## Combinatorics in Banach space theory

## Lecture 9

## 9 A quantitative version of Krein's theorem

The classical Krein theorem says that the convex hull of a weakly compact subset of a Banach space is relatively weakly compact. The aim of this section is to derive a certain quantitative version of this fact which was proved in [FHM05] and which asserts that the property of being weakly compact is stable with resect to the convex hull operation. To formulate this result we need a notion of 'almost' weak compactness, or $\varepsilon$-weak compactness. Hereinafter, we will often identify an underlying Banach space $X$ with its canonical image in $X^{* *}$. In particular, for any $A \subset X$ the symbol $\bar{A}^{w *}$ stands for the weak ${ }^{*}$ closure of $A$ in $X^{* *}$.

Definition 9.1. Let $A$ be a subset of a Banach space $X$ and let $\varepsilon \geqslant 0$. We say that $A$ is $\varepsilon$-relatively weakly compact ( $\varepsilon$-RWC for short) if it is bounded and $\bar{A}^{w *} \subset X+\varepsilon B_{X^{* *}}$.

Observe that this definition harmonises perfectly with the standard fact that $A \subset X$ is relatively weakly compact if and only $\bar{A}^{w *} \subset X$. In other words, $A$ is relatively weakly compact if and only if it is 0 -RWC (see Problem 1.3). Our goal is to prove the following remarkable improvement of Krein's theorem:

Theorem 9.2 (Fabian, Hájek, Montesinos, Zizler, 2005). Let $X$ be a Banach space and $\varepsilon \geqslant 0$. If $A \subset X$ is $\varepsilon-\mathrm{RWC}$, then $\operatorname{conv}(A)$ is $2 \varepsilon-\mathrm{RWC}$.

Using double limits is the key technique of the proof. The following notion defines a perturbation of Grothendieck's double-limit condition characterising relatively weakly compact sets.

Definition 9.3. Let $X$ be a Banach space, $\varepsilon \geqslant 0$ and let $A \subset X$ and $B \subset X^{*}$ be bounded sets. We say that $A \varepsilon$-interchanges limits with $B$, and we write $A-\varepsilon-B$, if for any sequences $\left(x_{m}\right)_{m=1}^{\infty} \subset A$ and $\left(x_{n}^{*}\right)_{n=1}^{\infty} \subset B$ we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|\lim _{m \rightarrow \infty} \lim _{n \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle-\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim _{m \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle\right| \leqslant \varepsilon, \tag{9.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

provided that both of the two iterated limits above exist.
The whole proof of Theorem 9.2 is contained in three steps formulated as the assertions (i)-(iii) in Theorem 9.4 below. The first assertion is elementary and rather technical. The second one requires a piece of topological machinery, that is, the upper (weak*) semicontinuous envelope which will be applied to functionals defined on $B_{X^{*}}$, in particular, to those that are not weak* continuous. Finally, the third assertion is based on a crucial combinatorial lemma due to Pták [Ptá63]. It is quite surprising that Pták's lemma, seemingly elementary and purely combinatorial, may be proved with the aid of Banach space theoretic methods. However, it fully pays back, as it is the key part of the proof of Theorem 9.2 which clearly lies in the heart of the Banach space theory.

Theorem 9.4. Let $X$ be a Banach space, $A \subset X$ be a bounded set and $\varepsilon \geqslant 0$. Then, the following assertions hold true:
(i) If $A$ is $\varepsilon$-RWC, then $A-2 \varepsilon-B_{X^{*}}$.
(ii) If $A-\varepsilon-B_{X^{*}}$, then $A$ is $\varepsilon$-RWC.
(iii) If $A-\varepsilon-B_{X^{*}}$, then $\operatorname{conv}(A)-\varepsilon-B_{X^{*}}$

Proof of assertion (i). Let $x_{0}^{*} \in X^{*}$ be a $w^{*}$-cluster point of the sequence $\left(x_{n}^{*}\right)_{n=1}^{\infty}$. Then, for every $y \in X$ and $\delta>0$ all but finitely many $x_{n}^{*}$ 's belong to the weak ${ }^{*}$ open basis neighbourhood $\left\{y^{*} \in X^{*}:\left|\left\langle y, y^{*}-x_{0}^{*}\right\rangle\right|<\delta\right\}$ of $x_{0}^{*}$. In particular, we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle=\left\langle x_{m}, x_{0}^{*}\right\rangle \quad \text { for each } m \in \mathbb{N} . \tag{9.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

Similarly, let $x_{0}^{* *} \in \bar{A}^{w *}$ be a $w^{*}$-cluster point of $\left(x_{m}\right)_{m=1}^{\infty}$. Then, we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\lim _{m \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle=\left\langle x_{n}^{*}, x_{0}^{* *}\right\rangle \quad \text { for each } n \in \mathbb{N} \tag{9.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

In view of (9.2) and (9.3), the two double limits appearing in condition (9.1) equal:

$$
\lim _{m \rightarrow \infty} \lim _{n \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle=\lim _{m \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{0}^{*}\right\rangle=\left\langle x_{0}^{*}, x_{0}^{* *}\right\rangle
$$

and

$$
\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim _{m \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle=\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{n}^{*}, x_{0}^{* *}\right\rangle
$$

In order to estimate the absolute value of the difference between these double limits, we use our assumption $\bar{A}^{w *} \subset X+\varepsilon B_{X^{* *}}$ to pick $x_{0} \in X$ such that $\left\|x_{0}^{* *}-x_{0}\right\| \leqslant \varepsilon$. Then, for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we have $\left\|x_{0}^{* *}-x_{0}\right\| \cdot\left\|x_{n}^{*}-x_{0}^{*}\right\| \leqslant 2 \varepsilon$ (recall that $x_{n}^{*}, x_{0}^{*} \in B_{X^{*}}$ ), whence

$$
\left|\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{n}^{*}, x_{0}^{* *}\right\rangle-\left\langle x_{0}^{*}, x_{0}^{* *}\right\rangle\right|=\left|\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{n}^{*}-x_{0}^{*}, x_{0}^{* *}\right\rangle\right| \leqslant\left|\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{0}, x_{n}^{*}-x_{0}^{*}\right\rangle\right|+2 \varepsilon=2 \varepsilon
$$

For any $x^{* *} \in X^{* *}$ let $\hat{x}^{* *}: B_{X^{*}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the upper $w^{*}$-semicontinuous envelope (regularisation) of $x^{* *}$ on the unit ball of $X^{*}$, that is,

$$
\begin{array}{r}
\hat{x}^{* *}\left(y^{*}\right)=\inf \left\{f\left(y^{*}\right) \mid f: B_{X^{*}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text { is a } w^{*}\right. \text {-continuous function }  \tag{9.4}\\
\text { such that } \left.x^{* *} \leqslant f\right\} .
\end{array}
$$

It is a standard fact from general topology that the so-defined map $\hat{x}^{* *}$ is the least upper $w^{*}$-semicontinuous function that majorises $x^{* *}$ (of course, for $x^{* *} \in X$ we have $\hat{x}^{* *}=$ $\left.x^{* *}\right|_{X_{X^{*}}}$, since in this case $x^{* *}$ itself is $w^{*}$-continuous). It is also well-known that $\hat{x}^{* *}$ may be equivalently defined by the formula

$$
\begin{equation*}
\hat{x}^{* *}\left(y^{*}\right)=\lim _{U \in \mathcal{N}\left(y^{*}\right)} \sup x^{* *}(U), \tag{9.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\mathcal{N}\left(y^{*}\right)$ is the collection of all weak* open neighbourhoods of $y^{*}$ contained in $B_{X^{*}}$, directed by reversed inclusion. The equivalence of formulas (9.4) and (9.5) holds true for general topological spaces and for upper semicontinuous envelopes of arbitrary functions. We omit the routine proof of this fact. Now, before showing assertion (ii) of Theorem 9.4 we need to derive the following simple lemma:

Lemma 9.5. For every $x^{* *} \in X^{* *}$ we have $\hat{x}^{* *}(0)=\operatorname{dist}\left(x^{* *}, X\right)$.

Proof. Denote $d=\operatorname{dist}\left(x^{* *}, X\right)$. To show our claim we will use formula (9.5).
For showing the inequality ' $\leqslant$ ' choose a sequence $\left(x_{n}\right)_{n=1}^{\infty} \subset X$ satisfying $\left\|x^{* *}-x_{n}\right\|<$ $d+1 / n$, for $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Consider the weak* open basis neighbourhoods $U_{n} \in \mathcal{N}(0)$ given by

$$
U_{n}=\left\{y^{*} \in B_{X^{*}}:\left|\left\langle x_{j}, y^{*}\right\rangle\right|<n^{-1} \text { for } 1 \leqslant j \leqslant n\right\} .
$$

If $y^{*} \in U_{n}$, then

$$
\left\langle y^{*}, x^{* *}\right\rangle \leqslant\left|\left\langle y^{*}, x^{* *}-x_{n}\right\rangle\right|+\left|\left\langle x_{n}, y^{*}\right\rangle\right|<\left\|x^{* *}-x_{n}\right\|+\frac{1}{n}<d+\frac{2}{n} .
$$

Therefore, $\sup x^{* *}\left(U_{n}\right) \leqslant d+2 / n$ and formula (9.5) yields $\hat{x}^{* *}(0) \leqslant d$.
In order to show the inequality ' $\geqslant$ ' it is enough to prove that for every basis neighbourhood $U \in \mathcal{N}(0)$ the supremum of $x^{* *}$ over $U$ is at least $d$. So, suppose $U$ has the form

$$
U=\left\{y^{*} \in B_{X^{*}}:\left|\left\langle x_{j}, y^{*}\right\rangle\right|<\varepsilon \text { for } 1 \leqslant j \leqslant k\right\}
$$

for some $\varepsilon>0$ and $x_{1}, \ldots, x_{k} \in X$. The classical corollary from the Hahn-Banach extension theorem (see, e.g., Corollary 1.9.7 in [Meg98]) implies that there exists a functional $\psi \in X^{* * *}$ such that $\|\psi\|=1, \psi\left(x^{* *}\right)=d$ and $\psi$ vanishes on $X$. Moreover, Goldstine's theorem says that the canonical image of the unit ball $B_{X^{*}}$ is $w^{*}$-dense in the unit ball $B_{X^{* * *}}$. Consequently, the values of $\psi$ at the finite number of points: $x^{* *}, x_{1}, \ldots, x_{k}$ may be approximated to within any positive number $\delta$ by a functional $y^{*} \in B_{X^{*}}\left(\hookrightarrow B_{X^{* * *}}\right)$. Taking $\delta<\varepsilon$ we get in this way a functional $y^{*} \in U$ satisfying $\left\langle y^{*}, x^{* *}\right\rangle>d-\delta$. Since $\delta>0$ may be arbitrarily small, our claim follows.

The following corollary results immediately from Lemma 9.5 and formula (9.5).
Corollary 9.6. Let $x^{* *} \in X^{* *}$ and $d=\operatorname{dist}\left(x^{* *}, X\right)$. Then, for every $U \in \mathcal{N}(0)$ we have $\sup x^{* *}(U) \geqslant d$ and for every $\delta>0$ there exists $U_{\delta} \in \mathcal{N}(0)$ such that $\sup x^{* *}(V)<d+\delta$ for every $V \in \mathcal{N}(0)$ with $V \subset U_{\delta}$.
Proof of assertion (ii). Assume that $A-\varepsilon-B_{X^{*}}$. Fix any $x^{* *} \in \bar{A}^{w *}$ and let $d=\operatorname{dist}\left(x^{* *}, X\right)$. We are to prove that $d \leqslant \varepsilon$. To this end we will construct two sequences, $\left(x_{m}\right)_{m=1}^{\infty} \subset A$ and $\left(x_{n}^{*}\right)_{n=1}^{\infty} \subset B_{X^{*}}$ such that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|\lim _{m \rightarrow \infty} \lim _{n \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle-\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim _{m \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle\right|=d \tag{9.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

whereas both of the two double limits above exist. Once this is done, the proof is completed, in view of the assumption.

Pick any $x_{1} \in A$ and let

$$
U\left(x_{1} ; 1\right)=\left\{y^{*} \in B_{X^{*}}:\left|\left\langle x_{1}, y^{*}\right\rangle\right|<1\right\} \in \mathcal{N}(0) .
$$

By Corollary 9.6, we may find $x_{1}^{*} \in U\left(x_{1} ; 1\right)$ such that $d-1 \leqslant\left\langle x_{1}^{*}, x^{* *}\right\rangle \leqslant d+1$. Now, pick $x_{2} \in A$ satisfying $\left|\left\langle x_{1}^{*}, x^{* *}-x_{2}\right\rangle\right|<1 / 2$ (this may be done, since $x^{* *} \in \bar{A}^{w *}$ ) and let

$$
U\left(x_{1}, x_{2} ; \frac{1}{2}\right)=\left\{y^{*} \in B_{X^{*}}:\left|\left\langle x_{j}, y^{*}\right\rangle\right|<\frac{1}{2} \text { for } j=1,2\right\} \in \mathcal{N}(0)
$$

Then, again by Corollary 9.6 , there is $x_{2}^{*} \in U\left(x_{1}, x_{2} ; 1 / 2\right)$ satisfying $d-1 / 2 \leqslant\left\langle x_{2}^{*}, x^{* *}\right\rangle \leqslant$ $d+1 / 2$. Continuing in this way we obtain sequences $\left(x_{m}\right)_{m=1}^{\infty} \subset A$ and $\left(x_{n}^{*}\right)_{n=1}^{\infty} \subset B_{X^{*}}$ which satisfy the following conditions:
(a) $\left|\left\langle x_{j}^{*}, x^{* *}-x_{m}\right\rangle\right|<\frac{1}{m}$ for each $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $j=1,2, \ldots, m-1$;
(b) $x_{n}^{*} \in U\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}, \frac{1}{n}\right)$, thus $\left|\left\langle x_{j}, x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle\right|<\frac{1}{n}$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $j=1,2, \ldots, n$;
(c) $d-\frac{1}{n} \leqslant\left\langle x_{n}^{*}, x^{* *}\right\rangle \leqslant d+\frac{1}{n}$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Consequently, condition (b) implies that $\lim _{m \rightarrow \infty} \lim _{n \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle=0$, whereas conditions (a) and (c) give $\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim _{m \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle=d$. Therefore, equality (9.6) is valid and the proof is completed.

We now proceed to the proof of assertion (iii) of Theorem 9.4 which involves the convex hull operation and requires a combinatorial insight. A family $\mathcal{G} \subset \mathcal{F}$ is called hereditary, provided that for every $G \in \mathcal{G}$ each subset of $G$ belongs to $\mathcal{G}$.

Lemma 9.7 (Pták's lemma, 1963). Let $\mathcal{G} \subset \mathcal{F N}$ be a hereditary family with the following property: There exists $\delta>0$ such that for every finite sequence $a_{1}, \ldots, a_{n}$ of non-negative numbers with $\sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{j}=1$ there is a set $G \in \mathcal{G}$ for which $\sum_{j \in G} a_{j} \geqslant \delta$. Then, there exists an infinite set $M \subset \mathbb{N}$ such that $\mathcal{F} M \subset \mathcal{G}$.

Proof. Define a non-negative function $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{G}}$ on $c_{00}$, the space of all finitely supported real sequences, by the formula

$$
\left\|\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} a_{j} e_{j}\right\|_{\mathcal{G}}=\sup \left\{\left|\sum_{j \in G} a_{j}\right|: G \in \mathcal{G}\right\} .
$$

Plainly, $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{G}}$ is homogeneous and satisfies the triangle inequality. Moreover, it easily follows from the assumption that $\mathcal{G}$ covers the whole of $\mathbb{N}$ and, being hereditary, contains all singletons. Therefore $\|x\|_{\mathcal{G}}$ is positive whenever $x \in c_{00}$ is non-zero, whence $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{G}}$ is a norm. Let $X$ be the completion of $\left(c_{00},\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{G}}\right)$.

Observe that for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and any scalars $a_{1}, \ldots, a_{n}$ we have

$$
\frac{\delta}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n}\left|a_{j}\right| \leqslant\left\|\sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{j} e_{j}\right\|_{\mathcal{G}} \leqslant \sum_{j=1}^{n}\left|a_{j}\right| .
$$

The right inequality is obvious, whereas the left one follows easily from the assumption. This means that the sequence $\left(e_{n}\right)_{n=1}^{\infty} \subset X$ is equivalent to the canonical basis of $\ell_{1}$ and there exists an isomorphism from $X$ onto $\ell_{1}$ that maps each of the vectors $e_{n}$ 's from $X$ to the corresponding canonical unit vector in $\ell_{1}$.

Notice that every set $G \in \mathcal{G}$ gives rise to a functional $\varphi_{G} \in X^{*}$ defined on the dense subspace $c_{00}$ of $X$ by the formula

$$
\varphi_{G}\left(\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} a_{j} e_{j}\right)=\sum_{j \in G} a_{j} .
$$

Of course, for each $G \in \mathcal{G}$ we have $\left\|\varphi_{G}\right\| \leqslant 1$ and the collection $\left\{\varphi_{G}: G \in \mathcal{G}\right\}$ is norming, that is, for every $x \in X$ we have $\|x\|=\sup \left\{\left|\varphi_{G}(x)\right|: G \in \mathcal{G}\right\}$. Let $K$ be the $w^{*}$ closure of the set of all $\varphi_{G}$ 's, for $G \in \mathcal{G}$. Then, $K$ is a compact Hausdorff space and the correspondence $X \ni x \mapsto f_{x} \in C(K)$, given by $f_{x}\left(\varphi_{G}\right)=\left\langle x, \varphi_{G}\right\rangle$, is an isometric embedding of $X$ into $C(K)$.

It is evident from the Hahn-Banach theorem that any subspace of a Banach space with a separable dual has also a separable dual. Hence, since $X \simeq \ell_{1}$ and $X$ embeds into
$C(K)$, the dual of $C(K)$ is non-separable. If $K$ was countable, then it would follows easily from the Riesz Representation Theorem that $C(K)^{*}$ is separable*.

Let $\psi$ be any functional from $K$; we may write it formally as $\psi=\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_{n} e_{n}^{*}$, where $c_{n}=\psi\left(e_{n}\right)$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Since $\psi$ lies in the weak* closure of the set $\left\{\varphi_{G}: G \in \mathcal{G}\right\}$, for every $\varepsilon>0$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$ there are infinitely many $G$ 's in $\mathcal{G}$ satisfying $\left|c_{j}-\varphi_{G}\left(e_{j}\right)\right|<\varepsilon$ for each $1 \leqslant j \leqslant n$. This, in particular, implies that for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we have $c_{n} \in\{0,1\}$ and the functional $\psi$ may be identified with a subset $H$ of $\mathbb{N}$ (consisting of all those $n \in \mathbb{N}$ for which $c_{n}=1$ ). Moreover, the set $H$ is the limit in the product (pointwise) topology of $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ of a sequence of some sets $G \in \mathcal{G}$. In other words, $K$ may be identified with the closure of $\mathcal{G}$ in the pointwise topology on $2^{\mathbb{N}}$. Since $K$ is uncountable, there exists an infinite set $M \subset \mathbb{N}$ which is a pointwise limit of elements from $\mathcal{G}$ and since $\mathcal{G}$ is hereditary, every finite subset of $M$ must belong to $\mathcal{G}$.

The assertion of Pták's lemma may be also formulated without assuming that the underlying family is hereditary. In fact, this is how we will use Pták's lemma in the proof of assertion (iii) of Theorem 9.4.

Lemma 9.8 ('Non-hereditary' version of Pták's lemma). Assume $\mathcal{G} \subset \mathcal{F} \mathbb{N}$ has the following property: There exists $\delta>0$ such that for every finite sequence $a_{1}, \ldots, a_{n}$ of non-negative numbers with $\sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{j}=1$ there is a set $G \in \mathcal{G}$ for which $\sum_{j \in G} a_{j} \geqslant \delta$. Then, there exists a strictly increasing sequence $H_{1} \subset H_{2} \subset \ldots$ of finite subsets of $\mathbb{N}$ and a sequence $\left(G_{n}\right)_{n=1}^{\infty} \subset \mathcal{G}$ such that $H_{n} \subset G_{n}$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Proof. Define $\widetilde{\mathcal{G}}=\{H \in \mathcal{F} \mathbb{N}: H \subset G$ for some $G \in \mathcal{G}\}$ and apply Pták's Lemma 9.7 to the (hereditary) family $\widetilde{\mathcal{G}}$ instead of $\mathcal{G}$.

Proof of assertion (iii). Pick a positive number $M$ such that $\|x\| \leqslant M$ for every $x \in A$. Let $\varepsilon>0$ and suppose that there exist two sequences: $\left(x_{m}\right)_{m=1}^{\infty} \subset \operatorname{conv}(A)$ and $\left(x_{n}^{*}\right)_{n=1}^{\infty} \subset$ $B_{X^{*}}$ satisfying

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|\lim _{m \rightarrow \infty} \lim _{n \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle-\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim _{m \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle\right|=\varepsilon \tag{9.7}
\end{equation*}
$$

Pick any $\beta \in(0, \varepsilon)$. We are going to construct a sequence $\left(t_{j}\right)_{j=1}^{\infty} \subset A$ and a subsequence $\left(x_{n_{k}}^{*}\right)_{k=1}^{\infty}$ of $\left(x_{n}^{*}\right)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ such that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|\lim _{j \rightarrow \infty} \lim _{k \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle t_{j}, x_{n_{k}}^{*}\right\rangle-\lim _{k \rightarrow \infty} \lim _{j \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle t_{j}, x_{n_{k}}^{*}\right\rangle\right| \geqslant \beta \tag{9.8}
\end{equation*}
$$

and then we will be done.

[^0]Let $x_{0}^{*} \in B_{X^{*}}$ be a $w^{*}$-cluster point of $\left(x_{n}^{*}\right)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ and let $A_{0} \subset A$ be a countable set such that $\left(x_{m}\right)_{m=1}^{\infty} \subset \operatorname{conv}\left(A_{0}\right)$. For any point $x \in X$ there is a subsequence of $\left(x_{n}^{*}\right)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ which converges at $x$ to $x_{0}^{*} x$. Using the diagonal procedure we may extract a common subsequence for all the elements of the countable set $A_{0} \cup\left\{x_{m}: m \in \mathbb{N}\right\}$. For simplicity, let us denote that subsequence again by $\left(x_{n}^{*}\right)_{n=1}^{\infty}$. Then, we have $x_{n}^{*} \rightarrow x_{0}^{*}$ pointwise on the set $A_{0} \cup\left\{x_{m}: m \in \mathbb{N}\right\}$.

Since $\lim _{n}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle=\left\langle x_{m}, x_{0}^{*}\right\rangle$, we may rewrite (9.7) as

$$
\sigma\left(\lim _{m \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{0}^{*}\right\rangle-\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim _{m \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle\right)=\varepsilon,
$$

with a suitable $\sigma \in\{-1,1\}$. Pick any $\delta>0$ (we shall impose an additional condition upon $\delta$ later); by deleting a finite number of $x_{n}^{*}$ 's we may assume that

$$
\sigma\left(\lim _{m \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{0}^{*}\right\rangle-\lim _{m \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle\right)>\varepsilon-\delta \quad \text { for each } n \in \mathbb{N}
$$

that is,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sigma \lim _{m \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{0}^{*}-x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle>\varepsilon-\delta \quad \text { for each } n \in \mathbb{N} \text {. } \tag{9.9}
\end{equation*}
$$

Now, let us give a heuristic argument in order to see in what way Pták's lemma might be used. Suppose we have found a sequence $\left(t_{j}\right)_{j=1}^{\infty}$ satisfying (9.8) and suppose that it is contained in $A_{0}$, just to make our life easier. Then for each $j \in \mathbb{N}$ we have $\lim _{k}\left\langle t_{j}, x_{n_{k}}^{*}\right\rangle=\left\langle t_{j}, x_{0}^{*}\right\rangle$, so (9.8) really means that $\lim _{k} \lim _{j}\left|\left\langle t_{j}, x_{0}^{*}-x_{n_{k}}^{*}\right\rangle\right| \geqslant \beta$. That would be true, if we had $\left|\left\langle t_{j}, x_{0}^{*}-x_{n_{k}}^{*}\right\rangle\right| \geqslant \beta$, for each $j \in \mathbb{N}$ and each $k=1, \ldots, j$. This observation suggests to define sets

$$
\Gamma(t)=\left\{n \in \mathbb{N}:\left|\left\langle t, x_{0}^{*}-x_{n}^{*}\right\rangle\right| \geqslant \beta\right\} \quad\left(t \in A_{0}\right) .
$$

At once, we may note that every $\Gamma(t)$ is a finite subset of $\mathbb{N}$, as $x_{n}^{*} \rightarrow x_{0}^{*}$ pointwise on $A_{0}$. If we could prove that the family $\mathcal{G}=\left\{\Gamma(t): t \in A_{0}\right\}$ satisfies the assumption of Pták's Lemma 9.8, then for some sequence $\left(t_{j}\right)_{j=1}^{\infty} \subset A_{0}$ and some natural numbers $n_{1}<n_{2}<\ldots$ we would have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left\{n_{1}, \ldots, n_{j}\right\} \subset \Gamma\left(t_{j}\right) \quad \text { for each } j \in \mathbb{N} . \tag{9.10}
\end{equation*}
$$

By extracting appropriate subsequences from $\left(t_{j}\right)_{j=1}^{\infty}$ and $\left(x_{n_{k}}^{*}\right)_{k=1}^{\infty}$ we could also assume that:

- $\lim _{j}\left\langle t_{j}, x_{0}^{*}-x_{n_{k}}^{*}\right\rangle$ exists for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$,
- $\lim _{k} \lim _{j}\left\langle t_{j}, x_{0}^{*}-x_{n_{k}}^{*}\right\rangle$ exists,
- $\lim _{j}\left\langle t_{j}, x_{0}^{*}\right\rangle$ exists,
and this would not influence the validity of (9.10). Having all these conditions, both of the two double limits in (9.8) exist and, as it was explained above, equality (9.8) holds true. So, what remains to be proved is that the family $\mathcal{G}$ satisfies the assumption of Pták's lemma with some number $\gamma>0$.

Suppose that no choice of $\gamma>0$ is possible. Then, for every $\gamma>0$ there is a sequence $a_{1}, \ldots, a_{N}$ of non-negative numbers with $\sum_{j=1}^{N} a_{j}=1$ and such that $\sum_{j \in G} a_{j}<\gamma$ for every $G \in \mathcal{G}$. Define

$$
x^{*}=\sum_{j=1}^{N} a_{j}\left(x_{0}^{*}-x_{j}^{*}\right) \in 2 B_{X^{*}} .
$$

For every $t \in A_{0}$ we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left|\left\langle t, x^{*}\right\rangle\right| & =\left|\sum_{j=1}^{N} a_{j}\left\langle t, x_{0}^{*}-x_{j}^{*}\right\rangle\right| \\
& \leqslant \sum_{\substack{1 \leqslant j \leqslant N \\
j \in \Gamma(t)}} a_{j} \underbrace{\left|\left\langle t, x_{0}^{*}-x_{j}^{*}\right\rangle\right|}_{\leqslant 2\|t\| \leqslant 2 M}+\sum_{\substack{1 \leqslant j \leqslant N \\
j \notin \Gamma(t)}} a_{j}\left|\left\langle t, x_{0}^{*}-x_{j}^{*}\right\rangle\right| \leqslant 2 M \gamma+\beta .
\end{aligned}
$$

Since $\left(x_{m}\right)_{m=1}^{\infty} \subset \operatorname{conv}\left(A_{0}\right)$, we have also $\left|\left\langle x_{m}, x^{*}\right\rangle\right| \leqslant 2 M \gamma+\beta$ for each $m \in \mathbb{N}$. Therefore, in view of (9.9), we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
2 M \gamma+\beta & \geqslant \lim _{m \rightarrow \infty}\left|\left\langle x_{m}, x^{*}\right\rangle\right|=\left|\sum_{j=1}^{N} a_{j} \lim _{m \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{0}^{*}-x_{j}^{*}\right\rangle\right| \\
& =\sigma \sum_{j=1}^{N} a_{j} \lim _{m \rightarrow \infty}\left\langle x_{m}, x_{0}^{*}-x_{j}^{*}\right\rangle>\varepsilon-\delta
\end{aligned}
$$

Consequently, the supposition that $\mathcal{G}$ does not satisfy the assumption of Pták's lemma leads to the conclusion $\delta+2 M \gamma>\varepsilon-\beta$. However, for any $\beta<\varepsilon$ we may choose $\delta>0$ and $\gamma>0$ so small that $\delta+2 M \gamma<\varepsilon-\beta$.


[^0]:    ${ }^{\star}$ Suppose $K$ is a countable compact Hausdorff space. Then, for every $(x, y) \in K \times K$ with $x \neq y$ the set $H_{x, y}=\{f \in C(K): f(x)=f(y)\}$ is the kernel of the non-zero functional $C(K) \ni f \mapsto f(x)-f(y)$, so it is a closed, one-codimensional hyperplane. By the Baire Category Theorem, the union $\bigcup_{(x, y) \in K \times K, x \neq y} H_{x, y}$ is a meagre subset of $C(K)$, thus there is some function $f \in C(K)$ that belongs to none of $H_{x, y}$ 's. In other words, $f$ is a one-to-one continuous map from $K$ into $\mathbb{R}$ and therefore it gives rise to a metric on $K$, consistent with the original topology. We have thus proved that every countable compact Hausdorff space is metrisable. With no much extra effort it may be also shown that every such space is scattered, that is, every its non-empty closed subset has an isolated point (see [FHH10, Lemma 14.21]). Moreover, according to Rudin's theorem [FHH10, Theorem 14.24], for every scattered compact Hausdorff space $K$ the dual of $C(K)$ is isometrically isomorphic to $\ell_{1}(\Gamma)$ for some index set $\Gamma$ and $C(K)^{*} \simeq \ell_{1}$ whenever $K$ is countable.

    Considering the set $\left\{\delta_{t}: t \in K\right\} \subset C(K)^{*}$ of all Dirac's measures, it is easy to see that $C(K)^{*}$ is non-separable whenever $K$ is uncountable. Consequently, the dual of $C(K)$ is separable if, and only if, $K$ is countable and in every such case (except finite-dimensional spaces) $C(K)^{*}$ is isometric to $\ell_{1}$.

