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### On $\sigma$ -porous and $\Phi$ -angle-small sets in metric spaces

by

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Abstract: It is shown that in metric spaces each  $(\alpha, \phi)$ -meagre set A is uniformly very porous and its index of uniform v-porosity is not smaller than  $\frac{k-\alpha}{3k+\alpha}$ , provided that  $\phi$  is a strictly k-monotone family of Lipschitz functions and  $\alpha < k$ . The paper contains also conditions implying that a k-monotone family of Lipschitz functions is strictly k-monotone.

Keywords: prous set, k-monotone family of Lipschitz functions.

Let (X, d) be a metric space and let A be a set contained in  $X, A \subset X$ . For fixed  $x \in X$  and R > 0 we denote by  $\gamma(x, R, A)$  supremum of those r > 0 for which there is  $z \in X$ , such that

$$B(z,r) \subset B(x,R) \setminus A,\tag{1}$$

where  $B(y, \varrho) = \{z \in A : d(z, y) \le \varrho\}$  is the closed ball with the center at y and with the radius  $\varrho$ . We say that the set A is porous, if for all  $x \in A$ 

$$\limsup_{R\downarrow 0} \frac{\gamma(x, R, A)}{R} > 0.$$
<sup>(2)</sup>

We say that it is very porous, if for all  $x \in A$ 

$$\liminf_{R\downarrow 0} \frac{\gamma(x, R, A)}{R} > 0, \tag{3}$$

(Zajiček, 1976, Argonsky and Brückner, 1985/6). If

$$p(A) = \inf_{x \in A} \limsup_{R \downarrow 0} \frac{\gamma(x, R, A)}{R} > 0, \qquad (2^u)$$

$$vp(A) = \inf_{x \in A} \liminf_{R \downarrow 0} \frac{\gamma(x, R, A)}{R} > 0.$$

$$(3^u)$$

we say that the set A is uniformly very porous. We shall call p(A) (resp. vp(A)) the index of uniform porosity (resp. uniform v-porosity) of the set A.

A set  $A \subset X$  is called  $\sigma$ -porous, if it can be represented as a countable union of porous sets.

Porous and  $\sigma$ -porous sets in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  were considered earlier by several authors (see the survey paper of Zajiček, 1987/8).

Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be the space of all Lipschitzian functions defined on X. We define on  $\mathcal{L}$  a quasinorm

$$\|\phi\|_{L} = \sup_{\substack{x_{1}, x_{2} \in X, \\ x_{1} \neq x_{2}}} \frac{|\phi(x_{1}) - \phi(x_{2})|}{d(x_{1}, x_{2})}.$$
(4)

Observe that, if  $\|\phi_1 - \phi_2\|_L = 0$ , then the difference of  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  is a constant function, i.e.,  $\phi_1(x) = \phi_2(x) + c$ . Thus, we consider the quotient space  $\tilde{\mathcal{L}} = {}^{\mathcal{L}}_{/\mathbb{R}}$ . The quasinorm  $\|\phi\|_L$  induces the norm in the space  $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ . Since this will not lead to any misunderstanding, we shall also denote this norm by  $\|\phi\|_L$ .

Let  $\Phi$  be a family of Lipschitz functions defined on X. The quotient space  $\Phi^{+\mathbb{W}}_{\mathbb{R}}$  is a subset of the space  $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ . We shall denote it briefly  $\frac{\Psi}{\mathbb{R}}$ . It is a metric space with the distance  $d_L(\phi, \psi) = \|\phi - \psi\|_L$ .

We say that a Lipschitz function  $\phi$  is k-monotone,  $0 < k \leq 1$ , if for all  $x \in X$ and all t > 0, there is a  $y \in X$  such that  $0 < d_X(x, y) < t$  and

$$\phi(y) - \phi(x) \ge k \|\phi\|_L d_X(y, x). \tag{5}$$

If a family  $\Phi$  consists of k-monotone functions we say that the family  $\Phi$  is k-monotone.

By replacing in (5) the left-hand side of the inequality  $\phi(y) - \phi(x)$  by its absolute value we obtain a notion of weak k-monotonicity. Namely, we say that a Lipschitz function  $\phi$  is weakly k-monotone,  $0 < k \leq 1$ , if for all  $x \in X$  and all t > 0, there is a  $y \in X$  such that  $0 < d_X(x, y) < t$  and

$$|\phi(y) - \phi(x)| \ge k \|\phi\|_L d_X(y, x).$$
<sup>(5w)</sup>

If a family  $\Phi$  consists of weakly k-monotone functions we say that the family  $\Phi$  is weakly k-monotone. Of course, if a function  $\phi$  is k-monotone, then it is also weakly k-monotone. The converse is not true. For example, if X is compact and  $\phi$  is a continuous function, then it is never k-monotone. But it may happen that  $\phi$  is weakly k-monotone.

It is obvious that the linear continuous functionals over a Banach space X are k-monotone for every 0 < k < 1. If the space X is reflexive they are

Write for any  $\phi \in \Phi$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 1$ ,  $x \in X$  (Rolewicz, 1994, 1995, see also Preiss and Zajiček, 1984, for linear continuous functionals  $\phi$ )

$$K(\phi, \alpha, x) = \{ y \in X : \phi(y) - \phi(x) \ge \alpha \|\phi\|_L d(y, x) \}.$$
(6)

The set  $K(\phi, \alpha, x)$  will be called an  $\alpha$ -cone with the vertex at x and the direction  $\phi$ . Of course, it may happen that  $K(\phi, \alpha, x) = \{x\}$ . However, if the family  $\Phi$  is k-monotone and  $\alpha < k$ , then it is obvious that the set  $K(\phi, \alpha, x)$  has the nonempty interior and, even more,

$$x \in \overline{\mathrm{Int}K(\phi,\alpha,x)}.\tag{7}$$

A set  $M \subset X$  is said to be  $(\alpha, \Phi)$ -meagre if for every  $x \in M$  and arbitrary  $\varepsilon > 0$  there are  $z \in X$ ,  $d(x, z) < \varepsilon$  and  $\phi \in \Phi$  such that

$$M \cap \text{Int } K(\phi, \alpha, z) = \emptyset.$$
(8)

The arbitrariness of  $\varepsilon$  and (2) imply that an  $(\alpha, \Phi)$ -meagre set M is nowhere dense.

A set  $M \subset X$  is called  $\Phi$ -angle-small if there is  $\alpha$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , such that the set M is a union of a countable number of  $(\alpha, \Phi)$ -meagre sets  $M_n, M = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} M_n$ . Of course, every  $\Phi$ -angle-small set M is of the first Baire category.

 $\pi$  course, every  $\varphi$ -angle-sman set m is of the first barre category.

We recall that a real valued function f defined on X is called  $\Phi$ -convex if

$$f(x) = \sup\{\phi(x) + c : \phi \in \Phi, c \in \mathbb{R}, \phi(\cdot) + c \le f(\cdot)\},\tag{9}$$

where  $\phi(\cdot) + c \leq f(\cdot)$  means that  $\phi(y) + c \leq f(y)$  for all  $y \in X$ . A function  $\phi \in \Phi$  will be called a  $\Phi$ -subgradient of the function f at a point  $x_0$  if

$$f(x) - f(x_0) \ge \phi(x) - \phi(x_0)$$
(10)

for all  $x \in X$ .

We shall say that a real-valued function f defined on a metric space (X, d) is Fréchet  $\Phi$ -differentiable at a point  $x_0$  if there are a function  $\gamma(t)$  mapping the interval  $[0, +\infty)$  into the interval  $[0, +\infty]$  such that

$$\lim_{t\downarrow 0}\frac{\gamma(t)}{t}=0$$

and a function  $\phi_{x_0} \in \Phi$  such that

$$|[f(x) - f(x_0)] - [\phi(x) - \phi(x_0)]| \le \gamma(d(x, x_0)).$$
(11)

The function  $\phi$  will be called a *Fréchet*  $\Phi$ -gradient of the function f at the point  $x_0$ .

THEOREM 1 (Rolewicz, 2002). Let X be a metric space of the second Baire category (in particular, let X be a complete metric space). Let a family  $\Phi$  be weakly k-monotone and let it be an additive group. Assume that  $\frac{\Psi}{R}$  is separable in the Lipschitz norm  $\|\phi\|_{L}$ .

If f is a  $\Phi$ -convex function having at each point a  $\Phi$ -subgradient, then there is a  $\Phi$ -angle-small set A such that the function f is Fréchet  $\Phi$ -differentiable outside the set A. Moreover, the Fréchet  $\Phi$ -subgradient is unique and it is continuous in the metric  $d_L$  on the set  $X \setminus A$ .

Let (X, d) be a metric space. Let  $\Phi$  be a family of real-valued functions defined on X. Let  $\alpha(t)$  be a function mapping the interval  $[0, +\infty)$  into the interval  $[0, +\infty]$  such that  $\alpha(0) = 0$  and

$$\lim_{t \downarrow 0} \frac{\alpha(t)}{t} = 0. \tag{12}$$

A function  $\phi(x) \in \Phi$  is called an  $\alpha(\cdot)$ - $\Phi$ -subgradient of the function f at a point  $x_0$  if

$$f(x) - f(x_0) \ge \phi(x) - \phi(x_0) - \alpha(d(x, x_0)).$$
(13)

If a real-valued function f has a nonempty  $\alpha(\cdot)$ - $\Phi$ -subdifferential  $\partial_{\Phi}^{\alpha} f|_{x}$  for all  $x \in X$  we say that the function f is  $\alpha(\cdot)$ - $\Phi$ -subdifferentiable.

Now we shall extend the definition of  $\alpha$ -cone with the vertex at x and the direction  $\phi$ . Namely the set

$$K(\phi, \alpha, x, \varrho) = K(\phi, \alpha, x) \cap \{y : d(x, y) < \varrho\}$$
(14)

will be called an  $(\alpha, \varrho)$ -cone with the vertex at x and the direction  $\phi$ .

A set  $M \subset X$  is said to be  $(\alpha, \varrho, \Phi)$ -meagre if for every  $x \in M$  and arbitrary  $\varepsilon > 0$  there are  $z \in X$ ,  $d(x, z) < \varepsilon$  and  $\phi \in \Phi$  such that

$$M \cap \text{Int } K(\phi, \alpha, z, \varrho) = \emptyset.$$
(15)

The arbitrariness of  $\varepsilon$  and (15) imply that an  $(\alpha, \varrho, \Phi)$ -meagre set M is nowhere dense. We say that  $M \subset X$  is weakly  $\Phi$ -angle-small if there are  $\alpha$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , and a sequence  $\{\varrho_n\}$  of positive numbers such that M can be represented as a union of a countable number of  $(\alpha, \varrho_n, \Phi)$ -meagre sets  $M_n$ ,

$$M = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} M_n.$$
(16)

THEOREM 2 (Rolewicz, 2002). Let X be a metric space of the second Baire category (in particular, let X be a complete metric space). Let  $\Phi$  be weakly k-monotone and let it be an additive group. Assume that  $\frac{\Phi}{R}$  is separable in the

Let f be a continuous  $\alpha(\cdot)$ - $\Phi$ -subdifferentiable function. Then there is a weakly  $\Phi$ -angle-small set A such that outside of A the function f is Fréchet  $\Phi$ -differentiable.

Moreover, the Fréchet  $\Phi$ -subgradient is unique and it is continuous on  $X \setminus A$ in the metric  $d_L$ .

Thus, we have a natural question of relations between porous sets,  $\Phi$ -anglesmall sets and weakly  $\Phi$ -angle-small sets. It is obvious that each  $(\alpha, \Phi)$ -meagre set is simultaneously  $(\alpha, \varrho, \Phi)$ -meagre for all  $\varrho > 0$ . As a consequence we obtain that each  $\Phi$ -angle-small set is also a weakly  $\Phi$ -angle-small set. Rolewicz (1999) provided an example of an  $(\alpha, \varrho, \Phi)$ -meagre set, which is not  $(\alpha_0, \Phi)$ -meagre for any  $\alpha_0 > 0$ . But then, Rolewicz (2002) shows the following result:

**PROPOSITION 1** Let X be a separable metric space. Let  $\Phi$  be a fixed family of functions. Then each weakly  $\Phi$ -angle-small set M is  $\Phi$ -angle-small.

It is easy to give an example of a very porous set which is not  $\Phi$ -angle-small.

#### EXAMPLE 1

Let X = [0, 1]. Then the classical Cantor set  $C \subset X$  is obviously very porous since in this case

$$\liminf_{R \downarrow 0} \frac{\gamma(x, R, C)}{R} = \frac{1}{6} .$$
 (17)

On the other hand it is not  $\Phi$ -angle-small for any k-monotone family  $\Phi$ . Indeed, suppose that it is  $\Phi$ -angle-small. It means that  $C = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n$ , where  $C_n$  are  $(\alpha, \Phi)$ -meagre. Since the set C is uncountable, at least one among the sets  $C_n$ , say  $C_{n_0}$ , is uncountable, too. Let there be three points  $a, b, c \in C_{n_0}, a < b < c$ . For any k-monotone family  $\Phi$  the  $(\alpha, \Phi)$ -cone with the vertex z is either of the form [0, z) or (z, 1]. Thus for  $\varepsilon < \min[(c - b), (b - a)]$  there is no cone with a vertex at  $z \in C_{n_0}$  such that  $|z - b| < \varepsilon$  disjoint with  $C_{n_0}$  and we obtain a contradiction.

It is not clear if in general every  $\Phi$ -angle-small set is porous. We can prove it only under certain assumptions.

We say that a Lipschitz function  $\phi$  is strictly k-monotone if for all  $x_0 \in X$ , there are  $\varepsilon_0 > 0$  and  $R_{\phi,x_0,\varepsilon_0}$  such that for all  $t, 0 < t < R_{\phi,x_0,\varepsilon_0}$ , and for all  $x \in X$  such that  $d_X(x,x_0) < \varepsilon_0$  there is a  $y \in X$  such that  $d_X(x,y) = t$  and

$$\phi(y) - \phi(x) \ge k \|\phi\|_L d(y, x). \tag{5}$$

If a family  $\Phi$  consists of strictly k-monotone Lipschitz functions we say that the family  $\Phi$  is strictly k-monotone.

It is obvious that the linear continuous functionals over a Banach space X are strictly k-monotone for every 0 < k < 1. If the space X is reflexive they are

PROPOSITION 2 Let X be a metric space. Let  $\Phi$  be a strictly k-monotone family of Lipschitz functions. Let  $\alpha < k$ . Then each  $(\alpha, \Phi)$ -meagre set A is uniformly very porous and its index of uniform v-porosity is not smaller than  $\frac{k-\alpha}{3k+\alpha}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\varepsilon_0 \ge \varepsilon > 0$ . Since A is  $(\alpha, \Phi)$ -meagre set for every  $x \in A$  there are  $z \in X$ ,  $d(x, z) < \varepsilon$  and  $\phi \in \Phi$  such that

$$M \cap \text{Int } K(\phi, \alpha, z) = \emptyset.$$
(15)

The function  $\phi$  is strictly k-monotone. Thus, there is  $x_{\varepsilon} \in X$  such that  $d(x_{\varepsilon}, z) = \varepsilon$  and

$$\phi(x_{\varepsilon}) - \phi(z) \ge k \|\phi\|_{L} \varepsilon.$$
(5')

Let  $r = \varepsilon \frac{k-\alpha}{k+\alpha}$  and let  $y \in B(x_{\varepsilon}, r) = \{y \in X : d(y, x_{\varepsilon}) \le r\}$ . Then

 $\phi(y) \ge \phi(x_{\varepsilon}) - r \|\phi\|_L.$ 

Thus

$$\phi(y) - \phi(z) \ge \phi(x_{\varepsilon}) - \phi(z) - r \|\phi\|_{L} \ge \|\phi\|_{L} (k\varepsilon - r).$$

On the other hand

 $d(y,z) \le d(x_{\varepsilon},z) + r = \varepsilon + r.$ 

By the definition of y, y belongs to  $K(\phi, \alpha, z)$ , provided

$$\|\phi\|_{L}(k\varepsilon - r) \ge \alpha \|\phi\|_{L}(\varepsilon + r).$$
(18)

Dividing by  $\|\phi\|_L$  we get that (18) is equivalent to

$$(k\varepsilon - r) \ge \alpha(\varepsilon + r),$$
 (19)

which holds because of the definition of r. Thus,  $B(x_{\varepsilon}, r) \subset K(\phi, \alpha, z)$ .

Since  $K(\phi, \alpha, z)$  is disjoint with A, the ball  $B(x_{\varepsilon}, r)$  is also disjoint with A. Observe that this ball is contained in the ball B(x, R), where  $R = 2\varepsilon + r$ . Therefore

$$\liminf_{R\downarrow 0} \frac{\gamma(x, R, M)}{R} \ge \frac{r}{R} \ge \frac{\varepsilon \frac{k-\alpha}{k+\alpha}}{2\varepsilon + \varepsilon \frac{k-\alpha}{k+\alpha}} = \frac{k-\alpha}{3(k+\alpha)}.$$
 (20)

It is obvious that if a function  $\phi$  is strictly k-monotone, then it is also k - monotone.

PROBLEM 1 Suppose that a function  $\phi$  is k-monotone. Is  $\phi$  also strictly k-

We know the positive answer to this question in a very specific cases.

**PROPOSITION 3** Each k-monotone function  $\phi$  on  $(a, b) \subset \mathbb{R}$  is strictly k-monotone.

*Proof.* Since  $\phi$  is a Lipschitz function, it is differentiable almost everywhere. The fact that  $\Phi$  is k-monotone implies that the function  $\phi$  has at most one local minimum. Thus, we have the following three possibilities

- (i)  $\phi'(x) \ge k$  at each point of differentiability of the function  $\phi$
- (ii)  $\phi'(x) \leq -k$  at each point of differentiability of the function  $\phi$
- (iii) there is a point c, a < c < b such that at each point x of differentiability of the  $\phi(x)$  function

$$\phi'(x) \begin{cases} \leq -k \text{ if } a < x < c \\ \geq k \text{ if } c < x < b \end{cases}.$$

It is not difficult to check that in each of those cases  $\phi(x)$  is strictly k-monotone.

PROPOSITION 4 Let X be an open set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Each k-monotone continuously differentiable function  $\phi$  defined on X is strictly  $(k - \varepsilon)$ -monotone for arbitrary  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

Proof. Let K be an arbitrary compact subset of X. Let  $S = \{x : \|x\| = 1\}$  be the unit sphere in X and let  $r < \inf\{d(x, y) : x \in K, y \notin X\}$ . We consider on the set  $\mathcal{K}_0 = K \times S \times (0, r]$  the following function  $F_{\phi}(x, h, t) = \frac{\phi(x+th)-\phi(x)}{t}$ . Since  $\phi$ is continuously differentiable, the function  $F_{\phi}$  can be extended in a continuous way on  $\mathcal{K}$  being the completion of the set  $\mathcal{K}_0$ . The set  $\mathcal{K}$  is compact. Thus, the function  $F_{\phi}$  is uniformly continuous on  $\mathcal{K}$ . Since  $\phi$  is continuously differentiable and k-monotone, for every  $x \in K$  there is  $h_x$  such that  $F(x, h_x, 0) \ge k \|\phi\|_L$ . The function  $F_{\phi}$  is uniformly continuous on  $\mathcal{K}$ , thus there is  $r_{\phi} > 0$  such that for  $0 < t < r_{\phi} F_{\phi}(x, h_x, t) \ge (k - \varepsilon) \|\phi\|_L$ . Then for arbitrary  $\varepsilon > 0$   $\phi$  is strictly  $(k - \varepsilon)$ -monotone.

Proposition 4 can be extended to infinite dimensional Banach spaces, under stronger assumptions about differentiability.

For this purpose we shall introduce a notion of uniform Fréchet differentiable functions. We shall say that a real-valued function f defined on a metric space (X, d) is uniformly Fréchet  $\Phi$ -differentiable if there is a function  $\gamma(t)$  mapping the interval  $[0, +\infty)$  into the interval  $[0, +\infty]$  such that

$$\lim \frac{\gamma(t)}{t} = 0$$

and for arbitrary  $x_0 \in X$  there is a function  $\phi_{x_0} \in \Phi$  such that

$$|[f(x) - f(x_0)] - [\phi(x) - \phi(x_0)]| \le \gamma(d(x, x_0)).$$

PROPOSITION 5 Let X be an open set in a Banach space E. Each k-monotone uniformly Fréchet differentiable function  $\phi$  defined on X is strictly  $(k - \varepsilon)$ -

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Proof. Let K be an arbitrary closed set in X such that  $d = \inf\{d(x,y) : x \in K, y \notin X\} > 0$ . Let  $S = \{x : ||x|| = 1\}$  be the unit sphere in X and let r < d. We consider on the set  $\mathcal{K}_0 = K \times S \times (0, r]$  the following function  $F_{\phi}(x, h, t) = \frac{\phi(x+th)-\phi(x)}{t}$ . Since  $\phi$  is continuously differentiable and k-monotone, for every  $x \in K$  there is  $h_x$  such that  $F(x, h_x, 0) \ge k \|\phi\|_L$ . Since the function  $\phi$  is uniformly Fréchet differentiable, there is  $r_{\phi} > 0$  such that for  $0 < t < r_{\phi}$  $F_{\phi}(x, h_x, t) \ge (k - \varepsilon) \|\phi\|_L$ . Then, for arbitrary  $\varepsilon > 0$   $\phi$  is strictly  $(k - \varepsilon)$ -monotone.

Propositions 4 and 5 can be extended to weakly k-monotone functions. This is the consequence of the following obvious

PROPOSITION 6 Let X be an open set in a Banach space E. Let  $\phi$  be a weakly k-monotone Gateaux differentiable function. Then for arbitrary  $\varepsilon > 0 \phi$  is  $(k - \varepsilon)$ -monotone.

*Proof.* Since  $\phi$  is weakly k-monotone Gateaux differentiable function, then for each  $x \in X$  and each  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is  $h_x$  such that

$$|\partial^G \phi|_x(h_x)| \ge (k - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}) ||h_x||, \tag{21}$$

where  $\partial^G \phi|_x$  denote the Gateaux differential of function  $\phi$  at point x. Thus either

$$\partial^G \phi|_x(h_x) \ge (k - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}) \|h_x\|,\tag{21}$$

or

$$\partial^G \phi|_x(h_x) \le -(k - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}) \|h_x\|.$$
(22)

In the second case, by replacing  $h_x$  by  $-h_x$  we obtain

$$\partial^G \phi|_x(-h_x) \ge (k - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}) \| - h_x \|.$$
<sup>(23)</sup>

Then, by the definition of the Gateaux differential for each  $x \in X$  there is  $\delta_x > 0$ and  $y \in X$  such that  $||x - y|| < \delta_x$  and

$$\phi(y) - \phi(x) \ge (k - \varepsilon) \|y - x\|.$$
(24)

As an obvious consequence of Propositions 4, 5, 6 we get

PROPOSITION  $4^w$  Let X be an open set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Each weakly k-monotone continuously differentiable function defined on X for every  $\varepsilon$ ,  $0 < \varepsilon < \frac{k}{2}$ , is strictly  $(k - 2\varepsilon)$ -monotone.

PROPOSITION  $5^w$  Let X be an open set in a Banach space E. Each weakly k-monotone uniformly Fréchet differentiable function defined on X for every

We can generalize strict k-monotonicity to the case of weak k-monotonicity. Namely, we say a Lipschitz function  $\phi$  is strict weakly k-monotone if for all  $x_0 \in X$ , there are  $\varepsilon_0 > 0$  and  $R_{\phi,x_0,\varepsilon}$  such that for all  $t, 0 < t < R_{\phi,x_0}$ , all  $x \in X$  such that  $d(x,x_0) < \varepsilon_0$ , there is a  $y \in X$  such that d(x,y) = t and

$$|\phi(y) - \phi(x)| \ge k \|\phi\|_L d(y, x).$$
(21)

Propositions  $4^w$  and  $5^w$  give us a partial positive answer of following problem

**PROBLEM** 1<sup>w</sup> Suppose that a Lipschitz function  $\phi$  is weakly k-monotone. Is  $\phi$  also strict weakly k-monotone?

In general the answer is negative as follows from

#### EXAMPLE 2

Let X = [0, 1]. Let

$$\phi(x) = \inf_n 4|x - \frac{1}{2^n}|.$$

It is easy to see that  $\phi$  is a Lipschitz function with constant 4. Take x = 0. By simple calculation we obtain that  $\phi$  is weakly  $\frac{1}{3}$ -monotone, but it is not strict weakly k-monotone for any k > 0. Of course, on the set  $X' = (0, 1] \phi$  is strict weakly k-monotone for arbitrary k,  $0 < k \leq 1$ .

The notion of strict k-monotonicity is similar to the notion of  $\kappa$ -super-metric coupling introduced by Penot (2003). We recall the notion of coupling. Let  $(X, d_X)$  and  $(Y, d_Y)$  be two metric spaces. By coupling we shall understand a function  $c(x, y) : X \times Y \to \overline{\mathbb{R}} = \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\} \cup \{-\infty\}$ .

Let  $\kappa > 0$ . We say that a coupling c(x, y) is  $\kappa$ -super-metric at  $(x_0, y_0) \in X \times Y$  if  $c(x_0, y_0) \in \mathbb{R}$  and for any r > 0

$$\sup_{\{y:d_{Y}(y,y_{0})\leq r\}} \left( c(x,y) - c(x_{0},y) \right)$$

$$\geq c(x,y_{0}) - c(x_{0},y_{0}) + \kappa r d_{X}(x,x_{0}) d_{Y}(y,y_{0}).$$
(25)

We say that c(x, y) is  $\kappa$ -super-metric coupling if it is  $\kappa$ -super-metric coupling at  $(x_0, y_0)$  for all  $(x_0, y_0) \in X \times Y$ . By denoting  $\phi_1(y) = c(x, y)$  and  $\phi_0(y) = c(x_0, y)$  we obtain that c(x, y) is  $\kappa$ -super-metric coupling if and only if the difference  $\phi(y) = \phi_1(y) - \phi_0(y)$  for any r > 0 satisfies the following inequality

$$\sup_{\{y:d_Y(y,y_0) \le r\}} \phi(y) \ge \phi(y_0) + \kappa r d_X(x,x_0) d_Y(y,y_0).$$
(26)

Now we shall suppose that  $\Phi = \{c(x, \cdot) : x \in X\}$  is an additive group consisting of Lipschitz functions and  $d_X(x, x_0) = \|\phi_1 - \phi_0\|_L$ . Then for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  and

$$\phi(y) - \phi(y_0) \ge (\kappa - \varepsilon) \|\phi\|_L d_Y(y, y_0). \tag{5}_c$$

In other words  $\Phi$  is  $(\kappa - \varepsilon)$ -monotone.

In the considered case the essential difference between  $\kappa$ -super-metric coupling and  $(\kappa - \varepsilon)$ -monotonicity is as follous. In the definition of  $\kappa$ -super-metric coupling inequality (25) holds for all r > 0 and in the definition of  $(\kappa - \varepsilon)$ -monotone functions it holds only for sufficiently small t, depending on  $\phi$  and x. Indeed,  $\kappa$ -super-metric coupling implies that the function  $\phi_1(y) - \phi_0(y)$ , where  $\phi_1(y) = c(x, y)$  and  $\phi_0(y) = c(x_0, y)$ , is unbounded. Thus, in the case when it is Lipschitz the metric space Y is unbounded, too. Observe, that if in the definition of the  $\kappa$ -super-metric coupling we replace the condition that (5) holds, for all r > 0 by the condition that there is R, which does not depend on x such that for  $0 < r \le R$  (5) holds then by triangle inequality we obtain also that (5) holds for arbitrary r > 0.

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