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## Inequalities relative to two-parameter Vilenkin–Fourier coefficients

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**Abstract.** The inequality

$$(*) \quad \left( \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} (nm)^{p-2} |f^{\circ}(n, m)|^p \right)^{1/p} \leq C_p \|f\|_{H_p^{\circ}} \quad (0 < p \leq 2)$$

and its dual inequality are proved for two-parameter Vilenkin–Fourier coefficients and for two-parameter martingale Hardy spaces  $H_p^{\circ}$  defined by means of the  $L^p$ -norm of the conditional quadratic variation. The inequality (\*) is extended to bounded Vilenkin systems and monotone coefficients for all  $p$ . The converse of the last inequality is also true for all  $p$ . From this it follows easily that under the same conditions the two-parameter Vilenkin–Fourier series of an arbitrary  $L^p$  function ( $p > 1$ ) converges a.e. to that function.

**1. Introduction.** Up to now inequality (\*) has been known for one-parameter systems only. The proof for  $p = 1$  is due to Hardy, and, for the trigonometric system, it can be found e.g. in Coifman–Weiss [9]. For the Walsh system it was proved first by Ladhawala [13] and for another proof see the book [22] written by Schipp, Wade, Simon and Pál. For Vilenkin systems it was proved by Fridli and Simon [11] but for another Hardy space. The inequality for  $1 < p \leq 2$  can be found in Edwards's book [10].

First we establish the results of two-parameter martingale theory that will be used later. Our proof of (\*) for  $0 < p \leq 1$  is based on the atomic description of  $H_p^{\circ}$  (see [27]) and for  $1 < p \leq 2$  it can be obtained by interpolation (see [24]).

In the next section a direct proof of the dual inequality to (\*) is given. The analogue to this inequality for the BMO space and for the one-parameter Walsh system can be found in [13] and in [22].

Next (\*) will be extended to bounded Vilenkin systems and monotone coefficients for all  $p > 2$  (for the exact conditions see (10) and (11)). This proof is based on the proof for one-parameter systems given by Móricz in [16]. Under the above-mentioned conditions the converse of the last inequality is also true similarly to [16]; moreover, it is proved that the supremum of the absolute

values of the rectangle partial sums of a Vilenkin series is in  $L^p$  if and only if the left side of (\*) is finite ( $0 < p < \infty$ ). From this it follows easily that under the above conditions the two-parameter Vilenkin-Fourier series of an arbitrary  $H_1^-$  or  $L^p$  function ( $p > 1$ ) converges a.e. to that function.

**2. Vilenkin orthonormal systems.** In our paper  $\Omega = [0, 1) \times [0, 1)$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  is the  $\sigma$ -algebra of Borel subsets of  $\Omega$  and  $P$  is Lebesgue measure. Let  $(p_n, n \in \mathbb{N})$  and  $(q_n, n \in \mathbb{N})$  be two sequences of natural numbers whose terms are at least 2. Introduce the notations  $P_0 = Q_0 = 1$  and

$$P_{n+1} := \prod_{k=0}^n p_k, \quad Q_{n+1} := \prod_{k=0}^n q_k \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}).$$

Every  $x \in [0, 1)$  can be uniquely written in the following way:

$$x = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x_k / P_{k+1}, \quad 0 \leq x_k < p_k, \quad x_k \in \mathbb{N}.$$

If there are two different forms, choose the one for which  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} x_k = 0$ . The functions

$$r_n(x) := \exp \frac{2\pi i x_n}{p_n}, \quad r'_n(y) := \exp \frac{2\pi i y_n}{q_n}$$

are called *generalized Rademacher functions*.

Let  $\mathcal{A}_n$  and  $\mathcal{A}'_n$  be the  $\sigma$ -algebras generated by  $\{r_0, \dots, r_{n-1}\}$  and  $\{r'_0, \dots, r'_{n-1}\}$ , respectively, and let  $\mathcal{F}_{n,m}$  be the  $\sigma$ -algebra generated by  $\mathcal{A}_n \times \mathcal{A}'_m$ , i.e.  $\mathcal{F}_{n,m} = \sigma(\mathcal{A}_n \times \mathcal{A}'_m)$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_{n,\infty} := \sigma(\bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{F}_{n,k})$  and  $\mathcal{F}_{\infty,m} := \sigma(\bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{F}_{k,m})$ . It is easy to see that

$$(1) \quad \mathcal{F}_{n,m} := \sigma\{[kP_n^{-1}, (k+1)P_n^{-1}) \times [lQ_m^{-1}, (l+1)Q_m^{-1}) : 0 \leq k < P_n, 0 \leq l < Q_m\}.$$

The Kronecker product system of one-parameter Vilenkin systems (see [23]) is called a *two-parameter Vilenkin system*  $(w_{n,m}; n, m \in \mathbb{N})$ , i.e.

$$w_{n,m}(x, y) := \prod_{k=0}^{\infty} r_k(x)^{n_k} \prod_{l=0}^{\infty} r'_l(y)^{m_l}$$

where  $n = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} n_k P_k$ ,  $m = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} m_l Q_l$ ,  $0 \leq n_k < p_k$ ,  $0 \leq m_l < q_l$  and  $n_k, m_l \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Denote by  $E_{n,m}$  the conditional expectation operator relative to  $\mathcal{F}_{n,m}$  ( $n, m \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ ). Instead of (complex)  $L^p(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$  we use the shorter notation  $L^p$  and finally, for  $0 < p \leq \infty$  let

$$L^p_0 := \{f \in L^p : E_{0,n} f = E_{n,0} f = 0, n \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

For  $f \in L_1$  we shall denote by

$$\hat{f}(n, m) := E(f \bar{w}_{n,m}) \quad (n, m \in \mathbb{N})$$

the  $(n, m)$ th Vilenkin-Fourier coefficient of  $f$ . Similarly to the one-parameter case (see e.g. [10]) a partial generalization of the Parseval formula and the Riesz-Fischer theorem, the so-called Hausdorff-Young theorem can be proved for two parameters as well.

**THEOREM 1 (Hausdorff-Young).** *Suppose that  $1 \leq p \leq 2$  and  $1/p + 1/p' = 1$ .*

(i) *If  $f \in L_p$  then*

$$\|\hat{f}\|_{l_{p'}} \leq \|f\|_p := (E|f|^p)^{1/p}.$$

(ii) *If  $a = (a_{n,m}; n, m \in \mathbb{N}) \in l_p$  then the sequence*

$$s_{n,m} = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \sum_{l=0}^{m-1} a_{k,l} w_{k,l}$$

*converges in  $L^p$ -norm as  $\min(n, m) \rightarrow \infty$  to a function  $f$ , for which*

$$\|f\|_{p'} \leq \|a\|_{l_p}$$

*where  $\hat{f} = (\hat{f}(n, m); n, m \in \mathbb{N})$  and  $l_p$  denotes the space of those sequences of numbers  $a = (a_{n,m}; n, m \in \mathbb{N})$  for which  $\|a\|_{l_p} := (\sum_{n,m \in \mathbb{N}} |a_{n,m}|^p)^{1/p} < \infty$ .*

**3. Martingales.** It is easy to see that the sequence of  $\sigma$ -algebras  $(\mathcal{F}_{n,m})$  above satisfies the requirement that is usual in martingale theory. Namely,  $(\mathcal{F}_{n,m})$  is clearly nondecreasing, i.e. if  $(k, l) \leq (n, m)$  then  $\mathcal{F}_{k,l} \subset \mathcal{F}_{n,m}$  (where  $(k, l) \leq (n, m)$  means that  $k \leq n$  and  $l \leq m$ ). Moreover,  $\mathcal{A} = \sigma\{(\mathcal{F}_{n,m}; n, m \in \mathbb{N})\}$  and the condition  $F_4$  introduced by Cairoli and Walsh [7] is also satisfied: for an arbitrary pair  $(n, m) \in \mathbb{N}^2 := \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$  the  $\sigma$ -algebras  $\mathcal{F}_{n,\infty}$  and  $\mathcal{F}_{\infty,m}$  are *conditionally independent* relative to  $\mathcal{F}_{n,m}$ . An integrable sequence  $f = (f_{n,m}; n, m \in \mathbb{N})$  is said to be a *martingale* if

- (i) it is adapted (i.e.  $f_{n,m}$  is  $\mathcal{F}_{n,m}$  measurable for all  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ ),
- (ii)  $E_{k,l} f_{n,m} = f_{k,l}$  for all  $(k, l) \leq (n, m)$ .

For simplicity we always suppose that for a martingale  $f$  we have  $f_{n,0} = f_{0,n} = 0$  ( $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ). Of course, the theorems that are to be proved later are true without this condition.

The following notations will be used for a martingale  $f = (f_{n,m}; n, m \in \mathbb{N})$ :

$$d_{n,m} f := f_{n,m} - f_{n-1,m} - f_{n,m-1} + f_{n-1,m-1}, \quad d_{n,0} f := d_{0,n} f := 0,$$

$$f^* := \sup_{n,m} |f_{n,m}|, \quad S(f) := (\sum_{n,m} |d_{n,m} f|^2)^{1/2},$$

$$s(f) := (\sum_{n,m} E_{n-1,m-1} |d_{n,m} f|^2)^{1/2}.$$

We now introduce Hardy spaces for  $0 < p \leq \infty$ : denote by  $H_p, H_p^-$  and  $H_p^+$  the spaces of martingales for which

$$\|f\|_{H_p} := \|S(f)\|_p < \infty, \quad \|f\|_{H_p^-} := \|s(f)\|_p < \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \|f\|_{H_p^+} := \|f^*\|_p < \infty,$$

respectively. In martingale theory it is well known that if  $f \in H_p$  or  $f \in H_p^-$  then  $f_{n,m}$  converges a.e. and in  $L^p$ -norm as  $\min(n, m) \rightarrow \infty$  ( $p \geq 1$ , see [18]). Therefore, two of the Hardy spaces above can be identified with certain subspaces of  $L_0^p$  ( $p \geq 1$ ). Moreover, a sharper assertion can be shown:

**THEOREM 2.** (i) For  $p > 1$  one has  $H_p \sim H_p^- \sim L_0^p$  where  $\sim$  denotes the equivalence of spaces and norms (see [6], [14], [18]).

(ii) If  $(p_n)$  and  $(q_n)$  are bounded (i.e.  $p_n = O(1)$  and  $q_n = O(1)$ ) then  $H_p \sim H_p^- \sim H_p^-$  for every  $0 < p < \infty$  (see [3], [4], [24], [27]).

If either  $(p_n)$  or  $(q_n)$  is unbounded then the  $H_p^-$  space is different from all the other spaces introduced above ( $p \neq 2$ ) though the following inequalities are true:

$$\|\cdot\|_{H_p} \leq C_p \|\cdot\|_{H_p^-} \quad (0 < p \leq 2),$$

$$\|\cdot\|_{H_p^-} \leq C_p \|\cdot\|_{H_p} \quad (2 \leq p < \infty).$$

These inequalities also hold for  $H_p$  instead of  $H_p^-$  (see [4], [24], [27]).

Let us extend the definition of Vilenkin-Fourier coefficients from  $L^1$  functions to  $H_p^-$  martingales ( $0 < p < \infty$ ) with the help of the previous two inequalities:

$$\hat{f}(n, m) := \lim_{\min(k, l) \rightarrow \infty} E(f_{k, l} \bar{w}_{n, m}) \quad (n, m \in \mathbb{N})$$

if  $f = (f_{k, l}; k, l \in \mathbb{N}) \in H_p^-$ . It is easy to see that this limit exists for  $0 < p < 1$  as well.

Let us introduce the concept of a stopping time analogously to [21]. A mapping  $\nu$  which maps  $\Omega$  into the set of subspaces of  $\mathbb{N}^2 \cup \{\infty\}$  is said to be a *stopping time* relative to  $(\mathcal{F}_{n, m})$  if the elements of  $\nu(\omega)$  are incomparable (i.e. for distinct  $(k, l), (n, m) \in \nu(\omega)$ , neither  $(k, l) \leq (n, m)$  nor  $(n, m) \leq (k, l)$ ; of course,  $(k, l) < \infty$  for all  $k, l \in \mathbb{N}$ ) and if for every  $(n, m) \in \mathbb{N}^2$

$$\{\omega \in \Omega: (n, m) \in \nu(\omega)\} =: \{(n, m) \in \nu\} \in \mathcal{F}_{n, m}.$$

We use the notation  $(k, l) \ll (n, m)$  if  $k < n$  and  $l < m$ . For  $H \subset \mathbb{N}^2$  we write  $H \ll (n, m)$  if there exists  $(k, l) \in H$  such that  $(k, l) \ll (n, m)$ . So we immediately see that if  $\nu$  is a stopping time then

$$\{\nu \not\ll (n, m)\} \in \mathcal{F}_{n-1, m-1} \quad (n, m \in \mathbb{N}).$$

On the other hand, the converse of the previous assertion comes from the equality

$$\{(n, m) \in \nu\} = \{\nu \ll (n+1, m+1)\} \cap \{\nu \not\ll (n+1, m)\} \cap \{\nu \not\ll (n, m+1)\}.$$

As in the one-parameter case, we can define a *stopped martingale*  $(f_{n, m}^\nu)$  for a martingale  $f$  and a stopping time  $\nu$ :

$$f_{n, m}^\nu := \sum_{i \leq n} \sum_{j \leq m} \chi(\{\nu \not\ll (i, j)\}) d_{i, j}$$

where  $\chi(A)$  denotes the characteristic function of a set  $A$ . Since  $\{\nu \not\ll (i, j)\} \in \mathcal{F}_{i-1, j-1}$ ,  $(f_{n, m}^\nu; n, m \in \mathbb{N})$  is a martingale (see [27]).

The base of the following section will be the atomic description of  $H_p^-$  spaces. For this we first define an atom. A function  $a \in L_0^p$  is said to be a  $(p, q)$ -atom if there exists a stopping time  $\nu$  such that

- (i)  $a_{n, m} := E_{n, m} a = 0$  if  $\nu \not\ll (n, m)$ ,
- (ii)  $\|a^*\|_q \leq P(\nu \neq \infty)^{1/q-1/p}$ .

Now an *atomic decomposition* of  $H_p^-$  martingales can be formulated:

**THEOREM 3** [27]. A martingale  $f = (f_{n, m}; n, m \in \mathbb{N})$  is an element of  $H_p^-$  ( $0 < p \leq 1$ ) iff there exist a sequence of  $(p, 2)$ -atoms  $(a_k, k \in \mathbb{N})$  and a sequence of real numbers  $\mu = (\mu_k, k \in \mathbb{N})$  such that for all  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$

$$(2) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \mu_k E_{n, m} a_k = f_{n, m} \quad \text{a.e. and} \quad \|\mu\|_{l_p} < \infty.$$

Moreover,  $\|f\|_{H_p^-} \sim \inf \|\mu\|_{l_p}$  where the infimum is taken over all decompositions (2) of  $f$ .

**4. Hardy type inequalities.** The following theorem, which is the main result of this paper, can be found in [9] and in [10] for the Fourier coefficients of the one-parameter trigonometric system for  $1 \leq p \leq 2$ , furthermore, in [8], [11], [13] and in [22] for bounded one-parameter Vilenkin systems (i.e.  $p_n = O(1)$ ) for  $p = 1$ . In [11] a similar inequality is proved for  $p = 1$  for one-parameter unbounded Vilenkin systems; the Hardy space used there is different from the ones above. Moreover, it is proved there that for an unbounded Vilenkin system there exists a function  $f \in H_1$  such that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |\hat{f}(k)|/k = \infty.$$

**THEOREM 4.** For an arbitrary martingale  $f \in H_p^-$

$$(*) \quad \left( \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} |\hat{f}(n, m)|^p / (nm)^{2-p} \right)^{1/p} \leq C_p \|f\|_{H_p^-} \quad (0 \leq p \leq 2).$$

**Proof.** (i) First let  $0 < p \leq 1$ . From the proof of Theorem 3 in [27] it follows that there exists a decomposition (2) of  $f \in H_p^-$  such that

$$\|\mu\|_{l_p} \leq C_p \|f\|_{H_p^-} \quad \text{and} \quad |\hat{f}(n, m)| \leq \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} |\mu_k| \hat{a}_k(n, m).$$

Having this the only thing we have to prove is that for an arbitrary  $(p, 2)$ -atom  $a$

$$(3) \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} |\hat{a}(n, m)|^p / (nm)^{2-p} \leq C_p.$$

If  $\nu$  is the stopping time belonging to a fixed atom  $a$  then the support of  $a^*$  is obviously  $F := \{\nu \neq \infty\}$ . The rectangles in (1) are called the *atoms* of the  $\sigma$ -algebra  $\mathcal{F}_{n,m}$ . For the time being let  $m$  be fixed. To this  $m$  choose  $n$  such that there exists an atom  $A \in \mathcal{F}_{n,m}$  for which  $A \subset F$  but  $B \cap F^c \neq \emptyset$  for every atom  $B \in \mathcal{F}_{n-1,m}$  ( $F^c$  denotes the complement of  $F$ ); denote this number by  $N(m)$ . If there is no such  $n$  then let  $N(m) = \infty$ . The sequence  $(N(m))$  is obviously nonincreasing. Moreover, let

$$m_1 := \min\{m: N(m) < \infty\}, \quad n_1 := N(m_1).$$

We define a sequence  $(n_k, m_k)$  recursively (if it does exist):

$$m_k := \min\{m: N(m) < n_{k-1}\}, \quad n_k := N(m_k).$$

Since  $(n_k)$  is decreasing and  $(m_k)$  is increasing, we have only finitely many pairs  $(n_k, m_k)$ ; denote the number of these pairs by  $K$ . Let

$$G := \{(n_k, m_k): 1 \leq k \leq K\}, \quad H := \{(P_{n_k}, Q_{m_k}): 1 \leq k \leq K\}.$$

If  $G \not\prec (n, m)$  then it follows from the construction that there is no atom  $A \in \mathcal{F}_{n,m}$  such that  $A \subset F$ , consequently, for all  $\omega \in \Omega$  we have  $(n, m) \notin \nu(\omega)$ . Thus for all  $\omega$

$$G \leq \nu(\omega).$$

If  $G \prec (n, m)$  then for all  $\omega$  one has  $\nu(\omega) \prec (n, m)$ . Consequently, using the definition of the atom we find that  $a_{n,m}(\omega) = 0$  ( $\omega \in \Omega$ ) if  $G \prec (n, m)$ . Next, it is easy to show that  $\hat{a}(n, m) = 0$  if  $H \not\prec (n, m)$ . So by Hölder's inequality

$$(4) \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} |\hat{a}(n, m)|^p / (nm)^{2-p} = \sum_{H \leq (n,m)} |\hat{a}(n, m)|^p / (nm)^{2-p} \\ \leq \left( \sum_{H \leq (n,m)} |\hat{a}(n, m)|^2 \right)^{p/2} \left( \sum_{H \leq (n,m)} 1 / (nm)^{2(2-p)/2} \right).$$

It is obvious by the definition of the atom and from the Parseval inequality that

$$(5) \quad \left( \sum_{H \leq (n,m)} |\hat{a}(n, m)|^2 \right)^{p/2} \leq \|a\|_2^p \leq P(F)^{p/2-1}.$$

We shall show that

$$(6) \quad \sum_{H \leq (n,m)} 1 / (nm)^2 \leq 2P(F).$$

Combining (4)–(6) yields (3), and the theorem follows.

Using the inequality

$$\sum_{k \geq n} 1/k^2 \leq \int_{n-1}^{\infty} (1/x^2) dx \leq 2/n \quad (n \geq 2)$$

we get immediately

$$(7) \quad \frac{1}{2} \sum_{H \leq (n,m)} 1 / (nm)^2 \leq \sum_{k=1}^K Q_{m_k}^{-1} (P_{n_k}^{-1} - P_{n_{k-1}}^{-1}) =: |H|$$

where  $P_{n_0}^{-1} := 0$ . By the construction of the set  $H$  for  $1 \leq k \leq K$  there exists an atom  $A_k \in \mathcal{F}_{n_k, m_k}$  such that  $A_k \subset F$ . Let  $A := \bigcup_{k=1}^K A_k$ ; then  $A \subset F$ . We shall show that

$$(8) \quad |H| \leq P(A).$$

For  $1 \leq k \leq K$  choose an atom  $B_k \in \mathcal{F}_{n_k, m_k}$  such that the intersection of any  $B_{k_1}$  and  $B_{k_2}$  is nonempty. Then it can easily be shown that the Lebesgue measure of  $B := \bigcup_{k=1}^K B_k$  is equal to  $|H|$ . Let  $C := \bigcup_{k=1}^K C_k$  where  $C_k \in \mathcal{F}_{n_k, m_k}$  is an atom. By induction on  $K$  we show that  $C$  has minimal area if and only if the intersection of any  $C_{k_1}$  and  $C_{k_2}$  is nonempty. For  $k = 1$  or  $k = 2$  this is trivial. Let  $1 \leq l \leq K$  be the minimal index for which  $C_{l+1} \cap C_l = \emptyset$ . (If there is no such index then the intersection of any two sets  $C_k$  is nonempty.) It can be seen that

$$P\left(C_l - \bigcup_{\substack{k=1 \\ k \neq l}}^K C_k\right) > P\left(B_l - \bigcup_{\substack{k=1 \\ k \neq l}}^K B_k\right).$$

Nevertheless, by the induction hypothesis we have

$$P\left(\bigcup_{\substack{k=1 \\ k \neq l}}^K C_k\right) \geq P\left(\bigcup_{\substack{k=1 \\ k \neq l}}^K B_k\right),$$

consequently,  $P(C) > P(B)$ . Thus we have proved (8), and hence (6), so the proof of the theorem is complete for  $0 < p \leq 1$ .

(ii) Secondly, let  $1 < p \leq 2$ . Denote by  $\mathbf{P}$  the set of positive natural numbers and introduce on  $\mathbf{P}^2$  the measure  $\mu(n, m) = 1/(n^2 m^2)$ . If

$$Tf(n, m) = nm \hat{f}(n, m)$$

then it follows by the Parseval formula and by the previous theorem for  $p = 1$  that both

$$T: L_0^2 \rightarrow L^2(\mathbf{P}^2, \mu) \quad \text{and} \quad T: H_1^- \rightarrow L^1(\mathbf{P}^2, \mu)$$

are bounded. (In contrast to the one-parameter case it is not true that  $T$  is of weak type  $(1, 1)$ .) By a well known interpolation theorem (see [1]) the operator

$$T: (H_1^-, L_0^2)_{\theta, p} \rightarrow (L^1(\mathbf{P}^2, \mu), L^2(\mathbf{P}^2, \mu))_{\theta, p} \quad (0 < \theta < 1)$$

is bounded as well. However, on the one hand,

$$(L^1(\mathbf{P}^2, \mu), L^2(\mathbf{P}^2, \mu))_{\theta, p} = L^p(\mathbf{P}^2, \mu)$$

(see [1]), and, on the other hand, we have proved in [24] that

$$(H_1^-, L_0^2)_{\theta, p} = H_p^-$$

where in both cases  $0 < \theta < 1$  and  $1/p = (1-\theta) + \theta/2$ . This completes the proof of Theorem 4. ■

Of course, it can similarly be proved that the theorem is true even if we do not suppose for a martingale  $f \in H_p^-$  that  $f_{n,0} = f_{0,n} = 0$ .

In [27] we have introduced an atomic Hardy space  $\mathcal{H}^{1,q}$  generated by some special atoms ( $1 < q \leq \infty$ ). Applying Theorem 1(i) we can show a theorem similar to Theorem 4 for  $\mathcal{H}^{1,q}$  ( $1 < q \leq \infty, p = 1$ ):

**THEOREM 5.** For an arbitrary martingale  $f \in \mathcal{H}^{1,q}$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} |f(n, m)|/(nm) \leq \|f\|_{\mathcal{H}^{1,q}} \quad (1 < q \leq \infty).$$

**5. Dual theorems.** In [27] we have shown that the dual of  $H_p^-$  is  $A_2(\alpha)$  ( $0 < p \leq 1, \alpha = 1/p - 1$ ) where  $A_2(\alpha)$  denotes the space of functions  $\varphi \in L_0^2$  for which

$$\|\varphi\|_{A_2(\alpha)} := \sup_{\nu} \{P(\nu \neq \infty)^{-1/2-\alpha} \|\varphi - \varphi^\nu\|_2\} < \infty \quad (\alpha \geq 0)$$

(the supremum is taken over all stopping times). As in the one-parameter case,  $A_2(0)$  is also denoted by  $BMO_2$ . Denote the set of sequences  $\{(P_{n_k}, Q_{m_k}): 1 \leq k \leq K\}$  by  $\mathcal{H}$  where  $K \in \mathbb{N}, (n_k)$  is decreasing and  $(m_k)$  is increasing. Now we give a direct proof for the dual inequality to Theorem 4 for  $0 < p \leq 1$ .

**THEOREM 6.** If  $(b_{n,m}; n, m \in \mathbb{P})$  is a sequence of complex numbers such that

$$M := \sup_{H \in \mathcal{H}} |H|^{-1/2-\alpha} \left( \sum_{H \leq (n,m)} |b_{n,m}|^2 \right)^{1/2} < \infty$$

then there exists  $\varphi \in A_2(\alpha)$  for which  $\hat{\varphi}(n, m) = b_{n,m}$  ( $n, m \in \mathbb{P}$ ) and  $\|\varphi\|_{A_2(\alpha)} \leq M$ . (The definition of  $|H|$  is given in (7).)

**Proof.** It follows from the Riesz-Fischer theorem that there exists a function  $\varphi \in L_0^2$  such that  $\hat{\varphi}(n, m) = b_{n,m}$  ( $n, m \in \mathbb{P}$ ). It is easy to show that for every stopping time  $\nu$

$$\|\varphi - \varphi^\nu\|_2^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} E[\chi(\nu \ll (i, j)) |d_{i,j}\varphi|^2].$$

Let us use again the sets  $G$  and  $H$  constructed for the stopping time  $\nu$  in the proof of Theorem 4. It is clear that

$$\|\varphi - \varphi^\nu\|_2^2 = \sum_{G \ll (i,j)} E[\chi(\nu \ll (i, j)) |d_{i,j}\varphi|^2] \leq \sum_{G \ll (i,j)} E(|d_{i,j}\varphi|^2).$$

If we express  $d_{i,j}\varphi$  as a linear combination of the functions  $w_{n,m}$  then we obtain

$$\|\varphi - \varphi^\nu\|_2^2 \leq \sum_{H \leq (n,m)} |b_{n,m}|^2.$$

As we have seen in the proof of Theorem 4,  $|H| \leq P(\nu \neq \infty)$ , consequently,

$$P(\nu \neq \infty)^{-1/2-\alpha} \|\varphi - \varphi^\nu\|_2 \leq |H|^{-1/2-\alpha} \left( \sum_{H \leq (n,m)} |b_{n,m}|^2 \right)^{1/2},$$

i.e.,  $\|\varphi\|_{A_2(\alpha)} \leq M$ , which shows Theorem 6. ■

Let us give the dual theorem to Theorem 4 also for  $1 < p \leq 2$ . If  $p_n = O(1)$  and  $q_n = O(1)$  then by Theorem 2 one has  $H_p^- \sim L_0^p$  ( $p > 1$ ) and it is well known that their dual space is  $L_0^q$  ( $1/p + 1/q = 1$ ).

**THEOREM 7.** If  $p_n = O(1), q_n = O(1), 2 \leq q < \infty$  and  $(b_{n,m}; n, m \in \mathbb{P})$  is a sequence such that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} |b_{n,m}|^q / (nm)^{2-q} < \infty,$$

then the Vilenkin polynomials

$$f_{N,M} := \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{m=1}^M b_{n,m} w_{n,m}$$

converge in  $L_q$  as  $\min(N, M) \rightarrow \infty$  to a function  $f$  satisfying  $\hat{f}(n, m) = b_{n,m}$  ( $n, m \in \mathbb{P}$ ) and

$$\|f\|_q \leq C_q \left( \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} |b_{n,m}|^q / (nm)^{2-q} \right)^{1/q}.$$

This theorem can be shown similarly to the case of the one-parameter trigonometric system (see [10], p. 193).

We have also proved in [27] that the dual space of  $\mathcal{H}^{1,q}$  is  $\mathcal{BMO}_q$  ( $1/q + 1/q' = 1, 1 < q < \infty$ ) where  $\mathcal{BMO}_q$  denotes the space of functions  $\varphi \in L_0^q$  for which

$$\|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{BMO}_q} := \sup_{n,m} \|(E_{n,m}|\varphi - E_{n,\infty}\varphi - E_{\infty,m}\varphi + E_{n,m}\varphi|^q)^{1/q}\|_\infty < \infty.$$

Now we prove a result for  $\mathcal{BMO}_q$  spaces analogous to Theorem 6.

**THEOREM 8.** If  $2 \leq q < \infty$  and  $(b_{n,m}; n, m \in \mathbb{P})$  is a sequence of complex numbers such that

$$M := \sup_{n,m} (P_n Q_m)^{1/q} \left( \sum_{(P_n, Q_m) \leq (k,l)} |b_{k,l}|^q \right)^{1/q'} < \infty$$

then there exists  $\varphi \in \mathcal{BMO}_q$  for which  $\hat{\varphi}(k, l) = b_{k,l}$  ( $k, l \in \mathbb{P}$ ) and  $\|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{BMO}_q} \leq M$ .

**Proof.** By Theorem 1(ii) there exists  $\varphi \in L_0^q$  such that  $\hat{\varphi}(k, l) = b_{k,l}$  ( $k, l \in \mathbb{P}$ ). Let  $n, m, l, j \in \mathbb{N}$  and introduce the Vilenkin polynomials

$$P_{(j,m)}^{(n)} := \sum_{k=0}^{P_n-1} \sum_{i=0}^{Q_m-1} \hat{\varphi}(lP_n + k, jQ_m + i) w_{k,i}.$$



Then

$$\varphi - E_{n,\infty}\varphi - E_{\infty,m}\varphi + E_{n,m}\varphi = \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} P_{l,j}^{(n,m)} W_{lP_n, jQ_m}$$

As  $P_{l,j}^{(n,m)}$  is  $\mathcal{F}_{n,m}$  measurable, applying again Theorem 1(ii), we get the following inequalities ( $1/q + 1/q' = 1$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} (E_{n,m}|\varphi - E_{n,\infty}\varphi - E_{\infty,m}\varphi + E_{n,m}\varphi|^q)^{1/q} &= (E_{n,m}|\sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} P_{l,j}^{(n,m)} W_{lP_n, jQ_m}|^q)^{1/q} \\ &\leq (\sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} |P_{l,j}^{(n,m)}|^q)^{1/q'} \leq ((P_n Q_m)^{q'-1} \sum_{(P_n Q_m) \leq (k,l)} |\hat{\varphi}(k, l)|^q)^{1/q'}, \end{aligned}$$

i.e.,  $\|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{Q}_q} \leq M$ . This completes the proof of Theorem 8. ■

This theorem can be found for one-parameter martingales in [13], [22] and another version for nonlinear martingales is in [25].

**6. Converse inequalities.** In this section we extend Theorem 4 under certain conditions to the case  $p > 2$ . Moreover, we prove the converse inequality. In the sequel we suppose that

$$(9) \quad P_n = O(1), \quad q_n = O(1).$$

If  $f = (f_{n,m}; n, m \in \mathbb{N})$  is a martingale and  $b_{k,l} := \hat{f}(k, l)$  then it is obvious that

$$f_{n,m} = \sum_{k=1}^{P_n-1} \sum_{l=1}^{Q_m-1} b_{k,l} W_{k,l}$$

and, conversely, an arbitrary sequence  $(b_{k,l}; k, l \in \mathbb{P})$  defines a martingale. From now on we consider only those martingales for which

$$(10) \quad b_{k,l} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \max(k, l) \rightarrow \infty,$$

$$(11) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathfrak{R}(b_{k,l} - b_{k+1,l} - b_{k,l+1} + b_{k+1,l+1}) &\geq 0, \\ \mathfrak{I}(b_{k,l} - b_{k+1,l} - b_{k,l+1} + b_{k+1,l+1}) &\geq 0 \quad (k, l \in \mathbb{P}). \end{aligned}$$

It follows from (10) and (11) that the sequences  $(\mathfrak{R}b_{k,l})$  and  $(\mathfrak{I}b_{k,l})$  are decreasing. Now we extend Theorem 4.

**THEOREM 9.** Under the conditions (9) and (11) suppose that  $f \in \mathbf{H}_p$ . Then

$$(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} |f(n, m)|^p / (nm)^{2-p})^{1/p} \leq C_p \|f\|_{\mathbf{H}_p} \quad (0 < p < \infty).$$

(Note that by Theorem 2 one has  $H_p^- \sim \mathbf{H}_p$  for  $0 < p < \infty$ .)

We are not going to prove Theorem 9 because the proof is similar to Móricz's proof for the one-parameter Walsh system (see [16]).

We show a sharper assertion than the converse inequality. If

$$\sigma_{n,m} := \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \sum_{l=1}^{m-1} b_{k,l} W_{k,l}$$

then the following holds:

**THEOREM 10.** Under the conditions (9)–(11)

$$\|\sup_{n,m} |\sigma_{n,m}|\|_p \leq C_p (\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} |b_{n,m}|^p / (nm)^{2-p})^{1/p} \quad (0 < p < \infty).$$

**Proof.** This theorem for the one-parameter Walsh system was also proved by Móricz for  $p > 1$  (see [17]). Since

$$|D_n(x)| := |\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} w_{k,0}(x, y)| \leq 2/x \quad (x \in [0, 1], n \in \mathbb{N})$$

is also true for a bounded Vilenkin system (see [11]), applying two-parameter Abel rearrangement, similarly to the proof in [16] we get

$$|\sigma_{n,m}(x, y)| \leq C \sum_{k=1}^i \sum_{l=1}^j |b_{k,l}| \quad \text{for } \frac{1}{i+1} \leq x < \frac{1}{i} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{j+1} \leq y < \frac{1}{j}.$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \|\sup_{n,m} |\sigma_{n,m}|\|_p^p &= \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \int_{1/(i+1)}^{1/i} \int_{1/(j+1)}^{1/j} (\sup_{n,m} |\sigma_{n,m}(x, y)|)^p dx dy \\ &\leq C_p \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i^2 j^2} (\sum_{k=1}^i \sum_{l=1}^j |b_{k,l}|)^p. \end{aligned}$$

Now a slightly modified version of the Hardy inequality is needed:

**LEMMA** ([19], Theorem 8). If  $r > 1$ ,  $0 < p < \infty$  and  $(d_n, n \in \mathbb{P})$  is a non-negative, nonincreasing sequence then

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^{-r} (\sum_{k=1}^n d_k)^p \leq C_p \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} d_n^p n^{p-r}.$$

Applying twice the Lemma we obtain the inequality

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i^2 j^2} (\sum_{k=1}^i \sum_{l=1}^j |b_{k,l}|)^p \leq C_p \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} |b_{k,l}|^p (kl)^{p-2}.$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 10. ■

Finally, it is easy to see that the following corollary holds.

**COROLLARY 1.** *If (9)–(11) are satisfied and  $0 < p < \infty$  is fixed then the following conditions are equivalent:*

$$\sup_{n,m} |\sigma_{n,m}| \in L^p; \quad f \in \mathbf{H}_p; \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} |b_{n,m}|^p / (nm)^{2-p} < \infty.$$

Therefore

$$(12) \quad \|\sup_{n,m} |\sigma_{n,m}|\|_p \leq C_p \|f\|_{\mathbf{H}_p} \quad (0 < p < \infty).$$

As any martingale  $f \in \mathbf{H}_p$  ( $p \geq 1$ ) can be identified with an  $L^1$  function, the  $\sigma_{n,m}$  are partial sums of the Vilenkin–Fourier series of the function corresponding to  $f$ . Vilenkin polynomials are dense in  $\mathbf{H}_p$ , consequently, by (12) and by Theorem 2 of Chapter 3.1 in [22], Corollary 2 follows immediately:

**COROLLARY 2.** *Let  $p_n = O(1)$  and  $q_n = O(1)$ . If  $f \in L^p$  ( $p > 1$ ) or  $f \in \mathbf{H}_1$  such that (10) and (11) are satisfied then  $\sigma_{n,m} f \rightarrow f$  a.e. and also in  $L^p$ -norm ( $p \geq 1$ ) as  $\min(n, m) \rightarrow \infty$ .*

Note that the fact that  $\sigma_{n,m}$  converges a.e. has already been proved under the conditions (9)–(11) only (see [17]).

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