# Efficient evaluation of numerical functions <br> Tools and examples 

## Sylvain Chevillard

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$$
\text { July, 6th } 2009
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1.00000000000000005678
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$\hookrightarrow$ the program must be written quickly.
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Approximation error:

- absolute:

$$
\varepsilon=p-f
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- relative:

$$
\varepsilon=\frac{p-f}{f}
$$

- Example of function $f(x)=\exp (x)$.
- First step: reduce the range (range reduction).
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- Third step: write a program that evaluates the polynomial.

```
#define p_coeff_1h 1.0000000000000000000000e+00
#define p_coeff_2h 4.99998331069946689066250e-01
define P_coeff 3h 1. 66667461395263671075000-01
define P_coeff -
define P_coeff_4h 4.1775226593017578125000e-02
#define p_coeff_5h 8.3332061767578125000000e-03
void p(double *P_resh, double x) (
    volatile float P_t_1_Oh;
    olatile float P_t_2-on;
    volatile float p t - - 0h;
    volatile float p-- - - Oh,
    volatile float P_t 5-Oh;
    volatile float P_t_6_Oh;
    volatile float P_t_7_0h;
    volatile float P_ + _ B Oh;
    volatile float P_t_-9_0n;
    volatile float P_t_10_0h;
    P__1_Oh = P_coeff 5h;
    pt_2Oh = p_t 1 Oh * x;
    pt 3 Oh = p coeff 4h + pt 2 Oh;
    P_t_4_Oh = P_t_3_Oh * x;
    P_t_5_Oh = P_coeff_3h + P_t_4_0h;
    p_t-6 Oh = P_t_5 Oh * x;
    Pt_7Oh - Pcoeff 2h+ P_t 6 Oh;
    P_t_8_0n - P_t_7-0n * x;
    p_t_9-0h = p_coeff_1h + P_t_8_0h;
    p_t_10_0h = p_t_9_0h * x
    *p_resh = p_t_10_0h;
}
```

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$\hookrightarrow$ interesting for anyone who wants guarantees on the quality.
- Thanks to Sollya, the development of functions has been almost completely automated.


## Main contributions of this thesis

- Implementation of function erf in arbitrary precision:
- rigorous and effective bounds on sequences/functions;
- particular constraints imposed by arbitrary precision.
- Algorithms for finding good polynomial/rational approximations:
- approximation theory (real coefficients):
- linear programming;
- euclidean lattices.
- Algorithm for bounding rigorously the approximation error (between $p$ and $f$ ):
- interval arithmetic;
- automatic computation of bounds on derivatives of a function;
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## Characterisation theorem (1905)

$p$ a polynomial of degree $n, f$ a continuous function on $[a, b]$.

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\begin{gathered}
\|p-f\|_{\infty} \text { is minimal (i.e. } p \text { is optimal) } \\
\text { if and only if } \\
\exists x_{1}<\cdots<x_{n+2} \in[a, b], \exists \varepsilon>0,\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\forall i, p\left(x_{i}\right)-f\left(x_{i}\right)=(-1)^{i} \varepsilon \\
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- Remez' algorithm (1934).

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with

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- Formally, $x=m \cdot 2^{e}$ where:
- $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ (with exactly $t$ bits) is its mantissa (or significand);
- $e \in \mathbb{Z}$ is its exponent.


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- Naive method to obtain a polynomial approximation of $f$ :
- compute the real minimax $p^{\star}$;
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- use $\widehat{p}=\widehat{a_{0}}+\widehat{a_{1}} x+\cdots+\widehat{a_{n}} x^{n}$.
- Example with $f(x)=\log _{2}\left(1+2^{-x}\right)$ on $[0 ; 1]$ $n=6$, single precision coefficients (24 bits).

| $\left\\|\varepsilon^{\star}\right\\|$ | $\\|\hat{\varepsilon}\\|$ | $\left\\|\varepsilon_{\text {opt }}\right\\|$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $8.3 \mathrm{e}-10$ | $119 \mathrm{e}-10$ | $10.06 \mathrm{e}-10$ |

$p_{\text {opt }}$ : best polynomial with floating-point coefficients.

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- Typically, we want $t \geq 50$ and $n \geq 10$.
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## Polytope approach

- Inputs: degree $n$, interval $[a, b]$, function $f$, list of floating-point formats $t_{i}$ (one per coefficient).
- Notations:
- $\varepsilon^{\star}=\left\|p^{\star}-f\right\|_{\infty}$ where $p^{\star}$ is the real minimax.
- $\varepsilon_{\text {opt }}=\left\|p_{\text {opt }}-f\right\|_{\infty}$ where $p_{\text {opt }}$ is a best polynomial with floating-point coefficients.


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$$
\Longleftrightarrow \forall x \in[a, b], \quad f(x)-\varepsilon_{\text {target }} \leq \sum_{i=0}^{n} a_{i} x^{i} \leq f(x)+\varepsilon_{\text {target }}
$$

## Construction of the polytope

$$
S=\left\{\left(a_{0}, \ldots, a_{n}\right) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \text { s.t. }\|p-f\|_{\infty} \leq \varepsilon_{\text {target }}\right\} .
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Pick $x_{0}$

$$
\in[a, b] . \quad\left\{\begin{array}{cl}
f\left(x_{0}\right)-\varepsilon_{\text {target }} & \leq \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} a_{i} x_{0}^{i} \\
\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} a_{i} x_{0}^{i} & \leq f\left(x_{0}\right)+\varepsilon_{\text {target }}
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\begin{aligned}
\|p-f\|_{\infty} \leq \varepsilon_{\mathrm{target}} & \Rightarrow\left(a_{0}, \ldots, a_{n}\right) \in S \\
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- with a polynomial of degree 9 ;
- coefficient $a_{0}$ : 129 bits of precision;
- other coefficients: 64 bits of precision.


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- Generally $\left[u_{i}, v_{i}\right]$ is so thin that the exponent $e_{i}$ is fixed.
- Improving the value 4035 e-25: we need a fast (possibly heuristic) algorithm.
- Reminder about approximation theory.
$\hookrightarrow$ finds good approximation polynomials with real coefficients.
- Polynomial $p$ with floating-point coefficients.
- Linear programming.
$\hookrightarrow$ gets useful informations on the structure of $p$.
- Euclidean lattices.
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## Formalisation of the problem

- Our goal: find $p$ approximating $f$ and with the following form

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$\hookrightarrow$ heuristic validated by means of projections.
- Once $e_{i}$ is guessed, we need to find $m_{i} \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$
\left\|f(x)-\sum_{i=0}^{n} m_{i} \cdot 2^{e_{i}} x^{i}\right\|_{\infty}
$$

is minimal.

## Description of the lattice-based method

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- Rewritten with vectors:

$$
\underbrace{m_{0}\left(\begin{array}{c}
2^{e_{0}} \\
2^{e_{0}} \\
\vdots \\
2^{e_{0}}
\end{array}\right)+\cdots+m_{n}\left(\begin{array}{c}
2^{e_{n}} \cdot z_{0}^{n} \\
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\vdots \\
2^{e_{n}} \cdot z_{n}^{n}
\end{array}\right)}_{\Gamma \text { of the form } \mathbb{Z} \overrightarrow{b_{0}}+\mathbb{Z} \overrightarrow{b_{1}}+\cdots+\mathbb{Z} \overrightarrow{b_{n}}} \simeq \underbrace{\left(\begin{array}{c}
p^{\star}\left(z_{0}\right) \\
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| + | + |  | + |  | + |  | + |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| + + |  | + |  | + |  | + |  | + |  | + |
| $\overrightarrow{c_{1}}+$ | + |  | + |  | + |  | + |  | $+$ |  |
| $\xrightarrow[{\overrightarrow{c_{0}}}^{+}]{ }$ |  | + |  | + |  | + |  | $+$ |  | + |

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LLL algorithm: Lenstra, Lenstra Jr. and Lovász (1982).


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LLL algorithm: finds pretty short vectors in polynomial time.


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LLL algorithm: used by Babai to solve an approximation of CVP.


## A reminder of the formalisation

Remember our formalisation:


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Input: $f,[a, b], n$, list of desired floating-point formats $t_{i}$.

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Return: $\quad p=\sum m_{i} 2^{e_{i}} X^{i}$.

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- How to choose the points?
- We need $n+1$ points.
- They should correspond to the interpolation intuition :

$$
p\left(z_{i}\right) \simeq p^{\star}\left(z_{i}\right)
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Graph of the error function $p^{\star}-f$.

- We need $n+1$ points.
- They should correspond to the interpolation intuition :

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- It is even possible to prove that

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444.02 \mathrm{e}-25 \leq \varepsilon_{\text {opt }} \leq \underbrace{444.92 \mathrm{e}-25}_{\text {effectively reached }}
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- Several techniques for polynomial approximation:
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- Available within Sollya.
- Other topics studied during the thesis:
- computing automatically a certified bound on $\|p-f\|_{\infty}$;
- implementing a function in arbitrary precision.


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\exp (x) \text {, on }[1,10] \text {, degree } 6
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with

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\begin{aligned}
& a_{0} \simeq 0.99999999904782645291762 \ldots \\
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