HARMONICITY MODULUS AND APPLICATIONS TO THE APPROXIMATION BY POLYHARMONIC FUNCTIONS

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Abstract. In the present paper we introduce the notion of harmonicity modulus and harmonicity $K$-functional and apply these notions to prove a Jackson type theorem for approximation of continuous functions by polyharmonic functions. For corresponding results on approximation by polynomials see [3, 7].

Key words: Harmonicity modulus, $K$-functional, polyharmonic functions, Jackson type theorem.

0. Notions and Notations

Suppose that $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is an open, connected and bounded set ($n \geq 2$). We shall work with functions $f$ in the space $HC^r(D)$, $r \geq 0$, consisting of all functions $f$ such that $\Delta^r f$, the $r$th power of the Laplacian, exists and is continuous in $\overline{D}$. In the space $HC^0(\overline{D}) = C(\overline{D})$ of functions which are continuous in $\overline{D}$ the usual norm is

$$\|f\| := \max_{x \in \overline{D}} |f(x)|.$$ 

By $B(x;t)$ we will denote an open ball in $\mathbb{R}^n$:

$$B(x;t) := \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x - y| < t\}.$$ 

For the function $f$, any point $x \in D$, and a sufficiently small positive number $h$ we will consider the spherical mean

$$\mu_0(x,h) := \mu_0(f;x,h) := \frac{1}{\omega_n} \int_{\Omega_\xi} f(x + h\xi) d\omega_\xi; \quad (1)$$

here $\Omega_\xi$ denotes the unit sphere in $\mathbb{R}^n$, $\omega_n$ denotes its area and $d\omega_\xi$ is the area element on $\Omega_\xi$.
Further we define the quantity
\[ \Delta_h(f; x) := \mu_0(f; x, h) - f(x). \] (2)
Throughout the paper we shall use the symbol \( C \) as an universal constant.

1. Harmonicity Modulus

**DEFINITION 1.** The harmonicity modulus of the function \( f \) in the domain \( D \) is defined by
\[ \omega^h(u) := \omega^h(f; u) := \sup |\Delta_t(f; x)|, \] (3)
where the sup is taken over \( 0 < t \leq u \), and \( B(x; t) \subset D \).

**REMARK.** It is clear that
\[ \omega^h(f; u) \leq \omega^1(f; u) \]
where \( \omega^1 \) is the usual first modulus of continuity (see [5, 9]).

It is easy to see that we have the representation
\[ \Delta_h(f; x) = \frac{1}{2\omega_n} \int_{\Omega} (f(x + h\xi) - 2f(x) + f(x - h\xi)) d\omega. \] (4)
This implies
\[ \omega^h(f; u) \leq \omega^2(f; u) \]
for the usual second modulus of continuity (cf. [5, 9]).

**PROPOSITION 1.** For every function \( f \), continuous in \( D \), the harmonicity modulus has the following properties:
1. \( \lim_{t \to 0} \omega^h(f; t) = 0 \);
2. \( \omega^h(f; u) \) is a monotone increasing function;
3. for every positive \( u \) the inequality
\[ \omega^h(f + g; u) \leq \omega^h(f; u) + \omega^h(g; u) \]
holds;
4. for every positive number \( u \) the inequality
\[ \omega^h(f; u) \leq 2 ||f|| \]
holds.

**Proof.** Property 1) follows from the definition of \( \mu_0 \) and the continuity of the function \( f \). Properties 2) and 3) are evident. Property 4) follows from the easy-to-check representation
\[ \Delta_h(f; x) = \frac{1}{\omega_n} \int_{\Omega} (f(x + h\xi) - f(x)) d\omega. \] (4)
Let us introduce the integral operator $J_0$ by
\[
J_0 [\phi; R] := \int_0^R \left( r - r^{n-1} R^{-n+2} \right) \phi(r) \, dr
\]
for $n \geq 3$, and by
\[
J_0 [\phi; R] := \int_0^R r \log \left( \frac{R}{r} \right) \phi(r) \, dr
\]
for $n = 2$.

Further we will need different forms of the classical Pizzetti formula for the representation of the spherical means (see [2, 8]).

**THEOREM 1.** Let the function $f$ have a continuous Laplacian $\Delta f$ in the domain $D$. Then the following representation holds:
\[
\mu_0 (f; x, R) = f(x) + l_n J_0 [\mu_0 (\Delta f; x, \cdot); R],
\]
where $l_n = \frac{1}{n-2}$ for $n \geq 3$ and $l_2 = 1$.

The remainder can also be written as
\[
J_0 [\mu_0 (\Delta f; x, \cdot); R] = \mu_0 (\Delta f; x, \partial R) J_0 [1, R]
\]
with some number $\partial = \partial (x; R)$ such that $0 < \partial < 1$. Since $J_0 [1; R] = c_n R^2$, where $c_2 = 1/4$, $c_n = \frac{n-2}{2n}$ for $n \geq 3$, we have the representation
\[
\mu_0 (f; x, R) = f(x) + d_n R^2 \Delta f (\xi),
\]
where the opint $\xi = \xi (x, R) \in B(x; R)$ and $d_n = c_n l_n = \frac{1}{2n}$.

**PROPOSITION 2.** Suppose that the function $f$, defined and continuous in $\overline{D}$, has a continuous Laplacian $\Delta f$ in $\overline{D}$ satisfying the inequality
\[
|\Delta f (x)| \leq M, \quad x \in \overline{D}.
\]
Then the following inequality holds for every positive number $u$:
\[
\omega^h (f; u) \leq M d_n u^2.
\]

The proof follows immediately from Pizzetti’s formula (8).

The harmonicity modulus plays a role similar to that of the second modulus of continuity in the one-dimensional case (see [3]). This is well seen from the following classical result (cf. [8]).

**THEOREM 2.** Let $u$ be a function defined and integrable in the domain $D$ in $R^n$. Then, if $t > 0$, we have
\[
\omega^h (f; t) = 0
\]
if and only if \( f \) is harmonic in \( D \), i.e.

\[
\Delta f(x) = 0, \quad x \in D.
\]

Theorem 2 is the motivation for calling \( \omega^h \) the harmonicity modulus. We also recall that harmonic functions are considered to be a multivariate analogue to the linear functions in one dimension.

2. Harmonicity \( K \)-Functional

Here we introduce the notion of harmonicity \( K \)-functional which provides a basic tool for studying the important properties of the harmonicity modulus.

**DEFINITION 2.** For every function \( f \in C(D) \) and every number \( t > 0 \) we define the harmonicity \( K \)-functional by

\[
K^h(f; t) := \inf \left\{ \|f - g\| + t^2 \|\Delta g\| \right\},
\]

where the infimum is taken over all functions \( g \in HC^1(D) \).

3. Harmonicity Modulus and Harmonicity \( K \)—Functional

The main technical result of the paper is proved in the present and the next sections. Roughly speaking, it states that the harmonicity modulus and the harmonicity \( K \)-functional are equivalent on compact subdomains of \( D \).

**LEMMA 1.** Let \( D \) be an open set in \( \mathbb{R}^n \). For all \( t \) with \( 0 < t < \infty \) and \( f \in C(D) \), the inequality

\[
\omega^h(f; t) \leq CK^h(f; t)
\]

holds with some constant \( C > 0 \).

**Proof.** The proof is based on a standard argument. We split \( f = f - g + g \), and apply Propositions 1 and 2 to obtain the inequality

\[
\omega^h(f; t) \leq \omega^h(f - g; t) + \omega^h(g; t) \leq 2 \|f - g\| + d_n t^2 \|\Delta g\|
\]

\[
\leq \max \{2, d_n\} \left[ \|f - g\| + t^2 \|\Delta g\| \right].
\]

Since \( g \in HC^1(D) \) is arbitrary, the statement (10) is proved.

The domination of \( K^h \) by \( \omega^h \) will be established only on compact subdomains of \( D \) in the sense that the \( K \)-functional of the subdomain \( D_1, K^h_{d_1} \) will be proved.
to be dominated by the harmonicity modulus $\omega^h_D$ with respect to the domain $D$.

The problem is that for every $R$ (possibly such that $R < R_1$ for some sufficiently small positive number $R_1$) we have to find a function $g_R \in HC^1(D)$ such that

$$\|f - g_R\| + R^2 \|\Delta g_R\| \leq C\omega^h(f;R),$$

where the constant $C$ does not depend on $f$ and $R$.

Following the scheme given in [5], taking some spherical means of the function $f$, we succeed in constructing the function $g_R$ not on the whole of $D$ but on every subdomain $D_1$, such that $D_1 \subset D$ and $R_1 \leq \text{dist}(D_1, \partial D)$. In such a way we can prove the inequality (11) over subdomains where the norm $\|\cdot\|$ is in fact $\|\cdot\|_{D_1}$.

4. Domination of $K^h$ by $\omega^h$ on Compact Subdomains

Having in mind Pizzetti’s formula (7) in Theorem 1, we consider the function

$$g_{R,t}(x) = v(t) J_{0,s} [\mu_0(f; x, Rs); t].$$

(12)

Here $J_0$ is the operator given by (5) and (6) and $J_{0,s}$ means that $s$ is the input variable for $J_0$; the output variable is $t$; $v(t)$ is equal to $(J_0[1; t])^{-1}$, where $J_0[1; t]$ is the value of the functional for $\phi(t) = 1$, so in fact $\frac{1}{v(t)} = t^2 \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{n}\right)$ for $n \geq 3$, $\frac{1}{v(t)} = t^2$ for $n = 2$.

The operator $J_0$ changes the output in a specific way described by

**PROPOSITION 3.** For every integrable function $\phi$ and positive numbers $s$ and $R$ we have

$$J_{0,s} [\phi(st); R] = \frac{1}{s^2} J_{0,t} [\phi(t); sR].$$

(13)

**Proof.** We give the proof for $n \geq 3$. Then $J_0$ is given by formula (5). The case $n = 2$ is similar.

By changing the variables we obtain

$$J_{0,s} [\phi(st); R] = \int_0^R \left( t - t^{n-1} R^{-n+2} \right) \phi(st) \, dt$$

$$= \frac{1}{s^2} \int_0^{sR} \left( t - t^{n-1} (sR)^{-n+2} \right) \phi(t) \, dt$$

$$= \frac{1}{s^2} J_{0,t} [\phi(t); sR].$$

Proposition 3 shows that (12) becomes

$$g_{R,t}(x) = v(t) \frac{1}{R^2} J_0 [\mu_0(f; x, \cdot); tR].$$

(14)
The following is the main technical result of the paper.

**THEOREM 3.** For every subdomain $D_1$ such that $D_1 \subset D$, the inequality

$$K^h (f; R)_{D_1} \leq C \omega^h (f; R)_D$$

holds for every number $R$ with

$$0 < R < d = \text{dist} (D_1, \partial D);$$

here the constant $C$ does not depend on $f$ and $R$, and $K^h (f; R)_{D_1}$ denotes the harmonicity $K$-functional for the domain $D_1$, while $\omega^h (f; R)_D$ denotes the harmonicity modulus on $D$.

**Proof.** Let us notice first that the function $g_{R,t}$ given by (12), is well defined in $D_1$ for $R$ satisfying (16) and every number $t$ with $0 < t < 1$.

Since $v(t) J_0 [1; t] = 1$, we obtain

$$g_{R,t} (x) - f (x) = v(t) J_0, s \mu_0 (f; x, Rs) - f (x); t$$

for every number $R$ satisfying (16) and every number $t$ with $0 \leq t \leq 1$. Hence, for every $x \in D_1$ we obtain the inequalities

$$|g_{R,t} (x) - f (x)| \leq v(t) J_0 [1; t] \omega^h (f; Rt) \leq \omega^h (f; R).$$

Consequently, we have proved the domination of the first term of $K^h$ by $\omega^h$:

$$\|g_{R,t} - f\| \leq \omega^h (f; R).$$

For proving the domination of the second term, we will check the value of $\Delta g_{R,t} (x)$ for $x \in D_1$.

First let us suppose that $f$ is twice differentiable in $D$, i.e. $f \in C^2 (D)$. By formula (14) the Laplacian of $g_{R,t} (x)$ is then equal to

$$\Delta g_{R,t} (x) = v(t) \frac{1}{R^2} J_0, s \mu_0 (\Delta f; x, s); tR.$$ 

Hence, combining with formula (7), we obtain

$$\Delta g_{R,t} (x) = v(t) \frac{1}{t_n R^2} [\mu_0 (f; x, Rt) - f (x)].$$

This implies the inequalities

$$R^2 |\Delta g_{R,t} (x)| \leq v(t) \frac{1}{t_n} \omega^h (f; tR) \leq C \omega^h (f; R)$$

for every $x \in D_1$ and every $R < dist(D_1, \partial D)$, where $C$ is a constant given by

$$C := \frac{|v(t_1)|}{I_n}$$

and $t_1$ is an arbitrary number with $0 < t_1 < 1$ satisfying $v(t_1) \neq 0$. 

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Inequality (20) implies that the second term of $K^h$ is dominated by $\omega^h$. This ends the proof for $f \in C^2(D)$.

In the case of an arbitrary continuous function $f$, let us take an approximation to $f$, say $f_\delta \in C^\infty, \delta > 0$, such that $f_\delta$ converges to $f$ uniformly on $D_1$ as $\delta \to 0$ (see this construction in [1, paragraph 5]).

Since $D_1$ is a compact set and $f$ is continuous in $D$, we obtain by a standard limiting argument that formula (7) takes for an arbitrary integrable function $f$ the form

$$\mu_0 (f; x, R) = f (x) + l_n \Delta J_0 [\mu_0 (f; x, \cdot); R].$$

This implies that the relations (19) and (20) hold as well.

Now we are ready to prove an important property of the harmonicity modulus.

For an arbitrary subdomain $D_1$ of $D$ let us denote by $\omega^h (\cdot; \cdot)_{D_1}$ the harmonicity modulus for the set $D_1$.

**THEOREM 4.** For every subdomain $D_1$ of $D$ such that $\overline{D_1} \subset D$, the following inequalities hold:

(i) $\omega^h (f; \lambda R)_{D_1} \leq C (\lambda + 1)^2 \omega^h (f; r)_{D}$

for every number $R \leq d = \text{dist}(D_1, \partial D)$ and every number $\lambda > 0$ such that $\lambda R \leq d$;

(ii) $\omega^h (f; a + b)_{D_1} \leq C [\omega^h (f; a)_{D} + \omega^h (f; b)_{D}]$

for all positive real numbers $a$ and $b$.

**Proof.** Inequality (i) follows from a similar inequality for the harmonicity $K$-functional. Indeed, since

$$\|f - g\|_{D_1} + (\lambda u)^2 \|\Delta g\|_{D_1} \leq (\lambda + 1)^2 (\|f - g\|_{D_1} + u^2 \|\Delta g\|_{D_1})$$

for an arbitrary function $g \in HC^1 (\overline{D_1})$, by the definition of the harmonicity $K$-functional we obtain the inequality

$$K^h (f; \lambda u)_{D_1} \leq (\lambda + 1)^2 K^h (f; u)_{D_1},$$

for every number $\lambda \geq 0$.

Lemma 1 gives

$$\omega^h (f; \lambda R)_{D_1} \leq C K^h (f; \lambda R)_{D_1},$$

and Theorem 3 implies

$$K^h (f; \lambda u)_{D_1} \leq C \omega^h (f; R)_{D}$$

for every number $R < d$. These inequalities imply the inequality (i).

In order to prove inequality (ii) let us note that

$$(a + b)^2 \leq 2 (a^2 + b^2)$$
for all real numbers $a$ and $b$. This implies

\[
\|f - g\|_{D_1} + (a + b)^2 \|\Delta g\|_{D_1} \\
\leq \|f - g\|_{D_1} + 2(a^2 + b^2) \|\Delta g\|_{D_1} \\
\leq 2\|f - g\|_{D_1} + 2a^2 \|\Delta g\|_{D_1} + 2\|f - g\|_{D_1} + 2b^2 \|\Delta g\|_{D_1}.
\]

The definition of $K^h$ implies the inequality

\[
K^h (f; a + b)_{D_1} \leq 2 \left( K^h (f; a)_{D_1} + K^h (f; b)_{D_1} \right).
\]

Now inequality (ii) follows by arguments similar to those used for (i).

\[\Box\]

5. Polyharmonic Kernels

Here we introduce kernels which are polyharmonic functions and arise naturally from the Jackson type kernels used in approximation theory [3].

Let us recall that the function $f$ is called polyharmonic of order $p$ in an open set $D$, where $p$ is a nonnegative integer, if it satisfies the equation

\[\Delta^p f (x) = 0 \quad \text{for } x \in D;\]

here the iterated Laplacian of order $p$ is defined inductively by the equations

\[\Delta^{k+1} := \Delta \Delta^k \text{ for } k \geq 0 \text{ and } \Delta^0 := id \text{ (see [8]).}\]

Let us remind the notion of Jackson type kernel (cf. [3]).

**DEFINITION 3.** A kernel of Jackson type of order $\nu$, where $\nu = 1, 2, \ldots$, is defined to be the function given by

\[J_{k,\nu} (t) := (\gamma_{k,\nu})^{-1} \left( \sin (\nu t/2) / \sin (t/2) \right)^{2k},\]

where $k$ is a natural number and the constant is

\[\gamma_{k,\nu} := \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \left( \sin (\nu t/2) / \sin (t/2) \right)^{2k} dt.\]

For the properties of these kernels we refer to [3]. Through the substitution

\[x = 2 \sin (t/2), \quad t \in [-\pi, \pi], \quad x \in [-2, 2],\]

we obtain the nonperiodic Jackson type kernels:

\[\mathcal{J}_{k,\nu} (x) = \gamma_{k,\nu} (\tau_{k,\nu})^{-1} J_{k,\nu} \left( \arccos \left( 1 - x^2 / 2 \right) \right);\]

here the constant is

\[\tau_{k,\nu} := \int_{-1}^{1} \gamma_{k,\nu} J_{k,\nu} \left( \arccos \left( 1 - x^2 / 2 \right) \right) dx,\]

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for \( \nu \in \mathbb{N} \).

Finally, we define the polyharmonic Jackson type kernels of order \( p \) by the equation

\[
\tilde{J}_{k,p}(x) := \tilde{J}_{k,p}(|x|) = \tilde{\gamma}_{k,p}^{-1} \gamma_{k,p}(|x|),
\]

for \( p \in \mathbb{N} \), and for every \( x \in \mathbb{R}^n \) such that \( |x| \leq 2 \); here the constant is given by

\[
\tilde{\gamma}_{k,p} = \int_0^1 r^{n-1} \gamma_{k,p}(r) dr = \int_0^1 r^{n-1} \frac{\sin(\nu t/2)}{\sin(t/2)} \frac{\nu t}{t} 2^k dr,
\]

where \( t = \arccos \left(1 - \frac{r^2}{2}\right)\).

**Theorem 5.** The polyharmonic Jackson type kernels have the following properties:

(i) For all natural numbers \( p \) and \( k \), the kernel \( \tilde{J}_{k,p} \) is a nonnegative polyharmonic function of order \( k(p-1)+1 \) and \( \tilde{J}_{k,p}(x) \) is defined for every \( x \in \mathbb{R}^n \) satisfying \( |x| \leq 2 \);

(ii) \( \int_{B(0;1)} \tilde{J}_{k,p}(x) = 1 \);

(iii) If \( I_i \) is defined by

\[
I_i := \int_0^1 t^{i+n-1} \tilde{J}_{k,p}(t) dt
\]

for nonnegative integers \( i \), then for \( i < 2k - n \) we have the inequality

\[
I_i \leq Cp^{-i},
\]

and for \( i = 2k - n \) we have the inequality

\[
I_i \leq C (\ln p) p^{-i}.
\]

The proof of Theorem 5 is based on standard arguments [3] and is given in detail in a forthcoming paper [6].

6. A Direct Theorem of Jackson Type

Here we prove an approximation theorem which is analogous to the direct theorem of Jackson for the approximation by polynomials in the one-dimensional case, where the rate of approximation is estimated by the first and the second modulus of continuity (see [3, 7]).

In the multivariate case we approximate by polyharmonic functions and the rate of approximation is estimated by the harmonicity modulus.

Let us first give some necessary notations. Let \( K \) be a polyharmonic function on \( \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| \leq 1\} \). Then for every function \( f \) defined and continuous in the domain \( D \), we can define the operator

\[
T_K[f](x) := \int_{B(x;1)} K(x-u) f(u) du
\]

(21)
for every $x \in D$ such that $\text{dist}(x, \partial D) < 1$.

Let the domain $D$ be regular in the sense of solvability of the Dirichlet problem (see [4]), and let the function $f$ be continuous in $\overline{D}$. Then there exists a harmonic function $h_f$ solving the Dirichlet problem in $D$, i.e.

$$
\Delta h_f (x) = 0 \quad \text{for} \quad x \in D,
$$

$$
h_f (x) = f (x) \quad \text{for} \quad x \in \partial D.
$$

We shall consider the function $F_0$ given by the following conditions:

$$
F_0 (x) := f (x) - h_f (x) \quad \text{for} \quad x \in D,
$$

and

$$
F_0 (x) := 0 \quad \text{for} \quad x \notin \overline{D}.
$$

The function $F_0$ is evidently continuous on the whole space and it makes sense to consider its harmonicity modulus there or in domains containing $D$.

Another interesting feature of the function $F_0$ is that its harmonicity modulus in $D$ satisfies

$$
\omega^h (F_0; t)_D = \omega^h (f; t)_D.
$$

This follows immediately from the Gauss mean value theorem, which states that

$$
\mu_0 (h_f; x, t) = h_f (x)
$$

for every $x \in D$ and $t > 0$ such that $B(x; t) \subset D$.

Notice that for every domain $D_1$ such that $\overline{D} \subset D_1$ we have

$$
\omega^h (F_0; t)_{D_1} = \omega^h (F_0; t)_{\mathbb{R}^n}
$$

for every positive number $t \leq \text{dist}(D, \partial D_1)$. Here $\omega^h (F_0; t)_{\mathbb{R}^n}$ denotes the harmonicity modulus of the function $F_0$ in the whole space.

Let $D_2$ be a domain such that $\overline{D_1} \subset D_2$. Then we can apply Theorem 3 to obtain the following inequalities

$$
C_1 \omega^h (F_0; t)_{D} \leq K^h (F_0; t)_{D} \leq C_2 \omega^h (F_0; t)_{D_2}
$$

(22)

for sufficiently small numbers $t > 0$ and appropriate constants $C_1, C_2$ which do not depend on $f$ and $t$.

Next suppose that, for some nonnegative $r$, the function $f$ is in $HC^r(\overline{D})$. Then, inductively in $r$, we obtain a solution $h_f$ to the following boundary value problem:

$$
\Delta^{r+1} h_f (x) = 0, \quad x \in D;
$$

$$
\Delta^j h_f (x) = \Delta^j f (x), \quad x \in \partial D,
$$

for $j = 0, 1, ..., r$. 

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We shall consider the function \( F_r \) given by
\[
F_r(x) := f(x) - hf(x) \quad \text{for } x \in \overline{D}; \tag{23}
\]
\[
F_r(x) := 0 \quad \text{for } x \notin \overline{D}.
\]

Note that the function \( F_r \) is continuous on the whole space together with \( \Delta^r F_r \) and we can apply to it all properties of the harmonicity modulus, a fact which will be used below.

Now we are ready to state the following result which is the main application of the harmonicity modulus in the present paper.

**THEOREM 6.** Let the domain \( D \) be regular in the sense of solvability of the Dirichlet problem. Let for some integer \( r \geq 0 \), the function \( f \in HC^r(\overline{D}) \). Let us denote by \( F_r \) the function given by (23). Then, for every natural number \( p \) satisfying \( p \geq r + 1 \), there exists a polyharmonic function \( T_p \) of order \( p \) in \( D \) satisfying the inequality
\[
|f(x) - T_p(x)| \leq C \omega^h\left(\Delta^r F_r; \frac{1}{p}\right) \frac{1}{p^{2r}} \tag{24}
\]
for every \( x \in \overline{D} \), where the constant \( C > 0 \) depends on the domain \( D \) and on \( r \).

**Proof.** (1) By a similarity transform we can suppose that the domain \( D \) is contained in the ball \( B(0; 1/2) \). Obviously, this transform preserves the polyharmonic functions. To find the harmonicity modulus for the function \( G(x) = f(\lambda x) \), where \( \lambda \) is a positive real number, let us compute the harmonicity difference given by (2):
\[
\Delta_t(G; x) = \mu_0(G; x, t) - G(x) = \mu_0(f; \lambda x; \lambda t) - f(\lambda x) = \Delta_{\lambda t}(f; \lambda x).
\]
Hence, we obtain
\[
\omega^h(G; t)_D = \omega^h(f; \lambda t)_{\lambda D},
\]
where \( \lambda D \) is the domain given by
\[
\lambda D = \{ y \in \mathbb{R}^n : y = \lambda x, \ x \in D \}.
\]
So for a domain \( D_1 \) such that \( \overline{D_1} \subset D \) we have
\[
\omega^h(G; t)_{D_1} = \omega^h(f; \lambda t)_{\lambda D_1},
\]
which proves the inequality
\[
\omega^h(G; t)_{D_1} \leq (\lambda + 1)^2 \omega^h(f; t)_{\lambda D}
\]
for every number \( t \leq \text{dist}(\lambda D_1, \partial \lambda D) \).

This shows that the harmonicity modulus is at most multiplied by a constant as a result of a similarity transform. Applied to the modulus \( \omega^h(\Delta^r F_0; p^{-1})_{\mathbb{R}^n} \) we see that by (22) it only changes up to a constant multiple.
We will define the polyharmonic function \( T_p (x) = T_p (f; r, x) \) of order \( p \) inductively by the following recurrence relation:

\[
T_p (x) := T_p (F_r; m, x) = T_p (F_r; m - 1, x) + T_{k,n} [F_r (\cdot) - T_p (F_r; m - 1, \cdot)] (x),
\]

for every \( x \in \mathcal{D} \) and every \( m \) with \( 1 \leq m \leq r \).

Here \( T_{k,n} \) is a short notation for the operator given by formula (21) for the Jackson Type kernel \( \tilde{J}_{k,n} \), where we take \( k \) big enough to satisfy \( 2k - n \geq 3 \), and put \( \nu := [(p - 1)/k] + 1 \) (here \( [y] \) denotes, as usually, the greatest integer which does not exceed \( y \)). The choice of such \( \nu \) provides that the order of the polyharmonic function \( \tilde{J}_{k,n} \) be equal to \( k(\nu - 1) + 1 < p \).

Note that the operator \( T_{k,n} \) is well defined and produces a polyharmonic function since \( F_r \) is a finite function, the kernels are defined in \( B(0; 1) \) and we have the inclusion \( D \subset B(0; 1/2) \).

Let us check the Theorem for \( r = 0 \). In this case we have \( f \in C (\overline{D}) \).

Due to Theorem 5 the following holds:

\[
D (x) := R_0 (x) - T_{k,n} [F_0] (x) = \int_{B(x; 1)} [F_0 (x) - F_0 (u)] \tilde{J}_{k,n} (x - u) du = \int_0^1 \left\{ \int_{\Omega_x} [F_0 (x) - F_0 (x - r \xi)] d\omega \xi \right\} r^{n-1} \tilde{J}_{k,n} (r) dr.
\]

By the properties of the harmonicity modulus (see Theorem 4) this gives the following estimate

\[
|D (x)| \leq \omega_n \int_0^1 r^{n-1} \tilde{J}_{k,n} (r) \omega^h (F_0; r)_{\mathbb{R}^n} dr \leq C \omega^h (F_0; p^{-1})_{\mathbb{R}^n} \omega_n \int_0^1 r^{n-1} \tilde{J}_{k,n} (r) (pr + 1)^2 dr
\]

for every \( p \geq 1 \) and some constant \( C > 0 \).

Again, applying Theorem 5, (iii), since \( 2k - n \geq 3 \), we have the inequality

\[
\int_0^1 r^{n-1} \tilde{J}_{k,n} (r) (pr + 1)^2 dr \leq C \int_0^1 r^{n-1} \tilde{J}_{k,n} (r) (\nu r + br + 1)^2 dr \leq C_1
\]

for appropriate constants \( C, C_1 \) and \( b \). The last gives, finally, that

\[
|D (x)| \leq C \omega^h (F_0; p^{-1}), \quad x \in \overline{D},
\]

for some constant \( C > 0 \). From this estimate we get the statement for \( r = 0 \).

Before proceeding by induction on \( r \), let us note the following. If for some function \( \phi \) on some domain \( D \), such that \( \Delta \phi \) is continuous on \( D \), the inequality

\[
|\Delta \phi (x)| \leq M, \quad x \in D,
\]
holds, then by Proposition 2 we obtain the inequality

$$\omega^h(\phi; t) \leq M d_n t^2$$

for every number $t > 0$. Hence, by (26), we obtain the inequality

$$|\phi(x) - T_{k,\nu}[\phi](x)| \leq CM \frac{1}{p^2}$$

for an appropriate constant $C$.

(5) Let us suppose that the Theorem is true for the classes of functions $HC^0, HC^1, \ldots, HC^r, r \geq 0$. Then, if $f \in HC^{r+1}$, it follows that $\Delta f \in HC^r$, and equality (25) implies that

$$\Delta T_p(F_{r+1}; r, x) = T_p(\Delta F_{r+1}; r, x).$$

Applied to the function $\Delta F_{r+1}$, the induction hypothesis (24) gives

$$|\Delta[F_{r+1}(x) - T_p(F_{r+1}; r, x)]| = |\Delta F_{r+1}(x) - T_p(\Delta F_{r+1}; r, x)|$$

$$\leq C \omega^h(\Delta^{r+1} F_{r+1}; p^{-1})_D \times p^{-2r}.$$ 

Let us put

$$\phi(x) := F_{r+1}(x) - T_p(F_{r+1}; r, x)$$

and apply inequality (27) to this function $\phi$. We obtain the following inequalities:

$$|\phi(x) - T_{k,\nu}[\phi](x)|$$

$$= |F_{r+1}(x) - T_p(F_{r+1}; r, x) - T_{k,\nu}[F_{r+1}(\xi) - T_p(F_{r+1}; r, \xi)](x)|$$

$$\leq CC_1 p^{-2} \omega^h(\Delta^{r+1} F_{r+1}; p^{-1})_D \frac{1}{p^{2r}}$$

$$= CC_1 p^{-2} \omega^h(\Delta^{r+1} F_{r+1}; p^{-1})_D \frac{1}{p^{2(r+1)}}.$$ 

On the other hand, by (25) we have

$$\phi(x) - T_{k,\nu}(\phi)(x) = F_{r+1}(x) - T_p(F_{r+1}; r + 1, x),$$

which shows that the inequality in (28) is exactly inequality (24) for $r + 1$. This yields the statement of the Theorem for $r + 1$.

COROLLARY. In view of the Remark after Definition 1, in Theorem 6 we can replace inequality (24) by the following inequalities

$$|f(x) - T_p(x)| \leq C \omega_1 \left(\Delta^r F_{r; \frac{1}{p}}\right) \frac{1}{p^{2r}}$$

or

$$|f(x) - T_p(x)| \leq C \omega_2 \left(\Delta^r F_{r; \frac{1}{p}}\right) \frac{1}{p^{2r}}$$

for $x \in D$, where $\omega_1$ and $\omega_2$ are the usual first and second moduli of continuity (see [5]).

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