

## A PERSISTENT LOCAL MAXIMUM OF THE $p$ TH POWER DEVIATION ON AN INTERVAL, $p < 1$

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**The deviation of the polynomial  $p_0(x) \equiv c$  from the given function  $f(x) \equiv |x|^{1/\alpha}sg x$ ,  $p + \alpha > 2$ ,  $w(x)$  nonnegative, bounded, and integrable but not a null function, is defined as  $\delta(c) \equiv \int_{-1}^1 w(x)|c - f(x)|^p dx$ , whence  $\delta''(0) < 0$ . Thus the error function  $c - f(x)$  has a strong oscillation in the interval  $[-1, 1]$ , yet  $\delta(c)$  has a local maximum at  $c = 0$  provided  $\delta'(0) = 0$ ; this is true for every (allowable) choice of  $w(x)$ . For suitably chosen  $w(x)$ , the deviation  $\delta(c)$  has a global maximum at  $c = 0$ ,  $|c| \leq 1$ .**

Least  $p^{\text{th}}$  power approximating polynomials of degree  $n$  on an interval are known to require  $(n + 1)$ -fold strong oscillation of the error function (if the latter is not identically zero) in the case  $p > 1$ , and to require either  $(n + 1)$ -fold strong oscillation of the error function or its vanishing on a set of positive measure in the case  $p = 1$ ; see Jackson [2, 3], Hoel [1], Walsh and Motzkin [5]. Conversely, if a polynomial with those characteristics is given, there exists a positive continuous weight function such that the polynomial is a least  $p^{\text{th}}$  power approximator [5]. The facts [1, 6] are quite different in the case  $0 < p < 1$ , and the object of the present note is to exhibit in that case an approximating polynomial  $p_0(x) \equiv c$  of degree zero where strong oscillation occurs yet so also does a local maximum of the deviation (as a function of  $c$ ), for a large class of weight functions. In § 5 we show that global maxima exist, in § 6 we give some special but illuminating examples, and present this contrasting behavior for various values of  $p$  in § 7 below.

### 1. Results. We proceed to prove

**THEOREM 1.** *Suppose  $f(x) \equiv |x|^{1/\alpha}sg x$ ,  $0 < p < 1$ ,  $p + \alpha > 2$ ,  $p_0(x) \equiv c$ ,  $\eta > 0$ ,  $w(x)$  nonnegative bounded and integrable, but not a null function, and define the deviation as*

$$(1) \quad \delta(c) \equiv \int_{-\eta^\alpha}^{\eta^\alpha} w(x)|c - f(x)|^p dx, \eta > 0.$$

*Then we have for  $-\eta < c < \eta$*

$$(2) \quad \delta'(c) = p \int_{-\eta^\alpha}^{\eta^\alpha} w(x)|c - f(x)|^{p-1}sg [c - f(x)] dx,$$

$$(3) \quad \delta''(0) = p(p-1) \int_{-\eta^\alpha}^{\eta^\alpha} w(x) |x|^{(p-2)/\alpha} dx.$$

**THEOREM 2.** *With the hypothesis of Theorem 1, although the error function  $f(x) - c$ ,  $-\eta < c < \eta$  has a strong oscillation in the interval  $[-\eta^\alpha, \eta^\alpha]$ , the deviation  $\delta(c)$  has a local MAXIMUM at  $c = 0$  provided  $\delta'(0) = 0$ ; this is true for every (allowable) choice of  $w(x)$ .*

**2. First derivative of deviation.** The detailed study of  $\delta(c)$  and its derivatives involves improper integrals, which need to be treated with care. The transformation  $z = x^{1/\alpha}$ ,  $x = z^\alpha$ ,  $dx = \alpha z^{\alpha-1} dz$ , gives ( $c > 0$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(c)/\alpha \equiv & \int_0^\eta w(-z^\alpha)(c+z)^p z^{\alpha-1} dz \\ & + \int_0^c w(z^\alpha)(c-z)^p z^{\alpha-1} dz \\ & + \int_c^\eta w(z^\alpha)(z-c)^p z^{\alpha-1} dz, \end{aligned}$$

so by Leibnitz's rule and elementary inequalities, which the reader can supply by methods used below,

$$(4) \quad \begin{aligned} \delta'(c)/(p\alpha) = & \int_0^\eta w(-z^\alpha)(c+z)^{p-1} z^{\alpha-1} dz \\ & + \int_0^c w(z^\alpha)(c-z)^{p-1} z^{\alpha-1} dz \\ & - \int_c^\eta w(z^\alpha)(z-c)^{p-1} z^{\alpha-1} dz, \end{aligned}$$

from which (2) follows.

The relation

$$\delta'(0^+)/(\alpha p) = \int_0^\eta w(-z^\alpha) z^{p+\alpha-2} dz - \int_0^\eta w(z^\alpha) z^{p+\alpha-2} dz$$

can be similarly proved, and indeed follows from (4), so we have  $\delta'(0^-) = \delta'(0^+) = \delta'(0)$ .

**3. Second derivative.** We proceed to compute  $\delta''(0)$  from (4), and denote by  $J_k(c)$  the  $k^{\text{th}}$  integral in the second member of (4),  $c > 0$ . We have

$$(5) \quad \frac{J_2(c) - J_2(0)}{c} = \frac{1}{c} \int_0^c w(z^\alpha)(c-z)^{p-1} dz.$$

Here we make the substitution  $y = z/c$ ,  $z = cy$ ,  $dz = cdy$ . The second member of (5) becomes

$$c^{p+\alpha-2} \int_0^1 w(c^\alpha y^\alpha) (1-y)^{p-1} y^{\alpha-1} dy ,$$

which approaches zero with  $c$ , whence

$$(6) \quad J'_2(0^+) = 0 .$$

We now consider for  $c \downarrow 0$

$$(7) \quad \frac{J_1(c) - J_1(0)}{c} = \int_0^\eta w(-z^\alpha) \frac{(z+c)^{p-1} - z^{p-1}}{c} z^{\alpha-1} dz .$$

The second factor in the integrand can be expressed ( $0 < z \leq \eta$ )

$$\frac{(z+c)^{p-1} - z^{p-1}}{c} = (p-1)(z+\theta c)^{p-2} ,$$

so the integral in (7) lies between the two integrals

$$(8) \quad \begin{aligned} & (p-1) \int_0^\eta w(-z^\alpha) (z+c)^{p-2} z^{\alpha-1} dz , \\ & (p-1) \int_0^\eta w(-z^\alpha) z^{\alpha+p-3} dz ; \end{aligned}$$

the first integrand in (8) increases monotonically as  $c \downarrow 0$  and approaches the second integrand uniformly except in the neighborhood of the point  $z = 0$ . The second integral converges and

$$\int_0^{c_0} w(-z^\alpha) z^{\alpha+p-3} dz$$

can be made as small as desired merely by choosing  $c_0$  sufficiently small,  $0 < c_0 < \eta$ . Thus the first integral in (8) also converges, and

$$\int_0^{c_0} w(-z^\alpha) (z+c)^{p-2} z^{\alpha-1} dz$$

is less than the corresponding integral with  $c = 0$ . The first integral in (8) with the lower limit of integration replaced by  $c_0$  approaches the second integral in (8) with the lower limit replaced by  $c_0$ , so we have

$$(9) \quad J'_1(0^+) = (p-1) \int_0^\eta w(-z^\alpha) z^{\alpha+p-3} dz .$$

It remains to study  $J_3(c)$  as  $c \downarrow 0$ :

$$(10) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{J_3(c) - J_3(0)}{c} &= \int_c^\eta w(z^\alpha) \frac{(z-c)^{p-1} - z^{p-1}}{c} z^{\alpha-1} dz \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{c} \int_0^c w(z^\alpha) z^{p+\alpha-2} dz . \end{aligned}$$

The second term on the right can be compared to a constant multiple of

$$-\frac{1}{c} \int_0^c z^{p+\alpha-2} dz = -\frac{c^{p+\alpha-2}}{p+\alpha-1},$$

which approaches zero with  $c$ . The first integral in (10) can be treated somewhat like the integral in (7); we choose  $c_0$  fixed but as yet undetermined,  $0 < c < c_0 < \eta$ , and notice that

$$(11) \quad \int_{c_0}^{\eta} w(z^\alpha) \left[ \frac{(z-c)^{p-1} - z^{p-1}}{c} + (p-1)z^{p-2} \right] z^{\alpha-1} dz$$

approaches zero with  $c$ , since by the law of the mean the integrand approaches zero uniformly in  $[c_0, \eta]$ . We isolate the integral

$$(12) \quad (p-1) \int_c^{c_0} w(z^\alpha) z^{p+\alpha-3} dz,$$

which can be made as small as desired by suitable choice of  $c_0$ , uniformly in  $c$  (in particular we may choose  $c = 0$ ). It remains to treat

$$(13) \quad \int_c^{c_0} w(z^\alpha) \left[ \frac{(z-c)^{p-1} - z^{p-1}}{c} + (p-1)z^{p-2} \right] z^{\alpha-1} dz.$$

The contribution of the last term in brackets to (13) is (12), so that term can be ignored. In continuing the study of (13) we suppress the factor  $w(z^\alpha)$ , which is not important in proving that (13) can be made as small as desired by suitable choice of  $c_0$  and then of  $c$ .

In the modified (13) we set  $y = z/c$ ,  $z = cy$ ,  $dz = cdy$ , and obtain

$$(14) \quad c^{p+\alpha-2} \int_1^{c_0/c} y^{\alpha-1} [(y-1)^{p-1} - y^{p-1}] dy,$$

which for sufficiently small  $c$  equals  $c^{p+\alpha-2}$  times the corresponding integral over the interval  $[2, 3]$  (which approaches zero with  $c$ ) plus

$$\begin{aligned} & c^{p+\alpha-2} \int_2^{c_0/c} y^{p+\alpha-2} [(1-1/y)^{p-1} - 1] dy \\ &= c^{p+\alpha-2} \int_2^{c_0/c} y^{p+\alpha-2} \left[ -\frac{p-1}{y} + \frac{(p-1)(p-2)}{2y^2} - \dots \right] dy \\ &= c^{p+\alpha-2} \left[ -(p-1) \frac{(c_0/c)^{p+\alpha-2} - 2^{p+\alpha-2}}{p+\alpha-2} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \frac{(p-1)(p-2)}{2} \frac{(c_0/c)^{p+\alpha-3} - 2^{p+\alpha-3}}{p+\alpha-3} - \dots \right]. \end{aligned}$$

This last expression (which requires slight modification if  $p + \alpha$  is an integer) can be written ( $K_0$  is a numerical constant)

$$-\frac{(p-1)c_0^{p+\alpha-2}}{p+\alpha-2} + \frac{(p-1)(p-2)}{2(p+\alpha-3)}cc_0^{p+\alpha-3} - \dots + c^{p+\alpha-2}K_0,$$

and can be made numerically as small as desired by choosing  $c_0$  so that the first term is, say, less than a given  $\varepsilon(>0)$ , then choosing  $c$  so small that the entire expression is numerically less than  $\varepsilon$ .

Consequently (14), (13), (12), and (11) can each be made as small as desired by suitable choice of  $c_0$  and then of  $c$ , so we have

$$(15) \quad J_3'(0^+) = -(p-1)\int_0^\eta w(z^\alpha)z^{p+\alpha-3}dz.$$

Combining (4), (6), (9), and (15) now yields

$$\begin{aligned} \delta''(0^+) &= p(p-1)\alpha\int_0^\eta w(-z^\alpha)z^{\alpha+p-3}dz \\ &\quad + p(p-1)\alpha\int_0^\eta w(z^\alpha)z^{\alpha+p-3}dz, \end{aligned}$$

which is equivalent to (3).

To be sure, we have computed merely  $\delta''(0^+)$ , but by the symmetry of  $f(x)$  and of the notation, the value of  $\delta''(0^-)$  is the same, so  $\delta''(0^-) = \delta''(0^+) = \delta''(0)$ .

**4. Proof of Theorem 2.** It is clear that  $\delta(c)$  can have neither a maximum nor a minimum at  $c = 0$  unless  $\delta'(0) = 0$ . If  $\delta'(0) = 0$  it follows from (3) that  $\delta'(c) < 0$  for small positive  $c$ , and  $\delta'(c) > 0$  for small negative  $c$ . By the law of the mean we conclude that  $\delta(c)$  can never have a minimum at  $c = 0$ , and that whenever  $\delta'(0) = 0$ ,  $\delta(c)$  has a strong local maximum at  $c = 0$ , whatever may be the bounded integrable weight function  $w(x)(\neq 0)$ . This conclusion is obtained despite the strong oscillation of the error function  $f(x) - c \equiv f(x)$ .

In particular the condition  $\delta'(0) = 0$  is satisfied here whenever the weight function  $w(x)$  is an even function;  $\delta(c)$  has a strong local maximum at  $c = 0$ .

**5. Global maxima.** Theorems 1 and 2 illustrate the existence of local maxima of  $\delta(c)$  at  $c = 0$  but do not show the possibility of a global maximum. We shall prove

**THEOREM 3.** *For every  $p, 0 < p < 1$ , and for every  $\alpha$  with  $p + \alpha > 2$ , there exists an even function  $w(x)$  positive at every point of  $[-1, 1]$ , integrable and bounded there, such that the deviation*

$$(16) \quad \delta(c) \equiv \int_{-1}^1 w(x)|c - f(x)|^p dx, f(x) \equiv |x|^{1/\alpha} \operatorname{sg} x,$$

has a proper global maximum  $\delta(0)$  in the interval  $[-1, 1]$

As a preliminary remark, we note the inequality ( $0 < p < 1$ )

$$(17) \quad |1 - X|^p + |1 + X|^p < 2|X|^p, \text{ for } |X| \geq 1.$$

This inequality expresses the fact that for the concave curve  $y = x^p$ ,  $x \geq 0$ , the chord joining the points whose abscissas are  $|X| + 1$  and  $|X| - 1$  passes below the point of the curve whose abscissa is  $|X|$ . Since the strong inequality is valid for  $|X| = 1$ , it is also valid for all  $X$  such that  $|X| \geq x_1$ , where  $x_1$  is suitably chosen,  $0 < x_1 < 1$ .

If  $c \neq 0$  we can now write for  $|X| \geq |c|x_1$

$$(18) \quad \begin{aligned} |c - X|^p + |c + X|^p &= |c|^p \left[ \left| 1 - \frac{X}{c} \right|^p + \left| 1 + \frac{X}{c} \right|^p \right] \\ &< 2|c|^p \left| \frac{X}{c} \right|^p = 2|X|^p. \end{aligned}$$

The validity of (18) is assured if we have

$$x_1 \leq |X| \leq 1, \quad 0 < |c| \leq 1,$$

for these inequalities imply  $|X| \geq x_1 \geq |c|x_1$ ; if  $c = 0$ , but for no other value of  $c$ ,  $|c| \leq 1$ , the inequality (18) between the extreme members becomes an equality.

We choose now the weight function  $w_1(x)$  as any nonnegative, integrable, bounded, even, nonnull function on the intervals  $x_1^\alpha \leq |x| \leq 1$ , and zero elsewhere on  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ . For the function  $f(x)$  in (16) the corresponding deviation  $\delta_1(c)$  is

$$\delta_1(c) \equiv \int_{x_1^\alpha}^1 w_1(x) [|c - x^{1/\alpha}|^p + |c + x^{1/\alpha}|^p] dx,$$

whence

$$(20) \quad \delta_1(c) - \delta_1(0) \equiv \int_{x_1^\alpha}^1 w_1(x) [|c - x^{1/\alpha}|^p + |c + x^{1/\alpha}|^p - 2x^{p/\alpha}] dx.$$

We identify the first member of (18) minus the last member with the bracket in (20), where  $X = x^{1/\alpha}$ , and note that for  $x_1^\alpha \leq x \leq 1$  the bracket is negative for  $0 < |c| \leq 1$ . Thus  $\delta_1(c)$  has a global maximum at  $c = 0$ . However, the weight function  $w_1(x)$  is not positive at every point of  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ .

We continue to envisage  $f(x)$  as in (16), but now with the weight function  $w_2(x) \equiv 1$  in  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ ,  $p + \alpha > 2$ , and with the deviation denoted by  $\delta_2(c)$ . It is shown in [4] under these conditions that  $\delta_2(c)$  has at  $c = 0$  a local maximum, and  $\delta_2(c) - \delta_2(0) \sim A|c|^{p+\alpha}$  as  $|c| \rightarrow 0$ ,  $A > 0$ . On the other hand, for  $x \geq x_1^\alpha$  and for  $c \downarrow 0$ , by the binomial

theorem we find uniformly in  $x_1^\alpha \leq x \leq 1$

$$(x^{1/\alpha} - c)^p + (x^{1/\alpha} + c)^p - 2x^{p/\alpha} \sim p(p - 1)c^2x^{(p-2)/\alpha},$$

whence  $\delta_1(c) - \delta_1(0) \sim Bc^2, B < 0$ .

We now define the weight function  $w(x) \equiv w_1(x) + \varepsilon w_2(x)$ , where  $\varepsilon (> 0)$  is to be determined, and denote the corresponding deviation by  $\delta(c) = \delta_1(c) + \varepsilon \delta_2(c)$ . For  $c \downarrow 0$  there follows  $\delta(c) - \delta(0) \sim Bc^2 + \varepsilon A|c|^{p+\alpha}$ , so for sufficiently small  $\varepsilon$  we have  $\delta(c) - \delta(0) < 0$  throughout some deleted neighborhood  $0 < |c| \leq \beta, \beta > 0$ ; it will be noted that a change to a smaller  $\varepsilon$  allows  $\beta$  to be increased if desired. Choose  $\varepsilon$  also less than

$$\min \left[ \frac{-[\delta_1(c) - \delta_1(0)]}{\delta_2(c) - \delta_2(0)}, c \text{ on } E_0 \right],$$

where  $E_0$  is the subset of  $\beta \leq |c| \leq 1$  on which  $\delta_2(c) - \delta_2(0) > 0$ , provided  $E_0$  is not empty; such a (positive) minimum exists by the continuity of  $\delta_1(c)$  and  $\delta_2(c)$  in  $|c| \leq 1$ . Thus for  $c$  on  $E_0$

$$\varepsilon < \frac{-[\delta_1(c) - \delta_1(0)]}{\delta_2(c) - \delta_2(0)},$$

$$\delta_1(c) - \delta_1(0) + \varepsilon[\delta_2(c) - \delta_2(0)] < 0, \delta(c) - \delta(0) < 0.$$

However, on the complement of  $E_0$  with respect to  $\beta \leq |c| \leq 1$ , we have  $\delta_2(c) - \delta_2(0) \leq 0, \delta(c) - \delta(0) < 0$ , so Theorem 3 is established.

It may be noted that  $w_1(x)$  can be chosen continuous in  $[-1, 1]$ , in which case  $w(x)$  is continuous there. We also note that Theorem 3 remains valid if  $p + \alpha = 2$ .

6. Finite sets versus intervals,  $0 < p < 1$ . We add several remarks relative to hypotheses analogous to, but different from, the hypothesis of Theorem 1, still with  $0 < p < 1$ . If we modify the hypothesis of Theorem 1 by choosing  $f(x) \equiv \lambda x, \lambda > 0$ , and  $w(x) \equiv 1$ , we have

$$\delta(c) \equiv \int_{-\eta}^{\eta} |c - \lambda x|^p dx \equiv \frac{1}{\lambda} \int_{-\lambda\eta}^{\lambda\eta} |c - x'|^p dx',$$

so to study the behavior of  $\delta'(c)$  it is no essential loss of generality to choose  $\lambda = 1$ . There follow the equations ( $0 < c < \eta$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(c) &\equiv \int_0^\eta (c + x)^p dx + \int_0^c (c - x)^p dx + \int_c^\eta (x - c)^p dx, \\ (p + 1)\delta(c) &\equiv (c + \eta)^{p+1} + (\eta - c)^{p+1}, \\ \delta'(c) &\equiv (c + \eta)^p - (\eta - c)^p, \end{aligned}$$

which approaches zero with  $c$ ,

$$\delta''(c)/p \equiv (c + \eta)^{p-1} + (\eta - c)^{p-1};$$

we have  $\delta(0^+) = \delta(0^-) = 0$ ,  $\delta''(0^+) = \delta''(0^-) = \delta''(0) > 0$ , so  $\delta(c)$  has a strong *minimum* at  $c = 0$ , in great contrast to the situation of Theorems 1 and 2. Indeed, it can be shown [4] that  $\delta(c)$  has a minimum at  $c = 0$  for approximation on  $[-\eta, \eta]$  to  $\lambda|x|^{1/\alpha}$  for every  $\alpha \leq 1$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ .

It is illuminating to compare Theorems 1 and 2 with least  $p^{\text{th}}$  power approximation ( $0 < p < 1$ ) to  $f(x) \equiv x$  not on an interval but on the finite set  $S: \{-1, 1\}$  by a polynomial  $p_0(x) \equiv c$  of degree 0,  $-1 \leq c \leq 1$ , with weights  $w_1$  and  $w_2$ . The deviation is

$$\delta(c) \equiv w_2(1 - c)^p + w_1(c + 1)^p,$$

which has a *maximum* for  $c = 0$  if  $\delta'(c) = 0$ , as in Theorems 1 and 2; the graph of  $\delta(c)$  is concave downward in  $-1 \leq c \leq 1$ .

Likewise for least  $p^{\text{th}}$  power approximation ( $0 < p < 1$ ) to the discontinuous function  $f(x) \equiv sg x$  on the interval  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$  by a polynomial  $p_0(x) \equiv c$  of degree zero,  $-1 \leq c \leq 1$ , the deviation is

$$\delta(c) \equiv \int_{-1}^0 (c + 1)^p dx + \int_0^1 (1 - c)^p dx \equiv (1 - c)^p + (c + 1)^p$$

as before;  $\delta(c)$  has again a maximum for  $c = 0$  and its graph is concave downward in  $-1 \leq c \leq 1$ . The minimum of  $\delta(c)$  occurs for  $c = \pm 1$ .

In sum, for approximation on a finite set  $S$ ,  $0 < p < 1$ , strong oscillation of the function  $f(x) - c$  may lead to a local maximum of  $\delta(c)$  when  $\delta'(c) = 0$ , as in the example above; but the function

$$\delta(c) \equiv \sum w_k |c - f(x_k)|^p, w_k > 0,$$

is continuous and piecewise concave downward, so its local and global minima must occur in values of  $c$  equal to some  $f(x_k)$ ; such a minimum involves weak oscillation and is independent of strong oscillation. On the other hand, for approximation on an interval  $E$ , strong oscillation of  $f(x) - c$  with  $\delta'(c) = 0$  may lead to a local maximum of  $\delta(c)$  as in Theorems 1 and 2, and [4] weak oscillation as with  $f(x) \equiv |x|^{1/\alpha}$ ,  $\alpha \leq 1$ , on  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$  may lead to a global minimum; it is no accident that the cases  $\alpha > 1$  and  $\alpha < 1$  are respectively characterized by vertical and horizontal tangents of  $f(x)$  at  $x = 0$ , corresponding with  $\delta'(0) = 0$  to maxima and minima of  $S(c)$ .

7. **Summary of results, arbitrary  $p$ .** We summarize some of the known results on approximation for various values of  $p$ , on a



real finite point set  $S$  or on a closed interval  $E$ , for comparison with each other and with Theorems 1 and 2. In each case we approximate by a polynomial  $p_n(x)$  of degree  $n$ , either to a continuous function  $f(x)$  on  $E$ , or to a function on a finite set  $S: \{x_k\}$  consisting of more than  $n$  points. We compare oscillation of the error  $f(x) - p_n(x)$  on the one hand to the existence of maxima and minima of the deviation

$$\delta[p_n(x)] = \int_E w(x)|f(x) - p_n(x)|^p dx \text{ or}$$

$$\delta[p_n(x)] = \sum_k w_k |f(x_k) - p_n(x_k)|^p,$$

where  $w(x)$  is nonnegative and not a null function, and we assume  $\delta[p_n(x)]$  to be different from zero for all  $p_n(x)$ .

For  $p > 1$ ,  $\delta[p_n(x)]$  is never a local maximum; every local minimum is also a strong global minimum, and the error  $f(x) - p_n(x)$  has at least  $n + 1$  strong oscillations. Conversely, if the error has  $n + 1$  strong oscillations, then there exists a  $w(x)$  (continuous for approximation on  $E$ ) such that  $\delta[p_n(x)]$  is a strong global minimum.

For  $p = 1$ ,  $\delta[p_n(x)]$  has never a strong local maximum; every local minimum (which can be a weak minimum for approximation on  $S$ ) is also a global minimum. For approximation on  $E$  and every minimum of  $\delta$ , the error has either at least  $n + 1$  strong oscillations or vanishes identically on a subset of  $E$  of positive measure; conversely, if the error  $f(x) - p_n(x)$  has either  $n + 1$  strong oscillations or vanishes on a subset of  $E$  of positive measure,  $\delta[p_n(x)]$  has a local minimum for suitable continuous weight. For approximation on  $S$ , the error has at least  $n + 1$  weak oscillations on  $S$  if the error has a local minimum; conversely, if the error has at least  $n + 1$  weak oscillations, the deviation has a local minimum for suitable weights.

For  $0 < p < 1$  and approximation on  $S$ , if  $\delta[p_n(x)]$  is minimum, then  $p_n(x)$  coincides with  $f(x)$  in at least  $n + 1$  points of  $S$ ; conversely, if  $p_n(x)$  coincides with  $f(x)$  in at least  $n + 1$  points of  $f(x)$ ,  $\delta[p_n(x)]$  is a minimum for suitable weights. For  $0 < p < 1$  and approximation on  $E$ , coincidence of  $p_n(x)$  with  $f(x)$  in  $n + 1$  points of  $E$  is neither necessary nor sufficient that  $\delta[p_n(x)]$  be a minimum, and even strong oscillation is neither necessary nor sufficient. Indeed, with strong oscillation and  $n = 0$  it may occur (Theorem 2) that  $\delta[p_n(x)]$  has a strong *maximum*.

It is clear that the deviation  $\delta[p_n(x)]$  varies both with changes in  $p_n(x)$  and the weight, and the deviation may also have a maximum or minimum which varies with those changes. In particular, Theorem 2 indicates stability of a maximum of  $\delta(c)$  with respect to changes in  $w(x)$  that preserve the relation  $\delta'(0) = 0$ . The writers plan to discuss stability in more detail on another occasion.

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