

## On almost everywhere convergence of Fourier series on unbounded Vilenkin groups

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*Dedicated to Professor Zoltán Daróczy on the occasion  
of his seventieth birthday*

**Abstract.** In 1973 GOSSELIN [9] proved that if we have a bounded Vilenkin system, then the Vilenkin–Fourier series of a function in the Lebesgue class  $L^p$  for  $1 < p$  converges a.e. to the function. It is the most celebrated problem in the harmonic analysis on unbounded Vilenkin groups to give function classes for the elements of which the Fourier series converges almost everywhere. No positive answer is known even for continuous functions in the Lipschitz class. In this paper we give a discretized version of the theorem of Carleson and Hunt, and apply it in order to prove the following theorem with respect to unbounded Vilenkin systems. Let  $f \in L^2(G_m)$ , and  $\sum_{A=0}^{\infty} A^2 \sum_{k=M_A}^{M_{A+1}-1} |\hat{f}(k)|^2 < \infty$ . Then we have the a.e. relation  $S_n f \rightarrow f$ . This immediately implies the a.e. convergence  $S_n f \rightarrow f$  for all  $f \in \text{Lip}(\alpha, 2)$  ( $\alpha > 0$ ).

### 1. The discrete Fourier series

In the first part of this paper we pass from the statement of CARLESON and HUNT [6], [10] on Fourier series, as a statement about Fourier series on the real line, to a statement about Fourier series for groups  $\mathbb{Z}_m$ . Namely, the integers mod  $m$ . We note that this kind of observation, a transference result,

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*Mathematics Subject Classification:* 42C10.

*Key words and phrases:* Schwartz functions, unbounded Vilenkin groups, Vilenkin series, maximal partial sums, almost everywhere convergence.

Research supported by the Hungarian National Foundation for Scientific Research (OTKA), grant no. T048780.

has several antecedents in the literature. For instance the paper by MÁTÉ [12] transfers the CARLESON [6] theorem to the integers. The paper by BILLARD [3] discusses the Carleson theorem in the context of Walsh systems. The papers by THIELE [19] discuss several different proofs of Carleson theorem in the Walsh setting. CAMPBELL and PETERSEN [5] transfer the Carleson theorem to the integers (unaware of Máté) and then to dynamical systems. AUSCHER and CARRO [2] discuss general transference between the three Euclidean groups  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbb{T}$ , and  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

The second part of the paper concerns a positive result on the convergence of Fourier series for unbounded Vilenkin groups and certain square integrable functions on such groups.

Denote by  $e : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  and  $e_m : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  the following functions:

$$e(x) = \exp(2\pi i x), \quad e_m(x) = e(x/m).$$

The  $j$ th partial sum of the Vilenkin–Fourier series of the function  $g : \mathbb{Z}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is:

$$S_j g(k) := \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} \hat{g}(i) e_m(ik),$$

where

$$\hat{g}(i) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=0}^{m-1} g(n) \bar{e}_m(in)$$

is the  $i$ th Fourier coefficient. The maximal function of the partial sums of the Fourier series of  $g$  is

$$S^* g := \sup_{j \in \mathbb{Z}_m} |S_j g|.$$

The aim of this section is to prove that this maximal operator is of type  $(L^p, L^p)$  that is to prove:

**Theorem 1.1.**

$$\frac{1}{m} \sum_{n=0}^{m-1} |S^* g(n)|^p \leq C \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} |g(k)|^p,$$

where  $1 < p < \infty$ , and the constant  $C$  depends only on  $p$ .

PROOF. For the basic idea of the proof of this theorem see 5.3 Lemma 3, 6.4 Theorem 12, and 5.5 Theorem 16 in the book of SCHIPP, WADE and SIMON [16]. Also see Theorem 7.5 in chapter X in the book of ZYGMUND [22]. For a positive integer  $n$  let  $K_n$  be the  $n$ th classical trigonometric Fejér kernel function

and for an integrable function  $f \in L^1[0, 1]$  define the function  $Vf : \mathbb{Z}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  in the following way:

$$Vf(x) := \int_0^1 \left( 2K_{2m} \left( \frac{x}{m} - t \right) - K_m \left( \frac{x}{m} - t \right) \right) f(t) dt \quad (x \in \mathbb{Z}_m).$$

It is clear that if  $g : \mathbb{Z}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  and  $G := \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \hat{g}(i)e^i$ , then for every  $j \in \mathbb{Z}_m$  we have

$$S_j g = V \left( \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} \hat{g}(i)e^i \right) = V(s_j G),$$

where  $s_j G$  denotes the  $j$ th partial sum of the trigonometric Fourier series of  $G$ . That is, for every  $x \in \mathbb{Z}_m$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{0 \leq j < m} |S_j g(x)| \\ &= \sup_{0 \leq j < m} |V(s_j G)(x)| \\ &= \sup_{0 \leq j < m} \left| \int_0^1 \left( 2K_{2m} \left( \frac{x}{m} - t \right) - K_m \left( \frac{x}{m} - t \right) \right) s_j G(t) dt \right| \\ &\leq \sup_{0 \leq j < m} \left| \int_0^1 2K_{2m} \left( \frac{x}{m} - t \right) s_j G(t) dt \right| + \sup_{0 \leq j < m} \left| \int_0^1 K_m \left( \frac{x}{m} - t \right) s_j G(t) dt \right| \\ &\leq 2 \int_0^1 2K_{2m} \left( \frac{x}{m} - t \right) \sup_{0 \leq j < m} |s_j G(t)| dt + \int_0^1 K_m \left( \frac{x}{m} - t \right) \sup_{0 \leq j < m} |s_j G(t)| dt \\ &= 2\sigma_{2m} \left( \sup_{0 \leq j < m} |s_j G| \right) (x) + \sigma_m \left( \sup_{0 \leq j < m} |s_j G| \right) (x), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\sigma_q h(x) := \int_0^1 K_q \left( \frac{x}{m} - t \right) h(t) dt$  ( $h \in L^1[0, 1]$ ,  $q = 1, 2, \dots$ ). Since

$$\|\sigma_q h\|_\infty = \max_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_m} |\sigma_q h(x)| \leq \max_{x \in \mathbb{Z}_m} \left| \int_0^1 K_q \left( \frac{x}{m} - t \right) dt \right| \|h\|_\infty = \|h\|_\infty,$$

and besides,

$$\|\sigma_q h\|_1 = m^{-1} \sum_{l=0}^{m-1} |\sigma_q h(l)| \leq \int_0^1 m^{-1} \sum_{l=0}^{m-1} K_q \left( \frac{l}{m} - t \right) |h(t)| dt = \|h\|_1,$$

then for every  $1 < p < +\infty$  we get by the help of the interpolation theorem of Marcinkiewicz the operators  $\sigma_q$  are uniformly of type  $(L^p, L^p)$ . Consequently, the theorem of CARLESON and HUNT [6], [10] gives

$$\left\| \sup_{0 \leq j < m} |S_j g| \right\|_p \leq C_p \left\| \sup_{0 \leq j < m} |s_j G| \right\|_p \leq C_p \|G\|_p = C_p \|V^* g\|_p \leq C_p \|g\|_p,$$

where  $V^*$  denotes the adjoint operator of  $V$ . This completes the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

## 2. The Vilenkin systems

First we give a brief introduction to the theory of Vilenkin systems. These orthonormal systems were introduced by N. JA. VILENKIN in 1947 (see e.g. [20], [1]) as follows.

Let  $m := (m_k, k \in \mathbb{N})$  ( $\mathbb{N} := \{0, 1, \dots\}$ ) be a sequence of integers each of them not less than 2. Let  $Z_{m_k}$  denote the discrete cyclic group of order  $m_k$ . That is,  $Z_{m_k}$  can be represented by the set  $\{0, 1, \dots, m_k - 1\}$ , with the group operation mod  $m_k$  addition. Since the groups is discrete, then every subset is open. The normalized Haar measure on  $Z_{m_k}$ ,  $\mu_k$  is defined by  $\mu_k(\{j\}) := 1/m_k$  ( $j \in \{0, 1, \dots, m_k - 1\}$ ). Let

$$G_m := \prod_{k=0}^{\infty} Z_{m_k}.$$

Then every  $x \in G_m$  can be represented by a sequence  $x = (x_i, i \in \mathbb{N})$ , where  $x_i \in Z_{m_i}$  ( $i \in \mathbb{N}$ ). The group operation on  $G_m$  (denoted by  $+$ ) is the coordinate-wise addition (the inverse operation is denoted by  $-$ ), the measure (denoted by  $\mu$ ), which is the normalized Haar measure, and the topology are the product measure and topology. Consequently,  $G_m$  is a compact Abelian group. If  $\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} m_n < \infty$ , then we call  $G_m$  a bounded Vilenkin group. If the generating sequence  $m$  is not bounded, then  $G_m$  is said to be an unbounded Vilenkin group.

The Vilenkin group metrizable in the following way:

$$d(x, y) := \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{|x_i - y_i|}{M_{i+1}} \quad (x, y \in G_m).$$

The topology induced by this metric, the product topology, and the topology given by below are the same. A base for the neighborhoods of  $G_m$  can be given by the intervals:

$$I_0(x) := G_m, \quad I_n(x) := \{y = (y_i, i \in \mathbb{N}) \in G_m : y_i = x_i \text{ for } i < n\}$$

for  $x \in G_m, n \in \mathbb{P} := \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$ . Let  $0 = (0, i \in \mathbb{N}) \in G_m$  denote the nullelement of  $G_m, I_n := I_n(0)$  ( $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ).

Furthermore, let  $L^p(G_m)$  ( $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ ) denote the usual Lebesgue spaces ( $\|\cdot\|_p$  the corresponding norms) on  $G_m$ ,  $\mathcal{A}_n$  the  $\sigma$  algebra generated by the sets  $I_n(x)$  ( $x \in G_m$ ), and  $E_n$  the conditional expectation operator with respect to  $\mathcal{A}_n$  ( $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ) ( $E_{-1}f := 0$  ( $f \in L^1$ )).

Let  $M_0 := 1, M_{n+1} := m_n M_n$  ( $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ) be the so-called generalized powers. Then each natural number  $n$  can be uniquely expressed as

$$n = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} n_i M_i \quad (n_i \in \{0, 1, \dots, m_i - 1\}, i \in \mathbb{N}),$$

where only a finite number of  $n_i$  's differ from zero. We introduce the following notations:

$$n^{(k)} := \sum_{i=k}^{\infty} n_i M_i, \quad (n, k \in \mathbb{N}) \quad |n| := \max \{k \in \mathbb{N} : n_k \neq 0\} \quad (1 \leq n \in \mathbb{N}).$$

The generalized Rademacher functions are defined as

$$r_n(x) := \exp\left(2\pi i \frac{x_n}{m_n}\right) \quad (x \in G_m, n \in \mathbb{N}, i := \sqrt{-1}).$$

It is known that  $\sum_{i=0}^{m_n-1} r_n^i(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x_n \neq 0, \\ m_n, & \text{if } x_n = 0 \end{cases} \quad (x \in G_m, n \in \mathbb{N}).$

The  $n^{\text{th}}$  Vilenkin function is

$$\psi_n := \prod_{j=0}^{\infty} r_j^{n_j} \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}).$$

The system  $\psi := (\psi_n : n \in \mathbb{N})$  is called a Vilenkin system. Each  $\psi_n$  is a character of  $G_m$ , and all the characters of  $G_m$  are of this form.

Define the Fourier coefficients, the partial sums of the Fourier series, the Dirichlet kernels, and the Fejér (or  $(C, 1)$ ) means with respect to the Vilenkin system  $\psi$  as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{f}(n) &:= \int_{G_m} f \bar{\psi}_n d\mu, & S_n f &:= \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \hat{f}(k) \psi_k, \\ D_n(y, x) = D_n(y - x) &:= \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \psi_k(y) \bar{\psi}_k(x), & \sigma_n f &:= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n S_k f, \end{aligned}$$

( $n \in \mathbb{P}$ ,  $y, x \in G_m$ ,  $\hat{f}(0) := \int_{G_m} f d\mu$ ,  $S_0 f = D_0 = 0$ ,  $f \in L^1(G_m)$ ). It is well-known that

$$S_n f(y) = \int_{G_m} f(x) D_n(y - x) d\mu(x)$$

( $n \in \mathbb{P}$ ,  $y \in G_m$ ,  $f \in L^1(G_m)$ ). It is also well-known that

$$\begin{aligned} D_{M_n}(x) &= \begin{cases} M_n & \text{if } x \in I_n(0) \\ 0 & \text{if } x \notin I_n(0), \end{cases} \\ S_{M_n} f(x) &= M_n \int_{I_n(x)} f d\mu = E_n f(x) \quad (f \in L^1(G_m), n \in \mathbb{N}). \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, [1] for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$D_n = \psi_n \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} D_{M_k} \sum_{i=m_k-n_k}^{m_k-1} r_k^i = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \psi_{n(k+1)} D_{M_k} \sum_{i=0}^{n_k-1} r_k^i. \quad (1)$$

If  $1 \leq p < \infty$  and  $k$  is any nonnegative integer, then the integrated modulus of continuity of order  $k$  for  $f \in L^p(G_m)$  is

$$\omega_p(f, k) = \sup \{ \|\tau_y f - f\|_p : y \in I_k \},$$

where  $\tau_y f(x) = f(x + y)$ . ONNEWEER [13, p. 680] defined  $\text{Lip}(\alpha, p)$  to be the space of all  $f$  in  $L^p(G_m)$  such that  $\omega_p(f, k) = O(M_k^{-\alpha})$  [4], [14].

The almost everywhere convergence of the full partial sums for  $L^p(G_m)$ ,  $p > 1$ , is known in the bounded case [9] but not in the unbounded case. There is no known result with respect to the a.e. convergence of the partial sums  $S_n f$  even for continuous functions in Lipschitz classes.

On the other hand, mean convergence of the full partial sums for  $L^p$ ,  $p > 1$ , is known for the unbounded case. Namely, in 1999 the author [7] proved that if  $f \in L^p(G_m)$ , where  $p > 1$ , then  $\sigma_n f \rightarrow f$  almost everywhere. This was the very first “positive” result with respect to the a.e. convergence of the Fejér means of functions on unbounded Vilenkin groups. With respect to norm convergence that is, the fact that the partial sums  $S_n f$  converges to  $f$  in  $L^p$ -norm for all  $f \in L^p(G_m)$ , and  $1 < p < \infty$  one can see the papers (written independently at the same time) of YOUNG [21], SCHIPP [15] and SIMON [18], [17]. On the other hand, much is unknown for unbounded Vilenkin systems. We mention for instance the convergence of  $(C, \alpha)$  means with negative  $\alpha$ . For the Walsh–Paley system this means is investigated by GOGINAVA [8], but for unbounded Vilenkin systems, nothing can be said.

In this paper we prove the following

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $G_m$  be any Vilenkin group (bounded or not), and  $f \in L^2(G_m)$  such that*

$$\sum_{A=0}^{\infty} A^2 \sum_{k=M_A}^{M_{A+1}-1} |\hat{f}(k)|^2 < \infty.$$

*Then we have the a.e. relation  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n f = f$ .*

We could say that with respect to bounded Vilenkin systems since  $\log(M_A) \sim A$ , then Theorem 2.1 is nothing else but the well known Rademacher–Menshov theorem for general orthonormal systems. But, in this paper we are

talking about unbounded ones, and for this reason  $\log(M_A)/A$  can converge to  $+\infty$  arbitrary fast. Consequently, for these Vilenkin groups Theorem 2.1 is much stronger than the Rademacher–Menshov theorem. The same can be said with respect to the theorem of KOLMOGOROV, SELIVERSTOV, PLESSNER and KACZMARZ (see e.g. [11]) which states for bounded Vilenkin groups that the inequality  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} |\hat{f}(k)|^2 \log k < \infty$  implies the almost everywhere convergence of the partial sum of the Fourier series. We emphasize once again that in this paper we are talking about Vilenkin groups of any kind. That is, the sequence  $m$  can grow “very fast”.

PROOF. Introduce the operators  $T_{n,k} : L^1(G_m) \rightarrow L^0(G_m)$  ( $n, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ):

$$T_{n,k}f(y) := \sum_{j=0}^{n_k-1} \left( \frac{1}{m_k} \sum_{s=0}^{m_k-1} \left( M_{k+1} \int_{I_{k+1}(y_k(s))} f(t) \bar{\psi}_{n^{(k+1)}}(t) d\mu(t) \right) \psi_{n^{(k+1)}}(y) \bar{r}_k^j(y_k(s)) \right) r_k^j(y),$$

where  $y, y_k(s) := (y_0, \dots, y_{k-1}, s, 0, 0, \dots) \in G_m$ . In other words,

$$T_{n,k}f = \sum_{j=0}^{n_k-1} E_k \left( E_{k+1}(f \bar{\psi}_{n^{(k+1)}}) \psi_{n^{(k+1)}} \bar{r}_k^j \right) r_k^j. \quad (2)$$

(1) and (2) imply that

$$S_n f = \sum_{k=0}^{|n|} T_{n,k} f.$$

Fix (for a moment)  $n^{(k+1)}$  and  $y$  and let the function  $g$  be defined as

$$g(y_0, \dots, y_{k-1}, s) := M_{k+1} \int_{I_{k+1}(y_k(s))} f(t) \bar{\psi}_{n^{(k+1)}}(t) d\mu(t) \quad (s \in \mathbb{Z}_{m_k}).$$

Then we have

$$|T_{n,k}f(y)| = \left| \sum_{j=0}^{n_k-1} \frac{1}{m_k} \sum_{s=0}^{m_k-1} g(y_0, \dots, y_{k-1}, s) \bar{r}_k^j(y_k(s)) r_k^j(y) \right|.$$

By Theorem 1.1 we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{m_k} \sum_{y_k=0}^{m_k-1} \sup_{n_k} |T_{n,k}f(y)|^2 &\leq C \frac{1}{m_k} \sum_{s=0}^{m_k-1} |g(y_0, \dots, y_{k-1}, s)|^2 \\ &= CE_k \left( |E_{k+1}(f \bar{\psi}_{n^{(k+1)}})|^2 \right) (y) \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Apply the conditional Hölder inequality for  $E_{k+1}(f\bar{\psi}_{n^{(k+1)}})$ . Then We get

$$|E_{k+1}(f\bar{\psi}_{n^{(k+1)}})|^2 \leq E_{k+1}(|f|^2). \quad (4)$$

Consequently, by (3) and (4) we have the following inequality

$$\frac{1}{m_k} \sum_{y_k=0}^{m_k-1} \sup_{n_k} |T_{n,k}f|^2 \leq CE_k(E_{k+1}(|f|^2)) \leq CE_k(|f|^2).$$

This inequality immediately gives

$$\left\| \sup_n |T_{n,k}f| \right\|_2^2 \leq C\|f\|_2^2 \quad (5)$$

for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

For  $k < A = |n|$  we have  $T_{n,k}f = T_{n,k}(E_{A+1}f)$ , and  $T_{n,k}(E_Af) = 0$ . Consequently in this case we get

$$\left\| \sup_n |T_{n,k}f| \right\|_2^2 = \left\| \sup_n |T_{n,k}(E_{A+1}f - E_Af)| \right\|_2^2 \leq C\|E_{A+1}f - E_Af\|_2^2.$$

Next, we discuss the case  $k = A$ . More exactly, the question is that: What can be said about  $\sup_A \sup_{|n|=A} |T_{n,A}f|$ ? It is easy to have that  $T_{n,A}f = T_{n,A}E_{A+1}f$ , and  $T_{n,A}E_Af = E_Af$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \sup_A \sup_{|n|=A} |T_{n,A}f| \right\|_2^2 &= \left\| \sup_A \sup_{|n|=A} |T_{n,A}(E_{A+1}f - E_Af) + E_Af| \right\|_2^2 \\ &\leq C \left\| \sup_A \sup_{|n|=A} |T_{n,A}(E_{A+1}f - E_Af)| \right\|_2^2 + C \left\| \sup_A |E_Af| \right\|_2^2 =: i_1 + i_2. \end{aligned}$$

By (5) for  $i_1$  we have

$$i_1 \leq C \sum_{A=0}^{\infty} \left\| \sup_{|n|=A} |T_{n,A}(E_{A+1}f - E_Af)| \right\|_2^2 \leq C \sum_{A=0}^{\infty} \|E_{A+1}f - E_Af\|_2^2 \leq C\|f\|_2^2.$$

On the other hand, for  $i_2$  we get the same bound, that is,  $i_2 \leq C\|f\|_2^2$ . (We recall that the maximal function  $\sup_A |E_Af|$  is of type  $(L^2, L^2)$ ). Finally, the equality  $S_nf = \sum_{k=0}^{|n|} T_{n,k}f = T_{n,|n|}f + \sum_{k=0}^{|n|-1} T_{n,k}f$  gives

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \sup_n |S_nf| \right\|_2^2 &\leq C\|f\|_2^2 + 2 \left\| \sup_A \sup_{|n|=A} \sum_{k=0}^{A-1} |T_{n,k}f| \right\|_2^2 \\ &\leq C\|f\|_2^2 + C \sum_{A=0}^{\infty} A^2 \|E_{A+1}f - E_Af\|_2^2. \end{aligned}$$



Since

$$\|E_{A+1}f - E_A f\|_2^2 = \sum_{k=M_A}^{M_{A+1}-1} |\hat{f}(k)|^2$$

and

$$\|f\|_2^2 = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} |\hat{f}(j)|^2 \leq |\hat{f}(0)|^2 + \sum_{A=0}^{\infty} (A+1)^2 \sum_{k=M_A}^{M_{A+1}-1} |\hat{f}(k)|^2,$$

then we have

$$\left\| \sup_n |S_n f| \right\|_2^2 \leq C \left( |\hat{f}(0)|^2 + \sum_{A=0}^{\infty} (A+1)^2 \sum_{k=M_A}^{M_{A+1}-1} |\hat{f}(k)|^2 \right). \quad (6)$$

Let

$$L_{\dagger}^2(G_m) := \left\{ f \in L^2(G_m) : \|f\|_{\dagger} \right. \\ \left. := \sqrt{|\hat{f}(0)|^2 + \sum_{A=0}^{\infty} (A+1)^2 \sum_{k=M_A}^{M_{A+1}-1} |\hat{f}(k)|^2} < +\infty \right\}.$$

It is clear that  $\|\cdot\|_{\dagger}$  is a norm and by (6) the maximal operator  $L_{\dagger}^2(G_m) \ni f \mapsto \sup_n |S_n f| \in L^2(G_m)$  is bounded.

Since the set of Vilenkin polynomials is dense in  $L_{\dagger}^2(G_m)$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n f = f$  holds trivially for all Vilenkin polynomials  $f$ , we have by standard argument the a.e. relation  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n f = f$  for every  $L_{\dagger}^2(G_m)$ . The proof of Theorem 2.1 is complete.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.2.** *Let  $f \in \text{Lip}(\alpha, 2)$  for some  $\alpha > 0$ . Then  $S_n f \rightarrow f$  a.e.*

PROOF.  $\sum_{k=M_A}^{M_{A+1}-1} |\hat{f}(k)|^2 \leq \sum_{k=M_A}^{\infty} |\hat{f}(k)|^2 = \|f - E_A f\|_2^2 \leq (\omega_2(f, A))^2 \leq CM_A^{-2\alpha} \leq C2^{-2A\alpha}$ .  $\square$

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. The author is indebted to the referee for the help given to improve the manuscript.

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(Received September 22, 2008; revised March 14, 2009)