

# Some Problems on Best Approximation in Orlicz Spaces\*

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## ABSTRACT

In this paper we studied some problems on best approximation in Orlicz spaces, for which the approximating sets are Haar subspaces, the result of this paper can be considered as the extension of the classical corresponding result.

**Keywords:** Chebyshev System; Haar Subspace; Orlicz Space; Best Approximation

## 1. Introduction

Let  $Q$  be a compact Hausdorff space,  $C(Q)$  be all the continuous functions on  $Q$ . There are at least  $n$  points on  $Q$ ,  $\{\varphi_1(t), \dots, \varphi_n(t)\} \subset C(Q)$ . Define

$\{\varphi_1(t), \dots, \varphi_n(t)\}$  as  $n$  order Chebyshev system if for arbitrary vector  $(c_1, \dots, c_n) \neq (0, \dots, 0)$ ,

$$p(t) = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \varphi_i(t)$$

has at most  $n-1$  zero points on  $Q$  [1].

Define the linear subspace

$$H = \text{span}\{\varphi_1(t), \dots, \varphi_n(t)\}$$

which is spanned by  $n$  order Chebyshev system as a Haar subspace of  $C(Q)$  [1].

In this paper, let  $M(u)$  and  $N(v)$  be mutually complementary  $N$  function. The definition and properties of  $N$  function can be seen in [2]. The Orlicz space  $L_M^*(Q)$  corresponding to the  $N$  function  $M(u)$  consists of all Lebesgue measurable functions  $\{u(x)\}$  on  $Q$ , of which the Orlicz norm

$$\|u\|_M = \sup_{\rho(v, N) \leq 1} \left| \int_Q u(x)v(x) dx \right| \quad (1.1)$$

is finite, here

$$\rho(v, N) = \int_Q N(v(x)) dx$$

is the modulus of  $v(x)$  corresponding to  $N(v)$ . According to [2], the Orlicz norm (1.1) can also be calculated by

$$\|u\|_M = \inf_{\alpha > 0} \frac{1}{\alpha} \left( 1 + \int_Q M(\alpha u(x)) dx \right), \quad (1.2)$$

and there exists an  $\alpha > 0$ , satisfying

$$\int_Q N(p(\alpha |u(x)|)) dx = 1,$$

such that

$$\|u\|_M = \frac{1}{\alpha} \left( 1 + \int_Q M(\alpha u(x)) dx \right),$$

here  $p(u)$  is the derivative of  $M(u)$  on the right. Equivalent to the Orlicz norm (1.1), in Orlicz space  $L_M^*(Q)$ , the Luxemburg norm is defined by

$$\|u\|_{(M)} = \inf \left\{ \alpha > 0 : \int_Q M\left(\frac{u(x)}{\alpha}\right) dx \leq 1 \right\}. \quad (1.3)$$

In the sequel  $L_M^*$  and  $L_{(M)}^*$  will denote the Orlicz space with Orlicz norm (1.1) and the Luxemburg norm (1.3) respectively.

It is well known that

$$C(Q) \subset L_p(Q) \subset L_M^*(Q) \subset L_{(M)}^*(Q) \quad (p > 1).$$

## 2. Main Results

Now we choose  $Q = [a, b]$  and

$$H = \text{span}\{\varphi_1(t), \dots, \varphi_n(t)\}$$

is a Haar subspace of  $C[a, b]$ , then we obtain

**Theorem 1.** Let  $M(u)$  be  $N$  function satisfying  $\Delta_2$  condition, of which the derivative on the right  $p(u)$  is continuous and strictly monotone increasing,  $f(t) \in C[a, b]$ ,  $f(t) \notin H$ , if  $p_n^*(t) \in H$  is the best approximator in the mean of  $f(t)$  in  $H$  for the Orlicz norm  $\|\cdot\|_M$  or the Luxemburg norm  $\|\cdot\|_{(M)}$ , then there exist at least  $n$  different zero points of  $f(t) - p_n^*(t)$  in  $(a, b)$ .

In order to prove this theorem, first we state the fol-

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lowing two lemmas.

**Lemma 1.** [3-5]. Let  $M(u)$  be  $N$  function satisfying  $\Delta_2$  condition, of which the derivative on the right  $p(u)$  is continuous and strictly monotone increasing,  $F$  is a linear subspace of  $L^*_{(M)}[a, b]$ ,  $f(t) \in L^*_{(M)}[a, b] \setminus \bar{F}$ , then  $g_0(t) \in F$  is the best approximator in the mean of  $f(t)$  in  $F$  for the Luxemburg norm  $\|\cdot\|_{(M)}$ , if and only if for arbitrary function  $g(t) \in F$ ,

$$\int_a^b g(t) p\left(\frac{|f(t) - g_0(t)|}{\|f - g_0\|_{(M)}}\right) \operatorname{sgn}(f(t) - g_0(t)) dt = 0 \text{ holds}$$

true.

**Lemma 2.** [4,5]. Under the conditions of lemma 1,  $g_0(t) \in F$  is the best approximator in the mean of  $f(t)$  in  $F$  for the Orlicz norm  $\|\cdot\|_M$ , if and only if for arbitrary function  $g(t) \in F$ ,

$$\int_a^b g(t) p(k|f(t) - g_0(t)|) \operatorname{sgn}(f(t) - g_0(t)) dt = 0 \text{ holds}$$

true, here  $k$  satisfies

$$\int_a^b N(p(k|f(t) - g_0(t)|)) dt = 1.$$

**Proof of Theorem 1.** We prove first the case of the Luxemburg norm. Here we take reduction to absurdity. Assume there exist at most  $n-1$  different zero points  $t_1, \dots, t_r$  ( $r \leq n-1$ ) of  $f(t) - p_n^*(t)$  in  $(a, b)$ . Based on  $t_1, \dots, t_r$ , we choose  $n-1$  points in  $(a, b)$ , such that  $a = \xi_0 < \xi_1 < \dots < \xi_r < \dots < \xi_{n-1} < \xi_n = b$ , here  $\xi_j = t_j$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, r$ . From lemma 1 we get

$$\int_a^b \varphi_j(t) p\left(\frac{|f(t) - p_n^*(t)|}{\|f - p_n^*\|_{(M)}}\right) \operatorname{sgn}(f(t) - p_n^*(t)) dt = 0, j = 1, \dots, n.$$

For  $f(t) - p_n^*(t) \in C[a, b]$ , the above can be deduced as following

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i \int_{\xi_{i-1}}^{\xi_i} \varphi_j(t) p\left(\frac{|f(t) - p_n^*(t)|}{\|f - p_n^*\|_{(M)}}\right) dt \\ & = \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i \psi_i(\varphi_j) = 0, j = 1, \dots, n, \end{aligned}$$

here every  $\sigma_i = 1$  or  $-1$ ,

$$\psi_i(\varphi_j) = \int_{\xi_{i-1}}^{\xi_i} \varphi_j(t) p\left(\frac{|f(t) - p_n^*(t)|}{\|f - p_n^*\|_{(M)}}\right) dt,$$

$$i = 1, \dots, n, j = 1, \dots, n.$$

According to the theory of system of linear equations, we have that  $\det(\psi_i(\varphi_j))_{i,j=1}^n = 0$ , hence the transposed system of equations  $\sum_{j=1}^n c_j \psi_i(\varphi_j) = 0$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$  also

has a nonzero solution  $(c_1, \dots, c_n)$ . Set

$p_n(t) = \sum_{j=1}^n c_j \varphi_j(t)$ , then  $p_n(t) \neq 0$  for some  $t$ . On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_i(p_n) &= \int_{\xi_{i-1}}^{\xi_i} p_n(t) p\left(\frac{|f(t) - p_n^*(t)|}{\|f - p_n^*\|_{(M)}}\right) dt \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n c_j \int_{\xi_{i-1}}^{\xi_i} \varphi_j(t) p\left(\frac{|f(t) - p_n^*(t)|}{\|f - p_n^*\|_{(M)}}\right) dt \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n c_j \psi_i(\varphi_j) = 0, i = 1, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $p(u)$  is the derivative of  $N$  function  $M(u)$  on the right, according to the properties of  $N$  function (see [2]) and the hypothesis of  $p(u)$ , we obtain

$$p\left(\frac{|f(t) - p_n^*(t)|}{\|f - p_n^*\|_{(M)}}\right) > 0, t \in (\xi_{i-1}, \xi_i), i = 1, \dots, n.$$

The above shows that there exist zero points of the continuous function  $p_n(t)$  in every interval  $(\xi_{i-1}, \xi_i)$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ), that is to say,  $p_n(t)$  has at least  $n$  different zero points in interval  $(a, b)$ . Since  $\{\varphi_1(t), \dots, \varphi_n(t)\}$  is  $n$  order Chebyshev system, we get  $p_n(t) \equiv 0$ . Together with the previous result, we get a contradiction.

In an analogous way, following lemma 2 we can also prove the case of the Orlicz norm.

In the sequel we choose  $Q = [-1, 1]$ ,  $\varphi_j(t) = t^{j-1}$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, n$ , then the Haar subspace of  $C[-1, 1]$  is  $H = \operatorname{span}\{1, t, \dots, t^{n-1}\}$ , consists of all algebraic polynomials of order not larger than  $n-1$ . For  $f(t) = t^n$ , in order to solve the problem of best approximation of  $f(t)$  with  $H$  in Orlicz space, actually we just need to consider the problem of the minimal norm of monic polynomials of order  $n$  in Orlicz space, that is, to consider the extreme value problems as following

$$\min_{a_j} \left\| t^n + \sum_{j=1}^n a_j t^{n-j} \right\|_M; \tag{2.1}$$

$$\min_{a_j} \left\| t^n + \sum_{j=1}^n a_j t^{n-j} \right\|_{(M)}. \tag{2.2}$$

The similar problems in  $L_p$  space has not been completely solved except  $p = 1, 2, +\infty$  (see [6]). In Orlicz spaces the problems have not been studied yet. Here we obtain

**Theorem 2.** Let  $M(u)$  be  $N$  function satisfying  $\Delta_2$  condition, its graph do not contain any straight line segment, its derivative on the right  $p(u)$  be continuous and strictly monotone increasing, then

1) The extreme value problems (2.1) and (2.2) have unique solution respectively, that is, there exist unique group  $a_{1,M}, \dots, a_{n,M}$  and  $a'_{1,M}, \dots, a'_{n,M}$ , such that

$$p_n(t) = t^n + \sum_{j=1}^n a_{j,M} t^{n-j}$$

and

$$q_n(t) = t^n + \sum_{j=1}^n a'_{j,M} t^{n-j}$$

satisfy

$$\|p_n\|_M = \min_{a_j} \left\| t^n + \sum_{j=1}^n a_j t^{n-j} \right\|_M ;$$

$$\|q_n\|_{(M)} = \min_{a'_j} \left\| t^n + \sum_{j=1}^n a'_j t^{n-j} \right\|_{(M)} ,$$

here  $\{a_{j,M}\}$  and  $\{a'_{j,M}\}$  ( $j=1, \dots, n$ ) depend on  $N$  function  $M(u)$  corresponding to the Orlicz space.

2) The extremal functions  $p_n(t)$  and  $q_n(t)$  have  $n$  different zero points in  $(-1,1)$  respectively.

3) The odevity of extremal functions  $p_n(t)$  and  $q_n(t)$  is same to the odevity of natural number  $n$ .

**Proof.** 1) From [2] (pp. 160-168), we know, under the conditions of theorem 2, Orlicz spaces  $L_M^*$  and  $L_{(M)}^*$  are strictly convex. Since  $H = \text{span}\{1, t, \dots, t^{n-1}\}$  is a finite dimensional linear subspace, (1) is obvious by the theory of best approximation (see [1], pp. 1-10).

2) From Theorem 1 we can easily obtain it.

3) Since  $N$  function  $M(u)$  is an even function, so

$$\begin{aligned} \|(-1)^n p_n(-t)\|_M &= \inf_{\alpha>0} \frac{1}{\alpha} \left( 1 + \int_{-1}^1 M(\alpha (-1)^n p_n(-t)) dt \right) \\ &= \inf_{\alpha>0} \frac{1}{\alpha} \left( 1 + \int_{-1}^1 M(\alpha p_n(-t)) dt \right) \\ &= \inf_{\alpha>0} \frac{1}{\alpha} \left( 1 + \int_{-1}^1 M(\alpha p_n(t)) dt \right) \\ &= \|p_n(t)\|_M . \end{aligned}$$

Analogously,

$$\|(-1)^n q_n(-t)\|_{(M)} = \|q_n(t)\|_{(M)}$$

holds true. Hence, from (1), the uniqueness of the extremal function, we obtain

$$(-1)^n p_n(-t) = p_n(t) ;$$

$$(-1)^n q_n(-t) = q_n(t) .$$

By these, (3) follows.

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