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CONVEXITY AND GENERALIZED BERNSTEIN POLYNOMIALS

by TIM N. T. GOODMAN, HALIL ORUÇ* and GEORGE M. PHILLIPS

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Dedicated to S. L. Lee

In a recent generalization of the Bernstein polynomials, the approximated function f is evaluated at points spaced at intervals which are in geometric progression on [0, 1], instead of at equally spaced points. For each positive integer n, this replaces the single polynomial $B_n f$ by a one-parameter family of polynomials $B_n^q f$, where $0 < q \leq 1$. This paper summarizes briefly the previously known results concerning these generalized Bernstein polynomials and gives new results concerning $B_n^q f$ when f is a monomial. The main results of the paper are obtained by using the concept of total positivity. It is shown that if f is increasing then $B_n^q f$ is increasing, and if f is convex then $B_n^q f$ is convex, generalizing well known results when $q = 1$. It is also shown that if f is convex then, for any positive integer n, $B_n^r f \leq B_n^q f$ for $0 < q \leq r \leq 1$. This supplements the well known classical result that $f \leq B_n f$ when f is convex.

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1. Introduction

In this paper we discuss further properties of the generalized Bernstein polynomials defined by

$$B_n(f;x) = \sum_{r=0}^{n} f_r \begin{bmatrix} n \\ r \end{bmatrix} x^r \prod_{s=0}^{n-r-1} (1 - q^s x), \tag{1.1}$$

where an empty product denotes 1 and $f_r = f([r]/[n])$. It is necessary to explain the notation. The function f is evaluated at the ratios of the q-integers $[r]$ and $[n]$, where q is a positive real number and

$$[r] = \begin{cases} (1-q^r)/(1-q), & q \neq 1, \\ r, & q = 1. \end{cases}$$

We then define the q-factorial $[r]!$ by

$$[r]! = \begin{cases} [r].[r-1]\ldots[1], & r = 1, 2, \ldots, \\ 1, & r = 0 \end{cases}$$

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and the q-binomial coefficient $\begin{bmatrix} n \\ r \end{bmatrix}$ by

$$\begin{bmatrix} n \\ r \end{bmatrix} = \frac{[n]!}{[r]![n-r]!}$$

for integers $n \geq r \geq 0$. These q-binomial coefficients satisfy the recurrence relations

$$\begin{bmatrix} n \\ r \end{bmatrix} = q^{n-r} \begin{bmatrix} n-1 \\ r-1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} n-1 \\ r \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$\begin{bmatrix} n \\ r \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} n-1 \\ r-1 \end{bmatrix} + q^r \begin{bmatrix} n-1 \\ r \end{bmatrix}.$$

We note from the above recurrence relations that $\begin{bmatrix} n \\ r \end{bmatrix}$ is positive for $n \geq r \geq 0$ and all $q \geq 0$. It is then clear from (1.1) that if f is positive on [0, 1] then, for all q such that $0 < q \leq 1$, $B_n f$ is positive on [0, 1]. It is also easily verified that $B_n(f; 0) = f(0)$, $B_n(f; 1) = f(1)$ and $B_n(f; x) = f(x)$, $0 \leq x \leq 1$, when $f(x)$ is a polynomial of degree 1 or less.

In [4] there is a discussion of convergence and a Voronovskaya theorem on the rate of convergence, and a de Casteljau algorithm is given in [5] for computing $B_n(f; x)$ recursively. In [3] it is shown that, if f is convex,

$$B_n(f; x) \leq B_{n-1}(f; x), \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1,$$

for $n > 1$ and $0 < q \leq 1$.

This paper is concerned with the behaviour of the generalized Bernstein polynomials as q varies. When we need to emphasize the dependence on q we will write $B_n^q(f; x)$ in place of $B_n(f; x)$. In Section 2 we discuss the Bernstein polynomials for the monomials, which have a particularly simple form. In Section 3 we quote some results on the theory of total positivity which are used in the following sections. In Section 4 we discuss a change of basis, in order to show later how $B_n(f; x)$ varies with the parameter q. Finally it is proved for all $n \geq 1$ and $0 < q \leq 1$ that if f is increasing, $B_n^q f$ is increasing, and if f is convex then $B_n^q f$ is convex. We also show that if f is convex on [0, 1] then $B_n^r f \leq B_n^q f$ for $0 < q \leq r \leq 1$.

2. The monomials

We require some preliminaries. For any real function f we define $\Delta^0 f_i = f_i$ for $i = 0, 1, \ldots n$ and, recursively,

$$\Delta^{k+1}f_i = \Delta^k f_{i+1} - q^k \Delta^k f_i$$

for $k = 0, 1, \ldots, n-i-1$, where f_i denotes $f([i]/[n])$. It is easily shown by induction on k that q-differences satisfy the relation

$$\Delta^k f_i = \sum_{r=0}^{k} (-1)^r q^{r(r-1)/2} \begin{bmatrix} k \\ r \end{bmatrix} f_{i+k-r}, \tag{2.1}$$

see Schoenberg [6], Lee and Phillips [2]. The generalized Bernstein polynomial (1.1) may also be written in the q-difference form (see [4])

$$B_n(f; x) = \sum_{j=0}^{n} \begin{bmatrix} n \\ j \end{bmatrix} \Delta^j f_0 x^j. \tag{2.2}$$

We now express the q-binomial coefficients as

$$\begin{bmatrix} n \\ j \end{bmatrix} = \frac{[n]^j}{[j]! q^{j(j-1)/2}} \pi_j^n, \quad 0 \le j \le n, \tag{2.3}$$

where

$$\pi_j^n = \prod_{r=0}^{j-1} \left(1 - \frac{[r]}{[n]}\right)$$

and an empty product denotes 1. It follows from (2.2) that $B_n(x^i; x)$ is a polynomial of degree less or equal to $\min(i, n)$ and, using (2.2), (2.1) and (2.3), we obtain

$$B_n(x^i; x) = \sum_{j=0}^{i} \pi_j^n [n]^{j-i} S_q(i, j) x^j, \tag{2.4}$$

where

$$S_q(i, j) = \frac{1}{[j]! q^{j(j-1)/2}} \sum_{r=0}^{j} (-1)^r q^{r(r-1)/2} \begin{bmatrix} j \\ r \end{bmatrix} [j-r]^i. \tag{2.5}$$

We may verify by induction on i that

$$S_q(i+1, j) = S_q(i, j-1) + [j] S_q(i, j) \tag{2.6}$$

for $i \ge 0$ and $j \ge 1$ with $S_q(0, 0) = 1$, $S_q(i, 0) = 0$ for $i > 0$ and we define $S_q(i, j) = 0$ for $j > i$. We call $S_q(i, j)$ the Stirling polynomials of the second kind since when $q = 1$ they are the Stirling numbers of the second kind. The recurrence relation (2.6) shows that, for $q > 0$, the Stirling polynomials are polynomials in q with non-negative integer coefficients and so are positive monotonic increasing functions of q. Thus $B_n(x^i; x)$ and all its derivatives are non-negative on $[0, 1]$. In particular, $B_n(x^i; x)$ is convex. In Section 4, we will find that, more generally, $B_n(f; x)$ is convex when f is convex.

3. Total positivity

In this section we will cite some results concerning totally positive matrices, which we require later to verify the shape-preserving properties of the generalized Bernstein polynomials.

Definition 3.1. For any real sequence v, finite or infinite, we denote by $S^-(v)$ the number of strict sign changes in v.

We use the same notation to denote sign changes in a function, as follows.

Definition 3.2. For a real-valued function f on an interval I, we define $S^-(f)$ to be the number of sign changes of f, that is

$$S^-(f) = \sup S^-(f(x_0), \ldots, f(x_m))$$

where the supremum is taken over all increasing sequences $(x_0, \ldots, x_m)$ in I for all m.

Definition 3.3. We say that a matrix $\mathbf{A} = (a_{ij})$ is m-banded if, for some l, $a_{ij} \neq 0$ implies $l \leq j - i \leq l + m$.

Definition 3.4. A matrix is said to be totally positive if all its minors are non-negative.

It is easily verified that, with $0 < x_0 < x_1 < \ldots < x_n$ the $(n+1) \times (n+1)$ Vandermonde matrix whose (i, j)th element is x_i^j, $0 \leq i, j \leq n$, is totally positive.

Theorem 3.1. *A finite matrix is totally positive if and only if it is a product of* 1-*banded matrices with non-negative elements.*

Theorem 3.2 (Variation diminishing property). *If* $\mathbf{T}$ *is a totally positive matrix and* $\mathbf{v}$ *is any vector for which* $\mathbf{Tv}$ *is defined, then* $S^-(\mathbf{Tv}) \leq S^-(\mathbf{v})$.

Definition 3.5. We say that a sequence $(\phi_0, \ldots, \phi_n)$ of real-valued functions on an interval I is totally positive if, for any points $x_0 < \ldots < x_n$ in I, the collocation matrix $(\phi_j(x_i))_{i,j=0}^n$ is totally positive.

Theorem 3.3. *If* $(\phi_0, \ldots, \phi_n)$ *is totally positive on* I *then, for any numbers* $a_0, \ldots, a_n$,

$$S^-(a_0\phi_0 + \ldots + a_n\phi_n) \le S^-(a_0, \ldots, a_n).$$

For the proofs of these theorems see [1].

Thus, from the total positivity of the Vandermonde matrix, we see that $(1, x, \ldots, x^n)$ is totally positive in any subinterval of $[0, \infty)$. On making the change of variable $t = x/(1-x)$, noting that t is increasing function of x, we see that

$$(1, x/(1-x), x^2/(1-x)^2, \ldots, x^n/(1-x)^n)$$

is totally positive on $[0, 1]$ and thus

$$\big((1-x)^n, x(1-x)^{n-1}, x^2(1-x)^{n-2}, \ldots, x^n\big)$$

is totally positive on $[0, 1]$. For some $0 < q \le 1, n \ge 1, j = 0, \ldots, n$, let

$$P_j^{n,q}(x) = x^j \prod_{s=0}^{n-j-1} (1 - q^s x), \quad 0 \le x \le 1, \tag{3.1}$$

denote the functions which appear in the generalized Bernstein polynomials (1.1). We have seen above that

$$(P_0^{n,1}, P_1^{n,1}, \ldots, P_n^{n,1})$$

is totally positive on $[0, 1]$ and we will see in Section 4 that the same is true of $(P_0^{n,q}, P_1^{n,q}, \ldots, P_n^{n,q})$ for any $q, 0 < q \le 1$.

4. Change of basis

In this section we present results which will be used to show how $B_n(f; x)$ varies with the value of the parameter q.

Since the functions defined in (3.1) are a basis for the subspace of the polynomials of degree at most n then, for any $q, r, 0 < q, r \le 1$, there exists a non-singular matrix $\mathbf{T}^{n,q,r}$ such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} P_0^{n,q}(x) \\ \vdots \\ P_n^{n,q}(x) \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{T}^{n,q,r} \begin{bmatrix} P_0^{n,r}(x) \\ \vdots \\ P_n^{n,r}(x) \end{bmatrix}.$$

Theorem 4.1. *For $0 < q \le r$ all elements of the matrix $\mathbf{T}^{n,q,r}$ are non-negative.*

Proof. We use induction on n. The result holds for $n = 1$ since $\mathbf{T}^{1,q,r}$ is the 2×2 identity matrix. Let us assume the result holds for some $n \ge 1$. Then, since

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$$P_{j+1}^{n+1,q}(x) = xP_j^{n,q}(x), \quad 0 \le j \le n,$$

we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} P_1^{n+1,q}(x) \\ \vdots \\ P_{n+1}^{n+1,q}(x) \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{T}^{n,q,r} \begin{bmatrix} P_1^{n+1,r}(x) \\ \vdots \\ P_{n+1}^{n+1,r}(x) \end{bmatrix}. \tag{4.1}$$

Also, we have

$$\begin{aligned} P_0^{n+1,q}(x) &= (1-x)\dots(1-q^{n-1}x)(1-q^n x) \\ &= (1-q^n x)\sum_{j=0}^{n} T_{0,j}^{n,q,r} P_j^{n,r}(x). \end{aligned}$$

On substituting

$$(1-q^n x)P_j^{n,r}(x) = P_j^{n+1,r}(x) + (r^{n-j} - q^n)P_{j+1}^{n+1,r}(x)$$

and simplifying, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} P_0^{n+1,q}(x) =& T_{0,0}^{n,q,r} P_0^{n+1,r}(x) + (1-q^n) T_{0,n}^{n,q,r} P_{n+1}^{n+1,r}(x) \\ &+ \sum_{j=1}^{n}\left((r^{n+1-j} - q^n) T_{0,j-1}^{n,q,r} + T_{0,j}^{n,q,r}\right) P_j^{n+1,r}(x). \end{aligned} \tag{4.2}$$

Combining (4.1) and (4.2), we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} P_0^{n+1,q}(x) \\ P_1^{n+1,q}(x) \\ \vdots \\ P_{n+1}^{n+1,q}(x) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} T_{0,0}^{n,q,r} & \mathbf{v}_{n+1}^T \\ & \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{T}^{n,q,r} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} P_0^{n+1,r}(x) \\ P_1^{n+1,r}(x) \\ \vdots \\ P_{n+1}^{n+1,r}(x) \end{bmatrix}, \tag{4.3}$$

where the elements of the row vector $\mathbf{v}_{n+1}^T$ are the coefficients of $P_1^{n+1,r}(x), \dots, P_{n+1}^{n+1,r}(x)$ given by (4.2). Thus $\mathbf{T}^{n+1,q,r}$ is the matrix in block form in (4.3) which, together with (4.2), shows that all elements of $\mathbf{T}^{n+1,q,r}$ are non-negative. This completes the proof. □

We now show that $\mathbf{T}^{n,q,r}$ can be factorized as a product of 1-banded matrices. First we require the following lemma.

Lemma 4.1. *For $m \ge 1$ and $r, a \in \mathbf{R}$, let $\mathrm{A}(m, a)$ denote the $m \times (m+1)$ matrix*

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & r^m - a & & & \\ & 1 & r^{m-1} - a & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 & r - a \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then

$$\mathbf{A}(m, a)\mathbf{A}(m+1, b) = \mathbf{A}(m, b)\mathbf{A}(m+1, a). \tag{4.4}$$

Proof. For $i = 0, \dots, m-1$ the ith row of each side of (4.4) is

$$[0, \dots, 0, 1, r^{m+1-i} + r^{m-i} - a - b, (r^{m-i} - a)(r^{m-i} - b), 0, \dots, 0]. \qquad \square$$

Theorem 4.2. *For $n \geq 2$ and any q, r the matrix $\mathbf{T}^{n,q,r}$ is given by the product*

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & r - q^{n-1} & & & \\ & 1 & & & \\ & & 1 & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & r^2 - q^{n-2} & & & \\ & 1 & r - q^{n-2} & & \\ & & 1 & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdots$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & r^{n-1} - q & & & & & \\ & 1 & r^{n-2} - q & & & & \\ & & \cdot & & & & \\ & & & \ddots & \ddots & & \\ & & & & 1 & r - q & \\ & & & & & 1 & \\ & & & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Proof. We use induction on n. The result holds for $n = 2$. Denote the above product by $\mathbf{S}^{n,q,r}$ and assume that, for some $n \geq 2$, $\mathbf{T}^{n,q,r} = \mathbf{S}^{n,q,r}$. Then we can express $\mathbf{S}^{n+1,q,r}$ as the product, in block form,

$$\mathbf{S}^{n+1,q,r} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \mathbf{c}_0^T \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{I} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \mathbf{c}_1^T \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{B}_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \mathbf{c}_2^T \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{B}_2 \end{bmatrix} \cdots \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \mathbf{c}_{n-1}^T \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{B}_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

where $\mathbf{c}_0^T, \dots, \mathbf{c}_{n-1}^T$ are row vectors, $\mathbf{0}$ denotes the zero vector, $\mathbf{I}$ the unit matrix and

$$\mathbf{B}_1\mathbf{B}_2 \dots \mathbf{B}_{n-1} = \mathbf{S}^{n,q,r} = \mathbf{T}^{n,q,r}.$$

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Also, the first column of $\mathbf{S}^{n+1,q,r}$ has 1 in the first row and zeros below. Thus it remains only to verify that the first rows of $\mathbf{T}^{n+1,q,r}$ and $\mathbf{S}^{n+1,q,r}$ are equal. We have

$$[S_{0,0}^{n+1,q,r}, \ldots, S_{0,n+1}^{n+1,q,r}] = [\mathbf{w}^T, 0],$$

where, in the notation defined in the above lemma,

$$\mathbf{w}^T = \mathbf{A}(1, q^n)\mathbf{A}(2, q^{n-1}) \ldots \mathbf{A}(n-1, q^2)\mathbf{A}(n, q). \tag{4.5}$$

In view of the lemma, we may permute the quantities $q^n, q^{n-1}, \ldots, q$ in (4.5), leaving $\mathbf{w}^T$ unchanged. In particular, we may write

$$\mathbf{w}^T = \mathbf{A}(1, q^{n-1})\mathbf{A}(2, q^{n-2}) \ldots \mathbf{A}(n-1, q)\mathbf{A}(n, q^n). \tag{4.6}$$

Now the product of the first $n-1$ matrices in (4.6) is simply the first row of $\mathbf{S}^{n,q,r}$ and thus

$$\mathbf{w}^T = [S_{0,0}^{n,q,r}, \ldots, S_{0,n-1}^{n,q,r}] \begin{bmatrix} 1 & r^n - q^n & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & 1 & r - q^n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= [T_{0,0}^{n,q,r}, \ldots, T_{0,n-1}^{n,q,r}] \begin{bmatrix} 1 & r^n - q^n & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & 1 & r - q^n \end{bmatrix}.$$

This gives

$$S_{0,0}^{n+1,q,r} = T_{0,0}^{n,q,r}$$

and

$$S_{0,j}^{n+1,q,r} = (r^{n+1-j} - q^n)T_{0,j-1}^{n,q,r} + T_{0,j}^{n,q,r}, \quad j = 1, \ldots, n,$$

noting that $T_{0,n}^{n,q,r} = 0$. Then from (4.2)

$$S_{0,j}^{n+1,q,r} = T_{0,j}^{n+1,q,r}, \quad j = 0, \ldots, n,$$

and since $S_{0,n+1}^{n+1,q,r} = 0 = T_{0,n+1}^{n+1,q,r}$, the result is true for $n+1$ and the proof is complete. □

The following is a consequence of Theorem 4.2 and Theorem 3.1.

Theorem 4.3. *For $0 < q \leq r^{n-1}$ the matrix $\mathbf{T}^{n,q,r}$ is totally positive.*

We note that if $0 < q \leq r^{n-1}$ and

$$p = a_0^q P_0^{n,q} + \ldots + a_n^q P_n^{n,q} = a_0^r P_0^{n,r} + \ldots + a_n^r P_n^{n,r} \tag{4.7}$$

then Theorem 3.2 shows that

$$S^-(a_0^r, \ldots, a_n^r) \leq S^-(a_0^q, \ldots, a_n^q),$$

see [1, p. 166]. Since $(P_0^{n,1}, \ldots, P_n^{n,1})$ is totally positive it follows from Theorem 3.3 that, for $0 < q \leq r^{n-1} \leq 1$ and p as in (4.7),

$$S^-(p) \leq S^-(a_0^r, \ldots, a_n^r) \leq S^-(a_0^q, \ldots, a_n^q). \tag{4.8}$$

5. Convexity

From (4.8) we see that, for $0 < q \leq 1, S^-(B_n^q f) \leq S^-(f)$. Since B_n^q reproduces linear polynomials, this has the following consequence.

Theorem 5.1. *For any function f and any linear polynomial p,*

$$S^-(B_n^q f - p) = S^-(B_n^q(f - p)) \leq S^-(f - p),$$

for $0 < q \leq 1$.

This is illustrated by Figure 1. The function $f(x)$ is $\sin 2\pi x$ and the generalized Bernstein polynomials are of degree $n = 20$ with $q = 0.8$ and $q = 0.9$.

The next result follows from Theorem 5.1.

Theorem 5.2. *If f is increasing (decreasing) on* $[0, 1]$, *then* $B_n^q f$ *is also increasing (decreasing) on* $[0, 1]$, *for* $0 < q \leq 1$.

Proof. Let f be increasing on $(0, 1)$. Then, for any constant c,

$$S^-(B_n^q f - c) \leq S^-(f - c) \leq 1$$

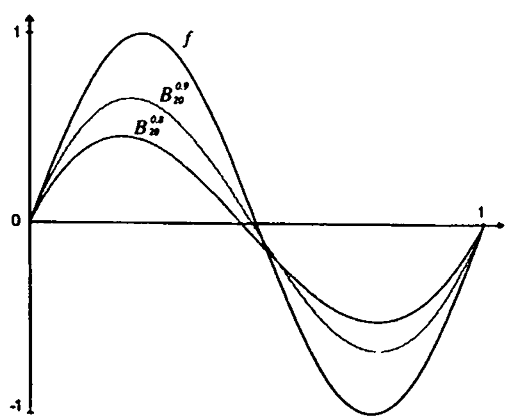

FIGURE 1: Sign changes of generalized Bernstein polynomials for $f(x) = \sin 2\pi x$. The polynomials are $B_{20}^{0.8} f$ and $B_{20}^{0.9} f$.

and thus $B_n^q f$ is monotonic. Since

$$B_n^q(f;0) = f(0) \le f(1) = B_n^q(f;1),$$

$B_n^q f$ is monotonic increasing. (If f is decreasing we may replace f by $-f$.) $\square$

Next we recall the definition of a convex function.

Definition 5.1. A function f is said to be convex on $[0, 1]$ if, for any t_0, t_1 such that $0 \le t_0 < t_1 \le 1$ and any $\lambda, 0 < \lambda < 1, f(\lambda t_0 + (1-\lambda)t_1) \le \lambda f(t_0) + (1-\lambda)f(t_1)$.

Geometrically, this definition states that no chord of f lies below the graph of f. We now state a result on convexity.

Theorem 5.3. *If f is convex on $[0, 1]$, then $B_n^q f$ is also convex on $[0, 1]$, for $0 < q \le 1$.*

Proof. Let p denote any linear polynomial. Then if f is convex we have

$$S^-(B_n^q f - p) = S^-(B_n^q(f-p)) \le S^-(f-p) \le 2.$$

Thus if $p(a) = B_n^q(f;a)$ and $p(b) = B_n^q(f;b)$ for $0 < a < b < 1$ then $B_n^q f - p$ cannot change sign in (a, b). As we vary a and b, a continuity argument shows that the sign of $B_n^q f - p$ on (a, b) is the same for all a and $b, 0 < a < b < 1$. From the convexity of f we see that, when $a = 0$ and $b = 1, 0 \le p - f$, so that

$$0 \le B_n^q(p-f) = p - B_n^q f$$

for $0 < q \le 1$ and thus $B_n^q f$ is convex. $\square$

We conclude this section by proving that, if f is convex, the generalized Bernstein polynomials $B_n^q f$, for n fixed, are monotonic in q.

Theorem 5.4. *For $0 < q \le r \le 1$ and for f convex on $[0, 1]$, then*

$$B_n^r f \le B_n^q f.$$

Proof. Let us write $\zeta_j^{n,q} = \dfrac{[j]}{[n]}$ and $a_j^{n,q} = \begin{bmatrix} n \\ j \end{bmatrix}$. Then, for any function g on $[0, 1]$,

$$B_n^q g = \sum_{j=0}^{n} g(\zeta_j^{n,q}) a_j^{n,q} P_j^{n,q} = \sum_{j=0}^{n} \sum_{k=0}^{n} g(\zeta_j^{n,q}) a_j^{n,q} T_{j,k}^{n,q,r} P_k^{n,r}$$

and thus

$$B_n^q g = \sum_{k=0}^{n} P_k^{n,r} \sum_{j=0}^{n} T_{j,k}^{n,q,r} g(\zeta_j^{n,q}) a_j^{n,q}. \tag{5.1}$$

With $g = 1$, this gives

$$1 = \sum_{j=0}^{n} a_j^{n,q} P_j^{n,q} = \sum_{k=0}^{n} P_k^{n,r} \sum_{j=0}^{n} T_{j,k}^{n,q,r} a_j^{n,q}$$

and hence

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n} T_{j,k}^{n,q,r} a_j^{n,q} = a_k^{n,r}, \quad k = 0, \ldots, n. \tag{5.2}$$

On putting $g(x) = x$ in (5.1), we obtain

$$x = \sum_{j=0}^{n} \zeta_j^{n,q} a_j^{n,q} P_j^{n,q} = \sum_{k=0}^{n} P_k^{n,r} \sum_{j=0}^{n} T_{j,k}^{n,q,r} \zeta_j^{n,q} a_j^{n,q}.$$

Since

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n} \zeta_j^{n,r} a_j^{n,r} P_j^{n,r} = x$$

we have

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n} T_{j,k}^{n,q,r} \zeta_j^{n,q} a_j^{n,q} = \zeta_k^{n,r} a_k^{n,r}, \quad k = 0, \ldots, n. \tag{5.3}$$

Now if f is convex, it follows from (5.2) and (5.3) that

$$\begin{aligned} f(\zeta_k^{n,r}) &= f\left(\sum_{j=0}^{n} (a_k^{n,r})^{-1} T_{j,k}^{n,q,r} \zeta_j^{n,q} a_j^{n,q} \right) \\ &\leq \sum_{j=0}^{n} (a_k^{n,r})^{-1} T_{j,k}^{n,q,r} a_j^{n,q} f(\zeta_j^{n,q}). \end{aligned}$$

Then (5.1) gives

$$\begin{aligned} B_n^q f &= \sum_{j=0}^{n} f(\zeta_j^{n,q}) a_j^{n,q} P_j^{n,q} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{n} a_k^{n,r} P_k^{n,r} \sum_{j=0}^{n} (a_k^{n,r})^{-1} T_{j,k}^{n,q,r} f(\zeta_j^{n,q}) a_j^{n,q} \\ &\geq \sum_{k=0}^{n} a_k^{n,r} P_k^{n,r} f(\zeta_k^{n,r}) = B_n^r f. \end{aligned}$$

□

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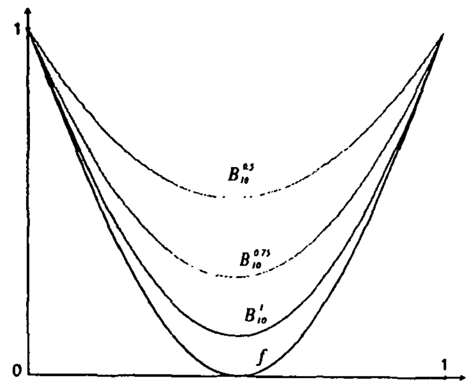

FIGURE 2: Monotonicity of generalized Bernstein polynomials in the parameter q, for $f(x) = 1 - \sin \pi x$. The polynomials are $B_{10}^{0.5}f$, $B_{10}^{0.75}f$ and $B_{10}^{1}f$.

Figure 2 illustrates the monotonicity in q of the generalized Bernstein polynomials $B_n^q(f; x)$ for the convex function $f(x) = 1 - \sin \pi x$.

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TIM N. T. GOODMAN
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE
DUNDEE DD1 4HN

HALIL ORUÇ AND GEORGE M. PHILLIPS
MATHEMATICAL INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS
NORTH HAUGH
ST ANDREWS
FIFE KY16 9SS