

THE HAHN-BANACH THEOREM FOR THE NORMED SPACES¹

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ABSTRACT

It is intended, in this chapter, to present the Hahn-Banach theorem in its version for the normed spaces. This result is particularly important in optimization problems because of the separation theorems consequences of it.

Key words: Hahn-Banach theorem, normed spaces, separation theorems

1. THE HAHN-BANACH THEOREM

1.1. Convex Sets and Bodies

Be a real vector space L .

Definition 1.1.1

A set $K \subset L$ is **convex** if and only if

$$\forall x, y \in K \quad \forall \theta \in [0,1] \quad \theta x + (1 - \theta)y \in K \quad (1.1.1). \blacksquare$$

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Definition 1.1.2

It is called **nucleus** of a set $E \subset L$, and designated $J(E)$, the set of the points $x \in E$ such that, given any $y \in L$, it is determined $\varepsilon = \varepsilon(y) > 0$ such that $x + ty \in E$ since $|t| < \varepsilon$. ■

Definition 1.1.3

A convex set with non-empty nucleus is called **convex body**. ■

Theorem 1.1.1

The nucleus of any convex set K is also convex.

Dem.:

Suppose that $x, y \in J(K)$. Be $z = \theta x + (1 - \theta)y, 0 \leq \theta \leq 1$. Then, given any $a \in L$, it is possible to determine $\varepsilon_1 > 0, \varepsilon_2 > 0$ such that for $|t_1| < \varepsilon_1, |t_2| < \varepsilon_2, x + t_1 a$ and $x + t_2 a$ belong to K . So, the point $\theta(x + ta) + (1 - \theta)(y + ta) = z + ta$ belongs to K for $|t| < \varepsilon = \min\{\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2\}$ and $z \in J(K)$. ■

Theorem 1.1.2

The intersection of any convex sets family is a convex set.

Dem: Be $K = \bigcap_{\alpha} K_{\alpha}$, where each K_{α} is a convex set. Consider any two points x and y belonging to K . So $\theta x + (1 - \theta)y, 0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ belongs to any K_{α} and, in consequence, to K . Then K is convex. ■

Observation:

-The intersection of convex sets, being a convex set, is not necessarily a convex body.

Definition 1.1.4

Be A any part of a vector space L . Among the convex sets that contain A there is a minimal set: the intersection of the whole convex sets that contain A .² This minimal convex set is called the **convex hull** of A . ■

1.2. Homogeneous Convex Functionals

Definition 1.2.1

A functional p defined in L is **convex** if and only if

² There is at least one convex set that contains A : the space L .

$$\forall x, y \in L \quad \forall \theta \in [0,1] \quad p(\theta x + (1 - \theta)y) \leq \theta p(x) + (1 - \theta)p(y) \quad (1.2.1). \blacksquare$$

Definition 1.2.2

A functional p is **positively homogeneous** if and only if

$$\forall x \in L \quad \forall \alpha > 0 \quad p(\alpha x) = \alpha p(x) \quad (1.2.2). \blacksquare$$

Proposition 1.2.1

For any convex positively homogeneous functional it always holds:

$$i) \quad p(x + y) \leq p(x) + p(y) \quad (1.2.3),$$

$$ii) \quad p(0) = 0 \quad (1.2.4),$$

$$iii) \quad p(x) + p(-x) \geq 0, \quad \forall x \in L \quad (1.2.5),$$

$$iv) \quad p(\alpha x) \geq \alpha p(x), \quad \forall \alpha \in \mathbb{R} \quad (1.2.6).$$

Dem:

$$i) \quad \text{In fact, } p(x + y) = 2p\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) \leq 2\left(p\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) + p\left(\frac{y}{2}\right)\right) = p(x) + p(y),$$

$$ii) \quad \text{In fact, } p(0) = p(\alpha 0) = \alpha p(0), \quad \forall \alpha > 0. \quad \text{So } p(0) = 0,$$

$$iii) \quad \text{In this case, } 0 = p(0) = p(x + (-x)) \leq p(x) + p(-x), \quad \forall x \in L,$$

iv) The result is evident for $\alpha \geq 0$. For $\alpha < 0$, $0 \leq p(\alpha x) + p(-\alpha x) = p(\alpha x) + p(|\alpha|x) = p(\alpha x) + |\alpha|p(x)$. That is: $p(\alpha x) \geq \alpha p(x)$. ■

1.3. Minkowsky Functionals

Definition 1.3.1

Be L any vector space and A a convex body in L which nucleus contains 0. **The A convex body Minkowsky functional**, designated $p_A(x)$, is the functional

$$p_A(x) = \inf\left\{r: \frac{x}{r} \in A, r > 0\right\} \quad (1.3.1). \blacksquare$$

Theorem 1.3.1

A Minkowsky functional is convex, positively homogeneous and assumes only positive values. Reciprocally, if $p(x)$ is a convex

positively homogeneous functional, assuming only positive values, and k appositve number, then the set

$$A = \{x: p(x) \leq k\} \tag{1.3.2}$$

is a convex body with nucleus $\{x: p(x) < k\}$, which contains the point 0. If in (1.3.2) $k = 1$, the initial functional $p(x)$ is the A Minkowsky functional.

Dem: Given any element $x \in L$, $\frac{x}{r}$ belongs to A if r is great enough. Then, the number $p_A(x)$ defined by (1.3.1) is positive and finite.

$$\text{But, given } t > 0 \text{ and } y = tx, p_A(y) = \inf\left\{r > 0: \frac{y}{r} \in A\right\} = \inf\left\{r > 0: \frac{tx}{r} \in A\right\} = \inf\left\{tr' > 0: \frac{x}{r'} \in A\right\} = t \inf\left\{tr' > 0: \frac{x}{r'} \in A\right\} = t p_A(x).$$

So,

$$p_A(tx) = t p_A(x), \forall t > 0 \tag{1.3.3}$$

and $p_A(x)$ is positively homogeneous.

Suppose now that $x_1, x_2 \in L$. Given any $\epsilon > 0$, choose the numbers r_i ($i = 1, 2$) in the way that $p_A(x_i) < r_i < p_A(x_i) + \epsilon$. Then $\frac{x_i}{r_i} \in A$. Then, defining $r = r_1 + r_2$, the point $\frac{x_1+x_2}{r} = \frac{r_1}{rr_1} x_1 + \frac{r_2}{rr_2} x_2$ will belong to the set of points $S = \left\{z: z = \theta \frac{x_1}{r_1} + (1 - \theta) \frac{x_2}{r_2}, \theta \in [0, 1]\right\}$. As A is a convex set, $S \subset A$ and, in particular, $\frac{x_1+x_2}{r} \in A$. So, $p_A(x_1 + x_2) \leq r = r_1 + r_2 < p_A(x_1) + p_A(x_2) + 2\epsilon$. As ϵ is arbitrary,

$$p_A(x_1 + x_2) \leq p_A(x_1) + p_A(x_2).$$

So, $p_A(\theta x + (1 - \theta)y) \leq p_A(\theta x) + p_A((1 - \theta)y) = \theta p_A(x) + (1 - \theta)$

$p_A(y)$, $\forall x, y \in L, \theta \in [0, 1]$, since it was already shown that $p_A(x)$ is positively homogeneous.

Look now to the set defined by (1.3.2). If $x, y \in A$ and $\theta \in [0, 1]$, so $p(\theta x + (1 - \theta)y) \leq \theta p(x) + (1 - \theta)p(y) \leq K$. In consequence, A is a convex set. Suppose now that $p(x) < K, t > 0$ and $y \in L$. Under these conditions, $p(x \pm ty) \leq p(x) + tp(\pm y)$. If $p(-y) = p(y) =$

0, so $x \pm ty \in A$ for any t . If at least one of the numbers (positive) $p(y), p(-y)$ is not null, so $x \pm ty \in A$ for

$$t < \frac{K - p(x)}{\max\{p(y), p(-y)\}}.$$

From the definitions it results that p is the Minkowsky functional of the set $\{x: p(x) \leq 1\}$. ■

Observation:

-Taking in account the Theorem 1.3.1, the Minkowsky functional allows to establish a correspondence between the positively homogeneous convex functionals, assuming only positive values, and the convex bodies to which nucleus the origin belongs.

1.4. The Hahn-Banach-Theorem

Definition 1.4.1

Consider a vector space L and its subspace L_0 . Suppose that in L_0 is defined a linear functional f_0 . A linear functional f defined in the whole space L is an **extension** of the functional f_0 if and only if

$$f(x) = f_0(x), \quad \forall x \in L_0. \quad \blacksquare$$

The Hahn-Banach theorem is essential in the in the resolution of the problem of finding an extension of a linear functional.

Theorem 1.4.1 (Hahn-Banach)

Be p a positively homogeneous convex functional defined in a real vector space L and L_0 an L subspace. If f_0 is a linear functional defined in L_0 , fulfilling the condition

$$f_0(x) \leq p(x), \quad \forall x \in L_0 \quad (1.4.1),$$

so there is an extension f of f_0 defined in L , linear, and such that

$$f(x) \leq p(x), \quad \forall x \in L.$$

Dem:

Begin showing that if $L_0 \neq L$, there is an extension of f_0, f' , defined in a subspace L' such that $L \subset L'$, in order to fulfill the condition (1.4.1).

Be z any element of L not belonging to L_0 ; if L' is the subspace generated by L_0 and z , each element of L' is expressed in the form $tz+x$, being $x \in L_0$. If f' is an extension (linear) of the functional f_0 to L' , it will happen that $f'(tz+x) = tf'(z) + f_0(x)$ or, making $f'(z) = c$,

$$f'(tz+x) = tc + f_0(x).$$

Now choose c , fulfilling the condition (5.1) in L' , that is: in order that the inequality $f_0(x) + tc \leq p(x+tz)$, for any $x \in L_0$ and any real number t , is accomplished.

For $t > 0$ this inequality is equivalent to the condition $f_0\left(\frac{x}{t}\right) + c \leq p\left(\frac{x}{t} + z\right)$ or

$$c \leq p\left(\frac{x}{t} + z\right) - f_0\left(\frac{x}{t}\right) \tag{1.4.2}.$$

For $t < 0$ it is equivalent to the condition $f_0\left(\frac{x}{t}\right) + c \geq -p\left(-\frac{x}{t} - z\right)$, or

$$c \geq -p\left(-\frac{x}{t} - z\right) - f_0\left(\frac{x}{t}\right) \tag{1.4.3}.$$

Now it will be proved that there is always a number c satisfying simultaneously the conditions (1.4.2) and (1.4.3).

Given any two elements y' and y'' belonging to L_0 ,

$$-f_0(y'') + p(y'' + z) \geq -f_0(y') - p(-y' - z) \tag{1.4.4},$$

since $f_0(y'') - f_0(y') \leq p(y'' - y') = p((y'' + z) - (y' + z)) \leq p(y'' + z) + p(-y' - z)$.

Be $c'' = \inf_{y''} (-f_0(y'') + p(y'' + z))$ and $c' = \sup_{y'} (-f_0(y') - p(-y' - z))$. As y' and y'' are arbitrary, it results from (1.4.4) that $c'' \geq c'$. Choosing c in order that $c'' \geq c \geq c'$, it is defined the functional f' on L' through the formula

$$f'(tz + x) = tc + f_0(x).$$

This functional satisfies the condition (1.4.1). So, any functional f_0 defined in a subspace $L_0 \subset L$ and subject in L_0 to the condition (1.4.1), may be extended to a subspace L' . The extension f' satisfies the condition

$$f'(x) \leq p(x), \quad \forall x \in L'.$$

If L has an algebraic numerable base $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, \dots)$ the functional in L is built by finite induction, considering the increasing sequence of subspaces

$$L^{(1)} = (L_0, x_1), L^{(2)} = (L^{(1)}, x_2), \dots$$

designating $(L^{(k)}, x_{k+1})$ the L subspace generated by $L^{(k)}$ and x_{k+1} . In the general case, that is, when L has not an algebraic numerable base, it is mandatory to use a **transfinite induction process, for instance the Hausdorff maximal chain theorem**.

Call \mathcal{F} the set of the whole pairs (L', f') , at which L' is a L subspace that contains L_0 and f' is an extension of f_0 to L' that fulfills (1.4.1). Order partially \mathcal{F} so that

$$(L', f') \leq (L'', f'') \text{ if and only if } L' \subset L'' \text{ and } f'_{L'} = f''.$$

By the Hausdorff maximal chain theorem, there is a **chain**, that is: a subset of \mathcal{F} totally ordered, **maximal**, that is: not strictly contained in another chain. Call it Ω . Be Φ the family of the whole L' such that $(L', f') \in \Omega$. Φ is totally ordered by the sets inclusion; so, the union T of the whole elements of Φ is a L subspace. If $x \in T$ then $x \in L'$ for some $L' \in \Phi$; define $\tilde{f}(x) = f'(x)$, where f' is the extension of f_0 that is in the pair (L', f') - the definition of \tilde{f} is obviously coherent. It is easy to check that $T = L$ and that $f = \tilde{f}$ satisfies the condition (1.4.1). ■

Now the Hahn-Banach theorem complex case, corresponding to the contribution of Hahn to the theorem, will be presented. But first:

Definition 1.4.2

A linear functional p , assuming only positive values, defined in a complex vector space L , is homogeneous convex if and only if, for any $x, y \in L$ and any complex number λ ,

$$\begin{aligned} p(x + y) &\leq p(x) + p(y), \\ p(\lambda x) &= |\lambda|p(x). \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 1.4.1a (Hahn-Banach)

Be p an homogeneous convex functional defined in a vector space L and f_0 a linear functional, defined in a subspace $L_0 \subset L$, fulfilling the condition

$$|f_0(x)| \leq p(x), x \in L_0.$$

Then, there is a linear functional f defined in L , satisfying the conditions

$$|f(x)| \leq p(x), x \in L; f(x) = f_0(x), x \in L_0.$$

Dem:

Call L_R and L_{0R} the real vector spaces underlying, respectively, the spaces L and L_0 . As it is evident, p is an homogeneous convex functional in L_R and $f_{0R}(x) = \text{Re}f_0(x)$ a real linear functional in L_{0R} fulfilling the condition $|f_{0R}(x)| \leq p(x)$ and so,

$$f_{0R}(x) \leq p(x).$$

Then, owing to Theorem 1.4.1, there is a real linear functional f_R , defined in the whole L_R space, that satisfies the conditions

$$f_R(x) \leq p(x), x \in L_R; f_R(x) = f_{0R}(x), x \in L_{0R}.$$

But, $-f_R(x) = f_R(-x) \leq p(-x) = p(x)$, and $|f_R(x)| \leq p(x), x \in L_R$ (1.4.5).

Define in L the functional f making

$$f(x) = f_R(x) - if_R(ix).$$

It is immediate that f is a complex linear functional in L such that

$$f(x) = f_0(x), x \in L_0; \operatorname{Re}f(x) = f_R(x), x \in L.$$

It only misses to show that $|f(x)| \leq p(x), \forall x \in L$.

Proceed by absurd. Suppose that there is $x_0 \in L$ such that $|f(x_0)| > p(x_0)$. So, $f(x_0) = \rho e^{i\varphi}, \rho > 0$, and making $y_0 = e^{-i\varphi} x_0$, it would happen that $f_R(y_0) = \operatorname{Re}[e^{-i\varphi} f(x_0)] = \rho > p(x_0) = p(y_0)$ that is contrary to (1.4.5). ■

2. THE HAHN-BANACH-THEOREM FOR THE NORMED SPACES

2.1. Normed Spaces

Definition 2.1.1

Calling L a vector space, a **norm** in L is a functional p such that:

- $p(x) \geq 0$,
- $p(x) = 0$ if and only if $x = 0$,
- $p(x + y) \leq p(x) + p(y)$,
- $p(\alpha x) = |\alpha|p(x)$, for every α . ■

A vector space L with a norm is a **normed space**. It is usual to designate the norm of an element $x \in L$, $\|x\|$.

Every normed space is a metric space, with the **distance**

$$d(x, y) = \|x - y\|.$$

2.2. Continuous Linear Functionals

Be E a normed vector space.

Definition 2.2.1

A linear functional f , defined in E , is continuous in $x_0 \in E$ if and only if, for any $\varepsilon < 0$, there is a neighboring U of x_0 such that

$$|f(x) - f(x_0)| < \varepsilon \text{ for } x \in U. \blacksquare$$

Definition 2.2.2

A linear functional f , defined in E , is continuous if it is continuous in all $x_0 \in E$. ■

Follow some important results on the continuity of linear functionals defined in normed vector spaces.

Proposition 2.2.1

Be E a normed vector space and f a linear functional in E . So

- i)* If E has finite dimension, f is continuous,
- ii)* f is continuous if and only if f is continuous at the origin,
- iii)* f is continuous if and only if f is bounded over the unitary ball. ■

Definition 2.2.3

Be f a continuous linear functional in a normed space E . It is called **f norm**, and designated $\|f\|$,

$$\|f\| = \sup_{|x| \leq 1} |f(x)|$$

that is: **the supreme of the values that $|f(x)|$ assumes in the E unitary ball.** ■

Observation:

-The class of continuous linear functionals so defined, is a vector normed space, called the **E dual space**, designated E' .

2.3. The Hahn-Banach Theorem Version in Normed Spaces

The Theorem 1.4.1 is as follows, in normed spaces:

Theorem 2.3.1 (Hahn-Banach)

Name L a subspace of a real normed space E and f_0 a bounded linear functional in L . So, there is a linear functional defined in E , extension of f_0 , such that

$$\|f_0\|_L = \|f\|_E.$$

Dem:

It is enough to think in the functional $K\|x\|$ at which $K = \|f_0\|_L$. As it is convex and positively homogeneous, it is possible to put $p(x) = K\|x\|$ and to apply Theorem 1.4.1. ■

Observation:

- To see an interesting geometric interpretation of this theorem, consider the equation $\|f_0(x)\| = 1$. It defines, in L , an hiperplane at distance $\frac{1}{\|f_0\|}$ of 0. Considering the extension f of f_0 , with norm conservation, it is obtained an hiperplane in E , that contains the hiperplane considered behind in L , and that at the same distance from the origin.

The version for normed spaces of Theorem 1.4.1a is:

Theorem 2.3.1a (Hahn-Banach)

Be E a complex normed space and f_0 a bounded linear functional defined in a subspace $L \subset E$. So, there is a bounded linear functional f , defined in E , such that

$$f(x) = f_0(x), x \in L; \|f\|_E = \|f_0\|_L. \blacksquare$$

2.4. Separation Theorems

In this this section, two separation theorems, important consequences of the Hahn-Banach theorem, applied to the normed vector spaces, will be presented.

Observation:

- It was seen that a convex body, in a vector space, is a convex set with non-empty nucleus. It may be stated that:

i) In a normed space, the nucleus of a set is coincident with the total of its interior points, and so

ii) In a normed space, a convex body is a convex set the has, at least, one interior point.

Theorem 2.4.1 (Separation)

Consider two convex sets A and B in a normed space E . If one of them, for instance A , has at least on interior point and $(intA) \cap B = \emptyset$, there is a continuous linear functional non-null that separates the sets A and B . ■

Theorem 2.4.2 (Separation)

Consider a closed convex set A , in a normed space E , and a point $x_0 \in E$, not belonging to A . So, there is a continuous linear functional, non-null, that separates strictly $\{x_0\}$ and A . ■

3. CONCLUSIONS

After a review on convex sets and bodies, homogeneous convex functionals, Minkowsky functionals and continuous convex functionals, the Hahn-Banach theorem for the normed spaces is presented, of course base on its general version. In addition two important separation theorems consequences of the Hahn-Banach theorem for the normed spaces are enounced. These last results are important in the optimization of functionals.

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