Guards! Guards!

UNBC Fall 2023

• Using

$$\sin x = \begin{cases} -\sin(-x) & \text{if } x < 0\\ \sin(x - 2\pi) & \text{if } x \ge 2\pi\\ -\sin(x - \pi) & \text{if } x \ge \pi\\ \sin(\pi - x) & \text{if } x \ge \pi/2\\ 3y - 4y^3 & \text{if } y = \sin(x/3) \end{cases}$$

and, Equation (1),

$$\sin x \approx x \left( 1 - \frac{x^2}{6} \left( 1 - \frac{x^2}{20} \left( 1 - \frac{x^2}{42} \right) \right) \right) \quad \text{for } 0 \le x < 0.01 \text{ ($x$ in radians)} \quad (1)$$

write a function (or functions) *using guards* to compute sin *x*.

Call your function something other than sin (perhaps mySin?) to avoid accidentally confusing your functions results with the Prelude function sin :: Floating a => a -> a.

Bonus

If you are interested in how computer hardware actually does trig, you may find below interesting. (However, calculation of  $\sin x$  to several hundred digits is best done by a different method (See the Wikipedia entry on the Arithmetic Geometric Mean for a starting point).)

- Compare your function against the builtin sin function on the range  $[0, \pi/2]$ . Where does your function differ most from the builtin function?
- Equation (1) is an approximation of the Taylor series

$$\sin x = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} \cdots$$

factored as

$$\sin x = x(1 - \frac{x^2}{2 \cdot 3}(1 - \frac{x^2}{4 \cdot 5}(1 - \frac{x^2}{6 \cdot 7}(1 - \dots)))).$$

In Equation (1), the (worst) error is  $\sim x^7$ . By carrying the series out to the  $x^{21}/21!$  term, the error also becomes  $\sim x^{21}$ . This means that you can use it for x < 0.1 (rather than x < 0.01) and still get an answer accurate to 20 digits or so.

The equation

 $\sin x = 3y - 4y^3$  where  $y = \sin(x/3)$ 

is mathematically exact, but rounding errors creep in every time that you use it.

+ Write a helper function to compute  $x(1 - \frac{x^2}{2 \cdot 3}(1 - \frac{x^2}{4 \cdot 5}(1 - \frac{x^2}{6 \cdot 7}(1 - \cdots))))$ , and see if you get a more accurate sin function.

sin September 24, 2023