On strongly norm attaining Lipschitz maps

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Given a **complete** metric space (M, d) with a distinguished point $0 \in M$ and a Banach space Y, we consider the space

$$\operatorname{Lip}_0(M, Y) := \{f \colon M \to Y : f \text{ is Lipschitz}, f(0) = 0\}$$

which is a Banach space when equipped with the norm

$$||f||_L := \sup \left\{ \frac{||f(x) - f(y)||}{d(x, y)} : x \neq y \right\}.$$

We say that f strongly attains its norm if

$$||f||_{L} = \frac{||f(x) - f(y)||}{d(x, y)}$$

for some $x, y \in M$. We denote SNA(M, Y) the set of such maps.

Problem (Godefroy, 2015)

What are the couples (M, Y) such that $\overline{SNA(M, Y)} = Lip_0(M, Y)$?

Negative results

Theorem (Kadets-Martín-Solodiova, 2016)

Let $A \subset [0,1]$ be a closed set with empty interior and $\lambda(A) > 0$. Then, the Lipschitz function $f : [0,1] \to \mathbb{R}$ given by

$$f(t) = \int_0^t \chi_A(s) ds$$

is not in $SNA([0, 1], \mathbb{R})$. Indeed, $\overline{SNA(M, \mathbb{R})} \neq Lip_0(M, \mathbb{R})$ whenever M is a geodesic space.

Theorem (Cascales-Chiclana-GL-Martín-Rueda Zoca, 2018)

 $\overline{\mathsf{SNA}(M,\mathbb{R})} \neq \mathsf{Lip}_0(M,\mathbb{R})$ provided

• *M* is a length space (i.e. d(x, y) is the infimum of the length of curves joining x and y, for every x, y).

• $M \subset \mathbb{R}$ is compact and $\lambda(M) > 0$.

Positive results

By the fundamental property of Lipschitz free spaces,

$$Lip_0(M, Y) = \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}(M), Y)$$

Note that, if f strongly attains its norm at $x, y \in M$, then

$$\left\| f\left(\frac{\delta(x) - \delta(y)}{d(x, y)}\right) \right\| = \|f\|_L$$

Therefore

$$\mathsf{SNA}(M, Y) \subset \mathsf{NA}(\mathcal{F}(M), Y)$$

Theorem (Godefroy, 2015)

Assume *M* is a compact metric space and $lip_0(M)^* = \mathcal{F}(M)$. Then $SNA(M, Y) = NA(\mathcal{F}(M), Y)$ for all *Y*. Moreover, if *Y* is finite-dimensional, then $\overline{SNA}(M, Y) = Lip_0(M, Y)$.

Positive results

Recall that

$$\overline{\mathrm{SNA}(M,Y)} = \mathrm{Lip}_0(M,Y) \Longrightarrow \overline{\mathrm{NA}(\mathcal{F}(M),Y)} = \mathrm{Lip}_0(M,Y)$$

Therefore, it is reasonable to discuss the known sufficient conditions for a Banach space X to have $\overline{NA(X, Y)} = \mathcal{L}(X, Y)$ for every Y:

- RNP
- Property α
- the existence of a norming set which is uniformly strongly exposed.

The space $\mathcal{F}(M)$ has the RNP in the following cases:

- *M* is uniformly discrete (Kalton, 2004)
- *M* is compact countable (Dalet, 2015)
- *M* is compact Hölder (Weaver, 1999)
- *M* is a closed subset of \mathbb{R} with measure 0 (Godard, 2010)

Positive results

Theorem (GL-Petitjean-Procházka-Rueda Zoca, 2018)

If $\mathcal{F}(M)$ has the RNP, then $\overline{SNA(M, Y)} = Lip_0(M, Y)$ for every Y.

Proof.

- Bourgain, 1977: the set of operators in $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}(M), Y)$ which are absolutely strongly exposing is a G_{δ} dense.
- Every absolutely strongly exposing operator attains its norm at a strongly exposed point.
- Weaver, 1999: every strongly exposed point of $B_{\mathcal{F}(M)}$ is of the form $\frac{\delta(x)-\delta(y)}{d(x,y)}$.

Theorem (Chiclana-GL-Martín-Rueda Zoca, 2019)

There exists a compact metric space M such that $\mathcal{F}(M)$ fails the RNP and $\overline{SNA(M, Y)} = Lip_0(M, Y)$ for every Y.

Theorem (Chiclana-GL-Martín-Rueda Zoca, 2019)

Assume that M is compact and $\mathcal{F}(M)$ has the RNP. Then SNA(M, Y) contains an **open** dense subset.

Proof. For simplicity, let's take $Y = \mathbb{R}$. Let

$$A = \{ f \in \operatorname{Lip}_{0}(M, \mathbb{R}) : \sup_{d(x,y) < \varepsilon} \frac{f(x) - f(y)}{d(x,y)} < \|f\|_{L} \text{ for some } \varepsilon > 0 \}$$

Clearly, A is open. Let us see that $SNA(M, \mathbb{R}) \subset \overline{A}$. Take $\varepsilon > 0$ and f such that $\frac{f(x)-f(y)}{d(x,y)} = \|f\|_L = 1$ for some $x, y \in M$. By Aliaga-Pernecká, we may assume that $\frac{\delta(x)-\delta(y)}{d(x,y)} \in ext(B_{\mathcal{F}(M)})$. Now, by Aliaga-Guirao and GL-Petitjean-Procházka-Rueda Zoca,

$$\frac{\delta(x) - \delta(y)}{d(x,y)} \in \mathsf{ext}(\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{M})^{**}}) \cap \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{M}) = \mathsf{dent}(\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{M})})$$

Theorem (Chiclana-GL-Martín-Rueda Zoca, 2019)

Assume that M is compact and $\mathcal{F}(M)$ has the RNP. Then SNA(M, Y) contains an **open** dense subset.

Proof. Therefore, there is $g \in S_{\text{Lip}_0(M)}$ and $\beta > 0$ such that $\frac{g(x)-g(y)}{d(x,y)} > 1 - \beta$ and $\text{diam}\{\mu \in B_{\mathcal{F}(M)} : g(\mu) > 1 - \beta\} < \varepsilon$. Take $h = f + \varepsilon g$. Then $||f - h|| = \varepsilon$. We claim that $h \in A$. Note that

$$\|h\|_{L} \geq 1 + \varepsilon \frac{g(x) - g(y)}{d(x, y)} > 1 + \varepsilon (1 - \beta).$$

Assume that

$$rac{h(u)-h(v)}{d(u,v)}>1+arepsilon(1-eta)$$

Then
$$1 + \varepsilon(1 - \beta) < 1 + \varepsilon \frac{g(u) - g(v)}{d(u,v)}$$
.
So, $g\left(\frac{\delta(u) - \delta(v)}{d(u,v)}\right) > 1 - \beta$ and thus $\left\|\frac{\delta(u) - \delta(v)}{d(u,v)} - \frac{\delta(x) - \delta(y)}{d(x,y)}\right\| < \varepsilon$.
This implies that $d(u, v) \ge (1 - 2\varepsilon)d(x, y)$, that is, $h \in A$.

Weak density

Theorem (Cascales-Chiclana-GL-Martín-Rueda Zoca) SNA (M, \mathbb{R}) is weakly sequentially dense in Lip₀ (M, \mathbb{R})

- This extends a result by Kadets-Martín-Soloviova, who proved that the same holds when *M* is a length space.
- The tool: (f_n)_n ⊂ Lip₀(M) bounded with pairwise disjoint supports ⇒ (f_n)_n is weakly null.



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Thank you for your attention