

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE THEORY OF BRANCHED CONTINUED FRACTIONS IN 1996–2016

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We perform the analysis of investigations in the theory of branched continued fractions carried out for the last 20 years in the directions developed under the general supervision of Prof. V. Ya. Skorobohat'ko (18.07.1927–04.07.1996) including, in particular, the interpolation of functions of several variables by branched continued fractions, the determination of efficient criteria of convergence and computational stability of these fractions, the correspondence between multiple power series and functional branched continued fractions, the investigation of various classes of functional fractions, and the application of branched continued fractions.

In the survey [25] devoted to the bright memory of Prof. V. Ya. Skorobohat'ko (18.07.1927–04.07.1996), the authors analyzed the results obtained in the analytic theory and applications of branched continued fractions (BCF) for the time after the appearance of the first publications [48, 70]. These investigations were carried out under the supervision of Skorobohat'ko in the following directions: the interpolation of functions of several variables by branched continued fractions, the determination of the effective criteria of convergence and computational stability of BCF, the correspondence between multiple power series and functional BCF, the investigation of various classes of functional BCF, the application of BCF to the construction of efficient algorithms for the solution of systems of linear algebraic equations, the construction of the theory of integral continued fractions, and their application to the solution of integral equations. The results of investigations were summarized in the monographs [13, 27, 69, 72].

In the present work, we analyze the development of these directions after 1996. One doctoral-degree thesis [57] and seven candidate-degree theses [10, 28, 32, 33, 36, 42, 61] devoted to the analytic theory of multidimensional continued fractions were defended for this period of time.

The investigations in the field of integral continued fractions were terminated but these fractions were successfully used in the problems of interpolation of nonlinear functionals and operators on continuum sets of the nodes [40, 60].

The problems of interpolation were studied only for special types of BCF, namely, for two- and three-dimensional continued fractions, branched continued fractions with independent variables (Kuchmins'ka [50], Baran [10], and Vozna [59]), and continued fractions (Pahirya [67, 68]).

Nedashkovs'kyi with his colleagues continues the investigations devoted to the construction of numerically stable methods for the solution of systems of linear algebraic equations with the help of BCF [65]. In the monograph [66], the authors solved the systems of linear algebraic equations whose coefficients are polynomials of the parameter.

At the same time, the analytic theory of branched continued fractions with  $N$  branches was additionally developed. The most general (at present) criterion of convergence of BCF with positive elements was established

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in [18]. However, by using this theorem, it is impossible to obtain an analog of the Seidel criterion of convergence of continued fractions [76, 83, 85, 87] at least in the following formulation:

*The BCF*

$$b_0 + \mathbf{D} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i_k=1}^N \frac{1}{b_{i(k)}}$$

with positive elements converges if the series  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \min(b_{i(k)}, i_p = 1, \dots, N, p = 1, \dots, k)$  is divergent.

Thus, this problem remains open.

In [14, 15], the author analyzed the criteria of convergence of the BCF and formulated unsolved problems. The investigations of convergence of the BCF whose elements belong to coupled and parabolic domains were also additionally developed [1, 2].

The most general parabolic domain of convergence for BCF of the general form was established by Antonova [2].

**Theorem 1.** Assume that there exist positive constants  $\varepsilon$ ,  $\varepsilon < 1$ , and  $\psi$ ,  $\psi < \frac{\pi}{2(1+\varepsilon)}$ , such that, for all possible multiindices of the elements of the BCF

$$\mathbf{D} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i_k=1}^N \frac{a_{i(k)}}{1}, \quad (1)$$

the following conditions are satisfied

$$\sum_{i_k=1}^N \frac{|a_{i(k)}| - \operatorname{Re}(a_{i(k)} \exp(-i(\psi_{i(k-1)} + \psi_{i(k)})))}{\cos \psi_{i(k)} - p_{i(k)}} \leq 2(1-\varepsilon)p_{i(k-1)},$$

where  $\psi_{i(k)}$  and  $p_{i(k)}$  are real numbers such that

$$|\psi_{i(n)}| \leq \psi, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots, \quad 0 \leq p_{i(k)} < (1-\varepsilon)\cos \psi_{i(k)}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, p_0 \geq 0.$$

Then

(i) the values of all approximants of the BCF (1) are finite and belong to the half plane

$$V_0 = \{w \in \mathbb{C} : \operatorname{Re}(w \exp(-i\psi_0)) \geq -p_0\};$$

(ii) there exist finite limits of the subsequences of approximants  $\{f_{2n}\}, \{f_{2n-1}\}$  of the BCF (1);

(iii) the BCF (1) converges if the series  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (\max |a_{i(k)}|)^{-1}$  diverges.

Hladun interpreted the problem of stability of BCF via the stability under perturbations as a continuous dependence of infinite BCF on their elements [33, 34]. Let

$$I_0 = \{0\}, \quad I_k = \{i(k): i_p = 1, 2, \dots, N, p = 1, 2, \dots, k\}, \quad k \geq 1.$$

Consider a BCF

$$a_0 \left( b_0 + \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i_k=1}^N \frac{a_{i(k)}}{b_{i(k)}} \right)^{-1} \quad (2)$$

and a perturbed BCF

$$\tilde{a}_0 \left( \tilde{b}_0 + \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i_k=1}^N \frac{\tilde{a}_{i(k)}}{\tilde{b}_{i(k)}} \right)^{-1} \quad (3)$$

with complex elements. A sequence of nonempty sets  $\{\Omega_{i(k)}\}$ ,  $\Omega_{i(k)} \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ , is called a sequence of sets of absolute stability under perturbations of the BCF (2) if, for any real  $\varepsilon$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a real number  $\delta$ ,  $\delta > 0$ , such that, for any  $(a_{i(k)}, b_{i(k)}) \in \Omega_{i(k)}$ ,  $i(k) \in I_k$ ,  $k \geq 0$ , and any  $(\tilde{a}_{i(k)}, \tilde{b}_{i(k)}) \in \Omega_{i(k)}$ ,  $i(k) \in I_k$ ,  $k \geq 0$ , such that  $|a_{i(k)} - \tilde{a}_{i(k)}| < \delta$ ,  $|b_{i(k)} - \tilde{b}_{i(k)}| < \delta$ , the following inequalities are true:

$$|f_n - \tilde{f}_n| < \varepsilon, \quad n \geq 0,$$

where  $f_n$  and  $\tilde{f}_n$  are the  $n$ th approximants of the BCF (2) and (3), respectively.

If all  $a_{i(k)} \neq 0$ ,  $b_{i(k)} \neq 0$ ,  $i(k) \in I_k$ ,  $k \geq 0$ , and, for any  $(a_{i(k)}, b_{i(k)}) \in \Omega_{i(k)}$ ,  $i(k) \in I_k$ ,  $k \geq 0$ , and any  $(\tilde{a}_{i(k)}, \tilde{b}_{i(k)}) \in \Omega_{i(k)}$ ,  $i(k) \in I_k$ ,  $k \geq 0$ , such that

$$\left| \frac{a_{i(k)} - \tilde{a}_{i(k)}}{a_{i(k)}} \right| < \delta, \quad \left| \frac{b_{i(k)} - \tilde{b}_{i(k)}}{b_{i(k)}} \right| < \delta,$$

the inequalities

$$\left| \frac{f_n - \tilde{f}_n}{f_n} \right| < \varepsilon, \quad n \geq 0,$$

are true, then the sets from the sequence  $\{\Omega_{i(k)}\}$  are called the sets of relative stability under perturbations of the BCF (2).

Bodnar and Hladun studied the stability under perturbations of the BCF with positive, real, and in particular, negative or alternating elements, as well as the stability of some subsequences of their approximants [19–21, 34]. The fact of convergence and, especially, of stability in the case where the partial numerators of the BCF are negative turns to be of particular interest [4, 34]. For the continued fractions in the domain  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}: x < -1/4\}$ , these problems have not been investigated yet.

**Theorem 2.** Assume that relative errors of elements of the BCF (2) are uniformly bounded. Then the domains

$$\Omega_0 = (0, +\infty) \times (v_0, +\infty), \quad \Omega_{i(k)} = \Omega_k = (0, \mu_k) \times (v_k, +\infty), \quad i(k) \in I_k, \quad k \geq 1,$$

where all  $v_k > 0$  and  $\mu_k > 0$ , form a sequence of the domains of relative stability of the BCF (2) provided that the series

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} v_{k-1} v_k^2 \mu_k^{-1} (N \mu_{k+1} + v_k v_{k+1})^{-1}$$

diverges.

The multidimensional sets of stability of the BCF with complex elements were also investigated in the case where

$$(a_{i(k)1}, a_{i(k)2}, \dots, a_{i(k)N}, b_{i(k)}) \in \Omega_{i(k)}, \quad \Omega_{i(k)} \subset \mathbb{C}^{N+1}, \quad i(k) \in I_k, \quad k \geq 0.$$

The analysis of convergence of the BCF with matrix elements [64] is of interest and quite promising. Let  $X$  be the Banach algebra of square matrices of order  $p$  over the field  $\mathbb{C}$ . The matrix BCF is a sequence of approximants

$$F_1 = \sum_{i_1=1}^N b_{i_1}^{-1} a_{i_1} = \sum_{i_1=1}^N \frac{a_{i_1}}{b_{i_1}},$$

$$F_2 = \sum_{i_1=1}^N \left( b_{i_1} + \sum_{i_2=1}^N b_{i_2}^{-1} a_{i_2} \right)^{-1} a_{i_1} = \mathbf{D} \sum_{k=1}^2 \sum_{i_k=1}^N \frac{a_{i(k)}}{b_{i(k)}}, \dots,$$

where  $a_{i(k)}, b_{i(k)} \in X$  are nondegenerate square  $(p \times p)$ -matrices.

**Theorem 3.** The matrix branched continued fraction

$$\mathbf{D} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i_k=1}^N \frac{a_{i(k)}}{b_{i(k)}} \tag{4}$$

with elements satisfying the conditions

$$\|b_{i(k)}^{-1}\| \leq \left( 1 + \sum_{i_{k+1}=1}^N \|a_{i(k+1)}\| \right)^{-1}, \quad i(k) \in I_k, \quad k \geq 1,$$

is absolutely convergent and

$$\left\{ z \in X : \|z\| \leq \sum_{i=1}^N \|a_{i(1)}\| \right\}$$

is the set of its values.

For the construction of expansions of the functions of several variables in BCF, it is customary to use two approaches:

- (1) determination of recurrence relations for given functions;
- (2) the principle of correspondence between the multiple power series and functional BCF.

Actually, the first approach was used by Manzii for the construction of expansions of the ratios of the Appel hypergeometric functions  $F_2(a, b, b'; c, c'; z)$  and  $F_3(a, a', b, b'; c; z)$ . She established new recurrence relations for these functions. In [26, 62, 63], on the basis of these relations, the authors established and studied the correspondence and convergence of expansions of the ratios of these functions in the BCF and estimated the errors of approximations by approximants in certain domains. In the works by Hoyenko [22, 23, 35, 37, 38], the apparatus of branched continued fractions was used for the approximation of the Lauricella hypergeometric functions

$$F_D^{(N)}(a, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_N; c; z_1, z_2, \dots, z_N) = \sum_{k_1, k_2, \dots, k_N=0}^N \frac{(a)_{k_1+k_2+\dots+k_N} (b_1)_{k_1} (b_2)_{k_2} \dots (b_N)_{k_N} z_1^{k_1} z_2^{k_2} \dots z_N^{k_N}}{(c)_{k_1+k_2+\dots+k_N} k_1! k_2! \dots k_N!},$$

where the parameters  $a, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_N$ , and  $c$  are complex numbers,  $c \neq 0, -1, -2, \dots$ ;  $z_1, z_2, \dots, z_N$  are complex variables;  $(\alpha)_k$  is the Pochhammer symbol.

A multidimensional analog of the Nörlund continued fraction was also constructed and investigated.

**Theorem 4.** Assume that the parameters of the function  $F_D$  are real numbers and satisfy the conditions

$$a > 0, \quad b_k > 0, \quad k = 1, \dots, N, \quad 2c > a + \sum_{k=1}^N b_k + 1.$$

The ratio of the Lauricella hypergeometric functions

$$\frac{F_D(a, \bar{b}; c; \bar{z})}{F_D(a+1, \bar{b} + \bar{e}_i; c+1; \bar{z})} \tag{5}$$

can be expanded in a Nörlund-type BCF:

$$b_0(\bar{z}) + \mathbf{D} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i_k=1}^N \frac{a_{i(k)}(\bar{z})}{b_{i(k)}(\bar{z})}, \tag{6}$$

where

$$b_0(\bar{z}) = 1 - \frac{a+1}{c}z_1 - \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{b_j}{c}z_j, \quad a_{i(k)}(\bar{z}) = \frac{(a+k)(b_{i_k} + p_{i(k)})}{(c+k-1)(c+k)}z_{i_k}(1-z_{i_k}),$$

$$b_{i(k)}(\bar{z}) = 1 - \frac{a+k}{c+k}z_{i_k} - \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{b_j + p_{i(k)j}}{c+k}z_j, \quad p_{i(k)} = \sum_{m=1}^{k-1} \delta_{i_k}^m + \delta_{i_k}^1.$$

The BCF (6) uniformly converges on compact sets of the domain

$$G = \left\{ \bar{z} \in \mathbb{C}^N : \operatorname{Re} z_i < \frac{1}{2}, i = 1, \dots, N \right\}$$

to a holomorphic function obtained as the analytic extension of function (5) holomorphic in a neighborhood of the origin of coordinates onto the domain  $G$ .

The approximation of Lauricella–Saran functions by branched continued fractions was studied in [39].

As one of the most efficient and general methods for the expansion of functions both of a single variable [76] and of many variables in functional BCF, we can mention the construction of BCF corresponding to multiple power series.

Let the following formal multiple power series be given

$$L(z) = \sum_{|m(N)| \geq 0} c_{m(N)} z^{m(N)}, \tag{7}$$

where  $c_{m(N)} \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $z = (z_1, z_2, \dots, z_N) \in \mathbb{C}^N$ ,  $m(N) = m_1 m_2 \dots m_N$  is a multiindex,  $m_i \geq 0$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ ,  $|m(N)| = m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_N$ , and  $z^{m(N)} = z_1^{m_1} z_2^{m_2} \dots z_N^{m_N}$ .

A functional BCF corresponds to series (7) if the expansion of each its  $n$ th approximant in a formal multiple power series coincides with series (7) in all homogeneous polynomials up to the degree  $\nu_n$ , inclusively, and  $\nu_n \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

For the class of multidimensional  $C$ -fractions

$$b_0 + \mathbf{D} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i_k=1}^N \frac{a_{i(k)} z_{i_k}}{1},$$

this problem does not have an unambiguous solution. To get the required result, it is necessary to impose additional conditions on the coefficients of the fraction, e.g., the condition that  $a_{i(k)}$  do not change under permutations of indices in all multiindices, or to set some  $a_{i(k)}$  equal to zero.

Another way is to change the structure of a multidimensional continued fraction. Thus, Kuchmins'ka [49] and Murphy and O'Donohoe [84] defined in this way the first corresponding two-dimensional continued fractions (TDCF) for double power series as follows:

$$\Phi_0 + \mathbf{D} \frac{a_{i,i}xy}{\Phi_i}, \quad \Phi_i = 1 + \mathbf{D} \frac{a_{i+j,i}x}{1} + \mathbf{D} \frac{a_{i,i+j}y}{1}; \tag{8}$$

moreover, their approximants take the form

$$f_n = \frac{P_n}{Q_n} = \Phi_0^{(n)} + \mathbf{D}_{i=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} \frac{a_{i,i}xy}{\Phi_i^{(n-2i)}(x,y)}, \tag{9}$$

$$\Phi_i^{(k)} = 1 + \mathbf{D}_{j=1}^k \frac{a_{i+j,i}x}{1} + \mathbf{D}_{j=1}^k \frac{a_{i,i+j}y}{1}, \quad \Phi_i^{(0)} = 1.$$

However, the introduced approximants of TDCF of the form (9) do not allow us to obtain estimates of these fractions with positive elements similar to the estimates for continued fractions, which led to the analysis of the general type of approximants for the TDCF [78, 79]. Thus, for the TDCF

$$\mathbf{D}_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{a_{i,i}}{\Phi_i}, \quad \Phi_i = b_{i,i} + \mathbf{D}_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_{i+j,i}}{b_{i+j,i}} + \mathbf{D}_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_{i,i+j}}{b_{i,i+j}}, \tag{10}$$

the general approximants have the form

$$f_n = \mathbf{D}_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{a_{i,i}}{\Phi_i^{(n-i-1)}},$$

$$\Phi_i^{(k)} = 1 + \mathbf{D}_{j=1}^k \frac{a_{i+j,i}}{b_{i+j,i}} + \mathbf{D}_{j=1}^k \frac{a_{i,i+j}}{b_{i,i+j}}, \tag{11}$$

$$\Phi_i^{(0)} = b_{i,i}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

**Proposition [78].** *Suppose that the elements of the TDCF (10) are positive real numbers and that  $j$  and  $k$  are arbitrary natural numbers. Then the approximants  $f_n$  (11) satisfy the following “fork” property:*

$$f_{2k} < f_{2k+2} < f_{2j+1} < f_{2j-1}.$$

Approximants (9) are figured approximants of the TDCF (8). They are called  $C$ -approximants. The TDCF (8) with approximants of type (11) also correspond to a formal double power series [77, 79].

The foundations of the analytic theory of two-dimensional continued fractions were laid in the works by Kuchmins’ka [49–59, 77–82], Antonova and Sus’ [5–7], Sus’ [59, 71], and Vozna [31, 32, 59, 80].

We now formulate the criterion of convergence of the TDCF established by Sus’ in [71].

**Theorem 5.** *Assume that the elements  $b_{ij}$ ,  $i, j = 0, 1, \dots$ , of the TDCF*

$$\mathbf{D}_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{b_{kk} + \Phi_k}, \quad \Phi_k = \mathbf{D}_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{b_{k+j,k}} + \mathbf{D}_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{b_{k,k+j}}, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, \tag{12}$$

belong to the domain

$$\{z \in \mathbb{C} : \operatorname{Re} z > 0, |\arg z| < \theta\}, \quad \theta < \frac{\pi}{2},$$

and let the following conditions be satisfied:

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} (\cos \theta)^{-2r} A_r^1 = 0, \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} (\cos \theta)^{-2r} A_r^2 = 0, \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} (\cos \theta)^{-3r} A_r^3 = 0,$$

where

$$A_r^k = \prod_{\ell=1}^r (1 + \mu_{\ell+1}^k), \quad k = 1, 2, 3,$$

$$\mu_\ell^1 = \sup_i \{|b_{i+\ell-1, i}| \operatorname{Re} b_{i+\ell, i}\}, \quad \mu_\ell^2 = \sup_i \{|b_{i, i+\ell-1}| \operatorname{Re} b_{i, i+\ell}\},$$

$$\mu_\ell^3 = |b_{\ell-1, \ell-1}| \operatorname{Re} b_{\ell, \ell}, \quad \ell = 2, 3, \dots, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots$$

Then the TDCF (12) is convergent and the following estimate is true:

$$\begin{aligned} |f_n - f_{4p+1}| &\leq \frac{1}{\operatorname{Re} b_{0,0}} (1 - \cos \theta)^{-1} (\cos \theta)^{-4p-2} (A_{2p+2}^1 + A_{2p+2}^2) \\ &\quad + \frac{2}{\operatorname{Re} b_{0,0}} (1 - \cos \theta)^{-1} (\cos \theta)^{-3p-1} A_{p+1}^3 + \frac{1}{\operatorname{Re} b_{0,0}} (\cos \theta)^{-2p-1} A_{2p}^3, \end{aligned}$$

where  $n > 4p+1$ .

A somewhat different structure of two-dimensional continued fractions was proposed by Siemaszko [86]. The BCF corresponding to series (7) can be constructed in the form of BCF with independent variables

$$b_0 + \mathbf{D} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_{i(k)} z_{i_k}}{1}, \quad (13)$$

where  $i_0 = N$ . These fractions are now extensively investigated. In [3, 8–11, 16, 17, 29, 30, 44, 47, 74, 75], the authors considered various criteria of convergence for these fractions. At the same time, the relationship with multiple power series was established in [12, 41, 43, 45, 46, 74, 75].

For branched continued fractions of a special form, Baran [8, 9, 11, 12, 46] established circular domains of convergence, which are multidimensional generalizations of some known theorems on the twin convergence sets of continued fractions (Leighton, Wall, Thron, Lange, Wyshinski, and McLaughlin) [76, 83]. In the case where  $N = 1$ , under certain conditions imposed on the parameters, the circular sets of convergence obtained by Baran in [8] are broader than in the theorems mentioned above.



Let

$$I = \{i(k): i(k) = i_1 i_2 \dots i_k, 1 \leq i_p \leq i_{p-1}, p = 1, \dots, k, k \geq 1\}$$

and let

$$\ell = \ell(i(k)) = \sum_{s=1}^k \delta_{i_k}^{i_s}.$$

We split the set of multiindices  $I$  into three mutually disjoint subsets

$$I_1 = \{i(k): \ell = 1, k \geq 1\}, \quad I_2 = \{i(k): \ell = 2m, k \geq 2\},$$

$$I_3 = \{i(k): \ell = 2m + 1, k \geq 2\}.$$

**Theorem 6.** *The branched continued fraction* ( $N > 1$ )

$$1 + \mathbf{D} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i_k=1}^{i_{k-1}} \frac{c_{i(k)}^2}{1} \tag{14}$$

with complex elements  $c_{i(k)}$  converges if the following conditions are satisfied:

$$|c_{i(k)} \pm i\Gamma_{1,i_k}| \leq \xi_{1,i_k}, \quad (\xi_{1,i_k} + |\Gamma_{1,i_k}|)^2 \leq \frac{\rho_1 - \varepsilon_1}{i_{k-1} - 1}, \quad i(k) \in I_1,$$

$$|c_{i(k)} \pm i\Gamma_{2,i_k}| \geq \xi_{2,i_k}, \quad (\xi_{2,i_k} - |\Gamma_{2,i_k}|)^2 \geq (2 + \rho_1)(1 + \rho_1 + \rho + \varepsilon_2), \quad i(k) \in I_2,$$

$$|c_{i(k)} \pm i\Gamma_{3,i_k}| \leq \xi_{3,i_k}, \quad (\xi_{3,i_k} + |\Gamma_{3,i_k}|)^2 \leq \rho - \varepsilon_3, \quad i(k) \in I_3,$$

where  $\rho_1 > 0, \rho > 0, 0 < \varepsilon_1 < \rho, 0 < \varepsilon_3 < \rho, \varepsilon_2 > 0, \Gamma_{s,i_k} \in \mathbb{C}, \xi_{s,i_k} > 0,$  and  $s = 1, 2, 3.$

For the TDCF and BCF of a special form, Kuchmins'ka proposed boundary versions of the Worpitzky theorem [52, 82]. We present one of these versions:

**Theorem 7.** *Let  $\rho$  be a real number from  $(0, S]$  and let  $F_\rho$  be a family of two-dimensional continued fractions (10) with partial denominators equal to 1 whose elements satisfy the following conditions:*

$$|a_{i+1,i}| + |a_{i,i+1}| + |a_{i+1,i+1}| = \rho(1 - \rho), \quad |a_{0,0}| = \rho(1 - \rho),$$

$$|a_{i+j,i}| = \rho(1 - \rho), \quad |a_{i,i+j}| = \rho(1 - \rho), \quad j \geq 2, \quad 0 < \rho \leq \frac{1}{2}.$$

Then the sets of all possible values of  $f$  for two-dimensional continued fractions (11) from  $F_\rho$  form a ring

$$\rho \frac{(1-\rho)}{1+\rho} \leq |f| \leq \rho.$$

Dmytryshyn studied some classes of functional branched continued fractions with independent variables, established the conditions of their convergence, determined estimates for the errors of approximation by approximants and proposed various multidimensional algorithms for the expansion of multiple power series in these fractions including, in particular, the Bauer  $g$ -algorithm, the Rutishauser  $qd$ -algorithm, etc. [42–47, 74, 75]. He constructed and investigated the expansions of some specific analytic functions in functional BCF with nonequivalent variables. Thus, the function

$$F(a, 1, c; z_1) F(b, 1, d; -z_2 (F(a, 1, c; -z_1))^2) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} (-1)^\ell \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \frac{(a)_k}{(c)_k} z_1^k \right)^{2\ell+1} \frac{(b)_\ell}{(d)_\ell} z_2^\ell$$

is expanded in a  $g$ -fraction with nonequivalent variables as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \Phi_0(z_1) + \mathbf{D}_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{g_{0n}(1-g_{0n})z_2}{\Phi_n(z_1)} \right)^{-1}, \\ \Phi_n(z_1) &= 1 + g_{1n}z_1 \left( 1 + \mathbf{D}_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{g_{kn}(1-g_{k-1,n})z_1}{1} \right)^{-1}, \\ g_{2r-1, \ell-1} &= \frac{a+r-1}{c+2r-2}, \quad g_{2r, \ell-1} = \frac{r}{c+2r-1}, \\ g_{0, 2\ell-1} &= \frac{b+\ell-1}{d+2\ell-2}, \quad g_{0, 2\ell} = \frac{\ell}{d+2\ell-1}. \end{aligned}$$

In different classes of BCF, we consider various types of functional BCF, namely, the multidimensional  $g$ -,  $J$ -,  $\pi$ -, and  $C$ -fractions. The multidimensional  $g$ -fractions are studied especially comprehensively. The results of their investigation were summarized in the survey [24]. Hoyenko [37] studied the relationship between the correspondence and uniform convergence of functional BCF.

Bubnyak defined and established, by using the properties of boundary-periodic and inverse continued fractions, the criteria of pointwise and uniform convergence of periodic BCF of a special form and, in particular, investigated the oval domains of convergence for  $p$ -periodic BCF [16, 17, 29, 30, 73]. We now present the necessary condition of convergence of a 1-periodic BCF with real elements formulated in the following theorem [28, p. 99]:

**Theorem 8.** *If a 1-periodic BCF*

$$\left( 1 + \mathbf{D}_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i_k=1}^{i_{k-1}} \frac{c_{i_k}}{1} \right)^{-1} \tag{15}$$

with real elements  $c_{i_k}$  converges, then its elements satisfy the conditions

$$c_q \geq -\frac{1}{4}X_{q-1}^2, \quad q = 1, 2, \dots, N,$$

where  $X_q$  are determined by the recurrence relation

$$X_q = \frac{1}{2}(X_{q-1} + \sqrt{X_{q-1}^2 + 4c_q}), \quad X_0 = 1.$$

The sufficient condition of convergence of the BCF (15) can be formulated as follows:

$$c_q > -\frac{1}{4}X_{q-1}^2, \quad q = 1, 2, \dots, N.$$

Note that the presented list of references is far from being complete.

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