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ON UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION OF SEQUENCES $(a_n x)_1^\infty$

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INTRODUCTION

There are two possible approaches to the study of uniform distribution (mod 1) of sequences

$$(1) \quad (a_n x)_1^\infty$$

where $a_n \in \mathbb{R}$ ($n = 1, 2, \dots$) and $x \in \mathbb{R}$. The first such approach is the study of (1) with a fixed sequence $(a_n)_1^\infty$, x running over real numbers, the second is the study of (1) with a fixed $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and $(a_n)_1^\infty$ running over a class of sequences of real numbers. The second approach leads to the concept of α -good sequences (cf. [1]).

In the first part of the paper we will apply the first and in the second part the second approach to the investigation of sequences (1).

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1. UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION (mod 1) OF SEQUENCES $(a_n x)_1^\infty$ WITH FIXED $(a_n)_1^\infty$

In this part we restrict ourselves to the study of (1) with a fixed sequence $(a_n)_1^\infty$ of real numbers. Denote by $H(a_1, a_2, \dots)$ the set of all $x \in \mathbb{R}$ for which the sequence (1) is uniformly distributed (mod 1) (shortly: u.d. mod 1). It is wellknown that if $a_n \in \mathbb{N}$ ($n = 1, 2, \dots$), $a_i \neq a_j$ for $i \neq j$, then the set $H(a_1, a_2, \dots)$ has full measure (i.e. the set $\mathbb{R} \setminus H(a_1, a_2, \dots)$ is a null set—cf. [2], [4] pp. 32–33). This results evokes the question what is the Baire category of the set $H(a_1, a_2, \dots)$. We will show that the “topological magnitude” of $H(a_1, a_2, \dots)$ depends on the sequence $(a_n)_1^\infty$. Indeed, if we choose $a_n = n$ or more generally $a_n = a + nd$ ($n = 1, 2, \dots$), $d \geq 1$, a, d integers, then by Weyl’s criterion (cf. [4] pp. 7–8) the sequence $(a_n x)_1^\infty$ is u.d. mod 1 for each irrational x . Hence $H(a_1, a_2, \dots)$ contains in this case all irrational numbers and so it is a residual set. In what follows we will give a class of sequences $(a_n)_1^\infty$ of positive integers such that $H(a_1, a_2, \dots)$ is a set of the first category.

Theorem 1.1. *Let $(q_k)_1^\infty$ be a sequence of positive integers greater than 1. Put*

$$a_n = q_1 q_2 \dots q_n \quad (n = 1, 2, \dots).$$

Then $H(a_1, a_2, \dots)$ is a set of the first Baire category in \mathbb{R} .

Proof. For $x \in \mathbb{R}$ we put

$$S(m, x) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=1}^m e^{2\pi i a_n x} \quad (m = 1, 2, \dots).$$

Then by Weyl’s criterion we have

$$H(a_1, a_2, \dots) \subseteq H_0(a_1, a_2, \dots),$$

where $H_0(a_1, a_2, \dots) = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R} : \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} S(m, x) = 0 \right\}$. Denote by $C(a_1, a_2, \dots)$ the set of all $x \in \mathbb{R}$ for which there exists $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} S(m, x) = S(x)$. Then evidently

$$(2) \quad H(a_1, a_2, \dots) \subseteq H_0(a_1, a_2, \dots) \subseteq C(a_1, a_2, \dots).$$

Each of these sets has the full measure. By (2) it suffices to prove that $C = C(a_1, a_2, \dots)$ is a set of the first category in \mathbb{R} . We prove it in the following.

Obviously each of the functions $S(m, x)$ ($m = 1, 2, \dots$) is continuous on C (i.e. the restrictions $S(m, x)|_C$ are continuous on C). Hence the function $S(x) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} S(m, x)$ defined on C is in the first Baire class on C . But then the set of all

discontinuity points of S is a set of the first category in C (cf. [8] p. 185), and so it is a set of the first category in \mathbb{R} , as well.

To complete the proof it suffices to show that the function S is discontinuous at every $x \in C$. For this it suffices to show that each of the sets

$$M_0 = \{x \in C : S(x) = 0\}, \quad M_1 = \{x \in C : S(x) = 1\}$$

is dense in C .

The density of M_0 follows from the fact that $M_0 \subseteq C$ and M_0 has the full measure.

We prove that M_1 is dense in C . It is wellknown that every $x \in \mathbb{R}$ has the Cantor series expansion

$$x = c_0 + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{c_j}{q_1 q_2 \dots q_j} = c_0 + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{c_j}{a_j},$$

where c_j are integers, $0 \leq c_j < q_j$, $a_j = q_1 q_2 \dots q_j$ ($j = 1, 2, \dots$).

Denote by A_k the set of all $x \in \mathbb{R}$ of the form

$$(3) \quad x = c_0 + \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{c_j}{a_j},$$

where $k \in \mathbb{N}$, c_0 is an integer and $0 \leq c_j < q_j$ ($j = 1, 2, \dots, k$). If $x \in A_k$, then $a_n x$ is an integer for $n > k$. Thus for $m > k$ we have

$$S(m, x) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=1}^k + \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=k+1}^m 1 = O(1) + \frac{m-k}{m} \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{if } m \rightarrow \infty.$$

Put $A = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} A_k$. Then $A \subseteq M_1 \subseteq C$ and A is obviously dense in C . The density of M_1 in C follows. This completes the proof. \square

We give the following simple observation.

Proposition 1.1. *Let $(a_j)_1^{\infty}$ be an arbitrary sequence of real numbers. Then $H(a_1, a_2, \dots)$ is an $F_{\sigma\delta}$ -set in \mathbb{R} .*

Proof. Using Weyl's criterion we can easily check that

$$H(a_1, a_2, \dots) = \bigcap_{h \neq 0} \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} \bigcap_{n=m}^{\infty} A(n, h, k),$$

where

$$A(n, h, k) = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R} : \left| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n e^{2\pi i h a_j x} \right| \leq \frac{1}{k} \right\}.$$

Since $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n e^{2\pi i h a_j x}$ ($n = 1, 2, \dots$) are continuous functions, we see that $A(n, h, k)$ is a closed set (if n, h, k are fixed) and so $H(a_1, a_2, \dots)$ is an $F_{\sigma\delta}$ -set in \mathbb{R} . \square

Remark 1.1. a) If $(a_n)_1^\infty$ is a sequence of distinct integers then by [2] and Proposition 1.1 the set $H(a_1, a_2, \dots)$ is an $F_{\sigma\delta}$ -set of the full measure.

b) For some particular choices of $(a_n)_1^\infty$ the set $H(a_1, a_2, \dots)$ can belong to lower Borel classes. For instance if $a_n = a \in \mathbb{R}$, ($n = 1, 2, \dots$), then the set $H(a_1, a_2, \dots)$ is empty while it coincides with the set $\mathbb{Q}' = \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ of all irrational numbers if $a_n = n$ ($n = 1, 2, \dots$).

2. UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION (mod 1) OF SEQUENCES $(a_n x)_1^\infty$ WITH FIXED x

Let α be an irrational number. A sequence $a_1 < a_2 < \dots$ of positive integers is said to be α -good provided the sequence $(a_n \alpha)_1^\infty$ is uniformly distributed (mod 1) (cf. [1]). The sequence $1 < 2 < \dots < n < \dots$ and the sequence $p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_n < \dots$ of all prime numbers are α -good for each irrational α (cd. [1], [4] p. 22).

For $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}'$ ($\mathbb{Q}' = \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$) denote by $D(\alpha)$ the set of all α -good sequences. Note that every infinite sequence $a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_n < \dots$ of positive integers belongs to $D(\alpha)$ for almost all $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}'$ (cf. [4] p. 32, Theorem 4.1).

We will investigate the properties of the classes $D(\alpha)$ for $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}'$. We will show that these classes have several common properties (for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}'$).

It seems to be interesting to deal with the question about magnitude of classes $D(\alpha)$ ($\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}'$). This "magnitude" will be studied from the point of view of dyadic numbers of sets $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$.

Denote by U the class of all infinite sets

$$A = \{a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_n < \dots\} \subseteq \mathbb{N}.$$

In what follows we identify the set A with the sequence $a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_n < \dots$. Put

$$\varrho(A) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 2^{-a_k} \in (0, 1]$$

for each $A \subseteq U$. Then ϱ is a one-to-one mapping of U onto $(0, 1]$. If S is a class of infinite subsets of \mathbb{N} , then we put $\varrho(S) = \{\varrho(A) : A \in S\}$. The set $\varrho(S)$ "measures" the magnitude of the class S (cf. [5] p. 17).

We will investigate metric and topological properties of the sets $\varrho(D(\alpha))$.

Recall that a measurable set $M \subseteq (0, 1]$ is called homogeneous if there is a real number $d \in [0, 1]$ such that for every interval $I \subseteq (0, 1]$ we have

$$\frac{\lambda(I \cap M)}{\lambda(I)} = d,$$

λ being the Lebesgue measure (cf. [9], [10]).

Theorem 2.1. *For each $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}'$ the set $\varrho(D(\alpha))$ is a homogeneous $F_{\sigma\delta}$ -set in $(0, 1]$.*

Proof. According to Weyl's criterion a sequence $a_1 < a_2 < \dots$ of positive integers belongs to $D(\alpha)$ if and only if

$$(\forall h \in \mathbb{Z}, h \neq 0): \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=1}^m e^{2\pi i h a_n \alpha} = 0.$$

This condition is equivalent to the condition

$$(4) \quad (\forall |h| \geq 1)(\forall k \geq 1)(\exists v \in \mathbb{N})(\forall m \geq v): \left| \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=1}^m e^{2\pi i h \alpha a_n} \right| \leq \frac{1}{k}.$$

From (4) we get

$$\varrho(D(\alpha)) = \bigcap_{|h| \geq 1} \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{v=1}^{\infty} \bigcap_{m=v}^{\infty} M(m, h, k),$$

where

$$(6) \quad M(m, h, k) = \left\{ x = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 2^{-a_j} \in (0, 1]: \left| \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=1}^m e^{2\pi i h \alpha a_n} \right| \leq \frac{1}{k} \right\}.$$

Construct the functions

$$f_{m,h}(x) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=1}^m e^{2\pi i h \alpha a_n} \quad (m = 1, 2, \dots; h \in \mathbb{Z}, h \neq 0),$$

where $x = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 2^{-a_j} \in (0, 1]$. These functions are defined for each $x \in (0, 1]$. We will verify that their restrictions to $\mathbb{Q}' \cap (0, 1]$ are continuous on $\mathbb{Q}' \cap (0, 1]$.

Let $x_0 \in \mathbb{Q}' \cap (0, 1]$, $x_0 = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 2^{-b_j}$ ($b_1 < b_2 < \dots$) be the dyadic expansion of x_0 .

Fix the number m . Notice that the set of all numbers of the form $x = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 2^{-a_j}$,

$a_j = b_j$ ($j = 1, 2, \dots, m$) fills up an interval I_m containing x_0 , the left-hand endpoint of which is the rational number $\sum_{j=1}^m 2^{-b_j}$ and the right-hand endpoint is

$$\sum_{j=1}^m 2^{-b_j} + \sum_{j=b_m+1}^{\infty} 2^{-j} = \sum_{j=1}^m 2^{-b_j} + 2^{-b_m}.$$

Obviously the function $f_{m,h}|_{\mathbb{Q}' \cap (0,1]}$ is constant on I_m and so it is continuous at x_0 .

From the continuity of functions $f_{m,h}|_{\mathbb{Q}' \cap (0,1]}$ the closedness of the sets $M(m, h, k)$ in $\mathbb{Q}' \cap (0,1]$ follows (see (6)). But then by (5) the set $\mathbb{Q}' \cap \varrho(D(\alpha))$ is an $F_{\sigma\delta}$ -set in $(0,1]$. Notice that

$$\varrho(D(\alpha)) = [\mathbb{Q}' \cap \varrho(D(\alpha))] \cup [\mathbb{Q} \cap \varrho(D(\alpha))],$$

the second “summand” on the right-hand side being countable. From this we see that $\varrho(D(\alpha))$ is an $F_{\sigma\delta}$ -set in $(0,1]$.

The homogeneity of the set $\varrho(D(\alpha))$ can be proved by using a result from [7] (cf. [7], Lemma 1, pp. 255–256). We will use the following special case of Lemma 1 from [7]:

(T) Let $B \subseteq (0,1]$ be a measurable set. Suppose that for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$ and $k, k' \in \{0, 1, \dots, 2^n - 1\}$ we have

$$\lambda(B \cap i_n^{(k)}) = \lambda(B \cap i_n^{(k')}),$$

where

$$i_n^{(v)} = \left(\frac{v}{2^n}, \frac{v+1}{2^n} \right], \quad v \in \{0, 1, \dots, 2^n - 1\}.$$

Then B is a homogeneous set in $(0,1]$.

If now $a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_n < \dots$ is an α -good sequence and a sequence $d_1 < d_2 < \dots < \dots$ differs from $a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_n < \dots$ only in a finite number of terms, then evidently also $d_1 < d_2 < \dots < \dots$ is an α -good sequence. Hence the assumptions in (T) are satisfied and so by (T) the set $\varrho(D(\alpha))$ is homogeneous in $(0,1]$.

It is wellknown that the Lebesgue measure of a homogeneous set $A \subseteq (0,1]$ is 0 or 1 (cf. [9], [10]). Hence by Theorem 2.1 we have $\lambda(\varrho(D(\alpha))) = 0$ or $\lambda(\varrho(D(\alpha))) = 1$ for each $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}'$. We will show that this measure is equal to 1 for each $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}'$. \square

Theorem 2.2. *For each $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}'$ we have $\lambda(\varrho(D(\alpha))) = 1$.*

Proof. Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}'$. Then the sequence $(n\alpha)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ is u.d. mod 1 (cf. [4] pp. 7–8). By a theorem of Peterson (cf. [6]), if $(v_n)_1^{\infty}$ is a u.d. mod 1 sequence then for almost all

$x = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 2^{-a_j} \in (0, 1]$ the sequence $(v_{a_j})_{j=1}^{\infty}$ (subsequence of $(v_n)_1^{\infty}$) is u.d. mod 1 as well. Hence for almost all $x = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 2^{-a_j} \in (0, 1]$ the sequence $(a_j \alpha)_{j=1}^{\infty}$ is u.d. mod 1. But this means that almost all $x \in (0, 1]$ belong to the set $\varrho(D(\alpha))$. \square

We now will investigate the magnitude of sets $\varrho(D(\alpha))$ from the topological point of view. We prove the following universal theorem.

Theorem 2.3. *For every $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$ the set $\varrho(D(\alpha))$ is a dense $F_{\sigma\delta}$ -set of the first Baire category in $(0, 1]$.*

P r o o f. Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$. By Theorem 2.1 the set $\varrho(D(\alpha))$ is an $F_{\sigma\delta}$ -set in $(0, 1]$.

Further, the set $D(\alpha)$ is non-empty (and such is also the set $\varrho(D(\alpha))$) since the sequence $1 < 2 < \dots < n \dots$ belongs to $D(\alpha)$. The density of $\varrho(D(\alpha))$ follows from the above mentioned fact that together with $1 < 2 < \dots < n \dots$ the class $D(\alpha)$ contains every sequence $a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_n < \dots$ which differs from $1 < 2 < \dots < n \dots$ only in a finite number of terms.

We prove that $\varrho(D(\alpha))$ is a set of the first Baire category. For $t = \varrho(A)$, $A = a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_n < \dots < a_n < \dots$ we put

$$g_m(t) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=1}^m s^{2\pi i \alpha a_n} \quad (m = 1, 2, \dots).$$

Denote by M the set of all $t \in (0, 1]$ ($t = \varrho(A)$, $A = a_1 < a_2 < \dots$) for which there exists $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} g_m(t) = g(t)$. By Weyl's criterion we get

$$(7) \quad \varrho(D(\alpha)) \subseteq M.$$

It is easy to verify that the functions $g_m|_{\mathbb{Q} \cap (0, 1]}$ are continuous on $\mathbb{Q} \cap (0, 1]$ (and so they are continuous on $M \cap \mathbb{Q} \subseteq \mathbb{Q} \cap (0, 1]$ as well). This can be proved in an analogous way as the continuity of the functions $f_{m,h}|_{\mathbb{Q} \cap (0, 1]}$ in the proof of Theorem 2.1. Thus the function $g|M \cap \mathbb{Q}$ is in the first Baire class on $M \cap \mathbb{Q}$. This implies that the set of discontinuity points of $g|M \cap \mathbb{Q}$ is a set of the first category in $M \cap \mathbb{Q}$ (cf. [8] p. 185).

We will show that the function g is discontinuous at every point of $M \cap \mathbb{Q}$. To show this it suffices to prove that each of the sets

$$M_0 = \{x \in M \cap \mathbb{Q} : g(x) = 0\}, M_1 = \{x \in M \cap \mathbb{Q} : g(x) = 1\}$$

is dense in $M \cap \mathbb{Q}$.

In the first place we prove the density of M_0 in $M \cap \mathbb{Q}'$. If $p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_n < \dots$ is the sequence of all primes then $x_0 = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 2^{-p_k}$ belongs to M_0 (cf. [1], [4] p. 22). Together with x_0 each $\varrho(A)$ belongs to M_0 , where A is an infinite set of positive integers which differs from $\{p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_n < \dots\}$ only in a finite number of elements. From this the density of M_0 in $M \cap \mathbb{Q}'$ follows.

For the proof of density of M_1 it suffices to construct a sequence $A_0 = a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_n < \dots$ such that $y_0 = \varrho(A_0)$ is an irrational number with $g(y_0) = 1$. Such a sequence can be obtained by the following procedure:

Take into account the continued fraction of α . It is wellknown that if $\frac{p_n}{q_n}$ ($n = 1, 2, \dots$) are convergents of this continued fraction, then

$$|q_n \alpha - p_n| < \frac{1}{q_n} \quad (n = 1, 2, \dots)$$

(cf. [3] p. 27). Further, if n is even then $\frac{p_n}{q_n} < \alpha$ (cf. [3] p. 22). But then for such even n we have $0 < q_n \alpha - p_n < \frac{1}{q_n}$, thus $\{q_n \alpha\} = q_n \alpha - [q_n \alpha] = q_n \alpha - p_n < \frac{1}{q_n}$. So we get

$$\{q_n \alpha\} = \frac{\vartheta_n}{q_n}, \quad 0 < \vartheta_n < 1.$$

Choose a set $N_2 = \{k_1 < k_2 < \dots < k_n < \dots\}$ of even numbers such that

$$(8) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (q_{k_{n+1}} - q_{k_n}) = +\infty$$

and put $q'_n = q_{k_n}$ ($n = 1, 2, \dots$). Then $y_0 = \sum_{n \in N_2} 2^{-q'_n}$ belongs to \mathbb{Q}' since the condition (8) guarantees that the dyadic expansion of y_0 is not periodic. Further,

$$e^{2\pi i \alpha q'_n} = e^{2\pi i (\alpha q'_n + \{ \alpha q'_n \})} = e^{2\pi i \{ \alpha q'_n \}} = e^{2\pi i \frac{\vartheta'_n}{q'_n}} \quad (0 < \vartheta'_n < 1, n \in N_2).$$

For all sufficiently large n 's (e.g. for $n > n_0$) we have

$$0 < \frac{2\pi \vartheta'_n}{q'_n} < \frac{1}{2}.$$

So we get

$$\begin{aligned} g_m(y_0) &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=1}^{n_0} + \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=n_0+1}^m e^{2\pi i \{ \alpha q'_n \}} = O(1) \\ &+ \left(\frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=n_0+1}^m \cos \frac{2\pi \vartheta'_n}{q'_n} + i \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=n_0+1}^m \sin \frac{2\pi \vartheta'_n}{q'_n} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$\left| \sin \frac{2\pi\vartheta'_n}{q'_n} \right| \leq \frac{2\pi\vartheta'_n}{q'_n}.$$

Since $q'_n \rightarrow \infty$ ($n \rightarrow \infty$), we have

$$\left| \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=n_0+1}^m \sin \frac{2\pi\vartheta'_n}{q'_n} \right| \leq \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=1}^m \frac{2\pi}{q'_n} \rightarrow 0$$

(for $m \rightarrow \infty$) (Cesàro means).

Further, by the inequality

$$\cos x > 1 - \frac{x^2}{2} \quad (x \in (0, 1))$$

we get (for $n > n_0$)

$$\cos \frac{2\pi\vartheta'_n}{q'_n} > 1 - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{2\pi\vartheta'_n}{q'_n} \right)^2 > 1 - \frac{2\pi^2}{q_n'^2}.$$

Therefore we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=n_0+1}^m \cos \frac{2\pi\vartheta'_n}{q'_n} &> \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=n_0+1}^m \left(1 - \frac{2\pi^2}{q_n'^2} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=n_0+1}^m 1 - \frac{2\pi^2}{m} \sum_{n=n_0+1}^m \frac{1}{q_n'^2}. \end{aligned}$$

The second summand on the right-hand side has the limit 0 if $m \rightarrow \infty$ while the first tends to 1. Hence $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} g_m(y_0) = 1$.

So we have proved that g is a function in the first Baire class on $M \cap \mathcal{Q}'$, discontinuous at every point of $M \cap \mathcal{Q}'$. Therefore $M \cap \mathcal{Q}'$ is a set of the first category in $M \cap \mathcal{Q}'$ (cf. [8] p. 185) and so of the first category in $(0, 1]$ as well. Since $M \cap \mathbb{Q}$ is a countable set, we see that $M = (M \cap \mathbb{Q}) \cup (M \cap \mathcal{Q}')$ is a set of the first category in $(0, 1]$. On account of (7) we get that $\varrho(D(\alpha))$ is a set of the first category in $(0, 1]$. This completes the proof. \square

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