Introduction to Operator Algebras

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Contents

The set of all linear bounded operators $\mathscr{L}(H) = \mathscr{B}(H)$ on a given Banach space H is a (Banach) algebra with $S \cdot T = S \circ T$. $M \subseteq \mathscr{L}$ is a Subalgebra such that $M^* \subseteq M$ where T^* is the adjoint of T. This is also a closed subspace with respect to the strong topology. This is equivalent to $M = M''$ (when $X \subseteq \mathscr{B}(H), X' = \{T \in \mathscr{B}(H) \mid TS = ST \ \forall_{S \in X}\}$)

Some topological basics

Definition 0.1

- *Topology, Open*
- *Hausdorff, locally Hausdorff*
- *compact*

Definition 0.2 *A topological space X is* ***locally Hausdorff*** *if every $x \in X$ admits a compact neighborhood basis, that is for every $x \in X$ and every open set $U \ni x$ there exists an open set $V \ni x$ with $\overline{V}$ is compact.*

Corollary 0.3 *If a set V is compact in any subset $U \subseteq X$, it is also compact in X.*

Example 0.4 (Snake with two heads) Consider $I = [0, 1]$ with the standard topology and extend the set with an element 1^+ such that $I \cup 1^+ \setminus 1$ is isomorphic to I. Then $I \cup 1^+$ is locally Hausdorff and compact, but not Hausdorff.

Some results about locally compact Hausdorff spaces

Lemma 0.5 (Uryson's Lemma) *Let X be locally compact and Hausdorff. For all $F \subseteq X$ closed and $K \subseteq X$ compact with $F \cap K = \emptyset$, there exists an $f : X \to [0, 1]$ continuous such that $f|_K \equiv 1$ and $f|_F \equiv 0$.*

Theorem 0.6 (Tietze's extension theorem) *Let X be locally compact, $K \subseteq X$ compact and $f : K \to \mathbb{C}$ continuous. Then there exists a continuous $\tilde{f} : X \to \mathbb{C}$ such that $\tilde{f}|_K = f$.*

Theorem 0.7 (Alexandroff's conpactification) *If X is locally compact and Hausdorff, then $\tilde{X} \sqcup \{\infty\}$ is a compact Hausdorff space $\mathscr{O}(\tilde{X}) = \mathscr{O}(X) \cup \{K^\complement \cup \{\infty\} \mid K \text{ compact}\}$.*

Example 0.8 Compacting the real line $\mathbb{R}$ yields the space $\tilde{\mathbb{R}}$, which is isomorphic to the unit circle $\Pi = \mathbb{S}^1$.

Theorem 0.9 *Conversely, if Y is a compact Hausdorff space, then for all $y_0 \in Y$, $X := Y \setminus \{y_0\}$ is locally compact (in respect to the subspace topology).*

More generally, if Y is locally compact and Hausdorff, and $Z \subseteq Y$ is a difference of open and closed subsets, of Y (i.e. $Z = U \setminus F$, where U is open in Y and F is closed in Y), then Z is locally compact.

1 Algebras

Definition 1.1 *An **algebra** is a (complex) vector space $\mathscr{A}$ endowed with a bilinear and associative multiplication: $\mathscr{A} \times \mathscr{A} \to \mathscr{A}, (a,b) \mapsto a \cdot b$. So*

(i) $(a + \alpha b) \cdot (c + \beta d) = ac + \alpha bc + \beta ad + \alpha\beta bd$

(ii) $(a \cdot b) \cdot c = a \cdot (b \cdot c)$

for all $a, b, c \in \mathscr{A}$ and $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$. We say that $\mathscr{A}$ is

(i) ***commutative**, if $ab = ba$ for all $a, b \in \mathscr{A}$ and*

(ii) ***unital**, if there exists $1 = 1_{\mathscr{A}} \in \mathscr{A}$ such that $1 \cdot a = a \cdot 1 = a$ for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$.*

Example 1.2

(i) $\mathbb{C}$, or more generally $\mathbb{C}^n = \mathbb{C} \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathbb{C}$, is an algebra.

(ii) Say X is any set; let $\mathbb{C}^X = \{f : X \to \mathbb{C}\}$ with point wise multiplication $(f \cdot g)(x) = f(x) \cdot g(x)$. These are commutative unital algebras (with $1(x) = 1 \in \mathbb{C}$).

(iii) Consider the polynomials $\mathbb{C}[X] = \{\sum_{i=0}^n \lambda_i x^i \mid \lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ with the usual operations. This is a commutative unital algebra.

(iv) Let X be a topological space and $C(X) = \{f : X \to \mathbb{C} \mid f \text{ is continouus}\} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^X$ the set of continuous functions on X. This is a commutative unital (sub)algebra (of $\mathbb{C}^X$).

(v) Take any vector space A define a (trivial) multiplication $a \cdot b := 0$. This is a commutative Algebra (that is not unital unless $A = 0$).

(vi) $M_n(\mathbb{C})$ (the complex $n \times n$ matrices) with the usual multiplication are a non-commutative (unless $n = 1$) unital algebra.

(vii) Let V be any (complex) vector space. The set of all linear operators $L(V) := \{T : V \to VT \text{ linear operator}\}$ is a unital (non-commutative for $\dim V > 1$). We observe $\mathscr{L}(\mathbb{C}^n) \simeq M_n(\mathbb{C})$.

(viii) Let S be a semigroup (i.e. a set with an associative operation $S \times S \to S$, e.g. $(\mathbb{N}, +)$). Then $\mathbb{C}[S] = \{\sum_{s \in S} \lambda_s s \mid \lambda_s \in \mathbb{C}, |\{s : \lambda_s \neq 0\}| < \infty\}$ (the finite formal sums of elements of S) with the following product

$$\left(\sum_{s \in S'} \lambda_s s\right) \cdot \left(\sum_{t \in S} \lambda'_t t\right) := \sum_{s,t \in S} (\lambda_s \cdot \lambda'_t)(s \cdot t) \in S$$

Observe: As a vector space: $\mathbb{C}[S] \subseteq \mathbb{C}^S$. In general, this is neither commutative nor unital.

2 Normed algebras

Definition 2.1 *An algebra $\mathscr{A}$ is **normed**, if it is endowed with a (vector space) norm $\|\cdot\|: \mathscr{A} \to [0,\infty)$ satisfying $\|a \cdot b\| \leq \|a\| \cdot \|b\|$. If $\mathscr{A}$ is unital with unit $1_{\mathscr{A}}$, we usually assume $\|1_{\mathscr{A}}\| = 1$ except for $\mathscr{A} = 0$.*

Definition 2.2 *A **Banach algebra** is a normed algebra that is also complete (as a metric space with respect to the distance $d(a,b) := \|a-b\|$), i.e. every Cauchy sequence converges.*

Example 2.3 (i) If X is a compact space then $C(X)$ is a commutative unital Banach algebra with respect to the norm $\|f\|_\infty := \sup_{x\in X} |f(x)| < \infty$ (since X is compact).

(ii) If V is a normed (respectively Banach) vector space, e.g. $\mathbb{C}^n$ or $\ell^p(\mathbb{N})$, then $\mathscr{L}(V) = \{T \in L(V) \mid T$ is bounded/continouus$\}$ with $\|T\| := \sup_{\|v\|\leq 1} \|T(v)\| < \infty$ is a normed Banach algebra.

(iii) If X is a topological space, then $C_b(X) = \{f \in C(X) \mid \|f\|_\infty < \infty\}$ (bounded continuous functions) is a Banach space.

(iv) Let X again be a topological space. Then the set of all functions **vanishing at** ∞,

$$\begin{aligned} C_0(X) &= \{f \in C(X) \mid \forall_{\varepsilon>0} \exists_{K\subseteq X, K \text{ compact}} \forall_{x\notin K} |f(x)| < \varepsilon\} \\ &= \{f \in C(X) \mid \forall_{\varepsilon>0} \{x \in X \mid |f(x)| \geq \varepsilon\} \text{ is compact}\} \subseteq C_b(X), \end{aligned}$$

is also a Banach algebra.

Exercise 2.1 Assume X is locally compact and Hausdorff. Prove the following are equivalent:

(1) X is compact.

(2) $C(X) = C_0(X)$

(3) $C_0(X)$ is unital.

(4) The unit function $1 \in C_b(X)$ belongs to $C_0(X)$.

Proof:

- (1) $\Rightarrow$ (2): Recall the definition of $C_0(X)$. If X is compact, every closed subset (especially every $\{x : |f(x)| \geq \varepsilon\}$) is compact, so the condition of $C_0(X)$ is trivial.
- (2) $\Rightarrow$ (3): Since $C(X)$ is unital, $C_0(X)$ is as well.
- (3) $\Rightarrow$ (4): Suppose C_0 is unital, and let $f \in C_0(X)$ be the unit. Then $f \cdot g = g$ for all $g \in C_0(X)$, i.e. $f(x)g(x) = g(x) \forall_{x\in X} \forall_{g \in C_0(X)}$. By Uryson's lemma, given any $x_0 \in X$, there exists $g \in C_0(X)$ with $g(x_0) = 1$ (by looking at $K = \{x_0\}$ and taking F as the complement of any relatively compact environment of x_0.). Then $f(x_0) = f(x_0)g(x_0) = g(x_0) = 1$. Doing this for every $x_0 \in X$ yields $f \equiv 1$.
- (4) $\Rightarrow$ (1): Since $1 \in C_0(X)$, for every $\varepsilon > 0$ the set $\{x \mid |f(x)| \geq \varepsilon\}$ is compact. Choose $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2}$. Then, $\{x \mid |f(x)| = |1| \geq \frac{1}{2}\} = X$ is compact. $\square$

Exercise 2.2 Let X be a locally compact Hausdorff space. Prove that $C_0(X) \cong \{f \in C(X) \mid f(\infty) = 0\}$

3 Algebras

Definition 3.1 *A* ****-algebra*** *is a complex algebra* $\mathscr{A}$ *with an* ***involution*** $^* : \mathscr{A} \to \mathscr{A}$ *satisfying*

(i) $(a + \lambda b)^* = a^* + \overline{\lambda} b^*$

(ii) $(a^*)^* = a$

(iii) $(ab)^* = b^* a^*$

for all $a, b \in \mathscr{A}$ *and all* $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$.

Definition 3.2 *A* ***normed*** ****-algebra*** *is a normed algebra* $\mathscr{A}$ *with an involution (such that* $\mathscr{A}$ *is a* **-algebra) also satisfying* $\|a^*\| = \|a\|$ *for all* $a \in \mathscr{A}$.

A ***Banach-*******-algebra*** *is a complete normed* **-algebra.*

Definition 3.3 *A* C^**-algebra is a Banach-***-algebra satisfying* $\|a^* \cdot a\| = \|a\|^2$.

Observation: Recall that $\|a \cdot b\| \leq \|a\| \cdot \|b\|$ in all normed algebras. Applying this to a C^*-algebra we get $\|a \cdot a^*\| \leq \|a^*\| \cdot \|a\|$. If $\mathscr{A}$ is a C^*-algebra, then $\|a\|^2 = \|a \cdot a^*\| \leq \|a^*\| \cdot \|a\|$, so $\|a\| = \|a^*\|$.

Example 3.4

(i) If X is a set, then $\mathbb{C}^X$ is a *-algebra with $f^* = \overline{f}$ and $\mathscr{C}^\infty(X)$ is a C^*-algebra.

(ii) If X is a topological space, then $C(X) \subseteq \mathbb{C}^X$ is also a *-subalgebra and for $\{f \in C(X) \mid \mathrm{supp}(f) = \overline{\{x \in X \mid |f(x)| \neq 0\}}$ compact$\}$ we have

$$C_c(X) = \subseteq C_0(X) \subseteq C_b(X) \subseteq C(X) \subseteq C^\infty(X)$$

and C^∞ is a C^*-algebra. C_c is a *-algebra, but not Banach in general.

If X is compact, it follows $C_c(X) = C_0(X) = C_b(X)$.

Observation: If X is locally compact and Hausdorff, then $\overline{C_c(X)} = C_0(X)$.

(iii) Let X be a measured space (X is endowed with a σ-algebra). Then $B_\infty(X) = \{f \in C^\infty \mid f$ is measurable$\}$ is a C^*-algebra. If μ is a measure on X (e.g. $X = \mathbb{R}^n$ and μ the Lebesgue measure) then $L^\infty(X, \mu)$ are the essentially bounded functions and

$$L^\infty(X) = \{f : X \to \mathbb{C} \mid \|f\| \coloneqq \inf\{c \geq 0 \mid \mu(\{x \mid |f(x)| > c\}) = 0\}\}$$

is also a C^*-algebra.

Observation: $L^2(X, \mu) =$ "μ-separable function", $L^\infty(X, \mu) \xrightarrow{\mu} B(L^2(X, \mu)), f \mapsto \mu_f = \{g \mapsto f \cdot g\}$

(iv) A non-example: Let $\mathbb{D}$ be the unit disk and $\mathscr{A}(\mathrm{d}) = \{f \in \mathbb{C}(\mathbb{D}) \mid$ analytic in $\mathbb{D}^\circ\}$

Morera's Theorem from complex analysis states that $f \in C(\mathbb{D})$ is analytic if and only if $\int_\gamma f(z)dz = 0$ for all closed and piece wise smooth paths in $\mathbb{D}^\circ$. From this, it follows that $\mathscr{A}(\mathbb{D})$ is closed in $C(\mathbb{D})$, therefore a Banach algebra. It is also a Banach-*-algebra with, but $f^* = \overline{f}$ (point wise) is not possible, as $z \mapsto \overline{z}$ is not analytic. Thus, we have to choose $f^*(z) = f(\overline{z})$. But $\mathscr{A}(\mathbb{D})$ is not a C^*-algebra, as $\|f^* f\|_\infty \neq \|f\|_\infty^2$ for some $f \in \mathscr{A}(\mathbb{D})$.

(v) A non-commutative example: Let H be a Hilbert space and $B(H) = \mathscr{L}(H) = \{T : H \to H \mid T\text{bounded, continuous, linear}\}$ and $\|H\| := \sup_{\|z\|<1} \|T(z)\| < \infty$. This is a C^*-algebra where T^* is the adjoint of T, that is $\langle T^*z, w\rangle = \langle z, Tw\rangle$ for all $z, w \in H$.

C^*-axiom: $\|T^* \cdot T\| \leq \|T\|^2$ since $\mathscr{L}(H)$ is a Banach algebra, and we also have

$$\begin{aligned}\|T\|^2 &= \sup_{\|z\|<1} \|T(z)\|^2 = \sup_{\|z\|<1} \langle Tz, Tz\rangle = \sup_{\|z\|<1} \langle z, T^*Tz\rangle \\ &\leq \sup_{\|z\|<1} \|z\|\|T^*Tz\| \leq \sup_{\|z\|<1} \|z\|\|T^*T\| \leq \|T^*T\|\end{aligned}$$

In particular, $M_n(\mathbb{C}) \simeq \mathscr{L}(\mathbb{C}^n)$ is a unital C^*-algebra.

(vi) To produce more examples, take any subset $S \subseteq \mathscr{L}(H)$ and take $C^*(S) \subseteq \mathscr{L}(H) = \overline{\text{span}\{S_i \mid S_i \in S \cup S^*, i \leq n \in \mathbb{N}\}}$.

Example 3.5 Let $s \in \mathscr{L}(\ell^2(\mathbb{N}))$. The shift s, defined by $s(e_i) = e_{i+1}$ for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$ (where $\{e_i\}$ is the canonical basis of the sequence space), is an isometry, that is $s^* \cdot s = \text{id}$. Since $s \cdot s^* \neq \text{id}$, it is not surjective and not a proper isometry. We define

$$T = C^*(s) = \overline{\text{span}\{s^n(s^*)^m \mid m, n \in \mathbb{N}_0\}} \subseteq \mathscr{L}(\ell^2(\mathbb{N}))$$

as the **Toeplitz algebra**.

Example 3.6 Let H be a Hilbert space and S the set of all finite rank operators on H.

Example 3.7

(i) **Commutative**: $C_0(X)$ for a locally Hausdorff space X.

(ii) **Non-commutative**: $\mathcal{L}(\mathfrak{H}) = \mathcal{B}(\mathfrak{H})$ for any Hilbert space $\mathfrak{H}$ (with dimension greater 1).

(iii) **More generally**: Take any subset $S \subseteq \mathcal{L}(\mathfrak{H})$ and construct $C^*(S) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(H)$ as

$$\overline{\text{span}}\{S_1, \ldots, S_n \mid S_i \in S \cap S^*\}$$

Example 3.8 (Cuntz algebras) Take again $\mathfrak{H} = \ell^2\mathbb{N} = \{(\lambda_n)_{n\in\mathbb{N}_0} \mid \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |\lambda_n|^2 < \infty\}$ where $\langle \lambda, \lambda'\rangle = \sum_{i\in\mathbb{N}_0} \overline{\lambda_i}\lambda_i'$ and which has the orthonormal base $(e_n)_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ where $(e_n) = (\delta_{in})_{i\in\mathbb{N}_0}$.
On this algebra, define

- $S_1(e_n) = e_{2n}$.
- $S_2(e_n) = e_{2n+1}$.

We have partitioned the natural numbers into evens and odds. This defines two (proper) isometries $S_1, S_2 \in \mathscr{L}(\mathfrak{H})$, that is $S_i^*S_i = \text{id}_{\mathfrak{H}}$, to subspaces of $\mathfrak{H}$. Notice: $S_i^*S_j = 0$ for $i \neq j$ as well as $S_1S_1^* + S_2S_2^* = \text{id}_{\mathfrak{H}}$. Define $\mathcal{O}_2 = C^*(S_1, S_2) = \overline{\text{span}}\{S_\alpha S_\beta^* \mid \alpha, \beta \text{ finite words in } \{1, 2\}\}$. For example, for $\alpha = 121211$ we have $S_\alpha = S_1S_2S_1S_2S_1^2$. $\mathcal{O}_2$ is called the **Cuntz algebra**. More generally, one can define $\mathcal{O}_3, \mathcal{O}_4$, ... Cuntz algebras. Joachim Cuntz proved that these are simple C^*-algebras with additional interesting properties we will see later.

Example 3.9 (Rotation algebras) Let $\mathfrak{H} = \ell^2(\mathbb{Z})$ (bi-infinite sequences) with basis $(e_n)_{n\in\mathbb{Z}}$ Define:

- $U(e_n) := e_{n+1}$ (bilateral shift)

- $V(e_n) := \lambda^n e_n$ where $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ is some fixed number $|\lambda| = 1$.

This defines two *unitary* operators: $UU^* = 1 = U^*U$ and $V^*V = 1 = V^*V$. If $\exp(2\pi i\theta), \theta \in \mathbb{R}$ define $A_\theta := C^*(U,V) \subseteq \mathscr{L}(\ell^2\mathbb{N})$.

There is a special relation between U and V where $UV = \lambda VU = \exp(2\pi i\theta)VU$. From this relation, we can describe $A_\theta = \overline{\operatorname{span}}\{\sum_{n,m\in\mathbb{Z}}^{\text{finite}} a_{n,m}U^nV^m \mid a_{n,m} \in \mathbb{C}\}$.

Furthermore, if $\theta \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$, A_θ is simple.

Example 3.10 (C^*-algebras of groups) Let G be a (discrete) group. Look at $\mathfrak{H} = \ell^2(G) = \{(a_g)_{g\in G} \mid \sum_{g\in G}|a_g|^2 < \infty\}$ (Note: This limit will only converge if there are countably (or finitely) many non-zero parts) with ONB $(\delta_g)_{g\in G}$ where $\delta_g(h) = \delta_{gh}$. Define for each $g \in G$ an operator $\lambda_g \in \mathscr{L}(\ell^2 G)$ by $\lambda_g(\delta_h) = \delta_{gh}$. Notice that $h \mapsto gh$ is a bijection, and thus λ_g is a unitary operator with $\lambda_g^* = \lambda_{g^{-1}}$. We can now define the **reduced C^*-algebra** of the group:

$$C_R^*(G) := C_\lambda^*(G) \subseteq \mathscr{L}(\ell^2 G) = C^*(\lambda_g \mid g \in G)$$

Here, we have the relation $\lambda_g \cdot \lambda_h = \lambda_{gh}$ and thus $C_R^*(G) = \{\sum a_g\lambda_g \mid a_g \in \mathbb{C}\}$.

In general, take $U : G \to \mathscr{L}(H), g \mapsto U_g$ a **unitary representation of** G with $U_gU_h = U_{gh}$ and $U_1 = \mathrm{id}$ as well as $U_g^{-1} = U_{g^{-1}}$. Then $C_U^*(G) := \{\sum_{g\in G} a_gU_g \mid a_g \in \mathbb{C}\} \subseteq \mathscr{L}(H)$. There exists a **universal unitary representation** $C^*_{\max}(G)$, a full C^*-algebra of G.

Remark 3.11

(i) If G is Abelian, then $C_U^*(G)$ is also abelian (commutative). In particular, C_λ^* is abelian. Later, we will prove $C_\lambda^*(G) \simeq C(\hat{G})$ where $\hat{G}$ is the dual of G, i.e. $\{X : G \to \mathbb{C}$ characters$\}$.

(ii) For many groups, like $G = \mathbb{F}_n$ (the free groups) the reduced C^*-algebra $C_\lambda^*(G)$ is simple.

4 Homomorphisms of algebras

Definition 4.1 *If $\mathscr{A}, \mathscr{B}$ are algebras, a* ***homomorphism*** *from $\mathscr{A}$ to $\mathscr{B}$ is a linear map $\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathscr{B}$ such that $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$ for any $a, b \in \mathscr{A}$.*

If $\mathscr{A}$ and $\mathscr{B}$ are *-algebras, a ****-homomorphism*** *is a homomorphism $\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathscr{B}$ such that $\varphi(a^*) = \varphi(a)^*$ for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$.*

If $\mathscr{A}, \mathscr{B}$ are Banach algebras, then usually we want to have ***continuous*** *homomorphisms. Even more, we usually ask for* ***contractive*** *homomorphisms $\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathscr{B}$, (that is $\|\varphi\| \leq 1$).*

We will be especially interested in **characters**:

Definition 4.2 *A* ***character*** *of an algebra $\mathscr{A}$ is a non-zero homomorphism $\chi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathbb{C}$.*

Example 4.3 Take any subalgebra $\mathscr{A} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^X$. Take $x_0 \in X$ and set $\chi_{x_0} := \mathrm{ev}_{x_0} : \mathscr{A} \to \mathbb{C}, f \mapsto f(x_0)$. This is not necessarily a character, but it is for example, if $\mathscr{A} = C(X)$ or $C_b(X)$ or $C_0(X)$ (if X is “nice”, like Hausdorff).

Definition 4.4 *A (*)-isomorphism between two (*)-algebras $\mathscr{A}$ and $\mathscr{B}$ is a bijective (*)- homomorphism $\varphi : \mathscr{A} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathscr{B}$.*

Definition 4.5 *A (*)-**ideal** of a *-algebra $\mathscr{A}$ is a subspace $I \subset A$ such that $I \cdot A \subseteq I$, $A \cdot I \subseteq I$ (if only one condition applies, we call this a* ***left ideal*** *or* ***right ideal****). For *-ideals, we also want $I^* = I$. We notate this as $I \trianglelefteq \mathscr{A}$.*

Example 4.6 If $\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathscr{B}$ is a $(^*)$-homomorphism, then $\ker\varphi \trianglelefteq \mathscr{A}$.

Example 4.7 If $I \trianglelefteq \mathscr{A}$ for $\mathscr{A}$ a $(^*)$-algebra

$$\mathscr{A}/I = \{a + I \mid a \in \mathscr{A}\}$$

with $(a+I)\cdot(b+I) := ab + I$ and $(a+I)^* = a^* + I$ is a $(^*)$-algebra.

Theorem 4.8 *If $\mathscr{A}$ is a Banach-*-algebra, then $I \trianglelefteq \mathscr{A}$ is a closed ideal, then the quotient $I/\mathscr{A}$ is also a Banach-*-algebra.*

Proof: Later. □

5 Spectral theory

Notation 5.1 If $\mathscr{A}$ is a unital algebra, we write

$$\mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A}) = \{a \in \mathscr{A} \mid a \text{ is invertible in } \mathscr{A}\} = \{a \in \mathscr{A} \mid \exists_{a^{-1}\in\mathscr{A}}\, aa^{-1} = 1 = a^{-1}a\}$$

This is a group. Sometimes we also write $GL(\mathscr{A})$.

Definition 5.2 *Given a unital algebra $\mathscr{A}$ and $a \in \mathscr{A}$, we define its* ***spectrum*** *(in $\mathscr{A}$) as*

$$\sigma_{\mathscr{A}}(a) = \sigma(a) = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \lambda \cdot 1 - a \notin \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A})\}$$

and the resolvent of a (in $\mathscr{A}$) as

$$\rho_{\mathscr{A}}(a) = \rho(a) = \mathscr{A} \setminus \sigma_{\mathscr{A}}(a) = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \lambda - a \in \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A})\}$$

Example 5.3 (Linear Algebra) Let $\mathscr{A} = M_m(\mathbb{C})$ and $a \in \mathscr{A}$. Then we have

$$\sigma(a) = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \lambda - a \notin \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A})\} = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \det(\lambda - a) = 0\}$$

and these are the roots of the characteristic polynomial $\det(\lambda - a)$. This is exactly the usual spectrum from linear algebra.

Example 5.4 (Functional Analysis) Let $\mathscr{A} = \mathscr{L}(\mathfrak{H})$ – where $\mathfrak{H}$ is any Hilbert- or Banach space – and $T \in \mathscr{A}$. Then $\sigma_{\mathscr{A}}(T)$ is exactly the spectrum as defined in functional analysis.

If S is the shift in $\mathscr{L}(\ell^2\mathbb{N})$, then we have $\sigma(S) = \mathbb{D}$.

Example 5.5 Let $\mathscr{A} = \mathbb{C}[X]$. Here we have $\mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A}) = \{a_0X^0 \mid a_0 \in \mathbb{C}\setminus\{0\}\}$ the constant non-zero polynomials. If $a = \sum_{k=0}^N a_k x^k \in \mathscr{A}$, then we have two cases:

$$\sigma(a) = \begin{cases} \{a_0\} & a = a_0 \text{ (constant)} \\ \mathbb{C} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Example 5.6 Let $\mathscr{A} = \mathbb{C}(X) = \{p, q \mid p, q \in \mathbb{C}[X], q \neq 0\}$. Now we have $\mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A}) = \mathscr{A}\setminus\{0\}$. If $a \in \mathscr{A}$, then

$$\sigma(a) = \begin{cases} \{a_0\} & a = a_0 \text{ (constant)} \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Example 5.7 Let $\mathscr{A} = C(X)$ for any topological space X. Then

$$\mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A}) = \{f \in C(X) \mid \forall_{x \in X} f(x) \neq 0\}$$

and

$$\sigma(f) = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \lambda - f \notin \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A})\} = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \exists_{x \in X} f(x) = \lambda\} = \mathrm{im}(f) = f(X).$$

Example 5.8 Let X be any topological space and consider $\mathscr{A} = C_b(X)$. Then

$$\mathrm{inv}(C_b(X)) = \{f \in C_b(X) \mid \exists_{\varepsilon > 0} \forall_{x \in X} |f(x)| \geq \varepsilon\}$$

and

$$\sigma(f) = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \lambda - f \notin \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A})\} = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \exists_{(x_n)} f(x_n) \to \lambda\} = \overline{\mathrm{im}(f)} = \overline{f(X)}.$$

This is a compact subset of $\mathbb{C}$.

Theorem 5.9 (Algebraic spectral mapping theorem) *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be an algebra, $a \in \mathscr{A}$ and $p \in \mathbb{C}[X], p(X) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \lambda_k X^k$ and define $p(a) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \lambda_k a^k$. Recall that the mapping $\mathbb{C}[X] \to \mathscr{A}, p \mapsto p(a)$ is a unital homomorphism.*

Then $\sigma(p(a)) = p(\sigma(a))$ assuming $\sigma(a) \neq \emptyset$.

Proof: If $p(X) = \lambda_0$ constant, this is clear (the spectrum is exactly λ_0 on both sides). Assume $p(x)$ is not constant. Fix $\mu \in \mathbb{C}$ and write

$$\mu - p(x) = \lambda_0 (x - \lambda_1) \cdots (x - \lambda_n)$$

as per the fundamental theorem of algebra (note that these are not the same λ as before) with $\lambda_0 \neq 0$. Then $\mu - p(a) = \lambda_0 (a - \lambda_1) \cdots (a - \lambda_n)$. Since these expressions commute, this product is invertible if and only if $(a - \lambda_i)$ is invertible for every i. So $\mu \in \sigma(p(a)) \Leftrightarrow \mu - p(a)$ is not invertible if and only if there exists an i for which $\lambda_i - a$ is not invertible, so $\lambda_i \in \sigma(a)$. But the λ_i are exactly the numbers satisfying $p(\lambda) = \mu$. Thus, μ is in $\sigma(p(a))$ if it is in the image of $\sigma(a)$ under p. Therefore, we conclude $\sigma(p(a)) = p(\sigma(a))$. □

We now focus on invertible elements in **Banach algebras**.

Theorem 5.10 *If $\mathscr{A}$ is a unital Banach algebra and $a \in \mathscr{A}$ with $\|a\| < 1$ then $1 - a$ is invertible and $(1-a)^{-1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a^n$.*

Proof: Observe that, since $\|a\| < 1$, we have $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \|a\|^n = \frac{1}{1 - \|a\|} < \infty$. This implies the (absolute) convergence of $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}$ by the characteristic property of Banach spaces. Hence, $b := \lim_{N \to \infty} \sum_{n=0}^{N} a^n \in \mathscr{A}$. No, if $N \in \mathbb{N}$, then

$$(1-a) \left(\sum_{n=0}^{N} a^n \right) = \left(\sum_{n=0}^{N} a^n \right) - \left(\sum_{n=1}^{N+1} a^n \right) = 1 - a^{N+1} \to 1$$

because of $\|a\| < 1$. This yields $(1-a)b = 1$. □

Theorem 5.11 *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a non-empty, non-zero unital Banach algebra. Then* $\mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A})$ *is an open subset of $\mathscr{A}$ and the function $f : \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A}) \to \mathscr{A}, a \mapsto a^{-1}$ is Frechet-differentiable and in particular continuous as well as $f'(a)b = -a^{-1} b a^{-1}$.*

Recall from calculus that $\frac{d}{dx}\frac{1}{x} = -\frac{1}{x^2}$. Also recall that $f : U \overset{\text{open}}{\subseteq} X \to Y$ with X, Y Banach spaces is **differentiable** at $x_0 \in U$ there exists an operator $D_{x_0} = f'(x_0) \in \mathscr{L}(X, Y)$ such that

$$\lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f\|(x_0 + h) - f(x_0) - D_{x_0}(h)\|}{\|h\|} = 0$$

Proof: Take $a \in \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A})$. If $b \in \mathscr{A}$ such that $\|a-b\| < \|a^{-1}\|^{-1}$. From this, we have $\|ba^{-1}-1\| = \|ba^{-1} - aa^{-1}\| = \|(b-a)a^{-1}\| \leq \|b-a\| \cdot \|a^{-1}\| < 1$. Per the previous theorem, $ba^{-1} \in \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A})$. This implies that b is also invertible. This shows that $\operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A})$ is open.

Furthermore, if $\|b\| < 1$, then also $(\| - b\| < 1)$. Thus, $1 + b \in \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A})$ and $(1+b)^{-1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty}(-1)^n b^n$. Thus,

$$\|(1+b)^{-1} - 1 + b\| = \left\|\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}(-1)^n b^n - 1 + b\right\| \leq \left\|\sum_{n=2}^{\infty}(-1)^n b^n\right\| \leq \sum_{n=2}^{\infty}\|b^n\| \leq \sum_{n=2}^{\infty}\|b\|^n = \frac{\|b\|^2}{1 - \|b\|}$$

Now let $a \in \inf(\mathscr{A})$ and $c \in \mathscr{A}$ such that $\|c\| < \frac{1}{2}\|a^{-1}\|^{-1}$. Then $\|a^{-}1c\| \leq \|a^{-1}\|\|c\| \leq \frac{1}{2}$. So if $b = a^{-1}$, then

$$\|(1 + a^{-1}c)^{-1} - 1 + a^{-1}c\| =\leq \frac{\|a^{-1}c\|^2}{1 = \|a^{-1}c\|} < 2\|a^{-1}c\|^2$$

Now, define $U : \mathscr{A} \to \mathscr{A}, b \mapsto -a^{-1}ba^{-1}$. Then this is a linear odd operation with $\|U\| \leq \|a^{-1}\|^2$, and we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\|(a+c)^{-1} - a^{-1} - U(c)\| &= \|(a+c)^{-1} - a^{-1} + a^{-1}ca^{-1}\| \\
&= \|(1 + a^{-1}c)^{-1}a^{-1} - a^{-1} + a^{-1}ca^{-1}\| \\
&\leq \|(1 + a^{-1}c)^{-1} - 1 + a^{-1}c\| \cdot \|a^{-1}\| \\
&\leq 2\|a^{-1}c\|^2\|a^{-1}\| \leq 2\|a^{-1}\|^3\|c\|^2
\end{aligned}$$

and thus

$$\lim_{c \to 0} \frac{\|(a+c)^{-1} - a^{-1} - U(c)\|}{\|c\|} = 0 \qquad \square$$

Example 5.12 If we choose $\mathscr{A} = \mathbb{C}[X]$ and the norm $\|p\| = \sup_{\lambda \in [0,1]} |p(x)|$. Then $(\mathscr{A}, \|\cdot\|)$ is a normed (but not Banach) algebra. For example, we see that $\lim_{m \to 0} 1 + X/m = 1 \in \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A})$, but $1 + X/m \notin \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A})$ and thus $\operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A})$ is not open (because the complement is not closed).

Theorem 5.13 *If $\mathscr{A}$ is a Banach algebra with unit 1, then for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$ the spectrum $\sigma(a) \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ is closed and $\sigma(a) \subseteq \overline{B(0, \|a\|)} = D(0, \|a\|) \coloneqq \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid |\lambda| \leq \|a\|\}$. Therefore, $\sigma(a)$ is compact by the Heine-Borell theorem.*

Proof: By definition

$$\sigma(a) = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \lambda - a \notin \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A})\}$$

is the inverse image of the closed subset $\mathscr{A} \setminus \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A}) \subseteq \mathscr{A}$ by the continuous function $\lambda \mapsto \lambda - a$. Therefore, $\sigma(a)$ is closed.

Now if $|\lambda| \leq \|a\|$ then $\|\lambda^{-1}a\| < 1$. Then $1 - \lambda^{-1}a \in \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A})$. Multiplying by λ yields $\lambda - a \in \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A})$. Thus, $\{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid |\lambda| > \|a\|\} \subseteq \rho(a)$ and thus $\sigma(a) \subseteq D(0, \|a\|)$. $\square$

Lemma 5.14 *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a unital Banach algebra and $a \in \mathscr{A}$. Then, the map $R_a : \rho(a) \subseteq \mathbb{C} \to \mathscr{A}, \lambda \mapsto (a - \lambda)^{-1}$ is Frechet-differentiable.*

PROOF: This follows from the following general result:

If $g : U \overset{\text{open}}{\subseteq} X \to Y$ and $f : V \overset{\text{open}}{\subseteq} Y \to Z$ for Banach spaces X, Y, Z with $g(U) \subseteq V$ are differentiable at $x_0 \in U$ or respectively $y_0 = g(x_0) \in V$, then $f \circ g$ is differentiable and $(f \circ g)'(x_0) = f'(g(x_0))g'(x_0)$. $\square$

Observation: For $R_a(\lambda) = (a - \lambda)^{-1}$ we get $R_a'(\lambda) = (a - \lambda)^{-2}$. We have $\mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}, \mathscr{A}) \simeq \mathscr{A}$ by $T \mapsto T(1)$. Recall that if $f(a) = a^{-1}$ yields $f'(a)b = -a^{-1}ba^{-1}$.

Theorem 5.15 (Gelfand) *If $\mathscr{A} \neq 0$ is a unital Banach algebra and $a \in \mathscr{A}$ then $\sigma(a) \neq \emptyset$.*

PROOF: Suppose $\sigma(a) = \emptyset$. Idea: Show that $R_a : \rho(a) \subseteq \mathbb{C} \to \mathscr{A}, \lambda \mapsto (a - \lambda)^{-1} = \frac{1}{a-\lambda}$ is bounded and differentiable and achieve a contradiction by Liouville's theorem.

Claim: $\|(a - \lambda)^{-1}\| < \|a\|^{-1}$ if $|\lambda| > 2\|a\|$. Indeed, if $|\lambda| > 2\|a\|$ then $\|\lambda^{-1}a\| < \frac{1}{2}$, and in particular $1 - \lambda^{-1}a \in \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A})$ and

$$\left\|(1 - \lambda^{-1}a)^{-1} - 1\right\| = \left\|\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}(\lambda^{-1}a)^{-1}\right\| \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty}\|\lambda^{-1}a\|^n = \frac{\|\lambda^{-1}a\|}{1 - \|\lambda^{-1}a\|} \leq 2\|\lambda^{-1}a\| < 1.$$

From here we deduce that $\|(1 - \lambda^{-1}a)^{-1}\| < 2$ and thus

$$\|(a - \lambda)^{-1}\| < \|\lambda^{-1}(\lambda^{-1}a - 1)^{-1}\| = \frac{\|(1 - \lambda^{-1}a)^{-1}\|}{|\lambda|} < \frac{2}{\lambda} < \frac{1}{\|\lambda\|}.$$

So $R_a : \mathbb{C} \to \mathscr{A}$ is bounded outside $\overline{B(0, 2\|a\|}$. Since R_a is continuous, it is bounded on $\mathbb{C} \to \mathscr{A}$. Let $\varphi \in \mathscr{A}^*$ be a bounded linear functional in $\mathcal{L}(\mathscr{A}, \mathbb{C})$. Thus, φ is differentiable with $\varphi'(a) = \varphi$ for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$. Then $\varphi \circ R_a$ is differentiable and bounded, so it is an "integer" function. By Liouville's theorem, $\varphi \circ R_a$ is constant. Therefore, $\varphi \circ R_a(x) = \varphi \circ R_a(y)$ for all $x, y \in \mathscr{A}$. Especially, we have $\varphi((a - \lambda)^{-1}) = \varphi(a^{-1})$ for all φ. Hahn-Banach shows $(a - \lambda)^{-1} = a^{-1}$ for all λ, proving $a - \lambda = a$ for all a, λ. This is a contradiction. $\square$

Theorem 5.16 (Gelfand-Mazur) *If $\mathscr{A}$ is a unital Banach algebra and every $a \neq 0$ admits an inverse ($\mathscr{A}$ is a field), then $\mathscr{A} = \mathbb{C} \cdot 1$.*

PROOF: By the assumption, $\mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A}) = \mathscr{A} \setminus \{0\}$. By the previous theorem, if $a \in \mathscr{A}$ there exists some $\lambda \in \sigma(a)$, so $a - \lambda \notin \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A})$, so $a - \lambda = 0$ and thus $a = \lambda \cdot 1$. $\square$

Corollary 5.17 *Let $\mathbb{C}(X) = \left\{\frac{p(x)}{q(x)} \mid p(x), q(x) \in \mathbb{Q}[X]\right\}$ is a field, but it cannot be turned into a Banach algebra.*

Theorem 5.18 (Adjointing units - unitization of algebras) *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be any algebra. Consider $\tilde{\mathscr{A}} = \mathscr{A} \oplus \mathbb{C}$ as a vector space. We write elements of $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$ as $a + \lambda \cdot 1 := (a, \lambda)$. Think of $a = (a, 0)$ and $\lambda = (a, \lambda)$. Define*

$$(a + \lambda 1)(b + \lambda' 1) = (ab + \lambda' a + \lambda b) + \lambda \cdot \lambda'.$$

Ten (exercise $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$) becomes a unital algebra with $1_{\mathscr{A}} = 1 = (0, 1)$.

Notice that $\mathscr{A}$ is an ideal in $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$.

Moreover, we get a short exact sequence

$$0 \to \mathscr{A} \hookrightarrow \tilde{\mathscr{A}} \to \mathbb{C} \to 0$$

so $1 + \lambda \mapsto \lambda$.

If $\mathscr{A}$ is a normed algebra, then $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$ is normed by $\|a + \lambda \cdot 1\| := \|a\| + |\lambda|$

If $\mathscr{A}$ is Banach and closed, then so is $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$.

If $\mathscr{A}$ is a *-algebra, then so is $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$ with $(a + \lambda 1)^*$.

If $\mathscr{A}$ is a (Banach) normed *-algebra, then so is $\tilde{A}$.

If $\mathscr{A}$ is a C^*-algebra, in general the norm given above is not a Norm on $\mathscr{A}$, but $\|a + \lambda \cdot 1\| := \sup_{b \in \mathscr{A}, b \in \mathscr{B}, b \leq 1} \|ab + \lambda b\|$ *is.*

Exercise 5.1 If $\mathscr{A}$ is already unital, then $\tilde{A} \simeq A \oplus \mathbb{C}$ as algebras by $a + \lambda \cdot 1 \mapsto (a + \lambda 1_{\mathscr{A}}, -\lambda)$.

Definition 5.19 *Re-Definition: If $\mathscr{A}$ is non-unital, then $\tilde{A} + \mathbb{C} \cdot 1$ is a $(*-)$Banach algebra, and we define $\sigma_A(a) := \sigma_{\tilde{\mathscr{A}}}(a)$.*

Observation: If $\mathscr{A}$ is already unital, then for $\tilde{A} \simeq \mathscr{A} \oplus \mathbb{C}$ we have $\sigma_{\tilde{\mathscr{A}}}(a) = \sigma_{\mathscr{A}}(a) \cup \{0\}$.

Remark 5.20 If $\mathscr{A}$ is a C^*-algebra, then $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$ is a C^*-algebra.

(i) If $\mathscr{A}$ is unital, then $\tilde{\mathscr{A}} \simeq \mathscr{A} \oplus \mathbb{C}$ and $\|a + \lambda \cdot 1\| = \max\{\|a + \lambda \cdot 1\|, |\lambda|\}$.

(ii) If $\mathscr{A}$ is not unital, then $\|a + \lambda \cdot 1\| = \sup_{\|b\| \leq 1} \|ab + \lambda b\|$.

6 Spectral Radius

Definition 6.1 *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be an algebra. Given $a \in \mathscr{A}$, we define:*

$$r(a) := \sup\{|\lambda| \mid \lambda \in \sigma_{\mathscr{A}}(a)\}$$

as the ***spectral radius*** *of a if $\emptyset \neq \sigma_{\mathscr{A}}(a)$ is bounded (e.g. if $\mathscr{A}$ is Banach).*

Observation: In a Banach algebra, we have $0 \leq r(a) \leq \|a\|$.

Example 6.2

(i) Let $f \in \mathscr{A} = C_0(X)$ using $\sigma_A(f) = \overline{f(X)}$. Thus,

$$r(f) = \sup\{|\lambda| \mid \lambda \in \overline{f(X)} = \sup_{x \in X} |f(x)| = \|f\|_{C_0(X)}$$

(ii) Let $\mathscr{A} = M_2(\mathbb{C})$ and $a = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$. Then $\sigma_{\mathscr{A}} = \{0\}$ and $r(a) = 0$, but $\|a\| = 1 \neq 0$.

Theorem 6.3 (Beurling-Gelfand) *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a Banach algebra, then*

$$r(a) = \inf_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \|a^n\|^{\frac{1}{n}} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \|a^n\|^{\frac{1}{n}}$$

Proof: We may assume $\mathscr{A}$ is unital (otherwise we consider $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$). If $\lambda \in \sigma(a)$, then

$$\lambda^n \in \sigma(a^n) \Rightarrow |\lambda^n| \leq \|a^n\| \Rightarrow |\lambda| \leq \|a\|^{\frac{1}{n}} \quad \forall_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$$

and therefore

$$r(a) \leq \inf_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \|a^n\|^{\frac{1}{n}} \leq \liminf_{n \to \infty} \|a^n\|^{\frac{1}{n}}.$$

We prove now that $\limsup_{n\to\infty} \|a^n\|^{\frac{1}{n}} \leq r(a)$. Set $\Delta \coloneqq B\Big(0, \frac{1}{r(a)}\Big)$. Where per convention we set $\frac{1}{r(a)} = \infty$ if $r(a) = 0$. If $\lambda \in \Delta$, then $1 - \lambda a \in \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A})$ (because $|\lambda| < \frac{1}{r(a)}$ implies $|\lambda^{-1}| > r(a)$ and therefore $\lambda^{-1} \notin \sigma(a) \Rightarrow \lambda^{-1} - a \in \mathrm{inv}\, A \Rightarrow 1 - \lambda a \in \mathrm{inv}(A)$).

Now fix $\varphi \in \mathscr{A}^*$. Then $f : \Delta \to \mathbb{C}, \lambda \mapsto \varphi((1-\lambda a)^{-1})$ is analytic, so it can be written as

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \lambda^n, a_n = \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} \in \mathbb{C}, \lambda \in \Delta.$$

On the other hand, if

$$|\lambda| < \frac{1}{\|a\|} \leq \frac{1}{r(a)}$$

then $\|\lambda a\| < 1$, so

$$(1-\lambda a)^{-1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda^n a^n \Rightarrow f(\lambda) = \varphi((1-\lambda)^{-1}) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \varphi(a^n)\lambda^n$$

for $|\lambda| < \frac{1}{\|\lambda\|}$.

By uniqueness of the Taylor series expansion, it follows that

$$a_n = \varphi(a^n) \forall_{n\in\mathbb{N}}.$$

In particular, $(\varphi(a^n)\lambda^n)$ converges to zero for all $\lambda \in \Delta$ and thus $(\varphi(a^n)\lambda^n)$ is bounded for all $\lambda \in \Delta$.

From the principle of uniform convergence, it follows that $(a^n\lambda^n)$ is bounded. So there exists an $M = M_\lambda$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}
&\|\lambda^n a^n\| \leq M \forall_{n\in\mathbb{N}} \\
\Rightarrow &\|\lambda^n\|^{\frac{1}{n}} \leq \frac{M^{\frac{1}{n}}}{|\lambda|} \forall_{n\in\mathbb{N}}, \forall_{\lambda\in\Delta, \lambda\neq 0} \\
\Rightarrow &\limsup_{n\to\infty} \|a^n\|^{\frac{1}{n}} \leq \frac{1}{\lambda} \forall_{\lambda\in\Delta \text{ i.e. } |\lambda| < \frac{1}{r(a)}}
\end{aligned}$$

Letting $\lambda < \frac{1}{r(a)}$ yields $\limsup_{n\to\infty} \|a^n\|^{\frac{1}{n}} \leq r(a)$. □

Example 6.4 Let $A = C^1([0,1]) = \{I \in C[0,1] \mid \exists_{f'(t)} \forall_{t\in[0,1]}, t \mapsto f'(t) \text{ continuous}\}$ with $\|f\| = \|f\|_\infty + \|f'\|_\infty$.

Then $\mathscr{A}$ is unital, commutative and a Banach algebra. Consider $x \in \mathscr{A}$, $x(t) = t$. We have $x^n(t) = t^n$ and

$$\begin{aligned}
\|x^n\| &= \sup_{t\in[0,1]} |t^n| + \sup_{t\in[0,1]} |nt^{n-1}| = 1 + n \\
r(x) &= \lim_{n\to\infty} (1+n)^{\frac{1}{n}} = 1 \\
\|x\| &= 2
\end{aligned}$$

Observation: $\sigma(x) = \mathrm{im}(x) = [0,1]$.

Theorem 6.5 *Let $\mathscr{B} \nsubseteq \mathscr{A}$ be an inclusion of unital Banach algebras with $1 = 1_{\mathscr{A}} = 1_{\mathscr{B}}$. Then $\sigma_{\mathscr{A}}(b) \subseteq \sigma_{\mathscr{B}}(b)$ for all $b \in \mathscr{B}$ and the inclusion may be proper. If $\sigma_{\mathscr{A}}(b)$ is simply connected (not holes), then $\sigma_{\mathscr{A}}(b) = \sigma_{\mathscr{B}}(b)$.*
The holes of a compact subset $K \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ are the bounded connected components of $\mathbb{C} \setminus K$. So saying that K has no holes means that $\mathbb{C} \setminus K$ is connected.

PROOF: See Murphy, 1.2.8. $\square$

Example 6.6 Let $\mathscr{B} := A(\mathbb{D}) = \{f \in C(\mathbb{D}) \mid f \text{ analytic on } \mathbb{D}^\circ\}$ and $\mathscr{A} = C(\mathbb{S}^1)$. Then we have an embedding by $\iota : \mathscr{B} \hookrightarrow \mathscr{A}, f \mapsto f|_{\mathbb{S}^1}$.

By the principle of maximum modules, ι is an embedding of (unital) Banach algebras. Consider: $f(z) = z$ for $z \in \mathbb{D}$. (Observation: $\overline{Alg}(1, z) = A(\mathbb{D})$) Then:

$$\sigma_{A(\mathbb{D})}(f) = f(\mathbb{D}) = \mathbb{D}$$

and $\sigma_{C(\mathbb{S}^1)}(f|_{\mathbb{S}^1}) = \mathbb{S}^1$.

Definition 6.7 (Exponentials) *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a unital Banach algebra, given $a \in \mathscr{A}$ we define*

$$e^a = \exp(a) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{a^n}{n!}$$

Note $\left\|\frac{a^n}{n!}\right\| \leq \frac{\|a\|^n}{n!}$, so the series converges and $\|\exp(a)\| \leq \exp(\|a\|)$.

Theorem 6.8

(i) Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a unital Banach algebra. If $a \in \mathscr{A}$, then $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathscr{A}, t \mapsto \exp(ta)$ is the unique solution of

$$\begin{cases} f'(t) & = af(t) \\ f(0) & = 1 \end{cases}$$

(ii) $e^a \in \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A})$ and $(e^a)^{-1} = e^{-a}$.

(iii) If $a, b \in \mathscr{A}$ then $e^{a+b} = e^a \cdot e^b$ (here some commutativity is neccessary).

PROOF: See Murphy, 1.2.9. $\square$

7 Gelfand Representation for commutative Banach algebras

Idea: Given a commutative algebra $\mathscr{A}$, we want to represent $\mathscr{A}$ by a homomorphism $\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to C_0(X)$ for X some locally compact Hausdorff space. We hope that φ is injective, or even isometric, on an isomorphism. But what is X, and what is φ?

Notice that, if $\mathscr{A} = C_0(X)$ already, then for each $x \in X$ we get a character $\operatorname{ev}_x : \mathscr{A} \to \mathbb{C}, f \mapsto f(x)$.

Definition 7.1 *Given an algebra $\mathscr{A}$, we define*

$$\hat{\mathscr{A}} = \Omega(\mathscr{A}) := \{\chi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathbb{C} \mid \chi \text{ non-zero homomorphism}\}.$$

Example 7.2

(i) For $\mathscr{A} = C_0(X)$ we get a map

$$X \to \Omega(\mathscr{A}), x \mapsto \operatorname{ev}_x$$

that is a bijection. After we give $\Omega(\mathscr{A})$ an appropriate topology, it will also be a homomorphism.

(ii) Let $\mathscr{A} = M_2(\mathbb{C})$ (or any $M_n(\mathbb{C})$). This is a simple algebra, so non-zero homomorphisms $\chi : \mathscr{X} \to \mathbb{C}$ do not exist (same for any $\mathscr{A}$ with dimension > 1).

So in this case we have $\Omega(\mathscr{A}) = \emptyset$. This can also happen in commutative algebras.

(iii) Consider

$$\mathscr{A} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \lambda \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mid \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \right\}$$

Then for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$ we have $a^2 = 0$, so if $\chi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathbb{C}$ is an homomorphism, then $\chi(a)^2 = \chi(a^2) = 0$, so $\chi(a) = 0$ for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$. So again, $\Omega(\mathscr{A}) = \emptyset$ (and $\mathscr{A}$ is commutative with $\dim \mathscr{A} = 1$).

Question: Given an abstract algebra $\mathscr{A}$ how do we possibly find its characters?
Idea: Assume that $\mathsf{I} \triangleleft \mathscr{A}$ is a maximal ideal and $\mathscr{A}$ is a unital Banach algebra. Then $\mathscr{A}/\mathsf{I} \simeq \mathbb{C}$ and $\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})$.

Theorem 7.3 *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a unital non-zero Banach algebra. If $\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})$ then $\|\chi\| = \sup_{\|a\|=1} |\chi(a)| = 1$ and $\ker(\chi) \triangleleft \mathscr{A}$. So $\chi \in \mathscr{A}^*$ (the topological dual of $\Omega(\mathscr{A}) \subseteq D_{\mathscr{A}^*}(0,1)$).*

Moreover, if $\mathscr{A}$ is a unital Banach commutative algebra, then $\Omega(\mathscr{A}) \ni \chi \mapsto \ker(\chi) \triangleleft \mathscr{A}$ is a bijection between of characters of $\mathscr{A}$ and maximal ideals of $\mathscr{A}$.

Proof: If $a \in \mathscr{A}$ and χ a character, then $\chi(a) \in \sigma(\mathscr{A})$, because $\chi(a - \chi(a) \cdot 1) = \chi(a) - \chi(a) \cdot \chi(1) = 0$, so $a - \chi(a) \cdot 1 \in \ker(\chi) \triangleleft \mathscr{A}$ and thus $a - \chi(a) \cdot 1 \notin \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A})$.

Therefore: $|\chi(a)| \leq r(a) \leq \|a\|$. So $\|\chi\| \leq 1$. Since $\chi(1) = 1$ and $\|1\| = 1$ we have $\|\chi\| = 1$.

Now, apply linear algebra. Then $\ker(\chi)$ is a maximal proper subspace, in particular a maximal ideal. And $\ker(\chi)$ is closed, because χ is continuous. Now assume that $\mathscr{A}$ is commutative (in addition to unital and Banach). Then we have the mapping

$$\varphi : \Omega(\mathscr{A}) \to \mathrm{MaxIdeals}(\mathscr{A}), \chi \to \ker(\chi).$$

- φ is injective. If $\ker(\chi_1) = \ker(\chi_2)$ for $\chi_1, \chi_2 \in \mathscr{A}$, then for every $a \in \mathscr{A}$ we have $a - \chi_1(a) \cdot 1 \in \ker(\chi_1) = \ker(\chi_2)$. Thus, $\chi_2(a = \chi_1(a) \cdot 1) = 0$ and therefore $\chi_2(a) = \chi_1(a)$ for every $\mathscr{A}$.

- φ is surjective. Take $\mathsf{I} \triangleleft \mathscr{A}$ a maximal ideal. Then $\mathsf{I} = \bar{\mathsf{I}}$ because $\bar{\mathsf{I}} \neq \mathscr{A}$, otherwise $1 \in \bar{\mathsf{I}}$ and since $\mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A})$ is open in $\mathscr{A}$, we get $\mathsf{I} \cap \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A}) \neq \emptyset$. But then we have an invertible element in the ideal I already, but this implies the contradiction $\mathsf{I} = \mathscr{A}$. Therefore, $\mathscr{A}/\mathsf{I}$ is a commutative, unital Banach algebra which is simple (I is maximal).

  Exercise: If $\mathsf{I} \triangleleft \mathscr{A}$, then $\mathscr{A}/\mathsf{I}$ is field if and only if there exists no $\mathsf{J} \triangleleft \mathscr{A}$ such that $\mathsf{I} \triangleleft \mathsf{J}$.

  Thus, $\mathscr{A}/\mathsf{I}$ is a field and $\mathscr{A}/\mathsf{I} \simeq \mathbb{C}$. Then the composition

  $$\mathscr{A} \xrightarrow{q} \mathscr{A}/\mathsf{I} \simeq \mathbb{C}$$

  is a character with $\ker(\chi) = \mathsf{I}$. □

Exercise 7.1 An application of Zorn's Lemma. Show that every ideal $I \triangleleft \mathscr{A}$ in a unital algebra $\mathscr{A}$ is contained in a maximal ideal.

In particular, we can apply this to $\mathsf{I} = 0$ in $\mathscr{A} \neq 0$ (with $\mathscr{A}$ is unital and commutative) and thus $\Omega(\mathscr{A}) \neq \emptyset$.

Topology on $\Omega(\mathscr{A})$

We have for $\mathscr{A}$ a Banach algebra. We can add a unit to receive $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$, which is a Banach algebra.

Observe: If $\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})$, then there exists a unique $\tilde{X} \in \Omega(\tilde{\mathscr{A}})$ via $\tilde{X}(a + \lambda \cdot 1) = \chi(a) + \lambda$. Thus, $\|\chi\| \leq \|\tilde{X}\| = 1$ (Note that it may still be smaller than 1. See exercises 2023-05-09).

In any case,

$$\Omega(\mathscr{A}) \subseteq D_{\mathscr{A}^*}(0,1) = \{\varphi \in \mathscr{A}^* \mid \|\varphi\| \leq 1\}$$

and $\mathscr{A}^*$ carries the weak *-topology (the smallest topology to make all point-evaluations continuous, that is for a net $(\varphi_i) \subset {}^*$ weakly converging to $\varphi \in \mathscr{A}^*$ if and only if $\varphi_i(a) \to \varphi(a)$ for all $a \in A$).

Definition 7.4 *Given a Banach algebra $\mathscr{A}$, we endow $\Omega(\mathscr{A})$ with the weak *-topology and call this the **Gelfand spectrum** of $\mathscr{A}$.*

Proposition 7.5 *$\Omega(\mathscr{A})$ is a locally compact Hausdorff space. If $\mathscr{A}$ is unital, then $\Omega(\mathscr{A})$ is compact.*

PROOF: By Banach-Alaoglu-Theorem, $D_{\mathscr{A}^*}(0,1)$ is compact and Hausdorff with the weak *-topology. Let

$$\begin{aligned} S &:= \{\chi : A \to \mathbb{C} \mid \chi \text{ hom.}\} \\ &= \Omega(\mathscr{A}) \cup \{0\} \end{aligned}$$

Then $S \subseteq D_{\mathscr{A}^*}(0,1)$. So $\chi(ab) = \lim_{i\to\infty} K_i = \lim_{i\to\infty} \chi_i(a)\chi_i(b) = \chi(a)\chi(b)$ and therefore $x \in S$. Thus, S is a compact Hausdorff space and $\Omega(\mathscr{A}) = S \setminus \{0\}$ is relatively compact.

If $\mathscr{A}$ is unital, then $\Omega(\mathscr{A}) \subseteq D_{\mathscr{A}^*}(0,1)$ is closed. Then we have $(X_i) \subseteq \Omega(\mathscr{A})$ and $X_i \to X \in \mathscr{A}^*$ and thus $X \in S = \hom(\mathscr{A}, \mathbb{C})$. □

Observation: Given a Banach algebra $\mathscr{A}$, we have an isomorphism

$$\Omega(\tilde{\mathscr{A}}) \to \Omega(\mathscr{A}) \sqcup \{\chi_\infty\}, \varphi \mapsto \begin{cases} \varphi|_{\mathscr{A}} & \varphi|_{\mathscr{A}} \neq 0 \\ \chi_\infty & \varphi|_{\mathscr{A}} = 0 \end{cases},$$

where $\chi_\infty(a + \lambda \cdot 1) = \lambda$. Thus, $\Omega(\mathscr{A}) \sqcup \{\chi_\infty\}$ is already the unitization of $\Omega(\mathscr{A})$.

Theorem 7.6 *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a Banach algebra. Then for every $a \in \mathscr{A}$.*

$$\{\chi(a) \mid \chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})\} \subseteq \sigma(a)$$

If $\mathscr{A}$ is commutative, then

- *$\{\chi(a) \mid \chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})\} = \sigma(a)$ in case $\mathscr{A}$ is unital.*
- *$\{\chi(a) \mid \chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})\} \cup \{0\} = \sigma_{\mathscr{A}}(a)$.*

PROOF:

- $\mathscr{A}$ is unital and $a \in \mathscr{A}$. $\chi(a - \chi(a) \cdot 1) = 0$, so $\chi(a) \in \sigma(a)$, so $\{\chi(a) \mid x \in \Omega(a)\} \subseteq \sigma(a)$.

  Now if $\lambda \in \sigma(a)$, consider $\mathsf{I} := (a - \lambda \cdot 1)\mathscr{A} \lhd \mathscr{A}$ if $\mathscr{A}$ is commutative. By Zorns Lemma, we get $I \subseteq J \lhd \mathscr{A}$ with $J = \ker(\chi)$ for some $\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})$. Thus we have $a - \lambda \cdot 1 \in \mathsf{I} \subseteq J = \ker(\chi)$ so $\chi(a) = \lambda$.

- $\mathscr{A}$ is not unital. Consider $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$. By the first part,

$$\sigma_{\mathscr{A}}(a) = \sigma_{\tilde{\mathscr{A}}}(a) \supseteq \{\chi(a) \mid \chi \in \Omega(\tilde{\mathscr{A}})\} = \{\chi(a) \mid \chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})\} \cup \{0\}$$

  If $\mathscr{A}$ is commutative, by the first part again:

$$\sigma_{\mathscr{A}}(a) = \sigma_{\tilde{\mathscr{A}}}(a) = \{\chi(a) \mid \chi \in \Omega(\tilde{\mathscr{A}})\} = \{\chi(a) \mid \chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})\} \cup \{0\} \qquad \square$$

7.1 Gelfand-Transformation

Definition 7.7 *Given a Banach algebra $\mathscr{A}$ and $a \in \mathscr{A}$, we define $\hat{a} : \Omega(\mathscr{A}) \to \mathbb{C}, \chi \mapsto \chi(a)$.*

Observe that $\hat{a} \in C(\Omega(\mathscr{A}))$, because if $\chi_i \to \chi$ then we have $\hat{a}(\chi_i) = \chi_i(a) \to \chi(a) = \hat{a}(\chi)$. So we have a map $\Gamma : \mathscr{A} \to C(\Omega(\mathscr{A}))$. This map is called the **Gelfand transform** of $\mathscr{A}$.

Theorem 7.8 (Gelfand Representation) *$\mathrm{im}(\Gamma) \subseteq C_0(\Omega(\mathscr{A}))$ and $\Gamma : \mathscr{A} \to C_0(\Omega(\mathscr{A}))$ is a contractive homomorphism, i.e. $\|\Gamma(a)\| \leq r(a) \leq \|a\|$ for every Banach algebra $\mathscr{A}$. If moreover $\mathscr{A}$ is commutative, then $\|\Gamma(a)\| = r(a)$. Also, for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$, we have*

$$\sigma(a) = \begin{cases} \mathrm{im}(\hat{a}) & \mathscr{A} \textit{ unital} \\ \mathrm{im}(\hat{a}) \cup \{0\} & \textit{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

Proof: If $\mathscr{A}$ is unital, then $\Omega(\mathscr{A})$ is compact so $\mathrm{im}(\Gamma) \subseteq C(\Omega(\mathscr{A})) = C_0(\Omega(\mathscr{A}))$. If $\mathscr{A}$ is not unital, we use observation 7. Then we have $\Omega(\tilde{\mathscr{A}}) \simeq \Omega(\mathscr{A}) \cup \{\chi_\infty\}$ so that

$$C_0(\Omega(\mathscr{A})) \simeq \{f \in C(\Omega(\tilde{\mathscr{A}})) \mid f(x_\infty) = 0\}.$$

Now if $a \in \mathscr{A}$, then $\hat{a}(\chi_\infty) = \chi_\infty(a) = 0$.

Γ is a homomorphism: The linearity is obvious, as is the homomorphism property:

$$(\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b))(\chi) = (\hat{a} \cdot \hat{b})(\chi) = \hat{a}(\chi)\hat{b}(\chi) = \chi(a)\chi(b) = \chi(ab) = \hat{ab}(\chi) = \Gamma(ab)(\chi).$$

Γ is contractive: Given $a \in \mathscr{A}$, $\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})$, we have $\hat{a}(\chi) = \chi(a) \in \sigma(a)$, so $\|\hat{a}(\chi)\| \leq r(a)$ yielding $\|\Gamma(a)\|_\infty = \|\hat{a}\|_\infty \leq r(a) \leq \|a\|$. If $\mathscr{A}$ is commutative, we have

$$\sigma(a) = \begin{cases} \{\chi(a) \mid \chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})\} & 1 \in \mathscr{A} \\ \{\chi(a) \mid \chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})\} \cup \{0\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} = \begin{cases} \{\hat{a}(\chi) \mid \chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})\} & 1 \in \mathscr{A} \\ \{\hat{a}(\chi) \mid \chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})\} \cup \{0\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and thus

$$\|\Gamma(a)\| = \|\hat{a}\|_\infty = \sup_{\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})} |\chi(a)| = \sup_{\lambda \in \sigma(a)} |\lambda| = r(a) \qquad \square$$

As a convention, if $\Gamma(\mathscr{A}) =$, then $C_0(\Omega(\mathscr{A})) = \{0\}$ and thus $\hat{a} = 0$ for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$.

Example 7.9

(i) If $\mathscr{A} = M_n(\mathbb{C})$ with $n > 1$ or $\mathscr{A}$ is any unital simple Banach algebra with $\dim \mathscr{A} > 1$, then $\Omega(\mathscr{A}) = \emptyset$ so $\Gamma \equiv 0$.

(ii) Take the commutative subalgebra

$$\mathscr{A} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \lambda \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mid \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \right\} \subseteq M_2(\mathbb{C})$$

then $\mathscr{A}$ is not unital, commutative, Banach and $\dim \mathscr{A} = 1$. Once again, $\Omega(\mathscr{A}) = \emptyset$ and thus $\Gamma \equiv 0$.

(iii) Take

$$\mathscr{A} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & \alpha \\ 0 & \lambda \end{pmatrix} \mid \lambda, \alpha \in \mathbb{C} \right\} \subseteq M_2(\mathbb{C})$$

is a unital, commutative Banach algebra with $\dim \mathscr{A} = 2$. We have

$$\Omega(\mathscr{A}) = \{\chi_\infty\} \qquad \chi_\infty : \mathscr{A} \to \mathbb{C}, \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & \alpha \\ 0 & \lambda \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \lambda$$

and thus

$$\Gamma : \mathscr{A} \to C_0(\Omega(\mathscr{A})) = C_0(\{\chi_\infty\}) \simeq \mathbb{C}, a = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & \alpha \\ 0 & \lambda \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \hat{a} \equiv \lambda$$

This shows that Γ is not injective, as $\dim \mathscr{A} = 2$ but $\dim \Gamma(\mathscr{A}) = 1$.

Definition 7.10 *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a Banach algebra. We say that $a \in \mathscr{A}$ is quasi-nilpotent if $r(a) = \lim_{n\to\infty} \|a^n\|^{\frac{1}{n}} = 0$. Sometimes, you will read*

$$\mathrm{Rad}(\mathscr{A}) = \{a \in \mathscr{A} \mid a \text{ quasi-nilpotent}\}$$

*If $\mathrm{Rad}(\mathscr{A}) = 0$, we say that $\mathscr{A}$ is **semi-simple**. Notice that if $a \in \mathscr{A}$ is quasi-nilpotent, then $\Gamma(a) = \hat{a} = 0$ because $\Gamma(a) \leq r(a) = 0$. If $\mathscr{A}$ is commutative, then $\ker(\Gamma) = \mathrm{Rad}(\mathscr{A})$.*

Example 7.11

(iv) $\mathscr{A} = \ell^1(\mathbb{Z}) = \{(a_n)_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} \mid \sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} |a_n| < \infty$.

Recall from exercises, that $\Omega(\ell^1(\mathbb{Z})) \simeq \mathbb{D}$ with $\mathbb{D} \to \Omega(\ell^1(\mathbb{Z})), z \mapsto \chi_z$ defined as $\chi_z(a) = \hat{a}(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$.
We define a multiplication $\delta_m \cdot \delta_n = \delta_{n+m}$. Then δ_0 is the unit and δ_1 is a generator of $\mathscr{A} = \ell^1(\mathbb{Z})$.
The elements $\delta_m - (\ldots, 0, 1, 0, \ldots)$ form a basis for $\mathscr{A}$. We have $a = \sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} a_n \delta_n$ and for $\chi \in \mathscr{A}^*$ it follows $\chi(a) = \sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} a_n \chi(\delta_n)$.

We now want to calculate the spectrum. We have seen that $\chi(\delta_0) = \chi(1_{\mathscr{A}}) = 1$ and $\chi(\delta_n) = \chi(\delta_1^n)\chi(\delta_1)^n$. Therefore, χ is determined by $z = \chi(\delta_1) \in \mathbb{C}$. We know at least that $|z| = |\chi(\delta_1)| \leq \|\delta_1\| = 1$, so $z \in \mathbb{D}$. Claim: $z \in \Pi = \mathbb{S}^1$.

General fact: If $a \in \operatorname{inv} \mathscr{A}$ for $\mathscr{A}$ a unital Banach algebra, then $\sigma(a^{-1}) = \sigma(a)^{-1} = \{\lambda^{-1} \mid \lambda \in \sigma(a)\}$.

Observe that $\mathbb{S}^1 = \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A})$ with $\delta_1^{-1} = \delta_{-1}$. So $\sigma(\delta) \subseteq \mathbb{D}$ and $\sigma(\delta_1)^{-1} = \sigma(\delta_{-1}) \subseteq \mathbb{D}$, so $\sigma(\delta_1) \subseteq \mathbb{S}^1$. So $z = \chi(\delta_1) \in \sigma(\delta_1) \subseteq \mathbb{S}^1$. Conversely, if $z \in \mathbb{S}^1$, then $\chi_z : \mathscr{A} \to \mathbb{C}, \chi_z(a) = \sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} a_n z^n \in \mathbb{C}$ is well-defined (as the sum converges) and is a character, as

$$\chi_z(\delta_n \cdot \delta_m) = \chi(\delta_{n+m}) = z^{n+m} = z^n z^m = \chi_z(\delta_n) \cdot \chi + z(\delta_m)$$

and checking in the basis also proves the homomorphism property for all of $\mathscr{A}$. Notice that $z = \chi_z(\delta_1)$. This shows the injectivity of

$$\Pi \simeq \Omega(\mathscr{A}) = \Omega(\ell^1(\mathbb{Z})), z \mapsto \chi_z, \chi(\delta_1) \leftarrow \chi$$

which is continuous and therefore a homeomorphism (isomorphism), as both spaces are compact. Notice

$$\sigma(\delta_1) = \{\chi(\delta_1) \mid \chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})\} = \{\chi_z(\delta_1) \mid z \in \mathbb{S}^1\} = \mathbb{S}^1$$

The Gelfand transformation is now

$$\Gamma : \mathscr{A} = \ell^1(\mathbb{Z}) \to C(\Omega(\mathscr{A})) \simeq C(\mathbb{S}^1), a \mapsto \left(\hat{a} : z \mapsto \sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} a_n z^n\right)$$

Γ is always a contractive algebra homomorphism, as $\|\hat{a}\|_\infty \leq \|a\|_1$. Γ is a *-homomorphism where $\ell^1(\mathbb{Z})$ carries the involution $a^* = \left(\sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z} a_n \delta_n}\right) = \sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} \overline{a}_n \delta_{-n}$ because of $\delta_n^* = \delta_{-n}$. The involution of $C(\mathbb{S}^1)$ is complex conjugation. But on the unit circle, $\overline{z} = z^{-1}$, so we have a *-homomorphism.

Γ is <u>injective</u>. If $f \in C(\mathbb{S}^1)$, we can define its "inverse Fourier-Transform"

$$\check{f}(n) = \int_{\mathbb{S}^1} f(z) z^{-n} dz = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(\exp(it)) \exp(-int) dt$$

This is **not** the line integral from functional analysis, as the derivative of the path is not included. You can now check that $(\hat{a})\check{}(n) = a_n$. $g \mapsto \int_{\mathbb{S}^1} g$ is a continuous function on $C(\mathbb{S}^1)$ and we have

$$\hat{a}(z) = \sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} a_n z^n = \lim_{F\subseteq\mathbb{Z} \text{ finite}} \sum_{n\in F} a_n z^n = \lim_{N\to\infty} \sum_{n=-N}^{N} a_n z^n$$

so

$$(\hat{a})\check{}(n) = \sum_{m\in\mathbb{Z}} a_m (\hat{\delta_m})\check{}(n)$$

Because of $\int_{\mathbb{S}^1} z^k = \delta_{k,0}$, we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{S}^1} z^m z^n dz = \delta_{n,m}$$

and using $\hat{\delta_m}(z) = z^m$ we can show $(\hat{\delta_m})\check{}(n) = \delta_{n,m}$ and thus

$$(\hat{a})\check{}(n) = \sum_{m\in\mathbb{Z}} a_m (\hat{\delta_m})\check{}(n) = \sum_{m\in\mathbb{Z}} a_m \delta_{m,n} = a_m$$

This shows that we can re-gain the elements of the sequence from $\hat{a}$, so $\Gamma : (a_n) \mapsto \hat{a}$ must be injective.

Γ has dense range because the polynomials are dense in $C(\mathbb{S}^1)$ because of Stone-Weierstraß theorem.

Γ is <u>not isometric</u>. If Γ was isometric, then Γ were an isometric *-homomorphism with dense range. Since isometric homomorphisms have closed image, Γ were surjective and thus an isometric *-isomorphism $\ell^1(\mathbb{Z}) = C(\mathbb{S}^1)$. Then $\ell^1(\mathbb{Z})$ would be a C^*-algebra with the $\ell^1(\mathbb{Z})$-norm, and thus $\|a^*a\|_1 = \|a\|_1^2$ (with the involution as described above). Then, using the C^*-property of $C(\mathbb{S}^1)$ and isometry of Γ, we have

$$\|a^*a\|_1 = \|\Gamma(a^*a)\|_\infty = \|\Gamma(a)^*\Gamma(a)\|_\infty = \|\Gamma(a)\|_\infty^2 - \|a\|_1^2.$$

Now we only need to find $a \in \ell^1(\mathbb{Z})$ with $\|a^*a\|_1 \neq \|a\|_1^2$. Choose $a = \alpha\delta_0 + \beta\delta_1 + \gamma\delta_{-1} = \alpha + \beta\delta_1 + \gamma\delta_{-1}$ (not writing δ_0 as it is the unit).

$$a^*a = (\overline{\alpha} + \overline{\beta}\delta_{-1} + \overline{\gamma}\delta_1)(\alpha + \beta\delta_1 + \gamma\delta_{-1}) = \dots$$

and thus

$$\|a^*a\|_1 = |\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 + |\gamma|^2 + 2|\overline{\alpha}\beta + \alpha\overline{\gamma}| + 2|\gamma\beta|$$

while

$$\|a\|_1^2 = (|\alpha| + |\beta| + |\gamma|)^2.$$

Now choosing $\alpha = i$ and $\beta = \gamma = 1$ yields $\|a^*a\|_1 = 5$ and $\|a\|_1^2 = 9$. This shows that $\ell^1(\mathbb{Z})$ does not fulfil the *-property and cannot be a C^*-algebra. This is a contradiction, so Γ cannot be isometric.

This is also a valid counterexample for the isometry directly, because a has Norm 3, but $\Gamma(a) = (z \mapsto \frac{1}{z} + i + z = 2\Re(z) + i)$ has maximum $2 + i$ with Norm $\sqrt{5} < 3$ on the unit circle. Γ is <u>not surjective</u>. This is complicated.

Recall: For $\mathscr{A}$ a Banach algebra, we have a Gelfand representation

$$\Gamma : \mathscr{A} \to C_0(\Omega(\mathscr{A})), a \mapsto (\hat{a} : \Omega(\mathscr{A}) \to \mathbb{C}, \chi \mapsto \chi(a))$$

where $\Omega(\mathscr{A}) = \{\chi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathbb{C} \mid \text{ non-zero hom}\} \subseteq D_{\mathscr{A}^*}(0,1)$ with the weak *-topology. Γ is a contractive homomorphism, and if $\mathscr{A}$ is commutative $\|\Gamma(a)\| = r(a) \leq \|a\|$ for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$.

We now want to consider commutative C^*-algebras.

Theorem 7.12 (Gelfand) *If $\mathscr{A}$ is a commutative C^*-algebra, then $\Gamma : \mathscr{A} \to C_0(\Omega(\mathscr{A}))$ is an isometric *-isomorphism.*

For this proof we require a set of lemmas.

Lemma 7.13 *If $a \in \mathscr{A}$, $\mathscr{A}$ a C^*-algebra, with $a = a^*$ then $r(a) = \|a\|$.*

Proof: Use $r(a) = \lim_{n\to\infty} \|a^n\|^{\frac{1}{n}}$. Notice $\|a^2\| = \|a^*a\| = \|a\|^2$ and $\|a^4\| = \|(a^2)^*a^2\| = \|a^2\|^2 = \|a\|^4$ and likewise for all powers that are powers of 2 we have $\|a^{2^n}\| = \|a\|^{2^n}$. So $r(a) = \lim_{n\to\infty} \|a^{2^n}\|^{\frac{1}{2^n}} = \|a\|$ is the limit of the subsequence and therefore the limit of the sequence. □

Remark 7.14 In general, $\|a\| \neq r(a)$ if $a \neq a^*$ in a C^*-algebra, e.g. $a = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in M_2(\mathbb{C})$. But if $a^*a = aa^*$ (a is normal), then $\|a\| = r(a)$.

PROOF: Exercise. $\square$

Corollary 7.15 *There exists at most one norm that makes a *-algebra $\mathscr{A}$ into a C^*-algebra.*

PROOF: If $\mathscr{A}$ is a C^*-algebra with norm $\|\cdot\|$, then for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$ we have $\|a\| = \|aa^*\|^{\frac{1}{2}}$. Note that a^*a is self-adjoint, so by the previous lemma we have

$$\|a\| = \|aa^*\|^{\frac{1}{2}} = r(a^*a)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sup_{\lambda \in \sigma(a^*a)} |\lambda|^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

and this only depends on the algebra structure, not its norm. $\square$

Corollary 7.16 *If $\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathscr{B}$ is a *-homomorphism from a Banach-*-algebra $\mathscr{A}$ into a C^*-algebra $\mathscr{B}$ then φ is contractive, i.e. $\|\varphi(a)\|_{\mathscr{B}} \leq \|a\|_{\mathscr{A}}$ for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$*

PROOF: Replacing $\mathscr{A}, \mathscr{B}$ by their unitizations $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$ and $\tilde{\mathscr{B}}$ and extending φ to $\tilde{\varphi} : \tilde{A} \to \tilde{B}, a + \lambda 1_{\mathscr{B}} \mapsto \varphi(a) + \lambda 1_{\mathscr{B}}$ shows that we can just assume $\mathscr{A}, \mathscr{B}, \varphi$ to be unital.

Now, if $a \in \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A})$, then $\varphi(a) \in \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{B})$, so it follows

$$\lambda \in \rho_{\mathscr{A}}(a) \Leftrightarrow a - \lambda \in \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A}) \Leftrightarrow \varphi(a) - \lambda \in \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{B}) \Leftrightarrow \lambda \in \rho_{\mathscr{B}}(\varphi(a))$$

so $\rho_{\mathscr{A}}(a) \subseteq \rho_{\mathscr{B}}(\varphi(a))$ and $\sigma_{\mathscr{A}}(a) \supseteq \sigma_{\mathscr{B}}(\varphi(a))$. It follows for the spectral radius: $r(\varphi(a)) \leq r(a)$. As $\mathscr{B}$ is a C^*-algebra, this implies

$$\begin{aligned} \|\varphi(a)\|_{\mathscr{B}}^2 &= \|\varphi(a)^*\varphi(a)\|_{\mathscr{B}} = \|\varphi(a^*a)\|_{\mathscr{B}} = r(\varphi(a^*a)) \\ &\leq r(a^*a) \leq \|a^*a\|_{\mathscr{A}} \leq \|a^*\|_{\mathscr{A}} \cdot \|a\|_{\mathscr{A}} = \|a\|_{\mathscr{A}}^2 \end{aligned}$$

and therefore $\|\varphi(a)\|_{\mathscr{B}} \leq \|a\|_{\mathscr{A}}$. $\square$

Lemma 7.17 *If $\mathscr{A}$ is a C^*-algebra and $a \in \mathscr{A}$, then*

(i) If a is self-adjoint, $\sigma(a) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$.

(ii) If $\mathscr{A}$ is unital and $u \in \mathcal{U}(\mathscr{A})$ is unitary (that is, $u^*u = uu^* = 1$) then $\sigma(u) \subseteq \mathbb{S}^1$.

(iii) If $a \in \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A})$, then $\sigma(a^{-1}) = \sigma(a)^{-1} = \{z^{-1} \mid z \in \sigma(a)\}$.

(iv) $\sigma(a^*) = \overline{\sigma(a)}$.

PROOF: (iii) If $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}, \lambda \neq 0$ and $\lambda - a \notin \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A})$. Because $\lambda - a$ is not invertible, $\lambda^{-1}(\lambda - a) = 1 - \lambda^{-1}a$ and $a^{-1}(1 - \lambda^{-1}a) = a^{-1} - \lambda^{-1}$ is also not invertible. So we have $\lambda^{-1} - a^{-1} \notin \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A})$ and therefore $\sigma(a^{-1}) \subseteq \sigma(a)^{-1}$. The result follows by symmetry.

(iv) Similarly, you can prove (iv).

(ii) If $u \in \mathcal{U}(\mathscr{A})$, then $\sigma(a) \subseteq \mathbb{D} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z| \leq 1\}$ because

$$\|u\| = \|u^*u\|^{\frac{1}{2}} = \|1\|^{\frac{1}{2}} = 1.$$

So, since $u \in \mathcal{U}(\mathscr{A})$, $u^{-1} = u^* \in \mathcal{U}(\mathscr{A})$ and therefore $\sigma(u)^{-1} = \sigma(u^{-1}) \subseteq \mathbb{D}$. This implies $\|\lambda\| = 1$ for all $\lambda \in \sigma(u)$ and thus $\sigma(u) \subseteq \mathbb{S}^1$.

(i) Assume that $\mathscr{A}$ is unital, otherwise work in $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$. If a is self-adjoint then $u = \exp(ia) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{i^n a^n}{n!} \in \mathcal{U}(\mathscr{A})$ because $\exp(ia)^* = \exp(-ia)$ and therefore $u^*u = \exp(-ia)\exp(ia) = \exp(0) = 1 = uu^*$. Because of (i) we know $\sigma(u) \subseteq \mathbb{S}^1$. Now, let $\lambda \in \sigma(u)$ and define $b = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{i^n (a-\lambda)^n}{n!} = \exp(i(a-\lambda)) - 1$ as well as $c = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{i^n (a-\lambda)^{n-1}}{n!} \in \mathscr{A}$. Consider

$$\begin{aligned}\exp(ia) - \exp(i\lambda 1) &= (\exp(i(a-\lambda)) - 1)\exp(i\lambda) = b\exp(i\lambda)\\ &= \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{i^n(a-\lambda)^n}{n!}\right)\exp(i\lambda)\\ &= (a-\lambda)\left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{i^n(a-\lambda)^{n-1}}{n!}\right)\exp(i\lambda)\\ &= (a-\lambda)c\exp(i\lambda).\end{aligned}$$

Since $\lambda \in \sigma(a)$ and $c, (a-\lambda)$ commute, $\exp(ia) - \exp(i\lambda)$ is not invertible (or $a-\lambda$ would also be invertible) and we have $\exp(i\lambda) \in \sigma(u) \subseteq \mathbb{S}^1$. But for this to happen, we require $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$. □

Corollary 7.18 *If $\mathscr{A}$ is a C^*-algebra and $\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})$, then $\chi(a^*) = \overline{\chi(a)}$ for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$. So χ is a *-homomorphism.*

Proof: If $a \in \mathscr{A}$ is self-adjoint, then $\chi(a) \in \sigma(a) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ so $\overline{\chi(a)} = \chi(a) = \chi(a^*)$.

Now, if $a \in \mathscr{A}$ is any element we can write it as $a = b + ic$ where $b = \frac{a+a^*}{2}$ and $c = \frac{a-a^*}{2i}$ so that b, c are self-adjoint. Now $\chi(b), \chi(c) \in \mathbb{R}$ so

$$\chi(a^*) = \chi(b - ic) = \chi(b) - i \cdot \chi(c) = \overline{\chi(b) + i\chi(c)} = \overline{\chi(b+ic)} = \overline{\chi(a)}$$ □

Corollary 7.19 *If $\mathscr{A}$ is a commutative C^*-algebra and $\mathscr{A} \neq 0$, then $\Omega(\mathscr{A}) \neq \emptyset$.*

Proof: If $\mathscr{A} \neq 0$ there is some self-adjoint non-zero element $a \in \mathscr{A}$ so that $r(a) = \|a\| \neq 0$. But $\sigma(a) \subseteq \{\chi(a) \mid \chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})\} \cup \{0\}$. But for this to be true there must exist a character $\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})$, so $\Omega(\mathscr{A}) \neq \emptyset$. □

Proof (Gelfand):

- Γ **is a *-homomorphism**: Consider

  $$\Gamma(a)^*(\chi) = \hat{a}^*(x) = \overline{\hat{a}(\chi)} = \overline{\chi(a)} = \chi(a^*) = \hat{a^*}(\chi) = \Gamma(a^*)(\chi)$$

  so $\Gamma(a)^* = \Gamma(a^*)$.

- Γ **is isometric**: We have

  $$\|\Gamma(a)\|^2 = \|\Gamma(a)^*\Gamma(a)\| = \|\Gamma(a^*a)\| = r(a^*a) = \|a^*a\| = \|a\|^2$$

  using our lemmas and the C^*-property.

- Γ **is surjective**: Let $\mathscr{B} := \mathrm{im}(\Gamma) \subseteq C_0(\mathscr{A})$. Then $\mathscr{B}$ is a C^*-subalgebra of $C_0(\Omega(\mathscr{A}))$. Then

  - $\mathscr{B}$ does not vanish at any point, i.e. for every point $\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})$ there is a $b \in \mathscr{B}$ with $\chi(b) \neq 0$.

    As $\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})$ means $\chi \neq 0$, there exists an $a \in \mathscr{A}$ with $\chi(a) \neq 0$. But we can rewrite this as $b(\chi) = \hat{a}(\chi) = \chi(a) \neq 0$ for $b = \hat{a}$.

- $\mathscr{B}$ sperates points in $\Omega(\mathscr{A})$, i.e. for every $\chi_1 \neq \chi_2$ in $\Omega(\mathscr{A})$ there exists $b \in \mathscr{B}$ with $b(\chi_1) \neq b(\chi_2)$.
  If $\chi_1 \neq \chi_2$ there exists $a \in \mathscr{A}$ with $\chi_1(a) \neq \chi_2(a)$. Taking $b = \hat{a}$ yields the result.

The result $\mathscr{B} = C_0(\Omega(\mathscr{A}))$ follows from the Stone-Weierstraß-theorem:

> If X is a locally compact Hausdorff space and $B \subseteq C_0(X)$ is a *-subalgebra satisfying
> - B does not vanish on any point of X
> - B separates points of $\mathscr{A}$
>
> then B is dense in $C_0(X)$.

So $\mathrm{im}(\Gamma)$ is dense and closed in $C_0(\Omega(\mathscr{A}))$, so Γ is surjective. □

Proposition 7.20 *Conclusion: Every commutative C^*-algebra is (up to *-isomorphism) of the form $C_0(X)$ for a locally compact Hausdorff space X. Let $\mathscr{A} = C_0(X)$ for a locally compact Hausdorff space X. Then $\Omega(\mathscr{A}) \simeq X$ with isomorphism*

$$\varphi : X \to \Omega(C_0(X)), x \mapsto (\mathrm{ev}_x : C_0(X) \to \mathbb{C}, f \mapsto f(x)).$$

Proof:

- φ is **well-defined**, because characters are never zero.
- φ is **continuous**. Take $x_i \to x$ in X. Then, for all $f \in C_0(X)$ we have $\mathrm{ev}_{x_i}(f) \to \mathrm{ev}_x(f)$ because f is continuous and therefore $f(x_i) \to f(x)$. This shows $\mathrm{ev}_{x_i} \to \mathrm{ev}_x$ in the weak *-topology.
- φ is **injective**. I f $x_1 \neq x_2$ there exists a function $f \in C_0(X)$ that separates them, but then $\mathrm{ev}_{x_1}(f) \neq \mathrm{ev}_{x_2}(f)$, so $\mathrm{ev}_{x_1} \neq \mathrm{ev}_{x_2}$.
- φ is **surjective**. Prove that every $\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})$ is $\chi = \mathrm{ev}_x$ for some $x \in X$.

  We know that the characters of $\mathscr{A}$ are equivalent to the ideals in $C_0(X)$, so this is equivalent to: Every maximal ideal $I \triangleleft C_0(X)$ is of the form $I = C_0(X \setminus \{x_0\}) = \{f \in C_0(X) \mid f(x_0) = 0\}$.

  In Exercise 01-08 we have proven that every closed (2-sided) ideal $I \triangleleft C_0(X)$ has the form $I = C_0(U) := \{f \in C_0(X) \mid f|_{X \setminus U} \equiv 0\}$ for some open $U \subseteq X$.

  > See 01-08 for more details.
  > Take any $f \in I \triangleleft C_0(X)$. First, prove $I^* = I$. Consider $f \in I$ and
  >
  > $$f_n := \sqrt[n]{f^* f} = (\overline{f} f)^{\frac{1}{n}} = |f|^{\frac{2}{n}}.$$
  >
  > We have $f_n \in I$ for all n, because $g := f^* f \in I$ and $t \mapsto \sqrt[n]{t}$ is a continuous function that can be uniformly approximated by polynomials on the compact sets. It follows that $f_n = \lim g_n$ where g_n is a polynomial in $g \in I$, so $f_n \in I$. So $f^* f_n \in I$ for all n. Then
  >
  > $$\begin{aligned}\|f^* = f_n f^*\|_\infty^2 = \|(f^* - f_n f^*)(f^* - f_n f^*)\|_\infty = \|(f = f_n f)(f^* - f_n f^*)\|_\infty \\ = \|f^* f - 2 f^* f f_n + f_n^2 f^* f\|_\infty\end{aligned}$$

$$\leq \|g - g\sqrt[n]{g}\| + \|g - g\sqrt[n]{g}\|\|f_n\| \to 0,$$

because $|g(x) - g(x)\sqrt[n]{g(x)}| \to 0$ pointwise (as the n-th square root converges to the 1 on the support and 0 elsewhere) and $|g(x)| \leq \varepsilon$ everywhere except a compact set K, and on that K we have $\sup_{x\in K} |g(x)||1-\sqrt[n]{g(x)}| = |g(x_0)||1-\sqrt[n]{g(x_0)}| < \varepsilon$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$. We therefore have $f^* = \lim_{n\to\infty} f^* f_n \in I$ and thus $f^* = \lim_{n\to\infty} f_n f^*$. Now let $I \lhd C_0(X)$ closed, so $I^* = I$ and I is a C^*-subalgebra of X.

Define $U^{\complement} := \{x \in X \mid f(x) = 0 \forall_{f\in I}\}$. This is closed (because for $x_i \to x$ in X, $x_i \in U^{\complement}$, we have $0 = f(x_i) \to f(x)$), so U is open. We claim $I = C_0(U)$.

If $f \in I$, $f|_{U^{\complement}} \equiv 0$ per Definition, so $f \in C_0(U)$. Therefore, I is a closed subideal of $C_0(U)$.

I does not vanish on U, because if there was an $x \in U$ with $f(x) = 0$ for all $f \in I$, we would have $x \in U^{\complement}$.

I separates the points of U. Take $x_1 \neq x_2$. We can choose $h \in C_0(X)$ with $h(x_1) = 1$ and $h(x_2) = 0$ (Uryson) as well as $g \in I$ with $g(x_1) \neq 0$, then $f = g \cdot h \in I$ separates x_1 from x_2.

Stone-Weierstraß now proves $I = C_0(U)$.

Notice $U \subseteq V \subseteq X$ (open) iff $C_0(U) \subseteq C_0(V) \unlhd C_0(X)$ (see exercise 08-01). So we have a bijection between the opens of X and the ideals of $C_0(X)$. Especially, the maximal ideals of $C_0(X)$ correspond to the maximal open sets, that is the sets of form $X \setminus \{x_0\}$ for some x_0, of X.

Therefore, if $\chi \in \Omega(C_0(X))$ we have $\ker\chi = C_0(X \setminus \{x_0\})$, so χ maps a function to 0 if and only if f is zero on x. This proves and $\chi = \mathrm{ev}_x$.

- φ is **open**. If X is compact, this is clear because $C_0(X) = C(X)$ and unital, so $\Omega(C_0(X))$ is compact and we have a bijection between two compact sets. In general, consider $\tilde{X}$ (the compactification) and use $\widetilde{C_0(X)} \simeq C(\tilde{X})$. So we have a homeomorphism

$$\tilde{X} \to \Omega(C(\tilde{x})) = \Omega(\widetilde{C_0(X)}) \simeq \Omega(C_0(X)) \sqcup \{\chi_\infty\}$$

where $\infty \mapsto \chi_\infty$, so we can restrict the homeomorphism to X and are done. □

Theorem 7.21 (Spectral inclusion for C^*-algebras) *Let $\mathscr{A} \subseteq \mathscr{B}$ be an inclusion of unital C^*-algebras with $1 = 1_{\mathscr{A}} = 1_{\mathscr{B}}$. Then for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$ we have $\sigma_{\mathscr{A}}(a) = \sigma_{\mathscr{B}}(a)$, so $\mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A}) = \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{B}) \cap \mathscr{A}$.*

Proof: If a is self-adjoint, that is $a^* = a$, then $\sigma_{\mathscr{A}}(a)\backslash\mathbb{R}$, so $\sigma_{\mathscr{A}}$ has no holes, i.e. the complement $\mathbb{C} \subseteq \sigma_{\mathscr{A}}(a)$ is connected in $\mathbb{C}$. By the general result on Banach algebras $\sigma_{\mathscr{A}}(a) = \sigma_{\mathscr{B}}(a)$. In particular, this implies $a \in \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A}) \Leftrightarrow a \in \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{B})$ for all self-adjoint $a \in \mathscr{A}$.

We now prove that this holds for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$. Of course, $\mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A}) \subseteq \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{B}) \cap \mathscr{A}$. Let $a \in \mathscr{A}$ such that $a \in \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{B})$. Then there exists $b \in \mathscr{B}$ such that $ab = ba = 1$ and $b^*a^* = a^*b^* = 1 \Leftrightarrow bb^*a^*a = 1 = a^*abb^*$. Therefore, $a^*a \in \mathrm{inv}\,\mathscr{B} \cap \mathscr{A} \subseteq \mathrm{inv}(\mathscr{A})$ because a^*a is self adjoint. So there exists $c \in albebraA$ with $ca^*a = 1 = a^*ac$ and thus $ca^*ab = ca^* = b$, so $b \in \mathscr{A}$ as it is the product of two elements $a^*, c \in \mathscr{A}$. This concludes the proof, as a is now invertible in $\mathscr{A}$. □

Definition 7.22 *We say $a \in \mathscr{A}$ (for $\mathscr{A}$ a C^*-algebra) is* ***normal*** *if $a^*a = aa^*$. This means $C^*(a)$ (the C^*-subalgebra of $\mathscr{A}$ generated by a) is commutative. Then $C^*(a) \simeq C_0(X)$.*

Lemma 7.23 *Let $a \in \mathscr{A}$ (C^*-algebra) be a normal element. Assume that $1 \in \mathscr{A}$ (unital). Then $\Omega(C^*(a,1)) \simeq \sigma(a)$ by homeomorphism $\chi \mapsto \chi(a)$. In general, if $\mathscr{A}$ is possibly not unital, then $\Omega(C^*(a)) \simeq \sigma(a) \setminus \{0\}$. In particular, $\chi(a) = 0$ only if $a = 0$ but then $C^*(a)$ is just the zero space.*

PROOF: It is enough to consider the unital case.

Consider $\varphi : \Omega(C^*(a,1)) \to \sigma(a), \chi \to \chi(a)$ which is well-defined because $\chi(a) \in \sigma(a)$.

- φ is **continuous**. If $\chi_i \to \chi$ in $\Omega(C^*(a,1))$ then this also converges point wise, so $\chi_i(a) \to \chi(a)$.
- φ is **injective**. Take $\chi_1, \chi_2 \in \Omega(C^*(a,1))$ with $\chi_1(a) = \chi_2(a)$. Since $\chi_1(1) = 1 = \chi_2(1)$, so the two characters coincide on the generators and are thus equal by linearity and continuity.
- φ is **surjective**. We know that $\sigma(a) = \{\chi(a) \mid \chi \in \Omega(B)\}$ for all commutative unital Banach algebras B, in particular for $B = C^*(a,1)$.

Because both spaces are compact this concludes the proof. □

Theorem 7.24 (Fundamental theorem of continuous functional calculus)

Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a unital C^*-algebra and $a \in \mathscr{A}$ normal. Then there exists a unique unital *-homomorphism $\varphi : C(\sigma(a)) \to \mathscr{A}$ such that $\mathrm{id}_{\sigma(a)} \mapsto a$.

In general, if $\mathscr{A}$ is possibly not unital, there exists a unique *-homomorphism $\varphi : C_0(\sigma(a)) \to \mathscr{A}$ where $C_0(\sigma(a)) \coloneqq \{f \in C(\sigma(a)) \mid f(0) = 0\}$.

Both of these morphisms are also isometric.

Notation: If $f \in C(\sigma(a))$ we write $f(a) \coloneqq \varphi(a)$. Notice: If f is a polynomial in $z, \overline{z}$ then $f(a) = \varphi(a)$ as usual.

PROOF: Consider $1 \in \mathscr{A}$ and let $\mathscr{B} = C^*(a,1) \subseteq \mathscr{A}$. Then $\mathscr{B}$ is commutative because a is normal (i.e. commutes with its adjoint). By Gelfand, we get an isometric *-isomorphism $T : \mathscr{B} \to C(\Omega(\mathscr{B})), b \mapsto \hat{b}$. By the Lemma, $\Omega(\mathscr{B}) \equiv \sigma(a), \chi \mapsto \chi(a)$. Via this identification (homeomorphism), we have $\hat{b}(\chi) = \chi(b)$ and $\hat{a}(\chi) = \chi(a)$. So $\hat{a}$ corresponds to $z \in C(\sigma(a)) \simeq C(\Omega(\mathscr{B}))$. Therefore, considering the inverse of T and identifying $\Omega(\mathscr{B}) \simeq \sigma(a)$ we get an isometric

$$C(\sigma(a)) \simeq C(\Omega(C^*(a,1))) \simeq C^*(a,1) \simeq \mathscr{A}.$$

This gives φ as defined.

The **non-unital case**: Just consider $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$. □

Example 7.25 Let $f(z) = \exp(z) = e^z = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^k}{k!}$. f is a continuous function on the whole plane. If $a \in \mathscr{A}$ is normal, then $f(a) = \exp(a) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{a^n}{n!}$. In general, $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda_n z^n$ (or $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda_n (z - z_0)^n$), so $f(a) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{a^n}{n!}$ if $\sigma(a) \subseteq \mathrm{Domain}(f)$.

Theorem 7.26 *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be unital C^*-algebra and $a \in \mathscr{A}$ be normal. If $f \in C(\sigma(a))$, then $\sigma(f(a)) = f(\sigma(a)) = \{f(\lambda) \mid \lambda \in \sigma(a)\}$.*

Moreover, if $g \in C(\sigma(f(a)))$, then $g(f(a)) = (g \circ f)(a)$.

PROOF: Let $\mathscr{B} = C^*(a,1) \subseteq \mathscr{A}$. $\mathscr{B}$ is commutative and unital. Then $f(a) \in \mathscr{B}$ and $\sigma(f(a)) = \sigma_{\mathscr{B}}(f(a))$. Now notice $\chi(f(a)) = f(\chi(a))$ since both maps

$$f \mapsto \chi(f(a))$$

$$f \mapsto f(\chi(a))$$

are unital *-homomorphisms that coincide on z. Therefore,

$$\sigma(f(a)) = \{\chi(f(a)) \mid \chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{B})\} = \{f(\chi(a)) \mid \chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{B})\} = f(\sigma(a)).$$

Now to prove $(g \circ f)(a) = g(f(a))$. Let $C = C^*(1, f(a)) \subseteq \mathscr{B} = C^*(1, a) \subseteq \mathscr{A}$. Let $\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{B})$. Then $\chi_C \coloneqq \chi|_C \in \Omega(C)$. So $(g \circ f)(a)$ is sensibly defined and an element of $\mathscr{B}$, so we can apply a character:

$$\begin{aligned}\chi((g \circ f)(a)) &= (g \circ f)(\chi(a)) = g(f(\chi(a))) = g(\chi(f(a))) = g(\chi_C(f(a))) \\ &= \chi_C(g(f(a))) = \chi(\underbrace{g(f(a))}_{\in \mathscr{B}})\end{aligned}$$

Because the Gelfand-transform is injective, this implies $(g \circ f)(a) = g(f(a))$. $\square$

Proposition 7.27 *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a unital C^*-algebra and $u \in \mathcal{U}(\mathscr{A}) = \{u \in \mathscr{A} \mid u^*u = 1 = uu^*\}$. If $\sigma(u) \neq \mathbb{S}^1$ there exists a self-adjoint $a \in \mathscr{A}$ with $u = \exp(ia)$.*

Proof: The idea is to take $\log \approx \exp^{-1}$. Problem: exp is not invertible as a complex function, because it is $2\pi i$-periodic. We will need to restrict it. Consider the principal branch of the logarithm, $\log(z) = \log|z| + i \arg(z)$.

Given that $\sigma(a) \neq \mathbb{S}^1$, there exists an $\lambda \in \mathbb{S}^1 \setminus \sigma(a)$ and therefore also an $f_\lambda \in C(\mathbb{S}^1 \setminus \{\lambda\})$ (so some form of argument-mapping of z) such that $\exp(if_\lambda(z)) = z$. This f_λ is real-valued, continuous and analytical. Now use functional calculus: Let $a \coloneqq f_\lambda(u) \in \mathscr{A}$. Since f_λ is real-valued, it is self-adjoint in the algebra, so a is also self-adjoint. By the previous theorem $\exp(ia) = \exp(if_\lambda(u)) = (\exp \circ i f_\lambda)(u) = u$.

Multiplier Algebras

This is another kind of unitization. We will consider $\mathscr{A} \to M(\mathscr{A}) \ni \mu$ such that $\mu \cdot a \in \mathscr{A} \ni a \cdot \mu$ so $\mathscr{A} \trianglelefteq M(\mathscr{A})$. Remember that this was the case for the usual unitization, with Quotient $\mathbb{C}$. Here, the multiplier is usually much bigger, so the quotient is as well. In fact, $\mathscr{A} \times \mathbb{C}$ is the 'smallest' unitization while $M(\mathscr{A})$ is the 'largest' one.

Definition 7.28 (Multiplier, see Murphy) *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be an algebra. A* ***multiplier*** *of $\mathscr{A}$ is a pair $\mu = (L, R)$ where $L, R : \mathscr{A} \to \mathscr{A}$ are linear maps such that*

(i) $L(ab) = L(a) \cdot b$ *or* $\mu(ab) = (\mu a)b$

(ii) $R(ab) = a \cdot R(b)$ *or* $(ab)\mu = a(b\mu)$

(iii) $a \cdot L(b) = R(a) \cdot b$ *or* $a(\mu b) = (a\mu)b$.

To simplify this, use the notation $\mu \cdot a \coloneqq L(a)$ and $a \cdot \mu \coloneqq R(a)$.

For the space of all multipliers we write $M(A) = \{\mu = (L, R) \mid \mu \text{ multiplier}\}$. This is a $\mathbb{C}$-vector space with

$$(L_1, R_1) + (L_2, R_2) = (L_1 + L_2, R_1 + R_2) \qquad \lambda(L_1, R_1) = (\lambda L_1, \lambda R_2)$$

and an algebra with

$$(L_1, R_1) \cdot (L_2, R_2) = (L_1 \cdot L_2, R_2 \cdot R_1).$$

If $\mathscr{A}$ is a *-algebra, we further define

$$(L,R)^* = (R^*, L^*) \text{ where } L^*(a) := L(a^*)^* \text{ and } R^*(a) := R(a^*)^*$$

Moreover, we have a canonical (*)-homomorphism $\iota : \mathscr{A} \to M(\mathscr{A}), a \mapsto (L_a, R_a)$ where $L_a(b) = ab$ and $R_a(b) = ba$. Note: ι is always a (*)-homomorphism but injective if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} \forall_{a\in\mathscr{A}}\ & a \cdot b = 0\ \forall_b \Rightarrow a = 0 \\ & b \cdot a = 0\ \forall_b \Rightarrow a = 0 \end{aligned}$$

i.e. $\mathscr{A}$ is an essential ideal of itself. This is not always true for a general algebra, consider the algebra with the 0-product $a \cdot b = 0$, but it always holds for C^*-algebras or if $\mathscr{A}$ is unital already.

More generally this holds if $\mathscr{A}$ is a Banach algebra with an **approximate unit**, a net $e_i \subseteq \mathscr{A}$ such that $e_i a \to a$ and $a \cdot e_i \to a$ for any $a \in \mathscr{A}$ as well as $\|e_i\|$. This is always the case for unital and C^*-algebras.

Assume ι is injective. Then $\mathscr{A}$ is identified with an essential (*)-ideal of $M(\mathscr{A})$.

Remark 7.29 (Norms on the multiplier) If $\mathscr{A}$ is a Banach algebra with an approximate unit, we define for $\mu = (L,R) \in M(A)$ the norm

$$\|\mu\| := \|L\| = \|R\| < \infty.$$

Proof: To show $\|L\|, \|R\| < \infty$ we use the Closed Graph Theorem. Say we have $(a_n) \subseteq \mathscr{A}$ with $a_n \to a$ and $L(a_n) \to b$. Take $c \in \mathscr{A}$ and consider

$$c \cdot L(a) = R(c) \cdot a = \lim_{n\to\infty} R(c) \cdot a_n = \lim_{n\to\infty} c \cdot L(a_n) = c \cdot b.$$

Because of the approximate unit (or ι injective) we have $L(a) = b$. This shows that L (and, analogously, R) are bounded. Now to prove $\|L\| = \|R\|$. Take any $a \in \mathscr{A}$ and consider

$$\|L(a)\| \overset{\text{approx. unit}}{=} \sup_{\|b\|\le 1} \|bL(a)\| = \sup_{\|b\|\le 1} \|R(b)a\| \le \sup_{\|b\|\le 1} \|R(b)\|\|a\| \le \|R\| \cdot \|a\|$$

which implies $\|L\| \le \|R\|$. By symmetry of the situation, we have $\|L\| = \|R\|$. □

With the norm above, $M(\mathscr{A})$ becomes a Banach algebra.

Proposition 7.30 *If $\mathscr{A}$ is a C^*-algebra then $M(\mathscr{A})$ is too.*

Proof: Write $\mu = (L,R)$. We compute $\mu^*\mu = (R^*, L^*) \cdot (L,R) = (R^*L, RL^*)$. So $\|\mu\mu^*\| = \|R^*L\|$. Take $a \in \mathscr{A}$ with $\|a\| \le 1$. Then

$$\|L(a)\|^2 = \|L(a)L(a)^*\| = \|L(a)L^*(a^*)\| = \|R^*(L(a))a^*\| \le \|R^*(L(a))\| \le \|R^*L\|$$

This shows $\|L\|^2 \le \|R^*L\|$ and therefore $\|\mu\|^2 = \|L\|^2 \le \|R^*L\| = \|\mu^*\mu\|$. Because $\|\mu\|^2 \ge \|\mu\mu^*\|$ is clear by submultiplicativity, the C^*-property follows. □

Compare now $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$ and $M(\mathscr{A})$. We have $\mathscr{A} \trianglelefteq \tilde{A}$ and $\mathscr{A} \trianglelefteq M(\mathscr{A})$. When are these ideals essential?

Lemma 7.31 *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a C^*-algebra or Banach algebra with approximate unit. $\mathscr{A} \trianglelefteq \tilde{\mathscr{A}}$ if and only if $\mathscr{A}$ is not unital.*

Proof: Suppose that $\mathscr{A}$ is unital with $1_{\mathscr{A}}$ as the unit. In this case, take $p = 1 - 1_{\mathscr{A}} \in \tilde{\mathscr{A}}$ (where $1 = (0,1)$ is the unit in $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$). Notice that $p \cdot \mathscr{A} = 0$, but $p \neq 0$. So $\mathscr{A}$ is not essential in $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$.

Suppose that $\mathscr{A}$ is not unital. To prove: For $a + \lambda \cdot 1 \in \tilde{\mathscr{A}}$ and $(a + \lambda \cdot 1)\mathscr{A} = 0$ we have $a = 0$, $\lambda = 0$. So take any $(a + \lambda \cdot 1) \cdot b = 0$ for all $b \in \mathscr{A}$, that is $ab + \lambda b = 0$. This means $L_a(b) = -\lambda b$, that is $L_a = -\lambda \,\mathrm{id}_{\mathscr{A}}$. Notice $L : \mathscr{A} \to \mathcal{L}(\mathscr{A})$, a unital algbra with unit $\mathrm{id}_{\mathscr{A}}$, is an injective (because ι is injective) algebra homomorphism. If $\lambda \neq 0$, then division by λ implies $\mathrm{id}_{\mathscr{A}} \in \mathrm{im}(L) \simeq \mathscr{A}$. But then $\mathscr{A}$ has a unit, a contradiction. So $\lambda = 0$. Then $a \cdot b = 0$ for every b, so $a = 0$ as well. This shows that $\mathscr{A}$ is an essential ideal of $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$. □

Remark 7.32 Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a C^*-algebra or Banach algebra with approximate unit. Then $\mathscr{A}$ is unital if and only if $M(\mathscr{A}) = \mathscr{A}$.

Proof: One direction is simple: $M(\mathscr{A})$ is always unital, so $\mathscr{A} \simeq M(\mathscr{A})$ implies that $\mathscr{A}$ is unital.

Let now $\mathscr{A}$ be unital and prove that every multiplier is of the form (L_a, R_a). Let $\mu = (L, R) \in M(\mathscr{A})$ and define $a := L(1_{\mathscr{A}})$. Then $L_a(b) = ab = L(1_{\mathscr{A}})b = L(b)$, so $L = L_a$. Analogously we can prove $R = R_a$. This shows that ι is surjective, and since it is already injective (because $\mathscr{A}$ is either C^* or has an approximate unit) it is an isomorphism. □

Say $\mathscr{A}$ is a C^*-algebra (or a Banach algebra with an approximate unit) and not unital. Then $\iota : \mathscr{A} \to M(\mathscr{A}), a \mapsto \mu_a = (L_a, R_a)$ extends to a $(^*)$-embedding

$$\tilde{\iota} : \tilde{\mathscr{A}} \to M(\mathscr{A}), a + \lambda \cdot 1 \mapsto \iota(a) + \lambda \cdot \underbrace{(\mathrm{id}, \mathrm{id})}_{= \mathrm{id}_{M(\mathscr{A})}} .$$

More generally: If $\mathscr{B}$ is any C^*-algebra that contains $\mathscr{A}$ as an essential ideal (closed), then $\mathscr{B}$ embeds in the multiplier algebra via the following map:

$$\lambda : \mathscr{B} \to M(\mathscr{A}), b \mapsto (L_b, R_b)$$

where L_b, R_b are the usual left and right multiplication. We have $L_b(a), R_b(a) \in \mathscr{A}$ for any $a \in \mathscr{A}$ because $\mathscr{A}$ is an ideal. The above is a universal property of the multiplier algebra. $M(\mathscr{A})$ is the largest unital C^*-algebra that contains $\mathscr{A}$ as an essential ideal.

Example 7.33 Take $\mathscr{A} = C_0(X)$ (for a locally compact Hausdorff-space, so a commutative C^*-algebra). Then $\tilde{\mathscr{A}} = C(\tilde{X})$ where $\tilde{X} = X \sqcup \{\infty\}$. One can now show $M(\mathscr{A}) \simeq C(\beta X)$ where βX is the Stone-Cech-compactification of X. This can be proven using the universal property and the universal property of βX: βX is a compact Hausdorff space such that $X \hookrightarrow \beta X$ as a dense open topological subspace and for every other compact Hausdorff space K such that $X \to K$ via a continuous function f there exists a unique continuous extension $betaf : \beta X \to K$.

First: Prove that $M(\mathscr{A})$ is even commutative. Then it is the continuous functions on some space, use the spectrum and compare the universal properties. For commutativity, one can show $M(C_0(X)) \simeq C_b(X)$ via the universal property.

7.2 Positive Elements of C^*-algebras

Definition 7.34 *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a C^*-algebra. We say that $a \in \mathscr{A}$ is positive (and write $a \geq 0$) if $a = a^*$ and $\sigma(a) \subseteq [0, \infty)$.*

The set of all positive elements of a given algebra we notate as $\mathscr{A}_+$.

Example 7.35 Let $A = \underline{C_0(X)}$ (commutative) and $f \in \mathscr{A}$. Then $f = f^*$ iff f is real (that is $f : X \to \mathbb{R}$). Since $\sigma(f) = \overline{\mathrm{im}(f)}$ we see that $f \geq 0$ iff $f(x) \geq 0$ for all $x \in X$.

Theorem 7.36 *If $a \in \mathscr{A}$ for $\mathscr{A}$ a C^*-algebra and $a \geq 0$ then there exists a unique $b \in \mathscr{A}_+$ such that $b^2 = a$. We sometimes notate this as $b = \sqrt{a} = a^{\frac{1}{2}}$.*

PROOF: Since a is positive, it is self-adjoint and therefore normal. Continuous functional calculus:

$$\varphi : C_0(\sigma(a)) \to \mathscr{A}, f \mapsto f(a)$$

Apply this to $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$. Notice that $f \in C_0(\sigma(a))$ because $\sigma(a) \subseteq [0, \infty)$. Now simply choose $b = f(a) = \sqrt{a}$. Since φ is a *-homomorphism, we have $b^2 = \varphi(f)^2 = \varphi(f^2) = \varphi(id) = a$.

Reminder: Writing '$f(a)$' does not mean to imply that $a \in \mathscr{A}$ can simply be plugged into the function $f : \sigma(\mathscr{A}) \to \mathbb{C}$ but is simply a different way of writing $\varphi(f) \in \mathscr{A}$.

Uniqueness: Suppose $c \in \mathscr{A}_+$ such that $c^2 = a$. Then c commutes with $c^2 = a$ and therefore c commutes with $b = \sqrt{a}$ since $b = \lim_{n\to\infty} p_n(a)$ (polynomial approximation). Then $B := C^*(b, c) \subseteq \mathscr{A}$ is a commutative C^*-algebra so $B \simeq C_0(X)$ for some locally compact Hausdorff space X. Since $a, b, c \in B = C_0(X)$ we have $a \simeq f, b \simeq g, c \simeq h \in C_0(X)$ with $f = g^2 = h^2$ where all these functions are positive. But then $f(x) = g(x)^2 = h(x)^2$ for all x. Because $g(x), h(x) \geq 0$ for all x, this shows $g(x) = h(x)$ for all x and therefore $g = h$ and $b = c$.□

Remark 7.37 Given any self-adjoint element $a \in \mathscr{A}$ $(a^* = a)$ we can write it as $a^+ - a^-$ where $a^+, a^- \geq 0$ and $a^+ \cdot a^- = 0$. Just define $f(x) = \frac{|x|+x}{2}$ and $g(x) = \frac{|x|-x}{2}$. Both are positive functions with $f \cdot g = 0$. Define $a^+ = f(a)$ and $a^- = g(a)$ (once again per continuous functional calculus), transferring the neccessary properties:

$$\begin{aligned} f(a) - g(a) &= \varphi(f) - \varphi(g) = \varphi(f - g) = \varphi(\mathrm{id}) = a \\ f(a) \cdot g(a) &= \varphi(f) \cdot \varphi(g) = \varphi(f \cdot g) = \varphi(0) = 0 \\ \sigma(f(a)) &= \sigma(\varphi(f)) \subseteq \sigma(f) = \overline{\mathrm{im}(f)} = [0, \infty) \end{aligned}$$

Remark 7.38 If $\mathscr{A}$ is unital C^*-algebra and $a \in \mathscr{A}$ is self-adjoint with $\|a\| \leq 1$, so $\sigma(a) \subseteq [-1, 1]$. Define

$$f(x) = x + i\sqrt{1 - x^2} \qquad g(x) = x - i\sqrt{1 - x^2}$$

This means that $f, g \in \mathcal{U}C(\sigma(a))$ (Recall that unitaries of $\mathcal{U}(\mathscr{A}) = \{u \in \mathscr{A} \mid u^*u = 1 = uu^*\}$) and $\frac{f+g}{2} = \mathrm{id}_{\sigma(a)}$. So if we now define $u := f(a), v := g(a) \in C^*(a, 1) \subseteq \mathscr{A}$ we have $\frac{u+v}{2} = a$. In particular $\mathscr{A} = \mathrm{span}(\mathcal{U}(\mathscr{A}))$.

Lemma 7.39 *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a unital C^*-algebra, $a \in \mathscr{A}$ self-adjoint and $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$.*

(i) If $a \geq 0$ and $\|a\| \leq t$ then $\|a - t\| \leq t$.

(ii) Conversely, if $\|a = t\| \leq t$ then $a \geq 0$.

PROOF: Replace $\mathscr{A}$ by $C^*(a, 1)$ we may assume that $\mathscr{A} = C(X)$ is commutative and X compact. Let $a = f \in C_(X)$ be a self-adjoint, real function and $t \geq 0$ a real number.

(i) $f \geq 0$ and $\|f\|_\infty \leq t$ and thus $f(x) - t \in [-t, 0]$ for all $x \in X$, so $\|f - t\| \leq t$.

(ii) Let $f \in C(X)$ be a self-adjoint real function with $\|f - t\| \leq t$, so $|f(x) - t| \leq t$ for every x. But if $f(x) < 0$ for any $x \in X$ we have $f(x) - t < t$ and thus $|f(x) - t| > t$, a contradiction. So f must be positive. □

Corollary 7.40 *If $\mathscr{A}$ is a C^*-algebra, then $\mathscr{A}_+$ is a closed subset (but not subspace!) of $\mathscr{A}$.*

PROOF: Taking unitization, we may assume that $\mathscr{A}$ is unital. Let $(a_n) \subseteq \mathscr{A}_+$ and $a_n \to a \in \mathscr{A}$. Then $a_n^* = a_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and therefore a is also self-adjoint. There also exists $t \geq 0$ with $\|a_n\| \leq t$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and by the Lemma $\|a_n - t\| \leq t$ and therefore $\|a - t\| \leq t$. Again by the Lemma $a \geq 0$. $\square$

Corollary 7.41 *If $\mathscr{A}$ is a C^*-algebra and $a, b \in \mathscr{A}_+$ then $a + b \in \mathscr{A}_+$.*

PROOF: Taking unitization, we may assume that $\mathscr{A}$ is unital. Since $a, b \geq 0$ by $t = \|a\|, \|b\|$ we have $\|a - \|a\|\| \leq \|a\|$ and $\|b - \|b\|\| \leq \|b\|$. Then

$$\|(a + b) - (\|a\| + \|b\|)\| = \|(a - \|a\|) + (b - \|b\|)\| \leq \|(a - \|a\|)\| + \|(b - \|b\|)\| \leq \|a\| + \|b\|$$

and $a + b$ is positive by the lemma. $\square$

Theorem 7.42 *If $\mathscr{A}$ is a C^*-algebra and $a \in \mathscr{A}$ then $a^*a \geq 0$.*

PROOF: First, we prove that if $-a^*a \geq 0$ then $a = 0$. For this we use the following observation $\sigma(bc) \setminus \{0\} = \sigma(cb) \setminus \{0\}$ (the two sets are equal except for the zero, which may be contained in one but not the other) because for b, c in a unital algebra and $1 - bc \in \operatorname{inv} \mathscr{A}$ iff $1 - cb \in \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A})$ and if $d \coloneqq (1 - bc)^{-1}$ then $(1 - cb)^{-1} = 1 + cdb$.

Therefore, if $-a^*a \in \mathscr{A}_+$ then also $-a^*a \in \mathscr{A}_+$ (notice that a, a^* are self-adjoint). Then write $a = b + c$ with $b, c \in \mathscr{A}$ self-adjoint. Then

$$a^*a + aa^* = (b - ic)(b + ic) + (b + ic)(b - ic) = b^2 + c^2 + ibc - icb + b^2 + c^2 + icb - icb = 2b^2 + 2c^2.$$

and we can write $a^*a = 2b^2 + 2c^2 - aa^*$. The squares are certainly positive and we have assumed $-aa^* \geq 0$, but then $a^*a \geq 0$. We see that $aa^* \geq 0$ as well, so the spectrum has to be zero.

Now suppose that $a \in \mathscr{A}$ arbitrarily. We show that $a^*a \geq 0$. Let $b \coloneqq a^*a$. Then $b \in \mathscr{A}$ is self adjoint with $b = b^+ - b^-$ where $b^+, b^- \geq 0$. Let $c \coloneqq ab^-$. Then

$$-c^*c = -b^-a^*ab^- = -b^-(b^+ - b^-)b^- = (b^-)^3 \geq 0$$

and c must be 0 by our first result. This implies $(b^-)^3 = 0$ so $b^- = 0$. It follows that $b = b^+ \geq 0$. $\square$

Definition 7.43 *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a self-adjoint algebra and $a, b \in \mathscr{A}$. We write $a \leq b$ if $b - a \geq 0$. This turns $\mathscr{A}$ into a poset. Because A_+ is a cone, that is $A_+ + A_+ \subseteq A_+$ and $\mathbb{R}_+ \cdot \mathscr{A}_+ \subseteq \mathscr{A}$ as well as $A_{\text{self-adjoint}} = A_+ - A_+$ and $A_+ \cap -A_+ = \{\}$.*

Theorem 7.44 *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a C^*-algebra.*

(i) $A_+ = \{a^*a \mid a \in \mathscr{A}\}$

(ii) *a, b self-adjoint and $c \in \mathscr{A}$. Then $a \leq b$ imples $c^*ac \leq c^*bc$.*

(iii) *$0 \leq a \leq b$ implies $\|a\| \leq |b|$*

(iv) *If $\mathscr{A}$ is unital and $a, b \geq 0$ with $a \leq b$ and $a, b \in \operatorname{inv}(\mathscr{A})$ then $b^{-1} \leq a^{-1}$.*

PROOF:

(i) It follows from the previous theorem. The fact that $a \in \mathscr{A}_+$ has a square root $a = b^2 = b^*b$ with $b \geq 0$.

(ii) $c^*bc - c^*ac = c^*(b - a)c$ and if we set $b - a = d^*d$ for a $d \in \mathscr{A}$ we receive $c^*(b - a)c = c^*d^*dc = (dc)^*dc \geq 0$.

(iii) We may assume $1 \in \mathscr{A}$. Notice that $b \leq \|b\| \cdot 1$ (consider the commutative case). So wie have $a \leq b \leq \|b\| \cdot 1$ and therefore $a \leq \|b\| \cdot 1$ so $\|a\| \leq \|b\|$.

(iv) Let $a, b \in \operatorname{inv} \mathscr{A}$, $a, b \geq 0$ and $a \leq b$. We know that $\sigma(b^{-1}) = \sigma(b)^{-1} \subseteq \mathbb{R}_+$ and thus $b^{-1} \geq 0$ and Similarly $a^{-1} \geq 0$. Notice that if $c \geq 1$ (in $\mathscr{A}$) then $c \in \operatorname{inv} \mathscr{A}$ (as $\sigma(c-1) \subseteq [0, \infty)$ and thus $\sigma(c) \subseteq [1, \infty)$) and $c^{-1} \leq 1$ (think once again commutative).

Now we have $a \leq b$. Then $1 = a^{-\frac{1}{2}} a a^{-\frac{1}{2}} \leq a^{-\frac{1}{2}} b a^{-\frac{1}{2}}$. Then $(a^{-\frac{1}{2}} b a^{-\frac{1}{2}}) = (a^{\frac{1}{2}} b^{-1} a^{\frac{1}{2}}) \leq 1$ by the above, so conjugation yields $b^{-1} \leq a^{-1}$. □

7.3 Approximate units

Definition 7.45 *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a Banach algebra. An* ***approximate unit*** *for $\mathscr{A}$ is a net $(e_i)_{i \in I} \subseteq \mathscr{A}$ such that $\|e_i\| \leq 1$ and $e_i a \to a, a e_i \to a$ for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$. If $\mathscr{A}$ is a C^*-algebra, then we (usually) also assume that $e_i \geq 0$ and (e_i) is increasing.*

Example 7.46 Let $\mathscr{A} = C_0(X)$ be a commutative C^*-algebra (X locally compact and Hausdorff). Then a net $(f_i)_{i \in I}$ is an approximate unit if and only if $1 \geq f_i(x) \geq f_j(x) \geq 0$ for all $x \in X$ and $j \leq i$ and $f_i g \to g$ for al $g \in C_0(X)$, that is $f_i(x) g(x) \to g(x)$ uniformly on X. This is equivalent to $f_i(x) \to 1$ uniformly on compacts.

Example 7.47 Let $\mathscr{A} = \mathcal{K}(H)$, the span of the compact operators on a Hilbert space H, and use physics notation: $|\xi\rangle\langle\eta|(\zeta) = \xi\langle\eta, \zeta\rangle$. Let $(\xi_i)_{i \in I} \subseteq H$ be an orthonormal basis. For each $F \subseteq I$ finite we define

$$e_F := \sum_{i \in F} |\xi_i\rangle\langle\xi_i| \in \mathcal{K}(H)$$

In particular, $0 \leq e_F \leq 1$ (because $\|e_F\| \leq 1$) and $e_F \leq e_G$ if $F \subseteq G$. Then $(e_F)_{F \subseteq I \text{ finite}}$, if ordered by size, is an approximate unit of for $\mathcal{K}$.

If H is separable, we could also take $e_n = \sum_{i=1}^n |\xi_i\rangle\langle\xi_i|$. Just check that $e_F(\zeta) = \sum_{i \in F} \xi_i \langle \xi_i, \zeta \rangle \to \zeta$, so $e_F \to 1$ strongly in $B(H)$ (the bounded operators). Then it follows $e_F a \to a$ for al $a \in \mathcal{K}(H)$ and $a e_F \to a$ likewise.

Remark 7.48 If $\mathscr{A}$ already has a unit $1 \in \mathscr{A}$, then $(e_i) \subseteq \mathscr{A}$ is an approximate unit iff $e_i \to 1$ (by the norm) and $0 \leq e_i \leq e_j \leq 1$ for $i \leq j$.

In particular, the constant net (1) is an approximate unit in any unital Banach algebra.

Theorem 7.49 *Every C^*-algebra has an approximate unit. Moreover if $\mathscr{A}$ is a C^*-algebra and*

$$\Lambda := \{a \in \mathscr{A}_+ \mid \|a\| < 1\}$$

then Λ is directed with the canonical order of $\mathscr{A}_+ \subseteq \mathscr{A}_{\text{self-adjoint}}$ and the canonical net

$$(e_\lambda)_{\lambda \in \Lambda} e_\lambda = \lambda$$

is an approximate unit.

Proof: Λ is directed. To prove: For every $a, b \in \Lambda$ there is a $c \in \Lambda$ such that $a, b \leq c$. Indeed, if $a \in \mathscr{A}_+$, then $1 + a \geq 1$ in $\tilde{\mathscr{A}} = \mathscr{A} + \mathbb{C} \cdot 1$. Here, we work in the unitization for a moment, but do not assume we have a unit in $\mathscr{A}$! In particular, $1 + a \in \operatorname{inv}(\tilde{\mathscr{A}})$ and $a \cdot (1+a)^{-1} \in \mathscr{A}$ as $A \trianglelefteq \tilde{A}$.

Notice: $a(1+a)^{-1} = (a + 1 - 1)(1+a)^{-1} = 1 - (1+a)^{-1}$ in the unitization.

Claim: For $a, b \in \mathscr{A}_+$ and $a \leq b$ we have $a(1+a)^{-1} \leq b(1+b)^{-1}$. This should be true because $a(1+a)^{-1} = f(a)$ where $f : [0,\infty) \to [0,1), x \mapsto \frac{x}{x+1} = x(1+x)^{-1}$ is increasing. f is a homeomorphism with $g = f^{-1} : [0,1) \to [0,\infty)$ given by $g(x) = \frac{x}{x-1}$.

Indeed, take $0 \leq a \leq b$ then $1+a \leq 1+b$ so $(1+b)^{-1} \leq (1+a)^{-1}$ and therefore $a(1+a)^{-1} = 1-(1+a)^{-1} \leq 1-(1+b)^{-1} = b(1+b)^{-1}$. Now observe that if $a \in \mathscr{A}_+$ then $f(a) = a(1+a)^{-1} \in \Lambda$ because $\|f\|_{\sigma(a)\subseteq[0,\infty)}$ and thus $0 \leq f < 1$. So we get an increasing map $\mathscr{A}_+ \to \Lambda, a \mapsto a(1+a)^{-1}$. Now suppose $a, b \in \Lambda$, consider $g = f^{-1} : [0,1) \to [0,\infty), x \mapsto \frac{x}{x-1}$. Define $a' := g(a), b' := g(b)$ and let $c := (a'+b')(1+a'+b')^{-1} = f(a'+b')$. Then $c \in \Lambda$ and since $a' \leq a'+b'$ we have $a = f(a') \leq f(a'+b') = c$ and likewise $b \leq c$. This shows that Λ is a directed set.

Now we have to check that $(e_\lambda)_{\lambda\in\Lambda}$ with $e_\lambda = \lambda$ is an approximate unit for $\mathscr{A}$. Notice that (e_λ) is increasing and $e_\lambda = \lambda \geq 0$ and $\|e_\lambda\| < 1$ for all λ. So we need only prove $e_\lambda \cdot a \to a \leftarrow a \cdot e_\lambda$ for every $a \in \mathscr{A}$. But using the involution, these two are equivalent:

$$(e_\lambda a) \to a \Leftrightarrow (e_\lambda a)^* \to a^* \Leftrightarrow a^* e_\lambda \to a \Leftrightarrow a^* e_\lambda \to a^*$$

It is even enough to prove $ae_\lambda \to a$ for only $a \in \Lambda$ because $\operatorname{span}\Lambda = \operatorname{span}(\mathscr{A}_+) = \mathscr{A}$. Let $a \in \Lambda$, in particular $a \in \mathscr{A}_+$. Consider 'its' Gelfand representation $\varphi : C^*(a) \to C_0(X)$ and let $f = \varphi(a) \in C_0(X)$. This function fulfils $0 \leq f(x) < 1$ for all $x \in X$ because it comes from $a \in \mathscr{A}_+$.

Let furthermore $\varepsilon > 0$ and $K := \{x \in X \mid |f(x)| \geq \varepsilon\} \subseteq X$ compact. By Uryson's Lemma, we have a $g \in C_0(X), g : X \to [0,1]$ such that $g(x) = 1$ for all $x \in K$. Next, choose $\delta > 0$ with $\delta < 1$ and $1-\delta < \varepsilon$. Then $g_\delta = \delta \cdot g \leq \delta$ and therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
\|f - g_\delta \cdot f\| = \|f - \delta g f\| &= \sup_{x\in X} \|f(x)\| \cdot \|1 - \delta g(x)\| \\
&\leq \max\{\sup_{x\in K} \|f(x)\| \cdot \|1-\delta g(x)\|, \sup_{x\notin K} \|f(x)\| \cdot \|1-\delta g(x)\|\} \\
&\leq \max\{\varepsilon, 1-\delta\} \leq \varepsilon
\end{aligned}$$

Now let $b := \varphi^{-1}(g_\delta) \in \mathscr{A}_+$ with $\|b\| < 1$ and $\|a - ba\| < \varepsilon$.

This shows that for any $a \in \Lambda$ we can find $\lambda_0 = b \in \Lambda$ such that $\|a - e_{\lambda_0} a\| < \varepsilon$. If now $\lambda \in \Lambda, \lambda \geq \lambda_0$ we have $e_{\lambda_0} \leq e_\lambda$, so $1 - e_\lambda \leq 1 - e_{\lambda_0}$ (in $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$) and therefore $a(1-e_\lambda)a \leq a(1-e_{\lambda_0})a$ (*) (by conjugation property and because a is self-adjoint). But then

$$\begin{aligned}
\|a - e_\lambda a\|^2 \|(1-e_\lambda a)\|^2 &= \| \overbrace{\underbrace{(1-e_\lambda)^{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot (1-e_\lambda)^{\frac{1}{2}}}_{\in\tilde{\mathscr{A}}} a}^{\in \mathscr{A} \trianglelefteq \tilde{\mathscr{A}}} \| \leq \|(1-e_\lambda)^{\frac{1}{2}} a\|^2 \\
&\overset{(*)}{\leq} \|a(1-e_\lambda)a\| \leq \|a(1-e_{\lambda_0})a\| \overset{\|a\|\leq 1}{\leq} \|(1-e_{\lambda_0})a\| \\
&= \|a - e_{\lambda_0}\| < \varepsilon
\end{aligned}$$

so $e_\lambda a \to a$. □

Definition 7.50 *In general, C^*-algebras do not admit a sequential approximate unit.*

We say that a C^*-algebra $\mathscr{A}$ is σ-unital if there exists such a sequential approximate unit $(e_n)_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$.

Example 7.51 $\mathscr{A} = C_0(X)$ is σ-unital if and only if X is σ-compact: $X = \bigcup_{n=1}^\infty K_n$ where $K_n \subseteq X$ are compact spaces.

8 Ideals in C^*-algebras

Theorem 8.1 *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a C^*-algebra and $L \subseteq \mathscr{A}$ a left closed ideal. Then there exists a net $(u_\lambda)_{\lambda\in\Lambda} \subseteq A_{+,1} \cap L$ (that is, elements with $0 \leq u_\lambda$ and $\|u_\lambda\| \leq 1$) such that $a = \lim_\lambda au_\lambda$ for all $a \in L$.*

Proof: Set $B = L \cap L^*$. This is clearly a C^*-subalgebra. There is now an approximate unit $(u_\lambda) \subseteq B_{+,1} \subseteq A_{+,1}$ for B. Let $a \in L$. Then $a^*a \in L \cap L^* \in B$ and we have $\lim_\lambda a^*au_\lambda = a^*a = \lim_\lambda u_\lambda a$. It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_\lambda \|a - au_\lambda\|^2 &= \lim_\lambda \|(a - au_\lambda)^*(a - au_\lambda)\| = \lim_\lambda \|a^*a - a^*au_\lambda - u_\lambda a^*a - u_\lambda a^*au_\lambda\| \\ &\leq \lim_\lambda \|a^*a - a^*au_\lambda\| + \lim_\lambda \|u_\lambda\| \cdot \|a^*a - a^*au_\lambda\| = 0\end{aligned}$$

□

Let $L \subseteq \mathscr{A}$ be a closed left ideal and $(u_\lambda) \subseteq B = L \cap L^* \subseteq \mathscr{A}$. Then $\lim_\lambda au_\lambda = a$ for all $a \in L$. As a consequence:

Theorem 8.2 *Every closed two-sided ideal $I \trianglelefteq \mathscr{A}$ of a C^*-algebra satiesfies $I^* = I$, so it is a *-ideal and in particular a C^*-algebra.*

Proof: By the lemma above, we find a net $(u_\lambda) \subseteq I$, $u_\lambda \geq 0$, such that $a = \lim_\lambda au_\lambda$ Then $a^* = \lim_\lambda u_\lambda a^* \in I$ (because $u_\lambda \in I$). □

Corollary 8.3 *Let $I \trianglelefteq \mathscr{A}$ be a closed two-sided ideal of a C^*-algebra $\mathscr{A}$. Then for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$, $\|a + I\| = \lim_\lambda \|a - u_\lambda a\| = \lim_\lambda \|a - au_\lambda\|$ where (u_λ) is an approximate unit for I.*

Proof: Let $\varepsilon > 0$ and take $b \in I$ such that $\|a + b\| \leq \|a + I\| + \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$. Recall that $\|a + I\| = \operatorname{dist}(a, I) = \inf_{b\in I} \|a + b\|$.

Since $\lim_\lambda u_\lambda b = b$. Then there exists λ_0 such that $\|b - u_\lambda b\| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$ for all $\lambda \geq \lambda_0$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\|a - u_\lambda a\| &\leq \|(1 - u_\lambda)(a + b)\| + \|b - u_\lambda b\| \\ &\leq \|a + b\| + \|b - u_\lambda b\| \\ &< \|a + I\| + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} = \|a + I\| + \varepsilon\end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, $\|a - u_\lambda a\| \geq \|a + I\|$ for all λ and $\|a + I\| = \lim_\lambda \|a + u_\lambda a\| = \inf_\lambda \|a - u_\lambda a\|$. This shows the existence of the limit and therefore that the norm equals the distance. □

Theorem 8.4 *If $I \trianglelefteq \mathscr{A}$ is a closed *-ideal in a C^*-algebra $\mathscr{A}$, then $\mathscr{A}/I$ is itself a C^*-algebra.*

Proof: We already know that $\mathscr{A}/I$ is a Banach *-algebra. We only need to show that $\|a + I\| = \|(a + I)^*(a + I)\|$.

Let $(u_\lambda) \subseteq I$ be an approximate unit and take $b \in I$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\|a + I\|^2 &= \lim_\lambda \|a - au_\lambda\|_A^2 \overset{*}{=} \lim_\lambda \|(1 - u_\lambda)a^*a(1 - u_\lambda)\| \\ &\leq \sup_\lambda \|(1 - u_\lambda)(a^*a + b)(1 - u_\lambda)\| + \lim_\lambda \|(1 - u_\lambda)b(1 - u_\lambda)\| \\ &\leq \|a^*a + b\|\end{aligned}$$

Where $*$ is because we can use the C^*-property of $\mathscr{A}$ and $(1 - u_\lambda)$ is self-adjoint. The last inequality follows because the latter limit tends to 0.

Since b was arbitrary, we get

$$\|a+I\|^2 \leq \inf_{b\in I} \|a^*a+b\|_{\mathscr{A}} = \|a^*a+I\| = \|(a+I)^*(a+I)\| \qquad \square$$

Theorem 8.5 *If $\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathscr{B}$ (where $\mathscr{A}, \mathscr{B}$ are C^* algebras) is an injective *-homomorphism, then φ is isometric, i.e. $\|\varphi(a)\| = \|a\|$ for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$.*

Proof: It suffices to show that $\|\varphi(a)\|^2 = \|a\|^2$ or $\|\varphi(a^*a)\| = \|a^*a\|$.

Replacing $\mathscr{A}$ by the C^*-algebra $C^*(a^*a)$ and B by $C^*(\varphi(a^*a)) \subseteq B$ (with $a^*a, \varphi(a^*a) = \varphi(a)^*\varphi(a) \geq 0$) we may assume that $\mathscr{A}, \mathscr{B}$ are commutative. Also by adding units and extending φ to the unitization $\tilde{\varphi} : \tilde{\mathscr{A}} \to \tilde{\mathscr{B}}$ we may assume that $\mathscr{A}, \mathscr{B}, \varphi$ are unital. Now given $\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{B})$ notice that $\chi \circ \varphi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})$. So we get a map $\varphi_* : \Omega(\mathscr{B}) \to \Omega(\mathscr{A}), \chi \mapsto \chi \circ \varphi$. This is clearly continuous. Since $\Omega(\mathscr{B})$ is compact, $K \coloneqq \varphi_*(\Omega(\mathscr{B}))$ is compact (in particular closed). By Uryson's Lemma, we find some continuous function $f \in C(\Omega(\mathscr{A}))$ such that $f|_K \equiv 0$ and $f \neq 0$ (if we assume $K \neq \Omega(\mathscr{A})$). By Gelfand-Representation we find ($\mathscr{A} \simeq C(\Omega(\mathscr{A}))$) and $a \in \mathscr{A}$ such that $\hat{a} = f$. Then for each $\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{B})$,

$$\chi(\varphi(a)) = \hat{a}(\chi \circ \varphi) = \underbrace{\hat{a}}_{f}(\underbrace{\varphi_*(\chi)}_{\in K}) = 0 \Rightarrow \varphi(a) = 0$$

and if $f \neq 0$, then $a \neq 0$. But we have $\varphi(a) = 0$ for all a, a contradiction. Therefore, φ_* is surjective. Now

$$\|a\|_{\mathscr{A}} = \|\hat{a}\|_\infty = \sup_{\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})} |\chi(a)| = \sup_{\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{B})} |(\chi \circ \varphi)(a)| = \|\widehat{\varphi(a)}\|_\infty = \|\varphi(a)\|_{\mathscr{B}} \qquad \square$$

Corollary 8.6 *If $\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathscr{B}$ is any *-homomorphism ($\mathscr{A}, \mathscr{B}$ C^*-algebras) then $\varphi(\mathscr{A})$ is closed, hence a C^*-subalgebra of $\mathscr{B}$.*

Proof: Consider $\psi : \mathscr{A}/_{\ker\varphi} \to \mathscr{B}, a + \ker\varphi \mapsto \varphi(a)$. Then ψ is a well-defined *-homomorphism and ψ is injective and therefore isometric. This shows that $\psi(\mathscr{A}/_{\ker\varphi}) = \varphi(\mathscr{A})$ is closed. $\square$

Remark 8.7 For some other related consequences, see Murphy's book.

(i) If $\mathscr{A} \subseteq \mathscr{B}$ are C^*-algebras and $I \trianglelefteq \mathscr{B}$ is a closed 2-sided ideal then $\mathscr{A} + I$ is a C^*-subalgebra of $\mathscr{B}$. In particular, the sum of ideals in C^*-algebras are ideals: For any $I, J \trianglelefteq \mathscr{A}$ have that $I + J \trianglelefteq \mathscr{A}$ as well.

(ii) If $I, J \trianglelefteq \mathscr{A}$ then $I \cdot J = I \cap J$. The product here is defined as the linear span of products ($I \cdot J = \overline{\operatorname{span}}\{i \cdot j \mid i \in I, j \in J\}$) but is actually just the products.

Proof (Ideas):

(i) To prove that $\mathscr{A} + I$ is closed, check that $(A+I)/I$ is Banach by identifying it with

$$(A+I)/I \simeq \mathscr{A}/(\mathscr{A} \cap I), a + I \leftarrow a + A \cap I$$

Can also build arbitrary familys of ideals and the sum will be an ideal, also the intersection and product of ideals exist.

(ii) $I \cdot J \subseteq I \cap J$ is clear. To prove the converse, use the approximate unit. $I \cap J$ is clearly a C^*-algebra, take an approximate unit $(u_\lambda) \subseteq I \cap J$ and $x \in I \cap J$. Then $x = \lim_\lambda x u_\lambda$ where $x u_\lambda$ is in $I \cdot J$ at all times. $\square$

9 Gelfand-Neymark representation

We know for commutative $\mathscr{A}$ that $\mathscr{A} = C_0(\Omega(\mathscr{A}))$. But if $\mathscr{A}$ is not commutative, $\Omega(\mathscr{A}) - \emptyset$ and this is useless. So we want to look at non-homomorphism functionals (the elements of the spectrum are homomorphism functionals) and hope that this is not empty. Hence we want to study positive linear functionals.

Definition 9.1 *Let $\mathscr{A}, \mathscr{B}$ C^*-algebras. A linear map $\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathscr{B}$ is called **positive** if $\varphi(\mathscr{A}_+) = \mathscr{B}_+$. We write $\varphi \geq 0$ for this.*

Remark 9.2 Let $\mathscr{A}, \mathscr{B}$ C^*-algebras and $\varphi \geq 0$.

(i) $\varphi \geq 0$ implies that $\varphi(\mathscr{A}_{sa}) = \mathscr{B}_{sa}$ (self-adjoint to self-adjoint). This follows because for any $a \in \mathscr{A}_{sa}$, we have $a = a^+ = a^-$ and $\varphi(a) = \varphi(a^+) - \varphi(a^-) \in B_{sa}$.

(ii) $a_1 \leq a_2$ in $\mathscr{A}$ yields $\varphi(a_1) \leq \varphi(a_2)$. This is because every *-homomorphism is primitive because $\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathscr{B}$ a *-homomorphism and $a \geq 0$ in $\mathscr{A}$ imply $a = x^*x$ for some $x \in \mathscr{A}$ andthus $\varphi(a) = \varphi(x)^*\varphi(x) \geq 0$.

Example 9.3 Let $\varphi : M_m(\mathbb{C}) \to M_m(\mathbb{C}), a \mapsto a^T$ is positive but not a homomorphism.
For this, consider $(a^*)^T = (a^T)^*$ and therefore $(a^*a)^T = (a^T)(a^T)^* \geq 0$, but not $(a^*a)^T \neq (a^T)^*(a^T)$.

Example 9.4 $\mathscr{A} = C_0(X)$. If $B(X)$ are the Borell-subsetes of X $\mu : B(X) \to [0, \infty]$ is a positive bounded measure, then

$$\varphi_\mu : C_0(X) \to \mathbb{C}, f \mapsto \int_X f(x) d\mu(x)$$

is clearly positive, linear but (usually) not a homomorphism. If μ is a Dirac-measure this is a homomorphism and a character.

10 Positive linear maps and functionals

Definition 10.1 *Let $\mathscr{A}, \mathscr{B}$ be C^*-algebras, a linear map $\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathscr{B}$ is called positive if $\varphi(\mathscr{A}_+) \subseteq \mathscr{B}_+$, that is $a \geq 0 \Rightarrow \varphi(a) \geq 0$. We write this as $\varphi \geq 0$.*

Remark 10.2 Observe that $\varphi \geq 0$ implies $\varphi(a^*) = \varphi(a)^*$ for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$ and $\varphi(\mathscr{A}_{sa}) \subseteq \mathscr{B}_{sa}$.
Also, φ respects inequality.

Proof: Just write $a \in \mathscr{A}_{sa}$ as $a = a_+ - a_-$ with $a_+, a_- \in \mathscr{A}_+$. □

Example 10.3 (i) Let $\mathscr{A} = M_n(\mathbb{C})$ the usual trace $\mathrm{tr} : M_n(\mathbb{C}) \to \mathbb{C}, A \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ii}$ is a positive linear functional In general a **trace** in a C^*-algebra is any positive linear map $\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathbb{C}$ with $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(ba)$.

Proposition 10.4 *If $\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathscr{B}$ is a positive linear map, then φ is bounded (i.e. continuous).*

Proof: Let $M = \sup_{a \in \mathscr{A}_+} \|\varphi(a)\|$. If we had $M = \infty$ there exists $(a_n) \in \mathscr{A}_{+,1}$ where $\|\varphi(a_n)\| \geq 2^n$ for all n. Define $a := \sum_{n=1}^\infty \frac{a_n}{2^n} \in \mathscr{A}_{+,1}$. Since $\varphi \geq 0$ and $\sum_{n=1}^N \frac{a_n}{2^n} \leq a$, we have $\sum_{n=1}^N \frac{\varphi(a_n)}{2^n} \leq \varphi(a)$. Notice that $\varphi(a_n) \geq 2^n$ in $\tilde{\mathscr{B}}$ because whenever $b \in \mathscr{B}_+$ and $\|b\| \geq c \geq 0$ so $b \geq c \cdot 1$. So in conclusion $\varphi(a) \geq \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{\varphi(a_n)}{2^n} \geq N \cdot 1$ (in $\tilde{\mathscr{B}}$), implying $\|\varphi(a)\| \geq N$ for all $N \in \mathbb{N}$, a contradiction.

Now given any $a \in \mathscr{A}$ write it as $a = b + ic$ where $b, c \in \mathscr{A}_{sa}$ where $b = \frac{a+a^*}{2}$ and $c = \frac{a-a^*}{2i}$. If $\|a\| \leq 1$ then $\|b\|, \|c\| \leq 1$ and $b = b_+ - b_-$, $c = c_+ - c_-$ so $b_+ = \frac{b+|b|}{2}$, $b_- = \frac{b=|b|}{2}$, $c_+ = \frac{c+|c|}{2i}$ and $c_- = \frac{c-|c|}{2i}$ where $|b| = \sqrt{bb^*}$ so $\|b_+\|^2, \|b_-\| \leq 1$. Then

$$\|\varphi(a)\| = \|\varphi(b) + i\varphi(c)\| = \|\varphi(b_+) + \varphi(b_-) + i\varphi(c_+) + i\varphi(c_-)\| \leq 4M \qquad \square$$

We concentrate from now on positive linear functionals $\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathbb{C}$. The main point is the following observation:

Remark 10.5 If $\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathbb{C}$ is a positive linear functional, then $\langle a, b\rangle_\varphi := \varphi(a^*b)$ is a semi-inner product on the vector space (fulfilling all requirements of an inner product except for $\langle a, a\rangle_\varphi = 0 \Rightarrow a = 0$). So Cauchy-Schwarz-inequality holds: $|\langle a, b\rangle_\varphi| \leq \|a\|_\varphi \cdot \|b\|_\varphi$ where $\|a\|_\varphi := \langle a, a\rangle_\varphi^{\frac{1}{2}} = \varphi(a^*a)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ is the semi-norm implied by $\langle \cdot, \cdot\rangle_\varphi$. Therefore, $|\varphi(a^*b)|^2 \leq \varphi(a^*a) \cdot \varphi(b^*b)$ for all $a, b \in \mathscr{A}$.

Proposition 10.6 *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a C^*-algebra and $\varphi \in \mathscr{A}_+^* = \{\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathbb{C} \mid$ positive linear $\}$. Then $|\varphi(a)|^2 \leq \|\varphi\|\varphi(a^*a)$ for all $a \in \mathscr{A}$.*

Proof: Let $(e_\lambda) \subseteq \mathscr{A}_{+,1}$ be an approximate unit. Using CS, we get

$$|\varphi(e_\lambda a)|^2 \leq \varphi(e_\lambda^2) \cdot \varphi(a^*a) \leq \|\varphi\|\varphi(a^*a)$$

and taking the limit yields the statement. $\square$

Theorem 10.7 *Let $\varphi \in \mathscr{A}^* = \{\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathbb{C} \mid$ bounded linear $\}$. Then the following are equivalent*

(i) $\varphi \geq 0$

(ii) For each approximate unit $(e_\lambda) \subseteq \mathscr{A}_{+,1}$ we have $\|\varphi\| = \lim_\lambda \varphi(e_\lambda) = \sup_\lambda \varphi(e_\lambda)$.

(iii) For some approximate unit $(e_\lambda) \subseteq \mathscr{A}_{+,1}$ we have $\|\varphi\| = \lim_\lambda \varphi(e_\lambda) = \sup_\lambda \varphi(e_\lambda)$.

Proof:

(i) $\Rightarrow$ (ii): B the previous proposition, $|\varphi(a)|^2 \leq \|\varphi\|\varphi(a^*a)$. Applying this for $a = e_\lambda$, we get $|\varphi(e_\lambda)|^2 \leq \|\varphi\|\varphi(e_\lambda)^2$ Notice $e_\lambda^2 = e_\lambda^{\frac{1}{2}} e_\lambda e_\lambda^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq e_\lambda$. Since φ preserves inequality, we have $|\varphi(e_\lambda)|^2 \leq \|\varphi\|\varphi(e_\lambda)$, so $\varphi(e_\lambda) \leq \|\varphi\|$ and therefore $\limsup_\lambda \varphi(e_\lambda) \leq \sup_\lambda \varphi(e_\lambda) \leq \|\varphi\|$. We apply CS again: $|\varphi(e_\lambda a)|^2 \leq \varphi(e_\lambda)^2\varphi(a^*a) \leq \varphi(e_\lambda)\varphi(a^*a)$ and hence $|\varphi(a)|^2 = \liminf_\lambda |\varphi(e_\lambda a)|^{\leq} \liminf_\lambda \varphi(e_\lambda)\|a\|^2\|\varphi\|$, as$\varphi(a^*a) \leq \|a\|^2\|\varphi\|$.

Now taking sup over $\|a\| \leq 1$ yields

$$\|\varphi\|^2 \leq \liminf_\lambda \varphi(e_\lambda)\|\varphi\| \Rightarrow \|\varphi\| \leq \liminf_\lambda \varphi(e_\lambda)$$

(ii) $\Rightarrow$ (iii): This is clear, as some linear morhpisms always exist.

(iii) $\Rightarrow$ (i): Let $a \in \mathscr{A}_{sa}$ and $\|a\| \leq 1$. Write $\varphi(a) = \alpha + i\beta$ with $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$. We prove that $\beta = 0$, that is $\varphi(a) \in \mathbb{R}$. We may assume $\beta \leq 0$ (or just take $-a$ instead). Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then

$$\|a - ine_\lambda\|^2 = \|(a + ine_\lambda)(a - ine_\lambda)\| = \|a^2n^2e_\lambda^2 - 2n(ae_\lambda - e_\lambda a) \leq 1 + n^2 + n\|ae_\lambda - e_\lambda a\|$$

THen we h and we have

$$\|\varphi(a - ine_\lambda)\|^2 \leq \|a - ine_\lambda^2 \leq 1 + n^2 + n \underbrace{\|ae_\lambda - e_\lambda a\|}_{\to 0}$$

Taking $\lambda \to \infty$, we get $\varphi(e_\lambda) \leq 1 + n^2$. Using $\varphi(a) = \alpha + i\beta$ and we get

$$\|\alpha + i\beta - in\|^2 \leq 1 + n^2 \Rightarrow \alpha^2 + \beta^2 - 2n\beta + in^2 \leq 1 + n^2 \Rightarrow -2n\beta \leq 1 - \alpha^2 - \beta^2$$

. Because $\beta \leq 0$, we have to take $\beta = 0$.
Now to prove $\varphi \geq 0$: Take $a \in \mathscr{A}_+$ with $\|a\| \leq 1$. Then $e_\lambda - a \in \mathscr{A}_{sa}$ and

$$-1 \leq -a \leq e_\lambda \leq e_\lambda \leq$$

So $\|e_\lambda\| \leq 1$.

$$\underbrace{\varphi(e_\lambda - a)}_{\in \mathbb{R}} \leq |\varphi(e_\lambda)| \leq 1$$

Letting $\lambda \to \infty$, then $1 - \varphi(a) \leq 1$ so $\varphi(a) \geq 0$.k □

Corollary 10.8 *If $\mathscr{A}$ is unital and $\varphi \in \mathscr{A}^+$ then $\varphi \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow \varphi(1) = \|\varphi\|$.*

Corollary 10.9 *If $\mathscr{A}$ is a unital C^*-algebra and $\varphi \in \mathscr{A}^*$, then $\varphi \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow \varphi(1) = \|\varphi\|$.*

Definition 10.10 *A* ***state*** *on a C^*-algebra $\mathscr{A}$ is a positive linear functional $\varphi \in \mathscr{A}_+^*$ with $\|\varphi\| = 1$.*

We denote the set of all states by $S(\mathscr{A})$.

Example 10.11 If $\mathscr{A} = B(H)$ or $\mathscr{A} = K(H)$ (bounded/compact operators on a hilbert space $\mathscr{A}$) or $\mathscr{A}$ a subalgebra of any of these sets with non-degenerate $e_\lambda \to 1$. Let $\zeta, \eta \in H$ and define $\varphi_{\zeta,\eta}(a) := \langle \zeta, a\eta \rangle$. Then $\varphi_{\zeta,\eta} \in \mathscr{A}^*$ with $\|\varphi_{\zeta,\eta}\| \leq \|\zeta\| \cdot \|\eta\|$. If $(e_\lambda) \subseteq \mathscr{A}_{+,1}$ is an approximate unit, then, using $e_\lambda \to 1$ (strictly) shows $\varphi_{\zeta,\eta}(e_\lambda) \to \langle \zeta, \eta \rangle$. If $\zeta = \eta$, then $\varphi_\zeta := \varphi_{\zeta,\zeta}$ is positive and so $\varphi_\zeta(a^*a) = \langle a\zeta, a\zeta \rangle = \|a\zeta\|^2 \geq 0$. By the previous theorem, $\|\varphi_\zeta\| = \lim_\lambda \varphi_\zeta(e_\lambda) = \|\zeta\|^2$. So φ_ζ is a state if and only if $\|\zeta\| = 1$.

Note that there are states that are not of this form at all! The ones presented here are the so-called **pure states**.

Theorem 10.12 *If $\mathscr{A}$ is a C^*-algebra and $a \in \mathscr{A}$ is normal with $\mathscr{A} \neq 0$ there exists a state $\varphi \in S(\mathscr{A})$ with $|\varphi(a)| = \|a\|$*

PROOF: We may assume $a \neq 0$ (we would only need to prove that any state exists, but this follows from the construction). Let $\mathscr{B} = C^*(a, 1) \subseteq \tilde{\mathscr{A}}$. $\mathscr{B}$ is abelian, $\hat{a} \in C(X)$ and $X = \Omega(\mathscr{B})$ (compact). Then there exists a $\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{B}) = X$ (compact) such that $|\hat{a}(\chi)| = |\chi(a)| = \|\hat{a}\|_\infty = \|a\|$. By Hahn-Banach, extend $\chi : \mathscr{B} \to \mathbb{C}$ to $\psi \in (\tilde{\mathscr{A}})^*$ with $\|\psi\| = \|\varphi\| = 1$. So $|\psi(a)| = |\chi(a)| = \|a\|$ and also $|\psi(1)| = |\chi(1)| = 1$. By the corollary, $\psi \geq 0$ and $\psi \in S(\mathscr{A})$. Taking $\varphi := \psi|_{\mathscr{A}} \in \mathscr{A}_+^*$ shows $\|\varphi\| \leq \|\psi\| = 1$ and $|\varphi(a)| = |\psi(a)| = \|a\|$, so $\|\varphi\| \geq 1$, so $\|\varphi\| = 1$ and φ is also a state. □

Theorem 10.13 (Extension of positive linear functionals) *Let $\mathscr{A} \subseteq \mathscr{B}$ be an inclusion of C^*-algebras and $\varphi \in \mathscr{A}_+^*$. Then, there exists $\tilde{\varphi} \in \mathscr{B}_+^*$ with $\tilde{\varphi}|_{\mathscr{A}} = \varphi$ and $\|\tilde{\varphi}\| = \|\varphi\|$.*

Proof: First consider the case $\mathscr{B} = \tilde{\mathscr{A}}$. In this case, define $\tilde{\varphi} : \tilde{\mathscr{A}} \to \mathbb{C}, a + \lambda \cdot 1 \mapsto \varphi(a) + \lambda \|\varphi\|$. Of course, $\tilde{\varphi}$ is linear and $\tilde{\varphi}|_{\mathscr{A}} = \varphi$. To prove that $\tilde{\varphi}$ is bounded, let $(e_i) \subseteq \mathscr{A}$ be an approximate unit. Then

$$|\tilde{\varphi}(a + \lambda \cdot 1) = |\varphi(a) + \lambda\|\varphi\|| = |\lim_i \varphi(ae_i) + \lambda \lim_i \varphi(e_i)| = \lim_i |\varphi(ae_i + \lambda e_i)|$$
$$= \lim_i |\varphi((a + \lambda 1)e_i)| \leq \|\varphi\|\|a + \lambda 1\|\|e_i\| \leq \|\varphi\|\|a + \lambda 1\|$$

because φ is bounded. So $\tilde{\varphi}$ is also bounded and $\|\tilde{\varphi}\| \leq \|\varphi\|$. But $\tilde{\varphi}(1) = \|\varphi\|$, so $\|\tilde{\varphi}\| = \|\varphi\|$ and $\tilde{\varphi}$ is therefore also positive.

Now the general case: Passing to the unitizations, we have an embedding $\tilde{\mathscr{A}} \subseteq \tilde{\mathscr{B}}$ and may assume that both $\mathscr{A}, \mathscr{B}$ are unital with the same unit. By the unital case above, φ extends to $\tilde{\mathscr{A}}$ and then also to $\mathscr{A}$ by Hahn-Banach. So there exists $\tilde{\varphi} \in \mathscr{B}^*$ with $\tilde{\varphi}|$. Since $\varphi \geq 0$, we know that $\tilde{\varphi(1)} = \varphi(1) = \|\varphi\| = \|\tilde{\varphi}|$, so $\tilde{\varphi} \geq 0$. $\square$

Remark 10.14

(i) In certain cases the extension φ to $\tilde{\varphi}$ is unique. This is true if $\mathscr{A} \trianglelefteq \mathscr{B}$ ore more generally if $\mathscr{A} \subseteq \mathscr{B}$ is a hereditary C^*-subalgebra (see Murphy: $\mathscr{A}\mathscr{B}\mathscr{A} = \mathscr{B}$ or $\mathscr{A} = L \cap L^*$ for some left-handed ideal L). In this case, $\tilde{\varphi}(b) = \lim \varphi(u_\lambda a u_\lambda)$ where $(u_\lambda) \subseteq \mathscr{A}$ where (u_λ) is an approximate unit.

(ii) Say $\varphi \in \mathscr{A}^*$ is self-adjoint. If $\varphi^* = \varphi$ where $\varphi^*(a) = \overline{\varphi(a^*)}$ (involution on $\mathscr{A}^*$). We can write $\varphi \in \mathscr{A}^*$ as $\varphi = \Re(\varphi) + i\Im(\varphi)$ where $\Re(\varphi) = \frac{\varphi+\varphi^*}{2}$ and $\Im(\varphi) = \frac{\varphi-\varphi^*}{2i}$ are self-adjoint, contained in $\mathscr{A}^*_{sa}$. Observe that $\mathscr{A}^*_{sa} = (\mathscr{A}_{sa})'$, the topological dual of $\mathscr{A}_{sa}$ as an $\mathbb{R}$-vecotr Banach space.

(iii) Any $\varphi \in \mathscr{A}^*_{sa}$ can be uniquely written as $\varphi = \varphi_+ - \varphi_-$ where $\varphi_+, \varphi_- \in \mathscr{A}^*_+$ and $\|\varphi\| = \|\varphi_+\| + \|\varphi_-\|$.

11 The Gelfand-Naimark-Theorem

Definition 11.1 *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a C^*-algebra. A **representation** of $\mathscr{A}$ is a *-homomorphism $\pi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathcal{L}(H)$ for some Hilbert space H.*

We say that π is

*(i) **faithful** if π is injective (and therefore isometric).*

*(ii) **non-degenerate** if $\operatorname{span} \pi(\mathscr{A})H = H$.*

*(iii) **irreducible** if for all closed subspaces $K \subseteq H$ with $\pi(\mathscr{A})K \subseteq K$ (K is π-invariant) we have $K = 0$ or $K = H$.*

Remark 11.2 The exercises show that π non-degenerate is equivalent to $\pi(e_\lambda) \to 1$ (strongly) for an approximate unit $(e_\lambda) \subseteq \mathscr{A}$

We want to show that there is always a faithful homomorphism.

Definition 11.3 *Let $\pi : \mathscr{A}l \to \mathcal{L}(H)$, $\rho : \mathscr{A} \to \mathcal{L}(K)$ two representations. We say that π, ρ are (unitarily) equivalent if there exists a surjective isometry $u : H \to K$ such that $u^*\rho(a)u = \pi(a)$, i.e. $\rho = \mathrm{Ad}_{u^*}\pi$.*

Definition 11.4 (Spectrum) *We define*

$$\hat{\mathscr{A}} = \{[\pi] \mid \pi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathcal{L}(H), \pi \neq 0\$$$

Also define $\mathrm{Prim}(\mathscr{A})\{\ker(\varphi) \mid [\pi] \in \hat{\mathscr{A}}$ *and* $\hat{\mathscr{A}} \to \mathrm{Prim}(\mathscr{A}), [\pi]l \mapsto \ker\pi$ *(primitive ideals).*

Let $\chi \in \Omega(\mathscr{A})$ *be a character* $\chi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathbb{C} = \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C})$*. Then* $[\chi] \in \hat{\mathscr{A}}$ *and* $\ker\chi \in \mathrm{Prim}(\mathscr{A})$*.*

Observe that if $\mathscr{A} = C_0(X)$*, then ???*

How do we get representations of $\mathscr{A}$?

Gelfand-Naimark-Siegal-Construction (GNS)

Theorem 11.5 *Let* $\varphi \in \mathscr{A}^*_+$ *be any positive linear functional. We know that* $\langle a, b\rangle_\varphi := \varphi(a^*b)$ *defines a semi-inner-product and* $\|a\|_\varphi = \varphi(a^*a)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ *is a semi-norm.*

Let $N_\varphi := \{a \in \mathscr{A} \mid \|a\|_\varphi = 0\}$*.*

Remark 11.6 Notice: $N_\varphi \subseteq \mathscr{A}$ is a closed left ideal.

Proof: From Cauchy-Schwarz:

$$|\varphi(a^*b)|^* \leq \varphi(a^*a)\varphi(b^*b)$$

and therefore

$$N_\varphi = \{b \in \mathscr{A} \mid \varphi(ab) = 0\}$$

Let $H^\circ_\varphi := \mathscr{A}/N_\varphi$ the quotient vector space. Then $\langle, \dot{;}\rangle_\varphi$ factors through an inner product of H°_φ and

$$\langle a + N_\varphi, b + N_\varphi\rangle = \langle a, b\rangle = \varphi(a^*b)$$

By completion we get a Hilbert space $H_\varphi = \overline{H^\circ_\varphi}^{\langle\cdot,\cdot,\rangle}$.

Now we define (with L the linear operators)

$$\pi^\circ_\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to L(H^\circ_\varphi)$$

and thus

$$\pi^\circ_\varphi(a)(b + N_\varphi) := ab + N_\varphi$$

meaning that $\pi^\circ_\varphi(a) \cdot \pi^\circ_\varphi(b) = \pi^\circ_\varphi(ab)$ and $\pi^\circ_\varphi(a^*) = (\pi^\circ_\varphi(a))^*$. Then

$$\varphi(b^*ac) = \langle\varphi^\circ_\varphi(a^*)(b + N_\varphi), c + N_\varphi\rangle = \langle b + N_\varphi, \pi_\varphi(a)(c + N_\varphi)\rangle. \tag{11.1}$$

We claim now that π°_φ is bounded for $\|\cdot\|_\varphi$ and therefore show that $\pi_\varphi(a)$ extends to $\pi_\varphi(a) \in \mathcal{L}(H_\varphi)$.

Take

$$\|\pi^\circ_\varphi(a)(b + N_\varphi)\|^2_\varphi = \|ab + N_\varphi\|^2_\varphi = \varphi((ab^*ab)) = \varphi(b^*a^*ab) \leq \|a\|^2\varphi(b^*b) \leq \|a\|^2\|b + N_\varphi|$$

Therefore we get a representation: The GNS-Representation associated to φ.

$$\pi_\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathcal{L}(H_\varphi), a \mapsto \pi_\varphi(a) = [b + N_\varphi \mapsto ab + N_\varphi] \qquad \square$$

If $(\pi_i)_{i\in I}$ is a family of representations $\pi_i : \mathscr{A} \to H$. We define the direct sum $\bigoplus_{i\in I} \pi_i : A \to \mathcal{L}(\bigoplus_{i\in I} H_i), a \mapsto (\pi_i(a))_{i\in I}$ where $(\pi_i(a))_{i\in I} : \zeta \mapsto (\pi_i(a)\zeta)$.

Theorem 11.7 (Gelfand-Naimar-Representation) *Let $\mathscr{A}$ be a C^*-algebra and define $\pi_U := \bigoplus_{\varphi\in S(\mathscr{A})} \pi_\varphi : \mathscr{A} \to \mathcal{L}(H_U)$ with $H_U = \oplus_{\varphi\in S(\mathscr{A})} H_\varphi$. Then (π_U, H_U) is* ***faithful****.*

PROOF: Suppose $0 \neq a \in \mathscr{A}$, $pi_U(a) = 0$ and $pi_U(a) = 0$. Then there exists $\varphi \in S(\mathscr{A})$ such that $\varphi(a^*a) = \|a^*a\| = \|a\|^2$. We know $\langle a, a\rangle_\varphi = \|a\|_\varphi$. Then $\pi_U(a) = 0$, so $\pi_\varphi(a) = 0$, so $\pi_\varphi(a^*a) = 0$ and therefore $\pi_\varphi(a)(b + N_\varphi) = ab + N_\varphi = 0$. This shows

$$i0 = \langle \pi_\varphi(a)(b + N_\varphi), \pi_\varphi(a)(b + N_\varphi)\rangle = \varphi(b^*a^*ab) \qquad \square$$

for all $b \in \mathscr{A}$, so $b = e_\lambda$ (for $\lambda \to \infty$). But then $\varphi(a^*a) = 0$ and thus $a = 0$.