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# ON RIESZ SPACES WITH *b*-PROPERTY AND *b*-WEAKLY COMPACT OPERATORS

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An operator  $T: E \to X$  between a Banach lattice E and a Banach space X is called *b*-weakly compact if T(B) is relatively weakly compact for each *b*-bounded set B in E. We characterize *b*-weakly compact operators among *o*-weakly compact operators. We show summing operators are *b*-weakly compact and discuss relation between Dunford–Pettis and *b*-weakly compact operators. We give necessary conditions for *b*-weakly compact operators to be compact and give characterizations of *KB*-spaces in terms of *b*-weakly compact operators defined on them.

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## Introduction

Riesz spaces considered in this note are assumed to have separating order duals. The order dual of a Riesz space E is denoted by  $E^{\sim}$ .  $E^{\sim\sim}$  will denote the order bidual of E. The order continuous dual of E is denoted by  $E_n^{\sim}$ , while E' will denote the topological dual of a topological Riesz space.  $E_+$  will denote the cone of positive elements of E. The letters E, F will denote Banach lattices, X, Y will denote Banach spaces.  $B_X$  will denote the closed unit ball of X. We use without further explanation the basic terminology and results from the theory of Riesz spaces as set out in [1, 2, 14, 17].

Let E be a Riesz subspace of a Riesz space F. A subset of E which is order bounded in F is said to be *b*-bounded in E. If every *b*-bounded subset of E remains to be order bounded in E then E is said to have *b*-property in F. If a Riesz space E has *b*-property in its order bidual  $E_n^{\sim}$  then it is said to have *b*-property.

Riesz spaces with *b*-property were introduced in [3] and studied in [3–6].

A normed Riesz space E has the weak Fatou property for directed sets if every norm bounded upwards directed set of positive elements in E has a supremum. Riesz spaces with weak Fatou Property for directed sets have *b*-property. If a Banach lattice has order continuous norm then it has the weak Fatou property for directed sets if and only if it has the *b*property [6]. A locally solid Riesz space is said to have Levi property if every topologically bounded set in  $E_+$  has a supremum. If E is a Frechet lattice with Levi property then E has the *b*-property [6]. If E is a Dedekind complete locally solid Riesz space with  $E' = E^{\sim}$  then Ehas *b*-property if and only if E has the Levi property [6]. Thus a Dedekind complete Frechet lattice has Levi property if and only if it has the *b*-property.

Let E be a Riesz subspace of a Riesz space F. If E is the range of a positive projection defined on F then E has b-property in F. If E is a Banach lattice then every sublattice of E isomorphic to  $l_1$  has b-property in E [14, Proposition 2.3.11]. Similarly if the norm of Eis order continuous then every sublattice Riesz isomorphic to  $c_0$  has b-property in E [14, Proposition 2.4.3].

Further examples of Riesz spaces with *b*-property are given in the following example.

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EXAMPLE. A Banach lattice E is called a KB-space if every increasing norm bounded sequence in  $E_+$  is norm convergent. KB-spaces have b-property. Perfect Riesz spaces have b-property and hence, every order dual has b-property [4]. If K is a compact Hausdorff space and C(K) is the Riesz space of real valued continuous functions on K under pointwise order and algebraic operations then C(K) has b-property[4]. On the other hand  $c_0$  real sequences which converge to zero does not have b-property.

An element e > 0 in a Riesz space E is called discrete if the ideal generated by e coincides with the subspace generated by e. A Riesz space E is called discrete if and only if there exists a discrete element v with 0 < v < e for every 0 < e in E.

EXAMPLE. Discrete elements give rise to ideals with b-property in a Riesz space E. Because if x is a discrete element then the principal ideal  $I_x$  generated by x is projection band in E and therefore  $I_x$  has b-property in E.

 $T: E \to F$  is called *b*-bounded if T maps *b*-order bounded subsets of E into *b*-bounded subsets of F.

 $T: E \to X$  is called *b*-weakly compact if T maps *b*-order bounded subsets of E into relatively weakly compact subsets of X.

Although the authors were not aware of this fact until quite recently, much later then the Bolu meeting in fact, *b*-weakly compact operators were introduced in [15] for the first time under a different name. These operators were studied in [4–11] and in [13–15]. Among *b*-weakly compact operators  $T: E \to X$  those that map the band *B* generated by *E* in *E''* into *X* are called strong type B in [15]. To describe the operators of strong type B, we refer the reader to [13].

A continuous operator  $T: E \to X$  is called order weakly (o-weakly) compact whenever T[0, x] is a relatively weakly compact subset of X for each  $x \in E_+$ .

A continuous operator  $T : E \to X$  is called AM-compact if T[-x, x] is relatively norm compact in X for each  $x \in E_+$ .

A continuous operator T from a Banach lattice E into a Banach lattice F is called semicompact if for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists some  $u \in E_+$  such that  $T(B_E) \subseteq [-u, u] + \epsilon B_F$ .

A continuous operator  $T : X \to Y$  is called a Dunford-Pettis operator if  $x_n \to 0$  in  $\sigma(X, X')$  implies  $\lim_n ||T(x_n)|| = 0$ .

A b-weakly compact operator is continuous and if W(E, X) is the space of weakly compact,  $W_b(E, X)$  is the space of b-weakly compact and  $W_0(E, X)$  is the space of order weakly compact operators we have the following relations between these classes of operators:

$$W(E, X) \subseteq W_b(E, X) \subseteq W_0(E, X).$$

The inclusions may be proper. The identity on  $L^1[0, 1]$  is *b*-weakly compact but not weakly compact. The identity on  $c_0$  is *o*-weakly compact but not a *b*-weakly operator.

If E is an AM-space then  $W(E, X) = W_b(E, X)$ . On the other hand Theorem 2.2. in [10] shows that if E' is a KB-space or X is reflexive then  $W(E, X) = W_b(E, X)$ . A Banach lattice E is a KB-space if and only if  $L(E, X) = W_b(E, X)$  for each Banach space X [5]. If F is a KB-space then again  $L(E, F) = W_b(E, F)$  for each Banach lattice E [5]. To generalize, we know that if a Banach space X does not contain  $c_0$ , then  $L(E, X) = W_b(E, X)$ .

We need the following characterization of b-weakly compact operators which is a combination of results in [3, 5].

**Proposition 1.** Let  $T: E \to X$  be an operator. The following are equivalent:

1) T is b-weakly compact.

2) For each b-bounded disjoint sequence  $(x_n)$  in  $E_+$ ,  $\lim_n q_T(x) = 0$  where  $q_T(x)$  is the Riesz seminorm defined as  $\sup\{||T(y)|| : |y| \leq |x|\}$  for each  $x \in E$ .

3)  $T(x_n)$  is norm convergent for each b-bounded increasing sequence  $(x_n)$  in  $E_+$ .

4) For each b-bounded disjoint sequence  $(x_n)$  in E, we have  $\lim_n ||T(x_n)|| = 0$ .

*b*-weakly compact operators satisfy the domination property. That is, if  $0 \leq S \leq T$  and *T* is *b*-weakly compact then *S* is also *b*-weakly compact which can be seen from the characterization given in Proposition 1(4).

### Main results

A Riesz space E is called  $\sigma$ -laterally complete if the supremum of every disjoint sequence of  $E_+$  exists in E. A Riesz space that is both  $\sigma$ -laterally and  $\sigma$ -Dedekind complete is called  $\sigma$ -universally complete. There exists a universally complete Riesz space  $E^u$  which contains Eas an order dense Riesz subspace.  $E^u$  is called the universal completion of E.

The next result exhibits the relation between *b*-property and  $\sigma$ -lateral completeness. It is actually Theorem 23.23 in [1]. Restated for our purposes it reads as follows.

**Proposition 2.** Let *E* be a  $\sigma$ -Dedekind complete Riesz space. Then *E* is  $\sigma$ -laterally complete if and only if *E* has *b*-property in its universal completion  $E^u$ .

The following is Theorem 23.24 in [1].

**Corollary.** Let E be a Dedekind complete Riesz space. Then E is universally complete if and only if E has countable b-property in  $E^u$  and has a weak order unit.

 $\triangleleft$  As E is order dense in the universal completion  $E^u$ , E is an order ideal of  $E^u$  by Theorem 2.2 in [1]. Suppose E has b-property in  $E^u$  and has a weak order unit e. Let  $0 < u' \in E^u$ be that arbitrary. As e is also a weak order unit of  $E^u$ , we have  $0 \leq u' \wedge ne \uparrow u'$ . Since E is an ideal,  $\{u' \wedge ne\} \subseteq E$  and since E has b-property in  $E^u$ ,  $\{u' \wedge ne\}$  is an order bounded subset of E and therefore  $u' \in E$ . Hence  $E = E^u$ .  $\triangleright$ 

Examples in [1] show that Dedekind completeness of E and existence of a weak order unit can not be omitted. Theorem 23.32 in [1] shows that among  $\sigma$ -laterally complete Riesz spaces those admitting a Riesz norm or an order unit are those which are Riesz isomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Thus if E is  $\sigma$ -Dedekind complete and has countable b-property in  $E^u$  which either has an order unit or admits a Riesz norm then E is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Each order weakly compact operator  $T: E \to X$  factors over a Banach lattice F with order continuous norm as T = SQ where Q is an almost interval preserving lattice homomorphism which is the quotient map  $E \to E/q_T^{-1}(0)$  in fact, F is the completion of  $E/q_T^{-1}(0)$ , where  $q_T(x)$  is the Riesz seminorm defined as  $\sup\{||T(y)|| : |y| \leq |x|\}$  for each  $x \in E$  and Sis the operator mapping the equivalence class [x] in  $E/q_T^{-1}(0)$  to T(x) [14,Theorem 3.4.6]. As *b*-weakly compact operators are order weakly compact every *b*-weakly compact operator  $T: E \to X$  has a factorization T = SQ over a Banach lattice with order continuous norm. Let us note that if E has order continuous norm then the factorization can be made over a KB-space as if was shown in [7].

This factorization yields a characterization of *b*-weakly compact operators among order weakly compact operators.

**Proposition 3.** Let  $T : E \to F$ . T is b-weakly compact if and only if the quotient map  $Q : E \to F$  is b-weakly compact.

 $\triangleleft$  Let F be the completion of  $F_0 = E/q_T^{-1}(0)$  and Q be the quotient map  $Q : E \to F_0$ . Since Q is onto, the corresponding operator  $Q : E \to F$  is an almost interval preserving lattice homomorphism. Suppose T is b-weakly compact and let  $(x_n) \subseteq E_+$  be an b-order bounded disjoint sequence. In view of  $||Q(x_n)|| = q_T(x_n)$ , we see that  $\lim_n ||Q(x_n)|| = 0$ . Thus Q is b-weakly compact by Proposition 1(4).

On the other hand if Q is b-weakly compact then it is easily seen that SQ is also b-weakly compact for each continuous operator S, and thus T = SQ is b-weakly compact.  $\triangleright$ 

This leads us to recapture a result of [5].

**Corollary.** Suppose that  $T : E \to F$  is b-weakly compact where F is a Dedekind complete AM-space with order unit. Then |T| is a b-weakly compact operator.

 $\triangleleft T$  has a factorization over a Banach lattice H with order continuous norm as SQ where  $Q: E \rightarrow H$  is b-weakly compact and  $S: H \rightarrow F$  is continuous. Thus |S| exists. The operator |S|Q is b-weakly compact and  $0 \leq |T| = |SQ| \leq |S|Q$ . Thus |T| is a b-weakly compact as b-weakly compact operators satisfy the domination property.  $\triangleright$ 

A deficiency of *b*-weakly compact operators is that they do not satisfy the duality property. For example, the identity I on  $l_1$  is *b*-weakly compact but its adjoint, the identity on  $l_{\infty}$ , is not *b*-weakly compact. On the other hand the identity on  $c_0$  is not *b*-weakly compact but its adjoint, the identity on  $l_1$ , is certainly *b*-weakly compact. For recent developments on duality of *b*-weakly compact operators we refer the reader to [9].

One of the sufficients conditions for an operator to be *b*-weakly compact is that for each *b*-bounded disjoint sequence  $(x_n)$  in the domain we have  $\lim_n ||T(x_n)|| = 0$ . Utilizing this it is easy to see that *b*-weakly compact operators are norm closed in L(E, X). A result in [12] shows that strong limit of *o*-weakly compact operators is also *o*-weakly compact under certain conditions. The following example shows that *b*-weakly compact operators behave differently in this respect.

EXAMPLE. For each n, let  $T_n : c_0 \to c_0$  be defined as  $T_n(y) = (y_1, \ldots, y_n, 0, \ldots)$ . Then the finite rank operators  $(T_n)$  are b-weakly compact for each n and we have  $T_n(y) \to I(y)$  for each y in  $c_0$ . However the identity operator I on  $c_0$  is not a b-weakly compact operator.

We will call an operator  $T: E \to X$  summing if T maps weakly summable sequences in E to summable sequences in X.

**Proposition 4.** Let  $T : E \to X$  be a summing operator between a Banach lattice E and a Banach space X. Then T is b-weakly compact.

 $\triangleleft$  Let  $(e_n)$  be a *b*-bounded disjoint sequence in  $E_+$ . It suffices to show that  $(T(x_n))$  is norm convergent to 0. There exists an *e* in  $E''_+$  such that  $0 \leq \sum e_k \leq e$  for each partial sum. It follows that the sequence  $(e_k)$  is a weakly summable sequence in *E*. As *T* is summing, we have  $\sum Te_k < \infty$ , and hence  $||Te_k|| \to 0$  in *X*.  $\triangleright$ 

It is easy to see that an operator  $T : E \to X$  is b-weakly compact if and only if the operator  $j_X T : E \to X''$  is b-weakly compact where  $j_X$  is the canonical embedding of X into X''. Let us recall that an operator  $T : E \to X$  is called injective if T is one-to-one and has closed range. Generalizing the previous observation slightly we show that for an operator to be b-weakly compact the size of the target space does not matter.

**Proposition 5.** Let  $T : E \to X$  and  $j : X \to Y$  be operators where j is an injection. Then T is b-weakly compact if and only if jT is b-weakly compact.

Using the characterization of *b*-weakly compact operators given in Proposition 1(4) it follows immediately that every Dunford-Pettis operator  $T: E \to X$  is actually a *b*-weakly compact operator. On the other hand the result in [11] shows that if *E* has weakly sequentially continuous lattice operations and has an order unit then every positive order weakly compact, in particular every *b*-weakly compact operator  $T: E \to X$  is a Dunford-Pettis operator. Let us note however that weak sequential continuity of the lattice operations only is not sufficient. Indeed, the identity operator on  $c_0$  is *o*-weakly compact but not a Dunford-Pettis operator although  $c_0$  has weakly continuous lattice operations.

In opposite direction we have the following result which is a slight improvement of theorem 2.1 in [11].

**Proposition 6.** If each positive b-weakly compact operator  $T : E \to F$  is a Dunford-Pettis operator then either E has weakly sequentially continuous lattice operations or F has order continuous norm.

 $\triangleleft$  Let S and T be two operators from E into F satisfying  $0 \leq S \leq T$  and T be a Dunford-Pettis operator. Then T is a b-weakly compact operator. As b-weakly compact operators satisfy the domination property S is also a b-weakly compact operator. By the assumption S is a Dunford-Pettis operator. The result now follows from Theorem 3.1 in [16].  $\triangleright$ 

Now we investigate the relation between *b*-weakly compact operators and *AM*-compact operators. The natural embedding  $j : L^{\infty}[0,1] \to L^{p}[0,1], 1 \leq p < \infty$  is a *b*-weakly compact operator which is not *AM*-compact.

**Proposition 7.** Let E, F be Banach lattices with E' discrete. Then every o-weakly compact (and therefore every b-weakly compact) operator from E into F is AM-compact.

 $\triangleleft$  It suffices to show that T[0, x] is relatively norm compact for each  $x \in E_+$ . Let S be the restriction of T to the principal order ideal  $I_x$  generated by x. Then  $S : I_x \to F$  and  $S' : F' \to I'_x$  are both weakly compact operators. Therefore  $S'(B_{F'})$  is relatively compact in  $\sigma(I_x, I''_x)$ .  $I'_x$  is an AL-space. Let A be the solid hull of  $S'(B_{F'})$  in  $I'_x$ . Every disjoint sequence in A is convergent for the norm in  $I'_x$  by Theorem 21.10 in [1]. Since E' is assumed to be discrete, A is contained in the band generated by discrete elements of  $I'_x$ . Employing Theorem 21.15 in [1], we see that A is relatively compact for the norm of  $I'_x$ . Therefore  $S' : F' \to I'_x$  is a compact operator. Consequently,  $T : I_x \to F$  is also compact and thus T[0, x] is relatively compact in F.  $\triangleright$ 

If  $T: E \to E$  is a *b*-weakly compact operator then  $T^2$  is also a *b*-weakly compact but not necessarily a weakly compact operator. For example the identity I on  $L^1[0,1]$  is *b*-weakly compact as  $L^1[0,1]$  is a *KB*-space [3], but  $I^2$  is not a weakly compact operator. It has recently been shown that for a positive *b*-weakly compact operator  $T: E \to E, T^2$  is weakly compact if and only if each positive *b*-weakly compact operator  $T: E \to E$  is weakly compact [10, Theorem 2.8].

Now we will now study compactness of *b*-weakly compact operators.

**Proposition 8.** Suppose that every positive b-weakly compact operator is compact. Then one of the following holds:

- 1) E' and F have order continuous norms.
- 2) E' is discrete and has order continuous norm.
- 3) F is discrete and has order continuous norm.

 $\triangleleft$  Let  $S, T : E \rightarrow F$  be such that  $0 \leq S \leq T$  where T is compact. Then T and S are bweakly compact operators. Thus S is compact by the hypothesis. The conclusion now follows from Theorem 2.1 in [16].  $\triangleright$ 

On the compactness of squares of *b*-weakly compact operators we have the following. The proof is very similar to the proof of the preceding proposition. Therefore it is omitted.

**Proposition 9**. Let E be a Banach lattice with the property that for each positive b-weakly compact operator  $S: E \to E, S^2$  is compact. Then one of the following holds.

1) E has order continuous norm.

2) E' has order continuous norm.

3) E' is discrete.

*b*-property has been very useful in characterizing KB-spaces. For example a Banach lattice E is a KB-space if and only if E has order continuous norm and *b*-property or if and only if the identity operator on E is *b*-weakly compact [3–4].

We now present another characterization of KB-spaces.

**Proposition 10.** A Banach lattice F is a KB-space if and only if for each Banach lattice E and positive disjointness preserving operator  $T : E \to F, T$  is b-weakly compact.

 $\triangleleft$  If the hypothesis on F is true then taking E = F, we see that the identity on E is b-weakly compact and thus E is a KB-space [3]. On the other hand if  $(x_n)$  is a b-bounded disjoint sequence in  $E_+$ , then  $(Tx_n)$  is an order bounded disjoint sequence in F as there exists a positive projection of F'' onto F. Then  $||T(x_n)|| \to 0$  as a KB-space has order continuous norm. It follows from Proposition 1(4) that T is b-weakly compact.  $\triangleright$ 

**Proposition 11.** Consider operators  $T : E \to F$  and  $S : F \to G$ . Suppose S is strong type B and T' is b-weakly compact. Then ST is a weakly compact operator.

 $\triangleleft$  It suffices to show  $(ST)''(E'') \subseteq G$ . Since order dual of a Banach lattice has b-property, T' is o-weakly compact and being so, T has factorization over a Banach lattice H with order continuous dual norm as  $T = T_1T_0$  where  $T_0 : E \to H$  is continuous and  $T_1 : H \to F$  is an interval preserving lattice homomorphism by Theorem 3.5.6 in [14]. Since H' has order continuous norm, we have  $(H')'_n = H''$  and  $T''_1((H')'_n) \subseteq (F')'_n$  as  $T''_1$  is order continuous. Now the weak compactness of ST follows from

$$(ST)''(E'') = S''(T_1''(T_0''(E''))) \subseteq S''(T_1''(H'')) \subseteq S''(T_1''(H')_n) \subseteq S''(F')_n' \subseteq G$$

where the last inclusion follows from the fact that S is of strong type B and therefore S'' maps the band  $(F')'_n$  generated by F in F'' into  $G. \triangleright$ 

As order duals have *b*-property, assuming T' to be *b*-weakly compact is the same as assuming it to be *o*-weakly compact. Also, we could have taken T to be semicompact as T' is *o*-weakly compact whenever T is semicompact [14, Theorem 3.6.18].

**Corollary.** Let T be an operator on a Banach lattice such that both T and T' are strong type B. Then  $T^2$  is weakly compact.

Finally we study the relationship between semicompact and b-weakly compact operators. It is immediate from the definitions and Theorem 14.17 in [2] that if the range has order continuous norm, thus ensuring weak compactness of order intervals, each semicompact operator is weakly and therefore b-weakly compact.

On the other hand the identity I on  $l_1$  is a b-weakly compact operator which is not semicompact. Theorem 127.4 in [17] shows that if E' and F have order continuous norms then every order bounded semicompact operator  $T: E \to F$  is b-weakly compact.

The next result gives necessary and sufficient conditions for a Banach lattice to be a KB-space as well as illuminates the relation between semicompact and b-weakly compact operators.

First we need a Lemma which was first proved in [9].

**Lemma.** Let *E* be a Banach lattice. If  $(e_n)$  is a positive disjoint sequence in *E* such that  $||e_n|| = 1$  for all *n*, then there exists a positive disjoint sequence  $(g_n)$  in *E'* with  $||g_n|| \leq 1$  and satisfying  $g_n(e_n) = 1$  and  $g_n(e_m) = 0$  for all  $n \neq m$ .

 $\triangleleft$  Let  $(e_n)$  be a disjoint sequence in  $E_+$  with  $||e_n|| = 1$  for all n. By Hahn-Banach Theorem there exists  $f_n \in E'_+$  such that  $||f_n|| = 1$  and  $f_n(e_n) = ||e_n|| = 1$ . Considering E in  $(E')'_n$ , we see that carriers  $C_{e_n}$  of  $e_n$  are mutually disjoint bands in E'. If  $g_n$  is the projection of  $f_n$  onto  $C_{e_n}$ , then the sequence  $(g_n)$  has the desired properties.  $\triangleright$ 

Let us recall that a Banach lattice E is said to have the Levi Property if every increasing norm bounded net in  $E_+$  has a supremum in  $E_+$ . It is well-known that a Banach lattice with Levi Property is Dedekind complete.

The following result gives a necessary and sufficient conditions for a Banach lattice to be a KB-space.

**Proposition 12.** Let E and F be Banach lattices and assume that F has the Levi property. Then the following are equivalent:

- 1) Each continuous operator  $T: E \to F$  is b-weakly compact.
- 2) Each continuous semicompact operator  $T: E \to F$  is b-weakly compact.
- 3) Each positive semicompact operator  $T: E \to F$  is b-weakly compact.
- 4) Either E or F is a KB-space.

 $\triangleleft$  It is clear that 1) implies 2) and 2) implies 3). The implication 4)  $\Rightarrow$  2) was proved in [5]. We will prove that 3) implies 4).

Let us assume that neither E nor F is a KB-space. To finish the proof we construct a positive semicompact operator  $T : E \to F$  which is not *b*-weakly compact. Recall that a Banach lattice is a KB-space if and only if the identity operator on it is *b*-weakly compact[3]. Thus if E is not a KB-space, there exists a *b*-bounded disjoint sequence  $(e_n)$  in  $E_+$  with  $||e_n|| = 1$  for all n. Hence by the Lemma, there exists a positive disjoint sequence  $(g_n)$  in E' with  $||g_n|| \leq 1$  such that  $g_n(e_n) = 1$ ,  $g_n(e_m) = 0$  for all  $n \neq m$ .

We define a positive operator  $T_1: E \to l_{\infty}$  as follows:

$$x \to T_1(x) = (g_1(x), g_2(x), \ldots)$$

for each x in E. Let us note that  $T_1(B_E) \subseteq B_{l_{\infty}}$ .

On the other hand, since F is not a KB-space, we can find a b-bounded disjoint sequence in  $F_+$  such that  $0 \leq f_n \leq f$  for some f in F'' and satisfying  $||f_n|| = 1$  for all n. Let  $(\alpha_n)$  be a positive sequence in  $l_{\infty}$ . Then,

$$0 \leqslant \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i f_i \leqslant \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \alpha_i f_i \leqslant \sup(\alpha_i) f$$

shows that the sequence  $(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i f_i)_n$  is an increasing norm bounded sequence in F. As F is assumed to have the Levi Property, supremum of  $(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i f_i)_n$  exists in F. We denote this supremum by  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i f_i$ . This enables us to define an operator  $T_2 : l_{\infty}^+ \to F$  by  $T_2(\alpha_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i f_i$ .

 $T_2$  has an extension to  $l_{\infty}$  which we will also denote by  $T_2$ .

Since  $(f_i)$  is a disjoint sequence, it follows from

$$0 \leqslant \sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i = \bigvee f_i \leqslant f$$

that  $0 \leq (\sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i)_n$  is also an increasing norm bounded sequence in  $F_+$ . Therefore the supremum of this sequence exists in F and will be denoted by  $f_0$ . Then  $T_2(B_{l_{\infty}}) \subseteq [-f_0, f_0]$ . Now we consider the operator  $T = T_2T_1$  defined as

$$x \to \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} g_i(x) f_i$$

T is well-defined and is positive. It follows from

$$T(B_E) = T_2 T_1(B_E) \subseteq T_2(B_{l_\infty}) \subseteq [-f_0, f_0]$$

that T is semicompact. However, the operator T is not b-weakly compact as

$$T(e_n) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} g_i(e_n) f_i = f_n$$

for all n and  $||T(e_n)|| = ||f_n|| = 1$  for all n. Recall that if T were b-weakly compact then we would have  $T(e_n) \to 0$  in norm.  $\triangleright$ 

The assumption that F has Levi Property is essential. In fact, if we take  $E = l_{\infty}$ ,  $F = c_0$ , then each operator from E into F is weakly compact and therefore b-weakly compact. However neither E nor F is a KB-space.

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