A Spectral Mapping Theorem for Representations of Compact Groups

W. ARENDT and C. D'ANTONI[1])

Sei U eine stark stetige beschränkte Darstellung einer lokal kompakten Gruppe G auf einem Banachraum E. Ist μ ein beschränktes reguläres Borelmaß, so bezeichnen wir mit $U(\mu)$ den Operator $U(\mu) = \int U(t)\,d\mu(t)$. Wenn G abelsch ist, so ist bekannt, daß

$$\sigma(U(\mu)) = \hat{\mu}(\mathrm{sp}\,(U))^-$$

wenn der singuläre stetige Anteil von μ Null ist (wobei $\sigma(U(\mu))$ das Spektrum des Operators $U(\mu)$, sp (U) das Arveson-Spektrum von U und $\hat{\mu}$ die Fourier-Stieltjes Transformierte von μ bezeichnet).

Im vorliegenden Artikel wird ein entsprechender spektraler Abbildungssatz für kompakte (nicht-abelsche) Gruppen und absolut stetige Maße bewiesen. Ferner wird gezeigt, daß − im Gegensatz zum abelschen Fall − der spektrale Abbildungssatz für atomare Maße nicht gilt.

Пусть U сильно непрерывное ограниченное представление локально компактной группы G на банаховое пространство. Если μ ограниченная регулярная борелевская мера, пусть $U(\mu)$ обозначает оператор $U(\mu) = \int U(t)\,d\mu(t)$. Если G-абелевая, то известно, что

$$\sigma(U(\mu)) = \hat{\mu}(\mathrm{sp}\,(U))^-$$

если сингулярная непрерывная часть μ равна нулю (где $\sigma(U(\mu))$ обозначает спектр оператора $U(\mu)$, sp (U)-арвесонский спектр U, и $\hat{\mu}$-фурье-стильтьесовое преобразование μ).

В данной статье доказана подобная спектральная теорема об отображении для компактных (не абелевых) групп и абсолютно непрерывных мер. Кроме того доказано, что в противоположность абелевому случаю для чисто прерывных мер спектральная теорема об отображении не верна.

Let U be a strongly continuous bounded representation of a locally compact group G on a Banach space E. For a bounded regular Borel measure μ on G, we denote by $U(\mu)$ the operator $U(\mu) = \int U(t)\,d\mu(t)$. If G is abelian, it is known that

$$\sigma(U(\mu)) = \hat{\mu}(\mathrm{sp}\,U)^-.$$

holds if the continuous singular part of μ is zero (where $\sigma(U(\mu))$ denotes the spectrum of the operator $U(\mu)$, sp (U) the Arveson-spectrum of U and $\hat{\mu}$ the Fourier-Stieltjes transformation of μ.)

In the present article a corresponding spectral mapping theorem is proved for compact (non-abelian) groups and absolutely continuous measures. Moreover, it is shown that − in contrary to the abelian case − the spectral mapping theorem fails for purely discontinuous measures.

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1. Introduction

Given a suitably continuous homomorphism U of a locally compact group G into the group of all isometries on a Banach space E, it is possible to define the representation of $M(G)$, the Banach algebra of all bounded regular Borel measures on G, by

$$U(\mu) = \int U_t \, d\mu(t).$$

If G is abelian (resp. compact) in the theory of spectral subspaces the spectrum sp (U) of U is defined as a certain subset of the dual group of G [2] (resp. the dual object of G [6]).

In the abelian case a spectral mapping theorem is proved in [5] (see also [9]), stating

$$\sigma\big(U(\mu)\big) = \hat{\mu}\big(\mathrm{sp}\,(U)\big)^-$$

for every measure $\mu \in M(G)$ whose continuous part belongs to $L^1(G)$. The purpose of this paper is to prove the analogue of this theorem for compact groups.

It is interesting that the corresponding theorem does not hold in this generality for the non-abelian case: In fact, a counterexample given in this paper shows that it may fail to hold for purely discontinuous measures.

2. The main theorem

Let E be a Banach space, G a compact group and U a homomorphism of G into the group of invertible operators on E. That means:

$U_t \in \mathcal{L}(E)$, $U_{st} = U_s U_t$, $U_e = I$ for $s, t \in G$, where $e \in G$ is the unit of G and I the identity operator on E.

Suppose U is continuous in the sense of [2: assumption 1.1]. In particular, U may be strongly continuous. Then for $\mu \in M(G)$ the operator $U(\mu)$ can be defined by

$$U(\mu) = \int U_t \, d\mu(t)$$

(see [2]). $U(\mu)$ is a bounded operator on E, $\|U(\mu)\| \leq c\|\mu\|$ for a positive constant c and all $\mu \in M(G)$. For $\mu, \nu \in M(G)$ we have $U(\mu * \nu) = U(\mu)\,U(\nu)$, and $U_t = U(\delta_t)$ for the Dirac measure δ_t at the point $t \in G$. Thus U extends to a representation of $M(G)$ on E.

Denote by $\hat{G}$ the dual object of G, i.e. $\hat{G}$ is the set of all equivalence classes of continuous unitary irreducible representations of G. For $\alpha \in \hat{G}$ chose $u_\alpha \in \alpha$. u_α is a homomorphism of G into the group of all unitary $n_\alpha \times n_\alpha$-matrices. Denote by $u_{\alpha ij}(t)$ the matrix entries of $u_\alpha(t)$, and by $u_{\alpha ij}$ the coordinate function $t \to u_{\alpha ij}(t)$ on G ($1 \leq i$, $j \leq n_\alpha$). For $\mu \in M(G)$ let $\hat{\mu}_\alpha = \int u_\alpha(t^{-1}) \, d\mu(t)$ for $\alpha \in \hat{G}$ (i.e. $\hat{\mu}_\alpha$ is the $n_\alpha \times n_\alpha$-matrix $\big(\int u_{\alpha ij}(t^{-1}) \, d\mu(t)\big)_{ij}$). We identify $L^1(G)$ with a subspace of $M(G)$ in the canonical way. Thus we set $\hat{f}_\alpha = (fm)_\alpha^\circ$ ($\alpha \in \hat{G}$) and $U(f) := U(fm)$ for $f \in L^1(G)$, where m denotes the Haar measure on G.

2.1 Definition: sp $(U) = \{\alpha \in \hat{G} \mid \hat{f}_\alpha = 0 \quad \text{for all} \quad f \in I\}$, where I is the closed ideal of $L^1(G)$ defined by $I = \{f \in L^1(G) \mid U(f) = 0\}$.

This definition is equivalent to the one given in [6] and coincides with Arveson's definition in the abelian case. We can now formulate the main theorem.

2.2 Theorem: 1. *For* $\mu \in M(G)$, $P\sigma\big(U(\mu)\big) = \bigcup\limits_{\alpha \in \mathrm{sp}(U)} \sigma(\hat{\mu}_\alpha)$.

2. *For* $f \in L^1(G)$,

$$\sigma\big(U(f)\big) = \begin{cases} \bigcup\limits_{\alpha \in \mathrm{sp}(U)} \sigma(\hat{f}_\alpha) \cup \{0\} & \textit{if} \quad \mathrm{sp}\,(U) \quad \textit{is infinite} \\[2mm] \bigcup\limits_{\alpha \in \mathrm{sp}(U)} \sigma(\hat{f}_\alpha) & \textit{if} \quad \mathrm{sp}\,(U) \quad \textit{is finite.} \end{cases}$$

Note: $\sigma(T)$ denotes the spectrum and $P\sigma(T)$ the point spectrum of a bounded operator T on E. For $\mu \in M(G)$, $\alpha \in \hat{G}$ let $\sigma(\hat{\mu}_\alpha)$ denote the set of all eigenvalues of the matrix $\hat{\mu}_\alpha$.

For the proof of the theorem we need some lemmas.

The coordinate functions are continuous and satisfy

$$u_{\alpha ij} * u_{\beta kl} = 1/n_\alpha \delta_{\alpha\beta}\delta_{jk} u_{\alpha il}$$

$$(\alpha, \beta \in \hat{G}, 1 \leq i, j \leq n_\alpha, \quad 1 \leq k, l \leq n_\beta) \qquad \text{(see [8: 27.20]).}$$

Let $V_{\alpha ij} := U(n_\alpha u_{\alpha ij})$ $\quad(\alpha \in \hat{G}, 1 \leq i, j \leq n_\alpha)$.
The operators $V_{\alpha ij}$ satisfy the composition rules

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} V_{\alpha ij} V_{\beta kl} = 0 \quad \text{if} \quad \alpha \neq \beta \quad \text{or} \quad j \neq k, \\[2mm] V_{\alpha ij} V_{\alpha jl} = V_{\alpha il}. \end{array} \right\} \qquad \text{(C)}$$

In particular $V_{\alpha ii}$ and $P_\alpha := \sum\limits_{i=1}^{n} V_{\alpha ii}$ are projections $(\alpha \in \hat{G}, 1 \leq i \leq n_\alpha)$.

2.3 Lemma: *For* $\mu \in M(G)$, $\alpha \in \hat{G}$,

a) $P_\alpha U(\mu) = U(\mu) P_\alpha = \sum\limits_{i,j=1\ldots n_\alpha} \hat{\mu}_{\alpha ji} V_{\alpha ij} \qquad (1 \leq i, j \leq n_\alpha)$,

b) $V_{\alpha ij} P_\alpha = P_\alpha V_{\alpha ij} = V_{\alpha ij} \qquad (1 \leq i, j \leq n_\alpha)$,

c) $P_\alpha P_\beta = P_\beta P_\alpha = 0 \quad$ for $\quad \alpha \neq \beta$.

Proof: By [8: 27.20],

$$\mu * u_{\alpha ii} = \sum_{j=1}^{n_\alpha} \int \overline{u_{\alpha ji}(s)}\, d\mu(s)\, u_{\alpha ji} = \sum_{j=1}^{n_\alpha} \hat{\mu}_{\alpha ij} u_{\alpha ij}$$

and

$$u_{\alpha ii} * \mu = \sum_{j=1}^{n_\alpha} \int \overline{u_{\alpha ij}(s)}\, d\mu(s)\, u_{\alpha ij} = \sum_{j=1}^{n_\alpha} \hat{\mu}_{\alpha ji} u_{\alpha ji}.$$

Consequently,

$$P_\alpha U(\mu) = U\left(n_\alpha \sum_{i=1}^{n_\alpha} u_{\alpha ii} * \mu\right) = U\left(n_\alpha \sum_{ij=1}^{n_\alpha} \hat{\mu}_{\alpha ji} u_{\alpha ij}\right) = \sum_{ij=1}^{n_\alpha} \hat{\mu}_{\alpha ji} V_{\alpha ij}$$

$$= U\left(\mu * n_\alpha \sum_{j=1}^{n_\alpha} u_{\alpha jj}\right) = U(\mu) P_\alpha.$$

b) and c) are obvious from (C) ∎

There is an alternative description of sp (U).

2.4 Lemma: $\operatorname{sp}(U) = \{\alpha \in \hat{G} \mid P_\alpha \neq 0\}$.

Proof: Let $S = \{\alpha \in \hat{G} \mid P_\alpha \neq 0\}$.

a) Let $\alpha \in \operatorname{sp}(U)$. Since $(u_{\alpha ii})^{\hat{}}_{\alpha ij} = 1/n_\alpha$ (see [8: 27.19]), $u_{\alpha ii} \notin I$ by the definition of $\operatorname{sp}(U)$. From the definition of I follows that $V_{\alpha ii} \neq 0$ $(1 \leq i \leq n_\alpha)$ and consequently, $P_\alpha \neq 0$ (use 2.3b)). Hence $\alpha \in S$.

b) Let $\alpha \in S$. Then $V_{\alpha ij} \neq 0$ $(1 \leq i, j \leq n_\alpha)$. From 2.3a) and (C) follows that $V_{\alpha ii} P_\alpha U(f) V_{\alpha jj} = \hat{f}_{\alpha ji} V_{\alpha ij}$. Hence, $f \in I$ implies $\hat{f}_\alpha = 0$; i.e. $\alpha \in \operatorname{sp}(U)$ ∎

2.5 Lemma: *If $U(f) x = 0$ for all $f \in L^1(G)$, then $x = 0$.*

Proof: For every $\varphi \in E_*$ (a separating subspace of the dual space of E according to the assumption in [1] (if U is strongly continuous. E_* is just the dual space of E)), $\int \langle U_t x, \varphi \rangle f(t)\, dt = 0$ for every $f \in L^1(G)$ by hypothesis. Since the function $t \to \langle U_t x, \varphi \rangle$ is continuous, it is identically zero, hence $\langle x, \varphi \rangle = 0$. This implies $x = 0$, E_* being separating ∎

2.6 Lemma: *If $P_\alpha x = 0$ for every $\alpha \in \operatorname{sp}(U)$, then $x = 0$.*

Proof: The hypothesis implies that $P_\alpha x = 0$ for every, $\alpha \in \hat{G}$. Consequently, $U(u_{\alpha ij}) x = 0$ for every $\alpha \in \hat{G}$, $i, j \in \{1, \ldots, n_\alpha\}$, hence $U(p) x = 0$ for every trigonometric polynomial p on G, which implies $U(f) x = 0$ for every $f \in L^1(G)$, the trigonometric polynomials being dense in $L^1(G)$. It follows from 2.5 that $x = 0$ ∎

2.7 Lemma: *If $\hat{\mu}_\alpha = 0$ for every $\alpha \in \operatorname{sp}(U)$, then $U(\mu) = 0$.*

Proof: If $\hat{\mu}_\alpha = 0$ for every $\alpha \in \operatorname{sp}(U)$, then $P_\alpha U(\mu) = 0$ for every $\alpha \in \operatorname{sp}(U)$ by 2.3; consequently $U(\mu) = 0$ by 2.6 ∎

Proof of the theorem:

1. Let $\mu \in M(G)$. For $\alpha \in \operatorname{sp}(U)$ let $F = P_\alpha E$. F is not reduced to 0 and invariant under $U(\mu)$ by 2.3. Denote by U_α the restriction of $U(\mu)$ to F. $V_{\alpha ii}$ is a projection which leaves F invariant by 2.3 Set $F_i := V_{\alpha ii} F$ $(1 \leq i \leq n, n := n_\alpha)$. We have $F = F_1 + \cdots + F_n$ and $F_i \cap F_j = 0$ for $i \neq j$. From the composition rules (C) it can be seen that the restriction of $V_{\alpha ij}$ to F_i is an isomorphism of F_i onto F_j, which we denote by V_{ij}. Moreover, $V_i = I_i$ (the identity operator on F_i),

$$(V_{ij})^{-1} = V_{ji} \qquad (1 \leq i, j \leq n).$$

For $x = x_1 + \cdots + x_n \in F_1 + \cdots + F_n = F$ we have by 2.3 and (C)

$$U(\mu) x = U(\mu) P_\alpha x = \sum_{i,j=1}^{n} \hat{\mu}_{\alpha ij} V_{\alpha ji} x = \sum_{i,j=1}^{n} \hat{\mu}_{\alpha ij} V_{ji} x_i. \tag{1}$$

Set $H := \underset{m=1}{\overset{n}{\times}} F_1$ (n-times the Cartesian product of F_1 with any norm inducing the product topology on H) and define $V : F \to H$ by $(x_1 + \cdots + x_n) \to (V_{11} x_1, V_{12} x_2, \ldots, V_{1n} x_n)$. V is an isomorphism with inverse

$$V^{-1} : H \to F, (y_1, \ldots, y_n) \to (V_{11} y_1 + V_{21} y_2 + \cdots + V_{n1} y_n).$$

Let $\hat{U}_\alpha = V U_\alpha' V^{-1}$. From (1) it can be seen that $\hat{U}_\alpha$ has the matrix representation

$$\hat{U}_\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\mu}_{\alpha 11} I_1 & \hat{\mu}_{\alpha 21} I_1 \cdots \hat{\mu}_{\alpha n1} I_1 \\ \hat{\mu}_{\alpha 12} I_1 & \hat{\mu}_{\alpha 22} I_1 \cdots \hat{\mu}_{\alpha n2} I_1 \\ \vdots & \ddots \\ \hat{\mu}_{\alpha 1n} I_1 & \hat{\mu}_{\alpha 2n} I_1 \cdots \hat{\mu}_{\alpha nn} I_1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

From this it is easy to see that $\sigma(U_a) = \sigma(\hat{U}_a) = \sigma(\hat{\mu}_a)$ and $\sigma(U_a) = P\sigma(U_a)$. Thus $\bigcup_{a \in \text{sp}(U)} \sigma(\hat{\mu}_a) \subset P\sigma(U(\mu))$.

To show the inverse inclusion, let $\lambda \in P\sigma U((\mu))$. Then there exists $x \in E$ such that $x \neq 0$ and $U(\mu) x = \lambda x$. By 2.6 there is an $\alpha \in \text{sp}(U)$ such that $y = P_a x \neq 0$. It follows from 2.3 that $U(\mu) y = \lambda y$. Hence $\lambda \in \sigma(U_a) = \sigma(\hat{\mu}_a)$.

2. Let $f \in L^1(G)$. a) If $\text{sp}(U)$ is infinite, $0 \in \overline{\bigcup_{a \in \text{sp}(U)} \sigma(\hat{f}_a)}$, because $(\|\hat{f}_a\|)_{a \in \hat{G}}$ tends to 0 at ∞ (in the discrete topology on $\hat{G}$). Hence $0 \in \sigma(U(f))$ by 1.

We show that $\sigma(U(f)) \setminus \{0\} \subset \bigcup_{a \in \text{sp}(U)} \sigma(\hat{f}_a)$. Let $\lambda \notin \bigcup_{a \in \text{sp}(U)} \sigma(\hat{f}_a) \cup \{0\}$. It has to be shown that $\lambda \notin \sigma(U(f))$. Since $(\|\hat{f}_a\|)_{a \in \hat{G}}$ tends to zero at ∞, the set $N := \{\alpha \in \hat{G} \mid \lambda \in \sigma(\hat{f}_a)\}$ is finite. There exists a trigonometric polynomial g on G such that $\hat{g}_a = \hat{f}_a$ for all $\alpha \in N$ and $\hat{g}_a = 0$ for $\alpha \notin N$ (use $(u_{aij})_{\beta kl} = (u_{aij} * u_{\beta kl})(e) = 1/n_a \, \delta_{a\beta}\delta_{il}\delta_{kj}$ by [8: 27.20 (iii)]). Let $h = f - g$. Then $h \in L^1(G)$, $\hat{h}_a = \hat{f}_a$ for $\alpha \notin N$ and $\hat{h}_a = 0$ for $\alpha \in N$. In particular, $\lambda \notin \bigcup_{a \in \hat{G}} \sigma(\hat{h}_a)$, which implies by [1: 4.3] that $\lambda \notin \sigma_{L^1(G)}(h)$, i.e. there exists $k \in L^1(G)$ such that $(\lambda \delta_e - h) * (1/\lambda \delta_e - k) = (1/\lambda \delta_e - k) * (\lambda \delta_e - h) = \delta_e$. Hence

$$\left(\lambda - U(h)\right)\left(1/\lambda - U(k)\right) = \left(1/\lambda - U(k)\right)\left(\lambda - U(h)\right) = I \qquad (2)$$

From our assumption on λ; $N \cap \text{sp}(U) = \emptyset$, hence $\hat{h}_a = \hat{f}_a$ for all $\alpha \in \text{sp}(U)$. This implies that $U(h) = U(f)$ by 2.7. Consequently $\left(\lambda - U(f)\right)$ is invertible in $\mathscr{L}(E)$ by (2), i.e. $\lambda \notin \sigma(U(f))$.

b) Let $\text{sp}(U)$ be finite and suppose $0 \notin \bigcup_{a \in \text{sp}(U)} \sigma(\hat{f}_a)$. In order to show that $0 \notin \sigma(U(f))$, take a trigonometric polynomial g satisfying $\hat{g}_a = (\hat{f}_a)^{-1}$ for all $\alpha \in \text{sp}(U)$. Then $(g * f)_{\hat{a}} = \hat{g}_a \hat{f}_a = I = (\delta_e) = (f * g)_{\hat{a}}$ for every $\alpha \in \text{sp}(U)$. It follows from (2.7) that $U(f) U(g) = U(g) U(f) = I$, hence of $0 \notin \sigma(U(f))$ ∎

3. Discrete measures

It has been shown in [5] that for abelian groups the theorem corresponding to the second part of 2.2 remains true if f is replaced by a measure on G whose singular part is completely discontinuous. This is no longer true for compact non-abelian groups. In fact, while we can prove that theorem 2.2 part 2 holds for point measures, we show that there exists a completely discontinuous measure μ on a compact group G such that

$$\sigma(U(\mu)) \neq \overline{\bigcup_{a \in \text{sp}(U)} \sigma(\hat{\mu}_a)},$$

where U is a suitable representation of G on a Banach space E.

3.1 Proposition: *For every* $t \in G$,

$$\sigma(U_t) = \left(\bigcup_{a \in \text{sp}(U)} \sigma(u_a(t^{-1}))\right)^-.$$

Proof (cf. [4: 6.3] for the abelian case): One inclusion follows from 2.2 part 1. For the reverse inclusion suppose $\lambda \notin M := \left(\bigcup_{a \in \text{sp}(U)} \sigma(U_a(t^{-1}))\right)^-$ and let W an open set in $\Gamma = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z| = 1\}$ containing M but $\lambda \notin \overline{W}$. We can find a C^2-function f on Γ which

coincides with $z \to (\lambda - z)^{-1}$ on W. Then the Fourier expansion is absolutely convergent and we have $f(z) = \sum_{n \in Z} a_n z^n$ with $\sum_{n \in Z} |a_n| < \infty$. Let $S = \sum_{n \in Z} a_n U_{t^n}$. In order to show $S(\lambda - U_t) = I$ let $\mu = \left(\sum_{n \in Z} a_n \delta_{tn}\right) * (\lambda - \delta_t)$. By 2.7 it is enough to show that $\hat{\mu}_\alpha = I$, i.e. $\left(\sum_{n \in Z} a_n u_\alpha(t^{-n})\right)\left(\lambda - u_\alpha(t^{-1})\right) = I$, for every $\alpha \in \mathrm{sp}\,(U)$.

Let $\alpha \in \mathrm{sp}\,(U)$. If we consider the representation V of Z given by $V(n) = u_\alpha(t^{-n})$, and its lifting to $l^1(Z)$ given by $V(b) = \sum_{n \in Z} b_n u_\alpha(t^{-n})$ for $b \in l^1(Z)$ then by [4. 6.4] sp (V) $= [\sigma(u_\alpha(t^{-1}))]^{-1}$ (being aware that the co-Fourier transformation is considered in [4]). By definition of W, sp $(V) \subset W^{-1}$. Consequently, $\hat{a}(z)(\lambda - \delta_1)^1(z) = f(z^{-1})(\lambda - z^{-1})$ $= 1$ for all $z \in W^{-1}$. This implies $V(a)\,V(\lambda - \delta_1) = I$ by [4: 3.3 vi], that is $\left(\sum_{n \in Z} a_n u_\alpha(t^{-n})\right)$ $\left(\lambda - u_\alpha(t^{-1})\right) = I$. $(\lambda - U_t)\,S = I$ can be shown in the same way. Hence, $\lambda \notin \sigma(U_t)$ ∎

For the counterexample we need some additional notation. Let G be a locally compact group. For $B \subset M(G)$ we define $B^\perp = \{\mu \in M(G) \mid \inf\{|\mu|, |\nu|\} = 0$ for all $\nu \in A\}$. A subset B of $M(G)$ is called a *band* if $B = B^{\perp\perp}$. If B is a band in $M(G)$, $M(G)$ is the direct sum of B and $B^\perp$. By $M_c(G)$ we denote the space of all continuous measures in $M(G)$. $M_d(G) := M_c(G)^\perp$ is the space of all completely discontinuous measures in $M(G)$ and is isomorphic to $l^1(G_d)$. $M_d(G)$ is a subalgebra and $M_c(G)$ an algebraic ideal of $M(G)$ (see [8]). Recall, a subalgebra A_0 of an algebra A is called *full* if for every $x \in A_0$, which is invertible in A, $x^{-1} \in A_0$.

3.2 Lemma: $M_d(G)$ *is a full subalgebra of* $M(G)$.

Proof: Assume $\mu \in M_d(G)$ is invertible in $M(G)$. We have to show that $\mu^{-1} \in M_d(G)$. There are uniquely determined measures $\nu_1 \in M_d(G)$, $\nu_2 \in M_d(G)^\perp = M_c(G)$ such that $\mu^{-1} = \nu_1 + \nu_2$. Hence $\delta_e = \mu * \nu_1 + \mu * \nu_2$. Since $M_c(G)$ is an algebraic ideal, $\mu * \nu_2 = \delta_e - \mu * \nu_1 \in M_c(G) \cap M_d(G) = \{0\}$. Thus $\mu * \nu_2 = 0$, which implies $\nu_2 = 0$, i.e. $\mu^{-1} \in M_d(G)$ ∎

Let H be a subgroup of G_d (G with the discrete topology). $l^1(H)$ can be identified with the band in $M(G)$ consisting of the measures in $M_d(G)$, which are concentrated on H.

3.3 Lemma: $l^1(H)$ *is a full subalgebra of* $l^1(G_d)$.

Proof: a) $l^1(H)$ is a subalgebra of $l^1(G)$. This is obvious. b) $l^1(H) * l^1(H)^\perp \subset l^1(H)^\perp$: Let $\mu \in l^1(H)^\perp$. It is enough to show that $\delta_t * \mu \in l^1(H)^\perp$ for all $t \in H$. Let $t \in H$. μ can be written $\mu = \sum_{n \in N} a_n \delta_{t_n}$, where $t_n \in G \setminus H$ and $\sum_{n \in N} |a_n| < \infty$. Thus $\delta_t * \mu = \sum_{n \in N} a_n \delta_{t t_n}$ $\in l^1(H)^\perp$, because $t t_n \in G \setminus H$, H being a subgroup of G.

c) $l^1(H)$ is full in $l^1(G)$: Assume $\mu \in l^1(H)$ is invertivle in $l^1(G)$. Then $\mu^{-1} = \nu_1 + \nu_2$ for uniquely determined measures $\nu_1 \in l^1(H)$, $\nu_2 \in l^1(H)^\perp$. Hence $\delta_e = \mu * \nu_1 + \mu * \nu_2$, and $\mu * \nu_2 = \delta_e - \mu * \nu_1 \in l^1(H) \cap l^1(H)^\perp = \{0\}$ by a) and b), which implies $\nu_2 = 0$, i.e. $\mu^{-1} \in l^1(H)$ ∎

3.4 Corollary: $l^1(H)$ *can be identified with a full subalgebra of* $M(G)$.

To construct the counterexample, let $G = \mathrm{SO}(3, R)$, $E = L^1(G)$. Define U: $G \to \mathscr{L}(E)$ by $(U_t f)(s) = f(t^{-1}s)$ ($s \in G$) for all $t \in G$, $f \in L^1(G)$. Then $U(\mu)f = \mu * f$ for $\mu \in M(G)$, $f \in L^1(G)$, according to the definition in section 2. For $\mu \in M(G)$,

$$\sigma_{M(G)}(\mu) = \sigma\big(U(\mu)\big) \tag{3}$$

as is well known (see also [1]). The free group on two generators H is a subgroup of G_d (see [7]). In $l^1(H)$ there exists a hermitian measure μ such that $i \in \sigma_{l^1(H)}(\mu)$ ([3]). It follows from 3.4 and (3) that $i \in \sigma(U(\mu))$. But since μ is hermitian, the matrices $\hat{\mu}_\alpha$ are selfadjoint, which implies $\bigcup_{\alpha \in \hat{G}} \sigma(\hat{\mu}_\alpha) \subset \mathbf{R}$.

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VERFASSER:

Dr. WOLFGANG ARENDT
Mathematisches Institut der Universität
D-7400 Tübingen, Auf der Morgenstelle 10

Dr. CLAUDIO D'ANTONI
Istituto Matematico Università dell' Aquila
L'Aquila, Italy