



commutant is a weak operator closed subalgebra

Canonical name	CommutantIsAWeakOperatorClosedSubalgebra
Date of creation	2013-03-22 18:39:32
Last modified on	2013-03-22 18:39:32
Owner	asteroid (17536)
Last modified by	asteroid (17536)
Numerical id	7
Author	asteroid (17536)
Entry type	Theorem
Classification	msc 46L10

Let H be a Hilbert space and $B(H)$ the algebra of bounded operators in H . Recall that the commutant of a subset $\mathcal{F} \subset B(H)$ is the set of all bounded operators that commute with those of \mathcal{F} , i.e.

$$\mathcal{F}' := \{T \in B(H) : TS = ST, \quad \forall S \in \mathcal{F}\}.$$

- If $\mathcal{F} \subset B(H)$, then \mathcal{F}' is a subalgebra of $B(H)$ that contains the identity operator and is closed in the weak operator topology.

: It is clear that \mathcal{F}' contains the identity operator, since it commutes with all operators in $B(H)$ and in particular with those of \mathcal{F} .

Let us now see that \mathcal{F}' is a subalgebra of $B(H)$. Let $T_1, T_2 \in \mathcal{F}'$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$. We have that, for all $S \in \mathcal{F}$,

$$\begin{aligned} S(T_1 + T_2) &= ST_1 + ST_2 = T_1S + T_2S = (T_1 + T_2)S \\ S(\lambda T_1) &= \lambda ST_1 = \lambda T_1S \\ S(T_1 T_2) &= T_1 S T_2 = T_1 T_2 S \end{aligned}$$

thus, $T_1 + T_2$, λT_1 and $T_1 T_2$ all belong to \mathcal{F}' , and therefore \mathcal{F}' is a subalgebra of $B(H)$.

It remains to see that \mathcal{F}' is weak operator closed. Suppose (T_i) is a net in \mathcal{F}' that converges to T in the weak operator topology. Then, for all $x, y \in H$ we have that $\langle T_i x, y \rangle \rightarrow \langle T x, y \rangle$. Thus, for all $S \in \mathcal{F}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle (TS - ST)x, y \rangle &= \langle TSx, y \rangle - \langle Tx, S^*y \rangle \\ &= \lim (\langle T_i Sx, y \rangle - \langle T_i x, S^*y \rangle) \\ &= \lim \langle (T_i S - ST_i)x, y \rangle \\ &= \lim \langle (T_i S - T_i S)x, y \rangle \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $TS - ST = 0$, so that $T \in \mathcal{F}'$. We conclude that \mathcal{F}' is closed in the weak operator topology. \square