Proceedings of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society (2001) 44, 241-248 ©

# A NON-EXTENDABLE BOUNDED LINEAR MAP BETWEEN $C^*$ -ALGEBRAS

## NARUTAKA OZAWA

Texas A&M University, College Station, TX77843, USA and University of Tokyo, Komaba, 153-8914, Japan (ozawa@math.tamu.edu)

(Received 10 September 1999)

Abstract We present an example of a  $C^*$ -subalgebra A of  $\mathbb{B}(H)$  and a bounded linear map from A to  $\mathbb{B}(K)$  which does not admit any bounded linear extension. This generalizes the result of Robertson and gives the answer to a problem raised by Pisier. Using the same idea, we compute the exactness constants of some Q-spaces. This solves a problem raised by Oikhberg. We also construct a Q-space which is not locally reflexive.

Keywords: bounded linear extensions; non-exact Q-spaces

AMS 2000 Mathematics subject classification: Primary 46L05 Secondary 46L07

#### 1. A non-extendable bounded linear map

**Definition 1.1.** Let X be a closed subspace of a Banach space Y. We say X is complemented in Y if there is a bounded linear projection from Y onto X. We say X is weakly complemented in Y if there is a bounded linear map T from Y to  $X^{**}$  such that  $T|_X = \iota_X$ , where  $\iota_X$  is the canonical inclusion map of X into  $X^{**}$ .

Let A be a  $C^*$ -algebra. If there is a faithful \*-representation  $A \subset \mathbb{B}(H)$  such that A is (weakly) complemented in  $\mathbb{B}(H)$ , then it follows from the injectivity of  $\mathbb{B}(H)$  that for any faithful \*-representation  $A \subset \mathbb{B}(K)$ , A is (weakly) complemented in  $\mathbb{B}(K)$ . A  $C^*$ -algebra A has the weak expectation property (WEP) [13] if for every faithful \*-representation  $A \subset \mathbb{B}(H)$ , there is a complete contraction  $T \colon \mathbb{B}(H) \to A^{**}$  such that  $T|_A = \iota_A$ .

**Lemma 1.2.** Let A be a  $C^*$ -algebra and let  $A \subset \mathbb{B}(H)$  be the universal representation, i.e.  $\overline{A}^{\text{ultraweak}} = A^{**}$ . If A is weakly complemented in  $\mathbb{B}(H)$  and is locally reflexive, then  $A^{**}$  is complemented in  $\mathbb{B}(H)$ .

**Proof.** Let  $T: \mathbb{B}(H) \to A^{**}$  be a bounded linear map such that  $T|_A = \operatorname{id}_A$ . Let I be a set of all pairs i = (E, F) consisting of finite-dimensional subspaces E of  $A^{**}$  and F of  $\mathbb{B}(H)_*$ . I is then directedly ordered by inclusions. Fix i = (E, F) in I. Since A is locally reflexive, there is a map  $S_i: E \to A$  with  $\|S_i\|_{cb} \leq 1 + (1/\dim(E))$  such that

 $\langle S_i(e), f \rangle = \langle e, f \rangle$  for all  $e \in E$  and  $f \in F$ . Since  $\mathbb{B}(H)$  is injective, we can extend  $S_i$  to  $\overline{S}_i \colon \mathbb{B}(H) \to \mathbb{B}(H)$  with  $\|\overline{S}_i\|_{cb} \leqslant \|S_i\|_{cb}$ . Define  $T_i \colon \mathbb{B}(H) \to A^{**}$  by  $T_i = T \circ \overline{S}_i$ . We then have  $\limsup \|T_i\| \leqslant \|T\|$  and  $\lim \langle T_i(e), f \rangle = \langle e, f \rangle$  for all  $e \in A^{**}$  and  $f \in \mathbb{B}(H)_*$ . Let  $\tilde{T} \colon \mathbb{B}(H) \to A^{**}$  be a cluster point of the net  $\{T_i\}_i$  in the point-ultraweak topology.  $\tilde{T}$  is then the desired bounded linear projection.

Next we use results due to De Cannière and Haagerup and due to Kirchberg. Let  $C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n)$  be the reduced group  $C^*$ -algebra of the free group  $\mathbb{F}_n$  with n generators  $(n \ge 2)$ . Then, by [3],  $C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n)$  has the complete metric approximation property. Thus,  $C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n)$  is exact and a fortiori is locally reflexive [12]. By [11], there are a  $C^*$ -algebra B with the WEP and a surjective \*-homomorphism  $\pi$  from B onto  $C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n)$ . Since  $C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n)$  has the metric approximation property, there is a contractive linear lifting  $\varphi \colon C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n) \to B$ , i.e.  $\pi \circ \varphi = \operatorname{id}_{C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n)}$ . (There is even a unital k-positive lifting for each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  (see [20]).) We need one more ingredient due to Haagerup and Pisier. Let  $\operatorname{VN}(\mathbb{F}_n)$  be the group von Neumann algebra of the free group  $\mathbb{F}_n$  with n generators  $(n \ge 2)$  and let  $VN(\mathbb{F}_n) \subset \mathbb{B}(K)$  be any faithful \*-representation.  $\operatorname{VN}(\mathbb{F}_n)$  is then not complemented in  $\mathbb{B}(K)$  (see Corollary 4.9 in [8]).

**Lemma 1.3.** Let  $C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n) \subset \mathbb{B}(H)$  be any faithful \*-representation. Then  $C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n)$  is not weakly complemented in  $\mathbb{B}(H)$ .

**Proof.** If  $C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n)$  is weakly complemented in  $\mathbb{B}(H)$ , then by Lemma 1.2 and the preceding remarks,  $C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n)^{**}$  is complemented in  $\mathbb{B}(K)$  for any faithful \*-representation  $C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n)^{**} \subset \mathbb{B}(K)$ . Since the group von Neumann algebra  $\mathrm{VN}(\mathbb{F}_n)$  is complemented in  $C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n)^{**}$ , a fortiori it is complemented in  $\mathbb{B}(K)$ . This contradicts Corollary 4.9 in [8].  $\Box$ 

**Theorem 1.4.** Let  $C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n) \subset \mathbb{B}(H)$  be a faithful \*-representation. Let  $B \subset \mathbb{B}(K)$  be a  $C^*$ -subalgebra with the WEP and  $\pi$  be a surjective \*-homomorphism from B onto  $C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n)$ . If  $\varphi: C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n) \to B$  is a bounded linear lifting of  $\pi$ , then there is no bounded linear extension  $\bar{\varphi}: \mathbb{B}(H) \to \mathbb{B}(K)$  of  $\varphi$ .

**Proof.** Suppose that there is a bounded linear extension  $\bar{\varphi} \colon \mathbb{B}(H) \to \mathbb{B}(K)$  of  $\varphi$ . Since B has the WEP, there is a bounded linear map  $\psi \colon \mathbb{B}(K) \to B^{**}$  such that  $\psi|_B = \iota_B$ . Let us define  $T \colon \mathbb{B}(H) \to C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n)^{**}$  by  $T = \pi^{**} \circ \psi \circ \bar{\varphi}$ . T is then a bounded linear map and  $T|_{C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n)} = \iota_{C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n)}$ . This contradicts Lemma 1.3.

**Remark 1.5.** Since  $C_{\lambda}^{*}(\mathbb{F}_{n})$  is weakly complemented in  $VN(\mathbb{F}_{n})$  (see the proof of Lemma 7.6 in [11]), there is a bounded linear map from  $VN(\mathbb{F}_{n})$  to  $\mathbb{B}(K)$  without bounded linear extension to  $\mathbb{B}(\ell_{2}(\mathbb{F}_{n}))$ .

**Problem 1.6.** Let A be a  $C^*$ -subalgebra of  $\mathbb{B}(H)$  and assume that any bounded linear map from A to  $\mathbb{B}(H)$  extends to a bounded linear map on  $\mathbb{B}(H)$ . Is A weakly complemented in  $\mathbb{B}(H)$ ?

#### 2. Computing exactness constants of some Q-spaces

We will compute the exactness constant of some Q-spaces. A Q-space is a quotient operator space of a minimal operator space. By the duality between maximal and minimal operator spaces, a dual operator space of a subspace of a maximal operator space is a Q-space. See [1] and [2] for details.

Let E be a finite-dimensional operator space. For any  $C^*$ -algebra B and any closed twosided ideal J in B, there is a canonical isomorphism  $T_E: (E \otimes B)/(E \otimes J) \to E \otimes (B/J)$ , where  $\otimes$  means the minimal tensor product. Let C be a constant. We say E is Cexact if  $||T_E^{-1}|| \leq C$  for all choices of B and J. By the canonical isometric identification  $E \otimes X = CB(E^*, X)$  for an operator space X (see [2, 4]), E is C-exact if any complete contraction from the dual operator space  $E^*$  to any quotient  $C^*$ -algebra B/J has a lifting with cb-norm  $\leq C$ . For an infinite-dimensional operator space X, we say X is C-exact if every finite-dimensional operator subspace of X is C-exact and we say X is exact if it is C-exact for some constant C. The exactness constant ex(X) of X is defined by  $ex(X) = \inf\{C : X \text{ is } C\text{-exact}\}$ . See [17] for details.

Define an operator space  $E_n \subset \mathbb{M}_n \oplus \mathbb{M}_n \subset \mathbb{M}_{2n}$  by  $E_n = \operatorname{span} \{e_{k1} \oplus e_{1k} : k = 1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ , where  $\{e_{jk}\}$  is a standard matrix unit in  $\mathbb{M}_n$ . By Proposition 1.3 in [8], there are two maps  $w : E_n \to C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n)$  and  $v : C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n) \to E_n$  such that  $v \circ w = \operatorname{id}_{E_n}$  and  $\|v\|_{cb} \leq 2$ ,  $\|w\|_{cb} \leq 1$ . By Lemma 4.2 in [8], any projection P from  $\mathbb{M}_{2n}$  onto  $E_n$  has cb-norm  $\geq \frac{1}{2}(1+\sqrt{n})$ . By Smith's lemma (Theorem 2.1 in [21]), we have  $\|P\|_{cb} = \|P\|_{2n}$  for any map  $P : \mathbb{M}_{2n} \to E_n$ . Hence, by a standard averaging argument (see [8, 20]), we have  $\|P\| \geq \frac{1}{2}(1+\sqrt{n})$  for any projection P from  $\mathbb{M}_{2n}(\mathbb{M}_{2n})$  onto  $\mathbb{M}_{2n}(E_n)$ . On the other hand, by Remark 4.3 in [8], there is a projection Q from  $\mathbb{M}_{2n}(\mathbb{M}_{2n})$  onto  $\mathbb{M}_{2n}(E_n)$  with  $\|Q\| = \frac{1}{2}(1+\sqrt{n})$ . See [8] for details.

**Theorem 2.1.** We equip  $\mathbb{M}_{2n}(E_n)$  with a new operator space structure induced by the canonical embedding into  $\max(\mathbb{M}_{2n}(\mathbb{M}_{2n}))$  and denote the resultant operator space by  $F_n$ , i.e.  $F_n = \mathbb{M}_{2n}(E_n)$  as a Banach space and  $F_n \subset \max(\mathbb{M}_{2n}(\mathbb{M}_{2n}))$  as an operator space.  $F_n^*$  is then a  $4n^3$ -dimensional Q-space such that

$$\frac{1}{4}(1+\sqrt{n}) \leq \exp(F_n^*) \leq \|\operatorname{id}\colon \min(F_n^*) \to F_n^*\|_{\operatorname{cb}} \leq \frac{1}{2}(1+\sqrt{n}).$$

**Proof.** We note that the formal identity  $J: F_n \to \mathbb{M}_{2n}(E_n)$  is completely contractive. Let v and w be as in the preceding remarks and let  $\tilde{w}: F_n \to \mathbb{M}_{2n}(C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n))$  be a complete contraction defined by  $\tilde{w} = (\mathrm{id}_{\mathbb{M}_{2n}} \otimes w) \circ J$ . By [11], there are a  $C^*$ -algebra B with the WEP and a surjective \*-homomorphism  $\pi$  from B onto  $\mathbb{M}_{2n}(C^*_{\lambda}(\mathbb{F}_n))$ . Suppose that  $F^*_n$  is C-exact. By definition, there is a lifting  $\varphi: F_n \to B$  of  $\tilde{w}$  with  $\|\varphi\|_{\mathrm{cb}} \leq C$ . Since B has the WEP,  $\varphi$  extends to  $\bar{\varphi}: \max(\mathbb{M}_{2n}(\mathbb{M}_{2n})) \to B^{**}$  with  $\|\bar{\varphi}\|_{\mathrm{cb}} \leq C$ . Let us define  $P: \mathbb{M}_{2n}(\mathbb{M}_{2n}) \to \mathbb{M}_{2n}(E_n)$  by  $P = (\mathrm{id}_{\mathbb{M}_{2n}} \otimes v)^{**} \circ \pi^{**} \circ \bar{\varphi}$ . P is then a projection with  $\|P\| \leq 2C$ . Thus, we have  $C \geq \frac{1}{4}(1 + \sqrt{n})$ . This proves the first inequality. Since  $\mathrm{ex}(\min(F^*_n)) = 1$ , we have the second inequality.

Next, let Q be a projection as in the preceding remarks. We then have

$$\| \operatorname{id}: F_n \to \max(F_n) \|_{\operatorname{cb}} \leq \|Q: \max(\mathbb{M}_{2n}(\mathbb{M}_{2n})) \to \max(F_n) \|_{\operatorname{cb}} = \|Q\| = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \sqrt{n}).$$

Taking the dual of this identity map, we obtain the third inequality.

Since an  $\ell_{\infty}$ -sum of Q-spaces is also a Q-space, we obtain the next corollary.

**Corollary 2.2.** There is a *Q*-space which is not exact.

Problem 2.3. What is the asymptotic behaviour of the constant

 $\sup\{\exp(E): E \text{ an } n \text{-dimensional } Q \text{-space}\}$ 

as n tends to infinity?

### 3. A Q-space which is not locally reflexive

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $C \ge 1$  be a constant. We say an operator space X is C-locally reflexive if for any finite-dimensional subspaces  $E \subset X^{**}$  and  $F \subset X^*$  and any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is a map  $\varphi \colon E \to X$  with  $\|\varphi\|_{cb} < C + \varepsilon$  such that  $\langle \varphi(e), f \rangle = \langle e, f \rangle$  for all  $e \in E$  and  $f \in F$ . We say an operator space X is locally reflexive if X is C-locally reflexive for some constant C.

We note that a  $C^*$ -algebra is 1-locally reflexive if it is locally reflexive and that a subspace of a C-locally reflexive operator space is also C-locally reflexive. See [5] for details. Now, let us construct a Q-space which is not locally reflexive. First, we need a lemma due to Oikhberg. Let us recall that the cb version of the Banach-Mazur distance between two completely isomorphic operator spaces X and Y is defined by

 $d_{\rm cb}(X,Y) = \inf\{\|\varphi\|_{\rm cb} \|\varphi^{-1}\|_{\rm cb} : \varphi \text{ a completely bounded isomorphism from } X \text{ onto } Y\}.$ 

Put  $d_{\rm cb}(X,Y) = \infty$  if X and Y are not completely isomorphic.

**Lemma 3.2 (Lemma 3.4 from [15]).** For every C' > 0, there is a finite-dimensional subspace  $F \subset \max(\mathbb{B}(H))$  such that  $d_{cb}(F,G) > C'$  for all n and  $G \subset \max(\mathbb{M}_n)$ .

Taking the dual of the inclusion  $F \subset \max(\mathbb{B}(H))$  we obtain a complete metric surjection  $q: \min(S_1) \to E$ , where  $E = F^*$ . By the above lemma and a small perturbation argument, we obtain the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.3.** For every C' > 0 there is a finite-rank complete metric surjection  $q: \min(S_1) \to E$  such that  $d_{cb}(E, F/(\ker q \cap F)) > C'$  for all finite-dimensional subspaces  $F \subset \min(S_1)$ .

We now prove the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.4.** For every C > 0 there is a Q-space which is not C-locally reflexive.

**Proof.** Fix C' > C and take a finite-rank complete metric surjection  $q: \min(S_1) \to E$ as in Lemma 3.3. Let  $\{F_n\}$  be an increasing sequence of finite-dimensional subspaces of  $\min(S_1)$  such that  $\bigcup F_n = \min(S_1)$  and  $q(F_1) = E$ . Let  $E_n = F_n/(\ker q \cap F_n)$  and let  $\varphi_n: E_n \to E$  be the complete contraction induced by  $q|_{F_n}: F_n \to E$ . By Lemma 3.3, we

have  $\|\varphi_n^{-1}\|_{cb} > C'$  for all n. On the other hand, it can be seen that  $\lim_{n\to\infty} \|\varphi_n^{-1}\|_k = 1$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Finally, let X be an operator space defined by

$$X = \left\{ (x_n) \in \left( \prod E_n \right)_{\ell_{\infty}} : \lim_{n \to \infty} \varphi_n(x_n) \text{ exists in } E \right\}.$$

Since all the  $E_n$  are Q-spaces, X is also a Q-space. We will show that X is not C-locally reflexive. There is a natural map  $\varphi \colon X \to E$  defined by  $\varphi((x_n)) = \lim \varphi_n(x_n)$ . For each n, define  $\psi_n \colon E \to X$  by

$$\psi_n(x) = (0, \dots, 0, \varphi_n^{-1}(x), \varphi_{n+1}^{-1}(x), \dots)$$

Since  $\varphi_m^{-1} \circ \varphi_n \colon E_n \to E_m$  is completely contractive for all  $m \ge n$ , we have

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \|\psi_n\|_k = \lim_{n \to \infty} \|\varphi_n^{-1}\|_k = 1$$

for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $\psi: E \to X^{**}$  be a cluster point of the sequence  $\{\psi_n\}_n$  in the pointweak<sup>\*</sup> topology. Then, by the previous argument, we have  $\|\psi\|_{cb} \leq 1$ . Since  $\varphi \circ \psi_n = \mathrm{id}_E$ for all n, we have  $\varphi^{**} \circ \psi = \mathrm{id}_E$ . Now, suppose that X is C-locally reflexive. Since  $\varphi: X \to E$  is of finite rank, applying the local reflexivity to the complete contraction  $\psi: E \to X^{**}$ , we obtain a map  $\theta: E \to X$  with  $\|\theta\|_{cb} < C'$  such that  $\varphi \circ \theta = \mathrm{id}_E$ . Let  $\theta_n: E \to E_n$  be the 'nth coordinate' of  $\theta$ . Then, by the definition of  $\varphi$ , we have

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \varphi_n \circ \theta_n(x) = x$$

for all  $x \in E$ . Since E is finite dimensional, we have

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} \|\varphi_n^{-1}\|_{\rm cb} \leqslant \limsup_{n \to \infty} (\|\theta_n\|_{\rm cb} + \dim(E)\|\varphi_n^{-1} - \theta_n\|) \leqslant \|\theta\|_{\rm cb} < C'.$$

This contradicts the choice of E.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0013091599000978 Published online by Cambridge University Press

**Theorem 3.5.** There is a *Q*-space which is not locally reflexive.

**Proof.** For each *n*, there is a Q-space  $X_n$  which is not *n*-locally reflexive by Lemma 3.4. Define a Q-space Y by  $Y = (\bigoplus X_n)_{c_0}$ . It is easy to see that Y is not locally reflexive.  $\Box$ 

**Problem 3.6.** In the proof of Lemma 3.4, it can be seen that  $ex(X) = sup ex(E_n)$ . Can we control this value?

#### 4. Crude representability and local reflexivity

Let  $(\bigoplus X_n)_{\ell_1}$  be the  $\ell_1$ -direct sum of a sequence  $\{X_n\}$  of operator spaces. We equip  $(\bigoplus X_n)_{\ell_1}$  with the natural operator space structure (see pp. 34–36 in [18]).  $(\bigoplus X_n)_{\ell_1}$  is then an operator space with the following properties. If  $\varphi_n \colon X_n \to \mathbb{B}(H)$  is a complete contraction for all n, then  $\varphi \colon (\bigoplus X_n)_{\ell_1} \ni (x_n) \mapsto \sum \varphi_n(x_n) \in \mathbb{B}(H)$  is a complete contraction. We have a completely isometric identity  $(\bigoplus X_n)_{\ell_1}^* = (\prod X_n^*)_{\ell_\infty}$ ; and if  $Y_n \subset X_n$  for all n, then we have  $(\bigoplus Y_n)_{\ell_1} \subset (\bigoplus X_n)_{\ell_1}$  completely isometrically. When  $X_n = X$  for all n, we simply denote  $(\bigoplus X_n)_{\ell_1}$  by  $\ell_1(X)$ .

**Lemma 4.1.** Let X be a separable operator space and let  $\{E_n\}$  be an increasing sequence of finite-dimensional subspaces of X such that  $\overline{\bigcup E_n} = X$ . If  $Y = (\bigoplus E_n)_{\ell_1}$  is C-locally reflexive, then so is X.

**Proof.** We follow the construction due to Johnson [9]. Let  $q: Y \to X$  be a complete metric surjection defined by  $q((x_n)) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_n$ . Fix a free ultrafilter  $\mathcal{U}$  on  $\mathbb{N}$  and define a map  $r: Y^* \to X^*$  by

$$\langle r(f), x \rangle = \lim_{\mathcal{H}} \langle f_n, x \rangle$$

for all  $f = (f_n) \in Y^* = (\prod E_n^*)_{\ell_{\infty}}$  and  $x \in \bigcup E_n$ . Then, r is a well-defined complete contraction and  $r \circ q^* = \operatorname{id}_{X^*}$ . To prove that X is C-locally reflexive, we give ourselves finite-dimensional subspaces  $E \subset X^{**}$  and  $F \subset X^*$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Let  $\tilde{E} = r^*(E) \subset Y^{**}$  and let  $\tilde{F} = q^*(F) \subset Y^*$ . Since Y is C-locally reflexive, there is a map  $\varphi \colon \tilde{E} \to Y$  with  $\|\varphi\|_{\operatorname{cb}} \leqslant C + \varepsilon$  such that  $\langle \varphi(\tilde{e}), \tilde{f} \rangle = \langle \tilde{e}, \tilde{f} \rangle$  for all  $\tilde{e} \in \tilde{E}$  and  $\tilde{f} \in \tilde{F}$ . Now, define  $\psi \colon E \to X$  by  $\psi = q \circ \varphi \circ (r^*|_E)$ . Then, we have  $\|\psi\|_{\operatorname{cb}} \leqslant C + \varepsilon$  and

$$\begin{split} \langle \psi(e), f \rangle &= \langle \varphi(r^*(e)), q^*(f) \rangle \\ &= \langle r^*(e), q^*(f) \rangle \\ &= \langle e, r \circ q^*(f) \rangle \\ &= \langle e, f \rangle \end{split}$$

for all  $e \in E$  and  $f \in F$ . This completes the proof.

Lemma 4.2 (Theorem 4.3 in [7]). An operator space X is locally reflexive if every separable subspace of X is locally reflexive.

**Proof.** The 'isometric' version of this lemma has been proved in [7]. Observe that the assumption implies that there is a constant C so that every separable subspace of X is C-locally reflexive. Now the proof of C-local reflexivity of X is almost same as the proof of Theorem 4.3 in [7].

Let Z and X be operator spaces. We say X is crudely representable in Z if there is a constant C such that for any finite-dimensional subspace E of X, there is a subspace F of Z with  $d_{\rm cb}(F, E) < C$ .

**Theorem 4.3.** Let Z be an operator space such that Z contains a completely isomorphic copy of  $\ell_1(Z)$ . Assume that Z is locally reflexive. If X is an operator space which is crudely representable in Z, then X is locally reflexive.

**Proof.** By Lemma 4.2, we may assume that X is separable. Take an increasing sequence  $\{E_n\}$  of finite-dimensional subspaces of X with  $\bigcup E_n = X$ . Since X is crudely representable in  $Z, Y = (\bigoplus E_n)_{\ell_1}$  can be embedded into  $\ell_1(Z)$  completely isomorphically. Since a subspace of locally reflexive operator space is also locally reflexive, by Lemma 4.1, we are done.

**Remark 4.4.** In [10], Junge has proved that the operator space  $S_1$  of trace class operators satisfies the assumption of Theorem 4.3 and the consequence is already known [6]. There is a locally reflexive operator space X such that  $\ell_1(X)$  is not locally reflexive. Indeed, if V is a separable operator space which is not locally reflexive and  $\{E_n\}$  is an increasing sequence of finite-dimensional subspaces with  $\bigcup E_n = V$ , then  $X = (\bigoplus E_n)_{c_0}$ is locally reflexive, but  $\ell_1(X)$  is not locally reflexive. This answers a question raised by Le Merdy (personal communication). There is an ' $\ell_{\infty}$ -version' of Theorem 4.3 (use Lusky's construction [14] at Lemma 4.1), but it seems that for only few operator spaces  $X, \ell_{\infty}(X)$  is locally reflexive.

**Problem 4.5.** Are exact operator spaces necessarily locally reflexive?

It has been shown in Corollary 4.8 in [7] that every 1-exact operator space is 1-locally reflexive.

Acknowledgements. The author is supported by JSPS. The author thanks Professor Gilles Pisier for introducing him to the problem and for a stimulating conversation.

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