MICHAEL BARTHOLOMEW-BIGGS

Numerical Analysis Quasi-Haiku Sequence

TAYLOR'S THEOREM
If we knew it all
for just a single moment
we'd hold the future.

MEAN VALUE THEOREM
If we know in part
then, like stopped clocks, our forecasts
will be right – just once.

SUPERLINEAR CONVERGENCE
Acceleration:
the tell-tale heartbeat quickens
with adrenaline
rush like another
fall of the House of Usher.
Exhilaration!

LINEAR CONVERGENCE
Each repetition
closes on the vital point:
Pit and Pendulum?

STAGNATION
When will it converge?
Each dead step, like Poe's raven,
cackles "Nevermore!"

ABSOLUTE ACCURACY
Zero is zero:
no getting away from it –
let alone with it.
One hundred per cent
or nothing. Any miss is
as bad as a mile.

RELATIVE TOLERANCE
Just do your best, dear:
come close to expectations.
Pobody's nerfect.
You fell a bit short
of a lofty ambition?
Full marks for effort.

ILL CONDITIONING
Catastrophists say
one butterfly's wingbeats can
switch drought to monsoon.
Catastrophe spreads
through some computations from
one decimal's doubt.