

# ON BALANCEDNESS AND D-COMPLETENESS OF THE SPACE OF SEMI-LIPSCHITZ FUNCTIONS

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**Abstract.** Let  $(X, d)$  be a quasi-metric space and  $(Y, q)$  be a quasi-normed linear space. We show that the normed cone of semi-Lipschitz functions from  $(X, d)$  to  $(Y, q)$  that vanish at a point  $x_0 \in X$ , is balanced. Moreover, it is complete in the sense of D. Doitchinov whenever  $(Y, q)$  is a biBanach space.

## 1. Introduction

In the last years the study of real-valued semi-Lipschitz functions defined on a  $T_0$  quasi-pseudo-metric space has received a certain attention [11, 12, 16, 18]. In particular, it was shown in [16] that the set of real-valued semi-Lipschitz functions defined on a  $T_0$  quasi-pseudo-metric space  $(X, d)$  that vanish at a point  $x_0 \in X$  can be structured as a normed cone. Applications of semi-Lipschitz functions to questions on best approximation, global attractors on dynamical systems, and concentration of measure can be found in [13, 16], [17] and [22], respectively.

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In [21], semi-Lipschitz functions that are valued in a quasi-normed linear space have been discussed. This study was motivated, in great part, by the fact that quasi-normed linear spaces provide suitable mathematical models in the theory of computational complexity (see [4, 5, 20]).

Here we obtain some new properties of the space  $SL_0(d, q)$  of semi-Lipschitz functions defined on the quasi-metric space  $(X, d)$  with values in the quasi-normed linear space  $(Y, q)$  and that vanish at a point  $x_0 \in X$ . We show the somewhat surprising fact that  $SL_0(d, q)$  is balanced in the sense of Doitchinov [2]. We also prove that it is complete in the sense of Doitchinov whenever  $(Y, q)$  is a biBanach space. As an application of these results to asymmetric functional analysis, we deduce that the dual space of a  $T_1$  quasi-normed linear space is balanced and Doitchinov complete. It is interesting to recall that the study of balanced quasi-metric spaces from a fuzzy point of view has been recently started in [8, 19], and that, on the other hand, some applications of balanced (extended) quasi-metrics to theoretical computer science have been given in [14, 15].

Throughout this paper the letters  $\mathbb{R}^+$  and  $\mathbb{N}$  will denote the set of non-negative real numbers and the set of positive integers numbers, respectively. Our basic reference for quasi-metric spaces is [3].

Next we recall some pertinent concepts.

As usual by a *monoid* we mean a semigroup  $(X, +)$  with neutral element.

According to [9] a *cone* (*semilinear space* in [16]) is a triple  $(X, +, \cdot)$  such that  $(X, +)$  is an Abelian monoid, and  $\cdot$  is a function from  $\mathbb{R}^+ \times X$  to  $X$  such that for all  $x, y \in X$  and  $r, s \in \mathbb{R}^+$ : (i)  $r \cdot (s \cdot x) = (rs) \cdot x$ ; (ii)  $r \cdot (x + y) = (r \cdot x) + (r \cdot y)$ ; (iii)  $(r + s) \cdot x = (r \cdot x) + (s \cdot x)$ ; (iv)  $1 \cdot x = x$ .

A *quasi-norm* on a cone  $(X, +, \cdot)$  is [16, 18] a function  $q : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  such that for all  $x, y \in X$  and  $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$ : (i)  $x = \mathbf{0}$  if and only if there is  $-x \in X$  and  $q(x) = q(-x) = 0$ ; (ii)  $q(r \cdot x) = rq(x)$ ; (iii)  $q(x + y) \leq q(x) + q(y)$ .

If the quasi-norm  $q$  satisfies: (i')  $q(x) = 0$  if and only if  $x = \mathbf{0}$ , then  $q$  is called a *norm* on the cone  $(X, +, \cdot)$ .

A (*quasi*-)normed cone is a pair  $(X, q)$  such that  $X$  is a cone and  $q$  is a (*quasi*-)norm on  $X$ .

If  $(X, +, \cdot)$  is a linear space and  $q$  is a quasi-norm on  $X$ , then the pair  $(X, q)$  is called a *quasi-normed linear space* (*asymmetric normed linear space* in [4]). Note that, in this case, the function  $q^{-1} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  given by  $q^{-1}(x) = q(-x)$  is also a quasi-norm on  $X$  and the function  $q^s : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  given by  $q^s(x) = \max \{q(x), q(-x)\}$  is a norm on  $X$ . As in [6], we say that  $(X, q)$  is a *biBanach space* if  $(X, q^s)$  is a Banach space.

An easy but crucial example of a biBanach space is the pair  $(\mathbb{R}, u)$ , where  $u$  is the quasi-norm on  $\mathbb{R}$  given by  $u(x) = \max \{x, 0\}$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Note that  $u^s(x) = |x|$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , so  $(\mathbb{R}, u)$  is a biBanach space.

Let us recall that a quasi-pseudo-metric on a set  $X$  is a function  $d : X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  such that for all  $x, y, z \in X$ : (i)  $d(x, x) = 0$ ; (ii)  $d(x, z) \leq d(x, y) + d(y, z)$ . If  $d$  satisfies the additional condition: (iii)  $d(x, y) = 0$  if and only if  $x = y$ , then we will say that  $d$  is a *quasi-metric* on  $X$ .

We will also consider *extended quasi-(pseudo-)metrics*. They satisfy the above three axioms, except that we allow  $d(x, y) = +\infty$ .

If  $d$  is a(n extended) quasi-(pseudo-)metric, then the function  $d^{-1}$  defined on  $X \times X$  by  $d^{-1}(x, y) = d(y, x)$  is also a(n extended) quasi-(pseudo-)metric called the *conjugate* of  $d$  and  $d^s$  defined on  $X \times X$  by  $d^s(x, y) = \max \{d(x, y), d(y, x)\}$ , is a(n extended) (pseudo-)metric on  $X$ .

A(n *extended*) *quasi-(pseudo-)metric space* is a pair  $(X, d)$  such that  $X$  is a set and  $d$  is a(n *extended*) *quasi-(pseudo-)metric* on  $X$ .

Each (extended) quasi-pseudo-metric  $d$  on a set  $X$  generates a topology  $\tau(d)$  on  $X$  which has as a base the family of open  $d$ -balls  $\{B_d(x, r) : x \in X, r > 0\}$ , where  $B_d(x, r) = \{y \in X : d(x, y) < r\}$  for all  $x \in X$  and  $r > 0$ . If the topology  $\tau(d)$  is  $T_0$  we say that  $(X, d)$  is a  $T_0$  (*extended*) *quasi-pseudo-metric space*. Observe that if  $d$  is a(n extended) quasi-metric, then  $\tau(d)$  is a  $T_1$  topology on  $X$ .

It is well known that each quasi-norm  $q$  on a linear space  $X$  induces a  $T_0$  quasi-pseudo-metric  $d_q$  on  $X$  given by  $d_q(x, y) = q(x - y)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ .

## 2. The results

Let  $(X, d)$  be a quasi-metric space and let  $(Y, q)$  be a quasi-normed linear space. A function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is called *semi-Lipschitz* if there is  $k \geq 0$  such that  $q(f(x) - f(y)) \leq kd(x, y)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ .

Given the quasi-metric space  $(X, d)$  and the quasi-normed linear space  $(Y, q)$ , fix  $x_0 \in X$  and put

$$SL_0(d, q) = \left\{ f : X \rightarrow Y : f(x_0) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \sup_{x \neq y} \frac{q(f(x) - f(y))}{d(x, y)} < \infty \right\}.$$

Clearly  $SL_0(d, q)$  is exactly the set of all semi-Lipschitz functions from  $(X, d)$  to  $(Y, q)$  that vanishes at  $x_0$ , and  $(SL_0(d, q), +, \cdot)$  is a cone, where for each  $f, g \in SL_0(d, q)$  and  $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$  we define  $f + g$  and  $r \cdot f$  in the usual pointwise way [21].

Observe that the definition of  $SL_0(d, q)$  given here is slightly different from the ones given in [18]. This is due to the fact that quasi-metric spaces of [18] correspond to our  $T_0$  quasi-pseudo-metric spaces.

Now for each  $f, g \in SL_0(d, q)$  define

$$\rho_{d,q}(f, g) = \sup_{x \neq y} \frac{q((f - g)(x) - (f - g)(y))}{d(x, y)}.$$

Then  $\rho_{d,q}$  is an extended quasi-metric on  $SL_0(d, q)$  and the function  $\|\cdot\|_{d,q} : SL_0(d, q) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  given by  $\|f\|_{d,q} = \rho_{d,q}(f, \mathbf{0})$ , for all  $f \in SL_0(d, q)$  is a norm on the cone  $SL_0(d, q)$ , (compare [16, 18, 21]).

In [2] Doitchinov introduced an important property of symmetry in quasi-metric spaces, namely *balancedness*, to develop a satisfactory theory of completion. He observed that paradigmatic examples of quasi-metric spaces, like the Sorgenfrey line, the Kofner plane and the Pixley-Roy spaces are balanced, and proved that every balanced quasi-metric generates a Hausdorff and completely regular topology.

Recall that an extended quasi-metric space  $(X, d)$  is *balanced* provided that for each pair of sequences  $(y_n)_n, (x_n)_n$  in  $X$  such that  $\lim_{n,m \rightarrow \infty} d(y_m, x_n) = 0$ , and each  $x, y \in X$  and  $r_1, r_2 \in \mathbb{R}^+$  satisfying  $d(x, x_n) \leq r_1$  and  $d(y_n, y) \leq r_2$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , it follows that  $d(x, y) \leq r_1 + r_2$ . In this case,  $d$  is called a *balanced* extended quasi-metric.

We say that the normed cone  $(SL_0(d, q), \|\cdot\|_{d,q})$  is *balanced* if the extended quasi-metric  $\rho_{d,q}$  is balanced on  $SL_0(d, q)$ .

According to [2], by a *Cauchy* sequence in an extended quasi-metric space  $(X, d)$  we mean a sequence  $(x_n)_n$  in  $X$  for which there is a sequence  $(y_n)_n$  in  $X$  satisfying  $\lim_{n,m \rightarrow \infty} d(y_m, x_n) = 0$ . The extended quasi-metric space  $(X, d)$  is said to be *complete* if every Cauchy sequence is convergent with respect to  $\tau(d)$ .

Then, Doitchinov proved that each balanced quasi-metric space  $(X, d)$  is isometrically isomorphic to a  $\tau(d)$  and  $\tau(d^{-1})$ -dense subspace of a balanced complete quasi-metric space.

Following the modern terminology [10], Cauchy sequences in the sense of Doitchinov will be called, in the sequel, *D-Cauchy* sequences and complete extended quasi-metric spaces will be called *D-(sequentially) complete* extended quasi-metric spaces. We say that the normed cone  $(SL_0(d, q), \|\cdot\|_{d,q})$  is *D-complete* if the extended quasi-metric  $\rho_{d,q}$  is D-complete.

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $(X, d)$  be a quasi-metric space,  $(Y, q)$  a quasi-normed linear space and  $x_0 \in X$ . Then  $(SL_0(d, q), \|\cdot\|_{d,q})$  is a balanced normed cone.*

**PROOF.** Let  $(f_n)_n, (g_n)_n$  be sequences in  $SL_0(d, q)$  with

$$\lim_{n,m \rightarrow \infty} \rho_{d,q}(g_m, f_n) = 0,$$

and let  $f, g \in SL_0(d, q)$  and  $r_1, r_2 \in \mathbb{R}^+$  such that  $\rho_{d,q}(f, f_n) \leq r_1$  and  $\rho_{d,q}(g_n, g) \leq r_2$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Choose  $x, y \in X$  with  $x \neq y$ . Then

$$q((f - f_n)(x) - (f - f_n)(y)) \leq r_1 d(x, y),$$

and

$$q((g_n - g)(x) - (g_n - g)(y)) \leq r_2 d(x, y),$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Moreover, for an arbitrary  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$q((g_n - f_n)(y) - (g_n - f_n)(x)) < \varepsilon d(y, x),$$

for all  $n \geq n_0$ . Consequently

$$\begin{aligned} q((f - g)(x) - (f - g)(y)) &\leq \{q((f - f_{n_0})(x) - (f - f_{n_0})(y)) \\ &+ q((f_{n_0} - g_{n_0})(x) - (f_{n_0} - g_{n_0})(y)) + q((g_{n_0} - g)(x) - (g_{n_0} - g)(y))\} \\ &< r_1 d(x, y) + \varepsilon d(y, x) + r_2 d(x, y). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\varepsilon$  is arbitrary, it follows that

$$q((f - g)(x) - (f - g)(y)) \leq r_1 d(x, y) + r_2 d(x, y).$$

Therefore  $\rho_{d,q}(f, g) \leq r_1 + r_2$ . We conclude that  $(SL_0(d, q), \|\cdot\|_{d,q})$  is balanced.  $\square$

**COROLLARY.** *Let  $(X, d)$  be a quasi-metric space,  $(Y, q)$  a quasi-normed linear space and  $x_0 \in X$ . Then  $(SL_0(d, q), \tau(\rho_{d,q}))$  is a Hausdorff and completely regular topological space.*

**THEOREM 2.** *Let  $(X, d)$  be a quasi-metric space,  $(Y, q)$  a biBanach space and  $x_0 \in X$ . Then  $(SL_0(d, q), \|\cdot\|_{d,q})$  is D-complete.*

**PROOF.** Let  $(f_n)_n$  be a D-Cauchy sequence in  $SL_0(d, q)$ . Then, there is a sequence  $(g_n)_n$  in  $SL_0(d, q)$  such that  $\lim_{n, m \rightarrow \infty} \rho_{d,q}(g_m, f_n) = 0$ . Thus, given  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\rho_{d,q}(g_m, f_n) < \varepsilon$  for all  $n, m \geq n_0$ .

Now fix  $x \in X$ . Then

$$q((g_m - f_n)(x)) < \varepsilon d(x, x_0) \quad \text{and} \quad q((f_n - g_m)(x)) < \varepsilon d(x_0, x),$$

so,

$$(*) \quad q^s((g_m - f_n)(x)) < \varepsilon d^s(x, x_0) \quad \text{for all } n, m \geq n_0.$$

Therefore, for each  $n, m \geq n_0$ ,

$$q^s((f_n - f_m)(x)) \leq q^s((f_n - g_{n_0})(x)) + q^s((g_{n_0} - f_m)(x)) < 2\varepsilon d^s(x, x_0),$$

and, since  $(Y, q)$  is a biBanach space, the sequence  $(f_n(x))_n$  is convergent in  $(Y, q^s)$ . Then, we can construct a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  such that  $(f_n)_n$  is pointwise convergent to  $f$  with respect to the norm  $q^s$ . Observe that, by condition (\*), the sequence  $(g_n)_n$  is also pointwise convergent to  $f$  with respect to  $q^s$ .

We shall prove that  $f \in SL_0(d)$  and that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \rho_{d,q}(f, f_n) = 0$ . Indeed, first note that  $f(x_0) = \mathbf{0}$  because  $f_n(x_0) = \mathbf{0}$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Now, for the given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , for  $n \geq n_0$  and for  $x, y \in X$  with  $x \neq y$ , there exists  $m \geq n$  such that

$$q^s((f - g_m)(x)) < \varepsilon d(x, y) \quad \text{and} \quad q^s((f - g_m)(y)) < \varepsilon d(x, y).$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{q((f - f_n)(x) - (f - f_n)(y))}{d(x, y)} \\ & \leq \frac{q((f - g_m)(x) - (f - g_m)(y))}{d(x, y)} + \frac{q((g_m - f_n)(x) - (g_m - f_n)(y))}{d(x, y)} \\ & < \frac{q^s((f - g_m)(x)) + q^s((f - g_m)(y))}{d(x, y)} + \varepsilon < 3\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

It then follows that

$$\sup_{x \neq y} \frac{q(f(x) - f(y))}{d(x, y)} \leq 3\varepsilon + \sup_{x \neq y} \frac{q(f_{n_0}(x) - f_{n_0}(y))}{d(x, y)}.$$

Thus, we have shown that  $f \in SL_0(d, q)$  and  $\rho_{d,q}(f, f_n) \leq 3\varepsilon$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ . Consequently  $(SL_0(d, q), \|\cdot\|_{d,q})$  is D-complete.  $\square$

As an application of the above results we next show that if  $(X, p)$  is a  $T_1$  quasi-normed linear space (i.e. the quasi-pseudo-metric  $d_p$  induced by the quasi-norm  $p$  is actually a quasi-metric), then the dual space  $(X^*, p^*)$  of  $(X, p)$  is balanced and D-complete in the natural sense that we explain in the following.

Let us recall [1, 6] that if  $(X, p)$  is a quasi-normed linear space then the so-called *dual algebraic* of  $(X, p)$  is the cone  $X^*$  consisting of all linear real-valued functions on  $X$  that are upper semicontinuous on  $(X, \tau((d_p)^{-1}))$ . Equivalently,  $X^*$  consists of all linear real-valued functions on  $X$  that are lower

semicontinuous on  $(X, \tau(d_p))$  [18, p. 58]. It immediately follows [13, 18] that  $X^* = L(X) \cap SL_0(d_p, u)$ , where  $L(X)$  denotes the space of all linear real-valued functions on  $X$  and  $SL_0(d_p, u)$  denotes the space of all semi-Lipschitz functions from  $(X, d_p)$  to the biBanach space  $(\mathbb{R}, u)$  (see Section 1) that vanish at  $\mathbf{0}$ . Note that in this case we have

$$\rho_{d_p, u}(f, g) = \sup_{x \neq y} \frac{((f - g)(x) - (f - g)(y)) \vee 0}{p(x - y)},$$

for all  $f, g \in SL_0(d_p, u)$ .

Let us also recall that  $p^*$  is the function from  $X^*$  to  $\mathbb{R}^+$  defined by  $p^*(f) = \sup \{ f(x) : p(x) \leq 1 \}$  for all  $f \in X^*$  [1, 6], and thus  $(X^*, p^*)$  is a normed cone which is said to be the *dual space* of  $(X, p)$ . Furthermore  $p^*(f) = \|f\|_{d, u}$  for all  $f \in X^*$  [18, p. 58], and clearly,  $d_{p^*}(f, g) = \rho_{d_p, u}(f, g)$  for all  $f, g \in X^*$ , where, as in the case of quasi-normed linear spaces, we define  $d_{p^*}(f, g) = \sup \{ (f - g)(x) : p(x) \leq 1 \}$ .

**THEOREM 3.** *Let  $(X, p)$  be a  $T_1$  quasi-normed linear space. Then  $(X^*, d_{p^*})$  is a balanced D-complete extended quasi-metric space.*

**PROOF.** By Theorems 1 and 2,  $(SL_0(d_p, u), \rho_{d_p, u})$  is a balanced D-complete extended quasi-metric space. Since balancedness is a hereditary property, then  $(X^*, d_{p^*})$  is balanced. It remains to show that  $(X^*, d_{p^*})$  is D-complete. To this end, let  $(f_n)_n$  be a D-Cauchy sequence in  $(X^*, d_{p^*})$ . Then  $(f_n)_n$  is a D-Cauchy sequence in  $(SL_0(d_p, u), \rho_{d, u})$ , so there is  $f \in SL_0(d_p, u)$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \rho_{d, u}(f, f_n) = 0$ . Moreover, and following the proof of Theorem 2, the sequence  $(f_n(x))_n$  is pointwise convergent to  $f(x)$  with respect to the Euclidean norm  $u^s$ , for all  $x \in X$ . Taking into account this fact, it is routine to see that  $f$  is a linear function. We conclude that  $f \in X^*$  and thus  $(X^*, d_{p^*})$  is D-complete.  $\square$

In the light of Theorem 3 it seems interesting to recall that there exist  $T_1$  (actually Hausdorff) quasi-normed nonnormable linear spaces in abundance (see, for instance, [7]).

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