

## The Dual of a Non-reflexive L-embedded Banach Space Contains $l^\infty$ Isometrically

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**Summary.** A Banach space is said to be L-embedded if it is complemented in its bidual in such a way that the norm between the two complementary subspaces is additive. We prove that the dual of a non-reflexive L-embedded Banach space contains  $l^\infty$  isometrically.

This note is an afterthought to a result of Dowling [2] according to which a dual Banach space contains an isometric copy of  $c_0$  if it contains an asymptotic one. (For definitions see below.) It is known ([7] or [4, Th. IV.2.7]) that the dual of a non-reflexive L-embedded Banach space contains  $c_0$  isomorphically. For a special class of L-embedded Banach spaces the construction of the  $c_0$ -copy has been improved so as to yield an asymptotic one ([8, Prop. 6]) and it turns out that this improvement is possible in the general case, which together with Dowling's result yields isometric copies of  $c_0$  in the dual of an L-embedded Banach space. As in [7], we will prove a bit more by constructing the  $c_0$ -copy within the context of Pełczyński's property  $(V^*)$ , that is, the  $c_0$ -basis will be constructed so as to behave approximately like biorthogonal functionals on the basis of a given  $l^1$ -basis in  $X$ ; see (3) and (4) below where in particular the value  $\tilde{c}_J(x_n)$  in (3) is optimal. (For the definition and some basic results on Pełczyński's property  $(V^*)$  see [4].)

**Preliminaries.** A projection  $P$  on a Banach space  $Z$  is called an *L-projection* if  $\|Pz\| + \|z - Pz\| = \|z\|$  for all  $z \in Z$ . A Banach space  $X$  is called *L-embedded* (or an *L-summand in its bidual*) if it is the image of an

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L-projection on its bidual. In this case we write  $X^{**} = X \oplus_1 X_s$ . Among classical Banach spaces, the Hardy space  $H_0^1$ ,  $L^1$ -spaces and, more generally, the preduals of von Neumann algebras or of JBW\*-triples serve as examples of L-embedded spaces. A sequence  $(x_n)$  in a Banach space  $X$  is said to *span*  $c_0$  *asymptotically isometrically* (or just to *span*  $c_0$  *asymptotically*) if there is a null sequence  $(\delta_n)$  in  $[0, 1[$  such that

$$\sup (1 - \delta_n) |\alpha_n| \leq \left\| \sum \alpha_n x_n \right\| \leq \sup (1 + \delta_n) |\alpha_n|$$

for all  $(\alpha_n) \in c_0$ .  $X$  is said to *contain*  $c_0$  *asymptotically* if it contains such a sequence  $(x_n)$ . Recall the routine fact that if  $(x_n^*)$  in  $X^*$  is equivalent to the canonical basis of  $c_0$  then  $\sum \alpha_n x_n^*$  makes sense for all  $(\alpha_n) \in l^\infty$  in the  $w^*$ -topology of  $X^*$ , and by lower  $w^*$ -semicontinuity of the norm an estimate  $\left\| \sum \alpha_n x_n^* \right\| \leq M \sup |\alpha_n|$  that holds for all  $(\alpha_n) \in c_0$  extends to all  $(\alpha_n) \in l^\infty$ . The Banach spaces we consider in this note are real or complex; the set  $\mathbb{N}$  starts at 1.

To a bounded sequence  $(x_n)$  in a Banach space  $X$  we associate its *James constant*

$$c_J(x_n) = \sup c_m \quad \text{where} \quad c_m = \inf_{\sum_{n \geq m} |\alpha_n| = 1} \left\| \sum_{n \geq m} \alpha_n x_n \right\|$$

(the sequence  $(c_m)$  is increasing). If  $(x_n)$  is equivalent to the canonical basis of  $l^1$  then  $c_J(x_n) > 0$ ; more specifically,  $c_J(x_n) > 0$  if and only if there is an integer  $m$  such that  $(x_n)_{n \geq m}$  is equivalent to the canonical basis of  $l^1$ . (Roughly speaking, the number  $c_J(x_n)$  may be thought of as the ‘‘approximately best  $l^1$ -basis constant’’ of  $(x_n)$ ; more precisely, there is a null sequence  $(\tau_m)$  in  $[0, 1[$  (determined by  $c_m = (1 - \tau_m)c_J(x_n)$ ) such that  $\left\| \sum_{n=m}^\infty \alpha_n x_n \right\| \geq (1 - \tau_m)c_J(x_n) \sum_{n=m}^\infty |\alpha_n|$  for all  $(\alpha_n) \in l^1$  and  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $c_J(x_n)$  cannot be replaced by a strictly greater constant.) It is immediate from the definition of the James constant of an  $l^1$ -sequence  $(x_n)$  that there are pairwise disjoint finite sets  $A_l \subset \mathbb{N}$  and a sequence  $(\lambda_n)$  of scalars such that  $\sum_{k \in A_l} |\lambda_k| = 1$  and  $\tilde{z}_l \rightarrow c_J(x_n)$  where  $\tilde{z}_l = \sum_{k \in A_l} \lambda_k x_k$ . James’  $l^1$ -distortion theorem states that an appropriate subsequence of the sequence  $(z_l)$  defined by  $z_l = \tilde{z}_l / \|\tilde{z}_l\|$  spans  $l^1$  almost isometrically in the sense that

$$(1) \quad (1 - 2^{-m}) \sum_{l=m}^\infty |\alpha_l| \leq \left\| \sum_{l=m}^\infty \alpha_l z_l \right\| \leq (1 + 2^{-m}) \sum_{l=m}^\infty |\alpha_l|$$

for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  and all  $(\alpha_n) \in l^1$ . We will need the fact that if  $(z_l)$  spans  $l^1$  almost isometrically in an L-embedded space  $X$  and if  $x^{**} \in X^{**}$  is a  $w^*$ -accumulation point of the  $z_l$  then  $x^{**} \in X_s$  and  $\|x^{**}\| = 1$ . This follows from the proof of [8, Lem. 1] (or from a more elementary argument proving that  $\text{dist}(x^{**}, X) = \|x_s\| = 1$  where  $x^{**} = x + x_s$ ).

If one passes to a subsequence  $(x_{n_k})$  of  $(x_n)$  then  $c_J(x_{n_k}) \geq c_J(x_n)$ ; hence it makes sense to define

$$\tilde{c}_J(x_n) = \sup_{n_k} c_J(x_{n_k}).$$

The standard reference for L-embedded Banach spaces is the monograph [4, Chap. IV]. For general Banach space theory and undefined notation we refer to [1], [5], or [6].

The main result of this note is

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $X$  be an L-embedded Banach space and let  $(x_n)$  be equivalent to the canonical basis of  $l^1$ . Then there is a sequence  $(x_n^*)$  in  $X^*$  that generates  $l^\infty$  isometrically, more precisely*

$$(2) \quad \left\| \sum \alpha_n x_n^* \right\| = \sup |\alpha_n| \quad \text{for all } (\alpha_n) \in l^\infty,$$

and there is a strictly increasing sequence  $(p_n)$  in  $\mathbb{N}$  such that

$$(3) \quad \lim |x_n^*(x_{p_n})| = \tilde{c}_J(x_n),$$

$$(4) \quad x_n^*(x_{p_l}) = 0 \quad \text{if } l < n.$$

In particular, the dual of a non-reflexive L-embedded Banach space contains an isometric copy of  $l^\infty$ .

In order to prove the theorem we first state and prove Dowling's result in a way which fits our purpose.

**PROPOSITION 2.** *Let  $(\varepsilon_n)$  be a null sequence in  $[0, 1[$ , let  $(N_n)$  be a sequence of pairwise disjoint infinite subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$  and let  $(y_n^*)$  in the dual of a Banach space  $Y$  span  $c_0$  such that*

$$(5) \quad \left\| \sum \alpha_n y_n^* \right\| \leq \sup (1 + \varepsilon_n) |\alpha_n| \quad \text{and} \quad \|y_n^*\| \rightarrow 1$$

for all  $(\alpha_n) \in c_0$ . Then the elements

$$(6) \quad x_n^* = \sum_{k \in N_n} \frac{y_k^*}{1 + \varepsilon_k}$$

generate  $l^\infty$  isometrically (as in (2)).

*Proof.* Clearly,  $\|x_n^*\| \leq 1$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  by the first half of (5). For the inverse inequality we have

$$\|x_n^*\| \geq \left\| 2 \frac{y_m^*}{1 + \varepsilon_m} \right\| - \left\| \frac{y_m^*}{1 + \varepsilon_m} - \sum_{k \in N_n, k \neq m} \frac{y_k^*}{1 + \varepsilon_k} \right\| \geq 2 \frac{\|y_m^*\|}{1 + \varepsilon_m} - 1$$

for all  $m \in N_n$ , hence  $\|x_n^*\| \geq 1$  by the second half of (5), which proves  $\|x_n^*\| = 1$ .

Similarly we show (2): First, “ $\leq$ ” of (2) follows from the first half of (5); second, by the inequality just shown we have

$$\left\| \sum \alpha_n x_n^* \right\| \geq 2|\alpha_m| - \left\| \alpha_m x_m^* - \sum_{n \neq m} \alpha_n x_n^* \right\| \geq 2|\alpha_m| - \sup |\alpha_n|$$

for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , giving “ $\geq$ ” of (2). ■

*Proof of the Theorem.* Let  $(\delta_n)$  be a sequence in  $]0, 1[$  converging to 0. Suppose  $(x_n)$  is an  $l^1$ -basis and write  $\tilde{c} = \tilde{c}_J(x_n)$  for short.

*Observation.* Given  $\tau > 0$  there is a subsequence  $(x_{n_k})$  of  $(x_n)$  such that  $|\tilde{c} - c_J(x_{n_k})| < \tau$ . By James’  $l^1$ -distortion theorem, as described above, there are pairwise disjoint finite sets  $A_l \subset \{n_k \mid k \in \mathbb{N}\}$  and a sequence  $(\lambda_n)$  of scalars such that (1) holds with  $\lambda_n, \tilde{z}_l, z_l$  as above; furthermore  $\|\tilde{z}_l\| \rightarrow c_J(x_{n_k})$ , whence the existence of  $l'$  such that  $|\tilde{c} - \|\tilde{z}_{l'}\|| < \tau$ .

By induction over  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  we will construct finite sequences  $(y_i^{(n)*})_{i=1}^n$  in  $X^*$ , a sequence  $(\tilde{y}_n)$  in  $X$ , pairwise disjoint finite sets  $C_n \subset \mathbb{N}$  and a scalar sequence  $(\mu_n)$  such that, with the notation  $y_n = \tilde{y}_n / \|\tilde{y}_n\|$ ,

$$(7) \quad \sum_{k \in C_n} |\mu_k| = 1, \quad \tilde{y}_n = \sum_{k \in C_n} \mu_k x_k, \quad |\tilde{c} - \|\tilde{y}_n\|| < \delta_n,$$

$$(8) \quad |y_i^{(n)*}(y_i)| > 1 - \delta_i \quad \forall i \leq n,$$

$$(9) \quad y_i^{(n)*}(y_l) = 0 \quad \forall l < i \leq n,$$

$$(10) \quad y_i^{(n)*}(x_p) = 0 \quad \forall p \in C_l, \forall l < i \leq n,$$

$$(11) \quad \left\| \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i y_i^{(n)*} \right\| \leq \max_{i \leq m} (1 + (1 - 2^{-n})\delta_i) |\alpha_i| \quad \forall m \leq n, \alpha_i \text{ scalars.}$$

For  $n = 1$  we use the observation above with  $\tau = \delta_1$  and choose  $l_1$  such that  $\|\tilde{z}_{l_1}\| - \tilde{c} < \delta_1$ . Then we choose  $y_1^{(1)*}$  such that  $\|y_1^{(1)*}\| = 1$  and  $y_1^{(1)*}(z_{l_1}) = \|\tilde{z}_{l_1}\|$ . It remains to set  $C_1 = A_{l_1}$ ,  $\mu_k = \lambda_k$  for  $k \in C_1$  and  $\tilde{y}_1 = \tilde{z}_{l_1}$ .

For the induction step  $n \mapsto n + 1$  we recall that  $(P^*)|_{X^*}$  is an isometric isomorphism from  $X^*$  onto  $X_s^\perp$ , that  $X^{***} = X^\perp \oplus_\infty X_s^\perp$  and that  $(P^* x^*)|_X = (x^*)|_X$  for all  $x^* \in X^*$ . Let  $(z_l)$  be as in the observation above with  $\tau = \delta_{n+1}$  and let  $z_s \in X^{***}$  be a  $w^*$ -accumulation point of the  $z_l$ . Then  $z_s \in X_s$  and  $\|z_s\| = 1$  (as explained in the preliminaries). Choose  $t \in \ker P^* \subset X^{***}$  such that  $\|t\| = 1$  and  $t(z_s) = \|z_s\|$ . Put

$$E = \text{lin}(\{P^* y_i^{(m)*} \mid i \leq m \leq n\} \cup \{t\}) \subset X^{***},$$

$$F = \text{lin}\left(\{z_s\} \cup \left\{x_p \mid p \in \bigcup_{l \leq n} C_l\right\}\right) \subset X^{**}$$

and choose  $\eta > 0$  such that

$$(1 + \eta)(1 + (1 - 2^{-n})\delta_i) < 1 + (1 - 2^{-(n+1)})\delta_i \quad \text{and} \quad \eta < (1 - 2^{-(n+1)})\delta_{n+1}$$

for all  $i \leq n$ . The principle of local reflexivity provides an operator  $R : E \rightarrow X^*$  such that

$$(12) \quad (1 - \eta)\|e^{***}\| \leq \|Re^{***}\| \leq (1 + \eta)\|e^{***}\|,$$

$$(13) \quad f^{**}(Re^{***}) = e^{***}(f^{**}),$$

for all  $e^{***} \in E$  and  $f^{**} \in F$ .

We define  $y_i^{(n+1)*} = R(P^*y_i^{(n)*})$  for  $i \leq n$  and  $y_{n+1}^{(n+1)*} = Rt$  and obtain (11)<sub>n+1</sub> (with  $\alpha_i = 0$  if  $m < i \leq n + 1$ ) by

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \alpha_i y_i^{(n+1)*} \right\| &\stackrel{(12)}{\leq} (1 + \eta) \left\| \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i P^* y_i^{(n)*} \right) + \alpha_{n+1} t \right\| \\ &= (1 + \eta) \max \left( \left\| \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i P^* y_i^{(n)*} \right\|, \|\alpha_{n+1} t\| \right) \\ &= (1 + \eta) \max \left( \left\| \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y_i^{(n)*} \right\|, \|\alpha_{n+1} t\| \right) \\ &\stackrel{(11)}{\leq} (1 + \eta) \max_{i \leq n} (\max(1 + (1 - 2^{-n}) \delta_i) |\alpha_i|, |\alpha_{n+1}|) \\ &\leq \max_{i \leq n+1} (1 + (1 - 2^{-(n+1)}) \delta_i) |\alpha_i|. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $z_s$  is a  $w^*$ -cluster point of  $(z_l)$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} |y_{n+1}^{(n+1)*}(z_l)| &> |z_s(y_{n+1}^{(n+1)*})| - \delta_{n+1} \\ &\stackrel{(13)}{=} |t(z_s)| - \delta_{n+1} = 1 - \delta_{n+1} \end{aligned}$$

for infinitely many  $l$ ; furthermore, an  $l_{n+1}$  can be chosen among those  $l$  so as to obtain  $\| \tilde{z}_{l_{n+1}} \| - \tilde{c} < \delta_{n+1}$ . Set  $C_{n+1} = A_{l_{n+1}}$ ,  $\tilde{y}_{n+1} = \tilde{z}_{l_{n+1}}$ ,  $\mu_k = \lambda_k$  for  $k \in C_{n+1}$ . Then (7)<sub>n+1</sub> holds and (8)<sub>n+1</sub> holds for  $i = n + 1$ . For  $i \leq n$ , (8)<sub>n+1</sub> follows from

$$y_i^{(n+1)*}(y_i) = (P^*y_i^{(n)*})(y_i) = y_i^{(n)*}(y_i) \stackrel{(8)}{>} 1 - \delta_i.$$

Condition (10)<sub>n+1</sub> holds for  $i = n + 1$  by

$$y_{n+1}^{(n+1)*}(x_p) = (Rt)(x_p) \stackrel{(13)}{=} t(x_p) = 0 \quad \forall p \in C_l, \forall l < n + 1$$

and it holds for  $i < n + 1$  by

$$y_i^{(n+1)*}(x_p) = (P^*y_i^{(n)*})(x_p) = y_i^{(n)*}(x_p) \stackrel{(10)}{=} 0 \quad \forall p \in C_l, \forall l < i.$$

Condition (9)<sub>n+1</sub> follows from (10)<sub>n+1</sub>. This ends the induction.

Now we define  $y_i^* = \frac{1}{1+\delta_i} \lim_{n \in \mathcal{U}} y_i^{(n)*}$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  where  $\mathcal{U}$  is a fixed nontrivial ultrafilter on  $\mathbb{N}$  and where the limit is understood in the  $w^*$ -topo-

logy of  $X^*$ . Then by  $w^*$ -lower semicontinuity of the norm and by (11),

$$\left\| \sum \alpha_i y_i^* \right\| \leq \sup (1 + \delta_i) \frac{|\alpha_i|}{1 + \delta_i} = \sup |\alpha_i|$$

for all  $(\alpha_i) \in l^\infty$ . In particular,  $\|y_i^*\| \leq 1$ , hence  $\|y_i^*\| \rightarrow 1$  by (8) and  $(y_i^*)$  satisfies (5) for  $\varepsilon_n = 0$ .

Let  $(N_n)$  be a sequence of pairwise disjoint infinite subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$  such that  $(i_n)$  increases strictly where  $i_n = \min N_n$ . By the proposition the sequence defined by

$$x_n^* = \sum_{i \in N_n} y_i^*$$

generates  $l^\infty$  isometrically and we have

$$|x_n^*(y_{i_n})| \stackrel{(9)}{=} |y_{i_n}^*(y_{i_n})| \stackrel{(8)}{\geq} \frac{1 - \delta_{i_n}}{1 + \delta_{i_n}}.$$

By construction of the  $y_i$  there is, for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , an index  $p_n \in C_{i_n}$  such that

$$(1 + \delta_{i_n}) |x_n^*(x_{p_n})| \geq (1 - \delta_{i_n}) \|\tilde{y}_{i_n}\| \stackrel{(7)}{\geq} (1 - \delta_{i_n})(\tilde{c} - \delta_{i_n}),$$

which will yield “ $\geq$ ” of (3). In order to show “ $\leq$ ” of (3) suppose to the contrary that  $x_{n_m}^*(x_{p_{n_m}}) > \kappa + \tilde{c}$  for appropriate subsequences, all  $m$  and  $\kappa > 0$ . According to an extraction lemma of Simons [10] we may furthermore suppose that  $\sum_{j \neq m} |x_{n_j}^*(x_{p_{n_m}})| < \kappa/2$  for all  $m$ . Then given  $(\alpha_m)$  and  $\theta_m$  such that  $\theta_m \alpha_m = |\alpha_m|$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (14) \quad \left\| \sum \alpha_m x_{p_{n_m}} \right\| &\geq \left( \sum_j \theta_j x_{n_j}^* \right) \left( \sum_m \alpha_m x_{p_{n_m}} \right) \\ &\geq (\kappa + \tilde{c}) \sum_m |\alpha_m| - \sum_m \sum_{j \neq m} |\alpha_m| |x_{n_j}^*(x_{p_{n_m}})| \\ &\geq (\kappa/2 + \tilde{c}) \sum_m |\alpha_m|, \end{aligned}$$

which yields the contradiction  $c_J(x_{p_{n_m}}) > \tilde{c}$  and thus shows “ $\leq$ ” and all of (3), whereas (4) follows from (10) via  $y_i^*(x_p) = 0$  for  $p \in C_l$ ,  $l < i$ .

The last assertion of the theorem is immediate from the fact that non-reflexive L-embedded spaces contain  $l^1$  isomorphically [4, IV.2.3]. ■

REMARKS. 1. It is not clear whether (4) can be obtained also for  $l > n$ . What can be said by Simons’ extraction lemma (used in the proof) is that, under the assumptions of the theorem and given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , it is possible (after passing to appropriate subsequences) to deduce in addition to (4) that  $\sum_{n=1}^{l-1} |x_n^*(x_{p_l})| = \sum_{n \neq l} |x_n^*(x_{p_l})| < \varepsilon$  for all  $l$ . In case  $\tilde{c}_J(x_n) = 1 = \lim \|x_n\|$

(which happens when the  $x_n$  span  $l^1$  almost isometrically) this can be improved to

$$(15) \quad \sum_{n \neq l} |x_n^*(x_{p_l})| = \left( \sum_n |x_n^*(x_{p_l})| \right) - |x_l^*(x_{p_l})| \leq \|x_{p_l}\| - |x_l^*(x_{p_l})| \rightarrow 0.$$

One might also construct straightforward perturbations of the  $x_n^*$  in order to get (4) for  $l \neq n$  but then it is not clear whether these perturbations can be arranged to span  $c_0$  isometrically, not just almost isometrically.

Since in general L-embedded spaces do not contain  $l^1$  isometrically (see below, last remark) it is not in general possible, in case all  $x_n$  have the same norm, to improve (3) and (4) so as to obtain  $x_n^*(x_{p_l}) = \tilde{c}(x_m)$  if  $l = n$  and  $= 0$  if  $l \neq n$ .

2. As already alluded to in the introduction, the construction of  $c_0$  in this paper bears much resemblance to the one of [7]. A different way to construct  $c_0$  is contained in [9] but it seems unlikely that this construction can be improved to yield an isometric  $c_0$ -copy.

3. It follows from (3) (or rather from a reasoning similar to the one in (14)) that  $c(x_{p_n}) \geq \tilde{c}(x_n)$ , which means that in L-embedded spaces the sup in the definition of  $\tilde{c}_J$  is attained by the James constant of an appropriate subsequence. For general Banach spaces this is not known, although it can be shown by a routine diagonal argument that each bounded sequence  $(x_n)$  admits a  $c_J$ -stable subsequence  $(x_{n_k})$  (meaning that  $\tilde{c}_J(x_{n_k}) = c_J(x_{n_k})$ ) whose James constant is arbitrarily near to  $\tilde{c}(x_n)$ .

4. Each normalized sequence  $(x_n)$  in an L-embedded Banach space that spans  $l^1$  almost isometrically contains a subsequence each of whose  $w^*$ -accumulation points in the bidual attains its norm on the dual unit ball. To see this, let  $(x_n^*)$  and  $(x_{p_n})$  be the sequences given by the theorem and by Simons' extraction lemma (see (15) above), let  $x_s$  be a  $w^*$ -accumulation point of the  $x_{p_n}$  and let  $x^* = \sum x_n^*$ , then  $\|x^*\| = 1$  and on the one hand  $\|x_s\| = 1$  by [8] and on the other hand  $x_s(x^*) = \lim x^*(x_{p_n}) \stackrel{(15)}{=} \lim x_n^*(x_{p_n}) \stackrel{(3)}{=} c_J(x_n) = 1$ .

It would be interesting to know whether this remark holds for the whole sequence  $(x_n)$  instead of only a subsequence  $(x_{p_n})$ . A kind of converse follows from [9, Rem. 2] for separable  $X$ : If  $x_s \in X_s$  attains its norm on the dual unit ball then it does so on the sum of a wuC-series.

5. Let us finally note that the presence of isometric  $c_0$ -copies in  $X^*$  does not necessarily entail the presence of isometric copies of  $l^1$  in  $X$  even if  $X$  is the dual of an M-embedded Banach space. This follows from [4, Cor. III.2.12], which states that there is an L-embedded Banach space which is the dual of an M-embedded space (to wit, the dual of  $c_0$  with an equivalent norm) which is strictly convex and therefore does not contain  $l^1$  isometrically although it contains, as do all non-reflexive L-embedded spaces,  $l^1$  asymptotically ([8],

see [3] for the definition of asymptotic copies <sup>(1)</sup> and the difference from almost isometric ones).

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<sup>(1)</sup> In the literature there is another notion of “asymptotic  $l^p$ ” which is quite different from the one of this note.