

# TYPES ON STABLE BANACH SPACES

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ABSTRACT. We prove a geometric characterization of Banach space stability. We show that a Banach space  $X$  is stable if and only if the following condition holds. Whenever  $\hat{X}$  is an ultrapower of  $X$  and  $B$  is a ball in  $\hat{X}$ , the intersection  $B \cap X$  can be uniformly approximated by finite unions and intersections of balls in  $X$ ; furthermore, the radius of these balls can be taken arbitrarily close to the radius of  $B$ , and the norm of their centers arbitrarily close to the norm of the center of  $B$ .

The preceding condition can be rephrased without any reference to ultrapowers, in the language of types, as follows. Whenever  $\tau$  is a type of  $X$ , the set  $\tau^{-1}[0, r]$  can be uniformly approximated by finite unions and intersections of balls in  $X$ ; furthermore, the radius of these balls can be taken arbitrarily close to  $r$ , and the norm of their centers arbitrarily close to  $\tau(0)$ .

We also provide a geometric characterization of the real-valued functions which satisfy the above condition.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

A separable Banach space  $X$  is *stable* if whenever  $(a_m)$  and  $(b_n)$  are bounded sequences in  $X$  and  $\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{V}$  are ultrafilters on  $\mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\lim_{\mathcal{U}, m} \lim_{\mathcal{V}, n} \|a_m + b_n\| = \lim_{\mathcal{V}, n} \lim_{\mathcal{U}, m} \|a_m + b_n\|.$$

This concept was introduced by J.-L. Krivine and B. Maurey in [5], where the authors proved that every stable Banach space contains almost isometric copies of  $\ell_p$ , for some  $1 \leq p < \infty$ . This generalized a result of D. Aldous [1] about subspaces of  $L_1$ .

The concept of *type* on a Banach space was introduced in [5] as well. If  $X$  is a Banach space and  $a \in X$ , the *type realized by  $a$*  is the function  $\tau_a: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $\tau_a(x) = \|x + a\|$ . The *space of types of  $X$* , denoted  $\mathcal{T}(X)$ , is the closure of  $\{\tau_a \mid a \in X\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^X$  with respect to the product topology. The *norm* of a type  $\tau$  is  $\tau(0)$ .

The role played by types in [5] generalizes that played by random measures in [1]

Since [5], stable Banach spaces and types have been studied intensely. For a self contained exposition, we refer the reader to [2].

Types can be viewed quite naturally in terms of Banach space ultrapowers as follows. A type on  $X$  is a function  $\tau: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that there exists an ultrapower  $\hat{X}$  of  $X$  and an element  $a \in \hat{X}$  with

$$\tau(x) = \|x + a\|, \quad \text{for every } x \in X.$$

In this case, we will say that  *$a$  realizes  $\tau$  in  $\hat{X}$* .

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1991 *Mathematics Subject Classification*. Primary: 46B20; Secondary: 46B08, 46B07, 46B20.

The author would like to express his gratitude to C. W. Henson for several valuable conversations. February 5, 1998.

Let  $X$  be a normed space. If the type  $\tau$  is realized in  $X$ , say, if  $\tau = \tau_a$ , then for any  $r > 0$ , the set

$$(1) \quad \tau^{-1}[0, r]$$

is the ball  $\{x \in X \mid \|x + a\| \leq r\}$ . Now, if  $\tau$  is realized by an element  $a \in \hat{X}$ , where  $\hat{X}$  is an ultrapower of  $X$ , the set (1) is the intersection of  $X$  with the ball  $\{x \in \hat{X} \mid \|x + a\| \leq r\}$ . It is then natural to ask whether (1) can be approximated by balls in  $X$ ; if so, it is also natural to ask whether the radius of these balls can be taken to be  $r$ , and even whether the norm of their centers can be taken to be  $\tau(0)$ . In this paper we show that all of these approximation properties in fact characterize Banach space stability.

Let  $X$  be a normed space. If  $\tau \in \mathcal{T}(X)$ , let us say that  $\tau$  is *approximable* if for every  $r > 0$  and every  $\epsilon > 0$ , the set  $\tau^{-1}[0, r]$  is within  $\epsilon$  of a set formed by finite unions and intersections of balls in  $X$ . (See Definition 2.2.) Let us say that  $\tau$  is *strongly approximable* if  $\tau$  is approximable and the radii of the balls approximating  $\tau^{-1}[0, r]$  can be taken arbitrarily close to  $r$ , and the norm of their centers arbitrarily close to the norm of  $\tau$ . In Theorem 4.1, we prove that the following conditions are equivalent for a separable Banach space  $X$ .

1.  $X$  is stable;
2. Every type on  $X$  is approximable;
3. Every type on  $X$  is strongly approximable.

By definition, every type on  $X$  is a pointwise limit of types realized in  $X$ . Thus, if  $X$  is separable,  $\mathcal{T}(X)$  is separable with respect to the topology of pointwise convergence. It is a well-known fact that if  $X$  stable, then  $\mathcal{T}(X)$  is *strongly separable*, i.e., separable with respect to the topology of uniform convergence on bounded subsets of  $X$ . The converse was proved to be false by E. Odell (see [6, 8]). The preceding theorem explains to what extent stability of  $X$  is equivalent to approximability of types on  $X$  by types realized in  $X$ .

In Proposition 3.1, we characterize approximable functions in terms of finite representability: Let  $f$  be a real-valued function on  $X$  which is uniformly continuous on every bounded subset of  $X$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent.

1.  $f$  is approximable;
2. Whenever  $Y$  is finitely represented in  $X$ , there is a unique real-valued function  $g$  on  $Y$  such that  $(Y, g)$  is finitely represented in  $(X, f)$ .

The proofs are based on ideas from model theory. Proposition 2.6 is inspired in the ‘‘Definability of Types’’ lemma in [7].

We will make heavy use of Banach space ultrapowers. For an introduction, we refer the reader to [3].

Throughout the paper,  $X$  denotes a normed space. If  $M > 0$ , we denote by  $B(M)$  the set of elements of  $X$  of norm at most  $M$ .

## 2. CONSTRUCTIBLE SETS AND APPROXIMABLE TYPES

Let us first recall that a positive boolean combination of the sets  $S_1, \dots, S_n$  is a set obtained from  $S_1, \dots, S_n$  by taking finite unions and intersections.

**2.1. Definition.** Let  $X$  be a normed space. A *construction*  $C$  in  $X$  is a positive boolean combination of sets of the form

$$\{x \in X \mid \|x + a_i\| \in I_i\}, \quad a_1, \dots, a_n \in X.$$

We write  $C = C(a_1, \dots, a_n; I_1, \dots, I_n)$ . If  $I_1, \dots, I_n = I$ , we write  $C = C(a_1, \dots, a_n; I)$ .

If  $C(a_1, \dots, a_n; I_1, \dots, I_n)$  is a construction in  $X$ , we denote by

$$(2) \quad [C(a_1, \dots, a_n; I_1, \dots, I_n)]$$

the subset of  $X$  determined by  $C$ . We will call a subset  $X$  *constructible* if it is of the form (2). If  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  are in a given subset  $A$  of  $X$ , we say that the set (2) is *constructible over  $A$* .

Thus, the class of constructible subsets of  $X$  is the ring generated by the balls in  $X$ .

**2.2. Definition.** Let  $X$  be a normed space and let  $f$  be a real-valued function on  $X$ . We say that  $f$  is *approximable* if the following condition holds. For every choice of  $M, \epsilon > 0$  and every interval  $I$  there exist a construction  $C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J)$  and  $\delta > 0$  such that

1.  $B(M) \cap f^{-1}[I] \subseteq [C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J)]$ ;
2.  $B(M) \cap [C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J + [-\delta, \delta])] \subseteq f^{-1}[I + [-\epsilon, \epsilon]]$ .

If, regardless of the choice of  $M$  and  $\epsilon$ , the set  $C$  can always be chosen constructible over a given subset  $A$  of  $X$ , we say that  $f$  is *approximable over  $A$* .

We will express the fact that the inclusions (1) and (2) hold by saying that  $[C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J)]$  is  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -*equivalent to  $f^{-1}[I]$  in the ball  $B(M)$* .

Notice that if  $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is approximable, then it is approximable over any given dense subset of  $X$ .

**2.3. Proposition.** *Let  $X$  be a normed space and let  $f$  be a real-valued function on  $X$ . The following conditions are equivalent.*

1.  $f$  is approximable over  $A$ ;
2. For every  $M, \epsilon > 0$  and every interval  $I$  of the form  $[\alpha, \infty)$  there exist a construction  $C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J)$  with  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in A$  and  $\delta > 0$  such that  $[C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J)]$  is  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -equivalent to  $f^{-1}[I]$  in  $B(M)$ ;
3. For every  $M, \epsilon > 0$  and every interval  $I$  of the form  $(\alpha, \infty)$  there exist a construction  $C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J)$  with  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in A$  and  $\delta > 0$  such that  $[C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J)]$  is  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -equivalent to  $f^{-1}[I]$  in  $B(M)$ ;
4. For every  $M, \epsilon > 0$  and every interval  $I$  of the form  $(-\infty, \alpha]$  there exist a construction  $C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J)$  with  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in A$  and  $\delta > 0$  such that  $[C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J)]$  is  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -equivalent to  $f^{-1}[I]$  in  $B(M)$ .

*Proof.* The equivalence (2)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (3) is immediate, the equivalence (3)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (4) follows by taking complements, and the implication (3)&(4)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) is proved by taking intersections.  $\square$

Now we focus on a particular kind of real-valued functions, namely, types.

**2.4. Definition.** Let  $X$  be a normed space and let  $\tau: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a type on  $X$ . We will say that  $\tau$  is *strongly approximable* if

- $\tau$  is approximable;
- The interval  $J$  of Definition 2.2 can always be taken arbitrarily close to  $I$ , and the norm of can be chosen  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  arbitrarily close to the norm of  $\tau$ .

**2.5. Proposition.** *Let  $X$  be a normed space and let  $\tau$  be a type on  $X$ . The following conditions are equivalent.*

1.  $\tau$  is strongly approximable;
2. For every  $M, \epsilon > 0$  and every interval of the form  $[0, \alpha]$  there exist a construction  $C(a_1, \dots, a_n; [0, \beta])$  and  $\delta > 0$  such that
  - (i)  $[C(a_1, \dots, a_n; [0, \beta])]$  is  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -equivalent to  $\tau^{-1}[0, \alpha]$  in  $B(M)$ ;

(ii)  $|\beta - \alpha| < \epsilon$  and  $\|a_i\| - \|\tau\| < \epsilon$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

*Proof.* Immediate from Definition 2.4 and (1)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (4) of Proposition 2.3.  $\square$

**2.6. Proposition.** *Suppose that  $X$  is a stable Banach space. Then every type on  $X$  is strongly approximable.*

*Proof.* Let  $\tau$  be a type on  $X$ . Take  $M, \epsilon > 0$  and an interval  $[0, \alpha]$ . We will define a construction  $C(d_1, \dots, d_r; [0, \beta])$  and  $\delta > 0$  such that

- (I)  $B(M) \cap \tau^{-1}[0, \alpha] \subseteq [C(d_1, \dots, d_r; [0, \beta])]$ ;
- (II)  $B(M) \cap [C(d_1, \dots, d_r; [0, \beta + \delta])] \subseteq \tau^{-1}[0, \alpha + \epsilon]$ .

Take  $\beta$  and  $\delta$  such that

$$\alpha < \beta < \beta + \delta < \alpha + \epsilon$$

Without loss of generality, we can take  $\delta$  such that

$$(3) \quad \delta < \min\{\beta - \alpha, (\alpha + \epsilon) - (\beta + \delta)\}.$$

Take also positive numbers  $\eta, \eta_0, \eta_1, \dots$  such that

$$\delta < \eta_0 < \eta_1 < \dots < \eta$$

and  $\eta$  is less than the minimum in (3).

We will now construct, inductively,

- A sequence  $a_0, a_1, \dots$  in  $B(\tau(0) + \epsilon)$ ;
- For  $i = -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , sets  $S(i), T(i)$  of subsets of  $\{0, \dots, i\}$ ;
- Elements  $u_{i+1}^s \in B(M)$  for  $s \in S(i)$  and  $v_{i+1}^t \in B(M)$  for  $t \in T(i)$ .

Suppose that we have defined  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n, S(-1), \dots, S(n-1), T(-1), \dots, T(n-1)$ , and  $u_i^s, v_i^t$  for  $i = 0, \dots, n$  and  $s \in S(i), t \in T(i)$ . We now define the sets  $S(n), T(n)$  and the elements  $u_{i+1}^s, v_{i+1}^t$ .

Let

$$S(n) = \left\{ s \subseteq \{0, \dots, n\} \mid B(M) \cap \tau^{-1}[0, \alpha + \eta_n] \cap \bigcap_{i \in s} \tau_{a_i}^{-1}[\beta, \infty) \neq \emptyset \right\}.$$

For each  $s \in S(n)$ , let  $u_{n+1}^s$  be an element of  $X$  such that

$$u_{n+1}^s \in B(M) \cap \tau^{-1}[0, \alpha + \eta_n] \cap \bigcap_{i \in s} \tau_{a_i}^{-1}[\beta, \infty).$$

Similarly, let

$$T(n) = \left\{ t \subseteq \{0, \dots, n\} \mid B(M) \cap \tau^{-1}[\alpha + \epsilon - \eta_n, \infty) \cap \bigcap_{i \in t} \tau_{a_i}^{-1}[0, \beta + \delta] \neq \emptyset \right\},$$

and for each  $t \in T(n)$  let  $v_{n+1}^t$  be an element of  $X$  such that

$$v_{n+1}^t \in B(M) \cap \tau^{-1}[\beta + \epsilon - \eta_n, \infty) \cap \bigcap_{i \in t} \tau_{a_i}^{-1}[0, \beta + \delta].$$

We now define  $a_{n+1}$ . Let

$$F = \{u_{i+1}^s \mid -1 \leq i \leq n, s \in S(i)\} \cup \{v_{i+1}^t \mid -1 \leq i \leq n, t \in T(i)\}.$$

Since  $F$  is finite, there exists  $a \in F \cap B(\tau(0) + \epsilon)$  such that

$$x \in F \cap \tau^{-1}[0, \alpha + \eta_n] \quad \text{implies} \quad \|a + x\| \in [0, \alpha + \eta_{n+1}]$$

and

$$x \in F \cap \tau^{-1}[\alpha + \epsilon - \eta_n, \infty) \quad \text{implies} \quad \|a + x\| \in [\alpha + \epsilon - \eta_{n+1}, \infty).$$

Let  $a_{n+1}$  be such an element  $a$ .

2.7. *Claim.* Suppose that  $0 \leq i \leq n$  and  $s \in S(i-1)$ ,  $t \in T(i-1)$ . Then,

$$\|a_n + u_i^s\| \in [0, \alpha + \eta_n]$$

and

$$\|a_n + v_i^t\| \in [\alpha + \epsilon - \eta_n, \infty).$$

Claim 2.7 follows immediately from the preceding definitions.

2.8. *Claim.* Suppose that  $0 \leq i(0) < i(1) < \dots < i(n)$  and

$$B(M) \cap \tau^{-1}[0, \alpha] \cap \bigcap_{j=0}^n \tau_{a_{i(j)}}^{-1}[\beta, \infty) \neq \emptyset.$$

Then there exist  $b_0, \dots, b_n \in B(M)$  such that

$$\|a_{i(j)} + b_k\| \in [\beta, \infty), \quad \text{for } 0 \leq j < k \leq n$$

and

$$\|a_{i(j)} + b_k\| \in [0, \alpha + \eta], \quad \text{for } 0 \leq k \leq j \leq n.$$

*Proof of Claim 2.8.* Inductively, we construct  $b_0, \dots, b_n$  such that

$$\|a_{i(j)} + b_k\| \in [\beta, \infty), \quad \text{for } 0 \leq j < k \leq n$$

and

$$\|a_{i(j)} + b_k\| \in [0, \alpha + \eta_{i(j)}], \quad \text{for } 0 \leq k \leq j \leq n.$$

First we note that  $S(i(0)-1) \neq \emptyset$ ; in fact,  $\emptyset \in S(i(0)-1)$  since

$$B(M) \cap \tau^{-1}[0, \alpha + \eta_{i(0)}] \supseteq B(M) \cap \tau^{-1}[0, \alpha] \neq \emptyset.$$

Take  $s \in S(i(0))$  and let  $b_0$  be  $u_{i(0)}^s$ . Then, by Claim 2.7 above, we have

$$\|a_{i(j)} + b_0\| \in [0, \alpha + \eta_{i(j)}], \quad \text{for } 0 \leq j \leq n.$$

Assume that we have  $b_1, \dots, b_k$  as desired. Let  $s = \{i(0), \dots, i(k)\}$ . From the definition of  $S(i(k))$ , we must have  $s \in S(i(k))$ . Let  $b_{k+1}$  be  $u_{k+1}^s$ . Then

$$\|a_{i(j)} + b_{k+1}\| \in [\beta, \infty), \quad \text{for } 0 \leq j \leq k,$$

and by Claim 2.7,

$$\|a_{i(j+1)} + b_{k+1}\| \in [0, \alpha + \eta_{i(j+1)}], \quad \text{for } 0 \leq k \leq j \leq n-1.$$

We have proved Claim 2.8.

2.9. *Claim.* Suppose that  $0 \leq i(0) < i(1) < \dots < i(n)$  and

$$B(M) \cap \tau^{-1}[\alpha + \epsilon, \infty) \cap \bigcap_{j=0}^n \tau_{a_{i(j)}}^{-1}[0, \beta + \delta] \neq \emptyset.$$

Then there exist  $c_1, \dots, c_n \in B(M)$  such that

$$\|a_{i(j)} + c_k\| \in [0, \beta + \delta], \quad \text{for } 0 \leq j < k \leq n$$

and

$$\|a_{i(j)} + c_k\| \in [\alpha + \epsilon - \eta, \infty), \quad \text{for } 0 \leq k \leq j \leq n.$$

*Proof of Claim 2.9.* The proof is analogous to that of Claim 2.8. We construct  $c_1, \dots, c_n$  inductively such that

$$\|a_{i(j)} + c_k\| \in [0, \beta + \delta], \quad \text{for } 0 \leq j < k \leq n$$

and

$$\|a_{i(j)} + c_k\| \in [\alpha + \epsilon - \eta_{i(j)}, \infty), \quad \text{for } 0 \leq k \leq j \leq n.$$

2.10. *Claim.* There exists a number  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  with the following property. Whenever  $0 \leq i(0) < \dots < i(N) \leq 2N$ ,

(i) There does not exist a sequence  $(b_k)_{0 \leq k \leq N}$  in  $B(M + \tau(0) + \epsilon)$  satisfying

$$(4) \quad \begin{aligned} \|a_{i(j)} + b_k\| &\in [\beta, \infty), \quad \text{for } 0 \leq j < k \leq N, \\ \|a_{i(j)} + b_k\| &\in [0, \alpha + \eta], \quad \text{for } 0 \leq k \leq j \leq N; \end{aligned}$$

(ii) There does exist a sequence  $(c_k)_{0 \leq k \leq N}$  in  $B(M + \tau(0) + \epsilon)$  satisfying

$$(5) \quad \begin{aligned} \|a_{i(j)} + c_k\| &\in [0, \beta + \delta], \quad \text{for } 0 \leq j \leq k \leq N, \\ \|a_{i(j)} + c_k\| &\in [\alpha + \epsilon - \eta, \infty), \quad \text{for } 0 \leq k < j \leq N. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof of Claim 2.10.* Suppose that the claim is false. Then, for arbitrarily large  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  there will be  $0 \leq i(0) < \dots < i(N) \leq 2N$  and, either sequence  $(b_k)_{0 \leq k \leq N}$  in  $B(M + \tau(0) + \epsilon)$  such that (4) holds, or a sequence  $(c_k)_{0 \leq k \leq N}$  in  $B(M + \tau(0) + \epsilon)$  such that (5) holds. Now, for any given  $N$  there are finitely many choices for  $0 \leq i(0) < \dots < i(N) \leq 2N$ . Hence, König's lemma provides a subsequence  $(a_{n(l)})_{l \in \mathbb{N}}$  of  $(a_n)$  and, either a sequence  $(b_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  in  $B(M + \tau(0) + \epsilon)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \|a_{i(l)} + b_k\| &\in [\beta, \infty), \quad \text{for } 0 \leq l < k, \\ \|a_{i(l)} + b_k\| &\in [0, \alpha + \eta], \quad \text{for } 0 \leq k \leq l, \end{aligned}$$

or a sequence  $(c_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  in  $B(M + \tau(0) + \epsilon)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \|a_{i(l)} + c_k\| &\in [0, \beta + \delta], \quad \text{for } 0 \leq l \leq k, \\ \|a_{i(l)} + c_k\| &\in [\alpha + \epsilon - \eta, \infty), \quad \text{for } 0 \leq k < l. \end{aligned}$$

Either case contradicts the stability of  $X$ . Claim 2.10 is proved.

Fix  $N$  as in Claim 2.10. Define

$$\{d_1, \dots, d_r\} = \{a_{i(j)} \mid 0 \leq i(0) < \dots < i(N) \leq 2N, 0 \leq j \leq N\}$$

and

$$(6) \quad C(d_1, \dots, d_r; [0, \beta]) = \bigcup_{0 \leq i(0) < \dots < i(N) \leq 2N} \bigcap_{0 \leq j \leq N} \tau_{a_{i(j)}}[0, \beta].$$

Condition (II) follows directly from Claim 2.9 and the choice of  $N$ . To prove (I), suppose that  $x \in B(M)$  and  $x \notin [C]$ . Fix one of the intersections in (6). The element  $x$  is not in this intersection, so there exists an index  $i(j_0)$  such that  $x \notin \tau_{a_{i(j_0)}}[0, \beta]$ . Now take an  $N$ -element subset of  $\{1, \dots, 2N\}$  not containing  $a_{i(j_0)}$  and consider the intersection corresponding to this set in (6). Repeat the argument to find  $i(j_1)$  distinct from  $i(j_0)$  such that  $x \notin \tau_{a_{i(j_1)}}[0, \beta]$ . The argument can be iterated  $N$  times. But then, Claim 2.8 and the choice of  $N$  imply  $x \notin \tau^{-1}[0, \alpha]$ .  $\square$

**Remark.** It is well-known that the space of types of a stable Banach space is *strongly separable*, i.e., separable with respect to the topology of uniform convergence on bounded sets. (The converse is not true; see [6, 8].) This is immediate from Proposition 2.6. In fact, it is easy to see that if every type on  $X$  is approximable, then the density of  $\mathcal{T}(X)$  with respect to the strong topology must equal the density of  $X$  (with respect to the norm topology).

### 3. APPROXIMABLE FUNCTIONS

Let  $X$  be a normed space and let  $f$  be a real-valued function on  $X$  which is uniformly continuous on every bounded subset of  $X$ . An *ultrapower* of  $(X, f)$  is defined as follows. If  $\mathcal{U}$  is an ultrafilter,  $(\hat{X}, \hat{f})$  is the ultrapower of  $(X, f)$  with respect to  $\mathcal{U}$  if

- $\hat{X}$  is the ultrapower of  $X$  with respect to  $\mathcal{U}$ ;
- Whenever  $x \in \hat{X}$  and  $(x_i)_{i \in I}$  is representative of  $x$  in  $\hat{X}$ , we have  $\hat{f}(x) = \lim_{\mathcal{U}} (f(x_i))_{i \in I}$ .

The fact that  $f$  is uniformly continuous on the bounded subsets of  $X$  ensures that  $\hat{f}$  is well-defined.

An ultrapower  $(\hat{X}, \hat{f})$  of  $(X, f)$  has the property that it is *finitely represented in*  $(X, f)$ . This means that whenever  $E$  is a finite dimensional subspace of  $\hat{X}$  and  $M, \epsilon > 0$ , there exists a finite dimensional subspace  $F$  of  $X$  such that  $(E, \hat{f} \upharpoonright E)$  and  $(F, f \upharpoonright E)$  are  $(1 + \epsilon)$ -isomorphic in the sense that there exists a  $(1 + \epsilon)$ -isomorphism  $\varphi: E \rightarrow F$  satisfying  $|f(\varphi(x)) - \hat{f}(x)| \leq \epsilon$  for every  $x \in E$  of norm at most  $M$ .

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be normed spaces containing a common subset  $A$ . If  $\epsilon > 0$ , we say that  $X$  and  $Y$  are  $(1 + \epsilon)$ -isomorphic over  $A$  if there exists a  $(1 + \epsilon)$ -isomorphism  $\varphi: X \rightarrow Y$  such that  $\varphi \upharpoonright A$  is the identity. We will say that  $Y$  is *A-finitely represented in*  $X$  if the following condition holds. Given  $\epsilon > 0$  and a finite dimensional subspace  $F$  of  $Y$ , there exists a subspace  $E$  of  $X$  such that the spaces  $\overline{\text{span}}[E \cup A]$  and  $\overline{\text{span}}[F \cup A]$  are  $(1 + \epsilon)$ -isomorphic over  $A$ .

We will now characterize approximability of real-valued functions in terms of finite representability. Let us first notice the following.

**Remarks.**

1. If  $X$  and  $Y$  contain a common subset  $A$  and  $Y$  is  $A$ -finitely represented in  $X$ , then there is an ultrapower  $(\hat{X}, \hat{f})$  of  $(X, f)$  and an embedding  $\varphi: Y \rightarrow \hat{X}$  which fixes  $A$  pointwise.
2. If  $(\hat{X}, \hat{f})$  is an ultrapower of  $(X, f)$  and  $f$  is approximable over  $A$ , then so is  $\hat{f}$ ; in fact, if  $0 < M < M', 0 < \epsilon < \epsilon' < \epsilon'',$  and  $0 < \delta < \delta' < \delta''$  are such that  $[C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J)]_X$  is  $(\epsilon' - \epsilon, \delta'')$ -equivalent to  $f^{-1}[I + [-\epsilon, \epsilon]]$  in the ball  $B_X(M')$ , then  $[C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J + [-\delta, \delta])]_{\hat{X}}$  is  $(\epsilon'', \delta' - \delta)$ -equivalent to  $\hat{f}^{-1}[I]$  in the ball  $B_{\hat{X}}(M)$ .

**3.1. Proposition.** *Let  $X$  be a normed space and let  $f$  be a real-valued function on  $X$  which is uniformly continuous on every bounded subset of  $X$ . Then, if  $A$  is a subset of  $X$ , the following conditions are equivalent.*

1.  $f$  is approximable over  $A$ ;
2. Whenever  $Y \supseteq A$  and  $Y$  is  $A$ -finitely represented in  $X$ , there is a unique real-valued function  $g$  on  $Y$  such that  $(Y, g)$  is  $A$ -finitely represented in  $(X, f)$ .

*Proof.* (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) follows easily from the preceding remarks. We prove (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1).

Suppose that  $f$  is not approximable over  $A$ . Take  $M, \epsilon > 0$  and an interval  $I$  such that there do not exist  $[C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J)]$  with  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in A$  and  $\delta > 0$  with  $[C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J)]$

$(\epsilon, \delta)$ -equivalent to  $f^{-1}[I]$  in the ball  $B(M)$ . Without loss of generality, we can assume that  $I$  is bounded.

Let

$$\mathfrak{C} = \{ C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J) \mid a_1, \dots, a_n \in A \text{ and } B(M) \cap f^{-1}[I] \subseteq [C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J)] \}.$$

By our assumption, whenever  $C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J) \in \mathfrak{C}$  and  $\delta > 0$ ,

$$B(M) \cap \left( [C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J + [-\delta, \delta])] \cap \mathbb{C}f^{-1}[I + [-\epsilon, \epsilon]] \right) \neq \emptyset.$$

Also,  $\mathfrak{C}$  is closed under finite intersections. Hence, there exists an ultrapower  $(\hat{X}, \hat{f})$  of  $(X, f)$  and  $b \in \hat{X}$  such that

$$b \in B(M) \cap \bigcap_{C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J) \in \mathfrak{C}} [C(a_1, \dots, a_n; J)] \cap \mathbb{C}\hat{f}^{-1}[I + [-\epsilon/2, \epsilon/2]].$$

Now, notice that if  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in A$  and  $b \in [C(a_1, \dots, a_n; (-\infty, \alpha))]$ , for every  $\beta > \alpha$  we must have

$$B(M) \cap f^{-1}(I) \cap [C(a_1, \dots, a_n; (-\infty, \beta))] \neq \emptyset$$

(otherwise,  $[C(a_1, \dots, a_n; [\beta, \infty))]$   $\in \mathfrak{C}$  and  $b \in [C(a_1, \dots, a_n; [\beta, \infty))]$ , which is impossible). Hence, there exists an ultrapower  $(\hat{X}', \hat{f}')$  of  $(X, f)$  and  $b' \in \hat{X}'$  such that

- (i)  $\hat{f}'(b') \in I$ ;
- (ii)  $b' \in [C(a_1, \dots, a_n; (-\infty, \alpha))]$  whenever  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in A$  and  $b \in [C(a_1, \dots, a_n; (-\infty, \alpha))]$ .

By (ii), there is an isometry between  $\overline{\text{span}}[\{b\} \cup A]$  and  $\overline{\text{span}}[\{b'\} \cup A]$  mapping  $b$  to  $b'$  and fixing  $A$  pointwise. But  $\overline{\text{span}}[\{b\} \cup A]$  and  $\overline{\text{span}}[\{b'\} \cup A]$  are  $A$ -finitely represented in  $X$  and  $\hat{f}(b) \notin I$ , so we are in contradiction with (2).  $\square$

#### 4. APPROXIMABLE TYPES AND STABILITY

We now prove the main result.

**4.1. Theorem.** *Let  $X$  be a separable Banach space. Then the following conditions are equivalent.*

1.  $X$  is stable;
2. Every type on  $X$  is approximable;
3. Every type on  $X$  is strongly approximable.

*Proof.* (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (3) is Proposition 2.6. We prove (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1).

Suppose that  $X$  is not stable. Then there exist bounded sequences  $(a_m)$  and  $(b_n)$  in  $X$  and real numbers  $\alpha, \beta$  such that

$$(7) \quad \sup_{m < n} \|a_m + b_n\| \leq \alpha < \beta \leq \inf_{n < m} \|a_m + b_n\|.$$

Without loss of generality, we can assume that  $(a_m)$  is *type determining*, i.e., there exists a type  $\tau \in \mathcal{T}(X)$  such that  $\tau(x) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \|a_m + x\|$  for every  $x \in X$ .

By (7) there exists an ultrapower  $\hat{X}$  of  $X$ , an element  $a \in \hat{X}$ , and types  $\rho_1, \rho_2$  on  $\hat{X}$  such that

- $(\hat{X}, \rho_1)$  and  $(\hat{X}, \rho_2)$  are finitely represented in  $(X, \tau)$ ;
- $\rho_1(a) \leq \alpha$  and  $\rho_2(a) \leq \beta$ .

But then  $\tau$  cannot be approximable, by Proposition 3.1.  $\square$



**Remark.** The concepts considered here are particularizations of concepts from the logical analysis of stability in [4]. Indeed, the notions of type, constructible subset, and approximable function correspond (respectively) to the “quantifier-free” versions of the notions of *type*, *definable subset*, and *definable real-valued relation* considered in [4].

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