The \texttt{apnum} package: Arbitrary precision numbers implemented in \TeX\ macros

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\TeX\ doesn’t provide a comfortable environment for calculations at the primitive level. There are the well-known commands \texttt{\textbackslash advance, \textbackslash multiply} and \texttt{\textbackslash divide} but dividing two decimal numbers with these commands is a somewhat complicated task for macro programmers. The additional ε-\TeX\ primitives \texttt{\textbackslash numexpr} and \texttt{\textbackslash dimexpr} do not make it easier. Of course, various \LaTeX\ packages exist for more comfortable numerical calculations. None of them satisfied my needs so I decided to create my own solution: the \texttt{apnum.t\,e\,x} package (\url{http://www.ctan.org/pkg/apnum}). You can set an arbitrary precision for the calculation when using this package. You can do addition, multiplication, division, power, square root, and evaluation of common functions \texttt{sin}, \texttt{cos}, \texttt{tan}, \texttt{arcsin}, \texttt{arccos}, \texttt{arctan}, \texttt{exp} and \texttt{ln}. The result is calculated with \texttt{\textbackslash apFRAC} decimal positions after the decimal point. You can set this register to an arbitrary value. Of course, if you need thousands of decimal digits then you must wait a while. Nevertheless, optimization techniques were used when implementing algorithms.

The documentation is in the file \texttt{apnum.pdf}. It is not only the user-level documentation, but also detailed technical documentation is included. You can find the description of all internal macros and all the numerical algorithms used.

The expression scanner

After \texttt{\textbackslash input apnum} in your document, you can use the macro \texttt{\textbackslash evaldef\{sequence\}\{\langle expression\}\}}. It makes comfortable calculation available. The \langle expression\} can include binary operators \(+\), \(-\), \(*\) and \(^\) with the usual precedence. The operands are “numbers”. Users can use parentheses \(\) as usual. The result is stored to the \langle sequence\} as a “literal macro”. Examples:

\begin{verbatim}
\evaldef\A\{2+4*(3+7)\}
% the macro \A\ is the result, 42
\evaldef\B\{\the\pageno\ * \A\}
% \B\ is 42 times page number
\evaldef\C\{123456789 \* -123456789123456789\}
% \C\ is -15241578765432099750190521
\evaldef\D\{1.23456789 + 12345678.9 \ - \A\}
% \D\ is 12345596.13456789
\evaldef\X\{1/3\}
% \X\ is .33333333333333333333
\end{verbatim}

The result of division doesn’t have absolute precision; the number of digits after the decimal point is limited by the value of \texttt{\textbackslash apFRAC}, which is 20 by default. Absolute precision is implemented when \(+\), \(-\), \(*\) and \(^\) operators are used. When using \texttt{/} or evaluating math functions like \texttt{sin}\(x\), only \texttt{\textbackslash apFRAC} digits are calculated after the decimal point.

The operands in the \langle expression\} are most simply numbers in the format \langle sign\}(\langle digits\)\).\langle digits\}\. The expression scanner \texttt{E} determines the mantissa and the sequence after \texttt{E} is the exponent. The \langle e-sign\} is \(+\) or \(-\) or nothing. If you are using scientific notation of operands then the result (calculated by \texttt{\textbackslash evaldef}) is usually in the same form. The reason is simple. If you want to calculate (for example) \texttt{3E+2000 \* 5E+1300} then \texttt{apnum} will not waste time working with “full numbers” with a lot of digits (converted from scientific form) but calculates only \texttt{3E5E15} and the exponent of the result 3300 is appended. Much more information about scientific format is in the documentation of the \texttt{apnum} package.

The operands in the \langle expressions\} can be any of the following:

\begin{itemize}
\item Numbers, as described above.
\item \texttt{\textbackslash the}(\texttt{register}) or \texttt{\textbackslash number}(\texttt{register}). This allows accessing \TeX\ register values.
\item A macro which expands directly to a number. This allows working with “variables”.
\item A “function-like” macro which returns a value. This allows the implementation of functions. The identifier of a function-like macro can be followed by zero or more parameters, each of which must be enclosed in braces \(\)\.
\end{itemize}

For instance, \texttt{\textbackslash EXP} is a function-like macro. This macro has one parameter which is another (nested) \langle expression\}. The \texttt{\textbackslash EXP} macro returns the value of the exponential function \(e^x\) where \(x\) is the given \langle expression\}. Example:

\begin{verbatim}
\def\X{.25}
\evaldef\A\{\EXP{2*\X} - 1\}
% \A\ is the result of \(e^{2X} - 1\)
\end{verbatim}
Users can define their own function-like macros; see the next section. The package \texttt{apnum} defines following function-like macros (with one parameter as nested \langle expression\rangle): \texttt{\sqrr}, \texttt{\exp}, \texttt{\ln}, \texttt{\sin}, \texttt{\cos}, \texttt{\tan}, \texttt{\asin}, \texttt{\acos}, \texttt{\atan}. The meaning of these macros is clear from their names.

Note that you must use parentheses () for precedence settings in an \langle expression\rangle, but use braces {} as delimiters of parameters of function-like macros. The spaces in the \langle expression\rangle are ignored. Example:
\begin{verbatim}
\def\A{20}
\evaldef\B{30*\SQRT{\SIN{\PI/6} + 1.12*\the\widowpenalty} / (4-\A)}
\end{verbatim}

The evaluation of operators and function-like macros works at the main processor level of \TeX. Unlike some comparable \LaTeX{} packages, the \texttt{apnum} package doesn’t support calculations at the expansion processor level only. The reason is calculation speed optimization. Moreover, I wanted it to be possible to use \texttt{apnum} in classical \TeX, without \$\varepsilon\$-\TeX{} primitives. And without the \$\varepsilon\$-\TeX{} primitives then expansion-level calculation is very complicated. So, I rejected the expansion-only calculation. Another significant advantage of this decision is related to the possibility of creating function-like macros by users: they need not worry about main processor vs. expansion processor evaluation when creating their own function-like macros.

In my opinion, a skillful macro programmer doesn’t require expansion-level calculation. He/she can use
\begin{verbatim}
\evaldef\V{\langle expression\rangle}\edef\foo{...\V...}
\end{verbatim}
instead of \texttt{\edef\foo{...\langle expression\rangle...}} whenever he/she needs to do this.

There are some side effects of \texttt{\evaldef} processing:
\begin{itemize}
  \item The value of the \texttt{\apSIGN} register. It is set to −1, 0, 1 according to whether the result is negative, zero or positive.
  \item The internal macro \texttt{\OUT} is a copy of the result.
\end{itemize}

Creating function-like macros

Let us start with creating our own function-like macros. We must follow two rules:
\begin{itemize}
  \item The first token must be \texttt{\relax} after the first level of expansion. This is a signal that this is a function-like macro and not a normal numerical constant. The expression scanner creates a new \TeX{} group and executes the macro in it.
  \item The function-like macro must define the macro \texttt{\OUT} as the result of processing, as a number, and the \texttt{\apSIGN} register must be set to the sign of the result. The expression scanner takes control again and uses these values as one operand in the \langle expression\rangle currently being processed.
\end{itemize}

Several examples of function-like macros follow.

**Hyperbolic sine (and inverse).** There are some well-known mathematical functions not predefined in the \texttt{apnum} package. I believe that remembering the name of such a function is not markedly easier than remembering its natural definition, and the latter is much more useful and educational. So, I left such work to users. For example the hyperbolic sine can be defined by
\begin{verbatim}
\def\SINH#1{\relax % mandatory \relax
  \evaldef\myE{\exp(#1)}
  \evaldef\OUT{\langle \myE - 1/\myE \rangle / 2}
}\end{verbatim}

This corresponds to the formula
\[
\sinh x = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2}.
\]

First, the mandatory \texttt{\relax} is given in the macro. Then the value \texttt{\myE} is saved in a temporary macro \texttt{\myE}. We need not worry about a name conflict (\texttt{\myE} being used elsewhere) because the macro is processed in the \TeX{} group. The final \texttt{\evaldef} gives the desired result (including \texttt{\apSIGN} setting).

A reader may have another idea:
\begin{verbatim}
\def\SINH#1{\relax
  \evaldef\OUT{\langle \exp(#1) - \exp(-(#1)) \rangle / 2}
}\end{verbatim}

This implementation of \texttt{\SINH} also works, but it is not optimal because the slow calculation of \texttt{\exp} is done twice. The internal \langle expression\rangle \#1 must also be evaluated twice.

Another example is the inverse of hyperbolic sine:
\begin{verbatim}
\def\ASINH#1{\relax
  \evaldef\X{\langle \exp(#1) + \exp(-(#1)) \rangle / 2}
}\end{verbatim}

The following identity is used here
\[
\sinh^{-1} x = \ln \left( x + \sqrt{x^2 + 1} \right).
\]

Here, we do not need to explicitly define the \texttt{\OUT} macro because \texttt{\ln} is another function-like macro, so it does this work.

**Sine of argument in degrees.** The default function-like macros \texttt{\sin}, \texttt{\cos} and \texttt{\tan} expect their argument in radians, meaning they have a period $2\pi$. Sometimes, it is useful to use degrees instead of radians. There is a simple way to define
functions \SINdeg, \COSdeg and \TANdeg with argument in degrees:
\begin{verbatim}
\def\SINdeg#1{\relax \SIN{\PI/180}*(#1)}
\def\COSdeg#1{\relax \COS{\PI/180}*(#1)}
\def\TANdeg#1{\relax \TAN{\PI/180}*(#1)}
\end{verbatim}

Note the parentheses around the #1 argument. This is because the argument may be an expression with (say) an addition.

We have another problem: the values in degrees are typically expressed in sexagesimal numeral system (degrees, minutes, seconds). Thus we create the function-like macro \DEG to take the value in sexagesimal notation and return a normal decimal number. Namely:
\begin{verbatim}
\DEG{12;30'45.756''} \% means % 12 degrees, 30 minutes, 45.756 seconds
\evaldef\a{\DEG{12;30'45.756''}} \% = 12.51271
\evaldef\a{\DEG{12}} \% = 12
\evaldef\a{\DEG{12;30'45.756''}} \% = 12.51271
\end{verbatim}

The conversion is done only if a semicolon is used after the degrees value. On the other hand, a dot means the normal decimal dot in the number. The symbol for minutes ’ and seconds ” at the end of the value is optional, so \DEG{12;30} also returns 12.5. The \DEG macro can be defined using this code:
\begin{verbatim}
\def\DEG#1;#2'#3''#4\relax{\DEGa#1;#2#3'#4elax}
\def\DEGb#1,#2\relax{\OUT+\tmp/3600\%}
\def\DEGa#1;#2\relax{\OUT+\tmp/60\%}
\def\DEGb#1\relax{\OUT+\tmp/3600\%}
\end{verbatim}

The macro reads the argument using \DEGb, where #1 is the degrees, #2 minutes and #3 seconds. The first \evaldef calculates degrees. If the result is negative, we need to subtract the possible minutes and seconds (\tmps includes –).

The \DEGb macro removes the semicolon and next value. The raw value is stored in \tmp. Finally, \evaldef adds the minutes part and seconds part to the result \OUT.

Given the \DEG macro, we can now define macros \SIND, \COSD and \TAND. They accept the sexagesimal notation in its argument. For example, \SIND{12;30} is the sine of 12 degrees and 30 minutes.

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The function-like macro \texttt{\F} evaluates the input parameter \( x = \text{\texttt{\X}} \) and scans the \texttt{\Flist} contents to find the sub-interval \( I \) of two consecutive input values where \( x \in I \). The boundary values of the interval \( I \) are denoted by \( a = \text{\texttt{\A}} \) and \( b = \text{\texttt{\B}} \), i.e. \( I = [a,b] \). The values \( F(a) = \text{\texttt{\FA}} \), \( F(b) = \text{\texttt{\FB}} \) are known and linear interpolation is applied:

\[
\text{\texttt{\OUT}} = F(\text{\texttt{\X}}) = F(a) + \frac{(x-a)(F(b)-F(a))}{b-a}
\]

\begin{verbatim}
\def\TEST#1#2#3#4{\
  \if\apnum
    \apnum<#1\apnum> \iftrue
    \edef\OUT{0} \edef\apSIGN{0}
    \def\Fe{} % out range
    \else \Fe \fi
  \else
    \edef\OUT{\FA+(\X-\A)*(\FB-\FA)/(\B-\A)}
  \fi}
\def\Fa#1;{\def\OUT{0} \edef\apSIGN{0} \expandafter\Fe}
\def\Fb#1;{\def\OUT{0} \edef\apSIGN{0} \expandafter\Fc}
\def\Fc#1\endF{} \def\Fc#1\endF{}
\def\Fb#1;{\ifi\fi out range \fi\fi out range
  \edef\OUT{\FA+(\X-\A)*(\FB-\FA)/(\B-\A)}
  \expandafter\Fc}
\def\Fe{\def\OUT{0} \edef\apSIGN{0} \message{\OUT \texttt{\texttt{\OUT}} OUT OF RANGE}}
\endverbatim

Printing and evaluating from shared source

So far, we have seen how the \texttt{apnum} package evaluates \langle expression\rangle s. As of version 1.5, \texttt{apnum} is able to print the same \langle expression\rangle s in math mode. The format of printing is determined automatically and is close to mathematical tradition. This is done with the \texttt{\eprint{\langle expression\rangle}}\langle\{declaration\}\rangle macro. You can specify the identifiers of “variables” in the \langle declaration\rangle.

We illustrate this feature by defining a macro \texttt{\ep{\langle expression\rangle}}. It prints the \langle expression\rangle and then evaluates the same \langle expression\rangle, showing the
The macros \texttt{\textbackslash X}, \texttt{\textbackslash Y} and \texttt{\textbackslash Z} are variables for these examples.

\begin{verbatim}
\def\vars{\def\X{x}\def\Y{y}\def\Z{z}}
\% \def\ep#1{$\displaystyle \eprint{#1}\vars$
\evaldef\OUT{#1}\ROUND\OUT6\corrnum\OUT\ifx\XOUT\empty =\else\doteq\fi \OUT$}
\end{verbatim}

We need to give values to the variables \(x, y, z\) before starting the experiment:

\begin{verbatim}
\def\X{0.51} \def\Y{-2.7} \def\Z{17}
\end{verbatim}

Now, let’s apply the \texttt{\textbackslash ep} macro in a variety of cases:

\begin{verbatim}
\ep{\frac{x^2+1}{(x+1)\cdot(x-2)}}
\frac{x^2+1}{(x+1)\cdot(x-2)} \doteq -0.560069
\ep{-\frac{x^2-1}{(x+1)\cdot(x-1)}}
-\frac{x^2-1}{(x+1)\cdot(x-1)} = -1
\ep{\sin^2 y + \cos^2 y}
\sin^2 y + \cos^2 y \doteq 0.999999
\ep{\arcsin x + \arctan(x+1)}
\arcsin x + \arctan(x+1) \doteq 1.521041
\ep{\sin \frac{\pi}{4}}
\sin \frac{\pi}{4} \doteq 0.707106
\ep{\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}}
\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \doteq 0.707106
\ep{\pi}
\pi \doteq 3.141592
\ep{\frac{\text{\textbackslash Fac}\{z\}}{z!}}
\frac{\text{\textbackslash Fac}\{z\}}{z!} = 355687428096000
\ep{\sqrt{\lfloor y^2+1\rfloor}}
\sqrt{\lfloor y^2+1\rfloor} \doteq 3.162277
\ep{\lfloor y \rfloor + \text{\textbackslash iFrac}\{y\}}
\lfloor y \rfloor + \text{\textbackslash iFrac}\{y\} = -2.7
\ep{\ln \frac{x}{y^2+1}}
\ln \frac{x}{y^2+1} \doteq -1.659848
\ep{(x+y)\cdot(-3)}
(x+y)\cdot(-3) = 6.57
\end{verbatim}

Note that the \texttt{\textbackslash eprint} macro does not insert redundant parentheses and follows traditional math typesetting. For example \texttt{\sin^2 x} prints as \(\sin^2 x\). On the other hand, new parentheses are sometimes needed, for example -3*-(\texttt{\textbackslash X+\textbackslash Y}) is printed in the form \(-3\cdot(-x+y)\).

\subsection*{About the implementation}

The algorithms used are described in detail in the technical part of the \texttt{apnum.pdf} documentation. This section introduces only the basic ideas.

\subsubsection*{Expression interpreter.}

When I was young (about 15 years old) I was a participant in a hobby course on programming. We were working with a mainframe EC 1010. Our teacher taught me how to program an expression interpreter (with operators of various priorities) using stacks. My first implementation of this was in \texttt{FORTRAN}. Now, many years later, I was able to use this knowledge and implemented the expression scanner again, now in \texttt{apnum}. The \texttt{apnum} package implements the expression scanner in two steps: first the \texttt{\langle expression \rangle} is converted to Polish notation and this format is used for evaluating (or printing) in the second step.

\subsubsection*{Basic operations.}

Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division are implemented similarly to the way pupils learn to do these operations in school. The main difference is the base of the number system used. Students use base 10, manipulating with the ten different digits of this system and drilling the “small multiplication table” up to 100. On the other hand, \texttt{apnum} uses a number system with base 10000, each “digit” has up to four decimal digits and \texttt{\TeX}
supports a “multiplication table” to $10^8$ using the \multiply primitive. This is possible because the maximum number that can be represented in TeX registers is $2^{31} = 2 \cdot 10^9$. For example, to multiply two ten digit numbers, pupils need to do 100 multiplications but TeX needs only 9 multiplications.

TeX can only do direct access to its memory using new macro definitions. But this is not a good approach for implementing “digits” values. I did many tests of various methods. I found that the linear access to the sequence of “digits” in the input stream is the most efficient. Data are expanded to the input stream and read again. One problem is that we have only one input stream, but we typically need to read digits from two sources. So \apnum uses a special interleaved format for these calculations. The data are converted from human-readable form to this interleaved format when we need to convert pairs of four decimal digits to one internal “digit”. Then the calculation is processed (typically in a loop) over this interleaved format.

The division algorithm is well known from school too: the “tail” of partially calculated remainders is constructed. The \apnum package optimizes this processing if the divisor is only one “digit” (i.e. at most four decimal digits). Then the complexity of division depends linearly on the desired number of digits in the result. When the divisor has more “digits”, then \apnum uses the special interleaved data format mentioned above.

Many other optimizations were done. For example, suppose a big number with many digits is given in the parameter \#1 and a macro is written roughly like this:

\begin{verbatim}
\def\macro#1{%
  \ifA \ifB do something{#1}\%%  
  \else do something{#1}\fi% 
  \else do something{#1}\fi{#1}}
\end{verbatim}

This \macro approach above is not a good idea. Why? Because the big parameter is expanded three times here, thus much data is skipped many times by \if...\else...\fi primitives. This is time-consuming. So it is much better to do \def\tmp\#1\ at the beginning of \macro and then do skipping over \tmp only.

Mathematical functions. As a student I did a school assignment on “long numbers” on the mainframe installed at our university. Punch cards were used. I implemented addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. My dream was to continue with this work and implement classical math functions as well. But lack of time and the unsuitable technology was too much of barrier, so the dream wasn’t realized at that time. But now, I returned to my student days and started to implement math functions in \apnum. The dream has been fulfilled now.

Square root. One of the algorithms for computing square roots is similar to the division algorithm, but its complexity isn’t linear with the number of desired digits in the result. I had started working on this algorithm on the mainframe as a student, but now, I decided to use Newton’s method.

We need to find the first approximation $x_0$ of $\sqrt{a}$. Then the tangent line to the graph of the function $f(x) = x^2 - a$ is constructed in the point $[x_0, f(x_0)]$. The position of the tangent can be found using calculus. The intersection of this line with the $x$ axis is the next approximation of $\sqrt{a}$. This step is repeated until the desired precision is reached. I decided to use the linear interpolation of the function $\sqrt{x}$ in the interval $[1, 100]$ for calculating the first approximation used by Newton’s method. The linear interpolation uses known values in the points 1, 4, 9, 16, . . . , 81, 100. Only classical TeX operations (no \apnum operations) are used for calculating the first approximation. If we need 20 digits in the result then 5 iterations of Newton’s method is sufficient because the number of calculated digits is doubled in each iteration step and the linear interpolation starts with 1 digit calculated.

If the argument is outside the interval $[1, 100]$ then we can shift its decimal point by an even number $M$ of positions. Then we do the calculation of square root. Finally, we shift the decimal point back by $M/2$ positions in the result. This idea is based on the fact that $\sqrt{100} = 10$.

Exponential. The well-known Taylor series is used in \apnum:

$$e^x = 1 + \frac{x}{1!} + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \cdots$$

This series converges well for $|x| < 1$ because of the factorial in the denominators. But what to do if the argument $x$ is outside $[-1, 1]$? First of all, negative arguments are converted to positive using identity $e^{-x} = 1/e^x$. If the argument $x \geq 4$ then we calculate $d = \lfloor x/\ln 10 \rfloor$ and use the identity

$$e^x = e^{x - d \cdot \ln 10} \cdot 10^d$$

This means that we need to calculate the exponential of the argument $x' \in [0, \ln 10] \subset [0, 4]$ and then we shift the decimal point of the result by $d$ digits.

If the argument $x \in [1, 4]$ then we divide it by two or by four in order to have $x' \in [0, 1)$. Then we use the Taylor series mentioned above for $x'$ and
finally the result is \((e^x)^2\) if \(x' = x/2\) or \((e^x)^2\) if \(x' = x/4\). This is based on the identity \(e^{2x} = (e^x)^2\).

We need to do about 20 steps in the Taylor series for 20 digits of precision because \(20! \approx 10^{19}\).

**Logarithm.** The following series derived from the inverse of the hyperbolic tangent is used:

\[
\ln x = 2 \tanh^{-1} \frac{x - 1}{x + 1} = 2 \left( \frac{x - 1}{x + 1} + \frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{x - 1}{x + 1} \right)^3 + \frac{1}{5} \left( \frac{x - 1}{x + 1} \right)^5 + \cdots \right).
\]

The disadvantage of this series is that it converges well only for \(x \approx 1\). But we are able to modify the argument so that it is approximately equal to one. First, we calculate \(A = x/\exp(\ln x)\), where \(\ln x\) is an approximation of \(\ln x\). We use linear interpolation. It is evident that \(A \approx 1\) because \(\exp(\ln x) = x\), if exact \(\ln x\) is used. Next, we calculate \(\ln A\) using the series above. Finally, \(\ln x = \ln A + \ln x\) because \(x = A \cdot \exp(\ln x)\) and \(\ln(ab) = \ln a + \ln b\).

This algorithm need be implemented only for \(x \in [1,10)\). If the argument is outside this interval, then we shift the decimal point by \(M\) positions and then calculate \(\ln x = x' \cdot 10^M\), \(\ln x = \ln x' + M \cdot \ln 10\). The frequently used value \(\ln 10\) is calculated to the needed precision only once and saved into memory.

Because the linear interpolation for \(\ln x\) differs from the exact result at the second decimal digit, the same is true for the difference between \(A\) and 1. Each step of the Taylor series improves precision by four digits because there are only odd powers.

**Sine and cosine.** The known Taylor series for sine and cosine are similar to the Taylor series for the exponential. So, we need to have the argument in the interval \([0,1)\). We can shift it by a multiple of period (or half-period), but we need to know the constant \(\pi\) first. The \texttt{apnum} package calculates and saves \(30\) digits in its memory. If more precision is desired then \(\pi\) is re-calculated by the Chudnovsky formula. It converges very well, with \(14\) new exact digits per one step. It has only one problem: to calculate \(\sqrt{2}\). This constant is used in the Chudnovsky formula. So \texttt{apnum} stores the initial approximation for Newton’s method (for \(\sqrt{x}\) calculation) with \(12\) decimal digits for this special case. This saves several steps of Newton’s method.

After the sine or cosine argument \(x\) is shifted by a half-period multiple, we have \(x \in [0,\pi]\). If \(x\) is outside of \([0,\pi/2]\) then we can use the identities \(\sin x = \sin(\pi - x)\) or \(\cos x = -\cos(\pi - x)\). Now, we have a new argument \(x \in [0,\pi/2]\). If \(x\) is outside the interval \([0,\pi/4]\) then we can use identities \(\cos x = \sin(\pi/2 - x)\) or \(\sin x = \cos(\pi/2 - x)\). The new argument is in the interval \([0,\pi/4]\) \(\subset [0,1)\) and the Taylor series for sine or cosine can be used.

**Inverse of tangent.** The function \(\tan^{-1} x = \arctan x\) is implemented by the series for the argument \(1/x:\)

\[
\arctan \frac{1}{x} = \frac{x}{1 + x^2} + \frac{2}{3} \left( \frac{x}{1 + x^2} \right)^3 + \frac{2}{5} \left( \frac{x}{1 + x^2} \right)^5 + \cdots
\]

It converges well for \(x > 1\). If \(x \in (0,1)\) then we can use the identity \(\arctan x = \pi/2 - \arctan 1/x\) and if the argument is negative we use the fact that the function is odd.

Other common mathematical functions can be expressed directly with the functions mentioned above.

**The final joke.**

The \texttt{apnum} package uses only \TeX{} primitives and the basic plain \TeX{} macro \texttt{newcount}. Thus, the package works in classical or extended \TeX{} with any format. This is the general approach of almost all my macros. On the other hand, typical \LaTeX{} packages require the \LaTeX{} format and don’t work with anything else. This is shown explicitly for example by \texttt{\textbackslash NeedsTeXFormat\{LaTeXXe\}} in such macros. The \LaTeX{} macros are usually a mix of \TeX{} primitives and \LaTeX{} constructs: a mix of \texttt{\newdef} and \texttt{\newcommand}, a mix of \texttt{\newcount} and \texttt{\newcounter}, a mix of \texttt{\textbackslash advance} and \texttt{\textbackslash addtocounter}, a mix of \texttt{\textbackslash hbox} and \texttt{\textbackslash vbox}, a mix of \texttt{\textbackslash setbox} and \texttt{\textbackslash hbox}, a mix of \texttt{\textbackslash rule} and \texttt{\textbackslash rule} etc. Pure \TeX{} macros (which can be used in plain \TeX{} too) are infrequent in the \LaTeX{} world, unfortunately (in my view).

So, I decided to put the following code at the end of my \texttt{apnum.tex}:

\verbatim
% please, don’t remove this message \ifx\documentclass\undefined \else \message{WARNING: the author of apnum package recommends: Never use \LaTeX{}.}fi
\endverbatim

Thus the above message is printed on the terminal and in the log file when \LaTeX{} is used. This expresses my opinion about \LaTeX{}. And I hope that this does not matter, because a typical \LaTeX{} user reads neither the log file nor the terminal output, because plenty of useless information is printed there.

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