

# DENSITY AND APPROXIMATION PROPERTIES OF WEAK MARKOV SYSTEMS <sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract.** We study the density and approximation properties of weak Markov systems defined on a closed interval  $[a, b]$ .

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In [10], based on earlier work of Borwein, Bojanov, et al. [1, 2, 3], we studied the density and approximation properties of Markov systems of continuous functions defined on a closed interval  $[a, b]$ . Here we will extend some of the results of [10] to the weak Markov system setting.

This article is organized as follows: in this section we introduce some of the basic definitions and results from the theory of weak Markov systems. For definitions and results not mentioned here, or for clarification of details, the reader is referred to [10], the books [4, 7, 13, 14, 19], and the survey papers [5, 17]. In Section 2 we generalize to weak Markov systems the differentiation operator introduced in Section 2 of [10]. This generalization is very straightforward, except for the proof of Proposition 3 (a). The results of Section 3 of [10] are extended in Sections 3 and 4: In Section 3 we develop a theory of Chebychev polynomials for weak Markov systems. Although now these polynomials are not necessarily unique, they still have useful and interesting properties. In particular we remark on Theorem 4(d), which shows the existence of disjoint *intervals of equioscillation*. The density results of [10, Section 4], which are given in terms of the distribution of zeros of the Chebychev polynomials, have their counterpart in Section 4 of the present paper. Although the proofs were motivated by arguments used in [10], the task was complicated by the lack of uniqueness of the Chebychev polynomials and by the possibility that the functions in the system may be linearly dependent on a subset of the interval of definition. Finally, in Section 5 we obtain Jackson type theorems. Here the essential idea is to convolve with the Gauss kernel, apply the results of [10] to the Markov systems thus obtained, and then pass to the limit to recover the original system.

Let  $A$  be a set of real numbers, let  $F(A)$  denote the set of all real-valued functions defined on  $A$ , let  $G_n := \{g_0, \dots, g_n\}$  be a sequence of functions, or *system*, and let  $S(G_n)$  denote the linear span of  $\{g_0, \dots, g_n\}$ . A system of functions  $G_n \subset F(A)$  is called a *Chebychev system* or *T-system* if  $A$  contains at least  $n+1$  points, and all the determinants of the square collocation matrices

$$\bigcup \begin{pmatrix} g_0, \dots, g_n \\ t_0, \dots, t_n \end{pmatrix} := \det(g_j(t_i); 0 \leq i, j \leq n)$$

with  $t_0 < \dots < t_n$  in  $A$ , are positive. If all these determinants are merely nonnegative, and, in addition, the functions in  $G_n$  are linearly independent on  $A$ , then  $G_n$  is called a *weak Chebychev system* or *WT-system*. A system  $G_n$  is called a *Markov system* (*weak Markov system*) if  $G_k = \{g_0, \dots, g_k\}$  is a Chebychev system (weak Chebychev system) for each  $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$ . If  $g_0 = 1$ , we say that  $G_n$  is *normalized*. If  $G := \{g_0, g_1, g_2, \dots\} \subset F(A)$  and  $G_n$  is a (normalized) Markov system (weak Markov system) for all  $n \geq 0$ , we say that  $G$  is a (normalized) infinite Markov system (infinite weak Markov system).

Let  $f(t)$  be a real valued function defined on a set  $A$  of  $n \geq 2$  elements. A sequence  $x_0 < \dots < x_{n-1}$  of elements of  $A$  is called a strong alternation of  $f$  of length  $n$ , if either  $(-1)^i f(x_i)$  is positive for all  $i$ , or  $(-1)^i f(x_i)$  is negative for all  $i$ . It is well known that if  $G_n$  is a weak Chebychev system on  $A$ , then no function in  $S(G_n)$  has a strong alternation of length  $n+2$  on  $A$  [14, 18, 19]. This property will be used in the proof of Theorem 5 below.

Let  $I(A)$  denote the convex hull of  $A$ . We call  $G_n \subset F(A)$  *representable* if for all  $c \in A$  there is a basis  $U_n$  of  $S(G_n)$ , obtained from  $G_n$  by a triangular transformation (i. e.,  $u_0(x) = g_0(x)$  and  $u_i - g_i \in S(g_{i-1}), 1 \leq i \leq n$ ); a strictly increasing function  $h$  (an “embedding function”) defined on  $A$ , with  $h(c) = c$ ; and a set  $P_n := \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$  of continuous, increasing functions defined on  $I(h(A))$ , such that for every  $t \in A$  and

$$1 \leq k \leq n,$$

$$(1) \quad u_k(x) = u_0(x) \int_c^{h(x)} \int_c^{t_1} \cdots \int_c^{t_{k-1}} dp_k(t_k) \cdots dp_1(t_1).$$

In this case we say that  $(h, c, P_n, U_n)$  is a representation of  $G_n$ . An  $n$ -dimensional linear space  $S_n$  is called *representable*, if it has a representable basis, and  $(h, c, P_n, U_n)$  will be called a *representation* for  $S_n$ , if it is a representation for some basis of  $S_n$ .

The main result of [20] implies that a Markov system on an open interval is representable. However not every Markov system on a closed interval is representable. The representability of weak Markov systems can be characterized in terms of the so-called *Condition E* and *property (M)*:

Let  $S(G_n)$  denote the linear span of  $G_n$ . We say that  $G_n$  satisfies *condition E* if for all  $c \in I(A)$  the following two requirements are satisfied:

- (a) If  $G_n$  is linearly independent on  $[c, \infty) \cup A$  then there exists a basis  $\{u_0, \dots, u_n\}$  for  $S(G_n)$ , obtained by a triangular linear transformation, such that for any sequence of integers  $0 \leq k(0) < \cdots < k(m) \leq n$ ,  $\{u_{k(r)}\}_{r=0}^m$  is a weak Markov system on  $A \cap [c, \infty)$ .
- (b) If  $G_n$  is linearly independent on  $(-\infty, c] \cap A$  then there exists a basis  $\{v_0, \dots, v_n\}$  for  $G(Z_n)$ , obtained by a triangular linear transformation, such that for any sequence of integers  $0 \leq k(0) < \cdots < k(m) \leq n$ ,  $\{(-1)^{r-k(r)} v_{k(r)}\}_{r=0}^m$  is a weak Markov system on  $(-\infty, c] \cap A$ .

Let  $P_n := \{p_1, \dots, p_n\} \subset F(I)$ , where  $I$  is an interval, let  $h$  be a real-valued function defined on  $A$  such that  $h(A) \subset I$ , and let  $x_0 < \cdots < x_n$  be points of  $h(A)$ . We say that  $P_n$  satisfies *property (M)* with respect to  $h$  at  $x_0 < \cdots < x_n$  if there is a sequence  $\{t_{i,j} : i = 0, \dots, n; j = 0, \dots, n-i\}$  in  $h(A)$  such that

- (a)  $x_j = t_{0,j} (j = 0, \dots, n)$ ;
- (b)  $t_{i,j} < t_{i+1,j} < t_{i,j+1} (i = 0, n-1; j = 0, \dots, n-i)$ ;
- (c) For  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , and  $j = 0, \dots, n-i$  the function  $p_i(x)$  is not constant at  $t_{i,j}$ .

We say that a function  $f$  is not constant at a point  $c \in (a, b)$  if for every  $\epsilon > 0$  there are points  $x_1, x_2 \in (a, b)$  with  $c - \epsilon < x_1 < c < x_2 < c + \epsilon$ , such that  $f(x_1) \neq f(x_2)$ .

**Theorem A.** [16] *Let  $G_n \subset F(A)$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (a)  $G_n$  is a normalized weak Markov system that satisfies *Condition (E)*.
- (b)  $G_n$  is representable, and there is a representation  $(h, c, P_n, U_n)$  of  $G_n$  such that  $P_n$  satisfies *property (M)* with respect to  $h$  at some sequence  $x_0 < \cdots < x_n$  in  $h(A)$ .
- (c)  $G_n$  is representable, and for every representation  $(h, c, P_n, U_n)$  of  $Z_n$ ,  $P_n$  satisfies *Property (M)* with respect to  $h$  at some sequence  $x_0 < \cdots < x_n$  in  $h(A)$ .

Note that the original statement of Theorem A contained two typographical errors ( $A$  instead of  $h(A)$ ), which we have corrected above.

Since Condition E is usually difficult to verify, we give another condition for representability which is general enough for our purposes. It will shed some light on an additional assumption we will make in Section 4.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $A$  be a set of real numbers such that  $a := \inf A \in A$  and  $b := \sup A \in A$ , and let  $G_n$  be a normalized weak Markov system on  $A$ . Then  $G_n$  is representable if and only if there are numbers  $\alpha < a$  and  $\beta > b$ , and a weak Markov system  $F_n$  on  $[\alpha, a] \cup A \cup [b, \beta]$  such that for each  $0 \leq k \leq n$ ,  $g_k$  is the restriction to  $A$  of  $f_k$ , and the functions in  $F_n$  are linearly independent on each of the intervals  $[\alpha, a]$  and  $[b, \beta]$ .*

*Proof.* If, there are numbers  $\alpha < a$  and  $\beta > b$ , and a weak Markov system  $F_n$  on  $[\alpha, a] \cup A \cup [b, \beta]$  such that for each  $0 \leq k \leq n$ ,  $g_k$  is the restriction to  $A$  of  $f_k$ , and

the functions in  $F_n$  are linearly independent on each of the intervals  $[\alpha, a]$  and  $[b, \beta]$ , the assertion follows directly from [6, Proposition 5.1 and Theorem 5.8]. To prove the converse, let  $c \in A$ , and let  $(h, c, P_n, U_n)$  be a representation for  $G_n$ . It suffices to prove the assertion for the system  $U_n$ . Let  $r$  be a strictly increasing function on  $[\alpha, a] \cup A \cup [b, \beta]$  that coincides with  $h$  on  $A$ , and for  $1 \leq k \leq n$  let  $q_k$  be a continuous increasing function on  $[r(\alpha), r(\beta)]$ , strictly increasing on each of the intervals  $[\alpha, a]$  and  $[b, \beta]$ , that coincides with  $p_k$  on  $[r(a), r(b)] = [h(a), h(b)]$ . Let  $v_0 = 1$ ,

$$v_1(x) = \int_c^{r(x)} dq_1(t),$$

and

$$v_k(x) = \int_c^{r(x)} \int_c^{t_1} \cdots \int_c^{t_{k-1}} dq_k(t_k) \cdots dq_2(t_2) dq_1(t_1), \quad 2 \leq k \leq n.$$

It is clear that  $v_k = u_k$  for each  $0 \leq k \leq n$ , and from Theorem A or the Lemma of [15] we readily conclude that  $V_n$  is a normalized weak Markov system. Since the functions  $q_k$  are strictly increasing on each of the intervals  $[\alpha, a]$  and  $[b, \beta]$ , a simple inductive argument involving the number of integrations readily shows that the functions in  $V_n$  are linearly independent on each of the intervals  $[\alpha, a]$  and  $[b, \beta]$ .  $\square$

An infinite weak Markov system  $G$  will be called *finitely representable* if  $G_n$  is representable for each  $n > 0$ . At present, it is not known under what conditions an infinite (weak) Markov system defined on a set  $A$  is representable. In other words, the problem of finding conditions under which for every  $c \in A$  there is a strictly increasing function  $h$  defined on  $A$  with  $h(c) = c$ , an infinite sequence  $P := \{p_1, p_2, \dots\}$  of continuous, increasing functions defined on  $I(h(A))$ , and an infinite sequence of functions  $U := \{u_0, u_1, \dots\}$ , such that  $(h, c, P_n, U_n)$  is a representation of  $G_n$  for each  $n > 0$ , is still open.

## 2. RELATIVE DERIVATIVES FOR WEAK MARKOV SYSTEMS

The following are generalizations of [10, Proposition 1 and Proposition 2] and have exactly the same proof.

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $G_n$  be a representable normalized weak Markov system on a set  $A$ ,  $n > 0$ , and let  $(h, c, P_n, U_n)$  be a representation for  $G_n$ . Then  $u_1$  depends only on  $g_1$  and  $c$ . If, moreover,  $p_1(c) = 0$ , then also  $p_1 \circ h$  depends only on  $g_1$  and  $c$ .*

**Proposition 2.** *Let  $G_n$  be a representable normalized weak Markov system of continuous functions on a closed interval  $[a, b]$  with  $n \geq 1$ , and let  $(h, c, P_n, U_n)$  be a representation for the restriction to  $(a, b)$  of the functions in  $G_n$ . Then, for  $x \in [a, b]$ ,*

$$u_1(x) = \int_c^x dg_1(t)$$

and, if  $n \geq 2$ ,

$$u_k(x) = \int_c^x \int_c^{h(t_1)} \cdots \int_c^{t_{k-1}} dp_k(t_k) \cdots dp_2(t_2) dg_1(t_1), \quad 2 \leq k \leq n.$$

Let  $G_n$  be a representable normalized weak Markov system of continuous functions on a closed interval  $[a, b]$ . A representation  $(h, c, P_n, U_n)$  of  $G_n$  such that  $h$  is continuous at  $a$ , left-continuous on  $(a, b]$ , and  $p_1(c) = 0$ , will be called *standard*. Repeating *verbatim* the discussion in the second paragraph that follows the proof of [10, Proposition 2], we see that every representable weak Markov system of continuous functions on a closed interval  $[a, b]$  has a standard representation for every  $c \in [a, b]$ .

Let  $I$  denote an interval and  $g$  a continuous real-valued strictly increasing function on  $I$ . If  $f$  is a real-valued function on  $I$  and  $x \in I$  then, provided the limit exists, we define:

$$Df(x) := \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{g(x+h) - g(x)}$$

The operator  $D$  is called the *relative derivative* with respect to  $g$ .

Given a representation  $(h, c, P_n, U_n)$  of a weak Markov system  $G_n$  on  $[a, b]$  with  $n \geq 1$ , we define the operator  $H_n$  on  $S(G_n)$  (the *weak relative derivative* with respect to  $(h, c, P_n, U_n)$ ), exactly as in [10]:

$$H_n u_0 := 0, \quad H_n u_1 := 1.$$

If  $n \geq 2$ ,

$$H_n u_2(x) := \int_c^{h(x)} dp_2(t_2).$$

If  $n \geq 3$ ,

$$H_n u_k(x) := \int_c^{h(x)} \int_c^{t_2} \cdots \int_c^{t_{k-1}} dp_k(t_k) \cdots dp_2(t_2), \quad 3 \leq k \leq n.$$

And for every  $f \in S(G_n)$  by linearity.

We then have:

**Proposition 3.** *Let  $G := \{1, g_1, g_2, \dots\}$  be a finitely representable normalized infinite weak Markov system on a closed interval  $[a, b]$ , let  $G_n := \{g_0, \dots, g_n\} \subset G$  with  $n \geq 1$ , let  $c \in [a, b]$ , and let  $H_n$  be the weak relative derivative with respect to some standard representation  $(h, c, P_n, U_n)$  of  $G_n$ . Then*

- (a)  $\{H_n u_1, H_n u_2, \dots\}$  is a finitely representable normalized infinite weak Markov system on  $[a, b]$ .
- (b) If the functions  $g_k$  are all continuous on  $[a, b]$ , then

$$u_k(x) = u_0(x) \int_c^x H_n u_k(t) dg_1(t), \quad x \in [a, b], \quad 1 \leq k \leq n,$$

- (c) If, moreover,  $g_1$  is strictly increasing, then the operator  $H_n$  depends neither on  $n$  nor on  $c$ , nor on the representation, but only on  $g_1$ .

*Proof.* Let  $(h, c, P_n, U_n)$  be a representation of  $G_n$ . From Theorem A we know that  $P_n$  satisfies property (M) with respect to  $h$  at some sequence  $x_0 < \dots < x_n$  in  $h[a, b]$ . Let  $\bar{P}_{n-1} := \{p_2, \dots, p_n\}$  and  $\bar{U}_{n-1} := \{H_n u_1, \dots, H_n u_n\}$ ; then  $(h, c, \bar{P}_{n-1}, \bar{U}_{n-1})$  is a representation of  $\{H_n g_1, \dots, H_n g_n\}$ , and we readily see that  $\bar{P}_{n-1}$  satisfies property (M) with respect to  $h$  at some sequence  $s_0 < \dots < s_n$  in  $h[a, b]$ . Applying again Theorem A, (a) follows.

Part (b) follows directly from Proposition 2. The proof of part (c) is almost identical to that of the corresponding portion of [10, Proposition 3], and will be omitted.  $\square$

Just as in [10], applying [10, Lemma 1], Proposition 3 (instead of [10, Proposition 3]), and bearing in mind the argument used to prove the latter part of Proposition 3, we obtain the following generalizations of [10, Theorem 1 and Theorem 2]:

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $G := \{1, g_1, g_2, \dots\} \subset C([a, b])$  be a finitely representable normalized infinite weak Markov system on  $[a, b]$ , let  $G_n := \{g_0, \dots, g_n\} \subset G$  with  $n \geq 1$ , and assume that  $g_1$  is strictly increasing. Then there is a unique linear operator  $\tilde{D}$  defined on  $S(G)$  and depending only on  $g_1$ , such that if  $(h, c, P_n, U_n)$  is a standard representation of  $G_n$  with associated operator  $H_n$ , then  $\tilde{D} = H_n$  on  $S(G_n)$ .*

As in [10],  $\tilde{D}$  will be called the *generalized derivative* associated with the system  $G$ .

**Theorem 3.** Let  $G := \{1, g_1, g_2, \dots\} \subset C([a, b])$  be a finitely representable normalized infinite weak Markov system on  $[a, b]$ , let  $G_n := \{g_0, \dots, g_n\} \subset G$  with  $n \geq 1$ , assume that  $g_1$  is strictly increasing, and let  $(h, c, P_n, U_n)$  be any standard representation of  $G_n$ . Then the generalized derivative  $\tilde{D}$  associated with  $G$  has the following properties:

(a) The functions  $\tilde{D}g_k$  are continuous at  $a$ , left-continuous on  $(a, b]$ , and if  $D$  denotes the relative derivative with respect to  $g_1$ , and  $f \in S(G)$ , then  $\tilde{D}f(x) = Df(x)$  a.e. in  $[a, b]$ .

(b)

$$u_k(x) = u_0(x) \int_c^x \tilde{D}u_k(t) dg_1(t), \quad x \in [a, b], \quad k \geq 1.$$

(c)  $\{\tilde{D}g_1, \tilde{D}g_2, \tilde{D}g_3, \dots\}$  is an normalized infinite weak Markov system on  $[a, b]$ .

(d) For any  $n \geq 1$ , if  $(h, c, P_n, U_n)$  is any standard representation of  $G_n$  then

$$\tilde{D}u_0 = 0, \quad \tilde{D}u_1 = 1.$$

If  $n \geq 2$ ,

$$\tilde{D}u_2(x) = \int_c^{h(x)} dp_2(t_2).$$

If  $n \geq 3$ ,

$$\tilde{D}u_k(x) = \int_c^{h(x)} \int_c^{t_2} \cdots \int_c^{t_{k-1}} dp_k(t_k) \cdots dp_2(t_2), \quad 3 \leq k \leq n.$$

We end this section with the following generalization of [10, Proposition 4]. It has the same proof, except that we need to use Theorem 3(b) instead of [10, Theorem 2(b)].

**Proposition 4.** Let  $G_n$  be a representable normalized weak Markov system of continuous functions on  $[a, b]$  such that  $g_1$  is strictly increasing, and let  $f \in S(G_n)$ . Then, for every  $x_0, x_1 \in [a, b]$ ,

$$f(x_1) = f(x_0) + \int_{x_0}^{x_1} \tilde{D}f(t) dg_1(t).$$

### 3. GENERALIZED CHEBYCHEV POLYNOMIALS

For the case of a compact interval, Haar's famous unicity theorem says that an  $n$ -dimensional subspace  $S$  of  $C[a, b]$  has a unique element of best approximation in the norm of the supremum for each  $f \in C([a, b])$ , if and only if  $S$  has a basis that is a Chebychev system on  $[a, b]$  [7, 8]. Moreover, if  $f \notin S$  and  $g$  is the best approximation to  $f$  in  $S$ , then the function  $e := f - g$  has an equioscillation of length  $n + 1$ , i. e., there are points  $a \leq x_0 < \cdots < x_n \leq b$  such that

$$e(x_i) = \epsilon(-1)^i \|e\|, \quad i = 0, \dots, n; \quad \epsilon = 1 \quad \text{or} \quad \epsilon = -1.$$

Jones and Karlovitz [11] characterized those finite-dimensional subspaces  $S$  of  $C[a, b]$  having the property that every function  $f \in C[a, b]$  has at least one element of best approximation  $g$  in  $S$  such that the error function  $f - g$  has an equioscillation of length  $n + 1$ . This result was generalized to functions defined in more general sets by Deutsch, Nüremberg and Singer [9], and was further extended by Kamal. His result, which we will use in the sequel, is the following:

**Theorem B.** [12, Theorem 2.9] Let  $Q$  be a locally compact totally ordered space that contains at least  $(n + 1)$  points, and let  $N$  be an  $n$ -dimensional subspace of  $C_0(Q)$ . Then  $N$  is a weak Chebychev subspace if and only if for each  $f \in C_0(Q)$  there is  $g \in N$  such that  $\|f - g\| = d(f, N)$  and  $f - g$  equioscillates at  $(n+1)$  points of  $Q$ .

We can now prove

**Proposition 5.** *Let  $G_n$  be a normalized representable weak Markov system in  $C[a, b]$ . Then there is a function  $T_n \in C[a, b]$  such that*

- (a)  $T_n \in S(G_n)$ .
- (b)  $T_n$  has an equioscillation of length  $n + 1$ .
- (c)  $\|T_n\| = 1$  and  $T_n(b) > 0$ .

*Proof.* Let  $T_0 = 1$ . If  $n > 0$ , then by Theorem B there is an element of best approximation  $q_n$  to  $g_n$  from  $S(G_{n-1})$ , such that the error function  $g_n - q_n$  has an equioscillation of length  $n + 1$ . Setting  $T_n := \alpha_n(g_n - t_n)$ , where  $\alpha_n$  is chosen so that  $\|T_n\| = 1$  and  $T_n(b) > 0$ , the assertion follows.  $\square$

A function that satisfies the conclusions of Proposition 5 will be called a *generalized Chebychev polynomial associated with  $G_n$*  and denoted by  $T_n$ . Note that if  $G_n$  is not a Chebychev system the functions  $T_n$  may not be unique. If  $G$  is a normalized infinite weak Markov system, we may generate a sequence  $\{T_0, T_1, T_2, \dots\}$  by selecting one such  $T_n$  for each integer  $n$ . Such a sequence will be called a *family of generalized Chebychev polynomials associated with  $G$* .

The following theorem should be compared with [10, Corollary 1], which is the corresponding statement for Markov systems.

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $G$  be a normalized infinite weak Markov system in  $C[a, b]$ , and let  $\{T_0, T_1, T_2, \dots\}$  be a family of generalized Chebychev polynomials associated with  $G$ . Then, for each  $n \geq 0$  we have:*

- (a)  $S(\{T_0, \dots, T_n\}) = S(G_n)$
- (b) *If  $y_0 < \dots < y_n$  is an equioscillation for  $T_n$ , then  $T_n$  is monotonic in each interval  $[y_{j-1}, y_j]$ ;  $j = 1, \dots, n$ .*
- (c)  *$T_n$  is constant on  $[a, y_0]$  and on  $[y_n, b]$ .*
- (d) *There are points  $d_0, d_0^+, \dots, d_n, d_n^+$  such that  $a = d_0 \leq d_0^+ < \dots < d_n \leq d_n^+ = b$  and  $z_0 < \dots < z_n$  is an equioscillation for  $T_n$ , if and only if  $z_i \in [d_i, d_i^+]$ ;  $i = 0, \dots, n$ .*
- (e) *There are points  $c_1, c_1^+, \dots, c_n, c_n^+$  such that  $d_{i-1}^+ < c_i \leq c_i^+ < d_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , and*

$$T_n^{-1}(\{0\}) = \bigcup_{j=1}^n [c_j, c_j^+]$$

- (f) *If, moreover,  $G$  is finitely representable, then  $\tilde{D}T_n$  has weakly constant sign in each interval  $[y_{j-1}, y_j]$ ;  $j = 1, \dots, n$ .*

*Proof.*

- (a) Trivial: The functions  $T_0, \dots, T_n$  are linearly independent.
- (b) Let us assume for example that  $T_n(y_{j-1}) = -1 = -T_n(y_j)$  and that  $T_n$  is not increasing. Then there are points  $\xi, \eta$ , with  $y_{j-1} < \xi < \eta < y_j$ , such that  $T_n(\xi) > T_n(\eta)$ . Setting  $\delta := (T_n(\eta) + T_n(\xi))/2$  we see that  $y_0, \dots, y_{j-1}, \xi, \eta, y_j, \dots, y_n$  would be a strong alternation of length  $n + 3$  for  $T_n - \delta$ , which is a contradiction.
- (c) If  $d < y_0$  and  $T_n(d) = -T_n(y_0)$ , then  $d, y_0, \dots, y_n$  is a strong alternation of length  $n + 2$  for  $T_n$ . Otherwise, if  $|T_n(d)| < 1$ , setting  $\delta = (T_n(d) + T_n(y_0))/2$ , we see that  $T_n - \delta$  would have a strong alternation of length  $n + 2$ . Thus  $T_n(d) = T_n(y_0)$ . In similar fashion we see that  $T_n(x) = T_n(y_n)$  in  $[y_n, b]$ .
- (d) Let  $y_0 < \dots < y_n$  be an equioscillation for  $T_n$  in  $[a, b]$ . For each  $j = 0, \dots, n$  let  $I_j := \{x \in (y_{j-1}, y_{j+1}) : T_n(x) = T_n(y_j)\}$ , where  $y_{-1} := a$  and  $y_{n+1} := b$ . Let  $d_j := \inf I_j$ , and  $d_j^+ := \sup I_j$ ; in view of (b) and the continuity of  $T_n$  we see that  $I_j = [d_j, d_j^+]$ , whereas (c) implies that  $d_0 = a$  and  $d_n^+ = b$ ; it is also clear that  $d_{j-1} \leq d_{j-1}^+ < d_j \leq d_j^+$  by construction. Moreover, if  $x \in [a, b]$  is such that



$|T_n(x)| = 1$ , bearing in mind that  $x \in [y_{j-1}, y_j]$  for some  $j$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq n+1$ , we conclude that either  $T_n(x) = T_n(y_{j-1})$  or  $T_n(x) = T_n(y_j)$ , whence either  $x \in I_{j-1}$  or  $x \in I_j$ . Therefore

$$\bigcup_{j=0}^n I_j = T_n^{-1}(\{-1, 1\}).$$

Thus, if  $z_0 < \dots < z_n$  is an equioscillation we deduce that  $\{z_0, \dots, z_n\} \subset \bigcup_{j=0}^n I_j$ . Let us assume that for some  $j$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq n$ ,  $z_j \notin I_j$ , and let  $j_0$  the first index for which  $z_{j_0} \notin I_{j_0}$ ; then  $\{z_{j_0}, \dots, z_n\} \subset \bigcup_{j>j_0}^n I_j$ ; this implies that at least two consecutive  $z_j$ 's must belong to the same interval  $I_j$ ; but this contradicts the assumption that  $z_0 < \dots < z_n$  is an equioscillation.

- (e) Since  $T_n(d_{j-1}^+)T_n(d_j) < 0$  for each  $1 \leq j \leq n$ , there is a point  $x \in (d_{j-1}^+, d_j)$  such that  $T_n(x) = 0$ . Thus  $K_j := \{x \in (d_{j-1}^+, d_j) : T_n(x) = 0\} \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $c_j := \inf K_j$  and  $c_j^+ := \sup K_j$ . By continuity  $T_n(c_j) = 0 = T_n(c_j^+)$ , and (b) implies that  $K_j = [c_j, c_j^+]$ . Moreover, since (e) implies that  $T_n$  is constant and nonzero on  $[d_j, d_j^+]$ , it is clear that if  $T_n(x) = 0$  for some  $x \in [a, b]$ , then  $x \notin \bigcup_{j=0}^n [d_j, d_j^+]$ ; therefore  $x \in (d_{j-1}^+, d_j)$  for some  $j$ , i. e.  $x \in K_j$ .
- (f) Let us assume, for instance, that  $T_n(y_{j-1}) = -1 = -T_n(y_j)$ ; therefore (b) implies that  $T_n$  is increasing on  $[y_{j-1}, y_j]$ . If  $\tilde{D}T_n$  is nonnegative in  $(y_{j-1}, y_j)$  there must be a point  $x_1 \in (y_{j-1}, y_j)$  such that  $\tilde{D}T_n(x_1) < 0$ . Since  $\tilde{D}T_n$  is left-continuous, there must be a point  $x_0 \in (y_{j-1}, x_1)$  such that  $\tilde{D}T_n < 0$  in  $[x_0, x_1]$ . Applying Proposition 4 we thus have

$$T_n(x_1) - T_n(x_0) = \int_{x_0}^{x_1} \tilde{D}T_n(s) ds < 0.$$

Since  $T_n$  is increasing on  $[y_{j-1}, y_j]$ , we have obtained a contradiction.  $\square$

The intervals  $[d_j, d_j^+]$  will be called *equioscillation intervals* of  $T_n$ , the intervals  $[c_j, c_j^+]$  will be called *zero intervals* of  $T_n$ , and the left endpoints  $c_j$  of the zero intervals will be called  $\ell$ -zeros of  $T_n$ .

#### 4. DENSITY OF INFINITE WEAK MARKOV SYSTEMS AND ZEROS OF CHEBYCHEV POLYNOMIALS

In this section we will assume that  $G$  is a finitely representable normalized infinite weak Markov system defined on an interval  $[a, b]$ . Clearly  $g_1$  is increasing on  $[a, b]$ . If  $(h, c, P_n, U_n)$  is a representation of  $G_n$ , then  $dp_1 = dg_1$ ; this implies that all the functions in  $S(G_n)$  must be constant on the same subintervals of  $[a, b]$  where  $g_1$  is constant. To obtain density theorems for  $C[a, b]$  we will therefore assume that  $g_1$  is strictly increasing on  $[a, b]$ . Once such a density theorem is obtained, it is easy to obtain a corresponding density theorem valid in the case where  $g_1$  is not strictly increasing. That theorem would obtain for the subset of functions in  $C[a, b]$  that are constant on those subintervals of  $[a, b]$  where  $g_1$  is constant.

Let  $\{T_n\}_{n \geq 1}$  be a sequence of generalized Chebychev polynomials associated with  $G$ . We define

$$M_n := \max\{|c_i - c_{i-1}| : 1 \leq i \leq n+1\},$$

where  $c_1, \dots, c_n$  are the  $\ell$ -zeros of  $T_n$ ,  $c_0 = a$ , and  $c_{n+1} = b$ .

We will also assume that  $G$  has the following property: *There are points  $a_1, b_1$ ,  $a \leq a_1 < b_1 \leq b$  such that for every  $n \geq 1$ ,  $G_n$  is linearly independent in  $[a, a_1] \cup [b_1, b]$ .*

Although Theorem 1 implies that such points exist for each  $n$ , they depend on  $n$ , and they may coalesce with the endpoints; for example, we could have  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_1 = a$ . With this additional hypothesis, the restriction of the functions in  $G$  to  $[a, a_1] \cup [b_1, b]$  is a normalized infinite weak Markov system, and we obtain the following generalization of [10, Lemma 2]:

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $G$  satisfy the hypotheses of the previous paragraphs, let  $a < a_1 < b_1 < b$ , let  $f$  be the function defined in  $A := [a, a_1] \cup [b_1, b]$  by*

$$f(x) := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \in [a, a_1] \\ 1 & \text{if } x \in [b_1, b], \end{cases}$$

and let  $S_n \in S(G_n)$  denote a function whose restriction to  $A$  is an element of best approximation to  $f$  in  $A$  such that  $f - S_n$  has an equioscillation of length  $n + 2$  (such a  $S_n$  exists by Theorem B). Then

- (a)  $S_n$  is increasing on  $[a_1, b_1]$ .
- (b) Assume that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} M_n = 0$ . Then there is a constant  $K$  such that

$$\|f - S_n\|_A \leq KM_n / (b_1 - a_1),$$

where  $\|\cdot\|_A$  denotes the norm of the supremum in  $A$ .

*Proof.* The proof of (a) is identical to that of [10, Lemma 2], using Theorem B instead of the alternation theorem for Chebychev systems, Proposition 4 instead of [10, Proposition 4], and Theorem 3(c) instead of [10, Theorem 2(c)] to show that  $\{\tilde{D}g_1, \dots, \tilde{D}g_n\}$  is a weak Markov system.

To establish (b) we repeat the steps used in the proof of [10, Lemma 2(b)]. The only difference is that in step (iii) we use  $\ell$ -zeros instead of zeros, and Theorem 4 instead of [10, Corollary 1].  $\square$

**Theorem 5.** *Let  $G \subset C[a, b]$  be a finitely representable normalized infinite weak Markov system such that  $g_1$  is strictly increasing on  $[a, b]$ . Assume there are points  $a_1, b_1, a \leq a_1 < b_1 \leq b$ , such that for every  $n \geq 1$ ,  $G_n$  is linearly independent in  $[a, a_1] \cup [b_1, b]$ . Then the following propositions are equivalent:*

- (a)  $S(G)$  is dense in  $C[a, b]$ , in the norm of the supremum.
- (b)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} M_n = 0$ .

*Proof.* If  $M_n$  does not converge to zero as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , then there is a number  $r > 0$  such that for each  $k > 0$  we may choose an integer  $n_k > 0$  such that  $M_{n_k} \geq r$ . For each  $k$ , let  $c_{j_k}, c_{j_k+1}$  be two consecutive  $\ell$ -zeros of  $T_{n_k}$  such that  $c_{j_k+1} - c_{j_k} = M_{n_k} \geq r$ , where  $1 \leq j_k \leq n_k$  depends on  $n_k$ . The sequence  $\{c_{j_k} : k \geq 0\}$  will have a subsequence  $\{\alpha_k : k \geq 1\}$  that converges to a point  $\alpha_0$ .

In summation: If  $M_n$  does not converge to zero as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , then there is a number  $r > 0$  and sequences  $\{r(k) : k \geq 1\}$  and  $\{c_{j_{r(k)}} : k \geq 1\}$ , such that  $c_{j_{r(k)}+1} - c_{j_{r(k)}} = M_{r(k)} \geq r$ , and  $\lim c_{j_{r(k)}} = \alpha_0$ .

Let

$$\alpha := \alpha_0 + \frac{2r}{10}, \quad \beta := \alpha_0 + \frac{8r}{10},$$

and let  $k_0$  be such that if  $k \geq k_0$ , then  $|c_{j_{r(k)}} - \alpha_0| < \frac{r}{10}$ . Assume  $k \geq k_0$ ; then  $c_{j_{r(k)}} \in [\alpha_0 - r/10, \alpha_0 + r/10]$ . Thus  $\alpha_0 - r/10 \leq c_{j_{r(k)}} \leq \alpha_0 + r/10 < \alpha < \beta$ , and therefore  $0 < \beta - c_{j_{r(k)}} \leq 9r/10$ . Since  $c_{j_{r(k)}+1} - c_{j_{r(k)}} \geq r$ , we conclude that  $\beta < c_{j_{r(k)}+1}$ ; thus  $[\alpha, \beta] \subset (c_{j_{r(k)}+1}, c_{j_{r(k)}})$ . Since  $c_{j_{r(k)}}$  and  $c_{j_{r(k)}+1}$  are consecutive  $\ell$ -zeros of  $T_{r(k)}$ , this implies that  $[\alpha, \beta]$  cannot contain an  $\ell$ -zero of  $T_{r(k)}$ . From Theorem 3(e) we therefore conclude that either  $[\alpha, \beta]$  contains one left endpoint of an equioscillation interval of  $T_{r(k)}$ , or  $[\alpha, \beta]$  contains no left endpoint of an equioscillation interval of  $T_{r(k)}$ . We will consider the first alternative: the proof of the second alternative is similar and will be omitted.

Assume that  $d_m^{r(k)} \in [\alpha, \beta]$ , and let  $D$  denote the set of the remaining left endpoints of equioscillation intervals of  $T_{r(k)}$ . Thus  $D \subset [a, \alpha] \cup [\beta, b]$  and  $D$  has  $r(k)$  elements. Choosing now  $\alpha < x_1 < x_2 < x_3 < x_4 < \beta$ , let  $f(x) \in C([a, b])$  be defined by

$$f(x) := \begin{cases} 0 & x \in [a, \alpha] \cup [\beta, b] \\ 2 & x = x_1, x = x_3 \\ -2 & x = x_2, x = x_4 \end{cases},$$

and by linear interpolation elsewhere in  $[a, b]$ .

Assume that for some  $n$  there is a function  $q \in S(G_n)$  such that  $\|f - q\| < 1/2$ . Let  $k \geq k_0$ ,  $r(k) \geq n$ , and let  $g$  be an element of best approximation from  $S(G_{r(k)})$  to  $f$ . Since  $S(G_n) \subset S(G_{r(k)})$ , we see that  $\|f - g\| \leq \|f - q\| < 1/2$ . The definition of  $f$  implies that

$$|g(d)| < 1/2, \quad d \in D.$$

We therefore conclude that

$$\text{sign}[T_{r(k)} - g](d) = \text{sign}T_n(d), \quad d \in D.$$

Moreover,  $\{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$  is a strong alternation for  $T_{r(k)} - g$  in  $(\alpha, \beta)$ . Selecting three of these four points appropriately and joining them to the set  $D$ , we see that  $T_{r(k)} - g$  has a strong alternation of length  $r(k) + 3$ . Since  $T_{r(k)} - g \in G_{r(k)}$ , and  $G_{r(k)}$  is a weak Markov system, and therefore cannot have a strong alternation of length larger than  $r(k) + 1$ , we have obtained a contradiction. This shows that (a)  $\Rightarrow$  (b).

To prove the converse let us assume, as in [10, Theorem 3], that  $S(G)$  is not dense. Then there is a nonzero Borel measure,  $\mu$  such that for every function  $g \in S(G)$

$$\int_a^b g(t) d\mu(t) = 0.$$

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $b_2$ , be such that  $a_1 < b_2 < b_1$  and  $a_2$  such that  $a_1 < a_2 < b_2$  and  $\mu([a_2, b_2]) < \mu([a, b])/6$ . The proof now is the same as in [10, Theorem 3, (b)  $\Rightarrow$  (a)], with  $a_2, b_2$  instead of  $a_1, b_1$ , and Lemma 1 replacing [10, Lemma 2] because, since  $[a, a_1] \cup [b_1, b] \subset [a, a_2] \cup [b_2, b]$ , Lemma 1 is applicable.  $\square$

**Corollary 1.** *If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} M_n = 0$  for one associated family of Tchebychev polynomials, then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} M_n = 0$  for every associated family of Tchebychev polynomials.*

## 5. JACKSON TYPE THEOREMS FOR FINITE SYSTEMS

In this section we will assume that  $G_n \subset C[a, b]$  is a normalized weak Markov system in  $[a, b]$ . Let  $E_n(f)$  denote the distance from  $f$  to  $S(G_n)$  in the norm of the supremum, and let  $\underline{a} := a - 1$  and  $\underline{b} := b + 1$ .

For each  $g \in G_n$  let us define  $\bar{g}$  on  $[\underline{a}, \underline{b}]$  as follows:

$$\bar{g}(x) := \begin{cases} g(a) & \text{if } \underline{a} \leq x \leq a \\ g(x) & \text{if } a < x < b \\ g(b) & \text{if } b \leq x \leq \underline{b} \end{cases}.$$

It is clear that  $\overline{G_n} := \{\bar{g}_0, \dots, \bar{g}_n\}$  is a normalized weak Markov system on  $[\underline{a}, \underline{b}]$ .

Let  $L(s) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-s^2/2}$  and  $L_k(s) := kL(ks)$ ;  $k \geq 1$ . For every  $f \in C[\underline{a}, \underline{b}]$  we set  $f^{(k)} := f * L_k$ , i. e.

$$f^{(k)}(x) = \int_{\underline{a}}^{\underline{b}} f(s) L_k(x - s) ds = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(s) L_k(x - s) ds,$$

where in the second integral we understand  $f$  to equal 0 outside the interval  $[\underline{a}, \underline{b}]$ .

Under these conditions,  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f^{(k)} = f$ , uniformly on every closed subinterval of  $(\underline{a}, \underline{b})$ , and, if  $d = \underline{a}$ , or  $d = \underline{b}$ , then  $f^{(k)}(d)$  converges to  $\frac{1}{2}f(d)$ . Moreover,  $\overline{G}_n^{(k)} := \{\overline{g}_0^{(k)}, \dots, \overline{g}_n^{(k)}\}$  is an ECT system on  $[\underline{a}, \underline{b}]$  [13, pag. 15]. In particular, the functions in  $\overline{G}_n^{(k)}$  are an ECT system on  $[a, b]$ , and  $\overline{g}^{(k)}$  converges uniformly to  $\overline{g}$  on  $[a, b]$ , for every  $g \in S(G_n)$ .

Let  $g^{(k)}$  denote the restriction to the interval  $[a, b]$  of  $\overline{g}^{(k)} \in S(\overline{G}_n^{(k)})$ , and let  $G_n^{(k)} := \{g_0^{(k)}, \dots, g_n^{(k)}\}$ . Each  $g \in S(G_n)$  is in one-to-one correspondence with  $\overline{g} \in S(\overline{G}_n)$ , which (for each  $k$ ) is in one-to-one correspondence with  $\overline{g}^{(k)} \in S(\overline{G}_n^{(k)})$ , which in turn are in one-to-one correspondence with its restrictions  $g^{(k)}$ :

$$g \longleftrightarrow \overline{g} \longleftrightarrow \overline{g}^{(k)} \longleftrightarrow g^{(k)}.$$

However, it is clear that  $g^{(k)} \neq g * L_k$ .

We now need a slight generalization of the main result of [11]. The proof is similar.

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $f \in C[a, b]$ , and let  $\{f_k\} \subset C[a, b]$  be a sequence that converges uniformly to  $f$  in  $[a, b]$ . For each  $k \geq 1$  let  $m_k$  be the element of best approximation to  $f_k$  from  $S(G_n^{(k)})$ . Then there is a subsequence  $\{k_j\}$  such that  $\{m_{k_j}\}$  converges uniformly in  $[a, b]$  to an element of best approximation  $m$  to  $f$  from  $S(G_n)$ . Moreover,  $f - m$  has an equioscillation.*

*Proof.* Since  $\|f_k - m_k\| \leq \|f_k - 0\|$ , and therefore  $\|m_k\| \leq 2\|f_k\|$ , we see that  $\{m_k\}$  is uniformly bounded. Since  $m_k = \sum_{i=0}^n \alpha_i^k g_i^{(k)}$ , there is a subsequence  $\{k_{1,j}\}$  and numbers  $\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_n$ , such that  $\alpha_i^k \rightarrow \alpha_i$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, n$  if  $k = k_{1,j} \rightarrow \infty$ .

Let  $m = \sum_{i=0}^n \alpha_i g_i$ , and  $g \in S(G_n)$ . Since  $m \in S(G_n)$ , we see that  $f_k - g^{(k)} \rightarrow f - g$  and  $f_k - m_k \rightarrow f - m$  uniformly in  $[a, b]$ . Since  $\|f_k - m_k\| \leq \|f_k - g^{(k)}\|$  we conclude that

$$\|f - m\| \leq \|f - g\|,$$

i. e.,  $m$  is an element of best approximation to  $f$ .

Moreover, if  $a \leq x_0^k < \dots < x_{n+1}^k \leq b$  is an equioscillation for  $f_k - m_k$ , then there is a subsequence  $\{k_{2,j}\}$  of  $\{k_{1,j}\}$  and  $a \leq x_0, \dots, x_{n+1} \leq b$  such that

$$[f_k - m_k](x_i^k) = \varepsilon(-1)^i \|f_k - m_k\|, \quad \varepsilon = 1 \text{ or } \varepsilon = -1, \quad (\text{constant for } k = k_{2,j}),$$

and  $x_i^k \rightarrow x_i$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, n$  if  $k = k_{2,j} \rightarrow \infty$ . Thus

$$[f - m](x_i) = \varepsilon(-1)^i \|f - m\|, \quad \varepsilon = 1 \text{ or } \varepsilon = -1.$$

This implies that  $[f - m](x_i) = -[f - m](x_{i+1}) \neq 0$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , and therefore that the points  $x_i$  are all different.  $\square$

For each  $k \geq 1$  and  $a \leq x_0 < \dots < x_{n+1} \leq b$ , let

$$\mathbf{D}^{(k)} := \{g_i^{(k)}(x_{j+1}) - g_i^{(k)}(x_j) : 1 \leq i \leq n; 0 \leq j \leq n\},$$

let  $\mathbf{D}_j^{(k)}$  be obtained from  $\mathbf{D}$  by deleting the  $j^{\text{th}}$  column, and  $d_j^{(k)} := \det \mathbf{D}_j^{(k)}$ , for  $0 \leq j \leq n$ . In [10, Lemma 5] we showed that  $d_j^{(k)} \geq 0$  and  $\sum_{j=0}^n d_j^{(k)} > 0$ . Setting

$$a_j^{(k)} := \frac{d_j^{(k)}}{2 \sum_{j=0}^n d_j^{(k)}}$$

and

$$\delta^{(k)} := \sup_{a \leq x_0 < \dots < x_{n+1} \leq b} \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^n a_j^{(k)} [g_1^{(k)}(x_{j+1}) - g_1^{(k)}(x_j)] \right\},$$

then, if  $\omega(f)$  denotes the modulus of continuity of  $f$ , we have:

**Theorem 6.** Let  $f \in C[a, b]$  and  $\delta := \overline{\lim}_{k \rightarrow \infty} \delta^{(k)}$ . Then  $\delta < \infty$  and

$$E_n(f) \leq \frac{3}{2} \omega(f \circ g_1^{-1}; \delta).$$

*Proof.* Since  $|a_j^{(k)}| \leq \frac{1}{2}$  and  $\|g_1^{(k)}\| \leq \|g_1\|$  for every  $k$ , we see that the sequence  $\{\delta^{(k)}\}$  is bounded; thus  $\delta = \overline{\lim}_{k \rightarrow \infty} \delta^{(k)} < \infty$ . Let  $m_k$  be the element of best approximation to  $f$  from  $S(G_n^{(k)})$ . Since  $\{f^{(k)}\}$  converges to  $f$ , uniformly in  $[a, b]$ , applying Lemma 2 we obtain a subsequence  $\{k_j\}$  and an element of best approximation  $m$ , to  $f$  from  $S(G_n)$ , such that  $\{m_{k_j}\}$  converges uniformly to  $m$  in  $[a, b]$ . Now, let us choose a subsequence  $\{k_{1,j}\}$  of  $\{k_j\}$  such that  $\delta^{(k_{1,j})} \rightarrow \delta$  when  $j \rightarrow \infty$ . For convenience, let us denote it again by  $\{k\}$ .

Let  $f_1 := f \circ g_1^{-1}$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$ , and let  $r_0 > 0$  be such that if  $r < r_0$ , then  $\omega(f_1; r) < \varepsilon/2$ . Choosing  $k_0$  so that if  $k \geq k_0$  then  $|\delta^{(k)} - \delta| < r_0/2$ , we have:

$$\omega(f_1; \delta^{(k)}) \leq \omega(f_1; \delta) + \omega(f_1; r_0/2) < \omega(f_1; \delta) + \varepsilon/2$$

and

$$\omega(f_1; \delta) \leq \omega(f_1; \delta^{(k)}) + \omega(f_1; r_0/2) < \omega(f_1; \delta^{(k)}) + \varepsilon/2.$$

Thus  $\omega(f \circ g^{-1}; \delta^{(k)}) \rightarrow \omega(f \circ g^{-1}; \delta)$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

Applying [10, Theorem 6] to  $G_n^{(k)}$  we have:

$$E_n^{(k)}(f) := \|f - m_k\| \leq \frac{3}{2} \omega(f \circ g_1^{-1}; \delta^{(k)}).$$

Making  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , the assertion follows  $\square$

For each  $t \in [a, b]$  and  $k \geq 1$ , let  $\sigma_{k,t}$  be the function defined in  $[a, b]$  as follows:

$$\sigma_{k,t}(s) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } a \leq s \leq t \\ g_1^{(k)}(s) - g_1^{(k)}(t) & \text{for } t < s \leq b \end{cases}.$$

If  $t$  is arbitrary but fixed, it is clear that as  $k \rightarrow \infty$  the function  $\sigma_{k,t}$  converges uniformly on  $[a, b]$  to

$$\sigma_t(s) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } a \leq s \leq t \\ g_1(s) - g_1(t) & \text{for } t < s \leq b \end{cases}.$$

Let  $\theta_{k,t}$  the element of best approximation to  $\sigma_{k,t}$  from  $S(G_n^{(k)})$ , and let  $E_n^{(k)}(\sigma_{k,t}) := \|\sigma_{k,t} - \theta_{k,t}\|$ .

**Lemma 3.** Let  $n \geq 0$  be arbitrary but fixed. The sequence  $\{E_n^{(k)}(\sigma_{k,t}) : k \geq 1\}$ , of functions of  $t$ , is uniformly bounded and uniformly continuous.

*Proof.* The uniform boundedness follows from

$$|E_n^{(k)}(\sigma_{k,t})| = \|\sigma_{k,t} - \theta_{k,t}\| \leq \|\sigma_{k,t} - 0\| \leq 2 \|g_1^{(k)}\| \leq 2 \|g_1\|$$

If  $t_1, t_2 \in [a, b]$ , then

$$\|\sigma_{k,t_1} - \theta_{k,t_1}\| \leq \|\sigma_{k,t_1} - \theta_{k,t_2}\| \leq \|\sigma_{k,t_1} - \sigma_{k,t_2}\| + \|\sigma_{k,t_2} - \theta_{k,t_2}\|.$$

Therefore

$$E_n^{(k)}(\sigma_{k,t_1}) - E_n^{(k)}(\sigma_{k,t_2}) \leq \|\sigma_{k,t_1} - \sigma_{k,t_2}\|.$$

A similar argument yields

$$E_n^{(k)}(\sigma_{k,t_2}) - E_n^{(k)}(\sigma_{k,t_1}) \leq \|\sigma_{k,t_2} - \sigma_{k,t_1}\|.$$

Thus

$$|E_n^{(k)}(\sigma_{k,t_2}) - E_n^{(k)}(\sigma_{k,t_1})| \leq \|\sigma_{k,t_2} - \sigma_{k,t_1}\|.$$

But  $\|\sigma_{k,t_2} - \sigma_{k,t_1}\| \leq |g_1^{(k)}(t_2) - g_1^{(k)}(t_1)|$  (cf. [10, Lemma 6]). However,

$$|g_1^{(k)}(t_2) - g_1^{(k)}(t_1)| \leq \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |g_1(t_2 - s) - g_1(t_1 - s)| L_k(s) ds,$$

which implies that the sequence  $\{g_1^{(k)} : k \geq 1\}$  is uniformly continuous, which in turn implies that  $\{E_n^{(k)}(\sigma_{k,t}) : k \geq 1\}$  is uniformly continuous.  $\square$

**Theorem 7.** Let  $G_n \subset C[a, b]$  be a normalized weak Markov system in  $[a, b]$ . Then

- (a)  $E_n(\sigma_t)$  is a continuous function of  $t$ .
- (b) If

$$\Delta_n := \max_{a \leq t \leq b} E_n(\sigma_t),$$

then

$$\delta \leq \sqrt{[g_1(b) - g_1(a)]\Delta_n}.$$

*Proof.* Applying Lemma 3 and Arzelá's theorem we see that there is a sequence  $\{k_{1,j}\}$  such that  $E_n^{(k_{1,j})}(\sigma_{k_{1,j},\cdot})$  converges uniformly on  $[a, b]$  to a continuous function  $E$ .

For each fixed  $t \in [a, b]$ , Lemma 2. implies that there is a subsequence  $\{k_{2,j}\}$  of  $\{k_{1,j}\}$  such that  $E_n^{(k_{2,j})}(\sigma_{k_{2,j},t})$  converges to  $E_n(\sigma_t)$ . This shows that  $E(t) = E_n(\sigma_t)$ , and (a) follows.

Setting  $k = k_{2,j}$  and  $\Delta_n^{(k)} := \max_{a \leq t \leq b} E_n^{(k)}(\sigma_{k,t})$ , we see that  $\Delta_n^{(k)} \rightarrow_{k \rightarrow \infty} \Delta_n$ . Applying [10, Theorem 7] to  $G_n^{(k)}$ , we have:

$$\delta^{(k)} \leq \sqrt{[g_1^{(k)}(b) - g_1^{(k)}(a)]\Delta_n^{(k)}}.$$

Finally, if  $k = k_{3,j}$  is a subsequence of  $k_{2,j}$  such that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \delta^{(k)} = \delta$ , we have:

$$\delta = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \delta^{(k)} \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{[g_1^{(k)}(b) - g_1^{(k)}(a)]\Delta_n^{(k)}} = \sqrt{[g_1(b) - g_1(a)]\Delta_n}.$$

$\square$

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