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NONLINEAIR REGRESSION WITH DISCRETE
EXPLANATORY VARIABLES, WITH AN
APPLICATION TO THE EARNINGS FUNCTION

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NONLINEAR REGRESSION WITH DISCRETE
EXPLANATORY VARIABLES, WITH AN APPLICATION
TO THE EARNINGS FUNCTION: *)

MATHEMATICAL APPENDIX **)

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**) This separate appendix contains the proofs of the theorems in the published article.

APPENDIX : Mathematical Proofs

Proof of Theorem 1. Let θ be a random drawing from F . Then by hypothesis of the theorem the distribution of the random variable $\theta'(x_1-x_2)$, where $x_1 \in X$ and $x_2 \in X$ are non-random, is atomless for $x_1 \neq x_2$. Consequently we have

$$(A1) \quad P \{ \theta'(x_1-x_2) = 0 \} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x_1 = x_2, \\ 0 & \text{if } x_1 \neq x_2. \end{cases}$$

From (A1) and the countability of X we now conclude

$$(A2) \quad P(\theta'x_1 = \theta'x_2 \text{ for some } (x_1, x_2) \in X \times X \text{ with } x_1 \neq x_2) \\ \leq \sum_{x_1 \in X, x_2 \in X, x_1 \neq x_2} P \{ \theta'(x_1-x_2) = 0 \} = 0$$

This proves the theorem

Q.E.D.

Proof of Theorem 4. The strong consistency results in Theorem 4 follow straightforwardly from Kolmogorov's strong law of large numbers and Theorem 2.2.5 of Bierens (1981). For proving asymptotic normality, observe that by the central limit theorem

$$(A3) \quad \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n x_j x_j' \right) \sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n (y_j - \theta_0' x_j) x_j \\ \rightarrow N_k [0, E(y_j - \theta_0' x_j)^2 x_j x_j'] \quad \text{in distr.}$$

and that by Kolmogorov's strong law of large numbers,

$$(A4) \quad \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n x_j x_j' \rightarrow E x_j x_j' \quad \text{a.s. ,}$$

The asymptotic normality result follows now from Theorem 2.2.14 in Bierens (1981). A similar proof can be found in White (1980).

Q.E.D.

Proof of Theorem 5. Since θ_0 is a linear separator its components are non-zero, possibly except the components corresponding with nonvarying components of X . Therefore the functions $M_1(\theta)$ are continuously differentiable in a neighborhood of θ_0 , and so is $z(x, \theta)$ for each $x \in X$. Using

Theorem 2.3.3. of Bierens (1981) it is now not hard to verify that for some compact neighborhood S_0 of θ_0 ,

$$(A5) \quad \sup_{|z| \leq 1} \sup_{\theta \in S_0} |\psi_\ell(z|\theta) - \bar{\psi}_\ell(z|\theta)| \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

for $\ell=0,1,2,\dots$, where similarly to (12).

$$(A6) \quad E_{\bar{\psi}_{r_1}}(z(x_j, \theta)|\theta) \bar{\psi}_{r_2}(x_j, \theta)|\theta) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } r_1 = r_2, \\ 0 & \text{if } r_1 \neq r_2. \end{cases}$$

Defining

$$(A7) \quad \bar{\gamma}_\ell(\theta) = E y_j \bar{\psi}_\ell(z(x_j, \theta)|\theta)$$

it follows from (A5) that

$$(A8) \quad \sup_{\theta \in S_0} |\hat{\gamma}_\ell(\theta) - \bar{\gamma}_\ell(\theta)| \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Since by Theorem 4, $\hat{\theta} \rightarrow \theta_0$ a.s., the theorem under review now easily follows from (A6) and (A8) and Theorem 2.2.5 of Bierens (1981).

Q.E.D.

For proving Theorems 6 and 7 we need the following lemma's.

Lemma A1. Let u be a random variable in \mathbb{R} , satisfying $E|u| < \infty$ and let z be a random variable in a bounded subset Z of \mathbb{R} . Then $P(E(u|z) = 0) < 1$ if and only if for some $\delta > 0$, $Eue^{\tau z} \neq 0$ for all $\tau \in (-\delta, 0) \cup (0, \delta)$.

Proof. Lemma A1 follows straightforwardly from the Proof of Theorem 2 of Bierens (1982).

Q.E.D.

Lemma A2. Let the conditions of Lemma A1 be satisfied. Let

$$(A9) \quad T = \{\tau \in \mathbb{R} : Eue^{\tau z} = 0\}.$$

If $P(E(u|z) = 0) < 1$ then T is countable and any bounded subset of T is finite.

Proof: Let $\tau_0 \in T$. From lemma A1 it follows that there exists a $\delta > 0$ such that

$$(A10) \quad Eue^{\tau_0 z} e^{\tau z} \neq 0 \text{ for all } \tau \in (-\delta, 0) \cup (0, \delta),$$

hence

$$(A11) \quad Eue^{\tau z} \neq 0 \text{ for all } \tau \in (-\delta + \tau_0, \tau_0) \cup (\tau_0, \tau_0 + \delta).$$

Obviously (A11) implies that for every $\tau_0 \in T$

$$(A12) \quad \inf_{\tau \in T, \tau \neq \tau_0} |\tau - \tau_0| > 0,$$

which in its turn implies that Lemma A2 holds.

Q.E.D.

Proof of Theorem 6. First we note that we may replace $\hat{z}(x_j, \theta^*)$ in (14), (15) and (17) by $\theta^{*'}x_j$. However, using \hat{z} has the advantage that τ then becomes independent of the scale of $\theta^{*'}x_j$.

Now let

$$(A13) \quad \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*) = \frac{2 \theta^{*'}x_j - \max_{x \in X} \theta^{*'}x - \min_{x \in X} \theta^{*'}x}{\max_{x \in X} \theta^{*'}x - \min_{x \in X} \theta^{*'}x}.$$

Since X is finite and contains only points with positive probability mass, we have

$$(A14) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \supset X) = 1,$$

hence

$$(A15) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(\{\hat{z}(x_j, \theta^*) = \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*) \text{ for } j=1, \dots, n\}) = 1.$$

Therefore we may replace \hat{z} by \bar{z} without loss of generality.

Assume that (18) holds. Then

$$(A16) \quad E(y_j | x_j) = g(x_j) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{m-1} \gamma_\ell(\theta_0) \psi_\ell(z(x_j, \theta_0) | \theta_0) \quad \text{a.s.}$$

so that

$$(A17) \quad \begin{aligned} & (1/\sqrt{n}) \sum_{j=1}^n (y_j - \hat{g}_m(x_j | \hat{\theta})) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)} \\ &= (1/\sqrt{n}) \sum_{j=1}^n (u_j + g(x_j) - \hat{g}_m(x_j | \theta_0) + \hat{g}_m(x_j | \theta_0) - \hat{g}_m(x_j | \hat{\theta})) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)} \\ &= (1/\sqrt{n}) \sum_{j=1}^n u_j e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)} \\ &\quad - (1/\sqrt{n}) \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{\ell=0}^{m-1} (\hat{\gamma}_\ell(\theta_0) - \gamma_\ell(\theta_0)) \psi_\ell(z(x_j, \theta_0) | \theta_0) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)} \\ &\quad - (1/\sqrt{n}) \sum_{j=1}^n (\hat{g}_m(x_j | \hat{\theta}) - \hat{g}_m(x_j | \theta_0)) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)} \\ &= \tilde{c}_1(\tau, \theta^*) - \tilde{c}_2(\tau, \theta^*) - \tilde{c}_3(\tau, \theta^*), \text{ say.} \end{aligned}$$

Observe from (9) that for $\ell=0, 1, 2, \dots$

$$(A18) \quad \hat{\gamma}_\ell(\theta_0) - \gamma_\ell(\theta_0) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n u_j \psi_\ell(z(x_j, \theta_0) | \theta_0),$$

hence

$$(A19) \quad \begin{aligned} \tilde{c}_2(\tau, \theta^*) &= \sum_{\ell=0}^{m-1} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n u_j \psi_\ell(z(x_j, \theta_0) | \theta_0) \right) \\ &\quad \cdot \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \psi_\ell(z(x_j, \theta_0) | \theta_0) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Denoting

$$(A20) \quad \begin{aligned} \tilde{\tilde{c}}_2(\tau, \theta^*) &= \\ & \sum_{\ell=0}^{m-1} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n u_j \bar{\psi}_\ell(z(x_j, \theta_0) | \theta_0) E(\bar{\psi}_\ell(z(x_j, \theta_0) | \theta_0)) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)} \right), \end{aligned}$$

where $\bar{\psi}_\ell(x | \theta_0)$ is the probability limit of $\psi_\ell(z | \theta_0)$, it is easy to verify that

$$(A21) \quad \text{plim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{ \tilde{\tilde{c}}_2(\tau, \theta^*) - \tilde{c}_2(\tau, \theta^*) \} = 0.$$

Next, observe that by the mean value theorem there exists a random vector $\bar{\theta}(\tau, \theta^*)$ satisfying

$$(A22) \quad \| \bar{\theta}(\tau, \theta^*) - \theta_0 \| \leq \| \hat{\theta} - \theta_0 \| \quad \text{a.s.}$$

and

$$(A23) \quad \begin{aligned} \tilde{c}_3(\tau, \theta^*) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n (\hat{g}_m(x_j | \hat{\theta}) - \hat{g}_m(x_j | \theta_0)) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)} \\ &= \sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta} - \theta_0)' \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n (\partial / \partial \theta') \hat{g}_m(x_j | \hat{\theta}(\tau, \theta^*)) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)} . \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, from (A22) it follows

$$(A24) \quad \begin{aligned} \text{plim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n (\partial / \partial \theta') \hat{g}_m(x_j | \hat{\theta}(\tau, \theta^*)) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)} \\ &= \text{plim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n (\partial / \partial \theta') \hat{g}_m(x_j | \hat{\theta}) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)} \\ &= \text{plim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n (\partial / \partial \theta') \hat{g}_m(x_j | \theta_0) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)} \\ &= \bar{\xi}_m(\tau | \theta^*), \text{ say.} \end{aligned}$$

Denoting

$$(A25) \quad \tilde{c}_3(\tau, \theta^*) = \sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta} - \theta_0)' \bar{\xi}_m(\tau | \theta^*)$$

we thus have

$$(A26) \quad \text{plim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{\tilde{c}_3(\tau, \theta^*) - \tilde{c}_3(\tau, \theta^*)\} = 0.$$

Furthermore, observe that

$$(A27) \quad \sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) = \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n x_j x_j' \right)^{-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n x_j (y_j - x_j' \theta_0)$$

and that by (A4),

$$(A28) \quad \text{plim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{ \sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) - (E x_j x_j')^{-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n x_j (y_j - x_j' \theta_0) \} = 0 .$$

Thus denoting

$$(A29) \quad \tilde{c}_3(\tau, \theta^*) = \bar{\xi}_m(\tau, \theta^*)' (E x_j x_j')^{-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n x_j (y_j - x_j' \theta_0)$$

we have

$$(A30) \quad \text{plim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{ \tilde{c}_3(\tau, \theta^*) - \tilde{c}_3(\tau, \theta^*) \} = 0 .$$

From (A15), (A17), (A21), (A26) and (A30) we now obtain

$$(A31) \quad \text{plim} \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n (y_j - \hat{g}_m(x_j | \hat{\theta})) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)} - d(\tau | \theta^*) \right\} = 0,$$

where

$$(A32) \quad \begin{aligned} d(\tau | \theta^*) &= \bar{c}_1(\tau, \theta^*) - \bar{c}_2(\tau, \theta^*) - \bar{c}_3(\tau, \theta^*) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n u_j e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)} \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n u_j \sum_{\ell=0}^{m-1} \bar{\psi}_\ell(z(x_j, \theta_0) | \theta_0) \cdot E(\bar{\psi}_\ell(z(x_j, \theta_0) | \theta_0) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)}) \\ &\quad - \bar{\xi}_m(\tau | \theta^*)' (E x_j x_j')^{-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n x_j (y_j - x_j' \theta_0) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n u_j \bar{\rho}_{j,m}(\tau | \theta^*) - \bar{\xi}_m(\tau | \theta^*)' (E x_j x_j')^{-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n x_j (y_j - x_j' \theta_0) \end{aligned}$$

with

$$(A33) \quad \bar{\rho}_{j,m}(\tau | \theta^*) = e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)} - \sum_{\ell=0}^{m-1} \bar{\psi}_\ell(z(x_j, \theta_0) | \theta_0) E(\bar{\psi}_\ell(z(x_j, \theta_0) | \theta_0) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)})$$

Realizing that the terms in (A32) are i.i.d. with zero mean and variance

$$(A34) \quad \begin{aligned} \bar{s}_m^2(\tau | \theta^*) &= E \{ u_j \bar{\rho}_{j,m}(\tau | \theta^*) - \bar{\xi}_m(\tau | \theta^*)' (E x_j x_j')^{-1} x_j (y_j - x_j' \theta_0) \}^2 \\ &= E \{ u_j^2 \bar{\rho}_{j,m}^2(\tau | \theta^*) \} - 2 E \{ u_j \bar{\rho}_{j,m}(\tau | \theta^*) \bar{\xi}_m(\tau | \theta^*)' (E x_j x_j')^{-1} x_j (y_j - x_j' \theta_0) \} \\ &\quad + \bar{\xi}_m(\tau | \theta^*)' (E x_j x_j')^{-1} (E (y_j - \theta_0' x_j)^2 x_j x_j') (E x_j x_j')^{-1} \bar{\xi}_m(\tau | \theta^*) \\ &= E u_j^2 \bar{\rho}_{j,m}^2(\tau | \theta^*) \\ &\quad - 2 E u_j (y_j - x_j' \theta_0) \bar{\rho}_{j,m}(\tau | \theta^*) x_j' (E x_j x_j')^{-1} \bar{\xi}_m(\tau | \theta^*) \\ &\quad + \bar{\xi}_m(\tau | \theta^*)' \Omega \bar{\xi}_m(\tau | \theta^*), \end{aligned}$$

we have by the central limit theorem

$$(A35) \quad \hat{d}_m(\tau | \theta^*) \rightarrow N(0, \bar{s}_m^2(\tau | \theta^*)) \text{ in distr.}$$

We leave it to the reader to verify that

$$(A36) \quad \hat{s}_m^2(\tau | \theta^*) \rightarrow \bar{s}_m^2(\tau | \theta^*) \text{ a.s.}$$

and that $\bar{s}_m^2(\tau | \theta^*) > 0$ for $\tau \neq 0$. Combining (A31), (A35) and (A36), part

(19) of Theorem 6 follows.

Next, assume that (18) fails to hold. Then by (A15) ,

$$(A37) \quad \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n (y_j - \hat{g}_m(x_j | \hat{\theta})) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)} \\ \rightarrow E(y_j - \sum_{\ell=0}^{m-1} \gamma_{\ell}(\theta_0) \bar{\psi}_{\ell}(z(x_j, \theta_0) | \theta_0)) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta^*)} \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Moreover, it is not hard to verify that also now $\hat{s}_m^2(\tau | \theta^*)$ converges a.s. to a limit $\bar{s}_*^2(\tau | \theta^*)$, say, which is positive for $\tau \neq 0$. Thus part (20a) follows straightforwardly from (A37) and Lemma's A1 and A2.

Finally, the conclusion that we may substitute $\hat{\theta}$ for θ^* follows from the fact that by Theorem 4

$$(A38) \quad \text{plim} \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n (y_j - \hat{g}_m(x_j, \hat{\theta})) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \hat{\theta})} \right. \\ \left. - \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n (y_j - \hat{g}_m(x_j, \hat{\theta})) e^{\tau \bar{z}(x_j, \theta_0)} \right\} = 0$$

provided (18) is satisfied. Proving (A38) is not too hard and therefore left to the reader.

Q.E.D.

Proof of Theorem 7. The result (19) is equivalent with

$$(A39) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E e^{i t \hat{\eta}_m(\tau | \theta^*)} = e^{-\frac{1}{2} t^2} \quad \text{for every } t \in \mathbb{R}$$

If τ and θ^* are random and independent from the data-generating process then we have similarly,

$$(A40) \quad E(e^{i t \hat{\eta}_m(\tau | \theta^*)} | \tau, \theta^*) \rightarrow e^{-\frac{1}{2} t^2} \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Hence by bounded convergence,

$$(A41) \quad E e^{i t \hat{\eta}_m(\tau | \theta^*)} = E[E(e^{i t \hat{\eta}_m(\tau | \theta^*)} | \tau, \theta^*)] \rightarrow e^{-\frac{1}{2} t^2}$$

which proves that (19) carries over if θ^* and τ are random.

Now suppose that (18) fails to hold. Lemma A2 implies that (20a) hold for $\tau \in \mathbb{R} \setminus T$, where T is a countable subset of \mathbb{R} . But since τ is now continuously distributed we have

$$(A42) \quad P(\tau \in \mathbb{E} \setminus T) = 1.$$

Moreover, Theorem 1 implies that θ^* is a.s. a linear separator. Therefore (20a) also holds for the random τ and θ^* involved.

Q.E.D.

Proof of Theorem 8. From the mean value theorem it follows

$$(A43) \quad \hat{\gamma}_l(\hat{\theta}) - \hat{\gamma}_l(\theta_0) = [(\partial/\partial\theta)\hat{\gamma}_l(\bar{\theta})] (\hat{\theta} - \theta_0),$$

where $\bar{\theta}$ is a mean value satisfying $\|\bar{\theta} - \theta_0\| \leq \|\hat{\theta} - \theta_0\|$. From this result we see

$$(A44) \quad \text{plim} \left\{ \sqrt{n} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\gamma}_0(\hat{\theta}) \\ \vdots \\ \hat{\gamma}_{m-1}(\hat{\theta}) \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\gamma}_0(\theta_0) \\ \vdots \\ \hat{\gamma}_{m-1}(\theta_0) \end{bmatrix} - \bar{\Gamma}_m \sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) \right\} = 0,$$

where

$$(A45) \quad \bar{\Gamma}_m = \text{plim} \hat{\Gamma}_m.$$

Moreover, from (9) and (10) it follows that

$$(A46) \quad \hat{\gamma}_l(\theta_0) - \gamma_l(\theta_0) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n u_j \psi_l(z(x_j, \theta_0) | \theta_0).$$

Combining (A44) and (A46) and using (A28) we see that

$$(A47) \quad \text{plim} \left\{ \sqrt{n} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\gamma}_0(\hat{\theta}) \\ \vdots \\ \hat{\gamma}_{m-1}(\hat{\theta}) \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_0(\theta_0) \\ \vdots \\ \gamma_{m-1}(\theta_0) \end{bmatrix} - \left\{ \bar{\Gamma}_m (\mathbb{E} x_j x_j')^{-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n x_j (y_j - x_j' \theta_0) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n u_j \Psi_{j,m} \right\} \right\} = 0$$

where

$$(A48) \quad \Psi_{j,m} = \begin{bmatrix} \psi_0(z(x_j, \theta_0) | \theta_0) \\ \vdots \\ \psi_{m-1}(z(x_j, \theta_0) | \theta_0) \end{bmatrix}$$

But the random vectors

$$(A49) \quad d_j = \bar{\Gamma}_m (E x_j x_j')^{-1} x_j (y_j - x_j' \theta_0) + u_j \psi_{j,m}$$

are independent with zero mean vector and variance matrix

$$(A50) \quad E d_j d_j' = \bar{\Gamma}_m \Omega \bar{\Gamma}_m' + \bar{\Gamma}_m (E x_j x_j')^{-1} E(u_j^2 x_j \psi_{j,m}') \\ + E(u_j^2 \psi_{j,m} x_j') (E x_j x_j')^{-1} \bar{\Gamma}_m' + E(u_j^2 \psi_{j,m} \psi_{j,m}')$$

Denoting

$$(A51) \quad \bar{\Delta}_m = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n E u_j^2 \psi_{j,m} \psi_{j,m}' ,$$

$$(A52) \quad \bar{\Sigma}_m = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n (u_j^2 \psi_{j,m} x_j') (E x_j x_j')^{-1}$$

$$(A53) \quad \Lambda_m = \bar{\Gamma}_m \Omega \bar{\Gamma}_m' + \bar{\Sigma}_m \bar{\Gamma}_m + \bar{\Gamma}_m \bar{\Sigma}_m' + \bar{\Delta}_m ,$$

we thus have by the central limit theorem

$$(A54) \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n d_j \rightarrow N_m(0, \Lambda_m) \text{ in distr.}$$

Combining (A47) and (A54), the first part of Theorem 8 follows.

We leave it to the reader to verify the second part.

Q.E.D.

Proof of Theorem 9: Similarly to the proof of Theorem 7.