

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

$$B(z, r) \subset B(x, R) \setminus A, \quad (1)$$

where  $B(y, \varrho) = \{z \in A : d(z, y) \leq \varrho\}$  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  $x \in A$

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

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

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

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

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

we say that the set  $A$  is *uniformly porous*. If

$$vp(A) = \inf_{x \in A} \liminf_{R \downarrow 0} \frac{\gamma(x, R, A)}{R} > 0. \quad (3^u)$$

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 Zajíček, 1987/8).

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

$$\|\phi\|_L = \sup_{\substack{x_1, x_2 \in X, \\ x_1 \neq x_2}} \frac{|\phi(x_1) - \phi(x_2)|}{d(x_1, x_2)}. \quad (4)$$

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  $\Phi + \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{R}$  is a subset of the space  $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ . We shall denote it briefly  $\Phi/\mathbb{R}$ . 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

$$\phi(y) - \phi(x) \geq k\|\phi\|_L d_X(y, x). \quad (5)$$

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

$$|\phi(y) - \phi(x)| \geq k\|\phi\|_L d_X(y, x). \quad (5^w)$$

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  $k$ -monotone for every  $0 < k \leq 1$ .

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

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

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,

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

$$f(x) - f(x_0) \geq \phi(x) - \phi(x_0) \quad (10)$$

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

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

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

Adapting the method of Preiss and Zajíček (1984) to metric spaces we obtain

**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  $\frac{\Phi}{\mathbb{R}}$  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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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  $M_n$ ,

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

**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  $\frac{\Phi}{\mathbb{R}}$  is separable in the Lipschitz norm  $\|\phi\|_L$ .*

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,  $\Phi$ -angle-small 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

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

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

$$\phi(y) - \phi(x) \geq k \|\phi\|_L d(y, x). \quad (5)$$

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 strictly  $k$ -monotone for every  $0 < k \leq 1$ .

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  $\varepsilon_0 \geq \varepsilon > 0$ . 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

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

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

$$\phi(x_\varepsilon) - \phi(z) \geq k\|\phi\|_L \varepsilon. \quad (5')$$

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

$$\phi(y) \geq \phi(x_\varepsilon) - r\|\phi\|_L.$$

Thus

$$\phi(y) - \phi(z) \geq \phi(x_\varepsilon) - \phi(z) - r\|\phi\|_L \geq \|\phi\|_L(k\varepsilon - r).$$

On the other hand

$$d(y, z) \leq d(x_\varepsilon, z) + r = \varepsilon + r.$$

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

$$\|\phi\|_L(k\varepsilon - r) \geq \alpha\|\phi\|_L(\varepsilon + r). \quad (18)$$

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

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

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

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

■

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  $k$ -monotone?*

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)  $\phi'(x) \geq k$  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  $F(x, h_x, 0) \geq k\|\phi\|_L$ . The function  $F_\phi$  is uniformly continuous on  $\mathcal{K}$ , thus there is  $r_\phi > 0$  such that for  $0 < t < r_\phi$   $F_\phi(x, h_x, t) \geq (k - \varepsilon)\|\phi\|_L$ . 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

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

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

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

**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  $(k - \varepsilon)$ -monotone for arbitrary  $\varepsilon > 0$ .*

*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  $F(x, h_x, 0) \geq k\|\phi\|_L$ . Since the function  $\phi$  is uniformly Fréchet differentiable, there is  $r_\phi > 0$  such that for  $0 < t < r_\phi$   $F_\phi(x, h_x, t) \geq (k - \varepsilon)\|\phi\|_L$ . 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

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

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

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

or

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

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

$$\partial^G \phi|_x(-h_x) \geq (k - \frac{\varepsilon}{2})\|h_x\|. \quad (23)$$

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

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

■

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

**PROPOSITION 4<sup>w</sup>** *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<sup>w</sup>** *Let  $X$  be an open set in a Banach space  $E$ . Each weakly  $k$ -monotone uniformly Fréchet differentiable function defined on  $X$  for every  $\varepsilon$ ,  $0 < \varepsilon < \frac{k}{2}$ , is strictly  $(k - 2\varepsilon)$ -monotone.*

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  $t$ ,  $0 < t < R_{\phi, x_0, \varepsilon}$ , 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

$$|\phi(y) - \phi(x)| \geq k \|\phi\|_L d(y, x). \tag{21}$$

Propositions 4<sup>w</sup> and 5<sup>w</sup> 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  $c(x, y) : X \times Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R} = \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\} \cup \{-\infty\}$ .

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  $r > 0$

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{\{y: d_Y(y, y_0) \leq r\}} \left( c(x, y) - c(x_0, y) \right) \\ & \geq c(x, y_0) - c(x_0, y_0) + \kappa r d_X(x, x_0) d_Y(y, y_0). \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

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

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

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  $y_0 \in Y$  there is  $y$  such that

$$\phi(y) - \phi(y_0) \geq (\kappa - \varepsilon) \|\phi\|_L d_Y(y, y_0). \quad (5_c)$$

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 follows. 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  $0 < r \leq R$  (5) holds then by triangle inequality we obtain also that (5) holds for arbitrary  $r > 0$ .

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