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Weak forms of Mann's density theorem extended to sets of lattice points

by

BETTY KVARDA GARRISON (San Diego, Calif.)

§ 1. Introduction. Let Q_n be the set of all nonzero n -dimensional lattice points with nonnegative integer coordinates. We will use the usual componentwise addition and subtraction of elements of Q_n , and the usual partial ordering: For any x and y in Q_n , $x < y$ if $y - x$ is in Q_n . If S is any subset of Q_n and F is any finite subset of Q_n then $S(F)$ will denote the number of elements in $S \cap F$. For any x in Q_n let $Lx = \{y \in Q_n : y \leq x\}$. If A and B are subsets of Q_n , $A + B$ will denote the set of all elements of the form $a, b, a + b$, where $a \in A, b \in B$, while $A - B$ is the set of all elements of A which are not in B .

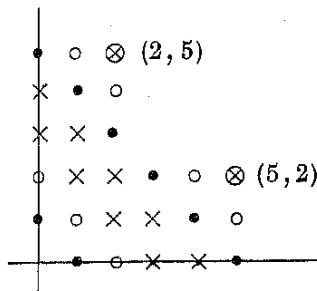
A fundamental subset of Q_n or, briefly, a fundamental set, is defined to be any finite nonempty subset R of Q_n such that $x \in R$ implies $Lx \subseteq R$. For any subset A of Q_n Müller [8] has defined the density of A to be the $\text{glb } A(R)/Q_n(R)$, taken over all fundamental sets R . For $n = 1$ this is clearly the Schnirelmann density of A .

With this family of fundamental sets and definition of density, several results have been obtained for subsets of Q_n which are analogous to well-known theorems of additive number theory for sets of positive integers. (See [2], [3], [5], [6], [8], [9].) In this note we will discuss the extension of the famous theorem of Mann [7] to Q_n . Using the notation given above, an n -dimensional analogue to Mann's theorem may be stated as follows.

- (I) Let A and B be subsets of Q_n , let $C = A + B$, and let R be any fundamental subset of Q_n . Then either $C(R) = Q_n(R)$ or there exists a fundamental set $W \subseteq R$ such that no maximal element of W is in C and $C(R)/Q_n(R) \geq [A(W) + B(W)]/Q_n(W)$.

The statement (I) is false for $n > 1$, as is shown by the following example for Q_2 . (For $n > 2$ this example may be embedded in Q_n .) Let the fundamental set $R = L(2, 5) \cup L(5, 2)$. In the figure below lattice points of $(A - B) \cap R$ are marked by \times , those of $A \cap B \cap R$ by \bullet , those

of $(C \cap R) - (A \cup B)$ by \circ , and those of $R - C$ by \otimes . The set $(B - A) \cap R$ is empty.



In this example the fundamental sets $W \subseteq R$ whose maximal points are not in C are just $R, L(2, 5)$, and $L(5, 2)$, and it is easily calculated that $C(R)/Q_n(R) < [A(W) + B(W)]/Q_2(W)$ for each of these. However, we see that several fundamental sets W in R satisfy the condition $C(R)/Q_2(R) \geq [A(W) + B(W)]/Q_2(W)$. The smallest of these is the set $\{(1, 0), (2, 0), (0, 1), (1, 1), (0, 2)\}$, whose maximal points are all in $R - (A \cup B)$.

If we delete the condition in (I) that the maximal elements of W are not in C , or if we replace it by the condition that the maximal elements of W are not in $A \cup B$, we still obtain statements which are in general false, as will be shown in § 6. Both statements thus obtained are, however, true for important special cases.

§ 2. Statements of theorems. In this section Q denotes a fixed Q_n . Let A and B be subsets of Q , let $C = A + B$, and let R be a fundamental set such that $C(R) < Q(R)$. Let S be a fundamental set such that (i) $S \subseteq \bigcup_{g \in R-C} Lg$, (ii) $C(S) < Q(S)$, (iii) $C(S) \geq A(S) + B(S)$, and (iv) if S' is any fundamental set satisfying (i), (ii), (iii), then $Q(S') \leq Q(S)$. (The existence of such an S is implied by the Remark following Lemma 3 in § 3.)

Let $Q(R - C) = k$ and $Q(S - C) = s, 1 \leq s \leq k$. If $s < k$, hence $S - C \neq R - C$, let $T = R - S$ and let $T - C = \{g_1, \dots, g_{k-s}\}$. Let $X_i = Lg_i - S$, let $X'_i = X_i - \{g_i\}$, and let $Y_i = \{g_i - x : x \in X'_i\}$ for all $i = 1, \dots, k - s$.

THEOREM 1. *There exists a fundamental set $W \subseteq R$ such that the maximal elements of W are not in $A \cup B$ and*

$$C(R)/Q(R) \geq [A(W) + B(W)]/Q(W)$$

if $Q(R)/k \geq Q(S)/s$, or if $s < k$ and there exists a nonempty subset $\{g_1, \dots, g_t\}$ of $T - C$ such that g_i is a minimal element of $T - C$ for all $i = 1, \dots, t$,

$$Q(R)/k \geq Q\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^t X_i\right)/t,$$

and, if $t > 1$, the set $Y'_i = Y_i - \bigcup_{j=1}^{i-1} Y_j$ is not empty for each $i = 2, \dots, t$.

We note that when $s = k$ the condition $Q(R)/k \geq Q(S)/s$ is satisfied.

THEOREM 2. *There exists a fundamental set $W \subseteq R$ such that the maximal elements of W are not in $A \cup B$ and*

$$C(R)/Q(R) \geq [A(W) + B(W)]/Q(W) \quad \text{if } s < k$$

and there exists a linearly ordered subset $\{g_1, \dots, g_t\}$ of $T - C$ such that

$$g_j \notin \bigcup_{i=1}^t X_i, \quad t < j \leq k - s,$$

$$Q(R)/k \geq Q\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^t X_i\right)/t.$$

and

§ 3. Preliminary lemmas. The following Lemma 3 is stated and proved in [4] for Q_1 . The proof is unchanged for $Q = Q_n$.

LEMMA 1. *Let R be a finite nonempty subset of Q , and let k, s, t be positive integers such that $s + t = k$. Further suppose that R is partitioned by two nonempty sets S and T . Then*

$$[Q(R) - k]/Q(R) \geq [Q(T) - t]/Q(T) \Leftrightarrow Q(S)/s \geq Q(T)/t \Leftrightarrow Q(R)/k \geq Q(T)/t.$$

Proof. $[Q(R) - k]/Q(R) = [Q(S) + Q(T) - s - t]/[Q(S) + Q(T)]$, etc.

LEMMA 2. *Let R, A, B, C be the sets introduced in § 2, and let W be any fundamental set such that $W \subseteq R, Q(W) = A(W) + B(W) + w, w > 0$. Then*

$$C(R)/Q(R) \geq [A(W) + B(W)]/Q(W) \Leftrightarrow Q(R)/k \geq Q(W)/w.$$

Proof. Use Lemma 1 and $C(R) = Q(R) - k$.

LEMMA 3. *Let A and B be any subsets of Q , let g be any element of $Q - (A + B)$, let X be any subset of $Lg - \{g\}$, and let $Y = \{g - x : x \in X\}$. If $Q(X) = A(X) + B(X) - u$ then $Q(Y) \geq A(Y) + B(Y) + u$.*

Remark. If X, Y, g are defined as in Lemma 3, and if $X = Y$, then it is clear that $u \leq 0$. This is the case when $X = Lg - \{g\}$, for example. We know $g \notin A \cup B$, so $Q(Lg) \geq A(Lg) + B(Lg) + 1$ for any $g \in Q - (A + B)$. If g is a minimal point of $Q - (A + B)$ then $C(Lg) = Q(Lg) - 1 \geq A(Lg) + B(Lg)$.

LEMMA 4. *The sets introduced in § 2 satisfy the following conditions:*

- (1) $C(S) = Q(S) - s = A(S) + B(S)$.
- (2) If x is a minimal element of T then $x \in A \cap B$.
- (3) If $\emptyset \neq V \subseteq T$, if $S \cup V$ is a fundamental set, and if $Q(V) = A(V) + B(V) + v$, then $Q(V - C) \geq v + 1$.
- (4) If g_i is a minimal element of $T - C$ then $Q(X_i) \leq A(X_i) + B(X_i)$, and $Q(X'_i) \leq A(X'_i) + B(X'_i) - 1$.



(5) If g_i is a minimal element of $T-C$ then $Q(Y_i) \geq A(Y_i) + B(Y_i) + 1$.

(6) For each $i = 1, \dots, k-s$, Y_i is a fundamental set.

Proof. Statements (1), (2), (3) follow directly from the definition of S . From (2) we have $X'_i \neq \emptyset$. Statement (4) then follows from the definition of S since $S \cup X_i$ and $S \cup X'_i$ are fundamental sets properly containing S . Statement (5) follows from (4) and Lemma 3.

To prove (6) we note that $X'_i \neq \emptyset$ implies $Y_i \neq \emptyset$. For $y_0 \in Y_i$ and $y \in Ly_0$ we have $g_i - y_0 \leq g_i - y$. Thus $g_i - y_0 \notin S$ and S is a fundamental set imply $g_i - y \notin S$. But $g_i - y < g_i$, hence $g_i - y \in Lg_i - \{g_i\}$. Therefore $g_i - y \in X'_i$ and $y \in Y_i$.

§ 4. Proof of Theorem 1. Assume $Q(R)/k \geq Q(S)/s$. Since $C(S) < Q(S)$ there exists $g \in S - C$, hence there exists $g \in S - (A \cup B)$. Let $W = \bigcup Lg$, taken over all $g \in S - (A \cup B)$. Then W is a fundamental set such that $W \subseteq S \subseteq R$ and the maximal elements of W are not in $A \cup B$. Also $Q(S) - s = C(S) = A(S) + B(S)$ implies

$$Q(W) - s = C(W) \geq A(W) + B(W).$$

Finally, $Q(R)/k \geq Q(S)/s \geq Q(W)/s$ and Lemma 2 imply

$$C(R)/Q(R) \geq [A(W) + B(W)]/Q(W).$$

Assuming the second set of hypotheses, let $W = \bigcup_{i=1}^t Y_i$. Then the maximal elements of W are not in $A \cup B$ from Lemma 4(2), W is a fundamental set from Lemma 4(6), and $Q(Y_1) \geq A(Y_1) + B(Y_1) + 1$ from Lemma 4(5).

We note that $Q(W) = Q(Y_1)$ if $t = 1$ and that $Q(W) = Q(Y_1) + Q(Y'_2) + \dots + Q(Y'_t)$ if $t > 1$. Assuming the latter case, let $Z_i = \{g_i - y : y \in Y'_i\}$, $i = 2, \dots, t$. Then $\emptyset \neq Z_i \subseteq X'_i$, and $Q(Z_i - C) = 0$ since g_i is minimal in $T - C$.

Suppose $z \in Z_i$, $x \in Lz \cap T$. Then $x \in X'_i$, hence $g_i - x \in Y_i$. Also, $g_i - x \geq g_i - z$, and $g_i - z \notin \bigcup_{j=1}^{i-1} Y_j$. But $\bigcup_{j=1}^{i-1} Y_j$ is a fundamental set, hence $g_i - x \in Y_i - \bigcup_{j=1}^{i-1} Y_j = Y'_i$, hence $x \in Z_i$. Therefore $S \cup Z_i$ is a fundamental set and, from Lemma 4(3), $Q(Z_i) \leq A(Z_i) + B(Z_i) - 1$. This and Lemma 3 imply $Q(Y'_i) \geq A(Y'_i) + B(Y'_i) + 1$ for all $i = 2, \dots, t$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} Q(W) &= Q(Y_1) + \sum_{i=2}^t Q(Y'_i) \\ &\geq A(Y_1) + B(Y_1) + 1 + \sum_{i=2}^t A(Y'_i) + B(Y'_i) + 1 \\ &= A(W) + B(W) + t. \end{aligned}$$

We have $Q(\bigcup_{i=1}^t X_i) > Q(W)$. (See [6], Lemma 1, and note that the set S' there remains unchanged if the δ_j 's are chosen to be maximal, instead of minimal, in S .) Therefore $Q(R)/k \geq Q(\bigcup_{i=1}^t X_i)/t > Q(W)/t$, and, from Lemma 2, $C(R)/Q(R) \geq [A(W) + B(W)]/Q(W)$.

§ 5. Proof of Theorem 2. Since $\{g_1, \dots, g_t\}$ is linearly ordered, we may assume $g_1 < g_2 < \dots < g_t$. Then $\bigcup_{i=1}^t X_i = X_t$. Except for notation the proof of this theorem is the same as that of the Theorem in [4], beginning with Case 1.2. The set T_1 there would now be replaced by X_t , t_1 by t , P by Q_n , g_{s_1+1} by g_1 , (x_1, g_{s_1+1}) by X_1 , X_1 by X'_1 , Y_2 by Y_1 , R_2 by Y_t , $(g_{s_1+i} - x_1 + 1, g_{s_1+i+1} - x_1)$ by $Y_{i+1} - Y_i$, etc.

It will be noted that when Case 1.2 holds in the proof of the Theorem in [4] then the desired fundamental set W is obtained because Case 2.1 must ultimately hold, possibly after many repetitions of the type described in the later cases. The set S_2 of Case 2.1 contains an integer $g_{s_1+s_2} - x_1$ which is not in $A \cup B$ (since $x_1 \in A \cap B$ and $g_{s_1+s_2} \notin C$), hence there exists a largest integer $h \in S_2 - (A \cup B)$. If $W = Lh$ then the largest element of W is not in $A \cup B$ and $C(R)/P(R) \geq [A(W) + B(W)]/P(W)$. In the n -dimensional case the set corresponding to S_2 will contain one of the sets Y_u , whose maximal elements have the form $g_u - x$ where $1 \leq u \leq t$ and x is a minimal element of X_u , therefore a minimal element of T . Thus there exists $h \in S_2 - (A \cup B)$ in the n -dimensional case (Lemma 4(2)), and the desired fundamental set W may be defined to be $W = \bigcup Lh$, taken over all $h \in S_2 - (A \cup B)$.

§ 6. Examples in Q_2 . In this section we give two examples of a fundamental set R and sets $A, B, C = A + B$ in $Q = Q_2$ such that $C(R) < Q(R)$ and there does not exist a fundamental set $W \subseteq R$ for which $C(R)/Q(R) \geq [A(W) + B(W)]/Q(W)$.

EXAMPLE 1. Let $R = \bigcup_{i=1}^7 Lg_i$, where $g_1 = (24, 54)$, $g_2 = (25, 53)$, $g_3 = (26, 52)$, $g_4 = (51, 27)$, $g_5 = (52, 26)$, $g_6 = (53, 25)$, $g_7 = (54, 24)$. Note that the points g_i are all on the line $x + y = 78$, and no other points of R are on or above this line. Let $R \cap A$ be the set of all lattice points of R except those on the lines $x + y = 24$, $x + y = 55$, and $x + y = 78$. Let $R \cap B$ consist of just those lattice points of R on the lines $x + y = 23$ and $x + y = 54$. Then $R - C = \{g_1, g_2, g_3, g_4, g_5, g_6, g_7\}$. All lattice points with nonnegative coordinates of the lines $x + y = 23$, $x + y = 24$, and $x + y = 54$ are in R . All lattice points with positive coordinates on the line $x + y = 55$, except $(27, 28)$, are in R . Thus we have $Q(R) = 2259$, $C(R) = 2252$, $A(R) = 2174$, $B(R) = 79$.

Lemma 2 and $C(R)/Q(R) < 1$ imply that if W is a fundamental set in R then $C(R)/Q(R) \geq [A(W) + B(W)]/Q(W)$ if and only if $Q(W) = A(W) + B(W) + w$, $w > 0$, and $Q(R)/7 \geq Q(W)/w$. Thus, for each fixed positive integer w we need to consider only a smallest fundamental set W in R , if one exists, for which $Q(W) = A(W) + B(W) + w$. The following table exhibits these minimal W 's for this example, and it is clear that $Q(W)/w > Q(R)/7$ in each case.

w	W	$Q(W)$
1	$\{(x, y) \in Q: x + y \leq 24\}$	324
2	$Lg_1 \cup Lg_2, Lg_6 \cup Lg_7$	1428
3	$Lg_1 \cup Lg_2 \cup Lg_3, Lg_5 \cup Lg_6 \cup Lg_7$	1481
4	$Lg_4 \cup Lg_5 \cup Lg_6 \cup Lg_7$	1533
5	$Lg_2 \cup Lg_3 \cup Lg_6 \cup Lg_i \cup Lg_j \cup Lg_k,$ i, j, k in the set $\{1, 3, 4, 7\}$	2234
6	R	2259
≥ 7	No W exists	—

In Example 1 the lattice points $(1, 0)$ and $(0, 1)$ are not in B , hence the density of B is 0. The sets A and B have positive density in Example 2; otherwise Example 2 is similar to Example 1.

EXAMPLE 2. Let $R = \bigcup_{i=1}^7 Lg_i$, where $g_1 = (85, 186)$, $g_2 = (88, 183)$, $g_3 = (91, 180)$, $g_4 = (177, 94)$, $g_5 = (180, 91)$, $g_6 = (183, 88)$, $g_7 = (186, 85)$. Let A consist of all elements of $Q - R$ and all elements of R except $(2, 0)$, $(0, 2)$, and those on the lines $x + y = 85$, $x + y = 187$, $x + y = 270$, $x + y = 271$. Let B consist of all elements of $Q - R$, all elements of R which are on the lines $x + y = 1$, $x + y = 84$, $x + y = 186$, and all $g_i - (2, 0)$, $g_i - (0, 2)$, $i = 1, \dots, 7$. Then $R - C = \{g_1, g_2, g_3, g_4, g_5, g_6, g_7\}$, $Q(R) = 26, 147$, $C(R) = 26, 140$, $A(R) = 25, 853$, $B(R) = 288$.

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