

ON q -MONOTONICITY OF α -BERNSTEIN OPERATORS

BOGDAN GAVREA, IOAN GAVREA AND DANIEL IANOȘI*

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Abstract. In this paper we show that α -Bernstein operators preserve q -monotonicity of all orders. We investigate the tensor product of two such operators and show that it preserves (q, s) -box convexity. Some Raşa type inequalities for the α -Bernstein operators are also derived.

1. Introduction

In [4], the following generalization of the Bernstein operators depending on a non-negative real parameter was derived. Given a function $f(x)$ on $[0, 1]$, for each positive integer n and any fixed real α , the so called α -Bernstein operator for $f(x)$ is defined as

$$T_{n,\alpha}(f;x) = \sum_{i=0}^n p_{n,i}^{(\alpha)}(x) f\left(\frac{i}{n}\right), \quad (1)$$

where $p_{1,0}^{(\alpha)}(x) = 1 - x$, $p_{1,1}^{(\alpha)}(x) = x$ and

$$p_{n,i}^{(\alpha)}(x) = \left[\binom{n-2}{i} (1-\alpha)x + \binom{n-2}{i-2} (1-\alpha)(1-x) + \binom{n}{i} \alpha x(1-x) \right] \times x^{i-1} (1-x)^{n-i-1},$$

for $n \geq 2$, $x \in [0, 1]$. Here the binomial coefficients $\binom{k}{l}$ are given by

$$\binom{k}{l} = \begin{cases} \frac{k!}{l!(k-l)!}, & \text{if } 0 \leq l \leq k \\ 0, & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

When $\alpha = 1$, the α -Bernstein operator reduces to the classical Bernstein operator

$$T_{n,1}(f;x) = B_n(f;x) = \sum_{i=0}^n b_{n,i}(x) f\left(\frac{i}{n}\right), \quad n \in \mathbb{N},$$

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* Corresponding author.

where $b_{n,i}(x) = \binom{n}{i}x^i(1-x)^{n-i}$, $i, n \in \mathbb{N}$.

In this paper we will consider only α -Bernstein operators with $\alpha \in [0, 1]$. Under this assumption, the operators $T_{n,\alpha}$ are linear positive operators.

The rate of convergence and a Voronovskaja type theorem are given in [4]. The operators $T_{n,\alpha}$ preserve monotonicity and convexity ([4], Theorem 3.3 and Theorem 4.1.).

We observe that $p_{n,i}^{(\alpha)}(x)$ can be written in terms of the Bernstein basis as

$$p_{n,i}^{(\alpha)}(x) = (1 - \alpha)(1 - x)b_{n-2,i}(x) + (1 - \alpha)xb_{n-2,i-2}(x) + \alpha b_{n,i}(x), \quad i, n \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (2)$$

It follows from (2) that the α -Bernstein operator $T_{n,\alpha}$ can be written in terms of the Bernstein operators

$$T_{n,\alpha}(f;x) = (1 - \alpha)(1 - x)B_{n-2}\left(f\left(\frac{n-2}{n}t\right);x\right) + (1 - \alpha)xB_{n-2}\left(f\left(\frac{(n-2)t+2}{n}\right);x\right) + \alpha B_n(f(t);x), \quad (3)$$

where $B_k(f(at+b);x)$ is the Bernstein polynomial of degree k , corresponding to the function $g(t) = f(at+b)$ evaluated at x .

We will use identity (3) to prove some new properties of the α -Bernstein operators $T_{n,\alpha}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\alpha \in (0, 1)$.

In [10], J. Mrowiec, T. Rajba and S. Wąsowicz solved for the first time the following problem, raised by I. Raşa ([12], Problem 2, p.164), related to the preservation of convexity by the Bernstein-Schnabl operators. In [8], Raşa’s conjecture was studied for the case of Baskakov-Mastroianni operators.

PROBLEM. *Prove or disprove that*

$$\sum_{i,j=0}^n (b_{n,i}(x)b_{n,j}(x) + b_{n,i}(y)b_{n,j}(y) - 2b_{n,i}(x)b_{n,j}(y))f\left(\frac{i+j}{2n}\right) \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

for each convex function $f \in C[0, 1]$ and for all $x, y \in [0, 1]$.

A simple proof of (4) was given by U. Abel in [1]. In [3], [6] and [7], inequality (4) was proved in a more general context.

Given $f \in C[0, 1]$, we define

$$\Delta_h^1 f(x) := \Delta_h f(x) := \begin{cases} f(x+h) - f(x), & x, x+h \in [0, 1] \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and for $q \geq 1$

$$\Delta_h^{q+1} f(x) := \Delta_h^q(\Delta_h f(x)).$$

A function f defined on $[0, 1]$ is called q -monotone if $\Delta_h^q f(x) \geq 0$, for all $h \geq 0$. In particular a 1-monotone function is non-decreasing and a 2-monotone one is convex. It is known (see, [9] for example) that the Bernstein polynomials preserve q -monotonicity

for all orders $q \geq 1$. This property follows from the following identity, which will be used later in this paper:

$$(D^q B_n f)(x) = \binom{n}{q} \frac{q!}{n^q} \sum_{j=0}^{n-q} b_{n-q,j}(x) \left[\frac{j}{n}, \frac{j+1}{n}, \dots, \frac{j+q}{n}; f \right]. \tag{5}$$

Here, by $[x_0, \dots, x_q; f]$, we have denoted the divided difference of the function f on the distinct points $x_0, \dots, x_q \in [0, 1]$, defined by the formulas

$$[x_0; f] = f(x_0)$$

$$[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{q-1}, x_q; f] = \frac{[x_0, \dots, x_{q-1}; f] - [x_1, \dots, x_q; f]}{x_0 - x_q}$$

for $q \geq 1$. Given the divided difference $[x, x+h, \dots, x+qh; f]$ and $\Delta_h^q f(x)$, the following identity is well-known:

$$[x, x+h, \dots, x+qh; f] = \frac{1}{q!} \frac{1}{h^q} \Delta_h^q f(x) \tag{6}$$

U. Abel and D. Leviatan in [2] proved an analogous inequality of (4) for q -monotone functions. More precisely, they proved the following theorem.

THEOREM A. *Let $q, n \in \mathbb{N}$. If $f \in C[0, 1]$ is a q -monotone function, then for all $x, y \in [0, 1]$,*

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{sgn}(x-y)^q \sum_{v_1, \dots, v_q=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^q (-1)^{q-j} \binom{q}{j} & \left(\prod_{i=1}^j b_{n, v_i}(x) \right) \left(\prod_{i=j+1}^q b_{n, v_i}(y) \right) \\ & \times \int_0^1 f \left(\frac{v_1 + \dots + v_q + \alpha t}{qn + \alpha} \right) dt \geq 0, \end{aligned}$$

where $\alpha \in [0, 1]$.

The aim of this paper is to show that the α -Bernstein operator, $T_{n,\alpha}$, preserves q -monotonicity of all orders, $q \geq 1$ and to extend Theorem A. Our main results are listed below, with the corresponding proofs given in Section 2.

THEOREM 1. *The α -Bernstein operator, $T_{n,\alpha}$, preserves q -monotonicity of all orders $q, q \in \mathbb{N}$.*

Before giving the next result, we recall the definition of box-convexity. A function $f \in C([0, 1] \times [0, 1])$ is called box-convex of order (q, s) , [5], if for any distinct points $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_q \in [0, 1]$ and any distinct points $y_0, y_1, \dots, y_s \in [0, 1]$

$$\left[\begin{matrix} x_0, x_1, \dots, x_q, \\ y_0, y_1, \dots, y_s \end{matrix}; f \right] \geq 0,$$

where

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_0, \dots, x_q; f \\ y_0, \dots, y_s \end{bmatrix} = [x_0, \dots, x_q; [y_0, \dots, y_s; f(x, \cdot)]] = [y_0, \dots, y_s; [x_0, \dots, x_q; f(\cdot, y)]] .$$

THEOREM 2. Let $\alpha, \beta \in [0, 1]$ be two fixed numbers and n, m be two natural numbers. If $T_{n,m,\alpha,\beta} : C([0, 1] \times [0, 1]) \rightarrow C([0, 1] \times [0, 1])$ is the tensorial product of $T_{n,\alpha}$ and $T_{m,\beta}$, i.e.

$$T_{n,m,\alpha,\beta}(f)(x, y) = \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^m p_{n,i}^{(\alpha)}(x) p_{m,j}^{(\beta)}(y) f\left(\frac{i}{n}, \frac{j}{m}\right), \tag{7}$$

then $T_{n,m,\alpha,\beta}$ preserves (q, s) -box convexity, for all $q, s \in \mathbb{N}$.

THEOREM 3. Let $f \in C([0, 1] \times [0, 1])$ be a $(1, 1)$ -box convex function and $x_1, t_1, y_1, z_1 \in [0, 1]$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{sgn}(x_1 - t_1)(y_1 - z_1) \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^m \left(p_{n,i}^{(\alpha)}(x_1) - p_{n,i}^{(\alpha)}(t_1) \right) \left(p_{m,j}^{(\beta)}(y_1) - p_{m,j}^{(\beta)}(z_1) \right) \\ \times A_{\frac{i}{n}, \frac{j}{m}}(f) \geq 0, \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

where $A_{\frac{i}{n}, \frac{j}{m}}(f) = \int_0^1 \int_0^1 f\left(\frac{i+au}{n+a}, \frac{j+bv}{m+b}\right) dudv$, $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$, $j = 0, 1, \dots, m$, a and b being two fixed positive numbers.

COROLLARY 4. Let $f \in C[0, 1]$ be a convex function and δ be a fixed positive number. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{sgn}(x_1 - t_1)(y_1 - z_1) \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^m \left(p_{n,i}^{(\alpha)}(x_1) - p_{n,i}^{(\alpha)}(t_1) \right) \left(p_{m,j}^{(\beta)}(y_1) - p_{m,j}^{(\beta)}(z_1) \right) \\ \times \int_0^1 f\left(\frac{1}{2+\delta} \left(\frac{i}{n} + \frac{j}{m} + \delta t\right)\right) dt \geq 0. \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

REMARK 5. For $\alpha = \beta = 1$, $\delta = 0$, $x_1 = y_1 = x$ and $t_1 = z_1 = y$, $m = n$, we get inequality (4).

2. Proofs

Proof of Theorem 1. Using Leibniz’s rule in (3) we get

$$\begin{aligned} D^q T_{n,\alpha}(f;x) &= (1 - \alpha) \left[x D^q B_{n-2} \left(f \left(\frac{(n-2)t+2}{n} \right); x \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (1-x) D^q B_{n-2} \left(f \left(\frac{(n-2)t}{n} \right); x \right) \right] + \alpha D^q B_n(f(t);x) \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

$$+ q \left[D^{q-1}B_{n-2} \left(f \left(\frac{(n-2)t+2}{n} \right); x \right) - D^{q-1}B_{n-2} \left(f \left(\frac{(n-2)t}{n} \right); x \right) \right].$$

The first three terms in (10) are positive since Bernstein operators preserves q -monotonicity. For the last two terms, by (5) we have

$$D^{q-1}B_{n-2} \left(f \left(\frac{(n-2)t+2}{n} \right); x \right) - D^{q-1}B_{n-2} \left(f \left(\frac{(n-2)t}{n} \right); x \right) \tag{11}$$

$$= \binom{n-2}{q-1} \frac{(q-1)!}{n^{q-1}} \sum_{j=0}^{n-q-1} b_{n-q-1,j}(x)$$

$$\times \left\{ \left[\frac{j+2}{n}, \frac{j+3}{n}, \dots, \frac{j+q+1}{n}; f(t) \right] - \left[\frac{j}{n}, \frac{j+1}{n}, \dots, \frac{j+q-1}{n}; f(t) \right] \right\}.$$

Using the recursive formula for divided differences, we obtain

$$\left[\frac{j+2}{n}, \frac{j+3}{n}, \dots, \frac{j+q+1}{n}; f(t) \right] - \left[\frac{j}{n}, \frac{j+1}{n}, \dots, \frac{j+q-1}{n}; f(t) \right] \tag{12}$$

$$= \left[\frac{j+2}{n}, \frac{j+3}{n}, \dots, \frac{j+q+1}{n}; f(t) \right] - \left[\frac{j+1}{n}, \frac{j+2}{n}, \dots, \frac{j+q}{n}; f(t) \right]$$

$$+ \left[\frac{j+1}{n}, \frac{j+2}{n}, \dots, \frac{j+q}{n}; f(t) \right] - \left[\frac{j}{n}, \frac{j+1}{n}, \dots, \frac{j+q-1}{n}; f(t) \right]$$

$$= \frac{n}{q} \left\{ \left[\frac{j+1}{n}, \frac{j+2}{n}, \dots, \frac{j+q+1}{n}; f(t) \right] + \left[\frac{j}{n}, \frac{j+1}{n}, \dots, \frac{j+q}{n}; f(t) \right] \right\}.$$

From (12), it follows that the last two terms are positive. This implies that $D^q T_{n,\alpha}(f; x) \geq 0$ and the proof is complete. \square

For the proof of Theorem 2, we will use the following result due to T. Popoviciu, [11].

LEMMA 1. ([11], pp. 78, T. Popoviciu) *If $f \in C^{q+s}([0, 1] \times [0, 1])$ and the mixed derivative $\frac{\partial^{q+s} f}{\partial x^q \partial y^s}$ exists and is continuous, then f is (q, s) -box convex if and only if*

$$\frac{\partial^{q+s} f}{\partial x^q \partial y^s} \geq 0. \tag{13}$$

Proof of Theorem 2. We first note that the following identity

$$T_{n,m,\alpha,\beta}(f)(x,y) = (1-\alpha)(1-\beta)L_{n-2,m-2}^{(1)}(f)(x,y) + (1-\alpha)\beta L_{n-2,m}^{(2)}(f)(x,y)$$

$$+ \alpha(1-\beta)L_{n,m-2}^{(3)}(f)(x,y) + \alpha\beta B_{n,m}(f)(x,y),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 L_{n-2,m-2}^{(1)}(f)(x,y) &= \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^m u_{n-2,i}(x)u_{m-2,j}(y)f\left(\frac{i}{n}, \frac{j}{m}\right), \\
 L_{n-2,m}^{(2)}(f)(x,y) &= \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^m u_{n-2,i}(x)b_{m,j}(y)f\left(\frac{i}{n}, \frac{j}{m}\right), \\
 L_{n,m-2}^{(3)}(f)(x,y) &= \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^m b_{n,i}(x)u_{m-2,j}(y)f\left(\frac{i}{n}, \frac{j}{m}\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$u_{r,k}(t) = (1-t)b_{r,k}(t) + tb_{r,k-2}(t),$$

holds. We further have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\frac{\partial^{q+s}L_{n-2,m-2}^{(1)}(f)}{\partial x^q \partial y^s}(x,y) \\
 &= \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^m [(1-x)D_x^q b_{n-2,i}(x) + xD_x^q b_{n-2,i-2}(x)] \\
 &\quad \times [(1-y)D_y^s b_{m-2,j}(y) + yD_y^s b_{m-2,j-2}(y)] f\left(\frac{i}{n}, \frac{j}{m}\right) \\
 &\quad + qs \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^m D_x^{q-1}(b_{n-2,i-2}(x) - b_{n-2,i}(x)) D_y^{s-1}(b_{m-2,j-2}(y) - b_{m-2,j}(y)) f\left(\frac{i}{n}, \frac{j}{m}\right) \\
 &= \Sigma_I + qs\Sigma_{II},
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Sigma_I &= (1-x)(1-y) \frac{\partial^{q+s}B_{n-2,m-2}(f_1)}{\partial x^q \partial y^s}(x,y) + x(1-y) \frac{\partial^{q+s}B_{n-2,m-2}(f_2)}{\partial x^q \partial y^s}(x,y) \\
 &\quad + y(1-x) \frac{\partial^{q+s}B_{n-2,m-2}(f_3)}{\partial x^q \partial y^s}(x,y) + xy \frac{\partial^{q+s}B_{n-2,m-2}(f_4)}{\partial x^q \partial y^s}(x,y), \\
 \Sigma_{II} &= \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^m D_x^{q-1}(b_{n-2,i-2}(x) - b_{n-2,i}(x)) D_y^{s-1}(b_{m-2,j-2}(y) - b_{m-2,j}(y)) f\left(\frac{i}{n}, \frac{j}{m}\right),
 \end{aligned}$$

and f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4 are given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_1(x,y) &= f\left(\frac{(n-2)x}{n}, \frac{(m-2)y}{m}\right), & f_2(x,y) &= f\left(\frac{(n-2)x+2}{n}, \frac{(m-2)y}{m}\right), \\
 f_3(x,y) &= f\left(\frac{(n-2)x}{n}, \frac{(m-2)y+2}{m}\right), & f_4(x,y) &= f\left(\frac{(n-2)x+2}{n}, \frac{(m-2)y+2}{m}\right).
 \end{aligned}$$

Since the functions $f_i, i = \overline{1,4}$ are (q,s) -box convex it follows that $\Sigma_I \geq 0$. From

equations (11) and (12) we get successively

$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma_{II} &= \frac{m}{s} \binom{m-2}{s-2} \frac{(s-1)!}{m^{s-1}} \sum_{i=0}^n D_x^{q-1} (b_{n-2,i-2}(x) - b_{n-2,i}(x)) \\ &\quad \times \sum_{j=0}^{m-s-1} b_{m-s-1,j}(y) \left\{ \left[\frac{j+1}{m-2}, \frac{j+2}{m-2}, \dots, \frac{j+s+1}{m-2}; f_1(x,y) \right]_y \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \left[\frac{j}{m-2}, \frac{j+1}{m-2}, \dots, \frac{j+s}{m-2}; f_1(x,y) \right]_y \right\} \\ &= \frac{n}{q} \frac{m}{s} \binom{n-2}{q-1} \binom{m-2}{s-1} \frac{(q-1)!}{n^{q-1}} \frac{(s-1)!}{m^{s-1}} \sum_{i=0}^{n-q-1} \sum_{j=0}^{m-s-1} b_{n-q-1,i}(x) b_{m-s-1,j}(y) \\ &\quad \times \left(\left[\frac{i+1}{\frac{j}{m}}, \dots, \frac{i+q+1}{\frac{j+s}{m}}; f \right] + \left[\frac{i+1}{\frac{j}{m}}, \dots, \frac{i+q+1}{\frac{j+s}{m}}; f \right] + \left[\frac{i}{\frac{j+1}{m}}, \dots, \frac{i+q}{\frac{j+s+1}{m}}; f \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \left[\frac{i}{\frac{j}{m}}, \dots, \frac{i+q}{\frac{j+s}{m}}; f \right] \right). \end{aligned}$$

This leads to $\Sigma_{II} \geq 0$. In a similar way one can prove that

$$\frac{\partial^{q+s} L_{n-2,m}^{(2)}(f)}{\partial x^q \partial y^s}(x,y) \geq 0$$

and

$$\frac{\partial^{q+s} L_{n,m-2}^{(3)}(f)}{\partial x^q \partial y^s}(x,y) \geq 0.$$

Therefore inequality (13) of Lemma 1 is satisfied by $T_{n,m,\alpha,\beta}(f)$ for any (q,s) -box convex function. This concludes our proof. \square

Proof of Theorem 3. Since for any continuous function $g : [0, 1] \times [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ we have

$$\text{sgn}(x_1 - t_1)(y_1 - z_1) \int_{t_1}^{x_1} \int_{z_1}^{y_1} g(x,y) dx dy \geq 0$$

it is sufficient to prove the theorem for the case $x_1 > t_1$ and $y_1 > z_1$.

We have

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^m \left(p_{n,i}^{(\alpha)}(x_1) - p_{n,i}^{(\alpha)}(t_1) \right) \left(p_{m,j}^{(\beta)}(y_1) - p_{m,j}^{(\beta)}(z_1) \right) g\left(\frac{i}{n}, \frac{j}{m}\right) \\ &= \int_{t_1}^{x_1} \int_{z_1}^{y_1} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^m p_{n,i}^{(\alpha)'}(u) p_{m,j}^{(\beta)'}(v) g\left(\frac{i}{n}, \frac{j}{m}\right) dudv \\ &= \int_{t_1}^{x_1} \int_{z_1}^{y_1} \frac{\partial^2 T_{n,m,\alpha,\beta}(g)}{\partial x \partial y}(u,v) dudv, \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

for any $g \in C([0, 1] \times [0, 1])$. If g is $(1, 1)$ -box convex function, by virtue of Theorem 2, we obtain

$$\frac{\partial^2 T_{n,m,\alpha,\beta}(g)}{\partial x \partial y} \geq 0. \tag{15}$$

If f is a $(1, 1)$ -box convex function, then

$$g(x, y) = \int_0^1 \int_0^1 f\left(\frac{nx + au}{n+a}, \frac{mx + bv}{m+b}\right) dudv \tag{16}$$

is also a $(1, 1)$ -box convex function. Now, Theorem 3 follows from (15) with g given by (16). \square

Proof of Corollary 4. If f is a convex function, then the function h , defined by

$$h(x, y) = \int_0^1 f\left(\frac{1}{2+\delta}(x+y+\delta t)\right) dt$$

is a $(1, 1)$ -box convex function on $[0, 1] \times [0, 1]$ for any $\delta \geq 0$. Now, (9) follows from (15) with $g := h$. \square

We conclude this section by raising the following question.

PROBLEM. Let q, s be two natural numbers, $q, s \geq 2$ and let $x_k, t_k \in [0, 1], k = 1, \dots, q$ such that $x_k \neq t_k$ and $y_i, z_i \in [0, 1], i = 1, \dots, s$ be such that $y_i \neq z_i$. If $g \in C([0, 1] \times [0, 1])$ is a (q, s) -box convex function, prove or disprove that

$$\begin{aligned} & \operatorname{sgn}\left(\prod_{k=1}^q (x_k - t_k)\right) \left(\prod_{i=1}^s (y_i - z_i)\right) \\ & \times \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_k=0}^n \sum_{j_1, \dots, j_s=0}^m \left(\prod_{k=1}^q (p_{n,i_k}^{(\alpha)}(x_k) - p_{n,i_k}^{(\alpha)}(t_k))\right) \left(\prod_{r=1}^s (p_{m,j_r}^{(\beta)}(y_r) - p_{m,j_r}^{(\beta)}(z_r))\right) \\ & \times g\left(\frac{i_1 + \dots + i_q}{mq}, \frac{j_1 + \dots + j_s}{ns}\right) \geq 0. \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

REMARK 6. For $\alpha = \beta = 1$ the assertion is true, [6]. For $\alpha = \beta = 1, s = 0, m = n$ and $g(x, y) = \int_0^1 f\left(\frac{nx+\alpha t}{qn+\alpha}\right) dt$, (17) is equivalent to the inequality from Theorem A, [2].

3. Conclusions and future work

In this paper we prove that the α -Bernstein operators preserve q -monotonicity of all orders. We have also extended the result obtained by U. Abel and D. Leviatan in [2]. In the end of Section 2, we proposed an open problem related to (q, s) -box convex functions, that further extends the results from [2].

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Bogdan Gavrea
 Department of Mathematics
 Technical University of Cluj-Napoca
 Str. Memorandumului nr. 28, Cluj-Napoca, 400114, Romania
 e-mail: bogdan.gavrea@math.utcluj.ro

Ioan Gavrea
 Department of Mathematics
 Technical University of Cluj-Napoca
 Str. Memorandumului nr. 28, Cluj-Napoca, 400114, Romania
 e-mail: ioan.gavrea@math.utcluj.ro

Daniel Ianoşi
 Department of Mathematics
 Technical University of Cluj-Napoca
 Str. Memorandumului nr. 28, Cluj-Napoca, 400114, Romania
 e-mail: dan.ianosi@yahoo.com