

W. H. J. FUCHS*

ON THE DEGREE OF CHEBYSHEV APPROXIMATION ON SETS WITH SEVERAL COMPONENTS

1°. Let K be a compact set in the z -plane with p , $1 < p < \infty$, simply connected disjoint components $I_1, I_2, \dots, I_p$ none of which is a single point. For a connected set K the degree of best approximation (in the Chebyshev sense)

$$E_n(f, K) = E_n(f) = \inf_{q \in P_n} \sup_{z \in K} |f - q| = \inf_{q \in P_n} \|f - q\|_K$$

P_n = polynomials of degree $\leq n$ is determined by the regularity properties of f . In the case under consideration here a new phenomenon arises, because the geometrical nature of K plays a decisive role. To study the influence of the geometry of K we consider approximation of functions which have very regular behavior on K . To be precise, we restrict ourselves to functions in the class R :

Definition 1. $f \in R$ if and only if

- a) $f(z)$ is defined on K .
- b) On every connected component I_j of K $f(z)$ is equal to the restriction of an entire function $h_j(z)$ to I_j .
- c) Not all $h_j(z)$ are identical.

The relevant geometric properties of K find their analytic expression in the properties of the Green's function $k(z)$ of the complement K' of K in the completed z -plane with pole at ∞ . We extend the definition of $k(z)$ to all complex z by setting

$$k(z) = 0 \quad (z \in K).$$

For $0 < \alpha < \infty$, let

$$D_\alpha = \{z | k(z) < \alpha\}.$$

If α is sufficiently small the set D_α will consist of p disjoint regions. Each one of these regions will contain exactly one I_j . As α increases there will be values α' of α such that $D_{\alpha' + \varepsilon}$ has fewer components than $D_{\alpha' - \varepsilon}$ for every ε , $0 < \varepsilon < \alpha'$. The values α' for which this occurs can be characterized as those positive numbers for which the level line $k(z) = \alpha'$ contains a critical point of $k(z)$ (i. e. a point where $\frac{\partial k}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial k}{\partial y} = 0$). It is well known that there are $p - 1$ such points, if counted with proper multiplicity [1, p. 32]. For simplicity we assume that each

* The author gratefully acknowledges support of this research by Bell Telephone Laboratories and the National Science Foundation.

of these points is of multiplicity one. Since $k(z)$ is harmonic, this means that in terms of a suitably chosen new variable

$$\zeta = \xi + i\eta = e^{i\gamma}(z - z_0).$$

$k(z) = k(z_0) + c(z_0)(\xi^2 - \eta^2) + \text{higher order terms}$ ($c(z_0) > 0$) (1) near the critical point z_0 .

It is an immediate consequence of the definition of the class R that $f \in R$ has a holomorphic extension to D_α for sufficiently small α (the holomorphic functions defining $f(z)$ in distinct components of D_α are the $h_j(z)$ entering into the definition of $f \in R$). By requirement c) of Definition 1 there must be a β , $0 < \beta < \infty$, such that $f(z)$ is holomorphic in D_β , but not in D_α with $\alpha > \beta$.

Theorem 1. Suppose there are constants α_1, A_1 such that for $0 < \alpha < \alpha_1$ the length of ∂D_α , the boundary of D_α , is less than A_1 . Suppose also that at all critical points $k(z)$ has an expansion of the form (1).

If $f \in R$ is holomorphic in D_β , but not in D_α with $\alpha > \beta$, then one can find a non-negative integer $q = q(f)$ such that

$$E_n(f) \geq A_1 n^{-q - \frac{1}{2} - n\beta} e^{-n\beta}. \quad (2)$$

Remarks. 1. Critical points of higher multiplicity can be investigated in the same way and a similar statement holds in their presence.

2. The hypothesis about the length of the level curves ∂D_α is satisfied if and only if each I_j has a rectifiable boundary. Under more stringent conditions on K it is possible to show that Theorem 1 gives the correct order of magnitude of $E_n(f)$:

A function of a real variable is said to be in class C^{m+} , if its m^{th} derivative satisfies a Lipschitz condition with some positive exponent. The boundary of K is in C^{m+} if the boundary of K consists of rectifiable curves such that the coordinate functions are C^{m+} functions of arc length.

Theorem 2. Suppose that the hypotheses of Theorem 1 hold and that in addition ∂K consists of Jordan curves and simple arcs in C^{2+} .

Then one can find polynomials $p_n(x)$ such that

$$\|f - p_n\|_K \leq A_2 n^{-q - \frac{1}{2} - n\beta} e^{-n\beta},$$

where q is the same integer as in Theorem 1.

Notation. The letter A will be used for a positive number which may depend on f and K , but not on n . The value of A may change from one occurrence to the next.

2°. Proof of Theorem 1. Theorem 1 is proved by estimating $\int_{\partial D_\alpha} f(z) \bar{\varphi}(z) dz$ in two different ways, where $\varphi(z)$ is a suitable bounded holomorphic function in K' (the complement of K), with a zero of order $n+2$ at infinity.

First we construct a suitable $\varphi(z)$. Let $\omega_j(z)$ be the harmonic measure of ∂I_j with respect to K' . We assume that φ is of the form

$$\varphi(z, n+2) = \varphi(z) = \exp\{u(z) + i\bar{u}(z)\}$$

where

$$u(z) = -(n+2)k(z) + \sum_{j=1}^p \lambda_j \omega_j(z) \quad (\lambda_j \in \mathbb{R}, |\lambda_j| < A).$$

Here $\bar{u}$ must be the conjugate harmonic function of u defined by

$$u(z) + i\bar{u}(z) = \int_{z_0}^z \left\{ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(\zeta) - i \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}(\zeta) \right\} d\zeta + \text{const.} \quad (2.1)$$

In general this will not define a single-valued φ , since the integral in (2.1) depends on the path of integration. Integrals along different paths with the same end points will differ by

$$\sum m_l \pi_l(u) \quad (m_l \in \mathbb{Z}, \pi_l(u) = \text{period of } u + i\bar{u} = \int_{C_l} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - i \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) d\zeta,$$

where C_l is a curve encircling I_l once in the positive sense, but not encircling any other I_j . $\pi_l(u)$ is an imaginary number. The function $\varphi(z)$ is single-valued, if and only if

$$\pi_l(u) = 2\pi i q_l \quad (q_l \in \mathbb{Z}). \quad (2.2)$$

If we put

$$\pi_l(k) = i\nu_l \quad \pi_l(\omega_j) = iP_{lj},$$

we can rewrite (2.2) as

$$\sum_{j=1}^p P_{lj} \lambda_j = (n+2)\nu_l + 2\pi q_l = \kappa_l \quad (l = 1, 2, \dots, p). \quad (2.3)$$

H. Widom [4, p. 142] proved that the equations

$$\sum_{j=1}^p P_{lj} \lambda_j = c_l \quad (l = 1, 2, \dots, p) \quad (2.4)$$

$$\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_p = 0$$

have a unique solution, if and only if

$$c_1 + c_2 + \dots + c_p = 0.$$

Since, by Cauchy's Theorem,

$$i \sum \nu_l(k) = \int_{|z|=R} \left(\frac{\partial k}{\partial x} - i \frac{\partial k}{\partial y} \right) d\zeta = 2\pi i,$$

it follows that (2.3) has a unique solution if and only if the integers q_l satisfy

$$2\pi(n+2 + q_1 + q_2 + \dots + q_p) = \kappa_1 + \kappa_2 + \dots + \kappa_p = 0.$$

By linearity, we can therefore find real constants Q_{lj} , depending only on the P_{lj} , such that

$$\lambda_j = \sum_{l=1}^{p-1} Q_{jl} z_l \quad (j=1, 2, \dots, p-1). \quad (2.5)$$

By adjusting the integers q_l we can make $|z_l| < A$ and so, by (2.4) and (2.5)

$$|\lambda_j| < A \quad (j=1, 2, \dots, p).$$

With this choice of the λ_j , φ is a bounded, holomorphic function in K' .

Since $\varphi(z)$ has a zero of order $n+2$ at ∞ , an application of Cauchy's Theorem yields

$$\int_{\partial D_\alpha} z^j \varphi(z) dz = \int_{|z|=R} z^j \varphi(z) dz = 0 \quad (R > R_0; j=0, 1, 2, \dots, n).$$

Therefore, if $q(z)$ is the polynomial of degree $\leq n$ which best approximates $f(z)$ on $\overline{D_\alpha}$, $\alpha > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{\partial D_\alpha} f(z) \varphi(z) dz \right| &= \left| \int_{\partial D_\alpha} (f(z) - q(z)) \varphi(z) dz \right| \\ &\leq E_n(f, \overline{D_\alpha}) \int_{\partial D_\alpha} |\varphi(z)| |dz|. \end{aligned}$$

Since $|\varphi(z)| < A$ and, for $\alpha < \alpha_1$, $\int_{\partial D_\alpha} |dz| < A$, it follows that

$$E_n(f, \overline{D_\alpha}) > A \left| \int_{\partial D_\alpha} f(z) \varphi(z) dz \right| \quad (\alpha < \alpha_1). \quad (2.6)$$

By a well-known result of J. L. Walsh [3, p. 80, 81] the polynomials of best approximation to $f(z)$ in K , $p_n(z)$, converge uniformly to $f(z)$ in $D_{\beta-\varepsilon}$ ($0 < \varepsilon < \beta$). By the two-constant theorem applied to the subharmonic function $\log |f(z) - p_n(z)|$ in $D_{\beta-\varepsilon} \setminus K$

$$\log |f(z) - p_n(z)| < \log E_n(f, K) \left(1 - \frac{k(z)}{\beta - \varepsilon} \right) \quad (n > n_0).$$

Therefore in $\overline{D_\alpha}$ with

$$\alpha \leq (\beta - \varepsilon) / |\log E_n(f)| = \alpha_2,$$

$$E_n(f, \overline{D_\alpha}) \leq \|f - p_n\|_{\overline{D_\alpha}} < e E_n(f).$$

Hence, using (2.6)

$$E_n(f) > A \left| \int_{\partial D_\alpha} f(z) \varphi(z) dz \right| \quad (\alpha \leq \alpha_2). \quad (2.7)$$

By the definition of β , $f(z)$ must have a singular point on ∂D_β . This can only happen for $f \in R$, if there are critical points of $k(z)$ on

∂D_β . D_β is the union of at most p disjoint regions Δ_v ($v=1, 2, \dots$), say. By our assumptions each critical point of $k(z)$ on ∂D_β is a common boundary point of exactly two Δ_v 's. There are no other points which belong to the boundary of more than one Δ_v . If z_0 is a critical point of $k(z)$, then there is exactly one line L through z_0 in the direction of steepest increase of k , namely the ξ -axis, in the notation of (1). Draw all such lines L through critical points on ∂D_β . For sufficiently small ϵ these lines divide $D_{\beta+\epsilon}$ into subregions Δ'_v ($v=1, 2, \dots$). Each Δ'_v contains one and only one Δ_v , and there are exactly two Δ'_v which have a given line L in common. If $f(z) = h_\mu(z)$, say, in Δ'_v , then we have, by Cauchy's Theorem,

$$\left| \int_{\partial D_\beta} f(z) \varphi(z) dz \right| = \left| \sum_v \int_{\Delta'_v} h_\mu(z) \varphi(z) dz \right| \quad (\alpha < \beta). \quad (2.8)$$

On the level line $\partial D_{\beta+\epsilon}$ (of length $\leq A$)

$$|h_j(z)| < A \quad (j=1, 2, \dots, p) \text{ and } |\varphi(z)| < Ae^{-n(\beta+\epsilon)}.$$

Therefore

$$\left| \int_{\partial \Delta'_v \cap \partial D_{\beta+\epsilon}} h_\mu(z) \varphi(z) dz \right| < Ae^{-n(\beta+\epsilon)}. \quad (2.9)$$

The contribution to (2.8) of a line segment L through the critical point z_0 is

$$\int_L \{h_\mu(z) - h_\rho(z)\} \varphi(z) dz = J(L) \quad (2.10)$$

where $f = h_\mu$ and $f = h_\rho$, respectively, in the two Δ'_v having L as their common boundary. By (1), near z_0 , $k(z) + i\bar{k}(z)$, expressed in terms of $\zeta = \xi + i\eta$ has the form

$$k(z) + i\bar{k}(z) = \beta + i\bar{\beta} + c(\xi^2 - \eta^2 + 2i\xi\eta) + \text{higher order terms}.$$

In particular, on L

$$k(z) + i\bar{k}(z) = \beta + i\bar{\beta} + c\xi^2 + \text{higher order terms in } \xi.$$

Expanding in powers of ξ

$$h_\mu(z) - h_\rho(z) = b_s \xi^s + b_{s+1} \xi^{s+1} + \dots \quad (b_s \neq 0), \quad (2.11)$$

$$e^{\sum \lambda_j (\omega_j(z) + i\bar{\omega}_j(z))} = a_0 - a_1 \xi + \dots \quad (a_0 \neq 0).$$

Here the b 's are independent of n , the a 's depend on n (via the λ, s), but $|a_j| < A$, uniformly in n . Substituting these power series, the integral (2.10) takes the form

$$J(L) = e^{-L\gamma} \int_{-a}^b e^{-(n+2)\beta - L(n+2)\tilde{\beta} - (n+2)[c\xi^2 + \dots]} (a_0 b_s \xi^s + \dots) d\xi.$$

By applying Laplace's method [2, p. 78] to the integral $J(L)$,

$$J(L) = \begin{cases} e^{-L\gamma} C_s [(n+2)c]^{-\frac{s+1}{2}} e^{-(n+2)(\beta + i\tilde{\beta})} a_0 b_s + R(s \text{ even}) \\ R(s \text{ odd}) \end{cases} \quad (2.12)$$

where

$$|R| < A(n+2)^{-\frac{s+2}{2}} e^{-n\beta}.$$

Remembering the definition of a_0 we can write the leading term in (2.12)

$$e^{-L\gamma} C_s [(n+2)c]^{-\frac{s+1}{2}} e^{-n\beta} |\varphi(z_0) e^{n\beta}| b_s. \quad (2.13)$$

Since $|\varphi(z_0) e^{n\beta}|$ lies between two positive numbers independent of n , Theorem 1 follows from (2.12), if z_0 is the only critical point on ∂D_s and $s = 2q$ is even.

Suppose now that several critical points $z_1, z_2, \dots$ lie on ∂D_s , and suppose that the lowest power ξ^s occurring in the corresponding expansions (2.11) is ξ^s , s even.

Note that one can find a function $\psi(z)$, holomorphic and bounded in the complement K' of K , which satisfies

$$\psi(z_j) = e^{i\alpha_j} \quad (j = 1, 2, \dots, p-1; \alpha_j \text{ given, real}).$$

(E. g., if $w = \psi_k(z)$ maps the complement of I_p conformally onto $|w| < 1$, $\psi_k(z_k) = 0$, one can choose ψ of the form $\psi(z) = \sum_k \gamma_k \prod_{j \neq k} \psi_j(z)$).

If $\varphi(z)$ is replaced by $\varphi(z)\psi(z)$, the leading contribution of each z_j to (2.8) is obtained from those z_j for which $s_j = s$ and each such z_j contributes a leading term

$$C_s e^{-L\gamma_j} [(n+2)c(z_j)]^{-\frac{s+1}{2}} e^{-n\beta} (\varphi(z_j) e^{n\beta}) \psi(z_j) b_s(z_j).$$

By suitable choice of the $\psi(z_j)$ all these terms can be given equal argument, so that no cancellations between them are possible and Theorem 1 follows in this case with $q = \frac{1}{2}s$.

It remains to prove the Theorem in the case $s = \min s_j = \text{odd integer}$. Again we replace $\varphi(z)$ by $\varphi(z)\psi(z)$, but this time we choose $\psi(z)$ so that

$$\psi(z_j) = 0, \quad \psi'(z_j) = e^{i\alpha_j} \quad (z_j \in \partial D_s).$$

It is again easy to see that such a ψ exists, which is bounded and holomorphic in K' . The principal contributions to the new integral (2.8) are now of the form

$$C, \sum_j [(n+2)c(z_j)]^{-\frac{s+2}{2}} e^{-n\beta} (\bar{\tau}(z_j) e^{n\beta}) \psi'(z_j) b_s(z_j) e^{-\beta \tau(z_j)}$$

and cancellations between terms are impossible, if the $\psi'(z_j)$ are suitably chosen. This proves the Theorem with

$$q = \frac{1}{2} (s+1),$$

if s is odd.

3°. Proof of Theorem 2. Let $\varphi(z) = \varphi(z, n+2)$ be the function defined in the proof of Theorem 1. The function

$$\psi(z) = 1/\varphi(z, n)$$

is holomorphic in K' except for a pole at ∞ where

$$\psi(z) = Az^n + \text{lower powers of } z \quad (|z| \geq R). \quad (3.1)$$

Also

$$\bar{A}_1 e^{-na} < |\psi(z)| < A_2 e^{na} \quad (z \in \partial D_a; a > 0). \quad (3.2)$$

Let

$$q(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{|\zeta|=R} \frac{\psi(\zeta)}{\zeta - z} d\zeta \quad (|z| < R).$$

By (3.1),

$$q(z) = \sum_{v=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{|\zeta|=R} \psi(\zeta) z^v \zeta^{-v-1} d\zeta = \text{polynomial of degree } n \text{ in } z.$$

For z outside $\bar{D}_a$, by the residue theorem,

$$q(z) - \psi(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D_a} \frac{\psi(\zeta) d\zeta}{\zeta - z}.$$

It follows from results of H. Widom [4, Lemma 11.2] that the integral on the right hand side of (3.1) is uniformly bounded for $z \in K'$ and all n . Therefore

$$|q(z) - \psi(z)| < A \quad (z \in K', n = 1, 2, \dots). \quad (3.3)$$

Consider now

$$p(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D_a} \frac{f(\zeta) (q(\zeta) - q(z))}{q(\zeta) (\zeta - z)} d\zeta$$

where a is so small that ∂D_a consists of p disjoint curves C_j each of which surrounds one I_j . Since $(q(\zeta) - q(z))/(\zeta - z)$ is a polynomial of degree $n-1$ in z , $p(z)$ is a polynomial of degree $n-1$. By Cauchy's formula

$$\begin{aligned} f(z) - p(z) &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D_a} \frac{f(\zeta) d\zeta}{\zeta - z} - p(z) = \frac{q(z)}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D_a} \frac{f(\zeta) d\zeta}{q(\zeta) (\zeta - z)} = \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^p \frac{q(z)}{2\pi i} \int_{C_j} \frac{h_j(\zeta) (\psi(\zeta) - q(\zeta)) d\zeta}{q(\zeta) \psi(\zeta) (\zeta - z)} + \frac{q(z)}{2\pi i} \int_{C_j} \frac{h_j(\zeta) d\zeta}{\psi(\zeta) (\zeta - z)} \quad (z \in D_a). \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

By (3.3) and (3.2), $q(z) \neq 0$ outside D_n for $n > n_0(z)$. We can therefore deform the contours C_j into the contours $\partial\Delta_j$ used in the proof of Theorem 1. On $\partial\Delta_j$, $|\zeta - z| > A$, $|h_j(\zeta)| < A$. By (3.2) and (3.3)

$$|\psi(\zeta)| > A_1 e^{n\beta}, \quad |q(\zeta)| > A e^{n\beta}.$$

On the parts of $\partial\Delta_j$ which lie on ∂D_{j+1} ,

$$|\psi(\zeta)| > A_1 e^{n(\beta+s)}.$$

Therefore it is an easy consequence of (3.4) that

$$\begin{aligned} |f(z) - p(z)| &< \left\{ A e^{-2n\beta} + A e^{-n(\beta+s)} + \right. \\ &\left. + \sum_{z_0} \left| \frac{3}{2\pi} \int_L |h_{\mu}(\zeta) - h_{\nu}(\zeta)| \frac{d\zeta}{\psi(\zeta)(\zeta - z)} \right| \right\} |q(z)| \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

where the summation is over all critical points z_0 lying on ∂D_j . Each integral is estimated by Laplace's method and yields a contribution which is less than

$$A n^{-\frac{s+1}{2}} e^{-n\beta} |q(z)| \quad (s \text{ even}) \quad (3.6)$$

and less than

$$A n^{-\frac{s+2}{2}} e^{-n\beta} |q(z)| \quad (s \text{ odd}). \quad (3.7)$$

By (3.2) and (3.3)

$$|q(z)| < A \quad (z \in \partial D_{1/n}) \quad (3.8)$$

and Theorem 2 follows from (3.5), (3.6), (3.7), (3.8) and the maximum principle.

Վ. Գ. Ի. ՖՈՒԲՍ. Մի բանի կոմպոնենտներով բազմությունների վրա Ջեքիչևյան մոտարկման աստիճանի մասին (ամփոփում)

Դիցուք K -ն կոմպակտ է C -ում $I_1, \dots, I_p$ միակապ կոմպոնենտներով ($2 < p < \infty$), f ֆունկցիան սահմանված է K -ի վրա հետևյալ հավասարություններով

$$f(z) = h_j(z), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, p$$

($z \in I_j$, h_j -ն ամբողջ ֆունկցիա է):

Դիցուք k -ն $\overline{C} \setminus K$ -ի Գրինի ֆունկցիան է, անվերջ հոռու բևեռով:

Եթե h_j ֆունկցիաներից գոնե երկուսը տարբեր են, ապա գոյություն ունի այնպիսի β ($0 < \beta < \infty$), որ f -ը թույլ է տալիս անալիտիկ շարունակություն մինչև $D_\beta = \{z | k(z) < \beta\}$, բայց ոչ D_α , երբ $\alpha > \beta$.

Ապացուցված է, որ K -ի և f -ի վրա որոշ պայմանների դեպքում տեղի ունի

$$A_1 n^{q-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\beta n} < E_n(f) = \inf_p \sup_{z \in K} |f(z) - p(z)| < A_2 n^{q-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\beta n}$$

գնահատականը, որտեղ p -ն n -ից ոչ բարձր կարգի բազմանդամ է, $q = q(f)$ որոշ ոչ բացասական հաստատուն է, իսկ A_1, A_2 -ը n -ից անկախ հաստատուններ են:

В. Г. И. ФУКС. О степени Чебышевской аппроксимации на множествах несколькими компонентами (резюме)

Пусть K -компакт в C с p односвязными компонентами $I_1, \dots, I_p$ ($2 < p < \infty$). Функция f определена на K равенствами $f(z) = h_j(z)$ ($z \in I_j$, h_j — целая функция) $j = 1, 2, \dots, p$.

Функция k — функция Грина для $\overline{C} \setminus K$ с полюсом в бесконечности.

Если хотя бы две из функций h_j различны, то существует такое β ($0 < \beta < \infty$), что f позволяет аналитическое продолжение в $D_\beta = \{z | k(z) < \beta\}$, но не в D_α при $\alpha > \beta$.

Доказывается, что при некоторых условиях на K и f имеет место оценка

$$A_1 n^{-q-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\beta n} < E_n(f) = \inf_p \sup_{z \in K} |f(z) - p(z)| < A_2 n^{-q-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\beta n},$$

где p — полином степени не выше n , $q = q(f)$ — некоторая неотрицательная константа, A_1, A_2 — константы, не зависящие от n .

Cornell University Ithaca, New York

Received 20.VIII.1978

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

1. R. Nevanlinna. Eindeutige Analytische Funktionen, 2nd edition, Springer, Berlin, 1953.
2. G. Pólya and Szegő. Aufgaben und Lehrsätze aus der Analysis, I, Springer, 1926.
3. J. L. Walsh. Interpolation and Approximation by Rational Functions in the Complex Domain, 2nd edition, Am. Math. Soc. Colloquium Publications, Vol. 2, 1935.
4. H. Widom. Extremal Polynomials Associated with a System of Curves in the Complex Plane, Advances in Math., 3, 1969, 127—232.