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QUICK REVIEW ON PROPERTY (X)

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ABSTRACT. We will review some materials that are useful to prove the uniqueness of preduals. Those were used crucially in our recent work on the uniqueness of predual of any ‘finite’ non-commutative $H^\infty$.

1. INTRODUCTION

In [12] we established, among other things, the uniqueness of predual of any ‘finite’ non-commutative $H^\infty$-algebra $H^\infty(M, \tau)$, which was introduced by Bill Arveson modeled after the usual pair $H^\infty(D) \hookrightarrow L^\infty(T)$ with the aid of operator algebra theory. The class of finite non-commutative $H^\infty$-algebras contains $H^\infty(D)$ as well as its abstract generalizations. Thus [12, Theorem 2] covers any existing generalization of the famous result due to Tsuyoshi Ando [3].

The most key ingredient of our proof of the uniqueness of predual of $H^\infty(M, \tau)$ is to provide a non-commutative analog of Amar–Lederer's peak set result [2] (also see [4]), which we fully explained in [12]. However, our proof of the uniqueness of predual also uses two purely Banach space theoretic techniques – Property (X) due to Godefroy and Talagrand and a very clever trick, both of which we just borrowed from some references without any detailed explanation. Here we will give detailed accounts (for non-experts like us) on those techniques as supplements to [12, Theorem 2].

In closing, we should mention our sincere thanks to Professor Kichi-Suke Saito for giving this opportunity.

2. GODEFROY–TALAGRAND’S PROPERTY (X)

This section mainly follows Godefroy and Talagrand’s elegant work [6]. The key ingredient behind Godefroy–Talagrand’s property (X) is the next proposition.

Proposition 2.1. Let $E$ and $G$ be Banach spaces with $E^* = G^*$. If a sequence $\{x_n\} \subset E^*$ satisfies

(i) $x_n \longrightarrow 0$ in $\sigma(E^*, E)$; and
(ii) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\psi(x_{n+1} - x_n)| < +\infty$ for all $\psi \in E^{**},$

then $x_n \longrightarrow 0$ in $\sigma(E^*, G)$.

Proof. Set $u_0 := x_1$, $u_1 := x_2 - x_1$, and $u_n := x_{n+1} - x_n$, and then by (i)

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} u_k = x_{n+1} \longrightarrow 0 \quad \text{in} \quad \sigma(E^*, E).$$

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For each $n \in \mathbb{N}_0 := \{0,1,2,\ldots\}$ we consider the map $T_n : \alpha = (\alpha_k) \in \ell^\infty(\mathbb{N}_0) \mapsto \sum_{k=0}^{n} \alpha_k u_k \in E^*$ ($\hookrightarrow E^{***}$ via the canonical embedding). Then one has, by (ii),

$$\sup\{||(T_n \alpha)(\phi)|| : \Vert \alpha \Vert_\infty \leq 1, n \in \mathbb{N}_0\} \leq \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} |\phi(u_k)| < +\infty$$

for all $\phi \in E^{**}$, and hence the uniform boundedness principle shows that there is $K > 0$ such that

$$\left\|\sum_{k=0}^{n} \alpha_k u_k\right\|_{E^*} = \Vert T_n \alpha \Vert_{E^{***}} \leq K$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and for all $\alpha_k \in \mathbb{C}$ with $|\alpha_k| \leq 1$.

Choose an arbitrary free ultrafilter $\omega \in \beta(\mathbb{N}_0) \setminus \mathbb{N}_0$ and put $\xi_\omega := \lim_{narrow \omega} \sum_{k=0}^{n} u_k$ in $\sigma(E^*, G)$. Let us choose arbitrary $n_1 < n_2 < \cdots < n_{2l-1} < n_{2l}$. Then, using (2) with

$$\alpha_k = \begin{cases} 1 & n_{2j-1} \leq k \leq n_{2j}, j = 1, \ldots, l, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

we get

$$\left\|\sum_{k=n_{1}}^{n_{2}} u_k + \sum_{k=n_{3}}^{n_{4}} u_k + \cdots + \sum_{k=n_{2l-1}}^{n_{2l}} u_k \right\| \leq K$$

as $n_{2l} \rightarrow \omega$ but $n_1, \ldots, n_{2l-1}$ are fixed. Then it follows that

$$\left\|\sum_{k=n_{1}}^{n_{2}} u_k + \sum_{k=n_{3}}^{n_{4}} u_k + \cdots + \sum_{k=0}^{n_{2l-1}} u_k \right\| \leq K$$

for any fixed $n_1 < n_2 < \cdots < n_{2l-1}$. We also have, by (1),

$$\sum_{k=n_{1}}^{n_{2}} u_k + \sum_{k=n_{3}}^{n_{4}} u_k + \cdots + \xi_\omega - \sum_{k=0}^{n_{2l-1}} u_k$$

$$\rightarrow \sum_{k=n_{1}}^{n_{2}} u_k + \sum_{k=n_{3}}^{n_{4}} u_k + \cdots + \xi_\omega - \sum_{k=0}^{n_{2l-1}} u_k$$

in $\sigma(E^*, G)$ as $n_{2l-1} \rightarrow \infty$ but $n_1, \ldots, n_{2l-2}$ are fixed. Therefore, we get

$$\left\|\sum_{k=n_{1}}^{n_{2}} u_k + \sum_{k=n_{3}}^{n_{4}} u_k + \cdots + \sum_{k=n_{2l-2}}^{n_{2l-1}} u_k + \xi_\omega \right\| \leq K$$

for any fixed $n_1 < n_2 < \cdots < n_{2l-2}$. Clearly, this procedure can be continued for $n_{2l-2}, n_{2l-4}$ and so on, and we finally get $l \cdot \Vert \xi_\omega \Vert = \Vert \xi_\omega \Vert \leq K$. Since $l$ can be arbitrarily large, $\xi_\omega$ must be zero for any $\omega \in \beta(\mathbb{N}_0) \setminus \mathbb{N}_0$, which means that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{n+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=0}^{n} u_k = 0$ in $\sigma(E^*, G)$.

Based on the lemma, Godefroy and Talagrand introduced property (X).
Definition 2.1. A Banach space $E$ has property (X) if for any $\psi \in E^{**}$ the following conditions are equivalent:

(a) $\psi \in E$ with the canonical embedding $E \hookrightarrow E^{**}$.

(b) For any sequence $\{x_n\} \subset E^*$ with the properties
- $x_n \rightarrow 0$ in $\sigma(E^*, E)$,
- $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\phi(x_{n+1} - x_n)| < +\infty$ for all $\phi \in E^{**}$,
one has $\psi(x_n) \rightarrow 0$.

This definition gives, in some sense, a criterion of $w^*$-continuity for bounded linear functionals on the dual $E^*$ of a Banach space $E$ with property (X).

Definition 2.2. A Banach space $E$ is said to be the unique predual of its dual $E^*$ if another Banach space $G$ with $G^* = E^*$ must coincide with $E$ inside the dual $E^{**}$ of $E^*$ (= $G^*$) via the canonical embedding.

Corollary 2.2. If a Banach space $E$ has property (X), then $E$ must be the unique predual of its dual $E^*$.

Proof. Assume another Banach space $G$ satisfies $G^* = E^*$. Embed $G \hookrightarrow (E^*)^* = E^{**}$ by $g(x) := x(g)$ for $x \in E^* = G^*$ and $g \in G$. Let $\{x_n\} \subset E^*$ be chosen in such a way that $x_n \rightarrow 0$ in $\sigma(E^*, E)$ and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\phi(x_{n+1} - x_n)| < +\infty$ for all $\phi \in E^{**}$. By Proposition 2.1 we get $x_n \rightarrow 0$ in $\sigma(E^*, G)$, which shows that $g(x_n) = x_n(g) \rightarrow 0$ for all $g \in G$. Thus, Property (X) ensures that any $g$ must fall in $E \hookrightarrow E^{**}$, that is, $G \subset E$ inside $E^{**}$. If $G \not\subset E$ inside $E^{**}$, then by the Hahn–Banach extension theorem there is $x \in E^*$ such that $x \neq 0$ but $x|_G = 0$. (Indeed, there is $e \in E \setminus G$ by the assumption, and thus $[e] \in E/G$ with $[e] \neq 0$.) Then by the Hahn–Banach extension theorem there is $\varphi \in (E/G)^*$ sending $[e]$ to $\|[e]\| = \inf\{\|e - g\| : g \in G\} \neq 0$. Hence the $x := \varphi \circ Q \in E^*$ with the quotient map $Q : E \rightarrow E/G$ becomes a desired element.) This $x$ is a non-zero element in $G^* = E^*$ but it is identically zero on $G$, a contradiction. Hence $G = E$ inside $E^{**}$.

The next proposition has been known, but we do give one proof, which is a prototype of our proof of the uniqueness of predual of $H^\infty(M, \tau)$.

Proposition 2.3. Let $M$ be a $\sigma$-finite von Neumann algebra and $M_\omega$ be its predual. Then, $M_\omega$ has property (X).

Proof. It suffices to show that, if $\varphi \in M^\omega$ satisfies $\varphi(x_n) \rightarrow 0$ for any $\{x_n\} \subset M$ with the properties

- $x_n \rightarrow 0$ in $\sigma(M, M_\omega)$ and
- $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\phi(x_{n+1} - x_n)| < +\infty$ for all $\phi \in M^*$,

then $\varphi$ must fall in $M_\omega \hookrightarrow M^\omega$. Here we need the following standard facts on von Neumann algebras (see e.g. [9] and [11] for their proofs):

1. Any $\psi \in M^\omega$ can be decomposed into $\psi = \psi_{\text{nor}} + \psi_{\text{sing}}$ with $\psi_{\text{nor}} \in M_\omega$ and $\psi_{\text{sing}} \in M^\omega \ominus M_\omega$, and $\|\psi\| = \|\psi_{\text{nor}}\| + \|\psi_{\text{sing}}\|$ holds. (This is the so-called non-commutative Lebesgue decomposition due to Takesaki.) We call $M_\omega$ the normal part and $M^\omega \setminus M_\omega$ the singular part. Remark that the notation here is a little bit different from that in [12].

2. For any $\psi \in M^\omega$ (or $\psi \in M_\omega$) there are a unique positive linear functional $|\psi| \in M_\omega$ (resp. $|\psi| \in M_\omega$) and a unique partial isometry $v \in M^{**}$ (resp. $v \in M^\omega$) such that $\langle \psi, x \rangle = \langle |\psi|, xv \rangle$ as well as $\langle |\psi|, x \rangle = \langle \psi, xv \rangle$ for $x \in M^{**}$, where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : M^\omega \times M^{**} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ stands for the canonical pairing. (This is the so-called polar decomposition.)
of linear functionals due to Sakai and also Tomita.) Remark here that the second dual $M^{**}$ becomes a von Neumann algebra, which naturally contains the original $M$ as a subalgebra via the canonical embedding $M \hookrightarrow M^{**}$.

(3) Both the closed subspaces $M_*$ and $M^* \cap M_*$ of $M^*$ are closed under the operation $\psi \in M^* \mapsto |\psi| \in M^*$. (This follows from the construction of the decomposition in (1) together with (2).)

(4) For a positive linear functional $\psi \in M^*$ the following are equivalent:

- $\psi \in M^* \subseteq M_*$. 
- For every nonzero projection $e \in M$ there is a non-zero projection $e_0 \in M$ such that $e_0 \leq e$ and $\psi(e_0) = 0$.

(This is Takesaki's criterion for 'singularity' of linear functionals.)

(5) Any $\psi \in M^*$ (or $M_*$) can be written as a linear combination of four positive linear functionals in $M^*$ (resp. $M_*$).

Let us decompose the given $\varphi$ into $\varphi = \varphi_{\text{nor}} + \varphi_{\text{sing}}$ as in (1), and what we have to show is $\varphi_{\text{sing}} = 0$, i.e., $\varphi = \varphi_{\text{nor}} \in M_*$. For contrary suppose $\varphi_{\text{sing}} \neq 0$. Then, by (2) and (3), $|\varphi_{\text{sing}}| \neq 0$ and $|\varphi_{\text{sing}}| \in M^* \subset M_*$ still holds. Clearly, the orthogonal families of non-zero projections in $\text{Ker}|\varphi_{\text{sing}}|$ forms an inductive set by inclusion, and Zorn's lemma ensures the existence of a maximal family $\{q_k\}$, which is at most countable since $M$ is $\sigma$-finite. Put $g_0 := \sum_k q_k$ in $M$, and then $g_0 = 1$ since $g_0 \neq 1$ clearly contradicts the above (4).

Also, if $\{q_k\}$ is a finite family, then $|\varphi_{\text{sing}}|(1) = \sum_k |\varphi_{\text{sing}}|(q_k) = 0$, a contradiction. Therefore, $\{q_k\}$ must be a countably infinite family with $\sum_k q_k = 1$ in $M$. Letting $p_n := 1 - \sum_{k \leq n} q_k$ we have $p_n \searrow 0$ in $\sigma(M, M_*)$ but $|\varphi_{\text{sing}}|(p_n) = |\varphi_s|(1)$ for all $n$. The latter says that $p_n$ converges a non-zero projection $p \in M^{**}$ in $\sigma(M^{**}, M^*)$ with $\langle \varphi_{\text{sing}} | p \rangle = \langle \varphi_{\text{sing}} | 1 \rangle = \langle \varphi_{\text{sing}} | 1 \rangle$ since $p_n$ is a decreasing sequence. Let $u \in M$ and $v \in M^{**}$ be the partial isometries for the polar decompositions of $\varphi_{\text{nor}}$ and $\varphi_{\text{sing}}$, respectively. Then, for $x \in M^{**}$ one has $\langle \varphi_{\text{sing}}, (1-p)x \rangle = \langle \varphi_{\text{sing}} | (1-p)xu \rangle \leq \langle \varphi_{\text{sing}} | 1 \rangle^{1/2} \langle \varphi_{\text{sing}} | u^*x^*xu \rangle^{1/2} = 0$ so that $\langle \varphi_{\text{sing}} | x \rangle = \langle \varphi_{\text{sing}} | px \rangle$ since $\langle \psi | p \rangle = \langle \psi | 1 \rangle$. Similarly, for $x \in M^{**}$ one has $\langle \varphi_{\text{nor}} | px \rangle = \langle \varphi_{\text{nor}} | u^*x^*xu \rangle^{1/2}$. Since $|\varphi_{\text{nor}}|$ still falls in $M_*$, $\langle \varphi_{\text{nor}} | p \rangle = \lim_{n \to \infty} |\varphi_{\text{nor}}|(p_n) = 0$ so that $\langle \varphi_{\text{nor}} | px \rangle = 0$. Consequently, we get $\varphi(p, x) = \langle \varphi_{\text{nor}} + \varphi_{\text{sing}}, px \rangle = \varphi_{\text{sing}}(x)$ for $x \in M$.

Let $x \in M$ be arbitrary. Clearly, $p_n x \to 0$ in $\sigma(M, M_*)$. Let $\phi \in M^*$ be arbitrary, and decompose $y \in M \mapsto \phi(y)x$ into a linear combination of four positive linear functionals $\phi_i \in M^*$, $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$, thanks to the above (5). Since $\sum_{n=1}^N \phi_i(p_{n+1}x-p_n x) = \sum_{n=1}^N \phi_i(q_{n+1}) = \phi_i(\sum_{n=2}^{N+1} q_n) \leq \phi_i(1) < +\infty$ for all $N \in \mathbb{N}$, it follows that $\sum_{n=1}^\infty \phi_i(p_{n+1}x - p_n x) < +\infty$. Therefore, by the assumption here one has $\varphi(p_n x) \to 0$. On the other hand, $\varphi(p_n x) = \langle \varphi, p_n x \rangle \to \langle \varphi, px \rangle = \varphi_{\text{sing}}(x)$ so that $\varphi_{\text{sing}} = 0$, a contradiction. \[ \square \]

The heart of the above proof is as follows. Although $\varphi_{\text{nor}}$ and $\varphi_{\text{sing}}$ are 'orthogonal', we cannot find a projection in $M$ that distinguishes these. (Of course, we can find such a projection in $M^{**}$ since both functionals can be regarded as 'normal' ones on $M^{**}$.) Thus we first construct a projection $p \in M^{**}$ in such a way that it can be 'nicely' approximated by projections in $M$ and $p$ is greater than 'the support of $\varphi_{\text{sing}}$' but 'disjoint' from 'the support of $\varphi_{\text{nor}}$'. This essentially says that $M$ 'remembers' the decomposition $M^* = M_* \oplus (M^* \cap M_*)$ of $M^*$ (the second dual of $M_*$). This suggests us that such a decomposition of the second dual should be related to property (X) of a Banach space in question. This was quite recently answered affirmatively by Hermann Pfitzner when a Banach space in question is separable, see [8].

Further accounts on the present topics can be found in [5].
3. ADDENDUM – A CLEVER TRICK DUE TO PEŁCZYŃSKI

The essential idea of our proof of the uniqueness of predual of $H^\infty(M, \tau)$ is similar to that of Proposition 2.3. However, the luck of self-adjointness of our algebra $H^\infty(M, \tau)$ (thus we cannot use the order structure) makes some trouble, which we overcame with a clever trick borrowed from the proof of [7, Proposition 1.c.3]. (The trick is due to Aleksander Pelczyński, see [10, p.637] for this credit, and it was originally used for proving that if a Banach space has Pelczyński's property (u) then so does any closed subspace, see [7] or more recent [1].) Here we will explain it. The situation we deal with is as follows. Let $M$ be a von Neumann algebra and $A$ be its $\sigma$-weakly closed (possibly non-self-adjoint) unital subalgebra. Assume that we have two sequences $\{a_n\} \subset A$ and $\{b_n\} \subset M$ such that

(i) both $a_n$ and $b_n$ converge to the same $p \in M^{**}$ in $\sigma(M^{**}, M^*)$, and

(ii) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\phi(b_{n+1} - b_n)| < +\infty$ for all $\phi \in M^*$.

What we want to do is to replace $a_n$ by a new one with keeping (i) and further satisfying (ii). This can be done by utilizing the above-mentioned clever trick in Banach space theory.

**Proposition 3.1.** There is another $\{a'_n\} \subset A$ such that

(i) $a'_n \rightarrow p$ in $\sigma(M^{**}, M^*)$, and

(ii) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\phi(a'_n - a_n)| < +\infty$ for all $\phi \in M^*$.

We need one elementary lemma due to Stanislaw Mazur.

**Lemma 3.2.** Let $E$ be a normed space and $\{x_n\} \subset E$ be such that $x_n \rightarrow 0$ in $\sigma(E, E^*)$. Then, for each $\epsilon > 0$ and each $m \in \mathbb{N}$ there is a convex combination $y = \sum_{n \geq m} \lambda_n x_n$ with $\|y\| < \epsilon$.

**Proof.** Let $C_m$ be the closed convex hull of $\{x_n\}_{n \geq m}$ in $E$. It suffice to show $0 \in C_m$. Thus, for contrary, suppose $0 \notin C_m$. Then there is a small open ball $B$ centered at $0$ with $C_m \cap B = \emptyset$. The Hahn–Banach separation theorem ensures that there are $\varphi \in E^*$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $Re\varphi(b) \leq t \leq Re\varphi(c)$ for all $b \in B$ and $c \in C_m$. This is impossible since $x_n \rightarrow 0$ in $\sigma(E, E^*)$ (implying $t \leq 0$) and $0 \in B$ (implying $t \geq 0$). Thus $0 \in C_m$, which means the desired assertion.

**Proof.** (Proposition 3.1) Putting $b_0 := 0$ we have $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\phi(b_n - b_{n-1})| < +\infty$ for all $\phi \in M^*$. Set $u_n := a_n - \sum_{k=1}^{n} b_k - b_{k-1}$, and then $u_n = a_n - b_n \rightarrow 0$ in $\sigma(M, M^*)$ by (i). By Lemma 3.2 there are convex combinations $u'_j = \sum_{n=p_{j-1}+1}^{p_j} \lambda_n^{(j)} u_n$ such that $0 = p_0 < p_1 < p_2 < \cdots$ and $\|u'_j\| \leq 2^{-j}$. Then We define $a'_j := \sum_{n=p_j}^{p_{j+1}} \lambda_n^{(j)} a_n \in A$ and put $a'_0 := 0$ for convenience. Let us prove that this $\{a'_j\}$ gives a desired sequence.

Since $a_n \rightarrow p$ in $\sigma(M^{**}, M^*)$, for any $\epsilon > 0$ and any $\phi \in M^*$ there is $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $|\langle a_n, \phi \rangle - \langle p, \phi \rangle| < \epsilon$ for all $n \geq n_0$, where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : M^{**} \times M^* \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is the canonical pairing. If $j_0$ is chosen so that $p_{j_0} + 1 \geq n_0$, then one has $|\langle a'_j, \phi \rangle - \langle p, \phi \rangle| \leq \sum_{n=p_{j_0}+1}^{p_j} \lambda_n^{(j)} |\langle a_n, \phi \rangle - \langle p, \phi \rangle| < \epsilon$ for all $j \geq j_0$. Thus $a'_j \rightarrow p$ in $\sigma(M^{**}, M^*)$ as $j \rightarrow \infty$.

One has

$$a'_{j+1} - a'_j = u'_{j+1} + \sum_{n=p_{j+1}}^{p_j} \lambda_n^{(j+1)} (a_n - u_n) - u'_j - \sum_{n=p_{j-1}+1}^{p_j} \lambda_n^{(j)} (a_n - u_n)$$

$$= u'_{j+1} - u'_j + \sum_{n=p_{j-1}+1}^{p_j} \lambda_n^{(j+1)} \sum_{k=1}^{n} (b_k - b_{k-1}) - \sum_{n=p_{j-1}+1}^{p_j} \lambda_n^{(j)} \sum_{k=1}^{n} (b_k - b_{k-1})$$

$$= u'_{j+1} - u'_j + \sum_{n=p_{j-1}+1}^{p_j} \mu_n^{(j)} (b_n - b_{n-1})$$

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with some $0 \leq \mu_{n}^{(j)} \leq 1$. Hence,
\[
\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi(a_{j+1}' - a_{j}') \leq \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi(a_{j+1}' - a_{j}') \leq \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi(b_{n} - b_{n-1}) \leq 2^{j} \Vert u_{j}' \Vert + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \phi(b_{n} - b_{n-1}) < +\infty
\]
by $\Vert u_{j}' \Vert \leq 2^{-j}$ and (ii).

Remark here that the argument presented above uses only the linear structure; hence clearly it can be applied to more general situations.

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