

## SETS OF UNIFORM CONVERGENCE

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Let  $G$  be a compact abelian group and let its dual group  $\Gamma$  be an infinite discrete group. We denote by  $C(G)$  the space of continuous functions on  $G$ , and by  $A(G)$  the space of continuous functions with absolutely convergent Fourier series. For a subset  $E \subset \Gamma$ , we let

$$C_E(G) = \{f \in C(G) : \hat{f}(\gamma) = 0, \gamma \notin E\}.$$

Let  $F_N$  be finite subsets of the group  $\Gamma$  such that  $F_N \subset F_{N+1}$  and  $\bigcup_1^\infty F_N = \Gamma$ ; if

$$f(x) \sim \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \hat{f}(\gamma) \gamma(x)$$

we write

$$S_N(f, x) = \sum_{\gamma \in F_N} \hat{f}(\gamma) \gamma(x).$$

We recall the following definition:

**Definition 1.**  $E \subset \Gamma$  is called a *Sidon set* if  $C_E \subset A$ ; that is, if every function in  $C_E$  has an absolutely convergent Fourier series.

The purpose of this note is to study subsets of  $\Gamma$  which satisfy a property which is weaker than the property of being a Sidon set. That is we want to study sets defined by the following

**Definition 2.** A subset  $E \subset \Gamma$  is called a *set of uniform convergence*, or a *UC set*, if every function in  $C_E$  has a uniformly convergent Fourier series.

It is clear that every Sidon set is a UC set.

In section 1, we give a condition which is equivalent to the definition of a UC set and we exhibit an example of a UC set which is not a Sidon set in an infinite discrete group.

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In section 2, we study UC subsets of  $\mathbf{Z}$ , the dual group of the group  $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{R}/2\pi\mathbf{Z}$ . In this case we construct a class of UC sets which are not Sidon sets. This construction is based on that which is given in [4]. We prove that then a UC set cannot contain arbitrarily long arithmetic progressions. Finally we discuss some examples and counter-examples.

In section 3, we discuss the previous arguments in the group  $\hat{\mathbf{D}}$ , the dual group of the Cantor group.

In section 4, we discuss some open problems, in particular the union problem for UC sets.

1. Let  $G$  be a compact group and let its dual group  $\Gamma$  be an infinite discrete abelian group; let  $F_N$  be finite subsets of  $\Gamma$  such that

$$F_N \subset F_{N+1} \quad \text{and} \quad \bigcup_1^{\infty} F_N = \Gamma.$$

We have the following characterization of UC sets:]

**THEOREM 1.**  *$E \subset \Gamma$  is a UC set if and only if there is a constant  $C$  and, for every positive integer  $N$ , a measure  $\mu_N \in \mathcal{M}(G)$  with the following properties:*

- (i)  $\|\mu_N\| \leq C$  for every  $N \in \mathbf{N}$ ;
- (ii)  $\hat{\mu}_N(\gamma) = 1$  for  $\gamma \in E \cap F_N$ ;
- (iii)  $\hat{\mu}_N(\gamma) = 0$  for  $\gamma \in E \cap (\Gamma \setminus F_N)$ .

**Proof.** If  $E$  is a UC set, then, by the uniform boundedness principle, there exists a constant  $C$  such that, for each  $N$ , the mapping

$$f \rightarrow \varphi_N(f) = \sum_{\gamma \in F_N} \hat{f}(\gamma) \quad \text{for } f \in C_E$$

is a bounded linear functional on  $C_E$  of norm at most  $C$ . The Hahn-Banach theorem allows us to extend this functional to  $C(G)$ , with preservation of norm. Hence there is a measure  $\mu_N$  such that

$$\|\mu_N\| = \|\varphi_N\| \leq C \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_N(f) = \int_G f(x) d\mu_N(x) \quad \text{for } f \in C_E.$$

Let  $\gamma(x)$  be an element in  $E$ ; then

$$\varphi_N(\gamma) = \int_G \gamma(x) d\mu_N(x) = \overline{\hat{\mu}_N(\gamma)}.$$

But, from the definition of  $\varphi_N$ ,

$$\varphi_N(\gamma) = \begin{cases} 1, & \gamma \in F_N, \\ 0, & \gamma \in \Gamma \setminus F_N, \end{cases}$$

so that the assertion is proved.

On the other hand, if we suppose that a measure satisfying (i), (ii) and (iii) exists, then we have

$$\|S_N f\|_\infty = \|f * \mu_N\|_\infty \leq C \|f\|_\infty \quad \text{for every } f \in C_E,$$

so that  $E$  is a UC set.

Obviously, every subset of a UC set is a UC set.

Now we exhibit an example of a subset of  $\Gamma$  which is a UC set but not a Sidon set.

We say that a finite set  $D \subset \Gamma$  is *dissociated* [6] if it does not contain 1 and if the equality

$$\gamma_1^{\varepsilon_1} \gamma_2^{\varepsilon_2} \dots \gamma_m^{\varepsilon_m} = 1 \quad \text{with } \gamma_j \in D \text{ and } \varepsilon_j \in \{-2, -1, 0, 1, 2\}$$

implies the equality

$$\gamma_1^{\varepsilon_1} = \gamma_2^{\varepsilon_2} = \dots = \gamma_m^{\varepsilon_m} = 1.$$

We construct a subset  $E \subset \Gamma$  in the following way: let  $E_1 = \{\gamma_1\}$  with  $\gamma_1 \neq 1$ . Let us suppose to have constructed  $E_k$  and let  $n_k$  be the first index such that

$$E_k^2 = \{\gamma_{i_1} \gamma_{i_2}; \gamma_{i_1}, \gamma_{i_2} \in E_k, 1 \leq i_1 < i_2 \leq k\} \subset E_{n_k}.$$

Then we choose  $\gamma_{k+1}$  so that  $E_{k+1} = E_k \cup \{\gamma_{k+1}\}$  is a dissociated set and  $\{\gamma_{k+1} E_k\} \cap E_{n_k} = \emptyset$ . Then we have the following

**THEOREM 2.** *If*

$$E = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} E_k = \{\gamma_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty},$$

*then  $E^2$  is a UC set and it is not a Sidon set.*

**Proof.** Let  $f$  be a continuous function with Fourier coefficients  $\hat{f}(\gamma)$  and such that  $\hat{f}(\gamma) = 0$  if  $\gamma \notin E^2$ . For each  $N$ , we have  $n_k \leq N < n_{k+1}$  for some  $k$  and, therefore,

$$S_N(f, x) = \sum_{\gamma \in E_N} \hat{f}(\gamma) \gamma(x) = \sum_{\gamma \in E_{n_k}} \hat{f}(\gamma) \gamma(x) + \sum_{\gamma \in E_N \setminus E_{n_k}} \hat{f}(\gamma) \gamma(x) = S_N^{(1)} + S_N^{(2)}.$$

We let

$$P(x) = P_k(x) = \prod_{i=1}^k \left( 1 + \frac{\gamma_i(x) + \bar{\gamma}_i(x)}{2} \right).$$

Then, since  $P(x) \geq 0$  and  $E$  is dissociated, we have

- (i)  $\hat{P}(0) = \|P\|_1 = 1,$
- (ii)  $\hat{P}(\gamma_{i_1} \gamma_{i_2}) = 1/4, 1 \leq i_1 < i_2 \leq k.$

But if  $\gamma_{i_1}\gamma_{i_2} \in F_{n_k}$ , then  $i_1$  and  $i_2$  are not greater than  $k$  and, in view of (ii),

$$\frac{1}{4} S_N^{(1)}(f, x) = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{\gamma \in F_{n_k}} \hat{f}(\gamma) \gamma(x) = P * f(x).$$

Therefore  $\|S_N^{(1)}\|_\infty \leq 4 \|f\|_\infty$ .

On the other hand, if  $f(\gamma) \neq 0$  and  $\gamma \in F_N \setminus F_{n_k}$ , then  $\gamma = \gamma_{k+1}\gamma_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ .

Let

$$Q(x) = Q_k(x) = \gamma_{k+1} \prod_{i=1}^k \left( 1 + a_i \frac{\gamma_i(x) + \bar{\gamma}_i(x)}{2} \right),$$

where  $a_i = 1$  if  $\gamma_{k+1}\gamma_i \in F_N$  and  $a_i = 0$  if  $\gamma_{k+1}\gamma_i \notin F_N$ , i. e.  $\gamma_{k+1}\gamma_i \in F_{n_{k+1}} \setminus F_N$ . Then

$$(i) \|Q(x)\|_1 = \hat{Q}(\gamma_{k+1}) = 1,$$

$$(ii) \hat{Q}(\gamma_{k+1}\gamma_i) = a_i/2, \quad 1 \leq i \leq k.$$

Therefore,

$$f * Q(x) = \sum_{\gamma \in F_{n_{k+1}}} \hat{f}(\gamma) \hat{Q}(\gamma) \gamma(x) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\gamma \in F_N \setminus F_{n_k}} \hat{f}(\gamma) \gamma(x),$$

and so

$$\|S_N^{(2)}\|_\infty = 2 \|f * Q\|_\infty \leq 2 \|f\|_\infty.$$

In conclusion,

$$\|S_N f\|_\infty \leq 4 \|f\|_\infty + 2 \|f\|_\infty = 6 \|f\|_\infty.$$

From this inequality it follows that  $E^2$  is a UC set. The fact that  $E^2$  is not a Sidon set is well known and follows, e.g., from the lemma of [4] or [3]

**2.** Throughout this section  $G$  is the group  $T = R/2\pi Z$ , and then  $\Gamma$  is the group  $Z$ . If

$$F_N = \{0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots, \pm N\} \quad \text{and} \quad f(x) \sim \sum_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \hat{f}(n) e^{inx},$$

we have the usual definition

$$S_N(f, x) = \sum_{-N}^N \hat{f}(n) e^{inx}.$$

**THEOREM 3.** *Let  $n_j$  be a strictly increasing sequence of positive integers with the property that*

$$n_j > n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_{j-1}$$

and let

$$E^s = \{n_{j_1} + n_{j_2} + \dots + n_{j_s} : 1 \leq j_1 < \dots < j_s\}.$$

*Then  $E^s$  is a UC set, but if  $s \geq 2$ , it is not a Sidon set.*

**Proof.** We will prove by induction that  $E^s$  is a UC set. The assertion is true for  $s = 1$ , since  $E = E^1$  is a Sidon set. Let us suppose that  $E^{s-1}$  is a UC set and let  $f \in E^s$ . We will show that

$$\|S_N f\|_\infty \leq (2^s + C) \|f\|_\infty,$$

where  $C$  is the UC constant relative to  $E^{s-1}$ . We can assume that  $N \neq n_j$  for all  $j$ . Therefore,  $n_k < N < n_{k+1}$  for some  $k$ . We have

$$S_N(f, x) = \sum_{n < n_k} \hat{f}(n) e^{inx} + \sum_{n_k < n \leq N} \hat{f}(n) e^{inx} = S_N^{(1)}(f, x) + S_N^{(2)}(f, x).$$

With the same argument as used in theorem 2, we prove that

$$\|S_N^{(1)} f\|_\infty \leq 2^s \|f\|_\infty.$$

If  $n_k < n \leq N < n_{k+1}$  and  $\hat{f}(n) \neq 0$ , then  $n = n_k + n_{j_1} + \dots + n_{j_{s-1}}$  for some  $1 \leq j_1 < \dots < j_{s-1} \leq k-1$ . Thus

$$S_N^{(2)}(f, x) = \sum_{n_{j_1} + \dots + n_{j_{s-1}} \leq N - n_k} \hat{f}(n_k + n_{j_1} + \dots + n_{j_{s-1}}) \exp [i(n_k + n_{j_1} + \dots + n_{j_{s-1}})x].$$

From the inductive hypothesis we know that for every  $N$  there is a measure  $\mu_N \in M(\mathbf{T})$  such that  $\|\mu_N\| \leq C$  and

$$\hat{\mu}_N(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } n \in E^{s-1}, |n| \leq N - n_k, \\ 0 & \text{for } n \in E^{s-1}, |n| > N - n_k. \end{cases}$$

Let  $d\nu_N = \exp[in_k x] d\mu_N$ ; then

$$\|\nu_N\| = \|\mu_N\| \leq C \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\nu}_N(n_k + n_{j_1} + \dots + n_{j_{s-1}}) = \hat{\mu}_N(n_{j_1} + \dots + n_{j_{s-1}}),$$

so that

$$\hat{\nu}_N(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = n_k + n_{j_1} + \dots + n_{j_{s-1}} \leq N, \\ 0 & \text{if } n = n_k + n_{j_1} + \dots + n_{j_{s-1}} > N. \end{cases}$$

It follows that

$$S_N^{(2)}(f, x) = (\nu_N * f)(x),$$

and so

$$\|S_N^{(2)}f\|_\infty \leq C\|f\|_\infty.$$

The conclusion is as in theorem 2.

We give now a necessary condition in order that  $E \subset \mathbf{Z}$  be a UC set.

**THEOREM 4.** *If  $E \subset \mathbf{Z}$  is a UC set, then  $E$  does not contain arbitrarily long arithmetic progressions.*

**Proof.** Suppose that there is a UC set  $E$  such that, for infinitely many positive integers  $N_j$ ,

$$\{a + bn\}_{n=0}^{N_j} \subset E, \quad \text{where } a, b \in \mathbf{N}, a < b.$$

Without loss of generality we can assume that  $E$  consists of positive integers. Let  $\{f_\nu\}_{\nu \in \mathbf{N}}$  be trigonometric polynomials of degree  $k_\nu$ , and such that

$$\|f_\nu\|_\infty \leq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \|S_\nu f_\nu\|_\infty \rightarrow \infty.$$

Assume also that  $\hat{f}_\nu(n) = 0$  for  $n < 0$ . We choose a subsequence  $\{N_{j_\nu}\}$  of  $\{N_j\}$  in such a way that  $N_{j_\nu} > k_\nu$ . Let

$$\hat{g}_\nu(a + bm) = \hat{f}_\nu(m) \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{g}_\nu(n) = 0 \text{ if } n \neq a + bm.$$

Then

$$\|g_\nu\|_\infty = \|f_\nu\|_\infty \leq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad g_\nu \in C_E.$$

On the other hand,

$$S_{a+b\nu}(g_\nu) = \sum_{-(a+b\nu)}^{a+b\nu} \hat{g}_\nu(n) e^{inx} = \sum_0^\nu \hat{f}_\nu(m) e^{i(a+bm)x}.$$

Therefore,

$$\|S_{a+b\nu}g_\nu\|_\infty = \|S_\nu f_\nu\|_\infty \rightarrow \infty,$$

but this is a contradiction, if  $E$  is a UC set.

**Remark.** It is not true that if  $E$  is a Sidon set, then  $E + E$  is a UC set. In fact, there exists a Sidon set  $E$  such that  $E + E$  contains all positive integers. This is shown by Ebenstein [2], who has taken the set  $E = \{10^n + n\} \cup \{-10^n\}$ .

**3.** In this section we study a UC subset of the dual group  $\hat{\mathbf{D}}$  of the Cantor group  $\mathbf{D}$  defined by

$$\mathbf{D} = \prod_{j=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{Z}(2)_j \quad \text{with } \mathbf{Z}(2) = \{0, 1\}.$$

We consider the elements of  $\hat{\mathbf{D}}$  arranged according to the ordering defined by Paley for the Walsh functions. In other words, we let  $r_j(x)$

$= (-1)^{x_j}$ , where  $x = \{x_j\} \in \mathbf{D}$  with  $x_j \in \mathbf{Z}(2)$ , and we put

$$w_0 = 1,$$

$$w_n = r_{j_1} r_{j_2} \dots r_{j_p}, \quad \text{where } n = 2^{j_1-1} + 2^{j_2-1} + \dots + 2^{j_p-1}.$$

Then, for a function  $f$  defined on  $\mathbf{D}$ , we write

$$S_n(f, x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \hat{f}(w_k) w_k(x_k).$$

We recall (see [4]) that

$$\sup_n \{ \|S_n f\|_\infty : f \in C(\mathbf{D}), \|f\|_\infty \leq 1 \} = +\infty.$$

Therefore, not all functions in  $C(\mathbf{D})$  have a uniformly convergent Fourier series. The following theorem is a natural analogue of theorem 3 for subsets of  $\hat{\mathbf{D}}$ , but in this case the proof is more direct. Furthermore, the class of UC sets defined in theorem 5 which follows is closed under finite unions.

**THEOREM 5.** *Let  $r_j(x)$  be the Rademacher functions. For a positive integer  $s$ , let  $E^s$  be defined by*

$$E^s = \{r_{i_1} r_{i_2} \dots r_{i_s} : i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_s\}.$$

*If  $E = E^{s_1} \cup E^{s_2} \cup \dots \cup E^{s_p}$ , then  $E$  is a UC set. If one of the  $s_i$  is greater than one, then  $E$  is not a Sidon set.*

**Proof.** For each  $N$ , let  $M$  be the largest integer such that  $w_M \in E$  and  $M \leq N$ . Let

$$M = 2^{j_1-1} + \dots + 2^{j_h-1} \quad \text{with } j_1 > j_2 > \dots > j_h.$$

We write

$$P_1(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{j_1-1} (1 + r_i(x)),$$

$$P_q(x) = r_{j_1} r_{j_2} \dots r_{j_{q-1}}(x) \prod_{i=1}^{j_q-1} (1 + r_i(x)) \quad \text{for } 2 \leq q \leq h$$

and, lastly,

$$P_{h+1}(x) = r_{j_1} r_{j_2} \dots r_{j_h}(x).$$

For each  $N$ , the function  $Q_N = P_1 + P_2 + \dots + P_{h+1}$ , where  $h = h(N)$  depends on  $N$ , satisfies

$$\|Q_N\|_1 \leq (\max_{1 \leq i \leq p} s_i) + 1,$$

$$\hat{Q}_N(w_k) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } w_k \in E, k \leq N, \\ 0 & \text{if } w_k \in E, k > N. \end{cases}$$

Therefore,  $E = \bigcup_1^p E^{s_i}$  is a UC set by theorem 1. If  $s_1 > 1$ , then  $E^{s_1}$  is known not to be a Sidon set.

We prove now the analogue of theorem 4.

**THEOREM 6.** *If  $E \subset \hat{D}$  is a UC set, then  $E$  cannot contain subgroups of arbitrarily large finite cardinality.*

**Proof.** Let  $f_k$  be polynomials of degree  $d_k$ , that is

$$f_k = \sum_{j=0}^{d_k} \hat{f}_k(w_j) w_j(x),$$

such that

$$\|f_k\|_\infty \leq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \|S_{n_k} f_k\|_\infty \rightarrow \infty.$$

Suppose that  $E$  contains subgroups of arbitrarily large finite cardinality. Then passing, if necessary, to a subsequence of  $\{d_k\}$ , we can suppose that  $E$  contains subgroups of cardinality  $2^{h_k}$ , where  $2^{h_k-1} < d_k \leq 2^{h_k}$ ; let  $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_{h_k}$  be a basis for such a subgroup and let us suppose that  $s_i$  precedes  $s_{i+1}$  in the Paley ordering. Let  $\alpha: \hat{D} \rightarrow \hat{D}$  be a group-isomorphism such that  $\alpha(s_i) = r_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq h_k$ . Let  $F_k = S_{n_k} f_k$ , and write  $\hat{F}_k^*(w_j) = \hat{F}_k(\alpha(w_j))$  and  $\hat{f}_k^*(w_j) = \hat{f}_k(\alpha(w_j))$ . We have then

$$\|F_k^*\|_\infty = \|F_k\|_\infty \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \|f_k^*\|_\infty = \|f_k\|_\infty \leq 1.$$

But  $F_k^* = S_{m_k} f_k^*$ , where  $m_k$  is such that  $\alpha(w_{m_k}) = w_{n_k}$ ; therefore, we have a sequence  $f_k^*$  of continuous  $E$ -functions, whose norms are bounded by 1 and such that  $\|S_{m_k} f_k^*\|_\infty \rightarrow \infty$ . This is a contradiction because  $E$  is a UC set.

We exhibit now an example of a Sidon set  $E \subset \hat{D}$  such that

$$E^2 = \{w_h w_k : h \neq k; w_h, w_k \in E\}$$

is not a UC set, since it will contain subspaces of arbitrarily high cardinality. We define a sequence  $G_i$  of subsets of  $\hat{D}$  by induction on  $i$ . Let  $W_1$  be a subspace of  $\hat{D}$  of cardinality  $n_1$  and let us consider  $n_1$  Rademacher functions  $r_{1,1}, r_{1,2}, \dots, r_{1,n_1}$  whose index is greater than the index of each element in  $W_1$ . If

$$W_1 = \{w_{1,1}, \dots, w_{1,n_1}\},$$

we let then

$$G_1 = \{w_{1,j} r_{1,j} : j = 1, 2, \dots, n_1\}.$$

If  $i \geq 2$ ,  $W_i$  will be a subspace of  $\hat{D}$  with cardinality  $n_i > n_{i-1}$  and will be disjoint from the subspace generated by  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{m_{i-1}}$ , where  $m_{i-1}$  is the greatest index of the functions  $r_{i-1,1}, \dots, r_{i-1,n_{i-1}}$  when they are arranged according to the ordering. We consider then  $n_i$  Rademacher functions  $r_{i,1}, \dots, r_{i,n_i}$  such that their index is greater than the index of each function in  $W_i$ , and we let

$$G_i = \{w_{i,j}r_{i,j} : j = 1, 2, \dots, n_i\}, \quad \text{where } W_i = \{w_{i,1}, \dots, w_{i,n_i}\}.$$

Finally, we let

$$G = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} G_i \quad \text{and} \quad R = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \{r_{i,j(i)} : 1 \leq j(i) \leq n_i\}.$$

Both  $G$  and  $R$  are Sidon sets because they are independent subsets of  $\hat{D}$ ; therefore  $E = G \cup R$  is a Sidon set [1], but  $E^2$  is not a UC set since  $E^2 \supset W_i$  for each  $i$ .

4. It is known that the union of two Sidon sets is a Sidon set [1]. It is natural to ask now whether the union  $E_1 \cup E_2$  of two UC sets  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  is a UC set. (P 944)

In the general case, we are unable to give an answer to this question even if the UC sets are those defined in theorem 3 with respect to the same sequence  $\{n_k\}$ . For UC subsets of  $\hat{D}$  we have only the partial answer given in theorem 5.

Another natural open question concerning UC sets is the following: does every set which is not a Sidon set contain a UC set which is still not a Sidon set? (P 945)

Finally, it is natural to ask whether the UC constants found in theorems 2 and 4 can be improved. More, in general, the relation between a Sidon constant and a UC constant of a finite set is still unclear. (P 946)

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