

**WEAK DIFFERENCE PROPERTIES OF HIGHER ORDERS  
FOR THE CLASS  $L_p(G)$**

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**1. Introduction.** In this paper,  $(G, +)$  denotes a locally compact Abelian group and  $(B, \|\cdot\|)$  stands for a Banach space. Many authors considered the following problem:

Suppose that  $f: G \rightarrow B$  and for each  $h \in G$  the function  $\Delta_h f$  defined by

$$\Delta_h f(x) := f(x+h) - f(x), \quad x \in G,$$

belongs to a class  $\mathcal{F} \subset B^G$ . What can be said about the function  $f$ ?

In [2]–[4] and [12] it was shown, under various assumptions on  $G$  and  $B$ , that for a large number of classes  $\mathcal{F}$  (among others for the class of all continuous functions)  $f$  may be represented in the form

- (1)  $f = \gamma + g$ , where  $g \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $\gamma: G \rightarrow B$  is an additive function, i.e.,  $\gamma(x+y) = \gamma(x) + \gamma(y)$ ,  $x, y \in G$ .

It was pointed out (cf. [5] and [12]) that for the class  $L_p(G)$  with  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ , instead of (1) the following decomposition is appropriate:

- (2)  $f = \gamma + g + s$ , where  $\gamma: G \rightarrow B$  is additive,  $g$  is an  $L_p$ -function and  $s: G \rightarrow B$  is such that, for each  $h \in G$ ,  $\Delta_h s = 0$  almost everywhere on  $G$ .

The class  $\mathcal{F} \subset B^G$  is said to have the *difference property* (resp., the *weak difference property*) if any function  $f: G \rightarrow B$  with all differences  $\Delta_h f$  belonging to  $\mathcal{F}$  admits decomposition (1) (resp., (2)).

Kemperman [11] initiates the study of the following more general question: describe all functions  $f: G \rightarrow B$  satisfying the condition

- (3)  $\Delta_h^n f \in \mathcal{F}$  for any fixed  $h \in G$ ,

where  $\Delta_h^n := \Delta_{h \dots h}$  ( $n$  times) denotes the  $n$ -th order difference operator defined recurrently as follows:

$$\Delta_h^0 f := f, \quad \Delta_h f(x) := f(x+h) - f(x), \quad x, h \in G,$$

$$\Delta_{h_1 \dots h_n} f := \Delta_{h_n}(\Delta_{h_1 \dots h_{n-1}} f), \quad h_1, \dots, h_n \in G.$$

Kemperman has proved<sup>(1)</sup> that for various classes  $\mathcal{F}$  any function  $f$  fulfilling (3) may be written in the form

$$(4) \quad f = \gamma + g \text{ for a certain } g \in \mathcal{F} \text{ and for an } n\text{-th order polynomial function } \gamma: G \rightarrow B.$$

Recall that a function  $\gamma: G \rightarrow B$  is said to be a *polynomial function of  $n$ -th order* if and only if

$$\Delta_h^{n+1} \gamma(x) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, h \in G$$

or, equivalently ([7], Theorem 3),

$$(5) \quad \gamma = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 + \dots + \gamma_n,$$

where  $\gamma_0$  is a constant and there exist  $k$ -additive and symmetric functions  $\tilde{\gamma}_k: G^k \rightarrow B$  such that

$$\gamma_k(x) = \tilde{\gamma}_k(x, \dots, x), \quad x \in G, k = 1, \dots, n.$$

$\gamma_k$  is sometimes called a *monomial function of  $k$ -th order*.

If for every function  $f: G \rightarrow B$  condition (3) implies (4) we say that the class  $\mathcal{F}$  has the *difference property of  $n$ -th order*. In our previous paper [9] we have obtained difference properties of any orders for the class of all Banach-valued continuous functions defined on an arbitrary locally compact, Abelian group and for the class of all Banach-valued Riemann integrable functions on a compact second countable Abelian group.

In the present paper we introduce the concept of weak difference property of higher orders.

**DEFINITION.** A class  $\mathcal{F} \subset B^G$  is said to have the *weak difference property of  $n$ -th order* if and only if for any function  $f$  satisfying (3) there exist an  $n$ -th order polynomial function  $\gamma: G \rightarrow B$ , a function  $g \in \mathcal{F}$  and a function  $s: G \rightarrow B$  such that, for each  $h \in G$ ,  $\Delta_h^n s = 0$  almost everywhere and  $f = \gamma + g + s$ .

**Remark 1.** In the above definition we may require  $\gamma$  to be a monomial function of  $n$ -th order. Indeed, if  $\gamma$  has representation (5), we put

$$\gamma^* := \gamma_n, \quad s^* := s + \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 + \dots + \gamma_{n-1}.$$

Then  $f = \gamma^* + g + s^*$  and  $\Delta_h^n s^* = \Delta_h^n s = 0$  almost everywhere.

The main purpose of this paper is to prove weak difference properties of higher orders for the class of all  $L_p$ -functions and, as a simple consequence, for Orlicz spaces, generalizing well-known results of Carroll and Koehl [6] and Woyczyński [16].

**2. Preliminary remarks and results.** Let  $\mathbf{R}$  denote the set of all real numbers and let  $L_1^{loc}(\mathbf{R})$  be the class of all functions  $f: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  which are

<sup>(1)</sup> Unpublished results; private information.

Lebesgue integrable over each finite interval  $[a, b]$ . This class has no difference properties of any positive order. We shall show even something more.

It is well known (cf. [15]) that there exists a non-measurable function  $\varphi: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  taking only two values (0 and 1) and such that, for every  $h \in \mathbf{R}$ ,  $\Delta_h \varphi(x) = 0$  holds except for countably many values of  $x \in \mathbf{R}$ .

Given a positive integer  $n$  we choose an arbitrary polynomial  $P$  of degree  $n-1$  and put

$$f(x) := P(x) \cdot \varphi(x), \quad x \in \mathbf{R}.$$

The function  $f$  has the following properties:

- (i) for each  $h \in \mathbf{R}$ ,  $\Delta_h^n f = 0$  almost everywhere;
- (ii) for any integer  $k$  with  $0 \leq k \leq n-1$  and for any  $h \in \mathbf{R} \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $\Delta_h^k f$  is non-measurable;
- (iii)  $f$  is bounded on every bounded interval.

Property (iii) is obvious. To prove (ii) and (i) we shall show inductively that for any integer  $k$  with  $0 \leq k \leq n$  and each  $h \in \mathbf{R}$  we have

$$(6) \quad \Delta_h^k f(x) = \varphi(x) \cdot \Delta_h^k P(x) \quad \text{for almost all } x \in \mathbf{R}.$$

For  $k = 0$ , (6) is satisfied by the definition of  $f$ . Suppose (6) holds for some  $k$  ( $0 \leq k < n$ ). Then, using properties of  $\varphi$ , for almost all  $x \in \mathbf{R}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_h^{k+1} f(x) &= \Delta_h \Delta_h^k f(x) = \Delta_h(\varphi(x) \cdot \Delta_h^k P(x)) \\ &= \varphi(x+h) \cdot \Delta_h^k P(x+h) - \varphi(x) \cdot \Delta_h^k P(x) \\ &= \Delta_h \varphi(x) \cdot \Delta_h^k P(x+h) + \varphi(x) \cdot \Delta_h^{k+1} P(x) = \varphi(x) \cdot \Delta_h^{k+1} P(x). \end{aligned}$$

The induction completes the proof of (6).

Since  $\Delta_h^n P = 0$ , from (6) applied for  $k = n$  we derive that  $\Delta_h^n f = 0$  almost everywhere, which proves (i).

If  $k \leq n-1$  and  $h \in \mathbf{R} \setminus \{0\}$ , then  $\Delta_h^k P$  is a non-zero polynomial of degree  $n-1-k$ . By virtue of (6), adding the roots of the polynomial  $\Delta_h^k P$  to the exceptional set of values of  $x$ , we conclude that

$$\varphi(x) = \frac{\Delta_h^k f(x)}{\Delta_h^k P(x)}$$

holds for almost all  $x \in \mathbf{R}$ . If  $\Delta_h^k f$  were a measurable function, so would be  $\varphi$ , a contradiction. Consequently, (ii) is proved.

Evidently, for each  $h \in \mathbf{R}$  the function  $\Delta_h^n f$  is Lebesgue integrable over any interval, and putting  $\gamma := 0$ ,  $g := 0$ ,  $s := f$ , one may represent  $f$  in the form  $f = \gamma + g + s$  with a monomial function  $\gamma$ , an integrable function  $g$  and a function  $s$  having all  $n$ -th differences equal to zero almost everywhere. We shall show, however, that  $f$  does not admit any decomposition of the form

$$(7) \quad f = \gamma^* + g^* + s^*,$$

where  $\gamma^*$  is a polynomial function,  $g^*$  is a measurable function and for a certain integer  $k$  such that  $0 \leq k \leq n-1$  all  $k$ -th differences of  $s^*$  vanish almost everywhere. Suppose to the contrary that there exist functions  $\gamma^*$ ,  $g^*$ , and  $s^*$  having the above properties and that (7) holds true. Then, choosing an  $h \in \mathbf{R} \setminus \{0\}$ , we can write

$$\Delta_h^k \gamma^* = \Delta_h^k f - \Delta_h^k g^* - \Delta_h^k s^* = \Delta_h^k f - \Delta_h^k g^* \text{ almost everywhere.}$$

Since  $\Delta_h^k g^*$  is measurable, (ii) implies that  $\Delta_h^k \gamma^*$  is a non-measurable function. Moreover, (iii) together with the fact that  $\Delta_h^k g^*$  being measurable is bounded on a set of positive measure guarantees the boundedness of  $\Delta_h^k \gamma^*$  on a set of positive measure. On the other hand,  $\Delta_h^k \gamma^*$  as a polynomial function bounded on a set of positive measure must be continuous (see, e.g., [10], Theorem 6): a contradiction.

In particular, the above considerations disprove the difference property of  $n$ -th order for the class  $L_1^{\text{loc}}(\mathbf{R})$  as well as for the class of all Lebesgue measurable functions from  $\mathbf{R}$  into  $\mathbf{R}$ . However, from our further results the weak difference property of an arbitrary order for the class  $L_1^{\text{loc}}(\mathbf{R})$  follows easily.

Now, we give some results which will be useful in the sequel. The following lemma may be found in [1] (p. 72 and p. 102, Exercise 1):

**LEMMA 1.** *Let  $(G, +)$  be a compact Abelian group and let  $\mu$  be the normed Haar measure on  $G$ . Every continuous epimorphism  $T: G \rightarrow G$  of the group  $G$  preserves the measure  $\mu$ , i.e.  $\mu(T^{-1}(A)) = \mu(A)$  for any Borel set  $A \subset G$ .*

**COROLLARY 1.** *If  $(G, +)$  is a compact Abelian group in which the division by an integer  $k$  is (possibly not uniquely) performed, then the transformation  $T: G \rightarrow G$  determined by  $T(x) := k \cdot x$ ,  $x \in G$ , preserves the normed Haar measure on  $G$ .*

In what follows we always assume that  $G$  is compact. For a function  $f: G \rightarrow B$  the symbol  $[f]$  will stand for the class of all functions which coincide with  $f$  almost everywhere in the sense of the Haar measure. Throughout this paper,  $L_p(G, B)$  is regarded as a Banach space of all classes  $[f]$  determined by strongly measurable functions  $f: G \rightarrow B$  equipped with the norm

$$\|[f]\|_p := \begin{cases} (\int \|f(x)\|^p d\mu(x))^{1/p} < \infty & \text{if } 1 \leq p < \infty, \\ \text{ess sup } \|f\| & \text{if } p = \infty. \end{cases}$$

According to the notation used in [12] we precede the integral sign of a function  $f: G \rightarrow B$  (a function  $F: G \rightarrow L_p(G, B)$ ) with  $B$  (resp., with  $L_p$ ). Consequently,  $B \int f(x) d\mu(x)$  denotes an element of the space  $B$ , and  $L_p \int F(x) d\mu(x)$  is an element of the space  $L_p(G, B)$ .

Given an  $x \in G$  we denote by  $T_x$  the translation operator defined by

$$T_x f(y) := f(x+y), \quad y \in G, f \in B^G.$$

LEMMA 2. Let  $(G, +)$  be a compact Abelian group divisible (not necessarily uniquely) by an integer  $k \geq 1$ . If  $[f] \in L_p(G, B)$ , where  $1 \leq p < \infty$ , then

$$L_p \{ [T_{kx} f] d\mu(x) \} = [B \{ f(x) d\mu(x) \}].$$

Proof. Corollary 1 implies

$$L_p \{ [T_{kx} f] d\mu(x) \} = L_p \{ [T_x f] d\mu(x) \}.$$

To complete the proof it remains to use Koehl's Lemma 3.2 from [12].

### 3. Main results.

THEOREM 1. Let  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$  and let  $(G, +)$  be a compact Abelian group in which the division by 2, 3 up to  $n$  is (not necessarily uniquely) performed. Let  $f: G \rightarrow B$  be a function such that for each  $h \in G$  we have  $[\Delta_h^n f] \in L_p(G, B)$ . Then  $f = g + \gamma + s$ , where  $[g] \in L_p(G, B)$ ,  $\gamma: G \rightarrow B$  is a monomial function of  $n$ -th order, and  $s: G \rightarrow B$  is such that, for each  $h \in G$ ,  $[\Delta_h^n s] = 0$ .

Proof. We distinguish two cases.

Case 1.  $1 \leq p < \infty$ .

Define a function  $F: G \rightarrow L_p(G, B)$  by

$$F(h) := [\Delta_h^n f], \quad h \in G.$$

Since we deal with two types of difference operators, the first one defined on functions with values in the space  $B$  and the other on functions assuming values in the space  $L_p(G, B)$ , we distinguish the latter by the use of boldface letters. Moreover, we put

$$\Delta_h^n [f] := [\Delta_h^n f] \quad \text{and} \quad T_x [f] := [T_x f].$$

It is easy to check that the above operations are correctly defined. Now,

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_h^n F(x) &= \sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n}{j} F(x+jh) = \sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n}{j} [\Delta_{x+jh}^n f] \\ &= \left[ \sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n}{j} \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^{n-k} \binom{n}{k} T_{k(x+jh)} f \right] \\ &= \left[ \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^{n-k} \binom{n}{k} T_{kx} \left( \sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n}{j} T_{jkh} f \right) \right] \\ &= \left[ \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^{n-k} \binom{n}{k} T_{kx} \Delta_{kh}^n f \right] = \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^{n-k} \binom{n}{k} T_{kx} F(kh). \end{aligned}$$

For each integer  $k$  with  $0 \leq k \leq n$ , the transformation

$$G \ni x \rightarrow T_{kx} F(kh) \in L_p(G, B)$$

is continuous (cf. [14], 1.1.5 and the remark made at the beginning of the proof of Lemma 3.2 from [12]). Thus  $\Delta_h^n F$  is continuous for each fixed  $h \in G$ .

By Theorem 2 from [9] we have

$$(8) \quad F = H + \Gamma_1 + \dots + \Gamma_n,$$

where  $H: G \rightarrow L_p(G, B)$  is a continuous function, and  $\Gamma_k: G \rightarrow L_p(G, B)$  is a monomial function of  $k$ -th order for  $k = 1, \dots, n$ .

Using the notation

$$H_n := F, \quad H_k := F - \Gamma_{k+1} - \dots - \Gamma_n, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1,$$

we have

$$H_0 = H,$$

(9) for each  $h \in G$ ,  $\Delta_h^k H_k$  is a continuous function for  $k = 1, \dots, n$ ,

$$(10) \quad \Gamma_k(h) = \frac{1}{k!} L_p \int \Delta_h^k H_k(x) d\mu(x), \quad h \in G, \quad k = 1, \dots, n.$$

Indeed, from (8) we infer that

$$\Delta_h^n F = \Delta_h^n H + n! \Gamma_n(h)$$

and

$$\Delta_h^k F = \Delta_h^k H + k! \Gamma_k(h) + \Delta_h^k (\Gamma_{k+1} + \dots + \Gamma_n), \quad k = 1, \dots, n-1.$$

Consequently, we get

$$(11) \quad \Delta_h^k H_k = \Delta_h^k H + k! \Gamma_k(h), \quad h \in G, \quad k = 1, \dots, n.$$

Now, (9) follows immediately by the continuity of  $H$ . Moreover, since  $H$  being continuous is integrable on  $G$  and since  $\mu$  is a translation invariant measure, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & L_p \int \Delta_h^k H(x) d\mu(x) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^{k-j} \binom{k}{j} L_p \int H(x+jh) d\mu(x) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^{k-j} \binom{k}{j} L_p \int H(x) d\mu(x) = 0, \quad h \in G, \quad k = 1, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

This together with (11) yields

$$L_p \int \Delta_h^k H_k(x) d\mu(x) = L_p \int k! \Gamma_k(h) d\mu(x) = k! \Gamma_k(h),$$

$h \in G$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, n$ , which completes the proof of (10).

Put

$$\gamma(h) := \frac{1}{n!} B \int \Delta_h^n f(x) d\mu(x), \quad h \in G,$$

$$[g] := (-1)^n L_p \int H(x) d\mu(x).$$

Then  $[g] \in L_p(G, B)$  and it is easy to check that  $\gamma$  is a monomial function of  $n$ -th order. We put  $s := f - \gamma - g$ . Using the commutativity of the difference operators we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_h^n (\Delta_x^k F(y)) &= \Delta_h^n \left( \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^{k-j} \binom{k}{j} F(y+jx) \right) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^{k-j} \binom{k}{j} \Delta_h^n [\Delta_{y+jx}^n f] = \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^{k-j} \binom{k}{j} \Delta_{y+jx}^n [\Delta_h^n f] \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^{k-j} \binom{k}{j} \Delta_{y+jx}^n F(h), \quad h, x, y \in G, k = 1, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

Since, for any fixed  $x, h \in G$  and  $j = 0, 1, \dots, k$ , the mapping

$$G \ni y \rightarrow \Delta_{y+jx}^n F(h) = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^{n-i} \binom{n}{i} T_{iy+ijx} F(h) \in L_p(G, B)$$

is continuous, and therefore integrable over  $G$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (12) \quad &L_p \int \Delta_h^n (\Delta_x^k F(y)) d\mu(y) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^{k-j} \binom{k}{j} L_p \int \Delta_{y+jx}^n F(h) d\mu(y) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^{k-j} \binom{k}{j} L_p \int \Delta_y F(h) d\mu(y) = 0, \quad x, h \in G, k = 1, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

Now we are going to show inductively that

$$(13) \quad \Delta_h^n \Gamma_k(x) = 0 \quad \text{for } h, x \in G, k = 1, \dots, n.$$

For, let us first note that  $\Delta_h^n$  is a linear bounded operator in  $L_p(G, B)$ . This is readily seen from the formula

$$\Delta_h^n = \sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n}{j} T_{jh}$$

and from the fact that

$$\|T_{jh}[f]\|_p = \|[f]\|_p \quad \text{for any } [f] \in L_p(G, B),$$

which implies the boundedness of  $T_{jh}$ ,  $j = 0, 1, \dots, n$ . Therefore, if  $\Phi: G \rightarrow L_p(G, B)$  is an integrable function, then (cf., e.g., [8], Theorem III. 6.20)

$$\Delta_h^n L_p \int \Phi d\mu = L_p \int \Delta_h^n \circ \Phi d\mu.$$

Thus, by (12) and (10), we have

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_h^n \Gamma_n(x) &= \frac{1}{n!} \Delta_h^n L_p \int \Delta_x^n F(y) d\mu(y) \\ &= \frac{1}{n!} L_p \int \Delta_h^n (\Delta_x^n F(y)) d\mu(y) = 0, \quad x, h \in G,\end{aligned}$$

which proves (13) for  $k = n$ . Suppose that (13) holds true for each of  $k+1, \dots, n$  with some  $k \geq 1$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_h^n (\Delta_x^k (\Gamma_{k+1}(y) + \dots + \Gamma_n(y))) \\ &= \Delta_h^n \left( \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^{k-j} \binom{k}{j} (\Gamma_{k+1}(y+jx) + \dots + \Gamma_n(y+jx)) \right) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^{k-j} \binom{k}{j} (\Delta_h^n \Gamma_{k+1}(y+jx) + \dots + \Delta_h^n \Gamma_n(y+jx)) = 0,\end{aligned}$$

$$h, x, y \in G.$$

Hence, using again (12) and (10), we derive

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_h^n \Gamma_k(x) &= \Delta_h^n \left( \frac{1}{k!} L_p \int \Delta_x^k H_k(y) d\mu(y) \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{k!} \Delta_h^n (L_p \int \Delta_x^k (F(y) - \Gamma_{k+1}(y) - \dots - \Gamma_n(y)) d\mu(y)) \\ &= \frac{1}{k!} L_p \int (\Delta_h^n (\Delta_x^k F(y)) - \Delta_h^n (\Delta_x^k (\Gamma_{k+1}(y) + \dots + \Gamma_n(y)))) d\mu(y) \\ &= \frac{1}{k!} L_p \int \Delta_h^n (\Delta_x^k F(y)) d\mu(y) = 0, \quad h, x \in G.\end{aligned}$$

The induction ensures that (13) holds for every integer  $k$  with  $1 \leq k \leq n$ .

In the following calculations we apply (13) and Lemma 2:

$$\begin{aligned}[\Delta_h^n g] &= (-1)^n \Delta_h^n L_p \int H(x) d\mu(x) \\ &= (-1)^n L_p \int \Delta_h^n H(x) d\mu(x) \\ &= (-1)^n L_p \int (\Delta_h^n F(x) - \Delta_h^n \Gamma_1(x) - \dots - \Delta_h^n \Gamma_n(x)) d\mu(x) \\ &= (-1)^n L_p \int \Delta_h^n F(x) d\mu(x) = (-1)^n L_p \int \Delta_x^n F(h) d\mu(x) \\ &= (-1)^n L_p \int \left( \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^{n-k} \binom{n}{k} T_{kx} F(h) \right) d\mu(x) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k \binom{n}{k} L_p \int T_{kx} F(h) d\mu(x)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= F(h) + \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^k \binom{n}{k} [B \int \Delta_h^k f(x) d\mu(x)] \\
&= F(h) - [B \int \Delta_h^n f(x) d\mu(x)] = F(h) - [n! \gamma(h)], \quad h \in G.
\end{aligned}$$

Finally,

$$\begin{aligned}
[\Delta_h^n s] &= [\Delta_h^n f] - [\Delta_h^n \gamma] - [\Delta_h^n g] \\
&= F(h) - [n! \gamma(h)] - [\Delta_h^n g] = 0, \quad h \in G,
\end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof of our theorem in the case where  $1 \leq p < \infty$ .

Case 2.  $p = \infty$ .

Let us define the function  $F: G \rightarrow L_\infty(G, B)$  by the same formula as in Case 1. Fix an arbitrary  $p \in [1, \infty)$ . It has been shown previously that, for each  $h \in G$ ,  $\Delta_h^n F$  is continuous if it is regarded as a function from  $G$  into  $L_p(G, B)$ . Hence

$$F = H + \Gamma_1 + \dots + \Gamma_n,$$

where, with the aid of the notation

$$H_n := F, \quad H_k := F - \Gamma_{k+1} - \dots - \Gamma_n, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1,$$

we have

(14)  $H_0 = H: G \rightarrow L_p(G, B)$  is continuous;

(15) for any integer  $k$  ( $1 \leq k \leq n$ ) and for each  $h \in G$  the function  $\Delta_h^k H_k: G \rightarrow L_p(G, B)$  is continuous;

$$(16) \quad \Gamma_k(h) = \frac{1}{k!} L_p \int \Delta_h^k H_k(x) d\mu(x), \quad h \in G.$$

All these results are derived in the proof of Case 1.

It is clear that if a function

$$\Phi: G \rightarrow \bigcap_{1 \leq p < \infty} L_p(G, B)$$

is integrable over  $G$  as a function from  $G$  into the space  $L_p(G, B)$  for each fixed  $p \in [1, \infty)$ , then the integral  $L_p \int \Phi d\mu$  does not depend on  $p$  and it is an element of  $\bigcap_{1 \leq p < \infty} L_p(G, B)$ . Consequently, it is not difficult to show inductively that, actually, the functions  $\Gamma_k$  and  $H_k$  are defined independently of the choice of a  $p \in [1, \infty)$ ,

$$\Gamma_k: G \rightarrow \bigcap_{1 \leq p < \infty} L_p(G, B), \quad k = 1, \dots, n,$$

$$H_k: G \rightarrow \bigcap_{1 \leq p < \infty} L_p(G, B), \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n,$$

and for each fixed  $p \in [1, \infty)$  conditions (14)–(16) are satisfied.

Put

$$[g] := (-1)^n L_p \int H(x) d\mu(x), \quad 1 \leq p < \infty.$$

The last integral is also independent of  $p$  and we have

$$[g] \in \bigcap_{1 \leq p < \infty} L_p(G, B).$$

Bearing in mind what has been shown in the proof of Case 1, in order to complete our present proof, it remains to check that  $[g] \in L_\infty(G, B)$ . For this purpose let us define

$$\tilde{\Gamma}_k(h_1, \dots, h_k) := \frac{1}{k!} L_p \int \Delta_{h_1 \dots h_k} H_k(x) d\mu(x),$$

$$h_1, \dots, h_k \in G, \quad 1 \leq p < \infty, \quad k = 1, \dots, n,$$

and

$$\tilde{\Gamma}_0 := L_p \int H_0(x) d\mu(x).$$

Then

$$\tilde{\Gamma}_k: G^k \rightarrow \bigcap_{1 \leq p < \infty} L_p(G, B)$$

is a  $k$ -additive symmetric function such that  $\Gamma_k(h) = \tilde{\Gamma}_k(h, \dots, h)$  for all  $h \in G$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, n$ , and  $(-1)^n \tilde{\Gamma}_0 = [g]$ .

Now, we shall prove that for each  $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$ , the following estimations are valid:

$$(17) \quad \forall h_1, \dots, h_k \in G \exists M_k(h_1, \dots, h_k) > 0 \quad \forall x \in G \quad \forall 1 \leq p < \infty$$

$$\|\Delta_{h_1 \dots h_k} H_k(x)\|_p \leq M_k(h_1, \dots, h_k),$$

$$(18) \quad \forall h_1, \dots, h_k \in G \quad \forall 1 \leq p < \infty \quad \|\tilde{\Gamma}_k(h_1, \dots, h_k)\|_p \leq \frac{1}{k!} M_k(h_1, \dots, h_k),$$

where for  $k = 0$  condition (17) is understood as follows:

$$\exists M_0 > 0 \quad \forall x \in G \quad \forall 1 \leq p < \infty \quad \|H_0(x)\|_p \leq M_0,$$

and similarly for  $k = 0$  condition (18) means that

$$\forall 1 \leq p < \infty \quad \|\tilde{\Gamma}_0\|_p \leq M_0.$$

The proofs of (17) and (18) proceed simultaneously by induction on  $k$  passing backwards from  $n$  to zero. In the first step we are going to obtain (17) and (18) for  $k = n$ .

Fix arbitrarily elements  $h_1, \dots, h_n \in G$ . Applying Djoković's Theorem 2 from [7], by our assumptions we get the expansion

$$\Delta_{h_1 \dots h_n} H_n(x) = \sum_{i \in I} r_i \Delta_{u_i}^n H_n(x + v_i), \quad x \in G,$$

where  $I$  is a finite set of indices,  $r_i$ 's are rationals and  $u_i, v_i \in G$  are determined by  $h_1, \dots, h_n$  for  $i \in I$ . Putting

$$M_n(h_1, \dots, h_n) := \sum_{i \in I} |r_i| \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} \|F(ju_i)\|_\infty$$

and applying properties of the  $L_p$ -norm we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|\Delta_{h_1 \dots h_n} H_n(x)\|_p &= \left\| \sum_{i \in I} r_i \Delta_{u_i}^n H_n(x + v_i) \right\|_p \\ &\leq \sum_{i \in I} |r_i| \|\Delta_{u_i}^n F(x + v_i)\|_p \\ &= \sum_{i \in I} |r_i| \left\| \sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^{n-j} \binom{n}{j} T_{j(x+v_i)} F(ju_i) \right\|_p \\ &\leq \sum_{i \in I} |r_i| \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} \|T_{j(x+v_i)} F(ju_i)\|_p \\ &= \sum_{i \in I} |r_i| \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} \|F(ju_i)\|_p \leq M_n(h_1, \dots, h_n) \end{aligned}$$

for every  $x \in G$  and  $1 \leq p < \infty$ , which yields (17) with  $k = n$ . Now, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{T}_n(h_1, \dots, h_n)\|_p &= \frac{1}{n!} \left\| L_p \int \Delta_{h_1 \dots h_n} H_n(x) d\mu(x) \right\|_p \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n!} \int \|\Delta_{h_1 \dots h_n} H_n(x)\|_p d\mu(x) \leq \frac{1}{n!} M_n(h_1, \dots, h_n), \quad 1 \leq p < \infty, \end{aligned}$$

and so (18) holds for  $k = n$ .

To continue the induction procedure assume (17) and (18) are true for each integer from  $k+1$  to  $n$  with some  $k$  such that  $n > k \geq 0$ . Let us choose elements  $h_1, \dots, h_k \in G$  (if  $k = 0$ , we choose no elements, whereas the symbols  $\Delta_{h_1 \dots h_k} H_k(x)$  and  $\tilde{T}_k(h_1, \dots, h_k)$  take the form of  $H_0(x)$  and  $\tilde{T}_0$ , respectively). Putting

$$A_n := \bigcap_{1 \leq p < \infty} \{x \in G: \|\Delta_{h_1 \dots h_k} H_k(x)\|_p \leq n\}$$

and taking into account the fact that by (14) or (15) the function

$$\Delta_{h_1 \dots h_k} H_k: G \rightarrow L_p(G, B)$$

is continuous for every  $p \in [1, \infty)$ , we infer that  $A_n$  is a closed subset of  $G$  for each positive integer  $n$ .

Now, we show that

$$(19) \quad \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = G.$$

For, let us choose an arbitrary  $x \in G$ . Since  $H_k = F - \Gamma_{k+1} - \dots - \Gamma_n$ , for any  $y \in G$  one can find an integer  $n(y)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \|H_k(y)\|_p &\leq \|F(y)\|_p + \|\Gamma_{k+1}(y)\|_p + \dots + \|\Gamma_n(y)\|_p \\ &\leq \|F(y)\|_\infty + \frac{1}{(k+1)!} M_{k+1}(y, \dots, y) + \dots \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{n!} M_n(y, \dots, y) \leq n(y), \quad 1 \leq p < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, if  $k = 0$ , then  $\|H_0(x)\|_p \leq n(x)$ ,  $1 \leq p < \infty$ , whereas for  $k > 0$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\Delta_{h_1 \dots h_k} H_k(x)\|_p &= \left\| \sum_{\varepsilon_1 \dots \varepsilon_k = 0}^1 (-1)^{k - \varepsilon_1 - \dots - \varepsilon_k} H_k(x + \varepsilon_1 h_1 + \dots + \varepsilon_k h_k) \right\|_p \\ &\leq \sum_{\varepsilon_1 \dots \varepsilon_k = 0}^1 \|H_k(x + \varepsilon_1 h_1 + \dots + \varepsilon_k h_k)\|_p \\ &\leq \sum_{\varepsilon_1 \dots \varepsilon_k = 0}^1 n(x + \varepsilon_1 h_1 + \dots + \varepsilon_k h_k), \quad 1 \leq p < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, there exists an integer  $N(x)$  such that

$$x \in A_{N(x)} \subset \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n,$$

which implies (19).

By the Baire Category Theorem we can find an integer  $N$  such that  $A_N$  contains a non-void open subset  $V$  of  $G$ . Thus,  $G$  is covered by a finite family of sets  $V + l_1, \dots, V + l_r$  for some  $l_1, \dots, l_r \in G$ . We put

$$M_k(h_1, \dots, h_k) := \max_{1 \leq i \leq r} (2M_{k+1}(l_i, h_1, \dots, h_k) + N)$$

with the usual agreement that for  $k = 0$

$$M_0 := \max_{1 \leq i \leq r} (2M_1(l_i) + N).$$

Given an arbitrary  $x \in G$  we find an index  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq r$ ) such that  $x \in V + l_i$ . Thus,  $x = y + l_i$  for a certain  $y \in V$ . The observation that  $H_k = H_{k+1} - \Gamma_{k+1}$  leads us to the formula

$$\Delta_{l_i h_1 \dots h_k} H_k(y) = \Delta_{l_i h_1 \dots h_k} H_{k+1}(y) - (k+1)! \tilde{\Gamma}_{k+1}(l_i, h_1, \dots, h_k),$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} \|\Delta_{h_1 \dots h_k} H_k(x)\|_p &= \|\Delta_{h_1 \dots h_k} H_k(y + l_i)\|_p \\ &\leq \|\Delta_{l_i h_1 \dots h_k} H_k(y)\|_p + \|\Delta_{h_1 \dots h_k} H_k(y)\|_p \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \|\Delta_{l_i, h_1, \dots, h_k} H_{k+1}(y)\|_p + (k+1)! \|\tilde{T}_{k+1}(l_i, h_1, \dots, h_k)\|_p \\ &\quad + \|\Delta_{h_1, \dots, h_k} H_k(y)\|_p \\ &\leq 2M_{k+1}(l_i, h_1, \dots, h_k) + N \leq M_k(h_1, \dots, h_k), \quad 1 \leq p < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $x$  has been arbitrarily chosen, we conclude that

$$\|\Delta_{h_1, \dots, h_k} H_k(x)\|_p \leq M_k(h_1, \dots, h_k) \quad \text{for all } x \in G \text{ and } 1 \leq p < \infty.$$

Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{T}_k(h_1, \dots, h_k)\|_p &= \left\| \frac{1}{k!} L_p \int \Delta_{h_1, \dots, h_k} H_k(x) d\mu(x) \right\|_p \\ &\leq \frac{1}{k!} \int \|\Delta_{h_1, \dots, h_k} H_k(x)\|_p d\mu(x) \leq \frac{1}{k!} M_k(h_1, \dots, h_k), \quad 1 \leq p < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof of (17) and (18).

From (18) with  $k = 0$  it follows that

$$(20) \quad \|[g]\|_p = \|(-1)^n \tilde{T}_0\|_p \leq M_0 \quad \text{for every } p \in [1, \infty).$$

If  $[g]$  were not in  $L_\infty(G, B)$ , there would exist a Borel set  $E \subset G$  of positive measure such that  $\|g(x)\| \geq M_0 + 1$  for all  $x \in E$ . Consequently, we would have

$$\|[g]\|_p = \left( \int \|g(x)\|^p d\mu(x) \right)^{1/p} \geq (M_0 + 1)(\mu(E))^{1/p}.$$

The last expression tends to  $M_0 + 1$  as  $p \rightarrow \infty$ , contrary to (20). This completes our proof.

In terms of weak difference properties of higher orders the above theorem may be formulated as follows:

**COROLLARY 2.** *Under the assumptions of Theorem 1 on the group  $G$  the class  $L'_p(G, B)$  ( $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ ) consisting of functions whose equivalence classes remain in  $L_p(G, B)$  has the weak difference property of  $n$ -th order.*

In the particular case of the compact group  $K$  of reals mod 1 we have

**COROLLARY 3.** *The class  $L'_p(K, B)$  admits the weak difference property of an arbitrary order.*

**Remark. 2.** Let us consider a discrete cyclic group  $G$  of a finite order  $r$  with the uniformly distributed normed measure. The group  $G$  is not divisible by any integer  $k$  such that  $r$  and  $k$  have a non-trivial common divisor. Nevertheless, for any  $p$  ( $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ ), the class  $L'_p(G, \mathbb{R})$  has weak difference properties (and, in fact, difference properties) of any orders. This example shows that the divisibility assumptions on  $G$  in Theorem 1 and Corollary 2 are not necessary. We do not know yet whether our results remain true without any divisibility assumptions.

**4. Conclusions concerning Orlicz spaces.** In the sequel,  $L_\Phi(G, B)$  denotes the Orlicz space equipped with the Orlicz or Luxemburg norm generated by a Young function  $\Phi$  (for definitions see, e.g., [6] and [13]).

LEMMA 3. Let  $(G, +)$  be a compact Abelian group. If  $g: G \rightarrow B$  is such that

$$B \int g d\mu = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad [\Delta_h^n g] \in L_\Phi(G, B) \quad \text{for every } h \in G,$$

then  $[g] \in L_\Phi(G, B)$ .

The proof of Lemma 3 for  $n = 1$  is contained in the crucial part of the proof of Theorem 3.1 from [6]. For  $n > 1$  one can obtain Lemma 3 by a simple induction.

The analogue of Corollary 2 for Orlicz spaces reads as follows:

THEOREM 2. Under the assumptions of Theorem 1 on the group  $G$  the class  $L'_\Phi(G, B)$  consisting of functions whose equivalence classes belong to the Orlicz space  $L_\Phi(G, B)$  has the weak difference property of  $n$ -th order.

Proof. Choose a function  $f: G \rightarrow B$  such that, for each  $h \in G$ ,

$$\Delta_h^n f \in L'_\Phi(G, B) \subset L_1(G, B).$$

By Corollary 2 we have  $f = \gamma + g + s$ , where  $\gamma$  is a monomial function of  $n$ -th order,  $g \in L_1(G, B)$  and, for every  $h \in G$ ,  $\Delta_h^n s = 0$  almost everywhere. Without loss of generality we may assume that  $B \int g d\mu = 0$ . Since

$$[\Delta_h^n g] = [\Delta_h^n f] \in L_\Phi(G, B)$$

holds for each  $h \in G$ , Lemma 3 guarantees that  $[g] \in L_\Phi(G, B)$ , which was to be shown.

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