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ALEXANDER OLEVSKII AND ALEXANDER ULANOVSKII

Approximation of Discrete Functions and Size of  
Spectrum

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Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut Oberwolfach gGmbH (MFO)  
Schwarzwaldstrasse 9-11  
77709 Oberwolfach-Walke  
Germany

Tel +49 7834 979 50  
Fax +49 7834 979 55  
Email [admin@mfo.de](mailto:admin@mfo.de)  
URL [www.mfo.de](http://www.mfo.de)

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# Approximation of discrete functions and size of spectrum

Alexander Olevskii and Alexander Ulanovskii

A.O.: School of Mathematics, Tel Aviv University  
Ramat Aviv, 69978 Israel

E-mail: olevskii@post.tau.ac.il

A.U.: Stavanger University, 4036 Stavanger, Norway

E-mail: Alexander.Ulanovskii@uis.no

## Abstract

Let  $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}$  be a uniformly discrete sequence and  $S \subset \mathbb{R}$  a compact set. We prove that if there exists a bounded sequence of functions in Paley–Wiener space  $PW_S$ , which approximates  $\delta$ –functions on  $\Lambda$  with  $l^2$ –error  $d$ , then  $\text{measure}(S) \geq 2\pi(1 - d^2)D^+(\Lambda)$ . This estimate is sharp for every  $d$ . Analogous estimate holds when the norms of approximating functions have a moderate growth, and we find a sharp growth restriction.

*Keywords:* Paley–Wiener space; Bernstein space; Set of interpolation; Approximation of discrete functions

## 1 Introduction

1.1. Let  $S$  be a compact set in  $\mathbb{R}$ , and let  $m(E)$  denote the Lebesgue measure of  $S$ . By  $PW_S$  we denote the Paley–Wiener space

$$PW_S := \{f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) : f = \hat{F}, F = 0 \text{ on } \mathbb{R} \setminus S\}$$

endowed with  $L^2$ –norm. Here  $\hat{F}$  stands for the Fourier transform:

$$\hat{F}(x) := \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{itx} F(t) dt.$$

By  $B_S$  we denote the Bernstein space of bounded functions  $f$  (with the sup–norm), which are the Fourier transforms of Schwartz

distributions supported by  $S$ . Clearly, every function  $f \in PW_S$  (and every  $f \in B_S$ ) can be extended to an entire function of finite exponential type.

Let  $\Lambda$  be a uniformly discrete set, that is

$$\gamma(\Lambda) := \inf_{\lambda, \lambda' \in \Lambda, \lambda \neq \lambda'} |\lambda - \lambda'| > 0. \quad (1)$$

The restriction operator

$$f \rightarrow f|_{\Lambda}$$

is a bounded linear operator from  $PW_S$  into  $l^2(\Lambda)$ . When this operator is surjective, the set  $\Lambda$  is called a set of interpolation for  $PW_S$ . Similarly, if the restriction operator acts surjectively from  $B_S$  onto  $l^\infty$ , then  $\Lambda$  is called a set of interpolation for  $B_S$ . The interpolation problem is to determine when  $\Lambda$  is a set of interpolation for  $PW_S$  or  $B_S$ .

The case  $S = [a, b]$  is classical. Beurling and Kahane proved that in this case the answer can be essentially given in terms of the upper uniform density of  $\Lambda$ ,

$$D^+(\Lambda) := \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \max_{a \in \mathbb{R}} \frac{\text{card}(\Lambda \cap (a, a + r))}{r}.$$

Namely, it was shown in [6] that the condition

$$m(S) > 2\pi D^+(\Lambda)$$

is sufficient while the condition

$$m(S) \geq 2\pi D^+(\Lambda) \quad (2)$$

is necessary for  $\Lambda$  to be a set of interpolation for  $PW_S$ .

The first condition above is necessary and sufficient for  $\Lambda$  to be a set of interpolation for  $B_S$ , see [2].

1.2. The situation becomes more delicate for the disconnected spectra. For the sufficiency part, not only the size but also the arithmetical structure of  $\Lambda$  is important. On the other hand, Landau [6] proved that (2) is still necessary for  $\Lambda$  to be a set of interpolation for  $PW_S$ , for every bounded set  $S$ .

For compact spectrum  $S$ , Landau's result can be stated in a more general form, which requires interpolation of  $\delta$ -functions only. For

each  $\xi \in \Lambda$ , let  $\delta_\xi$  denote the corresponding  $\delta$ -function on  $\Lambda$ :

$$\delta_\xi(\lambda) := \begin{cases} 1 & \lambda = \xi \\ 0 & \lambda \neq \xi \end{cases}, \quad \lambda \in \Lambda.$$

**Proposition 1** ([10], Theorem 1) *Let  $S$  be a compact. Suppose there exist functions  $f_\xi \in PW_S$  satisfying  $f_\xi|_\Lambda = \delta_\xi, \xi \in \Lambda$ , and*

$$\sup_{\xi \in \Lambda} \|f_\xi\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} < \infty. \quad (3)$$

*Then inequality (2) holds. The statement is also true for  $B_S$ -spaces.*

1.3. The present paper is a direct continuation of [10]. We prove that the possibility of approximation of  $\delta$ -functions on  $\Lambda$  with a given  $l^2$ -error already implies an estimate from below on the measure of spectrum:

**Theorem 1** *Let  $0 < d < 1$ ,  $S$  be a compact set, and  $\Lambda$  be a uniformly discrete set. Suppose there exist functions  $f_\xi \in PW_S$  satisfying (3) and such that*

$$\|f_\xi|_\Lambda - \delta_\xi\|_{l^2(\Lambda)} \leq d, \quad \text{for every } \xi \in \Lambda. \quad (4)$$

*Then*

$$m(S) \geq 2\pi(1 - d^2)D^+(\Lambda). \quad (5)$$

*Inequality (5) is sharp for every  $d$ .*

In sec. 4 we show that a similar result holds when the norms of  $f_\xi$  have a moderate growth. No estimate on the measure of spectrum is possible when the norms of approximating functions have a fast growth, and we present a sharp growth restriction (see Theorem 2 below).

Clearly, by letting  $d \rightarrow 0$ , Theorem 1 implies the necessary condition (2) for interpolation in  $PW_S$ .

However, the possibility of  $l^\infty$ -approximation does not imply any estimate on the measure of  $S$ :

**Proposition 2** *Given a number  $0 < d < 1$  and a uniformly discrete set  $\Lambda$ , there exist a compact set  $S$  of measure zero and a bounded sequence of functions  $f_\xi \in B_S$  satisfying*

$$\|f_\xi|_\Lambda - \delta_\xi\|_{l^\infty(\Lambda)} \leq d, \quad \text{for every } \xi \in \Lambda.$$

The set  $S$  can be chosen depending only on  $d$  and the separation constant in (1).

Versions of the theorems above for approximation in  $l^p$  are discussed in sec. 6.

Some of results of this paper were announced in [9].

## 2 Lemmas

Our approach to proof of Theorem 1 includes Landau's method (see [8] and sec. 2 in [10]) and some arguments from Kolmogorov's width theory.

### 2.1. Concentration.

**Definition:** Given a number  $c, 0 < c < 1$ , we say that a linear subspace  $X$  of  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$  is  $c$ -concentrated on a set  $Q$  if

$$\int_Q |f(x)|^2 dx \geq c \|f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2, \quad \text{for every } f \in X.$$

**Lemma 1** *Given sets  $S, Q \subset \mathbb{R}$  of positive measure and a number  $0 < c < 1$ , let  $X$  be a linear subspace of  $PW_S$  which is  $c$ -concentrated on  $Q$ . Then*

$$\dim X \leq \frac{m(Q) m(S)}{2\pi c}.$$

This lemma is contained in [8] (see statements (iii) and (iv) in Lemma 1).

### 2.2. A remark on Kolmogorov's width estimate.

**Lemma 2** *Let  $0 < d < 1$ , and  $\{\mathbf{u}_j\}, 1 \leq j \leq n$ , be an orthonormal basis in an  $n$ -dimensional complex Euclidean space  $U$ . Suppose that  $\{\mathbf{v}_j\}, 1 \leq j \leq n$ , is a family of vectors in  $U$  satisfying*

$$\|\mathbf{v}_j - \mathbf{u}_j\| \leq d, \quad j = 1, \dots, n. \quad (6)$$

*Then for every  $\alpha, 1 < \alpha < 1/d$ , there is a linear subspace  $X$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  such that*

$$(i) \dim X > (1 - \alpha^2 d^2)n - 1;$$

(ii) the estimate

$$Q(\mathbf{c}) := \left\| \sum_{j=1}^n c_j \mathbf{v}_j \right\|^2 \geq \left(1 - \frac{1}{\alpha}\right)^2 \sum_{j=1}^n |c_j|^2,$$

holds for every vector  $\mathbf{c} = (c_1, \dots, c_n) \in X$ .

The classical equality for Kolmogorov's width of "octahedron" (see [7]) implies that the dimension of the linear span of  $\mathbf{v}_j$  is at least  $(1 - d^2)n$ . This means that there exists a linear space  $X \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ ,  $\dim X \geq (1 - d^2)n$ , such that the quadratic form  $Q(\mathbf{c})$  is positive on the unite sphere of  $X$ . Lemma 2 shows that by a small relative reduction of the dimension, one can get an estimate of this form from below by a positive constant independent of  $n$ .

We are indebted to E.Gluskin for the following simple proof of this lemma.

**Proof.** Given an  $n \times n$  matrix  $T = (t_{k,l}), k, l = 1, \dots, n$ , denote by  $s_1(T) \geq \dots \geq s_n(T)$  the singular values of this matrix (=the positive square roots of the eigenvalues of  $TT^*$ ).

The following properties are well-known (see [3], ch. 3):

(a) (Hilbert–Schmidt norm of  $T$  via singular values)

$$\sum_{j=1}^n s_j^2(T) = \sum_{k,l=1}^n |t_{k,l}|^2.$$

(b) (Minimax–principle for singular values)

$$s_k(T) = \max_{L_k} \min_{x \in L_k, \|x\|=1} \|Tx\|,$$

where  $\|\cdot\|$  is the norm in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , and the maximum is taken over all linear subspaces  $L_k \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n$  of dimension  $k$ .

(c)  $s_{k+j-1}(T_1 + T_2) \leq s_k(T_1) + s_j(T_2)$ , for all  $k, j \geq 1, k+j-1 \leq n$ .

Denote by  $T_1$  the matrix, whose columns are the coordinates of  $\mathbf{v}_l$  in the basis  $\mathbf{u}_k$ , and set  $T_2 := I - T_1$ , where  $I$  is the identity matrix. Then property (a) and (6) imply:

$$\sum_{j=1}^n s_j^2(T_2) < d^2n,$$

and hence:

$$s_j^2(T_2) \leq d^2 \frac{n}{j}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq n.$$

This and (c) give:

$$s_k(T_1) \geq s_n(I) - s_{n-k+1}(T_2) \geq 1 - d \sqrt{\frac{n}{n-k+1}}.$$

Since  $s_n(I) = 1$ , by setting  $k = n - [\alpha^2 d^2 n]$ , where  $[\cdot]$  means the integer part, we obtain:

$$s_k(T_1) \geq 1 - \frac{1}{\alpha}, \quad k = n - [\alpha^2 d^2 n].$$

Now, one can obtain from (b) that there exists  $X$  satisfying the conclusions of the lemma.

### 3 Proof of Theorem 1

3.1. Observe that condition (3) implies the uniform boundedness of interpolating functions  $f_\xi$ :

$$|f_\xi(x)| = \left| \int_S F_\xi(t) e^{ixt} dt \right| \leq \sqrt{m(S)} \|F_\xi\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} < C_1. \quad (7)$$

We shall also use the following well-known fact: given a bounded spectrum  $S$  and a uniformly discrete set  $S$ , there exists  $C(S, \Lambda)$  such that

$$\sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} |f(\lambda)|^2 \leq C(S, \Lambda) \int_{\mathbb{R}} |f(x)|^2 dx, \quad \text{for every } f \in PW_S. \quad (8)$$

3.2. Fix a small number  $\delta > 0$ . Set  $S(\delta) := S + [-\delta, \delta]$  and

$$g_\xi(x) := f_\xi(x) \varphi(x - \xi), \quad \xi \in \Lambda, \quad \varphi(x) := \left( \frac{\sin(\delta x/2)}{\delta x/2} \right)^2. \quad (9)$$

Clearly,  $\varphi \in PW_{[-\delta, \delta]}$ , so that  $g_\xi \in PW_{S(\delta)}$ . Also, since  $\varphi(0) = 0$  and  $|\varphi(x)| \leq 1, x \in \mathbb{R}$ , it follows from (4) that each  $g_\xi|_\Lambda$  approximates  $\delta_\xi$  with an  $l^2$ -error  $\leq d$ :

$$\|g_\xi|_\Lambda - \delta_\xi\|_{l^2(\Lambda)} \leq d, \quad \xi \in \Lambda. \quad (10)$$



3.3. Fix numbers  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $r > 0$ , and set

$$I := (a - r, a + r), \quad \nu = \nu(I) := \text{card}(\Lambda \cap I).$$

From (1) we have:

$$\nu < C|I|. \quad (11)$$

Here and below in this proof we denote by  $C$  constants which do not depend on  $I$ .

Denote by  $\lambda_1 < \dots < \lambda_\nu$  the elements of  $\Lambda \cap I$ . It follows from (10) that the vectors

$$\mathbf{v}_j := (g_{\lambda_j}(\lambda_1), \dots, g_{\lambda_j}(\lambda_\nu)) \in \mathbb{C}^\nu, \quad j = 1, \dots, \nu,$$

satisfy (6) where  $\{\mathbf{u}_j, j = 1, \dots, \nu\}$  is the standard orthonormal basis in  $\mathbb{C}^\nu$ .

Fix a number  $\alpha, 1 < \alpha < 1/d$ . By Lemma 2 there exists a subspace  $X = X(a, r, \alpha) \subset \mathbb{C}^\nu$  such that:

- (i)  $\dim X > (1 - \alpha^2 d^2)\nu - 1$ ,
- (ii) for every vector  $\mathbf{c} = (c_1, c_2, \dots, c_\nu) \in X$  the inequality holds:

$$\left\| \sum_{j=1}^{\nu} c_j \mathbf{v}_j \right\|^2 = \sum_{k=1}^{\nu} \left| \sum_{j=1}^{\nu} c_j g_{\lambda_j}(\lambda_k) \right|^2 \geq \left(1 - \frac{1}{\alpha}\right)^2 \sum_{j=1}^{\nu} |c_j|^2.$$

Hence, we have from (8) that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} \left| \sum_{j=1}^{\nu} c_j g_{\lambda_j}(x) \right|^2 dx \geq C \sum_{j=1}^{\nu} |c_j|^2, \quad (c_1, \dots, c_\nu) \in X. \quad (12)$$

3.4. Set  $I' := (a - r(1 + \delta), a + r(1 + \delta))$ . Then, due to (7), (9) and (11), every function

$$g(x) := \sum_{j=1}^{\nu} c_j g_{\lambda_j}(x)$$

satisfies:

$$\int_{\mathbb{R} \setminus I'} |g(x)|^2 dx = \int_{\mathbb{R} \setminus I'} \left| \sum_{j=1}^{\nu} c_j f_{\lambda_j}(x) \left( \frac{\sin \delta(x - \lambda_j)/2}{\delta(x - \lambda_j)/2} \right)^2 \right|^2 dx$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq C \left( \sum_{j=1}^{\nu} |c_j|^2 \right) \int_{\mathbb{R} \setminus I'} \sum_{j=1}^{\nu} \frac{1}{\delta^4 (x - \lambda_j)^4} dx \\
&\leq C |I| \left( \sum_{j=1}^{\nu} |c_j|^2 \right) \frac{1}{\delta^4} \int_{|y| > \delta r} \frac{dy}{y^4} \leq \frac{C}{\delta^7 r^2} \sum_{j=1}^{\nu} |c_j|^2. \quad (13)
\end{aligned}$$

Fix  $\epsilon > 0$ . Inequalities (12) and (13) show that there is a number  $r_0 = r(\delta, \epsilon)$  (not depending on  $a$  and  $\mathbf{c}$ ) such that  $r > r_0$  implies:

$$\int_{I'} |g(x)|^2 dx \geq (1 - \epsilon) \int_{\mathbb{R}} |g(x)|^2 dx.$$

This means that the subspace

$$G := \left\{ g(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{\nu} c_j g_{\lambda_j}(x); (c_1, \dots, c_{\nu}) \in X \right\} \subset L^2(\mathbb{R})$$

is  $(1 - \epsilon)$ -concentrated on  $I'$ , provided  $r > r_0$ .

3.5. Clearly,  $\dim G \geq \dim X$ , so Lemma 1 now implies:

$$\dim X \leq \frac{m(S_{\delta}) |I'|}{2\pi(1 - \epsilon)}.$$

Using inequality (i) for  $\dim X$ , we obtain:

$$(1 - \alpha^2 d^2) \nu - 1 \leq 2r(1 + \delta) \frac{m(S_{\delta})}{2\pi(1 - \epsilon)},$$

and so

$$\frac{\text{card}(\Lambda \cap (a - r, a + r))}{2r} \leq \frac{(1 + \delta) m(S_{\delta})}{2\pi(1 - \epsilon)(1 - \alpha^2 d^2)} + \frac{1}{2r(1 - \alpha^2 d^2)}.$$

Now, for each fixed number  $r$  we choose  $a$  so that the left part is maximal, and then take limit as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ :

$$D^+(\Lambda) \leq \frac{(1 + \delta) m(S_{\delta})}{2\pi(1 - \epsilon)(1 - \alpha^2 d^2)}.$$

Since this inequality is true for all positive  $\epsilon, \delta$  and every  $\alpha \in (1, 1/d)$ , we conclude that estimate (5) is true.

3.6. Let us show that estimate (5) is sharp for every  $d$ . Pick up a number  $a \in (0, \pi)$ , and set  $S := [-a, a]$ ,  $\Lambda := \mathbb{Z}$  and

$$f_j(x) := \frac{\sin a(x-j)}{\pi(x-j)} \in PW_S, \quad j \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

We have for every  $j \in \mathbb{Z}$  that

$$\begin{aligned} \|f_j|_{\mathbb{Z}} - \delta_j\|_{l^2(\mathbb{Z})}^2 &= \|f_0|_{\mathbb{Z}} - \delta_0\|_{l^2(\mathbb{Z})}^2 = \sum_{k \neq 0} \left( \frac{\sin ak}{\pi k} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{a}{\pi} - 1 \right)^2 = \\ &= \frac{a}{\pi} - \frac{a^2}{\pi^2} + \left( \frac{a}{\pi} - 1 \right)^2 = 1 - \frac{a}{\pi}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the assumptions of Theorem 1 hold with  $d^2 = 1 - a/\pi$ . On the other hand, since  $D^+(\mathbb{Z}) = 1$ , we see that  $m(S) = 2\pi(1 - d^2)D^+(\mathbb{Z})$ , so that estimate (5) is sharp.

## 4 Interpolation with moderate growth of norms

Assume that the norms of functions satisfying (4) satisfy

$$\|f_\xi\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} \leq C e^{|\xi|^\gamma}, \quad \xi \in \Lambda, \quad (14)$$

where  $C$  and  $\gamma$  are some positive constants. In this section we show that the statement of Theorem 1 remains true, provided  $\gamma < 1$  and the density  $D^+(\Lambda)$  is replaced by the upper density  $D^*(\Lambda)$ ,

$$D^*(\Lambda) := \limsup_{a \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{card}(\Lambda \cap (-a, a))}{2a}.$$

Restriction  $\gamma < 1$  is sharp: we show also that no estimate on the measure of spectrum is possible, when the norms of  $f_\xi$  grow exponentially.

Observe that  $D^*(\Lambda) \leq D^+(\Lambda)$ , for each  $\Lambda$ . However, one has  $D^*(\Lambda) = D^+(\Lambda)$  whenever  $\Lambda$  is regularly distributed (in particular, when  $\Lambda$  is a bounded perturbation of integers).

**Theorem 2** *Let  $0 < d < 1$ .*

*(i) Suppose  $S$  is a compact set and  $\Lambda$  is a uniformly discrete set. If there exist functions  $f_\xi \in PW_S$  satisfying (4) and (14) with some  $0 < \gamma < 1$ , then*

$$m(S) \geq 2\pi(1 - d^2)D^*(\Lambda). \quad (15)$$

(ii) For every  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $d > 0$  there is a compact  $S$ ,  $m(S) < \epsilon$ , a sequence  $\Lambda = \{n + o(1)\}$  and functions  $f_\xi \in PW_S$  that satisfy (4) and (14) with  $\gamma = 1$ .

**Remarks.** 1. The upper density in part (i) of this theorem cannot be replaced with the upper uniform density, see Theorem 2.3 in [10].

2. Similarly to [10], Theorem 2.4, one can check that the assumption  $\gamma < 1$  in part (i) can be weakened by replacing it with any ‘non-quasianalytic’ growth. It looks likely that the assumption  $\gamma = 1$  in part (ii) can be replaced with any ‘quasianalytic’ growth. We leave this question open.

3. The compact  $S$  in part (ii) must be disconnected. Indeed, every sequence  $\Lambda$  in (ii) is a sampling set for  $PW_{[a,b]}$ , whenever  $0 < b - a < 2\pi$ . Hence, the boundedness of the norms  $\|f_\xi\|_{l^2(\Lambda)}$  implies (3). Therefore, due to Theorem 1, condition (4) yields:  $m(S) \geq 2\pi(1 - d^2)$ .

On the other hand we shall see that  $S$  can be chosen a union of two intervals.

### Proof of Theorem 2.

The proof of part (i) is quite similar to the proof of Theorem 1.

4.1. Fix numbers  $\delta > 0$  and  $\beta, \gamma < \beta < 1$ . There exists a function  $\psi \in PW_{(-\delta,\delta)}$  with the properties:

$$\psi(0) = 1, |\psi(x)| \leq 1, |\psi(x)| \leq Ce^{-|x|^\beta}, x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (16)$$

where  $C > 0$  is some constant. It is well-known that such a function can be constructed as a product of  $\sin(\delta_j x)/(\delta_j x)$  for a certain sequence  $\delta_j \rightarrow 0$ .

Set

$$h_\xi(x) := f_\xi(x)\psi(x - \xi), \quad \xi \in \Lambda.$$

Then each  $h_\xi$  belongs to  $PW_{S(\delta)}$  and the restriction  $h_\xi|_\Lambda$  approximates  $\delta_\xi$  with an  $l^2$ -error  $\leq d$ .

4.2. Set

$$\Lambda_r := \Lambda \cap (-r, r),$$

and denote by  $C$  different positive constants independent on  $r$ .

The argument in step 3.3 of the previous proof shows that there exists a linear space  $X = X(r)$  of dimension  $> (1 - \alpha^2 d^2)\text{card}(\Lambda_r) - 1$

such that

$$\left\| \sum_{\xi \in \Lambda_r} c_\xi h_\xi(x) \right\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 \geq C \sum_{\xi \in \Lambda_r} |c_\xi|^2,$$

for every vector  $(c_\xi) \in X$ .

4.3. Since  $\Lambda$  is uniformly discrete, we have  $\text{card}(\Lambda_r) \leq Cr$ . Further, using (14), similarly to (7), we show that

$$|f_\xi(x)|^2 \leq Cm(S) \|f_\xi\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 \leq Ce^{C|\xi|^\gamma} \leq Ce^{Cr^\gamma}, \quad \xi \in \Lambda_r.$$

These estimates and (16) imply:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{|x| \geq r + \delta r} \left| \sum_{\xi \in \Lambda_r} c_\xi h_\xi(x) \right|^2 dx = \\ & \int_{|x| \geq r + \delta r} \left| \sum_{\xi \in \Lambda_r} c_\xi f_\xi(x) \psi(x - \xi) \right|^2 dx \leq \\ & \left( \sum_{\xi \in \Lambda_r} |c_\xi|^2 \right) \left( Cre^{Cr^\gamma} \int_{|x| > \delta r} e^{-2|x|^\beta} dx \right). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\beta > \gamma$ , the last factor tends to zero as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ . This and the estimate in step 4.2 show that for every  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists  $r_0 = r(\delta, \epsilon)$  such that the linear space of functions

$$\left\{ h(x) = \sum_{\xi \in \Lambda_r} c_\xi h_\xi(x); (c_\xi) \in X \right\}$$

is  $(1 - \epsilon)$ -concentrated on  $(-r - \delta r, r + \delta r)$ , for all  $r \geq r_0$ . Moreover, the dimension of this space is at least  $(1 - \alpha^2 d^2) \text{card}(\Lambda_r) - 1$ .

4.4. By Lemma 1, we obtain:

$$m(S(\delta)) \geq \frac{2\pi(1 - \epsilon)(1 - \alpha^2 d^2)(\text{card}(\Lambda \cap (-r, r)) - 1)}{1 + \delta} \frac{1}{2r}.$$

Take now the upper limit as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ :

$$m(S(\delta)) \geq \frac{2\pi(1 - \epsilon)}{1 + \delta} (1 - \alpha^2 d^2) D^*(\Lambda).$$

Since this inequality holds for all  $\epsilon > 0, \delta > 0$  and  $\alpha \in (1, 1/d)$ , we conclude that (15) is true.

4.5. We shall now prove part (ii) of Theorem 2. We choose  $S$  a union of two intervals and  $\Lambda$  a small perturbation of integers, as follows:

$$S := [-\pi - \epsilon, \pi + \epsilon] \cup [\pi - \epsilon, \pi + \epsilon], \quad \Lambda := \{n + R^{-|n|-1}, n \in \mathbb{Z}\}.$$

Here  $\epsilon > 0$  is a given small number and  $R > 1$ .

Denote by  $\lambda_n := n + R^{-|n|-1}$  the elements of  $\Lambda$ , and set

$$f_{\lambda_0}(x) := \frac{\sin \pi x}{\sin \pi \lambda_0} \cdot \frac{\sin \epsilon(x - \lambda_0)}{\epsilon(x - \lambda_0)},$$

and

$$f_{\lambda_n}(x) := \frac{\sin \pi x}{\sin \pi \lambda_n} \cdot \frac{\sin \nu(n)(x - \lambda_n)}{\nu(n)(x - \lambda_n)} \cdot \prod_{|j| \leq 2|n|, j \neq n} \frac{\sin \nu(j)(x - \lambda_j)}{\sin \nu(j)(\lambda_n - \lambda_j)}, \quad n \neq 0,$$

where  $\nu(n) := \epsilon/(4|n|+1)$ . Observe that  $m(S) = 4\epsilon$ , so to prove part (ii) it suffices to show that the functions  $f_{\lambda_n}$  satisfy (4), provided  $R$  is sufficiently large.

It is clear that  $f_{\lambda_n} \in PW_S$ , and that we have

$$f_{\lambda_n}(\lambda_n) = 1, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad f_{\lambda_n}(\lambda_k) = 0, \quad |k| \leq 2n, \quad k \neq n, \quad n \neq 0. \quad (17)$$

Further, we assume that  $R$  is large enough so that the following three estimates hold for every  $n \neq 0$  and every  $|k| > 2|n|$ :

$$\left| \frac{\sin \pi \lambda_k}{\sin \pi \lambda_n} \right| \leq \frac{2\pi R^{-|k|-1}}{\pi R^{-|n|-1}} = 2R^{-|k|+|n|};$$

$$\left| \frac{\sin \nu(n)(\lambda_k - \lambda_n)}{\nu(n)(\lambda_k - \lambda_n)} \right| \leq \frac{2}{\nu(n)(|k| - |n|)} \leq \frac{8}{\epsilon},$$

and

$$\left| \prod_{|j| \leq 2|n|, j \neq n} \frac{\sin \nu(j)(\lambda_k - \lambda_j)}{\sin \nu(j)(\lambda_n - \lambda_j)} \right| \leq \prod_{|j| \leq 2|n|, j \neq n} \frac{2}{\nu(j)|j - n|} \leq$$

$$\left( \frac{2}{\nu(2n)} \right)^{4|n|} \frac{1}{|n|(3|n|)!} \leq \left( \frac{C}{\epsilon} \right)^{4|n|},$$

where  $C > 1$  is an absolute constant. These estimates yield:

$$|f_{\lambda_n}(\lambda_k)| \leq 16 \left( \frac{C}{\epsilon} \right)^{4|n|+1} R^{-|k|+|n|}, \quad |k| > 2|n|, \quad n \neq 0.$$

A similar estimate holds for  $f_{\lambda_0}(\lambda_k)$  for each  $k \neq 0$ . Clearly, these estimates and (17) prove (4), provided  $R$  is large enough.

## 5 $l^\infty$ -approximation.

5.1. In a sharp contrast to Theorem 1, the possibility of  $l^\infty$ -approximation of  $\delta$ -functions on  $\Lambda$  does not imply any restrictions on the measure of spectrum.

For approximation by  $PW$ -functions this follows from Lemma 3.1 in [8]: *For every  $N \geq 2$  there exists a set  $S(N) \subset (-N, N)$ ,  $\text{mes } S(N) = \frac{2}{N}$ , such that*

$$\left| \frac{N}{2} \int_{S(N)} e^{itx} dt - \frac{\sin Nx}{Nx} \right| \leq \frac{C}{N}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R},$$

where  $C > 0$  is an absolute constant.

The function  $\sin Nx/Nx$  is essentially localized in a small neighborhood of the origin. Its Fourier transform is the unite mass uniformly distributed over the interval  $[-N, N]$ . It follows that one can re-distribute this mass over a set of small measure so that the ‘uniform error’ in the Fourier transform is  $O(1/N)$ .

For the  $B_S$ -functions, the result can be stated even in a stronger form, with the spectrum  $S$  of measure zero:

**Lemma 3** *For every  $\epsilon > 0$  there is a compact set  $S \subset \mathbb{R}$  of Lebesgue measure zero and a function  $f \in B_S$ , such that*

$$f(0) = \|f\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R})} = 1, \quad \text{and} \quad |f(t)| < \epsilon, \quad |t| > \epsilon.$$

This lemma is a consequence of an important Menshov’s example (see [1] ch.14, sec.12, and remark in sec.18): *There is a singular probability measure  $\nu$  with compact support, such that*

$$\hat{\nu}(x) \rightarrow 0, \quad |x| \rightarrow \infty.$$

Indeed, it suffices to set  $f(x) = \hat{\nu}(cx)$ , where  $c$  is sufficiently large.

Proposition 2 follows from Lemma 3: take a positive number  $\epsilon < \min\{d, \gamma(\Lambda)\}$ , where  $\gamma(\Lambda)$  is defined in (1). Let  $f$  be a function from Lemma 3. Then the functions  $f_\xi(x) := f(x - \xi)$ ,  $\xi \in \Lambda$ , satisfy the assumptions of Proposition 2.

5.2. Notice that the Bernstein space  $B_S$  can be defined in a similar way for every unbounded closed spectrum  $S$  of finite measure. In [10] (see Theorem 3.1) we constructed unbounded spectra  $S$  of arbitrarily

small measure such that every uniformly discrete set  $\Lambda$  is a set of interpolation for  $B_S$ . This was done by a certain iteration argument, using Lemma 3.1 from that paper. Using instead Lemma 3 above, one obtains the following slightly stronger result:

**Proposition 3** *There is a closed set  $S$  of measure zero such that every uniformly discrete set  $\Lambda$  is a set of interpolation for  $B_S$ .*

**Remark** Assumption  $m(S) = 0$  in Propositions 2 and 3 can be replaced by a stronger metrical ‘thinness’ condition:  $S$  may have measure zero with respect to any given Hausdorff scaling function. For such an improvement one needs to use measures  $\nu$  constructed in [4].

## 6 $B_S^p$ –spaces and $l^p$ –approximation

One can include spaces  $PW_S$  and  $B_S$  into a continuous chain of Banach spaces: Given a compact set  $S$  and a number  $p, 1 \leq p \leq \infty$ , denote by  $B_S^p$  the space of all entire functions  $f \in L^p(\mathbb{R})$  which can be represented as the Fourier transform of a distribution  $F$  supported by  $S$ . Clearly,  $B_S^2 = PW_S$  and  $B_S^\infty = B_S$ .

Observe that for  $p < p'$ , one has the embedding

$$B_S^p \subset B_S^{p'} \tag{18}$$

with the corresponding inequality for norms.

Let  $\Lambda$  be a uniformly discrete set. It is well-known that the restriction operator  $f \rightarrow f|_\Lambda$  acts boundedly from  $B_S^p$  into  $l^p(\Lambda)$  (see, for example, [11], p.82).  $\Lambda$  is called a set of interpolation for  $B_S^p$  if this operator is surjective.

Proposition 1 implies:

**Proposition 4** *Let  $S$  be a compact and  $p \geq 1$ . If there exist functions  $f_\xi \in B_S^p$  satisfying  $f_\xi|_\Lambda = \delta_\xi, \xi \in \Lambda$ , and*

$$\sup_{\xi \in \Lambda} \|f_\xi\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R})} < \infty, \tag{19}$$

*then condition (2) holds.*

In particular, this shows that if  $\Lambda$  is a set of interpolation for  $B_S^p$ , then estimate (2) is true.

However, when considering  $l^p(\Lambda)$ –approximation by functions from  $B_S^p$ , one should distinguish between the following two cases:



$1 \leq p \leq 2$  and  $2 < p \leq \infty$ . In the first case, the measure of spectrum admits an estimate from below as in Theorem 1, while in the second case it does not as in Proposition 2:

**Theorem 3** *Let  $0 < d < 1$ ,  $S$  be a compact set and  $\Lambda$  be a uniformly discrete set.*

(i) *Suppose  $1 \leq p \leq 2$ . If every  $\delta_\xi, \xi \in \Lambda$ , admits approximation*

$$\|f_\xi|_\Lambda - \delta_\xi\|_{l^p(\Lambda)} \leq d, \quad \xi \in \Lambda, \quad (20)$$

*by functions  $f_\xi \in B_S^p$  satisfying (19), then condition (5) holds true.*

(ii) *Suppose  $p > 2$ . There exist a compact set  $S \subset \mathbb{R}$  of measure zero and functions  $f_\xi \in B_S^p$  satisfying (19) and (20).*

Part (i) is a consequence of Theorem 1, embedding (18) and the standard inequality between  $l^p$  norms.

Part (ii) follows from the refinement of Menshov's example (see [5]): *There is a singular measure  $\nu$  with compact support satisfying*

$$\hat{\nu}(x) = O(|x|^{-1/2}), \quad |x| \rightarrow \infty.$$

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