

CHEBYSHEV CENTERS AND UNIFORM CONVEXITY

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If E is a uniformly convex Banach space and T is any topological space, then in the space $X = C(T, E)$ of E -valued bounded continuous functions on E , every bounded set has a Chebyshev center. Moreover, the set function $A \rightarrow Z(A)$, corresponding to A the set of its Chebyshev centers, is uniformly continuous on bounded subsets of the space $\mathcal{B}(X)$ of bounded subsets of X with the Hausdorff metric. This is contrasted with the fact that a normed space X in which $Z(A)$ is a singleton for every bounded A is uniformly convex iff $A \rightarrow Z(A)$ is uniformly continuous on bounded subsets of $\mathcal{B}(X)$.

Let (X, d) be a metric space. Denote by $\mathcal{B}(X)$ the space of nonempty bounded subsets of X and let h be the Hausdorff semi-metric on $\mathcal{B}(X)$:

$$h(A, B) = \max \left(\sup_{u \in A} \inf_{v \in B} d(u, v), \sup_{v \in B} \inf_{u \in A} d(u, v) \right).$$

For $x \in X$, $r \geq 0$, let $B(x, r) = \{y \in X; d(x, y) \leq r\}$ be the closed r -ball around x . For $A \in \mathcal{B}(X)$ and $x \in X$ denote $r(x, A) = \inf \{r \geq 0; B(x, r) \supset A\}$, $r(A) = \inf_{x \in X} r(x, A)$ is the *Chebyshev radius of A* , and $Z(A) = \{x \in X; r(x, A) = r(A)\}$ is the set of *Chebyshev centers of A* . For $Y \subset X$ we can consider also the *relative Chebyshev radius of A in Y* , $r_Y(A) = \inf_{y \in Y} r(y, A)$, and the set of *relative Chebyshev centers of A in Y* , $Z_Y(A) = \{y \in Y; r(y, A) = r_Y(A)\}$. In the case that $A = \{x\}$ is a singleton, then $Z_Y(A)$ is just the set of best approximations in Y to x , $P_Y x$.

We say that X *admits centers* if every bounded set in X has Chebyshev centers. The classical Banach spaces, i.e., the spaces $L_p(\mu)$, $1 \leq p \leq \infty$, over any measure space and the spaces $C(T)$ of continuous real-valued functions on compact Hausdorff T , admit centers ([1], [3]). However, Garkavi ([1]) gave an example of a 3-point set in a maximal subspace H of $C[0, 1]$ which has no Chebyshev center in H . The problem of characterizing all Banach space which admit centers is still open.

Ward ([5]) proved that the space $C(T, E)$ of E -valued bounded continuous functions on the topological space T , with the norm $\|x\| = \sup_{t \in T} \|x(t)\|$, admits centers in each of the following two cases: (a) E is a finite-dimensional strictly convex (hence uniformly convex) normed space and T is paracompact. (b) E is a Hilbert