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ON THE SCHRÖDER-BERNSTEIN PROBLEM FOR
CARATHÉODORY VECTOR LATTICES

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Abstract. In this note we prove that there exists a Carathéodory vector lattice V such that $V \cong V^3$ and $V \not\cong V^2$. This yields that V is a solution of the Schröder-Bernstein problem for Carathéodory vector lattices. We also show that no Carathéodory Banach lattice is a solution of the Schröder-Bernstein problem.

Keywords: vector lattice, Boolean algebra, internal direct factor

MSC 2010: 46A40, 06F20, 06F15

1. INTRODUCTION

We apply the standard terminology and notation for vector lattices; cf. e.g., [1]. Carathéodory vector lattices were investigated in several papers; we quote [8], [11] and [14]. If V is a Carathéodory vector lattice, then it is generated by a uniquely determined Boolean algebra B ; in such a case we write $V = C(B)$.

Applying the results of [10], [20] and [14], we prove

Theorem 1.1. *There exists a Carathéodory vector lattice V such that $V \cong V^3$ and V fails to be isomorphic to V^2 .*

Corollary 1.2. *There exist Carathéodory vector lattices A and B such that*

- (i) *A is isomorphic to a direct factor of B and B is isomorphic to a direct factor of A ;*

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- (ii) A is not isomorphic to B ;
- (iii) $A^3 \cong A$ and $B^3 \cong B$.

Theorem 1.1'. *Let V be a Carathéodory vector lattice, $V = C(B)$. Assume that the Boolean algebra B is countable. Then V does not satisfy the conditions from Theorem 1.1.*

In accordance with the terminology applied in literature we can say that the validity of the conditions (i) and (ii) in Corollary 1.2 expresses the fact that the problem of Schröder-Bernstein is solvable for Carathéodory vector lattices.

We remark that if the condition (iii) in Corollary 1.2 is replaced by the condition (iii₁) $A^2 \cong A$ and $B^2 \cong B$,

then the modified assertion fails to be valid.

A Carathéodory vector lattice V is defined to be a solution of the Schröder-Bernstein problem if there exist direct factors V_1 and V_2 of V such that $V_2 \subset V_1$, $V \cong V_2$ and V_1 fails to be isomorphic to V .

The relation between the conditions mentioned in this definition and the conditions (i), (ii) above are described in Section 2.

The notion of Carathéodory Banach space is defined in a natural way. We prove that if V is a Carathéodory Banach space, then it fails to be a solution of the Schröder-Bernstein problem.

Deep results on the Schröder-Bernstein problem for Banach spaces were proved in [6], [7], [9] and in the papers quoted therein.

The Schröder-Bernstein problem for abelian lattice ordered groups and for MV -algebras was studied in [15]. Some variations of this problem were investigated in [2] (for fields) and in [17] (for linearly ordered groups).

For some classes of algebraic structures, the Schröder-Bernstein problem has no solution. In such a case we say that the Cantor-Bernstein theorem is valid for the corresponding algebraic structure. Results of this type were proved in [4], [5], [12], [13], [18], [19].

2. PRELIMINARIES

Assume that V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n are vector lattices; their direct product is denoted by $V_1 \times V_2 \times \dots \times V_n$. We put

$$V_1 \times V_1 = V_1^2, \quad V_1 \times V_1 \times V_1 = V_1^3.$$

Let V be a vector lattice; an isomorphism $\varphi: V \rightarrow V_1 \times V_2 \times \dots \times V_n$ is a *direct product decomposition* of V ; V_i ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n$) are *direct factors* of V .

Lemma 2.1. Assume that A and B are vector lattices such that

- (i) A is isomorphic to a direct factor of B and B is isomorphic to a direct factor A ;
- (ii) A is not isomorphic to B .

Then A is a solution of the Schröder-Bernstein problem for vector lattices.

Proof. In view of (i) there exist direct product decompositions

$$A = A_1 \times X, \quad B = B_1 \times Y$$

and isomorphisms

$$\varphi_1: A \rightarrow B_1, \quad \varphi_2: B \rightarrow A_1.$$

Put $A_2 = \varphi_2(B_1)$. Then $A_2 \cong A$ and A_2 is a direct factor of A_1 . Hence A_2 is a direct factor of A . From (ii) we conclude that A_1 is not isomorphic to A , hence $A_2 \subset A_1$. Therefore A is a solution of the Schröder-Bernstein problem. \square

Further, from the definition of the solution of the Schröder-Bernstein problem we immediately obtain

Lemma 2.2. Assume that V is a vector lattice such that V is a solution of the Schröder-Bernstein problem. Let V_1 and V_2 be as in Section 1. Put $V = A$ and $V_1 = B$. Then the pair (A, B) satisfies the conditions (i) and (ii) from Lemma 2.1.

Let (iii) and (iii₁) be as in Section 1. Then the condition (iii) in Corollary 1.2 cannot be replaced by the condition (iii₁). In fact, assume that the conditions (i) (from Corollary 1.3) and (iii₁) are valid. Thus there are vector lattices X and Y with $A \cong B \times X$, $B \cong A \times Y$. We obtain

$$A \cong B \times X \cong B \times B \times X \cong B \times A \times Y \times X.$$

Similarly, $B \cong A \times B \times X \times Y$. Thus $A \cong B$. Therefore the condition (ii) from Corollary 1.2 fails to hold.

For the sake of completeness, we recall the basic definitions concerning Carathéodory functions which correspond to a Boolean algebra B (cf. [8]).

We denote by $C(B)$ the system consisting of all forms

$$f = a_1 b_1 + \dots + a_n b_n,$$

where a_i are nonzero reals, b_i are elements of B such that $b_i > 0$ for each $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$,

$$b_{i(1)} \wedge b_{i(2)} = 0 \quad \text{for distinct } i(1), i(2) \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\},$$

and of the “empty form”. If g is another such form,

$$g = a'_1 b'_1 + \dots + a'_m b'_m,$$

then f and g are considered equal if

$$\bigvee_{i=1}^n b_i = \bigvee_{j=1}^m b'_j$$

and if $a_i = a'_j$ whenever $b_i \wedge b'_j > 0$.

For $b, b' \in B$ we denote by $b -_1 b'$ the relative complement of $b \wedge b'$ in the interval $[0, b]$.

If f and g are as above, then we put

$$f + g = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m (a_i + a'_j)(b_i \wedge b'_j) + \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \left(b_i -_1 \bigvee_{j=1}^m b'_j \right) + \sum_{j=1}^m a'_j \left(b'_j -_1 \bigvee_{i=1}^n b_i \right),$$

where in the summations only those terms are taken into account in which $a_i + a'_j \neq 0$ and the elements

$$b_i \wedge b'_j, \quad b_i -_1 \bigvee_{j=1}^m b'_j, \quad b'_j -_1 \bigvee_{i=1}^n b_i$$

are nonzero. The empty form is considered to be the neutral element of $C(B)$ (with respect to the operation $+$) and is identified with the element 0 of B . Also, each element $0 \neq b \in B$ is identified with the element $1b$ of $C(B)$; hence $B \subseteq C(B)$.

We remark that we apply the same symbol for the zero element of \mathbb{R} , the least element of B and the neutral element of $C(B)$; the meaning of this symbol will be always clear from the context.

If $a_1 = 0 \in \mathbb{R}$ and $b_1 \in B$, or if $a_1 \in \mathbb{R}$ and $b_1 = 0 \in B$, then $a_1 b_1$ is identified with the neutral element of $C(B)$.

If f is as above and $a \in \mathbb{R}$, then we set

$$af = (aa_1)b_1 + \dots + (aa_n)b_n.$$

Finally, we set $f > 0$ if $a_1 > 0, \dots, a_n > 0$. In more detail: For f, g as above we have $f \leq g$ if $b_1 \vee \dots \vee b_n \leq b'_1 \vee \dots \vee b'_m$ and $a_i \leq a'_j$ whenever $b_i \wedge b'_j \neq 0$ (for $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ and $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$). Then $C(B)$ turns out to be a vector lattice; its elements are *elementary Carathéodory functions* corresponding to the Boolean algebra B .

We remark that if f is as above, then without loss of generality we can assume that the elements a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n are mutually distinct. In fact, if we have, e.g., $a_1 = a_2$, then we can write

$$f = a_1 b_{10} + a_3 b_3 + \dots + a_n b_n,$$

where $b_{10} = b_1 \vee b_2 = b_1 + b_2$. In view of this fact we can also assume that $a_1 > a_2 > \dots > a_n$.

It is obvious that if B and B' are Boolean algebras such that $B \cong B'$, then $C(B) \cong C(B')$.

An element $b > 0$ of a vector lattice V is said to be *boolean* if the interval $[0, b]$ of $\ell(V)$ is a Boolean algebra ($\ell(V)$ is the underlying lattice of V). Let $\beta(V)$ be the set of all boolean elements of V . Then for each Boolean algebra B we have

$$\beta(C(B)) = B.$$

From this we obtain

Lemma 2.3. *Let B and B' be Boolean algebras such that $C(B) \cong C(B')$. Then $B \cong B'$.*

3. INTERNAL DIRECT PRODUCT DECOMPOSITIONS

Assume that

$$(1) \quad \varphi: V \rightarrow V_1 \times V_2 \times \dots \times V_n$$

is a direct product decomposition of a vector lattice V .

If $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, $x \in V$ and $\varphi(x) = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$, then we put $\varphi_i(x) = x_i$. Let V_{i0} be the set of all $y \in V$ such that

$$\varphi_j(y) = 0 \quad \text{for each } j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \text{ with } j \neq i.$$

Further, for $x \in V$ let $\varphi_{i0}(x)$ be the element x_{i0} of V_{i0} such that $\varphi_i(x_{i0}) = x_i$. We set

$$\varphi_0(x) = (x_{10}, x_{20}, \dots, x_{n0}).$$

Then we have an isomorphism

$$(2) \quad \varphi_0: V \rightarrow V_{10} \times V_{20} \times \dots \times V_{n0}$$

which is said to be an *internal direct product decomposition* of V ; the subalgebras V_{10}, \dots, V_{n_0} of V are *internal direct factors* of V . Thus to each direct product decomposition φ of V there corresponds an internal direct product decomposition φ_0 of V . Under the assumptions as above we write

$$(3) \quad V = (\text{int})V_{10} \times V_{20} \times \dots \times V_{n_0}.$$

In the same way we define the notion of the internal direct product decomposition of a Boolean algebra. For the case of Boolean algebras we apply the analogous notation as above.

In view of [14, Proposition 5.8], we have

Lemma 3.1. *Let B be a Boolean algebra and suppose that*

$$(a) \quad B = (\text{int})B_1 \times B_2 \times \dots \times B_n.$$

Then

$$(b) \quad C(B) = (\text{int})C(B_1) \times C(B_2) \times \dots \times C(B_n).$$

Conversely, if (b) is satisfied, then (a) is valid.

The following result was proved in [17] (cf. also [16]).

Proposition 3.2. *There exists a Boolean algebra B such that $B \cong B^3$ and B is not isomorphic to B^2 .*

Proposition 3.3. *Let B be as in Proposition 3.2. Put $C(B) = V$. Then $V \cong V^3$ and V is not isomorphic to V^2 .*

Proof. This is a consequence of Proposition 3.2, Lemma 3.2 and Lemma 2.3. □

In view of Proposition 3.3 we conclude that Theorem 1.1 is valid. Further, applying Lemma 2.2, we infer that Corollary 1.2 holds.

The following result was proved in [20] (applying a different terminology).

Theorem 3.4. *Let B be a countable Boolean algebra and let m, n be positive integers such that $n < m$ and $B^n \cong B^m$. Then $B^n \cong B^{n+1}$.*

Proof of Theorem 1.1'. Let $V = C(B)$ be a Carathéodory vector lattice such that the Boolean algebra B is countable. By way of contradiction, assume that V satisfies the conditions from Theorem 1.1; i.e., we have $V \cong V^3$ and $V \cong V^2$. Then in view of Lemma 3.1 we obtain $B \cong B^3$ and $B \not\cong B^2$. Put $n = 1$ and $m = 3$. According to Theorem 3.4, we have arrived at a contradiction. □

4. CARATHÉODORY BANACH SPACES

Assume that $V = C(B)$ is a Carathéodory vector lattice corresponding to the Boolean algebra B . To avoid the trivial case, let us suppose that B has more than one element.

We define a norm function on V as follows. For $0 \in V$ we put $\|0\| = 0 \in \mathbb{R}$. Let $f \in V$, $f \neq 0$; under the notation as in Section 2, let

$$f = a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + \dots + a_n b_n.$$

Then we set

$$\|f\| = \max\{|a_1|, |a_2|, \dots, |a_n|\}.$$

It is easy to verify that the norm function is correctly defined and that it satisfies the usual rules

- (1) $|f| \leq |g| \Rightarrow \|f\| \leq \|g\|$;
- (2) $\|f\| \geq 0$; moreover $\|f\| = 0$ iff $f = 0$;
- (3) $\|f + g\| \leq \|f\| + \|g\|$;
- (4) $\|af\| = |a|\|f\|$ for each $a \in \mathbb{R}$.

Let $f \in V$ and let (f_n) be a sequence of elements of V . We write

$$f_n \xrightarrow{b} f \quad \text{or} \quad f = (b)\lim(f_n)$$

if the relation

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|f_n - f\| = 0$$

is valid. In such a case we also say that the sequence (f_n) is convergent.

In the terminology of [16], V is a KB -lineal. Thus in view of [16, Chapter VI, Section 2.22] we have

Lemma 4.1. *Let (x_n) be a sequence in V and let $x, y \in V$ be such that $x_n \xrightarrow{b} x$. Then $x_n \vee y \xrightarrow{b} x \vee y$.*

Lemma 4.2. *Let (x_n) and x be as in Lemma 4.1. Assume that the sequence (x_n) is increasing. Then $x = \sup\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$.*

Proof. By way of contradiction, suppose that the relation $x = \sup\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ fails to be valid. Then some of the following conditions is satisfied:

- a) there is $x \in V$ such that $x_n \leq z < x$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$,
- b) there is $m \in \mathbb{N}$ with $x_m \not\leq x$.

Let a) be valid. Then

$$\|x - x\| \geq \|x - z\| > 0 \quad \text{for each } n \in \mathbb{N},$$

hence the relation $x_n \xrightarrow{b} x$ cannot hold and we have arrived at a contradiction.

Further, let b) be valid. For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we put $x_{m+n} = y_n$, $y_n \vee x = z_n$. Then (y_n) is a subsequence of (x_n) , hence $y_n \xrightarrow{b} x$. In view of Lemma 4.1 we get $z_n \xrightarrow{b} x \vee x = x$. The sequence (z_n) is increasing and $z_n > x$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Thus

$$\|z_n - x\| \geq \|z_1 - x\| > 0 \quad \text{for each } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

This yields that (z_n) does not converge to the element x ; again, we have arrived at a contradiction. □

Let (x_n) be a sequence in V ; (x_n) is a *Cauchy sequence* if for each real $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $m \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\|x_{n(1)} - x_{n(2)}\| < \varepsilon$ whenever $n(1), n(2) \in \mathbb{N}$ and $n(1) > m$, $n(2) > m$.

In view of the validity of relations (1)–(4) we obtain

Lemma 4.3. *Under the norm function defined as above, V is a Banach space iff each Cauchy sequence of elements of V is convergent.*

If V satisfies the conditions from Lemma 4.3, then it is said to be a Carathéodory Banach space.

A sequence (f_n) in V will be called *orthogonal* if $f_{n(1)} \wedge f_{n(2)} = 0$ whenever $n(1)$ and $n(2)$ are distinct positive integers. Analogously, a subset S of V is *orthogonal* if $0 \leq s \in S$ for each $s \in S$, and $s_1 \wedge s_2 = 0$ whenever s_1 and s_2 are distinct elements of S .

The vector lattice V is *orthogonally σ -complete* if for each orthogonal sequence (f_n) in V the element

$$\sup\{f_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$$

exists.

Since the direct product decompositions of a vector lattice are uniquely determined by the direct product decompositions of its underlying lattice ordered group, in view of [13] we obtain

Lemma 4.4. *Assume that V is an orthogonally σ -complete vector lattice. Then V fails to be a solution of the Schröder-Bernstein problem.*

Let (f_n) be an orthogonal sequence in a Carathéodory vector lattice $C(B)$. Suppose that $f_n > 0$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Each element of this sequence is a form (cf. Section 2)

$$f_n = a_{n1}b_{n1} + \dots + a_{n,m(n)}b_{n,m(n)}.$$

We put $b_n = b_{n1}$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$; hence (b_n) is an orthogonal sequence in V , $0 < b_n \in B$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

We choose a strictly decreasing sequence (a_n) such that $a_n > 0$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Further, for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we set

$$g_n = a_1b_1 + \dots + a_nb_n.$$

Thus (g_n) is an increasing sequence in V and $0 < g_n$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Let m , $n(1)$ and $n(2)$ be positive integers with $m < n(1) < m(2)$. Then $0 < g_{n(2)} - g_{n(1)} < g_{n(2)}$ and

$$\|g_{n(2)} - g_{n(1)}\| < a_m.$$

From this we conclude

Lemma 4.5. *(g_n) is a Cauchy sequence in V .*

Lemma 4.6. *Let us apply the assumptions as above. Then V fails to be a Carathéodory Banach space.*

Proof. By way of contradiction, suppose that V is a Carathéodory Banach space. Then in view of Lemma 4.5 we conclude that the sequence (g_n) is convergent. Hence there exists $g \in V$ with

$$g = (b) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (g_n).$$

Since (g_n) is strictly increasing, in view of Lemma 4.2 we obtain

$$(5) \quad g = \bigvee_{n=1}^{\infty} g_n.$$

Then $0 < g$ and g can be written in the form

$$g = a'_1b'_1 + \dots + a'_mb'_m$$

(cf. Section 2). In view of Section 2 we can suppose, without loss of generality, that the relation $a'_1 > a'_2 > \dots > a'_m$ is valid. For $i(1), i(2) \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ with $i(1) \neq i(2)$ we have $a'_{i(1)} b'_{i(1)} \wedge a'_{i(2)} b'_{i(2)} = 0$, hence

$$(6) \quad g = a'_1 b'_1 \vee \dots \vee a'_m b'_m.$$

Similarly, for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we get

$$g_n = a_1 b_1 \vee \dots \vee a_n b_n.$$

Thus in view of (5) we obtain

$$(7) \quad g = \bigvee_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n b_n.$$

Let $n(1) \in \mathbb{N}$. In view of (6) and (7),

$$\begin{aligned} a_{n(1)} b_{n(1)} &= a_{n(1)} b_{n(1)} \wedge g = a_{n(1)} b_{n(1)} \wedge (a'_1 b'_1 \vee \dots \vee a'_m b'_m) \\ &= ((a_{n(1)} b_{n(1)}) \wedge (a'_1 b'_1)) \vee \dots \vee ((a_{n(1)} b_{n(1)}) \wedge (a'_m b'_m)). \end{aligned}$$

Hence there exists $j(1) \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ such that

$$a_{n(1)} b_{n(1)} \wedge a'_{j(1)} b'_{j(1)} > 0.$$

Then we also have

$$(8) \quad b_{n(1)} \wedge b'_{j(1)} > 0.$$

We put $b_{n(1)} \wedge b'_{j(1)} = b_0$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} b_0 \wedge b_n &= 0 \quad \text{for each } n \in \mathbb{N}, n \neq n(1), \\ b_0 \wedge b'_j &= 0 \quad \text{for each } j \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}, j \neq j(1). \end{aligned}$$

Hence for such n and j we obtain

$$(9) \quad a'_{j(1)} b_0 \wedge a_n b_n = 0,$$

$$(10) \quad a_{n(1)} b_0 \wedge a'_j b'_j = 0.$$

Since

$$a'_{j(1)} b_0 \leq a'_{j(1)} b'_{j(1)} \leq g,$$

in view of (9) we get

$$\begin{aligned} a'_{j(1)}b_0 &= a'_{j(1)}b_0 \wedge g = a'_{j(1)}b_0 \wedge \bigvee_{n=1}^{\infty} a_nb_n \\ &= \bigvee_{n=1}^{\infty} (a'_{j(1)}b_0 \wedge a_nb_n) = a'_{j(1)}b_0 \wedge a_{n(1)}b_{n(1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $a'_{j(1)}b_0 \leq a_{n(1)}b_{n(1)}$. Therefore $a'_{j(1)} \leq a_{n(1)}$.

Similarly, $a_{n(1)}b_0 \leq a_{n(1)}b_{n(1)} \leq g$, thus in view of (10) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} a_{n(1)}b_0 &= a_{n(1)}b_0 \wedge g = a_{n(1)}b_0 \wedge (a'_1b'_1 \vee \dots \vee a'_mb'_m) \\ &= (a_{n(1)}b_0 \wedge a'_1b'_1) \vee \dots \vee (a_{n(1)}b_0 \wedge a'_mb'_m) \\ &= a_{n(1)}b_0 \wedge a'_{j(1)}b'_{j(1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $a_{n(1)} \leq a'_{j(1)}$. Summarizing, $a_{n(1)} = a'_{j(1)}$.

For each $n(1) \in \mathbb{N}$ we put $\varphi(n(1)) = j(1)$, where $j(1)$ is as above. Since the set \mathbb{N} is infinite and the set $\{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ is finite, we have arrived at a contradiction. \square

Corollary 4.7. *Let V be a Carathéodory Banach space. Then each orthogonal subset of V is finite.*

Theorem 4.8. *Let V be a Carathéodory Banach space. Then V fails to be a solution of the Schröder-Bernstein problem.*

Proof. From Corollary 4.7 we conclude that V is orthogonally σ -complete. Thus in view of Lemma 4.4, V is not a solution of the Schröder-Bernstein problem. \square

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