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MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT
 UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER, COLORADO 80309

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On a class of Banach spaces

by

M. VALDIVIA (Valencia)

Abstract. A Banach space E with E^{**}/E separable is the direct sum of a reflexive subspace and a separable one.

The Banach spaces we use here are defined over the field K of the real or complex numbers. If $\langle E, F \rangle$ is a dual pair of vector spaces, with the bilinear form $\langle x, y \rangle$, $x \in E$, $y \in F$, we represent by $\sigma(E, F)$ the locally convex topology on E such that the origin of E has as neighbourhood sub-basis $\{U_y: y \in F\}$, being $U_y = \{x \in E: |\langle x, y \rangle| \leq 1\}$. If E is a Banach space, we consider it as a subspace of its second conjugate E^{**} by means of the canonical injection. If F is a subspace of E , we denote by F^\perp the subspace of E^* orthogonal to F and by $F^{\perp\perp}$ the subspace of E^{**} orthogonal to F^\perp . We say that E is *weakly compactly generated space*, or WCG space, if there is in E a weakly compact fundamental set.

THEOREM. *Let E be a Banach space such that E^{**}/E is separable. Then E is a direct sum of a reflexive subspace and a separable subspace (clearly, every separable subspace of E has its second dual separable).*

We shall need the following lemmas:

LEMMA 1. *Let F be a closed subspace of a Banach space X . Assume that every $w^{**} \in X^{**}$ that belongs to the $\sigma(X^{**}, X^*)$ -closure of a countable bounded subset of X is of the form $w^{**} = w + f^{\perp\perp}$ with $w \in X$ and $f^{\perp\perp} \in F^{\perp\perp}$. Then the space X/F is reflexive.*

Proof. Let (\bar{x}_n) be a bounded sequence in X/F . If φ is the canonical mapping of X onto X/F , let (x_n) be a bounded sequence in X such that $\varphi(x_n) = \bar{x}_n$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$. If w_0^{**} is an accumulation point of (x_n) in X^{**} [$\sigma(X^{**}, X^*)$], we set

$$w_0^{**} = w_0 + f_0^{\perp\perp}, \quad w_0 \in X, \quad f_0^{\perp\perp} \in F^{\perp\perp}.$$

If u is an element of F^\perp , the sequence of elements of K , $(u(x_n))$, has an accumulation point $w_0^{**}(u)$. On the other hand,

$$u(x_n) = u(\bar{x}_n), \quad w_0^{**}(u) = (w_0 + f_0^{\perp\perp})(u) = u(w_0),$$

and therefore the sequence $(u(x_n))$ has as accumulation point $u(x_0) = u(\varphi(x_0))$, hence $\varphi(x_0)$ is a weakly adherent point of (\bar{x}_n) in X/F . Thus X/F is reflexive by using the theorem of Eberlein-Šmulian, ([2], p. 58). ■

LEMMA 2. *If Y is a closed subspace of a Banach space X such that X/Y is separable, then there is a closed separable subspace $F \subseteq X$ such that $Y + F = X$.*

Proof. Let φ be the canonical mapping from X onto X/Y . We take a dense countable set $\{\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_3, \dots, \bar{x}_n, \dots\}$ in X/Y . For every positive integer n , let x_n be an element of X such that

$$\varphi(x_n) = \bar{x}_n, \quad \|x_n\| \leq \|\bar{x}_n\| + \frac{1}{n^2}.$$

Let F be the closed linear hull in X of $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, \dots\}$. Given any \bar{x} of X/Y we obtain a strictly increasing sequence (n_p) of natural numbers so that

$$\|\bar{x} - (\bar{x}_{n_1} + \bar{x}_{n_2} + \dots + \bar{x}_{n_p})\| \leq \frac{1}{p^2}, \quad p = 1, 2, \dots$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} \|x_{n_{p+1}}\| &\leq \|\bar{x}_{n_{p+1}}\| + \frac{1}{n_{p+1}^2} \\ &\leq \|\bar{x} - (\bar{x}_{n_1} + \bar{x}_{n_2} + \dots + \bar{x}_{n_{p+1}})\| + \frac{1}{n_{p+1}^2} \\ &\leq \|\bar{x} - (\bar{x}_{n_1} + \bar{x}_{n_2} + \dots + \bar{x}_{n_p})\| + \frac{1}{n_{p+1}^2} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{(p+1)^2} + \frac{1}{p^2} + \frac{1}{n_{p+1}^2} < \frac{3}{p^2}, \quad p = 1, 2, \dots, \end{aligned}$$

we have that the series $\sum_{p=1}^{\infty} x_{n_p}$ converges in X to an element x and therefore $x \in F$ and $\varphi(x) = \bar{x}$, and thus $Y + F = X$. ■

LEMMA 3. *Under the assumption of the theorem there is a separable subspace F of E^* such that E^*/F is reflexive and F is $\sigma(E^*, E)$ -closed.*

Proof. Let $E^\perp = \{e^{***} \in E^{***} : e^{***}(e) = 0, \forall e \in E\}$. By Lemma 2, there is a closed separable subspace H of E^{***} such that $E^{***} = E + H$. Thus

$$\sigma(E^\perp, E^{***}) = \sigma(E^\perp, E + H) = \sigma(E^\perp, H).$$

Therefore the weak-star topology of the unit ball B of E^\perp is separable and metrizable. Hence there is a countable subset $A_1 \subset E^\perp$ such that every $b \in B$, that is in the weak-star closure of a countable subset of E^\perp , belongs to the weak-star closure of A_1 . We set $F = \overline{\text{span} A_1}$ and use Lemma 1

for $X = E^*$. If G is the $\sigma(E^{***}, E^{**})$ -closure of F in E^{***} , then $G + E^* = E^{***}$, since E^*/F is reflexive. On the other hand, E^\perp is $\sigma(E^{***}, E^{**})$ -separable and therefore it is possible to take F so that $G \supset E^\perp$. Then the orthogonal subspace of F in E^{**} is contained in E , hence F is $\sigma(E^*, E)$ -closed. ■

Proof of Theorem. Let F be a subspace of E^* constructed in Lemma 3. Since, by Lemma 3, the annihilator F_\perp is reflexive, $F_\perp \subset E$, it is sufficient to show that E/F_\perp is separable. Indeed, this implies that E is a WCG space, hence if we write (Lemma 2) $E = F_\perp + G_1$ with G_1 separable, we can, by the Amir-Lindenstrauss theorem [1] (see also [2], p. 74), replace G_1 by a larger separable subspace G which is complemented in E . Since E/G is a factor space of E/F_\perp , it is reflexive.

To prove that E/F_\perp is separable, observe that the conjugate space of E/F_\perp coincides with F , which is separable, and therefore E/F_\perp is separable. ■

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FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS, VALENCIA, SPAIN

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