

# Rounding Error Analysis of Linear Recurrences Using Generating Series

Marc Mezzarobba

CNRS, École polytechnique

Differential Seminar @ RTCA6

November 30, 2023

[doi:10.1553/etna\\_vol58s196](https://doi.org/10.1553/etna_vol58s196)

## A Toy Example

$$c_{n+1} = 2c_n - c_{n-1} \quad (c_0 = \diamond(1/3), c_{-1} = 0)$$

**Floating-point arithmetic****Interval arithmetic**

n = 0	0.3333333333333333	$[0.3333333333333333 \pm 1.49e - 17]$
5	2.000000000000000	$[2.000000000000000 \pm 3.78e - 15]$
10	3.666666666666667	$[3.666666666666667 \pm 5.74e - 13]$
15	5.333333333333334	$[5.3333333333 \pm 5.29e - 11]$
20	7.000000000000001	$[7.00000000 \pm 1.60e - 9]$
25	8.666666666666668	$[8.666667 \pm 4.65e - 7]$
30	10.33333333333333	$[10.3333 \pm 4.41e - 5]$
35	12.00000000000000	$[12.000 \pm 8.82e - 4]$
40	13.666666666666667	$[1.4e + 1 \pm 0.406]$
45	15.333333333333334	$[\pm 21.3]$
50	17.00000000000000	$[\pm 5.04e + 2]$

# Naïve error analysis

Model:  $\diamond(x \text{ op } y) = x \text{ op } y + \varepsilon_{\text{op}}$  with  $\varepsilon_{\text{op}} \in [-\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}]$  ( $\sim$  fixed-point arithmetic)  
(multiplication by 2 is exact)

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$$|\tilde{c}_{n+1} - c_{n+1}| \leq 2|\tilde{c}_n - c_n| + |\tilde{c}_{n-1} - c_{n-1}| + \mathbf{u}$$

Induction: 
$$|\tilde{c}_n - c_n| \leq 3^n \mathbf{u}$$



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Slightly better: 
$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{\mathbf{c}}_n - \mathbf{c}_n| &\leq (\lambda_+ \alpha_+^n + \lambda_- \alpha_-^n - 4) \mathbf{u} \approx 2.4^n \mathbf{u} \\ &\approx 2.4^n \mathbf{u} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{\pm} &= 1 \pm \sqrt{2} \\ \lambda_{\pm} &= 4 \pm 3\sqrt{2} \end{aligned}$$

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This is what interval evaluation amounts to!

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Then 
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$$|\delta_n| \leq \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \mathbf{u}$$



Calculations can become unwieldy (nested sums, determinants...)

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Sequence  $(f_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$   $\longleftrightarrow$  Generating series  $f(z) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} f_n z^n$

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$$\varepsilon(z) = \sum_n \varepsilon_n z^n \ll \frac{\mathbf{u}}{1-z}$$

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## Related work

in the backward direction. There has been less attention devoted to computation which utilizes the difference equation in the forward direction, not because a forward algorithm is more difficult to analyze, but rather for the opposite reason—that its analysis was considered straightforward. Of the above

[Wimp 1972]

### 'Linear' error propagation

Henrici 1962    finite difference schemes for ODE  
 Oliver 1967    linear recurrences

### Explicit bounds (not necessarily easy to compute)

von Neumann & Goldstine 1947, Turing 1948    triangular system solving  
 Elliott 1968    sums of generalized Fourier series  
 Wimp 1972    order 2  
 Barrio & Melendo & Serrano 2003    order  $n$ ,  $O(u^2)$

### Transfer functions of digital filters

Liu & Kaneko 1969    random errors  
 Hilaire & Lopez 2013    error bounds



# Relative error propagation

Model:  $\diamond(x \text{ op } y) = (x \text{ op } y)(1 + \varepsilon_{\text{op}})$  with  $\varepsilon_{\text{op}} \in [-\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}]$  ( $\sim$  floating-point arithmetic)  
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Exact rec.: 
$$\mathbf{c}_{n+1} = 2\mathbf{c}_n - \mathbf{c}_{n-1} \times (1 + \varepsilon_n)$$

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With  $\delta_n = \tilde{\mathbf{c}}_n - \mathbf{c}_n$ : 
$$\delta_{n+1} - \mathbf{c}_{n+1} \varepsilon_n = (2 \delta_n - \delta_{n-1})(1 + \varepsilon_n)$$

# Relative error propagation

Model:  $\diamond(x \text{ op } y) = (x \text{ op } y)(1 + \varepsilon_{\text{op}})$  with  $\varepsilon_{\text{op}} \in [-\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}]$  ( $\sim$  floating-point arithmetic)  
 (multiplication by 2 is exact)

Exact rec.: 
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Approx. rec.: 
$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathbf{c}}_{n+1} &= \diamond(2 \tilde{\mathbf{c}}_n - \tilde{\mathbf{c}}_{n-1}) \\ &= (2 \tilde{\mathbf{c}}_n - \tilde{\mathbf{c}}_{n-1})(1 + \varepsilon_n) \quad \text{with } |\varepsilon_n| \leq \mathbf{u} \quad \times(-1) \end{aligned}$$

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Translate:

$$\downarrow \sum_n \square z^n$$

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$$\#f(z) = \sum_n |f_n| z^n$$

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# Majorizing equations

💡 Obtain the bound as a solution of a “similar” equation

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**Lemma.** [ $\sim$  Cauchy]

Let  $\hat{a}(z), \hat{b}(z) \in \mathbb{R}_+[[z]]$  with  $\hat{a}(0) = 0$ . Suppose  $y \in \mathbb{R}_+[[z]]$  satisfies

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**Proof.**

- $y_0 \leq \hat{b}_0 = \hat{y}_0$
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# Bound on the floating-point error

$$\#\delta(z) \ll \underbrace{\frac{z(2+z)\mathbf{u}}{(1-z)^2}}_{\hat{\mathbf{a}}(z)} \#\delta(z) + \underbrace{\frac{\#\mathbf{c}(z)\mathbf{u}}{(1-z)^2}}_{\hat{\mathbf{b}}(z)}$$

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$$\boldsymbol{\alpha} = 1 + 2\sqrt{\mathbf{u}} + O(\mathbf{u})$$



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Absolute error on  $c_n$ :

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Exponential for fixed  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  
but  $O(n^3 \mathbf{u})$  if  $n = O(\mathbf{u}^{-1/2})$

# Differential equations

# Evaluation of Legendre polynomials

[Johansson & M. 2018]

**Algorithm 1.** Evaluation of Legendre polynomials in GMP fixed-point arithmetic.

```

Input: An integer  $x$  and  $t \geq 0$  such that  $|2^{-t}x| \leq 1$ , and  $n \geq 1$ 
Output:  $p, q$  such that  $|2^{-t}p - P_{n-1}(2^{-t}x)|, |2^{-t}q - P_n(2^{-t}x)| \leq (0.75(n+1)(n+2)+1)2^{-t}$ 
1: void legendre(mpz_t p, mpz_t q, int n, const mpz_t x, int t) {
2:   mpz_t tmp; int k; mpz_init(tmp);           ▷ Comments use the notation of
3:   mp_limb_t denlo, den = 1;                 ▷ the proof of Corollary 6
4:   mpz_set_ui(p, 1); mpz_mul_2exp(p, p, t);   ▷  $p_0 = 2^t$ 
5:   mpz_set(q, x);                             ▷  $q_0 = \hat{x}$ 
6:   for (k = 1; k < n; k++) {
7:     mpz_mul(tmp, q, x); mpz_tdiv_q_2exp(tmp, tmp, t);   ▷  $[\hat{x}q_{k-1}2^{-t}]$ 
8:     mpz_mul_si(p, p, -k*k)
9:     mpz_addmul_ui(p, tmp, 2*k*k+1);                 ▷  $-k^2p_{k-1} + (2k+1)tmp$ 
10:    mpz_swap(p, q);
11:    if (mpn_mul_1(&denlo, &den, 1, k+1)) {           ▷ If multiplication overflows
12:      mpz_tdiv_q_ui(p, p, den);                       ▷  $\lceil p/d_{k-1} \rceil$ 
13:      mpz_tdiv_q_ui(q, q, den);
14:      den = k+1;                                       ▷  $d_k = k+1$ 
15:    } else den = denlo;                               ▷  $d_k = (k+1)d_{k-1}$ 
16:  }
17:  mpz_tdiv_q_ui(p, p, den/n); mpz_tdiv_q_ui(q, q, den);
18:  mpz_clear(tmp);
19: }

```

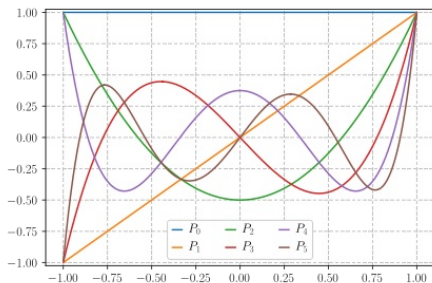
$$P_{n+1}(x) = \frac{1}{n+1} [(2n+1)xP_n(x) - nP_{n-1}(x)]$$

$\tilde{p}_n = P_n(x)$  evaluated using this recurrence  
in  $t$ -bit fixed-point arithmetic



Bound  $|\tilde{p}_n - P_n(x)|$ .

Context: rigorous arbitrary-precision  
Gauss-Legendre quadrature  
[Johansson 2018]



Exact rec.: 
$$p_{n+1} = \frac{1}{n+1} [(2n+1)x p_n - n p_{n-1}] \quad p_n := P_n(x)$$

Approx. rec.: 
$$\tilde{p}_{n+1} = \frac{1}{n+1} [(2n+1)x \tilde{p}_n - n \tilde{p}_{n-1}] + \varepsilon_{n+1} \quad \text{with } \varepsilon_n \leq 3\mathbf{u}$$

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Global error:

$$\delta_n = \tilde{p}_n - p_n \quad (n+1) \delta_{n+1} = (2n+1)x \delta_n - n \delta_{n-1} + (n+1) \varepsilon_{n+1}$$

# Legendre polynomials: error analysis

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Translate:

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Solve:

$$\delta(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-2xz+z^2}} \int_0^z \frac{\varepsilon'(w)}{\sqrt{1-2xw+w^2}} dw$$

## Legendre polynomials: bound

$$\delta(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-2xz+z^2}} \int_0^z \frac{\varepsilon'(w)}{\sqrt{1-2xw+w^2}} dw$$

$$\varepsilon(z) \ll \frac{3u}{1-z}$$

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 \delta(z) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-2xz+z^2}} \int_0^z \frac{\varepsilon'(w)}{\sqrt{1-2xw+w^2}} dw & \varepsilon(z) &\ll \frac{3\mathbf{u}}{1-z} \\
 &\ll \frac{1}{1-z} \int \frac{1}{1-z} \frac{3\mathbf{u}}{(1-z)^2} \\
 &= \frac{3}{2} \frac{1}{(1-z)^3} \mathbf{u}
 \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition.** [Johansson & M.]

For all  $x \in [-1, 1]$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , the error in the recursive fixed-point computation of Legendre polynomials satisfies

$$|\tilde{p}_n - P_n(x)| \leq \frac{3}{4} (n+1)(n+2) \mathbf{u}.$$

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We were lucky that the equation could be solved explicitly

$$L(u) = a_r u^{(r)} + \dots + a_1 u' + a_0 u = 0, \quad a_i \in \mathbb{C}[z]$$



Given the operator  $L$ ,  
 initial values  $u_0, \dots, u_{r-1}$   
 an evaluation point  $\zeta$   
 a truncation order  $N$

compute an **enclosure** of  $\sum_{n=0}^{N-1} u_n \zeta^n$ .

## Assumptions

ordinary point  $a_r(0) \neq 0$   
 “obvious” geometric convergence  $|\zeta| < \min \{|\xi| : a_r(\xi) = 0\}$

## Strategy

- Compute a recurrence on the  $u_n$
- Compute and sum the  $u_n \zeta^n$  iteratively  $\Rightarrow$  need to avoid interval blow-up



## D-finite series: error propagation

Exact rec.: 
$$\mathbf{u}_n = \frac{-1}{\mathbf{b}_s(\mathbf{n})} [\mathbf{b}_{s-1}(\mathbf{n}) \mathbf{u}_{n-1} + \cdots + \mathbf{b}_1(\mathbf{n}) \mathbf{u}_{n-s+1} + \mathbf{b}_0(\mathbf{n}) \mathbf{u}_{n-s}]$$

Approx. rec.: 
$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_n = \frac{-1}{\mathbf{b}_s(\mathbf{n})} [\mathbf{b}_{s-1}(\mathbf{n}) \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{n-1} + \cdots + \mathbf{b}_1(\mathbf{n}) \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{n-s+1} + \mathbf{b}_0(\mathbf{n}) \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{n-s}] + \varepsilon_n$$

local error bound  $|\varepsilon_n| \leq \hat{\varepsilon}_n$  **computed on the fly**  
 ('running' error analysis)

# D-finite series: error propagation

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$$u_n = \frac{-1}{b_s(n)} [b_{s-1}(n) u_{n-1} + \dots + b_1(n) u_{n-s+1} + b_0(n) u_{n-s}]$$

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local error bound  $|\varepsilon_n| \leq \hat{\varepsilon}_n$  **computed on the fly**  
 ('running' error analysis)

The global error  $\delta_n = \tilde{u}_n - u_n$  satisfies

$$b_s(n) \delta_n + b_{s-1}(n) \delta_{n-1} + \dots + b_0(n) \delta_{n-s} = b_s(n) \varepsilon_n$$

$$\downarrow \sum_n \square z^n$$

$$a_r(z) \delta^{(r)}(z) + \dots + a_1(z) \delta'(z) + a_0(z) \delta(z) = Q(\theta) \cdot \varepsilon(z) \quad \theta = z \frac{d}{dz}$$

$$Q(\theta) = b_s(0) \theta(\theta-1) \dots (\theta-s+1) \text{ (ordinary point)}$$

Compute a bound on  $\delta_n$  given one on  $\varepsilon_n$ ?

$$a_r(z) \delta^{(r)}(z) + \cdots + a_1(z) \delta'(z) + a_0(z) \delta(z) = Q(\theta) \cdot \varepsilon(z)$$

**Lemma.** [ $\sim$  Cauchy]

Let  $a_0, \dots, a_r \in \mathbb{C}[z]$ . Suppose  $y \in \mathbb{C}[[z]]$  satisfies

$$a_r(z) y^{(r)}(z) + \cdots + a_0(z) y(z) = Q(\theta) \cdot \varepsilon(z).$$

Suppose  $\varepsilon(z) \ll \hat{\varepsilon}(z)$ .

One can **compute** a rational series  $\hat{a}(z) \in \mathbb{R}_+[[z]]$  such that  $y(z)$  is majorized by any solution of

$$\hat{y}'(z) = \hat{a}(z) \hat{y}(z) + \hat{\varepsilon}(z)$$

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Solve:

$$\hat{\delta}(z) = \hat{h}(z) \left( \text{cst} + \int_0^z \frac{\hat{\varepsilon}(w)}{\hat{h}(w)} dw \right), \quad \hat{h}(z) = \exp \int_0^z \hat{a}(w) dw$$

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$$= \bar{\varepsilon} z \hat{h}(z)$$



Compute a bound on the **truncation** error at the same time



# Bernoulli Numbers

# Scaled Bernoulli numbers

$$B_n = 1, \frac{-1}{2}, \frac{1}{6}, 0, \frac{-1}{30}, 0, \frac{1}{42}, 0, \frac{-1}{30}, 0, \frac{5}{66}, 0, \frac{-691}{2730}, 0, \frac{7}{6}, 0, \frac{-3617}{510}, \dots$$

$$|B_{2k}| \sim \frac{2(2k)!}{(2\pi)^{2k}}$$

$$\mathbf{b}_k = \frac{B_{2k}}{(2k)!} \qquad \mathbf{b}(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \mathbf{b}_k z^k = \frac{\sqrt{z}/2}{\tanh(\sqrt{z}/2)}$$

**Algorithm.** [Brent 1980, based on a suggestion of Reinsch]

$$\mathbf{b}_k = \frac{1}{(2k)! 4^k} - \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{\mathbf{b}_j}{(2k+1-2j)! 4^{k-j}}$$

be used with sufficient guard digits, or **a more stable recurrence** must be used. If we multiply both sides of (30) by  $\sinh(x/2)/x$  and equate coefficients, we get the recurrence

$$C_k + \frac{C_{k-1}}{3! 4} + \dots + \frac{C_1}{(2k-1)! 4^{k-1}} = \frac{2k}{(2k+1)! 4^k} \quad (36)$$

If (36) is used to evaluate  $C_k$ , using precision  $n$  arithmetic, **the error is only  $O(k^2 2^{-n})$** . Thus,

[Brent 1980]

Error in the floating-point computation of  $b_k$ 

$$b_k = \frac{1}{(2k)!4^k} - \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{b_j}{(2k+1-2j)!4^{k-j}}, \quad \tilde{b}_k = \text{computed values}$$

**Exercise 4.35** Prove (or give a plausibility argument for) the statements made in §4.7 that: (a) if a recurrence based on (4.59) is used to evaluate the scaled Bernoulli number  $C_k$ , using precision  $n$  arithmetic, then the relative error is of order  $4^k 2^{-n}$ ; and (b) if a recurrence based on (4.60) is used, then the relative error is  $O(k^2 2^{-n})$ .

[Brent & Zimmermann 2010]

**Conjecture.** [Brent, Zimmermann]

The computed values  $\tilde{b}_k$  satisfy  $\tilde{b}_k = b_k (1 + \eta_k)$  where  $\eta_k = O(k \cdot \mathbf{u})$ .

$\mathbf{u}$  = unit roundoff

**Remark.** To be understood as  $\eta_k = O(k \cdot \mathbf{u})$  when  $k = O(\mathbf{u}^{-1})$

or  $|\eta_k| \leq C_k \mathbf{u}$  as  $\mathbf{u} \rightarrow 0$  with  $C_k = O(k)$  (resp.  $O(k^2)$ )

# Error analysis

$$b_k = \frac{1}{(2k)!4^k} - \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{b_j}{(2k+1-2j)!4^{k-j}}, \quad \tilde{b}_k = \text{computed values}$$

## Local error analysis.

$$\tilde{b}_k = \frac{1 + \mathbf{s}_k}{(2k)!4^k} - \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{\tilde{b}_j (1 + \mathbf{t}_{k,j})}{(2k+1-2j)!4^{k-j}}$$

$$|\mathbf{s}_k| \leq \hat{\theta}_{2k}$$

$$|\mathbf{t}_{k,j}| \leq \hat{\theta}_{3(k-j)+2}$$

$$\text{where } \hat{\theta}_n = (1 + \mathbf{u})^n - 1$$

# Error analysis

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**Linearity.**  $\delta_k := \tilde{b}_k - b_k = \text{global error}$

$$\delta_k = \frac{s_k}{(2k)!4^k} - \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{\delta_j + (b_j + \delta_j) t_{k,j}}{(2k+1-2j)!4^{k-j}}$$

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## Inequation on the global error.

$$\delta(z) \ll \check{S}(z) \tilde{C}(z) + \check{S}(z) \tilde{S}(z) \# \delta(z) + \check{S}(z) \tilde{S}(z) \# b(z)$$

$$\# f(z) = \sum_k |f_k| z^k$$

where

$$C(z) = \cosh(\sqrt{z}/2),$$

$$S(z) = (\sqrt{z}/2)^{-1} \sinh(\sqrt{z}/2),$$

$$\check{S}(z) = \frac{(\sqrt{z}/2)}{\sin(\sqrt{z}/2)},$$

$$\tilde{C}(z) = C(\alpha^2 z) - C(z),$$

$$\tilde{S}(z) = S(\alpha^4 z) - S(z) - (\alpha^2 - 1)$$

with  $\alpha = 1 + \mathbf{u}$

# Error analysis

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**'Explicit' majorant.** By the first lemma on majorizing equations

$$\delta(z) \ll \frac{\check{S}(z) \tilde{C}(z) + \check{S}(z) \tilde{S}(z) \#b(z)}{1 - \check{S}(z) \tilde{S}(z)} =: \hat{\delta}(z)$$



# First-order bound

$$\delta(z) \ll \check{S}(z) \tilde{C}(z) + \check{S}(z) \tilde{S}(z) \#b(z) + \check{S}(z) \tilde{S}(z) \#\delta(z)$$

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**Asymptotic behavior.**

💡 Series notation  $\rightarrow$  computer algebra

$$\hat{\delta}(z) = \left( \frac{2(1 - \cosh w) \cos(w)}{w^{-2} \sin(w)^2} + \frac{4(\cosh w - 1) + w \sinh w}{w^{-1} \sin w} \right) \mathbf{u} + O(\mathbf{u}^2)$$

$$w = \sqrt{z}/2$$

Unique dominant pole at  $z = 4\pi^2$ ,  
multiplicity (w.r.t.  $z$ ) = 2

$$\Rightarrow \hat{\delta}_k = O(k (2\pi)^{-2k}) \cdot \mathbf{u} + O(\mathbf{u}^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \eta_k = "O(k \cdot \mathbf{u})"$$

## A 'hard' bound

$$\delta(z) = \hat{\delta}(z) \ll \frac{\check{S}(z) \tilde{C}(z) + \check{S}(z) \tilde{S}(z) \#b(z)}{1 - \check{S}(z) \tilde{S}(z)}$$

### Controlling the dominant pole.

Suppose  $\mathbf{u} \leq 2^{-16}$ .

Then  $\hat{\delta}(z)$  has a pole at  $\gamma = \left( \frac{2\pi}{1 + \varphi(\mathbf{u})} \right)^2$  where  $0 \leq \varphi(\mathbf{u}) \leq 2(\cosh \pi - 1)\mathbf{u}$ .

This is the only pole with  $|z| < 153.7 \approx (3.9\pi)^2$ .

(A little analysis + comparison with the limiting case using Rouché's theorem.)

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### Symbolic-numeric estimate.

$$\hat{\delta}(z) = \frac{2 \text{ explicit } \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{u})}{1 - z/\gamma} - \frac{2}{1 - z/(2\pi)^2} + \text{analytic for } |z| < 153.7$$

$$\hat{\delta}(z) \ll \frac{2|\mathbf{R}(\mathbf{u}) - 1|}{1 - z/\gamma} + \frac{\text{explicit and } O(\mathbf{u})}{(1 - z/\gamma)^2} + \frac{\sup_{|z|=\lambda\gamma} \text{analytic}}{1 - z/(\lambda\gamma)}$$

Cauchy's formula + interval arithmetic.

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## Scaled Bernoulli numbers: conclusion

$$b(z) = \frac{\sqrt{z}/2}{\tanh(\sqrt{z}/2)} \quad b_k = \frac{1}{(2k)!4^k} - \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{b_j}{(2k+1-2j)!4^{k-j}}$$

$$\tilde{b}_k = b_k (1 + \eta_k)$$

**Theorem.** The total relative error satisfies

$$|\eta_k| \leq (1 + 21.2 \mathbf{u})^k (1.1 k + 446) \mathbf{u}$$

**Corollary.** Assuming  $\mathbf{u} < 2^{-16}$  and  $43 k \mathbf{u} \leq 1$ , one has  $|\eta_k| \leq (3 k + 1213) \mathbf{u}$ .

# Conclusion



Error analyses of linear recurrences can (should!) use generating series



- Local errors  $\rightarrow$  global errors via exact expressions or equations
- Cauchy majorants
- Analytic methods



- Legendre polynomials
- General D-finite functions
- Bernoulli numbers



- Other algorithms for D-finite functions, e.g.,  $O(n M(d) / d)$
- Tighter bounds in practice
- Backward recurrence schemes
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**Thank you!**

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