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Let *E* be an ordered Banach space with closed positive cone *C*. A base for *C* is a convex subset *K* of *C* with the property that every non-zero element of *C* has a unique representation of the form λk with $\lambda > 0$ and $k \in K$. Let *S* be the absolutely convex hull of *K*. If the Minkowski functional of *S* coincides with the given norm on *E*, then *E* is called a base norm space. Then *K* is a closed face of the unit ball of *E*, and *S* contains the open unit ball of *E*. Base norm spaces were first defined by Ellis [5, p. 731], although the special case of dual Banach spaces had been studied earlier by Edwards [4].

Some authors [1, p. 77] also insist that S be radially compact. This is the same as insisting that S coincides with the closed unit ball of E. When this is the case, we will call E a strong base norm space. The purpose of this note is to show that these two definitions are distinct. Although this is essentially a problem concerning real Banach spaces, our solution requires the use of conformal mappings.

Before producing our counterexample, we recall some elementary definitions and results. The positive cone C of an ordered Banach space E is said to be λ -generating if, given $x \in E$, we can find $y, z \in C$ such that x = y - z and $||y|| + ||z|| \le \lambda ||x||$. The norm on E will be called regular (respectively, strongly regular) if, given x in the open (respectively, closed) unit ball of E, we can find y in the closed unit ball with $y \ge x$ and $y \ge -x$. The norm is said to be additive on C if ||x + y|| = ||x|| + ||y|| for all $x, y \in C$.

If C is 1-generating, it is easy to show that E is strongly regular. Similarly, if C is λ -generating for all $\lambda > 1$, then E is regular. Additivity of the norm gives the converses to these observations. The proofs are routine.

PROPOSITION 1 [8, p. 90]. If E is an ordered Banach space with closed positive cone C, the following are equivalent:

- (i) E is a base norm space;
- (ii) E is regular, and the norm is additive on C;
- (iii) C is λ -generating for all $\lambda > 1$, and the norm is additive on C.

PROPOSITION 2. If E is an ordered Banach space with closed positive cone C, the following are equivalent:

- (i) E is a strong base norm space;
- (ii) E is strongly regular, and the norm is additive on C;
- (iii) C is 1-generating, and the norm is additive on C.

To show that a base norm space need not be a strong base norm space, it suffices to exhibit a base norm space which is not strongly regular. Simultaneously, this will show that a cone which is λ -generating for all $\lambda > 1$ need not be 1-generating. Another such cone has recently been given by Asimow and Ellis [3, Example 2.1.6]. However, their example is not a base norm space, since its norm is not additive on the positive cone.

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DAVID YOST

EXAMPLE. Let A be the disc algebra, i.e. the sup-normed space of complex-valued functions which are continuous on the closed unit disc, and analytic on the open unit disc [7, Chapter 6]. A result of Hirsberg [6, Theorem 3.1] asserts that $M = \{f \in A : f(1) = 0\}$ is an *M*-ideal in A. The definition of *M*-ideals need not bother us; what is important is that *M*-ideals have the 2-ball property [2, Theorem 5.8]. This means that if B_1 and B_2 are closed balls in A, whose intersection has an interior point, and each ball meets *M*, then $M \cap B_1 \cap B_2$ is not empty.

Let $E = \{f \in A : f(1) \in \mathbb{R}\}$. Then E is a real Banach space, which we can partially order by taking as the positive cone

$$C = \{f: f(1) = ||f||\} = \{f: f(1) \ge ||f||\}.$$

It is clear that the norm is additive on C, and that M has the 2-ball property in E.

To show that E is a base norm space, we need only establish regularity. So choose $f \in E$ with ||f|| < 1. Let e denote the constant function e(z) = 1, and let $B_{\pm} = B(e \pm f, 1 \pm f(1))$. Then $f - f(1)e \in M \cap B_+$ and $f(1)e - f \in M \cap B_-$. Since e - f(1)f is an interior point of $B_+ \cap B_-$, the 2-ball property gives us a function $h \in M \cap B_+ \cap B_-$. Let g = e - h. Then g(1) = 1 and $||g \pm f|| \le 1 \pm f(1)$. Hence $g \pm f \ge 0$, and $||g|| \le \frac{1}{2} ||g + f|| + \frac{1}{2} ||g - f|| \le 1$.

To show E is not strongly regular, define $f \in M$ by $f(z) = w(w(z)^{1/2})$, where w(z) = (i-z)/(1-iz). We show that ||g|| > 1 whenever $g \ge \pm f$. First note that f maps the disc $\{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| \le 1\}$ onto $\{z : |z| \le 1$ and re $z \le 0\}$, and that the arc $\{z : |z| = 1 \text{ and re } z \le 0\}$ is mapped onto itself. It follows [7, pp. 138–139] that f is an extreme point of the unit ball of A. Now suppose that $g \in E$ and $g \pm f \ge 0$. Clearly f cannot be a scalar multiple of f + g or f - g, since $f \notin -C \cup C$. However $f = \frac{1}{2}(f+g) + \frac{1}{2}(f-g)$, and f is an extreme point of the unit ball of E. Thus $||\frac{1}{2}(f+g)|| + ||\frac{1}{2}(f-g)|| > 1$, and so $||g|| = ||\frac{1}{2}(g+f)|| + ||\frac{1}{2}(g-f)|| > 1$.

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36