90. On the Order of the Absolute Values of a Linear Form, (Third Report.)

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(Rec. May 31, 1927. Comm. by M. FUJIWARA, M.I.A., June 12, 1927.)

1. In two Notes published in these Proceedings¹⁰ I have reported on my researches on the order of $|\alpha x - y + \beta|$. Especially, in the second of these notes I have given the upper limit of $\liminf |x(\alpha x - y + \beta)|$ for some classes of the irrational number α . Since then I have got for some cases the more precise and best possible limit, which will be shown in the following lines.

In the case iii *l.c.*, that is, when $\liminf q_i = 2k$, we have the following theorem:

If $k \ge 3$ and $\alpha x - y - \beta$ is not equivalent to

$$\sqrt{k^2+1} x-y + \frac{\sqrt{k^2+1}-k+1}{2}$$
,

then

$$\liminf |x(\alpha x - y + \beta)| \leq \frac{1}{4\left\{\frac{1}{1+\omega} + \frac{1}{2k-1} + \frac{1}{2k+\omega}\right\}}, \quad (A)$$

where
$$\omega = \frac{1}{2k+2} + \frac{1}{2k+4} + \frac{1}{2k+2} + \frac{1}{2k+4} + \dots$$
, if $k \ge 6$

$$=\frac{1}{2k+2}+\frac{1}{2k+6}+\frac{1}{2k+2}+\frac{1}{2k+6}+\dots, \quad \text{if} \quad k=4,5$$

$$= \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16} + \dots, \qquad \text{if} \quad k=3.$$

The equality in (A) occurs for infinitely many (non-enumerable) forms, and if ε is any positive number smaller than the right-hand side

¹⁾ On the extension of Klein's geometrical interpretation of continued fraction, these Proc. 2, 100. On the extension of a theorem of Minkowski, ibid. 2, 305.

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of (A), then there are infinitely many (non-enumerable) forms, for which

$$\liminf q_i = 2k,$$

 $\liminf |x(ax-y+\beta)| = \varepsilon.$

and

In the case iv, that is, when $q_i=2k$ and $\mu_i=1$ or $\mu_{i+1}=1$ for infinitely many *i*, we have

$$\liminf |x(ax-y+\beta)| \leq \frac{1}{4\left(1 + \frac{1}{2k-1} + \frac{2}{2k}\right)} .$$
 (B)

The equality in B occurs for infinitely many (non-enumerable) forms, and if ε is any positive number smaller than the right-hand side of (B), then there exist also infinitely many (non-enumerable) forms with the character above-mentioned, for which

$$\liminf |x(ax-y+\beta)| = \varepsilon.$$

2. Khintchine, in his paper "Uber eine Klasse linearer diophantischer Approximation," has given some theorems on the order of |ax-y| and $|ax-y+\beta|$. We can prove these theorems by means of our method. Especially his theorem IV – "There exists an absolute constant γ with the following character: for any real number α we can determine β , so that the inequality $|\alpha x-y+\beta| < \frac{\gamma}{x}$ has no solution for integral values of x > 0 and y"—can be proved more simply than by his method, and moreover our method gives the precise result

$$r > \frac{1}{457}$$
.

We have also the theorem :

"For any real number α we can determine β , such that

$$\liminf |x(ax-y+\beta)| = 0."$$

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¹⁾ Rend. Parelmo, 50, (1927).