

THE VEECH 2-CIRCLE PROBLEM
AND NON-INTEGRABLE
FLAT DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS

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Point Distributons Webinar
May 2021

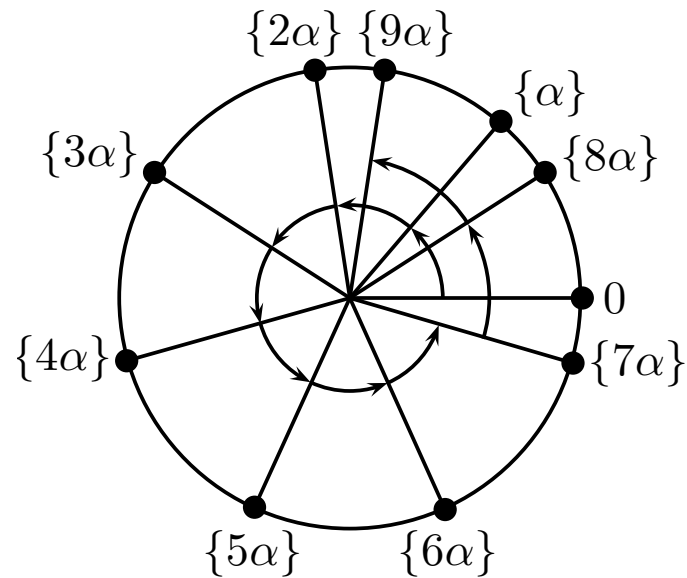
József Beck (Rutgers University)
Yuxuan Yang (Rutgers University)
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1

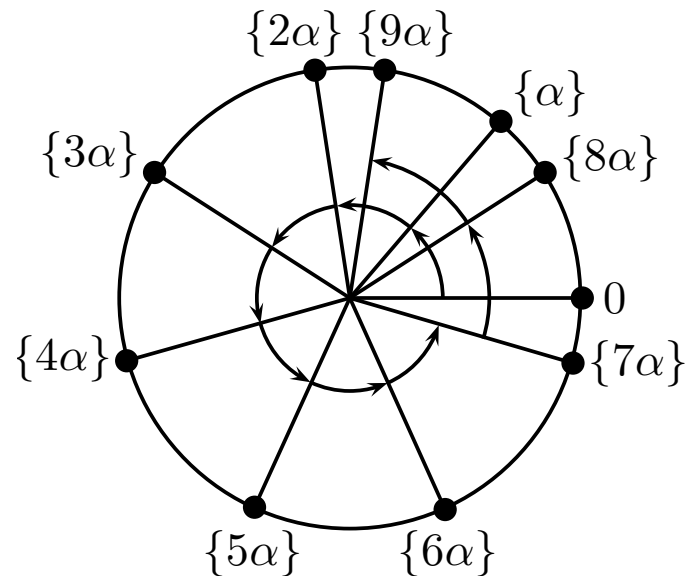
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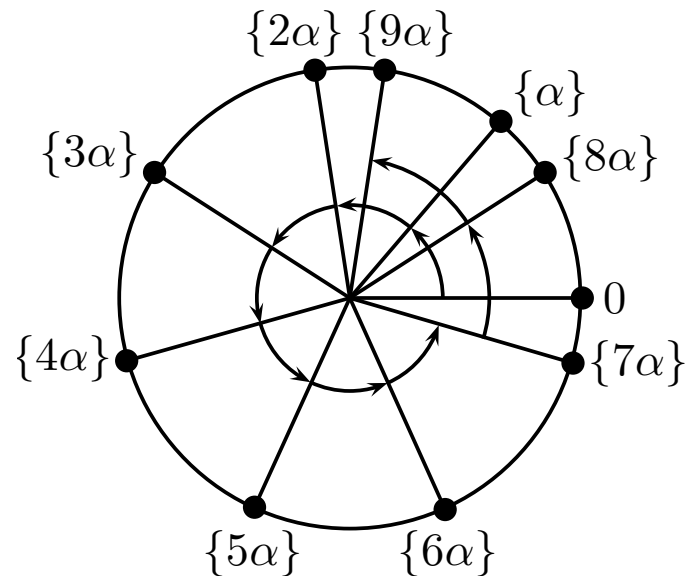


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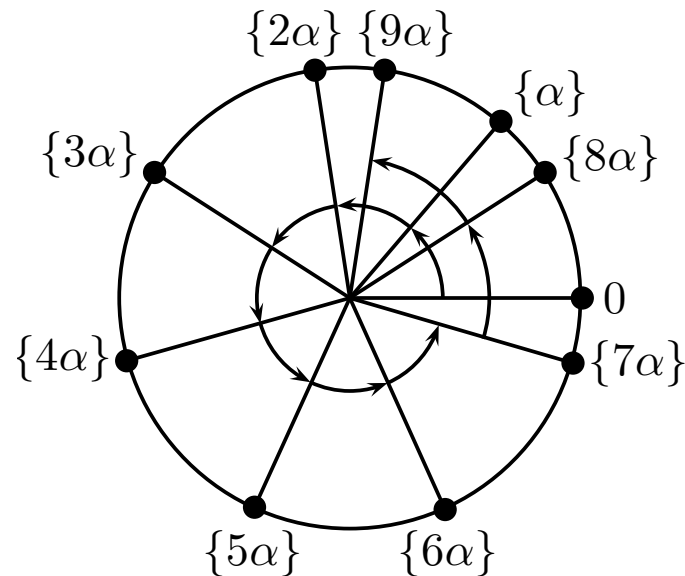


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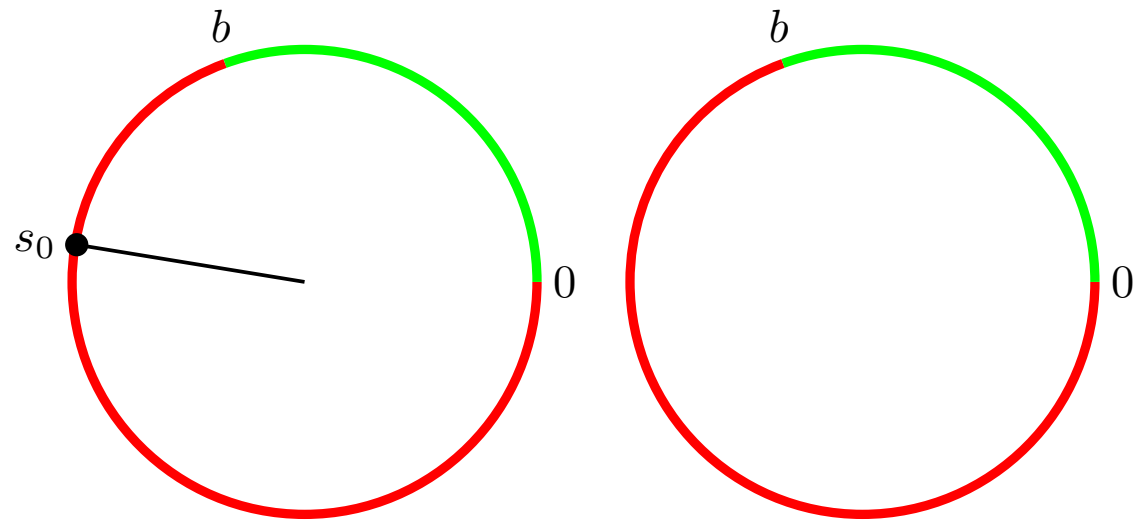
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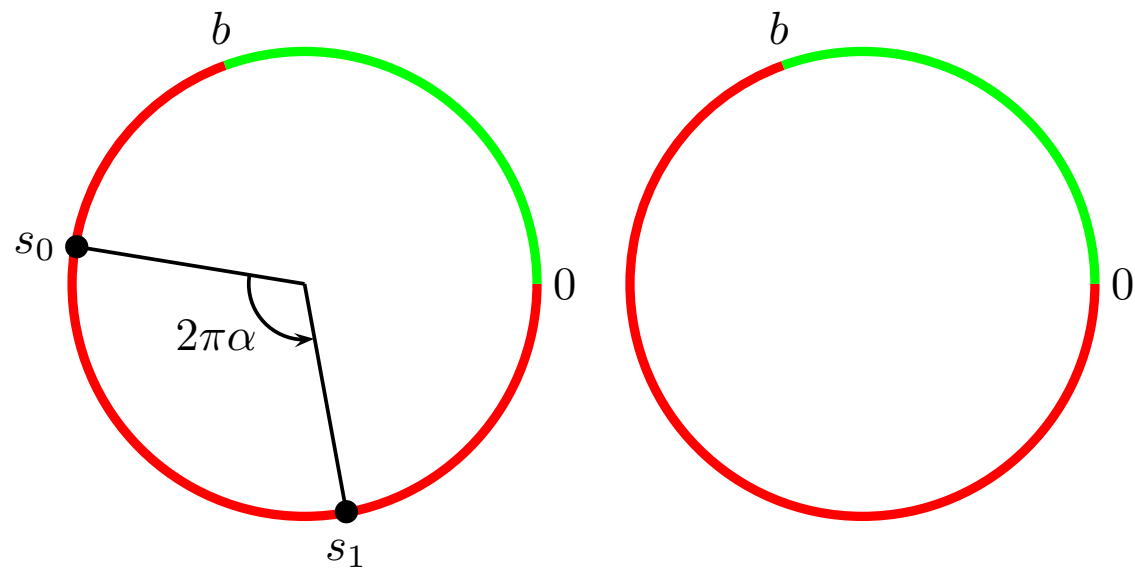
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uniform-periodic dichotomy

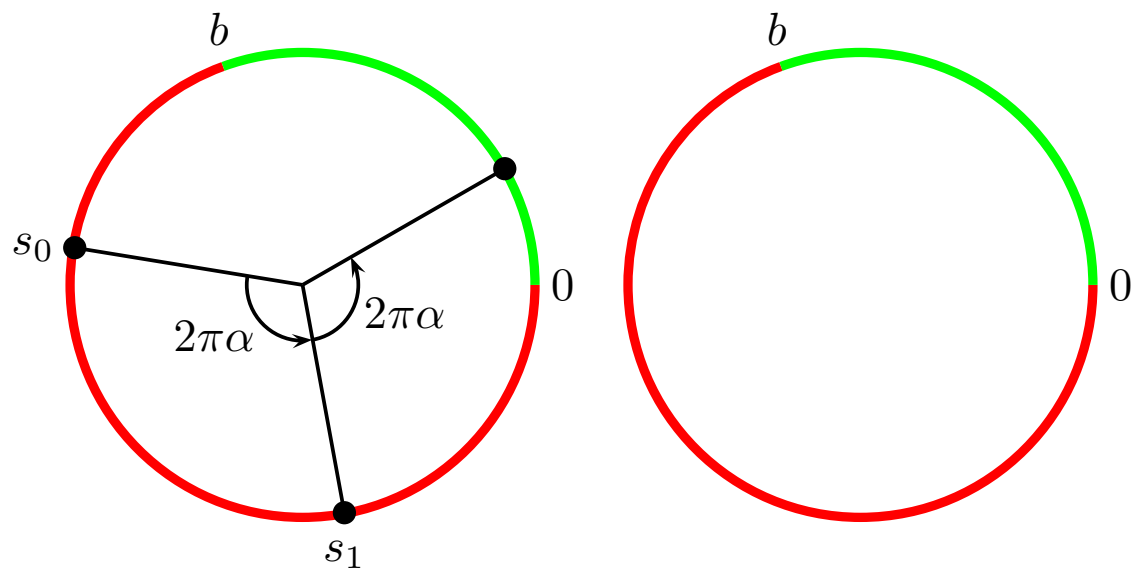
Veech 2-circle problem



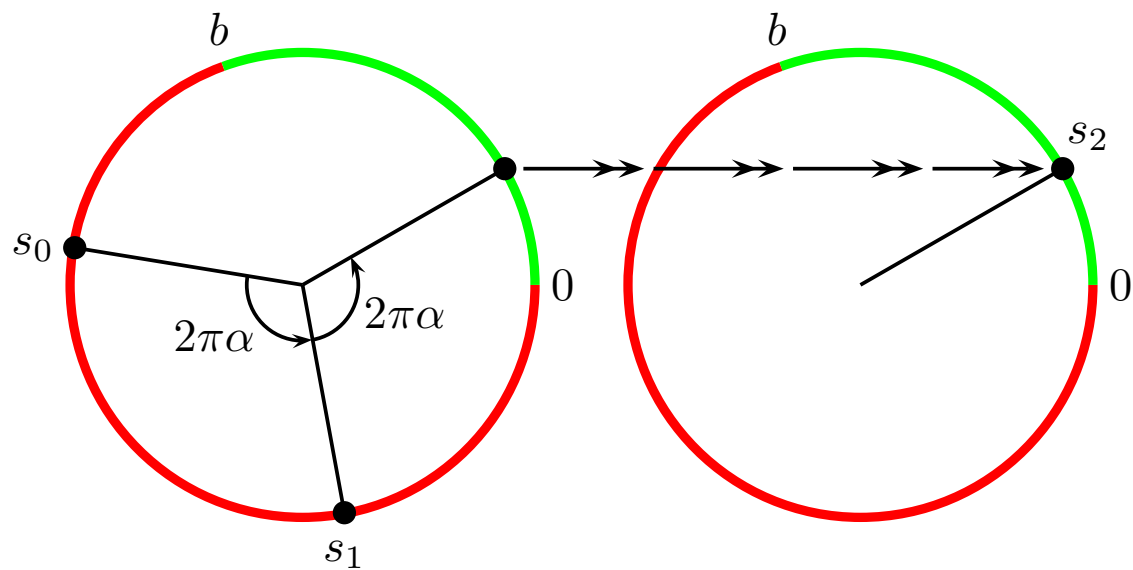
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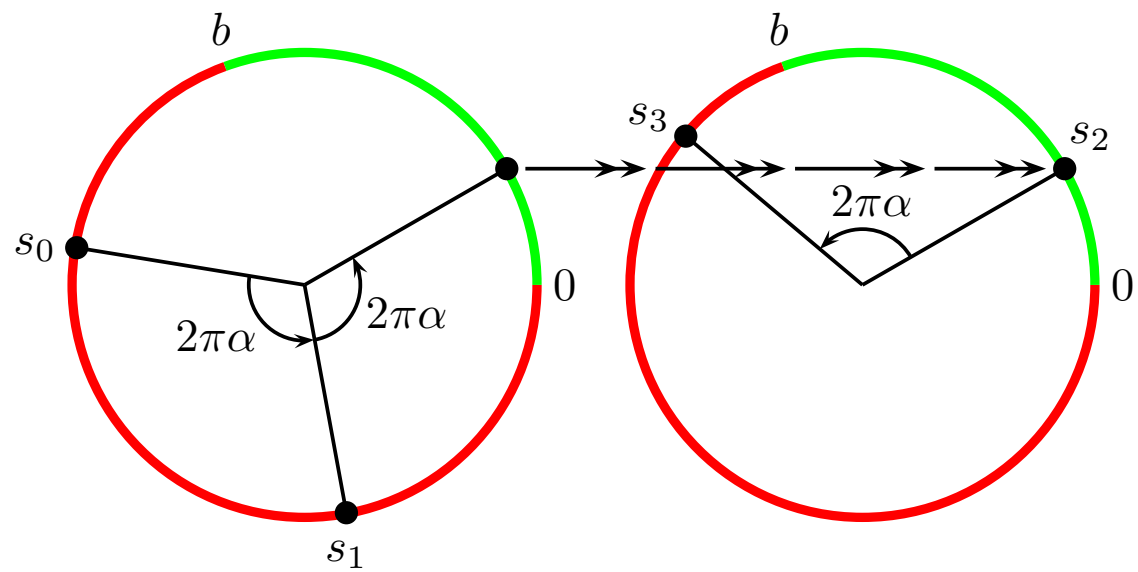
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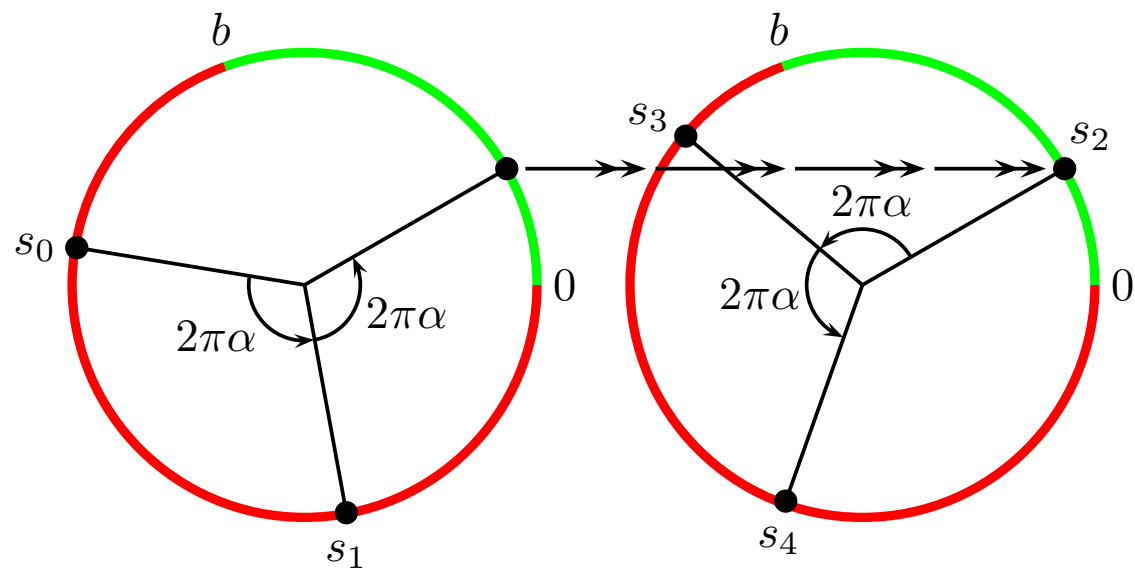
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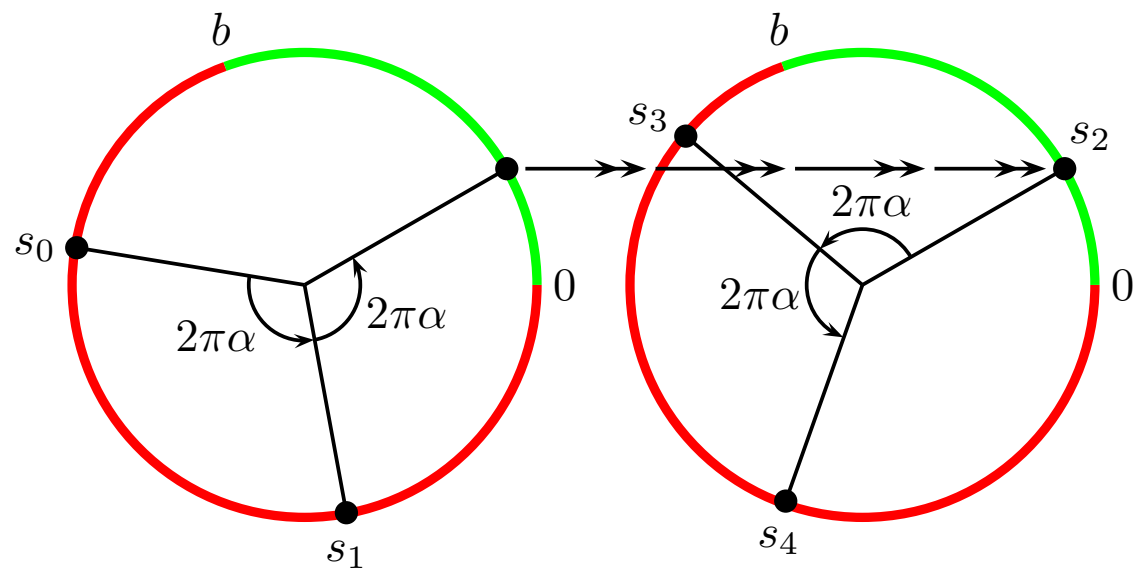


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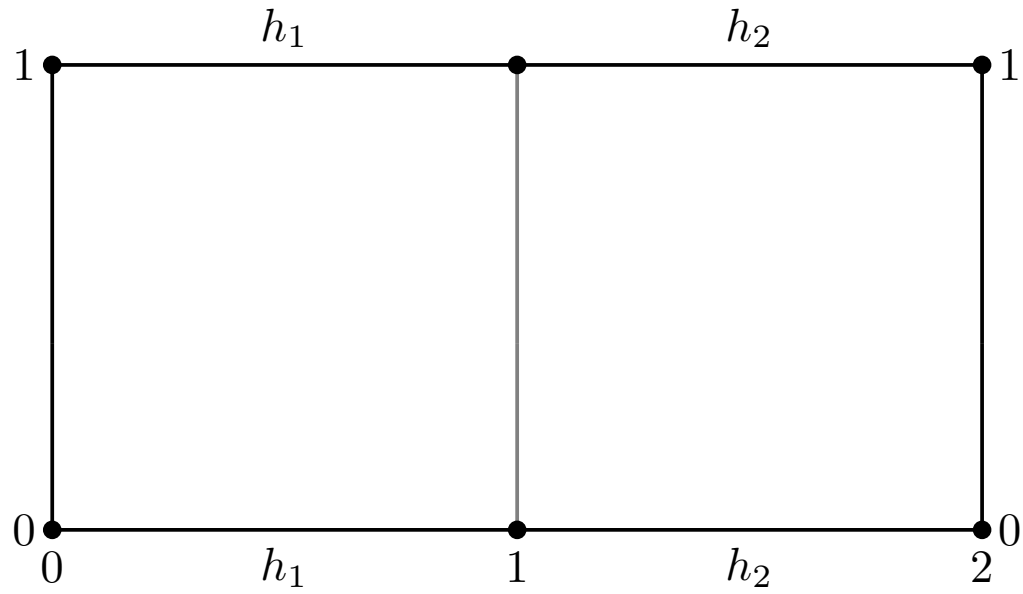




assume that α is irrational

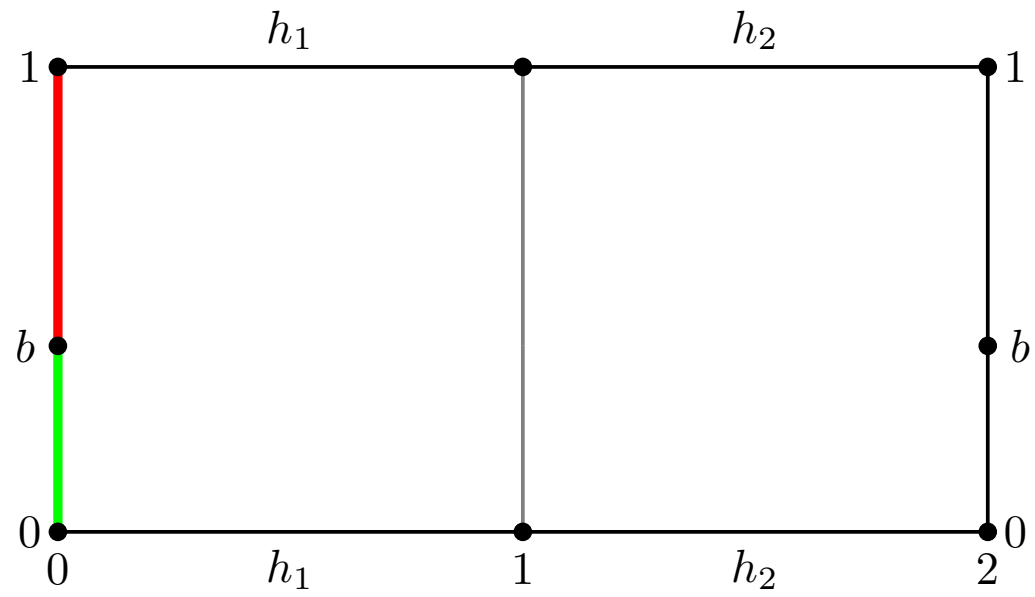
when do we have equidistribution ?

viewed in terms of geodesic flow of slope α on a flat surface



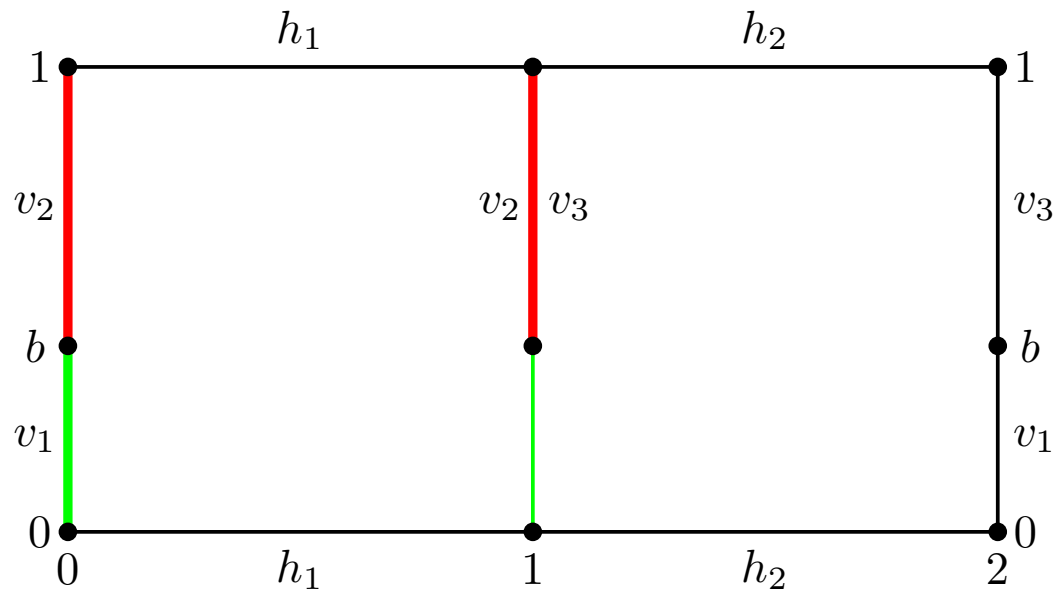
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3



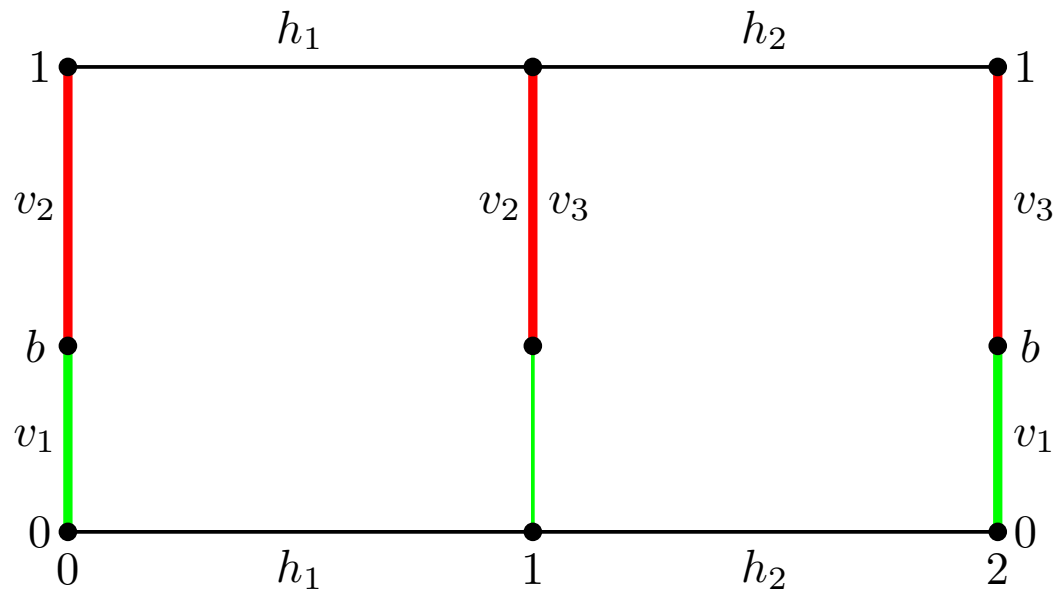
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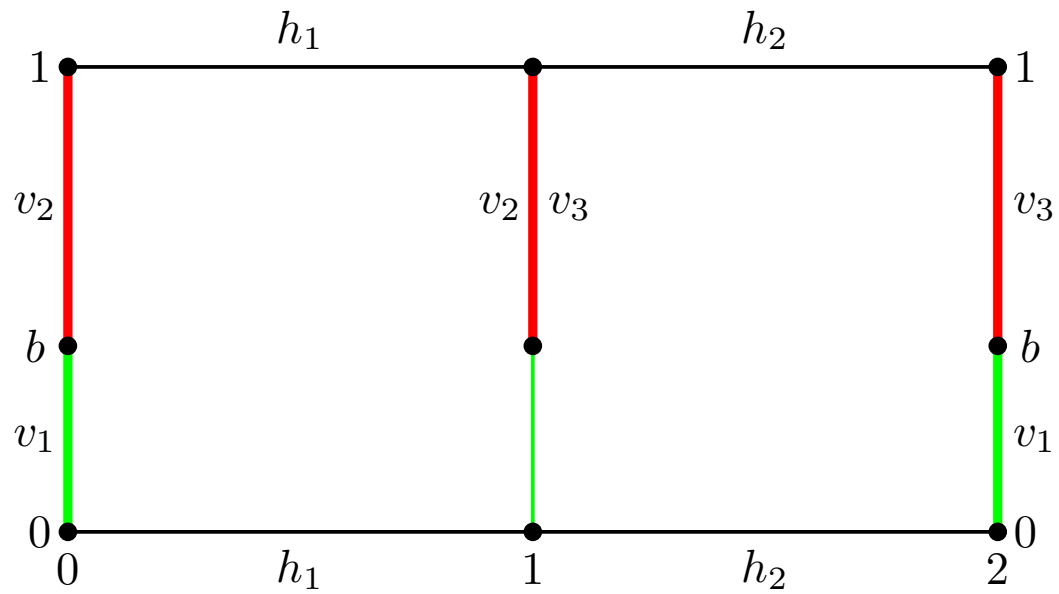
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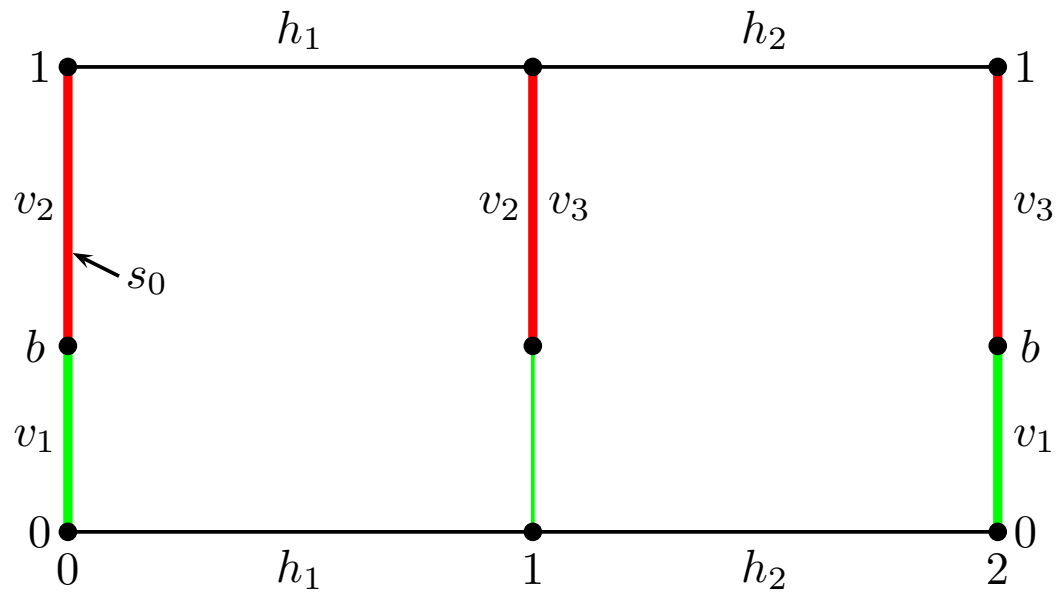
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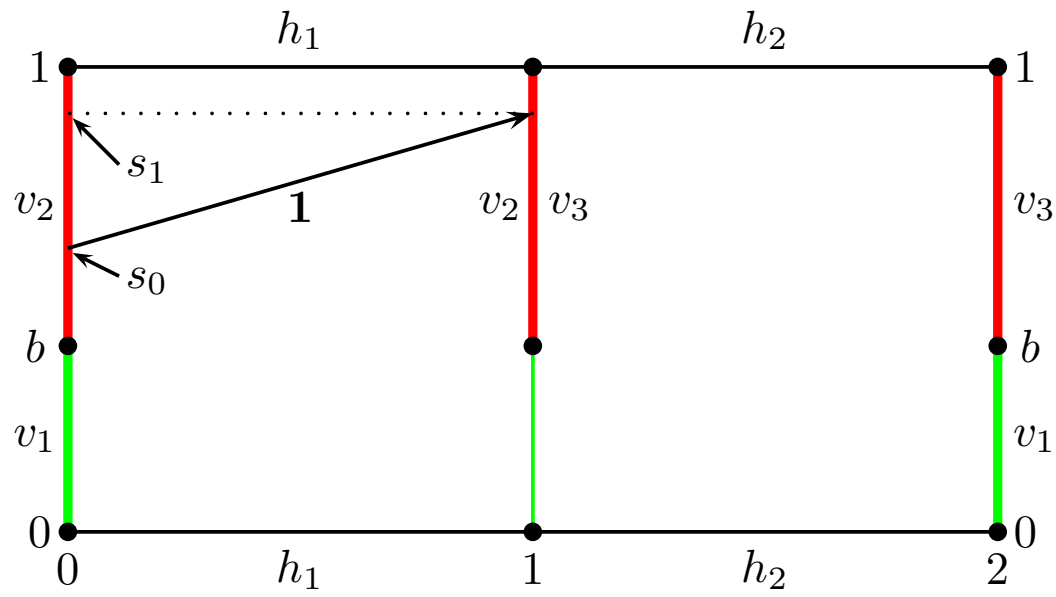
2-square- b surface

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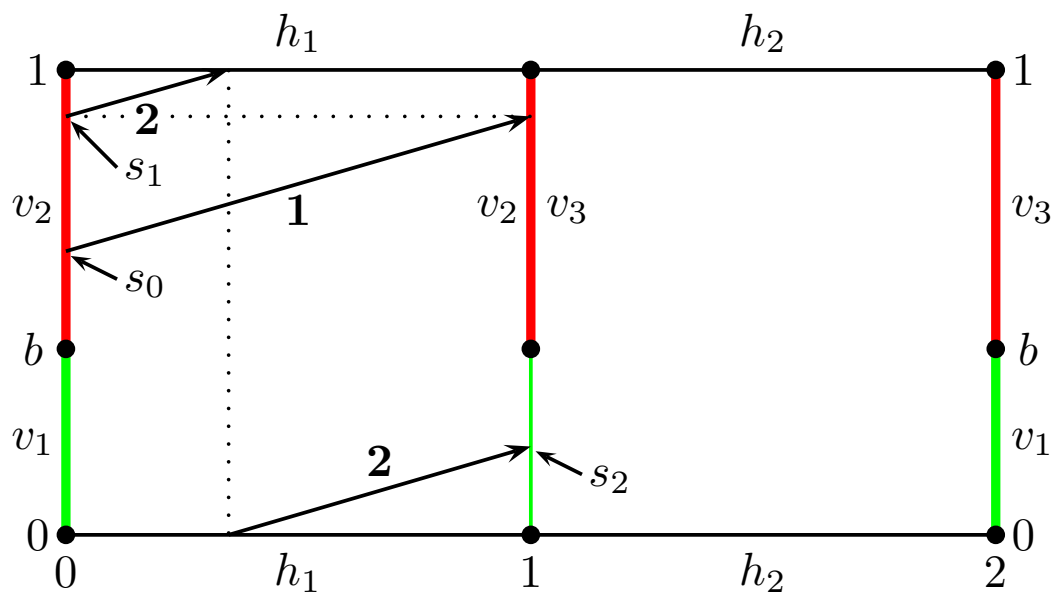
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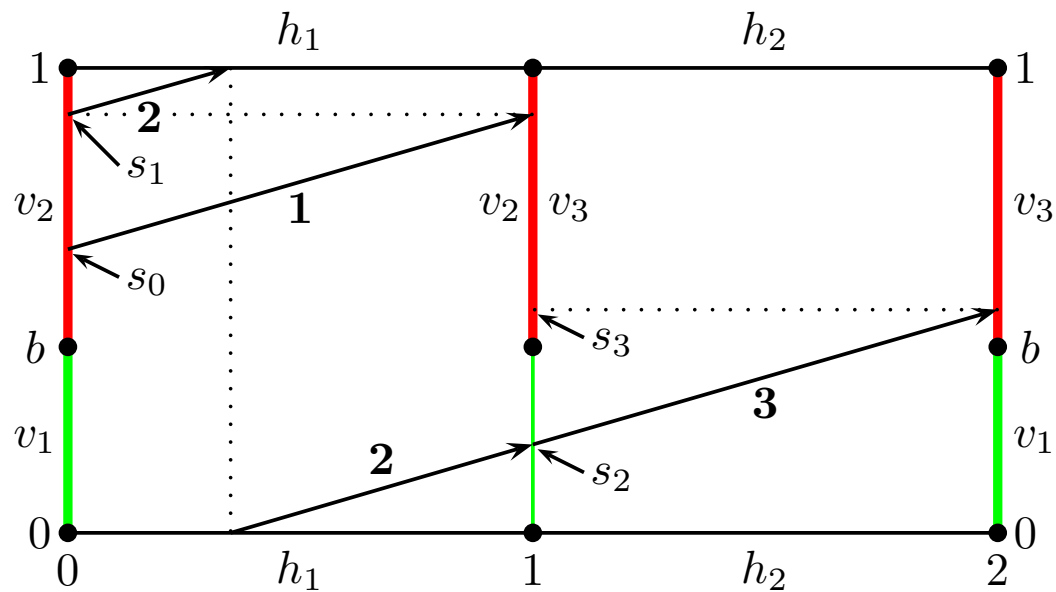
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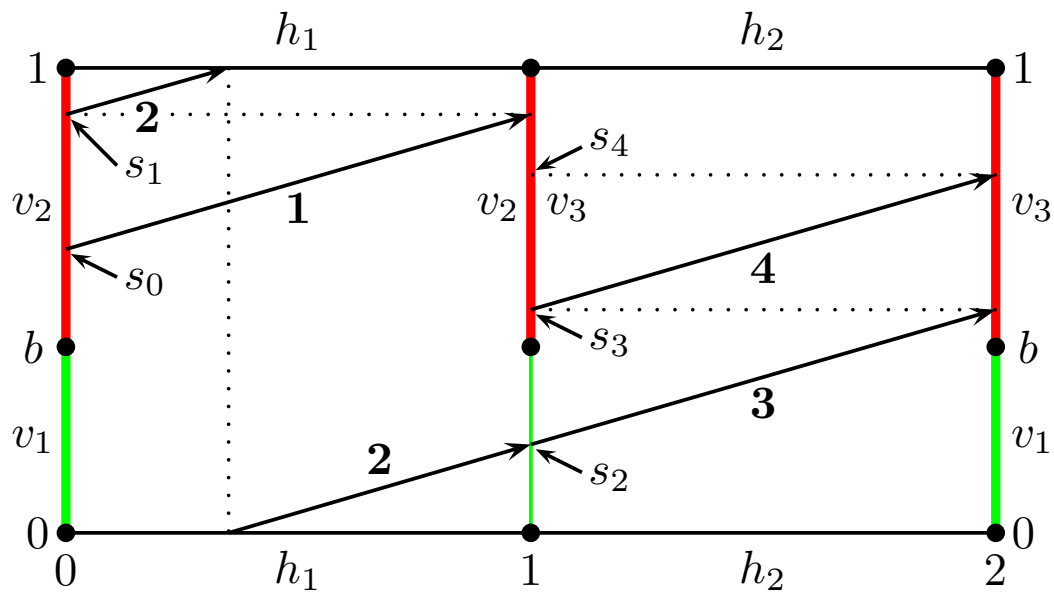
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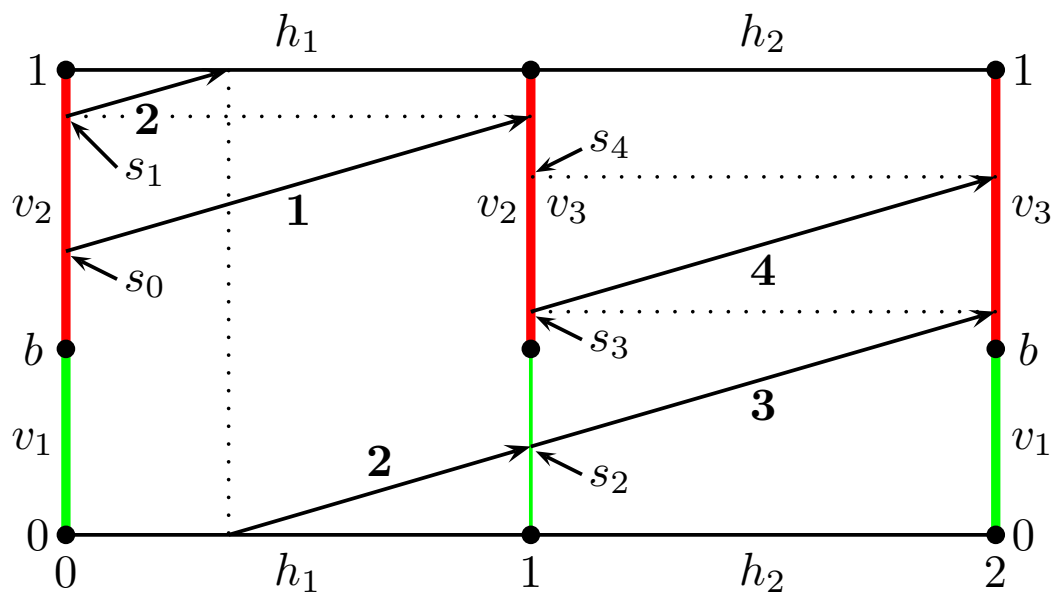
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2-square- b surface

when is this α -geodesic equidistributed ?

special case $b = \{m\alpha\}$, where $m \in \mathbb{Z}$

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not difficult to show that we only need to consider $m > 0$

special case $b = \{m\alpha\}$: simple way to determine left or right

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$$\Psi(\alpha; \tau; b; N) = |\{q = 0, 1, \dots, N - 1 : 0 \leq s_q < b\}|$$

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special case $0 < b = \{2\alpha\} < 1$ and $\tau = 0$:

apply (*) to $s_0, s_2, s_4, s_6, \dots$ and $s_1, s_3, s_5, s_7, \dots$

special case $b = \{m\alpha\}$: simple way to determine left or right

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increasingly complicated

Veech (1969) :

α badly approximable

$b \neq \{m\alpha\}$ for any $m \in \mathbb{Z}$

\mathcal{L} – half-infinite α -geodesic on 2-square- b surface

$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L}$ evenly distributed between the two squares

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what happens when $b = \{m\alpha\}$ for some $m \in \mathbb{Z}$?

α irrational

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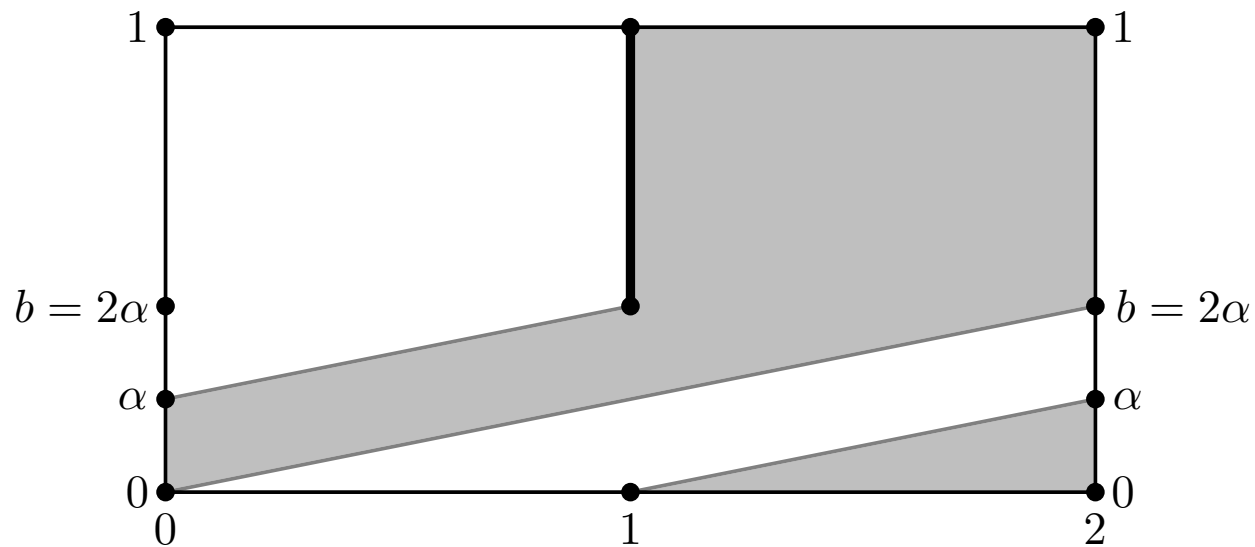
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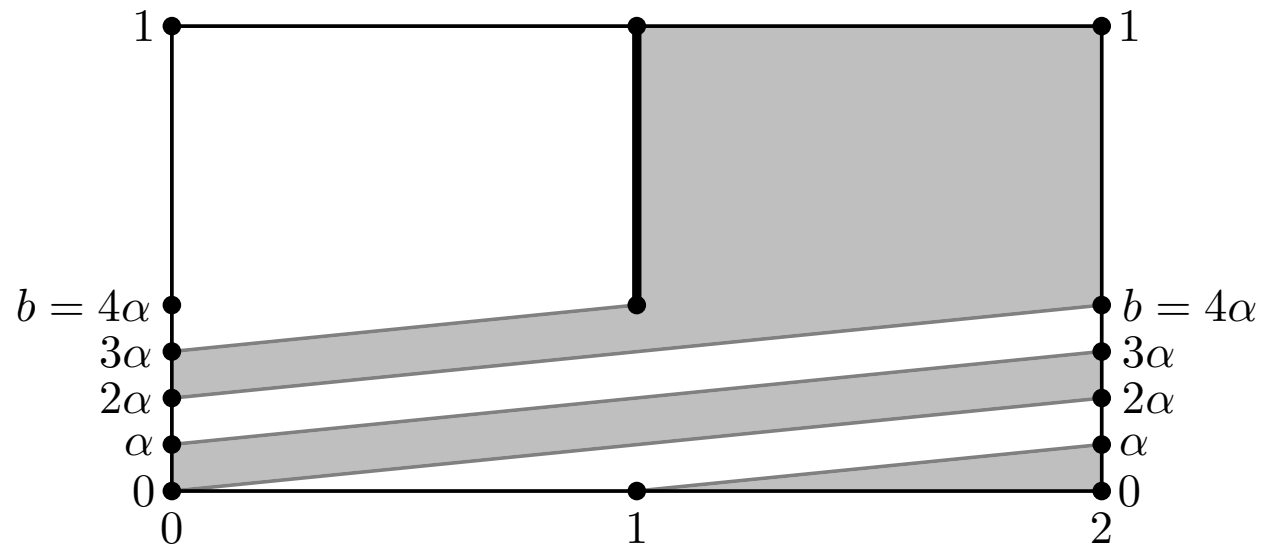
7

$$m = 4 : 0 < b = \{4\alpha\} < 1 :$$

α irrational

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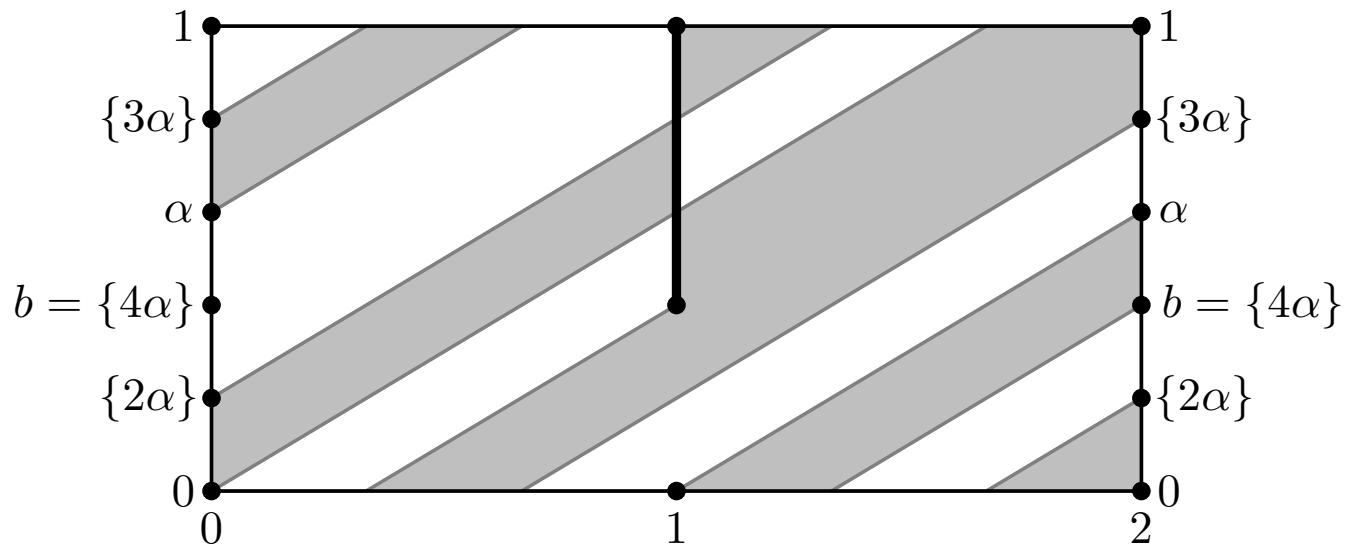
$0 < \alpha < \frac{1}{4} :$



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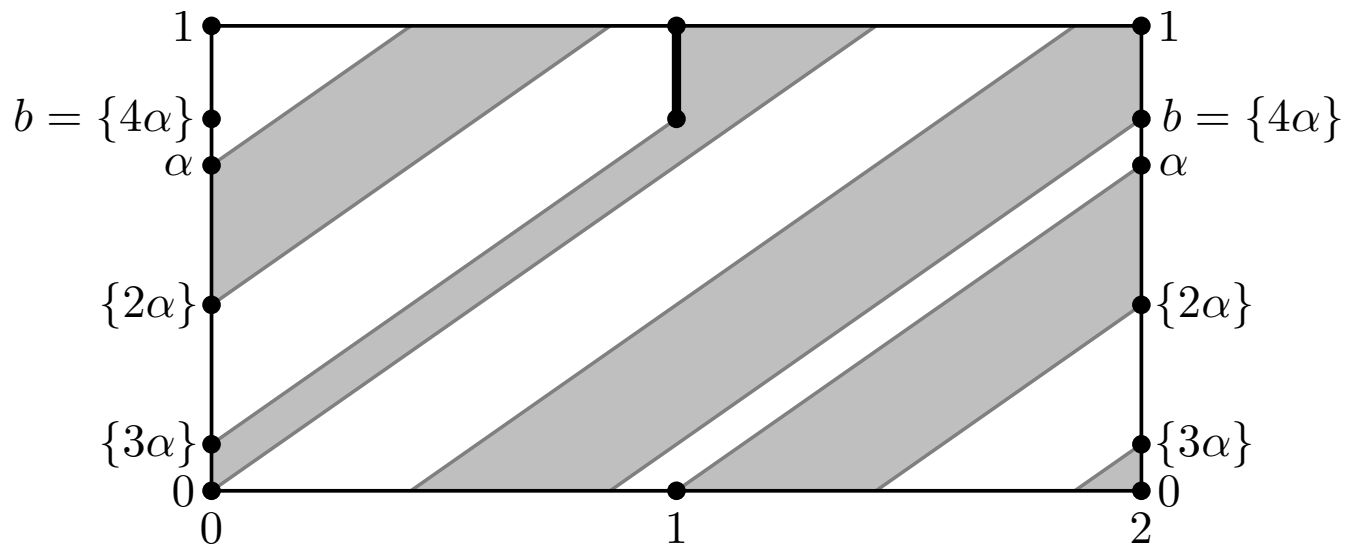
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case study seems hopelessly complicated and mysterious

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there is a simple underlying rule

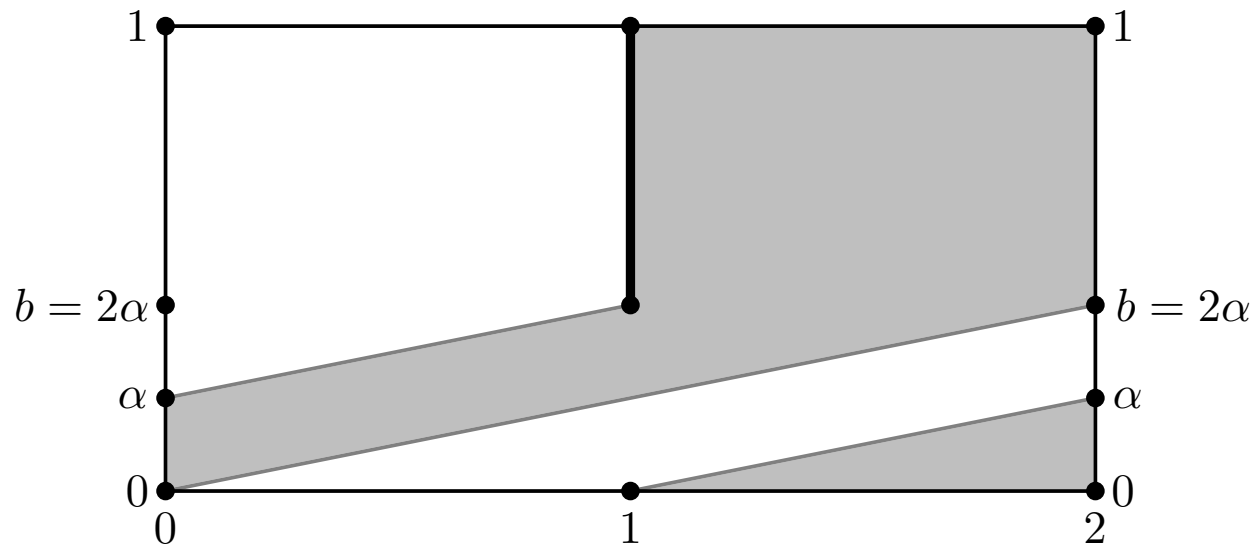
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parity parameter

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$m = 2$ and $0 < \alpha < \frac{1}{2}$:



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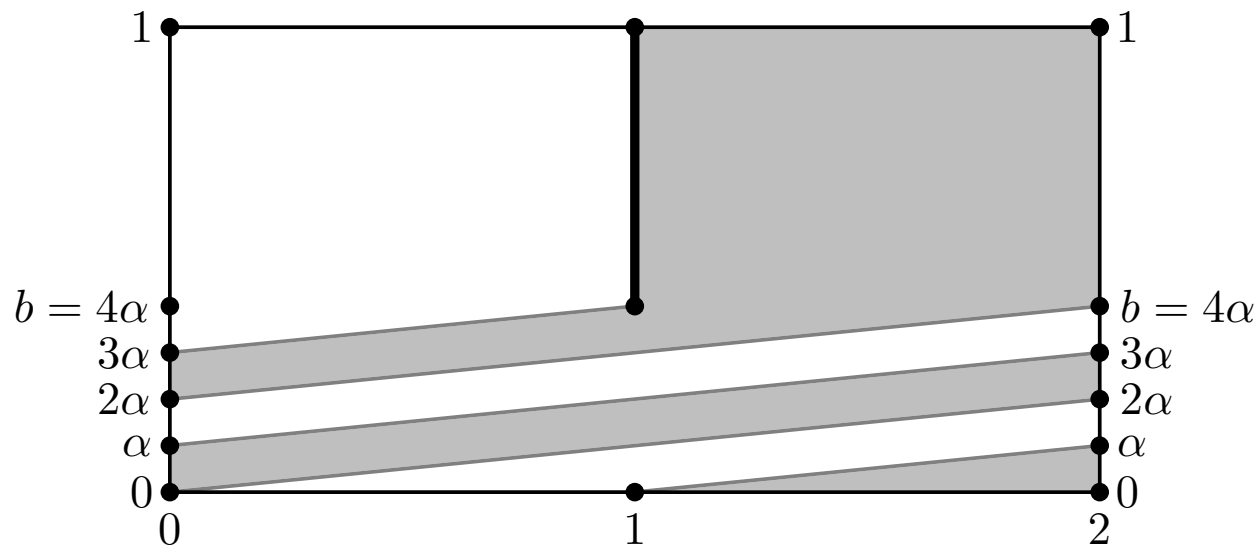
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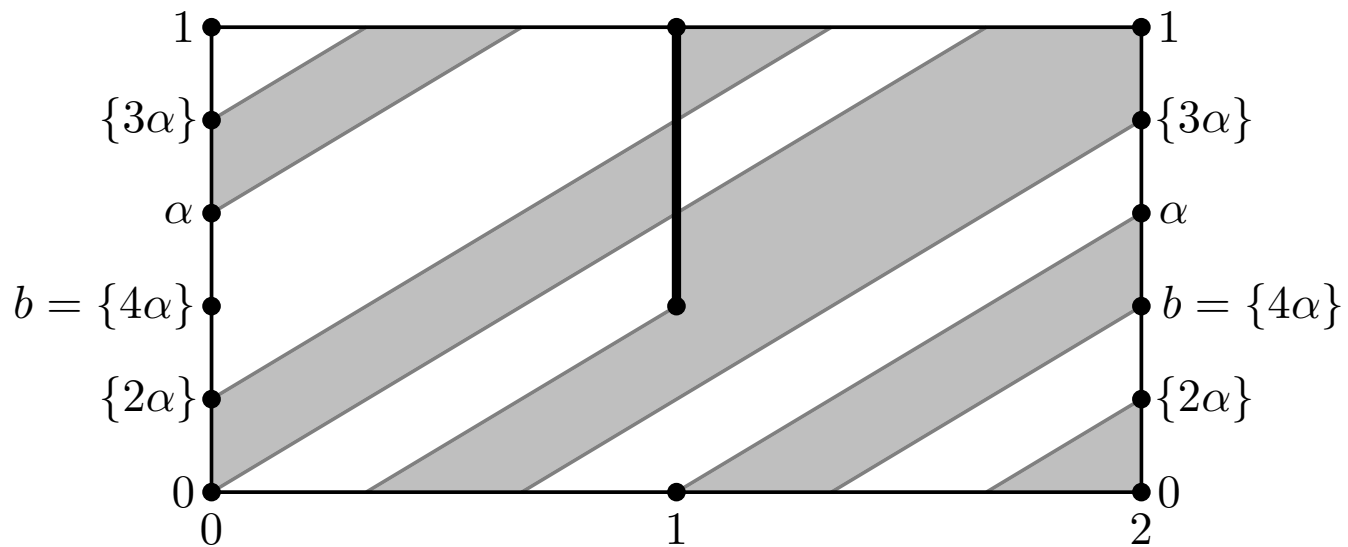


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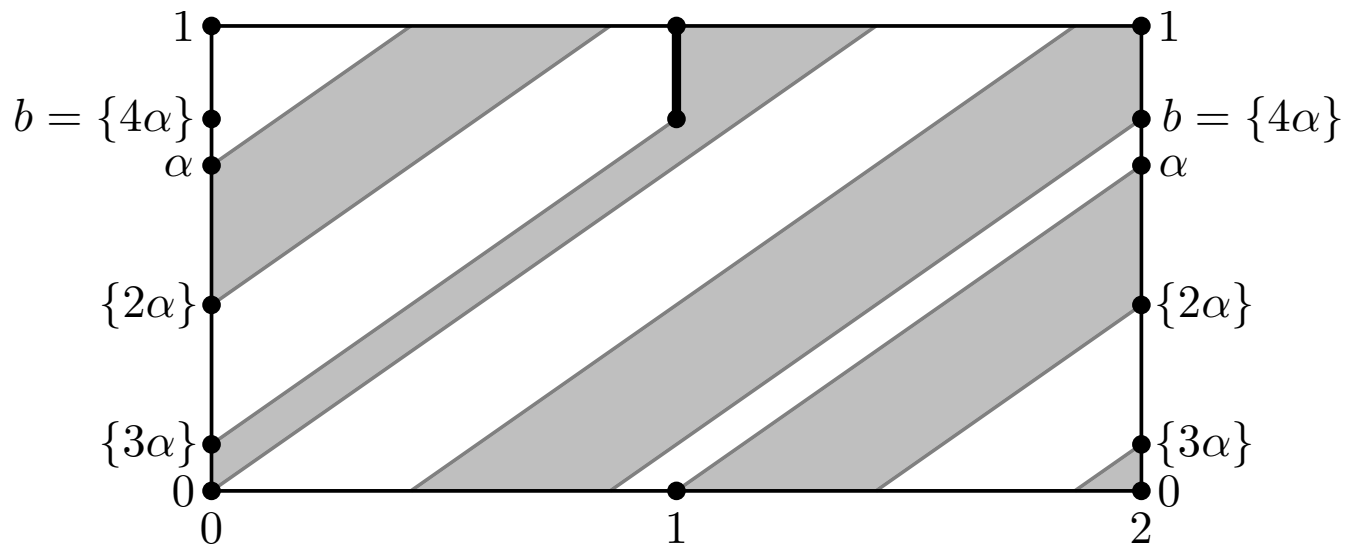


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Double-Even Criterion : m and $PP(m; \alpha)$ are both even

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parity parameter

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BCY (2021) : $b = \{m\alpha\}$ for integer $m > 0$

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\Rightarrow two non-trivial α -flow invariant subsets of 2-square- b surface

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\Rightarrow not dense or equidistributed for any α -geodesic

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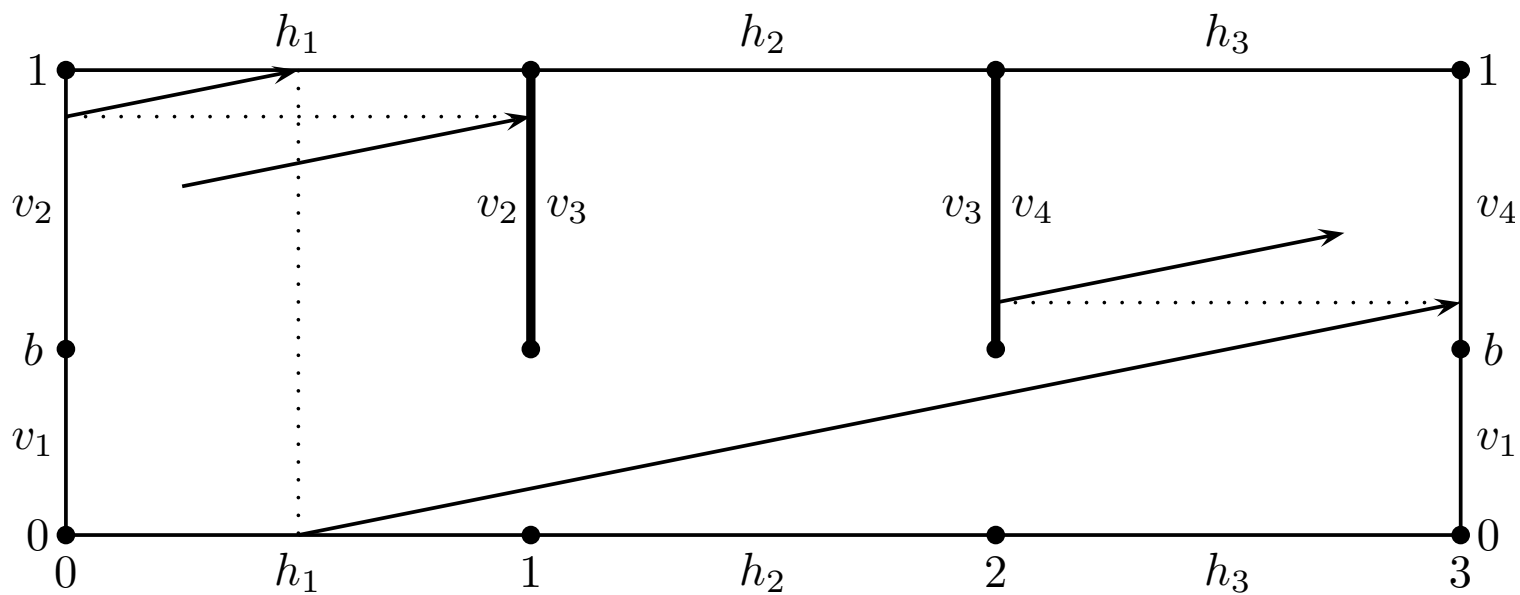
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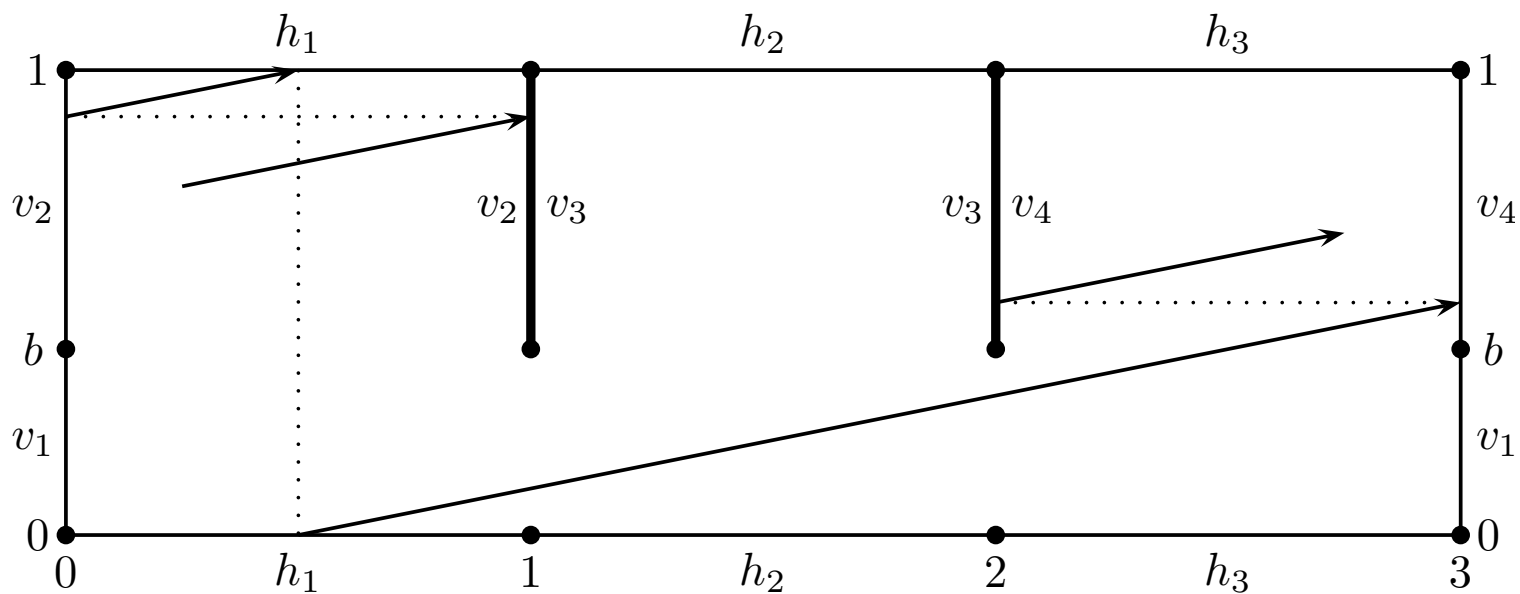
\Rightarrow two non-trivial α -flow invariant subsets of 2-square- b surface

\Rightarrow not dense or equidistributed for any α -geodesic

Double-Even Criterion fails

\Rightarrow equidistributed for any α -geodesic





n -square- b surface for any integer $n \geq 2$

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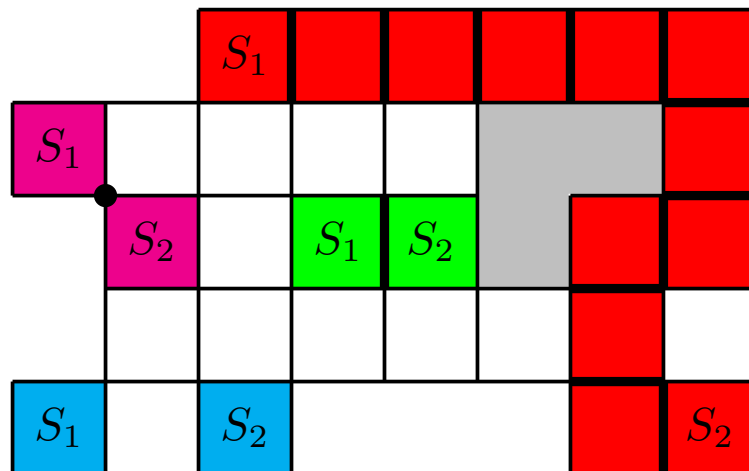
BCY (2021) :

α badly approximable

$b \neq \{m\alpha\}$ for any $m \in \mathbb{Z}$

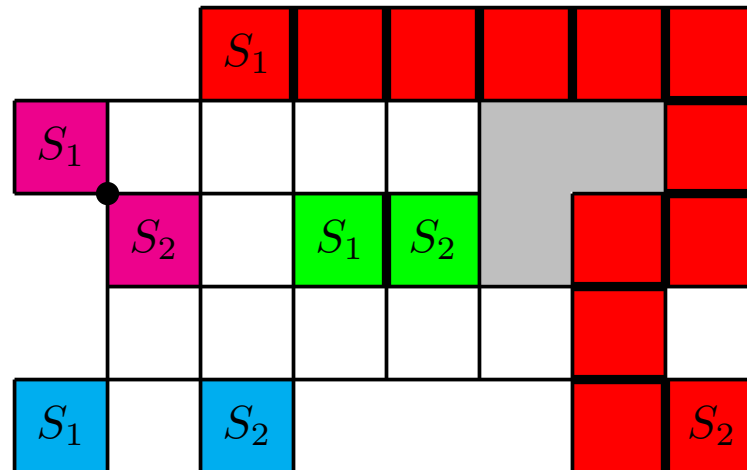
\mathcal{L} – half-infinite α -geodesic on n -square- b surface

$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L}$ equidistributed



disjoint or common vertex or common edge

chain with common edges



disjoint or common vertex or common edge

chain with common edges

horizontal edge identification + vertical edge identification

↔ finite polysquare surface

Gutkin (1984) \oplus Veech (1987) :

\mathcal{L} – half-infinite geodesic on finite polysquare surface, irrational slope

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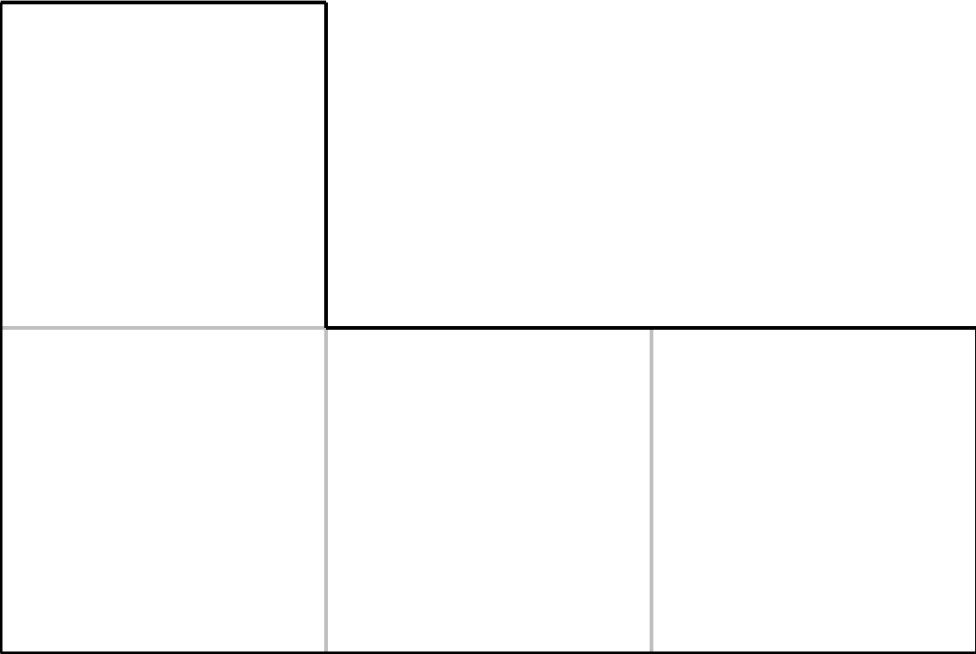
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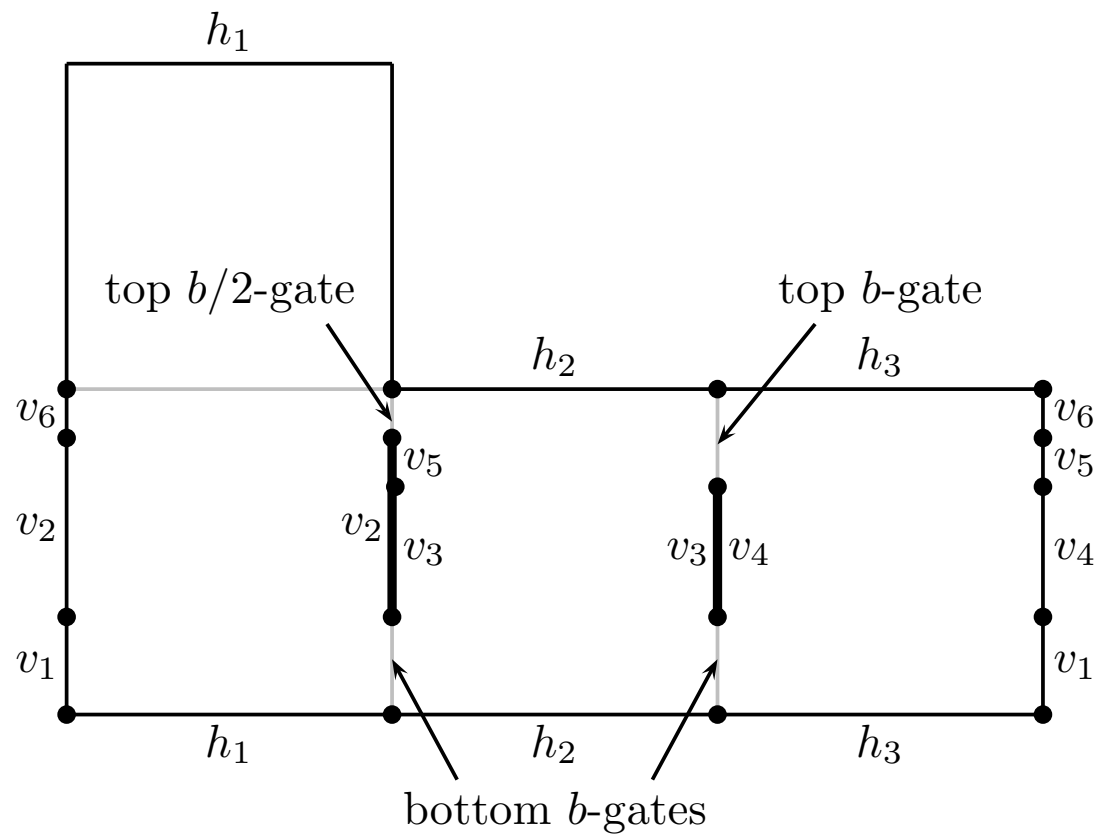
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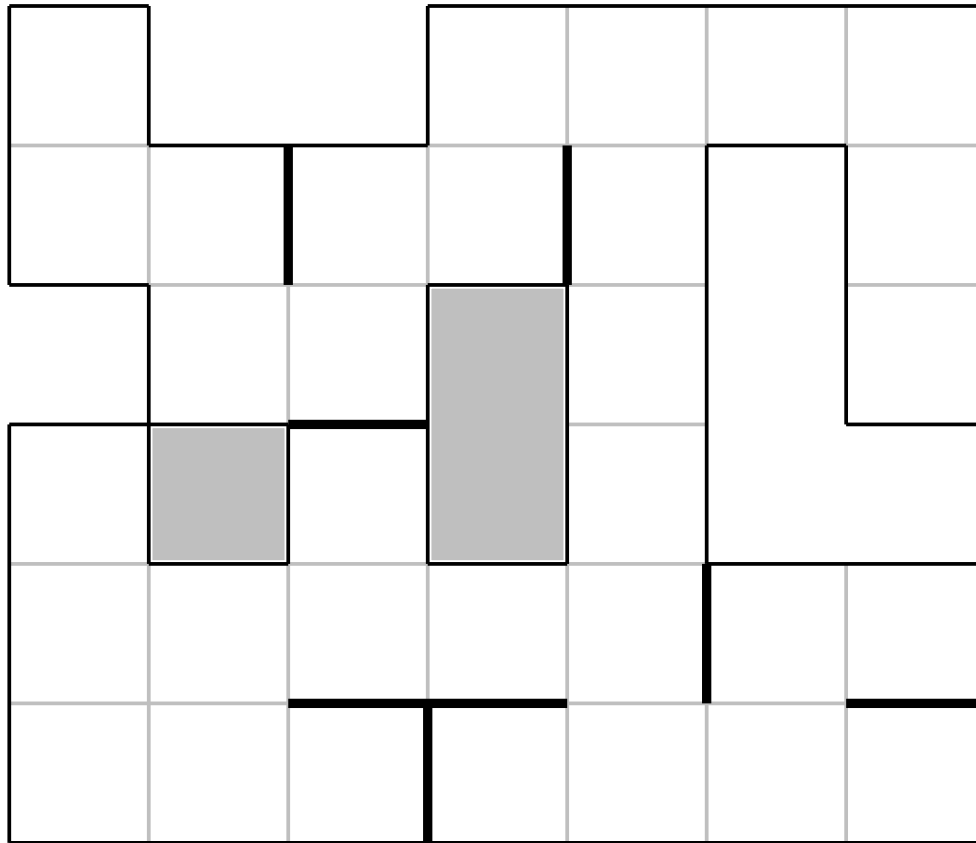
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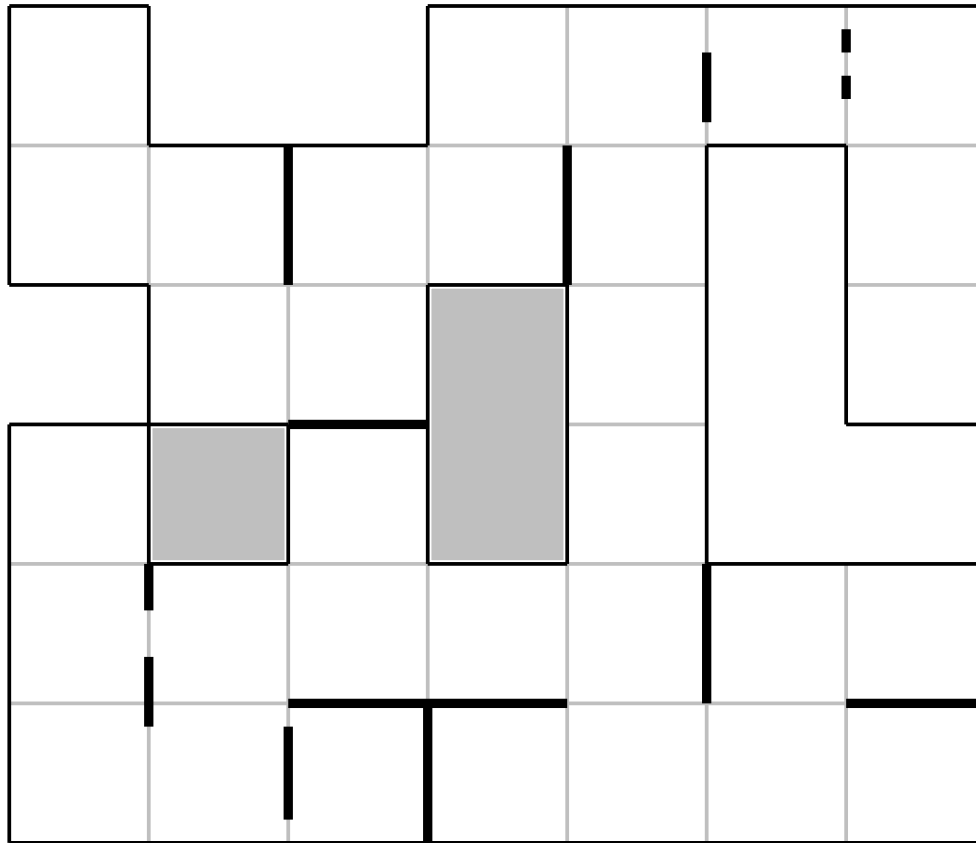
uniform-periodic dichotomy

finite polysquare b -rational translation surfaces









finite polysquare b -rational translation surface \mathcal{P}

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division numbers $\{r_i b\}$, $i = 1, \dots, R$, where each $r_i \in \mathbb{Q}$

finite polysquare b -rational translation surface \mathcal{P}

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barriers and gates between division points

modification of edge identifications to ensure we have a surface

BCY (2021) :

finite polysquare b -rational translation surface \mathcal{P}

division numbers $\{r_i b\}$, $i = 1, \dots, R$, where each $r_i \in \mathbb{Q}$

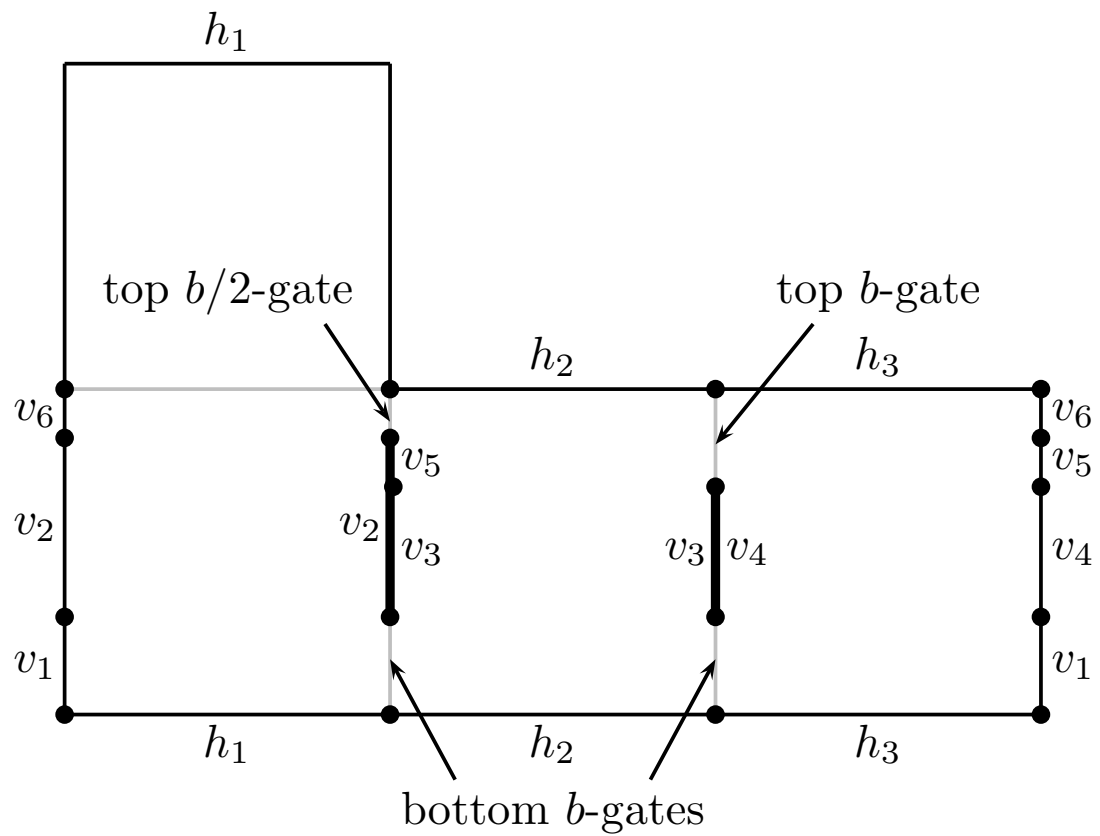
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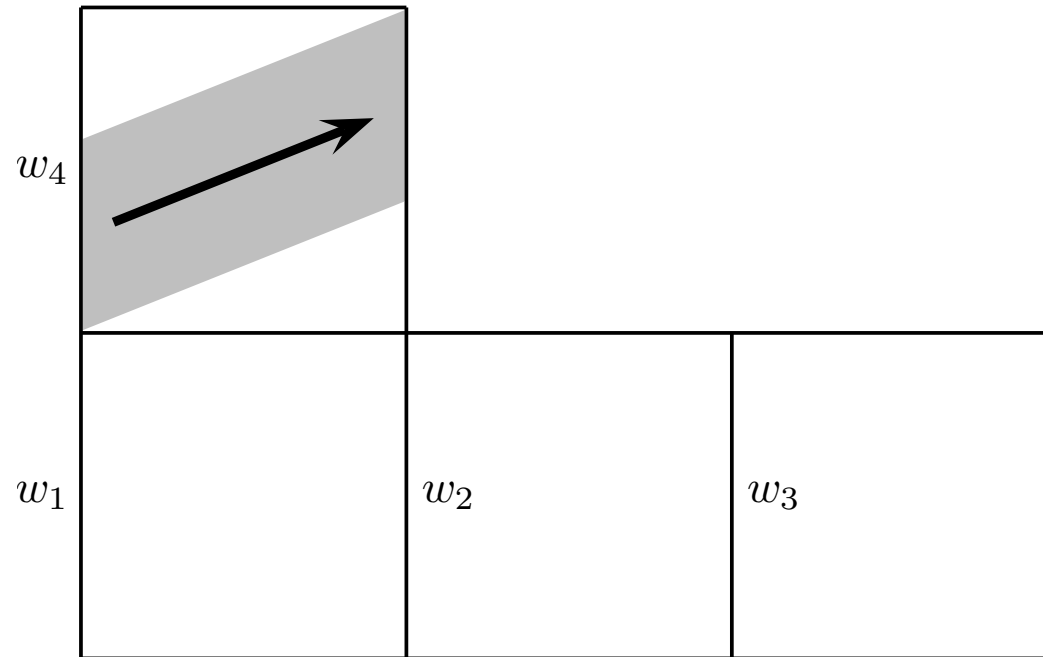
$\{r_i b\} \neq \{m\alpha\}$ for any $i = 1, \dots, R$ and $m \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$

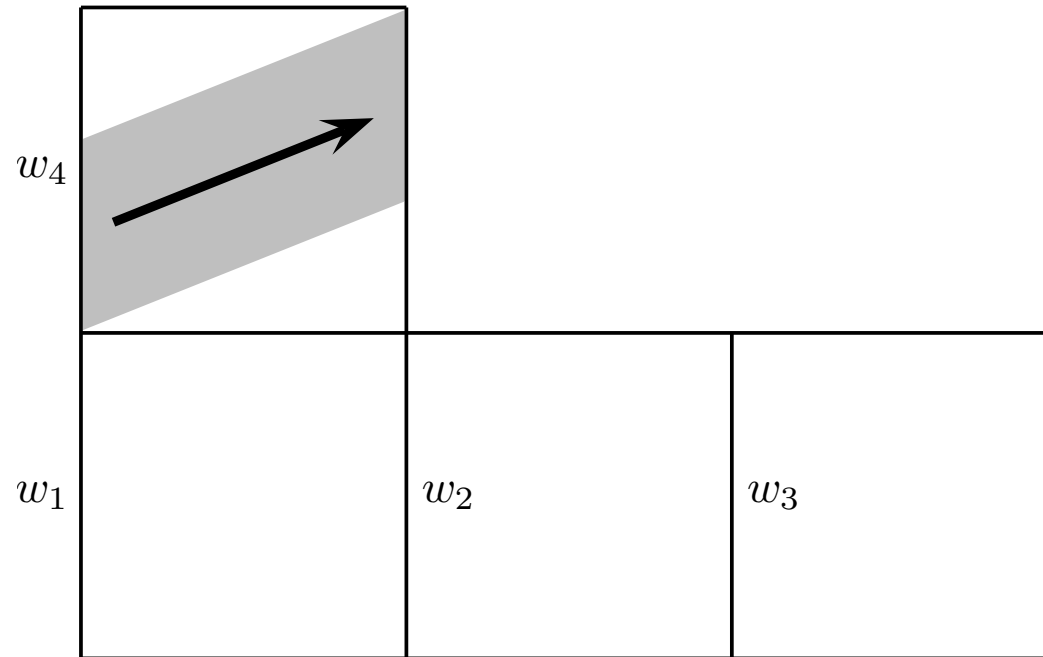
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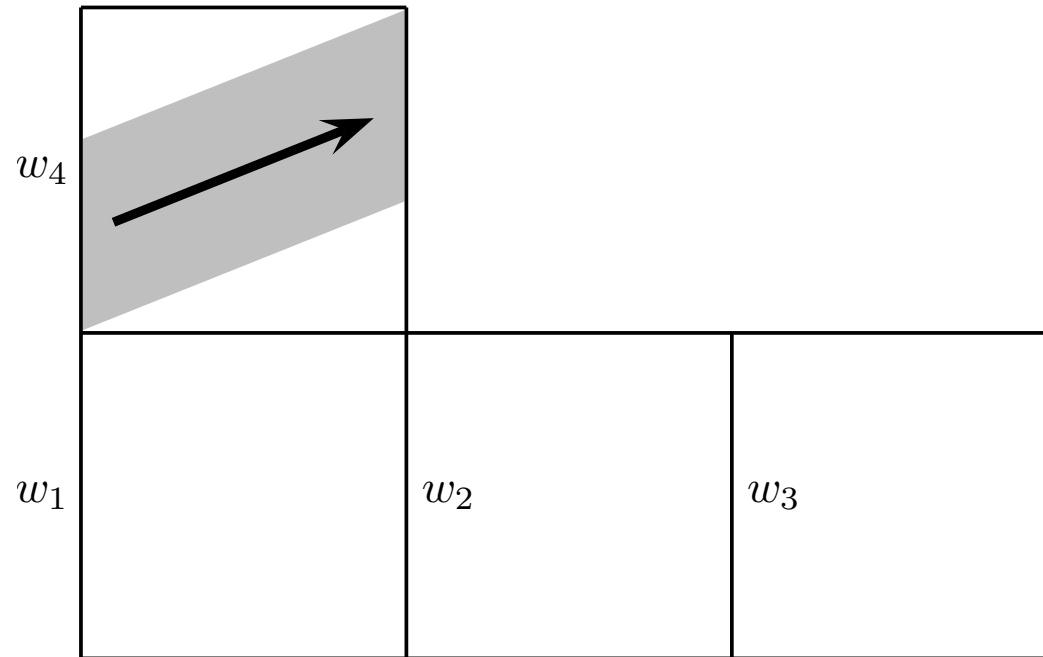
interval exchange transformation







assume for simplicity that $0 < b < \alpha < \frac{1}{2}$



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$$w_4[0, 1 - \alpha) \mapsto w_4[\alpha, 1)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& w_1[0, 1 - \alpha - \frac{b}{2}) \mapsto w_1[\alpha, 1 - \frac{b}{2}) \\
& w_1[1 - \alpha - \frac{b}{2}, 1 - \alpha) \mapsto w_2[1 - \frac{b}{2}, 1) \\
& \quad w_1[1 - \alpha, 1) \mapsto w_4[0, \alpha) \\
& \quad w_2[0, 1 - \alpha - b) \mapsto w_2[\alpha, 1 - b) \\
& \quad w_2[1 - \alpha - b, 1 - \alpha) \mapsto w_3[1 - b, 1) \\
& \quad w_2[1 - \alpha, 1 - \alpha + b) \mapsto w_3[0, b) \\
& \quad \quad w_2[1 - \alpha + b, 1) \mapsto w_2[b, \alpha) \\
& \quad \quad w_3[0, 1 - \alpha - b) \mapsto w_3[\alpha, 1 - b) \\
& w_3[1 - \alpha - b, 1 - \alpha - \frac{b}{2}) \mapsto w_2[1 - b, 1 - \frac{b}{2}) \\
& \quad w_3[1 - \alpha - \frac{b}{2}, 1 - \alpha) \mapsto w_1[1 - \frac{b}{2}, 1) \\
& \quad w_3[1 - \alpha, 1 - \alpha + b) \mapsto w_1[0, b) \\
& \quad \quad w_3[1 - \alpha + b, 1) \mapsto w_3[b, \alpha) \\
& \quad \quad \quad w_4[0, 1 - \alpha) \mapsto w_4[\alpha, 1) \\
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& \quad \quad w_4[1 - \alpha + b, 1) \mapsto w_1[b, \alpha)
\end{aligned}$$

interval exchange transformation

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identity w_1, w_2, w_3, w_4 with $[0, 1), [1, 2), [2, 3), [3, 4)$ respectively

$$\begin{aligned}
T([0, 1 - \alpha - \frac{b}{2})) &= [\alpha, 1 - \frac{b}{2}) \\
T([1 - \alpha - \frac{b}{2}, 1 - \alpha)) &= [2 - \frac{b}{2}, 2) \\
T([1 - \alpha, 1)) &= [3, 3 + \alpha) \\
T([1, 2 - \alpha - b)) &= [1 + \alpha, 2 - b) \\
T([2 - \alpha - b, 2 - \alpha)) &= [3 - b, 3) \\
T([2 - \alpha, 2 - \alpha + b)) &= [2, 2 + b) \\
T([2 - \alpha + b, 2)) &= [1 + b, 1 + \alpha) \\
T([2, 3 - \alpha - b)) &= [2 + \alpha, 3 - b) \\
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T([3 - \alpha - \frac{b}{2}, 3 - \alpha)) &= [1 - \frac{b}{2}, 1) \\
T([3 - \alpha, 3 - \alpha + b)) &= [0, b) \\
T([3 - \alpha + b, 3)) &= [2 + b, 2 + \alpha) \\
T([3, 4 - \alpha)) &= [3 + \alpha, 4) \\
T([4 - \alpha, 4 - \alpha + b)) &= [1, 1 + b) \\
T([4 - \alpha + b, 4)) &= [b, \alpha)
\end{aligned}$$

interval exchange transformation $T : [0, 4) \rightarrow [0, 4)$

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s square faces in general : $T : [0, s) \rightarrow [0, s)$

division numbers $\{r_i b\}, i = 1, \dots, R$

singularities modulo one are $0, 1 - \alpha$ and $\{r_i b - \alpha\}, i = 1, \dots, R$

2-square- b surface

$b = \{m\alpha\}$ for some positive integer m

$$PP(m; \alpha) = \#\{q = 1, \dots, m : \{q\alpha\} < \alpha\}$$

parity parameter

Double-Even Criterion : m and $PP(m; \alpha)$ are both *even*

Double-Even Criterion fails

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Step 1 : Double-Even Criterion fails

18

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$\text{meas}(S_0) = 1$

irrational $\alpha \in (0, 1)$

$$\text{continued fraction } \alpha = [a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots] = \frac{1}{a_1 + \frac{1}{a_2 + \frac{1}{a_3 + \dots}}}$$

$$\text{convergents } \frac{p_k}{q_k} = \frac{p_k(\alpha)}{q_k(\alpha)} = [a_1, \dots, a_k], \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$p_k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $q_k \in \mathbb{N}$ are coprime

$$\frac{p_0}{q_0} < \frac{p_2}{q_2} < \frac{p_4}{q_4} < \dots < \alpha < \dots < \frac{p_5}{q_5} < \frac{p_3}{q_3} < \frac{p_1}{q_1}$$

$$p_0 = 0, \quad q_0 = 1, \quad q_{-1} = 0$$

$0, \alpha, 2\alpha, 3\alpha, \dots, n\alpha$ modulo 1 \leftrightarrow $(n + 1)$ -partition of unit torus $[0, 1)$

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$$n = q_{k+1} - 1 \Rightarrow \mu = a_{k+1} - 1 \text{ and } r = q_k - 1$$

\Rightarrow 2-distance theorem : $\{d^*, d^{**}\} = \{\|q_k \alpha\|, \|q_{k+1} \alpha\| + \|q_k \alpha\|\}$

$\mathcal{A}_k(\alpha)$ – partition of $[0, 1)$ with q_{k+1} points

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$\{q\alpha\}, -1 \leq q \leq q_{k+1} - 2$

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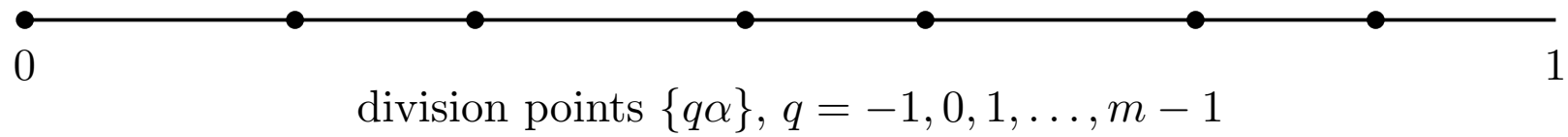
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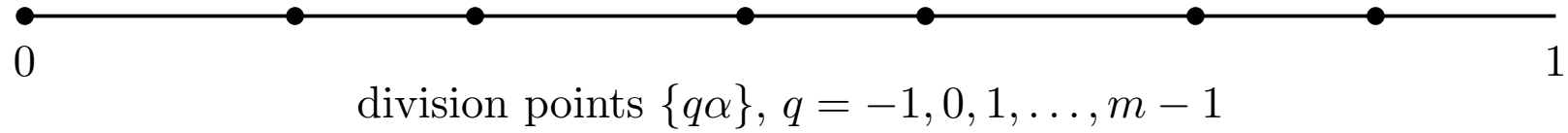
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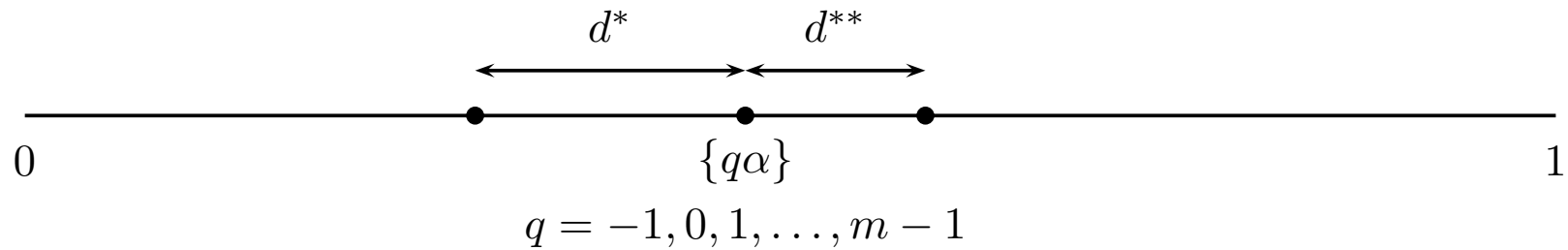
$m + 1$ long special intervals :



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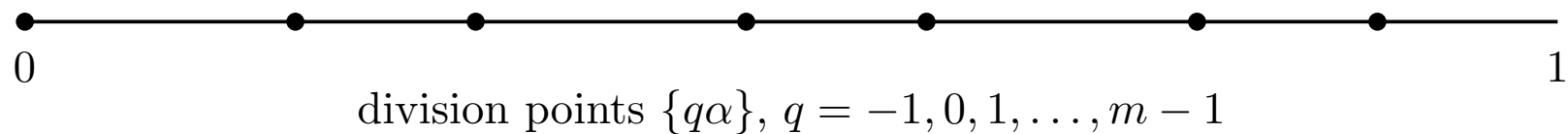


neighborhoods : $B(q) = (\{q\alpha\} - d^*, \{q\alpha\} + d^{**}), q = -1, 0, 1, \dots, m - 1$

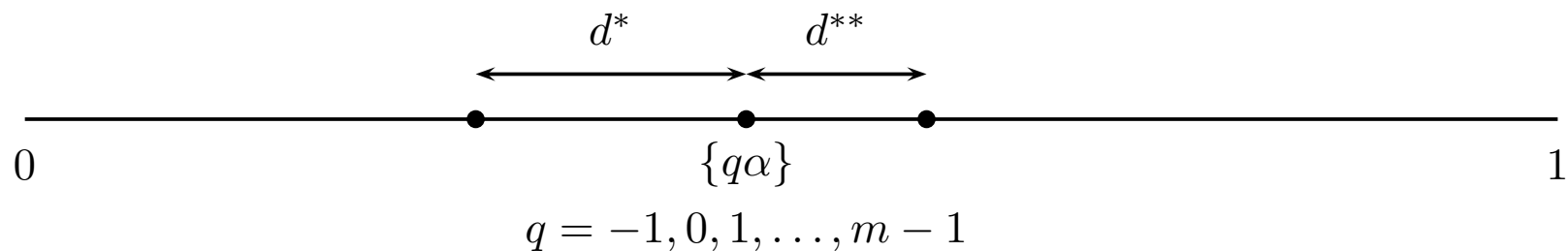


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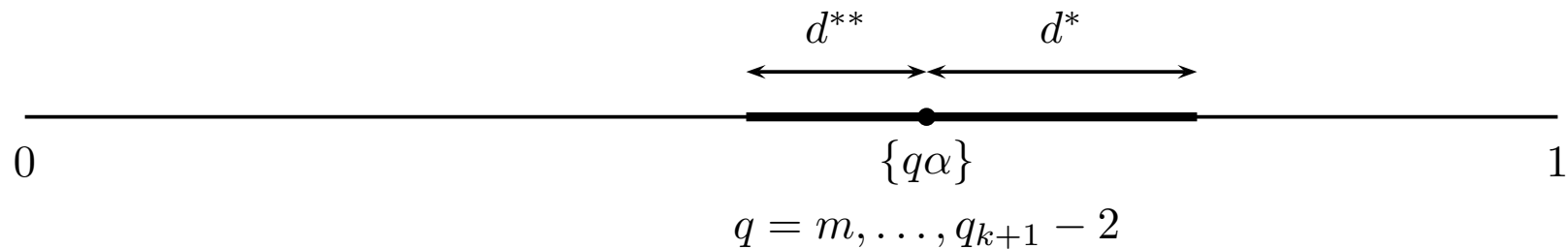
22



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short intervals : $J_k(q) = (\{q\alpha\} - d^{**}, \{q\alpha\} + d^*), q = m, \dots, q_{k+1} - 2$

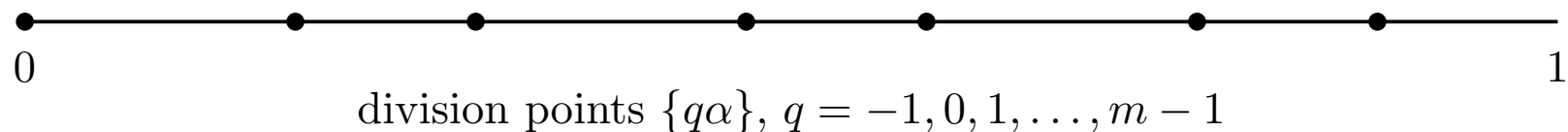


properties :

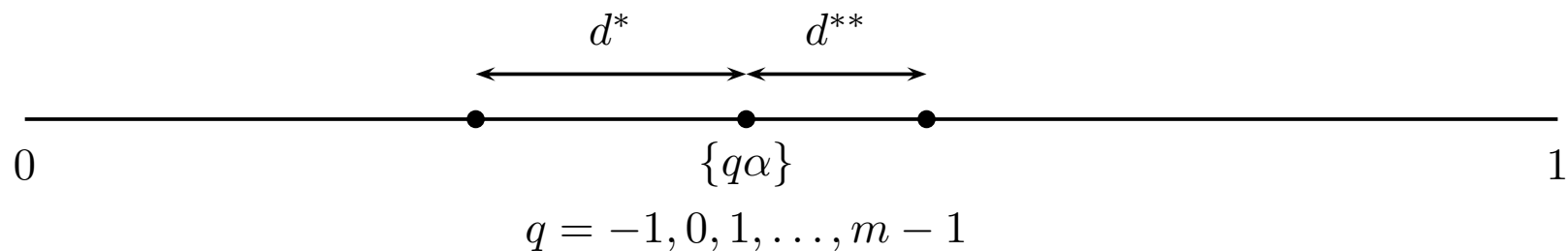
- **short intervals** completely cover the $m + 1$ **long special intervals**

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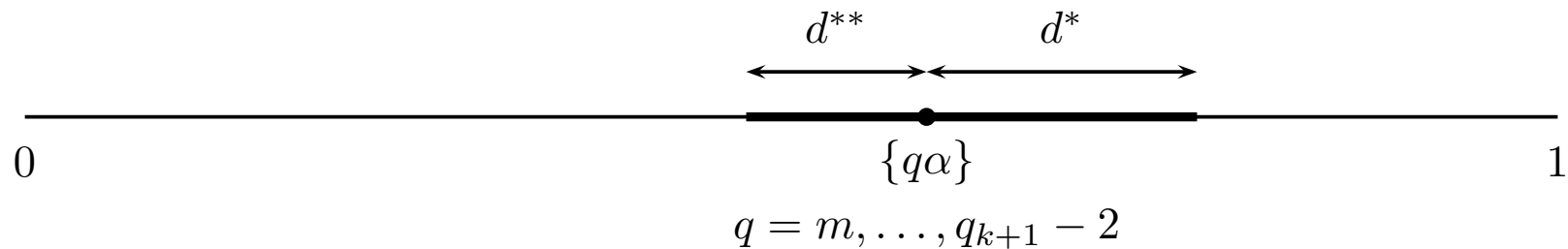
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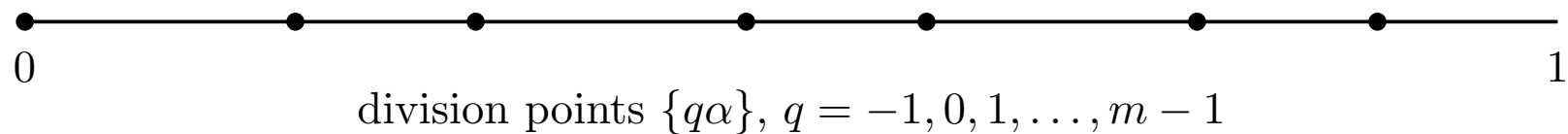


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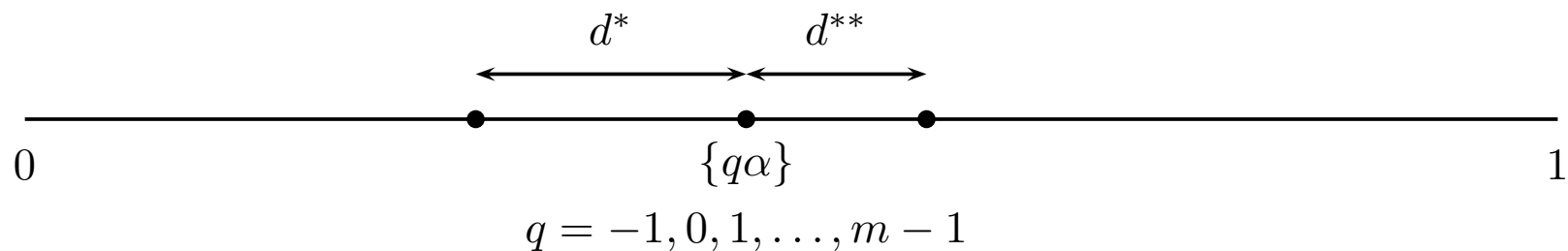
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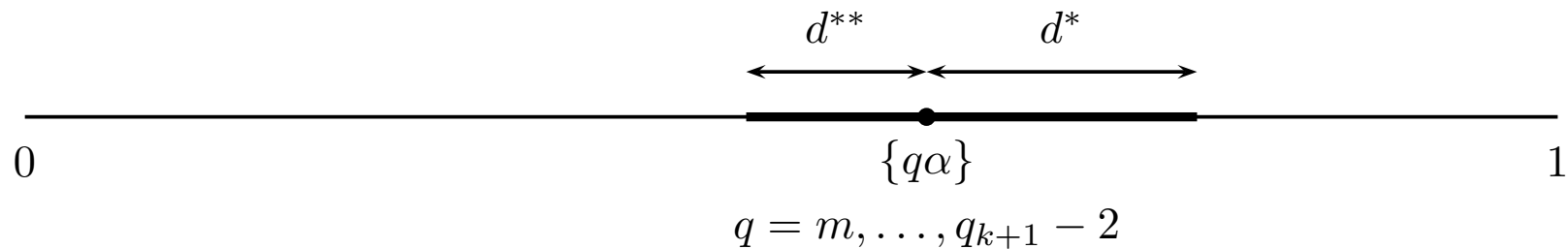
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$$\text{length}(J_k(q') \cap J_k(q'')) \geq \min\{d^*, d^{**}\} = \|q_k\alpha\|$$

$$\text{length}(J_k(q)) = d^* + d^{**} = 2\|q_k\alpha\| + \|q_{k+1}\alpha\| < 3\|q_k\alpha\|$$

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$\ell + J_k(q^*)$ predominantly in S_0

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$\ell + J_k(q^*)$ predominantly in S_0

short intervals :

$$J_k(q) = (\{q\alpha\} - d^{**}, \{q\alpha\} + d^*) \in [0, 1), \quad q = m, \dots, q_{k+1} - 2$$

intervals $0 + J_k(q)$ and $1 + J_k(q)$ in the torus $[0, 2)$

$\varepsilon > 0$ positive, sufficiently small, fixed

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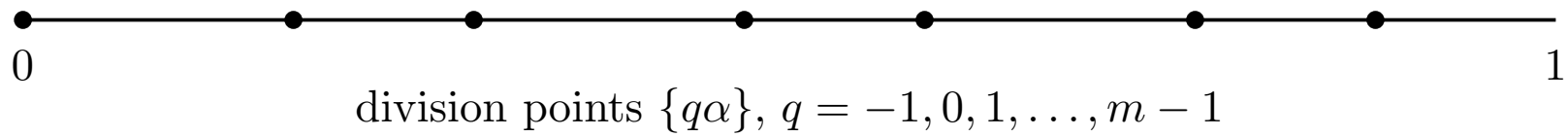
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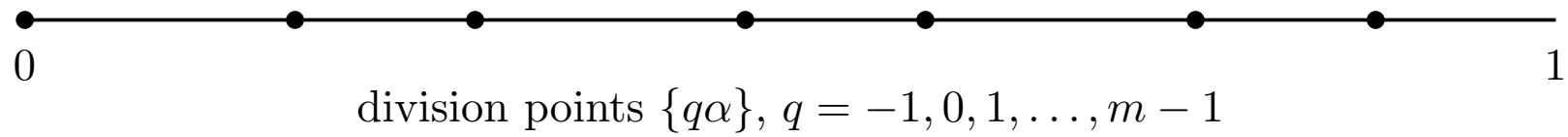
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$m + 1$ long special intervals :

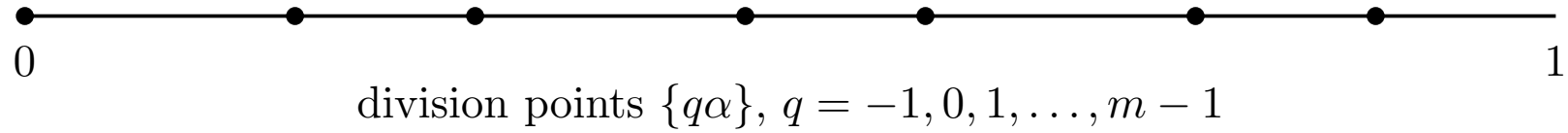


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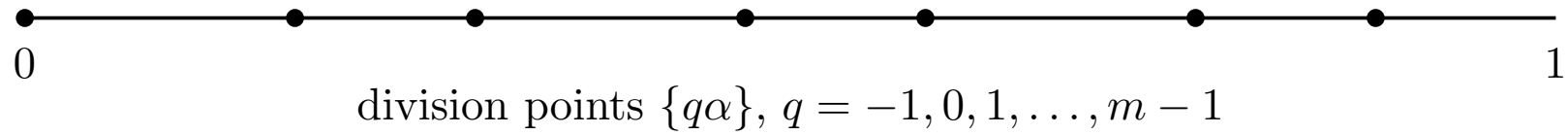


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short intervals : $\ell = 0, 1$ and $q = m, \dots, q_{k+1} - 2$

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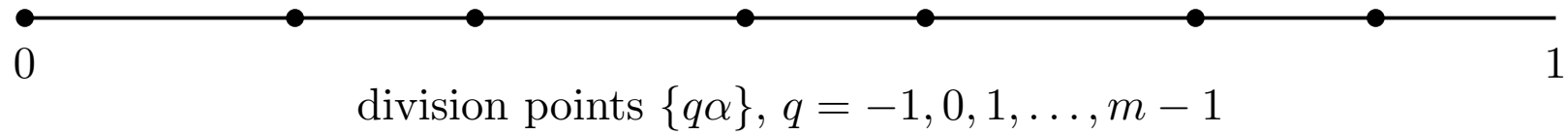
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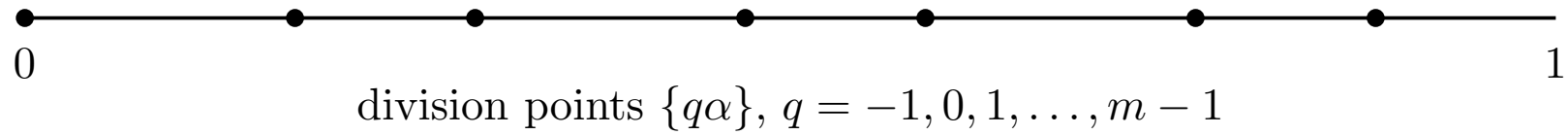
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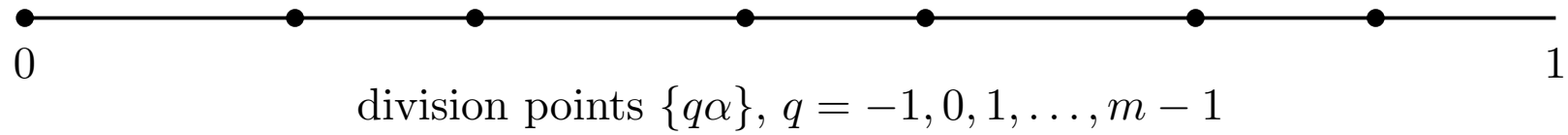
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all predominantly in S_0 or **all predominantly outside S_0** , so is \mathcal{I}

\mathcal{I} predominantly in S_0 – color \mathcal{I} blue

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\mathcal{I} predominantly outside S_0 – color \mathcal{I} red

\mathcal{I} predominantly in S_0 – color \mathcal{I} blue

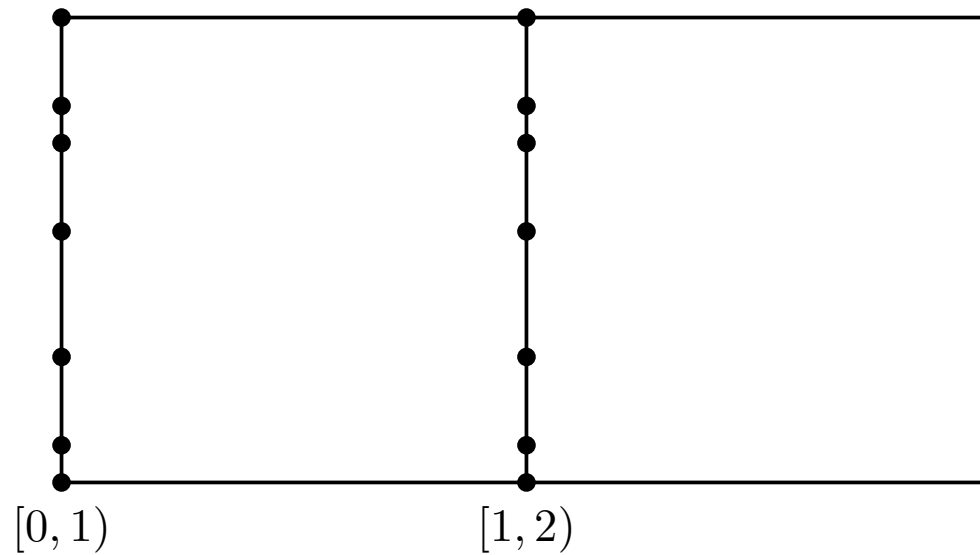
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\hookrightarrow 2-coloring of $[0, 2)$

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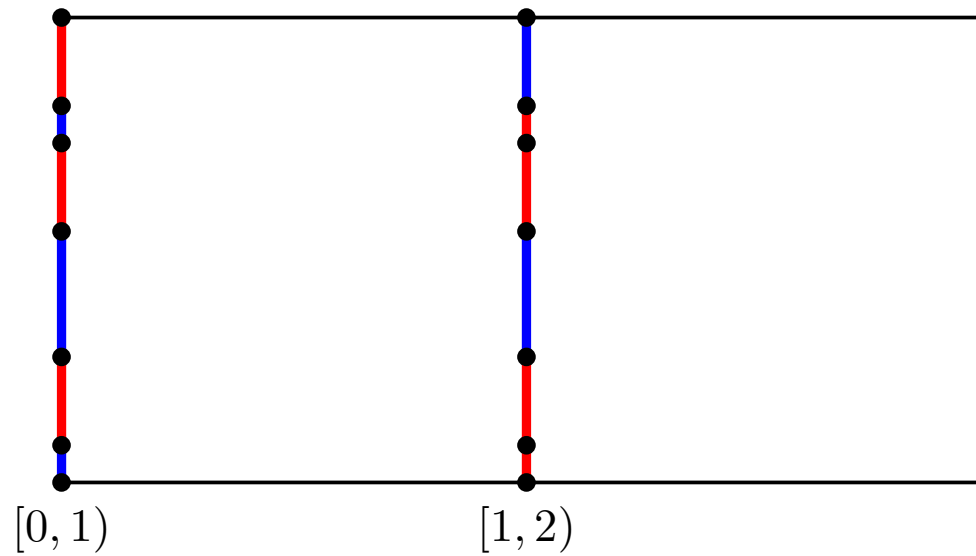
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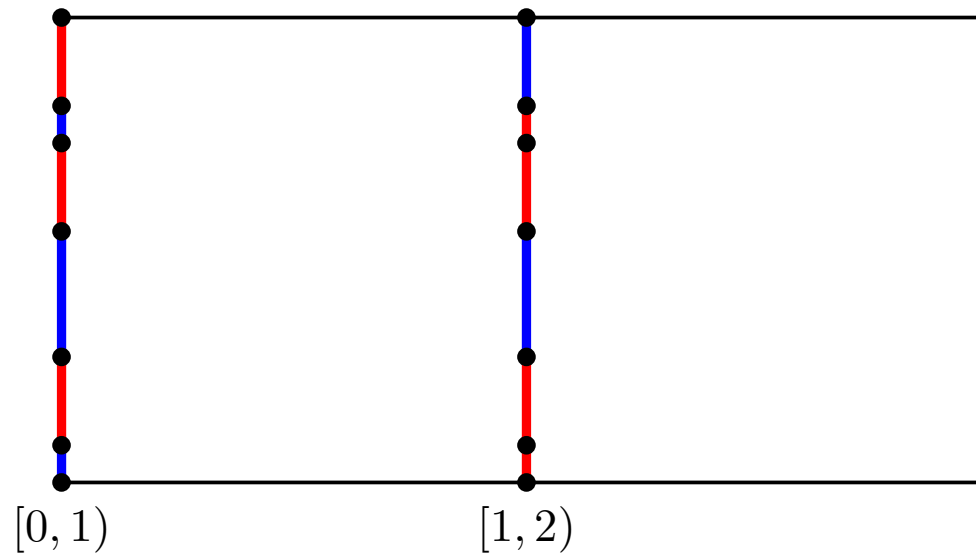


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α -flow spreads this to a 2-coloring of the 2-square- b surface

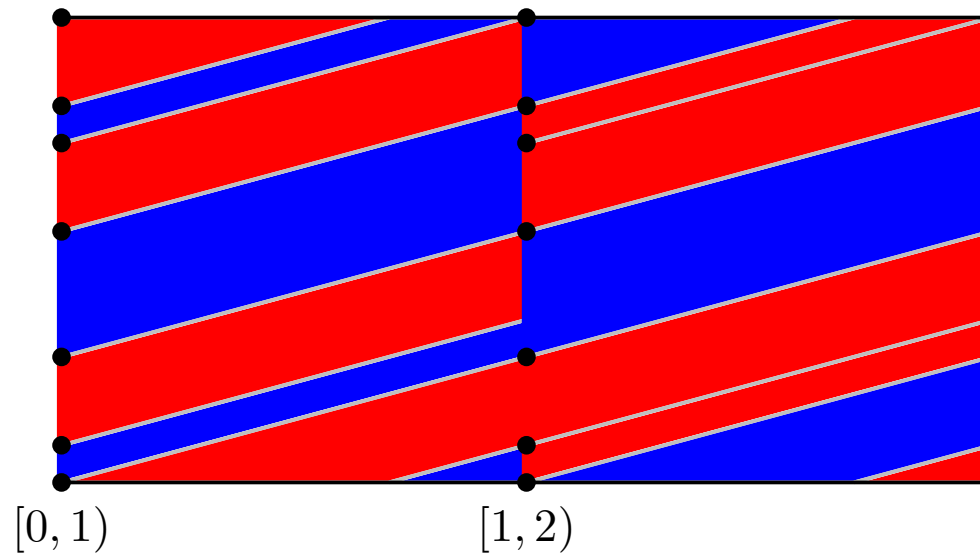


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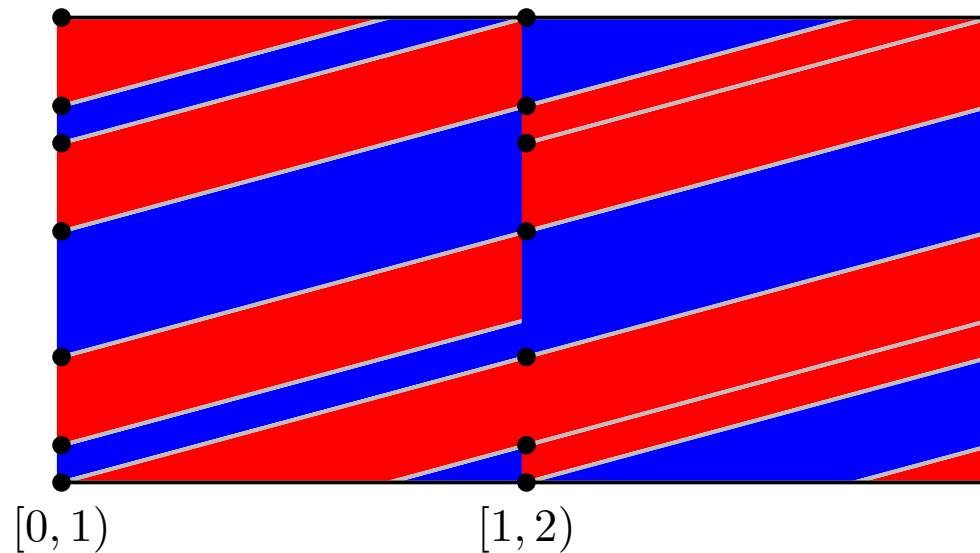


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such a 2-coloring cannot exist if Double-Even Criterion fails

Step 1 : Double-Even Criterion fails

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\Rightarrow interval exchange transformation $T : [0, 2) \rightarrow [0, 2)$ is ergodic

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Furstenberg + Birkhoff's ergodic theorem

Veech (1969) :

α badly approximable

$b \neq \{m\alpha\}$ for any $m \in \mathbb{Z}$

\mathcal{L} – half-infinite α -geodesic on 2-square- b surface

$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L}$ evenly distributed between the two squares

Veech (1969) :

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2-square- b surface with b irrational

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Masur–Smillie (2006) :

2-square- b surface with b irrational

\Rightarrow uncountably many slopes α such that a half-infinite α -geodesic with almost any starting point is not equidistributed

BCY (2021) :

$\varepsilon > 0$ arbitrarily small but fixed

irrational $\alpha \in (0, 1)$

continued fraction $\alpha = [a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots] = \frac{1}{a_1 + \frac{1}{a_2 + \frac{1}{a_3 + \dots}}}$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{a_i} < \frac{\varepsilon}{300}$$

integer $C < \frac{300}{\varepsilon} - 1$

explicitly given gate-size $\beta_0 = \beta_0(\alpha)$

2-square- β_0 surface

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\Rightarrow α -geodesic $\mathcal{L}_0(t)$, with explicitly given starting point

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2-square- β_0 surface

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(i) sequence T_n^* , $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, with $T_{n+1}^* > 2T_n^*$ such that

for every $b = 0, 1, \dots, C$ apart from $b = 1$,

$$\frac{1}{T_n^*} |\{t \in [bT_n^*, (b+1)T_n^*] : \mathcal{L}_0(t) \in \text{LS}(\beta_0)\}| > 1 - \varepsilon$$

left bias

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right bias

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2-square- β_0 surface

\Rightarrow α -geodesic $\mathcal{L}_0(t)$, with explicitly given starting point

(ii) sequence T_n^{**} , $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, with $T_{n+1}^{**} > 2T_n^{**}$ such that

for every $b = 0, 1, \dots, C$ apart from $b = 2$,

$$\frac{1}{T_n^{**}} |\{t \in [bT_n^{**}, (b+1)T_n^{**}] : \mathcal{L}_0(t) \in \text{LS}(\beta_0)\}| > 1 - \varepsilon$$

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$$\frac{1}{T_n^{**}} |\{t \in [2T_n^{**}, 3T_n^{**}] : \mathcal{L}_0(t) \in \text{RS}(\beta_0)\}| > 1 - \varepsilon \quad \text{right bias}$$

n given positive integer

explicitly given gate-size $\beta_1 = \beta_1(\alpha, n)$ with $|\beta_1 - \beta_0| < \varepsilon$

2-square- β_1 surface

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2-square- β_1 surface

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(iii) sequence $W_i, i = 1, \dots, n$, with $W_{i+1} > 2W_i$ such that

$$\frac{1}{W_i} |\{t \in [0, W_i] : \mathcal{L}_1(t) \in \text{LS}(\beta_1)\}| > 1 - \varepsilon$$

left bias

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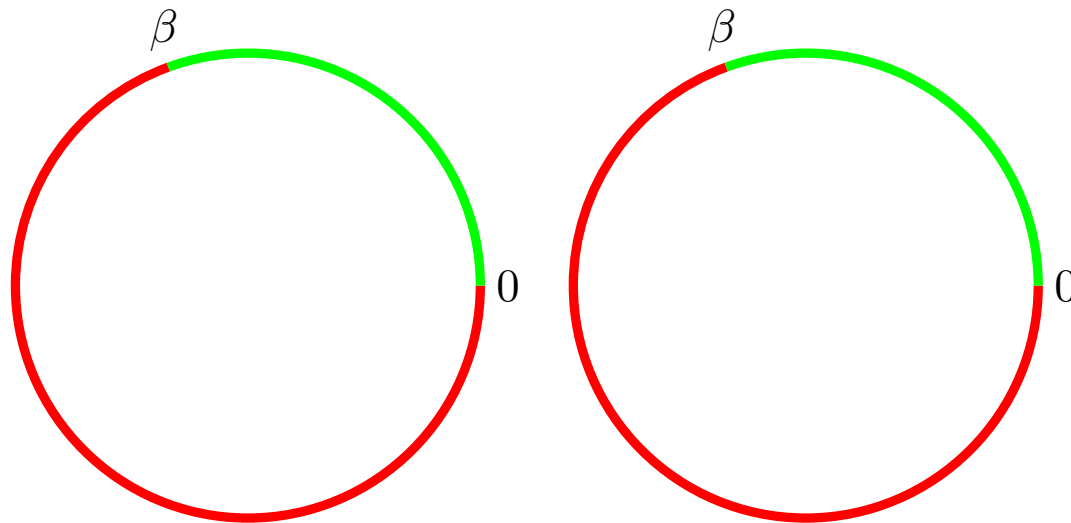
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(iv) threshold W^* such that for all $W > W^*$,

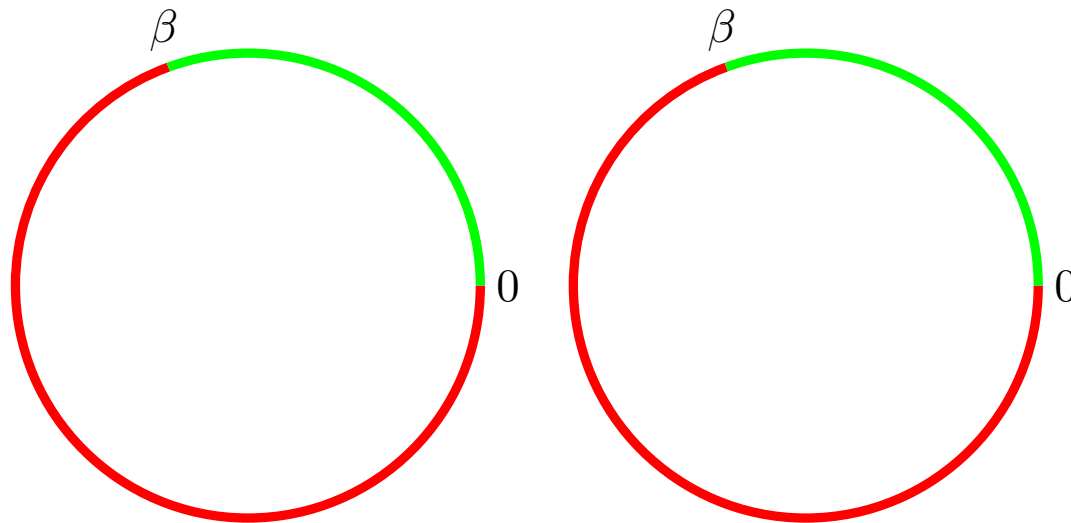
$$\frac{1}{W} |\{t \in [0, W] : \mathcal{L}_1(t) \in \text{LS}(\beta_1)\}| > \frac{2}{3} - \varepsilon \quad \text{left bias}$$

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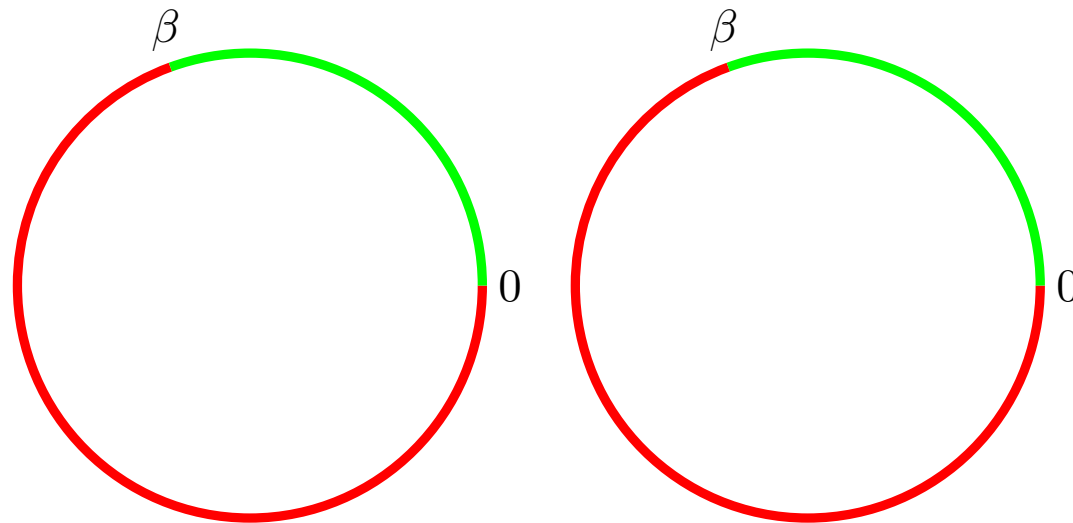


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the parity of this function gives [which circle](#)

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the parity of this function gives [which circle](#)

- $0 \leq q \leq N - 1$
- $\{q\alpha\} \in [0, \beta)$

α -representation or Ostrowski representation

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q_0, q_1, q_2, \dots sequence of denominators of convergents of α

α -representation or Ostrowski representation

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$q = \sum_{i=0}^k x_i q_i$ and $N = \sum_{i=0}^k b_i q_i$ $x_k \dots x_m \dots x_1 x_0 < b_k \dots b_m \dots b_1 b_0$

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α -expansion

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convergents $\frac{p_i}{q_i}$ of α , $\eta_i = q_i\alpha - p_i \begin{cases} > 0 & \text{if } i \text{ even} \\ < 0 & \text{if } i \text{ odd} \end{cases}$

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condition $c_{u_0+2i} = a_{u_0+2i+1}$ for some u_0 and all $i \geq 0$ does not hold

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$\beta \in (0, 1 - \alpha)$ if and only if $\min\{i = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots : c_i \geq 1\}$ is even

$$q = \sum_{i=0}^k x_i q_i$$

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$$\{q\alpha\} = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^k x_i q_i \alpha \right\} = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^k x_i (q_i \alpha - p_i) \right\} = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^k x_i \eta_i \right\} = \sum_{i=0}^k x_i \eta_i$$

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$c_i \neq 0$ if i even

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$\ell = 0$: careful

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exclude N where $b_i = a_{i+1}$ for some $i = 1, \dots, k$

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ε proportion among $N \in [0, q_{k+1})$

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contributions to $\Phi(\alpha; \beta; N)$:

○ \mathcal{I}_1 : $m > \ell$ with ℓ even

○ \mathcal{I}_2 : $m > \ell$ with ℓ odd

○ \mathcal{I}_3 : $m = \ell$ with ℓ even

○ \mathcal{I}_4 : $m = \ell$ with ℓ odd

○ \mathcal{I}_5 : $\ell > m$

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$$N = \sum_{i=0}^k b_i q_i \text{ subject to some exclusion}$$

contributions to $\Phi(\alpha; \beta; N)$:

○ \mathcal{I}_1 : $m > l$ with l even

\mathcal{E}_1 : error for $l = 0$

○ \mathcal{I}_2 : $m > l$ with l odd

○ \mathcal{I}_3 : $m = l$ with l even

\mathcal{E}_3 : error for $l = 0$

○ \mathcal{I}_4 : $m = l$ with l odd

○ \mathcal{I}_5 : $l > m$

$$\Phi(\alpha; \beta; N) = \sum_{\ell=0}^k \min\{b_\ell, c_\ell\} + \sum_{\ell=1}^k \Delta_\ell + \mathcal{E}_0 + \mathcal{E}_1 + \mathcal{E}_3 \pmod{2}$$

for $1 - \varepsilon$ proportion among $N \in [0, q_{k+1})$

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$\mathcal{E}_0, \mathcal{E}_1, \mathcal{E}_3$ do not depend on sequence $c_0, c_1, c_2, c_3, \dots$

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$$\beta' = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} c'_i \eta_i \text{ and } \beta'' = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} c''_i \eta_i$$

$$\Phi(\alpha; \beta''; N) - \Phi(\alpha; \beta'; N)$$

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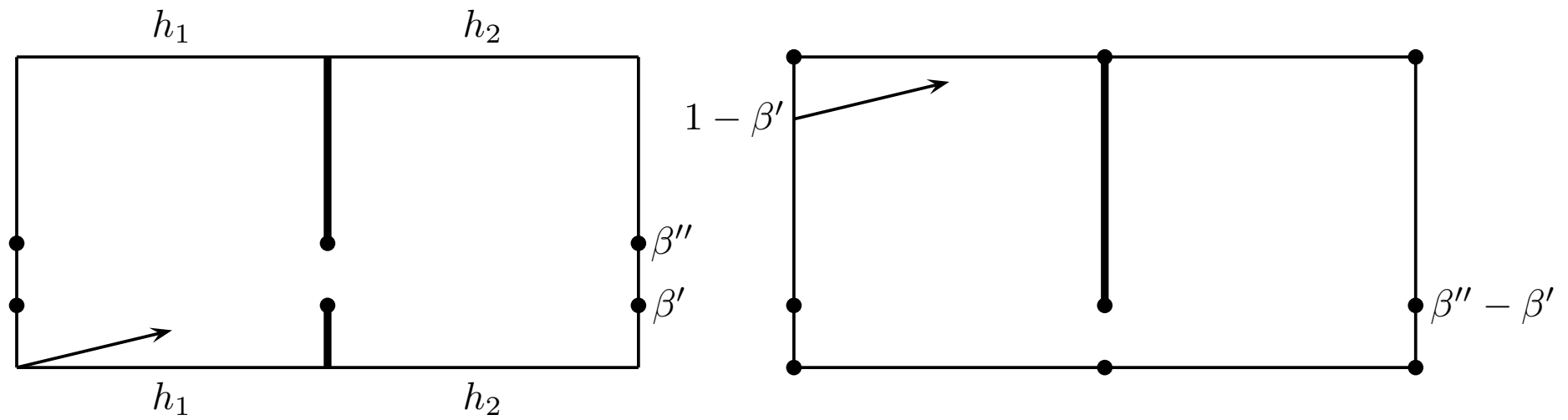
$$\Phi(\alpha; \beta''; N) - \Phi(\alpha; \beta'; N)$$

$$= \sum_{\ell=0}^k \min\{b_\ell, c'_\ell\} + \sum_{\ell=0}^k \min\{b_\ell, c''_\ell\} + \sum_{\ell=1}^k \Delta'_\ell + \sum_{\ell=1}^k \Delta''_\ell \pmod{2}$$

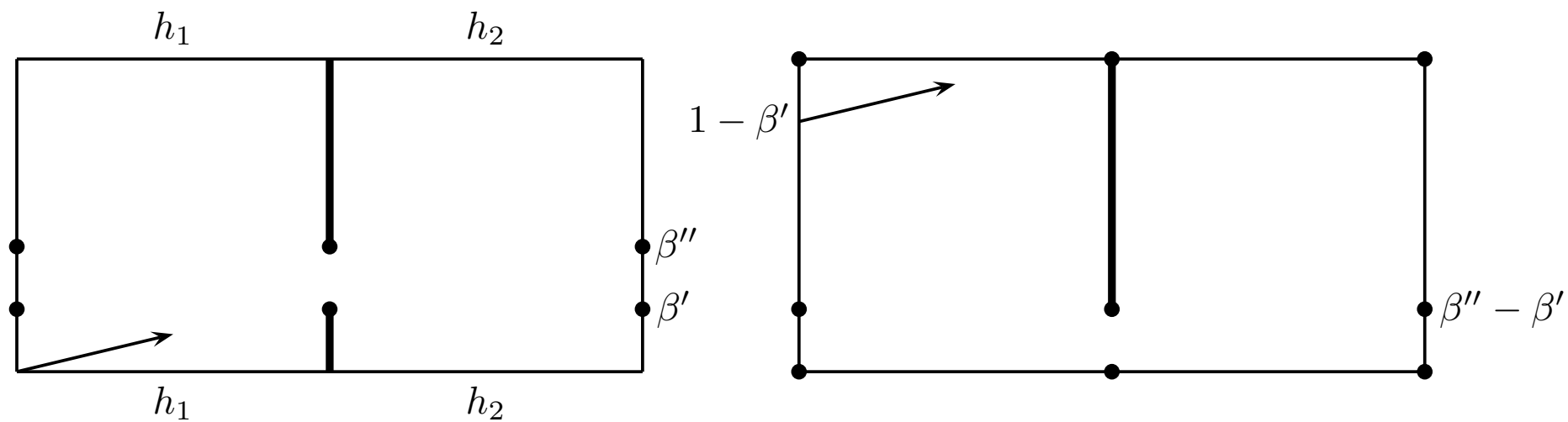
for $1 - \varepsilon$ proportion among $N \in [0, q_{k+1})$

$$\Phi(\alpha; \beta''; N) - \Phi(\alpha; \beta'; N)$$

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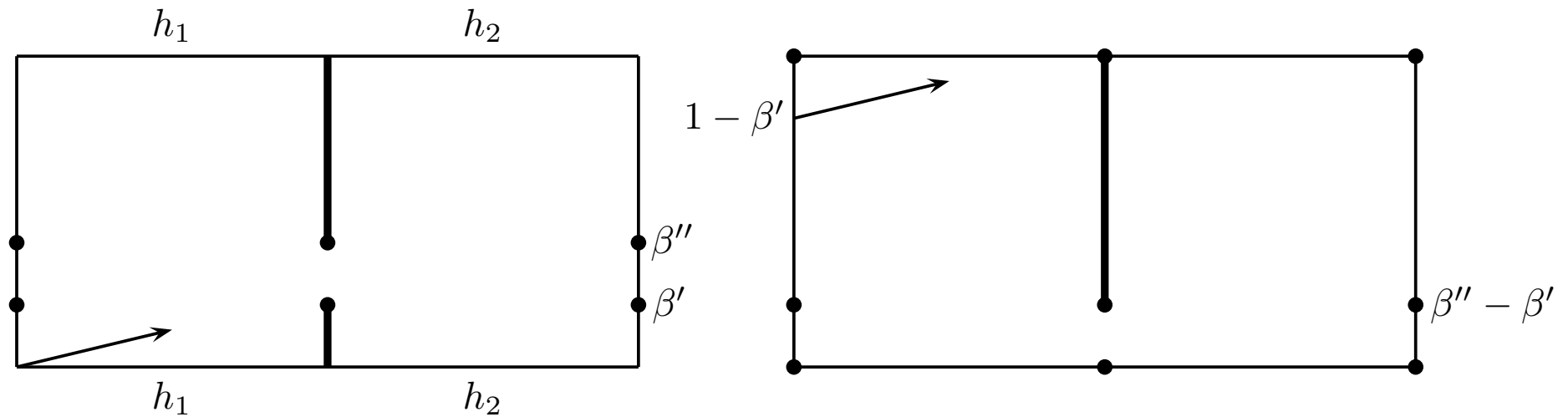
$$\Phi(\alpha; \beta''; N) - \Phi(\alpha; \beta'; N)$$



$$\beta'_0 : c'_i = 2$$

$$\beta''_0 : c''_i = \begin{cases} 4 & \text{if } i \text{ even} \\ 0 & \text{if } i \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

$$\Phi(\alpha; \beta''; N) - \Phi(\alpha; \beta'; N)$$



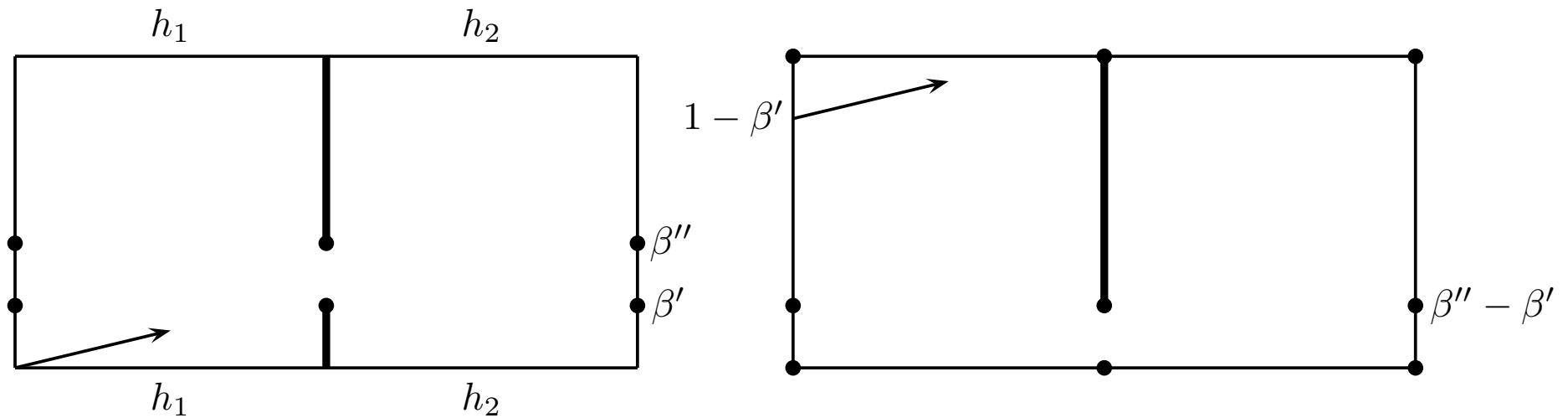
$$\beta'_0 : c'_i = 2$$

$$\beta'_1 : c'_i = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } i \text{ even} \\ 2 & \text{if } i \text{ odd and } i < 2n + 2 \\ 0 & \text{if } i \text{ odd and } i > 2n + 2 \end{cases}$$

$$\beta''_0 : c''_i = \begin{cases} 4 & \text{if } i \text{ even} \\ 0 & \text{if } i \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

$$\beta''_1 : c''_i = \begin{cases} 4 & \text{if } i \text{ even} \\ 0 & \text{if } i \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

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$$\beta''_1 : c''_i = \begin{cases} 4 & \text{if } i \text{ even} \\ 0 & \text{if } i \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

THANK YOU