

A NOTE ON SETS OF CONSTANT WIDTH

Siniša Vrećica

Abstract. We prove here that each convex set in Euclidean space can be extended to a set of constant width having the same diameter and being contained in same Jung's ball. We also prove a characterization of the sets of constant width, which gives the answer to a problem of F. A. Valentine.

Introduction. In this note, we prove that each convex set C in Euclidean space can be extended to a set of constant width having the same diameter and being contained in the Jung's ball of the set C . An inequality between the radii of the corresponding Jung's ball and the inscribed ball and the diameter of the set C is proved.

In the third part of this note, we prove a characterization of the sets of constant width whose specialization gives the answer to a problem of F. A. Valentine [3., Problem 12.6.].

Our terminology and notations are according to F. A. Valentine [3]. Note that Jung's ball of the convex set C is the ball of the smallest diameter containing C . A set of constant width in a Minkowski space is defined in the usual manner, as a compact convex set for which every two parallel support hyper-planes are at the same distance apart. A complete set in a Minkowski space is a subset of the space whose each superset is of bigger diameter. In case of Euclidean spaces the class of complete sets and the class of sets of constant width coincide.

constant width
定义

这个定义是否等价
欧式空间的距离呢?

2. THEOREM 1. *Let C be a set of diameter d in Euclidean space E_n and $K(x, R)$ its Jung's ball. Then, there is a set B of constant width d such that*

$$C \subset B \subset K(x, R).$$

这个定理就是我们要的东西, C 是任意一个直径为 d 的集合. 那么他一定被一个constant width为 d 的集合包含.

The author recently proved that it could be required for the set B (if $\text{diam } C < 2R$) to satisfy the equality $B \cap S(x, R) = C \cap S(x, R)$ too ($S(x, R)$ being the sphere of radius R about the center x). The proof will be published in the following paper.

一个图形任意平行支撑超平面距离是1 等价于 他里面任意diameter=1

证明: 如果 他存在diameter!=1 那么可以假设p点到q点是p点到图像上任意一点的最远距离. 如果这个数值小于1. 假设为 d , 那么p为中心比 d 打一点点的圆跟图像不想交. 因为凸性我们可以知道他可以取平行线. 所以证毕. 有一点不严格. 需要以后补充.

isometry是3个变化: 平移, 旋转, 按照一个轴反转.

下面我们证明旋转和反转不能只用一种. 也就是他俩不同.

证明很显然. 假设 abc 是一个角, 那么不管你怎么转这3个点相对角不变. 意思是. 假设 ab 边逆时针转30度会变成 ac 边. 那么你旋转角度 abc 那么旋转之后的 ab 还是只能逆时针转30度才变成 ac 边. 而反转就不同了. 反转之后 ab 会变成顺时针30度之后变成 ac 边.

- 1、“ \vee ”表示“或”；
- 2、“ \wedge ”表示“与”；
- 3、“ \neg ”表示“非”；
- 4、“ $=$ ”表示“等价”；
- 5、1和0表示“真”和“假”。

PROOF. Consider the family

$$F = \{A \mid C \subset A \wedge A \subset K(x, R) \wedge \text{diam } A = d\}$$

diameter

and the inclusion relation as an ordering on F . The family F is non-empty, because C is an element of F . Every chain in F has an upper bound, because the union of the elements of each chain in F is again an element of F . So by Zorn's lemma the family F has at least one maximal element. Let B be a maximal element of F . We shall prove that B is a set of constant width. Suppose the contrary and consider a set B_0 of constant width d , which contains B . The set B_0 is not contained in the ball $K(x, R)$ because of maximality of the set B in the family F .

最大, 应该是maximal. 他打错了

Let z be one of the farthest points of B_0 from the point x and let y be a point on the line through the points x and z chosen so that x is between z and y and that $\|x - y\| = d - R$. Because of $\|y - z\| = \|y - x\| + \|x - z\| = d - R + \|x - z\| > d$, it follows that $y \notin B_0$. Then, $y \notin B_0$ implies $y \notin B$. Because of $d \leq 2R$ we have $\|x - y\| = d - R \leq R$ and $y \in K(x, R)$. For $u \in B$ we have $u \in B \subset K(x, R)$ what implies $\|y - u\| \leq \|y - x\| + \|x - u\| \leq d - R + R = d$.

So, we have for the set $B' = \text{conv}(B \cup \{y\})$

$$C \subset B \subset B' \text{ and } B' \subset K(x, R) \text{ and } \text{diam } B' = d.$$

Hence, $B' \in F$ what contradicts the maximality of B . Hence, B is a set of constant width, which was to be proved. 被证明了.

Let us note that the same arguments would show the validity of Theorem 1. in case of a Minkowski space if the term "set of constant width" is replaced by the term "complete set", i.e. it holds

PROPOSITION 1. Let C be a set of diameter d in Minkowski space L_n and $K(x, R)$ one of the balls of the smallest diameter containing C . Then, there is a complete set B of diameter d such that

$$C \subset B \subset K(x, R).$$

Applying the Theorem 1, we give a simple proof of the following statement.

COROLLARY 1. Let C be a subset of E_n of diameter d with the radii of its Jung's ball and the inscribed ball being R and r respectively. Then, the inequality

$$r \leq d - R$$

holds.

PROOF. Let B be a set of constant width d such that

$$C \subset B \subset K(x, R),$$

where $K(x, R)$ is the Jung's ball of the set C , and let r' be the radius of the inscribed ball of the set B . Then, by Theorem 53. in [2], the inequality

$$r \leq r' = d - R$$

holds, which was to be proved.

3. THEOREM 2. *A compact convex body B in a Minkowski space L_n is the set of constant width if and only if for each pair of interior points $x, y \in \text{int } B$, there is a set C of constant width such that $x, y \in \text{bd } C$ and $C \subset \text{int } B$.*

PROOF. Let B be a set of constant width. Let $x, y \in \text{int } B$. There is a set B' homothetic to B with y being the center of homothety such that $x \in \text{bd } B'$. There is now a set C homothetic to B' with x being the center of homothety such that $x, y \in \text{bd } C$ and $C \subset B' \subset \text{int } B$.

Let B be a compact convex body which is not the set of constant width and $\text{diam } B = d$. Then, there is a hyperplane H such that $w(H) = d' < d(w(H)$ being the distance between the two parallel hyperplanes of support to B which are parallel to H). Because of $\text{diam } B = d$, there exist points $x, y \in \text{int } B$ such that $\|x - y\| > d'$. Then, every set of constant width which contains the points x and y has the width bigger than d' and it can not be contained in the set B .

REMARK. From the first part of the proof of Theorem 2. it is easy to see that the set C of constant width is homothetic to B . Hence, we shall have following

PROPOSITION 2. Let B' be any set of constant width in Euclidean space E_n . A compact convex body B in E_n is a set similar to B' if and only if for each pair of points x and y , being both either interior or exterior points of B , there exists a set C similar to B' such that x and y belong to $\text{bd } C$ and the sets C and B have disjoint boundaries.

PROOF. Let B be a set of constant width similar to B' and let x and y be the exterior points of B .

If the sets B and $[x, y]$ are disjoint, there is a hyperplane H which contains the point x and strictly separates the set B and the point y or contains the point y and strictly separates the set B and the point x . Let, for example, H contains x and strictly separates B and y . Then, there exists a set B_1 , congruent to B such that $x \in \text{bd } B_1$ and H is a hyperplane of support to B_1 and y belongs to the interior of the cone of support to B_1 at the point x . So, there is a set C homothetic to B_1 with x being the center of homothety, and thus similar to B' , such that $x, y \in \text{bd } C$ and $C \cap B = \emptyset$.

If the sets B and $[x, y]$ are not disjoint, then there is a set B_1 homothetic to B with an interior point of B being the center of homothety such that $x \in \text{bd } B_1$ and $y \notin \text{int } B_1$ or $y \in \text{bd } B_1$, and $x \notin \text{int } B_1$. Let be $x \in \text{bd } B_1$ and $y \notin \text{int } B_1$. Because of $B \cap [x, y] \neq \emptyset$ the point y belongs to the interior of the cone of support to B_1 at the point x and so there is now a set C homothetic to B_1 with x being the center of homothety such that $x, y \in \text{bd } C$ and $B \subset \text{int } C$ holds.

According to Theorem 2., that is all what we had to prove.

When the set B is a ball, Proposition 2. gives one possible generalization of Proposition 12.14 in [3.], while Theorem 2. is a further generalization of this proposition, and is a solution of Problem 12.6 from [3].

REFERENCES

- [1] T. Bonnesen and W. Fenchel, *Theorie der Konvexen Körper*, Springer, Berlin, 1934.
- [2] H. G. Eggleston, *Convexity*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1958.
- [3] F. A. Valentine, *Convex Sets*, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1964.

Siniša Vrećica
University of Belgrade
Institute of mathematics
Belgrade, Yugoslavia