



On Gauss problem for the Lüroth expansion

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Abstract

Consider the transformation $\tau(x) = \left[\frac{1}{x}\right] \left(\left(\left[\frac{1}{x}\right] + 1 \right) x - 1 \right)$, $x \neq 0$, $\tau(0) = 0$, of $I = [0, 1]$ which underlines the Lüroth expansion. Let $\mu \ll \lambda$ (Lebesgue measure on $[0, 1]$). We show that $\mu\tau^{-n}(A)$ approaches $\lambda(A)$ uniformly in $A \in \mathcal{B}_I$ with remainder $O(q^n)$, $0 < q < 1$, as $n \rightarrow \infty$, for certain densities $d\mu/d\lambda$.

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1. Introduction

Lüroth [7] introduced and studied the following series expansion. Let $x \in I$. Then

$$x = \frac{1}{d_1(x)} + \frac{1}{d_1(x)(d_1(x)-1)d_2(x)} + \dots + \frac{1}{d_1(x)(d_1(x)-1)\dots d_{n-1}(x)(d_{n-1}(x)-1)d_n(x)} + \dots, \quad (1)$$

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where the *digits (incomplete quotients)* $d_n(x), n \in \mathbb{N}_+ = \{1, 2, \dots\}$, are natural integers ≥ 2 . (We will suppress x in the notation when confusion is not possible.) Lüroth showed that every irrational number has a unique infinite expansion (1) and that each rational either has a finite or an infinite periodic expansion. The series expansion (1) is called the *Lüroth series* of x .

We note that the Lüroth expansion is generated by the transformation $\tau : I \rightarrow I$ defined as

$$\tau(x) = \left[\frac{1}{x} \right] \left(\left(\left[\frac{1}{x} \right] + 1 \right) x - 1 \right), \quad x \neq 0, \quad \tau(0) = 0. \tag{2}$$

Here $[\cdot]$ stands for the integer part. For $x \in I$ we define $d_1(x) = \left[\frac{1}{x} \right] + 1, x \neq 0; d_1(0) = \infty$ and $d_{n+1}(x) = d_1(\tau^n(x)), n \in \mathbb{N}_+$. It follows from (2) that $\tau(x) = d_1(x)(d_1(x) - 1)x - (d_1(x) - 1)$ and, therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \frac{1}{d_1(x)} + \frac{\tau(x)}{d_1(x)(d_1(x) - 1)} \\ &= \frac{1}{d_1(x)} + \frac{1}{d_1(x)(d_1(x) - 1)} \left(\frac{1}{d_1(\tau(x))} + \frac{\tau^2(x)}{d_1(\tau(x))(d_1(\tau(x) - 1))} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{d_1(x)} + \frac{1}{d_1(x)(d_1(x) - 1)d_2(x)} \\ &\quad + \frac{\tau^2(x)}{d_1(x)(d_1(x) - 1)d_2(x)(d_2(x) - 1)} = \dots \\ &= \frac{1}{d_1(x)} + \frac{1}{d_1(x)(d_1(x) - 1)d_2(x)} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{d_1(x)(d_1(x) - 1)d_2(x)(d_2(x) - 1)d_3(x)} + \dots \\ &\quad + \dots + \frac{\tau^n(x)}{d_1(x)(d_1(x) - 1) \dots d_n(x)(d_n(x) - 1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Putting

$$\frac{p_n(x)}{q_n(x)} = \frac{1}{d_1(x)} + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{d_1(x)(d_1(x) - 1) \dots d_k(x)(d_k(x) - 1)d_{k+1}(x)}, \quad n \geq 1, \tag{3}$$

where $q_1(x) = d_1(x), q_n(x) = d_1(x)(d_1(x) - 1) \dots d_{n-1}(x)(d_{n-1}(x) - 1)d_n(x), n \geq 2$, the n -th convergent of x , it follows from (3) that

$$x - \frac{p_n(x)}{q_n(x)} = \frac{\tau^n(x)}{q_n(x)(d_n(x) - 1)}, \quad n \geq 1.$$

It follows from $d_n \geq 2$ and $0 \leq \tau^n \leq 1$ that the sum (1) converges to x . We will write $x = (d_1(x), d_2(x), \dots)$ and $\frac{p_n}{q_n} = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$.

In addition we should mention that the digits $d_n, n \in \mathbb{N}_+$, may be considered as random variables on I equipped with the σ -algebra \mathcal{B}_I of all Borel subsets of I . These are almost

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