

Forecastability of Time-Series and Additive Combinatorics

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DEFINITION

Let $f : \mathbb{Z}_N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. The **Fourier transform** of f is defined by

$$\hat{f}(m) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_N} f(x) \chi(-xm)$$

where $\chi(t) = \exp\left(\frac{2\pi it}{N}\right)$.

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We have

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DEFINITION

Given $g : \mathbb{Z}_N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, we define the L^p norms

$$\|g\|_{L^p(\mu)} = \left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_N} |g(x)|^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}, \quad \|g\|_p = \left(\sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_N} |g(x)|^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}, \quad \text{and} \quad \|g\|_\infty = \max_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_N} |g(x)|.$$

- ▶ We want to understand random, or “unstructured” sets, so we make the following definition:

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Let $0 < p < 1$. Then, a random set $S \subset [n] = \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ is generic if each element of $[n]$ is selected independently with probability p .

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- ▶ The following result due to Bourgain and Talagrand describes the behavior of generic sets.

THEOREM (BOURGAIN AND TALAGRAND, 1998)

There exists $\gamma_0 \in (0, 1)$ such that if $h : \mathbb{Z}_N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ supported in a generic set M of size $\gamma_0 \frac{N}{\log(N)}$, then with probability $1 - o_N(1)$,

$$\left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}_N} |\hat{h}(m)|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq C_T (\log(N) \log \log(N))^{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \frac{1}{N} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}_N} |\hat{h}(m)|, \quad (1)$$

where $C_T > 0$ is a constant that depends only on γ_0 .

- ▶ Similarly, we have the following theorem due to Bourgain:

THEOREM (BOURGAIN, 1989)

Suppose that M is generic with $|M| = \lceil N^{\frac{2}{q}} \rceil$, $q > 2$. Then with high probability, for all $h : \mathbb{Z}_N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ supported in M ,

$$\left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}_N} |\hat{h}(m)|^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \leq C(q) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}_N} |\hat{h}(m)|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

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- ▶ An application of Hölder's inequality to the above theorem shows that if $|M| = O(N^{1-\epsilon})$, then Talagrand's inequality holds without the logarithms:

COROLLARY

If M is generic with $|M| = \lceil N^{\frac{2}{q}} \rceil$, $q > 2$, then with high probability, for all $h : \mathbb{Z}_N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ supported in M ,

$$\left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_N} |\hat{h}(x)|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq (C(q))^{\frac{q}{q-2}} \cdot \frac{1}{N} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_N} |\hat{h}(x)|.$$

- ▶ First, we experimentally estimate the constants C_T and $C(q)$.

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while Bourgain's theorem states

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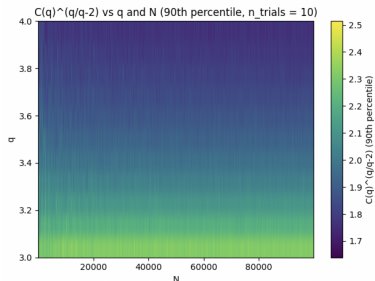
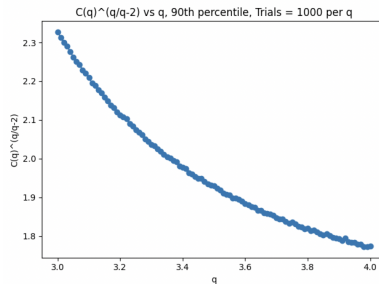
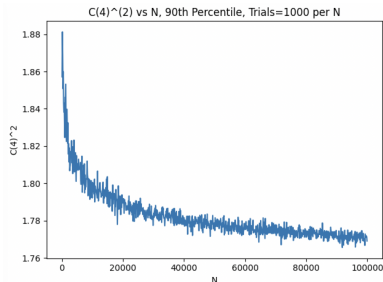
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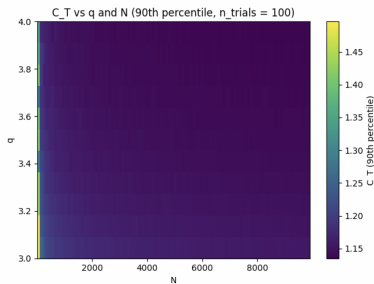
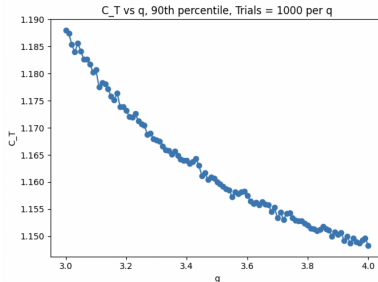
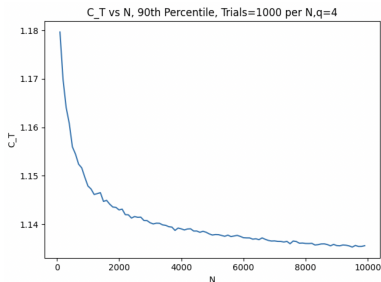
$$\|\hat{h}\|_{L^q(\mu)} \leq C(q) \|\hat{h}\|_{L^2(\mu)}.$$

- ▶ We saw also that $C_T \leq C(q)^{\frac{q}{q-2}}$, so we estimate and compare these two quantities.

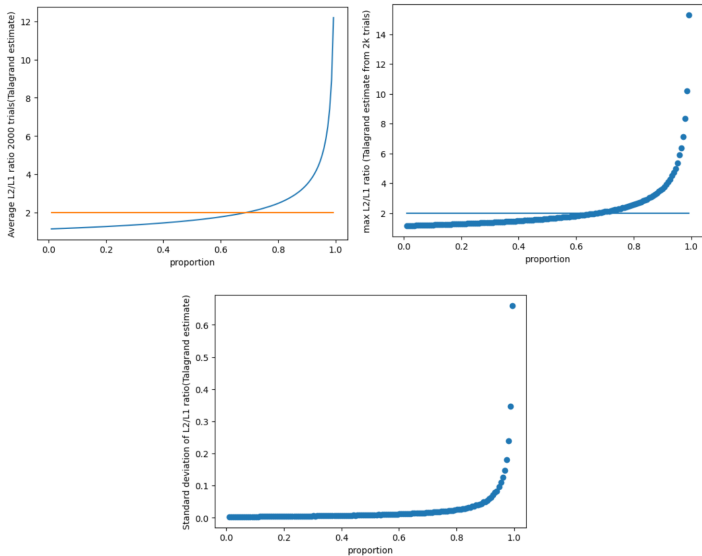
- Looking at the values for $C(q)^{\frac{q}{q-2}}$, we see it is roughly between 1.5 and 2.5:



- Next, looking at the values for C_T , we see it is smaller, roughly between 1 and 1.2:



TALAGRAND'S CONSTANT



- ▶ From Bourgain and Talagrand, if the support of h is generic, then we have

$$\frac{\|\hat{h}\|_{L^1(\mu)}}{\|\hat{h}\|_{L^2(\mu)}} \geq \frac{1}{C_T}.$$

This implies the ratio $\frac{\|\hat{h}\|_{L^1(\mu)}}{\|\hat{h}\|_{L^2(\mu)}}$ is large.

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- ▶ Since C_T is close to 1, this suggests the ratio $\frac{\|\hat{h}\|_{L^1(\mu)}}{\|\hat{h}\|_{L^2(\mu)}}$ is close to 1 when h has random support.

- ▶ On the other hand, when $N = pq$ and S is a subgroup of order p , we can show that for $h = 1_S$,

$$\frac{\|\hat{h}\|_{L^1(\mu)}}{\|\hat{h}\|_{L^2(\mu)}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{p}}.$$

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- ▶ When p is large, this gives a small ratio, while when p is small, the ratio is close to 1.
- ▶ For p large, this suggests dense structured sets have small ratio, while sparse sets have ratio close to 1.

- By Cauchy-Schwartz,

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}_N} |\hat{f}(m)| \leq \left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}_N} |\hat{f}(m)|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

and thus $\frac{\|\hat{f}\|_{L^1(\mu)}}{\|\hat{f}\|_{L^2(\mu)}} \leq 1$.

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and thus $\frac{\|\hat{f}\|_{L^1(\mu)}}{\|\hat{f}\|_{L^2(\mu)}} \leq 1$.

- Moreover, by Fourier inversion and the triangle inequality,

$$|f(x)| \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}_N} |\hat{f}(m)|,$$

and thus $\|f\|_2 \leq \|\hat{f}\|_1$, so that $\frac{\|\hat{f}\|_{L^1(\mu)}}{\|\hat{f}\|_{L^2(\mu)}} \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$.

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and thus $\|f\|_2 \leq \|\hat{f}\|_1$, so that $\frac{\|\hat{f}\|_{L^1(\mu)}}{\|\hat{f}\|_{L^2(\mu)}} \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$.

DEFINITION (THE FOURIER RATIO)

We thus define

$$FR(f) = \sqrt{N} \cdot \frac{\|\hat{f}\|_{L^1(\mu)}}{\|\hat{f}\|_{L^2(\mu)}}.$$

- We show that if $FR(f)$ is small, f is structured.

- We compute $FR(f)$ for the following datasets:

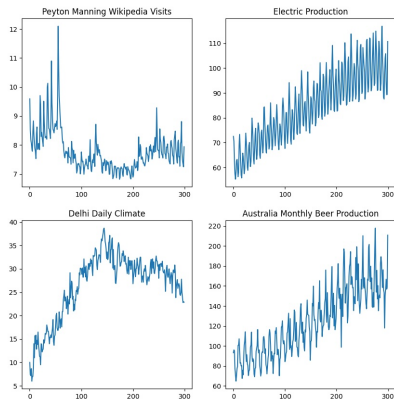


FIGURE: The four data sets.

- We compute $FR(f)$ for the following datasets:

The results are as follows:

- Peyton Manning Wikipedia Visits:

$$FR(f) = 1.917$$

- Electric Production:

$$FR(f) = 2.133$$

- Delhi Daily Climate:

$$FR(f) = 2.715$$

- Australia Monthly Beer Production:

$$FR(f) = 2.884$$

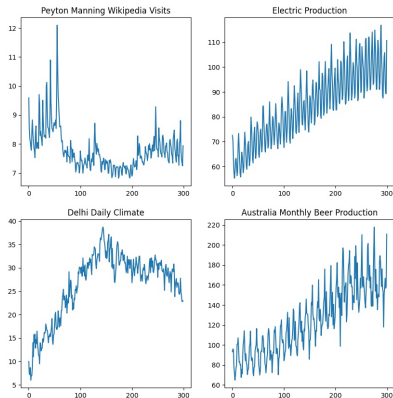
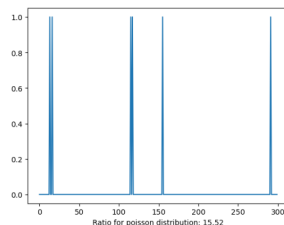
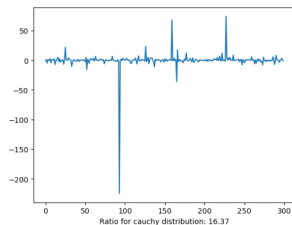
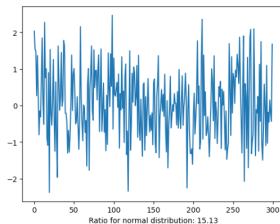


FIGURE: The four data sets.

Note these are all close to the minimal value $FR(f) = 1$.

- Next we compute $FR(f)$ when $f(x)$ is randomly chosen according to various distributions:



- Note that in all cases, $FR(f)$ is close to $\sqrt{N} \approx 17.32$

- ▶ Our first result shows that concentration in a random set is good enough to have large $FR(f)$.

THEOREM

Let $f : \mathbb{Z}_N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. Suppose that there exists a generic set M such that

$$\|f\|_{L^2(M^c)} \leq r \|f\|_2$$

for some $r \in (0, 1)$, with $|M| \leq \gamma_0 \frac{N}{\log(N)}$, where γ_0 is as in Talagrand's theorem. Suppose that

$$r < \frac{1 - r}{C_T \sqrt{\log(N) \log \log(N)}}. \quad (2)$$

Then

$$\frac{\|\hat{f}\|_{L^1(\mu)}}{\|\hat{f}\|_{L^2(\mu)}} \geq \frac{1 - r}{C_T \sqrt{\log(N) \log \log(N)}} - r \quad (3)$$

with probability $1 - o_N(1)$.

- ▶ Next, we show that f can be approximated by a polynomial with degree depending on $FR(f)$.

THEOREM

Let $f : \mathbb{Z}_N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and $\eta > 0$. Then for any

$$k > \frac{FR(f)^2 - 1}{\eta^2},$$

there exists a trigonometric polynomial

$$P(x) = \sum_{i=1}^k c_i \chi(m_i x)$$

such that

$$\|f - P\|_2 < \eta \|f\|_2.$$

- ▶ The proof is probabilistic, and shows that when $FR(f)$ is small, f can be approximated by a low degree polynomial.

- ▶ Similar methods also give an L^∞ approximation, now in terms of the ratio $\frac{\|\hat{f}\|_{L^1(\mu)}}{\|f\|_\infty}$

THEOREM

Let $f : \mathbb{Z}_N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and let $\eta > 0$. Then for any k such that

$$k > 8 \left(\frac{\|\hat{f}\|_{L^1(\mu)}}{\|f\|_\infty} \right)^2 \frac{N \log(4N)}{\eta^2},$$

there exists a trigonometric polynomial

$$P(x) = \sum_{i=1}^k c_i \chi(m_i x)$$

such that

$$\|f - P\|_\infty < \eta \|f\|_\infty.$$

- ▶ Note that the triangle inequality shows $\frac{\|\hat{f}\|_{L^1(\mu)}}{\|f\|_\infty} \geq N^{-\frac{1}{2}}$, and so in the best case, the above theorem gives a polynomial of degree $O(\log(N))$.

- Suppose $f : \mathbb{Z}_N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$.

DEFINITION (RANDOM FUNCTION)

Define the random function $Z : \mathbb{Z}_N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, where for each m ,

$$Z(x) = \|\hat{f}\|_1 \operatorname{sgn}(\hat{f}(m)) N^{-\frac{1}{2}} \chi(mx)$$

with probability $\frac{|\hat{f}(m)|}{\|\hat{f}\|_1}$, where $\operatorname{sgn}(z) = \frac{z}{|z|}$.

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- Note: We have that $\mathbb{E}[Z(x)] = f(x)$.

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- Note: We have that $\mathbb{E}[Z(x)] = f(x)$.
- And,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}|Z(x)|^2 &= \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}_N} \left| \|\hat{f}\|_1 \frac{\hat{f}(m)}{|\hat{f}(m)|} N^{-\frac{1}{2}} \chi(mx) \right|^2 \cdot \frac{|\hat{f}(m)|}{\|\hat{f}\|_1} \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \|\hat{f}\|_1 \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}_N} |\hat{f}(m)| \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \|\hat{f}\|_1^2, \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ The Variance of $Z(x)$ can be shown to be,

$$\text{Var}(Z(x)) = \mathbb{E}|Z(x)|^2 - |\mathbb{E}[Z(x)]|^2 = \frac{1}{N} \|\hat{f}\|_1^2 - |f(x)|^2.$$

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- ▶ Let Z_1, \dots, Z_k be random i.i.d. functions with distribution Z , and define the random trigonometric polynomial P by

$$P(x) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k Z_i(x).$$

- ▶ By linearity of expectation,

$$\mathbb{E}[P(x)] = \mathbb{E}[Z(x)] = f(x)$$

- Therefore, by independence

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{E}\|f - P\|_2^2 &= \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_N} \mathbb{E}|f(x) - P(x)|^2 \\
 &= \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_N} \text{Var}(P(x)) \\
 &= \frac{1}{k} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_N} \text{Var}(Z(x)) \\
 &= \frac{1}{k} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_N} \frac{1}{N} \|\hat{f}\|_1^2 - |f(x)|^2 \\
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 &= \frac{1}{k} \left(\|\hat{f}\|_1^2 - \|f\|_2^2 \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

- We finish with an assumption on the k value.

- ▶ Now, if we assume this final value is less than $\eta^2 \|f\|_2^2$, then there exists a deterministic choice of P such that $\|f - P\|_2 < \eta \|f\|_2$.

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- ▶ This assumption on k amounts to

$$\begin{aligned}
 k &> \frac{1}{\eta^2} \cdot \frac{\|\hat{f}\|_1^2 - \|f\|_2^2}{\|f\|_2^2} \\
 &= \frac{1}{\eta^2} \left(\frac{\|\hat{f}\|_1^2}{\|f\|_2^2} - 1 \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\eta^2} \left(N \left(\frac{\|\hat{f}\|_{L^1(\mu)}}{\|\hat{f}\|_{L^2(\mu)}} \right)^2 - 1 \right) \\
 &= \frac{FR(f)^2 - 1}{\eta^2},
 \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Now, if we assume this final value is less than $\eta^2 \|f\|_2^2$, then there exists a deterministic choice of P such that $\|f - P\|_2 < \eta \|f\|_2$.
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 &= \frac{FR(f)^2 - 1}{\eta^2},
 \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ and thus for any such k , there is a trigonometric polynomial P with $\|f - P\|_2 < \eta \|f\|_2$, and we are done. □

THEOREM (SPARSE-SPECTRUM APPROXIMATION FROM SMALL $FR(f)$)

Let $f : \mathbb{Z}_N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, and fix $\eta > 0$. Define the large spectrum

$$\Gamma := \left\{ m \in \mathbb{Z}_N : |\hat{f}(m)| \geq \eta \|f\|_{L^2(\mu)} \right\}.$$

Then

$$|\Gamma| \leq \frac{FR(f)}{\eta} \sqrt{N},$$

and moreover if

$$P(x) := \frac{1}{N^{\frac{1}{2}}} \sum_{m \in \Gamma} \hat{f}(m) \chi(xm),$$

then

$$\|f - P\|_2 \leq \eta \|f\|_2.$$

In other words, f can be approximated by a polynomial of degree

$$\frac{FR(f)}{\eta} \cdot \sqrt{N}$$

up to an error $\leq \eta$.

- ▶ Let Γ be defined as above. By our assumption on f as well as Markov's inequality we have that

$$FR(f)\|f\|_2 \geq \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}_N} |\hat{f}(m)| \geq \eta \|f\|_{L^2(\mu)} |\Gamma|,$$

- ▶ and thus if f is nonzero,

$$|\Gamma| \leq \frac{FR(f)}{\eta} \sqrt{N}.$$

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- ▶ and thus if f is nonzero,

$$|\Gamma| \leq \frac{FR(f)}{\eta} \sqrt{N}.$$

- ▶ Next, defining P as above, note that P is the inverse Fourier transform of $\hat{f} \cdot 1_\Gamma$. Additionally, for $m \notin \Gamma$, we have that

$$|\hat{f}(m)| < \eta \frac{\|f\|_2}{N^{\frac{1}{2}}}.$$

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$$|\hat{f}(m)| < \eta \frac{\|f\|_2}{N^{\frac{1}{2}}}.$$

- ▶ Thus, by Plancherel we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \|f - P\|_2 &= \|\hat{f} - \hat{P}\|_2 \\ &= \|\hat{f} - \hat{f} 1_\Gamma\|_2 \\ &= \left(\sum_{m \notin \Gamma} |\hat{f}(m)|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\leq \eta \|f\|_2. \end{aligned}$$

LEMMA (CHANG'S LEMMA)

Let $A \subset \mathbb{Z}_N$ have density $\alpha = \frac{|A|}{N}$, and for $\eta > 0$ define the large spectrum set

$$\Gamma = \left\{ m \in \mathbb{Z}_N : |\widehat{1_A}(m)| \geq \eta \alpha N^{\frac{1}{2}} \right\}.$$

Then there exists $\Lambda \subset \Gamma$ with

$$|\Lambda| \leq C \eta^{-2} \log \left(\frac{1}{\alpha} \right)$$

such that every $m \in \Gamma$ is a $\{-1, 0, 1\}$ -linear combination of elements of Λ .

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Then there exists $\Lambda \subset \Gamma$ with

$$|\Lambda| \leq C \eta^{-2} \log \left(\frac{1}{\alpha} \right)$$

such that every $m \in \Gamma$ is a $\{-1, 0, 1\}$ -linear combination of elements of Λ .

- This indicates that when α is small, the set Γ should have some additive structure, since it is spanned by a small set.

THEOREM (GENERALIZED CHANG'S LEMMA)

Let $f : \mathbb{Z}_N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, and for $\eta > 0$ define the large spectrum set

$$\Gamma = \left\{ m \in \mathbb{Z}_N : |\hat{f}(m)| \geq \eta \|f\|_{L^2(\mu)} \right\}.$$

Then there exists $\Lambda \subset \Gamma$ with

$$|\Lambda| \leq C \eta^{-2} \left(\frac{\|f\|_{\frac{\log N}{\log N-1}}}{\|f\|_2} \right)^2 \log N \quad (4)$$

and

$$|\Lambda| \leq C \eta^{-2} \frac{\|f\|_1}{\|f\|_2} \log \left(\left(\frac{\|f\|_2}{\|f\|_1} \right)^2 N \right) \quad (5)$$

such that every $m \in \Gamma$ is a $\{-1, 0, 1\}$ -linear combination of elements of Λ .

- ▶ Applying the previous theorem to \hat{f} , we obtain

$$|\Lambda| \leq C\eta^{-2}FR(f) \log \left(FR(f)^{-2}N \right),$$

where Λ is a set such that every

$$x \in \Gamma := \{x \in \mathbb{Z}_N : |f(x)| \geq \eta \|f\|_{L^2(\mu)}\}$$

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is a $\{-1, 0, 1\}$ -linear combination of elements of Λ .

- ▶ This suggests additive structure in the set Γ when $FR(f)$ is small.

► Let

$$g(x) = \frac{1}{\|1_{\Lambda} \hat{f}\|_2} \sum_{n \in \Lambda} \hat{f}(n) \chi(xn),$$

► Take $p > 2$, and let $p' = \frac{p}{p-1}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \|f\|_{L^{p'}(\mu)} \|g\|_{L^p(\mu)} &\geq \|fg\|_{L^1(\mu)} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{N \|1_{\Lambda} \hat{f}\|_2} \left| \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_N} f(x) \sum_{n \in \Lambda} \overline{\hat{f}(n)} \chi(-xn) \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{N \|1_{\Lambda} \hat{f}\|_2} \left| \sum_{n \in \Lambda} \overline{\hat{f}(n)} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_N} f(x) \chi(-xn) \right| \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{N}}{N \|1_{\Lambda} \hat{f}\|_2} \sum_{n \in \Lambda} |\hat{f}(n)|^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \|1_{\Lambda} \hat{f}\|_2. \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Recall that $|\hat{f}(m)| \leq \eta \frac{\|f\|_2}{N}$ for $m \in \Lambda$. Since we are summing over $|\Lambda|$ such terms,

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \|1_\Lambda \hat{f}\|_2 \geq \eta \|f\|_2 \frac{\sqrt{|\Lambda|}}{N}$$

- ▶ This gives a lower bound on $\|f\|_{L^{p'}(\mu)} \|g\|_{L^p(\mu)}$.
- ▶ Next, we will establish an upper bound.

- ▶ By definition,

$$\|f\|_{L^{p'}(\mu)} = N^{\frac{1}{p}-1} \|f\|_{p'}.$$

- ▶ By Rudin's inequality (see Lemma 4.33 in Tao-Vu), we also have

$$\|g\|_{L^p(\mu)} \leq C\sqrt{p}$$

- ▶ Combining the our bounds yields

$$\eta \|f\|_2 \frac{\sqrt{|\Lambda|}}{N} \leq C\sqrt{p} N^{\frac{1}{p}-1} \|f\|_{p'},$$

- ▶ Simplifying,

$$\sqrt{|\Lambda|} \leq C\eta^{-1}\sqrt{p}N^{\frac{1}{p}}\frac{\|f\|_{p'}}{\|f\|_2}.$$

- ▶ Taking $p = \log(N)$

$$|\Lambda| \leq C\eta^{-2}\log N\frac{\|f\|_{p'}^2}{\|f\|_2^2},$$

- ▶ thus proving (4).

- To prove (5) observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|f\|_{L^{p'}(\mu)} &= N^{\frac{1}{p}-1} \|f\|_{p'} \\
 &= N^{\frac{1}{p}-1} \left(\sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_N} |f(x)|^{\frac{p}{p-1}} \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p}} \\
 &= N^{\frac{1}{p}-1} \left(\|f\|_1 \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_N} \frac{|f(x)|}{\|f\|_1} |f(x)|^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p}} \\
 &\leq N^{\frac{1}{p}-1} \left(\|f\|_1 \left(\sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_N} \frac{|f(x)|}{\|f\|_1} |f(x)| \right)^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p}}
 \end{aligned}$$

- by Jensen's inequality.

- This implies

$$\begin{aligned}\|f\|_{L^{p'}(\mu)} &\leq N^{\frac{1}{p}-1} \|f\|_1^{\frac{p-1}{p}} \left(\frac{\|f\|_2^2}{\|f\|_1} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \\ &= N^{\frac{1}{p}-1} \|f\|_1 \left(\frac{\|f\|_2}{\|f\|_1} \right)^{\frac{2}{p}}.\end{aligned}$$

- Again combining with our previous bounds,

$$\eta \|f\|_2 \frac{\sqrt{|\Lambda|}}{N} \leq C \sqrt{p} N^{\frac{1}{p}-1} \|f\|_1 \left(\frac{\|f\|_2}{\|f\|_1} \right)^{\frac{2}{p}}.$$

- ▶ This simplifies to

$$\sqrt{|\Lambda|} \leq C\eta^{-1}\sqrt{p} \left(\frac{\|f\|_2^2}{\|f\|_1^2} N \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \frac{\|f\|_1}{\|f\|_2}.$$

- ▶ Now, taking

$$p = \log \left(\frac{\|f\|_2^2}{\|f\|_1^2} N \right),$$

we obtain

$$|\Lambda| \leq C\eta^{-2} \log \left(\frac{\|f\|_2^2}{\|f\|_1^2} N \right) \frac{\|f\|_1}{\|f\|_2},$$

and this proves (5). □

- ▶ Numerical experiments show $FR(f)$ indicates structure, and also show the constants in Bourgain and Talagrand are small.
- ▶ We can approximate f by a trig polynomial of lower degree (L^2 and L^∞ approximation theorems)
- ▶ Looking at the large Fourier Coeffs for approx gives a deterministic low degree polynomial. (Sparse Spectrum Theorem)
- ▶ We hope to use the above approximation results to show that the collection

$$\mathcal{H}_M = \{f : \mathbb{Z}_N \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid FR(f) \leq M\}$$

has small statistical dimension.



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