Diophantine approximation

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The Sage Development Team

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CONTENTS

The diophantine approximation deals with the approximation of real numbers (or real vectors) with rational numbers (or rational vectors). See the article Wikipedia article Diophantine_approximation for more information.

CHAPTER

ONE

CONTINUED FRACTIONS

A continued fraction is a representation of a real number in terms of a sequence of integers denoted $[a_0; a_1, a_2, \ldots]$. The well known decimal expansion is another way of representing a real number by a sequence of integers. The value of a continued fraction is defined recursively as:

$$[a_0; a_1, a_2, \ldots] = a_0 + \frac{1}{[a_1; a_2, \ldots]} = a_0 + \frac{1}{a_1 + \frac{1}{a_2 + \frac{1}{\ldots}}}$$

In this expansion, all coefficients a_n are integers and only the value a_0 may be non positive. Note that a_0 is nothing else but the floor (this remark provides a way to build the continued fraction expansion from a given real number). As examples

$$\frac{45}{38} = 1 + \frac{1}{5 + \frac{1}{2 + \frac{1}{3}}}$$

$$\pi = 3 + \frac{1}{7 + \frac{1}{15 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{292 + \frac{1}{\ldots}}}}}$$

It is quite remarkable that

- any real number admits a unique continued fraction expansion
- finite expansions correspond to rationals
- ultimately periodic expansions correspond to quadratic numbers (ie numbers of the form $a + b\sqrt{D}$ with a and b rationals and D square free positive integer)
- two real numbers x and y have the same tail (up to a shift) in their continued fraction expansion if and only if there are integers a, b, c, d with $|ad - bc| = 1$ and such that $y = (ax + b)/(cx + d)$.

Moreover, the rational numbers obtained by truncation of the expansion of a real number gives its so-called best approximations. For more informations on continued fractions, you may have a look at Wikipedia article Continued_fraction.

EXAMPLES:

If you want to create the continued fraction of some real number you may either use its method continued_fraction (if it exists) or call `continued_fraction()`:

```
sage: (13/27).continued_fraction()
[0; 2, 13]
sage: 0 + 1/(2 + 1/13)
13/27

sage: continued_fraction(22/45)
[0; 2, 22]
sage: 0 + 1/(2 + 1/22)
22/45

sage: continued_fraction(pi)                                            #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
[3; 7, 15, 1, 292, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 14, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, ...]
sage: continued_fraction_list(pi, nterms=5)                             #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
[3, 7, 15, 1, 292]

sage: x = polygen(ZZ, 'x')
sage: K.<cbrt5> = NumberField(x^3 - 5, embedding=1.709)                 #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
sage: continued_fraction(cbrt5)                                         #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
[1; 1, 2, 2, 4, 3, 3, 1, 5, 1, 1, 4, 10, 17, 1, 14, 1, 1, 3052, 1, ...]
```

It is also possible to create a continued fraction from a list of partial quotients:

```
sage: continued_fraction([-3,1,2,3,4,1,2])
[-3; 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2]
```

Even infinite:

```
sage: w = words.ThueMorseWord([1,2]); w                                 #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
word: 1221211221121221211212211221211221121221...
sage: continued_fraction(w)                                             #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
[1; 2, 2, 1, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 1...]
```

To go back and forth between the value (as a real number) and the partial quotients (seen as a finite or infinite list) you can use the methods `quotients` and `value`:

```
sage: cf = (13/27).continued_fraction()
sage: cf.quotients()
[0, 2, 13]
sage: cf.value()
13/27

sage: cf = continued_fraction(pi)                                       #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
sage: cf.quotients()                                                    #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
lazy list [3, 7, 15, ...]
sage: cf.value()                                                        #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
pi

sage: # needs sage.combinat
```

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```
sage: w = words.FibonacciWord([1,2])
sage: cf = continued_fraction(w)
sage: cf.quotients()
word: 1211212112112121121211211212112112121121...
sage: v = cf.value(); v
1.387954587967143?
sage: v.n(digits=100)
1.
↪38795458796714233691931385987318547787815245249853227189491728982641857762264893216988523703424296
sage: v.continued_fraction()
[1; 2, 1, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 1, 2, 1, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 1, 2, 1, 2...]
```

Recall that quadratic numbers correspond to ultimately periodic continued fractions. For them special methods give access to preperiod and period:

```
sage: # needs sage.rings.number_field
sage: K.<sqrt2> = QuadraticField(2)
sage: cf = continued_fraction(sqrt2); cf
[1; (2)*]
sage: cf.value()
sqrt2
sage: cf.preperiod()
(1,)
sage: cf.period()
(2,)

sage: cf = (3*sqrt2 + 1/2).continued_fraction(); cf                          #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
[4; (1, 2, 1, 7)*]

sage: cf = continued_fraction([(1,2,3),(1,4)]); cf
[1; 2, 3, (1, 4)*]
sage: cf.value()                                                             #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
-2/23*sqrt2 + 36/23
```

On the following we can remark how the tail may change even in the same quadratic field:

```
sage: for i in range(20): print(continued_fraction(i*sqrt2))                #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
[0]
[1; (2)*]
[2; (1, 4)*]
[4; (4, 8)*]
[5; (1, 1, 1, 10)*]
[7; (14)*]
...
[24; (24, 48)*]
[25; (2, 5, 6, 5, 2, 50)*]
[26; (1, 6, 1, 2, 3, 2, 26, 2, 3, 2, 1, 6, 1, 52)*]
```

Nevertheless, the tail is preserved under invertible integer homographies:

```
sage: # needs sage.modular sage.rings.number_field
sage: apply_homography =  lambda m,z: (m[0,0]*z + m[0,1]) / (m[1,0]*z + m[1,1])
sage: m1 = SL2Z([60,13,83,18])
sage: m2 = SL2Z([27,80,28,83])
```

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```
sage: a = sqrt2/3
sage: a.continued_fraction()
[0; 2, (8, 4)*]
sage: b = apply_homography(m1, a)
sage: b.continued_fraction()
[0; 1, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 6, (8, 4)*]
sage: c = apply_homography(m2, a)
sage: c.continued_fraction()
[0; 1, 26, 1, 2, 2, (8, 4)*]
sage: d = apply_homography(m1**2*m2**3, a)
sage: d.continued_fraction()
[0; 1, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 5, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 5, 26, 1, 2, 1, 26, 1, 2, 1, 26, 1, 2, 2, (8,
↪4)*]
```

Todo:

- Improve numerical approximation (the method `_mpfr_()` is quite slow compared to the same method for an element of a number field)
- Make a class for generalized continued fractions of the form $a_0 + b_0/(a_1 + b_1/(...))$ (the standard continued fractions are when all $b_n = 1$ while the Hirzebruch-Jung continued fractions are the one for which $b_n = -1$ for all n). See Wikipedia article Generalized_continued_fraction.
- look at the function ContinuedFractionApproximationOfRoot in GAP

AUTHORS:

- Vincent Delecroix (2014): cleaning, refactorisation, documentation from the old implementation in `contfrac` (Issue #14567).

class `sage.rings.continued_fraction.`**`ContinuedFraction_base`**

Bases: `SageObject`

Base class for (standard) continued fractions.

If you want to implement your own continued fraction, simply derived from this class and implement the following methods:

- `def quotient(self, n)`: return the `n`-th quotient of `self` as a Sage integer
- `def length(self)`: the number of partial quotients of `self` as a Sage integer or `Infinity`.

and optionally:

- `def value(self)`: return the value of `self` (an exact real number)

This base class will provide:

- computation of convergents in *`convergent()`*, *`numerator()`* and *`denominator()`*
- comparison with other continued fractions (see `__richcmp__()`)
- elementary arithmetic function *`floor()`*, *`ceil()`*, *`sign()`*
- accurate numerical approximations `_mpfr_()`

All other methods, in particular the ones involving binary operations like sum or product, rely on the optional method `value()` (and not on convergents) and may fail at execution if it is not implemented.

additive_order()

Return the additive order of this continued fraction, which we defined to be the additive order of its value.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: continued_fraction(-1).additive_order()
+Infinity
sage: continued_fraction(0).additive_order()
1
```

apply_homography(*a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, *forward_value=False*)

Return the continued fraction of $(ax + b)/(cx + d)$.

This is computed using Gosper's algorithm, see `continued_fraction_gosper`.

INPUT:

- `a`, `b`, `c`, `d` – integers
- `forward_value` – boolean (default: `False`) whether the returned continued fraction is given the symbolic value of $(ax + b)/(cx + d)$ and not only the list of partial quotients obtained from Gosper's algorithm.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: (5 * 13/6 - 2) / (3 * 13/6 - 4)
53/15
sage: continued_fraction(13/6).apply_homography(5, -2,  3, -4).value()
53/15
```

We demonstrate now the effect of the optional argument `forward_value`:

```
sage: cf = continued_fraction(pi)                                       #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
sage: h1 = cf.apply_homography(35, -27, 12, -5); h1                     #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
[2; 1, 1, 6, 3, 1, 2, 1, 5, 3, 1, 1, 1, 1, 9, 12, 1, 1, 1, 3...]
sage: h1.value()                                                        #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
2.536941776086946?

sage: h2 = cf.apply_homography(35, -27, 12, -5, forward_value=True); h2 #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
[2; 1, 1, 6, 3, 1, 2, 1, 5, 3, 1, 1, 1, 1, 9, 12, 1, 1, 1, 3...]
sage: h2.value()                                                        #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
(35*pi - 27)/(12*pi - 5)
```

REFERENCES:

- [Gos1972]
- [Knu1998] Exercise 4.5.3.15
- [LS1998]

ceil()

Return the ceil of `self`.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: cf = continued_fraction([2,1,3,4])
sage: cf.ceil()
3
```

convergent(*n*)

Return the n-th partial convergent to self.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: a = continued_fraction(pi); a                                    #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
[3; 7, 15, 1, 292, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 14, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, ...]
sage: a.convergent(3)                                                  #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
355/113
sage: a.convergent(15)                                                 #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
411557987/131002976
```

convergents()

Return the list of partial convergents of self.

If self is an infinite continued fraction, then the object returned is a lazy_list_generic which behave like an infinite list.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: a = continued_fraction(23/157); a
[0; 6, 1, 4, 1, 3]
sage: a.convergents()
[0, 1/6, 1/7, 5/34, 6/41, 23/157]
```

Todo: Add an example with infinite list.

---

denominator(*n*)

Return the denominator of the n-th partial convergent of self.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: # needs sage.symbolic
sage: c = continued_fraction(pi); c
[3; 7, 15, 1, 292, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 14, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, ...]
sage: c.denominator(0)
1
sage: c.denominator(12)
25510582
sage: c.denominator(152)
1255341492699841451528811722575401081588363886480089431843026103930863337221076748
```

floor()

Return the floor of self.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: cf = continued_fraction([2,1,2,3])
sage: cf.floor()
2
```

is_minus_one()

Test whether `self` is minus one.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: continued_fraction(-1).is_minus_one()
True
sage: continued_fraction(1).is_minus_one()
False
sage: continued_fraction(0).is_minus_one()
False
sage: continued_fraction(-2).is_minus_one()
False
sage: continued_fraction([-1,1]).is_minus_one()
False
```

is_one()

Test whether `self` is one.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: continued_fraction(1).is_one()
True
sage: continued_fraction(5/4).is_one()
False
sage: continued_fraction(0).is_one()
False
sage: continued_fraction(pi).is_one()                                    #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
False
```

is_zero()

Test whether `self` is zero.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: continued_fraction(0).is_zero()
True
sage: continued_fraction((0,1)).is_zero()
False
sage: continued_fraction(-1/2).is_zero()
False
sage: continued_fraction(pi).is_zero()                                   #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
False
```

multiplicative_order()

Return the multiplicative order of this continued fraction, which we defined to be the multiplicative order of its value.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: continued_fraction(-1).multiplicative_order()
2
sage: continued_fraction(1).multiplicative_order()
1
sage: continued_fraction(pi).multiplicative_order()                          #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
+Infinity
```

n (*prec=None*, *digits=None*, *algorithm=None*)

Return a numerical approximation of this continued fraction with `prec` bits (or decimal `digits`) of precision.

INPUT:

- `prec` – precision in bits
- `digits` – precision in decimal digits (only used if `prec` is not given)
- `algorithm` – ignored for continued fractions

If neither `prec` nor `digits` is given, the default precision is 53 bits (roughly 16 digits).

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: w = words.FibonacciWord([1,3])                                         #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
sage: cf = continued_fraction(w); cf                                         #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
[1; 3, 1, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 1, 3, 1, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 1, 3, 1, 3...]
sage: cf.numerical_approx(prec=53)                                           #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
1.28102513329557
```

The method n is a shortcut to this one:

```
sage: cf.n(digits=25)                                                        #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
1.281025133295569815552930
sage: cf.n(digits=33)                                                        #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
1.28102513329556981555293038097590
```

numerator (*n*)

Return the numerator of the n-th partial convergent of `self`.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: # needs sage.symbolic
sage: c = continued_fraction(pi); c
[3; 7, 15, 1, 292, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 14, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, ...]
sage: c.numerator(0)
3
sage: c.numerator(12)
80143857
sage: c.numerator(152)
3943771611212266962743738812600748213157266596588744951727393497446921245353005283
```

numerical_approx (*prec=None*, *digits=None*, *algorithm=None*)

Return a numerical approximation of this continued fraction with `prec` bits (or decimal `digits`) of precision.

INPUT:

- `prec` – precision in bits
- `digits` – precision in decimal digits (only used if `prec` is not given)
- `algorithm` – ignored for continued fractions

If neither `prec` nor `digits` is given, the default precision is 53 bits (roughly 16 digits).

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: w = words.FibonacciWord([1,3])                                    #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
sage: cf = continued_fraction(w); cf                                    #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
[1; 3, 1, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 1, 3, 1, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 1, 3, 1, 3...]
sage: cf.numerical_approx(prec=53)                                      #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
1.28102513329557
```

The method n is a shortcut to this one:

```
sage: cf.n(digits=25)                                                   #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
1.281025133295569815552930
sage: cf.n(digits=33)                                                   #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
1.28102513329556981555293038097590
```

p(*n*)

Return the numerator of the n-th partial convergent of `self`.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: # needs sage.symbolic
sage: c = continued_fraction(pi); c
[3; 7, 15, 1, 292, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 14, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, ...]
sage: c.numerator(0)
3
sage: c.numerator(12)
80143857
sage: c.numerator(152)
3943771611212266962743738812600748213157266596588744951727393497446921245353005283
```

q(*n*)

Return the denominator of the `n`-th partial convergent of `self`.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: # needs sage.symbolic
sage: c = continued_fraction(pi); c
[3; 7, 15, 1, 292, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 14, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, ...]
sage: c.denominator(0)
1
sage: c.denominator(12)
25510582
sage: c.denominator(152)
1255341492699841451528811722575401081588363886480089431843026103930863337221076748
```

quotients()

Return the list of partial quotients of `self`.

If `self` is an infinite continued fraction, then the object returned is a `lazy_list_generic` which behaves like an infinite list.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: a = continued_fraction(23/157); a
[0; 6, 1, 4, 1, 3]
sage: a.quotients()
[0, 6, 1, 4, 1, 3]
```

Todo: Add an example with infinite list.

sign()

Return the sign of `self` as an Integer.

The sign is defined to be `0` if `self` is `0`, `1` if `self` is positive and `-1` if `self` is negative.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: continued_fraction(tan(pi/7)).sign()                                  #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
1
sage: continued_fraction(-34/2115).sign()
-1
sage: continued_fraction([0]).sign()
0
```

str(*nterms=10*, *unicode=False*, *join=True*)

Return a string representing this continued fraction.

INPUT:

- `nterms` – the maximum number of terms to use
- `unicode` – (default `False`) whether to use unicode character
- `join` – (default `True`) if `False` instead of returning a string return a list of string, each of them representing a line

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: print(continued_fraction(pi).str())                                   #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
                             1
3 + ----------------------------------------------------
                                1
     7 + -----------------------------------------------
                                   1
          15 + -----------------------------------------
                                     1
                1 + ------------------------------------
                                         1
                     292 + -----------------------------
                                           1
                           1 + ------------------------
```

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```
                                  1
                         1 + -------------------
                                    1
                              1 + --------------
                                       1
                                   2 + ---------
                                        1 + ...
sage: print(continued_fraction(pi).str(nterms=1))                        #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
3 + ...
sage: print(continued_fraction(pi).str(nterms=2))                        #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
        1
3 + ---------
     7 + ...

sage: print(continued_fraction(243/354).str())
           1
-----------------------
 1 + ------------------
           1
       2 + -------------
               1
           5 + --------
                    1
                3 + ---
                    2
sage: continued_fraction(243/354).str(join=False)
['           1           ',
 '-----------------------',
 '             1         ',
 ' 1 + ------------------',
 '                1      ',
 '      2 + -------------',
 '                  1    ',
 '           5 + --------',
 '                     1 ',
 '                3 + ---',
 '                     2 ']

sage: print(continued_fraction(243/354).str(unicode=True))
           1
───────────────────────
             1
 1 + ──────────────────
                1
      2 + ─────────────
                  1
           5 + ────────
                     1
                3 + ───
                     2
```

class sage.rings.continued_fraction.**ContinuedFraction_infinite**(*w*, *value=None*, *check=True*)

Bases: *ContinuedFraction_base*

A continued fraction defined by an infinite sequence of partial quotients.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: t = continued_fraction(words.ThueMorseWord([1,2])); t                    #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
[1; 2, 2, 1, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 1...]
sage: t.n(digits=100)                                                          #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
1.
↪4223887368827854883415471160245658253068791089917118293118924529164567472725658831245541296200
```

We check that comparisons work well:

```
sage: t > continued_fraction(1) and t < continued_fraction(3/2)               #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
True
sage: t < continued_fraction(1) or t > continued_fraction(2)                   #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
False
```

Can also be called with a `value` option:

```
sage: def f(n):
....:     if n % 3 == 2: return 2*(n+1)//3
....:     return 1
sage: w = Word(f, alphabet=NN); w                                              #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
word: 1,1,2,1,1,4,1,1,6,1,1,8,1,1,10,1,1,12,1,1,14,1,1,16,1,1,18,1,1,20,1,1,22,1,
↪1,24,1,1,26,1,...
sage: cf = continued_fraction(w, value=e-1); cf                                #␣
↪needs sage.combinat sage.symbolic
[1; 1, 2, 1, 1, 4, 1, 1, 6, 1, 1, 8, 1, 1, 10, 1, 1, 12, 1, 1...]
```

In that case a small check is done on the input:

```
sage: cf = continued_fraction(w, value=pi)                                     #␣
↪needs sage.combinat sage.symbolic
Traceback (most recent call last):
...
ValueError: value evaluates to 3.141592653589794? while the continued
fraction evaluates to 1.718281828459046? in Real Interval Field
with 53 bits of precision.
```

length()

Return infinity.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: w = words.FibonacciWord([3,13])                                          #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
sage: cf = continued_fraction(w)                                               #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
sage: cf.length()                                                              #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
+Infinity
```

quotient(*n*)

Return the `n`-th partial quotient of `self`.

INPUT:

- n – an integer

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: # needs sage.combinat
sage: w = words.FibonacciWord([1,3])
sage: cf = continued_fraction(w)
sage: cf.quotient(0)
1
sage: cf.quotient(1)
3
sage: cf.quotient(2)
1
```

quotients()

Return the infinite list from which this continued fraction was built.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: w = words.FibonacciWord([1,5])                                        #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
sage: cf = continued_fraction(w)                                            #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
sage: cf.quotients()                                                        #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
word: 1511515115115151151511515115115151151...
```

value()

Return the value of self.

If this value was provided on initialization, just return this value otherwise return an element of the real lazy field.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: def f(n):
....:     if n % 3 == 2: return 2*(n+1)//3
....:     return 1
sage: w = Word(f, alphabet=NN); w                                           #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
word: 1,1,2,1,1,4,1,1,6,1,1,8,1,1,10,1,1,12,1,1,14,1,1,16,1,1,18,1,1,20,1,1,
↪22,1,1,24,1,1,26,1,...
sage: cf = continued_fraction(w, value=e-1); cf                             #␣
↪needs sage.combinat sage.symbolic
[1; 1, 2, 1, 1, 4, 1, 1, 6, 1, 1, 8, 1, 1, 10, 1, 1, 12, 1, 1...]
sage: cf.value()                                                            #␣
↪needs sage.combinat sage.symbolic
e - 1

sage: w = words.FibonacciWord([2,5])                                        #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
sage: cf = continued_fraction(w); cf                                        #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
[2; 5, 2, 2, 5, 2, 5, 2, 2, 5, 2, 2, 5, 2, 5, 2, 2, 5, 2, 5...]
sage: cf.value()                                                            #␣
↪needs sage.combinat
2.184951302409338?
```

class sage.rings.continued_fraction.**ContinuedFraction_periodic**(*x1*, *x2=None*, *check=True*)

Bases: *ContinuedFraction_base*

Continued fraction associated with rational or quadratic number.

A rational number has a finite continued fraction expansion (or ultimately 0). The one of a quadratic number, ie a number of the form $a + b\sqrt{D}$ with a and b rational, is ultimately periodic.

Note: This class stores a tuple `_x1` for the preperiod and a tuple `_x2` for the period. In the purely periodic case `_x1` is empty while in the rational case `_x2` is the tuple `(0,)`.

length()

Return the number of partial quotients of `self`.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: continued_fraction(2/5).length()
3
sage: cf = continued_fraction([(0,1),(2,)]); cf
[0; 1, (2)*]
sage: cf.length()
+Infinity
```

period()

Return the periodic part of `self`.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: # needs sage.rings.number_field
sage: K.<sqrt3> = QuadraticField(3)
sage: cf = continued_fraction(sqrt3); cf
[1; (1, 2)*]
sage: cf.period()
(1, 2)
sage: for k in xsrange(2,40):
....:     if not k.is_square():
....:         s = QuadraticField(k).gen()
....:         cf = continued_fraction(s)
....:         print('%2d %d %s' % (k, len(cf.period()), cf))
 2 1 [1; (2)*]
 3 2 [1; (1, 2)*]
 5 1 [2; (4)*]
 6 2 [2; (2, 4)*]
 7 4 [2; (1, 1, 1, 4)*]
 8 2 [2; (1, 4)*]
10 1 [3; (6)*]
11 2 [3; (3, 6)*]
12 2 [3; (2, 6)*]
13 5 [3; (1, 1, 1, 1, 6)*]
14 4 [3; (1, 2, 1, 6)*]
...
35 2 [5; (1, 10)*]
37 1 [6; (12)*]
38 2 [6; (6, 12)*]
39 2 [6; (4, 12)*]
```

period_length()

Return the number of partial quotients of the preperiodic part of `self`.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: continued_fraction(2/5).period_length()
1
sage: cf = continued_fraction([(0,1),(2,)]); cf
[0; 1, (2)*]
sage: cf.period_length()
1
```

preperiod()

Return the preperiodic part of `self`.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: # needs sage.rings.number_field
sage: K.<sqrt3> = QuadraticField(3)
sage: cf = continued_fraction(sqrt3); cf
[1; (1, 2)*]
sage: cf.preperiod()
(1,)
sage: cf = continued_fraction(sqrt3/7); cf
[0; 4, (24, 8)*]
sage: cf.preperiod()
(0, 4)
```

preperiod_length()

Return the number of partial quotients of the preperiodic part of `self`.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: continued_fraction(2/5).preperiod_length()
3
sage: cf = continued_fraction([(0,1),(2,)]); cf
[0; 1, (2)*]
sage: cf.preperiod_length()
2
```

quotient(*n*)

Return the `n`-th partial quotient of `self`.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: cf = continued_fraction([(12,5),(1,3)])
sage: [cf.quotient(i) for i in range(10)]
[12, 5, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3]
```

value()

Return the value of `self` as a quadratic number (with square free discriminant).

EXAMPLES:

Some purely periodic examples:

```
sage: cf = continued_fraction([(),(2,)]); cf
[(2)*]
```

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```
sage: v = cf.value(); v                                                    #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
sqrt2 + 1
sage: v.continued_fraction()                                               #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
[(2)*]

sage: cf = continued_fraction([(),(1,2)]); cf
[(1, 2)*]
sage: v = cf.value(); v                                                    #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
1/2*sqrt3 + 1/2
sage: v.continued_fraction()                                               #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
[(1, 2)*]
```

The number `sqrt3` that appear above is actually internal to the continued fraction. In order to be access it from the console:

```
sage: cf.value().parent().inject_variables()                               #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
Defining sqrt3
sage: sqrt3                                                                #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
sqrt3
sage: ((sqrt3+1)/2).continued_fraction()                                   #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
[(1, 2)*]
```

Some ultimately periodic but non periodic examples:

```
sage: cf = continued_fraction([(1,),(2,)]); cf
[1; (2)*]
sage: v = cf.value(); v                                                    #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
sqrt2
sage: v.continued_fraction()                                               #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
[1; (2)*]

sage: cf = continued_fraction([(1,3),(1,2)]); cf
[1; 3, (1, 2)*]
sage: v = cf.value(); v                                                    #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
-sqrt3 + 3
sage: v.continued_fraction()                                               #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
[1; 3, (1, 2)*]

sage: cf = continued_fraction([(-5,18), (1,3,1,5)])
sage: cf.value().continued_fraction() == cf                                #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
True
sage: cf = continued_fraction([(-1,),(1,)])
sage: cf.value().continued_fraction() == cf                                #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
True
```

class sage.rings.continued_fraction.**ContinuedFraction_real**(*x*)

Bases: *ContinuedFraction_base*

Continued fraction of a real (exact) number.

This class simply wraps a real number into an attribute (that can be accessed through the method *value()*). The number is assumed to be irrational.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: cf = continued_fraction(pi); cf                                    #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
[3; 7, 15, 1, 292, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 14, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, ...]
sage: cf.value()                                                         #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
pi

sage: cf = continued_fraction(e); cf                                     #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
[2; 1, 2, 1, 1, 4, 1, 1, 6, 1, 1, 8, 1, 1, 10, 1, 1, 12, 1, 1, ...]
sage: cf.value()                                                         #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
e
```

length()

Return infinity

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: continued_fraction(pi).length()                                    #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
+Infinity
```

quotient(*n*)

Return the n-th quotient of self.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: # needs sage.symbolic
sage: cf = continued_fraction(pi)
sage: cf.quotient(27)
13
sage: cf.quotient(2552)
152
sage: cf.quotient(10000)            # long time
5
```

The algorithm is not efficient with element of the symbolic ring and, if possible, one can always prefer number fields elements. The reason is that, given a symbolic element x, there is no automatic way to evaluate in RIF an expression of the form (a*x+b)/(c*x+d) where both the numerator and the denominator are extremely small:

```
sage: # needs sage.symbolic
sage: a1 = pi
sage: c1 = continued_fraction(a1)
sage: p0 = c1.numerator(12); q0 = c1.denominator(12)
sage: p1 = c1.numerator(13); q1 = c1.denominator(13)
sage: num = (q0*a1 - p0); num.n()
```

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```
1.49011611938477e-8
sage: den = (q1*a1 - p1); den.n()
-2.98023223876953e-8
sage: a1 = -num/den
sage: RIF(a1)
[-infinity .. +infinity]
```

The same computation with an element of a number field instead of `pi` gives a very satisfactory answer:

```
sage: # needs sage.rings.number_field
sage: x = polygen(ZZ, 'x')
sage: K.<a2> = NumberField(x^3 - 2, embedding=1.25)
sage: c2 = continued_fraction(a2)
sage: p0 = c2.numerator(111); q0 = c2.denominator(111)
sage: p1 = c2.numerator(112); q1 = c2.denominator(112)
sage: num = (q0*a2 - p0); num.n()
-4.56719261665907e46
sage: den = (q1*a2 - p1); den.n()
-3.65375409332726e47
sage: a2 = -num/den
sage: b2 = RIF(a2); b2
1.002685823312715?
sage: b2.absolute_diameter()
8.88178419700125e-16
```

The consequence is that the precision needed with `c1` grows when we compute larger and larger partial quotients:

```
sage: # needs sage.symbolic
sage: c1.quotient(100)
2
sage: c1._xa.parent()
Real Interval Field with 353 bits of precision
sage: c1.quotient(200)
3
sage: c1._xa.parent()
Real Interval Field with 753 bits of precision
sage: c1.quotient(300)
5
sage: c1._xa.parent()
Real Interval Field with 1053 bits of precision

sage: # needs sage.rings.number_field
sage: c2.quotient(200)
6
sage: c2._xa.parent()
Real Interval Field with 53 bits of precision
sage: c2.quotient(500)
1
sage: c2._xa.parent()
Real Interval Field with 53 bits of precision
sage: c2.quotient(1000)
1
sage: c2._xa.parent()
Real Interval Field with 53 bits of precision
```

value()

Return the value of `self` (the number from which it was built).

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: cf = continued_fraction(e)                                    #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
sage: cf.value()                                                    #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
e
```

`sage.rings.continued_fraction.`**`check_and_reduce_pair`**`(`*x1*, *x2=None*`)`

There are often two ways to represent a given continued fraction. This function makes it canonical.

In the very special case of the number 0 we return the pair `((0,),(0,))`.

`sage.rings.continued_fraction.`**`continued_fraction`**`(`*x*, *value=None*`)`

Return the continued fraction of x.

INPUT:

- `x` – a number or a list of partial quotients (for finite development) or two list of partial quotients (preperiod and period for ultimately periodic development)

EXAMPLES:

A finite continued fraction may be initialized by a number or by its list of partial quotients:

```
sage: continued_fraction(12/571)
[0; 47, 1, 1, 2, 2]
sage: continued_fraction([3,2,1,4])
[3; 2, 1, 4]
```

It can be called with elements defined from symbolic values, in which case the partial quotients are evaluated in a lazy way:

```
sage: c = continued_fraction(golden_ratio); c                       #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
[1; 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, ...]
sage: c.convergent(12)                                              #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
377/233
sage: fibonacci(14)/fibonacci(13)                                   #␣
↪needs sage.libs.pari
377/233

sage: # needs sage.symbolic
sage: continued_fraction(pi)
[3; 7, 15, 1, 292, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 14, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, ...]
sage: c = continued_fraction(pi); c
[3; 7, 15, 1, 292, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 14, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, ...]
sage: a = c.convergent(3); a
355/113
sage: a.n()
3.14159292035398
sage: pi.n()
3.14159265358979

sage: # needs sage.symbolic
sage: continued_fraction(sqrt(2))
[1; 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, ...]
```

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```
sage: continued_fraction(tan(1))
[1; 1, 1, 3, 1, 5, 1, 7, 1, 9, 1, 11, 1, 13, 1, 15, 1, 17, 1, 19, ...]
sage: continued_fraction(tanh(1))
[0; 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, ...]
sage: continued_fraction(e)
[2; 1, 2, 1, 1, 4, 1, 1, 6, 1, 1, 8, 1, 1, 10, 1, 1, 12, 1, 1, ...]
```

If you want to play with quadratic numbers (such as `golden_ratio` and `sqrt(2)` above), it is much more convenient to use number fields as follows since preperiods and periods are computed:

```
sage: # needs sage.rings.number_field
sage: x = polygen(ZZ, 'x')
sage: K.<sqrt5> = NumberField(x^2 - 5, embedding=2.23)
sage: my_golden_ratio = (1 + sqrt5)/2
sage: cf = continued_fraction((1+sqrt5)/2); cf
[(1)*]
sage: cf.convergent(12)
377/233
sage: cf.period()
(1,)
sage: cf = continued_fraction(2/3+sqrt5/5); cf
[1; 8, (1, 3, 1, 1, 3, 9)*]
sage: cf.preperiod()
(1, 8)
sage: cf.period()
(1, 3, 1, 1, 3, 9)

sage: # needs sage.rings.number_field
sage: L.<sqrt2> = NumberField(x^2 - 2, embedding=1.41)
sage: cf = continued_fraction(sqrt2); cf
[1; (2)*]
sage: cf.period()
(2,)
sage: cf = continued_fraction(sqrt2/3); cf
[0; 2, (8, 4)*]
sage: cf.period()
(8, 4)
```

It is also possible to go the other way around, build a ultimately periodic continued fraction from its preperiod and its period and get its value back:

```
sage: cf = continued_fraction([(1,1), (2,8)]); cf
[1; 1, (2, 8)*]
sage: cf.value()                                                        #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
2/11*sqrt5 + 14/11
```

It is possible to deal with higher degree number fields but in that case the continued fraction expansion is known to be aperiodic:

```
sage: K.<a> = NumberField(x^3 - 2, embedding=1.25)                      #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
sage: cf = continued_fraction(a); cf                                    #␣
↪needs sage.rings.number_field
[1; 3, 1, 5, 1, 1, 4, 1, 1, 8, 1, 14, 1, 10, 2, 1, 4, 12, 2, 3, ...]
```

Note that initial rounding can result in incorrect trailing partial quotients:

```
sage: continued_fraction(RealField(39)(e))                                  #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
[2; 1, 2, 1, 1, 4, 1, 1, 6, 1, 1, 8, 1, 1, 10, 2]
```

Note the value returned for floating point number is the continued fraction associated to the rational number you obtain with a conversion:

```
sage: for _ in range(10):
....:     x = RR.random_element()
....:     cff = continued_fraction(x)
....:     cfe = QQ(x).continued_fraction()
....:     assert cff == cfe, "%s %s %s"%(x,cff,cfe)
```

`sage.rings.continued_fraction.`**`continued_fraction_list`**(*x*, *type='std'*, *partial_convergents=False*, *bits=None*, *nterms=None*)

Return the (finite) continued fraction of `x` as a list.

The continued fraction expansion of `x` are the coefficients a_i in

$$x = a_0 + 1/(a_1 + 1/(...))$$

with a_0 integer and a_1, ... positive integers. The Hirzebruch-Jung continued fraction is the one for which the $+$ signs are replaced with $-$ signs

$$x = a_0 - 1/(a_1 - 1/(...))$$

See also:

continued_fraction()

INPUT:

- `x` – exact rational or floating-point number. The number to compute the continued fraction of.
- `type` – either “std” (default) for standard continued fractions or “hj” for Hirzebruch-Jung ones.
- `partial_convergents` – boolean. Whether to return the partial convergents.
- `bits` – an optional integer that specify a precision for the real interval field that is used internally.
- `nterms` – integer. The upper bound on the number of terms in the continued fraction expansion to return.

OUTPUT:

A lits of integers, the coefficients in the continued fraction expansion of `x`. If `partial_convergents` is set to `True`, then return a pair containing the coefficient list and the partial convergents list is returned.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: continued_fraction_list(45/19)
[2, 2, 1, 2, 2]
sage: 2 + 1/(2 + 1/(1 + 1/(2 + 1/2)))
45/19

sage: continued_fraction_list(45/19, type="hj")
[3, 2, 3, 2, 3]
sage: 3 - 1/(2 - 1/(3 - 1/(2 - 1/3)))
45/19
```

Specifying `bits` or `nterms` modify the length of the output:

```
sage: # needs sage.symbolic
sage: continued_fraction_list(e, bits=20)
[2, 1, 2, 1, 1, 4, 2]
sage: continued_fraction_list(sqrt(2) + sqrt(3), bits=30)
[3, 6, 1, 5, 7, 2]
sage: continued_fraction_list(pi, bits=53)
[3, 7, 15, 1, 292, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 14]
sage: continued_fraction_list(log(3/2), nterms=15)
[0, 2, 2, 6, 1, 11, 2, 1, 2, 2, 1, 4, 3, 1, 1]
sage: continued_fraction_list(tan(sqrt(pi)), nterms=20)
[-5, 9, 4, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 5, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 4, 3, 1, 63]
```

When the continued fraction is infinite (ie `x` is an irrational number) and the parameters `bits` and `nterms` are not specified then a warning is raised:

```
sage: continued_fraction_list(sqrt(2))                                    #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
doctest:...: UserWarning: the continued fraction of sqrt(2) seems infinite,
return only the first 20 terms
[1, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2]
sage: continued_fraction_list(sqrt(4/19))                                 #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
doctest:...: UserWarning: the continued fraction of 2*sqrt(1/19) seems infinite,
return only the first 20 terms
[0, 2, 5, 1, 1, 2, 1, 16, 1, 2, 1, 1, 5, 4, 5, 1, 1, 2, 1, 16]
```

An examples with the list of partial convergents:

```
sage: continued_fraction_list(RR(pi), partial_convergents=True)           #␣
↪needs sage.symbolic
([3, 7, 15, 1, 292, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 14, 3],
 [(3, 1),
  (22, 7),
  (333, 106),
  (355, 113),
  (103993, 33102),
  (104348, 33215),
  (208341, 66317),
  (312689, 99532),
  (833719, 265381),
  (1146408, 364913),
  (4272943, 1360120),
  (5419351, 1725033),
  (80143857, 25510582),
  (245850922, 78256779)])
```

`sage.rings.continued_fraction.`**`convergents`**`(x)`

Return the (partial) convergents of the number `x`.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: from sage.rings.continued_fraction import convergents
sage: convergents(143/255)
[0, 1, 1/2, 4/7, 5/9, 9/16, 14/25, 23/41, 60/107, 143/255]
```

`sage.rings.continued_fraction.`**`last_two_convergents`**`(x)`

Given the list `x` that consists of numbers, return the two last convergents $p_{n-1}, q_{n-1}, p_n, q_n$.

This function is principally used to compute the value of a ultimately periodic continued fraction.

OUTPUT: a 4-tuple of Sage integers

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: from sage.rings.continued_fraction import last_two_convergents
sage: last_two_convergents([])
(0, 1, 1, 0)
sage: last_two_convergents([0])
(1, 0, 0, 1)
sage: last_two_convergents([-1,1,3,2])
(-1, 4, -2, 9)
```

sage.rings.continued_fraction.**rat_interval_cf_list**(*r1*, *r2*)

Return the common prefix of the rationals `r1` and `r2` seen as continued fractions.

OUTPUT: a list of Sage integers.

EXAMPLES:

```
sage: from sage.rings.continued_fraction import rat_interval_cf_list
sage: rat_interval_cf_list(257/113, 5224/2297)
[2, 3, 1, 1, 1, 4]
sage: for prec in range(10,54):                                         #␣
↪needs sage.rings.real_interval_field
....:     R = RealIntervalField(prec)
....:     for _ in range(100):
....:         x = R.random_element() * R.random_element() + R.random_element() /␣
↪100
....:         l = x.lower().exact_rational()
....:         u = x.upper().exact_rational()
....:         if l.floor() != u.floor():
....:             continue
....:         cf = rat_interval_cf_list(l,u)
....:         a = continued_fraction(cf).value()
....:         b = continued_fraction(cf+[1]).value()
....:         if a > b:
....:             a,b = b,a
....:         assert a <= l
....:         assert b >= u
```

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