

## *On minimality and $l^p$ -complemented subspaces of Orlicz function spaces*

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**ABSTRACT.** Several properties of the class of minimal Orlicz function spaces  $L^F$  are described. In particular, an explicitly defined class of non-trivial minimal functions is showed, which provides concrete examples of Orlicz spaces without complemented copies of  $l^p$ -spaces.

A classical topic in Banach spaces is the study of the existence of  $l^p$ -complemented subspaces. It is well-known that from the existence of  $l^p$ -subspaces in a Banach space  $E$  does not follow that  $E$  contains a *complemented* copy of some  $l^p$ -space ( $1 < p < \infty$ ). This happens even when we restrict ourselves to reflexive Banach lattices  $E$ . The natural counter-examples for this are inside the class of minimal Orlicz sequence spaces studied by Lindenstrauss and Tzafriri ([L-T<sub>1</sub>], [L-T<sub>2</sub>], [L-T<sub>3</sub>] pp. 164):

**Theorem 1.** *Given  $1 < \alpha \leq \beta < \infty$  arbitrary. There exists a minimal Orlicz sequence space  $l^F$  with indices  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  which does not have any complemented subspace isomorphic to  $l^p$  for  $p \geq 1$ , in spite of the fact that  $l^F$  contains isomorphic copies of  $l^p$  for any  $\alpha \leq p \leq \beta$ .*

Recall that an Orlicz function  $F$  is *minimal* at 0 ([L-T<sub>1</sub>]) if for every function  $G \in E_{F,1}$  it happens that  $E_{G,1} = E_{F,1}$  where  $E_{F,1}$  is the compact set  $E_{F,1} = \{F(\lambda t)/F(\lambda): 0 < \lambda \leq 1\}$  in  $C[0,1]$ . The existence of minimal functions at 0 (different of the multiplicative ones  $l^p$   $1 < p < \infty$ ) is proved by means of Zorn Lemma.

The examples given in ([L-T<sub>1</sub>], [L-T<sub>2</sub>]) of minimal functions are not explicitly defined in terms of elementary functions. In fact, all minimal functions are obtained, up to equivalence, via the method of constructing Orlicz functions  $F_\rho$  associated to 0-1 valued sequences  $\rho = (\rho(n))_{n=1}^\infty$ . This method due also

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to Lindenstrauss and Tzafriri ([L-T<sub>2</sub>], [L-T<sub>3</sub>] pp. 161), is a useful technique but rather sophisticated and uneasy to handle.

One of the goals of this lecture, which collects several results in [H-R.S<sub>1</sub>] and [H-R.S<sub>2</sub>], is to present a suitable class of minimal Orlicz spaces for which the minimal functions are *explicitly* defined. As far as we know these functions are the first examples of non-trivial minimal functions defined in a elementary form and without appealing to the above mentioned 0-1 valued sequence method.

We refer to ([L-T<sub>3</sub>], [L-T<sub>4</sub>]) for the definitions and terminology used on Orlicz and Banach spaces.

The class of *minimal Orlicz function spaces*  $L^F(\mu)$  was introduced by V. Peirats and the first named author in [H-P<sub>1</sub>], showing the existence of reflexive function spaces  $L^F(\mu)$  without any complemented copy of  $l^p$  for any  $p \neq 2$ . (The Rademacher functions span a complemented subspace isomorphic to  $l^2$ ).

Recall that a function  $F$  is *minimal at  $\infty$*  ([H-P<sub>1</sub>]) if  $E_{F,1}^\infty = E_{G,1}^\infty$  for every function  $G \in E_{F,1}^\infty$ , where  $E_{F,1}^\infty$  is the compact subset of the continuous function space  $C[0,\infty)$  defined by

$$E_{F,1}^\infty = \overline{\left\{ \frac{F(\lambda t)}{F(t)} : \lambda \geq 1 \right\}}$$

This notion of minimality at  $\infty$  is slightly stronger than the minimality at 0. Fixed a minimal function  $M$  at 0 it is always possible to find a minimal function  $F$  at  $\infty$  in such a way that its restriction to the  $[0,1]$  interval coincides with the function  $M$ .

Minimal function spaces  $L^F(\mu)$  have several interesting properties (see [H-P<sub>2</sub>], [H-P<sub>3</sub>], [P]). For instance, a minimal space  $L^F(0,1)$  contains always a complemented copy of the sequence space  $l^F$ , and moreover the projection from  $L^F(0,1)$  on  $l^F$  is contractive. Also it holds that the associated indices to  $F$  at 0 and at  $\infty$  are the same, i.e.  $\alpha_F^\infty = \alpha_F$  and  $\beta_F^\infty = \beta_F$ .

The following result was proved in [H-P<sub>1</sub>] for the cases of indices placed on the same side of 2. Afterwards in [H-R.S<sub>1</sub>] this restriction was removed:

**Theorem 2.** *Given  $1 < \alpha \leq \beta < \infty$  arbitrary. There exists a minimal Orlicz function space  $L^F(0,1)$  with indices  $\alpha_F^\infty = \alpha$  and  $\beta_F^\infty = \beta$  which does not have any complemented subspace isomorphic to  $l^p$  for any  $p \neq 2$ .*

The proof of this result makes basically use of the fact that a minimal Orlicz function space  $L^F(0,1)$  contains a complemented copy of  $l^p$  for  $p \neq 2$  if and only if the minimal Orlicz sequence space  $l^F$  does the same.

We shall show here that inside the suitable class of explicit minimal functions there are concrete examples of Orlicz (function and sequence) spaces without complemented copies of  $l^p$ -spaces.

Before going further, we would like to offer the motivation for the appearance of this class of functions and some related questions:

W. Johnson, B. Maurey, G. Schechtman and L. Tzafriri in ([J-M-S-T] pp. 235) consider the function  $F(t) = t^p \exp(f(\log t))$  for  $p > 1$  where  $f$  is defined by

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( 1 - \cos \frac{\pi x}{2^k} \right),$$

obtaining that the associated Orlicz function spaces  $L^F(0,1)$  and  $L^F(0,\infty)$  are isomorphic spaces. This gave a counterexample to a Mityagin's conjecture ([M]) saying that any Orlicz space (and more generally any symmetric space) with the above property has to be necessarily an  $L^p$ -space, ( $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ ). Before that, Nielsen in [N] had proved that the Mityagin conjecture is true for the restricted class of Orlicz functions with slowly variation at  $\infty$ .

In ([N] pp. 256) it appears also the question whether the fact that two Orlicz function spaces  $L^G(0,\infty)$  and  $L^F(0,\infty)$  are isomorphic implies that the corresponding Orlicz sequence spaces  $l^F$  and  $l^G$  have to be also isomorphic (or even more, the same space). A counterexample to this is obtained by considering the above Johnson et al. function  $F$  and as  $G$  the function defined by

$$G(t) = \begin{cases} t^2 & \text{if } 0 \leq t \leq 1 \\ 2F(t) - 1 & \text{if } t > 1 \end{cases}$$

Then, using ([J-M-S-T], pp. 216), we have that

$$L^F(0,\infty) \approx L^F(0,1) \approx L^G(0,\infty),$$

but  $l^F$  and  $l^G$  are clearly not isomorphic.

When we restrict to minimal functions the above question has a positive answer:

**Proposition 3.** *If  $L^F(0,\infty)$  and  $L^G(0,\infty)$  are isomorphic for  $F$  and  $G$  minimal functions then  $l^F$  and  $l^G$  are also isomorphic.*

We present now the class of explicit minimal spaces. (In particular we get that the Johnson et al. function is minimal):

**Theorem 4.** *Given  $p > 1$  and  $q$  arbitrary. If  $F_{p,q}$  is the function  $F_{p,q}(0) = 0$  and*

$$F_{p,q}(t) = t^p \exp(qf(\log t)) \quad \text{if } t > 0,$$

then  $L^{F_{p,q}}(\mu)$  is a minimal Orlicz space.

**Sketch of the Proof:** First notice that for  $q=0$  we get the  $L^p$ -spaces, so the result is obvious.

Let us consider  $F_{p,q} \equiv F$  for  $q \neq 0$ . If  $G \in E_{F,1}^\infty$  and  $G$  is not equivalent to  $F$ , there exists a sequence  $(s_n)_{n \rightarrow \infty}$ , such that

$$G(t) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F(e^{s_n t})}{F(e^{s_n})} = t^p e^{g(\log t)}$$

uniformly on the compact subsets of  $[0, \infty)$  and where the function  $g$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} g(x) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} [f(s_n + x) - f(s_n)] \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( \cos \frac{\pi s_n}{2^k} - \cos \frac{\pi(x + s_n)}{2^k} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Now for each  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  we can take an scalar  $0 \leq s_n^{(m)} \leq 2^{m+1}$  with  $s_n \equiv s_n^{(m)} \pmod{2^{m+1}}$ . So, there exists a subsequence converging to a  $\sigma_m \in [0, 2^{m+1}]$ . Thus, using the Cantor Diagonal method, we obtain a subsequence, denoted also by  $(s_n)$ , such that  $s_n^{(m)} \rightarrow \sigma_m$  and  $0 \leq \sigma_m \leq 2^{m+1}$  for each  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Using the uniform convergence it can be deduced the following expression for the function  $g$ :

$$g(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( \cos \frac{\pi \sigma_k}{2^k} - \cos \frac{\pi(x + \sigma_k)}{2^k} \right).$$

Now it rests to show that the function  $F \in E_{G,1}^\infty$ . By considering the sequence  $(r_n) = (2^{n+1} - \sigma_n)$  and the uniform convergence, it is found out that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(r_n + x) - g(r_n) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( 1 - \cos \frac{\pi x}{2^k} \right) = f(x)$$

So

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{G(e^{r_n t})}{G(e^{r_n})} = t^p e^{f(\log t)} = F(t)$$

and  $F \in E_{G,1}^\infty$ . This implies that  $E_{F,1}^\infty \subset E_{G,1}^\infty \subset E_{F,1}^\infty$ , and  $F$  is minimal at  $\infty$ .  
 q.e.d.

A direct consequence is that the sequence spaces  $l^{p,q}$  are also minimal spaces (As far as we know the first examples defined explicitly).

More properties of this class of minimal spaces are the following:

**Proposition 5.** *Fixed  $p > 1$ . For any  $q$  it holds that:*

- (a) *The associated indices at 0 and at  $\infty$  to the function  $F_{p,q}$  are equal to  $p$ .*
- (b) *The spaces  $L^{F_{p,q}}(0,1)$  and  $L^{F_{p,q}}(0,\infty)$  are Riesz-isomorphic.*
- (c) *Two spaces  $L^{F_{p,r}}$  and  $L^{F_{p,q}}$  are isomorphic if and only if  $q=r$ .*

The proof of (b) is analogous to ([J-M-S-T], pp. 236): The function  $F_{p,q} \equiv F$  is such that there exists a constant  $K > 0$  and an increasing sequence  $(r_n)$  with

$$\sum \frac{1}{F(r_n)} = 1 \text{ and } K^{-1}F(t) \leq \frac{F(r_n t)}{F(r_n)} \leq KF(t)$$

for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $0 \leq t < \infty$ . Now, let us consider a disjoint interval sequence  $(A_n)$  in  $(0,1)$  with measure  $\mu(A_n) = \frac{1}{F(r_n)}$  and  $\varphi_n$  the increasing affine mapping from  $A_n$  onto  $[n, n+1)$ . Then the operator  $T: L^F(0,\infty) \rightarrow L^F(0,1)$  defined by

$$T(f) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} r_n \chi_{A_n} f(\varphi_n)$$

is a Riesz-isomorphism.

The statement (c) is obtained using the uniqueness of the symmetric structure for reflexive Orlicz function spaces ([J-M-S-T]) and the fact that the function  $f(x)$  is not bounded at  $\pm \infty$ .

We pass now to study the embedding of  $l^p$  as a complemented subspace into the spaces  $L^{F_{p,q}}$ . It is still unknown a characterization of when an Orlicz (sequence or function) space contains a complemented copy of  $l^p$ . However there exist some necessary or sufficient conditions (see [L-T<sub>3</sub>], [K], [L], [H-P<sub>2</sub>]).

The following definition is an extension to the function space case of the Lindenstrauss and Tzafriri's one given for the Orlicz sequence space setting:

Fixed  $\sigma > 0$ , the function  $l^p$  is called  $\sigma$ -strongly non-equivalent to  $E_{F,1}^\infty$  if there exist two sequences of numbers  $(K_n)$  and integers  $(m_n)$ , so that for  $n \rightarrow \infty$   $K_n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $m_n = o(K_n^\sigma)$ ; and  $m_n$ -points  $t_i \in (0,1)$  such that for every  $\lambda \in [\max t_i^{-1}, \infty)$  there is at least one index  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m_n$ , for which

$$\frac{F(\lambda_j)}{F(\lambda)^{p_j}} \notin \left[ \frac{1}{K_n}, K_n \right]$$

For reflexive function spaces the above condition gives an useful criterion:

**Theorem 6.** *Given a reflexive space  $L^F(0,1)$  and  $p \neq 2$ . If  $l^p$  is  $\sigma$ -strongly non-equivalent to  $E_{F,1}^\infty$  for some  $\sigma < \frac{1}{\beta_F^\infty}$ , then  $L^F(0,1)$  does not contain a complemented copy of  $l^p$ .*

The proof of this result has two different parts. The first step is to show using the techniques developed in ([L-T<sub>2</sub>], pp. 360) that under the hypothesis of the Theorem, no weighted Orlicz sequence space  $l^F(w)$ , with  $\sum w_n < \infty$  (cf. [H-P<sub>2</sub>]), contains a complemented subspace isomorphic to  $l^p$ .

The other fact needed is the following Lemma proved in [H-R.S<sub>1</sub>] by using the disjointification Kadec-Pelczynski method (cf. [L-T<sub>4</sub>] Proposition 1.c.8).

**Proposition 7.** *Let  $L^F(0,1)$  be a reflexive space. Then  $L^F(0,1)$  contains a complemented copy of  $l^p$  for  $p \neq 2$  if and only if  $l^p$  is isomorphic to a complemented subspace of a weighted Orlicz sequence space  $l^F(w)$  with  $\sum w_n < \infty$ .*

Let us apply these results to the above class of minimal spaces. In order to do it we need to consider an oscilation constant  $\gamma_f$  associated to the function

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( 1 - \cos \frac{\pi x}{2^k} \right), \text{ defined as follows}$$

$$\gamma_f = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\gamma_n}{n},$$

where

$$\gamma_n = \inf_{s > 0} \omega_n'(s)$$

and

$$\omega_n'(s) = \max_{0 \leq x, y \leq 2^n} [f(x+s) - f(y+s)].$$

It can be proved that  $\gamma_f$  satisfies  $0 < \gamma_f \leq 2$ . The following result holds ([H-R.S<sub>2</sub>]):

**Theorem 8.** *Let  $1 < p \neq 2$  and  $q$  verifying that*

$$\frac{p}{|q|} < \frac{\gamma_f}{2 \log_2 2}$$

Then the space  $L^{F_{p,q}}$  does not contain any complemented copy of  $\ell^p$ .

As a consequence we easily obtain a result of Lindenstrauss and Tzafriri ([L-T<sub>3</sub>], pp. 163) proved by using the method of 0-1 valued sequences:

**Corollary 9.** For any  $p > 1$  there exists a minimal reflexive Orlicz sequence space  $L^F$  with indices  $\alpha_F = \beta_F = p$  which does not have any complemented copy of  $\ell^p$ .

**Proof.** Fixed  $p > 1$ , we take  $q$  as

$$q = \frac{4 p \log 2}{\gamma_f}$$

Then considering the function  $F_{p,q} \equiv F$  we deduce, from Theorem 8, that  $L^F$  does not contain a complemented copy of  $\ell^p$ . Since  $L^F$  is a minimal space, we conclude that  $L^F$  does not contain a complemented copy of  $\ell^p$ , either.

A natural open question is to determine values  $p \neq 2$  and  $q$  verifying that the Orlicz space  $L^{F_{p,q}}$  contains a complemented subspace isomorphic to  $\ell^p$ .

Any positive result in this direction would imply automatically that Problem 4.b.8 in ([L-T<sub>3</sub>]) has a negative solution, i.e. the existence of minimal Orlicz sequence spaces which are not prime.

Finally another open question is whether for any minimal function  $F$  the associated Orlicz spaces  $L^F(0,1)$  and  $L^F(0,\infty)$  are isomorphic.

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