

Basecamp for convergence of ergodic averages along subsequences

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Wrocław, Poland
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The ergodic theorem



Take a cup of coffee  , grab a coffee molecule x_* in it, and take repeated measurements at $1s, 2s, 3s, \dots$, of, say, the speed of the molecule:

$$v(x_*, 1), \quad v(x_*, 2), \quad v(x_*, 3), \quad \dots \quad (1)$$

The ergodic theorem says that the averages $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n \in [N]} v(x_*, n)$ ($[N] = \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$), calculated over time, converge to the average speed of all molecules in the cup:

$$\lim_N \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n \in [N]} v(x_*, n) = \frac{1}{\underbrace{[1]}_{x \in \text{cup}}} \sum_{x \in [1]} v(x, 1) \quad (2)$$

So the time averages converge to the space average.

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$$\lim_N \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n \in [N]} v(x_*, n) = \frac{1}{\text{cup}} \int_{x \in \text{cup}} v(x, 1) \quad (2)$$

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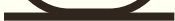
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What's wrong with it?

$$\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} v(x_*, n) = \mathbf{A}_{\substack{x \in \text{☕}}} v(x, 1) \quad (3)$$

Well nothing is wrong with it, but there are two big issues:

Question 1 (Issues with the ergodic theorem).

(a) In general: Forever. We do not address this depressing fact in these lectures.

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Well nothing is wrong with it, but there are two big issues:

Question 1 (Issues with the ergodic theorem).

(a) How long do we need to take measurements till the time averages $\mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} v(x_*, n)$ get close to the space one $\mathbf{A}_{\substack{\{\!\!\}\!\!\}}_{x \in \text{cup}} v(x, 1)$?

(b) We do have to take the measurements *exactly* at equal spaced times, so like at $1s, 2s, \dots$. What if we cannot do that (which is the likely scenario)?

(a) In general: Forever. We do not address this depressing fact in these lectures.

(b) This is also depressing, but this is our main topic, so we do address it, and, as usual in math, we'll try to squeeze something good out of this impossible situation.

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$$\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} v(x_*, n) = \mathbf{A}_{\substack{\{ \} \\ x \in \text{cup}}} v(x, 1) \quad (3)$$

Well nothing is wrong with it, but there are two big issues:

Question 1 (Issues with the ergodic theorem).

- (a) How long do we need to take measurements till the time averages $\mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} v(x_*, n)$ get close to the space one $\mathbf{A}_{\substack{\{ \} \\ x \in \text{cup}}} v(x, 1)$?
- (b) We do have to take the measurements **exactly** at equal spaced times, so like at 1s, 2s, ... What if we cannot do that (which is the likely scenario)?

- (a) In general: Forever. We do not address this depressing fact in these lectures.
- (b) This is also depressing, but this is our main topic, so we do address it, and, as usual in math, we'll try to squeeze something good out of this impossible situation.

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$$\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} v(x_*, n) = \mathbf{A}_{\substack{\{\{\{\} \\ x \in \text{cup}}}} v(x, 1) \quad (3)$$

Well nothing is wrong with it, but there are two big issues:

Question 1 (Issues with the ergodic theorem).

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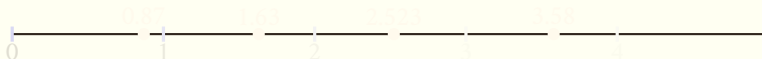
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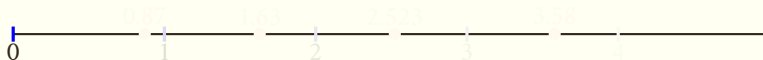
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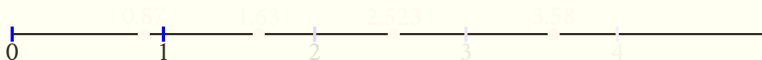
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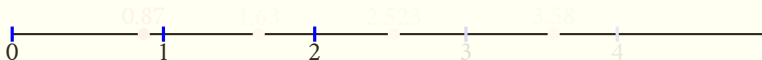
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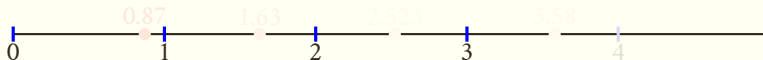
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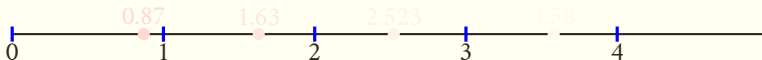
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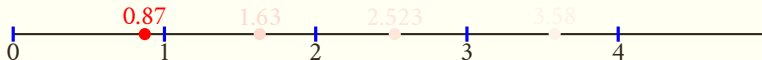
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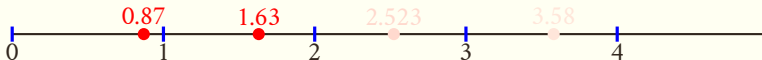
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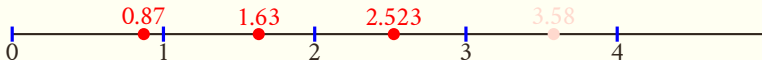
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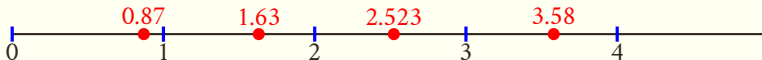
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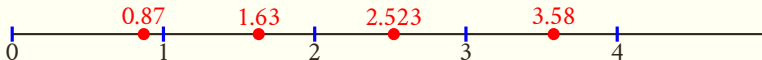
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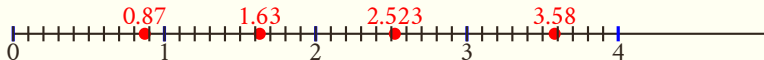
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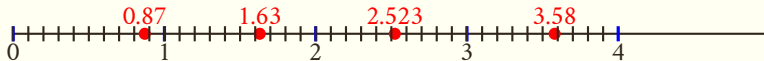
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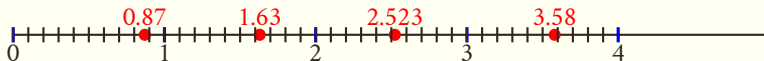
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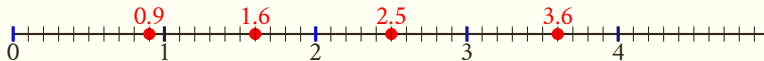
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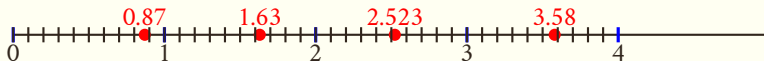
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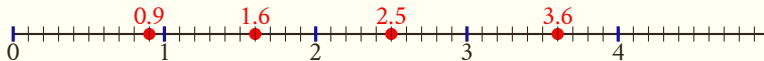
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Theorem 1 (The ergodic theorem).

Let $f \in L^1$.

Then we have

$$\lim_N \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n \in [N]} f(T^n x_*) \quad \text{exists for a.e. } x_* \in X \text{ and in } L^1\text{-norm} \quad (4)$$

- We didn't claim that the limit in eq. (4) is equal the "space" average which in case of a probability space would be the integral of f on the space X . This is because the limit may not be the integral of f !

- We may now ask: "How good" is equality of the limit in the ergodic theorem to the integral?

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$$Tj := j + 1 \pmod{q} \tag{5}$$

For this reason, we often refer to this periodic system $([q], \mathbf{m}_q, T)$ as the “mod q system”. Sometimes it’s more convenient to use $[q]_0 := \{0, 1, \dots, q-1\}$.

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A periodic system with period q is $X = [q] = \{1, 2, \dots, q\}$ with the uniform measure $\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{m}_q$, so $\mathbf{m}_q\{j\} = 1/q$ for every $j \in [q]$. The transformation T on $[q]$ is the “shift by one mod q ” transformation:

$$Tj := j + 1 \pmod{q} \tag{5}$$

For this reason, we often refer to this periodic system $([q], \mathbf{m}_q, T)$ as the **mod q system**. Sometimes it's more convenient to use $[q]_0 := \{0, 1, \dots, q-1\}$.

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Problem 1 (Ergodic theorem for $\bmod q$ systems).

Show the ergodic theorem for $\bmod q$ systems: For every $f : [q] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, we have

$$\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} f(j_* + n) = \mathbf{A}_{j \in [q]} f(j) \quad \text{for every } j_* \in [q] \quad (6)$$

Hint:

Assume that f is the indicator of a point in $[q]$.

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Good and ergodic times

Definition 1 (Good and ergodic times).

Let $\mathbf{t} = (t_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of integers, and (X, \mathbf{m}, T) a mps.

So N is ergodic for $\text{mod } q$ systems.

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Let $\mathbf{t} = (t_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of integers, and (X, \mathbf{m}, T) a mps.

(a) We say \mathbf{t} is a **good time** or simply **good** for (X, \mathbf{m}, T) if $\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} f(T^{t_n} x_*)$ exists for every $f \in L^1$.

(b) We say \mathbf{t} is an **ergodic time** or simply **ergodic** for (X, \mathbf{m}, T) if it's a good time for (the ergodic) (X, \mathbf{m}, T) and $\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} f(T^{t_n} x_*) = \int_X f \, d\mathbf{m}$ for every $f \in L^1$.

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(a) Show that the squares $\mathbb{S} = (n^2)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is good for $\mod q$ for every q . (Show rate of convergence)

(b) For which $q > 1$ is \mathbb{S} ergodic for $\mod q$?

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Hint:

- (a) Write n in the form $n = lq + r$ for some integers l and $0 \leq r < q$.

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Hint:

- (a) Write n in the form $n = tq + r$ for some integers t and $0 \leq r < q$.
- (b) Only $q = 2$.

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(a) Show that the sequence \mathbb{P} of primes is good for $\mod q$ for every q . (Show rate of convergence)

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Problem 3.

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Bad times

Here is a bad sequence $\mathbf{t} = (t_n)$ for the $\sqrt{\cdot} \bmod 2$ system: from an interval of the form $[(2k)!, (2k+1)!)$ put all the **even** numbers into \mathbf{t} and from an interval of the form $[(2k-1)!, (2k)!)$ put all the **odd** numbers into \mathbf{t} .

In formulas, let O denote the set of odd numbers and E the set of even ones. Then define \mathbf{t} (as a set) by

$$\mathbf{t} = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \left(O \cap [(2k-1)!, (2k)! \right) \cup \left(E \cap [(2k)!, (2k+1)! \right) \quad (7)$$

Problem 4 (Bad sequence for $\sqrt{\cdot} \bmod 2$).

Show that the sequence \mathbf{t} defined in eq. (7) has the properties:

$$\limsup_N \bigwedge_{n \in [N]} 1_{\{0\}}(j_* + t_n) = 1 \quad \text{for every } j_* \in [2] \quad (8)$$

$$\liminf_N \bigwedge_{n \in [N]} 1_{\{0\}}(j_* + t_n) = 0 \quad \text{for every } j_* \in [2] \quad (9)$$

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Here is a bad sequence $\mathbf{t} = (t_n)$ for the $\mathbb{Z}/2$ mod 2 system: from an interval of the form $[(2k)!, (2k+1)!)$ put all the **even** numbers into \mathbf{t} and from an interval of the form $[(2k-1)!, (2k)!)$ put all the **odd** numbers into \mathbf{t} .

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Problem 4 (Bad sequence for $\mod 2$).

Show that the sequence \mathbf{t} defined in eq. (7) has the properties:

$$\limsup_N \bigwedge_{n \in [N]} \mathbb{1}_{\{0\}}(j_* + t_n) = 1 \quad \text{for every } j_* \in [2] \quad (8)$$

$$\liminf_N \bigwedge_{n \in [N]} \mathbb{1}_{\{0\}}(j_* + t_n) = 0 \quad \text{for every } j_* \in [2] \quad (9)$$

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Problem 5 (Bad sequence for $\cdot \pmod q$).

Let $q \geq 2$.

Construct a sequence $\mathbf{t} = (t_n)$ so that

$$\limsup_N \bigwedge_{n \in [N]} \mathbb{1}_{\{0\}}(j_* + t_n) = 1 \quad \text{for every } j_* \in [q] \quad (10)$$

$$\liminf_N \bigwedge_{n \in [N]} \mathbb{1}_{\{0\}}(j_* + t_n) = 0 \quad \text{for every } j_* \in [q] \quad (11)$$

Hint:

For $r \in [q]$ denote $R_r := \{n \in \mathbb{N} : n \equiv r \pmod q\}$ and define

$$\mathbf{t} := \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \bigcup_{r \in [q]} \left(R_r \cap [(kq + r)!, (kq + r + 1)!) \right) \quad (12)$$

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Problem 6 (Bad sequence for all $\pmod q$).

Construct a sequence $\mathbf{t} = (t_n)$ so that in **every** $\pmod q$ system we have

$$\limsup_N \bigwedge_{n \in [N]} \mathbb{1}_{\{0\}}(j_* + t_n) = 1 \quad \text{for every } j_* \in [q] \quad (13)$$

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Rotation of the torus

- ▶ The torus \mathbb{T} is defined as $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$. We identify \mathbb{T} with the closed unit interval $[0, 1]$, with 0 and 1 glued together.
- ▶ We denote by λ the Lebesgue-Haar probability measure on \mathbb{T} .
- ▶ We use Weyl's notation $e(t) := e^{2\pi it}$ for $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

For a real number α we define the transformation $T_\alpha = T_\alpha$ of \mathbb{T} by

$$T_\alpha(x) = (x + \alpha) \pmod{1} \quad \text{for every } x \in \mathbb{T}.$$

For $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, we say that α is *irrational* if $\alpha \notin \mathbb{Q}$. We assume in this lecture that α is irrational. In this case, the transformation T_α is invertible and its inverse is given by

$$T_\alpha^{-1}(x) = (x - \alpha) \pmod{1} \quad \text{for every } x \in \mathbb{T}.$$

For a real number t we define the map ϕ_t of \mathbb{T} by

$$\phi_t(x) = e^{2\pi i t x} \quad \text{for every } x \in \mathbb{T}.$$

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$$T\theta \coloneqq \{ \theta + \alpha \} \quad \text{for every } \theta \in \mathbb{R} \quad (15)$$

where $\{x\}$ is the **fractional part** of $x \in \mathbb{R}$, so if $n \leq x < n+1$ for some $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, then $\{x\} = x - n$. Following Weyl, we may write $x \bmod 1$ instead of $\{x\}$.

- ▶ We call T_α the **shift by α** or **rotation by α** , the latter term being justified by viewing the effect of T_α under the map $\theta \mapsto e(\theta)$: $e(T_\alpha \theta) = e(\theta) e(\alpha)$, and multiplication by $e(\alpha)$ rotates the complex plane (hence the unit circle) by the angle $2\pi\alpha$.

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Rotation of the torus

Rational α

The case of rotating by a rational $\alpha = \frac{a}{q}$ can be seen as the shift by a in the $\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z}$ mod q system, thus for rational α we only have this to say:

Problem 7 (Rational rotation is not ergodic).

Show that the transformation $T_{a/q}$ is not ergodic with respect to λ .

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Rotation of the torus

Irrational α

Lemma 1 (Weyl's lemma).

Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$.

Then we have $\lim_N \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n \in [N]_0} \mathbf{e}(n\alpha) = 0$.

The proof is an application of the geometric sequence sum-formula, according to which $\sum_{n \in [N]_0} \mathbf{e}(n\alpha) = \frac{1}{N} \frac{\mathbf{e}(N\alpha) - 1}{\mathbf{e}(\alpha) - 1}$. Since $\mathbf{e}(\alpha) - 1 \neq 0$, letting $N \rightarrow \infty$ proves the lemma.

Problem 8 (Irrational rotation is ergodic).

Show that the rotation of \mathbb{T} by an irrational number α is ergodic with respect to λ .

Hint:

Use first lemma 1 with $\alpha = p\alpha$ for every $p \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$, then use the density of the trigonometric polynomials in $L^1(\mathbb{T}, \lambda)$.

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The mean ergodic theorem

Let (X, \mathbf{m}, T) . The main observation (by *Koopman*) is that the linear transformation \mathcal{T} of L^2 defined by

$$\mathcal{T}f(x) \doteq f(Tx) \quad \text{for every } f \in L^2 \quad (16)$$

is a linear **isometry**, meaning that $\|\mathcal{T}f\|_{L^2} = \|f\|_{L^2}$. Since L^2 is a Hilbert space, the following is a general version of what we need.

Theorem 2 (Mean ergodic theorem for Hilbert space).

Let \mathcal{T} be a **contraction** of a Hilbert space H , so $\|\mathcal{T}f\|_H \leq \|f\|_H$.

Then

$$\mathcal{P}f \doteq \lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} \mathcal{T}^n f \quad (17)$$

exists in the norm of H for every $f \in H$. The transformation \mathcal{P} is \mathcal{T} invariant: $\mathcal{T}\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}$.

Recall that $[N]_0 = \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}$.

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Let (X, \mathbf{m}, T) . The main observation (by *Koopman*) is that the linear transformation \mathcal{T} of L^2 defined by

$$\mathcal{T}f(x) := f(Tx) \quad \text{for every } f \in L^2 \quad (16)$$

is a linear **isometry**, meaning that $\|\mathcal{T}f\|_{L^2} = \|f\|_{L^2}$. Since L^2 is a Hilbert space, the following is a general version of what we need.

Theorem 2 (Mean ergodic theorem for Hilbert space).

Let \mathcal{T} be a **contraction** of a Hilbert space H , so $\|\mathcal{T}f\|_H \leq \|f\|_H$.

Then

$$\mathcal{P}f := \lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} \mathcal{T}^n f \quad (17)$$

exists in the norm of H for every $f \in H$. The transformation \mathcal{P} is \mathcal{T} invariant: $\mathcal{T}\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}$.

Recall that $[N]_0 = \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}$.

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The idea of Riesz for proving the mean ergodic theorem is that two classes of functions in H , for which the theorem is close to obvious, happen to span all of H .

The first class of functions is the \mathcal{T} invariant ones: $\mathcal{T}f = f$. Denoting the set of \mathcal{T} -invariant functions by I , we have

$$\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} \mathcal{T}^n f = f \quad \text{for } f \in I \quad (18)$$

The other set of functions is the set C of **coboundaries**; these are functions f which can be written in the form $f = \mathcal{T}g - g$ for some $g \in H$. For such an f we have a collapsing sum:

$\sum_{n \in [N]_0} \mathcal{T}^n f = \mathcal{T}^N g - g$, thus

$$\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} \mathcal{T}^n f = 0 \quad \text{for } f \in C \quad (19)$$

The punchline is the observation that H is the orthogonal sum of I and \bar{C} , $H = I \perp \bar{C}$. What needs to be proven is that if f is orthogonal to every coboundary then it must be \mathcal{T} -invariant. A picture will make this obviously true: (next slide, please)

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Hilbert space proof 2

Again, what we are proving is that if f is orthogonal to every coboundary, then it must be \mathcal{T} -invariant, so $\mathcal{T}f = f$.

If $f \perp C$ then, in particular, $f \perp \mathcal{T}f - f$. Here is the picture.



In this right angle triangle, if the length of $\mathcal{T}f - f$ was positive then, by the Pythagorean theorem, $\mathcal{T}f$ would be strictly longer than the length of f , but \mathcal{T} is a contraction, so $\|\mathcal{T}f\| \leq \|f\|$. So we must have $\|\mathcal{T}f - f\| = 0$, implying $\mathcal{T}f = f$.

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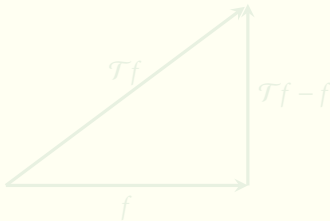
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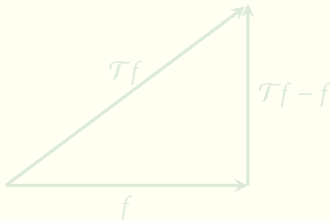
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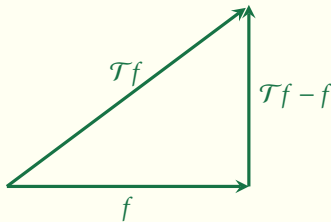
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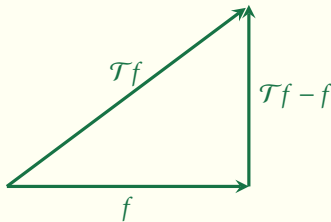
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Lemma 2 (Herglotz's spectral theorem (baby spectral theorem)).

Let \mathcal{U} be a unitary transformation of the Hilbert space H , and let $f \in H$.

Then there is a Borel measure $\mu = \mu_f$ on \mathbb{T} so that

$$(\mathcal{U}^n f, f) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} e^{-n} d\mu \quad \text{for every } n \in \mathbb{Z} \quad (20)$$

Note that $\int_{\mathbb{T}} e^{-n} d\mu = \hat{\mu}(n)$.

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Recall: $(\mathcal{U}^n f, f) = (f, \mathcal{U}^{-n} f) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} e^{-n} d\mu_f$.

Problem 9.

Show (or just observe) the following for $f \in H$:

$$\|f\|_H^2 = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \|\mathcal{U}^n f\|_H^2.$$

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \|\mathcal{U}^n f\|_H^2 = 0 \iff f = 0.$$

Hint: Use $\|f\|_H^2 = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \|\mathcal{U}^n f\|_H^2$.

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Problem 9.

Show (or just observe) the following for $f \in H$:

- (a) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|\Lambda_n(f) - \mathcal{U}(f)\|_H = 0$
- (b) $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \Lambda_N(f) = 0$
- (c) $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \Lambda_N(f) = \mathcal{U}(f)$ exists (yes, prove the mean ergodic theorem!)

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(a) $\|f\|_H^2 = \mu_f \mathbb{T}.$

(b) $\|\mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} \mathcal{U}^n f\|_H^2 = \int_{\mathbb{T}} |\mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} e^{-n}|^2 d\mu.$

(c) $\lim_N \|\mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} \mathcal{U}^n f\|_H^2 = \mu_f \{0\}.$

(d) $\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} \mathcal{U}^n f$ exists (yes, prove the mean ergodic theorem!)

Hint:

(a) Observation!

(b) Calculation using baby spectral theorem

(c) Calculation using previous part.

(d) Show that $\{\mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} \mathcal{U}^n f\}_{N \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a Cauchy sequence in $\|\cdot\|_H$.

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- (d) $\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} \mathcal{U}^n f$ exists (yes, prove the mean ergodic theorem!)

Hint:

- (a) Observation!
- (b) Calculation using baby spectral theorem
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Problem 9.

Show (or just observe) the following for $f \in H$:

- (a) $\|f\|_H^2 = \mu_f \mathbb{T}.$
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Definition 2 (Norm-good times).

Let (X, \mathbf{m}, T) be a mps. We say the time $\mathbf{t} = (t_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is **norm-good for** (X, \mathbf{m}, T) if $\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} f \circ T^{t_n}$ exists in $\|\cdot\|_{L^2(X)}$ for every $f \in L^2(X)$.

We say the time $\mathbf{t} = (t_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is **norm-good** if it's norm-good for every mps.

Theorem 3 ((t_n) is norm-good iff it's norm good for every rotation).

The time $\mathbf{t} = (t_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is norm-good iff it's norm good for every rotation of the torus \mathbb{T} :

$$\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} \mathbf{e}(t_n \alpha) \quad \text{exists for every } \alpha \in \mathbb{R} \quad (21)$$

Hint (to prove theorem 3):

Use baby spectral theorem as you did in problem 9, (d).

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Squares are norm good

Corollary 1 (to theorem 3).

The squares and cubes are norm-good.

I just deal with the squares, leaving the cubes for you to explore.

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Corollary 1 (to theorem 3).
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I just deal with the squares, leaving the cubes for you to explore.

► We need to show that $\lim_N A_{n^2}(N) \cdot e(n^2 \alpha)$ exists for every rotation α .

► We have already proved that the limit is 0.

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- We need to show that $\lim_N A_{n^2 \in [N]} e(n^2 \alpha)$ exists for every rotation α .
- For irrational α Weyl proved that the limit is 0.
- For rational $\alpha = a/q$, $(a, q) = 1$, we (you) showed that the limit is $A_{n^2 \in [N]} e\left(\frac{n^2 a}{q}\right)$. This, in general, is not 0 expressing the fact that the squares do not distribute uniformly in residue classes.

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Theorem 4 (Pointwise ergodic theorem).

Let (X, \mathbf{m}, T) be a measure preserving system and $f \in L^1(X)$.

Then $\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} f(T^n x)$ exists for \mathbf{m} -a.e. $x \in X$.

Corollary 2 (Irrational rotations).

Let α be irrational.

Then $\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} f(\theta + n\alpha) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} f \, d\lambda$ for $f \in L^1(\mathbb{T}, \lambda)$ and λ -a.e. θ .

In case of pointwise ergodic theorems, we are preoccupied with showing the existence of limit. We leave it to norm-convergence to identify the limit.

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Pointwise ergodic theorem

Dense class

Theorem (Pointwise ergodic theorem).

Let (X, \mathbf{m}, T) be a measure preserving system and $f \in L^1(X)$.

Then $\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} f(T^n x)$ exists for \mathbf{m} -a.e. $x \in X$.

The steps of proving the pointwise ergodic theorem are

- Find an L^1 -dense class of functions for which convergence holds.
- Prove a maximal inequality.

The dense class is the same as in case of the mean ergodic theorem: those $f \in L^2(X)$ which can be written as a sum of a T -invariant function and a coboundary. The only question is a coboundary, so when $f = g \circ T - g$ for some $g \in L^2$. Since $\mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} f(T^n x) = \frac{1}{N} \cdot (g(T^N x) - g(x))$,

$$\int_X \sum_N \left| \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} f(T^n x) \right|^2 \leq \sum_N \frac{1}{N^2} \cdot 4 \cdot \|g\|_{L^2(X)}^2 < \infty \quad (22)$$

so $\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} f(T^n x) = 0$ for \mathbf{m} -a.e. $x \in X$.

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$$\mathfrak{m}\left\{x \in X : \sup_N \left| \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} f(T^n x) \right| > \eta \right\} \leq \frac{1}{\eta} \|f\|_{L^1(X)} \quad \text{for every } f \in L^1(X), \eta > 0 \quad (23)$$

The function $\sup_N |\mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} f(T^n x)|$ is called the **maximal function of f** . Note that for any $g \in L^1(X)$ we have Markov's inequality $\mathfrak{m}\{x \in X : \sup_N |g(x)| > \eta\} \leq \frac{1}{\eta} \|g\|_{L^1(X)}$. In general, the maximal function is not integrable, though it satisfies the **weak inequality** in eq. (23).

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When proving

$$\mathbf{m}\left\{x \in X : \sup_N \left| \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} f(T^n x) \right| > \eta \right\} \leq \frac{1}{\eta} \|f\|_{L^1(X)} \quad \text{for every } f \in L^1(X), \eta > 0 \quad (24)$$

we can assume that $f \geq 0$ and $\eta = 1$. The proof of eq. (24) is in two steps:

- Prove the special case when the mps is $\mathbb{Z}_+ \approx \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ with the counting measure and T is the shift by 1, so $Tj \approx j + 1$. We thus first prove

$$\mathbf{m}\left\{j \in \mathbb{Z}_+ : \max_{N \in [M]} \left| \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} P(j+n) \right| > 1 \right\} \leq \sum_j P(j) \quad (25)$$

for $P : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ of finite support and $M \in \mathbb{N}$.

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- Use Calderón's transference to show the inequality in any mps.

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A transformation T of a measure space (X, \mathbf{m}) is **aperiodic** if

$$\mathbf{m}\{x \in X : T^q x = x \text{ for some } q \in \mathbb{N}\} = 0 \quad (26)$$

Recall that earlier you constructed a time $\mathbf{t} = (t_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ so that for every $q \in \mathbb{N}$
 $\limsup_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} \mathbb{1}_{\{0\}}(r + t_n) = 1$ for every $r \in [q]$.

Problem 10 (Bad time (Krengel)).

Let (X, \mathbf{m}, T) be an aperiodic mps and $\varepsilon > 0$.

Show that there is $A \subset X$ with $\mathbf{m} A < \varepsilon$ and $\limsup_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} \mathbb{1}_A(T^n x) = 1$ for a.e. $x \in X$.

Hint:

See the appendix.

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A transformation T of a measure space (X, \mathbf{m}) is **aperiodic** if

$$\mathbf{m}\{x \in X : T^q x = x \text{ for some } q \in \mathbb{N}\} = 0 \quad (26)$$

Recall that earlier you constructed a time $\mathbf{t} = (t_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ so that for every $q \in \mathbb{N}$
 $\limsup_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} \mathbb{1}_{\{0\}}(r + t_n) = 1$ for every $r \in [q]$.

Problem 10 (Bad time (Krengel)).

Let (X, \mathbf{m}, T) be an aperiodic mps and $\varepsilon > 0$.

Show that there is $A \subset X$ with $\mathbf{m} A < \varepsilon$ and $\limsup_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} \mathbb{1}_A(T^{t_n} x) = 1$ for a.e. $x \in X$.

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We want to prove

$$\#\left\{j \in \mathbb{Z}_+ : \max_{N \in [M]} \sum_{n \in [N]_0} F(j+n) > 1\right\} \leq \sum_j F(j) \quad \text{for } F : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+ \text{ of finite support and } M \in \mathbb{N}$$

(27)

• Let $S = S_1 = \{j \in \mathbb{Z}_+ : \sum_{n \in [N]_0} F(j+n) > N \text{ for some } N \in [M]\}$. Let j_1 be the smallest element of S_1 . Then for an $N_1 \in [M]$ we have $\sum_{n \in [N_1]_0} F(j_1+n) > N_1$ which is

$$N_1 < \sum_{i=j_1(j_1+N_1-1)} F(i) \tag{28}$$

• Let j_2 be the smallest element of $S_2 \setminus S_1$, i.e. $j_1 < j_2 \leq N_1 + j_1$. We then have for some $N_2 \in [M]$

$$N_2 < \sum_{i=j_2(j_2+N_2-1)} F(i)$$

• ... and so on. The sum of all N_i

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► Let $S = S_1 \approx \{j \in \mathbb{Z}_+ : \sum_{n \in [N]_0} F(j+n) > N \text{ for some } N \in [M]\}$. Let j_1 be the smallest element of S_1 . Then for an $N_1 \in [M]$ we have $\sum_{n \in [N_1]_0} F(j_1+n) > N_1$ which is

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► Let j_2 be the smallest element of $S_2 \approx S_1 \setminus [j_1, j_1+N_1-1]$. We then have for some $N_2 \in [M]$,

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See the picture on the next slide.

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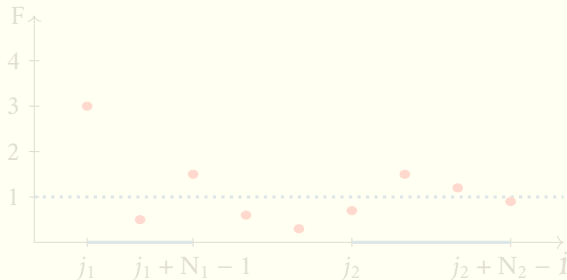
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We have $N_1 < \sum_{j \in [j_1, j_1 + N_1 - 1]} F(j)$ and $N_2 < \sum_{j \in [j_2, j_2 + N_2 - 1]} F(j)$. Continuing this way, we will stop after k steps when $S \subset \cup_{l \in [k]} [j_l + 1, j_l + N_l]$, where the intervals are disjoint, thus

$$\begin{aligned} \#S &\leq N_1 + N_2 + \cdots + N_k \\ &< \sum_{l \in [k]} \sum_{j \in [j_l, j_l + N_l - 1]} F(j) \\ &\leq \sum_j F(j) \end{aligned}$$

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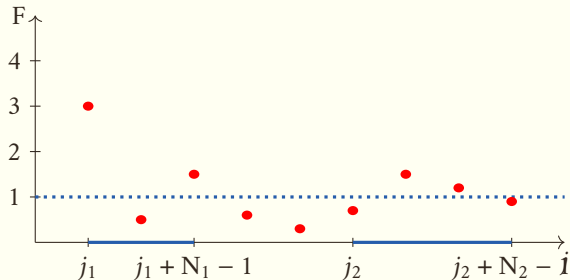
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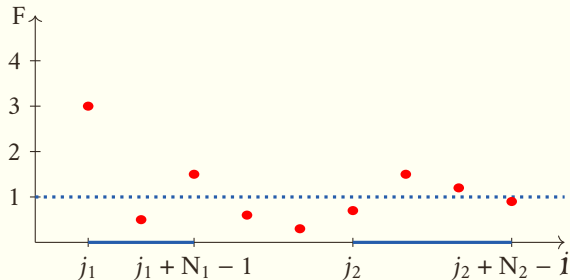
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Denote $S := \{x \in X : \max_{N \in [M]} \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} f(T^n x) > 1\}$. We want to show $\mathbf{m} S \leq \int_X f \, d\mathbf{m}$. Fix $x \in X$ and let $J \in \mathbb{N}, J > M$ and define $F : [J]_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ by

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Figure: Transference from $[J]_0$ to any measure preserving system

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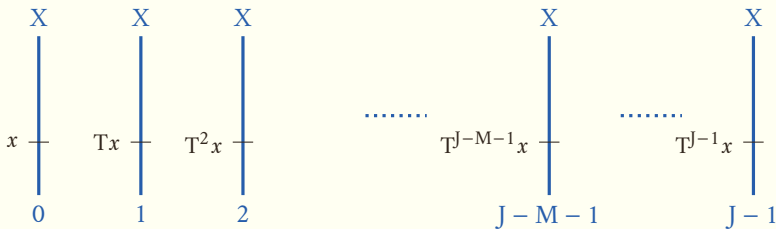


Figure: Transference from $[J]_0$ to any measure preserving system

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How does the maximal inequality

$$\mathfrak{m}\left\{x \in X : \sup_N \left| \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} f(T^n x) \right| > \eta\right\} \leq \frac{1}{\eta} \|f\|_{L^1(X)} \quad \text{for every } f \in L^1(X), \eta > 0 \quad (31)$$

and a.e. convergence for an L^1 -dense class imply a.e. convergence for all of L^1 ?

► Fix $f \in L^1(X)$, let $\varepsilon > 0$, and let g be from dense class for which $\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} g(T^n x)$ exists a.e. and approximates f ε -closely: $f = g + h$ where $\|h\|_{L^1(X)} < \varepsilon$.

► Using Lebesgue's L^1 -norm, the oscillations of the sequence $\{\mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} f(T^n x)\}_{N \in \mathbb{N}}$ are small: $\mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} f(T^n x) = \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} g(T^n x) + \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} h(T^n x)$, we have $\mathfrak{m}(\{x \in X : \mathfrak{m}(\{N \in \mathbb{N} : \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} f(T^n x) > \varepsilon\}) > \varepsilon\}) < \varepsilon$.

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$$\mathbf{m}\left\{x \in X : \sup_N \left| \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} f(T^n x) \right| > \eta\right\} \leq \frac{1}{\eta} \|f\|_{L^1(X)} \quad \text{for every } f \in L^1(X), \eta > 0 \quad (31)$$

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► Fix $f \in L^1(X)$, let $\varepsilon > 0$, and let g be from dense class for which $\lim_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} g(T^n x)$ exists a.e. and approximates f ε -closely: $f = g + h$ where $\|h\|_{L^1(X)} < \varepsilon$.

► Denoting by $\omega F(x)$ the oscillation of the sequence $(\mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} F(T^n x))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ so $\omega F(x) = \limsup_{K \rightarrow \infty} |\mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} F(T^n x) - \mathbf{A}_{n \in [K]_0} F(T^n x)|$, we have $\omega f(x) = \omega h(x)$.

► Since $\omega h(x) \leq 2 \sup_N |\mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} h(x)|$, by the maximal inequality, we get $\omega\{x \in X : \omega f(x) > \eta\} \leq \omega\{x \in X : 2 \sup_N |\mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]_0} h(x)| > \eta\} \leq \frac{2}{\eta} \|h\|_{L^1(X)} < \frac{2\varepsilon}{\eta}$.

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Theorem 5 (Rohlin's interval with error).

Let T be an invertible, bimeasurable, measure preserving, aperiodic transformation of the measure space (X, \mathbf{m}) . Let $[a, b] \subset \mathbb{Z}$ be an interval and let $\varepsilon > 0$.

Then there is a measurable $B \subset X$ so that the sets in the family $\{T^j B : j \in [a, b]\}$ are pairwise disjoint and $\mathbf{m}(\cup_{j \in [a, b]} T^j B)^c < \varepsilon$.

The set $E := (\cup_{j \in [a, b]} T^j B)^c$ is called the **error set**, and we talk about *Rohlin's interval $[a, b]$ with error ε* . A bit more casually, we say *we represent the interval $[a, b]$ in a mps*. In the literature they talk about *Rohlin's **tower** of height H with error ε* and they mean representing the interval $[0, H)$.

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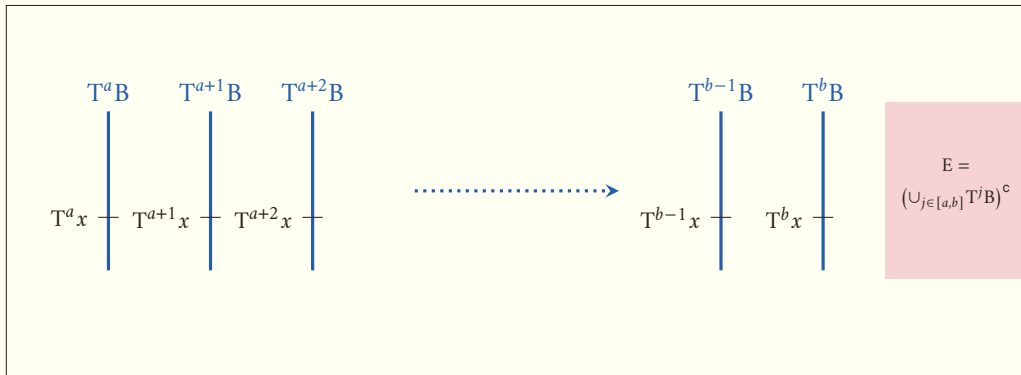
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Rohlin's interval $[a, b]$ and error:



$$X = T^{[a, b]} B \cup E = (\cup_{j \in [a, b]} T^j B) \cup E$$

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Problem 11 (Bad time (Krengel)).

Let (X, \mathbf{m}, T) be an aperiodic mps and $\varepsilon > 0$.

Show that there is $A \subset X$ with $\mathbf{m} A < \varepsilon$ and $\limsup_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} \mathbb{1}_A(T^{t_n} x) = 1$ for a.e. $x \in X$.

► Let $\eta > 0$ and choose $q \in \mathbb{N}$ so that $1/q < \eta$. Let M be large enough so that for every $r \in [q]$ we have $\max_{\{N: r+N \in [M]\}} \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} \mathbb{1}_{\{0\}}(r+t_n) > 1 - \eta$. Finally, choose $p \in \mathbb{N}$ large enough so that $M/pq < \eta$.

► We let F be the indicator of the set $\{sq : s \in [0, p)\} \subset \mathbb{Z}$. Denoting $j = pq$, for every $j \in [0, j - M)$ we have $\max_{\{N: j+N \in [M]\}} \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} F(j+t_n) > 1 - \eta$.

► So we have that $\|F\|_{\mathcal{A}} = j/q < \eta \cdot j$ while

$$\left\{j \in [0, j - M) : \max_{\{N: j+N \in [M]\}} \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} F(j+t_n) > 1 - \eta\right\} \supset [0, j - M) \text{ so} \\ + \left\{j \in [0, j - M) : \max_{\{N: j+N \in [M]\}} \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} F(j+t_n) > 1 - \eta\right\} \geq (1 - \eta)j.$$

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- ▶ Let $\eta > 0$ and choose $q \in \mathbb{N}$ so that $1/q < \eta$. Let M be large enough so that for every $r \in [q]$ we have $\max_{N: t_N \in [M]} \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} \mathbb{1}_{\{0\}}(r + t_n) > 1 - \eta$. Finally, choose $p \in \mathbb{N}$ large enough so that $M/pq < \eta$.
- ▶ We let F be the indicator of the set $\{sq : s \in [0, p)\} \subset \mathbb{Z}$. Denoting $J = pq$, for every $j \in [0, J - M)$ we have $\max_{N: t_N \in [M]} \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} F(j + t_n) > 1 - \eta$.
- ▶ So we have that $\|F\|_{\ell^1} = J/q < \eta \cdot J$ while $\{j \in [J]_0 : \max_{N: t_N \in [M]} \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} F(j + t_n) > 1 - \eta\} \supset [0, J - M)$ so $\#\{j \in [J]_0 : \max_{N: t_N \in [M]} \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} F(j + t_n) > 1 - \eta\} \geq (1 - \eta)J$.
- ▶ Use Rohlin's theorem with $[a, b] = [0, J)$ and repeat the construction in the given aperiodic mps to get the inequality $\mathbf{m}\{x \in X : \max_{N: t_N \in [M]} \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} f(T^n x) > 1 - \eta\} \geq (1 - \eta)$ where f is the indicator of the set $A_\eta := \{T^{sq}B : [0, p)\}$.
- ▶ Repeat the construction with $\eta_j = \frac{\varepsilon}{2^j}$, $j \in \mathbb{N}$, to obtain the sets A_{η_j} , and let $A := \cup_j A_{\eta_j}$.

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- ▶ Use Rohlin's theorem with $[a, b] = [0, J)$ and repeat the construction in the given aperiodic mps to get the inequality $\mathbf{m}\{x \in X : \max_{N: t_N \in [M]} \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} f(T^n x) > 1 - \eta\} \geq (1 - \eta)$ where f is the indicator of the set $A_\eta := \{T^{sq}B : [0, p)\}$.
- ▶ Repeat the construction with $\eta_j = \frac{\varepsilon}{2^j}$, $j \in \mathbb{N}$, to obtain the sets A_{η_j} , and let $A := \cup_j A_{\eta_j}$.

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Problem 11 (Bad time (Krengel)).

Let (X, \mathbf{m}, T) be an aperiodic mps and $\varepsilon > 0$.

Show that there is $A \subset X$ with $\mathbf{m} A < \varepsilon$ and $\limsup_N \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} \mathbb{1}_A(T^n x) = 1$ for a.e. $x \in X$.

- ▶ Let $\eta > 0$ and choose $q \in \mathbb{N}$ so that $1/q < \eta$. Let M be large enough so that for every $r \in [q]$ we have $\max_{N: t_N \in [M]} \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} \mathbb{1}_{\{0\}}(r + t_n) > 1 - \eta$. Finally, choose $p \in \mathbb{N}$ large enough so that $M/pq < \eta$.
- ▶ We let F be the indicator of the set $\{sq : s \in [0, p)\} \subset \mathbb{Z}$. Denoting $J = pq$, for every $j \in [0, J - M)$ we have $\max_{N: t_N \in [M]} \mathbf{A}_{n \in [N]} F(j + t_n) > 1 - \eta$.
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