

## Farey Sequences

A Farey sequence  $F_N$  of degree  $N$  (Farey fractions of degree  $N$ ) is an ordered set of reduced fractions

$$\frac{p_i}{q_i} \quad \text{with} \quad p_i \leq q_i \leq N \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq i < |F_N|$$

and

$$\frac{p_i}{q_i} < \frac{p_j}{q_j} \quad \forall 0 \leq i < j < |F_N|.$$

Write a function (using C++)

***void Farey(T N)***

which calculates the Farey fractions up to degree  $N$  and prints the resulting Farey sequences up to degree  $N$  on the screen.

*Algorithm:* The sequences can be computed recursively. The first sequence is given by

$$F_1 = \left( \frac{0}{1}, \frac{1}{1} \right)$$

For a known sequence  $F_N$  one can get  $F_{N+1}$  by inserting an additional fraction  $\frac{p_i+p_{i+1}}{q_i+q_{i+1}}$  between two consecutive entries  $\frac{p_i}{q_i}$  and  $\frac{p_{i+1}}{q_{i+1}}$  if  $q_i + q_{i+1} = N + 1$  holds for the sum of denominators.

*Example:* Determining  $F_7$  from  $F_6$  results in the following construction:

$$F_6 = \left( \underbrace{\frac{0}{1}, \frac{1}{6}}_{\frac{1}{7}}, \underbrace{\frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{4}}_{\frac{2}{7}}, \underbrace{\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{5}}_{\frac{3}{7} \text{ and } \frac{4}{7}}, \underbrace{\frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}}_{\frac{5}{7}}, \underbrace{\frac{4}{5}, \frac{5}{6}}_{\frac{6}{7}}, \frac{1}{1} \right)$$

The new elements are:

$$\frac{0+1}{1+6} = \frac{1}{7} ; \quad \frac{1+1}{4+3} = \frac{2}{7} ; \quad \frac{2+1}{5+2} = \frac{3}{7} ; \quad \frac{1+3}{2+5} = \frac{4}{7} ; \quad \frac{2+3}{3+4} = \frac{5}{7} ; \quad \frac{5+1}{6+1} = \frac{6}{7}$$

The sorted sequence then is:

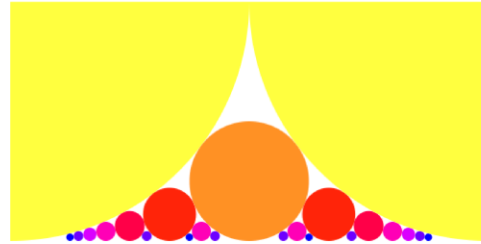
$$F_7 = \left( \frac{0}{1}, \frac{1}{7}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{2}{7}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{3}{7}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{4}{7}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{5}{7}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{5}, \frac{5}{6}, \frac{6}{7}, \frac{1}{1} \right)$$

*For checking:*

The Farey sequences up to degree 6

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 &= \left( \frac{0}{1}, \frac{1}{1} \right) \\ F_2 &= \left( \frac{0}{1}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{1} \right) \\ F_3 &= \left( \frac{0}{1}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{1} \right) \\ F_4 &= \left( \frac{0}{1}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{1}{1} \right) \\ F_5 &= \left( \frac{0}{1}, \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{5}, \frac{1}{1} \right) \\ F_6 &= \left( \frac{0}{1}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{5}, \frac{5}{6}, \frac{1}{1} \right). \end{aligned}$$

There is a beautiful illustration of these fractions, the Ford circles<sup>a</sup>:



<sup>a</sup>see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ford\\_circle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ford_circle)