

# Kronecker's theorem

Jordan Bell

jordan.bell@gmail.com

Department of Mathematics, University of Toronto

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## 1 Equivalent statements of Kronecker's theorem

We shall now give two statements of **Kronecker's theorem**, and prove that they are equivalent before proving that they are true.

**Theorem 1.** *If  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k, 1$  are real numbers that are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$  are real numbers, and  $N$  and  $\epsilon$  are positive real numbers, then there are integers  $n > N$  and  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  such that for  $m = 1, \dots, k$ ,*

$$|n\theta_m - p_m - \alpha_m| < \epsilon.$$

**Theorem 2.** *If  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k$  are real numbers that are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$  are real numbers, and  $T$  and  $\epsilon$  are positive real numbers, then there is a real number  $t > T$  and integers  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  such that for  $m = 1, \dots, k$ ,*

$$|t\theta_m - p_m - \alpha_m| < \epsilon.$$

We now prove that the above two statements are equivalent.<sup>1</sup>

**Lemma 3.** *Theorem 1 is true if and only if Theorem 2 is true.*

*Proof.* Assume that Theorem 2 is true and let  $\theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_k, 1$  be real numbers that are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , let  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$  be real numbers, let  $N > 0$  and let  $0 < \epsilon < 1$ . Let  $\theta_m = \theta'_m - q_m$  with  $0 < \theta_m \leq 1$ . Because  $\theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_k, 1$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , so are  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k, 1$ . Using Theorem 2 with  $k + 1$  instead of  $k$ ,  $N + 1$  instead of  $T$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}\epsilon$  instead of  $\epsilon$ , applied with

$$\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k, 1, \quad \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k, 0,$$

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<sup>1</sup>K. Chandrasekharan, *Introduction to Analytic Number Theory*, pp. 92–93, Chapter VIII, §5.

there is a real number  $t > N + 1$  and integers  $p_1, \dots, p_k, p_{k+1}$  such that for  $m = 1, \dots, k$ ,

$$|t\theta_m - p_m - \alpha_m| < \frac{1}{2}\epsilon,$$

and

$$|t - p_{k+1}| < \frac{1}{2}\epsilon.$$

Then  $p_{k+1} > t - \frac{1}{2}\epsilon > t - \frac{1}{2} > N$ , and for  $m = 1, \dots, k$ , because  $0 < \theta_m \leq 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} |p_{k+1}\theta_m - p_m - \alpha_m| &= |p_{k+1}\theta_m - p_m + t\theta_m - t\theta_m - \alpha_m| \\ &\leq |t\theta_m - p_m - \alpha_m| + |(p_{k+1} - t)\theta_m| \\ &\leq |t\theta_m - p_m - \alpha_m| + |p_{k+1} - t| \\ &< \frac{1}{2}\epsilon + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Thus for  $n = p_{k+1}$ , we have  $n > N$ , and for  $m = 1, \dots, k$ ,

$$|n\theta'_m - (nq_m + p_m) - \alpha| = |n\theta_m - p_m - \alpha_m| < \epsilon,$$

proving Theorem 1.

Assume that Theorem 1 is true. The claim of Theorem 2 is immediate when  $k = 1$ . For  $k > 1$ , let  $\theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_k$  be linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , let  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$  be real numbers, and let  $T$  and  $\epsilon$  be positive real numbers. Let  $\theta_m = |\theta'_m| > 0$ , and because  $\theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_k$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , so are  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k$ , and then

$$\frac{\theta_1}{\theta_k}, \frac{\theta_2}{\theta_k}, \dots, \frac{\theta_{k-1}}{\theta_k}, 1$$

are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Z}$ . Applying Theorem 1 with  $N = T\theta_k$  and

$$\frac{\theta_1}{\theta_k}, \frac{\theta_2}{\theta_k}, \dots, \frac{\theta_{k-1}}{\theta_k}, \quad \text{sgn } \theta'_1 \cdot \alpha_1, \dots, \text{sgn } \theta'_{k-1} \cdot \alpha_{k-1},$$

we get that there are integers  $n > T\theta_k$  and  $p_1, \dots, p_{k-1}$  such that for  $m = 1, \dots, k-1$ ,

$$\left| n \frac{\theta_m}{\theta_k} - p_m - \text{sgn } \theta'_m \cdot \alpha_m \right| < \frac{1}{2}\epsilon.$$

Let  $t = \frac{n}{\theta_k}$ . Then  $t > T$  and for  $m = 1, \dots, k-1$ ,

$$|t\theta_m - p_m - \text{sgn } \theta'_m \cdot \alpha_m| = \left| n \frac{\theta_m}{\theta_k} - p_m - \text{sgn } \theta'_m \cdot \alpha_m \right| < \frac{1}{2}\epsilon,$$

and

$$|t\theta_k - n| = 0 < \frac{1}{2}\epsilon.$$

On the other hand, applying Theorem 1 with  $N = T$  and

$$\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k, \quad 0, \dots, 0, \text{sgn } \theta'_k \cdot \alpha_k,$$

we get that there are integers  $\nu > T$  and  $q_1, \dots, q_k$  such that for  $m = 1, \dots, k-1$ ,

$$|\nu\theta_m - q_m| < \frac{1}{2}\epsilon$$

and

$$|\nu\theta_k - q_k - \operatorname{sgn} \theta'_k \cdot \alpha_k| < \frac{1}{2}\epsilon.$$

For  $m = 1, \dots, k-1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} |(t + \nu)\theta_m - (p_m + q_m) - \operatorname{sgn} \theta'_m \cdot \alpha_m| &\leq |t\theta_m - p_m - \operatorname{sgn} \theta'_m \cdot \alpha_m| + |\nu\theta_m - q_m| \\ &< \frac{1}{2}\epsilon + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} |(t + \nu)\theta_k - (p_k + q_k) - \operatorname{sgn} \theta'_k \cdot \alpha_k| &\leq |t\theta_k - p_k| + |\nu\theta_k - q_k - \operatorname{sgn} \theta'_k \cdot \alpha_k| \\ &< \frac{1}{2}\epsilon + \frac{1}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore for  $m = 1, \dots, k$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} &|(t + \nu)\theta'_m - \operatorname{sgn} \theta'_m \cdot (p_m + q_m) - \alpha_m| \\ &= |\operatorname{sgn} \theta'_m \cdot (t + \nu)\theta_m - \operatorname{sgn} \theta'_m \cdot (p_m + q_m) - \alpha_m| \\ &= |(t + \nu)\theta_m - (p_m + q_m) - \operatorname{sgn} \theta'_m \cdot \alpha_m| \\ &< \epsilon, \end{aligned}$$

which proves Theorem 2. □

## 2 Proof of Kronecker's theorem

We now prove Theorem 2.<sup>2</sup>

*Proof of Theorem 2.* Let  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k$  be real numbers that are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , let  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$  be real numbers, and let  $T$  and  $\epsilon$  be positive real numbers.

For real  $c$  and  $\tau > 0$ ,

$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\tau} \int_0^\tau e^{ict} dt = \begin{cases} 0 & c \neq 0 \\ 1 & c = 0. \end{cases}$$

For  $c_1, \dots, c_r \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $c_m \neq c_n$  for  $m \neq n$ , and for  $b_\nu \in \mathbb{C}$ , let

$$\chi(t) = \sum_{\nu=1}^r b_\nu e^{ic_\nu t}.$$

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<sup>2</sup>K. Chandrasekharan, *Introduction to Analytic Number Theory*, pp. 93–96, Chapter VIII, §5.

Then for  $1 \leq \mu \leq r$ ,

$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\tau} \int_0^\tau \chi(t) e^{-ic_\mu t} dt = \sum_{\nu=1}^r b_\nu \lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\tau} \int_0^\tau e^{i(c_\nu - c_\mu)t} dt = b_\mu.$$

Let

$$F(t) = 1 + \sum_{m=1}^k e^{2\pi i(t\theta_m - \alpha_m)} = 1 + \sum_{m=1}^k e^{-2\pi i\alpha_m} e^{2\pi i t\theta_m}$$

and let

$$\phi(t) = |F(t)|,$$

which satisfies  $0 \leq \phi(t) \leq k + 1$ .

Define  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by

$$\psi(x_1, \dots, x_k) = 1 + x_1 + \dots + x_k$$

and let  $p$  be a positive integer. By the multinomial theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} \psi^p &= (1 + x_1 + \dots + x_k)^p \\ &= \sum_{\nu_0 + \nu_1 + \dots + \nu_k = p} \binom{p}{\nu_0, \nu_1, \dots, \nu_k} x_1^{\nu_1} \dots x_k^{\nu_k} \\ &= \sum_{\nu} a_{\nu_1, \dots, \nu_k} x_1^{\nu_1} \dots x_k^{\nu_k}, \end{aligned}$$

for which

$$\sum_{\nu} a_{\nu_1, \dots, \nu_k} = (k + 1)^p$$

and the number of terms in the above sum is  $\binom{p+k}{k}$ . We can write  $F(t)$  as

$$F(t) = \psi(e^{2\pi i(t\theta_1 - \alpha_1)}, \dots, e^{2\pi i(t\theta_k - \alpha_k)}).$$

Then

$$F(t)^p = \sum_{\nu_1, \dots, \nu_k} a_{\nu_1, \dots, \nu_k} \exp\left(\sum_{m=1}^k \nu_m \cdot 2\pi i(t\theta_m - \alpha_m)\right).$$

Because  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , for  $\nu \neq \mu$  it is the case that  $2\pi \sum_{m=1}^k \nu_m \theta_m \neq 2\pi \sum_{m=1}^k \mu_m \theta_m$ . Write  $c_\nu = 2\pi \nu \cdot \theta$  and

$$b_\nu = a_{\nu_1, \dots, \nu_k} \exp\left(-2\pi i \sum_{m=1}^k \nu_m \alpha_m\right),$$

with which

$$F(t)^p = \sum b_\nu e^{ic_\nu t}.$$

Then for each multi-index  $\mu$ ,

$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\tau} \int_0^\tau F(t)^p e^{-ic_\mu t} dt = b_\mu. \quad (1)$$

Suppose by contradiction that

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \phi(t) < k + 1.$$

Then there is some  $\lambda < k + 1$  and some  $t_0$  such that when  $t \geq t_0$ ,

$$|F(t)| = \phi(t) \leq \lambda.$$

Thus for  $p$  a positive integer,

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\tau} \int_0^\tau |F(t)|^p dt &\leq \limsup_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\tau} \int_0^{t_0} |F(t)|^p dt + \limsup_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{t_0}^\tau |F(t)|^p dt \\ &= \limsup_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{t_0}^\tau |F(t)|^p dt \\ &\leq \limsup_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\tau} \lambda^p (\tau - t_0) \\ &= \lambda^p. \end{aligned}$$

But then by (1),

$$|b_\mu| \leq \limsup_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\tau} \int_0^\tau |F(t)|^p dt \leq \lambda^p,$$

and then

$$\begin{aligned} (k + 1)^p &= \sum_{\nu} a_{\nu_1, \dots, \nu_k} \\ &= \sum_{\nu} |b_\nu| \\ &\leq \sum_{\nu} \lambda^p \\ &\leq \lambda^p \cdot \binom{p + k}{k}. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $r = \frac{\lambda}{k+1}$ , for which  $0 < r < 1$ , and so for each positive integer  $p$  it holds that

$$1 \leq r^p \cdot \binom{p + k}{k}. \quad (2)$$

Now,

$$\binom{p + k}{k} = \binom{p + k}{p} = \frac{p^k}{\Gamma(k + 1)} \left( 1 + \frac{k(k + 1)}{2p} + O(p^{-2}) \right), \quad p \rightarrow \infty.$$

In particular,

$$r^p \cdot \binom{p + k}{k} = O(r^p \cdot p^k), \quad p \rightarrow \infty,$$

and because  $0 < r < 1$ ,  $r^p \cdot p^k \rightarrow 0$  as  $p \rightarrow \infty$ , contradicting (2) being true for all positive integers  $p$ . This contradiction shows that in fact

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \phi(t) \geq k + 1,$$

and because  $\phi(t) \leq k + 1$ ,

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \phi(t) = k + 1. \quad (3)$$

Now let  $0 < \eta < 1$ . By (3) there is some  $t \geq T$  for which  $\phi(t) \geq k + 1 - \eta$ . For  $1 \leq m \leq k$ , write

$$z_m = e^{2\pi i(t\theta_m - \alpha_m)} = x_m + iy_m.$$

It is straightforward from the definition of  $\phi(t)$  that

$$k + 1 - \eta \leq \phi(t) \leq (k - 1) + |1 + e^{2\pi i(t\theta_m - \alpha_m)}|,$$

which yields

$$2 \geq |1 + e^{2\pi i(t\theta_m - \alpha_m)}| \geq 2 - \eta.$$

Because  $|z_m| = 1$ ,

$$|1 + z_m|^2 = (1 + x_m)^2 + y_m^2 = (1 + x_m)^2 + (1 - x_m^2) = 2 + 2x_m,$$

hence

$$2 + 2x_m \geq (2 - \eta)^2 = 4 - 4\eta + \eta^2 > 4 - 4\eta,$$

so

$$1 - 2\eta < x_m \leq 2.$$

Furthermore,

$$y_m^2 = 1 - x_m^2 = (1 - x_m)(1 + x_m) \leq 2(1 - x_m) < 2 \cdot 2\eta = 4\eta.$$

Therefore

$$|z_m - 1|^2 = (x_m - 1)^2 + y_m^2 < 4\eta^2 + 4\eta < 8\eta,$$

hence

$$2|\sin \pi(t\theta_m - \alpha_m)| = |e^{2\pi i(t\theta_m - \alpha_m)} - 1| < 8^{1/2}\eta^{1/2} < 4\eta^{1/2}.$$

For  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , denote by  $\|x\|$  the distance from  $x$  to the nearest integer. We check that

$$|\sin(\pi x)| = \sin(\pi \|x\|) \geq \frac{2}{\pi} \cdot \pi \|x\| = 2 \|x\|.$$

Thus, for each  $m = 1, \dots, k$ ,

$$\|t\theta_m - \alpha_m\| < \eta^{1/2}.$$

We have taken  $t \geq T$ . Take  $\eta^{1/2} = \epsilon$ , i.e.  $\eta = \epsilon^2$ , and take  $p_m$  to be the nearest integer to  $t\theta_m - \alpha_m$ , for which  $|t\theta_m - p_m - \alpha_m| < \epsilon$ , proving the claim.  $\square$

### 3 Uniform distribution modulo 1

For  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  let  $[x]$  be the greatest integer  $\leq x$ , and let  $\{x\} = x - [x]$ , called the fractional part of  $x$ . For  $P = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in \mathbb{R}^d$  let  $\{P\} = (\{x_1\}, \dots, \{x_d\})$ , which belongs to the set  $Q = [0, 1]^d$ . Let  $P_j = (x_{j,1}, \dots, x_{j,d})$ ,  $j \geq 1$ , be a sequence in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , and for  $A \subset Q$  let

$$\phi_n(A) = \{k : 1 \leq k \leq n, \{P_j\} \in A\}.$$

We say that  $(P_j)$  is **uniformly distributed modulo 1** if for each closed rectangle  $V$  contained in  $Q$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\phi_n(V)}{n} = \lambda(V),$$

where  $\lambda$  is Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ : for  $V = [a_1, b_1] \times \dots \times [a_d, b_d]$ ,  $\lambda(V) = \prod_{j=1}^d (b_j - a_j)$ .

We have proved that if  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k, 1$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , then the sequence  $\{n\theta\} = (\{n\theta_1\}, \dots, \{n\theta_k\})$  is dense in  $Q$ . It can in fact be proved that  $(n\theta)$  is uniformly distributed modulo 1.<sup>3</sup>

### 4 Unique ergodicity

Let  $X$  be a compact metric space, let  $C(X)$  be the Banach space of continuous functions  $X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , and let  $\mathcal{M}(X)$  be the space of Borel probability measures on  $X$ , with the subspace topology inherited from  $C(X)^*$  with the weak-\* topology.<sup>4</sup> One proves that  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  in  $\mathcal{M}(X)$  are equal if and only if  $\int_X f d\mu = \int_X f d\nu$  for all  $f \in C(X)$ .  $\mathcal{M}(X)$  is a closed set in  $C(X)^*$  that is contained in the closed unit ball, and by the Banach-Alaoglu theorem that closed unit ball is compact, so  $\mathcal{M}(X)$  is itself compact.  $C(X)^*$ , with the weak-\* topology, is not metrizable, but it is the case that  $\mathcal{M}(X)$  with the subspace topology inherited from  $C(X)^*$  is metrizable.<sup>5</sup>

For a continuous map  $T : X \rightarrow X$ , define  $T_* : \mathcal{M}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(X)$  by

$$(T_*\mu)(A) = \mu(T^{-1}A)$$

for Borel sets  $A$  in  $X$ . For  $\mu_n \rightarrow \mu$  in  $\mathcal{M}(X)$  and  $f \in C(X)$ , by the change of variables theorem we have

$$\int_X f d(T_*\mu_n) = \int_X f \circ T d\mu_n \rightarrow \int_X f \circ T d\mu = \int_X f d(T_*\mu),$$

which means that  $T_*\mu_n \rightarrow T_*\mu$ , and therefore the map  $T_*$  is continuous. We say that  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}(X)$  is  **$T$ -invariant** if  $T_*\mu = \mu$ . Equivalently,  $T : (X, \mathcal{B}_X, \mu) \rightarrow$

<sup>3</sup>Giancarlo Travaglini, *Number Theory, Fourier Analysis and Geometric Discrepancy*, p. 108, Theorem 6.3.

<sup>4</sup>This is the same as the narrow topology on  $\mathcal{M}(X)$ : <http://individual.utoronto.ca/jordanbell/notes/narrow.pdf>

<sup>5</sup><http://individual.utoronto.ca/jordanbell/notes/weak.pdf>, p. 5, Theorem 6.

$(X, \mathcal{B}_X, \mu)$  is **measure-preserving**. We denote by  $\mathcal{M}^T(X)$  the set of  $T$ -invariant  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}(X)$ . The **Kryloff-Bogoliouboff theorem** states that  $\mathcal{M}^T(X)$  is nonempty. It is immediate that  $\mathcal{M}^T(X)$  is a convex subset of  $C(X)^*$ . Let  $\mu_n \in \mathcal{M}^T(X)$  converge to some  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}(X)$ . For  $f \in C(X)$  we have, because  $T_*$  is continuous,

$$\int_X f d(T_*\mu) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_X f d(T_*\mu_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_X f d\mu_n = \int_X f d\mu,$$

which shows that  $\mu$  is  $T$ -invariant. Therefore  $\mathcal{M}^T(X)$  is a closed set in  $\mathcal{M}(X)$ , and we have thus established that  $\mathcal{M}^T(X)$  is a nonempty compact convex set.

A measure  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}^T(X)$  is called **ergodic** if for any  $A \in \mathcal{B}_X$  with  $T^{-1}A = A$  it holds that  $\mu(A) = 0$  or  $\mu(A) = 1$ . It is proved that  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}^T(X)$  is ergodic if and only if  $\mu$  is an extreme point of  $\mathcal{M}^T(X)$ .<sup>6</sup> The **Krein-Milman theorem** states that if  $S$  is a nonempty compact convex set in a locally convex space, then  $S$  is equal to the closed convex hull<sup>7</sup> of the set of extreme points of  $S$ .<sup>8</sup> In particular this shows us that there exist extreme points of  $S$ . Let  $\mathcal{E}^T(X)$  be the set of extreme points of  $\mathcal{M}^T(X)$ , and applying the Krein-Milman theorem with  $\mathcal{M}^T(X)$ , which is a nonempty compact convex set in the locally convex space  $C(X)^*$ , we have that  $\mathcal{M}^T(X)$  is equal to the closed convex hull  $\mathcal{E}^T$ . That is,  $\mathcal{M}^T(X)$  is equal to the closed convex hull of the set of ergodic  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}^T(X)$ .

**Choquet's theorem**<sup>9</sup> tells us that for each  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}^T(X)$  there is a unique Borel probability measure  $\lambda$  on the compact metrizable space  $\mathcal{M}^T(X)$  such that

$$\lambda(\mathcal{E}^T(X)) = 1$$

and for all  $f \in C(X)$ ,

$$\int_X f d\mu = \int_{\mathcal{E}^T(X)} \left( \int_X f d\nu \right) d\lambda(\nu).$$

We have established that  $\mathcal{M}^T(X)$  contains at least one element.  $T$  is called **uniquely ergodic** if  $\mathcal{M}^T(X)$  is a singleton. If  $\mathcal{M}^T(X) = \{\mu_0\}$  then  $\mu_0$  is an extreme point of  $\mathcal{M}^T(X)$ , hence is ergodic. If  $\mathcal{E}^T(X) = \{\mu_0\}$ , then for  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}^T(X)$ , by Choquet's theorem there is a unique Borel probability measure  $\lambda$  on  $\mathcal{M}^T(X)$  satisfying  $\lambda = \delta_{\mu_0}$  and

$$\int_X f d\mu = \int_{\{\mu_0\}} \left( \int_X f d\nu \right) d\lambda(\nu),$$

i.e.

$$\int_X f d\mu = \int_X f d\mu_0,$$

<sup>6</sup>Manfred Einsiedler and Thomas Ward, *Ergodic Theory with a view towards Number Theory*, p. 99, Theorem 4.4.

<sup>7</sup>cf. <http://individual.utoronto.ca/jordanbell/notes/semicontinuous.pdf>, p. 12, Lemma 13.

<sup>8</sup>Walter Rudin, *Functional Analysis*, second ed., p. 75, Theorem 3.23.

<sup>9</sup>Manfred Einsiedler and Thomas Ward, *Ergodic Theory with a view towards Number Theory*, p. 103, Theorem 4.8.

which means that  $\mu = \mu_0$ . Therefore,  $T$  is uniquely ergodic if and only if  $\mathcal{E}^T(X)$  is a singleton. It can be proved that  $T$  is uniquely ergodic if and only if for each  $f \in C(X)$  there is some  $C_f$  such that

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} f(T^n x) \rightarrow C_f$$

uniformly on  $X$ .<sup>10</sup> This constant  $C_f$  is equal to  $\int_X f d\mu$ , where  $\mathcal{M}^T(X) = \{\mu\}$ .

For a topological group  $X$  and for  $g \in X$ , define  $R_g(x) = gx$ , which is continuous  $X \rightarrow X$ . For a compact metrizable group, there is a unique Borel probability measure  $m_X$  on  $X$  that is  $R_g$ -invariant for every  $g \in X$ , called the **Haar measure on  $X$** . Thus for each  $g \in X$ , the Haar measure  $m_X$  belongs to  $\mathcal{M}^{R_g}(X)$ , and for  $R_g$  to be uniquely ergodic means that  $m_X$  is the only element of  $\mathcal{M}^{R_g}(X)$ . For a locally compact abelian group  $X$ , let  $\hat{X}$  be its Pontryagin dual.<sup>11</sup> The following theorem gives a condition that is equivalent to a translation being uniquely ergodic.<sup>12</sup>

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $X$  be a compact metrizable group and let  $g \in X$ .  $R_g$  is uniquely ergodic if and only if  $X$  is abelian and  $\chi(g) \neq 1$  for all nontrivial  $\chi \in \hat{X}$ .*

Let  $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$ , let  $X = \mathbb{T}^d = \mathbb{R}^d/\mathbb{Z}^d$ , which is a compact abelian group, and let  $g = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d) \in \mathbb{R}^d$ . For  $\chi \in \hat{X} = \mathbb{Z}^d$ ,  $\chi = (k_1, \dots, k_d)$ ,

$$\chi(g) = \exp \left( 2\pi i \sum_{j=1}^d k_j \alpha_j \right).$$

$\chi(g) = 1$  if and only if  $\sum_{j=1}^d k_j \alpha_j \in \mathbb{Z}$  if and only if there is some  $k_{d+1} \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $k_1 \alpha_1 + \dots + k_d \alpha_d + k_{d+1} = 0$ . Therefore for  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d \in \mathbb{R}$ , the set  $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d, 1\}$  is linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Z}$  if and only if for  $g = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d)$ , the map  $R_g(x) = x + g$ ,  $\mathbb{T}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^d$ , is uniquely ergodic.

<sup>10</sup>Manfred Einsiedler and Thomas Ward, *Ergodic Theory with a view towards Number Theory*, p. 105, Theorem 4.10.

<sup>11</sup>cf. <http://individual.utoronto.ca/jordanbell/notes/QPontryaginDual.pdf>

<sup>12</sup>Manfred Einsiedler and Thomas Ward, *Ergodic Theory with a view towards Number Theory*, p. 108, Theorem 4.14.