

Seminorms & Normability



Corollary

Assume \mathcal{B} is a convex balanced local base for a TVS. Then the topology on X induced from the family of seminorms $\{\mu_V : V \in \mathcal{B}\}$ is equivalent to the original topology on X .

Proof:

Let T be the original topology on X and T_μ the topology induced from the family of Minkowski functionals. If $V \in \mathcal{B}$ then by a previous theorem $V = B_{\mu_V}(0) = \{\mu_V < 1\} = \mu_V^{-1}(-1, 1)$, so V is continuous w.r.t. the seminorm topology T_μ . Since \mathcal{B} is a local base for T , we conclude $T \subseteq T_\mu$.

Conversely, ~~the~~ μ_V is continuous w.r.t. T by an earlier theorem. Hence every open T_μ strip w.r.t. is T -open. As these strips generate the topology, we have $T_\mu \subseteq T$.

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generate the \mathcal{T}_μ topology, we have $\mathcal{T}_\mu \subseteq \mathcal{T}$.

Theorem

Given a TVS X ,

X is normable $\Leftrightarrow \exists$ convex bounded neighborhood of 0 .

Proof:

\Rightarrow If X is normable then the unit open ball is a convex open bounded neighborhood of 0 .

\Leftarrow In this case, \exists convex balanced bounded open neighborhood V of 0 . Define

$$\|x\| = \mu_V(x).$$

This is ^{at least} a seminorm on X . By a previous theorem,

$\{rV\}_{r>0}$ is a local base for the topology on X . Since

X is Hausdorff, if $x \neq 0$ then $x \notin rV$ for some $r > 0$.

Hence $\|x\| = \mu_V(x) \geq r > 0$. Therefore $\|\cdot\|$ is a norm.

The final issue is whether $\|\cdot\|$ induces the topology

on X . We have

$$\{x \in X : \|x\| < r\} = rV$$

↑ open in norm topology ↑ open in topology of X

Hence the two topologies coincide. \blacksquare

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Example

The topology on $C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ is induced from a countable family of seminorms ~~scribbled out~~ $\{\rho_{mn}\}_{m,n \geq 0}$ where

$$\rho_{mn}(f) = \|f^{(n)} \chi_{[-m,m]}\|_\infty, \quad f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$$

Exercise: $\exists f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ such that

$$\sup_{n \geq 0} |f^{(n)}(0)| = \infty.$$

The theorem therefore implies that $\{f\}$ is an unbounded set in \mathcal{D}' case.

Exercise: Construct $f \in C^\infty$ so that

$$\rho_{1,n}(f) < \delta \text{ for } n=1, \dots, N \quad \& \quad \rho_{1,N+1}(f) > R.$$

Then $B = \bigcap_{n=1}^N B_{1,n}(0)$ is a local base element but not all seminorms are bounded on B , so B is not a bounded set. The radius 1 can be replaced

any radius δ $m=1$ by any m , so no local base element is bounded. Hence 0 does not have a convex bounded open neighborhood, so $C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ is not normable. On the other hand, it is metrizable since its topology is induced from a countable family of seminorms.

Exercise: Show $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ is metrizable but not normable. The topology on $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ is induced from the seminorms

$$p_{mn}(f) = \|x^m f^{(n)}(x)\|_\infty \quad m, n \geq 0.$$