

## A common structure of $n_k$ 's for which $n_k\alpha \bmod 1 \rightarrow x$

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**Abstract.** Let  $\alpha$  be an irrational number and  $\varepsilon_k \leq 1$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , be an arbitrary decreasing sequence of real numbers such that  $\varepsilon_k \rightarrow 0$ . In this paper we show a construction of sequences  $n_k$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , for which the fractional parts  $\{n_k\alpha\} \rightarrow x$ , where  $x \in [0, 1]$  is fixed but arbitrary and  $k/n_k \geq \varepsilon_k$  for  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ . Here  $\{n_k\alpha\} \in I_j$  for  $k_{j-1} < k \leq k_j$  and the length  $|I_j| = \{h_j\alpha\}$ , where  $h_j$  is a positive integer for  $j = 1, 2, \dots$ . The increasing sequence  $k_j$  is independent of  $x$ . Moreover, the differences  $n_{k+1} - n_k$  satisfy the three gaps property with parameters  $a_j, b_j$  and  $a_j + b_j$  not depending on  $x$  for every  $k_{j-1} < k < k_j$  and  $j = 2, 3, \dots$ .

### 1. Introduction

In what follows  $\alpha$  denotes an irrational number and  $\{n\alpha\}$  denotes the fractional part of  $n\alpha$ . The H. WEYL's classical result [17, Satz 2] that the sequence  $\{n\alpha\}$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , is uniformly distributed in the unit interval  $[0, 1]$  implies that to every  $x \in [0, 1]$  there exists an increasing sequence  $n_k = n_k(x)$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , of positive integers such that  $\{n_k\alpha\} \rightarrow x$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . In a previous paper [16, Satz 6] he proved that given an increasing sequence  $n_k$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , the sequence  $\{n_k\alpha\}$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , is uniformly distributed in  $[0, 1]$  for almost all real numbers  $\alpha$ .

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P. ERDŐS asked whether there exists a real number  $x \in [a, b]$  such that the sequence  $n_k x$  is not everywhere dense mod 1. He and S. J. TAYLOR [3] proved that if  $n_k$  is a lacunary sequence of real positive numbers, that is if  $n_{k+1}/n_k \geq \lambda$  for some  $\lambda > 1$  and every  $k$ , then the set of the real numbers  $\alpha$  belonging to any interval  $[a, b]$ ,  $a < b$ , such that the sequence  $n_k \alpha$  is not u.d. mod 1 has Hausdorff dimension 1.

A. DUBICKAS found an  $\alpha$  and  $n_1 < n_2 < n_3 < \dots$  such that  $\{n_k \alpha\}$  converges to zero while  $k/n_k$  tends to 0 arbitrarily slowly. More precisely, he proved [2, Theorem 1]

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $\alpha$  be a real quadratic algebraic number, and let<sup>1</sup>  $1 \geq \varepsilon_1 \geq \varepsilon_2 \geq \varepsilon_3 \geq \dots$  be a sequence of real numbers such that  $\varepsilon_n \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Then there exists an increasing sequence of positive integers  $n_1 < n_2 < \dots$  satisfying  $\varepsilon_k \leq \frac{k}{n_k}$  for each  $k \geq 1$  such that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \{n_k \alpha\} = 0$ .*

The condition A. DUBICKAS  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \varepsilon_k = 0$  cannot be weakened as there follows from Theorem 2 of [2] saying:

**Theorem 1.2.** *Let  $n_k$  be an increasing sequence of positive integers with positive upper asymptotic density,<sup>2</sup> and let  $\alpha$  be an irrational real number. Then the set of limit points of the sequence  $\{n_k \alpha\}$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , is infinite.*

Another proof of Dubickas' condition also follows from the following reasoning: The asymptotic distribution function  $g(x)$  of  $\{n\alpha\}$  is  $g(x) = x$ , and thus it is a continuous function over  $[0, 1]$ . Consequently there follows from [7, Example 3.1] that the sequence  $n_k = n_k(x)$  such that  $\{n_k \alpha\} \rightarrow x$ , has zero asymptotic density for every  $x \in [0, 1]$ , i.e.

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{k}{n_k} = 0, \quad (1)$$

for every  $x \in [0, 1]$ .

Other well-known result on limit points of  $\{n_k \alpha\}$  is FURSTENBERG's result [4, Theorem IV.1] implying that if the increasing sequence of positive integers  $n_1 < n_2 < \dots$  forms a multiplicative semigroup which is not generated by powers of a single integer (e.g.  $\{2^a 3^b : a, b \text{ positive integers}\}$ ), then the sequence of fractional parts  $n_k \alpha$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , is everywhere dense in  $[0, 1]$  for each real irrational  $\alpha$ . P. ERDŐS and S. J. TAYLOR [3, Theorem 10] also proved that there exists a

<sup>1</sup>The decreasing property of the sequence  $\varepsilon_n$  is clearly not a limitation for one can redefine the sequence without loss of generality by taking  $\varepsilon_k = \sup_{j \geq k} \varepsilon_j$ .

<sup>2</sup>The asymptotic density of a sequence of positive integers  $n_k$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , is defined as the limit  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \#\{k; n_k \leq n\}/n$  if the limit exists and, if we write  $0 < n_1 < n_2 < \dots$  then (cf. [15, 1.3])  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \#\{k; n_k \leq n\}/n = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} k/n_k$ , providing one of the limits exists.

constant  $C$ , and an increasing sequence  $n_k$  such that  $n_{k+1} - n_k < C$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , and the set of  $x$  such that  $\{n_k x\}$  is not uniformly distributed is not enumerable.

Dubickas' proof of Theorem 1.1 is quite complex and actually the constructed sequence  $n_k$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , depends on  $\alpha$ . Almost immediately, Y. BUGEAUD [1] answered Dubickas' question whether given a real algebraic number of degree at least 3 or a real transcendental number  $\alpha$  there exists a slowly increasing sequence of positive  $n_1 < n_2 < \dots$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{n_k \alpha\} = 0$ . Y. BUGEAUD [1] using tools from the theory of continued fractions proved:

**Theorem 1.3.** *Let  $\alpha$  be an irrational number and  $S$  a finite subset of  $[0, 1]$ . Let  $1 \geq \varepsilon_k \geq 0$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , be a given decreasing sequence of real numbers such that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \varepsilon_k = 0$ . Then there exists an increasing sequence of positive integers  $n_1 < n_2 < \dots$  satisfying  $\varepsilon_k \leq \frac{k}{n_k}$  for each  $k \geq 1$  such that the set of limit points of  $\{n_k \alpha\}$  coincides with  $S$ .*

Recently L. MIŠÍK [8] proved the following extension in direction of the set of limit points

**Theorem 1.4.** *Let  $X \subset [0, 1]$  be a closed set,  $\alpha$  be an irrational number, and  $\varepsilon_n \leq 1$  be an arbitrary decreasing sequence such that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \varepsilon_k = 0$ . Then there exists a sequence  $n_1 < n_2 < \dots$  of positive integers such that the set of limit points of  $\{n_k \alpha\}$  coincides with  $X$  and  $\varepsilon_k + |X| \leq \frac{k}{n_k}$  for each  $k \geq 1$ , where  $|X|$  denotes the Lebesgue's measure of  $X$ .*

In this paper we prove that for every irrational  $\alpha$  and every  $x \in [0, 1]$  there exists an increasing sequence of integers  $n_1(x) < n_2(x) < \dots$  such that on one hand  $\{n_k \alpha\} \rightarrow x$  and the Dubickas' condition  $k/n_k(x) \geq \varepsilon_k$  holds true for every  $k$  while the sequence  $n_k(x)$  can be endowed with an additional structure. One of this structural properties extends properties of the set  $A = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : \{n\alpha\} \in I\}$  investigated in [12].

## 2. The result

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $\alpha$  be an irrational number and  $\varepsilon_j \leq 1$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots$ , be a decreasing sequence of positive numbers tending to 0. Then for every  $x \in [0, 1]$  there exist*

- an increasing sequence  $n_k(x)$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , of positive integers,
- an increasing sequence  $k_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots$ , of positive integers independent of  $x$ ,
- a sequence of pairs  $a_j, b_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots$ , also independent of  $x$ , such that

- (I)  $\{n_k(x)\alpha\} \rightarrow x$ ,  
 (II)  $\varepsilon_k \leq \frac{k}{n_k(x)}$  for  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , and  
 (III) for every  $k$ ,  $k_{j-1} < k \leq k_j$ ,  $j = 2, 3, \dots$ , we have

$$n_{k+1}(x) - n_k(x) = \begin{cases} a_j, & \text{or} \\ b_j, & \text{or} \\ a_j + b_j, \end{cases}$$

where  $a_j$  and  $b_j$  are coprime for every  $j = 1, 2, \dots$ .

PROOF. The roadmap of the proof is as follows:

1° Given an arbitrary but fixed  $x \in [0, 1]$  we construct a sequence  $0 = k_0 < k_1 < k_2 < k_3 < \dots$  of positive integers independent of the limit point  $x$ , and an increasing sequence  $n_k(x)$  for  $k$ 's with  $k_{j-1} < k \leq k_j$  and  $j = 2, 3, \dots$ . The construction of  $k_j$ 's for  $j = 1$  and  $n_k$ 's for  $k_0 < k \leq k_1$  will be postponed to step 3°. The reason for this partly unusual placing of this step on the third position is to stress the main idea of construction of  $k$ 's and  $n_k$ 's presented in the previous two steps. The construction of the initial segment of  $n_k$ 's for  $k \leq k_1$  may cause that the values of  $k_j$  for  $j > 1$  should be increased, nevertheless the crucial estimates used in the first and third steps remain true also for the increased values of  $k$ 's and the corresponding blowing-up of values of  $n_k$ 's for  $k > k_1$ .

2° In the previous step the constructions of  $k_j$ 's and  $n_k$ 's depended on an arbitrary but fixed  $x \in [0, 1]$ . In this step we modify the sequences  $k_j$ 's and  $n_k$ 's in such a way that the obtained estimations remain true for arbitrary  $x' \in [0, 1]$ .<sup>3</sup>

3° In this step we complete the construction from 1° for the case  $j = 1$ .

4° We prove property (III).

The details of the proof:

1° Given an  $x \in [0, 1]$ , select a sequence  $I_2(x), I_3(x), \dots$  of subintervals of  $[0, 1]$  satisfying the following four conditions

- $x \in I_j(x)$ , for  $j = 2, 3, \dots$ ,
- $\frac{1}{2} > |I_2(x)| > |I_3(x)| > \dots$ ,<sup>4</sup>
- $|I_j(x)| \rightarrow 0$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ ,

<sup>3</sup>More precisely,  $k_j$ 's for  $x'$  must satisfy new inequalities (7), (8), (11) and (13).

<sup>4</sup>In the proof of (III) we use Slater's original theorem holding for intervals  $I \subset [0, 1]$  of length  $\leq 1/2$ . Actually, from a generalization of Slater's theorem proved in [12] and holding also for intervals of length  $> 1/2$ , an analogous but complicated result can be proved for  $k$ 's satisfying  $k_{j-1} < k \leq k_j$  with  $j = 1$  and  $k_0 = 0$ .

- $|I_j(x)| = \{h_j\alpha\}$ , where  $h_j, j = 2, 3, \dots$ , are positive integers such that the above three conditions are fulfilled.

Now, select a preliminary increasing sequence of positive integers (not depending on  $x$ )

$$k_0 = 0 < k_1 < k_2 < k_3 < \dots < k_j < k_{j+1} < \dots \tag{2}$$

The sequence will be subject of a series of modifications in the process of construction of the next sequence  $n_k(x)$ , if necessary. Since  $n\alpha$  is dense in  $[0, 1]$  construct inductively an increasing sequence of positive integers

$$0 < n_1(x) < n_2(x) < n_3(x) < \dots \tag{3}$$

in such a way that for every  $k$  such that  $k_j < k \leq k_{j+1}, j = 1, 2, \dots$ , take for  $n_k(x)$ , in increasing order, a corresponding  $n = n_k$  satisfying

$$n_{k_j}(x) < n \leq n_{k_{j+1}}(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \{n\alpha\} \in I_{j+1}(x). \tag{4}$$

in such a way that we exhaust all possible  $n$ 's such that  $\{n\alpha\} \in I_{j+1}(x)$  while if necessary we increase  $k_{j+1}$ .

Note that we need that the members of sequence  $n_{k_{j+1}}(x)$  are sufficiently large and satisfy inequalities (7), (8), (11) and (13) in the next steps, so we also increase adequately  $k_{j+1}$  in these steps. In this process the values of  $k_j$ 's and  $n_{k_j}$ 's are stepwise modified in such a way that both initial segments of these sequences remain unchanged for indices less than the actual  $j$ .

The crucial tool in the subsequent parts of the proof will be an old result by E. HECKE [5], A. OSTROWSKI [9] and H. KESTEN [6] which says: If the interval  $I \subset [0, 1]$  is of the form  $|I| = \{h\alpha\}$  where  $h$  is a positive integer, then for every  $M < N$  we have

$$(N - M) \cdot |I| - 2h \leq \#\{M < n \leq N; \{n\alpha\} \in I\} \leq (N - M)|I| + 2h. \tag{5}$$

Write for the sake of simplicity  $|I_{j+1}(x)| = |I_{j+1}|$  and  $n_k(x) = n_k$ . Using this abbreviated notation, (5) can be rewritten in the form

$$k - k_j = (n_k - n_{k_j})|I_{j+1}| + O(h_{j+1}) \tag{6}$$

for every  $k_j < k \leq k_{j+1}$ , where the  $O$ -constant is  $\leq 2$ .

Using (6) we obtain

$$\frac{k}{n_k} = \frac{k_j}{n_k} + |I_{j+1}| - \frac{n_{k_j}}{n_k}|I_{j+1}| + O\left(\frac{h_{j+1}}{n_k}\right)$$

$$= |I_{j+1}| + \frac{n_{k_j}}{n_k} \left( \frac{k_j}{n_{k_j}} - |I_{j+1}| \right) + O\left( \frac{h_{j+1}}{n_k} \right) \geq |I_{j+1}| - 2 \frac{h_{j+1}}{n_{k_j}} \quad (7)$$

under the condition

$$\frac{k_j}{n_{k_j}} - |I_{j+1}| \geq 0. \quad (8)$$

Note that our construction implies  $k_j/n_{k_j} \rightarrow |I_j|$  for  $k_j \rightarrow \infty$  (note that in this moment  $j$  is fixed),<sup>5</sup> and therefore (8) can be achieved by increasing adequately  $k_j$  and  $n_{k_j}$ .<sup>6</sup>

If we increase the values of both  $k_j$  and  $n_{k_j}$  in such a way that (8) holds and moreover we also have

$$|I_{j+1}| - 2 \frac{h_{j+1}}{n_{k_j}} \geq \varepsilon_{k_j},$$

then using (7) we obtain  $k/n_k \geq \varepsilon_k$  for  $k_j < k \leq k_{j+1}$  and consequently

$$\frac{k}{n_k} \geq \varepsilon_k \quad \text{for } k_{j+1} \geq k > k_1.$$

An additional increase of  $k_1$  and the mentioned subsequent ‘chain’ increment of already found  $k$ ’s and  $n_k$ ’s, does not influence the validity of the estimations above.

2° As mentioned, the just constructed sequence  $n_k$  depended on a fixed  $x \in [0, 1]$ . Now we shall adapt it to fit the required estimates for an arbitrary  $x' \in [0, 1]$ . Assume therefore that  $x' \in [0, 1]$  is arbitrary.

Let  $I_j(x')$ ,  $j = 2, 3, \dots$ , be a sequence of subintervals of  $[0, 1]$  now satisfying the previous conditions in the following form

$$x' \in I_j(x'), \quad |I_j(x')| = |I_j(x)| = \{h_j \alpha\}.$$

In step 1° we constructed conjugated sequences  $n_1 < n_2 < \dots$  and  $k_1 < k_2 < \dots$ . Based on the just constructed sequence of  $k$ ’s we shall construct a new sequence

$$n_1(x') < n_2(x') < n_3(x') < \dots \quad (9)$$

<sup>5</sup>To see this note that the definition of u.d. says that  $\frac{\#\{0 < n \leq n_{k_j}; n\alpha \in I_j\}}{n_{k_j}} \rightarrow |I_j|$  provided  $n_{k_j} \rightarrow \infty$ . Then divide the fraction into two parts

1)  $\frac{\#\{0 < n \leq n_{k_{j-1}}; n\alpha \in I_j\}}{n_{k_j}} \rightarrow 0$  for sufficiently large  $n_{k_j}$ , and  
 2)  $\frac{\#\{n_{k_{j-1}} < n \leq n_{k_j}; n\alpha \in I_j\}}{n_{k_j}} = \frac{k_j - k_{j-1}}{n_{k_j}} \rightarrow \frac{k_j}{n_{k_j}}$  is sufficiently large.

<sup>6</sup>According to condition  $k_j < k \leq k_{j+1}$  in (4) we have  $n_{k_{j+1}} < n_{k_j+2} < n_{k_j+3} < \dots < n_{k_j+1}$ . Thus  $n_{k_{j+1}} - n_{k_j} \geq k_{j+1} - k_j$  and consequently both  $n_{k_{j+1}}$  and  $k_{j+1}$  strictly increase.

such that for every  $k$  with  $k_j < k \leq k_{j+1}$  the increasing sequence  $n_k(x')$  contains all possible  $n$ 's in the interval  $n_{k_j}(x') < n \leq n_{k_{j+1}}(x')$  for which  $\{n\alpha\} \in I_{j+1}(x')$ .

Abbreviate again  $n_k(x') = n'_k$ .

Relation (6) implied for  $k_j < k \leq k_{j+1}$  that

$$\begin{aligned} k - k_j &= |I_{j+1}|(n_k - n_{k_j}) + O(h_{j+1}), \\ k - k_j &= |I_{j+1}|(n'_k - n'_{k_j}) + O(h_{j+1}), \end{aligned}$$

where the involved  $O$ -constants are smaller than 2. Consequently we get with  $n_{k_0} = n'_{k_0} = 0$  that

$$\begin{aligned} (n'_k - n'_{k_j}) &= (n_k - n_{k_j}) + O\left(\frac{h_{j+1}}{|I_{j+1}|}\right) \\ \frac{\frac{k}{n_k}}{\frac{k'}{n'_k}} &= \frac{n'_k}{n_k} = \frac{(n'_{k_1} - n'_{k_0}) + (n'_{k_2} - n'_{k_1}) \cdots + (n'_{k_j} - n'_{k_{j-1}}) + (n'_k - n'_{k_j})}{(n_{k_1} - n_{k_0}) + (n_{k_2} - n_{k_1}) \cdots + (n_{k_j} - n_{k_{j-1}}) + (n_k - n_{k_j})} \\ &= \frac{(n_{k_1} - n_{k_0}) + O\left(\frac{h_1}{|I_1|}\right) + \cdots + (n_k - n_{k_j}) + O\left(\frac{h_{j+1}}{|I_{j+1}|}\right)}{(n_{k_1} - n_{k_0}) + (n_{k_2} - n_{k_1}) \cdots + (n_{k_j} - n_{k_{j-1}}) + (n_k - n_{k_j})} \\ &= 1 + O\left(\sum_{i=1}^{j+1} \frac{h_i}{|I_i|}\right) \frac{1}{n_k} \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

where the last  $O$  constant in (10) is  $\leq 4$ . Relation (10) thus implies

$$\frac{k}{n_k} \leq \frac{k'}{n'_k} + 4\left(\sum_{i=1}^{j+1} \frac{h_i}{|I_i|}\right) \frac{1}{n_k} \cdot \frac{k}{n'_k}.$$

Since  $n_k \geq n_{k_j}$  and  $\frac{k}{n'_k} \leq 1$ , we have

$$\frac{k}{n_k} - 4\left(\sum_{i=1}^{j+1} \frac{h_i}{|I_i|}\right) \frac{1}{n_{k_j}} \leq \frac{k}{n'_k}, \tag{11}$$

for an arbitrary sequence  $k_j$  in (2). Assuming that the  $k_j$ 's satisfy the inequality (8), and adding (7) to (11) we obtain

$$|I_{j+1}| - 2\frac{h_{j+1}}{n_{k_j}} - 4\left(\sum_{i=1}^{j+1} \frac{h_i}{|I_i|}\right) \frac{1}{n_{k_j}} \leq \frac{k}{n'_k}. \tag{12}$$

Now, assume that our sequence  $k_j$  from (2) and the sequence  $n_{k_j}$  from (3) satisfy not only (8) but also

$$\varepsilon_{k_j} \leq |I_{j+1}| - 2\frac{h_{j+1}}{n_{k_j}} - 4\left(\sum_{i=1}^{j+1} \frac{h_i}{|I_i|}\right) \frac{1}{n_{k_j}} \tag{13}$$

for every  $j = 1, 2, \dots$ . Then (12) implies that for every  $j = 1, 2, \dots$  we have

$\varepsilon_{k_j} \leq \frac{k}{n'_k}$ , for  $k, k_j < k \leq k_{j+1}$ . Since  $\varepsilon_k$  is non-increasing, then  $\varepsilon_k \leq \frac{k}{n'_k}$ , for  $k_j < k \leq k_{j+1}$  and thus

$$\varepsilon_k \leq \frac{k}{n'_k} \quad \text{for every } k_1 < k. \tag{14}$$

That the property (13) can be fulfilled for a suitable  $n_{k_j}$  follows from the fact that  $|I_{j+1}|$  is fixed and  $n_{k_j}$  can be shifted to a sufficiently large value.<sup>7</sup>

We recall that (8) can be fulfilled for suitable  $n_{k_j}$ 's since the sequence  $\{n\alpha\}$  is uniformly distributed which implies

$$\frac{k_j}{n_{k_j}} \rightarrow |I_j|, \tag{15}$$

while  $|I_j| > |I_{j+1}|$  for every  $j = 1, 2, \dots$ . Globally,  $k/n_k$  tends to zero, but due to the construction we always have  $k/n_k \rightarrow |I_j|$  for  $k_{j-1} < k \leq k_j$ .

Again the eventual necessary increments of values of  $k$ 's and  $n_k$ 's does not influence the used inequalities.

3° The proof of (14) also for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, k_1$  proceed as follows:

For  $k \leq k_1$  put  $n_k = k$  and suppose that  $n_{k_1}$  is sufficiently large<sup>8</sup> to satisfy (13) i.e.

$$\varepsilon_{k_1} \leq |I_2| - 2 \frac{h_2}{n_{k_1}} - 4 \left( \frac{h_1}{|I_1|} + \frac{h_2}{|I_2|} \right) \frac{1}{n_{k_1}}.$$

Then put

$$\{i_{1,\alpha}\} = \min(\{1.\alpha\}, \{2.\alpha\}, \dots, \{k_1.\alpha\}), \quad \{i_{2,\alpha}\} = \max(\{1.\alpha\}, \{2.\alpha\}, \dots, \{k_1.\alpha\}),$$

$$I_1 = [\{i_{1,\alpha}\}, \{i_{2,\alpha}\}], \quad h_1 = |i_2 - i_1|.$$

Due to our construction we have automatically

$$\frac{k}{n_k} = 1 \geq \varepsilon_k \quad \text{for } k = 1, 2, \dots, k_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{k_1}{n_{k_1}} - |I_2| \geq 0$$

and thus the inequality (8) also holds.

We did not assume that  $x \in I_1$ , but on the other hand the interval  $I_1$  is fixed for every  $x' \in [0, 1]$ . Thus the proof of (II) is finished.

4° The proof of (III) follows from Slater's three gaps theorem [13] and [14] saying that if  $n$  and  $n + s$  are immediately neighboring indices with the property

<sup>7</sup>Note again that in the course of the constructions of  $k_j$ 's and  $n_{k_j}$ 's in the proof they are enlarged in such way that conditions (7), (8), (11) and (13) are satisfied. However after the constructions are closed the sequence  $k_j$  is fixed and independent of  $x$ .

<sup>8</sup>Again an eventual shift of  $n_{k_1}$  to a larger value does not influence the previous estimates, only forces an additional work with the reconstruction of  $n_k$ 's.



that both  $n\alpha$  and  $(n + s)\alpha$  belong to interval  $I$ , then  $s = a$  or  $s = a + b$  or  $s = b$  depending on the length  $|I|$  of interval  $I$ . In accordance with (4) for  $k_j < k \leq k_{j+1}$ , the numbers  $n_k$  and  $n_{k+1}$  are the closest ones with  $n_k\alpha \in I_{j+1}$  and  $n_{k+1}\alpha \in I_{j+1}$ , and consequently  $n_{k+1} - n_k = a_j$ , or  $a_j + b_j$ , or  $b_j$  depending on the length  $|I_{j+1}|$ . The extension of Slater's theorem proved for instance in [12] says that the differences  $n_{k+1} - n_k$  depend only on the length  $|I|$  of the interval  $I$  but not on its position within the unit interval  $[0, 1]$ .

For the sake of simplicity let  $I = I_j(x)$ ,  $a = a_j$ ,  $b = b_j$  for every  $j = 2, 3, \dots$ . Since  $|I| \leq 1/2$ , define  $a$  and  $b$  as the least positive integers such that  $\{a\alpha\} \in (0, |I|)$  and  $\{b\alpha\} \in (1 - |I|, 1)$ . Let  $\{n\alpha\} \in I$  and let  $s$  be minimal with  $\{(n + s)\alpha\} \in I$ . Then

$$s = \begin{cases} a, & \text{if } 0 \leq \{n\alpha\} < |I| - \{a\alpha\}, \\ a + b, & \text{if } |I| - \{a\alpha\} \leq \{n\alpha\} < 1 - \{b\alpha\}, \\ b, & \text{if } 1 - \{b\alpha\} \leq \{n\alpha\} < |I|. \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

In addition  $a$  and  $b$  are relatively prime. □

**CONCLUDING REMARK:** The given proof of Theorem 1.1 also gives a general construction of sequence  $n_1 < n_2 < \dots$  from Dubickas' Theorem 3.1 in the following sense: Let  $x''$  is an arbitrary number from interval  $(0, 1)$ . The intervals  $I_1(x), I_2(x), I_3(x), \dots$  used in proof of Theorem 1.1 shift in such a way that they contain the given  $x''$ . Denote them as  $I_1(x''), I_2(x''), I_3(x''), \dots$ . Now select  $k_1$  consecutive  $n$ 's for which  $\{n\alpha\} \in I_1(x'')$ . Denote the last one as  $n_{k_1}$ . Then continue selecting  $k_2 - k_1$  consecutive  $n$ 's,  $n > n_{k_1}$  for which again  $\{n\alpha\} \in I_2(x'')$ . The last one denote  $n_{k_2}$ . In the next step select  $k_3 - k_2$  consecutive integers  $n$  such that  $n > n_{k_2}$  and  $\{n\alpha\} \in I_3(x'')$ . The last one denote as  $n_{k_3}$ , etc. There follows from the construction that in this way selected sequence  $n_k$  has properties required by Dubickas' Theorem and  $\{n_k\alpha\}$  converges to  $x''$  and  $k/n_k > \varepsilon_k$  for given  $\varepsilon_k$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ .

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