

## STRONG PROXIMALITY IN METRIC SPACES

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**Abstract.** In this paper, we extend the notions of strong proximality and strong Chebyshevity available in Banach spaces to metric spaces and prove that an approximatively compact subset  $W$  of a metric space  $X$  is strongly proximal. Moreover, the converse holds if the set of best approximants in  $W$  to each point of the space  $X$  is compact. It is proved that strongly Chebyshev sets are precisely the sets which are strongly proximal and Chebyshev. Further, by extending the notion of local uniform convexity from Banach spaces to metric spaces, it is proved that a proximal convex subset of a locally uniformly convex metric space is approximatively compact. As a consequence, it is observed that closed balls in a locally uniformly convex metric space are strongly Chebyshev. The results proved in the paper generalize and extend several known results on the subject.

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### 1. Introduction

Let  $W$  be a non-empty closed subset of a metric space  $(X, d)$  and  $x \in X$ . An element  $w_0 \in W$  is said to be a *best approximation* to  $x$  from  $W$  if

$$d(x, w_0) = \inf_{w \in W} d(x, w) \equiv d(x, W).$$

The set of all best approximants to  $x$  from  $W$  is denoted by  $P_W(x)$ , i.e.,  $P_W(x) = \{w_0 \in W : d(x, w_0) = d(x, W)\}$ . The set  $W$  is called *proximal* if  $P_W(x) \neq \emptyset$  for every  $x \in X$ . If for each  $x \in X$ ,  $P_W(x)$  is a singleton then the set  $W$  is called *Chebyshev*.

A proximal subset  $W$  of a metric space  $(X, d)$  is said to be *strongly proximal* at  $x \in X$  if for any minimizing sequence  $\{y_n\} \subseteq W$  for  $x$ , i.e.,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x, y_n) = d(x, W)$ , there is a subsequence  $\{y_{n_k}\}$  and a sequence  $\{z_k\} \subseteq P_W(x)$  such that  $d(y_{n_k}, z_k) \rightarrow 0$ . Equivalently, if for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists a  $\delta > 0$  such that for each  $y \in P_W(x, \delta)$ , we can find  $y' \in P_W(x)$  satisfying  $d(y, y') < \varepsilon$ , where  $P_W(x, \delta) = \{w_0 \in W : d(x, w_0) < d(x, W) + \delta\}$ .

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The set  $W$  is said to be strongly proximal in  $X$  if it is strongly proximal at every point of  $X$ .

For Banach spaces, these two equivalent forms of strong proximality have been introduced in [15] and [6] respectively.

The set  $W$  is said to be *strongly Chebyshev* (see [3]) if for any  $x \in X$ , every minimizing sequence  $\{y_n\} \subseteq W$  for  $x$  is convergent in  $W$ .

The set  $W$  is said to be *approximately compact* if for any  $x \in X$ , every minimizing sequence  $\{y_n\} \subseteq W$  for  $x$  has a convergent subsequence in  $W$ .

For  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we define  $\varepsilon$ -neighborhood  $V_\varepsilon(A)$  of a subset  $A$  of a metric space  $(X, d)$  by  $V_\varepsilon(A) = \{x \in X : d(x, A) < \varepsilon\}$ . In particular,  $V_\varepsilon(A)$  is an open set containing  $A$ .

A mapping  $P_W : X \rightarrow 2^W$  defined by  $P_W(x) = \{w_0 \in W : d(x, w_0) = d(x, W)\}$  is called a *metric projection*.

The metric projection  $P_W$  is said to be *upper Hausdorff semi-continuous (u.H.s.c.)* (see [5]) at  $x \in X$  if for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists an open neighborhood  $U$  of  $x$  such that  $P_W(y) \subseteq V_\varepsilon(P_W(x))$  for every  $y \in U$ .

The metric projection  $P_W$  is said to be *upper semi-continuous (u.s.c.)* (see [5]) at  $x \in X$  if for every open set  $V \supseteq W$  such that  $P_W(x) \subseteq V$ , there exists an open neighborhood  $U$  of  $x$  such that  $P_W(z) \subseteq V$  for all  $z \in U$ .

A metric space  $(X, d)$  is said to be *convex* if for any two distinct points  $x$  and  $y$  of  $X$  and every  $t \in [0, 1]$ , there exists at least one  $z \in X$  such that

$$(1.1) \quad d(x, z) = (1 - t)d(x, y) \text{ and } d(z, y) = td(x, y).$$

A point  $z$  satisfying (1.1) is called a *between point* of  $x$  and  $y$ , and the set of all between points of  $x$  and  $y$  is denoted by  $[x, y]$ .

A subset  $W$  of a convex metric space  $(X, d)$  is said to be *convex* if for every  $x, y \in W$ , any point between  $x$  and  $y$  also lies in  $W$ .

A convex metric space  $(X, d)$  is said to be *strongly convex* (see [4]) or an *M-space* (see [9]) if for any two distinct points  $x$  and  $y$  of  $X$  and every  $t \in [0, 1]$ , there exist exactly one  $z \in X$  such that  $d(x, z) = (1 - t)d(x, y)$  and  $d(z, y) = td(x, y)$ .

An M-space  $(X, d)$  is said to be *strictly convex* (see [12]) if for every pair  $x, y$  of  $X$  and  $r > 0$  satisfying  $d(x, p) \leq r, d(y, p) \leq r$  imply  $d(z, p) < r$  unless  $x = y$ , where  $p$  is an arbitrary but fixed point of  $X$  and  $z$  is any point between  $x$  and  $y$ .

An M-space  $(X, d)$  is said to be *locally uniformly convex* if given  $\varepsilon > 0$  and an element  $x$  with  $d(x, p) \leq r$ , there exists  $\delta(\varepsilon, x) > 0$  such that  $d(z, p) < r$  for all  $y \in X$  with  $d(x, y) \geq \varepsilon$  and  $d(y, p) < r + \delta$ , where  $z$  is any point between  $x$  and  $y$ , and  $p$  is arbitrary but fixed point of  $X$ .

It is easy to see that a locally uniformly convex metric space is strictly convex, but the converse is not true even in Banach spaces (see [11]).

Several researchers have discussed strongly proximal and strongly Chebyshev sets in Banach spaces (see e.g. [3], [6], [15], [16] and references cited therein). By extending these notions and the notion of local uniform convexity from Banach spaces (see [11]) to metric spaces, we discuss relationships between proximality, strong proximality, approximative compactness and

strong Chebyshevity in metric spaces and in locally uniformly convex metric spaces. We also prove that for a strongly proximal subset  $W$  of a metric space, the metric projection  $P_W$  is u.H.s.c. Further, we show that if a metric space  $X$  is locally uniformly convex, then every proximal convex subset of  $X$  is strongly Chebyshev, but the converse is not true. Moreover, we prove that the closed balls in a locally uniformly convex metric space are strongly Chebyshev. We also show that in an M-space  $(X, d)$ , if a Chebyshev set  $W$  is strongly proximal at  $x \in X$  then  $W$  is strongly proximal at every point between  $x$  and  $P_W(x)$ .

The results proved in this paper generalize and extend some results of [3], [6], [7], [9], [12] and [15].

## 2. Strong proximality and approximative compactness

In this section, we discuss relationships between strong proximality, approximative compactness and strong Chebyshevity in metric spaces and also prove that for a strongly proximal set  $W$  of a metric space  $X$ , the metric projection  $P_W$  is u.H.s.c. We start with the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.1.** *A non-empty subset  $W$  of a metric space  $(X, d)$  is approximatively compact if and only if  $W$  is strongly proximal and  $P_W(x)$  is compact for every  $x \in X$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $W$  is approximatively compact,  $x \in X$  and  $\{y_n\} \subseteq W$  is any minimizing sequence for  $x$ , i.e.,

$$(2.1) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x, y_n) = d(x, W).$$

Then there exist a subsequence  $\{y_{n_k}\}$  such that  $\{y_{n_k}\} \rightarrow y \in W$ . It follows from (2.1) that  $y \in P_W(x)$  and so  $W$  is proximal. The constant sequence  $\{y\}$  satisfies the requirements of strong proximality. Now, we show that  $P_W(x)$  is compact. Let  $\{y_n\}$  be any sequence in  $P_W(x)$  then  $d(x, y_n) = d(x, W)$  for all  $n$  and so

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x, y_n) = d(x, W)$$

i.e.,  $\{y_n\} \subseteq W$  is a minimizing sequence for  $x$ . By the hypothesis,  $\{y_n\}$  has a convergent subsequence converging to some point  $y \in W$ . Also  $y \in P_W(x)$  and so  $P_W(x)$  is compact.

Conversely, suppose that  $W$  is strongly proximal and  $P_W(x)$  is compact for every  $x \in X$ . Let  $x \in X$  be arbitrary and  $\{y_n\} \subseteq W$  be any minimizing sequence for  $x$ , i.e.,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x, y_n) = d(x, W)$ . Since  $W$  is strongly proximal, there exists a subsequence  $\{y_{n_k}\}$  of  $\{y_n\}$  and a sequence  $\{z_k\} \subseteq P_W(x)$  such that  $d(y_{n_k}, z_k) \rightarrow 0$ . Since  $P_W(x)$  is compact, we may assume without loss of generality that  $z_k \rightarrow z \in P_W(x)$ . So,  $\{y_{n_k}\} \rightarrow z \in W$ . Hence  $W$  is approximatively compact.  $\square$

A closed subset  $W$  of a metric space  $(X, d)$  is said to be *quasi-Chebyshev* (see [8]) if  $P_W(x)$  is non-empty and compact for all  $x \in X$ .

From Theorem 2.1, we obtain

**Corollary 2.2.** *A non-empty subset  $W$  of a metric space  $(X, d)$  is approximatively compact if and only if  $W$  is strongly proximal and quasi-Chebyshev in  $X$ .*

The following theorem gives relationships between strong proximality, approximative compactness and strong Chebyshevity.

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $W$  be a non-empty subset of a metric space  $(X, d)$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (i)  *$W$  is strongly Chebyshev.*
- (ii)  *$W$  is strongly proximal and Chebyshev.*
- (iii)  *$W$  is approximatively compact and Chebyshev.*

*Proof.* (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii). Since  $W$  is strongly Chebyshev, it is approximatively compact and so by Theorem 2.1,  $W$  is strongly proximal. Now, we show that  $W$  is Chebyshev. Suppose that for some  $x \in X$  there exist  $w_1, w_2 \in P_W(x)$ ,  $w_1 \neq w_2$ . Then

$$d(x, w_1) = d(x, W) = d(x, w_2).$$

Consider the sequence  $\{y_n\}$  in  $W$  such that  $y_{2n} = w_1$  and  $y_{2n+1} = w_2$ . Then  $\{y_n\}$  is a minimizing sequence for  $x$  in  $W$ . Since  $w_1 \neq w_2$ ,  $\{y_n\}$  is not convergent, a contradiction to strong Chebyshevity of  $W$ . Thus  $w_1 = w_2$  and hence  $W$  is Chebyshev.

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii). follows from Theorem 2.1.

(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). Let  $x \in X$  be arbitrary and  $\{y_n\} \subseteq W$  a minimizing sequence for  $x$ , i.e.,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x, y_n) = d(x, W)$ . Since  $W$  is approximatively compact,  $\{y_n\}$  has a subsequence  $\{y_{n_k}\} \rightarrow y_0 \in W$ . Then  $d(x, y_0) = d(x, W)$ , i.e.,  $y_0 \in P_W(x)$ . We claim that every subsequence of  $\{y_n\}$  also converges to  $y_0$ . Suppose  $\{y_n\}$  has a subsequence  $\{y_{n_i}\}$  such that  $\{y_{n_i}\} \rightarrow z_0$ ,  $z_0 \neq y_0$ . Then  $d(x, z_0) = d(x, W)$ , i.e.,  $z_0$  is also a best approximation to  $x$  in  $W$ . But  $W$  is Chebyshev and so  $y_0 = z_0$ , a contradiction. Therefore, every subsequence of  $\{y_n\}$  converges to  $y_0$  and hence  $\{y_n\} \rightarrow y_0 \in W$ . □

**Remarks:**

1. Whereas a strongly Chebyshev subset of a metric space is approximatively compact, an approximatively compact subset of a metric space need not be strongly Chebyshev.

Let  $X = \mathbb{R}^2$  with the usual metric and  $W = \{(x, y) \in X : x^2 + y^2 = 1\}$ . Then  $W$ , being a compact subset of the metric space  $X$ , is approximatively compact. But  $P_W((0, 0)) = W$ , i.e.,  $W$  is not Chebyshev. Therefore, it follows from Theorem 2.3 that  $W$  is not strongly Chebyshev.

2. Whereas an approximatively compact subset of a metric space is strongly proximal, a strongly proximal subset of a metric space (even of a Banach space) need not be approximatively compact.

Let  $X = l_\infty$ ,  $W = e_0$ . Then  $W$  is strongly proximal in  $X$  but for  $x = (1, 1, 1, \dots) \in l_\infty$ , the sequence  $\{y_n\}$  such that  $y_n = (1, 1, \dots, 1(nth\ place))$ ,

- $0, 0, \dots) \in W$  is a minimizing sequence for  $x$  having no convergent subsequence (see [3]).
3. A proximal subset of a metric space need not be strongly proximal. Even a proximal convex subset of a Banach space need not be strongly proximal.

Let  $X = (l_1, \|\cdot\|_H)$  Then the unit ball  $B(X_H)$  is proximal in  $X$ , but is not strongly proximal in  $X$  (see [16]).

In view of the above results and remarks, we obtain that strong Chebyshevity  $\Rightarrow$  approximative compactness  $\Rightarrow$  strong proximality  $\Rightarrow$  proximality, but none of the implications can be reversed.

Concerning strong Chebyshevity, we also have the following result.

**Theorem 2.4.** *Let  $W$  be a closed subset of a metric space  $(X, d)$  and  $x \in X$ . Then  $W$  is strongly Chebyshev for  $x$  if and only if  $\text{diam } P_W(x, \delta) < \varepsilon$ .*

*Proof.* If  $W$  is strongly Chebyshev for  $x$  then  $P_W(x) = \{y_0\}$ . Therefore, every minimizing sequence  $\{y_n\} \subseteq W$  for  $x$  converges to  $y_0$ . Suppose that the given condition does not hold. Then there exists an  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $z_n \in P_W(x, \frac{1}{n})$  such that  $d(z_n, y_0) \geq \varepsilon$ . This implies that  $\{z_n\}$  is a minimizing sequence for  $x$  that does not converge to  $y_0$ , a contradiction. Hence  $\text{diam } P_W(x, \delta) < \varepsilon$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $\{y_n\} \subseteq W$  is any minimizing sequence for  $x$ , i.e.,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x, y_n) = d(x, W)$ . Then for any  $\delta > 0$ ,  $y_n \in P_W(x, \delta)$  after some stage. This implies that for any  $\delta > 0$ ,  $d(y_n, y_{n+p}) \leq \text{diam } P_W(x, \delta) < \varepsilon$  after some stage. This implies that the sequence  $\{y_n\}$  is Cauchy. Since  $W$  is a closed subset of a complete metric space,  $W$  is complete. Therefore,  $\{y_n\} \rightarrow y_0 \in W$ , i.e., every minimizing sequence for  $x$  is convergent. Hence  $W$  is strongly Chebyshev.

**Remarks.** Theorems 2.1, 2.3 and 2.4 extend the corresponding Theorems 2.2, 2.3 and Proposition 2.7 of [3] (see also Proposition 3 of [15]) from Banach spaces to metric spaces, respectively.  $\square$

We require the following lemma in the proof of our next theorem showing that for strongly proximal sets in metric spaces, the associated metric projection is u.H.s.c.

**Lemma 2.5.** [5] *Let  $W$  be a closed subset of a metric space  $(X, d)$  then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (i)  $P_W$  is u.H.s.c. at  $x$ .  
(ii) The relations  $x_n \rightarrow x$  and  $y_n \in P_W(x_n)$  imply  $d(y_n, P_W(x)) \rightarrow 0$ .

**Theorem 2.6.** *If  $W$  is a strongly proximal subset of a metric space  $(X, d)$  then  $P_W$  is u.H.s.c..*

*Proof.* Let  $x \in X$  be arbitrary,  $x_n \rightarrow x$  and  $y_n \in P_W(x_n)$ . Then  $d(x_n, y_n) = d(x_n, W)$  and so  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x, y_n) = d(x, W)$ . This implies that  $y_n \in P_W(x, \delta)$  for any  $\delta > 0$  after some stage. Since  $W$  is strongly proximal at  $x$ , for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we can choose  $\delta > 0$  such that for any  $y_n \in P_W(x, \delta)$  we can find  $y \in P_W(x)$  satisfying  $d(y_n, y) < \varepsilon$ . As  $\varepsilon > 0$  is arbitrary,  $d(y_n, P_W(x)) \rightarrow 0$ .  $\square$

It is well-known (see [5]) that the mapping  $P_W$  is u.s.c. at  $x$  if and only if it is *u.H.s.c.* at  $x$  and  $P_W(x)$  is compact. Therefore using Theorem 2.1 and Theorem 2.6, we obtain the following well-known result.

**Corollary 2.7.** [14] *If  $W$  is an approximatively compact subset of a metric space  $(X, d)$  then the metric projection  $P_W$  is u.s.c..*

**Corollary 2.8.** *If  $W$  is a strongly proximal, quasi-Chebyshev subset of a metric space  $(X, d)$  then the metric projection  $P_W$  is u.s.c..*

Using Theorem 2.3, we obtain

**Corollary 2.9.** *If  $W$  is a strongly Chebyshev subset of a metric space  $(X, d)$  then the metric projection  $P_W$  is continuous.*

The converse of Theorem 2.6 is not true even if  $W$  is a Chebyshev subset of  $X$ .

**Example 2.10.** (see [13]) *Let  $X$  be the dual space of the normed linear space constructed by Klee [10] by suitable renorming of  $l^2$ . Lambert (unpublished) (see [13]) has shown that in the space  $X$  the metric projection  $P_W$  supported by any Chebyshev subspace  $W$  of  $X$  is continuous. However,  $X$  does not satisfy the Effimov-Steckin property and hence contains a closed hyperplane  $K$  which is not approximatively compact (see [14], Theorem 3). Since  $X$  is strictly convex and reflexive,  $K$  is Chebyshev and thus supports a continuous metric projection. Since  $K$  is Chebyshev, approximative compactness and strong proximality are equivalent and so  $K$  is not strongly proximal.*

**Remarks.** *It was erroneously stated in [6] (Lemma 4.1) that for a strongly proximal subset  $W$  of a Banach space  $X$ , the associated metric projection  $P_W$  is u.s.c.. In fact, it is only u.H.s.c.. Theorem 2.6 extends this result to metric spaces.*

### 3. Strong proximality in convex spaces

In this section, we prove that proximality and approximative compactness are equivalent for convex sets in locally uniformly convex metric spaces. As a consequence, we prove that closed balls in a locally uniformly convex metric space are strongly Chebyshev. We also prove that in an M-space  $(X, d)$ , if a Chebyshev set  $W$  is strongly proximal at  $x$ , then  $W$  is strongly proximal at every point between  $x$  and  $P_W(x)$ . The results proved in this section are motivated by the corresponding results proved for best approximation in Banach spaces given in [7] and in metric spaces given in [9] and [12]. Using the fact that a proximal convex subset of a strictly convex metric space is Chebyshev (see [9]), we prove the following theorem:

**Theorem 3.1.** *A closed convex subset  $W$  of a complete locally uniformly convex metric space  $(X, d)$  is proximal if and only if  $W$  is approximatively compact.*

*Proof.* Suppose  $W$  is proximal and  $x \in X$ . Since a locally uniformly convex metric space is strictly convex, proximal convex subsets of locally uniformly convex metric spaces are Chebyshev. Thus  $W$  is Chebyshev. Suppose,  $P_W(x) = \{y'\}$ . Let  $\{y_n\} \subseteq W$  be any minimizing sequence for  $x$ , i.e.,

$$(3.1) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x, y_n) = d(x, W).$$

If  $x \in W$  then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x, y_n) = 0$ , i.e.,  $\{y_n\} \rightarrow x$  and so  $W$  is approximatively compact.

Now, suppose  $x \in X \setminus W$  then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x, y_n) = d(x, W) \equiv r > 0$ . Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be arbitrary and  $\delta(\varepsilon, y')$  be taken as in the definition of local uniform convexity. Using (3.1), we can find  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $d(x, y_n) < r + \delta$  for all  $n \geq m$ . Let  $p \geq m$  then  $d(x, y_p) < r + \delta$ .

Let  $z_p$  be a between point of  $y_p$  and  $y'$ . Then, by the convexity of the set  $W$ , we have  $z_p \in W$ ,  $d(x, z_p) \geq r$ . Therefore, by the local uniform convexity of the space  $X$ , we obtain

$$d(y_p, y') < \varepsilon.$$

Similarly, we can choose  $y_l$  for  $l > m$  such that

$$d(y_l, y') < \varepsilon.$$

Then  $d(y_p, y_l) < 2\varepsilon$  for all  $l, p \geq m$ , i.e.,  $\{y_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $W$ . Now,  $W$  being a closed subset of complete metric space is complete,  $\{y_n\}$  converges to some element of  $W$  and hence  $W$  is approximatively compact.

The converse is obvious. □

Since a proximal convex subset of a locally uniformly convex metric space is Chebyshev, using Theorem 2.3 and Corollary 2.9, we obtain

**Corollary 3.2.** *Let  $W$  be a closed convex subset of a locally uniformly convex metric space  $(X, d)$  then the following are equivalent:*

- (i)  $W$  is proximal.
- (ii)  $W$  is approximatively compact.
- (iii)  $W$  is strongly Chebyshev.
- (iv)  $W$  is Chebyshev and  $P_W$  is continuous.

**Remark.** *Theorem 3.1 extends Proposition 3 of [7] from Banach spaces to metric spaces.*

As a consequence of Theorem 3.1, we have

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $(X, d)$  be an  $M$ -space then for the statements*

- (i)  $X$  is locally uniformly convex,
  - (ii) every proximal convex subset of  $X$  is strongly Chebyshev,
  - (iii) closed balls in  $X$  are strongly Chebyshev,
- we have (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii).*

*Proof.* (i)  $\Rightarrow$ (ii). follows from Corollary 3.2.

(ii) $\Rightarrow$  (iii). Since every proximal convex subset of  $X$  is strongly Chebyshev, it follows from Theorems 2.1 and 2.3 of [9] that the closed balls  $B[z, r]$  are Chebyshev and convex for every  $z \in X$  and  $r > 0$ . Therefore, the result follows.  $\square$

Now, it is natural to ask whether all the three statements of Theorem 3.3 are equivalent? We proceed to prove that (ii)  $\not\Rightarrow$  (i) even in Banach spaces.

Let  $S_X(S_{X^*})$  be the unit sphere and  $B_X(B_{X^*})$  the closed unit ball in  $X(X^*)$ . Recall that a Banach space  $(X, \|\cdot\|)$  is said to be

(i) *strongly rotund* (see [7]) if given  $x \in S_X, x^* \in S_{X^*}$  such that  $x^*(x) = 1$  and  $\{x_n\} \subseteq B_X$  a sequence in  $B_X$  such that  $x^*(x_n) \rightarrow x^*(x) = 1$  then  $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is convergent.

(ii) *almost locally uniform rotund* (ALUR) [1] if for every  $x \in S_X, \{x_n\} \subseteq B_X$  and  $\{x_n^*\} \subseteq B_{X^*}$ , the condition  $\lim_m \lim_n x_m^*(\frac{x_n+x}{2}) = 1$  imply  $x_n \rightarrow x$ .

An  $x^* \in S_{X^*}$  is said to be *strongly exposing functional* (see [3]) if  $x^* \in NA(X)$  and every sequence  $\{x_n\} \subseteq B_X$  with  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^*(x_n) = 1$  is convergent where  $NA(X)$  is the set of all norm attaining functionals in  $X^*$ .

Using the above definitions, we prove the following result:

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $X$  be Banach space. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i)  $X$  is strongly rotund.
- (ii) Every  $x^* \in NA(X)$  is strongly exposing functional.
- (iii) Every proximal convex subset of  $X$  is strongly Chebyshev.
- (iv)  $X$  is almost locally uniform rotund.

*Proof.* (i)  $\Rightarrow$ (ii) Suppose that  $x^*$  attains its norm at  $x \in S_X$ , i.e.,  $x^*(x) = \|x^*\| = 1$ . Let  $\{x_n\} \subseteq B_X$  be such that  $x^*(x_n) \rightarrow 1$ . Since  $X$  is strongly rotund,  $\{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is convergent.

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i) Let  $x \in S_X, x^* \in S_{X^*}$  be such that  $x^*(x) = 1$  and  $\{x_n\} \subseteq B_X$  a sequence in  $B_X$  such that  $x^*(x_n) \rightarrow x^*(x) = 1$ . Since  $x^*$  is norm attaining,  $x^*$  is strongly exposing functional and so  $\{x_n\}$  is convergent. Hence  $X$  is strongly rotund.

(i) $\Leftrightarrow$  (iii) The proof runs on similar lines as that of Theorem 5 in Guiro and Montesinos[7].

(ii)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (iv) follows from Corollary 4.6 of [2].  $\square$

Therefore, to prove (ii)  $\not\Rightarrow$  (i) in Theorem 3.3, it is sufficient to show that almost locally uniformly rotund Banach space need not be locally uniformly convex. Since this is well-known (see [1]- Proposition 11 and Corollary 12), we obtain the desired result.

**Remark.** The authors do not know whether (iii) $\Rightarrow$  (ii) in Theorem 3.3.

We require the following lemma proved in [12] for our next theorem.

**Lemma 3.5.** *Let  $W$  be a Chebyshev subset of an  $M$ -space  $(X, d)$  and  $x \in X$ . If  $P_W(x) = \{w_0\}$ , then  $P_W(y) = \{w_0\}$  for every  $y \in [w_0, x)$ .*

**Theorem 3.6.** *Let  $W$  be a Chebyshev subset of an  $M$ -space  $(X, d)$  and  $x \in X$ . If  $W$  is strongly proximal at  $x \in X$ , then  $W$  is strongly proximal at every point between  $x$  and  $P_W(x)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $x \in X$ . Then there exists some  $y' \in W$  such that  $P_W(x) = \{y'\}$ . Since  $W$  is strongly proximal at  $x$ , there exists a  $\delta > 0$  such that for every  $y \in P_W(x, \delta)$  there is  $y' \in P_W(x)$  satisfying  $d(y, y') < \varepsilon$ .

Let  $z \in X$  be such that

$$(3.2) \quad d(x, z) + d(z, y') = d(x, y').$$

Then using Lemma 3.5,  $y' \in P_W(z)$ . Suppose  $z' \in P_W(z, \delta)$ . Then

$$(3.3) \quad d(z, z') < d(z, w) + \delta \text{ for all } w \in W.$$

We claim that  $z' \in P_W(x, \delta)$ . Consider

$$d(x, z') \leq d(x, z) + d(z, z') < d(x, z) + d(z, w) + \delta \text{ for all } w \in W \text{ using (3.3)}$$

i.e.,  $d(x, z') < d(x, z) + d(z, y') + \delta$ , as  $y' \in W$ . Using (3.2), we obtain

$$d(x, z') < d(x, y') + \delta$$

i.e.,  $d(x, z') < d(x, w) + \delta$  for all  $w \in W$ , as  $y' \in P_W(x)$ . Therefore,  $z' \in P_W(x, \delta)$ . Hence the claim holds. Since  $W$  is Chebyshev and strongly proximal at  $x$ , for  $y' \in P_W(x)$ , we have  $d(z', y') < \varepsilon$ . Also  $y' \in P_W(z)$ . Therefore, for any  $z' \in P_W(z, \delta)$  there exist  $y' \in P_W(z)$  satisfying  $d(z', y') < \varepsilon$ . Hence  $W$  is strongly proximal at  $z$ .  $\square$

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