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On differentiation of vector-valued functions

by

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In recent years a series of papers appeared, dealing with the problem of differentiation of vector-valued functions. The most interesting problem was perhaps to inquire under what hypotheses the weak differentiability implies the strong one. The most complete results in this direction obtained Pettis [7].

In the present paper 1) further remarks on this subject will be added, generalizing 2) some results of my paper [1] and of the paper of Pettis.

In § 1 preliminary definitions are given, and the main result of this paper is formulated. In § 2 and § 3 the lemmas are grouped, upon which the principal theorems contained in § 4 are based. Finally, in § 5 some applications to Analysis are given.

§ 1. Preliminary considerations. X denotes a Banach space, $\|x\|$ — the norm of the element x of X, \mathcal{Z} — the space conjugate to X, and $\xi(x)$ — the elements of \mathcal{Z} .

By functions I mean in this paper the vector-valued functions, i. e. functions from an arbitrary fixed interval J or from a set E of reals to the space X; for these functions the symbols x(t), y(t) and z(t) are reserved. Real-valued functions will be denoted by f(t).

The limit of $\varphi(t)$ as t tends to t_0 by values of the set P will be denoted by $\lim_{t\to t_0} \varphi(t)$.

¹⁾ whose results were in part presented September 22th, 1948, to the VI Polish Mathematical Congress in Warsaw.

²⁾ The author is indebted to Professor W. Orlicz for having called his attention to the possibility of such a generalization.

The symbol |E| will denote, as usually, the Lebesgue measure of the set E, and $|E|_e$ will denote the outer measure of the same set.

A subset Ξ_0 of the set Ξ will be called *fundamental for* X if, given any $\varepsilon > 0$ and $x \in X$, there exist elements $\xi_1, \xi_2, \ldots, \xi_n \in \Xi_0$ and real numbers $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_n$ such that

$$\|\xi\|=1$$
, and $|\xi(x)| \gg \|x\|-\varepsilon$ for $\xi=\alpha_1\xi_1+\alpha_2\xi_2+\ldots+\alpha_n\xi_n$.

In § 1, § 2, § 3 and § 4 \mathcal{E}_0 will stand for an arbitrary but fixed set fundamental for X; in § 5 this set will be specialized to concrete cases.

We will deal with the following notions of differentiability of vector-valued functions:

A function x(t) will be said to be strongly differentiable at t_0 to x_0 , if the expression

$$\left\|\frac{x(t_0+h)-x(t_0)}{h}-x_0\right\|$$

tends to 0 when $h\to 0$; the element x_0 will be called the strong derivative of x(t) at t_0 , and denoted by $x'(t_0)$.

A function x(t) will be said to be \mathcal{Z}_0 -meakly differentiable at t_0 to x_0 , if for every $\xi \in \mathcal{Z}_0$ the expression

(2)
$$\xi\left(\frac{x(t_0+h)-x(t_0)}{h}\right)$$

tends to $\xi(x_0)$ when $h \to 0$; the element x_0 will be termed the Ξ_0 -meak derivative of x(t) at t_0 , and denoted by $x'_{w}(t_0)$.

The function x(t) will be said to be approximately strongly differentiable at t_0 to x_0 , if the expression (1) tends approximately to 0 when $h \to 0$; in this case the element x_0 will be termed the strong approximate derivative of x(t) at t_0 , and written $x'_{an}(t_0)$.

It is obvious that the elements $x'(t_0)$, $x'_w(t_0)$ and $x'_{ap}(t_0)$ are uniquely determined, if existing. If the function x(t) is differentiable at any point of a set E to the element y(t) according to any one of the above definitions, I shall say that x(t) is differentiable in the respective sense in E to y(t).

The definition of the differentiability a.e. (almost everywhere) in E is obvious.

I shall also consider another notion of differentiability, which is not so closely related to the behaviour of the considered functions at particular points.

The function x(t) will be said to be \mathcal{Z}_0 -pseudodifferentiable to y(t) in the set E, if for every $\xi \in \mathcal{Z}_0$ there exists a set H_{ξ} , depending on ξ , such that

i)
$$|E-H_{\xi}|=0$$
,

(ii)
$$\frac{d}{dt}\xi(x(t)) = \xi(y(t))$$
 at any point of H_{ξ} .

In this case the function y(t) will be termed the \mathcal{Z}_0 -meak pseudoderivative of x(t) in E, and denoted by $x'_p(t)$.

If, given any $\xi \in \Xi_0$, there exists for the function x(t) a set H_{ξ} satisfying (i) and such that $\xi(y(t))$ is the approximate derivative of $\xi(x(t))$ at any point of H_{ξ} , the function x(t) will be said to be Ξ_0 -approximately pseudodifferentiable to y(t) in E; the function y(t) will be termed the Ξ_0 -approximate pseudoderivative of x(t) in E, and written $x'_{\text{pap}}(t)$.

The above definitions are due essentially to Pettis [7].

A function x(t) will be said to be essentially separably valued, or briefly e.s.v., in E, if there exists a set H such that |H|=0, the set $F(y=x(t), t \in E-H)$ 3) being separable.

The main result of this paper is included in the following. Theorem 1. Let the function x(t) be Ξ_0 -noeakly differentiable in a set E, and let $x_w'(t)$ be e.s.v. in E. If

$$\overline{\lim}_{h\to 0} \left\| \frac{x(t+h)-x(t)}{h} \right\| < \infty$$

at any point of E, then x(t) is strongly differentiable a.e. in E to $x'_{v_0}(t)$.

Corollary 1. Under the hypotheses of Theorem 1 there exists a set $H \subset E$ such that |E - H| = 0 and

$$\frac{d}{dt}\xi(x(t)) = \xi(x'_{w}(t))$$

for every $t \in H$ and every functional $\xi(x)$, linear on X.

³⁾ i. e. the set of the y's satisfying the conditions in ().

The hypothesis of $x_w'(t)$ being e.s.v. cannot be removed in Theorem 1. Gelfand ([4], p. 265) has given an example of a function sAC, (see § 2) everywhere \mathcal{E}_0 -weakly differentiable (\mathcal{E}_0 being a fundamental set), and nowhere strongly differentiable, but the \mathcal{E}_0 -weak derivative of this function is not e.s.v., as may be easily verified.

§ 2. Lemmas. A function x(t) will be said to be sAC (strongly absolutely continuous) on E, if to every $\varepsilon > 0$ there corresponds a $\delta > 0$ such that, given any finite sequence $\{(a_i, b_i)\}$ of non-overlapping intervals the endpoints of which belong to the set E,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} |a_i - b_i| < \delta \quad \text{implies} \quad \sum_{i=1}^{n} ||x(a_i) - x(b_i)|| < \varepsilon.$$

Lemma 1. If for a function x(t) the inequality

$$\lim_{h\to+0} \sup_{h\to+0} \left\| \frac{x(t+h)-x(t)}{h} \right\| < \infty$$

holds at any point of a set E, then E can be decomposed in a sequence of sets on each of which the function x(t) is sAC.

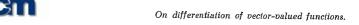
The well-known proof of this Lemma in case of X being the set of real numbers ⁴) can be easily applied to the case of X being a Banach space.

Let E be a closed set with the bounds α and β , and let $\{(a_n,b_n)\}$ be the sequence of open intervals contiguous to E, contained in the closed interval $[\alpha,\beta]$. Then, x(t) being any function defined in a set $H \supset E$, I shall denote by $\hat{x}(t)$ or, if necessary, by $\hat{x}(t;E)$ the function coinciding with the function x(t) on the set E and linear on the intervals (a_n,b_n) , i. e. the function defined by the formula

$$\hat{x}(t) = \begin{cases} x(t) & \text{for } t \in E, \\ x(a_n) + \frac{x(b_n) - x(a_n)}{b_n - a_n} (t - a_n) & \text{for } t \in (a_n, b_n). \end{cases}$$

Lemma 2. If the function x(t) is sAC on a closed set E, so is the function $\hat{x}(t; E)$.

The easy proof is left to the reader.



The function x(t) is said to fulfil the condition (1) at t_0 , if there exists a constant M such that for any $t \in J$

(3)
$$||x(t) - x(t_0)|| \leq M|t - t_0|$$
.

Lemma 3. If the function x(t) fulfils at any point of the set E the condition (l) and is strongly approximately differentiable in E, then x(t) is strongly differentiable a.e. in E.

Proof. Denote by T_n the set of the elements t_0 at which (3) holds with $M \leq n$. Each of these sets is closed, and $E \subset \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} T_n$. Denote by D_n the set of the points of density of the set T_n . By Density Theorem it is sufficient to prove that x'(t) exists at any point of the set ED_n . Let $t_0 \in ED_n$, and write $x_0 = x'_{ap}(t_0)$. There exists a set P for which t_0 is a point of outer density such that

$$\lim_{t \to t_0^P} \left\| \frac{x(t) - x(t_0)}{t - t_0} - x_0 \right\| = 0.$$

Hence

$$\lim_{t\to t_0} \left\| \frac{x(t)-x(t_0)}{t-t_0} - x_0 \right\| = 0,$$

and we easily see that t_0 is a point of outer density of the set PD_n . Let $t_i \rightarrow t_0$, and, to fix ideas, suppose that $t_i < t_0$. Then

$$\frac{|(t_i,t_0)PD_n|_e}{t_0-t_i}=\delta_i\to 1.$$

In the interval (t_i, t_0) there must exist at least one point τ_i such that $\tau_i \in PD_n$ and

$$\frac{\tau_i - t_i}{t_0 - t_i} \leqslant \varepsilon_i = 1 - \delta_i \left(1 - \frac{1}{i} \right),$$

for in the contrary case the interval $(t_i, t_i + \varepsilon_i(t_0 - t_i))$ would be contained in the set $(t_i, t_0) - PD_n$, and hence

$$|(t_i, t_0)PD_n|_e \leq (t_0 - t_i) - \varepsilon_i(t_0 - t_i)$$

$$\leq (t_0 - t_i)(1 - \varepsilon_i) = (t_0 - t_i) \delta_i \left(1 - \frac{1}{i}\right),$$

contrarily to (4). Since

$$\frac{x(t_i) - x(t_0)}{t_i - t_0} = \frac{x(t_i) - x(\tau_i)}{t_i - t_0} + \frac{x(\tau_i) - x(t_0)}{t_i - t_0}, \quad \left\| \frac{x(\tau_i) - x(t_0)}{\tau_i - t_0} - x_0 \right\| \to 0,$$

⁴⁾ See, for instance, Saks [8], p. 239.

and

$$\left\|\frac{x(t_i)-x(\tau_i)}{t_i-t_0}\right\| = \left\|\frac{x(t_i)-x(\tau_i)}{t_i-\tau_i}\right\| \cdot \left|\frac{t_i-\tau_i}{t_i-t_0}\right| \leqslant n\,\varepsilon_i,$$

we get

$$\frac{x(\tau_{i})-x(t_{0})}{t_{i}-t_{0}} = \frac{x(\tau_{i})-x(t_{0})}{\tau_{i}-t_{0}} \frac{\tau_{i}-t_{0}}{t_{i}-t_{0}} = \left(1-\frac{t_{i}-\tau_{i}}{t_{i}-t_{0}}\right) \frac{x(\tau_{i})-x(t_{0})}{\tau_{i}-t_{0}} \to x_{0}$$

as $i \to \infty$. Hence

$$\left\|\frac{x(t_i)-x(t_0)}{t_i-t_0}-x_0\right\|\to 0.$$

Lemma 4. Let x(t) be sAC on a closed interval J, let x(t) be Ξ_0 -approximately pseudodifferentiable in J, and let $x'_{pap}(t)$ be e.s.v. in J. Then x(t) is strongly differentiable to $x'_{pap}(t)$ a.e. in J.

Proof. It is obvious that x(t) being continuous on J is e.s.v. in J. Since $y(t) = x'_{\text{pap}}(t)$ is also e.s.v. in J, we may suppose that the space X is separable. By a theorem of Banach ([3], p. 124) there exists a sequence $\{\xi_n\}$ of elements of \mathcal{E}_0 , weakly dense in \mathcal{E}_0 . Denoting by $\{\xi_n^*\}$ the sequence of linear combinations with rational coefficients of the ξ_n 's of norm less than 1, we have

$$\sup |\xi_n^*(x)| = ||x|| \quad \text{for every } x \in X.$$

Thus the set \mathcal{Z}_1 composed of the \mathcal{E}_n^{\star} 's is fundamental for X, and x(t) is \mathcal{Z}_1 -approximately pseudodifferentiable to y(t) in J. The real-valued functions $\mathcal{E}_n^{\star}(x(t))$ are absolutely continuous on J. Hence x(t) is \mathcal{Z}_1 -pseudodifferentiable to y(t) in J. Thus Lemma 4 results from a theorem of Pettis ([7], theorem 2.6).

§ 5. Measurability. A function constant on each of a finite number of measurable sets is termed *simple*.

Each function which is the limit of an a.e. convergent sequence of simple functions is said to be measurable (BOCHNER, [3]).

Any function coinciding in the set E with a measurable function is said to be *measurable in* E.

The function x(t) is said to be \mathcal{Z}_0 -meakly measurable, if for each $\xi \in \mathcal{Z}_0$ the real-valued function $\xi(x(t))$ is measurable.

If, given any $\xi \in \Xi_0$, the real-valued function $\xi(x(t))$ coincides in the set E (measurable or not) with a measurable function $\varphi_{\xi}(t)$, the function x(t) is qualified Ξ_0 -meakly measurable in E.



Lemma 6. If the function x(t) is Ξ_0 -meakly measurable in a set E and e.s.p. in E, then x(t) is measurable in E.

The proof runs quite similarly as in a paper by Pettis ([6], proof of theorem 1.1).

§ 4. Principal theorems. The following theorem is analogous to Theorem 1:

Theorem 2. Let the function x(t) be measurable in E and E_0 -approximately pseudodifferentiable to y(t) in E. If the function y(t) is e.s.p. in E, and

$$\overline{\lim_{h\to 0}} \left\| \frac{x(t+h)-x(t)}{h} \right\| < \infty$$

at any point of E, then the function x(t) is approximately strongly differentiable to y(t) a.e. in E.

Proof. We can suppose without loss of generality that the space X is separable. By Lemma 6 there exists a sequence $\{y_n(t)\}$ of simple functions converging to y(t) a.e. in E. The set E_1 of the points at which $y^*(t) = \lim_{n \to \infty} y_n(t)$ exists and (5) holds is, as may be easily seen, measurable, and $|E - E_1| = 0$. By a theorem of Banach ([2], p. 124) there exists a sequence $\{\xi_n\}$ of elements of E_0 , weakly dense in E_0 . The set E_1 of the linear combinations with rational coefficients of the E_n 's is fundamental for E_0 and we easily observe that E_0 is E_0 -approximately pseudodifferentiable to E_0 a.e. in E_0 .

Let E_2 be the set of the points at which

$$\lim_{h\to 0} \xi\left(\frac{x(t+h)-x(t)}{h}-y^*(t)\right)=0 \quad \text{for any } \xi \in \Xi_1.$$

The set E_2 is measurable, and $|E-E_2|=0$. We shall prove that $\mathbf{x}'_{\mathrm{ap}}(t)=\mathbf{y}^*(t)$ exists a.e. in $E_3=E_1E_2$.

By Lemma 1 the set E_3 can be represented as a sum $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} H_n$ of sets on each of which x(t) is sAC. Since the sets K_n of all points of outer density of the set H_n are measurable, the sets E_3K_n are measurable; moreover $|H_n-K_n|=0$. Hence

$$|E_3 - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E_3 K_n| = 0.$$

The function x(t) being measurable, it can be proved similarly as for real-valued functions that for almost every $t \in E_3$ there exists a set E_t for which t is a point of density, and

$$\lim_{\tau \to t} x(\tau) = x(t).$$

Thus, any point of K_n being a point of outer density for H_n , and x(t) being sAC on H_n , we can easily prove that there exists a set R_n of measure 0 such that x(t) is sAC on $L_n = E_3 K_n - R_n$.

It is sufficient to prove that x(t) is approximately strongly differentiable to $y^*(t)$ at almost every point of L_n . Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be arbitrary. F being any closed set such that $F \subset L_n$ and $|L_n - F| < \varepsilon$, put $z(t) = \hat{x}(t; F)$. The function z(t) is evidently e.s.v. in J and is strongly differentiable to $c_i = \text{const.}$ in any interval J_i contiguous to F. Since for every $\xi \in \mathcal{Z}_1$ the real-valued function $\xi(z(t))$ is sAC on J, the derivative $\frac{d}{dt}\xi(z(t))$ exists a.e. in J; moreover, $\frac{d}{dt}\xi(z(t)) = \xi(y^*(t))$ a.e. in F. Thus x(t) is \mathcal{Z}_1 -approximately pseudodifferentiable to $y^*(t)$ in F. By Lemma 4 z(t) is strongly differentiable a.e. in F; it follows that at almost any point $t \in F$

$$z'_{ap}(t) = x'_{ap}(t) = y^*(t) = y(t).$$

The number $\varepsilon > 0$ being arbitrary, the above relation holds a.e. in L_n .

Theorem 1 is an immediate consequence of the following

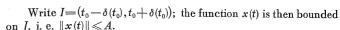
Theorem 3. Let the function x(t) be Ξ_0 -approximately pseudodifferentiable in E to a function y(t) e.s.v. in E, and let

$$\lim_{h\to 0} \left\| \frac{x(t+h)-x(t)}{h} \right\| < \infty$$

at any point t of E. Then x(t) is strongly differentiable to y(t) a.e. in E.

Proof. It is sufficient to prove that, given any point $t_0 \, e \, E$, there exists an interval $I = (\alpha \, , \beta)$ including the point t_0 , in which x'(t) exists a.e. in E. By (6) there exist for any $t \, e \, E$ two numbers M(t) and $\delta(t)$ such that

$$|\tau - t| < \delta(t)$$
 implies $||x(\tau) - x(t)|| \leq M(t)|\tau - t|$.



Let t' be any point of the set IE. We easily observe that

$$\tau \in I$$
 implies $\|x(\tau) - x(t')\| \le \left[M(t') + \frac{2A}{\delta(t)}\right] |\tau - t'|$.

Thus the function x(t) fulfils the condition (l) on IE. Hence $\dot{x}(t)$ is continuous in IE. We can suppose that x(t) is measurable in IE. Applying Theorem 2, we see that $x_{ap}'(t)$ exists a.e. in IE, and by Lemma 3 also x'(t) exists a.e. in IE.

Any function *E*-weakly differentiable will be now simply said to be *meakly differentiable*.

Theorem 4. Let x(t) be meakly differentiable in a set E to y(t). Then x(t) is strongly differentiable a.e. in E to y(t) 5).

Proof. Since, given any $t \in E$,

$$\xi \in \Xi$$
 implies $\lim_{h\to 0} \xi \left(\frac{x(t+h)-x(t)}{h} \right) = \xi (y(t)),$

we see, applying a theorem of Banach ([2], p. 80), that the condition (6) is satisfied at any point of E. The function y(t) being e.s.v. by a theorem of Pettis ([6], theorem 1.2), we can apply Theorem 3 to get the conclusion.

A function x(t) is said to be Lipschitzian, if

$$\|x(t_1) - x(t_2)\| \leqslant M|t_1 - t_2|$$

with M non depending on t_1 and on t_2 .

A Banach space X will be said to have the property (D), if every Lipschitzian function from J to X is strongly differentiable a.e. in J^{-6} .

Examples of spaces with the property (D) are furnished by the uniformly convex, the reflexive, and the locally weakly compact spaces (Pettis, [7], p. 262).

⁵⁾ This theorem is a slight generalization of theorem 2.9 of Pettis ([7], p. 262).

⁶⁾ This condition has been introduced by Pettis ([5], p. 427).

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Theorem 5. Let the space X have the property (D). If for a function x(t) the inequality

$$\lim_{h \to 0} \left\| \frac{x(t+h) - x(t)}{h} \right\| < \infty$$

is satisfied at any point of a set E, then the strong derivative x'(t) exists a.e. in E^{-7}).

Proof. It can be easily shown that the set of the points at which (7) holds is measurable. Hence we can suppose that the set E is so. By Lemma 1 there exists a sequence $\{E_n\}$ of sets on each of which x(t) is sAC, and such that $E = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n$. Since x(t) is continuous at any point of E, the function x(t) is sAC on $E\overline{E}_n$. It follows that the sets E_n may be supposed to be measurable.

Let n be fixed. Given an arbitrary $\varepsilon > 0$, denote by F a closed set for which $F \subset E_n$ and $|E_n - F| < \varepsilon$. Write $z(t) = \hat{x}(t, F)$. This function is sAC by Lemma 2. Hence $z'(t) = x'_{ap}(t)$ exists a.e. in F by a theorem of Petts ([5], theorem 7).

§ 5. Applications. Consider first as the space X the space c composed of the convergent sequences $x = \{a_n\}$ with the norm $\|x\| = \sup_{n=1,2,\dots} |a_n|$. This space is separable. Any convergent sequence of real-valued functions $\{f_n(t)\}$ defined in J may be considered as a function x(t) from J to c.

The functions $f_n(t)$ are said to be equidifferentiable at t_0 , if the derivatives $f'_n(t_0)$ exist, and if for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists an $\eta > 0$ such that

$$|h| < \eta$$
 implies $|f_n(t_0 + h) - f_n(t_0) - hf'_n(t_0)| < |h| \varepsilon$ for $n = 1, 2, ...$

It is easy to see that the strong differentiability of x(t) at t_0 is then equivalent to the convergence of the sequence $\{f'_n(t_0)\}$ together with its equidifferentiability at t_0 .

Consider the set \mathcal{Z}_0 composed of the functionals

(8)
$$\xi_1(x) = a_1, \quad \xi_2(x) = a_2, \quad \dots$$



The set Ξ_0 is fundamental for the space c. The Ξ_0 -weak differentiability at t_0 is equivalent to the convergence of the sequence $\{f'_n(t_0)\}$. Since the functional $\xi(x) = \lim_{n \to \infty} a_n$ is linear in c, we get, applying Theorem 1 and Corollary 1, the following

Theorem 7. Let $\{f_n(t)\}$ be a convergent sequence of real-valued functions, and let the derivatives $f'_n(t)$ exist in a set E. If the sequence $\{f'_n(t)\}$ converges in E, and

$$\overline{\lim}_{h\to 0} \sup_{n=1,\frac{5}{2},\dots} \left| \frac{f_n(t+h)-f_n(t)}{h} \right| < \infty$$

at every point of E, then the functions $f_n(t)$ are equidifferentiable a.e. in E; moreover,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\lim_{n \to \infty} f_n(t) \right) = \lim_{n \to \infty} f'_n(t) \quad a.e. \text{ in } E.$$

In a similar manner we can apply Theorem 1 and Corollary 1 to the space l^2 of the sequences $x = \{a_n\}$ such that $||x||^2 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^2 < \infty$, considering as \mathcal{E}_0 the set of the functionals (8).

We easily get

Theorem 8. If the real-valued functions $f_n(t)$ are differentiable at every point of the set E, and satisfy the conditions

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_n^2(t) < \infty, \qquad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_n'^2(t) < \infty$$

and

$$\overline{\lim_{h\to 0}} \frac{1}{h^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [f_n(t+h) - f_n(t)]^2 < \infty \quad \text{at every } t \text{ of } E,$$

then there exists a set H such that |E-H|=0, and

$$\lim_{h\to 0} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{f_n(t+h) - f_n(t)}{h} - f'_n(t) \right]^2 = 0 \quad in \ H;$$

moreover, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^2 < \infty$ and $t \in H$ imply $\frac{d}{dt} \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n f_n(t) \right) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n f'_n(t)$.

$$h_n \to 0$$
 implies $\lim_{n \to \infty} \left| \frac{f_n(x+h_n) - f_n(x)}{h_n} \right| < \infty$.

⁷⁾ This result may be considered as a generalization of Denjoy's relations to vector-valued functions.

⁸⁾ This condition may be replaced by the following one:

A. Alexiewicz.



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Remarque au travail "Sur les bases statistiques"

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Les termes et les notations employés dans la suite sont les mêmes que dans mon travail précédent 1. Parmi les résultats de ce travail se trouve une estimation de la valeur de $L(F, \eta)$ pour un système F de deux fonctions continues périodiques $f_1(x)$ et $f_2(x)$ à périodes incommensurables, ce symbole désignant un nombre positif tel que tout intervalle de longueur $L(F, \eta)$ contient au moins une η -presque-période commune de $f_1(x)$ et $f_2(x)$. L'estimation en question fait l'objet du théorème II.

Le but de cette remarque est d'en donner une démonstration plus simple et qui permet même d'en améliorer la thèse 2). En conséquence, la thèse du théorème III, qui donne une estimation de $L(F, \eta)$ pour un cas spécial et dont la démonstration est basée sur le théorème II, est susceptible d'une amélioration analogue.

Montrons d'abord un lemme concernant la répartition mod 1 de la suite $\{n\vartheta\}$, où ϑ est un nombre irrationnel fixé.

Lemme. Soit I un sous-intervalle de longueur β de l'intervalle demi-ouvert (0,1). Soient q un nombre naturel et p un entier, tels que $|q\theta-p|<\beta$. Soit enfin $\{Q_i\}$ la suite croissante de tous les entiers non-négatifs tels que $R(\theta Q_i)$ e I. Alors

(1)
$$|Q_{i+1}-Q_i| \leq E\left(\frac{1}{|q\vartheta-p|}+1\right)q$$
 $(i=1,2,...).$

Démonstration. La distance entre les points $R(kq\vartheta)$ et $R((k+1)q\vartheta)$ (k=0,1,2,...), prise le long du plus petit arc de la circonférence C de périmètre 1, est égale à $\min[R(q\vartheta), 1-R(q\vartheta)]$;

¹⁾ Voir Studia Mathematica 10 (1948), p. 120-139.

²⁾ L'idée de cette simplification m'a été suggérée par K. Florek.