

Recurrence function of Sturmian sequences. A probabilistic study

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Ongoing work with

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AofA'15, 8–12 June, 2015.

Study in **combinatorics of words**.

Main aim: description of the **finite factors** of an **infinite** word u

- **How many** factors of length n ? \longrightarrow **Complexity**
- What are the **gaps** between them? \longrightarrow **Recurrence**

Very easy when the word is eventually periodic !

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Here, in a convenient **model**,

we perform a **probabilistic study**:

For a “random” sturmian word, and for a given “**position**”,

- what is the **mean value** of the recurrence?
- what is the **limit distribution** of the recurrence?

Plan of the talk

Complexity, Recurrence, and Sturmian words

- Complexity and Recurrence

- Sturmian words

- Recurrence of Sturmian words

Our probabilistic point of view. Statement of the results

- Classical results

- Our point of view

- Our main results.

Sketch of the proof

- General description

- The dynamical system and the transfer operator

- Expressions of the main objects in terms of the transfer operator

- Asymptotic estimates.

Extensions

Complexity

$\mathcal{L}_u(n)$ denotes the set of factors of length n in u .

Definition

Complexity function of an infinite word $u \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{N}}$

$$p_u: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}, \quad p_u(n) = |\mathcal{L}_u(n)|.$$

Two simple facts: $p_u(n) \leq |\mathcal{A}|^n$, $p_u(n) \leq p_u(n+1)$.

Important property

$u \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is **not** eventually periodic

$$\iff p_u(n+1) > p_u(n)$$

$$\implies p_u(n) \geq n+1.$$

Recurrence

Definition (Uniform recurrence)

A word $u \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is uniformly recurrent iff each finite factor appears **infinitely often** and with **bounded gaps**.

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$$R_{\langle u \rangle}(n) = \inf \{m \in \mathbb{N} : \\ \text{any } w \in \mathcal{L}_u(m) \text{ contains all the factors } v \in \mathcal{L}_u(n)\} .$$

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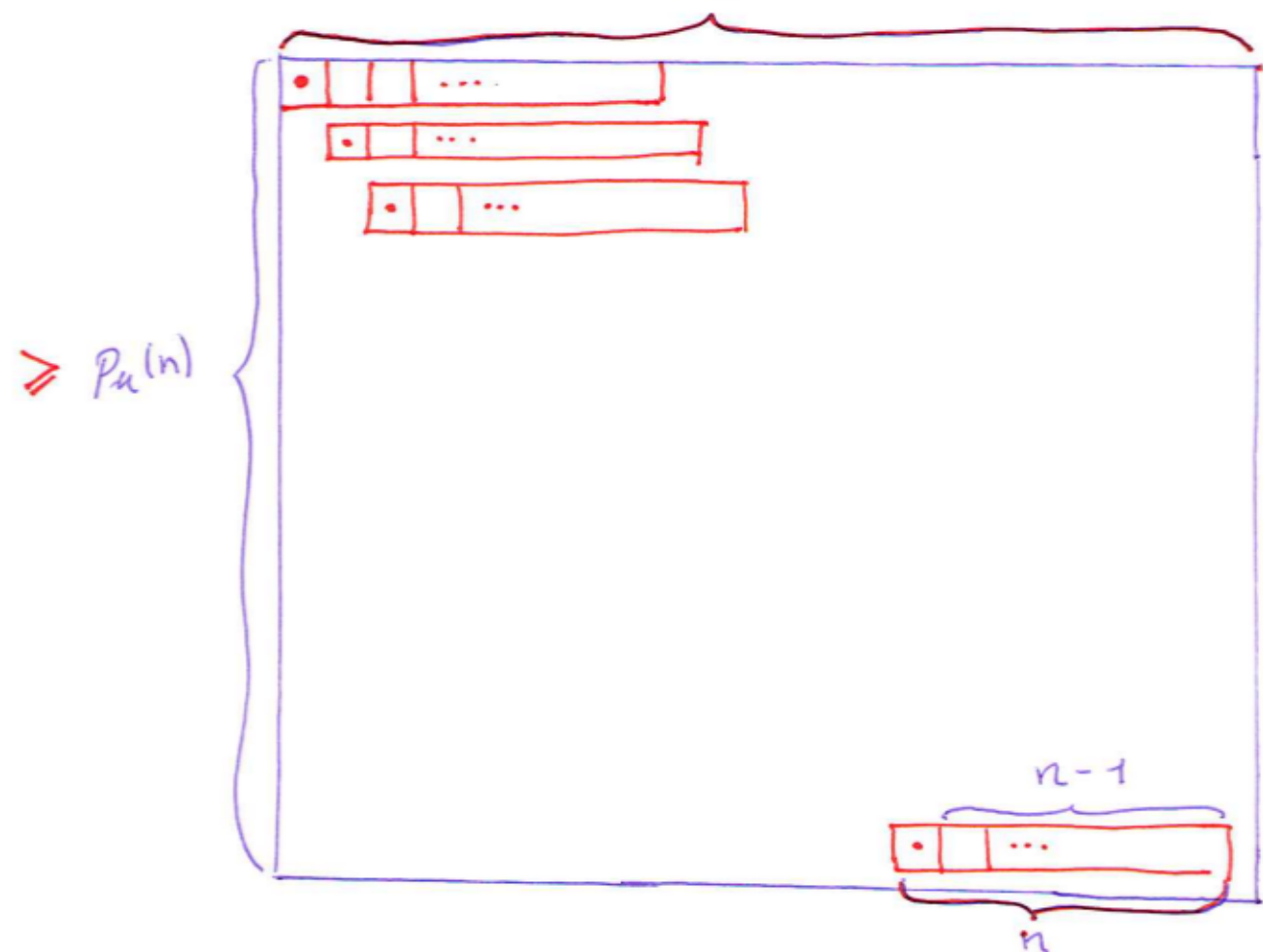
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A noteworthy inequality between the two functions,
the complexity function and the recurrence function

$$R_{\langle u \rangle}(n) \geq p_u(n) + n - 1.$$

$$= R_{\text{win}}(n)$$



- All $P_u(n)$ factors of length n appear somewhere in our window of length $R_{\text{win}}(n)$.
- We have $P_u(n)$ "starting points" + $(n-1)$ characters to finish the last factor $\Rightarrow R_{\text{win}}(n) \geq P_u(n) + n - 1$.

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Explicit construction

Associate with a pair (α, β) the two sequences

$$\underline{u}_n = \lfloor \alpha(n+1) + \beta \rfloor - \lfloor \alpha n + \beta \rfloor$$

$$\overline{u}_n = \lceil \alpha(n+1) + \beta \rceil - \lceil \alpha n + \beta \rceil$$

and the two words $\underline{S}(\alpha, \beta)$ and $\overline{S}(\alpha, \beta)$ produced in this way.

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A word u is Sturmian iff there are $\alpha, \beta \in [0, 1[$, with α irrational, such that $u = \underline{S}(\alpha, \beta)$ or $u = \bar{S}(\alpha, \beta)$.

Recurrence of Sturmian words

Property

Let u be a Sturmian word of the form $\underline{S}(\alpha, \beta)$ or $\overline{S}(\alpha, \beta)$. Then

- ▶ u is uniformly recurrent
- ▶ $R_{\langle u \rangle}(n)$ only depends on α , and it is written as $R_{\alpha}(n)$.

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Reminder :

The continuant $q_k(\alpha)$ is the denominator of the k -th convergent of α . It is obtained via the truncation at depth k of the CFE of α .

The sequence $(q_k(\alpha))_k$ is strictly increasing.

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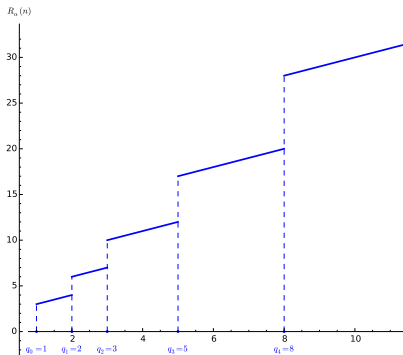
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Theorem (Morse, Hedlund, 1940)

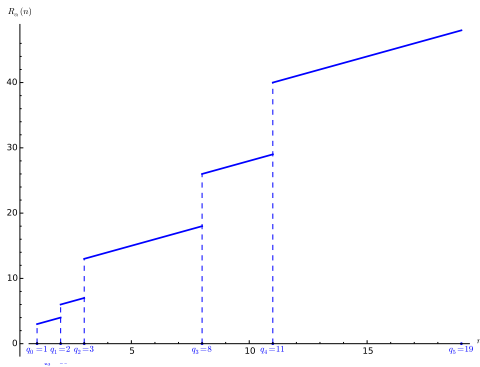
The recurrence function is piecewise affine and satisfies

$$R_\alpha(n) = n - 1 + q_{k-1}(\alpha) + q_k(\alpha), \quad \text{for } n \in [q_{k-1}(\alpha), q_k(\alpha)[.$$

Recurrence function for two Sturmian words



Recurrence function for $\alpha = \varphi^2$,
with $\varphi = (\sqrt{5} - 1)/2$.



Recurrence function for $\alpha = 1/e$.

Recurrence function of Sturmian words: classical results.

Proposition

For any irrational $\alpha \in [0, 1]$, one has

$$\liminf \frac{R_\alpha(n)}{n} \leq 3.$$

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For almost any irrational α , one has

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Proof: Apply the Morse–Hedlund formula and Khinchin's Theorem.

Our point of view

Usual studies of $R_\alpha(n)$

- ▶ consider **all** possible sequences of indices n .
- ▶ give information on **extreme** cases.
- ▶ give results for **almost all** α .

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Here:

- ▶ we study **particular** sequences of indices n depending on α , defined with their **position** on the intervals $[q_{k-1}(\alpha), q_k(\alpha)[$.
- ▶ we then draw α **at random**.
- ▶ we perform a **probabilistic** study.
- ▶ we then study the role of the **position** in the **probabilistic** behaviour of the recurrence function.

Subsequences with a fixed position

We work with particular **subsequences** of indices n

Given $\mu \in]0, 1]$ the sequence

$$n_k^{(\mu)}(\alpha) = q_{k-1}(\alpha) + \lfloor \mu (q_k(\alpha) - q_{k-1}(\alpha)) \rfloor$$

is the subsequence of position μ of α .

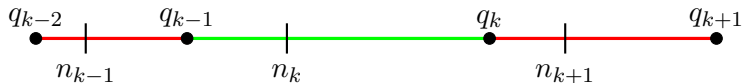


Figure: Sequence of indices n for $\mu = 1/3$.

We study

- ▶ the behaviour of

$$\frac{R_\alpha(n)}{n}, \quad n = n_k^{\langle \mu \rangle} = q_{k-1} + \lfloor \mu (q_k - q_{k-1}) \rfloor$$

when n has a fixed **position** μ within $[q_{k-1}, q_k[$.

Remark that $(n_k^{\langle \mu \rangle})_k$ is a sequence depending on $\alpha \in \mathcal{I}$.

- ▶ what happens when α is drawn **uniformly** from $\mathcal{I} = [0, 1]$.

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We consider the sequence of random variables

$$S_k^{\langle \mu \rangle} = \frac{R_\alpha(n) + 1}{n} = 1 + \frac{q_{k-1} + q_k}{n}, \quad n = n_k^{\langle \mu \rangle}.$$

For any fixed $\mu \in [0, 1]$, we perform an asymptotic study

- ▶ for **expected values**: $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}[S_k^{\langle \mu \rangle}]$
- ▶ for **distributions** : $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \Pr[S_k^{\langle \mu \rangle} \in \mathcal{J}]$

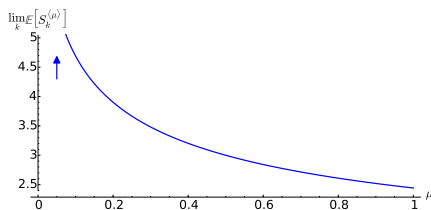
First result : Expectations

For each $\mu \in]0, 1]$, the sequence of random variables $S_k^{(\mu)}$ satisfies

$$\mathbb{E}[S_k^{(\mu)}] = 1 + \frac{1}{\log 2} \frac{|\log \mu|}{1 - \mu} + O\left(\frac{\varphi^{2k}}{\mu}\right) + O\left(\varphi^k \frac{|\log \mu|}{1 - \mu}\right),$$

(for $k \rightarrow \infty$). Here, $\varphi = (\sqrt{5} - 1)/2 \doteq 0.6180339\dots$
and the constants of the O -terms are uniform in μ and k .

Remark: The result only holds for $\mu > 0$.



Limit of the expected value as a function of μ .

Second result : Distributions

For each $\mu \in [0, 1]$ with $\mu \neq 1/2$,
the sequence of random variables $S_k^{(\mu)}$ has a limit density

$$s_\mu(x) = \frac{1}{\log 2 (x-1) |2 - \mu - x(1 - \mu)|} \mathbf{1}_{I_\mu}(x).$$

Here, I_μ is the interval with endpoints 3 and $1 + 1/\mu$.

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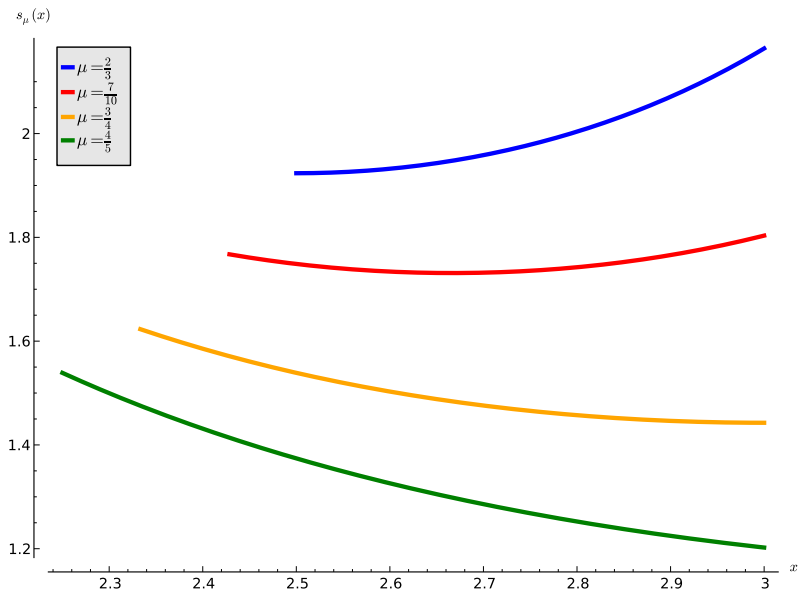
For all $b \geq \min\{3, 1 + \frac{1}{\mu}\}$

$$\Pr \left[S_k^{(\mu)} \leq b \right] = \int_0^b s_\mu(x) dx + \frac{1}{b} O\left(\varphi^k\right).$$

where the constant of the O -term is uniform in b and k .

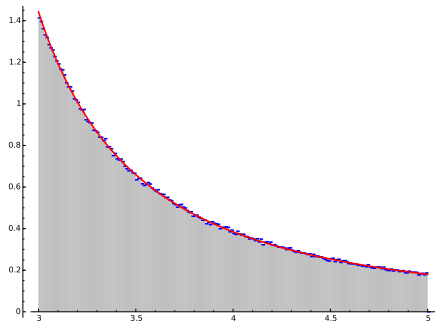
When $|\mu - 1/2| \geq \epsilon$ for a fixed $\epsilon > 0$, it is also uniform in μ .

Limit density s_μ



Limit density for $\mu = 1/4$

Interval	Empirical Pr	Asymptotic Pr
[3.0, 3.0]	0.0	0.0
[3.0, 3.5]	0.485237	0.4854...
[3.0, 4.0]	0.737139	0.7369...
[3.0, 4.5]	0.893511	0.8931...
[3.0, 5.0]	1.0	1.0



In **blue**, the scaled histogram for $k = 25$, bin-width $\delta = 1/10$,
obtained with 10^6 samples.

In **red**, the graph of the limit distribution $s_{1/4}(x) = \frac{1}{\log 2} \frac{4}{(x-1)(3x-7)}$.

Four steps in the proof

i) We drop the integer part in $S_k^{\langle \mu \rangle}$ getting

$$\tilde{S}_k^{\langle \mu \rangle} = 1 + \frac{q_k + q_{k-1}}{q_{k-1} + \mu (q_k - q_{k-1})},$$

which depends only on $\frac{q_{k-1}}{q_k}$. Indeed

$$\tilde{S}_k^{\langle \mu \rangle} = f_\mu \left(\frac{q_{k-1}}{q_k} \right), \quad \text{with} \quad f_\mu(x) = 1 + \frac{1+x}{x + \mu(1-x)}.$$

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- iv) Finally we return from $\tilde{S}_k^{(\mu)}$ to $S_k^{(\mu)}$.

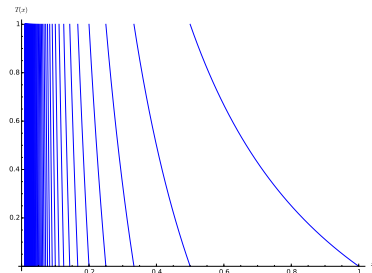
The Euclidean dynamical system

The Gauss map $T : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$

$$T(x) = \left\{ \frac{1}{x} \right\} = \frac{1}{x} - \left\lfloor \frac{1}{x} \right\rfloor.$$

The inverse branches of T are:

$$\mathcal{H} = \left\{ h_m : x \mapsto \frac{1}{m+x} \quad : \quad m \geq 1 \right\}.$$



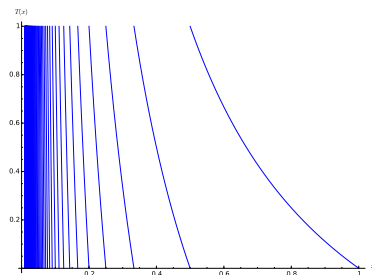
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The inverse branches of T^k are:

$$\mathcal{H}^k = \{ h_{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_k} = h_{m_1} \circ h_{m_2} \circ \dots \circ h_{m_k} \quad : \quad m_1, \dots, m_k \geq 1 \} .$$

The LFT $h_{m_1, \dots, m_k} \in \mathcal{H}^k$ is expressed with continuants

$$h_{m_1, \dots, m_k}(x) = \frac{1}{m_1 + \frac{1}{\ddots + \frac{1}{m_k + x}}} = \frac{p_{k-1} x + p_k}{q_{k-1} x + q_k},$$

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and satisfies the mirror property

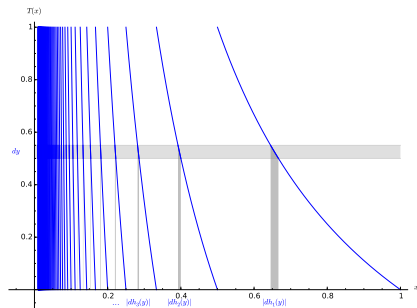
$$h_{m_k, \dots, m_1}(x) = \frac{1}{m_k + \frac{1}{\ddots + \frac{1}{m_1 + x}}} = \frac{p_{k-1} x + \textcolor{blue}{q}_{k-1}}{\textcolor{red}{p}_k x + q_k}.$$

The Perron-Frobenius operator **H**

If $g \in \mathcal{C}^0(\mathcal{I})$ is the density of α , what is the density of $T(\alpha)$?

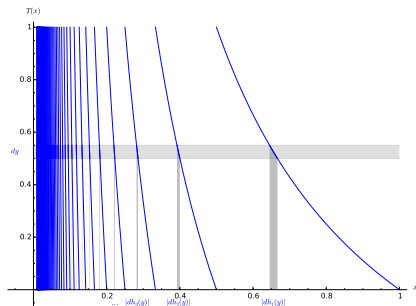
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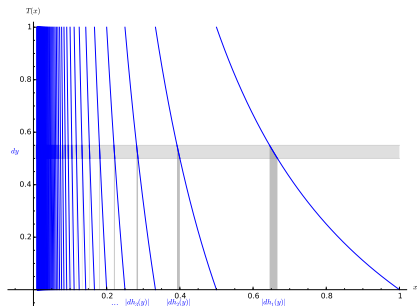


Answer: The density is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{H}[g](x) &= \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}} |h'(x)| g(h(x)) \\ &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(m+x)^2} g\left(\frac{1}{m+x}\right). \end{aligned}$$

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For $k \geq 1$, the density of $T^k(\alpha)$ is given by the k -th iterate of \mathbf{H}

$$\mathbf{H}^k[g](x) = \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}^k} |h'(x)| g(h(x)).$$

\mathbf{H} is called the Perron-Frobenius operator (or the density transform).

Evaluating at $x = 0$

$$\mathbf{H}^k[g](0) = \sum_{m_1, \dots, m_k \geq 1} \frac{1}{q_k^2} g\left(\frac{\textcolor{red}{p}_k}{q_k}\right) .$$

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As the sum is over **all** k -tuples, we apply the **mirror property**, and

$$\mathbf{H}^k[g](0) = \sum_{m_1, \dots, m_k \geq 1} \frac{1}{q_k^2} g\left(\frac{q_{k-1}}{q_k}\right).$$

Expressions in terms of the operator \mathbf{H} .

Three main facts:

- ▶ The intervals $h(\mathcal{I})$ for $h \in \mathcal{H}^k$ form a partition of $(0, 1)$

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- ▶ The intervals $h(\mathcal{I})$ for $h \in \mathcal{H}^k$ form a partition of $(0, 1)$
- ▶ $\tilde{S}_k^{(\mu)}$ is a **step function**, constant on each $h_{m_1, \dots, m_k}(\mathcal{I})$,

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And
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Analytic properties of \mathbf{H}

The operator \mathbf{H} acts on the Banach space $BV(\mathcal{I})$ of functions of bounded variation,

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- ▶ Dominant eigenvalue (simple) : $\lambda = 1$
- ▶ Dominant eigenfunction: $\psi(x) = \frac{1}{\log 2} \frac{1}{1+x}$.
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Then, for any $g \in BV(\mathcal{I})$, the asymptotic estimate holds:

$$\mathbf{H}^k[g](x) = \frac{1}{\log 2} \frac{1}{1+x} \int_0^1 g(x) dx + O\left(\varphi^{2k} \|g\|_{BV}\right).$$

Going back to the expectations and distributions.

With the expressions for the expectations and distributions,

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The limit distribution

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \Pr \left[\tilde{S}_k^{\langle \mu \rangle} \in J \right] = \frac{1}{\log 2} \int_0^1 \frac{\mathbf{1}_J \circ f_\mu(x)}{1+x} dx,$$

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Thus the asymptotics are obtained for $\tilde{S}_k^{\langle \mu \rangle}$. We then return to $S_k^{\langle \mu \rangle}$.

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Theorem

For each $\tau \in [\varphi^2, 1[$, considering $\mu_k = \tau^k$ we have

$$\mathbb{E}_\alpha \left[\frac{R_\alpha(n)}{\textcolor{red}{n}} - \frac{12 |\log \tau|}{\pi^2} \textcolor{red}{\log n} \right] = O(1), \quad \left(n = n_k^{\langle \mu_k \rangle}(\alpha) \right)$$

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Theorem

If $b \in (0, 1)$ and for each k we pick $\mu_k \in [0, 1]$ uniformly, then

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_{\alpha, \mu_k} \left[S_k^{\langle \mu_k \rangle} \middle| \mu_k \geq b^k \right] = 1 + \frac{\pi^2}{6}.$$