

QUANTITATIVE SHRINKING TARGET PROPERTIES FOR ROTATIONS AND INTERVAL EXCHANGES

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1. INTRODUCTION

Let $\alpha \in [0, 1)$. The rotation $R_\alpha : [0, 1) \rightarrow [0, 1)$ by $R_\alpha(x) = x + \alpha \pmod{1}$ is one of the most natural and best understood dynamical systems. For example, Herman Weyl proved the following result on the asymptotic frequency with which an orbit visits a fixed ball:

Theorem. *Let $\alpha \notin \mathbb{Q}$. Then for any $\epsilon > 0$ and any $a \in [0, 1)$ we have*

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \chi_{B(a, \epsilon)}(R_\alpha^i x)}{N 2\epsilon} = 1.$$

This paper concerns the following question: What if the ball's radius is allowed to shrink as i increases? The focus of this paper is on treating families of sequences of radii $\{r_i\}$ simultaneously and obtaining explicit conditions on α under which theorems like the above can be proved. The following is the main result of this paper for rotations:

Theorem 1.1. *There exists an explicit, full measure diophantine condition on $\alpha \notin \mathbb{Q}$ so that if α satisfies this condition then for any sequence $\{r_i\}$ such that ir_i is non-increasing and $\sum_{i=1}^\infty r_i = \infty$ and for any $a \in [0, 1)$ we have*

$$(1) \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \chi_{B(a, r_i)}(R_\alpha^i x)}{\sum_{i=1}^N 2r_i} = 1$$

for almost every x .

If α is badly approximable (a measure zero, full Hausdorff dimension set) then we can relax the condition on the radius sequences further:

Theorem 1.2. *If α is badly approximable, $\{r_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$ is non-increasing and $\sum r_i = \infty$, then for any $a \in [0, 1)$*

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \chi_{B(a, r_i)}(R_\alpha^i x)}{\sum_{i=1}^N 2r_i} = 1$$

for almost every x .

The choice of the center of these balls a does not play any role in our proof. For the sake of concreteness, outside of the statements of our theorems we will prove all our results for $a = \frac{1}{2}$. The full measure set of x for which our theorems hold does, of course, depend on a .

We note that Kurzweil showed that the conclusion of Theorem 1.2 can hold at most for badly approximable α :

Theorem. (Kurzweil [19]) *For any decreasing sequence of positive real numbers $\{r_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ with divergent sum there exists $\mathcal{V} \subset [0, 1)$, a full measure set of α , such that for all $\alpha \in \mathcal{V}$ we have*

$$m \left(\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_i B(R_{\alpha}^{-i}(x), r_i) \right) = 1$$

for every x , where m denotes Lebesgue measure.

On the other hand,

$$m \left(\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_i B(R_{\alpha}^{-i}(x), r_i) \right) = 1$$

for every x and every decreasing sequence of positive real numbers $\{r_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ with divergent sum iff α is badly approximable.

Let us make a few remarks to make the statements of Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 precise. We call a sequence $\{r_i\}$ where ir_i is non-increasing and $\sum r_i = \infty$ a *Khinchin sequence*. Let $[a_1, \dots]$ be the continued fraction expansion of α . The number α is *badly approximable* if $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n < \infty$. The diophantine condition in Theorem 1.1 is as follows:

- $a_n < n^{\frac{4}{3}}$ for all but finitely many n and
- $\lim_{C \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \log a_i - \sum_{a_i < C} \log a_i \right) = 0$.

The first condition is a standard full measure condition on α (see, e.g. [15, Thm 30]). The second is a mild “non-divergence” condition. The α which satisfy it have full measure, which can be seen as follows. Let μ be the Gauss measure on $[0, 1)$ and consider the $L^1(\mu)$ functions $\gamma(x) = \log(\lfloor \frac{1}{x} \rfloor)$ – the logarithm of the first term in the continued fraction expansion of x – and

$$\gamma_a(x) = \begin{cases} \log(a) & \text{if } \lfloor \frac{1}{x} \rfloor = a \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}.$$

Applying the Birkhoff Ergodic Theorem for the Gauss map, $\phi(x) = \frac{1}{x} - \lfloor \frac{1}{x} \rfloor$ to $\gamma(x) - \sum_{a=1}^{C-1} \gamma_a(x)$ and noting that $\|\gamma(x) - \sum_{a=1}^{C-1} \gamma_a(x)\|_1 \rightarrow 0$ as $C \rightarrow \infty$ gives the result.

We will prove our results not just for rotations, but also for interval exchange transformations (IET’s; Definition 2.1) satisfying similar diophantine assumptions. The statement of this more general theorem (Theorem 2.3) requires a few technical definitions and so is delayed until Section 2. We mention D. Kim and S. Marmi [16], S. Galatolo [12], L. Marchese [20], M. Boshernitzan and J. Chaika [5], M. Marmi, S. Moussa and J-C Yoccoz [21] where a variety of diophantine results for interval exchanges and rotations are proven.

A key tool in extending our work to IET’s is a quantitative version of Boshernitzan’s criterion for unique ergodicity which may be of independent interest (see Section 4 for terminology, historical discussion and proof). We call an interval bounded by two adjacent discontinuities of T^n (counting 0 and 1 as discontinuities) an *n-block interval* of T (see Definition A.3 in the Appendix).

Theorem 1.3. *Let T be a minimal interval exchange transformation. Let $e_T(n)$ denote the minimum measure of any n -block interval of T . Let $c > 0$. Assume $n_j \in \mathbb{N}$ have the following two properties:*

- (1) $\frac{n_{j+1}}{n_j} > 2$
- (2) $e_T(n_j) > \frac{c}{n_j}$ for all j .

Let J be any n_i -block interval of T . Then there exist constants $C_1, C_2, \hat{q} > 0$ depending only on c such that for any points x, x' we have

$$\frac{1}{n_{i+\hat{q}+L}} \left| \sum_{j=1}^{n_{i+\hat{q}+L}} \chi_J(T^j x) - \chi_J(T^j x') \right| < \frac{C_1 e^{-C_2 L}}{n_i}$$

for all $L \in \mathbb{N}$.

Quantitative equidistribution results for interval exchanges have also been proven in [28], [11] and [1].

1.1. Related results in other settings.

Definition 1.4. Given a dynamical system (X, T, μ) , a sequence of sets $\{C_i\}$ is a strong Borel Cantelli sequence for T if

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \chi_{C_i}(T^i x)}{\sum_{i=1}^N \mu(C_i)} = 1$$

for almost every x .

This paper establishes that for almost every α , any sequence of balls $B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)$ so that $\{r_i\}$ is a Khinchin sequence is strong Borel Cantelli for R_α . If the rotation is badly approximable we may relax the condition to allow r_i just non-increasing and with divergent sum.

This question has been considered in systems of high complexity. Philipp [25] proved that for the Gauss map, or a β shift with the smooth invariant measure any sequence of intervals so that the sum of the measures diverge is strong Borel Cantelli. Dolgopyat [9] proved an analogous result for Anosov diffeomorphisms. Chernov-Kleinbock [8] proved a similar result for topological markov chains with a Gibbs measure: cylinders satisfying a certain nesting condition and so that the sum of their measures diverge are strong Borel Cantelli. To highlight the difference between our low complexity setting and the high complexity situation we remark that for every rotation α there is a sequence of sets $C_i \in \{[0, 1], [\frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4}]\}$ which is not strong Borel Cantelli.

1.2. Outline of paper. We prove our results following a proof of the strong law of large numbers.

In Section 2, we prove Theorem 2.3, the generalization of Theorem 1.1 to IETs. The first key step is Proposition 2.11, which we prove in Section 2.2. This Proposition says that, in the presence of the diophantine assumption, a large part of the sum in the numerator of equation (1) can be broken up into sums over disjoint ranges for i in such a way that the resulting quantities are approximately independent.

Section 2.3 shows via this approximate independence result, that Theorem 1.1 is true if we ignore those terms in the sum which are not part of these roughly independent quantities. Then Section 2.4 treats the terms ignored in Section 2.3, showing that their contribution is negligible and finishing the proof.

We then prove Theorem 1.2 in two parts. In Section 3.1 we treat radius sequences $\{r_i\}$ where $\sup ir_i < \infty$. In Section 3.2 we treat the general case.

Section 4 proves the quantitative Boshernitzan criterion Theorem 1.3, which is used in the earlier sections.

There is an appendix that provides a treatment of the symbolic coding of an IET. This is well known material included for completeness, and to provide a reference for notation and terminology used elsewhere in the paper.

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2. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.1

2.1. Setup and an outline of the proof. In this section we introduce notation and terminology necessary to state and prove Theorem 2.3 – our extension of Theorem 1.1 to interval exchange transformations. Our first task is to introduce an analogue of the continued fraction expansion used to state Theorem 1.1. We also give a short outline of the proof of Theorem 2.3 as it will proceed in the following sections, and record a few lemmas for future use.

Definition 2.1. *Given a vector $L = (l_1, l_2, \dots, l_d)$ where $l_i \geq 0$ and $\sum_{i=1}^d l_i = 1$, we obtain d sub-intervals of $[0, 1)$:*

$$I_1 = [0, l_1), I_2 = [l_1, l_1 + l_2), \dots, I_d = [l_1 + \dots + l_{d-1}, 1).$$

Given a permutation π on the set $\{1, 2, \dots, d\}$, we obtain a d -Interval Exchange Transformation (IET) $T: [0, 1) \rightarrow [0, 1)$ which exchanges the intervals I_i according to π . That is, if $x \in I_j$ then

$$T(x) = x - \sum_{k < j} l_k + \sum_{\pi(k') < \pi(j)} l_{k'}.$$

Throughout the paper, we work with the Lebesgue measure on $[0, 1)$, which is invariant under any IET. The Lebesgue measure of a set A will be denoted by $m(A)$. For intervals, we will write $|J|$ for $m(J)$.

The points $D = \{\sum_{i=1}^r l_i\}_{r=1}^{d-1}$ are the *discontinuities* of T . The discontinuities of T^n are $\bigcup_{i=0}^{n-1} T^{-i}D$. Generalizing the behavior of irrational circle rotations to IETs is the Keane condition:

Definition 2.2. *T satisfies the Keane condition if the orbits of all its discontinuities are infinite and disjoint.*

This full measure condition will be assumed for Theorems 2.3 and 3.1.

Recall the standard symbolic coding of an IET (see Appendix A). Given an IET T , let $e_T: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined as follows: $e_T(n)$ is the minimum distance between two discontinuities of T^n . If two discontinuities orbit into each other then $e_T(n)$ is defined to be 0. Since $T^{-1}(\{0, 1\})$ is contained in the set of discontinuities we

have that $e_T(n)$ is at most the measure of the smallest $(n - 1)$ -block interval (see Appendix A). Notice that e_T is a non-increasing function.

Fix $\xi > 0$. We define an increasing sequence of integers $n_i(\xi)$ inductively as follows. Let $n_0(\xi) = 1$ and let $n_{i+1} = \min\{2^k > n_i : e_T(2n_{i+1}) > \frac{\xi}{n_{i+1}}\}$. Let $a_i(\xi) = \frac{n_i}{n_{i-1}}$. Below, we will suppress ξ in our notation.

Theorem 2.3. *Let T be an IET satisfying the Keane condition so that for every $\epsilon > 0$ there exists $\xi > 0$, C so that $a_i \leq i^{\frac{4}{3}}$ for all but finitely many i and*

$$(2) \quad \limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \log a_i - \sum_{a_i < C} \log a_i \right) < \epsilon.$$

Then for any Khinchin sequence $\{r_i\}$ and any $a \in [0, 1)$ we have

$$(3) \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{j=1}^N \chi_{B(a, r_j)}(T^j x)}{\sum_{j=1}^N 2r_j} = 1$$

for almost every x .

The proof of Theorem 2.3 proceeds as follows. First, we split up the sum in the numerator of equation (3) into sums over disjoint sets of indices. Specifically, let

$$g_i(x) = \sum_{j=n_i}^{2n_i-1} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_j)}(T^j x).$$

These sums account for much, but not all, of the sum in equation (3). In Sections 2.2 and 2.3 we show that Theorem 2.3 holds if we ignore those terms in the sum not included in the g_i :

$$(4) \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N g_i(x)}{\sum_{i=1}^N \int g_i} = 1.$$

Remark 2.4. Note that throughout the paper, all integrals are taken with respect to the Lebesgue measure on $[0, 1]$.

We prove equation (4) by showing that the g_i satisfy the following version of the strong law of large numbers. Its (standard) proof is included in Section 2.3 for completeness.

Proposition 2.5. *Let $H_i : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ so that for all i there exists C_1, C_2 :*

- (H1) $\|H_i\|_\infty < C_1$
- (H2) $\sum_{i=1}^\infty \int H_i = +\infty$
- (H3) $\sum_{j=i+1}^\infty \left| \int H_j(x) H_i(x) - \int H_i(x) \int H_j(x) \right| < C_2 \|H_{i-1}(x)\|_1.$

Then

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N H_i(x)}{\sum_{i=1}^N \int H_i(x)} = 1$$

for a.e. x .

Property (H3) should be thought of as approximate independence of the H_i . Verifying it for g_i is the main work; this is shown in Section 2.2. This approximate independence for g_i comes via Lemma 2.12 from an effective equidistribution result on T (Theorem 1.3) and approximate T invariance of the g_i (Lemma 2.14).

Having established equation (4), we complete the proof in Section 2 by showing that those times not accounted for by the g_i contribute negligibly to equation (3). Let

$$\beta_i(x) = \sum_{j=2n_i}^{n_{i+1}-1} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_j)}(T^j x).$$

We will prove that, for almost every x

$$\sum_{i < N} \beta_i(x) = o\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n_N} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)}(T^i x)\right).$$

Before proceeding to the main elements of this proof, we collect a few Lemmas we will need throughout. That $\{r_i\}$ is a Khinchin sequence implies the following, whose proof is easy:

Lemma 2.6. *For any j and any $n \geq n_j$,*

$$\sum_{i=n}^{2n-1} 2r_i \leq 2\|g_j\|_1.$$

In particular, for all $i > j$,

$$\|g_i\|_1 \leq 2\|g_j\|_1.$$

We conclude this section with the proof of a result used to control $\|g_i\|_\infty$ which we will frequently quote. Since the $\{r_i\}$ are a Khinchin sequence, this Lemma proves that the g_i satisfy property (H1) from Proposition 2.5.

Lemma 2.7. $g_i(x) \leq 1 + \frac{2n_i}{\xi} 2r_{n_i}$ for all i and x .

The proof relies on:

Lemma 2.8. (Boshernitzan [3, Lemma 4.4]) *If T satisfies the Keane condition, then for any interval J with measure at most $e_T(n+1)$ there exist integers $p \leq 0 \leq q$ (which depend on J) such that*

- (1) $q - p \geq n$
- (2) T^i acts continuously on J for $p \leq i \leq q$
- (3) $T^i(J) \cap T^j(J) = \emptyset$ for $p \leq i < j \leq q$.

Remark 2.9. Boshernitzan proves a somewhat stronger result. One can remove the Keane condition assumption and get the same result as long as J does not contain any saddle connections of T (points on the orbit of two distinct discontinuities). The Keane condition implies that there are no saddle connections.

Note that condition (3) implies that $T^i(J) \cap T^j(J) = \emptyset$ for any interval with measure at most $e_T(n+1)$ and $0 < |i - j| \leq n$.

Proof of Lemma 2.7. Let J be any interval. By (3) of Lemma 2.8, if $T^j x, T^{j+r} x \in J$, then $|J| \geq e_T(r+1)$.

Note that for all x ,

$$g_i(x) = \sum_{j=n_i}^{2n_i-1} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_j)}(T^j x) \leq \sum_{j=n_i}^{2n_i-1} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{n_i})}(T^j x).$$

Partition $B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{n_i})$ into subintervals J_k with measure $< e_T(n_i + 1)$, using as few intervals as possible. There are $\lceil \frac{2r_{n_i}}{e_T(n_i+1)} \rceil$ such intervals. Since the measure of J_k is $\leq e_T(n_i + 1)$, by Lemma 2.8, if $n_i \leq j_1 < j_2 \leq 2n_i - 1$, then at most one of $T^{j_1}x$ and $T^{j_2}x$ can lie in J_k . Hence

$$g_i(x) \leq \left\lceil \frac{2r_{n_i}}{e_T(n_i + 1)} \right\rceil \leq \frac{2r_{n_i}}{e_T(n_i + 1)} + 1 \leq \frac{2r_{n_i}}{e_T(2n_i)} + 1 \leq \frac{2n_i 2r_{n_i}}{\xi} + 1.$$

□

Remark 2.10. Note that the proof of Lemma 2.7 uses only that we have a lower bound on $e_T(2n_i)$; the Khinchin condition does not play a role. Its argument will also extend to the setting of Proposition 3.2.

2.2. Estimate on $\int \mathbf{g}_i(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{g}_j(\mathbf{x})$. The goal of this section is to establish property (H3) of Proposition 2.5 for the g_i .

Proposition 2.11. *There exists C so that for all i ,*

$$\sum_{i=j+1}^{\infty} \left| \int g_i g_j - \|g_i\|_1 \|g_j\|_1 \right| < C \|g_{j-1}\|_1,$$

where C depends only on ξ .

This proposition asserts ‘approximate independence’ of g_i and g_j as j becomes much larger than i . To prove this, when i is sufficiently larger than j , we L^1 -approximate g_j by a function $f_{i,j}$ which is nearly independent from g_i . This function will be built using a general result, Lemma 2.16, and a result using the dynamics of T , Lemma 2.17, and it will be constant on certain intervals of $[0, 1)$ closely related to the dynamics of T . Our first pair of results show how we can use a property of g_i – approximate T -invariance, established in Lemma 2.14 – to prove that g_i is nearly independent from a function like $f_{i,j}$.

Lemma 2.12. *Assume h is a function satisfying $\|h - h \circ T^i\|_1 < \delta$ for $i \leq n$ and that J is an interval such that*

$$|n|J| - |\{0 < i \leq n : T^i(x) \in J\}| < n\delta'.$$

Then

$$\left| \int h \chi_J - |J| \int h \right| \leq \delta' \left(\int h \right) + \delta |J|.$$

Proof. Let $e_i(x) = h(x) - h \circ T^i(x)$. Then $\|e_i\|_1 < \delta$ for $i \leq n$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \int h(x)\chi_J(x)dx &= \int \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (h \circ T^i(x) + e_i(x))\chi_J(x)dx \\ &\leq \int \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n h \circ T^i(x)\chi_J(x)dx + \delta|J| \\ &= \int h(x)\frac{1}{n} |\{1 \leq i \leq n : T^{-i}(x) \in J\}| dx + \delta|J| \\ &\leq (|J| + \delta') \left(\int h(x)dx \right) + \delta|J|. \end{aligned}$$

A similar calculation bounds $\int h\chi_J - |J| \int h$ below. The result follows from this. \square

By linearity of the integral we obtain:

Corollary 2.13. Let J_1, \dots, J_k be disjoint intervals such that

$$|n|J_i| - |\{0 < i < n : T^i(x) \in J_i\}| < n\delta'$$

for all $i \leq k$ and let h be a function so that $\|h - h \circ T^i\|_1 < \delta$ for all $0 \leq i \leq n$. Then for any $\alpha_i > 0$,

$$\left| \int h(x) \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \chi_{J_i}(x) - \int h \int \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \chi_{J_i} \right| < \left(\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \right) \delta' \left(\int h \right) + \delta \left\| \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \chi_{J_i} \right\|_1.$$

We want to apply Corollary 2.13 to the g_i . The first step is to establish their approximate T -invariance.

Lemma 2.14. *There exists C so that for every j*

$$\sum_{k=j+1}^{\infty} \max\{\|g_k - g_k \circ T^s\|_1 : 0 \leq s < n_{\frac{k+j}{2}}\} < C\|g_{j-1}\|_1.$$

Proof. For any $M < N$ and $0 \leq s < N - M$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=M}^N \chi_{T^{-i}B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)}(x) - \sum_{i=M}^N \chi_{T^{-i}B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)}(T^s x) \\ = \sum_{i=M}^{M+s-1} \chi_{T^{-i}B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)}(x) - \sum_{i=N-s+1}^N \chi_{T^{-i-s}B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)}(x) \\ + \sum_{i=M+s}^N \chi_{T^{-i}B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)}(x) - \chi_{T^{-i}B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{i-s})}(x). \end{aligned}$$

Since we assume that r_i is non-increasing, the L_1 norms of the first two terms are each bounded above by $2sr_M$. The L_1 norm of the third term can be bounded using a telescoping sum argument. All but $2s$ terms cancel, giving a maximum total L_1 norm of $4sr_M$.

Therefore, to prove the Lemma, it suffices to bound $\sum_{k=j+1}^{\infty} 8n_{\lfloor \frac{k+j}{2} \rfloor} r_{n_k}$. By construction, $n_{i+1} \geq 2n_i$ so $n_k \geq 2^{\frac{k-j}{2}} n_{\lfloor \frac{k+j}{2} \rfloor}$ and hence $n_{\lfloor \frac{k+j}{2} \rfloor} \leq \frac{n_k}{\sqrt{2}^{k-j}}$. Therefore,

$$\sum_{k=j+1}^{\infty} 8n_{\lfloor \frac{k+j}{2} \rfloor} r_{n_k} \leq 8 \sum_{k=j+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}^{k-j}} n_k r_{n_k}.$$

Since $n_k r_{n_k}$ is non-increasing, for some constant C we have

$$8 \sum_{k=j+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}^{k-j}} n_k r_{n_k} \leq 8n_j r_{n_j} \sum_{k=j+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}^{k-j}} \leq C \|g_{j-1}\|_1.$$

□

Essentially the same proof also demonstrates the following:

Lemma 2.15. *There exists C so that for every j*

$$\sum_{k=j+1}^{\infty} \max\{\|\beta_k - \beta_k \circ T^s\|_1 : 0 \leq s < n_{\frac{k+j}{2}}\} < C \|g_j\|_1.$$

Theorem 1.3 establishes convergence of orbit sums for functions that are constant on intervals of continuity of T^M for appropriately chosen M . To use this with the g_i , we will need that some such function is close to g_i . The next two lemmas show this.

Given a finite set $S \subset [0, 1]$ let P_S be the finite partition of $[0, 1]$ defined by connected components of $[0, 1] \setminus S$.

Lemma 2.16. *If S is ϵ -dense then there exists a function h which is constant on each element of P_S and whose L_1 difference from g_i is at most $2n_i\epsilon$. Moreover, h can be chosen so that $\|h\|_{\infty} \leq \|g_i\|_{\infty}$, $\|h\|_1 \leq \|g_i\|_1$, and h can be expressed as the sum of n_i characteristic functions for intervals.*

Proof. For any interval J , there exists some function ϕ which is constant on the elements of P_S and such that $\|\chi_J - \phi\|_1 < 2\epsilon$ and $\|\phi\|_{\infty} \leq \|g_i\|_{\infty}$. Specifically, for each $I \in P_S$, if $I \subset J$, set $\phi = 1$ on I , otherwise set $\phi = 0$ on I . Note that ϕ is the characteristic function for an interval. The lemma follows because g_i is the sum of n_i characteristic functions of intervals. □

Let S_k be the set of discontinuities of T^k . Recall that d is the number of intervals of our IET and that $e_T(n_i) > \frac{\xi}{2n_i}$.

Lemma 2.17. *$S_{n_i+d(2-\log_2(\xi))}$ is at least $\frac{1}{n_i}$ -dense.*

The lemma follows from the following result, which is adapted to our situation. This result uses the *first return map*. Recall that if $G : X \rightarrow X$ is a dynamical system and $A \subset X$ then the first return map of G to A is $G|_A : A \rightarrow A$ by $G|_A(x) = G^{\min\{\ell > 0 : G^{\ell}x \in A\}}(x)$. The numbers $\min\{\ell > 0 : G^{\ell}x \in A\}$ are called return times. Recall that the first return map of a d -IET to an interval J bounded by adjacent discontinuities of T^n is a \hat{d} -IET for $\hat{d} \leq d$ and the return time is constant on each interval.

Sublemma 2.18. Let J be an m -block interval of the d -IET T . Then at most $d(2 - \log_2(\xi))$ of the n_i satisfy $\frac{1}{|J|} \leq n_i \leq m$.

Proof. We assume $\frac{1}{|J|} < m$, as otherwise the statement is trivial.

Step 1: It suffices to show that there exist at most d integers $k_1 < \dots < k_{d'}$ such that $k_1 < \frac{1}{|J|}$ and $k_{d'-1} < m \leq k_{d'}$ and such that if $k_j < i < k_{j+1}$ then $e_T(i) < \frac{1}{k_{j+1}}$. To see this, say n_l, \dots, n_{l+c} lie in $[k_j, k_{j+1}]$. By the defining condition on the n_l and the condition above, we have $\frac{\xi}{2n_l} < \frac{1}{k_{j+1}}$. Since the $\frac{n_{i+1}}{n_i} \geq 2$, we have

$$2^c n_l < n_{l+c} < k_{j+1} < \frac{2}{\xi} n_l.$$

Hence $c < 1 - \log_2 \xi$ and so at most $2 - \log_2 \xi$ of the n_i lie in $[k_j, k_{j+1}]$. Since at most d intervals of this form cover $[\frac{1}{|J|}, m]$, the result follows.

Step 2: Defining a sequence. Let $k_1 < \dots < k_{d'}$ be the return times for the first return map $T|_J$. We note that the Keane condition guarantees that there must be a return time $> m$. To see this, recall that the Keane condition implies minimality, and then examine a point in the interior of J which takes the minimum time to hit a discontinuity of T (besides a discontinuity at an endpoint of J). This must occur before returning to J (by the choice of the point) but also at time $\geq m$ (as J is an m -block interval).

Step 3: The sequence we defined satisfies the sufficient condition in Step 1. Note that $J = [T^{-K}\delta, T^{-L}\delta')$ where δ, δ' are either 0, 1 or discontinuities of T . Moreover, for any discontinuity δ'' , $T^{-r}\delta'' \in \text{Int}(J)$ (the interior of J) implies $r \geq m$ since J is an m -block. Write I_i for the interval with return time k_i .

It is clear that the smallest return time, k_1 , satisfies $k_1 < \frac{1}{|J|}$. Since $k_1 < m$, by the remark above, the boundary point of I_1 in $\text{Int}(J)$ must be in the orbit of δ, δ' , because T^i acts continuously on J for $0 \leq i < m$. Therefore, it is either $T^{-k_1-K}\delta$ or $T^{-k_1-L}(\delta')$. Without loss of generality, let us assume it is $T^{-k_1-K}\delta$. Pushing J forward by T^K , we see that $T^{k_1+K}J$ intersects $T^K J$. Let K_1 be the subinterval of $T^K J$ which returns to J after k_1 iterates of T and K_0 the other subinterval. Note that K_0 is an k_1 -block, and so $e_T(k_1)$ is bounded above by its length. Since $T^{-K}K_0$ has not returned to J after k_1 iterates, the first return time for any of its points is k_2 . As above, this implies that $|K_0| < \frac{1}{k_2}$. Therefore $e_T(k_1) < \frac{1}{k_2}$.

The argument above may be continued inductively, considering always the points which have not yet returned to J , as long as $k_i < m$. Therefore we have constructed the desired integers k_i and the sublemma is proved. \square

Proof of Lemma 2.17. Let $m = n_{i+d(2-\log_2(\xi))}$ and suppose, towards a contradiction, that S_m is not $\frac{1}{n_i}$ -dense and so there exists an m -block interval J with $|J| > \frac{1}{n_i}$. Then $\frac{1}{|J|} < n_i < m$. Applying Sublemma 2.18, there can be at most $d(2 - \log_2(\xi))$ of the n_j between $\frac{1}{|J|}$ and m (inclusive). But this contradicts the definition of m . \square

For use in Section 3.1, we record an analogue of Lemma 2.17 which holds under the ‘badly approximable’ assumption of Theorems 1.2 and 3.1.

Lemma 2.19. *If there exists some $\sigma > 0$ such that $e_T(n) > \frac{\sigma}{n}$ for all n , then there exists some $K > 0$ such that $\{T^i x\}_{i=1}^n$ is $\frac{K}{n}$ -dense for all x, n .*

Proof. By choosing $\xi < \frac{\sigma}{2}$, we may choose $n_i = 2^i$. By the previous lemma $\{x, \dots, T^n x\}$ is $2^{-[m-d(2^{-\log_2(\xi)})]}$ -dense where $m = \lfloor \log_2(n) \rfloor$. The lemma follows. \square

We now prove Proposition 2.11.

Proof of Proposition 2.11. Let $u = \max(\{j\} \cup \{i : n_i < \frac{1}{r_{n_j}}\})$. Let $v = d(2 - \log_2(\xi)) + \hat{q}$. We divide up our sum as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=j+1}^{\infty} \left| \int g_i g_j - \int g_j \int g_i \right| \\ &= \sum_{j < i \leq u} \left| \int g_i g_j - \int g_j \int g_i \right| + \sum_{u < i \leq u+4v} \left| \int g_i g_j - \int g_i \int g_j \right| \\ &+ \sum_{i > u+4v} \left| \int g_i g_j - \int g_j \int g_i \right|. \end{aligned}$$

Step 1: We estimate the first term, in the case $j < u$ (otherwise there is no contribution from this term). By Lemma 2.8, $T^{s+\ell} x \notin B(T^\ell x, r_\ell)$ for all s so that $e_T(s+1) \geq 2r_\ell$. By definition of the n_i and the choice of u , $e_T(2n_u) > \frac{\xi}{2n_u} > \frac{\xi}{2} r_{n_j}$. Then for any $\ell \geq n_j$, there are at most $1 + 4r_{n_j}/(\frac{\xi}{2} r_{n_j}) = 1 + \frac{8}{\xi}$ disjoint intervals of size $\frac{\xi}{2n_u}$ intersecting $B(T^\ell x, 2r_\ell)$. It follows that if $\ell \geq n_j$ then

$$(5) \quad |\{s < 2n_u : T^s x \in B(T^\ell x, 2r_\ell)\}| \leq 1 + \frac{8}{\xi}.$$

For any $s \in [n_i, 2n_i)$ and $\ell \in [n_j, 2n_j)$, $s > \ell$, $r_s < r_\ell$ and therefore $B(T^s x, r_s) \cap B(T^\ell x, r_\ell) \neq \emptyset$ only if $T^s x \in B(T^\ell x, 2r_\ell)$. Therefore,

$$\sum_{j < i \leq u} \int g_i g_j \leq \left(1 + \frac{8}{\xi}\right) \|g_j\|_1 \leq \left(1 + \frac{8}{\xi}\right) 2\|g_{j-1}\|_1$$

using Lemma 2.6. This is our desired bound.

Now we bound $\sum_{j < i \leq u} \int g_i \int g_j$ above in terms of $\|g_{j-1}\|_1$. Observe that as $n_{i+1} \geq 2n_i$ and under the assumption that $j < u$, $u - j \leq \log_2(\frac{1}{n_j r_{n_j}})$. We can straight-forwardly bound $\|g_j\|_1 \leq 2n_j r_{n_j}$. This implies that

$$\log_2 \left(\frac{2}{\|g_j\|_1} \right) \geq \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{n_j r_{n_j}} \right) \geq u - j.$$

Therefore, using Lemma 2.6,

$$\sum_{j < i \leq u} \|g_j\|_1 \|g_i\|_1 \leq \|g_j\|_1 \sum_{j < i \leq u} 2\|g_j\|_1 \leq \|g_j\|_1 \log_2 \left(\frac{2}{\|g_j\|_1} \right) 2\|g_j\|_1 \leq 4\|g_j\|_1$$

again giving the desired type of bound after applying Lemma 2.6.

Step 2: We estimate the second term. By Lemma 2.7 we have that there exists D independent of i, j with $\|\sum_{u < i \leq u+4v} g_i(x)\|_\infty < D$. So by the Hölder inequality

we have that the second sum is at most $2D\|g_j\|_1 \leq 4D\|g_{j-1}\|_1$, using Lemma 2.6 at the last step.

Step 3: We estimate the third term. To do this we will use Corollary 2.13 to show that g_i is nearly independent from $f_{i,j}$, a function that is close to g_j and is constructed with the help of Lemma 2.17. We will then show that g_i and g_j are nearly independent, as desired.

For fixed i, j with $i > u + 4v$, let $b = \frac{3u+i}{4}$. Note that as $i > 4v + u$ in these sum terms, $b - v > u$. Let $S_{i,j}$ be the set of discontinuities of T^{n_b} . By Lemma 2.17, $S_{i,j}$ is $\frac{1}{n_{b-v}}$ -dense. As $n_{k+1} \geq 2n_k$, we have $n_{b-v} \geq n_{u+1}2^{b-v-u-1} = n_{u+1}2^{\frac{i-u}{4}-v-1}$. Then

$$\frac{1}{n_{b-v}} \leq \frac{1}{n_{u+1}} 2^{-\frac{i-u}{4}+v+1}$$

for all $i > u + 4v$.

Applying Lemma 2.16 to g_j using the $\frac{1}{n_{b-v}}$ -dense set $S_{i,j}$, we obtain a function $f_{i,j}$ which is constant on each element of the partition by $S_{i,j}$ and such that

$$(6) \quad \|f_{i,j} - g_j\|_1 \leq 2n_j \frac{1}{n_{u+1}} 2^{-\frac{i-u}{4}+v+1} \quad \text{and} \quad \|f_{i,j}\|_\infty \leq \|g_j\|_\infty.$$

In addition, $f_{i,j}$ can be expressed as the sum of dn_b characteristic functions of n_b -block intervals.

We have the following lower bound on $\|g_{j-1}\|_1$: $\|g_{j-1}\|_1 \geq 2n_{j-1}r_{2n_{j-1}} \geq n_j r_{n_j}$ using the Khinchin condition. By our choice of u , $n_{u+1} \geq \frac{1}{r_{n_j}}$, so $\|g_{j-1}\|_1 \geq n_j \frac{1}{n_{u+1}}$. From this and (6) we obtain

$$(7) \quad \|f_{i,j} - g_j\|_1 \leq K' 2^{-\frac{i-u}{4}} \|g_{j-1}\|_1$$

for a constant K' independent of j .

Applying Theorem 1.3, to an arbitrary n_b -block interval J , (which we may because $\frac{i+u}{2} - \frac{3u+i}{4} \geq \frac{i-u}{4} \geq \frac{4v}{4} \geq \hat{q}$) we see that for any x ,

$$\left| \left| \{0 \leq k \leq n_{\frac{i+u}{2}} : T^k x \in J\} \right| - n_{\frac{i+u}{2}} |J| \right| < n_{\frac{i+u}{2}} \frac{C_1 e^{-C_2 \frac{i-u}{4}}}{n_b}$$

for positive constants C_1 and C_2 which are independent of j . (A factor $e^{C_2 \hat{q}}$ has been collected into the constant term C_1 .) Applying Corollary 2.13 with $h = g_i$, $n = n_{\frac{i+u}{2}}$, $\sum \alpha_i = dn_b \|f_{i,j}\|_\infty$ and $\delta' = \frac{C_1 e^{-C_2 \frac{i-u}{4}}}{n_b}$, we obtain

$$(8) \quad \left| \int g_i f_{i,j} - \int g_i \int f_{i,j} \right| \leq d \|f_{i,j}\|_\infty \frac{n_b}{n_{\frac{3u+i}{4}}} C_1 e^{-C_2 \frac{i-u}{4}} \|g_i\|_1 + c_{i,j} \|f_{i,j}\|_1 \\ < C'_1 \|f_{i,j}\|_\infty e^{-C_2 \frac{i-u}{4}} 2 \|g_{j-1}\|_1 + c_{i,j} \|f_{i,j}\|_\infty$$

where $c_{i,j}$ plays the role of δ in the application of Corollary 2.13 and

$$c_{i,j} = \max \left\{ \|g_i - g_i \circ T^k\|_1 : 0 \leq k \leq n_{\frac{i+u}{2}} \right\}.$$

We have also used that Lemma 2.6 implies $\|g_i\|_1 \leq 2\|g_{j-1}\|_1$.

By Lemma 2.14,

$$\sum_{i>j} c_{i,j} \leq D \|g_{j-1}\|_1$$

for a constant D independent of j . The Khinchin condition and Lemma 2.7 imply that $\|g_j\|_\infty$, and hence $\|f_{i,j}\|_\infty$, are bounded by a constant \tilde{D} independent of i, j . Applying these to equation (8), we get

$$(9) \quad \sum_{i>u+4v} \left| \int g_i f_{i,j} - \int g_i \int f_{i,j} \right| < \hat{D} \|g_{j-1}\|_1$$

for some $\hat{D} > 0$ independent of j .

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int g_i g_j - \int g_i \int g_j \right| \\ & \leq \left| \int g_i g_j - \int g_i f_{i,j} \right| + \left| \int g_i f_{i,j} - \int g_i \int f_{i,j} \right| + \left| \int g_i \int f_{i,j} - \int g_i \int g_j \right| \\ & \leq \|g_i\|_\infty \|g_j - f_{i,j}\|_1 + \left| \int g_i f_{i,j} - \int g_i \int f_{i,j} \right| + \|g_i\|_\infty \|f_{i,j} - g_j\|_1 \\ & \leq K'' 2^{-\frac{i-u}{4}} \|g_{j-1}\|_1 + \left| \int g_i f_{i,j} - \int g_i \int f_{i,j} \right| + K'' 2^{-\frac{i-u}{4}} \|g_{j-1}\|_1 \end{aligned}$$

for some K'' independent of j . The last inequality uses: Lemma 2.7 to bound $\|g_i\|_\infty$ and (7) to bound $\|f_{i,j} - g_j\|_1$. Summing the above expression over the relevant i and using equation (9), we get

$$\sum_{i>u+4v} \left| \int g_i g_j - \int g_i \int g_j \right| < D'' \|g_{j-1}\|_1$$

for a constant D'' independent of j , as desired. This completes the proof. \square

2.3. Abstract setting: Proof of Proposition 2.5. We prove Proposition 2.5 below. First, we introduce some notation.

Let H_i be as in Proposition 2.5. Recall that these nonnegative random variables satisfy the following criteria for all i :

- (H1) $\|H_i\|_\infty < C_1$
- (H2) $\sum_{i=1}^\infty \int H_i = \infty$
- (H3) $\sum_{j=i+1}^\infty \left| \int H_i H_j - \int H_i \int H_j \right| < C_2 \|H_{i-1}\|_1$.

From (H1) it is immediate that $\|H_i\|_1 < C_1$.

Let $F_i = H_i - \int H_i$. Observe that F_i satisfies the following for all i :

- (F1) $\int F_i = 0$
- (F2) $\|F_i\|_\infty < \|H_i\|_\infty < C_1$
- (F3) $\sum_{j=i+1}^\infty \left| \int F_i F_j \right| < C_2 \|H_{i-1}\|_1$

Again, it is easy to see that $\|F_i\|_1 < 2\|H_i\|_1$.

Let $m_0 = 0$ and define m_k inductively by $m_{k+1} = \min\{i : \sum_{j=m_k+1}^i \|H_j\|_1 \geq 1\}$. Condition (H2) guarantees the existence of m_k for all k . From this definition, and from the fact, noted above, that $\|H_i\|_1 < C_1$ for all i , we have that

$$(10) \quad 1 \leq \sum_{i=m_k+1}^{m_{k+1}} \|H_i\|_1 < C_1 + 1.$$

For the proof of Proposition 2.5 we use the following two classical results:

Lemma 2.20. (*Chebyshev's inequality*) Let R be a random variable with $\int R d\mu = 0$ and finite variance. Then $\mu(\{\omega : R(\omega) > c\}) \leq \frac{\int R^2 d\mu}{c^2}$.

Lemma 2.21. (*Borel-Cantelli*) If A_1, \dots are m -measurable sets and $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} m(A_i) < \infty$ then $m(\{x : x \in A_i \text{ for infinitely many } i\}) = 0$.

We will prove that

$$(11) \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N F_i(x)}{\sum_{i=1}^N \int H_i} = 0$$

for a.e. x , which implies Proposition 2.5. Our proof is in two steps. First, we prove that (11) holds along the subsequence $\{m_{N^2}\}_{N \in \mathbb{N}}$.

Lemma 2.22.

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m_{N^2}} F_i(x)}{N^2} = 0$$

for a.e. x .

Note that by (10), $\sum_{i=1}^{m_{N^2}} \|H_i\|_1 \geq N^2$, so Lemma 2.22 implies Proposition 2.5 for this subsequence.

Proof. Consider, for any M , the mean-zero random variable $\sum_{i=1}^{m_M} F_i(x)$. We want to bound its second moment.

$$\int \left(\sum_{i=1}^{m_M} F_i(x) \right)^2 dx = \int \left(\sum_{i=1}^{m_M} F_i(x)^2 + 2 \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq m_M} F_i(x) F_j(x) \right) dx$$

First,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{m_M} \int F_i(x)^2 dx &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{m_M} \|F_i\|_{\infty} \|F_i\|_1 \\ &< C_1 \sum_{i=1}^{m_M} \|F_i\|_1 < 2C_1 \sum_{i=1}^{m_M} \|H_i\|_1 < 2C_1(C_1 + 1)M. \end{aligned}$$

using the Hölder inequality, our bounds on $\|F_i\|_*$, and equation (10).

Second,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| 2 \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq m_M} \int F_i(x) F_j(x) dx \right| &\leq 2 \sum_{i=1}^{m_M-1} \left| \sum_{j=i+1}^{m_M} \int F_i(x) F_j(x) dx \right| \\ &\leq 2 \sum_{i=1}^{m_M} C_2 \|H_{i-1}\|_1 < 2C_2(C_1 + 1)M \end{aligned}$$

using property (F3) and equation (10).

We conclude that $\int (\sum_{i=1}^{m_M} F_i(x))^2 dx < \tilde{C}M$ for some positive constant \tilde{C} and all M .

Now, by Chebyshev, for each N and any $\delta > 0$,

$$m\left(\left\{x : \left| \sum_{i=1}^{m_{N^2}} F_i(x) \right| > \delta N^2\right\}\right) < \frac{\tilde{C}N^2}{\delta^2 N^4} = \frac{\tilde{C}}{\delta^2 N^2}.$$

Let $A_N = \{x : |\sum_{i=1}^{m_{N^2}} F_i(x)| > \delta N^2\}$. By the above, this sequence of sets has summable measure, so by Borel-Cantelli, for almost all x ,

$$\limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\sum_{i=1}^{m_{N^2}} F_i(x)|}{N^2} = 0$$

proving the lemma. \square

We are now ready to prove Proposition 2.5.

Proof of Proposition 2.5. Using Lemma 2.22, it is sufficient to prove that for almost every x ,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \max_{m_{N^2} < r < m_{(N+1)^2}} \frac{\sum_{i=m_{N^2}+1}^r F_i(x)}{N^2} = 0$$

since $\sum_{i=1}^r \|H_i\|_1 \geq N^2$ when $r > m_{N^2}$. Recalling the definition of F_i , we need to consider

$$\frac{\sum_{i=m_{N^2}+1}^r H_i(x) - \|H_i\|_1}{N^2}.$$

The proof follows an argument similar to Lemma 2.22. For any $L < m_{(N+1)^2}$, using the bounds on $\|F_i\|_*$ and equation (10), one has $\int (\sum_{i=m_{N^2}+1}^L F_i(x))^2 dx < \tilde{C}N$. Chebyshev's inequality implies

$$m\left(\left\{x : \left| \sum_{i=m_{N^2}+1}^L F_i(x) \right| > \delta N^2\right\}\right) < \frac{\tilde{C}N}{\delta^2 N^4}.$$

This is summable, so applying Borel-Cantelli as before, the set of x which do not have the desired convergence property has measure zero. \square

2.4. Controlling the omitted terms. We now turn our attention to $\sum_{j \notin [n_i, 2n_i]} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)}(T^j x)$, that is, the terms omitted in our consideration of g_i .

Recall that $\beta_i(x) = \sum_{j=2n_i}^{n_{i+1}-1} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_j)}(T^j x)$, where we understand that $\beta_i = 0$ if $n_{i+1} = 2n_i$. Notice that it is possible that $\beta_i \equiv 0$ for many i . As we will see below, the assumptions on T in Theorem 2.3 will imply that for most i , β_i contributes little to the sum we are considering. This will enable us to prove the main result of this section:

Proposition 2.23. *Under the assumptions of Theorem 2.3, for any $\epsilon > 0$ there exists $\xi_0 > 0$ so that if $\xi_0 > \xi > 0$ then for almost every x we have $\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \beta_i(x) < \epsilon \sum_{i=1}^{n_N} 2r_i$ for all sufficiently large N . (N is allowed to depend on x .)*

The first step in the proof is a version of Lemma 2.7 for our current setting, a bound on $\|\beta_i\|_\infty$. Recall that $a_{i+1} = \frac{n_{i+1}}{n_i}$.

Lemma 2.24. *For all x and i ,*

$$\sum_{j=2n_i}^{n_{i+1}-1} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_j)}(T^j x) \leq \max\left\{\frac{K'}{\xi} 2n_i r_{2n_i} \sqrt{a_{i+1}}, 2\right\}$$

for some constant $K' > 0$.

Proof. Note, as a preliminary, that $2n_i r_{2n_i} \leq r_1$ by the Khinchin sequence condition.

First, we divide the sum into two pieces and make some trivial estimates:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_x \sum_{j=2n_i+1}^{n_{i+1}-1} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_j)}(T^j x) &\leq \max_x \sum_{j=2n_i+1}^{\lambda n_i} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{2n_i})}(T^j x) \\ &\quad + \max_x \sum_{j=\lambda n_i+1}^{n_{i+1}-1} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{\lambda n_i})}(T^j x). \end{aligned}$$

Let $\bar{\lambda} = 2\lceil\sqrt{a_{i+1}}\rceil + 2$. Then the first term in our pair of sums above runs over $2\lceil\sqrt{a_{i+1}}\rceil$ orbit segments of length n_i . Carefully examining the proof of Lemma 2.7, we see that any orbit segment of length n_i hits a fixed interval of length $2r_{2n_i}$ at most $\frac{2}{\xi} 2n_i r_{2n_i}$ times. Therefore we may bound the first sum above as follows:

$$\max_x \sum_{j=2n_i+1}^{\lambda n_i} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{2n_i})}(T^j x) \leq 2\lceil\sqrt{a_{i+1}}\rceil \left(\frac{2}{\xi} 2n_i r_{2n_i}\right) \leq \frac{K}{\xi} \lceil\sqrt{a_{i+1}}\rceil 2n_i r_{2n_i}$$

for some constant $K > 0$.

For the second sum, we first note that the Khinchin condition implies that $r_{\lambda j} \leq \frac{1}{\lambda} r_j$ and so if $j > \lambda n_i$ then $r_j < \frac{r_{2n_i}}{\sqrt{a_{i+1}}}$.

As $e_T(n_{i+1}) > \frac{\xi}{2n_{i+1}} = \frac{\xi}{2a_{i+1}n_i}$, the first n_{i+1} orbit points for any x are at least $\frac{\xi}{2a_{i+1}n_i}$ -separated, and thus any interval of length $\leq \frac{2r_{2n_i}}{\sqrt{a_{i+1}}}$ contains at most $\left\lceil \left(\frac{2r_{2n_i}}{\sqrt{a_{i+1}}}\right) / \left(\frac{\xi}{2a_{i+1}n_i}\right) \right\rceil = \left\lceil \frac{2}{\xi} 2n_i r_{2n_i} \sqrt{a_{i+1}} \right\rceil$ orbit points. In particular, this is true of $B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{\lambda n_i})$.

We combine these estimates. The $a_{i+1} \geq 2$, so $\lceil\sqrt{a_{i+1}}\rceil$ can be bounded by a constant multiple of $\sqrt{a_{i+1}}$; for the second estimate we have no such lower bound. Accounting for the possibility that our second bound is < 1 , we obtain

$$\max_x \sum_{j=2n_i+1}^{n_{i+1}-1} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_j)}(T^j x) \leq \max \left\{ \frac{K'}{\xi} 2n_i r_{2n_i} \sqrt{a_{i+1}}, 2 \right\}$$

as desired. \square

The next step is the following probabilistic result, which is an analogue of Proposition 2.5:

Lemma 2.25. *Let $K_i : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ be a sequence of functions and C_N an increasing, unbounded, positive sequence of real numbers $C_N = o(N^3)$ satisfying the following:*

- (K1) *There exists some $M > 0$ such that $\sum_{i=1}^N \|K_i\|_1 < C_N$ for all $N > M$*
- (K2) *There exists $D_0 > 0$ such that $\max_{i < N, x} \{K_i(x)\} < D_0 C_N^{\frac{2}{3}}$*
- (K3) *There exists $D_1 > 0$ such that $\sum_{1 \leq i < j < N} (\int K_i(x) K_j(x) - \int K_i \int K_j) < D_1 C_N^{\frac{5}{3}}$*

Then for almost every x

$$\limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N K_i(x) - \sum_{i=1}^N \|K_i\|_1}{C_N} = 0.$$

Proof. Let $R_i = K_i - \int K_i$. Note that $\|R_i\|_1 \leq 2\|K_i\|_1$ so $\sum_{i=1}^N \|R_i\|_1 < 2C_N$ for $N > M$, that (K2) implies $\|R_i\|_\infty < D_0 C_N^{\frac{5}{3}}$, and that (K3) implies $\sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq N} \int R_i R_j < D_1 C_N^{\frac{5}{3}}$.

We begin by computing the variance of $\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} R_i$. Because $\|R_i\|_2^2 \leq \|R_i\|_1 \cdot \|R_i\|_\infty$ we obtain $\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \|R_i\|_2^2 \leq 2D_0 C_N^{\frac{5}{3}}$ using (K1) and (K2). Using (K3), $2 \sum_{1 \leq i < j < N} \int R_i R_j \leq 2D_1 C_N^{\frac{5}{3}}$. Therefore $\int (\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} R_i(x))^2 dx \leq 2(D_0 + D_1) C_N^{\frac{5}{3}}$.

Fix any $\delta > 0$. By Chebyshev's inequality,

$$(12) \quad m \left(\left\{ x : \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} R_i(x) > \delta C_N \right\} \right) \leq \frac{2(D_0 + D_1)}{\delta^2 C_N^{1/3}}.$$

Recall that the C_N are increasing and without bound. For any r , let $k_r = \min\{N : C_N > r\}$. Note that $C_{k_r} > r$ by definition. In addition, since $(N+1)^4 - N^4$ is $O(N^3)$ and $C_N = o(N^3)$, for sufficiently large N , $C_{k_{N^4}} < (N+1)^4$.

Consider $\{x : \sum_{i=1}^{k_{N^4}-1} R_i(x) > \delta C_{k_{N^4}}\}$. By (12)

$$m \left(\left\{ x : \sum_{i=1}^{k_{N^4}-1} R_i(x) > \delta C_{k_{N^4}} \right\} \right) < \frac{2(D_0 + D_1)}{\delta^2 C_{k_{N^4}}^{1/3}} < \frac{2(D_0 + D_1)}{\delta^2 N^{4/3}}$$

since $C_{k_{N^4}} > N^4$. These measures form a summable series, so by the Borel-Cantelli Lemma, for almost all x , $\sum_{i=1}^{k_{N^4}-1} R_i(x) > \delta C_{k_{N^4}} > \delta N^4$ for only finitely many N . Therefore, for almost all x ,

$$\limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\sum_{i=1}^{k_{N^4}} R_i(x)|}{N^4} \leq \delta.$$

This establishes the desired convergence along the sequence $\{k_{N^4} - 1\}$.

We now need to consider the omitted terms. Consider

$$(13) \quad \max_{k_{N^4} \leq L < k_{(N+1)^4}} \sum_{i=k_{N^4}}^L R_i(x) \leq \sum_{i=k_{N^4}}^{k_{(N+1)^4}} K_i(x).$$

(The inequality holds as $R_i + \|K_i\|_1 = K_i \geq 0$.) Again, we bound the variance, using (K1), (K2), and (K3). (K1) and (K2) imply $\sum_{i=k_{N^4}}^{k_{(N+1)^4}} \|K_i\|_2^2 \leq D_0 C_{k_{(N+1)^4}}^{\frac{5}{3}}$. With (K3), we get an upper bound on the variance of (13) of

$$(D_0 + 2D_1) C_{k_{(N+1)^4}}^{\frac{5}{3}} < (D_0 + 2D_1) ((N+2)^4)^{\frac{5}{3}} = (D_0 + 2D_1) (N+2)^{\frac{20}{3}}$$

for all N sufficiently large. At the last step we have used the fact that for sufficiently large N , $C_{k_{(N+1)^4}} < (N+2)^4$, which relies on the $C_N = o(N^3)$ assumption.

By Chebyshev's inequality

$$\begin{aligned} m \left(\left\{ x : \max_{L < k_{(N+1)^4}} \left| \sum_{i=k_{N^4}}^L R_i(x) \right| > \delta C_{k_{N^4}} \right\} \right) &\leq \frac{(D_0 + 2D_1)(N+2)^{20/3}}{(\delta C_{k_{N^4}})^2} \\ &\leq \frac{(D_0 + 2D_1)(N+2)^{20/3}}{\delta^2 N^8} \\ &\leq 2(D_0 + 2D_1)N^{-4/3}\delta^{-2} \end{aligned}$$

for sufficiently large N .

Therefore, by the Borel-Cantelli Lemma almost every x has $|\sum_{i=k_{N^4}}^L R_i(x)| > \delta N^4$ with $L < k_{(N+1)^4}$ only finitely many times. Therefore, for any integer N , writing $N = k_{m^4} + L$ with m the largest integer such that $k_{m^4} \leq N$, we get

$$\limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\sum_{i=1}^N R_i(x)|}{C_N} \leq 2\delta$$

for almost every x . Letting $\delta \rightarrow 0$ finishes the proof. \square

Lemma 2.26. *Under the assumptions of Theorem 2.3, for any $\epsilon > 0$ there exists $\xi_0 > 0$ so that if $\xi_0 > \xi > 0$ then*

$$\limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \|\beta_i\|_1}{\sum_{i=1}^{n_N} 2r_i} < \epsilon$$

where the β_i are calculated using $n_i(\xi)$ and $a_i(\xi)$.

Proof. Let $\epsilon > 0$ be given. Fix some ξ_1 for which the assumptions of Theorem 2.3 hold. Compute n_i and a_i for ξ_1 .

Notice that $e_T(2n_{i+1}) = e_T(2a_{i+1}n_i) > \frac{\xi_1}{2a_{i+1}n_i}$. Therefore, if $a_{i+1} < A$, then for any $j \leq a_{i+1}$,

$$e_T(2jn_i) \geq e_T(2a_{i+1}n_i) > \frac{\xi_0}{jn_i}$$

where $\xi_0 = \frac{\xi_1}{2A}$. Therefore, for any choice of $\xi < \xi_0$, if we calculate the corresponding n'_i and a'_i , whenever n'_i belongs to some $[n_\ell, n_{\ell+1})$ having $a_{\ell+1} < A$, we have that $a'_{\ell+1} = 2$.

We will choose A below. Once we have done so, fix ξ less than $\xi_0 = \frac{\xi_1}{2A}$ and let $u_k = \max\{j : n'_j < n_k\}$. Then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{u_k} \sum_{j=n'_i}^{2n'_i} r_i \geq \sum_{i:i \in [r_j, r_{j+1}) \text{ and } a_{j+1} < A}^{n_k-1} r_i.$$

The second assumption of Theorem 2.3 implies that if A is sufficiently large, the upper density of $\{j : \exists i \in [2^j, 2^{j+1}] \text{ with } i \notin \cup_{\ell=1}^\infty [n'_\ell, 2n'_\ell)\}$ is less than ϵ . By the Khinchin sequence condition, whenever $i > j$ we have $\sum_{k=2^i}^{2^{i+1}} r_k \leq 2 \sum_{k=2^j}^{2^{j+1}} r_k$. We now need the following sublemma which we leave as an exercise:

Sublemma: If (s_i) is a sequence of positive real numbers so that $s_i < 2s_j$ for all $i > j$ and $\sum s_i = \infty$, and if $\epsilon > 0$ is small enough, then for any $U \subset \mathbb{N}$ with upper

density less than ϵ we have

$$\limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i \in U, i < N} s_i}{\sum_{i=1}^N s_i} \leq 4\epsilon.$$

Given this Sublemma, for the β'_i corresponding to our choice of ξ we have the bound

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \|\beta'_i\|_1 \leq \sum_{j \in U} \sum_{i=2^j}^{2^{j+1}} 2r_i$$

where $U = \{j : \exists i \in [2^j, 2^{j+1}] \text{ with } i \notin \cup_{\ell=1}^{\infty} [n'_\ell, 2n'_\ell]\}$. Applying the Sublemma with $s_i = \sum_{k=2^i}^{2^{i+1}} r_k$ completes the proof of the lemma. \square

We are now ready to prove Proposition 2.23.

Proof of Proposition 2.23. By Lemma 2.26, for any $\epsilon > 0$ there exists ξ_0 so that for all $\xi_0 > \xi > 0$ we have

$$\limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \|\beta_i\|_1}{\sum_{i=1}^{n_N-1} 2r_i} < \epsilon.$$

Therefore, it suffices to show that the β_i satisfy the assumptions of Lemma 2.25 with $K_i = \beta_i$ and $C_N = \sum_{i=1}^{n_N-1} 2r_i$.

That C_N is an increasing, unbounded, positive sequence is clear from its definition and the Khinchin condition. The assumption that $a_i \leq i^{\frac{4}{3}}$ for all but finitely many i implies that $n_N = O((N!)^{\frac{4}{3}})$. By the Khinchin condition, $C_N = O(\log n_N) = O(\log(N!)) = O(\sum_{i=1}^N \log i) = o(\sum_{i=1}^N i) = o(N^2)$ and so C_N is certainly $o(N^3)$.

Condition (K1) follows from the definition of β_i .

We prove condition (K2) using our two assumptions on T , the Khinchin condition, and Lemma 2.24. By Lemma 2.24, $\|\beta_i\|_\infty$ is bounded above by $\max\{\frac{K'}{\xi} 2n_i r_{2n_i} \sqrt{a_{i+1}}, 2\}$; since C_N grows without bound, we need only consider the case $\|\beta_i\|_\infty \leq \frac{K'}{\xi} 2n_i r_{2n_i} \sqrt{a_{i+1}}$. By our first assumption on T , $a_{i+1} \leq (i+1)^{\frac{4}{3}}$ for all but finitely many i , so

$$\|\beta_i\|_\infty \leq K''(i+1)^{\frac{2}{3}} 2n_i r_{2n_i}$$

for some $K'' > 0$. By Lemma 2.6, for all $j \leq i$, $\|g_j\|_1 \geq n_i r_{2n_i}$, so $C_j \geq j n_j r_{2n_j}$. Then

$$\|\beta_i\|_\infty \leq K''' i^{\frac{2}{3}} 2n_i r_{2n_i} \leq K'''' (i r_{2n_i} n_i)^{\frac{2}{3}} = O(C_i^{\frac{2}{3}})$$

The second inequality uses that $2n_i r_{2n_i}$ is uniformly bounded above by r_1 and so $D(2n_i r_{2n_i})^{\frac{2}{3}} \geq 2n_i r_{2n_i}$ for some $D > 0$.

Condition (K3) follows the argument of Proposition 2.11; we sketch the argument here, using similar notation. Let $u = \max(\{j\} \cup \{i : n_i < \frac{1}{r_{n_{j+1}}}\})$ and $v = d(2 - \log_2(\xi)) + \hat{q}$. (Note the slight difference in the definition of u .)

Step 1: We bound the sum over indices i satisfying $j < i < u$. Following the argument of Proposition 2.11 exactly, we get $\sum_{j < i < u} \int \beta_i \beta_j \leq \left(1 + \frac{8}{\xi}\right) \|\beta_j\|_1$.

We bound $\sum_{j < i < u} \int \beta_i \int \beta_j$ as follows. Note that $\beta_{j+1}, \dots, \beta_{u-1}$ are sums whose terms have indices between $2n_{j+1}$ and n_u . This range of indices can be partitioned into $\log_2 \left(\frac{n_u}{2n_{j+1}} \right)$ intervals between successive powers of 2. Then, using Lemma 2.6 to bound the contribution of each portion of this sum between successive powers of 2 by $2\|g_{j+1}\|_1$, we get

$$\sum_{j < i < u} \|\beta_i\|_1 \|\beta_j\|_1 \leq \|\beta_j\|_1 \log_2 \left(\frac{n_u}{2n_{j+1}} \right) 2\|g_{j+1}\|_1.$$

Note that $\|g_{j+1}\|_1 \leq 2n_{j+1}r_{n_{j+1}}$ and that, using the definition of u , $\frac{n_u}{n_{j+1}} < \frac{1}{n_{j+1}r_{n_{j+1}}}$. Therefore,

$$\sum_{j < i < u} \|\beta_i\|_1 \|\beta_j\|_1 \leq \|\beta_j\|_1 \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{2n_{j+1}r_{n_{j+1}}} \right) 2(2n_{j+1}r_{n_{j+1}}) \leq 2\|\beta_j\|_1.$$

Altogether, summing over j as well,

$$\sum_{1 \leq j < N} \sum_{j < i < u} \left| \int \beta_i \beta_j - \int \beta_i \int \beta_j \right| \leq \sum_{1 \leq j < N} C \|\beta_j\|_1 \leq CC_N$$

for some constant $C > 0$, which is a sufficient bound for this part of the double sum.

Step 2: For some constant K' independent of j we can bound

$$\sum_{j+1 \leq i \leq j+4v}^{N-1} \left| \int \beta_i \beta_j - \int \beta_i \int \beta_j \right| \leq \sum_{j+1 \leq i \leq j+4v}^{N-1} 2\|\beta_i\|_\infty \|\beta_j\|_1 \leq K' C_N^{\frac{2}{3}} \|\beta_j\|_1$$

using (K2) to bound $\|\beta_i\|_\infty$. Summing over all $1 \leq j < N$ gives a bound of $K' C_N^{\frac{5}{3}}$, as desired.

Step 3: For the terms with indices $u + 4v < i < N$, let $b = \frac{3u+i}{4}$. We approximate β_j by a function $f_{i,j}$, constant on the elements of the partition by $S_{i,j}$. We find that

$$(14) \quad \|f_{i,j} - \beta_j\|_1 \leq 2a_{j+1}n_j \frac{1}{n_{b-v}} \leq \tilde{K} 2^{-\frac{i-u}{4}} \|g_j\|_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \|f_{i,j}\|_\infty \leq \|\beta_j\|_\infty.$$

We use here that as $\|g_j\|_1 \geq 2n_j r_{2n_j} \geq n_{j+1} r_{n_{j+1}}$ and $n_{u+1} \geq \frac{1}{r_{n_{j+1}}}$ (by our definition of u), $\|g_j\|_1 \geq \frac{n_{j+1}}{n_{u+1}}$.

Writing $f_{i,j} = \sum_k \alpha_k \chi_{J_k}(x)$, a short computation, using that $e_T(n_b) > \frac{\xi}{n_b}$, gives $\sum \alpha_i \leq \|f_{i,j}\|_1 \frac{n_b}{\xi} \leq \|\beta_j\|_1 \frac{n_b}{\xi}$. Take $\delta' = C_1 \frac{e^{-C_2 \frac{i-i}{4} - \hat{q}}}{n_b}$ and δ denoted by $\tilde{c}_{i,j}$ and apply Theorem 1.3 and Corollary 2.13 as before. We get:

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int \beta_i f_{i,j} - \int \beta_i \int f_{i,j} \right| &\leq \|\beta_j\|_1 \frac{n_b}{\xi} C_1 \frac{e^{-C_2 \frac{i-i}{4} - \hat{q}}}{n_b} \|\beta_i\|_1 + \tilde{c}_{i,j} \|f_{i,j}\|_1 \\ &\leq C \log(a_{j+1}) \|g_j\|_1 C_1 e^{-C_2 \frac{i-i}{4} - \hat{q}} \log(a_{i+1}) \|g_j\|_1 + \tilde{c}_{i,j} \|\beta_j\|_\infty \end{aligned}$$

using Lemma 2.6 to bound $\|\beta_j\|_1$ and $\|\beta_i\|_1$ by $\log(a_{j+1})\|g_j\|_1$ and $\log(a_{i+1})\|g_j\|_1$, respectively and with

$$\tilde{c}_{i,j} = \max\{\|\beta_i - \beta_i \circ T^s\|_1 : 0 \leq k \leq n_{\frac{i+j}{2}}\}.$$

By Lemma 2.15, $\sum_{i>u+4v} \tilde{c}_{i,j} \leq D\|g_j\|_1$ for some D independent of j . Therefore using (K2) to bound $\|\beta_j\|_\infty$ and Lemma 2.6 to replace one $\|g_j\|_1$ factor by the constant $2\|g_1\|_1$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i>u+4v}^{N-1} \left| \int \beta_i f_{i,j} - \int \beta_i \int f_{i,j} \right| \leq \\ \left(\sum_{i>u+4v}^{N-1} C'_1 e^{-C_2 \frac{i-u}{4}} (\log(a_{i+1}) \log(a_{j+1})) \right) \|g_j\|_1 + D' C_N^{\frac{2}{3}} \|g_j\|_1 \end{aligned}$$

for C'_1, C_2, D' all positive and independent of j . A computation using $a_i \leq i^{4/3}$ for all but finitely many i shows that $\sum_{i>u+4v}^{N-1} C'_1 e^{-C_2 \frac{i-u}{4}} (\log(a_{i+1}) \log(a_{j+1})) \|g_j\|_1 \leq L' C_N^{\frac{1}{3}}$ for some $L' > 0$ independent of j . We have

$$(15) \quad \sum_{i>u+4v}^{N-1} \left| \int \beta_i f_{i,j} - \int \beta_i \int f_{i,j} \right| \leq (L' C_N^{\frac{1}{3}} + D' C_N^{\frac{2}{3}}) \|g_j\|_1.$$

Summing this over all $1 \leq j < N$, we get a bound of $LC_N^{\frac{5}{3}}$ for some $L > 0$ independent of j , as desired.

From this point, the proof follows the proof of Proposition 2.11, combining estimates (14) and (15) with the bounds from steps 1 and 2 exactly as before. This completes (K3). \square

We are now ready to complete the proof of Theorems 1.1 and 2.3.

Proof of Theorems 1.1 and 2.3. We want to show that, under our conditions on T and for almost every x ,

$$(16) \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{j=1}^N \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_j)}(T^j x)}{\sum_{j=1}^N 2r_j} = 1.$$

Applying Proposition 2.5 with $H_i = g_i$ we have for almost all x that

$$(17) \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N g_i(x)}{\sum_{i=1}^N \|g_i\|_1} = 1.$$

We can decompose the numerator in equation (16) as follows:

$$\frac{\sum_{j=1}^{2n_N} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_j)}(T^j x)}{\sum_{j=1}^{2n_N} 2r_j} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N g_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \beta_i(x)}{\sum_{j=1}^{2n_N} 2r_j}.$$

Proposition 2.23 tells us that for almost every x ,

$$\limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \beta_i(x)}{\sum_{j=1}^{2n_N} 2r_j} \leq \epsilon$$

so the contribution of the β_i terms to equation (16) is negligible and they can be ignored:

$$(18) \quad \left| \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{2n_N} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_j)}(T^j x)}{\sum_{j=1}^{2n_N} 2r_j} - \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N g_i(x)}{\sum_{j=1}^{2n_N} 2r_j} \right| < \epsilon.$$

Note that for all N ,

$$(19) \quad \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \|g_i\|_1}{\sum_{j=1}^{2n_N} 2r_j} \leq 1.$$

Combining equations (17), (19) and (18) gives

$$\limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{2n_N} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_j)}(T^j x)}{\sum_{j=1}^{2n_N} 2r_j} \leq 1.$$

On the other hand, by Lemma 2.26 using our second condition on T , for any $\delta > 0$ there exists some $\xi > 0$ so that, with g_i defined using this ξ , we have

$$(20) \quad \liminf_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \|g_i\|_1}{\sum_{j=1}^{2n_N} 2r_j} \geq 1 - \delta.$$

Using equations (20), (19) and (18) gives

$$\liminf_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{2n_N} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_j)}(T^j x)}{\sum_{j=1}^{2n_N} 2r_j} \geq 1 - \delta.$$

Letting $\delta \rightarrow 0$, we have now established our desired result along the sequence of times $\{2n_N\}$. This is sufficient. By (K2) the contribution of any terms with index in $(2n_N, n_{N+1})$ will be negligible for large N and all x . The bound on $g_i(x)$ in Lemma 2.7 tells us that for large N , the contribution of terms with index in $[n_{N+1}, 2n_{N+1} - 1)$ will also be negligible. This completes the proof. \square

3. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.2

We now turn to the proof of Theorem 1.2. Recall that in this theorem the assumption that α is badly approximable allows us to omit the Khinchin condition and consider a wider class of radius sequences $\{r_i\}$. As in Section 2, we will state and prove a generalization of Theorem 1.2 to the case of interval exchange transformations. Using the notation developed in Section 2.1, this generalization is:

Theorem 3.1. *Let T be an IET satisfying the Keane condition so that there exists $\sigma > 0$ with $e_T(n) > \frac{\sigma}{n}$ for all n . Then for any decreasing sequence $\{r_i\}$ with divergent sum we have:*

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{j=1}^N \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_j)}(T^j x)}{\sum_{j=1}^N 2r_j} = 1$$

for almost every x .

Let σ be such that $e_T(n) > \frac{\sigma}{n}$ for all n . If T satisfies this for some σ , we say it is of *constant type*. Without loss of generality, we may assume $\sigma < 1$.

For this section we adjust our definition of the g_i . For some constant $C > 1$ (which we will choose later) let $g_i(x) = \sum_{j=C^i}^{C^{i+1}-1} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_j)}(T^j x)$.

The proof we provide is complicated by the fact that without the Khinchin condition on r_i it is possible for $\|g_j\|_1 \gg \|g_i\|_1$ for some $j > i$ (in contrast to Lemma 2.6). This difficulty is handled for most values of i by appealing directly to Theorem 1.3. We must then show that the remaining indices, which are not handled by our appeal to Theorem 1.3, make negligible contributions.

The outline of this section is as follows. We break up our indices into two disjoint sets according to a (fixed, large) parameter M . Section 3.1 deals with those times i such that $ir_i < M$. The proof in this section is similar to that in Section 2 but simpler because we do not need to worry about the issues of Section 2.4. Then in Section 3.2 we treat the times i such that $ir_i \geq M$. We partition them into a subset where we may apply Theorem 1.3 and its complement, whose contributions we show are negligible. Lemma 3.5 accomplishes the partitioning, Lemma 3.8 applies Theorem 1.3, and Corollary 3.7 controls the size of the blocks where we can not apply Theorem 1.3. We note that the arguments in Section 3.1 work for any value of M . It is for the proofs in Section 3.2 that we have to choose a sufficiently large value of M .

Throughout this section, in an abuse of notation, r_{CL} denotes $r_{\lfloor CL \rfloor}$.

3.1. ir_i small. In this subsection we treat $ir_i < M$.

Proposition 3.2. *Let C, M be given. Let $E = \{i : r_{C^i} < \frac{M}{C^i}\}$. If $\sum_{i \in E} \int g_i = \infty$ then*

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i \in E}^N \int g_i(x)}{\sum_{i \in E}^N \int g_i} = 1.$$

We first state the appropriate version of approximate T -invariance for the g_i , which follows by a straightforward modification of the arguments in Lemma 2.14 using $C^j r_{C^j} < M$, and is left to the reader.

Lemma 3.3. *If $j < i$ and $i \in E$, then*

$$\max_{k < C^{\frac{i+j}{2}}} \|g_i - g_i \circ T^k\|_1 < 8MC^{\frac{i-j}{2}}.$$

Proof of Proposition 3.2. Suppose that $\sum_{i \in E} \int g_i = \infty$. Write $E = \{a_1 < a_2 < \dots\}$. The idea of the proof is to show that $H_i = g_{a_i}$ satisfy the conditions (H1)-(H3) of Proposition 2.5 from which the result follows. Since we cannot appeal to Lemma 2.6, we must make one slight adjustment. We replace condition (H3) with

$$(H3)': \sum_{i=j+1}^{\infty} \left| \int H_i H_j - \int H_i \int H_j \right| < C_2 (\|H_{j-1}\|_1 + \|H_j\|_1).$$

The reader can easily check that the proof of Proposition 2.5 goes through under assumptions (H1), (H2) and (H3').

By our assumption on r_{a_i} and Lemma 2.7 (see Remark 2.10) we have $\|g_{a_i}\|_{\infty} < 1 + 2M\sigma^{-1}$ and so condition (H1) is satisfied.

Condition (H2) is one of our assumptions.

Condition (H3') follows from the proof of Proposition 2.11 with a few modifications. C^{a_i} play the role of n_i and we let $u' = \max(\{j\} \cup \{i : C^{a_i} < \frac{1}{r_{C^{a_j}}}\})$. Let K be chosen for σ as in Lemma 2.19 and $v' = \log_C(K) + \log_C(2^q)$. Dividing up our sum as before:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=j+1}^{\infty} \left| \int g_{a_i} g_{a_j} - \int g_{a_j} \int g_{a_i} \right| &= \sum_{j < i \leq u'} \left| \int g_{a_i} g_{a_j} - \int g_{a_j} \int g_{a_i} \right| \\ &+ \sum_{u' < i \leq u' + 4v'} \left| \int g_{a_i} g_{a_j} - \int g_{a_i} \int g_{a_j} \right| \\ &+ \sum_{i > u' + 4v'} \left| \int g_{a_i} g_{a_j} - \int g_{a_j} \int g_{a_i} \right|. \end{aligned}$$

Bounding the first sum by a constant multiple of $\|g_{a_j}\|_1$ follows the argument of Proposition 2.11, Step 1. The argument requires only a bound of the type $e_T(n) > \frac{\sigma}{n}$, which we have, and the argument to extend Lemma 2.7 as in the above proof of (H1).

Bounding the second term by a constant multiple of $\|g_{a_j}\|_1$ is also a direct application of Proposition 2.11, Step 2. It suffices to show that there exists \tilde{C} so that $\|\sum_{i=j+u}^{j+u+v'} g_i\|_{\infty} < \tilde{C}$. Because v' is a constant, it suffices for $\|g_{a_\ell}\|_{\infty}$ to be uniformly bounded, which follows by (H1).

For the third sum, following Proposition 2.11 Step 3, let $b' = \frac{3u'+a_i}{4}$, and let $S_{i,j}$ be the set of discontinuities for $T^{C^{b'}}$. By the adaptation of Lemma 2.17 to our current situation (see Lemma 2.19) $S_{i,j}$ is $\frac{1}{C^{b'-v'}}$ -dense. We apply Lemma 2.16 as before to obtain $f_{i,j}$. Then, with some short calculation and noting that $|a_l - a_k| \geq |l - k|$ for all $a_l, a_k \in E$,

$$\|f_{i,j} - g_{a_j}\|_1 \leq 2C^{a_j}(C-1) \frac{1}{C^{b'-v'}} \leq \tilde{K} \|g_{a_{j-1}}\|_1 C^{-\frac{a_i-u'}{4}}, \quad \|f_{i,j}\|_1 \leq \|g_{a_j}\|_1$$

for some uniform $\tilde{K} > 0$. We have used the definition of u' to bound $\|g_{a_{j-1}}\|_1 \geq 2C^{a_{j-1}}(C-1)r_{C^{a_j}} \geq \frac{2C^{a_{j-1}}(C-1)}{C^{u'+1}}$.

We apply Theorem 1.3 and Corollary 2.13 as before. To do this, let $\tilde{C}_2 = \frac{C_2}{\log_C(2)}$.

This time with $\delta' = C_1 \frac{e^{-\tilde{C}_2 \frac{a_i-u'}{4}}}{C^{b'}}$, $\delta = \tilde{c}_{i,j}$ and $\sum |\alpha_i| \leq C^b \frac{M}{\sigma}$ to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int g_{a_i} f_{i,j} - \int g_{a_i} \int f_{i,j} \right| &\leq M \frac{C^{a_j}}{C^{\frac{3u'+a_i}{4}}} C_1 e^{-\tilde{C}_2 \frac{a_i-u'}{4}} \|g_{a_i}\|_1 + \tilde{c}_{i,j} \|f_{i,j}\|_1 \\ &\leq C' \frac{C^{a_j}}{C^{u'}} C_1 e^{-\tilde{C}_2 \frac{a_i-u'}{4}} M(C-1) + \tilde{c}_{i,j} \|g_{a_j}\|_1 \end{aligned}$$

using the $C^{a_i} r_{C^{a_i}} < M$ condition to bound $\|g_{a_i}\|_1$ by $M(C-1)$. We noted above that $\|g_{a_{j-1}}\|_1 \geq \frac{C^{a_{j-1}}(C-1)}{C^{u'+1}}$. With this, for some $\hat{K} > 0$ independent of i, j , we have

$$(21) \quad \left| \int g_{a_i} f_{i,j} - \int g_{a_i} \int f_{i,j} \right| \leq \hat{K} e^{-\tilde{C}_2 \frac{a_i-u'}{4}} \|g_{a_{j-1}}\|_1 + \tilde{c}_{i,j} \|g_{a_j}\|_1.$$

In the expressions above,

$$\tilde{c}_{i,j} = \max\{\|g_{a_i} - g_{a_i} \circ T^k\|_1 : 0 \leq k \leq C^{\frac{a_i+u'}{2}}\}.$$

For these we appeal to Lemma 3.3 to bound $\sum_{a_i > u' + 4v'} \tilde{c}_{i,j} \leq \tilde{D}$ for a constant \tilde{D} independent of j .

Summing inequality (21) over all $i > u' + 4v'$ and using this bound we have that there exists \hat{D} independent of j such that

$$\sum_{i > u' + v'} \left| \int g_{a_i} f_{i,j} - \int g_{a_i} \int f_{i,j} \right| \leq \hat{D}(\|g_{a_{j-1}}\|_1 + \|g_{a_j}\|_1).$$

This finishes the verification of (H3'), and completes the proof. \square

3.2. ir_i big. When $ir_i \geq M$ we want to use the next lemma, which requires M sufficiently large:

Lemma 3.4. *Let T be of constant type and $C > 1$. Then, uniformly in $a \in [0, 1]$,*

$$\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{j \rightarrow \infty} \sup_x \left| \left(\frac{C^{j+1}}{2M(C^{j+1} - C^j)} \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}-1} \chi_{B(a, \frac{M}{C^{j+1}})}(T^i x) \right) - 1 \right| = 0.$$

Proof. Fix $\epsilon > 0$. Fix C and a value of k to be chosen later. Because T is of constant type, for any choice of k , for sufficiently large M (which depends on k), any interval $B(a, \frac{M}{C^{j+1}})$ can be approximated up to an ϵ proportion by C^{j-k} -blocks (of T), for j sufficiently large (independent of a). The remainder of the proof is determining how large k needs to be.

We now choose $n_i = 3^i$ in the statement of Theorem 1.3 with $c = \sigma$. By Theorem 1.3, by choosing Q large enough (given C, σ) we have that if n_r is the largest $n_i < C^{j-k+Q}$ and \hat{J} is any C^{j-k} -block we have

$$(22) \quad \left| \frac{1}{n_r} \sum_{i=1}^{n_r} \chi_{\hat{J}}(T^i T^{C^j} x) - |\hat{J}| \right| < \epsilon/4 \quad \text{for all } x.$$

Note that Q may be chosen independent of k .

First, choose k so large that $C^{j-k+Q} < C^{j+1} - C^j$. Let $d = \left\lfloor \frac{C^{j+1} - C^j}{n_r} \right\rfloor > 0$. Decompose the sum in the lemma into d sums over n_r indices each, together with a remainder sum of length $< n_r$. Applying inequality (22) to the length- n_r sums, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left| \frac{1}{C^{j+1} - C^j} \sum_{i=1}^{C^{j+1} - C^j} \chi_{\hat{J}}(T^i T^{C^j - 1} x) - |\hat{J}| \right| \\
&= \frac{1}{C^{j+1} - C^j} \left(\sum_{\ell=0}^{d-1} \sum_{i=\ell n_r + C^j}^{(\ell+1)n_r + C^j} \chi_{\hat{J}}(T^i x) + \sum_{i=d n_r + C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{\hat{J}}(T^i x) \right) - |\hat{J}| \\
&\leq \frac{2}{d} \left| \sum_{\ell=0}^{d-1} \left(\frac{1}{n_r} \sum_{i=\ell n_r + C^j}^{(\ell+1)n_r + C^j - 1} \chi_{\hat{J}}(T^i x) - |\hat{J}| \right) \right| + \frac{1}{d n_r} \sum_{i=d n_r C^j}^{C^{j+1} - 1} \chi_{\hat{J}}(T^i x) \\
(23) \quad &\leq \frac{2}{d} d \frac{\epsilon}{4} + \frac{2}{d n_r} \max_y \sum_{i=1}^{n_r} \chi_{\hat{J}}(T^i y) \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \frac{2}{d}.
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, let U be the subset of $B(a, \frac{M}{C^{j+1}})$ that is not made up of C^{j-k} blocks. It is at most 2 intervals. By the constant type assumption, we bound

$$(24) \quad \left| \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1} - 1} \chi_U(T^i x) \right| \leq (C^{j+1} - C^j) 4\sigma^{-1} |U|$$

for all x , independent of a . Given any choice of k , we choose M large enough at the beginning to make $|U| < \epsilon \frac{2M}{C^{j+1}}$, controlling the contribution of inequality (24).

The lemma now follows if we can choose k and M large enough to make equation (23) less than ϵ . This is clear, as, for large j , by taking k large we can ensure n_r is small compared with $C^{j+1} - C^j$, and therefore that d is large. This completes the proof. \square

The next lemma lets us split up the natural numbers into subsets where we appeal to Proposition 3.2, subsets where we can apply Lemma 3.4 (see Lemma 3.8) and a small remaining piece that we show is negligible (see Corollary 3.7).

Throughout the remainder of this section $C > 1$ should be thought of as very close to 1. In our notation, $\sum_{j \in S}^N$ denotes $\sum_{j \in S \cap [0, N]}$. Define

$$G_{C, \rho, M} = \left\{ j \in \mathbb{N} : r_{C^{j+1}} \geq \frac{M}{C^{j+1}} \text{ and } \rho r_{C^j} \leq r_{C^{j+1}} \right\}$$

and

$$B_{C, \rho, M} = \left\{ j \in \mathbb{N} \setminus G_{C, \rho, M} : r_{C^{j+1}} \geq \frac{M}{C^{j+1}} \right\}.$$

When ρ is very close to 1, $G_{C, \rho, M}$ is the set of indices where Cauchy condensation (that is, replacing r_i with $r_{C^{j+1}}$ for $C^j < i \leq C^{j+1}$) is a mild change in the size of radii.

Lemma 3.5. *For any $\epsilon > 0$ and any $\rho < 1$, there exists $C > 1$ so that for any non-increasing sequence $\{r_i\} \subset \mathbb{R}^+$, we have*

$$\limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{j \in B_{C, \rho, M} : C^{j+1} < N} (C^{j+1} - C^j) r_{C^j}}{\sum_{i=1}^N r_i} < \epsilon$$

for all $M > 2 \max\{1, r_1\}$.

Proof. Let $\epsilon > 0$ and $\rho < 1$ be given. By assumption $r_1 < \frac{M}{2}$.

Enumerate $B_{C,\rho,M} = \{b_1, b_2, \dots\}$ in increasing order.

Claim: $b_n \geq n \log_C(\frac{1}{\rho}) + \log_C(2) - 1$.

Proof of claim: By definition of $B_{C,\rho,M}$, each new b_i decreases r_{C_j} by a factor of at least ρ . Since $r_{C^{b_1}} < \frac{M}{2}$, this implies that $r_{C^{b_n}} < \frac{M}{2} \rho^{n-1}$. Therefore, using again the definition of $B_{C,\rho,M}$,

$$\frac{M}{C^{b_{n+1}}} \leq r_{C^{b_{n+1}}} \leq \rho r_{C^{b_n}} < \frac{M}{2} \rho^n.$$

Taking \log_C of both sides yields the claim.

Let $S_0 = \emptyset$. Define S_k inductively by letting S_{k+1} be the $d := \left\lceil \frac{1}{2} \log_C(\frac{1}{\rho}) \right\rceil$ largest indices in

$$\{1, 2, \dots, b_{k+1}\} \setminus \left(B_{C,\rho,M} \cup \bigcup_{i=1}^k S_i \right).$$

The claim above ensures that, for any choice of ρ if $C > 1$ is small enough, such a set exists.

To prove the Lemma, it clearly suffices to show that for all small enough $C > 1$, for all sufficiently large k , we have

$$(25) \quad \epsilon \sum_{j \in S_k} \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} 2r_i > 2(C^{b_{k+1}} - C^{b_k}) r_{C^{b_k}}.$$

First, we choose $C > 1$ such that $C < \frac{1}{\rho}$. Write $S_k = \{u_1 > u_2 > \dots > u_d\}$. Then,

$$\sum_{j=1}^d \sum_{i=C^{u_j}}^{C^{u_j+1}} 2r_i \geq \sum_{j=1}^d 2r_{C^{u_j+1}} C^{u_j} (C-1).$$

Suppose that $m_j \geq 0$ of the b_i lie in $[u_j + 1, b_k]$. Then, from the definition of $B_{C,\rho,M}$, $r_{C^{u_j+1}} > (\frac{1}{\rho})^{m_j} r_{C^{b_k}}$ and $u_j = b_k - j - m_j$. Applying this to the bound above, we have

$$\sum_{j=1}^d \sum_{i=C^{u_j}}^{C^{u_j+1}} 2r_i \geq \sum_{j=1}^d 2 \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \right)^{m_j} r_{C^{b_k}} C^{b_k-j} \left(\frac{1}{C} \right)^{m_j} (C-1).$$

Then, using the assumption $C < \frac{1}{\rho}$ and so $(\frac{1}{\rho})^{m_j} (\frac{1}{C})^{m_j} > 1$ and carrying out the sum and using the definition of d , we find that

$$(26) \quad \sum_{j=1}^d \sum_{i=C^{u_j}}^{C^{u_j+1}} 2r_i \geq 2r_{C^{b_k}} C^{b_k} (1 - C^{-d}) \geq 2r_{C^{b_k}} C^{b_k} (1 - \sqrt{\rho}).$$

If we pick $C > 1$ so that

$$\epsilon 2r_{C^{b_k}} C^{b_k} (1 - \sqrt{\rho}) > 2r_{C^{b_k}} C^{b_k} (C-1)$$

(which is clearly possible) then inequality (26) shows that inequality (25) establishes the lemma. \square

To control $\sum_{k=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_k)}(T^k x)$ where $j \in B_{C, \rho, M}$ we need the following result.

Lemma 3.6. *Let T be an IET of constant type, $\{r_i\}$ nonincreasing. Then for all x ,*

$$\sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}-1} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)}(T^i x) < \frac{2r_{C^j}}{\sigma} (C^{j+1} - C^j) + 1.$$

The proof of this Lemma is essentially the same as the proof of Lemma 2.7.

Corollary 3.7. For every $\epsilon > 0$ and $\rho < 1$ there exists C so that for all x , and all large enough M we have

$$\frac{\sum_{j \in B_{C, \rho, M}} \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)}(T^i x)}{\sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} 2r_i} < \epsilon$$

for sufficiently large N .

Proof. By Lemma 3.6, for all j ,

$$\sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)}(T^i x) < \frac{2r_{C^j}}{\sigma} C^j (C - 1) r_{C^j} + 1.$$

Using this fact, for all x we have,

$$\frac{\sum_{j \in B_{C, \rho, M}} \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)}(T^i x)}{\sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} 2r_i} < \frac{\sum_{j \in B_{C, \rho, M}} \frac{2r_{C^j}}{\sigma} C^j (C - 1) + 1}{\sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} 2r_i}.$$

Note that for $j \in B_{C, \rho, M}$, we have $C^j r_{C^j} \geq \frac{M}{C\rho}$. Therefore, for M sufficiently large (say, $> (C - 1)^{-1}$), we have

$$\frac{\sum_{j \in B_{C, \rho, M}} 1}{\sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} 2r_i} = O\left(\frac{\sum_{j \in B_{C, \rho, M}} \frac{2r_{C^j}}{\sigma} C^j (C - 1)}{\sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} 2r_i}\right).$$

Then, applying Lemma 3.5, we see that for all sufficiently large M and N , $\frac{\sum_{j \in B_{C, \rho, M}} \frac{2r_{C^j}}{\sigma} C^j (C - 1)}{\sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} 2r_i}$ is bounded by some fixed multiple of ϵ , proving the result. \square

Lemma 3.8. *For any $\epsilon > 0$ and $C > 1$ there exists $M_0 > 1$ so that if $M > M_0$ and $\rho = 1 - \frac{\epsilon^2 \sigma}{4}$ then for all sufficiently large $j \in G_{C, \rho, M}$ and all x ,*

$$\frac{\sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)}(T^i x)}{\sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} 2r_i} \in [1 - \epsilon, 1 + \epsilon].$$

Proof. Fix $\epsilon > 0$. We may assume that $\epsilon < \frac{3}{8}$ and that $\sigma < 1$. First, note that to prove the Lemma it is sufficient to show that for sufficiently large $j \in G_{C, \rho, M}$,

$$\frac{\sup_x \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)}(T^i x)}{\inf_x \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{C^{j+1}})}(T^i x)} \leq 1 + \epsilon.$$

By Lemma 3.4 we have that if M is large enough

$$\frac{\sup_x \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{C^{j+1}})}(T^i x)}{\inf_x \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{C^{j+1}})}(T^i x)} \leq 1 + \epsilon,$$

and so it suffices to show that for any $\epsilon > 0$,

$$(27) \quad \frac{\sup_x \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i) \setminus B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{C^{j+1}})}(T^i x)}{\inf_x \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{C^{j+1}})}(T^i x)} \leq \epsilon.$$

First, we bound the numerator of (27). Consider $B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i) \setminus B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{C^{j+1}})$ for $i \geq C^j$. It consists of two intervals of size at most $(1 - \rho)r_{C^j}$ since $j \in G_{C, \rho, M}$. By Lemma 3.6 and our choice of ρ ,

$$(28) \quad \begin{aligned} \sup_x \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i) \setminus B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{C^{j+1}})}(T^i x) &\leq 2 + 2(1 - \rho)r_{C^j} 2^{\frac{(C^{j+1} - C^j)}{\sigma}} \\ &= 2 + \frac{\epsilon^2}{2} 2r_{C^j} (C^{j+1} - C^j). \end{aligned}$$

To bound the denominator of (27) below we appeal to Lemma 3.4. First, let M'_0 be so large that for all $a \in [0, 1]$ and all x ,

$$\sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(a, \frac{M'_0}{C^{j+1}})}(T^i x) \geq \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{3}\right) 2^{\frac{M'_0}{C^{j+1}}} (C^{j+1} - C^j)$$

for sufficiently large j (independent of a). Let $M_0 = \max\{3M'_0, 4\epsilon^{-1}C(C-1)^{-1}\}$. For any $j \in G_{C, \rho, M}$ with $M > M_0$, $r_{C^{j+1}} \geq 3\frac{M'_0}{C^{j+1}}$. Partition $B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{C^{j+1}})$ into $\lambda \geq 3$ intervals of size $\frac{2M'_0}{C^{j+1}}$ and one interval of size $< \frac{2M'_0}{C^{j+1}}$. Let B be the union of the λ intervals. Applying Lemma 3.4 as above to each of the λ intervals forming B we obtain, for sufficiently large $j \in G_{C, \rho, M}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{C^{j+1}})}(T^i x) &\geq \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_B(T^i x) \\ &\geq \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{3}\right) \lambda \frac{2M'_0}{C^{j+1}} (C^{j+1} - C^j) \end{aligned}$$

Further, because $(\lambda + 1)\frac{2M'_0}{C^{j+1}} > 2r_{C^{j+1}}$ this is

$$(29) \quad \begin{aligned} &\geq \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{3}\right) \left(\frac{\lambda}{\lambda + 1}\right) 2r_{C^{j+1}} (C^{j+1} - C^j). \\ &\geq \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{3}\right) \left(\frac{3}{4}\right) 2r_{C^{j+1}} (C^{j+1} - C^j). \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} 2r_{C^{j+1}} (C^{j+1} - C^j). \end{aligned}$$

since $\epsilon < 1$.

Combining inequalities (28) and (29),

$$\frac{\sup_x \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i) \setminus B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{C^{j+1}})}(T^i x)}{\inf_x \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_{C^{j+1}})}(T^i x)} < \frac{1 + \frac{\epsilon^2}{2} r_{C^j} (C^{j+1} - C^j)}{\frac{1}{2} r_{C^{j+1}} (C^{j+1} - C^j)}.$$

Now, $\frac{2}{r_{C^{j+1}}(C^{j+1}-C^j)} \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2}$ using our choice of $M_0 \geq 4\epsilon^{-1}C(C-1)^{-1}$. Also, $\frac{\epsilon^2 r_{C^j}(C^{j+1}-C^j)}{r_{C^{j+1}}(C^{j+1}-C^j)} \leq \frac{\epsilon^2}{\rho} \leq \frac{4}{3}\epsilon^2 \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2}$ using the fact that $j \in G_{C,\rho,M}$, our choice of ρ , and the fact that $\epsilon < \frac{3}{8}$. This completes the proof. \square

We note the following facts about the results above. First, ρ does not depend on C and so we may choose C for Lemma 3.5 to hold. Also our only requirement on M in Corollary 3.7 and Lemma 3.8 is that it is large enough. So given ρ, C we may choose (a possibly larger) M so that Corollary 3.7 and Lemma 3.8 hold.

We are now ready to prove Theorems 1.2 and 3.1.

Proof of Theorems 1.2 and 3.1. It suffices to show that for all $\delta > 0$ there exists $C > 1$ so that

$$\liminf_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)} T^i x}{\sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} 2r_i} > 1 - \delta$$

and

$$\limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)} T^i x}{\sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} 2r_i} < 1 + \delta.$$

Choose $\epsilon = \frac{\delta}{2}$ and $\rho = 1 - \frac{\epsilon^2 \sigma}{4}$. Following Corollary 3.7, choose C for this ρ and ϵ . Following Lemma 3.8 and Corollary 3.7, choose M for these ρ, C, ϵ . Then by Lemma 3.8 we have

$$\limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{j \in G_{C,\rho,M}} \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)}(T^i x)}{\sum_{j \in G_{C,\rho,M}} \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} 2r_i} < 1 + \frac{\delta}{2}$$

and

$$\liminf_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{j \in G_{C,\rho,M}} \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)}(T^i x)}{\sum_{j \in G_{C,\rho,M}} \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} 2r_i} > 1 - \frac{\delta}{2}.$$

Proposition 3.2 implies

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{j \notin (G_{C,\rho,M} \cup B_{C,\rho,M})} \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)}(T^i x)}{\sum_{j \notin (G_{C,\rho,M} \cup B_{C,\rho,M})} \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} 2r_i} = 1$$

for almost every x . By Corollary 3.7

$$\limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{j \in B_{C,\rho,M}} \sum_{i=C^j}^{C^{j+1}} \chi_{B(\frac{1}{2}, r_i)}(T^i x)}{\sum_{i=1}^{C^{N+1}} 2r_i} < \frac{\delta}{2}$$

for all x , which completes the proof. \square

4. QUANTITATIVE BOSHERNITZAN'S CRITERION

This section uses Appendix A. In that Appendix, we recall that $T : [0, 1) \rightarrow [0, 1)$ is measure conjugate to a subshift $S : X \rightarrow X$ of the full shift on d symbols. In this section we use both of these (measure-theoretically) equivalent descriptions of the dynamics for various proofs, as suits our purposes.

We want to prove a quantitative version of the following:

Theorem 4.1 (Boshernitzan [4]). *Let $S : X \rightarrow X$ be the left shift acting minimally on a symbolic dynamical system. Let μ be an S -invariant measure. Let ϵ_n be the μ measure of the smallest cylinder set of length n . If there exists a constant c such that for infinitely many n , $\epsilon_n \geq \frac{c}{n}$, then S is μ -uniquely ergodic.*

An analogue of this result was proved for IETs by Veech [27], in which case the invariant/ergodic measure is Lebesgue. Masur [22] established the analogous, in fact stronger, result for flows on flat surfaces.

Let n_i be an increasing sequence of integers such that $\epsilon_{n_i} \geq \frac{c}{n_i}$ and $n_i \geq 10n_{i-1}$. We want to prove Theorem 1.3, stated in the introduction for T and here for the corresponding shift S :

Theorem. *Let S be the symbolic system for a minimal IET, μ be an invariant measure and ϵ_n be the smallest μ -measure of an n -cylinder of S . Let w be a word of length n_i and let χ_w be the characteristic function for the cylinder set defined by w . Then there exist positive constants C_1, C_2, \hat{q} depending only on c such that for all $x, x' \in X$ we have*

$$\frac{1}{n_{i+\hat{q}+L}} \left| \sum_{j=1}^{n_{i+\hat{q}+L}} \chi_w(S^j x) - \chi_w(S^j x') \right| < \frac{C_1 e^{-C_2 L}}{n_i}$$

for all $L \in \mathbb{N}$.

This is a quantitative version of Boshernitzan's criterion because it tells how quickly any orbit equidistributes. Quantitative ergodicity statements for IETs and flows have been profitably studied with deep results in [11], [28] and [1].

The next proposition is similar to results used in [27]. It provides a construction of a set of *Rokhlin Towers* describing the dynamics of T which will be useful in the rest of our proof. Specifically, conditions (1), (2) and (3) define a set of Rokhlin towers $\{(J_a, m_a)\}$ decomposing $[0, 1)$. The rest of the proposition gives quantitative control over the number of towers t , the measures of the bases of the towers (and so the levels) $|J_a|$, and the *heights* m_a of the towers.

Proposition 4.2. *If $e_T(2n) \geq \frac{c}{2n}$ then there exist intervals J_1, \dots, J_t and numbers m_1, \dots, m_t so that*

- (1) $T^i J_a \cap T^j J_b = \emptyset$ for all $(i, a) \neq (j, b)$ with $0 \leq i < m_a$ and $0 \leq j < m_b$,
- (2) $\cup_{a=1}^r \cup_{\ell=0}^{m_a-1} T^\ell J_a = [0, 1)$,
- (3) T^i is continuous (and therefore an isometry) on J_a for all $0 \leq i < m_a$,
- (4) $|J_a| \geq e_T(2n)$,
- (5) $t \leq \frac{2}{c}$,
- (6) $n \leq m_a \leq 2n$ for all a .

Proof. Recall that P_{S^k} is the partition of $[0, 1)$ by the discontinuities of T^k . We denote P_{S^k} by P_k . If $I \in P_k$, then I has the form $[T^{-n_1} \delta_1, T^{-n_2} \delta_2)$, where δ_i are discontinuities of T and $0 \leq n_i \leq k-1$, and $T^k|_I$ is continuous.

We will construct the Rokhlin towers by drawing the J_a 's from the collections P_n and P_{2n} . This will ensure that (3) and (4) is satisfied. Once m_a are chosen satisfying (6), $[0, 1)$ is the union of at least n copies of each J_a . Since $|J_a| \geq e_T(2n) \geq \frac{c}{2n}$ the m_a copies of J_a cover a subset of $[0, 1)$ of measure at least $\frac{c}{2}$. Once the disjointness of (1) is assured, this implies that there are at most $\frac{2}{c}$ of the J_a 's, proving (5).

The rest of our proof uses the following simple claim:

Claim: *If $I_1, I_2 \in P_k$, then $T^{l_1}I_1 \cap T^{l_2}I_2 \neq \emptyset$ for some $0 \leq l_1 \leq l_2 < k$ implies $T^{l_1}I_1 \subseteq T^{l_2}I_2$.*

Proof of claim: We may assume $l_1 < l_2$, and then it is sufficient to prove the result for $l_1 = 0$ by applying T^{-l_1} .

As noted above $I_2 = [T^{-n_1}\delta_1, T^{-n_2}\delta_2]$ for some $0 \leq n_i \leq k-1$. Suppose that $I_1 \cap T^{l_2}I_2 \neq \emptyset$ for some $0 < l < k$. Unless $I_1 \subseteq T^{l_2}I_2$, we have $T^{l_2}(T^{-n_i}\delta_i) \in \text{Int}(I_1)$ for either $i = 1$ or 2 . Then $\text{Int}(T^{n_i-l_2}I_1)$ contains the discontinuity δ_i . But $n_i - l_2 \leq k-2$ and so $T^k|_{I_1}$ is not continuous, a contradiction. \square

Let J_1, \dots, J_r be a maximal subset of P_n so that $T^i(J_a) \cap T^j(J_b) = \emptyset$ for all $(i, a) \neq (j, b)$ with $0 \leq i, j < n$. (The claim applied with $I_1 = I_2$, an element of P_n of minimal length, ensures that such a subset exists. Indeed continuity follows from the fact that it is an element of P_n and disjointness follows from Lemma 2.8.) Let $m_a = n$ for $a = 1, \dots, r$ and $V_1 = \cup_{a=1}^r \cup_{i=0}^{n-1} T^i J_a$.

If $V_1 = [0, 1)$ we are done. Otherwise split V_1^c into two sets:

$$U_A = \{x : \exists i < 0 < j \text{ so that } T^i x, T^j x \in V_1 \text{ and } j - i < n\}$$

$$U_B = (V_1 \cup U_A)^c.$$

We now show that U_A and U_B are both unions of elements of P_{2n} . For each $x \in U_A$, consider the element I of P_n so that $x \in I$. We have $T^i I \cap J_a \neq \emptyset$ for some $|i| < n$ and some $1 \leq a \leq r$. Moreover, $T^{-i}(T^i I \cap J_a)$ is a union of elements in P_{2n} . Therefore elements of P_{2n} are either contained in U_A or disjoint from it. Since elements of P_{2n} are clearly either contained in V_1 or disjoint from it, similarly U_B is a union of elements of P_{2n} .

Now we show how to cover U_B as in the statement of the proposition. Let I'_1, \dots, I'_u be the elements of P_{2n} which are contained in U_B and such that $T^{-1}I'_i \cap V_1 \neq \emptyset$. By construction these also have $T^{-1}I'_i \cap \cup_{a=1}^r T^{n-1}J_a \neq \emptyset$. By the claim, this implies for each i there exists a so that $T^{-1}I'_i \subset T^{n-1}J_a$. Now if $T^{m^*}I'_i \cap (\cup_{a=1}^r J_a) \neq \emptyset$ for some $m^* < 2n$ (which is necessarily at least n) we add I'_i to our collection $\{J_a\}$, set the corresponding $m_a = m^*$, and we add $\cup_{\ell=0}^{m^*-1} T^\ell I'_i$ to V_1 . Otherwise we add I'_i to the $\{J_a\}$, set $m_a = n$, and add $\cup_{\ell=0}^{n-1} T^\ell I'_i$ to V_1 . We call such an I'_i *recalcitrant*. Performing this for all of the I'_i we obtain V_2 . We now consider I''_1, \dots, I''_v so that I''_j are the elements of P_{2n} whose pre-images are contained in $T^n(I'_i)$ for some recalcitrant I'_i . As before we add the I''_j to $\{J_a\}$ and, if $T^{m^*}I''_j \subset \cup_{a=1}^r J_a$ for some $m^* < 2n$, which is necessarily at least n , we set $m_a = m^*$. Otherwise we set $m_a = n$. We add all the $\cup_{\ell=0}^{m_a-1} T^\ell I''_j$ to V_2 . In this way we obtain V_3 . We repeat this procedure until we cannot continue, having obtained V_k . Observe V_k is covered by a union of towers that satisfy (1), (3), (4), (5) and (6) and covers all of V_1 and U_B . Therefore anything missing is in U_A . We now treat these points.

Now we show how to cover U_a as in the statement of the proposition. If $x \in V_k^c$ then there exist $I \in P_{2n}$ and $i, \ell \in \mathbb{N}$ so that $x \in T^i I$, $T^\ell I \subset J_a$ for some $a \in \{1, \dots, r\}$, $0 \leq i < \ell < n$ and $T^{-1}I \cap V_1 \neq \emptyset$. As above, the claim implies that $T^{-1}I \subset V_1$. Let I_1, \dots, I_s be these I and j_i be so that $T^{j_i}I_i \subset I_a$ for some a . If I_1, \dots, I_q are the I_i that orbit into J_a , we refine $\cup_{i=0}^{n-1} T^i J_a$ to be $(\cup_{i=1}^q \cup_{\ell=0}^{j_i+n} T^\ell I_i) \cup (\cup_{\ell=0}^{n-1} T^\ell (J_a \setminus (\cup_{i=1}^q T^{j_i} I_i)))$. Consider J_a partitioned into elements of P_{2n} . By the

claim, $\cup_{i=1}^q T^{j_i} I_i$ is a union of these partition elements and so its complement is as well. Therefore, replacing J_a with I_1, \dots, I_q (with corresponding $m_a = j_i + n$) and with the elements of $J_a \setminus (\cup_{i=1}^q T^{j_i} I_i)$ (with corresponding $m_a = n$) and using the (J_a, m_a) defined in the argument above, we obtain in total a collection $\{(J_a, m_a)\}$ satisfying condition (2) in addition to the previously ensured (1), (3), (4), (5) and (6). This completes the proof. \square

The next two results apply to any topologically transitive symbolic system $S' : X' \rightarrow X'$ such that $\epsilon_1 > c'$ and $\epsilon_{n'_i} \geq \frac{c'}{n'_i}$ for a sequence n'_i such that $n'_{i+1} \geq 10n'_i$. Without loss of generality we assume that $c' < 1$. Let $C_i = \{x : \sum_{j=0}^{n'_i-1} \chi_1(S'^j x) \geq \frac{c'^{2i+1}}{32^i} n'_i\}$. That is, C_i is the set of all x so that the symbol 1 occurs at least a proportion $\frac{c'^{2i+1}}{32^i}$ of the time in the first n'_i symbols of x .

Lemma 4.3. *With the notation above, $\mu(C_{i+1}) \geq \min\{1, \mu(C_i) + \frac{3c'^2}{4}\}$.*

The proof of this lemma is similar to [4].

Proof. We first show $\mu(C_{i+1} \setminus C_i) \geq \frac{8c'}{10}$ if $C_{i+1}^c \neq \emptyset$.

Let u be a word of length n_{i+1} appearing in our system with the fewest occurrences of 1; let v be a word of length n'_{i+1} with the most occurrences of 1. By our assumption that $C_{i+1}^c \neq \emptyset$, there are fewer than $\frac{c'^{2i+1}}{32^i} n'_{i+1}$ occurrences of 1 in u . Since $\epsilon_1 > c'$, there are at least $c' n'_{i+1}$ occurrences of 1 in v . Because $S' : X' \rightarrow X'$ is minimal, there is a word $uvw = a_1, \dots, a_m$ occurring in X' . Let j be the maximal index so that $\alpha_j := a_j, \dots, a_{j+n'_{i+1}}$ has fewer than $\frac{c'^{2i+3}}{32^{i+1}} n'_{i+1}$ occurrences of the symbol 1; such an index exists by the remarks above. The cylinder set defined by $\alpha_\ell := a_\ell, \dots, a_{\ell+n'_{i+1}-1}$ is contained in C_{i+1} for all $\ell > j$.

We now estimate the proportion of length- n'_i subwords of α_j which give cylinder sets in C_i^c . There are fewer than $\frac{c'^{2i+3}}{32^{i+1}} n'_{i+1}$ occurrences of 1 in α_j , each of which occurs in at most n'_i of its length- n'_i subwords. Therefore, there are at most $\frac{c'^2}{32} n'_{i+1}$ length- n'_i subwords (entirely) contained in α_j that give cylinders in C_i . There are $n'_{i+1} - n'_i + 1$ total length- n'_i subwords in α_j . Therefore, we have at least $n'_{i+1} - n'_i + 1 - \frac{c'^2}{32} n'_{i+1}$ length- n'_i subwords of α_j which give cylinders in C_i^c . All but perhaps the first length- n'_{i+1} cylinder are in C_{i+1} . Using our assumption on $\epsilon_{n_{i+1}}$, this gives

$$\mu(C_{i+1} \setminus C_i) \geq \left(n'_{i+1} - n'_i - \frac{c'^2}{32} n'_{i+1} \right) \frac{c'}{n'_{i+1}}.$$

Recalling that $n'_{i+1} > 10n'_i$, the bound $\mu(C_{i+1} \setminus C_i) \geq \frac{8c'}{10}$ follows easily.

Now we show that $\mu(C_i \setminus C_{i+1}) \leq \frac{c'^2}{20}$. Let

$$h_i : C_i \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \text{ by } h_i(x) = \min\{n > 0 : S^n x \in C_i\}.$$

By Kac Lemma (see for example [18, Theorem 3.6]) $\int_{C_i} h_i d\mu = \mu(X) = 1$. Let $u_x = \sum_{j=0}^{n'_{i+1}-n'_i} \chi_{C_i}(T^j x)$ and suppose that $x \in C_i \setminus C_{i+1}$. Then

$$u_x \leq \frac{c'^{2i+3}}{32^{i+1}} n'_{i+1} \left(\frac{c'^{2i+1}}{32^i} \right)^{-1} = \frac{c'^2}{32} n'_{i+1}.$$

Indeed, there are fewer than $\frac{c'^{2i+3}}{32^{i+1}}n'_{i+1}$ occurrences of 1 in the word of length n'_{i+1} corresponding to a point in C_{i+1} , each word giving a point in C_i has at least $\frac{c'^{2i+1}}{32^i}n'_i$ occurrences of 1, and each occurrence of 1 appears in at most n'_i different length- n'_i words.

Therefore, for each $x \in C_i \setminus C_{i+1}$, we have $\sum_{j=0}^{\frac{c'^2}{32}n'_{i+1}-1} h_i(S'^j|_{C_i}x) \geq n'_{i+1} - n'_i$, where (as in Lemma 2.17) $S'|_A$ denotes the first return map of S' to A . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{c'^2}{32}n'_{i+1} &= \int_{C_i} \sum_{j=0}^{\frac{c'^2}{32}n'_{i+1}-1} h_i(S'^j|_{C_i}x) d\mu \\ &\geq \int_{C_i \setminus C_{i+1}} \sum_{j=0}^{\frac{c'^2}{32}n'_{i+1}-1} h_i(S'^j|_{C_i}x) d\mu \\ &\geq (n'_{i+1} - n'_i)\mu(C_i \setminus C_{i+1}). \end{aligned}$$

Then we have $\mu(C_i \setminus C_{i+1}) \leq (n'_{i+1} - n'_i)^{-1} \frac{c'^2}{32}n'_{i+1}$. Since $n'_{i+1} \geq 10n'_i$ a short calculation gives the bound $\mu(C_i \setminus C_{i+1}) \leq \frac{10}{9} \frac{c'^2}{32} \leq \frac{c'^2}{20}$.

From these two bounds it follows that $\mu(C_{i+1}) \geq \mu(C_i) - \frac{c'^2}{20} + \frac{8c'}{10} \geq \mu(C_i) + \frac{3c'^2}{4}$. \square

We obtain:

Corollary 4.4. For any minimal symbolic system $S' : X' \rightarrow X'$ and sequence n'_i as above, there exists an integer q' and a number $\delta > 0$ each depending only on c' such that any $x \in X'$ satisfies

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n'_l} \chi_1(S'^i x) \geq \delta n'_l$$

for all $l \geq q'$. That is, at least a proportion δ of the first n'_l symbols of x are 1's.

Proof. Let q' be such that $q' \frac{3c'^2}{4} \geq 1$. Let $\delta = \frac{c'^{2q'+1}}{32^{q'}}$. For $l \geq q'$ and any x , each length- n'_q subword of the first n'_l letters of x has at least a proportion δ of the symbol 1. This establishes the corollary. \square

Now we are ready to prove Theorem 1.3.

Proof of Theorem 1.3. We prove this by using Proposition 4.2 to produce a new coding of T and then we apply Corollary 4.4 to this coding.

Setup: For any n , consider \mathcal{R}_n , the set of Rokhlin towers given by Proposition 4.2 for this value of n . To a point $x \in [0, 1)$ we assign the coding $\dots d_0, d_1, d_2, \dots$ if x belongs to the tower $T_{d_0} \in \mathcal{R}_n$ and its orbit subsequently visits T_{d_1}, T_{d_2}, \dots in order. Let X' be the set of such codings and $S' : X' \rightarrow X'$ the corresponding symbolic system. This system is topologically transitive since T is, and it is an easy exercise to check that it satisfies $\epsilon_n > \frac{c}{n}$ for $c' = \frac{c}{2}$. Apply Corollary 4.4 to this shift, using $n'_i = 10^i$, obtaining q and δ which depend only on c . Without loss of generality, we assume $\delta < \frac{1}{3}$.

Let $r > q$ be so large that $10^r > \frac{4}{\delta^2}$. Note that with such a choice, $\frac{4n_i+kr}{n_{i+(k+1)r}} < \delta$ for all i .

Let an integer i and a word w of length n_i be given. For any integer k , let $L = kr$. We prove the bound in Theorem 1.3 by induction.

Base case of induction: For the case of $L = 0$, it suffices to show that there exist constants \hat{q}, b, B , depending only on c , so that

$$bn_{i+\hat{q}}\mu(w) \leq \sum_{j=1}^{n_i+\hat{q}} \chi_w(S^j x) \leq Bn_{i+\hat{q}}\mu(w).$$

Indeed, from this it will follow that for all x, x' ,

$$\frac{1}{n_{i+\hat{q}}} \left| \sum_{j=1}^{n_i+\hat{q}} \chi_w(S^j x) - \chi_w(S^j x') \right| < (B-b)\mu(w) < (B-b) \frac{n_i+\hat{q}}{n_i}$$

using Lemma 2.17 for the last inequality.

The upper bound, with $B = \frac{2}{c} + 1$, is proved using an argument similar to that in Lemma 2.7, partitioning the interval corresponding to w into a minimal collection of subintervals of size $< e_T(n_i)$, each of which is hit at most once every n_i iterates. The lower bound follows by applying Corollary 4.4.

Inductive step: For the inductive step it suffices to show that there exists $\hat{\zeta} < 1$ so that for all x, x' we have

$$(30) \quad \frac{1}{n_{i+\hat{q}+j+r}} \left| \sum_{\ell=1}^{n_i+\hat{q}+j+r} \chi_\omega(S^\ell(x)) - \chi_\omega(S^\ell(x')) \right| \leq \hat{\zeta} \left(\sup_{y, y'} \frac{1}{n_{i+\hat{q}+j}} \left| \sum_{\ell=1}^{n_i+\hat{q}+j} \chi_\omega(S^\ell y) - \chi_\omega(S^\ell y') \right| \right).$$

Write any word u of length $n_{i+(k+1)r}$ as a concatenation of the words corresponding to towers from $\mathcal{R}_{n_{i+kr}}$, plus a prefix and suffix each of length less than $2n_{i+kr}$. Consider the towers in $\mathcal{R}_{n_{i+kr}}$ whose corresponding words have the maximal and minimal frequencies of w as subwords. Denote these frequencies by Ξ_k and ξ_k , respectively. By Corollary 4.4, $\xi_k \geq \delta$.

By Corollary 4.4, at least a proportion δ of the towers from $\mathcal{R}_{n_{i+kr}}$ found in u have w contained in them with frequency Ξ_k and at least a proportion δ contain w with frequency ξ_k . Therefore, among the length- n_{i+kr} subwords which lie completely within these towers forming u , the frequency of w is between $\delta\Xi_k + (1-\delta)\xi_k$ and $(1-\delta)\Xi_k + \delta\xi_k$, a range of size $(1-2\delta)(\Xi_k - \xi_k)$. This proves the desired exponential decay for the length- n_i subwords contained completely in the $\mathcal{R}_{n_{i+kr}}$ towers of u .

To complete the proof we need to consider length- n_i subwords which begin in the prefix or suffix of u . We can bound the range of frequencies for the prefix and suffix by $\sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \frac{2^j}{10^{jr}} (\Xi_{k-j} - \xi_{k-j})$. Then the total frequency of w in u lies in a range of size bounded above by

$$(31) \quad (1-2\delta)(\Xi_k - \xi_k) + \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \frac{2^j}{10^{jr}} (\Xi_{k-j} - \xi_{k-j}).$$

To prove exponential decay we use the following fact; its proof is an easy exercise.

Sublemma: If $0 < \alpha, \gamma < 1$ so that $\alpha + \gamma\alpha^{-1} < 1$ and there exists a $x_1, \dots > 0$ so that $x_1 \leq 1$ and $x_{k+1} < \alpha x_k + \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \gamma^{k-j} x_j$, then $x_j < x_1(\alpha + \gamma\alpha^{-1})^j$ for all j .

Let $x_i = \Xi_i - \xi_i$, $\alpha = 1 - 2\delta$ and $\gamma = \frac{2}{10^r} < \frac{\delta^2}{2}$. Then $\hat{\zeta} = (1 - 2\delta + \frac{2}{10^r(1-2\delta)}) < (1 - 2\delta) + \frac{\delta^2}{2}\delta^{-1} < 1$ (using $\delta < \frac{1}{3}$). Applying the sublemma to the bound (31) and proceeding arguments we obtain exponential decay establishing inequality (30). \square

APPENDIX A. SYMBOLIC CODING FOR IETs

We use the symbolic coding of interval exchange transformations and concepts related to it. In this Appendix we supply some standard definitions and terminology related to this coding. We show the well known and useful fact that IETs are basically the same as (measure conjugate to) continuous maps on compact metric spaces, and we recall the definition of a Rokhlin tower, a concept which appears in the proof of Theorem 1.3.

Definition A.1 (Standard coding for an IET). *The standard coding of an interval exchange transformation T with intervals I_i is given by*

$$\tau: [0, 1) \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, d\}^{\mathbb{Z}} \text{ by } \tau(x) = \dots, a_{-1}, a_0, a_1, \dots \text{ where } T^i(x) \in I_{a_i}.$$

Note that the coding map τ is not continuous as a map from $[0, 1)$ with the standard topology to $\{1, 2, \dots, d\}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ with the product topology.

Definition A.2 (Blocks of a coding). *Fix a point x , that is not in the orbit of a discontinuity of T . Let*

$$w_{p,q}(x) = c_p, c_{p+1}, \dots, c_{q-1}, c_q \text{ where } \tau(x) = \dots c_{-1}, c_0, c_1, \dots$$

This word is a block of length $q - p$, or a $(q - p)$ -block.

A key element in our proof is the n -block interval:

Definition A.3 (n -block interval). *An interval $J \subset [0, 1)$ is an n -block interval if $J = \{x : w_{0,n}(x) = w_{0,n}(x_0) \text{ for some } x_0\}$.*

Note that the *measure* of an n -block interval is the size of the interval J . We use ‘measure’ rather than ‘length’ so as not to create confusion with the length n of the coding block corresponding to this n -block interval.

We would like to consider $\tau([0, 1))$ as a subshift of the full shift on $\{1, \dots, d\}^{\mathbb{Z}}$, but the situation is not so simple. Observe that the left shift S acts continuously on $\tau([0, 1)) \subset \{1, 2, \dots, d\}^{\mathbb{Z}}$. However, if T satisfies the Keane condition, then $\tau([0, 1))$ is not closed in $\{1, 2, \dots, d\}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ with the product topology. To see this, consider points just to the left of a discontinuity of T and the n -blocks $w_{0,n}(x)$ corresponding to them. As x approaches the discontinuity and $n \rightarrow \infty$, these finite blocks do not converge to an infinite block in $\tau([0, 1))$. Let \hat{X} be the closure of $\tau([0, 1))$ in $\{1, 2, \dots, d\}^{\mathbb{Z}}$ with the product topology. \hat{X} results from adding a countable number of points to $\tau([0, 1))$ which correspond to the left hand sides of points in orbits of a discontinuity. \hat{X} is a compact metric space and, equipped with the left shift S ,

is a subshift. Equip \hat{X} with a measure μ assigning to the cylinder set defined by each block the Lebesgue measure of the corresponding block interval in $[0, 1)$.

Let $f : \hat{X} \rightarrow [0, 1)$ by $f|_{\tau([0,1))} = \tau^{-1}$ and extend f by continuity to the rest of \hat{X} . Notice that, unlike τ , the map f is continuous. Moreover the map is injective away from τ^{-1} of the orbits of discontinuities, where it is 2 to 1. The left shift S acts continuously on \hat{X} and if T satisfies the Keane condition, then the action of S on (\hat{X}, μ) is measure conjugate to the action of T on $([0, 1), Leb)$.

Definition A.4 (Rokhlin Tower). *Let half open intervals J_1, \dots, J_r and natural numbers m_1, \dots, m_r be given such that*

- T^j is continuous (thus an isometry) on J_i for $0 \leq j < m_i$,
- $\bigcup_{i=1}^r \bigcup_{j=0}^{m_i-1} T^j(J_i) = [0, 1)$, and
- $T^j(J_i) \cap T^{j'}(J_{i'}) = \emptyset$ when $0 \leq j < j' < m_i$, $0 \leq j' < m_{i'}$ and $j \neq j'$ if $i = i'$.

Then we say that the $\bigcup_{j=0}^{m_i-1} T^j(J_i)$ are Rokhlin towers. m_i is called the height of the Rokhlin tower. Each $T^j(J_i)$ is called a level of the tower.

Rokhlin towers and the symbolic coding are closely related. Up to a suffix and a prefix, every word in $\tau([0, 1))$ is a concatenation of the length m_i coding of the points in J_i as i ranges in $\{1, \dots, r\}$. The prefix and suffix are subwords of these codings.

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