

# THE BEST QUANTITATIVE KRONECKER'S THEOREM

YONG-GAO CHEN

## ABSTRACT

The paper gives the best quantitative forms of Kronecker's theorem.

### 1. Introduction

Kronecker's classical theorem on Diophantine approximation is well known. It has two forms as follows. (The vector version is similar.)

**THEOREM A.** *Let  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$  be any given real numbers and let  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$  be real numbers which are linearly independent over the rational number field. Then for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists a real number  $t$  such that*

$$\|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\| < \varepsilon, \quad v = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

where  $\|x\|$  denotes the distance from  $x$  to the nearest integer.

**THEOREM B.** *Let  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$  be any given real numbers and let  $1, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$  be real numbers which are linearly independent over the rational number field. Then for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists an integer  $t$  such that*

$$\|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\| < \varepsilon, \quad v = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

Theorems A and B are equivalent. For a proof see Hardy and Wright [19]. Many proofs of Theorems A and B have been given [3–6, 17, 19, 21–23, 25, 26, 28–30]. Although these theorems prove the existence of a suitable  $t$ , they give no bound on how big  $t$  is (and there is no such bound in general). If the condition 'linear independent' is relaxed, then we can obtain the quantitative forms of Theorems A and B. The quantitative form of Theorem A was given by Bacon [1] in 1934, as follows.

**THEOREM A<sub>1</sub>** (H. M. Bacon [1]). *Let  $\alpha_j, \lambda_j$  ( $1 \leq j \leq n$ ) be real numbers and  $M \geq 1$ . If*

$$u_1 \lambda_1 + u_2 \lambda_2 + \dots + u_n \lambda_n = 0,$$

where  $u_j$  are integers with  $|u_1| + |u_2| + \dots + |u_n| \leq M$ , implies that  $u_1 = u_2 = \dots = u_n = 0$ , then there exists a real number  $t$  such that

$$\|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\| < \frac{c(n)}{M},$$

where

$$c(n) = \frac{1}{2}(n-1)^{3/2} \left( \frac{125}{48} \right)^{(n^3-n)/12}.$$

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The quantitative form of Theorem B has appeared in [6, 20, 21]. This can be formulated as follows (in different notations, refer to [6]).

**THEOREM B<sub>1</sub>.** *Let  $\alpha_j, \lambda_j$  ( $1 \leq j \leq n$ ) be real numbers and  $M \geq 1$ . If*

$$u_1 \lambda_1 + u_2 \lambda_2 + \dots + u_n \lambda_n$$

*is an integer, where  $u_j$  are integers with  $|u_j| \leq M$ , implies that*

$$u_1 \alpha_1 + u_2 \alpha_2 + \dots + u_n \alpha_n$$

*is an integer, then there exists an integer  $t$  such that*

$$\|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\| < \frac{((n+1)!)^2}{2^n} \frac{1}{M}, \quad v = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

Theorem A<sub>1</sub> was improved by Chen [10]. In this paper I obtain best possible results. The following two theorems are corollaries of our conclusions.

**THEOREM A<sub>2</sub>.** *Let  $\alpha_j, \lambda_j$  ( $1 \leq j \leq n$ ) be real numbers and  $M \geq 1$  be an integer. If*

$$u_1 \lambda_1 + u_2 \lambda_2 + \dots + u_n \lambda_n = 0,$$

*where  $u_j$  are integers with  $|u_j| \leq M$ , implies that*

$$u_1 \alpha_1 + u_2 \alpha_2 + \dots + u_n \alpha_n$$

*is an integer, then there exists a real number  $t$  such that*

$$\sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\|^2 < \frac{\pi^2}{16} \frac{n}{(M+1)^2}.$$

**THEOREM B<sub>2</sub>.** *Let  $\alpha_j, \lambda_j$  ( $1 \leq j \leq n$ ) be real numbers and  $M \geq 1$  be an integer. If*

$$u_1 \lambda_1 + u_2 \lambda_2 + \dots + u_n \lambda_n$$

*is an integer, where  $u_j$  are integers with  $|u_j| \leq M$ , implies that*

$$u_1 \alpha_1 + u_2 \alpha_2 + \dots + u_n \alpha_n$$

*is an integer, then there exists an integer  $t$  such that*

$$\sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\|^2 < \frac{\pi^2}{16} \frac{n}{(M+1)^2}.$$

Theorems A<sub>2</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> are tight up to a multiplicative constant independent of  $M$  and the dimension  $n$ . As we will show, for any  $n \geq 2$  and  $M \geq 1$  we may take  $\lambda_j, \alpha_j$  ( $1 \leq j \leq n$ ) satisfying the conditions of Theorem A<sub>2</sub>, but for any real number  $t$ ,

$$\sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\|^2 \geq \frac{2}{21} \frac{n}{(M+1)^2}.$$

The same is true for Theorem B<sub>2</sub>. In Section 5 we give an application to view-obstruction problems and several different quantitative forms of Kronecker's theorem.

2. Notations and the main results

In the following  $\lambda_j, \alpha_j$  are real vectors or numbers,  $\delta_j$  are positive real numbers and  $M$  is an integer with  $M \geq 1$ . Let  $\mathbf{R}$  denote the set of all real numbers and  $\mathbf{Z}$  the set of all integers.

Now  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in A^{mn}$  means that  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  are  $m$ -dimensional vectors with  $\lambda_j \in A^m$  and  $\alpha_j \in A$  ( $1 \leq j \leq n$ ).

For  $\lambda, \mathbf{t} \in A^m$  with  $\lambda = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m)$  and  $\mathbf{t} = (t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m)$ , we define

$$\lambda \mathbf{t} = a_1 t_1 + a_2 t_2 + \dots + a_m t_m.$$

$$R_{mn}(M) = \{(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbf{R}^{mn} : \text{for integers } u_j \text{ with } |u_j| \leq M \text{ (} 1 \leq j \leq n \text{), } u_1 \lambda_1 + \dots + u_n \lambda_n = 0 \text{ implies that } u_1 \alpha_1 + \dots + u_n \alpha_n \text{ is an integer}\}.$$

$$T_{mn}(M) = \{(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbf{R}^{mn} : \text{for integers } u_j \text{ with } |u_j| \leq M \text{ (} 1 \leq j \leq n \text{), } u_1 \lambda_1 + \dots + u_n \lambda_n \text{ is an integral vector implies that } u_1 \alpha_1 + \dots + u_n \alpha_n \text{ is an integer}\}.$$

$$\Lambda_1 = \Lambda_1(M, \lambda) = \min_j \{ \max_s |u_1 \lambda_{1j} + u_2 \lambda_{2j} + \dots + u_n \lambda_{nj}| : u_s \text{ are integers with } |u_s| \leq M \text{ (} 1 \leq s \leq n \text{) and } u_1 \lambda_1 + \dots + u_n \lambda_n \neq 0 \},$$

$$\Lambda_2 = \Lambda_2(M, \lambda) = \min_j \{ \max_s \|u_1 \lambda_{1j} + u_2 \lambda_{2j} + \dots + u_n \lambda_{nj}\| : u_s \text{ are integers with } |u_s| \leq M \text{ (} 1 \leq s \leq n \text{) and } u_1 \lambda_1 + \dots + u_n \lambda_n \text{ is not an integral vector} \},$$

where  $\lambda_s = (\lambda_{s1}, \lambda_{s2}, \dots, \lambda_{sm})$ ,  $s = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . If all  $\lambda_j = 0$ , let  $\Lambda_1 = 1$ . If all  $\lambda_j$  are integral vectors, let  $\Lambda_2 = 1$ .

$$S(T) = \{(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m) : T_j \leq t_j < T'_j \text{ (} 1 \leq j \leq m \text{)}\}.$$

$$\|S(T)\| = \min_j (T'_j - T_j). \quad \Delta = \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v.$$

Now we state our main results.

THEOREM 1. (i) If  $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in R_{mn}(M)$ , then

$$\inf_{t \in S(T)} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2 < \frac{\Delta}{4} \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{2(M+1)} + \frac{\Delta M^n}{4\pi \Lambda_1 \|S(T)\|}.$$

(ii) If  $T_j$  and  $T'_j$  ( $1 \leq j \leq n$ ) are integers and if  $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in T_{mn}(M)$ , then

$$\inf_{t \in S(T) \cap \mathbf{Z}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2 < \frac{\Delta}{4} \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{2(M+1)} + \frac{\Delta M^n}{8\Lambda_2 \|S(T)\|}.$$

THEOREM 2.

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{R_{mn}(M)} \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{R}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2 &= \sup_{R_{1n}(M)} \inf_{t \in \mathbf{R}} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\|^2, \\ \sup_{T_{mn}(M)} \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{Z}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2 &\geq \sup_{T_{1n}(M)} \inf_{t \in \mathbf{Z}} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

THEOREM 3. *Let  $n \geq 2$ . Then*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2}{21} \frac{n}{(M+1)^2} &\leq \sup_{R_{mn}(M)} \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{R}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2 < \frac{\pi^2}{16} \frac{n}{(M+1)^2}, \\ \frac{2}{21} \frac{n}{(M+1)^2} &\leq \sup_{T_{mn}(M)} \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{Z}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2 < \frac{\pi^2}{16} \frac{n}{(M+1)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

NOTE 1. Theorems A<sub>2</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> follow from Theorem 3 immediately. If we consider  $u_1 \lambda_1 + \dots + u_n \lambda_n$  with  $|u_j| \leq M_j$  ( $1 \leq j \leq n$ ), and define corresponding notations, then Theorems 1 and 2 are also true. The changes are only

$$\frac{\Delta}{4} \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{2(M+1)} \quad \text{to} \quad \frac{1}{4} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{2(M_v+1)}$$

and

$$M^n \quad \text{to} \quad \prod_{v=1}^n M_v.$$

Theorem 3 is true for the upper bound

$$\frac{\pi^2}{16} \sum_{v=1}^n \frac{1}{(M_v+1)^2}$$

and the lower bound

$$\frac{1}{10} \frac{n-1}{n} \sum_{v=1}^n \frac{1}{(M_v+1)^2}.$$

Proofs of these are similar to those in this paper.

### 3. Lemmas

LEMMA 1. *There exist real numbers  $b_v$  such that  $b_0 = 1$ ,  $b_1 = \cos \pi/(M+1)$ ,  $b_v = b_{-v}$  and  $b_v > 0$  for  $|v| \leq M-1$ ,  $b_v = 0$  for  $|v| \geq M$  and*

$$\sum_{v=-M+1}^{M-1} b_v e^{i v t} \geq 0 \quad \text{for all real numbers } t,$$

$$b_{u-1} + b_{u+1} \geq 2b_1 b_u \quad \text{for all } u,$$

$$\sum_{v=-M+1}^{M-1} b_v \leq M.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\theta = \pi/(M+1)$  and  $x_v$  be non-negative real numbers such that

$$x_v = x_{v+1} \frac{\sin(v+1)\theta}{\sin(v+2)\theta}, \quad \text{if } v = 0, 1, 2, \dots, M-2,$$

$$\sum_{v=0}^{M-1} x_v^2 = 1, \quad x_v = 0 \quad \text{for } v \leq -1 \text{ or } v \geq M.$$

Then (note that  $\sin M\theta = \sin \theta$ )

$$x_v = x_{M-1} \frac{\sin(v+1)\theta}{\sin \theta}, \quad \text{if } v = -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots, M,$$

$$\frac{x_{M-1}^2}{\sin^2 \theta} \sum_{v=0}^{M-1} \sin^2(v+1)\theta = 1,$$

$$x_{v-1} + x_{v+1} = \frac{x_{M-1}}{\sin \theta} (\sin v\theta + \sin(v+2)\theta)$$

$$= 2 \cos \theta \frac{\sin(v+1)\theta}{\sin \theta} x_{M-1}$$

$$= 2x_v \cos \theta, \quad \text{if } v = 0, 1, 2, \dots, M-1,$$

$$x_{v-1} + x_{v+1} \geq 0 = 2x_v \cos \theta, \quad \text{if } v \leq -1 \text{ or } v \geq M.$$

Let

$$\sum_{v=-M+1}^{M-1} b_v e^{iv\theta} = \left| \sum_{v=0}^{M-1} x_v e^{iv\theta} \right|^2,$$

$$b_v = 0 \quad \text{for } |v| \geq M.$$

Then

$$b_0 = \sum_{v=0}^{M-1} x_v^2 = 1, \quad b_{-v} = b_v,$$

$$b_v = \sum_k x_k x_{k+v} > 0, \quad \text{if } |v| \leq M-1,$$

$$b_1 = \sum_v x_v x_{v+1} = \frac{x_{M-1}^2}{\sin^2 \theta} \sum_{v=0}^{M-1} \sin(v+1)\theta \sin(v+2)\theta$$

$$= \frac{x_{M-1}^2}{\sin^2 \theta} \sum_{v=0}^{M-1} \sin(v+1)\theta (\sin(v+1)\theta \cos \theta + \cos(v+1)\theta \sin \theta)$$

$$= \cos \theta \frac{x_{M-1}^2}{\sin^2 \theta} \sum_{v=0}^{M-1} \sin^2(v+1)\theta$$

$$= \cos \theta,$$

$$b_{u-1} + b_{u+1} = \sum_v (x_v x_{v+u-1} + x_v x_{v+u+1})$$

$$\geq 2 \cos \theta \sum_v x_v x_{v+u}$$

$$= 2b_1 b_u,$$

$$\sum_{v=-M+1}^{M-1} b_v = \left| \sum_{v=0}^{M-1} x_v \right|^2 \leq M \sum_{v=0}^{M-1} x_v^2 = M.$$

This completes the proof of Lemma 1.  $\square$

LEMMA 2. *Let*

$$\lambda_j = \frac{1}{(M+1)^{n-j+1}} \quad (1 \leq j \leq n).$$

*Then, for any*  $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$ ,

$$(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in T_{1n}(M).$$

*Proof.* Suppose that  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  are integers with  $|u_j| \leq M$  ( $1 \leq j \leq n$ ) such that

$$u_1 \lambda_1 + u_2 \lambda_2 + \dots + u_n \lambda_n = d$$

is an integer. Then

$$u_n(M+1)^{n-1} + u_{n-1}(M+1)^{n-2} + \dots + u_1 = d(M+1)^n.$$

This implies that  $M+1 \mid u_1$ . By  $|u_1| \leq M$  we have  $u_1 = 0$ . Hence

$$u_n(M+1)^{n-2} + u_{n-1}(M+1)^{n-3} + \dots + u_2 = d(M+1)^{n-1}.$$

Similarly, we have  $u_2 = 0$ . Continuing this procedure, we have  $u_1 = u_2 = \dots = u_n = 0$ . Therefore

$$(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in T_{1n}(M).$$

This completes the proof of Lemma 2. □

#### 4. Proofs of theorems

*Proof of Theorem 1.* We only give a detailed proof of Theorem 1(ii). We give an outline proof of Theorem 1(i). For this refer to the proofs of [9, Lemma 3; 10, Lemma 3].

If some  $\lambda_v$  is an integral vector, then by the assumption  $\alpha_v$  is an integer. Thus for integral vector variable  $\mathbf{t}$ ,  $\|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\| = 0$ , so, without loss of generality, we may assume that none of  $\lambda_v$  is an integral vector. In the following let  $\mathbf{t}$  be an integral vector variable. We take  $b_v$  as given in Lemma 1. Now let

$$F(\mathbf{t}) = \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v (e^{-2\pi i(\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v)} + e^{2\pi i(\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v)}),$$

$$G(t) = \sum_{v=-M+1}^{M-1} b_v e^{2\pi i vt}$$

and

$$H(\mathbf{t}) = G(\lambda_1 \mathbf{t} - \alpha_1) \dots G(\lambda_n \mathbf{t} - \alpha_n).$$

Let

$$S_2 = \{(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) : u_j \ (1 \leq j \leq n) \text{ are integers and } u_1 \lambda_1 + u_2 \lambda_2 + \dots + u_n \lambda_n \equiv 0 \pmod{1}\},$$

$$S'_2 = \{(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n) : v_j \ (1 \leq j \leq n) \text{ are integers and there exists a } (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) \in S_2 \text{ such that } |u_1 - v_1| + \dots + |u_n - v_n| = 1\},$$

$$a = 2 \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \sum_{\substack{(v_1, \dots, v_n) \in S'_2 \\ v_1 \lambda_1 + \dots + v_n \lambda_n \equiv \lambda_v \pmod{1}}} b_{v_1} \dots b_{v_n},$$

$$b = \sum_{(u_1, \dots, u_n) \in S_2} b_{u_1} \dots b_{u_n}.$$

Then  $S_2 \cap S'_2 = \emptyset$  for none of  $\lambda_v$  being an integral vector. Since  $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in T_{mn}(M)$ , we have (noting the fact that  $b_v = 0$  for  $|v| \geq M$  and  $b_{-v} = b_v$  for all  $v$ )

$$\begin{aligned} H(\mathbf{t}) &= b + \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_n) \in S'_2} b_{v_1} \dots b_{v_n} e^{2\pi i((v_1 \lambda_1 + v_2 \lambda_2 + \dots + v_n \lambda_n) \mathbf{t} - (v_1 \alpha_1 + \dots + v_n \alpha_n))} + S(\mathbf{t}), \\ H(\mathbf{t}) F(\mathbf{t}) &= \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \sum_{\substack{(v_1, \dots, v_n) \in S'_2 \\ v_1 \lambda_1 + \dots + v_n \lambda_n \equiv -\lambda_v \pmod{1}}} b_{v_1} b_{v_2} \dots b_{v_n} \\ &\quad + \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \sum_{\substack{(v_1, \dots, v_n) \in S'_2 \\ v_1 \lambda_1 + \dots + v_n \lambda_n \equiv \lambda_v \pmod{1}}} b_{v_1} b_{v_2} \dots b_{v_n} + R(\mathbf{t}) \\ &= a + R(\mathbf{t}) \end{aligned}$$

where  $S(\mathbf{t})$  is a trigonometrical polynomial whose exponents are all different from 0,  $\pm 2\pi\lambda_v$  ( $1 \leq v \leq n$ ) modulo  $2\pi$ , and  $R(\mathbf{t})$  is a trigonometrical polynomial whose exponents are all different from 0 modulo  $2\pi$ . Similarly to the proof of [9, Lemma 3] by  $\delta_v > 0$  ( $1 \leq v \leq n$ ) we have

$$F(\mathbf{t}) \leq 2\Delta - 16 \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in S(T) \cap \mathbf{Z}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2$$

holds for all integral vectors  $\mathbf{t} \in S(T) \cap \mathbf{Z}^m$ . Since  $H(\mathbf{t}) \geq 0$  for all integral vectors  $\mathbf{t}$ , we have

$$H(\mathbf{t}) F(\mathbf{t}) \leq 2\Delta H(\mathbf{t}) - 16H(\mathbf{t}) \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in S(T) \cap \mathbf{Z}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2$$

holds for all  $\mathbf{t} \in S(T) \cap \mathbf{Z}^m$ . That is,

$$\begin{aligned} 16b \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in S(T) \cap \mathbf{Z}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2 \\ \leq 2\Delta b - a + (H(\mathbf{t}) - b)(2\Delta - 16 \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in S(T) \cap \mathbf{Z}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2) - (H(\mathbf{t}) F(\mathbf{t}) - a). \quad (1) \end{aligned}$$

Noting that

$$0 \leq \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2 \leq \frac{1}{4} \Delta,$$

taking summation of (1) by

$$\sum = \left( \prod_{j=1}^m \frac{1}{T'_j - T_j} \right) \sum_{T_1 \leq t_1 < T'_1} \dots \sum_{T_m \leq t_m < T'_m},$$

we have

$$16b \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in S(T) \cap \mathbf{Z}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2 \leq 2\Delta b - a + 2\Delta |\sum(H(\mathbf{t}) - b)| + |\sum(H(\mathbf{t}) F(\mathbf{t}) - a)|. \quad (2)$$

Noting that for  $\alpha \in \mathbf{R}$  and integers  $s$  and  $s'$  with  $s < s'$ ,

$$\left| \frac{1}{s' - s} \sum_{s \leq t < s'} e^{2\pi i \alpha t} \right| \leq 1$$

and for  $\alpha \in \mathbf{R} \setminus \mathbf{Z}$ ,

$$\left| \frac{1}{s' - s} \sum_{s \leq t < s'} e^{2\pi i \alpha t} \right| = \frac{1}{s' - s} \left| \frac{\sin \pi \alpha (s' - s)}{\sin \pi \alpha} \right| \leq \frac{1}{2(s' - s) \|\alpha\|},$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \sum e^{2\pi i (a_1 t_1 + a_2 t_2 + \dots + a_m t_m)} \right| &= \left| \prod \frac{1}{T'_j - T_j} \sum_{T_j \leq t_j < T'_j} e^{2\pi i a_j t_j} \right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2 \min_j (T'_j - T_j) \max_j \|a_j\|}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by Lemma 1 and  $b \geq b_0^n = 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \sum (H(\mathbf{t}) - b) \right| &\leq \frac{1}{2 \min_j (T'_j - T_j) \Lambda_2} (G(0)^n - b) \\ &< \frac{1}{2 \|S(T)\| \Lambda_2} M^n, \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

$$\left| \sum (H(\mathbf{t}) F(\mathbf{t}) - a) \right| \leq \frac{\Delta}{\|S(T)\| \Lambda_2} M^n. \tag{4}$$

Again, by Lemma 1 (note that  $b_{-v} = b_v$  for all  $v$ ),

$$\begin{aligned} a &= 2 \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \sum_{\substack{(v_1, \dots, v_n) \in S'_2 \\ v_1 \lambda_1 + \dots + v_n \lambda_n \equiv \lambda_v \pmod{1}}} b_{v_1} b_{v_2} \dots b_{v_n} \\ &= \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \sum_{(u_1, \dots, u_n) \in S_2} b_{u_1} \dots b_{u_{v-1}} (b_{u_{v-1}} + b_{u_{v+1}}) b_{u_{v+1}} \dots b_{u_n} \\ &\geq 2b_1 \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \sum_{(u_1, \dots, u_n) \in S_2} b_{u_1} b_{u_2} \dots b_{u_n} \\ &= 2\Delta b b_1. \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Thus by (2), (3), (4) and (5) we have

$$16b \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in S(T) \cap \mathbf{Z}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2 < 2\Delta b - 2\Delta b b_1 + \frac{2\Delta}{\|S(T)\| \Lambda_2} M^n. \tag{6}$$

By (6),  $b \geq b_0^n = 1$  and Lemma 1 we have

$$\begin{aligned} \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in S(T) \cap \mathbf{Z}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2 &< \frac{\Delta}{8} (1 - b_1) + \frac{\Delta M^n}{8 \|S(T)\| \Lambda_2} \\ &= \frac{\Delta}{4} \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{2(M+1)} + \frac{\Delta M^n}{8 \|S(T)\| \Lambda_2}. \end{aligned}$$

For a proof of Theorem 1(i) we need only make some adjustments:



- (I) Without loss of generality, assume that none of  $\lambda_v$  is a zero vector.
- (II) Let

$$S_1 = \{(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) : u_j (1 \leq j \leq n) \text{ are integers and } u_1 \lambda_1 + u_2 \lambda_2 + \dots + u_n \lambda_n = 0\},$$

$$S'_1 = \{(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n) : v_j (1 \leq j \leq n) \text{ are integers and there exists a } (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) \in S_1 \text{ such that } |u_1 - v_1| + \dots + |u_n - v_n| = 1\},$$

$$a = 2 \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \sum_{\substack{(v_1, \dots, v_n) \in S'_1 \\ v_1 \lambda_1 + \dots + v_n \lambda_n = \lambda_v}} b_{v_1} \dots b_{v_n},$$

$$b = \sum_{(u_1, \dots, u_n) \in S_1} b_{u_1} \dots b_{u_n}.$$

- (III) Use

$$\int = \left( \prod_{j=1}^m \frac{1}{T'_j - T_j} \right) \int_{T_1}^{T'_1} \dots \int_{T_m}^{T'_m} dt_1 \dots dt_m$$

instead of  $\sum$ .

- (IV) Let  $\mathbf{t}$  be a real vector variable.

The other parts of the proof are completely similar. This completes the proof of Theorem 1. □

*Proof of Theorem 2.* Let  $\lambda = (1, 1, \dots, 1) \in \mathbf{R}^m$ . For any  $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in R_{1n}(M)$  we have  $(\lambda_1 \lambda, \dots, \lambda_n \lambda; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in R_{mn}(M)$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \inf_{t \in \mathbf{R}} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\|^2 &= \inf_{t \in \mathbf{R}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2 \\ &\leq \sup_{R_{mn}(M)} \inf_{t \in \mathbf{R}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\sup_{R_{1n}(M)} \inf_{t \in \mathbf{R}} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\|^2 \leq \sup_{R_{mn}(M)} \inf_{t \in \mathbf{R}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2.$$

Similarly, we have

$$\sup_{T_{1n}(M)} \inf_{t \in \mathbf{Z}} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\|^2 \leq \sup_{T_{mn}(M)} \inf_{t \in \mathbf{Z}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2.$$

Now let

$$(\lambda'_1, \dots, \lambda'_n; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in R_{mn}(M)$$

and

$$A = \{u_1 \lambda'_1 + \dots + u_n \lambda'_n : u_j \text{ are integers with } |u_j| \leq M (1 \leq j \leq n)\}.$$

Then  $A$  is a finite set. Let  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_k$  be all nonzero vectors in  $A$ . For each  $\beta_j$  there exists an  $l_j$  such that, if  $l \geq l_j$ , then  $\beta_j(1, l, \dots, l^{m-1}) \neq 0$ . Hence there exists a vector  $\mathbf{L}_0 = (1, l, \dots, l^{m-1})$  such that

$$\beta_j \mathbf{L}_0 \neq 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, k.$$

If  $A = \{0\}$ , we take  $\mathbf{L}_0 = (1, 1, \dots, 1)$ . Thus

$$(\lambda'_1 \mathbf{L}_0, \dots, \lambda'_n \mathbf{L}_0; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in R_{1n}(M),$$

whence

$$\begin{aligned} \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{R}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda'_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2 &\leq \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{R}} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda'_v \mathbf{L}_0 t - \alpha_v\|^2 \\ &\leq \sup_{R_{1n}(M)} \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{R}} \sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\sup_{R_{1n}(M)} \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{R}} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\|^2 \geq \sup_{R_{mn}(M)} \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{R}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \delta_v \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2.$$

From the above arguments we obtain a proof of Theorem 2.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 3.* The upper bounds are immediate results of Theorem 1. For the lower bounds, by Theorem 2 we need only consider the case  $m = 1$ . Take

$$\lambda_v = \frac{1}{(M+1)^{n-v+1}}, \quad \alpha_v = \frac{1}{2M}((M+1)^v - 1), \quad v = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

Then for any real number  $t$  we have

$$(M+1)(\lambda_v t - \alpha_v) - (\lambda_{v+1} t - \alpha_{v+1}) = \frac{1}{2}, \quad v = 1, 2, \dots, n-1.$$

Hence (note that  $M$  is an integer with  $M \geq 1$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} &= \|(M+1)(\lambda_v t - \alpha_v) - (\lambda_{v+1} t - \alpha_{v+1})\| \\ &\leq (M+1) \|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\| + \|\lambda_{v+1} t - \alpha_{v+1}\|, \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\frac{n-1}{2} \leq (M+1) \|\lambda_1 t - \alpha_1\| + \sum_{v=2}^{n-1} (M+2) \|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\| + \|\lambda_n t - \alpha_n\|,$$

whence

$$\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)^2 \leq ((M+1)^2 + (n-2)(M+2)^2 + 1) \sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\|^2.$$

Thus

$$\sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\|^2 \geq \frac{1}{4} \frac{(n-1)^2}{(M+1)^2 + (n-2)(M+2)^2 + 1} \geq \frac{2}{21} \frac{n}{(M+1)^2}$$

holds for all real numbers  $t$  and  $n \geq 2$ ,  $M \geq 1$ . By Lemma 2 we have

$$(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in T_{1n}(M).$$

Since  $T_{1n}(M) \subseteq R_{1n}(M)$ , we also have

$$(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in R_{1n}(M).$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 3.  $\square$

5. Remarks

5.1. On  $b_1$

If  $b_v$  are real numbers with  $b_0 = 1$  such that

$$\sum_{v=-M+1}^{M-1} b_v e^{ivt} \geq 0 \quad \text{for all real numbers } t,$$

then

$$|b_1| \leq \cos \frac{\pi}{M+1},$$

whence by Lemma 1,  $\sup |b_1| = \cos \pi / (M + 1)$ .

For a proof see [16, 18, 24, 27]. In fact by a theorem of Fejér and Riesz there exist numbers  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{M-1}$  such that

$$\sum_{v=-M+1}^{M-1} b_v e^{ivt} = \left| \sum_{v=0}^{M-1} x_v e^{ivt} \right|^2.$$

It is clear that

$$\begin{aligned} 2b_0 \cos \alpha \pm 2b_1 &= (2 \cos \alpha) \sum_v |x_v|^2 \pm \sum_v (\bar{x}_v x_{v+1} + x_v \bar{x}_{v+1}) \\ &= \frac{\sin 2\alpha}{\sin \alpha} \left| x_0 \pm x_1 \frac{\sin \alpha}{\sin 2\alpha} \right|^2 + \frac{\sin 3\alpha}{\sin 2\alpha} \left| x_1 \pm x_2 \frac{\sin 2\alpha}{\sin 3\alpha} \right|^2 + \dots \\ &\quad + \frac{\sin M\alpha}{\sin(M-1)\alpha} \left| x_{M-2} \pm x_{M-1} \frac{\sin(M-1)\alpha}{\sin M\alpha} \right|^2 + \frac{\sin(M+1)\alpha}{\sin M\alpha} |x_{M-1}|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$2b_0 \cos \frac{\pi}{M+1} \pm 2b_1 \geq 0,$$

whence

$$|b_1| \leq \cos \frac{\pi}{M+1}.$$

Similarly, we have

$$\sup |b_k| = \cos \frac{\pi}{[(M+k-1)/k]+1}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, M-1.$$

5.2. View-obstruction problems

Now we make some remarks on view-obstruction problems. View-obstruction problems for cubes and spheres are to determine the values of  $\lambda(n)$  and  $\nu(n)$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda(n) &= 2 \sup_{\substack{a_1, \dots, a_n \\ a_j > 0}} \inf_{t \in \mathbf{R}} \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \|a_j t - \frac{1}{2}\|, \\ \frac{1}{4} \nu(n)^2 &= \sup_{\substack{a_1, \dots, a_n \\ a_j > 0}} \inf_{t \in \mathbf{R}} \sum_{v=1}^n \|a_j t - \frac{1}{2}\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

By the well-known Dirichlet theorem it suffices to consider the case when  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  are positive integers. The view-obstruction problem was given its name by T. W. Cusick [12] in 1973. The related problem corresponding to cubes on Diophantine approximation was considered in 1968 by J. M. Wills [31]. For  $n = 2$  we have  $\lambda(2) = 1/3$  and  $\nu(2) = 1/\sqrt{5}$  (see [12]). Up to now, for true values of  $\lambda(n)$  and  $\nu(n)$ , we only know that  $\lambda(3) = 1/2$  (Cusick [12]),  $\lambda(4) = 3/5$  (Cusick and Pomerance [13]),  $\nu(3) = \sqrt{3/7}$  (Dumir and Hans-Gill [14]),  $\nu(4) = \sqrt{11/15}$  (Chen [7]), and  $\nu(5) = \sqrt{41/42}$  (Dumir, Hans-Gill and Wilker [15]). Cusick [12] conjectured that

$$\lambda(n) = \frac{n-1}{n+1}.$$

In [8, 9] I proved that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\nu(n)^2}{n}$$

exists and its value is a positive number. For the other references see [2, 11]. Let  $n \geq 2$ . The proof of Theorem 1 in this paper and the results in [9, 10] imply the following theorem.

**THEOREM 4.** (i) *If  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  are positive integers such that*

$$\inf_{t \in [0, 1]} \sum_{v=1}^n \|a_v t - \frac{1}{2}\|^2 = \frac{1}{4} \nu(n)^2,$$

*then there exist integers  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n$  with  $|c_v| \leq 3$  ( $1 \leq v \leq n$ ) and at most one of  $c_v$  is 3 or  $-3$  such that*

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 a_1 + c_2 a_2 + \dots + c_n a_n &= 0, \\ 2 \nmid c_1 + c_2 + \dots + c_n. \end{aligned}$$

(ii) *If  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  are positive integers such that*

$$2 \inf_{t \in [0, 1]} \max_{1 \leq v \leq n} \|a_v t - \frac{1}{2}\| = \lambda(n),$$

*then there exist integers  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n$  with  $|c_v| \leq (\pi/2) \sqrt{n} + \pi$  ( $1 \leq v \leq n$ ) such that*

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 a_1 + c_2 a_2 + \dots + c_n a_n &= 0, \\ 2 \nmid c_1 + c_2 + \dots + c_n. \end{aligned}$$

Currently, the problem has not been reduced to a finite search in any dimension except the above known cases. We do not know whether Theorem 4 can be used to reduce the search for the optimal  $(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  to a finite search.

### 5.3. Quantitative forms of Kronecker's theorem

Let

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u} &= (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) \in [-M, M]^n \cap \mathbf{Z}^n, \\ \boldsymbol{\lambda} &= (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n) \in \mathbf{R}^{m_n}, \\ \boldsymbol{\alpha} &= (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbf{R}^n. \end{aligned}$$

Write

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\lambda} &= u_1 \lambda_1 + u_2 \lambda_2 + \dots + u_n \lambda_n, \\ \mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\alpha} &= u_1 \alpha_1 + u_2 \alpha_2 + \dots + u_n \alpha_n. \end{aligned}$$

We say that

$$\mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\lambda} = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathbf{Z}$$

means that for any  $\mathbf{u} \in [-M, M]^n \cap \mathbf{Z}^n$ ,  $\mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\lambda} = 0$  implies that  $\mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathbf{Z}$ . Let

$$\kappa_0(m, n, M) = \sup_{\mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\lambda} \in \mathbf{Z}^m \Rightarrow \mathbf{u} = 0} \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{R}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2,$$

$$\kappa_1(m, n, M) = \sup_{\mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\lambda} = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{u} = 0} \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{R}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2,$$

$$\kappa_2(m, n, M) = \sup_{\mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\lambda} \in \mathbf{Z}^m \Rightarrow \mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathbf{Z}} \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{R}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2,$$

$$\kappa_3(m, n, M) = \sup_{\mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\lambda} = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathbf{Z}} \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{R}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2,$$

$$\kappa_4(m, n, M) = \sup_{\mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\lambda} \in \mathbf{Z}^m \Rightarrow \mathbf{u} = 0} \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{Z}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2,$$

$$\kappa_\infty(m, n, M) = \sup_{\mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\lambda} \in \mathbf{Z}^m \Rightarrow \mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathbf{Z}} \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{Z}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2,$$

where each supremum is taken over all  $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$  which satisfy the corresponding conditions. Then we have the relations in the following theorem.

**THEOREM 5.**

$$\kappa_j(1, n, M) = \kappa_j(m, n, M), \quad \text{for } j = 0, 1, 2, 3,$$

$$\kappa_0(m, n, M) = \kappa_1(m, n, M),$$

$$\kappa_2(m, n, M) = \kappa_3(m, n, M),$$

$$\kappa_j(1, n, M) \leq \kappa_j(m, n, M), \quad \text{for } j = 4, \infty,$$

$$\kappa_0(m, n, M) \leq \kappa_2(m, n, M) \leq \kappa_\infty(m, n, M),$$

$$\kappa_0(m, n, M) \leq \kappa_4(m, n, M) \leq \kappa_\infty(m, n, M).$$

*Proof.* First we give a detailed proof of  $\kappa_0(m, n, M) = \kappa_1(m, n, M)$ . It is obvious that  $\kappa_0(m, n, M) \leq \kappa_1(m, n, M)$ . Now fix  $\boldsymbol{\lambda}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}$  such that  $\mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\lambda} = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{u} = 0$ . Since  $\{\mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\lambda} : \mathbf{u} \in [-M, M]^n \cap \mathbf{Z}^n\}$  is a finite set, there exists a real number  $s \neq 0$  such that

$$\mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\lambda}s \in \mathbf{Z}^m \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\lambda} = 0.$$

Thus

$$\mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\lambda}s \in \mathbf{Z}^m \Rightarrow \mathbf{u} = 0.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{R}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2 &= \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{R}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v s \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2 \\ &\leq \sup_{\mathbf{u}\boldsymbol{\lambda} \in \mathbf{Z}^m \Rightarrow \mathbf{u} = 0} \inf_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{R}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v \mathbf{t} - \alpha_v\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\kappa_1(m, n, M) \leq \kappa_0(m, n, M).$$

Therefore

$$\kappa_0(m, n, M) = \kappa_1(m, n, M).$$

Similarly, we can prove that

$$\kappa_2(m, n, M) = \kappa_3(m, n, M).$$

Similarly to the proof of Theorem 2 we have

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_1(1, n, M) &= \kappa_1(m, n, M), & \kappa_3(1, n, M) &= \kappa_3(m, n, M), \\ \kappa_j(1, n, M) &\leq \kappa_j(m, n, M), & \text{for } j &= 4, \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_0(1, n, M) &= \kappa_1(1, n, M) = \kappa_1(m, n, M) = \kappa_0(m, n, M), \\ \kappa_2(1, n, M) &= \kappa_3(1, n, M) = \kappa_3(m, n, M) = \kappa_3(m, n, M). \end{aligned}$$

The other relations are clear. This completes the proof of Theorem 5.  $\square$

NOTE 2. By taking  $\lambda_v = ((M+1)^v, (M+1)^v, \dots, (M+1)^v)$ ,  $\alpha_v = \frac{1}{2}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{u\lambda=0 \Rightarrow u=0} \inf_{t \in \mathbb{Z}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\|^2 &= \frac{1}{4}n, \\ \sup_{u\lambda=0 \Rightarrow u \in \mathbb{Z}} \inf_{t \in \mathbb{Z}^m} \sum_{v=1}^n \|\lambda_v t - \alpha_v\|^2 &= \frac{1}{4}n, \end{aligned}$$

so we have not introduced the corresponding  $\kappa$ .

NOTE 3. By the proof of Theorem 3 and Theorem 5 we have

$$\frac{2}{21} \frac{n}{(M+1)^2} \leq \kappa_j(m, n, M) < \frac{\pi^2}{16} \frac{n}{(M+1)^2}, \quad j = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, \infty.$$

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*Department of Mathematics  
Nanjing Normal University  
Nanjing 210097  
Jiangsu  
China*

ygchen@pine.njnu.edu.cn