

# Exponential Bases for Partitions of Intervals.

David Walnut  
Department of Mathematical Sciences  
George Mason University  
Fairfax, VA USA

Joint work with: S. Revay (Novetta and GMU) and  
G. Pfander (Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)

FFT Online, 27 September 2021

- 1 Motivation: Riesz Bases of Exponentials
- 2 Basis Extraction/Complementation
- 3 Main Results
- 4 One Interval: Extracting a Basis
- 5 Two Intervals: Beatty-Fraenkel Sequences.
- 6 Three or more intervals: Calculus of Avdonin Maps

# Orthogonal Bases of Exponentials

## Definition

Given a countable set  $\Lambda \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ , define  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  to be the exponential system

$$\mathcal{E}(\Lambda) = \{e_\lambda(t) : \lambda \in \Lambda\} = \{e^{2\pi i \langle \lambda, t \rangle} : \lambda \in \Lambda\}.$$

## Theorem

$\mathcal{E}(\mathbb{Z}^d)$  is an orthonormal basis for  $L^2[0, 1]^d$ .  $f \in L^2[0, 1]^d$  can be written

$$f(t) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \langle f, e_n \rangle e_n(t).$$

# Orthogonal Bases of Exponentials

We will be working in  $d = 1$  with the following easy variant.

## Theorem

Given  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $a > 0$ . Then with  $\Lambda = \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \alpha}{a}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  is an orthogonal basis for  $L^2(I)$  where  $I$  is any interval with  $|I| = a$ .

What is most important here is the *length* of the interval, and less so the interval itself.

# Existence of Orthogonal Bases of Exponentials

- Fundamental Question: Given a domain  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ , does there exist a countable set  $\Lambda$  such that  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  is an orthogonal basis for  $L^2(\Omega)$ ?
- Fuglede (1974) conjectured the following: *A domain  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  admits an orthogonal basis of the form  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  if and only if  $\Omega$  tiles  $\mathbb{R}^d$  by  $\Lambda$ , that is,*
  - $(\Omega + \lambda) \cap (\Omega + \lambda') = \emptyset$ , a.e. if  $\lambda, \lambda'$  are distinct elements of  $\Lambda$ ,
  - $\mathbb{R}^d = \bigcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda} (\Omega + \lambda)$ .

# Existence of Orthogonal Bases of Exponentials

- Fuglede proved that the conjecture held for  $\Omega$  a fundamental domain for a lattice  $\Lambda$ .
- The conjecture is false for  $d \geq 5$  (Tao, 2004), for  $d = 4$  (Matolcsi, 2005), and for  $d = 3$  (Matolcsi, Koulountzakis, Balint, Mora, 2005). However, the conjecture remains unsolved in full generality for  $d = 1, 2$ .
- If  $\Omega$  is a convex body in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , then the conjecture holds in all dimensions. (Lev, Matolcsi, 2019).

By passing from an orthogonal to a non-orthogonal basis, we open up new possibilities.

## Definition

A Riesz basis of a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  is the image of an orthonormal basis under a bounded, invertible operator on  $\mathcal{H}$ .

## Theorem

Given  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  is a Riesz basis of  $L^2(\Omega)$  if and only if

- (1)  $\overline{\text{span}} \mathcal{E}(\Lambda) = L^2(\Omega)$  and
- (2) for some  $0 < A, B < \infty$  and every  $\{c_\lambda\} \in \ell^2(\Lambda)$ ,

$$A \sum_{\lambda} |c_\lambda|^2 \leq \int_{\Omega} \left| \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} c_\lambda e^{2\pi i \langle \lambda, x \rangle} \right|^2 dx \leq B \sum_{\lambda} |c_\lambda|^2$$

## Theorem

For a Riesz basis  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  of  $L^2(\Omega)$  exists  $\{g_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$  so that for all  $f \in L^2(\Omega)$  we have

$$f(x) \stackrel{L^2}{=} \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \langle f, g_\lambda \rangle e^{2\pi i \lambda x}$$

## Theorem (Kadec 1/4-theorem)

For  $\varphi : \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \alpha}{a} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}(\text{Range}(\varphi))$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2(I)$  for any interval  $I$  with  $|I| = a$  if

$$\sup_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \left| \varphi\left(\frac{k+\alpha}{a}\right) - \frac{k+\alpha}{a} \right| < \frac{1}{4a}.$$



# Fundamental Questions on Riesz Bases

- Given a domain  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ , does there exist a countable set  $\Lambda$  such that  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2(\Omega)$ ?
- There is no  $\Omega$  for which such a Riesz basis is known not to exist.
- In relatively few cases is it known how to construct such a basis.

## Theorem

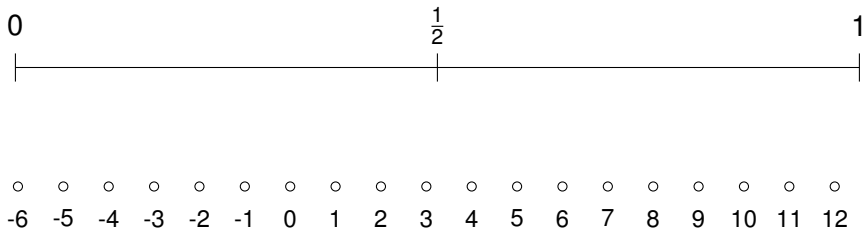
*Let  $\{I_1, I_2, \dots, I_n\}$  be a collection of disjoint subintervals of  $[0, 1]$ . Then there exists  $\Lambda \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2(I_1 \cup I_2 \cup \dots \cup I_n)$ .*

In the paper the authors recount an imaginary conversation with a graduate student who asks: *Why not just find sets  $\Lambda_k$  such that  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda_k)$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2(I_k)$ , and let*

$$\Lambda = \Lambda_1 \cup \Lambda_2 \cup \dots \cup \Lambda_n?$$

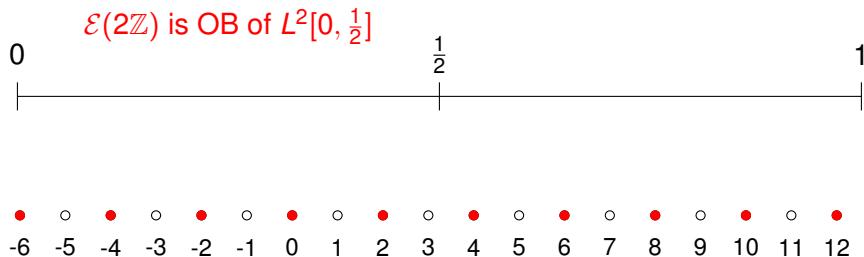
# Are unions of Riesz bases Riesz bases of unions?

Sometimes they are.



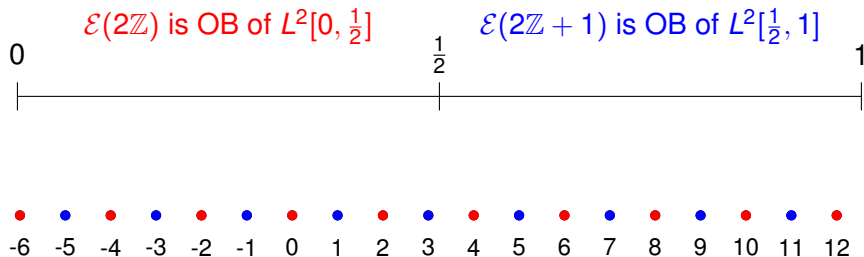
# Are unions of Riesz bases Riesz bases of unions?

Sometimes they are.



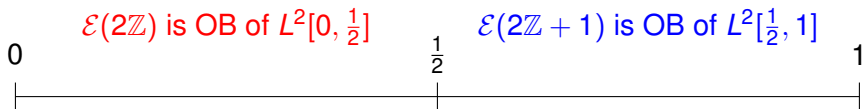
# Are unions of Riesz bases Riesz bases of unions?

Sometimes they are.



# Are unions of Riesz bases Riesz bases of unions?

Sometimes they are.



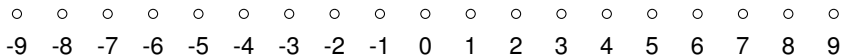
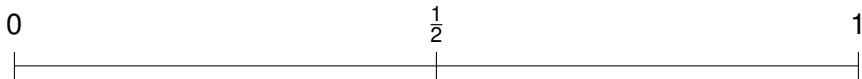
$\mathcal{E}(\mathbb{Z}) = \mathcal{E}(2\mathbb{Z} + 1) \cup \mathcal{E}(2\mathbb{Z})$  is ONB of  $L^2[0, 1]$



Sometimes they're not.

$$\Lambda_1 = \{0\} \cup \{2n - \frac{1}{4}\}_{n>0} \cup \{2n + \frac{1}{4}\}_{n<0}$$

$$\Lambda_2 = \{2n + 1 - \frac{1}{4}\}_{n>0} \cup \{2n - 1 + \frac{1}{4}\}_{n<0}$$

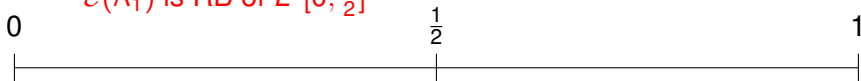


Sometimes they're not.

$$\Lambda_1 = \{0\} \cup \{2n - \frac{1}{4}\}_{n>0} \cup \{2n + \frac{1}{4}\}_{n<0}$$

$$\Lambda_2 = \{2n + 1 - \frac{1}{4}\}_{n>0} \cup \{2n - 1 + \frac{1}{4}\}_{n<0}$$

$\mathcal{E}(\Lambda_1)$  is RB of  $L^2[0, \frac{1}{2}]$

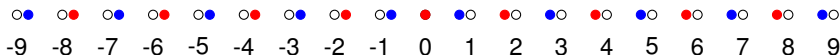
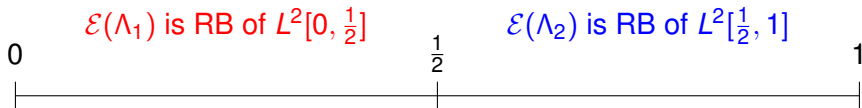




Sometimes they're not.

$$\Lambda_1 = \{0\} \cup \{2n - \frac{1}{4}\}_{n>0} \cup \{2n + \frac{1}{4}\}_{n<0}$$

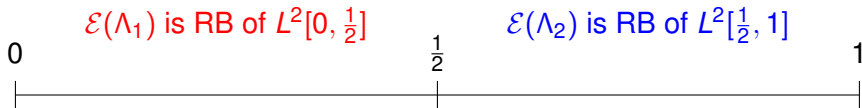
$$\Lambda_2 = \{2n + 1 - \frac{1}{4}\}_{n>0} \cup \{2n - 1 + \frac{1}{4}\}_{n<0}$$



Sometimes they're not.

$$\Lambda_1 = \{0\} \cup \{2n - \frac{1}{4}\}_{n>0} \cup \{2n + \frac{1}{4}\}_{n<0}$$

$$\Lambda_2 = \{2n + 1 - \frac{1}{4}\}_{n>0} \cup \{2n - 1 + \frac{1}{4}\}_{n<0}$$



$\mathcal{E}(\Lambda_1 \cup \Lambda_2)$  is not RB of  $L^2[0, 1]$



## Theorem (Basis extraction)

*Suppose that for  $\Lambda \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2[0, 1]$ . Then for every  $0 < \alpha < 1$  there exists  $\Lambda' \subseteq \Lambda$  such that  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda')$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2[0, \alpha]$ .*

**Question:** Is it necessarily true that  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda \setminus \Lambda')$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2[\alpha, 1]$ ?

## Theorem (Basis complementation)

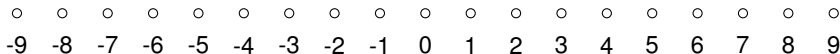
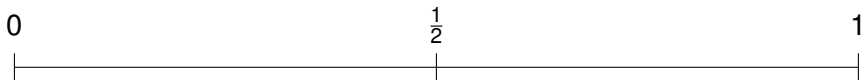
*Let  $0 < \alpha < 1$  and suppose that for  $\Lambda \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2[0, \alpha]$ . Then there exists  $\Lambda' \supseteq \Lambda$  such that  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda')$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2[0, 1]$ .*

**Question:** Is it necessarily true that  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda' \setminus \Lambda)$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2[\alpha, 1]$ ?

# Answer: No. (Dae Gwan Lee)

$$\Lambda = \{2n\}_{n \leq 0} \cup \{2n - 1 + \frac{1}{8}\}_{n > 0}$$

$\Lambda$  is a perturbation of  $\{2n - \frac{7}{16}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$

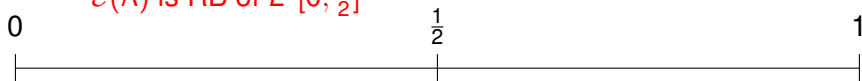


# Answer: No. (Dae Gwan Lee)

$$\Lambda = \{2n\}_{n \leq 0} \cup \{2n - 1 + \frac{1}{8}\}_{n > 0}$$

$\Lambda$  is a perturbation of  $\{2n - \frac{7}{16}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$

$\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  is RB of  $L^2[0, \frac{1}{2}]$

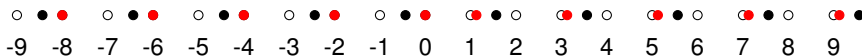
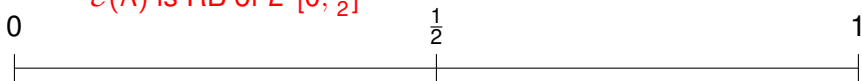


# Answer: No. (Dae Gwan Lee)

$$\Lambda = \{2n\}_{n \leq 0} \cup \{2n - 1 + \frac{1}{8}\}_{n > 0}$$

$\Lambda$  is a perturbation of  $\{2n - \frac{7}{16}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$

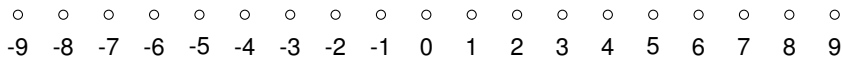
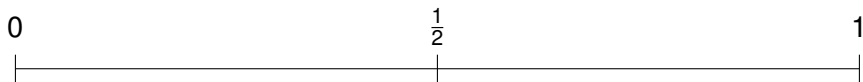
$\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  is RB of  $L^2[0, \frac{1}{2}]$



# Answer: No. (Dae Gwan Lee)

$$\Lambda = \{2n\}_{n \leq 0} \cup \{2n - 1 + \frac{1}{8}\}_{n > 0}$$

$$\Lambda^\circ = \{2n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \cup \{2n - 1 + \frac{1}{8}\}_{n > 0} \cup \{2n + 1 - \frac{1}{8}\}_{n < 0}$$



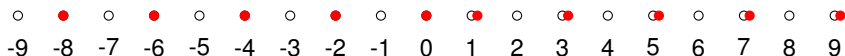
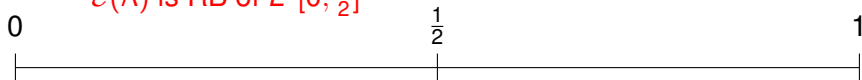


# Answer: No. (Dae Gwan Lee)

$$\Lambda = \{2n\}_{n \leq 0} \cup \{2n - 1 + \frac{1}{8}\}_{n > 0}$$

$$\Lambda^\circ = \{2n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \cup \{2n - 1 + \frac{1}{8}\}_{n > 0} \cup \{2n + 1 - \frac{1}{8}\}_{n < 0}$$

$\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  is RB of  $L^2[0, \frac{1}{2}]$

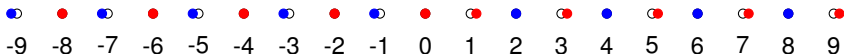
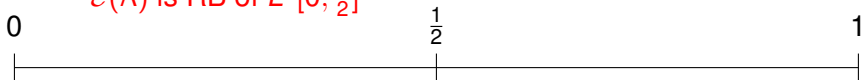


# Answer: No. (Dae Gwan Lee)

$$\Lambda = \{2n\}_{n \leq 0} \cup \{2n - 1 + \frac{1}{8}\}_{n > 0}$$

$$\Lambda^\circ = \{2n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \cup \{2n - 1 + \frac{1}{8}\}_{n > 0} \cup \{2n + 1 - \frac{1}{8}\}_{n < 0}$$

$\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  is RB of  $L^2[0, \frac{1}{2}]$

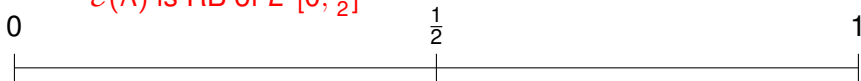


# Answer: No. (Dae Gwan Lee)

$$\Lambda = \{2n\}_{n \leq 0} \cup \{2n - 1 + \frac{1}{8}\}_{n > 0}$$

$$\Lambda^\circ = \{2n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \cup \{2n - 1 + \frac{1}{8}\}_{n > 0} \cup \{2n + 1 - \frac{1}{8}\}_{n < 0}$$

$\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  is RB of  $L^2[0, \frac{1}{2}]$



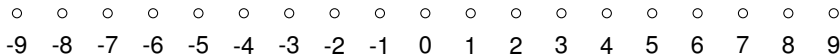
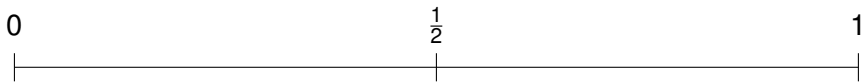
$\mathcal{E}(\Lambda^\circ)$  is RB of  $L^2[0, 1]$



# Answer: No. (Dae Gwan Lee)

$$\Lambda^\circ \setminus \Lambda = \{2n\}_{n>0} \cup \{2n + 1 - \frac{1}{8}\}_{n<0}$$

$(\Lambda^\circ \setminus \Lambda) \cup \{0\}$  is a perturbation of  $\{2n + \frac{7}{16}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$

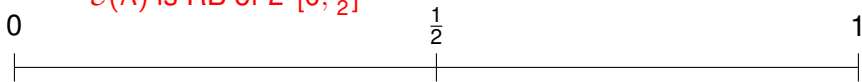


# Answer: No. (Dae Gwan Lee)

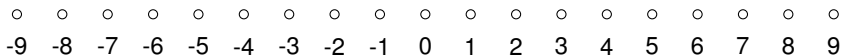
$$\Lambda^\circ \setminus \Lambda = \{2n\}_{n>0} \cup \{2n + 1 - \frac{1}{8}\}_{n<0}$$

$(\Lambda^\circ \setminus \Lambda) \cup \{0\}$  is a perturbation of  $\{2n + \frac{7}{16}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$

$\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  is RB of  $L^2[0, \frac{1}{2}]$



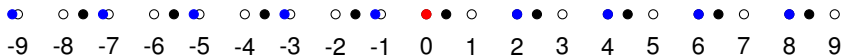
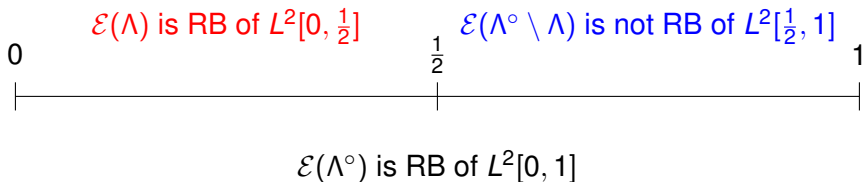
$\mathcal{E}(\Lambda^\circ)$  is RB of  $L^2[0, 1]$



# Answer: No. (Dae Gwan Lee)

$$\Lambda^\circ \setminus \Lambda = \{2n\}_{n>0} \cup \{2n + 1 - \frac{1}{8}\}_{n<0}$$

$(\Lambda^\circ \setminus \Lambda) \cup \{0\}$  is a perturbation of  $\{2n + \frac{7}{16}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$



The following result of Lyubarski and Seip (2001) shows that extraction is always possible.

### Theorem

*Let  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  be a Riesz basis of exponentials for  $L^2[0, 1]$ . For each  $0 < a < 1$ , there is a splitting*

$$\Lambda = \Lambda' \cup \Lambda'', \quad \Lambda' \cap \Lambda'' = \emptyset$$

*such that  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda')$  and  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda'')$  are Riesz bases for  $L^2[0, a]$  and  $L^2[a, 1]$  respectively.*

If  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  is an *orthogonal* basis, then extraction and complementation always go together.

Theorem (Meyer, Matei (2009), Bownik, Casazza, Marcus, Speegle (2016))

*Let  $S \subseteq [0, 1]$  and suppose that for some  $\Lambda \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2(S)$ . Then  $\mathcal{E}(\mathbb{Z} \setminus \Lambda)$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2([0, 1] \setminus S)$ .*

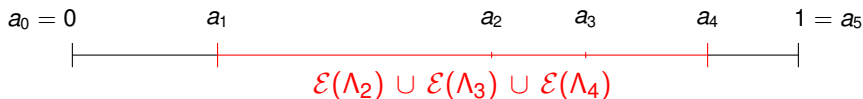
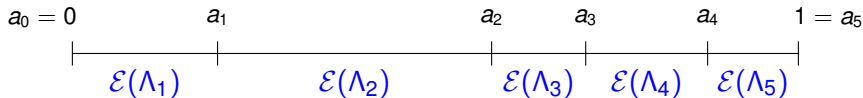
Interestingly, Lee's example seems to show that the assumption of orthogonality cannot be weakened.



# Main Results

## Theorem (Pfander, Revay, DW 2018)

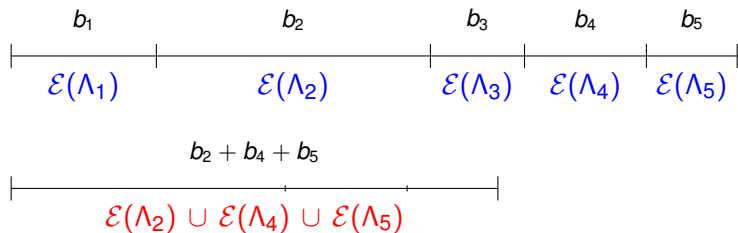
Given a partition  $0 = a_0 < a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_n = 1$  of  $[0, 1]$ , there exists a partition of  $\mathbb{Z}$  into  $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_n$  such that for each  $k$ ,  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda_k)$  is a Riesz basis of  $L^2[a_{k-1}, a_k]$ . In addition  $\bigcup_{r=k}^{\ell} \mathcal{E}(\Lambda_r)$  is a Riesz basis of  $L^2[a_{k-1}, a_{\ell}]$ .



# Main Results

## Theorem (Pfander, Revay, DW 2018)

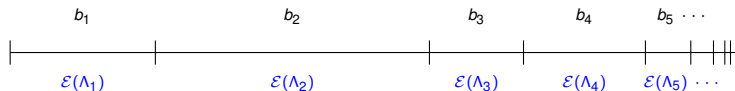
Let  $b_1, \dots, b_n > 0$  with  $\sum_{j=1}^n b_j = 1$ . Then there exist pairwise disjoint sets  $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_n \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $\bigcup_{j=1}^n \Lambda_j = \mathbb{Z}$  and for any  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ ,  $\bigcup_{j \in J} \mathcal{E}(\Lambda_j)$  is a Riesz basis for any interval of length  $\sum_{j \in J} b_j$ .



# Main Results

## Theorem (Pfander, Revay, DW 2018)

Let  $b_1, b_2, \dots > 0$  with  $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} b_j = 1$  and  $K \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then there exist pairwise disjoint sets  $\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2, \dots \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$  such that for any  $J \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  with  $|J| \leq K$  or  $|\mathbb{N} \setminus J| \leq K$ ,  $\bigcup_{j \in J} \mathcal{E}(\Lambda_j)$  is a Riesz basis for any interval of length  $\sum_{j \in J} b_j$ .



# Avdonin “Average 1/4 Theorem”

## Theorem (Avdonin 1974)

For  $\varphi : \frac{\mathbb{Z}+\alpha}{a} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  injective with separated range,  $\mathcal{E}(\text{Range}(\varphi))$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2[0, a]$  if there exists  $R > 0$  such that

$$\sup_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} \left| \frac{1}{R} \sum_{\frac{k+\alpha}{a} \in [mR, (m+1)R)} \varphi\left(\frac{k+\alpha}{a}\right) - \frac{k+\alpha}{a} \right| < \frac{1}{4a}.$$

- Says essentially that if a separated set  $\Lambda$  is “on average” close to a set whose exponentials form a Riesz basis for  $L^2(I)$  ( $I$  an interval), then  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  is also a Riesz basis for  $L^2(I)$ .
- The above is not the most general statement of the theorem, but is more than good enough for our purposes.

## Definition (Avdonin map)

Let  $\epsilon, a > 0$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ . An injective map  $\varphi: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \alpha}{a} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with separated range is an  $\epsilon$ -Avdonin map for  $\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \alpha}{a}$  if for all  $R > 0$  sufficiently large,

$$\sup_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} \left| \frac{1}{R} \sum_{\frac{k+\alpha}{a} \in [mR, (m+1)R)} \varphi\left(\frac{k+\alpha}{a}\right) - \left(\frac{k+\alpha}{a}\right) \right| < \epsilon. \quad (1)$$

## Theorem

If  $\varphi$  is an  $\epsilon$ -Avdonin map for  $\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \alpha}{a}$  with  $\epsilon \leq 1/4$ , then  $\mathcal{E}(\text{Range}(\varphi))$  is a Riesz basis of exponentials for  $L^2(I)$  for any interval  $I$  with  $|I| = a$ .

# One interval (Weyl-Khinchin Theorem)

Our first goal is to prove the following theorem.

**Theorem (Avdonin 1991, Seip 1995)**

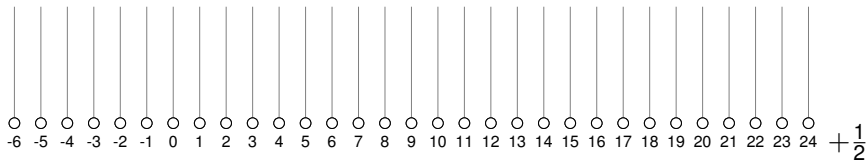
*Given  $0 < a \leq 1$ , there exists  $\Lambda \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda)$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2[0, a]$ .*

- $a$  irrational is the interesting case.
- We know that if  $\Gamma = \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{a}$ , then  $\mathcal{E}(\Gamma)$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2[0, a]$ .
- Round each element of  $\Gamma$  to the nearest element of  $\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}$ . For any  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , this is just  $\lfloor x \rfloor + \frac{1}{2}$ .

Look at  $a = \sqrt{2}/2$ .



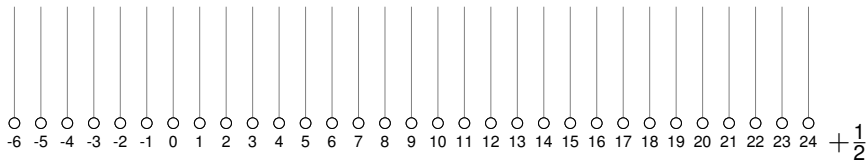
$$\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{a} = \sqrt{2}\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$



Look at  $a = \sqrt{2}/2$ .

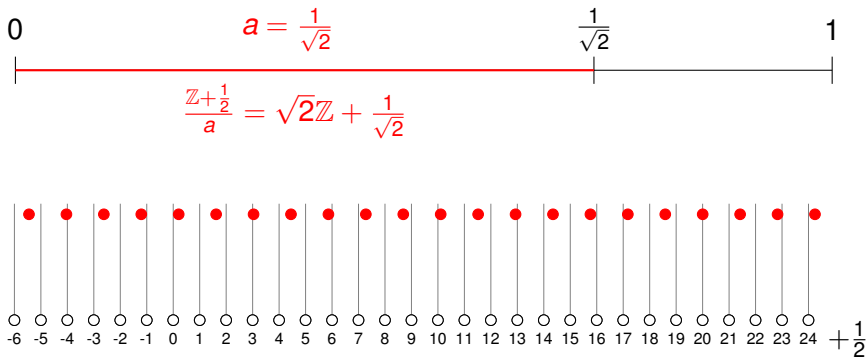


$$\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{a} = \sqrt{2}\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

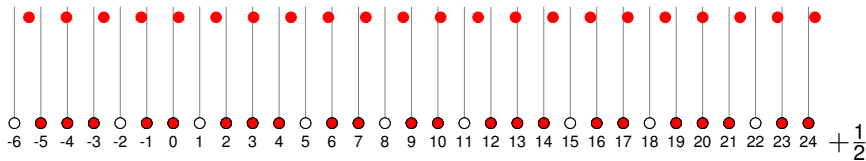
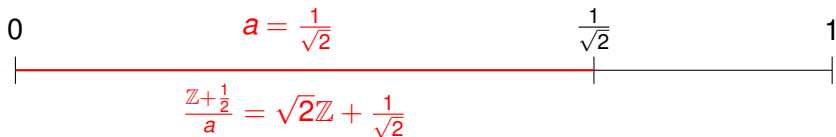




Look at  $a = \sqrt{2}/2$ .



Look at  $a = \sqrt{2}/2$ .



What is the “average perturbation”?

### Theorem (Weyl Equidistribution Theorem)

*Given  $\alpha$  irrational,*

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{R} \sum_{k=1}^R k \alpha \pmod{1} = \frac{1}{2}$$

This is not quite what we want.

## Theorem (Weyl-Khinchin)

Let  $a$  irrational and  $\epsilon > 0$ . Then for all  $R$  sufficiently large,

$$\sup_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} \left| \frac{1}{R} \sum_{k=mR}^{(m+1)R-1} \frac{k + \frac{1}{2}}{a} \bmod 1 - \frac{1}{2} \right| < \epsilon.$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \frac{1}{R} \sum_{k=mR}^{(m+1)R-1} \frac{k + \frac{1}{2}}{a} \bmod 1 - \frac{1}{2} \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{1}{R} \sum_{k=mR}^{(m+1)R-1} \frac{k + \frac{1}{2}}{a} - \left( \left\lfloor \frac{k + \frac{1}{2}}{a} \right\rfloor_{\mathbb{Z}} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \right| < \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently,

$$\varphi: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{a} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

given by

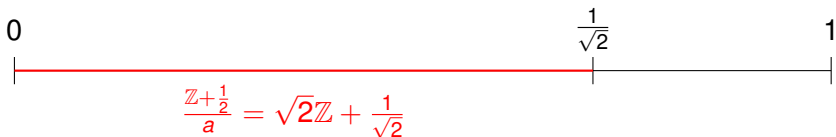
$$\varphi\left(\frac{k + \frac{1}{2}}{a}\right) = \left\lfloor \frac{k + \frac{1}{2}}{a} \right\rfloor_{\mathbb{Z}} + \frac{1}{2}$$

is an  $\epsilon$ -Aldonin map, *for every*  $\epsilon > 0$ .

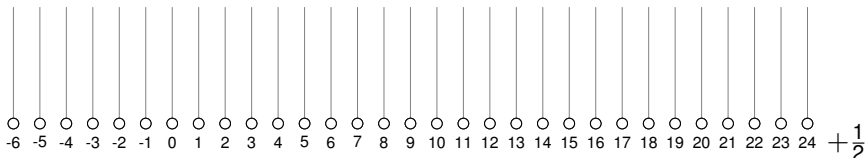
Taking  $\epsilon \leq \frac{1}{4a}$  gives the result.

# Two Intervals

In our previous example, look what happens when we also consider the interval  $[a, 1]$ .

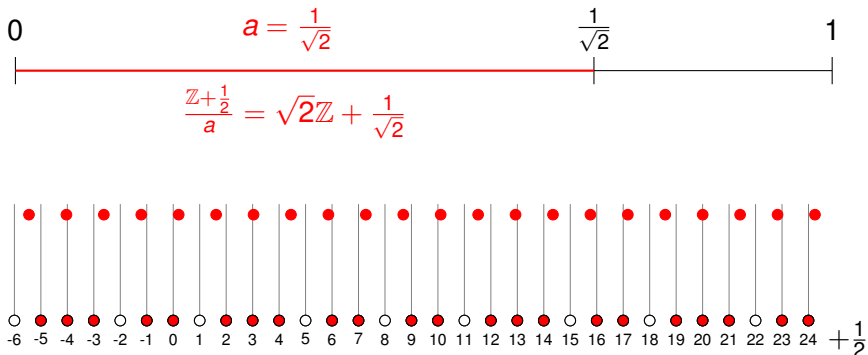


$$\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{a} = \sqrt{2}\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$



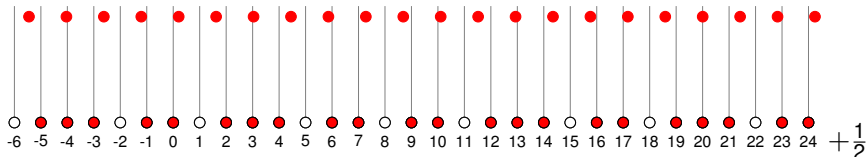
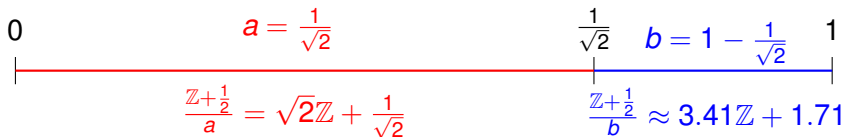
# Two Intervals

In our previous example, look what happens when we also consider the interval  $[a, 1]$ .



# Two Intervals

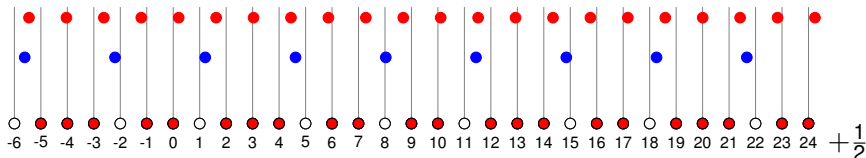
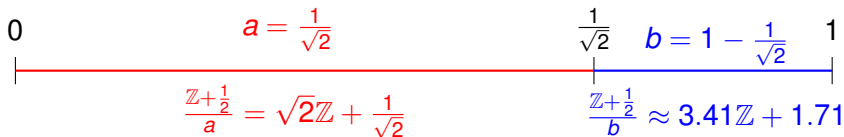
In our previous example, look what happens when we also consider the interval  $[a, 1]$ .





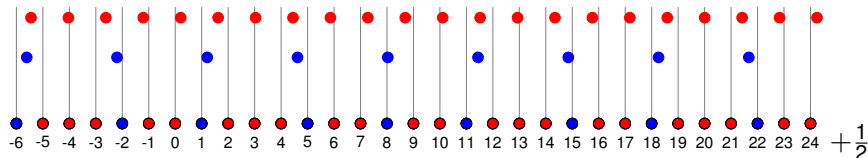
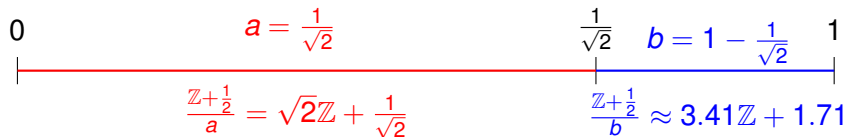
# Two Intervals

In our previous example, look what happens when we also consider the interval  $[a, 1]$ .



# Two Intervals

In our previous example, look what happens when we also consider the interval  $[a, 1]$ .



# Beatty sequences

## Theorem

For  $a, b$  irrational with  $a + b = 1$ , the sets  $\mathcal{A} = \left\{ \left\lfloor \frac{k}{a} \right\rfloor \right\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  and  $\mathcal{B} = \left\{ \left\lfloor \frac{k}{b} \right\rfloor \right\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  partition  $\mathbb{N}$ .

## Proof.

Clearly  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  can never coincide.

Given  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $|\mathcal{A} \cap [0, N)| = \lfloor aN \rfloor$  and  $|\mathcal{B} \cap [0, N)| = \lfloor bN \rfloor$

$$aN - 1 < \lfloor aN \rfloor < aN, \quad \text{and} \quad bN - 1 < \lfloor bN \rfloor < bN$$

and summing

$$N - 2 = aN - 1 + bN - 1 < \lfloor aN \rfloor + \lfloor bN \rfloor < aN + bN = N.$$

Hence  $|(\mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{B}) \cap [0, N)| = N - 1$ . □

- Beatty sequences arose as a solution to a problem posed in the Mathematical Monthly in 1926, but were known and mentioned in the nineteenth century by Lord Rayleigh in relation to the study of sound waves.
- In 1969, Fraenkel considered sequences of the form  $\{\lfloor n\alpha + \gamma \rfloor : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  which he referred to as *inhomogeneous Beatty sequences*. It is his results that we need here.

### Theorem (Beatty-Fraenkel)

Let  $a, b$  irrational with  $a + b = 1$ . Then the sets  $\left\{ \left\lfloor \frac{k + \frac{1}{2}}{a} \right\rfloor \right\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$   
 and  $\left\{ \left\lfloor \frac{\ell + \frac{1}{2}}{b} \right\rfloor \right\}_{\ell \in \mathbb{Z}}$  partition  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

## Combining Beatty-Fraenkel and Weyl-Khinchin:

### Theorem (Pfander, Revay, DW, 2018)

Given  $a, b > 0$ , there exist injective maps

$$\varphi: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{a} \longrightarrow \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{a+b}, \quad \psi: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b} \longrightarrow \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{a+b}$$

such that

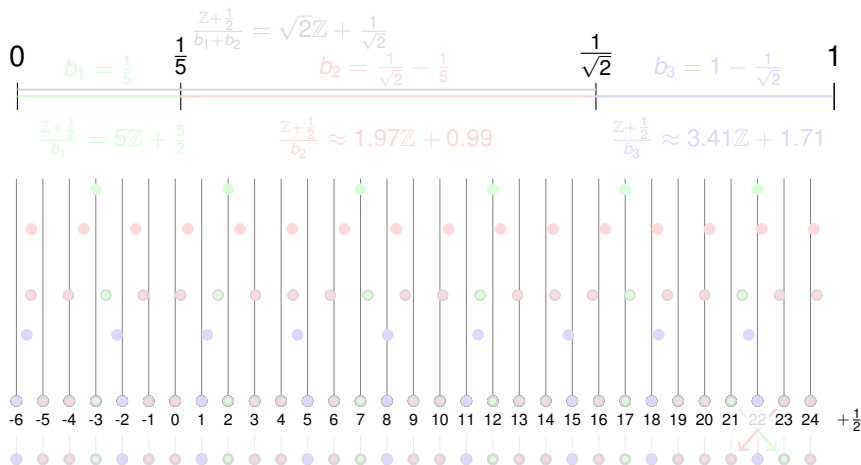
- (1)  $\text{Range}(\varphi)$  and  $\text{Range}(\psi)$  partition  $\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{a+b}$ ,
- (2) for every  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  are  $\epsilon$ -Avdonin maps for  $\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{a}$  and  $\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b}$  (resp.).

- By Beatty-Fraenkel, (1) is satisfied with

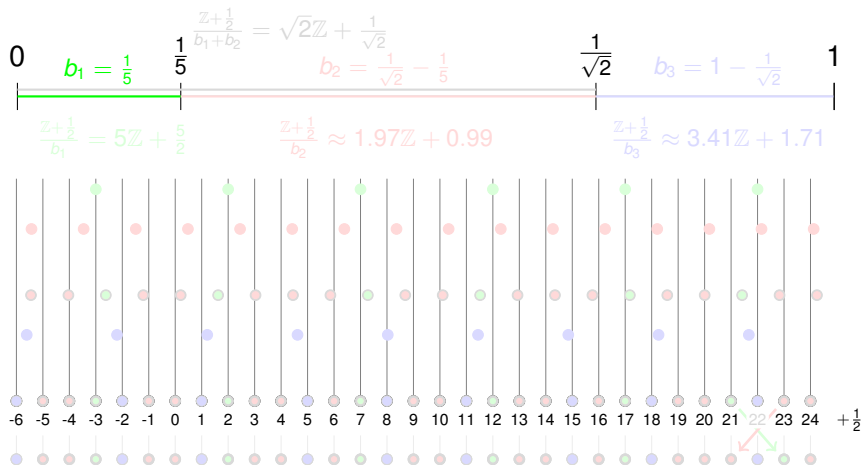
$$\varphi\left(\frac{k + \frac{1}{2}}{a}\right) = \left\lfloor \frac{k + \frac{1}{2}}{a} \right\rfloor + \frac{1}{2}, \quad \psi\left(\frac{k + \frac{1}{2}}{b}\right) = \left\lfloor \frac{k + \frac{1}{2}}{b} \right\rfloor + \frac{1}{2}$$

- Since both Range ( $\varphi$ ) and Range ( $\psi$ ) come from rounding, Weyl-Khinchin implies that the average perturbation from the lattices  $\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{a}$  and  $\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b}$  can be made as small as desired. This is (2).
- Taking  $a + b = 1$  gives the partition result for two intervals.

# Three intervals

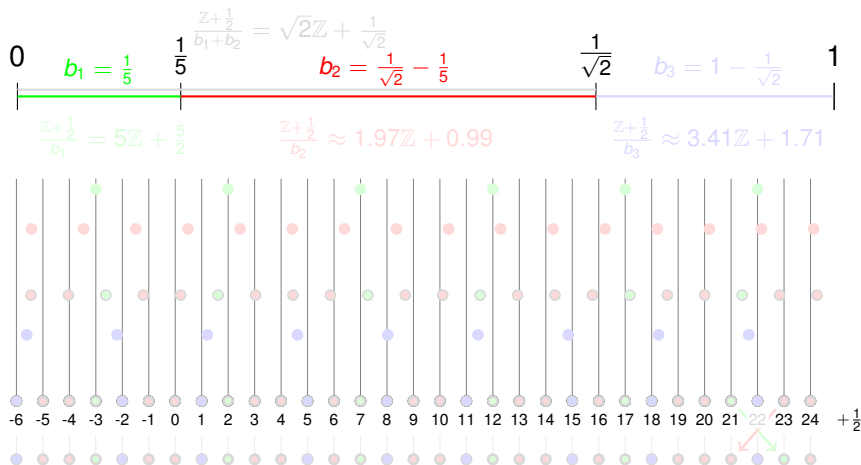


# Three intervals

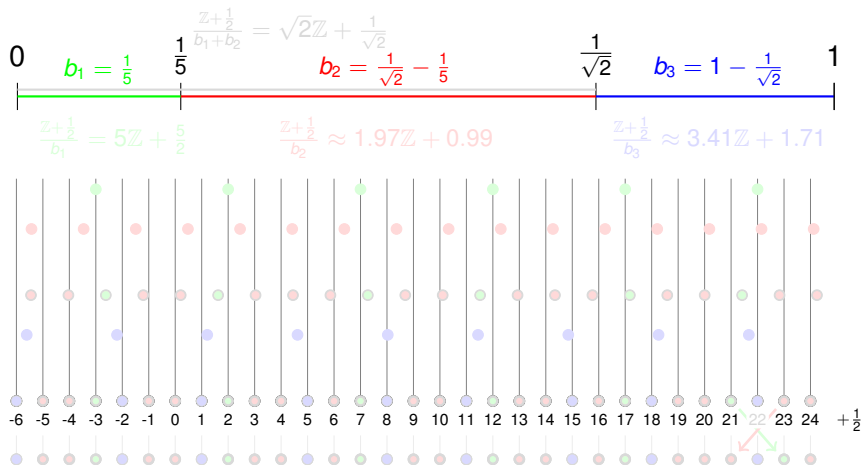




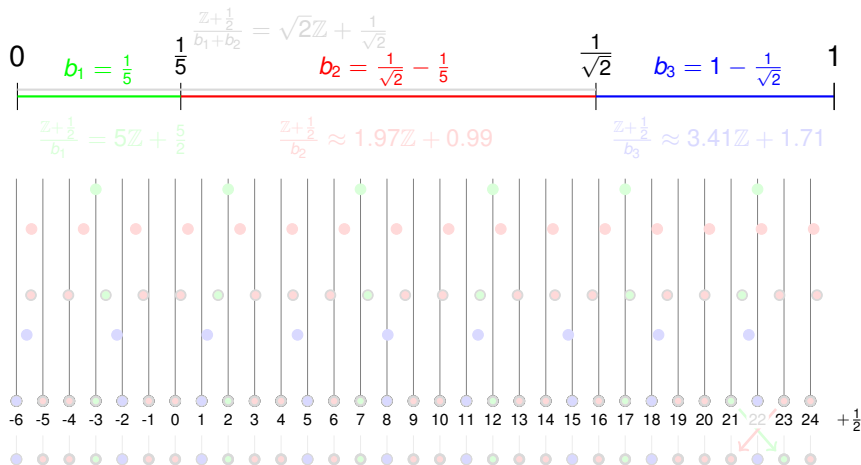
# Three intervals



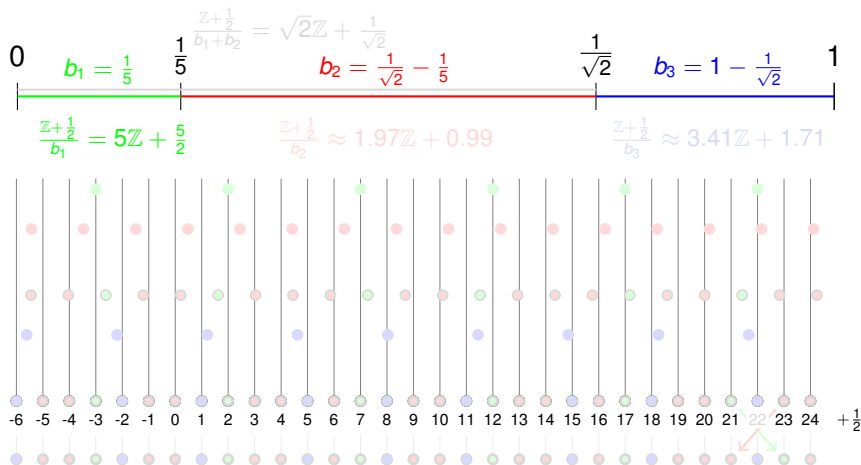
# Three intervals



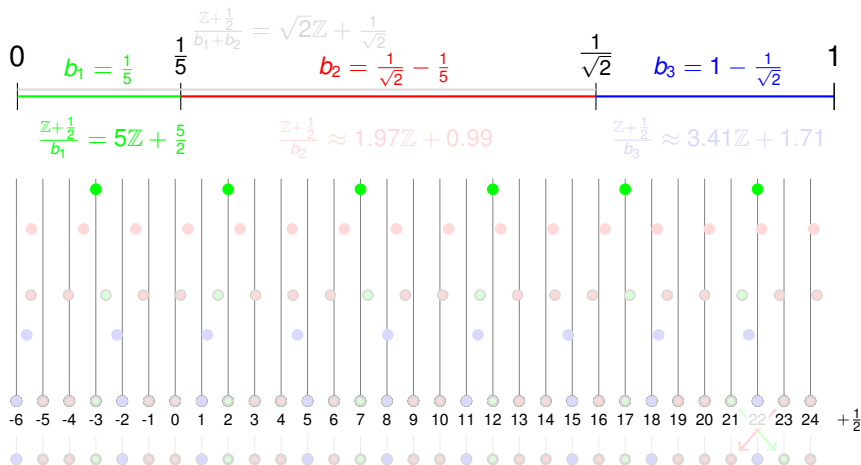
# Three intervals



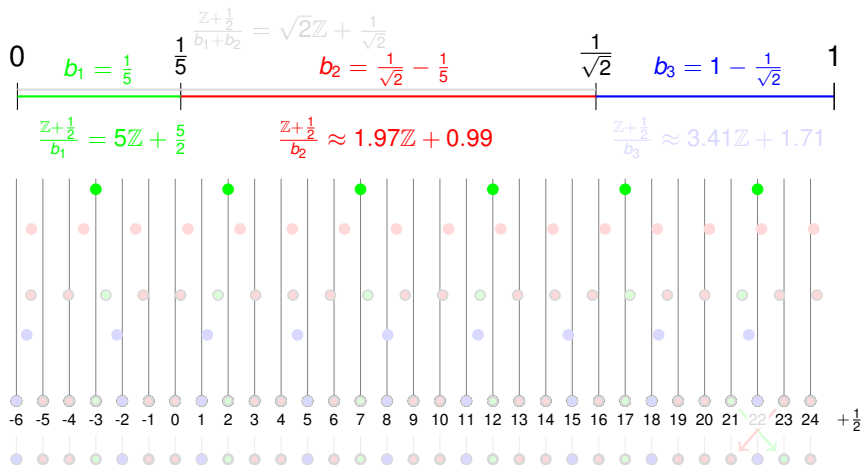
# Three intervals



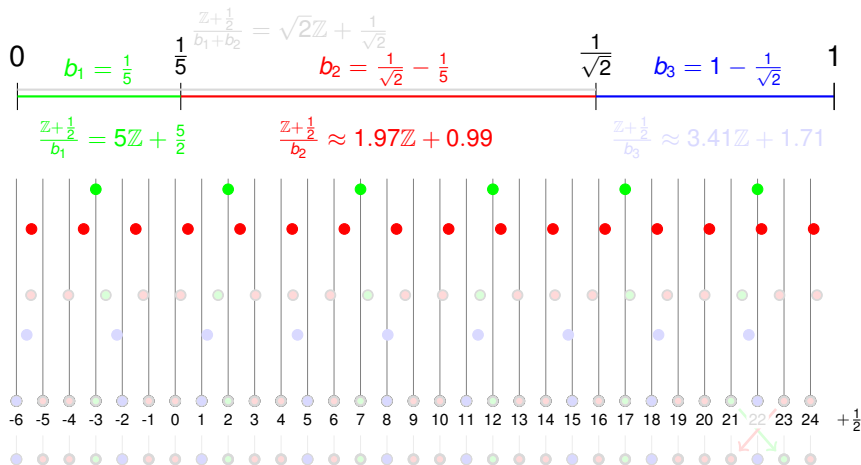
# Three intervals



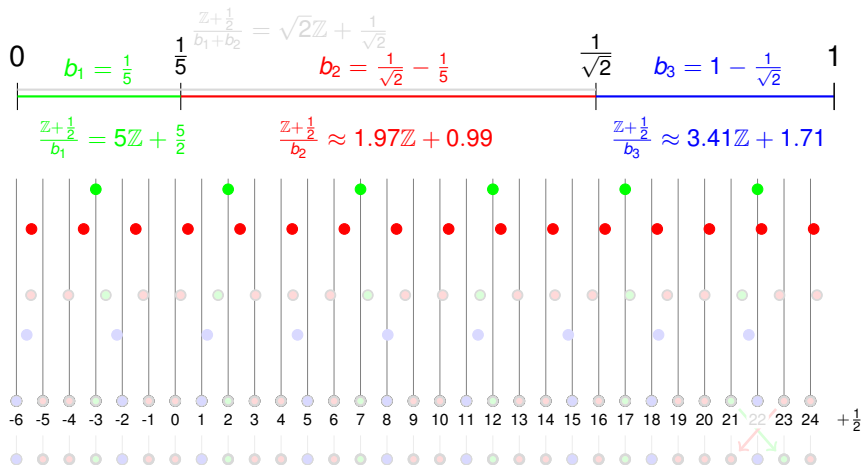
# Three intervals



# Three intervals

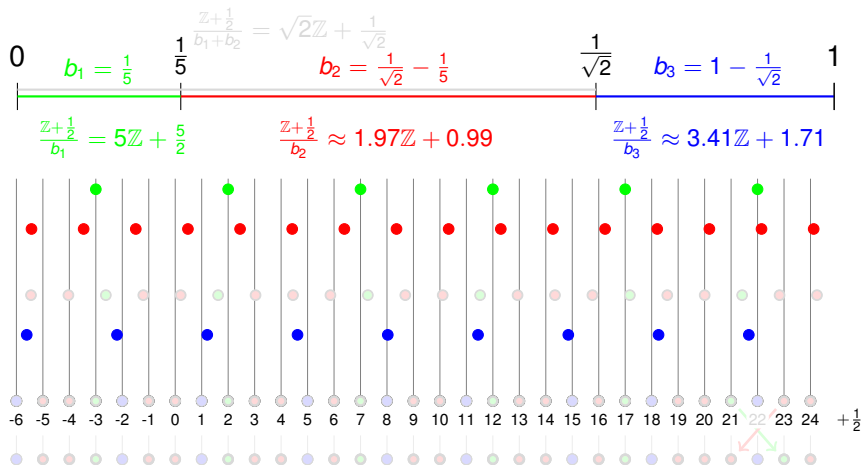


# Three intervals

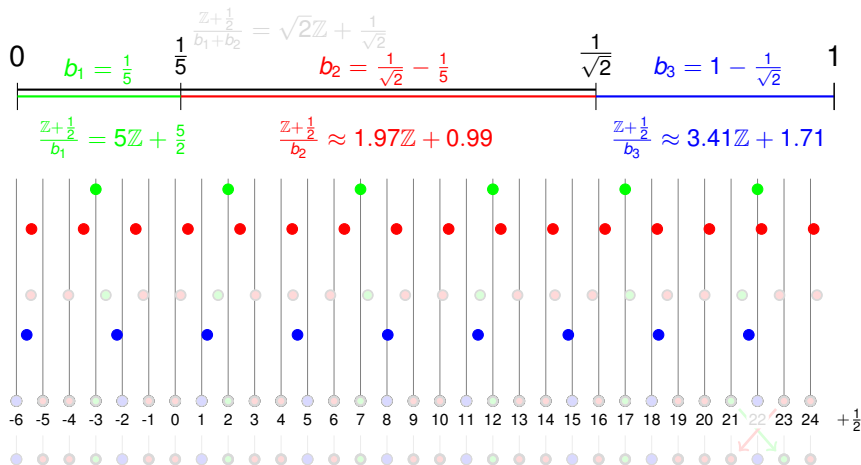




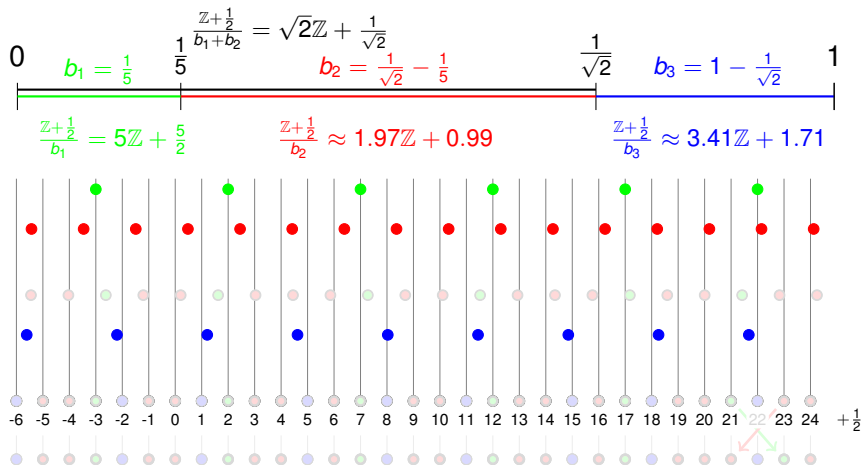
# Three intervals



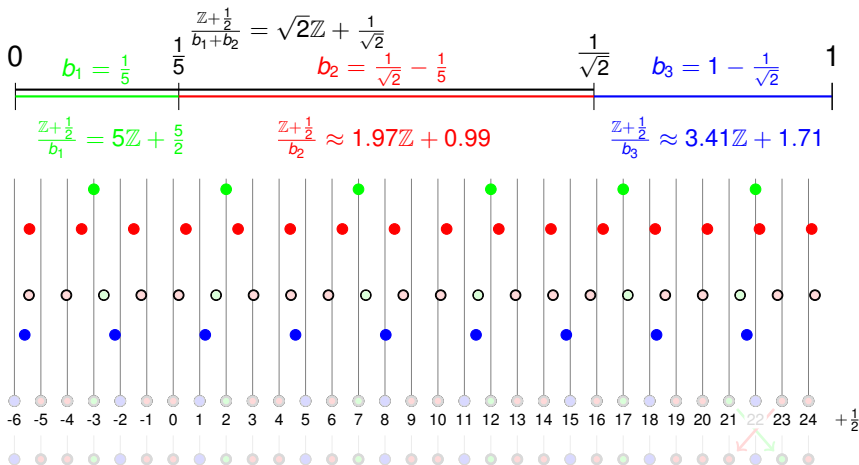
# Three intervals



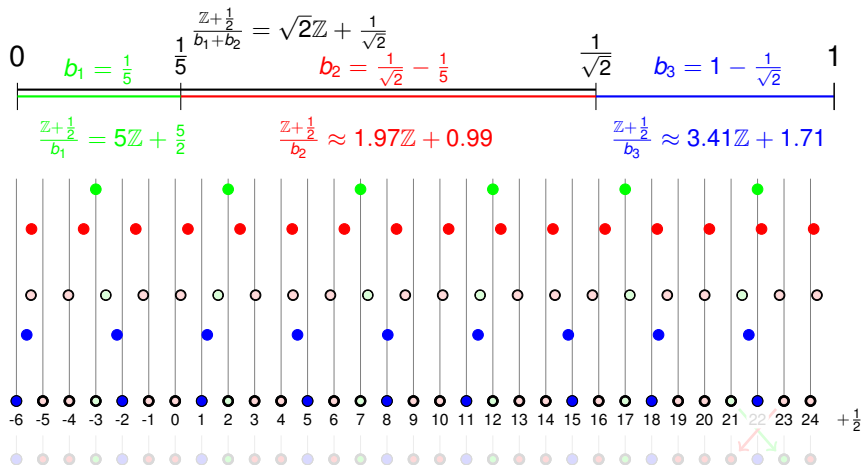
# Three intervals



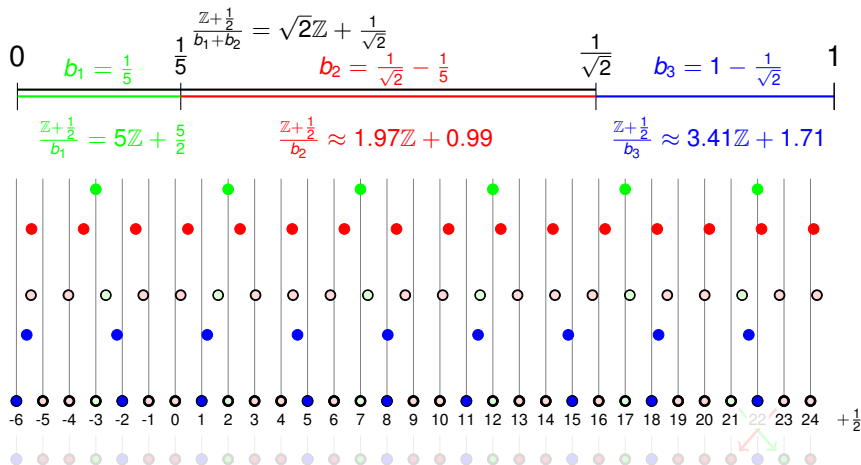
# Three intervals



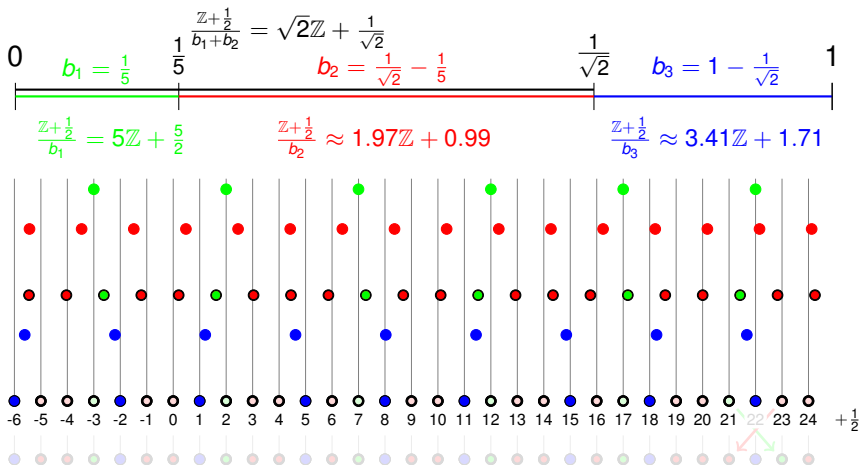
# Three intervals



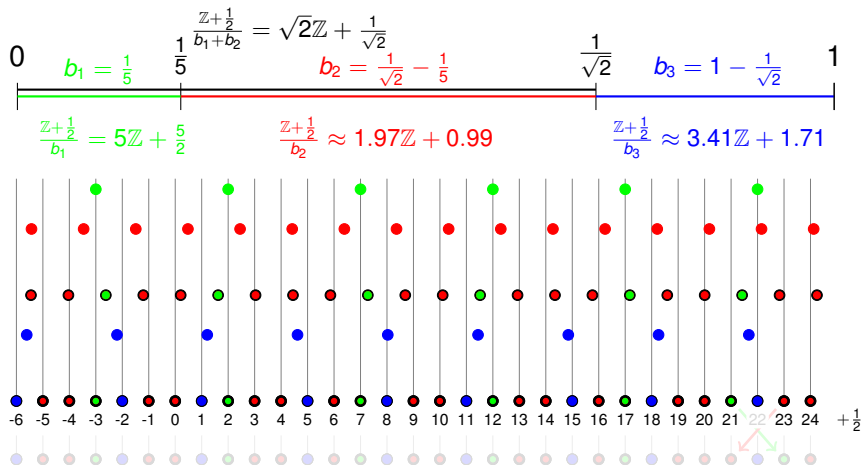
# Three intervals



# Three intervals

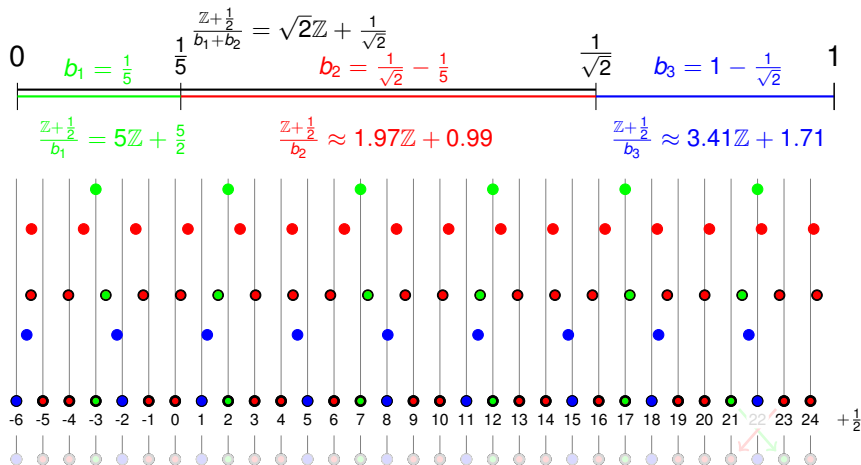


# Three intervals

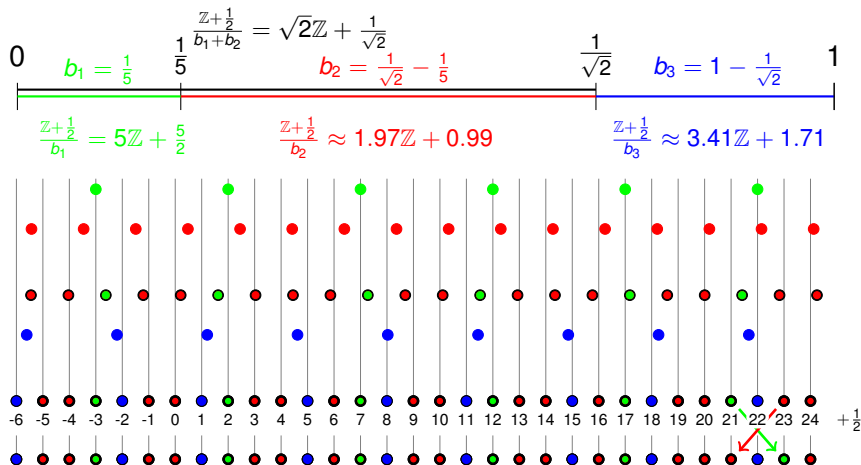




# Three intervals



# Three intervals



- By working inductively, we can obtain a partition of  $\mathbb{Z}$  into three sets.
- However, there is no guarantee that the mappings so defined satisfy Avdonin's Theorem
- To get around this, we deploy a *calculus of Avdonin maps*.

# Three or more intervals

## Lemma

Suppose that there exist injective maps

$$\widehat{\varphi}: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_1} \rightarrow \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_1 + b_2}, \quad \widehat{\psi}: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_2} \rightarrow \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_1 + b_2}, \quad \sigma: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_1 + b_2} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}$$

such that

- $\text{Range}(\widehat{\varphi}) \dot{\cup} \text{Range}(\widehat{\psi}) = \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_1 + b_2}$
- $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  are  $\delta$ -Avdonin maps for  $\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_1}$  and  $\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_2}$  (resp.), and
- $\sigma$  is an  $\epsilon$ -Avdonin map for  $\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_1 + b_2}$ .

Then  $\widehat{\varphi}, \widehat{\psi}$  can be locally modified to  $\varphi, \psi$  so that in addition  $\sigma \circ \varphi$  and  $\sigma \circ \psi$  are  $(\epsilon + 3\delta)$ -Avdonin maps.

# Partitioning into three intervals

- Suppose that we are given  $b_1, b_2, b_3 > 0$  so that  $b_1 + b_2 + b_3 = 1$ .
- We can define  $\epsilon$ -Avdonin maps

$$\varphi_1: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_1} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}, \quad \psi_1: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_2 + b_3} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}$$

thereby partitioning  $\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}$  into  $\Lambda_1 = \text{Range}(\varphi_1)$  and  $\Gamma_1 = \text{Range}(\psi_1)$ .

- With  $\epsilon$  small enough, we immediately have that

$\mathcal{E}(\Lambda_1)$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2(I)$  with  $|I| = b_1$

and

$\mathcal{E}(\Gamma_1)$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2(I)$  with  $|I| = 1 - b_1 = b_2 + b_3$

- Next define  $\delta$ -Avdonin maps

$$\varphi_2: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_2} \rightarrow \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_2 + b_3}, \quad \psi_2: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_3} \rightarrow \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_2 + b_3}$$

thereby partitioning  $\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_2 + b_3}$  into  $\text{Range}(\varphi_2)$  and  $\text{Range}(\psi_2)$ .

- Applying the Lemma, we can adjust  $\varphi_2$  and  $\psi_2$  in such a way that

$$\psi_1 \circ \varphi_2: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_2} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}, \quad \psi_1 \circ \psi_2: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_3} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}$$

are  $\epsilon + 3\delta$ -Avdonin maps, and  $\Gamma_1$  is partitioned into  $\Lambda_2 = \text{Range}(\psi_1 \circ \varphi_2)$  and  $\Lambda_3 = \text{Range}(\psi_1 \circ \psi_2)$ .

- With  $\delta$  small enough, we immediately have  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda_2)$  RB for  $L^2(I)$ ,  $|I| = b_2$  and  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda_3)$  RB for  $L^2(I)$ ,  $|I| = b_3$
- $\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2, \Lambda_3$  is our desired partition.

## Theorem (Pfander, Revay, DW, 2018)

Let  $b_1, b_2, \dots > 0$  with  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} b_k = 1$ , and  $c_j = \sum_{k=j+1}^{\infty} b_k$  for  $j \in \mathbb{N}$  so that  $c_j + b_j = c_{j-1}$ . Let  $\delta > 0$  be given. Then there exist injective maps

$$\Phi_j: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_j} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}, \quad \Psi_j: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{c_j} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}$$

such that

- (a)  $\{\text{Range}(\Phi_k), \text{Range}(\Psi_j)\}_{k=1}^j$  is a partition of  $\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}$ ,
- (b)  $\{\text{Range}(\Phi_{j+1}), \text{Range}(\Psi_{j+1})\}$  is a partition of  $\text{Range}(\Psi_j)$ ,  
and
- (c)  $\Phi_j$  and  $\Psi_j$  are  $(1 - 2^{-j})\delta$ -Avdonin maps for  $\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_j}$  and  $\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{c_j}$   
(resp.)

- For each  $j$ , define maps

$$\hat{\varphi}_j : \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_j} \rightarrow \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_j + c_j} = \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{c_{j-1}},$$

$$\hat{\psi}_j : \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{c_j} \rightarrow \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_j + c_j} = \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{c_{j-1}}$$

- These can be simple rounding maps that we can take to be  $\epsilon_j$ -Avdonin maps with  $\epsilon_1 = \frac{\delta}{2}$  and  $\epsilon_j = \frac{\delta}{3 \cdot 2^j}$  if  $j \geq 2$ .



- If  $j = 1$  then  $\Phi_1 = \widehat{\varphi}_1$  and  $\Psi_1 = \widehat{\psi}_1$ .
- For  $j = 2$ , adjust the maps  $\widehat{\varphi}_2$  and  $\widehat{\psi}_2$  to  $\varphi_2$  and  $\psi_2$  so that

$$\Phi_2 = \Psi_1 \circ \varphi_2: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_2} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2},$$

$$\Psi_2 = \Psi_1 \circ \psi_2: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{c_2} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}$$

are  $\epsilon_1 + 3\epsilon_2 = (1 - \frac{1}{4})\delta$ -Avdonin maps.

- Proceed inductively.

# Combining Intervals from Partition

## Lemma

Let  $a, b > 0$  and suppose that

$$\tau: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{a} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}, \quad \text{and} \quad \eta: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}$$

are  $\epsilon$ -Avdonin maps. Then there exists a  $4\epsilon$ -Avdonin map

$$\rho: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{a+b} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}$$

such that

$$\rho\left(\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{a+b}\right) = \tau\left(\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{a}\right) \cup \eta\left(\frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b}\right).$$

## Theorem (Pfander, Revay, DW 2018)

Let  $b_1, b_2, \dots > 0$  with  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} b_k = 1$  and  $K \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then there exist pairwise disjoint sets  $\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2, \dots \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$  such that for any  $J \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  with  $|J| \leq K$ ,  $\bigcup_{j \in J} \mathcal{E}(\Lambda_j)$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2(I)$ ,  $I$  an interval with  $|I| = \sum_{j \in J} b_j$ .

- Let  $\delta = 4^{-K}$ .
- Previous theorem allows us to obtain

$$\Phi_j: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{b_j} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}$$

a  $4^{-K}$ -Avdonin map.

- Letting

$$\{\Lambda_j = \text{Range}(\Phi_j)\}_{j=1}^{\infty},$$

gives pairwise disjoint subsets of  $\mathbb{Z}$  such that  $\mathcal{E}(\Lambda_j)$  is a Riesz basis for  $L^2(I)$ ,  $I$  an interval with  $|I| = b_j$ .

- Given  $J \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  with  $|J| \leq K$ , use the Lemma to combine bases pairwise to obtain a  $4^{K-1}4^K = \frac{1}{4}$ -Avdonin map from

$$P_J: \frac{\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}{\sum_{j \in J} b_j} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}$$

- Hence

$$\bigcup_{j \in J} \mathcal{E}(\Lambda_j)$$

is a Riesz basis for  $L^2(I)$ ,  $I$  an interval with  $|I| = \sum_{j \in J} b_j$ .

- The rapid growth of the Avdonin constants makes the a priori choice of  $K \in \mathbb{N}$  necessary.