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NEW APPLICATIONS OF EXTREMELY REGULAR FUNCTION SPACES

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Let L be an infinite locally compact Hausdorff topological space. We show that extremely regular subspaces of $C_0(L)$ have very strong diameter 2 properties and, for every real number ε with $0 < \varepsilon < 1$, contain an ε -isometric copy of c_0 . If L does not contain isolated points they even have the Daugavet property, and thus contain an asymptotically isometric copy of ℓ_1 .

1. Introduction

Throughout, let L be an infinite locally compact Hausdorff topological space, and denote as usual by $C_0(L)$ the Banach space of continuous \mathbb{K} -valued functions on L that “vanish at infinity”, where \mathbb{K} is the field of either real or complex numbers.

Definition 1.1 [Cengiz 1973a]. An *extremely regular function space* is a linear subspace \mathcal{A} of $C_0(L)$ such that for every $x_0 \in L$, every real number ε with $0 < \varepsilon < 1$, and every open neighbourhood V of x_0 , there exists an $f \in \mathcal{A}$ such that

$$\|f\| = 1 = f(x_0) > \varepsilon > \sup_{x \in L \setminus V} |f(x)|.$$

The interest in extremely regular function spaces came from their importance in Banach–Stone type theorems. An example, also due to Cengiz [1973a], is as follows: *If L_1 and L_2 are locally compact Hausdorff topological spaces such that there exists a linear isomorphism φ from an extremely regular subspace of $C_0(L_1)$ onto such a subspace of $C_0(L_2)$ with $\|\varphi\|\|\varphi^{-1}\| < 2$, then L_1 and L_2 are homeomorphic* (here $C_0(L_1)$ and $C_0(L_2)$ are complex spaces). Properties of extremely regular function spaces were studied in [Cengiz 1973b].

In this paper, we demonstrate that extremely regular function spaces play a role in a quite recent subfield of the theory of Banach spaces, namely that involving *Daugavet spaces*, *diameter 2 spaces*, and *octahedral spaces*. Let us briefly explain

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some main lines of this theory before returning to extremely regular function spaces and our results.

Let X be a Banach space and B_X its unit ball. By a *slice* of B_X we mean a set of the form $S(x^*, \varepsilon) := \{x \in B_X : \operatorname{Re} x^*(x) > 1 - \varepsilon\}$, where x^* is in the unit sphere S_{X^*} of X^* and $\varepsilon > 0$. A *finite convex combination of slices* of B_X is a set S of the form $S = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i S(x_i^*, \varepsilon_i)$ where $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\lambda_i > 0$, $\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = 1$, $x_i^* \in S_{X^*}$, and $\varepsilon_i > 0$.

Definition 1.2. A Banach space X has the *strong diameter 2 property* (SD2P) if every finite convex combination of slices of B_X has diameter 2.

A lemma by Bourgain [Ghoussoub et al. 1987, page 26, Lemma II.1] (and independently rediscovered by Shvydkoy [2000]) says that *every nonempty relatively weakly open subset of B_X contains a finite convex combination of slices*. Thus the SD2P implies that every nonempty relatively weakly open subset of B_X has diameter 2, which in turn implies that every slice of B_X has diameter 2. None of these implications is reversible ([Becerra Guerrero et al. 2015; Haller and Langemets 2014]).

It is an important observation of Deville and Godefroy from the late 1980s, stated without proof in [Godefroy 1989], that X having SD2P is equivalent to X^* being *octahedral*. A Banach space Z is *octahedral* if, for every finite-dimensional subspace F of Z and every $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a $y \in S_Z$ such that

$$\|x + ty\| \geq (1 - \varepsilon)(\|x\| + |t|) \quad \text{for every } x \in F \text{ and every } t \in \mathbb{K}.$$

A complete proof of this equivalence can be found in [Becerra Guerrero et al. 2014, Corollary 2.2] (the proof is carried out for the real case, but it is not too hard to see that the result holds also in the complex case). More on the history of the equivalence can be found in [Abrahamsen et al. 2017, Remark 1.4].

Definition 1.3. A Banach space X

- (1) is *almost square* (ASQ) if whenever $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $x_1, \dots, x_n \in S_X$, there exists a sequence (y_k) in B_X such that $\|x_i \pm y_k\| \xrightarrow[k \rightarrow \infty]{} 1$ for every $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $\|y_k\| \xrightarrow[k \rightarrow \infty]{} 1$.
- (2) has the *symmetric strong diameter 2 property* (SSD2P) if whenever $n \in \mathbb{N}$, S_1, \dots, S_n are slices of B_X , and $\varepsilon > 0$, there exist $x_i \in S_i$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, and $y \in B_X$ such that $x_i \pm y \in S_i$ for every $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $\|y\| > 1 - \varepsilon$.

ASQ Banach spaces were studied in [Abrahamsen et al. 2016]. The SSD2P has not been fully explored yet, but can be found in [Abrahamsen et al. 2013, Lemma 4.1], where it is observed that the SD2P is implied by the SSD2P. In turn, it is not too hard to show that ASQ Banach spaces have the SSD2P. On the other hand, the space $L_1[0, 1]$ has the SD2P, but not the SSD2P (see [Haller et al. 2018, Remark 3.3]), and the space $C[0, 1]$ has the SSD2P, but is not ASQ.

The ASQ property of a Banach space, and also the SSD2P, are rather strong. The widest class of spaces known to be ASQ are nonreflexive M -embedded spaces [Abrahamsen et al. 2016, Corollary 4.3]. Also, $c_0(X)$ is ASQ for any Banach space X . The widest class of spaces known to have the SSD2P are uniform algebras [Abrahamsen et al. 2013, Theorem 4.2]. Also, $\ell_\infty(X)$ has the SSD2P for any Banach space X (see [Haller et al. 2018, Proposition 3.4]).

Let us also relate the *Daugavet property* to the diameter 2 properties. Recall that a bounded linear operator T on a Banach space X is said to satisfy the *Daugavet equation* if $\|I + T\| = 1 + \|T\|$. Daugavet [1963] discovered that every compact operator on $C[0, 1]$ satisfies this equation, thus initiating a very important topic in the theory of Banach spaces. Lozanovskii [1966] obtained the analogous result for $L_1[0, 1]$.

Definition 1.4. A Banach space X has the *Daugavet property* if every rank 1 operator on X satisfies the Daugavet equation.

Note that if a Banach space X has the Daugavet property, then, in fact, every weakly compact operator on X satisfies the Daugavet equation (see, e.g., [Kadets et al. 2000, Theorem 2.3] or [Werner 2001, Theorem 2.7]).

Towards the end of the 1990s, the Daugavet property was described in geometrical terms (see [Kadets et al. 2000, Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2; Shvydkoy 2000, Lemmas 2 and 3; Werner 2001, Lemmas 2.2–2.4]). Spaces with the Daugavet property have the SD2P [Abrahamsen et al. 2013, Theorem 4.4] and are octahedral [Becerra Guerrero et al. 2014, Corollary 2.5].

Finally, we can announce our main results: *An extremely regular subspace of $C_0(L)$*

- has the SSD2P (Theorem 2.2);
- is ASQ whenever L is noncompact (Theorem 2.5);
- has the Daugavet property whenever L does not contain isolated points (Theorem 2.6);
- contains an ε -isometric copy of c_0 whenever $0 < \varepsilon < 1$ (Theorem 3.1).

In fact, we prove these results for a wider class of subspaces of $C_0(L)$ than extremely regular ones, that we call *somewhat regular* subspaces (see Definition 2.1). Throughout the paper, it should not cause any confusion to denote, for a functional $\mu \in C_0(L)^*$, its representing (regular) Borel measure also by μ .

2. Diameter 2 properties for subspaces of $C_0(L)$

Definition 2.1. We call a linear subspace \mathcal{A} of $C_0(L)$ *somewhat regular*, if, whenever V is a nonempty open subset of L and $0 < \varepsilon < 1$, there is an $f \in \mathcal{A}$ such that

$$(2-1) \quad \|f\| = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad |f(x)| \leq \varepsilon \quad \text{for every } x \in L \setminus V.$$

Notice that, in this case, $|f(x_0)| = 1$ for some $x_0 \in V$, thus one may choose an $f \in \mathcal{A}$ satisfying (2-1) so that $f(x_0) = 1$ for some $x_0 \in V$.

It is clear that extremely regular subspaces of $C_0(L)$ are somewhat regular. On the other hand, whenever x_1 and x_2 are different accumulation points of L , the subspace $\{f \in C_0(L) : f(x_1) = 2f(x_2)\}$ of $C_0(L)$ is somewhat regular by courtesy of Urysohn's lemma, but fails to be extremely regular. Thus the class of somewhat regular subspaces of $C_0(L)$ is strictly larger than that of extremely regular ones.

Theorem 2.2. *Somewhat regular linear subspaces of $C_0(L)$ have the SSD2P.*

Theorem 2.2 is a corollary of the following lemma.

Lemma 2.3. *Let \mathcal{A} be a somewhat regular linear subspace of $C_0(L)$, and let $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$, $f_1, \dots, f_n \in B_{\mathcal{A}}$, $\mu_1, \dots, \mu_m \in B_{C_0(L)^*}$, and $\varepsilon > 0$. Then there are $g_1, \dots, g_n, \phi \in B_{\mathcal{A}}$ such that, for every $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$,*

- (1) $|\mu_i(f_j - g_j)| < \varepsilon$ for every $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$;
- (2) $|\mu_i(\phi)| < \varepsilon$ for every $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$;
- (3) $\|\phi\| > 1 - \varepsilon$;
- (4) $\|g_j \pm \phi\| \leq 1$.

When dealing with subspaces of $C_0(L)$, the main challenge is often to find a substitute for Urysohn's lemma (see, e.g., [Cascales et al. 2013, Section 2]). The following lemma — which the proofs of both Lemma 2.3 and Theorem 2.6 rely on — is a “Urysohn's lemma” for somewhat regular subspaces of $C_0(L)$. The lemma is inspired by [Nygaard and Werner 2001, proof of Theorem 1].

Lemma 2.4 (cf. [Nygaard and Werner 2001, proof of Theorem 1]). *Let \mathcal{A} be a somewhat regular linear subspace of $C_0(L)$, let V be a nonempty open subset of L , and let $0 < \varepsilon < 1$. Then there are an $x_0 \in V$ and an $f \in \mathcal{A}$ such that*

- (1) $f(x_0) = 1 \leq \|f\| \leq 1 + \varepsilon$;
- (2) $|1 - f(x)| \leq 1 + \varepsilon$ for every $x \in V$;
- (3) $|f(x)| \leq \varepsilon$ for every $x \in L \setminus V$.

Proof. Let $0 < \delta < 1$ and let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ satisfy $2/n < \delta$. Putting $V_0 := V$, by courtesy of the somewhat regularity of \mathcal{A} , one can recursively find points $x_1, \dots, x_n \in V$, functions $g_1, \dots, g_n \in \mathcal{A}$, and nonvoid open subsets $V_0 \supset V_1 \supset \dots \supset V_n$ such that, for every $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$,

$$x_j \in V_{j-1}, \quad g_j(x_j) = \|g_j\| = 1, \quad |g_j(x)| \leq \delta \text{ for every } x \in L \setminus V_{j-1},$$

and $V_j = \{x \in V_{j-1} : |g_j(x) - 1| < \delta\}$; thus, in fact, $x_j \in V_j$. Defining $x_0 := x_n$ and

$$g := \frac{g_1 + \dots + g_n}{n},$$

one has $\|g\| \leq 1$, $|g(x)| \leq \delta$ for every $x \in L \setminus V$, and

$$|1 - g(x)| \leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n |1 - g_j(x)| \quad \text{for every } x \in L.$$

Now let $x \in V$. Put $k := \max\{j \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\} : x \in V_j\}$. For $1 \leq j \leq k$, one has $|1 - g_j(x)| < \delta$; $\delta \leq |1 - g_{k+1}(x)| \leq 2$; and, for $k + 2 \leq j \leq n$, one has $|g_j(x)| \leq \delta$ and hence $|1 - g_j(x)| \leq 1 + \delta$. Thus

$$|1 - g(x)| \leq \frac{(n - 1)(1 + \delta) + 2}{n} < 1 + \delta + \frac{2}{n} < 1 + 2\delta.$$

Since $x_0 = x_n \in V_n$, one has $|g_j(x_0) - 1| < \delta$ for every $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ and thus $|g(x_0) - 1| < \delta$. Defining $f := (1/g(x_0))g$, it remains to observe that, taking, from the very beginning, δ to be “small enough”, the conditions (1)–(3) hold, because, since $|g(x_0)| > 1 - \delta$,

$$1 = f(x_0) \leq \|f\| = \frac{\|g\|}{|g(x_0)|} < \frac{1}{1 - \delta},$$

for every $x \in V$,

$$|1 - f(x)| = \frac{|g(x_0) - g(x)|}{|g(x_0)|} < \frac{|g(x_0) - 1| + |1 - g(x)|}{1 - \delta} < \frac{1 + 3\delta}{1 - \delta},$$

and, for every $x \in L \setminus V$,

$$|f(x)| = \frac{|g(x)|}{|g(x_0)|} < \frac{\delta}{1 - \delta}. \quad \square$$

Proof of Lemma 2.3. Let $0 < \delta < 1/2$. Since L is infinite, there is a point $y \in L$ such that $\max_{1 \leq i \leq m} |\mu_i|(\{y\}) < \delta$; hence, by the regularity of μ_1, \dots, μ_m and the continuity of f_1, \dots, f_n , there is a nonempty open subset V of L such that

$$\max_{1 \leq i \leq m} |\mu_i|(V) < \delta \quad \text{and} \quad \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \sup_{x, z \in V} |f_j(x) - f_j(z)| < \delta.$$

Since, by our assumption, \mathcal{A} is somewhat regular, there are $x_0 \in V$ and $f \in \mathcal{A}$ satisfying the conditions (1)–(3) of Lemma 2.4 with ε replaced by δ . For every $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, defining $\alpha_j := f_j(x_0)$ and $h_j := f_j - \alpha_j f \in \mathcal{A}$, one has $h_j(x_0) = 0$ and $\|h_j\| \leq 1 + 2\delta$, because

$$|h_j(x)| \leq \begin{cases} |f_j(x) - \alpha_j| + |\alpha_j| |1 - f(x)| \leq 1 + 2\delta & \text{if } x \in V; \\ |f_j(x)| + |\alpha_j| |f(x)| \leq 1 + \delta & \text{if } x \in L \setminus V. \end{cases}$$

For every $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, defining $g_j := (1 - 2\delta)h_j$, one has $\|g_j\| \leq 1 - 4\delta^2$ and, for every $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$, since

$$|\mu_i(f)| \leq \int_{L \setminus V} |f| d|\mu_i| + \int_V |f| d|\mu_i| \leq \delta |\mu_i|(L \setminus V) + 2|\mu_i|(V) < 3\delta,$$

one also has

$$|\mu_i(f_j - g_j)| \leq 2\delta|\mu_i(f_j)| + (1 - 2\delta)|\alpha_j| |\mu_i(f)| < 5\delta.$$

Choose an open neighbourhood $U \subset V$ of x_0 such that

$$\max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \sup_{x \in U} |g_j(x)| \leq \delta.$$

Since \mathcal{A} is somewhat regular, there is a $\psi \in \mathcal{A}$ such that

$$\|\psi\| = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad |\psi(x)| \leq 4\delta^2 \quad \text{for every } x \in L \setminus U.$$

Put $\phi := (1 - \delta)\psi$. Then, for every $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$, one has $\|g_j \pm \phi\| \leq 1$, i.e., the condition (4) holds, and, for every $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$,

$$|\mu_i(\phi)| \leq \int_{L \setminus V} |\phi| d|\mu_i| + \int_V |\phi| d|\mu_i| \leq 4\delta^2 |\mu_i|(L \setminus V) + |\mu_i|(V) < 5\delta.$$

Thus, one observes that taking, from the very beginning, δ to be “small enough”, the conditions (1)–(3) also hold. □

If the space L is noncompact, a stronger statement than that of Theorem 2.2 is true.

Theorem 2.5. *Assume that L is noncompact. Then every somewhat regular linear subspace of $C_0(L)$ is ASQ.*

Proof. Let \mathcal{A} be a somewhat regular linear subspace of $C_0(L)$, and let $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $f_1, \dots, f_n \in S_{\mathcal{A}}$, and $\varepsilon > 0$. It suffices to find an $f \in \mathcal{A}$ such that $\|f\| = 1$ and

$$(2-2) \quad \|f_j \pm f\| \leq 1 + \varepsilon \quad \text{for every } j \in \{1, \dots, n\}.$$

To this end, observe that the sets $K_j := \{x \in L : |f_j(x)| \geq \varepsilon\}$, $j = 1, \dots, n$, are compact; thus also their union $K := \bigcup_{j=1}^n K_j$ is compact, and its complement $V := L \setminus K$ is nonempty and open. By the somewhat regularity of \mathcal{A} , there is an $f \in \mathcal{A}$ satisfying (2-1). This f also satisfies (2-2). □

Our next result produces examples of spaces with the Daugavet property.

Theorem 2.6. *Assume that L does not contain isolated points. Then every somewhat regular linear subspace of $C_0(L)$ has the Daugavet property.*

Proof. Let \mathcal{A} be a somewhat regular linear subspace of $C_0(L)$, let $g \in S_{\mathcal{A}}$, let $\mu \in S_{C_0(L)^*}$ be such that $\|\mu|_{\mathcal{A}}\| = 1$, and let $\alpha, \varepsilon > 0$. In order for \mathcal{A} to have the Daugavet property, by [Werner 2001, Lemma 2.2] (or [Kadets et al. 2000, Lemma 2.2]), it suffices to find a $\psi \in S_{\mathcal{A}}$ satisfying

$$(2-3) \quad \operatorname{Re} \mu(\psi) > 1 - \alpha \quad \text{and} \quad \|g + \psi\| > 2 - \varepsilon.$$

To this end, let $\delta \in (0, 1/3)$, let $\phi \in S_{\mathcal{A}}$ be such that $\operatorname{Re} \mu(\phi) > 1 - \delta$, let $y_0 \in L$

be such that $|g(y_0)| = 1$, and let an open neighbourhood U of y_0 be such that

$$|g(x) - g(y_0)| < \delta \quad \text{and} \quad |\phi(x) - \phi(y_0)| < \delta \quad \text{for all } x \in U.$$

Since y_0 is not an isolated point, the set U is infinite; thus there is a point $z_0 \in U$ such that $|\mu|(\{z_0\}) < \delta$. By the regularity of μ , there is an open neighbourhood V of z_0 such that $|\mu|(V) < \delta$. One may assume that $V \subset U$ and thus

$$|\phi(x) - \phi(z)| < 2\delta \quad \text{for all } x, z \in V.$$

Since \mathcal{A} is somewhat regular, there are $x_0 \in V$ and $f \in \mathcal{A}$ satisfying the conditions (1)–(3) of Lemma 2.4 with ε replaced by δ . Put $h := \phi - \phi(x_0)f$; then $h(x_0) = 0$ and $\|h\| \leq 1 + 3\delta$ (this can be shown as in the proof of Theorem 2.2 for h_j); indeed,

$$|h(x)| \leq \begin{cases} |\phi(x) - \phi(x_0)| + |\phi(x_0)| |1 - f(x)| \leq 1 + 3\delta & \text{if } x \in V; \\ |\phi(x)| + |\phi(x_0)| |f(x)| \leq 1 + \delta & \text{if } x \in L \setminus V. \end{cases}$$

Since $h(x_0) = 0$, there is an open neighbourhood W of x_0 such that

$$|h(x)| < \delta \quad \text{for all } x \in W.$$

One may assume that $W \subset V$. Since \mathcal{A} is somewhat regular, there are $w_0 \in W$ and $\hat{f} \in \mathcal{A}$ such that

$$\hat{f}(w_0) = \|\hat{f}\| = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad |\hat{f}(x)| \leq \delta \quad \text{for every } x \in L \setminus W.$$

Putting $\hat{\psi} := h + g(w_0)\hat{f}$, one has $\|\hat{\psi}\| \leq 1 + 4\delta$, because

$$|\hat{\psi}(x)| \leq |h(x)| + |\hat{f}(x)| \leq \begin{cases} \delta + 1 & \text{if } x \in W; \\ (1 + 3\delta) + \delta = 1 + 4\delta & \text{if } x \in L \setminus W. \end{cases}$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{\psi} + g\| &\geq |\hat{\psi}(w_0) + g(w_0)| \geq 2|g(w_0)| - |h(w_0)| \\ &\geq 2|g(y_0)| - 2|g(y_0) - g(w_0)| - |h(w_0)| \\ &> 2 - 2\delta - \delta = 2 - 3\delta, \end{aligned}$$

one has $\|\hat{\psi}\| > 1 - 3\delta$; thus, for $\psi := \hat{\psi}/\|\hat{\psi}\|$, one has

$$\|\hat{\psi} - \psi\| = \left| 1 - \frac{1}{\|\hat{\psi}\|} \right| \|\hat{\psi}\| = \left| \|\hat{\psi}\| - 1 \right| \leq 4\delta,$$

and hence

$$\|g + \psi\| \geq \|g + \hat{\psi}\| - \|\hat{\psi} - \psi\| > 2 - 3\delta - 4\delta = 2 - 7\delta.$$

One has

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \mu(\hat{\psi}) &= \operatorname{Re} \mu(h) + \operatorname{Re} g(w_0)\mu(\hat{f}) = \operatorname{Re} \mu(\phi) - \operatorname{Re} \phi(x_0)\mu(f) + \operatorname{Re} g(w_0)\mu(\hat{f}) \\ &> 1 - \delta - |\mu(f)| - |\mu(\hat{f})|. \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} |\mu(f)| &\leq \left| \int_L f \, d\mu \right| \leq \int_L |f| \, d|\mu| = \int_V |f| \, d|\mu| + \int_{L \setminus V} |f| \, d|\mu| \\ &\leq (1 + \delta)|\mu|(V) + \delta|\mu|(L \setminus V) < (1 + \delta)\delta + \delta = (2 + \delta)\delta < 3\delta, \end{aligned}$$

and, similarly, $|\mu(\hat{f})| < 2\delta$, it follows that $\operatorname{Re} \mu(\hat{\psi}) > 1 - 6\delta$, and thus

$$\operatorname{Re} \mu(\psi) = \frac{\operatorname{Re} \mu(\hat{\psi})}{\|\hat{\psi}\|} \geq \frac{\operatorname{Re} \mu(\hat{\psi})}{1 + 4\delta} > \frac{1 - 6\delta}{1 + 4\delta}.$$

Hence one observes that, choosing, from the very beginning, δ to be “small enough”, the function ψ meets the conditions (2-3). □

3. Containment of c_0 and ℓ_1

Let X and Y be normed spaces, and let $0 < \varepsilon < 1$. Recall that a linear surjection $T : X \rightarrow Y$ is called an ε -isometry if

$$(1 - \varepsilon)\|x\| \leq \|Tx\| \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|x\| \quad \text{for every } x \in X.$$

It is well known that $C_0(L)$ contains isometric copies of c_0 (see, e.g., [Albiac and Kalton 2006, Proposition 4.3.11]), and the same is true for many of its subspaces. For the somewhat regular linear subspaces of $C_0(L)$ we have the following theorem.

Theorem 3.1. *Let \mathcal{A} be a somewhat regular closed linear subspace of $C_0(L)$. Then, whenever $0 < \varepsilon < 1$, there is an ε -isometry from c_0 onto a closed linear subspace of \mathcal{A} .*

Proof. Let $0 < \varepsilon < 1$. Choose pairwise disjoint nonvoid open subsets U_j , $j \in \mathbb{N}$, of L . Since \mathcal{A} is somewhat regular, for every $j \in \mathbb{N}$, there are an $x_j \in U_j$ and an $f_j \in \mathcal{A}$ such that

$$f_j(x_j) = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad |f_j(x)| \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2^j} \quad \text{for every } x \in L \setminus U_j.$$

Denoting by c_{00} the linear subspace of finitely supported sequences in c_0 , let $S_0 : c_{00} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ be the linear operator satisfying $S_0 e_j = f_j$ for every $j \in \mathbb{N}$ where e_j are the standard unit vectors in c_0 . Observing that, whenever $a = \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j e_j \in S_{c_{00}}$ and $x \in L$, one has

$$|(S_0 a)(x)| = \left| \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j f_j(x) \right| \leq \sum_{j=1}^n |f_j(x)| \leq 1 + \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\varepsilon}{2^j} < 1 + \varepsilon$$

(because $|f_j(x)| \leq \varepsilon/2^j$ whenever $x \notin U_j$, and there is at most one $j \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $x \in U_j$ (in which case $|f_j(x)| \leq 1$)), thus S_0 is bounded and $\|S_0\| \leq 1 + \varepsilon$. Letting $S : c_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ be the bounded linear extension of S_0 , one has $\|S\| \leq 1 + \varepsilon$ as well,

and it remains to observe that, whenever $a = (\alpha_j)_{j=1}^\infty \in c_0$, picking $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $|\alpha_k| = \|a\|$, one has

$$\begin{aligned} \|Sa\| &= \left\| \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \alpha_j f_j \right\| \geq \left| \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \alpha_j f_j(x_k) \right| \geq |\alpha_k| |f_k(x_k)| - \sum_{j=1; j \neq k}^{\infty} |\alpha_j| |f_j(x_k)| \\ &\geq \|a\| - \|a\| \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{\varepsilon}{2^j} = (1 - \varepsilon) \|a\|, \end{aligned}$$

because, for $j \neq k$, one has $x_k \notin V_j$ and thus $|f_j(x_k)| \leq \varepsilon$. \square

It is natural to ask about containment of ℓ_1 in somewhat regular linear subspaces of $C_0(L)$. If L does not contain isolated points, we have from Theorem 2.6 and [Kadets et al. 2000, Theorem 2.9] that all somewhat regular linear subspaces of $C_0(L)$ contain ℓ_1 (even asymptotically isometric copies of ℓ_1). But, if L contains isolated points, the picture is not so clear. In this case there might be somewhat regular subspaces of $C_0(L)$ which contain ℓ_1 and other such subspaces which do not. For an example, take $C(\beta\mathbb{N})$ and its subspaces $X = \{f \in C(\beta\mathbb{N}) : f(x) = 0 \text{ for every } x \in \beta\mathbb{N} \setminus \mathbb{N}\}$ and $Y = \{f \in C(\beta\mathbb{N}) : f(y) = 0\}$ where $y \in \beta\mathbb{N} \setminus \mathbb{N}$ is a fixed element. It is straightforward to show that both these subspaces are somewhat regular. Moreover, X is isometrically isomorphic to c_0 and Y is isomorphic to $C(\beta\mathbb{N})$.

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
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Volume 301 No. 2 August 2019

New applications of extremely regular function spaces	385
TROND A. ABRAHAMSEN, OLAV NYGAARD and MÄRT PÖLDVERE	
Regularity and upper semicontinuity of pullback attractors for a class of nonautonomous thermoelastic plate systems	395
FLANK D. M. BEZERRA, VERA L. CARBONE, MARCELO J. D. NASCIMENTO and KARINA SCHIABEL	
Variations of projectivity for C^* -algebras	421
DON HADWIN and TATIANA SHULMAN	
Lower semicontinuity of the ADM mass in dimensions two through seven	441
JEFFREY L. JAUREGUI	
Boundary regularity for asymptotically hyperbolic metrics with smooth Weyl curvature	467
XIAOSHANG JIN	
Geometric transitions and SYZ mirror symmetry	489
ATSUSHI KANAZAWA and SIU-CHEONG LAU	
Self-dual Einstein ACH metrics and CR GJMS operators in dimension three	519
TAIJI MARUGAME	
Double graph complex and characteristic classes of fibrations	547
TAKAHIRO MATSUYUKI	
Integration of modules I: stability	575
DMITRIY RUMYNIN and MATTHEW WESTAWAY	
Uniform bounds of the Piltz divisor problem over number fields	601
WATARU TAKEDA	
Explicit Whittaker data for essentially tame supercuspidal representations	617
GEO KAM-FAI TAM	
K-theory of affine actions	639
JAMES WALDRON	
Optimal decay estimate of strong solutions for the 3D incompressible Oldroyd-B model without damping	667
RENHUI WAN	
Triangulated categories with cluster tilting subcategories	703
WUZHONG YANG, PANYUE ZHOU and BIN ZHU	
Free Rota–Baxter family algebras and (tri)dendriform family algebras	741
YUANYUAN ZHANG and XING GAO	



0030-8730(201908)301:2;1-G