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*Simultaneous Lipschitz Extensions (Part I).*

A subspace  $S$  of a metric space  $(M, d)$  admits a simultaneous Lipschitz extension, if there is a linear continuous operator  $E : Lip(S) \rightarrow Lip(M)$  such that  $Ef|_S = f$ . Set  $\lambda(S, M) := \inf \|E\|$  and  $\lambda(M) := \sup_{S \subset M} \lambda(S, M)$ .

Question. What geometric properties of  $M$  imply finiteness of  $\lambda(M)$ .

We present several basic results which give an answer to this question for a wide range of metric spaces of various nature. These include metric trees of arbitrary cardinality, groups of polynomial growth, Gromov-hyperbolic groups, certain classes of Riemannian manifolds of bounded geometry and the finite direct sums of arbitrary combinations of these objects. On the other hand we construct an example of a two-dimensional Riemannian manifold  $M$  of bounded geometry for which  $\lambda(M) = \infty$ .

Our results are valid also for Banach-valued Lipschitz functions.

The results are obtained in collaboration with Yu. Brudnyi. (Received September 18, 2005)