

# Homework 1

Numerical Methods

Michael Groff

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**Problem 4.** The limit  $e = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 + 1/n)^n$  denotes the number  $e$  in calculus. Estimate  $e$  by taking the value of this expression for  $n = 8, 8^2, \dots, 8^{10}$ . Compare with  $e$  obtained from  $e = \exp(1.0)$ . Interpret the results.

Using a for loop to evaluate this equation by replacing  $n$  with  $8^k$  we obtain the following values:

$8^1$  :2.7183 error: 0.1525  
 $8^2$  :2.7183 error: 0.0209  
 $8^3$  :2.7183 error: 0.0026  
 $8^4$  :2.7183 error:  $3.3175e - 04$   
 $8^5$  :2.7183 error:  $4.1477e - 05$   
 $8^6$  :2.7183 error:  $5.1847e - 06$   
 $8^7$  :2.7183 error:  $6.4809e - 07$   
 $8^8$  :2.7183 error:  $8.1011e - 08$   
 $8^9$  :2.7183 error:  $1.0126e - 08$   
 $8^{10}$  :2.7183error:  $1.2658e - 09$

From this estimation its clear that this function very closely estimates the actual value of  $e$  when very large values are used for  $n$ . for instance when  $n = 8^{10}$  the error slightly more than 1 billionth.

**Problem 9.** Let  $a_1$  be given. Write a program to compute for  $1 \leq n \leq 1000$  the numbers  $b_n = na_{n-1}$   $a_n = b_n/n$ . Print the numbers  $a_{100}, a_{200}, \dots, a_{1000}$ . Do not use subscripted variables. What should  $a_n$  be? Account for the deviation of fact from theory. Determine four values for  $a_1$  so that the computation does deviate from theory on your computer. Hint: Consider extremely small and large numbers and print to full machine precision.

In each step  $a_n$  value remains constant because when using substitution  $a_n = a_{n-1}$  So in theory it should remain constant, however when extremely small or large values are plugged in for  $a_1$  the computer makes an error. for example:

$$a_1 = 1.5e-1000 \quad a_n = 0$$

$a_1 = 1\text{e-}1000$   $a_n = 0$   
 $a_1 = 1.5\text{e+}1000$   $a_n = \infty$   
 $a_1 = 1\text{e+}1000$   $a_n = \infty$

**Problem 19.** Consider the following pseudocode segments:

a.  
 integer i; real x, y, z  
 for i = 1 : 20  
 $x = 2 + 1.0/8^i$   
 $y = \arctan(x)\arctan(2)$   
 $z = 8^i y$   
 output x, y, z  
 end  
 b.  
 real epsi = 1  
 while  $1 < 1 + \text{epsi}$   
 epsi = epsi/2  
 output epsi  
 end

What is the purpose of each program? Is it achieved? Explain. Code and run each one to verify your conclusions.

- a. The purpose of this code is to test the computer and see how small of a difference it will recognize in the input of an equation and if on or before the 20th iteration the difference will be negligible and readout as zero for  $1/8^i$ . The difference becomes zero on the 18th iteration.  
 b. The purpose of this code is to test and see how small of a value for epsi is needed for difference between 1 and  $1 + \text{epsi}$  to be indistinguishable to the computer because of how small epsi has become. In this scenario epsi attains a value of  $1.1102\text{e-}16$  before it becomes negligible.

**Problem 30.** By plotting:  $\ln(x)$  and:  $\ln\left(\frac{(1+x)}{(1-x)}\right)$ , show that they both contain the point:  $\ln(2)$ . Are there other values that match up?

From plotting the two equations it is clear that  $\ln 2$  exists in both graphs namely when  $x=2$  for the first equation and when  $x = 3$  for the second equation. In fact they both share all values in the range  $(\ln(1), \ln(\infty))$  non-inclusive. which is the range of the second equation;