

Recurrence without uniform recurrence

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Abstract We construct a minimal homeomorphism of a compact space such that a sequence of its iterates converges pointwise to the identity but no sequence of its iterates converges uniformly

1 Introduction

The object of this paper is to construct the system described below

THEOREM 1.1 *There exists a compact, complete, metric space (X, d) and a homeomorphism $T: X \rightarrow X$ such that*

- (i) *the set $\{T^n x \mid n \geq 0\}$ is dense in X for each $x \in X$,*
- (ii) *$\sup_{x \in X} d(T^m x, x) \geq 1$ for each $m \geq 1$, yet*
- (iii) *there exists a sequence $n(1) < n(2) < \dots$ such that $d(T^{n(j)} x, x) \rightarrow 0$ as $j \rightarrow \infty$ for each $x \in X$*

I should like to thank B. Weiss for suggesting this problem and for pointing out a flaw in my original attack. Since, in my opinion, the interest of this paper lies more in the method of construction than in the result itself I shall begin by indicating why we might expect such a construction to be fairly complicated. The following result was pointed out to me, again by B. Weiss.

LEMMA 1.2 *Suppose that (X, d) is a compact metric space and $T: X \rightarrow X$ is a homeomorphism such that $\{T^n x \mid n \geq 0\}$ is dense in X for each $x \in X$. Suppose further that we can find a sequence $n(1) < n(2) < \dots$ of integers and a sequence $\varepsilon(1) > \varepsilon(2) > \dots$ of positive real numbers such that $\varepsilon(j) \rightarrow 0$ as $j \rightarrow \infty$ and such that for each $x \in X$ there exists an integer $J_0(x)$ with*

$$d(T^{n(j)} x, x) \leq \varepsilon(j) \quad \text{for all } j \geq J_0(x)$$

Then $\sup_{x \in X} d(T^{n(j)} x, x) \rightarrow 0$ as $j \rightarrow \infty$

Proof. Let

$$E(k) = \{x \in X \mid d(T^{n(j)} x, x) \leq \varepsilon(j) \text{ for all } j \geq k\}$$

Then each $E(k)$ is closed and, by hypothesis, $\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} E(k) = X$. By the Baire category theorem we can find a k_0 and a non-empty open set U such that $U \subseteq E(k_0)$. Since $\{T^n x \mid n \geq 0\}$ is dense in X , the sets $T^{-n}U$ [$n \geq 0$] form an open cover of X and so, by compactness, we can find an M such that $\bigcup_{m=0}^M T^{-m}U = X$, i.e. such that for each $x \in X$ there exists an $0 \leq m \leq M$ with $T^m x \in U$.

Now let $\omega(\varepsilon)$ be the common modulus of continuity of $I, T^{-1}, T^{-2}, \dots, T^{-M}, I \in$ let

$$\omega(\varepsilon) = \sup_{0 \leq m \leq N} \sup \{d(T^{-m}u, T^{-m}v) \mid d(u, v) \leq \varepsilon\}$$

We observe that $\omega(\varepsilon) \rightarrow 0$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ and that we can now conclude the proof For if $x \in X$ then $T^m x \in U$ for some $0 \leq m \leq M$ and so, if $k \geq k_0$

$$d(T^{n(k)} T^m x, T^m x) \leq \varepsilon(k),$$

whence

$$d(T^{n(k)} x, x) = d(T^{-m}(T^{n(k)} T^m x), T^{-m}(T^m x)) \leq \varepsilon(k)$$

Thus $\sup_{x \in X} d(T^{n(k)} x, x) \leq \omega(\varepsilon(k))$ for all $k \geq k_0$ and the lemma follows □

2 *Reduction to a semi-combinatorial problem*

Let Λ be a compact subset of \mathbb{R} and let $\Lambda^{\mathbb{Z}}$ be the space of two-sided sequences $x: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \Lambda$ Let d be the distance defined on $\Lambda^{\mathbb{Z}}$ by

$$d(x, y) = \sup_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} 2^{-|k|} |x_k - y_k|$$

and let T be the shift map $T: \Lambda^{\mathbb{Z}} \rightarrow \Lambda^{\mathbb{Z}}$ given by

$$(Tx)_k = x_{k+1} \quad (k \in \mathbb{Z})$$

Then $(\Lambda^{\mathbb{Z}}, d)$ is a complete, compact, metric space and T a homeomorphism Furstenberg and his collaborators Katznelson and Weiss have brilliantly exploited the analytic structure of $(\Lambda^{\mathbb{Z}}, d, T)$ to obtain results on the combinatorial structure of $\Lambda^{\mathbb{Z}}$ (see [1]) We shall reverse the process by using a combinatorial construction in $\Lambda^{\mathbb{Z}}$ to obtain the analytic Theorem 1.1 Examples of such constructions are discussed in [1, Chapter 1, §§ 3, 5] The examples given there take Λ to be a finite set but we shall use $\Lambda = [-1, 1]$ The fact that Λ is then connected is essential for our construction

From now on T and d will have the meanings assigned to them in the previous paragraph We intend to deduce Theorem 1.1 from the following lemma which is not yet completely combinatorial since it mentions metric closure

LEMMA 2.1 *There exists a subset X of $[-1, 1]^{\mathbb{Z}}$ and a sequence $n(1) < n(2) < \dots$ with the following properties*

(i) *If $x, y \in X$ then given $k \geq 1$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ we can find an $m \geq 1$ such that $|y_{m+r} - x_r| \leq \varepsilon$ for all $|r| \leq k$*

(ii) *For each $m \neq 0$ there exists an $x \in X$ such that $|x_m - x_0| \geq 1$*

(iii) *If $x \in X$ and $p \geq k + 1$ then, for each $l \in \mathbb{Z}$,*

$$|x_l - x_{l+n(p)}| > 2^{2-k} \Rightarrow |x_l - x_{l+n(l)}| \leq 2^{2-l}$$

for all $p - 1 \geq l \geq k$

(iv) *If $x \in X$ then $Tx, T^{-1}x \in X$*

(v) *X is closed in $([-1, 1]^{\mathbb{Z}}, d)$*

Proof of Theorem 1.1 from Lemma 2.1 Condition (v) tells us that (X, d) is complete and compact and condition (iv) shows us that T (restricted to X) is a homeomorphism Conditions (i), (ii) and (iii) yield the corresponding conditions of the theorem Thus if $x, y \in X$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ then, choosing $k \geq 1$ with $2^k > \varepsilon^{-1}$, condition (i) tells us

that we can find an $m \geq 1$ such that $|y_{m+r} - x_r| \leq \varepsilon$ for all $|r| \leq k$ and so

$$d(T^m y, x) = \sup_{r \in \mathbb{Z}} 2^{-|r|} |y_{m+r} - x_r| \leq \varepsilon$$

Thus the orbit of each point y is dense and (i) holds. Similarly condition (ii) tells us that for each m there exists an $x \in X$ with $|x_m - x_0| \geq 1$ and so $d(T^m x, x) \geq 1$. Finally we observe that if $x \in X$ condition (iii) implies that $|x_i - x_{i+n(p)}| \geq 2^{2-r}$ for at most one value of $p \geq r+1$ and so $x_i - x_{i+n(p)} \rightarrow 0$ as $p \rightarrow \infty$ for each $i \in \mathbb{Z}$. Thus $d(T^{n(p)} x, x) \rightarrow 0$ as $p \rightarrow \infty$ for each $x \in X$ as required. \square

The reader should observe that, although condition (iii) of the lemma forces $d(T^{n(p)} x, x) \rightarrow 0$, the convergence can have hiccups. These hiccups enable us to evade the conclusion of Lemma 1.2. From a more combinatorial point of view our problem has been to find a condition which is weak enough to be compatible with condition (i) and (ii) and yet strong enough to force pointwise convergence.

3 Reduction to a purely combinatorial problem

The next step is in an obvious direction. We show how Lemma 2.1 can be deduced from a purely combinatorial lemma.

LEMMA 3.1 *There exists a sequence of integers $m(j) \geq 5$ and a collection of subsets $U(j) \subseteq [-1, 1]^{n(j)}$, where $n(j) = m(1)m(2) \dots m(j)$, with the following properties (we adopt the convention that if $u \in U(j)$ then $u_{ln(j)+r} = u_r$ for all $l \in \mathbb{Z}$, $1 \leq r \leq n(j)$)*

(i) _{$j+1$} *If $u \in U(j)$ and $v \in U(j+1)$ then we can find an l , $1 \leq l \leq m(j+1)$, such that*

$$|u_r - v_{ln(j)+r}| \leq 2^{-j-1} \text{ for all } 1 \leq r \leq n(j)$$

(ii) _{j} *If $1 \leq |m| \leq n(j) - 1$ we can find a $u \in U(j)$ and $1 \leq r, s \leq 2n(j)$ such that $s - r = m$ and $|u_r - u_s| \geq 1$*

(iii) _{j} *If $u \in U(j)$ then, for each $j-1 \geq p \geq k+1$ and each $i \in \mathbb{Z}$*

$$|u_i - u_{i+n(p)}| > 2^{2-k} \Rightarrow |u_i - u_{i+n(l)}| \leq 2^{2-l},$$

for all $p-1 \geq l \geq k$

(iv) _{$j+1$} *If $v \in U(j+1)$ and $1 \leq l \leq m(j)$ then writing $u_r = v_{ln(j)+r}$ ($1 \leq r \leq n(j)$) we have $u \in U(j)$*

(v) _{$j+1$} *There exists an $e(j) \in U(j)$ such that, if $v \in U(j+1)$ then $v_r = v_{n(j+1)-n(j)+r} = e(j)_r$ for all $1 \leq r \leq n(j)$*

Thus the ‘sentences’ of $U(j+2)$ are composed of ‘words’ from $U(j+1)$ and these words in turn are composed of ‘letters’ from $U(j)$. Notice that each ‘sentence’ in $U(j+2)$ begins and ends with the same ‘buffer word’ $e(j+1)$. Thus if we study a short sequence of ‘letters’ in some ‘paragraph’ or ‘chapter’ we know that the sequence either lies well within a single sentence or falls within two successive copies of the same ‘buffer word’.

Using Lemma 3.1 it is very easy to prove a lemma from which Lemma 2.1 follows almost immediately.

LEMMA 3.2 *There exists a sequence $n(1) < n(2) < \dots$ and a collection of subsets $X(j)$ of $[-1, 1]^{\mathbb{Z}}$ with the following properties*

(i) *If $x \in X(j+1)$ and $y \in X(j+2)$ then given $1 \leq k \leq j$ we can find an $m \geq 1$ such that $|x_r - y_{r+m}| \leq 2^{-j-2}$ for all $|r| \leq j$*

- (ii) If $1 \leq |m| \leq n(j) - 1$ we can find an $x \in X(j)$ such that $|x_m - x_0| \geq 1$
- (iii) If $x \in X(j)$ then, for each $j - 1 \geq p \geq k + 1$ and each $i \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$|x_i - x_{i+n(p)}| > 2^{2-k} \Rightarrow |x_i - x_{i+n(l)}| \leq 2^{2-l}$$

for all $p - 1 \geq l \geq k$.

- (iv) If $x \in X(j)$, then $Tx, T^{-1}x \in X(j)$
- (v) $X(j)$ is closed in $([-1, 1]^{\mathbb{Z}}, d)$
- (vi) $X(j) \supseteq X(j + 1)$

Proof of Lemma 3 2 from Lemma 3 1 If we replace the $U(j)$ of Lemma 3 1 by their closures (with respect to the usual topology on $[-1, 1]^{n(j)}$) the conditions of that lemma still apply We may therefore take the $U(j)$ to be closed We then define $X(j)$ to be the collection of all infinite strings of words from $U(j)$ More precisely, let us say that $x \in X(q, j)$ if and only if whenever $l \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $u_r = x_{ln(j)+q+r}$ ($1 \leq r \leq n(j)$) it follows that $u \in U(j)$ We set $X(j) = \bigcup_{q=0}^{n(j)-1} X(q, j)$ We note that

- (iv)' $X(q, j) = X(q + n(j), j)$ for all $q \in \mathbb{Z}$, and
- (vi)' $X(q, j) \subseteq X(q, j + 1)$ for all $q \in \mathbb{Z}$

Conditions (iv) and (vi) follow at once Since we have taken $U(j)$ closed in $[-1, 1]^{n(j)}$ it follows easily that $X(q, j)$ is closed in $([-1, 1]^{\mathbb{Z}}, d)$ and condition (v) follows

To prove (i) we observe that $x \in X(q, j + 1)$ and $y \in X(p, j + 2)$ where (using (iv)') we may suppose $|q| \leq n(j + 1)/2 + 1$ and $p \geq n(j + 2) + 1$ Two cases arise according as $|q| > j$ or $|q| \leq j$ If $|q| > j$ then, writing $Q = q$ if $q < 0$ and $Q = q - n(j + 1)$ if $q \geq 0$, we know that if $u_s = x_{Q+s}$ [$1 \leq s \leq n(j + 1)$] and $v_t = y_{p+t}$ [$1 \leq t \leq n(j + 2)$] then $u \in U(j + 1)$ and $v \in V(j + 2)$ By condition (i) of Lemma 3 1 we can find an $1 \leq l \leq m(j + 2)$ such that $|u_s - v_{ln(j+1)+s}| \leq 2^{-j-2}$ for $1 \leq s \leq n(j + 1)$ Thus taking $m = p + ln(j + 1) - Q$ we have $m \geq 1$ and

$$|y_{m+r} - x_r| = |v_{m+p+r} - u_{r-Q}| = |v_{ln(j+1)+r-Q} - u_{r-Q}| \leq 2^{-j-2}$$

for $|r| \leq j$

If $|q| \leq j$ then, observing that $y \in X(j + 2, p) \subseteq X(j + 1, p)$, and using condition (v) of Lemma 3 2, we know that, writing $u_s = x_{q+s}$, $v_s = y_{p+s}$ [$|s| \leq 2j$] we have $u_s = e(j)_s = v_s$ for $1 \leq s \leq 2j$ and $u_s = e(j)_{n(j)+s} = v_s$ for $-2j \leq s \leq 0$ Thus $x_r = u_{r-q} = v_{r-q} = y_{p-q-r}$ for $|r| \leq j$ and, setting $m = p - q$ we have $m \geq 1$ and $|y_{m-r-x_r}| = 0 \leq 2^{-j-2}$ for $|r| \leq j$ Thus (i) holds

The proof of (iii) involves a similar splitting into cases Using (iv)', we know that $x \in X(q, j)$ with $q + 1 \leq i \leq q + n(j)$ If $i + n(p) \leq q + n(j)$ we set $u_r = x_{q+r}$ ($1 \leq r \leq n(j)$) so that $u \in U(j)$ Then $|x_i - x_{i+n(p)}| > 2^{2-k}$ implies $|u_{i-q} - u_{i+n(p)-q}| > 2^{2-k}$ which by Lemma 3 1(iii) implies $|u_{i-q} - u_{i+n(l)-q}| \leq 2^{2-l}$ and so $|x_i - x_{i+n(l)}| \leq 2^{2-l}$ for all $p - 1 \leq l \leq k$ If, on the other hand, $i + n(p) > q + n(j)$ we know from Lemma 3 1(v) that

$$x_{q+n(j)-n(j-1)+r} = e(j-1)_r \quad \text{for } 1 \leq r \leq 2n(j-1)$$

(where, by convention $e(j-1)_{n(j-1)+s} = e(j-1)_s$ ($1 \leq s \leq n(j-1)$)) It follows that

$$x_i = e(j-1)_{i-q-n(j)+n(j-1)} = e(j-1)_{i-q-n(j)+2n(j-1)} = x_{i+n(j-1)}$$

Thus if $|x_i - x_{i+n(p)}| > 2^{2-k}$ we have $j - 2 \geq p$ and

$$|e(j-1)_{i-q-n(j)+n(j-1)} - e(j-1)_{i-q-n(j)+n(j-1)+n(p)}| > 2^{2-k},$$

whence, by Lemma 3 1(iii),

$$|e(J-1)_{i-q-n(J)+n(J-1)} - e(J-1)_{i-q-n(J)+n(J-1)+n(l)}| \leq 2^{2^{-l}},$$

and so $|x_i - x_{i+n(l)}| \leq 2^{2^{-l}}$ for all $p-1 \geq l \geq k$. Thus (iii) holds

Finally, to prove (ii) observe that by condition (ii) of Lemma 3 1 we can find $u \in U(J)$ and $1 \leq r, s \leq 2n(J)$ such that $s-r = m$ and $|u_r - u_s| \geq 1$. Setting $x_{ln(J)+t-r} = u_r$, ($1 \leq t \leq n(J), l \in \mathbb{Z}$) we have $x \in X(J)$ and $|x_0 - x_m| \geq 1$ \square

Proof of Lemma 2 1 from Lemma 3 2 Set $X = \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} X(j)$. Then conditions (i), (iii), (iv) and (v) of Lemma 2 1 follow at once from conditions (i), (iii), (iv) and (v) of Lemma 3 2. To prove Lemma 2 1(ii) we observe that by Lemma 3 2(ii) we can find, for each $j \geq 1$, an $x(j) \in X(j)$ such that $|x(j)_m - x(j)_0| \geq 1$. Since $([-1, 1]^{\mathbb{Z}}, d)$ is compact the sequence of $x(j)$ must have a limit point x , say. By Lemma 3 2(vi) $x(j) \in X(k)$ for all $j \geq k$ and so, since $X(k)$ is closed, $x \in X(k)$ for all $k \geq 1$. Thus $x \in X$ and, since $d(x(j), x) \rightarrow 0$, $|x_m - x_0| \geq 1$ \square

Remark. In fact, our construction will be sufficiently explicit to allow us to write down a specific x without appealing to general results

4 The induction

Although Lemma 3 1 has an inductive form it does not, as it stands, lend itself to an inductive proof. The key step in the paper consists in replacing it with a narrower, more specific, result which can be obtained by induction

LEMMA 4 1 *There exists a sequence of integers $m(j) \geq 5$ and three sequences of functions*

$$\begin{aligned} a(j, \cdot) & [0, 1] \rightarrow [-1, 1]^{n(j)} \\ b(j, \cdot) & [0, 1] \rightarrow [-1, 1]^{n(j)} \\ c(j, \cdot) & [0, 1] \rightarrow [-1, 1]^{n(j)} \end{aligned}$$

where $n(j) = m(1)m(2)\dots m(j)$ with the following properties (we write $U(j) = \{a(j, t) \mid t \in [0, 1]\} \cup \{b(j, t) \mid t \in [0, 1]\} \cup \{c(j, t) \mid t \in [0, 1]\}$ and adopt the convention that if $u \in U(j)$ then $u_{ln(j)+r} = u_r$ for all $l \in \mathbb{Z}, 1 \leq r \leq n(j)$)

(i)_{j+1} If $u \in U(j)$ and $v \in U(j+1)$ then we can find an $l, 1 \leq l \leq m(j+1)$, such that

$$|u_r - v_{ln(j)+r}| \leq 2^{-j-1} \quad \text{for all } 1 \leq r \leq n(j)$$

(ii)_j If $1 \leq m \leq n(j)-1$ we can find $u \in \{a(j, 1), b(j, 1), c(j, 1)\}, 1 \leq r, s \leq 2n(j)$ such that $s-r = m$ and $|u_r - u_s| \geq 1$

(iii)_j If $u \in U(j)$ then for each $j-1 \geq p \geq k+1$ and each $t \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$|u_t - u_{t+n(p)}| > 2^{2^{-k}} \Rightarrow |u_t - u_{t+n(l)}| \leq 2^{2^{-l}}$$

for all $p-1 \geq l \geq k$

(iv)_{j+1} If $v \in U(j+1)$ and $1 \leq l \leq m(j)$ then writing $u_r = v_{ln(j)+r}$ ($1 \leq r \leq n(j)$) we have $u \in U(j)$

(v)_{j+1} If $v \in U(j+1)$ then $v_r = v_{n(j+1)-n(j)+r} = c(j, 0)_r$ for all $1 \leq r \leq n(j)$

(vi)_j $a(j, 0) = b(j, 0) = c(j, 0)$

(vii)_j There exists an $N(j), 1 \leq N(j) \leq n(j)$, such that $a(j, t)_{N(j)} = t$ and $b(j, t)_{N(j)} = -t$

(viii)_j If $1 \leq k \leq j - 1, 1 \leq i \leq n(j)$ and $t \in [0, 1]$ then

$$|a(j, t), -b(j, t), i| > 2^{2-k} \Rightarrow |a(j, t)_{i+n(i)} - a(j, t), i| \leq 2^{2-i}$$

for all $j - 1 \geq l \geq k$

Thus conditions (i)_{j+1}, (iii)_j and (iv)_j come over from Lemma 3.1 unchanged, conditions (ii)_j and (v)_{j+1} are strengthened whilst conditions (iv)_j, (vii)_j and (viii)_j are new. A proof of Lemma 4.1 will thus give a proof of Lemma 3.1. The first step in the inductive proof of Lemma 4.1 is simple.

LEMMA 4.2 Let $n(1) = m(1) = 5, N(1) = 3$ and

$$\begin{aligned} a(1, t) &= (0, 0, t, 0, 0) & (0 \leq t \leq 1) \\ b(1, t) &= (0, 0, -t, 0, 0) & (0 \leq t \leq 1) \\ c(1, t) &= (0, 0, 0, 0, 0) & (0 \leq t \leq 1) \end{aligned}$$

Then conditions (ii)₁, (iii)₁, (vi)₁, (vii)₁ and (ix)₁ of Lemma 4.1 are satisfied.

Proof Direct inspection (Condition (ix)₁ is vacuously satisfied) □

To complete the induction we use the following lemma (in which an attempt has been made to simplify the notation).

LEMMA 4.3 Suppose $n(j) \geq 5n(l)$ for all $j - 1 \geq l \geq 1$ and suppose that the three functions from $[0, 1]$ to $[-1, 1]^{n(j)}$ whose values at $0 \leq t \leq 1$, given by $a(t) = a(j, t), b(t) = b(j, t), c(t) = c(j, t)$, satisfy conditions (ii)_j, (iii)_j, (v)_j, (vi)_j, (vii)_j and (ix)_j of Lemma 4.1. Then we can find $m(j+1) \geq 5$ and three functions from $[0, 1]$ to $[-1, 1]^{n(j+1)}$ (where $n(j+1) = n(j)m(j+1)$) whose values at $0 \leq t \leq 1$ are given by $A(t) = a(j+1, t), B(t) = b(j+1, t), C(t) = c(j+1, t)$ and satisfy all the conditions (i)_{j+1} to (viii)_{j+1} of Lemma 4.1.

Proof Since a, b, c are continuous on $[0, 1]$ they are uniformly continuous. We can therefore find an $\eta > 0$ such that η^{-1} is an integer and $|a(t)_r - a(\tau)_r|, |b(t)_r - b(\tau)_r|, |c(t)_r - c(\tau)_r| < 2^{-j-1}$ whenever $|t - \tau| \leq \eta$ and $1 \leq r \leq n(j)$. We set $M = \eta^{-1} + 1, m(j+1) = 18M + n(j)$ and define A, B and C as follows.

If $0 \leq l \leq 15M, 1 \leq r \leq n(j)$ we set

$$A(t)_{in(j)+r} = B(t)_{in(j)+r} = C(t)_{in(j)+r} = E_{in(j)+r}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} E_{in(j)+r} &= a(l\eta)_r & (0 \leq l \leq M) \\ &= a(1)_r & (M + 1 \leq l \leq 4M) \\ &= a((5M - l)\eta)_r & (4M + 1 \leq l \leq 5M) \\ &= b((l - 5M - 1)\eta)_r & (5M + 1 \leq l \leq 6M) \\ &= b(1)_r & (6M + 1 \leq l \leq 9M) \\ &= b((10M - l)\eta)_r & (9M + 1 \leq l \leq 10M) \\ &= c((l - 10M - 1)\eta)_r & (10M + 1 \leq l \leq 11M) \\ &= c(1) & (11M + 1 \leq l \leq 14M) \\ &= c((15M - l)\eta)_r & (14M + 1 \leq l \leq 15M) \end{aligned}$$

If $15M + 1 \leq l \leq 16M$, $1 \leq r \leq n(j)$ we set

$$A(t)_{ln(j)+r} = C(t)_{ln(j)+r} = a((l - 15M - 1)\eta t)_r$$

$$B(t)_{ln(j)+r} = b((l - 15M - 1)\eta t)_r,$$

whilst if $16M + 1 \leq l \leq 17M$, $1 \leq r \leq n(j)$ we set

$$A(t)_{ln(j)+r} = a((17M - l)\eta t)_r$$

$$B(t)_{ln(j)+r} = C(t)_{ln(j)+r} = b((17M - l)\eta t)_r$$

It is easy to check that conditions $(iv)_{j+1}$, $(v)_{j+1}$ and $(vi)_{j+1}$ are satisfied and to see that condition $(vii)_{j+1}$ is satisfied it suffices to take $N(j+1) = 16Mn(j) + N(j)$ We check the remaining conditions $(i)_{j+1}$, $(ii)_{j+1}$, $(iii)_{j+1}$ and $(viii)_{j+1}$ one by one

Condition $(i)_{j+1}$ Suppose $u \in U(j)$ and $v \in U(j+1)$ Then $u \in \{a(t), b(t), c(t)\}$ for some fixed $0 \leq t \leq 1$ Choose $1 \leq k \leq M$ so that $|(k-1)\eta - t| < \eta$ By the choice of η

$$|E_{kn(j)+r} - a(t)_r| = |a((k-1)\eta)_r - a(t)_r| < 2^{-j-1},$$

$$|E_{(5M+k)n(j)+r} - b(t)_r| = |b((k-1)\eta)_r - b(t)_r| < 2^{-j-1},$$

$$|E_{(10M+k)n(j)+r} - c(t)_r| = |c((k-1)\eta)_r - c(t)_r| < 2^{-j-1},$$

for all $1 \leq r \leq n(j)$ It follows that

$$\min_{0 \leq p \leq 2} \max_{1 \leq r \leq n(j)} |v_{(5PM+k)n(j)+r} - u_r| < 2^{-j-1}$$

and condition $(i)_{j+1}$ follows

Condition $(ii)_{j+1}$ We begin with two simplifying remarks Firstly since $u_{r+n(j+1)} = u_r$ the condition $1 \leq r, s \leq 2n(j)$ may be ignored Secondly if $r - s = m$ then $n(j+1) + s - r = n(j+1) - m$ and so we need only consider $1 \leq m \leq n(j+1)/2 + 1$ Even so, we shall distinguish 3 cases according as $1 \leq m \leq Mn(j)$ and $m \not\equiv 0 \pmod{n(j)}$, $1 \leq m \leq Mn(j)$ and $m \equiv 0 \pmod{n(j)}$, or $Mn(j) + 1 \leq m$

If $1 \leq m \leq Mn(j)$ and $m \not\equiv 0 \pmod{n(j)}$ then $m = kn(j) + \mu$ for some integers $1 \leq k \leq M$ and $1 \leq \mu \leq n(j)$ By condition $(ii)_j$, we know that there exist integers $1 \leq \rho, \sigma \leq 2n(j)$ such that

$$\max(|a(1)_\rho - a(1)_\sigma|, |b(1)_\rho - b(1)_\sigma|, |c(1)_\rho - c(1)_\sigma|) \geq 1$$

It follows that

$$\max_{0 \leq p \leq 2} (|C(1)_{((5p+1)M+k)n(j)+\mu} - C(1)_{(5p+1)Mn(j)+\sigma}|) \geq 1$$

We note that

$$(((5P+1)M+k)n(j) + \mu) - ((5P+1)Mn(j) + \sigma) = m,$$

so our discussion of this case is complete

If $1 \leq m \leq Mn(j)$ and $m \equiv 0 \pmod{n(j)}$ then $m = kn(j)$ for some $1 \leq k \leq M$ Thus setting $r = (16M+k)n(j) + N(j)$ and $s = 16Mn(j) + N(j)$ we have $r - s = m$ and, using condition $(vii)_j$,

$$|C(1)_r - C(1)_s| = 16((M-k)\eta)_{N(j)} - a(1)_{N(j)}$$

Finally, if $Mn(j) + 1 \leq m \leq n(j+1)/2 + 1$ then taking $r = 16Mn(j) + N(j)$ and $s = r - m$ we have $1 \leq s \leq (15M+1)n(j)$ and so $A(1)_s = C(1)_s$ whilst $A(1)_r = 1, C(1)_r = -1$ Thus

$$|A(1)_r - A(1)_s| + |C(1)_r - C(1)_s| = |1 - A(1)_s| + |A(1)_s + 1| \geq 2$$

and so $\max(|A(1)_r - A(1)_s|, |C(1)_r - C(1)_s|) \geq 1$ Combining the 3 cases discussed we obtain condition (ii)_{J+1}

Condition (iii)_{J+1} Observe first that this condition is vacuously satisfied if $J = 1$ We may therefore suppose $J \geq 2$ We distinguish 2 cases according as $p \leq J - 1$ or $p = J$ If $p \leq J - 1$ the argument is exactly the same as that used to establish condition (iii) in the proof of Lemma 3.2 from Lemma 3.1 If $p = J$ we argue as follows

By the choice of η and the definitions of A, B and C

$$|A(t)_i - A(t)_{i+n(J)}|, |B(t)_i - B(t)_{i+n(J)}| < 2^{-J-1}$$

for all $1 \leq i \leq n(J+1)$ whilst

$$|C(t)_i - C(t)_{i+n(J)}| < 2^{-J-1}$$

for all $1 \leq i \leq (16M - 1)n(J)$ and all $16Mn(J) + 1 \leq i \leq n(J+1)$ ($0 \leq t \leq 1$) Further, by (v)_J,

$$C(t)_{16Mn(J)-n(J-1)+r} = c(J-1, 0)_r = C(t)_{16Mn(J)+n(J)-n(J-1)+r}$$

for all $1 \leq r \leq n(J-1)$ and so

$$|C(t)_i - C(t)_{i+n(J)}| = 0 < 2^{-J-1}$$

for all $16Mn(J) - n(J-1) + 1 \leq i \leq 16Mn(J)$ Thus if $1 \leq i \leq n(J+1)$ and $|u_i - u_{i+n(J)}| > 2^{2-k}$ we can conclude that $u = C(\tau)$ for some $0 \leq \tau \leq 1$ and $i = (16M - 1)n(J) + q$ for some $1 \leq q \leq n(J) - n(J-1)$

It follows that $u_i = C(\tau)_i = a(\tau)_q$ and $u_{i+n(J)} = C(\tau)_{i+n(J)} = b(\tau)_q$ Since $|a(\tau)_q - b(\tau)_q| > 2^{2-k}$ we see from (viii)_J that $|a(\tau)_{q+n(l)}| \leq 2^{2-l}$ and so, since $a(\tau)_{q+n(l)} = C(\tau)_{i+n(l)} = u_{i+n(l)}$, that $|u_i - u_{i+n(l)}| \leq 2^{2-l}$ for all $J-1 \geq l \geq k$ as required

Condition (viii)_{J+1} As we observed above, $|A(t)_i - A(t)_{i+n(J)}| < 2^{-J-1}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n(J+1)$ and all $0 \leq t \leq 1$ Thus we need only check condition (viii)_{J+1} for $J-1 \geq l \geq k$ since the case $l = J$ is settled automatically Since when $J = 1$ there are no further values of l to consider we may suppose $J \geq 2$

By construction $A(t)_i = B(t)_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq 15Mn(J)$ and, by condition (vi)_J, $A(t)_i = B(t)_i$ for all $Pn(J) - n(J-1) + 1 \leq i \leq Pn(J)$ Thus if $|A(t)_i - B(t)_i| > 2^{2-k}$ it follows that $i = kn(J) + r$ where $15M \leq k \leq 17M - 1$ and $1 \leq r \leq n(J) - n(J-1)$, and so $A(t)_i = a(\tau)_r, B(t)_i = b(\tau)_r$ for some $1 \geq \tau \geq 0$ We now have $|a(\tau)_r - b(\tau)_r| > 2^{2-k}$ whence, by condition (viii)_J, $|a(\tau)_{r+n(l)} - a(\tau)_r| \leq 2^{2-l}$ for all $J-1 \geq l \geq k$ Since $a(\tau)_{r+n(l)} = A(t)_{i+n(l)}$ this yields $|A(t)_{i+n(l)} - A(t)_i| \leq 2^{2-l}$ for all $J-1 \geq l \geq k$ as required □

Lemmas 4.2 and 4.3 together give Lemma 4.1 and so the proof is complete

REFERENCE

[1] H Furstenberg Recurrence in ergodic theory and combinatorial number theory Princeton 1981