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# On differentiability properties of Lipschitz functions on a Banach space with a Lipschitz uniformly Gâteaux differentiable bump function

L. ZAJÍČEK

*Abstract.* We improve a theorem of P.G. Georgiev and N.P. Zlateva on Gâteaux differentiability of Lipschitz functions in a Banach space which admits a Lipschitz uniformly Gâteaux differentiable bump function. In particular, our result implies the following theorem: If  $d$  is a distance function determined by a closed subset  $A$  of a Banach space  $X$  with a uniformly Gâteaux differentiable norm, then the set of points of  $X \setminus A$  at which  $d$  is not Gâteaux differentiable is not only a first category set, but it is even  $\sigma$ -porous in a rather strong sense.

*Keywords:* Lipschitz function, Gâteaux differentiability, uniformly Gâteaux differentiable, bump function, Banach-Mazur game,  $\sigma$ -porous set

*Classification:* Primary 46G05; Secondary 41A65

## 1. Introduction

In [8] I formulated without a proof a theorem (Theorem 4) which asserts that if a Banach space  $X$  admits a Lipschitz bump function which is uniformly differentiable in each direction, then each Lipschitz function of a certain type is Gâteaux differentiable at all points of a residual set. As an easy consequence of this theorem the following result (Corollary 3 of [8]) was stated.

**Theorem A.** *Let  $X$  be a Banach space with a uniformly Gâteaux differentiable norm. Then, for an arbitrary closed set  $A$ , the distance function  $d(x) = \text{dist}(x, A)$  is Gâteaux differentiable at each point of a residual subset of  $X$ .*

Unfortunately, when after some time a sketch of the proof of the first mentioned theorem (Theorem 4 of [8]) was written down, it appeared that it contains a gap.

However, Theorem A was obtained by P. Georgiev (see the last note in [3] and [5]). Moreover, P. Georgiev has proved [4] a result (which also implies Theorem A) on differentiability properties of general Lipschitz functions on a Banach space  $X$  which admits a uniformly Gâteaux differentiable norm. Namely, he proved that any such space  $X$  is a  $\Lambda$ -space (in the terminology of [12], see Definition 1 below). A similar result was obtained in [6] also under a slightly weaker assumption that  $X$  admits a Lipschitz uniformly Gâteaux differentiable bump function. (Note that

the main result of the preprint [13] by Wee-Kee Tang says that the above “slightly weaker assumption” is in fact an equivalent one.)

Recently I have observed that the gap in my original proof can be filled and that this modified proof gives also the mentioned results of [4] and [6]. In the present article this modified proof is given. There are two reasons for it:

(a) The proof is simpler and more elementary than these of [4] and [6]; it uses no smooth variational principle but instead of it one simple lemma (Lemma 1 below).

(b) Our proof gives also, via a recent result of M. Zelený [11] on a modification of the Banach-Mazur game, an improvement of results of [4] and [6]. Namely, it gives that the corresponding exceptional set is not only of the first category, but it is small in a more restrictive sense — it is  $\sigma$ -globally very porous.

To formulate the result precisely, we need some definitions. The definition of a  $\Lambda$ -space in [12] and [2] is based on a notion of a “subgradient”. To distinguish this (very weak) notion of subgradient from others, we will use in the article the name  $(WD)$ -subgradient (weak Dini subgradient).

**Definition 1.** (i) Let  $X$  be a Banach space and let  $f$  be a locally Lipschitz function on  $X$ . We shall say that  $x^* \in X^*$  is a  $(WD)$ -subgradient of  $f$  at  $x \in X$  if

$$D_v^+ f(x) := \overline{\lim}_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(x + hv) - f(x)}{h} \geq (v, x^*) \quad \text{for every } v \in X.$$

(ii) A Banach space  $X$  is said to be a  $\Lambda$ -space, if each Lipschitz function  $f$  on  $X$  has a  $(WD)$ -subgradient at each point  $x$  of a residual subset of  $X$ .

*Remark 1.* (a) Of course, each  $(WD)$ -subgradient lies in the Clarke’s subdifferential  $\partial f(x)$ .

(b) Let  $f$  be a Lipschitz function on  $X$  which has all one-sided directional derivatives at a point  $x \in X$ . Suppose further that both  $f$  and  $-f$  have a  $(WD)$ -subgradient at  $x$ . Then it is not difficult to prove that  $f$  is Gâteaux differentiable at  $x$ . (It is clearly sufficient to suppose only that  $f$  has a  $(WD)$ -subgradient if we know that  $f$  has all (two-sided) directional derivatives at  $x$ .)

**Definition 2.** Let  $P$  be a metric space and  $M \subset P$ . We say that

(i)  $M$  is globally very porous if there exists  $c > 0$  such that for every open ball  $B(a, r)$  there exists an open ball  $B(b, cr) \subset B(a, r) \setminus M$  and

(ii)  $M$  is  $\sigma$ -globally very porous if it is a countable union of globally very porous sets.

*Remark 2.* Each globally very porous set is clearly nowhere dense and each  $\sigma$ -globally very porous set is clearly of the first category. It is not difficult to prove that in each Banach space there exists a first category set which is not  $\sigma$ -globally very porous. (Corresponding more difficult results concerning the weaker notion of a  $\sigma$ -porous set are proved in [10] in the case of a Banach space and stated in [9] in the case of an arbitrary topologically complete space without isolated points.)

**Definition 3.** (i) Let  $X$  be a Banach space and  $\|\cdot\|$  be a norm on  $X$ . We say that  $\|\cdot\|$  is a uniformly Gâteaux differentiable norm (a  $UG$ -differentiable norm) if, for each  $v \in X$ ,  $\|v\| = 1$ , the limit

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\|x + tv\| - \|x\|}{t}$$

exists and is uniform on  $\{x \in X : \|x\| = 1\}$ .

(ii) Let  $X$  be a Banach space and let  $f$  be a real function on  $X$ . We say that  $f$  is a uniformly Gâteaux differentiable ( $UG$ -differentiable) bump function if  $f$  is a nonzero Gâteaux differentiable function with a bounded support and if, for each  $v \in X$ ,  $\|v\| = 1$ , the limit

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + tv) - f(x)}{t}$$

is uniform on  $X$ .

Now we can formulate our main result.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $X$  be a Banach space which admits a Lipschitz  $UG$ -differentiable bump function and let  $f$  be a real Lipschitz function on  $X$ . Then  $f$  is  $(WD)$ -differentiable at all points of  $X$  except those which belong to a  $\sigma$ -globally very porous set.*

*Remark 3.* (a) It is well known and easy to prove that if a Banach space admits an equivalent uniformly Gâteaux differentiable norm then it admits a Lipschitz  $UG$ -differentiable bump function. By [13], the converse implication is also true.

(b) Some facts about spaces which admit a  $UG$ -differentiable norm can be found in [1].

An easy consequence of Theorem 1 is the following result which improves Theorem A.

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $X$  be a Banach space with a uniformly Gâteaux differentiable norm. Then, for an arbitrary closed set  $A$ , the distance function  $d(x) = \text{dist}(x, A)$  is Gâteaux differentiable at all points of  $X \setminus A$  except those which belong to a  $\sigma$ -globally very porous set.*

It is well-known (cf. e.g. [7, Proposition 2]) that, in a strictly convex Banach space  $X$ , the fact that the distance function  $\text{dist}(x, A)$  is Gâteaux differentiable at  $x$  implies that the metric projection

$$P_A(x) := \{y \in A : \|x - y\| = \text{dist}(x, A)\}$$

is not multivalued (i.e., it is an empty set or a singleton). Consequently Theorem 2 immediately implies the following result.

**Corollary 1.** *Let  $X$  be a Banach space with a norm which is simultaneously strictly convex and  $UG$ -differentiable and let  $A \subset X$  be a closed set. Then the set of points  $x \in X$  at which the metric projection  $P_A(x)$  is multivalued is  $\sigma$ -globally very porous.*

Now we shall describe the mentioned result of M. Zelený which gives a characterization of  $\sigma$ -globally very porous sets in a Banach space  $X$  based on a modification of the Banach-Mazur game. We shall call this game GVP-game here (GVP is for “globally very porous”); in [11] another terminology is used.

Two players play the GVP-game corresponding to a set  $M \subset X$  and a sequence of positive numbers  $(c_n)_1^\infty$  as follows:

In his first move the first player chooses an open ball  $U_1 = B(x_1, \rho_1)$ , then the second player chooses a ball  $V_1 = B(y_1, r_1) \subset U_1$ , the first player chooses a ball  $U_2 = B(x_2, \rho_2) \subset V_1$  and so on. The second player wins if

$$\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} V_n \cap M = \emptyset \quad \text{and} \\ r_n > c_n \rho_n \quad \text{for each positive integer } n.$$

M. Zelený [11, Corollary of Theorem 2] has proved the following result.

**Theorem Z.** *A subset  $M$  of a Banach space  $X$  is  $\sigma$ -globally very porous if and only if there exists a sequence of positive numbers  $(c_n)_1^\infty$  such that the second player has a winning strategy in the GVP-game corresponding to  $M$  and  $(c_n)_1^\infty$ .*

## 2. Lemmas

In the following,  $B(x, r)$  and  $\overline{B}(x, r)$  are open and closed balls with center  $x$  and radius  $r$ , respectively. If  $h$  is a real function on a Banach space  $X$ , then  $h'(x, v) := \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(x+tv) - h(x)}{t}$  is the two-sided derivative of  $h$  at  $x$  in the direction  $v$ . We say that  $f$  is an  $L$ -Lipschitz function, if  $f$  is a Lipschitz function with Lipschitz constant  $L$ .

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $h$  be a  $L$ -Lipschitz function defined on a Banach space  $X$  such that  $h(0) = p > 0$  and  $h$  vanishes on  $X \setminus B(0, 1)$ . Suppose that  $a \in X$  and  $\tau > 0$  are given; put*

$$h^*(x) = h_{a, \tau}(x) = \tau h\left(\frac{x-a}{\tau}\right).$$

Further suppose that  $K < p$  and a  $K$ -Lipschitz function  $f$  on  $\overline{B}(a, \tau)$  are given; denote

$$(1) \quad c = \frac{p-K}{2L}.$$

Then for each  $\delta > 0$  there exist a real number  $y$  and  $z \in B(a, \tau)$  such that

$$(2) \quad h^*(x) + y \leq f(x) \text{ for each } x \in \overline{B}(a, \tau),$$

$$(3) \quad f(z) < h^*(z) + y + \delta \text{ and}$$

$$(4) \quad B(z, c\tau) \subset B(a, \tau).$$

PROOF: At first we observe that  $h^*$  is also  $L$ -Lipschitz since

$$|h^*(x) - h^*(y)| \leq \tau L \left\| \frac{x-a}{\tau} - \frac{y-a}{\tau} \right\| = L \|x - y\|.$$

Now suppose that  $\delta > 0$  is given; we can suppose that

$$\delta < \frac{(p-K)\tau}{2}.$$

Since both  $h^*$  and  $f$  are bounded on  $\overline{B}(a, \tau)$ , we can put  $y := \inf\{f(x) - h^*(x) : x \in \overline{B}(a, \tau)\}$ ; we see that the condition (2) is satisfied. Obviously there exists  $z \in \overline{B}(a, \tau)$  such that (3) holds. To prove (4), suppose on the contrary that there exists a point  $v \in B(z, c\tau) \setminus B(a, \tau)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \tau p = h^*(a) &= h^*(a) - h^*(v) = (h^*(a) - h^*(z)) + (h^*(z) - h^*(v)) \leq \\ & (f(a) - y) - (f(z) - y - \delta) + (h^*(z) - h^*(v)) \leq \\ & |f(a) - f(z)| + \delta + |h^*(z) - h^*(v)| < \\ & K\tau + \frac{(p-K)\tau}{2} + Lc\tau = \tau p, \end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction. □

We will need also the following geometrically obvious lemma.

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $h$  and  $h^* = h_{a,\tau}$  be as in Lemma 1. Further suppose that  $h$  is differentiable at all points in the direction  $v \in X$ . Let  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $\delta > 0$  and*

$$\left| \frac{h(p+tv) - h(p)}{t} - h'(p, v) \right| < \epsilon \text{ whenever } p \in X \text{ and } 0 < |t| \leq \delta.$$

Then  $h^*$  is also differentiable at all points in the direction  $v$  and

$$\left| \frac{h^*(q+sv) - h^*(q)}{s} - (h^*)'(q, v) \right| < \epsilon \text{ whenever } q \in X \text{ and } 0 < |s| \leq \tau\delta.$$

### 3. Proofs of Theorems

PROOF OF THEOREM 1: Suppose that  $f$  is  $K$ -Lipschitz and choose a  $p > K$ . Since  $X$  admits a uniformly Gâteaux differentiable Lipschitz bump function  $b$  it is easy to show that there exists  $L > 0$  and a uniformly Gâteaux differentiable function  $h$  on  $X$  which meets the assumptions from Lemma 1 (we can easily find  $h$  in the form  $h(x) = \alpha b(\beta x - y)$  for some real numbers  $\alpha, \beta$  and  $y \in X$ ). Define  $c$  by (1). Let  $M$  be the set of those points at which  $f$  is not (WD)-subdifferentiable. By Theorem Z it is sufficient to prove that the second player has a winning strategy in the the GVP-game corresponding to  $M$  and  $(c_n)_1^\infty$ , where  $c_n = \frac{c}{2n^2}$ . We shall show that the following strategy does the job:

Suppose the first player chose an open ball  $U_n = B(a_n, \tau_n)$  in his  $n$ -th move. In our strategy we apply Lemma 1 to  $f$ ,  $a = a_n$ ,  $\tau = \tau_n$ ,  $\delta = \frac{c\tau_n}{n}$ ; choose corresponding  $y = y_n$ ,  $z = z_n$  and define  $V_n := B(z_n, \frac{c\tau_n}{n^2})$  as the  $n$ -th move of the second player.

This is a winning strategy. In fact, suppose that a play at which the second player has used the above strategy is over and  $x \in \bigcap_{n=1}^\infty V_n$ . Let  $x_n^*$  be the Gâteaux derivative of  $h_{a_n, \tau_n}$  at the point  $z_n$ . Since all  $h_{a_n, \tau_n}$  are  $L$ -Lipschitz,  $\|x_n^*\| \leq L$  and the Alaoglu-Bourbaki theorem implies that we can choose an  $x^* \in X^*$  which is a  $w^*$ -cluster point of the sequence  $(x_n^*)$ . Now it is sufficient to show that  $x^*$  is a (WD)-subgradient of  $f$  at the point  $x$ .

To this end choose an arbitrary  $v \in X$ ,  $\|v\| = 1$ , and put

$$t_n = cn^{-1}\tau_n.$$

Since clearly  $t_n \rightarrow 0$ , it is sufficient to prove that

$$(5) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(x + t_nv) - f(x)}{t_n} \geq (v, x^*).$$

To prove (5), choose arbitrarily  $\varepsilon > 0$  and a natural number  $n_0$ . Now we can choose  $n > n_0$  such that

$$(6) \quad \left| \frac{h(p + tv) - h(p)}{t} - h'(p, v) \right| < \varepsilon \quad \text{whenever } p \in X \text{ and } 0 < t \leq \frac{c}{n},$$

$$(7) \quad (2K + 1)n^{-1} < \varepsilon, \quad \text{and}$$

$$(8) \quad |(v, x^*) - (v, x_n^*)| < \varepsilon.$$

Then, since  $f$  is  $K$ -Lipschitz and  $x \in V_n$ , we have

$$(9) \quad f(x + t_nv) - f(x) \geq f(z_n + t_nv) - f(z_n) - \frac{2Kc\tau_n}{n^2}.$$

The choice of  $z_n$  and  $t_n$  implies that  $z_n + t_nv \in U_n$  (since  $B(z_n, c\tau_n) \subset U_n$  by (4)) and (we use (2) and (3))

$$(10) \quad f(z_n + t_nv) - f(z_n) \geq h^*(z_n + t_nv) - h^*(z_n) - c\tau_n n^{-2}, \quad \text{where } h^* = h_{a_n, \tau_n}.$$

On account of Lemma 2 and (6) we obtain that

$$(11) \quad |(v, x_n^*) - \frac{h^*(z_n + t_n v) - h^*(z_n)}{t_n}| < \varepsilon.$$

Since  $t_n = c\tau_n n^{-1}$ , (9), (10), (11), (7) and (8) give

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{f(x + t_n v) - f(x)}{t_n} &\geq \frac{f(z_n + t_n v) - f(z_n)}{t_n} - \frac{2K}{n} \geq \\ &\frac{h^*(z_n + t_n v) - h^*(z_n)}{t_n} - n^{-1} - 2Kn^{-1} \\ &\geq (v, x_n^*) - 2\varepsilon \geq (v, x^*) - 3\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have proved (5) and the proof is complete.  $\square$

PROOF OF THEOREM 2: By Theorem 3 of [7] the one-sided derivative  $d'_+(x, v) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{d(x+hv) - d(x)}{h}$  exists for all  $x \in X \setminus A$  and  $v \in X$ . Since  $d$  is 1-Lipschitz on  $X \setminus A$ , it can be extended to a 1-Lipschitz function  $d^*$  on  $X$ . By Remark 3(a) we can apply Theorem 1 to  $d^*$  and  $-d^*$ . Then we obtain, on account of Remark 1(b), the statement of the theorem.  $\square$

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