

# Elementary Functions from Kernels

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Given binary floating-point subprograms to calculate the "Kernels"  
 $\ln(x)$  for  $x \geq 0$  and  $\lnp(x) := \ln(1+x)$  for  $x \geq -1$ ,  
 $\exp(x)$  and  $\expm1(x) := \exp(x)-1$  for all  $x$ , and  
 $\tan(x)$  for  $|x| < \pi/8$  and  $\arctan(x)$  for  $|x| \leq \sqrt{2}-1$ ,  
to nearly full working accuracy, we may calculate all the other  
elementary transcendental functions almost as accurately, and with  
no violation of (weak) monotonicity, as follows. Rounding must  
conform to IEEE 754 or p854. We will need a threshold  $t$   
chosen about as large as possible subject to the constraint that  
 $1 - t^2$  round to 1 to working precision; and we shall use  
 $z := |x|$  and  $s := \text{copysign}(1, x) = \pm 1$ . We also abbreviate  
 $\expm1$  to  $E$  and  $\lnp$  to  $L$ .

$\sinh(x) := x$  if  $z < t$ , else (provided  $E(z)$  doesn't overflow)  
 $:= s * (E(z) + E(z)/(1+E(z))) / 2$  ... certainly monotonic.

$\cosh(x) := 0.5 * \exp(z) + 0.25 / (0.5 * \exp(z))$  ... " " .

$\tanh(x) := x$  if  $z < t$ , else  
 $:= -s * E(-2*z) / (2 + E(-2*z))$  .

$\operatorname{asinh}(x) := x$  if  $z < t$ , else, unless  $2z$  overflows,  
 $:= s * L(z + z / (1/z + \sqrt{1+(1/z)^2}))$  ignoring underflow.

For slightly better accuracy when  $z > 4/3$ , use  
 $\operatorname{asinh}(x) := s * \ln(2z + 1/(z + \sqrt{1+z^2}))$  if  $z < 1/t$ , else  
 $:= s * (\ln(z) + \ln(2))$  .

$\operatorname{acosh}(x) := +L(\sqrt{(x-1)*(x-1) + \sqrt{(x+1)})}$  unless  $2x$  overflows.

For slightly better accuracy,  
 $\operatorname{acosh}(x) := \ln(x) + \ln(2)$  if  $x > 1/t$ , else  
 $:= \ln(2x - 1/(x + \sqrt{x^2-1}))$  if  $5/4 < x \leq 1/t$ , else  
 $:= L((x-1) + \sqrt{2(x-1) + (x-1)^2})$  .

$\operatorname{atanh}(x) := x$  if  $z < t$ , else  
 $:= s * L(2*z/(1-z))/2$  .

$\arctan(x) := s * \pi/2 - \arctan(1/x)$  if  $z > 1$ , or (monotonically)  
 $:= s * \pi/4 + \arctan((x-s)/(x+s))$  if  $\sqrt{2}-1 < z < \sqrt{2}+1$  .

$\arcsin(x) := x$  if  $z < t$ , else  
 $:= \arctan(x/\sqrt{1-z^2})$  if  $t \leq z \leq 1/2$ , else  
 $:= \arctan(x/\sqrt{2(1-z)-(1-z)^2})$  ignoring divide-by-zero.

$\arccos(x) := 2 * \arctan(\sqrt{(1-x)/(1+x)})$  ignoring divide-by-zero.

For  $z \leq \pi/4$  let  $T(x) := 2 \tan(x/2)$ ; then  
 $T(x) := \tan(x) := \sin(x) := x$  and  $\cos(x) := 1$  if  $z < t$ .  
Otherwise compute  $\tan(x)$ ,  $\sin(x)$  and  $\cos(x)$  thus for  $z \leq \pi/2$ :

$\tan(x) :=$  if  $z < \pi/8$  then  $T(2*x)/2$   
else if  $3\pi/8 < z$  then  $2s/T(\pi-2*z)$   
else  $s * (2 + T(2*z-\pi/2))/(2 - T(2*z-\pi/2))$  .  
(Check monotonicity as  $z$  passes through  $\pi/8$  and  $3\pi/8$ .)

If  $\pi/4 \leq z \leq \pi/2$  then the formulas  $\sin(x) = s \cdot \cos(\pi/2 - z)$  and  $\cos(x) = \sin(\pi/2 - z)$  reduce the argument  $x$  to  $y$  satisfying  $|y| \leq \pi/4$ , wherein we compute  $T := T(y)$ ,  $q := T^2$ , and then

$$\sin(y) := y - y/(1+4/q);$$

$$\cos(y) := \text{if } q < 4/15 \text{ then } 1 - 2/(1+4/q) \\ \text{else } 3/4 + ((1-2*q) + q/4)/(4+q).$$

Monotonicity is preserved except possibly as  $x$  passes through multiples of  $\pi/4$ , where the accuracy of  $T(x)$  matters.

Some implementations of  $\tan(x/2)$  actually deliver two functions  $A(x)$  and  $B(x)$  satisfying  $A(x)/B(x) = \tan(x/2)$  for  $|x| \leq \pi/4$ , on which range  $|A(x)/B(x)| < \sqrt{2} - 1 = 0.414\dots$ . These can be used to deliver  $\sin$ ,  $\cos$  and  $\tan$  more economically than above, and monotonically too provided  $A(x)/B(x)$  is monotonic. For  $t < z \leq \pi/4$  let  $r := B(x)/A(x) > \sqrt{2} + 1$ ; and then

$$\sin(x) := 2/(r+1/r) \quad \text{and} \quad \cos(x) := 1 - 2/(1+r^2).$$

If both of  $\sin(x)$  and  $\cos(x)$  are wanted simultaneously, a more economical pair of formulas is

$$\sin(x) := 2/(r+1/r) \quad \text{and} \quad \cos(x) := 1 - (1/r) \sin(x).$$

To ensure monotonicity as  $x$  passes through multiples of  $\pi/4$ , check that computed  $\sin(\pi/4) \leq$  computed  $\cos(\pi/4)$ ; else use a better formula for  $\cos$  (see above). Computing  $\tan(x)$  for  $|x| \leq \pi/2$  from  $A(x)$  and  $B(x)$  is much like before:

$$\tan(x) := \text{if } z < \pi/8 \text{ then } A(2*x)/B(2*x) \\ \text{else if } 3\pi/8 < z \text{ then } B(s*\pi - 2*x)/A(s*\pi - 2*x) \\ \text{else } s*(B(y)+A(y))/(B(y)-A(y)) \text{ where } y := 2*z - \pi/2.$$

Monotonicity must be checked as  $z$  passes through  $\pi/8$  and  $3\pi/8$ .

Other topics to be added later:

$y^x$   
 $\text{atan2}(y,x) = \text{Arg}(x + iy)$ , especially with  $\pm 0$  and  $\pm \infty$   
 $\text{cabs}(x + iy) = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$   
 other complex elementary functions

approximating  $\tan(z)$  for  $0 < z < \pi/8$   
 $\arctan(z)$  for  $0 < z \leq \sqrt{2} - 1$   
 $\lnlp(x)$  and  $\ln(x)$  and  $\expml(x)$  and  $\exp(x)$   
 argument reduction

Given  $A(x)$  and  $B(x)$  above, which is better:  
 $r := B(x)/A(x)$  and then compute  $1/r$ , or  
 $r := B(x)/A(x)$ ;  $(1/r) := A(x)/B(x)$ ; ?

What is wrong with  
 $v := 2A/(A^2+B^2)$ ;  $\sin(x) := vB$ ;  $\cos(x) := 1 - vA$ ; ?