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**K.A. Eftekharinasab**, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4604-3220>

Institute of Mathematics of the NAS of Ukraine, Kyiv  
E-mail: kaveh@imath.kiev.ua

## A multiplicity theorem for Fréchet spaces

*Presented by Corresponding Member of the NAS of Ukraine S.I. Maksymenko*

*This note serves to announce a multiplicity result for Keller  $C_c^1$ -functionals on Fréchet spaces which are invariant under the action of a discrete subgroup. For such functionals, we evaluate the minimal number of critical points by applying the Lyusternik–Schnirelmann category.*

**Keywords:** *Fréchet spaces, Lyusternik–Schnirelmann category, Palais–Smale condition, discrete group action.*

We consider a multiplicity problem, namely evaluating the minimal number of the critical orbits of a functional  $f : F \rightarrow R$  which is invariant under the action of a discrete subgroup  $G$  of a Fréchet spaces  $F$ . In [1], it was proved that if a functional  $f : F \rightarrow R$  of the Keller class  $C_c^1$  is bounded from below and satisfies the Palais–Smale condition at the level  $c = \inf f$ , then  $c$  is a critical value for  $f$ . Our goal is to significantly improve this result. To this end, we consider functionals which are invariant under a discrete subgroup action. To evaluate the minimal numbers of critical points of such functionals, we employ the Lyusternik–Schnirelmann method.

**1. A compactness condition.** The initial point of our approach is to introduce a compactness condition of the Palais–Smale type for  $G$ -invariant functionals.

We denote by  $F$  a Fréchet space whose topology is defined by an increasing sequence of seminorms  $(\|\cdot\|_n)$ . Moreover, the complete translation-invariant metric

$$d(x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n} \frac{\|x - y\|_n}{1 + \|x - y\|_n}$$

induces the same topology on  $F$ . We denote by  $B(x, r)$  an open ball with center  $x$  and radius  $r > 0$  with respect to this metric.

In what follows, we consider only Fréchet spaces over the field  $R$  of real numbers. Let  $E$  be another Fréchet space,  $C(E, F)$  the set of all continuous linear mappings from  $E$  to  $F$ . A bornology  $\beta_E$  on  $E$  is a covering of  $E$  satisfying the following:

1.  $\beta_E$  is stable under finite unions;
2. if  $A \subseteq \beta_E$  and  $B \subseteq A$ , then  $B \subseteq \beta_E$ .

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The compact bornology on  $E$  is the family  $\beta_{EC}$  of relatively compact subsets of  $E$  having the set of all compact subsets of  $F$  as a base, in the sense that every  $B \in \beta_{EC}$  is contained in some compact set. We endow the vector space  $C(E, F)$  with the  $\beta_{EC}$ -topology which is the topology of uniform convergence on all compact subsets of  $E$ . This is a Hausdorff locally convex topology which can be defined by the family of all seminorms obtained as follows:

$$\|L\|_{B,n} = \sup\{\|L(e)\|_n : e \in B\}$$

where  $B \in \beta_{EC}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $U$  be an open subset of  $E$  and  $f : E \rightarrow F$  be a mapping. If the directional derivatives

$$f(x)h = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+th) - f(x)}{t}$$

exist for all  $x \in U$  and all  $h \in E$ , and the induced map  $df : U \rightarrow C(E, F)$  is continuous for all  $x \in U$ , then we say that  $f$  is a Keller  $C_c^1$ -mapping (see [2]).

Let  $\mathbf{L}$  be a topological group with the identity element  $\mathbf{e}$ . A continuous action of  $\mathbf{L}$  on  $F$  is a mapping  $A : \mathbf{L} \times F \rightarrow F$ ,  $A(l, m)$  written as  $l \cdot m$ , such that  $\mathbf{e} \cdot m = m$  and  $(l_1 * l_2) \cdot m = l_1 \cdot (l_2 \cdot m)$  for all  $l_1, l_2 \in \mathbf{L}$  and all  $m \in F$  (here,  $*$  denotes the operation of  $\mathbf{L}$ ). A set  $A \subseteq F$  is called  $\mathbf{L}$ -invariant, if  $l \cdot m \in A$  for all  $m \in A$  and all  $l \in \mathbf{L}$ . A functional  $f : F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is called  $\mathbf{L}$ -invariant, if  $f(l \cdot m) = f(m)$  for all  $l \in \mathbf{L}$  and  $m \in F$ . A mapping  $h : F \rightarrow F$  is called  $\mathbf{L}$ -equivalent, if  $h(l \cdot m) = l \cdot h(m)$  for all  $m \in F$  and all  $l \in \mathbf{L}$ . Let  $G$  be a discrete subgroup of a Fréchet space  $F$ , and let  $q : F \rightarrow F/G$  be the canonical surjection. A subset  $A \subseteq F$  is called  $q$ -saturated, if  $A = q^{-1} \circ q(A)$ . Suppose the space  $F_1$  generated by  $G$  has the dimension  $n$ . Let  $F_2$  be a topological complement of  $F_1$ , such that  $F$  is isomorphic to  $F_1 \times F_2$ . Let  $\mathbf{T}^n$  be the  $n$ -torus, then  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}^n$  and  $q(F) \cong \mathbb{Z}^n \times F_2$ . Let  $c$  be critical point of  $f$ . We call the set  $q^{-1}(q(c))$  consisting of the critical points of  $f$ , a critical orbit of  $f$  through  $c$ .

**Definition 1.** Let  $f : F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a  $G$ -invariant functional of the Keller class  $C_c^1$ . We say that  $f$  satisfies the Palais–Smale condition,  $PS_G$ -condition for short, if, for every sequence  $(x_n) \subset F$  for which  $f(x_n)$  is bounded and  $f'(x) \rightarrow 0$ , the sequence  $q(x_n)$  contains a convergent subsequence.

**2. A multiplicity theorem.** To locate critical points, we will apply the strong version of the Ekeland variational principle (see [3]). It states the existence of a certain minimizing sequence on a complete metric space along which we reach the infimum value of the minimization problem.

The Lusternik–Schnirelmann category  $Cat_T A$  of a subset  $A$  of a topological space  $T$  is the minimal number of closed sets that cover  $A$  and each of which is contractible to a point in  $T$ . If  $Cat_T A$  is not finite, we write  $Cat_T A = \infty$ . Let  $Co(F)$  be the set of compact subsets of  $F$ . Define the sets

$$A_i = \{A \subset F : A \in Co(F), Cat_{q(F)} q(A) \geq i\}.$$

From [4, Proposition 2.2], it follows that each  $A_i$  is a deformation invariant class of subsets of  $F$ . The  $i$ -th Lusternik–Schnirelmann minimax value of  $f$  is defined by

$$\mu_i = \inf_{A \in A_i} \sup_{x \in A} f(x).$$

The proofs of the following two lemmas are based on the standard arguments, see, for example [4, Lemma 3.2, Lemma 3.3]. Let  $CB(F)$  be the family of all nonempty closed and bounded subsets of  $F$ . We define the Hausdorff metric on  $CB(F)$  by

$$d_H(A, B) = \max \left\{ \sup_{a \in A} d(a, B), \sup_{b \in B} d(b, A) \right\}.$$

**Lemma 1.** *The space  $(A_i, d_H)$  is a complete metric space.*

**Proof.** The space  $(CB(F), d_H)$  is complete since  $F$  is complete (cf. [5]). Thus, we only need to prove that  $A_i$  is closed in  $CB(F)$ . Let  $(A_k) \subset A_i$ . Suppose  $A \in CB(F)$  and  $d_H(A_k, A) \rightarrow 0$ . By [6, Corollary 1.2.13] and [6, Proposition 1.2.14], the space  $q(F) \simeq \mathbf{T}^n \times F_2 \simeq (\mathbf{S}^1)^n \times F_2$  is an ANR. So, by [7, Theorem 6.3], there exists a closed neighborhood  $U$  of  $A$  such that  $\text{Cat}_{q(F)}(q(A)) = \text{Cat}_{q(F)}U$ . As  $q^{-1}(U)$  is a closed neighborhood of the compact set  $A$ , there exists  $k$  such that  $A_k \subset U$ . Thereby,  $\text{Cat}_{q(F)}(q(A)) = \text{Cat}_{q(F)}U \geq \text{Cat}_{q(F)}(q(A_k)) \geq i$ . Therefore  $A \in A_i$ .

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $f : F \rightarrow R$  be a  $G$ -invariant functional of the Keller class  $C_c^1$ . Then, the function  $\Psi : A_i \rightarrow R$  defined by  $\Psi(A) = \max_{x \in A} f(x)$  is lower semicontinuous.*

**Proof.** Let  $(B_k) \subset A_i$ . Suppose  $B \in A_i$  and  $d_H(B_k, B) \rightarrow 0$ . For each  $x_0 \in B$ , there exists a sequence  $(x_j) \subset B_k$  such that  $x_j \rightarrow x_0$ . Thus,

$$f(x_0) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} f(x_j) \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \Psi(B_k)$$

and, as  $x_0 \in B$  is arbitrary, we have  $\Psi(B) \leq \varliminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \Psi(B_k)$ .

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $G$  be a discrete subgroup of a Fréchet spaces  $F$ . Assume that the dimension of the space generated by  $G$  is a finite number  $n$ . Let  $f : F \rightarrow R$  be a  $G$ -invariant functional of the Keller class  $C_c^1$ . If  $f$  is bounded from below and satisfies the Palais–Smale condition, then  $f$  has  $n + 1$  critical orbits.*

**Proof.** Consider the increasing sequence of the Lyusternik–Schnirelmann minimax values  $\mu_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n + 1$ . Define the sets

$$S_{\mu_i} = \{x \in F : f'(x) = 0, f(x) = \mu_i\}.$$

We claim that if  $\mu_i = \mu_k = \mu$  for some  $k, i \leq k \leq n + 1$ , then  $S_{\mu_i}$  contains  $k - i + 1$  critical orbits. This concludes the proof of the theorem.

We prove the claim by contradiction. Suppose that  $S_{\mu}$  contains  $m$  distinct critical orbits  $q(x_1), \dots, q(x_m)$  and  $m \leq k - 1$ . Pick the positive number  $r_0$  so that, on the balls  $B(x_j, 2r_0)$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq m$  the canonical surjection  $q$  is injective. Define the set

$$B_{r_0} = \bigcup_{j=1}^m \bigcup_{g \in G} B(x_j + g, r).$$

We show that there exists  $\varepsilon$ ,  $0 < \varepsilon^2 < r_0^2$  such that

$$\|f'(x)\|_B > \varepsilon, \quad \forall B \in \beta_{FC} \tag{1}$$

if  $x \in f^{-1}([\mu - \varepsilon^2, \mu + \varepsilon^2]) \setminus B_{r_0}$ . Because, if (1) is not valid, then there exists a sequence  $(x_j) \subset F \setminus B_{r_0}$  such that

$$|f(x_j)| \leq \mu + 1/j \quad \text{and} \quad \|f'(x)\|_{B,n} \leq 1/j, \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, B \in \beta_{FC}.$$

Since  $f$  satisfies the  $\text{PS}_G$ -condition, we may assume that  $q(x_j) \rightarrow q(\bar{x})$  for some  $\bar{x} \in F$ . Since  $f$  and  $f'$  are  $G$ -invariant, we may suppose that  $x_j \in [0, 1]^n \times F_2$ .

Whence,  $x_j \rightarrow \bar{x}$  yields  $\bar{x} \in F \setminus B_{r_0}$  and  $f(\bar{x}) = \mu$  and  $f'(\bar{x}) = 0$  which is impossible, because  $B_{r_0}$  is a neighborhood of  $S_\mu$ . There exists  $A \in A_i$  such that

$$\Psi(A) = \max_A f \leq \mu + \varepsilon^2.$$

This is achievable by the definition of  $\mu_k$ . Let  $A_0 = A \setminus B_{2r_0}$ . By [4, Proposition 2.2], we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} k &\leq \text{cat}_{q(F)} q(A) \leq \text{cat}_{q(F)} (q(A_0) \cup q(B_{2r_0})) \leq \text{cat}_{q(F)} q(A_0) + \text{cat}_{q(F)} q(B_{2r_0}) \leq \\ &\leq \text{cat}_{q(F)} q(A_0) + m \leq \text{cat}_{q(F)} q(A_0) + k - i. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $A_0 \in A_i$ . By Lemma 1, the space  $(A_i, d_H)$  is complete. Also, by Lemma 2, the function  $\Psi : A_i \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is lower semicontinuous. So, we can employ the Ekeland variational theorem [3, Theorem 4.7]. By the latter theorem, there exists  $C \in A_i$  such that

$$(P1) \quad \Psi(C) \leq \Psi(A_0) \leq \Psi(A) \leq \mu + \varepsilon^2,$$

$$(P2) \quad d_H(C, A_0) \leq \varepsilon,$$

$$(P3) \quad \Psi(S) > \Psi(C) - \varepsilon d_H(C, S), \quad \forall S \in A_i, S \neq C.$$

As  $A_0 \cap B_{2r_0} = \emptyset$  and  $d_H(C, A_0) \leq \varepsilon \leq r_0$ , then  $A \cap B_{2r_0} = \emptyset$ . Also, the set  $D = \{s \in C : \mu - \varepsilon^2 \leq f(s)\}$  is a subset of  $f^{-1}([\mu - \varepsilon^2, \mu + \varepsilon^2]) \setminus B_{r_0}$ . The set  $D$  is closed and, as  $f$  is continuous, then it is compact. By (3) for each  $y \in D$ , there exists  $h_{B,y} \in B$  such that

$$\langle f'(y), h_{B,y} \rangle < -\varepsilon. \tag{2}$$

Since  $f'$  is continuous, it follows from (2) that there exists  $r_y > 0$  such that, for all  $g \in G$  and all  $h \in F$  with  $\|h\|_n < r_y$ , we have

$$\langle f'(y + g + h), h_{B,y} \rangle < -\varepsilon.$$

Since  $D$  is compact, we can find a subcovering  $D_1, \dots, D_p$  defined by

$$D_i = B(y_i, r_{y_i}).$$

Define the functions  $\Phi_i : F \rightarrow [0, 1]$  by

$$\Phi_i(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\sum_{g \in G} d(x+g, \mathbb{C}D_i)}{\sum_{k=1}^p \sum_{g \in G} d(x+g, \mathbb{C}D_k)}, & x \in \bigcup_{j=1}^p D_j, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Fix a  $G$ -invariant continuous function  $\Phi : F \rightarrow [0, 1]$  such that

$$\phi(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & \mu \leq f(x), \\ 0, & f(x) \leq \mu - \varepsilon^2. \end{cases}$$

Let  $r_{\min} = \min_{1 \leq i \leq p} r_{y_i}$ . Define the continuous curve  $\lambda : [0, 1] \times F \rightarrow F$

$$\lambda(t, x) = x + tr_{\min} \phi(x) \sum_{i=1}^p \Psi_i(x)(h_{B, y_i}).$$

For all  $x \in F$ , all  $g \in G$  and all  $t \in [0, 1]$ , we have  $\lambda(t, x+g) = \lambda(t, x) + g$ .

It follows from [4, Proposition 2.2] that  $\text{cat}_{q(F)}(q(\lambda(1, C))) \geq \text{cat}_{q(F)}(q(C)) \geq i$ , whence, as  $\lambda(1, C)$  is compact,  $\lambda(1, C) \in A_i$ . By the mean-value theorem (see [2]) and (P3) for each  $y \in D$ , there is  $T \in (0, 1)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} f(\lambda(1, C)) - f(x) &= \left\langle f'(\lambda(T, C)), r_{\min} \Phi(x) \sum_{i=1}^p \Psi_i(x)(h_{B, y_i}) \right\rangle = \\ &= r_{\min} \Phi(x) \sum_{i=1}^p \Psi_i(x) \left\langle f' \left( x + Tr_{\min} \Phi(x) \sum_{i=1}^p \Psi_i(x)(h_{B, y_i}) \right), h_{B, y_i} \right\rangle \leq \\ &\leq -\varepsilon r_{\min} \Phi(x). \end{aligned}$$

If  $x \in D$ , then  $\Phi(x) = 0$  and  $f(\lambda(1, x)) = f(x)$ .

Let  $y_0 \in C$  so that  $f(\lambda(1, y_0)) = \psi(D)$ . Then,  $\mu \leq f(\lambda(1, y_0)) - f(y_0) \leq -\varepsilon r_{\min}$ . So,  $y_0 \in D$  and  $\Phi(y_0) = 1$  which imply that  $f(\lambda(1, y_0)) - f(y_0) \leq -\varepsilon r_{\min}$ . Therefore,

$$\psi(S) + \varepsilon d_H(C, S) \leq \psi(C).$$

However,  $d_H(C, S) \leq r_{\min}$  by the definition of  $S$ . Hence,  $\psi(S) + \varepsilon d_H(C, S) \leq \psi(C)$  which contradicts (P3) and concludes the proof.

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*K.A. Eftekharinasab*, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4604-3220>

Інститут математики НАН України, Київ

E-mail: kaveh@imath.kiev.ua

ТЕОРЕМА КРАТНОСТІ ДЛЯ ПРОСТОРІВ ФРЕШЕ

У статті сформульовано теорему кратності для функціоналів з класу Келлера  $C_c^1$  на просторах Фреше. Для таких функціоналів ми даємо мінімальну кількість критичних точок, застосовуючи категорію Люстєрніка–Шнірельмана.

**Ключові слова:** простори Фреше, категорія Люстєрніка–Шнірельмана, умова Палаїса–Смейла, дія дискретної групи.