

# APPROXIMATION BY MODIFIED SZÁSZ-MIRAKYAN OPERATORS

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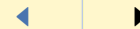
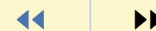
*Abstract:* We introduce the modified Szász-Mirakyan operators  $S_{n,r}$  related to the Borel methods  $B_r$  of summability of sequences. We give theorems on approximation properties of these operators in the polynomial weight spaces.



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## 1. Introduction

The approximation of functions by Szász-Mirakyan operators

$$(1.1) \quad S_n(f; x) := e^{-nx} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(nx)^k}{k!} f\left(\frac{k}{n}\right), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}_0, \quad n \in \mathbb{N},$$

( $\mathbb{R}_0 = [0, \infty)$ ,  $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$ ) has been examined in many papers and monographs (e.g. [11], [1], [2], [4], [5]).

The above operators were modified by several authors (e.g. [3], [6], [9], [10], [12]) which showed that new operators have similar or better approximation properties than  $S_n$ . M. Becker in the paper [1] studied approximation problems for the operators  $S_n$  in the polynomial weight space  $C_p$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{N}_0 = \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ , connected with the weight function  $w_p$ ,

$$(1.2) \quad w_0(x) := 1, \quad w_p(x) := (1 + x^p)^{-1} \quad \text{if } p \in \mathbb{N},$$

for  $x \in \mathbb{R}_0$ . The  $C_p$  is the set of all functions  $f : \mathbb{R}_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  ( $\mathbb{R} = (-\infty, \infty)$ ) for which  $fw_p$  is uniformly continuous and bounded on  $\mathbb{R}_0$  and the norm is defined by

$$(1.3) \quad \|f\|_p \equiv \|f(\cdot)\|_p := \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}_0} w_p(x) |f(x)|.$$

The space  $C_p^m$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{N}_0$ , of  $m$ -times differentiable functions  $f \in C_p$  with derivatives  $f^{(k)} \in C_p$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq m$ , and the norm (1.3) was considered also in [1].

In [1] it was proved that  $S_n$  is a positive linear operator acting from the space  $C_p$  to  $C_p$  for every  $p \in \mathbb{N}_0$ . Moreover, for a fixed  $p \in \mathbb{N}_0$  there exist  $M_k(p) = \text{const.} > 0$ ,  $k = 1, 2$ , depending only on  $p$  such that for every  $f \in C_p$  there hold the inequalities:

$$(1.4) \quad \|S_n(f)\|_p \leq M_1(p) \|f\|_p \quad \text{for } n \in \mathbb{N},$$



and

$$(1.5) \quad w_p(x) |S_n(f; x) - f(x)| \leq M_2(p) \omega_2 \left( f; C_p; \sqrt{\frac{x}{n}} \right), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}_0, n \in \mathbb{N},$$

where  $\omega_2(f; C_p; \cdot)$  is the second modulus of continuity of  $f$ .

In this paper we introduce the following modified Szász-Mirakyan operators

$$(1.6) \quad S_{n;r}(f; x) := \frac{1}{A_r(nx)} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(nx)^{rk}}{(rk)!} f \left( \frac{rk}{n} \right), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}_0, n \in \mathbb{N},$$

for  $f \in C_p$  and every fixed  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ , where

$$(1.7) \quad A_r(t) := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^{rk}}{(rk)!} \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R}_0.$$

Clearly  $A_1(t) = e^t$ ,  $A_2(t) = \cosh t \equiv \frac{1}{2}(e^t + e^{-t})$  and  $S_{n;1}(f; x) \equiv S_n(f; x)$  for  $f \in C_p$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}_0$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . (The operators  $S_{n;2}$  were investigated in [9] for functions belonging to exponential weight spaces.)

We mention that the definition of  $S_{n;r}$  is related to the Borel method of summability of sequences. It is well known ([7]) that a sequence  $(a_n)_0^\infty$ ,  $a_n \in \mathbb{R}$ , is summable to  $g$  by the Borel method  $B_r$ ,  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ , if the series  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{rk}}{(rk)!} a_k$  is convergent on  $\mathbb{R}$  and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} r e^{-x} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{rk}}{(rk)!} a_k = g.$$

In Section 2 we shall give some elementary properties of  $S_{n;r}$ . The approximation theorems will be given in Section 3.

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## 2. Auxiliary Results

It is known ([1]) that for  $e_k(x) = x^k$ ,  $k = 0, 1, 2$ , there holds:  $S_n(e_0; x) = 1$ ,  $S_n(e_1; x) = x$  and  $S_n(e_2; x) = x^2 + \frac{x}{n}$ , which imply that

$$(2.1) \quad S_n((e_1(t) - e_1(x))^2; x) = \frac{x}{n} \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}_0, n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Moreover, for every fixed  $q \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists a polynomial  $\mathcal{P}_q(x) = \sum_{k=0}^q a_k x^k$  with real coefficients  $a_k$ ,  $a_q \neq 0$ , depending only on  $q$  such that

$$(2.2) \quad S_n((e_1(t) - e_1(x))^{2q}; x) \leq \mathcal{P}_q(x)n^{-q} \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}_0, n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

From (1.1) – (1.4), (1.6) and (1.7) we deduce that  $S_{n;r}$  is a positive linear operator well defined on every space  $C_p$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{N}_0$ , and

$$(2.3) \quad S_{n;r}(e_0; x) = 1,$$

$$(2.4) \quad S_{n;r}(e_1; x) = \frac{x A'_r(nx)}{n A_r(nx)},$$

$$(2.5) \quad S_{n;r}(e_2; x) = \frac{x^2 A''_r(nx)}{n^2 A_r(nx)} + \frac{x A'_r(nx)}{n^2 A_r(nx)},$$

for  $x \in \mathbb{R}_0$  and  $n, r \in \mathbb{N}$ , and

$$(2.6) \quad S_{n;r}(f; 0) = f(0) \quad \text{for } f \in C_p, n, r \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Here we derive a simpler formula for  $A_r$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $r \in \mathbb{N}$  be a fixed number. Then  $A_r$  defined by (1.7) can be rewritten in the form:  $A_1(t) = e^t$ ,  $A_2(t) = \cosh t$ ,*

$$(2.7) \quad A_{2m}(t) = \frac{1}{m} \left[ \cosh t + \sum_{k=1}^{m-1} \exp \left( t \cos \frac{k\pi}{m} \right) \cos \left( t \sin \frac{k\pi}{m} \right) \right],$$



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for  $2 \leq m \in \mathbb{N}$ , and

$$(2.8) \quad A_{2m+1}(t) = \frac{1}{2m+1} \left[ e^t + 2 \sum_{k=1}^m \exp \left( t \cos \frac{2k\pi}{2m+1} \right) \cos \left( t \sin \frac{2k\pi}{2m+1} \right) \right],$$

for  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $t \in \mathbb{R}_0$ .

*Proof.* The formulas for  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are obvious by (1.7). For  $r \geq 3$  and  $t \in \mathbb{R}_0$  we have

$$e^t = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^{rk}}{(rk)!} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^{rk+1}}{(rk+1)!} + \cdots + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^{rk+r-1}}{(rk+r-1)!}$$

which by (1.7) can be written in the form

$$e^t = A_r(t) + \int_0^t A_r(u) du + \int_0^t \int_0^{v_1} A_r(u) du dv_1 + \cdots + \int_0^t \int_0^{v_1} \cdots \int_0^{v_{r-2}} A_r(u) du dv_{r-2} \cdots dv_1.$$

By  $(r-1)$ -times differentiation we get the equality

$$e^t = A_r^{(r-1)}(t) + A_r^{(r-2)}(t) + \cdots + A_r'(t) + A_r(t) \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R}_0,$$

which shows that  $y = A_r(t)$  is the solution of the differential equation

$$(2.9) \quad y^{(r-1)} + y^{(r-2)} + \cdots + y' + y = e^t$$

satisfying the initial conditions

$$(2.10) \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = y''(0) = \cdots = y^{(r-2)}(0) = 0.$$



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Using now the Laplace transformation

$$\mathcal{L}[y(t)] = Y(s) := \int_0^{\infty} y(t)e^{-st}dt, \quad s = x + iy,$$

we have by (2.10)

$$\mathcal{L}[y^{(k)}(t)] = s^k Y(s) - s^{k-1} \quad \text{for } k = 1, \dots, r-1,$$

and consequently we get from (2.7)

$$(s^{r-1} + s^{r-2} + \dots + s + 1)Y(s) = \frac{1}{s-1} + s^{r-2} + s^{r-3} + \dots + s + 1,$$

and

$$(2.11) \quad Y(s) = \frac{s^{r-1}}{s^r - 1}.$$

By the inverse Laplace transformation we get

$$(2.12) \quad y(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left[ \frac{s^{r-1}}{s^r - 1} \right] \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R}_0,$$

and this  $\mathcal{L}^{-1}$  transform can be calculated by the residues of  $Y$ .

It is known that the inverse transform of a rational function  $\frac{P(s)}{Q(s)}$  with the simple poles  $s_k$  can be written as follows

$$(2.13) \quad \mathcal{L}^{-1} \left[ \frac{P(s)}{Q(s)} \right] = \sum_{s_k}^* \frac{P(s_k)e^{s_k t}}{Q'(s_k)} + 2re \sum_{s_k}^{**} \frac{P(s_k)e^{s_k t}}{Q'(s_k)},$$

where  $\sum^*$  denotes the sum for all real  $s_k$  and  $\sum^{**}$  denotes the sum for all complex  $s_k = x_k + iy_k$  with a positive  $y_k$ .



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The function  $Y$  defined by (2.11) has the simple poles  $s_k = \sqrt[r]{1} = e^{2k\pi i/r}$  for  $k = 0, 1, \dots, r-1$ . From this and (2.12) and (2.13) for  $r = 2m, 2 \leq m \in \mathbb{N}$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) &= \frac{1}{2m} \left( \sum_{s_k}^* e^{s_k t} + 2re \sum_{s_k}^{**} e^{s_k t} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \left[ \operatorname{cosh} t + \sum_{k=1}^{m-1} \exp \left( t \cos \frac{k\pi}{m} \right) \cos \left( t \sin \frac{k\pi}{m} \right) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

This shows that the formula (2.7) is proved.

Analogously by (2.12) and (2.13) we obtain (2.8). □

From (2.7) and (2.8) we have that

$$\begin{aligned} A_3(t) &= \frac{1}{3} \left( e^t + 2e^{-t/2} \cos \left( \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} t \right) \right), \\ A_4(t) &= \frac{1}{2} (\operatorname{cosh} t + \cos t), \\ A_6(t) &= \frac{1}{3} \left( \operatorname{cosh} t + 2 \cosh \frac{t}{2} \cos \left( \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} t \right) \right), \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R}_0. \end{aligned}$$

Applying the formula (1.7) and Lemma 2.1, we immediately obtain the following:

**Lemma 2.2.** *For every fixed  $r \in \mathbb{N}$  there exists a positive constant  $M_3(r)$  depending only on  $r$  such that*

$$(2.14) \quad 1 \leq \frac{e^{nx}}{A_r(nx)} \leq M_3(r) \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}_0, n \in \mathbb{N}.$$





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**Lemma 2.3.** Let  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then for  $e_1(x) = x$  there holds

$$(2.15) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} nS_{n;r}(e_1(t) - e_1(x); x) = 0$$

and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} nS_{n;r}((e_1(t) - e_1(x))^2; x) = x,$$

at every  $x \in \mathbb{R}_0$ . Moreover, we have

$$(2.16) \quad S_{n;r}((e_1(t) - e_1(x))^{2q}; x) \leq M_3(r)S_n((e_1(t) - e_1(x))^{2q}; x)$$

for  $x \in \mathbb{R}_0$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and every fixed  $q \in \mathbb{N}$ .

*Proof.* The inequality (2.16) is obvious by (1.1), (1.6) and (2.14).

We shall prove only (2.15) for  $r = 2m$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ .

If  $r = 2$  then  $A_2(t) = \cosh t$  and by (2.4) we have

$$\begin{aligned} S_{n;2}(e_1(t) - e_1(x); x) &= x \left( \frac{\sinh nx}{\cosh nx} - 1 \right) \\ &= \frac{-2x}{e^{2nx} + 1} \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}_0, n \in \mathbb{N}, \end{aligned}$$

which implies (2.15).

If  $r = 2m$  with  $2 \leq m \in \mathbb{N}$ , then by (2.4), (2.7) and (2.14) we get

$$|S_{n;2m}(e_1(t) - e_1(x); x)| = \frac{x}{A_{2m}(nx)} \left| \frac{1}{n} A'_{2m}(nx) - A_{2m}(nx) \right|$$



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$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{x}{mA_{2m}(nx)} \left| \sinh nx - \cosh nx \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \sum_{k=1}^{m-1} \exp \left( nx \cos \frac{k\pi}{m} \right) \left[ \cos \frac{k\pi}{m} \cos \left( nx \sin \frac{k\pi}{m} \right) \right. \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \left. - \sin \frac{k\pi}{m} \sin \left( nx \sin \frac{k\pi}{m} \right) - \cos \left( nx \sin \frac{k\pi}{m} \right) \right] \right| \\
 &\leq M_3(2m) \frac{x}{m} \left[ e^{-2nx} + 3 \sum_{k=1}^{m-1} \exp \left( -2nx \sin^2 \frac{k\pi}{m} \right) \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

and from this we immediately obtain (2.15). □

From (1.6), (1.1) – (1.4) and (2.14) the following lemma results.

**Lemma 2.4.** *The operator  $S_{n;r}$ ,  $n, r \in \mathbb{N}$ , is linear and positive, and acts from the space  $C_p$  to  $C_p$  for every  $p \in \mathbb{N}_0$ . For  $f \in C_p$*

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|S_{n;r}(f)\|_p &\leq \|f\|_p \|S_{n;r}(1/w_p)\|_p \\
 &\leq M_3(r) \|f\|_p \cdot \|S_n(1/w_p)\|_p \leq M_4(p, r) \|f\|_p \quad \text{for } n, r, \in \mathbb{N},
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $M_4(p, r) = M_1(p)M_3(r)$  and  $M_1(p)$ ,  $M_3(r)$  are positive constants given in (1.4) and (2.14).



### 3. Theorems

First we shall prove two theorems on the order of approximation of  $f \in C_p$  by  $S_{n;r}$ ,  $r \geq 2$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $p \in \mathbb{N}_0$  and  $2 \leq r \in \mathbb{N}$  be fixed numbers. Then there exists  $M_5(p, r) = \text{const.} > 0$  (depending only on  $p$  and  $r$ ) such that for every  $f \in C_p^1$  there holds the inequality*

$$(3.1) \quad w_p(x) |S_{n;r}(f; x) - f(x)| \leq M_5(p, r) \|f'\|_p \sqrt{\frac{x}{n}},$$

for  $x \in \mathbb{R}_0$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $f \in C_p^1$ . Then by (1.6), (1.7) and (2.14) it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} |S_{n;r}(f; x) - f(x)| &\leq S_{n;r}(|f(t) - f(x)|; x) \\ &\leq M_3(r) S_n(|f(t) - f(x)|; x) \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}_0, n \in \mathbb{N}, \end{aligned}$$

and for  $t, x \in \mathbb{R}_0$

$$|f(t) - f(x)| = \left| \int_x^t f'(u) du \right| \leq \|f'\|_p \left( \frac{1}{w_p(t)} + \frac{1}{w_p(x)} \right) |t - x|.$$

Using now the operator  $S_n$ , (1.1) – (1.4) and (2.1), we get

$$\begin{aligned} w_p(x) S_n(|f(t) - f(x)|; x) &\leq \|f'\|_p \left\{ w_p(x) S_n \left( \frac{|t - x|}{w_p(t)}; x \right) + S_n(|t - x|; x) \right\} \\ &\leq \|f'\|_p (S_n((t - x)^2; x))^{1/2} \left\{ 2 \|S_n(1/w_{2p})\|_{2p}^{1/2} + 1 \right\} \\ &\leq \left( 2\sqrt{M_1(2p)} + 1 \right) \|f'\|_p \sqrt{\frac{x}{n}} \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}_0, n \in \mathbb{N}. \end{aligned}$$



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Combining the above, we obtain the estimation (3.1). □

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $p \in \mathbb{N}_0$  and  $2 \leq r \in \mathbb{N}$  be fixed. Then there exists  $M_6(p, r) = \text{const.} > 0$  (depending only on  $p$  and  $r$ ) such that for every  $f \in C_p$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}_0$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  there holds*

$$(3.2) \quad w_p(x) |S_{n,r}(f; x) - f(x)| \leq M_6(p, r) \omega_1 \left( f; C_p; \sqrt{\frac{x}{n}} \right),$$

where  $\omega_1(f; C_p; \cdot)$  is the modulus of continuity of  $f \in C_p$ , i.e.

$$(3.3) \quad \omega_1(f; C_p; t) := \sup_{0 \leq u \leq t} \|\Delta_u f(\cdot)\|_p \quad \text{for } t \geq 0,$$

and  $\Delta_u f(x) = f(x + u) - f(x)$ .

*Proof.* The inequality (3.2) for  $x = 0$  follows by (1.2), (2.6) and (3.3).

Let  $f \in C_p$  and  $x > 0$ . We use the Steklov function  $f_h$ ,

$$f_h(x) := \frac{1}{h} \int_0^h f(x+t) dt \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}_0, h > 0.$$

This  $f_h$  belongs to the space  $C_p^1$  and by (3.3) it follows that

$$(3.4) \quad \|f - f_h\|_p \leq \omega_1(f; C_p; h)$$

and

$$(3.5) \quad \|f'_h\|_p \leq h^{-1} \omega_1(f; C_p; h), \quad \text{for } h > 0.$$

By the above properties of  $f_h$  and (2.3) we can write

$$\begin{aligned} & |S_{n,r}(f(t); x) - f(x)| \\ & \leq |S_{n,r}(f(t) - f_h(t); x)| + |S_{n,r}(f_h(t); x) - f_h(x)| + |f_h(x) - f(x)|, \end{aligned}$$



for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $h > 0$ . Next, by Lemma 2.4 and (3.4) we get

$$w_p(x) |S_{n;r}(f(t) - f_h(t); x)| \leq M_4(p, r) \|f - f_h\|_p \leq M_4(p, r) \omega_1(f; C_p; h).$$

In view of Theorem 3.1 and (3.5) we have

$$w_p(x) |S_{n;r}(f_h; x) - f_h(x)| \leq M_5(p, r) \|f'_h\|_p \sqrt{\frac{x}{n}} \leq M_5(p, r) h^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{x}{n}} \omega_1(f; C_p; h).$$

Consequently,

$$(3.6) \quad w_p(x) |S_{n;r}(f; x) - f(x)| \leq \omega_1(f; C_p; h) \left( M_4(p, r) + M_5(p, r) h^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{x}{n}} + 1 \right),$$

for  $x > 0$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $h > 0$ . Putting  $h = \sqrt{x/n}$  in (3.6) for given  $x$  and  $n$ , we obtain the desired estimation (3.2).  $\square$

Theorem 3.2 implies the following:

**Corollary 3.3.** *If  $f \in C_p$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{N}_0$ , and  $2 \leq r \in \mathbb{N}$ , then*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{n;r}(f; x) = f(x) \quad \text{at every } x \in \mathbb{R}_0.$$

*This convergence is uniform on every interval  $[x_1, x_2]$ ,  $x_1 \geq 0$ .*

The Voronovskaya type theorem given in [1] for the operators  $S_n$  can be extended to  $S_{n;r}$  with  $r \geq 2$ .

**Theorem 3.4.** *Suppose that  $f \in C_p^2$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{N}_0$ , and  $2 \leq r \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then*

$$(3.7) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n(S_{n;r}(f; x) - f(x)) = \frac{x}{2} f''(x)$$

*at every  $x \in \mathbb{R}_0$ .*



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*Proof.* The statement (3.7) for  $x = 0$  is obvious by (2.6). Choosing  $x > 0$ , we can write the Taylor formula for  $f \in C_p^2$ :

$$f(t) = f(x) + f'(x) + \frac{1}{2}f''(x)(t-x)^2 + \varphi(t,x)(t-x)^2 \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R}_0,$$

where  $\varphi(t) \equiv \varphi(t,x)$  is a function belonging to  $C_p$  and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow x} \varphi(t) = \varphi(x) = 0$ .

Using now the operator  $S_{n;r}$  and (2.3), we get

$$\begin{aligned} S_{n;r}(f(t); x) &= f(x) + f'(x)S_{n;r}(t-x; x) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2}f''(x)S_{n;r}((t-x)^2; x) + S_{n;r}(\varphi(t)(t-x)^2; x), \end{aligned}$$

for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , which by Lemma 2.3 implies that

$$(3.8) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n(S_{n;r}(f(t); x) - f(x)) = \frac{x}{2}f''(x) + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} nS_{n;r}(\varphi(t)(t-x)^2; x).$$

It is clear that

$$(3.9) \quad |S_{n;r}(\varphi(t)(t-x)^2; x)| \leq (S_{n;r}(\varphi^2(t); x)S_{n;r}((t-x)^4; x))^{1/2},$$

and by Corollary 3.3

$$(3.10) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{n;r}(\varphi^2(t); x) = \varphi^2(x) = 0.$$

Moreover, by (2.16) and (2.2) we deduce that the sequence  $(n^2 S_{n;r}((t-x)^4; x))_1^\infty$  is bounded at every fixed  $x \in \mathbb{R}_0$ . From this and (3.9) and (3.10) we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} nS_{n;r}(\varphi(t)(t-x)^2; x) = 0$$

which with (3.8) yields the statement (3.7). □



## 4. Remarks

*Remark 1.* We observe that the estimation (1.5) for the operators  $S_n$  is better than (3.2) obtained for  $S_{n;r}$  with  $r \geq 2$ . It is generated by formulas (2.3) – (2.5) and Lemma 2.1 which show that the operators  $S_{n;r}$ ,  $r \geq 2$ , preserve only the function  $e_0(x) = 1$ . The operators  $S_n$  preserve the function  $e_k(x) = x^k$ ,  $k = 0, 1$ .

*Remark 2.* In the paper [2], the approximation properties of the Szász-Mirakyan operators  $S_n$  in the exponential weight spaces  $C_q^*$ ,  $q > 0$ , with the weight function  $v_q(x) = e^{-qx}$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}_0$  were examined. Obviously the operators  $S_{n;r}$ ,  $r \geq 2$ , can be investigated also in these spaces.

*Remark 3.* G. Kirov in [8] defined the new Bernstein polynomials for  $m$ -times differentiable functions and showed that these operators have better approximation properties than classical Bernstein polynomials.

The Kirov idea was applied to the operators  $S_n$  in [10].

We mention that the Kirov method can be extended to the operators  $S_{n;r}$  with  $r \geq 2$ , i.e. for functions  $f \in C_p^m$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{N}_0$ , and a fixed  $2 \leq r \in \mathbb{N}$  we can consider the operators

$$S_{n;r}^*(f; x) := \frac{1}{A_r(nx)} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(nx)^{rk}}{(rk)!} \sum_{j=0}^m \frac{f^{(j)}\left(\frac{rk}{n}\right)}{j!} \left(\frac{rk}{n} - x\right)^j,$$

for  $x \in \mathbb{R}_0$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

In [10] it was proved that the  $S_{n;1}^*$  have better approximation properties for  $f \in C_p^m$ ,  $m \geq 2$ , than  $S_{n;1}$ .

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