

The Orlicz–Paley–Sidon Phenomenon for Singular Measures*

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1. Introduction.

This note is concerned with the question “how small can the Fourier–Stieltjes transform of a singular measure be?,” a question which we have also studied in another communication [5]. There is a companion question “how large can the Fourier transform of a continuous function with compact support be?.” This question too we have studied in another communication [6].

Throughout this note, the symbol G will denote a nondiscrete locally compact abelian group and X will denote the character group of G . Haar measure on G is denoted by λ and on X by θ . The symbol $\mathbf{M}(G)$ will denote the space of all measures on G , defined as in [7], §19. The symbols $\mathbf{M}_d(G)$, $\mathbf{M}_c(G)$, $\mathbf{M}_s(G)$, and $\mathbf{M}_a(G)$ denote the discrete, continuous, continuous singular (with respect to Haar measure), and absolutely continuous (with respect to Haar measure) measures, respectively, in $\mathbf{M}(G)$. The nonnegative (real) measures in a set \mathbf{B} of measures are denoted by \mathbf{B}^+ (\mathbf{B}^r). The nonnegative functions in a space \mathcal{F} of functions are similarly denoted by \mathcal{F}^+ .

The *Fourier–Stieltjes transform* of a measure $\mu \in \mathbf{M}(G)$ is the function $\widehat{\mu}$ on X such that

$$\widehat{\mu}(\chi) = \int_G \overline{\chi(t)} d\mu(t) \quad \text{for } \chi \in X.$$

For $f \in \mathcal{L}_1(G)$, we identify f and the measure $\mu \in \mathbf{M}(G)$ such that $d\mu = f d\lambda$, we write \widehat{f} for the Fourier transform of f :

$$\widehat{f}(\chi) = \int_G \overline{\chi(t)} f(t) d\lambda(t) \quad \text{for } \chi \in X.$$

The symbols \mathbb{N} , \mathbb{Z} , \mathbb{R} , and \mathbb{C} denote the positive integers, the integers, the real numbers, and the complex numbers, respectively.

For a topological space Y , the symbols $\mathfrak{C}(Y)$, $\mathfrak{C}_0(Y)$, and $\mathfrak{C}_k(Y)$ denote respectively: the space of all bounded complex-valued continuous functions on Y ; the space of all $f \in \mathfrak{C}(Y)$ that are arbitrarily small in absolute value outside of compact sets; and the space of all $f \in \mathfrak{C}(Y)$ that vanish outside of compact sets. If Y is discrete, we write $\mathfrak{C}_0(Y)$ as $\mathfrak{c}_0(Y)$.

The symbol $\mathbf{S}(G)$ denotes the set of all $\sigma \in \mathbf{M}_s^+(G)$ with compact support such that $\sigma(G) = 1$ and $\widehat{\sigma} \in \mathfrak{C}_0^+(X)$.

2. Singular transforms that are pointwise small.

Wiener and Wintner [14] constructed a probability measure $\sigma \in \mathbf{M}_s^+(\mathbb{T})$ ($\mathbf{M}_s^+(\mathbb{R})$) such that for every $\varepsilon > 0$, the relation

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\sigma}(n) &= O(|n|^{-\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}) & |n| \rightarrow \infty, & \quad n \in \mathbb{Z} \\ \widehat{\sigma}(t) &= O(|t|^{-\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}) & |t| \rightarrow \infty, & \quad t \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$

holds. They conjectured that if $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots$ are given positive numbers for which $\sum \gamma_n^2 = \infty$, then there exists a singular nonnegative measure σ for which $\widehat{\sigma}(n) = O(\gamma_n)$ or $\widehat{\sigma}(n) = o(\gamma_n)$ (*loc.cit.*, p. 514). This conjecture is incorrect, as the following construction shows.

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(2.1) THEOREM: There exists a strictly positive sequence $(\gamma_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ such that $\sum_{n=1}^\infty \gamma_n^2 = \infty$ and such that if $\mu \in \mathbf{M}^r(\mathbb{T})$ and $|\widehat{\mu}(n)| \leq \gamma_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, then μ is absolutely continuous (with Radon–Nikodym derivative in $\mathcal{L}_2(\mathbb{T})$).

PROOF: First, let F be a Sidon set contained in \mathbb{Z} and suppose that ν is a measure in $\mathbf{M}(\mathbb{T})$ such that $\widehat{\nu}(n) = 0$ for $n \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus F$. As Professor Alessandro Figà–Talamanca has kindly pointed out to us, this implies that $\widehat{\nu} \in l_2(\mathbb{Z})$. For, let α be any function on \mathbb{Z} of absolute value 1. Since F is a Sidon set, there is a measure $\varrho \in \mathbf{M}(\mathbb{T})$ such that $\widehat{\varrho}|_F = \alpha|_F$. Since $\widehat{\nu}$ vanishes on $\mathbb{Z} \setminus F$, we have

$$\widehat{\nu \star \varrho} = \alpha \widehat{\nu}.$$

That is, $\alpha \widehat{\nu}$ is a Fourier–Stieltjes transform for all choices of α . It is well known (see for example [7], (36.13)) that this property implies that $\widehat{\nu} \in l_2(\mathbb{Z})$ and so in particular ν is absolutely continuous.

To define $(\gamma_n)_{n=1}^\infty$, let D be any infinite Sidon set contained in \mathbb{N} , and let γ_n be 1 (say) for $n \in D$. On the set $\mathbb{N} \setminus D$, let γ_n be strictly positive and such that $\sum_{n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus D} \gamma_n^2 < \infty$. Let μ be any measure in $\mathbf{M}^r(\mathbb{T})$ such that $|\widehat{\mu}(n)| \leq \gamma_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Write F for the set $D \cup (-D)$. By a theorem of Drury [2], F is a Sidon set. Since $\widehat{\mu}(-n) = \overline{\widehat{\mu}(n)}$, the function $\widehat{\mu} \cdot 1_{\mathbb{Z} \setminus F}$ is in $l_2(\mathbb{Z})$ and so has the form \widehat{g} for some g in $\mathcal{L}_2(\mathbb{T})$.

The function $\widehat{\mu} - \widehat{g}$ vanishes on $\mathbb{Z} \setminus F$ and as noted above is therefore in $l_2(\mathbb{Z})$. Thus $\widehat{\mu}$ is in $l_2(\mathbb{Z})$, so that μ is absolutely continuous with Radon–Nikodym derivative in $\mathcal{L}_2(\mathbb{T})$.

Some additional conditions must be imposed on $(\gamma_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ in order to establish the conjecture of Wiener and Wintner. The most refined result in this direction that we know of is due to Ivašev–Musatov [9]. We state a typical case of his theorem for measures on \mathbb{R} . For every $p \in \mathbb{N}$, there is a probability measure $\sigma \in \mathbf{M}_s^+(\mathbb{R})$ with support a perfect set E of Lebesgue measure 0 (E may be contained in $[0, 2\pi]$ or it may be unbounded) such that

$$(1) \quad \widehat{\sigma}(y) = o\left(\left(y \log(y) \log(\log(y)) \dots \log_{(p)}(y)\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}\right) \quad y \rightarrow \infty.$$

We know of no complete resolution of the Wiener–Wintner conjecture.

3. Singular transforms that are small on the average.

For behavior “on the average” of singular Fourier–Stieltjes transforms, however, the situation is much clearer. First, in the communication [5], we have proved the following.

(3.1) THEOREM: (a) Let r be a real number greater than or equal to 2. There is a measure $\sigma \in \mathbf{S}(G)$ such that $\widehat{\sigma} \in \mathcal{L}_p(X)$ if and only if $p > r$.

(b) Let r be a real number strictly greater than 2. There is a measure $\sigma \in \mathbf{S}(G)$ such that $\widehat{\sigma} \in \mathcal{L}_p(X)$ if and only if $p \geq r$.

(c) There is a measure $\sigma \in \mathbf{S}(G)$ such that $\widehat{\sigma}$ is in no space $\mathcal{L}_p(X)$, $1 \leq p < \infty$.

We also have proved in [5] the following improvement on (3.1) Part (a) for $r = 2$.

(3.2) THEOREM: Let φ be a nonnegative, Borel measurable, locally bounded function defined on $]0, \infty[$ with the property that $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \varphi(s) = 0$. Then there exists a measure σ in $\mathbf{S}(G)$ such that

$$(i) \quad \int_X \widehat{\sigma}(\chi)^2 \varphi(\widehat{\sigma}(\chi)) d\theta(\chi) < \infty.$$

(3.3) REMARKS: (a) Theorem (3.2) is a counterpart for singular measures of Gronwall’s theorem [4] for Fourier transforms of continuous functions on \mathbb{T} , which we have extended in [6] to all groups G , using $\mathfrak{C}_k(G)$. Nothing like (3.2) appears in Gronwall *loc.cit.*, however.

(b) In (3.2) we need only set $\varphi(s) = (\log(1 + 1/s))^{-1}$ to obtain (3.1) Part (a) with $r = 2$.

4. Statement of present results.

A classical result of Orlicz [11], Paley [12], and Sidon [13], later extended by R.E. Edwards [3], asserts that $l_2(X)$ is the multiplier set for $\mathfrak{C}(G)$ if G is compact. The exact result is as follows.

(4.1) THEOREM: Let G be a compact group, so that X is discrete. If w is any complex function on X such that $wf \in l_1(X)$ for all $f \in \mathfrak{C}(G)$, then w must be in $l_2(X)$.

The analogue of (4.1) for compact not necessarily abelian groups also holds, and can be found for example in [7], (36.12).

We may ask if any “inverse” phenomenon occurs with singular measures. Our first result is a somewhat surprising affirmative answer.

(4.2) THEOREM: Let G be a nondiscrete locally compact abelian group, and let w be any function in $\mathcal{L}_2^+(X)$. There exists a measure $\sigma \in \mathbf{S}(G)$ such that

$$(i) \int_X \widehat{\sigma}(\chi)w(\chi)d\theta(\chi) < \infty.$$

For compact G , we can say even more.

(4.3) THEOREM: Let G be a compact abelian group and let w be any function in $\mathfrak{c}_0^+(X)$. There is a measure $\sigma \in \mathbf{S}(G)$ such that

$$(i) \sum_{\chi \in X} \widehat{\sigma}(\chi)w(\chi) < \infty.$$

5. Proof of (4.2).

We first prove a measure-theoretic lemma. In (5.1), let (Y, A, μ) be an arbitrary measure space, i.e., a set Y , a σ -algebra A of subsets of Y , and a countably additive nonnegative (possibly infinite) measure μ on A . Write \mathcal{L}_2 for $\mathcal{L}_2(Y, A, \mu)$.

(5.1) LEMMA: Let w be a function in \mathcal{L}_2^+ . There exists a function Ψ defined on $]0, \infty[$ with values in $]0, \infty[$ such that

- (i) Ψ is continuous;
- (ii) Ψ is strictly increasing;
- (iii) $\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \Psi(y) = 0$;
- (iv) $\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \Psi(y) \cdot y^{-1} = \infty$;
- (v) $\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \Psi(y) = \infty$;
- (vi) $\int_Y w(t)\Psi(w(t))d\mu(t) < \infty$.

PROOF: For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $A_n = \{y \in Y : (n+1)^{-1} \leq w(y) < n^{-1}\}$. It is clear that

$$(1) \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n+1)^{-2} \mu(A_n) \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_{A_n} w^2(t) d\mu(t) \leq \int_Y w^2(t) d\mu(t) < \infty,$$

and since

$$\frac{1}{n^2} \leq \frac{4}{(n+1)^2},$$

(1) implies that

$$(2) \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^{-2} \mu(A_n) < \infty.$$

A theorem of Dini (see e.g. [10], §39, paragraph 15, p. 302) shows that there is a nondecreasing sequence $(\gamma_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of positive real numbers such that

$$(3) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_n = \infty$$

and

$$(4) \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \gamma_n n^{-2} \mu(A_n) < \infty.$$

Now define a sequence $(\beta_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of positive real numbers by induction. Let $\beta_1 = \gamma_1$, and suppose that $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_{n-1}$ have been defined. Then we define

$$\beta_n = \min(\gamma_n, n^{\frac{1}{2}}, (n + \frac{3}{2})(n + 1)^{-1} \beta_{n-1}).$$

It is obvious that $(\beta_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is nondecreasing, that

$$(5) \quad \beta_n \leq n^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

$$(6) \quad \beta_n / \beta_{n-1} < (n + 2) / (n + 1),$$

and from (4) that

$$(7) \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \beta_n n^{-2} \mu(A_n) < \infty.$$

The only way for $(\beta_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ possibly to be bounded is for β_n to be $(n + \frac{3}{2})(n + 1)^{-1} \beta_{n-1}$ for all $n \geq k$ for some fixed index k . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_{k+l} &= \prod_{j=1}^{l+1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{k+j} \right) \beta_{k-1} \\ &> \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{k+1} + \dots + \frac{1}{k+l+1} \right) \beta_{k-1}. \end{aligned}$$

We thus have

$$(8) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \beta_n = \infty.$$

Now for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, define

$$\psi \left(\frac{1}{n+1} \right) = \beta_n,$$

interpolate ψ as a linear function in each interval $]1/(n+1), 1/n[$ ($n \in \{2, 3, \dots\}$), and for $y > \frac{1}{2}$ let $\psi(y) = \beta_1(2y)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$. Finally, define the function Ψ on $]0, \infty[$ by

$$(9) \quad \Psi(y) = y\psi(y).$$

Clearly Ψ is continuous. A short computation using (6) shows that Ψ is strictly increasing: we omit the details. It follows from (5) and the monotonicity of Ψ that $\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \Psi(y) = 0$. Relation (iv) follows from (8) and the definitions of ψ and Ψ while (v) is immediate.

It remains to establish (vi). Write B for the set $\{t \in Y : w(t) \geq 1\}$, and then estimate as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_Y w\Psi(w)d\mu &= \int_Y w^2\psi(w)d\mu \\
&= \int_B w^2\psi(w)d\mu + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_{A_n} w^2\psi(w)d\mu \\
&\leq \psi(1) \int_Y w^2 d\mu + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \mu(A_n) \beta_n \\
&< \infty.
\end{aligned}$$

(5.2) COMPLETION OF PROOF: For the measure space of Lemma (5.1), take the character group X of G , the σ -algebra of Borel sets, and Haar measure θ on X . Given a function w in $\mathcal{L}_2^+(X)$, construct the function Ψ as in (5.1), and further define $\Psi(0) = 0$. Thus Ψ is continuous on $[0, \infty[$. Let Φ be the inverse function to $\Psi : \Psi(\Phi(x)) = x$ for all $x \in [0, \infty[$. For $x \in]0, \infty[$, let $\varphi(x) = \Phi(x)/x$. For $x \in]0, \infty[$, let y be the (unique) number such that $x = \Psi(y)$. Then we have

$$\varphi(x) = \Phi(x)/x = y/\Psi(y)$$

and (5.1.iv) implies that

$$(1) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \varphi(x) = 0.$$

Note next that for arbitrary numbers a, b in $[0, \infty[$, the inequality

$$(2) \quad ab \leq a\Psi(a) + b\Phi(b)$$

obtains (a simple sketch suffices to verify this).

Finally, we cite Theorem (3.2) to produce a measure $\sigma \in \mathbf{S}(G)$ such that

$$(3) \quad \int_X \widehat{\sigma}(\chi)^2 \varphi(\widehat{\sigma}(\chi)) d\theta(\chi) < \infty,$$

where φ is the function defined in the preceding paragraph. For every $\chi \in X$, (2) shows that

$$(4) \quad \begin{aligned} w(\chi)\widehat{\sigma}(\chi) &\leq w(\chi)\Psi(w(\chi)) + \widehat{\sigma}(\chi)\Phi(\widehat{\sigma}(\chi)) \\ &= w(\chi)\Psi(w(\chi)) + \widehat{\sigma}(\chi)^2 \varphi(\widehat{\sigma}(\chi)). \end{aligned}$$

Integrate the inequality (4) over X and apply (3) and (5.1.vi). This shows that

$$\int_X w(\chi)\widehat{\sigma}(\chi) d\theta(\chi) < \infty,$$

as we wished to prove.

6. Proof of (4.3).

Throughout this section, we take G to be compact (and infinite), so that X is discrete. We prove first a group-theoretic fact.

(6.1) LEMMA: Let X be an infinite abelian group and $(\Phi_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ a sequence of finite subsets of X . There is a countably infinite dissociate subset $(\chi_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ of X such that for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$(i) \text{ no product } \chi_1^{\varepsilon_1} \chi_2^{\varepsilon_2} \dots \chi_{n-1}^{\varepsilon_{n-1}} \chi_n^{\pm 1} \text{ lies in } \Phi_n,$$

where $\varepsilon_j \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$ for $1 \leq j \leq n-1$.

PROOF: *Case I:* the set $\{\chi^2 : \chi \in X\}$ is infinite. The proof is by induction. Let χ_1 be any element not in $\{1\} \cup \Phi_1 \cup \Phi_1^{-1}$. Suppose that $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_{n-1}$ have been chosen so as to be dissociate and to satisfy (i) with n replaced by $n-1$. Let A_n be the set of all products

$$(1) \quad \psi_1^{\delta_1} \psi_2^{\delta_2} \dots \psi_n^{\delta_n}$$

where $\delta_j \in \{-4, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$, and $\{\psi_1, \psi_2, \dots, \psi_n\}$ is an arbitrary subset of $\{\chi_1, \chi_2, \dots, \chi_{n-1}\} \cup \Phi_n$. The set A_n is finite. Under our hypothesis, there is an element $\chi_n \in X$ such that $\chi_n^2 \notin A_n$. If

$$\chi_1^{\varepsilon_1} \dots \chi_{n-1}^{\varepsilon_{n-1}} \chi_n^{\pm 1} \in \Phi_n,$$

with $\varepsilon_j \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$, then χ_n^2 is in A_n . Thus (i) holds with this choice of χ_n . To prove that $\{\chi_1, \dots, \chi_n\}$ is dissociate, suppose that

$$\chi_1^{m_1} \chi_2^{m_2} \dots \chi_n^{m_n} = 1$$

with $m_j \in \{-2, -1, 0, 1, 2\}$. If $m_n \neq 0$, then χ_n^2 is obviously a product (1). Hence $m_n = 0$ and $\chi_1^{m_1} \dots \chi_{n-1}^{m_{n-1}} = 1$ by our inductive hypothesis.

Case II: the set $\{\chi^2 : \chi \in X\}$ is finite. In this case X contains a subgroup Γ isomorphic with the direct sum $P_{n=1}^* \infty \mathbf{Z}(2)$, which we realize as the group D of all sequences $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots)$ with $x_n \in \{0, 1\}$ and x_n eventually zero. (See [8].) Replacing Φ_n by $\Phi_n \cap \Gamma$, we may suppose that $X = D$. For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $e^{(n)}$ be the element of D such that $e_k^{(n)} = \delta_{nk}$ (Kronecker's δ -function). For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let

$$l_n = \max\{l \in \mathbb{N} : x_l = 1 \text{ for some } x \in \Phi_n\}.$$

We define a sequence $(s_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ of positive integers by induction. Let $s_1 = l_1 + 1$. When s_1, \dots, s_{n-1} have been defined, let

$$s_n = \max\{s_1, \dots, s_{n-1}, l_1, \dots, l_n\} + 1.$$

It is clear that the set $\{e^{(s_n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset D$ is dissociate and satisfies (i).

(6.2) COMPLETION OF PROOF. Let w be any function in $\mathfrak{c}_0^+(X)$. For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let

$$\Phi_n = \{\chi \in X : w(\chi) \geq 4^{-n}\}.$$

Let $\Delta = \{\chi_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a dissociate set in X satisfying (6.1.i) for these sets Φ_n . Now form the Riesz product $\mu_{\Delta, \beta}$ for this set Δ and the function β on Δ such that $\beta(\chi_n) = \frac{1}{2}n^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. The measure $\mu_{\Delta, \beta}$ is defined by the following relations:

$$(1) \quad \widehat{\mu}(1) = 1;$$

$$(2) \quad \widehat{\mu}(\chi_1^{\delta_1} \dots \chi_m^{\delta_m}) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{|\delta|} 1^{-\frac{1}{2}|\delta_1|} \dots m^{-\frac{1}{2}|\delta_m|}$$

for all sequences $\delta = (\delta_1, \dots, \delta_m)$ with $\delta_j \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$, where we write $|\delta| = \sum_{j=1}^m |\delta_j|$;

$\widehat{\mu}(\psi) = 0$ for all $\psi \in X$ not of the form appearing in (2).

It is known that $\mu_{\Delta, \beta}$ is in $\mathbf{M}^+(G)$, $\mu(G) = 1$, and that $\mu_{\Delta, \beta}$ is uniquely determined by (1)–(3). See for example [7], (37.14). We write σ for the measure $\mu_{\Delta, \beta}$. It is clear that $\widehat{\sigma} \in \mathfrak{c}_0(X)$ and hence $\sigma \in \mathbf{M}_c(G)$. Since $\sum_{n=1}^\infty \beta_n^2 = \infty$, we cite a theorem of Brown and Moran [1] to prove that σ is purely singular: $\sigma \in \mathbf{M}_s(G)$.

For $m \in \mathbb{N}$, let Q_m be the set of all sequences δ as in (2) for which $\delta_m = \pm 1$. If $\delta \in Q_m$, the character

$$\chi_1^{\delta_1} \chi_2^{\delta_2} \dots \chi_m^{\delta_m} = \psi_\delta$$

is not in Φ_m (Lemma (6.1)). The cardinal number of Q_m is $2 \cdot 3^{m-1}$. The number $\widehat{\sigma}(\psi_\delta)$ does not exceed $\frac{1}{2}m^{-\frac{1}{2}}$. We have

$$\sum_{\chi \in X} w(\chi) \widehat{\sigma}(\chi) \leq w(1) + \sum_{m=1}^\infty \sum_{\delta \in Q_m} w(\psi_\delta) \widehat{\sigma}(\psi_\delta) \leq w(1) + \sum_{m=1}^\infty 4^{-m} 2 \cdot 3^{m-1} \frac{1}{2} m^{-\frac{1}{2}} < \infty.$$

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