

Two distinguished real Banach algebras

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The real disk-algebra

Let $C_s(\mathbb{T})$ be the set of all (complex-valued) continuous functions on the unit circle $\mathbb{T} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = 1\}$ that are symmetric; this means that $\overline{f(e^{-it})} = f(e^{it})$.

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$$P[f](z) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(e^{i\theta}) \frac{1 - |z|^2}{|z - e^{i\theta}|^2} d\theta.$$

Note that for $z = re^{it}$ this coincides with the convolution

$$f * P_r(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(e^{i\theta}) P_r(t - \theta) d\theta$$

of f with the Poisson-kernel $P_r(t) := \frac{1-r^2}{1+r^2-2r\cos t}$. Using Fourier representation, we see that the Fourier series of an element $f \in A_S$ formally writes as $\mathcal{F}[f] = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \hat{f}_n e^{int}$, where the Fourier coefficients, given as usual by the formula $\hat{f}_n := \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(e^{it}) e^{-int} dt$, are *real* numbers.

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When A_S is endowed with the supremum-topology, then A_S is isomorphically isometric to the real Banach algebra, $A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$, of all holomorphic functions on the disk that are real on the interval $] - 1, 1[$ and that admit a continuous extension to the closure $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$ of \mathbb{D} .

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Let $A(\mathbb{D})$ be the disk-algebra, that is the algebra of all functions continuous on $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$ and holomorphic in \mathbb{D} . This is the most prominent example of a complex Banach algebra. Its relation with $A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$ is given by the following:

$$A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D}) = \{f \in A(\mathbb{D}) : \overline{f(\overline{z})} = f(z)\}.$$

By Gelfand-theory, the maximal ideals in a complex commutative unital Banach algebra are exactly the kernels of the \mathbb{C} -valued multiplicative linear functionals. Since the analytic polynomials are dense in $A(\mathbb{D})$ it follows from that theory that the \mathbb{C} -valued characters of $A(\mathbb{D})$ are exactly the point evaluations $\Phi_a : f \mapsto f(a)$ for some $a \in \overline{\mathbb{D}}$; hence each maximal ideal has the form $\{f \in A(\mathbb{D}) : f(a) = 0\}$.

Lemma

The set of rational functions of the form

$$\frac{\sum_{n=0}^M a_n z^n}{z^N}, \quad |z| = 1,$$

where $M, N \in \mathbb{N}$ and where a_n are real, is uniformly dense in $C_s(\mathbb{T})$.

$$M_a := \{f \in A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D}) : f(a) = 0\}.$$

M_a is an ideal. Is M_a maximal?

Lemma

Let I be an ideal in $A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$. Suppose that for some $a \in \mathbb{D}$ the elements $f, g \in I$ satisfy $f(a) = 0$ and $g(a) \neq 0$. Then the following assertions hold:

- 1** *If $-1 < a < 1$, then $\frac{f}{z-a} \in I$;*
- 2** *If $a \in \mathbb{D} \setminus [-1, 1]$, then $\frac{f}{(z-a)(z-\bar{a})} \in I$.*

Proof $f(a) = 0 \longrightarrow f(\bar{a}) = 0$.

$f(z)/(z - a) \in A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$ whenever $a \in]-1, 1[$ and
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and

$$\frac{(g(z) - g(a))(g(z) - g(\bar{a}))}{(z - a)(z - \bar{a})} \in A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D}), \quad a \in \mathbb{D} \setminus [-1, 1].$$

Note also that $g(\bar{a}) = \overline{g(a)}$.

Assertion (1) now follows from

$$\frac{f(z)}{z-a} = -\frac{1}{g(a)} \left(\frac{g(z) - g(a)}{z-a} f(z) - \frac{f(z)}{z-a} g(z) \right), \quad (1)$$

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and (2) follows from

$$\frac{f(z)}{(z-a)(z-\bar{a})} = \frac{1}{|g(a)|^2} \left(\frac{(g(z)-g(a))(g(z)-g(\bar{a}))}{(z-a)(z-\bar{a})} f(z) - \frac{f(z)(g(z)-(g(a)+g(\bar{a})))}{(z-a)(z-\bar{a})} g(z) \right)$$

Theorem

An ideal M in $A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$ is maximal if and only if $M = M_a$ for some $a \in \overline{\mathbb{D}}$.

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$$1 = \frac{(f - f(a)) (f - \overline{f(a)})}{|f(a)|^2} - f \frac{f - (f(a) + \overline{f(a)})}{|f(a)|^2}.$$

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Hence the ideal, $[M_a, f]$, generated by M_a and f is the whole algebra and so M_a is maximal.

Next we show that every maximal ideal in $A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$ has this form. First we note that a function $f \in A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$ is invertible in $A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$ if and only if f does not vanish on $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$.

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$$\delta := \min_{z \in \overline{\mathbb{D}}} \sum_{j=1}^n |f_j(z)|^2 > 0. \quad (2)$$

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We are going to show that $1 = \sum_{j=1}^n g_j f_j$ for some $g_j \in A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$, contradicting the fact that M is a proper ideal.

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Note that N and M can be chosen to be independent of k (just by adding, if necessary, 0 coefficients).

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Hence the function $q := \sum_{k=1}^n (z^N r_k) f_k$ has no zeros on \mathbb{T} . Moreover, since $z^N r_k$ is a polynomial with real coefficients, it belongs to $A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$. Thus $q \in A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$. Moreover, $q \in I(f_1, \dots, f_n)$, the ideal generated by the f_j in $A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$. By analyticity, q has only finitely many zeros in \mathbb{D} . The symmetry of the functions in $A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$ implies that these zeros are symmetric with respect to the real axis.

Using Lemma 2 we shall now divide out these zeros (taking pairs $(\xi, \bar{\xi})$ whenever the zero ξ is not real) without leaving the ideal $I(f_1, \dots, f_n)$.

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Theorem

Let $a \in \overline{\mathbb{D}}$. Then

- 1 M_a has co-dimension 1 (in the real vector space $A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$) if and only if $a \in [-1, 1]$.
- 2 M_a has co-dimension 2 if and only if $a \in \overline{\mathbb{D}} \setminus [-1, 1]$.

Proof

For (1), let $a \in [-1, 1]$ and let $f \in A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$. Then $f(a)$ is real and so

$$f = (f - f(a)) + f(a) \cdot 1 \in \text{vect}[M_a, 1].$$

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For (2), let $a \in \overline{\mathbb{D}} \setminus [-1, 1]$. We claim that
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$$f(z) = (f(z) - (\sigma + \beta z)) + \sigma + \beta z \in \text{vect}[M_a, 1, z].$$

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Next we shall determine the (non-zero) multiplicative linear functionals ϕ on $A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$; we have to distinguish two cases: either the target space of ϕ is the field of reals or it is the real division algebra \mathbb{C} , regarded as a vector space over \mathbb{R} . We denote it by ${}^{\mathbb{R}}\mathbb{C}$.

Theorem

- (1) *The only multiplicative \mathbb{R} -linear functionals $\phi : A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ on $A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$ are given by $\phi(f) = f(a)$, where $a \in [-1, 1]$.*

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- (2) *The remaining \mathbb{R} -linear multiplicative functionals have target space ${}^{\mathbb{R}}\mathbb{C}$ and are given by $\phi(f) = f(a)$ or $\phi(f) = \overline{f(a)}$, where $a \in \overline{\mathbb{D}} \setminus [-1, 1]$.*

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- (2) *The remaining \mathbb{R} -linear multiplicative functionals have target space ${}^{\mathbb{R}}\mathbb{C}$ and are given by $\phi(f) = f(a)$ or $\phi(f) = \overline{f(a)}$, where $a \in \overline{\mathbb{D}} \setminus [-1, 1]$. Their kernels are the maximal ideals M_a that have co-dimension 2 in the real vector space $A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D})$.*

Proof

First we note that the kernel of any multiplicative \mathbb{R} -linear functional $\phi : A_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$ is a maximal ideal (here \mathbb{K} is either \mathbb{R} or ${}^{\mathbb{R}}\mathbb{C}$).

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Proof

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Bounded analytic functions

Let $H_{\mathbb{R}}^{\infty}(\mathbb{D}) = \{f \in H^{\infty} : f(z) = \overline{f(\bar{z})}\}$.

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Proof

Carleson $\longrightarrow \exists g_j \in H^{\infty} : 1 = \sum_{j=1}^n g_j f_j$ Let

$h_j(z) := \frac{1}{2}(g_j(z) + \overline{g_j(\bar{z})})$. Then $h_j \in H_{\mathbb{R}}^{\infty}(\mathbb{D})$ and $\sum_{j=1}^n h_j f_j = 1$.

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