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' noncommutative H^{∞} .

1. Introduction

In [12] we established, among other things, the uniqueness of predual of any 'finite' noncommutative H^{∞} -algebra $H^{\infty}(M,\tau)$, which was introduced by Bill Arveson modeled after the usual pair $H^{\infty}(\mathbb{D}) \hookrightarrow L^{\infty}(\mathbb{T})$ with the aid of operator algebra theory. The class of finite noncommutative H^{∞} -algebras contains $H^{\infty}(\mathbb{D})$ 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 Gedefroy 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)

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

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For each $n \in \mathbb{N}_0 := \{0, 1, 2, ...\}$ 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),

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

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

$$\left\| \sum_{k=0}^{n} \alpha_k u_k \right\|_{E^*} = \left\| T_n \alpha \right\|_{E^{***}} \le K \tag{2}$$

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 $\xi_\omega := \lim_{n \to \omega} \sum_{k=0}^n u_k$ in $\sigma(E^\star, G)$. Let us choose arbitrary $n_1 < n_2 < \dots < n_{2l-1} < n_{2l}$. Then, using (2) with

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

we get

$$\left\| \sum_{k=n_1}^{n_2} u_k + \sum_{k=n_3}^{n_4} u_k + \dots + \sum_{k=n_{2l-1}}^{n_{2l}} u_k \right\| \le K.$$

Here we have

$$\sum_{k=n_1}^{n_2} u_k + \sum_{k=n_3}^{n_4} u_k + \dots + \sum_{k=n_{2l-1}}^{n_{2l}} u_k = \sum_{k=n_1}^{n_2} u_k + \sum_{k=n_3}^{n_4} u_k + \dots + \left(\sum_{k=0}^{n_{2l}} u_k - \sum_{k=0}^{n_{2l-1}} u_k\right)$$

$$\longrightarrow \sum_{k=n_1}^{n_2} u_k + \sum_{k=n_3}^{n_4} u_k + \dots + \xi_{\omega} - \sum_{k=0}^{n_{2l-1}} u_k \quad \text{in } \sigma(E^*, G)$$

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

$$\left\| \sum_{k=n_1}^{n_2} u_k + \sum_{k=n_3}^{n_4} u_k + \dots + \xi_{\omega} - \sum_{k=0}^{n_{2l-1}} u_k \right\| \le K$$

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

$$\sum_{k=n_1}^{n_2} u_k + \sum_{k=n_3}^{n_4} u_k + \dots + \xi_{\omega} - \sum_{k=0}^{n_{2l-1}} u_k$$

$$\longrightarrow \sum_{k=n_1}^{n_2} u_k + \sum_{k=n_3}^{n_4} u_k + \dots + \xi_{\omega} - 0 \quad \text{in } \sigma(E^*, E)$$

as $n_{2l-1} \to \infty$ but n_1, \ldots, n_{2l-2} are fixed. Therefore, we get

$$\left\| \sum_{k=n_1}^{n_2} u_k + \sum_{k=n_3}^{n_4} u_k + \dots + \sum_{k=n_{2l-3}}^{n_{2l-2}} u_k + \xi_{\omega} \right\| \le K$$

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 $l \cdot ||\xi_{\omega}|| = ||l\xi_{\omega}|| \le K$. Since l can be arbitrarily large, ξ_{ω} must be zero for any $\omega \in \beta(\mathbb{N}_0) \setminus \mathbb{N}_0$, which means that $\lim_{n\to\infty} x_{n+1} = \lim_{n\to\infty} \sum_{k=0}^n u_k = 0$ 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 $E \hookrightarrow E^{\star\star}$.
- (b) For any sequence $\{x_n\} \subset E^*$ with the properties $-x_n \longrightarrow 0 \text{ in } \sigma(E^*, E),$ $-\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\phi(x_{n+1} - x_n)| < +\infty \text{ for all } \phi \in E^{**},$ one has $\psi(x_n) \longrightarrow 0$.

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 $x\in E^\star=G^\star$ and $g\in G$. Let $\{x_n\}\subset E^\star$ be chosen in such a way that $x_n\longrightarrow 0$ in $\sigma(E^\star,E)$ and $\sum_{n=1}^\infty |\phi(x_{n+1}-x_n)|<+\infty$ for all $\phi\in E^{\star\star}$. By Proposition 2.1 we get $x_n \longrightarrow 0$ in $\sigma(E^{\star}, G)$, which shows that $g(x_n) = x_n(g) \longrightarrow 0$ for all $g \in G$. Thus, Property (X) ensures that any g must fall in $E \hookrightarrow E^{\star\star}$, that is, $G \subseteq E$ inside $E^{\star\star}$. If $G \subsetneq E$ inside $E^{\star\star}$, then by the Hahn–Banach extension theorem there is $x \in E^{\star}$ 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 $Q: E \to E/G$ 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 σ -finite von Neumann algebra and M_{\star} be its predual. Then, M_{\star} has property (X).

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

- $\begin{array}{l} \bullet \ x_n \longrightarrow 0 \ \text{in} \ \sigma(M,M_\star) \ \text{and} \\ \bullet \ \sum_{n=1}^\infty |\phi(x_{n+1}-x_n)| < +\infty \ \text{for all} \ \phi \in M^\star, \end{array}$

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

- (1) Any $\psi \in M^*$ can be decomposed into $\psi = \psi_{\rm nor} + \psi_{\rm sing}$ with $\psi_{\rm nor} \in M_*$ and $\psi_{\rm sing} \in M_*$ $M^{\star} \ominus M_{\star}$, and $\|\psi\| = \|\psi_{\text{nor}}\| + \|\psi_{\text{sing}}\|$ holds. (This is the so-called non-commutative Lebesgue decomposition due to Takesaki.) We call M_\star the normal part and $M^\star \setminus M_\star$ the singular part. Remark that the notation here is a little bit different from that in
- (2) For any $\psi \in M^{\star}$ (or $\psi \in M_{\star}$) there are a unique positive linear functional $|\psi| \in M_{\star}$ (resp. $|\psi| \in M_{\star}$) and a unique partial isometry $v \in M^{\star\star}$ (resp. $v \in M_{\star}$) such that $\langle \psi, x \rangle = \langle |\psi|, xv \rangle$ as well as $\langle |\psi|, x \rangle = \langle \psi, xv^* \rangle$ for $x \in M^{\star\star}$, where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : M^{\star} \times$ $M^{\star\star} \to \mathbb{C}$ 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 $M^{\star\star}$ becomes a von Neumann algebra, which naturally contains the original M as a subalgebra via the canonical embedding $M \hookrightarrow M^{\star\star}$.
- (3) Both the closed subspaces M_{\star} and $M^{\star} \ominus M_{\star}$ of M^{\star} are closed under the operation $\psi \in M^{\star} \mapsto |\psi| \in M^{\star}$. (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:
 - $\psi \in M^{\star} \ominus M_{\star}$.
 - For every nonzero projection $e \in M$ there is a non-zero projection $e_0 \in M$ such that $e_0 \le e$ 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 φ into $\varphi = \varphi_{\text{nor}} + \varphi_{\text{sing}}$ as in (1), and what we have to show is $\varphi_{\rm sing} = 0$, i.e., $\varphi = \varphi_{\rm nor} \in M_{\star}$. For contrary we suppose $\varphi_{\rm sing} \neq 0$. Then, by (2) and (3), $|\varphi_{\rm sing}| \neq 0$ and $|\varphi_{\rm sing}| \in M^{\star} \ominus M_{\star}$ still holds. Clearly, the orthogonal families of nonzero projections in $Ker |\varphi_{sing}|$ 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 σ -finite. Put $q_0 := \sum_k q_k$ in M, and then $q_0 = 1$ since $q_0 \neq 1$ clearly contradicts to 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 $p_n := 1 - \sum_{k \le n} q_k$ we have $p_n \searrow 0$ in $\sigma(M, M_\star)$ but $|\varphi_{\text{sing}}|(p_n) = |\varphi_s|(1)$ for all n. The latter says that p_n converges a non-zero projection $p \in M^{\star\star}$ in $\sigma(M^{\star\star}, M^{\star})$ with $\langle |\varphi_{\text{sing}}|, p \rangle = \langle |\varphi_{\text{sing}}|, 1 \rangle$ (= $|\varphi_{\text{sing}}|(1)$) since p_n is a decreasing sequence. Let $u \in M$ and $v \in M^{\star\star}$ be the partial isometries for the polar decompositions of φ_{nor} and φ_{sing} , respectively. Then, for $x \in M^{\star\star}$ one has $|\langle \varphi_{\text{sing}}, (1-p)x \rangle| =$ $\begin{aligned} &|\langle|\varphi_{\rm sing}|,(1-p)xv\rangle| \leq \langle|\varphi_{\rm sing}|,1-p\rangle^{1/2}\langle|\varphi_{\rm sing}|,v^*x^*xv\rangle^{1/2} = 0 \text{ so that } \langle\varphi_{\rm sing},x\rangle = \langle\varphi_{\rm sing},px\rangle\\ &\text{since } \langle|\psi_{\rm sing}|,p\rangle = \langle|\psi_{\rm sing}|,1\rangle. \text{ Similarly, for } x\in M^{**} \text{ one has } |\langle\varphi_{\rm nor},px\rangle| = |\langle|\varphi_{\rm nor}|,pxu\rangle| \leq \end{aligned}$ $\langle |\varphi_{\mathrm{nor}}|, p \rangle^{1/2} \langle |\varphi_{\mathrm{nor}}|, u^*x^*xu \rangle^{1/2}$. Since $|\varphi_{\mathrm{nor}}|$ still falls in M_{\star} , $\langle |\varphi_{\mathrm{nor}}|, p \rangle = \lim_{n \to \infty} |\varphi_{\mathrm{nor}}|(p_n) = \lim_{n \to \infty} |\varphi_{\mathrm{nor}}|$ 0 so that $\langle \varphi_{\text{nor}}, px \rangle = 0$. Consequently, we get $\langle \varphi, px \rangle = \langle \varphi_{\text{nor}} + \varphi_{\text{sing}}, px \rangle = \varphi_{\text{sing}}(x)$ for $x \in M$. Let $x \in M$ be arbitrary. Clearly, $p_n x \longrightarrow 0$ in $\sigma(M, M_{\star})$. Let $\phi \in M^{\star}$ be arbitrary, and decompose $y \in M \mapsto \phi(yx)$ into a linear combination of four positive linear functionals $\phi_{i} \in M^{\star}, i = 1, 2, 3, 4$, thanks to the above (5). Since $\sum_{n=1}^{N} |\phi_{i}(p_{n+1} - p_{n})| = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \phi_{i}(q_{n+1}) = \phi_{i}(\sum_{n=2}^{N+1} q_{n}) \le \phi_{i}(1) < +\infty$ for all $N \in \mathbb{N}$, it follows that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\phi(p_{n+1}x - p_{n}x)| < +\infty$. Therefore, by the assumption here one has $\varphi(p_n x) \longrightarrow 0$. On the other hand, $\varphi(p_n x) =$ $\langle \varphi, p_n x \rangle \longrightarrow \langle \varphi, px \rangle = \varphi_{\text{sing}}(x)$ so that $\varphi_{\text{sing}} = 0$, a contradiction.

The heart of the above proof is as follows. Although φ_{nor} and φ_{sing} are 'orthogonal', we cannot find a projection in M that distinguishes those. (Of course, we can find such a projection in $M^{\star\star}$ since both functionals can be regarded as 'normal' ones on $M^{\star\star}$.) Thus we first construct a projection $p \in M^{\star\star}$ in such a way that it can be 'nicely' approximated by projections in M and p is greater than 'the support of φ_{sing} ' but 'disjoint' from 'the support of φ_{nor} '. This essentially says that M 'remembers' the decomposition ' $M^{\star} = M_{\star} \oplus (M^{\star} \oplus M_{\star})$ ' of M^{\star} (the second dual of M_{\star}). 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 Pełczyński, see [10, p.637] for this credit, and it was originally used for proving that if a Banach space has Pełczyński'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 σ -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

- $\begin{array}{ll} \text{(i')} & a_n' \longrightarrow p \text{ in } \sigma(M^{\star\star}, M^{\star}), \text{ and} \\ \text{(ii')} & \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\phi(a_{n+1}' a_n')| < +\infty \text{ for all } \phi \in M^{\star}. \end{array}$

We need one elementary lemma due to Stanisław Mazur.

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

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 $\varphi \in E^{\star}$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\operatorname{Re}\varphi(b) \nleq t \leqq \operatorname{Re}\varphi(c)$ for all $b \in B$ and $c \in C_m$. This is impossible since $x_n \longrightarrow 0$ 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 $u_n = a_n - b_n \longrightarrow 0$ 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 $||u_j'|| \le 2^{-j}$. Then We define $a_j' := \sum_{n=p_{j-1}+1}^{p_j} \lambda_n^{(j)} a_n \in A$ and put $a_0' := 0$ for convenience. Let us prove that this $\{a'_i\}$ gives a desired sequence.

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

One has

$$a'_{j+1} - a'_{j} = u'_{j+1} + \sum_{n=p_{j+1}}^{p_{j+1}} \lambda_{n}^{(j+1)} (a_{n} - u_{n}) - u'_{j} - \sum_{n=p_{j-1}+1}^{p_{j}} \lambda_{n}^{(j)} (a_{n} - u_{n})$$

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

$$= u'_{j+1} - u'_{j} + \sum_{n=p_{j+1}+1}^{p_{j+1}} \mu_{n}^{(j)} (b_{n} - b_{n-1})$$

with some
$$0 \le \mu_n^{(j)} \le 1$$
. Hence,

$$\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} |\phi(a'_{j+1} - a'_{j})|$$

$$\leq \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} ||\phi|| ||u'_{j+1}|| + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} ||\phi|| ||u'_{j}|| + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=p_{j-1}+1}^{p_{j+1}} \mu_{n}^{(j)} |\phi(b_{n} - b_{n-1})|$$

$$\leq 2 \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} ||\phi|| ||u'_{j}|| + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\phi(b_{n} - b_{n-1})|$$

$$\leq 4 ||\phi|| + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\phi(b_{n} - b_{n-1})| < +\infty$$

by $||u'_j|| \le 2^{-j}$ 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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