

On the wholeness of Sloane's A080694

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1 Introduction

Sloane's sequence A080694 goes:

1, 18, 4, 18, 18, 48, 28, 54, 8, 72, 26, 36, 42, 36, ...

Let $S_n(1) = S_n(2) = 1$ and

$S_n(k+2) = |S_n(k+1) - S_n(k) - n|$.

$A080694(n)$ is the length of the period of $S_n(k)$.

$S_n(k)$ is conjectured to be periodic for any n .

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Herein I prove $S_n(k)$ is indeed periodic for any n , and $A080694(n)$ is thus whole (defined for all n).

2 The Main Theorem

Definitions

Let $\phi = (\sqrt{5} + 1)/2$; that is, the positive value for which $\phi^2 = \phi + 1$.

Let R be the region in the xy -plane bounded by the polygon with vertices $(0, 0)$, $(0, \phi + 2)$, $(\phi + 1, 2)$, $(\phi + 1, \phi)$, $(\phi + 2, \phi + 1)$, and $(\phi, 0)$. (See figure 1.)

Let F be a function that maps ordered pairs of reals to ordered pairs: $F(x, y) \mapsto (y, |y - x - 1|)$.

Main Theorem:

if $(x, y) \in R$, then $F(x, y) \in R$.

It is easy but tedious to verify this. To that end, partition R into the three regions U , V , and W . (See Figure 2.) In U , $y \geq x + 1$, so $F(x, y) \mapsto (y, y - x - 1)$; while in V and W , $y \leq x + 1$, so $F(x, y) \mapsto (y, x + 1 - y)$.

The lower part of Figure 2 shows to where each sub-region and each vertex maps. The regions U' and V' overlap in the region marked $V'U'$. ($D' = (2, \phi)$; $E' = (\phi, 2)$.)

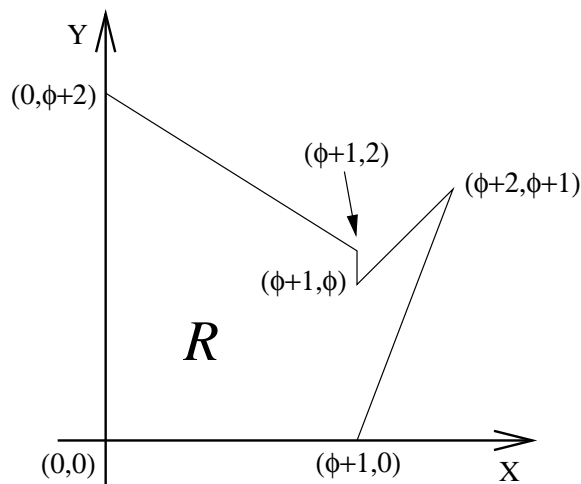


Figure 1: the region R

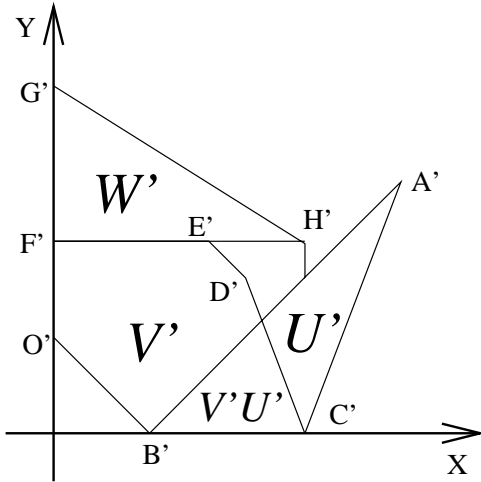
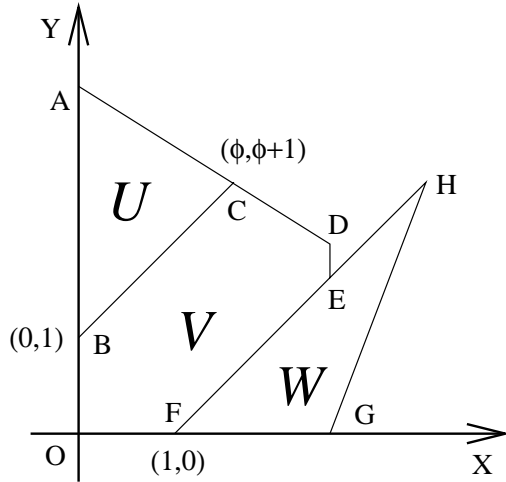


Figure 2: before and after mapping

Plainly, R could be larger or smaller. It could contain the notch at vertex E , and it's easy to calculate the intersection of AD with FH . Or R could avoid the little pentagon above region U' : perhaps one can eliminate a larger, fractal-bounded region there. But we need (part of) the triangle $OO'B'$ in the following section.

3 The series T_n and S_n

Define the series T_n :

- $T_n(1) = 1/n$,
- $T_n(2) = 1/n$
- $T_n(k+2) = |T_n(k+1) - T_n(k) - 1|$.

Note, $F(T_n(j), T_n(j+1)) \mapsto (T_n(j+1), T_n(j+2))$.

Then $(T_n(j), T_n(j+1)) \in R$ for all j . The definitions of $T_n(1)$ and $T_n(2)$ provide the induction basis; the recursion and the main theorem prove the induction step.

Therefore for all j , $0 \leq T_n(j) \leq \phi + 2$.

Define S_n :

- for all j , $S_n(j) = nT_n(j)$.

Therefore

- $S_n(1) = 1$,
- $S_n(2) = 1$
- $S_n(k+2) = |S_n(k+1) - S_n(k) - n|$.

Once notes that S_n is integer-valued, and it matches the definitions in A080694. Also:

$$0 \leq S_n(j) \leq (\phi + 2)n$$

S_n is therefore bounded. (Furthermore, the upper bound is never quite reached, since it's irrational.)

Periodicity

S_n is integral and bounded. There are only $m = \lceil (\phi+2)n \rceil$ possible values within S_n , so there can be at most m^2 distinct ordered pairs within the sequence. The sequence must repeat a pair within m^2 steps, and thereafter it is periodic. Usually, the period is much shorter than that.