ON A THEOREM OF BOHR AND PÁL

R. SALEM

Let D be the domain bounded by a simple closed plane Jordan curve of equations $x=f(t)$, $y=g(t)$, where f and g are continuous and of period 2π. Fejér [1][1] has proved that the power series representing the function mapping conformally the interior of the unit circle $|z|<1$ into D converges uniformly on the circle $|z|=1$; hence that there exists a continuous strictly increasing function $t(\theta)$ $(t(0)=0,\ t(2\pi)=2\pi)$ such that the Fourier series of $F(\theta)=f(t(\theta))$ and of $G(\theta)=g(t(\theta))$ converge uniformly for $0\leqq\theta\leqq 2\pi$. Using this theorem, J. Pál [2] has proved that given any continuous function $\phi(t)$ of period 2π there exists a function $t(\theta)$ of the above described type such that the Fourier series of $\phi(t(\theta))$ converges everywhere, and uniformly in the interval $\delta\leqq\theta\leqq 2\pi-\delta$, for any positive δ. H. Bohr [3] has removed the restriction on the uniform convergence in Pál's theorem by proving that the function $t(\theta)$ can be chosen such that the Fourier series of $\phi(t(\theta))$ converges uniformly for $0\leqq\theta\leqq 2\pi$. Bohr's argument involves some delicate considerations. The purpose of this paper is to give a short and simple proof of Bohr's result.

Let $\phi(t)$ be continuous, and of period 2π. Without loss of generality we can, by adding to ϕ a suitable constant, assume that $\int_0^{2\pi}\phi(t)dt=0$. Then there are values of t for which $\phi(t)$ vanishes and we can assume that $t\equiv 0 \pmod{2\pi}$ is one of these values. Thus $\phi(0)=\phi(2\pi)=0$. The mean value of the function being zero, there exists at least another point a $(0<a<2\pi)$ such that $\phi(a)=0$.

Suppose first that, in the open interval $(0,\ 2\pi)$, a is the only point at which $\phi(t)$ vanishes. Then $\phi(t)$ is strictly positive in one of the open intervals $(0,\ a)$, $(a,\ 2\pi)$, and strictly negative in the other one. Let $\alpha(t)$ be any function, continuous, of period 2π, such that $\alpha(0)=\alpha(2\pi)=0$ and such that $\alpha(t)$ is strictly increasing in $(0,\ a)$ and strictly decreasing in $(a,\ 2\pi)$. Then the equations $x=\alpha(t)$, $y=\phi(t)$ represent a simple closed Jordan curve and we have only to apply the theorem of Fejér quoted above to get our result for the function $\phi(t)$.

Suppose now that a is not the only point in the open interval $(0,\ 2\pi)$ at which $\phi(t)$ vanishes. Let M_1 be the maximum of $|\phi(t)|$ for $0\leqq t\leqq a$ and let t_1 be a point $(0<t_1<a)$ such that $|\phi(t_1)|=M_1$. In the same way let M_2 be the maximum of $|\phi(t)|$ in $a\leqq t\leqq 2\pi$ and let t_2 be

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[1] Numbers in brackets refer to the references cited at the end of the paper.