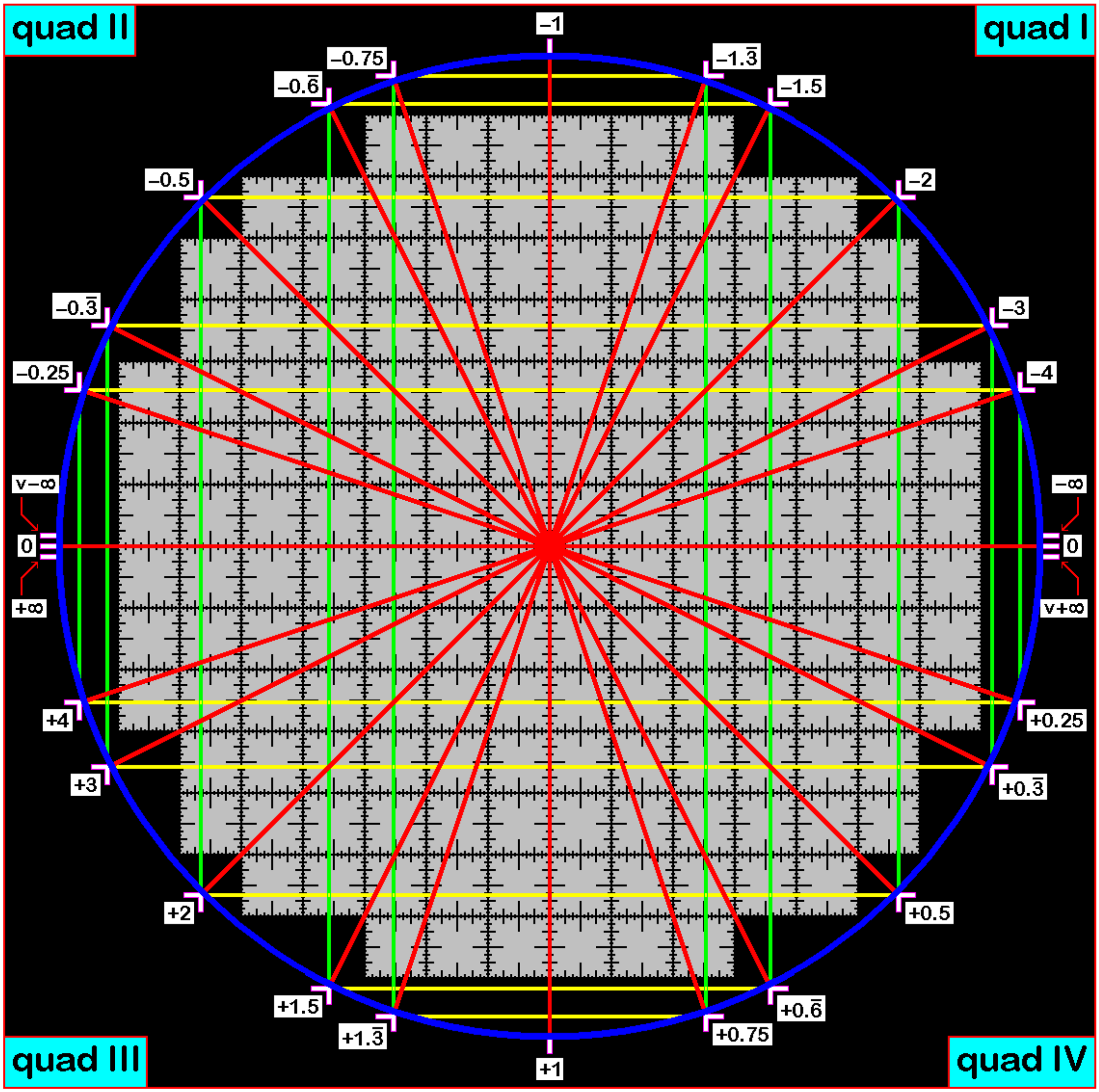the extended real number continuum