

Supplemental Exercises: Unit 1
Scientific Computing with Case Studies
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1. Suppose we have a computer that uses (single-precision) IEEE Standard floating point arithmetic: 24 digits to represent the mantissa, and exponents in the range $[-126, 127]$.

(a) Consider evaluating the expression $c = \mathbf{a} * \mathbf{b}$ on this machine. Give a machine-representable (finite) value for \mathbf{a} and a machine-representable (finite) value for \mathbf{b} for which the computed value $c = \text{INF}$ because of overflow.

(b) What is the distance between 2^{20} and the next larger floating point number?

2. If we type `cos(pi/2)` in MATLAB, the computed answer is `6.1232e-17`. Why doesn’t MATLAB return the correct value, 0?

3. Let \mathbf{A} be an $m \times n$ matrix, and define

$$\|\mathbf{A}\|_{\infty} = \max_i \sum_{j=1}^n |a_{ij}|.$$

Write an efficient column-oriented algorithm to compute $\|\mathbf{A}\|_{\infty}$. (Don’t use any MATLAB function calls except `abs` and `max`.)

Note: In practice, for maximal efficiency, we would just say `normA = norm(A, inf)` to access a column-oriented algorithm.
