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CONGRUENT SECTIONS OF A CONVEX BODY

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It is shown that if all the 3-dimensional sections of a convex body K , of dimension at least 4, through a fixed inner point are congruent, then K is a euclidean ball. A dual result concerning projections is also proved.

1. Introduction. W. Süss [8] showed that if all the plane sections of a 3-dimensional convex body passing through a fixed inner point are congruent, then the body is a euclidean ball. P. Mani [5] generalized this result to the case of congruent $2n$ -dimensional sections of a $(2n + 1)$ -dimensional convex body. Both of these results are deduced immediately from topological proofs that a nonspherical $2n$ -dimensional body cannot be completely turned in dimension $2n + 1$, and the assumption that the sections fit together to form a convex body is only used to prove continuity. However, every centrally symmetric 3-dimensional body can be completely turned in 4-dimensional euclidean space E^4 , so in this case a proof using properties of convex bodies is required; the present paper provides one. Our main results are:

THEOREM 1. *Let K be a convex body of dimension at least 4, let p be an inner point of K , and suppose that all 3-dimensional sections of K passing through p are congruent. Then K is a euclidean ball with center p .*

THEOREM 2. *Let K be a convex body of dimension at least 4, and suppose all the 3-dimensional orthogonal projections of K are congruent. Then K is a euclidean ball.*

A result which follows directly from the work of Mani is the following:

THEOREM 3. *Let $n \geq 1$, let K be a convex body of dimension at least $2n + 1$ and let p be an inner point of K . Suppose all the $2n$ -dimensional sections of K passing through p are affinely equivalent. Then K is an ellipsoid.*

2. Complete turnings of 3-dimensional bodies. When A is a d -dimensional convex body, a *field of bodies congruent to A* is a continuous function $A(u)$ defined for u in the unit sphere S^d , where $A(u)$ is a congruent copy of A lying in a hyperplane of E^{d+1} perpendicular to u ; here $A(u)$ is meant to be continuous in the Hausdorff

metric. If additionally $A(\mathbf{u}) = A(-\mathbf{u})$ for each \mathbf{u} , we say $A(\mathbf{u})$ is a *complete turning of A* in E^{d+1} . Clearly if all the d -dimensional sections of a $(d+1)$ -dimensional convex body through a fixed inner point are congruent, they give rise to a complete turning of some d -dimensional body in E^{d+1} . We make use of the methods of Mani [5] and H. Hadwiger [4] to determine which 3-dimensional convex bodies can be completely turned in E^4 . When \mathbf{v} is a fixed unit vector in E^4 and for $\mathbf{u} = (t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4) \in S^3$ we define $\mathbf{p}_1(\mathbf{u}) = (-t_2, t_1, -t_4, t_3)$, $\mathbf{p}_2(\mathbf{u}) = (t_3, -t_4, -t_1, t_2)$, $\mathbf{p}_3(\mathbf{u}) = (-t_4, -t_3, t_2, t_1)$, then let $\Psi_{\mathbf{u}}$ be the orthogonal transformation such that $\Psi_{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{u}$ and $\Psi_{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{p}_i(\mathbf{u})) = \mathbf{p}_i(\mathbf{u})$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$. Notice that $\Psi_{-\mathbf{u}} = -\Psi_{\mathbf{u}}$.

LEMMA 2.1. *Let A be a 3-dimensional convex body whose symmetry group is finite, and suppose A can be completely turned in E^4 . Then A is centrally symmetric.*

Proof. Let $A(\mathbf{u})$ be a complete turning of A in E^4 . We may assume that each $A(\mathbf{u})$ has its centroid at the origin \mathbf{o} , and that $A = A(\mathbf{v})$ for some unit vector \mathbf{v} . Let $\Psi_{\mathbf{u}}$ be defined as above. Since $A(\mathbf{u})$ is a field of bodies congruent to A , the proof of Proposition 2 in [5] shows the existence of orthogonal transformations $\Phi_{\mathbf{u}}$ depending continuously on \mathbf{u} with $\Phi_{\mathbf{u}}(A) = A(\mathbf{u})$. The restriction $\Phi_{\mathbf{u}}^{-1}\Phi_{\mathbf{u}|_A}$ is a continuously varying symmetry of A , and by connectedness it must be a constant Θ .

The map $\Psi_{\mathbf{u}}^{-1}\Phi_{\mathbf{u}}$ preserves the linear span of A , so consider $\Psi_{\mathbf{u}}^{-1}\Phi_{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{v})$ for a fixed $\mathbf{v} \in A$. The mapping $\mathbf{u} \mapsto \Psi_{\mathbf{u}}^{-1}\Phi_{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{v})$ maps S^3 continuously into a copy of E^3 , so by the Borsuk-Ulam theorem (see [7], p. 266) it maps some pair of antipodal points into coincidence. Thus for some \mathbf{u} we have

$$\Psi_{-\mathbf{u}}^{-1}\Phi_{-\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{v}) = \Psi_{\mathbf{u}}^{-1}\Phi_{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{v})$$

and since $\Psi_{-\mathbf{u}} = -\Psi_{\mathbf{u}}$ this yields

$$-\Phi_{-\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{v}) = \Phi_{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{v})$$

and so $-\mathbf{v} = \Phi_{-\mathbf{u}}^{-1}\Phi_{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{v}) = \Theta(\mathbf{v})$. It follows that Θ is a central reflection, and A is centrally symmetric.

LEMMA 2.2. *Let A be a 3-dimensional convex body whose symmetry group is infinite, and suppose A can be completely turned in E^4 . Then A is centrally symmetric.*

Proof. Let $A(\mathbf{u})$ be a complete turning of A . We may assume that each $A(\mathbf{u})$ has its centroid at the origin, and that $A = A(\mathbf{v})$ where \mathbf{v} is a unit vector. Let $\Psi_{\mathbf{u}}$ be the map defined above. Since

A has an infinite symmetry group, it has an axis of revolution; let such an axis be parallel to the unit vector w .

Suppose that A is not centrally symmetric, so that A has only one axis of revolution, and for some $\lambda > 0$ the two sections

$$\{x \in A: x \cdot w = \pm \lambda\}$$

are discs of different radii. Any symmetry of A maps the axis onto itself, and maps λw onto λw also.

It follows that for each $u \in S^3$, there is a unit vector $w(u)$ in the linear span of $A(u)$ such that $\Phi(w) = w(u)$ for every orthogonal transformation Φ with $\Phi(A) = A(u)$. Hence $w(u)$ is a continuous function of u and $w(-u) = w(u)$. The mapping $u \mapsto \Psi_u^{-1}(w(u))$ is a continuous map of S^3 into a copy of E^3 , so by the Borsuk-Ulam theorem, for some u we have

$$\Psi_u^{-1}(w(u)) = \Psi_{-u}^{-1}(w(-u)) = -\Psi_u^{-1}(w(u))$$

so that $w(u) = -w(u)$ which is impossible. We conclude that A is centrally symmetric.

REMARKS. Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2 show that any 3-dimensional convex body which can be completely turned in E^4 is centrally symmetric. Conversely, the map Ψ_u allows every 3-dimensionally centrally symmetric convex body to be completely turned in E^4 .

3. Congruent central sections of a convex body. Throughout this section K will be a fixed 4-dimensional convex body in E^4 having the origin as center of symmetry, and such that all the 3-dimensional central sections of K are congruent. We assume K is not a euclidean ball, and seek a contradiction. For nonzero u and v the hyperplane $\{x \in E^4: x \cdot u = 0\}$ is denoted $H(u)$, the orthogonal projection on $H(u)$ is denoted π_u and $\Phi_{u,v}$ is some orthogonal transformation which maps $H(u) \cap K$ onto $H(v) \cap K$; clearly the choice of $\Phi_{u,v}$ may not be unique.

LEMMA 3.1. *Let $v \in S^3$. Then the section $H(v) \cap K$ is not a body of revolution.*

Proof. Suppose the lemma is false. Then since $H(v) \cap K$ is not a euclidean ball, it has just one axis of rotation l . Consider a plane A with $l \subset A \subset H(v)$. For any $u^* \in X = S^3 \cap A^\perp$, there is a neighborhood of u^* in X in which $\Phi_{u,v}$ can be chosen as a continuous function of u . Let X_0 be a compact simple arc of X containing v in its interior. By compactness X_0 can be dissected into a finite collection of interior-disjoint arcs, on each of which $\Phi_{u,v}$ is chosen continuously; if this

gives rise to two choices $\Phi'_{u,v}$ and $\Phi''_{u,v}$ of $\Phi_{u,v}$ at a common end u of two such arcs, then $\Phi''_{u,v}\Phi'^{-1}_{u,v}$ preserves $H(v) \cap K$, so by composing $\Phi'_{u,v}$ with a suitable orthogonal transformation we can suppose $\Phi''_{u,v} = \Phi'_{u,v}$. Hence we can choose $\Phi_{u,v}$ continuously for $u \in X_0$.

We claim $\Phi_{u,v}(A)$ contains l for every $u \in X_0$. Suppose this is false, and let $x \in l \cap bdK$. Then as u varies on X_0 , a nontrivial arc on a sphere is described by $\Phi_{u,v}(x)$, so $H(v) \cap bdK$ contains a maximal spherical cap A with pole x and at constant distance from o . Let y and z be the points of A on the perimeter of A . Then for each $u \in X_0$, the points $\Phi_{u,v}(y)$ and $\Phi_{u,v}(z)$ lie within clA and $\|\Phi_{u,v}(y) - \Phi_{u,v}(z)\| = \|y - z\|$, so l , $\Phi_{u,v}(y)$ and $\Phi_{u,v}(z)$ are coplanar. This contradiction shows that $\Phi_{u,v}(A)$ contains l for each $u \in X_0$.

By composing $\Phi_{u,v}$ with a suitable continuously varying orthogonal transformation that acts as a symmetry on $H(v) \cap K$ we can suppose $\Phi_{u,v}(A) = A$ for each $u \in X_0$ and $\Phi_{v,v}$ is the identity map, so $\Phi_{u,v}(u) = v$. Since the symmetry group of $A \cap K$ is finite, $\Phi_{u,v}|_A$ is the identity for all $u \in X_0$. Thus l is the axis of $H(u) \cap K$ for all $u \in X_0$, and hence (by letting X_0 tend to X) for all $u \in X$. Then for any $s \in l^\perp \cap bdK$, the length $\|s\|$ is equal to the radius of the central section of $H(v) \cap K$ perpendicular to l . It follows that $l^\perp \cap K$ is a euclidean ball and so K is a euclidean ball contrary to hypothesis. This proves the lemma.

REMARKS. From Lemma 3.1 it follows that each $H(u) \cap K$ has only a finite symmetry group. It follows from the proof of Proposition 2 in [5] that for fixed $v \in S^3$ we can choose $\Phi_{u,v}$ as a continuous function of $u \in S^3$. We can further suppose $\Phi_{v,v}$ is the identity so $\Phi_{u,v}(u) = v$. When u and v are not unit vectors, we define $\Phi_{u,v} = \Phi_{u',v'}$ where $u' = \|u\|^{-1}u$, $v' = \|v\|^{-1}v$.

LEMMA 3.2. K is smooth.

Proof. Let K^* be the polar reciprocal of K relative to the origin. Then $\Phi_{u,v}(\pi_u K^*) = \pi_v K^*$ for each $u, v \in S^3$. To prove K is smooth, it will suffice to show K^* is strictly convex. In the ensuing argument, faces are meant to be exposed faces.

Suppose first that K^* has a 2-face F , and let F be the face of K^* in the direction of $w \in S^3$. Fix a unit vector v perpendicular to w and the affine hull $\text{aff } F$. Then $\pi_u F$ is a 2-face of $\pi_u K^*$ for every u perpendicular to w and close to v , and by continuity $\Phi_{u,v}(\pi_u F) = \pi_v F$. However, if u is chosen perpendicular to w but not perpendicular to $\text{aff } F$, then $\pi_u F$ has smaller area than $\pi_v F$. This contradiction shows that K^* has no 2-faces.

Next suppose that K^* has 3-faces, and consider any 3-face G ,

having an outer unit normal \mathbf{m} say at its centroid. If \mathbf{u} is any unit vector perpendicular to \mathbf{m} then $\pi_{\mathbf{u}}G$ is a 2-face of $\pi_{\mathbf{u}}K^*$. Conversely, suppose J is a 2-face of a projection $\pi_{\mathbf{w}}K^*$. Then there is a face G' of K^* such that $\pi_{\mathbf{w}}G' = J$. We necessarily have $\dim G' \geq \dim J$, and since K^* has no 2-faces, G' must be a 3-face. Hence \mathbf{w} is perpendicular to the normal of K^* at the centroid of G' . Since the facets of K^* form a countable set, $\pi_{\mathbf{w}}(K^*)$ can only have a 2-face when \mathbf{w} lies in a certain countable union of hyperplanes. This is impossible since all the 3-dimensional orthogonal projections of K^* are congruent. We conclude that K^* has no 3-faces.

Finally suppose K^* has an edge L , with ends \mathbf{x} and $\mathbf{x} + \lambda \mathbf{t}$ where $\lambda > 0$ and \mathbf{t} is a unit vector. Let L be the face of K^* in the direction of the unit vector \mathbf{p} , let Θ be the plane through \mathbf{o} orthogonal to \mathbf{p} and \mathbf{t} , and let \mathbf{v} be a unit vector in Θ . For each $\mathbf{u} \in \Theta \cap S^3$ the line segment $L(\mathbf{u}) = \Phi_{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}}(\pi_{\mathbf{u}}L)$ is an edge of $\pi_{\mathbf{v}}K^*$ and has length λ ; we claim that $L(\mathbf{u})$ is the same edge for every $\mathbf{u} \in \Theta \cap S^3$. Suppose this is false; then by continuity the region $\cup \{L(\mathbf{u}) : \mathbf{u} \in \Theta \cap S^3\}$ contains an open neighborhood N in the relative boundary of $\pi_{\mathbf{v}}K^*$. Choose $\mathbf{u} \in \Theta \cap S^3$ such that $L(\mathbf{u})$ intersects N . For every unit vector \mathbf{w} orthogonal to \mathbf{p} and close to \mathbf{u} , the segment $L(\mathbf{w}) = \Phi_{\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v}}(\pi_{\mathbf{w}}L)$ is an edge of $\pi_{\mathbf{v}}K^*$ that intersects N , so $L(\mathbf{w}) = L(\mathbf{u}')$ for some $\mathbf{u}' \in \Theta \cap S^3$. Hence $L(\mathbf{w})$ has length λ . But we can choose \mathbf{w} not to be orthogonal to \mathbf{t} , in which case $L(\mathbf{w})$ is shorter than L . This contradiction shows that $L(\mathbf{u})$ is the same edge for all $\mathbf{u} \in \Theta \cap S^3$.

It follows that $\Phi_{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}}(\pi_{\mathbf{u}}\mathbf{x}) = \pi_{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{x})$ and $\Phi_{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}}(\pi_{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{x} + \lambda \mathbf{t})) = \pi_{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{x} + \lambda \mathbf{t})$ for all $\mathbf{u} \in \Theta \cap S^3$, and since $\pi_{\mathbf{u}}$ and $\pi_{\mathbf{v}}$ fix \mathbf{t} we find that $\Phi_{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{t}) = \mathbf{t}$. Further $\pi_{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{p}) = \pi_{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{p}) = \mathbf{p}$ so $\Phi_{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{p}) = \mathbf{p}$, and it follows that $\Phi_{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}}$ fixes all points of Θ^\perp for $\mathbf{u} \in \Theta \cap S^3$. Hence all sections of K parallel to Θ are circular and have centers on Θ^\perp . It follows that K has 3-dimensional central sections which are bodies of revolution, contrary to Lemma 3.1. We conclude that K^* is strictly convex, so K is smooth.

DEFINITION. An open neighborhood A on the relative boundary of a section $H(\mathbf{v}) \cap K$ is said to be *contoured* if the intersection of A with every sphere with center \mathbf{o} is empty or a circular arc.

LEMMA 3.3. *Let \mathbf{x} be a boundary point of K at which the unit outward normal \mathbf{n} is not a multiple of \mathbf{x} , let \mathbf{v} be a unit vector perpendicular to \mathbf{x} , and suppose $\text{relbd } H(\mathbf{v}) \cap K$ contains no contoured neighborhoods. Then $\Phi_{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}}$ is a differentiable function of \mathbf{u} for \mathbf{u} close to \mathbf{v} .*

Proof. Choose a neighborhood A of \mathbf{x} in the boundary of K such that at no point of A is the normal direction to K parallel to

the radius vector. We show A contains a neighborhood $B \subset \text{rel}bd H(v) \cap K$ so that at no point of B is the outward normal to $H(v) \cap K$ parallel to the radius vector. Suppose this is false so by continuity of the normal directions, the normal to $H(v) \cap K$ at each point of $H(v) \cap A$ is parallel to the radius vector. Hence $H(v) \cap A$ is a subset of a 3-sphere S with center o . For $u \in S^3$ we have $\Phi_{u,v}^{-1}(H(v) \cap A) \subset S$, and the regions $\Phi_{u,v}^{-1}(H(v) \cap A)$ cover a neighborhood of x in bdK . Thus x is parallel to n contrary to hypothesis. We deduce the existence of B as required.

It now follows from the Implicit Function theorem that each set $C(\alpha) = \{y \in B: \|y\| = \alpha\}$ is a union of simple continuously differentiable arcs if it is nonempty. We may suppose B is chosen so that each $C(\alpha)$ is connected. Consider two curves $C(\alpha)$ and $C(\beta)$ with $\alpha \neq \beta$, and let $a_0 \in C(\alpha)$ and $b_0 \in C(\beta)$ be two points for which $a_0 - b_0$ is not perpendicular to the tangent line of $C(\beta)$ at b_0 . We can continuously differentiably select $f_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda, a) \in C(\beta)$ with $\|f_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda, a) - a\| = \lambda$ for $a \in C(\alpha)$ close to a_0 and λ close to $\|a_0 - b_0\|$, such that $f_{\alpha,\beta}(\|a_0 - b_0\|, a_0) = b_0$.

Let us suppose there exist open neighborhoods M, N in B such that for each $\alpha \neq \beta$, each $a_0 \in C(\alpha) \cap M$ and each $b_0 \in C(\beta) \cap N$ with $a_0 - b_0$ not perpendicular to the tangent line of $C(\beta)$ at b_0 , we have

$$(*) \quad D_2 \|f_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda, a) - f_{\alpha,\beta}(\mu, a)\| = 0$$

for all λ and μ close to $\|a_0 - b_0\|$ and a on $C(\alpha)$ close to a_0 . Additionally we may suppose that each $C(\alpha)$ intersects M and N in (connected, but possibly empty) arcs.

Consider $a_0 \in M$ with $\|a_0\| = \alpha$. Suppose N contains a neighborhood P such that each $b \in P$ satisfies $\|b\| \neq \alpha$ and $b - a_0$ is perpendicular to the tangent line of $C(\|b\|)$ at b . We can suppose the intersection of P with each $C(\beta)$ is connected, so that each $C(\beta)$ which intersects P is at constant distance from a_0 ; thus each such $C(\beta)$ is a circular arc, being in the intersection of two spheres. Hence P is a contoured neighborhood contrary to hypothesis. Thus for the given a_0 , for a dense set of b_0 in N we have $a_0 - b_0$ not perpendicular to the tangent line of $C(\beta)$ at b_0 and $D_2 \|f_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda, a) - f_{\alpha,\beta}(\mu, a)\| = 0$ for all a on $C(\alpha)$ close to a_0 and λ, μ close to $\|a_0 - b_0\|$ where $\beta = \|b_0\|$. Consider such a b_0 , which we can suppose chosen so that $a_0 - b_0$ is not perpendicular to the tangent line of $C(\alpha)$ at a_0 , let $\lambda_0 = \|a_0 - b_0\|$, and suppose $D_2 \|f_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda, a) - f_{\alpha,\beta}(\mu, a)\| = 0$ for all λ and μ in an interval J with center λ_0 and all a in an arc F of $C(\alpha)$ surrounding a_0 .

Then $\|f_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda, a) - f_{\alpha,\beta}(\mu, a)\|$ is a function only of λ and μ for $\lambda, \mu \in J, a \in F$. For fixed $\lambda, \mu \in J$, the triangles $\{a, f_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda, a), f_{\alpha,\beta}(\mu, a)\}$ are then all congruent for $a \in F$. Letting μ tend to λ , the angle

between the tangent line to $C(\beta)$ at $\mathbf{f}_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda, \mathbf{a})$ and the vector $\mathbf{f}_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda, \mathbf{a}) - \mathbf{a}$ is a function of λ only, say $\rho(\lambda)$, for $\lambda \in J$ and $\mathbf{a} \in F$. We can suppose F and J are so short that $\mathbf{f}_{\beta,\alpha}(\mu, \mathbf{f}_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda, \mathbf{a}))$ is defined for $\lambda, \mu \in J$, $\mathbf{a} \in F$.

Consider \mathbf{a}_1 and \mathbf{a}_2 in the interior of F , let $\mathbf{b}_i = \mathbf{f}_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda_0, \mathbf{a}_i)$ and let $\mathbf{g}_i(\lambda) = \mathbf{f}_{\beta,\alpha}(\lambda, \mathbf{b}_i) \in C(\alpha)$ for $i = 1, 2$. We can choose an open interval J' with $\lambda_0 \in J' \subset J$ which is so short that $\mathbf{g}_i(\lambda) \in F$ for all $\lambda \in J'$, $i = 1, 2$. Then $\mathbf{f}_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda, \mathbf{g}_i(\lambda)) = \mathbf{b}_i$; choose unit vectors \mathbf{t}_i parallel to the tangent lines of $C(\beta)$ at \mathbf{b}_i so that $(\mathbf{g}_i(\lambda) - \mathbf{b}_i) \cdot \mathbf{t}_i = \lambda \cos \rho(\lambda)$. There is an orthogonal transformation Ψ in $H(v)$ with $\Psi(\mathbf{b}_1) = \mathbf{b}_2$, $\Psi(\mathbf{t}_1) = \mathbf{t}_2$ and $\Psi(\mathbf{a}_1) = \mathbf{a}_2$. The continuously varying points $\mathbf{g}_i(\lambda)$ satisfy:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{g}_2(\lambda)\| &= \|\Psi \mathbf{g}_1(\lambda)\| = \alpha \\ \|\mathbf{g}_2(\lambda) - \mathbf{b}_2\| &= \|\Psi \mathbf{g}_1(\lambda) - \mathbf{b}_2\| = \lambda \\ (\mathbf{g}_2(\lambda) - \mathbf{b}_2) \cdot \mathbf{t}_2 &= (\Psi \mathbf{g}_1(\lambda) - \mathbf{b}_2) \cdot \mathbf{t}_2 = \lambda \cos \rho(\lambda) \end{aligned}$$

and these conditions ensure $\Psi \mathbf{g}_1(\lambda) = \mathbf{g}_2(\lambda)$ for all $\lambda \in J'$. Thus Ψ maps \mathbf{a}_1 onto \mathbf{a}_2 and maps a neighborhood of \mathbf{a}_1 in $C(\alpha)$ onto a neighborhood of \mathbf{a}_2 in $C(\alpha)$. If F contains in its interior a point of 2-fold differentiability of $C(\alpha)$, then F has constant curvature, and since it lies on a sphere it must be an arc of a circle.

Since $\text{relbd } H(v) \cap K$ is twice differentiable almost everywhere, $C(\alpha) \cap M$ has a point of two-fold differentiability for a dense set of α . If $C(\alpha) \cap M$ is twice differentiable somewhere, the above arguments show it contains a circular arc; choose a maximal such arc C . Then the above arguments apply taking \mathbf{a}_0 as an end of C , and this contradicts the maximality of C unless $C = C(\alpha) \cap M$. We conclude that $C(\alpha) \cap M$ is a circular arc for a dense set of α ; by taking limits M is contoured contrary to hypothesis.

It follows that our supposition (*) is false. Thus for a dense of $(\mathbf{a}_0, \mathbf{b}_0)$ in $B \times B$, for $\alpha = \|\mathbf{a}_0\|$ and $\beta = \|\mathbf{b}_0\|$ we find that the tangent line of $C(\beta)$ at \mathbf{b}_0 is not perpendicular to $\mathbf{a}_0 - \mathbf{b}_0$ and $D_2 \|\mathbf{f}_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda, \mathbf{a}) - \mathbf{f}_{\alpha,\beta}(\mu, \mathbf{a})\| \neq 0$ for $(\lambda, \mu, \mathbf{a})$ arbitrarily close to $(\lambda_0, \lambda_0, \mathbf{a}_0)$ in $\mathbf{R} \times \mathbf{R} \times C(\alpha)$ where $\lambda_0 = \|\mathbf{a}_0 - \mathbf{b}_0\|$. We can therefore choose $\lambda, \mu, \nu, \mathbf{a}_0, \mathbf{b}_0, \mathbf{c}_0$ with $\|\mathbf{a}_0\| = \alpha$, $\|\mathbf{b}_0\| = \beta$, $\mathbf{b}_0 = \mathbf{f}_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda, \mathbf{a}_0)$, $\mathbf{c}_0 = \mathbf{f}_{\alpha,\beta}(\mu, \mathbf{a}_0)$, $\nu = \|\mathbf{b}_0 - \mathbf{c}_0\|$, such that the tangent lines of $C(\alpha)$ at \mathbf{b}_0 and \mathbf{c}_0 are not prependicular to $\mathbf{b}_0 - \mathbf{a}_0$ and $\mathbf{c}_0 - \mathbf{a}_0$ respectively, $D_2 \|\mathbf{f}_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda, \mathbf{a}_0) - \mathbf{f}_{\alpha,\beta}(\mu, \mathbf{a}_0)\| \neq 0$, and by choosing λ, μ and ν small with $\mathbf{b}_0 - \mathbf{a}_0$ not too nearly parallel to the tangent line of $C(\beta)$ at \mathbf{b}_0 we can also ensure that $\{\mathbf{a}_0, \mathbf{b}_0, \mathbf{c}_0\}$ is linearly independent.

We can write $K = \{\mathbf{y}: h(\mathbf{y}) \leq 1\}$ where h is a positive-homogeneous continuously differentiable convex function. Regarding points of E^4 as column matrices, for points $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{u} \neq \mathbf{o}$ define

$$F \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ u \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \|a\|^2 \\ h(a) \\ \frac{1}{2} \|b\|^2 \\ h(b) \\ \frac{1}{2} \|c\|^2 \\ h(c) \\ \frac{1}{2} \|a-b\|^2 \\ \frac{1}{2} \|b-c\|^2 \\ \frac{1}{2} \|c-a\|^2 \\ u \cdot a \\ u \cdot b \\ u \cdot c \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{so that} \quad DF \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ u \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a^T & & & & & & & & & & \\ \nabla h(a) & & & & & & & & & & \\ & b^T & & & & & & & & & \\ & \nabla h(b) & & & & & & & & & \\ & & c^T & & & & & & & & \\ & & \nabla h(c) & & & & & & & & \\ a^T - b^T & b^T - a^T & & & & & & & & & \\ & b^T - c^T & c^T - b^T & & & & & & & & \\ a^T - c^T & & c^T - a^T & & & & & & & & \\ \hline & u^T & & & & & & & & a^T & \\ & & u^T & & & & & & & b^T & \\ & & & u^T & & & & & & c^T & \end{bmatrix}$$

where ∇h is the gradient of h ; notice that if y is a boundary point of K then $\nabla h(y)$ is a nonzero multiple of the unit normal to K at y . We will show that

$$(1) \quad \text{rank } D_{abc} F \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ b_0 \\ c_0 \\ v \end{bmatrix} = 12.$$

To this end define $m(x)$ to be the orthogonal projection of $\nabla h(x)^T$ on $H(v)$, and let

$$Q' = \begin{bmatrix} a_0^T \\ m^T(a_0) \\ & b_0^T \\ & m^T(b_0) \\ & & c_0^T \\ & & m^T(c_0) \\ a_0^T - b_0^T & b_0^T - a_0^T \\ & b_0^T - c_0^T & c_0^T - b_0^T \\ a_0^T - c_0^T & & c_0^T - a_0^T \end{bmatrix}.$$

We first prove $\text{rank } Q' = 9$.

Let \mathbf{s}^* , \mathbf{t}^* , \mathbf{w}^* be unit vectors parallel to the tangent lines of $C(\alpha)$ at \mathbf{a}_0 , of $C(\beta)$ at \mathbf{b}_0 and of $C(\beta)$ at \mathbf{c}_0 respectively.

Suppose that there are points $\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{w} \in H(v)$ such that

$$Q' \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{s} \\ \mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{w} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{o} .$$

Then $\mathbf{a}_0 \cdot \mathbf{s} = 0$ and $\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{a}_0) \cdot \mathbf{s} = 0$ which ensures that \mathbf{s} is a multiple of \mathbf{s}^* . Similarly \mathbf{t} and \mathbf{w} are multiples of \mathbf{t}^* and \mathbf{w}^* respectively. By choice of \mathbf{a}_0 , \mathbf{b}_0 , and \mathbf{c}_0 we have

$$(\mathbf{a}_0 - \mathbf{b}_0) \cdot \mathbf{t}^* \neq 0, \quad (\mathbf{a}_0 - \mathbf{c}_0) \cdot \mathbf{w}^* \neq 0$$

and this ensures that the equations

$$(2) \quad (\mathbf{a}_0 - \mathbf{b}_0) \cdot (\sigma \mathbf{s}^* - \tau \mathbf{t}^*) = 0$$

$$(3) \quad (\mathbf{a}_0 - \mathbf{c}_0) \cdot (\sigma \mathbf{s}^* - \omega \mathbf{w}^*) = 0$$

have a one-dimensional space of solutions (σ, τ, ω) . We can choose numbers τ^* and ω^* such that

$$\tau^* \mathbf{t}^* = D_2 \mathbf{f}_{\alpha, \beta}(\lambda, \mathbf{a}_0)$$

$$\omega^* \mathbf{w}^* = D_2 \mathbf{f}_{\alpha, \beta}(\mu, \mathbf{a}_0) ;$$

if we take $\sigma^* = 1$ then $(\sigma^*, \tau^*, \omega^*)$ is a solution of (2) and (3) since $\|\mathbf{f}_{\alpha, \beta}(\lambda, \mathbf{a}) - \mathbf{a}\| = \lambda$ and $\|\mathbf{f}_{\alpha, \beta}(\mu, \mathbf{a}) - \mathbf{a}\| = \mu$ for \mathbf{a} on $C(\alpha)$ close to \mathbf{a}_0 . Also if χ is the projection on the 8th coordinate of \mathbf{R}^{12} we have

$$\chi Q' \begin{bmatrix} \sigma^* \mathbf{s}^* \\ \tau^* \mathbf{t}^* \\ \omega^* \mathbf{w}^* \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} D_2 \|\mathbf{f}_{\alpha, \beta}(\lambda, \mathbf{a}_0) - \mathbf{f}_{\alpha, \beta}(\mu, \mathbf{a}_0)\|^2 \neq 0 .$$

Thus

$$Q' \begin{bmatrix} \sigma \mathbf{s}^* \\ \tau \mathbf{t}^* \\ \omega \mathbf{w}^* \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{o} \text{ implies } \sigma = \tau = \omega = 0 ,$$

which shows that $\text{rank } Q' = 9$.

Suppose \mathbf{p} , \mathbf{q} , and \mathbf{r} are vectors in E^4 for which

$$(4) \quad D_{abc} F \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_0 \\ \mathbf{b}_0 \\ \mathbf{c}_0 \\ \mathbf{v} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p} \\ \mathbf{q} \\ \mathbf{r} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{o} .$$

By considering the last 3 components in (4) we find that $v \cdot p = v \cdot q = v \cdot r = 0$, so if coordinates are chosen such that v is on the x_4 axis, we have $p = (p', 0)$, $q = (q', 0)$, $r = (r', 0)$. Also the 4th, 8th and 12th columns of Q' are zero, (4) show that

$$Q' \begin{bmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \end{bmatrix} = o$$

and since $\text{rank } Q' = 9$ it follows that $p' = q' = r' = o$. Hence $p = q = r = o$ which proves (1). Now it follows from the Implicit Function theorem that in a certain neighborhood of (a_0, b_0, c_0) , for each u close to v the equation

$$F \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ u \end{bmatrix} = F \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ b_0 \\ c_0 \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

has a unique solution (a, b, c) , and a , b , and c are differentiable functions of u . Roughly, we can say that no tetrahedron close to (o, a, b, c) with o as a vertex and 3 vertices on $H(u) \cap bdK$ is congruent to (o, a, b, c) . It follows that $\Phi_{u,v}(a) = a_0$, $\Phi_{u,v}(b) = b_0$ and $\Phi_{u,v}(c) = c_0$. Thus $\Phi_{u,v}$ is a differentiable function of u near v .

LEMMA 3.4. *Some 3-dimensional central section of K has a contoured neighborhood on its relative boundary.*

Proof. Suppose the lemma is false. Since K is assumed not to be a euclidean ball, there is a point x on the boundary of K at which the unit outward normal vector n is not parallel to x . Let v be the unit vector perpendicular to x and which is coplanar with n and x having $n \cdot v > 0$. Then $\Phi_{u,v}$ is a differentiable function of u by Lemma 3.3 for u close to v . For real θ let $u = u(\theta) = -\theta x + v$, let $y = y(\theta) = \Phi_{u,v}^{-1}(x)$ and let $f = y'(0)$. We have $y(0) = x$ and $y(\theta) \cdot u(\theta) = 0$. Since $\|y(\theta)\|$ is constant we have $y \cdot y' = 0$ so $x \cdot f = 0$. Thus

$$(x + f\theta + o(\theta)) \cdot (-\theta x + v) = 0$$

whence

$$-\theta x \cdot x + x \cdot v - \theta^2 f \cdot x + \theta f \cdot v = o(\theta)$$

so that

$$-x \cdot x + f \cdot v = o(1)$$

as $\theta \rightarrow 0$. It follows that $f \cdot v = x \cdot x > 0$.

We can write $n = \alpha x + \beta v$ where $\beta = n \cdot v > 0$, and then

$$\begin{aligned} n \cdot y - n \cdot x &= n \cdot (y - x) = (\alpha x + \beta v) \cdot (\theta f + o(\theta)) \\ &= \theta \alpha x \cdot f + \theta \beta v \cdot f + o(\theta) \\ &= \theta \beta v \cdot f + o(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

which is positive for small positive θ . This is impossible since $n \cdot x \geq n \cdot z$ for all $z \in K$. We conclude that some $H(v) \cap K$ has a contoured neighborhood on its relative boundary.

LEMMA 3.5. *No 3-dimensional central section of K has a contoured neighborhood on its relative boundary. Our assumption that K is not a euclidean ball is therefore untenable.*

Proof. Suppose v is a unit vector and that $\text{relbd } H(v) \cap K$ contains a contoured neighborhood A . Define $C(\alpha) = \{x \in A: \|x\| = \alpha\}$. First consider the possibility that all of the circular arcs $C(\alpha)$ are parallel to a certain plane Λ through o in $H(v)$. Let Θ be a plane through o in $H(v)$ which intersects A and which makes a positive angle γ with Λ . Then $\Theta \cap K$ is not circular, for then A would contain a spherical region which is impossible since A is contoured. The symmetry group of $\Theta \cap K$ is therefore finite.

Suppose that $\Phi_{u,v}(\Theta) = \Theta$ for every $u \in \Theta^\perp \cap S^3$; then $\Phi_{u,v|\Theta}$ would be a continuously varying symmetry of $\Theta \cap K$, and since $\Phi_{v,v}$ is the identity we find $\Phi_{u,v|\Theta}$ is the identity for all $u \in \Theta^\perp \cap S^3$. It follows that every section of K parallel to Θ^\perp is circular with center on Θ . Hence some 3-dimensional central sections of K are bodies of revolution, contrary to Lemma 3.1.

Therefore there exists some u such that $\Phi_{u,v}(\Theta) \neq \Theta$. Choose distinct numbers α and β such that $C(\alpha)$ and $C(\beta)$ both intersect Θ . There is arc Γ of $\Theta^\perp \cap S^3$ which has v as one end, such that $\Phi_{u,v}(\Theta)$ intersects $C(\alpha)$ and $C(\beta)$ for every $u \in \Gamma$ but $\Phi_{u,v}(\Theta) \neq \Theta$ for some $u \in \Gamma$. For all $u \in \Gamma$ we have $\Phi_{u,v}(C(\alpha) \cap \Theta) = C(\alpha) \cap \Phi_{u,v}(\Theta)$ and $\Phi_{u,v}(C(\beta) \cap \Theta) = C(\beta) \cap \Phi_{u,v}(\Theta)$, so $\Phi_{u,v}(\Theta)$ makes an angle γ with Λ . Hence for every x in $\Theta \cap \text{bd} K$, the arc $\{\Phi_{u,v}(x): u \in \Gamma\}$ is a compact circular arc in $H(v) \cap \text{bd} K$, is parallel to Λ and has its center on the line l in $H(v)$ through o perpendicular to Λ . By taking various values of γ , it follows that for any plane Λ' in $H(v)$ parallel to Λ but distinct from Λ , the closed curve $\Lambda' \cap \text{bd} K$ is a union of compact circular arcs centered on l . We can express $\Lambda' \cap \text{bd} K$ as the union of a countable collection \mathcal{F} of interior-disjoint maximal compact circular arcs with centers on l . The end-points of the arcs in \mathcal{F} form a

compact countable set \mathcal{E} . If \mathcal{E} is nonempty, it follows from the Baire Category theorem that some point of \mathcal{E} is isolated; such an isolated point is a common end-point of two members of \mathcal{F} , which cannot exist. We conclude that \mathcal{E} is empty so that $A' \cap bdK$ is a circle with its center on l . It follows that $H(v) \cap K$ is a body of revolution contrary to Lemma 3.1.

We may therefore assume that not all of the arcs $C(\alpha)$ are parallel to one plane. We can then choose distinct numbers α and β and a plane A through o in $H(v)$ such that A intersects each of $C(\alpha)$ and $C(\beta)$ in two points, and $C(\alpha)$ is not in a plane parallel to the plane of $C(\beta)$. For no plane A' through o in $H(v)$ close to A are the configurations $(o, A \cap C(\alpha), A \cap C(\beta))$ and $(o, A' \cap C(\alpha), A' \cap C(\beta))$ congruent, so it follows that $\Phi_{u,v}(A) = A$ for all $u \in A^\perp \cap S^3$. Further, $A \cap K$ is not circular so $\Phi_{u,v}|_A$ is the identity for all $u \in A^\perp \cap S^3$. It follows as in the case considered above that K has 3-dimensional central sections which are bodies of revolution contrary to Lemma 3.1.

Lemma 3.5 contradicts Lemma 3.4, so we conclude that K is a euclidean ball.

We have now proved:

PROPOSITION. *If K is a centrally symmetric 4-dimensional convex body and all the 3-dimensional central sections of K are congruent, then K is a euclidean ball.*

4. Proof of the theorems.

Proof of Theorem 1. Let d denote the dimension of K , and consider first the case when $d = 4$. For $u \in S^3$ let $A(u)$ be the section of K through p which is perpendicular to the direction u . Then $A(u)$ is a complete turning of some 3-dimensional body A in E^4 , so by Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2, A is centrally symmetric. Hence $A(u)$ is centrally symmetric for each $u \in S^3$. Consider an orthogonal projection K_0 of K on a 3-flat through p . Then every 2-dimensional section of K_0 through p is a projection of a 3-dimensional section of K through p . Thus all 2-dimensional sections of K_0 through p are centrally symmetric, and it follows from a result of Rogers [6] that K_0 is centrally symmetric. Every 2-dimensional orthogonal projection of K is a projection of some 3-dimensional projection, and so is centrally symmetric. It follows from another result of Rogers [6] that K is centrally symmetric.

If p is the center of K , it follows immediately from the Proposition above that K is a euclidean ball with center p . Suppose therefore that the center of K is $a \neq p$, and consider a 3-dimensional

orthogonal projection π with $\pi(\mathbf{a}) \neq \pi(\mathbf{p})$. As we have seen above, every 2-dimensional section of $\pi(K)$ through $\pi(\mathbf{p})$ is centrally symmetric, but $\pi(\mathbf{a})$ is the center of $\pi(K)$. It follows from the False Center theorem of Aitchison, Petty and Rogers [1] that $\pi(K)$ is an ellipsoid. Since $\pi(\mathbf{a}) \neq \pi(\mathbf{p})$ for almost all projections π , by taking limits we find that every 3-dimensional projection of K is an ellipsoid, so K is an ellipsoid by the dual of a result of Busemann [2, p. 91]. The 3-dimensional central sections of K are all similar, and it is easily shown that K must therefore be a euclidean ball. Since the 3-dimensional sections of K through \mathbf{p} are all congruent, \mathbf{p} must be the center of K .

In the case $d > 4$, it follows from the 4-dimensional case considered above that every 4-dimensional section of K through \mathbf{p} is a euclidean ball with center \mathbf{p} , so K is a euclidean ball with center \mathbf{p} .

Proof of Theorem 2. We may assume that the centroid of K is \mathbf{o} . Consider an orthogonal projection K_0 of K on a 4-flat through \mathbf{o} . The 3-dimensional orthogonal projections of K_0 are all orthogonal projections of K and are therefore congruent. So the 3-dimensional orthogonal projections of K_0 give rise to a complete turning of some 3-dimensional convex body in 4 dimensions, and by Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2 they are all centrally symmetric. Hence K_0 is centrally symmetric. It follows that K is centrally symmetric with center \mathbf{o} , using a result of Rogers. Let K^* be the polar reciprocal of K about \mathbf{o} . Then all the central 3-dimensional sections of K^* are congruent so by Theorem 1, K^* is a euclidean ball with center \mathbf{o} . Hence K is a euclidean ball.

Proof of Theorem 3. First consider the case when the dimension of K is $2n + 1$. For each unit vector \mathbf{u} let $K(\mathbf{u})$ be the $2n$ -dimensional section of K through \mathbf{p} perpendicular to \mathbf{u} , and let $F(\mathbf{u})$ be the $2n$ -dimensional ellipsoid of least volume containing $K(\mathbf{u})$; the uniqueness of $F(\mathbf{u})$ was proved by Danzer, Laugwitz, and Lenz [3]. The affine transformation $\Phi_{\mathbf{u}}$ which maps $F(\mathbf{u})$ onto a $2n$ -dimensional euclidean unit ball $B(\mathbf{u})$ in the hyperplane of $F(\mathbf{u})$ by dilating its principal axes is a continuous function of \mathbf{u} . Then all $\Phi_{\mathbf{u}}K(\mathbf{u})$ for $\mathbf{u} \in S^3$ are congruent, so $\Phi_{\mathbf{u}}K(\mathbf{u})$ is a field of congruent $2n$ -dimensional bodies in E^{2n+1} . A result of Mani [5] shows that each $\Phi_{\mathbf{u}}K(\mathbf{u})$ is a euclidean ball, so $K(\mathbf{u})$ is an ellipsoid. It follows from a theorem of Busemann [2, p. 91] that K is an ellipsoid.

Now suppose the dimension of K is greater than $2n + 1$. From the case already considered it follows that every $(2n + 1)$ -dimensional section of K through \mathbf{p} is an ellipsoid, and Busemann's result then

shows that K is an ellipsoid.

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