

Évaluation de $Ai(x)$

Cancellation catastrophique
& comment y échapper

Marc Mezzarobba

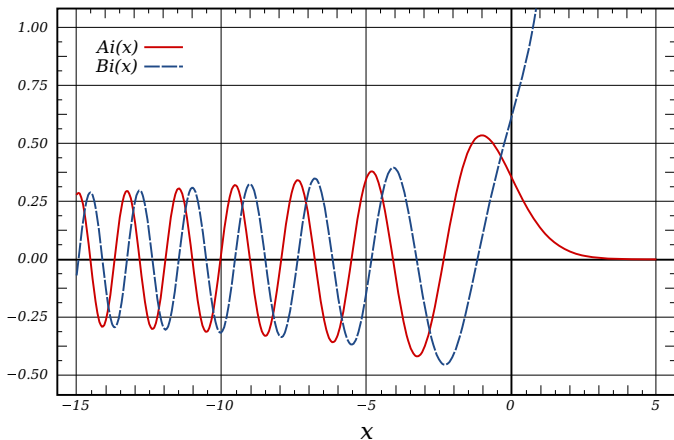
projet AriC, Inria, ENS de Lyon

Sylvain Chevillard

projet Apics, Inria Sophia

Séminaire BiPoP-CASYS (LJK, Montbonnot), 5 avril 2013

The Airy Function $\text{Ai}(x)$



$$\text{Ai}''(x) = x \text{Ai}(x)$$

$$\text{Ai}(0) = \frac{1}{3^{2/3} \Gamma(2/3)}$$

$$\text{Ai}'(0) = -\frac{1}{3^{1/3} \Gamma(1/3)}$$

Multiple-Precision Evaluation for $x > 0$

Standard Approach

“Small” x : Taylor Series at 0

- catastrophic cancellation
for moderately large x
- need $p_{\text{work}} \gg p_{\text{res}}$

for $n = 0, 1, \dots, N - 1$

$$t_n := a_1(n) \cdot t_{n-1} \cdot x + a_2(n) \cdot t_{n-1} x^2 \\ + \dots + a_k(n) \cdot t_{n-k} \cdot x^k$$

$$s := s + t_n$$

(floating-point, precision p_{work})

“Large” x : Asymptotic Expansion at ∞

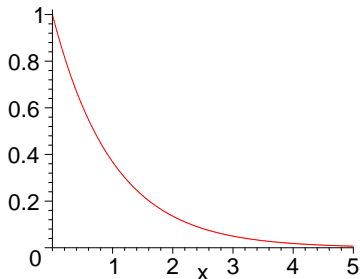
This talk

New evaluation algorithm for “small” x with $p_{\text{work}} \approx p_{\text{res}}$

Complete error analysis

Cancellation

A Simple Example



$$\exp(-x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} x^n$$

$$x = 20$$

```
> x := 20: N := 100:
```

```
> add((-20.)^n/n!, n=0..99);
```

```
-.12115250e-1
```

```
> exp(-20.);
```

```
.2061153622e-8
```

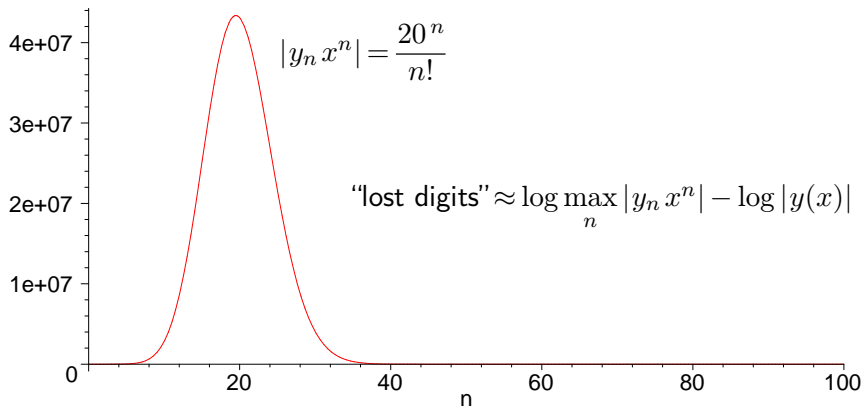
```
> Digits := 30;
```

```
add((-20.)^n/n!, n=0..99);
```

```
Digits:=30
```

```
.206115362243865948417e-8
```

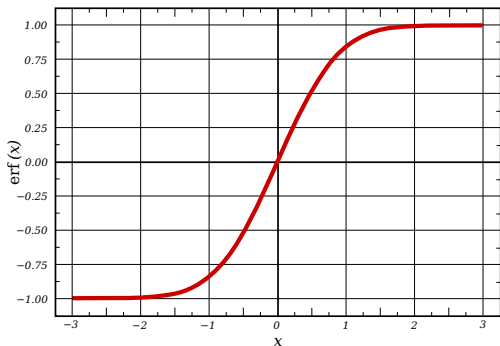
Catastrophic Cancellation



A Better Way

$$\exp(-x) = \frac{1}{\exp(x)}$$

The Error Function



$$\text{erf}(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(x - \frac{1}{3} x^3 + \frac{1}{10} x^5 - \frac{1}{42} x^7 + \frac{1}{216} x^9 - \dots \right)$$

catastrophic cancellation

But...

$$\operatorname{erf}(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \exp(-x^2) \underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{2^n}{1 \cdot 3 \cdots (2n+1)} x^{2n+1}}_{G(x)}$$

(Abramowitz & Stegun, Eq. 7.1.6)

Algorithm

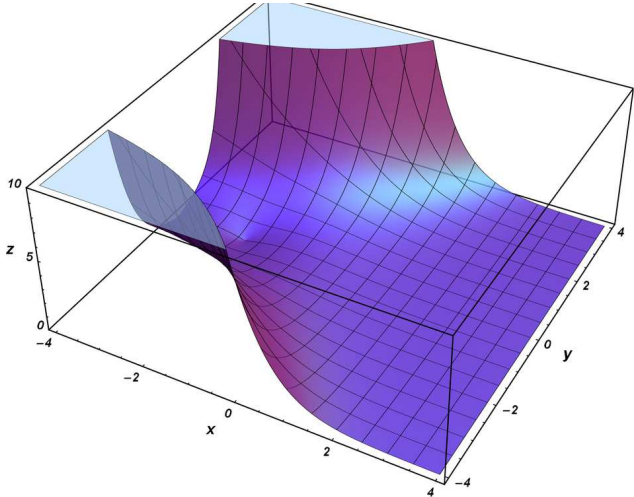
1. Compute $\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} G(x)$

positive terms, minimal cancellation

2. Compute $\exp(x^2)$

3. Divide

Back to Ai



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ai}(x) &= A - Bx + \frac{A}{6}x^3 - \frac{B}{12}x^4 + \frac{A}{180}x^6 - \frac{B}{504}x^7 + \frac{A}{12960}x^9 - \dots \\ &= A \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 4 \cdots (3n-2)}{(3n)!} x^{3n} - B \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdots (3n-1)}{(3n+1)!} x^{3n+1} \end{aligned}$$

The GMR Method

The Gawronski-Müller-Reinhard Cancellation Reduction Method

Idea: **Find F and G** such that

1. $y(x) = \frac{G(x)}{F(x)}$

2. F and G computable with little cancellation

- Based on **complex analysis**
- Starting point: **asymptotic behaviour** of y at complex ∞

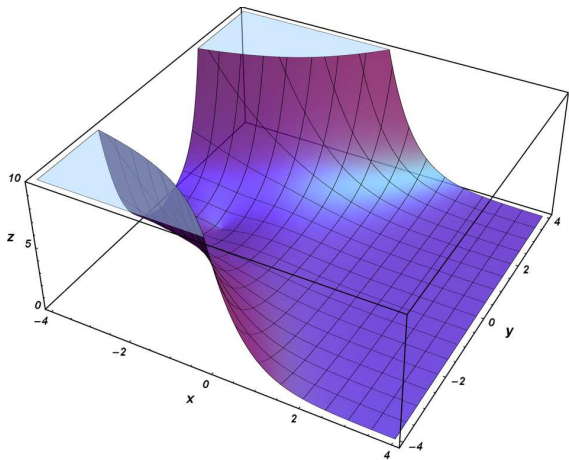


W. Gawronski, J. Müller, M. Reinhard. SIAM J. Num. An., 2007.



M. Reinhard. Phd thesis, Universität Trier, 2008.

Asymptotics



$$\text{Ai}(z) \sim \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{2}{3}z^{3/2}\right)}{2\sqrt{\pi}z^{1/4}}$$

as $z \rightarrow \infty$

in any sector

$\{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid -\varphi < \arg z < \varphi\}$

with $\varphi > 0$

The Indicator of an Entire Function

$$|y(re^{i\theta})| \approx \exp(\mathbf{h}(\theta) r^\rho)$$

for large r

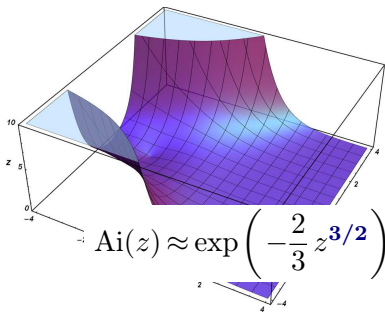
$$M(r) = \sup_{|z|=r} |y(z)|$$

Order

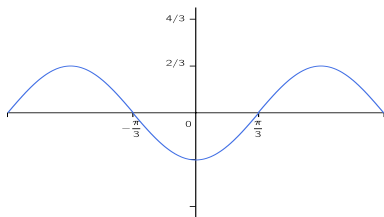
$$\rho = \limsup_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln \ln M(r)}{\ln r} = \frac{3}{2}$$

Indicator

$$\begin{aligned} h(\theta) &= \limsup_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln |y(re^{i\theta})|}{r^\rho} \\ &= -\frac{2}{3} \cos\left(\frac{3}{2}\theta\right) \end{aligned}$$



$$\text{Ai}(z) \approx \exp\left(-\frac{2}{3} z^{3/2}\right)$$



Lost in Cancellation

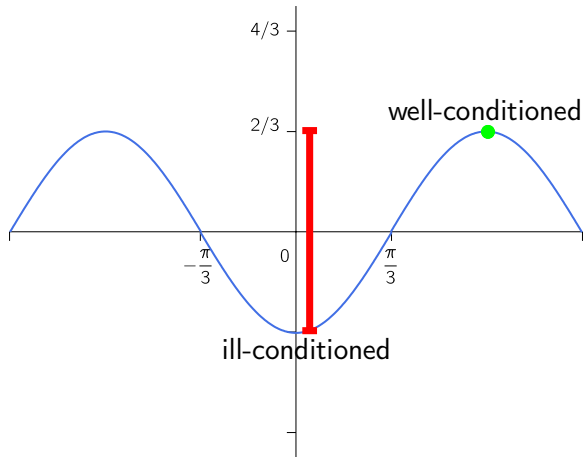
$$|y(r e^{i\theta})| \approx \exp(\mathbf{h}(\theta) r^\rho)$$

for large r

$$\max_n |y_n z^n| = M(|z|)^{1+o(1)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{"lost" digits} &\approx \log_{10} \left(\max_n |y_n z^n| \right) - \log_{10} |y(z)| \\ &\approx \log_{10} \frac{M(|z|)}{|y(z)|} \\ &\approx \ln \frac{M(|z|)}{|y(z)|} \\ &\approx (r^\rho \max_\varphi h(\varphi)) - r^\rho h(\theta) \quad (z = r e^{i\theta}) \\ &= r^\rho (\mathbf{max} \mathbf{h} - \mathbf{h}(\theta)) \end{aligned}$$

Lost Digits



The GMR Method

- “lost” digits $\approx r^\rho (\max h - h(\theta))$
- same $\rho \quad \Rightarrow \quad h_{G/F} = h_G - h_F$
$$\begin{cases} F(z) \approx e^{h_F(\theta)r^\rho} \\ G(z) \approx e^{h_G(\theta)r^\rho} \end{cases} \Rightarrow \frac{G(z)}{F(z)} \approx \exp [(h_G(\theta) - h_F(\theta)) r^\rho]$$

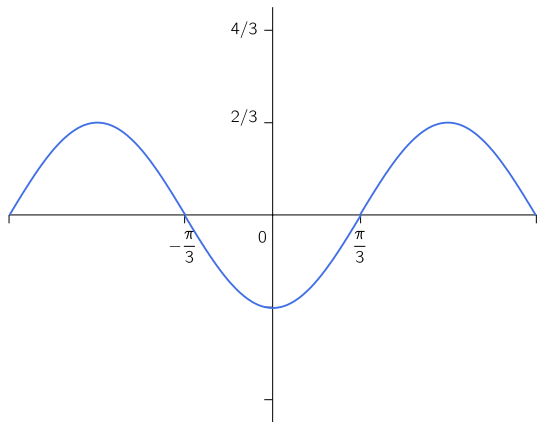
Idea (refined): look for

- an auxiliary series F ,
- a modified series $G = yF$,

both of order ρ , such that h_F and $h_G \approx$ their max for $\theta = 0$

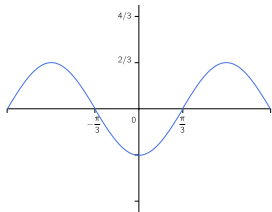
Auxiliary Series for $Ai(x)$

A First Try

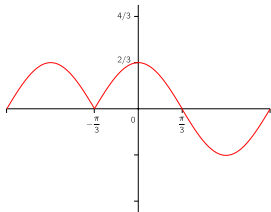


$$\text{Ai}(x) = \frac{G(x)}{\exp(\alpha x^{3/2})}?$$

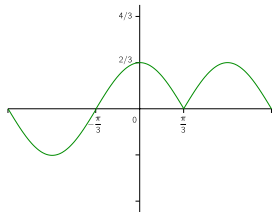
Indicators



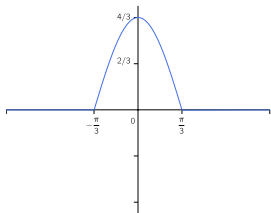
$\text{Ai}(x)$



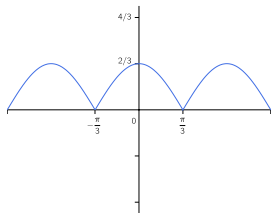
$\text{Ai}(j^{-1}x)$



$\text{Ai}(jx)$

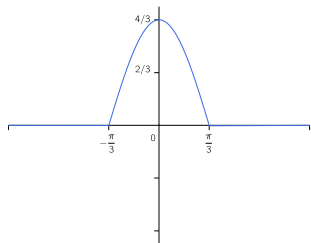


$\text{Ai}(jx)\text{Ai}(j^{-1}x)$

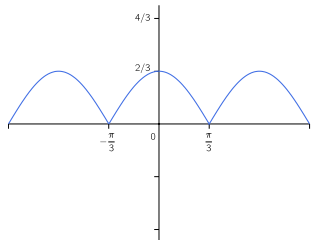


$\text{Ai}(x)\text{Ai}(jx)\text{Ai}(j^{-1}x)$

Auxiliary & Modified Series



$$\begin{aligned} F(x) &= \text{Ai}(j x) \text{Ai}(j^{-1} x) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} (\text{Ai}(x)^2 + \text{Bi}(x)^2) \end{aligned}$$



$$G(x) = \text{Ai}(x) F(x)$$

D-Finiteness

A function y is **D-finite** (holonomic) when it satisfies a linear ODE with polynomial coefficients.

Examples: $\text{Ai}(x)$, $\exp(x)$, $\text{erf}(x)$...

$$\text{Ai}''(x) = x \text{Ai}(x)$$

If $f(x)$, $g(x)$ are D-finite functions, then:

- For any algebraic function a , the composition $f(a(x))$ is D-finite

$$y(x) = \text{Ai}(j x)$$

$$y''(x) = x y(x)$$

- The sum $f(x) + g(x)$, the product $f(x) \cdot g(x)$ are D-finite

$$F(x) = y(x) \cdot \text{Ai}(j^{-1} x)$$

$$F'''(x) = 4 x F'(x) + 2 F(x)$$

D-Finiteness and Recurrences

$$F'''(x) = 4x F'(x) + 2F(x)$$

If $f(x)$ is a D-finite function, then:

- The Taylor coefficients of $f(x)$ obey a linear recurrence relation with polynomial coefficients

$$F(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} F_n x^n$$

$$F_{n+3} = \frac{2(2n+1)}{(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)} F_n$$

The Auxiliary Series $F(x)$

$$F(x) = \text{Ai}(j x) \text{Ai}(j^{-1} x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} F_n x^n$$

D-Finiteness

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ai}''(x) - x \text{Ai}(x) &= 0 & \rightsquigarrow & \mathbf{F}_{n+3} = \frac{2(2n+1)}{(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)} \mathbf{F}_n \\ \text{Ai}(0) &= A \quad \text{Ai}'(0) = B & & F_0 = \frac{1}{3^{4/3} \Gamma\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2} \quad F_1 = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}\pi} \\ & & & F_2 = \frac{1}{3^{2/3} \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2} \end{aligned}$$

- Two-term recurrence \Rightarrow Easy to evaluate
- Obviously $F_n > 0 \Rightarrow$ Minimal cancellation

The Modified Series $G(x)$

$$G(x) = \text{Ai}(x) F(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} G_n x^{3n}$$

D-Finiteness

$$G_{n+2} = \frac{10(n+1)^2 G_{n+1} - G_n}{(n+1)(n+2)(3n+4)(3n+5)}$$

$$G_0 = \frac{1}{9\Gamma\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^3}$$

$$G_1 = \frac{1}{18\Gamma\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^3} - \frac{1}{3\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^3}$$

$$G(x) = 0.44749 \cdot 10^{-1} + 0.50371 \cdot 10^{-2} x^3 + .14053 \cdot 10^{-3} x^6 \\ + .17388 \cdot 10^{-5} x^9 + .12091 \cdot 10^{-7} x^{12} + .53787 \cdot 10^{-10} x^{15} + \dots$$

Observe that $G_n > 0$

(proof?)

Minimality

Are We Done Yet?

G_n is one of the solutions of

$$u_{n+2} = \frac{10(n+1)^2 u_{n+1} - u_n}{(n+1)(n+2)(3n+4)(3n+5)}$$

Perron-Kreuser Theorem

$$u_n = \frac{v_n}{n!^2} \quad \frac{v_{n+1}}{v_n} \rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{either } 1 & \text{dominant solution (generic case)} \\ \text{or } 1/9 & \text{minimal solution (non-generic)} \end{cases}$$

Experimentally $G_n \approx \frac{1}{9^n n!^2}$ (**minimal**) (proof?)

\Rightarrow numerically **unstable** recursion

Miller's Method

Idea

“Unroll” the recurrence backwards for stability

...starting from arbitrary “initial” values

Algorithm

Choose $N \gg 0$

Set $u_N = 1, u_{N+1} = 0$

Compute u_{N-1}, \dots, u_1, u_0

using the recurrence

Return the list of $\tilde{G}_n^{(N)} = \frac{G_0}{u_0} u_n$

$$u_0 = 5.045 \cdot 10^{22} \rightarrow G_0 = 4.475 \cdot 10^{-2}$$

$$u_1 = 5.679 \cdot 10^{21} \rightarrow G_1 = 5.039 \cdot 10^{-3}$$

$$u_2 = 1.584 \cdot 10^{20} \rightarrow G_2 = 1.405 \cdot 10^{-4}$$

$$u_3 = 1.960 \cdot 10^{18} \rightarrow G_3 = 1.739 \cdot 10^{-5}$$

$$u_4 = 1.363 \cdot 10^{16} \rightarrow G_4 = 1.209 \cdot 10^{-8}$$

$$\uparrow u_5 = 6.064 \cdot 10^{13} \rightarrow G_5 = 5.379 \cdot 10^{-11}$$

$$u_6 = 1.873 \cdot 10^{11} \rightarrow G_6 = 1.661 \cdot 10^{-13}$$

$$u_7 = 4.248 \cdot 10^8 \rightarrow G_7 = 3.768 \cdot 10^{-16}$$

$$u_8 = 7.369 \cdot 10^5 \rightarrow G_8 = 6.538 \cdot 10^{-19}$$

$$u_9 = 1000. \rightarrow G_9 = 8.869 \cdot 10^{-22}$$

$$\mathbf{u_{10} = 1.} \rightarrow G_{10} = 8.869 \cdot 10^{-25}$$

$$\mathbf{u_{11} = 0.} \rightarrow G_{11} = 0$$

Convergence of Miller's Method

Algorithm

Choose $N \gg 0$

Set $\mathbf{u}_N = \mathbf{1}$, $\mathbf{u}_{N+1} = \mathbf{0}$ ← same starting values for all N

Compute u_{N-1}, \dots, u_1, u_0
(using the recurrence)

Return the list of $\tilde{G}_n^{(N)} = \frac{G_0}{u_0} u_n$

Theorem (classical)

For fixed n , we have $\tilde{G}_n^{(N)} \rightarrow G_n$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$

Evaluation Algorithm

Complete Algorithm

1. Choose working precision, series truncation orders
2. Compute $F(x)$ by direct recurrence
3. Compute $G(x)$ using Miller's method
4. Divide

Works well in practice.

(proof?)

Proofs & Error Bounds

What Remains To Do

- Prove that (G_n) is a minimal solution
i.e., the one to which Miller's method converges
- Prove that $G_n \geq 0$
so that the summation is numerically stable
- Bound the tails of the series F and G [easy]
- Bound the roundoff errors in $\sum F_n x^n$ [tedious but routine]
- Bound the method error of Miller's algorithm (i.e., $|G_n - \tilde{G}_n^{(N)}|$)
 \rightsquigarrow Main issue: **need bounds on G_n**
- Bound the corresponding additional roundoff errors [M&vdS 1976]



R.M.M. Matthieij & A. van der Sluis, Numerische Mathematik, 1976

Controlling G_n

Proposition

$$G_n \sim \gamma_n = \frac{1}{4\sqrt{3}\pi 9^n n!^2} \quad \text{with} \quad \left| \frac{G_n}{\gamma_n} - 1 \right| \leq 2.4 n^{-1/4} \quad \text{for all } n \geq 1$$

Corollary: $G_n > 0$ (for large n , then for all n)

Idea of the proof

- $G_n = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint \frac{G(z)}{z^{3n+1}} dz$
- saddle-point method
- $\text{Ai}(z) \sim \frac{e^{-\frac{2}{3}z^{3/2}}}{2\sqrt{\pi} z^{1/4}} =: \tilde{\text{Ai}}(z), \quad \left| \frac{\text{Ai}(z)}{\tilde{\text{Ai}}(z)} - 1 \right| \leq r^{-3/2} \frac{5}{48} \cos \frac{\theta}{2}$

Conclusion

Summary

- New well-conditioned formula for $Ai(x)$, obtained by an extension of the GMR method
- Detailed example of how to make the method rigorous
- Ready-to-use multiple-precision algorithm for $Ai(x)$

Next question: How much of this is specific to $Ai(x)$?

- Entire function
- Ability to find auxiliary series
- D-finiteness [constraints on the order of the recurrences?]
- Asymptotic estimate with error bound

Credits & Public Domain Dedication

This document uses

- the following images from Wikimedia Commons, all by **User:Inductiveload** and placed in the public domain
 - http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Airy_Functions.svg
 - http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:AiryAi_Arg_Contour.svg
 - http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:AiryAi_Abs_Surface.png
 - http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Error_Function.svg
- icons from the Oxygen icon set (<http://www.oxygen-icons.org/>), distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>).

To the extent possible under law, Marc Mezzarobba has waived all copyright and related or neighboring rights to the rest of the present document *Évaluation de $Ai(x)$: Cancellation catastrophique & comment y échapper*. This work is published from: France.