

Lab exercises
degree in mechanical engineering
AY 2017-18

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Solve the following problems in Matlab

1. Compute $a^2 - b^2$ with $a = 1.4 \cdot 10^{154}$ and $b = 1.3 \cdot 10^{154}$. What do you see? How to solve the problem in a stable way?
2. Let $x = 8.88178419700125 \cdot 10^{-16}$. Compute the expression

$$\frac{(1+x) - 1}{x}.$$

Why the result is more accurate of taking $x = 8.0 \cdot 10^{-16}$?

3. Write the Matlab code that computes the expression

$$f(x) = \frac{e^x - 1}{x}$$

when x assumes the values

`x=[0.2, 1.e-1, 1.e-2, 1.e-5, 1.e-6, 1.e-10, 1.e-15, 1.e-16];`

4. Consider the expression

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= \frac{1}{e}(e-1); \\ a_n &= 1 - n a_{n-1}, \quad n = 1, \dots, N. \end{aligned}$$

Given N , compute a_N and compare with the exact limit of the sequence ($\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$).

5. Write a Matlab function that computes the *machine precision*, `eps`.

Time: **2 hours**.