

# MAXIMAL FUNCTIONS AND THEIR APPLICATION TO RATIONAL APPROXIMATION

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**ABSTRACT.** The Hardy Littlewood maximal functions as well as other maximal functions are used to give simple constructive proofs of the results of Popov and Brudnyi on rational approximation.

**1. INTRODUCTION.** Maximal functions are important tools in various areas of analysis, most notably in differentiation theory and the study of mapping properties of operators. As we shall see, such maximal functions can also be used in a fundamental way to derive results on the approximation by rational functions. Specifically, we shall show how to give simple, constructive proofs of results of V. Popov [8,9] and Yu. Brudnyi [1]. These results center on various smoothness conditions on a function  $f$  which guarantee that

$$(1.1) \quad r_n(f)_q = O(n^{-\alpha})$$

where

$$(1.2) \quad r_n(f)_q := \inf_{\deg R=n} \|f-R\|_q.$$

Here  $R = P/Q$  is a rational function and  $\deg R = \max(\deg P, \deg Q)$ : All norms in this paper are on  $[0,1]$  unless otherwise indicated.

Popov gave the famous inequality

$$(1.3) \quad r_n(f)_\infty \leq c \|f'\|_{BV} n^{-2}.$$

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This estimate should be contrasted with the approximation by polynomials where one can only prove the error is  $O(n^{-1})$  with  $n$  the degree of the approximating polynomials (consider for example  $f(x) = |x|$  on  $[-1,+1]$  [6 p. 94]). It follows in a simple way from (1.3) (as was noted by G. Freud [5]) that for each  $f \in \text{Lip } 1$

$$(1.4) \quad r_n(f)_\infty = o_f(n^{-1}).$$

This is a positive solution to the famous conjecture of D.J. Newman [7].

Maximal functions are used here to give local error estimates for the approximation by polynomials. For example, it follows from the remainder formula for interpolation by the Taylor polynomial  $P_x f$  of degree  $k-1$  that

$$(1.5) \quad |f(y) - P_x f(y)| \leq |y-x|^{k-1} \int_x^y |f^{(k)}| \leq |y-x|^k \left( \frac{1}{|x-y|} \int_x^y |f^{(k)}| \right) \\ \leq |y-x|^k \inf_{x < u < y} M(f^{(k)})(u)$$

where  $M$  is the Hardy Littlewood maximal function:

$$(1.6) \quad Mg(x) = \sup_{I \ni x} \frac{1}{|I|} \int_I |g|$$

with the sup taken over all intervals  $I \subset [0,1]$  which contain  $x$ .

One exploits (1.5) in rational approximations by choosing  $n$  intervals  $I_1, \dots, I_n$  where  $\inf_{I_j} M f^{(k)}$  are approximately equal and taking  $x = \xi_{I_j}$  with  $\xi_{I_j} \in I_j$ . The local polynomials  $P_{\xi_{I_j}}$  are then pieced together using a simple partition of unity with low degree rational functions to give a rational approximation to  $f$ . This technique is illustrated in its simplest form in §2 where we prove Popov's result (1.3) by using (1.5) with  $k=2$ .

The more general results of Brudnyi require extensions of (1.5) to estimate  $\|f - P_x f\|_{L_q(I)}$  in terms of the  $\alpha$ -th order smoothness of  $f$  in  $L_p$ . There are two essential difficulties that prevents the use of simple maximal operators. First,  $\alpha$  is not necessarily an integer and second and more importantly  $p$  is in general  $< 1$ . The usual notion of distributional derivative does not apply to  $p < 1$ . Fortunately there are maximal functions which will replace the role of  $M(f^{(k)})$  in (1.5) for all  $\alpha, p > 0$ . These were introduced by A.P. Calderon [2] and studied extensively in [4]. With these maximal functions, one can show the existence of a polynomial  $P_x f$  (now

based on Peano derivatives of  $f$ ) which generalizes (1.5) to all  $\alpha, p > 0$ .

In §4, we show that any function  $f$  of smoothness  $\alpha$  in  $L_p$  (see §3 for the precise meaning of this) with  $p > \sigma = (\alpha + \frac{1}{q})^{-1}$  satisfies

$$(1.7) \quad r_n(f)_q = O(n^{-\alpha}).$$

The index  $\sigma$  is the smallest index which guarantees that functions with  $\alpha$  order smoothness in  $L_p$  are in  $L_q$ . This same index occurs in optimal knot spline approximation (our techniques apply to this problem as well).

The estimate (1.7) is a slight variant of the results announced by Brudnyi [1]. He uses Besov spaces in his description of smoothness. We should note that we have not seen the proofs of Brudnyi's results, however he does state in [3, p. 320] that his proofs are not constructive.

**2. POPOV'S THEOREM.** Suppose  $I_1, \dots, I_m$  are disjoint intervals in  $[0, 1]$  with  $\bigcup_1^m I_j = [0, 1]$  and  $\xi_j \in I_j, j=1, \dots, m$ . Let

$$(2.1) \quad \phi_j(y) := (1 + |I_j|^{-2}(y - \xi_j)^2)^{-2}, \quad j=1, \dots, m.$$

Then,

$$(2.2) \quad \phi_j(y) \geq 2^{-2}, \quad y \in I_j; \quad j=1, \dots, m.$$

Let  $\phi := \sum_1^m \phi_j$ , so that  $\phi \geq 2^{-2}$  on  $[0, 1]$ . The rational functions

$$(2.3) \quad R_j := \phi_j / \phi$$

satisfy

$$(2.4) \quad 1) \quad \sum_1^m R_j \equiv 1$$

$$ii) \quad R_j(y) \leq 4(1 + |I_j|^{-2}(y - \xi_j)^2)^{-2} \quad y \in [0, 1].$$

**THEOREM 2.1.** If  $f' \in BV$ , there is a rational function  $R$  of degree  $\leq n$  such that

$$(2.5) \quad \|f - R\|_\infty \leq c \|f'\|_{BV} n^{-2}$$

with  $c$  an absolute constant.

PROOF. Since any function  $f$  with  $f' \in BV$  can be approximated uniformly by functions  $g$  with  $\|g''\|_1 \leq \|f'\|_{BV}$ , it will be enough to prove (2.5) with  $\|f'\|_{BV}$  replaced by  $\|f''\|_1$ . Also it is enough to construct  $R$  of degree  $\leq 16n$ .

Now, the Hardy-Littlewood maximal function maps  $L_1$  boundedly into  $L_r$  for all  $r < 1$ . This follows from the fact that  $M$  is of weak type (1,1) [10, p.5]. If we take  $r = 3/4$  (actually any  $r$  strictly between  $1/2$  and  $1$  will do), then

$$\|M(f'')\|_r \leq c_0 \|f''\|_1.$$

It will be enough to establish our result for  $f$  with  $\|f''\|_1 = c_0^{-1}$ . For such an  $f$ , choose intervals  $I_1, \dots, I_{2n}$  such that

$$(2.6) \quad \begin{aligned} & \text{i) the } I_j \text{ have pairwise disjoint interiors and } [0,1] = \bigcup_1^{2n} I_j \\ & \text{ii) } |I_j| \leq n^{-1}, \quad j=1, \dots, 2n \\ & \text{iii) } \int_{I_j} [M(f'')]^r \leq n^{-1}, \quad j=1, \dots, 2n. \end{aligned}$$

These intervals can be gotten by first finding  $n$  intervals which satisfy i) and iii) and then further subdividing them so as to guarantee ii).

Choose  $\xi_j \in I_j$  so that  $M(f'')(\xi_j) = \inf_{I_j} M(f'')$ . The inf is attained since  $M(f'')$  is lower semicontinuous. Let  $R_j$  be the partition of unity (2.3) for this choice of  $I_j$  and  $\xi_j$ . If  $P_{\xi_j}(y) = f(\xi_j) + f'(\xi_j)(y - \xi_j)$ , then (1.5) holds with  $k=2$  and  $x=\xi_j$ ,  $j=1, \dots, 2n$ . Set

$$R := \sum_1^{2n} P_{\xi_j} R_j.$$

Since  $R_j = \phi_j / \phi$  with  $\phi_j$  of degree  $\leq 4$  and  $\phi$  of degree  $\leq 8n$ , we have  $\deg R \leq 16n$ .

Now, we estimate  $f-R$  using (1.5) and (2.4). First observe that from (1.5) and (2.6) iii), we have

$$(2.7) \quad \begin{aligned} |f(y) - P_{\xi_j}(y)| & \leq (y - \xi_j)^2 M(f'')(\xi_j) = (y - \xi_j)^2 \inf_{I_j} M(f'') \\ & \leq (y - \xi_j)^2 \left( \frac{1}{|I_j|} \int_{I_j} M(f'')^r \right)^{1/r} \leq (y - \xi_j)^2 (n |I_j|)^{-1/r}. \end{aligned}$$

Using this together with (2.4) ii), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.8) \quad |f(y)-R(y)| &\leq \sum_1^{2n} |f(y)-P_{\xi_j}(y)| |R_j(y)| \\
 &\leq 4 \sum_1^{2n} (y-\xi_j)^2 (n|I_j|)^{-1/r} (1+|I_j|^{-2}(y-\xi_j)^2)^{-2} \\
 &\leq 4 \sum_1^{\infty} S_v(y)
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $S_v(y)$  is the sum of those terms for intervals  $I_j$  which satisfy  $2^{-v}n^{-1} < |I_j| \leq 2^{-v+1}n^{-1}$  (recall  $|I_j| \leq n^{-1}$  because of (2.6) ii)).

Since  $(y-\xi_j)^2 \leq |I_j|^2(1+|I_j|^{-2}(y-\xi_j)^2)$ , we have

$$(2.9) \quad S_v(y) \leq 4(2^v)^{1/r} 2^{-2v} n^{-2} \sum_{I_j \in I_v} (1+|I_j|^{-2}(y-\xi_j)^2)^{-1}$$

with  $I_v$  the set of those  $I_j$  which appear in  $S_v$ . Each  $I_j \in I_v$  has length  $\geq 2^{-v}n^{-1}$  and the  $I_j$  are disjoint. Therefore for any integer  $k \geq 0$  there are at most four  $\xi_j$  with  $k 2^{-v}n^{-1} \leq |y-\xi_j| < (k+1)2^{-v}n^{-1}$ . Using this in (2.9), we have

$$S_v(y) \leq 16n^{-2} 2^{-v(2-1/r)} \sum_0^{\infty} (1+(k/2)^2)^{-1} \leq cn^{-2} 2^{-v(2-1/r)}.$$

Thus, (2.8) gives

$$|f(y)-R(y)| \leq cn^{-2} \sum_1^{\infty} 2^{-v(2-1/r)} \leq cn^{-2}. \quad \square$$

**3. MAXIMAL FUNCTIONS.** Fix  $\alpha, p > 0$ . If  $I$  is an interval let  $P_I f$  denote a best approximation to  $f$  from polynomials of degree  $(\alpha)$  (greatest integer strictly less than  $\alpha$ ) in  $L_p(I)$ . We define

$$(3.1) \quad f_{\alpha,p}^b(x) = \sup_{I \ni x} \frac{1}{|I|^\alpha} \left( \frac{1}{|I|} \int_I |f - P_I f|^p \right)^{1/p}$$

where the sup is taken over all intervals  $I$  which contain  $x$ .

The maximal function  $f_{\alpha,p}^b$  measures the smoothness of  $f$  and is connected to many classical problems in analysis (see [4]). For example, for  $k \geq (\alpha) + 1$ , we have the inequality,

$$(3.2) \quad |\Delta_h^k(f, x)| \leq ch^\alpha \sum_{v=0}^k f_{\alpha, p}^b(x+vh), \quad h > 0, \text{ a.e. in } x.$$

The proof of (3.2) is simple and illustrative, so we should at least sketch it. If  $I \supset I^*$  are two intervals with  $|I| \leq 2|I^*|$  then

$$(3.3) \quad \begin{aligned} \|P_I f - P_{I^*} f\|_{L_\infty(I^*)} &\leq c|I|^{-1/p} \|P_I f - P_{I^*} f\|_{L_p(I^*)} \\ &\leq c|I|^{-1/p} [\|f - P_I f\|_{L_p(I)} + \|f - P_{I^*} f\|_{L_p(I^*)}] \\ &\leq c|I|^\alpha \inf_{I^*} f_{\alpha, p}^b. \end{aligned}$$

Here, the first equality is a comparison of polynomial norms (see [4, Lemma 3.1]). The inequality (3.3) holds without the restriction  $|I| \leq 2|I^*|$  since given any  $I$  and  $I^*$  we can choose  $I_0 = I \supset I_1 \supset \dots \supset I_n = I^*$  with  $|I_j| = 2|I_{j+1}|$ ,  $j=0, \dots, n-2$  and  $|I_{n-1}| \leq 2|I_n|$ . Then using (3.3), we find

$$(3.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \|P_I f - P_{I^*} f\|_{L_\infty(I^*)} &\leq \sum_{j=1}^n \|P_{I_{j-1}} f - P_{I_j} f\|_{L_\infty(I)} \leq c \left( \sum_{j=0}^n |I_j|^\alpha \right) \inf_{I^*} f_{\alpha, p}^b \\ &\leq c|I|^\alpha \inf_{I^*} f_{\alpha, p}^b. \end{aligned}$$

It follows from the Lebesgue differentiation theorem (see [4, Lemma 4.1]) that

$$(3.5) \quad \lim_{I^* \rightarrow \{x\}} P_{I^*} f(x) = f(x) \text{ a.e. .}$$

Hence for such  $x$ , taking a limit in (3.4) gives

$$(3.6) \quad |P_I f(x) - f(x)| = \lim_{I^* \rightarrow \{x\}} |P_I f(x) - P_{I^*} f(x)| \leq c|I|^\alpha f_{\alpha, p}^b(x).$$

This gives (3.2) since given  $x, \dots, x+kh$ , we choose  $I$  so that  $|I| = kh$  and  $x, \dots, x+kh \in I$ . Since  $\deg P_I f < k$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta_h^k(f, x)| &= |\Delta_h^k(f - P_I f, x)| \leq c \sum_{v=0}^k |f(x+vh) - P_I f(x+vh)| \\ &\leq ch^\alpha \sum_{v=0}^k f_{\alpha, q}^b(x+vh), \text{ a.e. } x. \end{aligned}$$

We see from (3.2) that  $f_{\alpha,p}^b$  behaves like a (fractional) derivative of  $f$ . In fact when  $\alpha$  is an integer we have [4]

$$(3.7) \quad c_1 f^{(\alpha)}(x) \leq f_{\alpha,1}^b(x) \leq c_2 M(f^{(\alpha)})(x) \text{ a.e.}$$

with  $c_1, c_2$  depending only on  $\alpha$ . Similar inequalities can be proved for other values of  $p$ .

Let us define the space of functions  $C_p^\alpha$  as the set of functions  $f$  for which

$$\|f\|_{C_p^\alpha} = \|f\|_p + \|f\|_{C_p^\alpha}; \quad \|f\|_{C_p^\alpha} = \|f_{\alpha,p}^b\|_p$$

are finite. These are smoothness spaces of order  $\alpha$  in  $L_p$ . For example, it follows from (3.7) that

$$(3.8) \quad C_p^k = W_p^k, \quad 1 < p \leq \infty; \quad k=1,2,\dots$$

Also, it is easy to show that  $C_\infty^\alpha = \text{Lip } \alpha$  for all  $\alpha > 0$ . Hence the  $C_p^\alpha$  are generalizations of the Sobolev spaces to all  $\alpha, p > 0$ . For any  $p$  and  $\alpha$  non-integral we have the embeddings

$$(3.9) \quad B_p^{\alpha,p} + C_p^\alpha + B_p^{\alpha,\infty}$$

with  $B_p^{\alpha,p}$  the Besov spaces (see [4]).

We now want to show how  $f_{\alpha,p}^b$  can be used to extend inequality (1.5). We can no longer use ordinary derivatives in the definition of  $P_x$  and therefore we begin by introducing the notion of Peano derivatives.

The proof of (3.4) together with Markov's inequality shows that for  $I \supset I^*$

$$(3.10) \quad \|D^j(P_I f - P_{I^*} f)\|_{L_\infty(I^*)} \leq c |I|^{\alpha-j} \inf_{I^*} f_{\alpha,p}^b$$

Therefore, if  $f_{\alpha,p}^b(x) < \infty$ , then

$$(3.11) \quad D_j f(x) = \lim_{I \ni x} D^j P_I f(x)$$

exists  $j=0, \dots, (\alpha)$ . The  $D_j f$  are called the Peano derivatives of  $f$ . When these Peano derivatives exist, we define

$$(3.12) \quad P_x f(y) = \sum_{j=0}^{(\alpha)} D_j f(x) \frac{(y-x)^j}{j!}$$

The following lemma generalizes (1.5).

**LEMMA 3.1.** Suppose  $1 \leq q \leq \infty$ ;  $0 < p \leq q$  and  $\tau = \alpha + \frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p} > 0$ . If  $f \in C_p^\alpha$ , then for almost all  $x$  and all intervals  $I$  containing  $x$ , we have

$$(3.13) \quad \|f - P_x f\|_{L_q(I)} \leq c |I|^{\alpha+1/q} M_p(F)(x)$$

where  $F = f_{\alpha,p}^b$  and  $M_p(g) = (M(|g|^p))^{1/p}$ .

**PROOF.** We first estimate  $\|f - P_I f\|_{L_q(I)}$ . Let  $I_0 = \{I\}$  and in general the set of intervals  $I_j$  is gotten from  $I_{j-1}$  by halving the intervals in  $I_{j-1}$ . Define

$$S_j = \sum_{J \in I_j} P_J f \chi_J.$$

Then  $S_0 = P_I f$  and  $S_j \rightarrow f$  a.e. on  $I$  because of (3.5). It follows from the argument in (3.3) that whenever  $J \in I_{j-1}$  and  $J^* \in I_j$  with  $J^* \subset J$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|P_J f - P_{J^*} f\|_{L_q(J^*)} &\leq c |J|^{\alpha+1/q} \inf_{J^*} F \\ &\leq c |J|^\tau \left( \int_{J^*} F^p \right)^{1/p}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \|S_j - S_{j-1}\|_{L_q(I)} &\leq c |I|^\tau (2^{-j})^\tau \left\{ \sum_{J \in I_j} \left( \int_J F^p \right)^{q/p} \right\}^{1/q} \\ &\leq c |I|^\tau (2^{-j})^\tau \left( \int_I F^p \right)^{1/p} \end{aligned}$$

where in the last inequality we used the fact that an  $\ell_{q/p}$  norm is smaller than an  $\ell_1$  norm  $q/p \geq 1$ . This last inequality gives



$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.14) \quad \|f - P_I f\|_{L_q(I)} &= \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \|S_j^{-S} S_0\|_{L_q(I)} \leq \sum_1^{\infty} \|S_j^{-S} S_{j-1}\|_{L_q(I)} \\
 &\leq c|I|^{\alpha+1/q} \left( \frac{1}{|I|} \int_I F^p \right)^{1/p} \\
 &\leq c|I|^{\alpha+1/q} M_p(F)(x).
 \end{aligned}$$

In view of (3.10) and (3.11)

$$|D^j(P_I f)(x) - D_j f(x)| \leq c|I|^{\alpha-j} F(x)$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.15) \quad \|P_I f - P_x f\|_{L_q(I)} &\leq |I|^{1/q} \|P_I f - P_x f\|_{L_{\infty}(I)} \\
 &\leq c|I|^{1/q} \sum_{j=0}^{(\alpha)} |D^j(P_I f)(x) - D_j f(x)| \frac{|I|^j}{j!} \\
 &\leq c|I|^{\alpha+1/q} F(x) \text{ a.e. } x.
 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $F \leq M_p(F)$  a.e., (3.15) combines with (3.14) to give (3.3).  $\square$

4. FURTHER RESULTS ON RATIONAL APPROXIMATION. We need to modify slightly the partition of unity (2.3). Again, let  $I_j$ ,  $j=1, \dots, m$  be intervals with disjoint interiors whose union is  $[0, 1]$  and let  $\xi_j \in I_j$ ,  $j=1, \dots, m$ . We define for  $k = (\alpha) + 3$

$$\phi_j(y) := (1 + |I_j|^{-2}(y - \xi_j)^2)^{-k}; \quad \phi := \sum_1^m \phi_j$$

and

$$(4.1) \quad R_j := \phi_j / \phi.$$

Then, the  $R_j$  satisfy

$$(4.2) \quad 1) \quad \sum_1^m R_j \equiv 1 \text{ on } [0, 1]$$

$$2) \quad |R_j(y)| \leq 2^k (1 + |I_j|^{-2}(y - \xi_j)^2)^{-k} \leq c(1 + |I_j|^{-1}|y - \xi_j|)^{-2k}.$$

Here the last inequality uses the fact that  $(1+x^2)^{-k} \leq c(1+x)^{-2k}$ ,  $x \geq 0$ .

**THEOREM 4.1.** Let  $\alpha, p > 0$ ;  $1 \leq q \leq \infty$  and  $p > \sigma = (\alpha + \frac{1}{q})^{-1}$ . If  $f \in C_p^\alpha$  then

$$(4.3) \quad r_n(f)_q \leq c |f|_{C_p^\alpha} n^{-\alpha}$$

with  $c$  independent of  $n$  and  $f$ .

**PROOF.** The maximal function  $M_p$  boundedly maps  $L_p$  into  $L_r$  for all  $r < p$ . Choose  $\sigma < r < p$ . Then, there is a constant  $c_0$  such that

$$\|M_p(F)\|_r \leq c_0 |f|_{C_p^\alpha}$$

with  $F = f|_{I_j}$ . It will be enough to prove (4.3) for functions  $f$  which satisfy  $|f|_{C_p^\alpha} = c_0^{-1}$ . In this case,  $\|M_p(F)\|_r \leq 1$  and hence we can choose intervals  $I_1, \dots, I_{2n}$  such that

$$(4.4) \quad \begin{aligned} &1) \text{ the } I_j \text{ have disjoint interiors and } [0,1] = \bigcup_1^{2n} I_j \\ &ii) |I_j| \leq n^{-1}, \quad j=1, \dots, 2n \\ &iii) \int_{I_j} [M_p(F)]^r \leq n^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

For each  $j=1, \dots, 2n$ , choose a point  $\xi_j \in I_j$  such that

$$M_p(F)(\xi_j) = \inf_{I_j} M_p(F).$$

Then,

$$(4.5) \quad M_p(F)(\xi_j) \leq \left( \frac{1}{|I_j|} \int_{I_j} M_p(F)^r \right)^{1/r} \leq (n|I_j|)^{-1/r}.$$

Let  $P_{\xi_j}$  be the polynomial in Lemma 3.1 for  $x = \xi_j$ . The rational function

$$R = \sum_1^{2n} (P_{\xi_j} f) R_j$$

has degree  $\leq 8kn$  and it will be enough to show that

$$(4.6) \quad \|f-R\|_q \leq cn^{-\alpha}$$

with  $c$  independent of  $f$  and  $n$ .

The proof of (4.6) is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.1. In fact, the case  $q = \infty$  is identical and so we proceed only with the case  $q < \infty$ . Let  $I_\nu$  be the set of those intervals  $I_j$  such that  $2^{-\nu}n^{-1} < |I_j| \leq 2^{-\nu+1}n^{-1}$ . Then, for any interval  $I_1$ , we have

$$(4.7) \quad \|f-R\|_{L_q(I_1)} \leq \sum_\nu \|S_\nu\|_{L_q(I_1)}$$

$$\text{where } S_\nu = \sum_{I_j \in I_\nu} (f-P_{\xi_j})R_j.$$

Suppose  $I_1 \in I_\mu$ . Fix  $i$  for the moment. We want to estimate  $\|S_\nu\|_{L_q(I_1)}$ . It will be convenient to write  $S_\nu = S_\nu^- + S_\nu^+$  where  $S_\nu^-$  is the sum over all intervals in  $I_\nu$  to the left of  $I_1$  and  $S_\nu^+$  is the sum over all intervals in  $I_\nu$  to the right of  $I_1$ . We now estimate  $\|S_\nu^-\|_{L_q(I_1)}$ ; the estimate for  $S_\nu^+$  is the same. If  $\mu \geq \nu$ , we let  $J_0 = I_1$ . If  $\nu > \mu$ , we take  $m+1 = 2^{\nu-\mu}$  and let  $J_0, \dots, J_m$  be disjoint intervals of length  $(m+1)^{-1}|I_1|$  whose union is  $I_1$  and which are ordered from left to right. It follows that for  $I_j \in I_\nu$ ,

$$d_{1j} + s|I_j| \leq |y-\xi_j| \leq 2|I_j| + d_{1j} + s|I_j| \quad \text{when } y \in J_s$$

where  $d_{1j} = \min\{|a-b| : a \in I_1, b \in I_j\}$ . If  $\bar{J}_s$  is the smallest interval which contains  $J_s$  and  $\xi_j$ , then  $|\bar{J}_s| \leq d_{1j} + (s+2)|I_j|$ . Using these facts with (3.13), (4.2) ii) and (4.5), we have, with

$$a_{n,\nu} = (2^{-\nu})^{\alpha+1/q-1/r} n^{-(\alpha+1/q)},$$

$$(4.8) \quad \begin{aligned} \|S_\nu^-\|_{L_q(J_s)} &\leq \sum (f-P_{\xi_j})R_j \|L_q(J_s) \\ &\leq ca_{n,\nu} \sum_{I_j \in I_\nu} (1+s+d_{1j}|I_j|^{-1})^{-2k+\alpha+1/q} \\ &\leq ca_{n,\nu} \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} (1+s+\ell)^{-2k+\alpha+1/q} \leq ca_{n,\nu} (1+s)^{-2k+\alpha+1/q+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\tau := 2k - \alpha - \frac{1}{q} - 1 > 1$ , we can use (4.8) and a similar estimate for  $S_v^+$  to find

$$(4.9) \quad \|S_v\|_{L_q(I_f)} \leq c_{n,v} \left( \sum_{s=1}^{\infty} (1+s)^{-\tau q} \right)^{1/q} = c_{n,v}.$$

Using this back in (4.7) shows that  $\|f-R\|_{L_q(I_f)} \leq c n^{-(\alpha+1/q)}$ , and therefore

$$\|f-R\|_q = \left( \sum_1^{2n} \|f-R\|_{L_q(I_f)}^q \right)^{1/q} \leq c n^{-(\alpha+1/q)} \left( \sum_1^{2n} 1 \right)^{1/q} \leq c n^{-\alpha}. \quad \square$$

**COROLLARY 4.2.** If  $1 \leq p, q \leq \infty$  and  $k$  is a non-negative integer ( $k > 1$  if  $p = 1$  and  $q = \infty$ ) then for each  $f \in W_p^k$  we have

$$r_n(f)_q \leq c \|f^{(k)}\|_p n^{-k}.$$

**PROOF.** If  $p > 1$ , this follows from Theorem 4.1 and (3.8). When  $p = 1$ , the same proof as Theorem 2.1 gives the result.  $\square$

**COROLLARY 4.3.** If  $\alpha, p > 0$ ;  $p \leq q \leq \infty$  and  $\alpha + \frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{q} > 0$  then whenever  $\alpha$  is not an integer and  $f \in B_p^{\alpha,p}$ , we have

$$r_n(f)_q \leq c \|f\|_{B_p^{\alpha,p}} n^{-\alpha}.$$

**PROOF.** This follows from Theorem 4.1 and (3.9).  $\square$

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