

Structural theorem for polyhedral normed spaces

Helena del Río Fernández

IMAG, Universidad de Granada

Ongoing project with Carlo Alberto De Bernardi, Tommaso Russo and Jacopo Somaglia



Topics in Banach space theory

CIEM Castro Urdiales

7th July 2026

Introduction

X real normed space.

- $\mathcal{D}(x) = \{f \in S_{X^*} : f(x) = 1\}$, $x \in S_X$
- $A \subseteq X^*$, A' denotes the w^* -cluster points of A
- $\text{ext } B_X$ denotes the extreme points of the unit ball

Definition

X is polyhedral if the unit ball of every finite-dimensional subspace of X is a polytope.

Polyhedral normed spaces

Definition

Let X be a normed space and consider the following properties:

- (IV) $f(x) < 1$ for every $x \in S_X$ and $f \in (\text{ext } B_X)'$;
- (V) $\sup\{f(x) : \text{ext } B_{X^*} \setminus \mathcal{D}(x)\} < 1$ for every $x \in S_X$;
- (VI) every $x \in S_X$ has a neighbourhood V such that for every $y \in V \cap S_X$, the segment $[x, y]$ lies entirely on S_X ;
- (K) X is polyhedral.

For $i \in \{\text{IV}, \text{V}, \text{VI}, \text{K}\}$, X is called *(i)-polyhedral* if it satisfies property (i).

Definition

X has property (Δ) if for every $x \in S_X$ the set $\text{ext } \mathcal{D}(x)$ is finite.

Faces of the sphere in polyhedral normed spaces

Definition

We say that $F \subseteq S_X$ is a *true face* of B_X if there exists a hyperplane H such that $F = H \cap B_X$ and $\text{int}_H(F) \neq \emptyset$.

Definition

We say that $F \subseteq S_X$ is an *algebraic true face* of B_X if there exists a hyperplane H such that $F = H \cap B_X$ and $\text{a-int}_H(F) \neq \emptyset$.

Faces of the sphere in polyhedral normed spaces

Fact

Let X be a polyhedral normed space, $x \in S_X$ and $f \in \mathcal{D}(x)$, and write $H = f^{-1}(1)$. We have

- $x \in \text{a-int}_H(H \cap B_X) \Leftrightarrow x$ is a Gâteaux smooth point.

If, moreover, X is (VI)-polyhedral (or Banach) then

- $x \in \text{a-int}_H(H \cap B_X) \Leftrightarrow x \in \text{int}_H(H \cap B_X) \Leftrightarrow x$ is Fréchet smooth.

Structural theorem

Theorem (Fonf, 1981)

Let X be a polyhedral Banach space. Then, S_X can be covered by true faces. Therefore, the set

$$\mathcal{B}_0 := \{f \in S_{X^*} : f^{-1}(1) \cap B_X \text{ is a true face}\}$$

is a boundary of B_X , which is called the *minimal boundary*.

Question

Can Fonf's theorem be extended to normed spaces?

Example

$\ell_{1,0}$ is a polyhedral normed space but has no algebraic true face.

Structural theorem for normed spaces

Theorem

Let X be a normed space with property (Δ) .

- If X (K)-polyhedral then S_X is covered by algebraic true faces of B_X .
- If X is (VI)-polyhedral then S_X is covered by true faces of B_X .

Locally finite tilings

Definition

Let X be a normed space. A family $\mathcal{T}$ of subsets of X is called a **tiling** if

- (i) every $T \in \mathcal{T}$ is closed, convex, proper and has nonempty interior (i.e., is a body),
- (ii) $X = \bigcup_{T \in \mathcal{T}} T$,
- (iii) $\text{int}(T_1) \cap \text{int}(T_2) = \emptyset$ whenever $T_1, T_2 \in \mathcal{T}$ are distinct.

Definition

We say that a tiling is locally finite if every $x \in X$ has a neighbourhood intersecting finitely many tiles.

Locally finite tilings

Theorem

For every normed space X , the following are equivalent:

- (a) X has a (VI)-polyhedral renorming with property (Δ)
- (b) X admits a locally finite tiling by bounded bodies.

Corollary

A Banach space admits a locally finite tiling by bounded convex bodies
 $\Leftrightarrow$ it has a (K)-polyhedral renorming with property (Δ) .

Theorem (Fonf, 1990)

A separable Banach space admits a locally finite tiling by bounded bodies
 $\Leftrightarrow$ it has a (K)-polyhedral renorming.

Examples

Example 1

There exists a (K) -polyhedral renorming X of c_{00} that satisfies (Δ) but S_X is not covered by true faces.

Example 2

$X = \ell_{1,0}$ is (V) -polyhedral but it has no algebraic true face.

Renorming result

Theorem

Let X be a Banach space with a fundamental biorthogonal system $\{e_\alpha, \varphi_\alpha^*\}_{\alpha \in \Gamma}$, and let $Y := \text{span}\{e_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \Gamma}$. Then, Y admits an equivalent norm $\|\cdot\|$ such that

- $(Y, \|\cdot\|)$ is (V) -polyhedral;
- $S_{(Y, \|\cdot\|)}$ has no algebraic true faces, and
- $B_{(Y, \|\cdot\|)} = \text{conv}(\text{ext}(B_{(Y, \|\cdot\|)}))$.

Construction

Theorem (Dantas, Hájek, Russo, 2023)

Let X be a Banach space with a fundamental biorthogonal system $\{e_\alpha, \varphi_\alpha^*\}_{\alpha \in \Gamma}$, and let Y be the dense subspace of X given by $Y := \text{span}\{e_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \Gamma}$. Then, Y admits a polyhedral LFC norm.

Proposition

The renorming given there is (IV)-polyhedral.

Thanks!