Strongly norm attaining Lipschitz maps

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(joint work with B. Cascales, R. Chiclana, L.C. García–Lirola, and A. Rueda)

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This talk is dedicated to Bernardo Cascales, *amigo y maestro*.

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On strongly norm attaining Lipschitz maps


*Footnote: Sadly, Bernardo Cascales passed away in April, 2018. As this work was initiated with him, the rest of the authors decided to finish the research and to submit the paper with his name as coauthor. This is our tribute to our dear friend and master.*

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Contents

1 Preliminaries
2 Negative results
3 Positive results
4 Weak density
5 Further results
6 References
Preliminaries
Some notation

\[ X, Y \text{ real Banach spaces} \]
\[ B_X \text{ closed unit ball} \]
\[ S_X \text{ unit sphere} \]
\[ X^* \text{ topological dual} \]
\[ \mathcal{L}(X, Y) \text{ Banach space of all bounded linear operators from } X \text{ to } Y \]
\[ \mathcal{L}(X) \text{ Banach algebra of all bounded linear operators from } X \text{ to } X \]
Main definition and leading problem

**Lipschitz function**

\( M, N \) (complete) metric spaces. A map \( F: M \to N \) is **Lipschitz** if there exists a constant \( k > 0 \) such that

\[
d(F(p), F(q)) \leq k \, d(p, q) \quad \forall p, q \in M
\]

The least constant so that the above inequality works is called the **Lipschitz constant** of \( F \), denoted by \( L(F) \):

\[
L(F) = \sup \left\{ \frac{d(F(p), F(q))}{d(p, q)} : p \neq q \in M \right\}
\]

- If \( N = Y \) is a normed space, then \( L(\cdot) \) is a seminorm in the vector space of all Lipschitz maps from \( M \) into \( Y \).
- \( F \) **attain its Lipschitz number** if the supremum defining it is actually a maximum.

**Leading problem**

Let \( M \) be a metric space, let \( Y \) be a Banach and let \( F: M \to Y \) be a Lipschitz map. Can \( F \) be approximated by Lipschitz functions from \( M \) to \( Y \) which attain their Lipschitz number?
First examples

Finite sets

If $M$ is finite, obviously every Lipschitz map attains its Lipschitz number. ★ This characterizes finiteness of $M$.

Example (Kadets–Martín–Soloviova, 2016)

$M = [0, 1]$, $A \subseteq [0, 1]$ closed with empty interior and positive Lebesgue measure. Then, the Lipschitz function $f: [0, 1] \to \mathbb{R}$ given by

$$f(t) = \int_0^t \chi_A(s) \, ds,$$

cannot be approximated by Lipschitz functions which attain their Lipschitz number.

Objective

To extend those results (to more interesting ones).
More definitions

**Pointed metric space**

$M$ is *pointed* if it carries a distinguished element called base point.

**Space of Lipschitz maps**

$M$ pointed metric space, $Y$ Banach space.

$Lip_0(M, Y)$ is the Banach space of all Lipschitz maps from $M$ to $Y$ which are zero at the base point, endowed with the Lipschitz number as norm.

**Strongly norm attaining Lipschitz map**

$M$ pointed metric space. $F \in Lip_0(M, Y)$ strongly attains its norm, writing $F \in SNA(M, Y)$, if there exist $p \neq q \in M$ such that

$$L(F) = \|F\| = \frac{\|F(p) - F(q)\|}{d(p, q)}.$$

**Our objective is then**

to study when $SNA(M, Y)$ is norm dense in the Banach space $Lip_0(M, Y)$
Some more definitions

Evaluation functional, Lipschitz-free space, molecule

$M$ pointed metric space.

- $p \in M$, $\delta_p \in \text{Lip}_0(M, \mathbb{R})^*$ given by $\delta_p(f) = f(p)$ is the evaluation functional at $p$;
- $\mathcal{F}(M) := \text{span}\{\delta_p : p \in M\} \subseteq \text{Lip}_0(M, \mathbb{R})^*$ is the Lipschitz-free space of $M$;
- For $p \neq q \in M$, $m_{p,q} := \frac{\delta_p - \delta_q}{d(p,q)} \in \mathcal{F}(M)$ is a molecule;
- $\text{Mol}(M) := \{m_{p,q} : p, q \in M, p \neq q\}$.
- $B_{\mathcal{F}(M)} = \text{conv}(\text{Mol}(M))$.

Very important property (Arens-Eells, Kadets, Godefroy-Kalton, Weaver...)

$M$ pointed metric space.

- $\delta : M \ni F(\mathcal{M}), p \longmapsto \delta_p$, is an isometric embedding;
- $\mathcal{F}(M)^* \cong \text{Lip}_0(M, \mathbb{R})$;
- Actually, $Y$ Banach space, $F \in \text{Lip}_0(M, Y)$, $\exists$ (a unique) $\hat{F} \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}(M), Y)$ such that $F = \hat{F} \circ \delta$, and so $\|\hat{F}\| = \|F\|$.
- $\star$ In particular, $\text{Lip}_0(M, Y) \cong \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}(M), Y)$. 

$\begin{tikzcd}
M \arrow[d, \delta] \arrow[r, F] & Y \\
\mathcal{F}(M) \arrow[u, \hat{F}]
\end{tikzcd}$
Two ways of attaining the norm

We have two ways of attaining the norm

$M$ pointed metric space, $Y$ Banach space, $F \in \text{Lip}_0(M, Y) \cong \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}(M), Y)$.

- $\widehat{F} \in \text{NA}(\mathcal{F}(M), Y)$ if exists $\xi \in B_{\mathcal{F}(M)}$ such that $\|F\| = \|\widehat{F}\| = \|\widehat{F}(\xi)\|$;

- $F \in \text{SNA}(M, Y)$ if exists $m_{p,q} \in \text{Mol}(M)$ such that
  \[\|F\| = \|\widehat{F}\| = \|\widehat{F}(m_{p,q})\| = \frac{\|F(p) - F(q)\|}{d(p,q)}\].

Clearly, $\text{SNA}(M, Y) \subseteq \text{NA}(\mathcal{F}(M), Y)$.

- Therefore, if $\text{SNA}(M, Y)$ is dense in $\text{Lip}_0(M, Y)$, then $\text{NA}(\mathcal{F}(M), Y)$ is dense in $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}(M), Y)$;

- But the opposite direction is NOT true:

Example

- $\overline{\text{NA}(\mathcal{F}(M), \mathbb{R})} = \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}(M), \mathbb{R})$ for every $M$ by the Bishop–Phelps theorem,

- But $\overline{\text{SNA}([0, 1], \mathbb{R})} \neq \text{Lip}_0([0, 1], \mathbb{R})$. 
Strongly norm attaining Lipschitz maps

A little of geometry of the unit ball of $\mathcal{F}(M)$ (A–G–GL–P–P–R–W)

**Preserved extreme point**

$\xi \in B_{\mathcal{F}(M)}$, TFAE:

- $\xi$ is extreme in $B_{\mathcal{F}(M)}^{**}$,
- $\xi$ is a denting point,
- $\xi = m_{p,q}$ and for every $\varepsilon > 0 \exists \delta > 0$ s.t. $d(p,t) + d(t,q) - d(p,q) > \delta$ when $d(p,t), d(t,q) \geq \varepsilon$.

$\star$ $M$ boundedly compact, it is equivalent to:

- $d(p,q) < d(p,t) + d(t,q) \forall t \notin \{p,q\}$.

**Strongly exposed point**

$\xi \in B_{\mathcal{F}(M)}$, TFAE:

- $\xi$ strongly exposed point,
- $\xi = m_{p,q}$ and $\exists \rho = \rho(p,q) > 0$ such that
  $$\frac{d(p,t) + d(t,q) - d(p,q)}{\min\{d(p,t), d(t,q)\}} \geq \rho$$
  when $t \notin \{p,q\}$.

**Concave metric space**

$M$ is **concave** if $m_{p,q}$ is a preserved extreme point for all $p \neq q$.

$\star$ Examples: $y = x^3$, $S_X$ if $X$ unif. convex.

**Uniform Gromov rotundity**

$\mathcal{M} \subset \text{Mol}(M)$ is uniformly Gromov rotund if $\exists \rho_0 > 0$ such that

$$\frac{d(p,t) + d(t,q) - d(p,q)}{\min\{d(p,t), d(t,q)\}} \geq \rho_0$$

when $m_{p,q} \in \mathcal{M}$, $t \notin \{p,q\}$.

$\iff M$ is a set of uniformly strongly exposed points (same relation $\varepsilon - \delta$)

$\star \text{Mol}(M)$ uniformly Gromov rotund when:

- $M = ([0,1], | \cdot |^\theta)$,
- $M$ finite and concave,
- $1 \leq d(p,q) \leq D < 2 \forall p,q \in M, p \neq q$.

$\star$ $\mathbb{T}$ is concave but $\text{Mol}(\mathbb{T})$ not u. Gromov r.
Negative results
Strongly norm attaining Lipschitz maps | Negative results

**Negative results**

Previous result (Kadets–Martín–Solovieva, 2016)

If $M$ is metrically convex (or “geodesic”), then $\text{SNA}(M, \mathbb{R})$ is not dense in $\text{Lip}_0(M, \mathbb{R})$.

Definition (length space)

Let $M$ be a metric space. We say that $M$ is **length** if $d(p, q)$ is equal to the infimum of the length of the rectifiable curves joining $p$ and $q$ for every pair of points $p, q \in M$.

★ Equivalently (Avilés, García, Ivankhno, Kadets, Martínez, Prochazka, Rueda, Werner)

- $M$ is local (i.e. the Lipschitz constant of every function can be approximated in pairs of arbitrarily closed points);
- The unit ball of $\mathcal{F}(M)$ has no strongly exposed points;
- $\text{Lip}_0(M, \mathbb{R})$ (and so $\mathcal{F}(M)$) has the Daugavet property.

**Theorem**

Let $M$ be a length pointed metric space. Then,

$$\overline{\text{SNA}}(M, \mathbb{R}) \neq \text{Lip}_0(M, \mathbb{R})$$
Other type of negative results

Observation
All the previous examples of $M$'s such that $\text{SNA}(M, \mathbb{R})$ is not dense in $\text{Lip}_0(M, \mathbb{R})$ are arc-connected metric spaces and “almost convex”.

Let’s present two different kind of examples:

Example
$M$ “fat” Cantor set, then $\overline{\text{SNA}(M, \mathbb{R})} \neq \text{Lip}_0(M, \mathbb{R})$ and $M$ is totally disconnected.

Example
$M = \mathbb{T}$, then $\overline{\text{SNA}(M, \mathbb{R})} \neq \text{Lip}_0(M, \mathbb{R})$. 
Positive results
Possible sufficient conditions

Observation (previously commented)

\[ \text{SNA}(M,Y) \text{ dense in } \text{Lip}_0(M,Y) \implies \text{NA}(\mathcal{F}(M),Y) \text{ dense in } \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}(M),Y). \]

Therefore, it is reasonable to discuss the known sufficient conditions for a Banach space \( X \) to have \( \text{NA}(X,Y) = \mathcal{L}(X,Y) \) for every \( Y \):

- RNP,
- Property \( \alpha \),
- Property quasi-\( \alpha \),
- the existence of a norming set of uniformly strongly exposed points.

In the next slice we will relate all these properties for Lipschitz-free spaces:
Sufficient conditions for the density of $\text{SNA}(M, Y)$ for every $Y$: relations

- Property $\alpha$
- Property quasi-$\alpha$
- $\text{SNA}(M, Y)$ dense for all $Y$
- $\text{NA}(\mathcal{F}(M), Y)$ dense $\forall Y$
- Reflexive
- RNP
- $B_{\mathcal{F}(M)} = \text{conv}(S)$
  $S$ unif. str. exp.
The RNP

**Theorem (García-Lirola–Petitjean–Procházka–Rueda-Zoca, 2018)**

Let $M$ be a pointed metric space. Assume that $\mathcal{F}(M)$ has the RNP. Then,

$$\text{SNA}(M, Y) = \text{Lip}_0(M, Y)$$

for every Banach space $Y$.

**Proof**

- Bourgain, 1977: $X$ RNP $\implies \{ T \in \mathcal{L}(X, Y) : T$ strongly exposes $B_X \}$ is dense in $\mathcal{L}(X, Y)$;
- $T$ strongly exposing operator, then $T$ attains its norm at a strongly exposed point;
- Weaver, 1999: strongly exposed points of $B_{\mathcal{F}(M)}$ are molecules.

**$\mathcal{F}(M)$ has the RNP when...**

- $M = (N, d^\theta)$ for $(N, d)$ boundedly compact and $0 < \theta < 1$ (Weaver, 1999 - 2018);
- $M$ is uniformly discrete (Kalton, 2004);
- $M$ is countable and compact (Dalet, 2015);
- $M \subset \mathbb{R}$ with Lebesgue measure 0 (Godard, 2010).
Property alpha

An $X$ Banach space. $X$ has property $\alpha$ if there exist a balanced subset $\{x_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \subseteq X$ and a subset $\{x^*_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \subseteq X^*$ such that

- $\|x_\lambda\| = \|x^*_\lambda\| = |x^*_\lambda(x_\lambda)| = 1 \quad \forall \lambda \in \Lambda$;
- There exists $0 \leq \rho < 1$ such that $|x^*_\lambda(x_\mu)| \leq \rho \quad \forall x_\mu \neq \pm x_\lambda$;
- $\overline{co}(\{x_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}) = B_X$.

- Introduced by Schachermayer in 1983 as a sufficient condition for $X$ to get $\overline{NA}(X,Y) = \mathcal{L}(X,Y)$ for every $Y$;
- Every separable Banach space $X$ can be renormed with property $\alpha$;
- (Godun–Troyanski, 1993): this result extends to Banach spaces with long biorthogonal systems.
- (Schachermayer, 1983): If $X$ has property $\alpha$, then

$$\{T \in \mathcal{L}(X,Y) : T \text{ attains its norm at one } x_k\}$$

is dense in $\mathcal{L}(X,Y)$ for every $Y$. 
Property alpha and density of $SNA(M, Y)$

**Theorem**

$M$ metric space such that $\mathcal{F}(M)$ has property $\alpha$. Then,

$$SNA(M, Y) = \text{Lip}_0(M, Y)$$

for every Banach space $Y$.

**Examples of $M$’s such that $\mathcal{F}(M)$ has property alpha**

- $M$ finite,
- $M \subset \mathbb{R}$ with Lebesgue measure 0,
- $1 \leq d(p, q) \leq D < 2$ for all $p, q \in M$, $p \neq q$.

**Characterization in the case of concave metric spaces**

$M$ concave metric space. TFAE:

- $\mathcal{F}(M)$ has property $\alpha$.
- $M$ is uniformly discrete, bounded, and $\text{Mol}(M)$ is uniformly Gromov rotund.
A norming uniformly Gromov rotund set of molecules

**Theorem**

$M$ pointed metric space, $A \subset \text{Mol}(M)$ uniformly Gromov rotund (i.e. $A$ is a set of uniformly strongly exposed points) such that $\overline{co}(A) = B_{\mathcal{F}(M)}$.

$$\implies \overline{\text{SNA}(M,Y)} = \text{Lip}_0(M,Y)$$ for every Banach space $Y$.

**Examples**

- $\mathcal{F}(M)$ with property $\alpha$ (with $A = \{\pm x_\lambda : \lambda \in \Lambda\}$);
- $M = ([0,1], |\cdot|^\theta)$ (with $A = \text{Mol}(M)$). This one does not have property $\alpha$.

**Particular case (uniformly Gromov concave metric spaces)**

$M$ pointed metric space. Suppose that

$$\frac{d(p,t) + d(t,q) - d(p,q)}{\min\{d(p,t),d(t,q)\}} \geq \rho_0 > 0 \quad \forall p \neq q \neq t.$$

Then, $\overline{\text{SNA}(M,Y)} = \text{Lip}_0(M,Y)$ for every Banach space $Y$.

★ We will see that something stronger happens.
Let us summarize the relations

(1): $[0, 1]^\theta$, $0 < \theta < 1$
(2): can be easily constructed in $\ell_1$
(3): exists $M$ s.t. $\text{SNA}(M, Y)$ dense $\forall Y$, but $\mathcal{F}(M)$ no RNP, no $\alpha$, no CUSE
(4): can be constructed
Two paradigmatic examples

Koch curve

Let $M_1 = ([0, 1], | \cdot |^\theta)$, $0 < \theta < 1$.

- $\mathcal{F}(M_1)$ has RNP, so $\text{SNA}(M_1, Y) = \text{Lip}_0(M_1, Y)$ \(\forall Y\).
- Every molecule is strongly exposed,
- even more, $\text{Mol}(M_1)$ is uniformly Gromov rotund.

★ For $\theta = \log(3)/\log(4)$, $M_1$ is bi-Lipschitz equivalent to the Koch curve:

Microscopically, an small piece of $M_1$ is equivalent to $M_1$ itself.

The unit circle

Let $M_2$ be the upper half of the unit circle:

- We know that $\text{SNA}(M_2, \mathbb{R})$ is not dense in $\text{Lip}_0(M_2, \mathbb{R})$.
- So, $\mathcal{F}(M_2)$ has NOT the RNP.
- However, every molecule is strongly exposed...
- but NO subset $A \subset \text{Mol}(M_2)$ which is uniformly Gromov rotund can be norming for $\text{Lip}_0(M_2, \mathbb{R})$.

Microscopically, an small piece of $M_2$ is very closed to be an interval.
Weak density
Weak density

**Theorem**

\[ M \text{ metric space} \implies \text{SNA}(M, \mathbb{R}) \text{ is weakly sequentially dense in } \text{Lip}_0(M, \mathbb{R}). \]

**Previously known**

- \( \mathcal{F}(M) \) RNP;
- Kadets–Martín–Soloviova, 2016: when \( M \) is length.

**The tool**

\[ \{f_n\} \subset \text{Lip}_0(M, \mathbb{R}) \text{ bounded with pairwise disjoint supports} \implies \{f_n\} \text{ weakly null}. \]

**Observations**

- The linear span of \( \text{SNA}(M, \mathbb{R}) \) is always norm-dense in \( \text{Lip}_0(M, \mathbb{R}) \);
- \( \mathcal{F}(M) \) RNP \( \implies \) \( \text{Lip}_0(M, \mathbb{R}) = \text{SNA}(M, \mathbb{R}) - \text{SNA}(M, \mathbb{R}) \).

Strongly norm attaining Lipschitz maps | Weak density
A by-product of our construction

**Theorem**

If $M'$ is infinite or $M$ is discrete but no uniformly discrete or $M$ is compact (infinite) $\implies$ then the norm of $\mathcal{F}(M)^{**}$ is octahedral.

**Octahedral norm**

The norm of $X$ is octahedral iff $\forall Y \leq X$ finite-dimensional, $\forall \varepsilon > 0$, $\exists x \in S_X$ s.t.

$$\|y + \lambda x\| \geq (1 - \varepsilon)\left(\|y\| + |\lambda|\right) \quad (y \in Y, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}).$$

**Equivalently**

If $M'$ is infinite or $M$ is discrete but no uniformly discrete or $M$ is compact (infinite) $\implies$ every convex combination of slices of $B_{\text{Li}p_0}(M,\mathbb{R})$ has diameter two.
Further results
From scalar-valued to vector-valued and viceversa

From vector-valued to scalar-valued

\( M \) metric space, \( SNA(M, Y) \) dense in \( \text{Lip}_0(M, Y) \) for some \( Y \)
\[ \implies SNA(M, \mathbb{R}) \text{ dense in } \text{Lip}_0(M, \mathbb{R}) \]

★ We do not know if the density for scalar functions implies the density for all vector-valued maps, but there are some cases in which this happens:

From scalar-valued to vector-valued

\( M \) metric space such that \( \overline{SNA(M, \mathbb{R})} = \text{Lip}_0(M, \mathbb{R}) \), \( Y \) Banach space.
- If \( Y \) has property \( \beta \) (e.g. \( c_0 \leq Y \leq \ell_\infty \)), then \( SNA(M, Y) = \text{Lip}_0(M, Y) \).
- For compact Lipschitz maps, the same is true for \( Y = C(K) \).
★ These results are proved using the concepts of ACK\(_\rho\)-spaces and \( \Gamma \)-flat operators from Cascales–Guirao–Kadets–Soloviova, 2018.
The strongly Lipschitz BPB property

The strongly Lipchitz Bishop-Phelps-Bollobás

Let $M$ be a metric space, $Y$ a Banach space. $(M, Y)$ has the Lip-BPBp if for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is $\eta > 0$ such that for $F_0 \in \text{Lip}_0(M, Y)$ with $\|F_0\| = 1$, $p \neq q \in M$ s.t.

$$\frac{\|F_0(p) - F_0(q)\|}{d(p, q)} > 1 - \eta,$$

there exist $F \in \text{Lip}_0(M, Y)$ and $x \neq y \in M$ such that

$$1 = \|F\| = \frac{\|F(x) - F(y)\|}{d(x, y)}, \quad \|F_0 - F\| < \varepsilon \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d(p, x) + d(q, y)}{d(p, q)} < \varepsilon.$$

It is the Lipschitz version of the so-called BPBp for linear operators:

The BPB property for linear operators (Acosta–Aron–García–Maestre, 2008)

Let $X, Y$ be Banach spaces. $(X, Y)$ has the BPBp if for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is $\eta > 0$ such that whenever $T \in \mathcal{L}(X, Y)$, $\|T\| = 1$, $x \in S_X$ satisfy $\|Tx\| > 1 - \eta$, there exist $S \in \mathcal{L}(X, Y)$, $y \in S_X$ verifying that

$$1 = \|S\| = \|Sy\| \quad \text{and} \quad \|x - y\|, \|T - S\| < \varepsilon.$$
The strongly Lipschitz BPB property. II

Positive result (uniformly Gromov concave metric spaces)

\( \text{Mol} (M) \) uniformly Gromov rotund, \( Y \) arbitrary \( \implies (M, Y) \) has Lip-BPBp.

★ Some particular cases:
- \( M = [0, 1]^\theta \) for \( 0 < \theta < 1 \),
- \( M \) finite and concave,
- \( 1 \leq d(p, q) \leq D < 2 \) for every \( p, q \in M, p \neq q \),
- \( M \) concave such that \( F(M) \) has property \( \alpha \).

Partial result

\( M \) finite, \( Y \) finite-dimensional \( \implies (M, Y) \) has the Lip-BPBp.

Negative examples
- Exists \( M \) finite and \( Y \) (infinite-dimensional) such that \( (M, Y) \) fails Lip-BPBp.
- \( M = \mathbb{N} \) with the distance inherited from \( \mathbb{R} \), then \( (M, \mathbb{R}) \) fails Lip-BPBp.
References
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On strongly norm attaining Lipschitz maps

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In progress.

G. Godefroy
A survey on Lipschitz-free Banach spaces

G. Godefroy
On norm attaining Lipschitz maps between Banach spaces

V. Kadets, M. Martín, M. Soloviova
Norm-attaining Lipschitz functionals