SHORTER NOTES

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FOURIER SERIES WITH POSITIVE COEFFICIENTS

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ABSTRACT. Extending a result of N. Wiener, it is shown that functions on the circle with positive Fourier coefficients that are pth power integrable near 0, 1 < p ≤ 2, have Fourier coefficients in $l^p$.

The following result was proved (but never published) by Norbert Wiener in the early 1950’s. (See [1, pp. 242, 250] and [3].)

WIENER’S THEOREM. If $\sum c_n e^{int}$ is the Fourier series of a function $f \in L^1(-\pi, \pi)$ with $c_n \geq 0$ for all $n$, and $f$ restricted to a neighborhood $(-\delta, \delta)$ of the origin belong to $L^2(-\delta, \delta)$, then $f$ belongs to $L^2(-\pi, \pi)$.

A question which immediately arises in connection with this result is the following: does the theorem remain true if one replaces $L^2(-\delta, \delta)$ and $L^2(-\pi, \pi)$ in its statement respectively by $L^p(-\delta, \delta)$ and $L^p(-\pi, \pi)$, with $1 < p \leq \infty$? In 1969 Stephen Wainger showed, by ingenious counterexamples, that the answer is negative for $1 < p < 2$ [4]. If $p$ is an even integer or $\infty$ it is very easy to see that the answer is “yes.” For every other exponent between 2 and $\infty$ it is “no,” as was shown in 1975 by Harold S. Shapiro [3]. These negative results have been extended to compact abelian groups [2]. However, the conclusion of Wiener’s theorem can be stated equivalently as “then $\sum c_n^2 < \infty$.” This suggested the following theorem.

THEOREM. If $\sum c_n e^{int}$ is the Fourier series of a function $f \in L^1(-\pi, \pi)$ with $c_n \geq 0$ for all $n$, and $f$ restricted to a neighborhood $(-\delta, \delta)$ of the origin belongs to $L^p(-\delta, \delta)$ with $1 < p < 2$, then $\sum c_n^{p'} < \infty$, where $p' = p/(p - 1)$.

PROOF. (See [3, p. 12].) Let $h(t)$ be the $2\pi$-periodic function which for $|t| \leq \pi$ is defined by

$$h(t) = \begin{cases} 1 - |t|/\delta, & |t| \leq \delta, \\ 0, & \delta \leq |t| \leq \pi. \end{cases}$$

Received by the editors March 2, 1987.

1980 Mathematics Subject Classification. Primary 42A32, 42A16; Secondary 43A15.

1 The research presented here was supported in part by a grant from the University Research Council of DePaul University.
Then \(|hf| \leq \chi_{[-\delta, \delta]}|f| \in L^p(-\pi, \pi)\) and \(\sum |(hf)^\wedge(n)|^{p'}\) is finite by the Hausdorff-Young inequality. (See (*) below.) We have

\[
(h \cdot f)^\wedge(n) = \sum_{k+l=n} \hat{h}(k)c_l
\]

where \(c_l \geq 0\) for all \(l\) by hypothesis and \(\hat{h}(k) \geq 0\) for all \(k\) by direct calculation. Drop all terms except the \(k = 0\) one from the right side of the last equation to get

\[
c_n \leq \frac{(h \cdot f)^\wedge(n)}{\hat{h}(0)} = \frac{2\pi}{\delta} (h \cdot f)^\wedge(n).
\]

Take \(p'\)th powers and sum over \(n\).

**Remarks.** 1. This theorem was motivated by studying the above-mentioned counterexamples of Wainger [4].

2. It is very well known that the Hausdorff-Young theorem consists of two irreversible implication, one of which is

\((*)\) if \(\sum c_n e^{inz}\) is the Fourier series of a function \(f \in L^p(-\pi, \pi)\), where \(1 < p < 2\), then \(\{c_n\} \in l^{p'}\). (See [5, pp. 101–103].)

Wainger's counterexamples are functions designed to satisfy the hypotheses of our theorem while violating the hypothesis of \((*)\). Our theorem shows that they must also satisfy the conclusion of \((*)\), and thereby gives another demonstration that the converse of \((*)\) is false.

3. Our theorem easily extends to compact abelian groups. In the above proof simply replace \([-\pi, \pi]\) by a general compact abelian group and \([-\delta, \delta]\) by a symmetric neighborhood of the identity, note that \(h = \varphi \ast \hat{\varphi}\) where \(\varphi(t) = \hat{\varphi}(-t) = 1/\sqrt{\delta} \chi_{[-\delta/2, \delta/2]}(t)\), etc.

**References**


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