RECURRENT AND WEAKLY RECURRENT POINTS IN βG

MOSTAFA NASSAR

Department of Mathematics
Acadia University
Wolfville, N.S. BOP 1X0 Canada

(Received April 19, 1983)

ABSTRACT. It is shown in this paper that if βG is the Stone-Čech compactification of a group G , and G satisfying a certain condition, then there is a weakly recurrent point in βG which is not almost periodic, and if another condition will be added, then there is a recurrent point in βG which is not almost periodic point.

KEY WORDS AND PHRASES. Topological group, recurrent point, Stone-Čech Compactification, almost periodic point.

1980 AMS SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION CODE. 43A60.

1. INTRODUCTION.

Let G be infinite group denoted by $B(G)$ the spaces of all bounded real-valued functions with the usual sup norm, and by $B(G)^*$ it's conjugate. An g -mean is a function $\phi' \in B(G)^*$ such that $\|\phi'\| = 1$, $\phi'(u) = 1$ where u is the unit function, i.e. $u(g) = 1$ for all $g \in G$, $\phi'(\cdot f) = \phi'(f)$ for all $f \in B(G)$ where $f(s) = f(gs)$, $s \in G$, and $\phi'(f) \geq 0$ if $f \geq 0$. If such g -mean exists we call G amenable group.

If G is amenable group with the discrete topology, G be discrete set, as completely regular topological space G has a Stone-Čech Compactification βG . In W. Rudin [1] the space of real-valued continuous functions on βG and the space of bounded real-valued functions on G with the usual sup norm are isomorphic as Banach spaces. Any g -mean ϕ' as a functional on $C(\beta G)$ is represented by Riesz representation theorem as a measure ϕ defined on the Borel sets of βG . The correspondence being characterized by

$$\phi'(f) = \int_{\beta G} f d\phi.$$

For any $g \in G$ we have a continuous mapping $\tilde{g}$ of G into βG defined by $\tilde{g}(g_1) = gg_1$, $g_1 \in G$, $\tilde{g}$ has a unique continuous extension to βG , the extension mapping will also be denoted by $\tilde{g}$. If A subset of G is any subset denote by $\hat{A}$ the open-closed subset of $\beta G \setminus G = \hat{G}$ obtained as $\hat{G} \cap \bar{A}$, where $\bar{A}$ is the closure of A in βG . If G is infinite left cancellation semigroup, then for $s \in G$ and B subset of G , $s\hat{B} = (\hat{sB})$ Chou [2], $\tilde{g}$ is a homeomorphism of the compact Hausdorff space $\hat{G}$ onto itself denote by $M^{\tilde{g}}$ the set of all $\tilde{g}$ -invariant probability measures on βG , and the upper density of a subset A of G by

$$\bar{d}_{\tilde{g}}(A) = \sup \{ \mu(\hat{A}) : \mu \in M^{\tilde{g}} \}.$$

2. THIN AND STRONGLY DISCRETE POINT.

DEFINITION 2.1. A subset A of G is said to be thin if $g_1 A \cap g_2 A$ is finite subset of G for each pair of distinct elements $g_1, g_2 \in G$.

DEFINITION 2.2. $\omega \in \beta G \setminus G$ is said to be discrete if the orbit of ω , $O(\omega) = \{g\omega : g \in G\}$ is discrete with respect to the relative topology that is if and only if there exists a neighborhood U of ω such that $g\omega \notin U$ if $g \neq e$. Denote by D^G the set of all discrete points in $\hat{G}$.

DEFINITION 2.3. $\omega \in \hat{G}$ is said to be strongly discrete if there exists a neighborhood U of ω such that $g_1 U \cap g_2 U = \emptyset$ if $g_1 \neq g_2$. Denote by SD^G the set of all strongly discrete points in $\hat{G}$.

REMARK. SD^G is a subset of D^G . For take $g_1 = e$ the unit element in G , $g_2 = g \neq e$ so $\omega \in SD^G$ implies there exists a neighborhood U of ω such that $U \cap gU = \emptyset$ implies $g\omega \notin U$ implies $\omega \in D^G$.

DEFINITION 2.4. A point $\omega \in \beta G \setminus G = \hat{G}$ is said to be almost periodic if for every neighborhood U of ω there is a subset A of $\hat{G}$ which satisfy: (i) $A\omega$ is a subset of U , (ii) there exists a finite subset K of G such that $G = KA$ or equivalently for each neighborhood U of ω the set $A = \{g \in G : g\omega \in U\}$ is relatively dense, in the sense there exists $g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n \in G$ such that $g_1 A \cup g_2 A \cup \dots \cup g_n A = G$. Denote by A^G the set of all almost periodic points in βG .

PROPOSITION 2.5. $D^G \cap A^G = \emptyset$

PROOF. If $\omega \in D^G$, then there is a neighborhood V of ω in βG such that $V \cap O(\omega) = \{\omega\}$, hence ω is not almost periodic point, otherwise there exists a subset A of G such that $A\omega$ is a subset of V which is a contradiction to the conclusion $V \cap O(\omega) = \{\omega\}$. Then $\omega \notin A^G$ and so $D^G \cap A^G = \emptyset$.

REMARK. If A is a subset of C , $\hat{A}$ is empty if and only if A is finite, also $g\hat{A} = (gA)^\wedge$ for $g \in G$.

THEOREM 2.6. (1) If A is a thin subset of the group G then $\bar{d}(A) = 0$. (2) $SD^G = U\{\hat{A} : A \text{ is a thin subset of } G\}$.

PROOF. (1) Suppose that A is thin so $g_1 A \cap g_2 A$ is finite for each distinct pair of elements $g_1, g_2 \in G$. But

$$\begin{aligned} cl(g_1 A \cap g_2 A) \cap \hat{G} &= (cl g_1 A \cap cl g_2 A) \cap \hat{G} = (cl g_1 A)^\wedge \cap (cl g_2 A)^\wedge \\ &= (g_1 A)^\wedge \cap (g_2 A)^\wedge = g_1 \hat{A} \cap g_2 \hat{A}. \end{aligned}$$

If A is thin and $\phi \in M$ the set of all invariant probability measures on $\hat{G}$. So $\phi(\hat{G}) = 1$, hence for any distinct elements $g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n \in G$, $g_1 \hat{A}, g_2 \hat{A}, \dots, g_n \hat{A}$ are distinct and

$$1 = \phi(\hat{G}) \geq \phi\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n (g_i \hat{A})\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \phi(g_i \hat{A}) = n \phi(\hat{A}) \text{ implies}$$

$$\phi(\hat{A}) \leq \frac{1}{n} \text{ for all } n \rightarrow \phi(\hat{A}) = 0 \text{ which implies } \bar{d}(A) = 0$$

(2) $SD^G = \{\omega \in \hat{G} : \text{There exists neighborhood } U \text{ of } \omega, g_1 U \cap g_2 U = \emptyset \text{ for } g_1 \neq g_2\}$
 $= \{\omega \in \hat{G} : \text{There exists neighborhood } \hat{U} \text{ of } \omega, g_1 \hat{U} \cap g_2 \hat{U} = \emptyset \text{ for } g_1 \neq g_2\}$
 $= U\{cl A \cap \hat{G} : g_1 \hat{U} \cap g_2 \hat{U} = \emptyset \text{ for all distinct pair of elements } g_1, g_2 \in G\}$
 $= U\{cl A \cap \hat{G} : g_1 A \cap g_2 A \text{ is finite}\}$
 $= U\{\hat{A} : A \text{ is a thin subset of } G\}.$

3. WEAKLY RECURRENT AND RECURRENT POINTS.

DEFINITION 3.1. $\omega \in \beta G$ is said to be $\tilde{g}$ -recurrent point if, for each neighborhood V of ω the set $\{i \in \mathbb{N} : g_i^{-1} \omega \in V\}$ is infinite. Denote by ${}_R \tilde{g}$ the set of all $\tilde{g}$ -recurrent points, and by $R^G =$ the complement of D^G in $\hat{G}$, to be the set of all recurrent points. So $R^G \supseteq \bigcup_{g \in G} g \tilde{g}.$

DEFINITION 3.2. Denote by WR^G the set of all weakly recurrent points in $\hat{G}$, it is the complement of SD^G in $\hat{G}$.

Since $D^G \cap A^G = \emptyset$ proposition 2.5 which implies $A^G \subseteq R^G \subseteq \omega R^G$.

DEFINITION 3.3. We call a subset A , a C -subset of G provided that

- (i) $\bar{d}(A) > 0$
- (ii) $\bar{d}(K^{-1}A) < 1$ for every finite subset K of G . equivalently.
- (ii)' For every finite number k , $\bar{d}(A \cup g_1 A \cup \dots \cup g_{k-1} A) < 1$.

REMARK. C stands for Chou. Denote by AC the class of all amenable semigroup which has a C -subset. This class contains the semigroup N of positive integers, the group Z of integers, all countably infinite locally finite groups, all infinite abelian cancellation semigroups, and all infinite solvable groups, with the discrete topology for more details see Fairchild [3].

One reason for studying the C -subset is the following result.

PROPOSITION 3.4. Suppose G contains a C -subset A then

$$\hat{A} \cap \hat{A}^G = \emptyset$$

PROOF. Suppose $\hat{A} \cap \hat{A}^G \neq \emptyset$ say $\omega \in \hat{A} \cap \hat{A}^G$, since $\hat{A}$ is open subset contains ω . Let $B = \{g \in G : g\omega \in \hat{A}\}$ so there exists a finite subset K of G such that $G = K^{-1}B$, $B\omega$ is a subset of $\hat{A}$, hence $\phi(\omega) = \{g\omega : g \in G\} = G\omega \subseteq K^{-1}\hat{A} = (K^{-1}A)^{\hat{}}$ implies $\hat{A} \rightarrow \bar{0}(\omega) \subseteq (K^{-1}A)^{\hat{}}$. But $\bar{0}(\omega)$ is closed invariant set implies there exists ϕ a probability measure such that $\text{supp } \phi \subseteq (K^{-1}A)^{\hat{}}$ implies $\phi'(I_{K^{-1}A}) = 1$ which contradicts the definition of C -subset. Then,

$$\hat{A} \cap \hat{A}^G = \emptyset.$$

REMARK. If A is a subset of G , I_A denote the function 1 on A and 0 otherwise.

THEOREM 3.5. If $G \in AC$ then there exists a weakly recurrent point in βG which is not almost periodic, in other words $A^G \not\subseteq WR^G$.

PROOF. Theorem 2.6 shows that $SD^G = U\{\hat{A} : A \text{ is a thin subset of } G \text{ s.t. } \bar{d}(A) = 0\}$, but $\bar{d}(A) > 0$ where A is a C -subset of G , then A is not thin subset implies $\hat{A} \notin SD^G$, so $\hat{A} \cap WR^G \neq \emptyset$. In Proposition 3.4 we proved that if A is a C -subset then $\hat{A} \cap \hat{A}^G = \emptyset$, hence we get $A^G \not\subseteq WR^G$. So there exists a weakly recurrent point in βG which is not almost periodic. Moreover $A^G \cup SD^G \neq \hat{G}$.

The only known method to find $\tilde{g}$ -recurrent points is to apply Zorn's lemma to find a $\tilde{g}$ -minimal set K , then show that each $\omega \in K$ is $\tilde{g}$ -almost periodic and therefore $\tilde{g}$ -recurrent.

In theorem 3.8 we are going to produce many other $\tilde{g}$ -recurrent points for a reasonable class of semigroups.

Chou [4] has proved that

THEOREM (Chou): Let ϕ be a homomorphism of a compact Hausdorff space X onto itself. Suppose that $T_1 \supset T_2 \supset \dots$ is a sequence of non-empty closed subsets of X such that a sequence of positive integers $k_1 < k_2 < \dots$ can be found to satisfy $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} T_n \subset T_{n+1} \subset T_n$.

Then $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} T_n$ contains a ϕ -recurrent point.

LEMMA 3.6. Suppose that A is a subset of G , $\bar{d}_{\tilde{g}}(A) > 0$, and $n \in N$. Then there exists a subset B of A , $s \in N$, $s \geq n$ such that $\bar{d}_{\tilde{g}}(B) > 0$ and $\tilde{g}^s B \subseteq A$.

PROOF. By definition of upper $\tilde{g}$ -density, there exists $\mu \in M^{\tilde{g}}$ such that $\mu(\hat{A}) > 0$. If for each $s \geq n$, $\mu(\hat{A} \cap \tilde{g}^{-s} \hat{A}) = 0$. Then

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \mu(\tilde{g}^{-i} \hat{A}) = \mu\left(\bigcup_{i=0}^{\infty} \tilde{g}^{-i} \hat{A}\right) \leq 1$$

This contradicts the fact that μ is a $\tilde{g}$ -variant ($\mu(\hat{A}) = \mu(\tilde{g}^{-i} \hat{A})$).

Therefore there exists $s \geq n$ such that $\mu(\hat{A} \cap \tilde{g}^{-s} \hat{A}) > 0$. But since $\tilde{g} \hat{A} = (g \hat{A})^{\wedge}$ so $(\hat{A} \cap \tilde{g}^{-s} \hat{A})^{\wedge} = \hat{A} \cap (g^{-s} \hat{A})^{\wedge} = (\hat{A} \cap g^{-s} \hat{A})^{\wedge}$. Take $B = \hat{A} \cap (g^{-s} \hat{A})^{\wedge}$ then $\mu(B) > 0$ and $g^s B \subseteq \hat{A}$, but $\mu \in M^{\tilde{g}}$ so $d_{\tilde{g}}^{-}(B) > 0$.

DEFINITION 3.7. The group G is said to be nontorsion group if G contains an element of infinite order.

THEOREM 3.8. If G is nontorsion group, $G \in AC$, then there is a recurrent point in βG which is not almost periodic. In other words $A \not\subseteq_{\neq} R^G$.

PROOF. Since G has a C -subset we may assume that A to be a C -subset hence by proposition 3.4 $\hat{A} \cap \hat{A}^{\tilde{g}} = \emptyset$. Therefore it remains to produce a recurrent point in $\hat{A}$. By lemma 3.6 it is easy to construct $s_1 < s_2 < \dots$ and $A = A_1 \supseteq A_2 \supseteq \dots$, inductively, such that $d^-(A_i) > 0$ and $\tilde{g}^{i-1} A_i \subseteq A_{i-1}$, $i = 2, 3, \dots$ therefore A contains a recurrent point by applying Chou's theorem to the case $\phi = \tilde{g}$, $X = \hat{G}$, $k_i = s_i$ and $T_n = \hat{A}_n$ noting that g is an element of G of infinite order, so the function $\tilde{g}$ is nonperiodic and hence there is a recurrent point which is not almost periodic, and since $A \subseteq_{\neq} R^G$ we get $A \not\subseteq_{\neq} R^G$. In fact R^G is much bigger than A^G .

The above theorem tells us that $A \cup_{\neq}^G \hat{A} \neq \hat{G}$, this answers the question raised by Nilsen [5].

CONJECTURE. If G is amenable group then there is a recurrent point in βG which is not almost periodic point. In other words: $A \not\subseteq_{\neq} R^G$.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. I would like to thank Professor Ching Chou at State University of New York at Buffalo for his encouragement and advice.

REFERENCES

1. RUDIN, W. Homogeneity Problems in the Theory of Čech Compactifications, Duke Math., J. 23 (1956), 409-419.
2. CHOU, C. On the Size of Left Invariant Means on Semigroup, Proc. A.M.S. 23 (1969), 199-205.
3. FAIRCHILD, L. Extreme invariant Means Without Minimal Support, Trans. A.M.S. 172 (1972), 83-93.
4. CHOU, C. Minimal Sets, Recurrent Points and Discrete Orbits on $\beta N \setminus N$, Illinois, J., of Math. 22 (1978), 54-63.
5. NILLSEN, R. Discrete Orbits in $\beta N \setminus N$, Coloq. Math. 33 (1975), 71-81.