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A NOTE ON THE HOMOMORPHIC IMAGES OF
 THE CENTER OF C*-ALGEBRAS

Sin-ei Takahasi

The purpose of this note is to extend the result of J. Vesterström concerning the homomorphic images of the center of C*-algebras [1].

Let A be a C*-algebra and $\text{Prim } A$ its structure space with the Jacobson topology. Let $C^b(\text{Prim } A)$ be the commutative C*-algebra of all bounded continuous complex functions on $\text{Prim } A$ and let $C_0(\text{Prim } A)$ be the set of all elements of $C^b(\text{Prim } A)$ vanishing at infinity. Let B be the enveloping von Neumann algebra of A and Z_B the center of B . For every $f \in P(A)$ (the set of all pure states of A) and $z \in Z_B$, the operator $\pi_f(z)$ is scalar, so that there is a complex function ϕ_z^0 defined on $P(A)$ with $\pi_f(z) = \phi_z^0(f)I$ where I is the identity operator on H_f . Let λ^1 and λ^2 be the canonical map $P(A) \rightarrow \hat{A}$ and $\hat{A} \rightarrow \text{Prim } A$, respectively, where \hat{A} is the spectrum of A . Then, there exist two complex functions ϕ_z^1 and ϕ_z^2 on \hat{A} and $\text{Prim } A$, respectively, such that $\phi_z^0 = \phi_z^1 \lambda^1$ and $\phi_z^1 = \phi_z^2 \lambda^2$. Let Z' be the set of all $z \in Z_B$ such that $zA \subset A$. In [2], Dixmier proved that the mapping $z \rightarrow \phi_z (= \phi_z^2)$ is a *-isomorphism of the C*-algebra Z' onto the C*-algebra $C^b(\text{Prim } A)$.

THEOREM 1. Let A be a C*-algebra which satisfies the following condition:

$$\pi(z) \neq 0 \text{ for every } \pi \in \hat{A}. \quad (*)$$

Then we have $\phi(Z) = C_0(\text{Prim } A)$.

PROOF. Let $z \in Z$. Then, for any $\epsilon > 0$, the set

$\{\pi \in \hat{A} : \|\pi(z)\| \geq \epsilon\}$ is compact (Prop. 3.3.7 in [3]). Since the topology of \hat{A} is the inverse image of topology of $\text{Prim } A$ by λ^2 , the set $\{J \in \text{Prim } A : |\phi_z(J)| \geq \epsilon\}$ is compact. Thus, we have $\phi(Z) \subset C_0(\text{Prim } A)$.

Conversely, let $z \in Z'$ with $\phi_z \in C_0(\text{Prim } A)$. Suppose that $z \notin A$. We can assume that $z \geq 0$. Set $A' = A + Z'$. A' is a C^* -algebra and A is a closed two-sided ideal of A' (Th. 8 in [2]). Then, there exists $f_0 \in P(A')$ such that $f_0|_A = 0$ and $f_0(z) = \epsilon_0 > 0$. By Theorem 10 in [2], there exists a unique extension $\phi'_z \in C^b(\text{Prim } A)$ with $\phi_z|_{\text{Prim } A} = \phi'_z$. Set $J_0 = \text{Ker } \pi_{f_0}$. Then $J_0 \in \text{Prim } A'$. Since $\text{Prim } A$ is dense in $\text{Prim } A'$ (Th. 10 in [2]), for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $J_\epsilon \in \text{Prim } A$ with $|\phi_z(J_\epsilon) - \phi'_z(J_0)| < \epsilon$. Note that $\phi'_z(J_0) = \epsilon_0$. Since ϕ_z vanishes at infinity, the family $\{J_\epsilon : 0 < \epsilon < \epsilon_0/2\}$ has limit points in $\text{Prim } A$ if $\{J_\epsilon : 0 < \epsilon < \epsilon_0/2\}$ has infinite elements (c. f. [4]). Set $K = \{J \in \text{Prim } A : \phi_z(J) = \phi'_z(J_0)\}$. Then we have

$$K \cap \overline{U_\lambda(J_0)} \neq \emptyset \text{ for any neighborhood } U_\lambda(J_0) \text{ of } J_0 \quad (1)$$

where $\{\lambda\}$ is a direct set. Note that if $\{J_\epsilon : 0 < \epsilon < \epsilon_0/2\}$ has only finite elements, (1) also holds. Let $J_\lambda \in \overline{U_\lambda(J_0)} \cap K$ for each λ . Since ϕ_z vanishes at infinity on $\text{Prim } A$, K is the compact set, so that $\{J_\lambda\}$ has a limit point J' in K . Let $f' \in P(A)$ with $\text{Ker } \pi_{f'} = J'$. Let $z' \in Z$ and $\phi'_{z'}$ be the extension of ϕ_z on $\text{Prim } A'$. Then $\phi'_{z'}(J_0) = 0$ since $f_0|_A = 0$. For any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists λ_0 such that $|\phi_{z'}(J_\lambda)| < \epsilon$ for $\lambda_0 \leq \lambda$. Therefore, we have $\phi_{z'}(J') = 0$, so that $f'(z') = 0$. This is a contradiction to $\pi_{f'}|_Z \neq 0$. Then, we have $z \in A \cap Z' = Z$ and the result follows.

Let A be a C^* -algebra satisfying the condition (*), and let Z be its center. We define $\eta_A(J) = J \cap Z$ for each $J \in \text{Prim } A$. Then η_A is a continuous map of $\text{Prim } A$ onto $\text{Prim } Z$. Let η_A^* be the map of $C_0(\text{Prim } Z)$ into $C_0(\text{Prim } A)$ induced by η_A .

LEMMA 2. η_A^* is the *-isomorphism of $C_0(\text{Prim } Z)$ onto $C_0(\text{Prim } A)$.

PROOF. Let μ be the canonical map of Z onto $C_0(\text{Prim } Z)$. Let ϕ be the *-isomorphism of Z onto $C_0(\text{Prim } A)$ defined in Theorem 1. We show that $\phi = \eta_A^* \mu$. Let $z \in Z$ and $J \in \text{Prim } A$. There is $\pi \in \hat{A}$ with $J = \text{Ker } \pi$. Set $\rho = \pi|_Z$. Then, we have

$$\phi_z(J)I = \rho(z) = \mu(z)(\text{Ker } \rho)I = \eta_A^*(\mu(z))(J)I,$$

where I is the identity operator on H_ρ . Thus, we have $\phi = \eta_A^* \mu$ and so η_A^* is the *-isomorphism of $C_0(\text{Prim } Z)$ onto $C_0(\text{Prim } A)$.

THEOREM 3. Let A and A' be C*-algebras with centers Z and Z' . Let ψ be a *-homomorphism of A onto A' . Then, if A satisfies the condition (*), then the following three statements are equivalent:

- (i) $\psi(Z) = Z'$.
- (ii) $(\psi|_Z)^\vee : \text{Prim } Z' \rightarrow \text{Prim } Z$ is injective, where
 $(\psi|_Z)^\vee(J') = (\psi|_Z)^{-1}(J') \quad (J' \in \text{Prim } Z')$.
- (iii) If J_1' and J_2' are primitive ideals of A' , which can be separated by functions of $C_0(\text{Prim } A')$, then $\check{\psi}(J_1')$ and $\check{\psi}(J_2')$ can be separated by functions of $C_0(\text{Prim } A)$, where $\check{\psi}$ is the map of $\text{Prim } A'$ into $\text{Prim } A$ such that $\check{\psi}(J') = \psi^{-1}(J') \quad (J' \in \text{Prim } A')$.

PROOF. By Lemma 2, J_1' and J_2' are separated by functions of $C_0(\text{Prim } A')$ if and only if they are separated by $\eta_{A'}$. Similarly, $\check{\psi}(J_1')$ and $\check{\psi}(J_2')$ are separated by functions of $C_0(\text{Prim } A)$ if and only if they are separated by η_A . Note that $(\psi|_Z)^\vee \eta_{A'} = \eta_A \check{\psi}$. Therefore, the equivalence (ii) \Leftrightarrow (iii) follows. The equivalence (ii) \Leftrightarrow (i) is well known.

References

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