
AN EXTENSION OF MARKOV-TYPE OPERATORS. APPLICATIONS TO THE FRACTAL THEORY.

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we provide an extension of the concept of Markov-type operator. Classical Markov-type operators associated with iterated function systems have traditionally been studied either for scalar-valued measures or for vector measures taking values in a Hilbert space, a restriction that leaves out a substantial class of infinite-dimensional settings in which such operators arise naturally. Motivated by this gap, we consider the case when the Markov-type operator, associated to a family of contractions together with a compatible family of bounded linear operators, acts on Borel measures of bounded variation which take values in the conjugate of an arbitrary Banach space. This generalization is carried out uniformly for finite, countable, and uncountable families of contractions, thereby unifying constructions that are usually treated separately in the existing literature. We give the main properties of this operator, including its boundedness on the space of Banach dual-valued measures, explicit operator norm estimates in terms of the norms of the associated linear operators and the contraction ratios, and change-of-variable formulas relating the operator to vector-valued integration. These results are obtained with respect to a Monge-Kantorovich type norm defined on the space of vector measures, which provides the appropriate functional framework for studying continuity and convergence properties of the operator. Then, using the Markov-type operator, we construct a non-linear operator, which has, in some cases, a unique fixed point, named the fractal measure. Sufficient contractivity conditions, expressed through the operator norms and the contraction ratios of the underlying maps, are established under which the Banach Fixed Point Theorem guarantees the existence and uniqueness of this measure. One can find a connection between the fractal measure and the attractor, that is, the fractal set, associated to the family of contractions, showing that the support of the fractal measure coincides with this attractor in appropriate settings and thereby preserving the classical geometric interpretation inherited from the Hutchinson construction. We also give some examples, in both finite-dimensional and infinite-dimensional Banach spaces, to illustrate the theoretical facts and to demonstrate that the derived contractivity conditions can be verified explicitly in concrete situations.

Keywords Markov operator · attractor · fractal measure · iterated function system · Monge-Kantorovich norm

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