

ON MULTI-JENSEN FUNCTIONS AND JENSEN DIFFERENCE

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ABSTRACT. In this paper we characterize multi-Jensen functions $f : V^n \rightarrow W$, where n is a positive integer, V, W are commutative groups and V is uniquely divisible by 2. Moreover, under the assumption that $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is Borel measurable, we obtain representation of f (respectively, $f, g, h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$) such that the Jensen difference

$$2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) - f(x) - f(y)$$

(respectively, the Pexider difference

$$2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) - g(x) - h(y)$$

takes values in a countable subgroup of \mathbb{R} .

1. Introduction

In 2005 W. Prager and J. Schwaiger (see [23]) introduced the notion of multi-Jensen functions $f : V^n \rightarrow W$ (V and W being vector spaces over the rationals) with the connection with generalized polynomials. On the other hand, the stability of the Jensen functional equation

$$2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) = f(x) + f(y)$$

(f satisfying this equation is called a *Jensen mapping*) was studied by a number of mathematicians (see for instance [20], [10], [17], [16] and [7]).

Speaking of the stability of a functional equation we follow the question of S. Ulam: “when is it true that the solution of an equation differing slightly from a given one, must of necessity be close to the solution of the given equation?” (see [25]). As the words “differing slightly” and “be close” may have various meanings, different kinds of stability can be dealt with (see for instance [15]).

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In 2006 J.-H. Bae and W.-G. Park (see [1]) gave the general solution the system of equations

$$\begin{cases} 2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}, z\right) = f(x, z) + f(y, z), \\ 2f\left(x, \frac{y+z}{2}\right) = f(x, y) + f(x, z), \end{cases}$$

where $f : V^2 \rightarrow W$ and V, W are vector spaces. Under some additional assumptions they also proved the stability of this system.

Our first goal is to generalize these results. More precisely, generalizing some outcomes from [23] and [1], we obtain the form of multi-Jensen functions in the case when V, W are commutative groups and V is uniquely divisible by 2. Moreover, we generalize some results from [16] and [1] dealing with the stability in the spirit of P. Gavruta (see [12] and also [21], [22]).

From an example of G. Godini (see [14]) it can be seen that it is not generally true that a function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ for which the Cauchy difference

$$f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)$$

belongs to \mathbb{Z} for all $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ has to be of the form $A+k$, where A is an additive mapping and k takes integer values only. However, such a representation is possible under some regularity condition imposed on f . It seems that J. G. van der Corput was the first who gave such a condition (see [9]). Further results and their generalizations (also concerning the Pexider difference

$$f(x+y) - g(x) - h(y)$$

were obtained for instance by K. Baron, PL. Kannappan, J. Brzdęk, N. Frantzi-kinakis, M. Bajger and the author (see [4], [5], [11], [2], and [8]).

Later the *Jensen difference*

$$2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) - f(x) - f(y)$$

(see [5], [13], and [19]) as well as the “quadratic” difference

$$f(x+y) + f(x-y) - 2f(x) - 2f(y)$$

(see [6] and [18]) were also investigated.

The second aim of this paper is to study the Jensen difference and the *Pexider difference*

$$2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) - g(x) - h(y),$$

where $f, g, h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Under the assumption that f is Borel measurable we obtain representation of f (respectively, f, g and h) with the Jensen (respectively, Pexider) difference taking values in a countable subgroup of \mathbb{R} .

2. Main results

2.1. Multi-Jensen functions

We follow the notation used in [23].

Denote by $|S|$ the cardinality of the finite set S and put

$$\mathbf{n} := \{1, \dots, n\}, \quad n \in \mathbb{N},$$

where \mathbb{N} stands for the set of all positive integers.

Let V, W be commutative groups and V be uniquely divisible by 2. For sets S, T with $S \subseteq T$ and $x = (x_t)_{t \in T} \in V^T$, let $x_S := x|_S \in V^S$, i.e., $x|_S$ is the restriction of the mapping $x : T \rightarrow V$ to S . For $y \in V^S$ let $y^T \in V^T$ be given by

$$(y^T)_S := y \quad \text{and} \quad (y^T)_{T \setminus S} := 0.$$

Let us also recall that a function $f : V^T \rightarrow W$ is called *multi-additive* or *T-additive* if it is additive in each variable. Similarly, define f to be *multi-Jensen* or *T-Jensen* if it is a Jensen mapping in each variable.

Since (see Theorem 1.4 in [5]) every Jensen function $f : V \rightarrow W$ is of the form

$$f(x) = a(x) + c, \quad x \in V$$

with, uniquely determined, a $c \in W$ and an additive mapping $a : V \rightarrow W$, we have the following

Lemma 2.1. *Let V, W be commutative groups and V be uniquely divisible by 2. Assume also that T is a set and $f : V^T \rightarrow W$. Then f is multi-additive if and only if it is a multi-Jensen mapping such that for any $i \in T, x \in V^T$ with $x(i) = 0$ we have $f(x) = 0$.*

Finally, for $T \subseteq S \subseteq \mathbf{n}$ and $y \in V^S$ we write $y_T^{\mathbf{n}}$ for $(y_T)^{\mathbf{n}}$, i.e., $y_T^{\mathbf{n}} = z \in V^{\mathbf{n}}$ with $z_T = y_T$ and $z_{\mathbf{n} \setminus T} = 0$.

Our first theorem characterizes multi-Jensen functions.

Theorem 2.2. *Let V, W be commutative groups and V be uniquely divisible by 2. Assume also that $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $f : V^{\mathbf{n}} \rightarrow W$. Then f is multi-Jensen if and only if there is a family $(M_S)_{S \subseteq \mathbf{n}}$ of S -additive functions such that*

$$(1) \quad f(x) = \sum_{S \subseteq \mathbf{n}} M_S(x_S), \quad x \in V^{\mathbf{n}}.$$

Proof. Assume that $f : V^{\mathbf{n}} \rightarrow W$ is multi-Jensen and put

$$(2) \quad M_S(y) = \sum_{T \subseteq S} (-1)^{|S \setminus T|} f(x_T^{\mathbf{n}}), \quad y \in V^S, \quad S \subseteq \mathbf{n},$$

where $x := y^{\mathbf{n}}$. We shall show that these mappings are multi-additive.

Fix an $S \subseteq \mathbf{n}$ and note that for every $T \subseteq S$ the mapping $V^S \ni y \mapsto f(y_T^{\mathbf{n}}) = f(x_T^{\mathbf{n}}) \in W$ is multi-Jensen and, in consequence, so is M_S . Take

$i \in S, y \in V^S$ with $y(i) = 0$ and let $x := y^n$. Clearly, if $T \subset S$ and $i \in S \setminus T$, then $x_T^n = x_{T \cup \{i\}}^n$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} M_S(y) &= \sum_{T \subseteq S, i \in S \setminus T} (-1)^{|S \setminus T|} f(x_T^n) + \sum_{T \subseteq S, i \in S \setminus T} (-1)^{|S \setminus (T \cup \{i\})|} f(x_{T \cup \{i\}}^n) \\ &= \sum_{T \subseteq S, i \in S \setminus T} (-1)^{|S \setminus T|} (f(x_T^n) - f(x_{T \cup \{i\}}^n)) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

and the multi-additivity of M_S follows from Lemma 2.1.

Next, note that

$$\sum_{S \subseteq \mathbf{n}} M_S(x_S) = \sum_{S \subseteq \mathbf{n}} \sum_{T \subseteq S} (-1)^{|S \setminus T|} f(x_T^n) = \sum_{T \subseteq \mathbf{n}} \alpha_T f(x_T^n),$$

where

$$\alpha_T := \sum_{T \subseteq S \subseteq \mathbf{n}} (-1)^{|S \setminus T|} = \sum_{U \subseteq \mathbf{n} \setminus T} (-1)^{|U|}.$$

But

$$\alpha_T = \begin{cases} 1, & T = \mathbf{n}, \\ \sum_{l=0}^{|\mathbf{n} \setminus T|} \binom{|\mathbf{n} \setminus T|}{l} (-1)^l = 0, & T \neq \mathbf{n}, \end{cases}$$

and therefore

$$\sum_{S \subseteq \mathbf{n}} M_S(x_S) = f(x_{\mathbf{n}}^n) = f(x), \quad x \in V^n,$$

that is (1) holds.

On the other hand, if the function f is given by (1), where $(M_S)_{S \subseteq \mathbf{n}}$ is a family of S -additive mappings, then the fact that it is multi-Jensen follows from obvious fact that for every $S \subseteq \mathbf{n}$ so is the function $V^n \ni x \mapsto M_S(x_S) \in W$. \square

2.2. Stability

Our next theorem generalizes Theorem 6 from [1] (see also Theorems 1 and 2 and Corollary 3 in [16]).

Theorem 2.3. *Let V be a commutative group uniquely divisible by 2 and W be a Banach space. Assume also that $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and for every $i \in \mathbf{n}$, $\varphi_i : V^{n+1} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is a mapping such that*

$$\begin{aligned} & \tilde{\varphi}_i(x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}) \\ & := \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{3^{j+1}} [\varphi_i(3^j x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n+1}) + \dots \\ (3) \quad & + \varphi_i(x_1, \dots, x_{i-2}, 3^j x_{i-1}, x_i, \dots, x_{n+1}) \\ & + \varphi_i(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 3^j x_i, 3^j x_{i+1}, x_{i+2}, \dots, x_{n+1}) \\ & + \varphi_i(x_1, \dots, x_{i+1}, 3^j x_{i+2}, x_{i+3}, \dots, x_{n+1}) + \dots \\ & + \varphi_i(x_1, \dots, x_n, 3^j x_{n+1})] < \infty, \quad (x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}) \in V^{n+1}. \end{aligned}$$

If $f : V^n \rightarrow W$ is a function satisfying

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \|2f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, \frac{x_i + x'_i}{2}, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) - f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\
 & \quad - f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x'_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n)\| \\
 (4) \quad & \leq \varphi_i(x_1, \dots, x_i, x'_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n), \\
 & \quad (x_1, \dots, x_i, x'_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) \in V^{n+1}, \quad i \in \mathbf{n},
 \end{aligned}$$

then for every $i \in \mathbf{n}$ there exists a multi-Jensen mapping $F_i : V^n \rightarrow W$ for which

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \|f(x_1, \dots, x_n) - f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 0, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) - F_i(x_1, \dots, x_n)\| \\
 (5) \quad & \leq \tilde{\varphi}_i(x_1, \dots, x_i, -x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) \\
 & \quad + \tilde{\varphi}_i(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, -x_i, 3x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n), \quad (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in V^n.
 \end{aligned}$$

For every $i \in \mathbf{n}$ the function F_i is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 & F_i(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\
 (6) \quad & := \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{3^j} f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 3^j x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n), \quad (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in V^n.
 \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Fix $x_1, \dots, x_n \in V$ and $i \in \mathbf{n}$. By (4) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \|2f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 0, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) - f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\
 & \quad - f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, -x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n)\| \\
 & \leq \varphi_i(x_1, \dots, x_i, -x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n)
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \|2f(x_1, \dots, x_n) - f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, -x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) \\
 & \quad - f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 3x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n)\| \\
 & \leq \varphi_i(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, -x_i, 3x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n).
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \|3f(x_1, \dots, x_n) - f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 3x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) \\
 & \quad - 2f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 0, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n)\| \\
 & \leq \varphi_i(x_1, \dots, x_i, -x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) \\
 & \quad + \varphi_i(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, -x_i, 3x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n),
 \end{aligned}$$

and consequently for any non-negative integers l and m such that $l < m$ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left\| \frac{1}{3^l} f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 3^l x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) \right. \\
 & \quad - \frac{1}{3^m} f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 3^m x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) \\
 (7) \quad & \quad \left. - \sum_{j=l}^{m-1} \frac{2}{3^{j+1}} f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 0, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) \right\| \\
 & \leq \sum_{j=l}^{m-1} \frac{1}{3^{j+1}} [\varphi_i(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 3^j x_i, -3^j x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) \\
 & \quad + \varphi_i(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, -3^j x_i, 3^{j+1} x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n)].
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore from (3) it follows that $(\frac{1}{3^j} f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 3^j x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n))_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a Cauchy sequence. Since the space W is complete, this sequence is convergent and we define $F_i : V^n \rightarrow W$ by (6). Putting $l = 0$, letting $m \rightarrow \infty$ in (7) and using (3) we see that (5) holds.

Finally, fix $x'_i \in V$, $j \in \mathbb{N}$ and note that according to (4) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left\| \frac{2}{3^j} f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 3^j \frac{x_i + x'_i}{2}, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) \right. \\
 & \quad - \frac{1}{3^j} f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 3^j x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) \\
 & \quad \left. - \frac{1}{3^j} f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 3^j x'_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) \right\| \\
 & \leq \frac{1}{3^j} \varphi_i(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 3^j x_i, 3^j x'_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n).
 \end{aligned}$$

Next, fix $k \in \mathbf{n} \setminus \{i\}$, $x'_k \in V$ and assume that $k < i$ (the same arguments apply to the case where $k > i$). From (4) it follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left\| \frac{2}{3^j} f(x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}, \frac{x_k + x'_k}{2}, x_{k+1}, \dots, x_{i-1}, 3^j x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) \right. \\
 & \quad - \frac{1}{3^j} f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, 3^j x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) \\
 & \quad \left. - \frac{1}{3^j} f(x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}, x'_k, x_{k+1}, \dots, x_{i-1}, 3^j x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) \right\| \\
 & \leq \frac{1}{3^j} \varphi_k(x_1, \dots, x_k, x'_k, x_{k+1}, \dots, x_{i-1}, 3^j x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n).
 \end{aligned}$$

Letting $j \rightarrow \infty$ in the above inequalities and using (3) we see that the mapping F_i is multi-Jensen. \square

2.3. Jensen and Pexider differences

The results of this section correspond to some outcomes from [13], [19] and [5] (see also Theorem in [11] and Theorem 2 in [8]). The first one deals with the Jensen difference.

Theorem 2.4. *Let E be a countable subgroup of \mathbb{R} . If $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfies*

$$(8) \quad 2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) - f(x) - f(y) \in E, \quad x, y \in \mathbb{R}$$

and f is Borel measurable, then there exists a $c \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$f(x) - f(0) - cx \in E, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Proof. Put

$$\widehat{f}(x) := f(x) - f(0), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Then from (8) it follows that

$$2\widehat{f}\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) - \widehat{f}(x) - \widehat{f}(y) \in E, \quad x, y \in \mathbb{R},$$

whence, setting $y := 0$, we get

$$2\widehat{f}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) - \widehat{f}(x) \in E, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

These two relations give

$$\begin{aligned} & \widehat{f}(x+y) - \widehat{f}(x) - \widehat{f}(y) \\ &= 2\widehat{f}\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) - \widehat{f}(x) - \widehat{f}(y) + \widehat{f}(x+y) - 2\widehat{f}\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) \in E, \quad x, y \in \mathbb{R}. \end{aligned}$$

Since the mapping \widehat{f} is Borel measurable, our assertion follows from Theorem in [11]. \square

We finish with a theorem concerning the Pexider difference.

Theorem 2.5. *Let E be a countable subgroup of \mathbb{R} . If $f, g, h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfy*

$$(9) \quad 2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) - g(x) - h(y) \in E, \quad x, y \in \mathbb{R}$$

and f is Borel measurable, then there exists a $c \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$(10) \quad \begin{cases} 2f(x) - 2f(0) - 2cx \in E, \\ g(x) - g(0) - cx \in E, \\ h(x) - h(0) - cx \in E, \end{cases} \quad x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Proof. Put

$$\widehat{f}(x) := f(x) - f(0), \quad \widehat{g}(x) := g(x) - g(0), \quad \widehat{h}(x) := h(x) - h(0), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Then from (9) it follows that

$$(11) \quad 2\widehat{f}\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) - \widehat{g}(x) - \widehat{h}(y) \in E, \quad x, y \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Set

$$\widetilde{f}(x) := 2\widehat{f}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

and note that in view of (11) we have

$$(12) \quad \widetilde{f}(x+y) - \widehat{g}(x) - \widehat{h}(y) \in E, \quad x, y \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Putting $y := 0$ and $x := 0$ in (12) separately we see that

$$(13) \quad \begin{cases} \widetilde{f}(x) - \widehat{g}(x) \in E, & x \in \mathbb{R}, \\ \widetilde{f}(y) - \widehat{h}(y) \in E, & y \in \mathbb{R}. \end{cases}$$

(12) and (13) give

$$\begin{aligned} & \widetilde{f}(x+y) - \widetilde{f}(x) - \widetilde{f}(y) \\ &= \widetilde{f}(x+y) - \widehat{g}(x) - \widehat{h}(y) + \widehat{g}(x) - \widetilde{f}(x) + \widehat{h}(y) - \widetilde{f}(y) \in E, \quad x, y \in \mathbb{R}. \end{aligned}$$

Since the mapping \widetilde{f} is Borel measurable, from Theorem in [11] it follows that there is a $c \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\widetilde{f}(x) - cx \in E$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}$. This together with the definition of \widetilde{f} and (13) finishes the proof. \square

Note added in proof. Recently Hyers-Ulam stability of the multi-Jensen equation in the case when V, W are vector spaces over the rationals was investigated by W. Prager and J. Schwaiger (see [24]).

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