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Let ϕ be a uniformly continuous function on the locally compact, non-compact, abelian group G . Denote the dual of G by Γ . Then ϕ is ergodic on $E \subset \Gamma$ if $\phi\bar{\gamma}$ has a unique (translation-invariant) mean value for each $\gamma \in E$. Theorem: If E is closed and scattered, then there is a sequence $\{p_n\}$ of trigonometric polynomials and a sequence $\{g_n\} \subset L^1(G)$ with $\text{supp } \hat{g}_n \cap E = \emptyset$ such that $g_n * \phi + p_n \rightarrow \phi$ uniformly. Now suppose $E = \Gamma \setminus \{\gamma\}$ and let $\{p_\beta\}$ be any net of almost periodic functions on G with bounded $L^1(\bar{G})$ norm. Theorem: All cluster points to $\{M_\gamma p_\beta(\cdot - \gamma)\phi(\gamma)\}_\beta$ in the topology of uniform convergence on compact subsets of G are ergodic. Here M is any invariant mean on G . A compact set $E \subset \Gamma$ is ergodic if each $\phi \in \Phi(E)$, the $L^\infty(G)$ -weak* closure of $\text{span } E$, is (equal a.e. to) a function ergodic on Γ . Theorem: If E is ergodic and S is compact scattered, then $E \cup S$ is ergodic. For E 's which are Helson sets this implies that the elements of $\Phi(E \cup S)$ decompose into $\mu + u$ where $\mu \in M_c(E)$ and u is almost periodic.

Let $IM(G)$ be the set of all positive, translation-invariant, linear forms on the space $C(G)$ of uniformly continuous, complex-valued, bounded functions on G . We say a function $\phi \in C(G)$ is ergodic on $E \subset \Gamma$ if the mean value $M(\phi\bar{\gamma})$ is independent of $M \in IM(G)$ for each $\gamma \in E$; if $E = \Gamma$, ϕ is simply called ergodic. A compact set $E \subset \Gamma$ is ergodic if each $\phi \in \Phi(E)$ is ergodic, where $\Phi(E)$ is the weak* closure of the span of E in $L^\infty(G)$ (each $\phi \in \Phi(E)$ is equal a.e. to an element of $C(G)$ since E is compact).

The class $\mathcal{E}(G)$ of ergodic functions on G properly contains the weakly almost periodic (WAP) functions which were introduced by Eberlein in [3], and it is equivalent to the class of Ryll-Nardzewski functions in $C(G)$ for $G = \mathbb{R}$, as studied by Kahane in [6]. Our work here is heavily influenced by Eberlein's study. Because of this we consider ergodic functions as generalized WAP functions. But the analogy is distant. For in [6] it is proved that any $\phi \in C(\mathbb{R})$ is the product of two ergodic functions! In spite of this, ergodic functions share some strong approximation properties with WAP functions. For example our Theorems 8 and 9 (ii) yield:

THEOREM. Suppose ϕ is ergodic on the closed scattered set S . Then there exist trigonometric polynomials p_n with spectra in S and $L^1(G)$ functions g_n with closed spectra disjoint from S such that $g_n * \phi + p_n \rightarrow \phi$ uniformly on G .

THEOREM. Fix $\gamma \in \Gamma$, let $\epsilon > 0$, and suppose ϕ is ergodic on $\Gamma \setminus \{\gamma\}$. Then there is a neighborhood U of γ such that for any $f \in L^1(G)$ with $\text{supp } \hat{f} \subset U$ and for any trigonometric polynomial $\sum_{\Gamma} a_{\eta} \eta$ with $a_{\gamma} = 0$ one has

$$\|f * (\sum_{\Gamma} a_{\eta} M(\phi \bar{\eta}) \eta)\|_{\infty} \leq \epsilon \|\sum_{\Gamma} a_{\eta} M(\phi \bar{\eta}) \eta\|_{\infty} \|f\|_1$$

for any $M \in IM(G)$.

These theorems indicate the wholly ergodic nature of the result of Loomis in [9] and are actually extensions of the key lemmas in that article. They might also suggest two questions which we comment on now. First, it is not difficult to construct functions ergodic on $\Gamma \setminus \{\gamma\}$ and not ergodic on $\{\gamma\}$. Thus the hypothesis in the latter theorem is not superfluous. Second, there are ergodic ϕ 's for which the function $\mathcal{F}(\phi)(\gamma) \equiv M(\phi \bar{\gamma})$ is not the Bohr-Fourier transform of any uniformly almost periodic or even any Weyl-almost periodic function on R . For a discussion of this see [14] and compare with [4].

Ergodic sets were introduced in [13] as a class of thin sets in the Fourier analytic sense. There it is shown that $\Phi(E) \cap C_0(G) = \{0\}$ is necessary for E to be ergodic (i.e., ergodic sets are weak uniqueness sets) and that ergodic sets cannot contain perfect symmetric sets. Compact scattered sets are ergodic by the Loomis result [9] and, of course, Helson sets are ergodic. However there do exist perfect ergodic sets which contain arbitrarily large arithmetic progressions. Such an example is constructed by Katznelson and McGehee in [7]. Otherwise little is known about this class. For example: Is the union of two ergodic sets again ergodic? What is the relationship between ergodic sets and the classical thin sets? Also, we need more necessary properties of ergodic sets. Here we prove the seemingly elementary result that *the union of an ergodic set with a compact scattered set is again ergodic* (Theorem 12). Its proof depends heavily on the two theorems mentioned previously, and it has the following corollary: *if E is Helson and S is compact scattered, then each $\phi \in \Phi(E \cup S)$ decomposes into $\phi = \hat{\mu} + u$ where $\mu \in M(E)$ and u is uniformly almost periodic.*

Fundamental to our work is the characterization of the mean values of any $\phi \in C(G)$ in terms of a class of convolution kernels which we call *averaging kernels*. In general these kernels give rise to most of the classical averaging techniques including those found in [1]. But the averaging kernels we find most useful are nets consisting of elementary positive definite functions whose spectra form a neighborhood base for $0 \in \Gamma$. These kernels are discussed in §2 while §§3 and 4 deal with ergodic functions and

ergodic sets, respectively. The first section is reserved for preliminaries and notation.

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Preliminaries. By the translate of a function ϕ on G , we mean the function $\phi_x(y) \equiv \phi(y - x)$ for some $x \in G$. The set of all translates of ϕ is $\text{Tr}(\phi)$, and $R(\phi)$ is the range of ϕ . Denote the convex hull, interior, complement and closure of a set A by $\text{co}(A)$, A° , A^c , and \bar{A} , respectively.

The space $C(G)$ is endowed with the supremum norm, $\|\cdot\|_\infty$. The operations and partial ordering are defined pointwise in the usual manner. A trigonometric polynomial on G is any finite complex linear combination of elements of Γ . The set of all such polynomials is denoted by $P(G)$. Its closure in $C(G)$ is $AP(G)$, the algebra of (uniformly) almost periodic functions.

The space of finite, regular, Borel measures on G is denoted by $M(G)$. Its norm, $\|\cdot\|$, is the total variation norm. $L^1(G)$ and $L^\infty(G)$ are the usual spaces of Haar-measurable functions. Fix a Haar measure on G and its dual Haar measure on Γ . Unless otherwise stated all integrals are taken with respect to these fixed measures. The Haar measure of a set A is $|A|$. The support of a function or measure u is denoted by $\text{supp } u$. Recall that $M(G)$ and $L^1(G)$ are Banach algebras under the convolution product $*$. We denote the Fourier (-Stieltjes) transform of a $u \in L^1(G)$ ($M(G)$) by \hat{u} .

The spectrum of a $\phi \in L^\infty(G)$ is the intersection of Γ with the weak* closure of the span of $\text{Tr}(\phi)$. It is denoted by $\sigma(\phi)$. Equivalently, $\sigma(\phi)$ is the zero set of the ideal I consisting of all $f \in L^1(G)$ such that $f^* \phi = 0$. That is

$$\sigma(\phi) = \{\gamma \in \Gamma \mid \hat{f}(\gamma) = 0 \text{ for all } f \in I\}.$$

For $f \in L^1(G)$ its closed spectrum is $\text{supp } \hat{f}$. Given a subset $E \subset \Gamma$, we define $\Phi(E)$ to be the weak* closure of the span of E in $L^\infty(G)$. If E is precompact, then each $\phi \in \Phi(E)$ is equal a.e. to an element of $C(G)$, so we assume $\phi \in C(G)$. In particular for precompact E 's, $\Phi(E)$ is the closure of span E in the relative $L^\infty(G)$ -weak* topology on $C(G)$ (see [5, Preliminaries]). We say $E \subset \Gamma$ is a spectral set if $\sigma(\phi) \subset E$ implies $\phi \in \Phi(E)$. Finite sets are spectral sets; hence if E is finite, $\Phi(E) = \{\sum_E a_\gamma \gamma : a_\gamma \in \mathbb{C}\}$.

An (translation-) invariant mean M on $C(G)$ is a positive linear form on $C(G)$ satisfying (i) $M(1) = 1$ and (ii) $M(\psi) = M(\phi)$ for all $\psi \in \text{Tr}(\phi)$. We denote by $IM(G)$ the set of all invariant means on G . Note that $M \in IM(G)$ implies M is continuous with operator norm $\|M\| = 1$. The number $M(\phi)$ is

called a mean value of ϕ . We denote the set of all mean values of ϕ by $MV(\phi)$.

There are two basic facts concerning invariant means which we list now. Because of their importance, we also give an outline of their proofs. The first will hereafter be referred to as the Fundamental Characterization Theorem. It can be found in [5, Theorem 2.1].

(1) Suppose $\phi \in C(G)$. Then

$$MV(\phi) = \cap \{ \overline{\text{co}}(R(\psi)) \mid \psi \in \text{co}(\text{Tr}(\phi)) \}$$

(2) Suppose $M \in IM(G)$, $\phi \in C(G)$, and $u \in L^1(G)$ (or $M(G)$). Then

$$M(u * \phi) = \hat{u}(0) M(\phi).$$

To begin the proof of (1), we show $LHS \subset RHS$. Suppose $c \notin \overline{\text{co}}(\text{Tr}(\psi))$ for some $\psi \in \text{Tr}(\phi)$. Since a compact convex set is the intersection of all half spaces containing it, it is also the intersection of all discs containing it. Thus there is a disc D with center b such that $c \notin D$ and $R(\psi) \subset D$. Therefore $|M(\phi) - b| \leq M(|\psi - b|) \leq \|\psi - b\|_\infty < |c - b|$. Conversely, suppose $c \in RHS$ of (1). Then define the linear map L on the linear space $\{a + b\phi \mid a, b \in \mathbb{C}\}$ by $L(a + b\phi) \equiv a + bc$. This map is dominated by the function $T(\phi) \equiv \inf \|X\|_\infty$ over all $X \in \text{co}(\text{Tr}(\phi))$. Moreover one can verify that T is sublinear ($T(\psi + \phi) \leq T(\psi) + T(\phi)$ and $T(\alpha\psi) = |\alpha|T(\psi)$) and that $T(\psi - \psi_x) = 0$ for any $x \in G$ on $C(G)$. In particular, L extends via the Hahn-Banach Theorem to a continuous linear functional M on $C(G)$ which is dominated by T ; hence $M \in IM(G)$ and $M(\phi) = c$. Statement (2) is a consequence of the elementary fact that $u * \phi$ is the uniform limit of functions of the form

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \int_{V_i} u(x) dx \phi_{x_i},$$

where $\{V_i\}$ is a measurable partition of $\text{supp } u$ and $x_i \in V_i$, whenever $\phi \in C(G)$.

As general references we suggest [11], for the Fourier analysis; [5], for invariant means; and [1] or [2], for almost periodic functions. Our notation is taken from [11] whenever possible

Averaging kernels. We will need a systematic method for describing the mean values of a function. The literature abounds with general summability methods. But here the method must be useful, simple, and particularly suitable for the investigation of the local spectrum of a function.

The one we will use is essentially a "system of almost invariant integrals" as defined by Eberlein in [3, Definition 2.1]. It is closely related to the summability method of Lorentz in [10, Theorem 7].

DEFINITION 1. An *averaging kernel* on G is a net $\{k_\alpha\}$ in $L^1(G)$ which satisfies

- (i) $\lim \|k_\alpha\|_1 = \lim \hat{k}_\alpha(0) = 1$ and
- (ii) $\lim_\alpha \|k_\alpha - (k_\alpha)_x\|_1 = 0$ for all $x \in G$.

The following construction gives rise to an important class of averaging kernels. Let $\{U_\alpha\}$ be a neighborhood base for $0 \in \Gamma$ consisting of compact symmetric sets which is partially ordered by $\alpha \leq \beta$ if and only if $U_\alpha \supset U_\beta$. Denote by X_α the characteristic function of U_α . Now, using [11, Theorem 1.6.3], set

$$\hat{f}_\alpha = |U_\alpha|^{-1} X_\alpha * X_\alpha.$$

Since \hat{f}_α is positive definite with $\hat{f}_\alpha(0) = 1$, we conclude that $\|f_\alpha\|_1 = 1$. That $\lim \|f_\alpha - (f_\alpha)_x\|_1 = 0$ for each $x \in G$ follows from the fact that points are spectral sets. Indeed, fix $\epsilon > 0$ and $x \in G$ and choose $g \in L^1(G)$ so that $\hat{g} = 1$ on a neighborhood of $0 \in \Gamma$. Then there is an $h \in L^1(G)$ with $\hat{h} = 0$ on some neighborhood of $0 \in \Gamma$ such that $\|g - g_x - h\|_1 < \epsilon$. Thus for α sufficiently large

$$\begin{aligned} \|f_\alpha - (f_\alpha)_x\|_1 &= \|(g - g_x) * f_\alpha\|_1 \\ &\leq \|g - g_x - h\|_1 \|f_\alpha\|_1 < \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $\{f_\alpha\}$ is an averaging kernel on G . Observe that if $\{U_\alpha\}$ were partially ordered by $\alpha \leq \beta$ if and only if $U_\alpha \subset U_\beta$ and if $G = \cup_{\alpha > \beta} U_\alpha$ for every choice of β , then the same construction would lead to a Fejér kernel. Because of this we call $\{f_\alpha\}$ a Fejér averaging kernel on G . More generally, $\{k_\alpha\}$ is a *Fejér averaging kernel* if $\{k_\alpha\}$ is an averaging kernel which satisfies (1) $\|k_\alpha\|_1 = \hat{k}_\alpha(0) = 1$ and (2) $\{\text{supp } \hat{k}_\alpha\}$ is a neighborhood base for $0 \in \Gamma$. Evidently $\{k_\alpha\}$ must consist of non-negative functions.

Let D_r denote the closed disc of radius r with center at the origin in the complex plane. We then describe the relationship between mean values and averaging kernels as follows:

THEOREM 2. *Let $\phi \in C(G)$ and suppose that $\{k_\alpha\}$ is an averaging kernel on G . Then for each $\epsilon > 0$ there is an α_ϵ such that*

$$MV(\phi) \subset \overline{\text{co}}(R(k_\alpha * \phi)) + D_\epsilon \subset MV(\phi) + D_{2\epsilon}, \text{ for } \alpha \geq \alpha_\epsilon.$$

Furthermore if $\{k_\alpha\}$ is a Fejér averaging kernel, then

$$MV(\phi) \subset \overline{\text{co}}(R(k_\alpha * \phi)) \text{ for all } \alpha.$$

Proof. The second statement is a consequence of the Fundamental Characterization Theorem and the fact that $g * \phi \in \overline{\text{co}}(\text{Tr}(\phi))$ whenever $g \in L^1(G)$ satisfies $\|g\|_1 = \hat{g}(0) = 1$.

To prove the first statement, we begin with a Fejér averaging kernel $\{k_\alpha\}$. In this case the first inclusion has just been verified and one need only prove the second. Clearly, it is sufficient to show that $\text{co}(R(k_\alpha * \phi)) \subset MV(\phi) + D_\epsilon$ for all α sufficiently large (depending on $\epsilon > 0$). To this end, the Fundamental Characterization Theorem together with a compactness argument implies the existence of $\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n \in \text{co}(\text{Tr}(\phi))$ such that $\cap_j \text{co}(R(\psi_j)) \subset MV(\phi) + D_r$, where $r = \epsilon/2$. Since

$$\lim_\alpha \|k_\alpha * \phi - k_\alpha * \psi\|_\infty = 0$$

for any $\psi \in \text{co}(\text{Tr}(\phi))$ by Definition 1 (ii), it follows that $\text{co}(R(k_\alpha * \phi)) \subset MV(\phi) + D_r + D_r = MV(\phi) + D_\epsilon$ for all α sufficiently large. For the general averaging kernel $\{k_\alpha\}$ it is enough to note that Definition 1 (i) implies that the imaginary and negative real parts of k_α limit to zero in L^1 -norm as $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$.

Theorem 2 has an important corollary which several authors have observed in various forms (see [3, Theorem 3.1], [8, §6] and [10, Theorem 1]). We state it as follows:

COROLLARY 3. *Let $\{k_\alpha\}$ be an averaging kernel on G . Suppose $\phi \in C(G)$ and fix $\gamma \in \Gamma$. The following statements are equivalent.*

- (i) $\phi\bar{\gamma}$ has a unique mean value.
- (ii) $\{k_\alpha * (\phi\bar{\gamma})\}$ is uniformly Cauchy.
- (iii) $\{(k_\alpha\gamma) * \phi\}$ converges uniformly to $M(\phi\bar{\gamma})\gamma$, for any invariant mean M on $C(G)$.

Proof. According to Theorem 2, (i) is equivalent to (ii); (ii) implies

(iii) by this equivalence and the identity $(k_\alpha \gamma) * \phi \equiv [k_\alpha * (\phi \bar{\gamma})]\gamma$. Now (iii) implies (i) is immediate.

Ergodic functions. In [3] Eberlein uses his system of almost invariant integrals to investigate “ergodic points” in certain Banach spaces. We will use averaging kernels to investigate “ergodic functions” in $C(G)$. However, our definition of ergodic function is considerably more restrictive than that of ergodic point. Indeed an ergodic point in $C(G)$ becomes in our terminology a function ergodic at zero. Since we are primarily interested in functions which are ergodic on infinite sets, it is not surprising that the analogy between our methods and those of Eberlein stop at Corollary 3.

DEFINITION 4. A $\phi \in C(G)$ is *ergodic at* $\gamma \in \Gamma$ if $\phi \bar{\gamma}$ has a unique mean value. The function ϕ is *ergodic on* $E \subset \Gamma$ if ϕ is ergodic at each $\gamma \in E$; if $E = \Gamma$, then ϕ is called *ergodic*.

It is immediate that the class of functions ergodic at a fixed $\gamma \in \Gamma$ is a uniformly closed translation-invariant subspace of $C(G)$; hence so must be $\mathcal{E}(G)$, the class of ergodic functions. Moreover $\mathcal{E}(G)$ is closed under complex conjugation and under composition with the map $x \rightarrow -x$. Observe also that $\mathcal{E}(G)$ contains the algebra of Weyl almost periodic functions in $C(G)$ (see [1]) and, in particular, the algebras of *WAP* and *AP* functions on G . For more comments on $\mathcal{E}(G)$ see the introduction.

We also remark that our concept of ergodicity can be extended to functions in $L^\infty(G)$. When this is done, Theorem 2 is valid with some modifications.

In this section we obtain the two approximation results mentioned in the introduction. The first, Theorem 8, is concerned with the “local” approximation of an ergodic function by almost periodic functions. Precisely what this means is defined next. The more technical aspects of its proof are given in Lemmas 6 and 7. The second, Theorem 9, we comment on later.

DEFINITION 5. Let $E \subset \Gamma$. A $\phi \in C(G)$ is *E-approximable* if there exist sequences $\{p_n\} \subset P(G)$ and $\{g_n\} \subset L^1(G)$ such that

- (i) $\sigma(p_n) \subset E$,
- (ii) $\text{supp } \hat{g}_n \cap E = \phi$, and
- (iii) $\{g_n * \phi + p_n\}$ converges uniformly to ϕ .

Any pair $\{g_n\}, \{p_n\}$ which satisfies these conditions will be called a (ϕ, E) -pair.

The set of *E-approximable* functions is evidently a translation-invariant subset of $C(G)$. Moreover it is closed under convolution with $L^1(G)$

and, in fact, with $M(G)$. Furthermore since invariant means are continuous functionals on $C(G)$ and since $P(G) \subset \mathcal{E}(G)$, every E -approximable function ϕ is ergodic on E ; if $E^\circ \neq \emptyset$ then ϕ must be locally almost periodic on E° . In this sense, E approximation extends the concept of local almost periodicity as defined in [9].

LEMMA 6. *Fix $\gamma \in \Gamma$ and suppose ϕ is ergodic at γ . Then ϕ is $\{\gamma\}$ -approximable.*

Proof. Let $\{k_\alpha\}$ be a Fejér averaging kernel on G and choose a bounded approximate identity $\{h_\beta\}$ for $L^1(G)$ which satisfies $\hat{h}_\beta(0) = 1$ for all β . Then for each positive integer n there is a β_n such that

$$\|\phi - (h_{\beta_n}\gamma) * \phi\|_\infty < n^{-1}$$

and, by Corollary 3 (iii), an α_n such that

$$\|(k_{\alpha_n}\gamma) * \phi - M(\phi\bar{\gamma})\gamma\|_\infty < n^{-1}.$$

Here M is any invariant mean. Since points are spectral sets and since $(h_{\beta_n}\gamma - k_{\alpha_n}\gamma)^\wedge(\gamma) = 0$, there exists a $g_n \in L^1(G)$ with $\hat{g}_n = 0$ on a neighborhood of γ such that

$$\|(h_{\beta_n}\gamma) - (k_{\alpha_n}\gamma) - g_n\|_1 < n^{-1}(\|\phi\|_\infty + 1)^{-1}.$$

We conclude

$$\begin{aligned} & \|g_n * \phi + M(\phi\bar{\gamma})\gamma - \phi\|_\infty \leq \\ & \|\phi - (h_{\beta_n}\gamma) * \phi\|_\infty + \|(h_{\beta_n}\gamma - k_{\alpha_n}\gamma) * \phi - g_n * \phi\|_\infty + \\ & \|(k_{\alpha_n}\gamma) * \phi - M(\phi\bar{\gamma})\gamma\|_\infty < 3n^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

It is now easy to verify that $\{g_n\}, \{M(\phi\bar{\gamma})\gamma\}$ is a $(\phi, \{\gamma\})$ -pair.

LEMMA 7. *Let $E \subset \Gamma$ be compact and fix $\xi \in E$. Assume that $\phi \in C(G)$ is ergodic on E . If for each $\gamma \in E$ except ξ there is a neighborhood V of γ such that ϕ is $V \cap E$ -approximable, then ϕ is E -approximable.*

Proof. We will exhibit an arbitrary element of a (ϕ, E) -pair. Fix a positive integer n . According to Lemma 6, there exist functions f_n, p_n which

belong to a $(\phi, \{\xi\})$ -pair such that $\|f_n * \phi + p_n - \phi\|_\infty < n^{-1}$. Let V_1 be a compact neighborhood of ξ which satisfies $V_1 \cap \text{supp } \hat{f}_n = \phi$. If our hypothesis is valid the compactness of E implies that there is a collection V_2, \dots, V_m of compact subsets of Γ satisfying

$$E \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^m V_i^\circ \quad \text{and}$$

ϕ is $V_j \cap E$ -approximable for $2 \leq j \leq m$.

Using a standard argument [11, proof of Lemma 6.26], one can choose the sets V_1, \dots, V_m so that there exist functions $g_1, \dots, g_m \in L^1(G)$ which satisfy

- (1) $\hat{g}_i > 0$ for $1 \leq i \leq m$,
- (2) $\hat{g}_i \equiv 0$ on V_i^c for $1 \leq i \leq m$,
- (3) $\sum_{i=1}^m \hat{g}_i \equiv 1$ on a neighborhood of E .

(One can even show that $\|g_1\|_1 \leq 2$ [11, Theorem 2.6.3].) Now let $\{f_k^{(i)}\}, \{p_k^{(i)}\}$ be a $(\phi, V_i \cap E)$ -pair for $2 \leq i \leq m$, which exists by hypothesis. It then follows that $\{f_k^{(i)}\}, \{g_i * p_k^{(i)}\}$ is a $(g_i * \phi, V_i \cap E)$ -pair. In particular, $\{f_k^{(i)} * g_i * \phi + g_i * p_k^{(i)}\}$ converges uniformly to $g_i * \phi$. Therefore there is a subscript k_n , which we call n for simplicity, such that

$$(4) \quad \|g_1 * f_n * \phi + \sum_{i=2}^m g_i * f_n^{(i)} * \phi + g_1 * p_n + \sum_{i=2}^m g_i * p_n^{(i)} - \sum_{i=1}^m g_i * \phi\|_\infty < 3n^{-1}.$$

Finally, choose $h_n \in L^1(G)$ so that $\hat{h}_n \equiv 1$ on a neighborhood of E and so that $\|h_n * \phi - \phi\|_\infty < n^{-1}$. Set

$$k_n = g_1 * f_n + \sum_{i=2}^m g_i * f_n^{(i)} + h_n - \sum_{i=1}^m g_i \quad \text{and}$$

$$q_n = g_1 * p_n + \sum_{i=2}^m g_i * p_n^{(i)}.$$

We claim that k_n, q_n represent a general element of a (ϕ, E) -pair. To this end, (2) and (3) together with the properties of $f_n, f_n^{(i)}$ and h_n yield

$$\begin{aligned}
(\text{supp } \hat{k}_n \cap E) &\subset [(\text{supp } \hat{g}_1 \cap \text{supp } \hat{f}_n) \bigcup_{i=2}^m (\text{supp } \hat{g}_i \cap \text{supp } \hat{f}_n^{(i)}) \\
&\quad \cup \text{supp } (h_n - \sum_{i=1}^m g_i)^*] \cap E \\
&\subset [(V_1 \cap V_1^c) \bigcup_{i=2}^m (V_i \cap (V_i \cap E)^c) \cup E^c] \cap E = \emptyset,
\end{aligned}$$

while (3) and (4) imply

$$\begin{aligned}
\|k_n^* \varphi + q_n - \varphi\|_\infty &\leq \| [k_n - (h_n - \sum_{i=1}^m g_i)]^* \varphi + q_n - \sum_{i=1}^m g_i^* \varphi \|_\infty \\
&\quad + \| (h_n - \sum_{i=1}^m g_i)^* \varphi + \sum_{i=1}^m g_i^* \varphi - \varphi \|_\infty \\
&< 3n^{-1} + n^{-1} = 4n^{-1}.
\end{aligned}$$

The connection between ergodicity and E -approximation may now be described.

THEOREM 8. *Suppose $\phi \in C(G)$ is ergodic on the closed scattered set S . Then ϕ is S -approximable.*

Proof. Assume for now that $\sigma(\phi)$ is compact and set $E = \sigma(\phi) \cap S$. Define

$$Q = \{ \gamma \in E \mid \phi \text{ is not } V \cap E\text{-approximable} \\
\text{for any neighborhood } V \text{ of } \gamma \}.$$

We claim that $Q = \emptyset$. For otherwise Q , being a subset of E , contains an isolated point ξ . Thus, there is a neighborhood V of ξ such that $V \cap Q = \{\xi\}$. Choose $g \in L^1(G)$ so that $\hat{g} \equiv 1$ on a neighborhood of ξ and so that $\text{supp } \hat{g} \subset V$. Set $k = h - g$, where $h \in L^1(G)$ with $\hat{h} \equiv 1$ on a neighborhood of $\sigma(\phi)$. Since $\xi \notin \sigma(k * \phi)$, there is some neighborhood U of ξ such that $k * \phi$ is $U \cap E$ -approximable. Furthermore, $g * \phi$ satisfies the hypothesis of Lemma 7 by our choice of g and ξ . Thus $\phi = k * \phi + g * \phi$ is $U \cap E$ -approximable for some neighborhood U of ξ . We conclude that $\xi \notin Q$, which is a contradiction.

Since $Q = \emptyset$, Lemma 7 implies that ϕ is E -approximable. It remains to show that ϕ is S -approximable. Let $\{g_n\}$, $\{p_n\}$ be a (ϕ, E) -pair. Then

$(\text{supp } \hat{g}_n \cap \sigma(\phi)) \cap S = \emptyset$. Therefore there exist $f_n \in L^1(G)$ with $\text{supp } \hat{f}_n \cap S = \emptyset$ such that $f_n * g_n * \phi = g_n * \phi$ for each n . Thus $\{f_n * g_n\}, \{p_n\}$ is a (ϕ, S) -pair.

Finally, the assumption that $\sigma(\phi)$ be compact can be removed by observing that any $\phi \in C(G)$ is the uniform limit of $\{k_\alpha * \phi\}$ where $\{k_\alpha\}$ is a bounded approximate identity for $L^1(G)$ with $\text{supp } \hat{k}_\alpha$ compact.

We remark that Theorem 8 is best possible in the following sense: if S is a perfect closed set and if ϕ is the Fourier-Stieltjes transform of a nonzero continuous measure $\mu \in M(\Gamma)$ with support in S , then ϕ is ergodic on S but not S -approximable. We also point out that under the hypothesis of Theorem 8 one can choose the (ϕ, S) -pair $\{g_n\}, \{p_n\}$ so that

$$\sigma(p_n) \subset \{\gamma \in S \mid M(\phi\bar{\gamma}) \neq 0 \text{ for } M \in IM(G)\}.$$

This follows from the construction carried out in Lemma 7.

We now turn our attention from E -approximation to the behavior of trigonometric polynomials which are “naturally” related to a given $\phi \in C(G)$ via an invariant mean. This will give rise to our second approximation result, Theorem 9. This theorem is somewhat reminiscent of the results in [9], and in fact is the key to our generalization of those results (see the comment following Theorem 12).

The nature of the remaining material gives rise to some technical difficulties if we restrict ourselves to elements in $C(G)$. To avoid this, we will consider functions on the Bohr compactification \bar{G} of G as well as functions on G . Working on both groups does, however, produce some notational problems which hopefully will be minimized by the following remarks.

Recall that $AP(G)$ is naturally, isometrically isomorphic to $C(\bar{G})$, so we will not distinguish between them. There is only one invariant mean on $AP(G)$; it is determined by integration on \bar{G} with respect to its normalized Haar measure. In order to distinguish the action on \bar{G} from G , we denote the convolution and L^p -norm on \bar{G} by \circ and $\|\cdot\|_p$, respectively. In both cases $\hat{\cdot}$ denotes transform. Thus for $p, q \in AP(G)$ and $M \in IM(G)$, we have $\hat{p} \circ \hat{q}(x) = M_y(p(x-y)g(y))$, $\|\hat{p}\|_1 = M(|p|)$, and $\hat{p}(\gamma) = M(p\bar{\gamma})$. There is a natural, norm preserving homomorphism $\rho : M(G) \rightarrow M(\bar{G})$ defined by

$$\int_{\bar{G}} p \, d\rho(\mu) \equiv \int_G p \, d\mu \quad \text{for } p \in AP(G).$$

Since each $f \in L^1(G)$ determines a unique measure in $M(G)$, the symbol $\rho(f)$ is a well defined element in $M(\bar{G})$.

Fix $\phi \in C(G)$ and an invariant mean M on $C(G)$ and suppose that $p = \sum a_i \gamma_i \in P(G)$. Then we can define a trigonometric polynomial q by $q(x) = M_y(p(x - y)\phi(y)) = \sum a_i M(\phi \bar{\gamma}_i) \gamma_i$. This polynomial is bounded by $M(|p|) \|\phi\|_\infty$. Also, $|q(x) - q(y)| \leq M(|p|) \|\phi_{-x} - \phi_{-y}\|_\infty$ for all $x, y \in G$. Thus if $\{p_\beta\} \subset P(G)$ is an $L^1(\bar{G})$ bounded approximate identity (for $L^1(\bar{G})$), then the net $\{M_y(p_\beta(\cdot - y)\phi(y))\}$ is bounded and equicontinuous on G , and it is bounded on \bar{G} . In particular $\{M_y(p_\beta(\cdot - y)\phi(y))\}$ has at least one cluster point in $C(G)$ in the topology UCK of bounded and uniform convergence on compact sets. It has precisely one cluster point in $L^\infty(\bar{G})$ in the weak* topology since $[M_y(p_\beta(\cdot - y)\phi(y))]^\wedge(\gamma) = p_\beta(\gamma)M(\phi \bar{\gamma})$ converges to $M(\phi \bar{\gamma})$ for each $\gamma \in \Gamma$. Denote the $L^\infty(\bar{G})$ -weak* limit by ψ and refer to a general UCK cluster point by ω . Theorems 9 and 10 to follow concern the ergodic behavior of ψ and ω , respectively. Actually, the second is a corollary of the first, but it also has a very elementary proof, which we give instead.

THEOREM 9. *If ϕ is ergodic at each $\gamma \neq \gamma_0 \in \Gamma$ and if $\tau = \psi - \hat{\psi}(\gamma_0)\gamma_0$, then the following statements are valid.*

(i) *For any averaging kernel $\{k_\alpha\}$ on G and for any $p \in AP(G)$ satisfying $M(p\bar{\gamma}_0) = 0$, we have*

$$\lim_\alpha \|(k_\alpha p)^* \phi - p \circ \tau\|_\infty = 0.$$

(ii) *Given $\epsilon > 0$ there is a neighborhood $U \subset \Gamma$ of γ_0 such that*

$$\|\rho(v) \circ \tau\|_\infty < \epsilon \|v\|$$

for every $v \in M(G)$ with $\text{supp } \hat{v} \subset U$.

Proof. Suppose $\{k_\alpha\}$, p satisfy the hypothesis of (i). Since $P(G)$ is dense in $AP(G)$, we can assume that $p = \sum a_i \gamma_i \in P(G)$. In this case

$$p \circ \tau = \sum a_i \hat{\tau}(\gamma_i) \gamma_i = \sum a_i M(\phi \bar{\gamma}_i) \gamma_i.$$

Since $\gamma_i \neq \gamma_0$ for each i and since ϕ is ergodic at $\gamma \neq \gamma_0$, Corollary 3 (iii) yields

$$\lim_\alpha \|(k_\alpha p)^* \phi - p \circ \tau\|_\infty = \lim_\alpha \|\sum a_i (k_\alpha \gamma_i)^* \phi - \sum a_i M(\phi \bar{\gamma}_i) \gamma_i\|_\infty$$

$$\leq \lim_{\alpha} \sum |a_i| \| (k_{\alpha} \gamma_i)^* \varphi - M(\varphi \bar{\gamma}_i) \gamma_i \|_{\infty} = 0.$$

(ii): By replacing ϕ with $\phi \bar{\gamma}_0$, we can assume that ϕ is ergodic at each $\gamma \neq 0 \in \Gamma$. Let $\{k_{\alpha}\}$ be a Fejér averaging kernel on G and choose an $L^1(\bar{G})$ bounded approximate identity $\{p_{\beta}\}$ from $P(G)$ which satisfies $\hat{p}_{\beta}(0) = \|p_{\beta}\|_1$. (Evidently $p_{\beta} \geq 0$ for all β). Choose the number $\epsilon > 0$ and the index β_0 arbitrarily. Set $D_{\epsilon} = \{z : |z| \leq \epsilon, z \text{ complex}\}$. Finally, use Theorem 2 to choose α_0 so that

$$M(\phi) \subset \overline{\text{co}}(R(k_{\alpha_0} * \phi)) \subset MV(\phi) + D_{\epsilon}.$$

We are going to work with the functions $(k_{\alpha} p_{\beta_0}) * (k_{\alpha_0} * \phi)$, which we rewrite as $\sigma_{\alpha} + \phi_{\alpha}$ where

$$\sigma_{\alpha} = (k_{\alpha} (p_{\beta_0} - 1)) * (k_{\alpha_0} * \phi) \quad \text{and}$$

$$\phi_{\alpha} = k_{\alpha} * (k_{\alpha_0} * \phi).$$

First, $k_{\alpha} p_{\beta_0} \geq 0$ and $\{\text{supp } \hat{k}_{\alpha}\}$ is a neighborhood base for $0 \in \Gamma$; hence there is an $\alpha_1 \geq \alpha_0$ such that

$$\|k_{\alpha} p_{\beta_0}\|_1 = (k_{\alpha} p_{\beta_0})^{\wedge}(0) = \hat{k}_{\alpha}(0) \hat{p}_{\beta_0}(0) = 1 \quad \text{for all } \alpha \geq \alpha_1.$$

In particular

$$(k_{\alpha} p_{\beta_0}) * (k_{\alpha_0} * \varphi) \subset \overline{\text{co}}(\text{Tr}(k_{\alpha_0} * \varphi)) \subset \overline{\text{co}}(\text{Tr}(\varphi)) \quad \text{for } \alpha \geq \alpha_1.$$

which, together with the Fundamental Characterization Theorem and our choice of α_0 , yields

$$(1) \quad MV(\phi) \subset \overline{\text{co}}(R(\sigma_{\alpha} + \phi_{\alpha})) \subset \overline{\text{co}}(R(k_{\alpha_0} * \phi))$$

$$\subset MV(\phi) + D_{\epsilon} \text{ for } \alpha \geq \alpha_1.$$

Since σ_{α} converges uniformly to the trigonometric polynomial $q = (p_{\beta_0} - 1) \circ \rho(k_{\alpha_0}) \circ \tau$ by part (i) of this theorem, (1) implies the existence of an $\alpha_2 \geq \alpha_1$ such that

$$(2) \quad \overline{\text{co}}(R(q + \phi_{\alpha})) \subset MV(\phi) + D_{2\epsilon} \text{ for } \alpha \geq \alpha_2.$$

Our next step is to prove that $\|q\|_{\infty} \leq 2\epsilon$. For each $\delta > 0$ there is a compact symmetric set $K \subset G$ and an $\alpha_3 \geq \alpha_2$ such that

- (a) $R(q) \subset \{q(k+x) \mid k \in K\} + D_\delta$ for any $x \in G$, and
 (3) (b) $|\phi_\alpha(y) - \phi_\alpha(x)| < \delta$ whenever $x - y \in K, \alpha \geq \alpha_3$.

Here (3) (a) is an immediate consequence of almost periodicity of q ; specifically, $\text{Tr}(q)$ is totally bounded. To get (3) (b) choose $g \in L^1(G)$ so that $\hat{g} \equiv 1$ on some neighborhood U of $0 \in \Gamma$ and so that $\|g_x - g_y\|_1 < \delta/(\|\phi\|_\infty + 1)$ for all $x, y \in K$ (see the second half of the proof to Theorem 2.6.3 in [11]). Then, for α_3 sufficiently large, we have $\sigma(\phi_\alpha) \subset U$ whenever $\alpha \geq \alpha_3$. Hence

$$\|(\phi_\alpha)_x - (\phi_\alpha)_y\|_\infty \leq \|g_x - g_y\|_1 \|\phi\|_\infty < \delta$$

for $\alpha \geq \alpha_3$ and for all $x, y \in K$. At any rate, (3) (a) and (b) yield

$$R(q) + R(\phi_\alpha) \subset R(q + \phi_\alpha) + D_{2\delta} \text{ for } \alpha \geq \alpha_3,$$

which together with (2) implies

$$\overline{\text{co}}(R(q)) + \overline{\text{co}}(R(\phi_\alpha)) \subset MV(\phi) + D_{2\epsilon} + D_{2\delta} \text{ for } \alpha \geq \alpha_3.$$

Since $MV(\phi) \subset \overline{\text{co}}(R(\phi_\alpha))$ by Theorem 2, we conclude that $\overline{\text{co}}(R(q)) \subset D_{2\epsilon} + D_{2\delta}$ for all $\delta > 0$. Therefore

$$\|q\|_\infty \leq 2\epsilon.$$

We have just shown that

$$\|(p_{\beta_0} - 1) \circ \rho(k_{\alpha_0}) \circ \tau\|_\infty \leq 2\epsilon$$

for every β_0 . Since

$$(p_{\beta_0} - 1) \circ \rho(k_{\alpha_0}) \circ \tau \equiv p_{\beta_0} \circ \rho(k_{\alpha_0}) \circ \tau$$

and since $\{p_\beta\}$ is an $L^1(\bar{G})$ bounded approximate identity, this implies that $\|\rho(k_{\alpha_0}) \circ \tau\|_\infty \leq 2\epsilon$. According to the Wiener-Lévy Theorem, there exists an $g \in L^1(G)$ such that $(g * k_{\alpha_0})^\wedge \equiv 1$ on a neighborhood U of $0 \in \Gamma$ and such that $\|g\|_1 \leq 1/\hat{k}_{\alpha_0}(0) + \epsilon = 1 - \epsilon$. Thus $\|\rho(g * k_{\alpha_0}) \circ \tau\|_\infty < 3\epsilon$ (assume that $\epsilon < 1/2$). Now suppose $\nu \in M(G)$ with $\text{supp } \hat{\nu} \in U$. Then $\nu * g * k_{\alpha_0} \equiv \nu$ and

$$\|\rho(\nu) \circ \tau\|_\infty \leq \|\nu\| \|\rho(g * k_{\alpha_0}) \circ \tau\|_\infty < 3\epsilon \|\nu\|.$$

Recall that, in the paragraph preceding Theorem 9, we defined ω to be any of the *UCK* cluster points to the $q_\beta(\cdot) \equiv M_y(p_\beta(\cdot - y)\phi(y))$.

THEOREM 10. *In the above notation, if ϕ is ergodic at γ_0 , then ω is also and $M(\omega\bar{\gamma}_0) = M(\phi\bar{\gamma}_0)$.*

Proof. Suppose ϕ is ergodic at γ_0 and let $\{k_\alpha\}$ be an averaging kernel on G . Since

$$k_\alpha * (q_\beta\bar{\gamma}_0) = M_y(p_\beta(\cdot - y) (k_\alpha * \phi\bar{\gamma}_0)(y)),$$

we can write

$$\begin{aligned} \|k_\alpha * (q_\beta\bar{\gamma}_0 - M(\phi\bar{\gamma}_0))\|_\infty &\leq M(|p_\beta|) \|k_\alpha * (\phi\bar{\gamma}_0 - M(\phi\bar{\gamma}_0))\|_\infty \\ &\quad + |M(\phi\bar{\gamma}_0)| |\hat{p}_\beta(0) - 1|. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, taking the lim sup of both sides over β , we have

$$\|k_\alpha * (\omega\bar{\gamma}_0 - M(\phi\bar{\gamma}_0))\|_\infty \leq \|k_\alpha * (\phi\bar{\gamma}_0 - M(\phi\bar{\gamma}_0))\|_\infty \limsup M(|p_\beta|),$$

for all α . Now Corollary 3 implies that ω is ergodic at γ_0 and that $M(\omega\bar{\gamma}_0) = M(\phi\bar{\gamma}_0)$.

We note that the ω of Theorem 10 need not be ergodic at γ_0 if ϕ is not ergodic at γ_0 .

Ergodic sets. The main result of this section is Theorem 12 which concerns the union of an ergodic set E with a compact scattered set S . When E is Helson, Corollary 13 provides an interesting decomposition for the $\phi \in \Phi(E \cup S)$. These results depend heavily on the previous sections. We conclude with a very elementary proof of a theorem due to Rosenthal and Veech.

For a discussion of ergodic sets, see the introduction. Here we restrict the preliminaries to the formal definition. Recall that $\Phi(E)$ is the closure of span E in $C(G)$ under the relative $L^\infty(G)$ -weak* topology.

DEFINITION 11. A compact subset $E \subset \Gamma$ is *ergodic* if each $\phi \in \Phi(E)$ is ergodic.

THEOREM 12. *The union of an ergodic set E and a compact scattered set S is ergodic.*

Proof. Arbitrarily choose $\phi \in \Phi(E \cup S)$. We first point out that since S is closed and scattered, each $\psi \in \Phi(E \cup S)$ with $\sigma(\psi) \subset E$ is actually an element of $\Phi(E)$ (note that E is a spectral set if and only if $\sigma(\psi) \subset E \iff \psi \in \Phi(E)$). Together with the “invariance” of ergodicity at γ under convolution, this means that ϕ is ergodic at each $\gamma \in E \cap S^c$. Of course, ϕ is ergodic on $(E \cup S)^c \subset \sigma(\phi)^c$. Thus if Q consists of all points at which ϕ is not ergodic, then $Q \subset S$. If $Q = \emptyset$, then ϕ is ergodic and we are done. Thus suppose $Q \neq \emptyset$.

Since Q is scattered, there is a point $\gamma_0 \in Q$ and a $g \in L^1(G)$ such that $\hat{g}(\gamma_0) = 1$ and $\text{supp } \hat{g} \cap Q = \{\gamma_0\}$. The function $g * \phi$ is ergodic where ϕ is ergodic and is also ergodic on $\sigma(g * \phi)^c$. Hence $g * \phi$ is ergodic on $\{\gamma_0\}^c$. Furthermore $g * \phi$ is not ergodic at γ_0 since $M[(g * \phi)\bar{\gamma}_0] = \bar{g}(\gamma_0)M(\phi\bar{\gamma}_0) = M(\phi\bar{\gamma}_0)$ for every invariant mean M on $C(G)$. Fix the mean M and choose an $L^1(G)$ bounded approximate identity $\{p_\beta\} \subset P(G)$. Define

$$\begin{aligned} q_\beta &= M_\gamma[(p_\beta(\cdot - \gamma) - \hat{p}_\beta(\gamma_0)\gamma_0(\cdot - \gamma))g * \phi(\gamma)] \\ &= M_\gamma(p_\beta(\cdot - \gamma)g * \phi(\gamma)) - \hat{p}_\beta(\gamma_0)M(\phi\bar{\gamma}_0)\gamma_0. \end{aligned}$$

Denote the $L^\infty(\bar{G})$ -weak* limit of $\{q_\beta\}$ by τ and observe that $g * \phi$, τ replaces the ϕ , τ of Theorem 9, respectively. Furthermore, $p_\beta \circ \tau = q_\beta$ for all β . Let $\omega \in C(G)$ be one of the cluster points to $\{q_\beta\}$ in the topology of uniform convergence on compact subsets of G . Choose a Fejér averaging kernel $\{k_\alpha\}$ on G and an upper bound K for $\{\|p_\beta\|_1\}$. Since $\{\text{supp}(k_\alpha\gamma_0)\}$ is a neighborhood base for γ_0 , Theorem 9 (ii) and the convergence of q_β to ω yield

$$\begin{aligned} \|(k_\alpha\gamma_0) * \omega\|_\infty &\leq \limsup_\beta \|(k_\alpha\gamma_0) * q_\beta\|_\infty = \limsup_\beta \|(k_\alpha\gamma_0) * (p_\beta \circ \tau)\|_\infty \\ &\leq K \|\rho(k_\alpha\gamma_0) \circ \tau\|_\infty < K\epsilon \|k_\alpha\gamma_0\|_1 = \epsilon K, \end{aligned}$$

for all α sufficiently large, for each $\epsilon > 0$ (sufficiently large depends on ϵ). Corollary 3 (iii) now implies that ω is ergodic at γ_0 and that $M(\omega\bar{\gamma}_0) = 0$. On the other hand, for $\gamma \neq \gamma_0$ Theorem 10 tells us that ω is ergodic at γ and that $M[(g * \phi)\bar{\gamma}] = M(\omega\bar{\gamma})$. In particular, $g * \phi - \omega$ is ergodic on $\{\gamma_0\}^c$; $L[(g * \phi - \omega)\bar{\gamma}] = 0$ for each $\gamma \neq \gamma_0$; and $L[(g * \phi - \omega)\bar{\gamma}_0] = L[(g * \phi)\bar{\gamma}_0]$. Here L is any invariant mean on $C(G)$.

We are now in a position to show that $\sigma(g * \phi - \omega) \subset E$. To this end, arbitrarily choose $h \in L^1(G)$ with $\text{supp } \hat{h} \cap E = \emptyset$. Then $\sigma(h * (g * \phi - \omega)) \subset E^c \cap (E \cup S) = E^c \cap S$, which is a scattered set. By an elementary argument [5, Theorem 2.4], either $h * (g * \phi - \omega) \equiv 0$ or it is ergodic at least

at some isolated $\xi \in E^c \cap S$ with $M[h * (g * \phi - \omega)\xi] \neq 0$. Suppose the latter is true. Since $M[h * (g * \phi - \omega)\xi] = \hat{h}(\xi)M[(g * \phi - \omega)\xi] \neq 0$, we conclude that $\xi = \gamma_0$ and that $g * \phi - \omega$ is ergodic at γ_0 . But then $g * \phi$ is ergodic at γ_0 , which is false. Thus $h * (g * \phi - \omega) \equiv 0$, and we conclude that $\sigma(g * \phi - \omega) \subset E$.

Finally, $g * \phi - \omega \in \Phi(E \cup S)$ and $\sigma(g * \phi - \omega) \subset E$ imply $g * \phi - \omega \in \Phi(E)$. But E is ergodic. Thus $g * \phi - \omega$ is certainly ergodic at γ_0 . Since ω is also, we conclude that $g * \phi$ is ergodic at γ_0 , which is again false. The remaining possibility is $Q = \phi$.

We want to point out that Theorems 8 and 12 imply that any $\phi \in C(G)$ with scattered spectrum is in the uniform closure of $P(G)$ and is therefore almost periodic. This result, which is due to Loomis [9], cannot be used to simplify the proof of Theorem 12 in a significant manner. The difficulty arises from the fact that there are functions which are nonergodic at precisely one point in Γ . To deal with this difficulty in the setting of Theorem 12 one needs Theorem 9 (ii) or a similar result. Another extension of the Loomis result is the following corollary which concerns Helson sets. (See [11, Section 5.6] for a discussion of Helson sets). Denote by $M_c(E)$ the set of continuous $\mu \in M(\Gamma)$ with measure support in E . Recall that $\hat{\mu}(x) = \int_{\Gamma} \langle \gamma, x \rangle d\mu(\gamma)$, for $\mu \in M(\Gamma)$.

COROLLARY 13. *Suppose E is Helson and S is compact scattered. Then each $\phi \in \Phi(E \cup S)$ decomposes uniquely into*

$$\phi = \hat{\mu} + p, \text{ where } \mu \in M_c(E) \text{ and } p \in AP(G).$$

Proof. According to Theorem 12, ϕ is ergodic. Hence Theorem 8 asserts the existence of a (ϕ, S) -pair $\{g_n\}, \{p_n\}$. Since $\sigma(g_n * \phi) \subset E$ and $g_n * \phi \in \Phi(E \cup S)$, we have $g_n * \phi \in \Phi(E)$. But E is Helson; thus $g_n * \phi = \nu_n$ for some $\nu_n \in M(E)$. In particular $\{g_n * \phi + p_n\}$ is a sequence of weakly almost periodic functions which converges uniformly to ϕ . According to [3, Theorem 12.1], ϕ must therefore be weakly almost periodic. Thus ϕ decomposes into $\phi = w + p$ where $p \in AP(G)$, $\sigma(p) \subset \sigma(\phi)$, and $M(|w|) = 0$ for all invariant means M on $C(G)$ [4, Theorem 1]. Using an argument presented in the proof of Theorem 12, we conclude that $\sigma(w) \subset E$. Thus $w \in \Phi(E)$. Since E is Helson, $w = \hat{\mu}$ for some $\mu \in M(E)$. Since $M(|w|) = 0$, $\mu \in M_c(E)$. The uniqueness of this decomposition is immediate.

This corollary suggests the possibility of decomposing the general ergodic function in a manner somewhat analogous to the decomposition of weakly almost periodic functions [4]. It turns out that no reasonable

decomposition is possible. For a complete discussion of this problem see [14].

Our last theorem is due to Rosenthal and Veech [12]. We include it here since our proof depends only on the elementary properties of invariant means and the Loomis result.

THEOREM. *Let $E \subset \Gamma$ be a set of spectral synthesis. If $S \subset \Gamma$, is scattered and if $E \cup S$ is closed, then $E \cup S$ is a set of spectral synthesis.*

Proof. Assume that E, S satisfy the hypothesis. Note that if $V \subset E^c$ is a compact set, then $V \cap S$ is a compact scattered set.

We must show that each $\phi \in C(G)$ with compact spectrum contained in $E \cup S$ is in $\Phi(E \cup S)$. To this end suppose $\phi \in C(G)$, $\sigma(\phi) \subset E \cup S$, and $\sigma(\phi)$ is compact. Let M be a fixed invariant mean on $C(G)$ and let $\{p_\alpha\} \subset P(G)$ be an $L^1(\bar{G})$ bounded approximate identity. Set $q_\alpha = M_y(p_\alpha(\cdot - y)\phi(y))$. Observe that $q_\alpha \in \Phi(E \cup S)$ and that $\|q_\alpha\|_\infty$ is uniformly bounded in α . According to the remarks preceding Theorem 9, there is a subnet $\{q_\beta\}$ of $\{q_\alpha\}$ which converges in the relative $L^\infty(G)$ -weak* topology to an $\omega \in C(G)$. The Loomis result [9], together with Theorem 10, implies that $L[(\phi - \omega)\gamma] = 0$ for all $\gamma \in E^c$ and for all invariant means L . It follows that $\sigma(\phi - \omega) \subset E \cup S$ has no isolated points in E^c . Hence $\sigma(\phi - \omega) \subset E$, a set of spectral synthesis. Therefore $\phi = (\phi - \omega) + \omega \in \Phi(E \cup S)$.

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