

PART III. Applications

Classical moment problems

December 10, 2025

Hamburger's moment problem:

Given a sequence of numbers $\{h_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$, decide if there exists a measure μ on \mathbb{R} s.t. $h_k = \int_{\mathbb{R}} x^k d\mu$, $k \geq 0$.

(\Leftrightarrow which sequences of reals are moment sequences of measures?)

Trigonometric moment problem:

Given a sequence $\{t_k\}_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \subset \mathbb{C}$, is there a $\mu \geq 0$ s.t. $t^k = \int_{\mathbb{T}} z^k d\mu$?

Obvious restrictions:

• Hamburger case: $\sum_{k,j=0}^N h_{k+j} a_k \bar{a}_j \stackrel{(*)}{\geq} 0 \quad \forall \{a_k\}_{k=0}^N \subset \mathbb{C}, N \geq 0$

$$0 \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left| \sum_{k=0}^N a_k x^k \right|^2 d\mu = \sum_1^N a_k \bar{a}_j \int_{\mathbb{R}} x^{k+j} d\mu = \sum_{k,j=0}^N a_k \bar{a}_j h_{k+j}$$

• Trigonometric case: $\sum_{k,j=-N}^N t_{k-j} a_k \bar{a}_j \stackrel{(**)}{\geq} 0 \quad \forall \{a_k\}_{k=-N}^N \subset \mathbb{C}, N \geq 0$

$$0 \leq \int_{\mathbb{T}} \left| \sum_{k=-N}^N a_k z^k \right|^2 d\mu = \sum_{-N}^N a_k \bar{a}_j \int_{\mathbb{T}} z^{k-j} d\mu = \sum_{k,j=-N}^N a_k \bar{a}_j t_{k-j}$$

Theorem [Hamburger]: The assumption $(*)$ is sufficient for the solvability of the Hamburger case.

Theorem: The assumption $(**)$ is sufficient for the solvability of the Trigonometric moment problem. Moreover, we have
 $\sum_{-N}^N t_{k-j} a_k \bar{a}_j \geq 0 \quad \forall \{a_k\}_{k=-N}^N \Leftrightarrow \{t_k\}$ is the moment sequence of a measure μ such that $\#\text{supp } \mu = +\infty$. [Hausdorff]

Our goal is to prove $(***)$.

Proof: $H_0 = \left(\text{span} \{z^k\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}, \left\langle \sum_{-N}^N a_k z^k, \sum_{-N}^N \bar{a}_k z^k \right\rangle := \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} t_{k-j} a_k \bar{a}_j \right)$

↪ pre Hilbert space, because it is linear, and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the inner product on H_0 , but H_0 is not complete w.r.t. $\|\sum a_k z^k\| = \sqrt{\langle \sum a_k z^k, \sum a_k z^k \rangle}$

General functional analysis implies that $\exists H$ -Hilbert space such that $H_0 \subset H$ as a dense linear subset.

$T: \sum_{k=0}^N a_k z^k \longmapsto \sum_{k=0}^{N+1} a_k z^{k+1}$ - densely defined operator on H :

$$\left\| T \left(\sum_{-N}^N a_k z^k \right) \right\|^2 = \left\| \sum_{-N}^N a_k z^{k+1} \right\|^2 = \sum_{-N+1}^{N+1} t_{k-j} a_{k-1} \bar{a}_{j-1} = \sum_{-N+1}^{N+1} t_{(k-1)-(j-1)} a_{k-1} \bar{a}_{j-1} = \\ \sum_{-N+1}^{N+1} a_{k-1} z^k = \sum_{-N}^N t_{k-j} a_k \bar{a}_j = \left\| \sum_{-N}^N a_k z^k \right\|^2$$

$\Rightarrow T$ is an isometry initially defined on H_0 .

Let's extend it to the whole space H . $\Rightarrow T$ is isometry on H ,

$T(H) = H_0$ - dense in H , since $T(H)$ is closed, we have $T(H) = H$.

$\Rightarrow T$ is unitary. Moreover, there is $h=1$ s.t. $\text{span} \{T^k T^{*j} h\}$ is dense in H .

By the spectral theorem, there is a measure μ s.t. $\text{Supp } \mu = T \subset T$:

$T \cong M_z$ on $L^2(\mu)$.

$$\langle T^k h, h \rangle_H = \langle M_z^k 1, 1 \rangle_{L^2(\mu)} \quad \forall k \geq 0 \text{ for } h=1 \text{ in } H.$$

||

$$\langle T^k 1, 1 \rangle_H = \langle z^k, 1 \rangle_H = \sum_0^k t_{i-j} \delta_k(i) \delta_0(j) = t_k$$

$$\langle M_z^k 1, 1 \rangle_{L^2(\mu)} = \langle z^k, 1 \rangle_{L^2(\mu)} = \int z^k d\mu$$

$$\Rightarrow t_k = \int z^k d\mu, \quad k \geq 0 \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow t_k \text{ is the moment sequence}$$

$$t_{-k} = \overline{t_k} = \overline{\int z^k d\mu} = \int z^{-k} d\mu, \quad k \geq 0$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} t_k = \langle z^k, 1 \rangle \\ t_{-k} = \langle z^{-k}, 1 \rangle \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\langle t_{-k}, \langle z^{-k}, 1 \rangle \rangle = \langle T^k z^{-k}, T^k 1 \rangle = \langle 1, z^k \rangle = \langle z^k, 1 \rangle = \overline{\langle z^k, 1 \rangle} = \overline{t_k} = t_{-k}$$

It remains to show that the measure μ is such that $\text{Supp } \mu = \mathbb{C}$.

$\Leftrightarrow \int \left| \sum_{-N}^N a_k z^k \right|^2 d\mu > 0$ (true by assumption). □

Characters on compact Abelian groups

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Definition: G is a **topological group** if G is a group with topology whose operation is continuous in the product topology $G \times G$, and the operation of taking the inverses is also continuous.

Definition: G is a **compact group** if G is a topological group such that G with its topology is a compact Hausdorff space.

Definition: A map $\gamma: G \rightarrow \mathbb{T}$ is a **character** if γ is a group homomorphism and $\gamma \in \mathcal{C}(G, \mathbb{T})$.

Remark: We will deal with the abelian (commutative) case, and we will denote the group operation by "+", the inverse element to $x \in G$ by $-x$, and the identity of the group by 0.

Definition: $\hat{G} = \{\text{character of } G\}$ is called the **dual group** to G .

Remark: In our notation, for every $\gamma \in \hat{G}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(x+y) &= \gamma(x) \cdot \gamma(y) \quad \forall x, y \in G \\ |\gamma(x)| &= 1 \quad \forall x \in G \\ \gamma &\in \mathcal{C}(G, \mathbb{T}) \end{aligned} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{equivalent to } \gamma \in \hat{G} \\ \end{array} \right]$$

Remark: $\delta_0: x \mapsto 1$ is always in \hat{G}

Definition: Let G be a locally compact topological group. Then μ is the **Haar measure** on G if $\mu(U+x) = \mu(x+U) = \mu(U)$ for every Borel set U , $\mu \neq 0$, μ is regular (\Rightarrow finite on compact subsets).

Theorem [Weyl]: Every locally compact topological group has a Haar measure μ , which is unique up to multiplication by a constant.

Agreement: If G is compact, we normalize μ : $\mu(G) = 1$. With this normalization the Haar measure is unique.

Theorem [Peter and Weyl]: If G is a commutative compact group then characters form an orthogonal basis in $L^2(G, \mu)$, where μ is the Haar measure of G .

Examples of characters:

- $G = \mathbb{R}$ (locally compact), $\hat{G} = \{e^{i\lambda x} \mid \lambda \in \mathbb{R}\}$, $\mathbb{R} \cong \hat{\mathbb{R}}$.
- $G = \mathbb{T}$ (compact), $\hat{\mathbb{T}} = \{z^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$, $\hat{\mathbb{T}} \cong \mathbb{Z}$.
- $G = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ (compact), $\hat{G} = G_n$.
- $G_n = \{\xi \in \mathbb{T} \mid \xi^m = 1\}$, $\hat{G} = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$.

The decomposition of $f = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} c_k z^k$ for every $f \in L^2(\mathbb{T})$ is just the Fourier decomposition, the map $f \mapsto \{c_k\}$ is the discrete Fourier transform. In the continuous case ($G = \mathbb{R}$) $F(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} g(x)e^{ix\lambda} dx$ is the Fourier decomposition, and the map $f \mapsto g$ is the Fourier transform ($g(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x)e^{-ixt} dx$).

Characters form an orthonormal system:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_G g_1(x) \overline{g_2(x)} d\mu &\stackrel{\mu \text{ is Haar}}{=} \int_G \gamma_1(x-y) \overline{\gamma_2(x-y)} d\mu(x) \\ &= \gamma_1(-y) \overline{\gamma_2(-y)} \int_G \gamma_1(x) \overline{\gamma_2(x)} d\mu \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle \gamma_1(x), \gamma_2(x) \rangle_{L^2(\mu)} = \gamma_1(-y) \overline{\gamma_2(-y)} \langle \gamma_1, \gamma_2 \rangle_{L^2(\mu)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \langle \gamma_1(x), \gamma_2(x) \rangle \neq 0 &\Leftrightarrow \gamma_1(-y) \overline{\gamma_2(-y)} = 1 \quad \forall y \in G \\ &\Leftrightarrow \gamma_1(-y) = \overline{\gamma_2(-y)} \quad \forall y \in G \\ &\Leftrightarrow \gamma_1 = \gamma_2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{If } \gamma_1 = \gamma_2 = \gamma, \text{ then } \|\gamma\|^2 = \int_G |\gamma|^2 d\mu = \mu(G) = 1$$

So, the problem is completeness of $\{g\}_{g \in G}$.

Definition: Let $s \in G$. The shift operator T_s is $T_s: f \mapsto f(\cdot - s)$.

Lemma 1: T_s is unitary on $L^2(G) = L^2(G, \mu)$ (μ is Haar).

Proof: $T_s L^2(G) = L^2(G)$ and

$$\|T_s f\|_{L^2(G)}^2 = \int_G |f(x-s)|^2 d\mu = \int_G |f(x)|^2 d\mu = \|f\|_{L^2(G)}^2$$

$\Rightarrow T_s$ is an isometry. □

Lemma 2: For every $f \in L^2(G)$, we have $T_s f \rightarrow f$ as $s \rightarrow 0$ in G ($\Leftrightarrow \forall \varepsilon > 0. \exists U_\varepsilon$ -open neighbourhood of 0. $\forall s \in U_\varepsilon. \|T_s f - f\| < \varepsilon$).

To prove this lemma, we will use a version of Cantors theorem for compact groups:

Theorem: If $f \in C(G)$, G is a compact group, then $\forall \varepsilon > 0. \exists U_\varepsilon$ a neighbourhood of 0 such that $|f(x) - f(y)| < \varepsilon$ if $x - y \in U_\varepsilon$. (Without proof.)

Proof of lemma 2: Take $f \in L^2(G)$ and find $g \in C(G)$: $\|f - g\|_{L^2(G)} \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{3}$ (this is possible, because μ is a regular measure).

$$\|T_s f - f\|_{L^2(G)} \leq \underbrace{\|T_s(f-g)\|}_{\leq \varepsilon_3} + \underbrace{\|f-g\|}_{\leq \varepsilon_3} + \underbrace{\|T_s g - g\|}_{\leq ?}$$

$$\|T_s g - g\|_{L^2(G)} \leq \|T_s g - g\|_{L^\infty(G)} = \max_{x \in G} |g(x-s) - g(x)| \leq \varepsilon_3$$

by Cantors theorem if $s \in U_{\varepsilon_3}$ (U_{ε_3} from Cantors theorem) □

Definition: Let $F, g \in L^1(G)$, then $(F * g)(y) = \int_G f(x) g(y-x) d\mu(x)$.

Remark: $L^p(G) \subset L^1(G)$, because G is compact, so

$$\left(\int_{\mathbb{G}} |f| d\mu \right) \leq (\int_{\mathbb{G}} 1^p)^{1/p} (\int_{\mathbb{G}} |f|^p)^{1/p} = \|f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{G})}$$

In particular, we can also define $f*g$ for every $f \in L^{p_1}(\mathbb{G})$, $g \in L^{p_2}(\mathbb{G})$

Lemma 3 [Young inequality]: $1 < p \leq \infty$

$$\|f*g\|_{L^p} \leq \|f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{G})} \|g\|_{L^1(\mathbb{G})} \quad \forall f \in L^p(\mathbb{G}), g \in L^1(\mathbb{G}).$$

Proof: We may assume that $\|g\|_{L^1(\mathbb{G})} = 1$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \|g*f\|_{L^p}^p &= \int_{\mathbb{G}} \left| \int_{\mathbb{G}} f(y-x) g(x) d\mu(x) \right|^p d\mu(y) \stackrel{\text{Jensen}}{\leq} \int_{\mathbb{G}} \int_{\mathbb{G}} |f(y-x)|^p |g(x)| d\mu(x) d\mu(y) \\ &\stackrel{\text{Fubini}}{=} \int_{\mathbb{G}} |g(x)| \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{G}} |f(y-x)|^p d\mu(y)}_{\int_{\mathbb{G}} |f(y)|^p d\mu} d\mu(x) = \underbrace{\|g\|_{L^1}}_1 \cdot \underbrace{\|f\|_{L^p}}_1^p \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \|g*f\|_{L^p} \leq \|f\|_{L^p} = \|g\|_{L^1} \cdot \|f\|_{L^p}.$$

It remains to note that $g*f = f*g$:

$$f * g = \int f(x) g(y-x) d\mu_x = \int_{x=y-\tilde{x}} f(y-\tilde{x}) g(\tilde{x}) d\mu(\tilde{x})$$

□

Lemma 4 [Approximation lemma]: $\forall \varphi \in L^2(\mathbb{G}, \mu)$ we have

$$\inf_{\substack{u \geq 0 \\ u = -u \\ u \text{ open}}} \left\| \varphi - \varphi * \frac{\chi_u}{\mu(u)} \right\| = 0.$$

Proof: Take $\varphi \in L^2(\mathbb{G}, \mu)$ and $\tau \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{G})$: $\|\varphi - \tau\|_{L^2(\mathbb{G})} < \varepsilon$.

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \varphi - \varphi * \frac{\chi_u}{\mu(u)} \right\|_{L^2} &\leq \left\| \varphi - \varphi * \frac{\chi_u}{\mu(u)} \right\|_{L^2} + \underbrace{\|\varphi - \tau\|_{L^2}}_{\leq \varepsilon} + \left\| (\varphi - \tau) * \frac{\chi_u}{\mu(u)} \right\|_{L^2} \\ &\leq \|\varphi - \tau\|_{L^2} \underbrace{\left\| \frac{\chi_u}{\mu(u)} \right\|_{L^1}}_{1} \leq \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

$$\left\| \varphi - \varphi * \frac{\chi_u}{\mu(u)} \right\|_{L^2(\mathbb{G})} \leq \left\| \tau(y) - \int_{\mathbb{G}} \tau(x) \frac{\chi_u(y-x)}{\mu(u)} d\mu(x) \right\|_{L^2(\mathbb{G})} \leq$$

$$\leq \sup_{y \in \mathbb{G}} \int_{\mathbb{G}} |\tau(y) - \tau(x)| \frac{\chi_u(y-x)}{\mu(u)} d\mu(x) \leq \varepsilon$$

if $u = U_\varepsilon$ for the function $\varphi = \tau$ in Cantor's theorem

□

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