# MASTROIANNI OPERATORS REVISITED 

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Dedicated to Prof. G. Mastroianni for his 65th birthday


#### Abstract

The present paper focuses on a class of linear positive operators introduced by G. Mastroianni. An integral extension in Kantorovich sense is defined and approximation properties of these two sequences are established in different normed spaces.


## 1. Introduction

In [8] Mastroianni introduced and studied a sequence $\left(M_{n}\right)_{n \geq 1}$ of discrete linear positive operators to approximate unbounded functions on the interval $[0,+\infty):=\mathbb{R}_{+}$. Briefly, we recall this construction. Let $\left(\phi_{n}\right)_{n \geq 1}$ be a sequence of real valued functions defined on $\mathbb{R}_{+}$which are infinitely differentiable on $\mathbb{R}_{+}$and which satisfy the following conditions:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\phi_{n}(0)=1 \text { for every } n \in \mathbb{N} \tag{1.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

(1.2) $(-1)^{k} \phi_{n}^{(k)}(x) \geq 0$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}, x \in \mathbb{R}_{+}$and $k \in \mathbb{N} \cup\{0\}:=\mathbb{N}_{0}$;
for each $(n, k) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}_{0}$ there exists a number $p(n, k) \in \mathbb{N}$ and a function $\alpha_{n, k} \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{R}+}$ such that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\phi_{n}^{(i+k)}(x)=(-1)^{k} \phi_{p(n, k)}^{(i)}(x) \alpha_{n, k}(x), \quad i \in \mathbb{N}_{0}, x \in \mathbb{R}_{+} \tag{1.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

and

$$
\begin{equation*}
\lim _{n \rightarrow+\infty} \frac{n}{p(n, k)}=\lim _{n \rightarrow+\infty} \frac{\alpha_{n, k}(x)}{n^{k}}=1 \tag{1.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

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We set $E_{2}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right):=\left\{f \in C\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right): \frac{f(x)}{1+x^{2}}\right.$ is convergent as $\left.x \rightarrow+\infty\right\}$. This space endowed with the norm $\|\cdot\|_{*},\|f\|_{*}:=\sup _{x \geq 0}\left(1+x^{2}\right)^{-1}|f(x)|$, is a Banach space. The operators $M_{n}, n \in \mathbb{N}$, map $E_{2}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$into $C\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$and are given by the following formula

$$
\left(M_{n} f\right)(x):=\sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k}}{k!} x^{k} \phi_{n}^{(k)}(x) f\left(\frac{k}{n}\right)
$$

In time, a thoroughgoing study of this class was developed, see for instance [9], [10], [5], and new properties of it have been pointed out. A synthesis of these results can be found in the monograph $[2 ; \S 5.3 .11]$. At the same time, it is fair to notice that the above construction takes its origin in a paper of Baskakov [3]. Following this way, many authors constructed similar sequences of operators.

Particular cases. Mastroianni operators include some well-known classical linear positive operators such as Szász-Favard-Mirakyan and Baskakov operators.
$1^{\circ}$ Choosing $\phi_{n}(x)=e^{-n x}, p(n, k)=n$ and $\alpha_{n, k}(x)=n^{k}$ (constant functions on $\mathbb{R}_{+}$) we obtain the first class.
$2^{\circ}$ Choosing $\phi_{n}(x)=(1+x)^{-n}, p(n, k)=n+k$ and

$$
\alpha_{n, k}(x)=n(n+1) \cdots(n+k-1)(1+x)^{-k}
$$

the second mentioned class is obtained.
Our aim is to present new approximation properties of Mastroianni operators. Also, an integral generalization of $M_{n}$ in Kantorovich sense is investigated and special cases are revealed.

## 2. The class $\left(M_{n}^{*}\right)$

First of all, we propose a slight modification of Mastroianni operators. Instead of the net $\left(k / n: k \in \mathbb{N}_{0}\right)$ we can use the following $\left(k / a_{n}: k \in \mathbb{N}_{0}\right)$, where $0<a_{1}<a_{2}<\cdots<a_{n}<\cdots$ and $\lim _{n \rightarrow+\infty} a_{n}=+\infty$. This way, the net is more flexible than the previous one and, practically, the properties of $M_{n}$ operators do not modified. Throughout the paper we use this new net, but we keep the same notation, this means $M_{n}$, for the operators. Obviously, condition (1.4) will be replaced by the following

$$
\lim _{n \rightarrow+\infty} \frac{n}{p(n, k)}=\lim _{n \rightarrow+\infty} \frac{\alpha_{n, k}(x)}{a_{n}^{k}}=1, \quad k \in \mathbb{N}_{0}
$$

For every $k \in \mathbb{N}_{0}$ and $x \geq 0$ we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\alpha_{n, k}(x) \geq 0 \text { and } \lim _{n \rightarrow+\infty} \frac{\phi_{n}^{(k)}(0)}{a_{n}^{k}}=(-1)^{k} \tag{2.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

The above inequality is obtained multiplying identity (1.3) by $(-1)^{i+k}$ and applying condition (1.2). The second statement in (2.1) can be proved by induction on $k \in \mathbb{N}_{0}$, manipulating relations (1.1), (1.3) and (1.4). If $e_{j}$ stands for the $j$-th monomial, $e_{j}(t)=t^{j}, t \geq 0, j \in \mathbb{N}_{0}$, then an easy computation leads us to the following identities

$$
\begin{equation*}
M_{n} e_{0}=e_{0}, \quad M_{n} e_{1}=-\frac{\phi_{n}^{\prime}(0)}{a_{n}} e_{1}, \quad M_{n} e_{2}=\frac{\phi_{n}^{\prime \prime}(0)}{a_{n}^{2}} e_{2}-\frac{\phi_{n}^{\prime}(0)}{a_{n}^{2}} e_{1} \tag{2.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

By virtue of these relations, the series which appear in the definition of $M_{n}$ are absolutely convergent. Also, according to the well-known BohmanKorovkin theorem, relations (2.2) and (2.1) guarantee that $\lim _{n \rightarrow+\infty} M_{n} f=f$ uniformly on compact subsets of $\mathbb{R}_{+}$for every $f \in E_{2}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$. Applying a classical result due to Shisha and Mond [11], we obtain the pointwise estimate $\left|\left(M_{n} f\right)(x)-f(x)\right| \leq 2 \omega\left(f, \sqrt{\delta_{n}(x)}\right), x \geq 0$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\delta_{n}(x):=M_{n}\left(\left(e_{1}-x e_{0}\right)^{2}, x\right)=\left(1+2 \frac{\phi_{n}^{\prime}(0)}{a_{n}}+\frac{\phi_{n}^{\prime \prime}(0)}{a_{n}^{2}}\right) x^{2}-\frac{\phi_{n}^{\prime}(0)}{a_{n}^{2}} x \tag{2.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

which holds for every $f \in C\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$.
Setting

$$
\begin{equation*}
\tau_{n, j}:=\phi_{n}^{(j)}(0) / a_{n}^{j} \quad \text { and } \quad u_{n}:=\tau_{n, 2}+2 \tau_{n, 1}+1 \tag{2.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

relation (2.3) implies

$$
\begin{equation*}
M_{n}\left(\left(e_{1}-x e_{0}\right)^{2}, x\right) \leq \max \left\{u_{n},\left|\tau_{n, 1}\right| a_{n}^{-1}\right\}\left(x^{2}+x\right):=v_{n}\left(x^{2}+x\right) \tag{2.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

In what follows we modify the $M_{n}$ operators into integral form operators by replacing $f\left(k / a_{n}\right)$ with an integral mean of $f(x)$ over an interval $I_{n, k}:=$ $\left[k / a_{n},(k+1) / a_{n}\right]$, as follows

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(M_{n}^{*} f\right)(x):=a_{n} \sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} m_{n, k}(x) \int_{k / a_{n}}^{(k+1) / a_{n}} f(t) d t, \quad x \geq 0, n \in \mathbb{N} \tag{2.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $m_{n, k}(x):=\frac{1}{k!}(-1)^{k} x^{k} \phi_{n}^{(k)}(x)$ and $f \in \mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{loc}}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$, the class of all measurable functions on $\mathbb{R}_{+}$and bounded on every compact subinterval of
$\mathbb{R}_{+}$. Clearly, the operator $M_{n}^{*}$ is a linear positive one and it can be written as a singular integral of the type $\left(M_{n}^{*} f\right)(x)=\int_{0}^{+\infty} K_{n}(x, t) f(t) d t$, with the kernel $K_{n}(x, t):=a_{n} \sum_{k \geq 0} m_{n, k}(x) \chi_{n, k}(t)$, where $\chi_{n, k}$ is the characteristic function of the interval $I_{n, k}, k \in \mathbb{N}_{0}$.

We mention that these kind of extensions are familiar to several discrete operators. For a quick information see [6, p. 115]. In [1] the first author developed a similar approach for Balázs-Szabados operators.

Denoting by $\Omega_{n, r}$ the $r$-th central moment of $M_{n}^{*}$, that is $\Omega_{n, r}(x):=$ $M_{n}^{*}\left(\left(e_{1}-x e_{0}\right)^{r}, x\right), r \in \mathbb{N}_{0}, x \in \mathbb{R}_{+}$, by a straightforward calculation we get

Lemma 2.1. For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the operator $M_{n}^{*}$ defined by (2.6) verifies

$$
\begin{align*}
& M_{n}^{*} e_{0}=e_{0}, \quad M_{n}^{*} e_{1}=-\tau_{n, 1} e_{1}+\frac{1}{2 a_{n}}, \quad M_{n}^{*} e_{2}=\tau_{n, 2} e_{2}-\frac{2 \tau_{n, 1}}{a_{n}} e_{1}+\frac{1}{3 a_{n}^{2}}, \\
& 2.7) \quad \Omega_{n, 1}=-\left(1+\tau_{n, 1}\right) e_{1}+\frac{1}{2 a_{n}}, \quad \Omega_{n, 2}=u_{n} e_{2}-\frac{1+2 \tau_{n, 1}}{a_{n}} e_{1}+\frac{1}{3 a_{n}^{2}} \tag{2.7}
\end{align*}
$$

where $\tau_{n, j}$ and $u_{n}$ are defined by (2.4).

## 3. Approximation Properties of $M_{n}$ and $M_{n}^{*}$

In the first part of this section, coming back to $\left(M_{n}\right)_{n \geq 1}$, we establish some pointwise estimates of the rate of convergence of this approximation process. More precisely, we present the relationship between the local smoothness of $f$ and the local approximation. For the sake of completeness, we recall that a function $f \in C\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$is locally $\operatorname{Lip} \alpha$ on $E, 0<\alpha \leq 1$, $E \subset \mathbb{R}_{+}$, if it satisfies the condition

$$
\begin{equation*}
|f(x)-f(y)| \leq c_{f}|x-y|^{\alpha}, \quad(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}_{+} \times E \tag{3.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $c_{f}$ is a constant depending only on $\alpha$ and $f$.

Theorem 3.1. If $f$ is locally $\operatorname{Lip} \alpha$ on $E \subset \mathbb{R}_{+}, \alpha \in(0,1]$, then one has

$$
\left|\left(M_{n} f\right)(x)-f(x)\right| \leq c_{f}\left(v_{n}^{\alpha / 2}\left(x^{2}+x\right)^{\alpha / 2}+2 d^{\alpha}(x, E)\right), \quad x \geq 0
$$

where $v_{n}$ is defined at (2.5) and $d(x, E)$ represents the distance between $x$ and $E$.

Proof. It is clear that (3.1) holds true for any $x \in \mathbb{R}_{+}$and $y \in \bar{E}$, the closure of the set $E$ in $\mathbb{R}$. Let $\left(x, x_{0}\right) \in \mathbb{R}_{+} \times \bar{E}$ such that $\left|x-x_{0}\right|=d(x, E):=$ $\inf \{|x-y|: y \in E\}$. Since $|f-f(x)| \leq\left|f-f\left(x_{0}\right)\right|+\left|f\left(x_{0}\right)-f(x)\right|$ and $M_{n}$ is a linear positive operator reproducing the constants, we get

$$
\begin{align*}
\left|\left(M_{n} f\right)(x)-f(x)\right| & \leq M_{n}\left(\left|f-f\left(x_{0}\right)\right|, x\right)+\left|f(x)-f\left(x_{0}\right)\right|  \tag{3.2}\\
& \leq M_{n}\left(c_{f}\left|e_{1}-x_{0}\right|^{\alpha}, x\right)+c_{f}\left|x-x_{0}\right|^{\alpha}
\end{align*}
$$

Based on Hölder's inequality, one has $M_{n} h^{\alpha} \leq M_{n}^{\alpha / 2} h^{2}$ for every function $h \in \mathbb{R}_{+}^{\mathbb{R}_{+}}$. Consequently, for every $x \geq 0$ we deduce

$$
\begin{equation*}
M_{n}\left(\left|e_{1}-x\right|^{\alpha}, x\right) \leq \delta_{n}^{\alpha / 2}(x) \tag{3.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\delta_{n}(x)$ is given at (2.3). Since $\left|t-x_{0}\right| \leq|t-x|+\left|x-x_{0}\right|$ and $M_{n}$ is monotone, the elementary inequality

$$
(a+b)^{\alpha} \leq a^{\alpha}+b^{\alpha}, \quad a \geq 0, b \geq 0,0<\alpha \leq 1
$$

and relation (3.3) imply

$$
\begin{aligned}
M_{n}\left(c_{f}\left|e_{1}-x_{0}\right|^{\alpha}, x\right) & \leq c_{f}\left(M_{n}\left(\left|e_{1}-x\right|^{\alpha}, x\right)+\left|x-x_{0}\right|^{\alpha}\right) \\
& \leq c_{f}\left(\delta_{n}^{\alpha / 2}(x)+\left|x-x_{0}\right|^{\alpha}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

Returning to (3.2) and taken into account (2.5), the conclusion follows.
In particular for $E=\mathbb{R}_{+}$, if $f$ satisfies $\omega(f, t)=O\left(t^{\alpha}\right)$ then a constant $c_{f}$ independent of $n$ and $x$ exists, such that $\left|M_{n} f-f\right| \leq c_{f} v_{n}^{\alpha / 2}\left(e_{2}+e_{1}\right)^{\alpha / 2}$.

In order to increase the degree of exactness of $M_{n}$ operators, we consider the following condition to be fulfilled

$$
\begin{equation*}
a_{n}=-\phi_{n}^{\prime}(0), \quad n \in \mathbb{N} \tag{3.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

in other words $\tau_{n, 1}=-1$, which guarantees that $M_{n} e_{1}=e_{1}$. Taking into account (1.3), our requirement is equivalent with the relation $a_{n}=\alpha_{n, 1}(0)$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Moreover, we get $\phi_{n}^{(k)}(0)=(-1)^{k} \alpha_{n, k}(0)$ for every $k \in \mathbb{N}_{0}$.

Following the line of Ditzian-Totik $[6, \S 1.2]$, we consider $\varphi \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{R}_{+}}$an admissible weight function. In order to give another estimate of the approximation error, we need to use the weighted $K$-functional of second order for $f \in C_{B}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$defined as follows

$$
K_{2, \varphi}(f, t):=\inf _{g}\left\{\|f-g\|+t\left\|\varphi^{2} g^{\prime \prime}\right\|: g^{\prime} \in A C_{\mathrm{loc}}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)\right\}, \quad t>0
$$

where $\|\cdot\|$ stands for the supremum norm and $g^{\prime} \in A C_{\text {loc }}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$means that $g$ is differentiable and $g^{\prime}$ is absolutely continuous on every compact of $\mathbb{R}_{+}$.

Theorem 3.2. If (3.4) takes place and $\varphi$ is an admissible weight function such that $\varphi^{2}$ is concave, then

$$
\left|\left(M_{n} f\right)(x)-f(x)\right| \leq 2 K_{2, \varphi}\left(f, \frac{v_{n} x(x+1)}{2 \varphi^{2}(x)}\right)
$$

holds true for every $x>0$, where $v_{n}$ is defined by (2.5).

Proof. Let $x>0$ be fixed and $g: \mathbb{R}_{+} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be twice differentiable such that $g^{\prime} \in A C_{\text {loc }}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$. Starting from Taylor's expansion

$$
g(u)=g(x)+g^{\prime}(x)(u-x)+\int_{x}^{u} g^{\prime \prime}(t)(u-t) d t, \quad u \geq 0
$$

and knowing that (3.4) holds true, in other words $M_{n}$ reproduces linear functions, we have

$$
\left(M_{n} g\right)(x)-g(x)=M_{n}\left(\int_{x e_{0}}^{e_{1}} g^{\prime \prime}(t)\left(e_{1}-t\right) d t, x\right)
$$

Since $\varphi^{2}$ is concave, for every $t=(1-\lambda) u+\lambda x, \lambda \in(0,1)$, we get

$$
\varphi^{2}(t) \geq(1-\lambda) \varphi^{2}(u)+\lambda \varphi^{2}(x) \geq \lambda \varphi^{2}(x)
$$

and consequently

$$
\frac{|t-u|}{\varphi^{2}(t)}=\frac{\lambda|x-u|}{\varphi^{2}(t)} \leq \frac{|x-u|}{\varphi^{2}(x)}
$$

It turns out that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left|\int_{x}^{u} g^{\prime \prime}(u)(u-t) d t\right| & \leq\left\|\varphi^{2} g^{\prime \prime}\right\|\left|\int_{x}^{u} \frac{|t-u|}{\varphi^{2}(t)} d t\right| \\
& \leq\left\|\varphi^{2} g^{\prime \prime}\right\|\left|\int_{x}^{u} \frac{|x-u|}{\varphi^{2}(x)} d t\right|=\left\|\varphi^{2} g^{\prime \prime}\right\| \frac{(x-u)^{2}}{\varphi^{2}(x)}
\end{aligned}
$$

Applying the linear positive operator $M_{n}$, we have

$$
M_{n}\left(\int_{x e_{0}}^{e_{1}} g^{\prime \prime}(t)\left(e_{1}-t\right) d t, x\right) \leq\left\|\varphi^{2} g^{\prime \prime}\right\| \frac{\delta_{n}(x)}{\varphi^{2}(x)}
$$

and further

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left|\left(M_{n} f\right)(x)-f(x)\right| & \leq\left|M_{n}(f-g, x)\right|+|g(x)-f(x)|+\left|\left(M_{n} g\right)(x)-g(x)\right| \\
& \leq 2\|f-g\|+v_{n}\left\|\varphi^{2} g^{\prime \prime}\right\| \frac{x^{2}+x}{\varphi^{2}(x)}
\end{aligned}
$$

In the above we used that every operator $M_{n}$ maps continuously $C_{B}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$ into itself: for each $h \in C_{B}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$and $x \geq 0$ one has $\left|\left(M_{n} h\right)(x)\right| \leq\|h\|$. At this point, taking the infimum over all $g$ with $g^{\prime} \in A C_{\mathrm{loc}}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$, we get the desired result.

It is known that $K_{2, \varphi}\left(f, t^{2}\right)$ and Ditzian-Totik modulus of smoothness of second order are equivalent, that is $K_{2, \varphi}\left(f, t^{2}\right) \sim \omega_{2, \varphi}(f, t)_{\infty}$. We recall

$$
\begin{equation*}
\omega_{2, \varphi}(f, t)_{\infty}:=\sup _{0 \leq h \leq t} \sup _{x \pm h \varphi(x) \geq 0}|f(x-\varphi(x) h)-2 f(x)+f(x+\varphi(x) h)| . \tag{3.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

On the light of this fact, Theorem 3.2 implies: a constant $C_{\varphi}$ independent of $f$ and $n$ exists, such that

$$
\left|\left(M_{n} f\right)(x)-f(x)\right| \leq C_{\varphi} \omega_{2, \varphi}\left(f, \frac{\sqrt{v_{n} x(x+1)}}{\sqrt{2} \varphi(x)}\right)_{\infty}, \quad x>0 .
$$

We notice that the construction of $M_{n}$ operators requires an estimation of an infinite sum which, from computational point of view, restricts the operators usefulness. In this respect, in order to approximate a function $f$, it is useful to consider partial sums of $M_{n} f$ which have finite terms depending upon $n$. In other words, the operators are truncated fading away their "tails". For a fixed constant $\lambda>0$, we consider the operators defined as follows

$$
\left(M_{n}^{\langle\lambda\rangle} f\right)(x)=\sum_{k=0}^{\left[\lambda a_{n}\right]} m_{n, k}(x) f\left(\frac{k}{a_{n}}\right), \quad x \geq 0, n \in \mathbb{N},
$$

where $[\alpha]$ indicates the largest integer not exceeding $\alpha$.
Theorem 3.3. The operators $M_{n}^{\langle\lambda\rangle}, n \in \mathbb{N}$, have the property

$$
\lim _{n \rightarrow+\infty}\left(M_{n}^{(\lambda\rangle} f\right)(x)=f(x) \text { for all } f \in C([0, \lambda]) \text {, }
$$

uniformly on every compact $K_{\lambda} \subset[0, \lambda]$.

Proof. For every function $f \in C([0, \lambda])$ we introduce the function $f_{\lambda} \in$ $C\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$given by

$$
f_{\lambda}(x)= \begin{cases}f(x), & 0 \leq x \leq \lambda, \\ f(\lambda), & x>\lambda .\end{cases}
$$

For every $x \in[0, \lambda)$ we have
$\left(M_{n}^{\langle\lambda\rangle} f\right)(x)=\left(M_{n} f_{\lambda}\right)(x)-f(\lambda) r_{n}(x), \quad$ where $r_{n}(x)=\sum_{k=\left[\lambda a_{n}\right]+1}^{+\infty} m_{n, k}(x)$
If $k / a_{n}>\lambda$ and $0 \leq x<\lambda$, then $1<(\lambda-x)^{-2}\left(k / a_{n}-x\right)^{2}$ holds true. Consequently we can write

$$
\begin{aligned}
r_{n}(x) & \leq \frac{1}{(\lambda-x)^{2}} \sum_{\substack{k \\
\left|\frac{k}{a_{n}}-x\right|>\lambda-x}} m_{n, k}(x)\left(\frac{k}{a_{n}}-x\right)^{2} \\
& \leq \frac{1}{(\lambda-x)^{2}} \sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} m_{n, k}(x)\left(\frac{k}{a_{n}}-x\right)^{2} \leq \frac{x(x+1)}{(\lambda-x)^{2}} v_{n}
\end{aligned}
$$

where $v_{n}$ was defined by (2.5). Since relation (2.1) guarantees that $r_{n}(x)=$ $o(1)(n \rightarrow+\infty)$, uniformly on every compact subinterval $K_{\lambda} \subset[0, \lambda)$, the proof is finished.

If $M_{n}$ turns into Szász operator, see Particular cases $\left(1^{\circ}\right)$, then, choosing $a_{n}=n$ and $\lambda=1$, the truncated operator $M_{n}^{\langle 1\rangle} \equiv S_{n, 1}$ is given by the formula

$$
\left(S_{n, 1} f\right)(x)=e^{-n x} \sum_{k=0}^{[n]} \frac{(n x)^{k}}{k!} f\left(\frac{k}{n}\right), \quad f \in E_{2}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right), x \geq 0
$$

In this particular case, Theorem 3.3 encounters a result obtained by Lehnhoff [7, Theorem 5].

Further on, we are going to present an approximation property for smooth functions of the operators defined by (2.6). In this respect we recall some definitions and preliminary results. The vector space

$$
C_{B}^{2}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right):=\left\{f \in C_{B}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right): f^{\prime} \text { and } f^{\prime \prime} \text { exist and belong to } C_{B}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)\right\}
$$

endowed with norm $\|\cdot\|_{C_{B}^{2}},\|f\|_{C_{B}^{2}}:=\sum_{j=0}^{2}\left\|f^{(j)}\right\|$, is a Banach space.
The $K$-functional for the couple $\left(C_{B}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right), C_{B}^{2}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)\right)$is given by

$$
K(f, t):=\inf _{g \in C_{B}^{2}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)}\left\{\|f-g\|+t\|g\|_{C_{B}^{2}}\right\}, \quad f \in C_{B}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right), t>0
$$

For every $t>0$, the following inequality

$$
\begin{equation*}
K(f, t) \leq c\left\{\omega_{2}(f, \sqrt{t})_{\infty}+\min (1, t)\|f\|\right\} \tag{3.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

holds true. The constant $c$ is independent of $f$ and $\omega_{2}(f, \cdot)_{\infty}$ is defined at (3.5) by choosing $\varphi \equiv 1$. Actually, we can describe the $K$-functional in terms of the moduli of smoothness in a more general frame of Besov and Sobolev spaces, see e.g. [4, Theorem 4.12].

Theorem 3.4. Let $M_{n}^{*}, n \geq 1$, be defined by (2.6). For each $f \in C_{B}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$ and $x \geq 0$ one has

$$
\left|\left(M_{n}^{*} f\right)(x)-f(x)\right| \leq C\left\{\omega_{2}\left(f, \sqrt{\lambda_{n, x}}\right)+\min \left(1, \lambda_{n, x}\right)\|f\|\right\},
$$

where $C$ is a constant independent of $f$ and $n, \lambda_{n, x}:=\frac{1}{2} w_{n} \max \left\{1, x^{2}\right\}$ and

$$
\begin{equation*}
w_{n}:=\left|1+\tau_{n, 1}\right|+\frac{1}{2}\left|u_{n}\right|+\frac{1}{2 a_{n}}\left(1+2\left|1+2 \tau_{n, 1}\right|+\frac{1}{3 a_{n}}\right)=o(1), \tag{3.7}
\end{equation*}
$$

when $n \rightarrow+\infty$, and the quantities $u_{n}$ and $\tau_{n, 1}$ being defined by (2.4).
Proof. For a given function $g \in C_{B}^{2}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$and $x \geq 0$, we get

$$
g(t)-g(x)=(t-x) g^{\prime}(x)+\frac{1}{2}(t-x)^{2} g^{\prime \prime}(\xi),
$$

where $\xi=\xi(t, x)$ is a point of the interval determined by $t$ and $x, t \in \mathbb{R}_{+}$.
Consequently, by applying $M_{n}^{*}$, we obtain

$$
\left(M_{n}^{*} g\right)(x)-g(x)=g^{\prime}(x) \Omega_{n, 1}(x)+\frac{1}{2} g^{\prime \prime}(\xi) \Omega_{n, 2}(x) .
$$

By using (2.7) and (3.7) we can write successively

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left|\left(M_{n}^{*} g\right)(x)-g(x)\right| \\
& \quad \leq\left\|g^{\prime}\right\|\left(\frac{1}{2 a_{n}}+\left|\tau_{n, 1}+1\right| x\right)+\frac{1}{2}\left\|g^{\prime \prime}\right\|\left(\left|u_{n}\right| x^{2}+\frac{\left|1+2 \tau_{n, 1}\right|}{a_{n}} x+\frac{1}{3 a_{n}^{2}}\right) \\
& \quad \leq w_{n}\|g\|_{C_{B}^{2}} \max \left\{1, x^{2}\right\} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Since $a_{n}^{-1}=o(1)(n \rightarrow+\infty)$, based on (2.4) and (2.1), clearly $w_{n}=o(1)$ $(n \rightarrow+\infty)$.

Further on, for every $f \in C_{B}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$and $g \in C_{B}^{2}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left|\left(M_{n}^{*} f\right)(x)-f(x)\right| \\
& \quad \leq\left|\left(M_{n}^{*} f\right)(x)-\left(M_{n}^{*} g\right)(x)\right|+\left|\left(M_{n}^{*} g\right)(x)-g(x)\right|+|g(x)-f(x)| \\
& \quad \leq 2\|f-g\|+w_{n}\|g\|_{C_{B}^{2}} \max \left\{1, x^{2}\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

Passing to the infimum over all functions $g \in C_{B}^{2}\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)$, we get

$$
\left|\left(M_{n}^{*} f\right)(x)-f(x)\right| \leq 2 K\left(f, \frac{w_{n}}{2} \max \left\{1, x^{2}\right\}\right)
$$

By using (3.6) the proof of the theorem is complete.
Remark 3.1. Under the additional assumption specified at (3.4), the new look of $w_{n}$ is the following

$$
w_{n}=\frac{1}{2}\left(\left|\tau_{n, 2}-1\right|+3 a_{n}^{-1}+a_{n}^{-2} / 3\right)
$$

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