

APPROXIMATE DOUBLE COMMUTANTS AND DISTANCE FORMULAS

DON HADWIN AND JUNHAO SHEN

Abstract. We extend work of the first author concerning relative double commutants and approximate double commutants of unital subalgebras of unital C^* -algebras, including metric versions involving distance estimates. We prove metric results for AH subalgebras of von Neumann algebras or AF subalgebras of primitive C^* -algebras. We prove other general results, including some for nonselfadjoint commutative subalgebras, using C^* -algebraic versions of the Stone-Weierstrass and Bishop-Stone-Weierstrass theorems.

Mathematics subject classification (2010): 46L10, 46L54.

Keywords and phrases: C^* -algebra; approximate double commutant; distance formula.

REFERENCES

- [1] CHARLES A. AKEMANN, GERT K. PEDERSEN, *Central sequences and inner derivations of separable C^* -algebras*, Amer. J. Math. **101** (1979) 1047–1061.
- [2] WILLIAM ARVESON, *Notes on extensions of C^* -algebras*, Duke Math. J. **44** (1977) 329–355.
- [3] I. D. BERG, CATHERINE L. OLSEN, *A note on almost-commuting operators*, Proc. Roy. Irish Acad. Sect. A **81** (1981), no. 1, 43–47.
- [4] ERRETT BISHOP, *A generalization of the Stone-Weierstrass theorem*, Pacific J. Math. **11** (1961) 777–783.
- [5] JOHN W. BUNCE, *Approximating Maps and a Stone-Weierstrass Theorem for C^* -Algebras*, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. **79** (1980) 559–563.
- [6] M. D. CHOI, *Almost commuting matrices need not be nearly commuting*, Proc. Proc. Amer. Math. Soc., **102** (1988) 529–533.
- [7] K. R. DAVIDSON, *Almost commuting Hermitian matrices*, Math. Scand. **56** (1985), 222–240.
- [8] J. DIXMIER, *Sur les C -algèbres*, Bull. Soc. Math. France **88** (1960) 95–112.
- [9] PETER FRIIS, MIKAEL RØRDAM, *Almost commuting self-adjoint matrices – a short proof of Huaxin Lin’s theorem*, J. Reine Angew. Math. **479** (1996) 121–131.
- [10] LIMING GE, R. KADISON, *On tensor products of von Neumann algebras*, Invent. Math. **123** (1996) 453–466.
- [11] DON HADWIN, *An asymptotic double commutant theorem for C^* -algebras*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. **244** (1978) 273–297.
- [12] DON HADWIN, *Approximately hyperreflexive algebras*, J. Operator Theory **28** (1992) 51–64.
- [13] DON HADWIN, *A Bishop-Stone-Weierstrass theorem for C^* -algebras*, Indiana Univ. Math. J. **38** (1989) 115–136.
- [14] DON HADWIN, *Approximate double commutants in von Neumann algebras and C^* -algebras*, preprint (2011); arXiv:1108.5021.
- [15] RICHARD V. KADISON, *Normalcy in operator algebras*, Duke Math. J. **29** (1962) 459–464.
- [16] HUAXIN LIN, *Almost commuting selfadjoint matrices and applications*, Operator algebras and their applications (Waterloo, ON, 1994/1995), 193–233, Fields Inst. Commun., 13, Amer. Math. Soc., Providence, RI, 1997.
- [17] ROBERTO LONGO, *Solution of the factorial Stone-Weierstrass conjecture. An application of the theory of standard split W^* -inclusions*, Invent. Math. **76** (1984), no. 1, 145–155.
- [18] SILVIO MACHADO, *On Bishop’s generalization of the Weierstrass-Stone theorem*, Indag. Math. **39** (1977) 218–224.

- [19] SORIN POPA, *Semiregular maximal $*$ -subalgebras and the solution to the factor state Stone-Weierstrass problem*, *Invent. Math.* **76** (1984), no. 1, 157–161.
- [20] ROSENOER, *Distance estimates for von Neumann algebras*, *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **86** (1982) 248–252.
- [21] THOMAS J. RANSFORD, *A short elementary proof of the Bishop-Stone-Weierstrass theorem*, *Math. Proc. Cambridge Philos. Soc.* **96** (1984), no. 2, 309–311.
- [22] SILVIO TELEMANN, *On the Stone-Weierstrass theorem*, preprint, ArXiv:1111.2980v1 (2011).
- [23] T. ROLF TURNER, *Double commutants of algebraic operators*, *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **33** (1972) 415–419.
- [24] D. VOICULESCU, *Asymptotically commuting finite rank unitary operators without commuting approximants*, *Acta Sci. Math. (Szeged)* **45** (1983) 429–431.
- [25] J. VON NEUMANN, *Zur Algebra der Funktionaloperationen und Theorie der normalen Operatoren*, *Math. Ann.* **102** (1929) 370–427.