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**The approximation numbers  $\gamma_n(T)$  and  $Q$ -precompactness.**

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Let  $E$  be a (real or complex) topological linear space; for each  $n \in \mathbf{N}$  let  $\mathcal{A}_n = \mathcal{A}_n(E)$  be a family of subsets of  $E$  satisfying the following conditions: (1)  $\{0\} = \mathcal{A}_0 \subset \mathcal{A}_1 \subset \cdots \subset \mathcal{A}_n \subset \cdots$ , (2)  $\lambda \mathcal{A}_n \subset \mathcal{A}_n$  for every  $\lambda \in K = \mathbf{R}$  or  $\mathbf{C}$  and  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ , (3)  $\mathcal{A}_n + \mathcal{A}_m \subset \mathcal{A}_{n+m}$  for every  $n, m \in \mathbf{N}$ . Then  $(E, (\mathcal{A}_n(E))_{n \in \mathbf{N}})$  is called an approximation scheme on  $E$ . If for each  $n \in \mathbf{N}$  the family  $\mathcal{A}_n(E)$  consists of one subset  $A_n$  of  $E$ , the concept of an approximation scheme introduced by A. Pietsch [J. Approx. Theory **32** (1981), no. 2, 115–134; [MR0633697 \(83b:41043\)](#)] will be obtained. The authors generalize the concepts of approximation numbers  $\alpha_n(T)$  [resp. Kolmogorov numbers  $\delta_n(T)$ ] for a given continuous linear operator  $T$  between complete  $p$ -normed spaces,  $0 < p \leq 1$ . They discuss the relation between  $\alpha_n(T)$  and  $\delta_n(T)$  and obtain results similar to those on Kolmogorov numbers. For example: let  $E$  be a complete  $p$ -normed space,  $F$  a complete  $q$ -normed space ( $0 < p, q \leq 1$ ) and  $T \in L(E, F)$ , then  $\alpha_n(TQ_E) = \delta_n(T)$ , where  $Q_E$  is the metric surjection of  $l_I^p$  onto  $E$  defined by  $Q_E(\xi_x) := \sum \xi_x x$  for  $(\xi_x)_{x \in I} \in l_I^p$ ,  $I = U_{E'}$ . They also consider precompactness of a bounded subset with respect to the approximation scheme  $\mathcal{A}_n(E)$  and prove a Dieudonné-Schwartz type characterization of  $\mathcal{A}_n(E)$ -precompact sets in a  $p$ -normed space.

Reviewed by [Bernd Rosenberger](#)

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