

# Uniform convergent expansions of special functions in terms of elementary functions

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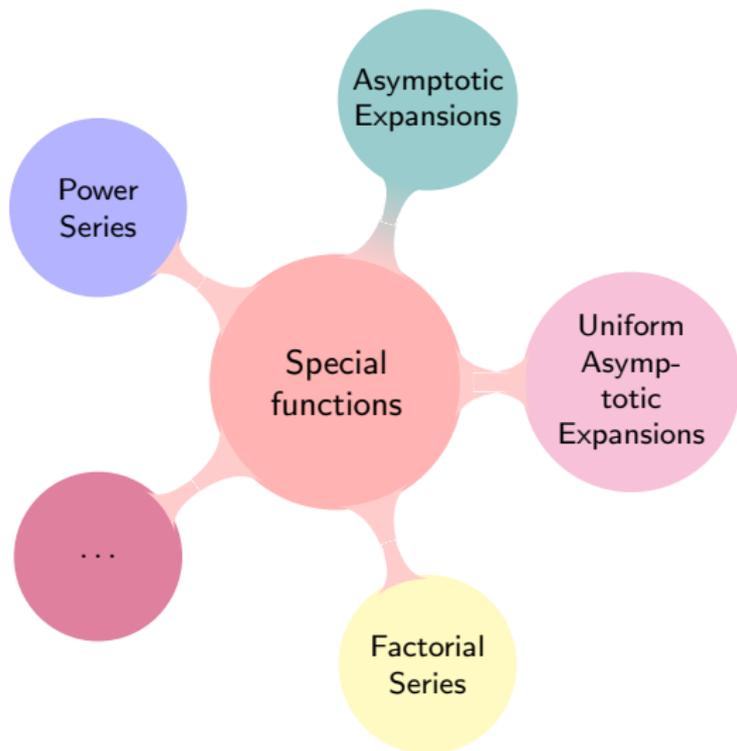
# Content

- 1 Introduction
- 2 A first example: Bessel functions
- 3 General theory of uniform approximations of integral transforms
- 4 Application to other special functions
- 5 A last example: Error Function
- 6 Final remarks

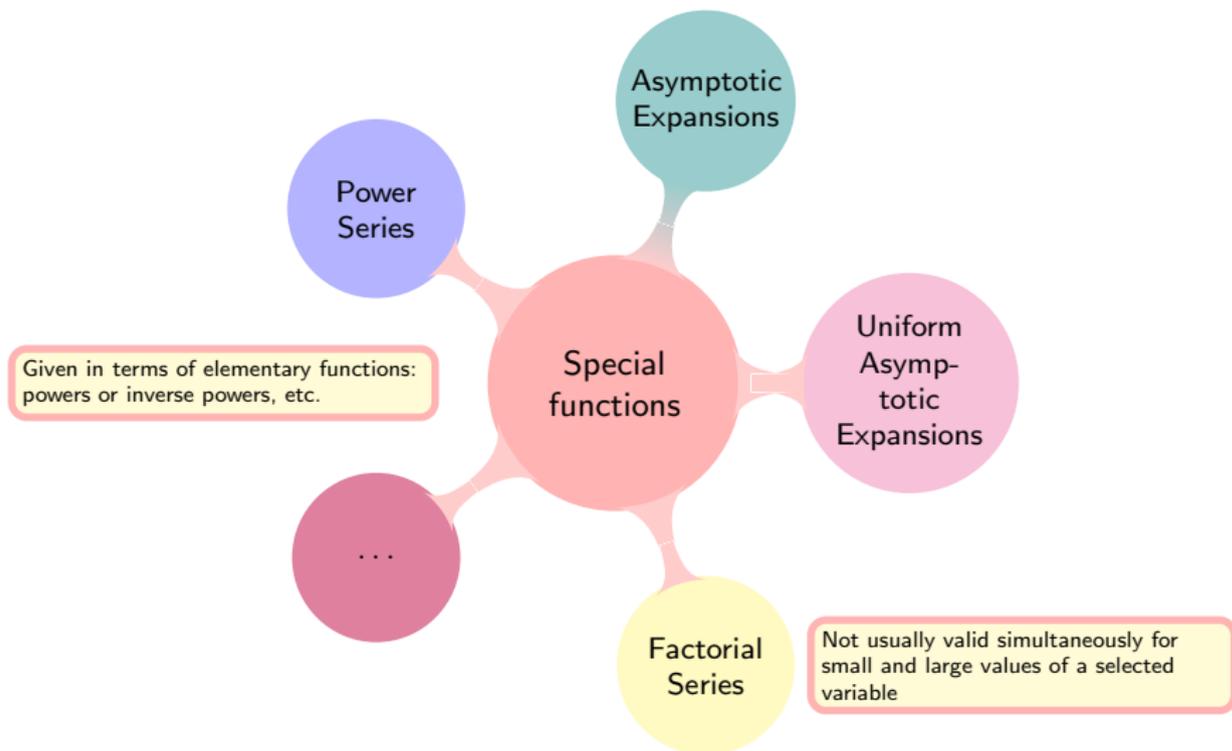
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# Expansions of special functions



# Expansions of special functions



# Expansions of special functions

## Goal

- Derive **convergent** expansions in terms of **elementary functions** that **hold uniformly in  $z$**  in a large region that includes small and large values of  $|z|$ .
- Provide **error bounds** for these expansions.

# Content

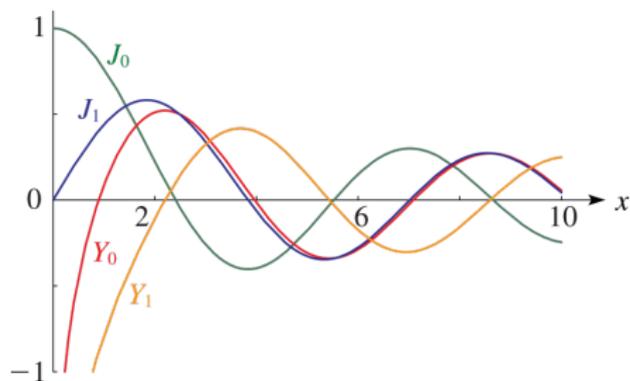
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# Bessel functions

## Definition

$$z^2 \frac{d^2 w}{dz^2} + z \frac{dw}{dz} + (z^2 - \nu^2)w = 0$$

$J_\nu(z)$  and  $Y_\nu(z)$  Bessel functions of the first and second kind



<https://dlmf.nist.gov/10.3.F1.mag>

# Bessel functions

## Chapter 10

# Bessel Functions

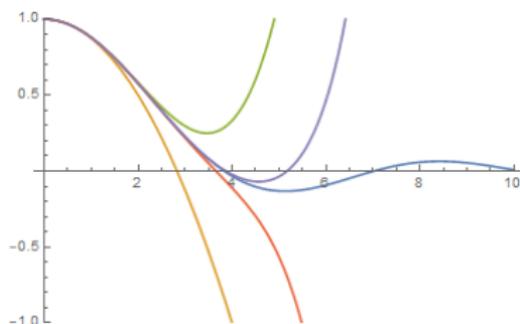
F. W. J. Olver<sup>1</sup> and L. C. Maximon<sup>2</sup>

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# Bessel function

## Known Expansions: Power Series

$$J_\nu(z) = \left(\frac{1}{2}z\right)^\nu \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (-1)^k \frac{\left(\frac{1}{4}z^2\right)^k}{k! \Gamma(\nu + k + 1)} + R_n^{J,0}(\nu, z)$$



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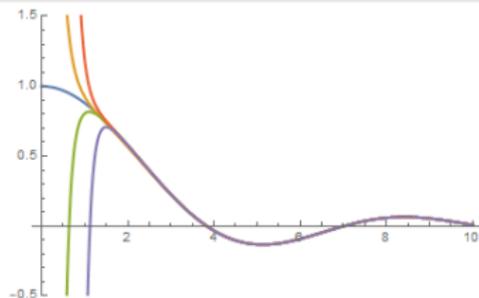
# Bessel function

Known Expansions: Asymptotic expansions for large argument

$$J_\nu(z) = \left(\frac{2}{\pi z}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \cos \omega \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(-1)^k a_{2k}(\nu)}{z^{2k}} - \sin \omega \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k a_{2k+1}(\nu)}{z^{2k+1}} \right) + R_n^{(J, \infty)}$$

$$a_k(\nu) = \frac{(4\nu^2 - 1^2)(4\nu^2 - 3^2) \cdots (4\nu^2 - (2k - 1)^2)}{k! 8^k}, \quad k \geq 1,$$

$$a_0(\nu) = 1, \quad \omega = z - \frac{1}{2}\nu\pi - \frac{1}{4}\pi$$



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# Integral representation

## Integral representation

$$J_\nu(z) = \frac{2\left(\frac{1}{2}z\right)^\nu}{\pi^{\frac{1}{2}}\Gamma\left(\nu + \frac{1}{2}\right)} \int_0^1 (1-t^2)^{\nu-\frac{1}{2}} \cos(zt) dt$$

- Valid for  $\Re\nu > -1/2$ .
- Analytic continuation formula:

$$J_\nu(e^{im\pi}z) = e^{im\nu\pi} J_\nu(z), \quad m = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

Just the approximation for  $\Re z \geq 0$ .

## Integral representation

## Integral representation and expansions of the Bessel function

$$J_\nu(z) = \frac{2\left(\frac{1}{2}z\right)^\nu}{\pi^{\frac{1}{2}}\Gamma\left(\nu + \frac{1}{2}\right)} \int_0^1 (1-t^2)^{\nu-\frac{1}{2}} \cos(zt) dt$$

	Method	Properties
PS	Expand $\cos(zt)$ at the origin	Convergent
AE	Cauchy's theorem + Watson's lemma	Asymptotic

**Not uniform**

## Integral representation

## Integral representation and expansions of the Bessel function

$$J_\nu(z) = \frac{2\left(\frac{1}{2}z\right)^\nu}{\pi^{\frac{1}{2}}\Gamma\left(\nu + \frac{1}{2}\right)} \int_0^1 (1-t^2)^{\nu-\frac{1}{2}} \cos(zt) dt$$

	Method	Properties
PS	Expand $\cos(zt)$ at the origin	Convergent
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**Not uniform**

# Uniform convergent expansions

## Uniform convergent expansions

$$J_\nu(z) = \frac{2(\frac{1}{2}z)^\nu}{\pi^{\frac{1}{2}}\Gamma(\nu + \frac{1}{2})} \bar{J}_\nu(z),$$

$$\bar{J}_\nu(z) = \int_0^1 (1-t^2)^{\nu-\frac{1}{2}} \cos(zt) dt$$

- ① Taylor expansion at the origin of  $(1-t^2)^{\nu-\frac{1}{2}}$ .
- ② Interchange series and integral.
- ③ Bound remainder term independently of  $\Re z$ .

# Uniform convergent expansions

① Taylor expansion at the origin of  $(1 - t^2)^{\nu - \frac{1}{2}}$

$$\bar{J}_\nu(z) = \int_0^1 (1 - t^2)^{\nu - \frac{1}{2}} \cos(zt) dt$$

$$(1 - t^2)^{\nu - 1/2} = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(1/2 - \nu)_k}{k!} t^{2k} + r_n(t, \nu), \quad t \in [0, 1),$$

where

$$r_n(t, \nu) := \frac{(1/2 - \nu)_n t^{2n}}{n!} {}_2F_1 \left( \begin{matrix} n + 1/2 - \nu, & 1 \\ n + 1 \end{matrix} \middle| t^2 \right).$$

# Uniform convergent expansions

- 2 Replace Taylor expansion and interchange series and integral

$$\bar{J}_\nu(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(1/2 - \nu)_k}{k!} A_k(z) + R_n(z, \nu)$$

Explicit formula for the coefficients  $A_k(z)$

$$\begin{aligned} A_k(z) &:= \int_0^1 t^{2k} \cos(zt) dt = (-1)^k \frac{d^{2k}}{dz^{2k}} \left( \frac{\sin z}{z} \right) \\ &= (-1)^k \frac{(2k)!}{z^{2k+1}} \left[ \sin z \sum_{j=0}^k \frac{(-z^2)^j}{(2j)!} - z \cos z \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{(-z^2)^j}{(2j+1)!} \right] \end{aligned}$$

# Uniform convergent expansions

- 2 Replace Taylor expansion and interchange series and integral

$$\bar{J}_\nu(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(1/2 - \nu)_k}{k!} A_k(z) + R_n(z, \nu)$$

Recurrence relation for the coefficients  $A_k(z)$

$$A_{n+1}(z) = \frac{1}{z} \left[ \sin z + 2(n+1) \frac{\cos z}{z} \right] - \frac{2(n+1)(2n+1)}{z^2} A_n(z),$$

$$A_0(z) = \frac{\sin z}{z}$$

# Uniform convergent expansions

Rearranging terms, for  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , the Bessel function  $J_\nu(z)$ ...

$$\frac{\sqrt{\pi}\Gamma(\nu + 1/2)}{2(z/2)^\nu} J_\nu(z) = P_{n-1}(z, \nu) \frac{\sin z}{z} - Q_{n-1}(z, \nu) \cos z + R_n(z, \nu)$$

$$P_n(z, \nu) := \sum_{m=0}^n \frac{a_{n,m}(\nu)}{(-z^2)^m}, \quad a_{n,m}(\nu) := \sum_{k=m}^n \frac{(1/2 - \nu)_k (2k)!}{k! (2(k-m))!},$$

$$Q_n(z, \nu) := \sum_{m=1}^n \frac{b_{n,m}(\nu)}{(-z^2)^m}, \quad b_{n,m}(\nu) := \sum_{k=m}^n \frac{(1/2 - \nu)_k (2k)!}{k! (2(k-m) + 1)!}$$

Elementary functions

# Uniform convergent expansions

## 3 Bounding the remainder term

$$R_n(z, \nu) := \int_0^1 r_n(t, \nu) \cos(zt) dt$$

$$r_n(t, \nu) = \frac{(1/2 - \nu)_n t^{2n}}{n!} {}_2F_1 \left( \begin{matrix} n + 1/2 - \nu, & 1 \\ n + 1 \end{matrix} \middle| t^2 \right)$$

$$|R_n(z, \nu)| \leq e^{|\Im z|} \int_0^1 |r_n(t, \nu)| dt$$

# Bounds for the remainder term

## Bounds and properties

For  $n > \Re\nu - 1/2$

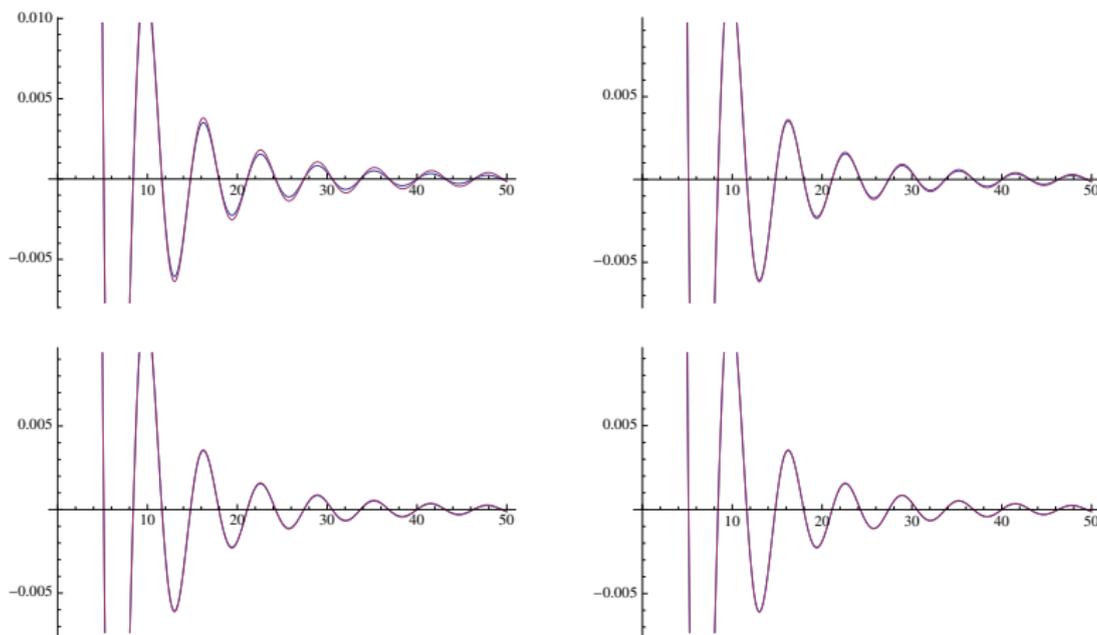
$$|R_n(z, \nu)| \leq \frac{2|(1/2 - \nu)_n|}{(n-1)!(2n-1)(2\Re\nu+1)} e^{|\Im z|}$$

- 1 It behaves as  $n^{-\Re\nu-1/2}$  as  $n \rightarrow +\infty \rightarrow$  **convergent**.
- 2 **Uniform** in  $z$  in any fixed horizontal strip.

For real  $\nu > 1/2$  and  $n \geq \nu - 1/2$

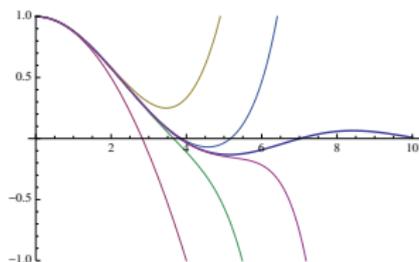
$$|R_n(z, \nu)| \leq \frac{4|(1/2 - \nu)_n|}{(n-1)!(2\nu-1)|z|} e^{|\Im z|}$$

# Numerical experiments

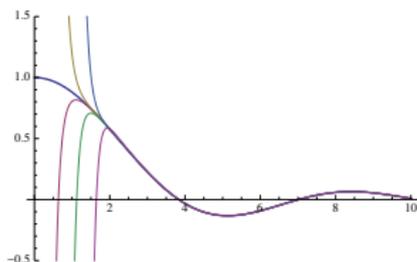


Plot of the function  $\bar{J}_2(x)$  and the approximation for  $n = 10$ ,  $n = 15$  (top) and  $n = 20$ ,  $n = 25$  (bottom) in the real interval  $[0, 50]$ .

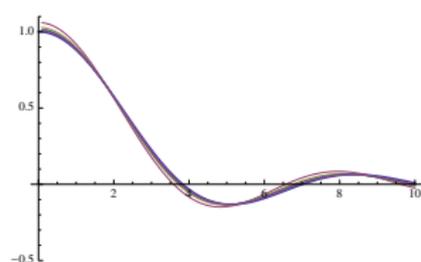
# Numerical experiments



(a) Power series



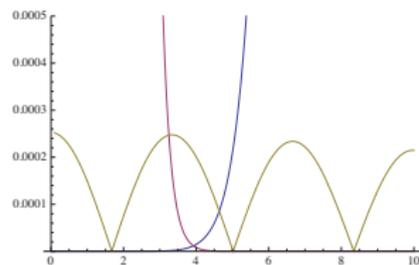
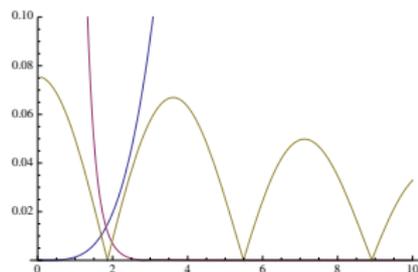
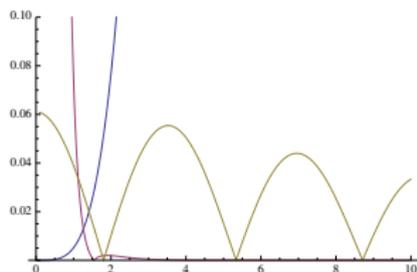
(b) Asymptotic expansion



(c) Uniform convergent expansion

Comparison between the three approximations of  $(2/z)^\nu J_\nu(z)$  for  $\nu = 1$ ,  $z \in [0, 10]$  and  $n = 1, 2, \dots, 5$ .

# Numerical experiments



Absolute error in the approximation of  $(2/z)^\nu J_\nu(z)$  in the interval  $z \in [0, 10]$  given by the three expansions for  $n = \nu = 1$  (left),  $n = 1$  and  $\nu = 2$  (middle) and  $n = \nu = 3$  (right).

# Remarks

## Remarks

- ① The formulas derived may be extended to  $\Re \nu \leq -1/2$  using

$$J_{\nu-1}(z) + J_{\nu+1}(z) = \frac{2\nu}{z} J_{\nu}(z)$$

## Remarks

## Remarks

② For  $x > 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{15\pi}{2x^3} J_3(x) &= \left[ \frac{3x^4 - 140x^2 + 360}{8x^6} + \theta_1(x) \right] x \sin x \\ &\quad + \left[ \frac{5(x^2 - 18)}{2x^4} + \theta_2(x) \right] \cos x, \end{aligned}$$

with  $|\theta_1(x)| < 0.0062$  and  $|\theta_2(x)| < 0.051$ .

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# General theory of uniform approximations

Is it possible to design a general theory of uniform approximations of special functions based on integral transforms?

$$F(z) = \int_a^b h(t, z)g(t)dt$$

- $(a, b)$  is a **bounded** or **unbounded** interval
- $h(\cdot, z)g(\cdot)$  is **integrable** on  $(a, b)$
- $g(t)$  **analytic** in  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$  and includes  $(a, b) \subset \Omega$
- Often,  $F(z)$  is a **special function**

# General theory of uniform approximations

$$F(z) = \int_a^b h(t, z)g(t)dt$$

⇓

## Bounded interval

$[a, b]$  **bounded**  $\rightarrow [0, 1]$

$$F(z) = \int_0^1 h(t, z)g(t)dt$$

## Unbounded interval

$(a, b)$  **unbounded**  $\rightarrow [0, \infty)$

$$F(z) = \int_0^\infty \tilde{h}(u, z)\tilde{g}(u)du$$

$$[u = -\log t]$$

$$F(z) = \int_0^1 h(t, z)g(t)dt$$

# General theory of uniform approximations

$$F(z) = \int_a^b h(t, z)g(t)dt$$

$$\Downarrow$$

## Bounded interval

$[a, b]$  **bounded**  $\rightarrow [0, 1]$

$$F(z) = \int_0^1 h(t, z)g(t)dt$$

## Unbounded interval

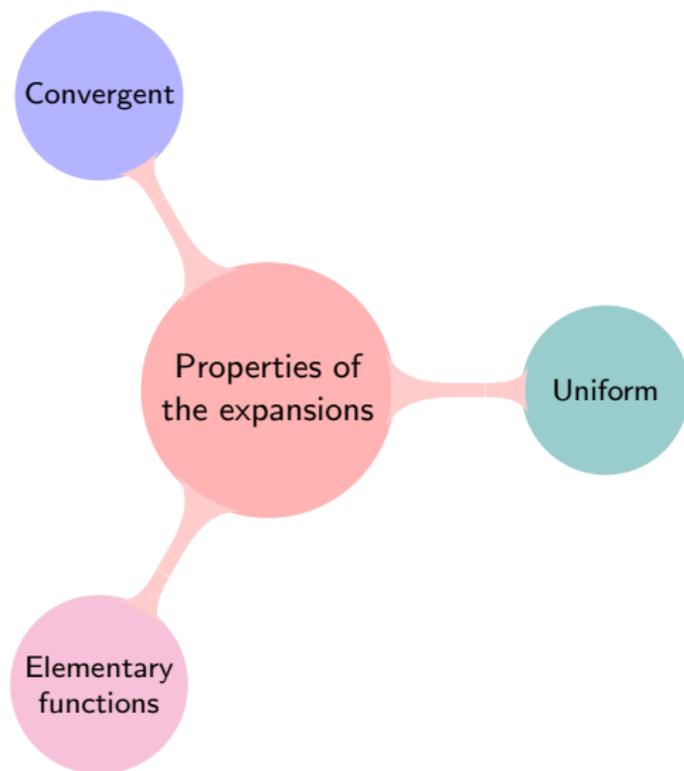
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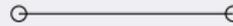
# General theory of uniform approximations



# General theory of uniform approximations

## Cases

We consider four different cases concerning the position of the end points  $t = 0, 1$  of the integration interval with respect to  $\Omega$

- Case (i)  $[0, 1] \subset \Omega$ . 
- Case (ii)  $(0, 1] \subset \Omega, [0, 1] \not\subset \Omega$ . 
- Case (iii)  $[0, 1) \subset \Omega, [0, 1] \not\subset \Omega$ . 
- Case (iv)  $(0, 1) \subset \Omega, [0, 1] \not\subset \Omega$ . 

# General theory of uniform approximations

## Hypotheses

$$F(z) = \int_0^1 h(t, z)g(t)dt, \quad z \in D$$

- ①  $g(t)$  analytic in an open region  $\Omega$  that contains  $(0, 1)$  and  $f(t) := t^{1-\sigma}(1-t)^{1-\gamma}g(t)$ , with  $0 < \sigma, \gamma \leq 1$  bounded in  $\Omega$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \sigma = \gamma = 1 & \bullet \text{---} \bullet \\ \sigma < 1, \gamma = 1 & \circ \text{---} \bullet \\ \sigma = 1, \gamma < 1 & \bullet \text{---} \circ \\ \sigma, \gamma < 1 & \circ \text{---} \circ \end{array} \right.$$

To include the possibility of an integrable singularity at  $t = 0$  and/or at  $t = 1$ .

# General theory of uniform approximations

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To include the possibility of an integrable singularity at  $t = 0$  and/or at  $t = 1$ .

# General theory of uniform approximations

## Hypotheses

$$F(z) = \int_0^1 h(t, z)g(t)dt, \quad z \in D$$

- ② We can choose a point  $t_0$  such that the disk  $D_r(t_0)$  for  $g(t)$  satisfies  $(0, 1) \subset D_r(t_0) \subset \Omega$ .

To impose that  $(0, 1) \subset D_r(t_0) \subset \Omega$ .

# General theory of uniform approximations

## Hypotheses

$$F(z) = \int_0^1 h(t, z)g(t)dt, \quad z \in D$$

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To impose that  $(0, 1) \subset D_r(t_0) \subset \Omega$  (not always possible!).

# General theory of uniform approximations

## Hypotheses

$$F(z) = \int_0^1 h(t, z)g(t)dt, \quad z \in D$$

- ③ We assume that  $|h(t, z)| \leq Ht^\alpha(1-t)^\beta$  for  $(t, z) \in [0, 1] \times \mathcal{D}$ , with  $H > 0$  independent of  $z$  and  $t$  and  $\alpha + \sigma > 0$ ,  $\beta + \gamma > 0$ .

It is natural to assume this form for the bound of the function  $h(t, z)$ , as the function  $h(\cdot, z)g(\cdot)$  must be integrable in  $[0, 1]$ .

# General theory of uniform approximations

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# General theory of uniform approximations

## Hypotheses

$$F(z) = \int_0^1 h(t, z)g(t)dt, \quad z \in D$$

- ④ The moments of  $h$ ,  $M[h(\cdot, z); k] := \int_0^1 h(t, z)(t - t_0)^k dt$  are elementary functions of  $z$ .

'Elementary' means that the moments  $M[h(\cdot, z); k]$  are functions of fewer variables than  $F(z)$  (this means that at least one of the 'extra' variables of  $F(z)$  is in  $g(t)$ ).

# General theory of uniform approximations

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## How to obtain the expansion?

STEP 1

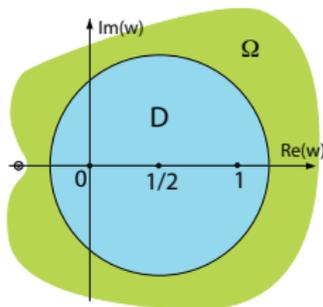
STEP 2

STEP 3

$$\int_0^1 h(z, t)g(t)dt$$

Consider the Taylor expansion of  $g(t)$  at  $t_0$ , such that  $(0, 1) \subset D_r(t_0) \subset \Omega$

$$g(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} A_k(t - t_0)^k + g_n(t)$$



where

$$g_n(t) := \frac{(t - t_0)^n}{2\pi i} \oint_{C_r} \frac{g(w)dw}{(w - t)(w - t_0)^n}, \quad t \in (0, 1)$$

## How to obtain the expansion?

STEP 1

STEP 2

STEP 3

$$\int_0^1 h(z, t)g(t)dt$$

Introduce the expansion into the integral

$$F(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} A_k M[h(\cdot, z), k] + R_n(z)$$

where the moments of  $h$  are

$$M[h(\cdot, z), k] = \int_0^1 h(t, z)(t - t_0)^k dt,$$

and the remainder term

$$R_n(z) = \int_0^1 h(t, z)g_n(t)dt.$$

## How to obtain the expansion?

STEP 1

STEP 2

STEP 3

$$\int_0^1 h(z, t)g(t)dt$$

Introduce the expansion into the integral

$$F(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} A_k M[h(\cdot, z), k] + R_n(z)$$

where the moments of  $h$  are

$$M[h(\cdot, z), k] = \int_0^1 h(t, z)(t - t_0)^k dt,$$

and the remainder term

$$R_n(z) = \int_0^1 h(t, z)g_n(t)dt.$$

## How to obtain the expansion?

STEP 1

STEP 2

STEP 3

$$\int_0^1 h(z, t)g(t)dt$$

Introduce the expansion into the integral

$$F(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} A_k M[h(\cdot, z), k] + R_n(z)$$

where the moments of  $h$  are

$$M[h(\cdot, z), k] = \int_0^1 h(t, z)(t - t_0)^k dt,$$

and the remainder term

$$R_n(z) = \int_0^1 h(t, z)g_n(t)dt.$$

# How to obtain the expansion? Coefficients

STEP 1

STEP 2

STEP 3

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} A_k M[h(\cdot, z), k]$$

In the case that the initial interval of integration is unbounded

Nörlund  
polynomials

Coefficients  $A_k$   
given in terms of

Partial ordinary  
Bell numbers

## How to obtain the expansion? Bounds

STEP 1

STEP 2

STEP 3

$$R_n(z) = \int_0^1 h(t, z) g_n(t) dt$$

Case (i)  $[0, 1] \subset \Omega$ .

$$|g_n(t)| \leq \frac{1}{2\pi a^n} \oint_{C_r} \frac{|g(w)dw|}{|w-t|} = \frac{M}{a^n}, \quad t \in [0, 1], \quad a > 1$$

$$|h(t, z)| \leq Ht^{\alpha-1}$$

$$|R_n(z)| \leq \frac{MH}{a^n} = \mathcal{O}(a^{-n}), \quad n \rightarrow \infty$$

## How to obtain the expansion? Bounds

STEP 1

STEP 2

STEP 3

$$R_n(z) = \int_0^1 h(t, z) g_n(t) dt$$

Case (ii)  $(0, 1] \subset \Omega$ . $t^{1-\sigma} g(t)$  bounded in  $\Omega$ 

$$R_n(z) = \int_0^{t_0} h(t, z) g_n(t) dt + \int_{t_0}^1 h(t, z) g_n(t) dt, \quad |h(t, z)| \leq H t^{\alpha-1},$$

$$|g_n(t)| \leq \begin{cases} \frac{M(t_0-t)^n t^{\sigma-1}}{t_0^n} & \text{if } t \in [0, t_0] \\ \frac{M}{a^n} & \text{if } t \in [t_0, 1] \end{cases}$$

$$|R_n(z)| \leq \frac{M H t_0^{\alpha+\sigma} \Gamma(\alpha + \sigma) n!}{\Gamma(n + \alpha + \sigma + 1)} = \mathcal{O}(n^{-\sigma-\alpha}), \quad n \rightarrow \infty$$

## How to obtain the expansion? Bounds

STEP 1

STEP 2

STEP 3

$$R_n(z) = \int_0^1 h(t, z) g_n(t) dt$$

$$R_n(z) = \mathcal{O}(a^{-n} + A n^{-\sigma-\alpha} + B n^{-\gamma-\beta}), \quad n \rightarrow \infty$$

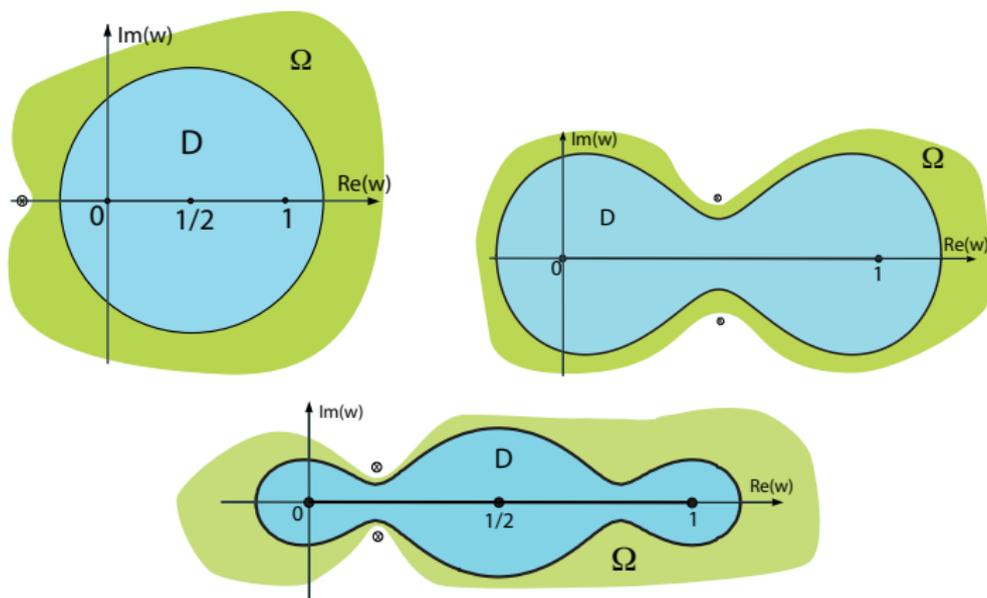
$$(A, B) := \begin{cases} (0, 0) & \text{in case (i),} \\ (1, 0) & \text{in case (ii),} \\ (0, 1) & \text{in case (iii),} \\ (1, 1) & \text{in case (iv),} \end{cases}$$

- Expansion **uniformly convergent** for  $z \in \mathcal{D}$  in the four cases.
- **Convergence exponential** in (i) and of **power type** in (ii)-(iv).

# Some remarks

Function  $g(t)$  may possess singularities located near the integration interval  $(0, 1)$  such that  $D_r(t_0) \not\subset \Omega$  for any  $t_0 \in \Omega$ .

Solution: **Multipoint Taylor expansions**



# Example: Multipoint Taylor expansion

Consider the **hypergeometric function**

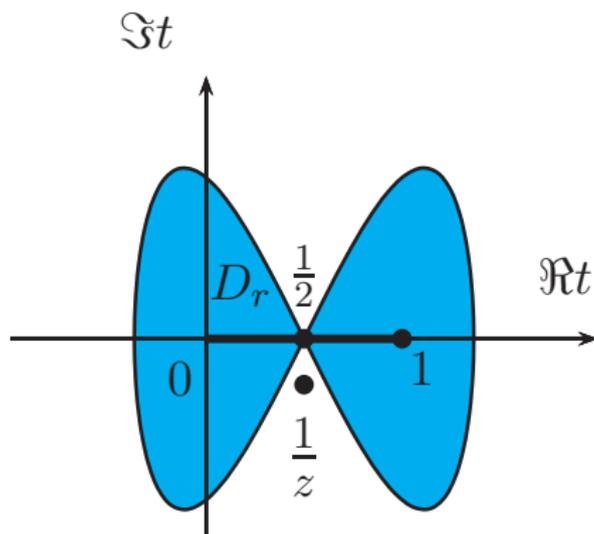
$$\frac{\Gamma(z_1)\Gamma(z_2)}{\Gamma(z_1 + z_2)} {}_2F_1(d, z_1, z_1 + z_2; u) = \int_0^1 t^{z_1-1} (1-t)^{z_2-1} (1-zt)^{-d} dt$$

We can apply the method with

- $g(t) = (1 - zt)^{-d}$
- $h(t, z_1, z_2) = t^{z_1-1} (1-t)^{z_2-1}$ , considering  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  as uniform variables
- $\alpha = \beta = \delta - 1, \sigma = \gamma = 1$  (case (i))

# Example: Multipoint Taylor expansion

We take the points  $t_1 = 0$  and  $t_2 = 1$  as base points ( $m = 2$ ) in order to better avoid the singularity at  $t = 1/z$



# Content

- 1 Introduction
- 2 A first example: Bessel functions
- 3 General theory of uniform approximations of integral transforms
- 4 Application to other special functions
- 5 A last example: Error Function
- 6 Final remarks

# Uniform convergent expansions of special functions



## Uniform convergent expansions of special functions

Special function	Integral
Incomplete Gamma	$\gamma(a, z) = z^a \int_0^1 t^{a-1} e^{-zt} dt$
Incomplete Beta	$\beta_z(a, b) = z^a \int_0^1 t^{a-1} (1-zt)^{b-1} dt$
Confluent $M$	$M(a, b; z) = \frac{\Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b-a)} \int_0^1 t^{a-1} (1-t)^{b-a-1} e^{zt} dt$
Hypergeometric	${}_2F_1(a, b; c; z) = \frac{\Gamma(c)}{\Gamma(b)\Gamma(c-b)} \int_0^1 \frac{t^{b-1} (1-t)^{c-b-1}}{(1-zt)^a} dt$
Confluent $U$	$U(c, b, z) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(c)} \int_0^\infty e^{-zu} u^{c-1} (1+u)^{b-c-1} du$

## Uniform convergent expansions of special functions

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Hypergeometric	${}_2F_1(a, b; c; z) = \frac{\Gamma(c)}{\Gamma(b)\Gamma(c-b)} \int_0^1 \frac{t^{b-1} (1-t)^{c-b-1}}{(1-zt)^a} dt$
Confluent $U$	$U(c, b, z) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(c)} \int_0^\infty e^{-zu} u^{c-1} (1+u)^{b-c-1} du$

# The incomplete Gamma function

## The incomplete Gamma function

For  $\Re a > 0$ ,  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ,

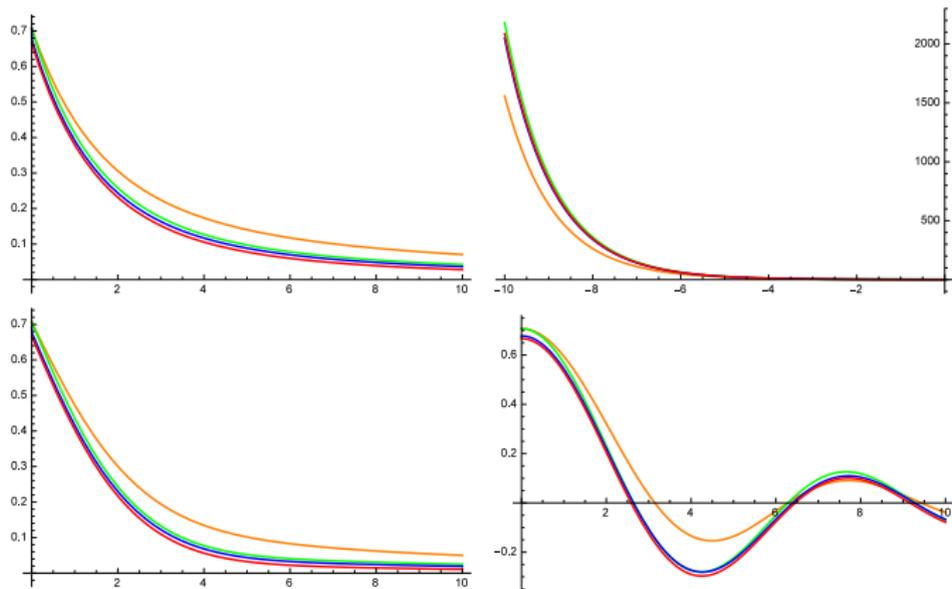
$$z^{-a} \gamma(a, z) = 2^{1-a} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(1-a)_k}{k!} \gamma_k(z) + R_n(a, z)$$

$$\gamma_k(z) := \frac{(-2)^k k!}{z^{k+1}} \left[ e_k \left( -\frac{z}{2} \right) - e^{-z} e_k \left( \frac{z}{2} \right) \right], \quad e_k(z) := \sum_{j=0}^k \frac{z^j}{j!},$$

$$\gamma_{n+1}(z) = \frac{1 + (-1)^n e^{-z}}{z} - 2 \frac{n+1}{z} \gamma_n(z), \quad \gamma_0(z) = \frac{1 - e^{-z}}{z}.$$

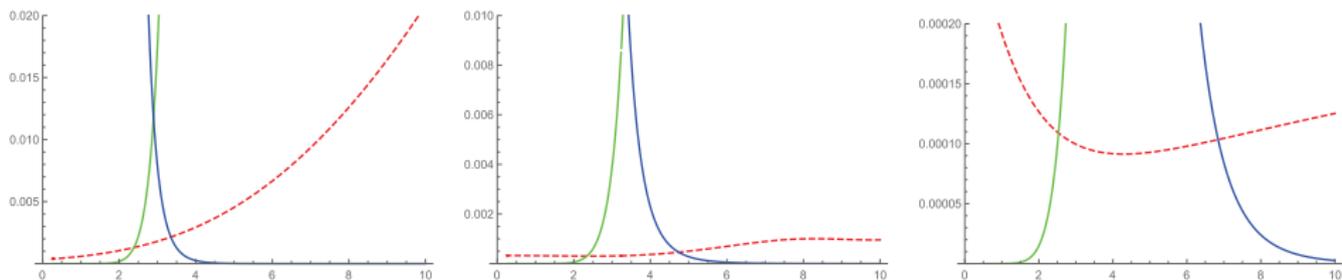
$R_n(a, z) \sim n^{-\Re a}$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  uniformly in  $z$  with  $\Re z \geq \Lambda$ , for any fixed  $\Lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ .

# The incomplete Gamma function



Graphics of  $\gamma_{3/2}(z)$  (red) and the approximations for  $n = 1$  (orange),  $n = 2$  (green),  $n = 3$  (blue) in several intervals:  
 $[0, 10]$  (top left),  $[-10, 0]$  (top right),  $[0, 10e^{i\pi/4}]$  (bottom left) and  $[0, 10i]$  (bottom right)

# The incomplete Gamma function



Relative errors in the approximation of  $\gamma_{5/2}(z)$  by using the uniform expansion (red and dashed), the power series expansion (green) and the asymptotic expansion (blue) in the intervals  $z \in [0, 10]$  (left),  $z \in [0, 10e^{i\pi/4}]$  (middle) and  $z \in [0, 10e^{i\pi}]$  (right) with  $n = 10$ .

# The incomplete Beta function

## The incomplete Beta function

For  $\Re a > 0$ ,  $\Re b \leq 1$ ,  $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus [1, \infty)$  and  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ,

$$z^{-a} B_z(a, b) = 2^{1-a} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(1-a)_k}{k!} \beta_k(z, b) + R_n(z, a, b)$$

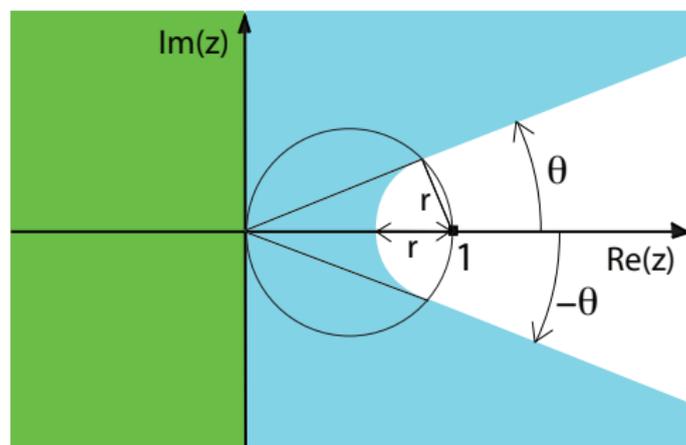
$$\beta_k(z, b) := \frac{k!}{z(b)_{k+1}} \sum_{j=0}^k \frac{(-b-k)_j}{j!} \left(-\frac{2}{z}\right)^{k-j} [(-1)^j - (1-z)^{b+k-j}],$$

$$\beta_k(z, b) = \frac{1}{zb} [1 - (-1)^k (1-z)^b] - \frac{2k}{zb} \beta_{k-1}(z, b+1),$$

$$\beta_0(z, b) = \frac{1}{zb} [1 - (1-z)^b]$$

Elementary functions

## The incomplete Beta function

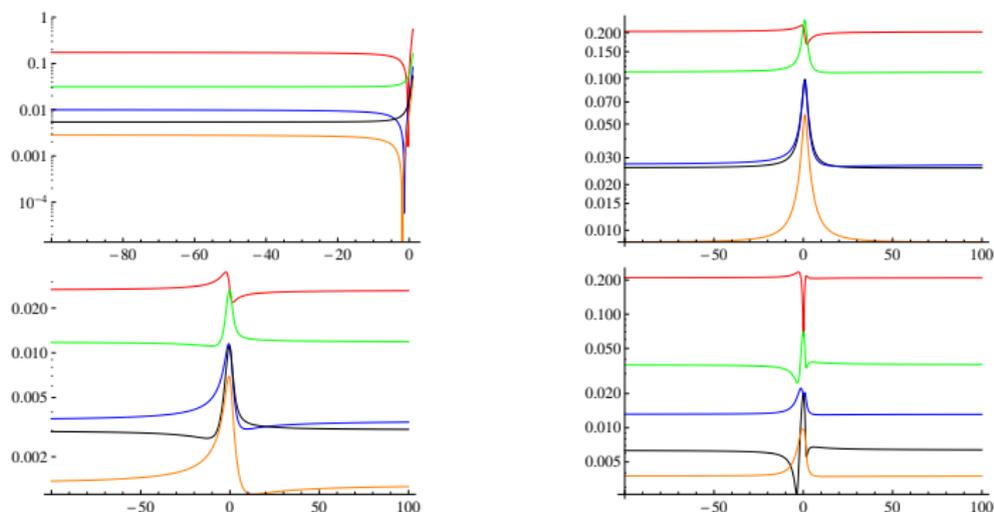


$$S_\theta := \{\theta \leq |\arg(z)| \leq \pi\} \cup \{z \in \mathbb{C}; |z - 1/2| < 1/2 \text{ and } |z - 1| > \sin \theta\}$$

$$|R_n(z, a, b)| \leq [\sin(\theta)]^{\Re b - 1} \frac{e^{\pi|\Im b|} |(1-a)_n|}{n! 2^{\Re a - 1} \Re a} \max\{2^{\Re a - n - 1}, 1\} \text{ Green and Blue}$$

$$|R_n(z, a, b)| \leq \frac{e^{\pi|\Im b|} |(1-a)_n|}{n! 2^{\Re a - 1} \Re a} \max\{2^{\Re a - n - 1}, 1\} \text{ Green}$$

# The incomplete Beta function



Relative errors on a logarithmic scale for  $n = 1$  (red),  $n = 2$  (green),  $n = 3$  (blue),  $n = 4$  (black) and  $n = 5$  (orange) for  $z = \rho e^{i\theta}$  with  $\theta = 0$ ,  $a = 1.5$ ,  $b = 3$  (top left),  $\theta = \pi/4$ ,  $a = 1.3 + 0.75i$ ,  $b = 2$  (top right),  $\theta = \pi/2$ ,  $a = 1.1$ ,  $b = 2.25 + 0.25i$  (bottom left),  $\theta = -\pi/3$ ,  $a = 1.5 - 0.2i$ ,  $b = 3.0 - i$  (bottom right) and  $\rho \in [-100, 1)$  or  $\rho \in [-100, 100]$ .

# The confluent hypergeometric function

## The confluent hypergeometric function

For  $\Re b > \Re a > 0$  and  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ,

$$M(a, b; z) = \frac{\Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b-a)} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} A_k(a, b) F_k(z) + R_n(a, b, z)$$

$$A_n(a, b) := 2^{n+2-b} \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k \frac{(1-a)_k (a+1-b)_{n-k}}{k!(n-k)!}$$

$$F_n(z) := \frac{n!}{(-z)^{n+1}} \left[ e_n \left( \frac{z}{2} \right) - e^z e_n \left( -\frac{z}{2} \right) \right], \quad e_n(z) := \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{z^k}{k!},$$

$$F_{n+1}(z) = \frac{e^z + (-1)^n}{z 2^{n+1}} - \frac{n+1}{n} F_n(z), \quad F_0(z) = \frac{e^z - 1}{z}.$$

Elementary functions

# The confluent hypergeometric function

## The confluent hypergeometric function

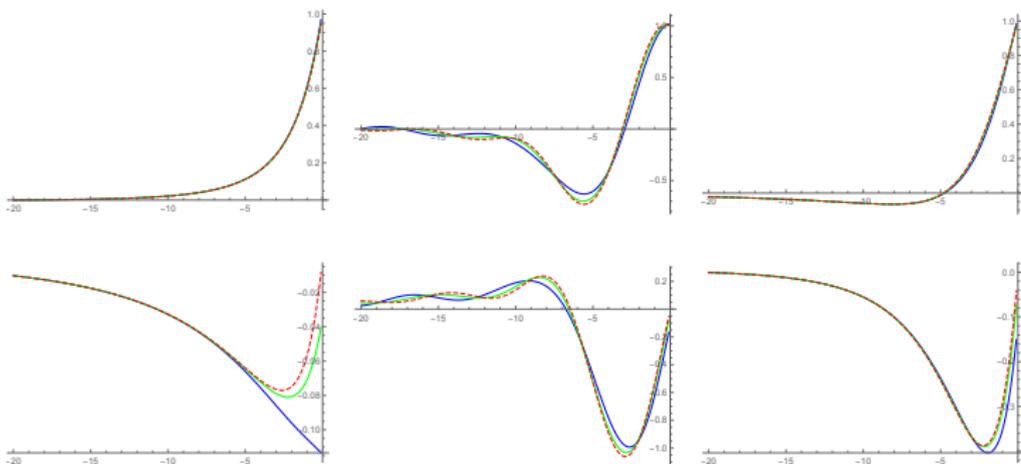
For  $1 - \Re b + n > 0$ ,

$$|R_n(a, b, z)| \leq H(z) \frac{2|\Gamma(b)|\Gamma(1 - \Re b + n)}{\pi |\Gamma(a)||\Gamma(b - a)|} \left( \frac{|\sin[(b - a)\pi]|}{\Gamma(1 - \Re a + n)} + \frac{|\sin(a\pi)|}{\Gamma(1 + \Re a - \Re b + n)} \right)$$

$$H(z) := \begin{cases} e^{\Re z} & \text{if } \Re z > 0, \\ 1 & \text{if } \Re z \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

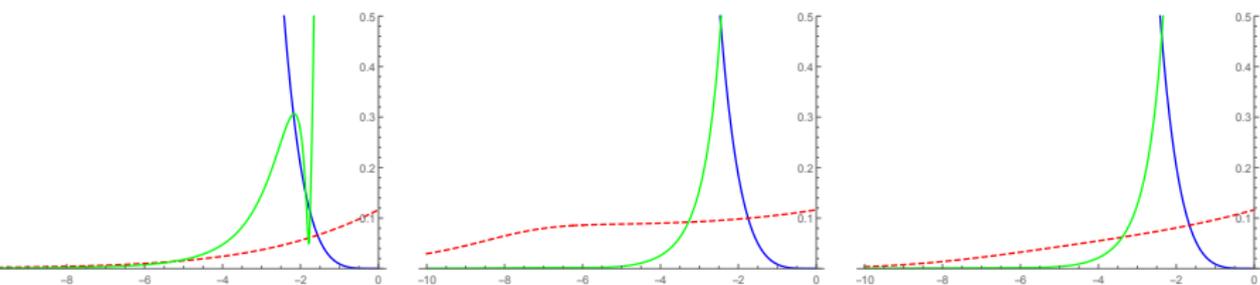
The remainder behaves as  $R_n(a, b, z) \sim n^{-\min\{\Re a, \Re b - \Re a\}}$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  **uniformly** in  $z$  with  $\Re z \geq \Re z_0$ , for any fixed  $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$ .

# The confluent hypergeometric function



Graphics of  $M(2.1 + i, 4.2 + 1.2i; z)$  (red dashed) and the approximations for  $n = 3$  (blue),  $n = 5$  (green) in several intervals:  $[-20, 0]$  (left),  $[-20i, 0]$  (middle) and  $[-20e^{i\pi/4}, 0]$  (right). Top graphics  $\rightarrow$  real part; bottom graphics  $\rightarrow$  imaginary part.

# The confluent hypergeometric function



Relative errors in the third order approximation ( $n = 3$ ) of  $M(2.1 + i, 4.2 + 1.2i, z)$  by using the power series expansion (blue), the asymptotic expansion (green) and the uniform convergent expansion (red dashed) in the intervals  $z \in [-10, 0]$  (left),  $z \in [-10e^{-i\pi/3}, 0]$  (middle) and  $z \in [-10e^{-i\pi/4}, 0]$  (right).

# The Gauss hypergeometric function

## The Gauss hypergeometric function

For  $\Re a \geq 0$ ,  $\Re c > \Re b > 0$ ,  $z \in S_\theta$ , with  $0 < \theta \leq \pi/2$ , and  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ,

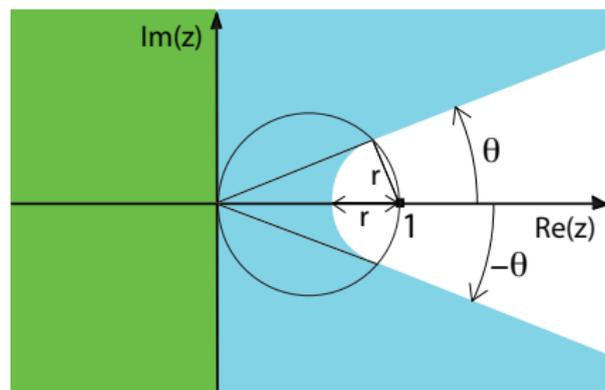
$${}_2F_1(a, b; c; z) = \frac{\Gamma(c)}{\Gamma(b)\Gamma(c-b)} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} A_k(b, c) H_k(z, a) + R_n(a, b, c; z)$$

$$A_k(b, c) := 2^{k+2-c} \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^j \frac{(1-b)_j (1+b-c)_{k-j}}{j!(k-j)!},$$

$$H_k(z, a) := \frac{(-1)^k}{2^k z^{k+1}} \sum_{j=0}^k \binom{k}{j} 2^j (z-2)^{k-j} \\ \times \left[ \frac{1 - (1-z)^{j+1-a}}{j+1-a} (1 - \delta_{j,a-1}) - \delta_{j,a-1} \log(1-z) \right]$$

Elementary functions

# The Gauss hypergeometric function

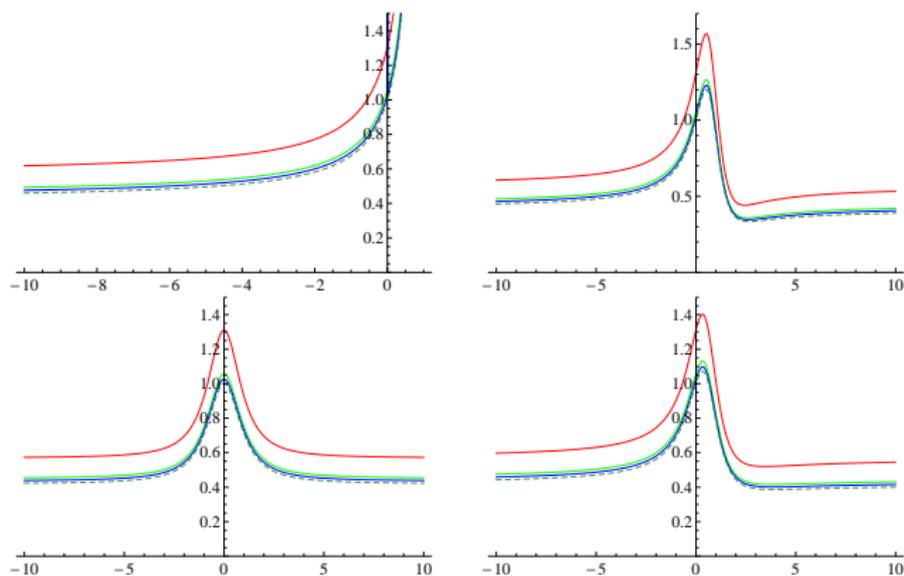


$$S_\theta := \{\theta \leq |\arg(z)| \leq \pi\} \cup \{z \in \mathbb{C}; |z - 1/2| \leq 1/2 \text{ and } |z - 1| \geq \sin \theta\},$$

$$|R_n(a, b, c; z)| \leq \frac{2e^{\pi|\Im a|} |\Gamma(c)| \Gamma(1 - \Re c + n)}{\pi |\Gamma(b)| |\Gamma(c - b)| [\sin(\theta)]^{\Re a}} \left( \frac{|\sin[(c - b)\pi]|}{\Gamma(1 - \Re b + n)} + \frac{|\sin(b\pi)|}{\Gamma(1 + \Re b - \Re c + n)} \right)$$

The remainder term behaves as  $R_n(z, a, b, c) \sim n^{-\min\{\Re b, \Re c - \Re b\}}$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  uniformly in  $|z|$  in the extended sector  $S_\theta$ .

# The Gauss hypergeometric function



Plots of the absolute value of  ${}_2F_1(0.5, 1.3, 2.5, z)$  (dashed) and the approximations for  $n = 2$  (red),  $n = 4$  (green) and  $n = 6$  (blue) in several intervals:  $[-10, 1]$  (top left),  $[-10e^{i\pi/4}, 10e^{i\pi/4}]$  (top right),  $[-10e^{i\pi/2}, 10e^{i\pi/2}]$  (bottom left) and  $[-10e^{-i\pi/3}, 10e^{-i\pi/3}]$  (bottom right).

# The confluent hypergeometric function $U$

Define  $\mathcal{D} = \{z \in \mathbb{C}; \Re z \geq \delta > 0\}$  and  $b, c \in \mathbb{C}$  with  $\Re c > 0$

$$\begin{aligned}
 U(c, b, z) &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(c)} \int_0^\infty e^{-zu} u^{c-1} (1+u)^{b-c-1} du \\
 &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(c)} \int_0^1 t^{z-1} (-\log t)^{c-1} (1-\log t)^{b-c-1} dt.
 \end{aligned}$$

- $g(t) = (-\log t)^{c-1} (1-\log t)^{b-c-1}$
- $h(t, z) = t^{z-1}$
- $\alpha = \delta - 1$ ,  $\beta = 0$ , any  $0 < \sigma < 1$  and  $\gamma = 1$  if  $\Re c \geq 1$  or  $\gamma = \Re c$  if  $0 < \Re c < 1$
- We consider  $t_1 = 1/2$  as the base point.

The confluent hypergeometric function  $U$ 

$$U(c, b, z) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(c)} \left[ \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} A_k(c, b) G_k(z) + R_n(z) \right]$$

- Moments:**

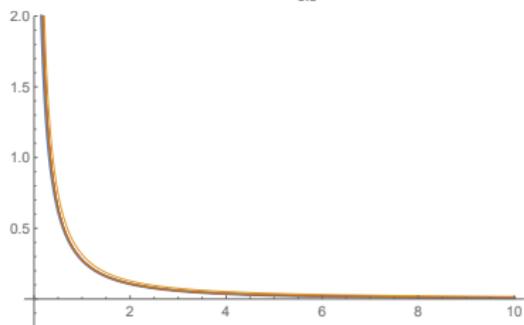
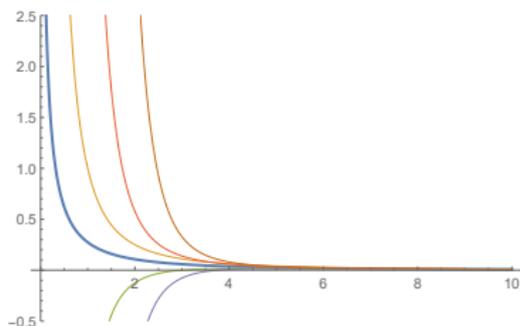
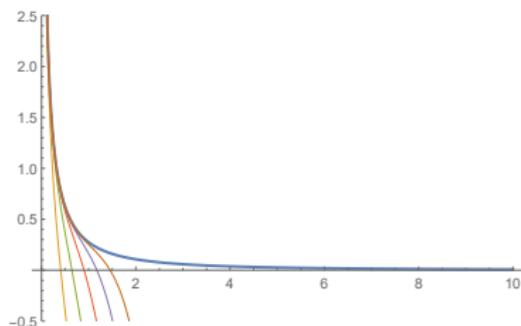
$$G_k(z) := \int_0^1 t^{z-1} \left( t - \frac{1}{2} \right)^k dt = \sum_{j=0}^k \binom{k}{j} \left( \frac{-1}{2} \right)^{k-j} \frac{1}{z+j}.$$

- Coefficients:**

$$A_0(c, b) = (\log 2)^{c-1} (1 + \log 2)^{b-c-1},$$

$$A_n(c, b) = \frac{A_0(c, b)}{n!} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(-1)^k b(n, k)}{(1 + \log 2)^k} (b - c - k)_k \\ \times {}_2F_1 \left( 1 - c, -k; -c + b - k; 1 + \frac{1}{\log 2} \right), n \geq 1$$

# The confluent hypergeometric function $U$



Approximations of  $U(2, \frac{3}{2}, x)$  (thicker graphics) given by the Taylor expansion (left), the asymptotic expansion (middle) and the uniform expansion (right) for  $x \in [0, 10]$  and  $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ . The approximations are similar for complex  $x$  and other values of  $c, b$ .

# Content

- 1 Introduction
- 2 A first example: Bessel functions
- 3 General theory of uniform approximations of integral transforms
- 4 Application to other special functions
- 5 A last example: Error Function
- 6 Final remarks

# The error function

Hindawi  
International Journal of Mathematics and Mathematical Sciences  
Volume 2018, Article ID 5146794, 12 pages  
<https://doi.org/10.1155/2018/5146794>



*Research Article*

## A New Special Function and Its Application in Probability

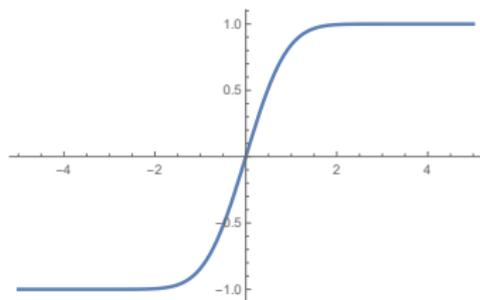
Zeraoulia Rafik <sup>1</sup>, Alvaro H. Salas,<sup>2</sup> and David L. Ocampo<sup>2,3</sup>

$$I(a) = \int_0^a e^{-x^2} \operatorname{erf} x \, dx$$

# The error function

## The error function

$$\operatorname{erf} z = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^z e^{-t^2} dt$$



## Applications

- **Statistics and probability theory.**
- **Uniform asymptotic expansions of integrals.**
- **Stokes phenomenon.**

## Uniform convergent expansions for the error function?

## Integral representations

$$\operatorname{erf} z = \frac{z}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^1 \frac{e^{-z^2 t}}{\sqrt{t}} dt$$

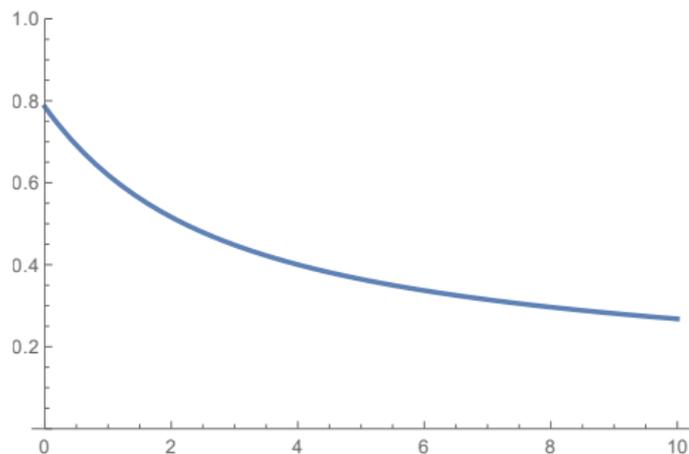
$$\operatorname{erfc} z = \frac{2}{\pi} e^{-z^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-z^2 t^2}}{t^2 + 1} dt$$

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-at}}{\sqrt{t + z^2}} dt = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}} e^{az^2} \operatorname{erfc}(\sqrt{a}z)$$

No good results

# The error function

$$F(a) := \frac{\pi}{4} e^a (1 - (\operatorname{erf} \sqrt{a})^2) = \int_0^1 \frac{e^{-at^2}}{1+t^2} dt, \quad \Re a > 0$$



# The error function

## Expansion

For  $a \in \mathbb{C}$  with  $\Re a > 0$ ,  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ,

$$F(a) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (-1)^k \gamma_k(a) + R_n(a),$$

where the functions  $\gamma_k(a)$  are the elementary functions

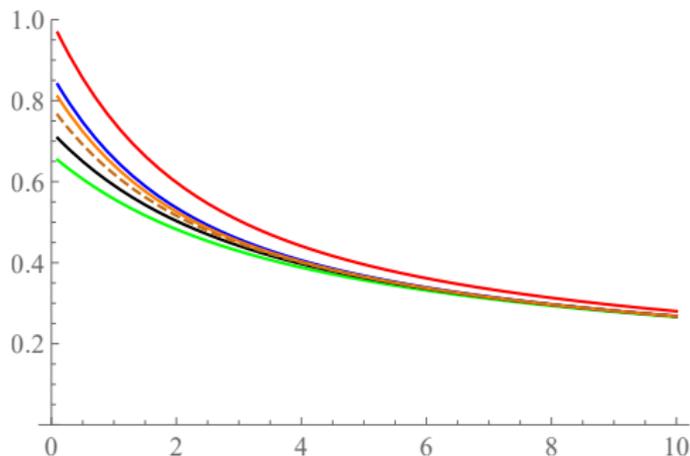
$$\gamma_k(a) := \int_0^1 e^{-at^2} t^{2k} dt = -\frac{e^{-a}}{2a} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{(k-j+1/2)_j}{a^j} + \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2a^{k+1/2}} (1/2)_k \operatorname{erf} \sqrt{a},$$

that satisfy the recurrence relation

$$\gamma_k(a) = -\frac{e^{-a}}{2a} + \frac{2k-1}{2a} \gamma_{k-1}(a), \quad \gamma_0(z) = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}} \operatorname{erf} \sqrt{a}.$$

## The error function

$$F(a) := \frac{\pi}{4} e^a (1 - (\operatorname{erf} \sqrt{a})^2) = \int_0^1 \frac{e^{-at^2}}{1+t^2} dt, \quad \Re a > 0$$



# The error function

Second order equation in  $x = \operatorname{erf} \sqrt{a}$

$$x^2 + \frac{4}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-a} A_n(a) x - 1 - \frac{4}{\pi} e^{-2a} B_n(a) + \frac{4}{\pi} e^{-a} R_n(a) = 0,$$

where

$$A_n(a) := \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (-1)^k (1/2)_k \frac{1}{2a^{k+1/2}},$$

$$B_n(a) := \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (-1)^k \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{(k-j+1/2)_j}{2a^{j+1}}.$$

# The error function

## Expansion for $\operatorname{erf} \sqrt{a}$

$$\operatorname{erf} \sqrt{a} \approx \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-a} \frac{\frac{\pi}{4} e^{2a} + B_n(a)}{A_n(a) + \sqrt{A_n(a)^2 + \frac{\pi}{4} e^{2a} + B_n(a)}}$$

and

$$|r_n(a)| \leq \frac{4e^{-\Re a}}{\pi(2n+1)} \leq \frac{4}{\pi(2n+1)},$$

$$|r_n(a)| \leq \frac{4e^{-\Re a} \frac{1}{2} (\Re a)^{-n-1/2} n! (1 - e^{-\Re a})^{n+1/2}}{\pi \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\pi} (n-1)! \frac{|a|^{1/2-n} e^{-\Re a}}{n+|a|+1/2} \right)}$$

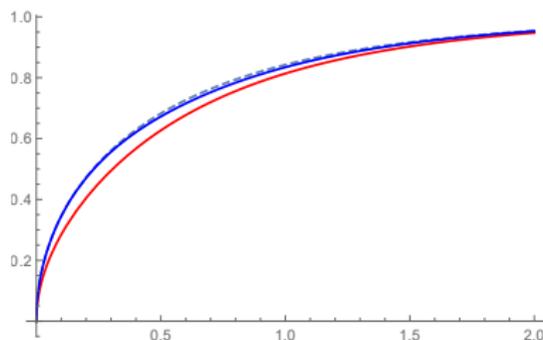
and when  $\Re a \rightarrow 0^+$

$$|r_n(a)| \leq \frac{4}{\pi^2} \frac{(n+|a|+1/2)|a|^{n-1/2}}{(n-1)!}.$$

# The error function

$$\operatorname{erf}(\sqrt{a}) \approx \frac{\sqrt{\pi}\sqrt{a}e^a}{\sqrt{1 + \pi a e^{2a}} + 1}$$

$$\operatorname{erf}(\sqrt{a}) \approx \frac{4\sqrt{a}e^{-a}(\pi e^{2a}a^2 + 3)}{\sqrt{\pi}(4a^2 + \sqrt{16\pi e^{2a}a^5 + 16a^4 + 32a^3 + 28a^2 - 12a + 9} - 2a + 3)}$$



# The error function: Other expansions

- Power series

$$\operatorname{erf} z = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n z^{2n+1}}{n!(2n+1)}, \quad z \in \mathbb{C}$$

- Other power series

$$\operatorname{erf} z = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-z^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{2^n z^{2n+1}}{1 \cdot 3 \cdots (2n+1)}, \quad z \in \mathbb{C}$$

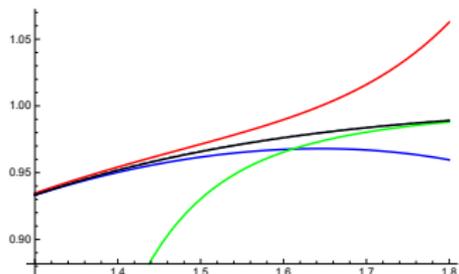
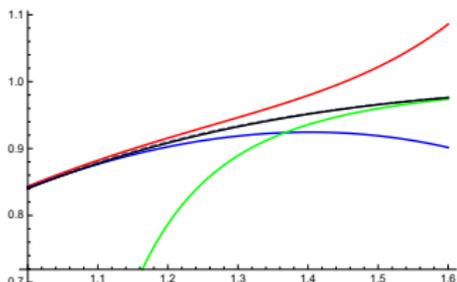
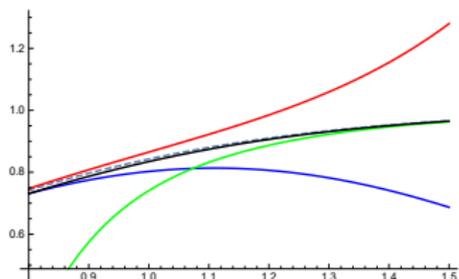
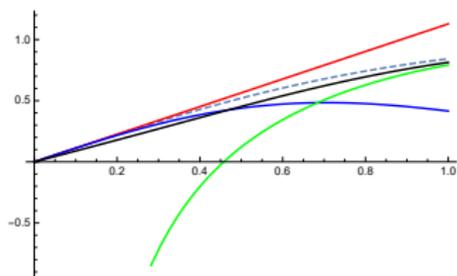
# The error function: Other expansions

- Asymptotic expansion

$$\operatorname{erf} z \sim 1 - \frac{e^{-z^2}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_m}{z^{2m+1}}, \quad |\operatorname{ph} z| < \frac{3\pi}{4}$$

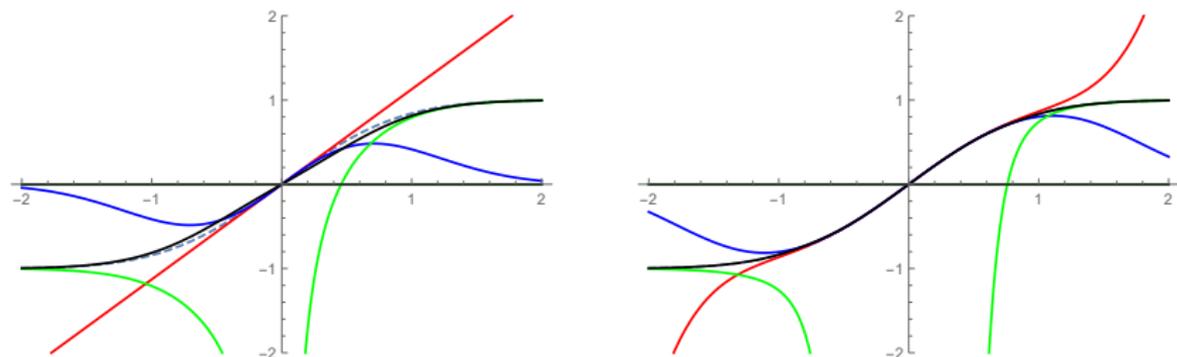
$$\operatorname{erf}(-z) \sim \frac{e^{-z^2}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_m}{z^{2m+1}} - 1$$

# The error function



Graphics of  $\operatorname{erf} a$  (dashed) and the power series (red), the other power series (blue), the asymptotic expansion (green) and our new expansion (black), for  $n = 1, 3, 5$  and  $7$ .

# The error function



Graphics of  $\operatorname{erf} a$  (dashed) and the power series (red), the other power series (blue), the asymptotic expansion (green) and our new expansion (black), for  $n = 1$  and  $n = 3$ .

# Content

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- 4 Application to other special functions
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- 6 Final remarks

# Final remarks and future work

- ① We have designed a general theory of uniformly convergent approximations of special functions based on their integral representations.
- ② Apply the method to other special functions.
- ③ Investigate the stability of the recurrence relations for the coefficients if they are applied forward or look for other recurrence relations.
- ④ Investigate if the new expansions can be interested from a numerical point of view depending on the range of the variable: for moderate values. The empirical results point in that direction.
- ⑤ For intermediate values, compare the results with Chebyshev expansions or quadrature formulas.

Thank you for your attention!