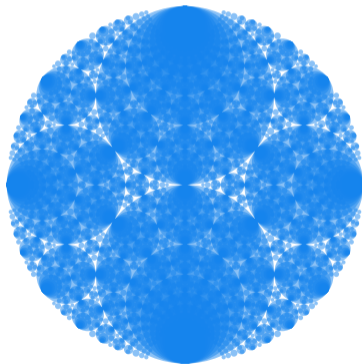


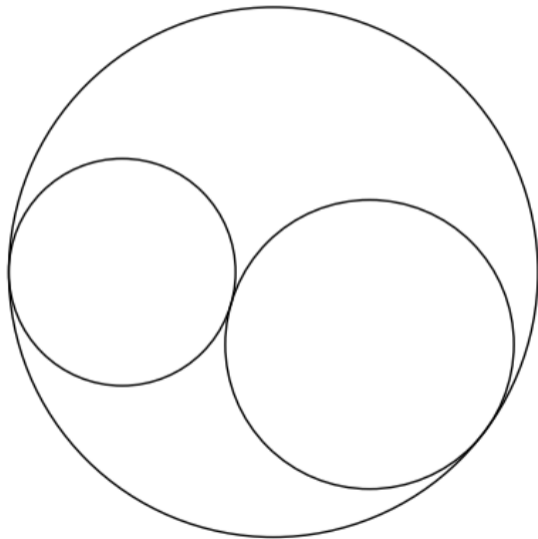
# Reciprocity obstructions in Apollonian circle packings and continued fractions

Summer Haag, Clyde Kertzer, James Rickards, **Katherine E. Stange**

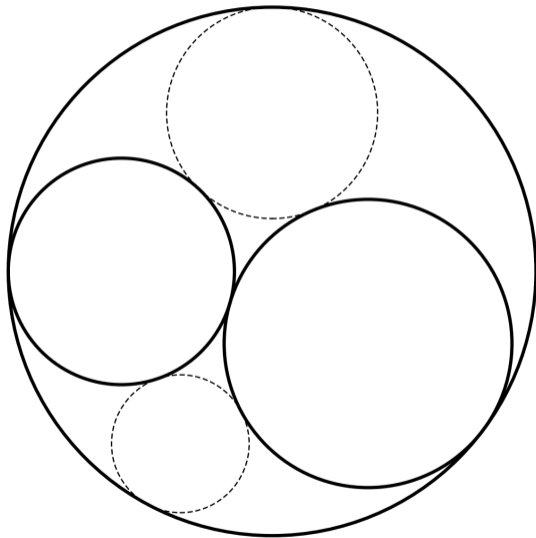


Canadian Number Theory Association XVI, June 12, 2024

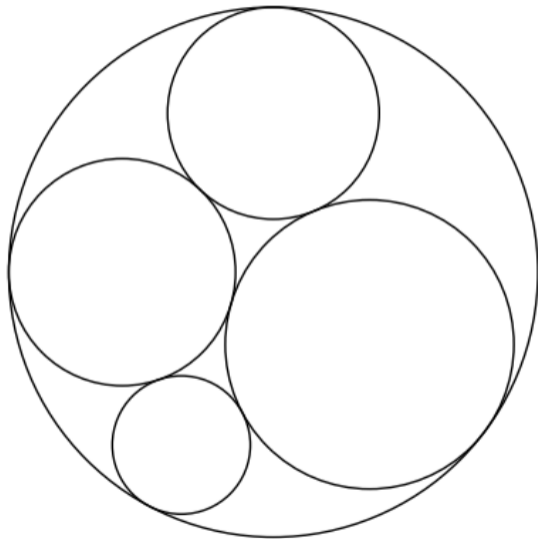
# Apollonian circle packing



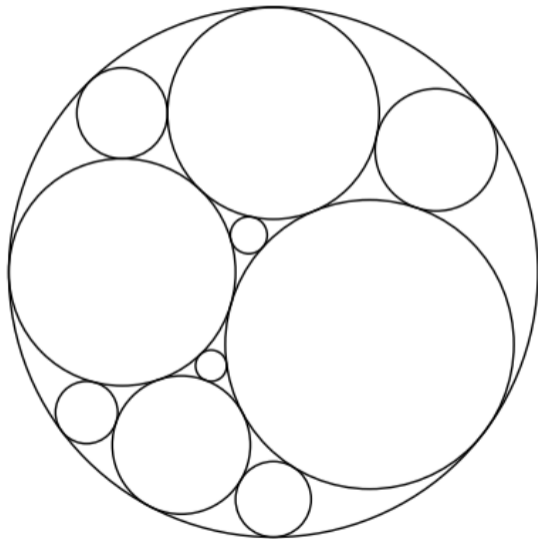
# Apollonian circle packing



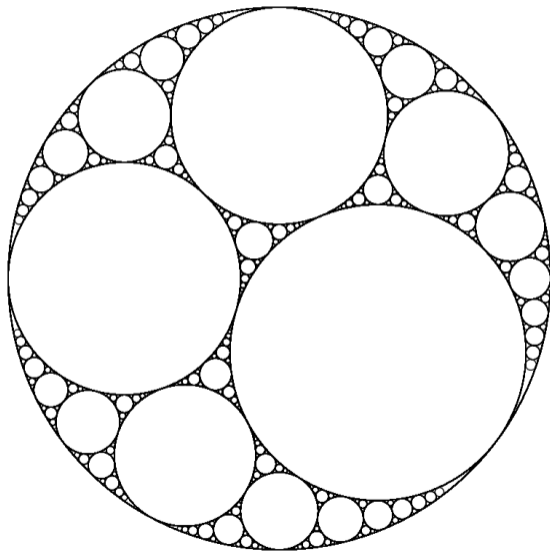
## Apollonian circle packing



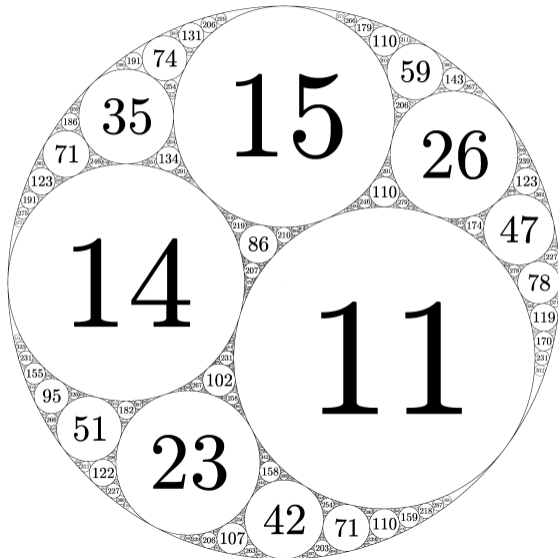
## Apollonian circle packing



# Apollonian circle packing



# Apollonian circle packing



## a theorem of Elizabeth and Descartes

Curvatures  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ ,  $d$  of four mutually tangent circles (a *Descartes quadruple*) satisfy

$$2(a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2) = (a + b + c + d)^2.$$

## a theorem of Elizabeth and Descartes

Curvatures  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ ,  $d$  of four mutually tangent circles (a *Descartes quadruple*) satisfy

$$2(a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2) = (a + b + c + d)^2.$$

Given  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ , there are two possibilities  $d$  and  $d'$  satisfying

$$d + d' = 2(a + b + c).$$

## a theorem of Elizabeth and Descartes

Curvatures  $a, b, c, d$  of four mutually tangent circles (a *Descartes quadruple*) satisfy

$$2(a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2) = (a + b + c + d)^2.$$

Given  $a, b, c$ , there are two possibilities  $d$  and  $d'$  satisfying

$$d + d' = 2(a + b + c).$$

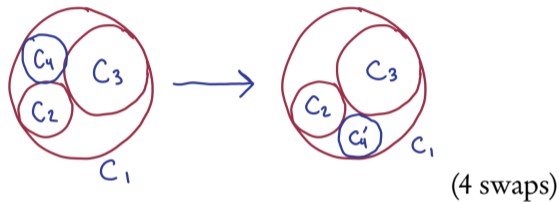
Therefore

$$a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z} \implies \text{everything} \in \mathbb{Z}.$$



# Apollonian group (Hirst)

Acting on Descartes quadruples of curvatures:



$$\mathcal{A} = \langle S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4 : S_i^2 = 1 \rangle < O_Q(\mathbb{Z})$$

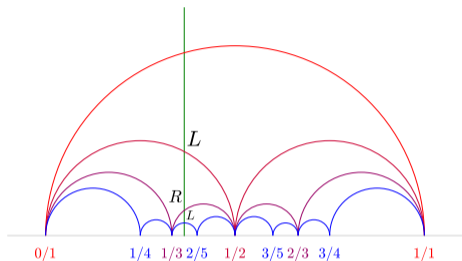
$\mathcal{A}$  is a *thin group*, meaning

- ▶ infinite index in  $O_Q(\mathbb{Z})$
- ▶ Zariski dense in  $O_Q$

For example,

$$S_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

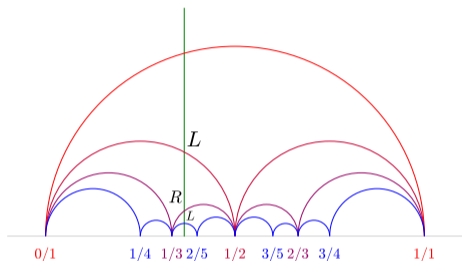
## Continued Fractions (Series)



$$\begin{pmatrix} 355 \\ 113 \end{pmatrix} = R^3 L^7 R^{15} L^1 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^3 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^7 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{15} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^1 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{355}{113} = 3 + \frac{1}{7 + \frac{1}{15 + \frac{1}{1}}}$$

# Continued Fractions



Continued fraction semigroup:

$$\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{Z})^{\geq 0} = \langle L, R \rangle^+ = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) : a, b, c, d \geq 0 \right\}$$

# Zaremba's Conjecture

Let  $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  be a finite alphabet.

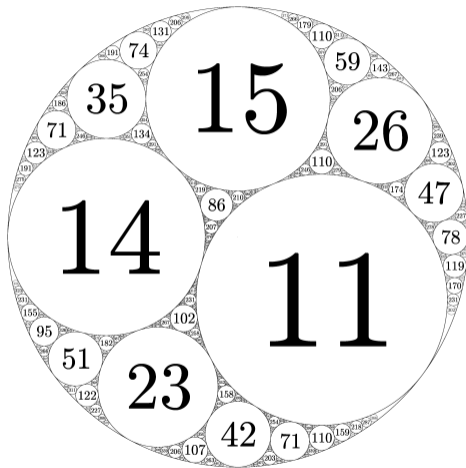
$$Z_A := \left\{ q \in \mathbb{N} : \begin{array}{l} \exists p \in \mathbb{N}, \\ p/q \text{ has continued fraction expansion} \\ \text{using only coefficients from } A \end{array} \right\}$$

## Conjecture (Zaremba)

Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . Then  $Z_A = \mathbb{N}$ .

$$Z_A = \left\{ q \in \mathbb{Z} : \exists p \in \mathbb{N}, \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma_A \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}, \quad \Gamma_A := \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & a \end{pmatrix} : a \in A \right\rangle^+.$$

## Geometric considerations



Once  $-6, 11, 14, 15$  are set, no room for  $1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, \dots$

## Analytic considerations

$$\#\{C : \text{curv}(C) < X\} \sim c_A X^{1.30568\dots}, \quad 1.30568\dots = \text{Hausdorff dim.}$$

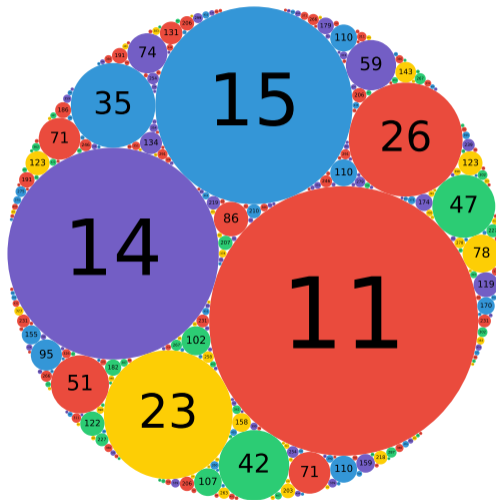
## Analytic considerations

$$\#\{C : \text{curv}(C) < X\} \sim c_A X^{1.30568\dots}, \quad 1.30568\dots = \text{Hausdorff dim.}$$

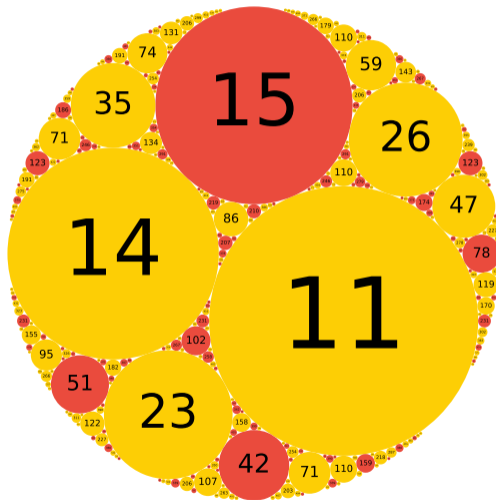
So that multiplicities, on average, are around  $X^{0.3}$ .

(Boyd, McMullen, Kontorovich-Oh)

# Curvatures modulo 5



# Curvatures modulo 3

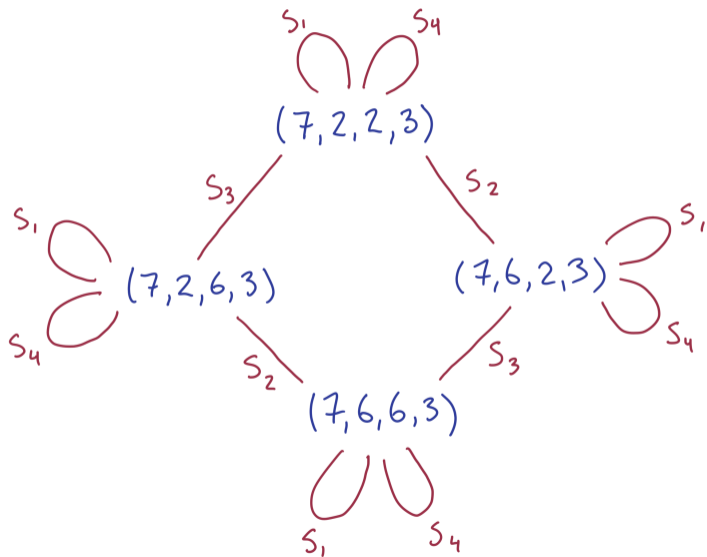


## Algebraic considerations

Modulo 24, certain residue classes are missed.

type	allowed residues
(6, 1)	0, 1, 4, 9, 12, 16
(6, 5)	0, 5, 8, 12, 20, 21
(6, 13)	0, 4, 12, 13, 16, 21
(6, 17)	0, 8, 9, 12, 17, 20
(8, 7)	3, 6, 7, 10, 15, 18, 19, 22
(8, 11)	2, 3, 6, 11, 14, 15, 18, 23

## Local obstruction: reduced Cayley graph



## Apollonian group (Version 2)

Acting on Descartes quadruples of circles via Möbius transformations (swaps on a ‘base quadruple’ move the whole packing).

$$\mathcal{A} < \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}[i])$$

There is an *exceptional isomorphism*

$$\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathrm{SO}_{1,3}^+(\mathbb{R}).$$

## Strong approximation (Fuchs)

Reduction modulo  $\mathfrak{a}$

$$\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}[i]) \rightarrow \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}[i]/\mathfrak{a})$$

surjects for all  $\mathfrak{a}$ .

There are only finitely many primes  $\mathfrak{p}$  where  $\mathcal{A}/\mathfrak{p} \neq \mathrm{SL}_2/\mathfrak{p}$ .

Where this fails, there exists an  $m_{\mathfrak{p}}$  for which if  $M \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}[i]/\mathfrak{p}^m)$ ,  $m > m_{\mathfrak{p}}$  reduces mod  $\mathfrak{p}^{m_{\mathfrak{p}}}$  to something in  $\mathcal{A}/\mathfrak{p}^{m_{\mathfrak{p}}}$ , then it reduces mod  $\mathfrak{p}^m$  to something in  $\mathcal{A}/\mathfrak{p}^m$ .

## Spectral gap (Varjú)

$A$  = adjacency matrix

$\mathbf{x}$  = vector of weights on vertices

Markov chain for flow of mass to neighbours:

$$\mathbf{x} \mapsto \frac{1}{4}A\mathbf{x}, \quad (x_w) \mapsto \left( \frac{1}{4} \sum_{w \sim v} x_w \right).$$

Eigenvalues:  $1 = \lambda_0 \geq \lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_{n-1} \geq -1$

Spectral gap:  $\lambda_0 > \lambda_1$  controls the rate of mixing

Expander family: Graphs  $G_i$  with  $\epsilon := \limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_{G_i,1} < 1$

## Possible thin group/semigroup orbit obstructions

1. **Definiteness:** Finite in one direction. (e.g., all positive)
2. **Thinness:** If growth rate is too slow to allow for increasing average multiplicity, can't expect density one.
3. **Congruence:**  $\text{orbit} \cap \{a \pmod{m}\} = \emptyset$ .
4. **Inherited:** Obstructions (such as Brauer-Manin) inherited from some larger algebraic set.

## local-to-global

**Conjecture** (Graham-Lagarias-Mallows-Wilks-Yan 2003, Fuchs-Sanden 2011):

*In a primitive integral Apollonian circle packing,*

- ▶ *curvatures satisfy a congruence condition modulo 24, and*
- ▶ *all sufficiently large integers satisfying this condition appear.*

## local-to-global

**Conjecture** (Graham-Lagarias-Mallows-Wilks-Yan 2003, Fuchs-Sanden 2011):

*In a primitive integral Apollonian circle packing,*

- ▶ *curvatures satisfy a congruence condition modulo 24, and*
- ▶ *all sufficiently large integers satisfying this condition appear.*

In other words,

$$\mathcal{H}(N) := \{n \leq N : n \text{ is a curvature}\} = kN + O(1),$$

Here  $k = \frac{\# \text{ admissible curvatures modulo } 24}{24}$ .

# History

$$\mathcal{H}(N) := \{n \leq N : n \text{ is a curvature} \}$$

- ▶ Graham-Lagarias-Mallows-Wilks-Yan:  $\mathcal{H}(N) \gg \sqrt{N}$ .

# History

$$\mathcal{K}(N) := \{n \leq N : n \text{ is a curvature} \}$$

- ▶ Graham-Lagarias-Mallows-Wilks-Yan:  $\mathcal{K}(N) \gg \sqrt{N}$ .
- ▶ Sarnak:  $\mathcal{K}(N) \gg \frac{N}{\sqrt{\log N}}$ .

# History

$$\mathcal{H}(N) := \{n \leq N : n \text{ is a curvature} \}$$

- ▶ Graham-Lagarias-Mallows-Wilks-Yan:  $\mathcal{H}(N) \gg \sqrt{N}$ .
- ▶ Sarnak:  $\mathcal{H}(N) \gg \frac{N}{\sqrt{\log N}}$ .
- ▶ Bourgain-Fuchs:  $\mathcal{H}(N) \gg N$  (positive density).

# History

$$\mathcal{H}(N) := \{n \leq N : n \text{ is a curvature} \}$$

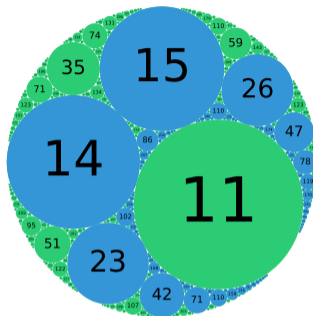
- ▶ Graham-Lagarias-Mallows-Wilks-Yan:  $\mathcal{H}(N) \gg \sqrt{N}$ .
- ▶ Sarnak:  $\mathcal{H}(N) \gg \frac{N}{\sqrt{\log N}}$ .
- ▶ Bourgain-Fuchs:  $\mathcal{H}(N) \gg N$  (positive density).
- ▶ Bourgain-Kontorovich:  $\exists \eta > 0, \mathcal{H}(N) = kN + O(N^{1-\eta})$  (density one).

# History

$$\mathcal{K}(N) := \{n \leq N : n \text{ is a curvature} \}$$

- ▶ Graham-Lagarias-Mallows-Wilks-Yan:  $\mathcal{K}(N) \gg \sqrt{N}$ .
- ▶ Sarnak:  $\mathcal{K}(N) \gg \frac{N}{\sqrt{\log N}}$ .
- ▶ Bourgain-Fuchs:  $\mathcal{K}(N) \gg N$  (positive density).
- ▶ Bourgain-Kontorovich:  $\exists \eta > 0, \mathcal{K}(N) = kN + O(N^{1-\eta})$  (density one).
- ▶ Zhang, Fuchs-S.-Zhang:  $\exists \eta > 0, \mathcal{K}(N) = kN + O(N^{1-\eta})$  for a larger class of packings.

# Tool: quadratic forms (Sarnak, Graham-Lagarias-Mallows-Wilks-Yan)

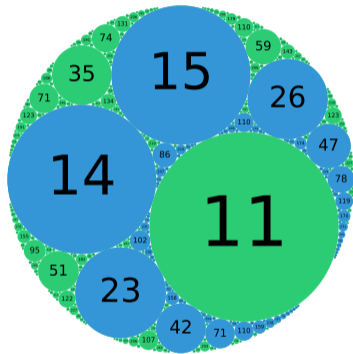


There is a bijection:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{curvatures of circles tangent} \\ \text{to fixed mother circle } C \text{ of curvature } a \end{array} \right\} \leftrightarrow \{f_C(x, y) - a : \gcd(x, y) = 1\}$$

where  $f_C$  is a primitive integral binary quadratic form of discriminant  $-4a^2$  associated to the 'mother circle'.

Bourgain-Fuchs:  $\mathcal{K}(N) \gg N$



$$S_C = \{\text{curvatures} \leq N \text{ represented by } f_C - a\}$$

Then

$$\mathcal{K}(N) \geq \sum_{C \in S} |S_C| - \sum_{C, C' \in S} |S_C \cap S_{C'}|$$

Bound the left by  $\gg \eta N$  and the right by  $\ll \eta^2 N$ .

# Bourgain-Kontorovich: $\mathcal{K}(N) = cN + O(N^{1-\eta})$

Write

$$\mathcal{R}_N(n) = \sum_{\gamma \in \mathcal{F}_T} \sum_{\substack{x, y \in \mathbb{Z}, \\ X \leq x, y \leq 2X}} 1_{f_\gamma(x, y) = n}$$

Here,  $\mathcal{F}_T$  is a subset of  $\mathcal{A}$  growing with  $T$ , and  $N = T^2 X^2$ .

Goal: bound  $\mathcal{R}_N(n) > 0$  for almost all  $n$ .

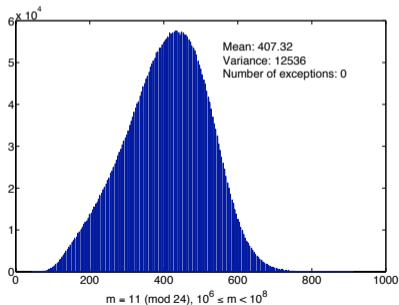
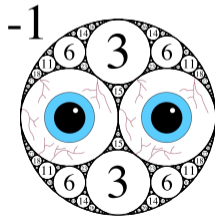
Tool: Hardy-Littlewood Circle Method.

# Computational Evidence (Fuchs-Sanden)

Computed curvatures up to:

$$10^8 \text{ for } (-1, 2, 2, 3)$$
$$5 \cdot 10^8 \text{ for } (-11, 21, 24, 28)$$

and observed that the multiplicity of a curvature was tending to increase.



## Computational Evidence

Curvature  $c$  is *missing* in  $\mathcal{A}$  if curvatures  $\equiv c \pmod{24}$  appear in  $\mathcal{A}$  but  $c$  does not.

# Computational Evidence

Curvature  $c$  is *missing* in  $\mathcal{A}$  if curvatures  $\equiv c \pmod{24}$  appear in  $\mathcal{A}$  but  $c$  does not.

Fuchs-Sanden computed curvatures up to:

$$\begin{aligned} &10^8 \text{ for } (-1, 2, 2, 3) \\ &5 \cdot 10^8 \text{ for } (-11, 21, 24, 28) \end{aligned}$$

## Computational Evidence

Curvature  $c$  is *missing* in  $\mathcal{A}$  if curvatures  $\equiv c \pmod{24}$  appear in  $\mathcal{A}$  but  $c$  does not.

Fuchs-Sanden computed curvatures up to:

$$\begin{aligned} &10^8 \text{ for } (-1, 2, 2, 3) \\ &5 \cdot 10^8 \text{ for } (-11, 21, 24, 28) \end{aligned}$$

For  $(-11, 21, 24, 28)$ , there were still a small number (up to 0.013%) of missing curvatures in the range  $(4 \cdot 10^8, 5 \cdot 10^8)$  for residue classes  $0, 4, 12, 16 \pmod{24}$ .

## Summer 2023 REU

- ▶ Fix a pair of curvatures, and study what packings contain them.

## Summer 2023 REU

- ▶ Fix a pair of curvatures, and study what packings contain them.
- ▶ Plot: for an admissible pair of residue classes modulo 24, black dot if no packing has that pair.

## Summer 2023 REU

- ▶ Fix a pair of curvatures, and study what packings contain them.
- ▶ Plot: for an admissible pair of residue classes modulo 24, black dot if no packing has that pair.
- ▶ Local-global: finitely many black dots on any row or column.

## Typical graph

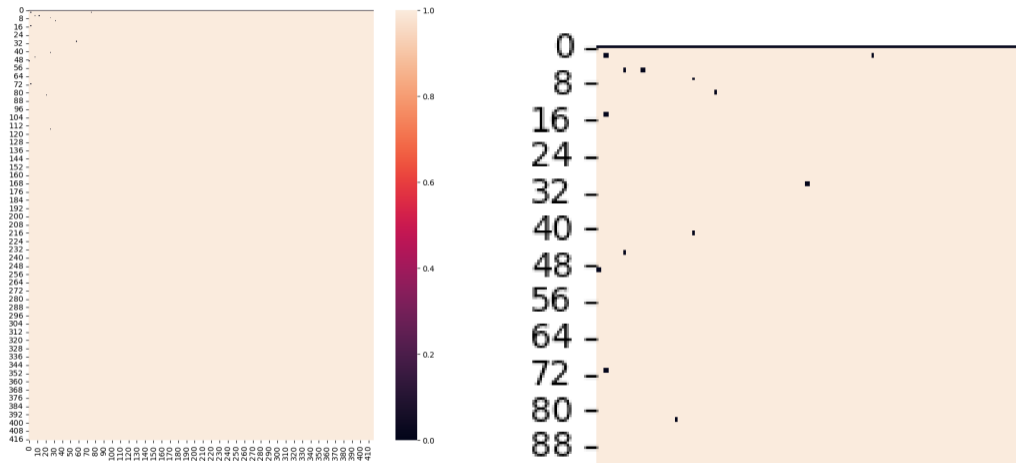


Figure: Residue classes 0 (mod 24) and 12 (mod 24) (Summer Haag)

# One weird graph

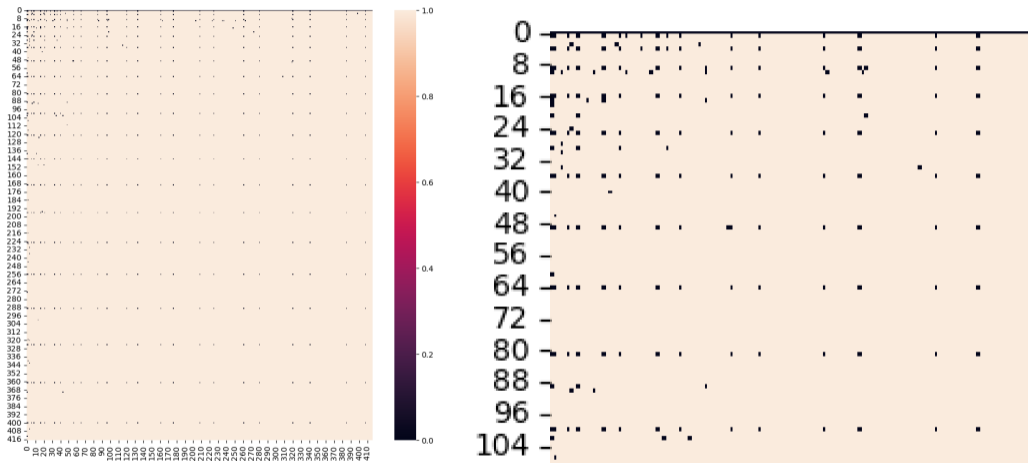
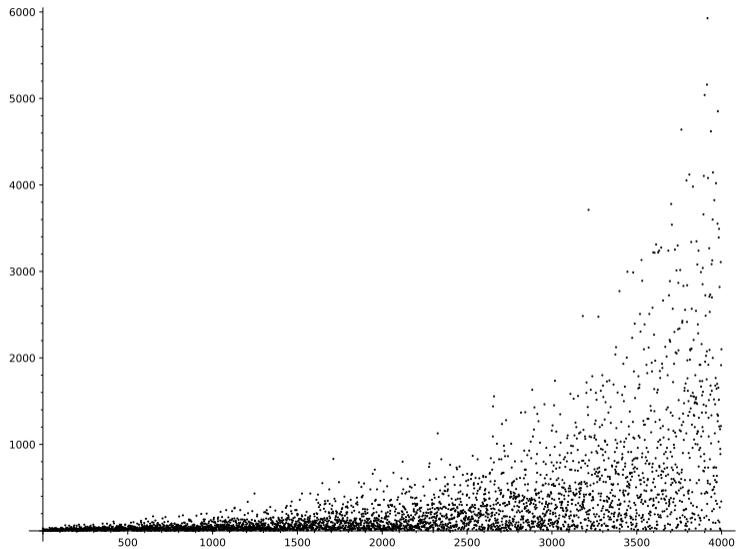
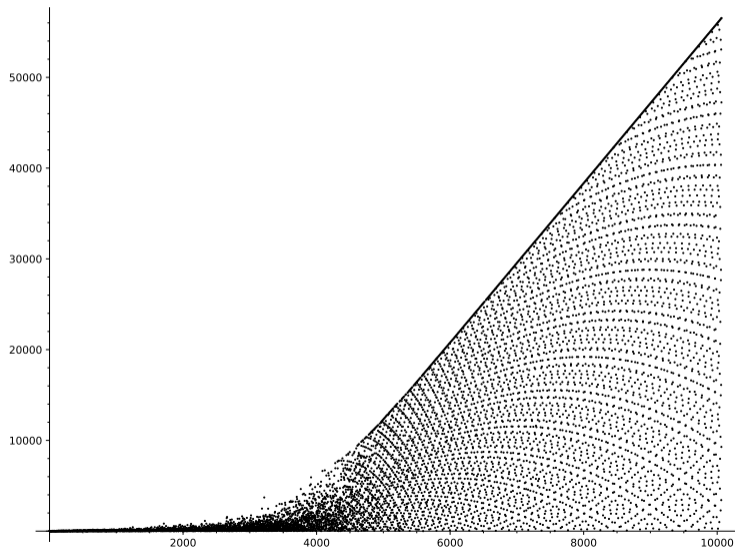


Figure: Residue classes 0 (mod 24) and 8 (mod 24) (Summer Haag)

# differences between successive missing curvatures



# differences between successive missing curvatures



# The conjecture is false

Theorem (Haag-Kertzer-Rickards-S.)

*The Apollonian circle packing  $\mathcal{A}$  generated by quadruple  $(-3, 5, 8, 8)$  has no square curvatures.*

## A circle has a 'residuosity'

1. Fix circle  $\mathcal{C}$  of curvature  $n$ ; tangent curvatures  $f_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y) - n$  of discriminant  $-4n^2$

## A circle has a 'residuosity'

1. Fix circle  $\mathcal{C}$  of curvature  $n$ ; tangent curvatures  $f_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y) - n$  of discriminant  $-4n^2$
2. Modulo  $n$  and equivalence, values are  $Ax^2$ .

## A circle has a 'residuosity'

1. Fix circle  $\mathcal{C}$  of curvature  $n$ ; tangent curvatures  $f_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y) - n$  of discriminant  $-4n^2$
2. Modulo  $n$  and equivalence, values are  $Ax^2$ .
3. Kronecker symbol  $\left(\frac{Ax^2}{n}\right)$  cannot take both values 1 and  $-1$ .

## A circle has a 'residuosity'

1. Fix circle  $\mathcal{C}$  of curvature  $n$ ; tangent curvatures  $f_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y) - n$  of discriminant  $-4n^2$
2. Modulo  $n$  and equivalence, values are  $Ax^2$ .
3. Kronecker symbol  $\left(\frac{Ax^2}{n}\right)$  cannot take both values 1 and  $-1$ .
4. Define  $\chi_2(\mathcal{C}) = 1$  or  $-1$  according to above.
5. Note:  $\chi_2(\mathcal{C}) = \left(\frac{a}{n}\right)$  for a curvature  $a$  coprime and tangent to  $\mathcal{C}$ .

## A circle has a 'residuosity'

1. Fix circle  $\mathcal{C}$  of curvature  $n$ ; tangent curvatures  $f_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y) - n$  of discriminant  $-4n^2$
2. Modulo  $n$  and equivalence, values are  $Ax^2$ .
3. Kronecker symbol  $\left(\frac{Ax^2}{n}\right)$  cannot take both values 1 and  $-1$ .
4. Define  $\chi_2(\mathcal{C}) = 1$  or  $-1$  according to above.
5. Note:  $\chi_2(\mathcal{C}) = \left(\frac{a}{n}\right)$  for a curvature  $a$  coprime and tangent to  $\mathcal{C}$ .
6. Observe: If  $\chi_2(\mathcal{C}) = -1$ , then  $n$  is not square.

## A packing has a 'residuosity'

1. Suppose that  $\mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2 \in \mathcal{A}$  are tangent, having non-zero coprime curvatures  $a$  and  $b$  respectively.

## A packing has a 'residuosity'

1. Suppose that  $\mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2 \in \mathcal{A}$  are tangent, having non-zero coprime curvatures  $a$  and  $b$  respectively.
2. Quadratic reciprocity:

$$\chi_2(\mathcal{C}_1)\chi_2(\mathcal{C}_2) = \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)\left(\frac{b}{a}\right) = 1 \quad \implies \quad \chi_2(\mathcal{C}_1) = \chi_2(\mathcal{C}_2).$$

## A packing has a 'residuosity'

1. Suppose that  $\mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2 \in \mathcal{A}$  are tangent, having non-zero coprime curvatures  $a$  and  $b$  respectively.
2. Quadratic reciprocity:

$$\chi_2(\mathcal{C}_1)\chi_2(\mathcal{C}_2) = \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)\left(\frac{b}{a}\right) = 1 \quad \implies \quad \chi_2(\mathcal{C}_1) = \chi_2(\mathcal{C}_2).$$

3. Any two circles in  $\mathcal{A}$  are connected by a path of pairwise coprime curvatures.
4. So  $\chi_2(\mathcal{C})$  is independent of the choice of circle  $\mathcal{C}$ .

## There are no squares in the packing

1. In base quadruple  $(-3, 5, 8, 8)$ , compute

$$\chi_2(\mathcal{A}) = \binom{8}{5} = \binom{3}{5} = -1.$$

2. So no circle can have square curvature.

## New invariants of a packing

$$\chi_2 : \{\text{circles}\} \rightarrow \{\pm 1\}$$

constant across a packing

## New invariants of a packing

$$\chi_2 : \{\text{circles}\} \rightarrow \{\pm 1\}$$

constant across a packing

$$\chi_4 : \{\text{circles in packing of type (6, 1) or (6, 17)}\} \rightarrow \{1, i, -1, -i\}$$

satisfies  $\chi_4(\mathcal{C})^2 = \chi_2(\mathcal{C})$ ,  
constant across a packing.

## New invariants of a packing

$$\chi_2 : \{\text{circles}\} \rightarrow \{\pm 1\}$$

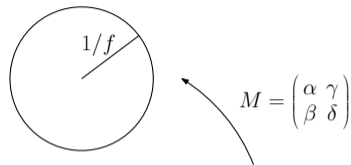
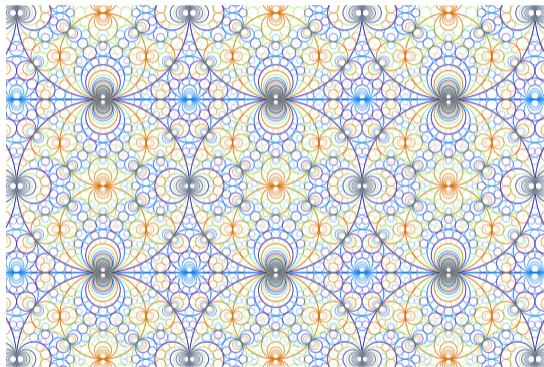
constant across a packing

$$\chi_4 : \{\text{circles in packing of type } (6, 1) \text{ or } (6, 17)\} \rightarrow \{1, i, -1, -i\}$$

satisfies  $\chi_4(\mathcal{C})^2 = \chi_2(\mathcal{C})$ ,  
constant across a packing.

The values of  $\chi_2$  and  $\chi_4$  determine the quadratic and quartic obstructions respectively.

# Quartic reciprocity



---

$$C \longrightarrow [\beta\mathbb{Z} + \delta\mathbb{Z}] \in \text{Cl}(\mathcal{O}_f)$$

quadratic symbol  $\rightarrow$  quartic symbol

value of form  $\rightarrow$  element of lattice

## Obstructions for types $(x, k, \chi_2(\mathcal{A}), \chi_4(\mathcal{A}))$

Type	Quadratic	Quartic	L-G false	L-G open
$(6, 1, 1, 1)$				0, 1, 4, 9, 12, 16
$(6, 1, 1, -1)$		$n^4, 4n^4,$ $9n^4, 36n^4$	0, 1, 4, 9, 12, 16	
$(6, 1, -1)$	$n^2, 2n^2,$ $3n^2, 6n^2$		0, 1, 4, 9, 12, 16	
$(6, 5, 1)$	$2n^2, 3n^2$		0, 8, 12	5, 20, 21
$(6, 5, -1)$	$n^2, 6n^2$		0, 12	5, 8, 20, 21
$(6, 13, 1)$	$2n^2, 6n^2$		0	4, 12, 13, 16, 21
$(6, 13, -1)$	$n^2, 3n^2$		0, 4, 12, 16	13, 21
$(6, 17, 1, 1)$	$3n^2, 6n^2$	$9n^4, 36n^4$	0, 9, 12	8, 17, 20
$(6, 17, 1, -1)$	$3n^2, 6n^2$	$n^4, 4n^4$	0, 9, 12	8, 17, 20
$(6, 17, -1)$	$n^2, 2n^2$		0, 8, 9, 12	17, 20
$(8, 7, 1)$	$3n^2, 6n^2$		3, 6	7, 10, 15, 18, 19, 22
$(8, 7, -1)$	$2n^2$		18	3, 6, 7, 10, 15, 19, 22
$(8, 11, 1)$				2, 3, 6, 11, 14, 15, 18, 23
$(8, 11, -1)$	$2n^2, 3n^2, 6n^2$		2, 3, 6, 18	11, 14, 15, 23

## New conjecture

*Sporadic* set  $S_{\mathcal{A}}$  of AWOL curvatures: missing but not because of congruence or reciprocity obstructions.

## New conjecture

*Sporadic* set  $S_{\mathcal{A}}$  of AWOL curvatures: missing but not because of congruence or reciprocity obstructions.

Conjecture (Haag-Kertzer-Rickards-S.)

*Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a primitive Apollonian circle packing. Then  $S_{\mathcal{A}}$  is finite.*

# Computational Evidence

- ▶ James wrote efficient C/PARI/GP code for missing curvatures (GitHub).
- ▶ computed many  $S_{\mathcal{A}}(N)$
- ▶  $10^{10}$  in a few hours;  $10^{12}$  possible

## Possible thin group/semigroup orbit obstructions

1. **Definiteness:** Finite in one direction. (e.g., all positive)
2. **Thinness:** If growth rate is too slow to allow for increasing average multiplicity, can't expect density one.
3. **Congruence:**  $\text{orbit} \cap \{a \pmod{m}\} = \emptyset$ .
4. **Inherited:** Obstructions (such as Brauer-Manin) inherited from some larger algebraic set.
5. **Reciprocity:** Families ruled out by reciprocity laws.

## What about Zaremba?

$\#\{\text{denominators} \leq N\} \sim C_A N^{2\delta_A}$ ,  $\delta_A = \text{Hausdorff dimension}$ .

$\delta_A > 1/2 \implies \text{average multiplicity} \rightarrow \infty$ .

### Conjecture (Hensley)

*If  $\delta_A > 1/2$ , then  $D_A$  contains all but finitely many positive integers.*

## What about Zaremba?

$\#\{\text{denominators} \leq N\} \sim C_A N^{2\delta_A}$ ,  $\delta_A = \text{Hausdorff dimension}$ .

$\delta_A > 1/2 \implies \text{average multiplicity} \rightarrow \infty$ .

### Conjecture (Hensley)

*If  $\delta_A > 1/2$ , then  $D_A$  contains all but finitely many positive integers.*

- ▶  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ :  $\delta_A \approx 0.8368$ ;
- ▶  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ :  $\delta_A \approx 0.7889$ ;
- ▶  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ :  $\delta_A \approx 0.7057$ ;
- ▶  $A = \{1, 2\}$ :  $\delta_A \approx 0.5313$ ;

## What about Zaremba?

$\#\{\text{denominators} \leq N\} \sim C_A N^{2\delta_A}$ ,  $\delta_A = \text{Hausdorff dimension}$ .

$\delta_A > 1/2 \implies \text{average multiplicity} \rightarrow \infty$ .

### Conjecture (Hensley)

*If  $\delta_A > 1/2$ , then  $D_A$  contains all but finitely many positive integers.*

- ▶  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ :  $\delta_A \approx 0.8368$ ;
- ▶  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ :  $\delta_A \approx 0.7889$ ;
- ▶  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ :  $\delta_A \approx 0.7057$ ;
- ▶  $A = \{1, 2\}$ :  $\delta_A \approx 0.5313$ ;
- ▶  $A = \{2, 4, 6, 8, 10\}$ :  $\delta_A \approx 0.5174$ ;
- ▶ Bourgain-Kontorovich: this last alphabet misses  $3 \pmod{4}$ , disproving Hensley's conjecture.

# Reciprocity obstructions in $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{Z})^{\geq 0}$

subsemigroups of  $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{Z})^{\geq 0}$   $\longleftrightarrow$  restricted continued fraction expansions

A fascinating subset:

$$\Psi := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma_1^{\geq 0}(4) : \left( \frac{a}{b} \right) = 1 \right\}.$$

where

$$\Gamma_1^{\geq 0}(4) = \left\{ \gamma \in \mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{Z})^{\geq 0} : \gamma \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & * \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \pmod{4} \right\}.$$

# Reciprocity obstructions in $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{Z})^{\geq 0}$

$$\Psi := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma_1^{\geq 0}(4) : \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = 1 \right\}.$$

## Proposition

$\Psi$  is a semigroup.

## Reciprocity obstructions in $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})^{\geq 0}$

$$\Psi := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma_1^{\geq 0}(4) : \left( \frac{a}{b} \right) = 1 \right\}.$$

### Proposition

$\Psi$  is a semigroup.

Fascinating consequence: If we say a rational  $p/q$  is "Kronecker positive" if  $\left( \frac{p}{q} \right) = 1$ , then this property is preserved under concatenation of continued fraction expansions (\*).

## Reciprocity obstructions in $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{Z})^{\geq 0}$

$$\Psi := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma_1^{\geq 0}(4) : \left( \frac{a}{b} \right) = 1 \right\}.$$

### Theorem (Rickards-S.)

Let  $x, y$  be positive coprime integers where  $y$  is odd and  $\left( \frac{x}{y} \right) = -1$ . Then the numerators and denominators of the orbit  $\Psi \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$  cannot be squares.

Once again, quadratic reciprocity.

# Reciprocity obstructions in thin semigroups

$$\Psi_1 := \left\langle \left( \begin{array}{cc} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{array} \right), \left( \begin{array}{cc} 1 & 0 \\ 4 & 1 \end{array} \right) \right\rangle^+.$$

- ▶ *thin*,  $\delta_1 \approx 1.4386$
- ▶ congruence obstructions modulo 4

## Theorem (Rickards-S.)

*Numerators of  $\Psi_1 \cdot \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)$  have no congruence obstructions, yet cannot be square.*

## Conjecture

*Every non-square integer  $n > 10569$  occurs as a numerator in  $\Psi_1 \cdot \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)$ .*

(data up to  $10^7$ )

## In terms of continued fractions

### Theorem (Rickards-S.)

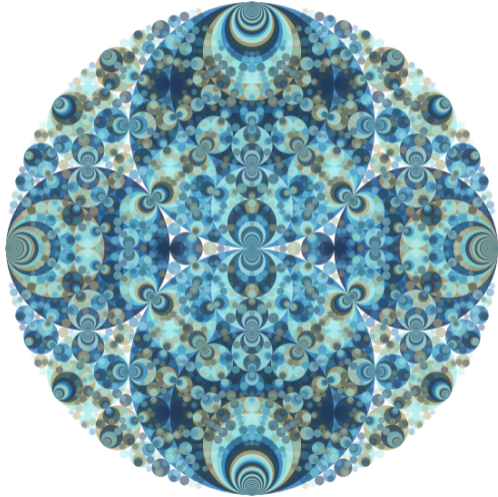
Let

$$S = \left\{ \frac{p}{q} = [0; a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, 1, 1, 2] : a_i \in \{4, 8, 12, \dots, 128\} \right\}.$$

*Then the limit set has Hausdorff dimension  $> 1/2$ , no congruence obstruction to squares, but no square denominators.*

Disproves a conjecture of Bourgain and Kontorovich.

Thank you



## Tables

Packing	Type	$N$	$ S_{\mathcal{A}}(N) $	$\max(S_{\mathcal{A}}(N))$	$\approx \frac{N}{\max(S_{\mathcal{A}}(N))}$
(0, 0, 1, 1)	(6, 1, 1, 1)	$10^{10}$	215	1199820	8334.58
(-12, 16, 49, 49)		$10^{11}$	275276	5542869468	18.04
(-20, 36, 49, 49)		$10^{12}$	2014815	55912619880	17.89
(-8, 12, 25, 25)	(6, 1, 1, -1)	$10^{10}$	47070	517280220	19.33
(-12, 25, 25, 28)		$10^{11}$	238268	5919707820	16.89
(-15, 24, 40, 49)		$2 \cdot 10^{11}$	639149	12692531688	15.75
(-15, 28, 33, 40)	(6, 1, -1)	$10^{10}$	80472	820523160	12.19
(-20, 33, 52, 57)		$10^{11}$	240230	4127189100	24.23
(-23, 40, 57, 60)		$10^{11}$	392800	8689511520	11.51
(-4, 5, 20, 21)	(6, 5, 1)	$10^{10}$	3659	32084460	311.68
(-16, 29, 36, 45)		$10^{10}$	80256	927211800	10.79
(-19, 36, 44, 45)		$10^{11}$	177902	3603790320	27.75
(-3, 5, 8, 8)	(6, 5, -1)	$10^{10}$	676	3122880	3202.17
(-12, 21, 29, 32)		$10^{10}$	30347	312225420	32.03
(-19, 32, 48, 53)		$2.5 \cdot 10^{10}$	168264	2286209460	10.94

## Tables

Packing	Type	$N$	$ S_{\mathcal{A}}(N) $	$\max(S_{\mathcal{A}}(N))$	$\approx \frac{N}{\max(S_{\mathcal{A}}(N))}$
(-3, 4, 12, 13)	(6, 13, 1)	$10^{10}$	731	7354464	1359.72
(-12, 21, 28, 37)		$10^{11}$	234386	3470731680	28.81
(-11, 16, 36, 37)		$10^{10}$	20748	226988340	44.06
(-8, 13, 21, 24)	(6, 13, -1)	$10^{10}$	5273	45348900	220.51
(-11, 21, 24, 28)		$10^{10}$	21003	176441136	56.68
(-20, 37, 45, 52)		$10^{11}$	229356	4079861484	24.51
(-16, 32, 33, 41)	(6, 17, 1, 1)	$10^{10}$	81777	841440840	11.88
(-7, 8, 56, 57)		$10^{10}$	55057	595231740	16.80
(-16, 20, 81, 81)		$10^{12}$	1075024	26983035480	37.06
(-4, 8, 9, 9)	(6, 17, 1, -1)	$10^{10}$	2057	10742460	930.89
(-7, 9, 32, 32)		$10^{10}$	34916	367956840	27.18
(-15, 32, 32, 33)		$10^{11}$	585942	8505627180	11.76
(-7, 12, 17, 20)	(6, 17, -1)	$10^{10}$	3744	17141220	583.39
(-12, 17, 41, 44)		$10^{10}$	31851	270186456	37.01
(-15, 24, 41, 44)		$10^{10}$	80106	803343900	12.45

## Tables

Packing	Type	$N$	$ S_{\mathcal{A}}(N) $	$\max(S_{\mathcal{A}}(N))$	$\approx \frac{N}{\max(S_{\mathcal{A}}(N))}$
(-5, 7, 18, 18)	(8, 7, 1)	$10^{10}$	16417	86709570	115.33
(-6, 10, 15, 19)		$10^{10}$	24305	133977255	74.64
(-9, 18, 19, 22)		$10^{10}$	14866	82815750	120.75
(-2, 3, 6, 7)	(8, 7, -1)	$10^{10}$	236	429039	23307.90
(-5, 6, 30, 31)		$10^{10}$	19695	97583070	102.48
(-14, 27, 31, 34)		$2 \cdot 10^{10}$	99294	1643827935	12.17
(-1, 2, 2, 3)	(8, 11, 1)	$10^{10}$	61	97287	102788.66
(-9, 14, 26, 27)		$10^{10}$	17949	85926675	116.38
(-10, 18, 23, 27)		$10^{10}$	25944	124625694	80.24
(-6, 11, 14, 15)	(8, 11, -1)	$10^{10}$	3381	20149335	496.29
(-10, 14, 35, 39)		$4 \cdot 10^{10}$	256228	2934238515	13.63
(-13, 23, 30, 38)		$10^{10}$	71341	598107510	16.72