

# An estimation of a generalized divided difference in uniformly convex spaces

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## Abstract

The rest in some approximation formulae can be expressed in terms of a generalized divided difference on three knots. We provide an estimation of such a divided difference for functions defined on a uniformly convex space.

KEY WORDS: uniformly convex space; Fréchet derivative; generalized divided difference

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## 1 Introduction

The convexity properties of the functions were used by Tiberiu Popoviciu to give estimations of the rest in some approximation formulae. A synthesis of this type of results can be found in the book [4].

Several theorems of representation of linear functionals were proved by Raşa [5], [6]. To mention two of them, let  $E$  denote a locally convex Hausdorff real space and  $X$  a compact convex metrizable subset of  $E$ ; for  $f \in C(X)$ ,  $x, y \in X$  and  $a \in [0, 1]$ , we denote

$$(x, a, y; f) = (1 - a) f(x) + a f(y) - f((1 - a)x + ay). \quad (1)$$

We remark that, since  $X$  is a metrizable space, there exist strictly convex functions in  $C(X)$ ; we denote by  $\varphi$  such a function.

**Theorem 1** Let  $L : C(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a linear functional such that  $L(g) > 0$  for each strictly convex function  $g \in C(X)$ . Then for every  $f \in C(X)$  there exists  $x, y \in X$ ,  $x \neq y$  and  $a \in (0, 1)$  such that

$$L(f) = L(\varphi) \frac{(x, a, y; f)}{(x, a, y; \varphi)}.$$

We consider now  $C(X)$  endowed with the uniform norm.

**Theorem 2** Let  $L : C(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a continuous and linear functional such that  $L(g) \geq 0$  for each convex function  $g \in C(X)$ . Then for every  $f \in C(X)$  there exists  $x, y \in X$ ,  $x \neq y$  and  $a \in (0, 1)$  such that

$$L(f) = L(\varphi) \frac{(x, a, y; f)}{(x, a, y; \varphi)}.$$

For the special case  $E = \mathbb{R}$ ,  $X = [0, 1]$  and  $\varphi(t) = t^2$ ,  $t \in [0, 1]$ , Ivan and Raşa [3] showed that

$$(x, a, y; \varphi) = (1 - a)x^2 + ay^2 - ((1 - a)x + ay)^2 = a(1 - a)(x - y)^2,$$

for all  $x, y, a \in [0, 1]$ . In this case it follows that

$$\frac{(x, a, y; f)}{(x, a, y; \varphi)} = [x, (1 - a)x + ay, y],$$

where the last expression is the classical divided difference of the real function  $f$  on the knots  $x$ ,  $(1 - a)x + ay$  and  $y$ . In the general case,

$$[x, a, y; f, \varphi] := \frac{(x, a, y; f)}{(x, a, y; \varphi)} \tag{2}$$

with  $(x, a, y; f)$  given by (1) was then named *generalized divided difference on three knots*.

## 2 Main results

We give an estimate of the generalized divided difference (2) in the case of a real uniformly convex space.

Let  $(E, \|\cdot\|)$  be a real smooth uniformly convex space and  $X$  a compact subset of  $E$ . Consider the (strictly convex) function  $\varphi_r \in C(X)$  given by

$$\varphi_r(x) = \|x\|^r, \quad x \in X,$$

where  $1 < r \leq 2$ .

We need upper and lower bounds for the expression  $(x, a, y; f)$ . An upper bound for  $|(x, a, y; f)|$  was found in [3], for  $f$  twice Fréchet differentiable on an open set  $Y$  and  $\|f''(y)\| \leq M$  for each  $y \in Y$ , namely

$$|(x, a, y; f)| \leq \frac{M}{2} a(1-a) \|x-y\|^2. \quad (3)$$

It was proved for Hilbert case, but it can be shown that (3) holds in our setting too.

If  $f$  is a convex function,  $(x, a, y; f)$  is  $\geq 0$  and is related with the modulus of uniform strict convexity. We recall some definitions from [7], [2]. The *modulus of uniform strict convexity* at  $x$  (named *gage of uniform convexity* in [7]) is

$$\mu_f(x, t) = \inf_{\substack{y \in \text{dom}(f) \\ \|x-y\|=t \\ \lambda \in (0,1)}} \frac{(x, \lambda, y; f)}{\lambda(1-\lambda)}, \quad t \geq 0.$$

A related function is

$$\bar{\mu}_f(x, t) = \inf_{\substack{y \in \text{dom}(f) \\ \|x-y\|=t}} \left( f(x) + f(y) - 2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) \right).$$

One has [2]:

$$\frac{1}{2}\mu \leq \bar{\mu} \leq \mu. \quad (4)$$

The function  $f$  is said to be *uniformly convex* at  $x$  if  $\mu_f(x, t) > 0$  for each  $t > 0$ . The *modulus of total convexity* of  $f$  at  $x$  is defined by

$$\nu_f(x, t) = \inf_{\substack{y \in \text{dom}(f) \\ \|x-y\|=t}} (f(y) - f(x) - d^+f(x, y-x)) \quad (5)$$

where  $d^+f(x, h)$  denotes the directional derivative (it exists for  $f$  convex).

One has

$$\nu_f \geq \mu_f, \quad (6)$$

but a reversed inequality holds only when  $f$  is Fréchet differentiable, namely in this case there exists a positive constant  $\alpha$  such that

$$\bar{\mu}_f(x, t) \geq \alpha \nu_f(x, \frac{t}{2}). \quad (7)$$

We are interested now in the case  $f(x) = \varphi_r(x) = \|x\|^r$  for  $r > 1$ .

**Lemma 3** *If  $E$  is a uniformly convex space for which the norm is smooth, then for each  $R > 0$  there exists a positive constant  $K$  such that*

$$\mu_{\varphi_r}(z, t) \geq Kt^r$$

for each  $z \in E$ ,  $\|z\| \leq R$ .

**Proof.** Denote by  $\delta_E$  the modulus of uniform convexity of the space. Using theorem 1 in [1], there exists a positive constant  $K_1 > 0$  such that

$$\nu_{\varphi_r}(z, t) \geq rK_1 t^r \int_0^1 \tau^{r-1} \delta_E \left( \frac{\tau t}{2(\|z\| + \tau t)} \right) d\tau. \quad (8)$$

Using the well known fact that  $t \mapsto \delta_E(t)/t$  is increasing, one obtains

$$\delta_E \left( \frac{\tau t}{2(\|z\| + \tau t)} \right) \geq \delta_E \left( \frac{\tau t}{2(R + \tau t)} \right) > 0,$$

so the integral in (8) is  $\geq K_2$ . It follows that  $\nu_{\varphi_r}(z, t) \geq t^r r K_1 K_2$ . Because  $\varphi_r$  is Fréchet differentiable, one can use (7) and get

$$\bar{\mu}_{\varphi_r}(z, t) \geq \alpha \left( \frac{t}{2} \right)^r r K_1 K_2.$$

Using (4) we have

$$\mu_{\varphi_r}(z, t) \geq 2\alpha \left( \frac{t}{2} \right)^r r K_1 K_2 = Kt^r.$$

■

**Theorem 4** *Let  $Y$  be an open set,  $X \subset Y \subset E$  and  $f : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  a function with continuous second order Fréchet derivative, such that  $\|f''(y)\| \leq M$  for all  $y \in Y$ . Then there exists a constant  $K$  depending only on  $X$  such that*

$$|[x, a, y; f, \varphi_r]| \leq KM \quad (9)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ ,  $x \neq y$  and  $a \in (0, 1)$ .

**Proof.** As we have mentioned above,

$$|(x, a, y; f)| \leq \frac{M}{2} a(1-a) \|x - y\|^2.$$

Using lemma 3 with  $R$  such that  $X \subseteq B(0, R)$ , one has

$$(x, a, y; \varphi_r) \geq a(1-a)\mu_{\varphi_r}(x, \|x - y\|) \geq a(1-a)K_1 \|x - y\|^r,$$

and then

$$|[x, a, y; f, \varphi_r]| \leq \frac{M}{2K_1} \|x - y\|^{2-r} \leq KM.$$

■

In the special case when  $E$  is a Hilbert space we have

$$(x, a, y; \varphi_2) = a(1-a) \|x - y\|^2,$$

and the following result obtained in [3] holds.

**Corollary 5** *Let  $E$  be a Hilbert space and  $r = 2$ . In the conditions of theorem 4, the inequality (9) is satisfied with  $K = 1/2$ .*

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