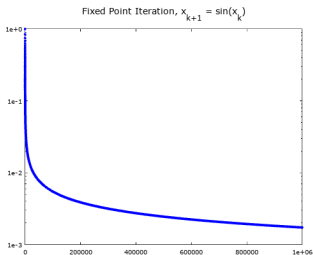
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Fixed Point:  $x - (1 - \cos(x)) = 0$ : VERY fast convergence

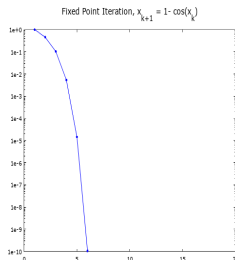
$$\begin{aligned} g(x) &= 1 - \cos(x) \in [-1, 1] \quad \text{for } x \in [-1, 1], \\ |g'(x)| &= |\sin x| \leq \sin 1. \end{aligned}$$

```
>>
>> n=20;
>> x = zeros(n,1);
>> x(1) = 1;
>> for k=2:n
x(k) = 1- cos(x(k-1));
end
>> semilogy(abs(x), 'b.-')
warning: axis: omitting non-positive data in log plot
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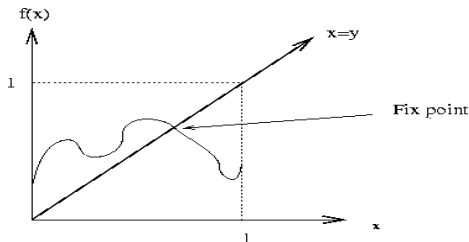
# Fixed Point Theorem (I)

## Theorem 2.3

- (i) If  $g \in C[a, b]$  and  $g(x) \in [a, b]$  for all  $x \in [a, b]$ , then  $g$  has at least one fixed point in  $[a, b]$ .
- (ii) If, in addition,  $g'(x)$  exists on  $(a, b)$  and a positive constant  $k < 1$  exists with

$$|g'(x)| \leq k, \quad \text{for all } x \in (a, b),$$

then there is exactly one fixed point in  $[a, b]$ . (See Figure 2.4.) ■



## Proof of Thm 2.3

- ▶ If  $g(a) = a$  or  $g(b) = b$ , then  $g$  has a fixed point at an endpoint.
- ▶ Otherwise,  $g(a) > a$  and  $g(b) < b$ . The function  $h(x) = g(x) - x$  is continuous on  $[a, b]$ , with

$$h(a) = g(a) - a > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad h(b) = g(b) - b < 0.$$

- ▶ This implies that there exists  $p \in (a, b)$ ,  $h(p) = 0$ .
- ▶  $g(p) - p = 0$ , or  $p = g(p)$ .

If  $|g'(x)| \leq k < 1$  for all  $x$  in  $(a, b)$ , and  $p$  and  $q$  are two distinct fixed points in  $[a, b]$ . Then a number  $\xi$  exists (Mean Value Theorem)

$$\frac{g(p) - g(q)}{p - q} = g'(\xi) < 1.$$

So

$$1 = \frac{p - q}{p - q} = \frac{g(p) - g(q)}{p - q} = g'(\xi) < 1.$$

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So

$$1 = \frac{p - q}{p - q} = \frac{g(p) - g(q)}{p - q} = g'(\xi) < 1. \quad \Rightarrow \quad \boxed{\text{distinct}} \quad \Leftarrow$$

This contradiction implies uniqueness of fixed point.

# Fixed Point Iteration

Given initial approximation  $p_0$ , define *Fixed Point Iteration*

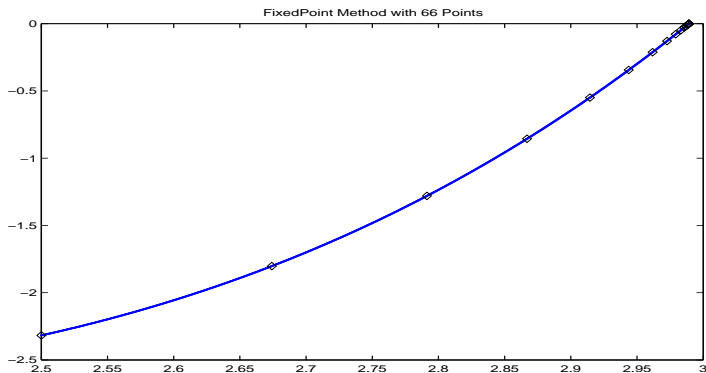
$$p_n = g(p_{n-1}), \quad n = 1, 2, \dots,$$

If iteration converges to  $p$ , then

$$p = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(p_{n-1}) = g(p).$$

## Fixed Point Example $x - \log(2 + 2x^2) = 0$ : normal convergence

$$g(x) = \log(2 + 2x^2) \in [2, 3] \quad \text{for } x \in [2, 3],$$
$$|g'(x)| \leq \frac{4}{5} < 1.$$



# Fixed Point Theorem (II)

## Theorem 2.4 (Fixed-Point Theorem)

Let  $g \in C[a, b]$  be such that  $g(x) \in [a, b]$ , for all  $x$  in  $[a, b]$ . Suppose, in addition, that  $g'$  exists on  $(a, b)$  and that a constant  $0 < k < 1$  exists with

$$|g'(x)| \leq k, \quad \text{for all } x \in (a, b).$$

Then for any number  $p_0$  in  $[a, b]$ , the sequence defined by

$$p_n = g(p_{n-1}), \quad n \geq 1,$$

converges to the unique fixed point  $p$  in  $[a, b]$ . ■

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PRO: simple iteration

CON: conditions hard to verify

No algorithm for finding  $[a, b]$

## Proof of Thm 2.4

- ▶ A unique fixed point  $p \in [a, b]$  exists.



$$|p_n - p| = |g(p_{n-1}) - g(p)| = |g'(\xi_n)(p_{n-1} - p)| \leq k|p_{n-1} - p|$$



$$|p_n - p| \leq k|p_{n-1} - p| \leq k^2|p_{n-2} - p| \leq \cdots \leq k^n|p_0 - p|.$$

- ▶ Since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} k^n = 0,$$

$\{p_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$  converges to  $p$ .



# No Harm Principle in numerical algorithm design

**What we do not know never harms us**

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(NOT REALLY!!!)

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**Trust but Verify**