

3. Farey tree (18 July 2019).

1. Hurwitz Theorem.

a. Mediant fraction. Consider two fractions $\frac{a}{b}, \frac{c}{d}, (a, b) = (c, d) = 1$.

1) Show that the *mediant fraction* $\frac{a+c}{b+d}$ is located between $\frac{a}{b}$ and $\frac{c}{d}$;

2) suppose that $|\frac{a}{b} - \frac{c}{d}| = \frac{1}{bd}$, then $|\frac{a}{b} - \frac{a+c}{b+d}| = \frac{1}{b(b+d)}$ and $|\frac{a+c}{b+d} - \frac{c}{d}| = \frac{1}{(b+d)d}$.

b. Hurwitz.

1) **Theorem 1.** Suppose that $\alpha \in [\frac{a}{b}, \frac{c}{d}]$ and $|\frac{a}{b} - \frac{c}{d}| = \frac{1}{bd}$. Then either $|\alpha - \frac{a}{b}| \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}b^2}$, or $|\alpha - \frac{c}{d}| \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}d^2}$, or $|\alpha - \frac{a+c}{b+d}| \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}(b+d)^2}$.

2) **Theorem 2.** For any irrational $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ there exist infinitely many $\frac{a}{q}$ with $|\alpha - \frac{a}{q}| < \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}q^2}$.

3) Why the constant $1/\sqrt{5}$ in Theorem 2 is optimal?

2. Basis of \mathbb{Z}^2 . Consider two vectors $e_1 = (a, b), e_2 = (c, d) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$, with $ad - bc = \pm 1$. Then

a. each of the vectors is primitive, that is $(a, b) = (c, d) = 1$.

b. every integer point $z \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ can be written in a form $z = \lambda e_1 + \mu e_2$ with integer λ, μ .

3. Stern-Brocot sequences. Define the sets $F_n, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ by the following inductive procedure. For $n = 0$ put

$$F_0 = \{0, 1\} = \left\{ \frac{0}{1}, \frac{1}{1} \right\}.$$

If F_n is defined write it as a collection of increasing numbers:

$$0 = \xi_{0,n} < \xi_{1,n} < \dots < \xi_{N(n),n} = 1, N(n), \quad \xi_{j,n} = \frac{p_{j,n}}{q_{j,n}}, \quad (p_{j,n}, q_{j,n}) = 1.$$

Then we define F_{n+1} as

$$F_{n+1} = F_n \cup Q_{n+1}$$

where

$$Q_{n+1} = \left\{ \frac{p_{j,n} + p_{j+1,n}}{q_{j,n} + q_{j+1,n}}, j = 0, \dots, N(n) - 1 \right\}.$$

a. What is $N(n)$?

b. Prove that for every rational $\xi \in [0, 1]$ there exists n such that $\xi \in F_n$.

c. Let $\frac{p}{q} = \frac{p_{j,n} + p_{j+1,n}}{q_{j,n} + q_{j+1,n}} \in Q_{n+1}$ and we have the continued fraction expansion

$$\frac{p}{q} = [0; a_1, \dots, a_{t-1}, a_t], \quad a_t \geq 2.$$

Find the continued fraction expansion s for its "neighbors" in F_{n+1} , that is for the numbers $\xi_{j,n}$ и $\xi_{j+1,n}$.

d. What is ordinary continued fraction algorithm from "Farey tree point of view"?

4. **Legendre Theorem.** Let

$$\frac{p}{q} = \frac{p_{j,n} + p_{j+1,n}}{q_{j,n} + q_{j+1,n}} \in Q_{n+1}, \quad \frac{p_-}{q_-} = \xi_{j,n} = \frac{p_{j,n}}{q_{j,n}}, \quad \frac{p_+}{q_+} = \xi_{j+1,n} = \frac{p_{j+1,n}}{q_{j+1,n}}$$

Consider the segment $I = \left[\frac{p_- + p}{q_- + q}, \frac{p + p_+}{q + q_+} \right]$. Then the fraction $\frac{p}{q}$ is a convergent fraction to α if and only if $\alpha \in I$.

5. Monkemeyer's algorithm.

a. In \mathbb{R}^2 we consider the triangle $\Delta = A_0A_{-1}A_{-2}$ with vertices $A_{-2} = (0, 1)$, $A_{-1} = (1, 0)$, $A_0 = (0, 0)$. We deal with an inductive process. For a triangle $A_\nu A_{\nu-1} A_{\nu-2}$ with vertices in rational points such that

$$A_{\nu-2} = \left(\frac{a_{\nu-2}}{c_{\nu-2}}, \frac{b_{\nu-2}}{c_{\nu-2}} \right), A_{\nu-1} = \left(\frac{a_{\nu-1}}{c_{\nu-1}}, \frac{b_{\nu-1}}{c_{\nu-1}} \right), \text{НОД}(a_j, b_j, c_j) = 1,$$

we consider its partition into two smaller triangles

$$A'_{\nu+1}A'_\nu A'_{\nu-1} = BA_\nu A_{\nu-1} \text{ и } A''_{\nu+1}A''_\nu A''_{\nu-1} = BA_\nu A_{\nu-2} \text{ где } B = \left(\frac{a_{\nu-1} + a_{\nu-2}}{c_{\nu-1} + c_{\nu-2}}, \frac{b_{\nu-1} + b_{\nu-2}}{c_{\nu-1} + c_{\nu-2}} \right)$$

Prove that the points which occur as the vertices of the triangles are just all rational points of the initial triangle Δ .

(Suggestions:

- 1) Let $\left(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, \dots, \frac{a_n}{b_n} \right) \in \mathbb{Q}^n$. Prove that there exist unique $A_1, \dots, A_n \in \mathbb{Z}, Q \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, such that $(A_1, \dots, A_n, Q) = 1$ and $\frac{A_i}{Q} = \frac{a_i}{b_i}, \forall i$.
- 2) Every three vectors

$$(a_j, b_j, c_j), j \in \{\nu-1, \nu-1, \nu\}$$

from a basis of \mathbb{Z}^3 .

- 3) How one can calculate the area of $\Delta = A_\nu A_{\nu-1} A_{\nu-2}$ in terms of $c_\nu, c_{\nu-1}, c_{\nu-2}$?

Exercises.

1. Hurwitz theorem revisited. Prove that for any ν for the denominators of convergent fractions to α one has either

$$q_{\nu-1} \|q_{\nu-1}\alpha\| < 1/\sqrt{5},$$

or

$$q_\nu \|q_\nu\alpha\| < 1/\sqrt{5},$$

or

$$q_{\nu+1} \|q_{\nu+1}\alpha\| < 1/\sqrt{5}.$$

2. What are the sets

$$\{\alpha \in [0, 1] : \alpha = [0; a_1, \dots, a_t], a_1 + \dots + a_t = n\}, \quad \{\alpha \in [0, 1] : \alpha = [0; a_1, \dots, a_t], a_1 + \dots + a_t \leq n\},$$

(here $[0; a_1, \dots, a_t]$ is the continued fraction for α)?

3. Farey map.

- a. Consider the map on $[0, 1]$ defined as

$$T(x) = \begin{cases} x/(1-x), & 0 \leq x \leq 1/2, \\ (1-x)/x, & 1/2 \leq x \leq 1. \end{cases}$$

What is $T^{-n}(1)$ and $T^{-n}(0)$?

- b. Find the sum of all the denominators of all numbers from $T^{-n}(0)$.

4. Legendre theorem simplified. Prove that if

$$\left| \alpha - \frac{p}{q} \right| < \frac{1}{2q^2} \quad \text{and} \quad (p, q) = 1$$

then $\frac{p}{q}$ is a convergent fraction to α .

5. Prove that in Monkemeyer's algorithm for any $\alpha \in \Delta \setminus \mathbb{Q}^2$ there exists a sequence of nested triangles Δ_ν from the algorithm such that $\{\alpha\} = \bigcap_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \Delta_\nu$. (This property is called weak convergence of the algorithm.)