

A generalization of Kantorovich operators for convex compact subsets

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Abstract

In this paper we introduce and study a new sequence of positive linear operators acting on function spaces defined on a convex compact subset. Their construction depends on a given Markov operator, a positive real number and a sequence of probability Borel measures. By considering special cases of these parameters for particular convex compact subsets we obtain the classical Kantorovich operators defined in the one-dimensional and multidimensional setting together with several of their wide-ranging generalizations scattered in the literature. We investigate the approximation properties of these operators by also providing several estimates of the rate of convergence. Finally, the preservation of Lipschitz-continuity as well as of convexity are discussed.

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification: 41A36, 41A25, 41A63.

Keywords and phrases: Markov operator. Positive approximation process. Kantorovich operator. Preservation property.

1 Introduction

Over the last twenty years the interest and the relevance of the study of positive approximation processes on convex compact subsets have emerged with growing evidence, mainly because of their useful connections with approximation problems both for functions defined on these domains and for the solutions of initial-boundary value differential problems. In such a setting a prominent role is played by Bernstein-Schnabl operators which are generated by Markov operators.

In the monograph [5] (see also [2]) a rather complete overview can be found about the main results in this field of researches together with their main applications.

In this paper we introduce and study a new sequence of positive linear operators acting on function spaces defined on a convex compact subset K of some locally convex Hausdorff space. Their construction depends on a given Markov operator $T : C(K) \rightarrow C(K)$, a real number $a \geq 0$ and a sequence $(\mu_n)_{n \geq 1}$ of probability Borel measures on K .

By considering special cases of these parameters for particular convex compact subsets such as the unit interval or the multidimensional hypercube and simplex, we obtain all the Kantorovich operators defined on these settings together with several of other wide-ranging generalizations ([3], [6], [8], [10], [11], [12], [17], [18]).

Moreover, for $a = 0$, the new operators turn into the Bernstein-Schnabl operators and so, by means of the real continuous parameter $a \geq 0$, our sequence of operators represents, indeed, a link between the Bernstein operators ($a = 0$) and the Kantorovich operators ($a = 1$) on the classical one-dimensional and multidimensional domains where they are defined.

The paper is mainly devoted to investigate the approximation properties of the above mentioned operators in spaces of continuous functions and, for special settings, in L^p -spaces as well. Several estimates of the rate of convergence are also provided. In the final section we discuss some conditions under which these operators preserve Lipschitz-continuity or the convexity.

In a subsequent paper we intend to investigate whether and for which class of initial-boundary value differential problems, our operators, like Bernstein-Schnabl operators, can be useful to approximate the relevant solutions.

2 Notation and preliminaries

Throughout the paper we shall fix a locally convex Hausdorff space X and a convex compact subset K of X .

The symbol X' will denote the dual space of X and the symbol $L(K)$ will stand for the space

$$L(K) := \{\varphi|_K \mid \varphi \in X'\}. \quad (2.1)$$

As usual, we shall denote by $C(K)$ the space of all real-valued continuous functions on K ; $C(K)$ is a Banach lattice if endowed with the natural (pointwise) ordering and the sup-norm $\|\cdot\|_\infty$.

Moreover, we shall denote by $A(K)$ the space of all continuous affine functions on K .

Whenever X is the real Euclidean space \mathbf{R}^d of dimension d ($d \geq 1$), we shall denote by $\|\cdot\|_2$ the Euclidean norm on \mathbf{R}^d . Furthermore, we shall denote by λ_d the Borel-Lebesgue measure on $K \subset \mathbf{R}^d$ and by $|K|$ the measure of K with respect to λ_d . Finally, for every $i = 1, \dots, d$, pr_i will stand for the i^{th} coordinate function on K , i.e., $pr_i(x) := x_i$ for every $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in K$.

Coming back to an arbitrary convex compact subset K , let B_K be the σ -algebra of all Borel subsets of K and $M^+(K)$ (resp., $M_1^+(K)$) the cone of all regular Borel measures on K (resp., the cone of all regular Borel probability measures on K). For every $x \in K$ the symbol ϵ_x stands for the Dirac measure concentrated at x .

If $\mu \in M^+(K)$ and $1 \leq p < +\infty$, let us denote by $L^p(K, \mu)$ the space of all μ -integrable in the p^{th} power functions on K ; moreover, we shall denote by $L^\infty(K, \mu)$ the space of all μ -essentially bounded measurable functions on K . In particular, if $\mu = \lambda_d$, then we shall use the symbols $L^p(K)$ and $L^\infty(K)$.

From now on let $T : C(K) \rightarrow C(K)$ be a Markov operator, i.e., a positive linear operator on $C(K)$ such that $T(\mathbf{1}) = \mathbf{1}$, where the symbol $\mathbf{1}$ stands for the function of constant value 1 on K . Moreover, let $(\tilde{\mu}_x^T)_{x \in K}$ be the continuous selection of probability Borel measures on K corresponding to T via the Riesz representation theorem, i.e.,

$$\int_K f d\tilde{\mu}_x^T = T(f)(x) \quad (f \in C(K), x \in K). \quad (2.2)$$

In [5, Chapter 3] (see also [2, Chapter 6]) the authors introduced and studied the so-called Bernstein-Schnabl operators associated with the Markov operator T and defined, for every $f \in C(K)$ and $x \in K$, as follows

$$B_n(f)(x) = \int_K \cdots \int_K f \left(\frac{x_1 + \cdots + x_n}{n} \right) d\tilde{\mu}_x^T(x_1) \cdots d\tilde{\mu}_x^T(x_n). \quad (2.3)$$

Note that, for every $n \geq 1$, B_n is a linear positive operator from $C(K)$ into $C(K)$, $B_n(\mathbf{1}) = \mathbf{1}$ and hence $\|B_n\| = 1$. Moreover, $B_1 = T$.

The operators B_n generalize the classical Bernstein operators on the unit interval, on multidimensional simplices and hypercubes, and they share with them several preservation properties which are investigated in [5] and [2].

Further, if in addition we suppose that the Markov operator T satisfies the following condition

$$T(h) = h \quad \text{for every } h \in A(K), \quad (2.4)$$

or, equivalently (see (2.2)),

$$\int_K h d\tilde{\mu}_x^T = h(x) \quad \text{for every } h \in A(K) \text{ and } x \in K, \quad (2.5)$$

then the sequence $(B_n)_{n \geq 1}$ is an approximation process on $C(K)$. Namely, for every $f \in C(K)$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} B_n(f) = f \quad (2.6)$$

uniformly on K .

Finally, for every $h, k \in A(K)$ and $n \geq 1$, the following useful formulae hold:

$$B_n(h) = h \quad (2.7)$$

and

$$B_n(hk) = \frac{1}{n}T(hk) + \frac{n-1}{n}hk. \quad (2.8)$$

In particular,

$$B_n(h^2) = \frac{1}{n}T(h^2) + \frac{n-1}{n}h^2. \quad (2.9)$$

(For a proof of (2.6)-(2.9) see [5, Theorem 3.2.1] or [4, Theorem 3.2]).

3 Generalized Kantorovich operators

In this section we introduce the main object of interest of the paper and we show some examples.

Let $T : C(K) \rightarrow C(K)$ be a Markov operator satisfying condition (2.4) (or, equivalently (2.5)). Moreover, fix $a \geq 0$ and a sequence $(\mu_n)_{n \geq 1}$ of probability Borel measures on K .

Then, for every $n \geq 1$, we consider the positive linear operator C_n defined by setting

$$C_n(f)(x) = \int_K \cdots \int_K f\left(\frac{x_1 + \cdots + x_n + ax_{n+1}}{n+a}\right) d\tilde{\mu}_x^T(x_1) \cdots d\tilde{\mu}_x^T(x_n) d\mu_n(x_{n+1}) \quad (3.1)$$

for every $x \in K$ and for every $f \in C(K)$.

The germ of the idea of the construction of (3.1) goes back to [6] where some of the authors considered the particular case of the unit interval. Subsequently, in [3] a natural generalization of C_n 's to the multidimensional setting, i.e., to hypercubes and simplices, was presented obtaining, as a particular case, the multidimensional Kantorovich operators on these frameworks.

Here we develop such idea in full generality, obtaining a new class of positive linear operators which encompasses not only several well-known approximation processes both in univariate and multivariate settings, but also new ones in finite and infinite dimensional frameworks as well.

Clearly, in the special case $a = 0$, the operators C_n correspond to the B_n ones (see (2.3)). Moreover, introducing the auxiliary continuous function

$$I_n(f)(x) := \int_K f\left(\frac{n}{n+a}x + \frac{a}{n+a}t\right) d\mu_n(t) \quad (f \in C(K), x \in K), \quad (3.2)$$

for every $n \geq 1$, then

$$C_n(f) = B_n(I_n(f)). \quad (3.3)$$

Therefore $C_n(f) \in C(K)$ and the operator $C_n : C(K) \rightarrow C(K)$, being linear and positive, is continuous with norm equal to 1, because $C_n(\mathbf{1}) = \mathbf{1}$.

We point out that the operators C_n are well-defined on the larger linear space of all Borel measurable functions $f : K \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ for which the multiple integral in (3.1) is absolutely convergent. This space contains, among other things, all the bounded Borel measurable functions on K as well as a suitable subspace of $\bigcap_{n \geq 1} L^1(K, \mu_n)$.

Here, we prefer to not enter into more details to this respect by postponing a more detailed analysis in a subsequent paper. However, in Section 4 we shall discuss the approximation properties of these operators also in the setting of $L^p(K)$ -spaces in the particular cases where K is a simplex or a hypercube of \mathbf{R}^d .

Note that assumption (2.4) is not essential in defining the operators C_n , but it will be needed in order to prove that $(C_n)_{n \geq 1}$ is an approximation process on $C(K)$ and on $L^p(K)$ as we shall see in the next sections.

By specifying the Markov operator T , i.e., the family of representing measures $(\tilde{\mu}_x^T)_{x \in K}$, the parameter $a \geq 0$ as well as the sequence of measures $(\mu_n)_{n \geq 1}$, we obtain several classes of approximating operators which can be tracked down in different papers.

In particular, when $a = 1$, for a special class of T and of the sequence $(\mu_n)_{n \geq 1}$ we get the Kantorovich operators on the unit interval, on simplices and on hypercubes (see the next examples).

Another interesting case is covered when a is a positive integer. Indeed, given $\mu \in M_1^+(K)$, we may consider the measure $\mu_a \in M_1^+(K)$ defined by

$$\int_K f d\mu_a := \int_K \cdots \int_K f \left(\frac{y_1 + \cdots + y_a}{a} \right) d\mu(y_1) \cdots d\mu(y_a)$$

($f \in C(K)$) and hence, for $\mu_n := \mu_a$ for every $n \geq 1$, the corresponding operators in (3.1) reduce to

$$C_n(f)(x) = \int_K \cdots \int_K f \left(\frac{x_1 + \cdots + x_n + y_1 + \cdots + y_a}{n + a} \right) d\tilde{\mu}_x^T(x_1) \cdots d\tilde{\mu}_x^T(x_n) d\mu(y_1) \cdots d\mu(y_a) \quad (3.4)$$

($n \geq 1$, $f \in C(K)$ $x \in K$).

When $K = [0, 1]$, for particular T and μ we get the so-called Kantorovich operators of order a (see [8, Examples (A)] and [12] for $a = 2$).

Further, we mention another particular simple case which, however, seems to be not devoid of interest. Assume $a > 0$ and consider a sequence $(b_n)_{n \geq 1}$ in X such that $b_n/a \in K$ for every $n \geq 1$. Then, setting $\mu_n := \epsilon_{b_n/a}$ ($n \geq 1$), from (3.1) we get

$$C_n(f)(x) = \int_K \cdots \int_K f \left(\frac{x_1 + \cdots + x_n + b_n}{n + a} \right) d\tilde{\mu}_x^T(x_1) \cdots d\tilde{\mu}_x^T(x_n) \quad (3.5)$$

($n \geq 1$, $f \in C(K)$, $x \in K$).

We proceed to show more specific examples.

Examples 3.1.

1. Assume $K = [0, 1]$ and consider the Markov operator $T_1 : C([0, 1]) \rightarrow C([0, 1])$ defined, for every $f \in C([0, 1])$ and $0 \leq x \leq 1$, by

$$T_1(f)(x) := (1 - x)f(0) + xf(1). \quad (3.6)$$

Then, the Bernstein-Schnabl operators associated with T_1 are the classical Bernstein operators

$$B_n(f)(x) := \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k (1 - x)^{n-k} f\left(\frac{k}{n}\right)$$

($n \geq 1$, $f \in C([0, 1])$, $x \in [0, 1]$), and, considering $a \geq 0$ and $(\mu_n)_{n \geq 1}$ in $M_1^+([0, 1])$, from (3.1) and (3.3) we get

$$C_n(f)(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k (1 - x)^{n-k} \int_0^1 f\left(\frac{k + as}{n + a}\right) d\mu_n(s) \quad (3.7)$$

($n \geq 1$, $f \in C([0, 1])$, $x \in [0, 1]$). In particular, if all the μ_n are equal to the Borel-Lebesgue measure λ_1 on $[0, 1]$ and $a = 1$, then formula (3.7) gives the classical Kantorovich operators ([11]; see also [2, Subsection 5.3.7]). Moreover, as already remarked, for $a = 0$ we obtain the Bernstein operators; thus, by means of (3.7), we obtain a link between these fundamental sequences of approximating operators in terms of a continuous parameter $a \in [0, 1]$. Special cases of operators (3.7) have been also considered in [6] and [10] and we omit the details for the sake of brevity.

When a is a positive integer, from (3.4) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & C_n(f)(x) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k (1 - x)^{n-k} \int_0^1 \cdots \int_0^1 f\left(\frac{k + y_1 + \cdots + y_a}{n + a}\right) d\mu(y_1) \cdots d\mu(y_a) \end{aligned} \quad (3.8)$$

($n \geq 1$, $f \in C([0, 1])$, $0 \leq x \leq 1$), $\mu \in M_1^+([0, 1])$ being fixed. When μ is the Borel-Lebesgue measure on $[0, 1]$ we obtain the previously mentioned Kantorovich operators of order a ([8, Examples (A)] and [12] for $a = 2$). Finally, from (3.5) and with $b_n \leq a$ ($n \geq 1$), we get the operators

$$C_n(f)(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k (1 - x)^{n-k} f\left(\frac{k + b_n}{n + a}\right) \quad (3.9)$$

($n \geq 1$, $f \in C([0, 1])$, $x \in [0, 1]$), which have been first considered in [17] for a constant sequence $(b_n)_{n \geq 1}$.

2. Let $Q_d := [0, 1]^d$, $d \geq 1$, and consider the Markov operator $S_d : C(Q_d) \rightarrow C(Q_d)$ defined by

$$S_d(f)(x) := \sum_{h_1, \dots, h_d=0}^1 f(\delta_{h_1 1}, \dots, \delta_{h_d 1}) x_1^{h_1} (1-x_1)^{1-h_1} \dots x_d^{h_d} (1-x_d)^{1-h_d} \quad (3.10)$$

($f \in C(Q_d)$, $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in Q_d$), where δ_{ij} stands for the Kronecker symbol.

In this case, the Bernstein-Schnabl operators associated with S_d are the classical Bernstein operators on Q_d defined by

$$B_n(f)(x) = \sum_{h_1, \dots, h_d=0}^n \prod_{i=1}^d \binom{n}{h_i} x_i^{h_i} (1-x_i)^{n-h_i} f\left(\frac{h_1}{n}, \dots, \frac{h_d}{n}\right)$$

($n \geq 1$, $f \in C(Q_d)$, $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in Q_d$).

Then, taking (3.3) into account, the operators C_n given by (3.1) become

$$C_n(f)(x) = \sum_{h_1, \dots, h_d=0}^n \prod_{i=1}^d \binom{n}{h_i} x_i^{h_i} (1-x_i)^{n-h_i} \times \int_{Q_d} f\left(\frac{h_1 + as_1}{n+a}, \dots, \frac{h_d + as_d}{n+a}\right) d\mu_n(s_1, \dots, s_d) \quad (3.11)$$

($n \geq 1$, $f \in C(Q_d)$, $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in Q_d$).

When all the μ_n coincide with the Borel-Lebesgue measure λ_d on Q_d and $a = 1$, the operators C_n turn into a generalization of Kantorovich operators introduced in [18]. Another special case of (3.11) has been studied in [3].

3. Denote by K_d the canonical simplex in \mathbf{R}^d , $d \geq 1$, i.e.,

$$K_d := \left\{ (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in \mathbf{R}^d \mid x_i \geq 0 (i = 1, \dots, d) \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^d x_i \leq 1 \right\},$$

and consider the canonical Markov operator $T_d : C(K_d) \rightarrow C(K_d)$ defined by

$$T_d(f)(x) := \left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^d x_i\right) f(0) + \sum_{i=1}^d x_i f(e_i) \quad (3.12)$$

($f \in C(K_d)$, $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in K_d$) where, for every $i = 1, \dots, d$, $e_i := (\delta_{ij})_{1 \leq j \leq d}$, δ_{ij} being the Kronecker symbol (see, for instance, [2, Section 6.3.3]).

The Bernstein-Schnabl operators associated with T_d are the classical Bernstein operators on K_d defined by

$$B_n(f)(x) = \sum_{\substack{h_1, \dots, h_d=0, \dots, n \\ h_1 + \dots + h_d \leq n}} \frac{n!}{h_1! \cdots h_d! (n - h_1 - \dots - h_d)!} x_1^{h_1} \cdots x_d^{h_d} \\ \times \left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^d x_i \right)^{n - \sum_{i=1}^d h_i} f\left(\frac{h_1}{n}, \dots, \frac{h_d}{n}\right)$$

($n \geq 1$, $f \in C(K_d)$, $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in K_d$).

By using again (3.3), we obtain

$$C_n(f)(x) = \sum_{\substack{h_1, \dots, h_d=0, \dots, n \\ h_1 + \dots + h_d \leq n}} \frac{n!}{h_1! \cdots h_d! (n - h_1 - \dots - h_d)!} x_1^{h_1} \cdots x_d^{h_d} \left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^d x_i \right)^{n - \sum_{i=1}^d h_i} \\ \times \int_{K_d} f\left(\frac{h_1 + as_1}{n+a}, \frac{h_2 + as_2}{n+a}, \dots, \frac{h_d + as_d}{n+a}\right) d\mu_n(s_1, \dots, s_d) \quad (3.13)$$

($n \geq 1$, $f \in C(K_d)$, $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in K_d$).

When all the μ_n are equal to the Borel-Lebesgue measure λ_d on K_d and $a = 1$, these operators are referred to as the Kantorovich operators on $C(K_d)$ and were introduced in [18]. Another particular case of (3.13) has been investigated in [3, Section 3].

For the sake of brevity we omit to describe in the setting of $C(Q_d)$ and $C(K_d)$ the operators corresponding to (3.4) and (3.5).

4 Approximation properties in $C(K)$

In this section we present some approximation properties of the sequence $(C_n)_{n \geq 1}$ on $C(K)$, showing several estimates of the rate of convergence.

In order to prove that the sequence $(C_n)_{n \geq 1}$ is a (positive) approximation process on $C(K)$ we need the following preliminary result.

Lemma 4.1. *Let $(C_n)_{n \geq 1}$ be the sequence of operators defined by (3.1) and associated with a Markov operator satisfying (2.4) (or, equivalently (2.5)). Then, for every $h, k \in A(K)$,*

$$C_n(h) = \frac{a}{n+a} \int_K h d\mu_n \cdot \mathbf{1} + \frac{n}{n+a} h \quad (4.1)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} C_n(hk) &= \frac{a^2}{(n+a)^2} \int_K hk \, d\mu_n \cdot \mathbf{1} + \frac{na}{(n+a)^2} \int_K h \, d\mu_n \cdot k \\ &+ \frac{na}{(n+a)^2} \int_K k \, d\mu_n \cdot h + \frac{n^2}{(n+a)^2} B_n(hk). \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

In particular,

$$C_n(h^2) = \frac{a^2}{(n+a)^2} \int_K h^2 \, d\mu_n \cdot \mathbf{1} + \frac{2na}{(n+a)^2} \int_K h \, d\mu_n \cdot h + \frac{n^2}{(n+a)^2} B_n(h^2). \quad (4.3)$$

Proof. By (3.2), if $h \in A(K)$, then $I_n(h) = \frac{n}{n+a}h + \frac{a}{n+a} \int_K h \, d\mu_n \cdot \mathbf{1}$ and hence (4.1) follows taking (3.3) and (2.7) into account.

Analogously, (4.2) is a consequence of the identity

$$\begin{aligned} I_n(hk) &= \frac{n^2}{(n+a)^2} hk + \frac{a^2}{(n+a)^2} \int_K hk \, d\mu_n \cdot \mathbf{1} \\ &+ \frac{na}{(n+a)^2} \left(\int_K h \, d\mu_n \right) k + \frac{na}{(n+a)^2} \left(\int_K k \, d\mu_n \right) h \end{aligned}$$

and (2.8). Formula (4.3) is a direct consequence of (4.2). \square

The following approximation result holds.

Theorem 4.2. *Under assumption (2.4), for every $f \in C(K)$*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} C_n(f) = f \quad \text{uniformly on } K. \quad (4.4)$$

Proof. First observe that the space $A(K)$ contains the constant functions and separates the points of K by the Hahn-Banach theorem. Then, according to [2, Example 3 of Theorem 4.4.6] (see also [5, Theorem 1.2.8]), $A(K) \cup A(K)^2$ is a Korovkin subset for $C(K)$. Hence the claim will be proved if we show that, for every $h \in A(K)$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} C_n(h) = h \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} C_n(h^2) = h^2$$

uniformly on K . All these assertions follow from Lemma 4.1, observing that the sequences $(\int_K h \, d\mu_n)_{n \geq 1}$ and $(\int_K h^2 \, d\mu_n)_{n \geq 1}$ are bounded for every $h \in A(K)$. \square

Now we present some quantitative estimates of the rate of convergence in (4.4) by means of suitable moduli of continuity both in the finite and infinite dimensional settings.

To this end we need to recall some useful definitions.

We begin with the finite dimensional case, i.e., K is a convex compact subset of \mathbf{R}^d , $d \geq 1$. Then we can estimate the rate of uniform convergence of the sequence $(C_n(f))_{n \geq 1}$ to f by means of the first and the second moduli of continuity, respectively defined as

$$\omega(f, \delta) := \sup\{|f(x) - f(y)| \mid x, y \in K, \|x - y\|_2 \leq \delta\} \quad (4.5)$$

and

$$\omega_2(f, \delta) := \sup \left\{ \left| f(x) - 2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) + f(y) \right| \mid x, y \in K, \|x - y\|_2 \leq 2\delta \right\},$$

for any $f \in C(K)$ and $\delta > 0$.

In the general case of a locally convex Hausdorff space X (not necessarily of finite dimension) we shall use the total modulus of continuity which we are going to define.

First, if $m \geq 1$, $h_1, \dots, h_m \in L(K)$ (see (2.1)) and $\delta > 0$, we set

$$H(h_1, \dots, h_m, \delta) := \left\{ (x, y) \in K \times K \mid \sum_{j=1}^m (h_j(x) - h_j(y))^2 \leq \delta^2 \right\}.$$

Fix a bounded function $f : K \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$; the modulus of continuity of f with respect to h_1, \dots, h_m is defined as

$$\omega(f; h_1, \dots, h_m, \delta) := \sup\{|f(x) - f(y)| \mid (x, y) \in H(h_1, \dots, h_m, \delta)\}.$$

Moreover, we define the total modulus of continuity of f as

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega(f, \delta) &:= \\ &= \inf \left\{ \omega(f; h_1, \dots, h_m, \delta) \mid m \geq 1, h_1, \dots, h_m \in L(K), \left\| \sum_{j=1}^m h_j^2 \right\|_{\infty} = 1 \right\} \\ &= \inf \left\{ \omega(f; h_1, \dots, h_m, 1) \mid m \geq 1, h_1, \dots, h_m \in L(K), \left\| \sum_{j=1}^m h_j^2 \right\|_{\infty} = \frac{1}{\delta^2} \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

If $X = \mathbf{R}^d$ there is a simple relationship between $\Omega(f, \delta)$ and the (first) modulus of continuity $\omega(f, \delta)$ defined by (4.5); indeed,

$$\omega(f; pr_1, \dots, pr_d, \delta) = \omega(f, \delta), \quad (4.7)$$

so that, setting $r(K) := \max\{\|x\|_2 \mid x \in K\}$,

$$\Omega(f, \delta) \leq \omega(f, \delta r(K)),$$

the last inequality being an equality if $d = 1$.

By using Proposition 1.6.5 in [5] (see also [2, Proposition 5.1.4]) we get the following result.

Proposition 4.3. For every $n \geq 1$ and $f \in C(K)$,

$$\|C_n(f) - f\|_\infty \leq 2\Omega\left(f, \sqrt{\frac{4a^2 + 1}{n + a}}\right).$$

Proof. Since $C_n(\mathbf{1}) = \mathbf{1}$ ($n \geq 1$), we can apply estimate (1.6.14) in [5, Proposition 1.6.5] obtaining, for every $n \geq 1$, $f \in C(K)$, $x \in K$ and $\delta > 0$, and for every $h_1, \dots, h_m \in L(K)$, $m \geq 1$,

$$|C_n(f)(x) - f(x)| \leq \left(1 + \frac{1}{\delta^2} \sum_{j=1}^m \mu(x, C_n, h_j)\right) \omega(f; h_1, \dots, h_m, \delta), \quad (1)$$

where $\mu(x, C_n, h_j) = C_n((h_j - h_j(x)\mathbf{1})^2)(x)$, $j = 1, \dots, m$. Therefore,

$$|C_n(f)(x) - f(x)| \leq (1 + \tau_n(\delta, x)) \Omega(f, \delta), \quad (2)$$

where $\Omega(f, \delta)$ is the total modulus of continuity (see (4.6)) and

$$\tau_n(\delta, x) := \sup \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^m \mu(x, C_n, h_j)(x) \mid m \geq 1, h_1, \dots, h_m \in L(K) \right. \\ \left. \text{and } \left\| \sum_{j=1}^m h_j^2 \right\|_\infty = \frac{1}{\delta^2} \right\}.$$

Fix $h \in L(K)$. Keeping (4.1), (4.3) and (2.9) in mind, we have

$$\begin{aligned} C_n((h - h(x)\mathbf{1})^2)(x) &= C_n(h^2)(x) - 2h(x)C_n(h)(x) + h^2(x) \\ &= \frac{a^2}{(n+a)^2} \int_K h^2 d\mu_n + \frac{2na}{(n+a)^2} h(x) \int_K h d\mu_n + \frac{n^2}{(n+a)^2} B_n(h^2)(x) \\ &\quad - \frac{2a}{n+a} h(x) \int_K h d\mu_n - \frac{2n}{n+a} h^2(x) + h^2(x) \\ &= \frac{a^2}{(n+a)^2} \int_K h^2 d\mu_n - \frac{2a^2}{(n+a)^2} h(x) \int_K h d\mu_n + \frac{n}{(n+a)^2} T(h^2)(x) \\ &\quad + \frac{a^2 - n}{(n+a)^2} h^2(x) \\ &\leq \frac{a^2}{(n+a)^2} \int_K h^2 d\mu_n + \frac{2a^2}{(n+a)^2} \left| h(x) \int_K h d\mu_n \right| + \frac{n}{(n+a)^2} T(h^2)(x) \\ &\quad + \frac{a^2}{(n+a)^2} h^2(x). \end{aligned}$$

Then, using Cauchy-Schwarz and Jensen inequalities, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{j=1}^m C_n((h_j - h_j(x)\mathbf{1})^2)(x) \leq \\
& \leq \frac{a^2}{(n+a)^2} \int_K \sum_{j=1}^m h_j^2 d\mu_n + \frac{2a^2}{(n+a)^2} \sum_{j=1}^m \left| h_j(x) \int_K h_j d\mu_n \right| \\
& + \frac{n}{(n+a)^2} T \left(\sum_{j=1}^m h_j^2 \right) (x) + \frac{a^2}{(n+a)^2} \sum_{j=1}^m h_j^2(x) \\
& \leq \frac{a^2}{(n+a)^2} \left\| \sum_{j=1}^m h_j^2 \right\|_{\infty} + \frac{2a^2}{(n+a)^2} \left(\sum_{j=1}^m h_j^2(x) \right)^{1/2} \left(\sum_{j=1}^m \left| \int_K h_j d\mu_n \right|^2 \right)^{1/2} \\
& + \frac{n}{(n+a)^2} \left\| \sum_{j=1}^m h_j^2 \right\|_{\infty} + \frac{a^2}{(n+a)^2} \left\| \sum_{j=1}^m h_j^2 \right\|_{\infty}.
\end{aligned}$$

Then, for every $\delta > 0$ and for every $h_1, \dots, h_m \in L(K)$, $m \geq 1$, such that $\left\| \sum_{j=1}^m h_j^2 \right\|_{\infty} = 1/\delta^2$,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{j=1}^m C_n((h_j - h_j(x)\mathbf{1})^2)(x) \leq \\
& \leq \frac{2a^2}{(n+a)^2} \frac{1}{\delta^2} + \frac{2a^2}{(n+a)^2} \left(\left\| \sum_{j=1}^m h_j^2 \right\|_{\infty} \right)^{1/2} \left(\sum_{j=1}^m \int_K h_j^2 d\mu_n \right)^{1/2} \\
& + \frac{n}{(n+a)^2} \frac{1}{\delta^2} \leq \frac{2a^2}{(n+a)^2} \frac{1}{\delta^2} + \frac{2a^2}{(n+a)^2} \left\| \sum_{j=1}^m h_j^2 \right\|_{\infty} + \frac{n}{(n+a)^2} \frac{1}{\delta^2} \\
& = \frac{4a^2 + n}{\delta^2(n+a)^2} \leq \frac{4a^2 + 1}{(n+a)\delta^2}.
\end{aligned}$$

From (2) we infer that

$$|C_n(f)(x) - f(x)| \leq \left(1 + \frac{4a^2 + 1}{(n+a)\delta^2} \right) \Omega(f, \delta)$$

for every $\delta > 0$.

Setting $\delta = \sqrt{(4a^2 + 1)/(n+a)}$ we get the claim. \square

We proceed to establish some estimates in the finite dimensional case. First we state the following result involving $\omega(f, \delta)$.

In the sequel $e_2 : K \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ will denote the function

$$e_2(x) := \|x\|_2^2 = \sum_{i=1}^d pr_i^2(x) \quad (x \in K)$$

and, for a given $x \in K$, $d_x : K \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ will stand for the function

$$d_x(y) := \|y - x\|_2 \quad (y \in K).$$

Proposition 4.4. *For every $f \in C(K)$, $n \geq 1$ and $x \in K$,*

$$|C_n(f)(x) - f(x)| \leq 2\omega \left(f, \frac{1}{n+a} \sqrt{a^2 \int_K d_x^2 d\mu_n + n(T(e_2)(x) - e_2(x))} \right). \quad (4.8)$$

Moreover,

$$\|C_n(f) - f\|_\infty \leq 2\omega \left(f, \frac{\max(a\delta(K)^2, \|T(e_2) - e_2\|_\infty)}{\sqrt{n+a}} \right), \quad (4.9)$$

where $\delta(K) := \sup\{\|x - y\|_2 \mid x, y \in K\}$.

Proof. Considering the coordinate functions pr_i , $i = 1, \dots, d$, clearly, for every $x \in K$,

$$d_x^2 = \sum_{i=1}^d (pr_i - pr_i(x))^2.$$

Therefore, from formula (1) of the proof of Proposition 4.3 and from (4.7) (see also [2, Proposition 5.1.4 and (5.1.13)]), it follows that, for any $n \geq 1$ and $\delta > 0$,

$$|C_n(f)(x) - f(x)| \leq \left(1 + \frac{1}{\delta^2} C_n(d_x^2)(x) \right) \omega(f, \delta).$$

If $C_n(d_x^2)(x) = 0$ then, letting $\delta \rightarrow 0^+$, we get $C_n(f)(x) = f(x)$ and, in this case, (4.8) is obviously satisfied.

If $C_n(d_x^2)(x) > 0$, then for $\delta := \sqrt{C_n(d_x^2)(x)}$, we obtain

$$|C_n(f)(x) - f(x)| \leq 2\omega(f, \sqrt{C_n(d_x^2)(x)}).$$

On the other hand, by applying Lemma 4.1 to each pr_i , $i = 1, \dots, d$, we have that

$$C_n(d_x^2)(x) = \frac{a^2}{(n+a)^2} \int_K d_x^2 d\mu_n + \frac{n}{(n+a)^2} (T(e_2)(x) - e_2(x))$$

and hence (4.8) holds. Clearly (4.9) follows from (4.8). \square

In the sequel we shall show a further estimate of the rate of convergence in (4.4) by means of $\omega_2(f, \delta)$.

To this end, according to [7], we denote by

$$\lambda_{n,\infty} := \max_{0 \leq i \leq d+1} \|C_n(\varphi_i) - \varphi_i\|_\infty, \quad (4.10)$$

where the functions φ_i are defined by

$$\varphi_0 := \mathbf{1}, \varphi_i := pr_i \ (i = 1, \dots, d) \ \text{and} \ \varphi_{d+1} := \sum_{i=1}^d pr_i^2. \quad (4.11)$$

Then we have the following result.

Proposition 4.5. *For every $f \in C(K)$ and $n \geq 1$,*

$$\|C_n(f) - f\|_\infty \leq C \left(\frac{M}{n+a} \|f\|_\infty + \omega_2 \left(f, \sqrt{\frac{M}{n+a}} \right) \right),$$

where the constants C and M do not depend on f .

Proof. Since every convex bounded set has the cone property (see [1, p. 66]), from [7, Theorem 2'] we infer that, for every $f \in C(K)$ and $n \geq 1$,

$$\|C_n(f) - f\|_\infty \leq C(\lambda_{n,\infty} \|f\|_\infty + \omega_2(f, \lambda_{n,\infty}^{1/2})),$$

where $\lambda_{n,\infty}$ is defined by (4.10) and the constant C does not depend on f . In order to estimate $\lambda_{n,\infty}$, note that, for every $n \geq 1$, $C_n(\mathbf{1}) = \mathbf{1}$ and, for $i = 1, \dots, d$ and $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in K$, taking (4.1) into account,

$$|C_n(pr_i)(x) - pr_i(x)| = \frac{a}{n+a} \left| \int_K pr_i d\mu_n - x_i \right| \leq \frac{2a\|x\|_2}{n+a};$$

hence

$$\|C_n(\varphi_i) - \varphi_i\|_\infty \leq \frac{2ar(K)}{n+a}$$

where $r(K) := \max\{\|x\|_2 \mid x \in K\}$.

On the other hand, by virtue of (4.3) and (2.9), for every $n \geq 1$, $i = 1, \dots, d$ and $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in K$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} C_n(pr_i^2)(x) - pr_i^2(x) &= \frac{1}{(n+a)^2} \left(a^2 \int_K pr_i^2 d\mu_n \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 2na \left(\int_K pr_i d\mu_n \right) x_i + n(T(pr_i^2)(x) - x_i^2) - a(2n+a)x_i^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
|C_n(\varphi_{d+1})(x) - \varphi_{d+1}(x)| &\leq \sum_{i=1}^d |C_n(pr_i^2)(x) - pr_i^2(x)| \leq \frac{1}{(n+a)^2} \\
&\times \left\{ a^2 r(K)^2 + 2adn r(K)^2 + n \sum_{i=1}^d |T(pr_i^2)(x) - x_i^2| + a(2n+a)r(K)^2 \right\} \\
&\leq \frac{1}{(n+a)^2} \left\{ (2a(n+a) + 2adn + n)r(K)^2 + n \sum_{i=1}^d T(pr_i^2)(x) \right\} \\
&= \frac{1}{(n+a)^2} \left\{ (2a(n+a) + 2adn + n)r(K)^2 + nT\left(\sum_{i=1}^d pr_i^2\right)(x) \right\} \\
&\leq \frac{r(K)^2}{(n+a)^2} \{2a(n+a) + 2adn + 2n\}.
\end{aligned}$$

Consequently,

$$\|C_n(\varphi_{d+1}) - \varphi_{d+1}\|_\infty \leq \frac{2a + 2ad + 2}{n+a} r(K)^2$$

and, if we set $M := \max\{2ar(K), (2a + 2ad + 2)r(K)^2\}$, we get

$$\lambda_{n,\infty} \leq \frac{M}{n+a};$$

this completes the proof. \square

5 Approximation properties in L^p -spaces

In this section we shall investigate particular subclasses of the operators C_n , $n \geq 1$, which are well-defined in $L^p(K)$ -spaces, $1 \leq p < +\infty$. This analysis will be carried out in the special cases where K is the d -dimensional unit hypercube (in particular, the unit interval) and the d -dimensional simplex.

In order to estimate the rate of convergence we recall here the definition of some moduli of smoothness. Let K be a convex compact subset of \mathbf{R}^d , $d \geq 1$, having non-empty interior.

If $f : K \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ is a Borel measurable bounded function and $\delta > 0$, we define the (multivariate) averaged modulus of smoothness of the first order for f and step δ in L^p -norm, $1 \leq p < +\infty$, as

$$\tau(f, \delta)_p := \|\omega(f, \cdot; \delta)\|_p \quad (5.1)$$

where, for every $x \in K$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\omega(f, x; \delta) &:= \\
&= \sup\{|f(t+h) - f(t)| \mid t, t+h \in K, \|t-x\|_2 \leq \delta/2, \|t+h-x\|_2 \leq \delta/2\}.
\end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, if $f \in L^p(K)$, $1 \leq p < +\infty$ and $\delta > 0$, the (multivariate) modulus of smoothness for f of order k and step δ in L^p -norm is defined by

$$\omega_{k,p}(f, \delta) := \sup_{0 < |h| \leq \delta} \left(\int_K |\Delta_h^k f(x)|^p dx \right)^{1/p}$$

where, for $x \in K$,

$$\Delta_h^k f(x) := \begin{cases} \sum_{l=0}^k (-1)^{k-l} \binom{k}{l} f(x+lh) & \text{if } x+lh \in K, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(see [16, Section 1.3], [13], [14]).

We now restrict ourselves to consider the d -dimensional unit hypercube $Q_d := [0, 1]^d$, $d \geq 1$. For every $n \geq 1$, $h = (h_1, \dots, h_d) \in \{0, \dots, n\}^d$ and $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in Q_d$, we set

$$P_{n,h}(x) := \prod_{i=1}^d \binom{n}{h_i} x_i^{h_i} (1-x_i)^{n-h_i};$$

then

$$P_{n,h} \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{h \in \{0, \dots, n\}^d} P_{n,h} = 1 \quad \text{on } Q_d. \quad (5.2)$$

Further,

$$\int_{Q_d} P_{n,h}(x) dx = \prod_{i=1}^d \binom{n}{h_i} \int_0^1 x_i^{h_i} (1-x_i)^{n-h_i} dx_i = \frac{1}{(n+1)^d}. \quad (5.3)$$

Moreover, for any given $a \geq 0$, we set

$$Q_{n,h}(a) := \prod_{i=1}^d \left[\frac{h_i}{n+a}, \frac{h_i+a}{n+a} \right] \subset Q_d;$$

in particular,

$$\bigcup_{h \in \{0, \dots, n\}^d} Q_{n,h}(a) = Q_d.$$

Consider the operators C_n , $n \geq 1$, defined by (3.11) with all the measures μ_n equal to Borel-Lebesgue measure on Q_d . In this case the operators C_n are well defined on $L^1(Q_d)$ as well and the operator S_d satisfies (2.4). Moreover, if $f \in L^1(Q_d)$ and $x \in Q_d$,

$$C_n(f)(x) = \sum_{h \in \{0, \dots, n\}^d} P_{n,h}(x) \int_{Q_d} f\left(\frac{h+au}{n+a}\right) du; \quad (5.4)$$

in particular, if $a > 0$, then

$$C_n(f)(x) = \sum_{h \in \{0, \dots, n\}^d} P_{n,h}(x) \left(\frac{n+a}{a} \right)^d \int_{Q_{n,h}(a)} f(v) dv. \quad (5.5)$$

If $d = 1$, formulae (5.4) and (5.5) turn into

$$C_n(f)(x) = \sum_{h=0}^n \binom{n}{h} x^h (1-x)^{n-h} \int_0^1 f\left(\frac{h+as}{n+a}\right) ds$$

and, if $a > 0$,

$$C_n(f)(x) = \sum_{h=0}^n \binom{n}{h} x^h (1-x)^{n-h} \left(\frac{n+a}{a} \right) \int_{\frac{h}{n+a}}^{\frac{h+a}{n+a}} f(t) dt.$$

Theorem 5.1. *Assume that $a > 0$. If $f \in L^p(Q_d)$, $1 \leq p < +\infty$, then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} C_n(f) = f$ in $L^p(Q_d)$.*

Proof. Since $C(Q_d)$ is dense in $L^p(Q_d)$ with respect to the L^p -norm $\|\cdot\|_p$ and since, on account of Theorem 4.2, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} C_n(f) = f$ in $L^p(Q_d)$ for every $f \in C(Q_d)$, it is enough to show that the sequence $(C_n)_{n \geq 1}$ is equibounded from $L^p(Q_d)$ into $L^p(Q_d)$.

Fix, indeed, $f \in L^p(Q_d)$, $n \geq 1$, and $x \in Q_d$. By recalling that the function $|t|^p$ ($t \in \mathbf{R}$) is convex and that

$$\left| \int_{Q_d} g(u) du \right|^p \leq \int_{Q_d} |g(u)|^p du$$

for every $g \in L^p(Q_d)$, setting $M := \sup_{n \geq 1} \left(\frac{n+a}{a(n+1)} \right)^d$, on account of (5.2) we get

$$\begin{aligned} |C_n(f)(x)|^p &\leq \sum_{h \in \{0, \dots, n\}^d} P_{n,h}(x) \int_{Q_d} \left| f\left(\frac{h+au}{n+a}\right) \right|^p du \\ &= \sum_{h \in \{0, \dots, n\}^d} P_{n,h}(x) \left(\frac{n+a}{a} \right)^d \int_{Q_{n,h}(a)} |f(v)|^p dv. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, by using (5.3) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{Q_d} |C_n(f)(x)|^p dx &\leq \sum_{h \in \{0, \dots, n\}^d} \left(\frac{n+a}{a(n+1)} \right)^d \int_{Q_{n,h}(a)} |f(v)|^p dv \\ &\leq M \int_{Q_d} |f(v)|^p dv, \end{aligned}$$

i.e., $\|C_n(f)\|_p \leq M^{1/p} \|f\|_p$, and so the result follows. \square

We present some estimates of the rate of convergence in Theorem 5.1.

Proposition 5.2. *For every Borel measurable bounded function f on Q_d , $1 \leq p < +\infty$ and $n \geq 1$,*

$$\|C_n(f) - f\|_p \leq C\tau \left(f; \sqrt[2d]{\frac{3n + a^2}{12(n + a)^2}} \right)$$

(see (5.1)) where the positive constant C does not depend on f .

Proof. Let f be a Borel measurable bounded function on Q_d and $p \geq 1$.

For a fixed $x \in Q_d$, set $\Psi_x(y) := y - x$ for every $y \in Q_d$. By virtue of [14, Remark p. 285], defining $M := \sup\{C_n((pr_i \circ \Psi_x)^2)(x) \mid i = 1, \dots, d, x \in Q_d\}$, then there exists a constant C such that

$$\|C_n(f) - f\|_p \leq C\tau(f; \sqrt[2d]{M})_p$$

provided $M \leq 1$.

Therefore, in order to obtain the desired result it is enough to estimate M . Since for every $n \geq 1$, $i = 1, \dots, d$ and $x \in Q_d$, we have $(pr_i \circ \Psi_x)^2 = pr_i^2 - 2x_i pr_i + x_i \mathbf{1}$, then

$$C_n((pr_i \circ \Psi_x)^2)(x) = C_n(pr_i^2)(x) - 2x_i C_n(pr_i)(x) + x_i^2 C_n(\mathbf{1})(x).$$

One has $C_n(\mathbf{1})(x) = 1$ and, from Lemma 4.1,

$$C_n(pr_i)(x) = \frac{a}{2(n + a)} + \frac{n}{n + a} x_i.$$

Moreover, since $B_n(pr_i^2) = \frac{1}{n} x_i + \frac{n-1}{n} x_i^2$ (see (2.9) and (3.10)), then

$$C_n(pr_i^2)(x) = \frac{a^2}{3(n + a)^2} + \frac{n(a + 1)}{(n + a)^2} x_i + \frac{n(n - 1)}{(n + a)^2} x_i^2.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} C_n((pr_i \circ \Psi_x)^2)(x) &= \frac{a^2 - n}{(n + a)^2} x_i^2 + \frac{n - a^2}{(n + a)^2} x_i + \frac{a^2}{3(n + a)^2} \\ &= \frac{n - a^2}{(n + a)^2} x_i (1 - x_i) + \frac{a^2}{3(n + a)^2} \leq \frac{n - a^2}{4(n + a)^2} + \frac{a^2}{3(n + a)^2} = \frac{3n + a^2}{12(n + a)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $M \leq \frac{3n + a^2}{12(n + a)^2} \leq 1$ and the result follows. \square

Now we present some estimates of the approximation error $\|C_n(f) - f\|_p$ by applying the results contained in [7]. To this end for every $n \geq 1$ and $p \in [1, +\infty[$, we have to estimate the quantity $\lambda_{n,p}$ defined by

$$\lambda_{n,p} := \max_{0 \leq i \leq d+1} \|C_n(\varphi_i) - \varphi_i\|_p, \quad (5.6)$$

where the functions φ_i are defined by (4.11).

Note that $\|C_n(\mathbf{1}) - \mathbf{1}\|_p = 0$. For every $i = 1, \dots, d$, by virtue of Lemma 4.1 we get

$$C_n(pr_i)(x) - pr_i(x) = \frac{a}{n+a} \left(\frac{1}{2} - x_i \right);$$

therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \|C_n(pr_i) - pr_i\|_p &= \frac{a}{n+a} \left(\int_{Q_d} \left| \frac{1}{2} - x_i \right|^p dx \right)^{1/p} \\ &= \frac{a}{n+a} \left(\int_0^1 \left| \frac{1}{2} - x_i \right|^p dx_i \right)^{1/p} = \frac{a}{2(n+a)(p+1)^{1/p}} \leq \frac{a}{4(n+a)}. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} &\|C_n(\varphi_{d+1}) - \varphi_{d+1}\|_p \\ &= \frac{1}{(n+a)^2} \left(\int_{Q_d} \left| \frac{a^2 d}{3} + n(a+1) \sum_{i=1}^d x_i - (n+2na+a^2) \sum_{i=1}^d x_i^2 \right|^p dx \right)^{1/p} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{(n+a)^2} \left(\int_{Q_d} \left(\frac{a^2 d}{3} + n(a+1)d + (n+2na+a^2)d \right)^p dx \right)^{1/p} \\ &\leq \frac{d}{(n+a)^2} \left(\frac{a^2}{3} + n(a+1) + (n+2na+a^2) \right) \\ &\leq \frac{d}{n+a} \left(\frac{a^2}{3} + (a+1) + (a+1)^2 \right) \leq \frac{3d(a+1)^2}{n+a}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\lambda_{n,p} \leq \frac{3d(a+1)^2}{n+a}. \quad (5.7)$$

Consider the Sobolev space $W_\infty^2(K)$ of all functions $f \in L^\infty(K)$ such that, for every $|k| \leq 1$, $D^k f$ exists (in the Sobolev sense) and $D^k f \in L^\infty(K)$, endowed with the norm $\|f\|_{2,\infty} := \max_{|k| \leq 2} \|D^k f\|_{L^\infty(K)}$.

Proposition 5.3. *If $f \in W_\infty^2(Q_d)$ then, for every $1 \leq p < +\infty$ and $n \geq 1$,*

$$\|C_n(f) - f(x)\|_p \leq C \|f\|_{2,\infty} \lambda_{n,p} \leq \tilde{C} \|f\|_{2,\infty} \frac{1}{n+a}, \quad (5.8)$$

where the constants C and \tilde{C} do not depend on f .

Moreover, if $f \in L^1(Q_d)$, then, for every $n \geq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} \|C_n(f) - f(x)\|_1 &\leq C(\lambda_{n,1} \|f\|_1 + \omega_{d+2,1}(f, \lambda_{n,1}^{1/(d+2)})) \\ &\leq C \left(\frac{3d(a+1)^2}{n+a} \|f\|_1 + \omega_{d+2,1} \left(f, \left(\frac{3d(a+1)^2}{n+a} \right)^{1/(d+2)} \right) \right), \end{aligned} \quad (5.9)$$

with C not depending on f .

Proof. Keeping (5.6) and (5.7) in mind, estimate (5.8) follows from Theorem 1 in [7]; moreover formula (5.9) is a consequence of [7, Theorem 2] and (5.7). \square

In order to obtain a result similar to Theorem 5.1 for the d -dimensional simplex K_d , $d \geq 1$, we shall adapt the proof for Q_d by making the necessary modifications.

As usual, for every $n \geq 1$ and $h = (h_1, \dots, h_d) \in \{0, \dots, n\}^d$ we set $|h| = h_1 + \dots + h_d$.

For every $n \geq 1$, $h = (h_1, \dots, h_d) \in \{0, \dots, n\}^d$, $|h| \leq n$ and $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in K_d$ we set

$$P_{n,h}^*(x) := \frac{n!}{h_1! \cdots h_d! (n - h_1 - \dots - h_d)!} x_1^{h_1} \cdots x_d^{h_d} \left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^d x_i\right)^{n - \sum_{i=1}^d h_i}.$$

Then

$$P_{n,h}^* \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{\substack{h \in \{0, \dots, n\}^d, \\ |h| \leq n}} P_{n,h} = 1 \quad \text{on } K_d,$$

and, on account of [9, Section 976],

$$\int_{K_d} P_{n,h}^*(x) dx = \frac{n!}{(n+d)!} = \frac{1}{(n+1)(n+2)\cdots(n+d)} \leq \frac{1}{(n+1)^d}.$$

Moreover, for any $a \geq 0$, we set

$$K_{n,h}(a) := \left\{ (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in \mathbf{R}^d \mid \frac{h_i}{n+a} \leq x_i \text{ for each } i = 1, \dots, d \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^d x_i \leq \frac{1}{n+a} \left(a + \sum_{i=1}^d h_i \right) \right\};$$

in particular,

$$K_{n,h}(a) \subset K_d \quad \text{and} \quad K_d = \bigcup_{\substack{h \in \{0, \dots, n\}^d, \\ |h| \leq n}} K_{n,h}(a).$$

Consider now the operators C_n , $n \geq 1$, defined by (3.13) where each μ_n is the normalized Borel-Lebesgue measure $d!\lambda_d$ on K_d . Also in this case the operators C_n are well-defined on $L^1(K_d)$ and the operator (3.12) satisfies (2.4). Moreover, for every $f \in L^1(K_d)$ and $x \in K_d$,

$$C_n(f)(x) = \sum_{\substack{h \in \{0, \dots, n\}^d, \\ |h| \leq n}} d! P_{n,h}^*(x) \int_{K_d} f\left(\frac{h+au}{n+a}\right) du$$

and, if $a > 0$,

$$C_n(f)(x) = \sum_{\substack{h \in \{0, \dots, n\}^d, \\ |h| \leq n}} P_{n,h}^*(x) d! \left(\frac{n+a}{a} \right)^d \int_{K_{n,h(a)}} f(v) dv.$$

Therefore, if $1 \leq p < +\infty$ and $a > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{K_d} |C_n(f)(x)|^p dx &\leq \sum_{\substack{h \in \{0, \dots, n\}^d, \\ |h| \leq n}} \int_{K_d} P_{n,h}^*(x) dx d! \left(\frac{n+a}{a} \right)^d \int_{K_{n,h(a)}} |f(v)|^p dv \\ &\leq d! \left(\frac{n+a}{a(n+1)} \right)^d \int_{K_d} |f(v)|^p dv, \end{aligned}$$

and hence, setting $\bar{M} := \sup_{n \geq 1} d! \left(\frac{n+a}{a(n+1)} \right)^d$, we get

$$\|C_n(f)\|_p \leq \bar{M}^{1/p} \|f\|_p.$$

By reasoning as in the proof of Theorem 5.1 we infer that

Theorem 5.4. *If $a > 0$, then, for every $f \in L^p(K_d)$, $1 \leq p < +\infty$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} C_n(f) = f$ in $L^p(K_d)$.*

Also for Theorem 5.4 we shall furnish some estimates of the rate of convergence by applying the results contained in [7]. In order to do this, first we evaluate $\lambda_{n,p}$ for each $n \geq 1$ and $1 \leq p < +\infty$ (see (5.6)).

First of all, we recall that (see [9, Section 976]), for every $k \in \mathbf{N}$,

$$\int_{K_d} x_i^k dx = \frac{\Gamma(k+1)}{\Gamma(k+d)} \frac{1}{k+d} = \frac{1}{(k+d)(k+d-1) \cdots (k+1)}. \quad (5.10)$$

As in the case of hypercube, $\|C_n(\mathbf{1}) - \mathbf{1}\|_p = 0$. For every $i = 1, \dots, d$, by virtue of Lemma 4.1 and (5.10) for $k = 0, 1$, we get that, for every $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in K_d$,

$$|C_n(pr_i)(x) - pr_i(x)| = \frac{a}{n+a} \left| \frac{1}{d+1} - x_i \right| \leq \frac{a}{n+a};$$

therefore

$$\|C_n(pr_i) - pr_i\|_p \leq \frac{a}{(n+a)(d!)^{1/p}}.$$

Moreover, from (2.9) and (3.12) it follows that $B_n(pr_i^2) = \frac{n-1}{n} pr_i^2 + \frac{1}{n} pr_i$. Thus, from Lemma 4.1 and (5.10) for $k = 2$, for every $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in K_d$, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
C_n(pr_i^2)(x) &= \frac{a^2 d!}{(n+a)^2} \frac{2}{(d+2)!} + \frac{2nad!}{(n+a)^2} \frac{1}{(d+1)!} x_i \\
&+ \frac{n^2}{(n+a)^2} \left[\frac{1}{n} x_i + \frac{n-1}{n} x_i^2 \right] \\
&= \frac{2a^2}{(n+a)^2(d+2)(d+1)} + \frac{n(2a+d+1)}{(n+a)^2(d+1)} x_i + \frac{n(n-1)}{(n+a)^2} x_i^2
\end{aligned}$$

and hence (see (4.11))

$$\begin{aligned}
|C_n(\varphi_{d+1})(x) - \varphi_{d+1}(x)| &= \frac{1}{(n+a)^2} \\
&\times \left| \frac{2a^2 d}{(d+2)(d+1)} + \frac{n(2a+d+1)}{(d+1)} \sum_{i=1}^d x_i - (n+2na+a^2) \sum_{i=1}^d x_i^2 \right| \\
&\leq \frac{1}{(n+a)^2} \left(\frac{2a^2 d}{(d+2)(d+1)} + \frac{n(2a+d+1)}{(d+1)} + n+2na+a^2 \right).
\end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
&\|C_n(\varphi_{d+1}) - \varphi_{d+1}\|_p \\
&\leq \frac{1}{(n+a)^2(d!)^{1/p}} \left(\frac{2a^2 d}{(d+2)(d+1)} + \frac{n(2a+d+1)}{(d+1)} + n+2na+a^2 \right) \\
&\leq \frac{2a^2 + 2d(a+1) + (d+1)(a+1)^2}{(n+a)(d!)^{1/p}(d+1)} \leq \frac{3d+3}{(d!)^{1/p}(d+1)} \frac{(a+1)^2}{n+a}.
\end{aligned}$$

Accordingly,

$$\lambda_{n,p} \leq \frac{3(a+1)^2}{(d!)^{1/p}(n+a)}.$$

As a consequence, we get the following result.

Proposition 5.5. *If $f \in W_\infty^2(K_d)$ then, for every $n \geq 1$,*

$$\|C_n(f) - f(x)\|_p \leq C \|f\|_{2,\infty} \lambda_{n,p} \leq \tilde{C} \|f\|_{2,\infty} \frac{1}{n+a},$$

where the constants C and \tilde{C} do not depend on f .

Moreover, if $f \in L^1(K_d)$, then for every $1 \leq p < +\infty$ and $n \geq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\|C_n(f) - f(x)\|_1 &\leq C(\lambda_{n,1} \|f\|_1 + \omega_{d+2,1}(f, \lambda_{n,1}^{1/(d+2)})) \\
&\leq C \left(\frac{3(a+1)^2}{d!(n+a)} \|f\|_1 + \omega_{d+2,1} \left(f, \left(\frac{3(a+1)^2}{d!(n+a)} \right)^{1/(d+2)} \right) \right)
\end{aligned}$$

with C not depending on f .

6 Preservation properties

In this section we shall investigate some shape and regularity preserving properties of the C_n 's proving that, under suitable assumptions, they preserve convexity and Lipschitz-continuity.

Relation (3.3) yields that some of the preservation properties of the B_n 's (see (2.3)) are naturally shared by the C_n 's.

First of all we investigate the behavior of the sequence $(C_n)_{n \geq 1}$ on Lipschitz-continuous functions and, to this end, we recall some basic definitions.

Here we shall assume that K is metrizable and we denote by ρ the metric on K which induces its topology. The ρ -modulus of continuity of a given $f \in C(K)$ with respect to $\delta > 0$ is then defined by

$$\omega_\rho(f, \delta) := \sup\{|f(x) - f(y)| \mid x, y \in K, \rho(x, y) \leq \delta\}.$$

Furthermore, for any $M \geq 0$ and $0 < \alpha \leq 1$, we denote by

$$\text{Lip}(M, \alpha) := \{f \in C(K) \mid |f(x) - f(y)| \leq M\rho(x, y)^\alpha \text{ for every } x, y \in K\}$$

the space of all Hölder continuous functions with exponent α and constant M . In particular, $\text{Lip}(M, 1)$ is the space of all Lipschitz continuous functions with constant M . Assume that

$$\omega_\rho(f, t\delta) \leq (1 + t)\omega_\rho(f, \delta)$$

for every $f \in C(K)$, $\delta, t > 0$.

From now on we suppose that there exists $c \geq 1$ such that

$$T(\text{Lip}(1, 1)) \subset \text{Lip}(c, 1), \tag{6.1}$$

or, equivalently,

$$T(\text{Lip}(M, 1)) \subset \text{Lip}(cM, 1),$$

for every $M \geq 0$.

For instance, the Markov operators T_1 , S_d and T_d of parts 1, 2 and 3 of Examples 3.1, satisfy condition (6.1) with $c = 1$, by considering on $[0, 1]$ the usual metric and on Q_d and K_d the l_1 -metric, i.e., the metric generated by the l_1 -norm (see [5, p. 124]).

Under condition (6.1) it has been shown that (see [5, Theorem 3.3.1])

$$B_n(f) \in \text{Lip}(cM, 1), \tag{6.2}$$

for every $f \in \text{Lip}(M, 1)$ and $n \geq 1$. Moreover (see [5, Corollary 3.3.2]), for every $f \in C(K)$, $\delta > 0$ and $n \geq 1$,

$$\omega_\rho(B_n(f), \delta) \leq (1 + c)\omega_\rho(f, \delta) \tag{6.3}$$

and

$$B_n(\text{Lip}(M, \alpha)) \subset \text{Lip}(c^\alpha M, \alpha) \quad (6.4)$$

for every $M > 0$ and $\alpha \in]0, 1]$.

Then, taking (6.2) into account, after noting that $I_n(f) \in \text{Lip}(M, \alpha)$ whenever $f \in \text{Lip}(M, \alpha)$ (see (3.2)), we easily deduce the following proposition.

Proposition 6.1. *Assume that condition (6.1) is satisfied. Then, for every $f \in \text{Lip}(M, 1)$ and $n \geq 1$, $C_n(f) \in \text{Lip}(cM, 1)$.*

Moreover, (6.3) and (6.4) yield the following result, since $\omega_\rho(I_n(f), \delta) \leq \omega_\rho(f, \delta)$.

Proposition 6.2. *Assume that condition (6.1) is satisfied. Then, for every $f \in C(K)$, $\delta > 0$ and $n \geq 1$,*

$$\omega_\rho(C_n(f), \delta) \leq (1 + c) \omega_\rho(f, \delta)$$

and

$$C_n(\text{Lip}(M, \alpha)) \subset \text{Lip}(c^\alpha M, \alpha)$$

for every $M > 0$ and $0 < \alpha \leq 1$.

In particular, if $T(\text{Lip}(1, 1)) \subset \text{Lip}(1, 1)$, then

$$\omega_\rho(C_n(f), \delta) \leq 2 \omega_\rho(f, \delta)$$

and

$$C_n(\text{Lip}(M, \alpha)) \subset \text{Lip}(M, \alpha)$$

for every $M > 0$ and $0 < \alpha \leq 1$.

Below we state some further properties of the operators C_n 's for special functions $f \in C(K)$. To this end we need some additional concepts.

We first recall that, if T is an arbitrary Markov operator on $C(K)$, a function $f \in C(K)$ is said to be T -convex if

$$f_{z,\alpha} \leq T(f_{z,\alpha}) \quad \text{for every } z \in K \text{ and } \alpha \in [0, 1],$$

where $f_{z,\alpha}$ is defined by $f_{z,\alpha}(x) := f(\alpha x + (1 - \alpha)z)$ ($x \in K$).

If $K = [0, 1]$ and T_1 denotes the operator (3.6), then a function $f \in C([0, 1])$ is T_1 -convex if and only if it is convex.

For $K = Q_d$ and $T = S_d$ (see (3.10)), then a function $f \in C(Q_d)$ is S_d -convex if and only if f is convex with respect to each variable.

Finally, for $K = K_d$ and $T = T_d$ (see (3.12)), a function $f \in C(K_d)$ is T_d -convex if and only if it is axially convex, i.e., it is convex on each segment parallel to a segment joining two extreme points of K_d (see [5, Section 3.5] for more details).

In general, each convex function $f \in C(K)$ is T -convex. Moreover T -axially convex functions are T -convex as well (see [5, Definition 3.5.1 and remarks on p. 148]).

In [5, Theorem 3.5.2] it has been showed that, if $(B_n)_{n \geq 1}$ is the sequence of Bernstein-Schnabl operators associated with T and T satisfies hypothesis (2.4) (or (2.5)), then

$$f \leq B_n(f) \leq T(f) \quad (n \geq 1).$$

whenever $f \in C(K)$ is T -convex. As a consequence we have the following result.

Proposition 6.3. *Under hypothesis (2.4) (or (2.5)), if $f \in C(K)$ is T -convex then, for any $n \geq 1$,*

$$C_n(f) \leq C_n(T(f)).$$

In particular if f is T -convex and each $I_n(f)$ is T -convex, then for every $n \geq 1$,

$$I_n(f) \leq C_n(f) \leq T(I_n(f)).$$

Apart from the case of the interval $[0, 1]$ and the classical Bernstein operators, in general Bernstein-Schnabl operators do not preserve convexity. A simple counterexample is given by the function $f := |pr_1 - pr_2|$ defined on the two-dimensional simplex K_2 (see [15, p. 468]). Hence, in general, the C_n 's do not preserve convexity, too. But it is possible to determine sufficient conditions in order that the B_n 's (and, hence, the C_n 's) preserve convexity.

For a given $f \in C(K)$, we set

$$\tilde{f}(s, t) := f\left(\frac{s+t}{2}\right) \quad (s, t \in K)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(\tilde{f}; x, y) &:= \iint_{K^2} \tilde{f}(s, t) d\tilde{\mu}_x^T(s) d\tilde{\mu}_x^T(t) + \\ &+ \iint_{K^2} \tilde{f}(s, t) d\tilde{\mu}_y^T(s) d\tilde{\mu}_y^T(t) - 2 \iint_{K^2} \tilde{f}(s, t) d\tilde{\mu}_x^T(s) d\tilde{\mu}_y^T(t) \\ &= B_2(f)(x) + B_2(f)(y) - 2 \iint_{K^2} f\left(\frac{s+t}{2}\right) d\tilde{\mu}_x^T(s) d\tilde{\mu}_y^T(t) \end{aligned}$$

for every $x, y \in K$.

Theorem 6.4. *Suppose that T satisfies the following assumptions:*

- (c₁) *T maps continuous convex functions into (continuous) convex functions;*

(c_2) $\Delta(\tilde{f}; x, y) \geq 0$ for every convex function $f \in C(K)$ and for every $x, y \in K$.

Then each C_n maps continuous convex functions into (continuous) convex functions.

Proof. According to [5, Theorem 3.4.3], under assumptions (c_1) and (c_2), each Bernstein-Schnabl operator B_n maps continuous convex functions into (continuous) convex functions. Therefore the result follows from (3.3) taking into account that each $I_n(f)$ is convex provided that $f \in C(K)$ is convex. \square

Remark 6.5. In [5, Remark 3.4.4 and Examples 3.4.5-3.4.11] there are several examples of settings where conditions (c_1) and (c_2) are satisfied. This is the case, in particular, when $K = [0, 1]$ and $T = T_1$ (see (3.6)). Therefore, all the operators defined by (3.7), (3.8) and (3.9) preserve the convexity.

Finally we point out that, if $K = K_d$, $d \geq 1$, then the Bernstein operators on $C(K_d)$, i.e., the Bernstein-Schnabl operators associated with the Markov operator (3.12), preserve the axial convexity ([2, Theorem 6.3.2], [5, Theorem 3.5.9]). On the other hand, if $f \in C(K_d)$ is axially convex, then $I_n(f)$ is axially convex too for every $n \geq 1$. Therefore, on account of (3.3), we conclude that

Corollary 6.6. *Considering the canonical simplex K_d of \mathbf{R}^d , $d \geq 1$, then the operators C_n defined by (3.13) map continuous axially convex functions on K_d into (continuous) axially convex functions.*

Acknowledgments. The first, second and third authors have been partially supported by Italian INDAM-GNAMPA 2016.

The authors thank the referee for his/her useful comments and suggestions.

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