

# Szemerédi's Theorem via Ergodic Theory

Peter Oberly

Portland State University

May 17, 2019

# Arithmetic Progressions

## Definition (Arithmetic Progressions)

An *arithmetic progression* is a finite sequence of integers

$$\{a + jb\}_{j=0}^{k-1}$$

where  $b \neq 0$ . The *length* of an arithmetic progression is the number of terms in the sequence.

- ▶ For example,  $\{2, 4, 6\}$  and  $\{-100, 5, 110, 215\}$  are arithmetic progressions of length three and four.

## van der Waerden's theorem

Theorem (van der Waerden, 1927)

*Suppose that the integers are partitioned into finitely many sets.  
Then some member of the partition contains an arithmetic  
progression arbitrary length.*

..., -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, ...

# Density

## Definition (Upper Density)

Let  $A \subset \mathbb{Z}$ . The *upper density* of  $A$  is the real number

$$\bar{d}(A) = \limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2N+1} |A \cap \{-N, \dots, N\}|.$$

- ▶  $\bar{d}(2\mathbb{Z}) = \frac{1}{2}$ .
- ▶  $\bar{d}(\text{primes}) = 0$ .

# Density

- ▶ Why lim sup?
- ▶ The natural density  $\lim_N \frac{1}{2N+1} |A \cap \{-N, \dots, N\}|$  does not exist in general.
- ▶ Example: Set  $I_n = \{1 - 2^{n+1}, \dots, -2^n\} \cup \{2^n, \dots, 2^{n+1} - 1\}$ . Then  $\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} I_{2n}$  does not have a natural density.

# Hungarian School

- ▶ Ask hard questions and see what theory develops.

- ▶ Conjecture (Erdős, Turán (1936))

Let  $A \subset \mathbb{Z}$  have  $\bar{d}(A) > 0$ . Then  $A$  contains an arithmetic progression of length  $k$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

- ▶ Roth (1953): Case  $k = 3$  using harmonic analysis.
- ▶ Szemerédi (1969): Case  $k = 4$  using combinatorics.
- ▶ Szemerédi (1975): Any  $k$ , using combinatorics.

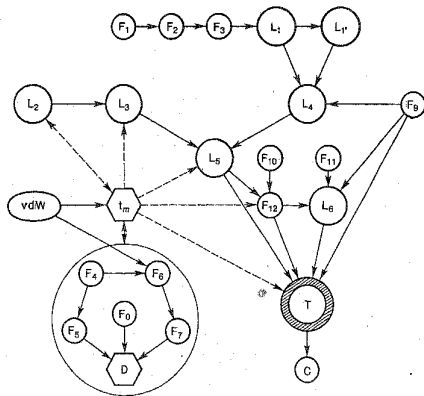
# Szemerédi

## Theorem (Szemerédi (1975))

*Let  $A \subset \mathbb{Z}$  have  $\bar{d}(A) > 0$ . Then  $A$  contains an arithmetic progression of length  $k$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .*

- ▶ Only restriction on  $A$  is that it have positive size or content.
- ▶ Szemerédi's proof is notable for only using "elementary methods", though is very intricate.

# Szemerédi





# Known Methods of Proof

- ▶ Combinatorics (Szemerédi, 1975)
- ▶ Ergodic theory (Furstenberg, 1977 / 1979 with Katznelson)
- ▶ Harmonic analysis (Gowers, 2001)
- ▶ Graph and hypergraph theory (Szemerédi, Rusza for  $k = 3$  1978 / general case Gowers et al 2006)

# Furstenberg's Proof

- ▶ Furstenberg (1977): General case using ergodic theory.
- ▶ Furstenberg's proof is simpler than Szemerédi's in many ways.
- ▶ Generalized to produce many new interesting results.

## Sequence Spaces

- ▶ Let  $\Omega = 2^{\mathbb{Z}} = \{\{\omega_n\}_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} : \omega_n \in \{0, 1\}\}$  be the space of bi-infinite sequences with coordinates in  $\{0, 1\}$ .
- ▶ The map  $A \mapsto \chi_A$  sends a subset  $A \subset \mathbb{Z}$  into  $\Omega$ .
- ▶ The shift map  $S : \Omega \rightarrow \Omega$  is defined by

$$S(\dots, \omega_{-1}, \hat{\omega}_0, \omega_1, \dots) = (\dots, \omega_{-1}, \omega_0, \hat{\omega}_1, \dots).$$

# Sequence Spaces

- ▶ When given the product topology, the space  $\Omega = 2^{\mathbb{Z}}$  is compact and metrizable.
- ▶ One such metric is

$$d(\omega, \omega') = \inf\left\{\frac{1}{k+1} : \omega_j = \omega'_j \text{ for } |j| < k\right\}$$

when  $\omega_0 = \omega'_0$ , and  $d(\omega, \omega') = 1$  if  $\omega_0 \neq \omega'_0$

- ▶ The shift map  $S$  is a homeomorphism with respect to this topology

## Arithmetic Progressions in Sequence Space

- ▶  $\{m + jb\}_{j=0}^k \subset A$  if and only if  
 $\chi_A(m) = \chi_A(m + b) = \dots = \chi_A(m + kb) = 1$
- ▶ That is, if and only if  
 $(S^m \chi_A)(0) = (S^{m+b} \chi_A)(0) = \dots = (S^{m+kb} \chi_A)(0) = 1.$
- ▶ Let  $\Omega_0 = \{\omega : \omega_0 = 1\}$ . Then

$$\{m + jb\}_{j=0}^k \subset A \iff S^m \chi_A \in \bigcap_{j=0}^k S^{-jb}(\Omega_0)$$

## A Focused Sequence Space

- ▶ Let  $X = \text{cl} \{S^n \chi_A\}_{n=-\infty}^{\infty}$ .
- ▶  $X$  is a compact metric space, and is  $S$ -invariant.
- ▶ The set  $X_0 = \Omega_0 \cap X = \{x \in X : x_0 = 1\}$  is open in  $X$ .
- ▶ So  $\bigcap_{j=0}^k S^{-jb}(X_0)$  is open in  $X$ .

## A Focused Sequence Space

- ▶ Suppose  $\bigcap_{j=0}^k S^{-jb}(X_0) \neq \emptyset$ .
- ▶ As  $\{S^n \chi_A\}_{n=-\infty}^{\infty}$  is dense in  $X$ , then there is an  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$  so that  $S^m(\chi_A) \in \bigcap_{j=0}^k S^{-jb}(X_0)$ .
- ▶ Therefore, to show that  $A$  contains an arithmetic progression of length  $k + 1$ , it suffices to show that  $\bigcap_{j=0}^k S^{-jb}(X_0) \neq \emptyset$  for some  $b$  depending on  $k$ .

# Measure Preserving Systems

## Definition

Let  $(Y, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$  be a probability space. Let  $T : Y \rightarrow Y$  be a measurable map so that  $\mu(T^{-1}(E)) = \mu(E)$  for all  $E \in \mathcal{B}$ . Then the quadruple  $(Y, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T)$  is called a *measure preserving system*.

$(Y, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T)$  is *ergodic* if  $T^{-1}(B) = B$ , where  $B \in \mathcal{B}$ , implies  $\mu(B) = 0$  or  $1$ .

- ▶ Furstenberg noticed that  $\bigcap_{j=0}^k S^{-jb}(X_0) \neq \emptyset$  will follow from a generalization of the Poincaré recurrence theorem applied to  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu, S)$  for some suitable measure  $\mu$ , and where  $\mathcal{B}$  are the Borel subsets of  $X$ .



# Recurrence

## Theorem (Poincaré-Carathéodory, 1919)

Let  $(Y, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T)$  be a measure preserving system. Let  $B \in \mathcal{B}$  with  $\mu(B) > 0$ . Then  $\mu(B \cap T^{-n}B) > 0$  for some  $n \geq 1$ .

## Theorem (Multiple Recurrence, Furstenberg, 1977)

Let  $(Y, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T)$  be a measure preserving system. Let  $B \in \mathcal{B}$  with  $\mu(B) > 0$ . Then for all  $k$ , there is an  $n \geq 1$  so that

$$\mu\left(\bigcap_{j=0}^k T^{-jn}(B)\right) > 0$$

# The Correspondence

## Theorem

*Furstenberg's multiple recurrence theorem implies Szemerédi's theorem.*

Outline of proof:

- ▶  $(X, \mathcal{B}, *, S)$  is close to being a measure preserving system.
- ▶ Use functional analysis to summon a measure  $\mu$  which is  $S$ -invariant, and so that  $\mu(X_0) > 0$ .
- ▶ Multiple recurrence theorem will then imply  $\mu(\bigcap_{j=0}^k S^{-jb}(X_0)) > 0$ .

# Proof of the Correspondence

Proof.

- ▶ Suppose  $A \subset \mathbb{Z}$  has  $\bar{d}(A) > 0$ .
- ▶ Let  $\delta_n$  be the probability measures on  $X$  given by  $\delta_n(B) = 1$  if  $S^n(\chi_A) \in B$  and 0 otherwise.
- ▶ Define probability measures on  $(X, \mathcal{B})$

$$\mu_N(B) = \frac{1}{2N+1} \sum_{n=-N}^{n=N} \delta_n.$$

# Proof of Correspondence

Proof continued.

- ▶ Notice that  $\delta_n(X_0) = 1$  if and only if  $S^n(\chi_A) \in X_0$ .
- ▶ That is, if and only if  $\chi_A(n) = 1$
- ▶ Therefore

$$\mu_N(X_0) = \frac{1}{2N+1} \sum_{n=-N}^{n=N} \delta_n(X_0) = \frac{1}{2N+1} |A \cap \{-N, \dots, N\}|.$$

# Proof of Correspondence

Proof continued.

- ▶ Choose  $\{\mu_{N_j}\}$  so that

$$\mu_{N_j}(X_0) \rightarrow \overline{d}(A) = \limsup_N \frac{1}{2N+1} |A \cap \{-N, \dots, N\}|.$$

- ▶ The sequence  $\{\mu_{N_j}\}$  lives in the closed unit ball of  $M(X)$ .
- ▶ As  $X$  is a compact metric space,  $C(X)$  is separable.
- ▶ By Alaoglu's theorem, the closed unit ball of  $M(X)$  is sequentially compact in the weak\* topology.

# Proof of Correspondence

Proof continued.

- ▶ Let  $\mu$  be a weak\* limit point of  $\{\mu_{N_j}\}$ .
- ▶ Then  $\mu(X_0) = \bar{d}(A) > 0$ .
- ▶ The only thing left to show is that  $\mu \circ S^{-1} = \mu$ .

# Proof of Correspondence

Proof continued.

- ▶ Notice that  $\mu_N \circ S^{-1} = \frac{1}{2N+1} \sum_{n=-N}^N \delta_{n+1}$ .
- ▶ So  $\mu_N \circ S^{-1} - \mu_N = \frac{1}{2N+1} (\delta_{N+1} - \delta_{-N})$ .
- ▶  $\|\delta_{N+1} - \delta_{-N}\| \leq 2$  so  $\mu_N \circ S^{-1} - \mu_N \rightarrow 0$
- ▶ So  $\mu \circ S^{-1} - \mu = 0$ .



# Bernoulli Schemes

- ▶ Bernoulli schemes are sequence spaces which model infinite trials.
- ▶ Let  $F = \{1, \dots, r\}$  be a finite set and let  $p = (p_1, \dots, p_r)$  be a probability vector on  $F$ ; so  $p_j \geq 0$  and  $\sum_j p_j = 1$ .
- ▶ A *cylinder set*  $C \subset F^{\mathbb{Z}}$  is defined on finitely many coordinates  $C = \{(\dots, x_{-1}, x_0, x_1, \dots) : x_{i_1} = j_1, \dots, x_{i_n} = j_n\}$ ,  $j_k \in F$ .
- ▶ E.g.  $C = \{(\dots, x_{-1}, x_0, x_1, \dots) : x_{-1} = 3, x_{10} = 2\}$  is a cylinder set.



# Bernoulli Schemes

## Definition

Let  $F = \{1, \dots, r\}$  be a finite set, let  $p = (p_1, \dots, p_r)$  be a probability vector on  $F$  and let  $\mathcal{B}$  be the  $\sigma$ -algebra generated by cylinder sets. Define  $\mu$  to be

$$\mu(\{x : x_{i_1} = j_1, \dots, x_{i_n} = j_n\}) = p_{j_1} \cdots p_{j_n}$$

on cylinder sets. Extend  $\mu$  to  $\mathcal{B}$ , and let  $S$  be the shift map  $S(\dots, x_{-1}, \hat{x}_0, x_1, \dots) = (x_{-1}, x_0, \hat{x}_1, \dots)$ . Then  $(F^{\mathbb{Z}}, \mathcal{B}, \mu, S)$  is a measure preserving system, and is called a *Bernoulli scheme*.

# Bernoulli Schemes

## Example: Infinite Coin Flips

- ▶ Let  $F = \{H, T\}$ ,  $p = (1/2, 1/2)$ .
- ▶  $(F^{\mathbb{Z}}, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$  models flipping a coin infinitely many times.
- ▶  $\mu(\{x : x_{-10} = T, x_2 = H, x_3 = T\}) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{8}$

## Bernoulli Schemes

- ▶ Bernoulli schemes satisfy the multiple recurrence theorem.
- ▶ If  $C$  is a cylinder set, then  $C$  is defined on finitely many coordinates.
- ▶ Therefore there are infinitely many  $n$  so that  $S^{-n}(C)$  and  $C$  are defined on different coordinates.
- ▶ For such  $n$ , then  $\mu(S^{-n}(C) \cap C) = \mu(C)\mu(C) = \mu(C)^2$ .
- ▶ For any  $k$ , we can find  $n$  (which will be large) so that  $\mu(C \cap S^{-n}(C) \cap \dots \cap S^{-kn}(C)) = \mu(C)^{k+1} > 0$ .

# Bernoulli Schemes

- ▶ If  $A$  is measurable and  $\mu(A) > 0$ , we can approximate  $A$  by cylinder sets.
- ▶ As  $n$  gets very large, the cylinder sets approximating  $A$  will be all defined on different coordinates
- ▶ So  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu(A \cap S^{-n}(A) \cdots \cap S^{-kn}(A)) = \mu(A)^{k+1} > 0$ .
- ▶ This implies that multiple recurrence holds for Bernoulli schemes.

## Circle Rotations

- ▶ Let  $(S^1, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$  be the probability space on the circle  $S^1 \cong \mathbb{R} / \mathbb{Z}$  with Borel sets  $\mathcal{B}$  and normalized Lebesgue measure  $\mu$ .
- ▶ For  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$  define  $T_\alpha : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$  by  $T_\alpha(x) = x + \alpha \pmod{1}$
- ▶ The quadruple  $(S^1, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T_\alpha)$  is a measure preserving system.
- ▶ If  $\alpha$  is rational then  $T_\alpha$  is periodic.
- ▶ Taking  $n$  to be the period of  $T_\alpha$  shows  $\mu(A \cap T^{-n}(A) \cap \dots \cap T^{-kn}(A)) = \mu(A)$  for any  $k$ .
- ▶ [Link](#)

# Circle Rotations

- ▶ If  $\alpha \notin \mathbb{Q}$ , then  $\{m\alpha\}_{m=0}^{\infty}$  is dense in  $S^1$ .
- ▶ For any  $\delta > 0$  we can choose  $n \geq 1$  so that  $0, n\alpha, 2n\alpha, \dots, kn\alpha \in (-\delta, \delta) \pmod{1}$ .
- ▶ In fact, the set of  $n$  so that  $0, n\alpha, \dots, kn\alpha \in (-\delta, \delta) \pmod{1}$  has positive lower density.

## Circle Rotations

- ▶ For these  $n$ ,  $T^{-n}, \dots, T^{-kn}$  are close to the identity.
- ▶ So  $A \cap T^{-n}(A) \cap \dots \cap T^{-kn}(A)$  has measure close to that of  $A$ .
- ▶ In fact,

$$\liminf_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \mu(A \cap T^{-n}(A) \cap \dots \cap T^{-kn}(A)) > C\mu(A) > 0$$

for some positive constant  $C$ , and where  $\mu(A) > 0$ .

# SZ System

## Definition (SZ)

A measure preserving system  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T)$  is *SZ* or is a *SZ system* if for  $A \in \mathcal{B}$  with  $\mu(A) > 0$ ,

$$\liminf_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \mu(A \cap T^{-n}(A) \cap \dots \cap T^{-kn}(A)) > 0$$

for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

- ▶ Any SZ system satisfies the multiple recurrence theorem.
- ▶ This definition allows us to not worry about  $n$ .



# SZ Systems

- ▶ Bernoulli scheme:  $\mu(A \cap T^{-n}(A) \cap \dots \cap T^{-kn}(A)) \sim \mu(A)^{k+1}$  for large  $n$ .
- ▶ Circle rotation:  $\mu(A \cap T^{-n}(A) \cap \dots \cap T^{-kn}(A)) \sim \mu(A)$  for infinitely many  $n$ .

## Weak Mixing Systems

The Bernoulli scheme is an example of a *weak mixing system*.

### Definition

A measure preserving system  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T)$  is *weak mixing* if the product system  $(X \times X, \mathcal{B} \otimes \mathcal{B}, \mu \times \mu, T \times T)$ , where  $T \times T(x, x') = (Tx, Tx')$ , is ergodic.

## Weak Mixing Systems

- ▶ The circle rotation is not weak mixing.
- ▶ The function  $f : S^1 \times S^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  given by  $f(x, y) = e^{2\pi i(x-y)}$  is non-constant.
- ▶ Yet  $(f \circ T_\alpha \times T_\alpha)(x, y) = e^{2\pi i(x+\alpha-y-\alpha)} = f(x, y)$ .
- ▶ So the product system  $(S^1 \times S^1, \mathcal{B} \times \mathcal{B}, \mu \times \mu, T_\alpha \times T_\alpha)$  is not ergodic.

# Compact Systems

The circle rotation is an example of a *compact* system.

Let  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T)$  be a measure preserving system. Given  $f \in L^2(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$ , let  $U_T : L^2(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu) \rightarrow L^2(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$  be the map  $U_T(f) = f \circ T$ .

## Definition

$(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T)$  is *compact* if  $\text{cl} \{U_T^n(f)\}_{n=0}^\infty$  is compact in  $L^2(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$  for all  $f$  in  $L^2(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$ .

## Compact and Weak Mixing systems are SZ

- ▶ Both compact and weak mixing systems are SZ.
- ▶ Unfortunately, not every system is weak mixing or compact.
- ▶ Example: Take the product of a Bernoulli scheme with a circle rotation.

# Dichotomy

## Theorem

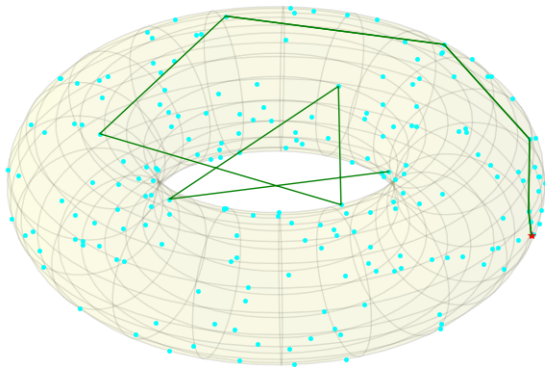
*Let  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T)$  be a measure preserving system.  $X$  is weak mixing if and only if there is no non-trivial  $T$ -invariant sub- $\sigma$ -algebra  $\mathcal{B}' \subset \mathcal{B}$  so that  $(X, \mathcal{B}', \mu, T)$  is compact.*

$T$ -invariant sub- $\sigma$ -algebras are known as *factors* of a measure preserving system.

## Skew Torus

- ▶ The measure preserving system  $(S^1 \times S^1, \mathcal{B} \otimes \mathcal{B}, \mu \times \mu, T)$ , where  $T(x, y) = (x + \alpha, x + y)$ , is called the *skew torus*.
- ▶ The factor  $\mathcal{B} \times \{\emptyset, S^1\}$  defines a system which is isomorphic to the circle system.
- ▶ So the skew torus is not weak mixing.

# Skew Torus





## Skew Torus

- ▶ The skew torus is not compact.
- ▶  $T^n(x, y) = (x + n\alpha, y + nx + \frac{n(n-1)}{2}\alpha) \pmod{1}$
- ▶ If  $f(x, y) = e^{2\pi iy}$ , then  $(U_T^n e^{2\pi iy})(x, y) = e^{2\pi iy + \frac{n(n-1)}{2}\alpha} e^{2\pi inx}$ .
- ▶  $\langle U_T^n(f), U_T^m(f) \rangle = C \int e^{2\pi iy} e^{-2\pi iy} e^{2\pi i(nx - mx)} d(\mu \times \mu) = 0$   
for  $m \neq n$ .
- ▶  $\implies \{U_T^n(f)\}_n$  not totally bounded.

# Conditional Expectation

## Definition

- ▶  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T)$  a measure preserving system and  $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{B}$  be a factor; so  $\mathcal{A}$  is  $T$ -invariant and is a sub- $\sigma$ -algebra.
- ▶  $L^2(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  is a closed subspace of  $L^2(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$
- ▶ Let  $E(*|\mathcal{A}) : L^2(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu) \rightarrow L^2(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  be the orthogonal projection.
- ▶ The *conditional expectation* of  $f \in L^2(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$  is  $E(f|\mathcal{A})$ .

Example:  $\mathcal{A} = \{\emptyset, X\}$ , then  $E(f|\mathcal{A}) = \int f d\mu$ .

## Skew Torus Revisited

- ▶  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{B} \times \{\emptyset, S^1\}$  defines factor isomorphic to the circle system.
- ▶  $f$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -measurable iff  $f(x_0, y)$  is constant for fixed  $x_0$ .
- ▶  $E(f | \mathcal{A})(x) = \int f(x, y) d(\delta_x \times \mu)(x, y)$  a.e.
- ▶ Note that  $\int E(f | \mathcal{A})(x) d\mu(x) = \int f d(\mu \times \mu)$
- ▶ Also notice  $\delta_x \times \mu \circ T^{-1} = \delta_{x+\alpha} \times \mu$
- ▶ The family  $\{\delta_x \times \mu\}_{x \in S^1}$  is called a *disintegration* of  $(S^1, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$  with respect to  $\mathcal{A}$ .

## Disintegration Theorem

Under some assumptions:

- ▶  $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{B}$  of a measure preserving system  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T)$ , there is a system  $(Y, \mathcal{D}, \nu, S)$  and a measure preserving map  $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$  so that:  $\pi^{-1}(\mathcal{D}) = \mathcal{A}$ , and  $\pi \circ T = S \circ \pi$ .
- ▶  $\pi$  is called a *factor map*, and  $Y$  is called a factor of  $X$  or  $X$  is called an extension of  $Y$ .
- ▶ We can identify  $L^2(X, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  with  $L^2(Y, \mathcal{D}, \nu)$ .

### Theorem

Let  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T) \xrightarrow{\pi} (Y, \mathcal{D}, \nu, S)$  be an extension. Then there is a measurable map  $y \mapsto \mu_y$  from  $Y$  into the Borel probability measures on  $X$  so that

$$E(f | \mathcal{A})(y) = \int f d\mu_y \quad \text{a.e.}$$

Moreover,  $\mu_y \circ T^{-1}(B) = \mu_{S(y)}(B)$  for all  $B \in \mathcal{B}$ , and  $\mu_y$  is supported on  $\pi^{-1}(y)$ .

## Furstenberg's Big Idea

- ▶ Using the disintegration theorem, we can define notions of compactness and weak mixing *relative* to a factor.
- ▶ We know one factor is SZ (the maximal compact factor)
- ▶ So if being SZ lifts through these relative extensions, then the multiple recurrence theorem is proved.

## Details on Relative WM and Compactness

- ▶ An extension  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T) \xrightarrow{\pi} (Y, \mathcal{D}, \nu, S)$  is *relatively weak mixing* if  $(X \times X, \mathcal{B} \otimes \mathcal{B}, \mu \times_Y \mu, T \times T)$  is ergodic, where  $\mu \times_Y \mu(B) = \int_Y \mu_y \times \mu_y(B) d\nu(y)$
- ▶ Given extension  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T) \xrightarrow{\pi} (Y, \mathcal{D}, \nu, S)$ ,  $f \in L^2(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$  is *almost periodic* with respect to  $Y$  if for each  $\epsilon > 0$ , there are finitely many  $g_j \in L^2(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$  so that for almost all  $y$ ,

$$\min_j \|U_T^n f - g_j\|_y < \epsilon,$$

where  $\|h\|_y^2 = \int |h|^2 d\mu_y$ .

- ▶  $X$  is a *compact extension* of  $Y$  if the collection of almost periodic functions in  $L^2(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$  are dense.

## SZ in the relative cases

The main theorems from the absolute case generalize:

- ▶ If  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T) \rightarrow (Y, \mathcal{D}, \nu, S)$  is a weak mixing extension, and  $Y$  is SZ, then so is  $X$ .
- ▶ If  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T) \rightarrow (Y, \mathcal{D}, \nu, S)$  is a compact extension, and  $Y$  is SZ, then so is  $X$ .
- ▶ Dichotomy: if  $X \rightarrow Y$  is not a weak mixing extension, then there is an intermediate factor  $X \rightarrow Z \rightarrow Y$  which is a non-trivial compact extension of  $Y$ .

## Limits of SZ factors

- ▶ Given  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu, T)$ , let  $\{\mathcal{B}_\alpha\}_\alpha$  be a family of factors totally ordered by inclusion. Define  $\sup_\alpha \mathcal{B}_\alpha = \sigma(\bigcup_\alpha \mathcal{B}_\alpha)$ .
- ▶ If each  $\mathcal{B}_\alpha$  is SZ, then so is  $\sup_\alpha \mathcal{B}_\alpha$ .
- ▶ Zorn's lemma  $\implies$  there is a maximal SZ factor in  $X$

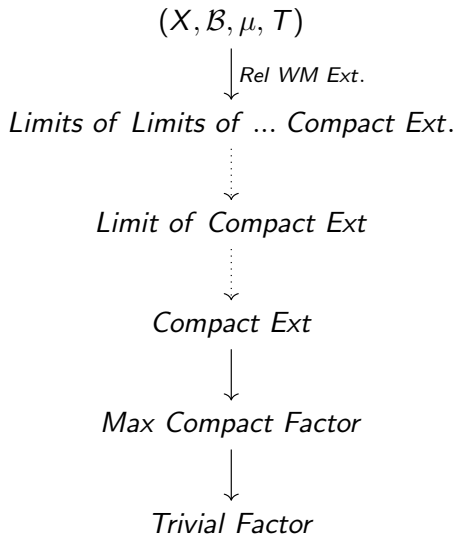


## Conclusion of Multiple Recurrence theorem

- ▶ Call the maximal SZ factor  $Y$  and suppose  $Y$  is a proper factor of  $X$
- ▶ If  $X \rightarrow Y$  is weak mixing, then  $X$  is SZ, contradicting maximality of  $Y$ .
- ▶ By dichotomy, there is a nontrivial compact extension  $Z \rightarrow Y$ .
- ▶ But then  $Z$  is SZ and contains  $Y$  properly, a contradiction.
- ▶  $\implies X$  must be the maximal SZ factor.
- ▶ This shows the multiple recurrence theorem, and therefore Szemerédi's theorem.

# Furstenberg-Zimmer Structure Theorem

- ▶ An interesting and useful structure has come from this proof.
- ▶ This characterizes the factors of a measure preserving system into orderly and random factors.



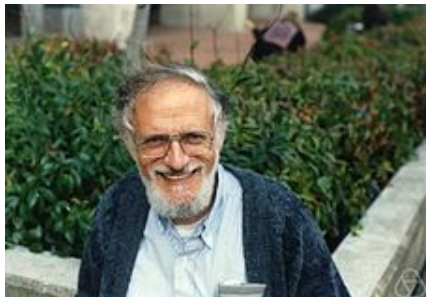
## Further Results

- ▶ Furstenberg and Katsnelson (1979): Commuting groups of measure preserving transformations and a multi-dimensional Szemerédi's theorem
- ▶ Bergelson and Leibman (1996): Multi-dimensional and polynomial version of Szemerédi's theorem
- ▶ Green and Tao (2004): Arithmetic progressions in the primes
- ▶ Host and Kra (2005): Showed  $\lim \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} U_T^n(f_1) \cdots U_T^{kn}(f_k)$  exists in  $L^2$  for bounded functions.

# Acknowledgements

- ▶ Advisor: Professor Veerman
- ▶ Reader: Professor Lafferriere

Thank You!



H. Furstenberg



E. Szemerédi