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In: (ed.): General Topology and its Relations to Modern Analysis and Algebra, Proceedings of the symposium held in Prague in September 1961. Academia Publishing House of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague, 1962. pp. [87]--90.

Persistent URL: <http://dml.cz/dmlcz/700953>

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# ON THE TOPOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION OF COMPLETE LINEAR METRIC SPACES

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The topological classification of finite-dimensional linear spaces is quite easy. It is well-known that two finite dimensional linear spaces are homeomorphic if and only if they have the same dimension. Moreover in this case there exists an isomorphism (linear homeomorphism) between those spaces. In the case of infinite dimensional spaces the situation is different. The topological and isomorphical (= linearly topological) classifications are not the same. For example if  $1 \leq p' \neq p'' < +\infty$ , then the spaces  $l_{p'}$  and  $l_{p''}$  are not isomorphic but, by a result of S. MAZUR (1930), they are homeomorphic.

One known topological invariant which distinguishes infinite-dimensional complete linear metric spaces is the density character of the space. Among the spaces of density character  $\aleph$  there are  $2^{\aleph}$  different isomorphical types. It is clear that the topological classification is coarser than the isomorphical one. However the hypothesis that all the spaces of the same density character are homeomorphic; is very problematic.

Now we shall consider some particular cases.

1. *Banach spaces. We know the following results:*

$$(1) \quad l_p \sim l_2; \quad L_p \sim L_2 = l_2 \quad (1 \leq p < \infty) \quad (\text{S. MAZUR [6]}).$$

(The symbol  $X \sim Y$  denotes that the space  $X$  and  $Y$  are homeomorphic)

$$(2) \quad c_0 \sim l_2 \quad (\text{M. J. KADEC [2]}).$$

(3) *Every separable infinite dimensional conjugate B-space (in particular every reflexive space) is homeomorphic to  $l_2$  (M. J. KADEC [3] and V. KLEE [4]).*

(4) *Every B-space with density character  $\aleph$  which contains a closed linear manifold homeomorphic to  $l_2(\aleph)$  is homeomorphic to  $l_2(\aleph)$  (C. BESSAGA and A. PEŁCZYŃSKI [1]).*

The proofs of (2) and (3) consist in the assigning to each element of the space a sequence of "coordinates" which are defined in metric terms under a convenient admissible norm. The proof of (4) makes use of some algebraic identities and properties of cartesian product of spaces. The crucial lemma is the following result of Bartle-Graves:

(5) *If  $Y$  is a closed linear subspace of a B-space (F-space)  $X$  then  $X \sim Y \times X/Y$  (BARTLE-GRAVES 1952). (See E. MICHAEL [7].) In particular from (4) we obtain*

(4a) Every separable  $B$ -space which contains an infinite-dimensional subspace with an unconditional basis is homeomorphic to  $l_2$ .

We recall that the sequence  $(x_n)$  is an unconditional basis of the space  $X$  if every element  $x$  in  $X$  may be uniquely written as a sum  $x = \sum_n t_n x_n$  and for every permutation  $(p_n)$ , the series  $\sum_n t_{p_n} x_{p_n}$  is convergent.

We deduce (4a) from (4). Let  $Y$  be a subspace of  $X$  with an unconditional basis. Then, by a result of R. C. JAMES, either  $Y$  contains a subspace isomorphic to the space  $c_0$  or  $Y$  is isomorphic to a conjugate space. In both cases, by (3) and (2),  $X$  contains a subspace homeomorphic to  $l_2$ .

All known infinite-dimensional separable  $B$ -spaces fulfil the assumption of (4a), whence they are homeomorphic to  $l_2$ . In general case the solution of the classification problem for separable  $B$ -spaces is reduced to the positive answer to the following problem:

P. 1. Does every infinite-dimensional  $B$ -space contain an infinite-dimensional subspace with an unconditional basis?

We want to call your attention to the fact that this problem has purely linear character.

For nonseparable  $B$ -spaces the consequences of (4) are not so deep. However we can show that

$$(4b) \quad m(\aleph) \sim l_2(2^\aleph) \sim l(2^\aleph).$$

2. Now we consider the case of locally convex metrisable complete spaces ( $F$ -spaces). It is natural to ask: Does there exist an  $F$ -space which is isomorphic to no  $B$ -space but is homeomorphic to  $l_2$ ?

Let us consider the space  $A$  of all entire functions  $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} t_n z^n$ , with the topology of almost uniform convergence. Put

$$hf = (\sqrt[n]{|t_n|} \cdot t_n / |t_n|).$$

This formula defines a homeomorphic mapping from  $A$  onto the complex space  $c_0$  (by the classical Cauchy-Hadamard formula). Hence  $A \sim l_2$ . In an analogical way we can prove that every nuclear Köthe space is homeomorphic to  $l_2$ . Combining this result with the theorem of Bartle-Graves and the following result of S. ROLEWICZ: [9]:

*Let  $X$  be an infinite dimensional  $F$ -space. If  $X$  is isomorphic to no cartesian product  $E \times s$ , where  $E$  is a  $B$ -space, then  $X$  contains isomorphically a nuclear Köthe space,*

we can show that all known separable infinite dimensional  $F$ -spaces except the space  $s$  are homeomorphic to  $l_2$ . Namely we obtain

(6) *Let  $X$  be an infinite-dimensional separable  $F$ -space. If either 1°  $X$  is isomorphic to no cartesian product  $E \times s$ , where  $E$  is a  $B$ -space or 2°  $X = E \times s$  and  $E \sim l_2$ , then  $X \sim l_2$ .*

Hence we see that the classification problem for separable  $F$ -spaces is reduced to that of  $B$ -space and to the following questions:

P. 2. Is the space  $s$  homeomorphic to  $l_2$ ?

About the nonseparable  $F$ -spaces we know nothing. In particular it seems to be interesting to answer the following question:

P. 3. Is the space  $[l_2(\aleph)]^{\aleph_0}$  homeomorphic to  $l_2(\aleph)^{?1}$

For  $\aleph = \aleph_0$  the answer is “yes”. Moreover from (6) it follows that for infinite dimensional  $B$ -space  $X$  we have  $X^{\aleph_0} \sim l_2$ .

3. In the case of *non-locally convex linear metric complete space* we know only a little. Mazur’s result (1) can be automatically extended to the case  $0 < p < 1$ . However we do not know

P. 4. Is the space  $S$  of all measurable real functions on  $[0, 1]$ , homeomorphic to  $l_2$ ?

The following problem seems to be very interesting

P. 5. Generalize the theorem of Bartle-Graves to the case of all linear metric complex spaces.

4. It seems to be interesting to introduce *other classifications* of an intermediate character between the isometrical classification and the topological one. From the analytical point of view it is natural to ask how “nice” a homeomorphism between two linear topological spaces may be. We notice that

(7) *Let  $X$  be an  $F$ -space. If there exist a  $B$ -space  $Y$  and a homeomorphism  $h$ , which uniformly maps  $Y$  onto  $X$ , then  $X$  is a  $B$ -space.*

(8) *Under the assumption that every infinite dimensional  $B$ -space is homeomorphic with its subspace of defect one, we obtain that if two spaces are homeomorphic, then they are radially homeomorphic, i. e. there is a homeomorphism  $h$  such that  $\|hx\| = \|x\|$ ,  $h(tx) = thx$ .*

The Mazur homeomorphism between  $l_{p_1}$  and  $l_{p_2}$  satisfies the Hölder condition. We want to call your attention to the following unsolved questions:

P. 6. Let  $h$  be a homeomorphic mapping from a  $B$ -space  $X$  onto a  $B$ -space  $Y$ . Let us suppose that  $h$  and  $h^{-1}$  are Lipschitzian. Are then the spaces  $X$  and  $Y$  isomorphic?

P. 7. Are every two homeomorphic  $B$ -spaces uniformly homeomorphic (i. e. whether there exists such an homeomorphism  $h$  between these spaces that both  $h$  and  $h^{-1}$  are uniformly continuous).

5. Now we want to tell something about the topological equivalences of some *spaces of continuous functions*. The theorem (4a) implies

(9) *If  $Q$  is an infinite compact metric space then the space  $C(Q) = R^Q$  of all real continuous functions defined on  $Q$  is homeomorphic to  $l_2$ .*

Since the space  $I^Q$  may be treated as the unit ball of  $C(Q)$ , then by a recent result of Klee  $I^Q$  is homeomorphic to  $l_2$ . The same is true for the spaces  $R_+^Q$ ,  $X^Q$  and  $W^Q$ ,

<sup>1</sup> Added in proof: The answer to this problem is “yes”. From this fact we can deduce that the result (4) holds true if we replace the word “ $B$ -space”, by “ $F$ -space” — see [8].

where  $R_+$  denotes the half-line,  $X$  — an arbitrary separable  $F$ -space, and  $W$  — the Hilbert cube. It seems to be very probable that

P. 8. If  $W$  is closed convex subset of an arbitrary separable  $B$ -space then  $W^Q$  is homeomorphic to  $l_2$ , for any infinite compact metric space  $Q$ .

On the other hand, if  $T$  is a separable metric space which is not an absolute retract then the space  $T^Q$  is not homeomorphic to  $l_2$ . One may ask

P. 9. Let  $T$  be a compact metric absolute retract. Is the space  $T^Q$  homeomorphic to  $l_2$ ,  $Q$  being an infinite metric compact space?

We cannot answer this question even in the particular case where  $T$  is a continuum homeomorphic to the capital letter  $T$ .

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