

9. On the Erdős-Turán Inequality on Uniform Distribution. I

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The fundamental inequality of Erdős and Turán [1] (see also the monographs [2: p. 104] and [3: p. 112]) is a quantitative version of the famous Weyl criterion for uniform distribution mod 1, and it gives an important estimate for the discrepancy of a sequence of real numbers in terms of exponential sums.

In this note we present a new general version of the Erdős-Turán inequality.

1. We recall that the *discrepancy* D_N of a finite sequence consisting of N real numbers is defined to be the oscillation on $[0, 1]$ of the local discrepancy $\Delta_N(x) = A_N(x)/N - x$, where $A_N(x)$ denotes the number of those fractional parts of the terms of the sequence that are less than x . The discrepancy of a sequence of real numbers is a measure of distribution of its points mod 1. In 1948, Erdős and Turán [1] proved the following

Theorem A. *Let D_N be the discrepancy of a sequence $(x_n)_1^N$ of real numbers. Then for any positive integer m ,*

$$(1) \quad D_N \leq \frac{C_1}{m+1} + C_2 \sum_{h=1}^m \frac{1}{h} \left| \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N e^{2\pi i h x_n} \right|,$$

where C_1 and C_2 are absolute positive constants.

For a bounded function f , we denote by $\|f\|$ and $[f]$ its supremum norm and its oscillation (both on the domain of definition), respectively. For a function f of bounded variation on $[0, 1]$, we denote by \hat{f} its Fourier-Stieltjes transform which is given by

$$\hat{f}(h) = \int_0^1 e^{2\pi i h x} df(x) \quad \text{for all integers } h.$$

In 1973, Niederreiter and Philipp [4] proved the following general version of the Erdős-Turán inequality.

Theorem B. *Let F be a nondecreasing function on $[0, 1]$ with $F(0) = 0$ and $F(1) = 1$, and let a function G satisfy the Lipschitz condition on $[0, 1]$ with constant L . Suppose also that $G(0) = 0$ and $G(1) = 1$. Then for any positive integer m ,*

$$[F - G] < \frac{4L}{m+1} + \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{h=1}^m \left(\frac{1}{h} - \frac{1}{m+1} \right) |\hat{F}(h) - \hat{G}(h)|.$$

In order to formulate a new generalization of Erdős-Turán inequality we need one more notion.

Definition. Let f be a real-valued function defined on an interval Δ , and let L be a positive number. The function f is said to satisfy the *right*

Lipschitz condition on Δ with constant L if

$$(2) \quad f(x) - f(y) \leq L(x - y) \quad \text{for } x, y \in \Delta \text{ with } x > y.$$

Analogously, f is said to satisfy the *left Lipschitz condition* on Δ with constant L if

$$(3) \quad f(x) - f(y) \geq -L(x - y) \quad \text{for } x, y \in \Delta \text{ with } x > y.$$

The function f is said to satisfy the *one-sided Lipschitz condition* on Δ with constant L if either (2) or (3) holds.

We note that if a function f satisfies a one-sided Lipschitz condition on a closed interval Δ , then it is a function of bounded variation on Δ . Indeed, if for example f satisfies the right Lipschitz condition on Δ with constant L , then it can be written as a difference of the nondecreasing functions $F(x) = Lx$ and $G(x) = Lx - f(x)$.

The main result of the paper is the following

Theorem 1. *Let a function f satisfy the one-sided Lipschitz condition on $[0, 1]$ with constant L , and let $f(0) = f(1)$. Then for any positive integer m , we have*

$$(4) \quad [f] < \frac{4L}{m+1} + \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{h=1}^m \left(\frac{1}{h} - \frac{1}{m+1} \right) |\hat{f}(h)|.$$

We note that Theorem A is a special case of Theorem 1 since the local discrepancy $\Delta_N(x)$ of a sequence of real number satisfies the left Lipschitz condition on $[0, 1]$ with constant $L=1$. It is easy to see that Theorem B is also a special case of Theorem 1.

(to be continued.)

References

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