

**Exercise 70** Using root-finding calculate  $\sqrt{R}$ . Ofcourse, MATLAB has the function `sqrt` and also the power function as we saw in the previous lecture. But pretend that it did not. What is  $\sqrt{R}$ ? Find a simple function  $f$  (that doesn't use the square-root function) so that  $f(\sqrt{2}) = 0$ . (There are several options, so if you don't manage with one option, try another!) Find  $\sqrt{2}$  like a Babylonian<sup>†</sup>. How many iterations do you need to get an answer that is  $1e-15$  from the answer given by MATLAB<sup>‡</sup>? Note: this problem will require you to use a pencil and paper. You will need to differentiate, divide and simplify a fraction before you type your code in MATLAB.

Notice that the starting point is important. Find starting points that converge to each of  $\pm\sqrt{2}$ .

<sup>†</sup>Look at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methods\\_of\\_computing\\_square\\_roots](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methods_of_computing_square_roots). for a reference.

<sup>‡</sup>The notation `1e-15` is legal notation in matlab and it means  $1 \times 10^{-15}$ . Also, with Matlab `1e-16` is the smallest precision (not number) possible i.e., `1+1e-16 = 1` (although `1+2e-16 ≠ 1`)

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