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Escape of Mass of Sequences

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One way to study the distribution of nested quadratic number fields satisfying fixed arithmetic relationships is through the evolution of continued fraction expansions. In the function field setting, it was shown by de Mathan and Teullie that given a quadratic irrational Θ , the degrees of the periodic part of the continued fraction of $t^n \Theta$ are unbounded. Paulin and Shapira improved this by proving that quadratic irrationals exhibit partial escape of mass. Moreover, they conjectured that they must exhibit full escape of mass. We construct counterexamples to their conjecture in every characteristic. In this talk we shall discuss the technique of proof as well as the connection between escape of mass in continued fractions, Hecke trees, and number walls. This is part of joint works with Erez Nesharim and Uri Shapira and with Steven Robertson.

Affiliation

TU Graz

Author: SOFFER ARANOV, Noy (TU Graz)

Presenter: SOFFER ARANOV, Noy (TU Graz)

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