

Exercise Sheet 6

1. Let \mathcal{H} be a finite-dimensional Hilbert space and let $T: \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ be a self-adjoint endomorphism. Define

$$A := \{p(T) : p \in \mathbb{C}[X]\}$$

to be the (unital) sub-C*-algebra generated by T .

- (a) Show that there is $v \in \mathcal{H}$ with $Av = \mathcal{H}$ if and only if each eigenvalue of T has multiplicity one.
 (b) Identify the Guefand spectrum \widehat{A} with the usual spectrum

$$\text{Sp}(T) := \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \exists v \in \mathcal{H} - \{0\} : Tv = \lambda v\}.$$

- (c) Denote by \mathcal{B} be the Borel subsets of \widehat{A} . The spectral theorem shows that there is a resolution of the identity $E: \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ such that

$$T = \int_{\widehat{A}} T dE.$$

Determine the map E .

2. Let \mathcal{H} be a Hilbert space and $U \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ a unitary operator. Define the C*-algebra

$$A := \overline{\{p(U, U^*) : p \in \mathbb{C}[X, Y]\}}.$$

This algebra is commutative, so the spectral theorem implies that there is a resolution of the identity E with

$$U = \int_{\widehat{A}} U dE.$$

Define the set $X := \{\chi \in \widehat{A} : \chi(U) = 1\}$.

- (a) Let $\chi \in \widehat{A}$. Prove $|\chi(U)| = 1$. Apply the formula for the geometric series to obtain

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \chi(U^i) = 1_X(\chi)$$

for each $\chi \in \widehat{A}$ where 1_X denotes the indicator function of X .

- (b) Let $W := \{v \in \mathcal{H} : Uv = v\}$ and denote by $P: \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ the orthogonal projection onto W . Prove

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} U^i v = Pv$$

for each $v \in \mathcal{H}$.

Hint: Use Exercise (a) and dominated convergence to prove

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} U^i = \int_{\hat{A}} 1_X dE = E(X).$$

This result is known as von Neumann's ergodic theorem. Applications of this theorem can be found in [Zi, Ch. 4.4].