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## On equidistant sets in normed linear spaces

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In this note some results concerning the equidistant set E(-x, x) and the kernel  $M^{\theta}$  of the metric projection  $P_M$ , where M is a Chebyshev subspace of a normed linear space X, have been obtained. In particular, when  $X = t^p$  (1 , it has been proved that every equidistant set is closed in the*bw* $-topology of the space. In <math>c_0$  no equidistant set has this property.

## 0. Introduction

Let X be a real normed linear space. For any two distinct points xand y of X, let E(x, y) denote the equidistant set from x and y; that is, the set of points p in X for which ||p-x|| = ||p-y||. Such sets were introduced by Kallsch and Straus in [6] in connection with their study of "determining" sets in Banach spaces. In an inner-product space every set E(x, y) is a closed hyperplane, but in general it may not be even weakly closed. Not much is known about spaces other than inner-product and finite dimensional spaces in which sets E(x, y) are weakly or weakly sequentially closed. The purpose of this paper is to make an attempt in that direction.

In the first section we shall study a few geometrical and topological properties of the set E(x, y). For example, in Theorem 1.2 we prove that, if E(x, y) is convex, then it is a hyperplane and as a consequence,

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the convexity of all sets E(x, y) implies that the space X is an innerproduct space. The connection between the structural properties of the set E(-x, x) and those of the kernel  $M^{\Theta}$  of the metric projection  $P_M$  where M is the linear span of the point x, is then exhibited in Theorem 1.4 and Lemma 1.5. These results are closely related to the recent works of Holmes and Kripke [4], Kottman and Lin [8], and Holmes [3].

In the second section of this paper we show that  $l^p$  spaces (1 have the property that all sets <math>E(x, y) are closed in the bounded weak topology. Thus these spaces satisfy the  $P_2$ -property (see Klee [7], p. 298). In contrast to  $l^p$ -spaces, we find that in  $c_0$ , E(x, y) is not even weakly sequentially closed for any x and  $y \in c_0$ .

1. Some properties of the equidistant set E(-x, x)

We begin by recalling some notations and definitions. Let X be a normed linear space over the real numbers R, with  $\theta$  as its zero element. Let  $x \in X$  and  $K \subseteq X$ . A point  $y \in K$  is called a *nearest point* of x in K, if  $||x-y|| \leq ||x-z||$  for every  $z \in K$ . A set  $K \subseteq X$  is said to be *proximal* (respectively, *Chebyshev*) if for each point  $x \in X$ , there exists a (respectively, *a unique*) nearest point of x in K. Let M be a Chebyshev linear subspace of X. The metric projection supported by M will be denoted by  $P_M$ . It is known [3, p. 160] that  $P_M$  induces a direct sum decomposition of X. Namely, every  $x \in X$  can be written uniquely as x = m + y where  $m \in M$  and  $y \in M^{\theta}$ , where  $M^{\theta} = \{x \in X : P_M(x) = \theta\}$ .  $M^{\theta}$  is called the kernel of  $P_M$ .

For  $x \neq \theta$  in X, let E(-x, x) denote the *equidistant set* from x and -x; that is, the set of points  $y \in X$  such that ||y-x|| = ||y+x||. Observe that each equidistant set is closed. If x and  $y \in X$  and ||x-y|| = ||x+y|| we say that x is *orthogonal* to y and write  $x \perp y$ . Thus E(-x, x) is then the set of all vectors in X which are orthogonal to x. This concept of orthogonality is named the isosceles orthogonality and has been studied by James in [5]. We shall need the following result from [5]. For each pair of linearly independent vectors x and y in

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X, there exists a number  $t \in R$  such that  $tx + y \perp x$ . By a *cone* in X, we shall mean a set K such that  $x \in K \Rightarrow tx \in K$ , for every non-negative number t. With these preliminaries we pass on to the study of some geometrical and topological properties of the set E(-x, x).

LEMMA 1.1. Let x be any point of a two dimensional normed linear space X. If E(-x, x) is convex then it must be a line through the origin.

Proof. Let E(-x, x) be convex and  $z \neq 0 \in E(-x, x)$ . By the result of James for isosceles orthogonality such a point z exists. We shall show that E(-x, x) = [z], the one-dimensional subspace spanned by z. First, since E(-x, x) is symmetric about the origin, the convexity implies that  $\{tz : |t| \leq 1\} \subset E(-x, x)$ . If  $y \in E(-x, x)$  is linearly independent from z, then either y and z or -y and z are separated by the line [x]. Since  $y \in E(-x, x)$  implies  $-y \in E(-x, x)$ , we assume that the former holds. Then the line segment joining y and z is contained in E(-x, x); but since this line intersects [x] at a point other than the origin it cannot be a point of E(-x, x). Hence there is a contradiction.

Now we show that E(-x, x) is unbounded. Let  $z \in E(-x, x)$  and  $\lambda > 1$  be arbitrary. Then again by James' result there exists a t in Rsuch that  $\lambda z + tx \in E(-x, x)$ . This implies that z and  $\lambda z + tx$  must be linearly dependent. This is possible only if t = 0. Hence the result is proved.

THEOREM 1.2. Let  $x \neq \theta$  be any point of a normed linear space X. If E(-x, x) is convex then it must be a proximal subspace of codimension one.

Proof. Let E(-x, x) be convex and z be any point of X outside [x]. Then  $E(-x, x) \cap [x, z]$  is convex and by Lemma 1.1, it must be a line. Thus if  $z \in E(-x, x)$ , then  $[z] \subset E(-x, x)$ . Consequently, E(-x, x) is a convex cone symmetric about the origin. Hence it is a subspace. Now let  $u \in X$ . Then either  $u = \lambda x$  or, by James' result,  $u + \lambda x = z \in E(-x, x)$  for some  $\lambda$ . Thus E(-x, x) and x together span X. Therefore E(-x, x) is of codimension 1. Since every equidistant set is closed it follows that E(-x, x) is a closed subspace.

Now let  $h \in E(-x, x)$ . Then ||x-h|| = ||x+h|| and hence  $\theta$  is a

nearest point of x in E(-x, x). If  $\alpha \in R$ , then

$$\|\alpha x - h\| = |\alpha| \|x - \alpha^{-1}h\| = |\alpha| \|x + \alpha^{-1}h\| = \|\alpha x + h\|$$

for all h in E(-x, x) and hence  $\theta$  is also a nearest point in E(-x, x) to  $\alpha x$ . As any  $w \in X$  has a representation  $w = \alpha x + h$ , where  $h \in E(-x, x)$ , we have

 $||w-h|| = ||\alpha x|| \le ||\alpha x-z||$ ,  $z \in E(-x, x)$ ,

which implies

 $\|w-h\| \leq \|w-z-h\|$ ,  $z \in E(-x, x)$ .

But E(-x, x) being a subspace,  $z + h \in E(-x, x)$  and hence  $||w-h|| \le ||w-v||$  for every v in E(-x, x). Thus every w in X has a nearest point in E(-x, x).

As a consequence of the above theorem we have, under weaker assumptions, the following characterization of inner-product spaces [1, Theorem 5.4].

COROLLARY 1.3. Let X be a normed linear space. If E(-x, x) is convex for each  $x \in X$ , then X must be an inner-product space.

Proof. Immediate from the above theorem and Day's result.

In the sequel,  $M^{\theta}$  denotes the kernel of the metric projection  $P_M$ , where M is a Chebyshev subspace. We then have the following theorem.

THEOREM 1.4. Let M be the one dimensional span [x] of x in a normed linear space X. Let M be Chebyshev. Then the following hold:

$$(1^{\circ}) \qquad \qquad M^{\theta} \subset E(-x, x) \Rightarrow M^{\theta} = E(-x, x) ;$$

(2°) 
$$E(-x, x)$$
 is a cone  $\Rightarrow M^{\Theta} = E(-x, x)$ .

We need the following result in its proof.

LEMMA 1.5 [8, Lemma 1]. If  $x \in X$  and M = [x] is Chebyshev, then  $P_M(E(-x, x)) \subset \{tx : -1 \le t \le 1\}.$ 

Proof of Theorem 1.4 (1°). If  $u \in E(-x, x)$  then  $P_M(u) = \alpha x$  with  $|\alpha| \le 1$ . Since ||u-x|| = ||u+x|| and u has a unique nearest point in

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[x],  $|\alpha| \neq 1$ . We can write  $u = u_{\theta} + \alpha x$  where  $u_{\theta} \in M^{\theta}$  and, since  $\lambda u_{\theta} \in M^{\theta} \subset E(-x, x)$  for all  $\lambda \in R$ , we have  $u_{\theta} \perp \mu x$  for all  $\mu \in R$ ; that is,

$$||u_{\rho} - \mu x|| = ||u_{\rho} + \mu x||$$
,  $\mu \in R$ .

In particular, with  $\mu = 1 - \alpha$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|u+(1-2\alpha)x\| &= \|u_{\theta}+\alpha x+(\mu-\alpha)x\| &= \|u_{\theta}+\mu x\| \\ &= \|u_{\theta}-\mu x\| &= \|u-x\| &= \|u+x\| &= r , \text{ (say)} \end{aligned}$$

So the sphere centred at u and radius r meets M in at least three points: -x, +x, and  $(-1+2\alpha)x$ , which is impossible unless  $1 - 2\alpha = \pm 1$ . Thus  $\alpha = 0$  or  $\alpha = +1$  and the latter, we saw above, is also impossible. Therefore  $\alpha = 0$  and  $u \in M^{\theta}$ .

(2°). Let  $u \in M^{\theta}$ . Then there exists a number t such that  $u - tx \in E(-x, x)$ . Since  $P_M(E(-x, x)) \subset \{ax : |a| \leq 1\}$ , we have  $|t| \leq 1$ . Because E(-x, x) is a cone,  $u - tx \in E(-x, x)$  implies  $\lambda u - \lambda tx \in E(-x, x)$  for arbitrary  $\lambda$  in R. But  $\lambda u \in M^{\theta}$ ,  $\forall \lambda \in R$ , and hence we must have  $|\lambda t| \leq 1$ . This is possible only when t = 0. Hence  $M^{\theta} \subset E(-x, x)$  and, by (1°) above,  $M^{\theta} = E(-x, x)$ .

However,  $M^{\theta}$  is a subspace does not imply that E(-x, x) is also a subspace. In fact Kottman and Lin [8] have given an example where  $M^{\theta}$  is a closed hyperplane, but E(-x, x) is not even weakly sequentially closed.

In the following we see the relation between  $M^{\theta}$  and E(-x, x) as regards weak topology, where M = [x] is given to be Chebyshev. We give a simple proof of a result in [8].

THEOREM 1.6. Let M = [x] be a Chebyshev subspace of a normed linear space X. Then  $M^{\theta}$  is weakly (bounded weakly, or weakly sequentially) closed if E(-x, x) is weakly (bounded weakly, or weakly sequentially) closed.

**Proof.** We consider the case when E(-x, x) is weakly closed, the

other cases being similar. Let  $\{u_{\alpha}\} \subset M^{\theta}$  be a net which converges weakly to  $u \in X$ . Suppose that  $u \notin M^{\theta}$ ; then taking  $2z = P_{M}(u)$  we can find a net  $\{t_{\alpha}\}$  of real numbers such that  $u_{\alpha} - t_{\alpha}z \in E(-z, z)$  and  $|t_{\alpha}| \leq 1$ . If  $t_{0}$  is a cluster point of the net  $\{t_{\alpha}\}$ , then  $|t_{0}| \leq 1$ , and since E(-z, z) is weakly closed, being a scalar multiple of E(-x, x),  $u - t_{0}z \in E(-z, z)$ . Therefore,  $P_{M}(u - t_{0}z) = 2z - t_{0}z \in \{tz : |t| \leq 1\}$ . This means  $1 \leq t_{0} \leq 3$  and hence  $t_{0} = 1$ . It follows then that  $u - z \in E(-z, z)$ ; that is,  $||u - \theta|| = ||u - 2z|| = ||u - P_{M}(u)||$ , and this contradicts the Chebyshev property of M. This proves the result.

In the following we consider a structural property of the set E(-x, x) .

THEOREM 1.7. Let E(-x, x) be a convex subset of a normed linear space X with ||x|| = 1. Then E(-x, x) is Chebyshev if and only if x is an extreme point of the unit ball of X.

Proof. Let E(-x, x) be a Chebyshev set. It will be actually a subspace because of Theorem 1.2. If x is not an extreme point of the unit ball of X, then there exists a pair of points  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  in the unit sphere  $S = \{z \in X : ||z|| = 1\}$  such that  $x = \frac{1}{2}(x_1 + x_2)$  and  $I = \{tx_1 + (1-t)x_2 : 0 \le t \le 1\}$  is contained in S. Now

$$||x_1 - x - x|| = ||x_2|| = 1 = ||x_1|| = ||x_1 - x + x||$$

and hence  $x_1 - x \in E(-x, x)$ . Similarly  $x_2 - x \in E(-x, x)$ . Thus  $x_1, x_2 \in E(0, 2x)$  and since E(-x, x) is a subspace,  $I \subset E(0, 2x)$ . As E(-x, x) is Chebyshev and  $h \in E(-x, x)$  implies that ||x-h|| = ||x+h||, we must have

$$1 = ||x|| = \inf\{||x-h|| : h \in E(-x, x)\}.$$

Hence the origin is the nearest point of x in E(-x, x). This in turn implies that the origin has the nearest point x in  $E(\theta, 2x)$ . But  $x \in I$ and every point of I has norm 1. This contradicts the Chebyshev property of  $E(\theta, 2x)$ . Conversely, it is easy to see that if x is an extreme point of the unit ball, then  $\theta$  is the unique nearest point in E(-x, x) to  $\lambda x$ ,  $\lambda \in R$ . Hence if  $u = z + \lambda x$ , and  $z \in E(-x, x)$ , then z is the unique nearest point to u. Therefore E(-x, x) is Chebyshev.

In the following we illustrate Theorem 1.7 by two examples.

**EXAMPLE 1.8.** Take  $X = R^2$  with the sup norm, x = (1, 1) and z = (-1, 1). It is easy to see that E(-x, x) = [z] and E(-z, z) = [x] are Chebyshev subspaces, and x and z are extreme points of the unit ball of X.

EXAMPLE 1.9. Let  $X = l^1$  and let  $e_i$  be the vector with 1 at the *i*th place and zero otherwise. Then  $E(-e_i, e_i) = \{z \in l^1 : z(i) = 0\}$  is a closed hyperplane. If  $u \in l^1$ , then the unique nearest point to u in  $E(-e_i, e_i)$  is z, where  $z(j) = (1-\delta_{ij})u(j)$ ,  $\delta_{ij}$  being the Kronecker delta. Thus the set  $E(-e_i, e_i)$  is Chebyshev. Clearly  $e_i$  is an extreme point of the unit ball of  $l^1$ . Also, if we write  $M_i = |e_i|$ , then  $M_i^0 = E(-e_i, e_i)$ .

2. Nature of equidistant sets in  $l^p$  spaces

Let X be a normed linear space and let E(x, y) be the equidistant set from x and  $y \in X$ . The space X is said to have

- (1) property  $P_1$  if for all  $x, y \in X$ , E(x, y) is weakly closed,
- (2) property  $P_2$  if for each  $x \in X$  with ||x|| = 1, there exists  $\varepsilon_x > 0$  such that whenever y and z are distinct points of the set  $x + \varepsilon_x U$ , then the intersection  $E(y, x) \cap (\varepsilon_x U)$  is weakly closed, U denoting the unit cell of X.

That there is a connection between properties  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  and the continuity behaviour of metric projections onto Chebyshev sets is indicated by a result of Kiee [7, Proposition 2.5]. Not much is known about spaces having the property  $P_1$ . Apart from the finite dimensional and inner-

product spaces, no other example of spaces possessing the property  $P_1$  has appeared in the literature. In the following we shall show that each equidistant set in an  $l^p$  space (1 is closed in the bounded weaktopology. It is easy to see that we need only consider equidistant sets ofthe form <math>E(-x, x). We start by proving a simple inequality.

**LEMMA 2.1.** Let  $p \ge 1$  and y and z be any two complex numbers. Then the following inequality holds:

(2.1) 
$$|y+z|^p - |y-z|^p| \leq 2^p p (|y^{p-1}z|+|z|^p)$$

Proof. Using the triangle inequality we see that we need only prove (2.2)  $(|y|+|z|)^p - ||y|-|z||^p \le 2^p p(|y^{p-1}z|+|z|^p)$ .

The result then follows from the following simple inequality, which can be proved by using elementary methods of differential calculus:

(2.3) 
$$(1+x)^p - (1-x)^p \leq 2^p p(x+x^p)$$
,  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ .

We next prove a variant of Lebesgue's Dominated Convergence Theorem for  $l^1$ . This will be used to prove the main result of this section.

THEOREM 2.2. Let  $\{\phi_{\alpha}, D\}$  be a net in  $l^{1}$  converging pointwise to  $\phi$ . If there exists a net  $\{f_{\alpha}, D\}$  in  $l^{1}$  which converges in norm to an element f and if  $|\phi_{\alpha}| \leq f_{\alpha}$  for every  $\alpha \in D$ , then  $\phi \in l^{1}$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \phi_{\alpha}(i) \neq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \phi(i)$ .

**Proof.** Clearly  $\phi \in \iota^1$ . The rest then follows from the following inequality:

$$\left|\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \phi_{\alpha}(i) - \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \phi(i)\right| \leq \left|\sum_{i=1}^{i_0} \phi_{\alpha}(i) - \sum_{i=1}^{i_0} \phi(i)\right| + \|f_{\alpha} - f\| + 2\sum_{i_0+1}^{\infty} f(i) .$$
  
REMARK 2.3. Taking

$$\phi_n = f_n = e_n/n$$
 where  $e_i(j) = \delta_{ij}$ ,

and observing that  $\{\phi_n\}$  is not dominated by a single  $f \in l^1$ , we see that Theorem 2.2.could be applied in situations in which Lebesgue's Dominated Convergence Theorem does not help.

THEOREM 2.4. Let x be any point of  $l^p$  (1 . Then <math>E(-x, x) is closed in the bounded weak topology of the space.

Proof. Let  $\{u_{\alpha}, D\}$  be a bounded net in E(-x, x) converging weakly to u . Then

$$||u_{\alpha}-x|| = ||u_{\alpha}+x||$$
 for all  $\alpha \in D$ ;

that is,

(2.4) 
$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \left| |u_{\alpha}(i) - x(i)|^{p} - |u_{\alpha}(i) + x(i)|^{p} \right| = 0.$$

Let

$$\begin{split} z_{\alpha}(i) &= \left| u_{\alpha}(i) - x(i) \right|^{p} - \left| u_{\alpha}(i) + x(i) \right|^{p} \\ z(i) &= \left| u(i) - x(i) \right|^{p} - \left| u(i) + x(i) \right|^{p} , \\ w_{\alpha}(i) &= 2^{p} p \left[ \left| u_{\alpha}^{p-1}(i) x(i) \right| + \left| x(i) \right|^{p} \right] , \\ w(i) &= 2^{p} p \left[ \left| u_{\alpha}^{p-1}(i) x(i) \right| + \left| x(i) \right|^{p} \right] , \\ g_{\alpha}(i) &= \left| \left| u_{\alpha}^{p-1}(i) \right| - \left| u_{\alpha}^{p-1}(i) \right| \right| , \\ y(i) &= \left| x(i) \right| . \end{split}$$

Clearly,  $z_{\alpha}$ ,  $w_{\alpha}$ , z,  $w \in l^{1}$  and  $z_{\alpha} \neq z$  pointwise. By Lemma 2.1, we have (2.5)  $|z_{\alpha}(i)| \leq w_{\alpha}(i)$  for all  $\alpha \in D$ .

Also  $\{g_{\alpha}\}$  is a bounded net in  $l^{q}$  converging pointwise to  $\theta$ , where  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$ . As p > 1, this implies that  $g_{\alpha} \xrightarrow{\omega} \theta$ . Moreover,

(2.6) 
$$\|w_{\alpha} - w\| = 2^{p} p \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} g_{\alpha}(i)y(i) = 2^{p} p \langle g_{\alpha}, y \rangle ,$$

where  $\langle g_{\alpha}, y \rangle$  represents the value of the bounded linear functional  $y \in l^p$  at  $g_{\alpha} \in l^q$ . An easy application of Theorem 2.2 to (2.5) and (2.6) then gives the required result.

REMARK 2.5. Let x be an element of  $l^p$   $(1 \le p < \infty)$  with finitely many nonzero coordinates. That E(-x, x) is weakly closed can be verified easily. We do not know whether in Theorem 2.4 the bounded weak topology can be replaced by the weak topology or not.

COROLLARY 2.6. Let M be a closed linear subspace of  $l^p$ (1 \infty),  $P_M$  the metric projection onto M. Then  $P_M$  is continuous both from the strong to strong topology, and from the bounded weak to bounded weak topology on  $l^p$ .

Proof. The uniform convexity of  $l^p$  (1 implies that <math>M is Chebyshev and  $P_M$  is continuous from the strong to strong topology of  $l^p$ . To show that  $P_M$  is continuous in the bounded weak topology of  $l^p$ , we first observe that for each  $x \in X$ , and for  $M_x = [x]$ ,  $M_x^{\theta}$  is bounded weakly closed on account of Theorems 1.6 and 2.4. By the kernel intersection theorem of [4] we have  $M^{\theta} = \bigcap_{x \in M} M_x^{\theta}$ . Thus  $M^{\theta}$  is bounded weakly closed. The result then follows from the following result of Holmes [3, p. 170]. If M is reflexive, then  $P_M$  is *bw*-continuous if and only if  $M^{\theta}$  is *bw*-closed.

REMARK 2.7. The above has been essentially observed by Holmes [2] by using the fact that  $l^p$  spaces (1 have a weakly continuous duality mapping.

In the case of  $l^1$ , since strong and weak sequential convergence coincide, E(-x, x) is weakly sequentially closed for each x. However, this property of  $l^p$  spaces is not present in  $L^p(\mu)$  spaces  $(1 where <math>\mu$  is a separable nonatomic measure. Lambert [9] has shown that  $M^{\theta}$  is weakly sequentially dense for any finite dimensional Chebyshev subspace M and consequently E(-x, x) cannot be weakly sequentially closed for any x in such spaces. In the following we show that  $c_0$  also does not have this property.

THEOREM 2.8. Let x be any point of  $c_0$ . Then E(-x, x) is not weakly sequentially closed.

Proof. Let 
$$x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, ...) \in c_0$$
. Take

$$z_{n}(i) = \begin{cases} 0 & , \text{ if } i \neq n , \\ 2 \|x\| \operatorname{sgn} x_{n} + x_{n} , \text{ if } i = n \text{ and } x_{n} \neq 0 , \\ 2 \|x\| & , \text{ if } i = n \text{ and } x_{n} = 0 . \end{cases}$$

Then  $||z_n-x|| = ||z_n-2x|| = 2||x||$  for sufficiently large n. Hence  $z_n \in E(x, 2x)$  eventually. But  $z_n$  converges weakly to  $\theta$  and  $\theta \notin E(x, 2x)$ . Therefore E(x, 2x) and consequently E(-x, x) is not weakly sequentially closed.

COROLLARY 2.9. No one-dimensional Chebyshev subspace of  $c_0$  can have a weakly sequentially continuous metric projection.

Proof. Let M = [x] be Chebyshev and  $z_n$  be the sequence described in Theorem 2.8. Then  $P_M(z_n) \in \{tx : 1 \le t \le 2\}$  for sufficiently large n, and  $P_M(\theta) = \theta$ . So  $P_M(z_n) \neq \theta$ . Hence  $P_M$  is not weakly sequentially continuous.

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