

## ON THE MAGNITUDE OF FOURIER COEFFICIENTS

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ABSTRACT. If  $f$  is a function on  $R^1$  of  $\Lambda$ -bounded variation and period  $2\pi$ , then its  $n$ th Fourier coefficient  $\hat{f}(n) = O(1/\Sigma_1^n 1/\lambda_j)$  and its integral modulus of continuity  $\omega_1(f; \delta) = O(1/\Sigma_1^{[1/\delta]} 1/\lambda_j)$ . The result on  $\hat{f}(n)$  is best possible in a sense. These results can be extended to certain other classes of functions of generalized variation.

For various classes of functions, estimates of the magnitude of the Fourier coefficients and of the integral moduli of continuity can be made. Here we shall do this for certain classes of functions of generalized bounded variation.

1. Let us suppose that  $f$  is a real-valued function on an interval  $I$  of  $R^1$ . If  $I_n = [a_n, b_n] \subset I$ , set  $f(I_n) = f(b_n) - f(a_n)$ . We suppose the intervals  $I_n$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , to be nonoverlapping. If  $\Lambda = \{\lambda_n\}$  is a nondecreasing sequence of positive real numbers such that  $\sum 1/\lambda_n = \infty$ , we have said [5] that  $f$  is of  $\Lambda$ -bounded variation ( $\Lambda$ BV) if, for every  $\{I_n\}$ ,

$$(1) \quad \sum |f(I_n)|/\lambda_n < \infty.$$

If  $f \in \Lambda$ BV on  $[a, b]$  it is known [5] that the supremum of the sums (1) is finite. This supremum is called the  $\Lambda$ -variation of  $f$  on  $[a, b]$ ,  $V_\Lambda(f; a, b)$ .

If  $\phi$  is a nonnegative convex function defined on  $[0, \infty)$  such that  $\phi(x)/x \rightarrow 0$  as  $x \rightarrow 0$ , we shall say that  $f$  is of  $\phi\Lambda$ -bounded variation ( $\phi\Lambda$ BV) if there is a  $c > 0$  such that, for every  $\{I_n\}$ ,

$$(2) \quad \sum \phi(c|f(I_n)|)/\lambda_n < \infty.$$

For  $\phi(x) = x^p$ ,  $p > 1$ , this class has been studied by Shiba [2], who calls it  $\Lambda$ BV $^{(p)}$ .

For  $p \geq 1$ , we define the integral modulus of continuity of order  $p$  to be

$$\omega_p(f; \delta) = \sup_{0 < t \leq \delta} \left( \int_I |f(x+t) - f(x)|^p dx \right)^{1/p}.$$

We have previously estimated the Fourier coefficients of functions in  $\Lambda$ BV. For  $\Lambda = \{n^{1+\beta}\}$ ,  $-1 < \beta < 0$ , we showed that  $\hat{f}(n) = O(n^\beta)$  by showing that the Fourier series of such  $f$  are  $(C, \beta)$ -bounded [4]. We have shown in general [6] that

$$(3) \quad \hat{f}(n) = O(\lambda_n/n),$$

which in the cases  $\lambda_n \equiv 1$  (ordinary bounded variation) and  $\lambda_n = n^{1+\beta}$  agrees with previous estimates. It is clear that in some cases (3) is not an adequate estimate. For example, in the case  $\lambda_n = n$ , the functions of harmonic bounded variation (HBV),

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it yields no useful information. Here we show  $\hat{f}(n) = O(1/\sum_1^n 1/\lambda_j)$  which, in the case of HBV, yields  $\hat{f}(n) = O(1/\log n)$ .

This estimate of the Fourier coefficients of functions of  $\Lambda BV$  is best possible, in a sense made clear by Theorem 2.

We now state our results.

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $f: R^1 \rightarrow R^1$  be of period  $2\pi$ ;*

- (i) *if  $f \in \Lambda BV$ , then  $\omega_1(f; \delta) = O(1/\sum_1^{[1/\delta]} 1/\lambda_j)$ ;*
- (ii) *if  $f \in \phi\Lambda BV$ , then  $\omega_1(f; \delta) = O(\phi^{-1}(1/\sum_1^{[1/\delta]} 1/\lambda_j))$ ;*
- (iii) *if  $f \in \Lambda BV^{(p)}$ ,  $1 \leq p < \infty$ , then  $\omega_p(f; \delta) = O(1/(\sum_1^{[1/\delta]} 1/\lambda_j)^{1/p})$ .*

Clearly,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x)e^{-inx} dx &= - \int_0^{2\pi} f\left(x + \frac{\pi}{n}\right)e^{-inx} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} \left(f(x) - f\left(x + \frac{\pi}{n}\right)\right)e^{-inx} dx \end{aligned}$$

and

$$|\hat{f}(n)| \leq \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \left|f(x) - f\left(x + \frac{\pi}{n}\right)\right| dx \leq \frac{1}{4\pi} \omega_1\left(f; \frac{\pi}{n}\right).$$

Since  $\sum_1^n 1/\lambda_j \leq 6 \sum_1^{[n/\pi]} 1/\lambda_j$  for  $n \geq 4$ , we see that Theorem 1 has the following

**COROLLARY.** *If  $f \in \Lambda BV$ , then  $\hat{f}(n) = O(1/\sum_1^n 1/\lambda_j)$ ; if  $f \in \phi\Lambda BV$ , then  $\hat{f}(n) = O(\phi^{-1}(1/\sum_1^n 1/\lambda_j))$ .*

The following expresses the sense in which this estimate is best possible.

**THEOREM 2.** *If  $\Gamma BV \not\supseteq \Lambda BV$ , then there is an  $f \in \Gamma BV$  such that  $\hat{f}(n) \neq O(1/\sum_1^n 1/\lambda_j)$ .*

We have recently learned that these results, insofar as they apply to  $\Lambda BV$ , have also been obtained by Wang Si-lei [3].

**2.** We turn now to the proof of Theorem 1.

For any  $f \in \Lambda BV$ , setting  $k = [1/t]$  for  $0 < t \leq \delta$ , we observe

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{2\pi} |f(x) - f(x+t)| dx &= \int_0^{2\pi} |f(x+(j-1)t) - f(x+jt)| dx \\ &= \left(1 / \sum_1^k 1/\lambda_j\right) \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\sum_{j=1}^k |f(x+(j-1)t) - f(x+jt)|/\lambda_j\right) dx \\ &\leq 2\pi V_\Lambda(f; 0, 4\pi) / \sum_1^k 1/\lambda_j \\ &\leq 2\pi V_\Lambda(f; 0, 4\pi) / \sum_1^{[1/\delta]} 1/\lambda_j. \end{aligned}$$

The first part of Theorem 1 is then established.

If  $f \in \phi\Delta BV$ , then, for  $c > 0$  and sufficiently small

$$\begin{aligned} \phi\left(\frac{c}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |f(x) - f(x+t)| dx\right) &\leq \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \phi(c|f(x) - f(x+t)|) dx \\ &= \left(1 / \sum_1^k 1/\lambda_j\right) \left(\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\sum_{j=1}^k \phi(c|f(x+(j-1)t) - f(x+jt)|)/\lambda_j\right) dx\right) \\ &\leq V_{\phi\Delta}(cf; 0, 4\pi) / \sum_1^k 1/\lambda_j \end{aligned}$$

where the numerator denotes the supremum of sums of the form (2). Since  $\phi$  is convex,  $\phi(\alpha x) < \alpha\phi(x)$  for  $0 < \alpha < 1$ . Thus we may choose  $c$  so that  $V_{\phi\Delta}(cf) \leq 1$ ; then

$$\int_0^{2\pi} |f(x) - f(x+t)| dx \leq \frac{2\pi}{c} \phi^{-1}\left(1 / \sum_1^k 1/\lambda_j\right) \leq \frac{2\pi}{c} \phi^{-1}\left(1 / \sum_1^{[1/\delta]} 1/\lambda_j\right),$$

and the second part of Theorem 1 has been established. For  $f \in \Delta BV^{(p)}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{2\pi} |f(x) - f(x+t)|^p dx \\ = \left(1 / \sum_1^k 1/\lambda_j\right) \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\sum_{j=1}^k |f(x+(j-1)t) - f(x+jt)|^p / \lambda_j\right) dx \end{aligned}$$

and the argument is concluded just as above.

The corollary follows from the remarks which precede it and Theorem 1.

3. We now prove Theorem 2.

From a result of Perlman and Waterman [1], we know that  $\Gamma BV \not\subseteq \Delta BV$ ,  $\Gamma = \{\gamma_n\}$ , implies  $\sum_1^n 1/\lambda_j \neq O(\sum_1^n 1/\gamma_j)$ .

Let  $T_n(f) = (\sum_1^n 1/\lambda_j) \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx$ . We will show that there is an  $f \in \Gamma BV$  such that  $T_n(f) \neq O(1)$ .

We define  $f_n$  on  $[0, 2\pi)$  by

$$f_n(x) = (-1)^{k+1} / 4 \sum_{j=1}^n 1/\gamma_j; \quad (k-1)\pi/n \leq x < k\pi/n, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, 2n,$$

and extend  $f_n$  to  $R^1$  with period  $2\pi$ . Then

$$V_{\Gamma}(f_n; 0, 2\pi) = \left(\sum_1^{2n} 1/\gamma_j\right) / \left(2 \sum_1^n 1/\gamma_j\right) \leq 1,$$

while

$$\begin{aligned} T_n(f_n) &= \left(\sum_1^n 1/\lambda_j\right) \left(1 / 4 \sum_1^n 1/\gamma_j\right) \int_0^{2\pi} |\sin nx| dx \\ &= \left(\sum_1^n 1/\lambda_j\right) / \left(\sum_1^n 1/\gamma_j\right) \neq O(1), \end{aligned}$$

and the result follows from the Banach-Steinhaus Theorem.

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