ON EXTENDING MAPPINGS INTO NONLOCALLY
CONVEX LINEAR METRIC SPACES

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Abstract. It is proved that the following spaces are absolute retracts: every $F$-space
with a Schauder basis and certain function spaces along with their subgroups of
integer-valued elements. It is also observed that for every $\sigma$-compact convex set, the
absolute extension property for compacta implies the AR-property.

1. Introduction. The purpose of this paper is to provide new examples of
infinite-dimensional ANRs. Detecting the ANR-property of convex subsets of
nonlocally convex metric linear spaces and topological groups is of great importance.
For example, the topological classification of these spaces, given recently in [4, 5 and
3], required the ANR-property. We prove that the following spaces are absolute
retracts: (1) every complete metric linear space (= $F$-space) with a Schauder basis,
(2) certain function spaces which include $L_p$ ($p \geq 0$) and Orlicz spaces, and (3)
additive subgroups consisting of all integer-valued functions in certain function
spaces. Consequently, each of these spaces, when complete and separable, is homeo-
morphic to a Hilbert space [4, 5]. The argument used in verifying the AR-property of
the above examples is also employed to show that the AR and the AE($C$) (absolute
extension property for compacta) properties coincide for $\sigma$-compact convex sets.
This enables us to find a dense convex topological copy of $\Sigma$, the linear span of the
Hilbert cube in the Hilbert space $l_2$, in every separable infinite-dimensional com-
plete convex set.

Our approach is very elementary and mostly involves the natural equiconnected
structures of convex sets and contractible groups. We also employ the admissibility
notion introduced by Klee [9, 10].

2. Equiconnected spaces that are ANRs. A space $X$ is said to be locally equicon-
nected if there exists a map $c: V \times [0, 1] \rightarrow X$, where $V$ is a neighborhood of the
diagonal in $X \times X$, such that $c(x_1, x_2, 0) = x_1$, $c(x_1, x_2, 1) = x_2$, and $c(x, x, t) = x$
for every $x_1, x_2, x \in X$ and $t \in [0, 1]$. The map $c$ is called a local equiconnecting
function. The space $X$ is an equiconnected space, and $c$ is an equiconnecting function
if $c$ is defined on $X \times X \times [0, 1]$. In the sequel we will be interested in the following
two examples of locally equiconnected spaces.
Example 1. A convex subset of a metric linear space is an equiconnected space with a naturally defined equiconnecting function $c(x_1, x_2, t) = (1 - t)x_1 + tx_2$.

Example 2. A (locally) contractible topological group is a (locally) equiconnected space. A (local) equiconnecting function can be defined by

$$c(g_1, g_2, t) = g_2 \circ (h(e, t))^{-1} \circ h(g_2^{-1} \circ g_1, t),$$

where $h$ is a homotopy with $h(g, 0) = g$ and $h(g, 1) = e$ for all $g$ (a consequence: contractible topological groups are also locally contractible).

The following slight generalization of a theorem of Hanner [6] will be our main tool in applications.

**Theorem 1.** Let $X$ be a locally equiconnected metric space. If $\id_X = \lim_{n \to \infty} (\beta_n \circ \alpha_n)$, where $\alpha_n$ is a map of $X$ into some $X_n \in ANR$ and $\beta_n$ is a map of $X_n$ into $X$, $n = 1, 2, \ldots$, then $X \in ANR$.

Theorem 1 can easily be derived from the following

**Lemma 1.** Let $A$ be a closed subset of a metric space $(Z, \rho)$ and let $(X, d)$ be a locally equiconnected space. Suppose $f: A \to X$ is a map such that $f = \lim_{n \to \infty} f_n$, where each map $f_n$ extends to a neighborhood of $A$. Then $f$ extends to a neighborhood of $A$.

**Proof.** Let $(U_n)$ be a sequence of open neighborhoods of $A$ such that, for each $n$, $f_n$ extends to $U_n$, $\cl(U_{n+1}) \subset U_n$, and $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} U_n = A$. For each $z \in Z$ pick $a_z \in A$ such that $\rho(z, a_z) \leq 2\rho(z, A)$. We may assume each $U_n$ is small enough so that for each $z \in U_n$, $d(f_n(z), f_n(a_z)) \leq 1/n$. Let $\lambda: U_1 \setminus A \to (1, \infty)$ be a map such that for each $n$, $\lambda(U_n \setminus \cl(U_{n+1})) \subset (n, n + 1)$ and $\lambda(\bd(U_{n+1})) = n + 1$. Let $c: V \to X$ be a local equiconnecting function defined on a neighborhood of the diagonal in $I \times I$. For each $n > 2$ set $V_n = \{z \in U_n; (f_n^{-1}(z), f_n(z)) \in V\}$.

Consider $W = \bigcup_{n=2}^{\infty} (V_n \setminus U_{n+1}) \cup A$. We claim that $W$ is a neighborhood of $A$ and $f$ extends over $W$. The hypothesis $f = \lim_{n \to \infty} f_n$ means that, for each $a \in A$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a neighborhood $N(a)$ in $A$ and an integer $N$ such that for each $a' \in N(a)$ and $n \geq N$, $d(f_n(a'), f_n(a)) < \varepsilon$. Together with the above condition on each $U_n$, this implies the following:

(1) For each $a \in A$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a neighborhood $U(a)$ in $Z$ and an integer $N$ such that for each $n \geq N$ and $z \in U(a) \cap U_n$, $d(f_n(z), f(a)) < \varepsilon$.

Thus for $U(a)$ small enough, we have $U(a) \cap U_n \subset V_n$ for all large $n$, hence $U(a) \cap U_n \subset W$. An extension $\tilde{f}: W \to X$ is defined by the formula

$$\tilde{f}(a) = \begin{cases} c(f_{n-1}(z), f_n(z), \lambda(z) - n), & z \in V_n \setminus U_{n+1}, \\ f(z), & z \in A. \end{cases}$$

3. Applications.

**Theorem 2.** Every $F$-space $E$ with a Schauder basis (more generally: every $F$-space admitting a sequence $T_n: E \to E$ of finite rank continuous linear operators such that $T_n x \to x$ for every $x \in E$) is homeomorphic to a Hilbert space.
Proof. The Banach-Steinhaus Theorem yields \( \lim_{\infty} T_n = \text{id}_E \). Since \( T_n(E) \) is isomorphic to a Euclidean space, it is an AR. Applying Theorem 1, we obtain \( E \in \text{AR} \), which implies [4] that \( E \) is homeomorphic to a Hilbert space. \( \square \)

The next example requires a preliminary description. Let \((S, \Sigma, \mu)\) be a \( \sigma \)-finite measure space. A function space is a metric linear space \((X, \| \cdot \|)\) of \( \mu \)-equivalence classes of real \( \Sigma \)-measurable functions on \( S \) satisfying

(i) if \( |f(s)| \leq |g(s)| \) a.e. and \( g \in X \), then \( f \in X \) and \( \|f\| \leq \|g\| \),

(ii) for every \( \{f_n\} \subset X \), \( |f_n(s)| \leq |f(s)| \) a.e. for \( n = 1, 2, \ldots \), with \( 0 \leq f \in X \), we have \( \|f_n\| \to 0 \) iff \( f_n \to 0 \) in measure on every set of \( \mu \)-finite measure (cf. [8]).

Function spaces which are Banach spaces were intensively investigated in a series of papers by Luxemburg and Zaanen (see, e.g., [12]). In our setting we permit function spaces to be nonlocally convex (\( \| \cdot \| \) is not supposed to be homogeneous; we only require \( (f, g) \to \|f - g\| \) to be a metric on \( X \)).

Theorem 3. Every separable function space \( X \) is an absolute retract.

Proof. First, we construct a set \( E = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \), \( E_n \in \Sigma \) for \( n = 1, 2, \ldots \), with the properties:

1. \( \chi_E \cdot f = f \) for every \( f \in X \),
2. \( \chi_{E_n} \in X \), and
3. \( \mu(E_n) < \infty \) for \( n = 1, 2, \ldots \).

To this end pick a dense subset \( \{f_n\} \) of \( X \). Write \( E = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \{s: f_n(s) \neq 0\} \). Given \( f \in X \) and \( \varepsilon > 0 \), there exists \( f_n \) with \( \|f - f_n\| < \varepsilon \). Using condition (i) we estimate

\[
\|f - \chi_E \cdot f\| \leq \|f - f_n\| + \|f_n - \chi_E f\| \leq 2 \cdot \varepsilon;
\]

this shows (1). Now, noting that

\[
\{s: f_n(s) \neq 0\} = \bigcup_{1}^{\infty} \{s: |f_n(s)| \geq k^{-1}\},
\]

it is easy to determine \( E_n (n = 1, 2, \ldots) \) in order to fulfill (2) and (3).

We apply Theorem 1, by letting \( \alpha_n(f) = \chi_{E_n} \cdot \sup(\inf(n, f), -n) \) and \( X_n = \{f \in X: \chi_{E_n} \cdot f = f \text{ and } |f(s)| \leq n \text{ a.e.}\} \). Clearly, by (2) and (i), \( \alpha_n(X) \subset X_n \).

It is elementary to show that \( (\alpha_n(f) - \alpha_n(g))(s) \leq |f(s) - g(s)| \) a.e. and \( (\alpha_{n+1}(f) - f)(s) \leq (\alpha_n(f) - f)(s) \) a.e. for every \( f, g \in X \) and \( n = 1, 2, \ldots \). This, in turn, guarantees the equiuniform continuity of \( \{\alpha_n\} \) by (i), and \( \|\alpha_n(f) - f\| \to 0 \) by (ii) and (1). Now, the fact that \( \lim_{\infty} \alpha_n = \text{id}_X \) easily follows. Moreover, observe that \( X_n \) is a convex subset of \( X \) satisfying: \( \|f_n - f_0\| \to 0 \) iff \( f_n \to f_0 \) in measure iff \( f_n \to f_0 \) in \( L_1(E_n, \mu) \) for \( \{f_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty} \subset X_n \). Thus \( X_n \) is affinely homeomorphic to a convex subset of \( L_1 \). Finally, the Borsuk-Dugundji Theorem (see [2, p. 58]) ensures \( X_n \in \text{AR} \) and Theorem 1 is applicable. \( \square \)

Note 1. The separability condition in Theorem 3 may be dropped, assuming, additionally, \( \chi_{X_n} \in X \).

Note 2. The same proof yields \( \{f \in X: |f(s)| \leq |f_0(s)| \text{ a.e.}\} \in \text{AR} \), where \( f_0 \) is any \( \Sigma \)-measurable nonnegative function.
Consider the subset $G$ of $L_2(0,1)$ consisting of all integer-valued functions. $G$ occurs as a closed additive subgroup of $L_2(0,1)$ admitting no one-parameter subgroups. Answering a question of Wojtynski, we describe the topological nature of $G$.

**Theorem 4.** Let $X$ be a separable function space defined on a $\sigma$-finite measure space $(S, \Sigma, \mu)$ with atomless measure $\mu$. The additive subgroup $G$ of $X$ consisting of all integer-valued functions is an AR. Moreover, if $G$ is complete, then $G$ is homeomorphic to $l_2$.

**Proof.** We will follow the proof of Theorem 3. Having constructed sets $E$ and $E_n$ ($n = 1, 2, \ldots$), we consider $\alpha_n(f) = \chi_{E_n} \cdot \sup(\inf(n, f), -n)$ for $f \in G$. Clearly $\alpha_n(G) \subset \{ f \in G : \chi_{E_n} \cdot f = f$ and $|f(s)| \leq n$ a.e. $\} = G_n$. The argument used in Theorem 3 shows that $\lim_{\infty} \alpha_n = \text{id}_G$, and the topology on $G_n$ coincides with the topology of convergence in measure. Hence, by a theorem of Bessaga and Pelczyński (see [2, p. 201]) the set $G_n$ is homeomorphic to $l_2$; so $G_n \in \text{AR}$.

Now, in order to apply Theorem 1 we will show that $G$ is contractible (cf. Example 2). Since $\mu$ is $\sigma$-finite and atomless, there exists a continuous map $\lambda$: $[0, 1] \to (\Sigma, d)$, where $d(E_1, E_2) = \mu(E_1 \setminus E_2) + \mu(E_2 \setminus E_1)$, such that $\lambda(1) = \emptyset$, $\lambda(0) = S$ and $\mu(\bigcup_{\varepsilon \approx 0} \lambda(\varepsilon)) < \infty$ for every $\varepsilon > 0$. Write $h(f, t) = \chi_{\lambda(t)} \cdot f$ and note that $h(f, 0) = f$ and $h(f, 1) = 0$ for every $f \in G$. If $\|f_n - f\| \to 0$ and $t_n \to t$, then by (i),

$$
\|h(f_n, t_n) - h(f, t)\| \leq \|\chi_{\lambda(t_n)} \cdot f_n - \chi_{\lambda(t_n)} \cdot f\| + \|\chi_{\lambda(t_n)} \cdot f - \chi_{\lambda(t)} \cdot f\|
$$

$$
\leq \|f_n - f\| + \|\chi_{\lambda(t_n)} \cdot f - \chi_{\lambda(t)} \cdot f\|.
$$

Since $\chi_{\lambda(t_n)} \cdot f - \chi_{\lambda(t)} \cdot f \to 0$ in measure, the continuity of $h$ follows from (ii). The last part of Theorem 4 follows from [5]. □

4. Admissibility and AR properties. Assume $C$ is a convex subset of a metric linear space $(E, \| \cdot \|)$. Following Klee [9], we say that $C$ is admissible if for every compact set $K \subset C$ the identity map $\text{id}_K$ can be uniformly approximated by maps $\phi: K \to C$ with $\dim \text{span}(\phi(K)) < \infty$. Klee [9] proved that admissible $F$-spaces are AE($\mathcal{F}$).

The following theorem extends the result of Klee.

**Theorem 5.** A convex set $C$ is an AR iff $\text{id}_C = \lim_{\infty} \phi_n$, where each $\phi_n$ is a locally finite-dimensional (l.f.d.) map, i.e., every point of $C$ has a neighborhood $U$ with $\dim \text{span}(\phi_n(U)) < \infty$.

We will employ the following

**Lemma 2.** Let $\{ A_n \}$ be a countable closed cover of a metric space $A$ and $C$ a convex subset of a metric linear space. Suppose $f: A \to C$ is a map such that for each $n$, $f|A_n$ is the uniform limit of l.f.d. maps. Then $f$ is the uniform limit of l.f.d. maps.

**Proof of Lemma 2.** Fix a map $f: A \to C$ and $\varepsilon > 0$. Choose an l.f.d. map $f_n$: $A_n \to C$ with $\|f_n - f|A_n\| < 2^{-n}\varepsilon$. Since finite-dimensional convex subsets of $C$ are ARs, applying a partition of unity argument, we construct l.f.d. maps $f_n$: $A \to C$
such that \( f(A_n) = f_n \). There exists a locally finite partition of unity \( \{ \lambda_n \} \) with 
\( \lambda_n^{-1}((0,1]) \subset \{ a \in A : \| f_n(a) - f(a) \| < 2^{-n} \epsilon \} \). Letting 
\( f(a) = \sum_{1}^{\infty} \lambda_n(a) \tilde{f}_n(a) \), we see that \( f \) is an l.f.d. map satisfying 
\[
\| f(a) - \tilde{f}(a) \| \leq \sum_{1}^{\infty} \| \lambda_n(a) (f(a) - \tilde{f}(a)) \| \leq \sum_{1}^{\infty} 2^{-n} \epsilon = \epsilon.
\]

**Proof of Theorem 5.** Necessity. Since \( C \subseteq \text{AR} \), for every \( \epsilon > 0 \) there exists a locally finite-dimensional metric simplicial complex \( K \) and maps \( \phi : C \rightarrow |K|, \psi : |K| \rightarrow C \) such that \( \| \psi \phi(x) - x \| < \epsilon \). Clearly \( |K| \) is a countable union of closed finite-dimensional sets. It can be easily verified that every map of a finite-dimensional metric space into \( C \) is the uniform limit of l.f.d. maps (cf. [4]). Thus, by Lemma 2, the map \( \psi \) is the uniform limit of l.f.d. maps. Consequently, \( \text{id}_C \) is also the uniform limit of l.f.d. maps.

Sufficiency. Let \( f : A \rightarrow C \) be a map, where \( A \) is a closed subset of a metric space \( Z \). Using a partition of unity argument and the fact that finite-dimensional convex subsets of \( C \) are ARs, we construct maps \( f_n : Z \rightarrow C \) such that \( f_n|A = \phi_n \circ f \) for \( n = 1, 2, \ldots \). Since \( \lim_{n \to \infty} f_n = f \), Lemma 1 ensures that \( f \) extends to a neighborhood of \( A \). Finally, since \( C \) is a contractible ANR, it is an AR. \( \square \)

**Note 3.** The same proof (for the sufficiency part) yields \( C \subseteq \text{AE}(\mathcal{C}) \) iff \( C \) is admissible.

**Note 4.** Applying Lemma 2 in the sufficiency part of the proof of Theorem 5, one can show that \( C \subseteq \text{AR} \), provided that \( \text{id}_C = \lim_{n \to \infty} \phi_n \) such that each \( \phi_n(C) \) is a countable union of closed finite-dimensional sets (cf. [1]). More generally, one may only require that each \( \phi_n(C) \) is a \( C \)-space (see [7]). This follows from the fact that Lemma 2 holds when \( A \) is a subspace of \( C \) with the weaker assumption that each \( A_n \) is a (not necessarily closed) \( C \)-space.

**Corollary 1.** For a \( \sigma \)-compact convex set the following conditions are equivalent:

(a) \( C \subseteq \text{AR} \),

(b) \( C = \bigcup_n A_n \) with \( A_n = \text{cl}(A_n) \in \text{AE}(\mathcal{C}) \) for \( n = 1, 2, \ldots \),

(c) \( C \) is admissible.

**Proof.** This is a consequence of Theorem 5 and Lemma 2. \( \square \)

**Corollary 2.** Every separable infinite-dimensional complete convex set \( C \) contains a dense convex subset \( \tilde{C} \) homeomorphic to \( \Sigma = \{(x_n) \in l_2 : \sum_{1}^{\infty} (nx_n)^2 < \infty \} \).

**Proof.** The proof of [3, Proposition 3.4] shows that there are affine copies \( C_1, C_2, \ldots \) of compact convex subsets of \( l_2 \), with \( \tilde{C} = \bigcup_n C_n \) dense in \( C \) and such that \( \{ C_n \} \) is a so-called strong universal tower for compacta. By Corollary 1 we have \( \tilde{C} \subseteq \text{AR} \). Finally, the assertion follows from [3, Theorem 4.1]. \( \square \)

5. A generalization. The problem of whether a separable metric space \( X \in \text{ANE}(\mathcal{C}) \) is an ANR, posed by Kuratowski [11], remains unsolved. Apparently, an answer to this problem is not known even for \( \sigma \)-compact \( X \). Our consideration leads to a partial answer.
Proposition. Let \((X, d)\) be a \(\sigma\)-compact space and \(c\) a local equiconnecting function defined for all \(x_1, x_2\) with \(d(x_1, x_2) < \varepsilon\) for some \(\varepsilon > 0\) and satisfying
\[
(*) \quad d(c(x_1, x_2, t), x_2) < d(x_1, x_2) \quad \text{for every } x_1, x_2 \in X \text{ and } 0 < t < 1.
\]
If \(X = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} X_n\) and each \(X_n = \overline{c(x_n)} \in \text{ANE}(\mathcal{C})\), then \(X \in \text{ANR}\).

Proof (Sketch). First, to show that \(X \in \text{ANE}(\mathcal{C})\), consider a map \(f : A \to X\), where \(A\) is a closed subset of a compact set \(Z\). Imitating the argument of Lemma 2 with \(A_n = f^{-1}(X_n)\), one can show that \(f\) is a uniform limit of maps defined on neighborhoods of \(A\) in \(Z\). Lemma 1 guarantees a neighborhood extension of \(f\). To repeat the same argument in the case where \(A\) is a closed \(\sigma\)-compact subset of a metric space, we use the fact that any map of a compact subset \(B\) of a metric space \(Y\) into an \(\text{ANE}(\mathcal{C})\) extends to a neighborhood of \(B\) in \(Y\). \(\square\)

Note 5. If \(X\) is a convex subset of a metric linear space \((E, \| \cdot \|)\), then the equiconnecting function of Example 1 satisfies \((*)\) with respect to the metric \(d\) induced by \(\| \cdot \|\). If \(X = (G, d)\) is a locally contractible topological group and \(d\) is left-invariant, then the local equiconnecting function of Example 2 satisfies \((*)\), provided that
\[
(**) \quad d(h(g, t), h(e, t)) \leq d(g, e) \quad \text{for every } g \in G \text{ and } 0 \leq t \leq 1.
\]

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