

Sequences of Matrices and Substitutions

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Classical continued fractions

- Continued fraction expansion of $x \in \mathbb{R}$

$$x = [a_0; a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots] = a_0 + \frac{1}{a_1 + \frac{1}{a_2 + \frac{1}{a_3 + \ddots}}}$$

- Convergents

$$\frac{p_n}{q_n} = [a_0; a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n].$$

- Recurrence relations for the convergents

$$\begin{aligned} p_n &= a_n p_{n-1} + p_{n-2}, & p_{-1} &= 1, & p_{-2} &= 0, \\ q_n &= a_n q_{n-1} + q_{n-2}, & q_{-1} &= 0, & q_{-2} &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

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Sequences of matrices

- Let $[a_0; a_1, a_2, \dots]$ be a continued fraction expansion with convergents

$$\frac{p_n}{q_n} = [a_0; a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n].$$

- Then the recurrence relations for p_n and q_n imply

$$\begin{pmatrix} p_n & p_{n-1} \\ q_n & q_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdots \begin{pmatrix} a_n & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (n \geq 0)$$

- In this sense, the continued fraction algorithm produces a **sequence of matrices**.

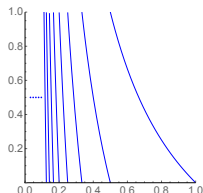
The Gauss map

- For $x \in (0, 1)$ the **partial quotients** a_1, a_2, \dots of this continued fraction algorithm can be produced by the **Gauss map**

$$G : (0, 1) \mapsto [0, 1), x \mapsto \frac{1}{x} - \left\lfloor \frac{1}{x} \right\rfloor.$$

- Indeed, one can show that

$$a_n = \left\lfloor \frac{1}{G^{n-1}(x)} \right\rfloor.$$



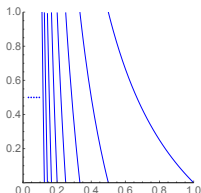
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Convergence of a continued fraction algorithm

- A continued fraction algorithm is considered to be “good” if the continued fraction expansion of x converges to x fastly in the sense that

$$\left| \frac{p_n}{q_n} - x \right| \rightarrow 0 \quad (n \rightarrow \infty)$$

fastly.

- This is equivalent to the fact that the direction of the sequence of vectors (p_n, q_n) approaches the direction $(x, 1)$ fastly.
- Looking at the matrices this is in turn equivalent to the fact that the **Perron-Frobenius eigenvalue** of

$$\begin{pmatrix} p_n & p_{n-1} \\ q_n & q_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdots \begin{pmatrix} a_n & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Approximation of the golden ratio

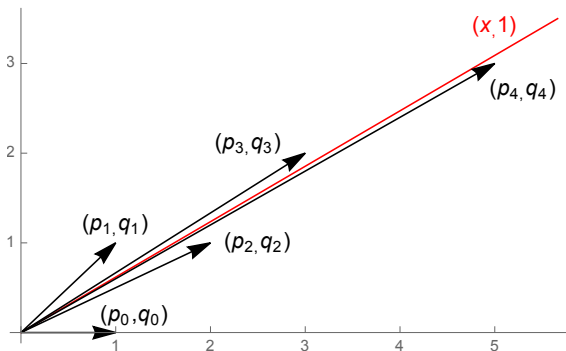


Figure: The approximation of $x = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$ by its convergent vectors

$$\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \begin{pmatrix} p_n & p_{n-1} \\ q_n & q_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} \mathbb{R}_+^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}_+ \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ fastly!}$$

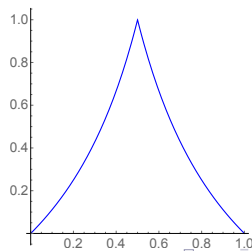
An additive version of this algorithm

- There is a “slower” version of this algorithm.
- it is defined by the map

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1-x}{x}, & \text{if } x > \frac{1}{2}, \\ \frac{x}{1-x}, & \text{if } x \leq \frac{1}{2}. \end{cases}$$

- It produces sequences of matrices taken from the set

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{Additive}} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$



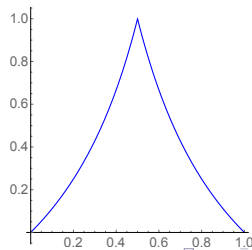
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Multidimensional continued fraction algorithms

- This can be generalized to **multidimensional continued fraction algorithms**
- Multidimensional continued fraction algorithms are used to approximate a vector $(1, x_1, \dots, x_d)$ by convergents of the form

$$\left(1, \frac{p_{n1}}{q_n}, \dots, \frac{p_{nd}}{q_n}\right) \sim (q_n, p_{n1}, \dots, p_{nd}).$$

- Prominent examples are the algorithms of **Brun**, **Selmer**, **Jacobi-Perron**, and **Arnoux-Rauzy**.
- These algorithms also “produce” sequences of integer matrices (often with determinant ± 1).
- We want to know under which circumstances they provide “good” approximations.
- To this end we study sequences of integer matrices.

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Notations

- Let

$$\mathrm{GL}(d, \mathbb{Z}) = \{M \in \mathbb{Z}^{d \times d} : \det M = \pm 1\}.$$

- A matrix $M \in \mathbb{Z}^{d \times d}$ with $\det M = \pm 1$ is called **unimodular**.
- Let

$$\mathcal{M} = \{M \in \mathbb{N}^{d \times d} : \det M = \pm 1\}.$$

- $\mathbf{M} = (M_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ is a **sequence of nonnegative matrices** in $\mathrm{GL}(d, \mathbb{Z})$.
- For **products of consecutive matrices** we put

$$M_{[m,n]} = M_m M_{m+1} \cdots M_{n-1} \quad \text{for } m, n \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ with } m \leq n,$$

where $M_{[m,m]}$ denotes the $d \times d$ identity matrix.

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Generalized eigenvectors

- Let $\mathbf{M} = (M_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ be given.
- \mathbf{M} is **primitive** (in the future) if for each m there is $n > m$ such that $M_{[m,n]}$ is a **positive** matrix
- \mathbf{M} is **recurrent** if each block M_m, \dots, M_{n-1} ($m < n$) occurs infinitely often.

Lemma (Furstenberg:1960)

If a sequence $\mathbf{M} = (M_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ of nonnegative matrices in $GL(d, \mathbb{Z})$ is **primitive** and **recurrent**, then there exists a positive vectors \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} such that

$$\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} M_{[0,n]} \mathbb{R}_+^d = \mathbb{R}_+ \mathbf{u} \quad (\text{gen. right eigenvector}),$$

$$\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} {}^t M_{[-n,0]} \mathbb{R}_+^d = \mathbb{R}_+ \mathbf{v} \quad (\text{gen. left eigenvector}).$$

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Notions of convergence...

Definition (Weak, strong, and exponential convergence)

- Let $\mathbf{M} = (M_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ be a sequence of matrices in $GL(d, \mathbb{Z})$ and let $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$. \mathbf{M} is **weakly convergent** to \mathbf{u} if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} d\left(\frac{M_{[0,n]}\mathbf{e}_i}{\|M_{[0,n]}\mathbf{e}_i\|}, \frac{\mathbf{u}}{\|\mathbf{u}\|}\right) = 0 \quad \text{for all } i \in \{1, \dots, d\}.$$

- \mathbf{M} is **strongly convergent** to \mathbf{u} if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} d(M_{[0,n]}\mathbf{e}_i, \mathbb{R}\mathbf{u}) = 0 \quad \text{for all } i \in \{1, \dots, d\}.$$

- \mathbf{M} is **exponentially convergent** to \mathbf{u} if there exist $C, \alpha > 0$ such that

$$d(M_{[0,n]}\mathbf{e}_i, \mathbb{R}\mathbf{u}) \leq Ce^{-\alpha n} \quad \text{for all } n \in \mathbb{N}, i \in \{1, \dots, d\}.$$

... illustrated by a picture

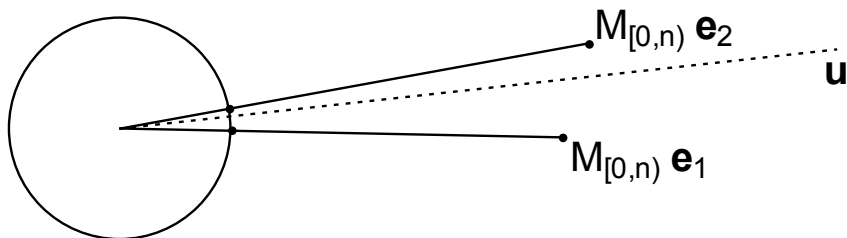
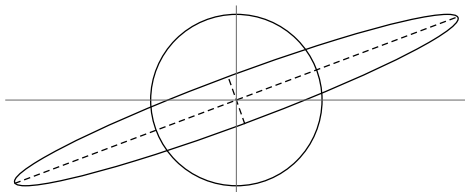


Figure: Weak vs. strong convergence

- **Weak convergence** takes place on the unit circle.
- **Weak convergence** means that there is a **generalized right eigenvector** \mathbf{u} .
- **Strong convergence** takes place at the points $M_{[0,n]} \mathbf{e}_i$.

The Pisot condition

For a matrix $M \in GL(d, \mathbb{Z})$, $d \geq 2$, the singular values $\delta_1(M), \dots, \delta_d(M)$ are the eigenvalues of the matrix $({}^tMM)^{1/2}$ assume that $\delta_1(M) \geq \delta_2(M) \geq \dots \geq \delta_d(M)$.



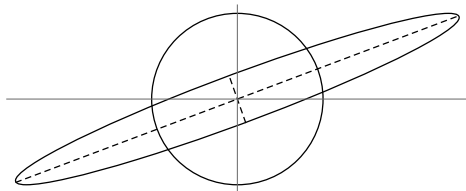
Definition (Local Pisot condition)

We say that a sequence $\mathbf{M} = (M_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ of nonnegative matrices in $GL(d, \mathbb{Z})$ satisfies the **local Pisot condition** if

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \delta_2(M_{[0,n]}) < 0.$$

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Algebraic irreducibility and its consequence

Definition (Algebraic irreducibility)

A sequence $\mathbf{M} = (M_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \in \mathcal{M}_d^{\mathbb{Z}}$ is called **algebraically irreducible** if for each $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, there is $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that the characteristic polynomial of $M_{[m,n]}$ is irreducible for each $n \geq n_0$.

Proposition

If a primitive sequence $\mathbf{M} = (M_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \in \mathcal{M}_d^{\mathbb{Z}}$ satisfies the local Pisot condition and the growth condition $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \|M_n\| = 0$, then \mathbf{M} is **algebraically irreducible** and the coordinates of any generalized right eigenvector \mathbf{u} are **rationally independent**.

A criterion for exponential convergence

Theorem

For $d \geq 2$, let $\mathbf{M} = (M_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \in \mathcal{M}_d^{\mathbb{Z}}$ be a primitive sequence of nonnegative unimodular integer matrices satisfying the local Pisot condition and the growth condition $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \|M_n\| = 0$. Then \mathbf{M} is algebraically irreducible and admits a generalized right eigenvector with rationally independent coordinates to which it converges exponentially.

- The proof is hard and uses a local version of the Oseledets theorem (Ruelle, 1979, Arnold, 1998).
- The local Pisot condition (and primitivity) can be checked for classes of examples.
- This theorem also has a metric counterpart.

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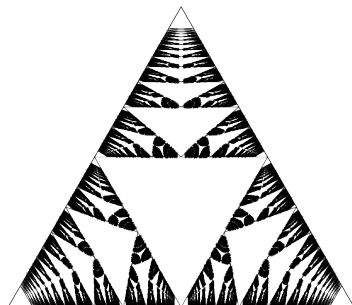
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An example: The Arnoux-Rauzy algorithm, I

The **Arnoux–Rauzy algorithm (1991)** is defined by

$$[1 : \alpha : \beta] \mapsto \text{sort}[1 - \alpha - \beta : \alpha : \beta] \quad (1 > \alpha > \beta > 0)$$

on the set $\{[1 : \alpha : \beta] \in \mathbb{P}^2 : (\alpha, \beta) \in \Delta\}$.



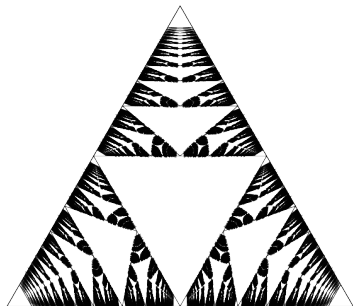
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- Choose $\mathbf{M} = (M_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{AR}}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ with

$$\{M_n, \dots, M_{n+h-1}\} = \mathcal{M}_{\text{AR}}$$

for some $h \in \mathbb{N}$ and all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$: **Strong partial quotients bounded by h .**

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An example: The Arnoux-Rauzy algorithm, III

- **Delecroix, Hejda, and Steiner (2013)**: There exists a constant $C > 0$, such that for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists a hyperplane $\mathbf{w}(n)^\perp$ such that

$$\|\mathbf{M}_{[0,n]}|_{\mathbf{w}(n)^\perp}\| \leq C \left(\frac{2^h - 3}{2^h - 1} \right)^{n/h}.$$

- Hence the hyperplane $\mathbf{w}(n)^\perp$ is contracted by $M_{[0,n]}$ in an exponential way, *i.e.*,

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \|\mathbf{M}_{[0,n]}|_{\mathbf{w}(n)^\perp}\| < 0.$$

- Thus by the definition of singular values we have

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \delta_2(M_{[0,n]}) \leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \|\mathbf{M}_{[0,n]}|_{\mathbf{w}(n)^\perp}\| < 0.$$

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- Thus the **Pisot condition** holds.

An example: The Arnoux-Rauzy algorithm, III

- **Delecroix, Hejda, and Steiner (2013)**: There exists a constant $C > 0$, such that for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists a hyperplane $\mathbf{w}(n)^\perp$ such that

$$\|\mathbf{M}_{[0,n]}|_{\mathbf{w}(n)^\perp}\| \leq C \left(\frac{2^h - 3}{2^h - 1} \right)^{n/h}.$$

- Hence the hyperplane $\mathbf{w}(n)^\perp$ is contracted by $M_{[0,n]}$ in an exponential way, *i.e.*,

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \|\mathbf{M}_{[0,n]}|_{\mathbf{w}(n)^\perp}\| < 0.$$

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Thus we have the following result, see [Berthé, Steiner, and T. \(2019\)](#):

Theorem (Exponentially convergent Arnoux-Rauzy sequences)

If $\mathbf{M} \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{AR}}$ is a sequence of [Arnoux-Rauzy matrices](#) with bounded strong partial quotients then

- \mathbf{M} is [algebraically irreducible](#).
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There is also a [metric theory](#) that allows to prove that almost all (in a certain sense) sequences in \mathcal{M}_{AR} are exponentially convergent, see again [Berthé, Steiner, and T. \(2019\)](#).

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Markov Partition: Example, I

- Consider the Matrix

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- $\det M = 1$. Thus we can view M as an automorphism on \mathbb{T}^2 .
- The eigenvalues of M are φ^2, φ^{-2} , where φ is the **golden ratio**.
- The eigenvectors are given by.

$$\begin{pmatrix} \varphi \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} -1/\varphi \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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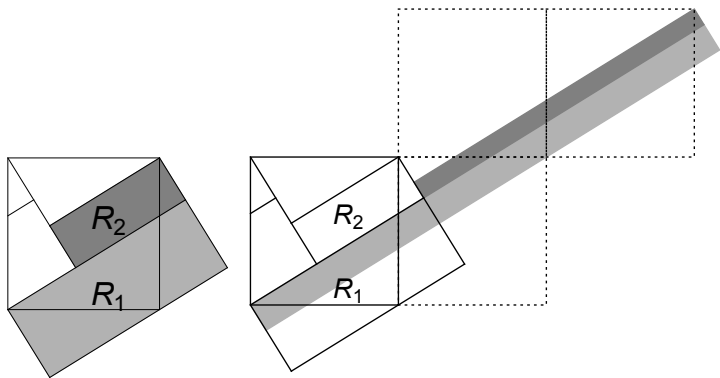


Figure: Using the eigendirections we build an L -shaped fundamental domain of \mathbb{T}^2 . The boxes R_1 and R_2 are mapped nicely to parallel boxes.

Markov Partition: Example, III

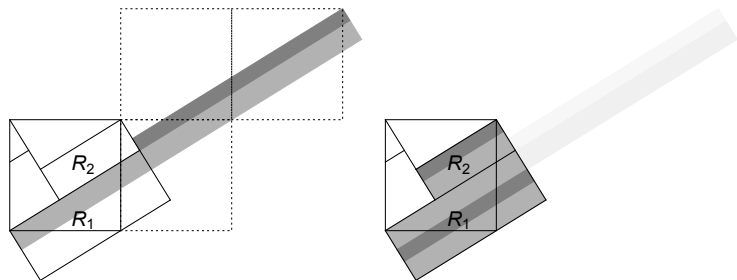


Figure: We can restack the two rectangles to the torus.

- Consider $x \in \mathbb{T}$ and its orbit $(M^n x)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$.
- This corresponds “almost” 1:1 to a sequence $(R_{i_k})_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$.
- M acts as a shift on such a sequence. “Symbolic coding”
- For the general theory see [Adler, 1998](#).

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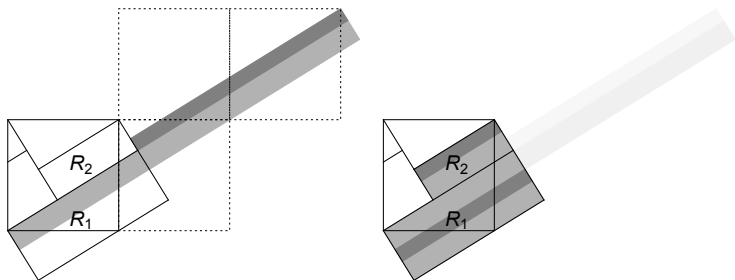


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Markov partitions in higher dimensions

- Consider the matrix

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- It has determinant $\det M = 1$, so it can be interpreted as toral automorphism.
- Its eigenvalues satisfy $\lambda_1 > 1 > |\lambda_2| = |\lambda_3|$, so it is **hyperbolic**.

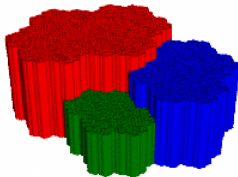


Figure: A Rauzy box and its subtile form a Markov partition for M .

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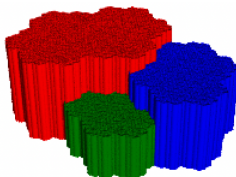


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Restacking

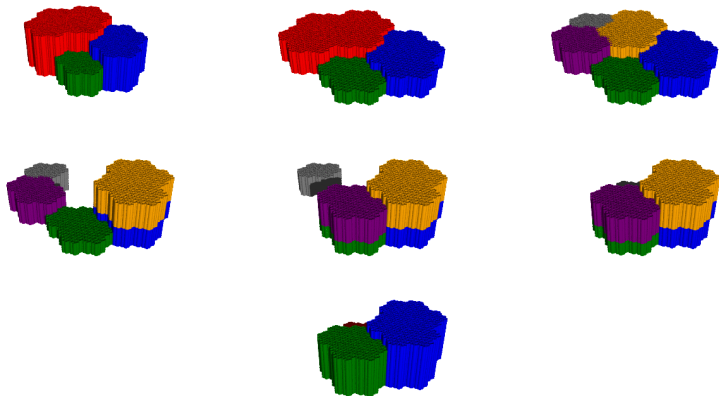


Figure: An illustration of the restacking process for the Tribonacci substitution $\sigma : 1 \mapsto 12, 2 \mapsto 13, 3 \mapsto 1$.

Markov partitions in higher dimensions

- We cannot do this by cuboids in \mathbb{R}^3 by **Bowen 1978**.
- The **Rauzy box** is defined in terms of **substitutions**
- **Question**: Can we define Markov partitions for sequences of matrices by using substitutions as well?
- It turns out that this works.
- In dimension 2 this was done by **Arnoux and Fisher, 2001 and 2006** (“**scenery flow**”). This case is related to the classical continued fraction algorithm.
- In dimension 2 the Markov partitions are again rectangles (although they vary over the sequence of matrices).

Substitutions

- A **substitution** σ on the alphabet \mathcal{A} is an endomorphism of the free monoid \mathcal{A}^* .
- With σ , we associate its **incidence matrix**

$$M_\sigma = (|\sigma(b)|_a)_{a,b \in \mathcal{A}} \in \mathbb{N}^{d \times d}.$$

- This matrix is the abelianized version of σ in the following sense. Let

$$\mathbf{l} : \mathcal{A}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^d, \quad w \mapsto {}^t(|w|_1, \dots, |w|_d)$$

be the **abelianization map**, then $\mathbf{l}(\sigma(w)) = M_\sigma \mathbf{l}(w)$ holds for all $w \in \mathcal{A}^*$.

Example: Tribonacci substitution, I

- Let $\mathcal{A} = \{1, 2, 3\}$ be the alphabet.
- Define the **tribonacci substitution** σ by

$$\sigma(1) = 12, \quad \sigma(2) = 13, \quad \sigma(3) = 1.$$

- For instance, we have $\sigma(1231) = 1213112$.
- Its incidence matrix is given by

$$M_\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- We have

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{I}(1213112) = \mathbf{I}(\sigma(1231)) = M_\sigma \mathbf{I}(1231) = M_\sigma \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Example: Tribonacci substitution, II

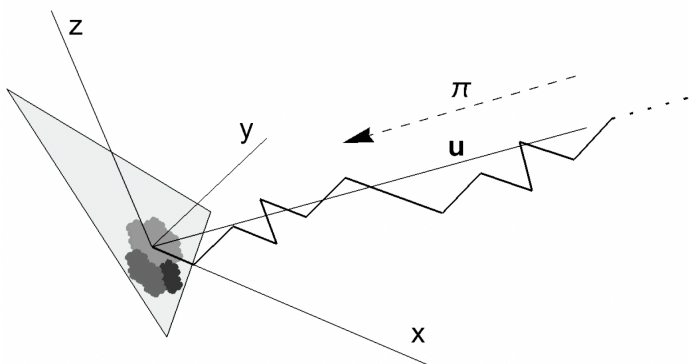


Figure: Projecting a geometric realization of σ yields a **Rauzy fractal**.

- The “broken line” stays at bounded distance from a vector \mathbf{u} .
- This is related to a property of σ called **balance**.

Example: Tribonacci substitution, III

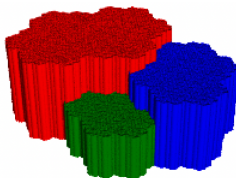


Figure: The Rauzy box again.

- It is no coincidence that the Rauzy fractal and the Markov partition of M_σ look the same.
- More precisely, the Rauzy fractal and its subtiles form the bases of the atoms of the Markov partition of M_σ .

Sequences of substitutions

- Let $\sigma = (\sigma_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ be a **sequence of substitutions**.
- We write

$$\sigma_{[m,n]} = \sigma_m \sigma_{m+1} \cdots \sigma_{n-1} \quad \text{for } m, n \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ with } m \leq n;$$

- The incidence matrix of $\sigma_{[m,n]}$ satisfies

$$M_{\sigma_{[m,n]}} = M_{\sigma_m} M_{\sigma_{m+1}} \cdots M_{\sigma_{n-1}}.$$

- Many properties of σ depend only on its **sequence of incidence matrices**

$$\mathbf{M}_\sigma = (M_{\sigma_n})_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}.$$

\mathcal{S} -adic shifts

- Let $\sigma = (\sigma_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ be a sequence of substitutions.
- Language of σ :

$$\mathcal{L}_\sigma^{(n)} = \{w \in \mathcal{A}^* : w \text{ is a factor of } \sigma_{[n,m]}(a) \text{ for some } a \in \mathcal{A}, m > n\}$$

- Let $\sigma \in \mathcal{S}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ with $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathcal{S}_d$, $d \geq 2$.

$$X_\sigma^{(n)} = \{w \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}} : \text{each factor of } w \text{ is an element of } \mathcal{L}_\sigma^{(n)}\}.$$

- The symbolic dynamical system $(X_\sigma^{(n)}, \Sigma)$ is called the (two-sided) \mathcal{S} -adic shift of level n associated with σ .
- We let $X_\sigma := X_\sigma^{(0)}$, and call (X_σ, Σ) the \mathcal{S} -adic shift associated with σ .

Balance

- Many properties like primitivity, recurrence, algebraic irreducibility of σ are inherited from their sequence of incidence matrix.
- **Balance** makes sense only for substitutions.
- Let $C \in \mathbb{N}$. A set of words $\mathcal{L} \subset \mathcal{A}^*$ is called **C-balanced** if

$$|v|_a - |w|_a \leq C \quad \text{for all } v, w \in \mathcal{L} \text{ with } |v| = |w| \text{ and for all } a \in \mathcal{A}.$$

- An element of $\mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ is called **C-balanced** if the set of its factors is C-balanced.
- A shift (X, Σ) is called **C-balanced** if the set of all factors of its elements is C-balanced.
- If one of these objects is C-balanced for some unspecified C, then we just say that it is **balanced**.

The Pisot condition implies a lot of things

Here is an analog for our theorem on sequences of matrices.

Theorem

Let $\sigma \in S^{\mathbb{Z}}$, with $d \geq 2$, and be a primitive sequence of substitutions with sequence of incidence matrices $\mathbf{M}_\sigma = (M_{\sigma_n})_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$. Assume that σ satisfies the **local Pisot condition** and the growth condition $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \|M_{\sigma_n}\| = 0$,

- The coordinates of its generalized eigenvector \mathbf{u} are rationally independent and σ converges exponentially and, hence, strongly to \mathbf{u} .
- The language \mathcal{L}_σ is balanced.

Balance is important to define **Rauzy fractals!**

Again, there is a metric version of this.

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Spectral results, I

We recall some definitions.

- We say that a directive sequence σ has **purely discrete spectrum** if the system (X_σ, Σ) is **uniquely ergodic** (*i.e.*, it has a unique shift invariant measure μ), minimal, and has purely discrete measure-theoretic spectrum (*i.e.*, the measurable eigenfunctions of the **Koopman operator** $U_T : L^2(X_\sigma, \Sigma, \mu) \rightarrow L^2(X_\sigma, \Sigma, \mu)$, $f \mapsto f \circ \Sigma$, span $L^2(X_\sigma, \Sigma, \mu)$).
- A complex number λ is a **continuous eigenvalue** of (X, T) if there exists a non-zero continuous function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $f \circ T = \lambda f$.

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Spectral results, II

Lemma (Gottschalck and Hedlund)

Let (X, T, μ) be a minimal and uniquely ergodic subshift of $\mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{Z}}$. If X is balanced on letters, then $\exp(2\pi i \mu([a]))$ is a continuous eigenvalue of (X, T, μ) for each $a \in \mathcal{A}$.

Theorem

Let $\sigma = (\sigma_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \in S_d^{\mathbb{Z}}$, with $d \geq 2$, be a primitive sequence of unimodular substitutions with incidence matrices $(M_{\sigma_n})_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ satisfying the Pisot condition and the growth condition $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \|M_{\sigma_n}\| = 0$. Then the uniquely ergodic S -adic shift (X_σ, Σ, μ) is not weakly mixing. In particular, $\exp(2\pi i \mu([a]))$ is a topological eigenvalue for each letter $a \in \mathcal{A}$. Moreover, the shift admits a minimal rotation on \mathbb{T}^{d-1} as a topological factor.

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S-adic Rauzy fractals

Definition (S-adic Rauzy fractal)

Let $\sigma = (\sigma_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \in \mathcal{S}_d^{\mathbb{Z}}$, with $d \geq 2$, be a primitive sequence of unimodular substitutions over the alphabet \mathcal{A} that admits generalized right and left eigenvectors. For $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, the **Rauzy fractal** \mathcal{R}_n (of level n) associated with σ is defined as

$$\mathcal{R}_n = \overline{\{\pi_n \mathbf{l}(p) : p \preceq \sigma_{[n,m]}(b) \text{ for infinitely many } m \geq n, b \in \mathcal{A}\}},$$

and, for each $a \in \mathcal{A}$, a **subtile** of $\mathcal{R}_n(w)$ is defined as

$$\mathcal{R}_n(a) = \overline{\{\pi_n \mathbf{l}(p) : p a \preceq \sigma_{[n,m]}(b) \text{ for infinitely many } m \geq n, b \in \mathcal{A}\}}.$$

Note: For each level n we have a Rauzy fractal.

S-adic Rauzy boxes

Definition (Rauzy box)

Let $\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_d^{\mathbb{Z}}$, with $d \geq 2$, be a primitive sequence of unimodular substitutions over the alphabet \mathcal{A} that admits generalized right and left eigenvectors. For each $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, the **Rauzy box** (of level n) is

$$\widehat{\mathcal{R}}_n = \bigcup_{a \in \mathcal{A}} \widehat{\mathcal{R}}_n(a),$$

with cylinders $\widehat{\mathcal{R}}_n(a)$ that are defined as the Minkowski sums

$$\widehat{\mathcal{R}}_n(a) = \tilde{\pi}_n \overline{\mathbf{0e}_a} - \mathcal{R}_n(a) \quad (n \in \mathbb{Z}, a \in \mathcal{A}). \quad (1)$$

S-adic restacking

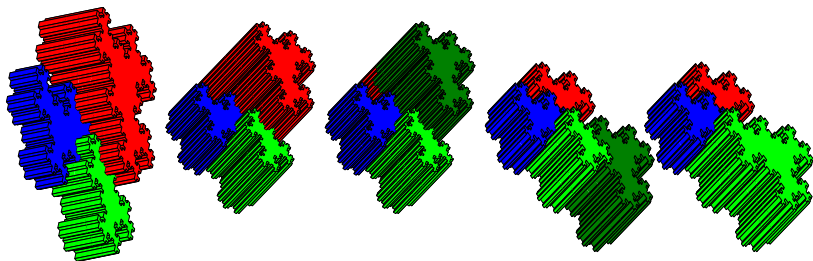


Figure: The general case: When we restack the S -adic Rauzy fractal, we get back the Rauzy fractal of the next level.

- In the S -adic setting we get a **nonstationary Markov partition**.

A result for sequences of substitutions

Theorem

- Let $\sigma = (\sigma_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \in \mathcal{S}_d^{\mathbb{Z}}$, with $d \geq 2$, be a sequence of unimodular substitutions that satisfies the local **Pisot condition** plus a “**coincidence condition**”.
- Then the sequence $(\mathcal{P}_n^{\text{gen}})_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ defined by subtiles of Rauzy fractals forms a **generating nonstationary Markov partition** for the underlying sequence of matrices $(M_{\sigma_n})_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$.

A result for the Brun continued fraction algorithm

Corollary

For $d \in \{3, 4\}$, let (X_B, F_B, A_B, ν_B) be the ordered Brun continued fraction algorithm. Let φ_B be the substitutive realization of this algorithm that is defined by the ordered Brun substitutions $\sigma_{B,k}$, $k \in \mathcal{A}$. Then, for ν_B -almost all $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \widehat{X}_B$, the mapping family (\mathbb{T}, f_σ) associated with $\sigma_B = \varphi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ is eventually Anosov and admits a generating nonstationary Markov partition, whose atoms are explicitly given by Rauzy boxes. This Markov partition provides a symbolic model for (\mathbb{T}, f_σ) as a nonstationary edge shift.

- Pisot condition [Avila and Delecroix, 2019](#)
- Coincidence condition [Berthé, Steiner, and T., 2019, 2023](#)