

ON THE BEST APPROXIMATION IN SMOOTH AND  
UNIFORMLY CONVEX REAL BANACH SPACE

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**Abstract.** Let  $X$  be a smooth and uniformly convex real Banach space and  $g$  functional defined as (2). The best approximation,  $ax$ , the vector  $y$  with vectors from  $[x] = \text{span}\{x\}$  ( $P_{[x]}y = ax$ ) is characterized with the equation  $g(y - ax, x) = 0$ . In certain Banach space, this equation, is possibly resolve for  $a$ . The above idea applied for  $P_M y$ , where  $M$  is a  $n$ -dimensional subspace of  $X$ .

Let  $X$  be a real normed space and  $S(X)$  unit sphere in  $X$ . It is well known that the functional

$$(1) \quad g(x, y) := \frac{\|x\|}{2} \left( \lim_{t \rightarrow -0} \frac{\|x + ty\| - \|x\|}{t} + \lim_{t \rightarrow +0} \frac{\|x + ty\| - \|x\|}{t} \right)$$

always exists on  $X^2$ . If  $X$  is smooth then (1) reduces to

$$(2) \quad g(x, y) = \|x\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\|x + ty\| - \|x\|}{t} \quad (x, y \in X).$$

In this case the functional  $g$  is linear in second argument and it has the properties:

$$g(\alpha x, y) = \alpha g(x, y) \quad (\alpha \in \mathbb{R}), \quad g(x, x) = \|x\|^2, \quad |g(x, y)| \leq \|x\| \|y\|$$

and  $g(x, y) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x \perp y$  ( $x \perp y \Leftrightarrow \|x\| \leq \|x + ty\|$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ).

(More at the functional  $g$  see in [3] and [4]).

If  $X$  is an inner product space (i.p. space) with i.p.  $(\cdot, \cdot)$ , we have

$$g(x, y) = (x, y) \quad (x, y \in X).$$

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**Lemma 1.** *Let  $X$  be smooth and  $x, y \in X$ . Then the following assertions are valid:*

$$\begin{aligned}
1^\circ \quad & (\forall \alpha, \alpha' \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}) \quad g(\alpha x + \beta y, \alpha' x + \beta' y) = 0 \\
& \Leftrightarrow \|\alpha x + \beta y\|^2 = \frac{\alpha' \beta - \alpha \beta'}{\alpha'} g(\alpha x + \beta y, y), \\
2^\circ \quad & (\forall \beta, \beta' \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}) \quad g(\alpha x + \beta y, \alpha' x + \beta' y) = 0 \\
& \Leftrightarrow \|\alpha x + \beta y\|^2 = \frac{\alpha \beta' - \beta \alpha'}{\beta'} g(\alpha x + \beta y, x).
\end{aligned}$$

*Proof.*  $1^\circ$  Using the properties of  $g$  we get equivalencies:

$$\begin{aligned}
& g(\alpha x + \beta y, \alpha' x + \beta' y) = 0 \\
& \Leftrightarrow \frac{\alpha'}{\alpha} g\left(\alpha x + \beta y, \alpha x + \frac{\alpha \beta'}{\alpha'} y\right) = 0 \\
& \Leftrightarrow g\left(\alpha x + \beta y, \alpha x + \beta y + \frac{\alpha \beta'}{\alpha'} y - \beta y\right) = 0 \\
& \Leftrightarrow g(\alpha x + \beta y, \alpha x + \beta y) + g\left(\alpha x + \beta y, -\left(\beta - \frac{\alpha \beta'}{\alpha'}\right) y\right) = 0 \\
& \Leftrightarrow \|\alpha x + \beta y\|^2 = \frac{\alpha' \beta - \alpha \beta'}{\alpha'} g(\alpha x + \beta y, y).
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly we get the statement  $2^\circ$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $X$  be smooth and uniformly convex, and let  $x, y \in X \setminus \{0\}$  linearly independent. The vector  $ax$  is unique the best approximation of vector  $y$  with vectors from  $[x]$ , i.e.  $P_{[x]}y = ax$ , if and only if*

$$(3) \quad g(y - ax, x) = 0 \vee \|y - ax\|^2 = g(y - ax, y).$$

*Proof.* Let be  $P_{[x]}y = ax$ . Because  $X$  is uniformly convex, for fixed  $x, y \in X \setminus \{0\}$ , the real function  $f(t) = \|y - tx\|$  is continuous on  $\mathbb{R}$  and it achieves its unique minimum at  $t = a$ . Since  $X$  is smooth, using (2) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
f'(t) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(t+h) - f(t)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\|y - (t+h)x\| - \|y - tx\|}{h} \\
&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\|y - tx - hx\| - \|y - tx\|}{h} = -\frac{g(y - tx, x)}{\|y - tx\|}.
\end{aligned}$$

Since  $\min f(t) = f(a)$  and  $f$  is differentiable, we obtain  $f'(a) = 0$ . So,  $g(y - ax, x) = 0$ .

The second equation we get immediately from 1° of Lemma 1.

Conversely, if there exists  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $g(y - ax, x) = 0$ , it follows that  $g(y - ax, \lambda x) = 0$  for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then, using the properties of functional  $g$  we have:

$$g(y - ax, y - ax + \lambda x) = \|y - ax\|^2 \leq \|y - ax\| \|y - ax + \lambda x\|.$$

So,

$$\|y - ax\| \leq \|y - (a - \lambda)x\|,$$

for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , i.e.  $\min f(t) = \|y - ax\|$ .  $\square$

An importance of assertion of Theorem 1 is in therein why, in certain spaces, the equation  $g(y - ax, x) = 0$  is possibly resolve for  $a$ . For example, if  $X$  is an i.p. space we have

$$g(y - ax, x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow (y - ax, x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow (x, y) - a \|x\|^2 = 0 \Leftrightarrow a = \frac{(x, y)}{\|x\|^2},$$

$$\text{i.e., } P_{[x]}y = \frac{(x, y)}{\|x\|^2}x.$$

One other example: The real Banach space  $X = \ell^4$  is smooth and uniformly convex. (The space  $\ell^4$  is so called a quasi inner product space [3]). According to definition of the functional  $g$  we get

$$g(x, y) = \|x\|^{-2} \sum_k x_k^3 y_k$$

$$(x = (x_1, x_2, \dots) \in \ell^4 \setminus \{0\}, y = (y_1, y_2, \dots) \in \ell^4 \setminus \{0\}).$$

Hence, in this case, we have

$$\begin{aligned} g(y - ax, x) = 0 &\Leftrightarrow \|y - ax\|^{-2} \sum_k (y_k - ax_k)^3 x_k = 0 \\ &\Leftrightarrow \sum_k y_k^3 x_k - 3a \sum_k y_k^2 x_k^2 + 3a^2 \sum_k y_k x_k^3 - a^3 \sum_k x_k^4 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $X$  is uniformly convex, this equation has uniquely solution for  $a$ . This solution is possible determined as solution an algebraic equation of the third degree.

Using the Theorem 1 it could be constitute the uniquely of solution certain equations. Par example: The real Banach space  $L_p(X, S, \mu)$  ( $1 < p <$

$\infty$ ) is uniformly smooth and uniformly convex. As thought in it  $g(x, y) = \|x\|^{2-p} \int_X y |x|^{p-1} \operatorname{sgn} x d\mu$ , ([2]), analogy as above, we conclude that the equation

$$\int_X |y - ax|^{p-1} x \operatorname{sgn}(y - ax) d\mu = 0 \quad (x, y \in L_p, x \neq y; a \in \mathbb{R})$$

has uniquely solution for  $a$ . This is not simply immediately demonstrate.

Immediate corollary of Theorem 1 is the following assertion.

**Corollary 1.** *Let  $X$  be smooth and uniformly convex,  $x, y \in X \setminus \{0\}$  linearly independent, and  $p = \{tx + (1-t)y \mid t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ . Then, the vector  $ax + (1-a)y$  is unique the best approximation of the vector  $z$  with the vectors of  $p$  if and only if*

$$(4) \quad g(z - y - a(x - y), x - y) = 0.$$

*Proof.*  $f(t) = \|z - (tx + (1-t)y)\| = \|z - y - t(x - y)\|$ .  $\square$

Let be  $z = 0$ ,  $x, y \in S(X)$  and  $a = 1/2$ . In this case, the equation (4) reduces on

$$(5) \quad g(x + y, x - y) = 0.$$

Since in a smooth space we have  $g(x, y) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x \perp y$ , by the assertion 4.2 ([1]) we get

**Corollary 2.** *Let  $X$  is smooth and  $x, y \in S(X)$  linearly independent. Then  $X$  is an i.p. space if and only if the equality (5) holds.*

**Remark 1.** Let  $H := \{t \in X \mid g(z - y - a(x - y), t) = 0\}$ .  $H$  is a hyperplane in  $X$  and  $x - y \in H$ . Then,

$$d(z, H) = \frac{g(z - y - a(x - y), z - y)}{\|z - y - a(x - y)\|},$$

i.e.  $d(z, p) = d(z, H) = \|z - y - a(x - y)\|$ . Thus  $P_{[p]}z = P_H z$ .

What could say about  $a$  of the equation (3)?

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $X$  be smooth and  $P_{[x]}y = ax$  ( $x, y \in X \setminus \{0\}$  linearly independent). Then the following assertions hold.*

$$1^\circ \quad \operatorname{sgn} a = \operatorname{sgn} g(y, x),$$

$$2^\circ \quad a \geq \frac{g(x, y) - \|x\| \|y\|}{\|x\|^2},$$

$$3^\circ \quad a = \frac{g(x, y)}{\|x\|^2} \text{ if and only if } X \text{ is an i.p. space,}$$

$$4^\circ \quad \left| a - \frac{g(x, y)}{\|x\|^2} \right| \leq \frac{\|y\|}{\|x\|}.$$

*Proof.* 1° By (3) we have  $a = 0 \Leftrightarrow g(y, x) = 0$ . Let be  $g(y, x) \neq 0$ , then

$$g(y, y - ax) = \|y\|^2 - ag(y, x) \leq \|y\| \|y - ax\| \leq \|y\|^2.$$

So,  $ag(y, x) > 0$ .

$$2^\circ \quad g(x, y - ax) = g(x, y) - a \|x\|^2 \leq \|x\| \|y - ax\| \leq \|x\| \|y\| \Rightarrow a \|x\|^2 \geq g(x, y) - \|x\| \|y\|.$$

3° If  $X$  is an i.p. space, we have seen that  $a = \frac{g(x, y)}{\|x\|^2} = \frac{(x, y)}{\|x\|^2}$ . Inversely, if

$$P_{[x]}y = a(x, y) = \frac{g(x, y)}{\|x\|^2}, \text{ for all } x, y \in X \setminus \{0\},$$

we get

$$a(x, \alpha y) = \frac{g(x, \alpha y)}{\|x\|^2} = \alpha a(x, y) \quad (\alpha \in \mathbb{R})$$

and

$$a(x, y_1 + y_2) = \frac{g(x, y_1 + y_2)}{\|x\|^2} = \frac{g(x, y_1)}{\|x\|^2} + \frac{g(x, y_2)}{\|x\|^2},$$

i.e. we have  $P_{[x]}\alpha y = \alpha P_{[x]}y$  and

$$(6) \quad P_{[x]}(y_1 + y_2) = P_{[x]}y_1 + P_{[x]}y_2 \quad (x, y_1, y_2 \in X \setminus \{0\}).$$

By virtue of (6) and the assertion 13.2 in [1] we conclude that  $X$  is an i.p. space.

4° Let  $H := \{z \in X \mid g(y - ax, z) = 0\}$ .  $H$  is a hyperplane. Thus there exists  $h \in H$  and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$y - \frac{g(x, y)}{\|x\|^2}x = \lambda(y - ax) + h.$$

Therefore we have

$$g\left(y - ax, y - \frac{g(x, y)}{\|x\|^2}x\right) = \lambda \|y - ax\|^2,$$

i.e.

$$g(y - ax, y) - \frac{g(x, y)}{\|x\|^2} g(y - ax, x) = \lambda \|y - ax\|^2$$

or  $\|y - ax\|^2 = \lambda \|y - ax\|^2$ . So,  $\lambda = 1$ . Hence  $h = \left(a - \frac{g(x, y)}{\|x\|^2}\right)x$  and

$$(7) \quad y - \frac{g(x, y)}{\|x\|^2} x = y - ax + h.$$

Since  $g\left(x, y - \frac{g(x, y)}{\|x\|^2} x\right) = 0$ , by (7), we get  $g(h, y - ax) - \|h\|^2 = 0$ . Thus

$$\left|a - \frac{g(x, y)}{\|x\|^2}\right|^2 \|x\|^2 \leq \left|a - \frac{g(x, y)}{\|x\|^2}\right| \|x\| \|y - ax\| \leq \left|a - \frac{g(x, y)}{\|x\|^2}\right| \|x\| \|y\|.$$

Hence 4° is valid.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.** *Let  $X$  be smooth and  $z = y - \frac{g(x, y)}{\|x\|^2} x$ , then  $P_{[z]}y = 1$ .*

*Proof.* If  $g(x, y) = 0$ , then  $z = y$  and  $P_{[y]}y = 1$ . Suppose  $g(x, y) \neq 0$ . Then we get  $x = \frac{y - z}{g(x, y)}$ . Since

$$g\left(x, y - \frac{g(x, y)}{\|x\|^2} x\right) = 0,$$

we obtain  $g(y - z, z) = 0$ . So, by Theorem 1 we get  $P_{[z]}y = 1$ .  $\square$

For some additional results we consider a linearly independent vectors  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n \in S(X)$ . Let  $M := \text{span}\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\}$  and  $y \in X \setminus M$ .

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $X$  be a smooth and uniformly convex Banach space. Then*

$$P_M y = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k e_k$$

*if and only if for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ ,*

$$(8) \quad g\left(y - \sum_{k=1}^n a_k e_k, e_i\right) = 0.$$

*This system of equations has unique solution  $a = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $X$  is smooth and uniformly convex Banach space, the real function

$$f(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n) = \left\| y - \sum_{k=1}^n t_k e_k \right\|$$

achieves its minimum at unique point  $a = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$  and there exists  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial t_i}(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$  such that, for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , we have

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t_i}(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) = 0.$$

The other side we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t_i}(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n) &= \lim_{h_i \rightarrow 0} \frac{\left\| y - \sum_{k=1}^n t_k e_k - h_i e_i \right\| - \left\| y - \sum_{k=1}^n t_k e_k \right\|}{h_i} \\ &= - \frac{g\left(y - \sum_{k=1}^n t_k e_k, e_i\right)}{\left\| y - \sum_{k=1}^n t_k e_k \right\|}. \end{aligned}$$

So,

$$(9) \quad g\left(y - \sum_{k=1}^n a_k e_k, e_i\right) = 0,$$

and, this system has the unique solution.

Conversely, let (9) holds. Then, for all  $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have

$$g\left(y - \sum_{k=1}^n a_k e_k, \lambda_i e_i\right) = 0.$$

Using this, we obtain

$$g\left(y - \sum_{k=1}^n a_k e_k, \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i e_i\right) = 0 \quad (\lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}).$$

Since  $x_0 = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k e_k \in M$  and  $x = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i e_i \in M$ , we conclude that, for all  $x \in M$ , we have  $g(y - x_0, x) = 0$ . Thus, it implies that  $P_M y = x_0$ .  $\square$

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