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**THE STRUCTURE SPACE OF A COMMUTATIVE LOCALLY  
*m*-CONVEX ALGEBRA**

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# THE STRUCTURE SPACE OF A COMMUTATIVE LOCALLY $m$ -CONVEX ALGEBRA

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If  $A$  is a commutative Banach algebra with identity, then the sets  $\mathcal{M}$  (all maximal ideals),  $\mathcal{M}_c$  (all closed maximal ideals),  $\mathcal{M}_1$  (kernels of nonzero  $C$ -valued homomorphisms of  $A$ ), and  $\mathcal{M}_0$  (kernels of nonzero continuous  $C$ -valued homomorphisms of  $A$ ) coincide. If  $A$  is a commutative complete locally  $m$ -convex algebra, one has only  $\mathcal{M}_c = \mathcal{M}_0 \subset \mathcal{M}_1 \subset \mathcal{M}$ , and the containments can be proper. Our goal is to investigate  $\mathcal{M}$  and its relationship to  $\mathcal{M}_0$ ; specifically (1) to give a description of  $\mathcal{M}(A)$  in terms of  $A$  and  $\mathcal{M}_0(A)$  which is valid for at least the class of  $F$ -algebras, (2) to determine when  $\mathcal{M}(A)$  is one of the standard compactifications (Wallman, Stone-Ćech) of  $\mathcal{M}_0(A)$ .

For many locally  $m$ -convex algebras, especially algebras of functions, one can determine  $\mathcal{M}_0$ . However, descriptions of  $\mathcal{M}$  and its relationship to  $\mathcal{M}_0$  seem to be limited to special cases; for example, Hewitt's description of  $\mathcal{M}(C(X))$  [5] and Kakutani's description of  $\mathcal{M}$  for the algebra of analytic functions in the unit disc [6]. We show that a commutative complete locally  $m$ -convex algebra  $A$  generates a lattice  $\mathcal{L}$  on  $\mathcal{M}_0$ , and that if we impose a rather natural restriction on  $A$ , then  $\mathcal{M}$  is the space of ultrafilters of  $\mathcal{L}$ . We give necessary and sufficient conditions on  $A$  in order that (1)  $\mathcal{M}$  is the Wallman compactification of  $(\mathcal{M}_0, \text{hull-kernel})$ , (2)  $\mathcal{M}$  is the Wallman compactification of  $(\mathcal{M}_0, \text{Gelfand})$ . In the second case, we show that  $\mathcal{M} = \beta \mathcal{M}_0$  and obtain a correspondence between  $\mathcal{M}_1$  and the  $A$ -realcompactification of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ .

We then specialize to  $F$ -algebras and show (1)  $F$ -algebras always satisfy the condition imposed in the general situation, (2)  $\mathcal{M}$  is the Wallman compactification of  $(\mathcal{M}_0, \text{hull-kernel})$ , and (3)  $\mathcal{M} = \beta \mathcal{M}_0$ , whenever the algebra is regular.

1. The general case. A locally  $m$ -convex algebra (hereafter LMC algebra) is a locally convex Hausdorff topological algebra  $A$  whose topology is given by a family of pseudonorms (submultiplicative, convex, symmetric functionals). For the basic properties of these algebras the reader is referred to [1] or [9]. In this paper we shall restrict our attention to complete algebras with identity element 1. If  $\lambda$  is a complex number we shall write " $\lambda$ " for " $\lambda \cdot 1$ ".

The *structure space* of  $A$  is the set  $\mathcal{M}$  of all maximal ideals of

$A$ , endowed with the hull-kernel ( $hk-$ ) topology. This space is always compact and satisfies the  $T_1$  separation axiom. The *spectrum* of  $A$  is the set  $\mathcal{M}_0$  of all closed maximal ideals of  $A$ .

DEFINITION 1.1. If  $S \subseteq A$ ,  $F \subseteq \mathcal{M}_0$ ,  $G \subseteq \mathcal{M}$ ,  $x \in A$ , then

(i)  $H(S) = \{M \in \mathcal{M} : S \subseteq M\}$ .

(ii)  $h(S) = \{M \in \mathcal{M}_0 : S \subseteq M\}$ .

(iii)  $kF (= k(F)) = \bigcap \{M \in \mathcal{M}_0 : M \in F\} = \{x \in A : x \in M \text{ for each } M \in F\}$ .

(iv)  $K(G) = \bigcap \{M \in \mathcal{M} : M \in G\} = \{x \in A : x \in M \text{ for each } M \in G\}$ .

(v)  $H(x) = H(\{x\})$ ,  $h(x) = h(\{x\})$ .

The hull-kernel topology is defined in terms of the closure operator:

$$(1.1) \quad \text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}}(F) = HK(F),$$

or

$$(1.2) \quad \text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}}(F) = \bigcap \{H(x) : F \subseteq H(x)\}, \text{ for each } F \subseteq \mathcal{M}.$$

A simple computation yields

THEOREM 1.1. The closure operator on  $\mathcal{M}_0$  which defines the relative hull-kernel topology on  $\mathcal{M}_0$  is given by

$$(1.3) \quad \text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}_0}(F) = hk(F)$$

or

$$(1.4) \quad \text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}_0}(F) = \bigcap \{h(x) : F \subseteq h(x)\}, \text{ for each } F \subseteq \mathcal{M}_0.$$

The spectrum can also be endowed with a second natural topology. If  $M \in \mathcal{M}_0$ , then  $M$  is the kernel of a unique continuous homomorphism of  $A$  onto  $C$  [9, p. 11]. We identify  $M$  and the corresponding homomorphism, denoting the value of the homomorphism at an element  $x$  of  $A$  by  $M(x)$ , and endow  $\mathcal{M}_0$  with the relative weak  $-(w^*-)$  topology from  $A^*$ , the conjugate space of  $A$ . This topology is the weakest such that all of the functions  $\hat{x} : \mathcal{M}_0 \rightarrow C$  defined by  $\hat{x}(M) = M(x)$  for each  $x \in A$  are continuous. We state without proof the basic properties of the mapping  $x \rightarrow \hat{x}$  of  $A$  into  $C(\mathcal{M}_0)$  (cf [9, Props. 7.3, 8.1, and 9.2] and [4, Ex. 7M]).

THEOREM 1.2. The mapping  $x \rightarrow \hat{x}$  is a homomorphism of  $A$  onto a subalgebra  $\hat{A}$  of  $C(\mathcal{M}_0)$  which contains the constant functions and separates the points of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ . The kernel of this homomorphism is the radical  $\mathcal{R}(A)$  of  $A$ , and  $\mathcal{R}(A) = \bigcap \{M : M \in \mathcal{M}_0\} = \bigcap \{M : M \in \mathcal{M}\} = \{x \in A : (1 + ax) \text{ is regular (invertible) for each } x \in A\}$  is a closed ideal in  $A$ . Hence,  $\mathcal{M}_0$  is dense in  $\mathcal{M}$ .

DEFINITION 1.2. A commutative LMC algebra  $A$  with identity is called *regular* provided that for each  $w^*$ -closed subset  $F$  on  $\mathcal{M}_0$  and each point  $M \in \mathcal{M}_0 - F$  there exists an element  $x$  of  $A$  such that  $\hat{x}(M) = 1$  and  $\hat{x} = 0$  on  $F$  (equivalently,  $x \in kF - M$ ).

THEOREM 1.3. (Proposition II, p. 223 of Naimark [7]). *The hull-kernel topology on  $\mathcal{M}_0$  is weaker than the  $w^*$ -topology. They agree if, and only if,  $A$  is regular.*

DEFINITION 1.3. A commutative LMC algebra  $A$  with identity is called  *$w^*$ -normal* (respectively,  *$hk$ -normal*) provided that for each pair  $F_1, F_2$  of disjoint,  $w^*$ -closed (respectively,  *$hk$ -closed*) subsets of  $\mathcal{M}_0$  there exists  $x \in A$  such  $\hat{x} = 0$  on  $F_1$  and  $\hat{x} = 1$  on  $F_2$ .

We note that if  $A$  is  $w^*$ -normal, then  $A$  is regular, the two topologies on  $\mathcal{M}_0$  agree and  $\mathcal{M}_0$  is a normal space. If  $A$  is  $hk$ -normal, we cannot conclude that  $\mathcal{M}_0$  with the  $hk$ -topology is normal; since, in general, the elements of  $\hat{A}$  are not  $hk$ -continuous.

If  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subseteq A$ , we write  $h(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  instead of  $h(\{x_1, \dots, x_n\})$ , and denote the ideal in  $A$  generated by this family by  $(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ . We note that  $h(x_1, \dots, x_n) = h((x_1, \dots, x_n))$  and that  $h(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \bigcap \{h(x_i) : i = 1, \dots, n\}$  and  $H(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \bigcap \{H(x_i) : i = 1, \dots, n\}$ .

THEOREM 1.4. *The first three statements about the finite family  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subseteq A$  are equivalent. Each of these implies the fourth.*

- (i)  $h(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \phi$  implies  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) = A$ .
- (ii)  $h(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \phi$  implies  $H(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \phi$ .
- (iii)  $H(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}} h(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ .
- (iv)  $\text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}} h(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \bigcap \{\text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}} h(x_i) : i = 1, \dots, n\}$ .

*Proof.* (i) if, and only if, (ii):  $H(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \phi$  if, and only if,  $(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is not contained in any maximal ideal if, and only if,  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) = A$ .

(i) implies (iii):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}} h(x_1, \dots, x_n) &= Hk(h(x_1, \dots, x_n)) = HK(h(x_1, \dots, x_n)) \\ &\subseteq HK(H(x_1, \dots, x_n)) = H(x_1, \dots, x_n). \end{aligned}$$

Suppose  $M \notin Hk(h(x_1, \dots, x_n))$ . Then  $kh(x_1, \dots, x_n) + M = A$  and there exist  $z \in kh(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ ,  $w \in M$  such that  $z + w = 1$ . Then  $h(z, w) = \phi$  and  $h(x_1, \dots, x_n, w) = \phi$  (since  $h(x_1, \dots, x_n) \subseteq h(z)$ ). By (i) we have  $(x_1, \dots, x_n, w) = A$  and  $(w \in M)$  at least one  $x_i \notin M$ . Thus,

$$M \notin H(x_1, \dots, x_n).$$

(iii) implies (ii): obvious.

(iii) implies (iv): clear, since  $H(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \bigcap_{i=1}^n H(x_i)$ .

We consider throughout the remainder of this section only algebras which satisfy condition  $(hH)$  ((ii) of Theorem 1.4). We note the following formulation of  $(hH)$ . If  $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\} \subseteq A$  we consider the equation  $\sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i = 1$  and ask for condition on  $A$  which insure solvability in  $A$ .  $(hH)$  is the assumption that the vacuousness of  $h(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  is sufficient. Arens [2] gave sufficient conditions in terms of the solvability of certain related equations in Banach algebras. We shall show below that in  $F$ -algebras the vacuousness of  $h(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  is sufficient for the solvability of the equation in  $A$ .

**THEOREM 1.5.** *Suppose  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are disjoint subsets of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ . The following statements are equivalent.*

- (i)  $\text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}} F_1 \cap \text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}} F_2 = \phi$ .
- (ii) *There exists  $x \in A$  such that  $\hat{x} = 0$  on  $F_1$ ,  $\hat{x} = 1$  on  $F_2$ .*
- (iii)  $kF_1 + kF_2 = A$ .

*Proof.* (i) if, and only if, (iii):  $\text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}} F_i = HkF_i, i = 1, 2$ , and  $HkF_1 \cap HkF_2 = H(kF_1 + kF_2)$ . The equivalence follows ( $kF$  is always a closed ideal in  $A$  for  $F \subseteq \mathcal{M}_0$ ).

(ii) if, and only if, (iii): If (iii)  $kF_1 + kF_2 = A$  we choose  $x \in kF_1$ ,  $y \in kF_2$  such that  $x + y = 1$ . Then  $\hat{x} = 0$  on  $F_1$  and  $\hat{x} = 1$  on  $F_2$ . The converse is immediate.

**COROLLARY 1.5.** *Disjoint  $w^*$ -closed (respectively,  $hk$ -closed) subsets of  $\mathcal{M}_0$  have disjoint closures in  $\mathcal{M}$  if, and only if,  $A$  is  $w^*$ -normal (respectively,  $hk$ -normal).*

We now give our description of  $\mathcal{M}$ , assuming  $A$  satisfies  $(hH)$ . The result is stated in terms of a lattice compactification of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ . The basic facts about these compactifications may be found in [12] and [13], and in the form used here in [3].

**DEFINITION 1.4.** A lattice  $\mathcal{L}$  (with respect to  $\cup$  and  $\cap$ ) of subsets of  $\mathcal{M}_0$  is called an  $\alpha$ -lattice provided that for each  $B \in \mathcal{L}$  and  $M \in \mathcal{M}_0 - B$  there exists  $D \in \mathcal{L}$  such that  $M \in D, B \cap D = \phi$ .  $\mathcal{L}$  is called a  $\beta$ -lattice provided that for each pair  $M_1, M_2$  of distinct points of  $\mathcal{M}_0$  there exists  $B \in \mathcal{L}$  such that  $M_1 \in B, M_2 \in \mathcal{M}_0 - B$ .  $\mathcal{L}$  is said to be *normal* provided that for each pair  $B, D$  of disjoint members of  $\mathcal{L}$  there exists a pair  $B_1, D_1$  of elements of  $\mathcal{L}$  such that  $B \subseteq B_1, D \subseteq D_1, B \cap D_1 = \phi = B_1 \cap D$ , and  $B_1 \cup D_1$  belongs to every ultrafilter in  $\mathcal{L}$  (in the presence of  $(\alpha)$ , this is equivalent to the statement that  $B_1 \cup D_1 = \mathcal{M}_0$ ).

$w\mathcal{L} (= w(\mathcal{M}_0, \mathcal{L}))$  is the set of all ultrafilters in  $\mathcal{L}$ . For each

$E \in \mathcal{L}$  we define  $C(E) = \{\mathcal{U} \in w\mathcal{L} : E \in \mathcal{U}\}$  and define a topology on  $w\mathcal{L}$  by taking the family  $\{C(E) : E \in \mathcal{L}\}$  as a base for the closed sets ( $E \rightarrow C(E)$  is a lattice homomorphism of  $\mathcal{L}$  into the power set of  $w\mathcal{L}$ ). The space  $w\mathcal{L}$  is always compact and satisfies the  $T_1$  separation axiom. The assumption that  $\mathcal{L}$  is an  $\alpha$ -lattice is equivalent to assuming that for each  $M \in \mathcal{M}_0$  the family  $\mathcal{U}_M = \{E \in \mathcal{L} : M \in E\}$  is an ultrafilter in  $\mathcal{L}$ . If  $\mathcal{L}$  is an  $\alpha$ -lattice then the function  $\varphi: \mathcal{M}_0 \rightarrow w\mathcal{L}$  defined by  $\varphi(M) = \mathcal{L}_M$  maps  $\mathcal{M}_0$  onto a dense subspace of  $w\mathcal{L}$ . If  $\mathcal{L}$  is an  $\alpha$ -lattice, then  $(\beta)$  is equivalent to the statement that  $\varphi$  is one-to-one. Normality of  $\mathcal{L}$  is equivalent to the statement that  $w\mathcal{L}$  is Hausdorff. If we fix a topology  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $\mathcal{M}_0$  then  $\varphi$  is continuous (assuming  $(\alpha)$ ) if, and only if, each element of  $\mathcal{L}$  is  $\mathcal{T}$ -closed, and  $\varphi$  is a homeomorphism if, and only if, such element of  $\mathcal{L}$  is  $\mathcal{T}$ -closed,  $\mathcal{L}$  is a  $\beta$ -lattice, and  $\mathcal{L}$  forms a base for the  $\mathcal{T}$ -closed subsets of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ . (For proofs, see Theorems 2.5 and 2.7 of [3]). Finally, if  $E \in \mathcal{L}$ , then  $(\varphi E)^-$  (the closure in  $w\mathcal{L}$  will be denoted by “-”)  $= C(E)$ , and for any subset  $F$  of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ ,  $(\varphi F)^- = \bigcap \{C(A) : F \subseteq A\}$  (Theorem 2.6 of [3]).

**LEMMA 1.6.** *The family  $\mathcal{L} = \{h(x_1, \dots, x_n) : \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subseteq A\}$  is an  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ -lattice of  $hk$ -closed subsets of  $\mathcal{M}_0$  which forms a base for the  $hk$ -closed sets. Thus, the mapping  $\varphi(M \rightarrow \mathcal{U}_M)$  is a homeomorphism of  $(\mathcal{M}_0, hk)$  onto a dense subspace of  $w\mathcal{L}$ .*

*Proof.* The family  $\mathcal{L}$  is closed under finite intersections, since  $h(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \bigcap_{i=1}^n h(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  for each finite family  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  in  $A$ . Moreover,  $h(x_1, \dots, x_n) \cup h(y_1, \dots, y_n) = \bigcap \{h(x_i y_i) : i = 1, \dots, n; j = 1, \dots, m\}$ , the latter being an element of  $\mathcal{L}$ . Thus,  $\mathcal{L}$  is a lattice on  $\mathcal{M}_0$  consisting of  $hk$ -closed sets which forms a base for the  $hk$ -closed sets of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ .

If  $M \in \mathcal{M}_0 - h(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ , then  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) + M = A$  and there exists  $z \in M$  such that  $\hat{z} = 1$  on  $h(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ . But this implies  $M \in h(z)$  and  $h(z) \cap h(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \phi$ . Thus,  $\mathcal{L}$  is an  $\alpha$ -lattice. That  $\mathcal{L}$  is an  $\beta$ -lattice is immediate.

We note that in general  $\mathcal{L}$  is not a normal lattice. For example, if  $A$  is the algebra of all functions on the open unit disc  $D$  to the complex plane which are analytic on  $D$ , then  $\mathcal{M}_0$  and  $D$  are in a natural one-to-one correspondence. In this case,  $\mathcal{L}$  is the lattice of all discrete subsets of  $D$  plus the set  $D$  itself. It is clear that  $\mathcal{L}$  is not normal.

**THEOREM 1.6.**  *$\mathcal{M}$  is  $w\mathcal{L}$  (i.e., there exists a homeomorphism  $\sigma$  of  $\mathcal{M}$  onto  $w\mathcal{L}$  such that  $\sigma(M) = \varphi(M)$  for each  $M \in \mathcal{M}_0$ ).*

*Proof.* For each  $M \in \mathcal{M}$  we let  $\sigma(M)$  be the subfamily of  $\mathcal{L}$  consisting of all  $E \in \mathcal{L}$  such that  $M \in \text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}} E$ . It is clear that  $\sigma(M)$  is a filter in  $\mathcal{L}$ . We use the criterion "A filter  $\mathcal{F}$  in  $\mathcal{L}$  is an ultrafilter if, and only if, for each  $E \in \mathcal{L} - \mathcal{F}$  there exists  $F \in \mathcal{F}$  such that  $E \cap F = \phi$ " ([12, p. 105]) to establish that  $\sigma(M)$  is an ultrafilter. If  $E \in \mathcal{L} - \sigma(M)$ , then  $E = h(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  for some family  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  in  $A$  and  $M \notin \text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}} h(x_1, \dots, x_n) = H(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ . We have  $\{M\} = \bigcap \{H(y_1, \dots, y_n) : M \in H(y_1, \dots, y_n)\}$  and this family is a descending family of compact sets of  $\mathcal{M}$  whose intersection is contained in the open set  $\mathcal{M} - H(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ . Thus, there exists a family  $\{y_1, \dots, y_m\}$  in  $A$  such that  $M \in H(y_1, \dots, y_m) \subseteq \mathcal{M} - H(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ . But then  $h(y_1, \dots, y_m) \in \sigma(M)$  and is disjoint from  $h(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ .

If  $\mathcal{U}$  is an ultrafilter in  $\mathcal{L}$ , we let  $\mathcal{U}^* = \{\text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}} E : E \in \mathcal{U}\}$ . Then,  $\mathcal{U}^*$  is a descending family of compact subsets of  $\mathcal{M}$  and has a nonempty intersection. It is easily verified that there is a unique element  $M$  of  $\bigcap \mathcal{U}^*$  and that  $\sigma(M) = \mathcal{U}$ . It follows that the mapping  $\sigma$  is one-to-one, onto, and that for each  $M \in \mathcal{M}_0$   $\sigma(M) = \mathcal{U}_M = \varphi(M)$ . The equality  $\sigma[H(x_1, \dots, x_n)] = C[h(x_1, \dots, x_n)]$  for each finite family  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  in  $A$  yields the fact that  $\sigma$  is a homeomorphism.

We state without proof the following theorem on lattice compactifications (cf. [3, Th. 3.1]).

**THEOREM 1.7.** *If  $\mathcal{L}'$  is a second  $\alpha$ -lattice on  $\mathcal{M}_0$ ,  $\mathcal{L} \subseteq \mathcal{L}'$ , and  $\psi$  is the mapping of  $\mathcal{M}_0$  into  $w\mathcal{L}'$ , then the following statements are equivalent.*

- (i) *If  $F_1, F_2 \in \mathcal{L}'$ , then  $F_1 \cap F_2 = \phi$  if, and only if,  $(\varphi F_1)^- \cap (\varphi F_2)^- = \phi$ .*
- (ii) *If  $F_1, F_2 \in \mathcal{L}'$ , then  $\varphi(F_1 \cap F_2)^- = (\varphi F_1)^- \cap (\varphi F_2)^-$ .*
- (iii)  *$w\mathcal{L}' = w\mathcal{L}$  (i.e., there exists a homeomorphism  $\tau$  of  $w\mathcal{L}'$  onto  $w\mathcal{L}$  such that  $\tau\varphi(M) = \psi(M)$  for each  $M \in \mathcal{M}_0$ ).*

We apply this theorem to our situation. We identify  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $w\mathcal{L}$  here and let  $\mathcal{C}(hk)$  and  $\mathcal{C}(w^*)$  denote the lattices of all  $hk$ -closed subsets of  $\mathcal{M}_0$  and all  $w^*$ -closed subsets of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ , respectively.  $W(\mathcal{M}_0, \mathcal{T})$  denotes the Wallman compactification of the topological space  $(\mathcal{M}_0, \mathcal{T})$ .

**COROLLARY 1.7.**  *$\mathcal{M} = W(\mathcal{M}_0, hk)$  if, and only if,  $A$  is  $hk$ -normal. If  $A$  is regular, then  $(\mathcal{M}_0, w^*)$  is embedded homeomorphically in  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{M} = W(\mathcal{M}_0, w^*)$  if, and only if,  $A$  is normal. In this case,  $\mathcal{M}$  is Hausdorff and  $\mathcal{M} = \beta\mathcal{M}_0$ .*

*Proof.* The first statement is clear in view of Theorem 1.7 and Corollary 1.5, where we let  $\mathcal{L}' = \mathcal{C}(hk)$ . The second statement

follows from the same two theorems, where  $\mathcal{L}' = \mathcal{C}(w^*)$ . Finally, if  $A$  is normal, then  $\mathcal{M}_0$  is a normal space and  $W(\mathcal{M}_0)$  (we suppress  $\mathcal{T}$  since the topologies agree) is Hausdorff [13, p. 119], hence  $\mathcal{M} = W(\mathcal{M}_0) = \beta\mathcal{M}_0$  (cf. [7, Exercises 5P and 5R] or [3, Th. 3.2]).

**EXAMPLE 1.1.** We give an example to show first that in general a commutative LMC algebra can be completely regular, but not normal (the concepts are equivalent for  $F$ -algebras, see § 2), and secondly that  $\mathcal{M}$  may be  $\beta\mathcal{M}_0$  while  $A$  is not normal. We let  $\Omega$  be the first uncountable ordinal and  $w$  the first ordinal with countably many predecessors,  $\Omega'$  is the set of all ordinals up to and including  $\Omega$ ,  $w'$  the set of all ordinals up to and including  $w$ ,  $T' = \Omega'xw'$  with the product topology (each of  $\Omega', w'$  being endowed with the order topology), and  $T = T' - \{(\Omega, w)\}$ .  $T$  is a locally compact Hausdorff space which is not normal and  $\beta T = T'$  (cf. [4, pp. 123–124]). We let  $A = C(T)$  with the compact-open topology. Then  $(\mathcal{M}_0, w^*) = T$ ,  $w^* = hk$  on  $T$  and  $\mathcal{M} = \beta T = T'$ . But  $A$  is not normal.

We next consider for a normal algebra  $A$  satisfying the condition  $(hH)$  the problem of identifying the subspace of  $\mathcal{M}$  which consists of the maximal ideals of  $A$  which are kernels of (possibly discontinuous) homomorphisms of  $A$  onto  $C$ . We denote this subspace by  $\mathcal{M}_1$ .

Since  $A$  is normal,  $\mathcal{M} = \beta\mathcal{M}_0$  and for each  $x \in A$  the function  $\hat{x}$  on  $\mathcal{M}_0$  is a continuous mapping of  $\mathcal{M}_0$  into the one-point compactification  $C^* = C \cup \{\infty\}$  of  $C$ . Thus  $\hat{x}$  has an extension  $x^*$ , a  $C^*$ -valued continuous function on  $w\mathcal{L}(=\beta\mathcal{M}_0)$ . Discussions of this extension and of the realcompactification of a space are found in Chapters 7 and 8 of [4]. The realcompactification of  $\mathcal{M}_0, v\mathcal{M}_0$ , is the subspace of  $\beta\mathcal{M}_0$  consisting of all  $\mathcal{V} \in \beta\mathcal{M}_0$  such that for each  $z \in C(\mathcal{M}_0)$   $\mathcal{V} \in z^{*-1}(C)$ , i.e.  $z^*$  does not take on the value  $\infty$  at  $\mathcal{V}$ , where  $z^*$  is the extension of the mapping  $z: \mathcal{M}_0 \rightarrow C^*$  to  $\beta\mathcal{M}_0$ .

**DEFINITION 1.5.**  $v_A\mathcal{M}_0$  (the  $A$ -realcompactification of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ ) =  $\{\mathcal{U} \in w\mathcal{L}: x^*(\mathcal{U}) \in C \text{ for each } x \in A\}$ .

**THEOREM 1.8.** If  $\mathcal{U} \in v_A\mathcal{M}_0$  and  $\mathcal{U} = \sigma(M)$ , then  $M = \{x \in A: x^*(\mathcal{U}) = 0\}$ .

*Proof.* If  $M \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $\sigma(M) = \mathcal{U} \in v_A\mathcal{M}_0$ , then the set  $I = \{x \in A: x^*(\mathcal{U}) = 0\}$  is an ideal in  $A$ . Moreover, if  $x \in M$ , then  $\mathcal{U} \in C[h(x)] = h(x)^-$  and since  $x^*$  is continuous on  $w\mathcal{L}$  and agrees with  $\hat{x}$  on  $\mathcal{M}_0$ ,  $\hat{x}^*(\mathcal{U}) = 0$ . Therefore,  $M \subseteq I$  and  $I \neq A(1 \notin I)$ . Hence,  $M = I$ .

**THEOREM 1.9.** The restriction of the mapping  $\sigma: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow w\mathcal{L}$  to



$\mathcal{M}_1$ , is a homeomorphism of  $\mathcal{M}_1$  onto  $\nu_A \mathcal{M}_0$ .

*Proof.* If  $\mathcal{U} \in \nu_A \mathcal{M}_0$  and  $\mathcal{U} = \sigma(M)$ , then the mapping  $x \rightarrow x^*(\mathcal{U})$  is a homomorphism of  $A$  onto  $C$  with kernel  $M$  and  $M \in \mathcal{M}_1$ .

If  $M \in \mathcal{M}_1$  and  $\mathcal{U} = \sigma(M)$ , then for each  $x \in A$  there exists  $\lambda \in C$  ( $\lambda = M(x)$ ) such that  $x - \lambda \in M$ . We fix  $x \in A$  and the corresponding (unique)  $\lambda \in C$ . If  $x - \lambda \in M$ , then  $M \in H(x - \lambda)$  and  $\mathcal{U} \in C[h(x - \lambda)]$ . This implies  $(x - \lambda)*(\mathcal{U}) = 0$ . Since  $\lambda*(\mathcal{U}) = \lambda \in C$ , we have  $x*(\mathcal{U}) = [(x - \lambda) + \lambda]*(\mathcal{U}) = (x - \lambda)*(\mathcal{U}) + \lambda*(\mathcal{U}) = \lambda \in C$  and  $\mathcal{U} \in \nu_A \mathcal{M}_0$ .

We wish to acknowledge here our indebtedness to Donald L. Plank of the Case Western Reserve University who communicated to the author theorems analogous to 1.8 and 1.9 for a real algebra  $A$  of functions on a completely regular space  $X$  satisfying:  $BC(X) \subseteq A \subseteq C(X)$ , where  $BC(X)$  is the algebra of all bounded real-valued functions on  $X$  to  $\mathbf{R}$ .

**2. A special case.** We consider in this section the special case:  $A$  is a commutative  $F$ -algebra with identity 1 — a complete LMC algebra whose topology is given by a countably family of pseudonorms. In this case we can assume that the family  $\{p_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$  satisfies:  $p_n(x) \leq p_{n+1}(x)$  for each  $n \geq 0$  and each  $x \in A$ . The fact the  $F$ -algebras are inverse limits of Banach algebras is important for our purposes. We let  $N_k = \{x \in A: p_k(x) = 0\}$ ,  $\Pi_k$  the natural map of  $A$  onto  $A/N_k$  and  $A_k$  the completion of  $A/N_k$  with respect to the norm defined by  $\|\Pi_k x\| = p_k(x)$ . Each  $A_n$  is a commutative Banach algebra with identity. For each  $n \geq 0$  there is a norm-decreasing homomorphism  $\Pi_n^{n+1}$  of  $A_{n+1}$  onto a dense subalgebra of  $A_n$  which is defined on  $A/N_{n+1}$  by  $\Pi_n^{n+1}(\Pi_{n+1}x) = \Pi_n x$  and extended to  $A_{n+1}$ . For  $n \leq m$ ,  $\Pi_n^m: A_m \rightarrow A_n$  is defined by the obvious composition. The resulting family of algebras and homomorphisms is an inverse limit system and  $A$  is isomorphic and pseudo-isometric to the inverse limit of this system. An important consequence of this is the following fact. If  $\{\xi_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$  is a sequence where  $\xi_n \in A_n$  and  $\Pi_n^m \xi_m = \xi_n$  whenever  $n \leq m$ , then there exists  $x \in A$  such that  $\Pi_n x = \xi_n$  for each  $n \geq 0$ . For details of this construction and the basic facts about such systems, the reader is referred to [9].

We state without proof two theorems, the first is just Theorem 4.2 of [2] in our terminology, the second is immediate.

**THEOREM 2.1.** Suppose  $\{a_1, \dots, a_m\}$  is a family of elements of  $A$  such that  $(\Pi_n a_1, \dots, \Pi_n a_m) = A_n$  for each  $n \geq 0$ . Then  $(a_1, \dots, a_m) = A$ .

**THEOREM 2.2.** If  $\{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_m\}$  is a finite family in  $A_n$  and  $\hat{\xi}_1, \dots, \hat{\xi}_m$  have no common zeros on  $\mathcal{N}(A_n)$  (the structure space of  $A_n$ ), then  $(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_m) = A_n$ .

The spectrum  $\mathcal{M}_0$  of  $A$  has the following structure.  $\mathcal{M}_0 = \bigcup \{\mathcal{M}^k: k = 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ , where each  $\mathcal{M}^k$  is homeomorphic to  $\mathcal{M}(A_k)$ , the structure space of  $A_k$ . The homeomorphism  $\sigma_k$  of  $\mathcal{M}(A_k)$  into  $\mathcal{M}_0$  is defined by  $[\sigma_k(M^k)](x) = M^k(\Pi_k x)$  for each  $M^k \in \mathcal{M}(A_k)$  and  $x \in A$ .

**THEOREM 2.3.** *If  $A$  is a commutative  $F$ -algebra with identity, then  $A$  satisfies the condition  $(hH)$ .*

*Proof.* We fix a family  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  in  $A$  satisfying  $h(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \phi$  and show  $H(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \phi$ . We need only show that for each  $k \geq 0$  the family  $\{\Pi_k x_1, \dots, \Pi_k x_n\}$  generates the improper ideal  $A_k$ . We fix  $k \geq 0$ . For each  $i$  we have  $(\Pi_k x_i)(M^k) = x_i(\sigma_k M^k)$ . Therefore, the family  $\{(\Pi_k x_i)^{\wedge}, \dots, (\Pi_k x_n)^{\wedge}\}$  has a common zero on  $\mathcal{M}(A_k)$  if, and only if, the intersection of  $\mathcal{M}^k$  and  $h(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is nonempty. We have assumed that  $h(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is empty. Thus, Theorem 2.2 implies  $(\Pi_k x_1, \dots, \Pi_k x_n) = A_k$  for each  $k \geq 0$ , and we obtain  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) = A$ .

Thus,  $F$ -algebras always satisfy the conditions of Theorem 1.4 and  $\mathcal{M} = w\mathcal{L}$ . We next extend Theorem 2.1 to pin down further the space  $\mathcal{M}$ . We note that Theorem 2.4 is immediate for Banach algebras (since  $\mathcal{M}_0 = \mathcal{M}$ ) and false for commutative LMC algebras in general (cf. Example 1.1 above).

**THEOREM 2.4.** *If  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  are closed ideals in  $A$  and if  $h(I_1) \cap h(I_2) = \phi$ , then  $I_1 + I_2 = A$ .*

*Proof.* We shall construct two sequences in  $\Pi_n A_n$ , show that they yield elements of  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  whose sum is 1. We let  $F_1 = h(I_1)$  and  $F_2 = h(I_2)$ . Since the tail of a sequence is the important thing in determining whether it corresponds to an element of  $A$  we assume that  $F_1 \cap \mathcal{M}^0 \neq \phi$  and  $F_2 \cap \mathcal{M}^0 \neq \phi$ . If not we begin the construction with the first integer  $k$  so that both  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  meet  $\mathcal{M}^k$  and define the first  $k$  terms by the maps  $\Pi_i^k, i = 0, \dots, k-1$ .

Since  $F_1 \cap F_2 = \phi$ ,  $\sigma_n^{-1}(F_1 \cap \mathcal{M}^n) \cap \sigma_n^{-1}(F_2 \cap \mathcal{M}^n) = \phi$  in  $\mathcal{M}(A_n)$  for each  $n \geq 0$ . We first note that for each  $n \geq 0$   $\Pi_n(I_1)^-$  and  $\Pi_n(I_2)^-$  are closed ideals in  $A_n$  and  $\Pi_n(I_1)^- + \Pi_n(I_2)^- = A_n$ . If not, then there exists  $M^n \in (A_n)$  such that  $\Pi_n(I_1)^-, \Pi_n(I_2)^- \subseteq M^n$ . Then  $I_1, I_2 \subseteq M = \sigma_n(M^n)$ , and  $M \in F_1 \cap F_2$ , a contradiction. By Lemma 7.8 of [9]  $I_j$  is the inverse limit of the sequence  $\{\Pi_n(I_j)^-\}$  with the restricted homomorphism, for  $j = 1, 2$ , and for each pair  $n, m, n \leq m$ ,  $\Pi_n^m[\Pi_m(I_j)^-]$  is dense in  $\Pi_n(I_j)^-$ , since the former contains  $\Pi_n^m[\Pi_m(I_j)] = \Pi_n(I_j)$  which is dense in  $\Pi_n(I_j)^-$ .

We first choose a sequence  $\{\varepsilon_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$  of positive numbers such that the series  $\sum_{n=1}^\infty \varepsilon_n$  converges. Since  $\Pi_0(I_1)^- + \Pi_0(I_2)^- = A_0$  we choose

$\xi_0^j \in \Pi_0(I_j)^-, j = 1, 2$  such that  $\xi_0^1 + \xi_0^2 = 1$ .

We next choose  $\zeta_1^j$  in  $\Pi_1(I_j)^-, j = 1, 2$ , such that  $\zeta_1^1 + \zeta_1^2 = 1$ , then choose  $\eta_1^j$  in  $\Pi_1(I_j)^-, j = 1, 2$ , such that

$$\| \Pi_0 \eta_1^j - \xi_0^j \| < \min \left( \varepsilon_1/4, \varepsilon_1/4 \max_{j=1,2} \| \xi_1^j \| \right).$$

This is possible because  $\Pi_0[\Pi_1(I_j)^-]$  is dense in  $\Pi_0(I_j)^-, j = 1, 2$ . We let  $\xi_1^j = \eta_1^j + \zeta_1^j(1 - \eta_1^j - \eta_1^2), i = 1, 2$ . Then

$$\xi_1^j \in \Pi_1(I_j)^-, j = 1, 2; \xi_1^1 + \xi_1^2 = 1,$$

and  $\| \Pi_0 \xi_1^j - \xi_0^j \| < \varepsilon_1$ , for each  $j$ .

Proceeding inductively we choose for each  $n \geq 1, j = 1, 2, \xi_n^j \in \Pi_n(I_j)^-$  such that  $\| \Pi_{n-1} \xi_n^j - \xi_{n-1}^j \| < \varepsilon_n$ , and  $\xi_n^1 + \xi_n^2 = 1$ . Then for  $k = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$  we have

$$(3.1) \qquad \| \Pi_k^n \xi_n^j - \Pi_k^{n-1} \xi_{n-1}^j \| < \varepsilon_n.$$

From this point on the construction is identical to that given in the proof of Theorem 4.2 of [2]. We sketch the important steps.

We first fix  $n \geq 0$  and let  $x_j(n)_k = \Pi_n^k \xi_n^j$  for each  $k \geq n, j = 1, 2$ .  $\{x_j(n)_k\}_{k=n}^\infty$  is a sequence in  $\Pi_n(I_j)^-$  and satisfies

- (i)  $\Pi_n^{n+1}(x_j(n+1)_k) = x_j(n)_k$  for each  $k \geq n+1, j = 1, 2$ ;
- (ii)  $x_1(n)_k + x_2(n)_k = 1$ ,
- (iii)  $\| x_j(n)_k - x_j(n)_{k+p} \| < \varepsilon_{k+1} + \dots + \varepsilon_{k+p}$ .

Thus the sequences are Cauchy for each  $n, j$  and converge to elements  $x_j(n)$  in  $\Pi_n(I_j)^-$  for each  $n \geq 0, j = 1, 2$ . There exist  $x_1 \in I_1, x_2 \in I_2$  such that  $\Pi_n(x_j) = x_j(n)$  for each  $n \geq 0, j = 1, 2$ . Thus,  $x_1 + x_2 = 1$ .

**COROLLARY 2.4.1.** *If  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are disjoint  $hk$ -closed subsets of  $\mathcal{M}_0$ , then  $\text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}} F_1 \cap \text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}} F_2 = \phi$ .*

*Proof.* Letting  $I_1 = kF_1$  and  $I_2 = kF_2$  yields  $I_1 + I_2 = A$ . Apply Theorem 1.5.

**COROLLARY 2.4.2.** *If  $A$  is a commutative  $F$ -algebra with identity, then  $\mathcal{M} = W(\mathcal{M}_0, hk)$ . Moreover, if  $A$  is regular, then  $A$  is normal and  $\mathcal{M} = W(\mathcal{M}_0) = \beta \mathcal{M}_0$ .*

*Proof.* The first statement follows from Corollary 2.4.1, Theorem 1.5, and Corollary 1.7. The second follows from Corollaries 1.7 and 2.4.1.

We note that Rosenfeld [11] has indicated a proof of part of Corollary 2.4.2 ( $A$  regular implies  $A$  normal) using Silov's theorem. This theorem also yields a proof of Corollary 2.4.1, since  $F_1 \cup F_2$  is

$hk$ -closed in  $\mathcal{M}_0$  and is  $\mathcal{M}_0(B)$ , where  $B = A/(kF_1 \cap kF_2)$ . However, since the application of this theorem yields an element  $a$  of  $A$  such that  $\hat{a} \equiv 0$  on  $F_1$  and  $\hat{a} \equiv 1$  on  $F_2$ , we can conclude only that  $kF_1 + kF_2 = A$ . Thus, it does not appear that the proof of Theorem 2.4 can be simplified by the use of this tool.

**THEOREM 2.5.** *Let  $I$  be a closed ideal in  $A$  and  $B = A/I$ . Then  $B$  is a commutative  $F$ -algebra with identity,  $\mathcal{M}_0(B)$  is homeomorphic to  $h(I)$  with respect to both the  $w^*$ - and  $hk$ -topologies, and  $\mathcal{M}(B) = \text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}(A)} h(I)$ .*

*Proof.* The first conclusion follows from the open mapping theorem for  $F$ -spaces (cf. [8, Lemma 11.3]) and the fact that the natural map  $\Pi$  of  $A$  onto  $B$  is continuous and open. The range of  $\Pi^*: \mathcal{M}_0(B) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_0(A)$  is easily seen to be  $h(I)$  and it is also immediate that  $\Pi^*$  is a  $w^*$ -homeomorphism. For convenience we let  $F = h(I)$  for the remainder of the proof.

We show that for each  $E \subseteq F$ ,  $\Pi^{*-1}[hk(E)] = h'k'[\Pi^{*-1}(E)]$ , where  $h'$  and  $k'$  are the  $h$ - and  $k$ -operators for  $B$ .  $M' \in \Pi^{*-1}[hk(E)]$  if, and only if,  $M \in hk(E)$  ( $M = \Pi^*M'$ ) if, and only if,  $M(x) = 0$  for each  $x \in kE$ . And  $x \in kE$  if, and only if,  $M_i(x) = 0$  for each  $M_i \in E$  if, and only if,  $M'_i(\Pi x) = 0$  for each  $M'_i \in \Pi^{*-1}(E)$ . So  $x \in kE$  if, and only if,  $\Pi x \in k'[\Pi^{*-1}(E)]$ . Thus, from above,  $M(x) = 0$  for each  $x \in kE$  if, and only if,  $M'(\Pi x) = 0$  for each  $\Pi x \in k'[\Pi^{*-1}(E)]$ , if, and only if,  $M' \in h'k'[\Pi^{*-1}(E)]$ . The equality is established and it is immediate that  $\Pi^*$  is a homeomorphism with respect to the  $hk$ -topologies in  $\mathcal{M}_0(B)$  and  $F$ .

For each  $x \in A$  we have  $\Pi^*[h'(\Pi x)] = h(x) \cap F$ . Thus, there is a lattice isomorphism of  $\mathcal{L}' = \{h(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n): \{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n\} \subseteq B\}$  onto  $\mathcal{L}_F = \{E \subseteq F: E = B \cap F \text{ for some } B \in \mathcal{L}\}$ , and there is induced a homeomorphism of  $w\mathcal{L}'$  onto  $w\mathcal{L}_F$ . Therefore,  $\mathcal{M}(B)$  is homeomorphic to  $w\mathcal{L}_F$ . For each  $M \in \text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}(A)} F$  we define  $\tau(M) = \{E \in \mathcal{L}_F: M \in \text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}} E\}$ .  $M \mapsto \tau(M)$  is a one-to-one mapping of  $\text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}(A)} F$  onto  $w\mathcal{L}_F$ . From the easily verified equation  $H(x) \cap \text{Cl}_{\mathcal{M}(A)} F = C[h(x) \cap F]$  it follows that  $\tau$  is a homeomorphism.

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