ON A COMMUTATIVE EXTENSION OF A COMMUTATIVE BANACH ALGEBRA

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Let $A$ be a commutative Banach algebra without identity such that (1.a) there exists an approximate identity (i.e. there exists a net $\{u_\alpha\} \subset A$, so that $\|u_\alpha\| = 1$ and $u_\alpha x \to x$ for all $x \in A$);

(1.b) if $A$ designates Gelfand's representation of $A$ [3], and $M$ the space of regular maximal ideals of $A$, then the boundary of $M$ with respect to $A$, is equal to $M^1$.

Let $\mathcal{L}(A)$ be the algebra of all bounded linear operators on $A$; the mapping $x \to T_x$ of $A$ into $\mathcal{L}(A)$, where $T_x y = xy$, $y \in A$, is isomorphic and isometric (by (1.a)) onto a subalgebra $\tilde{A}$ of $\mathcal{L}(A)$.

Let $\mathcal{A}$ be the set of those operators $T \in \mathcal{L}(A)$ which commute with all $T_x \in \tilde{A}$, that is such that

$$T(xy) = (Tx)y = x(Ty), \quad x, y \in A. \quad (1)$$

**Lemma (i).** For all $T \in \mathcal{A}$, we have $T = \lim T_{u_\alpha} T$, the limit being considered in the strong operator topology.

(ii) $\mathcal{A}$ is the closure of $\tilde{A}$ in the strong operator topology.

(iii) $\mathcal{A}$ is the largest commutative subalgebra of $\mathcal{L}(A)$ which contains $\tilde{A}$.

(iv) $\tilde{A}$ is an ideal in $\mathcal{A}$.

**Proof.** From (1) and (1.a), it follows that

$$T_{T_{u_\alpha} y} = T_{u_\alpha} y = T(u_\alpha y) \to Ty$$

for all $T \in \mathcal{A}$ and $y \in A$, hence (i) is proved. (ii) results from (i). Concerning (iii), it is enough to prove that $\mathcal{A}$ is commutative; or, by (i) and (1)

$$T_1 T_2 x = \lim T_1 T_{u_\alpha} T_2 x = T_2 \lim T_{u_\alpha} T_1 x = T_2 T_1 x, \quad T_1, T_2 \in \mathcal{A}, \quad x \in A.$$ 

If $T \in \mathcal{A}$ and $x, y \in A$, then $TT_2 y = T(xy) = (Tx)y = T_T y$, hence

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1 For example this condition is satisfied if $\mathcal{A}$ is regular or selfadjoint, see [3, p. 81].
whence (iv) follows.

Now, let \( \mathcal{M} \) be the space of the maximal ideals of \( \mathcal{A} \). We can pass to the main result of our note.

**Theorem 1.** There is a homeomorphism \( m \to \hat{m} \) of \( M \), on an open subset \( \hat{M} \) of \( \mathcal{M} \), such that for all \( m \in M \), and \( x \in A \),

\[
\hat{T}_x(\hat{m}) = \hat{x}(m);
\]

if \( \hat{m}_0 \notin \hat{M} \) then \( \hat{T}_x(\hat{m}_0) = 0 \).

**Proof.** Observe that by (1.b) and by a theorem of Neumark [4] to every \( m \in M \) there corresponds an \( \hat{m} \in \mathcal{M} \) such that \( \hat{x}(m) = \hat{T}_x(\hat{m}) \) for all \( x \in A \). We shall show that \( \hat{m} \) is uniquely determined. If \( \hat{T}_x(\hat{m}_1) = \hat{x}(m) = \hat{T}_x(\hat{m}_2) \) for all \( x \in A \), then by (2)

\[
\hat{T}(\hat{m}_1)\hat{x}(m) = \hat{T}(\hat{m}_1)\hat{T}_x(\hat{m}_1) = \hat{T}_x(\hat{m}_1) = \hat{T}_x(\hat{m}_2) = \hat{T}_x(\hat{m}_2)\hat{x}(m);
\]

where \( x \in A \) and \( T \in \mathcal{A} \) are arbitrary. Choose \( x \in \mathcal{A} \) such that \( \hat{x}(m) \neq 0 \); then \( \hat{T}(\hat{m}_1) = \hat{T}(\hat{m}_2) \) for all \( T \in \mathcal{A} \); hence \( \hat{m}_1 = \hat{m}_2 \).

Let \( \hat{T}_x(\hat{m}_0) \neq 0 \); then the homomorphism \( x \to \hat{T}_x(\hat{m}_0) \) has as kernel a regular maximal ideal \( m_0 \) of \( A \), and from \( \hat{x}(m_0) = \hat{T}_x(\hat{m}_0) \) it follows that \( \hat{m}_0 \in \hat{M} \). Thus, if \( \hat{m}_0 \notin \hat{M} \), then necessarily \( \hat{T}_x(\hat{m}_0) = 0 \). This result shows also that \( \hat{M} \) is open in \( \mathcal{M} \). In fact, if \( \hat{m}_0 \in \hat{M} \), there exists an \( x \in A \) such that \( \hat{T}_x(\hat{m}_0) \neq 0 \); but then \( \hat{T}_x(\hat{m}) \neq 0 \) in a neighborhood \( V \) of \( \hat{m}_0 \); hence \( V \subset \hat{M} \).

The mapping \( \hat{m} \to m \) being evidently continuous, it remains to prove the continuity of the direct mapping \( m \to \hat{m} \). It is enough to show that the topology of \( \hat{M} \subset \mathcal{M} \) is the weak topology generated on \( \hat{M} \) by the functions \( \hat{T}_x(\hat{m}) \), \( x \in A \); this results from Theorem 5 G of [3], because that the functions \( \hat{T}_x(\hat{m}) \) are continuous on \( \hat{M} \), vanish at infinity (with respect to \( \hat{M} \)), separate the points of \( \hat{M} \) and do not all vanish at any point of \( \hat{M} \). (These facts are direct consequences of the preceding results).

In this manner, \( M \) can be considered identical with \( \hat{M} \); in what follows we consider \( M \subset \mathcal{M} \) and \( \hat{T}_x(m) = \hat{x}(m) \).

From now on, we suppose that \( A \) is semi-simple. Then we have the following

\[ TT_x = T_x T = T_{Tx}, \]

\[ 2 \] In fact we use a slight extension of the Theorem 3, p. 195.
COROLLARY. (i) If \( \hat{T}_1(m) = \hat{T}_2(m) \) for \( m \in M \) then \( T_1 = T_2 \) (ii) \( \mathcal{A} \) is semi-simple.

**Proof.** (ii) results from (i), and (i) results from the relation
\[
\hat{T}_x(m) = \hat{T}_1 T_x(m) = \hat{T}_1(m) \hat{T}_x(m) = \hat{T}_1(m) \hat{T}_x(m) = \hat{T}_2 T_x(m) = \hat{T}_x(m);
\]
A being semi-simple, we conclude that \( T_1x = T_2x \) for all \( x \in A \), that is \( T_1 = T_2 \).

**Theorem 2.** A function \( f \) defined on \( M \) is a factor function of \( \hat{A} \) (that is \( f \hat{x} = \hat{y} \in \hat{A} \) for all \( x \in \hat{A} \)) if and only if there is a \( T \in \mathcal{A} \), such that \( f(m) = \hat{T}(m) \), \( m \in M \).

**Proof.** If \( f(m) = \hat{T}(m) \) then by (2)
\[
f(m) \hat{x}(m) = \hat{T}(m) \hat{x}(m) = \hat{T} T_x(m) = \hat{T}_x(m) = \hat{T}x(m) \in \hat{A}.
\]
Conversely, if \( f \) is a factor function of \( \hat{A} \), then the operator \( T_f \) defined by \( T_f x = y \) where \( \hat{y} = f \hat{x} \) is a linear closed operator defined on \( A \), since \( A \) is semi-simple. Hence \( T_f \) is bounded. But \( \hat{f} \hat{x} \hat{y} = \hat{x} \hat{f} \hat{y} \), so that \( T_f \in \mathcal{A} \). Thus for all \( m \in M \) we have
\[
\hat{T}_f(m) \hat{x}(m) = \hat{T}_f(m) \hat{T}_x(m) = \hat{T}_f \hat{x}(m) = \hat{y}(m) = f(m) \hat{x}(m),
\]
for arbitrary \( x \in A \). It follows that \( \hat{T}_f(m) = f(m) \).

To understand the sense of these results, let us consider the case \( A = L^1(G) \) where \( G \) is a locally compact abelian group which is not discrete. Let \( M'(G) \) be the algebra of all bounded complex measures on \( G \). Then, if \( T_\mu x = \mu * x \), \( x \in L^1(G) \) then \( T_\mu \) is a linear bounded operator on \( A \), and the mapping \( \mu \to T_\mu \) is isomorphic and isometric on \( M'(G) \) into \( \mathcal{A} \) [1]. Observing that \( M = \hat{G} \) one may see easily that
\[
(3) \quad \hat{T}_\mu(m) = \int_G \overline{\mu(s)}d\mu(s).
\]

**Theorem 3.** \( \mathcal{A} \) is isomorphic and isometric with \( M'(G) \).

**Proof.** It remains to show that for every \( T \in \mathcal{A} \), there is a \( \mu \in M'(G) \) such that \( T = T_\mu \). For the measures \( \{\mu_\gamma\} \), where \( d\mu_\gamma(s) = Tu_\gamma(s)ds \), we have \( ||\mu_\gamma|| \leq ||T|| \). But the sphere of radius \( ||T|| \) of \( M'(G) \) (considered as the conjugate space of \( K(G) \) or \( C(G \cup \{\infty\}) \) is weakly compact. Hence there is a \( \mu \in M'(G) \), which is a weak cluster point of \( \{\mu_\gamma\} \). Consequently, by Lemma (i),
\[
\hat{T}(m) = \lim \hat{T}u_\gamma(m) = \lim \int_G \overline{m(s)}Tu_\gamma(s)ds = \int_G \overline{m(s)}d\mu(s) = \hat{T}_\mu(m).
\]
By Corollary (i) we conclude that $T = T_\mu$.

Let us give some known corollaries of these results. From Theorems 1 and 3, we may obtain directly that every maximal ideal of $M^1(G)$ which does not contain $L^1(G)$ corresponds to a character of the group $G$, a fact established by H. Cartan and R. Godement [1]. In the same manner, Theorems 2, 3 and (3) show that every factor function for the Fourier transform is the Fourier transform of a bounded measure (both the definition of a factor function and this result in the special case of the additive group of the real numbers are due to E. Hille [2]; the extension to the general case of a locally compact abelian group was done by R.S. Edwards, Pacific J. Math. 1953 and independently by I. Cuculescu).

REFERENCES

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Michael Israel Aissen, *A set function defined for convex plane domains* . . . 383
Robert Ellis, *Distal transformation groups* ........................................ 401
Ciprian Foias, *On a commutative extension of a commutative Banach algebra* ................................................................. 407
Jerry William Gaddum, *Linear inequalities and quadratic forms* .......... 411
Allen A. Goldstein and Elliott Ward Cheney, Jr., *A finite algorithm for the solution of consistent linear equations and inequalities and for the Tchebycheff approximation of inconsistent linear equations* .......... 415
Henry Berge Helson, *Conjugate series and a theorem of Paley* .......... 437
Wu-Chung Hsiang, *Abelian groups characterized by their independent subsets* ................................................................. 447
John W. Lamperti, *On the isometries of certain function-spaces* .......... 459
Karel DeLeeuw and Walter Rudin, *Extreme points and extremum problems in H1* ................................................................. 467
Eugene Lukacs, *Some extensions of a theorem of Marcinkiewicz* .......... 487
George W. Mackey, *Multiplicity free representations of finite groups* .... 503
Eben Matlis, *Injective modules over Noetherian rings* ......................... 511
John William Neuberger, *Continuous products and nonlinear integral equations* ................................................................. 529
William T. Reid, *A Prüfer transformation for differential systems* ........ 575
Howard L. Rolf, *The free lattice generated by a set of chains* ............. 585
K. M. Saksena, *Inversion and representation theorems for a generalized Laplace integral* ................................................................. 597
Daniel Shanks, *Two theorems of Gauss* .............................................. 609
Paul Slepian, *On the Lebesgue area of a doubled map* ......................... 613
Otto Szász and Nelson Paul Yeardley, Jr., *The representation of an analytic function by general Laguerre series* .................. 621
Alan C. Woods, *On two-dimensional convex bodies* ............................ 635