

Farey Sequence I

BMC Int I Spring 2021

~~May 5~~ 2021
May 5

1 Pick's Theorem Applications

Theorem 1.1. Let S be a polygon whose vertices all occur at lattice points. Let A be its area, I be the number of interior points and P be the number of points on the perimeter. Then $A = I + \frac{P}{2} - 1$.

Exercise 1.2. Prove that you cannot draw an equilateral triangle so that all of its vertices are lattice points.

Exercise 1.3. Prove that you cannot draw a regular hexagon so that all of its vertices are lattice points.

Exercise 1.4. What is the smallest area of a convex pentagon that has all its vertices at lattice points? (Putnam (AMC for college students))

Exercise 1.5. Consider the tetrahedron in 3D with vertices at $(0, 0, 0), (1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0), (1, 1, r)$. What is its volume? How many lattice points are in the interior? What about on the boundary?

2 Ford Circles

Definition 2.1. A Ford circle is a circle whose center is at $(\frac{p}{q}, \frac{1}{2q^2})$ and whose radius is $\frac{1}{2q^2}$.

Exercise 2.2. Draw the Ford circles corresponding to $0/1, 1/1$ and $1/2$. What do you notice about them?

Exercise 2.3. Find the radius and center of the circle that is tangent to both the Ford circles $0/1, 1/2$ and the x axis.

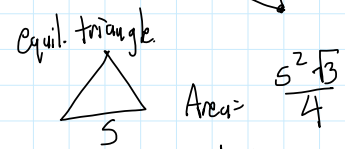
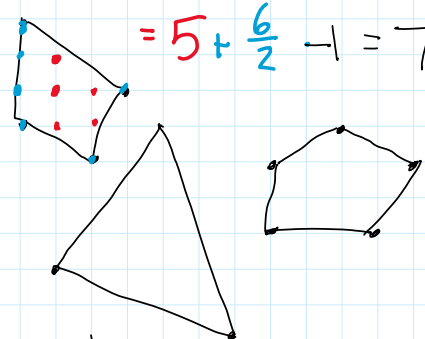
Exercise 2.4. Do you notice anything? Can you prove any conjecture that you have?

Exercise 2.5. Prove that two Ford circles are either tangent to each other or don't touch each other at all.

Exercise 2.6. Geometrically prove that if α is irrational, then there are infinitely many fractions p/q such that $|\alpha - p/q| < \frac{1}{2q^2}$.

points inside ↓
points on perim. ↓
 $A = I + \frac{P}{2} - 1$

$= 5 + \frac{6}{2} - 1 = 7$

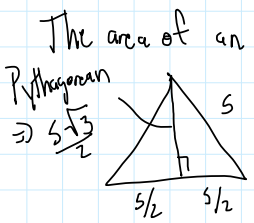


Proof by Contradiction

Assume the opposite is true and then derive a mathematical/logical impossibility

12) Suppose for the sake of contradiction that we can draw an equil. triangle

By Pick's Theorem, the area is of the form $I + \frac{P}{2} - 1$ so it looks like n or $n\frac{1}{2}$ for some integer n .

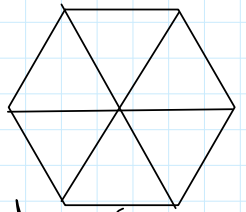


The area of an equilateral triangle is $\frac{5^2\sqrt{3}}{4} = n$ or $n\frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \sqrt{3}$ can be written as $\frac{p}{q}$ a fraction.

Contradiction ← But $\sqrt{3}$ is irrational (can't be written as a fraction)

Therefore, we cannot draw an equil. triangle

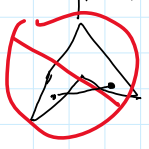
1.3



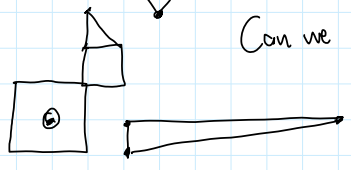
Area = $\frac{6 \cdot 5^2\sqrt{3}}{4}$

Area hexagon = $6 \cdot \text{Area of equil. triangle} = \frac{6 \cdot 5^2\sqrt{3}}{4}$

1.4 Convex pentagon



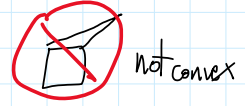
not convex



Area = $I + \frac{P}{2} - 1 = 1 + \frac{5}{2} - 1 = 2.5$

Can we get any smaller?

For any pentagon, $P \geq 5$
 Can we also have $I = 0$?



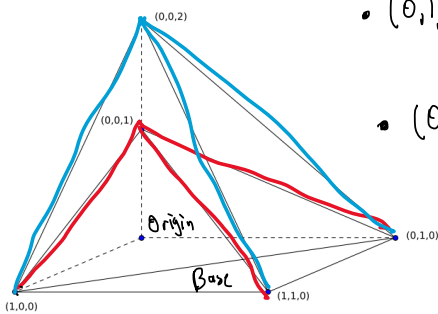
not convex

Suppose the 5 vertex points are $(x_1, y_1) \dots (x_5, y_5)$.

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They could be (even, even), (even, odd), (odd, even), (odd, odd)

There are 5 points and 4 parities \Rightarrow 2 points have the same parity \Rightarrow midpoint is a lattice point = interior point $\Rightarrow I \geq 1$



$\bullet (0,1,2)$

Base is a triangle of area $\frac{1}{2}$

$\bullet (0,1,1)$

Red Tetrahedron Volume = $\frac{B \cdot h}{3} = \frac{\frac{1}{2} \cdot 1}{3} = \frac{1}{6}$

$$\frac{I}{P} = \frac{0}{4}$$

Blue Tetrahedron Volume = $\frac{B \cdot h}{3} = \frac{\frac{1}{2} \cdot 2}{3} = \frac{1}{3}$

$$\frac{I}{P} = \frac{0}{4}$$

There is n't a Pick's Theorem in 3D

integer \downarrow integer

$$\text{Area} = I + \frac{P}{2} - 1$$

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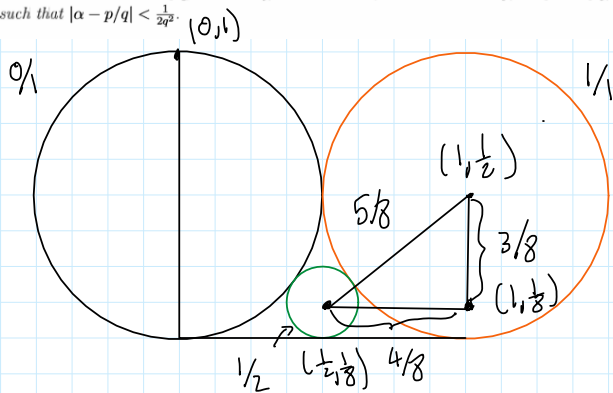
Center = $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{8})$ radius = $\frac{1}{8}$

Exercise 2.3. Find the radius and center of the circle that is tangent to both the Ford circles $0/1, 1/2$ and the x axis.

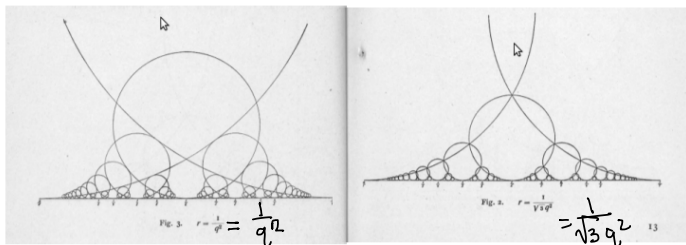
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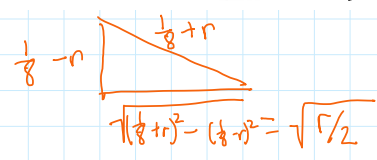
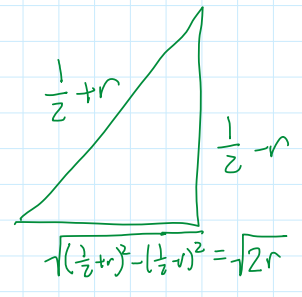
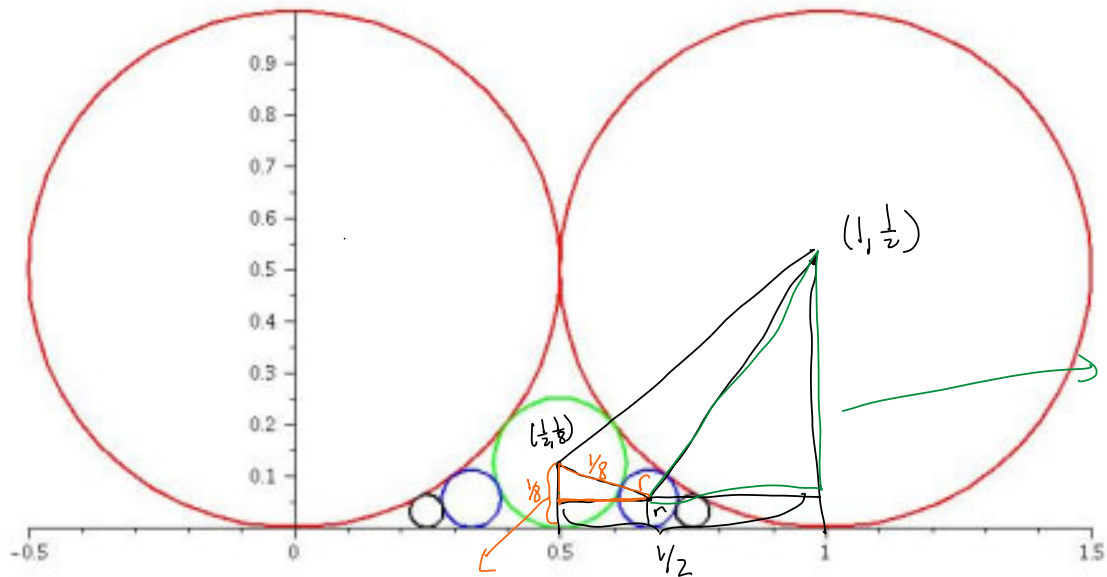
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radius of orange
 \downarrow
 $\frac{5}{8} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{8}$ radius of green



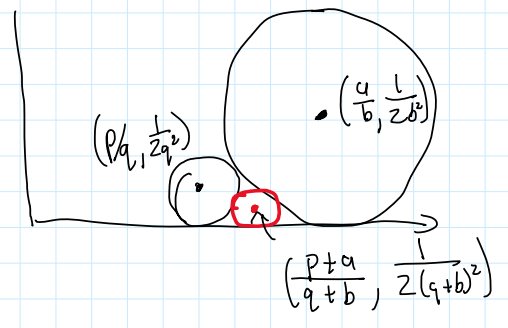
When we set $r = \frac{1}{2q^2} \Rightarrow$ circles become tangent



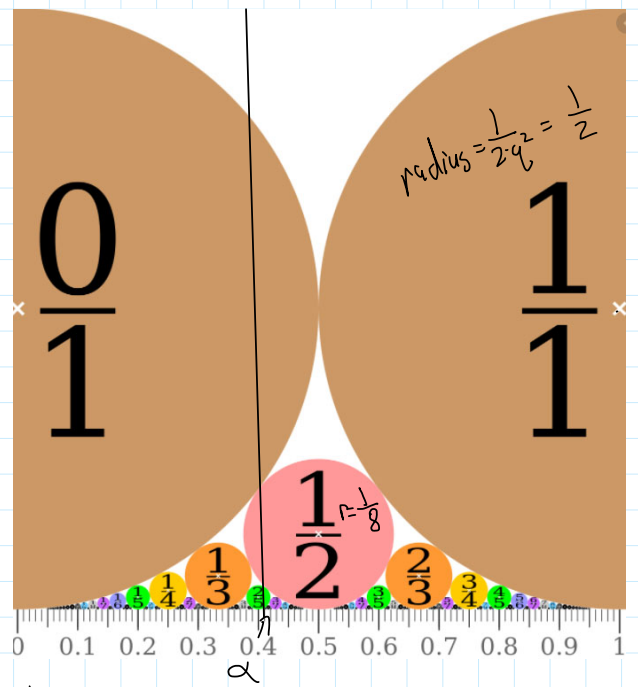
$\sqrt{1/2} + \sqrt{2}r = 1/2 \Rightarrow r = 1/18$
 Center of the circle is $(2/3, 1/18)$

Ford circle corresponding to $2/3$: circle centered at $(\frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3^2})$ with radius $\frac{1}{2 \cdot 3^2} = \frac{1}{18}$

- Ford
 \Rightarrow Circle tangent to $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ is $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{1+1}{2+1}$
 — " — $\frac{0}{1}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ is $\frac{1}{3} = \frac{0+1}{1+2}$
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We can prove this is true in general



Prove that any α has ∞ -ly many fractions p/q s.t.

$|\alpha - \frac{p}{q}| < \frac{1}{2q^2}$

e.g. $\alpha = 0.41$

If the line intersects a circle $(\frac{p}{q}, \frac{1}{2q^2})$.

That means difference in x-coor. $<$ radius

$|\frac{p}{q} - \alpha| < \frac{1}{2q^2}$

This line intersects ∞ -ly many circles.

There is a connection between Farey Sequence and Riemann Hypothesis

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Famous unsolved math problem

"Millennium problem"

$$F_3 = \frac{0}{1}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{1} \quad \text{length} = L_3 = 5$$

$$F_4 = \frac{0}{1}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{1}{1} \quad \text{length} = L_4 = 7$$

How much does the Farey seq. differ from a uniform dist.?

$$\text{Compute } \left| \frac{0}{1} - \frac{1}{5} \right| + \left| \frac{1}{3} - \frac{2}{5} \right| + \left| \frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{5} \right| + \left| \frac{2}{3} - \frac{4}{5} \right| + \left| \frac{1}{1} - \frac{5}{5} \right| = D_3$$

$$\text{and } \left| \frac{0}{1} - \frac{1}{7} \right| + \left| \frac{1}{4} - \frac{2}{7} \right| + \dots + \left| \frac{1}{1} - \frac{7}{7} \right| = D_4$$

How fast does D_n grow?

$$\text{Proving the Riemann Hypothesis} \iff \text{Proving } \frac{D_n}{n^{1/2+\epsilon}} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$