

Hahn-Banach Theorem :

Statement: Let X be a real vector space and p a sub linear functional on X . Furthermore, let f be a linear functional which is defined on a subspace Z of X and satisfies

$$f(x) \leq p(x) \quad \forall \quad x \in Z$$

Then f has a linear extension $\hat{f}(x)$ from Z to X satisfying

$$\hat{f}(x) \leq p(x), \quad \forall x \in X, \quad (1)$$

that is, $\hat{f}(x)$ is a linear functional on X , satisfies (1) on X and

$$\hat{f}(x) = f(x) \quad \forall \quad x \in Z.$$

Proof: Now we discuss stepwise, we shall prove:

(I) The set E of all linear extensions g of f satisfying $g(x) \leq p(x)$ on their domain D can be partially ordered and Zorn's lemma yields a maximal element $\hat{f}(x)$ of E .

(II) $\hat{f}(x)$ is defined on the entire space X .

(III) An auxiliary relation which was used in (b). We start with part

Now we start part (i)

Let E be the set of all linear extensions g of f which satisfy the condition $g(x) \leq p(x) \quad \forall x \in D$,

Clearly, $E \neq \emptyset$ since $f \in E$. On E we can define a partial ordering by $g(x) \leq h(x)$ meaning h is an extension of g , that is, by definition, $D(h) \supset D(g)$ and $h(x) = g(x)$ for every $x \in D(g)$. For any chain $C \subset E$ we now define $\hat{g}(x)$ by $\hat{g}(x) = g(x)$ if $x \in D(g)$ for $g \in C$. $\hat{g}(x)$ is a linear functional, the domain being

$$D(\hat{g}) = \bigcup_{g \in C} D(g),$$

which is a vector space since C is a chain. The definition of $\hat{g}(x)$ is unambiguous. Indeed, for an $x \in D(g_1) \cap D(g_2)$ with $g_1, g_2 \in C$

we have $g_1(x) = g_2(x)$ since C is a chain,

so that

$$g_1(x) \leq g_2(x) \text{ or } g_2(x) \leq g_1(x)$$

$$g \leq \hat{g} \text{ for all } g \in C.$$

Hence g is an upper bound of C . Since $C \subset E$ was arbitrary, Zorn's lemma thus implies that E has a maximal element \hat{f} . By the definition of E , this is a linear extension of f which satisfies

$$\hat{f}(x) \leq p(x) \quad \forall x \in D(\hat{f}), \quad (2)$$

Now we start part (ii)

We now show that $D(\hat{f})$ is all of X . Suppose that this is false. Then we can choose a

$y_1 \in X - D(\hat{f})$ and consider the subspace y_1 of X spanned by $D(\hat{f})$ and y_1 . Note that $y_1 \neq 0$ since $0 \in D(\hat{f})$ $x \in Y_1$

It can be written $x = y + \alpha y_1$

This representation is unique.

In fact, $y + \alpha y_1 = \hat{y} + \beta y_1$ with $\hat{y} \in D(\hat{f})$ implies $y - \hat{y} = \alpha y_1 - \beta y_1$

$y - \hat{y} \in D(\hat{f})$ when $y_1 \notin D(\hat{f})$

, so that the only solution is $y - \hat{y} = 0$ and $\alpha - \beta = 0$

This means uniqueness. A functional g_1 on y_1 is defined by

$$g_1(y + \alpha y_1) = \hat{f}(y) + \alpha c \quad (3)$$

where c is any real constant. It is not difficult to see that g_1 is linear. Furthermore, for $\alpha = 0$

we have $g_1(y) = \hat{f}(y)$. Hence g_1 is a proper extension of (\hat{f}) . that is, an extension such that $D(\hat{f})$ is a proper subset of $D(g_1)$ Consequently, if we can prove that $g_1 \in E$ by showing that

$$g_1(x) \leq p(x) \quad \forall x \in D(g_1),$$

this will contradict the maximalist of (f) , so that $D(f) \neq X$ and $D(f) = X$ is true.

Now we start part (iii)

Accordingly, we must finally show that g_1 with a suitable c in above equations. We consider any Y and z in $D(f)$. From (2) and (1) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} f(y) - f(z) &= f(y - z) \leq p(y - z) \\ &= p(y + y_1 - y_1 - z) \\ &\leq p(y + y_1) + p(-y_1 - z) \end{aligned}$$

Taking the last term to the left and the term (f) to the right,

we have

$$-p(-y_1 - z) - f(z) \leq p(y + y_1) - f(y)$$

where Y_1 is fixed. Since Y does not appear on the left and z not on the right, the inequality continues to hold if we take the supremum over $z \in D(f)$ on the left and the infimum over $y \in D(f)$ on the right, call it m_1

$$m_0 \leq m_1 \text{ and } m_0 \leq c \leq m_1$$

we have from (7) (8a) (8b) –

$$\begin{aligned} -p(-y_1 - z) - f(z) &\leq c \\ c &\leq p(y_1 + y_1) - f(y) \quad z \in D(f) \quad y \in D(f) \end{aligned}$$

We prove (6) first for negative α in equation and then for positive α .

$$\alpha < 0 \text{ and put } z = \alpha^{-1}y$$

$$-p(-y_1 - \alpha^{-1}y) - f(\alpha^{-1}y) \leq c$$

Multiplication by $-\alpha > 0$ gives

$$\alpha p(-y_1 - \alpha^{-1}y) + f(y) \leq -\alpha c$$

From this and (5), using $y - \alpha y_1 = x$, we obtain the desired inequality

$$g_1(x) = f'(y) + \alpha c \leq -\alpha p(-y_1 - \alpha^{-1}y) = p(\alpha y_1 + y) = p(x)$$

For $\alpha = 0$ we have $x \in D(f')$ and nothing to prove. For $\alpha > 0$ we use (8b) with y replaced by $\alpha^{-1}y$ to get

$$c \leq p(y_1 + \alpha^{-1}y) - f'(\alpha^{-1}y)$$

Multiplication by $\alpha > 0$ gives

$$\alpha c \leq -\alpha p(y_1 + \alpha^{-1}y) - f'(y) = p(x) - f'(y).$$

From this and (5),

$$g_1(x) = f'(y) + \alpha c \leq p(x)$$

Hence proved

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