

Sets with the Radon-Nikodým property in conjugate Banach space

by

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Abstract. We prove that if U does not embed in X , then every subset O of X^* with the Radon-Nikodým property is w^* -dentable. From this we deduce that if, moreover, X is separable, those sets in X^* are separable. However, if X is separable and X^* is not separable, then there exists a set in X^* with the Radon-Nikodým property and with non-separable w^* -closure.

Let \mathcal{B} , $\| \cdot \|$ be a real Banach space. If $x \in \mathcal{B}$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, then $B(x, \varepsilon)$ denotes the open ball with midpoint x and radius ε . We establish some notations, referring to [6]. Let A be a non-empty and bounded subset of \mathcal{B} . If $w^* \in \mathcal{B}^*$, we define $M(w^*, A) = \sup w^*(A)$ and if $\alpha > 0$, we let $S(w^*, \alpha, A) = \{x \in A; w^*(x) \geq M(w^*, A) - \alpha\}$, which will be called a *slice* of A . Let \mathcal{F} be a subspace of \mathcal{B}^* separating the points of \mathcal{B} . The set A is said to be \mathcal{F} -*dentable* if for each $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a point $x \in A$ such that x does not belong to the $\sigma(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{F})$ -closed convex hull of $A \setminus B(x, \varepsilon)$. By the separation theorem, this is equivalent with the existence of slices $S(w^*, \alpha, A)$ with $w^* \in \mathcal{F}$, thus \mathcal{F} -slices, with arbitrarily small diameter. If in particular $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{B}^*$, we say that A is *dentable*. If \mathcal{B} is a conjugate space X^* and $\mathcal{F} = X$, we say that A is w^* -dentable. Obviously w^* -dentability implies dentability. This paper deals with the other implication.

A set with the Radon-Nikodým property is a bounded, closed and convex subset of \mathcal{B} such that each of its non-empty subsets is dentable. For some remarkable properties of these sets, I refer the reader to [1].

A *diadic tree* in \mathcal{B} is a bounded sequence $(x_n)_n$ in \mathcal{B} so that for some $\varepsilon > 0$ we have that each point x_p is the midpoint of 2 points x_q and x_r with $\|x_q - x_r\| \geq \varepsilon$.

We let X be a real Banach space and X^* is dual.

In the first four lemmas, O is a bounded, closed and convex set in X^* and \bar{O} is its w^* -closure.

LEMMA 1. *If there is $\varepsilon > 0$ and a system $((S_{n,k})_{1 \leq k \leq 2^n})_n$ of X -slices of \bar{O} such that:*

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- 1° $S_{n+1,2k-1} \subset S_{n,k}, S_{n+1,2k} \subset S_{n,k},$
- 2° $\text{dist}(S_{n+1,2k-1}, S_{n+1,2k}) \geq \varepsilon,$
- 3° $\lim_n \text{diam} \sum_{k=1}^{2^n} \frac{1}{2^n} S_{n,k} = 0,$

then \mathcal{O} contains a diadic tree.

Proof. Since for each integer N we have that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{2^{N+n}} \frac{1}{2^{N+n}} S_{N+n,k} = \sum_{K=1}^{2^N} \frac{1}{2^N} \sum_{k=(K-1)2^{n+1}}^{K2^n} \frac{1}{2^n} S_{N+n,k}$$

it follows that $\lim_n \sum_{k=(K-1)2^{n+1}}^{K2^n} \frac{1}{2^n} S_{N+n,k} = 0$ for each $K = 1, \dots, 2^N$.

Therefore, because it is decreasing, the intersection

$$\bigcap_n \sum_{k=(K-1)2^{n+1}}^{K2^n} \frac{1}{2^n} S_{N+n,k}$$

consists of a unique point $x_{N,K}^*$ which is clearly in $S_{N,K} \cap \mathcal{O}$. It is easily verified that $x_{N,K}^* = \frac{1}{2}(x_{N+1,2K-1}^* + x_{N+1,2K}^*)$, where $\|x_{N+1,2K-1}^* - x_{N+1,2K}^*\| \geq \varepsilon$. Hence $((x_{N,K}^*)_{1 \leq K \leq 2^N})_N$ is the required diadic tree.

LEMMA 2. Let $(x_n)_n$ be a sequence in X and $((S_{n,k})_{1 \leq k \leq 2^n})_n$ a system of X -slices of $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}$, such that

- 1° $\|x_n\| = 1,$
- 2° $S_{n+1,2k-1} \subset S_{n,k}, S_{n+1,2k} \subset S_{n,k},$
- 3° $S_{n+1,2k-1} \cap S_{n+1,2k} = \emptyset,$
- 4° $\lim_n \sup_{1 \leq k \leq 2^n} o(x_n | S_{n,k}) = 0$ for each integer m .

If l^1 does not embed in X , then

$$\lim_n \sum_{k=1}^{2^n} \frac{1}{2^n} [\inf w_n(S_{n+1,2k-1}) - \sup w_n(S_{n+1,2k})] \leq 0.$$

Proof. Let $\Delta = \bigcap_n \bigcup_{k=1}^{2^n} S_{n,k}$, which is a w^* -compact subset of $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}$, and

$\Delta_{n,k} = \Delta \cap S_{n,k}$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $k = 1, \dots, 2^n$. We consider the σ -algebra \mathfrak{S} of subsets of N , generated by $\{\Delta_{n,k}; 1 \leq k \leq 2^n, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$. Defining $\lambda(\Delta_{n,k}) = 1/2^n$, a probability λ on \mathfrak{S} is obtained. By (4), each w_n viewed as a function on Δ is \mathfrak{S} -measurable. Assume the claim untrue. Then there is $\varepsilon > 0$ and an infinite subset N of \mathbb{N} with

$$\sum_{k=1}^{2^n} \frac{1}{2^n} [\inf w_n(S_{n+1,2k-1}) - \sup w_n(S_{n+1,2k})] > \varepsilon \quad \text{for each } n \in N.$$

If l^1 does not embed in X , then by Rosenthal's theorem [7], $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ has a w^* -converging subsequence $(x_n)_{n \in M}$. Applying the Lebesgue theorem, we find some $m \in M$ satisfying $\int |w_m - x_n| d\lambda < \varepsilon/3$ whenever $n \in M$ and $n \geq m$. Take then some $n \in M$ such that $n \geq m$ and $\sup_{1 \leq k \leq 2^n} o(x_m | S_{n,k}) < \varepsilon/3$.

Since

$$\int_{A_{n+1,2k-1}} |w_m - x_n| d\lambda \geq \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} [\inf w_n(S_{n+1,2k-1}) - \sup w_n(S_{n,k})],$$

$$\int_{A_{n+1,2k}} |w_m - x_n| d\lambda \geq \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} [\inf w_n(S_{n,k}) - \sup w_n(S_{n+1,2k})],$$

it follows

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\varepsilon}{3} &> \sum_{k=1}^{2^n} \left(\int_{A_{n+1,2k-1}} |w_m - x_n| d\lambda + \int_{A_{n+1,2k}} |w_m - x_n| d\lambda \right) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} \sum_{k=1}^{2^n} [\inf w_n(S_{n+1,2k-1}) - \sup w_n(S_{n+1,2k}) - o(x_m | S_{n,k})] \\ &> \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{2^n} \frac{1}{2^n} [\inf w_n(S_{n+1,2k-1}) - \sup w_n(S_{n+1,2k})] - \frac{\varepsilon}{6}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $\sum_{k=1}^{2^n} \frac{1}{2^n} [\inf w_n(S_{n+1,2k-1}) - \sup w_n(S_{n+1,2k})] < \varepsilon$, which is the required contradiction.

LEMMA 3. \mathcal{B} will denote the extreme points of $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}$. If $S = S(x, \alpha, \tilde{\mathcal{O}})$ is an X -slice of $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}$, we let

$$\dot{S} := \dot{S}(x, \alpha, \mathcal{O}) = \{w^* \in \tilde{\mathcal{O}}; w^*(x) > M(x, \tilde{\mathcal{O}}) - \alpha\}.$$

For each $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists an X -slice T of $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}$, satisfying:

- 1° $T \subset S,$
- 2° $T \subset \tilde{o}(\dot{S} \cap \mathcal{B}) + B(0, \varepsilon).$

Proof. Let $d = \text{diam } \tilde{\mathcal{O}}$ and take $T = S(x, \beta, \tilde{\mathcal{O}})$, where $\beta = \min(\alpha, \varepsilon\alpha/2d)$. Obviously $T \subset S$ and we show that also 2° is verified. We first remark that $\tilde{\mathcal{O}} = \tilde{o}(\tilde{o}(\dot{S} \cap \mathcal{B}) \cup (\tilde{\mathcal{O}} \setminus \dot{S}))$. Take $w^* \in T$ and consider $w_1^* \in \tilde{o}(\dot{S} \cap \mathcal{B}), w_2^* \in \tilde{\mathcal{O}} \setminus \dot{S}$ and $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ with $w^* = (1-\lambda)w_1^* + \lambda w_2^*$. Since $M(x, \tilde{\mathcal{O}}) - \beta \leq w^*(x) = (1-\lambda)w_1^*(x) + \lambda w_2^*(x) \leq M(x, \tilde{\mathcal{O}}) - \lambda\alpha$, it follows that $\lambda \leq \varepsilon/2d$ and therefore $\|w^* - w_1^*\| < \varepsilon$. Thus $T \subset \tilde{o}(\dot{S} \cap \mathcal{B}) + B(0, \varepsilon)$.

LEMMA 4. If \mathcal{O} is not w^* -dentable, then there exist $\varepsilon > 0$, a sequence $(x_n)_n$ in X and a system $((S_{n,k})_{1 \leq k \leq 2^n})_n$ of slices of $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}$, such that:

- 1° $\|x_n\| = 1,$

$$2^\circ S_{n+1,2k-1} \subset S_{n,k}, S_{n+1,2k} \subset S_{n,k},$$

$$3^\circ \text{dist}(S_{n+1,2k-1}, S_{n+1,2k}) \geq \varepsilon,$$

$$4^\circ \sup_{1 \leq k \leq 2^n} o(x_m | S_{n,k}) \leq 1/n \text{ for each } m = 0, \dots, n-1,$$

$$5^\circ \text{diam} \sum_{k=1}^{2^{n+1}} \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} S_{n+1,k} \leq \sum_{k=1}^{2^n} \frac{1}{2^n} [\inf w_n(S_{n+1,2k-1}) - \sup w_n(S_{n+1,2k})] + 1/(n+1)$$

Proof. By Lemma 3, since C is not w^* -dentable, there is $\delta > 0$ such that $\text{diam}(\dot{S} \cap \mathcal{E}) > \delta$ whenever S is a slice of \dot{C} . Take $\varepsilon = \delta/2$. Starting from $S_{0,1} = \dot{C}$, we will define x_n and $(S_{n+1,k})_{1 \leq k \leq 2^{n+1}}$ inductively. We use the fact that a w^* -neighbourhood of a point in \mathcal{E} contains a w^* -neighbourhood of that point which is an X -slice.

Take $w_0 \in X$ with $\|w_0\| = 1$ satisfying

$$o(w_0 | \dot{S}_{0,1} \cap \mathcal{E}) \geq \text{diam}(\dot{S}_{0,1} \cap \mathcal{E}) - \frac{1}{3}.$$

We consider slices $S'_{1,1} \subset S_{0,1}, S'_{1,2} \subset S_{0,1}$ such that

$$\inf w_0(S'_{1,1}) \geq \sup w_0(\dot{S}_{0,1} \cap \mathcal{E}) - \frac{1}{6}, \quad \sup w_0(S'_{1,2}) \leq \inf w_0(\dot{S}_{0,1} \cap \mathcal{E}) + \frac{1}{6}.$$

By Lemma 3, there are slices $S''_{1,1} \subset S'_{1,1}, S''_{1,2} \subset S'_{1,2}$ with

$$S''_{1,1} \subset \tilde{c}(\dot{S}'_{1,1} \cap \mathcal{E}) + B(0, \frac{1}{6}), \quad S''_{1,2} \subset \tilde{c}(\dot{S}'_{1,2} \cap \mathcal{E}) + B(0, \frac{1}{6}).$$

Finally, it is easily seen how to obtain slices $S_{1,1} \subset S''_{1,1}, S_{1,2} \subset S''_{1,2}$ so that $\text{dist}(S_{1,1}, S_{1,2}) \geq \varepsilon$ and $o(w_0 | S_{1,1}) \leq 1, o(w_0 | S_{1,2}) \leq 1$. Since

$$\begin{aligned} \text{diam}(\frac{1}{2}S_{1,1} + \frac{1}{2}S_{1,2}) &\leq \text{diam}(\frac{1}{2}S''_{1,1} + \frac{1}{2}S''_{1,2}) \\ &\leq \text{diam}[\frac{1}{2}\tilde{c}(\dot{S}'_{1,1} \cap \mathcal{E}) + \frac{1}{2}\tilde{c}(\dot{S}'_{1,2} \cap \mathcal{E})] + \frac{1}{3} \leq \text{diam}(\dot{S}_{0,1} \cap \mathcal{E}) + \frac{1}{3} \\ &\leq o(w_0 | \dot{S}_{0,1} \cap \mathcal{E}) + \frac{2}{3} \leq \inf w_0(S_{1,1}) - \sup w_0(S_{1,2}) + 1, \end{aligned}$$

all conditions are satisfied.

Assume now $(S_{n,k})_{1 \leq k \leq 2^n}$ obtained. Take $x_n \in X$ with $\|x_n\| = 1$ satisfying

$$\sum_{k=1}^{2^n} \frac{1}{2^n} o(x_n | \dot{S}_{n,k} \cap \mathcal{E}) \geq \text{diam} \sum_{k=1}^{2^n} \frac{1}{2^n} \left(\dot{S}_{n,k} \cap \mathcal{E} - \frac{1}{3(n+1)} \right).$$

Let $k = 1, \dots, 2^n$ be fixed. We consider slices $S'_{n+1,2k-1} \subset S_{n,k}, S'_{n+1,2k} \subset S_{n,k}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \inf w_n(S'_{n+1,2k-1}) &\geq \sup w_n(\dot{S}_{n,k} \cap \mathcal{E}) - \frac{1}{6(n+1)}, \\ \sup w_n(S'_{n+1,2k}) &\leq \inf w_n(\dot{S}_{n,k} \cap \mathcal{E}) + \frac{1}{6(n+1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Again by Lemma 3, there are slices $S''_{n+1,2k-1} \subset S'_{n+1,2k-1}, S''_{n+1,2k} \subset S'_{n+1,2k}$ with

$$\begin{aligned} S''_{n+1,2k-1} &\subset \tilde{c}(\dot{S}'_{n+1,2k-1} \cap \mathcal{E}) + B\left(0, \frac{1}{6(n+1)}\right), \\ S''_{n+1,2k} &\subset \tilde{c}(\dot{S}'_{n+1,2k} \cap \mathcal{E}) + B\left(0, \frac{1}{6(n+1)}\right). \end{aligned}$$

There are slices $S_{n+1,2k-1} \subset S''_{n+1,2k-1}, S_{n+1,2k} \subset S''_{n+1,2k}$ so that

$$\text{dist}(S_{n+1,2k-1}, S_{n+1,2k}) \geq \varepsilon \quad \text{and} \quad o(x_n | S_{n+1,2k-1}) \leq \frac{1}{n+1},$$

$$o(x_n | S_{n+1,2k}) \leq \frac{1}{n+1} \quad \text{for each } m = 0, \dots, n.$$

We have that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{diam} \sum_{k=1}^{2^{n+1}} \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} S_{n+1,k} &\leq \text{diam} \sum_{k=1}^{2^{n+1}} \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} S''_{n+1,k} \\ &\leq \text{diam} \sum_{k=1}^{2^{n+1}} \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} \tilde{c}(\dot{S}'_{n+1,k} \cap \mathcal{E}) + \frac{1}{3(n+1)} \\ &\leq \text{diam} \sum_{k=1}^{2^n} \frac{1}{2^n} \tilde{c}(\dot{S}_{n,k} \cap \mathcal{E}) + \frac{1}{3(n+1)} = \text{diam} \sum_{k=1}^{2^n} \frac{1}{2^n} (\dot{S}_{n,k} \cap \mathcal{E}) + \frac{1}{3(n+1)} \\ &\leq \sum_{k=1}^{2^n} \frac{1}{2^n} o(x_n | \dot{S}_{n,k} \cap \mathcal{E}) + \frac{2}{3(n+1)} \\ &\leq \sum_{k=1}^{2^n} \frac{1}{2^n} [\inf w_n(S_{n+1,2k-1}) - \sup w_n(S_{n+1,2k})] + \frac{1}{n+1}. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the construction.

THEOREM 1. *If C is a bounded, closed and convex set in X^* which is not w^* -dentable, then either l^1 embeds in X or C contains a dyadic tree.*

Proof. We consider $\varepsilon, (x_n)_n$ and $((S_{n,k})_{1 \leq k \leq 2^n})_n$ as in Lemma 4. If l^1 does not embed in X , then

$$\overline{\lim}_n \sum_{k=1}^{2^n} \frac{1}{2^n} [\inf w_n(S_{n+1,2k-1}) - \sup w_n(S_{n+1,2k})] \leq 0,$$

by Lemma 2. By (5) of Lemma 4, we find that

$$\overline{\lim}_n \text{diam} \sum_{k=1}^{2^{2^{n+1}}} \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} S_{n+1,k} = 0.$$

Now Lemma 1 applies and hence C contains a diadic tree.

COROLLARY 1. X is an Asplund space if and only if X^* has the RNP.

Proof. The "only if" part was obtained in [4]. If conversely X^* has RNP, then by Stegall's theorem [8], l^1 does not embed in X . If K is a w^* -compact convex subset of X^* , then K does not contain a diadic tree. By Theorem 1, K is w^* -dentable. Therefore X is an Asplund space (see [4]).

COROLLARY 2. If l^1 does not embed in the separable Banach space X , then every subset of X^* with the Radon-Nikodým property is separable.

Proof. Let C be a Radon-Nikodým set in X^* and assume C not separable. Then there exist $\varepsilon > 0$ and a subset D of C such that if U is $\sigma(X^*, X)$ -open and $U \cap D \neq \emptyset$, then $\text{diam}(U \cap D) > \varepsilon$. Hence $\bar{c}(D)$ is not w^* -dentable. Thus $\bar{c}(D)$ contains a diadic tree, contradicting the fact that C is Radon-Nikodým.

Remark. The last corollary fails if l^1 embeds in X . Indeed, if $X = l^1$, then $l^1(c)$ embeds in X^* and the closed unit ball of $l^1(c)$ is a non-separable Radon-Nikodým subset of X^* .

It is untrue that if l^1 does not embed in the separable Banach space X and C is a Radon-Nikodým set in X^* , then the w^* -closure \bar{C} is separable. In fact, we will prove the following:

THEOREM 2. If X is separable and X^* not separable, then there exists a Radon-Nikodým subset of X^* , with non-separable w^* -closure.

LEMMA 5. Let $(x_n)_n$ be a bounded sequence in X and $(x_n^*)_n$ a bounded sequence in X^* with

$$\limsup_{m \leq n < \infty} |x_n^*(x_m)| = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \liminf_{m \leq n < \infty} x_n^*(x_m) > 0.$$

Then $C = \bar{c}(x_n^*; n)$ is a Radon-Nikodým convex.

Proof. Let $\varepsilon = \liminf_{m \leq n < \infty} x_n^*(x_m)$ and let $d = \text{diam} C$. Clearly the sequence $(x_n)_n$ is pointwise converging to 0 on C . Let now A be a non-empty subset of C and choose a point $a^* \in A$. Let $\delta > 0$ and $\iota = \varepsilon\delta/16d$. Consider $m \in N$ such that $|a^*(x_m)| < \iota$, $\sup_{n < m} |x_n^*(x_m)| < \iota$ and $\inf_{n > m} x_n^*(x_m) > \varepsilon/2$. If $C_1 = \bar{c}(x_n^*; n < m)$ and $C_2 = \bar{c}(x_n^*; n \geq m)$, then $C = \bar{c}(C_1 \cup C_2)$. Clearly $M(-x_m, A) > -\iota$, $\inf_{x_m} x_m(C_1) \geq -\iota$ and $\inf_{x_m} x_m(C_2) > \varepsilon/2$. We will show that $\text{dist}(x^*, C_1) < \delta$ if $x^* \in S(-x_m, \iota, A)$. Indeed, there is $y^* \in C_1$, $z^* \in C_2$ and $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ satisfying $\|x^* - (1-\lambda)y^* - \lambda z^*\| < \delta/2$ and $-(1-\lambda)y^*(x_m) - \lambda z^*(x_m) > M(-x_m, A) - 2\iota$. It follows that $-3\iota < (1-\lambda)\iota - \lambda\varepsilon/2$ and thus $\lambda < 8\iota/\varepsilon = \delta/2d$. Therefore $\text{dist}(x^*, C_1) < \lambda\|y^* - z^*\| + \delta/2 < \delta$, proving the claim.

Hence $S(-x_m, \iota, A)$ admits a finite 2δ -covering. By the lemma of Huff and Morris [3], A is dentable. Thus C is a Radon-Nikodým convex.

From Lemma 5, we deduce immediately:

LEMMA 6. Let $(x_n)_n$ be a bounded sequence in X and $(y_n^*)_n, (z_n^*)_n$ bounded sequences in X^* , such that:

$$1^\circ \limsup_{m \leq n} |y_n^*(x_m)| = 0,$$

$$2^\circ |z_n^*(x_m)| < 1/m \text{ if } n < m \text{ and } z_n^*(x_m) > 1 - 1/m \text{ if } n \geq m.$$

If $x_n^* = y_n^* + z_n^*$, then $\bar{c}(x_n^*; n)$ is a Radon-Nikodým convex.

Proof of Theorem 2. Let X be separable and X^* not separable. Then, by Stegall's result [8], there is a subset K of X^* which is w^* -homeomorphic to the Cantor set and a system $((x_{n,k})_{1 \leq k \leq 2^n})_n$ in X such that $\|x_{n,k}\| < 2$ and $|x_{n,k}^*(x_{n,k}) - x_{n,k}^*(x^*)| < 1/n$ if $x^* \in K$, where $x_{n,k}$ denotes the characteristic function of the Cantor subset $K_{n,k}$. Let $(y_n^*)_n$ be a w^* -dense sequence in $K_{1,1}$. For each integer n , take $x_n = x_{n,2^n}$ and let z_n^* be some point in $K_{n+1,2^{n+1-1}}$. Let $m \in N$ be fixed. Clearly $\sup |y_n^*(x_m)| \leq 1/m$.

If $n < m$, then $K_{n+1,2^{n+1-1}} \cap K_{m,2^m} = \emptyset$ and thus $|z_n^*(x_m)| < 1/m$. If otherwise $n \geq m$, then $K_{n+1,2^{n+1-1}} \subset K_{m,2^m}$ and hence $z_n^*(x_m) > 1 - 1/m$. If we let $x_n^* = y_n^* + z_n^*$, then $C = \bar{c}(x_n^*; n)$ has the Radon-Nikodým property by Lemma 6. Denote by \bar{C} its w^* -closure. Because the sequence $(z_n^*)_n$ is w^* -converging, its w^* -closure L is $\|$ -separable. Since each point y_n^* belongs to $\bar{C} - L$, we have that $K_{1,1} \subset \bar{C} - L$ and therefore \bar{C} is not $\|$ -separable.

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