

# ON THE PROBLEM OF EVANESCENT PROCESSES

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1. Let  $R$  denote the set of real numbers. Let  $G$  be a countable dense subgroup of  $R$ . We construct a nontrivial  $\sigma$ -finite measure  $m$  on  $R$  such that

- (i)  $m$  is nonatomic, i.e.  $\mu(\{x\})=0$  for every real number  $x$ ,
- (ii)  $m$  is singular with respect to the Lebesgue measure  $L$  on  $R$ ,
- (iii)  $m$  is invariant under translation by members of  $G$ , i.e.,  $m(A+g) = m(A)$  for all  $g \in G$  and for all Borel subsets  $A \in \mathfrak{B}$ . (Here and in sequel  $\mathfrak{B}$  denotes the class of Borel subsets of  $R$ .)

Such measures are intimately connected with the problem of evanescent processes and analytic functions on compact tori raised by Henry Helson and David Lowdenslager in their paper [3]. We establish this connection in §3. In §2 we shall study the group of unitary operators  $T^g$ ,  $g \in G$ , defined on  $L_2(R, m)$  by  $(T^g f)(\lambda) = f(\lambda + g)$ ,  $f \in G$ . In the references we list papers connected with the present work. We proceed with the construction of the measure in steps.

*Step 1 (Cantor's decimal set  $D$ ).* Expand every number  $x$  in the unit interval  $I = \{x = 0 \leq x < 1\}$  in the decimal system, i.e. write  $x = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (\alpha_n / 10^n)$ ,  $\alpha_n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 9$ ;  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  and let  $D$  be the set of all those numbers  $x$  in whose expansion  $\alpha_n$  takes values 0 or 9. More accurately  $D$  is the set of all numbers  $x$  in the unit interval  $I$  such that  $x$  can be expanded by using 0 and 9 alone. Geometrically  $D$  is the Cantor set obtained by deleting the middle 8/10ths.

*Step 2.* Here we state a known result and indicate its proof. Let  $A_5$  denote the set of all those numbers in the unit interval  $I$  whose decimal expansion does not involve the number 5.

LEMMA 1.  $A_5$  has Lebesgue measure zero.

PROOF. Let  $Q_n$  be the set of numbers  $x \in I$  such that 5 is in the  $n$ th decimal place of the expansion of  $x$  but not in the first  $(n-1)$  places. Then each  $Q_n$  is measurable and its Lebesgue measure can be shown to be  $9^{n-1}/10^n$ .  $Q_n$ 's form a disjoint sequence of sets and the Lebesgue measure of  $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} Q_n$  is  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (9^{n-1}/10^n) = 1$ . But  $A_5 = I - \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} Q_n$ . So the Lebesgue measure of  $A_5$  is zero, q.e.d

*Step 3.* Let  $Q = \{x - y: x, y \in D\}$ .

LEMMA 2.  $Q$  has Lebesgue measure zero.

PROOF.  $Q = Q_+ \cup Q_-$  where

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$$Q_+ = \{x - y: x, y \in D, x \geq y\},$$

$$Q_- = \{x - y: x, y \in D, x \leq y\} = -Q_+.$$

So it is enough to show that  $Q_+$  has Lebesgue measure zero. We shall show that  $Q_+ \subset A_5$  of Lemma 1. Let  $x, y \in D$ , with  $x > y$ , have decimal expansions  $\cdot\alpha_1\alpha_2 \cdots$  and  $\cdot\beta_1\beta_2 \cdots$  respectively. Let  $x_n$  and  $y_n$  be the numbers obtained from  $x, y$  by terminating their decimal expansions at the  $n$ th stage. Then

$$x_n - y_n = \cdot\alpha_1\alpha_2 \cdots \alpha_n - \cdot\beta_1\beta_2 \cdots \beta_n.$$

Since  $\alpha$ 's and  $\beta$ 's take values 0 or 9 only (since  $x, y \in D$ ) it follows that  $x_n - y_n$  does not involve the number 5 in its decimal expansion. Hence  $x - y = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (x_n - y_n)$  does not involve the number 5 in its decimal expansion. So the Lebesgue measure of  $Q_+ = 0$ . Hence  $L(Q) = L(Q_+) + L(Q_-) = 0$ . q.e.d.

REMARK. It is interesting to note that if  $D$  were the well-known Cantor ternary set, then the set  $Q = \{x - y: x, y \in D\}$  would be the entire interval from  $-1$  up to  $1$ .

Step 4. Let  $Q$  be the set of Lebesgue measure zero of Step 3. Write  $F = \{(x + m)/n: x \in Q, m, n \text{ arbitrary integers, } n \neq 0\}$ .

Since  $Q$  has Lebesgue measure zero,  $F$  has Lebesgue measure zero. Hence there exists an irrational number  $\lambda \notin F$ .

Step 5. Choose an irrational number  $\lambda \notin F$ , where  $F$  is as in Step 4. Let  $G$  be the group  $m + \lambda n$ , where  $m, n$  are integers. The group  $G$  is dense in  $R$ . (A nondense subgroup of  $R$  is necessarily isomorphic to the group of integers.) Let  $D$  be the Cantor decimal set of Step 1.

LEMMA 3. *Translates of  $D$  by members of  $G$  are disjoint.*

PROOF. Let  $D + m + \lambda n, D + p + \lambda q$  be two translates of  $D$ . Suppose that  $(D + m + \lambda n) \cap (D + p + \lambda q) \neq \emptyset$ . Then there exists  $x, y \in D$  such that  $x + m + \lambda n = y + p + \lambda q$ , i.e.  $x - y = p - m + \lambda(q - n)$ . If  $q = n$ , then  $p = m$  (since  $0 \leq x, y < 1$ ) so that we do not have distinct translates. If  $q \neq n$ , then  $(x - y + m - p)/(q - n) = \lambda$ ; but  $(x - y + m - p)/(q - n) \in F$  and  $\lambda \notin F$ , so we again get a contradiction. Hence translates of  $D$  by members of  $G$  are disjoint.

Step 6 (The Cantor function  $f$ ). Let  $x \in I$  have the decimal expansion  $x = \cdot\alpha_1\alpha_2\alpha_3, \cdots, \alpha_i = 0, 1, 2, \cdots, 9$ . Let  $n = n(x)$  be the first index for which  $\alpha_n \in \{1, 2, \cdots, 8\}$  and  $\alpha_n \notin \{0, 9\}$ . If there is no such  $n$ , i.e., if  $x \in D$ , write  $n(x) = \infty$ . Define the function  $f$  by

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{9} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{\alpha_i}{2^i} \right) + \frac{1}{2^n}, \quad n = n(x).$$

The function  $f$  is continuous and monotonically nondecreasing with points of increase only in the set  $D$  of Lebesgue measure zero.

*Step 7 (Construction of  $m$ ).* Let  $\mu$  be the finite measure induced by the monotone function  $f$  of Step 6.  $\mu$  is obviously nonatomic and singular with respect to the Lebesgue measure on  $I$ . Extend  $\mu$  by setting  $\mu(A) = 0$  for sets  $A$  outside  $I$ . Let  $G$  be the countable dense subgroup of Step 5 and define  $m$  by

$$m(A) = \sum_{m, n = -\infty}^{\infty} \mu(A + m + \lambda_n) = \sum_{g \in G} \mu(A + g), \quad A \in \mathfrak{B}.$$

Clearly  $m$  is invariant under translation by members of  $G$ . Further  $m$  is nonatomic. Finally we observe that  $m$  is supported on  $\bigcup_{g \in G} (D + g)$ , the union of countable number of disjoint sets  $D + g$ ,  $g \in G$ , and that  $m(D + g) = m(D) = 1$ . Hence  $m$  is  $\sigma$ -finite. This completes the construction of  $m$ .

REMARK. We have constructed the measure  $m$  invariant under translation by a dense subgroup with two generators. But this is not a restriction. With little manipulation one can construct a  $\sigma$ -finite nonatomic singular measure invariant under translation by any countable subgroup of the real line.

2. From now on we shall denote by  $G$  a fixed countable dense subgroup of  $R$ . A measure  $m$  on  $\mathfrak{B}$  is called nonatomic singular  $G$ -invariant if

- (i)  $m$  is nonatomic,
- (ii)  $m$  is singular with respect to the Lebesgue measure on  $R$ ,
- (iii)  $m(A + g) = m(A)$  for all  $A \in \mathfrak{B}$  and  $g \in G$ ,
- (iv) There exists a Borel set  $D$  of finite  $m$  measure such that the translates  $D + g$ ,  $g \in G$ , of  $D$  by members of  $G$  are pair wise disjoint and  $\bigcup_{g \in G} (D + g)$  supports  $m$ .

A method of constructing such measures was given in §1.

Now fix a continuous singular  $G$ -invariant measure  $m$  on  $R$ . Let  $L_2(R, m)$  be the linear space of functions square integrable with respect to  $m$ . Let  $D$  be the set (the existence of which is guaranteed by (iv)) such that the sets  $D + g = D_g$  are pair wise disjoint and  $\bigcup_{g \in G} D_g$  supports  $m$ . Then clearly  $L_2(R, m) = \sum_{g \in G} \oplus L_2(D_g, m)$  where  $L_2(D_g, m)$  is the set of functions in  $L_2(R, m)$  that vanish outside  $D_g$ . The orthogonal projection of  $f \in L_2(R, m)$  on  $L_2(D_g, m)$  is given by  $fI_g$ , where  $I_g$  is the characteristic function of  $D_g$ .

Now  $m$  is  $G$ -invariant so we get a group  $T^g$ ,  $g \in G$ , of unitary operators defined on  $L_2(R, m)$  by  $(T^g f)(\lambda) = f(\lambda + g)$ ,  $f \in L_2(R, m)$ ,  $g \in G$ .

Let us define a spectral measure  $E$  on  $\mathfrak{B}$  by writing  $E(\sigma)f = I_\sigma f$ ,  $f \in L_2(R, m)$  where  $I_\sigma$  is the characteristic function of  $\sigma$ . It is easily

varified that  $E$  and  $T^\sigma$  are connected by the relation  $T^\sigma E(\sigma)T^{-\sigma} = E(\sigma - g)$  for all  $g \in G$ . But  $T^\sigma$  is not the only commutative group of unitary operators which satisfies this equation with  $E$ . The general commutative group  $U^\sigma$ , which with  $E$ , satisfies  $U^\sigma E(\sigma)U^{-\sigma} = E(\sigma - g)$ ,  $g \in G$ , has the following form.  $U^\sigma$  is defined by

$$(U^\sigma f)(\lambda) = A(g, \lambda)f(\lambda + g), \quad g \in G, f \in L_2(R, m),$$

where  $A(g, \lambda)$  is an  $m$ -measurable function of  $\lambda$  for every fixed  $g$  such that

(i)  $|A(g, \lambda)| = 1$ ,

(ii)  $A(g+h, \lambda) = A(g, \lambda)A(h, \lambda+g)$  for almost all  $\lambda$  with respect to the  $m$ -measure.

The set of  $m$ -measure zero where (ii) does not hold may vary with the pair  $(g, h)$ .

Functions satisfying the functional equation (ii) occur very crucially in the study of spectral measures  $E$  on  $\mathfrak{B}$  for which there exists a commutative group  $U^\sigma$ ,  $g \in G$ , satisfying the equation  $U^\sigma E(\sigma)U^{-\sigma} = E(\sigma + g)$ ,  $g \in G$ ,  $\sigma \in \mathfrak{B}$  (cf. §4).

The group  $U^\sigma$  has a spectral measure associated with it as follows. (See [6, p. 392].)

Let  $B = \hat{G}_d$  be the compact dual of  $G_d$ , the group  $G$  with the discrete topology. Since  $U^\sigma$  is a commutative group of unitary operators, by Godement's extension of Stone's theorem on the representation of unitary operators [1] there exists a Hermitian projection valued spectral measure  $F$  on the Borel subsets  $\mathfrak{F}$  of  $B$  such that  $U^\sigma = \int_B \chi_\sigma(\lambda) dF_\lambda$  in the sense that

$$(*) \quad (U^\sigma f, h) = \int_B \chi_\sigma(\lambda) (dF_\lambda f, h), \quad f, h \in L_2(R, m).$$

Here  $\chi_\sigma$  denotes the character on  $B$  corresponding to  $g \in G_d$ . For  $f, h \in L_2(R, m)$ ,  $(F(\cdot)f, h)$  defines a complex valued finite measure on  $\mathfrak{F}$  so that for  $\sigma \in \mathfrak{F}$  the value of this measure is  $(F(\sigma)f, h)$ .

We show that for every  $f$  and  $h$ ,  $(F(\cdot)f, h)$  is absolutely continuous with respect to the Haar measure on  $B$ .

**THEOREM 1.** *If  $f \in L_2(D_{g_0}, m)$  for some  $g_0 \in G$ , then the measure  $(F(\cdot)f, f)$  is a constant multiple of the Haar measure on  $B$ . For any  $f, h \in L_2(R, m)$ , the measure  $(F(\cdot)f, h)$  is absolutely continuous with respect to the Haar measure on  $B$ .*

**PROOF.** Let  $f \in L_2(D_{g_0}, m)$ , then  $U^\sigma f \in L_2(D_{g_0-g}, m)$ . Hence, the elements  $\{U^\sigma f: g \in G\}$  are mutually orthogonal. Now by (\*)  $(U^\sigma f, f) = \int_B \chi_\sigma(\lambda) (dF_\lambda f, f) = 0$  if  $g \neq 0$ . Hence  $(F(\cdot)f, f)$  is a constant multiple

of the Haar measure on  $B$ . The constant multiple is, of course, non-zero if and only if  $f \neq 0$  in  $L_2(D_{g_0}, m)$ . Now let  $f \in L_2(D_{g_0}, m)$ ,  $h \in L_2(D_{g_1}, m)$ , then by the polarization formula it is easy to see that  $(F(\cdot)f, h)$  is absolutely continuous with respect to the Haar measure on  $B$ . Finally choose any  $f, h \in L_2(R, m)$ . Let  $f = \sum_{g \in G} f_g$ ,  $h = \sum_{g \in G} h_g$ ,  $f_g, h_g \in L_2(D_g, m)$ . Then clearly

$$(F(\cdot)f, h) = \sum_{g, g' \in G} (F(\cdot)f_g, h_{g'}).$$

Since each  $(F(\cdot)f_g, h_{g'})$  is absolutely continuous with respect to the Haar measure on  $B$ , it follows that  $(F(\cdot)f, h)$  has the same property, q.e.d.

The next theorem shows that Wiener closure theorem has no analogue for a nonatomic singular  $G$ -invariant measure.

**THEOREM 2.** *There is no  $f \in L_2(R, m)$  such that  $\{U^g f \cdot g \in G\}$  spans  $L_2(R, m)$ .*

To prove this theorem we need a known result which we state here without proof for the sake of completeness.

**LEMMA 4.** *Let  $\mu$  be a finite positive regular measure on the Borel subsets  $\mathfrak{F}$  of  $B$ . Let  $h, f \in L_2(B, \mu)$ . Then  $\int_B \chi_g(\lambda) h(\lambda) \overline{f(\lambda)} d\mu = 0$  for all  $g \in G_d$  if and only if  $h$  vanishes almost everywhere with respect to  $\mu$  on the set where  $|f| > 0$ .*

This lemma is an easy consequence of the fact that a finite regular Borel measure on a locally compact abelian group is uniquely determined by its Fourier-Stieltjes transform [7, p. 17].

Consider the measures on  $\mathfrak{F}$  defined by  $\int_{\sigma} |h(\lambda)|^2 d\mu$ ,  $\int_{\sigma} |f(\lambda)|^2 d\mu$ . Then the lemma is equivalent to the following fact:

$$\int_B \chi_g(\lambda) h(\lambda) \overline{f(\lambda)} d\mu = 0$$

for all  $g \in G_d$  if and only if the measures  $\int_{(\cdot)} |h(\lambda)|^2 d\mu$  and  $\int_{(\cdot)} |f(\lambda)|^2 d\mu$  are mutually singular.

**PROOF OF THEOREM 2.** Suppose that there exists  $f \in L_2(R, m)$  such that  $\{U^g f \cdot g \in G\}$  spans  $L_2(R, m)$ . By (\*),  $(U^g f, f) = \int \chi_g(\lambda) (dF_{\lambda} f, f) = \int \chi_g(\lambda) d\mu$ , where  $\mu$  is the measure defined by  $\mu(\sigma) = (F(\sigma)f, f)$ ,  $\sigma \in \mathfrak{F}$ . By Theorem 1,  $\mu$  is absolutely continuous with respect to the Haar measure on  $B$ . The mapping  $S: SU^g f = \chi_g$  extends by linearity to an invertible isometry from the space spanned by  $\{U^g f: g \in G\}$  to  $L_2(B, \mu)$ . Now let  $D_1, D_2$  be two disjoint measurable subsets of  $D$

such that  $D = D_1 \cup D_2$  and  $m(D_1), m(D_2) > 0$ . Let  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  denote the characteristic functions of  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ . Write  $f_1 = Sh_1, f_2 = Sh_2$ . It is clear that

- (i)  $U^g h_1$  are all mutually orthogonal in  $L_2(R, m)$ ,
- (ii)  $U^g h_2$  are all mutually orthogonal in  $L_2(R, m)$ ,
- (iii)  $U^g h_1 \perp U^{g'} h_2$  for all  $g, g' \in G$ .

This is because the translates of  $D$  by members of  $G$  are disjoint.

Now for all  $g \in G, (U^g h_1, h_1) = \int \chi_g(\lambda) |f_1(\lambda)|^2 d\mu = \int_B \chi_g(\lambda) (dF_\lambda h_1, h_1) = 0$  if  $g \neq 0$ . Similarly  $(U^g h_2, h_2) = \int \chi_g(\lambda) |f_2(\lambda)|^2 d\mu = \int_B \chi_g(\lambda) (dF_\lambda h_2, h_2) = 0$ .

Hence the measures  $(F(\cdot)h_1, h_1)$  and  $(F(\cdot)h_2, h_2)$  are nonzero constant multiples of the Haar measure on  $B$ . Hence the measures  $\int_{(\cdot)} |f_1(\lambda)|^2 d\mu$  and  $\int_{(\cdot)} |f_2(\lambda)|^2 d\mu$  are nonzero constant multiples of the Haar measure on  $B$ . But  $U^g h_1 \perp U^{g'} h_2$  for all  $g, g'$  by (iii). Hence  $(U^g h_1, h_2) = \int_B \chi_g(\lambda) \bar{f}_2 d\mu = 0$  for all  $g$ . Hence by Lemma 4 the measures  $\int_{(\cdot)} |f_1(\lambda)|^2 d\mu$  and  $\int_{(\cdot)} |f_2(\lambda)|^2 d\mu$  are mutually singular. This is a contradiction, q.e.d.

3. In this section we show how the measures of the type discussed in §2 are excluded in the problem of evanescent processes. First we must explain this problem.

Let  $G$  and  $B$  be as in §2. Let  $f$  be a nonzero positive function on  $B$  summable with respect to the Haar measure on  $B$ . Let  $L_2(B, f) = \{\psi: |\psi|^2 f \text{ is summable with respect to the Haar measure on } B\}$ . Let  $H_t$  be the subspace of  $L_2(B, f)$  spanned by  $\{\chi_g: g < t\}$ , where  $\chi_g$  denotes the character on  $B$  corresponding to the real number  $g \in G$ . It is clear that  $H_t \subseteq H_{t'}$  whenever  $t < t'$ . It can be shown that either  $H_t = H_{t'}$  for all  $t, t'$  or  $\bigcap_t H_t = \{0\}$  and  $H_t \subsetneq H_{t'}$  whenever  $t < t'$ . This has been shown by Helson and Lowdenslager in their paper [3]. The problem of evanescent processes can be stated as follows: Assume that  $H_t \neq H_{t'}$  for  $t < t'$ , then is it always true that  $(\bigcap_{t>0} H_t) \ominus H_0 \neq \{0\}$ ?

A well-known result of Helson and Lowdenslager [2] answers the question in the affirmative under the assumption that  $\log f$  is summable with respect to the Haar measure on  $B$ . In what follows we give further evidence in favor of the affirmative answer to the question.

The increasing subspaces  $H_t$  give rise to a spectral measure  $E$  on the Borel subsets of  $R$ . For intervals  $(a, b]$ ,  $E$  is given by  $E(a, b] =$  orthogonal projection on  $H_b \ominus H_a$ . In  $L_2(B, f)$  there is a commutative group  $U^g$  of unitary operators defined by  $U^g \psi = \chi_g \psi, \psi \in L_2(B, f), g \in G$ . Further the following two identities are easily verified

(A)  $U^g (H_b \ominus H_a) = H_{b+g} \ominus H_{a+g}$  where  $a, b$  ( $a < b$ ) are any two real numbers.

(B) For any  $\psi \in L_2(B, f), \|E(a, b]\psi - \psi\|^2 = \|U^g E(a, b]\psi - U^g \psi\|^2$ .

(A) and (B) together imply that  $U^\sigma$  and  $E$  are connected by the relation  $U^\sigma E(\sigma) U^{-\sigma} = E(\sigma + g)$  for all  $\sigma \in \mathfrak{B}$  and  $g \in G$ . Helson and Lowdenslager have shown that if  $E\{x\} \neq 0$  for some  $x$ , then the spectral measure  $E$  is purely discrete and  $E$  has no continuous component. Now it can be shown that  $E$  cannot have a component absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure on  $R$ , i.e., there does not exist a nonzero  $\psi \in L_2(B, f)$  such that  $(E(\cdot)\psi, \psi)$  is absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure on  $R$ . In what follows we show that  $E$  has no component absolutely continuous with respect to a nonatomic singular  $G$ -invariant measure on  $R$ .

**THEOREM 3.** *Assume that  $E\{x\} = 0$  for all  $x$ . There does not exist a Borel set  $D$  such that:*

- (i) *the sets  $D + g, g \in G$  are mutually disjoint,*
- (ii)  *$E(D) \neq 0$ .*

**PROOF.** Suppose not. Then there exists a set  $D$  such that the sets  $D + g, g \in G$ , are mutually disjoint and  $E(D) \neq 0$ . Since  $E$  has no discrete spectrum, we can find two nonzero vectors  $\Phi, \psi$  in  $E(D)$  such that  $\Phi$  and  $\psi$  are mutually orthogonal. Now  $U^\sigma \Phi = U^\sigma E(D)\Phi = E(D + g)U^\sigma \Phi \in E(D + g)$  and similarly  $U^\sigma \psi \in E(D + g)$ . Since the sets  $D + g, g \in G$ , are mutually disjoint, we see that  $U^\sigma \Phi \perp \Phi, U^\sigma \psi \perp \psi$  for all  $g \neq 0$  and  $U^\sigma \Phi \perp U^\sigma \psi$  for all  $g, g'$ . So

- (i)  $(U^\sigma \Phi, \Phi) = \int_{B \times \mathcal{X}_\sigma(\lambda)} |\Phi(\lambda)|^2 f(\lambda) d\sigma = 0$  for  $g \neq 0$ .
  - (ii)  $(U^\sigma \psi, \psi) = \int_{B \times \mathcal{X}_\sigma(\lambda)} |\psi(\lambda)|^2 f(\lambda) d\sigma = 0$  for  $g \neq 0$ .
  - (iii)  $(U^\sigma \Phi, \psi) = \int_{B \times \mathcal{X}_\sigma(\lambda)} \Phi(\lambda) \overline{\psi(\lambda)} f(\lambda) d\sigma = 0$  for all  $g$ .
- (Here  $d\sigma$  is the normalized Haar measure on  $B$ .)

The first two equations above say that  $|\Phi|^2 f d\sigma$  and  $|\psi|^2 f d\sigma$  are nonzero constant multiples of the Haar measure on  $B$  and the third equation says that  $\Phi \overline{\psi} f$  is equal to zero almost everywhere with respect to the Haar measure on  $B$ . This is impossible, q.e.d.

4. Let  $E$  be a spectral measure on the Borel subsets of  $R$  and let  $G$  be a countable dense subgroup of  $R$ . We call a spectral measure  $E$   $G$ -stationary if there exists a commutative group  $U^\sigma$  of unitary operators such that  $U^\sigma E(\sigma) U^{-\sigma} = E(\sigma + g)$  for all  $\sigma \in \mathfrak{B}$  and  $g \in G$ . If one tries to obtain the canonical representation of  $G$ -stationary spectral measures like the one there is for a pair of commutative groups of unitary operators satisfying Weyl's commutativity relation one at once faces the following question.

Let  $\mu$  be a finite positive measure on  $\mathfrak{B}$ . Call  $\mu$   $G$ -quasi invariant if  $\mu$  and  $\mu_g$  are mutually absolutely continuous for all  $g \in G$ . Here  $\mu_g$  is defined by  $\mu_g(A) = \mu(A + g), A \in \mathfrak{B}, g \in G$ .

QUESTION 1.  $\mu$  is  $G$ -quasi invariant. Does there exist a  $\sigma$ -definite measure  $m$  on  $\mathfrak{B}$  such that (i)  $m(\sigma + g) = m(\sigma)$  for all  $\sigma \in \mathfrak{B}$ ,  $g \in G$ , (ii)  $m$  and  $\mu$  are mutually absolutely continuous?

Now suppose that  $\mu = \mu^d + \mu^a + \mu^s$  where  $\mu^d$  is the atomic part of  $\mu$ ,  $\mu^a$  = part of  $\mu$  absolutely continuous with respect to the  $L$ , the Lebesgue measure, and  $\mu^s$  = nonatomic singular part of  $\mu$ . It is easy to see that each component  $\mu^d$ ,  $\mu^a$  and  $\mu^s$  is separately  $G$ -quasi invariant.

Further  $\mu^a$  and the Lebesgue measure are mutually absolutely continuous. Thus for  $\mu^a$  the question raised above has a solution. One can also show easily that the question raised above has a solution for  $\mu^d$ . Hence in the question raised above one can assume that  $\mu$  is nonatomic singular measure.

We give a reformulation of our question in terms of the functions  $A(g, \lambda) = (d\mu_\sigma/d\mu)(\lambda)$ . One verifies very easily that  $A(g, \lambda)$  satisfy the relation  $A(g+h, \lambda) = A(g, \lambda)A(h, \lambda+g)$  a.e.  $[\mu]$ .

THEOREM 4. *Question 1 has a solution if and only if there exists a measurable function  $B$  such that  $A(g, \lambda) = B(\lambda+g)/B(\lambda)$ .*

PROOF. Suppose there exists an  $m$  as in Question 1. Write  $B(\lambda) = (d\mu/dm)(\lambda)$ . Then clearly  $A(g, \lambda) = (d\mu_\sigma/d\mu)(\lambda) = (d\mu_\sigma/dm)(\lambda) \cdot (dm/d\mu)(\lambda) = (d\mu_\sigma/dm)(\lambda) \cdot 1/B(\lambda)$ . Now by the invariance of  $m$  under translation by  $g$  it is easy to see that  $(d\mu_\sigma/dm)(\lambda) = B(\lambda+g)$ ; thus  $A(g, \lambda) = B(\lambda+g)/B(\lambda)$ . Conversely suppose that  $A(g, \lambda) = B(\lambda+g)/B(\lambda)$  where  $B$  is measurable. Define  $m$  by  $m(\sigma) = \int_\sigma [B(\lambda)]^{-1} d\mu$ . It is clear that  $m$  and  $\mu$  are mutually absolutely continuous. Next to see the  $G$ -invariance of  $m$  we note that

$$\begin{aligned} m(\sigma + g) &= \int_{\sigma+g} [B(\lambda)]^{-1} d\mu = \int_\sigma [B(\lambda + g)]^{-1} d\mu_\sigma(\lambda) \\ &= \int_\sigma [B(\lambda + g)]^{-1} \frac{d\mu_\sigma}{d\mu}(\lambda) d\mu = \int_\sigma \frac{[B(\lambda + g)]^{-1} B(\lambda + g)}{B(\lambda)} d\mu \\ &= \int [B(\lambda)]^{-1} d\mu = m(\sigma), \end{aligned} \quad \text{q.e.d.}$$

We conclude by making the following remarks.

Assume that  $\mu$  of Question 1 is singular. In order that Question 1 have an affirmative solution it is enough that there is a  $\mu$ -measurable set  $D$  such that  $D+g$ ,  $g \in G$  are disjoint and  $\bigcup_{\sigma \in G} (D + \sigma)$  supports  $\mu$ . However, there exist singular  $G$ -quasi invariant measures for which no such  $D$  exists. We illustrate this by the following example. Let  $C$



be the Cantor ternary set and  $\psi$  the Cantor function from  $C$  onto  $[0, 1]$ .  $\psi$  is strictly increasing and continuous on  $C$  with range  $[0, 1]$ . Let  $P$  be the singular measure on the real line induced by  $\psi$ . Let  $G$  be the group of real members having finitely many terms in their ternary expansions. Let  $g_1, g_2, g_3, \dots$  be a denumeration of  $G$ . Write  $\mu(A) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (1/2^n)P(A + g_n)$ ,  $A \in \mathfrak{B}$ . Clearly  $\mu$  is  $G$ -quasi invariant. Call two members of  $C$  equivalent if their difference belongs to  $G$ . This equivalence relation partitions  $C$ . Choose a member from each equivalence class and call the new set  $D$ . Translates  $D + g$ ,  $g \in G$  are disjoint and  $\bigcup_{g \in G} (D + g)$  supports  $\mu$ . But  $D$  can never be chosen to be  $\mu$ -measurable, for the difference of two members of  $\psi(D)$  has always finite binary expansions, so that  $\psi(D)$  is nonmeasurable. Hence  $D = \psi^{-1}(\psi(D))$  is non- $\mu$ -measurable.

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