

Proposed algorithm to evaluate $\log(1+x)$ for $|x| \ll 1$:

$$\text{flt} \left(\frac{x \log(1+x)}{(1+x)-1} \right)$$

The residual transformation to which we are interested is given by

$$y \mapsto \frac{x \log y}{y-1} =: f(y)$$

where x has to be considered just a parameter; errors on x are already dealt with when computing the whole problem conditioning. The condition number is then obtained with the usual formula

$$K \approx \left| \frac{y f'(y)}{f(y)} \right|$$

Carrying out the computation, we get (after a few passages, also observe that the x simplifies)

$$K \approx \left| \frac{1-y+y \log y}{(y-1) \log y} \right|$$

and we are interested in its value for $y \approx 1$. It is then convenient to write $y = 1 + \xi$ (I purposefully avoid to use the letter x in order to avoid confusion) and Taylor-expand around $\xi = 0$

$$K \approx \left| \frac{(\xi+1)(\xi - \frac{1}{2}\xi^2 + \mathcal{O}(\xi^3)) - \xi}{\xi(\xi + \mathcal{O}(\xi^2))} \right| = \left| \frac{\xi^2 - \frac{1}{2}\xi^3 + \xi - \frac{1}{2}\xi^2 - \xi + \mathcal{O}(\xi^3)}{\xi^2 + \mathcal{O}(\xi^3)} \right| \quad (1)$$

After simplification we finally obtain

$$K \approx \left| \frac{\frac{1}{2} + \mathcal{O}(\xi)}{1 + \mathcal{O}(\xi)} \right| \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}$$

as $\xi \rightarrow 0$. So that we have a well-conditioned contribution even from this (delicate) residual transformation.

You should notice that it is essential that the two ξ in the numerator of (1) simplify. this cancellation is the main reason why the algorithm is actually stable.