

# Computing the Characteristics of a Subsegment of a Digital Straight Line in Logarithmic Time

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## Abstract

We address the problem of computing the exact characteristics of any subsegment of a digital straight line with known characteristics. We present a new algorithm that solves this problem, whose correctness is proved. Its principle is to climb the Stern-Brocot tree of fraction in a bottom-up way. Its worst-time complexity is proportional to the difference of depth of the slope of the input line and the slope of the output segment. It is thus logarithmic in the coefficients of the input slope. We have tested the effectiveness of this algorithm by computing a multiscale representation of a digital shape, based only on a digital straight segment decomposition of its boundary.

**Keyword:** standard lines, digital straight segment recognition, Stern-Brocot tree.

## 1 Introduction

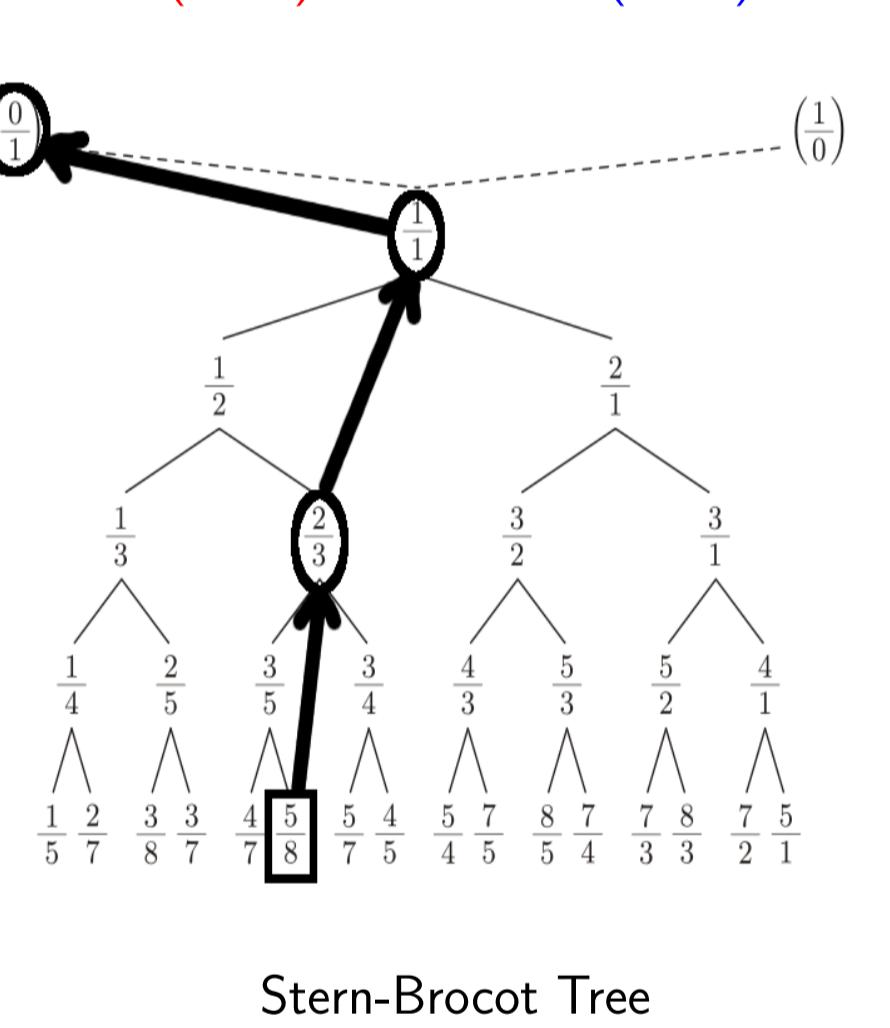
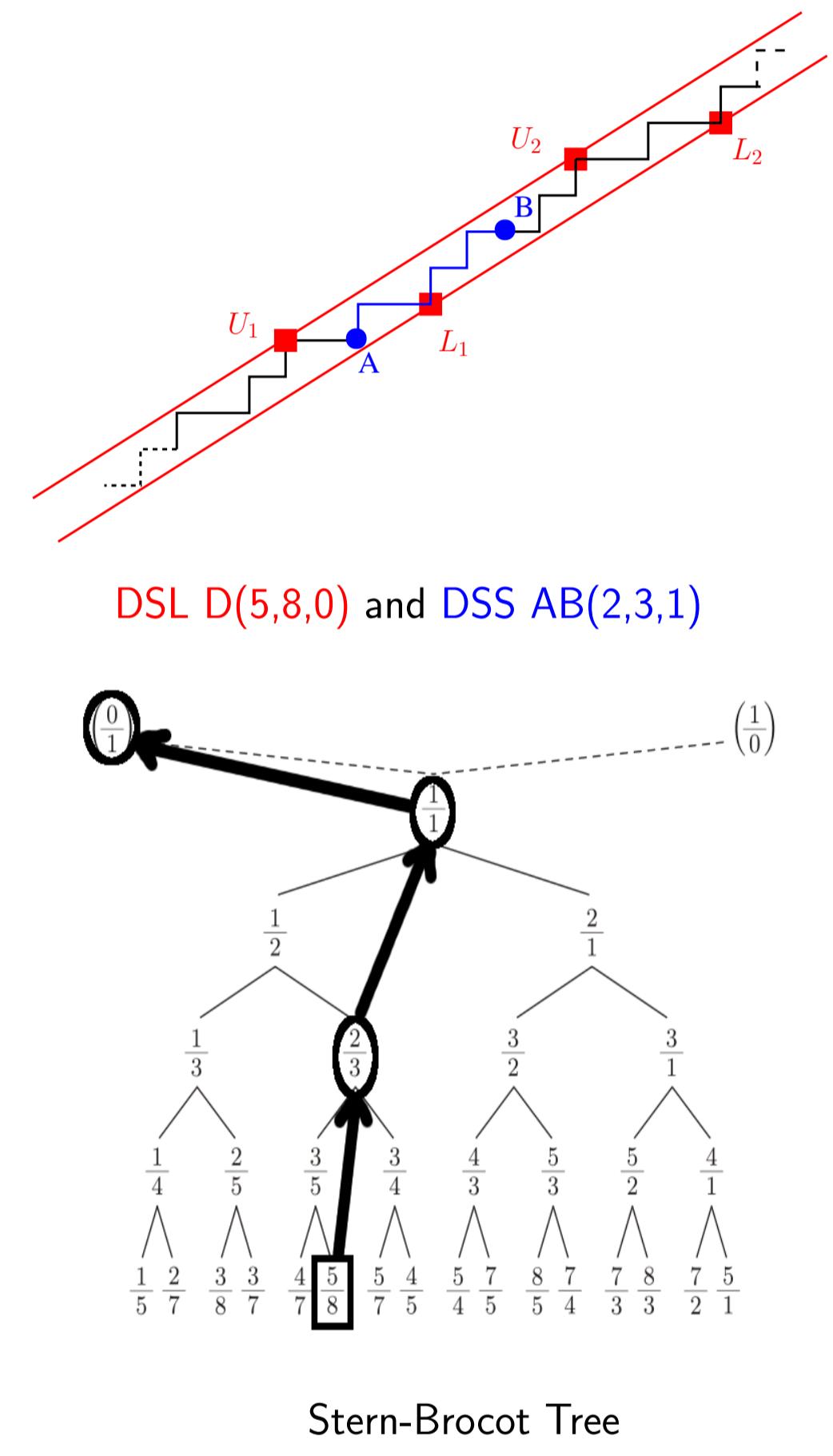
### Objective:

- Present a fast algorithm which computes the exact (minimal) characteristics of a DSS that is a subset of a known DSL.
- Determine these characteristics by moving in a bottom-up way along the Stern-Brocot Tree [1].
- Prove the correctness of this algorithm.
- Compare this algorithm with the SmartDSS algorithm published in DGCI 2009 [3] and the classical DSS recognition algorithm [2].
- Apply this result to compute the multiresolution of a digital object, since analytic formulas give the multiresolution of DSL.

## 2 A coarsening algorithm for computing the characteristics of a subsegment included in a known DSL

### Overview of the algorithm.

```
Function ReversedSmartDSS ( In D : DSL( $\alpha, \beta$ ), In  $L_1, L_2$  : Points of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ , In  $A, B$  : Points of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  ) : DSS ( $a, b, \mu$ );
Var  $Lp_1, Lp_2$  : Point of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ ;
Var  $dL$  : integer /* The horizontal distance between  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  */;
Var  $S$  : slope;
begin
  if ( $A_x == B_x$ ) then return ( $1, 0, A_x$ );
  if ( $A_y == B_y$ ) then return ( $0, 1, A_y$ );
   $dl \leftarrow L_2 - L_1$ ;
  if ( $dl \geq 3\beta$ ) or ( $dl == 2\beta$  and ( $A == L_1$  or  $B == L_2$ )) or
    ( $A == L_1$  and  $B == L_2$ ) then return ( $\alpha, \beta, \alpha L_{1x} + \beta L_{1y}$ );
  /*  $S$  is included in two patterns of  $D$  */;
  if ( $dl == 2\beta$ ) then return DSSWithinTwoPatterns ( $D, L_1, L_2, A, B$ );
  /*  $S$  is included in one pattern of  $D$  */;
  ( $D(\alpha', \beta'), Lp_1, Lp_2$ )  $\leftarrow$  NewLowerBound ( $D, L_1, L_2, A, B$ );
  if ( $Lp_1 == L_1$ ) and ( $Lp_2 == L_2$ ) then
    return FinalSlope ( $D, L_1, L_2, Lp_1, Lp_2, A, B$ );
  return ReversedSmartDSS ( $DSL(\alpha', \beta'), Lp_1, Lp_2, A, B$ );
end
```



### $S$ is included in two patterns of $D$

```
Function DSSWithinTwoPatterns ( In D : DSL ( $\alpha, \beta$ ), In  $L_1, L_2$  : Lower bounds of  $D$ , In  $A, B$  : Point of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  ) : DSS ( $a, b, \mu$ );
begin
   $L \leftarrow$  true,  $R \leftarrow$  true,  $U \leftarrow$  true,  $i \leftarrow 0$ ,  $L_m \leftarrow$  MiddleLowerBound ( $L_1, D$ );
   $CF \leftarrow$  ContinuedFraction ( $D$ ),  $U_1 \leftarrow$  FirstUpperBound ( $D, L_1, L_2$ ),  $U_2 \leftarrow$  SecondUpperBound ( $U_1, D$ );
  while  $i < |CF|$  do
    if ( $L$  and  $R$  and  $U$ ) then
       $S_1 \leftarrow$  LowerSlope ( $D_L, L_1, L_m, L_2, A, true$ ) /* Left Lower Slope */;
       $S_2 \leftarrow$  LowerSlope ( $D_R, L_1, L_m, L_2, B, false$ ) /* Right Lower Slope */;
       $S_3 \leftarrow$  UpperSlope ( $D_U, U_1, U_2, A, B$ ) /* Upper Slope */;
      if ( $(L_1 \geq A \text{ or } L_2 \leq B \text{ or } (U_1 \geq A \text{ and } U_2 \leq B))$  then
         $DS \leftarrow$  DeepestSlope ( $S_1, S_2, S_3$ ) /* DS The deepest slope */;
      if ( $L_1 \geq A$  then  $L \leftarrow$  false; if  $L_2 \leq B$  then  $R \leftarrow$  false;
      if ( $U_1 \geq A \text{ and } U_2 \leq B$ ) then  $U \leftarrow$  false;
      if ( $(L_1 \geq A \text{ and } DS == S_1)$  or ( $L_2 \leq B \text{ and } DS == S_2$ ) or ( $U_1 \geq A \text{ and } U_2 \leq B \text{ and } DS == S_3$ ) then break;
    else
      if (( $L$  and  $R$ ) or ( $L$  and  $U$ ) or ( $R$  and  $U$ )) then
         $S_1 \leftarrow$  LowerSlope ( $D_R, L_1, L_m, L_2, B, false$ ) : LowerSlope ( $D_L, L_1, L_m, L_2, A, true$ );
         $S_2 \leftarrow$  LowerSlope ( $D_R, L_1, L_m, L_2, B, false$ ) : UpperSlope ( $D_U, U_1, U_2, A, B$ );
        if ((( $L$  and  $R$ ) and ( $L_1 \geq A$ )) or ((( $R$  and  $L$  or  $U$ )) and ( $L_2 \leq B$ )) or ((( $U$  and  $L$  or  $R$ )) and ( $U_1 \geq A \text{ and } U_2 \leq B$ ))) then
           $DS \leftarrow$  DeepestSlope ( $S_1, S_2$ );
        if ((( $R$  and  $U$ ) and ( $L_2 \leq B$ )) or (( $L_1 \geq A$  and  $DS == S_1$ ) or ( $U_1 \geq A \text{ and } U_2 \leq B \text{ and } DS == S_2$ )) or (( $(L \text{ and } R) \text{ and } (L_1 \geq A \text{ and } DS == S_1)$ ) or ( $L_2 \leq B \text{ and } DS == S_2$ ))) then break;
      if ((( $L$  and  $U$ ) or ( $L$  and  $R$ )) and ( $L_1 \geq A$ )) then  $L \leftarrow$  false;
      if ((( $R$  and  $U$ ) or ( $L$  and  $R$ )) and ( $L_2 \leq B$ )) then  $R \leftarrow$  false;
      if ((( $R$  and  $U$ ) or ( $L$  and  $U$ )) and ( $U_1 \geq A \text{ and } U_2 \leq B$ )) then  $U \leftarrow$  false;
    else
      if  $L$  then  $DS \leftarrow$  LowerSlope ( $D_L, L_1, L_m, L_2, A, true$ );
      else if  $R$  then  $DS \leftarrow$  LowerSlope ( $D_R, L_1, L_m, L_2, B, false$ );
      else  $DS \leftarrow$  UpperSlope ( $D_U, U_1, U_2, A, B$ );
      if (( $L$  and  $L_1 \geq A$ ) or ( $R$  and  $L_2 \leq B$ ) or ( $U$  and  $U_1 \geq A \text{ and } U_2 \leq B$ )) then break;
     $a \leftarrow DS_x, b \leftarrow DS_y, \mu \leftarrow aL_{mx} + bL_{my}$ ;
  return ( $a, b, \mu$ );
end
```

Computes the characteristics ( $a, b, \mu$ ) of a DSS  $S$  that is some subset of a DSL  $D(\alpha, \beta)$  repeated twice.

```
Function LowerSlope ( In D : DSL ( $\alpha, \beta$ ), InOut  $L_1, L_m, L_2$  : Lower bounds of  $D$ , In  $X(A$  or  $B$ ) : Point of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ , In Left : Boolean); DSS ( $a, b$ );
begin
  ( $P, L_{11}, L_{22}$ )  $\leftarrow$  Left ? ( $L_1, L_1, L_m$ ) : ( $L_2, L_m, L_2$ );
  parity  $\leftarrow$  Parity ( $D$ );
  PS  $\leftarrow$  PreviousSlope ( $D$ );
  if (parity is odd) then
     $k \leftarrow$  NumberOfCoveringSubPatterns ( $L_{11}, X, PS$ , true, false);
     $P \leftarrow L_{11} - k(-PS_y, PS_x)$ ;
  else
     $k \leftarrow$  NumberOfCoveringSubPatterns ( $L_{22}, X, PS$ , true, false);
     $P \leftarrow L_{22} - k(-PS_y, PS_x)$ ;
  if Left then  $L_{11} = P$ ;
  else  $L_{22} = P$ ;
  ( $a, b$ )  $\leftarrow$  ( $|P_x - L_{11}|, |L_{m_x} - P_x|$ );
  ( $L_1, L_2$ )  $\leftarrow$  Left ? ( $L_{11}, L_{22}$ ) : ( $L_1, L_{22}$ );
  return ( $a, b$ );
end
```

Computes in  $O(1)$  the Lower (Left or Right) characteristics ( $a, b$ ) of a DSS that is some subset of a DSL  $D$ , given a starting point  $A$  and an ending point  $L_m$  (Left part) or given a starting point  $L_m$  and an ending point  $B$  (Right part) ( $A, B \in D$ ).

```
Function UpperSlope ( In D : DSL ( $\alpha, \beta$ ), In  $U_1, U_2$  : Upper bound of  $D$ , In  $A, B$  : Points of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  ) : DSS ( $a, b$ );
begin
  LU  $\leftarrow U_1, RU \leftarrow U_2$ ;
  if ( $LU > A$  and  $RU < B$ ) then
    return ( $\alpha, \beta$ );
  parity  $\leftarrow$  Parity ( $D$ );
  PS  $\leftarrow$  PreviousSlope ( $D$ );
  if (parity is odd) then
    if ( $RU > B$ ) then
       $k \leftarrow$  NumberOfCoveringSubPatterns ( $RU, B, PS$ , true, false);
       $RU \leftarrow RU - k(-PS_y, PS_x)$ ;
    if ( $LU < A$ ) then
       $LU \leftarrow LU - (PS_y, PS_x)$ ;
  else
    if ( $LU < A$ ) then
       $k \leftarrow$  NumberOfCoveringSubPatterns ( $LU, A, PS$ , true, false);
       $LU \leftarrow LU - k(-PS_y, PS_x)$ ;
    if ( $RU > B$ ) then
       $RU \leftarrow RU - (-PS_y, PS_x)$ ;
  ( $a, b$ )  $\leftarrow$  ( $|LU_x - RU_x|, |LU_y - RU_y|$ );
  return ( $a, b$ );
end
```

Computes in  $O(1)$  the Upper characteristics ( $a, b$ ) of a DSS that is some subset of a DSL  $D$  ( $U_1$  and  $U_2$  are two upper leaning points of  $D$ ), given a starting point  $A$  and an ending point  $B$  ( $A, B \in D$ ).

### $S$ is included in one pattern of $D$

```
Function NewLowerBounds ( In D : DSL ( $\alpha, \beta$ ), In  $L_1, L_2, A, B$  : Points of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  );
  begin
    parity  $\leftarrow$  Parity ( $D$ );
    PS  $\leftarrow$  PreviousSlope ( $D$ );
    L  $\leftarrow$  parity ?  $L_1 : L_2$ , coveringA  $\leftarrow$  parity ? true : false;
    coveringB  $\leftarrow$  parity ? false : true;
     $k_1 \leftarrow$  NumberOfCoveringSubPatterns ( $L, A, PS$ , coveringA, true);
     $k_2 \leftarrow$  NumberOfCoveringSubPatterns ( $L, B, PS$ , coveringB, true);
    if (parity is odd) then
       $L_{p_1} \leftarrow L_1 - k_1(-PS_y, PS_x), V_1 \leftarrow L_2 - k_2(-PS_y, PS_x)$ ;
       $L_{p_2} \leftarrow L_2 - k_2(-PS_y, PS_x), V_2 \leftarrow L_1 - k_1(-PS_y, PS_x)$ ;
    else
       $L_{p_2} \leftarrow L_2 - k_2(-PS_y, PS_x), V_1 \leftarrow L_1 - k_1(-PS_y, PS_x)$ ;
       $L_{p_1} \leftarrow V_1 \geq L_2 ? V_1 : L_1$ ;
    k  $\leftarrow$  (parity is odd and  $L_{p_1}! = L_2$ ) ?  $(LP_{p_1}) / PS_y : 1$ ;
    ( $a, b$ )  $\leftarrow$  (( $L_{p_1} - L_{p_2}) / k, ( $L_{p_2} - L_{p_1}) / k)$ ;
    return ( $DSL(\alpha, \beta), L_{p_1}, L_{p_2}$ );
  end$ 
```

Updates in  $O(1)$  the slope of the DSL  $D$  according to the change of the two lower leaning points. .

```
Function FinalSlope ( In D : DSL ( $\alpha, \beta$ ), In  $L_1, L_2, L_{p_1}, L_{p_2}, A, B$  : Points of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  );
  begin
    PS  $\leftarrow$  PreviousSlope ( $D$ ), PPS  $\leftarrow$  PreviousSlope ( $PS$ ), parity  $\leftarrow$  Parity ( $D$ );
    if ( $L_{p_2} == B$ ) then
       $L_{p_1} \leftarrow L_{p_1} - ((\text{parity} ? (-PS_y, PS_x) : (-PPS_y, PPS_x)) : (-PS_y, PS_x))$ ;
      ( $a, b$ )  $\leftarrow$  (( $L_{p_1} - L_{p_2}$ ) /  $L_{p_1}$ ,  $L_{p_1} - L_{p_2}$ );
    else if ( $L_{p_1} == A$ ) then
       $L_{p_2} \leftarrow L_{p_2} - ((\text{parity} ? (PPS_y, -PPS_x) : (PS_y, -PS_x)) : (PS_y, -PS_x))$ ;
      ( $a, b$ )  $\leftarrow$  (( $L_{p_2} - L_{p_1}$ ) /  $L_{p_2}$ ,  $L_{p_2} - L_{p_1}$ );
    else
      ( $a, b$ )  $\leftarrow$  PS;
       $\mu \leftarrow$  a  $\oplus$  parity ?  $L_{p_2} : L_{p_1}$   $\oplus$  b  $\oplus$  parity ?  $L_{p_1} : L_{p_2}$ ;
    return ( $a, b, \mu$ );
  end
```

Computes in  $O(1)$  the characteristics ( $a, b, \mu$ ) of a DSS in the case where  $L_1 == L_{p_1}$  and  $L_2 == L_{p_2}$ .

## 3 Correctness and computational complexity

**Proposition 1** For any DSL  $D$  such that  $A, B \in D$ , Algorithm *ReversedSmartDSS* computes the characteristics of the segment  $S = [AB]$  included in  $D$ .

**Proposition 2** Algorithm *ReversedSmartDSS* takes  $O(n - n')$  time complexity, where  $n$  is the depth of the input DSL  $D$  with slope  $\frac{\alpha}{\beta} = [u_0, u_1, \dots, u_n]$  and  $n'$  is the depth of the output DSS  $S$  with slope  $\frac{a}{b} = [u_0, u_1, \dots, u_{n'}]$ .

**Timing measures: Computation times of the  $(h, v)$ -covering of various digital shapes with our proposed approach.**

Shape	Flower	Circle	Polygon
# points	67494	16004	15356
# segments	1991	574	44
$h, v$	2 4 10 2 4 10	2 4 10	
# points ( $h, v$ )	33744 16870 6750 8000 4000 1600 7676 3840 1532	Smart DSS	
timings (ms)	3.1286 2.6446 2.2914 0.997 0.8902 0.7618 0.1258 0.1142 0.0946	Reversed Smart DSS	
timings (ms)	2.364 2.103 2.078 0.758 0.702 0.625 0.104 0.097 0.084		

## 4 Conclusion

We have presented a novel fast DSS recognition algorithm with guaranteed logarithmic complexity, in the special case where a DSL container is known. The algorithm principle is to move in a bottom-up way along the Stern Brocot Tree, starting from the initial known DSL slope. Finally, we have used this algorithm to efficiently compute the exact multiscale covering of a digital contour (Table Timing). Our algorithms are sensitive to the depth of the input DSL and output DSS, and are clearly sublinear.

## References

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