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*From Christoffel words to Markoff numbers*

For a pair  $(a, b)$  of relatively prime natural numbers, the Christoffel word  $C(a, b)$  is defined by the path with integral vertices which is closest to the line segment from  $(0, 0)$  to  $(a, b)$ . Viewing this line segment as an arc in the once-punctured torus, we define a  $J$ -module  $M(a, b)$  for each Christoffel word. Here  $J$  is the Jacobian algebra of the once-punctured torus. We show that one obtains the Markoff number associated with  $C(a, b)$  by counting submodules of  $M(a, b)$ .