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Stability of additivity and fixed point methods

Janusz Brzdęk*

*Correspondence:
jbrzdek@up.krakow.pl
Department of Mathematics,
Pedagogical University,
Podchorążych 2, Kraków, 30-084,
Poland

Abstract

We show that the fixed point methods allow to investigate Ulam's type stability of additivity quite efficiently and precisely. Using them we generalize, extend and complement some earlier classical results concerning the stability of the additive Cauchy equation.

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Introduction

In applications quite often we have to do with functions that satisfy some equations only approximately. One of possible ways to deal with them is just to replace such functions by corresponding (in suitable ways) exact solutions to those equations. But there of course arises the issue of errors which we commit in this way. Some tools to evaluate such errors are provided within the theory of Ulam's type stability. For instance, we can introduce the following definition, which somehow describes the main ideas of such stability notion for the Cauchy equation

$$f(x + y) = f(x) + f(y). \quad (1)$$

Definition 1 Let $(A, +)$ and $(X, +)$ be semigroups, d be a metric in X , $\mathcal{E} \subset \mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{R}_+^{A^2}$ be nonempty, and \mathcal{T} be an operator mapping \mathcal{C} into \mathbb{R}_+^A (\mathbb{R}_+ stands for the set of nonnegative reals). We say that Cauchy equation (1) is $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{T})$ -stable provided for every $\varepsilon \in \mathcal{E}$ and $\varphi_0 \in X^A$ with

$$d(\varphi_0(x + y), \varphi_0(x) + \varphi_0(y)) \leq \varepsilon(x, y), \quad x, y \in A, \quad (2)$$

there exists a solution $\varphi \in X^A$ of equation (1) such that

$$d(\varphi(x), \varphi_0(x)) \leq \mathcal{T}\varepsilon(x), \quad x \in A. \quad (3)$$

(As usual, C^D denotes the family of all functions mapping a set $D \neq \emptyset$ into a set $C \neq \emptyset$.) Roughly speaking, $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{T})$ -stability of equation (1) means that every approximate (in the sense of (2)) solution of (1) is always close (in the sense of (3)) to an exact solution to (1).

Let us mention that this type of stability has been a very popular subject of investigations for the last nearly fifty years (see, e.g., [1–10]). The main motivation for it was given by S.M. Ulam (cf. [4, 11]) in 1940 in his talk at the University of Wisconsin, where he presented, in particular, the following problem.

Let G_1 be a group and (G_2, d) be a metric group. Given $\varepsilon > 0$, does there exist $\delta > 0$ such that if $f : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$ satisfies

$$d(f(xy), f(x)f(y)) < \delta, \quad x, y \in G_1,$$

then a homomorphism $T : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$ exists with $d(f(x), T(x)) < \varepsilon$ for $x \in G_1$?

Hyers [4] published a partial answer to it, which can be stated as follows.

Let E and Y be Banach spaces and $\varepsilon > 0$. Then, for every $g : E \rightarrow Y$ with

$$\sup_{x, y \in E} \|g(x + y) - g(x) - g(y)\| \leq \varepsilon,$$

there is a unique $f : E \rightarrow Y$ that is additive (i.e., satisfies equation (1)) and such that

$$\sup_{x \in E} \|g(x) - f(x)\| \leq \varepsilon.$$

Quite often we describe that result of Hyers simply saying that *Cauchy functional equation (1) is Hyers-Ulam stable (or has the Hyers-Ulam stability)*.

In the next few years, Hyers and Ulam published some further stability results for polynomial functions, isometries and convex functions in [12–15]. Let us mention yet that now we are aware of an earlier (than that of Hyers) result concerning such stability that is due to Pólya and Szegő [16, Teil I, Aufgabe 99] (see also [17, Part I, Ch. 3, Problem 99]) and reads as follows (\mathbb{N} stands for the set of positive integers).

For every real sequence $(a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ with $\sup_{n, m \in \mathbb{N}} |a_{n+m} - a_n - a_m| \leq 1$, there is a real number ω such that $\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} |a_n - \omega n| \leq 1$. Moreover, $\omega = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n/n$.

The next theorem is considered to be one of the most classical results.

Theorem 1 Let E_1 and E_2 be two normed spaces, E_2 be complete, $c \geq 0$ and $p \neq 1$ be fixed real numbers. Let $f : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$ be a mapping such that

$$\|f(x + y) - f(x) - f(y)\| \leq c(\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p), \quad x, y \in E_1 \setminus \{0\}. \quad (4)$$

Then there exists a unique additive function $T : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$ with

$$\|f(x) - T(x)\| \leq \frac{c\|x\|^p}{|2^{p-1} - 1|}, \quad x \in E_1 \setminus \{0\}. \quad (5)$$

It was motivated by Th.M. Rassias (see [18–20]) and is composed of the outcomes in [18, 21, 22]. Note that Theorem 1 with $p = 0$ yields the result of Hyers and it is known (see [22]; cf. also [23, 24]) that for $p = 1$ an analogous result is not valid. Moreover, it was shown in [25] that estimation (5) is optimum for $p \geq 0$ in the general case.

Theorem 1 has a very nice simple form. However, recently, it was shown in [26] that it can be significantly improved; namely, in the case $p < 0$, each $f : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$ satisfying (4) must actually be additive and the assumption of completeness of E_2 is not necessary in such a situation. So, taking into account that result in [26], we can reformulate Theorem 1 in the following way.

Theorem 2 *Let E_1 and E_2 be two normed spaces and $c \geq 0$ and $p \neq 1$ be fixed real numbers. Let $f : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$ be a mapping satisfying (4). If $p \geq 0$ and E_2 is complete, then there exists a unique additive function $T : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$ such that (5) holds. If $p < 0$, then f is additive.*

The second statement of Theorem 2, for $p < 0$, can be described as the φ -hyperstability of the additive Cauchy equation for $\varphi(x, y) \equiv c(\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p)$. Unfortunately, such result does not remain valid if we restrict the domain of f , as the following remark shows it.

Remark 1 Let $p < 0$, $a \geq 0$, $I = (a, \infty)$, and $f, T : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be given by $T(x) = 0$ and $f(x) = x^p$ for $x \in I$. Then, clearly,

$$|f(x) - T(x)| = x^p, \quad x \in I,$$

and (cf. Example 1)

$$|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)| \leq x^p + y^p, \quad x, y \in I.$$

1 The main result

In this paper we prove the following complement to Theorem 1, which covers also the situation described in Remark 1 (see Remark 2).

Theorem 3 *Let $(X, +)$ be a commutative semigroup, $(E, +)$ be a commutative group, d be a complete metric in E which is invariant (i.e., $d(x+z, y+z) = d(x, y)$ for $x, y, z \in X$), and $h : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ be a function such that*

$$M_0 := \{n \in \mathbb{N} : s(n) + s(n+1) < 1\} \neq \emptyset,$$

where $s(n) := \inf\{t \in \mathbb{R}_+ : h(nx) \leq th(x) \text{ for all } x \in X\}$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Assume that $f : X \rightarrow E$ satisfies the inequality

$$d(f(x+y), f(x) + f(y)) \leq h(x) + h(y), \quad x, y \in X. \tag{6}$$

Then there exists a unique additive $T : X \rightarrow E$ such that

$$d(f(x), T(x)) \leq s_0 h(x), \quad x \in X, \tag{7}$$

with

$$s_0 := \inf \left\{ \frac{1 + s(n)}{1 - s(n) - s(n+1)} : n \in M_0 \right\}.$$

It is easily seen that Theorem 3 yields the subsequent corollary.

Corollary 1 *Let X, E and d be as in Theorem 3 and $h : X \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ be such that*

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{x \in X} \frac{h(nx) + h((1+n)x)}{h(x)} = 0. \tag{8}$$

Assume that $f : X \rightarrow E$ satisfies (6). Then there is a unique additive $T : X \rightarrow E$ with

$$d(f(x), T(x)) \leq h(x), \quad x \in X. \tag{9}$$

Remark 2 If E_1 and E_2 are normed spaces and X is a subsemigroup of the group $(E_1, +)$ such that $0 \notin X$, then it is easily seen that the function $h : X \rightarrow E_2$, given by $h(x) = c\|x\|^p$ for $x \in X$, with some real $p < 0$ and $c > 0$, fulfils condition (8). This shows that Corollary 1 (and therefore Theorem 3, as well) complements Theorem 2 and in particular also Theorem 1. Note that for such h , (9) takes the form

$$\|f(x) - T(x)\| \leq c\|x\|^p, \quad x \in X, \tag{10}$$

which is sharper than (5) for $p < 0$.

A bit more involved example of $h : X \rightarrow E_2$ satisfying (8) we obtain taking

$$h(x) = \gamma(x)A(x)^p, \quad x \in X$$

for any real $p < 0$, any bounded function $\gamma : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $\inf \gamma(X) > 0$, and any $A : X \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ such that $A(nx) \geq nA(x)$ for $x \in X, n \in \mathbb{N}$ (for instance, we can take $A(x) := \|\alpha(x)\|$ for $x \in X$, with some additive $\alpha : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$).

In some cases, estimation (9) provided in Corollary 1 is optimum as the subsequent example shows. Unfortunately, this is not always the case, because the possibly sharpest such estimation we have in Theorem 2 for $p < 0$.

Example 1 Let $p < 0, a \geq 0, I = [a, \infty)$, and $A : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be additive and such that $X := \{x \in I : A(x) > 0\} \neq \emptyset$. Write $h(x) = A(x)^p$ for $x \in X$. Then it is easily seen that X is a subsemigroup of the semigroup $(I, +)$ and (8) is valid. Define $f, T : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by $T(x) = 0$ and $f(x) = A(x)^p$ for $x \in X$. Then

$$|f(x) - T(x)| = A(x)^p = h(x), \quad x \in X.$$

We show that

$$|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)| \leq h(x) + h(y), \quad x, y \in X.$$

Actually, the calculations are very elementary, but for the convenience of readers, we provide them.

So, fix $x, y \in X$. Suppose, for instance, that $A(x) \leq A(y)$. Then

$$A(x) + A(y) \geq 2A(x),$$

which means that

$$A(x+y)^p = (A(x) + A(y))^p \leq 2^p A(x)^p < A(x)^p < A(x)^p + A(y)^p$$

and consequently

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)| &= A(x)^p + A(y)^p - A(x+y)^p \\ &\leq A(x)^p + A(y)^p = h(x) + h(y). \end{aligned}$$

2 Auxiliary result

The proof of Theorem 3 is based on a fixed point result that can be easily derived from [27, Theorem 2] (cf. [28, Theorem 1] and [29]). Let us mention that [27, Theorem 2] was already used, in a similar way as here, for the first time in [30] for proving some stability results for the functional equation of p-Wright affine functions, next in [26, 31] in proving hyperstability of the Cauchy equation, and (very recently) also for investigations of stability and hyperstability of some other equations in [32–34] (the Jensen equation, the general linear equation, and the Drygas functional equation, respectively).

The fixed point approach to Ulam’s type stability was proposed for the first time in [35] (cf. [36] for a generalization; see also [37]) and later applied in numerous papers; for a survey on this subject, we refer to [38].

We need to introduce the following hypotheses.

(H1) X is a nonempty set and (Y, d) is a complete metric space.

(H2) $f_1, f_2 : X \rightarrow X$ are given maps.

(H3) $\mathcal{T} : Y^X \rightarrow Y^X$ is an operator satisfying the inequality

$$d(\mathcal{T}\xi(x), \mathcal{T}\mu(x)) \leq d(\xi(f_1(x)), \mu(f_1(x))) + d(\xi(f_2(x)), \mu(f_2(x))), \quad \xi, \mu \in Y^X, x \in X.$$

(H4) $\Lambda : \mathbb{R}_+^X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^X$ is an operator defined by

$$\Lambda \delta(x) := \delta(f_1(x)) + \delta(f_2(x)), \quad \delta \in \mathbb{R}_+^X, x \in X.$$

Now we are in a position to present the above mentioned fixed point result following from [27, Theorem 2].

Theorem 4 *Assume that hypotheses (H1)-(H4) are valid. Suppose that there exist functions $\varepsilon : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ and $\varphi : X \rightarrow Y$ such that*

$$\|\mathcal{T}\varphi(x) - \varphi(x)\| \leq \varepsilon(x), \quad \varepsilon^*(x) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\Lambda^n \varepsilon)(x) < \infty, \quad x \in X.$$

Then there exists a unique fixed point ψ of \mathcal{T} with

$$\|\varphi(x) - \psi(x)\| \leq \varepsilon^*(x), \quad x \in X.$$

Moreover, $\psi(x) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\mathcal{T}^n \varphi)(x)$ for $x \in X$.

3 Proof of Theorem 3

Note that (6) with $y = mx$ gives

$$d(f((1+m)x), f(x) + f(mx)) \leq (1+s(m))h(x), \quad x \in X, m \in \mathbb{N}. \tag{11}$$

Define operators $\mathcal{T}_m : E^X \rightarrow E^X$ and $\Lambda_m : \mathbb{R}_+^X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^X$ by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T}_m \xi(x) &:= \xi((1+m)x) - \xi(mx), \quad x \in X, \xi \in E^X, m \in \mathbb{N}, \\ \Lambda_m \delta(x) &:= \delta((1+m)x) + \delta(mx), \quad x \in X, \delta \in \mathbb{R}_+^X, m \in \mathbb{N}. \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

Then it is easily seen that, for each $m \in \mathbb{N}$, $\Lambda := \Lambda_m$ has the form described in (H4) with $f_1(x) = mx$ and $f_2(x) = (1+m)x$. Moreover, since d is invariant, (11) can be written in the form

$$d(\mathcal{T}_m f(x), f(x)) \leq (1+s(m))h(x) =: \varepsilon_m(x), \quad x \in X, m \in \mathbb{N}, \tag{13}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} d(\mathcal{T}_m \xi(x), \mathcal{T}_m \mu(x)) &= d(\xi((1+m)x) - \xi(mx), \mu((1+m)x) - \mu(mx)) \\ &\leq d(\xi((1+m)x), \mu((1+m)x)) + d(\xi(mx), \mu(mx)) \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

for every $\xi, \mu \in E^X$, $x \in X$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$. Consequently, for each $m \in \mathbb{N}$, also (H3) is valid with $Y := E$ and $\mathcal{T} := \mathcal{T}_m$.

It is easy to show by induction on n that

$$\Lambda_m^n \varepsilon_m(x) \leq (1+s(m))h(x)(s(m) + s(1+m))^n$$

for $x \in X$, $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ (nonnegative integers) and $m \in M_0$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_m^*(x) &:= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\Lambda_m^n \varepsilon_m)(x) \\ &\leq (1+s(m))h(x) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (s(m) + s(1+m))^n \\ &= \frac{(1+s(m))h(x)}{1-s(m)-s(1+m)}, \quad x \in X, m \in M_0. \end{aligned}$$

Now, we can use Theorem 4 with $Y = E$ and $\varphi = f$. According to it, the limit

$$T_m(x) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\mathcal{T}_m^n f)(x)$$

exists for each $x \in X$ and $m \in M_0$,

$$d(f(x), T_m(x)) \leq \frac{(1+s(m))h(x)}{1-s(m)-s(1+m)}, \quad x \in X, m \in M_0, \tag{15}$$

and the function $T_m : X \rightarrow E$, defined in this way, is a solution of the equation

$$T(x) = T((1+m)x) - T(mx). \tag{16}$$

Now we show that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & d(\mathcal{T}_m^n f(x+y), \mathcal{T}_m^n f(x) + \mathcal{T}_m^n f(y)) \\
 & \leq (s(m) + s(1+m))^n (h(x) + h(y))
 \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

for every $x, y \in X$, $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and $m \in M_0$. Since the case $n = 0$ is just (6), take $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and assume that (17) holds for $n = k$ and every $x, y \in X$, $m \in M_0$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 & d(\mathcal{T}_m^{k+1} f(x+y), \mathcal{T}_m^{k+1} f(x) + \mathcal{T}_m^{k+1} f(y)) \\
 & = d(\mathcal{T}_m^k f((1+m)(x+y)) - \mathcal{T}_m^k f(m(x+y)), \\
 & \quad \mathcal{T}_m^k f((1+m)x) - \mathcal{T}_m^k f(mx) + \mathcal{T}_m^k f((1+m)y) - \mathcal{T}_m^k f(my)) \\
 & \leq d(\mathcal{T}_m^k f((1+m)x + (1+m)y), \mathcal{T}_m^k f((1+m)x) + \mathcal{T}_m^k f((1+m)y)) \\
 & \quad + d(\mathcal{T}_m^k f(mx + my), \mathcal{T}_m^k f(mx) + \mathcal{T}_m^k f(my)) \\
 & \leq (s(m) + s(1+m))^k (h((1+m)x) + h((1+m)y)) \\
 & \quad + (s(m) + s(1+m))^k (h(mx) + h(my)) \\
 & \leq (s(m) + s(1+m))^{k+1} (h(x) + h(y)), \quad x, y \in X, m \in M_0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by induction we have shown that (17) holds for every $x, y \in X$, $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$, and $m \in M_0$. Letting $n \rightarrow \infty$ in (17), we obtain the equality

$$T_m(x+y) = T_m(x) + T_m(y), \quad x, y \in X, m \in M_0. \tag{18}$$

Next, we prove that each additive function $T : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfying the inequality

$$d(f(x), T(x)) \leq Lh(x), \quad x \in X, \tag{19}$$

with some $L > 0$, is equal to T_m for each $m \in M_0$. To this end, fix $m_0 \in M_0$ and an additive $T : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfying (19). Note that by (15),

$$\begin{aligned}
 d(T(x), T_{m_0}(x)) & \leq d(T(x), f(x)) + d(f(x), T_{m_0}(x)) \\
 & = L_0 h(x) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (s(m_0) + s(1+m_0))^n, \quad x \in X
 \end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

for some $L_0 > 0$ (the case $h(x) \equiv 0$ is trivial, so we exclude it here). Observe yet that T and T_{m_0} are solutions to equation (16) for all $m \in M_0$.

We show that for each $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$,

$$d(T(x), T_{m_0}(x)) \leq L_0 h(x) \sum_{n=j}^{\infty} (s(m_0) + s(1+m_0))^n, \quad x \in X. \tag{21}$$

The case $j = 0$ is exactly (20). So, fix $l \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and assume that (21) holds for $j = l$. Then, in view of (20),

$$\begin{aligned} d(T(x), T_{m_0}(x)) &= d(T((1 + m_0)x) - T(m_0x), T_{m_0}((1 + m_0)x) - T_{m_0}(m_0x)) \\ &\leq d(T((1 + m_0)x), T_{m_0}((1 + m_0)x)) + d(T(m_0x), T_{m_0}(m_0x)) \\ &\leq L_0(h((1 + m_0)x) + h(m_0x)) \sum_{n=l}^{\infty} (s(m_0) + s(1 + m_0))^n \\ &\leq L_0 h(x) \sum_{n=l+1}^{\infty} (s(m_0) + s(1 + m_0))^n, \quad x \in X. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have shown (21). Now, letting $j \rightarrow \infty$ in (21), we get

$$T = T_{m_0}. \tag{22}$$

Thus we have also proved that $T_m = T_{m_0}$ for each $m \in M_0$, which (in view of (15)) yields

$$d(f(x), T_{m_0}(x)) \leq \frac{(1 + s(m))h(x)}{1 - s(m) - s(1 + m)}, \quad x \in X, m \in M_0. \tag{23}$$

This implies (7) with $T := T_{m_0}$; clearly, equality (22) means the uniqueness of T as well.

Remark 3 Note that from the above proof we can derive a much stronger statement on the uniqueness of T than the one formulated in Theorem 3. Namely, it is easy to see that $T := T_{m_0}$ is the unique additive mapping such that (19) holds with some $L > 0$.

Competing interests

The author declares that he has no competing interests.

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