Failure of Nehari's theorem for multiplicative Hankel forms in Schatten classes

by

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Abstract. Ortega-Cerdà–Seip demonstrated that there are bounded multiplicative Hankel forms which do not arise from bounded symbols. On the other hand, when such a form is in the Hilbert–Schmidt class $\mathcal{S}_2$, Helson showed that it has a bounded symbol. The present work investigates forms belonging to the Schatten classes between these two cases. It is shown that for every $p > (1 - \log \pi/\log 4)^{-1}$ there exist multiplicative Hankel forms in the Schatten class $\mathcal{S}_p$ which lack bounded symbols. The lower bound on p is in a certain sense optimal when the symbol of the multiplicative Hankel form is a product of homogeneous linear polynomials.

1. Introduction. For a sequence $\varrho = (\varrho_1, \varrho_2, \ldots) \in \ell^2$ the corresponding *multiplicative Hankel form* on $\ell^2 \times \ell^2$ is given by

$$(1) \qquad \varrho(a, b) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \varrho_{mn} a_m b_n,$$

which initially is defined at least for finitely supported $a, b \in \ell^2$. Such forms are naturally understood as small Hankel operators on the Hardy space of the infinite polydisc, $H^2(\mathbb{D}^\infty)$. Therefore, one is led to investigate the relationship between the symbol—a function on the polytorus $\mathbb{T}^\infty$ generating the Hankel form—and the properties of the corresponding Hankel operator.

In the classical setting, (additive) Hankel forms are realized as Hankel operators on the Hardy space in the unit disc, $H^2(\mathbb{D})$. Nehari's theorem [8] states that every bounded Hankel form is generated by a bounded symbol on the torus $\mathbb{T}$.

On the infinite polydisc, the study of the corresponding statement was initiated by H. Helson [4, pp. 52–54], who raised the following questions.

QUESTION 1. Does every bounded multiplicative Hankel form have a bounded symbol ψ on the polytorus $\mathbb{T}^\infty$?

QUESTION 2. Does every multiplicative Hankel form in the Hilbert–Schmidt class $\mathcal{S}_2$ have a bounded symbol?

Helson himself [5] gave a positive answer to Question 2. Ortega-Cerdà and Seip [9] proved that there are bounded multiplicative Hankel forms that do not have bounded symbols, using an idea of Helson [6], and hence gave a negative answer to Question 1. Furthermore, their argument also quickly shows that there are compact Hankel forms without bounded symbols (see Lemma 1). In light of these results, a next natural question to ask is:

QUESTION 3. Does there exist a Hankel form belonging to a Schatten class $\mathcal{S}_p$, $2 < p < \infty$, without a bounded symbol? If so, for which values of p does such a form exist?

We will answer the first part of this question, by showing that for every

$$p > p_0 = \left(1 - \frac{\log \pi}{\log 4}\right)^{-1} \approx 5.738817179,$$

there are multiplicative Hankel forms in $\mathcal{S}_p$ which do not have bounded symbols.

Our construction relies on independent products of homogeneous linear symbols and is optimal when testing against products of linear homogeneous polynomials (see Theorem 4). It is quite tempting to further conjecture that forms without bounded symbols can be found in $\mathcal{S}_p$ for every $p > 2$, but our method does not substantiate this claim.

The paper is organized into two further sections. Section 2 reviews the connection between multiplicative Hankel forms, the Hardy space of Dirichlet series, and the Hardy space of the infinite polydisc. In Section 3 the main results are proven.

2. Preliminaries. We let $\mathscr{H}^2$ denote the Hilbert space of Dirichlet series

$$(2) \qquad\qquad f(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n n^{-s}$$

with square summable coefficients. If g and φ are Dirichlet series in $\mathscr{H}^2$ with coefficients b_n and $\overline{\varrho_n}$, respectively, a computation shows that

$$\langle fg, \varphi \rangle_{\mathscr{H}^2} = \varrho(a, b).$$

A key tool in the study of Hardy spaces of Dirichlet series is the *Bohr lift* [1]. For any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the fundamental theorem of arithmetic yields the prime factorization

$$n = \prod_{j=1}^{\infty} p_j^{\kappa_j},$$

which associates the finite non-negative multi-index $\kappa(n) = (\kappa_1, \kappa_2, \ldots)$ to n. The Bohr lift of the Dirichlet series (2) is the power series

$$\text{(3)} \qquad \mathscr{B}f(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n z^{\kappa(n)},$$

where $z = (z_1, z_2, \ldots)$. Hence (3) is a power series in countably many variables, but each term contains only a finite number of variables.

Under the Bohr lift, $\mathscr{H}^2$ corresponds to the infinite-dimensional Hardy space $H^2(\mathbb{D}^\infty)$, which we view as a subspace of $L^2(\mathbb{T}^\infty)$. We refer to [3] for the details, mentioning only that the Haar measure of the compact abelian group $\mathbb{T}^\infty$ is simply the product of the normalized Lebesgue measures of each factor. In particular, $H^2(\mathbb{D}^d)$ is a natural subspace of $H^2(\mathbb{D}^\infty)$.

A formal computation shows that

$$\langle \mathscr{B}f \mathscr{B}g, \mathscr{B}\varphi \rangle_{L^2(\mathbb{T}^\infty)} = \langle fg, \varphi \rangle_{\mathscr{H}^2},$$

allowing us to compute the multiplicative Hankel form (1) on $\mathbb{T}^\infty$. In the remainder of this paper we work exclusively in the polydisc, with no reference to Dirichlet series. Therefore, we drop the notation $\mathscr{B}$ and study the Hankel forms

$$\text{(4)} \qquad H_\varphi(fg) = \langle fg, \varphi \rangle_{L^2(\mathbb{T}^\infty)}, \qquad f, g \in H^2(\mathbb{D}^\infty).$$

In the previous considerations we had $\varphi \in H^2(\mathbb{D}^\infty)$, but there is nothing to prevent us from considering arbitrary symbols from $L^2(\mathbb{T}^\infty)$. Hence, each $\varphi \in L^2(\mathbb{T}^\infty)$ induces by (4) a (possibly unbounded) Hankel form H_φ on $H^2(\mathbb{D}^\infty) \times H^2(\mathbb{D}^\infty)$. Of course, this is not a real generalization. Each form H_φ is also induced by a symbol $\psi \in H^2(\mathbb{D}^\infty)$; letting $\psi = P\varphi$ we have $H_\varphi = H_\psi$, where P denotes the orthogonal projection of $L^2(\mathbb{T}^\infty)$ onto $H^2(\mathbb{D}^\infty)$.

Note that if $\psi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{T}^\infty)$, then the corresponding multiplicative Hankel form is bounded, since

$$|H_\psi(fg)| = |\langle fg, \psi \rangle| \leq \|f\|_2 \|g\|_2 \|\psi\|_\infty.$$

We say that H_φ *has a bounded symbol* if there exists a $\psi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{T}^\infty)$ such that $H_\varphi = H_\psi$. As mentioned in the introduction, it was shown in [9] that not every bounded multiplicative Hankel form has a bounded symbol.

On the polydisc the Hankel form H_φ is naturally realized as a (small) Hankel operator $\mathbf{H}_\varphi$, which when bounded acts as an operator from $H^2(\mathbb{D}^\infty)$ to the anti-analytic space $\overline{H^2}(\mathbb{D}^\infty)$. Letting $\overline{P}$ denote the orthogonal projection of $L^2(\mathbb{T}^\infty)$ onto $\overline{H^2}(\mathbb{D}^\infty)$, we have, at least for polynomials $f \in H^2(\mathbb{D}^\infty)$,

$$\text{(5)} \qquad \mathbf{H}_\varphi f = \overline{P}(\overline{\varphi} f).$$

It is clear that when written in standard bases, the form H_φ and the operator

$\mathbf{H}_\varphi$ both correspond to the same infinite matrix

$$M_\varrho = \begin{pmatrix} \varrho_1 & \varrho_2 & \varrho_3 & \cdots \\ \varrho_2 & \varrho_4 & \varrho_6 & \cdots \\ \varrho_3 & \varrho_6 & \varrho_9 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}.$$

Finally, we briefly recall the definition of the Schatten classes $\mathcal{S}_p$, $0 < p < \infty$. Assume that the Hankel form H_φ is compact. Let $\Lambda = \{\lambda_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ denote the singular value sequence of M_ϱ, which of course is the same as the singular value sequence of the operator $\mathbf{H}_\varphi$. The form H_φ, or equivalently the operator $\mathbf{H}_\varphi$, is in the *Schatten class* $\mathcal{S}_p$ if $\Lambda \in \ell^p$, and

$$\|H_\varphi\|_{\mathcal{S}_p} = \|\mathbf{H}_\varphi\|_{\mathcal{S}_p} = \|\Lambda\|_{\ell^p}.$$

3. Results. To prove that for each $p > p_0$ there exist multiplicative Hankel forms in $\mathcal{S}_p$ without bounded symbols, we will assume that every $H_\varphi \in \mathcal{S}_p$ has a bounded symbol and derive a contradiction. We begin with the following routine lemma.

LEMMA 1. *Let $p \geq 1$. Assume that every $H_\varphi \in \mathcal{S}_p$ has a bounded symbol on $\mathbb{T}^\infty$. Then there is a constant $C_p \geq 1$ with the property that every $H_\varphi \in \mathcal{S}_p$ has a symbol $\psi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{T}^\infty)$ with $H_\varphi = H_\psi$ and such that $\|\psi\|_\infty \leq C_p \|H_\varphi\|_{\mathcal{S}_p}$.*

Proof. We will define a lifting operator and show that it has to be continuous by appealing to the closed graph theorem.

Let BH denote the space of bounded multiplicative Hankel forms. By a standard argument it is isomorphic to the dual space of the weak product $\mathscr{H}^2 \odot \mathscr{H}^2$ [6]. In particular BH is a Banach space under the operator norm. It follows that $\mathcal{S}_p\text{H}$ is also a Banach space, where $\mathcal{S}_p\text{H}$ denotes the space of multiplicative Hankel forms in $\mathcal{S}_p$ equipped with the norm of $\mathcal{S}_p$.

Now we define

$$X = L^\infty(\mathbb{T}^\infty) \cap (L^2(\mathbb{T}^\infty) \ominus H^2(\mathbb{T}^\infty)),$$
$$Y = L^\infty(\mathbb{T}^\infty)/X.$$

Y is a Banach space under the norm $\|\varphi\|_Y = \inf\{\|\psi\|_\infty : \psi - \varphi \in X\}$, where X is seen as a closed subspace of $L^\infty(\mathbb{T}^\infty)$. Since by assumption every $H_\varphi \in \mathcal{S}_p\text{H}$ has a symbol $\psi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{T}^\infty)$, we can define a map $T: \mathcal{S}_p\text{H} \to Y$ by $T(H_\varphi) = \psi$. This is a well-defined linear map since $H_\varphi = 0$ for a symbol $\varphi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{T}^\infty)$ if and only if $\varphi \in X$. An obvious computation shows that T is a closed operator, hence continuous. Therefore, there is a $C_p \geq 1$ such that

$$\|T(H_\varphi)\|_Y \leq C_p \|H_\varphi\|_{\mathcal{S}_p}.$$

The statement of the lemma follows immediately. ∎

Given the assumption of the lemma, for each polynomial f and form $H_\varphi \in \mathcal{S}_p$ we have

$$|\langle f, \varphi \rangle| = |H_\varphi(f \cdot 1)| = |H_\psi(f \cdot 1)|$$
$$= |\langle f, \psi \rangle| \leq \|\psi\|_\infty \|f\|_1 \leq C_p \|H_\varphi\|_{\mathcal{S}_p} \|f\|_1,$$

where $\|\cdot\|_1$ denotes the norm of $L^1(\mathbb{T}^\infty)$. We thus obtain

$$(6) \qquad \frac{|\langle f, \varphi \rangle|}{\|H_\varphi\|_{\mathcal{S}_p} \|f\|_1} \leq C_p$$

for every polynomial f and every $H_\varphi \in \mathcal{S}_p$. To prove our main result we will construct a sequence of polynomials and finite rank forms such that no finite constant C_p satisfying (6) exists for $p > p_0$, thus obtaining a contradiction to the assumption of Lemma 1. We will require the following lemma.

LEMMA 2. *Suppose that $\varphi_1, \ldots, \varphi_m$ are symbols that depend on mutually separate variables and which generate the multiplicative Hankel forms $H_{\varphi_j} \in \mathcal{S}_p$, $1 \leq j \leq m$. Then*

$$(7) \qquad \|H_\varphi\|_{\mathcal{S}_p} = \|H_{\varphi_1}\|_{\mathcal{S}_p} \cdots \|H_{\varphi_m}\|_{\mathcal{S}_p},$$

where $\varphi = \varphi_1 \cdots \varphi_m$.

Proof. For $1 \leq j \leq m$, we let X_j denote the Hardy space of precisely the variables that the symbol φ_j depends on, and if necessary let X_0 denote the Hardy space of the remaining variables, so that—as tensor products of Hilbert spaces—we have

$$H^2(\mathbb{D}^\infty) = X_0 \otimes X_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes X_m.$$

We set $\varphi_0 = 1$ and consider the small Hankel operators $\widetilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\varphi_j} \colon X_j \to \overline{X_j}$, defined similarly to (5) for $0 \leq j \leq m$. Now, if $f_j \in X_j$, $0 \leq j \leq m$, we observe that

$$\mathbf{H}_\varphi(f_0 f_1 \cdots f_m) = \widetilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\varphi_0}(f_0)\, \widetilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\varphi_1}(f_1) \,\cdots\, \widetilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\varphi_m}(f_m),$$

and hence $\mathbf{H}_\varphi = \widetilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\varphi_0} \otimes \widetilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\varphi_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \widetilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\varphi_m}$.

Note that $\widetilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\varphi_0}$ has the sole singular value 1, of multiplicity 1. It follows that all singular values λ of $\mathbf{H}_\varphi$ are products $\lambda = \lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_m$, where λ_j is a singular value of $\widetilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\varphi_j}$ (see [2]). The multiplicity of λ is also obtained in the expected way. From this, a short computation shows that

$$\|\mathbf{H}_\varphi\|_{\mathcal{S}_p} = \|\widetilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\varphi_1}\|_{\mathcal{S}_p} \cdots \|\widetilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\varphi_m}\|_{\mathcal{S}_p}.$$

Finally, we have $\mathbf{H}_{\varphi_j} = \widetilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\varphi_0} \otimes \widetilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\varphi_j}$, where we now regard $\widetilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\varphi_0}$ as an operator on the Hardy space of the variables of which φ_j is independent. Arguing as above, it follows that $\|\mathbf{H}_{\varphi_j}\|_{\mathcal{S}_p} = \|\widetilde{\mathbf{H}}_{\varphi_j}\|_{\mathcal{S}_p}$, completing the proof. ∎

If $f_1, \ldots, f_m$ are polynomials depending on the same separate variables as $\varphi_1, \ldots, \varphi_m$, respectively, and we set $f = f_1 \cdots f_m$, then

$$|\langle f, \varphi \rangle| = |\langle f_1, \varphi_1 \rangle| \cdots |\langle f_m, \varphi_m \rangle|,$$
$$\|f\|_1 = \|f_1\|_1 \cdots \|f_m\|_1.$$

Let S be the shift operator $Sf(z_1, z_2, \ldots) = f(z_2, z_3, \ldots)$. Suppose that we can find polynomials f and φ, both depending on the first d variables $z_1, \ldots, z_d$, satisfying

(8)
$$\frac{|\langle f, \varphi \rangle|}{\|H_\varphi\|_{\mathcal{S}_p} \|f\|_1} > 1.$$

Then, for $1 \le j \le m$, consider the functions

$$\varphi_j(z) = S^{d(j-1)} \varphi(z) \quad \text{and} \quad f_j(z) = S^{d(j-1)} f(z).$$

With $\Phi = \varphi_1 \cdots \varphi_m$ and $F = f_1 \cdots f_m$, Lemma 2 yields

$$\frac{|\langle F, \Phi \rangle|}{\|H_\Phi\|_{\mathcal{S}_p} \|F\|_1} = \left(\frac{|\langle f, \varphi \rangle|}{\|H_\varphi\|_{\mathcal{S}_p} \|f\|_1} \right)^m \to \infty, \quad m \to \infty,$$

giving us the sought contradiction to (6). We realize this scheme in the next theorem.

THEOREM 3. *For every $p > p_0$ there is a multiplicative Hankel form $H_\varphi \in \mathcal{S}_p$ which does not have a bounded symbol.*

Proof. Let d be a large positive integer to be chosen later. Consider the symbol

$$\varphi(z) = \frac{z_1 + \cdots + z_d}{\sqrt{d}}.$$

It is clear that the sequence $\varrho = (\varrho_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ for the matrix of H_φ is given by

$$\varrho_n = \begin{cases} 1/\sqrt{d} & \text{if } n = p_j \text{ and } 1 \le j \le d, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where p_j denotes the jth prime. In other terms, the matrix M_ϱ of H_φ, with all zero rows and columns omitted, is the $(d+1) \times (d+1)$ matrix

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

This matrix is easily seen to have the singular values 1 (with multiplicity 2) and 0 (with multiplicity $d - 1$), and thus

$$\|H_\varphi\|_{\mathcal{S}_p} = 2^{1/p}.$$

We choose $f(z) = \varphi(z)$. Then $\langle f, \varphi \rangle = 1$, and moreover the central limit theorem for Steinhaus variables gives us that

$$\lim_{d \to \infty} \|f\|_1 = \lim_{d \to \infty} \mathbb{E} \left(\frac{|z_1 + \cdots + z_d|}{\sqrt{d}} \right) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}.$$

In particular, for each $\delta > 0$ we have, for sufficiently large d,

$$\|f\|_1 \leq \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} + \delta.$$

We now observe that $p = p_0$ is the solution of the equation $2^{1/p} \cdot \sqrt{\pi}/2 = 1$, and hence if $p > p_0$ we may find $\delta > 0$ small enough that

$$\|H_\varphi\|_{\mathcal{S}_p} \cdot \|f\|_1 \leq 2^{1/p} \cdot \left(\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} + \delta \right) < 1.$$

This implies that if d is large enough, f and φ satisfy (8). This completes the proof by appealing to the discussion preceding the statement of the theorem. ∎

Our result is optimal for symbols which are independent products of linear homogeneous polynomials and test functions of the same form, as shown by the following result.

THEOREM 4. *Suppose $p \leq p_0$ and consider*

$$\varphi(z) = a_1 z_1 + a_2 z_2 + \cdots + a_d z_d,$$
$$f(z) = b_1 z_1 + b_2 z_2 + \cdots + b_d z_d,$$

for $a_j, b_j \in \mathbb{C}$. Then $|\langle f, \varphi \rangle| \leq \|H_\varphi\|_{\mathcal{S}_p} \|f\|_1$.

Proof. By the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality and Parseval's formula, it is clear that

$$|\langle f, \varphi \rangle| \leq \|a\|_{\ell^2} \|b\|_{\ell^2}.$$

Straightforward computations with the matrix M_ϱ of H_φ show that

$$M_\varrho M_\varrho^* = \begin{pmatrix} \|a\|_{\ell^2}^2 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & a_1 \overline{a_1} & a_1 \overline{a_2} & \cdots & a_1 \overline{a_d} \\ 0 & a_2 \overline{a_1} & a_2 \overline{a_2} & \cdots & a_2 \overline{a_d} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & a_d \overline{a_1} & a_d \overline{a_2} & \cdots & a_d \overline{a_d} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Here we have again omitted zero rows and columns. Note that the lower right block has rank 1. By considering the vector $(0, a_1, \ldots, a_d)$ it is clear that it has the sole eigenvalue $\|a\|_{\ell^2}^2$. Thus, the singular value sequence of M_ϱ is $\Lambda = \{\|a\|_{\ell^2}, \|a\|_{\ell^2}, 0, \ldots, 0\}$, and hence

$$\|H_\varphi\|_{\mathcal{S}_p} = 2^{1/p} \|a\|_{\ell^2}.$$

We use the optimal Khintchine inequality for Steinhaus variables [7, 10], $p = 1$, and obtain

$$\|f\|_1 \geq \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}\|b\|_{\ell^2}.$$

The hypothesis that $p \leq p_0$ implies that $2^{1/p}\sqrt{\pi}/2 \geq 1$, and the proof is finished by the following chain of inequalities:

$$\|H_\varphi\|_{\mathcal{S}_p} \cdot \|f\|_1 \geq 2^{1/p} \cdot \|a\|_{\ell^2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} \cdot \|b\|_{\ell^2} \geq \|a\|_{\ell^2} \cdot \|b\|_{\ell^2} \geq |\langle f, \varphi \rangle|. \quad \blacksquare$$

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