

Accelerating the convergence of continued fraction representations

Annie Cuyt

University of Antwerp, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Middelheimlaan 1, B-2020, Antwerp, Belgium
email: annie.cuyt@ua.ac.be

Abstract

A lot of well-known constants as well as elementary and special functions in mathematics, physics and engineering enjoy very nice continued fraction representations [9, 7, 10]. In addition, most of these fractions are limit-periodic. There is a lot of literature describing algorithms for the evaluation of these constants or functions making use of their continued fraction representations [8, 6, 4, 5, 3, 2].

The tail or remainder term of a convergent series representation converges to zero. But remarkably, the tail of a convergent continued fraction representation does itself not need to converge at all. A suitable approximation of the usually disregarded continued fraction tail may speed up the convergence of the continued fraction approximants. This idea is further elaborated in this talk [1].

References

- [1] F. Backeljauw, S. Becuwe and A. Cuyt, *Validated Evaluation of Special Mathematical Functions*, Lecture Notes in Computer Science **5144** (2008), 206–216.
- [2] I.J. Thompson and A.R. Barnett, *COULCC: a continued-fraction algorithm for Coulomb functions of complex order with complex arguments*, Comput. Phys. Comm. **36** (1985), 363–372.
- [3] I.A. Stegun and R. Zucker, *Automatic computing methods for special functions. Part II. The exponential integral $E_n(x)$* , J. Res. Nat. Bur. Standards **78B** (1974), no. 4, 199–205.
- [4] Y.L. Ratis and P. Fernández de Córdoba, *A code to calculate (high order) Bessel functions based on the continued fractions method*, Comput. Phys. Comm. **76** (1993), 381–388.
- [5] A. Gil and J. Segura, *Parabolic cylinder functions of integer and half-integer orders for nonnegative arguments*, Comput. Phys. Comm. **115** (1998), 69–86.
- [6] A. Gil and J. Segura, *Evaluation of Legendre functions of argument greater than one*, Comput. Phys. Comm. **105** (1997), 273–283.
- [7] F.W.J. Olver, D.W. Lozier, R.F. Boisvert and C.W. Clarke, *NIST Handbook of Mathematical Functions*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2010.
- [8] A. Gil, J. Segura and N.M. Temme, *Numerical Methods for Special Functions*, Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Philadelphia, 2007.
- [9] M. Abramowitz and I.A. Stegun, *Handbook of mathematical functions with formulas, graphs and mathematical tables*, U.S. Government Printing Office, NBS, Washington, D. C., 1964.
- [10] A. Cuyt, V. Brevik Petersen, B. Verdonk, H. Waadeland and W.B. Jones, *Handbook of Continued Fractions for Special Functions*, Springer, Berlin, 2008.