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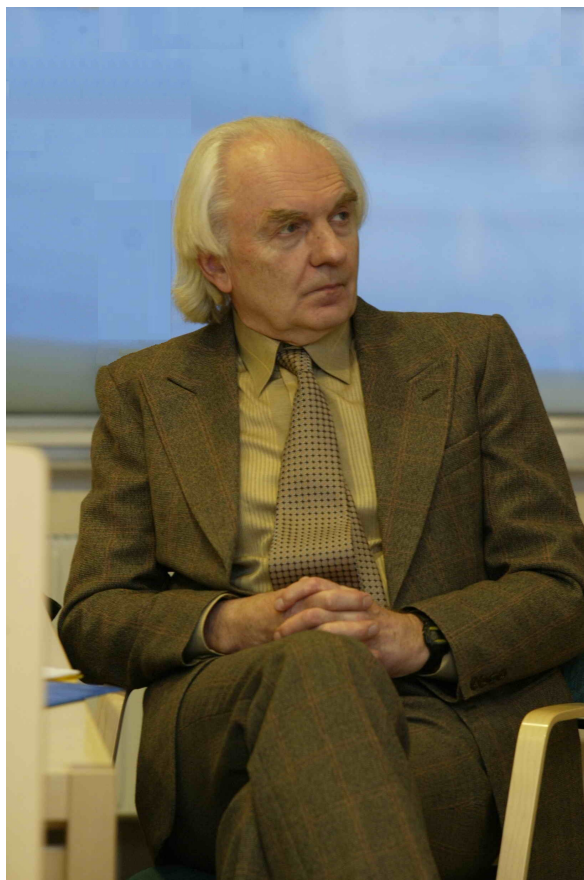
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On the 80th birthday of Professor Oleg Vladimirovich Besov



This issue of the Eurasian Mathematical Journal is dedicated to the 80th birthday of Oleg Vladimirovich Besov, an outstanding mathematician, Doctor of Sciences in physics and mathematics, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, academician of the European Academy of Sciences, Head of the Department of the theory of functions, V.A. Steklov Institute of Mathematics, honorary professor of the Department of Mathematics, Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology.

Oleg started scientific research while still a student of the Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics of the M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University. His research interests were formed under the influence of his scientific supervisor, the great Russian mathematician Sergei Mikhailovich Nikol'skii.

In the world mathematical community O.V. Besov is well known for introducing and studying the spaces $B_{p\theta}^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$, $1 \leq p, \theta \leq \infty$, of differentiable functions of several real variables, which are now named Besov spaces (or Nikol'skii–Besov spaces, because for $\theta = \infty$ they coincide with Nikol'skii spaces $H_p^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$).

The parameter r may be either an arbitrary positive number or a vector $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n)$ with positive components r_j . These spaces consist of functions having common smoothness of order r in the isotropic case (not necessarily integer) and smoothness of orders r_j in variables x_j , $j = 1, \dots, n$, in the anisotropic case, measured in L_p -metrics,

and θ is an additional parameter allowing more refined classification in the smoothness property.

O.V. Besov published more than 100 papers in leading mathematical journals most of which are dedicated to further development of the theory of the spaces $B_{p\theta}^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$. He considered the spaces $B_{p\theta}^r(\Omega)$ on regular and irregular domains $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and proved for them embedding, extension, trace, approximation and interpolation theorems. He also studied integral representations of functions, density of smooth functions, coercivity, multiplicative inequalities, error estimates in cubature formulas, spaces with variable smoothness, asymptotics of Kolmogorov widths, etc.

The theory of Besov spaces had a fundamental impact on the development of the theory of differentiable functions of several variables, the interpolation of linear operators, approximation theory, the theory of partial differential equations (especially boundary value problems), mathematical physics (Navier–Stokes equations in particular), the theory of cubature formulas, and other areas of mathematics.

Without exaggeration, one can say that Besov spaces have become a recognized and extensively applied tool in the world of mathematical analysis: they have been studied and used in thousands of articles and dozens of books. This is an outstanding achievement.

The first expositions of the basics of the theory of the spaces $B_{p\theta}^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$ were given by O.V. Besov in [2], [3].

Further developments of the theory of Besov spaces were discussed in a series of survey papers, e.g. [10], [5], [7]. The most detailed exposition of the theory of Besov spaces was given in the book by S.M. Nikol'skii [11] and in the book by O.V. Besov, V.P. Il'in, S.M. Nikol'skii [4], which in 1977 was awarded a State Prize of the USSR. Important further developments of the theory of Besov spaces were given in a series of books by Professor H. Triebel [13], [14], [15]. Many books on real analysis and the theory of partial differential equations contain chapters dedicated to various aspects of the theory of Besov spaces, e.g. [8], [1], [6]. Recently, in 2011, Professor Y. Sawano published the book “Theory of Besov spaces” [12] (in Japanese).

Besov spaces can be defined in several different equivalent ways: via best approximations, integrals involving differences, and Fourier transforms. In the isotropic case these have the following form.

In the first case – via best approximations – the norm of a function $f \in B_{p\theta}^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is expressed as

$$\|f\|_{B_{p\theta}^r(\mathbb{R}^n)} = \left(\sum_{s=0}^{\infty} (2^{rs} E_{2^s}(f)_p)^\theta \right)^{\frac{1}{\theta}},$$

where $E_{2^s}(f)_p$ is the best approximation of f by entire functions of exponential type 2^s in L_p -metrics.

In the second case – via integrals involving differences – the norm of a function $f \in B_{p\theta}^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is expressed as

$$\|f\|_{B_{p\theta}^r(\mathbb{R}^n)} = \|f\|_{L_p(\mathbb{R}^n)} + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left(\frac{\|\Delta_h^k f\|_{L_p(\mathbb{R}^n)}}{|h|^r} \right)^\theta \frac{dh}{|h|^n} \right)^{\frac{1}{\theta}},$$

where $k > r$, $\Delta_h^k f(x)$ is the difference of order $k \in \mathbb{N}$ at the point $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ of the function f with step $h \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and the L_p -norm is taken with respect to x .

To give the definition in terms of Fourier transforms, first let ψ be an infinitely continuously differentiable function on \mathbb{R}^n such that $\psi(x) := 1$ if $|x| \leq 1$ and $\psi(x) := 0$ if $|x| \geq \frac{3}{2}$. Moreover, let $\varphi(x) := \psi(x/2) - \psi(x)$, $\varphi_0(x) = \psi(x)$, $\varphi_s(x) := \varphi(2^{-s+1}x)$, $s \in \mathbb{N}$. (Clearly $\{\varphi_s\}_{s=0}^\infty$ is a partition of unity.) Then the norm of a function $f \in B_{p\theta}^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is expressed as

$$\|f\|_{B_{p\theta}^r(\mathbb{R}^n)} = \left(\sum_{s=0}^{\infty} (2^{rs} \|F^{-1}(\varphi_s Ff)\|_{L_p(\mathbb{R}^n)})^\theta \right)^{\frac{1}{\theta}},$$

where $Fg, F^{-1}g$ denote the Fourier transform, the inverse Fourier transform respectively, of a function g . (The last definition allows the range of the parameters to be extended to $0 < p, \theta \leq \infty$ and $-\infty < r < \infty$, assuming that f belongs to the Schwartz space $S'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ of tempered distributions.)

There are also several other equivalent definitions: via moduli of continuity, boundary values of solutions to the Laplace equation, initial values of solutions to the heat equation, interpolation, etc. Many of them are collected in books [10], [4], [1], [13] and survey paper [5].

Let $r \in \mathbb{N}$. If $p = \theta = 2$, then the space $B_{2,2}^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$ coincides with the Sobolev space $W_2^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$. If $p \neq 2$, then none of the spaces $B_{p\theta}^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$ coincides with $W_p^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$, and

$$B_{p\theta_1}^r(\mathbb{R}^n) \subset W_p^r(\mathbb{R}^n) \subset B_{p\theta_2}^r(\mathbb{R}^n),$$

where $1 < p < \infty$, $\theta_1 = \min\{p, 2\}$ and $\theta_2 = \max\{p, 2\}$.

The most fundamental facts about Besov spaces are the following:

1) the embedding theorem for Besov spaces

$$B_{p\theta}^r(\mathbb{R}^n) \subset B_{q\varrho}^\varrho(\mathbb{R}^n), \quad 1 \leq p < q \leq \infty, \quad 1 \leq \theta \leq \infty, \quad \varrho = r - n\left(\frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{q}\right) > 0;$$

2) the trace theorem for Besov spaces ($1 \leq m < n$)

$$\text{tr}_{\mathbb{R}^m} B_{p\theta}^r(\mathbb{R}^n) = B_{p\theta}^{r-\frac{n-m}{p}}(\mathbb{R}^m), \quad 1 \leq p \leq \infty, \quad 1 \leq \theta \leq \infty, \quad r - \frac{n-m}{p} > 0,$$

where $\text{tr}_{\mathbb{R}^m} B_{p\theta}^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is the set of traces on \mathbb{R}^m of all functions $f \in B_{p\theta}^r(\mathbb{R}^n)$;

3) the trace theorem for Sobolev spaces ($1 \leq m < n$)

$$\text{tr}_{\mathbb{R}^m} W_p^r(\mathbb{R}^n) = B_{pp}^{r-\frac{n-m}{p}}(\mathbb{R}^m), \quad 1 < p < \infty, \quad r \in \mathbb{N}, \quad r - \frac{n-m}{p} > 0;$$

4) the interpolation theorem for Besov spaces (real interpolation)

$$(B_{p_0}^{r_0}(\mathbb{R}^n), B_{p_1}^{r_1}(\mathbb{R}^n))_{\theta, q} = B_{pq}^r(\mathbb{R}^n), \quad 1 \leq p, q_0, q_1, q \leq \infty, r_0, r_1 > 0, r_0 \neq r_1,$$

where $0 < \theta < 1$ and $r = (1 - \theta)r_0 + \theta r_1$;

5) the interpolation theorem for Sobolev spaces (real interpolation)

$$(W_p^{r_0}(\mathbb{R}^n), W_p^{r_1}(\mathbb{R}^n))_{\theta, q} = W_{pq}^r(\mathbb{R}^n), \quad 1 \leq p, q \leq \infty, r_0, r_1 \in \mathbb{N}, r_0 \neq r_1,$$

where $0 < \theta < 1$ and $r = (1 - \theta)r_0 + \theta r_1$.

Statements 1) – 2) were proved by O.V. Besov [2], [3] for $\theta < \infty$; for $\theta = \infty$ they were earlier proved by S.M. Nikol'skii. Statement 3) was proved by O.V. Besov [2], [3] for $m \leq n - 2$; for $m = n - 1$ Statement 3) was earlier proved by N. Aronzajn, E. Gagliardo and L.N. Slobodetskii. Statements 4) and 5) were proved by J.L. Lions and J. Peetre [9].

These seminal results explain the role of Besov spaces in analysis and in numerous applications, especially to the boundary value problems for partial differential equations. However, this was only the start, and in order to develop the theory of Besov spaces and its applications to the top level a lot of further work was required. This work has been done by O.V. Besov and by many other mathematicians around the world.

In 1954 S.M. Nikol'skii organized the seminar “Differentiable functions of several variables and applications”, which became the world recognized leading seminar on the theory of function spaces. Oleg participated in this seminar from the very beginning, first as the secretary and later, for more than 20 years, as the head of the seminar jointly with S.M. Nikol'skii and L.D. Kudryavtsev.

O.V. Besov participated in numerous research projects supported by grants of several countries, and led many of them.

He takes active part in the international mathematical life, participates in and contributes to organizing many international conferences. He has given more than 100 invited talks at conferences and has been invited to universities in more than 20 countries.

For more than 40 years O.V. Besov has been a professor at the Department of Mathematics of the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology. He is a celebrated and sought-after lecturer who is able to develop the student's independent thinking. On the basis of his lectures he wrote a popular text-book on mathematical analysis in two volumes.

He spends a lot of time on supervising post-graduate students. One of his former post-graduate students H. Ghazaryan, now a distinguished professor, plays an active role in the mathematical life of Armenia and has many post-graduate students of his own.

Professor Besov has close academic ties with Kazakhstan mathematicians. He has many times visited Kazakhstan and is an honorary professor of the Shakarim Semipalatinsk State University and a member of the editorial board of the Eurasian Mathematical Journal. He has been awarded a medal for his meritorious role in the development of science of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Oleg is in great physical and mental shape and leads an active life.

The Editorial Board of the Eurasian Mathematical Journal is happy to congratulate Oleg Vladimirovich Besov on occasion of his 80th birthday, wishes him good health and further productive work in mathematics and mathematical education.

On behalf of the Editorial Board

V.I. Burenkov and T.V. Tararykova

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