

# Symbolic discrepancy

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# Some combinatorial definitions

We are given an **infinite word** on  $\{1, 2, \dots, d\}^{\mathbb{N}}$

- Factor complexity
- Frequencies
- Discrepancy

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We are given an **infinite word** on  $\{1, 2, \dots, d\}^{\mathbb{N}}$

## **Symbolic dynamics**

- Factor complexity
- Frequencies
- Discrepancy

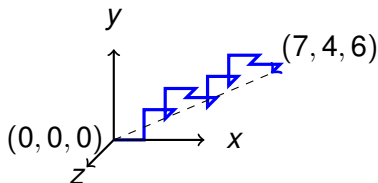
**Discrete geometry** We can associate with it a **discrete line/path** in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with vertices in  $\mathbb{Z}^d$  : replace letters by canonical vectors

- Number of local configurations
- Frequencies of local configurations, slope of the line
- Distance to the line

# A discrete segment associated with the word $u$

- Let  $l : A^* \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^d$ ,  $w \mapsto t(|w|_1, \dots, |w|_d)$  stand for the **Parikh mapping**
- One associates with any word a **discrete line** with set of vertices equal to  $\{l(u_0 \cdots u_{n-1}) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$

$$u = 12132131321321313$$



# First combinatorial definitions

**Factor complexity** number of factors of a given length

The **frequency**  $f_i$  of a letter  $i \in \mathcal{A}$  in  $u = (u_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is defined as the following limit, if it exists

$$f_i = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|u_0 \cdots u_{n-1}|_i}{n}$$

↪ Frequency of a word

# The Fibonacci word

Fibonacci word  $\sigma: a \mapsto ab, b \mapsto a$       $\sigma$  is called a substitution

*a*

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$$\sigma^\infty(a) = abaababaabaababaababaababaababaabab \dots$$

There are  $n + 1$  factors of length  $n$

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Frequencies exist

Frequencies exist for all the infinite words with factor complexity

$n + 1$

$\limsup p_n/n < 3$  implies unique ergodicity [Boshernitzan]

# Symbolic dynamical system

Let  $u = (u_n)$  be an infinite word with values in the finite set  $\mathcal{A}$

Let  $S$  be the **shift**

$$S((u_n)_n) = (u_{n+1})_n$$

The **symbolic dynamical system** generated by  $u$  is  $(X_u, S)$

$$X_u := \overline{\{S^n(u); n \in \mathbb{N}\}} \subset \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{N}}$$

This is the set of infinite words whose language is included in the language of  $u$

set of factors = language

# Word combinatorics vs. symbolic dynamics

Let  $u \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{N}}$  be an infinite word

- **Word combinatorics**

Study of the number of factors of a given length (factor complexity), frequencies, powers

- **Symbolic dynamics** Let

$$X_u := \overline{\{S^n u \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}}$$

$$S((u_n)_n) = (u_{n+1})_n$$

$(X_u, S)$  is a **symbolic dynamical system**

Compacity, study of invariant measures, recurrence properties, finding geometric representations

# Discrepancy of a sequence

Let  $(u_n)_n$  be a **sequence** with values in  $[0, 1]$

$$\Delta_N = \limsup_{I \text{ interval}} |\{\text{Card} \{0 \leq n \leq N; u_n \in I\} - N\mu(I)\}|$$

# Symbolic discrepancy

Take a **word**  $(u_n)_n$  with values in a finite alphabet  $\mathcal{A}$

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$$f_i = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|u_0 \cdots u_{N-1}|_i}{N}$$

where  $|x|_j$  stands for the number of occurrences of the letter  $j$  in the factor  $x$

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Assume that each letter  $i$  has frequency  $f_i$  in  $u$

## Symbolic discrepancy

$$\Delta_N = \max_{i \in \mathcal{A}} ||u_0 u_1 \dots u_{N-1}|_i - N \cdot f_i|$$

# Balancedness

An infinite word  $u \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{N}}$  is said to be **finitely balanced** if there exists a constant  $C > 0$  such that for any pair of factors of the same length  $v, w$  of  $u$ , and for any letter  $i \in \mathcal{A}$ ,

$$||v|_i - |w|_i| \leq C$$

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$$\sigma^\infty(a) = abaababaabaababaababaababaababaabab \dots$$

The factors of length 5 contain 3 or 4 *a*'s

# Symbolic discrepancies

$$X_u := \overline{\{S^n(u); n \in \mathbb{N}\}} \subset \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{N}} \quad \text{minimal}$$

We assume  $X_u$  **minimal** :  $\emptyset$  and  $X_u$  are the only closed shift-invariant subsets of  $X_u$

↪ Every infinite word  $v \in X_u$  has the same language as  $u$

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$$\Delta_N = \max_{i \in \mathcal{A}} ||u_0 u_1 \dots u_{N-1}|_i - N \cdot f_i|$$

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\Delta}_N &= \max_{i \in \mathcal{A}, k} ||u_k \dots u_{k+N-1}|_i - N \cdot f_i| \\ &= \max_{i \in \mathcal{A}, w \in L_N(u)} ||w|_i - N \cdot f_i| \\ &= \max_{i \in \mathcal{A}, v \in X_u} ||v_0 u_1 \dots v_{N-1}|_i - N \cdot f_i|\end{aligned}$$

$L_N(u)$  is the set of factors of  $u$  of length  $N$

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$L_N(u)$  is the set of factors of  $u$  of length  $N$

We can also consider **factors**  $w$  and not only letters

**Remark** [B. Adamczewski] There exists an infinite word  $u \in \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$  such that

- $u$  has a frequency vector
- $\Delta_N = O(f(N))$  with  $f(N) = o(N)$
- for every integer  $N$ ,  $\tilde{\Delta}_N = O(N)$

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Take

$$u = 01 0^{[f(1)]} 1^{[f(1)]} 0101 0^{[f(2)]} 1^{[f(2)]} \dots (01)^n 0^{[f(n)]} 1^{[f(n)]}$$

$$||u_0 \cdots u_{N-1}|_i - N/2| \leq 1/2f(N)$$

# Equidistribution vs. well-equidistribution

Let  $u$  be an infinite word with values in the finite alphabet  $\mathcal{A}$

$$\tilde{\Delta}_N = \limsup_{i \in \mathcal{A}, k} ||u_k \cdots u_{k+N-1}|_i - N \cdot f_i|$$

$u$  is well-distributed with respect to letters if  $\tilde{\Delta}_N = o(N)$   
 $\rightsquigarrow$  **uniformly** in  $k$

The **frequency** of a **factor**  $w$  in  $u$  is defined as the limit when  $n$  tends towards infinity, if it exists, of the number of occurrences of  $w$  in  $u_0 u_1 \cdots u_{n-1}$  divided by  $n$

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The infinite word  $u$  has **uniform factor frequencies** if, for every factor  $w$  of  $u$ , the number of occurrences of  $w$  in  $u_k \cdots u_{k+n-1}$  divided by  $n$  has a limit when  $n$  tends to infinity, **uniformly** in  $k$

# Balance and equidistribution

An infinite word  $u \in \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{N}}$  is finitely **balanced** if and only if

- it has **uniform letter frequencies**
- there exists a constant  $B$  such that for any factor  $w$  of  $u$ , we have  $||w|_i - f_i|w|| \leq B$  for all letter  $i$  in  $\mathcal{A}$

where  $f_i$  is the frequency of  $i$

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## **Proof**

Let  $u$  be an infinite word with letter frequency vector  $f$  and such that  $||w|_i - f_i|w|| \leq B$  for every factor  $w$  and all letters  $i$  in  $\mathcal{A}$

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For every pair of factors  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  with the same length  $n$ , we have

$$||w_1|_i - |w_2|_i| \leq ||w_1|_i - nf_i| + ||w_2|_i - nf_i| \leq 2B$$

Hence  $u$  is  $2B$ -balanced

Finite balancedness implies the existence of uniform letter frequencies

**Proof** Assume that  $u$  is  $C$ -balanced and fix a letter  $i$

Let  $N_p$  be such that for every word of length  $p$  of  $u$ , the number of occurrences of the letter  $i$  belongs to the set

$$\{N_p, N_p + 1, \dots, N_p + C\}$$

The sequence  $(N_p/p)_{p \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a **Cauchy sequence**. Indeed consider a factor  $w$  of length  $pq$

$$pN_q \leq |w|_i \leq pN_q + pC, \quad qN_p \leq |w|_i \leq qN_p + qC.$$
$$-C/p \leq N_p/p - N_q/q \leq C/q$$

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$$-C/p \leq N_p/p - N_q/q \leq C/q$$

Let  $f_i = \lim N_q/q$

$$-C \leq N_p - pf_i \leq 0 \quad (q \rightarrow \infty)$$

Then, for any factor  $w$

$$\left| \frac{|w|_i}{|w|} - f_i \right| \leq \frac{C}{|w|} \quad \rightsquigarrow \text{uniform frequencies}$$

# Frequencies and measures

$$X_u := \overline{\{S^n(u); n \in \mathbb{N}\}} \subset \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{N}}$$

- Having frequencies is a property of the infinite word  $u$  while having uniform frequencies is a property of the associated language or shift  $X_u$

# Frequencies and measures

$$X_u := \overline{\{S^n(u); n \in \mathbb{N}\}} \subset \mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{N}}$$

- A probability measure  $\mu$  on  $X_u$  is said **invariant** if  $\mu(S^{-1}A) = \mu(A)$  for all measurable subset  $A \subset X$
- An invariant probability measure on a shift  $X$  is said **ergodic** if any shift-invariant measurable set has either measure 0 or 1
- The property of uniform frequency of factors for a shift  $X$  is equivalent to **unique ergodicity** : there exists a unique shift-invariant probability measure on  $X$

# Frequencies and measures

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- Having frequencies is a property of the **infinite word**  $u$  while having uniform frequencies is a property of the associated **language or shift**  $X_u$
- Balancedness is a property of the associated shift and may be thought as a strong form of unique ergodicity

## Birkhoff sums

Let  $\mu$  is an ergodic measure on  $X_u$ . The **Birkhoff Ergodic theorem** says that for  $\mu$ -a.e.  $x$  and for  $f \in L_1(X_u, \mathbb{R})$

$$\lim_n \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} f(T^j x) = \int f d\mu$$

The mean behaviour along an **orbit**=  
the **mean value** of  $f$  with respect to  $\mu$

$\mu$ -almost every infinite word in  $X_u$  has frequency  $\mu[w]$

$$[w] = \{u \in X; u_0 \dots u_{n-1} = w\}$$

but this frequency is not necessarily uniform

If  $X_u$  is uniquely ergodic, the unique invariant measure on  $X_u$  is ergodic and the convergence is uniform for all words in  $X_u$

# Motivations

- Discrete lines
- Bounded remainder sets and symbolic codings of Kronecker sequences
- The chairman assignment problem

# Discrete lines in discrete geometry

The **discrepancy** of the word  $u = (u_n)$  is defined as

$$\max_{i \in \mathcal{A}, n} ||u_0 \cdots u_{n-1}|_i - f_i \cdot n|$$

We measure the distance to the vector directed by the frequencies

# Discrete lines in discrete geometry

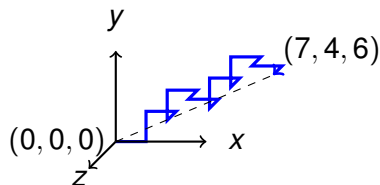
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↪ If the discrepancy is bounded, the word  $u$  can be considered as a **discretization** of the vector line directed by the letter frequency vector  $(f_1, \dots, f_d)$

$u = 12132131321321313$

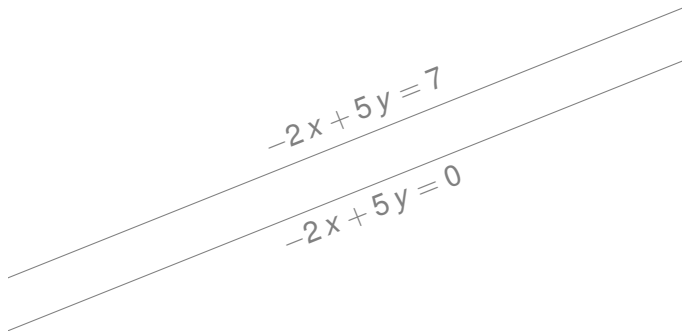


## 2D Discrete Lines and Sturmian words

$$0 < -2x + 5y \leq 7$$

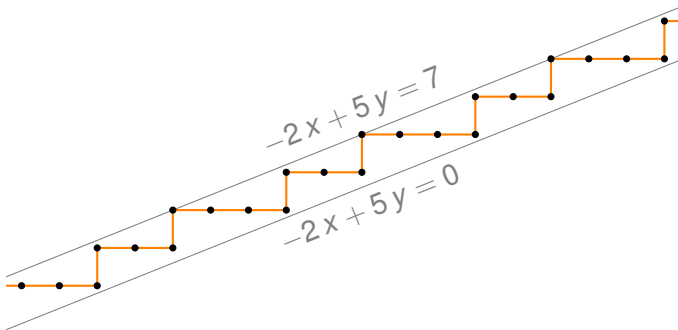
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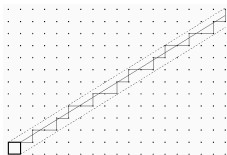
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# Sturmian words

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, u_n = 0 \iff R_\alpha^n(x) = n\alpha + x \in [0, 1 - \alpha) \pmod{1}$$



$\rightsquigarrow$  Diophantine approximation

- Sturmian words are known to be **1-balanced**
- They thus have a bounded discrepancy  $\Delta_N$  and  $\tilde{\Delta}_N$
- They even are exactly the 1-balanced infinite words that are not eventually periodic

This gives a combinatorial characterization of **natural codings** of Kronecker sequences (rotations on the unit circle)

[Morse-Hedlund'42]

# Bounded remainder sets and Kronecker sequences

Let  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d) \in [0, 1]^d$

with  $1, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d$   $\mathbb{Q}$ -linearly independent

We consider the **Kronecker sequence**

$$(\{n\alpha_1\}, \dots, \{n\alpha_d\})_n$$

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associated with the **translation** over  $\mathbb{T}^d = (\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^d$

$$R_\alpha: \mathbb{T}^d \mapsto \mathbb{T}^d, x \mapsto x + \alpha$$

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**Bounded remainder set** **X** for which there exists  $C > 0$  s.t. for all  $N$

$$|\text{Card}\{0 \leq n \leq N; R_\alpha^n(0) \in X\} - N\mu(X)| \leq C$$

# Bounded remainder sets

Case  $d = 1$

**Theorem [Kesten'66]** Intervals that are bounded remainder sets are the intervals with length in  $\mathbb{Z} + \alpha\mathbb{Z}$

Sturmian words are finitely balanced

# Bounded remainder sets

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## General dimension $d$

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## General dimension $d$

**Theorem [Liardet'87]** There are no nontrivial boxes that are bounded remainder sets

Boxes are not bounded remainder sets

How well can one approximate a box by bounded remainder sets ?

# A symbolic approach

We consider a **partition**  $\{X_1, \dots, X_k\}$  of  $\mathbb{T}^d$

$$\mathbb{T}^d = \bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq k} X_i, \quad \mu(X_i \cap X_j) = 0, \text{ for all } i \neq j$$

We **code** the **trajectory** of  $x$  under the action of  $R_\alpha: x \mapsto x + \alpha$  as follows

$$x \rightsquigarrow (u_n)_n \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}^{\mathbb{N}}$$

$$u_n = i \quad \text{if and only if} \quad R_\alpha^n(x) = x + n\alpha \in X_i$$

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**Questions** Which information on  $R_\alpha$  can we get from the combinatorial properties of the sequence  $(u_n)$ ? What is a good coding?

## Example

Fibonacci substitution  $\sigma : 1 \mapsto 12, 2 \mapsto 1$

$$u = \sigma^\infty(1) = 121121211211212 \dots$$

$(X_u, S)$  is isomorphic to  $(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}, R_{\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}})$  where

$$R_{\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}} : x \mapsto x + \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}$$

Natural coding of a two-interval exchange

# From letters to words

One wants to find good partitions for toral translations which provide natural codings that have bounded discrepancy for every length of factor

A **translation** on  $\mathbb{T}^2$  is a map  $R_\alpha : \mathbb{R}^2/L \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2/L$ ,  $x \mapsto x + \alpha \pmod{L}$ , where  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and where  $L$  is a lattice in  $\mathbb{R}^2$

A coding  $u$  of  $(R_\alpha, \mathbb{T}^2)$  is a **natural coding** if there exists a fundamental domain for a lattice  $L$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  together with a finite partition of this domain such that on each element of the partition the map  $R_\alpha$  is a translation by a vector

A symbolic measure-theoretical dynamical system  $(\Omega, S)$  is a **natural symbolic coding** of  $(X, T)$  if every element of  $\Omega$  is a coding of the orbit of some point of  $X$ , and if  $(\Omega, S)$  and  $(X, T)$  are semi-topologically conjugate

# The chairman assignment problem

The chairman assignment problem [R. Tijdeman] “Suppose  $k$  states form a union and every year a union chairman has to be selected in such a way that at any time the accumulated number of chairmen from each state is proportional to its weight.”

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$$D(u) = \max_{i \in \mathcal{A}, n} ||u_0 \cdots u_{n-1}|_i - f_i \cdot n|$$

# The chairman assignment problem

The chairman assignment problem [R. Tjiedeman] “Suppose  $k$  states form a union and every year a union chairman has to be selected in such a way that at any time the accumulated number of chairmen from each state is proportional to its weight.”

How to get in an effective way an assignment with small discrepancy ?

Theorem [Meijer-Tjiedeman]

$$\sup_{\mathbf{f}} \inf_u D(u) = 1 - \frac{1}{2d-2}$$

**Remark**  $1 - 1/(2d-2) = 3/4$  for  $d = 3$

R. Tjiedeman has given an algorithmic way, given  $\mathbf{f}$ , to construct a sequence  $u$  with  $D(u) \leq 1 - \frac{1}{2d-2}$

See also [M.L. Balinski and H.P. Young]

A word formulation

# Problem

Let  $(f_1, \dots, f_d) \in [0, 1]^d$  such that  $\sum_{i=1}^d f_i = 1$

How to construct a word  $u$  over the alphabet  $\{1, 2, \dots, d\}$  satisfying the following conditions

- $u$  has linear complexity function
- $u$  is uniformly balanced
- the letter frequencies in  $u$  are given by  $(f_1, \dots, f_d)$

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How to construct a word  $u$  over the alphabet  $\{1, 2, \dots, d\}$  satisfying the following conditions

- $u$  has linear complexity function
- $u$  is uniformly balanced on factors
- the letter frequencies in  $u$  are given by  $(f_1, \dots, f_d)$

On fabrique une trajectoire qui reste à distance bornée de la droite

- Mots de billard (dans le cube)
- Mots de poursuite (Chevallier)
- Equilibre sur les lettres mais sur les mots ?
- Complexité quadratique

The algebraic case :  
substitutive dynamics

# The Dumont-Thomas numeration system

- It is based on the greedy algorithm and acts on words
- Let  $u = (u_n)$  such that  $\sigma(u) = u$
- We decompose prefixes of  $u_0 \cdots u_{N-1}$  into images by powers of  $\sigma$  of a finite number of words  $\rightsquigarrow$  **base  $\sigma$**
- Since  $\sigma(u) = u$ , there exists  $L$  such that

$$\sigma(u_0 \cdots u_{L-1}) \leq u_0 \cdots u_{N-1} < \sigma(u_0 \cdots u_L)$$

and thus a proper prefix  $p$  of  $\sigma(u_L)$  s.t.

$$u_0 \cdots u_{N-1} = \sigma(u_0 \cdots u_{L-1}) p \text{ with } \sigma(u_L) = p u_N s$$

- Hence, for every  $N$ , one has

$$u_0 \cdots u_{N-1} = \sigma^K(p_K) \sigma^{K-1}(p_{K-1}) \cdots \sigma(p_1) p_0,$$

the  $p_i$  belong to a finite set of words that only depends on  $\sigma \rightsquigarrow$  **digits**

$\rightsquigarrow$  a numeration system on words... but also for integers and real numbers

# The Dumont-Thomas numeration system

Every prefix  $w$  of the **Tribonacci word**  $u = \sigma^\infty(1)$

$$\sigma: 1 \mapsto 12, 2 \mapsto 13, 3 \mapsto 1$$

can be uniquely expanded as

$$w = \sigma^n(p_n)\sigma^{n-1}(p_{n-1}) \cdots p_0,$$

where the words  $p_i$  are equal to the empty word or to the letter **1**, and **111**  $\nexists$ .

Conversely every finite word that can be decomposed under this form is a prefix of the Tribonacci word.

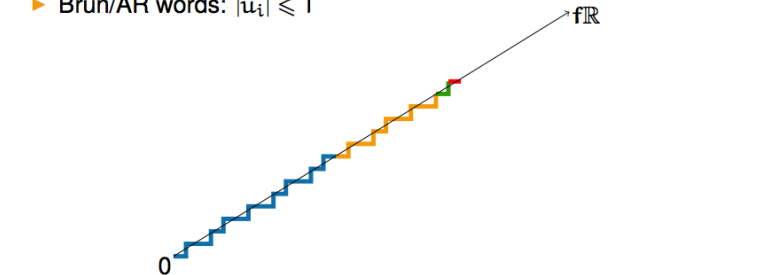
$$|w| = \sum_{i=0}^n \varepsilon_i T_i.$$

Such a numeration exists for every **primitive** substitution

- **Dumont-Thomas representation:** For every prefix of  $\omega$ :

$$p = \phi_1 \phi_2 \dots \phi_n(u_n) \cdot \phi_1 \phi_2 \dots \phi_{n-1}(u_{n-1}) \cdot \dots \cdot \phi_1(u_1) \cdot u_0$$

- Brun/AR words:  $|u_i| \leq 1$



Slide by T. Hejda

# A substitution on words : the Tribonacci substitution

$$\sigma : 1 \mapsto 12, 2 \mapsto 13, 3 \mapsto 1$$

$$\sigma^\infty(1) = 12131211213121213 \dots$$

The **incidence matrix**  $M_\sigma$  of  $\sigma$  is defined by

$$M_\sigma = (|\sigma(j)|_i)_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{A}^2},$$

where  $|\sigma(j)|_i$  counts the number of occurrences of the letter  $i$  in  $\sigma(j)$

The matrix  $M_\sigma$  has **nonnegative entries**  $\rightsquigarrow$  Perron-Frobenius theory

Its **incidence matrix** is  $M_\sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Its characteristic polynomial is  $X^3 - X^2 - X - 1$ . Its Perron-Frobenius eigenvalue  $\beta > 1$  is a **Pisot number**

It is **primitive** : there exists a power of  $M_\sigma$  which contains only positive entries

# Pisot substitution

**Pisot-Vijayaraghavan number** An **algebraic integer** is a Pisot number if its algebraic conjugates  $\lambda$  (except itself) satisfy

$$|\lambda| < 1$$

Let  $\sigma$  be a substitution over the alphabet  $\mathcal{A}$

**Pisot irreducible substitution**  $\sigma$  is primitive, its **Perron–Frobenius** eigenvalue is a Pisot number and the characteristic polynomial of its incidence matrix is irreducible

# Pisot substitutions have bounded discrepancy

Let  $\sigma$  be a **Pisot irreducible** substitution and  $u = \sigma^\infty(1)$

$$I : A^* \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^d, \ w \mapsto {}^t(|w|_1, \dots, |w|_d)$$

**Fact** The vectors  $I(u_0 u_1 \dots u_n)$  stay within bounded distance of the expanding (=the direction given by the vector of frequencies)

## Pisot substitutions have bounded discrepancy

Let  $\sigma$  be a **Pisot irreducible** substitution and  $u = \sigma^\infty(1)$

**Fact** The vectors  $l(u_0 u_1 \dots u_n)$  stay within bounded distance of the expanding (=the direction given by the vector of frequencies)

**Proof** Let  $(v_i)$  be a basis of eigenvectors associated with the eigenvalues  $\lambda_i$ , with  $\lambda_1 > 1 \geq |\lambda_i|$

By Perron-Frobenius Theorem,  $v_1$  has nonzero entries

Write

$$e_1 = \sum a_i v_i$$

We have

$$f(\sigma^k(1)) = M_\sigma^k e_1 = a_1 \lambda_1^k v_1 + \sum a_j \lambda_j^k v_j$$

The vectors  $f(\sigma^k(1))$  converge exponentially fast to the expanding line, and their projections on the contracting plane converge to 0

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The vectors  $f(\sigma^k(1))$  converge exponentially fast to the expanding line, and their projections on the contracting plane converge to 0

**Dumont-Thomas numeration** Any prefix  $w$  of  $u$  can be expanded as

$$w = \sigma^k(p_k) \sigma^{k-1}(p_{k-1}) \dots p_0,$$

where the  $p_i$  belong to a finite set of words

## Substitutive words [B. Adamczewski]

Let  $\sigma$  be a primitive substitution

According to the [Perron-Frobenius Theorem](#),  $M_\sigma$  admits a dominant eigenvalue  $\theta_1$

Let  $\alpha_2$  be the multiplicity of the second eigenvalue  $\theta_2$

# Substitutive words [B. Adamczewski]

## Theorem

- If  $\theta_2 < 1$ , then the discrepancy is **bounded**
- If  $\theta_2 > 1$ , then  $D_N = (O \cap \Omega)((\log N)^{\alpha_2 - 1} N^{(\log_{\theta_1} \lfloor \theta_2 \rfloor)})$
- If  $|\theta_2| = 1$ , then  $D_N = (O \cap \Omega)((\log N)^{\alpha_2})$  or  $D_N = (O \cap \Omega)((\log N)^{\alpha_2 - 1})$
- In particular there exist balanced fixed points of substitutions for which  $|\theta_2| = 1$ . All eigenvalues of modulus one of the incidence matrix have to be **roots of unity**

## Tribonacci's substitution [Rauzy '82]

$$\sigma : 1 \mapsto 12, 2 \mapsto 13, 3 \mapsto 1$$

$$12131211213121213 \dots$$

**Question** Is it possible to give a geometric representation of the associated substitutive dynamical system  $X_\sigma$  as a translation on an abelian compact group ?

**Yes!**  $(X_\sigma, S)$  is isomorphic to a translation on the two-dimensional torus

**Question** How to produce explicitly a fundamental domain for this translation ?

**Rauzy fractal** G. Rauzy introduced in the 80's a compact set with **fractal** boundary that tiles the plane which provides a geometric representation of  $(X_\sigma, S)$

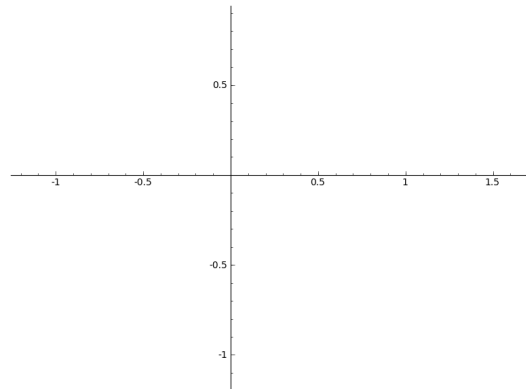
$\rightsquigarrow$  **Thurston** for beta-numeration

# The Rauzy fractal as a geometric representation

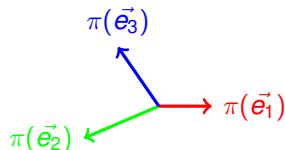
Consider the Tribonacci substitution

$$\sigma: 1 \mapsto 12, 2 \mapsto 3, 3 \mapsto 1$$

121312112131212131211213...



$\pi$  projection along the expanding eigenline onto the contracting plane of the incidence matrix of  $M_\sigma$



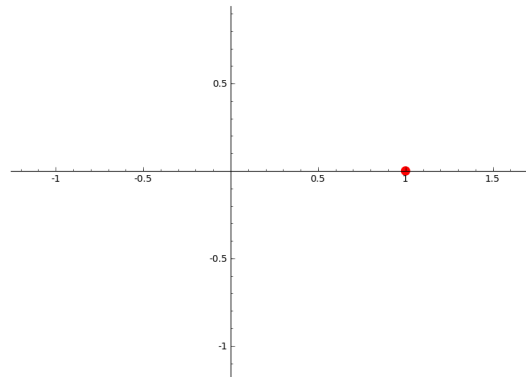
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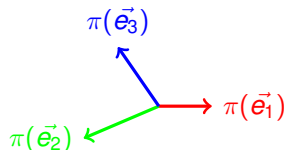
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$\pi(\vec{e}_1)$



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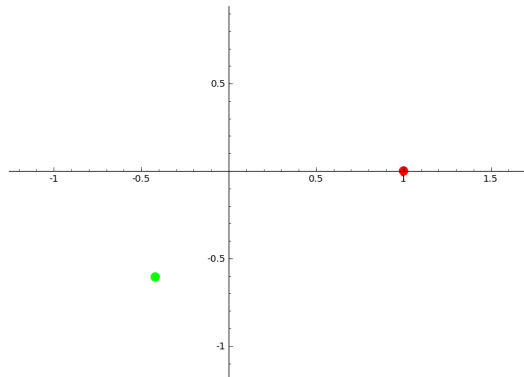
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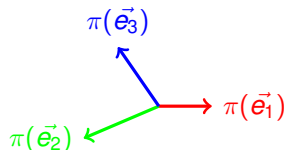
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$$\pi(\vec{e}_1 + \vec{e}_2)$$



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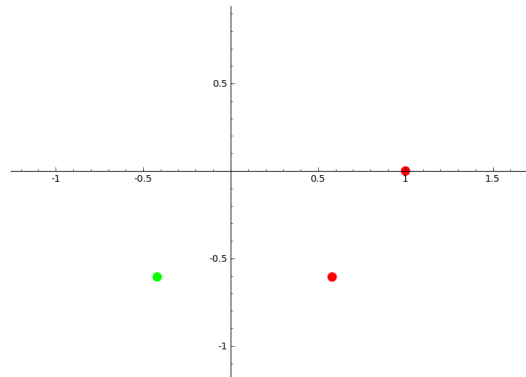
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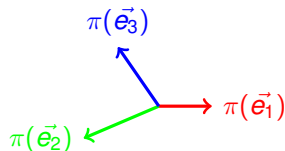
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$$\pi(\vec{e}_1 + \vec{e}_2 + \vec{e}_3)$$



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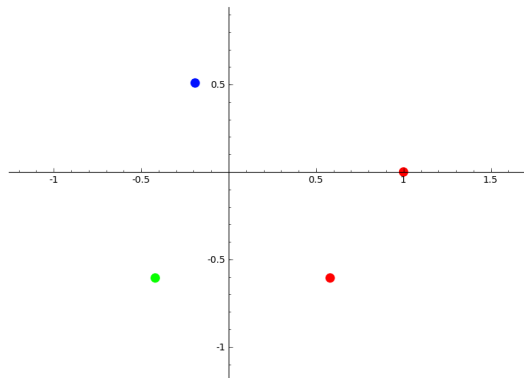
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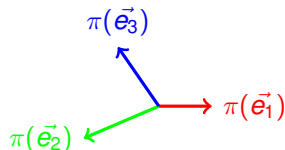
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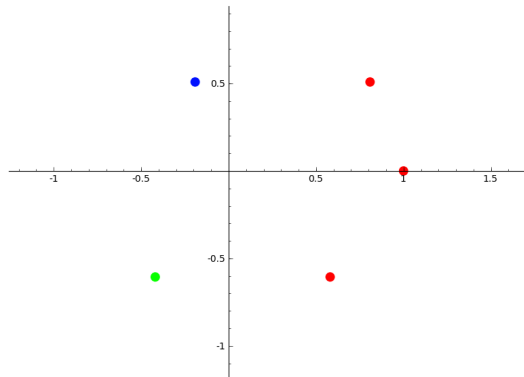
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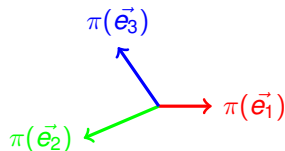
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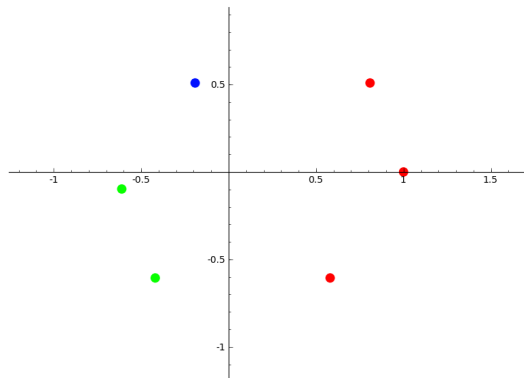
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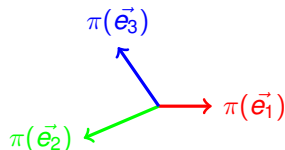
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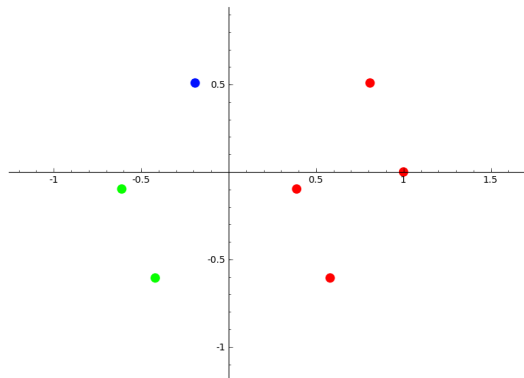
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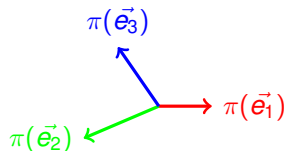
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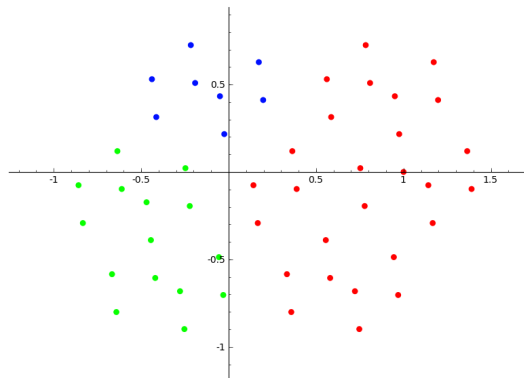
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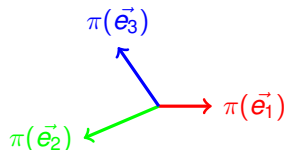
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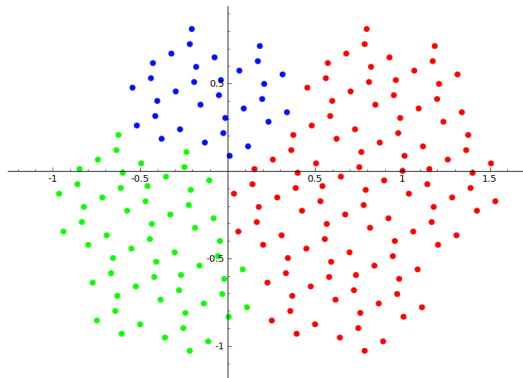
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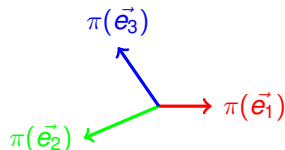
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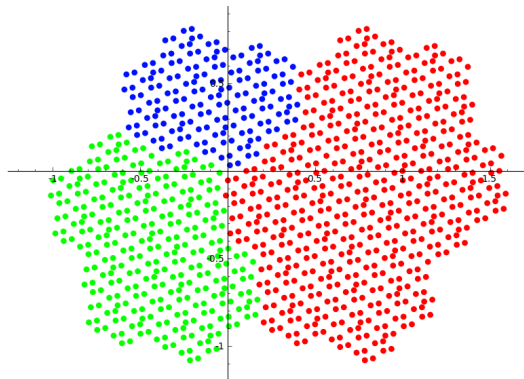
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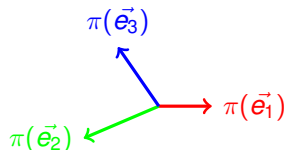
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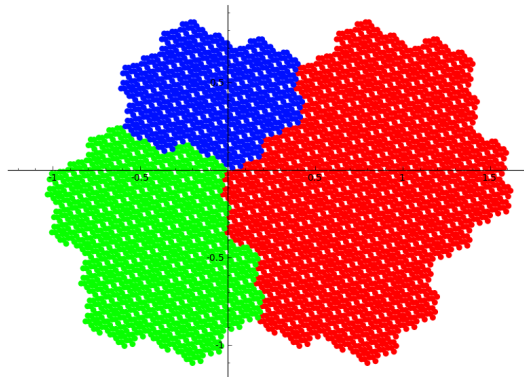
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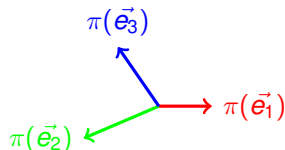
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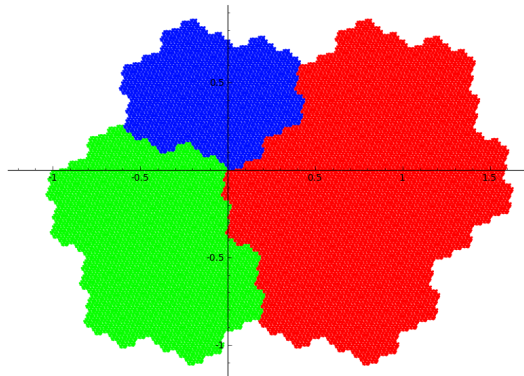
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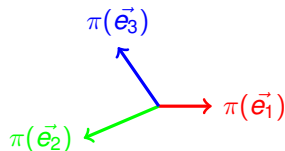
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# $S$ -adic expansions

# S-adic expansions

**Definition** An infinite word  $\omega$  is said **S-adic** if there exist

- a finite set of substitutions  $\mathcal{S}$
- an infinite sequence of substitutions  $(\sigma_n)_{n \geq 1}$  with values in  $\mathcal{S}$

such that

$$\omega = \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \sigma_1 \circ \sigma_2 \circ \cdots \circ \sigma_n(0)$$

An  $S$ -adic representation defined by the directive sequence  $(\sigma_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ , where  $\sigma_n : \mathcal{A}_{n+1}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_n^*$ , is **everywhere growing** if for any sequence of letters  $(a_n)_n$ , one has

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} |\sigma_0 \cdots \sigma_{n-1}(a_n)| = +\infty.$$

# Unique ergodicity

Let  $X$  be an  $S$ -adic shift with directive sequence  $\sigma = (\sigma_n)_n$  with everywhere growing sequence  $(\sigma_n)_n$

Denote by  $(M_n)_n$  the associated sequence of incidence matrices

If the cone  $C^{(0)}$  is one-dimensional

$$C^{(0)} = \bigcap_{n \rightarrow \infty} M_{[0,n)} \mathbb{R}_+^d$$

then  $X$  has uniform letter frequencies

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If

$$C^{(k)} = \bigcap_{n \rightarrow \infty} M_{[k,n)} \mathbb{R}_+^d$$

is one-dimensional, then the  $S$ -adic dynamical system  $(X, S)$  is uniquely ergodic

## Back to the initial problem

For a.e. vector  $f = (f_1, \dots, f_d) \in [0, 1]^d$ , one can construct a word  $u$  over the alphabet  $\{1, 2, \dots, d\}$  satisfying the following conditions

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- Linear complexity for  $S$ -adic Brun words [Labbé-Leroy]
- Convergence issues : strong convergence  
(  $< -$  second Lyapunov exponent negative)
- Characterization of uniformly balanced sequences

# Our strategy

- We apply a **multidimensional continued fraction algorithm** to the line in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  directed by a given vector  $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2, u_3)$
- We then associate with the **matrices** produced by the algorithm substitutions, with these **substitutions** having the matrices produced by the continued fraction algorithm as **incidence matrices**

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_0 \xleftarrow{M_1} \mathbf{u}_1 \xleftarrow{M_2} \mathbf{u}_2 \xleftarrow{M_3} \dots \xleftarrow{M_k} \mathbf{u}_k$$

$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{w}_0 \xleftarrow{\sigma_1} \mathbf{w}_1 \xleftarrow{\sigma_2} \mathbf{w}_2 \xleftarrow{\sigma_3} \dots \xleftarrow{\sigma_k} \mathbf{w}_k \in \{1, 2, 3\}$$

$$\mathbf{u} = M_1 \cdots M_k \mathbf{u}_k$$

## Applying Brun algorithm on (7, 4, 6)

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\
 (7, 4, 6) \xleftarrow{\quad} (1, 4, 6) \xleftarrow{\quad} (1, 4, 2) \xleftarrow{\quad} (1, 0, 2) \xleftarrow{\quad} (1, 0, 0) \\
 \begin{array}{cc} 1 \mapsto 1 & 1 \mapsto 1 \\ 2 \mapsto 2 & 2 \mapsto 23 \\ 3 \mapsto 13 & 3 \mapsto 3 \end{array} & & \begin{array}{cc} 1 \mapsto 1 & 1 \mapsto 1 \\ 2 \mapsto 2 & 2 \mapsto 2 \\ 3 \mapsto 223 & 3 \mapsto 3 \end{array} & & \begin{array}{cc} 1 \mapsto 133 & 1 \mapsto 133 \\ 2 \mapsto 2 & 2 \mapsto 2 \\ 3 \mapsto 3 & 3 \mapsto 3 \end{array} \\
 \mathbf{w}_0 \xleftarrow{\quad} \mathbf{w}_1 \xleftarrow{\quad} \mathbf{w}_2 \xleftarrow{\quad} \mathbf{w}_3 \xleftarrow{\quad} \mathbf{w}_4
 \end{array}$$

# Applying Brun algorithm on (7, 4, 6)

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\
 (7, 4, 6) \xleftarrow{\quad} (1, 4, 6) \xleftarrow{\quad} (1, 4, 2) \xleftarrow{\quad} (1, 0, 2) \xleftarrow{\quad} (1, 0, 0) \\
 \begin{array}{cc} 1 \mapsto 1 & 1 \mapsto 1 \\ 2 \mapsto 2 & 2 \mapsto 23 \\ 3 \mapsto 13 & 3 \mapsto 3 \end{array} & & \begin{array}{cc} 1 \mapsto 1 & 1 \mapsto 1 \\ 2 \mapsto 2 & 2 \mapsto 2 \\ 3 \mapsto 223 & 3 \mapsto 3 \end{array} & & \begin{array}{cc} 1 \mapsto 133 & 1 \mapsto 133 \\ 2 \mapsto 2 & 2 \mapsto 2 \\ 3 \mapsto 3 & 3 \mapsto 3 \end{array} \\
 \mathbf{w}_0 \xleftarrow{\quad} \mathbf{w}_1 \xleftarrow{\quad} \mathbf{w}_2 \xleftarrow{\quad} \mathbf{w}_3 \xleftarrow{\quad} \mathbf{w}_4
 \end{array}$$

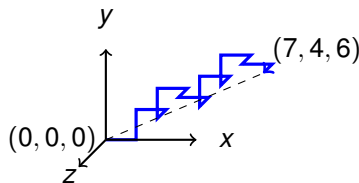
$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{w}_0 = 12132131321321313$$



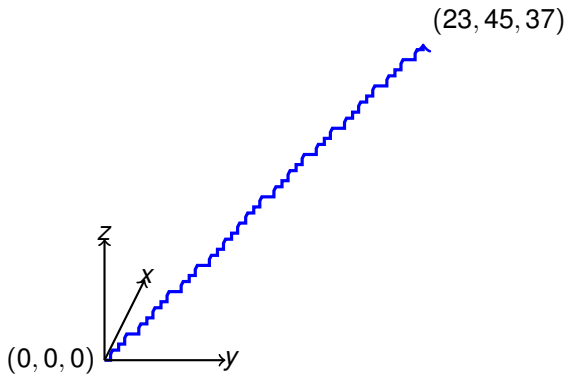
# Applying Brun algorithm on (7, 4, 6)

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} & & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\
 (7, 4, 6) \xleftarrow{\quad} (1, 4, 6) \xleftarrow{\quad} (1, 4, 2) \xleftarrow{\quad} (1, 0, 2) \xleftarrow{\quad} (1, 0, 0) \\
 \begin{array}{cc} 1 \mapsto 1 & 1 \mapsto 1 \\ 2 \mapsto 2 & 2 \mapsto 23 \\ 3 \mapsto 13 & 3 \mapsto 3 \end{array} & & \begin{array}{cc} 1 \mapsto 1 & 1 \mapsto 1 \\ 2 \mapsto 2 & 2 \mapsto 2 \\ 3 \mapsto 223 & 3 \mapsto 3 \end{array} & & \begin{array}{cc} 1 \mapsto 133 & 1 \mapsto 133 \\ 2 \mapsto 2 & 2 \mapsto 2 \\ 3 \mapsto 3 & 3 \mapsto 3 \end{array} \\
 \mathbf{w}_0 \xleftarrow{\quad} \mathbf{w}_1 \xleftarrow{\quad} \mathbf{w}_2 \xleftarrow{\quad} \mathbf{w}_3 \xleftarrow{\quad} \mathbf{w}_4
 \end{array}$$

$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{w}_0 = 12132131321321313$$



## Applying Brun algorithm on $(23, 45, 37)$



# Brun

En cours Linear complexity for  $S$ -adic Brun words  
[Labbé-Leroy]

Theorem [Delecroix, Hejda, Steiner]

- For almost every  $f \in \mathbb{R}_3^+$  the Brun word with frequency vector  $f$  is finitely balanced
- There exist (uncountably many) Brun words that are not finitely balanced

Theorem [B.-Steiner-Thuswaldner]

- For almost every  $(\alpha, \beta) \in [0, 1]^2$ , the  $S$ -adic system associated with the Brun multidimensional continued fraction algorithm of  $(\alpha, \beta)$  is measurably conjugate to the translation by  $(\alpha, \beta)$  on the torus  $\mathbb{T}^2$

Proof Based on

- “adic IFS”
- and finiteness results. Finite products of Brun substitutions have discrete spectrum [B.-Bourdon-Jolivet-Siegel]