

# Markov partitions for $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -actions

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Workshop on open problems in low complexity dynamics  
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# Outline

- Partitions for  $\mathbb{Z}$ -actions

*Symbolic representation of irrational rotations by Sturmian sequences*

*Markov partitions for hyperbolic toral automorphisms*

- Markov partitions for  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -actions

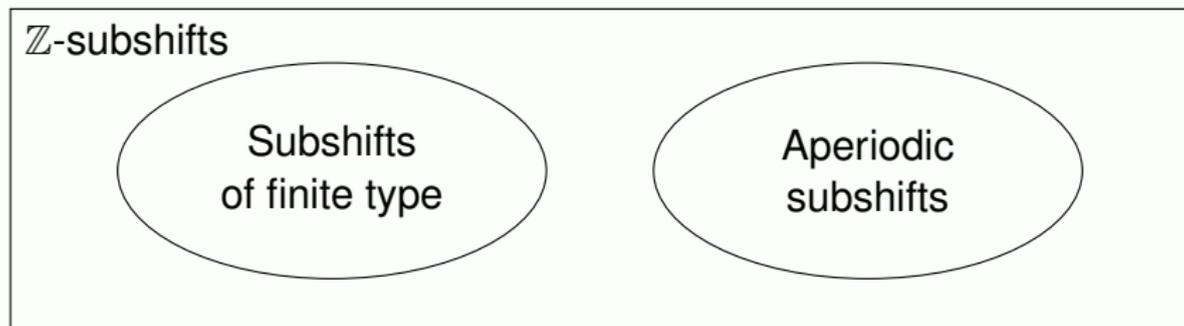
*Example 1*

*Example 2*

- Open Questions

*Few questions and related results from literature*

# An incompatibility for 1-dimensional subshifts

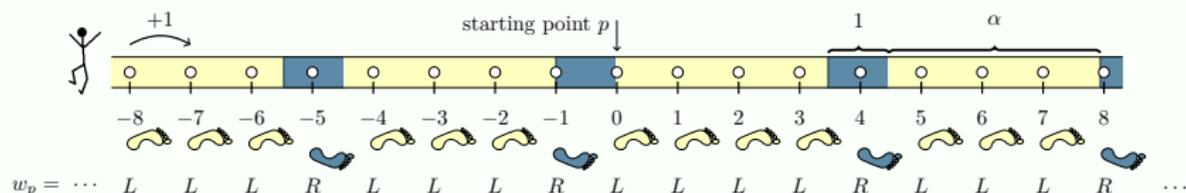


- Positive entropy
- $\exists$  periodic configurations
- Ex : Hyp. autom. of  $\mathbb{T}^2$
- $\exists$  Markov partition
- Entropy can be zero
- No periodic configurations
- Ex : Irrat. rotation on  $\mathbb{T}$
- No partition is Markov

 Lind and Marcus (1995),  Pytheas Fogg (2002)

## Irrational rotations on the circle

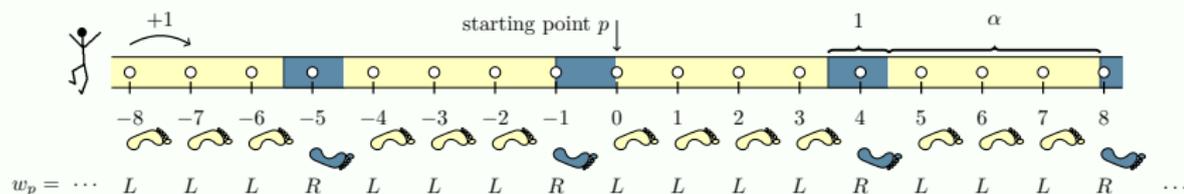
The rotation  $x \mapsto x + 1$  on the circle  $\mathbb{R}/(1 + \alpha)\mathbb{Z}$  can be represented symbolically by a partition of the circle into two intervals.



For  $\alpha > 0$ , let  $X_\alpha = \overline{\{w_p \in \{L, R\}^{\mathbb{Z}} \mid p \in \mathbb{R}\}}$ .

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For  $\alpha > 0$ , let  $X_\alpha = \overline{\{w_p \in \{L, R\}^{\mathbb{Z}} \mid p \in \mathbb{R}\}}$ . If  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ , then

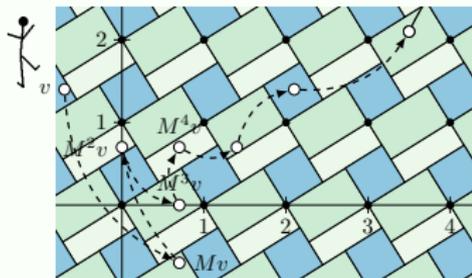
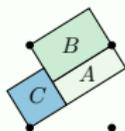
- (C1) the partition gives a **symbolic representation**, i.e., every sequence  $w \in X_\alpha$  is obtained from a unique starting point in  $\mathbb{R}/(1 + \alpha)\mathbb{Z}$ , ...and thus we have a factor map  $X_\alpha \rightarrow \mathbb{R}/(1 + \alpha)\mathbb{Z}$ ,
- (C2)  $X_\alpha$  is the set of sequences in  $\{L, R\}^{\mathbb{Z}}$  whose language has  $n + 1$  patterns of length  $n$  for all  $n \geq 0$  and whose letter frequencies exist and have ratio  $\alpha$  (**combinatorial independent definition**).

📄 Morse-Hedlund, 📄 Coven-Hedlund, 📖 Pytheas Fogg, 📖 Lothaire.

# Hyperbolic automorphisms of the torus

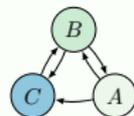
The hyperbolic automorphism  $v \mapsto Mv$  with  $M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  on the torus  $\mathbb{T}^2 = \mathbb{R}^2/\mathbb{Z}^2$  can be represented symbolically by a partition of the torus into three rectangles. E.g., starting at position  $v = \left(\frac{-7}{10}, \frac{14}{10}\right)^T$ :

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



the sequence:

$$w = CBABABCB\dots$$



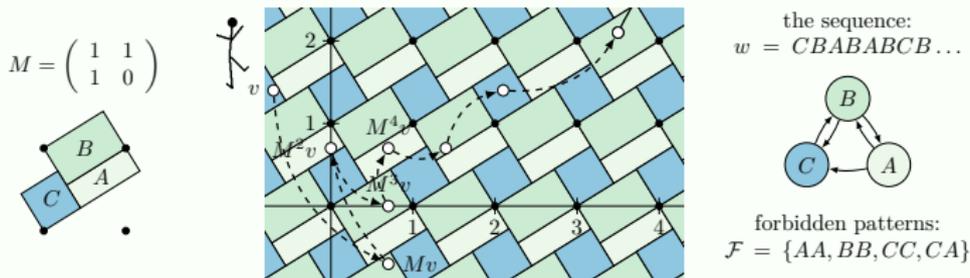
forbidden patterns:

$$\mathcal{F} = \{AA, BB, CC, CA\}$$

$$\text{Let } \mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{P}, M} = \overline{\{w_v \in \{A, B, C\}^{\mathbb{Z}} \mid v \in \mathbb{T}^2\}}.$$

# Hyperbolic automorphisms of the torus

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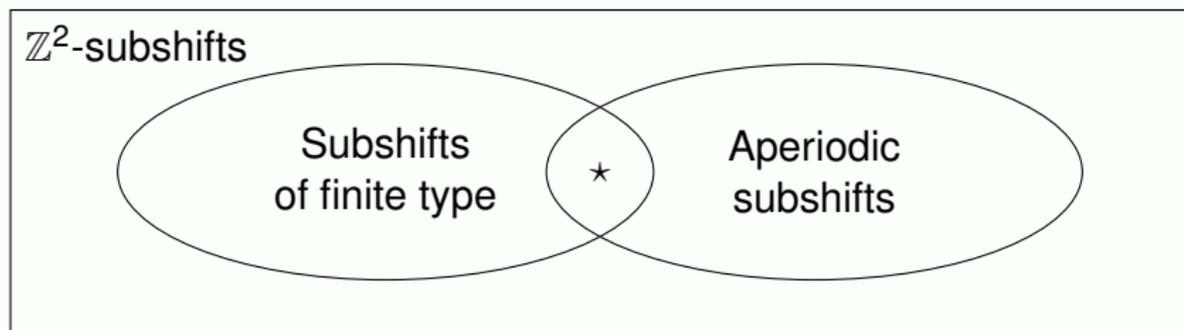


Let  $\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{P}, M} = \overline{\{w_v \in \{A, B, C\}^{\mathbb{Z}} \mid v \in \mathbb{T}^2\}}$ . The partition of  $\mathbb{T}^2$  is a **Markov partition** for the automorphism (see  Lind, Marcus, 1995) if :

- (C1)** the partition gives a **symbolic representation**, i.e., every sequence in  $\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{P}, M}$  is obtained from a unique starting point in  $\mathbb{T}^2$ ,
- (C2')** the set  $\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{P}, M}$  is a **shift of finite type** (SFT), i.e., there exists a finite set  $\mathcal{F}$  of patterns such that  $\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{P}, M}$  is the set of sequences in  $\{A, B, C\}^{\mathbb{Z}}$  which avoids the patterns in  $\mathcal{F}$ .

 Adler and Weiss (1970),  Sinaï (1968),  Bowen (1975).

# Is compatible for 2-dimensional subshifts



★ : Existence of 2-dim. aperiodic subshifts of finite type :

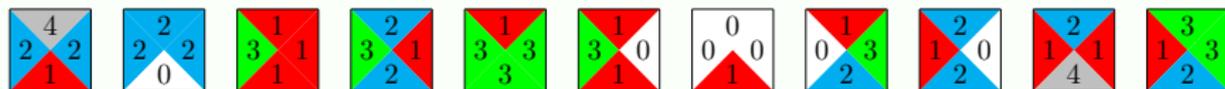
 Berger (1966),  Knuth (1969),  Robinson (1971),  
 Kari (1996),  Jeandel-Rao (2015).

## 1D vs 2D

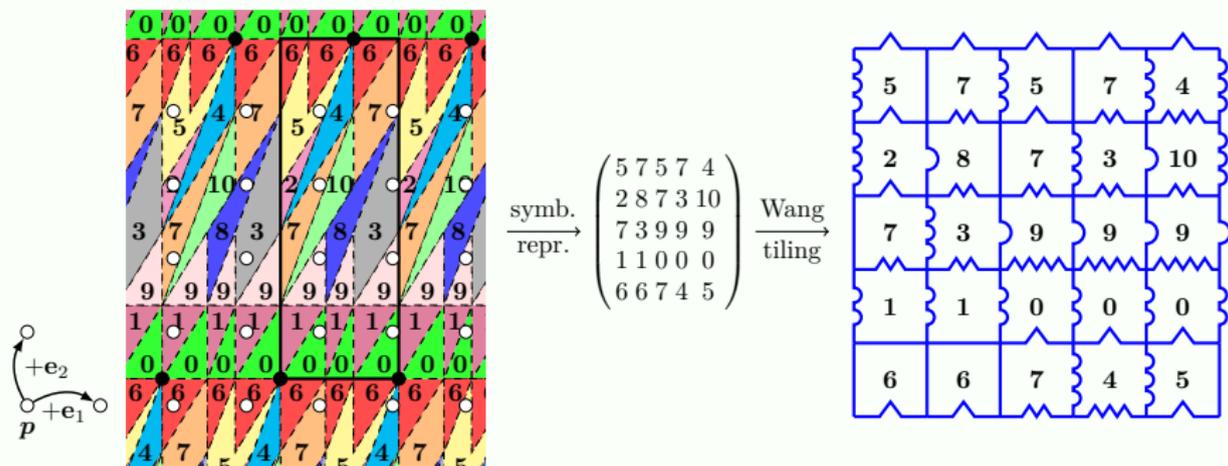
**No partition** of  $\mathbb{T}$  is Markov for an aperiodic  $\mathbb{Z}$ -action, but their existence **can not be excluded** for free/zero entropy  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -actions

Note :  Einsiedler and Schmidt (1997) considered Markov partitions for  $\mathbb{Z}^d$ -actions by automorphisms

# Jeandel-Rao tiles and associated partition



A total partition allows to create tilings of the plane with these tiles :



## Example 1 : A Markov partition for a $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -action

Let  $\Gamma$  be the **lattice**  $\Gamma = \langle (\varphi, 0), (1, \varphi + 3) \rangle_{\mathbb{Z}}$  where  $\varphi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$ .

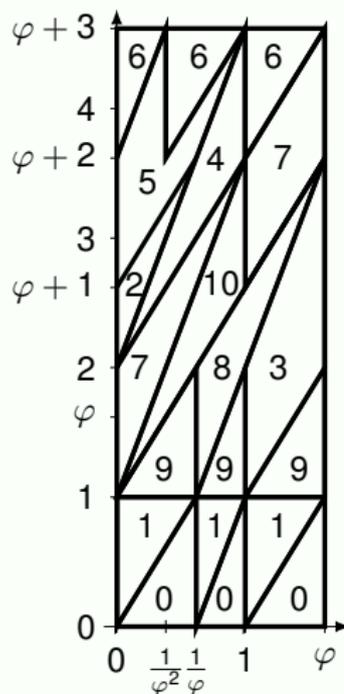
We consider the  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -**action** on the **torus**  $\mathbb{R}^2/\Gamma$  :

$$\begin{aligned} R : \mathbb{Z}^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2/\Gamma &\rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2/\Gamma \\ (\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{x}) &\mapsto \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{n}. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\mathcal{P} = \{P_t\}_{t \in \{0, \dots, 10\}}$  be the partition of the **fundamental domain**  $D = [0, \varphi[ \times [0, \varphi + 3[$  into 11 polygonal atoms shown on the right.

### Theorem

$\mathcal{P}$  is a Markov partition for  $\mathbb{Z}^2 \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}^2/\Gamma$ .



Markov partitions for toral  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -rotations featuring Jeandel-Rao Wang shift and model sets, *Annales Henri Lebesgue* 4 (2021) 283-324. doi:10.5802/ah.1.73

Substitutive structure of Jeandel-Rao aperiodic tilings, *Discr. & Comput. Geom.* 65 (2021) 800-855. doi:10.1007/s00454-019-00153-3

Rauzy induction of polygon partitions and toral  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -rotations, arXiv:1906.01104v3

# Results on Jeandel-Rao Wang shift $\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{P},R} \subsetneq \Omega_0$

## Theorem

- $\mathcal{P}$  gives a **symbolic representation** of  $(\mathbb{R}^2/\Gamma, \mathbb{Z}^2, R)$
- there exists an **almost 1-1 factor** map  $f : \mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{P},R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2/\Gamma$
- $(\mathbb{R}^2/\Gamma, \mathbb{Z}^2, R)$  is the **maximal equicontinuous factor** of  $(\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{P},R}, \mathbb{Z}^2, \sigma)$ .
- $\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{P},R}$  is a **proper minimal, aperiodic and uniquely ergodic** subshift of the Jeandel-Rao Wang shift, i.e.,  $\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{P},R} \subsetneq \Omega_0$ .
- The **measure-preserving** dynamical system  $(\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{P},R}, \mathbb{Z}^2, \sigma, \nu)$  is **isomorphic** to  $(\mathbb{R}^2/\Gamma, \mathbb{Z}^2, R, \lambda)$  where
  - $\nu$  is the unique shift-invariant probability measure on  $\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{P},R}$
  - $\lambda$  is the Haar measure on  $\mathbb{R}^2/\Gamma$ .
- Occurrences of patterns in  $\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{P},R}$  is a **4-to-2 C&P set**.

 Markov partitions for toral  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -rotations featuring Jeandel-Rao Wang shift and model sets, *Annales Henri Lebesgue* 4 (2021) 283-324. doi:10.5802/ahl.73

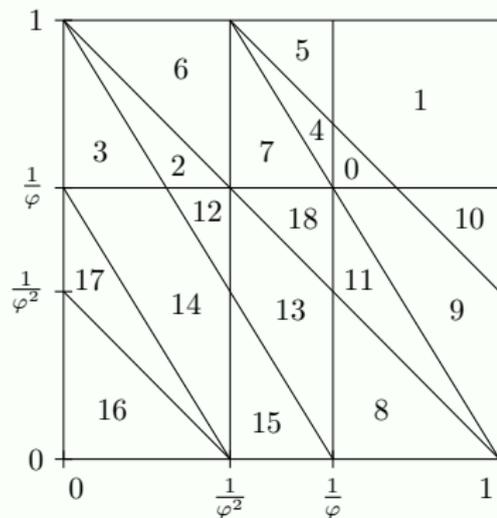
## Example 2 : A Markov partition for a $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -action

Let  $\varphi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$ . We consider the  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -action on  $\mathbb{T}^2$

$$R_U : \mathbb{Z}^2 \times \mathbb{T}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^2$$

$$(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{x}) \mapsto \mathbf{x} + \varphi^{-2}\mathbf{n}.$$

Let  $\mathcal{P}_U = \{P_t\}_{t \in \{0, \dots, 18\}}$  be the partition of the **fundamental domain**  $D = [0, 1]^2$  into 19 polygonal atoms shown on the right.



### Theorem

$\mathcal{P}_U$  is a Markov partition for  $\mathbb{Z}^2 \curvearrowright R_U \mathbb{R}^2 / \Gamma$ .

 A self-similar aperiodic set of 19 Wang tiles, *Geometriae Dedicata* 201 (2019) 81-109  
doi:10.1007/s10711-018-0384-8

 Three characterizations of a self-similar aperiodic 2-dimensional subshift,  
a chapter to appear in a book edited by N. Aubrun and M. Rao, arXiv:2012.03892

## Open questions (starting with $d = 2$ )

### Question

Characterize  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -rotations on  $\mathbb{T}^2$  which admit a Markov partition.

Ideas :

- $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -rotations must be given by computable numbers
- $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -rotations must be given by algebraic integers

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When is the Markov partition of a  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -action polygonal ?

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### Question

Which polygonal partitions are Markov for a  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -action ?

## Vector subspaces characterized by patterns

A generic  $d$ -dimensional vector subspace  $V \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is said to be **characterized by patterns** if there is a finite set of (finite) patterns, called forbidden patterns, such that any projection tiling with generic physical space which does not contain any of these patterns is a canonical projection tiling with physical space  $V$ .

(I think what they mean by generic is equivalent to  $V \cap \mathbb{Z}^n = \{0\}$ )

### Corollary 1 (Bédaride, Fernique, 2020)

Any generic  $d$ -dimensional vector subspace characterized by patterns is **algebraic**.

 Bédaride, Fernique. Canonical projection tilings defined by patterns *Geometriae Dedicata* 208 (2020) 157-175 doi:10.1007/s10711-020-00515-9

To learn about canonical projection tilings and model sets :

 Baake, Grimm. *Aperiodic Order. Vol. 1*, Cambridge Univ. Press, 2013.  
doi:10.1017/CB09781139025256

## When $\beta$ -shift are of finite type

Recall that the  $\beta$ -shift  $S_\beta$  is the closure of the set of  $\beta$ -expansions of numbers in  $[0, 1)$ .

### Theorem

The  $\beta$ -shift  $S_\beta$  is a coded symbolic dynamical system which is

- **sofic** if and only if  $d_\beta(1)$  is eventually periodic, i.e.,  $\beta$  is **Parry number**,
- **of finite type** if and only if  $d_\beta(1)$  is finite, i.e.,  $\beta$  is **simple Parry number**.

Parry numbers  $\subset$  Perron number  $\subset$  Algebraic integers

 Ito and Takahashi 1974,  Bertrand-Mathis 1986,

 Blanchard 1989,  CANT, Chapter 2 and Theorem 2.3.15

# Fractal Markov Partitions

## Theorem (Bowen, 1978)

The boundaries of the sets in a Markov partition for linear Anosov diffeomorphisms of  $\mathbb{T}^3$  **cannot be smooth**.

 Bowen, Rufus. Markov partitions are not smooth. Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society 71 (1978) 130-32. doi:10.2307/2042234

Example : a Markov partition for the automorphism  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  of  $\mathbb{T}^3$  is :

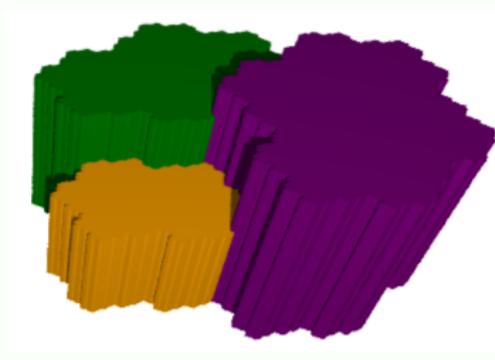


Image credit : Timo Jolivet's talk, *Toral automorphisms, Markov Partitions and fractals*, Japan, 2012.

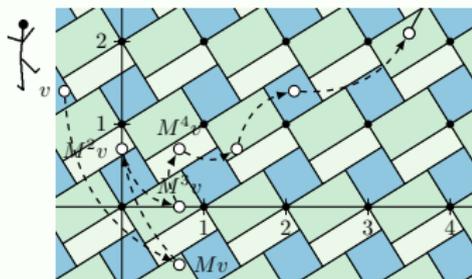
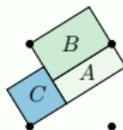
# Smooth Markov Partitions

## Theorem (Cawley, 1991)

The only hyperbolic toral automorphisms  $f$  for which there exist Markov partitions with piecewise **smooth boundary** are those for which a power  $f^k$  is linearly covered by a **direct product of automorphisms of the 2-torus**.

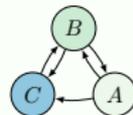
 Cawley, Elise, Smooth Markov partitions and toral automorphisms. Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems 11 (1991) 633-51. doi:10.1017/S0143385700006404

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



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forbidden patterns:

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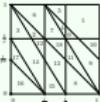


## Question

The Rauzy fractal, which codes some rotation  $x \mapsto x + \xi$  on  $\mathbb{T}^2$ , is a section of the Markov partition  for the automorphism

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ of } \mathbb{T}^3.$$

## Question

What is the relation between the Markov partition  $\mathcal{P}_U =$  , which codes the  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -rotation  $R_U$  on  $\mathbb{T}^2$ , and the Markov partition of  $\mathbb{T}^8$  associated to the restriction of the action of the  $19 \times 19$  matrix  $M$  to the 8-dimensional subspace on which it is an hyperbolic automorphism?