

## THE OPTIMALITY OF JAMES'S DISTORTION THEOREMS

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ABSTRACT. A renorming of  $\ell_1$ , explored here in detail, shows that the copies of  $\ell_1$  produced in the proof of the Kadec-Pelczyński theorem inside nonreflexive subspaces of  $L_1[0, 1]$  cannot be produced inside general nonreflexive spaces that contain copies of  $\ell_1$ . Put differently, James's distortion theorem producing one-plus-epsilon-isomorphic copies of  $\ell_1$  inside any isomorphic copy of  $\ell_1$  is, in a certain sense, optimal. A similar renorming of  $c_0$  shows that James's distortion theorem for  $c_0$  is likewise optimal.

James's distortion theorems for  $\ell_1$ , the space of absolutely summable sequences of scalars, and  $c_0$ , the space of null sequences of scalars, are well-known [J]. The former states that, whenever a Banach space contains a subspace isomorphic to  $\ell_1$ , the Banach space contains subspaces that are almost isometric to  $\ell_1$ . Several of the authors of this article, individually and in concert, have tried to use this feature of  $\ell_1$  to determine if all (equivalent) renormings of  $\ell_1$  fail to have the fixed point property for nonexpansive mappings (the FPP); i.e. if, in any renorming of  $\ell_1$ , there exist a nonempty, closed, bounded and convex subset  $C$  and a nonexpansive self-map  $T$  of  $C$  without a fixed point. The basis of these attempts was to use the fact that  $\ell_1$  in its usual norm fails to have the fixed point property and, since each renorming of  $\ell_1$  contains subspaces almost isometric to  $\ell_1$ , a perturbation of the usual example would hopefully produce a nonexpansive self-map of a nonempty, closed, bounded, convex set in any renorming of  $\ell_1$ . Similar attempts in  $c_0$  were also made. What appeared to be needed in these attempts were strengthened versions of James's distortion theorems.

To be specific, James's theorem for  $\ell_1$  states that if a Banach space  $X$  with norm  $\|\cdot\|$  contains an isomorphic copy of  $\ell_1$ , then, for each  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists a sequence  $(x_k)$  in the unit sphere of  $X$  such that  $(1 - \epsilon) \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |t_k| \leq \|\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} t_k x_k\| \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |t_k|$  for all  $(t_k) \in \ell_1$ . The proof of the theorem shows even more than the statement indicates. The sequence  $(x_k)$  may be chosen to have the additional property that, if  $(\epsilon_n)$  is a sequence of positive numbers decreasing to 0, then for each  $n$ ,  $(1 - \epsilon_n) \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} |t_k| \leq \|\sum_{k=n}^{\infty} t_k x_k\| \leq \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} |t_k|$ , for all  $(t_k) \in \ell_1$ . That is, for each  $\delta > 0$ , by ignoring a finite number of terms at the beginning of the sequence  $(x_k)$ , one obtains copies of  $\ell_1$  which are  $(1 + \delta)$ -isomorphic to  $\ell_1$ . This

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leads one to ask if James's distortion theorem can be strengthened in the following sense:

**Question.** *If  $X$  is a Banach space that contains an isomorphic copy of  $\ell_1$  and  $(\epsilon_n)$  is a sequence of positive numbers that decreases to 0, does there exist a sequence  $(x_k)$  in the unit sphere of  $X$  such that  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (1 - \epsilon_k) |t_k| \leq \|\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} t_k x_k\| \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |t_k|$  for all  $(t_k) \in \ell_1$ ?*

The closed linear span of such a sequence  $(x_n)$  in the above question is called an *asymptotically isometric copy* of  $\ell_1$ . As noted in [DL], the proof of the Kadec-Pelczyński theorem [KP] shows that nonreflexive subspaces of  $L_1[0, 1]$  contain such "good" copies of  $\ell_1$  and, in this case, there exist nonexpansive self-maps on closed, bounded and convex sets without fixed points. (This provides a converse to a theorem of Maurey [M] that every reflexive subspace of  $L_1[0, 1]$  has the FPP.) Thus, if every renorming of  $\ell_1$  were to contain an asymptotically isometric copy of  $\ell_1$ , then every renorming of  $\ell_1$  would fail the fixed point property. One purpose of this article is to present a renorming of  $\ell_1$  which contains no asymptotically isometric copy of  $\ell_1$ . Thus James's distortion theorem for  $\ell_1$  is, in this sense, optimal and the question of whether  $\ell_1$  can be given an equivalent norm with the fixed point property remains open. Using the predual of this renorming of  $\ell_1$ , it will be seen that James's distortion theorem for  $c_0$  is similarly optimal and the question as to whether  $c_0$  can be given an equivalent norm with the fixed point property likewise remains open.

Recent papers ([CDL, DLT]) have extended the classes of spaces known to contain asymptotically isometric copies of  $\ell_1$ . In a related paper, Smyth [S] showed that the dual of every space  $C(\Omega)$ , where  $\Omega$  is an infinite compact Hausdorff space, fails the weak-star fixed point property with an affine contraction.

In the ensuing discussion,  $\mathbb{K}$  will denote the scalar field (the real or the complex numbers) and  $\mathbb{N}$  will denote the positive integers. The Banach space  $\ell_1$  is as usual the space of absolutely summable scalar sequences with its usual norm  $\|x\|_1 := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\xi_n|$ , for all  $x = (\xi_n) \in \ell_1$ . More generally, for  $p \geq 1$ , the Banach space of  $p$ -summable sequences of scalars is denoted by  $\ell_p$  and is normed by  $\|x\|_p := (\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\xi_n|^p)^{1/p}$  for all  $x = (\xi_n) \in \ell_p$ . The sequence  $(e_n)$  will always denote the canonical unit vector basis in  $\ell_p$ . Recall that  $\|x\|_p \leq \|x\|_1$  for  $p \geq 1$  and  $x \in \ell_1$ .

The space to be defined is, on the surface, quite simple. It is a countable sum of  $\mathbb{K}$ 's and is akin to the classical  $\ell_p$ -spaces. There are two significant features to notice: the varying values of the exponents (similar to spaces of Nakano) and the placement of the parentheses in defining the norm. Fix a sequence  $p = (p_n)$  of real numbers in  $(1, \infty)$  converging to 1. Then the space we wish to define is:

$$\mathbb{K} \oplus_{p_1} (\mathbb{K} \oplus_{p_2} (\mathbb{K} \oplus_{p_3} (\mathbb{K} \oplus_{p_4} \dots))).$$

Let  $X := \mathbb{K}^{\mathbb{N}}$ . For  $x = (\xi_n) \in X$ , define:

$$\nu_1(p, x) := |\xi_1|,$$

$$\nu_2(p, x) := (|\xi_1|^{p_1} + |\xi_2|^{p_1})^{1/p_1},$$

$$\nu_3(p, x) := \left( |\xi_1|^{p_1} + (|\xi_2|^{p_2} + |\xi_3|^{p_2})^{p_1/p_2} \right)^{1/p_1},$$

$$\nu_4(p, x) := \left( |\xi_1|^{p_1} + \left( |\xi_2|^{p_2} + (|\xi_3|^{p_3} + |\xi_4|^{p_3})^{p_2/p_3} \right)^{p_1/p_2} \right)^{1/p_1} .$$

To proceed further with this inductive construction, some notation is useful. Define the shift operator  $S : X \rightarrow X$  by  $Sz := (z_2, z_3, \dots, z_k, \dots)$  for all  $z \in X$ . For  $p$  and  $x$  as above define, for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\nu_{n+1}(p, x) := (|\xi_1|^{p_1} + \nu_n(Sp, Sx)^{p_1})^{1/p_1} .$$

Each  $\nu_n(p, \cdot)$  is a seminorm on  $X$  and, for each  $x \in X$ , the sequence  $(\nu_n(p, x))_{n=1}^\infty$  increases to a limit  $\nu_p(x)$ . Clearly, for all  $x \in X$ ,  $\nu_n(p, x) \leq |\xi_1| + \dots + |\xi_n|$  for every  $n$ . Thus  $\nu_p(x) \leq \|x\|_1$  for each  $x \in \ell_1$ .

In seeking lower estimates for  $\nu_p(x)$ , first note that since all two-dimensional normed linear spaces are equivalent, two-dimensional  $\ell_q^2$  is equivalent to  $\ell_1^2$  and in fact, for  $q \geq 1$ ,

$$\|(\xi_1, \xi_2)\|_q \geq 2^{-1+1/q} \|(\xi_1, \xi_2)\|_1 .$$

Then, with  $K_j = 2^{-1+1/p_j}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \nu_n(p, x) &= (|\xi_1|^{p_1} + \nu_{n-1}(Sp, Sx)^{p_1})^{1/p_1} \\ &\geq K_1 (|\xi_1| + \nu_{n-1}(Sp, Sx)) \\ &= K_1 \left( |\xi_1| + (|\xi_2|^{p_2} + \nu_{n-2}(S^2p, S^2x)^{p_2})^{1/p_2} \right) \\ &\geq K_1 (|\xi_1| + K_2 (|\xi_2| + \nu_{n-2}(S^2p, S^2x))) \\ &\geq K_1 K_2 (|\xi_1| + |\xi_2| + \nu_{n-2}(S^2p, S^2x)) \\ &\vdots \\ &\geq K_1 K_2 \cdots K_n \sum_{j=1}^n |\xi_j| . \end{aligned}$$

Specializing to the sequence  $p = (p_j)$  where  $p_j = \frac{2^j}{2^j - 1}$  yields:

$$\frac{1}{2} \|x\|_1 \leq \nu_p(x) \leq \|x\|_1 \quad \text{for all } x \in \ell_1 .$$

Thus, for this specific choice of  $p$ ,  $\nu_p(\cdot)$  is an equivalent norm on  $\ell_1$ .

It is clear that  $\nu_p(\cdot)$  is equivalent to the  $\ell_1$  norm whenever  $p_n$  converges to 1 sufficiently quickly. Moreover, it is easy to determine for which sequences  $p$  the norm  $\nu_p(\cdot)$  is equivalent to the  $\ell_1$  norm. The characterization is in terms of the dual norm  $\nu_q(\cdot)$ , where  $q = (q_1, q_2, \dots)$  satisfies  $\frac{1}{p_n} + \frac{1}{q_n} = 1$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $p$  be a sequence in  $(1, \infty)$  and let  $q$  be the sequence of conjugate exponents of  $p$ . Then the following are equivalent.*

- (i)  $\nu_p(\cdot)$  is equivalent to the  $\ell_1$  norm.
- (ii)  $\nu_q(\cdot)$  is equivalent to the  $c_0$  norm.
- (iii)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \nu_q(1_{[1, n]}) < \infty$ .
- (iv) There exists  $\delta > 0$  so that for all  $n$ ,  $q_n^\# \geq \delta \log n$ , where  $(q_n^\#)$  is the increasing rearrangement of  $q$ .

*Proof.* We will use the notation  $1_E$  to denote the characteristic function of a subset  $E$  of  $\mathbb{N}$ . The equivalence of the first three conditions is well-known in a general context. That implication (iii) implies (iv) is straightforward. Indeed, since for each  $n$ , there are at least  $n$  values of  $k$  for which  $q_k \leq q_n^\#$ , we have for sufficiently large  $N$  that

$$\nu_q(1_{[1,N]}) \geq n^{1/q_n^\#}.$$

So, if we set  $C := \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \nu_q(1_{[1,N]})$ , then for all  $n$ ,

$$q_n^\# \geq \frac{\log n}{\log C}.$$

For (iv) implies (iii), let  $C > 3^{1/\delta}$ . Then

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C^{-q_n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C^{-q_n^\#} < \infty.$$

Now for  $x > 0$ ,  $s > 1$ ,  $(1 + x^{-1})^{1/s} \leq 1 + s^{-1}x^{-1}$ , and therefore  $(1 + x^s)^{1/s} \leq x + s^{-1}x^{1-s}$ . Hence, for each  $k \leq N$

$$\nu_q(1_{[k,N]}) \leq \nu_q(1_{[k+1,N]}) + q_k^{-1} \nu_q(1_{[k+1,N]})^{1-q_k}.$$

If  $\nu_q(1_{[1,N]}) \leq C$  for all  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , then we are done. If  $\nu_q(1_{[1,N]}) > C$ , choose  $m$  so that  $\nu_q(1_{[m,N]}) \geq C > \nu_q(1_{[m+1,N]})$ . Then

$$\nu_q(1_{[1,N]}) \leq C + 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{m-1} q_k^{-1} \nu_q(1_{[k+1,N]})^{1-q_k} \leq C + 1 + C \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} q_k^{-1} C^{-q_k} < \infty.$$

□

The next result shows the optimality of James’s theorem by proving that the above renormings of  $\ell_1$  fail to contain any asymptotically isometric copies of  $\ell_1$ .

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $p = (p_n)$  be a sequence in  $(1, \infty)$ , converging to 1 and such that  $\nu_p$  is an equivalent norm on  $\ell_1$ ; and let  $(\epsilon_n)$  be a null sequence in  $(0, 1)$ . Then there does not exist a  $\nu_p$ -normalized sequence  $(x_k)$  in  $\ell_1$  such that, for all  $t = (t_j) \in \ell_1$ ,*

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (1 - \epsilon_j) |t_j| \leq \nu_p \left( \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} t_j x_j \right) \leq \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} |t_j|.$$

*Proof.* Without loss of generality, assume  $p$  strictly decreases to 1. In order to obtain a contradiction, assume that there exists a null sequence  $(\epsilon_n)$  in  $(0, 1)$  and a  $\nu_p$ -normalized sequence  $(x_k)$  in  $\ell_1$  such that

$$(*) \quad \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (1 - \epsilon_j) |t_j| \leq \nu_p \left( \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} t_j x_j \right) \leq \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} |t_j| \quad \text{for all } t = (t_j) \in \ell_1.$$

By passing to a subsequence of  $(x_n)$  if necessary, there is no loss of generality in assuming that

$$(**) \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \epsilon_n < 1.$$

Note also that there is no loss of generality in assuming additionally that the sequence  $(x_n)$  is disjointly supported, i.e., that the support of  $x_m$  is disjoint from the support of  $x_n$  if  $m \neq n$ . Indeed this is a classical gliding hump argument. Since the closed unit ball of  $\ell_1$  is weak-star sequentially compact with respect to the predual  $c_0$ , by passing to a subsequence, we may suppose that  $(x_n)$  converges weak-star (and so pointwise with respect to the usual basis  $(e_n)$  of  $\ell_1$ ) to some  $y \in \ell_1$ . By replacing  $(x_n)$  by the  $\nu_p$ -normalization of the sequence  $\left(\frac{x_{2j} - x_{2j+1}}{2}\right)$ , we may assume that  $y = 0$ . As in the proof of the Bessaga-Pełczyński theorem [BP] (or see, for example [D]), by passing to a subsequence of  $(x_n)$  which is essentially disjointly supported, truncating to obtain a disjointly supported sequence, and then normalizing, yield a block basis  $(b_k)$  of  $(e_n)$  which satisfies (\*). Consequently, we henceforth assume that  $(x_n)$  is disjointly supported.

Let  $(m(k))_{k=0}^\infty$  be a strictly increasing sequence in  $\mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$  with  $m(0) = 0$  and  $(\xi_j)_{j=1}^\infty$  a sequence of scalars such that, for each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$x_k = \sum_{j=m(k-1)+1}^{m(k)} \xi_j e_j .$$

Let  $N$  be in  $\mathbb{N}$  and, in (\*), set  $t_j = 1$  for  $j = 1, \dots, N$  and 0 otherwise. Then, for  $N \geq m(1)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} N - \sum_{j=1}^N \epsilon_j &\leq \nu_p \left( \sum_{k=1}^N x_k \right) \\ &= \left( |\xi_1|^{p_1} + \nu_p \left( \sum_{j=2}^{m(N)} \xi_j e_j \right)^{p_1} \right)^{1/p_1} \\ &\leq \left( |\xi_1|^{p_2} + \nu_p \left( \sum_{j=2}^{m(N)} \xi_j e_j \right)^{p_2} \right)^{1/p_2} \\ &= \left( |\xi_1|^{p_2} + |\xi_2|^{p_2} + \nu_p \left( \sum_{j=3}^{m(N)} \xi_j e_j \right)^{p_2} \right)^{1/p_2} \\ &\leq \left( |\xi_1|^{p_3} + |\xi_2|^{p_3} + \nu_p \left( \sum_{j=3}^{m(N)} \xi_j e_j \right)^{p_3} \right)^{1/p_3} \\ &\vdots \\ &\leq \left( |\xi_1|^{p_{m(1)}} + \dots + |\xi_{m(1)}|^{p_{m(1)}} + \nu_p \left( \sum_{j=m(1)+1}^{m(N)} \xi_j e_j \right)^{p_{m(1)}} \right)^{1/p_{m(1)}} \\ &= \left( \|x_1\|_{p_{m(1)}}^{p_{m(1)}} + \nu_p \left( \sum_{k=2}^N x_k \right)^{p_{m(1)}} \right)^{1/p_{m(1)}} \\ &\leq \left( \|x_1\|_{p_{m(1)}}^{p_{m(1)}} + (N - 1)^{p_{m(1)}} \right)^{1/p_{m(1)}} . \end{aligned}$$

Thus, for  $N \geq m(1)$ ,

$$\left(N - \sum_{j=1}^N \epsilon_j\right)^{p_{m(1)}} - (N - 1)^{p_{m(1)}} \leq \|x_1\|_{p_{m(1)}}^{p_{m(1)}}.$$

By (\*\*), the left-hand side of the inequality tends to  $\infty$  with  $N$ . This yields a contradiction which finishes the proof.  $\square$

In the previous proof, choosing vectors of the form  $x_1 + Mx_N$ , instead of  $x_1 + \dots + x_N$ , also leads to a contradiction (by letting  $N$  and then  $M$  become arbitrarily large).

We note here that the proof of James’s distortion theorem for  $c_0$  gives us that if a Banach space  $(X, \|\cdot\|)$  contains an isomorphic copy of  $c_0$ , then for each sequence  $(\epsilon_n)$  of positive numbers decreasing to 0, there exists a sequence  $(x_n)$  in the unit sphere of  $X$  such that for each  $n$ ,  $(1 - \epsilon_n) \max_{k \geq n} |t_k| \leq \|\sum_{k=n}^\infty t_k x_k\| \leq (1 + \epsilon_n) \max_{k \geq n} |t_k|$ , for all  $(t_k) \in c_0$ . In order to show that James’s distortion theorem for  $c_0$  is also optimal, the construction introduced for  $\ell_1$  can be used as long as the sequence  $p = (p_j)$  is chosen to increase sufficiently quickly to infinity. For example, with  $p_j = 2^j$ ,

$$\|x\|_\infty \leq \nu_p(x) \leq 2 \|x\|_\infty \quad \text{for all } x \in c_0.$$

Thus, with this choice of  $p$ ,  $\nu_p(\cdot)$  is an equivalent norm on  $c_0$ . (For other choices of  $p$ , we may apply Proposition 1.)

A Banach space is said to contain an *asymptotically isometric copy* of  $c_0$  if, for every sequence of positive numbers  $(\epsilon_n)$  decreasing to 0, there exists a sequence  $(x_n)$  in the Banach space such that  $\max_{n \in F} (1 - \epsilon_n) |\alpha_n| \leq \|\sum_{n \in F} \alpha_n x_n\| \leq \max_{n \in F} (1 + \epsilon_n) |\alpha_n|$  for all choices of scalars  $(\alpha_n)$  and for all finite subsets  $F$  of natural numbers. (Note that  $(1 + \epsilon_n)$  may be replaced by 1 in this definition.) The next result provides a useful connection between the two asymptotically isometric properties.

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $(X, \|\cdot\|)$  be a Banach space that contains an asymptotically isometric copy of  $c_0$ . Then  $X^*$ , with the dual norm, contains an asymptotically isometric copy of  $\ell_1$ .*

*Proof.* By hypothesis, given any null sequence  $(\epsilon_n)$  in  $(0, 1)$ , there is a sequence  $(x_n)$  in  $X$  such that for all finite sequences of scalars  $(\alpha_n)_{n=1}^N$ ,

$$\max_{1 \leq n \leq N} (1 - \epsilon_n) |\alpha_n| \leq \left\| \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n x_n \right\| \leq \max_{1 \leq n \leq N} |\alpha_n|.$$

Let  $(x_n^*)$  be a sequence of Hahn-Banach extensions to elements of  $X^*$  of the linear functionals on the span of  $(x_n)$  that are biorthogonal to  $(x_n)$ . Consider  $x_m^*$ , for some  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then, for all vectors  $x$  of the form  $\sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n x_n$  with  $N \geq m$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |x_m^*(x)| &= |\alpha_m| = (1 - \epsilon_m)^{-1} (1 - \epsilon_m) |\alpha_m| \\ &\leq (1 - \epsilon_m)^{-1} \max_{1 \leq n \leq N} (1 - \epsilon_n) |\alpha_n| \leq (1 - \epsilon_m)^{-1} \|x\|; \end{aligned}$$

and hence it follows that  $\|x_m^*\| \leq (1 - \epsilon_m)^{-1}$ .

Set  $x'_n := \|x_n^*\|^{-1} x_n^*$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Fix a sequence  $(\alpha_n)_{n=1}^N$  of scalars and let  $\beta_n = \text{sign } \alpha_n$  for all  $n$ . Then, since  $\|\sum_{n=1}^N \beta_n x_n\| \leq \max_{1 \leq n \leq N} |\beta_n| = 1$ , we have

that

$$\left\| \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n x'_n \right\| \geq \left\langle \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n x'_n, \sum_{k=1}^N \beta_k x_k \right\rangle = \sum_{n=1}^N \|x_n^*\|^{-1} |\alpha_n| \geq \sum_{n=1}^N (1 - \epsilon_n) |\alpha_n| .$$

Thus,  $X^*$  contains an asymptotically isometric copy of  $\ell_1$ .  $\square$

Combining Theorems 1 and 2, we immediately get that not every renorming of  $c_0$  contains an asymptotically isometric copy of  $c_0$ .

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $q = (q_n)$  be a sequence in  $(1, \infty)$ , diverging to  $\infty$  and such that  $\nu_q$  is an equivalent norm on  $c_0$ ; and let  $(\epsilon_n)$  be a null sequence in  $(0, 1)$ . Then there does not exist a sequence  $(x_k)$  in  $c_0$  such that, for all  $\alpha = (\alpha_j) \in c_0$ ,*

$$\max_{n \in F} (1 - \epsilon_n) |\alpha_n| \leq \nu_q \left( \sum_{n \in F} \alpha_n x_n \right) \leq \max_{n \in F} (1 + \epsilon_n) |\alpha_n|$$

for all finite subsets  $F$  of natural numbers.

*Proof.* It is enough to apply Theorems 1 and 2, after noting that the dual of  $(c_0, \nu_q)$  is  $(\ell_1, \nu_p)$ , where  $p$  is the sequence of conjugate exponents of  $q$ .  $\square$

In closing, note that other renormings of  $\ell_1$  exist that fail to contain asymptotically isometric copies of  $\ell_1$ . One such norm is:

$$\|x\|' := \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \gamma_n \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} |\xi_k| , \text{ for all } x = (\xi_n) \in \ell_1 ,$$

where  $(\gamma_n)$  is a fixed sequence in  $(0, 1)$  that strictly increases to 1. The details needed to show that  $\ell_1$  with this norm fails to contain asymptotically isometric copies of  $\ell_1$  are similar to those given for the  $\nu_p$ -norm. (Although, when checking the analogue of the proof of Theorem 1 for the  $\|\cdot\|'$ -norm, (after assuming, without loss of generality, that  $(\epsilon_n)$  decreased to 0 sufficiently fast), we used the sequence  $(x_1 + Nx_N)_N$  instead of  $(x_1 + \cdots + x_N)_N$ .)

Whether  $\ell_1$  endowed with either of the norms  $\|\cdot\|'$  or  $\nu_p$  has the fixed point property is unknown. The norm  $\|\cdot\|'$ , suggested to us by the referee of another paper, is interesting because of its link to the strengthening of James's distortion theorem described earlier.

Finally, let us consider  $c_0$ . It is shown in [DLT] that whenever a Banach space  $(X, \|\cdot\|)$  contains an asymptotically isometric copy of  $c_0$ , it must fail the FPP. We remark that the spaces  $(c_0, \nu_q)$  of Theorem 3 *also* fail the FPP. Indeed, without loss of generality, assume  $(q_n)$  increases to  $\infty$ . Then a fixed point free  $\nu_q$ -nonexpansive map  $T$  on a closed, bounded and convex set  $C$  is provided by the usual  $c_0$  example: i.e. let  $C := \{x = (\xi_n) \in c_0 : 0 \leq \xi_n \leq 1 \text{ for all } n\}$  and define  $T(x) := (1, \xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3, \dots)$ .

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