

This data refers to generalized continued fractions (see Maxwell Anselm and Steven H. Weintraub, A generalization of continued fractions, J. Number Theory 131 (2011), 2442-2460). We adopt the terminology of that paper, and refer to it for results cited here. But we call the reader's attention to several items.

A cf_N expansion is a continued fraction expansion with "numerator" N .

Roughly speaking, the "best" cf_N expansion of a positive real number is the cf_N expansion that provides the best approximation at every stage.

The analysis of these expansions shows there is a difference between the cases N small (for E) and N large (for E). If $D = [\sqrt{E}]$, then N is small (for E) if $N \leq 2D$, and N is large (for E) otherwise.

We present a table of all nonsquare values of $E \leq 200$ and $N \leq 200$ for which $[[\sqrt{E}]_N$, the best cf_N expansion of \sqrt{E} , has period ≤ 100 .

Here are some highlights/statistics of this data.

There are a total of 4361 such pairs (E, N) . Of these, 2114 pairs have N small and 2247 pairs have N large. There are:

- 214 pairs with period length 1.
- 2817 pairs with period length 2.
- 15 pairs with period length 3.
- 843 pairs with period length 4.
- 14 pairs with period length 5.
- 196 pairs with period length 6.
- 2 pairs with period length 7.
- 124 pairs with period length 8.
- 4 pairs with period length 9.
- 112 pairs with period length 10 – 19.
- 14 pairs with period length 20 – 29.
- 5 pairs with period length 30 – 39.
- 1 pair with period length 88.

Here are the values of (E, N) which have the longest periods:

- $E = 166, N = 2$: period 88
- $E = 172, N = 2$: period 38
- $E = 151, N = 2$: period 36
- $E = 163, N = 2$: period 32
- $E = 190, N = 4$: period 32
- $E = 157, N = 2$: period 30

Odd periods are relatively rare. Within the range of this table, there are 214 pairs with period length 1 and 41 pairs with odd period length > 1 , and there are only 6 cases of odd period > 10 . They are:

$E = 181, N = 1$: period 21

$E = 157, N = 1$: period 17

$E = 109, N = 1$: period 15

$E = 193, N = 1$: period 13

$E = 61, N = 1$: period 11

$E = 97, N = 1$: period 11

There are only 5 cases for $N > 1$ with odd period ≥ 5 . They are:

$E = 118, N = 2$: period 5

$E = 139, N = 3$: period 5

$E = 162, N = 2$: period 5

$E = 166, N = 5$: period 5

$E = 181, N = 4$: period 5

There is only 1 case of N large with odd period > 1 :

$E = 53, N = 112$: period 3

We say that a sequence b_1, \dots, b_i is palindromic if it reads the same left-to-right as right-to-left. We say that a sequence $b_1, \dots, b_i, c_1, \dots, c_j$ is semipalindromic of type (i, j) , abbreviated as $\text{sp}(i, j)$, if it consists of a palindrome of length i followed by a palindrome of length j .

If we write $[[\sqrt{E}]]_N = [[a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots]]_N$, then $a_0 = D$. As shown in that paper, if N is small and $[[\sqrt{E}]]_N$ is periodic of period k , then the period begins with a_1 if N is small and a_2 if N is large. In case N small, the periodic part is always $\text{sp}(k-1, 1)$, and $a_k = 2D$. (Of course, in the case $N = 1$ it is known that the continued fraction expansion of \sqrt{E} is always periodic and always of this form.) Non-semipalindromic cases seem to be extremely rare. There are only two cases in this range where $[[\sqrt{E}]]_N$ is not semipalindromic:

$E = 31, N = 13$: period 4

$E = 187, N = 58$: period 6

The accompanying files are two tables, each in three formats:

periodic_table is a table with one line for each periodic case, giving the values of E and N , the length of the period, whether or not the expansion is semipalindromic, and if so, of what type.

periodic_table-long is a table with the above line for each periodic case followed by line(s) giving the cf_N expansion up until the end of the first period.

The files are:

periodic_table.html an html file suitable for viewing onscreen,

periodic_table a UNIX text file suitable for download,

periodic_table.txt a DOS text file suitable for download,

periodic_table-long.html an html file suitable for viewing onscreen,

periodic_table-long a UNIX text file suitable for download,

periodic_table-long.txt a DOS text file suitable for download.

(With my operating system and browser, both of the files *periodic_table* and *periodic_table-long* are suitable for viewing onscreen. But since not all browsers handle files the same way, I am including the html versions just in case.)