

Problem 1. Expand in continued fractions the following rational numbers: $\frac{67}{41}, \frac{111}{19}$.

Problem 2. We write a continued fraction $a_0 + \frac{1}{a_1 + \frac{1}{a_2 + \dots}}$ as $\langle a_0, a_1, \dots \rangle$. You can truncate the continued fraction in order to get $\langle a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle$ and reduce the result to a fraction $r_n = \frac{p_n}{q_n}$. For $n \geq 1$, prove that $\frac{q_{n+1}}{q_n} = \langle a_n, a_{n-1}, \dots, a_2, a_1 \rangle$. Find and prove a similar continued fraction expansion for $\frac{p_n}{p_{n-1}}$, assuming $a_0 \geq 0$.

Problem 3. Let u_0/u_1 be a rational number in its lowest terms, and write $u_0/u_1 = \langle a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle$. Show that if $0 \leq i < n$, then $|r_i - u_0/u_1| \leq 1/(q_i q_{i+1})$, with equality if and only if $i = n - 1$. (Here $r_i = p_i/q_i$ is the truncated fraction equal to $\langle a_0, a_1, \dots, a_i \rangle$).

Problem 4 (Geometric interpretation of the denominators q_n). For an irrational number ζ (this greek letter is called "zeta"), consider the point on the unit circle $\lambda = e^{2\pi i \zeta}$ (this greek letter is called "lambda"). We study the orbit $1 \mapsto \lambda \mapsto \lambda^2 \mapsto \dots$ under the rotation $z \mapsto \lambda z$ of the circle. We say that a point λ^q on this orbit is a **closest return** to 1 if

$$|\lambda^q - 1| < |\lambda^m - 1|$$

for every m with $0 < m < q$, so that λ^q is closer to 1 than any preceding point on the orbit.

Show that the point $\lambda^q = e^{2\pi i \zeta q}$ is a closest return to 1 along the orbit

$$1 \mapsto \lambda \mapsto \lambda^2 \mapsto \dots$$

if and only if q is one of the denominators $1 = q_1 \leq q_2 < q_3, \dots$ in the continued fraction approximations to ζ . Furthermore, if $q = q_n$ with $n \geq 2$ then the order of magnitude of the distance $|\lambda^q - 1|$ is given by

$$\frac{2}{q_{n+1}} < |\lambda^{q_n} - 1| < \frac{2\pi}{q_{n+1}}$$

Some hints for that: prove that $|\lambda^m - 1| = 2 \sin(\pi \langle \langle m\zeta \rangle \rangle)$, where $\langle \langle x \rangle \rangle$ represents $\min|x + n|, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ (the distance from the point x to the closest integer). Then use the fact that $4 < 2 \sin(\pi t)/t < 2\pi$ for $t \in (0, 1/2)$. Also notice that $q_n \zeta \equiv x_n \pmod{\mathbb{Z}}$, and remember that we proved that $|x_n| < 1/2$ for n larger than 2.