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On Diophantine exponents and Khintchine's transference principle

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Abstract: In this paper we propose a method of proving various transference theorems which does not involve intermediate Diophantine exponents. We give an alternative proof of some of the author's results improving those of Jarník and Apfelbeck and generalizing those of Laurent and Bugeaud. The method proposed also gives a better constant in Mahler's transference theorem.

Keywords: Diophantine approximation; Diophantine exponents; transference theorems

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1. History and main results

Given a matrix

$$\Theta = \begin{pmatrix} \theta_{11} & \cdots & \theta_{1m} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \theta_{n1} & \cdots & \theta_{nm} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \theta_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}, \quad n+m \geqslant 3,$$

consider the system of linear equations

$$\Theta \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y} \tag{1}$$

with variables $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Let us denote by $\Theta^\intercal$ the transposed matrix and consider the corresponding «transposed» system

$$\Theta^\intercal \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{x}, \tag{2}$$

where, as before, $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Integer approximations to the solutions of the systems (1) and (2) are closely connected, which is reflected in a large variety of so called *transference theorems*. Most of them deal with the corresponding asymptotics in terms of Diophantine exponents.

Definition 1. *The supremum of real numbers γ such that there are infinitely many $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^m$, $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ satisfying the inequality*

$$|\Theta\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|_\infty \leqslant |\mathbf{x}|_\infty^{-\gamma},$$

where $|\cdot|_\infty$ denotes the sup-norm in the corresponding space, is called the regular Diophantine exponent *of Θ and is denoted by $\beta(\Theta)$.*

Definition 2. *The supremum of real numbers γ such that for each t large enough there are $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^m$, $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ satisfying the inequalities*

$$0 < |\mathbf{x}|_\infty \leqslant t, \quad |\Theta\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|_\infty \leqslant t^{-\gamma},$$

is called the uniform Diophantine exponent *of Θ and is denoted by $\alpha(\Theta)$.*

The transference phenomenon provides a series of inequalities connecting the quantities $\alpha(\Theta)$, $\beta(\Theta)$ to the quantities $\alpha(\Theta^\intercal)$, $\beta(\Theta^\intercal)$. The strongest existing relations of this kind (see Theorems 1, 4 below) have been obtained so far with the help of so called intermediate exponents. In this paper we develop a method which allows to prove such relations directly, without involving intermediate exponents. More than that, this method allows refining those results, in the sense that the function $t^{-\gamma}$ can be substituted by an arbitrary function satisfying some natural growth conditions (see Section 1.4 and Theorems 5, 6 therein). As a collateral effect of this method a slight improvement of classical Mahler's transference theorem emerged (see Theorem 7).

We do not get into too much detail in the history of the question and refer the interested reader to wonderful recent surveys by Waldschmidt [20] and Moshchevitin [18].

1.1. Uniform exponents

Our first objective is to investigate the relation between $\alpha(\Theta)$ and $\alpha(\Theta^\intercal)$. When $n=m=1$ the exponents $\alpha(\Theta)$ and $\alpha(\Theta^\intercal)$ obviously coincide (and are actually equal to 1, see [11]). In the case $n=1$, $m=2$ they also determine one another. Jarník [11] proved the following remarkable

THEOREM A. *If $n=1$, $m=2$ and the entries of Θ are linearly independent with the unit over $\mathbb{Q}$, then*

$$\alpha(\Theta)^{-1}+\alpha(\Theta^\intercal)=1. \tag{3}$$

Jarník [11] noticed that for $n=1$, $m>2$, $\alpha(\Theta)$ and $\alpha(\Theta^\intercal)$ are no longer related by an equality, at least he showed that in the extreme case $\alpha(\Theta)=\infty$ we can have $\alpha(\Theta^\intercal)$ equal to any given number in the interval $[(m-1)^{-1},1]$. However, he proved in the case $n=1$ that $\alpha(\Theta)$ and $\alpha(\Theta^\intercal)$ satisfy certain inequalities:

THEOREM B. *Suppose that $m\geqslant 3$ and the entries of Θ are linearly independent with the unit over $\mathbb{Q}$. Then the following statements hold*:
(i)

$$\frac{\alpha(\Theta)}{(m-1)\alpha(\Theta)+m}\leqslant\alpha(\Theta^\intercal)\leqslant\frac{\alpha(\Theta)-m+1}{m}\,; \tag{4}$$

(ii) *if $\alpha(\Theta)>m(2m-3)$, then*

$$\alpha(\Theta^\intercal)\geqslant\frac{1}{m-1}\left(1-\frac{1}{\alpha(\Theta)-2m+4}\right);$$

(iii) *if $\alpha(\Theta)>(m-1)/m$, then*

$$\alpha(\Theta^\intercal)\geqslant m-2+\frac{1}{1-\alpha(\Theta)}\,.$$

Theorem B was later generalized by Apfelbeck [1] to the case of arbitrary n, m:

THEOREM C. (i) *We always have*

$$\alpha(\Theta^\intercal)\geqslant\frac{n\alpha(\Theta)+n-1}{(m-1)\alpha(\Theta)+m}\,. \tag{5}$$

(ii) If $m > 1$ *and*

$$\alpha(\Theta) > \frac{2(m+n-1)(m+n-3)+m}{n},$$

then

$$\alpha(\Theta^{\intercal}) \geqslant \frac{n(n\alpha(\Theta)-m)-n(m+n-4)}{(m-1)(n\alpha(\Theta)-m)+m-(m-2)(m+n-3)}.$$

Notice that the inequalities (4) and (5) look very much the same as the corresponding inequalities for $\beta(\Theta)$ and $\beta(\Theta^{\intercal})$ (see Theorems D and F below). The reason is that they are proved with the same technique, which almost neglects the «uniform» nature of $\alpha(\Theta)$.

In [6] the following improvement of Theorems B, C is obtained. In this paper we propose an alternative proof of this result.

THEOREM 1. *For all positive integers* n, m, *not equal simultaneously to* 1, *we have*

$$\alpha(\Theta^{\intercal}) \geqslant \begin{cases} \dfrac{n-1}{m-\alpha(\Theta)}, & \text{if } \alpha(\Theta) \leqslant 1, \\ \dfrac{n-\alpha(\Theta)^{-1}}{m-1}, & \text{if } \alpha(\Theta) \geqslant 1. \end{cases} \tag{6}$$

Here $\alpha(\Theta)$ and $\alpha(\Theta^{\intercal})$ are a priori allowed to attain the value $+\infty$, which gives sense to the inequalities 6 in case one of the denominators happens to be equal to 0.

Each statement concerning Θ and $\Theta^{\intercal}$ is obviously invariant under the swapping of pairs (n, Θ) and $(m, \Theta^{\intercal})$. Therefore, if we fix n and m such that $n \leqslant m$, $m \neq 1$, the two inequalities in (6) split into four ones. At the same time it follows from Minkowski's convex body theorem that

$$\alpha(\Theta) \geqslant \frac{m}{n} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha(\Theta^{\intercal}) \geqslant \frac{n}{m}, \tag{7}$$

whence we see that one of the four inequalities mentioned above vanishes. Thus, we get the following reformulation of Theorem 1:

THEOREM 2. *For all positive integers* n, m, $1 \leqslant n \leqslant m$, $m \neq 1$, *we have*

$$\alpha(\Theta^{\intercal}) \geqslant \frac{n-\alpha(\Theta)^{-1}}{m-1}, \tag{8}$$

$$\alpha(\Theta)^{-1} \leqslant \frac{n-\alpha(\Theta^{\mathsf{T}})}{m-1}\,, \qquad \textit{if}\ \ \alpha(\Theta^{\mathsf{T}}) \leqslant 1, \tag{9}$$

$$\alpha(\Theta) \geqslant \frac{m-\alpha(\Theta^{\mathsf{T}})^{-1}}{n-1}\,, \qquad \textit{if}\ \ \alpha(\Theta^{\mathsf{T}}) \geqslant 1. \tag{10}$$

The case $n = 1$ is worth considering separately, for in this case we have $\alpha(\Theta^{\mathsf{T}}) \leqslant 1$, provided the entries of Θ are not all rational (see [11]), i.e. (10) can hold only if $\alpha(\Theta^{\mathsf{T}}) = 1$, which is already contained in (9), or if all the entries of Θ are rational, in which case we obviously have $\alpha(\Theta^{\mathsf{T}}) = +\infty$. Thus, we get

THEOREM 3. *If* $n = 1$, $m \neq 1$, *and at least one of the entries of* Θ *is not rational, then*

$$\alpha(\Theta^{\mathsf{T}}) \geqslant \frac{1-\alpha(\Theta)^{-1}}{m-1}\,, \tag{11}$$

$$\alpha(\Theta)^{-1} \leqslant \frac{1-\alpha(\Theta^{\mathsf{T}})}{m-1}\,. \tag{12}$$

Theorem 3 with $m = 2$ obviously implies Theorem A. It is also not difficult, though it takes some calculation, to see that Theorem 3 implies Theorem B and that Theorem 1 implies Theorem C.

1.2. Regular exponents

Our second concern is about how $\beta(\Theta)$ and $\beta(\Theta^{\mathsf{T}})$ are related. In the case $n = 1$ we have the classical Khintchine's transference theorem (see [12]):

THEOREM D. *If* $n = 1$, *then*

$$\frac{\beta(\Theta)}{(m-1)\beta(\Theta)+m} \leqslant \beta(\Theta^{\mathsf{T}}) \leqslant \frac{\beta(\Theta)-m+1}{m}\,. \tag{13}$$

These inequalities cannot be improved (see [9] and [10]) if only $\beta(\Theta)$ and $\beta(\Theta^{\mathsf{T}})$ are considered. Stronger inequalities can be obtained if $\alpha(\Theta)$ and $\alpha(\Theta^{\mathsf{T}})$ are also taken into account. The corresponding result for $n = 1$ belongs to Laurent and Bugeaud (see [14], [3]). They proved the following

Theorem E. *If $n = 1$, $m \geqslant 2$ and the entries of Θ are linearly independent with the unit over $\mathbb{Q}$, then*

$$\frac{(\alpha(\Theta) - 1)\beta(\Theta)}{((m-2)\alpha(\Theta) + 1)\beta(\Theta) + (m-1)\alpha(\Theta)} \leqslant \beta(\Theta^{\intercal}) \leqslant$$

$$\leqslant \frac{(1 - \alpha(\Theta^{\intercal}))\beta(\Theta) - m + 2 - \alpha(\Theta^{\intercal})}{m-1}. \tag{14}$$

It is easily verified with the help of the inequalities $\alpha(\Theta) \geqslant m$ and $\alpha(\Theta^{\intercal}) \geqslant 1/m$ valid for $n = 1$ that Theorem E refines Theorem D.

Theorem D was generalized to the case of arbitrary n, m by Dyson [5] (a simpler proof was later obtained by Khintchine [13]):

Theorem F. *For all n, m, not equal simultaneously to 1,*

$$\beta(\Theta^{\intercal}) \geqslant \frac{n\beta(\Theta) + n - 1}{(m-1)\beta(\Theta) + m}. \tag{15}$$

In [6] the following improvement of Theorem F is obtained. In this paper we propose an alternative proof of this result.

Theorem 4. *For all positive integers n, m, not equal simultaneously to 1, we have three inequalities*

$$\beta(\Theta^{\intercal}) \geqslant \frac{n\beta(\Theta) + n - 1}{(m-1)\beta(\Theta) + m}, \tag{16}$$

$$\beta(\Theta^{\intercal}) \geqslant \frac{(n-1)(1 + \beta(\Theta)) - (1 - \alpha(\Theta))}{(m-1)(1 + \beta(\Theta)) + (1 - \alpha(\Theta))}, \tag{17}$$

$$\beta(\Theta^{\intercal}) \geqslant \frac{(n-1)(1 + \beta(\Theta)^{-1}) - (\alpha(\Theta)^{-1} - 1)}{(m-1)(1 + \beta(\Theta)^{-1}) + (\alpha(\Theta)^{-1} - 1)}, \tag{18}$$

provided that the space of integer solutions of (1) is not a one-dimensional lattice.

It follows from the inequalities $\beta(\Theta) \geqslant \alpha(\Theta) \geqslant m/n$ that (17) is stronger than (18) if and only if $\alpha(\Theta) < 1$. The inequality (16) coincides with (15), and it is stronger than both (17) and (18) if and only if

$$\alpha(\Theta) < \min\left(\frac{(m-1)\beta(\Theta) + m}{n + m - 1}, \frac{(n+m-1)\beta(\Theta)}{(n-1) + n\beta(\Theta)}\right),$$

which is never the case if $n = 1$ or $m = 1$, since $\alpha(\Theta) \geqslant m/n$. Furthermore, if $n = 1$, then $\alpha(\Theta) \geqslant 1$ and (18) becomes strongest and gives the lower bound in (E). If $m = 1$ and the entries of Θ are not all rational, then $\alpha(\Theta) \leqslant 1$ and (17) becomes strongest and we can obtain from it the upper bound in (E), if we substitute m by n and Θ by $\Theta^{\intercal}$. Thus, Theorem 4 generalizes Theorem E and refines Theorem F.

To clear up the division into cases with respect to both $\alpha(\Theta)$ and $\beta(\Theta)$ we give the following Proposition 1. We leave it without proof, for the only difficulty in it is calculation and does not involve any nontrivial observations, except for the inequalities $\beta(\Theta) \geqslant \alpha(\Theta) \geqslant m/n$.

Proposition 1. (*i*) *If $m = 1$ and at least one of the entries of Θ is irrational, then $1/n \leqslant \alpha(\Theta) \leqslant 1$ and for all $\beta(\Theta) \geqslant \alpha(\Theta)$* (17) *is not weaker than* (16) *and* (18).

(*ii*) *Let $m \neq 1$ and $m/n \leqslant \alpha(\Theta) \leqslant 1$. If*

$$\alpha(\Theta) \leqslant \beta(\Theta) \leqslant \frac{(d-1)\alpha(\Theta) - m}{m-1},$$

then (17) *is not weaker than* (16) *and* (18). *Otherwise*, (16) *is strongest.*

(*iii*) *Let $m \neq 1$ and $1 < \alpha(\Theta) < (d-1)/n$. If*

$$\alpha(\Theta) \leqslant \beta(\Theta) \leqslant \frac{(n-1)\alpha(\Theta)}{d-1-n\alpha(\Theta)},$$

then (18) *is not weaker than* (16) *and* (17). *Otherwise*, (16) *is strongest.*

(*iv*) *Let $m \neq 1$ and $\alpha(\Theta) \geqslant (d-1)/n$. Then for all $\beta(\Theta) \geqslant \alpha(\Theta)$* (18) *is not weaker than* (16) *and* (17).

1.3. Transference theorem

Our third result deals with a strong version of Khintchine's transference theorem. One of the strongest ones belongs to Mahler (see [15], [16], [4]):

Theorem G. *If $0 < U < 1 < X$ and there are $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^m$, $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ such that*

$$0 < |\mathbf{x}|_\infty \leqslant X, \quad |\Theta\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|_\infty \leqslant U, \tag{19}$$

then there are $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^m$, $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ such that

$$0 < |\mathbf{y}|_\infty \leqslant Y, \quad |\Theta^{\intercal}\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|_\infty \leqslant V, \tag{20}$$

where

$$Y=(d-1)\big(X^mU^{1-m}\big)^{\frac{1}{d-1}},$$
$$V=(d-1)\big(X^{1-n}U^n\big)^{\frac{1}{d-1}},\qquad \textit{and}\qquad d=n+m. \tag{21}$$

Notice that if we define numbers β_1 and β_2 by the equalities $U=X^{-\beta_1}$, $V=Y^{-\beta_2}$, then it follows from (G) that

$$\beta_2=\frac{n\beta_1+(n-1)-\varkappa}{(m-1)\beta_1+m+\varkappa},\qquad\text{where}\qquad \varkappa=\frac{(d-1)\ln(d-1)}{\ln X},$$

which obviously implies Theorem F.

In this paper we improve Theorem G. Namely, we substitute the factor $d-1$ by a smaller factor tending to 1 as $d\to\infty$ (see Theorem 7 below). Of course, it does not affect the Diophantine exponents.

1.4. Arbitrary functions

Considering only exponents when investigating the asymptotic behaviour of some quantity does not allow to detect any intermediate growth. It appears, however, that the methods used in the current paper are delicate enough to work not only with the Diophantine exponents, but with arbitrary functions satisfying some natural growth conditions. In this Section we formulate the corresponding statements (Theorems 5 and 6) and derive from them Theorems 1 and 4. We also give Corollaries 1 and 2 as examples of how to detect intermediate growth.

Let $\psi:\mathbb{R}_+\to\mathbb{R}_+$ be an arbitrary function. By analogy with Definitions 1, 2, we give the following

Definition 3. *We call* Θ regularly ψ-approximable (*or*, *simply*, ψ-approximable), *if there are infinitely many* $\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{Z}^m$, $\mathbf{y}\in\mathbb{Z}^n$ *satisfying the inequality*

$$|\Theta\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y}|_\infty\leqslant\psi(|\mathbf{x}|_\infty).$$

Definition 4. *We call* Θ uniformly ψ-approximable, *if for each* t *large enough there are* $\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{Z}^m$, $\mathbf{y}\in\mathbb{Z}^n$ *satisfying the inequalities*

$$0<|\mathbf{x}|_\infty\leqslant t,\qquad |\Theta\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y}|_\infty\leqslant\psi(t).$$

Clearly, $\beta(\Theta)$ (resp. $\alpha(\Theta)$) equals the supremum of real numbers γ such that Θ is regularly (resp. uniformly) $t^{-\gamma}$-approximable.

The statements we are about to give all involve the concept of the inverse function. In case ψ is invertible (as a map from $\mathbb{R}_+$ to $\mathbb{R}_+$) we shall denote the corresponding inverse function by ψ^-. Then $\psi^-(\psi(t)) = \psi(\psi^-(t)) = t$ for all $t > 0$.

THEOREM 5. *Let $\varphi : \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}_+$ be an arbitrary function such that*

$$t^n\varphi(t)^{m-1} \to +\infty \quad \textit{as} \quad t \to +\infty. \tag{22}$$

Let $\psi : \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}_+$ be an arbitrary invertible decreasing function such that for all t large enough one of the following two conditions holds:

(*i*) *$t\psi(t)$ is non-increasing and satisfies the inequality*

$$\psi(\Delta_d t^n\varphi(t)^{m-1}) \leqslant (c\Delta_d t)^{-1}, \tag{23}$$

(*ii*) *$t\psi(t)$ is non-decreasing and satisfies the inequality*

$$\psi^-(\Delta_d t^{n-1}\varphi(t)^m) \leqslant (c\Delta_d\varphi(t))^{-1}, \tag{24}$$

where

$$d = n + m, \quad c = \sqrt{2d(d-1)},$$

and Δ_d is defined by (29) [1].

Let Θ be uniformly ψ-approximable. Then $\Theta^\intercal$ is uniformly φ-approximable.

To derive Theorem 1 from Theorem 5 let us set $\psi(t) = t^{-\delta}$, $\varphi(t) = \varkappa t^{-\gamma}$, where $\delta < \alpha(\Theta)$ is a positive real number however close to $\alpha(\Theta)$,

$$\gamma = \begin{cases} \dfrac{n-1}{m-\delta}, & \text{if } \delta < 1, \\ \text{an arbitrarily large real number}, & \text{if } \delta = 1,\ m = 1, \\ \dfrac{n-\delta^{-1}}{m-1}, & \text{if } \delta \geqslant 1,\ m \neq 1, \end{cases} \tag{25}$$

[1] Notice that due to Corollary 5 from Section 4 we have Δ_d sandwiched between $\sqrt{1/d}$ and $\sqrt{2/d}$.

and

$$\varkappa = \begin{cases} \left(c^{\delta}\Delta_d^{\delta-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{m-\delta}}, & \text{if } \delta < 1, \\ 1, & \text{if } \delta = 1,\ m = 1, \\ \left(c\Delta_d^{1-\delta}\right)^{\frac{1}{(m-1)\delta}}, & \text{if } \delta \geqslant 1,\ m \neq 1. \end{cases}$$

The relation (22) is easily verified to be true. Furthermore, $t\psi(t) = t^{1-\delta}$ is either non-increasing, or non-decreasing, depending on whether $\delta \geqslant 1$ or $\delta \leqslant 1$. Besides that, we have (23) and (24) valid with equalities instead of inequalities. Hence, taking into account that $\varkappa$ does not depend on t, we see that $\alpha(\Theta^{\intercal}) \geqslant \gamma$, which implies Theorem 1.

Slightly modifying the argument given above one can see that if we know Θ to have the functional order of uniform approximation logarithm times better than $t^{-\alpha(\Theta)}$, then almost the same can be said about $\Theta^{\intercal}$. It is formalized in the following

COROLLARY 1. *Let* $\alpha(\Theta), \alpha(\Theta^{\intercal}) < +\infty$ (*which excludes the case* $\alpha(\Theta) = m = 1$) *and let* Θ *be uniformly* $(\ln t)^{-1}t^{-\alpha(\Theta)}$*-approximable. Then* $\Theta^{\intercal}$ *is uniformly* $g(t)t^{-\gamma}$*-approximable*, *where*

$$g(t) = \begin{cases} \left(\gamma c^{-\alpha(\Theta)}\Delta_d^{1-\alpha(\Theta)}\ln t\right)^{-\frac{1}{m-\alpha(\Theta)}}, & \textit{if } \alpha(\Theta) < 1, \\ (1+\varepsilon)\left(\alpha(\Theta)^{-1}c^{-1}\Delta_d^{\alpha(\Theta)-1}\ln t\right)^{-\frac{1}{(m-1)\alpha(\Theta)}}, & \textit{if } \alpha(\Theta) \geqslant 1, \end{cases}$$

$$\gamma = \begin{cases} \dfrac{n-1}{m-\alpha(\Theta)}, & \textit{if } \alpha(\Theta) < 1, \\ \dfrac{n-\alpha(\Theta)^{-1}}{m-1}, & \textit{if } \alpha(\Theta) \geqslant 1, \end{cases}$$

$\varepsilon > 0$ *is however small and the constants* c *and* Δ_d *are as in Theorem* 5.

As was mentioned above, we always have the inequalities $\alpha(\Theta) \geqslant m/n$ and $\alpha(\Theta^{\intercal}) \geqslant n/m$. It is well known that $\alpha(\Theta) = m/n$ if and only if $\alpha(\Theta^{\intercal}) = n/m$ (it can also be seen from Theorem 1). Hence, if $\alpha(\Theta) = m/n$ and the functional order of uniform approximation for Θ is $\ln t$ times better than $t^{-\alpha(\Theta)}$, then by Corollary 1 the functional order of uniform approximation for $\Theta^{\intercal}$ is $O(\ln^{\delta} t)$ times better than $t^{-\alpha(\Theta^{\intercal})}$, where

$$\delta = \frac{n}{m(\max(n, m) - 1)} .$$

If $\alpha(\Theta) = +\infty$ (which can only happen if $m \neq 1$), then by Theorem 1 we have

$$\alpha(\Theta^{\intercal}) \geqslant \frac{n}{m-1} ,$$

but this does not mean that $\Theta^{\intercal}$ is uniformly $t^{-\frac{n}{m-1}}$-approximable, we can only conclude that for every $\varepsilon > 0$ it is uniformly $t^{-\frac{n}{m-1}+\varepsilon}$-approximable. However, if we can estimate the functional order of approximation for Θ, Theorem 5 gives more specific information. For instance, one can easily derive

Corollary 2. *Let Θ be uniformly e^{-t}-approximable. Then $\Theta^{\intercal}$ is uniformly $f(t)$-approximable, where*

$$f(x) = \Delta_d^{-\frac{1}{m-1}} t^{-\frac{n}{m-1}} \ln(c\Delta_d t)^{\frac{1}{m-1}}$$

and the constants c and Δ_d are as in Theorem 5.

Now let us turn to a functional analogue of Theorem 4.

Theorem 6. *Let $\varphi, \psi : \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}_+$ be arbitrary invertible decreasing functions such that $\varphi(t) \geqslant \psi(t)$ for all $t > 0$. Set*

$$f_1(t) = \left(ct^m \varphi(t)\psi(t)^{1-m}\right)^{\frac{1}{d-2}}, \qquad f_{-1}(t) = \left(ct^{2-m} \varphi^{-}(t)\psi^{-}(t)^{m-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{d-2}},$$

$$g_1(t) = \left(ct^{2-n} \varphi(t)\psi(t)^{n-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{d-2}}, \quad g_{-1}(t) = \left(ct^{n} \varphi^{-}(t)\psi^{-}(t)^{1-n}\right)^{\frac{1}{d-2}},$$

where $d = n + m$ and $c = \sqrt{2d(d-1)}$.

Let Θ be ψ-approximable and uniformly φ-approximable. Then the following two statements hold:

(i) if f_1 is increasing and invertible, then $\Theta^{\intercal}$ is $(g_1 \circ f_1^{-})$-approximable;

(ii) if f_{-1} is decreasing and invertible, then $\Theta^{\intercal}$ is $(g_{-1} \circ f_{-1}^{-})$-approximable.

To derive Theorem 4 from Theorem 6 let us set $\psi(t) = t^{-\delta}$, $\varphi(t) = t^{-\gamma}$, where δ and γ are positive real numbers however close to $\beta(\Theta)$ and $\alpha(\Theta)$, respectively, such that $\delta < \beta(\Theta)$, $\gamma < \alpha(\Theta)$, $\gamma \neq 1$.

Then for $k = \pm 1$

$$f_k(t) = \left(ct^{k(m-1)(1+\delta^k)+1-\gamma^k}\right)^{\frac{1}{d-2}},$$

$$g_k(t) = \left(ct^{-k(n-1)(1+\delta^k)+1-\gamma^k}\right)^{\frac{1}{d-2}}.$$

The only case when $f_k(t)$ is not invertible, is the case $m = 1$, $\gamma = 1$, which we have excluded by the choice of γ. Thus, $f_k(t)$ is invertible, and it can be easily verified that f_1 is increasing, f_{-1} is decreasing, and

$$g_k(f_k^-(t)) = c^{\frac{k(n-1)(1+\delta^k)+\gamma^k}{d-2}} t^{-\frac{(n-1)(1+\delta^k)-k(1-\gamma^k)}{(m-1)(1+\delta^k)+k(1-\gamma^k)}}.$$

Hence, taking into account that c does not depend on t, we see that

$$\beta(\Theta^\intercal) \geqslant \frac{(n-1)(1+\delta^k) - k(1-\gamma^k)}{(m-1)(1+\delta^k) + k(1-\gamma^k)},$$

which implies (17) and (18).

As for (16), it does not need proof, for it is the very statement of Dyson's Theorem F. Thus, Theorem 4 indeed follows from Theorem 6.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Sections 2, 3, 4 and 6 are devoted to the description of the main constructions lying in the basis of the proofs, in Section 5 we improve Theorem G, in Sections 7 and 8 we prove Theorem 6 and Theorem 5, respectively, and in Section 9 we prove a refined 3-dimensional version of Theorem 5 with better constants and compare it with an analogous theorem by Jarník.

To finish this Section we notice that Definitions 1, 2, 3, 4, as well as Theorem G, are given in terms of the sup-norms in $\mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbb{R}^m$. However, our results are in the essence valid for arbitrary norms in these spaces. The choice of particular norms affects only some of the constants and does not affect any of the exponents.

2. From $\mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbb{R}^m$ to $\mathbb{R}^{n+m}$

Let us set $d = n + m$. Given $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we shall write $\mathbf{z} = (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \mathbb{R}^d$, and vice versa, given $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^d$, we shall denote its first m coordinates as $\mathbf{x}$ and the last n ones as $\mathbf{y}$. This naturally embeds the system (1) into $\mathbb{R}^d$.

Let us denote by $\boldsymbol{\ell}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{\ell}_m$, $\mathbf{e}_{m+1}, \ldots, \mathbf{e}_d$ the columns of the matrix

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} E_m & 0 \\ -\Theta & E_n \end{pmatrix},$$

where E_m and E_n are the corresponding unity matrices, and by $\mathbf{e}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{e}_m$, $\boldsymbol{\ell}_{m+1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{\ell}_d$ the columns of

$$T' = \begin{pmatrix} E_m & \Theta^{\intercal} \\ 0 & E_n \end{pmatrix}.$$

We obviously have $T\,\mathrm{tr}\,(T') = E_d$, so the bases $\boldsymbol{\ell}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{\ell}_m$, $\mathbf{e}_{m+1}, \ldots, \mathbf{e}_d$ and $\mathbf{e}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{e}_m$, $\boldsymbol{\ell}_{m+1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{\ell}_d$ are dual. Therefore, the subspaces

$$\mathcal{L}^m = \mathrm{span}_{\mathbb{R}}(\boldsymbol{\ell}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{\ell}_m), \quad \mathcal{L}^n = \mathrm{span}_{\mathbb{R}}(\boldsymbol{\ell}_{m+1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{\ell}_d)$$

are orthogonal. More than that, $\mathcal{L}^m = (\mathcal{L}^n)^{\perp}$ and

$$\mathcal{L}^m = \{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^d \mid \langle \boldsymbol{\ell}_{m+i}, \mathbf{z} \rangle = 0,\ i = 1, \ldots, n\},$$

$$\mathcal{L}^n = \{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^d \mid \langle \boldsymbol{\ell}_j, \mathbf{z} \rangle = 0,\ j = 1, \ldots, m\}.$$

Thus, $\mathcal{L}^m$ coincides with the space of solutions of the system $\Theta\mathbf{x} = -\mathbf{y}$, and $\mathcal{L}^n$ coincides with that of the system $\Theta^{\intercal}\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{x}$. It can be easily verified that changing the sign in (1) while preserving it for the transposed system does not affect any of the definitions and theorems given in Section 1.

For all positive h and r let us define parallelepipeds

$$M_{h,r} = \left\{ \mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^d \;\middle|\; \begin{aligned} &|\langle \boldsymbol{\ell}_{m+i}, \mathbf{z} \rangle| \leqslant h, \quad i = 1, \ldots, n, \\ &|\langle \mathbf{e}_j, \mathbf{z} \rangle| \leqslant r, \quad j = 1, \ldots, m \end{aligned} \right\}$$

and

$$\widehat{M}_{h,r} = \left\{ \mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^d \;\middle|\; \begin{aligned} &|\langle \mathbf{e}_{m+i}, \mathbf{z} \rangle| \leqslant h, \quad i = 1, \ldots, n, \\ &|\langle \boldsymbol{\ell}_j, \mathbf{z} \rangle| \leqslant r, \quad j = 1, \ldots, m \end{aligned} \right\}.$$

In these terms Definitions 3 and 4 for Θ and $\Theta^{\intercal}$ can be reformulated as follows.

Proposition 2. *Given an arbitrary function* $\psi : \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}_+$, *the following statements hold*:

(i) Θ *is* ψ*-approximable*, *if and only if there are* $t \in \mathbb{R}$ *however large such that*

$$M_{\psi(t),t} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d \backslash \{\mathbf{0}\} \neq \varnothing; \tag{26}$$

(ii) Θ *is uniformly* ψ*-approximable*, *if and only if* (26) *holds for all* $t \in \mathbb{R}$ *large enough*;

(iii) $\Theta^{\intercal}$ *is* ψ*-approximable*, *if and only if there are* $t \in \mathbb{R}$ *however large such that*

$$\widehat{M}_{t,\psi(t)} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d \backslash \{\mathbf{0}\} \neq \varnothing; \tag{27}$$

(iv) $\Theta^{\intercal}$ *is uniformly* ψ*-approximable*, *if and only if* (27) *holds for all* $t \in \mathbb{R}$ *large enough.*

Analogically, Theorem G turns into

Theorem G$'$. *If*

$$M_{U,X} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d \backslash \{\mathbf{0}\} \neq \varnothing,$$

then

$$\widehat{M}_{Y,V} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d \backslash \{\mathbf{0}\} \neq \varnothing,$$

where

$$Y = (d-1)\big(X^m U^{1-m}\big)^{\frac{1}{d-1}}, \quad V = (d-1)\big(X^{1-n} U^n\big)^{\frac{1}{d-1}}.$$

Preserving the essence, this point of view gives us an interpretation of the problem in terms of approaching to a subspace and to its orthogonal complement by integer points. Such a setting is classical and allows using many powerful techniques. One of the main tools here is the following observation (see Theorem 1 of Chapter VII, Section 3 of [8]):

Proposition 3. *Let* $\mathcal{L}$ *be a* k*-dimensional subspace of* $\mathbb{R}^d$ *and let* $\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_d$ *be linearly independent vectors such that* $\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_k \in \mathcal{L}$, $\mathbf{v}_{k+1}, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_d \in \mathcal{L}^{\perp}$. *Let also* $A \in \mathrm{GL}_d(\mathbb{R})$. *Then* $(A^*)^{-1}\mathcal{L}^{\perp} = (A\mathcal{L})^{\perp}$ *and*

$$\frac{|\mathbf{v}_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge \mathbf{v}_k|}{|\mathbf{v}_{k+1} \wedge \ldots \wedge \mathbf{v}_d|} = (\det A)^{-1} \frac{|A\mathbf{v}_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge A\mathbf{v}_k|}{|(A^*)^{-1}\mathbf{v}_{k+1} \wedge \ldots \wedge (A^*)^{-1}\mathbf{v}_d|}\,.$$

Here $|\mathbf{v}_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge \mathbf{v}_k|$ denotes the Euclidean norm of $\mathbf{v}_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge \mathbf{v}_k \in \wedge^k(\mathbb{R}^d)$, the latter being a Euclidean $\binom{d}{k}$-dimensional space with a natural orthonormal basis $\{\mathbf{e}_{i_1} \wedge \ldots \wedge \mathbf{e}_{i_k}\}$. Due to the Cauchy-Binet formula $|\mathbf{v}_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge \mathbf{v}_k|$ is equal to the (non-oriented) k-dimensional volume of the parallelepiped spanned by $\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_k$, i.e.

$$|\mathbf{v}_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge \mathbf{v}_k| = \det(\langle \mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{v}_j \rangle)^{1/2}. \tag{28}$$

Notice that in the basis $\mathbf{e}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{e}_d$ we have $A^* = \operatorname{tr} A$, that is in this basis $(A^*)^{-1}$ coincides with the cofactor matrix of A. Taking into account that T' is exactly the cofactor matrix of T, we see that given two orthogonal subspaces of $\mathbb{R}^d$ described with the help of $\boldsymbol{\ell}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{\ell}_d$, we can apply Proposition 3 to get orthogonal subspaces described with the help of $\mathbf{e}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{e}_d$, with certain information about volumes in these subspaces preserved.

3. Determinants of orthogonal integer lattices

For each lattice $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ we denote by $\det \Lambda$ its determinant, or its covolume. That is, if $\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_k$ is any basis of Λ, then $\det \Lambda$ is equal to the k-dimensional volume of the parallelepiped spanned by $\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_k$, which in its turn is equal to $|\mathbf{v}_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge \mathbf{v}_k|$, due to (28).

The following Proposition 4 seems to be classical, but we decided to give it with proof since we didn't find one in the literature.

PROPOSITION 4. *Let $\mathcal{L}$ be a k-dimensional subspace of $\mathbb{R}^d$ such that the lattice $\Lambda = \mathcal{L} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d$ has rank k. Set $\Lambda^\perp = \mathcal{L}^\perp \cap \mathbb{Z}^d$. Then*

$$\det \Lambda = \det \Lambda^\perp.$$

PROOF. Let $\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_k$ be a basis of Λ and $\mathbf{v}_{k+1}, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_d$ — that of $\Lambda^\perp$. Let $\mathbf{e}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{e}_d$ be as in Section 2. Then

$$\mathbf{v}_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge \mathbf{v}_k = \sum_{1 \leqslant i_1 < \ldots < i_k \leqslant d} V^{i_1 \ldots i_k} \mathbf{e}_{i_1} \wedge \ldots \wedge \mathbf{e}_{i_k},$$

$$\mathbf{v}_{k+1} \wedge \ldots \wedge \mathbf{v}_d = \sum_{1 \leqslant i_{k+1} < \ldots < i_d \leqslant d} V^{i_{k+1} \ldots i_d} \mathbf{e}_{i_{k+1}} \wedge \ldots \wedge \mathbf{e}_{i_d},$$

where the coefficients $V^{i_1\dots i_k}$ are coprime integers, as well as the coefficients $V^{i_{k+1}\dots i_d}$. On the other hand, it follows from Theorem 1 of Chapter VII, Section 3 of [8] that the numbers $|V^{i_1\dots i_k}|$ should be proportional to $|V^{i_{k+1}\dots i_d}|$. This can only be if $|V^{i_1\dots i_k}| = |V^{i_{k+1}\dots i_d}|$ for each set of pairwise distinct indices $i_1, \dots, i_d$. Thus, due to (28) we have

$$\det \Lambda = |\mathbf{v}_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \mathbf{v}_k| = |\mathbf{v}_{k+1} \wedge \dots \wedge \mathbf{v}_d| = \det \Lambda^{\perp}. \qquad \square$$

4. Section-dual set

Let $\mathcal{S}^{d-1}$ denote the Euclidean unit sphere in $\mathbb{R}^d$. For each set $M \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ and each $\mathbf{e} \in \mathcal{S}^{d-1}$ we denote by $\mathrm{vol}_{\mathbf{e}}(M)$ the $(d-1)$-dimensional volume of the intersection of M and the hyperspace orthogonal to $\mathbf{e}$ (assuming, of course, that this volume exists).

Definition 5. *Let M be a subset of $\mathbb{R}^d$ such that all the quantities $\mathrm{vol}_{\mathbf{e}}(M)$ are correctly defined. We call the set*

$$M^{\wedge} = \{\, \lambda\mathbf{e} \mid \mathbf{e} \in \mathcal{S}^{d-1},\ 0 \leqslant \lambda \leqslant 2^{1-d}\,\mathrm{vol}_{\mathbf{e}}(M)\,\}$$

section-dual *for M.*

Proposition 4 and Minkowski's convex body theorem immediately imply

Lemma 1. *Let M be convex and $\mathbf{0}$-symmetric. Let*

$$M^{\wedge} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d \backslash \{\mathbf{0}\} \neq \varnothing.$$

Then

$$M \cap \mathbb{Z}^d \backslash \{\mathbf{0}\} \neq \varnothing.$$

Let us now describe some properties of the set $M^{\wedge}$. Obviously, $M^{\wedge}$ is always symmetric with the origin as the center of symmetry.

Lemma 2. *If M is convex and symmetric with respect to the origin, then so is $M^{\wedge}$.*

Proof. Let $\mathbf{v}_0$, $\mathbf{v}_1$ be arbitrary distinct non-zero points of $M^{\wedge}$. Consider an arbitrary point

$$\mathbf{v}_{\lambda} = (1-\lambda)\mathbf{v}_0 + \lambda\mathbf{v}_1, \quad 0 \leqslant \lambda \leqslant 1.$$

The hyperspaces orthogonal to $\mathbf{v}_0$, $\mathbf{v}_\lambda$ and $\mathbf{v}_1$ intersect by a $(d-2)$-dimensional subspace. Hence, due to the convexity of M, we have

$$\operatorname{vol}_{\mathbf{v}_\lambda}(M) \geqslant (1-\lambda)\operatorname{vol}_{\mathbf{v}_0}(M) + \lambda \operatorname{vol}_{\mathbf{v}_1}(M),$$

which means that $\mathbf{v}_\lambda \in M^\wedge$. Thus, $M^\wedge$ is convex. □

If M is a compact convex and $\mathbf{0}$-symmetric body (and this is the case we shall be interested in, more than that, in all our applications throughout the paper M will be a parallelepiped), then the set $M^\wedge$ resembles a lot the set $[M]^{(d-1)}$ — the $(d-1)$-th compound of M defined by Mahler (see [17] or [7]). $[M]^{(d-1)}$ is a subset of $\wedge^{d-1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$, and the latter is isomorphic to $\mathbb{R}^d$, so we can consider $[M]^{(d-1)}$ lying in the same space as $M^\wedge$. Then it can be easily verified that

$$M^\wedge \subsetneq [M]^{(d-1)} \subsetneq (d-1)M^\wedge.$$

Indeed, if S is the intersection of M with a $(d-1)$-dimensional subspace of $\mathbb{R}^d$ and if $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_{d-1}$ are chosen in S so that $\det(\langle \mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{v}_j \rangle)$ is maximal, then S is a proper subset of the parallelepiped

$$\left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{d-1} \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i \;\middle|\; -1 \leqslant \lambda_i \leqslant 1 \right\}.$$

Furthermore, $M^\wedge$ behaves just like $[M]^{(d-1)}$ when M is subjected to a linear transformation:

Lemma 3. *Let A be a non-degenerate $d \times d$ real matrix. Then $(AM)^\wedge = A'(M^\wedge)$, where A' denotes the cofactor matrix of A.*

Proof. It suffices to apply Proposition 3 and notice that if S is a subset of a $(d-1)$-dimensional subspace spanned by $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_{d-1}$, then the quotient of the $(d-1)$-dimensional volume of S and $|\mathbf{v}_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge \mathbf{v}_{d-1}|$ is a linear invariant. □

Denote by $\mathcal{B}_\infty^d$ the unit ball in the sup-norm in $\mathbb{R}^d$, i.e. the cube

$$\left\{ \mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in \mathbb{R}^d \;\middle|\; |x_i| \leqslant 1,\ i = 1, \dots, d \right\}$$

and set

$$\Delta_d = \frac{1}{2^{d-1}\sqrt{d}} \operatorname{vol}_{d-1}\left\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{B}_\infty^d \;\middle|\; \sum_{i=1}^{d} x_i = 0\right\}, \tag{29}$$

where $\operatorname{vol}_{d-1}(\cdot)$ denotes the $(d-1)$-dimensional Lebesgue measure.

LEMMA 4. *$(\mathcal{B}_\infty^d)^\wedge$ contains (the convex hull of) the points with only two non-zero coordinates, which are equal to ± 1, and the points $(\pm\Delta_d, \dots, \pm\Delta_d)$.*

PROOF. The points $(\pm\Delta_d, \dots, \pm\Delta_d)$ are obviously in $(\mathcal{B}_\infty^d)^\wedge$. The volume of the section of $\mathcal{B}_\infty^d$ orthogonal to the point $(1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ is equal to $2^{d-1}\sqrt{2}$, hence this point is also in $(\mathcal{B}_\infty^d)^\wedge$. The rest is obvious. □

COROLLARY 3. *$(\mathcal{B}_\infty^d)^\wedge$ contains the cube $\Delta_d \mathcal{B}_\infty^d$.*

COROLLARY 4. *$(\mathcal{B}_\infty^d)^\wedge$ contains the set defined by the inequalities*

$$\sum_{i=1}^{d} |x_i| \leqslant 2, \quad |x_j| \leqslant 1, \quad j = 1, \dots, d. \tag{30}$$

Let us now say a couple of words concerning the asymptotic behaviour of Δ_d. We shall use it to improve the transference theorem (see Theorem 7). Vaaler's and Ball's theorems (see [19], [2]) imply the following

PROPOSITION 5. *The volume of each $(d-1)$-dimensional central section of $\mathcal{B}_\infty^d$ is bounded between 2^{d-1} and $2^{d-1}\sqrt{2}$.*

COROLLARY 5. *We have*

$$\sqrt{\frac{d}{2}} \leqslant \Delta_d^{-1} \leqslant \sqrt{d}.$$

5. Transference theorem

As it was mentioned in Section 1, the factor $d-1$ in Theorem G can be substituted by a smaller factor tending to 1 as $d \to \infty$. This new factor is

$$\Delta_d^{-\frac{1}{d-1}}.$$

It follows from Corollary 5 that it is less than $d-1$ for $d \geqslant 3$ and that

$$\Delta_d^{-\frac{1}{d-1}} \to 1 \quad \text{as} \quad d \to \infty.$$

Thus, taking into account Theorem G$'$, we see that the following Theorem 7 improves Theorem G. From now on we use the notations of Section 2.

THEOREM 7. *If*

$$M_{U,X} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d \backslash \{\mathbf{0}\} \neq \varnothing,$$

then

$$\widehat{M}_{Y,V} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d \backslash \{\mathbf{0}\} \neq \varnothing,$$

where

$$Y = \Delta_d^{-\frac{1}{d-1}} \left(X^m U^{1-m}\right)^{\frac{1}{d-1}}, \quad V = \Delta_d^{-\frac{1}{d-1}} \left(X^{1-n} U^n\right)^{\frac{1}{d-1}}. \tag{31}$$

PROOF. Set

$$A = T \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \dfrac{E_m}{V} & 0 \\ 0 & \dfrac{E_n}{Y} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \dfrac{E_m}{V} & 0 \\ \dfrac{-\Theta}{V} & \dfrac{E_n}{Y} \end{pmatrix}.$$

For the cofactor matrix A' we obviously have

$$A' = T' \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \dfrac{E_m}{Y^n V^{m-1}} & 0 \\ 0 & \dfrac{E_n}{Y^{n-1} V^m} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \dfrac{E_m}{Y^n V^{m-1}} & \dfrac{\Theta^\intercal}{Y^{n-1} V^m} \\ 0 & \dfrac{E_n}{Y^{n-1} V^m} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then $\widehat{M}_{Y,V} = (A^*)^{-1} \mathcal{B}_\infty^d$ and, in view of (31),

$$((A')^*)^{-1} B_\infty^d = M_{Y^{n-1}V^m, Y^n V^{m-1}} = \Delta_d^{-1} M_{U,X}.$$

Applying Corollary 3 and Lemma 3 we see that

$$M_{U,X} \subset (\widehat{M}_{Y,V})^\wedge.$$

It remains to make use of Lemma 1. □

It should be mentioned that Mahler derived Theorem G from a somewhat stronger result. Using his bilinear form method he actually proved that in all the inequalities (20) but one the factor $d-1$ can be omitted. Then in our terms (20) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} |\langle \mathbf{e}_{m+i}, \mathbf{z}\rangle| &\leqslant \lambda_{m+i}\big(X^m U^{1-m}\big)^{\frac{1}{d-1}}, \quad i=1,\dots,n, \\ |\langle \boldsymbol{\ell}_j, \mathbf{z}\rangle| &\leqslant \lambda_j\big(X^{1-n} U^n\big)^{\frac{1}{d-1}}, \quad j=1,\dots,m, \end{aligned} \tag{32}$$

with only one of the λ_k equal to $d-1$ and the rest of them equal to 1.

Such a statement does not immediately follow from Theorem 7, but it can be easily obtained by a slight modification of its proof. Indeed, let us choose any of the λ_k to be equal to $d-1$, denote by M the parallelepiped defined by (32), and consider the linear operator C such that $M = C\mathcal{B}_\infty^d$. Then, with C' denoting the cofactor matrix of C, we have

$$C'\mathcal{B}_\infty^d = \left\{ \mathbf{z}\in\mathbb{R}^d \;\middle|\; \begin{aligned} &|\langle \mathbf{e}_j, \mathbf{z}\rangle| \leqslant \frac{\mu}{\lambda_j}X, \quad j=1,\dots,m, \\ &|\langle \boldsymbol{\ell}_{m+i}, \mathbf{z}\rangle| \leqslant \frac{\mu}{\lambda_{m+i}}U, \quad i=1,\dots,n \end{aligned}\right\},$$

where μ is the product of all the λ_k. One of the μ/λ_k is equal to 1 and all the others are equal to $d-1$. Hence due to Corollary 4 and Lemma 3 we have $M_{U,X} \subset M^{\wedge}$, since the facets of the polyhedron defined by (30) parallel to coordinate hyperplanes are generalized octahedra with the radii of the inscribed spheres equal to $(d-1)^{-1/2}$. Once again, it remains to apply Lemma 1.

6. The main lemma

In this section we prove Lemma 6, which describes the main step in all the proofs to be given in the subsequent Sections. Notice that Lemma 6 is in some sense a two-dimensional analogue of Lemma 1.

As in Section 2, we shall denote the first m coordinates of a point $\mathbf{z}\in\mathbb{R}^d$ as $\mathbf{x}$, and the last n ones as $\mathbf{y}$. We shall also use the notations $M_{h,r}$ and $\widehat{M}_{h,r}$ introduced in Section 2.

Lemma 5. *Let*

$$\mathbf{z}_1 = (\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{y}_1) \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad \mathbf{z}_2 = (\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{y}_2) \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

Then

$$|\mathbf{z}_1 \wedge \mathbf{z}_2| \leqslant \sqrt{2d(d-1)} \max\Big(|\mathbf{x}_1|_\infty |\mathbf{x}_2|_\infty,\ |\mathbf{y}_1|_\infty |\mathbf{y}_2|_\infty,\\ \max\big(|\mathbf{x}_1|_\infty, |\mathbf{x}_2|_\infty\big) \max\big(|\mathbf{y}_1|_\infty, |\mathbf{y}_2|_\infty\big)\Big). \tag{33}$$

Proof. We have

$$\mathbf{z}_1 \wedge \mathbf{z}_2 = \sum_{1 \leqslant i_1 < i_2 \leqslant d} V^{i_1 i_2} \mathbf{e}_{i_1} \wedge \mathbf{e}_{i_2}.$$

Let $|V^{j_1 j_2}|$ be the maximal number among all the $|V^{i_1 i_2}|$, $1 \leqslant i_1 < i_2 \leqslant d$. Then

$$|\mathbf{z}_1 \wedge \mathbf{z}_2| \leqslant \sqrt{\frac{d(d-1)}{2}} |V^{j_1 j_2}|. \tag{34}$$

The value $|V^{j_1 j_2}|$ is equal to the volume of the projection of the parallelogram spanned by $\mathbf{z}_1$, $\mathbf{z}_2$ onto the subspace $\mathrm{span}_\mathbb{R}(\mathbf{e}_{j_1} \mathbf{e}_{j_2})$. Therefore,

$$|V^{j_1 j_2}| \leqslant \begin{cases} 2|\mathbf{x}_1|_\infty |\mathbf{x}_2|_\infty, & \text{if } j_1 < j_2 \leqslant m, \\ 2|\mathbf{y}_1|_\infty |\mathbf{y}_2|_\infty, & \text{if } j_2 > j_1 > m, \\ 2 \max\big(|\mathbf{x}_1|_\infty, |\mathbf{x}_2|_\infty\big) \max\big(|\mathbf{y}_1|_\infty, |\mathbf{y}_2|_\infty\big), & \text{if } j_1 \leqslant m < j_2. \end{cases} \tag{35}$$

These are the only three possible cases, since $j_1 < j_2$. Combining (34) and (35), we get (33). □

Lemma 6. *Let h, r, h_1, r_1, h_2, r_2 be positive real numbers and let $\mathbf{v}_1$, $\mathbf{v}_2$ be non-collinear points of $\mathbb{Z}^d$. Suppose that*

$$\mathbf{v}_1 \in M_{h_1, r_1}, \quad \mathbf{v}_2 \in M_{h_2, r_2} \tag{36}$$

and

$$\max\Big(r^2 r_1 r_2,\ h^2 h_1 h_2,\ hr \max(r_1, r_2) \max(h_1, h_2)\Big) \leqslant \frac{h^n r^m}{\sqrt{2d(d-1)}}. \tag{37}$$

Then

$$\widehat{M}_{h,r} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d \backslash \{\mathbf{0}\} \neq \varnothing.$$

PROOF. Let us consider the matrix

$$A = T \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \frac{E_m}{r} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{E_n}{h} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{E_m}{r} & 0 \\ \frac{-\Theta}{r} & \frac{E_n}{h} \end{pmatrix}$$

and its inverse conjugate

$$(A^*)^{-1} = (\mathrm{tr}\, A)^{-1} = (\det A)^{-1} \cdot T' \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \frac{E_m}{h^n r^{m-1}} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{E_n}{h^{n-1} r^m} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} rE_m & h\Theta^\intercal \\ 0 & hE_n \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then

$$\widehat{M}_{h,r} = (A^*)^{-1} \mathcal{B}^d_\infty.$$

For each of the points

$$\mathbf{z}_k = (\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{y}_k) = A^{-1}\mathbf{v}_k, \quad k = 1, 2,$$

we have

$$|\mathbf{x}_k|_\infty = r \max_{1 \leqslant j \leqslant m} |\langle \mathbf{e}_j, \mathbf{v}_k \rangle|,$$

$$|\mathbf{y}_k|_\infty = h \max_{1 \leqslant i \leqslant n} |\langle \boldsymbol{\ell}_{m+i}, \mathbf{v}_k \rangle|.$$

Hence in view of (36) and (37) we get

$$\max\big(|\mathbf{x}_1|_\infty |\mathbf{x}_2|_\infty,\ |\mathbf{y}_1|_\infty |\mathbf{y}_2|_\infty,\ \max\big(|\mathbf{x}_1|_\infty, |\mathbf{x}_2|_\infty\big) \max\big(|\mathbf{y}_1|_\infty, |\mathbf{y}_2|_\infty\big)\big) \leqslant$$
$$\leqslant \max\big(r^2 r_1 r_2,\ h^2 h_1 h_2,\ hr \max(r_1, r_2) \max(h_1, h_2)\big) \leqslant \frac{(\det A)^{-1}}{\sqrt{2d(d-1)}}. \tag{38}$$

Set

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathrm{span}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2) \quad \text{and} \quad \Lambda = \mathcal{L} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d.$$

Clearly, $\mathrm{span}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2)$ is a sublattice of Λ and its determinant is a multiple of $\det \Lambda$. Applying Proposition 3, Lemma 5 and inequality (38) we see that

$$\frac{|\mathbf{v}_1 \wedge \mathbf{v}_2|}{2^{2-d}\,\mathrm{vol}_{d-2}(\mathcal{L}^\perp \cap \widehat{M}_{h,r})} = \frac{(\det A)\cdot|\mathbf{z}_1 \wedge \mathbf{z}_2|}{2^{2-d}\,\mathrm{vol}_{d-2}((A^{-1}\mathcal{L})^\perp \cap \mathcal{B}^d_\infty)} \leqslant$$

$$\leqslant \frac{1}{2^{2-d}\,\mathrm{vol}_{d-2}((A^{-1}\mathcal{L})^\perp \cap \mathcal{B}^d_\infty)} \leqslant 1. \tag{39}$$

The latter inequality is due to Vaaler's theorem (see [19]), which says that the volume of any $(d-2)$-dimensional central section of $\mathcal{B}^d_\infty$ is bounded from below by 2^{d-2}. Thus,

$$\mathrm{vol}_{d-2}(\mathcal{L}^\perp \cap \widehat{M}_{h,r}) \geqslant 2^{d-2}\det\Lambda,$$

which, together with Proposition 4 and Minkowski's convex body theorem, implies that $\mathcal{L}^\perp \cap \widehat{M}_{h,r}$ contains a nonzero integer point. □

In order to make application of Lemma 6 more convenient it is useful to mention the following observation.

Lemma 7. *If*

$$\max(r_1, r_2)\max(h_1, h_2) \leqslant \frac{h^{n-1}r^{m-1}}{\sqrt{2d(d-1)}}$$

and any of the equalities

$$r_1 r_2 = \frac{h^n r^{m-2}}{\sqrt{2d(d-1)}},$$

$$h_1 h_2 = \frac{h^{n-2} r^m}{\sqrt{2d(d-1)}}$$

holds, then we have (37).

Proof. Everything follows from the inequality

$$r_1 r_2 h_1 h_2 \leqslant \big(\max(r_1, r_2)\max(h_1, h_2)\big)^2.$$ □

7. Proof of Theorem 6

LEMMA 8. *Let t, Φ, Ψ be arbitrary positive real numbers, $\Phi \geqslant \Psi$. Let $\mathbf{v}_1$, $\mathbf{v}_2$ be non-collinear integer points such that*

$$\mathbf{v}_1 \in M_{\Phi,t} \quad \textit{and} \quad \mathbf{v}_2 \in M_{\Psi,t}\,. \tag{40}$$

Then

$$\widehat{M}_{h,r} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d \backslash \{\mathbf{0}\} \neq \varnothing,$$

where

$$h = \left(ct^m \Phi \Psi^{1-m}\right)^{\frac{1}{d-2}}, \quad r = \left(ct^{2-n} \Phi \Psi^{n-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{d-2}}, \quad c = \sqrt{2d(d-1)}.$$

PROOF. We have

$$\begin{aligned} h^{n-2} r^m &= c\Phi\Psi, \\ h^{n-1} r^{m-1} &= ct\Phi. \end{aligned}$$

It remains to make use of the inequality $\Phi \geqslant \Psi$, Lemma 7 and Lemma 6. □

Let us derive from Lemma 8 the statement of Theorem 6 with $k = 1$. It follows from Proposition 2 that for all t large enough we can choose non-collinear points $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2 \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ satisfying (40) with $\Psi = \psi(t)$ and $\Phi = \varphi(t)$. Then, in case f_1 is increasing and invertible, we have $r = g_1(f_1^-(h))$ and $h \to +\infty$ as $t \to +\infty$. This gives the desired statement.

To prove the statement of Theorem 6 with $k = -1$ we need a reversed analogue of Lemma 8:

LEMMA 9. *Let t, Φ, Ψ be arbitrary positive real numbers, $\Phi \geqslant \Psi$. Let $\mathbf{v}_1$, $\mathbf{v}_2$ be non-collinear integer points such that*

$$\mathbf{v}_1 \in M_{t,\Phi} \quad \textit{and} \quad \mathbf{v}_2 \in M_{t,\Psi}\,. \tag{41}$$

Then

$$\widehat{M}_{h,r} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d \backslash \{\mathbf{0}\} \neq \varnothing,$$

where

$$h=\left(ct^{2-m}\Phi\Psi^{m-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{d-2}},\quad r=\left(ct^{n}\Phi\Psi^{1-n}\right)^{\frac{1}{d-2}},\quad c=\sqrt{2d(d-1)}.$$

Proof. We have

$$h^n r^{m-2}=c\Phi\Psi,\quad h^{n-1}r^{m-1}=ct\Phi.$$

Once again, it remains to make use of the inequality $\Phi\geqslant\Psi$, Lemma 7 and Lemma 6. □

It follows from Proposition 2 that for all t small enough we can choose non-collinear points $\mathbf{v}_1,\mathbf{v}_2\in\mathbb{Z}^d$ satisfying (41) with $\Psi=\psi^-(t)$ and $\Phi=\varphi^-(t)$. Then, in case f_{-1} is decreasing and invertible, we have $r=g_{-1}(f_{-1}^-(h))$ and $h\to+\infty$ as $t\to 0$. This gives the statement of Theorem 6 with $k=-1$.

8. Proof of Theorem 5

Lemma 10. *Let φ, ψ be as in Theorem 5 and let h be an arbitrary positive real number. Set*

$$r=\varphi(h)\tag{42}$$

and

$$h^*=\Delta_d\, r^m h^{n-1},\quad r^*=\Delta_d\, r^{m-1}h^n,\tag{43}$$

where Δ_d is defined by (29).

Suppose that in the interval

$$\mathcal{I}=[r^*,\max(r^*,\psi^-(h^*))]$$

one of the conditions (i), (ii) of Theorem 5 holds, and

$$M_{\psi(t),t}\cap\mathbb{Z}^d\backslash\{\mathbf{0}\}\neq\varnothing,\quad \textit{for every } t\in\mathcal{I}.\tag{44}$$

Then

$$\widehat{M}_{h,r}\cap\mathbb{Z}^d\backslash\{\mathbf{0}\}\neq\varnothing.\tag{45}$$

PROOF. If M_{h^*,r^*} contains nonzero integer points, then (45) follows from Theorem 7. Thus, we may assume that

$$M_{h^*,r^*} \cap \mathbb{Z}^d \backslash \{\mathbf{0}\} = \varnothing. \tag{46}$$

Particularly, in this case we have $r^* < \psi^-(h^*)$.

Consider the minimal $\mu > 1$ such that $M_{\mu h^*,\mu r^*}$ contains a nonzero integer point $\mathbf{v}$. If this point satisfies the inequality

$$\max_{1\leqslant j\leqslant m} |\langle \mathbf{e}_j, \mathbf{v}\rangle| \leqslant \frac{h}{r} \max_{1\leqslant i\leqslant n} |\langle \boldsymbol{\ell}_{m+i}, \mathbf{v}\rangle|,$$

then we denote it as $\mathbf{v}_1$ and consider the minimal $\mu' \geqslant \mu$ such that for every $\varepsilon > 0$ small enough $M_{(\mu-\varepsilon)h^*,\mu' r^*}$ contains a nonzero integer point $\mathbf{v}_2$. Otherwise, we denote it as $\mathbf{v}_2$ and, analogically, consider the minimal $\mu' \geqslant \mu$ such that for every $\varepsilon > 0$ small enough $M_{\mu' h^*,(\mu-\varepsilon)r^*}$ contains a nonzero integer point $\mathbf{v}_1$. Set

$$\lambda_1 = \max_{1\leqslant i\leqslant n} |\langle \boldsymbol{\ell}_{m+i}, \mathbf{v}_1\rangle|, \quad \lambda_2 = \max_{1\leqslant j\leqslant m} |\langle \mathbf{e}_j, \mathbf{v}_2\rangle|,$$

$$\lambda_1' = \max_{1\leqslant j\leqslant m} |\langle \mathbf{e}_j, \mathbf{v}_1\rangle|, \quad \lambda_2' = \max_{1\leqslant i\leqslant n} |\langle \boldsymbol{\ell}_{m+i}, \mathbf{v}_2\rangle|.$$

Then $\mathbf{v}_1 \in M_{\lambda_1,\lambda_1'}$, $\mathbf{v}_2 \in M_{\lambda_2',\lambda_2}$ and as follows from the definition of $\mathbf{v}_1$, $\mathbf{v}_2$

$$\lambda_1' \leqslant \frac{h}{r}\lambda_1, \quad \lambda_1' \leqslant \lambda_2, \quad \lambda_2' \leqslant \frac{r}{h}\lambda_2, \quad \lambda_2' \leqslant \lambda_1. \tag{47}$$

In view of (44) and (46) we also have

$$h^* < \lambda_1 \leqslant \psi(\lambda_2) < \psi(r^*) \quad \text{and} \quad r^* < \lambda_2 \leqslant \psi^-(\lambda_1) < \psi^-(h^*).$$

These inequalities imply that, if the condition (i) of Theorem 5 holds, then by (42), (43) and (23) we have

$$\lambda_1\lambda_2 \leqslant \lambda_2\psi(\lambda_2) \leqslant r^*\psi(r^*) \leqslant \frac{r^{m-1}h^{n-1}}{\sqrt{2d(d-1)}},$$

and if (ii) holds, then by (42), (43) and (24) we have

$$\lambda_1\lambda_2 \leqslant \lambda_1\psi^-(\lambda_1) = \psi^-(\lambda_1)\psi(\psi^-(\lambda_1)) \leqslant h^*\psi^-(h^*) \leqslant \frac{r^{m-1}h^{n-1}}{\sqrt{2d(d-1)}}.$$

Thus, in each case we have

$$\lambda_1\lambda_2 \leqslant \frac{r^{m-1}h^{n-1}}{\sqrt{2d(d-1)}}\,.$$

This, together with (47), implies (37) for $h_1 = \lambda_1$, $r_1 = \lambda'_1$, $h_2 = \lambda'_2$, $r_2 = \lambda_2$. It remains to apply Lemma 6. □

Theorem 5 is now easily derived. It follows from (22), (42), (43) that $r^* \to \infty$ as $h \to \infty$. So if h is large enough, then either (*i*), or (*ii*) of Theorem 5 holds. Besides that, if h is large enough, then by Proposition 2 we have (44). Applying Lemma 10, we get Theorem 5.

9. Special case $\mathbf{n} + \mathbf{m} = 3$

Jarník [11] derived his Theorem A from a stronger statement for functions. In our terms it can be reformulated as follows.

THEOREM H. *Let $n = 1$, $m = 2$. Let $\psi : \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}_+$ be an arbitrary invertible decreasing function such that $f(t) = t\psi(t)$ is invertible. Let ε, δ be arbitrary positive real numbers. Then the following two statements hold*:

(*i*) *if $\psi(t) \leqslant \varepsilon t^{-2}$ for all t large enough, $f(t)$ is decreasing and Θ is uniformly ψ-approximable, then $\Theta^\intercal$ is uniformly φ-approximable, where*

$$\varphi(t) = \frac{12(1+\varepsilon+\delta)}{t}\psi^-\left(\frac{1}{t}\right); \tag{48}$$

(*ii*) *if $\psi(t) \leqslant \varepsilon t^{-1/2}$ for all t large enough, $f(t)$ is increasing and $\Theta^\intercal$ is uniformly ψ-approximable, then Θ is uniformly φ-approximable, where*

$$\varphi(t) = \frac{4(1+\varepsilon+\delta)}{f^-(t/2)}\,. \tag{49}$$

It appears that our method gives better constants in (48) and (49). In order to give in this case the best result we can, let us improve Lemma 6 for $d = 3$. Namely, let us replace the constant in (37), which is equal in this case to $2\sqrt{3}$, by 2.

Lemma 11. *Let $n+m=3$, let h, r, h_1, r_1, h_2, r_2 be positive real numbers and let $\mathbf{v}_1$, $\mathbf{v}_2$ be non-collinear points of $\mathbb{Z}^3$. Suppose that*

$$\mathbf{v}_1 \in M_{h_1,r_1}, \quad \mathbf{v}_2 \in M_{h_2,r_2} \tag{50}$$

and

$$\max\Big(r^2 r_1 r_2,\ h^2 h_1 h_2,\ hr\max(r_1,r_2)\max(h_1,h_2)\Big) \leqslant \frac{1}{2}h^n r^m. \tag{51}$$

Then

$$\widehat{M}_{h,r} \cap \mathbb{Z}^3 \backslash \{\mathbf{0}\} \neq \varnothing.$$

Proof. Since the statement of the Lemma is symmetric with respect to n, m, we may assume that $n=1$ and $m=2$. Let A, $\mathbf{z}_1$, $\mathbf{z}_2$, $\mathcal{L}$ be as in the proof of Lemma 6. Using elementary geometric considerations it is not difficult to prove that

$$\frac{|\mathbf{z}_1 \wedge \mathbf{z}_2|}{2^{-1}\operatorname{vol}_1((A^{-1}\mathcal{L})^{\perp} \cap \mathcal{B}_\infty^d)} \leqslant$$

$$\leqslant 2\max\Big(|\mathbf{x}_1|_\infty |\mathbf{x}_2|_\infty,\ \max\big(|\mathbf{x}_1|_\infty, |\mathbf{x}_2|_\infty\big)\max\big(|\mathbf{y}_1|_\infty, |\mathbf{y}_2|_\infty\big)\Big). \tag{52}$$

Repeating the argument proving Lemma 6 with application of (9) instead of Lemma 5, we get (6), and thus, the desired statement. □

We notice that an analogous improvement can be made for arbitrary n, m, if one of them is equal to 1.

Now that we have Lemma 11, we can replace the constant c in Theorem 5 by 2, in case $d=3$. Thus improved, Theorem 5 implies the following

Theorem 8. *Let $n=1$, $m=2$. Let $\psi:\mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}_+$ be an arbitrary invertible decreasing function such that $f(t)=t\psi(t)$ is invertible. Then the following two statements hold*:

(*i*) *if $f(t)$ is decreasing and Θ is uniformly ψ-approximable, then $\Theta^\intercal$ is uniformly φ-approximable, where*

$$\varphi(t) = \frac{3}{4t}\psi^{-}\left(\frac{2}{3t}\right);$$

(ii) if $f(t)$ is increasing and $\Theta^{\intercal}$ is uniformly ψ-approximable, then Θ is uniformly φ-approximable, where

$$\varphi(t) = \frac{2}{3f^{-}(t/2)} .$$

As we claimed, Theorem 8 is stronger than Theorem H. Indeed, statement (ii) is obviously stronger, and as for statement (i), it suffices to notice that if $f(t) = t\psi(t)$ is decreasing, then $t\psi^{-}(t) = f(\psi^{-}(t))$ is increasing, since $\psi^{-}(t)$ is decreasing, as well as $\psi(t)$.

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