

## ON THE STABILITY PROBLEMS IN QUASI-BANACH SPACES

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**Abstract.** In this paper, we give a generalization of the results from [7] and pose an open problem in quasi-Banach spaces.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In 1940, S.M. Ulam [34] gave a talk before the Mathematics Club of the University of Wisconsin in which he discussed a number of unsolved problems. Among these was the following question concerning the stability of homomorphisms.

*Let  $(G_1, *)$  be a group and let  $(G_2, \diamond, d)$  be a metric group with the metric  $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ . Given  $\epsilon > 0$ , does there exist a  $\delta(\epsilon) > 0$  such that if a mapping  $h : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$  satisfies the inequality*

$$d(h(x * y), h(x) \diamond h(y)) < \delta$$

*for all  $x, y \in G_1$ , then there is a homomorphism  $H : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$  with*

$$d(h(x), H(x)) < \epsilon$$

*for all  $x \in G_1$ ? If this problem has a solution, we say that the homomorphisms from  $G_1$  to  $G_2$  are stable or the functional equation  $h(x * y) = h(x) \diamond h(y)$  is stable.*

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In 1941, D. H. Hyers [12] considered the case of approximately additive mappings  $f : E \rightarrow E'$ , where  $E$  and  $E'$  are Banach spaces and  $f$  satisfies *Hyers inequality*

$$\|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)\| \leq \epsilon$$

for all  $x, y \in E$ . It was shown that the limit

$$L(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(2^n x)}{2^n}$$

exists for all  $x \in E$  and that  $L : E \rightarrow E'$  is the unique additive mapping satisfying

$$\|f(x) - L(x)\| \leq \epsilon.$$

In 1950, Hyers' Theorem was generalized by Aoki [1] for additive mappings and independently, in 1978, by Rassias [27] for linear mappings by considering an *unbounded Cauchy difference*.

**Theorem 1.1.** (Th.M. Rassias): *Let  $f : E \rightarrow E'$  be a mapping from a normed vector space  $E$  into a Banach space  $E'$  subject to the inequality*

$$\|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)\| \leq \epsilon(\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p) \quad (1.1)$$

for all  $x, y \in E$ , where  $\epsilon$  and  $p$  are constants with  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $0 \leq p < 1$ . Then the limit  $L(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^n} f(2^n x)$  exists for all  $x \in E$  and  $L : E \rightarrow E'$  is the unique additive mapping which satisfies

$$\|f(x) - L(x)\| \leq \frac{2\epsilon}{2 - 2^p} \|x\|^p$$

for all  $x \in E$ . Also, if for each  $x \in E$  the function  $f(tx)$  is continuous in  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $L$  is linear.

In 1990, Th.M. Rassias [29] during the 27th International Symposium on Functional Equations asked the question whether such a theorem can also be proved for  $p \geq 1$ . In 1991, Z. Gajda [6] gave an affirmative solution to this question for  $p > 1$ . It was shown by Z. Gajda [6], as well as by Th.M. Rassias and P. Šemrl [32] that one cannot prove a Th.M. Rassias type theorem when  $p = 1$ . P. Găvruta [8] proved that the function  $f(x) = x \ln|x|$ , if  $x \neq 0$  and  $f(0) = 0$  satisfies (1.1) with  $\epsilon = p = 1$  but

$$\sup_{x \neq 0} \frac{|f(x) - A(x)|}{|x|} \geq \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{|n \ln n - A(n)|}{n} = \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} |\ln n - A(1)| = \infty$$

for any additive function  $A : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . The paper of Th.M. Rassias has provided a lot of influence in the development of what we now call Hyers–Ulam–Rassias stability of functional equations (cf. the books of P. Czerwik [3] and D.H. Hyers, G. Isac and Th.M. Rassias [13]). J.M. Rassias [25] followed the innovative approach of Th.M. Rassias theorem in which he replaced the factor

$\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p$  by  $\|x\|^p\|y\|^p$  for  $p, q \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $p + q \neq 1$  (see also [24, 26]). In 1994, a further generalization of Th.M Rassias' Theorem was obtained by P. Găvruta [7], in which he replaced the bound  $\epsilon(\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p)$  by a general control function  $\varphi(x, y)$ . G. Isac and Th. M. Rassias [16] replaced the factor  $\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p$  by  $\|x\|^{p_1} + \|y\|^{p_2}$  in Theorem 1.1 and solved stability problem when  $p_2 \leq p_1 < 1$  or  $1 < p_2 \leq p_1$ , also they asked the question whether such a theorem can be proved for  $p_2 < 1 < p_1$ . P. Găvruta [8] gave a negative answer to this question. G. Isac and Th.M. Rassias [14] applied the Hyers-Ulam-Rassias stability theory to prove fixed point theorems and study some new applications in Nonlinear Analysis. During the last two decades, a number of papers and research monographs have been published on various generalizations and applications of the Hyers-Ulam-Rassias stability a number of functional equations and mappings (see [5, 10, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 30, 31]).

Th.M. Rassias [28] has obtained the following theorem and posed a problem:

**Theorem 1.2.** *Let  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  to be two Banach spaces, and let  $f : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  be a mapping such that  $f(tx)$  is continuous in  $t$  for each fixed  $x$ . Assume that there exists  $\theta \geq 0$  and  $p \in [0, 1)$  such that*

$$\|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)\| \leq \theta(\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p) \quad (1.2)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Then exists a unique liner mapping  $T : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  such that

$$\|f(x) - T(x)\| \leq \frac{k\theta}{k - k^p} \|x\|^p s(k, p).$$

for all  $x \in X$ , where

$$s(k, p) = 1 + \frac{1}{k} \sum_{m=2}^{k-1} m^p$$

and any given positive integer  $k > 2$ .

**Rassias Problem:** What is the best possible value of  $k$  in Theorem 1.2?

P. Găvruta et al. have given a generalization of [7] and have answered to Th. M Rassias problem [11].

In this paper, we give a generalization of the results from [7] and pose an open problem in quasi-Banach spaces. We recall some basic facts concerning quasi-Banach spaces and some preliminary results.

**Definition 1.3.** [2, 33] *Let  $X$  be a real linear space. A quasi-norm is a real-valued function on  $X$  satisfying the following:*

- (i)  $\|x\| \geq 0$  for all  $x \in X$  and  $\|x\| = 0$  if and only if  $x = 0$ .
- (ii)  $\|\lambda x\| = |\lambda| \|x\|$  for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  and all  $x \in X$ .
- (iii) There is a constant  $K \geq 1$  such that  $\|x + y\| \leq K(\|x\| + \|y\|)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ .

The pair  $(X, \|\cdot\|)$  is called a *quasi-normed space* if  $\|\cdot\|$  is a quasi-norm on  $X$ . The smallest possible  $K$  is called the *modulus of concavity* of  $\|\cdot\|$ . A *quasi-Banach space* is a complete quasi-normed space. The most significant class of quasi-Banach spaces which are not Banach spaces are the  $L_p$  spaces for  $0 < p < 1$  with the  $L_p$ -norm  $\|\cdot\|_p$ .

A quasi-norm  $\|\cdot\|$  is called a *p-norm* ( $0 < p \leq 1$ ) if

$$\|x + y\|^p \leq \|x\|^p + \|y\|^p$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . In this case, a quasi-Banach space is called a *p-Banach space*.

By the Aoki–Rolewicz theorem [33] (see also [2]), each quasi-norm is equivalent to some  $p$ -norm. Since it is much easier to work with  $p$ -norms than quasi-norms, henceforth we restrict our attention mainly to  $p$ -norms.

G.Z. Eskandani [4] has investigated the Hyers–Ulam–Rassias stability of the following functional equation

$$\sum_{i=1}^m f(mx_i + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^m x_j) + f(\sum_{i=1}^m x_i) = 2f(\sum_{i=1}^m mx_i).$$

in quasi-Banach spaces. C. Park [22] has proved the Hyers–Ulam–Rassias stability of homomorphisms in quasi-Banach algebras. M.S. Moslehian and Gh. Sadeghi [20] have proved the Hyers–Ulam–Rassias stability of linear mappings in quasi-Banach modules associated to the Cauchy functional equation and a generalized Jensen functional equation.

Throughout this paper, assume that  $k$  is a fixed integer greater than 1.

## 2. STABILITY OF CAUCHY FUNCTIONAL EQUATION

Assume that  $X$  is a quasi-normed space with quasi-norm  $\|\cdot\|_X$  and that  $Y$  is a  $p$ -Banach space with  $p$ -norm  $\|\cdot\|_Y$ . Let  $K$  be the modulus of concavity of  $\|\cdot\|_Y$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $\varphi : X \times X \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  be a mapping such that*

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^{np}} \varphi^p(k^n x, k^n y) < \infty \quad (2.1)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Suppose that a mapping  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfies the inequality

$$\|f(x + y) - f(x) - f(y)\|_Y \leq \varphi(x, y) \quad (2.2)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Then the limit

$$A_k(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k^n} f(k^n x)$$

exists for all  $x \in X$  and the mapping  $A_k : X \rightarrow Y$  is a unique additive mapping satisfying

$$\|f(x) - A_k(x)\|_Y \leq \frac{1}{k} \left[ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_k^p(k^n x)}{k^{np}} \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} \tag{2.3}$$

for all  $x \in X$ , where

$$\tilde{\varphi}_k(x) := K^{k-2}\varphi(x, x) + \sum_{i=2}^{k-1} K^{k-i}\varphi(x, ix).$$

*Proof.* By induction on  $k$ , we show that

$$\|f(kx) - kf(x)\|_Y \leq \tilde{\varphi}_k(x) \tag{2.4}$$

for all  $x \in X$ . Letting  $y = x$  in (2.2), we get

$$\|f(2x) - 2f(x)\|_Y \leq \varphi(x, x) \tag{2.5}$$

for all  $x \in X$ . So we get (2.4) for  $k = 2$ .

Assume that (2.4) holds for  $k$ . Letting  $y = kx$  in (2.2), we get

$$\|f((k+1)x) - f(x) - f(kx)\|_Y \leq \varphi(x, kx) \tag{2.6}$$

for all  $x \in X$ . It follows from (2.4) and (2.6) that

$$\begin{aligned} \|f((k+1)x) - (k+1)f(x)\|_Y &\leq K\|f((k+1)x) - f(x) - f(kx)\|_Y \\ &\quad + K\|f(kx) - kf(x)\|_Y \\ &\leq K\varphi(x, kx) + K\tilde{\varphi}_k(x) \\ &= \tilde{\varphi}_{k+1}(x) \end{aligned}$$

This completes the induction argument. Replacing  $x$  by  $k^n x$  in (2.4) and dividing both sides of (2.4) by  $k^{n+1}$ , we get

$$\left\| \frac{1}{k^{n+1}} f(k^{n+1}x) - \frac{1}{k^n} f(k^n x) \right\|_Y \leq \frac{1}{k^{n+1}} \tilde{\varphi}_k(k^n x) \tag{2.7}$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all non-negative integers  $n$ . Since  $Y$  is a  $p$ -Banach space, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \frac{1}{k^{n+1}} f(k^{n+1}x) - \frac{1}{k^m} f(k^m x) \right\|_Y^p &\leq \sum_{i=m}^n \left\| \frac{1}{k^{i+1}} f(k^{i+1}x) - \frac{1}{k^i} f(k^i x) \right\|_Y^p \\ &\leq \frac{1}{k^p} \sum_{i=m}^n \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_k^p(k^i x)}{k^{ip}} \end{aligned} \tag{2.8}$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all non-negative integers  $n$  and  $m$  with  $n \geq m$ . Therefore, we conclude from (2.1) and (2.8) that the sequence  $\{\frac{1}{k^n} f(k^n x)\}$  is a Cauchy

sequence in  $Y$  for all  $x \in X$ . Since  $Y$  is complete, the sequence  $\{\frac{1}{k^n}f(k^n x)\}$  converges in  $Y$  for all  $x \in X$ . So one can define the mapping  $A_k : X \rightarrow Y$  by

$$A_k(x) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k^n} f(k^n x) \quad (2.9)$$

for all  $x \in X$ . Letting  $m = 0$  and passing the limit  $n \rightarrow \infty$  in (2.8), we get (2.3). Now, we show that  $A$  is an additive mapping. It follows from (2.1), (2.2) and (2.9) that

$$\begin{aligned} \|A_k(x+y) - A_k(x) - A_k(y)\|_Y &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k^n} \|f(k^n x + k^n y) - f(k^n x) - f(k^n y)\|_Y \\ &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k^n} \varphi(k^n x, k^n y) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Hence the mapping  $A_k$  is additive. To prove the uniqueness of  $A_k$ , let  $T : X \rightarrow Y$  be another additive mapping satisfying (2.3). It follows from (2.3) and (2.9) that

$$\begin{aligned} \|A_k(x) - T(x)\|_Y^p &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k^{np}} \|f(k^n x) - T(k^n x)\|_Y^p \\ &\leq \frac{1}{k^p} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_k^p(k^{n+i} x)}{k^{(n+i)p}} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{k^p} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_k^p(k^i x)}{k^{ip}} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x \in X$ . So  $A_k = T$ . □

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $\Phi : X \times X \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  be a mapping such that*

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} k^{np} \Phi^p\left(\frac{x}{k^n}, \frac{y}{k^n}\right) < \infty \quad (2.10)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Suppose that a mapping  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfies the inequality

$$\|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)\|_Y \leq \Phi(x, y)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Then the limit

$$A_k(x) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} k^n f\left(\frac{x}{k^n}\right)$$

exists for all  $x \in X$  and the mapping  $A_k : X \rightarrow Y$  is a unique additive mapping satisfying

$$\|f(x) - A_k(x)\|_Y \leq \frac{1}{k} \left[ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} k^{np} \tilde{\Phi}_k^p\left(\frac{x}{k^n}\right) \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} \quad (2.11)$$

for all  $x \in X$ , where

$$\tilde{\Phi}_k(x) := K^{k-2}\Phi(x, x) + \sum_{i=2}^{k-1} K^{k-i}\Phi(x, ix).$$

*Proof.* Similar to the proof of Theorem 2.1, we have

$$\|f(kx) - kf(x)\|_Y \leq \tilde{\Phi}_k(x) \tag{2.12}$$

for all  $x \in X$ . Replacing  $x$  by  $\frac{x}{k^{n+1}}$  in (2.12) and multiplying both sides of (2.12) to  $k^n$ , we get

$$\left\| k^{n+1}f\left(\frac{x}{k^{n+1}}\right) - k^n f\left(\frac{x}{k^n}\right) \right\|_Y \leq k^n \tilde{\Phi}_k\left(\frac{x}{k^{n+1}}\right)$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all non-negative integers  $n$ . Since  $Y$  is a  $p$ -Banach space, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| k^{n+1}f\left(\frac{x}{k^{n+1}}\right) - k^m f\left(\frac{x}{k^m}\right) \right\|_Y^p &\leq \sum_{i=m}^n \left\| k^{i+1}f\left(\frac{x}{k^{i+1}}\right) - k^i f\left(\frac{x}{k^i}\right) \right\|_Y^p \\ &\leq \sum_{i=m}^n k^{ip} \tilde{\Phi}_k^p\left(\frac{x}{k^{i+1}}\right) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{k^p} \sum_{i=m+1}^n k^{ip} \tilde{\Phi}_k^p\left(\frac{x}{k^i}\right) \end{aligned} \tag{2.13}$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all non-negative integers  $n$  and  $m$  with  $n \geq m$ . Therefore, we conclude from (2.10) and (2.13) that the sequence  $\{k^n f(x/k^n)\}$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $Y$  for all  $x \in X$ . Since  $Y$  is complete, the sequence  $\{k^n f(x/k^n)\}$  converges in  $Y$  for all  $x \in X$ . So one can define the mapping  $A_k : X \rightarrow Y$  by

$$A_k(x) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} k^n f\left(\frac{x}{k^n}\right)$$

for all  $x \in X$ . Letting  $m = 0$  and passing the limit  $n \rightarrow \infty$  in (2.13), we get (2.11). The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.1.  $\square$

The following result is related to the result of [15].

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $\psi : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  be a function such that*

- (1)  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\psi(t)}{t} = 0$ ,
- (2)  $\psi(ts) \leq \psi(t)\psi(s)$ ,
- (3)  $\psi(t) < t$  for all  $t > 1$ .

Suppose that a mapping  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfies the inequality

$$\|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)\|_Y \leq \theta(\psi(\|x\|_X) + \psi(\|y\|_X)) \quad (2.14)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Then there exists a unique additive mapping  $A_k : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfying

$$\|f(x) - A_k(x)\|_Y \leq \frac{\sigma_k(\psi)\theta}{(k^p - \psi(k)^p)^{\frac{1}{p}}} \psi(\|x\|_X) \quad (2.15)$$

for all  $x \in X$ , where

$$\sigma_k(\psi) := 2K^{k-2} + \sum_{i=2}^{k-1} K^{k-i}(1 + \psi(i)).$$

Moreover,  $A_k = A_2$  for all  $k \geq 2$ .

*Proof.* Let

$$\varphi(x, y) = \theta(\psi(\|x\|_X) + \psi(\|y\|_X))$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . It follows from (2) that  $\psi(k^n) \leq (\psi(k))^n$  and

$$\varphi(k^n x, k^n y) \leq \theta(\psi(k))^n (\psi(\|x\|_X) + \psi(\|y\|_X)).$$

By using Theorem 2.1, we can get (2.15). Now, we show that  $A_k = A_2$ . Replacing  $x$  by  $2^n x$  in (2.15) and dividing both sides of (2.15) by  $2^n$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \frac{f(2^n x)}{2^n} - A_k(x) \right\|_Y &\leq \frac{\sigma_k \theta}{2^n (k^p - \psi(k)^p)^{\frac{1}{p}}} \psi(\|2^n x\|_X) \\ &\leq \frac{\sigma_k \theta}{2^n (k^p - \psi(k)^p)^{\frac{1}{p}}} \psi(\|x\|_X) \psi(2^n) \end{aligned} \quad (2.16)$$

for all  $x \in X$ . Using (1) and passing the limit  $n \rightarrow \infty$  in (2.16), we get  $A_k = A_2$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.4.** Let  $q$  be a non-negative real number such that  $q \neq 1$  and  $H : [0, \infty) \times [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  be a homogeneous function of degree  $q$ . Suppose that a mapping  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfies the inequality

$$\|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)\|_Y \leq H(\|x\|_X, \|y\|_X) \quad (2.17)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Then there exists a unique additive mapping  $A_k : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfying

$$\|f(x) - A_k(x)\|_Y \leq \frac{\sigma_k(H)}{|k^p - k^{pq}|^{\frac{1}{p}}} \|x\|_X^q \quad (2.18)$$

for all  $x \in X$ , where

$$\sigma_k(H) := K^{k-2} H(1, 1) + \sum_{i=2}^{k-1} K^{k-i} H(1, i).$$



Moreover,  $A_k = A_2$  for all  $k \geq 2$ .

*Proof.* The proof follows from Theorems 2.1 and 2.2. □

For the particular cases  $H(x, y) = \theta(x^q + y^q)$ ,  $H(x, y) = \theta x^r \cdot y^s$  ( $r + s = q$ ) and  $H(x, y) = \min\{x^q, y^q\}$ , we have the following corollaries:

**Corollary 2.5.** *Let  $\theta$  and  $q$  be non-negative real numbers such that  $q \neq 1$ . Suppose that a mapping  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfies the inequality*

$$\|f(x + y) - f(x) - f(y)\|_Y \leq \theta(\|x\|_X^q + \|y\|_X^q)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Then there exists a unique additive mapping  $A_k : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfying

$$\|f(x) - A_k(x)\|_Y \leq \frac{\theta\sigma_k}{|k^p - k^{pq}|^{\frac{1}{p}}}\|x\|_X^q$$

for all  $x \in X$ , where

$$\sigma_k := 2K^{k-2} + \sum_{i=2}^{k-1} K^{k-i}(1 + i^q),$$

Moreover,  $A_k = A_2$  for all  $k \geq 2$ .

**Corollary 2.6.** *Let  $\theta, r, s$  be non-negative real numbers such that  $q := r + s \neq 1$ . Suppose that a mapping  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfies the inequality*

$$\|f(x + y) - f(x) - f(y)\|_Y \leq \theta\|x\|_X^r\|y\|_X^s$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Then there exists a unique additive mapping  $A_k : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfying

$$\|f(x) - A_k(x)\|_Y \leq \frac{\theta\sigma_k}{|k^p - k^{pq}|^{\frac{1}{p}}}\|x\|_X^q$$

for all  $x \in X$ , where

$$\sigma_k := K^{k-2} + \sum_{i=2}^{k-1} K^{k-i}i^s,$$

Moreover,  $A_k = A_2$  for all  $k \geq 2$ .

The following result is related to the result of [9].

**Corollary 2.7.** *Let  $q$  be a non-negative real number such that  $q \neq 1$ . Suppose that a mapping  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfies the inequality*

$$\|f(x + y) - f(x) - f(y)\|_Y \leq \min\{\|x\|_X^q, \|y\|_X^q\}$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Then there exists a unique additive mapping  $A_k : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfying

$$\|f(x) - A_k(x)\|_Y \leq \frac{\theta\sigma_k}{|k^p - k^{pq}|^{\frac{1}{p}}}\|x\|_X^q$$

for all  $x \in X$ , where

$$\sigma_k := K^{k-2} + \sum_{i=2}^{k-1} K^{k-i},$$

Moreover,  $A_k = A_2$  for all  $k \geq 2$ .

**Open Problem:** What is the best possible value of  $k$  in Corollaries 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7.

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