

## ON BASIC EMBEDDINGS INTO THE PLANE

DUŠAN REPOVŠ AND MATJAZŽ ŽELJKO

ABSTRACT. A subset  $K \subset \mathbf{R}^2$  is said to be *basic* if for each function  $f: K \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  there exist functions  $g, h: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  such that  $f(x, y) = g(x) + h(y)$  for each point  $(x, y) \in K$ . If all the three functions in this definition are assumed to be *continuous* (*differentiable*), then the embedding is  $C^0$ -*basic* ( $C^1$ -*basic*). This notion appeared in studies of Hilbert's 13th problem on superpositions. We prove that *if a finite graph is  $C^0$ -basically embeddable in the plane, then it is  $C^1$ -basically embeddable in the plane*. In our proof we construct an explicit  $C^1$ -basic embedding and use the Skopenkov characterization of graphs  $C^0$ -basically embeddable in the plane. Our result is nontrivial because the plane contains graphs which are  $C^0$ -basic but not  $C^1$ -basic and graphs which are  $C^1$ -basic but not  $C^0$ -basic (Baran-Skopenkov). We also prove that *given any integer  $k \geq 0$ , there is a subset of the plane which is  $C^r$ -basic for each  $0 \leq r \leq k$  but not  $C^r$ -basic for each  $k < r \leq \omega$* .

**1. Introduction.** The notion of a basic embedding appeared implicitly in the Kolmogorov-Arnold solution of Hilbert's 13th problem [1, 5, 6]. A compactum  $K \subset \mathbf{R}^2$  is said to be *basic* if, for each continuous function  $f: K \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  there exist continuous functions  $g, h: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  such that  $f(x, y) = g(x) + h(y)$  for each point  $(x, y) \in K$ . One can replace in the definition of a basic embedding *continuous* functions by *smooth* functions (by Lipschitz, Hölder, analytic, etc., functions) and obtain a notion of basic embeddability in a smooth, Lipschitz, Hölder, analytic, etc. sense.

This note is motivated by the following problems.

**Problem 1.** *Find conditions on a compactum  $K \subset \mathbf{R}^2$ , under which  $K$  is basically embeddable into the plane in the smooth sense.*

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**Problem 2.** Find conditions on a finite graph  $K$ , under which  $K$  is basically embeddable into the plane in the smooth sense.

**Problem 3.** Find conditions on an arbitrary compactum  $K$ , under which  $K$  is basically embeddable into the plane in the smooth sense.

The answer to Problem 2 is given in the paper; the other two problems remain open.

For a subset  $K$  of the plane, not necessarily open, a function  $f: K \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is said to be  $r$ -analytic,  $0 \leq r < \infty$ , if for each point  $(x_0, y_0) \in K$  there exists

$$\{a_{ij}\}_{i,j=0}^r \subset \mathbf{R} \quad \text{such that} \quad a_{00} = f(x_0, y_0)$$

and

$$f(x_0 + x, y_0 + y) = \sum_{i,j=0}^r a_{ij} x^i y^j + o((|x| + |y|)^r),$$

where  $(x_0 + x, y_0 + y) \in K$  and  $(x, y) \rightarrow (0, 0)$ . Since  $\mathbf{R} \subset \mathbf{R}^2$ , this definition applies to functions  $\mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  as well. Note that 0-analytic is the same as continuous, 1-analytic for functions  $\mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is the same as differentiable and  $r$ -analytic for functions  $\mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is approximately (but not precisely) the same as  $C^r$ .

For a subset  $K$  of the plane (not necessarily open) a function  $f: K \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is said to be analytic (or  $\omega$ -analytic), if for each point  $(x_0, y_0) \in K$  there exists

$$\{a_{ij}\}_{i,j=0}^{\infty} \subset \mathbf{R} \quad \text{such that} \quad f(x_0 + x, y_0 + y) = \sum_{i,j=0}^{\infty} a_{ij} x^i y^j$$

for  $(x_0 + x, y_0 + y)$  belonging to some neighborhood of  $(x_0, y_0)$  in  $K$ .

A compactum  $K \subset \mathbf{R}^2$  is said to be  $C^r$ -basic,  $1 \leq r \leq \omega$ , if for each  $r$ -analytic function  $f: K \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  there exist  $r$ -analytic functions  $g, h: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  such that  $f(x, y) = g(x) + h(y)$  for each point  $(x, y) \in K$ .

**Theorem 1.1.** Given any integer  $k \geq 0$ , there is a subset of the plane which is  $C^r$ -basic for each  $0 \leq r \leq k$  but not  $C^r$ -basic for each  $k < r \leq \omega$ .

In Theorem 1.1 we can take the graph  $V_k$  of the function  $y = |x|^k$ ,  $x \in [-1, 1]$  for  $k$  odd, and  $W_{k+1} = (V_{k+1} - (2, 0)) \sqcup (V_{k+1} + (2, 0))$  for  $k$  even.

The main result of this paper is the following.

**Theorem 1.2.** *If a finite graph  $K$  is  $C^0$ -basically embeddable into the plane, then  $K$  is  $C^1$ -basically embeddable into the plane.*

Theorem 1.2 is nontrivial because the plane contains graphs which are  $C^1$ -basic but not  $C^0$ -basic and graphs which are  $C^1$ -basic but not  $C^0$ -basic [3].

In the proof of Theorem 1.2 we use the following result, answering the Sternfeld problem [13].

**Theorem 1.3** [11], cf. [7, 8], [10, Section 5]. *For any finite graph  $K$  the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (C)  $K$  is  $C^0$ -basically embeddable in  $\mathbf{R}^2$ ;
- (G)  $K$  does not contain any of the following three graphs: a circle  $S$ , a pentod  $P$  or a cross  $C$  with branched ends;
- (R)  $K$  can be embedded in  $R_n$  for some  $n$ .

Definition of the graphs  $R_n$  is given in Section 2. Our proof of Theorem 1.2 is based on a construction of a  $C^1$ -basic embedding  $R_n \subset \mathbf{R}^2$  (Section 2). We prove elementary that this embedding is also  $C^0$ -basic, which yields an elementary proof of Theorem 1.3 as explained in Section 3.

## 2. Proofs.

*Proof of Theorem 1.1 for  $k$  odd.* First we prove that  $V = V_1$  is  $C^1$ -basic. Take a 1-analytic function  $f: V \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ . Since  $f$  is 1-analytic at  $(0, 0)$ , it follows that there exist  $a, b \in \mathbf{R}$  such that

$$f(x, |x|) = f(0, 0) + ax + b|x| + o(|x| + |x|), \quad \text{where } x \rightarrow 0.$$

Take  $h(y) = by$  and  $g(x) = f(x, |x|) - h(|x|)$ . Clearly,  $h$  is 1-analytic, i.e. differentiable, and  $g$  is 1-analytic outside 0. Since  $g(x) = f(0, 0) + ax + o(x)$  when  $x \rightarrow 0$ , it follows that  $g$  is 1-analytic also at 0.

Now we prove that  $V_k$  is  $C^r$ -basic for each  $0 \leq r \leq k$ . Take an  $r$ -analytic function  $f: V_k \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ . Since  $f$  is  $r$ -analytic at  $(0, 0)$ , it follows that there exists  $\{a_{ij}\}_{i,j=0}^r \subset \mathbf{R}$  such that

$$a_{00} = f(0, 0) \quad \text{and} \quad f(x, |x|^k) = \sum_{i,j=0}^r a_{ij} x^i |x|^{kj} + o((|x| + |x|^r)^r),$$

where  $x \rightarrow 0$ . Since

$$o((|x| + |x|^r)^r) = o_1(x^r),$$

we have

$$f(x, |x|^k) = a_{00} + a_{01}|x|^k + a_{10}x + \cdots + a_{r0}x^r + o_2(x^r).$$

Take  $h(y) = a_{01}y$  and  $g(x) = f(x, |x|^k) - h(|x|^k)$ . Clearly,  $h$  is  $r$ -analytic and  $g$  is  $r$ -analytic outside 0. We also have  $g(x) = a_{00} + a_{10}x + \cdots + a_{r0}x^r + o_2(x^r)$  when  $x \rightarrow 0$ . So  $g$  is  $r$ -analytic also at 0.

Next we prove that  $V = V_1$  is not  $C^r$ -basic for each  $1 < r \leq \omega$ . Define an analytic function  $f: V \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  by  $f(x, y) = xy$ , where  $y = |x|$ . If  $V$  is  $C^r$ -basic for some  $r \geq 2$ , then there are  $r$ -analytic functions

$$g, h: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R} \quad \text{such that} \quad f(x, |x|) = x|x| = g(x) + h(|x|)$$

for each  $x \in [0, 1]$ . Hence  $g(x) - g(-x) = 2x^2$ . But this is impossible because  $g$  is 2-analytic, hence

$$g(x) = g(0) + ax + bx^2 + o(x^2) \quad \text{and so} \quad g(-x) = g(0) - ax + bx^2 + o(x^2)$$

for  $x \rightarrow +0$ .

At last we prove that  $V_k$  is not  $C^r$ -basic for  $k$  odd and each  $k < r \leq \omega$ . Define an analytic function  $f: V_k \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  by  $f(x, y) = xy$ , where  $y = |x|^k$ . If  $V$  is  $C^r$ -basic for some  $r > k$ , then there are  $r$ -analytic functions

$$g, h: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R} \quad \text{such that} \quad f(x, |x|^k) = x|x|^k = g(x) + h(|x|^k)$$

for each  $x \in [0, 1]$ . Hence  $g(x) - g(-x) = 2x|x|^k$ . But this is impossible for  $k$  odd because  $g$  is  $(k + 1)$ -analytic, hence

$$g(x) = g_0 + g_1x + \cdots + g_{k+1}x^{k+1} + o(x^{k+1})$$

and so

$$g(-x) = g_0 - g_1x + \cdots + g_{k+1}x^{k+1} + o(x^{k+1})$$

for  $x \rightarrow +0$ .  $\square$

Note that a function  $f(x, y)$  on the graph  $V$  is 1-analytic if and only if  $p(t) = f(t, |t|)$  is differentiable on  $[-1, 0]$  and on  $[0, 1]$ .

*Proof of Theorem 1.1 for  $k$  even.* Let us prove that  $W_{k+1}$  is  $C^r$ -basic for each  $0 \leq r \leq k$ . Given an  $r$ -analytic function  $f: W_{k+1} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ , take functions  $h(y) = 0$  and  $g(x) = f(x, |x - 2\text{sign } x|^{k+1})$ . Clearly,  $h$  is  $r$ -analytic and  $f(x, y) = g(x) + h(y)$  for each  $(x, y) \in W_{k+1}$ . Since the function  $p(t) = |t|^{k+1}$  is  $k$ -analytic and  $r \leq k$ , it follows that  $g$  is  $r$ -analytic.

Let us prove that  $W_{k+1}$  is not  $C^r$ -basic for  $k$  even and each  $k < r \leq \infty$ . Define an analytic function  $f: W_{k+1} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  by  $f(x, y) = y\text{sign } x$ . If  $W_{k+1}$  is  $C^r$ -basic, then there are  $r$ -analytic functions  $g$  and  $h$  such that  $f(x, y) = g(x) + h(y)$ .

For  $x \in [-1, 1]$  we have

$$g(x - 2) + h(|x|^{k+1}) = f(x - 2, |x|^{k+1}) = -|x|^{k+1}$$

and

$$g(x + 2) + h(|x|^{k+1}) = f(x + 2, |x|^{k+1}) = |x|^{k+1}.$$

Hence  $g(2 - x) = g(2 + x)$  and  $g(-x - 2) = g(x - 2)$  for  $x \in [-1, 1]$ . Now  $d^{k+1}g/dx^{k+1}|_{x=2} = d^{k+1}g/dx^{k+1}|_{x=-2} = 0$ . This leads to a contradiction since  $g$  is  $(k + 1)$ -analytic,  $k + 1$  is odd, and  $g(x + 2) - g(x - 2) = 2|x|^{k+1}$ .  $\square$

Let us define inductively the graphs  $R_n$  together with an embedding  $R_n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^2$ . We embed  $R_1$  into  $[-10, 10] \times [-10, 10]$  as shown in Figure 1.

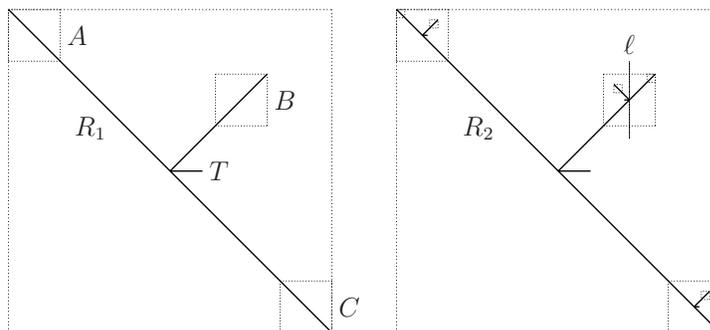


FIGURE 1.

Then we repeat the procedure by embedding copies of  $R_1$  into squares  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  shown in Figure 1 to get  $R_2$ . Note that the embedded  $R_1$  into  $B$  was mirrored over  $\ell$  to get a connected  $R_2$ .

In general, the graph  $R_n$  is constructed by embedding  $R_{n-1}$  into appropriate small squares  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$  attached to  $R_1$ . The squares  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  have to be chosen carefully. Let  $p_1: \mathbf{R} \times \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  and  $p_2: \mathbf{R} \times \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  denote projections onto  $x$  and  $y$  axes. We require that  $p_1(A)$ ,  $p_1(B)$ ,  $p_1(C)$ ,  $p_1(T)$  are disjoint and  $p_2(A)$ ,  $p_2(B)$ ,  $p_2(C)$ ,  $p_2(T)$  are disjoint.

*Proof of Theorem 1.2.* The boundary in  $R_n$  of any subgraph  $K \subset R_n$  consists of a finite number of points. Hence any 1-analytic mapping  $K \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  can be extended to a 1-analytic mapping  $R_n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ . So it suffices to prove that  $R_n$  is  $C^1$ -basic. We prove this by induction. Given a mapping  $f: R_n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  we shall find functions  $g, h: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  such that  $f(x, y) = g(x) + h(y)$ . Then we shall show that we can obtain  $g$  and  $h$  to be 1-analytic, i.e. differentiable, when  $f$  is 1-analytic.

Put  $h(0) = 0$  and define  $g(x) = f(x, 0)$  for every  $x \in [0, 2]$ . Extend  $g$  to a function  $g: [0, 10] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ .

Note that for every  $y \in [-10, 6]$  there exists a unique  $x_y = |y| \in [0, 10]$  such that  $(x_y, y) \in R_1$ . (See Figure 2 for details.) Therefore,

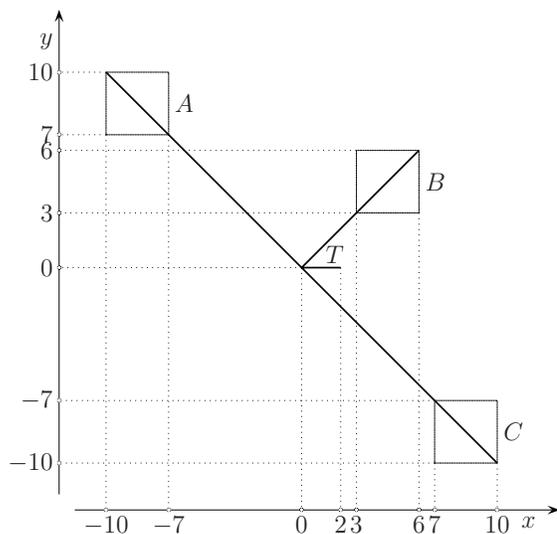


FIGURE 2.

using  $g$  and  $f$  for  $x \in [0, 10]$  we can define  $h: [-10, 6] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  as  $h(y) = f(|y|, y) - g(|y|)$ . Extend  $h$  to  $h: [-10, 10] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ .

Note that for every  $x \in [-10, 0]$  there exists a unique  $y_x = -x$  such that  $(x, y_x) \in R_1$ . Therefore using  $h$  we can define  $g: [-10, 0] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  as  $g(x) = f(x, -x) - h(-x)$ . Finally, we extend  $g$  and  $h$  to  $g, h: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ .

Now let  $f: R_n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ ,  $n > 1$ , be given. We put  $h(0) = 0$  and define  $g(x) = f(x, 0)$  for every  $x \in [0, 2]$ . As  $R_n$  is constructed by embedding  $R_{n-1}$  into appropriate small squares  $A, B, C$  attached to  $R_1$ , by inductive hypothesis there exist functions  $g', h': \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  such that  $f(x, y) = g'(x) + h'(y)$  on  $(x, y) \in (A \cup B \cup C) \cap R_n$ . Hence we can extend  $g$  smoothly onto  $[0, 10]$  so that  $g = g'$  on  $p_1(B \cup C)$ . Using functions  $g$  and  $f$  for  $x \in [0, 10]$  we can define  $h: [-10, 6] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  as  $h(y) = f(|y|, y) - g(|y|)$ . Then we extend  $h$  onto  $[-10, 10]$  so that  $h = h'$  on  $[7, 10]$ . Using  $h$  we finally define  $g: [-10, 0] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  as  $g(x) = f(x, -x) - h(-x)$ .

For  $n = 1$ , if  $f$  is 1-analytic, then it is clear that at each step the constructed functions  $g$  and  $h$  are differentiable except maybe at 0. So all the extensions can be chosen to be differentiable. Since  $f$  is

1-analytic at  $(0, 0)$ , it follows that there exist  $a, b \in \mathbf{R}$  such that

$$f(x, y) = f(0, 0) + ax + by + o(|x| + |y|),$$

where  $(x, y) \in R_1$  and  $(x, y) \rightarrow (0, 0)$ .

We may assume that  $f(0, 0) = g(0) = h(0) = 0$ . Then according to the structure of  $R_1$  one can write

$$\begin{cases} f(x, x) = g(x) + h(x) \\ f(x, -x) = g(x) + h(-x) \\ f(x, 0) = g(x) \\ f(-x, x) = g(-x) + h(x), \end{cases}$$

so

$$\begin{cases} g(x) = f(x, 0) \\ h(x) = f(x, x) - f(x, 0) \\ h(-x) = f(x, -x) - f(x, 0) \\ g(-x) = f(-x, x) - f(x, x) + f(x, 0) \end{cases}$$

for small  $x \geq 0$ . Hence

$$g(x) = ax + o(x)$$

and

$$g(-x) = -ax + bx - ax - bx + ax + o(x) = -ax + o(x)$$

when  $x \rightarrow +0$ . So  $g$  is differentiable at 0. Also,

$$h(x) = ax + bx - ax + o(x) = bx + o(x)$$

and

$$h(-x) = ax - bx - ax + o(x) = -bx + o(x)$$

when  $x \rightarrow +0$ . So  $h$  is differentiable at 0.

Hence, for  $n > 1$ , if  $f$  is 1-analytic, then it is clear that at each step the constructed functions  $g$  and  $h$  are differentiable everywhere. So all the extensions can be chosen to be differentiable and thus the resulting functions are differentiable.  $\square$

An elementary proof of  $(R) \Rightarrow (C)$  in Theorem 1.3. Analogously to the proof of Theorem 1.2 above. The reduction from  $K$  to  $R_n$  follows also by the Tietze-Uryhson extension theorem. We construct  $g$  and  $h$  from  $f$  as above. From the construction it is clear that at each step the constructed functions  $g$  and  $h$  are continuous. So all the extensions can be chosen to be continuous and thus the resulting functions are continuous.  $\square$

Note that for each function  $f: R_1 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  the functions  $g, h: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  such that  $f(x, y) = g(x) + h(y)$  are *uniquely* defined by  $f$  in a neighborhood of 0. Hence *any* such functions  $g$  and  $h$  are 0- or 1-analytic in a neighborhood of 0, if  $f$  is 0- or 1-analytic. Surprisingly, this is false for  $r$ -analytic functions with  $1 < r \leq \omega$ : the subset  $R_1 \subset \mathbf{R}^2$  is  $C^1$ -basic but not  $C^r$ -basic for each  $1 < r \leq \omega$ . This is proved analogously to Theorem 1.1 for  $k$  odd.

**3. The Sternfeld criterion.** The proof of Theorem 1.3 in [11] was based on the solution of the Arnold problem [2]: find conditions on a compactum  $K \subset \mathbf{R}^2$ , under which  $K$  is C-basic. This problem was solved by Sternfeld [12, 13] (who was apparently unaware of [2]). In order to formulate the Sternfeld criterion, let us introduce some definitions. Let  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  be projections onto the coordinate axes in  $\mathbf{R}^2$ . For  $Z \subset \mathbf{R}^2$ , let

$$E(Z) = \{z \in Z : |Z \cap p_1^{-1}(p_1(z))| \geq 2 \text{ and } |Z \cap p_2^{-1}(p_2(z))| \geq 2\}.$$

Set  $E^2(Z) = E(E(Z))$ ,  $E^3(Z) = E(E(E(Z)))$ , etc. An ordered sequence  $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\} \subset \mathbf{R}^2$  is called an *array* if, for each  $i$ , we have  $p_1(a_i) = p_1(a_{i+1})$  for  $i$  even and  $p_2(a_i) = p_2(a_{i+1})$  for  $i$  odd ( $a_i \neq a_{i+1}$ , but it is not required that all the points of an array should be distinct).

**Theorem 3.1** [12, 13]. *For any compactum  $K \subset \mathbf{R}^2$  the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (B) *the embedding  $K \subset \mathbf{R}^2$  is basic;*
- (E)  *$E^n(K) = \emptyset$  for some  $n$ ;*
- (A)  *$K$  does not contain any array of  $n$  points for some  $n$ .*

In this paper we prove Theorem 3.1 following [13] (we believe our exposition is clearer). One can see that the proof of Theorem 3.1 is non-elementary in a sense that it used the Banach inverse operator theorem.

The proof of  $(R) \Leftrightarrow (G)$  in Theorem 1.3 is elementary, cf. [4]. The proof of  $(C) \Rightarrow (G)$  in Theorem 1.3 is elementary modulo the implication  $(B) \Rightarrow (A)$  of Theorem 3.1 [11]. The latter implication has an elementary proof by [9]. The proof of  $(R) \Rightarrow (C)$  in Theorem 1.3 used the non-elementary implication  $(E) \Rightarrow (B)$  of Theorem 3.1 [11]. In this paper we give an elementary proof of  $(R) \Rightarrow (C)$  in Theorem 1.3, which yields an elementary proof of the whole Theorem 1.3.

*The Sternfeld proof of Theorem 3.1.* First we prove the easy assertion  $(A) \Rightarrow (E)$ . Suppose to the contrary that  $E^n(K) \neq \emptyset$ . Take a point  $a_0 \in E^n(K)$ . Then there exist points  $a_{-1}, a_1 \in E^{n-1}(K)$  such that  $p_1(a_{-1}) = p_1(a_0)$  and  $p_2(a_1) = p_2(a_0)$ . Analogously, there exist points  $a_{-2}, a_2 \in E^{n-2}(K)$  such that  $\{a_{-2}, a_{-1}, a_0, a_1, a_2\}$  is an array. Analogously we construct an array of  $2n + 1$  points in  $K$ .

The proof of  $(E) \Rightarrow (\Phi) \Rightarrow (A)$  is based on a reformulation of (B) terms of linear operators in functional spaces. Denote by  $C(X)$  the space of continuous functions on  $X$  with the norm  $|f| = \sup\{|f(x)| : x \in X\}$ . For a subset  $K \subset I^2$  define the *linear superposition operator*

$$\phi: C(I) \oplus C(I) \rightarrow C(K) \quad \text{by} \quad \phi(g, h)(x, y) = g(x) + h(y).$$

Clearly, the embedding  $K \subset I^2$  is basic if and only if  $\phi = \phi_K$  is epimorphic. Denote by  $C^*(X)$  the space of bounded linear functionals on  $C(X)$  with the norm  $|\mu| = \sup\{|\mu(f)| : f \in C(X), |f| = 1\}$ . For a subset  $K \subset I^2$  define the *dual linear superposition operator*

$$\phi^*: C^*(K) \rightarrow C^*(I) \oplus C^*(I) \quad \text{by} \quad \phi^*\mu(g, h) = (\mu(g \circ p_1), \mu(h \circ p_2)).$$

Since  $|\phi^*\mu| \leq 2|\mu|$ , it follows that  $\phi^*$  is bounded. By duality,  $\phi_K$  is epimorphic if and only if  $\phi^* = \phi_K^*$  is monomorphic. By the Banach inverse operator theorem,  $\phi^*$  is monomorphic if and only if

$$(\Phi) \quad \text{there exists } \varepsilon > 0 \text{ such that } |\phi^*\mu| > \varepsilon|\mu| \text{ for each } \mu \in C^*(K)$$

(because this condition ensures that  $\text{im } \phi^*$  is closed). Thus  $(B) \Leftrightarrow (\Phi)$ . So it remains to prove  $(E) \Rightarrow (\Phi) \Rightarrow (A)$ .

First we prove  $(\Phi) \Rightarrow (A)$ . If (A) is false, then for each  $n$  there exists an array  $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\} \subset K$ . Define a linear functional  $\mu \in C^*(K)$  by  $\mu(f) = \sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^i f(a_i)$ . Then  $|\mu| = n$  and  $|\phi^* \mu| \leq 4$ . Hence  $(\Phi)$  is false.

Now we prove  $(E) \Rightarrow (\Phi)$ . We use the fact that  $C^*(X)$  is the space of  $\sigma$ -additive regular real valued Borel measures (in the sequel – simply ‘measures’) on  $X$ . We have

$$\phi^* \mu = (\mu_x, \mu_y), \quad \text{where} \quad \mu_x(U) = \mu(p_1^{-1}U) \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_y(U) = \mu(p_2^{-1}U).$$

If  $\mu = \mu^+ - \mu^-$  is the decomposition of a measure  $\mu$  to its positive and negative parts, then  $|\mu| = \bar{\mu}(X)$ , where  $\bar{\mu} = \mu^+ + \mu^-$  is the absolute value of  $\mu$ . Let  $D_x$  ( $D_y$ ) be the set of points of  $K$  which are not shadowed by some other point of  $K$  in  $x$ - ( $y$ -) direction. Take any measure  $\mu$  on  $K$  of the norm 1.

If

$$E(K) = \emptyset, \quad \text{then} \quad D_x \cup D_y = K, \quad \text{so} \quad 1 = \bar{\mu}(K) \leq \bar{\mu}(D_x) + \bar{\mu}(D_y).$$

Therefore without loss of generality,  $\bar{\mu}(D_x) \geq 1/2$ . Since  $p_1$  is injective over  $D_x$ , it follows that  $|\mu_x| \geq 1/2$ , thus  $(\Phi)$  holds.

If

$$E(E(K)) = \emptyset, \quad \text{then} \quad D_x \cup D_y = K - E(K), \quad \text{so} \quad E(D_x \cup D_y) = \emptyset.$$

Therefore in the case when  $\bar{\mu}(E(K)) < 3/4$  we have  $\bar{\mu}(D_x \cup D_y) > 1/4$  and without loss of generality  $\bar{\mu}(D_x) > 1/8$ . Then as above  $|\mu_x| > 1/8$ , thus  $(\Phi)$  holds. In the case when  $\bar{\mu}(E(K)) \geq 3/4$  we have  $\bar{\mu}(K - E(K)) \leq 1/4$ . By the case  $E(K) = \emptyset$  above without loss of generality  $\bar{\mu}_x(p_1(E(K))) \geq \bar{\mu}(E(K))/2$ . Hence  $|\mu_x| \geq 1/2 \cdot 3/4 - 1/4 = 1/8$ , thus  $(\Phi)$  holds. The case of arbitrary  $n$  is proved analogously.  $\square$

We remark that not only some linear relation on  $\text{im } \phi_K$  can force it to be strictly less than  $C(K)$ . Or, in other words,  $\varphi_K^*$  can be injective but not monomorphic. If an embedding  $K \subset \mathbf{R}^2$  is basic, then we can prove that  $\phi^*$  is monomorphic without use of  $\phi$  as follows. Define a linear operator

$$\Psi: C^*(I) \oplus C^*(I) \rightarrow C^*(K) \quad \text{by} \quad \Psi(\mu_x, \mu_y)(f) = \mu_x(g) + \mu_y(h),$$

where  $g, h \in C(I)$  are such that  $g(0) = 0$  and  $f(x, y) = g(x) + h(y)$  for  $(x, y) \in K$ . Clearly,  $\Psi\Phi = \text{id}$  and  $\Psi$  is bounded, hence  $\Phi$  is monomorphic.

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INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS AND MECHANICS, UNIVERSITY OF  
LJUBLJANA, P.O. BOX 2964, 1001 LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA  
*E-mail address:* `dusan.repovs@uni-lj.si`

INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS AND MECHANICS, UNIVERSITY OF  
LJUBLJANA, P.O. BOX 2964, 1001 LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA  
*E-mail address:* `matjaz.zeljko@fmf.uni-lj.si`