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## The role of the maximum operator in the theory of measurability and some applications

PhD Thesis

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## 1 Introduction and some notations

The present thesis aims to conduct some studies of the maximum (supremum) operator on:

- i.)  $\sigma$ -algebras, i.e. to define on  $\sigma$ -algebras functions, called optimal measures, which map finite union into the maximum under certain restrictions,
- ii.) the set of measurable functions with various characterizations.

The material is presented essentially in seven chapters almost all of which begin with an introductory part. In the first some historical backgrounds are presented. Chapters *II–V* deal essentially with results in connection with optimal measure which is a function, continuous from above and suitably normalized, mapping any given  $\sigma$ -algebra into the unit interval  $[0, 1]$  such that every finite union is mapped into the maximum of the maps of the respective terms. We point out that the choice of the term *optimal measure* is deliberate, since taking the maximum also encounters the meaning given in the *Oxford Dictionary* to the word “optimal”. Chapter *VI* treats some maximal inequalities regarding random variables. In the last chapter we present some informatics simulations.

- 1.)  $\bigvee$  and  $\bigvee$  (respectively,  $\bigwedge$  and  $\bigwedge$ ) stand for the maximum or supremum (respectively the minimum or infimum) operators.
- 2.)  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$  will denote an arbitrary measurable space, to be specified in especial cases.

## 2 Optimal measure and the structure theorem

### Thesis 1.

**In the image of the  $\sigma$ -additive measure (or probability measure) we propose a set function, called optimal measure, which maps  $\sigma$ -algebras into the unit interval  $[0, 1]$ . We showed that every optimal measure is entirely generated by a countable set of the so-called indecomposable atoms.**

### 2.1 Definition, some properties and examples

**Definition 2.1 (Agbeko, [5])** *A set function  $p : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  will be called optimal measure if it satisfies the following three axioms:*

**Axiom 1.** *The identities  $p(\Omega) = 1$  and  $p(\emptyset) = 0$  hold.*

**Axiom 2.** *For all measurable sets  $B$  and  $E$ , we have  $p(B \cup E) = p(B) \vee p(E)$ .*

**Axiom 3.** *Function  $p$  is continuous from above, i.e. whenever  $(E_n) \subset \mathcal{F}$  is a decreasing sequence, then  $p\left(\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n\right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p(E_n) = \bigwedge_{n=1}^{\infty} p(E_n)$ ,*

The triple  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, p)$  is referred to as an *optimal measure space*.

An important property can be stated as follows:

**Lemma 2.1 (Agbeko, [5])** *Every optimal measure is continuous from below, i.e. whenever  $(B_n) \subset \mathcal{F}$  is an arbitrary sequence tending increasingly to a measurable set  $B$ , and  $p$  an optimal measure, then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p(B_n) = p(B)$ .*

I would like to note that the following example was proposed by Prof. M. Laczkovich, to replace the imperfect one I gave in an earlier version.

**Example 2.1 (Agbeko, [5])** *Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$  be a measurable space,  $(\omega_n) \subset \Omega$  be a fixed sequence, and  $(\alpha_n) \subset [0, 1]$  a given sequence tending decreasingly to zero. The function  $p : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ , defined by*

$$p(B) = \max \{ \alpha_n : \omega_n \in B \} \quad (1)$$

*is an optimal measure.*

*Moreover, if  $\Omega = [0, 1]$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  is a  $\sigma$ -algebra of  $[0, 1]$  containing the Borel sets, then every optimal measure defined on  $\mathcal{F}$  can be obtained as in (1).*

## 2.2 The structure theorem

**Definition 2.2 (Agbeko, [6])** *By a  $p$ -atom we mean a measurable set  $H, p(H) > 0$  such that whenever  $B \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $B \subset H$ , then  $p(B) = p(H)$  or  $p(B) = 0$ .*

**Definition 2.3 (Agbeko, [6])** *A  $p$ -atom  $H$  is decomposable if there exists a subatom  $B \subset H$  such that  $p(B) = p(H) = p(H \setminus B)$ . If no such subatom exists, we shall say that  $H$  is indecomposable.*

**The Structure Theorem (Agbeko, [6])** *Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, p)$  be an optimal measure space. Then there exists a collection  $\mathcal{H}(p) = \{H_n : n \in J\}$  of disjoint indecomposable  $p$ -atoms, where  $J$  is some countable (i.e. finite or countably infinite) index set, such that for every measurable set  $B \in \mathcal{F}$  with  $p(B) > 0$  we have*

$$p(B) = \max \{ p(B \cap H_n) : n \in J \}. \quad (2)$$

Moreover, if  $J$  is countably infinite, then the only limit point of the set  $\{p(H_n) : n \in J\}$  is 0.

### 3 Optimal average

#### Thesis 2.

In the image of the Lebesgue integral (or mathematical expectation), we defined a non-linear functional (called optimal average) for non-negative measurable simple functions and then extend it to arbitrary non-negative measurable functions. Optimal average provides us with many similar well-known results in measure theory, the Fubini and Radon-Nikodym theorems, say.

Let  $s = \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \chi(B_i)$  be an arbitrary non-negative measurable simple function, where  $\{B_i : i = 1, \dots, n\} \subset \mathcal{F}$  is a partition of  $\Omega$ .

Lebesgue integral of $s$ :	Optimal average of $s$ : (Agbeko, [5])
$\int_{\Omega} s d\mu := \sum_{k=1}^n b_k \mu(B_k)$	$\bigvee_{\Omega} s dp := \bigvee_{i=1}^n b_i p(B_i),$

It is well-known that in general a measurable simple function can have many decompositions. The question thus arises whether or not the optimal average depends on the decomposition of the simple function. The following result gives a satisfactory answer to this question.

**Theorem 3.1 (Agbeko, [5])** *Let  $\sum_{i=1}^n b_i \chi(B_i)$  and  $\sum_{k=1}^m c_k \chi(C_k)$  be two decompositions of a measurable simple function  $s \geq 0$ , where  $\{B_i : i = 1, \dots, n\}$  and  $\{C_k : k = 1, \dots, m\} \subset \mathcal{F}$  are partitions of  $\Omega$ . Then*

$$\bigvee_{i=1}^n b_i p(B_i) = \bigvee_{k=1}^m c_k p(C_k).$$

**Proposition 3.1** *Let  $f \geq 0$  be any bounded measurable function. Then*

$$\sup_{s \leq f} \bigvee_{\Omega} s dp = \inf_{\bar{s} \geq f} \bigvee_{\Omega} \bar{s} dp,$$

where  $s$  and  $\bar{s}$  denote non-negative measurable simple functions.

**Definition 3.1** *The optimal average of a measurable function  $f$  is defined by  $\bigvee_{\Omega} |f| dp = \sup \bigvee_{\Omega} s dp$ , where the supremum is taken over all measurable simple functions  $s \geq 0$  for which  $s \leq |f|$ .*

**Remark 3.1 (Agbeko, [6])** *If a function  $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is measurable, then it is constant almost everywhere on every indecomposable atom.*

**Proposition 3.2 (Agbeko, [6])** *Let  $p \in \mathcal{P}$  and  $f$  be any measurable function. Then*

$$\int_{\Omega} |f| dp = \sup \left\{ \int_{H_n} |f| dp : n \in J \right\},$$

where  $\mathcal{H}(p) = \{H_n : n \in J\}$  is a  $p$ -generating countable system.

Moreover if  $\int_{\Omega} |f| dp < \infty$ , then  $\int_{\Omega} |f| dp = \sup \{c_n \cdot p(H_n) : n \in J\}$ , where  $c_n = f(\omega)$  for almost all  $\omega \in H_n$ ,  $n \in J$ .

## 4 Some convergence theorems related to measurable functions

### Thesis 3.

By means of optimal measures and averages we were able to characterize various notions of well-known convergence such as the notions of discrete, equally, uniform and pointwise convergence of sequences of measurable functions. The boundedness of sequences of measurable functions were also characterized using the same tools.

**Definition 4.1 (Á. Császár and M. Laczkovich, [16, 16, 18])** *Let  $X$  be an arbitrary nonempty set. We say that a sequence of real-valued functions  $(h_n)$  converges to a real-valued function  $h$ :*

- (i) *discretely if for every  $x \in X$  there exists a positive integer  $n_0(x)$  such that  $h_n(x) = h(x)$ , whenever  $n > n_0(x)$ ;*
- (ii) *equally if there is a sequence  $(b_n)$  of positive numbers tending to 0 and for every  $x \in X$  there can be found an index  $n_0(x)$  such that  $|h_n(x) - h(x)| < b_n$  whenever  $n > n_0(x)$ .*

**Theorem 4.1 (Agbeko, [7])** *Let  $(f_n)$  be any sequence of measurable functions. Then  $(f_n)$  tends to a measurable function  $f$  pointwise if and only if  $(z_n)$  tends to 0 pointwise on  $\mathcal{P}_{<\infty}$ , where for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $z_n$  is defined on  $\mathcal{P}_{<\infty}$  by  $z_n(p) = \int_{\Omega} |f_n - f| dp$ .*

**Theorem 4.2 (Agbeko, [7])** *A sequence of measurable functions  $(f_n)$  converges to some measurable function  $f$  equally (resp. discretely) if and only if sequence  $(z_n)$  converges to 0 equally (resp. discretely) on  $\mathcal{P}_{<\infty}$ , where for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $z_n$  is defined on  $\mathcal{P}_{<\infty}$  by  $z_n(p) = \int_{\Omega} |f_n - f| dp$ .*

## 5 Maximal inequalities related with probability theory

### Thesis 4.

Maximal inequalities in connection with concave (convex) Young functions are discussed. Further we isolated a subset  $\mathfrak{A}$  of the set  $\mathcal{Y}_{\text{conc}}$  of concave Young functions and showed that it is closed under the composition operation. We also demonstrated that subset  $\mathfrak{A}$  is a dense set in  $\mathcal{Y}_{\text{conc}}$  with respect to a specific metric and characterized the set of those concave Young functions possessing a positive fixed point.

**Definition 5.1** *A function  $\Phi : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  is called a concave Young function if for all  $x \geq 0$  it is defined by*

$$\Phi(x) = \int_0^x \varphi(t) dt,$$

where  $\Phi(0) = 0$  and  $\varphi : (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$  is a decreasing right-continuous such that  $\varphi$  is integrable on every finite interval  $(0, x)$ . All along we assume that  $\Phi(\infty) = \infty$ .

The set of all concave Young functions will be denoted by  $\mathcal{Y}_{\text{conc}}$ .

### 5.1 Maximal inequalities for non-negative submartingales related with concave Young-functions

**Definition 5.2** *We say that for the concave Young function  $\Phi$  the maximal inequality is valid with some positive constant  $K_\Phi$  (depending only on  $\Phi$ ) if for an arbitrary non-negative submartingale  $(X_n, \mathcal{F}_n)$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , the inequality*

$$E\Phi(X_n^*) \leq K_\Phi(1 + EX_n) \tag{3}$$

holds for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , with  $X_n^* = \bigvee_{k=1}^n X_k$ .

**Theorem 5.1 (Agbeko, [3])** Let  $\Phi$  be any concave Young function. In order that  $\Phi$  satisfy the above maximal inequality, it is necessary and sufficient that

$$A_\Phi := \int_1^\infty \frac{\varphi(t)}{t} dt < \infty. \tag{4}$$

Moreover, if  $A_\Phi < \infty$ , then  $K_\Phi = \max(\Phi(1), A_\Phi)$ .



## 5.2 The fixed points of a class of concave Young-functions

In dynamic models, stationary equilibrium is typically described as a solution of the equation  $x = f(x)$ , where  $f$  is a mapping which determines the current state as a function of the previous state, or as a function of the expected future state. In many cases  $x$  is a finite dimensional vector, and in general positive solutions (i.e. fixed points of  $f$ ) are rather sought for.

I should mention that there are different types of Fixed Point theorems. Perhaps the most widely investigated is the one in connection with contractive mappings. Here I would like to mention the name of my colleague J. Mészáros who connected various definitions of contractive mappings (cf. [27]). We also note that concave Young functions can meet the contractive property.

**Theorem 5.2 (Agbeko, [11])** *Let  $\Phi \in \mathcal{Y}_{\text{conc}}$  be arbitrary. In order that there be a constant  $s > 0$  for which  $\varphi(s) < 1$ , it is necessary and sufficient that  $\Phi$  admit a positive fixed point, i.e.  $\Phi(x) = x$  for some number  $x > 0$ .*

**Proposition 5.1 (Agbeko, [11])** *Let  $\Phi \in \mathcal{Y}_{\text{conc}}$  be arbitrary. If  $x_0 \in (0, \infty)$  is such that  $\Phi(x_0) = x_0$ , then  $\varphi(x_0) < 1$ .*

**Definition 5.3 (Agbeko, [11])** *A number  $s > 0$  is called the degree of contraction of a function  $\Phi \in \mathcal{Y}_{\text{conc}}$  if  $\varphi(s) = 1$ .*

We note in this case that  $\varphi(s + \delta) < 1$  for any positive number  $\delta$ , which makes  $\Phi$  a contraction for some suitable  $\delta$ .

The degree of contraction can provide a starting point for any iteration for finding the positive fixed points of concave Young-functions. In this viewpoint the degree of contraction can be useful, as a matter of fact.

## 6 Applications: Algorithmic determination of optimal measures from data

### 6.1 The determination of optimal measure from data

#### 6.1.1 Some preliminary

In fuzzy sets theory the crux was how to determine the values of the fuzzy measure in a given real problem. To achieve that goal the Sugeno integral was used alongside with the so-called genetic algorithm to solve it (see [40]), say. The Sugeno integral with respect to a given fuzzy measure  $\mu$  is regarded as a multi-input single-output system. The input is the integrand, i.e. the vector  $(f(\omega_1), \dots, f(\omega_n))$ , while the output is the value of its

Sugeno integral  $E := (S) \int f d\mu = \sup \{ \alpha \wedge \mu(F_\alpha) : \alpha \in [0, 1] \}$ , where  $f$  is a measurable function defined on a finite measurable space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$  and  $F_\alpha := \{ \omega \in \Omega : f(\omega) \geq \alpha \}$ . By repeatedly observing the system  $(f(\omega_1), \dots, f(\omega_n))$  results the following

$f_1(\omega_1)$	$f_1(\omega_2)$	$\dots$	$f_1(\omega_n)$	$E_1$
$f_2(\omega_1)$	$f_2(\omega_2)$	$\dots$	$f_2(\omega_n)$	$E_2$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$		$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$f_k(\omega_1)$	$f_k(\omega_2)$	$\dots$	$f_k(\omega_n)$	$E_k$

and we look for an approximate fuzzy measure  $\mu$  with  $E_i = (S) \int f_i d\mu$ , ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ), such that the expression

$$e := \sqrt{\frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k \left( E_i - (S) \int f_i d\mu \right)^2}$$

is minimized. For more about the genetic algorithm see [25], for example.

### 6.1.2 Problems

**Problem 1** Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$  be the measurable space with  $\Omega = \{1, \dots, n\}$  and  $\mathcal{F} = 2^\Omega$ . Write  $B_1 := \{1\}, \dots, B_n := \{n\}$  and let  $f$  be a random variable assuming the theoretical values in  $[0, \infty)$ . Observe  $k$  times this measurable function with results  $f_1, \dots, f_k$ , i.e.

$f_1(1)$	$f_1(2)$	$\dots$	$f_1(n)$	$Q_1$
$f_2(1)$	$f_2(2)$	$\dots$	$f_2(n)$	$Q_2$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$		$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$f_k(1)$	$f_k(2)$	$\dots$	$f_k(n)$	$Q_k$

where  $Q_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n f_{ij}$  with  $f_{ij} := f_i(j)$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, n$ , and  $i = 1, \dots, k$ . The question is to know which one of these sample averages can "best" approximate the theoretical mathematical expectation.

To solve Problem 1 we propose to look for an approximation of the theoretical optimal measure  $p$  for which  $\int_{\Omega} f_i dp \approx Q_i$ , ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ), such that the expression

$$err := \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^k \varepsilon_i^2} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^k \left( Q_i - \int_{\Omega} f_i dp \right)^2}$$

is minimized. Write  $p_{**}$  for the optimal measure  $p$  for which the least square is minimal. Now, it is not difficult to see that  $\bigvee_{i=1}^k \left| Q_i - \int_{\Omega} f_i dp_{**} \right| < err$ . Let  $i_0$  be the index where the maximum is attained, i.e.

$$\left| Q_{i_0} - \int_{\Omega} f_{i_0} dp_{**} \right| = \bigvee_{i=1}^k \left| Q_i - \int_{\Omega} f_i dp_{**} \right|.$$

Then we can conclude that with respect to the optimal measure  $p_{**}$  the  $i_0$ th sample provides us with the best possible sample average.

As we know statistical spaces are not restricted in general to the real line nor to the real vector spaces. For this reason we shall formulate the following problem. We shall then indicate how to use the solution of first problem to solve the second one.

**Problem 2** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{S})$  be measurable space with  $\mathcal{S}$  being an arbitrary  $\sigma$ -algebra. Fix a partition  $D_1, \dots, D_n$  of  $X$  and consider a random variable  $h : X \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ , assuming theoretical values. Observe  $k$  times this measurable function with results*

$D_1$	$D_2$	$\dots$	$D_n$	
$h_{11}$	$h_{12}$	$\dots$	$h_{1n}$	$Q_1$
$h_{21}$	$h_{22}$	$\dots$	$h_{2n}$	$Q_2$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$		$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$h_{k1}$	$h_{k2}$	$\dots$	$h_{kn}$	$Q_k$

where  $h_{ij}$  is the observed value of  $h$  in the  $i$ th experiment on event  $D_j$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ ;  $j = 1, \dots, n$ , and  $Q_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n h_{ij}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ . The question is to know which one of these sample averages can "best" approximate the theoretical mathematical expectation of  $h$ .

To solve Problem 2, first write  $\mathcal{S}_0 := \sigma(D_1, \dots, D_n)$ . We note that  $\mathcal{S}_0$  is a finite  $\sigma$ -algebra and the random variable  $h$  is also  $\mathcal{S}_0$ -measurable. Clearly,  $\mathcal{S}_0$  and  $2^{\Omega}$  are equinumerous, where  $\Omega = \{1, \dots, n\}$ . Then Problem 2 can be reduced to Problem 1 if we define  $f_{ij} := h_{ij}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ ;  $j = 1, \dots, n$ .

## 6.2 Algorithm to solve the first problem

### Step 0

**Input:**  $n$  positive integer

$\Omega = \{1, \dots, n\}$

$k \times n$  matrix  $F = [f(i, j)]_{i,j=1}^{n,k}$

$n$ -dimensional vector  $Q$

error bound  $\varepsilon$

$B_j = \{j\}, j = 1 \dots n$

$X =$  the power set of  $\Omega$  whose elements should be indexed  $kk = 1 \dots 2^n$

### Step 1.

Generate a decreasing sequence  $\alpha(j) \in (0, 1]$ , with  $\alpha(1) = 1$ .

### Step 2.

Permute  $\sigma(\{1, \dots, n\}) = \{n_1, \dots, n_n\}$

Put  $p(B_j) = \alpha(n_j)$ , for  $j = 1, \dots, n$

Compute the optimal average:  $A(i) = \max\{f(i, j) * p(B_j) : j = 1 \dots n\}$

Compute the corresponding error:  $err = \sqrt{\left(\sum_{j=1}^n (Q(i) - A(i))\right)^2}$

$iter = 1$

### Step 3.

*If  $err < \varepsilon$  or  $iter > n!$  do*

Find the index  $i_0$ :  $|Q(i_0) - A(i_0)| = \max\{|Q(i) - A(i)| : i = 1 \dots k\}$

Determine  $p(B) = \max\{\alpha(n_j) : j \in B\}$ , for each  $B \in X$

*Else GOTO Step 2*

### Step 4.

#### The outputs

1.) Best sample:  $f(i_0, 1), \dots, f(i_0, n)$

2.) The approximated optimal measure:

$2^\Omega$	$p(B)$
$\{\}$	0
$B_1$	$p(B_1)$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$B_i$	$p(B_i)$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$

### 6.3 An algorithm to find the degree of contraction and the fixed point

**Step 1.** Input  $\Phi(x)$ ,  $cc > 0$ .

**Step 2.** Compute the derivative  $\varphi(x)$  of  $\Phi(x)$

**Step 3.** Starting from  $cc$  find an approximation root for equation  $\varphi(x) - 1 = 0$  and put the result into  $c$ .

**Step 4.** *If  $c = 0$  then STOP.  
else do*

**Step 5.** Starting from  $c$  apply the FixedPoint algorithm, i.e.  
 $x_0 := c$ ;  $x_{k+1} := \Phi(x_k)$ ;  $k = k + 1$ .

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## SUMMARY

In the image of the probability measure we proposed a set function, called optimal measure, which we showed to have a structural property. Next, we defined the so-called optimal average for non-negative measurable simple functions and then extend this definition to arbitrary measurable functions. Optimal average provides us with many similar well-known results in measure theory such as the Fubini and Radon-Nikodym theorems, say. We characterized various notions of well-known convergence such as the notions of discrete, equally, uniform and pointwise convergence of sequences of measurable functions. Maximal inequalities in connection with concave (convex) Young functions are discussed and studied with probabilistic tools. Further we isolated a subset  $\mathcal{A}$  of the set  $\mathcal{Y}_{\text{conc}}$  of concave Young functions and showed that it is closed under the composition operation. We also demonstrated that subset  $\mathcal{A}$  is a dense set in  $\mathcal{Y}_{\text{conc}}$  with respect to a specific metric. Finally we characterized the set of those concave Young functions possessing a positive fixed point.

## ÖSSZEFOGLALÓ

Bevezettük az optimális mértéket és beláttuk, hogy minden optimális mérték strukturális tulajdonságú. Definiáltuk az optimális átlagot nem-negatív mérhető lépcsős függvények esetén. Először beláttuk, hogy ez az átlag nem függ a lépcsős függvény felbontásától. Kiterjesztettük az optimális átlagot tetszőleges nem-negatív mérhető függvényekre és így megkaptuk a Fubini, illetve Radon-Nikodym tételek a mértékelméletbeli megfelelőjét. Jellemeztünk számos jól ismert konvergencia fogalmakat a mérhető függvénysorozatok esetén: a stabilizálódó, egy sorozat szerint pontonkénti, egyenletes, valamint a pontonkénti konvergencia fogalmakat. Kitértünk a mérhető függvénysorozatok különféle korlátosságának jellemzésére is az optimális átlag alkalmazásával. Áttekintjük a konkáv (konvex) Young függvényekkel kapcsolatos maximális egyenlőtlenségeket valószínűségszámítási eszközökkel. Elkülönítettük az  $\mathcal{Y}_{\text{conc}}$  konkáv Young függvények halmazának egy  $\mathcal{A}$  részhalmazát, mely a kompozícióra zárt. Megadtunk az  $\mathcal{Y}_{\text{conc}}$  halmazon egy olyan metrikát, mely szerint az  $\mathcal{A}$  részhalmaz sűrű az  $\mathcal{Y}_{\text{conc}}$  halmazban. Megadtuk a pozitív fixponttal rendelkező összes konkáv Young függvények halmazát.