

Simple motion systems and Banach spaces associated to uniformly bounded representations

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Abstract

Given a uniformly bounded representation of a locally compact group, we consider the closed circled convex hull K of the orbit of a vector. We call K a simple motion system (SMS) and endow its linear hull with the Minkowski functional of K . The representation theory on these ‘SMS-spaces’ is discussed, in particular for C_0 -representations, for irreducible representations of connected groups and for integrable representations. As an application we give a criterion for the decomposibility of representations.

1. Introduction

We describe the behaviour of a vector x under the action of a uniformly bounded representation π of a locally compact group in terms of an associated Banach-space, the ‘SMS-space’ to π and x . This is done in a geometric way.

We consider the closed circled convex hull K of the orbit of x which we call the simple motion system (SMS) and endow its linear hull with the Minkowski functional of K . Obviously this space is invariant under G however the restriction of π is not usually strongly continuous with respect to this Minkowski-norm.

In Section 2 we present this construction and discuss the representation theory on general SMS-spaces. Section 3 is devoted to the study of C_0 -representations. Here the SMS-space and the space of strongly continuous vectors are revealed as the orbits of x under the measure algebra $M(G)$ and the group algebra $L^1(G)$, respectively.

Sections 4 and 5 are concerned with certain canonical SMS-spaces associated to irreducible GCR-representations of connected groups and to integrable representations of unimodular groups, respectively.

Finally Section 6 generalizes the concept of SMS-spaces. We show that the SMS-spaces associated with unitary representations are dual spaces. Furthermore the theory applies to certain subspaces of the Fourier–Stieltjes algebra. Using a theorem of Taylor, we give a criterion for the decomposibility of a representation into irreducible ones.

2. Simple motion systems associated to group representations

Throughout this paper let G be a locally compact second countable topological group and (π, \mathcal{B}_π) be a uniformly bounded, strongly continuous representation of G on a Banach space \mathcal{B}_π . In addition we assume (π, \mathcal{B}_π) to be cyclic.

Definition 2.1. Let $x \in \mathcal{B}_\pi$ be a cyclic vector with respect to (π, \mathcal{B}_π) . We call the closed circled convex hull of the orbit of x

$$K := \text{cl}(\text{cco } \pi(G)x)$$

the *simple motion system* associated to π and x .

The dense subspace

$$E := \text{SMS}(\pi, x) := \text{span } K = \mathbb{R}^+ \cdot K$$

of \mathcal{B}_π endowed with the Minkowski functional of K

$$\|y\|_E := \mu_K(y) := \inf\{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^+ \mid y \in \lambda \cdot K\}$$

is called the *SMS-space* associated to π and x , the vector x its *starting vector*.

Example 2.2.

- (i) Let $\lambda_{\mathbb{Z}}$ be the regular representation of the integers on $\ell^2(\mathbb{Z})$ and consider the starting vector $x := \delta_0$. We find

$$\text{cco } \lambda_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mathbb{Z})x = \left\{ \sum_{i=-n}^n \lambda_i \delta_i \mid n \in \mathbb{N}, \sum_{i=-n}^n |\lambda_i| \leq 1 \right\},$$

hence the unit ball $\ell^1(\mathbb{Z})_{\leq 1}$ of $\ell^1(\mathbb{Z})$ is densely contained in the simple motion system $K = \text{cl}(\text{cco } (\lambda_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mathbb{Z})\delta_0))$. Since the inclusion $\iota: \ell^1(\mathbb{Z}) \hookrightarrow \ell^2(\mathbb{Z})$ is weak-* weak continuous, $\ell^1(\mathbb{Z})_{\leq 1}$ is weakly-compact, whence it is norm-closed in $\ell^2(\mathbb{Z})$. This yields $K = \ell^1(\mathbb{Z})_{\leq 1}$ and $\text{SMS}(\pi, \delta_0) = \ell^1(\mathbb{Z})$.

- (ii) Now consider the regular representation $(\lambda_{\mathbb{R}}, L^2(\mathbb{R}))$ of the reals. A function $x \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ is cyclic if and only if its Plancherel-transform vanishes at most on a null set. We will see in the next section that

$$K = \{\mu * x \mid \mu \in \mathbb{M}(\mathbb{R})_{\leq 1}\}$$

$$E := \text{SMS}(\lambda_{\mathbb{R}}, x) \simeq \mathbb{M}(\mathbb{R}) \quad (\text{isometrically isomorphic}).$$

PROPOSITION 2.3. *With the notations of Definition 2.1 and $M := \sup_{g \in G} \|\pi(g)\|$ we have*

- (i) *The Minkowski functional μ_K defines a norm on $E = \text{SMS}(\pi, x)$.*
(ii) *The unit ball $E_{\leq 1}$ of E coincides with the simple motion system K .*
(iii) *The embedding $\iota: E \hookrightarrow \mathcal{B}_\pi$ has norm less or equal $M\|x\|_{\mathcal{B}_\pi}$.
In particular the transposed embedding $\iota^t: \mathcal{B}'_\pi \rightarrow E'$ has norm less or equal $M\|x\|_{\mathcal{B}_\pi}$.*
(iv) *The normed space $(E, \|\cdot\|_E)$ is complete.*

Proof. (i)–(iii) are immediate, since K is closed, circled convex and bounded. To prove (iv) consider a Cauchy sequence $\{y_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ with respect to $\|\cdot\|_E$. Then $\{y_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a Cauchy sequence with respect to $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{B}_\pi}$ by (iii), hence has a limit y in \mathcal{B}_π with respect to $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{B}_\pi}$. But the Cauchy-property with respect to $\|\cdot\|_E$ assures that for $\varepsilon > 0$ and a large enough number $N \in \mathbb{N}$

$$y_m \in y_n + \varepsilon \cdot K \quad \forall m, n \geq N.$$

Since K is closed in \mathcal{B}_π this yields $y \in y_n + \varepsilon.K$, hence $y \in E$ and $y_n \rightarrow y$ with respect to $\|\cdot\|_E$. \square

Thus the representation (π, \mathcal{B}_π) associates to the starting vector x a dense subspace E in \mathcal{B}_π carrying a Banach-norm which is finer than the original one. Obviously K is G -invariant and G acts on E via $\tilde{\pi}(g) := \pi(g)|_E$.

THEOREM 2.4. *We keep the notation of Definition 2.1. Then G acts on E by isometries. In fact, the unit ball K is invariant under the simple motions, that is*

$$\pi(\mu).K \subseteq K \quad \text{for } \mu \in M(G)_{\leq 1}.$$

In particular the representation

$$\tilde{\pi}: M(G) \rightarrow \text{BL}(E), \quad \mu \mapsto \pi(\mu)|_E$$

is norm-decreasing.

Proof. Clearly, G acts by isometries. As to the remainder of the theorem, assume the statement not to be true. Then there exist $y \in K$ and $\mu \in M(G)_{\leq 1}$ with $\pi(\mu)y \notin K$. But K is circled convex and closed in \mathcal{B}_π , whence the Hahn–Banach theorem forces a $\lambda \in \mathcal{B}'_\pi$ with

$$|\lambda(k)| \leq 1 \quad \forall k \in K \quad \text{but} \quad |\lambda(\pi(\mu)y)| > 1.$$

This implies

$$\begin{aligned} 1 < |\lambda(\pi(\mu)y)| &= \left| \int_G \lambda(\pi(g)y) \, d\mu(g) \right| \\ &\leq \int_G |\lambda(\pi(g)y)| \, d|\mu|(g) \leq \int_G d|\mu|(g) \leq 1, \end{aligned}$$

a contradiction. \square

Observe that it is not a priori clear that $\pi(\mu)$ is an element of E , which would simplify the proof above.

Our next aim is to describe the space

$$\tilde{E} := \{y \in E \mid g \mapsto \tilde{\pi}(g)y \text{ is continuous}\}$$

of the strongly continuous vectors for $\tilde{\pi}$ (which is closed by boundedness of $\tilde{\pi}$).

PROPOSITION 2.5. *For all $\mu \in M(G)$ the integrated representation $\tilde{\pi}(\mu)$ of $\tilde{\pi}|_{\tilde{E}}$ coincides with $\pi(\mu)|_{\tilde{E}}$.*

Proof. For $\lambda \in \mathcal{B}'_\pi \subseteq E'$ and $y \in E$ we have

$$\lambda(\tilde{\pi}(\mu)y) = \int \lambda(\tilde{\pi}(g)y) \, d\mu(g) = \int \lambda(\pi(g)y) \, d\mu(g) = \lambda(\pi(\mu)y).$$

This shows the claim, since \mathcal{B}'_π separates the points in $E \subseteq \mathcal{B}_\pi$. \square

If E, F is a dual pair of vector spaces, we denote by $\sigma(E, F)$ and $\tau(E, F)$ the weak and the Mackey topology on E , respectively.

THEOREM 2.6. *We keep the notation of Definition 2.1. Then the space*

$$\tilde{E} := \{y \in E \mid g \mapsto \pi(g)y \text{ is continuous}\}$$

of the strongly continuous vectors coincides with

$$\pi(L^1(G)) \cdot E.$$

Thus $\tilde{\pi}$ is strongly continuous on a $\tau(E, \mathcal{B}'_\pi)$ -dense, norm closed, subspace of E .

Proof. By Theorem 2.4 we have a continuous representation of $M(G)$ on E , and furthermore the regular representation of G on $L^1(G)$ is strongly continuous. Thus $\tilde{\pi}$ is strongly continuous on $\pi(L^1(G)) \cdot E$.

On the other hand the factorization theorem (e.g. [7, 11.10],) together with Proposition 2.5 shows

$$\tilde{E} = \tilde{\pi}(L^1(G)) \cdot \tilde{E} = \pi(L^1(G)) \cdot \tilde{E} \subseteq \pi(L^1(G)) \cdot E,$$

which settles the first part of the theorem.

As to the Mackey-density, observe that $\pi(L^1(G))E$ is dense in \mathcal{B}_π with respect to the norm topology, hence $\sigma(\mathcal{B}_\pi, \mathcal{B}'_\pi)$ -dense in \mathcal{B}_π . Therefore it is $\sigma(E, \mathcal{B}'_\pi)$ -dense in E , thus $\tau(E, \mathcal{B}'_\pi)$ -dense in E , by convexity. \square

Note that the continuity properties on the SMS-space correspond to the continuity properties of the regular representation λ_G of G on $M(G)$: the space of strongly continuous vectors of λ_G is exactly $L^1(G) = \lambda_G(L^1(G)) \cdot M(G)$.

Thus in Example 2.2(ii) the representation $\tilde{\pi}$ is not strongly continuous on the whole SMS-space.

3. SMS-spaces associated to C_0 -representations

In this section, we present a rather satisfactory description of SMS-spaces associated to an important class of representations, the C_0 -representations.

Definition 3.1. A cyclic uniformly bounded representation (π, \mathcal{B}_π) on a Banach space \mathcal{B}_π is called a C_0 -representation, if there exists a cyclic vector $x \in \mathcal{B}_\pi$, such that the matrix coefficients

$$v_{\lambda, x}(g) := \lambda(\pi(g)x)$$

belong to the space $C_0(G)$ of functions vanishing at infinity for all continuous linear functionals $\lambda \in \mathcal{B}'_\pi$. This implies immediately that for all $\lambda \in \mathcal{B}'_\pi, z \in \mathcal{B}_\pi$ the matrix coefficient $v_{\lambda, z}$ is in $C_0(G)$. If (π, \mathcal{H}_π) is a unitary representation on a Hilbert space \mathcal{H}_π this is equivalent to the fact that, for some cyclic vector $x \in \mathcal{H}_\pi$, the positive definite function

$$v_{x, x}(g) := \langle x, \pi(g)x \rangle$$

vanishes at infinity.

Example 3.2.

- (i) The regular representation is a C_0 -representation (cf. [9, 3.7]). In particular, the Duflo-Moore theorem ([8]) implies that square-integrable and integrable representations are C_0 -representations.
- (ii) If G is a semisimple connected Lie group with finite centre, every strongly continuous unitary representation on a Hilbert space (π, \mathcal{H}_π) is a C_0 -representation, provided that the restriction $\pi|_S$ of π to every simple non-compact component $S \triangleleft G$ does not contain the trivial representation of S . This is due to Howe and Moore ([12]).

- (iii) A faithful irreducible representation of a minimal analytic group, i.e. a connected Lie group with compact centre and a closed adjoint group, has C_0 -coefficients (cf. [15]). Similar statements are valid for connected so called totally minimal groups ([16])

We now calculate the SMS-space associated to a C_0 -representation.

THEOREM 3.3. *Let (π, \mathcal{B}_π) be a C_0 -representation with cyclic vector x . Then*

$$K = \text{cl}(\text{cco } \pi(G)x) = \pi(\mathbf{M}(G)_{\leq 1})x.$$

In particular, $\text{SMS}(\pi, x)$ is the orbit of x under the action of $\mathbf{M}(G)$.

Proof. We know from Theorem 2.4 that $\pi(\mathbf{M}(G)_{\leq 1})x \subseteq K$. To show the other inclusion, take $y \in \text{cl}(\text{cco } \pi(G)x)$ and a sequence $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq \text{cco } \pi(G)x$ converging to y . Thus

$$x_k = \sum_{i=1}^{n_k} c_{ik} \pi(g_{ik})x \quad \text{with } n_k \in \mathbb{N}, g_{ik} \in G, \sum_{i=1}^{n_k} |c_{ik}| \leq 1.$$

Hence with $\mu_k := \sum_{i=1}^{n_k} c_{ik} \delta_{g_{ik}} \in \mathbf{M}(G)_{\leq 1}$ we have

$$x_k = \pi(\mu_k)x.$$

Now, since G is separable, the unit ball $\mathbf{M}(G)_{\leq 1}$ is weak-* sequentially compact, hence we may assume that $\{\mu_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges to a $\mu \in \mathbf{M}(G)_{\leq 1}$ in the weak-* topology. Together with the C_0 -property of π , this implies for $\lambda \in \mathcal{B}'_\pi$

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda(y) &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \lambda(x_k) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \lambda(\pi(\mu_k)x) \\ &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_G \lambda(\pi(g)x) d\mu_k(g) = \lambda(\pi(\mu)x). \end{aligned}$$

An application of the Hahn-Banach theorem finishes the proof. \square

To identify the Banach space structure of $(E, \|\cdot\|_E)$ observe the following:

LEMMA 3.4. *Let E, F be Banach-spaces and $T: E \rightarrow F$ a continuous linear onto mapping. Then the factor space $E/\ker T$ endowed with the quotient norm is isometrically isomorphic to F if and only if $T(E_{\leq 1}) = F_{\leq 1}$.*

Proof. Standard.

THEOREM 3.5. *Let (π, \mathcal{B}_π) be a C_0 -representation and x a cyclic vector for π and $E := \text{SMS}(\pi, x)$. Define $\mathcal{F}_x(\pi) := \{v_{\lambda, x} \mid \lambda \in \mathcal{B}'_\pi\} \subset C_0(G)$ and its polar $I := \mathcal{F}_x(\pi)^\circ$ in $\mathbf{M}(G)$. Then*

$$I = \{\mu \in \mathbf{M}(G) : \pi(\mu)x = 0\}$$

and I is a weak- -closed left ideal in $\mathbf{M}(G)$. We have the following isometric isomorphisms:*

$$E \xrightarrow{\text{isometrically}} \mathbf{M}(G)/I \xrightarrow{\text{isometrically}} \mathcal{F}_x(\pi)'$$

via

$$\mathbf{M}(G)/I \ni \mu + I \mapsto \pi(\mu)x \in E$$

and

$$\mathbb{M}(G)/I \ni \mu + I \mapsto (v_{\lambda,x} \mapsto \mu(v_{\lambda,x}) = \lambda(\pi(\mu)x)) \in \overline{\mathcal{F}}_x(\pi)',$$

respectively. Furthermore, for $\lambda \in \mathcal{B}'_\pi \subset E'$ (cf. Proposition 2.3) one has

$$\|\lambda\|_{E'} = \|v_{\lambda,x}\|_\infty.$$

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu \in \overline{\mathcal{F}}_x(\pi)^o &\iff \mathbf{0} = \int v_{\lambda,x} d\mu(x) = \lambda(\pi(\mu)x) \quad \forall \lambda \in \mathcal{B}'_\pi \\ &\iff \pi(\mu)x = \mathbf{0}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, as a polar, I is weak- $*$ -closed while by the second description it is a left ideal.

Now by Theorem 3.3 and the previous lemma the first isomorphism follows. The second one is due to general functional analysis.

Finally, for $\lambda \in \mathcal{B}'_\pi$, Theorem 3.3 implies:

$$\|\lambda\|_{E'} = \sup_{y \in E_{\leq 1}} |\lambda(y)| = \sup_{\mu \in M(G)_{\leq 1}} |\lambda(\pi(\mu)x)| = \sup_{\mu \in M(G)_{\leq 1}} |\mu(v_{\lambda,x})| = \|v_{\lambda,x}\|_\infty. \quad \square$$

The next theorem identifies the space of the strongly continuous vectors in E as the $L^1(G)$ -orbit of the starting vector x .

THEOREM 3.6. *In the situation of Theorem 3.3 the space \tilde{E} of $\tilde{\pi}$ -strongly continuous vectors in E coincides with the $L^1(G)$ -orbit of x .*

Proof. By Theorems 2.6 and 3.3 one has

$$\tilde{E} = \pi(L^1(G))E = \pi(L^1(G))\pi(M(G))x = \pi(L^1(G) * M(G))x = \pi(L^1(G))x.$$

COROLLARY 3.7. *The starting vector x is a strongly continuous vector for $\tilde{\pi}$ in its own SMS-space $E = \text{SMS}(\pi, x)$ if and only if there is $f \in L^1(G)$ with $\pi(f)x = x$. In this case, $\tilde{\pi}$ is strongly continuous on E and*

$$E = \pi(L^1(G))x.$$

Example 3.8.

- (i) Consider the regular representation $(\lambda_{\mathbb{R}}, L^2(\mathbb{R}))$ of the reals and a cyclic vector $x \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$, so that the Plancherel-transform \hat{x} of x satisfies $\hat{x}(t) \neq 0$ a.e. Then for $\mu \in M(\mathbb{R})$: $\lambda_{\mathbb{R}}(\mu)x = \mu * x = \mathbf{0}$ if and only if the Fourier–Stieltjes transform $\hat{\mu} = \mathbf{0}$, thus $I = \{0\}$. Therefore we find

$$\begin{aligned} E = \text{SMS}(\lambda, x) &\xrightarrow{\text{isometrically}} M(\mathbb{R}), \\ \tilde{E} &\xrightarrow{\text{isometrically}} L^1(\mathbb{R}). \end{aligned}$$

In particular the starting vector x is not strongly continuous in its SMS-space.

- (ii) Now consider the representation of (i) as a representation of the discretized group \mathbb{R}_d . The SMS-space remains of course unchanged, hence

$$\text{SMS}(\lambda_{\mathbb{R}}, x) = \pi(M(\mathbb{R}))x \supseteq \pi(\ell^1(\mathbb{R}))x = \pi(M(\mathbb{R}_d))x.$$

Thus Theorem 3.3 fails if the C_0 -property is not satisfied.

- (iii) Let (π, \mathcal{B}_π) be an infinite dimensional cyclic representation of a compact group G with cyclic vector x . Then x is not strongly continuous in $E = \text{SMS}(\pi, x)$. As to the proof, assume x to be strongly continuous. Since the circled convex hull of a compact set is totally bounded by Mazur's theorem ([3, VI.4.8]),

$$\tilde{K} := \text{cls}(\text{cco } \tilde{\pi}(G)x, \|\cdot\|_E)$$

is compact. As the topology on E is finer than that on \mathcal{B}_π , we have

$$\tilde{K} \subset K = E_{\leq 1}$$

On the other hand Proposition 2.5 and Theorem 3.3 imply:

$$K = \pi(\mathbf{M}(G)_{\leq 1})x = \tilde{\pi}(\mathbf{M}(G)_{\leq 1})x \subset \tilde{K}.$$

Hence the closed unit ball of E would be compact, forcing E to be finite dimensional. But this is a contradiction to x being cyclic for π .

- (iv) If (π, \mathcal{B}_π) is an irreducible C_0 -representation and if $x \in \mathcal{B}_\pi$ such that the SMS-space $E = \text{SMS}(\pi, x)$ is minimal with respect to inclusion among SMS-subspaces, then $\tilde{\pi}$ is strongly continuous on E . Take $0 \neq y \in \tilde{E}$; then, by Theorem 3.6, $y = \pi(f)x$ for a suitable $f \in L^1(G)$. Since $y \in E$, the minimality of E implies that $E = \text{SMS}(\pi, y) = \pi(\mathbf{M}(G))y$. Thus there is a $\mu \in \mathbf{M}(G)$ with $\pi(\mu)y = x$, whence one has $x = \pi(\mu)\pi(f)x = \pi(\mu * f)x$. But $\mu * f \in L^1(G)$ and Corollary 3.7 shows the claim. (Note that irreducibility of π is needed to assure that the vector y used in the proof is cyclic, so that $\text{SMS}(\pi, y)$ is well-defined.)
- (v) On the other hand, if (π, \mathcal{B}_π) is a C_0 -representation and $x \in \mathcal{B}_\pi$ is a cyclic vector such that $E = \text{SMS}(\pi, x)$ is maximal with respect to inclusion among SMS-subspaces, then again $\tilde{\pi}$ is strongly continuous on E . In fact, by the factorization theorem, there are $y \in \mathcal{B}_\pi$ and $f \in L^1(G)$ with $x = \pi(f)y$, therefore y is cyclic for π and $x \in \text{SMS}(\pi, y)$, so the maximality of E implies $\text{SMS}(\pi, y) = E = \pi(\mathbf{M}(G))x$ and again we see $x \in \pi(L^1(G))x$. Combined with (i) this shows that for every cyclic $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ there is a sequence $f_n \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ such that

$$\pi(\mathbf{M}(\mathbb{R}))f \subsetneq \pi(\mathbf{M}(\mathbb{R}))f_1 \subsetneq \pi(\mathbf{M}(\mathbb{R}))f_2 \dots$$

(In other words, there is a strictly increasing sequence of subspaces of $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ that are in a natural way algebraically isomorphic to $\mathbf{M}(\mathbb{R})$.)

4. SMS-spaces of irreducible GCR-representations

In this Section we are concerned with SMS-spaces associated to irreducible unitary GCR-representations. The significant fact here is the existence of a unique minimal SMS-space. The most important tool is the following result which is an easy generalization of a very deep one, due to Poguntke [17].

THEOREM 4.1. *Let (π, \mathcal{H}_π) be an irreducible unitary representation of a connected locally compact group G . Furthermore let (π, \mathcal{H}_π) be GCR, i.e. the operation of the C^* -algebra contains a compact operator. Then there exists $f \in L^1(G)$ such that $\pi(f)$ is a nontrivial finite dimensional operator.*

Proof. The result in [17] shows the statement in the Lie case. Now let G be an arbitrary connected locally compact group. There exists a net $\{K_\alpha\}_\alpha$ of compact normal subgroups $K_\alpha \triangleleft G$ such that G is the projective limit of the Lie groups G/K_α . By [2, lemma 2] there is an α_0 with $K_\alpha \subseteq \ker \pi$ for all $\alpha \geq \alpha_0$. In particular for such an α the canonical representation π' of G/K_α with $\pi := \pi' \circ p_\alpha$ (where p_α denotes the canonical projection) is irreducible and Poguntke's result guarantees an $f \in L^1(G/K_\alpha)$ such that $\pi'(f)$ is a nontrivial finite dimensional operator. Now the canonical onto homomorphism $\sigma : L^1(G) \rightarrow L^1(G/K_\alpha)$ fulfills $\pi = \pi' \circ \sigma$. Hence there exists $g \in L^1(G)$ satisfying $\pi(g) = \pi'(\sigma(g)) = \pi'(f)$ and shows the statement. \square

Our interest on L^1 -functions that operate as finite rank operators is based on the following fact:

PROPOSITION 4.2. *Let (π, \mathcal{H}_π) be an irreducible representation of a locally compact group and assume that*

$$J_\pi := \{f \in L^1(G) \mid \pi(f) \text{ has finite rank}\}$$

is not the kernel of π . Then

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{fin}} := \text{span}\{\pi(f)x \mid x \in \mathcal{H}_\pi, f \in J_\pi\}$$

is a dense subspace and $\mathcal{H}_{\text{fin}} = \pi(J_\pi)x$ for all $x \in \mathcal{H}_\pi$. In particular, $L^1(G)$ acts algebraically irreducibly on \mathcal{H}_{fin} . Furthermore \mathcal{H}_{fin} is the only subspace of \mathcal{H}_π with the latter property.

Proof. The proof is based on that of theorem 2 in [6]. It is worked out in [14].

Remark 4.3. If G is unimodular, the vectors in \mathcal{H}_{fin} are the best integrable vectors in the following sense. If there exists a nontrivial coefficient function $v_{x,y} \in L^p(G)$, $p \geq 1$, then for all u, w in \mathcal{H}_{fin} we have

$$v_{u,w} \in L^p(G).$$

Indeed, take $x, y \in \mathcal{H}_\pi \setminus \{0\}$ with $v_{x,y} \in L^p(G)$ and $u, w \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{fin}}$. By the above, there are integrable functions f_u and f_w with

$$\pi(f_u)x = u \quad \text{and} \quad \pi(f_w)y = w.$$

Thus we find

$$v_{u,w} = v_{\pi(f_u)x, \pi(f_w)y} = f_u * v_{x,y} * \tilde{f}_w,$$

where $\tilde{f}(g) := \bar{f}(g^{-1})$. Now the usual convolution formulas (e.g. [11, 2.39]) show $v_{u,w} \in L^p(G)$.

THEOREM 4.4. *Keep the assumptions and notations of Proposition 4.2. Then*

- (i) *For all $x \in \mathcal{H}_\pi \setminus \{0\}$ the space \mathcal{H}_{fin} is contained in the strongly continuous part of SMS (π, x) and the restriction of $\tilde{\pi}$ to the closure of \mathcal{H}_{fin} is irreducible.*
- (ii) *For every $y \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{fin}}$ the SMS-space SMS (π, y) coincides with \mathcal{H}_{fin} and all the SMS-norms are equivalent.*

In particular \mathcal{H}_{fin} is the only minimal SMS-space.

Proof.

- (i) By Theorem 2.6, $\tilde{E} \supseteq \pi(L^1(G))E \supseteq \pi(J_\pi)x = \mathcal{H}_{\text{fin}}$. The second statement is a consequence of the fact that $\pi(L^1(G)) \cdot y$ contains \mathcal{H}_{fin} for all $y \in \mathcal{H}_\pi$.
- (ii) This is a consequence of the algebraic irreducibility of \mathcal{H}_{fin} under $L^1(G)$. The second assertion is trivial.

Remark 4.5.

- (i) If the ideal J_π is dense in $L^1(G)$, the representation $\tilde{\pi}$ is irreducible on the continuous part of every SMS-space. Indeed, for $x \in \mathcal{H}_\pi \setminus \{0\}$, the strongly continuous part of $E := \text{SMS}(\pi, x)$ is $\tilde{E} = \pi(L^1(G))E$, by Theorem 2.6. Thus the density of J_π and the strong continuity show that \mathcal{H}_{fin} is dense in \tilde{E} and Theorem 4.4(i) is applicable. It is known that J_π is dense in $L^1(G)$ if G is a connected Lie group which is nilpotent (cf. [6, theorem 2]) or semisimple (cf. Remark 4.5(ii)). But for the affine group J_π is not dense ([13, theorem 6]). More generally J_π is not dense in $L^1(G)$ if the representation is not CCR.
- (ii) Let $K < G$ be a compact subgroup and let (π, \mathcal{H}_π) be a K -finite representation, i.e. the isotypic components of the K -irreducible subrepresentations are all finite dimensional. This is the case for irreducible representations of connected semisimple groups and for the euclidean motion groups (cf. [19, chapter 4.5.2]) if K is a maximal compact subgroup. Now, for all irreducible subrepresentations $\sigma < \pi|_K$, the orthogonal projection onto its (by assumption finite dimensional) isotypic component is given by $(1/d_\sigma)\pi(\bar{\chi}_\sigma)$, where χ_σ is the character of σ . Thus $\pi(f * \bar{\chi}_\sigma)$ has finite rank for all $f \in L^1(G)$. In particular, the space of K -finite vectors with respect to π is contained in \mathcal{H}_{fin} . By the Peter–Weyl theorem, the unique minimal SMS-space is the closure of the K -finite vectors with respect to the SMS-topology associated to any nonzero K -finite vector.
- (iii) Observe that in the Lie case \mathcal{H}_{fin} contains a dense set of C^∞ -vectors (cf. Theorem 4.1). But in general not all vectors in \mathcal{H}_{fin} are differentiable. Thus a G -orbit of a vector does not span \mathcal{H}_{fin} , in general.

5. SMS-spaces associated to integrable representations

As in the last Section we reveal a canonical SMS-space associated to an irreducible representation (π, \mathcal{H}_π) , now described by a growth condition on the matrix coefficients.

We assume G to be *unimodular* but not necessarily connected and fix a Haar-measure μ_G on G .

Definition 5.1. A unitary irreducible representation (π, \mathcal{H}_π) is *integrable* if there exists a vector $x \neq 0$ in \mathcal{H}_π with $v_{x,x} \in L^1(G)$. Any such x is called an *integrable vector*.

By Example 3.2(i), integrable representations are C_0 -representations. We summarize some facts about integrable representations. Proofs and further results are contained in [5, sections 14.3, 14.4], for instance. Let d_π be the formal dimension of π . We have the following orthogonality relations (with respect to the inner products of $L^2(G)$ and \mathcal{H}_π , respectively):

$$(i) \quad \langle v_{x,y}, v_{x',y'} \rangle = (1/d_\pi) \langle x, x' \rangle \langle y', y \rangle;$$

- (ii) $v_{x,y} * v_{x',y'} = (1/d_\pi)\langle x', y \rangle v_{x,y'}$;
- (iii) $v_{y,x} * v_{x,x} = v_{y,x}$ if $\|x\| = \sqrt{d_\pi}$.

Furthermore in case $\|x\| = \sqrt{d_\pi}$ the right-convolution in $L^2(G)$ with the positive definite function $v_{x,x}$ is the orthogonal projection onto the space

$$\mathcal{H} := \{v_{h,x} \mid h \in \mathcal{H}_\pi\}$$

and the wavelet-transform $\mathcal{H}_\pi \ni h \mapsto v_{h,x}$ defines a unitary intertwining operator between π and the restriction of the regular representation to \mathcal{H} . We need the following easy observation:

PROPOSITION 5.2. *Let $x_1, x_2 \in \mathcal{H}_\pi \setminus \{0\}$ with $v_{x_i,x_i} \in L^1(G)$, $i = 1, 2$. Then*

$$\pi(L^1(G))x_1 = \{y \mid v_{y,x_1} \in L^1(G)\} = \{z \mid v_{z,x_2} \in L^1(G)\} = \pi(L^1(G))x_2.$$

Proof. This is easily seen by [10, lemma 4.2]. \square

This yields immediately

COROLLARY 5.3. *Let \mathcal{H}_π be an integrable representation of the unimodular group G . Then*

- (i) *For all integrable $x \in \mathcal{H}_\pi \setminus \{0\}$ the SMS-spaces coincide and have equivalent SMS-norms.*
- (ii) *The SMS-space of the integrable vectors E_{int} is a minimal SMS-space. The canonical mapping*

$$L^1(G)/\tilde{I} \ni f + \tilde{I} \mapsto \pi(f)x, \quad (x \neq 0)$$

is norm-decreasing, where $\tilde{I} := \{f \in L^1(G) \mid \pi(f)x = 0\}$. The representation on E_{int} is strongly continuous.

- (iii) *If, in addition, G is connected, E_{int} is the unique minimal SMS-space and is contained in all SMS-spaces. In particular, for every $y \in \mathcal{H}_\pi$ exists an $f \in L^1(G)$ such that $\pi(f)y$ is integrable.*

Proof.

- (i) Is obvious by the above.
- (ii) We assume without loss of generality $\|x\| = \sqrt{d_\pi}$. Thus we have

$$E := \text{SMS}(\pi, x) = \pi(M(G))x = \pi(M(G) * v_{x,x})x \subseteq \pi(L^1(G))x.$$

The minimality follows from Proposition 5.2. Let $I := \{\mu \in M(G), \pi(\mu)x = 0\}$. Then

$$\|\pi(f)x\|_{\text{SMS}(\pi,x)} = \|f + I\|_{M(G)} \leq \|f + \tilde{I}\|_1.$$

- (iii) Now assume G to be connected. Since (π, \mathcal{H}_π) is integrable, $\pi(f)$ is a Hilbert–Schmidt operator for every $f \in L^1(G) \cap L^2(G)$ (cf. [5, 14.4.3]). Therefore π is GCR and Theorem 4.4 shows that E_{int} coincides with \mathcal{H}_{fin} . \square

For noncompact groups it is not possible that all matrix coefficients are integrable (see for instance [4, p. 233]). In particular the canonical subspace E_{int} is always a proper subspace.

6. SMS-type spaces

In Theorem 3.5 we saw that the SMS-space E associated with a C_0 -representation (π, \mathcal{B}_π) is the dual of a Banach space, namely of the closure of \mathcal{B}'_π with respect to the norm of E' . This result remains true in a more general functional analytic setting that is introduced below. These generalized SMS-spaces provide more information for rather general representations.

Moreover this theory applies to the concept of Fourier–Stieltjes algebras and Arzac-spaces. This yields, for instance, a necessary and sufficient criterium for a unitary representation on a separable Hilbert space to split into irreducible ones.

Definition 6.1. Let E and B be Banach spaces and $\iota: E \hookrightarrow B$ be a one-to-one continuous mapping with dense image such that

$$\iota(E_{\leq 1}) \text{ is closed in } B. \tag{*}$$

Then E is called an SMS-space in B . Very often we identify E with its dense image in B .

Definition 6.1 gives a natural generalization of the objects of our first five sections. To find new examples we need the following

PROPOSITION 6.2. *Let E, B be Banach spaces and $\iota: E \hookrightarrow B$ be continuous, one-to-one with dense image.*

- (i) *If E is in addition the dual space of a Banach space $'E$ and $\iota^t: B' \hookrightarrow 'E$ is the transposed mapping, then E is an SMS-space in B , provided that*

$$\iota^t(B') \subseteq 'E \subseteq E',$$

where we identify $'E$ with the corresponding subspace of the bidual E' .

- (ii) *If E and B are dual spaces of Banach spaces $'E$ and $'B$, respectively, then E is an SMS-space in B if the mapping ι is continuous with respect to the weak-* topologies.*

Proof.

- (i) The unit ball $E_{\leq 1}$ is compact with respect to $\sigma(E, \iota^t(B'))$ since it is $\sigma(E, 'E)$ -compact by the Banach-Alaoglu theorem. Now ι is $\sigma(E, \iota^t(B')) - \sigma(B, B')$ -continuous, forcing $\iota(E_{\leq 1})$ to be $\sigma(B, B')$ -closed. In particular $\iota(E_{\leq 1})$ is norm closed, proving the claim.
- (ii) Is an immediate consequence of the Banach-Alaoglu theorem.

Example 6.3.

- (i) In case $1 \leq r \leq p < \infty$ the sequence-space ℓ^r is an SMS-space in ℓ^p with respect to the canonical injection.
- (ii) Let (X, μ) be a probability space. Then for $1 \leq r \leq p \leq \infty$ the Lebesgue-space $L^p(X)$ is an SMS-space in $L^r(X)$.
- (iii) Let H be a Hilbert space and $L^1(H), L^2(H), \mathcal{K}(H)$ be the spaces of trace-class operators, Hilbert–Schmidt operators and compact operators, respectively. We have $L^1(H) \subseteq L^2(H) \subseteq \mathcal{K}(H) \subseteq \text{BL}(H)$ and

$$L^2(H)' = L^2(H), \quad \mathcal{K}(H)' = L^1(H).$$

This reveals $L^1(H)$ as an SMS-space in $L^2(H)$ and as an SMS-space in $\mathcal{K}(H)$ and $L^2(H)$ as an SMS-space in $\mathcal{K}(H)$.

If we strengthen the condition (*) to

$$\iota(E_{\leq 1}) \text{ is weakly-compact in } B, \quad (**)$$

we find the following striking theorem:

THEOREM 6.4. *Let E be a SMS-space in the Banach space B satisfying the weak-compactness hypothesis (**). Then $(E, \|\cdot\|_E)$ is isometrically isomorphic to the dual*

$$(B', \|\cdot\|_{E'})'$$

via the canonical mapping

$$E \ni e \mapsto (\lambda \mapsto \lambda(e)).$$

More precisely: E is (canonically isometrically isomorphic to) the dual space of B' endowed with the norm inherited from E' (cf. Proposition 2.3).

Proof.

(1) Let M equal $\{f \in E'' : f(\lambda) = 0 \text{ for all } \lambda \in B' \subset E'\}$, let $\Phi: E \rightarrow E''$ be the canonical embedding and let $\pi_M: E'' \rightarrow E''/M$ be the canonical projection. Consider the mapping $\psi = \pi_M \circ \Phi: E \rightarrow E''/M$.

(a) ψ is one-to-one. If $\psi(x) = 0$ then $\Phi(x) \in M$, thus $0 = \Phi(x)(\lambda) = \lambda(x)$ for all $\lambda \in B'$, hence $x = 0$.

(b) ψ is onto. Consider the following topological spaces.

- E endowed with $\sigma(E, B')$ (which is possible, since $i': B' \rightarrow E'$ is one-to-one);
- E'' with $\sigma(E'', B')$ (this is possible, since $i': B' \rightarrow E' \subset E''$ is one-to-one);
- E''/M with $\sigma(E''/M, B')$ (which is possible for the following reasons: as $M \subset \ker(\lambda)$ for all $\lambda \in B' \subset E' \subset E''$, the mapping $\tilde{\lambda}: x + M \mapsto \lambda(x)$ is well-defined for all $\lambda \in B'$. Also, the mapping $B' \ni \lambda \mapsto \tilde{\lambda} \in (E''/M)^*$ is one-to-one. For if $\tilde{\lambda} = 0$ one has $\tilde{\lambda}(x + M) = 0$ for all $x \in E''$, hence $\lambda(x) = 0$ for all $x \in E''$, especially for all $x \in E$; as E is dense in B , it follows that $\lambda = 0$.)

Now, observe that:

- $(E, \sigma(E, B'))$ is Hausdorff as B' separates points of $E \subseteq B$;
- $(E''/M, \sigma(E''/M, B'))$ is Hausdorff. Assume that for $x + M \in E''/M$, $\lambda(x + M) = 0$ for all $\lambda \in B'$. Then $x(\lambda) = 0$ for all $\lambda \in B'$, hence $x \in M$ and $x + M = 0_{E''/M}$; therefore B' separates points of E''/M ;
- $\Phi: (E, \sigma(E, B')) \rightarrow (E'', \sigma(E'', B'))$ is clearly continuous;
- $\pi_M: (E'', \sigma(E'', B')) \rightarrow (E''/M, \sigma(E''/M, B'))$ is continuous, as $\sigma(E''/M, B')$ is just the final topology on E''/M with respect to π_M if E'' is endowed with $\sigma(E'', B')$.

Since $E_{\leq 1}$ is $\sigma(B, B')$ -compact, it follows that it is $\sigma(E, B')$ -compact and $\psi(E_{\leq 1}) = \pi_M \circ \Phi(E_{\leq 1})$ is $\sigma(E''/M, B')$ -compact, in particular closed. On the other hand, $\Phi(E_{\leq 1})$ is $\sigma(E'', E')$ -dense in $E''_{\leq 1}$, so by $B' \subset E'$ it is also $\sigma(E'', B')$ -dense in $E''_{\leq 1}$. As π_M is continuous and onto, $\psi(E_{\leq 1}) = \pi_M \circ \Phi(E_{\leq 1})$ is $\sigma(E''/M, B')$ -dense in $\pi_M(E''_{\leq 1})$. By closedness of $\psi(E_{\leq 1})$ with respect to $\sigma(E''/M, B')$, it follows that $\pi_M(E''_{\leq 1}) \subset \psi(E_{\leq 1})$, and hence $E''/M = \pi_M(E'') \subset \psi(E)$. Thus ψ is onto.

- (2) By (1) we have a mapping $E \rightarrow E''/M$ that is one-to-one and onto. By the definition of M and a well-known theorem in functional analysis, it follows that

$$E''/M \cong (B, \|\cdot\|_{E'})'$$

Hence the mapping

$$\kappa: (E, \|\cdot\|_E) \rightarrow (B', \|\cdot\|_{E'}), \quad \kappa(e)(\lambda) = \lambda(e) = i'(\lambda)(e)$$

is one-to-one and onto.

- (3) κ is isometric: as $E''/M \cong (B, \|\cdot\|_{E'})'$ is isometric, we have $\|\kappa\| = \|\psi\| = \|\pi_M \circ \Phi\| \leq \|\pi_M\| \|\Phi\| \leq 1$; whence for all $e \in E$ $\|\kappa(e)\| \leq \|e\|_E$. On the other hand, by definition, one has $\|\kappa(e)\| = \sup\{|\lambda(e)| \mid \|\lambda\|_{E'} \leq 1, \lambda \in B'\}$. Now take $e \in E$ with $\|e\|_E = 1$, then $te \notin E_{\leq 1}$ for every $t > 1$, hence by the Hahn-Banach theorem, for all $t > 1$ exists $\lambda_t \in B'$ with $|\lambda_t(k)| \leq 1$ for all $k \in E_{\leq 1}$, but $|\lambda_t(te)| \geq 1$. Thus $\|\lambda_t\|_{E'} \leq 1$, but $|\kappa(e)(\lambda_t)| \geq 1/t$. It follows that

$$\|\kappa(e)\| = \sup_{\|\lambda\|_{E'} \leq 1} |\lambda(e)| \geq \sup_{t > 1} |\lambda_t(e)| \geq \sup_{t > 1} |1/t| = 1 = \|e\|_E, \quad \text{as required.}$$

Example 6.5.

- (i) If (π, \mathcal{B}_π) is a uniformly bounded representation on a reflexive Banach space with cyclic vector x , SMS (π, x) is an SMS-space in \mathcal{B}_π satisfying (**), whence it is a dual space. If (π, \mathcal{B}_π) is a C_0 -representation the simple motion system K is weakly compact, due to the fact that the mapping $M(G) \ni \mu \mapsto \pi(\mu)x$ is weak-* weak continuous. Furthermore, Theorem 3.5 shows that the space whose dual is SMS (π, x) by Theorem 6.4, coincides with that one we have computed in Section 3.
- (ii) More generally, in case that E is an SMS-space in a reflexive Banach space B , Theorem 6.4 shows

$$E = (B', \|\cdot\|_{E'})'$$

In particular, if B is a Hilbert space, the density of E in B yields

$$E = (B, \|\cdot\|_{E'})' = (E, \|\cdot\|_{E'})'$$

We conclude this paper with an application of our results to Fourier–Stieltjes algebras. Let us recall at first some results concerning the Arzac-spaces associated to a unitary representation (π, \mathcal{H}_π) .

Denote by W_π the von Neumann algebra generated by the operators $\pi(g)$, $g \in G$ and consider the predual $W_{\pi*}$, that is the dual of W_π with respect to the ultraweak topology $\sigma(\text{BL}(\mathcal{H}_\pi), L^1(\mathcal{H}_\pi))$. Then $W_{\pi*}$ is canonically isomorphic to the quotient of $L^1(\mathcal{H}_\pi)$ by the ultraweak polar W_π^o of W_π .

Taking account of the fact that $L^1(\mathcal{H}_\pi)$ is the projective tensor product of \mathcal{H}_π with its dual Hilbert space $\overline{\mathcal{H}_\pi}$ we see that the canonical mapping

$$v_{x,y} \mapsto (T \mapsto \langle x, \pi(T)y \rangle), \quad x, y \in \mathcal{H}_\pi$$

extends to an isometric isomorphism between A_π , the closure of the space of matrix coefficients with respect to the norm of the Fourier–Stieltjes algebra $B(G)$, and the predual $W_{\pi*}$ (cf. [1, chapter 1]).

THEOREM 6.6. *Consider a unitary representation (π, \mathcal{H}_π) on a separable Hilbert space \mathcal{H}_π . Then π splits into irreducible subrepresentations if and only if $W_\pi^\circ \subseteq L^1(\mathcal{H}_\pi)$ is closed in $L^1(\mathcal{H}_\pi)$ with respect to the Hilbert–Schmidt norm.*

Proof.

‘ \Leftarrow ’ Assume that the condition holds. Let $\text{cl}(W_\pi^\circ)$ be the closure of W_π° in $L^2(\mathcal{H}_\pi)$. By assumption, $W_\pi^\circ = L^1(\mathcal{H}_\pi) \cap \text{cl}(W_\pi^\circ)$, thus we have a norm-decreasing one-to-one mapping

$$\iota: A_\pi \simeq L^1(\mathcal{H}_\pi)/W_\pi^\circ \rightarrow L^2(\mathcal{H}_\pi)/(\text{cl}(W_\pi^\circ)), \quad T + W_\pi^\circ \mapsto T + \text{cl}(W_\pi^\circ).$$

Since $L^1(\mathcal{H}_\pi)_{\leq 1}$ is weakly compact in $L^2(\mathcal{H}_\pi)$, we have

$$\iota((L^1(\mathcal{H}_\pi)/(W_\pi^\circ))_{\leq 1}) = \iota(L^1(\mathcal{H}_\pi)_{\leq 1}) + \text{cl}(W_\pi^\circ)$$

is weakly compact and A_π is an SMS-space in $L^2/(\text{cl}(W_\pi^\circ))$. Hence Theorem 6.4 shows that A_π is a dual space and by a theorem of Taylor π splits (cf. [18, theorem 3.5]).

‘ \Rightarrow ’ We may assume π to be multiplicity free. Then

$$\pi \simeq \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\rho_1} & & \mathbf{0} \\ & \boxed{\rho_2} & \\ \mathbf{0} & & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

with inequivalent, irreducible (and therefore disjoint) representations ρ_k . This implies

$$W_\pi = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\text{BL}(\mathcal{H}_{\rho_1})} & & \mathbf{0} \\ & \boxed{\text{BL}(\mathcal{H}_{\rho_2})} & \\ \mathbf{0} & & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

and the operators in W_π° are those trace class operators on \mathcal{H}_π with zeros on the diagonal, that is the operators of the form

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{0} & & * \\ & \boxed{0} & \\ * & & \ddots \end{pmatrix}.$$

This space is closed in $L^1(\mathcal{H}_\pi)$ with respect to the Hilbert–Schmidt norm.

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