

# Irrational Rapidly Convergent Series

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## Abstract

We formalize with Isabelle/HOL a proof of a theorem by J. Hančl asserting the irrationality of the sum of a series consisting of rational numbers, built up by sequences that fulfill certain properties. Even though the criterion is a number theoretic result, the proof makes use only of analytical arguments. We also formalize a corollary of the theorem for a specific series fulfilling the assumptions of the theorem.

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## 1 Main Theorem and Sketch of the Proof

We formalize the proof of the following theorem by J. Hančl (Theorem 3 in [1]) :

**Theorem 1.** (Theorem 3 in [1]) Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $A > 1$ . Let  $\{d_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $d_n > 1$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ ,  $\{b_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  such that :

$$(1) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n^{\frac{1}{2^n}} = A,$$

for all sufficiently large  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  :

$$(2) \quad \frac{A}{a_n^{\frac{1}{2^n}}} > \prod_{j=n}^{\infty} d_j$$

and

$$(3) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d_n^{2^n}}{b_n} = \infty.$$

Then the series  $\alpha = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{b_n}{a_n}$  is an irrational number.

The first step is to show that the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{b_n}{a_n}$  converges to some  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ . To show that  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$  we argue by proof by contradiction (to this end several auxiliary lemmas are firstly shown). In particular, assuming that  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$ , i.e. that there exist  $p, q \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  such that  $\alpha = \frac{p}{q}$ , we show that a quantity  $\mathcal{A}(n) \geq 1$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . At the same time, we find  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  for which  $\mathcal{A}(n) < 1$ , yielding a contradiction from which we deduce the irrationality of the sum of the series.

For the proof see [1]. We note that the proof involves only elementary Analysis (criteria for convergence/divergence for sequences and series and several inequalities) and not any arithmetical/number theoretic arguments. Obviously for the formal proof we had to make many intermediate arguments explicit. Proofs of length of roughly 2 A4 pages in the original paper by J. Hančl were formalized in almost 1100 lines of code.

## 2 Corollary

We moreover formalize the following corollary that asserts the irrationality of the sum of an instance of a series that fulfills the assumptions of the theorem :

**Corollary 1.** (Corollary 2 in [1]) Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $A > 1$ . Let  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ ,  $\{b_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  such that :

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n^{\frac{1}{2^n}} = A$$

and for all sufficiently large  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  (in particular: for  $n \geq 6$ )

$$a_n^{\frac{1}{2^n}} (1 + 4(2/3)^n) \leq A$$

and

$$b_n \leq 2^{(4/3)^{n-1}}.$$

Then the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{b_n}{a_n}$  is an irrational number.

The above corollary is an immediate consequence of the theorem by setting  $d_n = 1 + (2/3)^n$ . For the formalized proof of the corollary one more auxiliary lemma was required.

### 3 Irrational Rapidly Convergent Series

**theory** *Irrationality-J-Hancl*

**imports** *HOL-Analysis.Analysis HOL-Decision-Proc.Approximation*  
**begin**

This is the formalisation of a proof by J. Hanl, in particular of the proof of his Theorem 3 in the paper: Irrational Rapidly Convergent Series, Rend. Sem. Mat. Univ. Padova, Vol 107 (2002).

The statement asserts the irrationality of the sum of a series consisting of rational numbers defined using sequences that fulfill certain properties. Even though the statement is number-theoretic, the proof uses only arguments from introductory Analysis.

We prove the central result (theorem `Hancl3`) by contradiction, by making use of some of the auxiliary lemmas. To this end, assuming that the sum is a rational number, for a quantity  $\text{ALPHA}(n)$  we show that  $\text{ALPHA}(n) \geq 1$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . After that we show that we can find an  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  for which  $\text{ALPHA}(n) < 1$  which yields a contradiction and we thus conclude that the sum of the series is rational. We finally give an immediate application of theorem `Hancl3` for a specific series (corollary `Hancl3corollary`, requiring lemma `summable_ln_plus`) which corresponds to Corollary 2 in the original paper by J. Hanl.

**hide-const** *floatarith.Max*

#### 3.1 Misc

**lemma** *filterlim-sequentially-iff:*

*filterlim f F1 sequentially  $\iff$  filterlim ( $\lambda x. f (x+k)$ ) F1 sequentially*  
*<proof>*

**lemma** *filterlim-realpov-sequentially-at-top:*

*( $x::\text{real}$ ) > 1  $\implies$  filterlim (power x) at-top sequentially*  
*<proof>*

**lemma** *filterlim-at-top-powr-real:*

**fixes** *g::'b  $\implies$  real*  
**assumes** *filterlim f at-top F (g  $\longrightarrow$  g') F g'>1*  
**shows** *LIM x F. g x powr f x :> at-top*  
*<proof>*

**lemma** *powrfinitesum:*

**fixes** *a::real and s::nat assumes s  $\leq$  n*  
**shows** *( $\prod_{j=s..(n::nat)}.(a \text{ powr } (2^{\wedge}j))$ ) = a powr ( $\sum_{j=s..(n::nat)}.(2^{\wedge}j)$ )*  
*<proof>*

**lemma** *summable-ratio-test-tendsto:*

**fixes** *f :: nat  $\implies$  'a::banach*

**assumes**  $c < 1$  **and**  $\forall n. f\ n \neq 0$  **and**  $(\lambda n. \text{norm } (f\ (\text{Suc } n)) / \text{norm } (f\ n)) \longrightarrow c$   
**shows** *summable*  $f$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**lemma** *summable-ln-plus*:  
**fixes**  $f :: \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{real}$   
**assumes** *summable*  $f$   $\forall n. f\ n > 0$   
**shows** *summable*  $(\lambda n. \ln\ (1 + f\ n))$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**lemma** *suminf-real-offset-le*:  
**fixes**  $f :: \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{real}$   
**assumes**  $f: \bigwedge i. 0 \leq f\ i$  **and** *summable*  $f$   
**shows**  $(\sum i. f\ (i + k)) \leq \text{suminf } f$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**lemma** *factt*:  
**fixes**  $s\ n :: \text{nat}$  **assumes**  $s \leq n$   
**shows**  $(\sum_{i=s..n} 2^i) < (2^{n+1}) :: \text{real}$   $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

### 3.2 Auxiliary lemmas and the main proof

**lemma** *showpre7*:  
**fixes**  $a\ b :: \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{int}$  **and**  $q\ p :: \text{int}$   
**assumes**  $q > 0$  **and**  $p > 0$  **and**  $a: \forall n. a\ n > 0$  **and**  $\forall n. b\ n > 0$  **and**  
*assumerational*:  $(\lambda n. b\ (n+1) / a\ (n+1)) \text{ sums } (p/q)$   
**shows**  $q * ((\prod_{j=1..n} \text{of-int } (a\ j))) * (\text{suminf } (\lambda (j::\text{nat}). (b\ (j+n+1) / a\ (j+n+1))))$   
 $= ((\prod_{j=1..n} \text{of-int } (a\ j))) * (p - q * (\sum_{j=1..n} b\ j / a\ j))$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**lemma** *show7*:  
**fixes**  $d :: \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{real}$  **and**  $a\ b :: \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{int}$  **and**  $q\ p :: \text{int}$   
**assumes**  $q \geq 1$  **and**  $p \geq 1$  **and**  $a: \forall n. a\ n \geq 1$  **and**  $\forall n. b\ n \geq 1$   
**and** *assumerational*:  $(\lambda n. b\ (n+1) / a\ (n+1)) \text{ sums } (p/q)$   
**shows**  $q * ((\prod_{j=1..n} \text{of-int } (a\ j))) * (\text{suminf } (\lambda (j::\text{nat}). (b\ (j+n+1) / a\ (j+n+1)))) \geq 1$   
**(is ?L  $\geq$  -)**  
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**lemma** *show8*:  
**fixes**  $d :: \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{real}$  **and**  $a :: \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{int}$  **and**  $s\ k :: \text{nat}$   
**assumes**  $A > 1$  **and**  $d: \forall n. d\ n > 1$  **and**  $a: \forall n. a\ n > 0$  **and**  $s > 0$   
**and** *convergent-prod*  $d$   
**and** *assu2*:  $\forall n \geq s. A / \text{of-int } (a\ n) \text{ powr } (1 / \text{of-int } (2^n)) > (\prod_{j=1..n} d\ (n + j))$

**shows**  $\forall n \geq s. (\prod j. d(j+n)) < A / (\text{MAX } j \in \{s..n\}. \text{of-int}(a j) \text{ powr}(1 / \text{of-int}(2^{\wedge} j)))$   
 (proof)

**lemma auxiliary1-9:**

**fixes**  $d :: \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{real}$  **and**  $a :: \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{int}$  **and**  $s m :: \text{nat}$   
**assumes**  $d: \forall n. d n > 1$  **and**  $a: \forall n. a n > 0$  **and**  $s > 0$  **and**  $n \geq m$  **and**  $m \geq s$   
**and** *auxifalse-assu*:  $\forall n \geq m. (\text{of-int}(a(n+1)) \text{ powr}(1 / \text{of-int}(2^{\wedge}(n+1)))) <$   
 $(d(n+1)) * (\text{Max}((\lambda(j::\text{nat}). (\text{of-int}(a j)) \text{ powr}(1 / \text{of-int}(2^{\wedge} j)))) ' \{s..n\} )$   
**shows**  $(\text{of-int}(a(n+1)) \text{ powr}(1 / \text{of-int}(2^{\wedge}(n+1)))) <$   
 $(\prod j=(m+1)..(n+1). d j) * (\text{Max}((\lambda(j::\text{nat}). (\text{of-int}(a j)) \text{ powr}(1 / \text{of-int}(2^{\wedge} j)))) ' \{s..m\} )$   
 (proof)

**lemma show9:**

**fixes**  $d :: \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{real}$  **and**  $a :: \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{int}$  **and**  $s :: \text{nat}$  **and**  $A :: \text{real}$   
**assumes**  $A > 1$  **and**  $d: \forall n. d n > 1$  **and**  $a: \forall n. a n > 0$  **and**  $s > 0$   
**and** *assu1*:  $((\lambda n. (\text{of-int}(a n)) \text{ powr}(1 / \text{of-int}(2^{\wedge} n))) \longrightarrow A)$  *sequentially*  
**and** *convergent-prod d*  
**and**  $8: \forall n \geq s. \text{prodinf}(\lambda j. d(n+j))$   
 $< A / (\text{Max}((\lambda(j::\text{nat}). (\text{of-int}(a j)) \text{ powr}(1 / \text{of-int}(2^{\wedge} j)))) ' \{s..n\} )$   
**shows**  $\forall m \geq s. \exists n \geq m. ((\text{of-int}(a(n+1)) \text{ powr}(1 / \text{of-int}(2^{\wedge}(n+1)))) \geq$   
 $(d(n+1)) * (\text{Max}((\lambda(j::\text{nat}). (\text{of-int}(a j)) \text{ powr}(1 / \text{of-int}(2^{\wedge} j)))) ' \{s..n\} )$   
 (proof)

**lemma show10:**

**fixes**  $d :: \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{real}$  **and**  $a :: \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{int}$  **and**  $s :: \text{nat}$   
**assumes**  $d$  [rule-format]:  $\forall n. d n > 1$   
**and**  $a$  [rule-format]:  $\forall n. a n > 0$  **and**  $s > 0$   
**and**  $9: \forall m \geq s. \exists n \geq m. a(n+1) \text{ powr}(1 / \text{of-int}(2^{\wedge}(n+1))) \geq$   
 $d(n+1) * (\text{Max}((\lambda j. (\text{of-int}(a j)) \text{ powr}(1 / \text{of-int}(2^{\wedge} j)))) ' \{s..n\} )$   
**shows**  $\forall m \geq s. \exists n \geq m. d(n+1) \text{ powr}(2^{\wedge}(n+1)) * (\prod j=1..n. \text{of-int}(a j)) *$   
 $(1 / (\prod j=1..s-1. \text{of-int}(a j))) \leq a(n+1)$   
 (proof)

**lemma lasttoshow:**

**fixes**  $d :: \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{real}$  **and**  $a b :: \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{int}$  **and**  $q :: \text{int}$  **and**  $s :: \text{nat}$   
**assumes**  $d: \forall n. d n > 1$   
**and**  $a: \forall n. a n > 0$  **and**  $s > 0$  **and**  $q > 0$   
**and**  $A > 1$  **and**  $b: \forall n. b n > 0$  **and**  $9:$   
 $\forall m \geq s. \exists n \geq m. ((\text{of-int}(a(n+1)) \text{ powr}(1 / \text{of-int}(2^{\wedge}(n+1)))) \geq$   
 $(d(n+1)) * (\text{Max}((\lambda(j::\text{nat}). (\text{of-int}(a j)) \text{ powr}(1 / \text{of-int}(2^{\wedge} j)))) ' \{s..n\} )$   
 )))  
**and** *assu3*: *filterlim*( $\lambda n. (d n)^{\wedge}(2^{\wedge} n) / b n$ ) *at-top sequentially*  
**and**  $5: \forall_F n$  *in sequentially*.  $(\sum j. (b(n+j) / (a(n+j))) \leq 2 * b n / a n$   
**shows**  $\exists n. q * ((\prod j=1..n. \text{real-of-int}(a j)) * \text{suminf}(\lambda(j::\text{nat}). (b(j+n+1) / a$

$(j+n+1)) < 1$   
 $\langle proof \rangle$

**lemma**

**fixes**  $d :: nat \Rightarrow real$  **and**  $a b :: nat \Rightarrow int$  **and**  $A :: real$   
**assumes**  $A > 1$  **and**  $d: \forall n. d n > 1$  **and**  $a: \forall n. a n > 0$  **and**  $b: \forall n. b n > 0$   
**and**  $assu1: ((\lambda n. (of-int (a n)) powr(1 / of-int (2^n))) \longrightarrow A)$  *sequentially*  
**and**  $assu3: filterlim (\lambda n. (d n)^(2^n) / b n)$  *at-top sequentially*  
**and** *convergent-prod d*  
**shows**  $issummable: summable (\lambda j. b j / a j)$   
**and**  $show5: \forall_F n$  *in sequentially.  $(\sum j. (b (n + j)) / (a (n + j))) \leq 2 * b n / a n$*   
 $\langle proof \rangle$

**theorem** *Hancl3:*

**fixes**  $d :: nat \Rightarrow real$  **and**  $a b :: nat \Rightarrow int$   
**assumes**  $A > 1$  **and**  $d: \forall n. d n > 1$  **and**  $a: \forall n. a n > 0$  **and**  $b: \forall n. b n > 0$   
**and**  $s > 0$   
**and**  $assu1: (\lambda n. (a n) powr(1 / of-int(2^n))) \longrightarrow A$   
**and**  $assu2: \forall n \geq s. A / (a n) powr(1 / of-int(2^n)) > (\prod j. d (n+j))$   
**and**  $assu3: LIM n$  *sequentially.  $d n ^ 2 ^ n / b n :> at-top$*   
**and** *convergent-prod d*  
**shows**  $(\sum n. b n / a n) \notin \mathbb{Q}$   
 $\langle proof \rangle$

**corollary** *Hancl3corollary:*

**fixes**  $A :: real$  **and**  $a b :: nat \Rightarrow int$   
**assumes**  $A > 1$  **and**  $a: \forall n. a n > 0$  **and**  $b: \forall n. b n > 0$   
**and**  $assu1: (\lambda n. (a n) powr(1 / of-int(2^n))) \longrightarrow A$   
**and**  $asscor2: \forall n \geq 6. a n powr(1 / of-int(2^n)) * (1 + 4*(2/3)^n) \leq A$   
 $\wedge b n \leq 2 powr(4/3)^{(n-1)}$   
**shows**  $(\sum n. b n / a n) \notin \mathbb{Q}$   
 $\langle proof \rangle$

**end**

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## References

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