Let $1 \leq M < N$ be integers, and denote by $CF(M, N)$ the set of all irrationals from $[0, 1]$ whose partial quotients $a_\nu$ of the continued fraction expansion satisfy $M \leq a_\nu \leq N$ ($\nu \geq 1$). It is proved that every real number can be expressed as a sum of an integer and $m$ irrationals from $CF(M, N)$, where a lower bound for $m$ is explicitly given. This includes Hall’s theorem, and, e.g., the case where $M = N - 1$, $m = N^2 + 1$.

Although the main theorem is a special case of a result of S. Astels from 2000, our proof is focused on a generalization of a lemma of Hall concerning the iterated thinning of intervals. It is easier to handle this tool than the theory of Cantor sets underlying Astels’ approach from 2000.

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