



Universal transforms of the geometric series under generalized Riesz methods

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Dedicated to the memory of Dieter Gaier

Abstract

In this paper generalized Riesz methods (R, p, M) of summability are considered. We prove that, to each open set $O \subset \mathbb{C}$ with adequate topological properties and each sequence $\{P_n\} \subset \mathbb{C}$ tending to infinity, we can associate a corresponding P-regular (R, p, M) -method so that the geometric series and a certain trigonometric series become universal in the sense that its (R, p, M) -transforms approximate any member of certain spaces of holomorphic functions or measurable functions.

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1 Introduction

Suppose that $p := \{p_\nu\}_{\nu=0}^\infty$ is a sequence of complex numbers with the property that

$$P_n := \sum_{\nu=0}^{m_n} p_\nu \neq 0 \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}_0)$$

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for a subsequence $M := \{m_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ of $\mathbb{N}_0 := \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$. The row-finite matrix $A = [\alpha_{n\nu}]$ with entries

$$\alpha_{n\nu} := \frac{p_\nu}{P_n} \text{ for } 0 \leq \nu \leq m_n; \quad \alpha_{n\nu} := 0 \text{ for } \nu > m_n$$

generates a summability method “of weighted mean type”, which occasionally is denoted as a generalized Riesz method (R, p, M) and which was first investigated by Faulstich (see [2]). Such a method (R, p, M) is regular (by the well known Silverman-Toeplitz conditions) if and only if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P_n = \infty, \quad \sup_n \frac{1}{|P_n|} \sum_{\nu=0}^{m_n} |p_\nu| < \infty;$$

it is P-regular if and only if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P_n = \infty, \quad \sup_n \frac{1}{|P_n|} \sum_{\nu=0}^{m_n} |p_\nu| \rho^\nu < \infty \text{ for all } \rho \in (0, 1)$$

(see Remark 3.2 (2) below).

We recall that if $A = [\alpha_{n\nu}]_{n,\nu=0}^{\infty}$ is a general infinite matrix with complex entries, then A (or the summability method generated by it) is called regular if it preserves convergence of limits of sequences, that is, given a sequence $\{s_n\}$ with $s_n \rightarrow s \in \mathbb{C}$ then it is also A -summable to s or, in other words, the sequence $\sigma_n := \sum_{\nu=0}^{\infty} \alpha_{n\nu} s_\nu$ of its A -transforms also converges to s . And A is called P-regular (“regular for power series”) whenever for any given power series $f(z) = \sum_{\nu=0}^{\infty} a_\nu z^\nu$ with radius of convergence $R \in (0, \infty)$ the sequence $\sigma_n(z) := \sum_{\nu=0}^{\infty} \alpha_{n\nu} s_\nu(z)$ of its A -transforms (where $s_\nu(z) = \sum_{\mu=0}^{\nu} a_\mu z^\mu$) converges to $f(z)$ compactly in $\{z : |z| < R\}$. The exact conditions for regularity and P-regularity of a matrix A are due respectively to Silverman and Toeplitz (see for instance [15] or [17, pages 6–7]) and Luh (see [8]).

In 1945 Mensőv [12] proved the existence of a so-called universal trigonometric series

$$\sum_{\nu=0}^{\infty} \{a_\nu \cos \nu t + b_\nu \sin \nu t\}$$

with the property that for every Lebesgue measurable function φ on $[0, 2\pi]$ there exists a subsequence $\{n_k\}$ of the natural numbers such that the corresponding sequence of partial sums

$$s_{n_k}(t) = \sum_{\nu=0}^{n_k} \{a_\nu \cos \nu t + b_\nu \sin \nu t\}$$

converges to $\varphi(t)$ almost everywhere on $[0, 2\pi]$. It was shown in [10] (see also [13]) that there exist universal Taylor series $\sum_{\nu=0}^{\infty} a_{\nu} z^{\nu}$ with radius of convergence 1 which for $z = e^{it} \in \mathbb{D}$ become universal in the sense of Mensőv.

The trigonometric series $\sum_{\nu=0}^{\infty} \{\cos \nu t + \sin \nu t\}$ or the geometric series $\sum_{\nu=0}^{\infty} z^{\nu}$ obviously cannot have corresponding universal properties. However it is the aim of the present paper to apply (R, p, M) -methods to these series, in such a way that they become universal in the sense that the corresponding transforms approximate any member of certain spaces of holomorphic and measurable functions. Our results strongly generalize those, which were obtained in [3].

The outline of the paper is as follows. Section 2 is auxiliary and in it a topological, crucial property is considered in order to be used later. In Section 3 we present two results on approximation of holomorphic functions. Section 4 is again auxiliary, and in it a general statement on Radon measures is shown; this section is of independent interest. In Section 5 we employ the assertions of the foregoing sections to establish a strong result about approximation of Lebesgue-measurable functions.

2 Sets with an exhausting property

Throughout this paper we use the following notations and abbreviations.

For an open set $O \subset \mathbb{C}$ we denote by $H(O)$ as usual the family of all functions which are holomorphic in O . If $K \subset \mathbb{C}$ is a compact set then $A(K)$ stands for the collection of all functions which are continuous on K and holomorphic in the interior K^0 of K . By \xrightarrow{A} we denote uniform convergence on a set $A \subset \mathbb{C}$, while \xrightarrow{A} stands for uniform convergence on any compact subset of A . Finally, \mathbb{D} will represent the open unit disk $\{z : |z| < 1\}$.

By \mathcal{M} we denote the collection of all compact sets K of the complex plane \mathbb{C} which have connected complement K^c .

Definition 2.1. Suppose that F is a set in \mathbb{C} . Then F has the *property E*

(“exhausting property”) if either $F = \emptyset$, or $F \neq \emptyset$ and there exists a sequence $\{K_n\} \subset \mathcal{M}$ with $K_n \subset F$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for any $K \subset F$ with $K \in \mathcal{M}$ there exists an $n_0 = n_0(K) \in \mathbb{N}$ with $K \subset K_{n_0}$. Any such a sequence $\{K_n\}$ is called an “exhausting sequence” for F .

Examples 2.2. Let $G \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a simply connected domain, then G has the property E . Indeed, if $G = \mathbb{C}$ we choose $S^{(n)} := \{z : |z| \leq n\}$, and in the case that $G \neq \mathbb{C}$ let ϕ be a conformal mapping of \mathbb{D} onto G and consider the sets

$$S^{(n)} := \phi\left(\left\{z : |z| \leq 1 - \frac{1}{n+1}\right\}\right) \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}).$$

Then in both cases $\{S^{(n)}\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ is an exhausting sequence for G (actually for *any* compact set $K \subset G$ there exists an $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ with $K \subset S^{(n_0)}$).

More generally any domain $G \subset \mathbb{C}$ has the property E . In fact it is well known that *any open* set $G \subset \mathbb{C}$ has this exhausting property (cf. [9, page 198], [5, chapter 2.2]). The referee has kindly supplied an alternative proof of this assertion, which is a modification of the proof of Lemma 2.1 in [10] (see also [11]): In [10] having a locally finite number of components we succeed to consider a finite subset of $\mathbb{Q} + i\mathbb{Q}$. In the present situation the intersection of the component of G with a big closed disk is compact and is at a positive distance δ from a compact set K . By compactness we can find a finite number of open disks with centers in this intersection, all with radii $\frac{\delta}{1000}$, which cover this intersection. We can select an element of $\mathbb{Q} + i\mathbb{Q}$ in each one of these open disks. Then we arrive again to deal with a finite subset of $\mathbb{Q} + i\mathbb{Q}$ and the approach of [10, Lemma 2.1] applies.

The following examples show that *closed* sets may or may not have the property E .

Examples 2.3. 1. If $O \subset \mathbb{C}$ is an open set with infinitely many components then $F = O^c$ has in general not the property E . This can be seen for instance by the example (see [10])

$$O = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \{z : |z - 2^{-n}| < 2^{-n-2}\}.$$

However, if it is supposed that the number of components of O is locally finite –that is, every compact subset $L \subset \mathbb{C}$ only intersects a finite number $N = N(L)$ of components of O – then it was shown by Melas and Nestoridis [10, Lemma 2.1] that O^c has the property E.

2. In particular, if $O \subset \mathbb{C}$ is an open set with a finite number of components, then $F = O^c$ has the property E.

3. Consequently, if G is any domain in \mathbb{C} (= a nonempty connected open subset of \mathbb{C}), then $F = G^c$ has the property E. In this case, we can provide with the following easy proof, which is independent of that of [10]: The result is clear if $G = \mathbb{C}$. Suppose that $G \neq \mathbb{C}$ and choose a closed circle $S = \{z : |z - z_0| \leq r\} \subset G$. Let $\{L_n\}$ be an enumeration of all Jordan domains in S^c which are bounded by polygons with vertices in points which have rational real and imaginary parts. Then each closure $\overline{L_n}$ belongs to \mathcal{M} and for any set $L \in \mathcal{M}$ with $L \subset S^c$ there exists an n_0 with $L \subset \overline{L_{n_0}}$. It is easy to see that the sequence $\{K_n\}$ with $K_n := \overline{L_n} \cap G^c$ is an exhausting sequence for G^c .

3 Approximation of holomorphic functions

We first proof the following results.

Theorem 3.1. *Let be prescribed:*

- an open set $O \subset \mathbb{C}$ with simply connected components and $\mathbb{D} \subset O$, $1 \notin O$;
- a set $F \subset O^c$ which has the property E;
- a function $\varphi \in H(O)$ with $\varphi|_{\mathbb{D}} = \varphi_0$, where $\varphi_0(z) \equiv 0$;
- a sequence $\{P_n\} \subset \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ with $P_n \rightarrow \infty$.

(a) *Then there exist sequences $\{p_\nu\} \subset \mathbb{C}$ and $\{m_n\} \subset \mathbb{N}_0$ such that $P_n = \sum_{\nu=0}^{m_n} p_\nu$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) and*

$$\tau_n(z) := \frac{1}{P_n} \sum_{\nu=0}^{m_n} p_\nu z^\nu \xrightarrow{O} \varphi(z) \quad (n \rightarrow \infty).$$

(b) If in addition any set $K \in \mathcal{M}$, $K \subset F$, $1 \notin K$ and any function $f \in A(K)$ are given then there exists a sequence $\{n_k\}$ with

$$\tau_{n_k}(z) \xrightarrow{K} f(z) \quad (k \rightarrow \infty).$$

Proof. 1. Suppose that $O = \bigcup_{\nu \in I} G_\nu$, where $0 \in I$ and $I \subset \mathbb{N}_0$, that the G_ν 's are pairwise disjoint simply connected domains (the components of O) and assume $\mathbb{D} \subset G_0$.

For $\nu \in I$ choose a conformal mapping ϕ_ν of \mathbb{D} onto G_ν and consider the sets

$$S_\nu^{(n)} := \phi_\nu(\{z : |z| \leq 1 - \frac{1}{n+1}\}) \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}, \nu \in I),$$

$$T_n := S_0^{(n)}, \quad S_n := \bigcup_{\substack{\nu \in I \\ 1 \leq \nu \leq n}} S_\nu^{(n)} \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}),$$

which are compact, have connected complement and the sets T_n and S_n are pairwise disjoint for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Since F has the property E it is not hard to see that also $F_1 := F \setminus \{1\}$ has the property E . Without loss of generality we may assume that $F_1 \neq \emptyset$.

Let $\{K_n^*\}$ be an exhausting sequence for F_1 and denote by $\{\Pi_n^*\}$ an enumeration of all polynomials whose coefficients have rational real and imaginary parts. Finally let $\{(K_n, \Pi_n)\}_{n=1}^\infty$ be an arrangement of the sets K_n^* and the polynomials Π_n^* in which any combination (K_r^*, Π_s^*) occurs infinitely often. It follows that for each n the sets $T_n, S_n, K_n, \{1\}$ are pairwise disjoint.

2. We construct by induction a sequence $\{Q_n\}$ of polynomials and sequences $\{q_n\}$ and $\{m_n\}$ of nonnegative integers.

Suppose that $Q_0(z) \equiv P_0$ and $q_0 = 0$ and assume that for an $n \in \mathbb{N}$ the polynomials Q_0, \dots, Q_{n-1} and the numbers q_0, \dots, q_{n-1} have already been determined. The degree of the polynomial $z^{q_{n-1}} Q_{n-1}(z)$ will be denoted by m_{n-1} .

We choose $q_n \in \mathbb{N}$ so great that $q_n > m_{n-1}$ and using Runge's approximation theorem (see [4, Chapter II,3]) we find a polynomial Q_n which satisfies simultaneously

$$(1) \quad Q_n(1) = P_n - P_{n-1},$$

$$(2) \quad \max_{T_n} |Q_n(z)| < \frac{1}{n^2 \max_{T_n} |z^{q_n}|},$$

$$(3) \quad \max_{S_n} \left| Q_n(z) - \frac{P_n \cdot \varphi(z) - \sum_{\nu=0}^{n-1} z^{q_\nu} Q_\nu(z)}{z^{q_n}} \right| < \frac{1}{\max_{S_n} |z^{q_n}|},$$

$$(4) \quad \max_{K_n} \left| Q_n(z) - \frac{P_n \cdot \Pi_n(z) - \sum_{\nu=0}^{n-1} z^{q_\nu} Q_\nu(z)}{z^{q_n}} \right| < \frac{1}{\max_{K_n} |z^{q_n}|}.$$

By induction we get $\{Q_n\}$, $\{q_n\}$, $\{m_n\}$; note that $m_n > m_{n-1}$ and $q_n > q_{n-1}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

3. The series $\sum_{\nu=0}^{\infty} z^{q_\nu} Q_\nu(z)$ converges by (2) compactly in G_0 and therefore $g(z) := \sum_{\nu=0}^{\infty} z^{q_\nu} Q_\nu(z)$ is holomorphic in G_0 . The properties of the q_n and m_n imply that the polynomials $z^{q_{n-1}} Q_{n-1}(z)$ and $z^{q_n} Q_n(z)$ do not have powers in common. Therefore, if the power series of the function g around the origin is denoted by $g(z) = \sum_{\nu=0}^{\infty} p_\nu z^\nu$, we obtain

$$\sum_{\nu=0}^{m_n} p_\nu z^\nu = \sum_{\nu=0}^n z^{q_\nu} Q_\nu(z).$$

From (1) we get $\sum_{\nu=0}^{m_n} p_\nu = \sum_{\nu=0}^n Q_\nu(1) = P_n \rightarrow \infty$ for $n \rightarrow \infty$ which implies that the power series $\sum_{\nu=0}^{\infty} p_\nu z^\nu$ has radius of convergence 1. We obviously have $\varphi|_{G_0}(z) \equiv 0$, which together with (2) gives

$$\tau_n(z) := \frac{1}{P_n} \sum_{\nu=0}^{m_n} p_\nu z^\nu = \frac{1}{P_n} \sum_{\nu=0}^n z^{q_\nu} Q_\nu(z) \xrightarrow[G_0]{} \varphi|_{G_0}(z) \equiv 0.$$

4. The property (3) implies

$$\max_{S_n} |\tau_n(z) - \varphi(z)| = \max_{S_n} \left| \frac{1}{P_n} \sum_{\nu=0}^n z^{q_\nu} Q_\nu(z) - \varphi(z) \right| < \frac{1}{|P_n|}$$

and we obtain $\tau_n(z) \xrightarrow[G_\nu]{} \varphi(z)$ for all $\nu \in I$, $\nu > 0$. Together with step 3 we

have $\tau_n(z) \xrightarrow[\mathcal{O}]{} \varphi(z)$.

5. From (4) we get

$$(5) \quad \max_{K_n} |\tau_n(z) - \Pi_n(z)| < \frac{1}{|P_n|}.$$

Let now be given a set $K \in \mathcal{M}$ with $K \subset F \setminus \{1\} = F_1$ and a function $f \in A(K)$. Then by Mergelian's theorem (see [4, Chapter III,2]) there exists a sequence $\{s_k\}$ with $s_k \rightarrow \infty$ and $\Pi_{s_k}^*(z) \xrightarrow{K} f(z)$. By the exhaustion property of F_1 there exists an r_0 with $K \subset K_{r_0}^*$ and we find a sequence $\{n_k\}$ with $\Pi_{n_k}(z) = \Pi_{s_k}^*(z)$ and $K_{n_k} = K_{r_0}^*$ for all k . Together with (5) we get

$$\tau_{n_k}(z) \xrightarrow{K} f(z),$$

which proves the theorem. \square

Remarks 3.2. 1. We consider especially the open set $O = \mathbb{D}$. By the Example 2.3(3) the set $F := \mathbb{D}^c$ has the property E. Therefore Theorem 3.1 generalizes Theorem 1 of [1], where we proved the same approximation properties given in the former theorem but just in the very special case $O = \mathbb{D}$, $F = \mathbb{D}^c$, $\varphi = 0$, $K \subset \partial\mathbb{D} \setminus \{1\}$. Several consequences on the approximation of measurable functions by universal trigonometric series are given in [1]. This will also be treated later in our current, more general situation, see Section 5.

2. The sequence $p = \{p_\nu\}$ which was constructed in the proof of Theorem 3.1 obviously satisfies $\tau_n(1) = 1$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and $\tau_n(z) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{D}} 0$. It is not difficult to show that these conditions are equivalent to those which were mentioned in the introduction for P -regularity (for details we refer to [8]). Therefore the considered (R, p, M) -method is P -regular.

3. However it is easy to see that the method (R, p, M) in general cannot chosen to be regular. Indeed, suppose that the sets O and F have the property that there exists a $\varsigma_0 \in \partial\mathbb{D} \cap F$ with $\varsigma_0 \neq 1$. If (R, p, M) would be regular, then there would exist a constant C with

$$\frac{1}{|P_n|} \sum_{\nu=0}^{m_n} |p_\nu| \leq C \quad \text{for all } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

On the other hand by property (b) of Theorem 3.1 we can find a sequence $\{n_k\}$ of natural numbers with

$$\tau_{n_k}(\zeta_0) = \frac{1}{P_{n_k}} \sum_{\nu=0}^{m_{n_k}} p_\nu \zeta_0^\nu \rightarrow C + 1 \quad \text{for } k \rightarrow \infty,$$

which is obviously not possible.

From Theorem 3.1 the following statement about the universal behaviour of the (R, p, M) -transforms of the geometric series follows very easily.

Theorem 3.3. *Suppose that O, F and $\{P_n\}$ are the same as in Theorem 3.1. Let be given a function $\Phi \in H(O)$ with $\Phi|_{\mathbb{D}} = \Phi_0$, where $\Phi_0(z) \equiv \frac{1}{1-z}$.*

- (a) *Then there exist sequences $\{p_\nu\} \subset \mathbb{C}$ and $\{m_n\} \subset \mathbb{N}_0$ such that $P_n = \sum_{\nu=0}^{m_n} p_\nu$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) and*

$$\sigma_n(z) := \frac{1}{P_n} \sum_{\nu=0}^{m_n} p_\nu \sum_{\mu=0}^{\nu} z^\mu \xrightarrow{O} \Phi(z).$$

- (b) *If in addition any set $K \in \mathcal{M}$, $K \subset F$, $1 \notin K$ and any function $f \in A(K)$ are given then there exists a sequence $\{n_k\}$ with*

$$\sigma_{n_k}(z) \xrightarrow{K} f(z).$$

Proof. Let $\{\tau_n(z)\}$ be the sequence which by Theorem 3.1 exists according to $O, F, \{P_n\}$ and the function φ with

$$\varphi(z) := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } z \in G_0 \\ \frac{1}{z} - \frac{1-z}{z} \Phi(z) & \text{if } z \in O \setminus G_0. \end{cases}$$

Then there are sequences $\{p_\nu\}$ and $\{m_n\}$ such that

$$\tau_n(z) := \frac{1}{P_n} \sum_{\nu=0}^{m_n} p_\nu z^\nu \xrightarrow{O} \varphi(z).$$

For $z \neq 1$ we obtain

$$\sigma_n(z) = \frac{1}{P_n} \sum_{\nu=0}^{m_n} p_\nu \sum_{\mu=0}^{\nu} z^\mu = \frac{1}{1-z} - \frac{z}{1-z} \tau_n(z),$$

which implies

$$\sigma_n(z) \xrightarrow{O} \Phi(z).$$

If a set $K \in \mathcal{M}$, $K \subset F$, $1 \notin K$ and a function $f \in A(K)$ are given then there exists a sequence $\{n_k\}$ such that

$$\tau_{n_k}(z) \xrightarrow{K} \frac{1}{z} - \frac{1-z}{z} f(z),$$

which implies $\sigma_{n_k}(z) \xrightarrow{K} f(z)$. □

4 An approximation lemma

In this section an auxiliary result on the approximation of measurable functions will be proved, see Lemma 4.1. Although it will be applied on measurable functions on \mathbb{C} —specifically, in Theorem 5.1— we prefer to state it in some generality, because this does not cause much more difficulty. Moreover, we believe that the lemma could be of independent interest. Nevertheless, a number of concepts and assertions from measure theory are needed. We recall that, for a positive measure μ on some σ -algebra Σ of subsets of a set X , a subset $A \in \Sigma$ is called *σ -finite* if there are countable many sets $A_n \in \Sigma$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) satisfying $\mu(A_n) < \infty$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) and $A = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$. The measure μ is *σ -finite* whenever X is σ -finite itself, hence every measurable set is also σ -finite in this case. The measure μ is *complete* if $[A \in \Sigma, B \subset A, \mu(A) = 0]$ implies $B \in \Sigma$.

For the sake of convenience we introduce the following concept. If X is a topological space and μ is a measure on a σ -algebra of subsets of X containing the collection \mathcal{B} of Borel sets of X (that is, \mathcal{B} is the smallest σ -algebra on X that contains the open sets of X), then we say that X is *thin-connected* (with respect to μ) whenever the following property holds:

For prescribed $\varepsilon > 0$ and points $a, b \in X$, there exists a connected open set U in X containing a, b such that $\mu(U) < \varepsilon$.

Let X be a locally compact Hausdorff space and suppose that Σ is a σ -algebra of subsets of X containing \mathcal{B} . Then a measure μ on Σ is said to be *regular* (see [14, Chapter 22]) or a *Radon measure* provided that

- (i) $\mu(C) < \infty$ for all compact subsets C of X ,
- (ii) μ is externally regular, that is, $\mu(A) = \inf\{\mu(U) : U \text{ is an open set in } X \text{ with } A \subset U\}$ for each set $A \in \Sigma$, and
- (iii) $\mu(U) = \sup\{\mu(C) : C \text{ is a compact set in } X \text{ with } C \subset U\}$ for each open set U of X .

We denote by \mathbb{K} any of the fields \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C} . If L is a compact set, then $C(L)$ will stand, as usual, for the space of the continuous \mathbb{K} -valued functions on L , endowed with the maximum norm.

Lemma 4.1. *Assume that X is a Hausdorff locally compact space and that μ is a measure on some σ -algebra Σ of subsets of X with $\mathcal{B} \subset \Sigma$. Suppose that $Y \in \Sigma$ and that $f : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$ is a measurable function on Y . Let \mathcal{A} be a family of \mathbb{K} -valued continuous functions on X . Assume, in addition, that the following conditions hold:*

- (a) *The measure μ is regular, complete and σ -finite.*
- (b) *There exists a dense subset D in X with $D \in \Sigma$ and $\mu(D) = 0$.*
- (c) *Every open subset of X has at most countably many components.*
- (d) *The space X is thin-connected.*
- (e) *For every compact set $L \subset Y$ with empty interior and connected complement $X \setminus L$ the (collection of restrictions to L of the members of the) family \mathcal{A} is dense in $C(L)$.*

Then there is a sequence $\{f_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} \subset \mathcal{A}$ such that $f_n \rightarrow f$ ($n \rightarrow \infty$) almost everywhere on Y .

Proof. Since μ is σ -finite (by (a)), there are countable many sets $A_n \in \Sigma$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) with $\mu(A_n) < \infty$ such that $Y = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$. Replacing A_n by $A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_n$ if necessary, it may be assumed that the sequence $\{A_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ is increasing.

From (b), there is a dense measurable set D in X with $\mu(D) = 0$. Then the sets $B_n := A_n \setminus D$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) satisfy $B_n \subset A_n$, $\mu(B_n) = \mu(A_n) < \infty$ and $B_n^0 = \emptyset$.

Since μ is regular and σ -finite, it is also internally regular for *all* measurable sets (see for instance [14, Proposition 22.5]), that is, condition (iii) of the definition of Radon measure holds in fact for any $A \in \Sigma$, in particular for every $A \in \Sigma$ with $\mu(A) < \infty$. Recall that μ is also complete. In this situation we can apply Lusin's theorem (in the form stated, for instance, in [16, Chapter 2]), yielding the existence of continuous functions $g_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) such that

$$(6) \quad \mu(\{x \in X : h_n(x) \neq g_n(x)\}) < \frac{1}{2^n} \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}),$$

where each function $h_n : X \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$ is defined as

$$h_n(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) & \text{if } x \in B_n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Now we define $C_n := \{x \in B_n : h_n(x) = g_n(x)\}$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$). Obviously, the restriction of h_n to C_n is continuous. Observe that by (6) we have $\mu(B_n \setminus C_n) < 1/2^n$. From internal regularity, there is for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ a compact set $D_n \subset C_n$ with $\mu(C_n \setminus D_n) < 1/2^n$.

The following step is to apply properties (c)–(d). For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, consider the collection $\{E_{n,j}\}_{j \in I(n)}$ of the connected components of the open set $X \setminus D_n$, where each $I(n)$ is either \mathbb{N} or a finite set $\{1, 2, \dots, N(n)\}$. Fix $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and assume, for a moment, that $X \setminus D_n$ is not connected. Now fix points $x_1^{(n)} \in E_{n,1}, x_2^{(n)} \in E_{n,2}, \dots$ and select, by thin-connectedness, connected open subsets $O_{n,k} \subset X$ ($k \geq 2$) such that $\{x_1^{(n)}, x_k^{(n)}\} \subset O_{n,k}$ and $\mu(O_{n,k}) < 1/2^{n+k}$. Define the sets U_n ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) by

$$U_n = \begin{cases} \emptyset & \text{if } X \setminus D_n \text{ is connected} \\ \bigcup_{k \in I(n) \setminus \{1\}} O_{n,k} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Then each U_n is a connected open set and $\mu(U_n) < 1/2^n$. Furthermore, the sets $L_n := D_n \setminus U_n$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) satisfy the following properties:

- they are compact, because D_n is compact and U_n is open,
- $L_n \subset Y$, because $L_n \subset D_n \subset C_n \subset B_n \subset A_n \subset Y$,
- $L_n^0 = \emptyset$, because $B_n^0 = \emptyset$ and $L_n \subset B_n$,
- $\mu(D_n \setminus L_n) < 1/2^n$ for all n , because $D_n \setminus L_n \subset U_n$,
- the function $f : L_n \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$ is continuous, because $L_n \subset C_n$ and $h_n = f$ on C_n ; and
- their complements $X \setminus L_n$ are connected; indeed, this is trivial if $X \setminus D_n$ is connected; if this would be not connected, then we would have $X \setminus L_n = (X \setminus D_n) \cup U_n = U_n \cup \bigcup_{j \in I(n)} E_{n,j}$ and the sets $U_n, E_{n,j}$ would be connected and each set $E_{n,j}$ shares at least a common point with U_n .

We consider now the measurable set $M := \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} L_n = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcap_{j=n}^{\infty} L_j$.
By the subadditivity property of measures,

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(A_n \setminus L_n) &\leq \mu(A_n \setminus B_n) + \mu(B_n \setminus L_n) \\ &\leq \mu(D) + \mu(B_n \setminus C_n) + \mu(C_n \setminus D_n) + \mu(D_n \setminus L_n) \\ &\leq 0 + \frac{1}{2^n} + \frac{1}{2^n} + \frac{1}{2^n} = \frac{3}{2^n} \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}). \end{aligned}$$

From this and the facts that $M \supset \bigcap_{j=n}^{\infty} L_j$ for all n and that the sequence $\{A_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ is increasing, we derive

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(A_n \setminus M) &\leq \mu(A_n \setminus \bigcap_{j=n}^{\infty} L_j) = \mu\left(\bigcup_{j=n}^{\infty} (A_n \setminus L_j)\right) \\ &\leq \mu\left(\bigcup_{j=n}^{\infty} (A_j \setminus L_j)\right) \leq \sum_{j=n}^{\infty} \mu(A_j \setminus L_j) < \frac{6}{2^n} \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}). \end{aligned}$$

Hence we get

$$\mu(Y \setminus M) = \mu\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_n \setminus M)\right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu(A_n \setminus M) = 0,$$

where the second equality is true because the sequence $\{A_n \setminus M\}_{n=1}^\infty$ is also increasing.

Finally, hypothesis (e) comes in our help, yielding the existence of a sequence $\{f_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \subset \mathcal{A}$ for which

$$|f_n(x) - f(x)| < \frac{1}{n} \quad (x \in L_n, n \in \mathbb{N}).$$

Thus, it is enough to show that $f_n(x) \rightarrow f(x)$ ($n \rightarrow \infty$) whenever $x \in M$. For this, fix a point $x \in M$. Then a positive integer N can be picked in such a way that $x \in L_n$ for all $n \geq N$, so $|f_n(x) - f(x)| < 1/n$ for the same integers n . This yields the desired result. \square

As an easy (and expected) example, note that if $X = \mathbb{R}^N$ ($N \in \mathbb{N}$) with the usual topology, Σ is the σ -algebra \mathcal{L}_N of Lebesgue-measurable sets in \mathbb{R}^N and $\mu = \lambda_N$ is the Lebesgue N -dimensional measure, then all hypotheses (a)–(d) in the last lemma are fulfilled.

5 Approximation of measurable functions

Here we apply the results of Sections 3–4 to obtain the following statement about universal measurable approximation.

Theorem 5.1. *Let be prescribed $O, F, \varphi, \{P_n\}$ as in Theorem 3.1. Let us consider the sequence $\{\tau_n\}$ constructed in that theorem. Then $\{\tau_n\}$ enjoys the following approximation property: If a Lebesgue-measurable set $S \subset F$ and a complex Lebesgue-measurable function $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ are given, then there exists a sequence $\{n_k\}$ of natural numbers such that*

$$\tau_{n_k}(z) \rightarrow f(z) \text{ almost everywhere on } S.$$

Proof. The unique task is to select a good “casting of characters” in Lemma 4.1 and to apply Theorem 3.1. For this, let us set $X = \mathbb{C} = \mathbb{R}^2$ with the usual topology, $\Sigma = \mathcal{L}_2$, $\mu = \lambda_2$, $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$, $Y = F \setminus \{1\}$, $\mathcal{A} = \{\tau_n : n \geq 1\}$. As noticed before, hypotheses (a)–(d) in Lemma 4.1 are fulfilled. As for hypothesis (e), observe that if $L \subset F \setminus \{1\}$ is a compact subset with *empty interior* and connected complement, then by Theorem 3.1 \mathcal{A} is dense in $A(L) = C(L)$. Since $\lambda_2(\{1\}) = 0$, we may assume without loss of generality that $S \subset F \setminus \{1\}$. Moreover, the function f can be extended as a measurable

function $f : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ just by setting $f(z) = 0$ for all $z \in Y \setminus S$. Consequently, f can be approximated almost everywhere on Y (so on S) by a sequence of members of $\{\tau_n\}$, but this is exactly what is desired. \square

Several theorems, of the kind of Theorem 5.1, could be proved for universal Taylor series or other kinds of universal functions, for instance those studied in [10].

As remarked earlier, Theorem 1 of [1] is the special case [$O = \mathbb{D}$, $F = \mathbb{D}^c$, $\varphi = 0$, $K \subset \partial\mathbb{D} \setminus \{1\}$] of Theorem 3.1. The notation for $P_n, p_n, m_n, \tau_n, \sigma_n$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) that we used in [1] is similar to that of the present paper. We point out that in Theorems 2–3 of [1] we derived from Theorem 1 the following result on universal approximation of measurable functions by sequences of trigonometric polynomials, this time in the setting of λ_1 :

If $\{P_n\}$, $\{p_n\}$, $\{m_n\}$ are as in Theorem 1 and $g : [0, 2\pi] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a given Lebesgue-measurable complex function on $[0, 2\pi]$, then there are sequences $\{n_k\}$ and $\{l_k\}$ of natural numbers satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{n_k}(t) &\rightarrow g(t) \\ \beta_{l_k}(t) &\rightarrow g(t) \end{aligned} \quad (k \rightarrow \infty) \text{ almost everywhere on } [0, 2\pi],$$

where

$$\alpha_n(t) = \frac{1}{P_n} \sum_{\nu=0}^{m_n} p_\nu (\cos \nu t + i \sin \nu t)$$

and

$$\beta_n(t) = \frac{1}{P_n} \sum_{\nu=0}^{m_n} p_\nu \sum_{\mu=0}^{\nu} (\cos \mu t + i \sin \mu t).$$

A few results, similar to the just mentioned one, have already appeared in [10] and [13].

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