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## SPECTRAL APPROXIMATIONS OF STRONGLY DEGENERATE ELLIPTIC DIFFERENTIAL OPERATORS

We establish analytical estimates of spectral approximations errors for strongly degenerate elliptic differential operators in the Lebesgue space  $L_q(\Omega)$  on a bounded domain  $\Omega$ . Elliptic operators have coefficients with strong degeneration near boundary. Their spectrum consists of isolated eigenvalues of finite multiplicity and the linear span of the associated eigenvectors is dense in  $L_q(\Omega)$ . The received results are based on an appropriate generalization of Bernstein-Jackson inequalities with explicitly calculated constants for quasi-normalized Besov-type approximation spaces which are associated with the given elliptic operator. The approximation spaces are determined by the functional  $E(t, u)$ , which characterizes the shortest distance from an arbitrary function  $u \in L_q(\Omega)$  to the closed linear span of spectral subspaces of the given operator, corresponding to the eigenvalues such that not larger than fixed  $t > 0$ . Such linear span of spectral subspaces coincides with the subspace of entire analytic functions of exponential type not larger than  $t > 0$ . The approximation functional  $E(t, u)$  in our cases plays a similar role as the modulus of smoothness in the functions theory.

*Key words and phrases:* elliptic operators, spectral approximations.

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### 1 INTRODUCTION

We investigate the problem of best approximations in the Lebesgue space  $L_q(\Omega)$  on a bounded domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  by using spectral subspaces  $\mathcal{R}(A)$  of a strongly degenerate elliptic differential operator  $A$ . Our aims is to prove the inverse and direct theorems that give precise estimates of approximation errors and which are connected with appropriate estimations by Bernstein-Jackson type inequalities.

For this purpose we use the best approximation functional  $E(t, u; \mathcal{R}(A), L_q(\Omega))$  which characterizes a shortest distance from an arbitrary function  $u \in L_q(\Omega)$  to the closed linear span  $\mathcal{R}^t(A)$  of all spectral subspaces  $\mathcal{R}_{\lambda_j}(A)$  of the given operator  $A$ , corresponding to the eigenvalues  $\lambda_j$  such that  $|\lambda_j| < t$  with a fixed  $t > 0$ .

This best approximation problem we solve by finding exact values of constants in the Bernstein-Jackson inequalities. Namely, we establish the Bernstein-Jackson inequalities with explicitly calculated constants, using the suitable generalization of Besov's space  $\mathcal{B}_r^s(A, L_q(\Omega))$ , determined by a given operator  $A$  and an appropriate functional  $E(t, u; \mathcal{R}(A), L_q(\Omega))$ .

It is essentially to note that the approximation functional  $E(t, u; \mathcal{R}(A), L_q(\Omega))$  in these inequalities plays a similar role as the modulus of smoothness in the functions theory. Earlier applications of smoothness modulus to approximation problems can be found in [5–7].

In this paper we continue the research started in [3, 4].

## 2 STRONGLY DEGENERATE ELLIPTIC DIFFERENTIAL OPERATORS

We shall follow the treatment given in [8, Sec. 6.2.1]. Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be an open bounded set with the infinitely smooth boundary  $\partial\Omega$ . As usual,  $C^\infty(\Omega)$  denotes the space of all infinitely differentiable complex-valued functions defined on  $\Omega$ . Suppose that  $\rho(x) \in C^\infty(\Omega)$  is a positive function such that:

- (i) for all multi-indices  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbb{N}^n$ ,  $|\alpha| = \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_n$  there exist positive numbers  $c_\alpha$  such that

$$|D^\alpha \rho(x)| \leq c_\alpha \rho^{1+|\alpha|}(x) \text{ for all } x \in \Omega;$$

- (ii) for any positive number  $K$  there exist numbers  $\varepsilon_K > 0$  and  $r_K > 0$  such that  $\rho(x) > K$ , if  $d(x) \leq \varepsilon_K$  or  $|x| \geq r_K$ ,  $x \in \Omega$  (here,  $d(x)$  is the distance to the boundary  $\partial\Omega$ ).

In what follows,  $S_{\rho(x)}(\Omega)$  denotes the locally convex space

$$S_{\rho(x)}(\Omega) = \left\{ u : u \in C^\infty(\Omega), \|u\|_{l,\alpha} = \sup_{x \in \Omega} \rho^l(x) |D^\alpha u(x)| < \infty \text{ for all } \alpha \text{ and } l \in \mathbb{N}_0 \right\}.$$

Let  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mu, \tau \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\tau > \mu + 2m$ . We put

$$\aleph_l = \frac{1}{2m} (\tau (2m - l) + \mu l), \quad l = 0, 1, \dots, 2m,$$

and consider the differential elliptic operator

$$Au = \sum_{l=0}^m \sum_{|\alpha|=2l} \rho^{\aleph_{2l}}(x) b_\alpha(x) D^\alpha u + \sum_{|\beta| < 2m} a_\beta(x) D^\beta u, \quad (1)$$

where  $b_\alpha(x) \in C^\infty(\Omega)$  ( $|\alpha| = 2l$ ,  $l = 0, 1, \dots, m$ ) are real functions, all derivatives of which (inclusively the functions themselves) are bounded in  $\Omega$ . In sequel we assume that there exists a positive number  $C$  such that for all  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and all  $x \in \Omega$

$$\begin{aligned} (-1)^m \sum_{|\alpha|=2m} b_\alpha(x) \xi^\alpha &\geq C |\xi|^{2m}, \quad b_{(0,\dots,0)}(x) \geq C, \\ (-1)^l \sum_{|\alpha|=2l} b_\alpha(x) \xi^\alpha &\geq 0, \quad l = 1, \dots, m-1. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, let  $a_\beta(x) \in C^\infty(\Omega)$  ( $0 \leq |\beta| < 2m$ ) and there exists a positive number  $\delta > 0$  such that  $D^\gamma a_\beta(\xi) = \mathcal{O}(\rho^{|\beta|+|\gamma|-\delta})$  for  $0 \leq |\beta| < 2m$  and for all multi-indices  $\gamma$ .

Let  $1 < q < \infty$ ,  $\tau \geq \mu + sq$ ,  $s \in \mathbb{N}_0$  and  $\tau, \mu \in \mathbb{R}$ . Consider the weighted Sobolev space  $W_q^s(\Omega; \rho^\mu; \rho^\tau)$  endowed with the norm (see [8, Thm 3.2.4/2])

$$\|u\|_{W_q^s(\Omega; \rho^\mu; \rho^\tau)} = \left[ \int_\Omega \left( \sum_{|\alpha|=s} \rho^\mu(x) |D^\alpha u(x)|^q + \rho^\tau(x) |u(x)|^q \right) dx \right]^{\frac{1}{q}}.$$

Let  $\tau > 0$ ,  $1 < q < \infty$  and  $\rho^{-a}(x) \in L_1(\Omega)$  for an appropriate number  $a \geq 0$ . Then  $A$  given by (1) with the domain  $\mathfrak{D}(A) = W_q^{2m}(\Omega; \rho^{q\mu}; \rho^{q\tau})$  is the closed operator in  $L_q(\Omega)$  (see [8, Thm 6.6.2]). The spectrum of  $A$  consists of isolated eigenvalues  $\{\lambda_j \in \mathbb{C} : j \in \mathbb{N}\}$  of finite algebraic

multiplicity and its eigenvectors belongs to  $S_{\rho(x)}(\Omega)$ , as well as, its linear span is dense in  $S_{\rho(x)}(\Omega)$  and, as a consequence, it is dense in  $L_q(\Omega)$ .

Let  $\mathcal{R}_{\lambda_j}(A) = \{u \in \mathfrak{D}^\infty(A) = \bigcap_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \mathfrak{D}^k(A) : (\lambda_j - A)^{r_j} u = 0\}$  be the spectral subspace, corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda_j$  of multiplicity  $r_j$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{R}^\nu(A)$  the complex linear span in  $L_q(\Omega)$  of all spectral subspaces  $\mathcal{R}_{\lambda_j}(A)$  such that  $|\lambda_j| < \nu$ . Following to [4], let  $\mathcal{R}(A) := \bigcup_{\nu > 0} \mathcal{R}^\nu(A)$  be endowed with the quasi-norm

$$|u|_{\mathcal{R}(A)} = \|u\|_{L_q(\Omega)} + \inf \{\nu > 0 : u \in \mathcal{R}^\nu(A)\}.$$

### 3 ANALYTICAL ESTIMATES OF SPECTRAL APPROXIMATIONS

Let us consider the subspace of all exponential type vectors  $\mathcal{E}(A)$  of the elliptic operator  $A$  as the union  $\bigcup_{\nu > 0} \mathcal{E}^\nu(A)$  which is endowed with the quasi-norm

$$|u|_{\mathcal{E}(A)} = \|u\|_{L_q(\Omega)} + \inf \{\nu > 0 : u \in \mathcal{E}^\nu(A)\},$$

where for any  $\nu > 0$  the subspace  $\mathcal{E}^\nu(A) = \{u \in \mathcal{E}(A) : \|u\|_{\mathcal{E}^\nu(A)} < \infty\}$  is endowed with the norm  $\|u\|_{\mathcal{E}^\nu(A)} = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0} \|(A/\nu)^k u\|_{L_q(\Omega)}$  (see [3, 4]).

Let  $0 < s < \infty$  and  $0 < r \leq \infty$  or  $0 \leq s < \infty$  and  $r = \infty$ . To investigate spectral approximation errors, we consider the appropriate Besov spaces

$$\mathcal{B}_r^s(A, L_q(\Omega)) = \left\{ u \in L_q(\Omega) : |u|_{\mathcal{B}_r^s(A, L_q(\Omega))} < \infty \right\},$$

associated with the given operator  $A$  on the space  $L_q(\Omega)$ , which is endowed with the norm

$$|u|_{\mathcal{B}_r^s(A, L_q(\Omega))} = \begin{cases} \left( \int_0^\infty [t^s E(t, u; \mathcal{E}(A), L_q(\Omega))]^r \frac{dt}{t} \right)^{1/r}, & 0 < r < \infty, \\ \sup_{t > 0} t^s E(t, u; \mathcal{E}(A), L_q(\Omega)), & r = \infty, \end{cases}$$

where  $E(t, u; \mathcal{E}(A), L_q(\Omega)) = \inf \left\{ \|u - u^0\|_{L_q(\Omega)} : u^0 \in \mathcal{E}(A), |u^0|_{\mathcal{E}(A)} < t \right\}$  for all  $u \in L_q(\Omega)$  and  $t > 0$ . Denote  $E(t, u; \mathcal{R}(A), L_q(\Omega)) = \inf \left\{ \|u - u^0\|_{L_q(\Omega)} : u^0 \in \mathcal{R}(A), |u^0|_{\mathcal{R}(A)} \leq t \right\}$  for all  $u \in L_q(\Omega)$ .

Now, we consider the space  $\mathcal{E}^\nu(D) = \{u \in C^\infty(\bar{\Omega}) : D^\alpha u \in L_q(\Omega), |\alpha| = k \in \mathbb{N}_0\}$  endowed with the norm  $\|u\|_{\mathcal{E}^\nu(D)} = \sum_{k \geq 0} \sum_{|\alpha|=k} \nu^{-k} \|D^\alpha u\|_{L_q(\Omega)}$ . On  $\mathcal{E}(D) = \bigcup_{\nu > 0} \mathcal{E}^\nu(D)$  we define the quasi-norm  $|u|_{\mathcal{E}(D)} = \|u\|_{L_q(\Omega)} + \inf \{\nu > 0 : u \in \mathcal{E}^\nu(D)\}$ .

In [3, Thm 9] it is proved that  $\mathcal{E}(D)$  coincides with the space  $\mathcal{M}_q(\Omega) = \bigcup_{\nu > 0} \mathcal{M}_q^\nu(\Omega)$  endowed with the quasi-norm

$$|u|_{\mathcal{M}_q(\Omega)} = \inf_{v|_\Omega = u, v \in L_q(\mathbb{R}^n)} \left\{ \|v\|_{L_q(\mathbb{R}^n)} + \sup_{\zeta \in \text{supp } Fv} |\zeta| \right\},$$

where  $\text{supp } Fv$  denotes the support of the Fourier-image  $Fv$  of a function  $v \in L_q(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $\mathcal{M}_q^\nu(\Omega)$  means the space of entire analytic functions  $v(z)$  of the complex variable  $z \in \mathbb{C}^n$  of an exponential type  $\nu > 0$  which restrictions to  $\Omega$  belong to  $L_q(\Omega)$ .

Taking into account [1, Sec. 7.2] or [8, Sec. 2.5.4] and the mentioned above equality  $\mathcal{E}(D) = \mathcal{M}_q(\Omega)$ , the classic Besov space  $B_{q,r}^s(\Omega)$  over  $\Omega$  can be endowed with the norm

$$\|u\|_{B_{q,r}^s(\Omega)} = \begin{cases} \left( \int_0^\infty [t^s E(t, u; \mathcal{E}(D), L_q(\Omega))]^r \frac{dt}{t} \right)^{1/r}, & 0 < r < \infty, \\ \sup_{t>0} t^s E(t, u; \mathcal{E}(D), L_q(\Omega)), & r = \infty. \end{cases}$$

In  $B_{q,r}^s(\Omega)$  we consider the subspace which is associated with the function  $\rho(x)$ ,

$$B_{q,r,\rho(x)}^s(\Omega) = \left\{ u \in B_{q,r}^s(\Omega) : \sup_{x \in \Omega} \rho^l(x) |D^\alpha u(x)| < \infty \text{ for all } \alpha \text{ and } l \in \mathbb{N}_0 \right\}.$$

**Theorem 1.** *The following Bernstein-Jackson inequalities hold,*

$$\|u\|_{B_{q,r}^s(\Omega)} \leq c_{s,r} |u|_{\mathcal{R}(A)}^s \|u\|_{L_q(\Omega)}, \quad u \in \mathcal{R}(A), \quad (2)$$

$$t^s E(t, u; \mathcal{R}(A), L_q(\Omega)) \leq C_{s,r} \|u\|_{B_{q,r}^s(\Omega)}, \quad u \in B_{q,r,\rho(x)}^s(\Omega) \quad (3)$$

with the constants  $c_{s,r} = (rs^{-1}(s+1)^2)^{1/r}$  and  $C_{s,r} = 2^{s+1} (r^{-1}s(s+1)^{-2})^{1/r}$  if  $r < \infty$ ,  $c_{s,\infty} = C_{s,\infty} = 1$ . In addition, for each  $u \in B_{q,r,\rho(x)}^s(\Omega)$ ,

$$\inf \left\{ \|u - u^0\|_{L_q(\Omega)} : u^0 \in \mathcal{R}^v(A) \right\} \leq v^{-s} C_{s,r} \|u\|_{B_{q,r}^s(\Omega)}. \quad (4)$$

*Proof.* First, note that applying [2, Thm 2.2], we get the following equalities

$$\mathcal{E}(A) = \mathcal{R}(A), \quad |u|_{\mathcal{E}(A)} = |u|_{\mathcal{R}(A)} \quad \text{for all } u \in \mathcal{E}(A). \quad (5)$$

Now, we show that the following linear topological isomorphism holds,

$$\mathcal{B}_r^s(A, L_q(\Omega)) = B_{q,r,\rho(x)}^s(\Omega). \quad (6)$$

Using [8, Thm 6.5.2/1, Thm 3.2.4/3], we have

$$\mathfrak{D}^\infty(A) = \bigcap \mathfrak{D}^k(A) = \bigcap W_q^{2mk}(\Omega; \rho^{q\mu k}; \rho^{q\tau k}) = S_{\rho(x)}(\Omega),$$

where the locally convex space  $\mathfrak{D}^\infty(A)$  endowed with the semi-norms  $\|A^k u\|_{L_q(\Omega)}$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$ . Above, the equality also must be understood as linear topological isomorphism.

Let us prove the equality

$$\mathcal{E}(A) = \left\{ u \in \mathcal{E}(D) : \sup_{x \in \Omega} \rho^l(x) |D^\alpha u(x)| < \infty \text{ for all } \alpha \text{ and } l \in \mathbb{N}_0 \right\}. \quad (7)$$

Since  $\|A^k u\|_{L_q(\Omega)} \leq v^k \|u\|_{L_q(\Omega)} \leq v^{2k} (\sum_{|\alpha|=k} v^{-k} \|D^\alpha u\|_{L_q(\Omega)} + v^{-k} \|u\|_{L_q(\Omega)})$  for all  $u \in \mathcal{E}^v(A)$ , we get  $\sum v^{-2k} \|A^k u\|_{L_q(\Omega)} \leq \sum (\sum_{|\alpha|=k} v^{-k} \|D^\alpha u\|_{L_q(\Omega)} + v^{-k} \|u\|_{L_q(\Omega)})$ . Substituting  $\sigma = v^2$  with  $v > 1$ , we have

$$\|u\|_{\mathcal{E}^\sigma(A)} \leq \|u\|_{\mathcal{E}^v(D)} + \frac{v \|u\|_{L_q(\Omega)}}{v-1} \leq \|u\|_{\mathcal{E}^v(D)} + \frac{v \|u\|_{\mathcal{E}^v(D)}}{v-1} = \frac{2v-1}{v-1} \|u\|_{\mathcal{E}^v(D)}.$$

It follows that  $\{u \in \mathcal{E}^{\sqrt{v}}(D) : \sup_{x \in \Omega} \rho^l(x) |D^\alpha u(x)| < \infty \text{ for all } \alpha \text{ and } l \in \mathbb{N}_0\} \subset \mathcal{E}^v(A)$ .

On the other hand, applying [8, Thm 6.5.2/1, Lemma 6.2.3] for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|A^k u\|_{L_q(\Omega)} &\geq c_k \|u\|_{W_q^{2mk}(\Omega; \rho^{q\mu k}, \rho^{q\tau k})} \\ &= c_k \left[ \int_{\Omega} \left( \sum_{|\alpha|=2mk} \rho^{q\mu k}(x) |D^\alpha u(x)|^q + \rho^{q\tau k}(x) |u(x)|^q \right) dx \right]^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &\geq c_k c_\rho^k \left[ \int_{\Omega} \left( \sum_{|\alpha|=2mk} |D^\alpha u(x)|^q + |u(x)|^q \right) dx \right]^{\frac{1}{q}} = c_k c_\rho^k \|u\|_{W_q^{2mk}(\Omega)}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $c_\rho > 0$  does not depend on  $k$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \|A^{k+1} u\|_{L_q(\Omega)} &= \|A^k(Au)\|_{L_q(\Omega)} \geq c_k c_\rho^k \|Au\|_{W_q^{2mk}(\Omega)} \\ &= c_k c_\rho^k \left( \sum_{|\alpha|=2mk} \|D^\alpha Au\|_{L_q(\Omega)}^q + \|Au\|_{L_q(\Omega)}^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &\geq c_k c_\rho^k \left( \sum_{|\alpha|=2mk} \|AD^\alpha u\|_{L_q(\Omega)}^q + \|Au\|_{L_q(\Omega)}^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &\geq c_k c_1 c_\rho^{k+1} \left( \sum_{|\alpha|=2mk} \|D^\alpha u\|_{W_q^{2m}(\Omega)}^q + \|u\|_{W_q^{2m}(\Omega)}^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} = c_{k+1} c_\rho^{k+1} \|u\|_{W_q^{2m(k+1)}(\Omega)}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $c_{k+1} = c_k c_1 = c_1^{k+1}$  by induction on  $k$ . Hence, for each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $u \in \mathfrak{D}^k(A)$ , we have  $\|A^k u\|_{L_q(\Omega)} \geq c_1^k c_\rho^k \|u\|_{W_q^{2mk}(\Omega)}$  for all  $u \in \mathfrak{D}^k(A)$ , where  $c_1 > 0$  does not depend on  $k$ . This leads to the inequality  $\sum v^{-k} \|A^k u\|_{L_q(\Omega)} \geq \sum ((c_1 c_\rho)^{-1} v)^{-k} \|u\|_{W_q^k(\Omega)}$  from which it follows that

$$\mathcal{E}^v(A) \subset \left\{ u \in \mathcal{E}^{(c_1 c_\rho)^{-1} v}(D) : \sup_{x \in \Omega} \rho^l(x) |D^\alpha u(x)| < \infty \text{ for all } \alpha \text{ and } l \in \mathbb{N}_0 \right\}.$$

Hence, equality (7) holds. Now applying [3, Thm 9], we obtain the required equality (6).

Using (5) and [4, Thm 2], as well as, taking into account (7), we obtain the required inequalities (2), (3), while (4) directly follows from (3) and [3, Thm 6].  $\square$

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Встановлено аналітичні оцінки помилок спектральних апроксимацій сильно вироджених еліптичних диференціальних операторів в просторі Лебега  $L_q(\Omega)$  над обмеженою областю  $\Omega$ . Такі еліптичні оператори характеризуються сильним виродженням їх коефіцієнтів поблизу границі, їх спектр складається із ізольованих власних значень скінченної алгебраїчної кратності, а лінійна оболонка власних і приєднаних векторів щільна в просторі  $L_q(\Omega)$ . Отримані результати ґрунтуються на відповідному узагальненні нерівностей Бернштейна і Джексона з обчисленням точних констант для квазінормованих апроксимаційних просторів типу Бесова, асоційованих з даним еліптичним оператором. Апроксимаційні простори визначаються за допомогою функціоналу  $E(t, u)$ , який характеризує найкоротшу відстань від заданої функції  $u \in L_q(\Omega)$  до замкненої лінійної оболонки спектральних підпросторів заданого оператора, що відповідають власним значенням, які за абсолютною величиною не перевищують фіксоване число  $t > 0$ . При цьому вказана лінійна оболонка спектральних підпросторів співпадає з підпростором цілих аналітичних функцій експоненціального типу, що не перевищує  $t > 0$ . Апроксимаційний функціонал  $E(t, u)$  в нашому випадку відіграє роль, подібну модулю гладкості в теорії функцій.

*Ключові слова і фрази:* еліптичні оператори, спектральні апроксимації.