

The Usual Behavior of Rational Approximation, II

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Communicated by Günter Meinardus

Received December 13, 1990; accepted in revised form January 30, 1992

The speeds of convergence of best rational approximations, best polynomial approximations, and the modulus of continuity on the unit disc are compared. We show that, in a Baire category sense, it is expected that subsequences of these approximants will converge at the same rate. Similar problems on the interval $[-1, 1]$ are also examined. A problem raised by P. Turán (*J. Approx. Theory* 29, 1980, 23–89) concerning rational approximation to non-analytically continuable f on the unit circle is negated as an application. © 1993 Academic Press, Inc.

1. INTRODUCTION

We examine questions concerning rational approximations to analytic functions in $|z| < 1$ and to continuous functions from the point of view of how they usually behave. As in [1], the notion of “usually” we adopt is the Baire categorical notion in a complete metric space.

Let A be the space of functions, which are analytic in $|z| < 1$ and continuous on $|z| = 1$, S the subset of A containing functions that can not be continued analytically beyond $|z| = 1$ at any point, $C_{2\pi}$ the class of continuous real functions of period 2π , and $C_{[-1, 1]}$ the class of continuous real functions on $[-1, 1]$.

Write

$$E_n(f)_E = \min_{p \in H_n} \|f - p\|_E = \min_{p \in H_n} \max_{z \in E} |f(z) - p(z)|,$$

$$R_n(f)_E = \min_{r \in R_{n,n}} \|f - r\|_E,$$

$$\omega(f, t)_E = \max_{0 < |h| \leq t} \|f(z+h) - f(z)\|_E,$$

* Supported in part by NSERC of Canada.

where Π_n is the class of polynomials of degree at most n ,

$$R_{n,n} = \left\{ \frac{p}{q} : p, q \in \Pi_n \right\}.$$

Since Newman showed that $|x|$ is uniformly approximated by rationals much better than by polynomials (cf. [2]), substantial progress has been made in discovering classes of functions for which rational approximation is better than polynomial approximation. A well-known example is the Newman's Lip 1 conjecture which claims that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} nR_n(f)_{[-1,1]} = 0$$

whenever $f \in \text{Lip } 1$. This conjecture was proved by Popov [3].

In spite of these positive results, the present paper shows that, in a categorical sense, it is expected that subsequences of rational approximants and polynomial approximants will usually converge at the same rate. Similar type results for entire functions were considered in [1].

We adopt the familiar categorical vocabulary. A set B is "nowhere dense" if the interior of B closure is empty. A set B is "category 1" if B is a countable union of nowhere dense sets. A set B is "residual" if it is the complement of a category 1 set. So a residual set contains almost all functions from a Baire category point of view. A set B is a " G_δ " if it is a countable intersection of open sets.

2. RESULTS FOR A

Let

$$\tilde{\Pi}_n = A \setminus \Pi_n,$$

and

$$D = \{z: |z| \leq 1\}.$$

In the sequel, we always write $p_n(f, z)$ to indicate the polynomial of best approximation to f of degree at most n , $r_n(f, z)$ a rational function of best approximation to f from $R_{n,n}$. Throughout the paper, the norms are the uniform norms.

THEOREM 1. *Let*

$$A_1 = \left\{ f \in A : \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{R_n(f)_D}{E_n(f)_D} = 1 \right\}.$$

Then A_1 is residual in A .

Proof. Let

$$A_1^n = \left\{ f \in A : \text{There is an } m_n \geq n \text{ such that } \frac{R_{m_n}(f)_D}{E_{m_n}(f)_D} > 1 - \frac{1}{n} \right. \\ \left. \text{and } E_{m_n}(f)_D \neq 0 \right\},$$

then

$$A_1 = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_1^n \bigcap_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{I}I_n.$$

To show that A_1 is residual we need to show that each A_1^n is open and dense in A (note that each $I\tilde{I}_n$ is closed and nowhere dense).

Let n be fixed. For any $f, g \in A$, we have

$$R_n(g)_D \geq \|f - r_n(g)\|_D - \|g - f\|_D \geq R_n(f)_D - \|f - g\|_D,$$

while

$$E_n(g)_D = \|g - p_n(g)\|_D \leq \|g - p_n(f)\|_D \leq E_n(f)_D + \|f - g\|_D,$$

and

$$E_n(g)_D \geq E_n(f)_D - \|f - g\|_D. \quad (1)$$

Thus

$$\frac{R_n(g)_D}{E_n(g)_D} \geq \frac{R_n(f)_D - \|f - g\|_D}{E_n(f)_D + \|f - g\|_D}. \quad (2)$$

If $f \in A_1^n$, then there is an $m_n \geq n$ such that

$$\frac{R_{m_n}(f)_D}{E_{m_n}(f)_D} > 1 - \frac{1}{n},$$

and

$$E_{m_n}(f)_D \neq 0.$$

From (1) and (2) we can deduce that there is a sufficiently small $\delta > 0$ such that for all $g \in A$ with $\|f - g\|_D \leq \delta$,

$$\frac{R_{m_n}(g)_D}{E_{m_n}(g)_D} > 1 - \frac{1}{n},$$

and

$$E_{m_n}(g)_D \neq 0.$$

So $g \in A_1^n$, which shows that each A_1^n is open.

Next, for any given $f \in A$ and ε , $0 < \varepsilon < 1/(2n)$, there is an $N > 0$ so that

$$\|f - p_N(f)\|_D < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}, \tag{3}$$

and

$$3^{-N} < \min \left\{ \frac{\varepsilon}{2}, \frac{1}{2n} \right\}. \tag{4}$$

We observe that if $n \geq 2m + 1$, then for any $q(z) \in \Pi_m$,

$$R_m(z^n + q(z))_D \geq 1. \tag{5}$$

In fact, suppose there is a rational $r(z) \in R_{m,m}$ such that

$$\|z^n + q(z) - r(z)\|_D < 1,$$

then by Rouché's theorem, $q(z) - r(z)$ has n zeros in D , but $q(z) - r(z)$ has numerator of degree less than n .

Now define

$$f^*(z) = p_N(f, z) + \sum_{j=N+1}^{\infty} m_j^{-1} z^{m_j},$$

where

$$m_j = 3^j.$$

By (3),

$$\|f - f^*\|_D \leq \|f - p_N(f)\|_D + \sum_{j=N+1}^{\infty} m_j^{-1} \|z^{m_j}\|_D \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + m_N^{-1} < \varepsilon. \tag{6}$$

At the same time, for $k \geq N + 1$,

$$E_{m_k}(f^*)_D \leq \sum_{j=k+1}^{\infty} m_j^{-1} \|z^{m_j}\|_D \leq m_{k+1}^{-1} + 2m_{k+2}^{-1}. \tag{7}$$

On the other hand, from (5),

$$\begin{aligned} R_{m_k}(f^*)_D &\geq \left\| m_{k+1}^{-1} z^{m_{k+1}} + p_N(f, z) + \sum_{j=N+1}^k m_j^{-1} z^{m_j} - r_{m_k}(f^*, z) \right\|_D \\ &\quad - \sum_{j=k+2}^{\infty} m_j^{-1} \|z^{m_j}\|_D \\ &\geq m_{k+1}^{-1} R_{m_k} \left(z^{m_{k+1}} + m_{k+1} (p_N(f, z) + \sum_{j=N+1}^k m_j^{-1} z^{m_j}) \right)_D - 2m_{k+2}^{-1} \\ &\geq m_{k+1}^{-1} - 2m_{k+2}^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

So together with (4) and (7) we get

$$\frac{R_{m_k}(f^*)_D}{E_{m_k}(f^*)_D} \geq \frac{m_{k+1}^{-1} - 2m_{k+2}^{-1}}{m_{k+1}^{-1} + 2m_{k+2}^{-1}} > 1 - \frac{1}{n},$$

that is, $f^* \in A_1^n$. This combines with (6) to prove that each A_1^n is open and dense in A and completes Theorem 1. ■

THEOREM 2. *Let*¹

$$A_2 = \left\{ f \in A: \text{there is a sequence } \{n_k\} \text{ such that } \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{R_{n_k}(f)_D}{\omega(f, n_k^{-1})_D} = \frac{1}{2} \right\}.$$

Then A_2 is residual in A .

Proof. Let

$$A_2^n = \left\{ f \in A: \text{there is an } m_n \geq n \text{ such that } \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{n} > \frac{R_{m_n}(f)_D}{\omega(f, m_n^{-1})_D} > \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{n} \right\},$$

then

$$A_2 = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_2^n.$$

In a manner similar to the proof of Theorem 1, we can prove that each A_2^n is open. Now let n be fixed. For any given $f \in A$ and ε , $0 < \varepsilon < 1/2n$, there is an $N > 0$ such that

$$\|f - p_N(f)\|_D < \min \left\{ \frac{\varepsilon}{2}, \|f\|_D \right\} \quad (8)$$

and

$$3^{-N} < \min \left\{ \frac{\varepsilon}{2}, \frac{1}{2n} \right\}.$$

Set

$$f^*(z) = p_N(f, z) + \sum_{j=N+1}^{\infty} m_j^{-1} z^{m_j^2},$$

where

$$m_j = 3^{j^2}.$$

¹ The constant $1/2$ in the following definition can be replaced by any constant c , $0 < c \leq 1/2$. Corresponding variation of the constants in Theorems 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9 is also allowed.

As in the proof of Theorem 1, we have

$$\|f - f^*\|_D < \varepsilon$$

and for $k \geq N + 1$,

$$R_{n_k}(f^*)_D \geq m_k^{-1} - 2m_{k+1}^{-1},$$

where $n_k = (m_k^2 - 1)/2 - 1$. Meanwhile, by Bernstein's inequality and (8),

$$\begin{aligned} \omega(f^*, n_k^{-1})_D &\leq \left(\|p'_N(f)\|_D + \sum_{j=N+1}^k m_j \right) n_k^{-1} + 2 \sum_{j=k+1}^{\infty} m_j^{-1} \\ &\leq \left(2N \|f\|_D + \sum_{j=N+1}^{k-1} m_j \right) n_k^{-1} + 2m_k^{-1} + 4m_{k+1}^{-1} \\ &\leq 2m_k^{-1} + o(m_k^{-1}), \quad k \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore for sufficiently large k ,

$$\frac{R_{n_k}(f^*)_D}{\omega(f^*, n_k^{-1})_D} > \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{n}.$$

A similar calculation shows that

$$R_{n_k}(f^*)_D \leq m_k^{-1} + 2m_{k+1}^{-1},$$

and

$$\omega(f^*, n_k^{-1})_D \geq 2m_k^{-1} - o(m_k^{-1}), \quad k \rightarrow \infty.$$

So for sufficiently large k ,

$$\frac{R_{n_k}(f^*)_D}{\omega(f^*, n_k^{-1})_D} < \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{n},$$

that is, $f^* \in A_2^n$. This finishes the proof. ■

Similarly, we can prove

THEOREM 3. *Let*

$$A_3 = \left\{ f \in A: \text{there is a sequence } \{n_k\} \text{ such that } \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{E_{n_k}(f)_D}{\omega(f, n_k^{-1})_D} = 1 \right\}.$$

Then A_3 is residual in A .

3. RESULTS FOR $C_{2\pi}$ AND $C_{[-1,1]}$

In $C_{2\pi}$ and $C_{[-1,1]}$, there are corresponding results.

THEOREM 4. *Let*

$$B_1 = \left\{ f \in C_{2\pi} : \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{R_n(f)_{[0,2\pi]}}{E_n(f)_{[0,2\pi]}} = 1 \right\}.$$

Then B_1 is residual in $C_{2\pi}$.

THEOREM 5. *Let*

$$B_2 = \left\{ f \in C_{2\pi} : \text{there is a sequence } \{n_k\} \text{ such that } \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{R_{n_k}(f)_{[0,2\pi]}}{\omega(f, n_k^{-1})_{[0,2\pi]}} = \frac{1}{2} \right\}.$$

Then B_2 is residual in $C_{2\pi}$.

THEOREM 6. *Let*

$$B_3 = \left\{ f \in C_{2\pi} : \text{there is a sequence } \{n_k\} \text{ such that } \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{E_{n_k}(f)_{[0,2\pi]}}{\omega(f, n_k^{-1})_{[0,2\pi]}} = 1 \right\}.$$

Then B_3 is residual in $C_{2\pi}$.

THEOREM 7. *Let*

$$C_1 = \left\{ f \in C_{[-1,1]} : \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{R_n(f)_{[-1,1]}}{E_n(f)_{[-1,1]}} = 1 \right\}.$$

Then C_1 is residual in $C_{[-1,1]}$.

THEOREM 8. *Let*

$$C_2 = \left\{ f \in C_{[-1,1]} : \text{there is a sequence } \{n_k\} \text{ such that} \right. \\ \left. \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{R_{n_k}(f)_{[-1,1]}}{\omega(f, n_k^{-1})_{[-1,1]}} = \frac{1}{2} \right\}.$$

Then C_2 is residual in $C_{[-1,1]}$.

THEOREM 9. *Let*

$$C_3 = \left\{ f \in C_{[-1,1]} : \text{there is a sequence } \{n_k\} \text{ such that} \right. \\ \left. \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{E_{n_k}(f)_{[-1,1]}}{\omega(f, n_k^{-1})_{[-1,1]}} = 1 \right\}.$$

Then C_3 is residual in $C_{[-1,1]}$.

All the proofs of these theorems are quite similar to those of Theorems 1 and 2. However, there are some differences in the space $C_{[-1,1]}$, so we will discuss Theorem 8.

Proof of Theorem 8. The only thing different from the proof of Theorem 2 is the construction of a function

$$f^*(x) \in \left\{ f \in C_{[-1,1]} : \text{there is an } m_n \geq n \text{ such that} \right. \\ \left. \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{n} > \frac{R_{m_n}(f)_{[-1,1]}}{\omega(f, m_n^{-1})_{[-1,1]}} > \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{n} \right\}$$

with

$$\|f - f^*\| < \varepsilon$$

for any given $f \in C_{[-1,1]}$, $n \geq 1$, and $\varepsilon > 0$. That is done by constructing

$$f^*(x) = p_N(f, x) + \sum_{j=N+1}^{\infty} m_j^{-1} T_{m_j} \left(\frac{x}{2} \right)$$

for sufficiently large N , where

$$T_n(x) = \cos(n \arccos x), \\ m_j = 9^j, \quad n_k = \left[\frac{1}{12} m_k^2 - 1 \right].$$

The rest of the proof remains almost the same as that of Theorem 2, and we omit the details. ■

4. A PROBLEM OF TURÁN

Turán raised the following problem in his well-known “problem-paper” [5].

PROBLEM LXXXVI. *Is it true that, for $f \in S$, we have*

$$|f(z) - R_n^*(z)| = o(1) \omega(f, n^{-1})_D, \quad |z| \leq 1$$

with a suitable rational function R_n^ ?*

We show that its answer is negative.

Let X_n be the subset of $C_{2\pi}$ consisting of those functions f for which there exists a $t \in [0, 2\pi)$ such that

$$|f(s) - f(t)| \leq n |s - t|$$

for all $s \in [0, 2\pi)$.

LEMMA 1. Fix n . Let $f \in C_{2\pi}$ have a continuous derivative. Given an $\varepsilon > 0$, then there exists a function $L(f) \in C_{2\pi}$ as well as $\tilde{L}(f) \in C_{2\pi}$, a $\delta > 0$, and a constant $M > 0$ so that

$$\|f - L(f)\|_{[0, 2\pi]} < \varepsilon, \quad (9)$$

$$\|\tilde{f} - \tilde{L}(f)\|_{[0, 2\pi]} < Mn \|f'\|_{[0, 2\pi]} \sqrt{\varepsilon}, \quad (10)$$

and for all $g \in C_{2\pi}$ with $\|L(f) - g\|_{[0, 2\pi]} < \delta/(4(n+1))$, we have

$$g \notin X_n,$$

where

$$\tilde{f} = -\frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\pi \frac{f(x+t) - f(x-t)}{2 \tan t/2} dt$$

is the conjugate function of f .

Proof. Since f has a continuous derivative,

$$|f(x_1) - f(x_2)| \leq \|f'\|_{[0, 2\pi]} |x_1 - x_2|.$$

Take

$$\delta = \delta(\varepsilon) = \max \left\{ \frac{\pi}{N} : \frac{\pi}{N} \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{8} \min \{ 1/\|f'\|_{[0, 2\pi]}, 1 \}, N = 1, 2, \dots \right\}.$$

Set

$$x_k = \frac{k\delta}{n+1}, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, 2 \frac{\pi}{\delta} (n+1).$$

Define

$$L(f, x) = (n+1) \delta^{-1} \left(f(x_k) - f(x_{k-1}) + (-1)^k \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \right) (x - x_{k-1}) + f(x_{k-1}) \\ + (-1)^{k-1} \frac{\varepsilon}{4}, \quad x \in [x_{k-1}, x_k), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, 2 \frac{\pi}{\delta} (n+1).$$

Direct calculation now leads to (9). Also,

$$\tilde{f}(x) - \tilde{L}(f, x) \\ = -\frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\pi \frac{f(x+t) - f(x-t) - L(f, x+t) + L(f, x-t)}{2 \tan t/2} dt$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= -\frac{1}{\pi} \left(\int_0^{\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \frac{f(x+t) - f(x-t)}{2 \tan t/2} dt - \int_0^{\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \frac{L(f, x+t) - L(f, x-t)}{2 \tan t/2} dt \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \int_{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}^{\pi} \frac{f(x+t) - L(f, x+t) - f(x-t) + L(f, x-t)}{2 \tan t/2} dt \right) \\
 &=: -\frac{1}{\pi} (\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2 + \Sigma_3).
 \end{aligned}$$

We check that

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\Sigma_1| &= O(\|f'\|_{[0, 2\pi]} \sqrt{\varepsilon}), \\
 |\Sigma_2| &= O(n \|f'\|_{[0, 2\pi]} \sqrt{\varepsilon}),
 \end{aligned}$$

while from (9),

$$|\Sigma_3| = O(\sqrt{\varepsilon}^{-1} \varepsilon) = O(\sqrt{\varepsilon}),$$

and (10) now follows from combining all these estimates.

On the other hand, for any $x \in [0, 2\pi)$, say, $x \in [x_k, x_{k+1})$, there is a $t_x = x + \delta/(2(n+1))$ or $t_x = x - \delta/(2(n+1))$, according to the cases $x \in [x_k, (x_k + x_{k+1})/2)$ or $x \in [(x_k + x_{k+1})/2, x_{k+1})$, respectively, such that

$$|L(f, x) - L(f, t_x)| \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{8} (n+1) \delta^{-1} |x - t_x| \geq (n+1) |x - t_x|.$$

Now for all $g \in C_{2\pi}$ with $\|L(f) - g\|_{[0, 2\pi]} < \delta/(4(n+1))$, the above estimate gives

$$\begin{aligned}
 |g(x) - g(t_x)| &\geq |L(f, x) - L(f, t_x)| - 2 \|L(f) - g\|_{[0, 2\pi]} \\
 &> (n+1) |x - t_x| - |x - t_x| = n |x - t_x|,
 \end{aligned}$$

so $g \notin X_n$. Lemma 1 is therefore proved. ■

LEMMA 2. *There exists a dense G_δ in S .*

Proof. The class of all polynomials with rational coefficients, $T \subset A$, is countable. We write all elements of T as $t_1(z), t_2(z), \dots$. We see from Lemma 1 that, for any given m, n , and k , there is a function $L_{kmn}(\theta) \in C_{2\pi}$ as well as $\tilde{L}_{kmn}(\theta) \in C_{2\pi}$ such that

$$|L_{kmn}(\theta) - \operatorname{Re}(t_m(e^{i\theta}))| < \frac{1}{k}, \tag{11}$$

and

$$|\tilde{L}_{kmn}(\theta) - \operatorname{Im}(t_m(e^{i\theta}))| = |\tilde{L}_{kmn}(\theta) - \tilde{\operatorname{Re}}(t_m(e^{i\theta}))| < \frac{Mn \|t'_m\|_{[0, 2\pi]}}{\sqrt{k}}. \tag{12}$$

Moreover, the $(\delta(k^{-1})/(4(n+1)))$ -neighbourhood of $L_{kmn}(\theta)$, N_{kmn} , does not intersect X_n . Write

$$f^*(\xi) = f(\theta)$$

for $\xi = e^{i\theta}$. So $f^*(\xi)$ is clearly a continuous function with respect to ξ if $f \in C_{2\pi}$. Now set

$$U(f, z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{|\omega|=1} f^*(\omega) \frac{\omega + z}{\omega - z} \frac{d\omega}{\omega}, \quad |z| < 1,$$

then $U(f, z)$ is an analytic function in $|z| < 1$, and

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow \xi} \operatorname{Re}(U(f, z)) = f(\theta),$$

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow \xi} \operatorname{Im}(U(f, z)) = \tilde{f}(\theta).$$

So with (11) and (12) we get

$$\|t_m(z) - U(L_{kmn}, z)\|_D \leq 2Mn \|t'_m\|_{[0, 2\pi]} \sqrt{k}^{-1}. \tag{13}$$

Let

$$N_{kmn}^* = \left\{ f \in A : \|f - U(L_{kmn})\|_D < \frac{\delta(k^{-1})}{4(n+1)} \right\},$$

$$G_n = \bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} N_{kmn}^*.$$

It is evident that N_{kmn}^* does not intersect the set

$$X_n^* = \{ f \in A : \operatorname{Re}(f(e^{i\theta})) \in X_n \}$$

since N_{kmn} does not intersect X_n . Furthermore, since T is dense in A and G_n contains all functions $U(L_{kmn}, z)$ for $k, m = 1, 2, \dots$, together with (13), we see that G_n is dense in A . Define

$$G = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} G_n,$$

then G is a dense G_δ in A and clearly, G only contains functions whose real parts are nowhere differentiable on $|z| = 1$, that is, $G \subset S$. ■

We conclude that Turán’s problem has a negative answer.

THEOREM 10. *There exist functions $f \in S \cap A_2$.*

Proof. From Lemma 2 and Theorem 2, a subset of such f is residual. ■

However, much as in Theorem 2, we can establish the following weak form of Turán's problem.

THEOREM 11. *Let*

$$A_4 = \left\{ f \in A : \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{R_n(f)_D}{\omega(f, n^{-1})_D} = 0 \right\}.$$

Then A_4 is residual in A .

Similarly, in the notation of Theorems 5 and 8 we have

THEOREM 12. *There exist functions $f \in B_2$ which are nowhere differentiable.*

THEOREM 13. *There exist functions $f \in C_2$ which are nowhere differentiable.*

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