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ON THE DIFFERENTIATION OF CONVEX FUNCTIONS IN FINITE AND INFINITE DIMENSIONAL SPACES

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1. INTRODUCTION

If f is a convex function defined in a Euclidean *n*-space E^n then the set N(f) of all points at which f is not differentiable is small. There exist several works concerning the sets N(f) ([1]) or, which is almost equivalent, the sets of all singular boundary points of convex bodies in E^n ([8], [5], [1], [3]). In the present article we give a characterization of the magnitude of sets N(f) in E^n . By the same method we obtain also an infinite dimensional generalization of our result. We also characterize the magnitude of sets $S_k(f)$ defined in [1]. If we write in the sequel "Banach space", we mean "real Banach space".

We shall say that f is a convex function defined in a Banach space B if its domain D_f is an open convex subset of B and f is convex on D_f . If f is a convex function defined in E^n then for any $x \in D_f$ there exists [1] a maximal linear manifold L_x such that $x \in L_x$ and $f/D_f \cap L_x$ is differentiable at x. For $0 \le k \le n$, S_k is the set of all $x \in D_f$ for which dim $L_x \le k$. It is proved in [1] that S_k is the union of countable many compact sets of finite k-dimensional Hausdorff measure. In [1] it is further proved that for $k \le 2$ the set S_k can be covered by countably many k-cells of finite k-measure. These results were obtained in [1] as consequences of theorems concerning "upper semi-continuous collections".

In the case n = 2, k = 1 the result of Anderson and Klee [1] was improved by BESICOVITCH [3]. He proved that in E^2 any set $S_1(f) = N(f)$ is countably rectifiable.

In the infinite dimensional case we are interested in continuous convex functions defined in a separable real Banach space B. Let f be such a function. It is well-known that the set N(f) of all points at which f is not Gâteaux differentiable is of the first category. Further information concerning the sets N(f) follows from results on differentiation of Lipschitz functions ([4], [7]). A more precise result was proved by Aronszajn in [2]. He proved that N(f) belongs to the class U^0 which is defined as follows:

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- 1. Let $o \neq a \in B$, $Z(a) = \{A \subset B, A \text{ is Borel}, A \cap \{x + at, t \in R\}$ is countable for any $x \in B\}$.
- 2. For any sequence $\{a_n\}$, $a_n \neq o$, $Z\{a_n\} = \{A \subset B, A = \bigcup A_n, A_n \in Z(a_n)\}$.
- 3. $U^0 = \bigcap Z\{a_n\}$, the intersection being taken over all sequences $\{a_n\}$ complete in *B*.

The result of Aronszajn implies that $\mu(N(f)) = 0$ for any Gaussian measure μ on *B*. Now we shall state our main results.

Definition 1. We shall say that $M \subset E^n$ is a (c - c)-surface of dimension k (k = 1, ..., n - 1) if there exists a permutation π of the numbers 1, ..., n and 2n - 2k convex functions $f_{k+1}, g_{k+1}, ..., f_n, g_n$ defined on the whole space E^k such that M is the set of all $(x_1, ..., x_n) \in E^n$ such that $y_j = f_j(y_1, ..., y_k) - g_j(y_1, ..., y_k)$ for j = k + 1, ..., n where $y_i = x_{\pi(i)}$ for i = 1, ..., n.

Notation. If M is a subset of a vector space, then Lin M is the linear hull of M.

Definition 2. Let B be an infinite dimensional Banach space. A set M is called a (c - c)-hypersurface if there exist a closed subspace $H \subset B$ and a vector $v \in B$ such that $B = H + \text{Lin} \{v\}$, and two Lipschitz convex functions f, g defined on the whole H such that

$$M = \{x + (f(x) - g(x)) v, x \in H\}.$$

Theorem 1. A set $M \subset E^n$ is a subset of the set $S_k(f)$ (0 < k < a) for a convex function f defined in E^n iff M can be covered by countably many (c - c)-surfaces of dimension k.

Theorem 2. A subset M of a separable real Banach space B is a subset of the set N(f) for a continuous convex function f defined in B iff M can be covered by countable many (c - c)-hypersurfaces.

These theorems are quite analogous to each other and their proofs are almost identical. We shall also prove a generalization of Theorem 2 which is an analogue of Theorem 1 in the separable infinite dimensional case.

Theorem 1 immediately implies the results of [1] mentioned above since any difference of two convex functions in the finite dimensional space is locally Lipschitz and any Lipschitz image of a set of a finite k-dimensional Hausdorff measure is of a finite k-dimensional Hausdorff measure. The fact that S_k can be covered by countably many k-cells which is proved in [1] for $k \leq 2$ clearly follows from Theorem 1 for any 0 < k < n. It is almost obvious that Theorem 1 improves the results of [1] also in the cases k = 1, 2, as well as the result of [3] (see Example 1).

The proof of Theorem 1 immediately yields a result on singular boundary points of convex bodies in Euclidean spaces (Theorem 3).

Theorem 2 and the result of [2] mentioned above imply that any (c - c)-hypersurface belongs to U^0 . We can obtain this fact also directly from the proof of Theorem 2 without using the results of [2]. Thus the Aronszajn's result mentioned above follows from Theorem 2. However, we do not know any example of a set from U^0 which cannot be covered by countably many (c - c)-hypersurfaces. Therefore we do not know whether Aronszajn's result characterizes the magnitude of sets N(f).

Added in the proof. Let f(x) be a continuously differentiable function defined on (0, 1) for which the derivative f'(x) is of unbounded variation on each subinterval $I \subset (0, 1)$. Then Graph $f \subset E^2$ is from U^0 but cannot be covered by countably many (c - c)-hypersurfaces. This example shows that our Theorem 2 improves Aronszajn's result.

2. LEMMAS

Let B be a Banach space, f a real function defined in B and $a \in B$, $v \in B$. We shall denote the derivative of f at the point a in the direction v by $D_v f(a)$. Thus

$$D_v f(a) = \lim_{h \to 0} (1/h) \left(f(a + hv) - f(a) \right).$$

The assertions of the following proposition are well known.

Proposition 1. Let B be a Banach space. Let f be a continuous convex function defined on an open convex set $D_f \subset B$. Let $a \in D_f$. Denote by L_a the set of all $v \in B$ such that there exists $D_v f(a)$. Then the following assertions hold:

(i) Let S be the set of all continuous affine functions s defined on B whose graphs support the graph of f at the point (a, f(a)) (in other words: s(a) = f(a) and $s(x) \leq \leq f(x)$ for $x \in B$). Then

$$L_a = \{v : s_1(a + v) = s_2(a + v) \text{ for any } s_1 \in S, s_2 \in S\}$$

and $D_v f(a) = s(a + v) - s(a)$ for any $s \in S$ and $v \in L_a$.

(ii) L_a is a closed linear subspace of B.

(iii) f is Gâteaux differentiable at a iff $L_a = B$. In this case and only in this case $S = \{s\}$ and the graph of s is the unique supporting hyperplane of the graph of f at the point (a, f(a)).

(iv) If B is finite dimensional then f is Gâteaux differentiable at a iff it is Fréchet differentiable at a.

Proof. The assertion (i) follows easily from Theorem 43A from [9]. The assertions (ii), (iii) are easy consequences of (i). The assertion (iv) is well known (see e.g. Theorem 42D from [9]).

Lemma 1. Let B be a Banach space and let $M \subset B \times R$ be a set such that for any point $m = (e, t) \in M$ there exists a continuous affine function g_m defined on B such

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that $g_m(e) = t$ and $g_m(x) \leq y$ for any point $(x, y) \in M$ (in other words: the closed hyperplane Graph g_m "supports" M at (e, t)). Then there exists a sequence $\{f_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ of convex Lipschitz functions defined on the whole B such that $M \subset \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \operatorname{Graph} f_n$.

Proof. For any integer *n* denote by A_n the set of all points $m \in M$ for which g_m is Lipschitz with the constant *n*. Then clearly $M \subset \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$, the function $f_n(x) = \sup_{m \in A_n} g_m(x)$ is a convex Lipschitz function on *B* and $A_n \subset \operatorname{Graph} f_n$. Therefore $M \subset \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \operatorname{Graph} f_n$.

Notation. If X is a Banach space, then X' is its dual space. The main idea of the present article is contained in the following lemma.

Lemma 2. Let B a Banach space (finite or infinite dimensional). Let K be a proper subspace of B of a finite dimension u, let $\{e_1, ..., e_u\}$ be a basis of K. Let $x_i \in B'$, i = 1, ..., u be continuous linear functionals for which $x_i(e_j) = \delta_{ij}$. Let H = $= \{v \in B : x_i(v) = 0, i = 1, ..., u\}$. Then B = K + H and for any $v \in B$ we have $v = x_i(v) e_i + \pi(v)$ where π is the projection on H "in the direction of K". Let f be a continuous convex function defined on a convex subset D_f of B. Let $A \subset D_f$ be a set such that for any point $a \in A$ and any $v \in K$ the derivative $D_v f(a)$ does not exist. Then there exist convex Lipschitz functions $Z_i^i(h)$, $T_i^i(h)$, i = 1, ..., u, j == 1, 2, ..., defined on the whole subspace H such that any point $a \in A$ fulfils the equations

$$x_{1}(a) = Z_{1}^{j}(\pi(a)) - T_{1}^{j}(\pi(a)),$$

....
$$x_{u}(a) = Z_{u}^{j}(\pi(a)) - T_{u}^{j}(\pi(a))$$

for some integer j.

Proof. Let $a \in A$ and let M_a be the set of all functionals $g \in K'$ such that $f(a) + g(x) \leq f(a + x)$ for any $x \in K$. The set M_a is evidently convex and closed. We shall prove that it is a *u*-dimensional convex set. Suppose on the contrary that this is not true. Then there exists $g_0 \in M_a$ and $g_1 \in K'$, ..., $g_{u-1} \in K'$ such that for any $g \in M_a$ there exist real numbers c_1, \ldots, c_{u-1} such that $g = g_0 + \sum_{c=1}^{u-1} c_i g_i$. Therefore there exists a nonzero $v \in K$ such that $g(v) = g_0(v)$ for any $g \in M_a$. Therefore by Proposition 1, (i) $D_v f(a)$ exists and this is a contradiction. Since M_a is *u*-dimensional there exist points $m_i \in M_a$, $i = 0, 1, \ldots, u$, such that the vectors $m_j - m_0$, $j = 1, \ldots, u$, are linearly independent and m_i have rational coordinates with respect to the basis x_i/K , $i = 1, \ldots, u$. Since there are only countably many possibilities for $\{m_i, i = 0, 1, \ldots, u\}$ we can suppose without any loss of generality that the vectors m_i ,

i = 0, 1, ..., u, lie in M_a for any $a \in A$. Let p_i , i = 0, ..., u, be continuous linear functionals on B (they exist by Theorem 43A from [9]) such that p_i extends m_i and $p_i(x) \leq f(a+x) - f(a)$ for any $x \in B$ and i = 0, 1, ..., u. Let G = $= \{(x, f(x)) \in B \times R, x \in A\}$. Let $V_i \subset B \times R$ be the graph of $p_i, i = 0, ..., u$. Clearly $B \times R = H \times R + V_i$ for i = 0, ..., u. Let π_i be the projection of $B \times R$ on $H \times R$ "in the direction of V_i ". Thus if $z \in B \times R$ and z = (h + k, y) where $h \in H, k \in K$, we have $\pi_i(z) = (h, y - m_i(k))$. Let $b = (a, f(a)) \in G, a = h_0 + k_0$. Since the closed hyperplane $T_i = b + V_i$, i = 0, ..., u supports the graph of f at the point b, $\pi_i(T_i) = T_i \cap H \times R$ is a closed hyperplane in $H \times R$ which "supports" the set $\pi_i(G)$ at the point $\pi_i(b)$ in the sense of Lemma 1. In fact, $\pi_i(T_i)$ is the graph of the continuous affine function $s(h) = f(a) + p_i(h - a), \ \pi_i(b) = (h_0, f(a) - b_0)$ $(-m_i(k_0))$ and $s(h_0) = f(a) - m_i(k_0)$. Further, any point $c \in \pi_i(G)$ is of the form $(h_1, f(h_1 + k_1) - m_i(k_1)), h_1 \in H, k_1 \in K$, and we have $s(h_1) = f(a) + p_i(h_1 - a) \leq a$ $\leq f(h_1 + k_1) - m_i(k_1)$. By Lemma 1 there exist convex Lipschitz functions $C_i^j(h)$, j = 1, 2, ..., defined on H such that $\pi_i(G)$ is covered by the union of the graphs of the functions $C_i^j(h)$. Consequently, for any point $(a, y) \in G$, a = h + k, the equations

(1)
$$\begin{aligned} y - m_0(k) &= C_0^{j_0}(h), \\ \dots \\ y - m_u(k) &= C_u^{j_u}(h) \end{aligned}$$

hold for a multiindex $(j_0, ..., j_u)$. The equations

follow immediately from (1). The linear functionals $m_1 - m_0, ..., m_u - m_0$ are linearly independent and the set of all multiindices $(j_0, ..., j_u)$ is countable. Thus if we solve the equations (2) with respect to the unknowns $x_1(a) = x_1(k), ..., x_u(a) = x_u(k)$ we obtain the assertion of Lemma 2 since the set of all functions on H of the form C - C' where C, C' are Lipschitz convex functions forms a linear space.

3. THE INFINITE DIMENSIONAL SEPARABLE CASE

Definition. 3 Let B be an infinite dimensional Banach space. Let $M \subset B$. We shall say that M is an $(\infty - u)$ -dimensional (c - c)-surface if there exist K, H, $x_1, \ldots, \ldots, x_u, \pi$ as in Lemma 2 and Lipschitz convex functions $Z_1, T_1, \ldots, Z_u, T_u$ defined on H such that M is the set of all points $y \in B$ for which

$$x_1(y) = Z_1(\pi(y)) - T_1(\pi(y)),$$

....
$$x_u(y) = Z_u(\pi(y)) - T_u(\pi(y)).$$

Evidently the notion of the $(\infty - 1)$ -dimensional (c - c)-surface coincides with the notion of the (c - c)-hypersurface defined in the first part of the present article.

Proposition 2. Let B be an infinite dimensional separable Banach space. Let f be a continuous convex function defined on an open convex subset D_f of B. Let u be an integer. Let $A \subset D_f$ be the set of all points $a \in A$ for which there exists a u-dimensional subspace $K_a \subset B$ such that for any $o \neq v \in K_a$, $D_v f(a)$ does not exist. Then A can be covered by a countable union of $(\infty - u)$ -dimensional (c - c)-surfaces.

Proof. Let C be a countable dense subset of B. Let L_a be the set of all $v \in B$ for which there exists $D_v f(a)$. The set L_a is a closed linear subspace of B by Proposition 1, (ii). Since $L_a \cap K_a = \{o\}$, there exists a u-dimensional subspace K_a^* such that $L_a \cap K_a^* = \{o\}$ and K_a^* has a basis c_1, \ldots, c_u where $c_1 \in C, \ldots, c_u \in C$. For any u-tuple (c_1, \ldots, c_u) of linearly independent elements of C, denote by $A(c_1, \ldots, c_u)$ the set of all $a \in A$ for which $L_a \cap \text{Lin} (c_1, \ldots, c_u) = \{o\}$. Clearly $A = \bigcup A(c_1, \ldots, c_u)$. By Lemma 2 any set $A(c_1, \ldots, c_u)$ can be covered by a countable union of $(\infty - u)$ -dimensional (c - c)-surfaces. This implies the assertion of Proposition 2 immediately.

Proposition 3. Let B be an infinite dimensional Banach space. Let u be an integer. Let $A = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$ where any A_n is an $(\infty - u)$ -dimensional (c - c)-surface. Then there exists a continuous convex function f such that for any $a \in A$ there exists a u-dimensional subspace K_a such that for any $o \neq v \in K_a$, $D_v f(a)$ does not exist.

Proof. Let u be an integer. Let K, H, $x_1, ..., x_u, Z_1, T_1, ..., Z_u, T_u$ be as in Definition 3 and

$$A_n = \{y : x_i(y) = Z_i(\pi(y)) - T_i(\pi(y)), i = 1, ..., u\}$$

Put

$$g_0(y) = T_1(\pi(y)) + \ldots + T_u(\pi(y)) + x_1(y) + \ldots + x_u(y)$$

and

$$g_i(y) = Z_i(\pi(y)) + g_0(y) - T_i(\pi(y)) - x_i(y)$$

for $i = 1, ..., u, y \in B$.

The functions g_0, \ldots, g_u are clearly Lipschitz and convex. Put $f_n = \max (g_0, \ldots, g_u)$. Then f_n is Lipschitz and convex and for any point $a \in A_n$ and any $o \neq v \in K$, $D_v f_n(a)$ does not exist. In fact, if $a \in A_n$, then we have $g_0(a) = g_1(a) = \ldots = g_u(a) = f_n(a)$ and therefore for y = a + k, $k \in K$, we have

$$f_n(y) = f_n(a) + \max \left((x_1(k) + \ldots + x_u(k)) - x_1(k), \ldots \\ \ldots, (x_1(k) + \ldots + x_u(k)) - x_u(k), x_1(k) + \ldots + x_u(k) \right) = \\ = f_n(a) + h_n(k).$$

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If $v \in K$, then $D_v f_n(a)$ exists iff $D_v h_n(o)$ exists. Further, $D_v h_n(o)$ exists for $v = v_1e_1 + ... + v_ue_u$ iff there exists $D_w h(0, ..., 0)$, where $w = (v_1, ..., v_u)$ and $h(x_1, ..., x_u) = \max((x_1 + ... + x_u) - x_1, ..., (x_1 + ... + x_u) - x_u, x_1 + ... + x_u) = x_1 + ... + x_u - \min(0, x_1, ..., x_u)$.

This follows from the fact that the function h_n corresponds to the function h in the isomorphism between E^u and K defined by the identification $(c_1, ..., c_u) = c_1e_1 + ... + c_ue_u$. If we put $g(x_1, ..., x_u) = \min(0, x_1, ..., x_u)$ then it is easy to see that $D_w g(0, ..., 0)$ exists for no $o \neq w \in E^u$. Therefore $D_w h(0, ..., 0)$ exists for no $o \neq w \in E^u$. Now it is clearly sufficient to put $f = \sum_{h=1}^{\infty} c_n f_n$, where $c_n > 0$ are sufficiently small numbers. It is possible to put $c_n = n^{-2} (\sup_{\|x\| \le n} |f_n(x)|)^{-1}$. Theorem 2 which is stated in the first part is a consequence of Proposition 2 and Proposition 3 in the case u = 1.

Note 1. If we write in the definition of the (c - c)-hypersurface (Definition 2) "continuous convex functions f, g" instead of "convex Lipschitz functions f, g", Theorem 2 also holds. It follows easily from Lemma 1.

4. THE FINITE DIMENSIONAL CASE

Proof of Theorem 1. We must prove the following assertions:

(A) Let f be a convex function defined in E^n . Then $S_k(f)$ can be covered by countably many (c - c)-surfaces of dimension k.

(B) Let $M \subset E^n$ be a countable union of (c - c)-surfaces of dimension k. Then there exists a convex function f defined on E^n such that $M \subset S_k(f)$.

Let f be a convex function defined in E^n . Let $x \in S_k(f)$. Since dim $L_x \leq k$ there exists a permutation π of the numbers 1, ..., n such that $L_x \cap \text{Lin}(e_{\pi(k+1)}, ..., e_{\pi(n)}) = \{o\}$ where e_j is the j-th unit coordinate vector. If we use Lemma 2 for $K_{\pi} = \text{Lin}(e_{\pi(k+1)}, ..., e_{\pi(n)}), H_{\pi} = \text{Lin}(e_{\pi(1)}, ..., e_{\pi(k)})$ and for all possible permutations π we obtain the assertion (A).

The proof of the assertion (B) is essentially the same as the proof of Proposition 3.

Note 2. If we write in the definition of the (c - c)-surface of dimension k (Definition 1) "convex continuous functions $f_{k+1}, g_{k+1}, \ldots, f_n, g_n$ " instead of "convex Lipschitz functions $f_{k+1}, g_{k+1}, \ldots, f_n, g_n$ ", Theorem 1 also holds. It follows immediately from Lemma 1.

We shall now prove that for any 0 < k < n there exists a countably k rectifiable set (for definition see [6]), which cannot be covered by a countable union of (c - c)-surfaces of dimension k. Thus Theorem 1 improves the results of [1] and [3].

Example 1. Let 0 < k < n. Let g be a Lipschitz function defined on $\langle 0, 1 \rangle$ which is not differentiable at any point of a perfect set $P \subset \langle 0, 1 \rangle$. It is well known that such a function g exists. For example, the function f from [10], p. 136, Remarque 3 is such a function. Define $f : \langle 0, 1 \rangle^k \to E^{n-k}$ by the equation $f(x_1, ..., x_k) =$ $= (g(x_1), 0, ..., 0)$. Clearly f is Lipschitz. Put $M = \text{Graph } f \subset \langle 0, 1 \rangle^k \times E^{n-k} \subset E^n$. The set M is clearly countably k rectifiable. We shall prove that M cannot be covered by a countable union of (c - c)-surfaces of dimension k. Suppose that $M \subset \bigcup_{s=1}^{\infty} A_s$, where A_s is a (c - c)-surface of dimension k for any integer s. Since M is a complete subspace of E^n and any set $M \cap A_s$ is closed in M there exists an open ball B in E^n and an index s_0 such that $M \cap B \subset A_{s_0} \cap B$. Let D be the set of all $x \in M \cap B$ for which Tan (M, x) ([6], p. 233) is a linear space (in other words: there exists a linear tangent manifold of M at x). From the definition of \dot{M} it follows easily that D is not of σ -finite (k - 1)-dimensional Hausdorff measure. But Theorem 1 easily implies that D is of σ -finite (k - 1)-dimensional measure and this is a contradiction.

Note 3. Let $M \subset E^n$, 0 < k < n and let there exist 2n - 2k convex functions $f_{k+1}, g_{k+1}, \ldots, f_n, g_n$ defined on the whole space E^k and such a system of orthonormal coordinates y_1, \ldots, y_n that M is the set of all points of E^n for which

$$y_j = f_j(y_1, ..., y_k) - g_j(y_1, ..., y_k)$$
 for $j = k + 1, ..., n$.

From the proof of Proposition 3 it is easily seen that M is the set $S_k(f)$ for a convex function f in E^n . Therefore M can be covered by countably many (c - c)-surfaces of dimension k.

5. SINGULAR BOUNDARY POINTS OF CONVEX BODIES IN E^n

Theorem 3. Suppose C is a convex body in E^{n+1} and for each boundary point x of C, let H_x be the intersection of all hyperplanes which support C at x. For 0 < k < < n let $B_k = \{x : x \in Bd(C) \text{ and } \dim H_x \leq k\}$. Then B_k can be covered by countably many (c - c)-surfaces of dimension k.

Proof. Near to a boundary point x, the surface of the body can be represented by means of a convex function defined on a hyperplane supporting the body at x. Note 3 implies that it is sufficient to prove that for any convex function f in E^n the set $\{[x, y] : x \in S_k(f), y = f(x)\}$ can be covered by countably many (c - c)-surfaces of dimension k in E^{n+1} . We shall show that the last proposition follows from the proof of Lemma 2. For this it is sufficient to prove from (1) and (2) that $y = C(h) - C^*(h)$ where C, C* are Lipschitz convex functions defined on H. But this immediately follows from the equation $y = m_0(k) + C_0^{j_0}(h)$ since $m_0(k)$ is a fixed linear combination of $x_1(a), \ldots, x_u(a)$.

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