WAVELETS, ORLICZ SPACES, AND GREEDY BASES

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To the memory of Carlos Segovia

Abstract. We study the efficiency of greedy algorithms for $N$-term wavelet approximation in Orlicz spaces $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$. We compute the left and right democracy functions in terms of the fundamental function of $L^\Phi$, recovering a recent result of Wojtaszczyk [31], which establishes that wavelet bases can only be greedy when $L^\Phi = L^p$ for some $1 < p < \infty$. In addition, optimal Jackson and Bernstein inequalities are obtained, as well as inclusions for the approximation spaces based on $L^\Phi$. These inclusions are expressed in terms of sequence spaces of weighted Lorentz and Marcinkiewicz type, with the weights depending on the fundamental function of $L^\Phi$, which in some cases can be described as Besov spaces of generalized smoothness.

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1. Introduction

Let $\mathcal{B} = (\mathbb{B}, \| \cdot \|_\mathbb{B})$ be a Banach (or quasi-Banach) space with a countable unconditional basis $\mathcal{B} = \{ e_j : j \in \mathbb{N} \}$; that is, every $x \in \mathbb{B}$ can be uniquely represented as an unconditionally convergent series $x = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} s_j e_j$, for some sequence of scalars $\{ s_j \}$. Let $\Sigma_N$ denote the set of all elements $y \in \mathbb{B}$ with at most $N$ non-null coefficients in the basis representation $y = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} s_j e_j$. For $x \in \mathbb{B}$, the $N$-term error of approximation (with respect to $\mathcal{B}$) is defined by

$$\sigma_N(x)_\mathbb{B} = \inf \{ \| x - y \|_\mathbb{B} : y \in \Sigma_N \}. \quad (1.1)$$

Two main questions in approximation theory concern the construction of efficient algorithms for $N$-term approximation, and the characterization of the approximation spaces

$$A^*_N(\mathbb{B}) = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{B} : \left[ \sum_{N \geq 1} \left( N^\alpha \| \sigma_N(x)_\mathbb{B} \|_\mathbb{B} \right)^{q/N} \right]^{-\frac{1}{q}} < \infty \right\}, \quad (1.2)$$

when $\alpha > 0$ and $0 < q \leq \infty$ (with the obvious modification when $q = \infty$).

A computationally efficient method to produce $N$-term approximations, which has been widely investigated in recent years, is the so called greedy algorithm. If $x = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} s_j e_j$ and we order the basis elements in such a way that

$$\| s_{j_1} e_{j_1} \|_\mathbb{B} \geq \| s_{j_2} e_{j_2} \|_\mathbb{B} \geq \| s_{j_3} e_{j_3} \|_\mathbb{B} \geq \ldots$$

(handling ties arbitrarily), the greedy algorithm of step $N$ is defined by the correspondence

$$x = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} s_j e_j \in \mathbb{B} \longrightarrow G_N(x) = \sum_{k=1}^N s_{j_k} e_{j_k} \in \Sigma_N. \quad (1.3)$$

It is clear that $\sigma_N(x)_\mathbb{B} \leq \| x - G_N(x) \|_\mathbb{B}$. A basis $\mathcal{B}$ is said to be greedy in $(\mathbb{B}, \| \cdot \|_\mathbb{B})$ if the converse inequality holds up to a constant, that is, for some $C \geq 1$

$$\frac{1}{C} \| x - G_N(x) \|_\mathbb{B} \leq \sigma_N(x)_\mathbb{B}, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{B}, \ N = 1, 2, \ldots$$

Thus, for such bases the greedy algorithm produces an almost optimal $N$-term approximation, which leads often to a precise identification of the approximation spaces $A^*_N(\mathbb{B})$. A result of Konyagin and Temlyakov [19] characterizes greedy bases in a Banach space $\mathbb{B}$ as those which are unconditional and democratic, the latter meaning that for some constant $C > 0$

$$\left\| \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} e_{s_{\gamma}} \|_{\mathbb{B}} \right\|_\mathbb{B} \leq C \left\| \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma'} e_{s_{\gamma}} \|_{\mathbb{B}} \right\|_\mathbb{B},$$

holds for all finite sets of indices $\Gamma, \Gamma' \subset \mathbb{N}$ with the same cardinality.

Wavelet systems are well known examples of greedy bases for many function and distribution spaces. Indeed, Temlyakov showed in [29] that the Haar basis (and any wavelet system $L^p$-equivalent to it) is greedy in the Lebesgue spaces $L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ for $1 < p < \infty$. When wavelets have sufficient smoothness and decay, they are also greedy bases for the more general Sobolev and Triebel-Lizorkin classes (see e.g. [14, 11]).

The purpose of this paper is to study the efficiency of wavelet greedy algorithms in the class of Orlicz spaces $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$. We recall that, as M. S. Saridakis proved in [28], wavelet bases are unconditional in every $L^\Phi$ with non-trivial Boyd indices (see §2 below for
Theorem 1.1 (Wojtaszczyk [31]). Let $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be an Orlicz space with non trivial Boyd indices. An admissible wavelet basis is democratic in $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$ if and only if $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d) = L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ for some $1 < p < \infty$.

This result makes interesting to understand how far wavelet bases are from being democratic in general $L^\Phi$ spaces. To quantify democracy of a basis $\mathcal{B} = \{e_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$ we shall study the following functions

$$h_r(N) = \sup_{\text{Card}(\Gamma) = N} \left\| \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \frac{e_{\gamma}}{\|e_{\gamma}\|_\mathcal{B}} \right\|_\mathcal{B} \quad \text{and} \quad h_t(N) = \inf_{\text{Card}(\Gamma) = N} \left\| \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \frac{e_{\gamma}}{\|e_{\gamma}\|_\mathcal{B}} \right\|_\mathcal{B}',$$

which we call right and left democracy functions of $\mathcal{B}$ (see also [9, 16]). Observe that a basis is democratic if and only if these two quantities are comparable for all $N \geq 1$. Our main result gives a precise estimate for these functions in terms of intrinsic properties of the space $L^\Phi$. Namely, let $H^\pm(t) = \sup_{s>0} \varphi(ts)/\varphi(s)$ denote the dilation function associated with the fundamental function $\varphi$ of $L^\Phi$, and let $H^-_\varphi$ be the same quantity with “sup” replaced by “inf” (see §2.1 for the precise definitions).

Theorem 1.2. Let $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be an Orlicz space with non trivial Boyd indices. Then,

$$h_r(N) \simeq H^+_\varphi(N) \quad \text{and} \quad h_t(N) \simeq H^-_\varphi(N)$$

where the involved constants are independent of $N \geq 1$.

This result will have interesting applications in the study of greedy approximation in Orlicz spaces. We take up this task in the last part of the paper, where we investigate Jackson and Bernstein type estimates and corresponding inclusions for the $N$-term approximation spaces. In the well-known $L^p$ case, these estimates are naturally given in terms of the class of discrete Lorentz spaces $\ell^{r,q}$ (see e.g. [14, 12, 7, 17, 11]). In the general Orlicz situation we shall need weighted Lorentz sequence spaces, defined by

$$\Lambda^q_\eta = \left\{ s : \|s\|_{\Lambda^q_\eta} = \left[ \sum_{k \geq 1} (\eta_k |s_k^*|)^q \frac{1}{k^r} \right]^{\frac{1}{q}} < \infty \right\},$$

where $\{s_k^*\}$ is the non-increasing rearrangement of $s$ and the weight $\eta = \{\eta_k\}$ is a fixed increasing and doubling sequence (see §6 below). In particular, $\Lambda^q_\eta = \ell^{r,q}$ when $\eta_k = k^{1/r}$. Weighted Lorentz spaces have already been used in the study of approximation spaces associated with multivariate Haar systems (see e.g. [16]). To state our result we use the notation

$$s(L^\Phi) = \left\{ f \in L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d) : \{ (f, \psi_Q) \|\psi_Q\|_{L^\Phi} \}_Q \in s \right\}, \quad (1.4)$$

for any fixed sequence space $s$, indexed on the set of dyadic cubes in $\mathbb{R}^d$.

Theorem 1.3. Let $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be an Orlicz space with Boyd indices $0 < \underline{p}_{L^\Phi} \leq \bar{p}_{L^\Phi} < 1$, and let $\alpha > 0$ and $0 < q \leq \infty$. Then

$$\Lambda^q_{k^{\alpha}h_r(k)}(L^\Phi) \hookrightarrow A^\alpha_\eta(L^\Phi) \hookrightarrow \Lambda^q_{k^{\alpha}h_r(k)}(L^\Phi). \quad (1.5)$$
These embeddings are optimal, in the sense that the largest and smallest weighted Lorentz spaces that one can place on the left and right hand side of (1.5) are respectively $A^\alpha_q(L^\Phi)$ and $A^\alpha_q(L^\Phi)$. We point out that a necessary and sufficient condition for these two spaces to be equal is that $h_r(N) \simeq h_l(N)$, in which case the basis is necessarily greedy and $L^\Phi = L^\pi$. Theorem 1.3 leads also to the following inclusions in terms of classical Lorentz spaces.

**Corollary 1.4.** Under the same hypotheses of Theorem 1.3 we have:

(a) $A^\alpha_q(L^\Phi) \hookrightarrow \ell^{\tau, q_1}(L^\Phi)$, for all $\frac{1}{q} < \alpha + \frac{1}{\pi L^\Phi}$ and $q_1 \in (0, \infty]$.

(b) $\ell^{\tau, q_1}(L^\Phi) \hookrightarrow A^\alpha_q(L^\Phi)$, for all $\frac{1}{q} > \alpha + \frac{1}{\pi L^\Phi}$ and $q_1 \in (0, \infty]$.

Finally, we point out that some of these inclusions can be described in terms of Besov spaces of generalized smoothness [22, 15], namely,

$$B^\Psi_q(L^\pi) = \{ f : \{ \Psi(2^j)\|f * \psi_j\|_{r} \} \in \ell^p(\mathbb{Z}) \},$$

for suitable increasing functions $\Psi(t)$. We refer to §6.4 below for precise statements and explicit results in the particular case of the Zygmund classes $L^p(\log L)^\gamma(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

The organization of the paper is as follows. Section 2 contains definitions and results concerning Orlicz spaces, wavelet bases and the greedy algorithm. Some examples of Orlicz spaces with non-democratic wavelet bases are given in Section 3. Sections 4 and 5 are devoted to the proofs of Theorems 1.2 and 1.1 respectively. Jackson and Bernstein type estimates, as well as the inclusions described in Theorem 1.3 and Corollary 1.4 are given in Section 6.

**Remark 1.5.** In 2006, after the manuscript of this paper was completed, we discovered an earlier preprint of P. Wojtaszczyk [31] where a more general result than Theorem 1.1 is proved; namely, wavelet bases are actually not greedy in any rearrangement invariant space distinct from $L^p$. Since our approach to this problem has been independent and different from [31], we have included our original proof of Theorem 1.1, based on the stronger result stated in Theorem 1.2.

2. Preliminaries

2.1. Basics on Orlicz spaces. In this section we recall some basic facts about Orlicz spaces, referring to [27] and [3] for a complete account on this topic.

A **Young function** is a convex non-decreasing function $\Phi : [0, \infty) \to [0, \infty]$ so that $\lim_{t \to 0^+} \Phi(t) = 0$ and $\lim_{t \to +\infty} \Phi(t) = \infty$. Throughout this paper we shall assume that $\Phi$ is strictly increasing and everywhere finite\(^1\), so that it is a continuous bijection of $[0, \infty)$. Given such $\Phi$, the Orlicz space $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is the set of all measurable functions $f : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{C}$ so that $\Phi(|f(x)|/\lambda) \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ for some $\lambda > 0$. It is well-known that $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$ becomes a rearrangement invariant Banach function space when endowed with the **Luxemburg norm**

$$\|f\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} = \inf \left\{ \lambda > 0 : \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi \left( \frac{|f(x)|}{\lambda} \right) \, dx \leq 1 \right\}$$

(2.1)

(see e.g. [3, p. 269]). The **fundamental function** of a rearrangement invariant space $X$ in $\mathbb{R}^d$ is defined by $\varphi(t) = \|\chi_A\|_X$, where $A \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is any measurable set with Lebesgue

\(^1\)This restriction avoids a few pathological cases which fall outside the scope of this paper.
measure $|A| = t$. In the particular case of Orlicz spaces $X = L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$, the fundamental function can be computed explicitly in terms of $\Phi$, by means of the formula
\[ \varphi(t) = \frac{1}{\Phi^{-1}(1/t)}, \quad t > 0 \] (2.2)
(see [3, p. 276]). Observe that $\varphi$ is a continuous strictly increasing bijection of $[0, \infty)$. Moreover, it can be shown that $\varphi$ is a quasi-concave function, that is, $\varphi(t)/t$ is non-increasing [3, p. 67].

The Boyd indices, $\pi_X, \overline{\pi}_X$ of a rearrangement invariant function space $X$ are usually defined in terms of the norms of the so-called “dilation operators” [3, p. 149]. However, in the special case of Orlicz spaces $X = L^\Phi$, the Boyd indices can be computed directly from the fundamental function $\varphi$. More precisely, if we denote the dilation function associated with $\varphi$ by

\[ H_\varphi^+(t) = \sup_{s > 0} \frac{\varphi(st)}{\varphi(s)}, \quad t > 0, \] (2.3)

then the lower and upper Boyd indices of $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$ are given by

\[ \pi_{L^\Phi} = \pi_\varphi = \lim_{t \to 0^+} \frac{\log H_\varphi^+(t)}{\log t} = \sup_{0 < t < 1} \frac{\log H_\varphi^+(t)}{\log t} \] (2.4)

\[ \overline{\pi}_{L^\Phi} = I_\varphi = \lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{\log H_\varphi^+(t)}{\log t} = \inf_{1 < t < \infty} \frac{\log H_\varphi^+(t)}{\log t} \]

(see [3, p. 277], [20, p. 54]). In particular, $0 \leq \pi_\varphi \leq I_\varphi \leq 1$. Assuming further that $\pi_\varphi > 0$ it follows that

\[ \varphi(st) \leq C_\varepsilon \max\{s^{\varphi-\varepsilon}, s^{\varphi+\varepsilon}\} \varphi(t), \quad s,t > 0; \] (2.5)

and

\[ \varphi(st) \geq C_\varepsilon \min\{s^{\varphi-\varepsilon}, s^{\varphi+\varepsilon}\} \varphi(t), \quad s,t > 0 \] (2.6)

for every $\varepsilon > 0$ and some constant $C_\varepsilon > 0$ (see e.g. [18, p. 3]).

In our applications we shall only consider Orlicz spaces with non-trivial Boyd indices, that is, $0 < \pi_{L^\Phi} \leq \overline{\pi}_{L^\Phi} < 1$. In this case, from (2.5) and (2.6) we see that

\[ \lim_{s \to 0^+} \frac{\varphi(s)}{s} = \lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{\Phi(t)}{t} = \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{s \to \infty} \frac{\varphi(s)}{s} = \lim_{t \to 0^+} \frac{\Phi(t)}{t} = 0. \]

Thus, with the terminology of [27], $\Phi$ will be an $N$-function (or “nice” Young function).

Finally we shall denote by $\Delta_2$ the set of all non-negative functions $h(t)$ in $[0, \infty)$ which are doubling, i.e., $0 \leq h(2t) \leq C h(t)$ for some constant $C > 0$ and all $t > 0$. It is not difficult to see from (2.2)–(2.6) that $\pi_{L^\Phi} > 0$ is actually equivalent to $\Phi \in \Delta_2$. In fact, if $(\Phi, \Psi)$ is a pair of complementary Young functions (see e.g. [27, p. 6] for the precise definition), then $\Phi, \Psi \in \Delta_2$ is equivalent to say that $(L^\Phi, L^\Psi)$ is a pair of reflexive Orlicz spaces with $0 < \pi_{L^\Phi} \leq \overline{\pi}_{L^\Phi} < 1$. Some of these properties will be used below without further mention.

**Example 2.1.** When $\Phi(t) = t^p$, $1 \leq p < \infty$, then $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d) = L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\varphi(t) = t^{1/p}$. Hence, $H_\varphi^+(t) = t^{1/p}$, which implies $\pi_{L^\Phi} = \overline{\pi}_{L^\Phi} = 1/p$.

**Example 2.2.** When $\Phi(t) = t^p \left[ \log(e + t) \right]^\alpha$, with $\alpha > 0$ and $1 \leq p < \infty$, then $L^\Phi$ is the classical Zygmund space $L^p(\log L)^\alpha$. In this case, $\varphi(t) \simeq t^{1/p} (1 + \log^+ 1/t)^{\alpha/p}$ and $H_\varphi^+(t) \simeq t^{1/p} (1 + \log^+ 1/t)^{\alpha/p}$, which implies $\pi_{L^\Phi} = \overline{\pi}_{L^\Phi} = 1/p$. 

Example 2.3. Let $\Phi(t) \simeq \theta^p \left[ \log(e + t) \right]^\alpha$, with $\alpha < 0$ and $1 < p < \infty$. Then $\varphi(t) \simeq t^{1/p} (1 + \log^+ t)^{\alpha/p}$ and $H^+_\varphi(t) \simeq t^{1/p}/(1 + \log^+ t)^{\alpha/p}$, which implies $\pi_{L^\varphi} = \pi_{L^\varphi} = 1/p$.

Example 2.4. Consider the Young function

$$
\Phi(t) = \begin{cases} 
  t^2 & \text{if } 0 \leq t \leq 1 \\
  t^4 & \text{if } t \geq 1.
\end{cases}
$$

In this case one has $L^\Phi = L^2 \cap L^4$ with equivalence of norms: $\|f\|_{L^\varphi} \simeq \|f\|_{L^2 \cap L^4} = \max\{\|f\|_{L^2}, \|f\|_{L^4}\}$. Moreover, it is not difficult to see from this identity and the definition of fundamental function that $\varphi(t) = H^+_\varphi(t) = t^{1/4 \chi_{[0,1]}(t)} + t^{1/2 \chi_{[1,\infty]}(t)}$. Therefore $\pi_{L^\varphi} = 1/4$, $\pi_{L^\varphi} = 1/2$.

Example 2.5. Consider now the Young function

$$
\Phi(t) = \begin{cases} 
  t^4 \ (2t - 1)^2 & \text{if } 0 \leq t \leq 1 \\
  t^2 & \text{if } t \geq 1.
\end{cases}
$$

Then $L^\Phi = L^2 + L^4$ with equivalence of norms: $\|f\|_{L^\varphi} \simeq \|f\|_{L^2 + L^4} = \inf\{\|g\|_{L^2} + \|h\|_{L^4}\}$, where the infimum is taken over all decompositions $f = g + h$ with $g \in L^2$ and $h \in L^4$. The fundamental function is given by $\varphi(t) \simeq t^{1/2 \chi_{[0,1]}(t)} + t^{1/4 \chi_{[1,\infty]}(t)}$, while $H^+_\varphi(t)$ is comparable to the one given in the previous example. Thus we obtain again $\pi_{L^\varphi} = 1/4$, $\pi_{L^\varphi} = 1/2$.

Remark 2.6. In the last two examples the exponents 2 and 4 can be replaced by any $p, q \in [1, \infty)$, leading to the Orlicz spaces $L^p \cap L^q$ and $L^p + L^q$, which satisfy analogous properties after obvious modifications.

2.2. Wavelet bases and Orlicz spaces. Let $D = \{Q_{j,k} = 2^{-j}([0,1)^d + k) : j \in \mathbb{Z}, k \in \mathbb{Z}^d \}$ denote the set of all dyadic cubes in $\mathbb{R}^d$. We say that a finite collection of functions $\{\psi^1, \ldots, \psi^L\} \subset L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is an orthonormal wavelet family if the system

$$
\{ \psi_{Q_{j,k}}^\ell (x) = 2^{jd/2} \psi^\ell (2^j x - k) : j \in \mathbb{Z}, k \in \mathbb{Z}^d, \ell = 1, \ldots, L \} \quad (2.7)
$$

forms an orthonormal basis of $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$. We will say that the wavelet family is admissible if in addition the system in (2.7) is an unconditional basis of $L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ for all $1 < p < \infty$. The reader can consult [23, 13] for constructions, examples and properties of orthonormal wavelets. Admissible wavelets include the $d$-dimensional Haar system, wavelets arising from $r$-regular multiresolution analyses (see [23, p. 22]), wavelets belonging to the regularity class $R^d$ (as defined in [13, p. 64] for $d = 1$), and actually any orthonormal wavelet in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with very mild decay conditions (see [30, 26]).

M. Soardi proved in [28] that an admissible wavelet basis $\{\psi^\ell_Q\}_{Q \in D, \ell = 1, \ldots, L}$ is also an unconditional basis for any Orlicz space $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with non-trivial Boyd indices $0 < \pi_{L^\Phi} \leq \pi_{L^\Phi} < 1$. That is, every function $f \in L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$ can be written in the form

$$
f = \sum_{\ell=1}^L \sum_{Q \in D} \langle f, \psi^\ell_Q \rangle \psi^\ell_Q, \quad (2.8)
$$

with unconditional convergence in $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$, and moreover

$$
\|f\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \simeq \left\| \left( \sum_{\ell=1}^L \sum_{Q \in D} |\langle f, \psi^\ell_Q \rangle|^2 |Q|^{-1} \chi_Q(\cdot) \right)^{1/2} \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \quad (2.9)
$$
This result was derived from the corresponding wavelet characterization of Lebesgue spaces $L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$, $1 < p < \infty$, by applying Boyd’s interpolation theorem for sublinear operators.

In view of (2.9), we will denote by $f^\Phi$ the space of all sequences of complex numbers $s = \{s^\ell_Q\}_{Q \in D, \ell=1,\ldots,L}$ such that

$$
\|s\|_{f^\Phi} = \left\| \left( \sum_{\ell=1}^L \sum_{Q \in D} |s^\ell_Q|^2 |Q|^{-1} \chi_Q(\cdot) \right)^{1/2} \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} < \infty.
$$

Thus, the correspondence $f \mapsto \{s^\ell_Q\} = \{\langle f, \psi^\ell_Q \rangle\}_{Q \in D, \ell=1,\ldots,L}$ defines an isomorphism from $L^\Phi$ onto $f^\Phi$. As usual, this will reduce our research about $N$-term approximation in Orlicz spaces to prove the corresponding results on the sequence spaces $f^\Phi$ (see §6 below).

**Remark 2.7.** For the sake of simplicity, we shall assume throughout the paper that the number $L = 1$. Our theorems will remain valid for any $L \geq 1$, since the finite sum appearing in the definition of $f^\Phi$ is completely harmless in our computations.

### 2.3. Greedy bases and democracy.

We defined in the introduction the notion of greedy basis in a quasi-normed Banach space $(\mathcal{B}, \|\|_{\mathcal{B}})$. We also mentioned the result of Konyagin and Temlyakov [19] characterizing greedy bases as those which are unconditional and democratic. For simplicity, given a basis $\mathcal{B} = \{e_j\}_{j \geq 1}$ in $\mathcal{B}$ we shall denote the normalized characteristic function of a set of indices $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{N}$ by

$$
\tilde{1}_\Gamma = \tilde{1}_\Gamma^{(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{B})} = \sum_{j \in \Gamma} \frac{e_j}{\|e_j\|_{\mathcal{B}}}.
$$

Thus, $\mathcal{B}$ is democratic in $\mathcal{B}$ if there exists $C \geq 1$ such that

$$
\|\tilde{1}_\Gamma\|_{\mathcal{B}} \leq C \|\tilde{1}_{\Gamma'}\|_{\mathcal{B}}
$$

for all finite sets of indices $\Gamma, \Gamma' \subset \mathbb{N}$ with $\text{Card} \Gamma = \text{Card} \Gamma'$. Quite often one can show democracy by finding a function $h : \mathbb{N} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ for which

$$
\frac{1}{h(\text{Card} \Gamma)} \leq \|\tilde{1}_\Gamma\|_{\mathcal{B}} \leq C h(\text{Card} \Gamma), \quad \forall \Gamma \subset D.
$$

In the case of wavelet bases, many classical function and distribution spaces satisfy (2.12) with $h(N) = N^{1/p}$. Indeed, this is the situation for Lebesgue spaces $L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ when $1 < p < \infty$ (see [29]); for Hardy spaces $H^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$, $0 < p \leq 1$ and Sobolev spaces $W^{s,p}(\mathbb{R}^d)$, $1 < p < \infty$ (see [14]); and more generally for the family of Triebel-Lizorkin spaces $\dot{F}^{s,r}_{p,r}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with $0 < p < \infty$, $s \in \mathbb{R}$, $0 < r \leq \infty$ (under the usual decay and smoothness assumptions, and with the standard modification of the basis in the case of inhomogeneous spaces; see [11]). Thus, wavelet bases are democratic and hence greedy in all these spaces.

Wavelet bases, however, are not democratic in other classical spaces, such as $BMO$, the Besov classes $\dot{B}^{s}_{p,q}$ with $p \neq q$, and as we shall see below, Orlicz spaces $L^\Phi$ distinct from $L^p$. To deal with these cases the following notion will be useful:

**Definition 2.8.** Let $\mathcal{B}$ be an unconditional basis in a quasi-Banach space $\mathcal{B}$. The right-democracy function associated with $\mathcal{B}$ is defined by

$$
h_r(N) = \sup_{\text{Card}(\Gamma) = N} \|\tilde{1}_\Gamma\|_{\mathcal{B}}, \quad N = 1, 2, \ldots
$$
Analogously, the left-democracy function associated with $\mathcal{B}$ is defined by
\[ h_\ell(N) = \inf_{\text{Card}(\Gamma) = N} \left\| \mathbf{1}_\Gamma \right\|_\mathcal{B}, \quad N = 1, 2, \ldots \]

Observe that $\mathcal{B}$ is democratic in $\mathcal{B}$ if and only if $h_\ell(N) \leq c h_\ell(N)$ for all $N \geq 1$ and some $C > 0$. Also, if the $\rho$-triangle inequality holds in $\mathcal{B}$ and $\mathcal{B}$ is an unconditional basis we have
\[ c \leq h_\ell(N) \leq h_\ell(N) \leq N^{1/\rho}, \quad \forall N \geq 1, \]
for some $c > 0$ (we thank an anonymous referee for pointing out this fact).

3. Examples

We show with a few examples that, in general, admissible wavelet bases are not democratic in Orlicz spaces. In order to do so one needs to estimate $\left\| \mathbf{1}_\Gamma \right\|_{L^\Phi}$ in terms of $\text{Card} \, \Gamma$. This can be easily done when $\Gamma$ is a collection of pairwise disjoint dyadic cubes of equal size.

**Lemma 3.1.** Let $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be an Orlicz space with $0 < \pi_{L^\Phi} \leq \pi_{L^\Phi} < 1$, and let $\mathcal{B} = \{ \psi_Q : Q \in \mathcal{D} \}$ be an admissible wavelet basis. If $\Gamma = \{ Q_1, Q_2, \ldots, Q_N \} \subset \mathcal{D}$ is a pairwise disjoint family then
\[ \left\| \mathbf{1}_\Gamma \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim \sum_{Q \in \Gamma} \frac{\chi_Q(\cdot)}{|Q|} \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)}. \quad (3.1) \]

If we further assume that all the cubes in $\Gamma$ are of the same size, say $|Q| = 2^kd$ for all $Q \in \Gamma$ and some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, then
\[ \left\| \mathbf{1}_\Gamma \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim \frac{\varphi(N2^kd)}{\varphi(2^kd)}. \quad (3.2) \]

**Proof.** For a single element $\psi_Q$ of the basis $\mathcal{B}$ we have, by (2.9),
\[ \left\| \psi_Q \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim \left\| \left( \frac{\chi_Q(\cdot)}{|Q|} \right)^{1/2} \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} = \frac{\varphi(|Q|)}{|Q|^{1/2}}. \quad (3.3) \]

Thus, using again the expression of the norm in (2.9) it follows that
\[ \left\| \mathbf{1}_\Gamma \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} = \left\| \sum_{Q \in \Gamma} \psi_Q \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim \left\| \left( \sum_{Q \in \Gamma} \frac{1}{\left\| \psi_Q \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2} \chi_Q(\cdot) \right)^{1/2} \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \]
\[ \approx \left\| \left( \sum_{Q \in \Gamma} \frac{\chi_Q(\cdot)}{\varphi(|Q|)^2} \right)^{1/2} \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} = \left\| \sum_{Q \in \Gamma} \frac{\chi_Q(\cdot)}{\varphi(|Q|)} \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)}, \]

where in the last equality we have used that the cubes in $\Gamma$ are pairwise disjoint. Assuming further that $|Q| = 2^kd$ for every $Q \in \Gamma$, we obtain
\[ \left\| \mathbf{1}_\Gamma \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim \frac{1}{\varphi(2^kd)} \left\| \sum_{Q \in \Gamma} \chi_Q(\cdot) \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} = \frac{1}{\varphi(2^kd)} \varphi\left( \bigcup_{Q \in \Gamma} Q \right) = \frac{\varphi(N2^kd)}{\varphi(2^kd)}. \]
\[ \square \]
Remark 3.2. Defining
\[ h_\varphi^+(t) = \sup_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \varphi(t2^{kd}) / \varphi(2^{kd}), \quad h_\varphi^-(t) = \inf_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \varphi(t2^{kd}) / \varphi(2^{kd}), \] (3.4)
it follows from Lemma 3.1 that if \( \Gamma \) is a family of disjoint cubes of the same size then
\[ h_\varphi^-(\text{Card } \Gamma) \lesssim \| \overline{1}_\Gamma \|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim h_\varphi^+(\text{Card } \Gamma). \] (3.5)
Moreover, this estimate is sharp in the sense that we can find families \( \Gamma \) for which \( \| \overline{1}_\Gamma \|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)} \) is comparable to either \( h_\varphi^-(\text{Card } \Gamma) \) or \( h_\varphi^+(\text{Card } \Gamma) \). Thus, if \( h_\varphi^+(N) \) and \( h_\varphi^-(N) \) are not comparable for \( N \geq 1 \) it follows that admissible wavelet bases are not democratic in Orlicz spaces.

**Proposition 3.3.** For the Orlicz spaces \( L^2 \cap L^4 \) and \( L^2 + L^4 \) given in Examples 2.4 and 2.5 we have that \( h_\varphi^-(N) \simeq N^{1/4} \) and \( h_\varphi^+(N) \simeq N^{1/2} \) when \( N \in \mathbb{N} \). Thus, admissible wavelet bases are not democratic for these spaces.

Recall that in the previous examples we have \( \mathbb{L}_{L^*} \neq \mathbb{L}_{L^*} \). We also show that there are Orlicz spaces with \( \mathbb{L}_{L^*} = \mathbb{L}_{L^*} \) for which admissible wavelet bases are not democratic.

**Proposition 3.4.** Let \( \alpha \in \mathbb{R} \) and \( 1 < p < \infty \). Then, the Orlicz space \( L^{p}(\log L)^\alpha \) satisfies \( h_\varphi^- (N) \simeq N^{1/p} (1 + \log N)^{-\alpha/p} \) and \( h_\varphi^+ (N) \simeq N^{1/p} \) when \( \alpha \geq 0 \) and \( h_\varphi^- (N) \simeq N^{1/p} \) and \( h_\varphi^+ (N) \simeq N^{1/p} (1 + \log N)^{-\alpha/p} \) when \( \alpha < 0 \). Thus, admissible wavelet bases are neither democratic nor greedy for \( L^{p}(\log L)^\alpha \) with \( \alpha \neq 0 \).

We conclude this section with the simple proof of the previous two propositions.

**Proof of Proposition 3.3.** We first obtain the desired estimates for \( h_\varphi^- \) and \( h_\varphi^+ \). Let us observe that these expressions are not comparable. Thus, by Remark 3.2, in both cases, we can conclude that admissible wavelet bases are not democratic.

We do the case \( L^\Phi = L^2 \cap L^4 \) where \( \Phi \) is given in Example 2.4 as the other case can be proved similarly. For \( N \in \mathbb{N} \), we have
\[ \frac{\varphi(Ns)}{\varphi(s)} = \begin{cases} \frac{N^{1/4}}{N^{1/2}} & \text{if } s \leq 1/N \\ \frac{N^{1/2}}{s^{1/4}} & \text{if } 1/N < s \leq 1 \\ N^{1/2} & \text{if } s > 1. \end{cases} \]
Hence,
\[ h_\varphi^+(N) = \sup_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{\varphi(2^{kd})}{\varphi(N2^{kd})} = N^{1/2} \quad \text{and} \quad h_\varphi^-(N) = \inf_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{\varphi(2^{kd})}{\varphi(N2^{kd})} = N^{1/4}. \]

**Proof of Proposition 3.4.** We do the case \( \alpha \geq 0 \) as the other case can be proved similarly. As before it suffices to get the desired estimates for \( h_\varphi^- \) and \( h_\varphi^+ \). Recall from Example 2.2 that the fundamental function associated with \( L^{p}(\log L)^\alpha \) is given by \( \varphi(t) \simeq t^{1/p} (1 + \log 1/t)^{\alpha/p} \). Then,
\[ \frac{\varphi(Ns)}{\varphi(s)} \simeq \begin{cases} N^{1/p} \left( \frac{1+\log \frac{N}{s}}{1+\log 1/N} \right)^{\alpha/p} & \text{if } s \leq 1/N \\ N^{1/p} \left( 1 + \log 1/s \right)^{-\alpha/p} & \text{if } 1/N < s \leq 1 \\ N^{1/p} & \text{if } s > 1. \end{cases} \] (3.6)
Thus, $h^{-}_\varphi(N) \approx N^{1/p} (1 + \log N)^{-\alpha/p}$ and $h^+_{\varphi}(N) \approx N^{1/p}$.

4. LEFT AND RIGHT DEMOCRACY FUNCTIONS FOR ORLICZ SPACES

We saw in (3.5) that for any $\Gamma \subset D$ consisting of disjoint cubes of the same size we have

$$h^{-}_\varphi(\text{Card } \Gamma) \lesssim \| \tilde{1}_\Gamma \|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim h^+_{\varphi}(\text{Card } \Gamma).$$

Our main theorem in this section shows that these inequalities remain true for arbitrary $\Gamma \subset Q$. We state this result in a slightly different way than Theorem 1.2 in the Introduction.

**Theorem 4.1.** Let $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be an Orlicz space with indices $0 < \pi_{L^\Phi} \leq \pi_{L^\Phi} < 1$ and let $B = \{ \psi_Q : Q \in D \}$ be an admissible wavelet basis. Then

$$h^{-}_\varphi(\text{Card } \Gamma) \lesssim \| \tilde{1}_\Gamma \|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim h^+_{\varphi}(\text{Card } \Gamma), \quad \forall \Gamma \subset D. \quad (4.1)$$

In particular, the left and right democracy functions associated with $B$ in $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$ satisfy $h_\ell \simeq h^{-}_\varphi$ and $h_r \simeq h^+_{\varphi}$.

**Remark 4.2.** As mentioned in Remark 3.2, the estimates in (4.1) are best possible, as one can obtain comparable quantities on the left or right hand sides by considering sets $\Gamma$ consisting only of disjoint cubes of the same size.

The rest of this section is devoted to prove Theorem 4.1. We first present a very simple argument for the case of pairwise disjoint cubes. The general case is more technical and will require a linearization argument and some combinatorics about dyadic intervals.

4.1. **Proof of Theorem 4.1: The case of disjoint cubes.** Assume first that $\Gamma = \{Q_1, \ldots, Q_N\}$ consists of pairwise disjoint cubes. Let $\lambda = h^+_{\varphi}(N)$, so that $\varphi(N|Q|) \leq \lambda \varphi(|Q|)$, for all $Q \in \Gamma$. Therefore, since the elements of $\Gamma$ are disjoint and $\Phi$ is increasing

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi \left( \frac{\sum_{Q \in \Gamma} \chi_Q(x)}{\lambda} \right) \, dx = \sum_{Q \in \Gamma} \Phi \left( \frac{1}{\lambda \varphi(|Q|)} \right) |Q| \leq \sum_{Q \in \Gamma} \Phi \left( \frac{1}{\varphi(N|Q|)} \right) |Q|$$

Thus, by (3.1) and (2.1) we have

$$\| \tilde{1}_\Gamma \|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \simeq \left\| \sum_{Q \in \Gamma} \frac{\chi_Q(\cdot)}{\varphi(|Q|)} \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq h^+_{\varphi}(N).$$

The lower estimate is obtained in a similar way: take now $\lambda < h^{-}_\varphi(N)$ so that $\varphi(N|Q|) > \lambda \varphi(|Q|)$ for all $Q \in \Gamma$. Then, reasoning as above

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi \left( \frac{\sum_{Q \in \Gamma} \chi_Q(x)}{\lambda} \right) \, dx = \sum_{Q \in \Gamma} \Phi \left( \frac{1}{\lambda \varphi(|Q|)} \right) |Q| > \sum_{Q \in \Gamma} \Phi \left( \frac{1}{\varphi(N|Q|)} \right) |Q|$$
\[ \sum_{Q \in \Gamma} \Phi \left( \Phi^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{N|Q|} \right) \right) |Q| = 1. \]

Thus, (3.1) and (2.1) yield
\[ \| \widetilde{T}_\Gamma \|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \simeq \left\| \sum_{Q \in \Gamma} \frac{\chi_Q(x)}{\varphi(|Q|)} \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \geq h^{-} \varphi(N). \]

### 4.2. Proof of Theorem 4.1: The general case.

In the case of disjoint cubes just considered we have two important features. First, Lemma 3.1 allows us to “linearize” the square function in (2.9). Second, for the estimates obtained in the previous argument it is crucial that the sets involved are disjoint. For general families of cubes we are going to follow the same scheme. First we “linearize” the square function and then we dominate this by an expression involving only disjoint subsets from \( \Gamma \). This last argument is the most subtle, since it requires a careful selection procedure on dyadic cubes.

#### 4.2.1. Linearization of the square function.

Given a finite set \( \Gamma \subset D \), we shall denote
\[ S_\Gamma(x) = \left( \sum_{Q \in \Gamma} \frac{\chi_Q(x)}{\varphi(|Q|)^2} \right)^{1/2}, \quad (4.2) \]
so that, by (2.9) and (3.3), we have \( \| \widetilde{T}_\Gamma \|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \simeq \| S_\Gamma \|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)}. \)

For every \( x \in \bigcup_{Q \in \Gamma} Q \), we define \( Q_x \) as the smallest (hence unique) cube in \( \Gamma \) containing \( x \). It is clear that
\[ S_\Gamma(x) \geq \frac{\chi_{Q_x}(x)}{\varphi(|Q_x|)}, \quad \forall \ x \in \bigcup_{Q \in \Gamma} Q, \quad (4.3) \]
since the left hand side contains at least the cube \( Q_x \) (and possibly more). We now show that the reverse inequality holds with some universal constant. Indeed, if we enlarge the sum to include all dyadic cubes containing \( Q_x \) we have
\[ S_\Gamma(x)^2 = \sum_{Q \in \Gamma} \frac{\chi_Q(x)}{\varphi(|Q|)^2} \leq \sum_{Q \supset Q_x} \frac{1}{\varphi(|Q|)^2} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\varphi(2^jd|Q_x|)^2}. \]

Since we are working in an Orlicz space with \( i_\varphi > 0 \), by (2.6) we can choose \( 0 < \varepsilon < i_\varphi \) and find \( C_\varepsilon > 0 \) such that \( \varphi(2^jd|Q_x|) \geq C_\varepsilon 2^jd(\varepsilon - \varepsilon)\varphi(|Q_x|). \) Therefore,
\[ S_\Gamma(x)^2 \leq C \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\varphi(2^jd|Q_x|)^2} = C \frac{\chi_{Q_x}(x)}{\varphi(|Q_x|)^2}. \]

This and (4.3) show that
\[ S_\Gamma(x) \simeq \frac{\chi_{Q_x}(x)}{\varphi(|Q_x|)}. \quad (4.4) \]

This linearization procedure has been used by other authors in the context of \( N \)-term approximation (see e.g. [14, 6, 11]).
Observe from (4.4) that $S_\Gamma(x) \simeq S_{\Gamma_{\text{min}}}(x)$, where $\Gamma_{\text{min}}$ denotes the family of minimal cubes in $\Gamma$, that is,

$$\Gamma_{\text{min}} = \left\{ Q_x : x \in \bigcup_{Q \in \Gamma} Q \right\}.$$ 

Moreover, as we shall see below, the cardinalities of $\Gamma$ and $\Gamma_{\text{min}}$ are comparable, so that for our purposes only the cubes in $\Gamma_{\text{min}}$ will be relevant. However, we still need a finer selection, since the cubes in $\Gamma_{\text{min}}$ are not necessarily pairwise disjoint.

### 4.2.2. Shaded and lighted cubes

We start with an example. Suppose we have a family $\Gamma$ of 10 cubes which have been arranged by generations as in Figure 1.

![Figure 1: $\Gamma = \{Q_1, \ldots, Q_{10}\}$]

![Figure 2: Shade & Light]

Projecting a beam of light as shown in Figure 2, some parts of a cube $Q_i$ receive light: we call these parts $\text{Light}(Q_i)$. Some other portion of the cube $Q_i$ is shaded: we call this portion $\text{Shade}(Q_i)$. The shaded parts of the cubes given in Figure 1 are represented with thicker lines in Figure 2. Observe that the minimal cubes are those with some portion of light, as $x \in \text{Light}(Q_i)$ if and only if $Q_x = Q_i$. In this example, $\Gamma_{\text{min}} = \Gamma \setminus \{Q_6\}$. Notice also that $\{\text{Light}(Q) : Q \in \Gamma_{\text{min}}\}$ is a disjoint collection.

Now we give precise definitions: given a fixed $\Gamma \subset \mathcal{D}$, for any $Q \in \Gamma$ we define the **Shade** of $Q$ as the union of all cubes from $\Gamma$ strictly contained in $Q$,

$$\text{Shade}(Q) = \bigcup \{ R : R \in \Gamma, R \subset Q \}.$$ 

We define the **Light** of $Q$ as

$$\text{Light}(Q) = Q \setminus \text{Shade}(Q).$$ 

As mentioned above it is clear that $Q \in \Gamma_{\text{min}}$ if and only if $\text{Light}(Q) \neq \emptyset$, and moreover

$$\bigcup_{Q \in \Gamma} Q = \bigcup_{Q \in \Gamma_{\text{min}}} \text{Light}(Q),$$ 

where the sets in the last union are pairwise disjoint. Therefore, by (4.4) we can write

$$S_\Gamma(x) \simeq \sum_{Q \in \Gamma_{\text{min}}} \frac{\chi_{\text{Light}(Q)}(x)}{\varphi(|Q|)},$$ 

where in the last sum there is at most one non-zero term.
Next we classify the cubes as shaded if the shade is a big portion of the cube or lighted if this does not happen. Precisely, a cube $Q \in \Gamma$ is called shaded if $|\text{Shade}(Q)| > \frac{2^{d-1}}{2^d} |Q|$, and we write $\Gamma_S$ for the collection of cubes from $\Gamma$ which are shaded. A cube $Q$ from $\Gamma$ is called lighted if it is not shaded, that is, if $|\text{Light}(Q)| \geq \frac{1}{2^d} |Q|$. We write $\Gamma_L$ for the collection of all cubes from $\Gamma$ that are lighted. Observe that $\Gamma_L \subset \Gamma_{\text{min}}$.

**Lemma 4.3.** With the above definitions we have

$$\frac{2^d - 1}{2^d} \text{Card}(\Gamma) \leq \text{Card}(\Gamma_L) \leq \text{Card}(\Gamma_{\text{min}}) \leq \text{Card}(\Gamma), \quad \forall \Gamma \subset D.$$  

**Proof.** Clearly, as we have observed before $\text{Card}(\Gamma_L) \leq \text{Card}(\Gamma_{\text{min}}) \leq \text{Card}(\Gamma)$. Thus, we need to prove the lefthand side inequality. Given $Q \in D$, we write $Q^k$, $k = 1, 2, \ldots, 2^d$ for the $2^d$ dyadic cubes contained in $Q$ of size $2^{-d} |Q|$. For $Q \in \Gamma_S$ and $k = 1, 2, \ldots, 2^d$, let $Q^k$ be a biggest cube from $\Gamma$ with $Q^k \subset Q^k$. Notice that the cubes $Q^k$ exist for every $Q \in \Gamma_S$; otherwise, if for some $k_0 \in \{1, 2, \ldots, 2^d\}$ there is no cube from $\Gamma$ contained in $Q^{k_0}$ we have that $Q^{k_0} \subset \text{Light}(Q)$ and then

$$|\text{Shade}(Q)| \leq |Q \setminus Q^{k_0}| = (1 - 2^{-d}) |Q| = \frac{2^d - 1}{2^d} |Q|,$$  

contradicting the definition of $\Gamma_S$.

The procedure just described assigns $2^d$ different cubes from $\Gamma$ to each $Q \in \Gamma_S$, namely $Q^1, Q^2, \ldots, Q^{2^d}$, and neither of them coincides with $Q$.

We claim that if $Q, R \in \Gamma_S$ and $Q \neq R$, then we necessarily have $Q^k \neq R^\ell$ for all $1 \leq k, \ell \leq 2^d$. This is trivially true if $Q \cap R = \emptyset$. Without loss of generality we may assume $Q \subset R$ and also $Q \subset R^1$. It follows from here that $Q^k \neq R^\ell$ for all $k = 1, 2, \ldots, 2^d$ and all $\ell = 2, 3, \ldots, 2^d$ since $Q^k \subset R^1$ while $R^\ell \subset R^\ell$ for $\ell \neq 1$. Moreover, as $R^1$ is the biggest cube in $\Gamma$ contained in $R^1$ and $Q \subset R^1$ we have that $Q \subset R^1 \subset R^1$. Hence, for all $k = 1, \ldots, 2^d$ we have $Q^k \subset Q \subset R^1$ and thus $Q^k \neq R^1$.

In short, to each $Q \in \Gamma_S$ we have assigned $2^d$ different cubes in $\Gamma$ and these are not associated to any other cube in $\Gamma_S$. We conclude that $2^d \text{Card}(\Gamma_S) \leq \text{Card}(\Gamma)$ and, as desired,

$$\text{Card}(\Gamma_L) = \text{Card}(\Gamma) - \text{Card}(\Gamma_S) \geq \text{Card}(\Gamma) - \frac{1}{2^d} \text{Card}(\Gamma) = \frac{2^d - 1}{2^d} \text{Card}(\Gamma).$$

$\Box$

4.2.3. Proof of (4.1). We can now conclude easily the proof of Theorem 4.1. By (4.2) and (4.5), we know that

$$\|\tilde{T}_\Gamma\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)} \simeq \left\| \sum_{Q \in \Gamma_{\text{min}}} \frac{\chi_{\text{Light}(Q)}(x)}{\varphi(|Q|)} \right\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)},$$

(4.6)

so we only have to estimate this last expression. Let $\lambda = h^+_\varphi(\text{Card}(\Gamma_{\text{min}}))$, so that $\varphi(|Q| \text{ Card}(\Gamma_{\text{min}})) \leq \lambda \varphi(|Q|)$ for all $Q \in \Gamma_{\text{min}}$. Since $\{\text{Light}(Q) : Q \in \Gamma_{\text{min}}\}$ is a disjoint collection, we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi \left( \sum_{Q \in \Gamma_{\text{min}}} \frac{\chi_{\text{Light}(Q)}(x)}{\varphi(|Q|)} \right) dx = \sum_{Q \in \Gamma_{\text{min}}} \Phi \left( \frac{1}{\lambda \varphi(|Q|)} \right) |\text{Light}(Q)|$$
Lemma 5.2. Let $\varphi$ and $h^+_\varphi$ be as above and suppose that $h^+_\varphi$ is non-decreasing, we have
\[
\|\tilde{I}_\Gamma\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \lesssim h^+_\varphi(\text{Card}(\Gamma_{\min})) \leq h^+_\varphi(\text{Card} \Gamma).
\]

We next show how to obtain the left hand side of (4.1). By (4.6), and using that $\Gamma_L \subset \Gamma_{\min}$, we can write
\[
\|\tilde{I}_\Gamma\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \geq \left\| \sum_{Q \in \Gamma_L} \frac{\chi_{\text{Light}(Q)}(x)}{\varphi(|Q|)} \right\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)}.
\]

Now let $\lambda < h^-\varphi(2^{-d} \text{Card}(\Gamma_L))$ so that $\lambda \varphi(|Q|) < \varphi(2^{-d} \text{Card}(\Gamma_L))$ for any $Q \in \Gamma_L$. Proceeding as before, using that $|\text{Light}(Q)| \geq 2^{-d}|Q|$ for $Q \in \Gamma_L$, we deduce that
\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi \left( \sum_{Q \in \Gamma_L} \frac{\chi_{\text{Light}(Q)}(x)}{\varphi(|Q|)} \right) dx = \sum_{Q \in \Gamma_L} \Phi \left( \frac{1}{\lambda \varphi(|Q|)} \right) |\text{Light}(Q)| > \sum_{Q \in \Gamma_L} \Phi \left( \frac{1}{\varphi(2^{-d}|Q| \text{Card}(\Gamma_L))} \right) 2^{-d}|Q| = 1.
\]

Thus, by (2.1), Lemma 4.3 and by (2.6) with $s = (2^d - 1) 2^{-2d}$ and $t = \text{Card}(\Gamma)$ we obtain
\[
\|\tilde{I}_\Gamma\|_{L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)} \geq h^-\varphi(2^{-d} \text{Card}(\Gamma_L)) \geq h^-\varphi((2^d - 1) 2^{-2d} \text{Card}(\Gamma)) \geq C h^-\varphi(\text{Card} \Gamma).
\]

This completes the proof of Theorem 4.1. \hfill \Box

5. Greediness of wavelet bases in $L^\Phi$.

In this section we prove Theorem 1.1. Some of the arguments have been adapted from [27] (see, however, an alternative proof in [31, §2]). Throughout the section we shall assume that $\varphi : (0, \infty) \to (0, \infty)$ is a non-decreasing function so that $\lim_{t \to 0^+} \varphi(t) = 0$, $\lim_{t \to \infty} \varphi(t) = \infty$, and, in addition, $\varphi \in \Delta_2$, that is, $\varphi(2t) \leq C_0 \varphi(t)$, for all $t > 0$.

Recall the definitions of $H^+\varphi(t)$ and $h^+\varphi(t)$ in (2.3) and (3.4), and let us also introduce
\[
H^-\varphi(t) = \inf_{s > 0} \frac{\varphi(st)}{\varphi(s)}, \quad t > 0.
\]

The following lemma is a trivial consequence of the doubling property.

Lemma 5.1. Given $\varphi$ as above we have
\[
C_0^{-1} h^-\varphi(t) \leq H^-\varphi(t) \leq h^-\varphi(t) \quad \text{and} \quad h^+\varphi(t) \leq H^+\varphi(t) \leq C_0 h^+\varphi(t), \ \forall \ t > 0. \quad (5.1)
\]

Our second lemma follows an argument presented in [27, p. 31–32] in the context of Young functions, which we have adapted to our situation.

Lemma 5.2. Let $\varphi$ be as above and suppose that there exists $C_1 > 0$ such that
\[
H^+\varphi(N) \leq C_1 H^-\varphi(N), \quad \text{for all} \ N = 1, 2, 3, \ldots. \quad (5.2)
\]

Then, there exist $c_0 \geq 1$ and $0 < \alpha < \infty$ such that
\[
c_0^{-1} t^\alpha \leq \varphi(t) \leq c_0 t^\alpha, \quad \text{for all} \ t > 0. \quad (5.3)
\]
Proof. The proof is divided into several steps.

**Step 1.** $H^+_\varphi(t) \leq C_0 C_1 H^-_\varphi(t)$ for all $t > 0$.

Let $t \geq 1$ and choose $N$ such that $N \leq t < N + 1$. Using that $\varphi$ is non-decreasing, $\varphi \in \Delta_2$ and (5.2), we have

$$H^+_\varphi(t) \leq H^+_\varphi(N + 1) \leq H^+_\varphi(2N) \leq C_0 H^+_\varphi(N) \leq C_0 C_1 H^-_\varphi(N) \leq C_0 C_1 H^-_\varphi(t).$$

The inequality for $t \in (0,1)$ follows from the previous case and $H^+_\varphi(t) = 1/H^-_\varphi(1/t)$.

**Step 2.** There exists $c_0 \geq 1$ such that $c_0^{-1} \varphi(t) \varphi(s) \leq \varphi(ts) \leq c_0 \varphi(t) \varphi(s)$ for all $t > 0$ and $s \in (0,1]$.

From Step 1 we deduce

$$\frac{\varphi(ts)}{\varphi(s)} \leq H^+_\varphi(t) \leq C_0 C_1 H^-_\varphi(t) \leq C_0 C_1 \frac{\varphi(t \cdot 1)}{\varphi(1)}.$$

On the other hand, Step 1 also implies

$$\varphi(t) = \varphi(1) \frac{\varphi(t \cdot 1)}{\varphi(1)} \leq \varphi(1) H^+_\varphi(t) \leq C_0 C_1 H^-_\varphi(t) \leq \varphi(1) C_0 C_1 \frac{\varphi(ts)}{\varphi(s)}.$$

**Step 3.** There exists $0 \leq \alpha < \infty$ such that $\varphi(t) \leq c_0 t^\alpha$ for all $t \in (0,1]$.

Let $f_1(u) = \log[c_0/\varphi(e^{-u})]$. For all $u, v \geq 0$, Step 2 yields

$$f_1(u + v) = \log \frac{c_0}{\varphi(e^{-u} e^{-v})} \leq \log \frac{c_0}{\varphi(e^{-u}) \varphi(e^{-v})} = f_1(u) + f_1(v).$$

Let $u \geq v > 0$ and choose $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $nv \leq u < (n + 1)v$. Then, by (5.4) and the fact that $f_1$ is non-decreasing we obtain

$$f_1(u) \leq f_1((n + 1)v) \leq (n + 1) f_1(v).$$

Since $nv + v \leq u + v$ we have $(n + 1) \leq \frac{u + v}{v}$, and hence

$$f_1(u) \leq \frac{u + v}{v} f_1(v), \quad u \geq v > 0.$$

Thus, for all $v > 0$,

$$\limsup_{u \to \infty} \frac{f_1(u)}{u} \leq \limsup_{u \to \infty} \frac{u + v}{u} f_1(v) = \frac{f_1(v)}{v},$$

which shows that

$$0 \leq \limsup_{u \to \infty} \frac{f_1(u)}{u} \leq \liminf_{v \to \infty} \frac{f_1(v)}{v}.$$

Consequently, there exists $\alpha \geq 0$ such that $\lim_{u \to \infty} \frac{f_1(u)}{u} = \alpha$. Using (5.5) it follows that $\alpha < \infty$ and also that for $v > 0$, we obtain $\alpha \leq \frac{f_1(v)}{v} = \frac{1}{v} \log[c_0/\varphi(e^{-v})]$. This estimate with $t = e^{-v}$, implies that $\varphi(t) \leq c_0 t^\alpha$ for all $t \in (0,1]$, as we wanted to prove.

**Step 4.** For all $t \in (0,1]$, we have $t^\alpha \leq c_0 \varphi(t)$ and also $\alpha > 0$.

Let $f_2(u) = \log[1/(c_0 \varphi(e^{-u}))]$. For all $u, v \geq 0$, by Step 2 we have

$$f_2(u) + f_2(v) = \log \frac{1}{c_0 \varphi(e^{-u}) \varphi(e^{-v})} \leq \log \frac{1}{c_0 \varphi(e^{-u + v})} = f_2(u + v).$$
For $u \geq v > 0$, choose $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $nv \leq u < (n+1)v$. Then, by (5.6) and the fact that $f_2$ is non-decreasing
\[ nf_2(v) \leq f_2(nv) \leq f_2(u). \]
Since $u < (n+1)v$ we have $n > \frac{u-v}{v}$, and hence
\[ \frac{u-v}{v} f_2(v) \leq f_2(u), \quad u \geq v > 0. \]
Note that $f_2(u) = 2 \log 1/c_0 + f_1(u)$. Hence for all $v > 0$
\[ \alpha = \lim_{u \to \infty} \frac{f_2(u)}{u} \geq \lim_{u \to \infty} \frac{u-v}{v} f_2(v) = \frac{f_2(v)}{v}. \] (5.7)
This implies that $\alpha > 0$. On the other hand, this estimate with $t = e^{-v}$ yields that $\varphi(t) \geq \frac{1}{c_0} t^\alpha$ for all $t \in (0,1]$, as we wanted to prove.

**Step 5. The proof of (5.3).**

The previous steps imply that
\[ c_0^{-1} t^\alpha \leq \varphi(t) \leq c_0 t^\alpha, \quad \text{for all } t \in (0,1]. \] (5.8)
Let $t > 1$. By Step 2 and (5.8)
\[ c_0^{-1} \leq \varphi(1) = \varphi(t \cdot t^{-1}) \leq c_0 \varphi(t) \varphi(t^{-1}) \leq c_0^2 \varphi(t) t^{-\alpha} \]
Consequently, $c_0^{-3} t^\alpha \leq \varphi(t)$. A similar argument gives
\[ c_0 \geq \varphi(1) = \varphi(t \cdot t^{-1}) \geq c_0^{-1} \varphi(t) \varphi(t^{-1}) \geq c_0^{-2} \varphi(t) t^{-\alpha} \]
and therefore $\varphi(t) \leq c_0^3 t^\alpha$, completing the proof of (5.3). \qed

**Proof of Theorem 1.1.** We already mentioned in Section 2.3 that (admissible) wavelet bases are greedy in $L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ for all $1 < p < \infty$. Thus, the interesting implication is the converse.

Suppose that a given wavelet basis is democratic in an Orlicz space $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$. Then, Theorem 4.1 and Remark 3.2 give
\[ h^+(\varphi) \leq C h^-(\varphi), \quad N = 1, 2, 3, \ldots \]
for some constant $C > 0$. Note that the fundamental function $\varphi$ of $L^\Phi$ clearly satisfies the conditions we assumed at the beginning of this section. Hence, Lemma 5.1 implies
\[ H^+(\varphi) \leq C_1 H^-(\varphi), \quad N = 1, 2, 3, \ldots \]
and therefore Lemma 5.2 leads to $\varphi(t) \simeq t^\alpha$, for some $0 < \alpha < \infty$. Taking $p = 1/\alpha$, we have that $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d) = L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with equivalent norms. Moreover, since $\overline{\pi} L^\Phi = \overline{\pi} L^p = 1/p$, we necessarily have $1 < p < \infty$. \qed
6. Greedy algorithm and Errors of Approximation

In this section we prove Theorem 1.3 and Corollary 1.4, concerning the inclusions of the $N$-term approximation spaces of $L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)$. To do so, it suffices to consider the same problems in the sequence space $\mathcal{f}^\Phi$ defined in §2.2. We recall that $\mathcal{f}^\Phi$ is the space of all sequences of complex numbers $s = \{s_Q\}_{Q \in \mathcal{D}}$ such that

$$\|s\|_{\mathcal{f}^\Phi} = \left(\sum_{Q \in \mathcal{D}} |s_Q|^2 |Q|^{-1} \chi_Q(\cdot)\right)^{1/2} \|L^\Phi(\mathbb{R}^d)\| < \infty.$$ 

In this setting the approximation is performed from the canonical basis $\{e_Q\}_{Q \in \mathcal{D}}$, where each vector $e_Q$ has entry 1 at the index $Q$, and 0 otherwise. Observe that the canonical basis is unconditional in $\mathcal{f}^\Phi$, and in particular that $\mathcal{f}^\Phi$ satisfies the lattice property

$$|s_Q| \leq |t_Q|, \quad \forall Q \in \mathcal{D} \quad \implies \quad \|\{s_Q\}_{Q \in \mathcal{D}}\|_{\mathcal{f}^\Phi} \leq \|\{t_Q\}_{Q \in \mathcal{D}}\|_{\mathcal{f}^\Phi}. \quad (6.1)$$

The greedy algorithm in $\mathcal{f}^\Phi$ takes the following form: given $s = \{s_Q\}_{Q \in \mathcal{D}} \in \mathcal{f}^\Phi$, we order the index set in such a way that

$$\|s_{Q_1} e_{Q_1}\|_{\mathcal{f}^\Phi} \geq \|s_{Q_2} e_{Q_2}\|_{\mathcal{f}^\Phi} \geq \|s_{Q_3} e_{Q_3}\|_{\mathcal{f}^\Phi} \geq \ldots \quad (6.2)$$

handling ties arbitrarily. Notice that, as in (3.3)

$$\|e_Q\|_{\mathcal{f}^\Phi} = \varphi(|Q|)/|Q|^{1/2}, \quad Q \in \mathcal{D}. \quad (6.3)$$

The greedy algorithm of step $N \geq 1$ is given by the correspondence

$$s = \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{D}} s_Q e_Q \in \mathcal{f}^\Phi \longrightarrow G_N(s) = \sum_{k=1}^N s_{Q_k} e_{Q_k}.$$ 

As usual, when $N = 0$ we set $G_0(s) = 0$.

We recall the definition of the approximation spaces: given $\alpha > 0$ and $0 < q < \infty$

$$A^\alpha_q(\mathcal{f}^\Phi) = \left\{ s \in \mathcal{f}^\Phi : \left[ \sum_{N \geq 1} (N^\alpha \sigma_N(s)_{\mathcal{f}^\Phi})^q \frac{1}{N} \right]^{1/q} < \infty \right\},$$

and

$$\|s\|_{A^\alpha_q(\mathcal{f}^\Phi)} = \|s\|_{\mathcal{f}^\Phi} + \left[ \sum_{N \geq 1} (N^\alpha \sigma_N(s)_{\mathcal{f}^\Phi})^q \frac{1}{N} \right]^{1/q}.$$ 

When $q = \infty$ one modifies these definitions in the standard way:

$$A^\alpha_\infty(\mathcal{f}^\Phi) = \left\{ s \in \mathcal{f}^\Phi : \sup_{N \geq 1} N^\alpha \sigma_N(s)_{\mathcal{f}^\Phi} < \infty \right\}, \quad \|s\|_{A^\alpha_\infty(\mathcal{f}^\Phi)} = \|s\|_{\mathcal{f}^\Phi} + \sup_{N \geq 1} N^\alpha \sigma_N(s)_{\mathcal{f}^\Phi}.$$ 

6.1. Sequence spaces in $\mathcal{D}$. We recall the definition of some classical sequence spaces over the index set $\mathcal{D}$. All of them are subspaces of $c_0$ and therefore for each sequence $\{s_Q\}_{Q \in \mathcal{D}}$ we can find an enumeration of the index set $\mathcal{D} = \{Q_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ so that $|s_{Q_1}| \geq |s_{Q_2}| \geq \ldots$ and in addition $\lim_{k \to \infty} s_{Q_k} = 0$. We shall always assume that $\{s_{Q_k}\}_{k \geq 1}$ corresponds to such ordering, which coincides with the non-increasing rearrangement $s^*$ of the sequence $s$. 

Let \( \eta = \{ \eta_k \}_{k \geq 1} \) be a fixed positive increasing sequence so that \( \lim_{k \to \infty} \eta_k = \infty \) and \( \eta \) is doubling (i.e. \( \eta_{2k} \leq C \eta_k, k \geq 1 \)). Then, for each \( 0 < r \leq \infty \) we define a discrete Lorentz space by

\[
\Lambda^r_\eta = \left\{ s \in c_0 : \|s\|_{\Lambda^r_\eta} = \left( \sum_{k \geq 1} (\eta_k |s_{Q_k}|)^r \frac{1}{k} \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} < \infty \right\}.
\]

Note that for \( r = \infty \) one writes \( \|s\|_{\Lambda^\infty_\eta} = \sup_k \eta_k |s_{Q_k}| \). These are quasi-Banach rearrangement invariant spaces, which are Banach when \( r \geq 1 \) and in addition \( \{ \eta^r_k/k \}_k \) is non-increasing (see [4, p. 28]). When \( r = 1 \) or \( r = \infty \) we shall write, respectively, \( \Lambda_\eta \) and \( M_\eta \) (the latter called Marcinkiewicz space). The particular case \( \{ \eta_k = k^{1/\tau} \} \) leads to the classical (discrete) Lorentz spaces \( \Lambda^r_\eta = \ell^{\tau r}(D) \). The spaces \( \Lambda^r_\eta \) for general \( \eta \), and in particular their interpolation properties, have been studied e.g. in [22, 25, 4].

In our applications we shall use the sequences \( \{ \eta_k = k^{\alpha} h_\tau^+(k) \}_{k \geq 1} \), for suitable \( \alpha \geq 0 \), which always satisfy the required assumptions.

**Remark 6.1.** Given a fixed sequence space \( s \) as above, we define a new sequence space \( s(f^\Phi) \), isomorphic to \( s \), by

\[
 s(f^\Phi) = \left\{ s = \{ s_Q \}_{Q \in D} \in \ell^\Phi : \{ s_Q \| \mathbf{e}_Q \|_{\ell^\Phi} \}_Q \in s \right\},
\]

with \( \| s \|_{s(f^\Phi)} = \left\| \{ s_Q \| \mathbf{e}_Q \|_{\ell^\Phi} \}_Q \right\|_s \). Such definitions appear naturally in relation with greedy approximation when the basis is not normalized (see e.g. [11]).

### 6.2. Jackson’s inequalities

In this section we apply our results in §4 to obtain Jackson type estimates associated with the greedy algorithm.

**Proposition 6.2.** Let \( \Phi \) be a Young function so that \( 0 < \frac{1}{\Phi(L^1)} \leq \frac{1}{\Phi(L^\infty)} < 1 \). Then, \( \Lambda^r_{h^+_\tau}(f^\Phi) \hookrightarrow f^\Phi \), and moreover, there is a constant \( C > 0 \) so that

\[
\|s - G_{N-1}(s)\|_{\ell^\Phi} \leq C \sum_{k > N/2}^{\infty} \|s_{Q_k} \mathbf{e}_{Q_k}\|_{\ell^\Phi} h_\tau^+(k) \frac{1}{k}, \quad \forall \ N \geq 1.
\]

**Proof.** We show (6.4) for every \( N \geq 1 \) (when \( N = 1 \), as \( G_0(s) = 0 \), this is the embedding \( \Lambda^r_{h^+_\tau}(f^\Phi) \hookrightarrow f^\Phi \)). By the triangular inequality and (6.1) we have

\[
\|s - G_{N-1}(s)\|_{\ell^\Phi} = \left\| \sum_{k \geq N} s_{Q_k} \mathbf{e}_{Q_k} \right\|_{\ell^\Phi} \leq \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \left\| \sum_{2^j N \leq k < 2^{j+1} N} s_{Q_k} \mathbf{e}_{Q_k} \right\|_{\ell^\Phi}
\]

\[
\leq \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \left\| s_{Q_{2^j N}} \mathbf{e}_{Q_{2^j N}} \right\|_{\ell^\Phi} \| \mathbf{e}_{Q_{2^j N}} \|_{\ell^\Phi}
\]

\[
\leq C \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \left\| s_{Q_{2^j N}} \mathbf{e}_{Q_{2^j N}} \right\|_{\ell^\Phi} h_\tau^+(2^j N)
\]

where in the last inequality we have used Theorem 4.1. This estimate can be transformed into 6.4 using that \( h_\tau^+(k)/k \) is non-increasing. Indeed, one just writes the right
hand side as
\[ \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \sum_{2^{-j+1} N < k \leq 2^j N} \| s_{2^j N} e_{2^j N} \|_{\ell^p} h_\varphi^+(2^j N) \frac{h_\varphi^+(k)}{2^j - 1} \leq 2 \sum_{k > N/2} \| s_{Q_k} e_{Q_k} \|_{\ell^p} \frac{h_\varphi^+(k)}{k}. \]

**Remark 6.3.** The inequality in (6.4) is best possible, in the sense that left and right hand sides are comparable for certain choices of \( s \). Given \( N \geq 2 \) we take \( k \in \mathbb{Z} \) so that
\[ \frac{1}{2} h_\varphi^+(N) < \frac{\varphi(N 2^{kd})}{\varphi(2^{kd})} \leq h_\varphi^+(N). \] (6.5)
Let \( \Gamma \subset \mathcal{D} \) be a collection of \( 2N - 1 \) pairwise disjoint dyadic cubes of equal size \( 2^{kd} \) and set \( s = \mathbf{1}_\Gamma = \sum_{Q \in \Gamma} e_Q / \| e_Q \|_s \). Notice that for \( Q \in \Gamma \) we have \( \| s_Q e_Q \|_{\ell^p} = 1 \). Thus \( s - G_{N-1}(s) = \mathbf{1}_\Gamma \), for some \( \Gamma' \subset \Gamma \) with \( \text{Card} \Gamma' = N \). It is easy to see that
\[ \sigma_{N-1}(s) \|_{\ell^p} = \| s - G_{N-1}(s) \|_{\ell^p} = \| \mathbf{1}_\Gamma \|_{\ell^p} = \frac{\varphi(N 2^{kd})}{\varphi(2^{kd})} \approx h_\varphi^+(N), \] (6.6)
where the third equality follows as in Lemma 3.1.

On the other hand, when \( s = \mathbf{1}_\Gamma \), the right hand side of (6.4) takes the form
\[ \sum_{N/2 < k \leq 2N-1} h_\varphi^+(k)/k \approx h_\varphi^+(N), \] by the doubling property of \( h_\varphi^+ \).

**Remark 6.4.** We should also point out that for certain other sequences \( s \) the estimate in 6.4 may be too “crude”. To see this consider the same example as before, but choosing the cubes sizes \( 2^{kd} \) so that in place of (6.5) we have \( h_\varphi^-(N) \leq \frac{\varphi(N 2^{kd})}{\varphi(2^{kd})} < 2 \varphi(2^{kd}) \). Then, \( \sigma_{N-1}(s) \|_{\ell^p} = \| s - G_{N-1}(s) \|_{\ell^p} \approx h_\varphi^-(N) \), while the right hand side of (6.4) is still comparable to \( h_\varphi^+(N) \). For non democratic spaces the gap between these two quantities can be big, as we have seen in the examples in §3.

The estimate in (6.4) implies a decay of \( \sigma_N(s) \|_{\ell^p} \) as \( N \) growths. For general \( s \in A_{k^+}(\ell^p) \) we do not have further information about the rate of decay. However, restricting \( s \) to appropriate subspaces we can obtain precise rates of convergence.

**Corollary 6.5.** Let \( \Phi \) be a Young function so that \( 0 < \pi_{L^p} \leq \pi_{L^q} < 1 \), and let \( \alpha > 0 \). Then, for every \( s \in \mathcal{M}_{k^+}(\ell^p) \) we have
\[ \| s - G_{N-1}(s) \|_{\ell^p} \leq C \frac{N^{-\alpha}}{\| s \|_{\mathcal{M}_{k^+}(\ell^p)}}, \quad \forall N \geq 1. \] (6.7)

**Proof.** By (6.4) and the definition of the Marcinkiewicz space
\[ \| s - G_{N-1}(s) \|_{\ell^p} \leq C \sum_{k > N/2} \| s_{Q_k} e_{Q_k} \|_{\ell^p} \frac{h_\varphi^+(k)}{k} \frac{1}{k} \leq C \| s \|_{\mathcal{M}_{k^+}(\ell^p)} \sum_{k > N/2} k^{-\alpha} \frac{1}{k} \leq C \frac{N^{-\alpha}}{\| s \|_{\mathcal{M}_{k^+}(\ell^p)}}. \]

The previous result can be translated as an inclusion of approximation spaces.

**Corollary 6.6.** Let \( \alpha > 0 \). Then
\[ \mathcal{M}_{k^+}(\ell^p) \hookrightarrow A_\alpha^\alpha(\ell^p). \] (6.8)
Moreover, \( \mathcal{M}_{k^+}(\ell^p) \) is the largest \( \mathcal{M}_q \) space so that \( \mathcal{M}_q(\ell^p) \hookrightarrow A_\alpha^\alpha(\ell^p) \).
Proof. The inclusion (6.8) is obvious from (6.7) and the definition of $A_\alpha^\infty(f^\#)$. To see the optimality, assume that $M_\eta(f^\#) \hookrightarrow A_\alpha^\infty(f^\#)$, and let $s = 1_\Gamma$ be as in Remark 6.3. Then, by (6.6) we have $\|s\|_{A_\alpha^\infty(f^\#)} \gtrsim N^\alpha h_\pi^+(N)$. On the other hand, $\|s\|_{M_\eta(f^\#)} = \sup_{1 \leq k \leq 2N-1} \eta_k = \eta_{2N-1}$. Thus, the assumed inclusion and the doubling property give $N^\alpha h_\pi^+(N) \lesssim \eta_N$, which shows $M_\eta(f^\#) \hookrightarrow M_{k^\alpha h_\pi^+(k)}(f^\#)$. \qed

As a particular case we obtain the following inclusions in terms of classical Lorentz spaces.

**Corollary 6.7.** Let $\alpha > 0$. Then, we have the inclusion

$$\ell^\infty(f^\#) \hookrightarrow A_\alpha^\infty(f^\#), \quad \text{whenever } \frac{1}{r} > \alpha + \pi L^s.$$  \quad (6.9)

**Proof.** By (2.5), we know that $h_\pi^+(t) \leq C_\varepsilon t^{\pi L^s + \varepsilon}$, $\forall t \geq 1$. Choosing $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{r} - \alpha - \pi L^s$ this gives $k^\alpha h_\pi^+(k) \lesssim k^\pi$, $k \geq 1$, which in turn implies $\ell^\infty \hookrightarrow M_{k^\alpha h_\pi^+(k)}$. The result then follows from (6.8). \qed

**Remark 6.8.** Let us observe that from the proof of Corollary 6.6, if (6.9) is valid for $\frac{1}{r} = \alpha + \pi L^s$, then it follows that $h_\pi^+(N) \lesssim N^\pi L^s$. Also, Lemma 5.1 and (2.4) imply that $h_\pi^+(N) \gtrsim N^\pi L^s$ and therefore $h_\pi^+(N) \approx N^\pi L^s$ for $N \geq 1$. Conversely, if one assumes that $h_\pi^+(N) \approx N^\pi L^s$ for $N \geq 1$, Corollary 6.6 gives $\ell^\infty(f^\#) \hookrightarrow A_\alpha^\infty(f^\#)$ with $\frac{1}{r} = \alpha + \pi L^s$. This shows that for (6.9) to be valid at the endpoint $\frac{1}{r} = \alpha + \pi L^s$, it is necessary and sufficient that $h_\pi^+(N) \approx N^\pi L^s$, $N \geq 1$. In our examples in \S 2.1, this is the case for the Young functions associated with $L^2 + L^4$, $L^2 \cap L^4$ or $L^p(\log L)^\alpha$ with $\alpha > 0$, but may fail in other cases, such as for the spaces $L^p(\log L)^\alpha$ with $\alpha < 0$ (see Example 2.3).

### 6.3. Bernstein’s inequalities.

Bernstein type estimates are useful to obtain converse inclusions for approximation spaces.

**Proposition 6.9.** Let $\Phi$ be a Young function so that $0 < \pi L^s \leq \pi L^s < 1$. Then, $f^\# \hookrightarrow \mathcal{M}_{h_\pi^-(f^\#)}$ and there is a constant $C > 0$ so that

$$\|G_N(s)\|_{\mathcal{M}_{h_\pi^-(f^\#)}} = \sup_{1 \leq k \leq N} \|s_{Q_k} e_{Q_k}\|_{f^\#} h_\pi^-(k) \leq C \|G_N(s)\|_{f^\#}, \quad \forall N \geq 1. \quad (6.10)$$

**Proof.** As before, it suffices to show (6.10), since the embedding $f^\# \hookrightarrow \mathcal{M}_{h_\pi^-(f^\#)}$ follows by letting $N \to \infty$. For fixed $1 \leq k \leq N$, using Theorem 4.1 and the lattice property (6.1) we have

$$\|s_{Q_k} e_{Q_k}\|_{f^\#} h_\pi^-(k) \leq C \|s_{Q_k} e_{Q_k}\|_{f^\#} \left( \sum_{j=1}^{k} \|e_{Q_j}\|_{f^\#}\right) \leq C \left( \sum_{j=1}^{k} s_{Q_j} e_{Q_j}\right).$$

Remarking that $\|G_N(s)\|_{f^\#} \leq C \|G_N(s)\|_{f^\#}$, we conclude.

\qed

**Remark 6.10.** As before, one can show the optimality of (6.10) by finding an appropriate $s$ for which both sides of the inequality are comparable. Indeed, one just needs to choose $s = 1_\Gamma$, for $\Gamma$ consisting of $N$ disjoint cubes of equal size $2^{kd}$ and $k$ such...
that $h^-_\varphi(N) \leq \frac{\varepsilon(N 2^{k})}{\varphi(2^{k} d)} < 2 h^-_\varphi(N)$. In this case, as in Lemma 3.1 we have

$$\|G_N(s)\|_\varphi = \|s\|_\varphi = \frac{\varphi(N 2^{k})}{\varphi(2^{k} d)} \approx h^-_\varphi(N). \tag{6.11}$$

On the other hand, as $h^-_\varphi$ is non-decreasing,

$$\|G_N(s)\|_{h^-_\varphi(\varphi)} = \sup_{1 \leq k \leq N} h^-_\varphi(k) = h^-_\varphi(N),$$

and therefore both sides of (6.10) are comparable.

**Corollary 6.11.** Let $\Phi$ be a Young function so that $0 < \pi_{L^\Phi} \leq \pi_{L^\Phi} < 1$ and let $\alpha > 0$. Then, there exists $C > 0$ so that, for all $N \geq 1$,

$$\|s\|_{\Lambda^\alpha_{k_0 h^-_\varphi(\varphi)}} \leq C N^\alpha \|s\|_\varphi, \quad \forall s \in \Sigma_N. \tag{6.12}$$

**Proof.** Write $s = G_N(s) = \sum_{k=1}^{N} s_{Q_k} e_{Q_k}$ with $\|s_{Q_k} e_{Q_k}\| \varphi \geq \|s_{Q_k} e_{Q_k}\| \varphi \geq \ldots$ By (6.10) we have

$$\|s\|_{\Lambda^\alpha_{k_0 h^-_\varphi(\varphi)}} = \sum_{k=1}^{N} k^\alpha h^-_\varphi(k) \|s_{Q_k} e_{Q_k}\|_\varphi \leq C \|G_N(s)\|_\varphi \sum_{k=1}^{N} \frac{k^\alpha}{k} \leq C' N^\alpha \|s\|_\varphi.$$  

As before, the above result can be stated as an inclusion of approximation spaces. Below, the number $\rho = \rho_\alpha \in (0, 1]$ is chosen so that the quasi-normed space $\Lambda^\alpha_{k_0 h^-_\varphi(\varphi)}$ satisfies the $\rho$-triangular inequality, that is, for every $N \geq 1$,

$$\|s_1 + s_2\|_{\Lambda^\alpha_{k_0 h^-_\varphi(\varphi)}} \leq \|s_1\|_{\Lambda^\alpha_{k_0 h^-_\varphi(\varphi)}}^{\rho} + \|s_2\|_{\Lambda^\alpha_{k_0 h^-_\varphi(\varphi)}}^{\rho}. \tag{6.13}$$

**Corollary 6.12.** Let $\alpha > 0$. Then

$$A^\alpha_\rho(\varphi) \hookrightarrow \Lambda^\alpha_{k_0 h^-_\varphi(\varphi)}. \tag{6.14}$$

Moreover, $\Lambda^\alpha_{k_0 h^-_\varphi(\varphi)}$ is the smallest $\Lambda_\eta$-space so that $A^\alpha_q(\varphi) \hookrightarrow \Lambda_\eta(\varphi)$ for some $0 < q \leq 1$.

**Proof.** The argument for (6.14) is standard (see e.g. [8]). It suffices to prove that

$$\|s\|_{\Lambda^\alpha_{k_0 h^-_\varphi(\varphi)}} \leq C \|s\|_{A^\alpha_\rho(\varphi)}, \quad \forall s \in \Sigma_N, \ N \geq 1$$

with a constant $C > 0$ independent of $N$ and one obtains the desired inclusion by letting $N \to \infty$. We may also assume $N = 2^J$. Now, write $s = \sum_{j=0}^{J} [s^{(j)} - s^{(j-1)}]$, where by convention $s^{(0)} = s$, $s^{(-1)} = 0$ and $s^{(j)} \in \Sigma_{2^j}$ is so that $\|s - s^{(j)}\| \varphi \leq 2 \sigma_{2^j}(s) \varphi$, $0 \leq j < J$. Then applying (6.13), and (6.12) to $s^{(j)} - s^{(j-1)} \in \Sigma_{2^j+1}$ we obtain

$$\|s\|_{\Lambda^\alpha_{k_0 h^-_\varphi(\varphi)}} \leq \left[ \sum_{j=0}^{J} \|s^{(j)} - s^{(j-1)}\|_{\Lambda^\alpha_{k_0 h^-_\varphi(\varphi)}} \right]^\frac{1}{\alpha} \leq C \left[ \sum_{j=0}^{J} 2^{j\alpha \rho} \|s^{(j)} - s^{(j-1)}\|_\varphi \right]^\frac{1}{\alpha}. \tag{6.14}$$

Now, by assumption for $1 \leq j \leq J$

$$\|s^{(j)} - s^{(j-1)}\|_\varphi \leq \|s^{(j)} - s\|_\varphi + \|s - s^{(j-1)}\|_\varphi \leq 4 \sigma_{2^j-1}(s) \varphi.$$  

On the other hand for $j = 0$ we have

$$\|s^{(0)} - s^{(-1)}\|_\varphi = \|s^{(0)}\|_\varphi \leq \|s^{(0)} - s\|_\varphi + \|s\|_\varphi \leq 2 \sigma_1(s) \varphi + \|s\|_\varphi.$$
Hence,
\[ \|s\|_{\Lambda^{\alpha,h^-_\varphi}(\ell^q)} \leq C \left( \|s\|_{\ell^q} + \sum_{j=0}^{J-1} \left( 2^{j\alpha} \sigma_2^j(s) \phi^q \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \simeq \|s\|_{A^\alpha_q(\ell^q)}. \]

To see the optimality, assume that for some sequence \( \eta \) and \( q \in (0,1] \) we have \( A^\alpha_q(\ell^q) \hookrightarrow \Lambda_{\eta}(\ell^q) \), and let \( s = 1_\Gamma \) be as in Remark 6.10. Then by (6.11) we have
\[ \|s\|_{A^\alpha_q(\ell^q)} = \|s\|_{\ell^q} + \left( \sum_{k=1}^{N} (k^\alpha \sigma_k(s) \phi)^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \lesssim \|s\|_{\ell^q} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{N} k^{\alpha/q-1} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \simeq CN^\alpha h^-_{\varphi}(N). \]

On the other hand, by the doubling property
\[ \|s\|_{\Lambda_{\eta}(\ell^q)} = \sum_{k=1}^{N} \eta_k \frac{1}{k} \geq \sum_{N/2 < k \leq N} \eta_k \frac{1}{k} \gtrsim \eta_{N/2} \gtrsim \eta_N. \]

Thus, if the assumed inclusion holds, the previous two estimates lead us to \( \eta_N \lesssim N^\alpha h^-_{\varphi}(N) \), which in turn implies \( \Lambda^{\alpha,h^-_\varphi}(k) \hookrightarrow \Lambda_{\eta} \). \( \square \)

**Corollary 6.13.** Let \( \alpha > 0 \). Then, we have the inclusions
\[ A^\alpha_q(\ell^q) \hookrightarrow \ell^{r,1}(\ell^q), \quad \text{whenever } \frac{1}{r} < \alpha + \frac{q}{q-1}. \]  

**Proof.** From (2.5) we have \( h^-_\varphi(t) = 1/h_\varphi^+(1/t) \gtrsim C_t t^{\alpha/q - \varepsilon} \), \( t \geq 1 \). Letting \( \varepsilon = \alpha + \frac{q}{q-1} - \frac{1}{r} \) we obtain that \( k^\alpha h^-_\varphi(k) \gtrsim k^\frac{1}{r} \), which leads to \( \Lambda^{\alpha,h^-_\varphi}(k) \hookrightarrow \ell^{r,1}. \) The result then follows from (6.14). \( \square \)

**Remark 6.14.** As in Remark 6.8 if (6.15) holds at \( \frac{1}{t} = \alpha + \frac{q}{q-1} \) it follows that \( h^-_\varphi(N) \gtrsim N^{\frac{q}{q-1}} \) and therefore \( h^-_\varphi(t) \gtrsim t^{\frac{q}{q-1}} \) for \( 0 < t \leq 1 \). From Lemma 5.1 and (2.4) we also have that \( h_\varphi^+(t) \gtrsim t^{\frac{q}{q-1}} \) for \( 0 < t \leq 1 \). This yields that \( h_\varphi^+(t) \simeq t^{\frac{q}{q-1}} \) for \( 0 < t \leq 1 \). On the other hand, assuming that \( h_\varphi^+(t) \simeq t^{\frac{q}{q-1}} \) for \( 0 < t \leq 1 \), (6.14) implies (6.15) at \( \frac{1}{t} = \alpha + \frac{q}{q-1} \). All this shows that a necessary and sufficient condition for the endpoint case \( \frac{1}{r} = \alpha + \frac{q}{q-1} \) in (6.15) to hold is \( h_\varphi^+(t) \simeq t^{\frac{q}{q-1}} \) for \( t \in (0,1) \). In our examples in §2.1, this is the case for the Young functions associated with \( L^2 + L^4 \), \( L^2 \cap L^4 \) or \( L^p(\log L)^\alpha \) with \( \alpha < 0 \), but such property fails in this last case when \( \alpha > 0 \) (see Example 2.2).

### 6.4. Inclusions for the approximation spaces \( A^\alpha_q(\ell^q) \)

Finally, using real interpolation we can obtain inclusions for the whole family of approximation spaces \( A^\alpha_q(\ell^q) \), \( 0 < q \leq \infty \). For this we take into account the interpolation properties of the sequence spaces \( A^\alpha_q \), namely,
\[ (\Lambda^{\alpha_0,\eta_0}(k), \Lambda^{\alpha_1,\eta_1}(k))_{\theta,q} = \Lambda^\alpha_{\theta_0 + \theta_1,\eta_0}(k), \quad \alpha = (1 - \theta)\alpha_0 + \theta\alpha_1, \]  

for all \( 0 < q, r \leq \infty \), \( 0 < \theta < 1 \) (see e.g. [25, Prop. 6.2], [22, Thm. 3]).

**Corollary 6.15.** Let \( \alpha > 0 \) and \( 0 < q \leq \infty \). Then
\[ A^\alpha_q(\ell^q) \hookrightarrow A^\alpha_q(\ell^q) \hookrightarrow \Lambda^\alpha_{\alpha,h^-_\varphi}(\ell^q). \]  


Proof. Let $\alpha_0 < \alpha < \alpha_1$, so that $\alpha = (\alpha_0 + \alpha_1)/2$. Then, for every $0 < q, r \leq \infty$ we have (see e.g. [8])

$$A_q^\alpha = (A_r^{\alpha_0}, A_r^{\alpha_1})_{\frac{1}{2}, q}.$$

Setting $r = \min\{\rho_{\alpha_0}, \rho_{\alpha_1}\}$ and using (6.14)

$$A_q^\alpha(f^\phi) = (A_r^{\alpha_0}(f^\phi), A_r^{\alpha_1}(f^\phi))_{\frac{1}{2}, q} \hookrightarrow (\Lambda_{k^\alpha h_{r_\phi}(k)}(f^\phi), \Lambda_{k_\alpha h_{r_\phi}(k)}(f^\phi))_{1/2, q} = \Lambda_q^{\phi}(f^\phi),$$

where the last equality follows from (6.16). Similarly, by (6.8)

$$A_q^\alpha(f^\phi) = (A_r^{\alpha_0}(f^\phi), A_r^{\alpha_1}(f^\phi))_{1/2, q} \hookrightarrow (\mathcal{M}_{k^\alpha h_\phi(k)}(f^\phi), \mathcal{M}_{k_\alpha h_\phi(k)}(f^\phi))_{1/2, q} = \Lambda_q^{\phi}(f^\phi).$$

As a consequence of (6.17), and proceeding as in Corollaries 6.7 and 6.13 we obtain the following result.

**Corollary 6.16.** For all $\alpha > 0$, $q, q_0, q_1 \in (0, \infty]$ we have

$$\ell^{0,q_0}(f^\phi) \hookrightarrow A_q^\alpha(f^\phi) \hookrightarrow \ell^{q_1,q_1}(f^\phi),$$

whenever $\frac{1}{\tau_1} < \alpha + \pi_{L\phi} \leq \alpha + \pi_{L\phi} < \frac{1}{\tau_0}$.

**Proof.** Pick $\tau$ so that $\frac{1}{\tau_0} > \frac{1}{\tau} > \alpha + \pi_{L\phi}$. Then as in the proof of Corollary 6.7 we observed that for all $t \geq 1$ we have $t^\alpha h_\phi^+(t) \lesssim t^{\frac{1}{\tau}}$. Then (6.17) and the embedding $\ell^{0,q_0} \hookrightarrow \ell^{\tau,q}$ yield

$$A_q^\alpha(f^\phi) \hookrightarrow \Lambda_q^{\phi}(f^\phi) \hookrightarrow \Lambda_q^{\phi}(f^\phi) = \ell^{\tau,q}(f^\phi) \hookrightarrow \ell^{0,q_0}(f^\phi).$$

For the other embedding we choose $\tau$ verifying $\frac{1}{\tau_1} < \frac{1}{\tau} < \alpha + \pi_{L\phi}$. The proof of Corollary 6.13 yields that $t^\alpha h_\phi^-(t) \gtrsim t^{\frac{1}{\tau}}$. Then (6.17) and the embedding $\ell^{\tau,q} \hookrightarrow \ell^{q_1,q_1}$ give

$$A_q^\alpha(f^\phi) \hookrightarrow \Lambda_q^{\phi}(f^\phi) \hookrightarrow \Lambda_q^{\phi}(f^\phi) = \ell^{\tau,q}(f^\phi) \hookrightarrow \ell^{q_1,q_1}(f^\phi).$$

\[\square\]

**Remark 6.17.** Observe that the two results stated in the introduction, Theorem 1.3 and Corollary 1.4, are straightforward consequences of Corollaries 6.15 and 6.16 and the definition of the spaces $s(L\phi)$ in (1.4).

**Remark 6.18.** Notice finally that the inclusions in (6.17) remain as well valid when we replace $A_q^\alpha(f^\phi)$ by the smaller approximation space

$$G_q^\alpha(f^\phi) = \left\{ s \in f^\phi : \left[ \sum_{N \geq 1} (N^\alpha \| s - G_N(s) \|_{L\phi})^q \right]^\frac{1}{q} \frac{1}{N} \right\}.$$
6.5. Besov spaces of generalized smoothness. Let \( \Psi : (0, \infty) \to (0, \infty) \) be a fixed continuous function with \( \sup_{s>0} \Psi(ts)/\Psi(s) < \infty \), for all \( t > 0 \). Given \( 0 < \tau, q \leq \infty \), we define a Besov space of \( \Psi \)-smoothness, \( \dot{B}^\Psi_{\tau,q}(\mathbb{R}^d) \), as the set of all tempered distributions \( f \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^d) \) for which

\[
\|f\|_{\dot{B}^\Psi_{\tau,q}} = \left( \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \left( \Psi(2^j) \|f \ast \chi_j\|_{L^\tau(\mathbb{R}^d)} \right)^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} < \infty,
\]

where \( \chi \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^d) \) is so that \( \chi_{\{|\xi| \leq 1\}} \leq \hat{\chi}(\xi) \leq \chi_{\{|\xi| \leq 2\}} \), and \( \chi_j(x) = 2^{jd}\chi(2^jx) - 2^{(j-1)d}\chi(2^{j-1}x) \). As usual, one takes the quotient of \( \dot{B}^\Psi_{\tau,q} \) with the set of polynomials to get a (quasi)-Banach space.

Besov spaces of generalized smoothness were introduced in [22, 5] in the context of real interpolation with function parameters (see also references in [1, 10]). The particular case \( \Psi(t) = t^\alpha \) corresponds to the usual (homogeneous) Besov space \( B^{\alpha,q}_\tau(\mathbb{R}^d) \).

When \( \Psi(t) = t^\alpha(1 + \log^+ t)^\gamma \) one obtains logarithmic Besov spaces \( \dot{B}^{\alpha,\gamma}_\tau(\mathbb{R}^d) \), analogous to those studied by Leopold in [21] (see also [24]). Alternative characterizations of these spaces also appear in [15, 2]. We point out that most of the above mentioned references only consider the theory of “inhomogeneous spaces” (in which the series in (6.18) is truncated to \( j \geq 0 \); see (6.23) below). Minor modifications, however, are necessary to carry out a similar theory in the “homogeneous” setting of \( \dot{B}^\Psi_{\tau,q} \).

In this paper we shall only use the wavelet characterization of \( \dot{B}^\Psi_{\tau,q}(\mathbb{R}^d) \) (which we may as well take as definition), similar to the one obtained by Almeida in the inhomogeneous setting (see [1]). As in \S 2.2 we fix a wavelet basis \( \{\psi_Q^t\} \), which we shall assume to consist of Schwartz functions. For notational simplicity, we shall also drop the super-index \( \ell \).

**Proposition 6.19.** A tempered distribution \( f \) belongs to \( \dot{B}^\Psi_{\tau,q}(\mathbb{R}^d) \) if and only if

\[
\sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \left[ \left( \sum_{Q=2^{-j}d} \left| \Psi(|Q|^{-\frac{1}{2}}) |Q|^\frac{1}{2} \langle f, \psi_Q \rangle \right|^\tau \right)^\frac{1}{\tau} \right]^q < \infty.
\]

Moreover, this expression is comparable to \( \|f\|^q_{\dot{B}^\Psi_{\tau,q}} \).

A particular case of this result is given next.

**Corollary 6.20.** Let \( \Phi \) be a Young function with \( 0 < \bar{\pi}_{L^p} \leq \bar{\pi}_{L^q} < 1 \) and \( \tau > 0 \). Define \( \Psi(t) = t^\frac{\gamma}{2}/\Phi^{-1}(t^d) = t^\frac{\gamma}{d}\Phi(t^{-d}) \). Then,

\[
\dot{B}^{\Psi}_{\tau,q} = \{ f \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^d) : \sum_Q \| \langle f, \psi_Q \rangle_Q e_Q \|_p^{\tau} < \infty \},
\]

with the equivalence of norms \( \|f\|_{\dot{B}^{\Psi}_{\tau,q}} \simeq \left( \sum_Q \| \langle f, \psi_Q \rangle_Q e_Q \|_p \right)^\frac{\tau}{d} \).

**Proof.** From (2.5) and (2.6) it follows that the function \( \Psi(t) \) satisfies the conditions required at the beginning of this section. By (6.3) and the definition of \( \Psi \) we have

\[
\|e_Q\|_p = |Q|^\frac{-\tau}{d} \Phi(|Q|) = |Q|^\frac{1}{2} \Psi(|Q|^{-\frac{1}{2}}).
\]

Therefore we can write

\[
\sum_Q \| \langle f, \psi_Q \rangle_Q e_Q \|_p^{\tau} = \sum_Q \left| \Psi(|Q|^{-\frac{1}{2}}) |Q|^\frac{1}{2} \langle f, \psi_Q \rangle \right|^\tau,
\]
which together with Proposition 6.19 complete the proof.

We now proceed to connect these Besov spaces with the approximation spaces $A_0^\alpha (L^\Phi)$.

**Corollary 6.21.** Let $\alpha > 0$ and $0 < q \leq \infty$. Then

$$
\dot{B}_{\tau_0,0}^{d+\frac{\alpha}{q}} \hookrightarrow A_q^\alpha (L^\Phi) \hookrightarrow \dot{B}_{\tau_1,\tau_1}^{d+\frac{\alpha}{q}} ,
$$

whenever $\frac{1}{\tau_1} < \alpha + \frac{1}{q} \leq \alpha + \frac{1}{\tau_0}$.

**Remark 6.22.** As usual, the first inclusion in (6.21) is understood with the assignment $f \mapsto \sum Q (f, \psi_Q) \psi_Q$, so that polynomials in the Besov space are mapped into the null function of $L^\Phi$ (see the proof below).

**Proof of Corollary 6.21.** We prove the first inclusion. Given $f \in \dot{B}_{\tau_0,0}^{d+\frac{\alpha}{q}}$, by (6.20) the sequence $\{(f, \psi_Q)\}_{Q \in D}$ belongs to $\ell_0^\alpha$, and since $\frac{1}{\tau_0} > \frac{1}{\tau_1}$, also to $A_0^\frac{\alpha}{q}$.

By Proposition 6.2, this implies that $s = \{(f, \psi_Q)\}_{Q \in D} \in \ell_0^\Phi$, and therefore $f^t = \sum Q (f, \psi_Q) \psi_Q \in L^\Phi (\mathbb{R}^d)$ (with convergence of the series in $L^\Phi$). Moreover, by Corollary 6.16, we also have $s \in \ell_0^\Phi (f^\Phi)$. Finally, since $\sigma_N(s)_{L^\Phi} = \sigma_N(f^\Phi)_{L^\Phi}$ we easily conclude that $f^t \in A_q^\alpha (L^\Phi)$ and $\|f^t\|_{A_q^\alpha (L^\Phi)} \leq C \|f\|_{\dot{B}_{\tau_0,0}^{d+\frac{\alpha}{q}}}$ as asserted. The second inclusion is proved similarly using the right hand inclusion of Corollary 6.16.

**Remark 6.23.** A special case of the previous proof gives the Sobolev type embedding

$$
\dot{B}_{\tau,\tau}^{d+\frac{\alpha}{q}} \hookrightarrow L^\Phi, \quad 0 < \tau < 1/\pi_{L^\Phi}.
$$

This is a refinement of the classical estimate $\dot{B}_{\tau,\tau}^{d+\frac{\alpha}{q}} \hookrightarrow L^p$, for $0 < \tau < p$.

**The special case of Zygmund spaces $L^p (\log L)^{\gamma p}$.** Let us now consider the special case of the Zygmund spaces $L^\Phi = L^p (\log L)^{\gamma p}$ in Examples 2.2 and 2.3 above. We wish to describe the approximation spaces $A_0^\alpha (L^\Phi)$, for fixed $\alpha > 0$ and $0 < q \leq \infty$.

The description is given in terms of the logarithmic Besov spaces $\dot{B}_{\tau,\tau}^{(\alpha,\gamma)} (\mathbb{R}^d)$, i.e. $\dot{B}_{\tau,\tau}^{(\alpha,\gamma)}$ with $\Psi (t) = t^\alpha (1 + \log^+ t)^\gamma$. By Corollary 6.20 and the explicit expression $\varphi(t) \simeq t^{\frac{\alpha}{\tau}} (1 + \log^+ 1/t)^\gamma$, we can identify $\dot{B}_{\tau,\tau}^{(\alpha,\gamma)} (\mathbb{R}^d)$ with $\ell_\tau^\Phi (f^\Phi)$ when $\frac{1}{\tau} = \frac{\alpha}{d} + \frac{1}{p}$.

Then, Corollary 6.21 gives

$$
\dot{B}_{\tau_0,0}^{\alpha_1,\gamma} \hookrightarrow A_q^\alpha (L^p (\log L)^{\gamma p}) \hookrightarrow \dot{B}_{\tau_1,\tau_1}^{\alpha_1,\gamma} ,
$$

for all $\alpha_1 < \alpha < \alpha_0$, $\frac{1}{\tau_0} = \frac{\alpha_0}{d} + \frac{1}{p}$, and $\frac{1}{\tau_1} = \frac{\alpha_1}{d} + \frac{1}{p}$.

These inclusions can be slightly improved at the endpoints. More precisely, when $\gamma \geq 0$, using Corollary 6.15 an $h_{\tau}^\alpha (k) \simeq k^{1/p}$, we can take $\alpha_0 = \alpha$ in (6.22), provided $q \geq \tau_0$. On the other hand, if $\gamma \leq 0$, one has $h_{\tau}^\alpha (k) \simeq k^{1/p}$ and then Corollary 6.15 gives the right hand inclusion of (6.22) with $\alpha_1 = \alpha$, provided $q \leq \tau_1$. Finally, observe that in the special case $\gamma = 0$ we recover the well-known identity $\dot{B}_{\tau,\tau}^{\alpha} = A_q^\alpha (L^p)$ with $\frac{1}{\tau} = \frac{\alpha}{d} + \frac{1}{p}$ (see e.g. [11, (6.22)]).
6.6. **Truncated wavelet bases.** In some applications it may be of interest to replace the wavelet basis \( \{ \psi_Q \} \) in §2.2 by a “truncated basis” of the form

\[
B = \{ \psi_Q : |Q| \leq 1 \} \cup \{ \psi^{(0)}_Q : |Q| = 1 \},
\]

where \( \psi^{(0)} \) denotes a suitable scaling function. All the results stated in this paper remain valid for such bases, after standard modifications. More precisely, one considers the characterization

\[
\|f\|_{L^\Phi} \simeq \left( \sum_{|Q| \leq 1} |\langle f, \psi_Q \rangle|^2 |Q|^{-1} \chi_Q(\cdot) \right)^{1/2} + \left( \sum_{|Q| = 1} |\langle f, \psi_Q^{(0)} \rangle|^2 \chi_Q(\cdot) \right)^{1/2} \|f\|_{L^\Phi}
\]

(implicit in the arguments of [28]) and the corresponding sequence space (which is isomorphic to the subspace of all sequences of \( \Phi \) supported in \( |Q| \leq 1 \)). The arguments presented in §3, §4 and §5 can be carried out in exactly the same way, except for the fact that \( h^+(t), h^-(t) \) in (3.4) are defined as

\[
h^+(t) = \sup_{k \leq 0} \frac{\varphi(2^kd)}{\varphi(2^{k+1}d)} \quad \text{and} \quad h^-(t) = \inf_{k \leq 0} \frac{\varphi(2^kd)}{\varphi(2^{k+1}d)},
\]

because of the restriction \( |Q| \leq 1 \). Finally, in §6 one uses the “inhomogeneous” version of Besov spaces, \( B^\Phi_{r,q}(\mathbb{R}^d) \), given by the norm

\[
\|f\|_{B^\Phi_{r,q}} = \left[ \sum_{j \geq 0} \left( \Psi(2^j) \|f \ast \chi_j\|_r \right)^q \right]^{1/q}
\]  

(6.23)

where \( \chi_j \) are as in §6.4 when \( j > 0 \), and \( \chi_0 = \chi \).

**References**


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