

A REMARK ON APPROXIMATION WITH POLYNOMIALS AND GREEDY BASES

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ABSTRACT. We investigate properties of the m -th error of approximation by polynomials with constant coefficients $\mathcal{D}_m(x)$ and with modulus-constant coefficients $\mathcal{D}_m^*(x)$ introduced by Berná and Blasco (2016) to study greedy bases in Banach spaces. We characterize when $\liminf_m \mathcal{D}_m(x)$ and $\liminf_m \mathcal{D}_m^*(x)$ are equivalent to $\|x\|$ in terms of the democracy and superdemocracy functions, and provide sufficient conditions ensuring that $\lim_m \mathcal{D}_m^*(x) = \lim_m \mathcal{D}_m(x) = \|x\|$, extending previous very particular results.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let $(\mathbb{X}, \|\cdot\|)$ be a real Banach space and let $\mathcal{B} = (e_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ be a semi-normalized (Schauder) basis of \mathbb{X} with biorthogonal functionals $(e_n^*)_{n=1}^\infty$, that is:

- (i) There exist $a, b > 0$ such that $a \leq \|e_n\|, \|e_n^*\| \leq b$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$,
- (ii) $e_k^*(e_n) = \delta_{kn}$ for every $k, n \in \mathbb{N}$,
- (iii) The sequence of projections $P_m : \mathbb{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ given by

$$P_m(x) = \sum_{n=1}^m e_n^*(x) e_n, \quad x \in \mathbb{X}$$

satisfy $\lim_n \|P_m(x) - x\| = 0$ for every $x \in \mathbb{X}$. In this case, the *basis constant* of \mathcal{B} is

$$K_b := \sup_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \|P_m\| < \infty.$$

We say that \mathcal{B} is *monotone* whether $K_b = 1$.

Along the paper we will refer to every such \mathcal{B} simply as a *basis*. Of course, as m increases $P_m(x)$ offers a good approximation of x by linear combinations of m -elements of the basis, but it is natural to ask whether a suitable (and systematic) rearrangement can provide better convergence rates. A natural proposal is the *Thresholding Greedy Algorithm* (TGA) introduced by S. V. Konyagin and V. N. Temlyakov ([10]): given $x \in \mathbb{X}$ we first consider the rearranging function $\rho : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ satisfying that if $j < k$ then either $|e_{\rho(j)}^*(x)| > |e_{\rho(k)}^*(x)|$ or $|e_{\rho(j)}^*(x)| = |e_{\rho(k)}^*(x)|$ and $\rho(j) < \rho(k)$. The m -th

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greedy sum of x is then

$$\mathcal{G}_m(x) = \sum_{j=1}^m e_{\rho(j)}^*(x) e_{\rho(j)} = \sum_{k \in \Lambda_m(x)} e_k^*(x) e_k,$$

where $\Lambda_m(x) = \{\rho(n) : n \leq m\}$ is the *greedy set* of x with cardinality m . Related to this, S. V. Konyagin and V. N. Temlyakov defined in [10] the concepts of *greedy* and *quasi-greedy* bases.

Definition 1.1. We say that \mathcal{B} is *quasi-greedy* if there exists a positive constant C_q such that

$$\|x - \mathcal{G}_m(x)\| \leq C_q \|x\|, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{X}, \forall m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

P. Wojtaszczyk proved in [12] that quasi-greediness is equivalent to the convergence of the algorithm, that is, \mathcal{B} is quasi-greedy if and only if

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \|x - \mathcal{G}_m(x)\| = 0, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{X}.$$

Definition 1.2. We say that \mathcal{B} is *greedy* if there exists a positive constant C such that

$$\|x - \mathcal{G}_m(x)\| \leq C \sigma_m(x), \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{X}, \forall m \in \mathbb{N}, \quad (1)$$

where

$$\sigma_m(x, \mathcal{B})_{\mathbb{X}} = \sigma_m(x) := \inf \left\{ \left\| x - \sum_{n \in A} a_n e_n \right\| : a_n \in \mathbb{F}, A \subset \mathbb{N}, |A| = m \right\}.$$

Konyagin and Temlyakov [10] showed that, although every greedy basis is quasigreedy, the converse does not hold (see also [1, Section 10.2]). They also characterize greedy bases as those which are unconditional and democratic. To define the last notion we have to introduce some notation. For each finite subset $A \subset \mathbb{N}$ and every scalar sequence $\varepsilon = (\varepsilon_n)$ with $|\varepsilon_n| = 1$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ (from now on we will write $|\varepsilon| = 1$, for simplicity) let us denote

$$\mathbf{1}_A := \sum_{n \in A} e_n \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon A} := \sum_{n \in A} \varepsilon_n e_n.$$

As usual, $|A|$ stands for the cardinal of A . We then define the *democracy functions* as

$$h_l(m) = \inf_{|A|=m, |\varepsilon|=1} \|\mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon A}\|, \quad h_r(m) = \sup_{|A|=m, |\varepsilon|=1} \|\mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon A}\| \quad (m \in \mathbb{N}).$$

and the *superdemocracy functions* as

$$h_l^*(m) = \inf_{|A|=m, |\varepsilon|=1} \|\mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon A}\|, \quad h_r^*(m) = \sup_{|A|=m, |\varepsilon|=1} \|\mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon A}\| \quad (m \in \mathbb{N}).$$

Definition 1.3. We say that \mathcal{B} is *democratic* (resp. *superdemocratic*) if there exists $C > 0$ such that $h_r(m) \leq C h_l(m)$ (resp. $h_r^*(m) \leq C h_l^*(m)$) for every $m \in \mathbb{N}$.

Another characterization of greedy bases was more recently provided by Ó. Blasco and the first author by means of the *best m -th error in the approximation using polynomials of constant (resp. modulus-constant) coefficients*:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}_m(x, \mathcal{B})_{\mathbb{X}} &= \mathcal{D}_m(x) = \inf \{ \|x - \alpha \mathbf{1}_A\| : \alpha \in \mathbb{R}, A \subset \mathbb{N}, |A| = m \} \\ \mathcal{D}_m^*(x, \mathcal{B})_{\mathbb{X}} &= \mathcal{D}_m^*(x) = \inf \{ \|x - \alpha \mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon A}\| : \alpha \in \mathbb{R}, A \subset \mathbb{N}, |A| = m, |\varepsilon| = 1 \} \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 1.4. [2, Corollary 1.8] *Let \mathcal{B} be a basis of a Banach space \mathbb{X} . The following assertions are equivalent:*

- (i) \mathcal{B} is greedy;
- (ii) There is $C > 0$ such that $\|x - \mathcal{G}_m(x)\| \leq C \mathcal{D}_m(x)$ for every $x \in \mathbb{X}$ and $m \in \mathbb{N}$.

(iii) *There is $C > 0$ such that $\|x - \mathcal{G}_m(x)\| \leq C \mathcal{D}_m^*(x)$ for every $x \in \mathbb{X}$ and $m \in \mathbb{N}$.*

The striking feature of this theorem compared to (1) is that, while $\lim_m \sigma_m(x) = 0$ for every $x \in \mathbb{X}$, the terms $\mathcal{D}_m^*(x)$ and $\mathcal{D}_m(x)$ do not necessarily converge to zero if $x \neq 0$. Indeed, we have the following examples:

▷ [2, Theorem 3.2],[3, Theorem 1.4] If $\mathbb{X} = \mathbb{H}$ is a (separable) Hilbert space and \mathcal{B} is an orthonormal basis, then

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{D}_m(x) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{D}_m^*(x) = \|x\|, \quad \text{for every } x \in \mathbb{H}. \quad (2)$$

▷ [2, Proposition 3.4] If $\mathbb{X} = \ell^p$ ($1 < p < \infty$) and \mathcal{B} is the canonical basis, then

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{D}_m(\mathbf{1}_B) = \lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{D}_m^*(\mathbf{1}_B) = \|\mathbf{1}_B\|, \quad \text{for every finite } B \subset \mathbb{N}. \quad (3)$$

In the present paper, we aim to delve into this aspect. Let us briefly explain the structure of the paper. In Section 2 we show that $\mathcal{D}_m^*(x)$ and $\mathcal{D}_m(x)$ do not converge to zero as $m \rightarrow +\infty$ for any $x \neq 0$. In Section 3 we prove the main result of the paper (Theorem 3.2), namely a characterization of those bases \mathcal{B} for which there is a positive constant $c > 0$ such that

$$c\|x\| \leq \liminf_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{D}_m^*(x) \leq \limsup_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{D}_m^*(x) \leq \|x\| \quad \text{for every } x \in \mathbb{X},$$

in terms of the democracy and superdemocracy functions. We also provide a quite general condition ensuring that

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{D}_m^*(x) = \|x\| \quad \text{for every } x \in \mathbb{X}.$$

In Section 4 we deal with the notion of almost-greedy bases. We study how this property can be also characterized in terms of polynomials of constant or modulus-constant coefficients, extending a recent result of S. J. Dilworth and D. Khurana in [6].

Let us point out [1] as our basic reference for notation and fundamental results on greedy basis.

2. THE LIMIT OF ERRORS $\mathcal{D}_m^*(x)$ AND $\mathcal{D}_m(x)$ IS NONZERO

Since $\mathcal{D}_m^*(x) \leq \mathcal{D}_m(x) \leq \|x\|$ for every $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and every $x \in \mathbb{X}$, it is only necessary to study lower bounds of $\mathcal{D}_m^*(x)$.

Proposition 2.1. *Let $\mathcal{B} = (e_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ be a basis of a Banach space \mathbb{X} . Then, for every $x \in \mathbb{X}$*

$$\frac{1}{4K_b} \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} |e_n^*(x)| \leq \liminf_{m \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{D}_m^*(x).$$

Proof. Let $x \in \mathbb{X}$. Note that for every finite set $A \subset \mathbb{N}$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $|\varepsilon| = 1$ it holds that

$$\|x - \alpha \mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon A}\| \geq \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{|e_n^*(x - \alpha \mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon A})|}{\|e_n^*\|} \geq \frac{\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} |e_n^*(x - \alpha \mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon A})|}{2K_b} \geq \frac{\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \left| |e_n^*(x)| - |\alpha| \right|}{2K_b}.$$

Let us also fix $\delta > 0$ and $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ with the property that

$$|e_n^*(x)| \leq \delta \quad \text{for every } n \geq n_0.$$

If A satisfies $|A| > n_0$, then there is $j \in A$ with $j > n_0$, and so

$$\|x - \alpha \mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon A}\| \geq \frac{|e_j^*(x) - \alpha|}{2K_b} \geq \frac{||\alpha| - \delta|}{2K_b}.$$

In particular, combining both lower estimations we get that for $|A| > n_0$

$$\|x - \alpha \mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon A}\| \geq \frac{||\alpha| - \delta| + \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} |e_n^*(x)| - |\alpha|}{4K_b} \geq \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{|e_n^*(x)| - \delta}{4K_b}.$$

Therefore, for $m > n_0$

$$\mathcal{D}_m^*(x) \geq \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{|e_n^*(x)| - \delta}{4K_b}.$$

□

3. MAIN RESULT: EQUIVALENCE WITH THE NORM

The issue of when $\liminf_m \mathcal{D}_m^*(x)$ (resp. $\liminf_m \mathcal{D}_m(x)$) is equivalent to $\|x\|$ is going to be determined by the behaviour of the superdemocracy functions (resp. democracy functions), see Section 1 for the definitions. Along the present section we are going to focus on proving the results for superdemocracy case, namely for $h_l^*(m)$, $h_r^*(m)$ and the error $\mathcal{D}_m^*(x)$. The arguments for the case $h_l(m)$, h_r and the error $\mathcal{D}_m(x)$ are completely analogous. First of all, we recall a trivial estimates of the superdemocracy functions for any basis:

$$h_l^*(k) \leq K_b h_l^*(m), \quad h_r^*(k) \leq K_b h_r^*(m) \quad \text{for every } k \leq m.$$

These relations together with the trivial inequality $h_l^*(m) \leq h_r^*(m)$ ($m \in \mathbb{N}$) yield that there are three possible cases:

- ▷ $h_l^*(m)$ and $h_r^*(m)$ are bounded.
- ▷ $h_l^*(m)$ is bounded and $h_r^*(m) \rightarrow +\infty$ as $m \rightarrow +\infty$.
- ▷ $h_l^*(m), h_r^*(m) \rightarrow +\infty$ as $m \rightarrow +\infty$.

Definition 3.1. The functions $h_l^*(m)$ and $h_r^*(m)$ (resp. $h_l(m)$ and $h_r(m)$) are said to be *comparable* if they are both bounded or divergent to infinity.

The main result of the section is the following theorem.

Theorem 3.2. *Let \mathcal{B} be a basis of a Banach space \mathbb{X} . The following assertions are equivalent:*

- (i) *There is a positive constant $c > 0$ such that*

$$c \|x\| \leq \liminf_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{D}_m^*(x) \leq \limsup_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{D}_m^*(x) \leq \|x\| \quad \text{for every } x \in \mathbb{X}.$$

- (ii) *$h_l^*(m)$ and $h_r^*(m)$ are comparable.*

Moreover, if \mathcal{B} is monotone and $h_l^*(m) \rightarrow +\infty$ as $m \rightarrow +\infty$, then

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{D}_m^*(x) = \|x\|. \quad (4)$$

(The theorem also holds if we replace $\mathcal{D}_m^*(x)$, $h_l^*(m)$, $h_r^*(m)$ respectively by $\mathcal{D}_m(x)$, $h_l(m)$, $h_r(m)$.)

Before going into the proof let us make a few observations:

- ▷ From Theorem 3.2 we recover (2) and (3). Indeed, if \mathbb{H} is a (separable) Hilbert space and \mathcal{B} is an orthonormal basis of \mathbb{H} then $h_l(m) = h_l^*(m) = m^{1/2}$. On the other hand, for $\mathbb{X} = \ell_p$ with $1 \leq p < \infty$ and \mathcal{B} is the canonical basis, it holds that $h_l(m) = h_l^*(m) = m^{1/p}$.
- ▷ For $\mathbb{X} = L_p[0, 1]$ we have that the Haar basis \mathcal{B} is monotone (see [7, Theorem 5.18]) and satisfies $h_l^*(m) = h_l(m) \approx m^{1-1/p}$ for $1 \leq p < \infty$. Hence, it satisfies that $\lim_m \mathcal{D}_m^*(x) = \lim_m \mathcal{D}_m(x) = \|x\|$ for every $x \in \mathbb{X}$.

▷ If \mathcal{B} is superdemocratic (resp. democratic), then it satisfies Theorem 3.2.(ii) (resp. Theorem 3.2.(ii) for $h_r(m)$ and $h_l(m)$). However, there are easy examples showing that converse is not true. For instance, the canonical basis of $\ell^2 \oplus_1 \ell^4$ satisfies that $h_l(m) = h_l^*(m) \approx m^{1/4}$ and $h_r(m) = h_r^*(m) \approx m^{1/2}$.

▷ *Example of basis not satisfying Theorem 3.2.(ii):* Let us consider $\mathbb{X} = \ell_1$ and let $\mathcal{B} = (\mathbf{x}_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ be the *difference basis*, which in terms of the canonical basis $(e_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ is given by

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = e_1, \quad \mathbf{x}_n = e_n - e_{n-1}, \quad n = 2, 3, \dots$$

By [4, Lemma 8.1], it holds that $h_l^*(m) = h_l(m) = 1$ and $h_r^*(m) = h_r(m) = 2m$.

▷ *Example of basis satisfying $\lim_m \mathcal{D}_m(x) = \|x\|$ for every $x \in \mathbb{X}$, but $\liminf_m \mathcal{D}^*(x)$ is not even equivalent to $\|x\|$:* Let $\mathbb{X} = \mathbf{c}$ be the space of convergent sequences and let $\mathcal{B} = (\mathbf{s}_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ be the *summing basis*, defined as

$$\mathbf{s}_n := (\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{n-1}, 1, 1, \dots), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

By [4, Lemma 8.1] we know that $h_l^*(m) \approx 1$ and $h_r^*(m) \approx m$, so Theorem 3.2.(ii) does not hold. On the other hand, \mathcal{B} is monotone and $h_l(m) \approx h_r(m) \approx m$ by the same reference. Thus, $\lim_m \mathcal{D}_m(x) = \|x\|$ for every $x \in \mathbb{X}$.

▷ *Condition Theorem 3.2.(ii) is not preserved for dual bases:* If $(e_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ is the canonical basis of ℓ_1 , let us consider the sequence $\mathbf{x}_n = e_n - (e_{2n+1} + e_{2n+2})/2$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and the space

$$\mathbb{X} := \overline{\text{span}\{\mathbf{x}_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}}^{\ell^1}.$$

This is known as the *Lindenstrauss space* [8] and the sequence $\mathcal{B} = (\mathbf{x}_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ is actually a monotone basis for \mathbb{X} (see [11, pg 457]). In [4, Section 8.2] it is shown that $h_l^*(m) \approx m$. On the other hand, in the same reference it is proved that the dual space \mathbb{X}^* with the corresponding dual basis \mathcal{B}^* satisfies $h_l^*(m) \approx 1$ and $h_r^*(m) \approx \ln(m)$.

3.1. Proof of the main result.

Proposition 3.3. *Let \mathcal{B} be a basis of a Banach space \mathbb{X} . Then,*

$$\sup_{\substack{A \subset \mathbb{N} \\ \text{finite}, |\eta|=1}} \liminf_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{D}_m^*(\mathbf{1}_{\eta A}) \leq (1 + K_b) \liminf_{m \rightarrow +\infty} h_l^*(m) \leq \infty, \quad (5)$$

$$\sup_{\substack{A \subset \mathbb{N} \\ \text{finite}}} \liminf_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{D}_m(\mathbf{1}_A) \leq (1 + K_b) \liminf_{m \rightarrow +\infty} h_l(m) \leq \infty. \quad (6)$$

Proof. We explain the argument for (5), as the proof of (6) is completely analogous with the obvious replacements. Let us fix a finite set $A \subset \mathbb{N}$ and $\eta \in \{\pm 1\}^A$, and let us take $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ satisfying

$$\lambda < \liminf_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{D}_m^*(\mathbf{1}_{\eta A}). \quad (7)$$

We can then find $m_0, n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ with the following properties:

- ▷ $\lambda \leq \|\mathbf{1}_{\eta A} - \alpha \mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon B}\|$ for every $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, $|\varepsilon| = 1$ and $B \subset \mathbb{N}$ with $|B| \geq m_0$,
- ▷ $A \subset \{1, \dots, n_0\}$.

Let $C \subset \mathbb{N}$ be a finite set with $|C| \geq m_0 + n_0$. Then,

$$\mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon C} - P_{n_0}(\mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon C}) = \mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon C'}$$

where $C' := C \setminus \{1, \dots, n_0\}$. Notice that $|C'| \geq m_0$, so in particular

$$\lambda \leq \|\mathbf{1}_{\eta A} - \mathbf{1}_{(\eta A) \cup (\varepsilon C')}\| = \|\mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon C'}\| \leq \|\text{Id} - P_{n_0}\| \|\mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon C}\| \leq (1 + K_b) \|\mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon C}\|.$$

Thus, we have the relation

$$\lambda \leq (1 + K_b) \liminf_{m \rightarrow +\infty} h_l^\varepsilon(m).$$

Taking supremums on λ according to (7) we conclude that

$$\liminf_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{D}_m^*(\mathbf{1}_{\eta A}) \leq (1 + K_b) \liminf_{m \rightarrow +\infty} h_l^\varepsilon(m).$$

□

Theorem 3.4. *Let \mathcal{B} be a basis of a Banach space \mathbb{X} . Assume that there is a constant $C > 0$ satisfying*

$$\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} h_r^*(n) \leq C \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} h_l^*(n) \leq \infty.$$

Then, for every $x \in \mathbb{X}$

$$\frac{1}{C + K_b(1 + C)} \|x\| \leq \liminf_m \mathcal{D}_m^*(x) \leq \limsup_m \mathcal{D}_m^*(x) \leq \|x\|. \quad (8)$$

Proof. Let us fix $x \in \mathbb{X}$. We just have to show that the left hand-side of (8) holds. For, let $0 < \delta < 1$ and $m_0, n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \|P_n(x) - x\| &\leq \delta \|x\| \quad \text{for every } n \geq n_0, \\ h_r^*(n_0) &\leq C(1 - \delta) h_l^*(m_0). \end{aligned}$$

Given $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, $A \subset \mathbb{N}$ with $|A| \geq m_0 + n_0$ and $\varepsilon \in \{\pm 1\}^A$, we are going to establish two lower bounds for $\|x - \alpha \mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon A}\|$.

▷ Since $|A \cap (n_0, +\infty)| \geq m_0$ we can find $n \geq n_0$ such that $|A \cap (n, +\infty)| = m_0$. Thus, applying the operator $\text{Id} - P_n$ to $x - \alpha \mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon A}$ we have that

$$\|x - \alpha \mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon A}\| \geq \frac{1}{K_b + 1} \|(\text{Id} - P_n)(x) - \alpha \mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon(A \cap (n, +\infty))}\| \geq \frac{1}{K_b + 1} (|\alpha| h_l^*(m_0) - \delta \|x\|). \quad (9)$$

▷ As $|A| \geq n_0$ we can find $n \geq n_0$ with $|A \cap [1, n]| = n_0$, so that

$$\|x - \alpha \mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon A}\| \geq \frac{1}{K_b} (\|P_n(x) - \alpha \mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon(A \cap [1, n])}\|) \geq \frac{1}{K_b} (\|x\|(1 - \delta) - |\alpha| h_r^*(n_0)) \quad (10)$$

$$\geq \frac{1 - \delta}{K_b} (\|x\| - C |\alpha| h_l^*(m_0)) \quad (11)$$

Note that the lower estimations (9) and (11) are respectively increasing and decreasing linear functions $f(t)$ and $g(t)$ on $t = |\alpha|$. Moreover these functions have a unique point of intersection $t_0 > 0$ which can be easily checked to satisfy

$$t_0 = \frac{\|x\|}{h_l^*(m_0)} \cdot \frac{(1 - \delta)(1 + K_b) + \delta K_b}{C(1 - \delta)(1 + K_b) + K_b}. \quad (12)$$

Thus

$$\|x - \alpha \mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon A}\| \geq \max\{f(|\alpha|), g(|\alpha|)\} \geq f(t_0) = g(t_0) = \frac{\|x\|}{1 + K_b} \left[\frac{(1 - \delta)(1 + K_b) + \delta K_b}{C(1 - \delta)(1 + K_b) + K_b} - \delta \right].$$

Taking the infimum of $\|x - \alpha \mathbf{1}_{\varepsilon A}\|$ on $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and A satisfying the conditions above, we deduce that

$$\liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{D}_k^*(x) \geq \inf_{k \geq m_0 + n_0} \mathcal{D}_k^*(x) \geq \frac{\|x\|}{1 + K_b} \left[\frac{(1 - \delta)(1 + K_b) + \delta K_b}{C(1 - \delta)(1 + K_b) + K_b} - \delta \right].$$

Finally, making $\delta \rightarrow 0^+$ we get the desired conclusion. \square

Proof of Theorem 3.2. To check (i) \Rightarrow (ii), note that using Proposition 3.3 we then deduce that

$$\sup_{m \in \mathbb{N}} h_r^*(m) = \sup_{\substack{A \subset \mathbb{N} \\ \text{finite}, |\eta|=1}} \|\mathbf{1}_{\eta A}\| \leq \sup_{\substack{A \subset \mathbb{N} \\ \text{finite}, |\eta|=1}} \liminf_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{D}_m^*(\mathbf{1}_{\eta A}) \leq (1 + K_b) \liminf_{m \rightarrow +\infty} h_l^*(m) \leq \infty.$$

It is clear from this inequality that $h_l^*(m)$ and $h_r^*(m)$ are then comparable. To see the converse (ii) \Rightarrow (i), note first that if $h_l^*(m)$ and $h_r^*(m)$ are comparable, then there exists $C > 0$ such that

$$\sup_{m \in \mathbb{N}} h_r^*(m) \leq \sup_{m \in \mathbb{N}} C h_l^*(m) \tag{13}$$

and so Theorem 3.4 applies. The second statement of the theorem follows also from Theorem 3.4 since \mathcal{B} being monotone means that $K_b = 1$, and condition $\lim_m h_l^*(m) = +\infty$ means that (13) holds for every $C > 0$. \square

4. ALMOST-GREEDINESS AND POLYNOMIALS WITH CONSTANT COEFFICIENTS

Definition 4.1. Let $\mathcal{B} = (e_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ be a basis of a Banach space \mathbb{X} . We say that \mathcal{B} is *almost-greedy* if there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that

$$\|x - \mathcal{G}_m(x)\| \leq C \tilde{\sigma}_m(x)$$

where

$$\tilde{\sigma}_m(x, \mathcal{B})_{\mathbb{X}} = \tilde{\sigma}_m(x) := \inf \left\{ \|x - \sum_{n \in A} e_n^*(x) e_n\| : A \subset \mathbb{N}, |A| = m \right\}.$$

This notion was introduced by S. J. Dilworth, N. J. Kalton, D. Kutzarova and V. N. Temlyakov in [5], together with two characterizations. First, that a basis is almost-greedy if and only if it is quasi-greedy and democratic. The second characterization is given in the next theorem.

Theorem 4.2 ([5, Theorem 3.3]). *Let \mathcal{B} be a basis of a Banach space \mathbb{X} . Then, \mathcal{B} is almost-greedy if and only if for some (resp. every) $\lambda > 1$, there exists a positive constant C_λ such that*

$$\|x - \mathcal{G}_{[\lambda m]}(x)\| \leq C_\lambda \sigma_m(x), \quad \text{for every } x \in \mathbb{X}, m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Indeed, $C_\lambda \approx \frac{1}{\lambda - 1}$.

As in the case of greedy basis, we can replace the error $\sigma_m(x)$ by the m -th error of approximation by polynomials with constant (resp. modulus-constant) coefficients.

Theorem 4.3. *Let \mathcal{B} be a basis of a Banach space \mathbb{X} and let $\lambda > 1$. The following assertions are equivalent:*

- (i) \mathcal{B} is almost-greedy.
- (ii) There is $C > 0$ such that $\|x - \mathcal{G}_{[\lambda m]}(x)\| \leq C_\lambda \mathcal{D}_m(x)$ for every $x \in \mathbb{X}$ and every $m \in \mathbb{N}$.
- (iii) There is $C > 0$ such that $\|x - \mathcal{G}_{[\lambda m]}(x)\| \leq C_\lambda \mathcal{D}_m^*(x)$ for every $x \in \mathbb{X}$ and every $m \in \mathbb{N}$.

Proof. Implication (i) \Rightarrow (iii) \Rightarrow (ii) are clear using Theorem 4.2 and the inequalities $\sigma_m(x) \leq \mathcal{D}_m^*(x) \leq \mathcal{D}_m(x)$. To show that (ii) \Rightarrow (i) we follow the ideas from the proof of Theorem 4.2: using the hypothesis, we argue that \mathcal{B} is democratic and quasi-greedy.

To see that it is democratic, let $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $A, B \subset \mathbb{N}$ with $|A| = m$ and $|B| = [\lambda m]$. Let us consider a set $E \supset A, B$ with $|E| = m + [\lambda m]$, let $\delta > 0$ and consider the element $x = \mathbf{1}_A + (1 + \delta)\mathbf{1}_{E \setminus A}$. Then,

$$\|\mathbf{1}_A\| = \|x - \mathcal{G}_{[\lambda m]}(x)\| \leq C_\lambda \mathcal{D}_m(x) \leq C_\lambda \|\mathbf{1}_{B \setminus A} + (1 + \delta)\mathbf{1}_{B \cap A}\|.$$

As $\delta > 0$ is arbitrary, taking supremum over A and infimum over B we deduce that

$$h_r(m) \leq C_\lambda h_l(\lambda m) \leq C_\lambda K_b h_l(m),$$

where in the last inequality we have used the estimations mentioned at the beginning of Section 2.

Let show now that the basis \mathcal{B} is quasi-greedy. For, take $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $r \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ such that $[\lambda r] \leq m < [\lambda(r+1)]$. Then,

$$\|x - \mathcal{G}_m(x)\| \leq \|x - \mathcal{G}_{[\lambda r]}(x)\| + \|\mathcal{G}_{[\lambda r]}(x) - \mathcal{G}_m(x)\|.$$

Note that $\mathcal{G}_{[\lambda r]}(x) - \mathcal{G}_m(x)$ contains at most $m - [\lambda r] < \lambda$ summands of the form $e_n^*(x)e_n$, so that

$$\|\mathcal{G}_{[\lambda r]}(x) - \mathcal{G}_m(x)\| \leq \left(\lambda \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \|e_n\| \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \|e_n^*\| \right) \|x\|.$$

On the other hand, using the hypothesis

$$\|x - \mathcal{G}_{[\lambda r]}(x)\| \leq C_\lambda \mathcal{D}_m(x) \leq C_\lambda \|x\|.$$

Thus, the basis is quasi-greedy. \square

Recently, S. J. Dilworth and D. Khurana provided the following characterization of almost-greedy bases in the same spirit of Theorem 1.4. In order to present it we have to introduce some notation: if $A, B \subset \mathbb{N}$ are finite sets, we will write $A < B$ if $\max A < \min B$.

$$\mathcal{H}_m(x) := \inf\{\|x - \alpha \mathbf{1}_A\| : \alpha \in \mathbb{R}, |A| = m \text{ and either } A < \Lambda_m(x) \text{ or } A > \Lambda_m(x)\}$$

where recall that $\Lambda_m(x)$ is the m -th greedy set associated to x introduced in Section 1.

Theorem 4.4. [6] *Let \mathcal{B} be a basis of a Banach space \mathbb{X} . Then, \mathcal{B} is almost-greedy if and only if there exists $C > 0$ such that*

$$\|x - \mathcal{G}_m(x)\| \leq C \inf_{1 \leq n \leq m} \mathcal{H}_n(x) \quad \text{for every } x \in \mathbb{X} \text{ and } m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Inspiring on the previous theorem, we can prove the following result which is again striking as $\mathcal{D}_m(x) \leq \mathcal{H}_m(x)$ and so $\liminf \mathcal{H}_m(x) \approx \|x\|$ when $h_l(m)$ and $h_r(m)$ are comparable by Theorem 3.2.

Corollary 4.5. *Let \mathcal{B} be a basis of a Banach space \mathbb{X} . Then, \mathcal{B} is almost-greedy if and only if there exists $C > 0$ such that*

$$\|x - \mathcal{G}_m(x)\| \leq C \mathcal{H}_m(x) \quad \text{for every } x \in \mathbb{X} \text{ and } m \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (14)$$

Proof. If \mathcal{B} is quasi-greedy then 14 holds by Theorem 4.4. To see the converse we use the aforementioned characterization of almost-greedy bases as those being quasi-greedy and democratic. The fact that \mathcal{B} is quasi-greedy follows from the hypothesis and the trivial inequality $\mathcal{H}_m(x) \leq \|x\|$. Let us show that \mathcal{B} is democratic. Let $A, B \subset \mathbb{N}$ be finite subsets of cardinality m , and take $E \subset \mathbb{N}$ also with $|E| = m$ and moreover $A < E$ and $B < E$. Fixed $\delta > 0$ consider the elements $x = \mathbf{1}_A + (1 + \delta)\mathbf{1}_E$ and $y = \mathbf{1}_E + (1 + \delta)\mathbf{1}_B$. Then,

$$\|\mathbf{1}_A\| = \|x - \mathbf{1}_E\| = \|x - \mathcal{G}_m(x)\| \leq C \mathcal{H}_m(x) \leq C \|x - \mathbf{1}_A\| = C(1 + \delta) \|\mathbf{1}_E\|.$$

Analogously,

$$\|\mathbf{1}_E\| = \|y - \mathbf{1}_B\| = \|y - \mathcal{G}_m(y)\| \leq C \mathcal{H}_m(y) \leq C \|y - \mathbf{1}_E\| = C(1 + \delta) \|\mathbf{1}_B\|.$$

Since $\delta > 0$ was arbitrary, we conclude that $h_r(m) \leq C^2 h_l(m)$ for every $m \in \mathbb{N}$, and so the basis is democratic. \square

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