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2-INNER PRODUCT SPACES AND GÂTEAUX PARTIAL DERIVATIVES

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Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to characterize 2-inner product spaces by means of partial derivatives of bifunctionals. If  $(L, (\cdot, \cdot | \cdot))$  is a 2-inner product space with 2-norm defined by  $\|x, y\| = (x, x | y)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ , then

$$(a, b | c) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\|a + tb, c\|^2 - \|a, c\|^2}{2t}$$

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In [4], R.A. Tapia discusses a characterization of inner-product spaces which involves the Gâteaux derivative of a certain functional. Several of the results of that paper are useful in studying 2-inner-product spaces as well. For definitions and basic results in 2-inner-product spaces and 2-normed spaces, see [2] and [3].

Let  $(L, \|\cdot, \cdot\|)$  be a 2-normed space of dimension  $> 1$ . If  $F(x, y)$  is a real bifunctional on  $L$ , then the right partial derivative of  $F$  with respect to  $x$  at  $(x, y)$  in the direction of  $h$ ,  $F_{1+}(x, y)(h)$ , is defined by

$$F_{1+}(x, y)(h) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{t} F(x + th, y) - F(x, y)$$

Similar definitions are used for  $F_{1-}$ ,  $F_{2+}$ ,  $F_{2-}$ .

The partial derivative of  $F$  with respect to  $x$  in the direction of  $h$ ,  $F_1(x,y)(h)$ , is defined by:

$$F_{1+}(x,y)(h) = F_1(x,y)(h) = F_{1-}(x,y)(h),$$

whenever the one-sided partials agree.

$F_2(x,y)(h)$  is defined similarly.

The following two results are easily proved from the above definitions.

Theorem 1. Let  $x, y, h \in L$  and  $F$  be a real bifunctional on  $L$ .

1. If  $F$  is linear in its first variable, then  $F_1(x,y)(h) = F(h,y)$ .
2. If  $F$  is linear in its second variable, then  $F_2(x,y)(h) = F(x,h)$ .
3. If  $F$  is bilinear, then  $F_1(x,y)(h) = F(h,y)$  and  $F_2(x,y)(h) = F(x,h)$ .

Theorem 2. If  $F$  is a symmetric bifunctional and  $F_1(x,y)(h)$  exists, then  $F_2(y,x)(h)$  exists also and  $F_2(y,x)(h) = F_1(x,y)(h)$ .

For the topics to follow, it is useful to consider a certain class of normed spaces associated with  $(L, \|\cdot, \cdot\|)$ . If  $c \neq 0$ , let  $L_c$  be the quotient space  $L/V(c)$ , where  $V(c)$  is the subspace of  $L$  generated by  $c$ . For  $a \in L$ ,

let  $a_c$  denote the element of  $L_c$  determined by  $a$ .  $L_c$  is a vector space under the operations  $a_c + b_c = (a + b)_c$  and  $\alpha a_c = (\alpha a)_c$ . Define  $\|\cdot\|_c$  on  $L_c$  by  $\|a_c\|_c = \|a, c\|$ . By using the properties of  $\|\cdot, \cdot\|$ , particularly  $|\|a, c\| - \|b, c\|| \leq \|a - b, c\|$ , it is easily shown that  $\|\cdot\|_c$  is a norm on  $L_c$  (see [1]).

The remainder of the discussion will be devoted to the bifunctional

$$(1) \quad F(x, y) = \frac{1}{2} \|x, y\|^2.$$

If  $c \neq 0$ ,  $F$  generates a functional  $F_c$  on  $L_c$  defined by

$$(2) \quad F_c(a_c) = F(a, c) = \frac{1}{2} \|a, c\|^2 = \frac{1}{2} \|a_c\|_c^2.$$

If  $F_{c+}^1$ ,  $F_{c-}^1$ , and  $F_c^1$  denote the Gâteaux derivatives of  $F_c$ , then it is easily seen that  $F_{1+}(x, c)(h) = F_{c+}^1(x_c)(h_c)$ ,  $F_{1-}(x, c)(h) = F_{c-}^1(x_c)(h_c)$ , and  $F_1(x, c)(h) = F_c^1(x_c)(h_c)$ , whenever these derivatives exist.

For  $a, b, c \in L$ , define

$$(3) \quad [a, b | c] = F_{1+}(a, c)(b).$$

Theorem 3.  $[\cdot, \cdot | \cdot]$  has the following properties:

1.  $[a, b | c]$  is defined for every  $a, b, c \in L$ .
2.  $\|a, b\| = [a, a | b]^{1/2}$ .

$$3. \quad |[a, b | c]| \leq \|a, c\| \|b, c\| .$$

4. If  $L$  is a 2-inner-product space, with 2-inner-product  $(\cdot, \cdot | \cdot)$ , then  $[a, b | c] = (a, b | c)$  .

Proof. Properties 2 and 4 follow by direct computation.

$$1. \quad [a, b | 0] = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \|a + tb, 0\|^2 - \frac{1}{2} \|a, 0\|^2 \right] = 0 .$$

If  $c \neq 0$ , then  $F_{c^+}^1(a_c)(b_c)$  exists for every  $a, b \in L$  by Proposition 1 of [4]. Therefore,  $[a, b | c] = F_{1^+}(a, c)(b)$  exists, too. Hence,  $[a, b | c]$  exists for every  $a, b, c \in L$  .

3. If  $c = 0$ , the result is obvious since  $[a, b | 0] = 0$  .

If  $c \neq 0$ , then by Proposition 1 of [4],

$$\begin{aligned} |[a, b | c]| &= |F_{1^+}(a, c)(b)| \\ &= |F_{c^+}^1(a_c)(b_c)| \\ &\leq \|a_c\|_c \|b_c\|_c \\ &= \|a, c\| \|b, c\| . \end{aligned}$$

The last theorem is a direct result of Theorem 1 of [4] and Theorem 6 of [2].

Theorem 4. The following are equivalent.

1.  $(L, \|\cdot, \cdot\|)$  is a 2-inner-product space.
2.  $[a, b | c]$  is linear in  $a$  .
3.  $[a, b | c]$  is symmetric in  $a$  and  $b$  .

Remark. By Theorem 2,  $[\cdot, \cdot | \cdot]$  could also have been defined by  $[a, b | c] = F_{2+}(c, a)(b)$ .

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