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Approximation to functions by trigonometric polynomials (II).

By

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1. The object of this paper is to give some criteria for the convergence and strong summability of certain trigonometric polynomials introduced by Marcinkiewicz and Zygmund¹⁾, and defined in the following way. Suppose

$$(1) \quad x_i = \frac{2\pi i}{2n+1}, \quad i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 2n,$$

and that $\varphi_{2n+1}(u)$ is a non-decreasing step function with jumps $2\pi/(2n+1)$ at the $2n+1$ equidistant points x_i . We define

$$(2) \quad I_{n,u}(x, f) = \frac{1}{2n+1} \sum_{i=0}^{2n} f(x_i + u) \frac{\sin(n + \frac{1}{2})(x - x_i - u)}{\sin \frac{1}{2}(x - x_i - u)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(t) \frac{\sin(n + \frac{1}{2})(x - t)}{\sin \frac{1}{2}(x - t)} d\varphi_{2n+1}(t - u),$$

so that $I_{n,u}(x, f)$ is equal to $f(x)$ at the $2n+1$ points $x_i + u$. If $u=0$ they become the ordinary interpolation polynomials which we denote by $I_n(x, f)$. We prove

Theorem 1. *Let $f(x)$ be periodic of period 2π and write*

$$(3) \quad \Delta f = \frac{1}{2} \{f(x+t) + f(x-t) - 2f(x)\}.$$

Then, if $r > 1$, and if $f(x)$ satisfies either of the following conditions

$$(4) \quad \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{dt}{t^2} \int_0^{2\pi} |\Delta f|^r dx < \infty,$$

¹⁾ Marcinkiewicz and Zygmund, 4.

or

$$(5) \quad \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{dt}{t^{1+1/r}} \left(\int_0^{2\pi} |Af|^r dx \right)^{1/r} < \infty,$$

the polynomials $I_{n,u}(x, f)$ converge to $f(x)$ at almost all points of the square $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$, $0 \leq u \leq 2\pi$.

Theorem 2. If $f(x)$ is such that

$$(6) \quad \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{dt}{t} \int_0^{2\pi} |Af|^r dx < \infty$$

for some $r > 1$, then

$$(7) \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N |I_{n,u}(x, f) - f(x)| = 0,$$

at almost all points of the square $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$, $0 \leq u \leq 2\pi$.

If further $\{n_k\}$ is a sequence of positive integers such that $n_{k+1}/n_k \geq \gamma$, where γ is a fixed number exceeding 1, then $I_{n_k, u}(x, f)$ converges to $f(x)$ at almost all points of the square $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$, $0 \leq u \leq 2\pi$.

In § 5 we give some further conditions which imply the hypotheses of Theorems 1 and 2. In particular, we show that the hypothesis of Theorem 1 is satisfied when $f(x)$ is the fractional integral of order $1/r$ of a function of the Lebesgue class L^r . We refer the reader to § 5 for further details.

2. To prove these theorems we make use of the following result²⁾. Let us write

$$\Delta_n = \frac{2\pi}{2n+1}$$

and

$$f_n(x) = \frac{1}{2\Delta_n} \int_{x-\Delta_n}^{x+\Delta_n} f(t) dt,$$

then we have

Theorem A. The interpolating polynomials $I_n(x, f_n)$, which take the values $f_n(x_i)$ at the $2n+1$ points x_i of (1), converge to $f(x)$ at almost all points.

²⁾ Offord 5, p. 508. Actually Δ_n is defined as $2K_n\pi/(2n+1)$ where K_n is an integer, which may depend on n , but which is such that Δ_n tends to zero. Here we use only the case $K_n=1$.

Since

$$I_{n,u}(x, f) = I_n(x-u, g),$$

where $g(t) = g_u(t) = f(t+u)$,

where

$$I_{n,u}(x, f_n) = I_n(x-u, g_n),$$

$$g_n(t) = f_n(t+u) = \frac{1}{2\Delta_n} \int_{t-\Delta_n}^{t+\Delta_n} f(r+u) dr,$$

and so Theorem A implies

Theorem A'. The interpolating polynomials $I_{n,u}(x, f_n)$ which take the values $f_n(x_i+u)$ at the $2n+1$ points x_i+u converge to $f(x)$ almost everywhere.

Theorem 1 is included in the following result.

Theorem 3. If either of the conditions (4) or (5) of Theorem 1 is satisfied with $r > 1$, then

$$\sum_1^{\infty} |I_{n,u}(x, f) - I_{n,u}(x, f_n)|^r$$

is convergent.

Theorem 2 is included in the following result.

Theorem 4. If $f(x)$ satisfies condition (6) of Theorem 2 with $r > 1$, then

$$\sum_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} |I_{n,u}(x, f) - I_{n,u}(x, f_n)|^r$$

and

$$\sum_1^{\infty} |I_{n_k, u}(x, f) - I_{n_k, u}(x, f_{n_k})|^r$$

are convergent.

3. We require the following lemmas.

Lemma 1. If $r > 1$, there exists a number B_r , depending only on r , such that

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |I_{n,u}(x, f)|^r du dx \leq B_r \int_0^{2\pi} |f(x)|^r dx.$$

This lemma is due to Marcinkiewicz and Zygmund³⁾.

³⁾ Marcinkiewicz and Zygmund 4, p. 155 eqn. (5) et seq.

Lemma 2. If

$$(9) \quad \psi_n(x) = \frac{1}{2\Delta_n} \int_{x-\Delta_n}^{x+\Delta_n} f(t) dt - f(x),$$

and if $r > 1$, then there exist absolute constants A_1, A_2, A_3 and A_4 such that

$$(10) \quad \sum_1^N \int_0^{2\pi} |\psi_n(x)|^r dx \leq A_1 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{dt}{t^2} \int_0^{2\pi} |\Delta f|^r dx,$$

$$(11) \quad \left(\sum_1^N \int_0^{2\pi} |\psi_n(x)|^r dx \right)^{1/r} \leq A_2 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{dt}{t^{1+1/r}} \left(\int_0^{2\pi} |\Delta f|^r dx \right)^{1/r},$$

and

$$(12) \quad \sum_1^N \frac{1}{n} \int_0^{2\pi} |\psi_n(x)|^r dx \leq A_3 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{dt}{t} \int_0^{2\pi} |\Delta f|^r dx.$$

If further $\{n_k\}$ is a sequence of positive integers such that $n_{k+1}/n_k \geq \gamma > 1$, where γ is some fixed number exceeding 1, then

$$(13) \quad \sum_{n_k \leq N} \int_0^{2\pi} |\psi_{n_k}(x)|^r dx \leq A_4 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{dt}{t} \int_0^{2\pi} |\Delta f|^r dx.$$

Proof. We have

$$|\psi_n(x)| \leq \frac{1}{2\Delta_n} \int_0^{\Delta_n} |f(x+t) + f(x-t) - 2f(x)| dt,$$

and so, writing Δf for the integrand, by Hölder's inequality,

$$|\psi_n(x)|^r \leq \frac{1}{2\Delta_n} \int_0^{\Delta_n} |\Delta f|^r dt.$$

Whence

$$\int_0^{2\pi} |\psi_n(x)|^r dx \leq \frac{1}{2\Delta_n} \int_0^{\Delta_n} dt \int_0^{2\pi} |\Delta f|^r dx,$$

and writing $a(t)$ for $\sum_{\Delta_n \geq t} (2\Delta_n)^{-1}$, and $a_n = a(\Delta_n)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_1^N \int_0^{2\pi} |\psi_n(x)|^r dx &\leq \sum_1^N (a_n - a_{n-1}) \int_0^{\Delta_n} dt \int_0^{2\pi} |\Delta f|^r dx \\ &= \sum_1^N a_n \int_{\Delta_{n+1}}^{\Delta_n} dt \int_0^{2\pi} |\Delta f|^r dx + a_N \int_0^{\Delta_{N+1}} dt \int_0^{2\pi} |\Delta f|^r dx \\ &\leq \int_0^{2\pi} a(t) dt \int_0^{2\pi} |\Delta f|^r dx. \end{aligned}$$

Since $a(t) \leq At^{-2}$ this is (10). The proofs of (12) and (13) are similar.

To prove (11) we employ Minkowski's inequality which in its simplest asserts that, for $a_{m,n} \geq 0$ and $r \geq 1$,

$$\left(\sum_m \left(\sum_n a_{m,n} \right)^r \right)^{1/r} \leq \sum_n \left(\sum_m a_{m,n}^r \right)^{1/r}.$$

We use a form with mixed Σ and \int .

Write

$$g_n(x, t) = \begin{cases} |\Delta f| / \Delta_n, & 0 \leq t \leq \Delta_n, \\ 0, & t > \Delta_n. \end{cases}$$

Then

$$|\psi_n(x)| \leq \int_0^{2\pi} g_n(x, t) dt,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\sum_{n=1}^N \int_0^{2\pi} |\psi_n(x)|^r dx \right)^{1/r} &\leq \left(\sum_{n=1}^N \int_0^{2\pi} dx \left(\int_0^{2\pi} g_n(x, t) dt \right)^r \right)^{1/r} \\ &\leq \int_0^{2\pi} dt \left(\sum_{n=1}^N \int_0^{2\pi} g_n^r(x, t) dx \right)^{1/r}. \end{aligned}$$

Now

$$\sum_{n=1}^N g_n^r(x, t) = \sum_{\Delta_n \geq t} \frac{|\Delta f|^r}{\Delta_n^r} \leq A^r |\Delta f|^r t^{-r-1},$$

where A is an absolute constant.

Hence we obtain

$$\left(\sum_{n=1}^N \int_0^{2\pi} |\psi_n(x)|^r dx \right)^{1/r} \leq A \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{dt}{t^{1+1/r}} \left(\int_0^{2\pi} |Af|^r dx \right)^{1/r},$$

the desired result.

4. Proofs of Theorems 1 and 3. Write

$$f_n(x) = \frac{1}{2A_n} \int_{x-A_n}^{x+A_n} f(t) dt.$$

Then

$$I_{n,u}(x, f) - I_{n,u}(x, f_n) = I_{n,u}(x, f - f_n) = -I_{n,u}(x, \psi_n),$$

and, by Lemma 1,

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |I_{n,u}(x, \psi_n)|^r dx du \leq B_r^r \int_0^{2\pi} |\psi_n(x)|^r dx.$$

Therefore, by Lemma 2,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\sum_{n=1}^N |I_{n,u}(x, f) - I_{n,u}(x, f_n)|^r \right) dx du \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^N \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |I_{n,u}(x, \psi_n)|^r dx du \\ &\leq B_r^r \sum_{n=1}^N \int_0^{2\pi} |\psi_n(x)|^r dx \\ &\leq B_r^r \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{dt}{t^{1+1/r}} \int_0^{2\pi} |Af|^r dx, \end{aligned}$$

and the second member is (4). Hence, since the integrand on the left is a monotone increasing function of N , we infer, by Lebesgue's theorem on the integration of monotone sequences, that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |I_{n,u}(x, f) - I_{n,u}(x, f_n)|^r$$

converges for almost all x and u . This is the conclusion of Theorem 3. We infer also that

$$I_{n,u}(x, f) - I_{n,u}(x, f_n)$$

tends to zero for almost all x and u . But, by Theorem A', $I_{n,u}(x, f_n)$ converges to $f(x)$ almost everywhere, and hence so must also $I_{n,u}(x, f)$. This proves Theorem 1 under condition (4).

From (11) of Lemma 2, by a very similar argument, we can show that Theorem 1 and Theorem 3 hold under condition (5).

The proofs of Theorems 2 and 4 are similar. We have, as in the proof of Theorem 3,

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_1^N \frac{1}{n} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |I_{n,u}(x, f) - I_{n,u}(x, f_n)|^r dx du \\ &\leq B_r^r \sum_1^N \frac{1}{n} \int_0^{2\pi} |\psi_n(x)|^r dx \leq B_r^r \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{dt}{t} \int_0^{2\pi} |Af|^r dx \end{aligned}$$

and so the first conclusion of Theorem 4 follows. The second conclusion follows similarly from (13) of Lemma 2.

Theorem 2 follows from Theorem 4 and Theorem A', since

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{N} \sum_1^N |I_{n,u}(x, f) - f(x)| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{N} \sum_1^N |I_{n,u}(x, f) - I_{n,u}(x, f_n)| + o(1) \\ &\leq \left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_1^N |I_{n,u}(x, f) - I_{n,u}(x, f_n)|^r \right)^{1/r} + o(1), \end{aligned}$$

by Hölders inequality.

5. We shall now obtain some simpler sufficient conditions for the convergence and summability of the trigonometric polynomials $I_{n,u}(x, f)$. For this we make use of integrals of fractional order defined by Weyl⁴. Throughout this section we take $g(x)$ to be a periodic function of period 2π and mean value zero, and we write $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n t^{inx}$, with $c_0=0$ for the Fourier series of $g(x)$.

⁴) Zygmund 6, p. 222. Zygmund considers functions of period 1 and so there is a slight formal difference. For the relation between the fractional integral due to Weyl and that due to Riemann and Liouville see Zygmund 6, p. 224.

The fractional integral of order a , $0 < a \leq 1$ of $g(x)$ is the function

$$(14) \quad G_a(x) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(a)} \int_{-\infty}^x (x-t)^{a-1} g(t) dt.$$

It is known that this integral converges for almost all x . Indeed

$$G_a(x) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(a)} \int_0^{\infty} t^{a-1} g(x-t) dt,$$

and since $g(t)$ is periodic of period 2π and mean value zero, this may be written

$$(15) \quad G_a(x) = \int_0^{2\pi} g(x-t) \Psi_a(t) dt,$$

where

$$(16) \quad \Psi_a(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(a)} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ t^{\alpha-1} + (t+2\pi)^{\alpha-1} + \dots + (t+2n\pi)^{\alpha-1} - \frac{n^{\alpha}}{\alpha} \right\},$$

for $0 < t < 2\pi$, and $\Psi_a(t)$ is periodic of period 2π outside this range. It follows at once from (16) that $\Psi_a(t)$ satisfies the following inequalities

$$(17) \quad |\Psi_a(t)| \leq At^{\alpha-1}, \quad |\Psi_a(t+h) - \Psi_a(t)| \leq A_1 ht^{\alpha-2}.$$

It is also easy to see that the Fourier series of $G_a(x)$ is

$$(18) \quad \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{c_n}{(in)^{\alpha}} e^{inx}, \quad c_0 = 0.$$

We prove the following theorem.

Theorem 5. *The hypotheses of Theorem 1 are satisfied whenever $f(x)$ is a fractional integral of order $1/r$ of a function of L^r .*

Corollary. *This result holds in particular if the Fourier coefficients c_n of $f(x)$ satisfy $\sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} |n|^{p-1} |c_n|^p < \infty$, $1 < p \leq 2$.*

It was proved by Hardy and Littlewood ⁵⁾ that the Fourier series of a function which satisfies the conditions of Theorem 5 converges almost everywhere. We have therefore established a similar property for the polynomials $I_{n,h}(x, f)$. The case $p=2$ of the Corollary is due to Marcinkiewicz and Zygmund ⁶⁾.

We require the following lemmas.

Lemma 3. *If $1 \leq p < 1/(1-a)$, $0 < a < 1$,*

$$\int_0^{2\pi} |\Psi_a(h+t) - \Psi_a(t)|^p dt \leq B_{a,p} h^{p(\alpha-1)+1}.$$

Proof. This lemma is well known ⁷⁾. It follows easily from (17). Write

Write

$$\int_0^{2\pi} |\Psi_a(h+t) - \Psi_a(t)|^p dt = \int_0^h + \int_h^{2\pi-h} + \int_{2\pi-h}^{2\pi} = I_1 + I_2 + I_3.$$

By the first inequality of (17)

$$I_1 \leq A \int_0^h t^{p(\alpha-1)} dt \leq B_{a,p} h^{p(\alpha-1)+1},$$

and similarly, since $\Psi_a(t)$ is periodic,

$$I_3 \leq B_{a,p} h^{p(\alpha-1)+1}.$$

Also, by the second inequality of (17),

$$I_2 \leq Ah^p \int_h^{2\pi-h} t^{p(\alpha-2)} dt \leq B_{a,p} h^{p(\alpha-1)+1}.$$

This completes the proof.

Lemma 4 ⁸⁾. *If $f(x)$ is a fractional integral of order a , $0 < a < 1$ of a function $g(x)$ of L^q , where $q \geq 2$, then*

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \frac{dt}{t^{1+aq}} \int_0^{2\pi} |Af|^q dx \leq B_a \int_0^{2\pi} |g(x)|^q dx.$$

⁵⁾ Hardy and Littlewood 1, p. 606 and p. 613.

⁶⁾ Marcinkiewicz and Zygmund 4, p. 166.

⁷⁾ cf. Zygmund 6, p. 227 eqn. (1) et seq.

⁸⁾ The case $\alpha=1$ of this lemma is due to Marcinkiewicz 3.

Proof. It is sufficient to prove the lemma for a bounded function $g(x)$, for, if g is not bounded, we can write

$$g_n = \begin{cases} g(x) & |g| \leq n \\ n & |g| > n \end{cases}$$

and then, having proved the lemma for g_n (and the corresponding f_n), the desired result follows on taking the limit.

Consider the integral

$$I_{q,\varepsilon} = \left(\int_{\varepsilon}^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \left| \frac{\Delta f}{t^\alpha} \right|^q d \left(\log \frac{1}{t} \right) dx \right)^{1/q}.$$

We show that, when $q=2$,

$$I_{2,\varepsilon} \leq B_\alpha \left(\int_0^{2\pi} |g(x)|^2 dx \right)^{1/2},$$

and when $q=\infty$

$$I_{\infty,\varepsilon} \leq B_\alpha \sup |g(x)|,$$

where the numbers B are independent of ε . Now $\Delta f \cdot t^{-\alpha}$ is a linear functional of g defined for $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$, $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$. We can therefore infer by M. Riesz's convexity theorem that

$$I_{q,\varepsilon} \leq B_\alpha \left(\int_0^{2\pi} |g(x)|^q dx \right)^{1/q}$$

for $2 \leq q \leq \infty$, B being independent of ε . Allowing ε to tend to zero we get the required result.

In the case $q=2$, we have from (18) that, if $\sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} c_n \varepsilon^{inx}$, $c_0=0$ is the Fourier series of $g(x)$, then the Fourier series of $f(x)$ is

$$\sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{c_n}{(in)^\alpha} \varepsilon^{inx}, \quad c_0=0,$$

and so that of Δf is

$$\sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{c_n}{(in)^\alpha} \varepsilon^{inx} (\cos nt - 1).$$

Hence

$$\int_0^{2\pi} |\Delta f|^2 dx = 2\pi \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{|c_n|^2}{n^{2\alpha}} (\cos nt - 1)^2.$$

Now

$$\int_2^{2\pi} \frac{(\cos nt - 1)^2}{t^{1+2\alpha}} dt < n^{2\alpha} \int_0^\infty \frac{(1 - \cos \theta)^2}{\theta^{1+2\alpha}} d\theta.$$

Hence

$$I_{2,\varepsilon}^2 \leq B_\alpha \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} |c_n|^2 = B_\alpha \int_0^{2\pi} |g(x)|^2 dx$$

as desired.

Again

$$I_{q,\varepsilon} \leq A \left(\log \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \right)^{1/q} \sup \left| \frac{\Delta f}{t^\alpha} \right|$$

and so

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow \infty} I_{q,\varepsilon} \leq A \sup \left| \frac{\Delta f}{t^\alpha} \right|$$

where A is independent of ε . Now, by the case $p=1$ of Lemma 3,

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x+t) - f(x)| &\leq \int_0^{2\pi} |g(x-u)| |\Psi_\alpha(u+t) - \Psi_\alpha(u)| du \\ &\leq B_\alpha t^\alpha \sup |g(x)|. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\sup \left| \frac{\Delta f}{t^\alpha} \right| \leq B_\alpha \sup |g(x)|,$$

as desired. The lemma is therefore proved.

Proof of Theorem 5. If $r \geq 2$, we have only to put $q=r$ and $\alpha=1/r$ in Lemma 4 and the result follows. If $1 < r \leq 2$, let q be defined by $\frac{1}{q} + 1/q = 1/r$ and let $G_{1/q}(x)$ be the fractional integral of order $\frac{1}{q}$ of $g(x)$. Then, in view of (18), $f(x)$ will be the fractional integral of order $1/q$ of $G_{1/q}(x)$. But, by a theorem of Hardy and Littlewood ⁹⁾, since $g(x)$ belongs to L^r and $1/r > \frac{1}{2}$, $G_{1/q}(x)$ belongs to L^q . Hence $f(x)$ is a fractional integral of order $1/q$ of a function $G_{1/q}(x)$ of L^q . Since $q > 2$, the desired result again follows by Lemma 4.

The Corollary follows, since the convergence of $\sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} (|n|^{1/p'} |c_n|)^p$ where $1/p + 1/p' = 1$, implies that $n^{1/p'} c_n$ are the Fourier coefficients of a function of $L^{p'}$, $p' \geq 2$, and the fractional integral of order $1/p'$ of this function is $f(x)$.

⁹⁾ cf. Zygmund 6, p. 227.

6. Finally we have

Theorem 6. *The hypotheses of Theorem 2 are satisfied whenever $f(x)$ is a fractional integral of positive non-zero order of a Lebesgue integrable function.*

Proof. Let us take $f(x)$ to be a fractional integral of order $\alpha > 0$ of a function $g(x)$. Choose p so that $1 < p < 1/(1-\alpha)$. Then $p(\alpha-1) > -1$, and we have by (15)

$$f(x+t) - f(x) = \int_0^{2\pi} g(x-u) \{ \Psi_\alpha(u+t) - \Psi_\alpha(u) \} du.$$

Therefore, if $1/p + 1/p' = 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x+t) - f(x)|^p &\leq \left(\int_0^{2\pi} |g(x-u)| du \right)^{p/p'} \int_0^{2\pi} |g(x-u)| |\Psi_\alpha(u+t) - \Psi_\alpha(u)|^p du \\ &\leq B \int_0^{2\pi} |g(x-u)| |\Psi_\alpha(u+t) - \Psi_\alpha(u)|^p du, \end{aligned}$$

where B depends on g and p only. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{2\pi} |f(x+t) - f(x)|^p dx &\leq B_1 \int_0^{2\pi} |\Psi_\alpha(u+t) - \Psi_\alpha(u)|^p du \\ &\leq B_2 t^\beta, \end{aligned}$$

where $\beta > 0$, by Lemma 3. It is now evident that the hypothesis (6) of Theorem 2 is satisfied and the theorem is proved.

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Complete normality of cartesian products.

By

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All spaces we consider are Hausdorff spaces.

Theorem 1. *Let m be an infinite cardinal. Let P and Q be spaces such that $P \times Q$ is completely normal¹⁾. Then either every subset of Q with potency $\leq m$ is closed or the pseudocharacter²⁾ of every closed subset of P is $\leq m$.*

Proof. Suppose there exists an MCQ with potency $\leq m$ and a $b \in \bar{M} - M$. Let $F \subset P$ have pseudocharacter $> m$. Let us put

$$A = F \times M, \quad B = (P - F) \times (b).$$

Then $\bar{A} \subset F \times Q$, $\bar{B} \subset P \times (b)$ whence A and B are separated. Hence there exists an open $G \supset A$ such that $\bar{G} \cap B = \emptyset$. For each $y \in M$ let G_y denote the set of all $x \in P$ such that $(x, y) \in G$. Clearly $y \in M$ implies G_y open, $G_y \supset F$. The potency of the family $\{G_y\}$ being $\leq m$ we have $\prod_{y \in M} G_y \neq \emptyset$. Choose $c \in \prod G_y - F$. For any $y \in M$ we have then $(c, y) \in G$, whence $(c, b) \in \bar{G}$ implying the contradiction $\bar{G} \cap B \neq \emptyset$.

¹⁾ A topological space is called *completely normal* if any two separated sets A, B (i. e. such that $A \bar{B} + \bar{A} B = \emptyset$) are contained in disjoint open sets.

It is easy to show that a topological space is completely normal if and only if it is hereditarily normal, i. e. every subspace is normal.

²⁾ Let S be a space, let $M \subset S$ and let \mathfrak{A} be a family of neighborhoods of the set M . The collection \mathfrak{A} is said to be a *complete family* of neighborhoods of M if there exists, for any neighborhood H of the set M , a set $A \in \mathfrak{A}$ such that $M \subset A \subset H$. The collection \mathfrak{A} is said to be a *pseudocomplete family* of neighborhoods of M if the intersection of all $A \in \mathfrak{A}$ is equal to M .

The minimal potency of a complete (pseudocomplete) family of neighborhoods of a set M in a space S is called the *character* (pseudocharacter) of M in S and is denoted by $\chi(M)$ or more explicitly by $\chi_S(M)$ (respectively, by $\psi(M)$ or $\psi_S(M)$).