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If E is a uniformly convex Banach space and T is any topological space, then in the space $X = C(T, E)$ of E-valued bounded continuous functions on E, every bounded set has a Chevyshev center. Moreover, the set function $A \to Z(A)$, corresponding to A the set of its Chebyshev centers, is uniformly continuous on bounded subsets of the space $\mathscr{B}(X)$ of bounded subsets of X with the Hausdorff metric. This is contrasted with the fact that a normed space X in which $Z(A)$ is a singleton for every bounded A is uniformly convex iff $A \to Z(A)$ is uniformly continuous on bounded subsets of $\mathscr{B}(X)$.

Let (X, d) be a metric space. Denoto by $\mathscr{B}(X)$ the space of nonempty bounded subsets of X and let h be the Hausdorff semimetric on $\mathscr{B}(X)$:

$$h(A, B) = \max\left(\sup_{u \in A} \inf_{v \in B} d(u, v), \sup_{v \in B} \inf_{u \in A} d(u, v)\right) .$$

For $x \in X$, $r \geqq 0$, let $B(x, r) = \{y \in X; d(x, y) \leqq r\}$ be the closed r-ball around x. For $A \in \mathscr{B}(X)$ and $x \in X$ denote $r(x, A) = \inf\{r \geqq 0; B(x, r) \supset A\}$, $r(A) = \inf_{x \in X} r(x, A)$ is the *Chebyshev radius of* A, and $Z(A) = \{x \in X; r(x, A) = r(A)\}$ is the set of *Chebyshev centers of* A. For $Y \subset X$ we can consider also the *relative Chebyshev radius* of A in Y, $r_Y(A) = \inf_{y \in Y} r(y, A)$, and the set of *relative Chebyshev centers of* A *in* Y, $Z_Y(A) = \{y \in Y; r(y, A) = r_Y(A)\}$. In the case that $A = \{x\}$ is a singleton, then $Z_Y(A)$ is just the set of best approximations in Y to x, $P_Y x$.

We say that X *admits centers* if every bounded set in X has Chebyshev centers. The classical Banach spaces, i.e., the spaces $L_p(\mu)$, $1 \leqq p \leqq \infty$, over any measure space and the spaces $C(T)$ of continuous real-valued functions on compact Hausdorff T, admit centers ([1], [3]). However, Garkavi ([1]) gave an example of a 3-point set in a maximal subspace H of $C[0, 1]$ which has no Chebyshev center in H. The problem of characterizing all Banach space which admit centers is still open.

Ward ([5]) proved that the space $C(T, E)$ of E-valued bounded continuous functions on the topological space T, with the norm $||x|| = \sup_{t \in T} ||x(t)||$, admits centers in each of the following two cases: (a) E is a finite-dimensional strictly convex (hence uniformly convex) normed space and T is paracompact. (b) E is a Hilbert space and T is normal. Ward asked whether both results can be strengthened by taking in (b) any uniformly convex Banach space E. Our first result shows that the answer is in the affirmative.

We use the following characterization of uniform convexity, due to Ruston ([4]). We include a proof for completeness sake.

1. LEMMA. *A normed space E is uniformly convex iff for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is $\delta'(\varepsilon) > 0$ such that if $x, y \in E$ and $\phi \in E^*$ are such that $||x|| = ||y|| = 1 = ||\phi|| = \phi(y)$ and $\phi(x) > 1 - \delta'(\varepsilon)$, then $||x - y|| < \varepsilon$. We can take, of course, $\delta'(\varepsilon) \leqq 1/2\varepsilon$.*

Proof. If E is uniformly convex, then $\delta(\varepsilon) \equiv \inf\{1 - ||(u - v)/2||; ||u|| = ||v|| = 1, ||u - v|| \geqq \varepsilon\}$ is positive. Take $\delta'(\varepsilon) < 2\delta(\varepsilon)$. If $||x - y|| \geqq \varepsilon$ then $||(x + y)/2|| \leqq 1 - \delta(\varepsilon)$ hence $(\phi(x) + 1)/2 = \phi((x + y)/2) \leqq 1 - \delta(\varepsilon)$ and $\phi(x) \leqq 1 - 2\delta(\varepsilon) < 1 - \delta'(\varepsilon)$.

Conversely, we claim that $\delta(\varepsilon) \geqq \delta'(\varepsilon/4)$. Indeed, if $||x|| = ||y|| = 1$ and $||x - y|| > \varepsilon$, take $\phi \in E^*$ with $||\phi|| = 1$, $\phi(x + y) = ||x + y||$. Then either $||(x + y)/2|| < 1 - \varepsilon/4 \leqq 1 - \delta'(\varepsilon/4)$, or $||(x + y)/2|| \geqq 1 - \varepsilon/4$, hence $||(x + y)/2 - (x + y)/||x + y|| \, || \leqq \varepsilon/4$ and $||x - (x + y)/||x + y|| \, || \geqq \varepsilon/4$, $||y - (x + y)/||x + y|| \, || \geqq \varepsilon/4$, hence $\phi(x) \leqq 1 - \delta'(\varepsilon/4)$, $\phi(y) \leqq 1 - \delta'(\varepsilon/4)$ and $||x + y|| = \phi(x + y) \leqq 2(1 - \delta'(\varepsilon/4))$.

2. THEOREM. *If E is a uniformly convex Banach space and T is any topological space, then $C(T, E)$ admits centers.*

Proof. Given any bounded $A \subset C(T, E)$ we may assume, without loss of generality, that $r(A) = 1$. Given $\varepsilon > 0$, choose any $f_0 \in C(T, E)$ with $r(f_0, A) \leqq 1 + \delta'(\varepsilon)$. We claim that there is $f_1 \in C(T, E)$ with $r(f_1, A) \leqq 1 + \delta'(\varepsilon/2)$ and $||f_1 - f_0|| \leqq 2\varepsilon$. Indeed, take any $g \in C(T, E)$ with $r(g, A) \leqq 1 + \delta'(\varepsilon/2)$ and define:

$$\beta(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \; ||g(t) - f_0(t)|| \leqq 2\varepsilon \\ \dfrac{2\varepsilon}{||g(t) - f_0(t)||} & \text{if } \; ||g(t) - f_0(t)|| > 2\varepsilon \end{cases}$$

$$f_1(t) = f_0(t) + \beta(t)(g(t) - f_0(t)) \, .$$

Clearly, $f_1 \in C(T, E)$ and $||f_1 - f_0|| \leqq 2\varepsilon$. Take any $a \in A$. We have to show that $||f_1(t) - a(t)|| \leqq 1 + \delta'(\varepsilon/2)$. This is clear if $\beta(t) = 1$, since then $f_1(t) = g(t)$, or if $\beta(t) < 1$ but $||g(t) - a(t)|| \geqq ||f_0(t) - a(t)||$, since $f_1(t)$ lies on the segment $[f_0(t), g(t)]$. Therefore we may assume $1 + \delta'(\varepsilon) \geqq ||f_0(t) - a(t)|| > ||g(t) - a(t)||$. Denote $u = f_0(t) - a(t)$, $v = g(t) - a(t)$, so that $||v|| \leqq 1 + \delta'(\varepsilon/2)$ and $1 + \delta'(\varepsilon) \geqq ||u|| > ||v||$ and we want to show that going a distance of 2ε from u towards v, we enter the $(1 + \delta'(\varepsilon/2))$-ball around 0. Since this is true if $||v|| = 0$, it suffices to show it when $||v|| = 1 + \delta'(\varepsilon/2)$.

In the 2-dimensional space spanned by u and v let z be on the $||v||$-sphere, on the same side of the line through 0 and u as v is, such that the line $\overline{uz}$ supports the sphere. Extend this line to a hyperplane $H = \psi^{-1}1$ supporting the $||v||$-ball in E. Let $\phi = ||v||\psi$, $x = u/||u||$, $y = z/||z||$. Then $||\phi|| = \phi(y) = 1 = ||y|| = ||x||$ and $\phi(x) = 1/||u|| \geqq 1/(1 + \delta'(\varepsilon)) > 1 - \delta'(\varepsilon)$, hence $||x - y|| < \varepsilon$ and $||u - z|| < \varepsilon + ||u - x|| + ||z - y|| \leqq \varepsilon + \delta'(\varepsilon) + \delta'(\varepsilon/2) < 2\varepsilon$. This proves our claim, since the distance from u to the $||v||$-ball in the direction of v is less than the maximal of the distances in the directions of x (which is $\leqq \delta'(\varepsilon)$) and z (which is $< 2\varepsilon$).

Inductively, we find f_{n+1} with $||f_{n+1} - f_n|| \leqq 2\varepsilon/2^n$ and $r(f_{n+1}, A) \leqq 1 + \delta'(\varepsilon/2^{n+1})$. The Cauchy sequence (f_n) converges to some f with $||f - f_0|| \leqq 2\varepsilon$. $r(f, A) \leqq \lim r(f_n, A) \leqq 1$, hence $r(f, A) = 1$ and f is a Chebyshev center for A. (See Remark 6.)

3. COROLLARY. *If $X = C(T, E)$, E a uniformly convex Banach space, then the mapping $A \to Z(A)$ in $\mathscr{B}(X)$ is uniformly continuous on bounded subsets of $\mathscr{B}(X)$.*

Proof. By the proof of Theorem 1, if $r(f_0, A) \leqq (1 + \delta'(\varepsilon))r(A)$, then there is $f \in Z(A)$ with $||f - f_0|| \leqq 4\varepsilon r(A)$. Given R and $\varepsilon > 0$, let $0 < \delta \leqq R\delta'(\varepsilon)/2$. If $r(A) \leqq R$, $r(B) \leqq R$ and $h(A, B) < \delta$, then for every x we have $|r(x, A) - r(x, B)| < \delta$ (given $u \in A$, find $v \in B$ with $d(u, v) < \delta$ and then $d(x, u) < d(x, v) + \delta$ etc.), hence $|r(A) - r(B)| < \delta$, and for every $z \in Z(A)$ we have $r(z, B) < r(A) + \delta < r(B) + 2\delta \leqq (1 + \delta'(\varepsilon))r(B)$. Therefore we can find $w \in Z(B)$ with $||w - z|| \leqq 4\varepsilon R$. Similarly $\sup_{w \in Z(B)} d(w, Z(A)) \leqq 4\varepsilon R$, i.e., $h(Z(A), Z(B)) \leqq 4\varepsilon R$.

4. COROLLARY. *If $X = C(T)$ and Y is a closed linear sublattice of X, then for every bounded $A \subset X$ there is a relative Chebyshev center in Y, and $A \to Z_Y(A)$ is uniformly continuous on bounded subsets of $\mathscr{B}(X)$.*

Proof. In the proof of the theorem, if f_0 and g are chosen in Y, then by the lattice property also $f_1 \in Y$.

The continuity property of the operation $A \to Z(A)$ in the "most square" space $X = C(T)$, obtained in Corollary 3, is somewhat surprising in view of the next theorem.

5. THEOREM. *A Banach space X is uniformly convex iff for every $A \in \mathscr{B}(X)$ $Z(A)$ is a singleton, and $A \to Z(A)$ is uniformly continuous on bounded subsets of $\mathscr{B}(X)$.*

Proof. Assume first that X is uniformly convex. Since X is reflexive $Z(A) \neq \emptyset$ for every $A \in \mathscr{B}(X)$, while uniform convexity guarantees that $Z(A)$ is a singleton ([1]). It is known (and easily proved) that if $\|x\|, \|y\| \leqq M$ and $\|x - y\| \geqq \varepsilon$, then $\|(x + y)/2\| \leqq (1 - \delta(\varepsilon/M))M$. Suppose now $z = Z(A)$, $w = Z(B)$, $r(A) < R$ and $h(A, B) < \eta < 1$. Then $r(B) \leqq r(z, B) < r(z, A) + \eta = r(A) + \eta$, and $r(A) \leqq r(w, A) < r(B) + \eta < r(A) + 2\eta$. Therefore for $u \in A$ we have $\|u - z\| \leqq r(A)$, $\|u - w\| < r(A) + 2\eta$ and

$$\left\|u - \frac{z + w}{2}\right\| = \left\|\frac{((u - z) + (u - w))}{2}\right\| \leqq \left(1 - \delta\left(\frac{\varepsilon}{R + 2}\right)\right)(r(A) + 2\eta) .$$

But $\|u - (z + w)/2\| \geqq r(A)$, for some $u \in A$, hence if $\|z - w\| \geqq \varepsilon$ then

$$\eta \geqq \frac{r(A)\delta\left(\frac{\varepsilon}{R + 2}\right)}{2\left(1 - \delta\left(\frac{\varepsilon}{R + 2}\right)\right)} \geqq \frac{r(A)}{2}\varepsilon\left(\frac{\varepsilon}{R + 2}\right) .$$

Thus if $\eta < r(A)\delta(\varepsilon/(R + 2))/2$ then $\|z - w\| < \varepsilon$. So that fixing $\eta = \varepsilon\delta(\varepsilon/(R + 2))/4$ we have either $r(A) \geqq \varepsilon/2$ and then $\|z - w\| < \varepsilon$, or $r(A) < \varepsilon/2$ and then taking any $u \in A$ we have $\|z - w\| \leqq \|z - u\| + \|u - w\| < r(A) + r(A) + 2\eta < \varepsilon$.

Conversely, if E is not uniformly convex, there are $x_n, y_n \in E$ with $\|x_n\| = \|y_n\| = 1$, $\|x_n - y_n\| = \varepsilon$ and $\|x_n + y_n\| \to 2$. Let

$$z_n = \frac{x_n + y_n}{\|x_n + y_n\|} , \qquad A_n = \operatorname{conv}\left\{x_n, \frac{x_n + y_n}{2}, -\frac{x_n + y_n}{2}, -y_n\right\} ,$$
$$B_n = \operatorname{conv}\{x_n, z_n, -z_n, -y_n\} .$$

Then $h(A_n, B_n) \to 0$, but $(x_n - y_n)/4 \in Z(A_n)$ while $0 \in Z(B_n)$. Thus if $Z(A_n)$ and $Z(B_n)$ are singletons, we have $h(Z(A_n), Z(B_n)) = \|(x_n - y_n)/4\| = \varepsilon/4$.

REMARKS. (1) By the proof it is clear that it is enough to check the uniform continuity of $A \to Z(A)$ on the 2-dimensional subsets A of the unit ball of X.

(2) There are nonuniformly convex spaces in which $Z(A)$ is a singleton for every bounded nonempty A. It is known ([1]) that if X is reflexive then $Z(A) \neq \emptyset$ for every $A \in \mathscr{B}(X)$ while the condition that $Z(A)$ is at most a singleton for every $A \in \mathscr{B}(X)$ is equivalent to X being u.c.e.d (uniformly convex in every direction, which means that $\delta_z(\varepsilon) \equiv \inf\{1 - \|(x + y)/2\|; \|x\| = \|y\| = 1, x - y = \lambda z, \|x - y\| \geqq \varepsilon\} > 0$ for every $z \neq 0$). Since every separable space can be equivalently renormed to be u.c.e.d ([6]) while only super-

reflexive spaces can be renormed to be uniformly convex ([2]), every reflexive but nonsuperreflexive separable X can be renormed so that $Z(A)$ is a singleton for every $A \in \mathscr{B}(X)$, while $A \to Z(A)$ is not uniformly continuous.

(3) If we wish to drop the condition that $Z(A)$ is a singleton, the same proof yields.

"A normed space X is uniformly convex iff every selection for the set-valued map $Z: A \to Z(A)$ is uniformly continuous on bounded subsets of the domain of definition of Z in $\mathscr{B}(X)$."

Indeed, A_n and B_n in the proof above have Chebyshev centers, while continuity of every selection of Z implies that Z is single-valued. Again, we may restrict ourselves to 2-dimensional sets of the type A_n, B_n.

(4) Say that X is "uniformly convex with respect to Y", where Y is a closed subspace of X, if $\delta_Y(\varepsilon) \equiv \inf\{1 - \|(x + y)/2\|; \|x\| = \|y\| = 1, \|x - y\| \geqq \varepsilon, x - y \in Y\} > 0$ for every $\varepsilon > 0$. The same proof will yield: The Banach space X is uniformly convex with respect to its subspace Y iff $A \to Z_Y(A)$ is a locally uniformly continuous function from $\mathscr{B}(X)$ (or even the 2-dimensional sets in $\mathscr{B}(X)$) to Y.

(5) A related result is the following theorem of P. Smith (cf. [7], p. 188): If E is an "E-space" (i.e., a Banach space with a Fréchet differentiable dual or, equivalently, a reflexive strictly convex space in which $x_n \xrightarrow{w} x$, $\|x_n\| \to \|x\| \Rightarrow x_n \to x$) then $A \to Z(A)$ is a continuous single-valued map from the space of compact subsets of E (in the Hausdorff metric) into E.

(6) Theorem 2 has been obtained, independently, by Ka-Sing Lau, who proved in a similar way the following more general result: For any bounded set-valued map ϕ from a topological space X into a uniformly convex Banach space E and for every closed $C(X)$-submodule M in $C(X, E)$ there is a best approximation from M to ϕ.

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