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# TRANSLATION-INVARIANT FUNCTION ALGEBRAS ON COMPACT GROUPS

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# TRANSLATION-INVARIANT FUNCTION ALGEBRAS ON COMPACT GROUPS

### Joseph A. Wolf

Let X be a compact group.  $\mathfrak{G}(X)$  denotes the Banach algebra (point multiplication, sup norm) of continuous complex-valued functions on X. A is any closed subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{G}(X)$  which is stable under right and left translations and contains the constants. It is shown, by means of the Peter-Weyl Theorem and some multilinear algebra, that the condition (\*) every representation of degree 1 of X has finite image is necessary and sufficient that every possible A be self-adjoint. If X is connected, then (\*) means that X is a projective limit of semisimple Lie groups; if X is a Lie group, then (\*) means that X is semisimple. The Stone-Weierstrass Theorem then gives a quick classification of all possible algebras A on an arbitrary connected semisimple Lie group X.

In an earlier paper we characterized the compact groups on which every closed translation-invariant<sup>(1)</sup> function space is self adjoint [1, Theorem 4.1]. An application of the Stone-Weierstrass Theorem [1, § 7] resulted in a classification of the closed translation-invariant function algebras on the connected Lie groups which satisfied the conditions of the characterization. Those Lie groups are the compact connected semisimple Lie groups with no simple component locally isomorphic to SU(n) (n > 2), to SO(4n + 2), nor to  $E_6$ .

In this paper we give a direct characterization of the compact groups on which every closed translation-invariant function algebra is self adjoint. For compact connected Lie groups, the characterization is that the group be semisimple. Many of these groups have closed translation-invariant function spaces which are not self adjoint. Finally we classify the closed translation-invariant function algebras on compact simple simply connected Lie groups, as an example of a general enumeration procedure.

2. Notation. Let X be a compact group. D denotes the set of all (equivalence classes of) irreducible finite dimensional representations of X. Let  $\beta \in D$ ; then  $W^{\beta}$  denotes the representation space, and  $\beta^*$  is the representation of X on the dual space of  $W^{\beta}$  induced by  $\beta$ .  $\beta^*$  is called the *contragredient* of  $\beta$ .  $E^{\beta} = W^{\beta} \otimes W^{\beta^*}$  is identified with the space of matrix functions (coefficients) of  $\beta$ . Let C(X) denote the

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<sup>(1)</sup> Stable under both right and left translations.

set of continuous complex-valued functions on X with sup norm and point multiplication. Then C(X) is a commutative Banach algebra. The Peter-Weyl Theorem says that every element of C(X) has a Fourier development along  $\{E^{\beta}\}_{\beta\in\mathcal{D}}$ , i.e.,

(\*) 
$$C(X) \sim \sum_{\beta \in D} E^{\beta}$$
.

The  $translation\ group\ T(X)$  of X is the group consisting of all transformations

$$(u, v): x \to uxv^{-1}$$
,  $u, v, x \in X$ ,

of X. A subset  $S \subset C(X)$  is called *translation-invariant* if  $T(X) \cdot S = S$ . The closed translation-invariant subspaces of C(X) are just the subspaces spanned by sets of the form  $\{E^{\beta}\}_{\beta \in F}$  with  $F \subset D$ .

If X is a compact connected Lie group endowed with a Riemannian metric invariant under both right and left translations, then X is a Riemannian symmetric space and T(X) is the largest connected group of isometries.

A subspace of C(X) is called self-adjoint if it is closed under complex conjugation of functional values.

Let  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  be representations of a group Y, with finite dimensional representation spaces V and W. Then  $V \otimes W$  denotes the tensor product. If  $\{v_i\}$  is a basis of V and  $\{w_j\}$  is a basis of W, then  $\{v_i \otimes w_j\}$  is a basis of  $V \otimes W$ . We have matrix functions defined by

$$egin{aligned} lpha(y)\!\cdot\! v_i &= \sum\limits_{u} lpha_{iu}(y)\!\cdot\! v_u \ eta(y)\!\cdot\! w_i &= \sum\limits_{t} eta_{jt}(y)\!\cdot\! w_t \;. \end{aligned}$$

Now let  $\alpha \otimes \beta$  be the representation of Y on  $V \otimes W$  given by

$$(\alpha \otimes \beta)(y) \cdot v \otimes w = \{\alpha(y) \cdot v\} \otimes \{\beta(y) \cdot w\}$$
.

 $lpha \otimes eta$  is given on the basis  $\{v_i \otimes w_j\}$  by

$$(lpha \otimes eta)(y) \cdot v_i \otimes w_j = \sum\limits_{u,t} lpha_{iu}(y) eta_{jt}(y) v_u \otimes w_t$$
 .

Let  $\alpha$  be a representation of a group Y on a finite dimensional space V. The symmetric group  $S_r$  on r letters acts on  $V \otimes \cdots \otimes V$  (r times) by permutation of the factors. The alternation  $A^r(V)$  consists of all elements  $p \in V \otimes \cdots \otimes V$  (r times) such that  $\sigma(p) = (\text{sign } \sigma)p$  for all  $\sigma \in S_r$ . If  $\{v_1, \cdots, v_n\}$  is a basis of V, then  $A^r(V)$  has a basis consisting of all  $v_{i_1} \wedge v_{i_2} \wedge \cdots \wedge v_{i_r}$  where  $1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_r \leq n$  and

$$v_{i_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge v_{i_r} = \sum_{\sigma \in S_r} (\mathrm{sign} \ \sigma) v_{i_{\sigma(1)}} \otimes \cdots \otimes v_{i_{\sigma(r)}}$$
 .

For example, if r=2 then  $v_1 \wedge v_2 = v_1 \otimes v_2 - v_2 \otimes v_1; v_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge v_n$  spans  $\Lambda^n(V)$ . The action of  $\alpha \otimes \cdots \otimes \alpha$  on  $V \otimes \cdots \otimes V$  commutes with the action of  $S_r$ . Thus  $\alpha \otimes \cdots \otimes \alpha$  (r times) preserves the subspace  $\Lambda^r(V)$  of  $V \otimes \cdots \otimes V$ . The representation on that subspace, the so-called rth alternation of  $\alpha$ , is denoted  $\Lambda^r(\alpha)$ . If  $\alpha(y) \cdot v_i = \sum_j \alpha_{ij}(y) \cdot v_j$ , then one checks that  $\Lambda^r(\alpha y) \cdot v_{(i)} = \sum_{(j)} A_{(i)(j)}(y) \cdot v_{(j)}$  where  $v_{(i)} = v_{i_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge v_{i_r}$  and

$$A_{\scriptscriptstyle (i)(j)} = egin{bmatrix} lpha_{i_1 j_1} \ lpha_{i_1 j_2} \cdots \ lpha_{i_1 j_r} \ lpha_{i_r j_1} \ lpha_{i_r j_2} \cdots \ lpha_{i_r j_r} \end{bmatrix}$$
 .

- 3. The characterization. Our main result is:
- 3.1. Theorem. Let X be a compact topological group. Then every closed translation-invariant subalgebra of C(X) is self adjoint, if and only if, every representation of degree 1 of X has finite image.
- 3.2. COROLLARY. Let X be a compact connected group. Then every closed translation-invariant subalgebra of C(X) is self adjoint, if and only if, X is an inverse limit of semisimple Lie groups.
- 3.3. COROLLARY. Let X be a compact connected Lie group. Then every closed translation-invariant subalgebra of C(X) is self adjoint, if and only if, X is semisimple.

The proof of Theorem 3.1 is based on two simple lemmas.

3.4. Lemma. Let  $\lambda$  be a finite dimensional representation of a group Y. Then  $\lambda^*$  is equivalent to the representation

$$y \longrightarrow (\det \cdot \lambda(y))^{-1} \cdot \Lambda^n(\lambda(y))$$

where n+1 is the degree of  $\lambda$ .

*Proof.* Let V be the representation space and choose a nonzero element  $e \in \Lambda^{n+1}(V)$ . If g is a linear transformation of V, then the determinant of g is given by  $\Lambda^{n+1}(g) \cdot e = (\det \cdot g)e$ . If  $w \in \Lambda^n(V)$ , we define a linear functional  $f_w$  on V by  $w \wedge v = f_w(v) \cdot e$ ;  $w \to f_w$  is an isomorphism of  $\Lambda^n(V)$  onto the dual space  $V^*$  of V. Let  $\nu$  be the representation  $y \to (\det \cdot \lambda(y))^{-1} \cdot \Lambda^n(\lambda y)$ . Then

$$egin{aligned} \{f_{
u(y)\cdot w}(\lambda(y)\cdot v)\}e &= 
u(y)w \ \wedge \ \lambda(y)v \ &= (\det{\cdot}\ \lambda(y))^{-1}{\cdot}\ arLambda^{n+1}(\lambda y)(w \ \wedge \ v) \ &= w \ \wedge \ v = f_w(v){\cdot}e \ . \end{aligned}$$

Thus the isomorphism  $w \to f_w$  induces an equivalence of  $\nu$  with  $\lambda^*$ .

3.5. Lemma. Let  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  be finite dimensional representations of a group Y. Then every matrix function of  $\Lambda^r(\lambda)$  is a linear combination of products of r matrix functions of  $\lambda$ , and every matrix function of  $\lambda \otimes \mu$  is a linear combination of products of matrix functions of  $\lambda$  with matrix functions of  $\mu$ .

*Proof.* Obvious from the definitions of  $A^r(\lambda)$  and  $\lambda \otimes \mu$ .

3.6. Proof of Theorem 3.1. Suppose first that X has a representation  $\pi$  of degree 1 with infinite image. Then  $\pi(X)$  is a circle group consisting of the unimodular complex numbers, and  $\pi^n \colon x \to \pi(x)^n$  is another representation of degree 1. Let A be the subalgebra of C(X) spanned by the  $E^{\pi^n}$ ,  $n \geq 0$ . Then A is a closed translation-invariant subalgebra of C(X);  $\pi \in A$  and  $\overline{\pi} \notin A$ , so A is not self adjoint.

Now suppose that every representation of degree 1 of X has finite image and let A be a closed translation-invariant subalgebra of C(X). Then A is spanned by subspaces  $E^{\beta} \subset C(X)$ , say for  $\beta$  running over a subset  $D_A \subset D$ , and we must prove that A contains the adjoint of  $E^{\beta}$  for every  $\beta \in D_A$ . In orthonormal dual bases of the representation spaces,  $\overline{\beta(x)} = {}^t\beta(x)^{-1}$  for every  $x \in X$ ; thus  $E^{\beta^*}$  is the adjoint of  $E^{\beta}$ . Now we need only prove that  $\beta \in D_A$  implies  $\beta^* \in D_A$ .

Let  $\alpha\in D_A$  and define  $\gamma(x)=\det{\cdot}\alpha(x)$ . Then  $\gamma=\varLambda_r(\alpha)$  where r is the degree of  $\alpha$ , so  $\gamma\in D_A$  by Lemma 3.5.  $\gamma(X)$  is finite by hypothesis; thus  $\gamma(X)$  is cyclic of some finite order n, consisting of the numbers  $e^{2\pi i k/n}$ . Now  $\bar{\gamma}=\gamma^{-1}=\gamma^*=\gamma^{n-1}\in A$ , so  $\gamma^{-1}\in D_A$ .  $\varLambda^{r-1}(\alpha)\in D_A$  and  $D_A$  is closed under  $\otimes$ , by Lemma 3.5; thus  $\gamma^{-1}\otimes \varLambda^{r-1}(\alpha)\in D_A$ . Lemma 3.4 says  $\alpha^*=\gamma^{-1}\otimes \varLambda^{r-1}(\alpha)$ ; thus  $\alpha^*\in D_A$ .

3.7. Proof of corollaries. If X is compact connected Lie group, then  $X = X' \cdot T$  where X' is the derived group, T is the identity component of the center of X, and  $T \cap X'$  is finite. T is a product of circle groups, X' is semisimple, and the following conditions are equivalent: (i) X is semisimple, (ii) X = X', and (iii)  $T = \{1\}$ .

Let X be semisimple and let  $\alpha$  be a representation of degree 1.  $\alpha(X)$  is commutative, so the kernel of  $\alpha$  contains X' = X. Thus  $\alpha(X)$  is finite.

Let X be not semisimple. Then  $S=T/T\cap X'$  is a torus of positive dimension, so there is a nontrivial representation  $\beta$  of S of degree 1. If  $\pi\colon X\to X/X'=S$  is the projection, then  $\alpha=\beta\cdot\pi$  is a representation of degree 1 of X and  $\alpha(X)=\beta(S)$  is infinite.

Corollary 3.3 is proved.

Let X be a compact connected group. If  $\pi$  is a finite dimensional representation, we have the Lie group  $\pi(X)$ ;  $\{\pi(X)\}$  is an inverse system of compact Lie groups with X as inverse limit, and  $\{\pi(X)\}$  is maximal for this property. A representation  $\alpha$  is of degree 1 with infinite image, if and only if  $\alpha(X)$  is a circle group. If each  $\pi(X)$  is semisimple, then none is a circle group. If some  $\pi(X)$ , say  $\alpha(X)$ , is a circle group, then  $\beta(X)$  is not semisimple for  $\beta > \alpha$ , so X cannot be an inverse limit of a subsystem of  $\{\pi(X)\}$  which consists of semisimple groups. Corollary 3.2 follows.

- 4. Enumeration of self adjoint function algebras. The enumeration of closed translation-invariant self adjoint function algebras on a compact group is based on the following combination of the Peter-Weyl Theorem and the Stone-Weierstrass Theorem.
- 4.1. Theorem. Let X be a compact topological group, let D be the set of equivalence classes of the irreducible representations of X, and, given  $\pi \in D$ , let  $E^{\pi}$  denote the space of matrix functions of  $\pi$ . Then there are one-to-one correspondences between
- (i) closed self adjoint translation-invariant subalgebras A of C(X) which contain the constants,
- (ii) subsets  $F \subset D$  with the properties (a)  $1_x \in F$ , (b) if  $\beta \in F$  then  $\beta^* \in F$  and (c) if  $\alpha, \beta \in F$  then F contains every irreducible summand of  $\alpha \otimes \beta$ , and
  - (iii) closed normal subgroups  $\Gamma \subset X$ .

The correspondences are given by

$$A \sim \sum_{eta \in F} E^{eta}$$
 and  $A = C(X/\Gamma)$ 

where  $C(X/\Gamma) \subset C(X)$  by defining  $f(x) = f(x\Gamma)$  for  $f \in C(X/\Gamma)$ .

4.2. COROLLARY. If X is a compact group for which every representation of degree 1 has finite image, then the closed translation-invariant subalgebras of C(X) which contain the constants, are just the algebras C(Y) where Y is a quotient group of X.

Corollary 4.2 is an immediate consequence of Theorems 3.1 and 4.1.

4.3. Proof of Theorem 4.1. Let  $F \subset D$  and define  $A_F$  to be the subspace of C(X) spanned by  $\{E^\beta\}_{\beta \in F}$ . Then  $A_F$  is a closed translation-invariant subspace of C(X). Condition (iia) says that  $A_F$  contains the constants, condition (iib) says that  $A_F$  is self adjoint, and condition (iic) says that  $A_F$  is an algebra. Thus  $A \sim \sum_{\beta \in F} E^\beta$  gives a one-to-one correspondence between the classes (i) and (ii).

Let  $F \subset D$  satisfy conditions (iia, b, c), and define  $\Gamma_F$  to be the intersection of the kernels of the elements of F. Then  $\Gamma_F$  is a closed normal subgroup of X. Let  $p\colon X \to X/\Gamma_F$  be the projection and define  $D_F$  to be the set of irreducible representations of  $X/\Gamma_F$ . Then  $D_F \subset D$  under  $\sigma \to \sigma \cdot p$ . Now  $A_F \subset C(X/\Gamma_F)$  under  $f(x_F) = f(x)$ , and  $A_F = C(X/\Gamma_F)$  by the Stone-Weierstrass Theorem. It follows that  $D_F = F$ . Thus  $\Gamma \leftrightarrow \{\beta \in D : \Gamma \subset \text{Kernel. } \beta\}$  is a one-to-one correspondence between the classes (iii) and (ii), and the composition of this with our other correspondence is given by  $\Gamma \leftrightarrow C(X/\Gamma)$ .

- 4.4. Application to compact simply connected Lie groups. Let X be a compact simply connected Lie group. Then  $X = X_1 \times \cdots \times X_r$  where the  $X_i$  are compact simply connected simple Lie groups. By Corollary 3.3 and Theorem 4.1, the closed translation-invariant subalgebras of C(X) containing the constants are enumerated by the enumeration of the closed normal subgroups  $\Gamma \subset X$ . X has center  $Z = Z_1 \times \cdots \times Z_r$  where  $Z_i$  is the center of  $X_i$ , and the closed normal subgroups of X are just the groups  $\Gamma = X' \cdot Z'$  where
  - (i) X' is a product of zero or more of the groups  $X_i$  and
  - (ii) Z' is a subgroup of Z.

Thus our enumeration problem is reduced to a knowledge of the centers of the groups  $X_i$ . This information is known; it is summarized in the following table for the convenience of the reader. Here  $Z_{(m)}$  denotes the cyclic group of order m and the groups listed are all the compact simple simply connected Lie groups.

For example, the number of closed translation-invariant subalgebras

group	description	center	
$SU(n) \ (n>1)$	special unitary group in $n$ complex variables	$Z_{(n)}$	
$\begin{array}{c c} \text{Spin} \ (n) \\ (2 < n \neq 4) \end{array}$	two sheeted covering group of the rotation group in $n$ real variables	$Z_{(2)} \; (n \;  ext{odd}), \ Z_{(2)}  imes Z_{(2)} \; (n=4k), \ Z_{(4)} \; (n=4k+2)$	
Sp(n)	unitary group in $n$ quaternion variables	$Z_{(2)}$	
$G_2$	automorphism group of the Cayley algebra	{1}	
F4	elliptic group of the Cayley projective plane	{1}	
$E_6$		$Z_{(3)}$	
$E_7$		$Z_{(2)}$	
$E_8$		{1}	

TABLE 1

of C(X) properly containing the constants is one (just C(X)) for  $X = G_2$ ,  $F_4$  or  $E_8$ ; it is two for  $X = \mathrm{Spin}\,(2k+1)$ , Sp(n),  $E_6$  or  $E_7$ ; it is three for  $X = \mathrm{Spin}\,(4k+2)$  and five for  $X = \mathrm{Spin}\,(4k)$ ; for X = SU(n) it is the number of divisors of n, counting both 1 and n.

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## **Pacific Journal of Mathematics**

Vol. 15, No. 3 November, 1965

David R. Arterburn and Robert James Whitley, <i>Projections in the space of bounded linear operators</i>	739				
Robert McCallum Blumenthal, Joram Lindenstrauss and Robert Ralph Phelps,	139				
Extreme operators into $C(K)$	747				
L. Carlitz, A note on multiple exponential sums	757				
Joseph A. Cima, A nonnormal Blaschke-quotient					
Paul Civin and Bertram Yood, <i>Lie and Jordan structures in Banach algebras</i>					
Luther Elic Claborn, Dedekind domains: Overrings and semi-prime	, , c				
elements	799				
Luther Elic Claborn, Note generalizing a result of Samuel's	805				
George Bernard Dantzig, E. Eisenberg and Richard Warren Cottle, <i>Symmetric dual nonlinear programs</i>	809				
Philip J. Davis, Simple quadratures in the complex plane					
Edward Richard Fadell, On a coincidence theorem of F. B. Fuller					
Delbert Ray Fulkerson and Oliver Gross, <i>Incidence matrices and interval</i>	020				
graphs	835				
Larry Charles Grove, <i>Tensor products over H*-algebras</i>					
Deborah Tepper Haimo, $L^2$ expansions in terms of generalized heat polynomials					
and of their Appell transforms					
I. Martin (Irving) Isaacs and Donald Steven Passman, <i>A characterization of</i>					
groups in terms of the degrees of their characters	877				
Donald Gordon James, Integral invariants for vectors over local fields	. 905				
Fred Krakowski, A remark on the lemma of Gauss	917				
Marvin David Marcus and H. Minc, A subdeterminant inequality	921				
Kevin Mor McCrimmon, Norms and noncommutative Jordan algebras	925				
Donald Earl Myers, Topologies for Laplace transform spaces	. 957				
Olav Njstad, On some classes of nearly open sets	. 961				
Milton Philip Olson, A characterization of conditional probability	971				
Barbara Osofsky, A counter-example to a lemma of Skornjakov	985				
Sidney Charles Port, Ratio limit theorems for Markov chains	989				
George A. Reid, A generalisation of W*-algebras	1019				
Robert Wells Ritchie, Classes of recursive functions based on Ackermann's					
function	1027				
Thomas Lawrence Sherman, <i>Properties of solutions of nth order linear</i>					
differential equations	1045				
Ernst Snapper, Inflation and deflation for all dimensions	1061				
Kondagunta Sundaresan, On the strict and uniform convexity of certain Banach					
spaces					
Frank J. Wagner, Maximal convex filters in a locally convex space	1087				
Joseph Albert Wolf, Translation-invariant function algebras on compact					
groups	. 1093				