

# Existence and Local Behavior of the Cubic Padé Approximation

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## Abstract

This paper analyses the local behavior of the cubic function approximation of the form  $P(z)f^3(z) + Q(z)f(z) + R(z) = O(z^{p+q+r+2})$ , where  $P(z), Q(z), R(z)$  are algebraic polynomials of degree  $p, q, r$  respectively, to a function which has a given power series expansion about the origin. It is shown that the cubic Hermite-Padé form always defines a cubic function and that this function is analytic in a neighbourhood of the origin.

**Keywords:** Cubic function approximation, Hermite-Padé approximation, algebraic polynomials

## 1. Introduction

The Padé approximation theory has been widely used in problems of theoretical physics [1,3], numerical analysis [6] [7], and electrical engineering, especially in modal analysis model [2], order reduction of multivariable systems [4,8].

Let  $f(z)$  be a function, analytic in some neighbourhood of the origin, whose series expansion about the origin is known. In this paper we wish to consider the properties of the cubic Hermite-Padé approximation approximations to  $f(z)$  generated by finding polynomials  $P(z), T(z), Q(z)$  and  $R(z)$  such that

$P(z)f^3(z) + T(z)f^2(z) + Q(z)f(z) + R(z) = O(z^{p+t+q+r+3})$ , with  $P(z), T(z), Q(z), R(z)$  being algebraic polynomials of degree  $p, t, q, r$  respectively. But as is well known, if we set

$$z = y - \frac{a}{3},$$

then any cubic equation

$$z^3 + az^2 + bz + c = 0$$

can be transformed into the following form

$$y^3 + (b - \frac{a^2}{3})y + (\frac{2}{27}a^3 - \frac{1}{3}ab + c) = 0.$$

So without loss of generality, in this paper we only consider approximations to  $f(z)$  generated by finding polynomials  $P(z), Q(z)$  and  $R(z)$  so that

$$P(z)f^3(z) + Q(z)f(z) + R(z) = O(z^{p+q+r+2}). \quad (1)$$

Note that such polynomials  $P, Q, R$  not all zero, must exist since (1) represents a homogenous system of  $p+q+r+2$  linear equations in the  $p+q+r+3$  unknown coefficients of the  $P(z), Q(z), R(z)$ . Then set

$$P(z)u^3(z) + Q(z)u(z) + R(z) = 0$$

and attempt to solve this equation for  $u(z)$  in such a way that  $u(z)$  approximates  $f(z)$ .

In the well-known case of Padé approximation [1], the same procedure is followed by

$$P(z)f(z) + Q(z) = O(z^{p+q+1})$$

which gives

$$u(z) = -\frac{Q(z)}{P(z)}.$$

If  $P(0) \neq 0$  (not a serious restriction), it then follows that

$$u(z) = f(z) + O(z^{p+q+1}).$$

In the case of quadratic Hermite-Padé approximation [5], the procedure is followed by

$$P(z)u^2(z) + Q(z)u(z) + R(z) = O(z^{p+q+r+2})$$

which gives

$$u(z) = \left(-Q(z) \pm \sqrt{B(z)}\right) / (2P(z)),$$

where

$$B(z) = Q^2(z) - 4P(z)R(z).$$

If  $B(0) \neq 0$ , it then follows that

$$u(z) = f(z) + O(z^{p+q+r+2}).$$

If  $B(0) = 0$ , we set

$$B(z) = z^{2s}g(z), g(0) \neq 0$$

(since Ref. [5] has proved that  $B(z)$  never has a root of odd multiplicity at the origin). It then follows that

$$u(z) = f(z) + O(z^{p+q+r+2-s}),$$

where  $2s < p+q+r+1$ .

However, in the cubic case it is not obvious that

$$P(z)u^3(z) + Q(z)u(z) + R(z) = 0$$

yields even an analytic approximation to  $f(z)$ , still less that it defines a function  $u(z)$  such that

$$u(z) = f(z) + O(z^{p+q+r+2}).$$

The purpose of this paper is to show that an analogue of the Padé and quadratic Hermite-Padé results is in fact true.

## 2. Notation

It is assumed that

$$P(z)f^3(z) + Q(z)f(z) + R(z) = O(z^{N+2}),$$

where  $N \geq p+q+r$  and that

$$|P(0)| + |Q(0)| + |R(0)| \neq 0.$$

Note that if  $z^s$  is the maximal common factor of  $P(z), Q(z), R(z)$ , then

$$\frac{P(z)}{z^s} f^3(z) + \frac{Q(z)}{z^s} f(z) + \frac{R(z)}{z^s} = O(z^{N+2-s})$$

so that this second assumption is not a serious restriction.

The following notation will be used:

(i) An approximation derived from

$$P(z)f^3(z) + Q(z)f(z) + R(z) = O(z^{N+2})$$

will be referred to as a  $(p, q, r)$  cubic approximation to  $f(z)$ .

(ii) Let

$$D(z) = \frac{1}{4}P(z)R^2(z) + \frac{1}{27}Q^3(z).$$

(iii) By  $\sqrt{D(z)}, \sqrt[3]{E(z)}$  we mean the principal square root of  $D(z), E(z)$  respectively.

### 3. The Principal Results

The problem divides itself into two cases, the case  $D(0)=0$  and the case  $D(0) \neq 0$ .

#### 3.1 The Case $D(0) \neq 0$

**Theorem 1.** If  $D(0) \neq 0$ , then there exists a unique function  $u(z)$ , analytic in a neighbourhood of the origin, satisfying

$$P(z)f^3(z) + Q(z)f(z) + R(z) = 0$$

and  $u(0)=f(0)$ .

**Proof.** (i) Suppose  $P(0)Q(0) \neq 0$ . The three possible expressions for  $u(z)$  in a neighbourhood of the origin are given by

$$u_k(z) = \omega_1^k \sqrt[3]{-\frac{R(z)}{2P(z)} + \sqrt{\frac{D(z)}{P^3(z)}}} - \omega_2^k \sqrt[3]{\frac{R(z)}{2P(z)} + \sqrt{\frac{D(z)}{P^3(z)}}},$$

$k = 0, 1, 2;$

where

$$\omega_1 = \frac{-1 + \sqrt{3}i}{2}, \omega_2 = \frac{-1 - \sqrt{3}i}{2}.$$

Since  $P(0)Q(0)D(0) \neq 0$ , these three functions are all analytic in a neighbourhood of the origin. Exactly one of them satisfies  $u(0)=f(0)$ , because

$$P(0)f^3(0) + Q(0)f(0) + R(0) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow f(0) = \omega_1^k \sqrt[3]{-\frac{R(0)}{2P(0)} + \sqrt{\frac{D(0)}{P^3(0)}}} - \omega_2^k \sqrt[3]{\frac{R(0)}{2P(0)} + \sqrt{\frac{D(0)}{P^3(0)}}},$$

$k = 0, 1, 2.$

(ii) Suppose  $Q(0)=0$ . Then  $P(0) \neq 0$  (since  $D(0) \neq 0$ ).

The three possible expressions for  $u(z)$  in a neighbourhood of the origin are given by

$$u_k(z) = \omega_1^k Q(z) / \left( 3P(z) \sqrt[3]{\frac{R(z)}{2P(z)} + \sqrt{\frac{D(z)}{P^3(z)}}} \right) - \omega_2^k \sqrt[3]{\frac{R(z)}{2P(z)} + \sqrt{\frac{D(z)}{P^3(z)}}},$$

$k = 0, 1, 2.$

Since  $P(0)D(0) \neq 0$ , these three functions are all analytic in a neighbourhood of the origin. Also exactly one of them satisfies  $u(0)=f(0)$ , because

$$P(0)f^3(0) + Q(0)f(0) + R(0) = 0 \Rightarrow$$

$$f(0) = \omega_1^k Q(0) / \left( 3P(0) \sqrt[3]{\frac{R(0)}{2P(0)} + \sqrt{\frac{D(0)}{P^3(0)}}} \right) - \omega_2^k \sqrt[3]{\frac{R(0)}{2P(0)} + \sqrt{\frac{D(0)}{P^3(0)}}},$$

$k = 0, 1, 2.$

(iii) Suppose

$$Q(0) \neq 0, P(0) = 0.$$

Near the origin the three possible expressions  $u_k(z)$  ( $k=0, 1, 2$ ) can be written as

$$u_k(z) = \omega_1^k \sqrt[3]{-\frac{R}{2P} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{Q}{3P}\right)^3}} \sqrt{1 + \frac{27PR^2}{4Q^3}} - \omega_2^k \sqrt[3]{\frac{R}{2P} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{Q}{3P}\right)^3}} \sqrt{1 + \frac{27PR^2}{4Q^3}}. \quad (2)$$

The right-hand sides of  $u_k(z)$  ( $k=0, 1, 2$ ) are unbounded as  $z \rightarrow 0$ , so we can exclude these possibilities. Since  $P(0)=0$ , close to the origin we can apply the binomial theorem to get from  $u_0(z)$  the convergent power series (analytic in a neighbourhood of the origin) expression for  $u(z)$ .

It follows that

$$u(z) = \begin{cases} \sqrt[3]{-\frac{R(z)}{2P(z)} + \sqrt{\frac{D(z)}{P^3(z)}}} - \sqrt[3]{\frac{R(z)}{2P(z)} + \sqrt{\frac{D(z)}{P^3(z)}}}, & z \neq 0 \\ -\frac{3R(z)}{Q^2(z)}, & z = 0 \end{cases}$$

is the only function, analytic in a neighbourhood of the origin, satisfying

$$P(z)u^3(z) + Q(z)u(z) + R(z) = 0$$

with  $u(0)=f(0)$ .

**Theorem 2.** If  $Q(0)D(0) \neq 0$ , then there exists a unique function  $u(z)$ , analytic in a neighbourhood of the origin, satisfying

$$P(z)u^3(z) + Q(z)u(z) + R(z) = 0$$

such that

$$u(z) = f(z) + O(z^{N+2}).$$

**Proof.** Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^j}{dz^j} [P(z)u^3(z) + Q(z)u(z) + R(z)] \Big|_0 &= 0 \\ &= \frac{d^j}{dz^j} [P(z)f^3(z) + Q(z)f(z) + R(z)] \Big|_0, \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

$j \in \{0, 1, \dots, N+1\}$ .

For  $j=1$

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial u} (P(z)u^3(z) + Q(z)u(z) + R(z))u'(z) \right. \\ \left. + (P'(z)u^3(z) + Q'(z)u(z) + R'(z)) \right] \Big|_0 &= 0, \\ \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial f} (P(z)f^3(z) + Q(z)f(z) + R(z))f'(z) \right. \\ \left. + (P'(z)f^3(z) + Q'(z)f(z) + R'(z)) \right] \Big|_0 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Differentiating again ( $j=2$ ) gives

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial u} (P(z)u^3(z) + Q(z)u(z) + R(z))u''(z) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{d}{dz} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial u} (P(z)u^3(z) + Q(z)u(z) + R(z)) \right) u'(z) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{d}{dz} (P'(z)u^3(z) + Q'(z)u(z) + R'(z)) \right] \Big|_0 &= 0, \\ \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial f} (P(z)f^3(z) + Q(z)f(z) + R(z))f''(z) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{d}{dz} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial f} (P(z)f^3(z) + Q(z)f(z) + R(z)) \right) f'(z) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{d}{dz} (P'(z)f^3(z) + Q'(z)f(z) + R'(z)) \right] \Big|_0 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

In general, more compact form we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial u} (P(z)u^3(z) + Q(z)u(z) + R(z))u^{(j)}(z) + u_j(z) \right] \Big|_0 \\ = \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial f} (P(z)f^3(z) + Q(z)f(z) + R(z))f^{(j)}(z) + v_j(z) \right] \Big|_0 = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

$j \in \{1, 2, \dots, N+1\}$ .

where

$$\begin{aligned} u_1(z) &= P'(z)u^3(z) + Q'(z)u(z) + R'(z), \\ u_{j+1}(z) &= \frac{du_j(z)}{dz} + \frac{d}{dz} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial u} (P(z)u^3(z) + Q(z)u(z) + R(z)) \right) u^{(j)}(z); \\ v_1(z) &= P'(z)f^3(z) + Q'(z)f(z) + R'(z), \\ v_{j+1}(z) &= \frac{dv_j(z)}{dz} + \frac{d}{dz} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial f} (P(z)f^3(z) + Q(z)f(z) + R(z)) \right) f^{(j)}(z). \end{aligned}$$

Now taking the unique  $u(z)$  from Theorem 1, it is easily proved that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial u} [P(z)u^3(z) + Q(z)u(z) + R(z)]_0 \neq 0,$$

since

$$D(0) = \left[ \frac{1}{4}P(z)R^2(z) + \frac{1}{27}Q^3(z) \right]_0 \neq 0,$$

and

$$[P(z)u^3(z) + Q(z)u(z) + R(z)]_0 = 0.$$

Therefore it is seen that Eq.(4) with  $j=1$  gives  $u'(0)=f'(0)$ , which with  $j=2$  gives  $u''(0)=f''(0)$ .

It follows that

$$u^{(j)}(0) = f^{(j)}(0), \quad j \in \{1, 2, \dots, N+1\},$$

i.e.

$$u(z) = f(z) + O(z^{N+2}).$$

### 3.2 The Case $D(0)=0$ .

We now investigate the case  $D(0)=0$ . This implies that  $P(0) \neq 0$  (since if

$$D(0) = \frac{1}{4}P(0)R^2(0) + \frac{1}{27}Q^3(0) = 0$$

and  $P(0)=0$ , then  $Q(0)=0$ , which with

$$P(0)f^3(0) + Q(0)f(0) + R(0) = 0$$

gives  $R(0)=0$ ; this contradicts the assumption that  $|P(0)| + |Q(0)| + |R(0)| \neq 0$ .

First, it is necessary to treat two special cases:

(i) Suppose  $R(z) \equiv 0$ .

Then

$$P(z)f^3(z) + Q(z)f(z) = O(z^{N+2})$$

$$\Rightarrow (P(z)f^2(z) + Q(z))f(z) = O(z^{N+2})$$

so that

$$f^2(z) = -Q(z)/P(z) + O(z^S),$$

and

$$f(z) = O(z^T), \quad \text{where } S+T = N+2.$$

Choosing

$$u(z) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{-Q(z)/P(z)}, & \text{if } S > 2T \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

gives  $u(z)$  such that

$$P(z)u^3(z) + Q(z)u(z) + R(z) = 0$$

and

$$u(z) = f(z) + O(z^{\max\{S/2, T\}}).$$

Clearly  $\max\{S/2, T\} \geq (N+2)/3$ .

(ii) Suppose  $Q(z) \equiv 0$ .

Then

$$P(z)f^3(z)+R(z)=O(z^{N+2})$$

$$\Rightarrow -R(z)/P(z)=f^3(z)+O(z^{N+2})$$

so that

$$u(z)=-\sqrt[3]{R(z)/P(z)}=f(z)+O(z^K), \quad K \geq (N+2)/3.$$

and

$$P(z)u^3(z)+Q(z)u(z)+R(z)=0.$$

**Theorem 3.** If  $D(z) \neq 0$  and  $R(z) \neq 0$ , then  $D(z)$  never has a root of multiplicity greater than  $p+q+2r$  at the origin.

**Proof.** Let  $M=p+q+2r$  and suppose  $D(z)=z^{M+1}D_s(z)$ , where  $D_s(z)$  is a polynomial of degree  $s$ . Since  $P(z) \neq 0, R(z) \neq 0$ , then

$$Q^3(z)=27z^{M+1}D_s(z)+B_t(z), \quad (5)$$

where  $B_t(z)$  is a nonzero polynomial of degree  $t$ . We must have  $M+1+s=3q$  (since  $p+2r \leq M < M+1$ ) so that

$$B_t(z)=\frac{27}{4}P(z)R^2(z).$$

Also  $t+q=p+q+2r < M+1=3q-s \Rightarrow t+s < 2q$ .

Differentiating (5) gives

$$3Q^2(z)Q'(z)=27z^M((M+1)D_s(z)+zD'_s(z))+B'_t(z)$$

$$\Rightarrow 3zQ^2(z)Q'(z)=27z^{M+1}((M+1)D_s(z)+zD'_s(z))+zB'_t(z)$$

$$:=27z^{M+1}\bar{D}_s(z)+\bar{B}_t(z), \quad (6)$$

where

$$\bar{D}_s(z)=(M+1)D_s(z)+zD'_s(z) \quad (\text{degree } s)$$

$$\bar{B}_t(z)=zB'_t(z) \quad (\text{degree } t)$$

From (5) and (6) (eliminating the term in  $z^{M+1}$ ) we have

$$Q^2(z)(\bar{D}_s(z)Q(z)-3D_s(z)zQ'(z))=B_t(z)\bar{D}_s(z)-\bar{B}_t(z)D_s(z). \quad (7)$$

The left-hand side of (7) either has degree not less than  $2q$  or is identically zero, while the right-hand side has degree not greater than  $t+s < 2q$ . It follows that

$$\bar{D}_s(z)Q(z)-3D_s(z)zQ'(z)=0=B_t(z)\bar{D}_s(z)-\bar{B}_t(z)D_s(z).$$

Hence

$$\frac{Q'(z)}{Q(z)}=\frac{\bar{D}_s(z)}{3zD_s(z)}=\frac{\bar{B}_t(z)}{3zB_t(z)}=\frac{B'_t(z)}{3B_t(z)}$$

And integrating gives

$$Q(z)=c\sqrt[3]{B_t(z)}, \quad c \in \mathbf{R}.$$

But

$$\deg \sqrt[3]{B_t(z)}=t/3 < q$$

so the result is proved by contradiction.

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