THE WEIERSTRASS-STONE APPROXIMATION THEOREM
FOR p-ADIC C^n-FUNCTIONS
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Abstract.
Let K be a non-Archimedean valued field. Then, on compact subsets of K, every K-valued C^n-function can be approximated in the C^n-topology by polynomial functions (Theorem 1.4). This result is extended to a Weierstrass-Stone type theorem (Theorem 2.10).

INTRODUCTION
The non-archimedean version of the classical Weierstrass Approximation Theorem - the case n = 0 of the Abstract - is well known and named after Kaplansky ([1], 5.28). To investigate the case n = 1 first let us return to the Archimedean case and consider a real-valued C^1-function f on the unit interval. To find a polynomial function P such that both |f-P| and |f'-P'| are smaller or equal than a prescribed ε > 0 one simply can apply the standard Weierstrass Theorem to f obtaining a polynomial function Q for which |f'-Q| ≤ ε. Then x ↦ P(x) := f(0) + ∫₀^x Q(t)dt solves the problem.

Now let f : X → K be a C^1-function where K is a non-archimedean valued field and X ⊆ K is compact.
Lacking an indefinite integral the above method no longer works. There do exist continuous linear antiderivations ([3], §64) but they do not map polynomials into polynomials ([3], Ex. 30.C). A further complicating factor is that the natural norm for C^1-functions on X is given by

f ↦ max{|f(x)| : x ∈ X} ∨ max{\left| \frac{f(x)-f(y)}{x-y} \right| : x, y ∈ X, x ≠ y}

rather than the more classical formula

f ↦ max{|f(x)| : x ∈ X} ∨ max{|f'(x)| : x ∈ X}.

(Observe that in the real case both formulas lead to the same norm thanks to the Mean Value Theorem, see [3], §§26,27 for further discussions.)
Thus, to obtain non-archimedean \( C^n \)-Weierstrass-Stone Theorems for \( n \in \{1, 2, \ldots\} \) our methods will necessarily deviate from the 'classical' ones.

0. PRELIMINARIES

1. Throughout \( K \) is a non-archimedean complete valued field whose valuation \( |\cdot| \) is not trivial. For \( a \in K, r > 0 \) we write \( B(a, r) := \{x \in K : |x-a| \leq r\} \), the 'closed' ball about \( a \) with radius \( r \). 'Clopen' is an abbreviation for 'closed and open'. The function \( x \mapsto x \ (x \in K) \) is denoted \( X \). The \( K \)-valued characteristic function of a subset \( Y \) of \( K \) is written \( \chi_Y \).

Throughout \( A' \) is a non-archimedean complete valued field whose valuation \( \triangledown \) is not trivial. For a \( G A' \), \( v > 0 \) we write \( B(a\!\!\! \triangledown r) := \{x \in K : \triangledown x-a \leq r\} \), the 'closed' ball about \( a \) with radius \( r \). 'Clopen' is an abbreviation for 'closed and open'. The function \( x \mapsto x \ (x \in K) \) is denoted \( X \). The \( K \)-valued characteristic function of a subset \( Y \) of \( K \) is written \( \chi_Y \).

We now recall some facts from [2], [3] on \( C^n \)-theory.

2. For a set \( Y \subset K, n \in \mathbb{N} \) we set \( \nabla^n Y := \{(y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n) \in Y^n : i \neq j \Rightarrow y_i \neq y_j\} \).

For \( f : Y \to K, n \in \mathbb{N}_0 \) we define its \( n \)th difference quotient \( \Phi_n f : \nabla^{n+1} Y \to K \) inductively by \( \Phi_0 f := f \) and the formula

\[
\Phi_n f(y_1, \ldots, y_{n+1}) = \frac{\Phi_{n-1} f(y_1, y_3, \ldots, y_{n+1}) - \Phi_{n-1} f(y_2, y_3, \ldots, y_{n+1})}{y_1 - y_2}
\]

\( f \) is called a \( C^n \)-function if \( \Phi_n f \) can be extended to a continuous function on \( Y^{n+1} \).

The set of all \( C^n \)-functions \( Y \to K \) is denoted \( C^n(Y \to K) \). The function \( f : Y \to K \) is a \( C^\infty \)-function if it is in \( C^\infty(Y \to K) := \bigcap_{n=0}^{\infty} C^n(Y \to K) \). The space \( C^0(Y \to K) \), consisting of all continuous functions \( Y \to K \) is sometimes written as \( C(Y \to K) \).

**FROM NOW ON IN THIS PAPER \( X \) IS A NONEMPTY COMPACT SUBSET OF \( K \) WITHOUT ISOLATED POINTS.**

3. Since \( X \) has no isolated points we have for an \( f \in C^n(X \to K) \) that the continuous extension of \( \Phi_n f \) to \( X^n \) is unique; we denote this extension by \( \overline{\Phi}_n f \). Also we write

\[
D_n f(a) := \overline{\Phi}_n f(a, a, \ldots, a) \quad (a \in X)
\]

The following facts are proved in [2] and [3].

**Proposition 0.3.**

(i) For each \( n \in \mathbb{N}_0 \) the space \( C^n(X \to K) \) is a \( K \)-algebra under pointwise operations.

(ii) \( C^0(X \to K) \supset C^1(X \to K) \supset \ldots \)
(iii) If \( f \in C^n(X \to K) \) then \( f \) is \( n \) times differentiable and \( j!D_jf = f^{(j)} \) for each \( j \in \{0, 1, \ldots, n\} \). More generally, if \( i, j \in \{0, 1, \ldots, n\} \), \( i + j \leq n \) then \((i+j)D_iD_jf = D_{i+j}f\).

(iv) If \( f \in C^n(X \to K) \) then for \( x, y \in X \) we have Taylor's formula

\[
 f(x) = f(y) + (x-y)D_1f(y) + \cdots + (x-y)^{n-1}D_{n-1}f(y) + (x-y)^n \rho_1f(x, y),
\]

where \( \rho_1f(x, y) = \Phi_nf(x, y, \ldots, y) \).

4. Since \( X \) is compact the difference quotients \( \Phi_i f \) \( (0 \leq i \leq n) \) are bounded if \( f \in C^n(X \to K) \). We set

\[
 \|f\|_{n, X} := \max\{\|\Phi_i f\|_{\sigma^{i+1}, X} : 0 \leq i \leq n\}.
\]

Then \( \|f\|_{0, X} = \|f\|_X \). We quote the following from [2] and [3].

**Proposition 0.4.** Let \( n \in \mathbb{N}_0 \).

(i) The function \( \| \cdot \|_{n, X} \) is a norm on \( C^n(X \to K) \) making it into a \( K \)-Banach algebra.

(ii) The local polynomials form a dense subset of \( C^n(X \to K) \).

(iii) The function

\[
 f \mapsto \|f\|_{n, X} := \max_{0 \leq i \leq n-1} \|D_i f\|_X \vee \|\rho_1 f\|_X,
\]

(see Proposition 0.3 (iv)) also is a norm on \( C^n(X \to K) \). We have

\[
 \|f\|_{n, X} = \max\{\|D_i f\|_{\tilde{n-i, X}} : 0 \leq i \leq n\} \quad (f \in C^n(X \to K)).
\]

**Remarks**

1. Proposition 0.4 (ii) will also follow from Proposition 2.8.

2. In general \( \| \cdot \|_{\tilde{n, X}} \) is not equivalent to \( \| \cdot \|_{n, X} \) for \( n \geq 3 \) (see [3], Example 83.2).
1 THE WEIERSTRASS THEOREM FOR C^n-FUNCTIONS

The following product rule for difference quotients is easily proved by induction with respect to $j$.

Let $f, g : X \to K$, let $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$. Then for all $(x_1, \ldots, x_{j+1}) \in \nabla^{j+1}X$ we have

$$
\Phi_j(fg)(x_1, \ldots, x_{j+1}) = \sum_{k=0}^{j} \Phi_k f(x_1, \ldots, x_{k+1}) \Phi_{j-k} g(x_{k+1}, \ldots, x_{j+1}).
$$

Or, less precise,

$$
\Phi_j(fg)(x_1, \ldots, x_{j+1}) = \sum_{k=0}^{j} \Phi_k f(z_k) \Phi_{j-k} g(u_{j-k})
$$

for certain $z_k \in \nabla^{k+1}X$, $u_{j-k} \in \nabla^{j-k+1}X$.

In the sequel we need an extension of this formula to finite products of functions. The proof is straightforward by induction with respect to $N$.

**Lemma 1.1. (Product Rule)** Let $h_1, \ldots, h_N : X \to K$, let $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$. Then for all $(x_1, \ldots, x_{j+1}) \in \nabla^{j+1}X$ we have

$$
\Phi_j\left(\prod_{s=1}^{N} h_s\right)(x_1, \ldots, x_{j+1}) = \sum_{\sigma} \prod_{s=1}^{N} \Phi_{j_s}(z_{\sigma,s})
$$

where the sum is taken over all $\sigma := (j_1, \ldots, j_N) \in \mathbb{N}_0^N$ for which $j_1 + \cdots + j_N = j$ and where $z_{\sigma,s} \in \nabla^{j_s+1}X$ for each $s \in \{1, \ldots, N\}$. (In fact, $z_{\sigma,1} = (x_1, \ldots, x_{j_1+1})$, $z_{\sigma,2} = (x_{j_1+1}, \ldots, x_{j_1+j_2+1}), \ldots, z_{\sigma,N} = (x_{j_1+\cdots+j_{N-1}+1}, \ldots, x_{j+1})$.)

The following key lemma grew out of [1], 5.28.

**Lemma 1.2.** Let $0 < \delta < 1$, $0 < \epsilon < 1$, let $B = B_0 \cup B_1 \cup \cdots \cup B_m$ where $B_0, \ldots, B_m$ are pairwise disjoint 'closed' balls in $K$ of radius $\delta$. Then, for each $n \in \{0, 1, \ldots\}$ there exists a polynomial function $P : K \to K$ such that $\|P - \xi B_0\|_{n,B} \leq \epsilon$.

**Proof.** We may assume $0 \in B_0$. Choose $c_1 \in B_1, \ldots, c_m \in B_m$; we may assume that $|c_1| \leq |c_2| \leq \cdots \leq |c_m|$. Then $\delta < |c_1|$. We shall prove the following statement by induction with respect to $n$.

Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ be such that $(\delta/|c_1|)^k \leq \epsilon \delta^n$, $k > n$. Let $t_1, t_2, \ldots, t_m \in \mathbb{N}$ be such that for all $\ell \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$

$$
\left| \frac{c_{\ell}^{kt_1}}{|c_1|} \right| \left| \frac{c_{\ell}^{kt_2}}{c_2} \right| \cdots \left| \frac{c_{\ell}^{kt_{t-1}}}{c_{t-1}} \right| \left( \frac{\delta}{|c_1|} \right)^{t_{t}} \leq \epsilon \delta^n
$$

(1)
(It is easily seen that such \( k, t_1, \ldots, t_m \) exist since \( \delta/|c_1| < 1 \).) Then the formula

\[
P(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{m}(1 - (\frac{x}{c_i})^{t_i})
\]
defines a polynomial function \( P: K \rightarrow K \) for which

\[
\|P - \xi_{B_0}\|_{n,B} \leq \varepsilon.
\]

The case \( n = 0 \) is proved in [1], 5.28. To prove the step \( n - 1 \rightarrow n \) we first observe that from the induction hypothesis (with \( \varepsilon \) replaced by \( \varepsilon \delta \)) it follows that

(2) \[
\|P - \xi_{B_0}\|_{n-1,B} \leq \varepsilon \delta
\]

So it remains to be shown that

(3) \[
|\Phi_n(P - \xi_{B_0})(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1})| \leq \varepsilon
\]

for all \((x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1}) \in \nabla^{n+1}B\). Now, if \(|x_i - x_j| > \delta\) for some \( i, j \in \{1, \ldots, n+1\} \) we have, using (2),

\[
|\Phi_n(P - \xi_{B_0})(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1})| = |x_i - x_j|^{-1} \cdot |\Phi_n(P - \xi_{B_0})(x_1, \ldots, x_{j-1}, x_{j+1}, \ldots, x_{n+1}) - \Phi_n(P - \xi_{B_0})(x_1, \ldots, x_{j-1}, x_{j+1}, \ldots, x_{n+1})| \leq \delta^{-1} \cdot \varepsilon \delta = \varepsilon.
\]

So this reduces the proof of (3) to the case where \(|x_i - x_j| \leq \delta\) for all \( i, j \in \{1, \ldots, n+1\} \); in other words we may assume that \( x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1} \) are all in the same \( B_\ell \) for some \( \ell \in \{0, 1, \ldots, m\} \). But then, after observing that \( n \geq 1 \), we have \( \Phi_n \xi_{B_0}(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1}) = 0 \) so it suffices to prove the following.

If \( \ell \in \{0, 1, \ldots, m\} \) and \( x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1} \in B_\ell \) are pairwise distinct then

(4) \[
|\Phi_n P(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1})| \leq \varepsilon
\]

To prove it we introduce, with \( \ell \in \{1, \ldots, m\} \) fixed, the constants \( M_i \) (\( i \in \{1, \ldots, n\} \)) by

\[
M_i := \begin{cases} 
1 & \text{if } i > \ell \\
\delta/|c_1| & \text{if } i = \ell \\
|c_\ell/c_i|^k & \text{if } i < \ell
\end{cases}
\]

and use the following three steps.

**Step 1.** For each \( j \in \{0, 1, \ldots, n\} \), \( i \in \{1, \ldots, n\} \) we have

\[
\|\Phi_j(1 - (\frac{x}{c_i})^k)\|_{\nabla^{i+1}B_\ell} \leq \begin{cases} 
1 & \text{if } \ell = 0, j = 0 \\
\delta^{-j}(\frac{\delta}{|c_1|})^k & \text{if } \ell = 0, j > 0 \\
\delta^{-j}M_i & \text{if } \ell > 0.
\end{cases}
\]
Proof.
a. The case $j = 0$. Then for $x \in B_\ell$ we have

- if $i > \ell$ then $|1 - (\frac{x}{c_i})^k| = 1$
- if $i = \ell$ then $|1 - (\frac{x}{c_i})^k| = |\frac{c_i - x}{c_i}|^k \leq \frac{\delta^k}{|c_i|^k} \leq \frac{\delta}{|c_i|}$
- if $i < \ell$ then $|1 - (\frac{x}{c_i})^k| = \frac{|x|}{|c_i|}^k = \frac{\delta^k}{|c_i|^k}$

and the statement follows.

b. The case $j > 0$. Then $\Phi_j(1) = 0$ so that

$$\Phi_j(1 - (\frac{x}{c_i})^k) = \frac{1}{c_i^k}\Phi_j(\chi^k)$$

Let $(x_1, \ldots, x_{j+1}) \in \nabla^{j+1}B_\ell$. By the Product Rule 1.1, $\Phi_j(\chi^k)(x_1, \ldots, x_{j+1})$ is a sum of terms of the form $\prod_{s=1}^{k}(\Phi_j, \chi^s)(z_s)$. Such a term is 0 if one of the $j_s$ is $> 1$, so we only have to deal with $j_s = 0$ (then $\Phi_j, \chi = \chi'$) or $j_s = 1$ (then $\Phi_j, \chi = 1$). The latter case occurs $j$ times (as $\sum_{s=1}^{k}j_s = j$) and it follows that

$$\prod_{s=1}^{k}(\Phi_j, \chi^s)(z_s)$$

is a product of $k-j$ distinct terms taken from $\{x_1, \ldots, x_{j+1}\}$ (observe that, indeed, $j < k$ since $j \leq n < k$), so its absolute value is $\leq |c_\ell|^{k-j}$. It follows that $||\Phi_j(1 - (\frac{\chi}{c_i})^k)||_{\nabla^{j+1}B_\ell} \leq |c_\ell|^{k-j} / |c_i|^k$ from which we conclude

- if $\ell = 0$ : $|c_\ell|^{k-j} / |c_i|^k \leq \delta^{k-j} / |c_i|^k = \delta^{-j}(\delta / |c_i|)^k$,
- if $i > \ell > 0$ : $|c_\ell|^{k-j} / |c_i|^k \leq |c_\ell^{-j}| < \delta^{-j} = \delta^{-j}M_i$
- if $i = \ell > 0$ : $|c_\ell|^{k-j} / |c_i|^k \leq |c_\ell^{-j}| \leq |c_\ell^{-j}| = \delta^{-j}(\delta / |c_i|)^j \leq \delta^{-j}M_i$
- if $i < \ell$ : $|c_\ell|^{k-j} / |c_i|^k \leq |c_\ell|^{-j} |c_i|^k \leq \delta^{-j}M_i$

and step 1 is proved.

Step 2. For each $j \in \{0, 1, \ldots, n\}$, $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$ we have

$$||\Phi_j(1 - (\frac{\chi}{c_i})^k)^{j_i}||_{\nabla^{j+1}B_\ell} \leq \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \ell = 0, j = 0 \\ \delta^{-j}(\delta / |c_i|)^k & \text{if } \ell = 0, j > 0 \\ \delta^{-j}M_i^{j_i} & \text{if } \ell > 0 \end{cases}$$

Proof. The case $j = 0$ follows directly from Step 1, part a, so assume $j > 0$. By the Product Rule 1.1 applied to $h_s = 1 - (\frac{\chi}{c_i})^k$ for all $s \in \{1, \ldots, t_s\}$ we have for $(x_1, \ldots, x_{j+1}) \in \nabla^{j+1}B_\ell$ that $\Phi_j(1 - (\frac{\chi}{c_i})^k)^{j_i}(x_1, \ldots, x_{j+1})$ is a sum of terms of the form

$$\prod_{s=1}^{t_i}(\Phi_j, (1 - (\frac{\chi}{c_i})^k))(z_s)$$

(5)
where \( j_1 + \cdots + j_s = j \). If \( \ell = 0 \) it follows from Step 1 that the value of (5) is \( \leq \prod \delta^{-j_i} \left( \frac{k}{|c_i|} \right)^k \) where the product is taken over all \( s \) in the nonempty set \( \Gamma := \{ s \in \{1, \ldots, t_i\} : j_s > 0 \} \), so the product is \( \leq \delta^{-j} \left( \frac{k}{|c_i|} \right)^k \Gamma \) \( \leq \delta^{-j} \left( \frac{k}{|c_i|} \right)^k \). If \( \ell > 0 \) it follows from Step 1 that the value of (5) is \( \leq \prod_{s=1}^{t_i} \delta^{-j_i} M_i = \delta^{-j} M_i^{t_i} \). The statement of Step 2 follows.

**Step 3.** Proof of (4). Again, the Product Rule 1.1, now applied to \( h_i = (1 - (\frac{k}{|c_i|})^{t_i} \) for \( i \in \{1, \ldots, m\} \) tells us that for \( (x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1}) \in \nabla^{n+1} B_\ell \) the expression \( \Phi_n P(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1}) \) is a sum of terms of the form

\[
\prod_{i=1}^{m} \Phi_{n_i} \left( 1 - \frac{k}{c_i} \right)^{t_i}(z_s)
\]

where \( n_1 + \cdots + n_m = n \). If \( \ell = 0 \) we have by Step 2 that the value of (6) is \( \leq \prod \delta^{-n_i} \left( \frac{k}{|c_i|} \right)^k \) where the product is taken over \( i \) in the nonempty set \( \Gamma := \{ i : n_i \neq 0 \} \), so the product is \( \leq \delta^{-n} \left( \frac{k}{|c_i|} \right)^k \Gamma \leq \delta^{-n} \cdot \varepsilon \delta^n = \varepsilon \), where we used the assumption \( (\delta/|c_i|) \leq \varepsilon \theta^n \). We see that \( |\Phi_n P(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1})| \leq \varepsilon \) if \( (x_1, \ldots, x_n) \in B_0 \).

Now let \( \ell > 0 \). By Step 2 we have that the absolute value of (6) is \( \leq \prod_{i=1}^{m} \delta^{-n_i} M_i^{t_i} = \delta^{-n} M_1^{t_1} \cdots M_m^{t_m} \delta^{-n} \cdot \varepsilon \delta^n \) \( \leq \delta^{-n} \varepsilon \delta^n \) by (1). This proves (4) and the Lemma.

**Corollary 1.3.** For every locally constant \( f : X \rightarrow K \), for every \( n \in \mathbb{N}_0 \) and \( \varepsilon > 0 \) there exists a polynomial function \( P : K \rightarrow K \) such that \( ||f - P||_{n,X} \leq \varepsilon \).

**Proof.** There exist a \( \delta \in (0,1) \), pairwise disjoint 'closed' balls \( B_1, \ldots, B_m \) of radius \( \delta \) covering \( X \) and \( \lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_m \in K \) such that

\[
f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i \xi B_i(x) \quad (x \in X)
\]

By Lemma 1.2 there exist polynomials \( P_1, \ldots, P_m \) such that \( ||\xi B_i - P_i||_{n,X} \leq \varepsilon(|\lambda_i| + 1)^{-1} \) for each \( i \in \{1, \ldots, m\} \). Then \( P := \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i P_i \) is a polynomial function and \( ||f - P||_{n,X} \leq \max_i \lambda_i \xi B_i - P_i ||_{n,X} \leq \max_i \lambda_i \varepsilon (|\lambda_i| + 1)^{-1} \leq \varepsilon \).

**Theorem 1.4.** (\( C^n \)-Weierstrass Theorem) For each \( n \in \mathbb{N}_0 \), \( f \in C^n(X \rightarrow K) \) and \( \varepsilon > 0 \) there exists a polynomial function \( P : K \rightarrow K \) such that \( ||f - P||_{n,X} \leq \varepsilon \).

**Proof.** There is by Proposition 0.4 a local polynomial \( g : K \rightarrow K \) with \( ||f - g||_{n,X} \leq \varepsilon \). This \( g \) has the form \( g = \sum_{i=1}^{m} Q_i h_i \) where \( Q_1, \ldots, Q_m \) are polynomials and \( h_1, \ldots, h_m \)
are locally constant. By Corollary 1.3 we can find polynomials $P_1, \ldots, P_m$ for which $\|h_i - P_i\|_{n,X} \leq \varepsilon(\|Q_i\|_{n,X} + 1)$ for each $i$. Then $P := \sum_{i=1}^{m} Q_i P_i$ is a polynomial and $\|g - P\|_{n,X} \leq \varepsilon$. It follows that $\|f - P\|_{n,X} \leq \max(\|f - g\|_{n,X}, \|g - P\|_{n,X}) \leq \varepsilon$.

**Remarks.**

1. In the case where $X = \mathbb{Z}_p$, $K \supset \mathbb{Q}_p$ the above Theorem 1.4 is not new: The Mahler base $e_0, e_1, \ldots$ of $C(\mathbb{Z}_p \to K)$ defined by $e_m(x) = (x)^m$ is proved in [3], §54 to be a Schauder base for $C^n(\mathbb{Z}_p \to K)$, for each $n$.

2. It follows directly from Theorem 1.4 that the polynomial functions $X \to K$ form a dense subset of $C^\infty(X \to K)$.

2. A WEIERSTRASS-STONE THEOREM FOR $C^n$-FUNCTIONS

For this Theorem (2.10) we will need the continuity of $g \mapsto g \circ f$ in the $C^n$-topologies (Proposition 2.5). To prove it we need some technical lemmas that are in the spirit of [3],§77.

Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. For a function $h : \nabla^n X \to K$ we define $\Delta h : \nabla^{n+1} X \to K$ by the formula

$$\Delta h(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n+1}) = \frac{h(x_1, x_3, x_4, \ldots, x_{n+1}) - h(x_2, x_3, \ldots, x_{n+1})}{x_1 - x_2}$$

We have the following product rule.

**Lemma 2.1. (Product Rule).** Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $h, t : \nabla^n X \to K$. Then for all $(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n+1}) \in \nabla^{n+1} X$ we have $\Delta(ht)(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n+1}) = h(x_2, x_3, \ldots, x_{n+1})\Delta t(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n+1}) + t(x_1, x_3, \ldots, x_{n+1})\Delta h(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n+1})$.

**Proof.** Straightforward.

**Lemma 2.2.** Let $f : X \to K$, $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$. Let $S_n$ be the set of the following functions defined on $\nabla^{n+1} X$.

$$(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1}) \mapsto \Phi_1 f(x_{i_1}, x_{i_2}) \quad (1 \leq i_1 < i_2 \leq n + 1)$$

$$(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1}) \mapsto \Phi_2 f(x_{i_1}, x_{i_2}, x_{i_3}) \quad (1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < i_3 \leq n + 1)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1}) \mapsto \Phi_n f(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1}).$$

For $k \in \mathbb{N}$, let $R^n_k$ be the additive group generated by $S_n, S^n_2, \ldots, S^n_k$ where, for each $j \in \{1, \ldots, k\}$, $S^n_j$ is the product set $\{h_1 h_2 \ldots h_j : h_i \in S_n \text{ for each } i \in \{1, \ldots, j\}\}$. Then, for all $k, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\Delta R^n_k \subset R^n_{n+1}$. 

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Proof. We use induction with respect to \( k \). For the case \( k = 1 \) it suffices to prove \( h \in S_n \Rightarrow \Delta h \in R_{n+1}^1 \). Then \( h \) has the form
\[
(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1}) \mapsto \Phi_j f(x_{i_1}, \ldots, x_{i_{j+1}})
\]
for some \( j \in \{2, 3, \ldots, n+1\} \) and so
\[
\Delta h(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n+1}) = \frac{h(x_1, x_3, \ldots, x_{n+2}) - h(x_2, x_3, \ldots, x_{n+2})}{x_1 - x_2}
\]
vanishes if \( i_1 > 1 \) (and then \( \Delta h \) is the null function), while if \( i_1 = 1 \) it equals
\[
\Phi_j f(x_1, x_{i_2+1}, \ldots, x_{i_{j+1}+1}) - \Phi_j f(x_1, x_{i_2+1}, \ldots, x_{i_{j+1}+1}) = \frac{x_1 - x_2}{x_1 - x_2}
\]
and it follows that \( \Delta h \in S_{n+1} \subset R_{n+1}^1 \). For the induction step assume \( \Delta R_n^{k-1} \subset R_n^{k-1} \); it suffices to prove that \( \Delta S_n^k \subset R_n^{k-1} \). So let \( h \in S_n^k \) and write \( h = h_1 H \), where \( h_1 \in S_n \), \( H \in S_n^{k-1} \). By the Product Rule 2.1 we have
\[
\Delta h(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+2}) = h_1(x_2, x_3, \ldots, x_{n+2}) \Delta H(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n+2}) + H(x_1, x_3, \ldots, x_{n+2}) \Delta h_1(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n+2}).
\]
The fact that \( h_1 \in S_n \) makes
\[
(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n+2}) \mapsto h_1(x_1, x_3, \ldots, x_{n+2})
\]
into an element of \( S_{n+1} \). Similarly, since \( H \in S_n^{k-1} \), the function
\[
(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n+2}) \mapsto H(x_2, x_3, \ldots, x_{n+2})
\]
is in \( S_n^{k-1} \). By our first induction step, \( \Delta h_1 \in R_{n+1}^1 \) and by the induction hypothesis \( \Delta H \in R_n^{k-1} \). Hence,
\[
\Delta h \in S_{n+1} R_{n+1}^{k-1} + S_{n+1}^{k-1} R_{n+1}^1 \subset R_{n+1}^1 R_{n+1}^{k-1} + R_{n+1}^{k-1} R_{n+1}^1 \subset R_{n+1}^k.
\]

Lemma 2.3. Let \( f, n, S_n, k, R_n^k \) be as in the previous lemma. Let \( f(X) \subset Y \subset K \) where \( Y \) has no isolated points. Let \( g : Y \to K \) be a \( C^n \)-function. Let \( B_n \) be the set of the following functions defined on \( \nabla^{n+1} X \).
\[
\begin{align*}
(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1}) & \mapsto \overline{f}_1 g(f(x_1), f(x_2)) & (1 \leq i_1 < i_2 \leq n + 1) \\
(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1}) & \mapsto \overline{f}_2 g(f(x_1), f(x_2), f(x_{i_3})) & (1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < i_3 \leq n + 1) \\
& \vdots \\
(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1}) & \mapsto \overline{f}_n g(f(x_1), f(x_2), \ldots, f(x_{n+1})).
\end{align*}
\]
Let $A_n$ be the additive group generated by $B_nR^n_n$. Then

$$\Delta A_n \subseteq A_{n+1}.$$

**Proof.** We prove: $h \in B_nR^n_n \Rightarrow \Delta h \in A_{n+1}$. Write $h = br$ where $b \in B_n$, $r \in R^n_n$. By the Product Rule 2.1 we have for all $(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n+2}) \in \nabla^{n+2}X$

$$\Delta h(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n+2}) = b(x_2, x_3, \ldots, x_{n+2})\Delta r(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n+2}) + r(x_1, x_3, \ldots, x_{n+2})\Delta b(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n+2}).$$

We have:

(i) $b \in B_n$ so $(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+2}) \mapsto b(x_2, x_3, \ldots, x_{n+1})$ is in $B_{n+1}$.

(ii) $r \in R^n_n$ so $(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+2}) \mapsto r(x_1, x_3, \ldots, x_{n+1})$ is in $R^n_{n+1}$ (in the previous proof we had $r \in S^n_n \Rightarrow$ the map $(x_1, \ldots, x_{n+2}) \mapsto r(x_1, x_3, \ldots, x_{n+1})$ is in $S^n_{n+1}$, and (ii) follows from this).

(iii) $r \in R^n_n$ so $\Delta r \in R^n_{n+1}$ (Previous Lemma).

(iv) $b$ has the form

$$(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n+1}) \mapsto \overline{\Phi}_j g(f(x_i), \ldots, f(x_{i+j}))$$

for some $j \in \{2, \ldots, n+1\}$ and so

$$\Delta b(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n+2}) = \frac{b(x_1, x_3, x_4, \ldots, x_{n+2}) - b(x_2, x_3, \ldots, x_{n+2})}{x_1 - x_2}$$

vanishes if $i_1 > 1$ (and then $\Delta b$ is the null function), while if $i_1 = 1$ it equals

$$\overline{\Phi}_j g(f(x_1), f(x_{i_2+1}), \ldots, f(x_{i_{j+1}+1})) - \overline{\Phi}_j g(f(x_2), f(x_{i_2+1}), \ldots, f(x_{i_{j+1}+1}))$$

$$\frac{x_1 - x_2}{x_1 - x_2} = \overline{\Phi}_{j+1} g(f(x_1), f(x_2), f(x_{i_2+1}), \ldots, f(x_{i_{j+1}+1}))\Phi_1 f(x_1, x_2).$$

(if $f(x_1) = f(x_2)$ we have 0 at both sides). So we see that $\Delta b \in B_{n+1}R^n_{n+1}$.

Combining (i) - (iv) we get $\Delta h \in B_{n+1}R^n_{n+1} + R^n_{n+1}B_{n+1}R^l_{n+1} \subseteq B_{n+1}R^n_{n+1} + B_{n+1} \cdot R^n_{n+1} \subseteq A_{n+1}$.

**Corollary 2.4.** With the notations as in the previous lemma we have $\Phi_n(g \circ f) \in A_n$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$).

**Proof.** We proceed by induction on $n$. For the case $n = 1$ we write, for $(x_1, x_2) \in \nabla^2 X$,

$$\Phi_1(g \circ f)(x_1, x_2) = (x_1 - x_2)^{-1} \left( g(f(x_1)) - g(f(x_2)) \right) = \overline{\Phi}_1 g(f(x_1), f(x_2)) \Phi_1 f(x_1, x_2).$$
Hence, $\Phi_1(g \circ f) \in B_1 S_1 \subseteq B_1 R_1^T \subseteq A_1$. To prove the step $n \to n+1$ observe that by the induction hypothesis, $\Phi_n(g \circ f) \in A_n$. By Lemma 2.3, $\Phi_{n+1}(g \circ f) = \Delta \Phi_n(g \circ f) \in A_{n+1}$.

**Remark.** From Corollary 2.4 it follows easily that the composition of two $C^n$-functions is again a $C^n$-function, a result that already was obtained in [3], 77.5.

**Proposition 2.5.** (Continuity of $g \mapsto g \circ f$) Let $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$, let $f \in C^n(X \to K)$ and let $g \in C^n(Y \to K)$ where $Y$ has no isolated points, $Y \supset f(X)$. Then $\|g \circ f\|_{n,X} \leq \|g\|_{n,Y} \max_{0 \leq j \leq n} \|f\|_{j,X}^i$.

**Proof.** We may assume $\|g\|_{n,Y} < \infty$. It suffices to prove $\|\Phi_n(g \circ f)\|_{n+1,X} \leq \|g\|_{n,Y} \|f\|_{n,X}^n$. Now $\|\Phi_0(g \circ f)\|_{n,X} = \max_{x \in X} \|g(f(x))\| \leq \|g\|_{0,Y} \|f\|_{0,X}^0$, which proves the case $n = 0$. For $n \geq 1$ we apply Corollary 2.4 which says that $\Phi_n(g \circ f) \in A_n$ i.e. $\Phi_n(g \circ f)$ is a sum of functions in $B_n S_n^a$. By the definition of $B_n$ we have

\[ (*) \quad h \in B_n \Rightarrow \|h\| \|\Phi_{n+1,X} \leq \|g\|_{n,Y} \]

Similarly

\[ k \in S_n \Rightarrow \|k\| \|\Phi_{n+1,X} \leq \max_{i \leq n} \|\Phi_i f\| \|\Phi_{n+1,X} \leq \|f\|_{n,X} \]

so that

\[ (**) \quad k \in S_n^a \Rightarrow \|k\| \|\Phi_{n+1,X} \leq \|f\|_{n,X}^n \]

Combination of $(*)$ and $(**)$ yields $\|\Phi_n(g \circ f)\|_{n+1,X} \leq \|g\|_{n,Y} \|f\|_{n,X}^n$.

Proposition 2.5 enables us to prove

**Proposition 2.6.** Let $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and let $A$ be a closed subalgebra of $C^n(X \to K)$. Suppose $A$ separates the points of $X$ and contains the constant functions. Then $A$ contains all locally constant functions $X \to K$.

**Proof.** 1. We first prove that $f \in A$, $U \subseteq K$, $U$ clopen implies $\xi_{f^{-1}(U)} \in A$. In fact, $f(X)$ is compact so there exist a $\delta \in (0,1)$ and finitely many disjoint balls $B_1, \ldots, B_m$ in $U$ of radius $\delta$ covering $f(X)$. Let $\epsilon > 0$. By the Key Lemma 1.2 there exists, for each $i \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$ a polynomial $P_i$ such that $\|\xi_{B_i} - P_i\|_{n, B} < \epsilon$, where $B := \cup B_i$. Then $P := \Sigma P_i$ is a polynomial and $\|P - \xi_U\|_{n, B} = \|P - \xi_B\|_{n, B} = \|\Sigma(P_i - \xi_{B_i})\| < \epsilon$.

By Proposition 2.5

\[ \|(P - \xi_U) \circ f\|_{n,X} \leq \|P - \xi_U\|_{n,B} \max_{0 \leq j \leq n} \|f\|_{j,X}^i \leq \|f\|_{j,X} \]

and we see that there exists a sequence $P_1, P_2, \ldots$ of polynomials such that
\[ \| P_n \circ f - \xi_U \circ f \|_{n,X} \rightarrow 0. \] Since \( A \) is an algebra with an identity we have \( P_n \circ f \in A \) for all \( n \). Then \( \xi_{f^{-1}(U)} = \xi_U \circ f = \lim_{n \to \infty} P_n \circ f \in A \).

2. Now consider
\[ B := \{ V \subset X, \xi_V \in A \}. \]
It is very easy to see that \( B \) is a ring of clopen subsets of \( X \) and that \( B \) covers \( X \). To show that \( B \) separates the points of \( X \) let \( x \in X, y \in X, x \neq y \). Then there is an \( f \in A \) for which \( f(x) \neq f(y) \). Set \( U := \{ \lambda \in K : |\lambda - f(x)| < |f(x) - f(y)| \} \). Then \( U \) is clopen in \( K \). By the first part of the proof, \( f^{-1}(U) \in B \). But \( x \in f^{-1}(U) \) whereas \( y \notin f^{-1}(U) \).

By [1], Exercise 2.H \( B \) is the ring of all clopens of \( X \). It follows easily that all locally constant functions are in \( A \).

To arrive at the Weierstrass-Stone Theorem 2.10 we need a final technical lemma.

**Lemma 2.7.** Let \( a_1, \ldots, a_m \in X \), let \( \delta_1, \ldots, \delta_m \) be in \((0,1)\) such that \( B(a_1, \delta_1), \ldots, B(a_m, \delta_m) \) form a disjoint covering of \( X \). Let \( n \in \mathbb{N}_0 \), \( h \in C^n(X \to K) \) and suppose \( D_j h(a_i) = 0 \) and \( |\Phi_{n-j} D_j h(x_1, \ldots, x_{n-j+1})| \leq \varepsilon \) for all \( i \in \{1, \ldots, m\}, x_1, \ldots, x_{n+1} \in B(a_i, \delta_i) \cap X, j \in \{0, 1, \ldots, n\} \). Then \( \|h\|_{n,X} \leq \varepsilon \).

**Proof.** We first prove that \( \|h\|_{n,X} \leq \varepsilon \) (see Proposition 0.4(iii)). Let \( i \in \{1, \ldots, m\} \). By Taylor's formula (Proposition 0.3(iv)) we have for \( x \in X \cap B_i : \|h(x)\| = \| \sum_{s=0}^{n-1} (x - a_i)^s D_s h(a_i) + (x - a_i)^n \rho_1 h(x, a_i) \| = |x - a_i|^n |\Phi_n h(x, a_i, a_i, \ldots, a_i)| \leq \delta^n \varepsilon. \)

Similarly we have for \( j \in \{0, \ldots, n-1\} \) and \( x \in X \cap B_i : \|D_j h(x)\| = \| \sum_{s=0}^{n-1-j} (x - a_i)^s D_t D_j h(a_i) + (x - a_i)^n \rho_1 (D_j h)(x, a_i) \|. \) Now using Proposition 0.3(iii) we see that \( D_t D_j h(a_i) = 0 \) so that

\[
(*) \quad \|D_j h(a_i)\| = \|x - a_i|^n \rho_1 h(x, a_i, \ldots, a_i) \| \leq \delta^n \varepsilon.
\]

It follows that \( \|h\|_{n,X}, \|D_t h\|_{n,X}, \ldots, \|D_{n-1} h\|_{n,X} \) are all \( \leq \varepsilon \). Now let \( x, y \in X \). If \( x, y \) are in the same \( B_i \) then \( |\rho_1 h(x,y)| = |\Phi_n h(x, y, y, \ldots, y)\| \leq \varepsilon \) by assumption. If \( x \in B_i, y \in B_j \) and \( i \neq j \), then \( \|x - y\| \geq \delta := \max(\delta_i, \delta_j) \) and by Taylor's formula

\[
h(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (x - y)^i D_i h(y) + (x - y)^n \rho_1 h(x, y)
\]

we obtain, using (*)&

\[
|\rho_1 h(x, y)| \leq \frac{|h(x) - h(y)|}{|x - y|^n} \vee \frac{|D_1 h(y)|}{|x - y|^{n-1}} \vee \ldots \vee \frac{|D_{n-1} h(y)|}{|x - y|}
\]

\[
\leq \frac{\delta^n \varepsilon}{\delta^n} \vee \frac{\delta_{n-1} \varepsilon}{\delta^{n-1}} \vee \ldots \vee \frac{\delta \varepsilon}{\delta} \leq \varepsilon
\]

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and we have proved \( \|h\|_{\mathbb{A},X} \leq \varepsilon \).

Now to prove that even \( \|h\|_{\mathbb{A},X} \leq \varepsilon \) observe that by Proposition 0.4(iii)

\[
\|h\|_{\mathbb{A},X} = \|h\|_{\mathbb{A},X} \vee \|D_1 h\|_{\mathbb{A},X} \vee \cdots \vee \|D_n h\|_{\mathbb{A},X}.
\]

To prove, for example, that \( \|D_1 h\|_{\mathbb{A},X} \leq \varepsilon \) we observe that by Proposition 0.4(iii)

\[
\|D_1 h\|_{\mathbb{A},X} = \|D_1 h\|_{\mathbb{A},X} \vee \|D_2 h\|_{\mathbb{A},X} \vee \cdots \vee \|D_n h\|_{\mathbb{A},X}.
\]

\[
[D_{n-1-j} D_j(D_1 h)(x_1, \ldots, x_{n-j})] = [(j+1)] D_{n-1-j} D_{j+1} h(x_1, \ldots, x_{n-j}) \leq \varepsilon
\]

by assumption. So the conditions of our Lemma (with \( D_1 h, n - 1 \) in place of \( h, n \) respectively) are satisfied and by the first part of the proof we may conclude that \( \|D_1 h\|_{\mathbb{A},X} \leq \varepsilon \). In a similar way we prove that \( \|D_2 h\|_{\mathbb{A},X} \leq \varepsilon, \ldots, \|D_n h\|_{\mathbb{A},X} \leq \varepsilon \) and it follows that \( \|h\|_{\mathbb{A},X} \leq \varepsilon \).

**Proposition 2.8.** Let \( n \in \mathbb{N}_0 \) and let \( A \) be a closed subalgebra of \( C^n(X \to K) \) containing the locally constant functions. Let \( g \in C^n(X \to K) \) and suppose for each \( a \in X \) there exists an \( f_a \in A \) with \( D_i f_a(a) = D_i g(a) \) for \( i \in \{0,1,\ldots,n\} \). Then \( g \in A \).

**Proof.** Let \( \varepsilon > 0 \). For each \( a \in X \) choose an \( f_a \in A \) with \( f_a(a) = g(a), D_1 f_a(a) = D_1 g(a), \ldots, D_n f_a(a) = D_n g(a) \). By continuity there exists a \( \delta_a > 0 \) such that, with \( h_a := f_a - g, [D_{n-j} D_j h_a(x_1, \ldots, x_{n-j+1})] \leq \varepsilon \) for all \( j \in \{0,1,\ldots,n\} \) and \( x_1, \ldots, x_{n-j+1} \in B(a, \delta_a) \). The \( B(a, \delta_a) \) cover \( X \) and by compactness there exists a finite disjoint subcovering \( B(a_1, \delta_{a_1}), \ldots, B(a_m, \delta_{a_m}) \). Set

\[
f := \sum_{i=1}^m f_{a_i} \xi_{B(a_i, \delta_{a_i}) \cap X}
\]

Then, by our assumption on \( A, f \in A \). By Lemma 2.7, applied to \( h := f - g \) and where \( \delta_1, \ldots, \delta_m \) are replaced by \( \delta_{a_1}, \ldots, \delta_{a_m} \) respectively, we then have \( \|f - g\|_{\mathbb{A},X} \leq \varepsilon \). We see that \( g \in \overline{A} = A \).

**Remark.** It follows directly that the local polynomial functions \( X \to K \) form a dense subset of \( C^n(X \to K) \).

**Proposition 2.9.** Let \( n \in \mathbb{N} \) and let \( A \) be a \( K \)-subalgebra of \( C^n(X \to K) \) containing the constant functions. Suppose \( f'(a) \neq 0 \) for some \( f \in A, a \in X \). Then there is a \( g \in A \) with \( g(a) = 0, g'(a) = 1 \) and \( D_2 g(a) = D_3 g(a) = \cdots = D_n g(a) = 0 \).

**Proof.** By considering the function \( f'(a)^{-1} (f - f(a)) \) it follows that we may assume that \( f(a) = 0, f'(a) = 1 \). Then

\[(*) \quad f = (X - a)h
\]
where $h$ is continuous, $h(a) = 1$. To obtain the statement by induction with respect to $n$ we only have to consider the induction step $n - 1 \to n$ and, to prove that, we may assume that $D_1 f(a) = \cdots = D_{n-1} f(a) = 0$. From (*) we obtain

$$f^n = (X - a)^n h^n$$

and by uniqueness of the Taylor expansion of the $C^n$-function $f^n$ we obtain $f^n(a) = D_1 f^n(a) = \cdots = D_{n-1} f^n(a) = 0$ and $D_n f^n(a) = h^n(a) = 1$. We see that $g := f - D_n f(a) f^n$ is in $A$ and that $g(a) = 0$, $g'(a) = 1$, $D_2 g(a) = \cdots = D_{n-1} g(a) = 0$ and $D_n g(a) = D_n f(a) - D_n f(a) D_n f^n(a) = 0$.

**Theorem 2.10. (Weierstrass-Stone Theorem for $C^n$-functions).** Let $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and let $A$ be a closed subalgebra that separates the points of $X$ and that contains the constant functions. Suppose also that for each $a \in X$ there exists an $f \in A$ with $f(a) \neq 0$. Then $A = C^n(X \to K)$.

**Proof.** By Proposition 2.9, for each $a \in X$ there exists an $f \in A$ with $f(a) = 0$, $f'(a) = 1$, $D_i f(a) = 0$ for $i \in \{2, \ldots, n\}$. The function $g := \lambda$ satisfies $g(a) = 0$, $g'(a) = 1$, $D_i g(a) = 0$ for $i \in \{2, \ldots, n\}$ so applying Proposition 2.8 (observe that $A$ contains the locally constant functions by Proposition 2.6) we obtain that $X \notin A$. But then all polynomials are in $A$ and $A = C^n(X \to K)$ by the Weierstrass Theorem 1.4.

**Remarks.**

1. The case $n = 0$ yields, at least for those $X$ that are embeddable into $K$, the well known Kaplansky Theorem proved in [1], 6.15.

2. We leave it to the reader to establish a $C^\infty$-version of Theorem 2.10.

**REFERENCES**

