



Approximation

1 Why

Often we want to find an object of a set which is similar to a give object of a superset. In other words, we are given an object in some set. And, within a subset of that set, we want to find an object which is most similar to the given object.

2 Definition

Approximation is a mathematical optimization problem in which we find an element (from a given subset) which is similar to a particular element of a set. We call an element of the the subset an *approximant*.