The Banach–Mazur distance between isomorphic spaces of continuous functions is not always an integer

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• The Banach-Mazur distance between two isomorphic Banach spaces *X* and *Y* is defined by

 $d(X, Y) = \inf \left\{ \left\| \phi \right\| \left\| \phi^{-1} \right\| : \phi \text{ is an isomorphism from } X \text{ onto } Y \right\}.$

- For a locally compact Hausdorff space K, $C_0(K)$ denotes the Banach space of all continuous real-valued functions vanishing at infinity on K, endowed with the supremum norm. We recall that a function $f : K \to \mathbb{R}$ is said to vanish at infinity on K if for every $\varepsilon > 0$ the set $\{x \in K : |f(x)| \ge \varepsilon\}$ is compact.
- As usual, if *K* is compact, we denote $C_0(K)$ by C(K).
- If α is an ordinal number, $[1, \alpha]$ denotes the set of all ordinals λ such that $1 \le \lambda \le \alpha$, provided with the order topology.

Theorem (S. Mazurkiewicz, W. Sierpiński, Fund. Math. (1920))

Every compact countable metric space *K* is homeomorphic to the interval of ordinals $[1, \alpha]$ for some countable ordinal α .

Theorem (C. Bessaga, A. Pełczyński, Studia Math. (1960))

If $\omega \leq \alpha \leq \beta < \omega_1$, then $C([1, \alpha])$ is isomorphic to $C([1, \beta])$ if and only if $\beta < \alpha^{\omega}$, where ω denotes the first infinite ordinal and ω_1 denotes the first uncountable ordinal.

Theorem (A. A. Miljutin, Teor. Funkc. Anal. i Pril. (1966))

If K and L are uncountable compact metric spaces, then C(K) and C(L) are isomorphic.

Theorem (Banach–Stone)

If K and L are compact Hausdorff spaces, then C(K) is isometrically isomorphic to C(L) if and only if K and L are homeomorphic.

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Theorem (D. Amir, Israel J. Math. (1965))

Let K and L be compact Hausdorff spaces. If there exists an isomorphism T of C(K) onto C(L) with $||T|| ||T^{-1}|| < 2$, then K and L are homeomorphic.

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Theorem (M. Cambern, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. (1966))

Let K and L be locally compact Hausdorff spaces. If there exists an isomorphism T of $C_0(K)$ onto $C_0(L)$ with $||T|| ||T^{-1}|| < 2$, then K and L are homeomorphic.

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Observation

There are no two isomorphic $C_0(K)$ spaces for which the Banach–Mazur distance belongs to the interval (1, 2).

In 1968, Aleksander Pełczyński posed the following question:

Problem 28 in Dissertationes Math. (1968)

Let *K* and *L* be compact Hausdorff spaces such that C(K) is isomorphic to C(L). Is it true that d(C(K), C(L)) = n for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$?

Example (M. Cambern, Notices Amer. Math. Soc. (1969))

In 1969, Cambern gave an example of metric spaces *K* and *L* such that *K* is compact, *L* is locally compact but noncompact, and an isomorphism *T* of *C*(*K*) onto *C*₀(*L*) with $||T|||T^{-1}|| = 2$. For this purpose, he considered the spaces *C*([1, ω]) and *C*₀([1, ω 2)).

Example (H. B. Cohen, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. (1975))

In 1975, Cohen conctructed nonhomeomorphic uncountable compact Hausdorff spaces *K* and *L* and an isomorphism *T* of C(K) onto C(L) such that $||T|| ||T^{-1}|| = 2$.

Theorem (M. Cambern, Studia Math. (1968))

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Theorem (M. Cambern, Math. Ann. (1970))

Let Γ be an infinite set with the discrete topology.

- If K is any locally compact Hausdorff space which contains a point of accumulation, and if T is any isomorphism of C₀(K) onto C₀(Γ), then ||T|| ||T⁻¹|| ≥ 3.
- If Γ* denotes the one-point compactification of Γ, then there exists an isomorphism T of C(Γ*) onto C₀(Γ) satisfying ||T|| ||T⁻¹|| = 3.

For any ordinal number *α*, the *α*th derivative of *K*, *K*^(α), is defined by transfinite induction: *K*⁽⁰⁾ = *K*, *K*⁽¹⁾ is the set of non-isolated points of *K*, and

$$\mathcal{K}^{(\alpha)} = \begin{cases} (\mathcal{K}^{(\beta)})^{(1)} & \text{if } \alpha = \beta + 1\\ \bigcap_{\beta < \alpha} \mathcal{K}^{(\beta)} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

• |*K*| denotes the cardinality of a set *K*.

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Theorem (Y. Gordon, Israel J. Math. (1970))

Let K, L be locally compact Hausdorff spaces and let T be an isomorphism of $C_0(K)$ into $C_0(L)$. If there is an ordinal α such that $|K^{(\alpha)}| > |L^{(\alpha)}|$, then $||T|| ||T^{-1}|| \ge 3$.

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d(C([0,1]),C_0([0,1)\cup\{2\}))=3.
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Remark

The same reasoning gives

$$d(C(\Delta), C_0(\Delta \setminus \{1\} \cup \{2\})) = 3,$$

where Δ denotes the Cantor set.

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Theorem (Ł. Piasecki, J. Villada (2022))

 $d(C(\Delta),C_0(\Delta \setminus \{1\})) = 2.$

Theorem (L. Candido, E. M. Galego, Fund. Math. (2012)) Suppose that $1 < n, k < \omega$. Then

 $d(c_0, C([1, \omega^n k])) = 2n + 1.$

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Theorem (L. Candido, E. M. Galego, Studia Math. (2013))

Suppose that $1 < n, k < \omega$. Then

- $3 \le d(c, C([1, \omega k])) \le 2 + \sqrt{5}$,
- $2n-1 \le d(c, C([1, \omega^n])) \le n + \sqrt{(n-1)(n+3)}$,
- $2n + 1 \le d(c, C([1, \omega^n k])) \le n + 1 + \sqrt{n(n+4)}.$

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Conjecture (L. Candido, E. M. Galego, Studia Math. (2013))

Let $n \ge 2$ *and* $k \ge 2$ *be integers. Then:*

• $d(c, C([1, \omega(k+1)]))$ is equal to 3, 4 or $2 + \sqrt{5}$,

• $d(c, C([1, \omega^n]))$ is equal to 2n - 1, 2n or $n + \sqrt{(n-1)(n+3)}$,

• $d(c, C([1, \omega^n k]))$ is equal to 2n + 1, 2n + 2 or $n + 1 + \sqrt{n(n+4)}$.

Theorem (A. Gergont, Ł. Piasecki (2023))

Let $3 \leq k < \omega$. Then

$$d(c, C([1, \omega k])) \geq 3 + \frac{\sqrt{3k^2 - 2k + 1} - k - 1}{k}.$$

In particular, for k = 3 we have

$$d(c, C([1, \omega 3])) \ge 3 + \frac{\sqrt{22} - 4}{3} \approx 3.23$$

Remark

Observe that if k tends to infinity, then $3 + \frac{\sqrt{3k^2 - 2k + 1} - k - 1}{k}$ *increases to* $2 + \sqrt{3} \approx 3.73$.

Proof.

Let *T* be an isomorphism from $C([1, \omega k])$ onto $C([1, \omega])$. Without loss of generality we may assume that $||T^{-1}|| = 1$ (otherwise, we replace *T* by $S = ||T^{-1}||T$). Then *T* is norm-increasing, that is, $||T(f)|| \ge ||f||$ for every $f \in C([1, \omega k])$. Since *T* is onto, there exists $g \in C([1, \omega k])$ such that T(g) = 1, where 1 denotes the constant function equal to 1 on $[1, \omega]$. Since $||T^{-1}|| = 1$, we have $||g|| \le 1$.



STEP 1. We claim that there exist $i_1, i_2, ..., i_{k-2} \in \{0, 1, ..., k-1\}$ such that $i_m \neq i_n$ for $m \neq n$ and

$$T\left(\sum_{j=1}^{k-2}g\chi_{[\omega i_j+1,\omega(i_j+1)]}\right)(\omega)\geq \frac{k-2}{k},$$

where χ_A denotes the characteristic function of $A \subset [1, \omega k]$. Suppose it is not true. Then, for any $i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_{k-2} \in \{0, 1, \ldots, k-1\}$ such that $i_m \neq i_n$ for $m \neq n$, we have

$$T\left(\sum_{j=1}^{k-2}g\chi_{[\omega i_j+1,\omega(i_j+1)]}\right)(\omega)<\frac{k-2}{k}.$$

Therefore, for any $i, j \in \{0, 1, ..., k - 1\}$ such that $i \neq j$, we have

$$T\left(g\chi_{[\omega i+1,\omega(i+1)]}+g\chi_{[\omega j+1,\omega(j+1)]}\right)(\omega)>\frac{2}{k}.$$

Hence, if *k* is an even number, we get a contradiction,

$$1 = \mathbf{1}(\omega) = T\left(\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} g\chi_{[\omega i+1,\omega(i+1)]}\right)(\omega) = \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} T\left(g\chi_{[\omega i+1,\omega(i+1)]}\right)(\omega)$$
$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\frac{k}{2}-1} T\left(g\chi_{[\omega(2i)+1,\omega(2i+1)]} + g\chi_{[\omega(2i+1)+1,\omega(2i+2)]}\right)(\omega) > \frac{k}{2} \cdot \frac{2}{k} = 1.$$

If, on the other hand, *k* is an odd number,

$$2 = T\left(\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} 2g\chi_{[\omega i+1,\omega(i+1)]}\right)(\omega) = T(g\chi_{[1,\omega]} + g\chi_{[\omega(k-1)+1,\omega k]})(\omega) + \sum_{i=0}^{k-2} T(g\chi_{[\omega i+1,\omega(i+1)]} + g\chi_{[\omega(i+1)+1,\omega(i+2)]})(\omega) > k \cdot \frac{2}{k} = 2,$$

a contradiction. The proof of our claim is completed. In what follows, without loss of generality we can assume that

$$T(g\chi_{[\omega^{2+1},\omega^{k}]})(\omega) \ge \frac{k-2}{k}$$





STEP 2. Let *X* be a linear subspace of $C([1, \omega k])$ spanned by $\chi_{[1,\omega]}$ and $\chi_{[\omega+1,\omega_2]}$,

$$X = \{\alpha_1 \chi_{[1,\omega]} + \alpha_2 \chi_{[\omega+1,\omega2]} : \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

Consider a function $x^* : X \to \mathbb{R}$ defined by

$$x^*(\alpha_1\chi_{[1,\omega]} + \alpha_2\chi_{[\omega+1,\omega2]}) = T(\alpha_1\chi_{[1,\omega]} + \alpha_2\chi_{[\omega+1,\omega2]})(\omega).$$

Clearly, x^* is a linear functional. Since dim $X = 2 > \dim x^*(X)$, there exists $a = (a_1, a_2)$ with $\max\{|a_1|, |a_2|\} = 1$ such that

$$x^*(a_1\chi_{[1,\omega]} + a_2\chi_{[\omega+1,\omega2]}) = 0.$$

In what follows, w.l.o.g. we can assume that $a_1 = 1$, that is,

$$x^{*}(\chi_{[1,\omega]} + a_{2}\chi_{[\omega+1,\omega2]}) = T(\chi_{[1,\omega]} + a_{2}\chi_{[\omega+1,\omega2]})(\omega) = 0.$$





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$$|T(\chi_{\{l\}})(n_0)| \ge \varepsilon$$
 for infinitely many $l \in \mathbb{N}$.

For $N \in \mathbb{N}$ we define $f_N = \sum_{l=1}^N \operatorname{sign} (T(\chi_{\{l\}})(n_0)) \cdot \chi_{\{l\}}$. Then $||f_N|| = 1$ and

$$||T(f_N)|| \ge |T(f_N)(n_0)| = \sum_{l=1}^N |T(\chi_{\{l\}})(n_0)|.$$

Letting $N \to \infty$, we get a contradiction with boundedness of *T*.

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$$||T(f_N)|| \ge |T(f_N)(n_0)| = \sum_{l=1}^N |T(\chi_{\{l\}})(n_0)|.$$



STEP 4. Suppose now that

$$||T|| < 3 + \frac{\sqrt{3k^2 - 2k + 1} - k - 1}{k}.$$

We show that this assumption leads to a contradiction. Put

$$A = \frac{\sqrt{3k^2 - 2k + 1} - k - 1}{k}.$$





































Example 1 (A. Gergont, Ł. Piasecki (2023))

Consider a mapping $T : C([1, \omega 3]) \rightarrow C([1, \omega])$ defined for every $f \in C([1, \omega 3])$ as follows:

$$\begin{split} T(f)(1) &= -f(\omega 2) - f(\omega 3), \\ T(f)(2) &= f(\omega) + \frac{15}{30}f(\omega 2) - \frac{14}{30}f(\omega 3), \\ T(f)(\omega) &= -\frac{8}{30}f(\omega) + \frac{9}{30}f(\omega 2) - \frac{9}{30}f(\omega 3), \\ T(f)(3m) &= -\frac{25}{30}f(m) + \frac{17}{30}f(\omega) + \frac{9}{30}f(\omega 2) - \frac{9}{30}f(\omega 3), \\ T(f)(3m+1) &= \frac{26}{30}f(\omega + m) - \frac{8}{30}f(\omega) - \frac{17}{30}f(\omega 2) - \frac{9}{30}f(\omega 3), \\ T(f)(3m+2) &= -\frac{26}{30}f(\omega 2 + m) - \frac{8}{30}f(\omega) + \frac{9}{30}f(\omega 2) + \frac{17}{30}f(\omega 3), \end{split}$$

where $1 \le m < \omega$. Standard calculations show that *T* is an isomorphism and $||T|| ||T^{-1}|| = \frac{7659}{1930}$. Therefore,

$$d(C([1, \omega]), C([1, \omega 3])) \le \frac{7659}{1930} < 4.$$

Remark

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Isomorphism in Example 1 is a particular case of a mapping $T : C([1, \omega 3]) \rightarrow C([1, \omega])$ defined for every $f \in C([1, \omega 3])$ as follows:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} T(f)(1) &=& a_1 f(\omega) + b_1 f(\omega 2) + c_1 f(\omega 3), \\ T(f)(2) &=& a_2 f(\omega) + b_2 f(\omega 2) + c_2 f(\omega 3), \\ T(f)(\omega) &=& a_3 f(\omega) + b_3 f(\omega 2) + c_3 f(\omega 3), \\ T(f)(3m) &=& a_4 f(m) + b_4 f(\omega + m) + c_4 f(\omega 2 + m) + (a_3 - a_4) f(\omega) \\ &+& (b_3 - b_4) f(\omega 2) + (c_3 - c_4) f(\omega 3), \\ (f)(3m+1) &=& a_5 f(m) + b_5 f(\omega + m) + c_5 f(\omega 2 + m) + (a_3 - a_5) f(\omega) \\ &+& (b_3 - b_5) f(\omega 2) + (c_3 - c_5) f(\omega 3), \\ (f)(3m+2) &=& a_6 f(m) + b_6 f(\omega + m) + c_6 f(\omega 2 + m) + (a_3 - a_6) f(\omega) \\ &+& (b_3 - b_6) f(\omega 2) + (c_3 - c_6) f(\omega 3), \end{array}$$

where $1 \le m < \omega$. It is possible to find coefficients a_i, b_i, c_i , where i = 1, ..., 6, such that $||T|| ||T^{-1}|| < 3.88$. For this purpose, the following code can be used:

https://github.com/agnieszkagergont/Isomorphism-model-no.1

$3.23 < d(C([1, \omega]), C([1, \omega 3])) < 3.88.$

Thank You