

Correctness, proof completeness, and novelty audit

Differentiability of the Minkowski question mark function

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Scope	Statements, proofs, and novelty only

Important limitation. AI-generated analysis. This report is not a correctness certificate or a substitute for expert scrutiny. A Correct status may coexist with yellow typos or minor formal corrections that do not affect substantive soundness. It means that this audit found no unresolved substantive error under the stated criteria; it is not formal verification and should remain open to expert challenge and correction.

SUMMARY

01	Statements	Contains unsupported statements
02	Proofs	Contains incorrect or incomplete proofs
03	Novelty	No non-novelty findings

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01 / STATEMENTS

Statements

Contains unsupported statements

The derivative criteria and constructions in Theorems 1–4, the first part of Theorem 5, the second part of Theorem 6, and Theorem 7 are supported. Theorem 6(i) is not verified because a counting invariant used essentially in its proof is false as printed; Theorem 5(ii) inherits that unresolved dependency. No counterexample to either statement was established.

Theorems 1–4: Unbounded-partial-quotient derivative thresholds and sharp constructions

Pages 2–3 and 25–33 · Theorems 1–4 and their proofs · arXiv:0903.5537v1

Correct

The continued-fraction derivative criterion reduces the assertions to upper or lower bounds for continuants. Lemmas 5–15 supply the extremal continuant estimates, and the block constructions in the converse directions produce the required oscillating or one-sided quotient behavior. The two uniquely determined notation corrections in the proof of Theorem 1(ii), recorded below, do not alter its construction or conclusion.

Theorems 5(i), 6(ii), and 7: Verified bounded-partial-quotient results

Pages 4–5 and 33 and 36–38 · Theorems 5(i), 6(ii), and 7 · arXiv:0903.5537v1

Correct

For Theorem 5(i), the two cases for the auxiliary growth function are exhaustive: the unbounded case invokes Lemmas 1 and 15, while the bounded case forces an eventually all-one continued fraction. The explicit alternating-block construction for Theorem 6(ii) gives a vanishing derivative and the stated $15n\sqrt{t}$ bound. For E_4 , the continuant transformations in the proof of Theorem 7 yield a uniform base strictly larger than 2 and hence the asserted infinite derivative.

Theorem 6(i): The quantitative lower-deviation claim is not verified from the exact preprint

Pages 5 and 34–36 · Theorem 6(i) and its sketched proof · arXiv:0903.5537v1

Not able to verify

The proof's bound on the number of unit variations rests on the stated decrease of $\sigma_1^{(n)}$, but that decrease is formally false for the printed definition, as shown below. Two additional continuant estimates on which the final constant depends are asserted without derivation. These defects do not disprove the theorem, but no correction preserving the claimed constant was verified for this exact version.

Theorem 5(ii): The slow-growth reduction is valid, but the derivative conclusion depends on Theorem 6(i)

Pages 4 and 33 · Theorem 5(ii) and its proof · arXiv:0903.5537v1

Not able to verify

There is no gap in passing from an arbitrary increasing unbounded ψ to the case $\psi(t) = o(\sqrt{t})$: one may perform the construction with $\phi(t) = \min\{\psi(t), t^{1/4}\}$, which is increasing, unbounded, bounded above by ψ , and $o(\sqrt{t})$. The unresolved point is different. The proof uses Theorem 6(i) to exclude a zero derivative for the constructed number, so the unverified proof of Theorem 6(i) leaves this statement unsupported in the exact preprint.

02 / PROOFS

Proofs

Contains incorrect or incomplete proofs

Most proof chains close after two mechanical notation corrections. The proof of Theorem 6(i), however, uses a variation count contradicted by its own definition and omits two nontrivial continuant estimates; Theorem 5(ii) depends on that result.

Proof of Theorem 1(ii): Two indices in the block recursion have uniquely determined corrections

Pages 26–27 · proof of Theorem 1(ii), conditions (c0)–(c3) · arXiv:0903.5537v1

Typo

The displayed definition of b_{k+1} must subtract $\sum_{j=0}^k c_j$, not $\sum_{j=1}^k c_j$; otherwise the initial block of $c_0 > 0$ ones is omitted and the following bound for $S_x(t_{k+1})$ fails by exactly c_0 . Also, condition (c1) must contain $\psi(t_k + c_k + 1)$, not $\psi(t_k + c + k + 1)$. The surrounding recursion and the identities $t_{k+1} = t_k + c_k + 1$ and $Q_k = q_{t_{k+1}}$ uniquely determine both corrections. They are notation-level errors and do not lower the statement status.

Proofs of Theorems 1–4: The continuant estimates and case divisions close

Pages 25–33 · Sections 11.1–11.8 · arXiv:0903.5537v1

Correct and complete

The direct parts combine the derivative lemma with the relevant lower continuant bounds. The converse block constructions alternate long extremal blocks with sparse corrective digits, and their endpoint estimates extend to every intermediate index by monotonicity. In Theorem 4(i), the two alternatives supplied by the unit-variation procedure both force the displayed square-root deviation; the construction in Theorem 4(ii) gives the matching upper order. No omitted case affecting these conclusions was found.

Proof of Theorem 5(ii): The arbitrary-growth-function reduction is an immediate valid consequence

Page 33 · Section 11.10 · arXiv:0903.5537v1

Correct reduction

Although the text writes out the construction only under $\psi(t) = o(\sqrt{t})$, replacing the requested function by $\min\{\psi(t), t^{1/4}\}$ gives that hypothesis and a stronger displayed bound. No correction to the theorem statement is needed. The only remaining proof obligation is the separate dependence on Theorem 6(i).

Proof of Theorem 6(i): The claimed decrease of the variation invariant is false

Page 34 · Section 11.11, definition of $\sigma_1^{(n)}$ and the variation algorithm · arXiv:0903.5537v1

Incorrect as written · no verified repair supplied

With the printed conventions $a_{i_0} = 1$ and $a_{i_{k+1}} = n$, the definition telescopes to

$$\sigma_1^{(n)} = \sum_{j=0}^k (n - 1 - (a_{i_{j+1}} - a_{i_j})) = k(n - 1).$$

Consequently, moving the smallest interior digit down by one and the largest interior digit up by one leaves $\sigma_1^{(n)}$ unchanged whenever both remain interior. For example, with $n = 10$ and interior digits 4, 6, the replacement $4, 6 \mapsto 3, 7$ leaves $k = 2$ and hence leaves $\sigma_1^{(10)} = 18$, contradicting the claim that every step decreases it by at least 4. The ensuing bound that the first stage takes at most $\sigma_1^{(n)}/4$ steps is therefore invalid. No uniquely determined replacement invariant was recoverable from the preprint.

Theorem 6(i) continuant estimates: Two nontrivial estimates are only asserted by analogy

Pages 34–35 · Equations (97) and (99) in Section 11.11 · arXiv:0903.5537v1

Incomplete as written · no verified repair supplied

Equation (97) is the new bounded-digit analogue controlling the continuant by $\sigma_1^{(n)}$, and Equation (99) combines it with the permutation statistic used in the rest of the proof. Both are asserted as analogous to earlier formulas without a derivation. They are not routine substitutions: the constants and the later dichotomy depend on the precise number and effect of the new unit variations. Together with the false variation count, this prevents verification of the proof's final quantitative constant.

Proofs of Theorem 6(ii) and Theorem 7: The independent bounded-digit arguments remain valid

Pages 36–38 · Sections 11.12–11.13 · arXiv:0903.5537v1

Correct and complete

Theorem 6(ii) uses a direct alternating-block construction and does not invoke the defective invariant from part (i). Its recurrence gives $O(nk)$ deviation while $t_k \gg k^2$. Theorem 7 independently reduces to extremal digits and compares the resulting continuant with $2^{S_x(t)/2}$; the strict exponential gain proves the derivative is infinite throughout E_4 .

03 / NOVELTY

Novelty

No non-novelty findings

No non-novelty findings.

METHOD

Scope and decision rules

This audit addressed only the correctness of central statements, the correctness and completeness of proofs, and evidence-backed non-novelty. It did not evaluate importance, exposition, style, suitability for publication, or author reputation.

An adverse finding is included only where the report can give a direct calculation, counterexample, formal contradiction, or a verifiable source establishing the precise claim. An inability to verify is kept distinct from a demonstrated defect. Technical compression is not treated as incompleteness when the omitted reasoning is recoverable and correct.

Before any finding was recorded, the argument was closed under immediate, mechanically checkable consequences of facts already established. An observation was suppressed when the printed conclusion followed by elementary logic, direct substitution, weakening, inclusion, or verified monotonicity and no substantive proof obligation or textual correction remained.

Typographical errors and minor formal corrections remain fully visible in yellow with their locations and repairs. When such a defect is unambiguous, local, and harmless to the paper's substantive conclusions, it does not lower the overall statements or proofs status from Correct.

The novelty panel reports only central results for which a verifiable primary source predating the earliest public version that contains the result proves the same statement up to notation, or from which the statement follows directly and immediately. It contains no positive novelty certifications and no entries based merely on an unsuccessful literature search.

All mathematical expressions in this report are compiled by LaTeX. The web presentation independently validates and renders the corresponding expressions with KaTeX.

Sources checked

1. Source paper: [arXiv:0903.5537v1](#)

arXiv acknowledgement

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APPENDIX

Standardized prompt

You are a mathematical auditor. Evaluate only the correctness of the paper’s central statements, the correctness and completeness of its proofs, and evidence-backed non-novelty. Do not make editorial comments or evaluate importance, exposition, style, or suitability for publication. Keep the report neutral, precise, and professional.

PART 1 — CORRECTNESS OF THE MAIN STATEMENTS

Identify the paper’s central statements and assess each one separately using exactly one of these outcomes:

- *Correct: the statement has a correct, verifiable proof; or, despite a defect in the printed proof, you can give a fully verified repair or independent proof.*
- *Incorrect: you can give strong formal evidence that the statement as written is false, preferably a counterexample or a complete contradiction.*
- *Not able to verify: the supplied proof does not establish the statement, and you can neither supply a fully verified proof nor disprove it.*

For every adverse or unverified outcome, restate the exact claim and hypotheses, identify its location in the reviewed version, and give the decisive reasoning. Do not infer that a theorem is false merely because its printed proof is defective.

Assign the overall statements status by the following priority:

1. *Contains wrong statements, if at least one central statement is Incorrect.*
2. *Contains unsupported statements, if no central statement is Incorrect but at least one is Not able to verify.*
3. *Correct, if every central statement is Correct, apart from any typographical or minor formal findings allowed by Part 4.*

PART 2 — CORRECTNESS AND COMPLETENESS OF THE PROOFS

Audit the proofs of the central statements and every material internal or cited input on which they depend. For each proof or proof segment, use the narrowest supported outcome:

- *Correct and complete: every substantive step is verifiable and no case or crucial nontrivial step is missing.*
- *Incorrect as written: a displayed calculation, inference, lemma, or cited application is formally false or inapplicable.*
- *Incomplete as written: a necessary substantive step or case is missing, even though no explicit contradiction has been proved.*
- *Not able to verify: the available paper and sources are insufficient to decide whether the step is valid.*

Do not flag omitted routine details, compressed arguments, or “analogously” steps when the omitted reasoning is recoverable and correct. For every defect, identify its smallest exact location, explain its downstream dependency, and classify any proposed repair as one of:

- *Verified repair: supply enough reasoning to verify that the repair works throughout every affected use.*
- *Plausible repair only: describe the possible repair but do not treat it as established.*
- *No repair supplied.*

Assign the overall proofs status by the following priority:

1. *Contains incorrect or incomplete proofs, if at least one proof is Incorrect as written or Incomplete as written.*
2. *Contains unverified proofs, if there is no proved incorrectness or incompleteness but at least one material proof is Not able to verify.*
3. *Correct, if all audited proofs are Correct and complete, apart from any typographical or minor formal findings allowed by Part 4.*

PART 3 — NOVELTY OF THE MAIN STATEMENTS

This is a one-sided, evidence-only check. Evaluate only central results. Report a result only when a verifiable primary source, publicly available before the earliest public version of the paper that contains the result, proves the same statement up to a change of notation, or when the result follows directly and immediately from such an earlier theorem.

For each non-novelty finding, provide the earlier source, its public date, the exact theorem or proposition, and an explicit hypothesis-and-conclusion mapping. A later source cannot establish non-novelty. Do not flag a result merely because an easier proof exists or because it follows through a nontrivial argument. Do not flag a result that the paper itself explicitly presents as known, a survey item, or an alternative proof.

Mention only statements that meet this non-novelty threshold. Say nothing about statements for which no such evidence was found: do not certify novelty, list unsuccessful searches, or add statement-level “no prior source found” entries. If the list is empty, the section may say only “No non-novelty findings.”

PART 4 — TECHNICAL AND EVIDENTIARY RULES

1. *Criticism must never be overstated. Call a statement incorrect, a proof incorrect or incomplete, or a result non-new only when strong formal evidence supports that exact judgment. Otherwise use Not able to verify where that outcome exists, or remain silent in the novelty section.*
2. *Review a specified paper version. Give exact page, theorem, equation, or proof locations; restate relevant quantifiers and hypotheses; and check domains, endpoints, parameter ranges, constants, and dependencies explicitly. Apply a defect only to the regimes and downstream results that actually depend on it.*

3. *Immediate-consequence closure*: when deciding whether a conclusion is supported, treat the argument as including every immediate formal consequence of facts established earlier in the paper and available at that point. An immediate formal consequence is a local, mechanically checkable inference using only definitions already in force, elementary logic, direct substitution or renaming, weakening of an inequality or set inclusion, or a monotonicity or symmetry property explicit in a definition or already proved.

4. Such an inference must introduce no new lemma, estimate, construction, case analysis, limiting or compactness argument, external result, or new issue of uniformity or parameter dependence. Check the direction of monotonicity and the dependence of every threshold or constant explicitly. Do not exchange pointwise and uniform conclusions, change exceptional sets, interchange quantifiers or limits, or extend an endpoint under this rule unless the required fact was already established.

5. If the claimed conclusion follows after immediate-consequence closure, it is fully supported. Do not report a gap, unsupported statement, minor formal correction, or recommendation to add an explanatory sentence, and do not mention the suppressed item in the report. This suppression does not apply to a genuine typographical error as defined below, because a typo is a literal notation defect that still requires a textual correction. For example, if $P(\delta)$ is proved for every sufficiently small $\delta > 0$ and P is immediately monotone in the required direction, then the claim that $P(\delta)$ holds for every $\delta > 0$ requires no correction; the omitted monotonicity step is exposition rather than an audit finding.

6. Immediate-consequence closure permits reconstruction of an omitted inference; it does not permit silent alteration of the printed domain, hypotheses, or quantifiers of an intermediate statement later invoked outside its stated scope. If formal validity requires changing the text of that statement or its stated range, report the appropriate finding even when the repair is easy. Thus a result stated only for $t > 0$ and subsequently applied at $t = 0$ remains a formal scope mismatch unless the endpoint case was separately established before the application.

7. Apply this mandatory gate before recording any adverse, unverified, typographical, or minor formal finding: (a) identify the exact assertion or inference alleged to be defective; (b) reconstruct the strongest conclusion following from the preceding argument after all admissible immediate formal consequences are added; (c) identify the specific defect that remains — a formally demonstrated falsehood, a concrete nontrivial unresolved proof obligation, or a genuine domain, hypothesis, quantifier, or notation mismatch requiring a textual correction; and (d) state the evidence and minimal repair. If no specific defect remains, or if the only possible addition would be explanatory, suppress the finding entirely. Use Not able to verify only when a precise, nontrivial unresolved obligation can be identified.

8. A typographical error is an incorrect symbol, index, exponent, sign, variable name, or notation mismatch whose unique intended correction is mechanically determined from the surrounding text and does not alter the mathematical argument. Report it in yellow as *Typo*, with the printed text, correction, exact location, and reason it is harmless. It does not lower an overall status.

9. A minor formal correction is a boundary, endpoint, or displayed parameter-range defect that can be repaired consistently in every affected statement by a local change, without a new argument, without invalidating any related result or application, and without creating another substantive defect. Report it in yellow as *Minor formal correction*, with the same details. It does not lower an overall status.

10. Do not use either minor category if more than one materially different repair is possible; if the repair changes the substance or scope of a central result; if an excluded case is used later; if the correction fails to propagate consistently; or if a new mathematical idea is required. In such cases use the strongest substantive classification actually supported by evidence.

11. Write every mathematical expression as valid, compilable LaTeX. Use ... for inline mathematics and

...

for displayed mathematics, with balanced delimiters and braces. Do not leave raw LaTeX commands outside math delimiters.

12. Separate theorem truth from the correctness of the printed proof. A theorem can be *Correct in Part 1* because of a fully verified independent proof while its printed proof is adverse in Part 2. Conversely, a defective proof alone never licenses an *Incorrect theorem classification*.

Organize the report under Parts 1–3 and apply Part 4 throughout. Do not add editorial commentary, scores, rankings, recommendations, or a list of suppressed observations.

END OF REPORT

Each claim in this prototype report remains open to independent challenge and revision.