

Locally C^* Algebras and C^* Bundles

Daniel Paulino

II. Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Hamburg
&
Instituto de Matemática e Estatística, Universidade de São Paulo

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The Gelfand Theorem

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Gelfand Theorem

Given a commutative C^* algebra A there is a locally compact topological space X such that $A \approx C_0(X)$. Moreover, if the algebra A is unital, then the space X is compact.

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A natural question then is:

- For a noncommutative algebra, can we construct an underling “space” for which it can be seen as an “algebra of functions”?

Different Spectra and the Gelfand Theorem

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The topology in the space is derived from the *Hull-Kernel Topology* in the ideal space of the algebra.

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$$f \cdot a - f(\ker \pi)a \in \ker \pi \quad \forall \ker \pi \in \text{Prim}A$$

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This in turn defines an homomorphism

$\Psi : C_b(\text{Prim}A) \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}M(A)$, which is obviously unital.

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The canonical map $\beta : X \rightarrow \beta X$, is such that, for every compact Y , every continuous map $F : X \rightarrow Y$ lifts to a map $\beta F : \beta X \rightarrow Y$ such that $F = \beta F \circ \beta$

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The homomorphism Ψ above is lifted from the canonical isomorphism $\Phi : C(\text{Prim}ZM(A)) \rightarrow ZM(A)$.

We call the compact space $\text{Prim}ZM(A)$ the space of points of the algebra A and denote it by $\text{pt}A$.

$C(X)$ -Algebras

For compact space X a $C(X)$ -algebra is a C^* algebra A which is a module over the ring of functions $C(X)$ and for which the C^* -norm satisfies:

$$\|f \cdot a\| \leq \|f\|_{\infty} \|a\|$$

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The Dauns-Hofmann theorem show that every C^* algebra A is a $C(\text{pt}A)$ -algebra.

C^* Bundles

A C^* *Bundle* over a locally compact space X is a topological space \mathcal{A} with a continuous and open surjection $\rho : \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow X$ such that:

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- The maps $+, \cdot : \mathcal{A} \times_X \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$, $\cdot : \mathbb{C} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ and $*$: $\mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}$ induced by the algebraic structure are all continuous.

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- The map $\| \cdot \| : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by the norm is upper-semicontinuous.

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is a C^* -algebra.

Moreover, it is clear that $\Gamma(\mathcal{A})$ is also a $C(X)$ -algebra.

The Sectional Representation Theorem

In fact, section algebras are the only examples of $C(X)$ -algebras.

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Sectional Representation Theorem

Given a C^* algebra A and a compact topological space X , the following statements are equivalent:

- The algebra A is a $C(X)$ -algebra.
- There is an C^* bundle \mathcal{A} over X such that $A \approx \Gamma(\mathcal{A})$.

The Generalized Gelfand Theorem

Combining both the results, we prove that every C^* -algebra is isomorphic to the section algebra of a C^* bundle over its space of points.

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The Generalized Gelfand Theorem

Given a C^* algebra A there is a C^* bundle $\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \text{pt}A$, such that

$$A \approx \Gamma(\mathcal{A}).$$

Thus justifying the notation $\text{pt}A$.

Commutative Case

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recovering precisely the original commutative Gelfand theorem.

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$C_0(\text{Prim}A) \approx \Gamma(\mathcal{A})$ and our result reduces to the original Gelfand theorem for nonunital commutative C^* -algebras.

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Due to that identification one can not distinguish between the algebra of functions vanishing at infinity and some subalgebra of the functions over the Stone-Čech compactification.

This hints C^* -algebras are ill suited to deal with noncompact spaces.

Noncompactness through the algebra of functions

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The first hint comes from the consequences of noncompactness for the algebra of continuous functions.

A locally compact space X is noncompact if and only if there is a continuous unbounded function $f \in C(X)$.

So instead of imposing conditions over the behavior at infinity we should loosen our assumptions over the algebra of functions.

Sheaves and Conditions at Infinity

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To reproduce the sheaf structure of the commutative case, we need to allow for unbounded functions in our formalism.

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Examples of such algebras are the continuous functions, or continuous sections of a C^* bundle, over a locally compact space X equipped with the topology generated by the seminorms

$$\|a\|_K = \sup_{x \in K} \|a(x)\|$$

For $K \subset X$ compact.

Denote by $S(A)$ the set of all continuous C^* seminorms in a locally C^* algebra A with the usual order relation, and define, for every $s \in S(A)$ the algebra

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so that every locally C^* algebra is the inverse limit a family of C^* algebras. The family $(A_s)_{s \in S(A)}$ is called the *Michael-Arens* decomposition of A .

The Primitive Spectrum

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The hulls of all closed ideals in a locally C^* algebras are the closed sets of a topology, denoted by *hull-kernel topology*.

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We define then the *direct limit topology* on $\text{Prim}A$ as the one provided by the identification above.

The Commutative Gelfand Theorem

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Commutative Gelfand Theorem

Given a commutative, unital locally C^* algebra A , the direct-limit topology turns $\text{Prim}A$ into a compactly generated space such that

$$C(\text{Prim}A) \approx A,$$

When the former is equipped with the topology of uniform convergence over compact sets of the form $\text{Prim}A_s$ for $s \in S(A)$

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Define the space of points for a locally C^* algebra as

$$\text{pt}A = \text{Prim}ZM(A) \approx \varinjlim \text{Prim}ZM(A_s) = \varinjlim \text{pt}A_s$$

The Generalized Gelfand Theorem

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For a locally C^* algebra A , $\text{pt}A$ is a compactly generated space and there is a C^* bundle $\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \text{pt}A$ such that

$$A \approx \Gamma(\mathcal{A})$$

when the latter is equipped with the topology of uniform convergence over the compacts $\text{pt}A_s$ for $s \in S(A)$.

The Sheaf defined by a Locally C^* Algebra

The last theorem shows that to every locally C^* algebra we can associate a C^* bundle and so, using local sections, a sheaf of algebras.

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There may be open sets in $\text{pt}A$ which are not compactly generated, and so that the algebra of local sections admits no locally C^* topology.

Perfect Algebras

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The ideal of elements supported on s is denoted by $\text{Sppd } s$.

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A unital, commutative locally C^* algebra is perfect if, and only if, it is isomorphic to the algebra of continuous functions over a locally compact space with the compact-open topology.

Equivalently, a compactly generated space is locally compact if, and only if, every function over it can be approximated by functions with compact support.

C^* Algebras and Sheaves

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Theorem

Every C^* algebra is the algebra of global sections of a sheaf of locally C^* algebras over a compact space.

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- The next natural step is to try to generalize the notion of differential structure to this framework.
 - Unbounded derivations.
 - Differential Structures (Blackadar, Cuntz, Bhatt).
- Investigate also the relation with usual *AQFT* provided by a resented by Ruzzi and Vasseli, which, given a net of C^* algebras over a topological space, allows the construction of a C^* bundle over the same space.