AN EXAMPLE OF AN ALMOST GREEDY BASIS IN $L^1(0, 1)$

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ABSTRACT. We give an explicit construction of an almost greedy basis of $L^1(0, 1)$, complementing the results on existence of such a basis. The basis is described in terms of the Haar basis. We construct a quasi-greedy basis in a Banach space which is isomorphic to $L^1(0, 1)$, and then we calculate an isomorphic image of a quasi-greedy basis.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let $\Psi = \{\psi_k\}_{k=1}^{+\infty}$ be a normalized basis in a Banach space X . For each $f \in X$ we have

$$(1) \quad f = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k(f, \Psi) \psi_k,$$

where $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} c_k(f, \Psi) = 0$. We define $\Lambda_0 = \emptyset$; then for each $m \geq 1$ we inductively define sets $\Lambda_m \subset \mathbb{N}$ to satisfy

$$\#\Lambda_m = m, \quad \Lambda_{m-1} \subset \Lambda_m \quad \text{and} \quad \min_{k \in \Lambda_m} |c_k(f, \Psi)| \geq \max_{k \notin \Lambda_m} |c_k(f, \Psi)|.$$

Note that the sets Λ_m are not uniquely determined. Denote the set of all such sequences $\{\Lambda_m\}$ by $D(f)$. For any $\Lambda \in D(f)$ we put

$$G_m(f) = G_m(f, \Psi) = G_m(f, \Psi, \Lambda) = \sum_{k \in \Lambda_m} c_k(f, \Psi) \psi_k.$$

This nonlinear method of approximation is known as a Thresholding Greedy Algorithm (TGA) or as a Greedy algorithm (see for example [6]).

In fact $G_m(f)$ can be realized by the following procedure: take the expansion (1) and form a sum of m terms with the biggest $|c_k(f, \Psi)|$. If the basis Ψ is unconditional, then obviously

$$(2) \quad \|G_m(f, \Psi, \Lambda)\|_X \leq C \cdot \|f\|_X,$$

with a constant C independent of f, m and Λ .

Definition. A basis $\Psi = \{\psi_k\}_{k=1}^{+\infty}$ is called quasi-greedy for X if there exists a constant C such that for any $f \in X$ and for any $\Lambda \in D(f)$ the inequality (2) holds for any $m \in \mathbb{N}$.

The following theorem was proved in [8].

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Theorem A. A basis $\Psi = \{\psi_k\}_{k=1}^{+\infty}$ is quasi-greedy for X if and only if for any $f \in X$ there exists $\Lambda \in D(f)$ such that

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \|f - G_m(f, \Psi, \Lambda)\|_X = 0.$$

Definition 2. A basis $\Psi = \{\psi_k\}_{k=1}^{+\infty}$ is called almost greedy for X if there exists a constant C such that for all $f \in X$ and $m \in \mathbb{N}$ we have

$$\|f - G_m(f, \Psi)\|_X \leq C \inf_{A \subset \mathbb{N}, |A|=m} \left\| f - \sum_{j \in A} c_j(f, \Psi) \psi_j \right\|.$$

It follows from Definition 2 that every almost greedy basis is also a quasi-greedy basis. It was proved in [2] that Ψ is almost greedy if and only if Ψ is quasi-greedy and democratic. Recall that Ψ is democratic if for some $C \geq 1$ we have

$$\left\| \sum_{j \in A} \psi_j \right\| \leq C \left\| \sum_{j \in B} \psi_j \right\| \quad \text{whenever} \quad |A| \leq |B|.$$

Definition 3. A basis $\Psi = \{\psi_k\}_{k=1}^{+\infty}$ is called greedy for X if there exists a constant C such that for all $f \in X$ and $m \in \mathbb{N}$ we have

$$\|f - G_m(f, \Psi)\|_X \leq C \inf \left\{ \left\| f - \sum_{j \in A} a_j \psi_j \right\| : a_j \in \mathbb{R}, |A| = m \right\}.$$

It was proved in [6] that a basis is greedy if and only if it is unconditional and democratic. So we have the following relations:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Greedy} &\implies \text{Unconditional} \implies \text{Quasi-greedy}, \\ \text{Greedy} &\implies \text{Almost greedy} \implies \text{Quasi-greedy}, \\ \text{Greedy} &= \text{Unconditional} + \text{Democratic}, \\ \text{Almost greedy} &= \text{Quasi-greedy} + \text{Democratic}. \end{aligned}$$

It was proved by V. N. Temlyakov (see [7]) that the Haar system is a greedy basis in $L^p(0, 1)$, $1 < p < \infty$.

It is known that there is no unconditional basis in $L^1(0, 1)$. But it was proved in [1] that there is an almost greedy basis in $L^1(0, 1)$. That proof was not constructive, and that basis was not constructed. In [3] it was shown that the Haar system is not a quasi-greedy basis in $L^1(0, 1)$. The same result for general Haar systems and for the Franklin system was proved in [4] and [5] correspondingly.

In this paper we give an example of an almost greedy basis in $L^1(0, 1)$. We denote

$$(3) \quad M_i = 2^i - i - \sum_{p: 2^p+1 < i} (2^{2^p+1} - 1), \quad i = 0, 1, \dots$$

It is easy to check that

$$M_0 = 1 \text{ and } M_{i+1} - M_i = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } i = 2^p + 1 \text{ for some natural } p, \\ 2^i - 1, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Let $\{h_n\}$ be a classical Haar system normalized in $L^1(0, 1)$ and let $\psi_i = h_{2^i+2}$ (i.e. the Haar function with support $[2^{-i}, 2^{1-i})$).

Let $i \geq 0$ and $i \neq 2^p + 1$ for any $p \geq 0$. For any $0 \leq k \leq M_{i+1} - M_i = 2^i - 1$ we define

$$f_{(i,k)} = \begin{cases} h_{i+1} - \frac{1}{2^i} \sum_{j=0}^{2^i-2} \psi_{M_i+j} + \psi_{M_i+k}, & \text{if } k < 2^i - 1, \\ h_{i+1} - \frac{1}{2^i} \sum_{j=0}^{2^i-2} \psi_{M_i+j}, & \text{if } k = 2^i - 1. \end{cases}$$

Theorem 1. *The system $\{f_{(i,k)}\}$ is an almost greedy basis in $L^1(0, 1)$.*

We construct a quasi-greedy basis in an auxiliary Banach space and show that it is an isomorphic image of $\{f_{(i,k)}\}$.

2. PRELIMINARIES AND AUXILIARY RESULTS

We need results from [1]. Let X be a Banach space with a basis $\{b_n\}$. By passing to an equivalent norm we may assume that $\{b_n\}$ is normalized and bimonotone. Let S be a 1-symmetric and 1-unconditional sequence space with basis $\{e_i\}$, $e_i = \{\delta_{ij}\}$. Let $\{e_i^*\}$ be the sequence of biorthogonal functionals in S^* . Define

$$f(n) = \|e_1 + \dots + e_n\|_S$$

and

$$g(n) = \frac{n}{f(n)} = \|e_1^* + \dots + e_n^*\|_{S^*}$$

We assume that $\{e_i\}$ is not equivalent to the unit vector basis of c_0 . Thus,

$$f(n) \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

For $n \geq 1$, let $\sigma_n = [2^{n-1}, 2^n - 1]$,

$$v_n = \frac{1}{f(2^{n-1})} \sum_{k \in \sigma_n} e_k \quad \text{and} \quad v_n^* = \frac{1}{g(2^{n-1})} \sum_{k \in \sigma_n} e_k^*.$$

Let P be the norm-one projection on S defined by

$$P\xi = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle \xi, v_n^* \rangle v_n,$$

and let $Q = I - P$. Define a norm on c_{00} by

$$\|\xi\|_Y = \left\| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle \xi, v_n^* \rangle b_n \right\|_X + \|Q\xi\|_S$$

and then complete it to obtain a sequence space Y .

The following statements were proved in [1].

Statement 1 (Proposition 6.1). *Suppose that $\{b_n\}$ is a bimonotone basis for X . Then $\{e_n\}$ is a basis for Y such that*

$$\frac{1}{8} \sup_n \eta_n f(n) \leq \|\xi\|_Y \leq 6 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{f(n)}{n} \eta_n$$

for all real scalars $\xi = (\xi_n)$ in c_{00} , where $\{\eta_i\}$ is the nonincreasing rearrangement of $\{|\xi_i|\}$.

Statement 2. *Suppose that X is a Banach space with a basis that contains a complemented subspace isomorphic to S . Then $Y \sim X$.*

Statement 3 (Theorem 7.1). *Suppose that $\{b_n\}$ is a basis for X and $S = \ell_1$. Then $\{e_n\}$ is a quasi-greedy basis for Y .*

Let us apply Statements 1-3 when $X = L^1(0, 1)$ and $S = \ell_1, \{b_i\} = \{h_i\}$ (the Haar system).

Lemma 1. *The system $\{e_i\}$ is an almost greedy basis in Y and*

$$(4) \quad Q(e_{2^i+k}) = \left(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{2^i-1}, \underbrace{-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i}}_k, 1-2^{-i}, \underbrace{-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i}}_{2^i-k-1}, 0, 0, \dots \right)$$

for all $0 \leq k < 2^i$.

Proof. We have $f(n) = n$ and $g(n) = 1$. Let $\xi = \sum_{k \in A} e_k$ with $|A| = m$. Then

$$\eta_n = \begin{cases} 1, & n \leq m, \\ 0, & n > m. \end{cases}$$

Hence, according to Statement 1 we conclude that

$$\frac{m}{8} \leq \left\| \sum_{k \in A} e_k \right\|_Y \leq 6m.$$

Hence $\left\| \sum_{k \in A} e_k \right\|_Y \asymp |A|$. So $\{e_n\}$ is democratic in Y . Combined with Statement 3 we conclude that $\{e_n\}$ is an almost greedy basis. Equality (4) immediately follows from the definition of Q . Lemma 1 is proved. $\square$

According to the definition of Y there exists an isomorphic operator $R : Y \mapsto L^1(0, 1) \oplus Q(\ell_1)$ such that

$$(5) \quad R(e_{2^i+k}) = (h_{i+1}, Q(e_{2^i+k}))$$

for every $k = 0, \dots, 2^i - 1; i = 0, 1, \dots$

3. ISOMORPHIC OPERATORS

Let $\{M_i\}$ be the sequence defined by (3) and let $\Lambda_n = [2^{n-1}, 2^n - 2]$. Denote

$$\Lambda = \{n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots\} = \bigcup_{p=0}^{\infty} \Lambda_{2^p+2} \quad \text{and} \quad \{m_1, m_2, \dots\} = \left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \Lambda_n \right) \setminus \Lambda,$$

where sequences $\{n_i\}$ and $\{m_i\}$ are increasing. For every $\{a_i\} \in Q(\ell_1)$ we define the operator $S : Q(\ell_1) \mapsto \ell_1 \oplus \ell_1$ by

$$S(\{a_i\}) = \left(\{a_{m_1}, a_{m_2}, \dots\}, \{a_{n_1}, a_{n_2}, \dots\} \right).$$

Since $\{a_i\} \in Q(\ell_1)$ if and only if $\{a_i\} \in \ell_1$ and $a_{2^n-1} = -\sum_{i \in \Lambda_n} a_i$ for all natural n , we conclude that S is an isomorphic operator. The next lemma follows from the definitions of Q and S .

Lemma 2. 1) Let $i \neq 2^p + 1$ for any $p \geq 0$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} & S(Q(e_{2^i+k})) \\ &= \begin{cases} \left(\underbrace{(0, \dots, 0)}_{M_i-1}, \underbrace{-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i}}_k, 1-2^{-i}, \underbrace{-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i}}_{2^i-k-2}, 0 \dots \right), \{0\} \Big), & \text{if } k < 2^i - 1, \\ \left(\underbrace{(0, \dots, 0)}_{M_i-1}, \underbrace{-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i}}_{2^i-1}, 0 \dots \right), \{0\} \Big), & \text{if } k = 2^i - 1. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

2) Let $i = 2^p + 1$ for some $p \geq 0$ and $0 \leq k < 2^i$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} & S(Q(e_{2^i+k})) \\ &= \begin{cases} \left(\{0\}, \underbrace{(0, \dots, 0)}_{2^i-i-M_i}, \underbrace{-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i}}_k, 1-2^{-i}, \underbrace{-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i}}_{2^i-k-2}, 0 \dots \right), & \text{if } k < 2^i - 1, \\ \left(\{0\}, \underbrace{(0, \dots, 0)}_{2^i-i-M_i}, \underbrace{-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i}}_{2^i-1}, 0, 0 \dots \right), & \text{if } k = 2^i - 1. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Functions ψ_i have disjoint supports ($\text{supp}(\psi_i) = (2^{-i}, 2^{1-i})$). Therefore we have

$$(6) \quad \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i \psi_i \right\|_{L^1(0,1)} = \|\{a_i\}\|_{\ell_1}.$$

Denote

$$Z = \{f \in L^1(0, 1) \quad : \quad \int_0^1 f(t) \psi_n(t) dt = 0 \text{ for all } n \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

Let us define the operator $T : L^1(0, 1) \mapsto (Z, \ell_1)$ by the formula

$$T(f) = T\left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n h_n\right) = \left(\sum_{n=1, n \neq 2^i+2}^{\infty} a_n h_n, \{a_{2^i+2}\}\right).$$

Note that

$$(7) \quad T(h_n) = \begin{cases} (0, \{\delta_{p+1,j}\}), & \text{if } n = 2^p + 2, \\ (h_n, \{0\}), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The next lemma is obvious.

Lemma 3. The operator T represents an isomorphism between $L^1(0, 1)$ and $Z \oplus \ell_1$.

4. AN ALMOST GREEDY BASIS IN $L^1(0, 1)$

In the proof of Statement 2 the following isomorphic chain was used:

$$(8) \quad \begin{aligned} Y \sim X \oplus Q(S) &\sim Z \oplus S \oplus Q(S) \\ &\sim Z \oplus S \oplus P(S) \oplus Q(S) \\ &\sim Z \oplus S \oplus S \sim Z \oplus S \sim X. \end{aligned}$$

In the proof of Theorem 1 we will use the following:

$$\begin{aligned}
 Y &\sim L^1(0,1) \oplus Q(\ell_1) \\
 &\sim Z \oplus \ell_1 \oplus Q(\ell_1) \quad (\text{by operator T}) \\
 &\sim Z \oplus \ell_1 \oplus \ell_1 \oplus \ell_1 \quad (\text{by operator S}) \\
 &\sim L^1(0,1) \oplus \ell_1 \oplus \ell_1. \quad (\text{by operator T}).
 \end{aligned}$$

Proof of Theorem 1. For $y \in Y$ denote

$$R(y) = (y_1, q_1), \text{ where } y_1 \in L^1(0,1), \quad q_1 \in Q(\ell_1);$$

$$T(y_1) = (z_1, a_1), \text{ where } z_1 \in Z, \quad a_1 \in \ell_1;$$

$$S(q_1) = (a_2, a_3), \text{ where } a_2, a_3 \in \ell_1;$$

$$T^{-1}(z_1, a_2) = y_2, \text{ where } y_2 \in L^1(0,1);$$

and set

$$D(y) = \{y_2, a_1, a_3\}.$$

It is clear that D is an isomorphic operator from Y to $L^1(0,1) \oplus \ell_1 \oplus \ell_1$. Now, let us calculate $D(e_n)$. Let $n = 2^i + k$ with $0 \leq k < 2^i$. According to (5) we have

$$R(e_{2^i+k}) = (h_{i+1}, Q(e_{2^i+k})),$$

which means that $y_1 = h_{i+1}$ and $q_1 = Q(e_{2^i+k})$. We consider four cases.

Case 1. $i = 2^p + 1$ for some $p \geq 0$ and $k < 2^i - 1$. According to (7)

$$\begin{aligned}
 (z_1, a_1) &= T(h_{i+1}) = (0, \{\delta_{p+1,j}\}), \\
 (a_2, a_3) &= S(Q(e_{2^i+k})) \\
 &= \left(\{0\}, \underbrace{\{0, \dots, 0\}}_{2^i-i-M_i}, \underbrace{\{-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i}\}}_k, 1-2^{-i}, \underbrace{\{-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i}\}}_{2^i-k-2}, 0 \dots \right), \\
 y_2 &= T^{-1}(z_1, a_2) = T^{-1}(0, \{0\}) = 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$D(e_{2^i+k}) = \left(0, \{\delta_{p+1,j}\}, \underbrace{\{0, \dots, 0\}}_{2^i-i-M_i}, \underbrace{\{-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i}\}}_k, 1-2^{-i}, \underbrace{\{-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i}\}}_{2^i-k-2}, 0 \dots \right).$$

Case 2. $i = 2^p + 1$, $k = 2^i - 1$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 (z_1, a_1) &= T(h_{i+1}) = (0, \{\delta_{p+1,j}\}), \\
 (a_2, a_3) &= S(Q(e_{2^i+k})) = \left(\{0\}, \underbrace{\{0, \dots, 0\}}_{2^i-i-M_i}, \underbrace{\{-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i}\}}_{2^i-1}, 0 \dots \right), \\
 y_2 &= T^{-1}(z_1, a_2) = T^{-1}(0, \{0\}) = 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Hence } D(e_{2^i+k}) = \left(0, \{\delta_{p+1,j}\}, \underbrace{\{0, \dots, 0\}}_{2^i-i-M_i}, \underbrace{\{-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i}\}}_{2^i-1}, 0 \dots \right).$$

Case 3. $i \neq 2^p + 1$, $k \neq 2^i - 1$.

$$\begin{aligned}
(z_1, a_1) &= T(h_{i+1}) = (h_{i+1}, \{0\}), \\
(a_2, a_3) &= S(Q(e_{2^i+k})) \\
&= \left(\underbrace{(0, \dots, 0)}_{M_i-1}, \underbrace{(-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i})}_k, 1 - 2^{-i}, \underbrace{(-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i})}_{2^i-k-2}, 0 \dots, \{0\} \right), \\
y_2 &= T^{-1}(z_1, a_2) \\
&= T^{-1} \left(h_{i+1}, \underbrace{(0, \dots, 0)}_{M_i-1}, \underbrace{(-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i})}_k, 1 - 2^{-i}, \underbrace{(-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i})}_{2^i-k-2}, 0 \dots \right) \\
&= h_{i+1} - \frac{1}{2^i} \sum_{j=M_i}^{M_i+2^i-2} \psi_j + \psi_{M_i+k} = h_{i+1} - \frac{1}{2^i} \sum_{j=M_i}^{M_{i+1}-1} \psi_j + \psi_{M_i+k}.
\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Therefore } D(e_{2^i+k}) = \left(f_{(i,k)}, \{0\}, \{0\} \right).$$

Case 4. $i \neq 2^p + 1$, $k = 2^i - 1$.

$$\begin{aligned}
(z_1, a_1) &= T(h_{i+1}) = (h_{i+1}, \{0\}), \\
(a_2, a_3) &= S(Q(e_{2^i+k})) = \left(\underbrace{(0, \dots, 0)}_{M_i-1}, \underbrace{(-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i})}_{2^i-1}, 0 \dots, \{0\} \right), \\
y_2 &= T^{-1}(z_1, a_2) = T^{-1} \left(h_{i+1}, \underbrace{(0, \dots, 0)}_{M_i-1}, \underbrace{(-2^{-i}, \dots, -2^{-i})}_{2^i-1}, 0 \dots \right) \\
&= h_{i+1} - \frac{1}{2^i} \sum_{j=M_i}^{M_{i+1}-1} \psi_j.
\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Therefore } D(e_{2^i+k}) = \left(f_{(i,k)}, \{0\}, \{0\} \right).$$

Finally we have

$$D(e_{2^i+k}) = \begin{cases} (0, \{\dots\}, \{\dots\}) & , \text{ if } i = 2^p + 1, \\ (f_{(i,k)}, \{0\}, \{0\}) & , \text{ if } i \neq 2^p + 1. \end{cases}$$

Since $\{D(e_{2^i+k})\}$ is an almost-greedy basis in $L^1(0, 1) \oplus \ell_1 \oplus \ell_1$, then the system $\{f_{(i,k)}\}$ is an almost greedy basis in $L^1(0, 1)$. Theorem 1 is proved. $\square$

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