

# Numerical Semigroups and Music

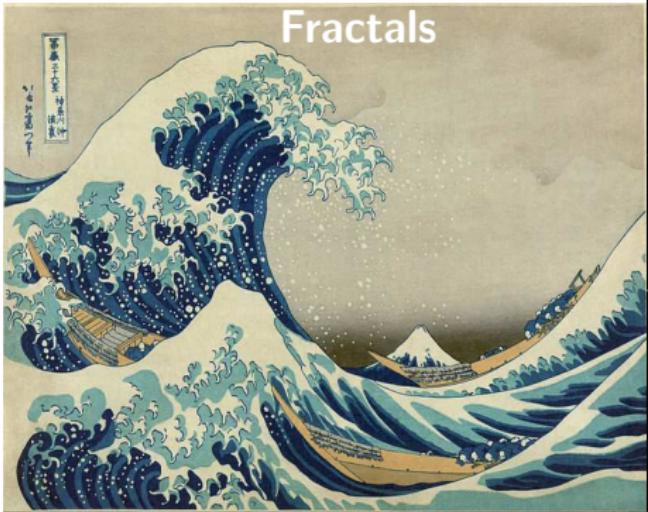
Maria Bras-Amorós



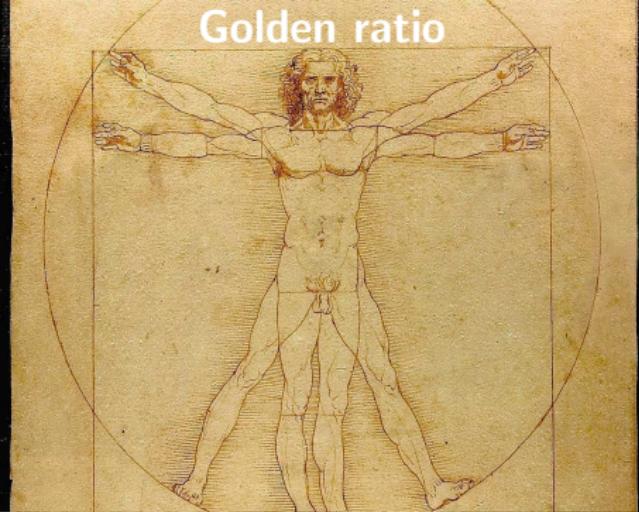
Conference on Rings and Factorizations 2023,  
Graz, July 10, 2023



Fractals



Golden ratio



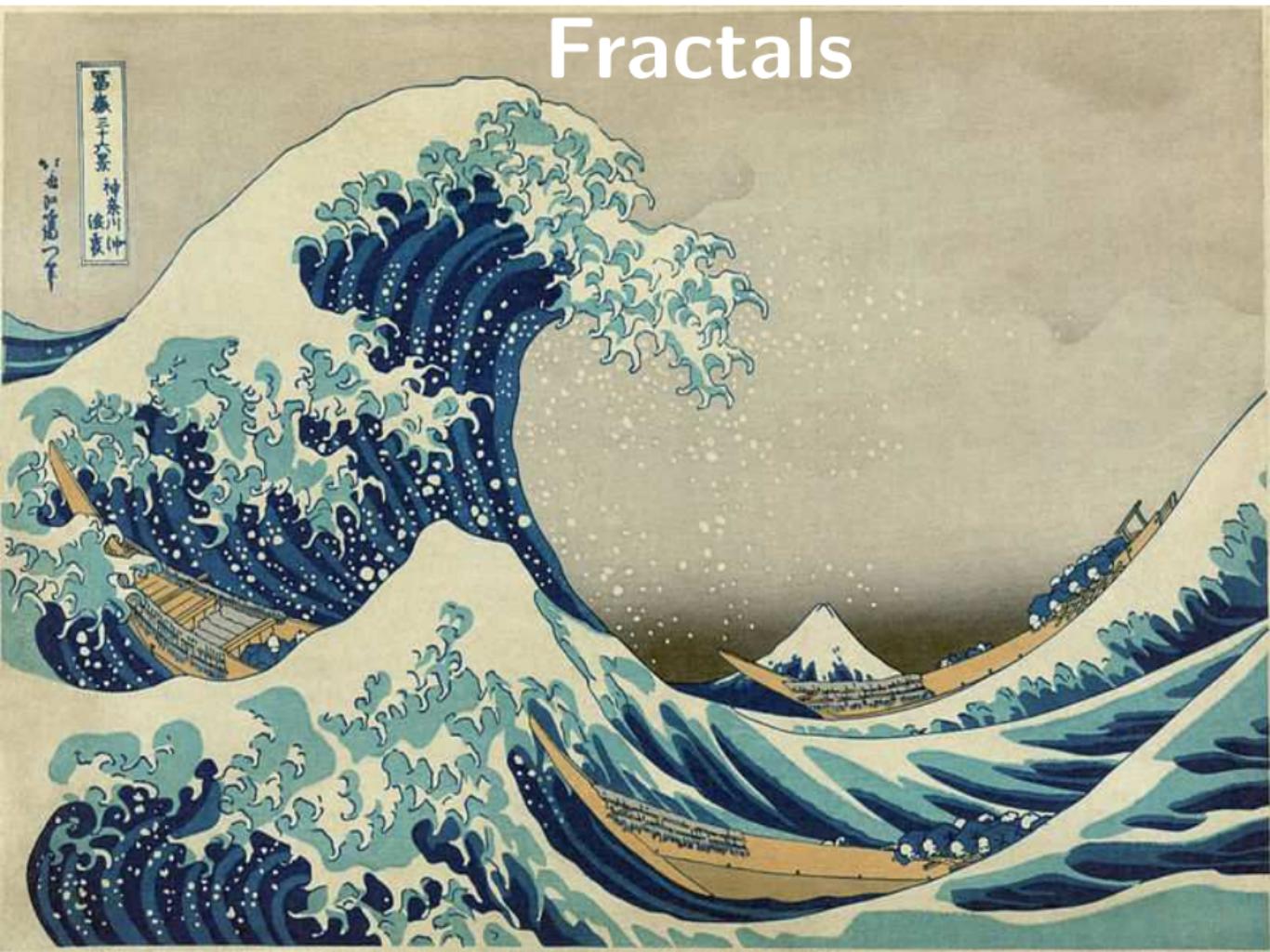
Harmonics and semigroups



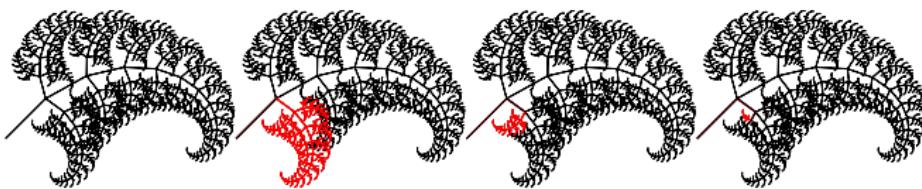
Tempered monoids



# Fractals



# Fractals



# Fractals in music



Bedřich Smetana



Moldau (Mein Vaterland)

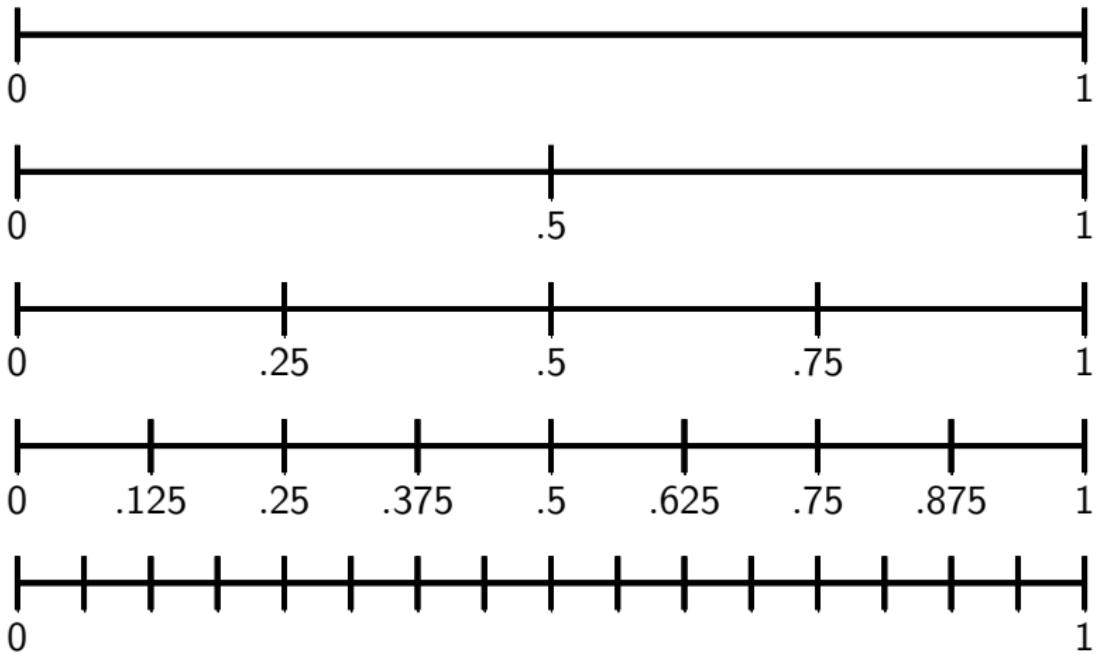
Big wave



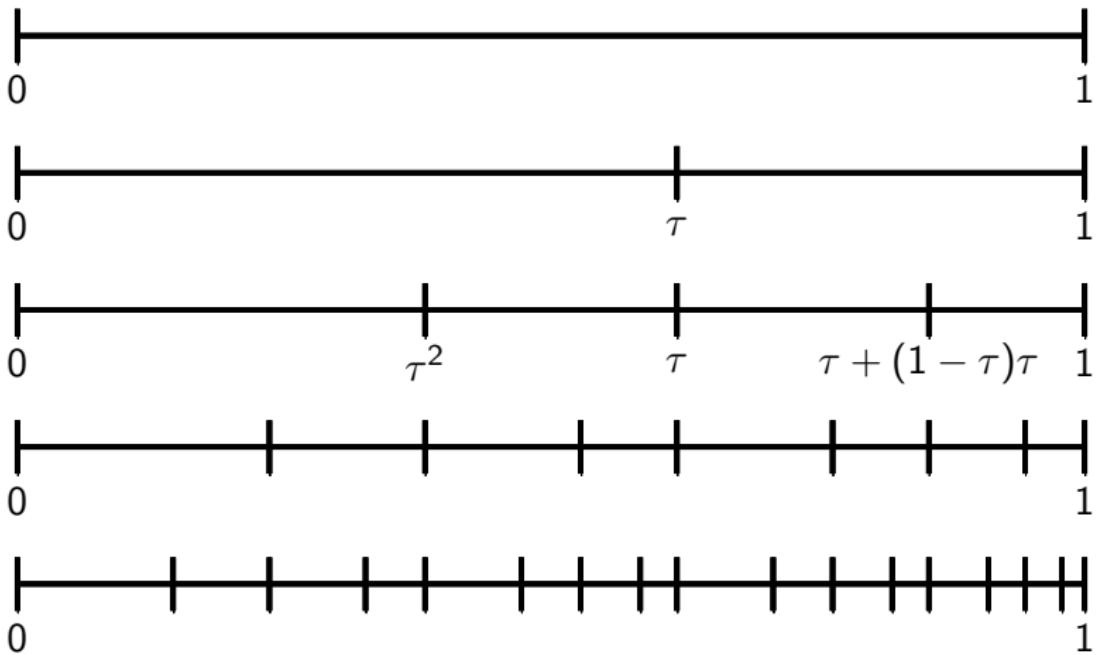
Smaller and smaller waves



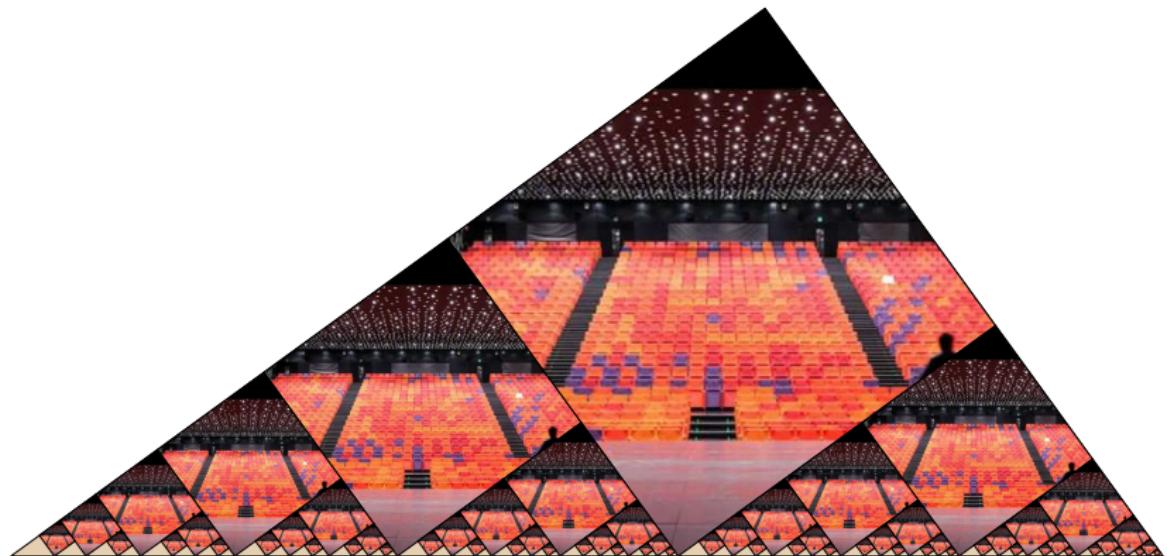
# Fractal division of an interval



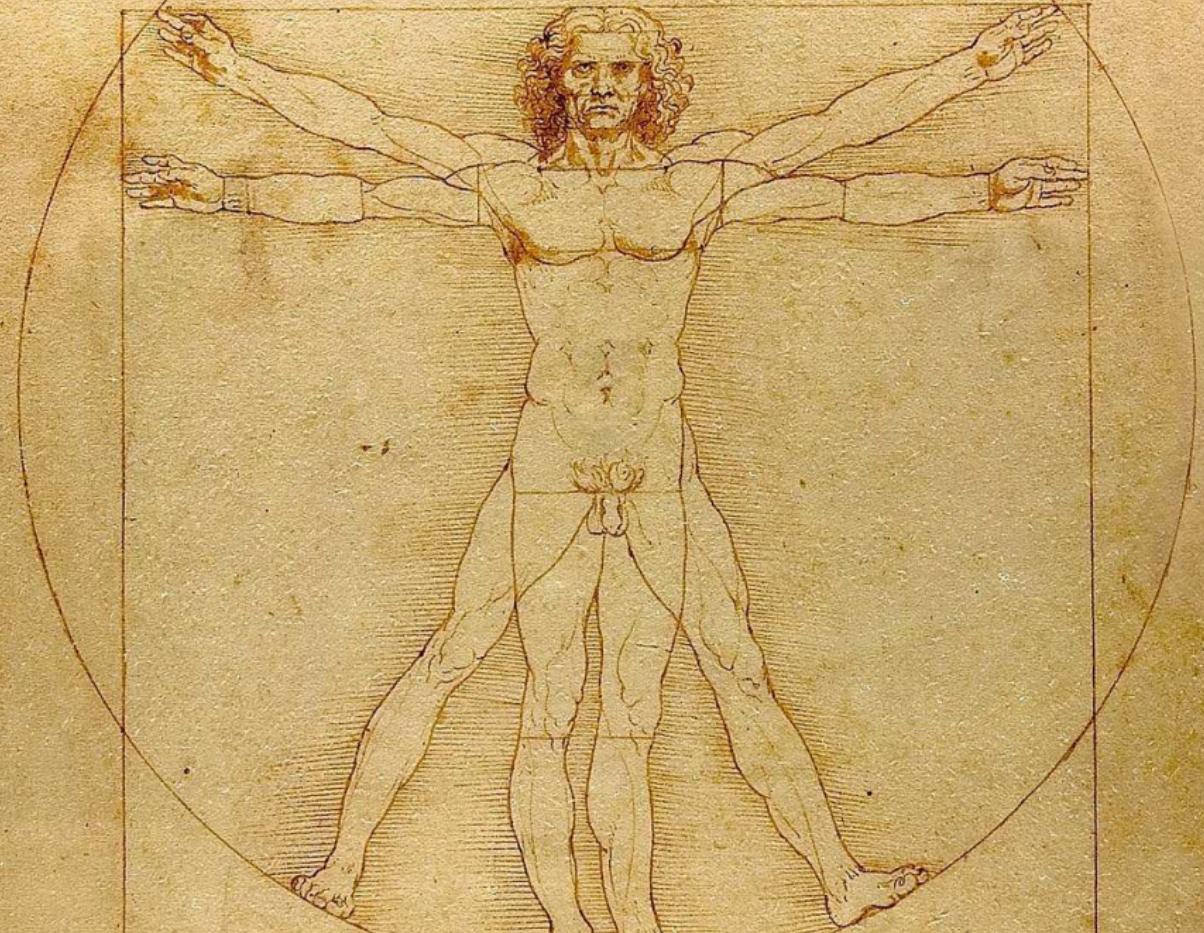
# Fractal division of an interval: nonbisectional



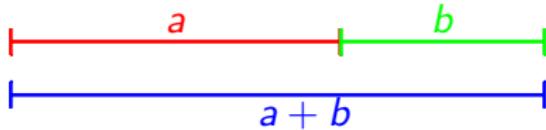
# Fractal division of an interval seen in a fractal



# Golden ratio



# The golden ratio



$$\frac{b}{a} = \frac{a}{a+b} = \varphi$$

The golden ratio in your wallet



# The golden ratio in music



The two sources of the Vltava      104

Forest - Hunting      38

143 (♩ = ♩) Village wedding      63

206 (♩ = ♩) Moonlight - Nymphs' dance      48      10

264 Tempo I      32      St John's Rapids      62

358 The Vltava's broad stream      26

384 Tema de Vyšehrad      66      2

Music score showing measures of Dvořák's "Tema de Vyšehrad". The score consists of two staves. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The second staff starts with a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. Measures 104, 38, 63, 48, 10, 32, 62, 26, 66, and 2 are highlighted with thick black bars.

Let's count beats:

|         |     |   | cumulative count | portion       |
|---------|-----|---|------------------|---------------|
|         | 104 | × | 2                |               |
| +       | 38  | × | 2                |               |
| +       | 63  | × | 2                |               |
| +       | 48  | × | 4                |               |
| +       | 10  | × | 4                |               |
| Tempo I |     |   | 642              |               |
| +       | 32  | × | 2                | {             |
| +       | 62  | × | 2                | $\varphi$     |
| +       | 26  | × | 2                |               |
| +       | 66  | × | 2                |               |
| +       | 1   | × | 2                |               |
| +       | 2   | × | 2                |               |
|         |     |   | 1020             | }             |
|         |     |   |                  | $1 - \varphi$ |

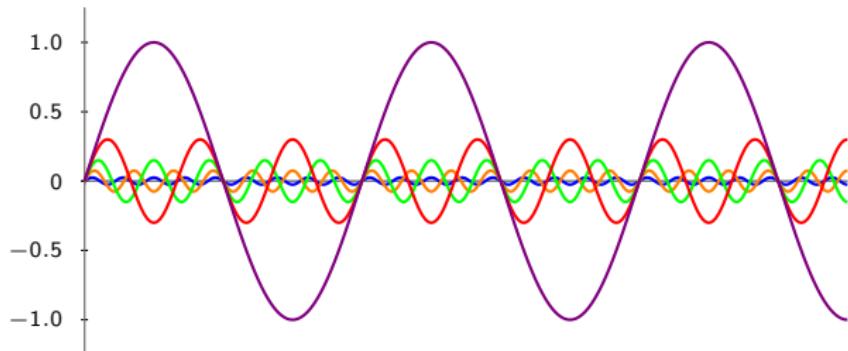
# Harmonics and semigroups



# Harmonics



# Harmonics



Frquency indicates the pitch:  $/a = 440Hz$ .

Frequency of harmonics: multiples of  $440Hz$  ( $880Hz$ ,  $1320Hz$ ,  $1760Hz$ , etc.)

# Harmonics: different models



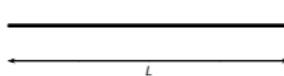
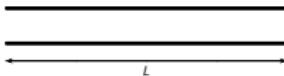
cylindrical open pipe



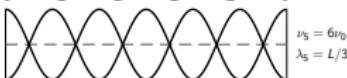
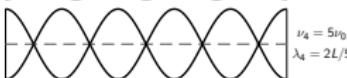
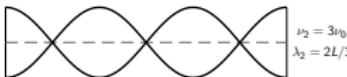
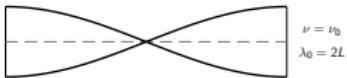
cylindrical closed pipe



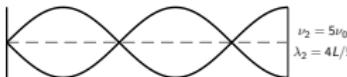
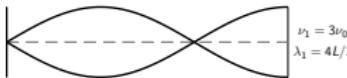
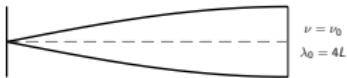
string



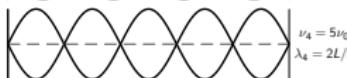
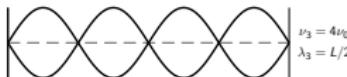
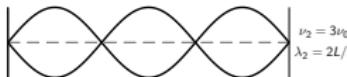
motion of the air



motion of the air



string vibration

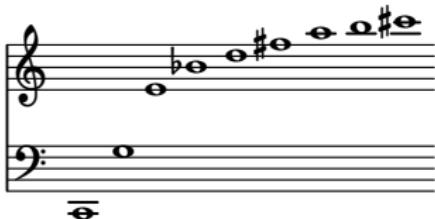


# Harmonics: different models

Strings and cylindrical open pipes:



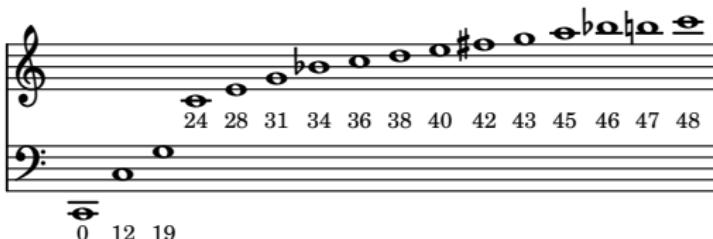
Cylindrical pipes with one open end and one closed end:



# Harmonics: 12-semitone count

Divide the octave into 12 equal semitones.

What semitone interval corresponds to each harmonic?



$$H_{open} = \{0, 12, 19, 24, 28, 31, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, \dots\}$$

↓      ↓      ↓      ↓      ↓      ↓      ↓      ↓      ↓      ↓      ↓      ↓      ↓      ↓

$$H_{closed} = \{0, 19, 28, 34, 38, 42, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 56, \dots\}$$

# Other equal divisions of the octave

Instruments such as the gamelan divide the octave into more than 12 parts.



Compositions exist in 19, 24, 31 and other equal temperaments.



Jeffrey Harrington

Prelude 3

19ET



Fabio Costa

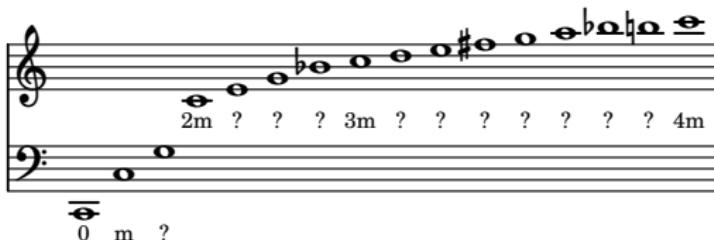
Aphoristic Madrigal

31ET

# Harmonics: m-semitone count

Divide the octave into  $m$  equal semitones.

What semitone interval corresponds to each harmonic?



$$H_{open} = \{0, m, ?, 2m, ?, ?, ?, 3m, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, 4m, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, \dots\}$$

↑      ↑      ↓      ↓      ↑      ↑      ↓      ↑      ↑      ↓      ↑      ↓      ↑

$$H_{closed} = \{0, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, \dots\}$$

# Numerical semigroups

Natural properties of  $H_{open}$  and  $H_{closed}$ :

- ▶  $H$  contains 0
  - ▶  $H$  has only a finite number of gaps
  - ▶  $H$  is closed under addition
    - ▶ overtones of an overtone of a fundamental tone should be overtones of that fundamental tone
    - ▶ if  $a \in H$  and  $b \in H$ , then  $a + b \in H$ .
- } numerical semigroup

# Logarithms, amplifying and discretizing

| $i$ | $\log_2(i)$ | $12 \log_2(i)$ | $[12 \log_2(i)]$ | $[12 \log_2(i)].4$ |
|-----|-------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1   | 0           | 0              | 0                | 0                  |
| 2   | 1           | 12             | 12               | 12                 |
| 3   | 1.58        | 19.02          | 19               | 19                 |
| 4   | 2           | 24             | 24               | 24                 |
| 5   | 2.32        | 27.86          | 28               | 28                 |
| 6   | 2.58        | 31.02          | 31               | 31                 |
| 7   | 2.81        | 33.69          | 34               | 34                 |
| 8   | 3           | 36             | 36               | 36                 |
| 9   | 3.17        | 38.04          | 38               | 38                 |
| 10  | 3.32        | 39.86          | 40               | 40                 |
| 11  | 3.46        | 41.51          | 42               | 42                 |
| 12  | 3.58        | 43.02          | 43               | 43                 |
| 13  | 3.70        | 44.41          | 44               | 45                 |
| 14  | 3.81        | 45.69          | 46               | 46                 |
| 15  | 3.91        | 46.88          | 47               | 47                 |
| 16  | 4           | 48             | 48               | 48                 |

# Tempered monoids



# Tempered monoids

The logarithm sequence  $L$  satisfies

- ▶  $0 \in L$
- ▶  $L$  is closed under addition
  - ▶ If  $a = \log_2(i)$  and  $b = \log_2(j)$ , then  $a + b = \log_2(i \times j)$
- ▶ Its terms get indefinitely close

} Tempered monoid



# Tempered monoids

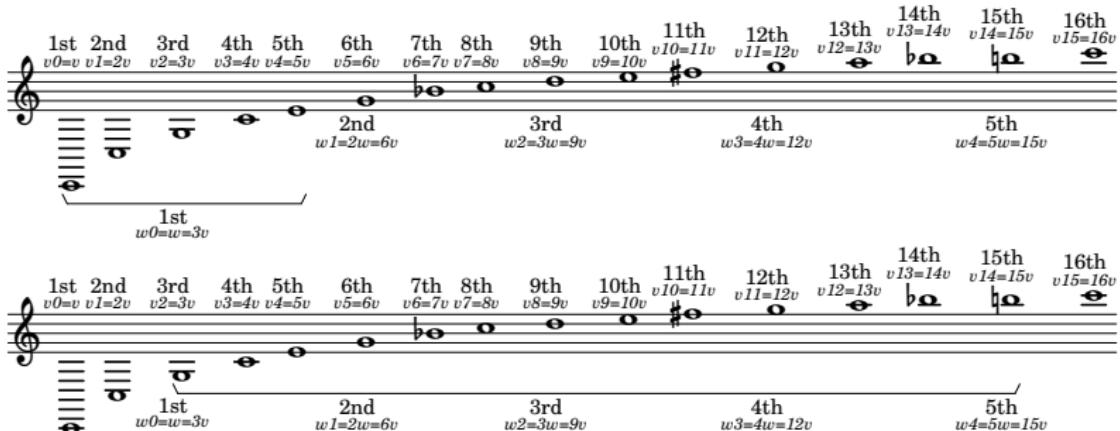
| Tempered monoids in $\mathbb{R}$ | Numerical semigroups in $\mathbb{N}$ |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| $0 \in M$                        | $0 \in H$                            |
| $M$ closed under addition        | $H$ closed under addition            |
| $M$ terms get indefinitely close | $H$ has finite number of gaps        |

Recall  $H = [12L]_{0.4}$ .

If the first non-zero term of  $M$  is 1,

$M$  tempered monoid  $\implies [mM]_\alpha$  likely to be a numerical semigroup with first non-zero term  $m$ .

# Product-compatible monoid



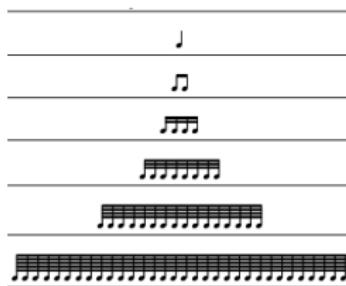
$$\text{pitch (5th harm.)} - \text{pitch (fundamental)} = \text{pitch (5th harm. of 3rd harm)} - \text{pitch (3rd harm.)}$$

$$\text{pitch}(a) - 0 = \text{pitch}(a \cdot b) - \text{pitch}(b)$$

$$\text{pitch}(a \cdot b) = \text{pitch}(a) + \text{pitch}(b)$$

# Product-compatible monoids

**Theorem:** The unique product-compatible monoid is the logarithm sequence.



# Proof

Suppose  $M = \mu_1, \mu_2, \dots$  with  $\mu_i < \mu_{i+1}$  and  $\mu_2 = 1$ .

$$\mu_{ab} = \mu_a + \mu_b \implies \mu_{a^j} = j\mu_a.$$

Claim:  $\mu_i = \log_2(i)$  for any  $i \in \mathbb{N}_0$ .

Otherwise,  $\mu_i < \log_2(i)$  (similarly if  $\mu_i > \log_2(i)$ ) and

$$\mu_i < p/q < \log_2(i).$$

Then

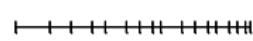
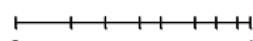
$$\mu_{i^q} = q\mu_i < p = p\mu_2 = \mu_{2^p},$$

but

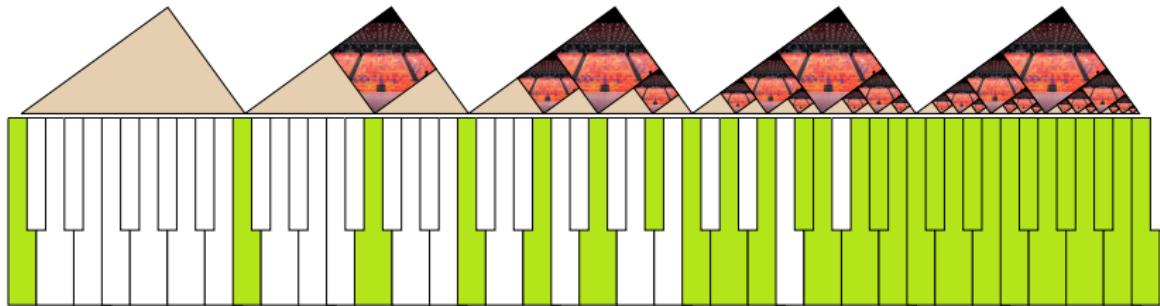
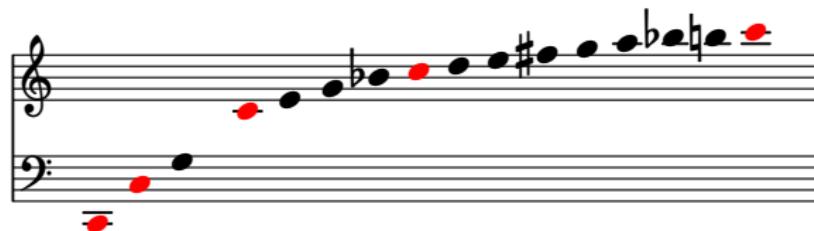
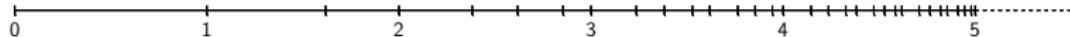
$$i^q = 2^{q \log_2(i)} > 2^p,$$

a contradiction.

# Fractal monoids

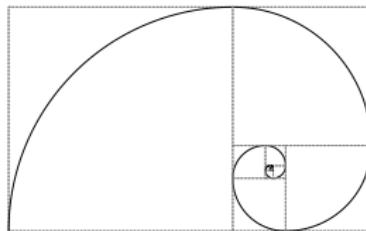


# Fractal monoids



# Fractal monoids

**Theorem:** The unique non-bisectional fractal monoid is the one given by dividing intervals by the golden ratio.



# Proof

1. The period  $\{1, 1 + \varphi\}$  generates a fractal monoid (DIFFICULT)
2. The unique non-bisectional normalized monoid is exactly the fractal monoid generated by  $\{1, 1 + \varphi\}$ . (EASY)

The first periods of the monoid must be (for some  $p \neq 0.5$ )

$$\{0\},$$

$$\{1, 1 + p\},$$

$$\{2, 2 + p^2, 2 + p, 2 + 2p - p^2\},$$

$$\{3, 3 + p^3, 3 + p^2, 3 + 2p^2 - p^3, 3 + p, 3 + p + p^2 - p^3, 3 + 2p - p^2, 3 + 3p - 3p^2 + p^3\},$$

$$(1 + p) + (1 + p) = 2 + 2p \in M.$$

If  $p < 0.5 \implies 2 + p < 2 + 2p < 3 \implies 2 + 2p = 2 + 2p - p^2 \implies p = 0$ .

If  $p > 0.5$ , then  $3 < 2 + 2p < 3 + p$ . Then either

►  $2 + 2p = 3 + p^3 \implies p^3 - 2p + 1 = (p^2 + p - 1)(p - 1) = 0$ .

Positive solutions:  $p = 1$  and  $p = \frac{-1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} = \varphi$ .

►  $2 + 2p = 3 + p^2 \implies p^2 - 2p + 1 = (p - 1)^2 = 0 \implies p = 1$ .

►  $2 + 2p = 3 + 2p^2 - p^3 \implies p^3 - 2p^2 + 2p - 1 = (p^2 - p + 1)(p - 1) = 0 \implies p = 1 \text{ or } p \notin \mathbb{R}$



# Simultaneous discretization

| $\log_2(i)$ | $12 \log_2(i)$ | $[12 \log_2(i)]_{0.40}$ | $[12F_i]_{1.00}$ | $12F_i$ | $F_i$ |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------|-------|
| 0           | 0              | 0                       | 0                | 0       | 0     |
| 1           | 12             | 12                      | 12               | 12      | 1     |
| 1.58        | 19.02          | 19                      | 19               | 19.42   | 1.62  |
| 2           | 24             | 24                      | 24               | 24      | 2     |
| 2.32        | 27.86          | 28                      | 28               | 28.58   | 2.38  |
| 2.58        | 31.02          | 31                      | 31               | 31.42   | 2.62  |
| 2.81        | 33.69          | 34                      | 34               | 34.25   | 2.85  |
| 3           | 36             | 36                      | 36               | 36      | 3     |
| 3.17        | 38.04          | 38                      | 38               | 38.83   | 3.24  |
| 3.32        | 39.86          | 40                      | 40               | 40.58   | 3.38  |
| 3.46        | 41.51          | 42                      | 42               | 42.33   | 3.53  |
| 3.58        | 43.02          | 43                      | 43               | 43.42   | 3.62  |
| 3.70        | 44.41          | 45                      | 45               | 45.17   | 3.76  |
| 3.81        | 45.69          | 46                      | 46               | 46.25   | 3.85  |
| 3.91        | 46.88          | 47                      | 47               | 47.33   | 3.94  |
| 4           | 48             | 48                      | 48               | 48      | 4     |

# Simultaneous discretization

But  $m = 12$  is not the unique option

| $\log_2(i)$ | $10 \log_2(i)$ | $[10 \log_2(i)]_{0.50}$ | $[10F_i]_{1.00}$ | $10F_i$ | $F_i$ |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------|-------|
| 0           | 0              | 0                       | 0                | 0       | 0     |
| 1           | 10             | 10                      | 10               | 10      | 1     |
| 1.58        | 15.85          | 16                      | 16               | 16.18   | 1.62  |
| 2           | 20             | 20                      | 20               | 20      | 2     |
| 2.32        | 23.22          | 23                      | 23               | 23.82   | 2.38  |
| 2.58        | 25.85          | 26                      | 26               | 26.18   | 2.62  |
| 2.81        | 28.07          | 28                      | 28               | 28.54   | 2.85  |
| 3           | 30             | 30                      | 30               | 30      | 3     |
| 3.17        | 31.70          | 32                      | 32               | 32.36   | 3.24  |
| 3.32        | 33.22          | 33                      | 33               | 33.82   | 3.38  |
| 3.46        | 34.59          | 35                      | 35               | 35.28   | 3.53  |
| 3.58        | 35.85          | 36                      | 36               | 36.18   | 3.62  |
| 3.70        | 37.00          | 37                      | 37               | 37.64   | 3.76  |
| 3.81        | 38.07          | 38                      | 38               | 38.54   | 3.85  |
| 3.91        | 39.07          | 39                      | 39               | 39.44   | 3.94  |
| 4           | 40             | 40                      | 40               | 40      | 4     |

# Simultaneous discretization

But  $m = 12$  is not the unique option

| $\log_2(i)$ | $13 \log_2(i)$ | $[13 \log_2(i)]_{0.18}$ | $[13F_i]_{0.94}$ | $13F_i$ | $F_i$ |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------|-------|
| 0           | 0              | 0                       | 0                | 0       | 0     |
| 1           | 13             | 13                      | 13               | 13      | 1     |
| 1.58        | 20.60          | 21                      | 21               | 21.03   | 1.62  |
| 2           | 26             | 26                      | 26               | 26      | 2     |
| 2.32        | 30.19          | 31                      | 31               | 30.97   | 2.38  |
| 2.58        | 33.60          | 34                      | 34               | 34.03   | 2.62  |
| 2.81        | 36.50          | 37                      | 37               | 37.10   | 2.85  |
| 3           | 39             | 39                      | 39               | 39      | 3     |
| 3.17        | 41.21          | 42                      | 42               | 42.07   | 3.24  |
| 3.32        | 43.19          | 44                      | 44               | 43.97   | 3.38  |
| 3.46        | 44.97          | 45                      | 45               | 45.86   | 3.53  |
| 3.58        | 46.60          | 47                      | 47               | 47.03   | 3.62  |
| 3.70        | 48.11          | 48                      | 48               | 48.93   | 3.76  |
| 3.81        | 49.50          | 50                      | 50               | 50.10   | 3.85  |
| 3.91        | 50.79          | 51                      | 51               | 51.28   | 3.94  |
| 4           | 52             | 52                      | 52               | 52      | 4     |

# Simultaneous discretization

But  $m = 12$  is not the unique option

| $\log_2(i)$ | $18 \log_2(i)$ | $[18 \log_2(i)]_{0.05}$ | $[18F_i]_{0.88}$ | $18F_i$ | $F_i$ |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------|-------|
| 0           | 0              | 0                       | 0                | 0       | 0     |
| 1           | 18             | 18                      | 18               | 18      | 1     |
| 1.58        | 28.53          | 29                      | 29               | 29.12   | 1.62  |
| 2           | 36             | 36                      | 36               | 36      | 2     |
| 2.32        | 41.79          | 42                      | 42               | 42.88   | 2.38  |
| 2.58        | 46.53          | 47                      | 47               | 47.12   | 2.62  |
| 2.81        | 50.53          | 51                      | 51               | 51.37   | 2.85  |
| 3           | 54             | 54                      | 54               | 54      | 3     |
| 3.17        | 57.06          | 58                      | 58               | 58.25   | 3.24  |
| 3.32        | 59.79          | 60                      | 60               | 60.88   | 3.38  |
| 3.46        | 62.27          | 63                      | 63               | 63.50   | 3.53  |
| 3.58        | 64.53          | 65                      | 65               | 65.12   | 3.62  |
| 3.70        | 66.61          | 67                      | 67               | 67.75   | 3.76  |
| 3.81        | 68.53          | 69                      | 69               | 69.37   | 3.85  |
| 3.91        | 70.32          | 71                      | 71               | 71.00   | 3.94  |
| 4           | 72             | 72                      | 72               | 72      | 4     |

# Simultaneous discretization

Why not using, then,  $m = 13$  or  $m = 18$ ? Recall:



| $\log_2(i)$ | $13 \log_2(i)$ | $[13 \log_2(i)]_{0.18}$ | $[13F_i]_{0.94}$ | $13F_i$ | $F_i$ |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------|-------|
| 0           | 0              | 0                       | 0                | 0       | 0     |
| 1           | 13             | 13                      | 13               | 13      | 1     |
| 1.58        | 20.60          | 21                      | 21               | 21.03   | 1.62  |
| 2           | 26             | 26                      | 26               | 26      | 2     |
| 2.32        | 30.19          | 31                      | 31               | 30.97   | 2.38  |
| 2.58        | 33.60          | 34                      | 34               | 34.03   | 2.62  |
| 2.81        | 36.50          | 37                      | 37               | 37.10   | 2.85  |
| 3           | 39             | 39                      | 39               | 39      | 3     |
| 3.17        | 41.21          | 42                      | 42               | 42.07   | 3.24  |
| 3.32        | 43.19          | 44                      | 44               | 43.97   | 3.38  |
| 3.46        | 44.97          | 45                      | 45               | 45.86   | 3.53  |
| 3.58        | 46.60          | 47                      | 47               | 47.03   | 3.62  |
| 3.70        | 48.11          | 48                      | 48               | 48.93   | 3.76  |
| 3.81        | 49.50          | 50                      | 50               | 50.10   | 3.85  |
| 3.91        | 50.79          | 51                      | 51               | 51.28   | 3.94  |
| 4           | 52             | 52                      | 52               | 52      | 4     |

# Conclusion

Multiplicity 12 gives the largest value for which the discretization of the unique product-compatible monoid keeps the property that every interval is successively divided using the same ratio (in fact, the golden ratio), and also, it satisfies the property of being half-closed-pipe admissible.

## Reference:

M. Bras-Amorós: *Tempered Monoids of Real Numbers, the Golden Fractal Monoid, and the Well-Tempered Harmonic Semigroup*, Semigroup Forum, Springer, vol. 99, n. 2, pp. 496-516, November 2019. ISSN: 0037-1912.

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Maria Bras-Amorós



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