

A strong duality for separable C^* -algebras

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Abstract

It is shown that every separable C^* -algebra can be reconstructed from the space of all its irreducible representations on a separable Hilbert space.

Keywords : C^* -algebra, representation, irreducible decomposition, duality

1. Introduction

In [4] Takesaki showed a duality for C^* -algebras such that every separable C^* -algebra is $*$ -isomorphic to the algebra of certain operator fields on the space of all its representations on a separable Hilbert space. It is not only a generalization of Gelfand representation theorem for commutative C^* -algebras to the non-commutative case but also the initiative duality for C^* -algebras regarding the space of representations as a dual object.

Here in this paper, we take the space of only irreducible representations as a dual object for separable C^* -algebras and prove that a strong dual version of Takesaki's duality is still valid. The name of strong duality comes from the theory of group duality.

In [3] Fujimoto accomplished a strong duality for general C^* -algebras using cp-convexity theory and crucial results in [1]. Our method in this paper is quite different. Reducing the argument to Takesaki's duality we prove a strong duality by means of the disintegration theory of representations. So our concern is to formulate and prove a strong duality within the framework of the representation theory.

2. Operator fields on $\text{Irr}(A:H)$

Throughout of this paper A denotes a separable C^* -algebra and H a separable Hilbert space.

Let $\text{Rep}(A:H)$ denote the set of all representations of A on H , where a representation of A on H means a $*$ -homomorphism of A into the full bounded operator algebra $\mathfrak{B}(H)$ on H .

For each π in $\text{Rep}(A:H)$, let H_π be the essential space of π , closed subspace spanned by $\pi(A)H$, and p_π the projection of H onto H_π .

By the separability of H it follows that $\dim H_\pi = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \aleph_0$. If K is a closed subspace of H and σ is a representation of A on K , then we identify the representation $\{\sigma, K\}$ with the representation $\{\sigma \oplus O_{K^\perp}, K \oplus K^\perp\}$ belongs to $\text{Rep}(A:H)$, where O_{K^\perp} is the zero representation of A on the space of the orthogonal complement of K .

Let $\text{Irr}(A:H)$ denote the set of all $\pi \in \text{Rep}(A:H)$ such that $\{\pi, H_\pi\}$ is irreducible and let $\text{Irr}_n(A:H)$ be the set of all $\pi \in \text{Irr}(A:H)$ such that $\dim H_\pi = n$, where $n = 1, 2, \dots, \aleph_0$. Each $\text{Irr}_n(A:H)$ is endowed with the coarsest Borel structure which makes $\text{Irr}_n(A:H) \ni \pi \mapsto (\pi(a)\xi|\eta)$ a Borel function for every $a \in A$ and every $\xi, \eta \in H_\pi$.

The set $\text{Irr}(A:H) = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\aleph_0} \text{Irr}_n(A:H)$ has sum-Borel-structure.

Let $U\pi_1 U^* = \pi_2$ denote the unitary equivalence of $\pi_1, \pi_2 \in \text{Rep}(A:H)$ under an intertwiner U .

By the disintegration theory of representations, each non-zero π in $\text{Rep}(A:H)$ can be decomposed as follows ;

$$U\{\pi, H_\pi\}U^* = \int_Z^\oplus \{\pi(\zeta), H_\pi(\zeta)\} d\mu(\zeta)$$

, where μ is a positive measure on a standard Borel space Z and $\pi(\zeta) \in \text{Irr}(A:H)$ $\mu - a.e.$

We shall call this decomposition *an irreducible decomposition of π over $\text{Irr}(A:H)$* .

It is well known that unless A is of type-I this decomposition is not unique.

Definition 1. Let $A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ denote the set of all $\mathfrak{B}(H)$ -valued function x defined on $\text{Irr}(A:H)$ satisfies the following conditions (a),(b),(c) and (d) ;

(a) $x(\pi) = p_\pi x(\pi) p_\pi$ for every $\pi \in \text{Irr}(A:H)$,

(b) $\text{Irr}(A:H) \ni \pi \mapsto (x(\pi)\xi|\eta)$ is a Borel function for every $\xi, \eta \in H$,

(c) $\sup\{\|x(\pi)\| : \pi \in \text{Irr}(A:H)\} < +\infty$ and

(d) If $\pi \in \text{Rep}(A:H)$ and

$$U_i \pi U_i^* = \int_{Z_i}^\oplus \pi_i(\zeta) d\mu_i(\zeta) \quad (i = 1, 2)$$

are irreducible decompositions of π over $\text{Irr}(A:H)$, then it holds that

$$\begin{aligned} & U_1^* \int_{Z_1}^\oplus x(\pi_1(\zeta)) d\mu_1(\zeta) U_1 \\ &= U_2^* \int_{Z_2}^\oplus x(\pi_2(\zeta)) d\mu_2(\zeta) U_2. \end{aligned}$$

For any $x, y \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ and complex numbers α, β , for each $\pi \in \text{Irr}(A:H)$ put

$$(\alpha x + \beta y)(\pi) := \alpha x(\pi) + \beta y(\pi),$$

$$(xy)(\pi) := x(\pi)y(\pi),$$

$$x^*(\pi) := x(\pi)^* \text{ and}$$

$$\|x\| := \sup\{\|x(\pi)\| : \pi \in \text{Irr}(A:H)\}.$$

Then it is easily seen that $A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ becomes a normed*-algebra with $\|x^*x\| = \|x\|^2$. Furthermore we have

Proposition 1. $A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ is a C^* -algebra which contains the *-subalgebra isomorphic to A .

Proof. We begin with the completeness of $A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$. Let $\{x_\alpha\}$ be a Cauchy net in $A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$. Then by the preceding definition it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \|x_\alpha - x_\beta\| &= \sup\{\|x_\alpha(\sigma) - x_\beta(\sigma)\| : \sigma \in \text{Irr}(A:H)\} \\ &\geq \|x_\alpha(\sigma) - x_\beta(\sigma)\| \quad \forall \sigma \in \text{Irr}(A:H). \end{aligned}$$

So for each $\sigma \in \text{Irr}(A:H)$, $\{x_\alpha(\sigma)\}$ converges uniformly to a certain operator of $\mathfrak{B}(H)$ which we denote by $x(\sigma)$ and the convergence $x_\alpha(\sigma) \rightarrow x(\sigma)$ is uniformly on $\text{Irr}(A:H)$. It is easily seen that the operator field x , defined on $\text{Irr}(A:H)$, satisfies the conditions (a), (b), (c) of Definition 1. Since it holds that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \int_Z^\oplus \{x(\pi(\zeta)) - x_\alpha(\pi(\zeta))\} d\mu(\zeta) \right\| \\ & \leq \text{ess sup}\{\|x(\pi(\zeta)) - x_\alpha(\pi(\zeta))\| : \zeta \in Z\} \\ & \leq \sup\{\|x(\sigma) - x_\alpha(\sigma)\| : \sigma \in \text{Irr}(A:H)\} \end{aligned}$$

for any irreducible decomposition

$$U\pi U^* = \int_Z^\oplus \pi(\zeta) d\mu(\zeta)$$

of $\pi \in \text{Rep}(A:H)$ over $\text{Irr}(A:H)$, it follows under the assumption of (d) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|U_1^* \int_{Z_1}^\oplus x(\pi_1(\zeta)) d\mu_1(\zeta) U_1 \\ & - U_2^* \int_{Z_2}^\oplus x(\pi_2(\zeta)) d\mu_2(\zeta) U_2\| \\ & \leq 2 \sup\{\|x_\alpha(\sigma) - x(\sigma)\| : \sigma \in \text{Irr}(A:H)\} \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that x satisfies the condition (d), so x belongs to $A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$. Hence $A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ is complete, so it is a C^* -algebra.

For each $a \in A$, put $\hat{a}(\pi) = \pi(a)$ for every $\pi \in \text{Irr}(A:H)$. Then it is obvious that the operator field \hat{a} satisfies the all conditions of Definition 1 and the map. $A \ni a \mapsto \hat{a} \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ is a *-homomorphism. We shall call this map. a generalized Gelfand transform. Since it holds by the plentitude of irreducible representations that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{a}\| &= \sup\{\|\hat{a}(\pi)\| : \pi \in \text{Irr}(A:H)\} \\ &= \sup\{\|\pi(a)\| : \pi \in \text{Irr}(A:H)\} \\ &= \|a\|, \end{aligned}$$

a generalized Gelfand transform is an isometric *-isomorphism. \square

The condition (d) enables us to extend each x in $A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ to an operator field \tilde{x} on $\text{Rep}(A:H)$ as follows ;

$$\tilde{x}(\pi) := U^* \int_Z^\oplus x(\pi(\zeta)) d\mu(\zeta) U$$

for every non-zero $\pi \in \text{Rep}(A:H)$, where

$$U \pi U^* = \int_Z^\oplus \pi(\zeta) d\mu(\zeta)$$

is an irreducible decomposition of π over $\text{Irr}(A:H)$. For the zero representation O , we define $\tilde{x}(O)$ to be the zero operator on H .

Now we are going to verify that for every $x \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$, \tilde{x} is an admissible operator field on $\text{Rep}(A:H)$ which was defined and investigated in [4].

Lemma 1. *If $V \pi V^* = \pi_1 \oplus \pi_2$ for $\pi, \pi_1, \pi_2 \in \text{Rep}(A:H)$, it holds*

$$V \tilde{x}(\pi) V^* = \tilde{x}(\pi_1) \oplus \tilde{x}(\pi_2)$$

for every $x \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$.

Proof. Let

$$U_i \pi_i U_i^* = \int_{Z_i}^\oplus \pi_i(\zeta) d\mu_i$$

be an irreducible decomposition of π_i over $\text{Irr}(A:H)$ ($i = 1, 2$) then

$$\begin{aligned} & (U_1 \oplus U_2) V \pi V^* (U_1 \oplus U_2)^* \\ &= \int_{Z_1}^\oplus \pi_1(\zeta) d\mu_1(\zeta) \oplus \int_{Z_2}^\oplus \pi_2(\zeta) d\mu_2(\zeta) \end{aligned}$$

is an irreducible decomposition of π over $\text{Irr}(A:H)$. Hence if $x \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (U_1 \oplus U_2) V \tilde{x}(\pi) V^* (U_1 \oplus U_2)^* \\ &= \int_{Z_1}^\oplus x(\pi_1(\zeta)) d\mu_1(\zeta) \oplus \int_{Z_2}^\oplus x(\pi_2(\zeta)) d\mu_2(\zeta) \\ &= U_1 \tilde{x}(\pi_1) U_1^* \oplus U_2 \tilde{x}(\pi_2) U_2^* \\ &= (U_1 \oplus U_2) (\tilde{x}(\pi_1) \oplus \tilde{x}(\pi_2)) (U_1 \oplus U_2)^*. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, $V \tilde{x}(\pi) V^* = \tilde{x}(\pi_1) \oplus \tilde{x}(\pi_2)$. \square

Corollary. *If $\pi_1, \pi_2 \in \text{Rep}(A:H)$ and $\pi_1 = V^* \pi_2 V$, then it holds*

$$\tilde{x}(\pi_1) = V^* \tilde{x}(\pi_2) V$$

for every $x \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$.

Proof. Put $\pi = \pi_1, \pi_1 = \pi_2, \pi_2 = O$ in the preceding Lemma. \square

Lemma 2. *For every $x \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$, it holds*

$$p_\pi \tilde{x}(\pi) p_\pi = \tilde{x}(\pi)$$

for each $\pi \in \text{Rep}(A:H)$.

Proof. Let

$$U \{\pi, H_\pi\} U^* = \int_Z^\oplus \{\pi(\zeta), H_\pi(\zeta)\} d\mu(\zeta)$$

be an irreducible decomposition of π over $\text{Irr}(A:H)$ then we have

$$p_\pi = U^* \int_Z^\oplus p_\pi(\zeta) d\mu(\zeta) U$$

Hence by virtue of the condition (a), for every $x \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} & p_\pi \tilde{x}(\pi) p_\pi \\ &= U^* \int_Z^\oplus p_\pi(\zeta) x(\pi(\zeta)) p_\pi(\zeta) d\mu(\zeta) U \\ &= U^* \int_Z^\oplus x(\pi(\zeta)) d\mu(\zeta) U \\ &= \tilde{x}(\pi). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 3. *For every $x \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$, it holds*

$$\sup\{\|\tilde{x}(\pi)\| : \pi \in \text{Rep}(A:H)\} = \|x\|.$$

Proof. Let $\pi \in \text{Rep}(A:H)$ and

$$U \pi U^* = \int_Z^\oplus \pi(\zeta) d\mu(\zeta)$$

be an irreducible decomposition of π over $\text{Irr}(A:H)$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{x}(\pi)\| &= \left\| \int_Z^\oplus x(\pi(\zeta)) d\mu(\zeta) \right\| \\ &\leq \text{ess sup}\{\|x(\pi(\zeta))\| : \zeta \in Z\} \\ &\leq \sup\{\|x(\sigma)\| : \sigma \in \text{Irr}(A:H)\} \\ &= \|x\|. \end{aligned}$$

Now put $\|\tilde{x}\| := \sup\{\|\tilde{x}(\pi)\| : \pi \in \text{Rep}(A:H)\}$, then we have $\|\tilde{x}\| \leq \|x\|$. Since it is obvious $\|\tilde{x}\| \geq \|x\|$, it holds $\|\tilde{x}\| = \|x\|$. \square

Recall that \tilde{A} denotes the C^* -algebra of all admissible operator fields on $\text{Rep}(A:H)$. In [4] it was shown that \tilde{A} can be faithfully represented as the enveloping von Neumann algebra of A .

Proposition 2. *For every $x \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$, \tilde{x} is an admissible operator field on $\text{Rep}(A:H)$*

and the map. $A[\text{Irr}(A:H)] \ni x \mapsto \tilde{x} \in \tilde{A}$ is an isometric *-isomorphism.

Proof. By the previous Lemmas 1,2 and Corollary it follows that \tilde{x} is an admissible operator field on $\text{Rep}(A:H)$ for every $x \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$.

It follows immediately by direct computations that for each $\pi \in \text{Rep}(A:H)$

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha \widetilde{x + \beta y})(\pi) &= \alpha \tilde{x}(\pi) + \beta \tilde{y}(\pi), \\ (\widetilde{xy})(\pi) &= \tilde{x}(\pi) \tilde{y}(\pi) \quad \text{and} \\ \widetilde{x^*}(\pi) &= (\tilde{x}(\pi))^* \end{aligned}$$

for every $x, y \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ and every complex numbers α, β . These assert that the map. $x \mapsto \tilde{x}$ is a *-homomorphism of $A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ into \tilde{A} . Proposition now follows from Lemma 3. \square

Hence every $x \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ can be considered as an element of A^{**} . The conjugate space A^* is represented as $\{\omega(\pi; \xi, \eta) : \pi \in \text{Rep}(A:H), \xi, \eta \in H_\pi\}$, where $\langle \omega(\pi; \xi, \eta), a \rangle = (\pi(a)\xi|\eta)$ for every $a \in A$.

The explicit dual relation of $x \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)] \subseteq A^{**}$ and $\omega(\pi; \xi, \eta) \in A^*$ is as follows ;

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x, \omega(\pi; \xi, \eta) \rangle &= \int_Z (x(\pi(\zeta))\xi(\zeta)|\eta(\zeta)) d\mu(\zeta) \\ &= (\tilde{x}(\pi)\xi|\eta) \\ &= \langle \tilde{x}, \omega(\pi; \xi, \eta) \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$U \{ \pi, H_\pi \} U^* = \int_Z^\oplus \{ \pi(\zeta), H_\pi(\zeta) \} d\mu(\zeta)$$

is an irreducible decomposition of π over $\text{Irr}(A:H)$.

3. A strong duality theorem

As in [4], the space $\text{Rep}(A:H)$ is equipped with the topology of pointwise strong convergence. It means that $\pi_\alpha \rightarrow \pi$ in $\text{Rep}(A:H)$ if and only if for each $a \in A$, $\|\pi_\alpha(a)\xi - \pi(a)\xi\| \rightarrow 0$ for every $\xi \in H$.

It is equivalent to the topology of pointwise weak, σ -weak, σ -strong, σ -strong* convergence (c.f.[2]). Because of the separability of A and H , topological space $\text{Rep}(A:H)$ is a Polish space, that is, it is complete, metrizable and separable. Hence sequences are enough for us to consider with respect to the topology of $\text{Rep}(A:H)$ instead of nets. The space $\text{Irr}(A:H)$ has the relative topology, it is our dual object of A .

Henceforth we consider the continuity of $x \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ on $\text{Irr}(A:H)$ which is compatible with the direct integrals of representations.

Definition 2. Let $C[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ denote the set of all $x \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ satisfies the following condition (e);

(e) If for each $a \in A$ a sequence

$$\left\{ U_n^* \int_{Z_n}^\oplus \pi_n(\zeta)(a) d\mu_n(\zeta) U_n \right\}_{n \in N}$$

converges strongly to

$$U^* \int_Z^\oplus \pi(\zeta)(a) d\mu(\zeta) U$$

in $\mathfrak{B}(H)$, where $\pi_n(\zeta), \pi(\zeta) \in \text{Irr}(A:H)$ a.e. then it holds that the sequence

$$\left\{ U_n^* \int_{Z_n}^\oplus x(\pi_n(\zeta)) d\mu_n(\zeta) U_n \right\}_{n \in N}$$

converges strongly to

$$U^* \int_Z^\oplus x(\pi(\zeta)) d\mu(\zeta) U$$

in $\mathfrak{B}(H)$.

Since each $\pi \in \text{Irr}(A:H)$ is itself an irreducible decomposition over $\text{Irr}(A:H)$, we have

Corollary. For every $x \in C[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$, x is continuous on $\text{Irr}(A:H)$.

Lemma 4. For every $x \in C[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$, \tilde{x} is continuous on $\text{Rep}(A:H)$.

Proof. Let $\pi_n \rightarrow \pi$ in $\text{Rep}(A:H)$ and let

$$U_n^* \int_{Z_n}^\oplus \pi_n(\zeta) d\mu_n(\zeta) U_n, \quad U^* \int_Z^\oplus \pi(\zeta) d\mu(\zeta) U$$

be irreducible decompositions of π_n, π over $\text{Irr}(A:H)$. Then for each $a \in A$ the sequence

$$\left\{ U_n^* \int_{Z_n}^\oplus \pi_n(\zeta)(a) d\mu_n(\zeta) U_n \right\}_{n \in N}$$

converges strongly to

$$U^* \int_Z^\oplus \pi(\zeta)(a) d\mu(\zeta) U$$

in $\mathfrak{B}(H)$. By the condition (e), it follows for every $x \in C[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ that the sequence

$$\{\tilde{x}(\pi_n)\} = \left\{ U_n^* \int_{Z_n}^\oplus x(\pi_n(\zeta)) d\mu_n(\zeta) U_n \right\}$$

converges strongly to

$$\tilde{x}(\pi) = U^* \int_Z^\oplus x(\pi(\zeta)) d\mu(\zeta) U.$$

The statement now follows. \square

Proposition 3. $C[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ is a C^* -subalgebra of $A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$.

Proof. Let $x, y \in C[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$, $\xi \in H$ and let keep the notations in the proof of Lemma 4. Since it holds that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|(\tilde{x}\tilde{y}(\pi_n) - \tilde{x}\tilde{y}(\pi))\xi\| \\ & \leq \|y\| \|(\tilde{x}(\pi_n) - \tilde{x}(\pi))\xi\| + \|x\| \|(\tilde{y}(\pi_n) - \tilde{y}(\pi))\xi\|, \end{aligned}$$

It follows that xy belongs to $C[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$. The rests of algebraic parts are obvious.

Let $C[\text{Irr}(A:H)] \ni x_\alpha \rightarrow x \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$. Since it holds that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \int_Z^\oplus \{x_\alpha(\pi(\zeta)) - x(\pi(\zeta))\} d\mu(\zeta) \right\| \\ & \leq \|x_\alpha - x\| \rightarrow 0, \end{aligned}$$

x belongs to $C[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$. So $C[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ is closed in $A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$. \square

Now we are in the position to state and to prove our strong duality theorem.

Theorem. C^* -algebra A is isomorphic to the C^* -algebra $C[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ under a generalised Gelfand transform.

Proof. In Proposition 1 it was proved that a generalised Gelfand transform; $A \ni a \mapsto \hat{a} \in A[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$, where $\hat{a}(\pi) = \pi(a)$ for every $\pi \in \text{Irr}(A:H)$, is an isometric $*$ -isomorphism. It is obvious that \hat{a} satisfies the conditions (e), that is, \hat{a} belongs to $C[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ for every $a \in A$.

Contrary let $x \in C[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$ then it follows from Proposition 2 and Lemma 4 that \tilde{x} is continuous admissible operator field on $\text{Rep}(A:H)$. Takesaki's duality theorem assure us that there exists uniquely $a \in A$ such that $\tilde{x}(\pi) = \pi(a)$ for every $\pi \in \text{Rep}(A:H)$. Hence it follows that $x(\pi) = \tilde{x}(\pi) = \pi(a) = \hat{a}(\pi)$ for every $\pi \in \text{Irr}(A:H)$. This implies that $x = \hat{a}$.

Therefore a generalised Gelfand transform is a $*$ -isomorphism of A onto the C^* -algebra $C[\text{Irr}(A:H)]$. \square

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