

## EQUICOMPACT SETS OF OPERATORS DEFINED ON BANACH SPACES

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ABSTRACT. Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be Banach spaces. We say that a set  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  ( $\mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  denotes the space of all compact operators from  $X$  into  $Y$ ) is *equicom-  
pact* if there exists a null sequence  $(x_n^*)_n$  in  $X^*$  such that  $\|Tx\| \leq \sup_n |x_n^*(x)|$   
for all  $x \in X$  and all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ . It is easy to show that collectively com-  
pactness and equicomcompactness are dual concepts in the following sense:  $\mathcal{M}$  is  
equicomcompact iff  $\mathcal{M}^* = \{T^* : T \in \mathcal{M}\}$  is collectively compact. We study some  
properties of equicomcompact sets and, among other results, we prove: 1) a set  
 $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  is equicomcompact iff each bounded sequence  $(x_n)_n$  in  $X$  has a  
subsequence  $(x_{k(n)})_n$  such that  $(Tx_{k(n)})_n$  is a converging sequence uniformly  
for  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ ; 2) if  $Y$  does not have finite cotype and  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  is a maximal  
equicomcompact set, then, given  $\varepsilon > 0$  and a finite set  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  in  $X$ , there is  
an operator  $S \in \mathcal{M}$  such that  $\|Tx_i\| \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|Sx_i\|$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and all  
 $T \in \mathcal{M}$ .

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let us consider (real or complex) Banach spaces  $X$  and  $Y$ . As usual  $\mathcal{K}(X, Y)$   
will denote the vector space of all compact linear maps endowed with the operator  
norm. We say that a set  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  is *equicomcompact* if there exists a null sequence  
 $(x_n^*)_n$  in  $X^*$  so that

$$\|Tx\| \leq \sup_n |x_n^*(x)|$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ . We recall that a set  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  is called collectively  
compact iff  $\bigcup_{T \in \mathcal{M}} T(B_X)$  has compact closure. A standard proof using separations  
theorems and the well-known fact that a compact set in a Banach space is contained  
in the closure of the convex hull of a null sequence of the space allows us to state  
that  $\mathcal{M}$  is equicomcompact iff  $\mathcal{M}^* = \{T^* \in \mathcal{K}(Y^*, X^*) : T \in \mathcal{M}\}$  is collectively compact.  
We study some properties of equicomcompact sets. Among other results we have proved  
the following:

- (1) A set  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  is equicomcompact iff  $\mathcal{M}$  satisfies the next property (in-  
voked as property  $(P)$ ):
- ( $P$ ) “For every bounded sequence  $(x_n)_n$  in  $X$  there exists a  
subsequence  $(x_{k(n)})_n$  so that  $(Tx_{k(n)})_n$  is a converging  
sequence uniformly for  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ .”

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- (2) Given a null sequence  $(x_n^*)_n$  in  $X^*$ , we will denote by  $\mathcal{M}((x_n^*)_n)$  the equicom-  
pact set of all compact operators  $T \in \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  satisfying  $\|Tx\| \leq$   
 $\sup_n |x_n^*(x)|$  for all  $x \in X$ . These sets are absolutely convex and closed  
in the strong operator topology. If  $Y$  does not have finite cotype we prove  
that, given  $\varepsilon > 0$  and a finite set  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  in  $X$ , there exists an oper-  
ator  $Q \in \mathcal{M}((x_n^*)_n)$  so that  $\|Tx_i\| \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|Qx_i\|$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and all  
 $T \in \mathcal{M}((x_n^*)_n)$ .

We also have obtained a partial converse of (2): if  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  is countably  
compact for the strong operator topology (for short, SOT), then  $\mathcal{M}$  is equicom-  
pact when it verifies the following property (invoked as property (F)):

- (F) There exists a positive constant  $C$  such that, for every  
finite set  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subset X$  there is an operator  $Q$  in the  
closed absolutely convex hull of  $\mathcal{M}$  satisfying  $\|Tx_i\| \leq$   
 $C\|Qx_i\|$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ .

Our notation is standard. If  $X$  is a Banach space,  $B_X$  will denote its closed unit  
ball. If  $I$  is an arbitrary index set, we will write  $\ell_a^1(I, X)$  (respectively,  $\ell^\infty(I, X)$ )  
for the Banach space of all absolutely summable (respectively, bounded)  $X$ -valued  
functions defined on  $I$ , endowed with the norm  $\|\xi\| = \sum_{i \in I} \|\xi(i)\|$  (respectively,  
 $\|\xi\| = \sup\{\|\xi(i)\| : i \in I\}$ ) for each  $\xi \in \ell_a^1(I, X)$  (respectively,  $\xi \in \ell^\infty(I, X)$ ).

## 2. EQUICOMPACT SETS

If  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  is bounded, we can consider the continuous linear map  
 $U: \ell_a^1(\mathcal{M}, X) \longrightarrow Y$  defined by  $U(\xi) = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{M}} T(\xi(T))$  for all  $\xi \in \ell_a^1(\mathcal{M}, X)$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** *The following statements are equivalent for a set  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$ :*

- a)  $\mathcal{M}$  is collectively compact.
- b) The operator  $U$  is compact.

*Proof.* Given  $S \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $x \in B_X$ , denote by  $\xi_{S,x}$  the element of  $\ell_a^1(\mathcal{M}, X)$  defined  
by

$$\xi_{S,x}(T) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } T \neq S, \\ x & \text{if } T = S. \end{cases}$$

It is clear that  $U(\xi_{S,x}) = Sx$ ; then  $H = U\{\xi_{S,x} : S \in \mathcal{M}, x \in B_X\} = \bigcup_{T \in \mathcal{M}} T(B_X)$ .  
On the other hand, for every  $\xi \in B_{\ell_a^1(\mathcal{M}, X)}$  we have:

$$U(\xi) = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{M}} T(\xi(T)) = \sum_{\substack{T \in \mathcal{M} \\ \xi(T) \neq 0}} \|\xi(T)\| T \left( \frac{\xi(T)}{\|\xi(T)\|} \right).$$

Therefore,  $U(B_{\ell_a^1(\mathcal{M}, X)}) \subset \overline{\text{co}}(H)$ . So we have obtained  $H \subset U(B_{\ell_a^1(\mathcal{M}, X)}) \subset \overline{\text{co}}(H)$   
and this concludes the proof.  $\square$

Now we consider the operator  $V: X \longrightarrow \ell^\infty(\mathcal{M}, Y)$  defined by  $(Vx)(T) = Tx$   
for all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $x \in X$ . For the proof of the following proposition, notice that  
the equivalence a)  $\Leftrightarrow$  b) is obvious and b)  $\Leftrightarrow$  c) is straightforward.

**Proposition 2.2.** *The following statements are equivalent for a set  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$ :*

- a)  $\mathcal{M}$  is equicom-compact.
- b) The operator  $V$  is compact.
- c)  $\mathcal{M}$  has property (P).

Now we are ready to face our main result:

**Theorem 2.3.** *If  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  is bounded, the following statements are equivalent:*

- a)  $\mathcal{M}$  is collectively compact.
- b)  $\mathcal{M}^*$  has property (P).

*Proof.* The adjoint map of  $U: \ell_a^1(\mathcal{M}, X) \rightarrow Y$  is the operator  $U^*: Y^* \rightarrow \ell^\infty(\mathcal{M}, X^*)$  defined by  $(U^*y^*)(T) = T^*y^*$ , for all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $y^* \in Y^*$ . In fact, we have:

$$\langle \xi, U^*y^* \rangle = \langle U\xi, y^* \rangle = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{M}} \langle T(\xi(T)), y^* \rangle = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{M}} \langle \xi(T), T^*y^* \rangle$$

for all  $\xi \in \ell_a^1(\mathcal{M}, X)$  and  $y^* \in Y^*$ . A call to Propositions 2.1 and 2.2 concludes the proof.  $\square$

The next lemma easily yields the dual equivalence

$$\mathcal{M} \text{ has property (P)} \iff \mathcal{M}^* \text{ is collectively compact.}$$

**Lemma 2.4.** *If  $(x_n^*)_n$  is a null sequence in  $X^*$  and  $\mathcal{M}$  is a subset of  $\mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  such that*

$$\|Tx\| \leq \sup_n |x_n^*(x)|$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ , then

$$\|T^{**}x^{**}\| \leq \sup_n |x^{**}(x_n^*)|$$

for all  $x^{**} \in X^{**}$  and  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ .

*Proof.* Given  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $x^{**} \in B_{X^{**}}$ , choose  $y^* \in B_{Y^*}$  so that  $\|T^{**}x^{**}\| = |y^*(T^{**}x^{**})|$ . By hypothesis, there exists  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\|x_n^*\| < \varepsilon/4$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ . Now we consider the weak\* neighborhood  $W = W(x_1^*, \dots, x_{n_0}^*, T^*y^*; \varepsilon/2)$  of 0; there exists  $x \in B_X$  satisfying  $x \in x^{**} + W$ . Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \|T^{**}x^{**}\| &= |\langle T^*y^*, x^{**} \rangle| \\ &\leq |\langle T^*y^*, x^{**} \rangle - \langle T^*y^*, x \rangle| + |\langle T^*y^*, x \rangle| \\ &< \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \sup_n |\langle x_n^*, x \rangle| \\ &\leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \sup_n |\langle x_n^*, x \rangle - \langle x_n^*, x^{**} \rangle| + \sup_n |\langle x_n^*, x^{**} \rangle| \\ &< \varepsilon + \sup_n |\langle x_n^*, x^{**} \rangle| \end{aligned}$$

for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Letting  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , we obtain  $\|T^{**}x^{**}\| \leq \sup_n |x^{**}(x_n^*)|$  for all  $x^{**} \in X^{**}$  and all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ .  $\square$

*Remark 2.5.* A set  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{L}(X, Y)$  is *sequentially weak-norm equicontinuous* (or *uniformly completely continuous*) if, for every weakly null sequence  $(x_n)_n$  in  $X$ ,  $\lim_n \|Tx_n\| = 0$  uniformly for  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ . It is obvious that every equicontact set is uniformly completely continuous (for short, u.c.c.). If  $X$  does not contain a copy of  $\ell^1$ , then Rosenthal's theorem about  $\ell^1$  tells us that each bounded sequence in  $X$  has a weakly Cauchy subsequence. So, in this case, every u.c.c. set has property (P) and, therefore, it is equicontact. That is to say, if  $X \not\supseteq \ell^1$ , then the following

statements are equivalent for a bounded set  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$ :

- a)  $\mathcal{M}$  is equicontact.
- b)  $\mathcal{M}$  is u.c.c.
- c)  $\mathcal{M}^*$  is collectively compact.

The equivalence stated in Remark 2.5 and [4, theorem 2.2] yields directly the recent Mayoral's theorem [3]:

**Theorem** (F. Mayoral, 2001). *If  $X$  does not contain a copy of  $\ell^1$ , a set  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  is relatively compact iff  $\mathcal{M}$  is u.c.c. and, for every  $x \in X$ , the set  $\mathcal{M}(x) = \{Tx : T \in \mathcal{M}\}$  is relatively compact in  $Y$ .*

Nevertheless, for an arbitrary Banach space  $X$ , a u.c.c. set  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  is equicontact if, in addition, every  $\ell^1$ -sequence  $(x_n)_n$  in  $X$  has a subsequence  $(x_{k(n)})_n$  such that  $(Tx_{k(n)})_n$  is uniformly convergent for  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ .

### 3. DOMINATED SETS OF OPERATORS

The simplest examples of equicontact sets are the sets dominated by a compact operator, that is to say, the sets for which there exists an operator  $S \in \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  such that  $\|Tx\| \leq \|Sx\|$  for all  $x \in X$  and all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ . We are going to prove that a maximal equicontact set  $\mathcal{M}$  is dominated by an operator  $Q_H \in \mathcal{M}$  on every finite set  $H = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subset X$ . But a more general class of sets  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{L}(X, Y)$  enjoys this property. That is why we now consider the class of  $(Z, S)$ -dominated sets.

Given a Banach space  $Z$  and a linear map  $S: X \rightarrow Z$ , we say that a set  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{L}(X, Y)$  is  $(Z, S)$ -dominated if  $\|Tx\| \leq \|Sx\|$  for all  $x \in X$  and all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ .

#### Examples.

- (1) If  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  is an equicontact set satisfying  $\|Tx\| \leq \sup_n |x_n^*(x)|$  for all  $x \in X$  and all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ , with  $(x_n^*)_n$  a null sequence in  $X^*$ , consider the map  $S: X \rightarrow c_0$  defined by  $Sx = (x_n^*(x))_n$ . Then,  $\mathcal{M}$  is  $(c_0, S)$ -dominated.
- (2) Let  $\Pi_p(X, Y)$  be the space of  $p$ -summing operators from  $X$  into  $Y$  endowed with the norm  $\pi_p(T) = \sup\{(\sum_n \|Tx_n\|^p)^{1/p} : (x_n)_n \in B_{\ell_w^p(X)}\}$ , where  $\ell_w^p(X)$  is the Banach space of the weakly  $p$ -summable sequences in  $X$ . A set  $\mathcal{M} \subset \Pi_p(X, Y)$  is said to be uniformly  $p$ -dominated if there exists a positive Radon measure  $\mu$  on  $B_{X^*}$  such that

$$\|Tx\|^p \leq \int_{B_{X^*}} |x^*(x)|^p d\mu(x^*)$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ . Put  $Z = L^p(\mu, B_{X^*})$  and define  $S: X \rightarrow Z$  by  $(Sx)(x^*) = x^*(x)$  for all  $x^* \in B_{X^*}$  and all  $x \in X$ . Then every uniformly  $p$ -dominated set is  $(Z, S)$ -dominated.

If  $X$  and  $Y$  are Banach spaces, we will denote by  $\mathcal{M}(Z, S)$  the set of all operators  $T \in \mathcal{L}(X, Y)$  satisfying  $\|Tx\| \leq \|Sx\|$  for all  $x \in X$ . Note that  $\mathcal{M}(Z, S)$  is absolutely convex and closed in  $\mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  for the SOT topology. The next theorem shows that  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}(Z, S)$  is dominated by an operator  $Q \in \mathcal{M}$  on every finite set  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subset X$  when  $Y$  does not have finite cotype.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $Y$  be a Banach space that does not have finite cotype. Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , for every finite set  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subset X$  there exists  $Q \in \mathcal{M}(Z, S)$  such that*

$$\|Tx_i\| \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|Qx_i\|$$

for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and all  $T \in \mathcal{M}(Z, S)$ .

*Proof.* Since  $Y$  does not have finite cotype,  $Y$  contains  $\ell_n^\infty$  uniformly ( $\ell_n^\infty = (\mathbb{R}^n, \|\cdot\|_\infty)$ ). By [2, theorem 14.1], for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , there is an isomorphism  $J_n$  from  $\ell_n^\infty$  onto a subspace of  $Y$  satisfying  $\|J_n^{-1}\| = 1$  and  $\|J_n\| \leq 1 + \varepsilon$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Given  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subset X$ , choose  $z_i^* \in B_{Z^*}$  so that  $|z_i^*(Sx_i)| = \|Sx_i\|$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Put  $y_i = J_n e_i$ ,  $(e_i)_{i=1}^n$  being the unit basis of  $\ell_n^\infty$ . We define an operator  $Q: X \rightarrow Y$  by

$$Qx = \frac{1}{1 + \varepsilon} J_n (\langle \langle Sx, z_i^* \rangle \rangle_1^n).$$

Then we have:

$$\|Qx\| \leq (1 + \varepsilon)^{-1} \|J_n\| \|\langle \langle Sx, z_i^* \rangle \rangle_1^n\|_\infty \leq \|Sx\| \sup_i \|z_i^*\| \leq \|Sx\|$$

and this proves that  $Q \in \mathcal{M}(Z, S)$ .

Finally, we need to prove that  $\|Tx_i\| \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|Qx_i\|$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and all  $T \in \mathcal{M}(Z, S)$ . Put  $y_i^* = e_i^* \circ J_n^{-1}$ ,  $(e_i^*)_{i=1}^n$  being the unit basis of  $(\ell_n^\infty)^* \simeq \ell_n^1$ . Note that  $\|y_i^*\| \leq 1$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . We also denote by  $y_i^*$  a Hahn-Banach extension of  $e_i^* \circ J_n^{-1}$  to  $Y$ . It is easy to show that  $\langle y_i, y_j^* \rangle = \delta_{ij}$ . We have:

$$\begin{aligned} \|Qx_j\| &\geq |\langle Qx_j, y_j^* \rangle| \\ &= (1 + \varepsilon)^{-1} \left| \sum_{i=1}^n \langle Sx_j, z_i^* \rangle \langle y_i, y_j^* \rangle \right| \\ &= (1 + \varepsilon)^{-1} |\langle Sx_j, z_j^* \rangle| \\ &= (1 + \varepsilon)^{-1} \|Sx_j\| \\ &\geq (1 + \varepsilon)^{-1} \|Tx_j\| \end{aligned}$$

for all  $T \in \mathcal{M}(Z, S)$  and  $j = 1, \dots, n$ . □

**Corollary 3.2.** *If the Banach space  $Y$  does not have finite cotype, every equicontact subset of  $\mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  may be uniformly dominated, on each finite subset of  $X$ , by a compact operator.*

Now we give a partial converse of the last theorem in case  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  is a SOT-countably compact set. Note that the absolutely convex hull of an equicontact set is equicontact, too. So, without loss of generality, we can suppose from now on that  $\mathcal{M}$  is absolutely convex.

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be an absolutely convex subset of  $\mathcal{K}(X, Y)$  enjoying property (F). If  $\mathcal{M}$  is countably compact for the strong operator topology, then  $\mathcal{M}$  is equicontact.*

*Proof.* (a) First, we prove the theorem in case  $X$  is a separable Banach space. Let  $(x_n)_n$  be a dense sequence in  $X$ . By hypothesis, for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists  $Q_n \in \mathcal{M}$  so that

$$\|Tx_i\| \leq C\|Q_n x_i\|$$

for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ . The sequence  $(Q_n)_n$  has a cluster point  $Q \in \mathcal{M}$  for the SOT. Proceeding by contradiction, it is easy to show that

$$(1) \quad \|Tx_i\| \leq C\|Qx_i\|$$

for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ . Now, given  $x \in X$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ , choose  $x_i$  such that  $\|x - x_i\| < \varepsilon/K$ , where  $K = \sup_{T \in \mathcal{M}} \|T\|$ . Using (1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|Tx\| &\leq \|Tx - Tx_i\| + \|Tx_i\| \\ &< \varepsilon + C\|Qx_i\| \\ &\leq \varepsilon + C(\|Qx_i - Qx\| + \|Qx\|) \\ &\leq \varepsilon + C\varepsilon + C\|Qx\| \end{aligned}$$

for all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ . Letting  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  we conclude  $\|Tx\| \leq C\|Qx\|$  for all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ .

(b) Consider now an arbitrary Banach space  $X$ . In order to show that  $\mathcal{M}$  is equicontact, we will prove that  $\mathcal{M}$  has property (P). Let  $(x_n)_n$  be a bounded sequence in  $X$  and put  $H = \overline{\text{span}} \{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . If  $i_H$  denotes the inclusion map from  $H$  into  $X$ , then part (a) applied to the set  $\mathcal{N} = \{T \circ i_H : T \in \mathcal{M}\} \subset \mathcal{K}(H, Y)$  yields the equicontactness of  $\mathcal{N}$  and, therefore, also of  $\mathcal{M}$ .  $\square$

**Examples.** 1. A maximal equicontact set of operators valued in  $\ell_2$  that fails property (F). Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be the set of all operators  $T$  from  $c_0$  into  $\ell_2$  satisfying

$$\|T\alpha\|_2 \leq \sup_n \left| \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} e_n^*(\alpha) \right|$$

for all  $\alpha \in c_0$  ( $(e_n^*)_n$  denotes the unit basis of  $\ell^1$ ). By contradiction, suppose there exists a positive constant  $C$  such that, for every finite set  $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\} \subset c_0$ , there is an operator  $Q \in \mathcal{M}$  such that  $\|T\alpha_k\|_2 \leq C\|Q\alpha_k\|_2$  for  $k = 1, \dots, n$  and all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ . In particular, for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists  $Q_n \in \mathcal{M}$  so that

$$\|Te_k\|_2 \leq C\|Q_n e_k\|_2$$

for  $k = 1, \dots, n$  and all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$  (here  $(e_n)_n$  denotes the unit basis of  $c_0$ ). Then we have

$$(2) \quad \sum_{k=1}^n \|T_k e_k\|_2^2 \leq C^2 \sum_{k=1}^n \|Q_n e_k\|_2^2$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and all  $\{T_1, \dots, T_n\} \subset \mathcal{M}$ . Now we consider the operators  $T_k \in \mathcal{M}$  defined by  $T_k \alpha = \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} e_k^*(\alpha) u_k$  for all  $\alpha \in c_0$ , where  $(u_n)_n$  is the unit basis of  $\ell_2$ . Notice that  $\|T_k e_k\|_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}}$ ; then (2) yields

$$C^{-2} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k} \leq \sum_{k=1}^n \|Q_n e_k\|_2^2$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Finally, recall that every bounded operator  $T$  from  $c_0$  into  $\ell_2$  is 2-summing and  $\pi_2(T) \leq \lambda \|T\|$ , for some constant  $\lambda > 0$  (see [2, theorem 3.5]). This fact allows us to obtain

$$\pi_2(Q_n)^2 \geq \sum_{k=1}^n \|Q_n e_k\|_2^2 \geq C^{-2} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k}$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . This is a contradiction because  $\mathcal{M}$  is bounded for the  $\pi_2$ -norm.

2. It is interesting to show that the countable compactness of  $\mathcal{M}$  cannot be omitted in Theorem 3.3. For example, consider the closed unit ball of  $\mathcal{L}(c_0, c_0)$ .

This ball is the same that  $\mathcal{M}(c_0, I)$ ,  $I$  being the identity map on  $c_0$ . The proof of Theorem 3.1 shows that  $\mathcal{M}(c_0, I)$  has the following property:

“There exists a positive constant  $C$  such that, for every finite set  $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\} \subset c_0$ , there is an operator of finite rank  $Q \in \mathcal{M}(c_0, I)$  satisfying  $\|T\alpha_k\| \leq C\|Q\alpha_k\|$  for  $k = 1, \dots, n$  and all  $T \in \mathcal{M}(c_0, I)$ .”

This implies that the closed unit ball of  $\mathcal{K}(c_0, c_0)$ ,  $\mathcal{M}$ , has property (F). Nevertheless, we are going to show that  $\mathcal{M}$  is not equicontact. For each  $\delta = (\delta_n)_n$  belonging to the unit ball of  $c_0$ , we denote by  $T_\delta$  the operator defined by  $T_\delta(\alpha_n)_n = (\alpha_n \cdot \delta_n)_n$  for all  $(\alpha_n)_n \in c_0$ . It is obvious that  $T_\delta \in \mathcal{M}$  for all  $\delta \in B_{c_0}$ . For every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have  $\|T_{e_n}\| = \|e_n\| = 1$ . Since  $(e_n)_n$  is weakly null in  $c_0$ , this shows that  $\mathcal{M}$  is not u.c.c.

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