
Functional Analysis:

Problem Set III

Youngduck Choi
CIMS
New York University
yc1104@nyu.edu

Abstract

This work contains solutions to the exercises of the problem set III.

Question 1.

3.5 Let E be a Banach space and let $K \subset E$ be a subset of E that is compact in the strong topology. Let (x_n) be a sequence in K such that $x_n \rightharpoonup x$ weakly $\sigma(E, E^*)$. Prove that $x_n \rightarrow x$ strongly.

[Hint: Argue by contradiction.]

Solution.

Suppose $x_n \not\rightarrow x$ strongly. Then, there exists $\epsilon > 0$ and $\{x_{n_k}\}$ such that

$$|x_{n_k} - x| > \epsilon \quad (1)$$

for all $k \geq 1$. By the compactness of K in strong topology, there exists a further subsequence $\{x_{n_{k_l}}\}$ such that

$$\lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} x_{n_{k_l}} = y$$

for some $y \in K$. From (1), $y \neq x$. Now, since convergence in strong topology implies convergence in weak topology, we have

$$x_{n_{k_l}} \rightarrow_{\text{weak}} y \quad \text{as} \quad l \rightarrow \infty.$$

From our assumption, however, $x_n \rightarrow_{\text{weak}} x$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, so by Hausdorff property of weak topology $x_{n_{k_l}} \rightarrow_{\text{weak}} x$ as $l \rightarrow \infty$. This contradicts the uniqueness of limit property of weak topology, which also arises from Hausdorff property of weak topology. We have a contradiction, and we are done.

□

Question 2.

3.9 Let E be a Banach space; let $M \subset E$ be a linear subspace, and let $f_0 \in E^*$. Prove that there exists some $g_0 \in M^\perp$ such that

$$\inf_{g \in M^\perp} \|f_0 - g\| = \|f_0 - g_0\|.$$

Two methods are suggested:

1. Use Theorem 1.12.
2. Use the weak* topology $\sigma(E^*, E)$.

Solution.

By Banach-Alaoglu, B_{E^*} is weak-* compact, and we claim that M^\perp is closed in weak-*, because M^\perp is closed in strong topology in E^* . Let $f \in E^*$ such that there exists $\{f_n\} \subset M^\perp$ with f_n to f strongly. Then,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle f_n, x \rangle = \langle f, x \rangle.$$

Question 3.

3.10 Let E and F be two Banach spaces. Let $T \in \mathcal{L}(E, F)$, so that $T^* \in \mathcal{L}(F^*, E^*)$. Prove that T^* is continuous from F^* equipped with $\sigma(F^*, F)$ into E^* equipped with $\sigma(E^*, E)$.

Solution.

Question 4.

3.14 Let E be a reflexive Banach space and let I be a set of indices. Consider a collection $(f_i)_{i \in I}$ in E^* and a collection $(\alpha_i)_{i \in I}$ in \mathbb{R} . Let $M > 0$.

Show that the following properties are equivalent:

- (A) $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{There exists some } x \in E \text{ with } \|x\| \leq M \text{ such that } \langle f_i, x \rangle = \alpha_i \\ \text{for every } i \in I. \end{array} \right.$
- (B) $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{One has } |\sum_{i \in J} \beta_i \alpha_i| \leq M \|\sum_{i \in J} \beta_i f_i\| \text{ for every collection } (\beta_i)_{i \in J} \\ \text{in } \mathbb{R} \text{ with } J \subset I, J \text{ finite.} \end{array} \right.$

Compare with Exercises 1.10, 1.11 and Lemma 3.3.

Solution.

$(A) \implies (B)$ is obvious. For a moment, we assume the result of exercise 1.10 in Brezis. Suppose (B) is true. Then, by 1.10, there exists $\phi_0 \in E^{**}$ such that

$$\|\phi_0\| \leq M \quad \text{and} \quad \langle \phi_0, f_i \rangle = \alpha_i$$

for all $i \in I$. Then, by reflexivity of E , there exists $x_0 \in E$ such that

$$\|x_0\| \leq M \quad \text{and} \quad \langle f, x_0 \rangle = \alpha_i$$

for all $i \in I$. Hence, it suffices to prove the result of 1.10. In particular, we need $(B) \implies (A)$ direction. Let G be the vector space spanned by $\{x_i\}_{i \in I}$. Define $g : G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$g(x) = \sum_{i \in J} \beta_i \alpha_i$$

where $x = \sum_{i \in J} \beta_i x_i$. g is well-defined and bounded by assumption (B). Now, extend g to the whole of E by corollary of

Question 5.

3.16 Let E be a Banach space.

1. Let (f_n) be a sequence in (E^*) such that for every $x \in E$, $\langle f_n, x \rangle$ converges to a limit. Prove that there exists some $f \in E^*$ such that $f_n \xrightarrow{*} f$ in $\sigma(E^*, E)$.
2. Assume here that E is reflexive. Let (x_n) be a sequence in E such that for every $f \in E^*$, $\langle f, x_n \rangle$ converges to a limit. Prove that there exists some $x \in E$ such that $x_n \rightarrow x$ in $\sigma(E, E^*)$.
3. Construct an example in a nonreflexive space E where the conclusion of 2 fails.
[Hint: Take $E = c_0$ (see Section 11.3) and $x_n = (1, 1, \dots, \frac{1}{n}, 0, 0, \dots)$.]

Solution.

Let $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined by

$$\langle f, x \rangle = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle f_n, x \rangle \quad (x \in E).$$

Then, f is linear, because by linearity of $\{f_n\}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle f, x + y \rangle &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle f_n, x + y \rangle = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle f_n, x \rangle + \langle f_n, y \rangle \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle f_n, x \rangle + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle f_n, y \rangle = \langle f, x \rangle + \langle f, y \rangle \end{aligned}$$

for any $x, y \in E$ and

$$\langle f, \lambda x \rangle = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle f_n, \lambda x \rangle = \lambda \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle f_n, x \rangle = \lambda \langle f, x \rangle$$

for any $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and $x \in E$. If we show that f is bounded, or continuous then we are done, since

$$f_n \rightarrow f \text{ in weak-}^* \iff \langle f_n, x \rangle \rightarrow \langle f, x \rangle \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

Question 6.

3.21 Let E be a separable Banach space and let (f_n) be a bounded sequence in E^* . Prove directly—without using the metrizable of E^* —that there exists a subsequence (f_{n_k}) that converges in $\sigma(E^*, E)$.

[Hint: Use a diagonal process.]

Solution.

As E is separable, there exists $\{a_i\}$, a dense countable subset of E . Since $\{f_n\}$ are bounded in E^* , $\{\langle f_n, a_1 \rangle\}$ is bounded in \mathbb{R} . Hence, we can choose a subsequence $\{n_k\}$, with relabeling $\{(1, k)\}$ such that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \langle f_{1,k}, a_1 \rangle \text{ exists.}$$

Now, with the fact that $\{\langle f_n, a_2 \rangle\}$ is bounded in \mathbb{R} , choose a further subsequence $\{n_{k_l}\}$ from $\{n_k\}$, with relabeling $\{(2, k)\}$ such that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \langle f_{2,k}, a_2 \rangle \text{ exists.}$$

Repeat this process inductively, so that we have chosen $f_{l,k}$ for all $l, k \in \mathbb{N}$. Then, consider $\{g_l\} = \{f_{l,l}\}$, which is the standard diagonal sequence. Then, by choice

$$\lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} \langle g_l, a_i \rangle \text{ exists}$$

for any $i \in \mathbb{N}$. Let $g : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\langle g, a_i \rangle = \lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} \langle g_l, a_i \rangle$$

for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$, and for any $x \in E \setminus \{a_i\}$, by density of $\{a_i\}$, choose $\{a_p\} \subset \{a_i\}$ such that $\lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} a_p = x$ and

$$\langle g, x \rangle = \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \langle g, a_p \rangle.$$

This is well-defined, and $g \in E^*$. By definition,