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Throughout this paper A will denote a discrete subring of the complex number plane C with rank 2. For example, A could be the Gaussian integers $Z + iZ$, where Z denotes the rational integers, or the ring of integers of any imaginary quadratic field. We are concerned with characterizing those functions defined on a compact subset X of C which can be uniformly approximated by polynomials with coefficients in A. We say that such functions are A-approximable on X. We also consider the real case where X is any compact subset of the reals R and the coefficients of the approximating polynomials lie in Z or any discrete subring of R. The real case is completely solved in the sense that a necessary and sufficient condition in order that a function can be so approximated is found. The complex case is solved if, in addition to being compact, X either has transfinite diameter at least unity or void interior and connected complement.

The case where X has transfinite diameter less than unity and nonvoid interior will be the subject of a later paper.

The complex case was solved by Fekete when the ring of coefficients A is the ring of integers of an imaginary quadratic field. His results were announced in [4], but, as far as we know, proofs were never published. In [4] is found the key notion of the "algebraic kernel" of a compact subset of C with respect to an imaginary quadratic field. This notion is extended here so as to be relevant to any ring A defined above and a second characterization of the algebraic kernal (herein denoted by $J_0(X, A)$) is found. The set $J_C(X, A)$ seems to be difficult to determine, in general. Its calculation will be the subject of a future paper.

The real case was solved for intervals in Hewitt and Zuckerman [7]. We use the results obtained here in the complex case to extend their results to arbitrary compact subsets of R.

Throughout this paper we endeavor to follow the terminology and notation in [2]. We use the symbol $C(X)$ to denote the set of all complex-valued continuous functions defined on X and $C^r(X)$ to denote the real valued members of $C(X)$. If $f \in C(X)$ and $S \subset X$ we define $||f||_S = \sup\{|f(x)|: x \in S\}$. We frequently write $||f||$ for $||f||_X$.

2. **Discrete rings and imaginary quadratic fields.** We mention here the nonstandard results on these rings which will be needed

repeatedly.

If F is a field extension of $\boldsymbol{Q}$ we denote the ring of algebraic integers of F by I_F. If L is an imaginary quadratic field it is easy to see that I_L is a discrete subring of C and has rank 2. On the other hand every ring A with these properties is contained in I_L for some imaginary quadratic field L [11, p. 150, Nr. 203]. Since A has rank 2, L is uniquely determined by the inclusion $A \subset I_L$. Using the well known explicit representations for the elements of I_L [13, p. 234] it is easy to see that there exists a positive integer m such that $mI_L \subset A$.

Using the fact that A has rank 2 and Theorem 1 of [3, p. 77] it is not hard to see that there exists $\delta > 0$, depending only on A, such that if $z \in \boldsymbol{C}$, there exists $a \in A$ with $|z - a| < \delta$.

3. Chebyshev polynomials and transfinite diameter. Let X be a compact subset of $\boldsymbol{C}$ and n a positive integer. If X is infinite the n^{th} Chebyshev polynomial $t_n(z, X)$ for X is defined to be the unique monic polynomial of degree n such that

$$|| t_n(z, X) ||_X = \inf || t ||_X$$

where the inf is taken over all such polynomials. If X contains m elements, where m is finite, then we define $t_n(z, X)$ as above for $n \leqq m$ and set $t_n(z, X) = \Pi_{x \in X}(z - x)$ for $n > m$.

The existence of $t_n(z, X)$ is a direct consequence of [1, p. 10]. The uniqueness follows from [12, p. 36, Th. 1].

We define the transfinite diameter $d(X)$ of X by

$$d(X) = \lim_{n \to \infty} || t_n(z, X) ||^{1/n} .$$

(See [8, p. 226, Th. 16.1.2].)

The importance for us of the concept of transfinite diameter is contained in the following.

PROPOSITION 3.1. Let X be a compact subset of $\boldsymbol{C}$ with $d(X) \geqq 1$. Then a complex valued function f on X is A-approximable on X if and only if it is already an element of $A[z]$.

Proof. Suppose that f is A-approximable on X but $f \notin A[z]$. Then there exist p_1 and p_2 in $A[z]$ such that $p_1 \neq p_2$ and $|| p_i - f || < 1/2$ for $i = 1, 2$. Thus $|| p_1 - p_2 || < 1$. Since A is discrete, the leading coefficient of $p_1 - p_2$ has modulus at least one and dividing $p_1 - p_2$ by this coefficient gives a monic polynomial p with $|| p || < 1$. From the existence of such a p it is easy to see that $d(X) < 1$, a contradiction.

4. The algebraic kernel. In this section we define the algebraic kernel of a compact subset X of C with respect to A. We then give a necessary condition in order that a function be A-approximable.

DEFINITION 4.1. Let R be any subring of C and f a complex valued function on a subset X of C. We say that f is *R-matchable* on a subset S of X if there exists $p \in R[z]$ such that $p(z) = f(z)$ for all $z \in S$.

DEFINITION 4.2. If R is any subring of C and X is a compact subset of C we define

$$B(X, R) = \{p \in R[z]: \| p \|_X < 1\} .$$

Note that in 3.1 we have proved something stronger than the proposition. In fact we see that if R is a discrete subring of C and X is a compact subset of C with $d(X) \geqq 1$, then $R[z]$ is a discrete and therefore closed subring of $C(X)$. Indeed, we can prove that $B(X, R) = \{0\}$ as follows. If $g \in B(X, R)$ and g is not identically zero on X then we can divide by its leading coefficient to obtain a monic polynominal p such that $0 < \| p \|_X < 1$ and derive a contradiction to $d(X) \geqq 1$ as in the proof of 3.1. Now, by [6, p. 35, (5.10)] since $R[z]$ is a discrete (additive) subgroup of $C(X)$ it is closed in $C(X)$.

DEFINITION 4.3. For any subring R of C and compact subset X of C we define

$$J(X, R) = \{z \in X: p(z) = 0 \text{ for all } p \in B(X, R)\} .$$

When no confusion is possible we write $J(X)$ or simply J for $J(X, R)$.

If A is a discrete subring of C with rank 2 then by § 2 there exists exactly one imaginary quadratic field L such that $A \subset I_L$. With this fact in mind we make the following definition.

DEFINITION 4.4. Let X be a compact subset of C and L the imaginary quadratic field such that $A \subset I_L$. We define $J_0(X, A)$ to be the union of the complete sets of conjugates integral over I_L which are entirely contained in X.

We note that $J_0(X, I_L)$ is what Fekete called the "algebraic kernel" of X with respect to the field L [4, p. 1338].

PROPOSITION 4.5. If X is a compact subset of C, then

$$J_0(X, A) \subset J(X, A) .$$

Proof. Suppose $A \subset I_L$. Let θ be in $J_0(X, A)$ and $q \in A[z]$ with $\| q \|_X < 1$. We can write the conjugates of θ over L as $\sigma_1(\theta), \sigma_2(\theta), \cdots, \sigma_n(\theta)$ where the σ_i's are automorphisms of the splitting field F of θ which leave L pointwise fixed. Since $J_0(X, A)$, hence X, contains the conjugates we have

$$1 > \left| \prod_{i=1}^{n} q(\sigma_i(\theta)) \right| = \left| \prod_{i=1}^{n} \sigma_i(q(\theta)) \right| = | N_L^F(q(\theta)) | .$$

Because $q(\theta)$ is integral over I_L we have $N_L^F(q(\theta)) \in I_L$. Since I_L is discrete and $| N_L^F(q(\theta)) | < 1$, $N_L^F(q(\theta)) = 0$. Thus $q(\theta) = 0$.

PROPOSITION 4.6. If X is a compact subset of $\boldsymbol{C}$, then in order that a complex valued function f be A-approximable on X, it is necessary that f be A-matchable on $J(X, A)$.

Proof. Suppose that f is A-approximable on X. That is, there is a sequence (p_n) of polynomials in $A[z]$ which tends uniformly to f on X. Then there is an integer N such that $m, n > N$ implies $\| p_n - p_m \| < 1$. Then $p_n - p_m$ is an element of $B(X, A)$ and so $p_n - p_m = 0$ on $J(X, A)$. Thus $m > N$ implies that p_m matches f on $J(X, A)$.

5. The complex case.

In this section we prove a necessary and sufficient condition for approximability over a class of compact subsets of $\boldsymbol{C}$ defined below.

DEFINITION 5.1. A compact subset X of $\boldsymbol{C}$ is said to be Lavrent'ev if $\boldsymbol{C}[z]$ is uniformly dense in $C(X)$.

This terminology stems from the fact that in 1934 Lavrent'ev proved the following [9].

PROPOSITION 5.2. A compact subset X of $\boldsymbol{C}$ is Lavrent'ev if and only if it has void interior and connected complement.

PROPOSITION 5.3. Let A contain the identity and let X be a compact subset of $\boldsymbol{C}$. If there exists a monic polynomial $p \in \boldsymbol{C}[z]$ with $\| p \| < 1$, then there exists a monic polynomial $q \in A[z]$ with $\| q \| < 1$.

Proof. Let n be the degree of p. Then define a sequence (starting with the integer n) of monic polynomials as follows. For $m \geqq n$, set $m = kn + r$ where $0 \leqq r < n$ and $k \geqq 1$. Then let

$$p_m(z) = z^r p(z)^k . \tag{1}$$

Note that p_m has degree m. Also, if $s = \|p\| < 1$ set $t = s^{1/n}$ $(t \geqq 0)$ so that $s = t^n$; it is clear that $0 \leqq t < 1$. Next pick a real number M such that

$$\|z^i\| < sM \quad \text{for} \quad 1 \leqq i \leqq n ,$$

if $s > 0$, or set $M = 0$ if $s = 0$. Then writing m as above we have

$$\|p_m\| \leqq \|p\|^k \|z^r\| \leqq s^k sM = t^{nk+n}M \leqq t^{nk+r}M = t^m M .$$

Now fix a positive integer $j \geqq n - 1$ such that

$$\delta M t^{j+1}/(1 - t) < 1/3 ,$$

where $\delta > 1$ satisfies the conditions in § 2. For each $m > j$ we define a polynomial q_m as follows. Set

$$q_m = \alpha_0 p_m + \alpha_1 p_{m-1} + \cdots + \alpha_{m-j-1} p_{j+1} \tag{2}$$

where the α's are defined as follows. Let $\alpha_0 = 1$. Let β be the coefficient of z^{m-1} in $\alpha_0 p_m$. By the definition of δ, there is a $\beta' \in A$ such that $|\beta' - \beta| < \delta$. Then if we set $\alpha_1 = \beta' - \beta$, we have that $p' = \alpha_0 p_m + \alpha_1 p_{m-1}$ has leading coefficient $\alpha_0 = 1$ since the degree of $\alpha_1 p_{m-1}$ is less than that of p_m. Also, the coefficient of z^{m-1} in p' is the element $\beta + (\beta' - \beta) = \beta'$ of A. Continuing in this way, we pick α's such that $|\alpha_i| < \delta$ for $1 \leqq i \leqq m - j - 1$ and the coefficients of $z^m, \cdots, z^{j+1}$ in q_m are elements of A. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \|q_m\| &\leqq \sum_{i=0}^{m-j-1} \|\alpha_i p_{m-i}\| \leqq \sum_{i=0}^{m-j-1} \delta t^{m-i} M \\ &= \delta M t^{j+1} \sum_{i=0}^{m-j-1} t^i \leqq \delta M \frac{t^{j+1}}{1-t} < 1/3 . \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Next, if $m > j$, we define the $(j + 1)$-tuple

$$((a_{m0}), \cdots, (a_{mj}))$$

as follows. If a_{mi} is the coefficient of z^i in q_m $(0 \leqq i \leqq j)$, then let $[a_{mi}]$ be an element of A closest to a_{mi} and set $(a_{mi}) = a_{mi} - [a_{mi}]$, so that $|(a_{mi})| < \delta$. As m varies, these $(j + 1)$-tuples remain in the product space $(\delta D)^{j+1}$, where D is the closed unit disk in $\boldsymbol{C}$.

Now if

$$M' = \max\{\|z^i\|: 0 \leqq i \leqq j\} ,$$

we choose $\varepsilon' > 0$ such that

$$\varepsilon'(j + 1)M' < 1/3 .$$

Then, since $(\delta D)^{j+1}$ is compact in the topology given by the norm

$$||| (z_0, \cdots, z_j) ||| = \max_{0 \leqq i \leqq j} | z_i | ,$$

there exist distinct m_1 and m_2 such that

$$||| ((a_{m_1 0}), \cdots, (a_{m_1 j})) - ((a_{m_2 0}), \cdots, (a_{m_2 j})) ||| < \varepsilon' .$$

We then have

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{i=0}^{j} | (a_{m_1 i}) - (a_{m_2 i}) | \, || z^i || \\ &\qquad \leqq (j+1) \max_{0 \leqq i \leqq j} \{| (a_{m_1 i}) - (a_{m_2 i}) | \, || z^i ||\} \\ &\qquad < (j+1)\varepsilon' M' \\ &\qquad < 1/3 . \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

We now combine these estimates as follows. From (3) we infer that

$$|| q_{m_1} - q_{m_2} || \leqq || q_{m_1} || + || q_{m_2} || < 2/3 . \tag{5}$$

If q'_m denotes q_m with $[a_{m_i}]$ in place of a_{m_i} for $0 \leqq i \leqq j$, then (4) shows that

$$\begin{aligned} &|| (q_{m_1} - q_{m_2}) - (q'_{m_1} - q'_{m_2}) || \\ &\qquad = || (q_{m_1} - q'_{m_1}) - (q_{m_2} - q'_{m_2}) || \\ &\qquad \leqq \sum_{i=0}^{j} | (a_{m_1 i}) - (a_{m_2 i}) | \, || z^i || < 1/3 . \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

Combining (5) and (6) we obtain

$$|| q'_{m_1} - q'_{m_2} || < 1 .$$

Also $q'_{m_1} - q'_{m_2}$ is a monic polynomial because each q_m is monic with degree m and $m_1 \neq m_2$. Thus we can take $q = q'_{m_1} - q'_{m_2}$ in the proposition.

COROLLARY 5.4. *If A contains the identity and X is a compact subset of $\boldsymbol{C}$ with $d(X) < 1$, then there is a monic polynomial $q \in A[z]$ with $|| q ||_X < 1$.*

LEMMA 5.5. *Let q be a monic polynomial in $A[z]$ with $|| q ||_X < 1$ and $b \in \boldsymbol{C}[z]$. Then there exists $[b]$ in $A[z]$ and M not depending on b such that*

$$|| b - [b] ||_X < M .$$

Proof. Since $n = \deg q$ is at least 1 we can write

$$b = b_0 + b_1 q + \cdots + b_k q^k$$

where each $b_i \in C[z]$ and $\deg b_i < \deg q$ for $0 \leqq i \leqq k$. For each i let $[b_i]$ be the polynomial obtained from b_i by replacing each coefficient by a nearest element of A. Then with δ as in § 2 we have

$$\| b_i - [b_i] \| \leqq \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \| \delta z^j \| = M_0 \qquad 0 \leqq i \leqq k ,$$

where the last equality serves to define M_0. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| b - \sum_{i=0}^{k} [b_i] q^i \right\| &= \sum_{i=0}^{k} (b_i - [b_i]) q^i \\ &\leqq \sum_{i=0}^{k} \| b_i - [b_i] \| \, \| q \|^i \\ &< M_0/(1 - \| q \|) . \end{aligned}$$

LEMMA 5.6. *Let X be a compact subset of C and suppose further that*

(i) *X is Lavrent'ev;*

(ii) *$f \in C(X)$;*

(iii) *q is a monic polynomial in $A[z]$ with $\| q \|_X < 1$;*

(iv) *for any $\varepsilon > 0$ there is an $r \in A[z]$ such that $| f(z) - r(z) | < \varepsilon$ whenever $q(z) = 0, z \in X$.*

Then f is A-approximable on X.

Proof. Let Z_q be the set of roots of q which lie in X. Let ε be any positive number. By (iv) there is an $r \in A[z]$ such that

$$| f(z) - r(z) | < \varepsilon/4 \quad \text{for} \quad z \in Z_q .$$

Then by continuity, there is, for each $\alpha \in Z_q$ a closed disk D_α with center α and radius ρ_α such that the family $\{D_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in Z_q}$ is pairwise disjoint and

$$| f(z) - r(z) | < \varepsilon/2 \quad \text{for} \quad z \in D_\alpha \cap X .$$

Plainly there is a continuous function u mapping X into $[0, 1]$ such that $u(z) = 1$ for z in no D_α and $u(z) = 0$ if for some $\alpha \in Z_q$, z is in the closed disk of radius $\rho_\alpha/2$ and centered at α. It is easy to see that

$$\| u(f - r) - (f - r) \| < \varepsilon/2 . \tag{1}$$

By 5.5 there is a positive integer N such that

$$\| bq^N - [b]q^N \| \leqq \varepsilon/4 \tag{2}$$

for every $b \in C[z]$. Now consider $u(f - r)/q^N$, which is defined to be zero whenever q is zero. It is continuous by construction. Thus by (i), there is an element $b \in \boldsymbol{C}[z]$ such that

$$\left\|\frac{u(f-r)}{q^N} - b\right\| < \varepsilon/4 .$$

It follows that

$$\| u(f-r) - bq^N \| < \| q \|^N \varepsilon/4 < \varepsilon/4 .$$

Then by (2)

$$\| u(f-r) - [b]q^N \| < \varepsilon/2$$

and by (1)

$$\| (f-r) - [b]q^N \| < \varepsilon$$

or

$$\| f - (r + [b]q^N) \| < \varepsilon .$$

THEOREM 5.7. *Let X be a Lavrent'ev subset of $\boldsymbol{C}$ with $d(X) < 1$. If f is a complex valued function on X then the following are equivalent.*

(i) *f is A-approximable on X;*

(ii) *f is continuous and A-matchable on $J_0(X, A)$.*

Proof. From 4.6 and 4.5 we see that (i) implies (ii). To prove the converse first note that if $f = p$ on $J_0(X, A)$ and $p \in A[z]$, then it suffices to approximate $f - p$ which is zero on $J_0(X, A)$. Hence we assume that $f = 0$ on $J_0(X, A)$. Let L be the imaginary quadratic field such that $A \subset I_L$. By § 2 there exists a positive integer m such that $mI_L \subset A$. Thus if $p \in I_L[z]$ and $\| f/m - p \| < \varepsilon/m$ then $\| f - mp \| < \varepsilon$ and $mp \in A[z]$. In view of this we assume that $A = I_L$.

Then A, X, and f satisfy the hypotheses of 5.6 and it only remains to show that 5.6 (iii) and (iv) hold. By 5.4 there exists a monic $q \in A[z]$ with $\| q \|_X < 1$, so that 5.6 (iii) is satisfied. Let Z_q denote the set of all zeroes of q which lie in X. Write $J_0(X, A)$ as the union of the sets of zeroes of a set of monic irreducible polynomials, $\{q_1, \cdots, q_s\}$, in $I_L[z]$. Denote the remaining elements of Z_q by $\alpha_1, \cdots, \alpha_k$ so that

$$Z_q = J_0(X, A) \cup \{\alpha_1, \cdots, \alpha_k\} .$$

By the definition of $J_0(X, A)$ the α_i's form a set of algebraic numbers which does not contain a complete set of conjugates over L. In view of this 7.3 can be applied to give $p \in A[z]$ such that

$$\left|p(\alpha_i) - \frac{f(\alpha_i)}{q_1 \cdots q_s(\alpha_i)}\right| < \frac{\varepsilon}{|q_1 \cdots q_s(\alpha_i)|} \qquad \text{for } 1 \leqq i \leqq k .$$

Then

$$|pq_1 \cdots q_s(z) - f(z)| < \varepsilon \quad \text{for} \quad z \in Z_q$$

and $pq_1 \cdots q_s \in A[z]$ which shows that 5.6 (iv) is satisfied.

THEOREM 5.8. *Let X be a Lavrent'ev subset of $\boldsymbol{C}$ with $d(X) < 1$. Then a continuous complex valued function f on X is A-approximable if and only if its Lagrange interpolating polynomial r on $J_0(X, A)$ is an element of $A[z]$.*

Proof. By 5.7 the condition $r \in A[z]$ is sufficient for the A-approximability of f since r matches f on $J_0(X, A)$. Conversely, from 5.7 we know that if f is A-approximable then there is a $p \in A[z]$ which matches f on $J_0(X, A)$. Let $q_1, \cdots, q_s$ be as in the proof of 5.7. Since each q is irreducible it has only simple roots. Thus $\deg q_1 \cdots q_s =$ card $J_0(X, A)$ which we write as n. Since $q_1 \cdots q_s$ is a monic polynomial in $A[z]$ we can find $w, t \in A[z]$ such that

$$p = w(q_1 \cdots q_s) + t , \qquad \deg t < n$$

by the division algorithm. Thus $t = p = f$ on $J_0(X, A)$ and then by the uniqueness of Lagrange interpolating polynomials $t = r$ and $r = f$ on $J_0(X, A)$.

We see from 5.7 and 5.8 that, under the hypotheses of 5.7 the question of approximability is effectively known once we know the finite set $J_0(X, A)$. The following shows that under these hypotheses the set $J_0(X, A)$ has another characterization.

THEOREM 5.9. *Let X be a Lavrent'ev subset of $\boldsymbol{C}$ with $d(X) < 1$. Then*

$$J(X, A) = J_0(X, A) .$$

Proof. By 4.5, $J_0 = J_0(X, A) \subset J(X, A) = J$, so we need only prove the reverse inclusion. Let L be the imaginary quadratic field such that $A \subset I_L$. By § 2 there is a positive integer m such that $mI_L \subset A$. By 5.4 there is a monic $q \in I_L[z]$ such that $\| q \| < 1$. Then for a sufficiently large positive integer N, $q_0 = mq^N$ is a nonzero polynomial in $A[z]$ with $\| q_0 \| < 1$. This shows that J is finite. Let α_1 be any element of J. Then $q_0(\alpha_1) = 0$ so $q(\alpha_1) = 0$ and α_1 is integral over I_L. Let $r \in I_L[z]$ be the minimal polynomial over L of α_1. We assume that $\alpha_1 \notin J_0$, that is that not all the zeroes of r lie in X and infer a contradiction from this. Denote the zeroes of r by $\{\alpha_1, \cdots, \alpha_n\}$ where

$$\alpha_i \in X \qquad \text{for } 1 \leqq i \leqq k$$

and

$$\alpha_i \notin X \qquad \text{for } k < i \leqq n \ (k < n) .$$

By 7.1 there is a $q'_1 \in I_L[z]$ such that

$$\left| q'_1(\alpha_i) - \frac{1}{2m} \right| < \frac{1}{2m} \qquad \text{for } 1 \leqq i \leqq k .$$

Then if $q_1 = mq'_1$, $q_1 \in A[z]$ and

(1) $$| q_1(\alpha_i) - 1/2 | < 1/2 \qquad \text{for } 1 \leqq i \leqq k .$$

Now, since $\alpha_1 \in J$, if q_2 is any element of $A[z]$ with $\| q_2 \| < 1$, then $q_2(\alpha_1) = 0$. The minimal polynomial r of α_1 then divides q_2 and so $q_2(\alpha_i) = 0$ for $1 \leqq i \leqq n$. Thus $\{\alpha_1, \cdots, \alpha_k\}$ is contained in J. We write

$$J = \{\alpha_1, \cdots, \alpha_k, \beta_1, \cdots, \beta_l\}$$

where the β_j's are distinct and also distinct from the α_i's. If $l = 0$ define q'_3 to be the polynomial 1. If $l > 0$ define q'_3 to be the product of the minimal polynomials over L of the β_j's. Each β_j, being in J, is a zero of q_0 and therefore of q and so is integral over I_L. Thus q'_3 is an element of $I_L[z]$. Furthermore, $q_3 = mMq'_3 \in A[z]$ and

(2) $$q_3(\beta_i) = 0 \qquad \text{for } 1 \leqq i \leqq l .$$

Since no β_j is conjugate to an α_i

(3) $$q_3(\alpha_i) \neq 0 \quad \text{for} \quad 1 \leqq i \leqq n .$$

By (1) and (3) there is a positive integer s such that if

$$q_4 = q_3 q_1^s ,$$

then

$$0 < | q_4(\alpha_i) | < 1 \qquad \text{for } 1 \leqq i \leqq k .$$

Also, by (2), we have

$$q_4(\beta_i) = 0 \qquad \text{for } 1 \leqq i \leqq l .$$

Now it is easy to construct a continuous function f with $\| f \| < 1$ such that

$$f(\alpha_i) = q_4(\alpha_i) \qquad \text{for } 1 \leqq i \leqq k$$

and

$$f(\beta_i) = q_4(\beta_i) = 0 \qquad \text{for } 1 \leqq i \leqq l\,.$$

This function f is matchable on J_0 and by 5.8, it is A-approximable on X. It is easy to see that we can choose $q_5 \in A[z]$ with $\|f - q_5\|$ small enough to force $\|q_5\| < 1$ and $|q_5(\alpha_1)| > 0$ which is a contradiction.

In § 4 we showed that if $d(X) \geqq 1$ then $A[z]$ is already uniformly closed in $C(X)$. The following is a partial converse to that result.

PROPOSITION 5.10. Let X be a Lavrent'ev subset of $\boldsymbol{C}$ with $d(X) < 1$. Then $A(z)$ is uniformly closed in $C(X)$ if and only if

$$J(X, A) = X\,.$$

In particular, if X is infinite, then $A[z]$ is not uniformly closed in $C(X)$.

Proof. Suppose that $J = J(X, A) = X$ and that $f \in C(X)$. By 5.7 and 5.9, if f is A-approximable on X, it is A-matchable on $J = X$ and so $f \in A[z]$, which shows $A[z]$ is uniformly closed in $C(X)$.

On the other hand, if $J \neq X$, let z_0 be a point in X but not in J. For any $y \in \boldsymbol{R}$ we can define a continuous function $f_0\colon J \cup \{z_0\} \to \boldsymbol{C}$ by $f_0(J) = \{0\}$ and $f_0(z_0) = y$. It is continuous where defined since $d(X) < 1$ which implies that J is finite, as in the proof of 5.7, so that the relative topology on $J \cup \{z_0\}$ is discrete. By Tietze's extension theorem there is a continuous extension f of f_0 to all of X. But f is obviously A-matchable on J and so is A-approximable on X by 5.7. Since y is any real number this shows that there are uncountably many A-approximable f in $C(X)$. On the other hand, $A[z]$ is countable, since A is, so $A[z] \neq A[z]^-$, where the bar denotes uniform closure in $C(X)$.

The last statement now follows from the fact that $J(X, A)$ is finite whenever $d(X) < 1$.

6. **The real case.** In this section we consider the problem analogous to that of § 5 but where X is a compact subset of $\boldsymbol{R}$. We take as our ring of coefficients any nonzero subring R of $\boldsymbol{Z}$. Such rings comprise the discrete nonzero subrings of $\boldsymbol{R}$. They are thus discrete subrings of $\boldsymbol{C}$ but do not have rank 2. The results follow readily from the corresponding results in the complex case.

To emphasize that $X \subset \boldsymbol{R}$. We use the symbol x instead of z to denote an arbitrary element of X.

Note that in § 4 the ring of coefficients A was required to have rank 2, hence the following definition is consistent with 4.4.

DEFINITION 6.1. For any compact subset X of $\boldsymbol{R}$ let $J_0(X, \boldsymbol{Z})$ denote the union of the complete sets of conjugates integral over $\boldsymbol{Z}$ and entirely contained in X.

That is, $J_0(X, \boldsymbol{Z})$ is the union of the complete sets of conjugate algebraic integers contained in X.

We now proceed to show that this separate definition is, in a sense, unnecessary.

PROPOSITION 6.2. Let X be a compact subset of $\boldsymbol{R}$. Then for any imaginary quadratic field L, we have

$$J(X, \boldsymbol{Z}) = J(X, I_L) .$$

Proof. Since $B(X, \boldsymbol{Z}) \subset B(X, I_L)$ the inclusion $J(X, I_L) \subset J(X, \boldsymbol{Z})$ is obvious. On the other hand, let $x_0 \in J(X, \boldsymbol{Z})$ and let $p \in B(X, I_L)$. Then $\| p \| < 1$, so for some positive integer n,

$$\| p^n \| = \| p \|^n < 1/2 .$$

Then we have

$$\| \mathrm{Re}\,(p^n) \| < 1/2 \quad \text{and} \quad \| \mathrm{Im}\,(p^n) \| < 1/2 .$$

Furthermore, from § 2 we see that $2\mathrm{Re}\,(p^n)$ and $(2/\sqrt{|d|})\,\mathrm{Im}\,(p^n)$ are in $\boldsymbol{Z}[x]$, where $L = \boldsymbol{Q}(\sqrt{d})$ with d a square free integer and $\mathrm{Re}\,(p^n)$ (resp. $\mathrm{Im}\,(p^n)$) denotes the polynomial obtained by replacing the coefficients of p^n by their real (resp. imaginary) parts. Also

$$\| 2\mathrm{Re}\,(p^n) \| = 2 \| \mathrm{Re}\,(p^n) \| < 1$$

and

$$\| (2/\sqrt{|d|})\,\mathrm{Im}\,(p^n) \| < (1/|d|)^{1/2} \leqq 1$$

and so by definition of $J(X, \boldsymbol{Z})$

$$2\mathrm{Re}\,(p^n)(x_0) = 0$$

and

$$(2/\sqrt{|d|})\,\mathrm{Im}\,(p^n)(x_0) = 0 .$$

But $p^n(x_0) = (\mathrm{Re}\,(p^n))(x_0) + i(\mathrm{Im}\,(p^n))(x_0)$ and so $p^n(x_0) = 0$, which implies that $p(x_0) = 0$. Hence $x_0 \in J(X, I_L)$ and $J(X, \boldsymbol{Z}) \subset J(X, I_L)$.

Before proving the next proposition we note that if X is a compact subset of $\boldsymbol{R}$ it is Lavrent'ev by 5.2 or by the Stone-Weierstrass theorem.

PROPOSITION 6.3. Let X be a compact subset of $\boldsymbol{R}$ with $d(X) < 1$. Then for any imaginary quadratic field L,

$$J_0(X, \boldsymbol{Z}) = J_0(X, I_L) .$$

Proof. If $x_0 \in J_0(X, \boldsymbol{Z})$, then x_0 is a root of a monic polynomial $p \in \boldsymbol{Z}[x]$ which has all of its roots in X. Thus z_0 is integral over I_L. The minimal polynomial q of x_0 over L is then an element of $I_L[z]$, monic, irreducible, and divides p so that the roots of q all lie in X. Thus $x_0 \in J_0(X, I_L)$.

For the reverse inclusion notice that $J_0(X, I_L) = J(X, I_L) = J(X, \boldsymbol{Z})$ by 6.2 and 5.9. This shows, in particular, that $J_0(X, I_L)$ is independent of the choice of L. Suppose then, that $L = \boldsymbol{Q}(i)$ where $i^2 = -1$. Then I_L is the set of Gaussian integers. If $x_0 \in J_0(X, I_L)$ then it is a root of monic, irreducible p in $I_L[z]$ having all of its roots in X. Then the coefficients of p, being simply the elementary symmetric polynomials in the roots, are in $I_L \cap \boldsymbol{R}$. But $I_L \cap \boldsymbol{R} = \boldsymbol{Z}$, so $x_0 \in J_0(X, \boldsymbol{Z})$. Since x_0 is any element of $J_0(X, I_L)$, $J_0(X, I_L) \subset J_0(X, \boldsymbol{Z})$.

THEOREM 6.4. *If X is any compact subset of the real line $\boldsymbol{R}$ with $d(X) < 1$, then*

$$J(X, \boldsymbol{Z}) = J_0(X, \boldsymbol{Z}) .$$

Proof. This is immediate from 6.2, 6.3 and 5.9.

A natural question at this point is whether or not the hypothesis $d(X) < 1$ can be dropped from 6.4 or 5.10. We see that it cannot be dropped in either case by the following argument.

Let L be an imaginary quadratic field and X any uncountable compact subset of $\boldsymbol{C}$ with $d(X) \geqq 1$. Then we know that $B(X, I_L) = \{0\}$ by the comments following 4.2 and so $B(X, \boldsymbol{Z}) = \{0\}$. This implies that $J(X, I_L) = J(X, \boldsymbol{Z}) = X$ by definition. On the other hand, every element of $J_0(X, \boldsymbol{Z})$ (respectively $J_0(X, I_L)$) is algebraic over $\boldsymbol{Q}$ and so $J_0(x, \boldsymbol{Z})$ (respectively $J_0(x, I_L)$) is countable and so not equal to $X = J(X, \boldsymbol{Z}) = J(X, I_L)$.

Another question is whether or not it is necessary to consider polynomials with complex coefficients when seeking the Chebyshev polynomials $t_n = t_n(x, X)$ for $X \subset \boldsymbol{R}$. This is not necessary since the Chebyshev polynomials have real coefficients in this case since

$$\| \operatorname{Re}(t_n) \| \leqq \| t_n \| .$$

THEOREM 6.5. *If X is a compact subset of $\boldsymbol{R}$ and R is a nonzero subring of $\boldsymbol{Z}$, then a function f in $C^r(X)$ is R-approximable if and only if f is R-matchable on $J(X, \boldsymbol{Z})$.*

Proof. If f is R-approximable then it is R-matchable on $J(X, \boldsymbol{Z})$ by 4.6 and 6.2. Conversely, suppose that f is R-matchable on $J(X, \boldsymbol{Z})$. If $d(X) \geqq 1$ then $B(X, \boldsymbol{Z}) = \{0\}$ by the comments following 4.2 and so $J(X, \boldsymbol{Z}) = X$. Thus f is in fact, a member of $R[x]$. If $d(X) < 1$ assume that f is R-matchable on $J(X, \boldsymbol{Z})$, say by $p \in R[x]$. Since R is a nonzero subring of $\boldsymbol{Z}$ we have $R = n\boldsymbol{Z}$ for some positive integer n. It suffices to approximate $q = f - p$. In fact it suffices to approximate $q_0 = q/n$ by an element of $\boldsymbol{Z}[x]$, since if

$$|q/n - p| < \varepsilon/n$$

then

$$|q - nq| < \varepsilon$$

and $np \in (n\boldsymbol{Z})[x] = R[x]$. Let L be any imaginary quadratic field (the Gaussian numbers, for example). Since q_0 is zero on $J(X, \boldsymbol{Z}) = J(X, I_L)$ it is I_L-matchable on $J(X, I_L)$. Thus, for any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a $p \in I_L[z]$ such that

$$\|p - q_0\|_X < \varepsilon/2 \, , \tag{1}$$

by 5.7 and 5.9. Then for any $x \in X$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\varepsilon}{2} &> |\operatorname{Im}(p(x) - f(x))| \\ &= |\operatorname{Im}(p(x))| \\ &= |(\operatorname{Im} p)(x)| \, . \end{aligned}$$

Since $p = \operatorname{Re} p + i \operatorname{Im} p$

$$\|p - \operatorname{Re} p\| < \varepsilon/2 \, ,$$

and by (1) we have

$$\|\operatorname{Re} p - q_0\|_X < \varepsilon \, .$$

From the above proof we have the following

COROLLARY 6.6. *If $d(X) \geqq 1, f$ is R-approximable on X if and only if f is already an element of $R[x]$.*

Since the transfinite diameter of an interval is one fourth its length we have the following.

COROLLARY 6.7. *If $X = [a, b]$ and $b - a \geqq 4$ then f is R-approximable on X if and only if f is already an element of $R[x]$.*

Using essentially the same arguments as for their respective counterparts 5.8 and 5.10, the following can be proved.

PROPOSITION 6.8. Let X be a compact subset of $\boldsymbol{R}$ with $d(X) < 1$ and R a nonzero subring of $\boldsymbol{Z}$. Then an element f of $C^r(X)$ is R-approximable on X if and only if the Lagrange interpolating polynomial for f on $J(X, \boldsymbol{Z})$ is an element of $R[x]$.

PROPOSITION 6.9. Let X be a compact subset of $\boldsymbol{R}$ with $d(X) < 1$ and R a nonzero subring of $\boldsymbol{Z}$. Then $R[z]$ is uniformly closed in $C^r(X)$ if and only if

$$J(X, \boldsymbol{Z}) = X .$$

In particular, if X is infinite, then $\boldsymbol{Z}[x]$ is not uniformly closed in $C^r(X)$.

The main result of this section is Theorem 6.5. It reduces the problem to that of finding $J(X, \boldsymbol{Z})$. For some nontrivial cases where $J(X, \boldsymbol{Z})$ has been determined see [7, § 5].

7. Appendix. An approximation theorem. Throughout this section let A be any discrete subring of $\boldsymbol{C}$ of rank 2 and containing the identity. Let L be the unique imaginary quadratic field such that $A \subset I_L$.

THEOREM 7.1. *Let $\alpha_1, \cdots, \alpha_n$ be a complete set of conjugates over L, ε any position number, and $z_2, \cdots, z_n$ any complex numbers. Then there is a polynomial $q \in A[z]$ such that*

$$| q(\alpha_i) - z_j | < \varepsilon \qquad \text{for } 2 \leqq j \leqq n .$$

Proof. This is a consequence of the "very strong approximation theorem," c.f. [10, p. 77, 33: 11].

THEOREM 7.2. *Let*

$$\begin{array}{c} \alpha_{11}, \cdots, \alpha_{1r_1} \\ \alpha_{21}, \cdots, \alpha_{2r_2} \\ \cdots\cdots\cdots\cdots \\ \alpha_{s1}, \cdots, \alpha_{sr_s} \end{array}$$

be an array (not necessarily rectangular) with each row an incomplete set of conjugates over L and where the minimal polynomials $p_1, \cdots, p_s$ in $L[z]$ satisfied by the respective rows are distinct. Then if the *array*

$$\begin{array}{c} z_{11}, \cdots, z_{1r_1} \\ z_{21}, \cdots, z_{2r_2} \\ \cdots\cdots\cdots\cdots \\ z_{s1}, \cdots, z_{sr_s} \end{array}$$

consists of any complex numbers and $\varepsilon > 0$, *there exists a* $q \in A[z]$ *such that*

$$| q(\alpha_{ij}) - z_{ij} | < \varepsilon \qquad \textit{for } 1 \leqq j \leqq r_i, 1 \leqq i \leqq s .$$

Proof. Let

$$q'_i = \Big(\prod_{k=1}^{s} p_k\Big)\Big/p_i \qquad \text{for } 1 \leqq i \leqq s .$$

Then $q'_i(\alpha_{kj}) = 0$ if and only if $k \neq i$ by definition of the p's. Furthermore, each q'_i is a polynomial with coefficients in L. But L is the field of quotients of A and we can suppose that each coefficient of each q'_i appears as a ratio of elements of A. If k_i is the product of the denominators of the coefficients of q'_i then the coefficients of the polynomial $k_i q'_i$ lie in A. For $1 \leqq i \leqq s$, by 7.1, there is a $q''_i \in A[z]$ such that

$$\left| q''_i(\alpha_{ij}) - \frac{z_{ij}}{k_i q'_i(\alpha_{ij})} \right| < \frac{\varepsilon}{| k_i q'_i(\alpha_{ij}) |} \qquad \text{for } 1 \leqq j \leqq r_i .$$

Thus

$$| (q''_i k_i q'_i)(\alpha_{ij}) - z_{ij} | < \varepsilon \qquad \text{for } 1 \leqq j \leqq r_i .$$

If we set $q = q''_1 k_1 q'_1 + \cdots + q''_s k_s q'_s$, then q is in $A[z]$ and $q(\alpha_{ij}) = (q''_i k_i q'_i)(\alpha_{ij})$ since $q'_k(\alpha_{ij}) = 0$ if $k \neq i$. Thus

$$| q(\alpha_{ij}) - z_{ij} | = | (q''_i k_i q'_i)(\alpha_{ij}) - z_{ij} | < \varepsilon$$

for all i, j.

We note that another way of looking at Theorem 7.2 is the following.

COROLLARY 7.3. *If* $\{\alpha_1, \cdots, \alpha_k\}$ *is any set of algebraic numbers which does not contain a complete set of conjugates over* L, *then the set of* k*-tuples*

$$\{(p(\alpha_1), \cdots, p(\alpha_k)) \colon p \in A[z]\}$$

is dense in C^k.

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