

# $\alpha$ -deformations of an infinite class of continued fraction transformations

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- 1 Set up
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- 4 Tree of words
- 5 Group identities and sketch of proofs
- 6 Lamination relations for 2-D

- Thanks to organizers!
- Joint with Kari Calta (Vassar College) and Cor Kraaikamp (TU Delft)

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# The groups

Fix  $n \geq 3$ . Let  $\nu = \nu_n = 2 \cos \pi/n$  and  $t = 1 + \nu$ .

Let  $G_n$  be generated by

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & t \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, B = \begin{pmatrix} \nu & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, C = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1)$$

and note that  $C = AB$ .

# The intervals

Fix  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$  and define

$$\mathbb{I}_\alpha := \mathbb{I}_{n,\alpha} = [(\alpha - 1)t, \alpha t].$$

Of endpoints

$$\ell_0 := \ell_0(\alpha) = (\alpha - 1)t$$

and

$$r_0 := r_0(\alpha) = \alpha t$$

Let

$$T_\alpha = T_{n,\alpha} : x \mapsto A^k C^l \cdot x, \quad (2)$$

any  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  acts on reals by  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \cdot x = \frac{ax + b}{cx + d}$ , and

- $l > 0$  is *minimal* such that  $C^l \cdot x \notin \mathbb{I}$     Thus, rotate until exit  $\mathbb{I}$ .
- $k = -\lfloor (C^l \cdot x)/t + 1 - \alpha \rfloor$ .    Then, translate back into  $\mathbb{I}$ .



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$$x = \frac{1}{\mu - \frac{1}{\mu - \frac{1}{\mu - \frac{1}{\mu - \frac{1}{\mu + kt - T_\alpha(x)}}}}}$$

## Theorem

For  $n \geq 3$ , the set of  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$  such that there exists  $i = i_\alpha, j = j_\alpha$  with

$$T_{n,\alpha}^i(r_0(\alpha)) = T_{n,\alpha}^j(\ell_0(\alpha))$$

is of full Lebesgue measure.

Call the set of these  $\alpha$  the **synchronization set** for  $n$ .

## Theorem

For  $n \geq 3$ , the *synchronization set* is the *union of intervals*,

$\mathcal{I}_{k,v} = [\zeta_{k,v}, \eta_{k,v})$  with  $k \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$  and  $v \in \mathcal{V}$ , a tree of words defined below. The complement of the union of the  $[\zeta_{k,v}, \eta_{k,v}]$  is a measure zero Cantor set.

- Let  $R = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . For  $M \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$  and an interval  $\mathbb{I}_M$ , let

$$\mathcal{T}_M(x, y) := \left( M \cdot x, RMR^{-1} \cdot y \right) \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{I}_M, y \in \mathbb{R}.$$

- Thus,  $\mathcal{T}_M(x, y) = (M \cdot x, -1/(M \cdot (-1/y)))$ .
- The measure  $\mu$  on  $\mathbb{R}^2$  given by

$$d\mu = \frac{dx dy}{(1 + xy)^2}$$

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Each  $T_\alpha$  is **piecewise** Möbius — there is a partition into subintervals,  $\mathbb{I}_\alpha = \cup_\beta K_\beta$ , such that  $T_\alpha(x) = M_\beta \cdot x$  for all  $x \in K_\beta$ .

For  $x \in K_\beta$  and  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  let

$$T_\alpha(x, y) = T_{M_\beta}(x, y) = \left( M_\beta \cdot x, RM_\beta R^{-1} \cdot y \right).$$

# Theorem 2

For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $v \in \mathcal{V}$  (defined below), let  $\mathcal{I}_{k,v} = [\zeta_{k,v}, \eta_{k,v})$ .

## Theorem

Fix  $n \geq 3$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $v \in \mathcal{V}$  and  $\alpha \in (\zeta_{k,v}, \eta_{k,v})$ .

There is a *connected union of finitely many rectangles*  $\Omega_{n,\alpha}$  upon which  $T_{n,\alpha}$  is bijective, up to  $\mu$ -measure zero.

Furthermore, this gives the *natural extension* of  $T_{n,\alpha}$ .

Moreover, the collection of *heights* (top and bottoms) of the rectangles comprising  $\Omega_{n,\alpha}$  *depends only on*  $(n, k, v)$ .

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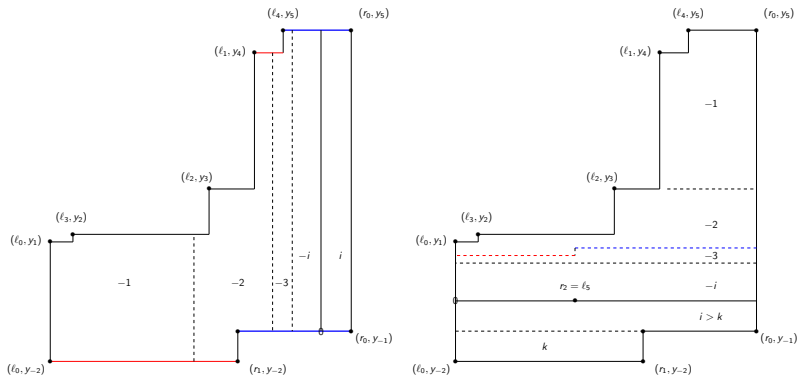
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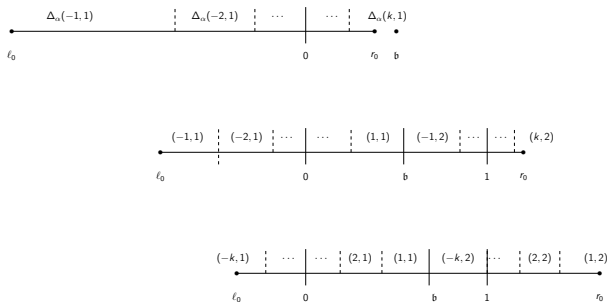
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**Figure :** The domain  $\Omega_{3,0,14}$ , with blocks  $\mathcal{B}_i$  (projecting to cylinders for  $T_\alpha$ ), and their images, both denoted by  $i$ . Here  $R_{k,v} = AC$  and  $L_{k,v} = A^{-1}CA^{-2}CA^{-2}CA^{-1}CA^{-1}$ , and  $\alpha$  is an interior point of  $\mathcal{I}_{1,1}$ .



**Figure :** Schematic representation of cylinders for three values of  $\alpha$  (here  $n = 3$ ). For the bottom two,  $(k, l)$  denotes  $\Delta_\alpha(k, l)$ .

# A skew product

Fix  $n$ . Let  $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}_n$  be given as

$$\mathcal{S} : \bigcup_{\alpha \in [0,1]} \{r_0(\alpha)\} \times \mathbb{I}_\alpha \rightarrow \bigcup_{\alpha \in [0,1]} \{r_0(\alpha)\} \times \mathbb{I}_\alpha$$

$$(r_0(\alpha), y) \mapsto (r_0(\alpha), T_\alpha y)$$

Recall that  $r_0(\alpha) = \alpha t$  and  $\ell_0(\alpha) = (\alpha - 1)t = r_0(\alpha) - t$ .

# A skew product

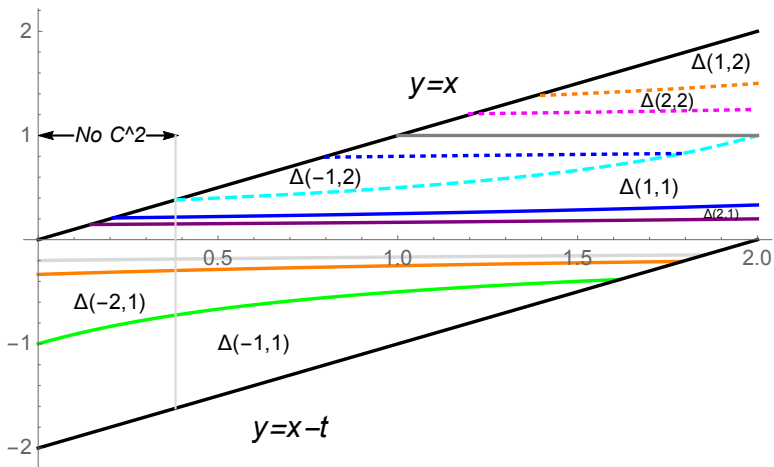
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# Cylinders, a global perspective



**Figure :** The unions of the various cylinders for the  $T_{n,\alpha}$  form cylinders for  $\mathcal{S}_n$ . Each  $\mathbb{I}_\alpha$  is given as a vertical fiber, with its left endpoint  $\ell_0(\alpha) = \alpha t - t$  at the bottom and its right endpoint  $r_0(\alpha) = \alpha t$  at the top. Here:  $n = 3$ .



# Discovering synchronization

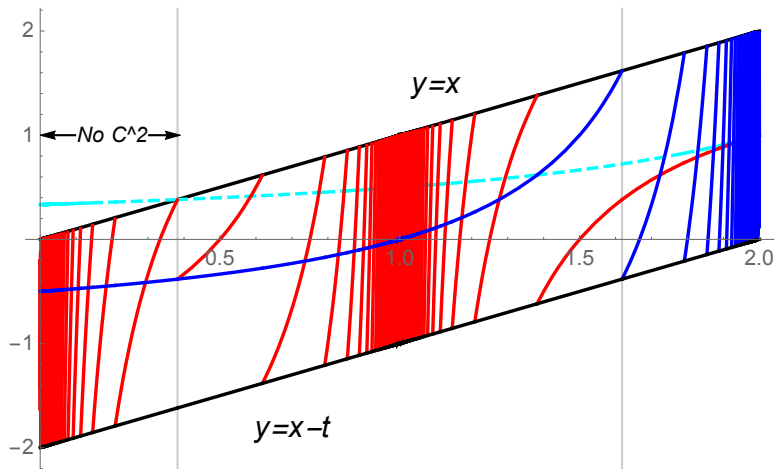


Figure : The graph of  $x \mapsto T_{3,\alpha}(x-t)$ , with  $x = \alpha t$ , thus the values of  $\ell_1(\alpha)$ . In red that of  $x \mapsto T_{3,\alpha}(x)$ ; the red curves give  $r_1(\alpha)$ . (Here  $t = t_3 = 2$ .) Gray vertical lines demarcate natural partition; to left of leftmost gray vertical line “ $C^2$  never appears.”

# Discovering synchronization, 2

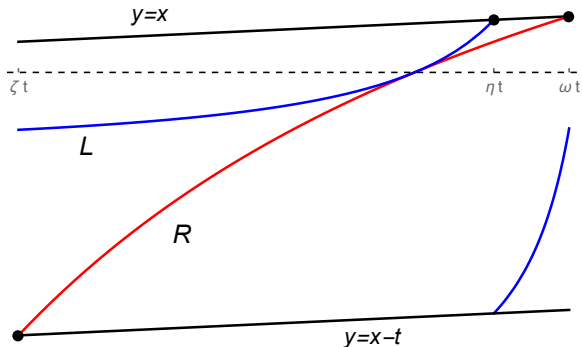


Figure : Zoom in on first red branch in the “no  $C^2$ ” zone. Red gives the single branch of  $y = r_1(\alpha)$  while blue colors the two branches of  $y = l_4(\alpha)$  for  $x$ -range plotted. The  $x$ -axis is shown as a dotted line.

# A synchronization relation

- In the previous figure, find

$$r_1 = \boxed{r_{j-1} = C^{-1}A^{-1}C \cdot l_{i-1}} = C^{-1}A^{-1}C \cdot l_4$$

holds for  $\alpha \in \mathcal{I}_{1,1}$ .

- For some  $u$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} r_j &= A^u C \cdot r_{j-1} = A^{u-1} C \cdot l_{i-1} \\ &= l_j. \end{aligned}$$

- This gives  $l_j$  because we are in region of “no  $C^2$ ” and there is a unique translation of  $C \cdot l_{i-1}$  into  $\mathbb{I}_\alpha$ .

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# Relation reveals further digits of $r_0$ at right endpoint

At the right endpoint of  $\mathcal{I}_{k,v}$ , relation gives

•

$$\boxed{r_{j-1} = C^{-1}A^{-1}C \cdot r_0} \text{ or } C^{-1}AC \cdot r_{j-1} = r_0$$

• Since  $r_1 = A^k C \cdot r_0$ ,

$$r_j = r_1$$

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# Period of $r_0(\eta_{k,v})$ — only $k, k + 1$ as digits

- In parameter region where “ $C^2$  does not appear”. Use simplified digits, for  $\alpha \in \mathcal{I}_{k,v}$ ,

$$r_0(\alpha) = \underbrace{k^{c_1}, (k+1)^{d_1}, \dots, (k+1)^{d_{s-1}}, k^{c_s}}_{d(k,v), v=c_1 d_1 \dots c_{s-1} d_{s-1} c_s}, \dots$$

- At right endpoint  $\eta_{k,v}$  find periodic

$$r_0(\alpha) = d(k,v), \overline{k+1, k^{c_1-1}, (k+1)^{d_1}, \dots, (k+1)^{d_{s-1}}, k^{c_s}}$$

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For each  $s > 1$  and each word  $v = c_1 d_1 \cdots c_{s-1} d_{s-1} c_s$ , define

$$v' = \begin{cases} 1(c_1 - 1)d_1 c_2 \cdots c_{s-1} d_{s-1} c_s & \text{if } c_1 \neq 1, \\ (d_1 + 1)c_2 \cdots c_{s-1} d_{s-1} c_s & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

(When  $v = c$  with  $c > 1$  then let  $v' = 1(c - 1)$ , and when  $v = 1$  then  $v' = 1$ .)

- Set
  - $\Theta_{-1}(c_1) = c_1 + 1$
  - $\Theta_q(1) = 1q1$  for  $q \geq 1$
  - For  $c > 1$ , set  $\Theta_q(c) = c[1(c-1)]^q 1c$  for any  $q \geq 0$ .
- Recursively ... Suppose  $v = \Theta_p(u) = uv''$  for some  $p \geq 0$  and some suffix  $v''$ . Then define for any  $q \geq 0$

$$\Theta_q(v) = v(v')^q v''.$$

This is a palindrome; it is shortest “self-dominant” word extending  $v(v')^q$  which is larger than  $v(v')^\infty$ .

- Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be the tree of all words obtained starting from  $v = 1$ .

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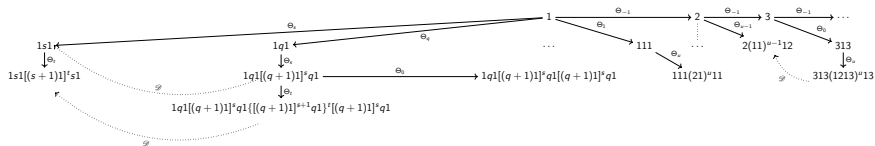
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# The tree $\mathcal{V}$



**Figure :** Each vertex of the directed tree  $\mathcal{V}$  has countably infinite valency. A small portion of  $\mathcal{V}$  with a hint of the derived words map,  $\mathcal{D}$ .



# Partitioning with the $\mathcal{I}_{k,v}$

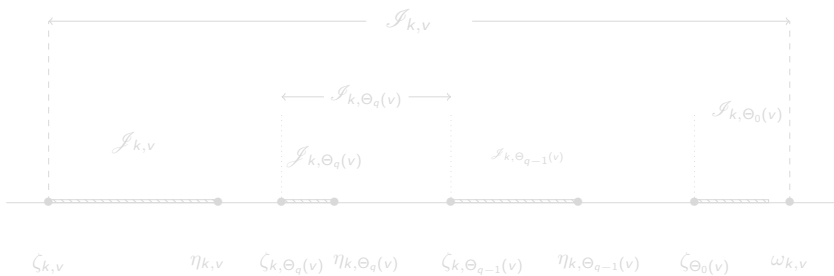
For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $v \in \mathcal{V}$ , let

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This is partitioned

$$\mathcal{I}_{k,v} = \mathcal{I}_{k,v} \cup \bigcup_{q=q'}^{\infty} \mathcal{I}_{k, \Theta_q(v)},$$

where  $q' = 0$  unless  $v = c_1$ , in which case  $q' = -1$ .



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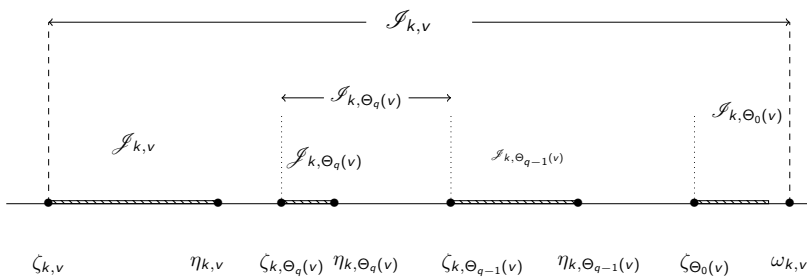
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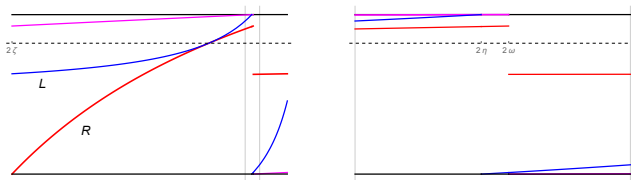
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# Right endpoint of $\alpha$ -cylinder $\mathcal{I}_{k,v}$



**Figure :** A non-full branch. Here  $n = 3$ ,  $v = 111$  and  $k = 1$ ; we have that  $\omega_{1,111}$  is determined by the fixed point of  $R_{1,11}$ . The labels  $L, R$  mark respectively the curves  $y = L_{1,111} \cdot r_0(\alpha)$ ,  $y = R_{1,111} \cdot r_0(\alpha)$  where  $\alpha = x/2 = x/t_{3,3}$ . Red gives of  $y = r_3(\alpha)$ , while blue gives  $y = \ell_9(\alpha)$ ; Magenta gives the branches of  $y = r_2(\alpha)$ . The left portion has  $.3582 < x < 0.3592$ . The right “zooms in” to  $0.35910 < x < 0.35915$ . (This interval lies between the vertical gray lines in both portions.)

# Right endpoint of $\alpha$ -cylinder $\mathcal{I}_{k,v}$ , 2

Order on cylinders is  $k \succ k+1$ , gives order on (shifts of) words: any  $c_j$  greater than any  $d_i$ , usual order of integers for  $c_j$ , reverse for  $d_i$

Define **full branch prefix**  $f(v)$  as longest prefix  $u$  of  $v$  such that  $u^\infty$  is maximal among all prefixes.

Find **right endpoint of**  $\mathcal{I}_{k,v}$  has  $r_0(\alpha)$  of digits  $d(k, f(v))^\infty$ .

One shows

$$f(\Theta_q(v)) = \overleftarrow{(\Theta_{q-1}(v))'}.$$

Can then prove partition result.

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Find **right endpoint of**  $\mathcal{I}_{k,v}$  has  $r_0(\alpha)$  of digits  $d(k, f(v))^\infty$ .

One shows

$$f(\Theta_q(v)) = \overleftarrow{(\Theta_{q-1}(v))'}.$$

Can then prove partition result.

# Synchronization relation implies $\ell_0$ digits $-1, -2$

Let  $W = A^{-2}C(A^{-1}C)^{n-3}A^{-2}C(A^{-1}C)^{n-2}$ .

Lemma (one step)

For  $c, k \geq 1$ ,

$$(A^k C)^c = \underbrace{C^{-1}A^{-1}C}_{\text{synchr. rel.}}(A^{-1}C)^{n-2} [W^{k-1}A^{-2}C(A^{-1}C)^{n-3}]^{c-1} W^k A^{-1}.$$

Lemma (glueing)

For  $k \geq 1$ ,

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# Outline of proof of Theorem 1

- Partition result holds, due to descriptions of  $\zeta_{k,v}, \eta_{k,v}, \omega_{k,v}$
- Lemmas on previous slide give necessary  $\ell_0$  digits for synchronization on  $\mathcal{I}_{k,v}$ .
- Induction shows admissibility of these  $\ell_0$  digits. Of course, not admissible to right, but relation helps.
- Since only  $-1, -2$  can use  $\alpha = 0$  maps (actually with acceleration for finite measure from Calta-S), get complement of measure zero.
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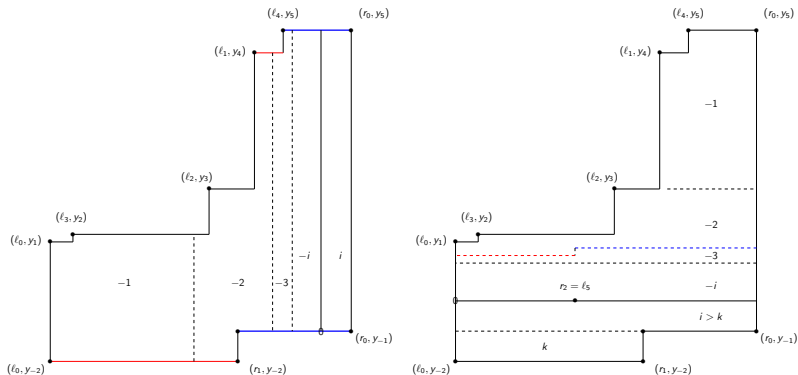
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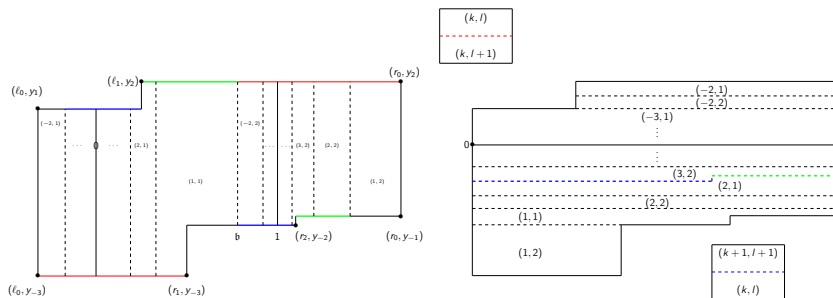
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# One $\Omega_{n,\alpha}$ , again



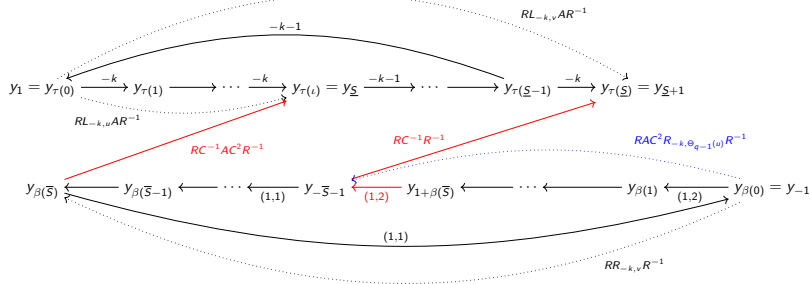
**Figure :** The domain  $\Omega_{3,0,14}$ , with blocks  $\mathcal{B}_i$  (projecting to cylinders for  $T_\alpha$ ), and their images, both denoted by  $i$ . Here  $R_{k,v} = AC$  and  $L_{k,v} = A^{-1}CA^{-2}CA^{-2}CA^{-1}CA^{-1}$ , and  $\alpha$  is an interior point of  $\mathcal{I}_{1,1}$ .





**Figure :** The domain  $\Omega_{3,0.86}$ . Blocks  $B_{i,j}$  and their images, both denoted by  $(i, j)$ . Here  $L_{-k,v} = A^{-2}CA^{-1}$  and  $R_{-k,v} = ACA^2$ , and  $\alpha$  is an interior point of  $\mathcal{I}_{-2,1}$ . Also, hints as to the lamination ordering.

# Connectedness of $\Omega_{k,v}$ requires relations on heights



**Figure :** Relations on the heights of rectangles for general  $-k, v$  and  $\alpha \in (\eta_{-k, v}, \delta_{-k, v})$ . The red paths are used to prove that lamination occurs. Horizontal arrows used to show that boundaries are sent to boundaries.

THANK YOU!