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**A MACHINE-INDEPENDENT ALGOL PROCEDURE
FOR ACCURATE FLOATING-POINT SUMMATION**

Michael A. Malcolm

Stanford University

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procedure sum (x, n, m, result, fail);
value n, m; integer n, m; real result;
array x; label fail;
begin comment This Algol 60 procedure is an implementation of the
floating-point summation technique described in Malcolm (1971). This
implementation is machine-independent in the sense that it will work on
any computer having a floating-point number system F characterized as
follows: Each number  $x \in F$  has a radix- $\beta$  t-digit fraction where  $t \geq 1$ .
The radix  $\beta$  can be any positive integer greater than 1. The exponent
e is assumed to lie in the range

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$$b \leq e \leq B,$$

where $b \leq 0$ and $B > t$. Each nonzero $x \in F$ has the representation

$$x = \pm .d_1 d_2 \dots d_t \cdot \beta^e,$$

where $d_1, \dots, d_t$ are integers satisfying

$$0 \leq d_i \leq \beta - 1, \quad (i=1, \dots, t).$$

The number 0 is contained in F, but no assumption is made about its representation. All floating-point operations (e.g., addition and multiplication) are assumed to result in either 0 or a normalized floating-point number contained in F. The machine may do either proper rounding or chopping (truncation). (Note that this definition of F excludes machines using extra-length accumulators for intermediate arithmetic. However, this algorithm is seldom needed on such machines.)

The parameters β and t of F are automatically computed at execution time by a technique described in Malcolm (1972). Since the range of the floating-point exponent cannot be determined automatically,

the input parameter m is used for allocating the set of accumulators used by the algorithm.

Provided no overflow or underflow occurs, and none of the $x[i]$ are larger than 10^m , or smaller than 10^{-m} , in magnitude, and $n \leq \beta^{\ell+1}/16$, where $\ell = \lfloor t/2 \rfloor$, then

$$\text{result} \approx \sum_{i=1}^n x[i]$$

is returned with nearly full-precision accuracy. The bound on the relative error is given by Theorem 2 in Malcolm (1971) as

$$[(t+1)/\lceil \log_{\beta} 16 \rceil] \beta^{1-t}.$$

If any of the $x[i]$ are larger than 10^m or smaller than 10^{-m} , then the error exit fail is taken. ;

Boolean rnd; integer beta, t, t2, mu, L, U;

procedure ENVIRON (beta, t, rnd);

Boolean rnd; integer beta, t;

begin comment This procedure is an Algol 60 translation of the (first)

Fortran subroutine ENVIRON given in Malcolm (1972). ;

real a, b, e;

for e := 2, 2xe while (a+1)-a=1 do a := e;

for e := 2, 2xe while a+b=a do b := e;

beta := (a+b)-a; rnd := a+(beta-1) > a; t := 0;

for a := 1, betaXa while (a+1)-a=1 do t := t+1

end ENVIRON;

ENVIRON (beta, t, rnd); t2 := t+2; mu := $\ln(16)/\ln(\text{beta})$;

U := entier ($m \times \ln(10)/(\ln(\text{beta}) \times \text{mu})$) + 1;

L := entier ($(-m \times \ln(10)/\ln(\text{beta}) - t2)/\text{mu}$);

comment In the notation of Malcolm (1971), $l = t2$ is the padding that each of the numbers added to the accumulators will have. Each of the $x[i]$ will be split into two halves (i.e. $q=2$) having the last $t2$ digits equal zero. The variable nu above is used for v defined in Equation (2) of Malcolm (1971). The value for nu computed above is rather arbitrary and was chosen to make nu sufficiently smaller than $t2$. The variables U and L are the upper and lower bounds on the indices of the accumulators which are declared in the following block. They are chosen to allow the $x[i]$ to range from 10^{-m} to 10^m in magnitude. In slightly different notation, they are

$$U = \lceil m / (v \times \log_{10} \beta) \rceil ,$$

$$L = \lfloor (-m / \log_{10} \beta - \lceil t/2 \rceil) / v \rfloor ;$$

begin array accumulators[L:U]; integer ex;

real xL, xH;

integer procedure e(x);

value x; real x;

begin comment This procedure computes the exponent e of the floating-point number x . ;

real y, q; integer ex;

$x := \text{abs}(x)$; $ex := 0$; for $y := 1, q$

while $x > y$ do begin $ex := ex + 1$; $q := \text{beta} \times y$; end;

for $y := q, y/\text{beta}$ while $x < y$ do $ex := ex - 1$;

$e := ex$

end e;

```

comment initialize the array of accumulators;
for i:=L step 1 until U do accumulators[i] := 0;
comment accumulate the nonzero x[i]s;
for i:=1 step 1 until n do if x[i]≠0 then
begin ex := e(x[i]);
    if entier(ex/nu)>U ∨ ex-t2<Lxmu then go to fail;
    comment Now the x[i] is split into a high- and low-order
    part, xH and xL. The method used here is to add the proper
    power of β to x[i] to force it to preshift t2 digits
    to the right and then either truncate or round the last t2
    significant digits. Then the same power of β is subtracted
    to cause a post normalization which brings in t2 trailing
    zero digits. The resulting high-order part of x[i] is then
    subtracted from x[i] to produce the low-order part such
    that the sum of the high- and low- order parts is exactly
    equal to x[i]. This method of splitting a floating-point
    number into two halves is similar to that given by Dekker
    (1971). ;
    xH := beta↑(ex-l+t2); xH := (xH+x[i]) - xH;
    xL := x[i] - xH;
    comment xH and xL can now be added to the appropriate
    accumulators. ;
    accumulators[entier(ex/nu)] := xH;
    accumulators[entier((ex-t2)/nu)] := xL
end; comment Now sum the accumulators in decreasing order. ;
result := 0;
for i:=U step -1 until L do

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result := result + accumulators[1]

end

end sum

References

1. Dekker, T.J. (1971), "A Floating-Point Technique for Extending the Available Precision," Numer. Math. 18, 224-242.
2. Malcolm, Michael A. (1971), "On accurate floating-point summation," Comm. ACM, Vol. 14, No. 11, November, 731-736.
3. Malcolm, Michael A. (1972), "Algorithms to reveal properties of floating-point arithmetic," Comm. ACM, Vol. 15, No. 11, November, 949-951.