

Pacific Journal of Mathematics

**HOMOMORPHISMS OF NEAR-RINGS OF CONTINUOUS
FUNCTIONS**

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In recent papers Chew has found a class of topological rings such that if E is one of them, then a space is E -compact if and only if every E -homomorphism on $C(X, E)$ has a one-point support. We generalize this result to a class of topological near-rings. We also have found some topological near-rings which belong to this class.

Chew [5] proved that for the class of α -topological rings, \mathcal{E} , X is E -compact, $E \in \mathcal{E}$, if and only if every E -homomorphism on $C(X, E)$ has a one-point support. He also gave a "determination theorems."

The purpose of this paper is to show that the above results hold true for a class of topological near-rings. Since our arguments are almost identical with those of [5], we shall give only the statement of the results and the necessary definitions with a very brief indication of some proofs.

1. Preliminaries.

DEFINITION 1.1. A near-ring is a triple $\{R, +, \cdot\}$ where R is a nonempty set, each of $+$ and \cdot is an associative binary operation on R such that $\{R, +\}$ is a group (need not be abelian) with identity 0 , and the following are satisfied,

- (a) for each x, y , and $z \in R$, $x \cdot (y + z) = x \cdot y + x \cdot z$, and
- (b) for each $x \in R$, $0 \cdot x = 0$. See [1].

Note that in [2] this type of near-ring is called D -ring. Examples can be found in [2].

DEFINITION 1.2. A near-ring R that contains more than one element is said to be a division near-ring, or near-field if the set R' of nonzero elements is a multiplicative group; and 1 denotes the unity of R' . See [8] and [9].

DEFINITION 1.3. A topological near-ring is a quadruple $\{R, +, \cdot, \mathcal{T}\}$ such that $\{R, +, \cdot\}$ is a near-ring, and \mathcal{T} is a Hausdorff topology on R such that the mappings

$$f: R \times R \rightarrow R \text{ defined by } f((x, y)) = x + y$$

and

$$g: R \times R \rightarrow R \text{ defined by } g((x, y)) = x \cdot y$$

are continuous. Compare [1]; and a topological near-field is a topological near-ring $\{R, +, \cdot, \mathcal{S}\}$ such that the mapping

$$h: (R', R' | \mathcal{S}) \rightarrow (R', R' | \mathcal{S}) \text{ defined by } h(x) = x^{-1}$$

is continuous, where x^{-1} in R' is the inverse of x under \cdot . See [13, p. 283].

DEFINITION 1.4. A near-ring homomorphism is a mapping ϕ of a near-ring R into a near-ring R_0 such that

$$\phi(\gamma_1 + \gamma_2) = \phi(\gamma_1) + \phi(\gamma_2)$$

$$\phi(\gamma_1 \cdot \gamma_2) = \phi(\gamma_1) \cdot \phi(\gamma_2)$$

for all γ_1 and γ_2 in R . See [3].

A subset I of a near-ring R is said to be a two-sided ideal, or simply an ideal if $(I, +)$ is a normal subgroup of R such that

$$(1) \quad RI \subset I$$

$$(2) \quad (\gamma_1 + t)\gamma_2 - \gamma_1\gamma_2 \text{ is in } I \text{ if } \gamma_1 \text{ and } \gamma_2 \text{ are in } R \text{ and } t \text{ is in } I.$$

See [3].

Then we can easily show that the kernel of a homomorphism is an ideal. Note that $x \cdot 0 = 0$ for any x in R can be shown by using the left distributive law.

For notation and terminology, basic facts concerning E -compact and E -completely regular spaces, and structures of continuous functions we refer to [10], [11] and [5].

Let $C(X, E)$ be the set of all continuous functions from X into the topological near-ring E , and the operations are defined pointwisely. Then $C(X, E)$ is a near-ring.

Let $H(X, E)$ be the space of all E -homomorphisms on $C(X, E)$ endowed with the relative product topology from $E^{C(X, E)}$, and σ be the parametric (evaluation) map corresponding to $C(X, E)$; i.e., $(\sigma(x))(f) = f(x)$ for each x in X and f in $C(X, E)$. By an E -homomorphism we mean a homomorphism ϕ from $C(X, E)$ into E such that $\phi(e) = e$ for all e in E where e is the constant function, $e[X] = \{e\}$.

We recall Theorems (2.1), (3.8) of [10].

PROPOSITION 1.5. *For any topological space E ,*

(a) *A space X is E -completely regular if and only if σ is a homeomorphism.*

(b) *For any E -completely regular space X , $\beta_E X = \text{ext} \text{cl}_P \sigma[X]$, the closure of $\sigma[X]$ in $P = E^{C(X, E)}$*

(c) A space X is E -compact if and only if σ is a homeomorphism and $\sigma[X]$ is closed in P .

2. Representation theorems. In this section, E is a topological near-ring.

PROPOSITION 2.1. For any space X , the space $H(X, E)$ is closed in $E^{C(X, E)}$.

Proof. See [5, (2.1)].

The next proposition is to give a condition for topological near-rings such that $H(X, E) = cl_P \sigma[X]$.

PROPOSITION 2.2. Suppose that E is a topological near-ring with the property

(α) if ϕ in $H(X, E)$, then the family of zero-sets

$$\{Z(f) : f \in C(X, E), f \in \ker \phi\}$$

has the finite intersection property.

Then $cl_P \sigma[X] = H(X, E)$ for any space X .

We shall call the topological near-ring with the property (α) an α -topological near-ring.

THEOREM 2.3. Let E be an α -topological near-ring. An E -completely regular space X is E -compact if and only if every E -homomorphism $\phi : C(X, E) \rightarrow E$ has a one-point support, $\{p_0\}$, in X .

More generally, for every E -completely regular space X , E -homomorphisms of $C(X, E)$ into E correspond to the points of $\beta_E X$, the E -compactification of X .

Proof. Combining Prop. (1.5) and Prop. (2.2), we can easily prove the necessity; and use contrapositive to prove the sufficiency. As for the second part, we consider the natural correspondence between $C(X, E)$ and $C(\beta_E X, E)$. See [5, (2.3)].

In Theorem 2.3, we may give an additional condition on E , and then replace E -homomorphisms of $C(X, E)$ into E , by arbitrary homomorphisms of $C(X, E)$ into E . We have

COROLLARY 2.4. Let E be an α -topological near-ring with the following property,

(β) every nonzero endomorphism of E is an automorphism. Then an E -completely regular space X is E -compact if and only if

every homomorphism ϕ from $C(X, E)$ into E has a one-point support.

Proof. sufficiency is clear.

Necessity. By assumption, each homomorphism ϕ from $C(X, E)$ into E corresponds to an E -homomorphism $\zeta^{-1} \circ \phi$, where ζ is an automorphism of E defined by $\zeta(e) = \phi(e)$ for each $e \in E$. The result follows immediately.

Now, we shall show the “determination theorems”.

COROLLARY 2.5. *For any α -topological near-ring E , two E -compact spaces X and Y are homeomorphic if and only if the near-rings $C(X, E)$ and $C(Y, E)$ are E -isomorphic which means that there is an isomorphism ϕ from $C(X, E)$ onto $C(Y, E)$ with $\phi(e) = e$ for all e in E .*

Proof. The necessity is obvious, and the sufficiency is quite straightforward by combining Prop. (2.3) and the fact the E -isomorphism induces a one-to-one correspondence between $H(X, E)$ and $H(Y, E)$.

COROLLARY 2.6. *Let E be an α -topological near-ring with property (β) . Then two E -compact spaces X and Y are homeomorphic if and only if the near-rings $C(X, E)$ and $C(Y, E)$ are isomorphic.*

Proof. Use (2.4).

3. Remarks. In this section, we will see a sufficient condition for a topological near-ring to be an α -topological near-ring, and some examples of α -topological near-rings which satisfy the property (β) .

PROPOSITION 3.1. *Suppose that E is a topological near-ring with the following properties:*

(a) *for any $\phi \in H(X, E)$, $\phi(f) = 0$ implies $Z(f) \neq \emptyset$.*

(b) *E has a $*$ -function, i.e., there is a continuous function $x \rightarrow x^*$ of E into itself such that $xx^* + yy^* = 0$ implies $x = y = 0$.*

Then E is an α -topological near-ring.

Proof is the same as that in [5, (3.1)].

Besides the α -topological rings which, of course, are α -topological near-rings shown in [5, § 3], we have the following α -topological near-rings.

An *ordered* near-field is defined in similar fashion as an ordered

field, see [8, (2.1)]. A topological *ordered* near-field is an ordered near-field whose topology is defined in (1.3).

PROPOSITION 3.2. *Any topological ordered near-field, E , satisfies properties (a) and (b) in (3.1).*

Proof. (a) Suppose $f \in C(X, E)$ and $Z(f) = \emptyset$. Then f^{-1} defined by $f^{-1}(x) = [f(x)]^{-1}$ for each x in X is in $C(X, E)$, and $f \cdot f^{-1} = 1$. Hence f cannot be in any proper ideal of $C(X, E)$. If ψ is a nonzero homomorphism from $C(X, E)$ into E , then \ker

$$\psi = \{h \in C(X, E) : \psi(h) = 0\}$$

is a proper ideal of $C(X, E)$. Hence $f \notin \ker \psi$ which is a contradiction.

(b) Consider the identity mapping for $*$ -function, i.e., $x^* = x$. Since E is an ordered near-field $xx^* + yy^* = x^2 + y^2 = 0$ implies $x = y = 0$.

PROPOSITION 3.3. *Let E be a near-field with discrete topology. Then E is an α -topological near-ring.*

Proof. We shall prove this by induction. As the proof in (3.2) (a), if f is in $C(X, E)$ with $Z(f) = \emptyset$, then f does not belong to any kernel of element of $H(X, E)$. Thus, if f_1 in $C(X, E)$ with $\phi(f_1) = 0$, then $Z(f_1) \neq \emptyset$. Assume that for $k = n - 1, f_1, \dots, f_{n-1} \in \ker \phi$, $\bigcap_{i=1}^{n-1} Z(f_i) \neq \emptyset$, but $f_1, \dots, f_n \in \ker \phi$ with $\bigcap_{i=1}^n Z(f_i) = \emptyset$. Let $G_k = \bigcap_{i=1}^{k-1} Z(f_i) \setminus Z(f_k)$, $k = 2, \dots, n$, and

$$g_k(x) = \begin{cases} [f_k(x)]^{-1} & \text{if } x \in G_k \\ 0 & \text{if } x \notin G_k \end{cases}$$

Then since G_k is both open and closed (as each $Z(f_i)$ is), $g_k \in C(X, E)$. Define $f = f_1 + g_2 f_2 + \dots + g_n f_n$. Then we can easily show that $Z(f) = \emptyset$. But that $\phi(f) = \phi(f_1) + \phi(g_2) \cdot \phi(f_2) + \dots + \phi(g_n) \cdot \phi(f_n) = 0$ implies $Z(f) \neq \emptyset$. This is a contradiction. Thus $\bigcap_{i=1}^n Z(f_i) \neq \emptyset$.

Finally, since the kernel of a homomorphism of near-ring is an ideal and in a near-field, there is no proper ideal hence each nonzero endomorphism of a near-field is an automorphism. Therefore by (3.2) and (3.3) a topological ordered near-field and a near-field with discrete topology have the properties (α) and (β) .

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Received October 14, 1970.

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Pacific Journal of Mathematics

Vol. 38, No. 1

March, 1971

Bruce Alan Barnes, <i>Banach algebras which are ideals in a Banach algebra</i>	1
David W. Boyd, <i>Inequalities for positive integral operators</i>	9
Lawrence Gerald Brown, <i>Note on the open mapping theorem</i>	25
Stephen Daniel Comer, <i>Representations by algebras of sections over Boolean spaces</i>	29
John R. Edwards and Stanley G. Wayment, <i>On the nonequivalence of conservative Hausdorff methods and Hausdorff moment sequences</i>	39
P. D. T. A. Elliott, <i>On the limiting distribution of additive functions (mod 1)</i>	49
Mary Rodriguez Embry, <i>Classifying special operators by means of subsets associated with the numerical range</i>	61
Darald Joe Hartfiel, <i>Counterexamples to a conjecture of G. N. de Oliveira</i>	67
C. Ward Henson, <i>A family of countable homogeneous graphs</i>	69
Satoru Igari and Shigehiko Kuratsubo, <i>A sufficient condition for L^p-multipliers</i>	85
William A. Kirk, <i>Fixed point theorems for nonlinear nonexpansive and generalized contraction mappings</i>	89
Erwin Kleinfeld, <i>A generalization of commutative and associative rings</i>	95
D. B. Lahiri, <i>Some restricted partition functions. Congruences modulo 11</i>	103
T. Y. Lin, <i>Homological algebra of stable homotopy ring π_* of spheres</i>	117
Morris Marden, <i>A representation for the logarithmic derivative of a meromorphic function</i>	145
John Charles Nichols and James C. Smith, <i>Examples concerning sum properties for metric-dependent dimension functions</i>	151
Asit Baran Raha, <i>On completely Hausdorff-completion of a completely Hausdorff space</i>	161
M. Rajagopalan and Bertram Manuel Schreiber, <i>Ergodic automorphisms and affine transformations of locally compact groups</i>	167
N. V. Rao and Ashoke Kumar Roy, <i>Linear isometries of some function spaces</i>	177
William Francis Reynolds, <i>Blocks and F-class algebras of finite groups</i>	193
Richard Rochberg, <i>Which linear maps of the disk algebra are multiplicative</i>	207
Gary Sampson, <i>Sharp estimates of convolution transforms in terms of decreasing functions</i>	213
Stephen Scheinberg, <i>Fatou's lemma in normed linear spaces</i>	233
Ken Shaw, <i>Whittaker constants for entire functions of several complex variables</i>	239
James DeWitt Stein, <i>Two uniform boundedness theorems</i>	251
Li Pi Su, <i>Homomorphisms of near-rings of continuous functions</i>	261
Stephen Willard, <i>Functionally compact spaces, C-compact spaces and mappings of minimal Hausdorff spaces</i>	267
James Patrick Williams, <i>On the range of a derivation</i>	273