

Decomposing measures on modules

Nikita Lvov*

February 27, 2025

Abstract

In this note, motivated by random matrix theory, we study measures on a finite R -module M , where R is a finite local ring. We show that the vector space of these measures admits an orthogonal decomposition, whose components are parametrized by homomorphisms from M to the dualizing module of R . This can be regarded as a slight generalization of the usual Fourier decomposition.

1 Introduction

Denote $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ as \mathbb{Z}_m . Let G be a finite \mathbb{Z}_m -module, in other words, G is a finite abelian group that is m -torsion.

Definition. Let $\mathcal{P}(G)$ be the vector space of signed measures on G .

By Fourier analysis, there is an orthogonal decomposition of $\mathcal{P}(G)$ into 1-dimensional subspaces indexed by elements of $\text{Hom}(G, \mathbb{C}^*) \cong \text{Hom}(G, \mathbb{Z}_m)$. We can group these subspaces together into those parametrized by "isomorphic" homomorphisms, i.e. those homomorphisms that differ by an automorphism of \mathbb{Z}_m . This gives a decomposition of $\mathcal{P}(G)$ into orthogonal subspaces, indexed by

$$\chi \in \text{Hom}(G, \mathbb{Z}_m) / \mathbb{Z}_m^*.$$

These subspaces, which we denote as $V(\chi)$, can be uniquely characterized by the following three properties, without any reference to Fourier analysis:

- (A) The pushforward map, induced by any homomorphism in the equivalence class χ , is injective on $V(G, \chi)$. In other words, the elements of $V(G, \chi)$ are constant on $\ker(\chi)$ -cosets.
- (B) $V(G, \chi)$ and $V(G, \chi')$ are orthogonal unless $\chi = \chi'$.
- (C) The subspaces $V(G, \chi)$ span $\mathcal{P}(G)$, i.e.

$$\mathcal{P}(G) \cong \bigoplus_{\chi} V(G, \chi).$$

*nikita.lvov@mail.mcgill.ca

The present paper. In this note, M will be a finite module over a finite local ring R . We will define and study a decomposition of $\mathcal{P}(M)$ that shares similar properties:

Theorem 1.1. *Let R be a finite local ring, let M be a finite R -module and denote by ω the dualizing module of R . To every*

$$\chi \in \text{Hom}_R(M, \omega) / R^* \quad (1.1)$$

we can associate a vector space $V(M, \chi) \in \mathcal{P}(M)$ with the following properties:

- (A) *The pushforward map induced by any homomorphism in the equivalence class χ , is injective on $V(M, \chi)$. In other words, the elements of $V(M, \chi)$ are constant on $\ker(\chi)$ -cosets.*
- (B) *$V(M, \chi)$ and $V(M, \chi')$ are orthogonal unless $\chi = \chi'$.*
- (C) *The vector spaces $V(M, \chi)$ span $\mathcal{P}(M)$, i.e.*

$$\mathcal{P}(M) \cong \bigoplus_{\chi} V(M, \chi). \quad (1.2)$$

The main practical objective of this paper is to prove Theorem 1.1 and to establish the useful inequality (10.1). Theorem 1.1 is a consequence of Corollary 8.1.1. The inequality (10.1), proven in §10, is a straightforward consequence of the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality and the above decomposition. Along the way, we also establish some additional properties of the vector spaces $V(M, \chi)$.

Outline. We start by defining a decomposition of $\mathcal{P}(M)$ into orthogonal subspaces $V(M, N)$ where N runs through all submodules of M . This part is purely formal. Then we show, using some basic facts in commutative algebra, that $V(M, N)$ is non-zero if and only if $N \cong \ker(\chi)$ for some χ of the form (1.1). The subspaces $V(M, \chi)$ are defined as $V(M, \ker(\chi))$. In §9, we study a coarsening of the decomposition (1.2). §10 is devoted to the inequality (10.1).

2 Preliminaries: measures on a module

Throughout, R will be a finite local ring and M will be a finite R -module. As in the introduction, we will denote by $\mathcal{P}(M)$ the real vector space of signed measures on M .

Define

$$\left\langle \cdot, \cdot \right\rangle_M : \mathcal{P}(M) \times \mathcal{P}(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad (2.1)$$

to be the Euclidean inner product on $\mathcal{P}(M)$, regarded as $\mathbb{R}^{(\#M)}$.

For any submodule N of M , let $\mathcal{P}(M, N) \subset \mathcal{P}(M)$ denote the space of signed measures on M that are constant on N -cosets.

We make the following remarks:

- The vector space $\mathcal{P}(M, N)$ is isomorphic to the space of measures on M/N , i.e.

$$\mathcal{P}(M, N) \cong \mathcal{P}(M/N)$$

- If $N_2 \subset N_1$,

$$\mathcal{P}(M, N_1) \subset \mathcal{P}(M, N_2)$$

- We can also define a map in the opposite direction. Indeed, we can take the adjoint of the inclusion map $\mathcal{P}(M, N_1) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(M, N_2)$ with respect to the inner product (2.1), to get a map that we can denote as proj_{N_1, N_2} :

$$\text{proj}_{N_1, N_2} : \mathcal{P}(M, N_2) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(M, N_1).$$

Properties of proj_{N_1, N_2} proj_{N_1, N_2} can also be defined as follows: given a measure in $\mathcal{P}(M, N_2)$, "average out" this measure over N_1 . This definition does not depend on N_2 and it is defined on all of $\mathcal{P}(M)$. Hence we will subsequently simply write proj_{N_1} .

We note the following properties of proj that follow from the definition and the preceding discussion:

- The restriction of proj_N to $\mathcal{P}(M, N)$ is the identity.
- $\text{proj}_{N_1} \text{proj}_{N_2} = \text{proj}_{N_1 + N_2}$.

3 Decomposition of $\mathcal{P}(M)$ into orthogonal subspaces

Definition. Define

$$V(M, N) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigcap_{\substack{N \subset N' \\ N \neq N'}} \ker \left(\mathcal{P}(M, N) \xrightarrow{\text{proj}_{N', N}} \mathcal{P}(M, N') \right)$$

Lemma 3.1. $V(M, N_1)$ and $V(M, N_2)$ are orthogonal subspaces of $\mathcal{P}(M)$ for $N_1 \neq N_2$.

Proof. Suppose $\nu_1 \in V(M, N_1)$ and $\nu_2 \in V(M, N_2)$ and $N_1 \neq N_2$. Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \nu_1, \nu_2 \rangle &= \langle \text{proj}_{N_1} \nu_1, \nu_2 \rangle = \langle \text{proj}_{N_2} \text{proj}_{N_1} \nu_1, \nu_2 \rangle = \\ &= \langle \text{proj}_{N_1 + N_2} \nu_1, \nu_2 \rangle = \langle \text{proj}_{N_1 + N_2} \nu_1, \text{proj}_{N_1 + N_2} \nu_2 \rangle = 0 \end{aligned}$$

because either ν_1 or ν_2 lies in the kernel of $\text{proj}_{N_1 + N_2}$. \square

Lemma 3.2.

$$\mathcal{P}(M) = \bigoplus_{N \subset M} V(M, N)$$

Proof. In order to prove the lemma, it is sufficient to show that $\mathcal{P}(M)$ is spanned by the vector spaces $V(M, N)$. We prove the lemma by induction on $\#M$.

Base case. For the base case, assume $\#M = 1$. Then the statement says that the 1-dimensional space $\mathcal{P}(0)$ is spanned by the 1-dimensional space $V(0, 0) \cong \mathcal{P}(0)$, which is true.

Induction step. Now suppose that M is an R -module of cardinality $\#M > 1$ and suppose that the statement is true for all modules of cardinality less than $\#M$.

In particular, the statement of the lemma is true for all modules M/L , assuming that L is not trivial. Hence we can assume:

$$\mathcal{P}(M/L) = \bigoplus_{N \subset M/L} V(M/L, N).$$

By the identification,

$$\mathcal{P}(M/L) \cong \mathcal{P}(M, L)$$

it also follows that:

$$\mathcal{P}(M, L) = \bigoplus_{L \subset N \subset M} V(M, N). \quad (3.1)$$

We conclude the proof using the following lemma, which is a direct consequence of the definition of proj as an adjoint operator:

Lemma 3.2.1.

$$\ker \left(\mathcal{P}(M) \xrightarrow{\text{proj}_N} \mathcal{P}(M, N) \right)$$

is the orthogonal complement of $\mathcal{P}(M, N)$ in $\mathcal{P}(M)$.

Now it follows from the claim that $V(M, 0)$ is the orthogonal complement in $\mathcal{P}(M)$ of the vector space:

$$\text{span} \left\{ \mathcal{P}(M, N) \mid N \neq 0 \right\} \quad (3.2)$$

Hence every element in $\mathcal{P}(M)$ can be expressed as a sum of an element of $V(M, 0)$ and an element of (3.2). But, by (3.1), every element in (3.2) lies in the span of the vector spaces $V(M, N)$. Hence $\mathcal{P}(M)$ is also spanned by the vector spaces $V(M, N)$. \square

Other properties of $V(M, N)$ We list some other properties of the vector spaces $V(M, N)$:

- $V(M, N)$ is the subspace of $\mathcal{P}(M, N)$ that is orthogonal to $\mathcal{P}(M, N')$ for all N' that strictly contain N .
- $V(M, N) \cong V(M/N, 0)$.
- The vector spaces $V(M, N)$ and $\mathcal{P}(M, N)$ are invariant under translation by any element of M .

4 Fourier modules

In general, many of the vector spaces $V(M, N)$ are trivial. We are interested in identifying the non-trivial $V(M, N)$. As $V(M, N) \cong V(M/N, 0)$, this amounts to describing those modules L for which $V(L, 0) \neq 0$.

Definition. We say that a module L is *Fourier* if $V(L, 0)$ is not 0.

Hence,

$$\mathcal{P}(M) = \bigoplus_{\substack{N \subset M \\ M/N \text{ is Fourier}}} V(M, N) \quad (4.1)$$

We will wish to describe all Fourier modules over R .

Lemma 4.1. *If L is Fourier, and L' is a sub-module of L , then L' is Fourier.*

Proof. Indeed, suppose that L is Fourier and suppose that L' is a sub-module of L .

Claim. *There exists a non-zero element $\nu \in V(L, 0)$ such that the restriction of ν to L' ,*

$$\nu|_{L'},$$

is non-zero.

Indeed, $V(L, 0)$ contains a non-zero element because L is Fourier. Because $V(L, 0)$ is translation invariant, we can translate this element so that its restriction to L' is non-zero.

But ν lies in $\ker(\text{proj}_N)$ for all N . In particular, ν lies in $\ker(\text{proj}_N)$ for all $N \subset L'$. It follows that $\nu|_{L'}$ is a non-zero element of $V(L', 0)$. Therefore, L' is Fourier. \square

Lemma 4.2. *If a module L has a unique non-zero minimal submodule, then L is Fourier.*

Proof. Denote the minimal non-zero submodule as N_0 . There exist elements of $\mathcal{P}(L)$ that are not constant on N_0 -cosets. Therefore $\mathcal{P}(M)$ is not contained in $\mathcal{P}(L, N_0)$. Therefore, because N_0 is minimal, $\mathcal{P}(L)$ is not contained in the span of

$$\mathcal{P}(L, N) \quad N \neq 0 \quad (4.2)$$

Therefore, the orthogonal complement of (4.2) in $\mathcal{P}(L)$ is non-empty. Hence, by Lemma 3.2.1, and the definition of $V(\cdot, \cdot)$, $V(L, 0)$ is non-empty and L is Fourier. \square

5 Fourier modules that are powers of k

Theorem 5.1. *A module k^n is a Fourier module if and only if $n = 0$ or $n = 1$.*

In the rest of this section, we prove Theorem 5.1. First of all, 0 is always a Fourier module. The rest of the theorem will be proven by showing Lemma 5.2 and Lemma 5.3.

Lemma 5.2. $V(k, 0)$ has dimension $\#k - 1$. In particular k is Fourier.

Proof. We show the lemma using

$$\mathcal{P}(k) \cong V(0, 0) \oplus V(k, 0)$$

and comparing dimensions. $V(0, 0) \cong \mathcal{P}(0)$ has dimension 1. $\mathcal{P}(k)$ has dimension $\#k$. Therefore $V(k, 0)$ has dimension $\#k - 1$. \square

Lemma 5.3. k^n is not a Fourier module over k , for any $n > 1$.

Proof. Let $n > 1$. Again we use the decomposition:

$$\mathcal{P}(k^n) \cong \bigoplus_{N \subset k^n} V(k^n, N)$$

Recall that $V(k^n, N) \cong V(k^n/N, 0)$. Comparing dimensions, we find

$$(\#k)^n = \dim \mathcal{P}(k^n) = \sum_{i=0}^{i=n} \#\{N \subset k^n \mid k^n/N \cong k^i\} \dim V(k^i, 0)$$

It is now sufficient to show that

$$(\#k)^n = \sum_{i=0}^{i=1} \#\{N \subset k^n \mid k^n/N \cong k^i\} \dim V(k^i, 0) \quad (5.1)$$

But (5.1) can be rewritten as:

$$1 + (\#k - 1)\#\{N \subset k^n \mid k^n/N \cong k\}$$

Let $\#Sur(k^n, k)$ denote the number of surjective homomorphisms from k^n to k and let $\#Aut(k)$ denote the number of automorphisms of k as an R -module. The preceding expression becomes:

$$1 + (\#k - 1) \frac{\#Sur(k^n, k)}{\#Aut(k)} = 1 + \#Sur(k^n, k) = (\#k)^n$$

\square

This concludes the proof of Theorem 5.1.

6 Fourier modules over R

Recall that R is a finite local ring with residue field k . In this section, we will determine all Fourier modules over R . We will need the fact that every finite local ring has a dualizing module [Eis95, Proposition 21.2]. We denote the dualizing module of R as ω .

Theorem 6.1. *Every Fourier module over R is a submodule of ω .*

Proof. The zero module is Fourier. Now suppose M is a non-zero Fourier module. By Lemma 4.1, every submodule of M must be a Fourier module. In particular

$$\text{Hom}(k, M)$$

is a Fourier module. This module is non-zero because M is non-zero, and it is isomorphic to k^n for some n . By Theorem 5.1,

$$\text{Hom}(k, M) \cong k. \quad (6.1)$$

Now, for an R -module L denote $\text{Hom}(L, \omega)$ as $D(L)$. ω is the dualizing module, hence $D(\cdot)$ is a dualizing functor. Therefore, from (6.1), we get:

$$\text{Hom}(D(M), D(k)) \cong k \quad (6.2)$$

But $D(k) \cong k$, hence (6.2) implies

$$D(M) \otimes k \cong k$$

It is now a consequence of Nakayama's lemma that $D(M) \cong R/I$ for some ideal $I \subset R$. Therefore,

$$M \cong D(D(M)) \cong D(R/I) \cong \text{Hom}(R/I, \omega).$$

Therefore M is a submodule of ω . □

In the sections that follow, we denote $\text{Hom}(R/I, \omega)$ as ω_I .

Remark. We have shown that every Fourier module must be a submodule of ω . The converse is also true. Indeed, ω has a minimal non-zero submodule. Therefore, by Lemma 4.2, ω is Fourier, and by Lemma 4.1, all submodules of ω are Fourier.

7 Properties of ω_I

In this section, we list some standard properties of ω_I :

- (A) $I \rightarrow \omega_I$ is an inclusion-reversing bijection between submodules of ω and submodules of R .
- (B) $I = \text{ann}(\omega_I)$.
- (C) $|\omega_I| = |R/I|$.
- (D) The inclusion $R/I \hookrightarrow \text{Hom}(\omega_I, \omega_I)$ is surjective.
- (E) ω_I is the dualizing module for the finite ring R/I .

Lemma 7.1. *No two distinct submodules of ω are isomorphic.*

Proof. The submodules of ω are in bijection with submodules of R . Thus, we must prove that if

$$\omega_I \cong \omega_{I'},$$

then $I = I'$. But $\omega_I \cong \omega_{I'}$ implies that $\text{ann}(\omega_I) \cong \text{ann}(\omega_{I'})$ and hence $I = I'$. □

8 Relation with usual Fourier analysis

We can recast the decomposition of $\mathcal{P}(M)$ into the form (1.2), given in the introduction and connecting it to the decomposition arising in usual Fourier analysis.

First of all, we introduce an equivalence relation:

Definition. Suppose $\chi, \chi' \in \text{Hom}(M, \omega)$. Then we write $\chi \sim \chi'$ if and only if $\text{im}(\chi) \cong \text{im}(\chi')$.

This allows us to rewrite the decomposition (4.1) as

$$\mathcal{P}(M) \cong \bigoplus_{\chi \in \text{Hom}(M, \omega) / \sim} V(M, \ker(\chi)). \quad (8.1)$$

Lemma 8.1. *Suppose $\chi, \chi' \in \text{Hom}(M, \omega)$ and $\chi \sim \chi'$. Then there exists $r \in R^*$ such that $\chi' = r\chi$.*

Corollary 8.1.1. Hence, we can rewrite (8.1) as:

$$\mathcal{P}(M) \cong \bigoplus_{\chi \in \text{Hom}(M, \omega) / R^*} V(M, \chi) \quad (8.2)$$

where we write $V(M, \chi)$ to denote $V(M, \ker(\chi))$.

Proof. (of Lemma 8.1) $\text{im}(\chi)$ and $\text{im}(\chi')$ are submodules of ω . If they are isomorphic, then by 7.A, they must be the same submodule of ω , say ω_I . Hence there exists an isomorphism σ of ω_I such that $\chi' = \sigma\chi$. But by 7.D, the only homomorphisms from ω_I to ω_I are given by multiplication by R/I . Hence, the only isomorphisms from ω_I to ω_I are given by multiplication by R/I^* , or alternatively by multiplication by R^* . Therefore σ must be of this form. \square

Remark. We note again that χ is an equivalence class of homomorphisms. The number of homomorphisms in the equivalence class is determined by $\text{im}(\chi)$. By the preceding proof, if $\text{im}(\chi) = \omega_I$, then the number of elements in the equivalence class is $|R/I^*|$.

***The dimension of $V(M, \chi)$** The results in the remainder of this section are not necessary for the sequel. We include them for completeness.

First, we recall that

$$V(M, \chi) = V(M, \ker(\chi)) \cong V(M/\ker(\chi), 0) \cong V(\text{im}(\chi), 0)$$

and $\text{im}(\chi)$ is of the form ω_I for some I .

Lemma 8.2.

$$\dim V(\omega_I, 0) = |R/I^*|$$

Proof. This can be proven by induction on $|R/I|$. Firstly, the statement holds for the maximal ideal because, by Lemma 5.2,

$$\dim V(k, 0) = \#k - 1.$$

For the induction step, we note that

$$\mathcal{P}(R/I) = \bigoplus_{\chi \in \text{Hom}(\omega/I, \omega)/R^*} V(\omega, \ker(\chi))$$

Hence,

$$\dim \mathcal{P}(R/I) = \sum_J \frac{\#\{\chi \in \text{Hom}(\omega_I, \omega) \mid \text{im}(\chi) = \omega_J\}}{|R/J^*|} \dim V(\omega_J, 0)$$

The image of ω_I is either isomorphic to ω_I or has cardinality strictly smaller than ω_I . Using the inductive hypothesis, we can therefore conclude that the sum on the right can be rewritten as:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\#\{\text{Hom}(\omega_I, \omega) \mid \text{im}(\chi) = \omega_I\}}{|R/I^*|} \dim V(\omega_I, 0) + \\ & + \sum_{J \neq I} \#\{\text{Hom}(\omega_I, \omega) \mid \text{im}(\chi) = \omega_J\} \end{aligned} \quad (8.3)$$

whereas the left hand side is

$$\begin{aligned} & \#\omega_I = \#\text{Hom}(\omega_I, \omega) = \\ & = \sum_J \#\{\chi \in \text{Hom}(\omega_I, \omega) \mid \text{im}(\chi) = \omega_J\} \end{aligned} \quad (8.4)$$

Comparing (8.3) and (8.4), we find that we must have

$$\dim V(\omega_I, 0) = |R/I^*|$$

□

Comparison with the classical case Suppose that we have a \mathbb{Z}/p^N module G . Then, the usual Fourier decomposition decomposes $\mathcal{P}(G)$ into one-dimensional components parametrized by $\text{Hom}(G, \mathbb{C}^*) \cong \text{Hom}(G, \mathbb{Z}/p^N)$. If we group together the components corresponding to homomorphisms that have the same kernel, then we recover the decomposition (8.2):

$$\mathcal{P}(G) \cong \bigoplus_{\chi \in \text{Hom}(G, \mathbb{Z}/p^N) / (\mathbb{Z}/p^{N^*})} V(G, \ker(\chi))$$

9 Isotypic Fourier components

In this section we will be interested in the space spanned by a subset of the $V(M, N)$. Namely, let us choose a Fourier module. This module is necessarily of the form ω_I . We are interested in explicitly describing

$$\bigoplus_{\substack{N \subset M \\ M/N \cong \omega_I}} V(M, N) \quad (9.1)$$

Remark. If $M/N \cong \omega_I$, then M/N is annihilated by I . Therefore, $IM \subset N$. It follows that

$$\bigoplus_{\substack{N \subset M \\ M/N \cong \omega_I}} V(M, N) \in \mathcal{P}(M, IM).$$

In fact, this is all we need for the sequel. In the rest of this section, for completeness, we give a more precise description of the vector space (9.1).

To formulate our theorem, we need some preliminary definitions:

***The spaces $W(M, IM)$** As mentioned in the preceding remark, the rest of this section is not necessary for the sequel.

Definition. Define $\mathcal{P}(M, IM)$ as before, as the set of measure on M that are constant on IM -cosets. Let $W(M, IM) \subset W(M, JM)$ be the space of signed measures on $\mathcal{P}(M)$ such that:

- Each element of $W(M, IM)$ is constant on IM -cosets.
- Each element of $W(M, IM)$ lies in the orthogonal complement of $\mathcal{P}(M, JM)$ for all ideals J that strictly contain I .

Lemma 9.1. $W(M, IM)$ and $W(M, I'M)$ are orthogonal if $I \neq I'$.

Proof. The proof is analogous to the proof of Lemma 3.1. Define proj_{JM} to be the operation that averages a measure on M over JM -cosets. Suppose that $w \in W(M, IM)$ and $w' \in W(M, I'M)$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle w, w' \rangle &= \langle \text{proj}_{IM} w, w' \rangle = \langle \text{proj}_{I'M} \text{proj}_{IM} w, w' \rangle = \\ &= \langle \text{proj}_{(I+I')M} w, w' \rangle = \langle \text{proj}_{(I+I')M} w, \text{proj}_{(I+I')M} w' \rangle \end{aligned}$$

The last expression must be 0 unless $I = I'$, by the same argument as in the proof of Lemma 3.1. \square

Lemma 9.2.

$$\mathcal{P}(M) \cong \bigoplus_I W(M, IM)$$

We now give the main theorem which relates this decomposition to the previous one:

Theorem 9.3.

$$W(M, IM) \cong \bigoplus_{\substack{N \subset M \\ M/N \cong \omega_I}} V(M, N)$$

First, we show the following lemma:

Lemma 9.4. *If $M/N \cong \omega_I$, then*

$$V(M, N) \subset W(M, IM)$$

Proof. (of Lemma 9.4) By assumption, $M/N \cong \omega_I$. I is the annihilator of ω_I . Therefore, N contains IM , but does not contain JM for any J that strictly contains I . $V(M, N)$ is contained in $\mathcal{P}(M, IM)$. It remains to prove the following claim:

Claim. Suppose that the ideal J strictly contains I . Then $V(M, N)$ is orthogonal to $\mathcal{P}(M, JM)$.

The claim can be deduced from the orthogonal decomposition:

$$\mathcal{P}(M, JM) \cong \bigoplus_{JM \subset N'} V(M, N')$$

□

Deduction of Theorem 9.3 from Lemma 9.4 We have shown that

$$\bigoplus_{\substack{N \subset M \\ M/N \cong \omega_I}} V(M, N) \subset W(M, IM)$$

To prove the converse, we proceed by contradiction. Suppose that for some I , the inclusion is strict. We take the product over all I . It follows that

$$\bigoplus_{N \subset M} V(M, N) \cong \mathcal{P}(M)$$

is strictly contained in

$$\bigoplus_I W(M, IM) \cong \mathcal{P}(M)$$

This gives a contradiction.

10 An important inequality

Suppose that ν is a measure on M . Denote by ν_N the projection of ν on $V(M, N)$. Denote

$$|\nu_N| \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\| \nu_N \right\|_{L^1(M)},$$

the L^1 norm of ν_N . In the proof of universality for random matrices, we will need to bound the following quantity:

$$\frac{1}{|M/IM|} \sum_{\substack{N \subset M \\ M/N \cong \omega_I}} |\nu_N|$$

Definition. Denote by $(\nu \bmod I)$ the measure induced on M/IM by ν , via push-forward.

Remark. Alternatively, recall that $\text{proj}_{IM}\nu$ is a measure in $\mathcal{P}(M, IM)$. Via the isomorphism $\mathcal{P}(M, IM) \cong \mathcal{P}(M/IM)$, $\text{proj}_{IM}\nu$ defines a measure on M/IM . This measure is precisely $(\nu \bmod I)$.

Define

$$\left\| \cdot \right\|_{L^2(M/IM)} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\langle \cdot, \cdot \right\rangle_{M/IM},$$

the usual Euclidean norm.

Theorem 10.1.

$$\frac{1}{|M/IM|} \sum_{\substack{N \subset M \\ M/N \cong \omega_I}} |\nu_N| \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{|R/I^*|}} \left\| \nu \bmod I \right\|_{L^2(M/IM)} \quad (10.1)$$

Proof. We use the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality two times. ν_N is constant on N -cosets, therefore, since $M/N \cong \omega_I$, ν_N must be constant on IM -cosets. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \nu_N \right\|_{L^1(M)} &= \left\| \nu_N \bmod I \right\|_{L^1(M/IM)} = \\ &= \left\langle \nu_N \bmod I, \operatorname{sgn}(\nu_N \bmod I) \right\rangle_{M/IM} \leq \\ &\leq \left\| \nu_N \bmod I \right\|_{L^2(M/IM)} \sqrt{\#M/IM} \end{aligned}$$

by Cauchy-Schwarz. Define

$$S \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{N \subset M \mid M/N \cong \omega_I\}$$

The left hand side is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{|M/IM|} \sum_{N \in S} |\nu_N \bmod I| &\leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{|M/IM|}} \sum_{N \in S} \left\| \nu_N \bmod I \right\|_{L^2(M/IM)} \leq \\ &\leq \frac{\sqrt{\#S}}{\sqrt{|M/IM|}} \sqrt{\sum_{N \in S} \left\| \nu_N \bmod I \right\|_{L^2(M/IM)}^2} \quad (10.2) \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality follows again by Cauchy-Schwarz. Since the ν_N are orthogonal, we can rewrite the preceding expression as:

$$\begin{aligned} &\sqrt{\frac{\#S}{|M/IM|}} \left\| \sum_{N \in S} \nu_N \bmod I \right\|_{L^2(M/IM)} \leq \quad (10.3) \\ &\leq \sqrt{\frac{\#S}{|M/IM|}} \left\| \sum_{IM \in N} \nu_N \bmod I \right\|_{L^2(M/IM)} = \sqrt{\frac{\#S}{|M/IM|}} \left\| \nu \bmod I \right\|_{L^2(M/IM)} \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we note that

$$\sqrt{\frac{\#S}{|M/IM|}} \leq \sqrt{\frac{\#Sur(M, \omega_I)}{\#Hom(M, \omega_I)|R/I^*|}} \leq \frac{1}{|R/I^*|}$$

□

Remark. Although this does not substantially improve the bound, we remark that

$$\sum_{N \in S} \nu_N$$

is the projection of the measure ν on $W(M, IM)$. Hence, in Theorem 10.1, we can replace $(\nu \bmod I)$ by the projection of $(\nu \bmod I)$ onto $W(M/IM, 0)$.

References

[Eis95] David Eisenbud. *Commutative Algebra with a View Toward Algebraic Geometry*. Springer, New York, NY, 1995.