

A nearest integer formula

If  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ , we define  $[y]$ , the nearest integer to  $y$  by  $-1/2 \leq y - [y] < 1/2$ .

In particular, if  $y = z + 1/2, z \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then  $[y] = z + 1$ .

It is well-known that  $[y] = [y + 1/2]$ , where  $[t]$  is the integer part of  $t$ .

**Theorem.** If  $x \in \mathbb{R}, 2x \notin \mathbb{Z}$  and  $m \in \mathbb{Z}, m \neq 0$ , then

$$[x/m] = \begin{cases} \lfloor \frac{[x] + \lfloor \frac{m+F}{2} \rfloor}{m} \rfloor & \text{if } m > 0 \\ \lfloor \frac{1 + [x] + \lfloor \frac{m+F+1}{2} \rfloor}{m} \rfloor & \text{if } m < 0, F + m + 1 \notin 2\mathbb{Z} \\ \lfloor \frac{[x] + \lfloor \frac{m+F+1}{2} \rfloor}{m} \rfloor & \text{if } m < 0, F + m + 1 \in 2\mathbb{Z} \end{cases}$$

where

$$F = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x - [x] > 1/2 \\ 0 & \text{if } x - [x] < 1/2. \end{cases}$$

**Remark.** In view of the above, the formula for  $T_k$  on page 373 on page 373 of *Calculation of the Regulator of  $\mathbb{Q}\sqrt{D}$ , by Use of the Nearest Integer Continued Fraction Algorithm*, H.C. Williams and P.A. Buhr, Math. Comp. 33 (1979) 369-381, should be changed if  $Q'_k < 0$  to

$$T_k = \begin{cases} 1 + d + \lfloor \frac{|Q'_k| + F + 1}{2} \rfloor & \text{if } F + Q'_k + 1 \notin 2\mathbb{Z} \\ d + \lfloor \frac{|Q'_k| + F + 1}{2} \rfloor & \text{if } F + Q'_k + 1 \in 2\mathbb{Z}. \end{cases}$$

Moreover John Robertson has subsequently pointed out that the definition of  $R'_{k+1}$  at the bottom of page 373 should be amended when  $Q'_{k+1} < 0$  and  $Q'_{k+1} | P_{k+1} + T_{k+1}$ : we have to define  $R'_{k+1} = -Q'_{k+1}$ .

**Lemma.** If  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then

$$[x/m] = \begin{cases} \lfloor \frac{[x]}{m} \rfloor & \text{if } m > 0 \\ \lfloor \frac{1 + [x]}{m} \rfloor & \text{if } m < 0 \text{ and } x \notin \mathbb{Z}. \end{cases}$$

**Proof of Theorem.** First note that  $[2x] = 2[x] + F$ .

**Case 1.** Assume  $m > 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \left\lfloor \frac{x}{m} + \frac{1}{2} \right\rfloor &= \left\lfloor \frac{2x + m}{2m} \right\rfloor \\ &= \left\lfloor \frac{[2x + m]}{2m} \right\rfloor \text{ (by the Lemma)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \left\lfloor \frac{\lfloor 2x \rfloor + m}{2m} \right\rfloor \\
&= \left\lfloor \frac{2\lfloor x \rfloor + F + m}{2m} \right\rfloor \\
&= \left\lfloor \frac{\lfloor x \rfloor + \frac{F+m}{2}}{m} \right\rfloor \\
&= \left\lfloor \frac{\lfloor x \rfloor + \lfloor \frac{F+m}{2} \rfloor}{m} \right\rfloor \text{ (by the Lemma).}
\end{aligned}$$

**Case 2.** Assume  $m < 0$  and  $2x \notin \mathbb{Z}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
\left\lfloor \frac{x}{m} + \frac{1}{2} \right\rfloor &= \left\lfloor \frac{2x + m}{2m} \right\rfloor \\
&= \left\lfloor \frac{1 + \lfloor 2x + m \rfloor}{2m} \right\rfloor \\
&= \left\lfloor \frac{\lfloor 2x \rfloor + m + 1}{2m} \right\rfloor \\
&= \left\lfloor \frac{2\lfloor x \rfloor + F + m + 1}{2m} \right\rfloor \\
&= \left\lfloor \frac{\lfloor x \rfloor + (F + m + 1)/2}{m} \right\rfloor \\
&= \begin{cases} \left\lfloor \frac{1 + \lfloor x \rfloor + \lfloor (F+m+1)/2 \rfloor}{m} \right\rfloor & \text{if } F + m + 1 \notin 2\mathbb{Z} \\ \left\lfloor \frac{\lfloor x \rfloor + \lfloor (F+m+1)/2 \rfloor}{m} \right\rfloor & \text{if } F + m + 1 \in 2\mathbb{Z}. \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$