

## On the position of the space of representable operators in the space of linear operators<sup>1</sup>

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*Abstract.* We show results about the existence and the nonexistence of a projection from the space  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  of all linear and bounded operators from  $L^1(\lambda)$  into  $X$  onto the subspace  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  of all representable operators.

*Keywords:* representable operators, vector measures,  $L$ -projections, copies of  $c_0$

*Classification:* 46B28, 46G10, 47B99, 46B25

### Introduction

The problem of the complementability of some space  $\mathcal{H}$  of operators in the space  $L(X, Y)$  of all linear operators from a Banach space  $X$  into a Banach space  $Y$  has received much attention since the early sixties (see [Th], [AW], [To], [TW], [Ku], [Ka], [Fa], [Fe1], [Fe2], [E2], [E3], [E5], [EJ], [J], [CC], [BDLR]); particularly studied it has been the case of  $\mathcal{H} =$  compact operators, for which the best result known (see [E3], [J]) states that if a copy of  $c_0$  lives in this space, then there does not exist a projection onto it (in passing we observe that in the only two cases known in which  $c_0$  does not embed into  $K(X, Y) \neq L(X, Y)$  ([E3], [E6]) there is no hope of finding a norm one projection as proved in the recent paper [EJ]). We observe that the presence of copies of  $c_0$  in the smaller space  $\mathcal{H}$  plays an important role for the nonexistence of a projection onto  $\mathcal{H}$  even in other cases ([BDLR], [CC], [DD], [E2], [E5]). In particular, from all of the results in the papers quoted above it follows that when  $X$  and  $Y$  are *classical* Banach spaces, i.e. spaces with dual isometric to some  $L^p$  space, no projection from the bigger space  $L(X, Y)$  onto a smaller one exists, but in the following case (see [Fa]): *Let  $(\Omega, \Sigma, \mu)$  be a finite measure space; then the space  $R(L^1[0, 1], L^1(\mu))$  of all representable operators is norm one complemented in the space  $L(L^1[0, 1], L^1(\mu))$ .*

In this short note we wish to improve this last result by showing that also for other Banach spaces  $X$  the space  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$ ,  $(S, \mathcal{F}, \lambda)$  a finite measure space, is norm one complemented in  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$ ; we also observe that if  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  is complemented in  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$ , then clearly  $R(L^1(\lambda), Y)$  is complemented in  $L(L^1(\lambda), Y)$  for any subspace  $Y$  complemented in  $X$ .

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<sup>1</sup> Work partially supported by M.U.R.S.T. of Italy (40%, 1994)

It is known (see [DU], Chapter III, especially p.62 and 84) that there is a 1-1 correspondence between the space  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  (resp.  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$ ) and a subspace of the space  $cabv(\lambda, X)$  (resp.  $L^1(\lambda, X)$ ) of all countably additive vector measures  $G$  with bounded variation equipped with variation norm  $\|G\|(S)$  (resp. countably additive vector measures with bounded variation having a Bochner density), precisely the subspace of those measures for which there is a constant  $C > 0$  such that

$$(1) \quad \|G(E)\| \leq C\lambda(E) \quad \forall E \in \mathcal{F}.$$

In order to study our problem, it appears thus natural to use some results (see [C], [FRP], [E7], [R]) about the existence of a projection from the space  $cabv(\lambda, X)$  onto the subspace  $L^1(\lambda, X)$ . Since under that correspondence the norms in  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  and in  $cabv(\lambda, X)$  are not equivalent, the mere complementability of  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  in  $cabv(\lambda, X)$  does not seem sufficient to guarantee the existence of the required projection of  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  onto  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$ ; indeed, if  $G$  is the representing measure of some  $T \in L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  and  $P$  is the projection of  $cabv(\lambda, X)$  onto  $L^1(\lambda, X)$ , then  $PG$  does not necessarily determine an element in  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$ , since if  $G$  satisfies (1) it seems that there is no reason why even  $PG$  must satisfy a similar condition. However, we shall see that if the space  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  is an L-summand (we refer to [HWW] for this well known definition) in the space  $cabv(\lambda, X)$ , then it is possible to construct simply a norm one projection from  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  onto  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$ . We also observe that if  $X$  is a Banach lattice not containing  $c_0$ , then  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  is complemented in  $cabv(\lambda, X)$ , as proved in [C], [E7] and [FRP]; even in this case we are able to show a complementability result about  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  and  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  is true, actually getting that  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  is a projection band in  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$ . The influence of the results about  $cabv(\lambda, X)$  and  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  does not stop here; indeed, similarly to the case of the spaces  $cabv(\lambda, X)$  and  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  (see [DE]), we shall be also able to prove that if the range space  $X$  contains a copy of  $c_0$ , there is no projection as required. The existing results also show that to get the noncomplementability it is not enough to suppose the mere existence of a copy of  $c_0$  inside  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$ , differently from the case, quoted above, of the space of compact operators.

**Results**

First of all, we introduce the notion of a representable operator.

**Definition.** Let  $(S, \mathcal{F}, \lambda)$  be a finite measure space and  $X$  be a Banach space. A bounded linear operator  $T : L^1(\lambda) \rightarrow X$  is representable if there exists  $g \in L^\infty(\lambda)$  such that

$$T(f) = \int_S f(s)g(s)d\lambda \quad \forall f \in L^1(\lambda).$$

Now we prove a first complementability result, as announced in the introduction, from the proof of which the relevant role of the existence of an L-projection of  $cabv(\lambda, X)$  onto  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  appears clear (as underlined in the Introduction).

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $(S, \mathcal{F}, \lambda)$  be a finite measure space and  $X$  be a Banach space such that the space  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  is complemented in the space  $\text{cabv}(\lambda, X)$  by an  $L$ -projection  $L$ . Then  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  is norm one complemented in  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$ .*

PROOF: Let  $T$  be an element of  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  and  $G$  the representing vector measure of  $T$ ; it is well known that  $\|G(E)\| \leq \|T\|\lambda(E)$  for all  $E \in \mathcal{F}$ . We want to show first that  $\|LG(E)\| \leq \|T\|\lambda(E)$  for all  $E \in \mathcal{F}$ . Given  $E \in \mathcal{F}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|G\|(S) &= \|G\|(E) + \|G\|(E^c) \leq \\ \|LG\|(E) + \|G - LG\|(E) + \|LG\|(E^c) + \|G - LG\|(E^c) &= \\ \|LG\|(S) + \|G - LG\|(S) &= \|G\|(S) \end{aligned}$$

from which it follows easily that

$$\|LG(E)\| \leq \|LG\|(E) \leq \|G\|(E) \leq \|T\|\lambda(E) \quad \forall E \in \mathcal{F}.$$

Hence, the measure  $LG$  gives rise to an operator  $LT$  from  $L^1(\lambda)$  into  $X$  that is representable ([DU, p. 84]). Furthermore, since it is easily seen that  $\|LT\| = \sup\{\|LG(E)\|/\lambda(E) : E \in \mathcal{F}, \lambda(E) \neq 0\}$  (see [DU, p. 84]) we also get  $\|LT\| \leq \|T\|$ . We are done. □

We observe that the projection  $L$  constructed above cannot be an  $L$ -projection, since  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  always has nontrivial  $M$ -summands (see [HWW]).

It now becomes important to find examples of spaces  $X$  for which  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  is an  $L$ -summand in  $\text{cabv}(\lambda, X)$ . We can (partially) answer this question with the following

**Proposition 2.** *Let  $X$  be a Banach space such that  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  is an  $L$ -summand in the bidual. Then  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  is an  $L$ -summand in  $\text{cabv}(\lambda, X)$ .*

PROOF: In the recent papers [E7], [R] it is remarked that  $\text{cabv}(\lambda, X)$  is isometric to a closed subspace of  $(L^1(\lambda, X))^{**}$ ; hence the restriction of the  $L$ -projection of  $(L^1(\lambda, X))^{**}$  onto  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  works well to reach our target.

So if

- (i)  $X = L^1(\mu)$ ,
- (ii)  $X$  is a predual of a  $W^*$ -algebra,
- (iii)  $X$  is a nicely placed subspace of  $L^1(\mu)$ ,
- (iv)  $X$  is isometric to a quotient space  $Y/Z$  where both  $L^1(\lambda, Y)$  and  $L^1(\lambda, Z)$  are  $L$ -summands in their respective biduals (for instance we can choose  $Y = L^1(\mu)$  and  $Z$  a reflexive subspace of it),

then we can apply our Theorem 1 as a consequence of results in [E7], [HWW], [R]. We note that the case (i) gives the old result by Fakhouri ([Fa]) quoted in the Introduction, but our proof seems to be simpler. □

In the next result we present some other cases in which Theorem 1 is applicable even if we do not know if the considered quotient space satisfies or not the hypothesis of Proposition 2.

**Proposition 3.** *Let  $X$  be a Banach space such that  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  is an  $L$ -summand in the space  $cabv(\lambda, X)$  and  $Z$  be a closed subspace of  $X$  having the Radon-Nikodym Property such that the map  $\tilde{Q}$  from  $cabv(\lambda, X)$  into  $cabv(\lambda, X/Z)$  defined by  $[\tilde{Q}(\nu)](E) = Q[\nu(E)]$ ,  $E \in \mathcal{F}$  ( $Q$  denotes the quotient map of  $X$  onto  $X/Z$ ), is also a quotient map (see [E7] for results implying the validity of this assumption). Then,  $L^1(\lambda, X/Z)$  is an  $L$ -summand in  $cabv(\lambda, X/Z)$ .*

PROOF: Denote by  $L$  the existing  $L$ -projection of  $cabv(\lambda, X)$  onto  $L^1(\lambda, X)$ . In [E7] it is proved that the map  $\tilde{L} : cabv(\lambda, X/Z) \rightarrow L^1(\lambda, X/Z)$  defined by

$$\tilde{L}(\tilde{\nu}) = \tilde{Q}[L(\nu)] \quad \forall \tilde{\nu} \in cabv(\lambda, X/Z), \nu \in cabv(\lambda, X), \tilde{Q}(\nu) = \tilde{\nu}$$

actually is a projection onto  $L^1(\lambda, X/Z)$ . Now, we show it is an  $L$ -projection. Let us suppose there is  $\tilde{\nu}_0 \in cabv(\lambda, X/Z)$  for which

$$h = \|\tilde{L}(\tilde{\nu}_0)\|(S) + \|\tilde{\nu}_0 - \tilde{L}(\tilde{\nu}_0)\|(S) - \|\tilde{\nu}_0\|(S) > 0.$$

Choose  $\nu_0 \in cabv(\lambda, X)$  such that  $\tilde{Q}(\nu_0) = \tilde{\nu}_0$  and  $\|\nu_0\|(S) < \|\tilde{\nu}_0\|(S) + h$ . We get

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nu_0\|(S) < \|\tilde{\nu}_0\|(S) + h &= \|\tilde{L}(\tilde{\nu}_0)\|(S) + \|\tilde{\nu}_0 - \tilde{L}(\tilde{\nu}_0)\|(S) \leq \\ &= \|L(\nu_0)\|(S) + \|\nu_0 - L(\nu_0)\|(S) = \|\nu_0\|(S) \end{aligned}$$

from which our claim follows. □

For instance, Proposition 3 can be applied with  $X = L^1$  and  $Z = H_0^1$ .

In the papers [C], [E7] and [FRP] it is shown that  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  is a projection band inside  $cabv(\lambda, X)$ , when  $X$  is a Banach lattice not containing copies of  $c_0$  (in  $cabv(\lambda, X)$ , the positive elements are those measures taking  $\mathcal{F}$  into the positive cone of  $X$ ); we are also able to use this result to get one more complementability result of  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  inside  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  that surely is not a consequence of the previous ones, because the projection of  $cabv(\lambda, X)$  onto  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  constructed in [C],[E7] and [FRP] is not an  $L$ -projection. Actually, we shall prove more than the mere complementability (and in this way we make more precise the result from the paper [Fa] quoted at the beginning).

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $X$  be a Banach lattice not containing copies of  $c_0$ . Then  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  is a projection band in  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$ .*

PROOF: We fix some notation: if  $T \in L(L^1(\lambda), X)$ , then  $G_T$  will denote its representing measure (possessing a Radon-Nikodym derivative  $g_T$  in case  $T \in R(L^1(\lambda), X)$ ) and if  $G \in cabv(\lambda, X)$  is a representing measure of some operator in  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  we shall denote it by  $T_G$ . First of all we observe that, under our hypotheses,  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  is a Banach lattice (see [MN, Theorem 1.5.11]) under the *natural* order, i.e.  $T \leq H$  if and only if  $H - T \geq 0$ ; hence  $T \leq H$  if and only

if  $G_T \leq G_H$ . We start showing that if  $T$  is in  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$ , then even  $T^+$ ,  $T^-$ ,  $|T|$  are in  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$ ; to this aim we observe that, for  $E \in \mathcal{F}$

$$G_{T^+}(E) = T^+(\chi_E) = \sup\{T(f) : 0 \leq f \leq \chi_E\} = \sup\left\{\int_S g_T(s)f(s)d\lambda : 0 \leq f \leq \chi_E\right\} \leq \sup\left\{\int_S |g_T(s)|f(s)d\lambda : 0 \leq f \leq \chi_E\right\} = \int_E |g_T(s)|d\lambda,$$

where we used the fact that  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  is a Banach lattice and that the integral is a positive operator. Since the measure  $\int \cdot |g_T(s)|d\lambda$  is in  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  and  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  is an ideal in  $cabv(\lambda, X)$  (see the paper [C] for instance), we get that  $T^+ \in R(L^1(\lambda), X)$ ; similarly we can prove that  $T^- \in R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  and so also  $|T| \in R(L^1(\lambda), X)$ . Once we have got this, it is very simple to prove that  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  is an ideal in  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$ . Let now  $T$  be an element in the band generated by  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$ ; there is a net  $(T_\alpha) \subset R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  and a decreasing net  $(H_\alpha) \subset L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  such that

$$|T_\alpha - T| \leq H_\alpha, \quad H_\alpha \downarrow 0.$$

We have the following chain of inequalities, valid for all  $E \in \Sigma$ ,

$$(G_{T_\alpha} - G_T)^+(E) = \sup\{(G_{T_\alpha} - G_T)(B) : B \in \mathcal{F}, B \subset E\} = \sup\{(T_\alpha - T)(\chi_B) : B \in \mathcal{F}, B \subset E\} \leq \sup\{(T_\alpha - T)(f) : 0 \leq f \leq \chi_E\} = (T_\alpha - T)^+(\chi_E) \leq |T_\alpha - T|(\chi_E) \leq H_\alpha(\chi_E) = G_{H_\alpha}(E).$$

Similarly, we can get that, for all  $E \in \Sigma$ ,

$$(G_{T_\alpha} - G_T)^-(E) \leq G_{H_\alpha}(E).$$

If we are able to show that  $G_{H_\alpha} \downarrow 0$ , we shall have that  $G_T \in L^1(\lambda, X)$  because  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  is a band in  $cabv(\lambda, X)$ , a fact implying that  $T \in R(L^1(\lambda), X)$ . But this is quite clear because  $(H_\alpha)$  is decreasing and so  $H_\alpha \leq H_\beta$  for  $\alpha \geq \beta$  from which  $G_{H_\alpha} \leq G_{H_\beta}$  follows. Furthermore, using also a result due to Riesz-Kantorovich (see [AB, Theorem 1.13]) it is easy to see that  $\inf G_{H_\alpha} = 0$ . Hence,  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  is a band in  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$ . It remains just to show that  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  is a projection band in  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$ . So let us take  $T \geq 0, T \in L(L^1(\lambda), X)$ ; we consider the set  $Z = [0, T] \cap R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  and we observe that each element of  $Z$  has a representing measure contained in the set  $Y = [0, G_T] \cap L^1(\lambda, X)$ ; conversely, each element in  $Y$  determines an element in  $Z$ , because if  $G \in Y$  we have  $0 \leq G \leq G_T$  from which clearly follows, for all  $E \in \Sigma$

$$\|G(E)\| \leq \|G_T(E)\| \leq \|T\|\lambda(E)$$

and so  $T_G \in Z$ . Let  $G_0 = \sup Y$ ; such a supremum must exist since  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  is a projection band in  $cabv(\lambda, X)$  (hence  $G_0 \leq G_T$  and  $G_0 \in L^1(\lambda, X)$ ); it is not difficult to show that  $T_{G_0} = \sup Z$ , a fact that concludes our proof.  $\square$

We observe that similar arguments to those used in Theorem 5 in [E7] allow us to show that suitable quotients of spaces  $X$ 's for which the complementability occurs also enjoy the same property; we do not prove here this result, but we simply state it as

**Proposition 5.** *Suppose  $X$  is such that  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  is complemented into  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$ . Suppose  $Z$  is a closed subspace of  $X$  with the Radon-Nikodym property. Define a map  $\tilde{Q} : L(L^1(\lambda), X) \rightarrow L(L^1(\lambda), X/Z)$  by putting  $[\tilde{Q}(T)](f) = Q[T(f)]$  ( $Q$  is the quotient map of  $X$  onto  $X/Z$ ) for all  $f \in L^1(\lambda)$ . If  $\tilde{Q}$  is a quotient map, thus  $R(L^1(\lambda), X/Z)$  is complemented into  $L(L^1(\lambda), X/Z)$ .*

This Proposition 5 allows us to improve the results about the complementability of  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  inside  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  that are consequences of Proposition 3; however we must underline that, in our opinion, Proposition 3 is of an independent interest, because of the nature of the projection from  $cabv(\lambda, X/Z)$  onto  $L^1(\lambda, X/Z)$  obtained there; in particular, we observe that Proposition 3 allows us to present some more occurrence in which the Lebesgue Decomposition Theorem (see [DU]) can be improved (see Remark 2 in [E7]).

The assumption of surjectivity considered in Proposition 5 (see also Proposition 3) cannot be dropped at all, since if  $X = l_1$  and  $X/Z = c_0$ , we have that  $R(L^1(\lambda), X) = L(L^1(\lambda), X)$ , but that  $R(L^1(\lambda), X/Z)$  is not complemented (see the following Theorem 6) in  $L(L^1(\lambda), X/Z)$ .

As remarked in the Introduction there is some case in which the projection from  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  onto  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  cannot be found; this happens, for instance, when  $X$  contains a copy of  $c_0$  as it happens in the case of the spaces  $cabv(\lambda, X)$  and  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  (see [DE]).

**Theorem 6.** *Let  $X$  contain a copy of  $c_0$ . Then  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  is uncomplemented in  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$ .*

PROOF: We first construct a complemented copy of  $c_0$  in  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  following a general procedure described in [E4]. Let us denote by  $(x_n)$  the copy of the unit vector basis of  $c_0$  in  $X$  and by  $(r_n)$  the sequence of Rademacher functions in  $(L^1(\lambda))^*$ . The sequence  $(r_n \otimes x_n)$  is easily seen to be a copy of the unit vector basis of  $c_0$  in  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  (see for instance [E3]). If  $(x_n^*)$  is a bounded sequence in  $X^*$  such that  $x_m(x_n^*) = \delta_{mn}$ , the sequence  $(r_n \otimes x_n^*)$  is easily seen to be a weak\*-null sequence in  $(R(L^1(\lambda), X))^*$  (here we consider  $(r_n)$  as a sequence in  $L^1(\lambda)$  and we use its weak convergence to  $\theta$  as well as the fact that each representable operator is a Dunford-Pettis operator, [DU]). Hence, we can suppose ([E1], [S]) that  $(r_n \otimes x_n)$  spans a complemented copy  $K$  of  $c_0$  in  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$ ; it is now a standard fact ([Ka]) that it is possible to construct a linear map from  $l^\infty$  into  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  that is an isomorphism onto some subspace  $H$  of  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$ , with

$H$  containing  $K$ . These facts, as observed in ([Ka], [E2], [E3], [E5], [J]), imply the nonexistence of a projection from  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  onto  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$ . We are done.  $\square$

**Remark 1.** We observe that in order to get the conclusion of Theorem 5 it suffices to suppose that  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  contains a complemented copy of  $c_0$ ; we did that assuming that  $X$  contains a copy of  $c_0$ . This is the only possibility we have; indeed, it is well known that  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  is isometrically isomorphic to  $L^\infty(\lambda, X)$  (see [DU]) and so it is enough to use a result by Diaz ([D]) stating that if  $c_0$  embeds complementably in  $L^\infty(\lambda, X)$ , then  $X$  necessarily contains a copy of  $c_0$  to show the necessity of our assumption.

**Remark 2.** The proof of Theorem 5 actually shows that any subspace  $\mathcal{H}$  of the space of all Dunford-Pettis operators from  $L^1(\lambda)$  into  $X$  is uncomplemented in  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$ , whenever  $X$  contains a copy of  $c_0$ , provided  $\mathcal{H}$  contains finite dimensional operators.

**Remark 3.** We observe that on the contrary to the case of the nonexistence of a projection onto the space of compact operators mentioned at the beginning, it is possible for  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  to contain a copy of  $c_0$  and to be complemented in  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  at the same time; for instance, in the case of  $X = L^1(\mu)$  it is well known that  $c_0$  lives in  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  (see [Fe2], [E3]), even if  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  is complemented in  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$ ; under this point of view  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  behaves differently from the space of compact operators.

The present, in some sense surprising, results suggest the following final comment: the problem of the complementability of  $R(L^1(\lambda), X)$  in  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  is quite different from that of the complementability of other spaces of operators in  $L(L^1(\lambda), X)$  (even if in both cases the considered norms are the supnorm) and is quite close to (or at least heavily depending upon) the problem of the complementability of  $L^1(\lambda, X)$  in  $cabv(\lambda, X)$  (even if the considered norms are different). We think it could be interesting to continue to investigate to which extent this dependence is valid.

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(Received August 31, 1996)