

Instytut Matematyki, Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin

RYSZARD SMARZEWSKI

### On Characterization of Chebyshev Optimal Starting and Transformed Approximations by Families Having a Degree

Twierdzenie charakteryzacyjne dla optymalnych aproksymacji startowych i transformowanych elementami rodzin nieliniowych

Теоремы характеризующие стартерные и трансформированные оптимальные аппроксимации

#### 1. Introduction.

Let  $C[a, b]$  be the space of real valued functions defined and continuous on  $[a, b]$  normed by

$$\|f\| = \max\{|f(x)|: x \in [a, b]\}.$$

Denote by  $G$  a nonlinear approximating family of functions from  $C[a, b]$ . The following definitions are given in [7] (see also [3]).

**Definition 1.** The family  $G$  has property  $Z$  of degree  $n$  at  $g \in G$  if for every  $h \in G$  the function  $(h-g)$  has at most  $(n-1)$  zeros on  $[a, b]$  or vanishes identically.

**Definition 2.**  $G$  has property  $A$  of degree  $n$  at  $g \in G$  if given

(i) an integer  $m, 0 \leq m < n$

(ii) a set  $\{x_1, \dots, x_m\}$  with  $a = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_m < x_{m+1} = b$

(iii)  $\varepsilon$  with  $0 < \varepsilon < \frac{1}{2} \min\{x_{j+1} - x_j: j = 0, \dots, m\}$ , and

(iv) a sign  $\sigma \in \{-1, 1\}$ ,

there exists  $h \in G$  with  $\|h-g\| < \varepsilon$  and

$$\text{sign}[h(x) - g(x)] = \begin{cases} \sigma, & a \leq x \leq x_1 - \varepsilon \\ (-1)^i \sigma, & x_i + \varepsilon \leq x \leq x_{i+1} - \varepsilon \text{ and } i = 1, \dots, m-1 \\ (-1)^m \sigma, & x_m + \varepsilon \leq x \leq b. \end{cases}$$

In the case  $m = 0$ , we require

$$\text{sign}[h(x) - g(x)] = \sigma, \quad a \leq x \leq b.$$

**Definition 3.** The family  $G$  has degree  $n$  at  $g \in G$  if  $G$  has property  $Z$  and property  $A$  of degree  $n$  at  $g$ .

**Definition 4.** A zero  $x$  of a continuous function  $f$  on  $[a, b]$  is called a double zero if  $x$  is an interior point of  $[a, b]$  and  $f$  does not change sign at  $x$ . Otherwise, it is called a simple zero.

**Definition 5.** The points  $a_i, a \leq a_0 < \dots < a_n \leq b$  are called alternation points of the function  $f$  if  $f(a_i) = (-1)^i f(a_0) \neq 0$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

In the paper [9] we have introduced the nonlinear family of approximating functions having the weak betweenness property and have presented some of its properties.

**Definition 6.** A subset  $G$  of  $C[a, b]$  has the weak betweenness property if for any two distinct elements  $g$  and  $h$  in  $G$  and for every closed subset  $D$  of  $[a, b]$  such that  $h(x) \neq g(x)$  for all  $x \in D$  there exists a sequence  $\{g_i\}$  of elements of  $G$  such that

$$(i) \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \|g - g_i\| = 0$$

(ii) numbers  $g_i(x)$ , where  $x \in D$  and  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ , lie strictly between  $g(x)$  and  $h(x)$  (i.e. either

$$g(x) < g_i(x) < h(x) \text{ or } h(x) < g_i(x) < g(x)).$$

Let us assume that the operator  $\Phi: K \rightarrow C[a, b]$  is defined and continuous on the set  $K \subset C[a, b]$  and that  $M$  is an arbitrary nonempty subset of  $K$ .

**Definition 7** (see [6]). The element  $g \in M$  is said to be an optimal starting approximation in  $M$  for  $f \in K$  if  $\|\Phi(f) - \Phi(g)\| \leq \|\Phi(f) - \Phi(h)\|$  for all  $h \in M$ . The approximation of this type was considered in papers [4, 6, 8, 9].

**Definition 8** (see [1, 2]).

The element  $g \in M$  is called the optimal transformed approximation in  $M$  for  $f \in C[a, b]$  if

$$\|f - \Phi(g)\| \leq \|f - \Phi(h)\|$$

for all  $h \in M$ .

The optimal transformed approximation, with respect to  $M$  equal to polynomial and rational families and  $\Phi$  equal to an ordered function, was considered by Dunham in [1, 2]. The main purpose of this paper is to prove the alternation theorems for optimal starting and transformed

approximations, with  $M$  equal to a nonempty subset of family  $G$  having a degree at all  $g \in G$ . In particular, we shall generalize Theorems 3.2 and 2 characterizing the optimal starting approximation from [4] and [6] respectively.

Additionally, we shall obtain characterization theorems of Kolmogorov type for optimal transformed approximation by families with weak betweenness property. These theorems are similar to characterization theorems from [9].

## 2. Optimal starting approximation

Let us denote by  $D(g)$ , where  $g \in G$ , the closed subset of  $[a, b]$  defined by

$$D(g) = \{x: |\Phi(f)(x) - \Phi(g)(x)| = \|\Phi(f) - \Phi(g)\|\}.$$

In this section the following definitions from [6] will be useful.

**Definition 9.** The operator  $\Phi$  is called pointwise strictly monotone at  $f \in K$  if for each  $h, g \in K$  we have

$$|\Phi(f)(z) - \Phi(h)(z)| < |\Phi(f)(z) - \Phi(g)(z)|$$

for each  $z \in [a, b]$ , where either  $g(z) < h(z) \leq f(z)$  or  $f(z) \leq h(z) < g(z)$

**Definition 10.** The operator  $\Phi$  is said to be pointwise fixed at  $f \in K$ , if  $h \in K$  with  $h(z) = f(z)$  for  $z \in [a, b]$  implies  $\Phi(h)(z) = \Phi(f)(z)$ .

Now we shall prove two lemmas characterizing the family  $G$  having a degree.

**Lemma 1.** Let the family  $G$  have a degree at all  $g \in G$ . Then  $G$  has weak betweenness property.

**Proof.** Let  $g, h$  be two arbitrary distinct elements of  $G$  and let  $n$  denote a degree at  $g$ . Thus there exists  $k, k < n$ , simple zeros  $x_j$  of  $(h - g)$  in  $(a, b)$ . Let  $D$  be any closed subset of  $[a, b]$  such that  $\delta = \min \{|h(x) - g(x)|: x \in D\} > 0$ . If  $k = 0$  then setting in Definition 2  $\sigma = \text{sign} \{h(x) - g(x): x \in D\}$  we conclude that for every  $\varepsilon, 0 < \varepsilon < \delta$ , there exists  $p \in M$  such that  $\|p - g\| < \varepsilon$  and  $p(x)$  lies strictly between  $g(x)$  and  $h(x)$  for every  $x \in D$ . From this the thesis of the lemma is obvious, because we may select  $g_i$

in Definition 6 which corresponds to  $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{s+i}$ , where an integer  $s$  is

such that  $0 < \frac{1}{s} < \delta$ . Otherwise, suppose that an integer  $l$  is so chosen

that sets  $\left(x_i - \frac{1}{\nu}, x_i + \frac{1}{\nu}\right) \cap D, i = 1, \dots, k$ , are empty for all  $\nu \geq 1$ .

From Definition 2 for each  $\nu \geq 1$ ,  $0 < \varepsilon < \min\left\{\frac{1}{\nu}, \delta\right\}$  and  $\sigma = \text{sign}\{h(x) - g(x) : x \in D \cap [a, x_1]\}$  there exists  $g_\nu$  which lies strictly between  $g(x)$  and  $h(x)$  for all  $x \in D$  and  $\|g_\nu - g\| < \varepsilon$ . Hence the family  $G$  has the weak betweenness property and the proof is completed.

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $g$  be an arbitrary fixed distinct element of  $G$  and let  $e \in C[a, b]$ . Assume that  $G$  has a degree  $n$  at  $g$ . Let  $D$  be a nonempty closed subset of  $[a, b]$  such that  $e(x) \neq 0$  for all  $x \in D$ . Then the following three conditions are equivalent:*

- (i) *the set  $D$  contains at least  $(n+1)$  alternation points of the function  $e$ .*
- (ii) *there does not exist any element  $h \in G$  such that the inequality*

$$(1) \quad e(x)[h(x) - g(x)] > 0$$

*is satisfied for all  $x \in D$ .*

- (iii) *there does not exist any element  $h \in G$  distinct from  $g$  such that the inequality*

$$(2) \quad e(x)[h(x) - g(x)] \geq 0$$

*is satisfied for all  $x \in D$ .*

**Proof.** The fact that condition (i) implies (ii) by property  $Z$  is obvious. Now we shall prove that (ii) implies (iii). Let us suppose on the contrary that there exists an element  $h \in G$  distinct from  $g$  such that the inequality (2) is satisfied for all  $x \in D$ . Let  $z_1, \dots, z_k$ ,  $k < n$ , be simple zeros of the function  $(h-g)$  in  $(a, b)$ . If  $k = 0$  then the proof follows immediately from Definition 2. Otherwise, renumbering if necessary  $z_i$ , we assume that  $z_i \in D$  for  $i = 1, \dots, l$ , where  $l \leq k$ . From the continuity of all considered functions and inequality (2) it follows that for sufficiently small  $\lambda > 0$  there exist the sets  $O_\lambda(z_i)$  equal for  $i = 1, \dots, l$  to  $(z_i - \lambda, z_i)$  or  $(z_i, z_i + \lambda)$  and for  $i = l+1, \dots, k$  to  $(z_i - \lambda, z_i + \lambda)$  such that  $O_\lambda(z_i) \cap D = \emptyset$ . Let  $x_i$  be the mid-points of intervals  $O_\lambda(z_i)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ . Denote  $\sigma = \text{sign}\{h(x) - g(x) : x \in (a, z_1) \text{ and } h(x) \neq g(x)\}$ . From Definition 2 for every  $0 < \varepsilon < \frac{\lambda}{2}$  there exists  $p \in G$  such that  $[p(x) - g(x)][h(x) - g(x)] \geq 0$  and  $p(x) \neq g(x)$  for all  $x \in [a, b] \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^k O_\lambda(z_i) \supset D$ . Hence setting  $h = p$  in (1) we obtain the contradiction of (ii). Finally, we prove that (iii) implies (i). Let us suppose on the contrary that the set  $D$  contains exactly  $k$ ,  $k \leq n$ , alternation points  $a_i$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, k-1$  of the function  $e$ . If  $k = 1$  then setting  $\sigma = \text{sign}\{e(x) : x \in D\}$  we conclude from Definition 2 that there exists an element  $h \in G$  such that  $\sigma = \text{sign}\{h(x) - g(x) : x \in [a, b]\}$ . Hence the proof is completed. Otherwise, let  $x_i$  denote arbi-

trary fixed zeros of  $e$  in intervals  $(a_{i-1}, a_i)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k-1$ . Additionally, let  $\sigma = \text{sign}\{e(x) : x \in [a_0, x_1] \cap D\}$  and let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be so chosen that  $(x_i - \varepsilon, x_i + \varepsilon) \cap D = \emptyset$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k-1$ . For these  $\varepsilon, \sigma$  and  $x_i$  let  $h \in G$  be an element defined by Definition 2. Obviously, inequality (2) with this  $h$  is satisfied for all  $x \in D$ . This gives a contradiction, and the lemma is proven.

From Lemmas 1 and 2 in this paper and Theorems 3 and 4 from [9] we immediately obtain the following theorem which generalizes Theorem 3.2 and 2 from [4] and [6] respectively.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $\Phi: K \rightarrow C[a, b]$  be a continuous operator and let  $G$  have a degree at all  $h \in G$ . Fix an element  $g \in G$  and denote by  $n$  the degree of  $G$  at  $g$ . Let  $M = K \cap G$  be a nonempty relatively open subset of  $G$  and let  $e = f - g$ , where  $f \in K \setminus M$ . Finally assume that  $\Phi$  is pointwise strictly monotone and pointwise fixed at  $f$ . Then the following four conditions are equivalent:*

- (i) *the element  $g$  is an optimal starting approximation to  $f$ .*
- (ii) *there does not exist any element  $h \in G$  such that inequality (1) is satisfied for all  $x \in D(g)$ .*
- (iii) *there does not exist any element  $h \in G$  distinct from  $g$  such that inequality (2) is satisfied for all  $x \in D(g)$ .*
- (iv) *the set  $D(g)$  contains at least  $(n + 1)$  alternation points of the function  $e$ .*

### 3. Optimal transformed approximation.

Let us denote by  $B(g)$ , where  $g \in G$ , the closed subset of  $[a, b]$  defined by

$$B(g) = \{x : |f(x) - \Phi(g)(x)| = \|f - \Phi(g)\|\}.$$

In this section the following definitions will be useful.

**Definition 11.** The operator  $\Phi: K \rightarrow C[a, b]$  is said to be pointwise strictly increasing at  $g \in M$  if for each  $h \in M$  and  $x \in [a, b]$  the inequality  $g(x) < h(x)$  ( $g(x) > h(x)$ ) implies that

$$\Phi(g)(x) < \Phi(h)(x) \quad (\Phi(g)(x) > \Phi(h)(x)).$$

The operator  $\Phi$  is said to be pointwise strictly monotone at  $g \in M$  if  $\Phi$  or  $-\Phi$  is pointwise strictly increasing at  $g$ . If the operator  $\pm \Phi$  is pointwise increasing at  $g \in M$  then we set  $\sigma = \pm 1$ . The ordered functions [2] and more general transformations considered in [5] are examples of operators pointwise strictly monotone at  $g$ , where  $g$  and  $M$  may be arbitrary chosen. For other examples see [6]. In particular, the operator  $\Phi$  may be equal to the identity operator.

**Theorem 2.** Let  $\Phi: K \rightarrow C[a, b]$  be a continuous operator. Let  $G$  be an arbitrary subset of  $C[a, b]$  having weak betweenness property and let  $M = K \cap G$  be a nonempty relatively open subset of  $G$ . Finally assume that  $\Phi$  is pointwise strictly monotone at  $g \in M$ . Then a necessary condition for  $g$  to be an optimal transformed approximation, with respect to  $f \in C[a, b] \setminus M$  is that there does not exist any element  $h \in G$  such that

$$(3) \quad \sigma[f(x) - \Phi(g)(x)][h(x) - g(x)] > 0$$

for all  $x \in B(g)$ .

**Proof.** Let us suppose on the contrary that there exists  $h \in G$  such that inequality (3) is satisfied for all  $x \in B(g)$ . Then for  $x \in B(g)$  we have either

$$f(x) > \Phi(g)(x) \text{ and } \sigma h(x) > \sigma g(x)$$

or

$$f(x) < \Phi(g)(x) \text{ and } \sigma h(x) < \sigma g(x).$$

From the continuity of all considered functions there exists the open set  $E \supset B(g)$  such that the last inequalities hold for all  $x \in \bar{E}$ . Because  $G$  has the weak betweenness property and  $M$  is open in  $G$  then there exists the sequence  $g_i$  of elements of  $M$  such that  $g_i(x)$  lies strictly between  $\sigma h(x)$  and  $\sigma g(x)$  for all  $x \in \bar{E}$  and  $g_i$  is convergent uniformly on  $[a, b]$  to  $g$ . Now, from the pointwise monotonicity of  $\Phi$  at  $g$  and the continuity of the operator  $\Phi$  it follows that there exists an integer  $m$  such that  $\Phi(g_i)(x)$  for all  $i \geq m$  and  $x \in \bar{E}$  lies strictly between  $f(x)$  and  $\Phi(g)(x)$ . Hence

$$(4) \quad |f(x) - \Phi(g_i)(x)| < |f(x) - \Phi(g)(x)| = \|f - \Phi(g)\|$$

for all  $i \geq m$  and  $x \in \bar{E}$ . If  $\bar{E} = [a, b]$  then the proof is completed. Otherwise, let us set  $V = X \setminus \bar{E}$  and

$$\delta = \max\{|f(x) - \Phi(g)(x)|: x \in V\}.$$

Obviously  $V$  is a compact set. Since  $V \cap B(g) = \emptyset$ , thus  $\|f - \Phi(g)\| > \delta$ . From the continuity of  $\Phi$  and uniform convergence  $g_i$  to  $g$  it follows that there exists an integer  $k$ ,  $k \geq m$ , such that  $\|\Phi(g) - \Phi(g_i)\| < \|f - \Phi(g)\| - \delta$  for all  $i \geq k$ . Hence for all  $x \in V$  and  $i \geq k$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x) - \Phi(g_i)(x)| &\leq |f(x) - \Phi(g)(x)| + |\Phi(g)(x) - \Phi(g_i)(x)| \\ &< \delta + \|\Phi(g) - \Phi(g_i)\| < \delta + \|f - \Phi(g)\| - \delta = \|f - \Phi(g)\|. \end{aligned}$$

Combining this result with (4) we have

$$\|f - \Phi(g_i)\| < \|f - \Phi(g)\| \quad \text{for all } i \geq k.$$

This gives a contradiction.

**Theorem 3.** Let  $M$  be an arbitrary nonempty subset of  $K$  and let the operator  $\Phi$  be pointwise monotone at  $g$ . Then a sufficient condition for  $g \in M$  to be an optimal transformed approximation to  $f \in C[a, b] \setminus M$  is that there does not exist any element  $h \in M$  such that

$$(5) \quad \sigma[f(x) - \Phi(g)(x)][h(x) - g(x)] \geq 0$$

for all  $x \in B(g)$ .

**Proof.** Suppose on the contrary that there exists an  $h \in M$  such that  $\|f - \Phi(h)\| < \|f - \Phi(g)\|$ . Hence for all  $x \in B(g)$  we have

$$(6) \quad |f(x) - \Phi(h)(x)| < |f(x) - \Phi(g)(x)|.$$

Now, we must have for  $x \in B(g)$  either  $f(x) > \Phi(g)(x)$  and  $\sigma h(x) \geq \sigma g(x)$  or  $f(x) < \Phi(g)(x)$  and  $\sigma h(x) \leq \sigma g(x)$ . Indeed, otherwise from the pointwise monotonicity of  $\Phi$  at  $g$  we obtain that  $\Phi(g)(x)$  lies strictly between  $f(x)$  and  $\Phi(h)(x)$  for all  $x \in B(g)$ . This gives a contradiction of (6). Combining the above inequalities for functions  $f$ ,  $\Phi(g)$ ,  $\sigma g$  and  $\sigma h$  we obtain that the inequality (5) is satisfied for all  $x \in B(g)$ . This completes the proof.

**Theorem 4.** Under the assumptions of Theorem 2 and the additional assumption that

$$(7) \quad h(x) = g(x) \text{ implies } \Phi(h)(x) = \Phi(g)(x) \text{ for all } h \in M$$

a necessary and sufficient condition for  $g \in M$  to be a transformed approximation to  $f \in C[a, b] \setminus M$  is that there does not exist any element  $h \in G$  such that

$$\sigma[f(x) - \Phi(g)(x)][h(x) - g(x)] > 0$$

for all  $x \in B(g)$ .

**Proof.** From Theorems 2 and 3 and from the fact that the equality  $h(x) = g(x)$  for an  $x \in B(g)$  in the proof of Theorem 3 from condition (7) is impossible we immediately obtain the proof of this theorem.

Note that condition (7) is satisfied if the operator  $\Phi$  is the identity operator, ordered function [2] or transformation from [5]. Finally from Lemma 1 and 2 and Theorems 2 and 3 we have the theorem.

**Theorem 5.** Let  $\Phi: K \rightarrow C[a, b]$  be a continuous operator and let  $G$  have a degree at all  $h \in G$ . Fix an element  $g \in G$  and denote by  $n$  the degree of  $G$  at  $g$ . Let  $M = K \cap G$  be nonempty relatively open subset of  $G$  and let  $e = f - \Phi(g)$ , where  $f \in C[a, b] \setminus M$ . Finally assume that  $\Phi$  is pointwise strictly monotone at  $g$ . Then the following four conditions are equivalent:

(i) the element  $g$  is an optimal transformed approximation to  $f$ .

(ii) there does not exist any element  $h \in G$  such that the inequality  $\sigma e(x) [h(x) - g(x)] > 0$  is satisfied for all  $x \in B(g)$ .

(iii) *there does not exist any element  $h \in G$  distinct from  $g$  such that the inequality  $\sigma e(x)[h(x) - g(x)] \geq 0$  is satisfied for all  $x \in B(g)$ .*

(iv) *the set  $B(g)$  contains at least  $(n + 1)$  alternation points of the function  $e$ .*

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#### STRESZCZENIE

W pracy udowodniono twierdzenia o alternansie, charakteryzujące nieliniową optymalną aproksymację startową i transformowaną. Ponadto, dla optymalnej aproksymacji transformowanej podane zostały twierdzenia charakterystyczne typu Kołmogorowa.

#### РЕЗЮМЕ

В данной работе доказано теоремы о альтернансе, характеризующие нелинейную стартерную и трансформированную оптимальную аппроксимацию. Кроме того, для оптимальной трансформированной аппроксимации представлены характеризующие теоремы типа Колмогорова.