ON THE VALUE DISTRIBUTION OF ERROR SUMS FOR APPROXIMATIONS WITH RATIONAL NUMBERS

Carsten Elsner and Martin Stein

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Let $\alpha$ be a real number with convergents $p_m/q_m$ from the continued fraction expansion of $\alpha$. In this paper we investigate the functions $E(\alpha) := \sum_{m \geq 0} |\alpha q_m - p_m|$ and $E^*(\alpha) := \sum_{m \geq 0} (\alpha q_m - p_m)$ depending only on $\alpha$ and prove that their values are dense in $[0, (1+\sqrt{5})/2]$ and $[0, 1]$, respectively. For any sequence $(\alpha_\mu)_{\mu \geq 1}$, which is uniformly distributed modulo 1, we show that both sequences $(E(\alpha_\mu))_{\mu \geq 1}$ and $(E^*(\alpha_\mu))_{\mu \geq 1}$ are not uniformly distributed. Among other things the proofs rely on an inequality for the function $E(\alpha)$, which improves a former result of the first named author.

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