

Markov's Inequality and the Existence of an Extension Operator for C^∞ Functions

W. PLEŚNIAK

*Department of Mathematics, Jagiellonian University,
30-059 Kraków, Poland*

Communicated by Paul Nevai

Received March 25, 1988; revised June 20, 1988

It is shown that if E is a C^∞ determining compact set in \mathbb{R}^n , then Markov's inequality for derivatives of polynomials holds on E iff there exists a continuous linear extension operator $L: C^\infty(E) \rightarrow C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Other equivalent statements (e.g., Bernstein's approximation theorem for C^∞ functions, topological linear embedding of $C^\infty(E)$ into the space of rapidly decreasing sequences of real numbers) are also given. As an application, we prove that each of those properties (of the set E) is invariant under regular analytic mappings. © 1990 Academic Press, Inc.

0. INTRODUCTION

Perhaps one of the most laborious tasks in approximation theory is to compile the list of papers dealing with the classical Markov's inequality and its generalizations. A contribution to this theory has been given by W. Pawłucki and the author in [2], where it is shown that, for each polynomial $p: \mathbb{K}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$ ($\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$ or $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$) and each multiindex α ,

$$\|D^\alpha p\|_E \leq M(\deg p)^{r|\alpha|} \|p\|_E \tag{0.1}$$

with positive constants M and r independent of p and α , whenever E is a *uniformly polynomially cuspidal* (UPC) compact subset of \mathbb{K}^n . (Here $\|p\|_E$ stands for $\sup |p| (E)$.) Actually, in order that (0.1) hold it is sufficient that *Siciak's extremal function* Φ_E (see [7]), defined by the formula

$$\Phi_E(x) = \sup \{ |p(x)|^{1/\deg p} : p \text{ is a polynomial on } \mathbb{C}^n \text{ of degree } \geq 1 \text{ with } \|p\|_E \leq 1 \},$$

for $x \in \mathbb{C}^n$, be Hölder continuous in the sense that

$$\Phi_E(x) \leq 1 + M\delta^m \quad \text{whenever } \text{dist}(x, E) \leq \delta \leq 1, \tag{HCP}$$

with $M > 0$ and $m > 0$ independent of δ (see [2, Remark 3.2]). Recently Siciak (personal communication) has constructed a Cantor's type compact subset E of the line-segment $[0, 1]$ that satisfies (HCP). Thus, the family of HCP compact sets in \mathbb{R}^n is strictly larger than that of UPC sets. We note that by the famous Hironaka's rectilinearization theorem and Łojasiewicz's inequality, every subanalytic compact set E in \mathbb{R}^n with $\text{int } E$ dense in E is UPC [2, Corollary 6.6]. As an application of Markov's inequality it has also been proved in [2, Theorem 5.1] that a function $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the restriction of a C^∞ function on \mathbb{R}^n iff for each $r > 0$, $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} k^r \text{dist}_E(f, P_k) = 0$ (Bernstein's theorem), P_k denoting the space of (the restrictions to E of) all polynomials of degree at most k , and

$$\text{dist}_E(f, P_k) := \inf\{\|f - p\|_E : p \in P_k\}.$$

Applying both Markov's inequality and Bernstein's theorem, we have shown in [4] (see also [3]) the existence of a continuous linear operator extending C^∞ functions from an HCP compact subset of \mathbb{R}^n to the whole space and have constructed [5] a topological linear embedding of $C^\infty(E)$ into the Fréchet space \mathcal{D} of rapidly decreasing sequences of real numbers.

This paper completes the previous articles by W. Pawlucski and the author. Here, applying the techniques developed in [2, 4, 5], we point out that Markov's inequality, as well as Bernstein's theorem, is equivalent to the existence of a continuous linear extension operator for C^∞ functions on E in the case that E is a compact subset of \mathbb{R}^n , C^∞ determining in the following sense: For each $f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$, $f|_E = 0$ implies $D^\alpha f|_E = 0$, for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n$. This seems not to be known to specialists in the field. As an application, we show that each of the equivalent properties of E is invariant under regular analytic maps. We close the paper by formulating some open problems concerning sets with Markov's property.

1. C^∞ FUNCTIONS

A C^∞ function on a compact subset E of \mathbb{R}^n is a function $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that there exists a function $\tilde{f} \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with $\tilde{f}|_E = f$. Let $C^\infty(E)$ be the space of such functions. Following Zerner [12] we introduce in $C^\infty(E)$ the seminorms $d_{-1}(f) := \|f\|_E$, $d_0(f) := \text{dist}_E(f, P_0)$, and for $k = 1, 2, \dots$,

$$d_k(f) := \sup_{l \geq 1} l^k \text{dist}_E(f, P_l).$$

By Jackson's theorem (see, e.g., [10]) the d_k 's are indeed seminorms on $C^\infty(E)$. Denote by τ_1 the topology for $C^\infty(E)$ determined by the seminorms d_k ($k = -1, 0, \dots$). In general, this topology is not complete.

Let now τ_2 be another topology for $C^\infty(E)$ determined by the seminorms

$$q_{K,k}(f) := \inf\{|\tilde{f}|_K^k : \tilde{f} \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n), \tilde{f}|_E = f\},$$

where for each compact set K in \mathbb{R}^n and each $k = 0, 1, \dots$,

$$|\tilde{f}|_K^k := \max_{|\alpha| \leq k} \|D^\alpha \tilde{f}\|_K.$$

Then τ_2 is exactly the quotient topology of the space $C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)/I(E)$, where $C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is endowed with the natural topology τ_0 determined by the seminorms $|\cdot|_K^k$, and $I(E) := \{f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) : f|_E = 0\}$. Since $(C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n), \tau_0)$ is complete and $I(E)$ is a closed subspace of $C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$, the quotient space $C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)/I(E)$ is also complete, whence $(C^\infty(E), \tau_2)$ is a Fréchet space.

Suppose now E is a C^∞ determining compact set in \mathbb{R}^n . Then by Whitney's extension theorem the space $(C^\infty(E), \tau_2)$ is isomorphic to the Fréchet space of C^∞ Whitney fields $F = (F^\alpha)$ ($\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n$), where each F^α is a continuous function on E , endowed with the topology τ_3 determined by the seminorms

$$\|F\|_E^k := |F|_E^k + \sup\{|(R_x^k F)^\alpha(y)| : |x - y|^{k - |\alpha|} : x, y \in E, x \neq y, |\alpha| \leq k\},$$

($k = 0, 1, \dots$), where

$$|F|_E^k = \sup\{|F^\alpha(x)| : x \in E, |\alpha| \leq k\}$$

and

$$(R_x^k F)^\alpha(y) = F^\alpha(y) - \sum_{|\beta| \leq k - |\alpha|} (1/\beta!) F^{\alpha + \beta}(x)(y - x)^\beta.$$

Assume, moreover, that the compact set E has the C^∞ extension property: Every C^∞ function on $\text{int } E$ that is uniformly continuous together with all its partial derivatives can be extended to a C^∞ function on \mathbb{R}^n . Then the topologies τ_2 and τ_3 coincide with the topology τ_4 determined by the seminorms

$$|f|_K^k = \sup\{|D^\alpha f(x)| : x \in \text{int } E, |\alpha| \leq k\}.$$

(For details see [4].) Further on, we shall need the following known

LEMMA 1.1 (see, e.g., [1, I.4.2]). *There are positive constants C_α depending only on $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n$ such that for each compact set E in \mathbb{R}^n and each $\varepsilon > 0$, one can find a C^∞ function u on \mathbb{R}^n satisfying $0 \leq u \leq 1$ on \mathbb{R}^n , $u = 1$ in a neighborhood of E , $u(x) = 0$ if $\text{dist}(x, E) > \varepsilon$, and for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n$, $|D^\alpha u(x)| \leq C_\alpha \varepsilon^{-|\alpha|}$.*

2. LAGRANGE INTERPOLATION POLYNOMIALS

Let $\kappa : \mathbb{N} \ni j \rightarrow \kappa(j) = (\kappa_1(j), \dots, \kappa_n(j)) \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n$ be a one-to-one mapping such that for each j , $|\kappa(j)| \leq |\kappa(j+1)|$. Let m_k denote the number of all monomials $x^\alpha := x_1^{\alpha_1} \dots x_n^{\alpha_n}$ of degree at most k . One can easily verify that $m_k = \binom{n+k}{k}$. Set $e_j(x) := x^{\kappa(j)}$, for $j = 1, 2, \dots$. The system $\{e_1, \dots, e_{m_k}\}$ is a basis of the space P_k of all polynomials from \mathbb{K}^n to \mathbb{K} of degree at most k ($\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$ or $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$).

Let $T_k = \{t_1, \dots, t_k\}$ be a system of k points of \mathbb{K}^n . Consider the *Vandermonde determinant*

$$V(T_k) = V(t_1, \dots, t_k) := \det[e_j(t_i)],$$

where $i, j \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. If $V(T_k) \neq 0$, we define

$$L^{(j)}(x, T_k) := V(t_1, \dots, t_{j-1}, x, t_{j+1}, \dots, t_k) / V(T_k).$$

Since $L^{(j)}(t_i, T_k) = \delta_{ij}$ (Kronecker's symbol), we get the following *Lagrange interpolation formula* (cf. [8, Lemma 2.1]):

(LIF) If $p \in P_k$ and T_{m_k} is a system of m_k points of \mathbb{K}^n such that $V(T_{m_k}) \neq 0$, then

$$p(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{m_k} p(t_j) L^{(j)}(x, T_{m_k}), \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{K}^n.$$

Let E be a *unisolvent* compact set in \mathbb{K}^n . That means that for each polynomial p , $p=0$ on E implies $p=0$ in \mathbb{K}^n . A system T_k of k points $\{t_1, \dots, t_k\}$ of E is called a *Fekete-Leja system of extremal points* of E of order k , if $|V(T_k)| \geq |V(S_k)|$ for all systems $S_k = \{s_1, \dots, s_k\} \subset E$. Since E is unisolvent, we have $V(T_k) \neq 0$ (see [8, Proposition 4.3]), and then

$$|L^{(j)}(x, T_k)| \leq 1 \text{ on } E, \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, k. \tag{2.1}$$

If $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$ is a function on E , for any system T_{m_k} of extremal points of E of order m_k , we set

$$L_k f(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{m_k} f(t_j) L^{(j)}(x, T_{m_k}). \tag{2.2}$$

$L_k f$ is called the *Lagrange interpolation polynomial* of f of order k . Suppose f is continuous and p_k is a metric projection of f onto P_k . Then by LIF, (2.1), and (2.2), we get for $k \geq 2$

$$\begin{aligned} \|f - L_k f\|_E &\leq \|f - p_k\|_E + \|L_k f - L_k(p_k)\|_E \\ &\leq (m_k + 1) \|f - p_k\|_E \leq 4k^n \text{dist}_E(f, P_k). \end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

Due to this inequality, in problems connected with polynomial approximation of C^∞ functions one can well replace the metric projection $f \rightarrow \text{dist}_E(f, P_k)$ by the linear projection $f \rightarrow L_k f$.

3. THE MAIN RESULT

Let E be a unisolvent compact set in \mathbb{R}^n and $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Fix a point $t_0 \in E$ and set $L_0 f(x) \equiv f(t_0)$. For each $k = 1, 2, \dots$, let $T_{m_k} = \{t_1^k, \dots, t_{m_k}^k\} \subset E$ be a Fekete–Leja system of extremal points of E of order m_k and let $L_k f$ denote the Lagrange interpolation polynomial of f of degree k with nodes in T_{m_k} . Then we set $\varphi_1(f) = f(t_0)$, and for $M_k < j \leq M_{k+1}$, where $M_k := m_0 + \dots + m_k$ for $k = 0, 1, \dots$, we define

$$\varphi_j(f) = (L_{k+1} f - L_k f)(t_{j-M_k}^{k+1}).$$

In [5] we have proved

PROPOSITION 3.1. *For any unisolvent compact subset E of \mathbb{R}^n , the assignment $\varphi: f \rightarrow \{\varphi_j(f)\}_{j=1}^\infty$ determines a topological linear embedding of the space $(C^\infty(E), \tau_1)$ into the Fréchet space \mathcal{S} of all rapidly decreasing sequences of real numbers furnished with the norms $\|x\|_k := \sup_j j^k |x_j|$, $k = 0, 1, \dots$*

In order to make this article self-contained we shall repeat the argument of [5]. It is clear that φ is linear. By LIF (Section 2) and (2.3), φ is injective. To prove that $\varphi(f) \in \mathcal{S}$, observe that by (2.3), for each $r = 0, 1, \dots$, and $M_k < j \leq M_{k+1}$, $k = 1, 2, \dots$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} |j^r \varphi_j(f)| &\leq M_{k+1}^r \|L_{k+1} f - L_k f\|_E \\ &\leq C k^{(n+1)r+n} \text{dist}_E(f, P_k) \leq C d_{(n+1)r+n}(f), \end{aligned}$$

where C is a constant depending only on n and r . If $1 \leq j \leq M_1$, we also have $|\varphi_j(f)| \leq 2m_1 d_{-1}(f)$. Hence, in particular, φ is continuous. To prove that φ is a homeomorphism (onto $\varphi(C^\infty(E))$) it suffices to show that for each $r = -1, 0, \dots$ there are a positive integer s and a constant $M > 0$ such that $d_r(f) \leq M |\varphi(f)|_s$. To this end, write $q_0 := L_0 f$ and $q_k := L_k f - L_{k-1} f$, if $k > 0$. Since $f = \sum_{k=0}^\infty q_k$ on E , for $r > 0$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} l^r \text{dist}_E(f, P_l) &\leq l^r \sum_{k=l+1}^\infty \|q_k\|_E \leq \sum_{k=l+1}^\infty k^r \|q_k\|_E \\ &\leq (\pi^2/6) \sup_{k \geq 1} k^{r+2} \|q_k\|_E. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, by LIF we get

$$\|q_k\|_E = \sup_{x \in E} \sum_{i=1}^{m_k} |q_k(t_i^k) L^{(i)}(x, T_{m_k})| \leq m_k \max_{1 \leq i \leq m_k} |q_k(t_i^k)|.$$

Hence, since for each $k \geq 1$ we have $k \leq M_{k-1}$, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} d_r(f) &\leq M \sup_{k \geq 1} k^{r+n+2} \max\{|\varphi_j(f)| : M_{k-1} < j \leq M_k\} \\ &\leq M |\varphi(f)|_{r+n+2} \end{aligned}$$

with M depending only on n . If $r = 0$, we also have

$$d_0(f) \leq \|f - L_0 f\|_E \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \|q_k\|_E \leq (\pi^2/3 + 1) |\varphi(f)|_{n+2}.$$

This completes the proof of the proposition.

Remark 3.2. In general, φ is not a surjection on \mathcal{D} . The reason is that for $k \neq l$, the set T_{m_k} may meet the set T_{m_l} .

Now, our main result reads as follows.

THEOREM 3.3. *If E is a C^∞ determining compact subset of \mathbb{R}^n then the following statements are equivalent:*

(i) (Markov's Inequality) *There exist positive constants M and r such that for each polynomial p and each $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n$,*

$$\|D^\alpha p\|_E \leq M (\deg p)^{r|\alpha|} \|p\|_E.$$

(ii) *There exist positive constants M and r such that for every polynomial p of degree at most k , $k = 1, 2, \dots$,*

$$|p(x)| \leq M \|p\|_E \quad \text{if } x \in \tilde{E}_k := \{x \in \mathbb{C}^n : \text{dist}(x, E) \leq 1/k^r\}.$$

(ii') *There exist positive constants M and r such that for every polynomial p of degree at most k , $k = 1, 2, \dots$,*

$$|p(x)| \leq M \|p\|_E \quad \text{if } x \in E_k := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \text{dist}(x, E) \leq 1/k^r\}.$$

(iii) (Bernstein's Theorem) *For every function $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, if the sequence $\{\text{dist}_E(f, P_l)\}$ is rapidly decreasing, then there is a C^∞ function \tilde{f} on \mathbb{R}^n such that $\tilde{f}|_E = f$.*

(iv) *The space $(C^\infty(E), \tau_1)$ is complete.*

(v) *The topologies τ_1 and τ_2 for $C^\infty(E)$ coincide.*

(vi) The mapping φ of Proposition 3.1 is a linear homeomorphism of $(C^\infty(E), \tau_2)$ onto its image in \mathfrak{A} .

(vii) There exists a continuous linear operator

$$L: (C^\infty(E), \tau_1) \rightarrow (C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n), \tau_0)$$

such that $Lf|_E = f$ for each $f \in C^\infty(E)$.

The proof consists of four steps. 1° (i) \Leftrightarrow (ii) \Leftrightarrow (ii'). Assume (i). Let p be a polynomial of degree at most k . For each $x \in \mathbb{C}^n$, there is $a \in E$ such that $\delta := \text{dist}(x, E) = |x - a|$. By Taylor's formula we have

$$p(x) = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} (D^\alpha p(a)/\alpha!) (x - a)^\alpha.$$

Hence by (i), for $\delta = |x - a|$,

$$|p(x)| \leq M \sum_{|\alpha| \leq k} (k^r \delta)^{|\alpha|} \|p\|_E / \alpha! = M \|p\|_E \sum_{l=0}^k (nk^r \delta)^l / l!.$$

By putting $\delta \leq 1/k^r$ we get

$$|p(x)| \leq M e^n \|p\|_E \quad \text{if} \quad \text{dist}(x, E) = 1/k^r.$$

(ii) \Rightarrow (ii') Trivial. (ii') \Rightarrow (i) For each $a \in E$, $I_k(a) := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x_j - a_j| \leq 1/n^{1/2} k^r, j = 1, \dots, n\} \subset E_k$. Hence, by the classical Markov's inequality for a cube,

$$\begin{aligned} |D^\alpha p(a)| &\leq [k^2 / (1/n^{1/2} k^r)]^{|\alpha|} \|p\|_{I_k(a)} \\ &\leq M n^{|\alpha|/2} \cdot k^{(r+2)|\alpha|} \|p\|_E \leq M_1 k^{(r+2+s)|\alpha|} \|p\|_E \end{aligned}$$

for each $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n$. (Here the constant M_1 is determined by the equivalence of norms on the space P_1 of polynomials of degree at most 1, and s is chosen so that $n^{1/2} \leq 2^s$.)

2° (i) \Leftrightarrow (iii) \Leftrightarrow (iv) \Leftrightarrow (v). By step 1° , (i) implies (ii) and then we can follow the argument of the proof of Bernstein's theorem in [2]: Suppose $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is such a function that for each $s > 0$, $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} k^s \|f - p_k\|_E = 0$, p_k being a metric projection of f onto P_k ($k = 0, 1, \dots$). Set $\varepsilon_k = 1/k^r$ with (an integer) r determined by both (i) and (ii), and for $k = 1, 2, \dots$, take a function u_k of Lemma 1.1 corresponding to ε_k . Then the assignment

$$\tilde{f} := p_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} u_k q_k,$$

where $q_k := p_k - p_{k-1}$, $k = 1, 2, \dots$, determines a C^∞ function \tilde{f} on \mathbb{R}^n such

that $\tilde{f}|_E = f$. For, if $E_k = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \text{dist}(x, E) \leq \varepsilon_k\}$ and $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n$, by (i) and (ii) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{\mathbb{R}^n} |D^\alpha(u_k q_k)| &\leq \sum_{\beta \leq \alpha} \binom{\alpha}{\beta} \sup_{E_k} |D^\beta u_k D^{\alpha-\beta} q_k| \\ &\leq M \sum_{\beta \leq \alpha} \binom{\alpha}{\beta} C_\beta k^{r|\beta|} \|D^{\alpha-\beta} q_k\|_E \\ &\leq M_1 k^{r|\alpha|} \|q_k\|_E \leq M_2 k^{-2d_{r|\alpha|+2}}(f) \end{aligned}$$

with a constant M_2 independent of k .

Assume now (iii). Then (iv) follows by continuity of the map $C(E) \ni f \rightarrow \text{dist}_E(f, P_k) \in \mathbb{R}$ ($k = 0, 1, \dots$), where $C(E)$ is the Banach space of all continuous functions on E with the supremum norm. Let now I be a compact cube in \mathbb{R}^n containing E in its interior. By Jackson's theorem (see, e.g., [10]), for every k there is a constant $C_k > 0$ such that for each $f \in C^\infty(E)$,

$$d_k(f) \leq C_k q_{l, k+1}(f).$$

Hence, if $(C^\infty(E), \tau_1)$ is complete, by Banach's theorem the topologies τ_1 and τ_2 are equal, and we get (v). (We recall that for any C^∞ determining compact set E in \mathbb{R}^n the topology τ_2 is equal to the topology τ_3 . If, moreover, E has the C^∞ extension property, then both τ_2 and τ_3 are equal to the topology τ_4 .)

If (v) holds, there are a positive constant M and an integer $r \geq -1$ such that for each $f \in C^\infty(E)$, we have $q_{E,1}(f) \leq M d_r(f)$. Since $d_{-1}(f) = \|f\|_E$ and $d_0(f) \leq \|f\|_E$, it must be $r \geq 1$. (Otherwise, consider the functions x_j^m , $m = 1, 2, \dots$.) In particular, if f is a polynomial of degree at most k , we get

$$\|(\partial f / \partial x_j)\|_E \leq M \sup_{1 \leq l \leq k} l^r \text{dist}_E(f, P_l) \leq M k^r \|f\|_E,$$

for $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, which implies (i). (We needed the assumption that E is C^∞ determining.)

3° (v) \Leftrightarrow (vi). If the topologies τ_1 and τ_2 are equal then (vi) follows by Proposition 3.1, since every C^∞ determining compact set E is obviously unisolvent. Conversely, (vi) implies that the identity map $I: (C^\infty(E), \tau_1) \rightarrow (C^\infty(E), \tau_2)$ is continuous. Hence by Jackson's theorem, I is a linear homeomorphism.

4° (i) \Leftrightarrow (vii). The existence of an extension operator $L: (C^\infty(E), \tau_1) \rightarrow (C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n), \tau_0)$ has been proved in [4] (see also [3]) under the assumption that E is HCP. An inspection of the proof of that result permits us to repeat the argument under the hypothesis (i). For, let u_k be the functions

of the proof of implication (i) \Rightarrow (iii) (step 2°) and let $L_k f$ be the Lagrange interpolation polynomials of $f \in C^\infty(E)$ corresponding to the Fekete-Leja extremal points of E (Section 2). Then the operator

$$L f = u_1 L_1 f + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} u_k (L_{k+1} f - L_k f)$$

is obviously linear and $L f = f$ on E . Moreover, by (i), (ii), and (2.3), for each $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{\mathbb{R}^n} |D^\alpha u_k (L_{k+1} f - L_k f)| \\ & \leq \sum_{\beta \leq \alpha} \binom{\alpha}{\beta} \sup_{E_k} |D^\beta u_k D^{\alpha-\beta} (L_{k+1} f - L_k f)| \\ & \leq \sum_{\beta \leq \alpha} \binom{\alpha}{\beta} M C_\beta k^{r|\beta|} \|D^{\alpha-\beta} (L_{k+1} f - L_k f)\|_E \\ & \leq M_\alpha k^{r|\alpha|} \|L_{k+1} f - L_k f\|_E \\ & M_\alpha k^{r|\alpha|+n} \text{dist}_E(f, P_k) \leq M'_\alpha k^{-2} d_{r|\alpha|+n+2}(f). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, L is a continuous mapping from $(C^\infty(E), \tau_1)$ to $(C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n), \tau_0)$. It remains to prove that (vii) implies (i), and this goes on the same lines as the proof of implication (v) \Rightarrow (i).

Remark 3.4. The observation that (vii) implies (i) is owed to Siciak (personal communication). The equivalence (vi) \Leftrightarrow (vii) is related to a result of Tidten [9].

Remark 3.5. Some of the implications of Theorem 3.3 do not require the assumption that E is C^∞ determining. In particular, equivalences (i) \Leftrightarrow (ii) \Leftrightarrow (ii') hold for any compact subset E of \mathbb{R}^n .

On the other hand, if E satisfies (i) then E must be C^∞ determining. For let I be a compact cube in \mathbb{R}^n containing E in its interior. Take $f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with $f|_E = 0$. For each k , let p_k be a polynomial of degree at most k such that $\varepsilon_k := \text{dist}_I(f, P_k) = \|f - p_k\|_I$. By Jackson's theorem (ε_k) is rapidly decreasing, and by Markov's inequality, for each $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n$ we get

$$D^\alpha f = D^\alpha p_1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} D^\alpha (p_{k+1} - p_k) \quad \text{on } I.$$

Thus, again by Markov's inequality (on E), if $x \in E$, then $D^\alpha f(x) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} D^\alpha p_k(x) = 0$.

4. APPLICATIONS

Theorem 3.3 unites two apparently different problems: Markov's inequality and the existence of a continuous linear extension of C^∞ functions. This brings some advantages: e.g., we now can easily explain the phenomenon that there is no continuous linear extension operator $L: (C^\infty(E), \tau_1) \rightarrow C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ in the case that $E = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : 0 < y \leq \exp(-1/x), 0 < x \leq 1\} \cup \{(0, 0)\}$. Due to Theorem 3.3, it suffices to show that E does not satisfy (i), which is evident if we consider the polynomials $p_k(x, y) = y(1-x)^k$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots$ (example of Zerner [12]). (Cf. also [9].)

By [2, Theorem 3.1] and [4, Proposition 1.1], the class of UPC compact sets is a subclass of sets satisfying (i) of Theorem 3.3 that is stable with respect to the diffeomorphisms. For the whole class of (nonpluripolar) compact sets with property (i), we can prove a more modest

PROPOSITION 4.1. *Suppose E is a nonpluripolar compact set in \mathbb{R}^n . (That means that there is no plurisubharmonic function u on \mathbb{C}^n , $u(z) \not\equiv -\infty$, such that $E \subset \{u = -\infty\}$.) Let h be an analytic mapping defined in an open neighborhood U of E , with values in \mathbb{R}^n , such that for each $x \in E$, $\det h'(x) \neq 0$. If then E satisfies (i) of Theorem 3.3, it satisfies also each of the requirements (i)–(vii), and so does the set $h(E)$.*

Proof. By Theorem 3.3 and Remark 3.5, it suffices to show that if E satisfies (ii') so does the set $h(E)$. In order to do this take $b \in h(E)$ and choose $a \in h^{-1}(b) \cap E$. By the assumptions on h , there exist positive constants L and L_1 such that if $0 < \delta \leq \delta_0 := \inf\{|\det h'(x)| : x \in E\}$, then

$$B(b, L\delta) \subset h(B(a, L_1\delta)) \tag{4.1}$$

(see, e.g., [11, Chap. I, Prop. 5.1]). Choose an integer $k_0 > 1$ so that $1/k_0' \leq \delta_0$ and

$$F := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \text{dist}(x, E) \leq L_1/k_0'\} \subset U.$$

Let \tilde{h} be the complexification of h defined in an open set \tilde{U} in \mathbb{C}^n containing U . We may assume that \tilde{h} is bounded on \tilde{U} . Since every compact set in \mathbb{R}^n is polynomially convex, by a "uniform version" of the Bernstein–Walsh theorem (see [6, Lemma 2.1]) there exist constants $M_1 > 0$ and $a \in (0, 1)$ such that for each $p \in \tilde{P}_k$ ($k \geq k_0$)

$$\text{dist}_F(p \circ h, P_l) \leq M_1 \|\tilde{p} \circ \tilde{h}\|_{\tilde{U}} \cdot a^l, \quad l = 1, 2, \dots, \tag{4.2}$$

\tilde{p} denoting the complexification of p . By hypothesis, E is nonpluripolar.

and by [6, Lemma 2.5] so is the set $h(E)$. Hence the extremal function $\Phi_{h(E)}$ is locally bounded in \mathbb{C}^n (see [8]), and by the definition of Φ ,

$$\|\tilde{p} \circ \tilde{h}\|_{\tilde{U}} = \|\tilde{p}\|_{\tilde{h}(\tilde{U})} \leq \|p\|_{h(E)} A^k, \quad (4.3)$$

where $A := \sup\{\Phi_{h(E)}(y) : y \in \tilde{h}(\tilde{U})\} < +\infty$. For each l , let q_l be the polynomial (depending on p) of degree at most l such that

$$\text{dist}_F(p \circ h, P_l) = \|p \circ h - q_l\|_F.$$

If we put $l = dk$, where d is an integer such that $Aa^d \leq 1$, then by (4.2) and (4.3)

$$\|p \circ h - q_l\|_F \leq M_1 \|p \circ h\|_E$$

and

$$\|q_l\|_E \leq \|p \circ h - q_l\|_F + \|p \circ h\|_E \leq (M_1 + 1) \|p \circ h\|_E.$$

Moreover, by (4.1), for each $k \geq k_0$ and $s \geq r$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} \|p\|_{B(b, L_1/k^s)} &\leq \|p \circ h\|_{B(a, L_1/k^s)} \\ &\leq \|p \circ h - q_l\|_F + \|q_l\|_{B(a, L_1/k^s)} \\ &= M_1 \|p \circ h\|_E + \|q_l\|_{B(a, L_1/k^s)}. \end{aligned}$$

If now $s - r \geq (\log L_1 d^r) / \log k_0$, then by (ii') for E we have

$$\|q_l\|_{B(a, L_1/k^s)} \leq M \|q_l\|_E \leq M(M_1 + 1) \|p \circ h\|_E$$

and choosing $t > s$ such that $t - s \geq -\log L / \log k_0$ gives

$$\|p\|_{B(b, L_1/k^t)} \leq \|p\|_{B(b, L_1/k^s)} \leq M_2 \|p\|_{h(E)} \quad (4.4)$$

with constants M_2 and t that are independent of p , k , and b . Since $h(E)$ is nonpluripolar, the inequalities (4.4) extend easily to the case where $1 \leq k \leq k_0$. The proof is concluded.

Open Problems

1° Does (i) of Theorem 3.3 imply that the extremal function Φ_E is continuous in \mathbb{C}^n ? In particular, does (i) imply that E is nonpluripolar?

2° Construct a compact set E in \mathbb{R}^n that satisfies (i) and does not have HCP.

3° Does the Cantor ternary set in \mathbb{R} satisfy (i)?

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We thank W. Pawłucki for helpful conversations on this material.

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