# REGULARITIES AND SUBSPECTRA FOR COMMUTATIVE BANACH ALGEBRAS

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We introduce regularities in commutative Banach algebras in such a way that each regularity defines a joint spectrum on the algebra that satisfies the spectral mapping formula.

## 1. Introduction

Let *B* be a complex commutative Banach algebra with unit element denoted by *e*. The space of linear continuous functionals on *B* is denoted by B'.

We call regularity in *B* every nontrivial open subset  $R \subset B$  which satisfies the following conditions:

$$ab \in R \quad \text{iff } a \in R, b \in R,$$
 (1.1)

$$R = R^{\#}, \quad \text{where } R^{\#} = \{ b \in B \mid \forall \varphi \in B' \ \varphi(b) = 0 \Longrightarrow 0 \in \varphi(R) \}.$$
(1.2)

The set G(B) of invertible elements of *B* is the main example of a regularity. As was proved in [4], the set of elements of *B* which are not topological zero divisors is also a regularity.

In the present paper, we investigate a construction of joint spectra in B by means of regularities in B.

Let  $\sigma(a) = \{\mu \in \mathbb{C} \mid a - \mu e \notin G(B)\}$  be the ordinary spectrum in *B*.

Recall that according to the terminology introduced by Żelazko [6], a subspectrum  $\tau$  in *B* is a mapping which associates to every *k*-tuple  $(a_1, \ldots, a_k) \in B^k$  a nonempty compact set  $\tau(a_1, \ldots, a_k)$  such that

- (a)  $\tau(a_1,\ldots,a_k) \subset \prod_{i=1}^k \sigma(a_i)$ ,
- (b)  $\tau(p(a_1,...,a_k)) = p(\tau(a_1,...,a_k))$  for every polynomial mapping  $p = (p_1,...,p_m)$ :  $\mathbb{C}^k \to \mathbb{C}^m$ .

In Theorem 2.1, we prove that an arbitrary subspectrum  $\tau$  in *B* defines a regularity  $R_{\tau}$  by the formula

$$R_{\tau} = \{ a \in B \mid 0 \notin \tau(a) \}. \tag{1.3}$$

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Lemma 2.3 used in the proof of this theorem permits us to obtain an elementary proof of a theorem belonging to Żelazko which provides the complete description of all subspectra in B.

Let M(B) be the space of multiplicative functionals on B as usually identified with the space of maximal ideals in B. M(B) endowed with the Gelfand topology is a compact space. For  $a \in B$ ,  $\varphi \in M(B)$ , we denote by  $\hat{a}(\varphi) = \varphi(a)$  the Gelfand transform of a.

Theorem of Żelazko [6] states that for every subspectrum  $\tau$  in B, there is a unique compact subset  $K \subset M(B)$  such that

$$\tau(a_1,\ldots,a_k) = \{(\varphi(a_1),\ldots,\varphi(a_k)) \mid \varphi \in K\},\tag{1.4}$$

for  $(a_1,...,a_k) \in B^k$ .

Our proof emphasizes the role played by the spectral mapping formula (b) while the original elegant proof in [6] involves more advanced methods.

The principal result of the paper is Theorem 4.1 which states that for an arbitrary regularity R the formula

$$\sigma_{R} = (a_{1}, \dots, a_{k}) = \{ (\lambda_{1}, \dots, \lambda_{k}) \in \mathbb{C}^{k} \mid I_{B}(a_{1} - \lambda_{1}, \dots, a_{k} - \lambda_{k}) \cap R = \emptyset \}$$
(1.5)

defines a subspectrum in *B*. By  $I_B(a_1 - \lambda_1, ..., a_k - \lambda_k)$  the ideal generated in *B* by the elements  $a_1 - \lambda_1, ..., a_k - \lambda_k$  is denoted.

It follows that, given an arbitrary subspectrum  $\tau$ , we can construct the regularity  $R_{\tau}$  and then the subspectrum  $\sigma_{R_{\tau}}$ . Both subspectra  $\tau$  and  $\sigma_{R_{\tau}}$ , according to Żelazko theorem, are uniquely determined by compact subsets of M(B), say K and  $K_1$ , respectively.

We show that

$$K_1 = \widetilde{K} = \{ \varphi \in M(B) \mid \forall a \in B \ \varphi(a) = 0 \implies 0 \in \widehat{a}(K) \}.$$

$$(1.6)$$

The idea of describing spectra of single elements in a (noncommutative) Banach algebra by means of regularities appears in [1] by Kordula and Müller (see also [2]). The present paper is concerned with the case of a commutative Banach algebra and characterizes those regularities and corresponding spectra which admit an extension to a subspectrum.

## 2. Regularity corresponding to a subspectrum

Let  $\tau$  be a subspectrum in a commutative unital Banach algebra *B* and let  $R_{\tau} = \{a \in B \mid 0 \notin \tau(a)\}$ .

For the completness of the paper, we include the elementary proof of the basic fact in the following theorem.

THEOREM 2.1.  $R_{\tau}$  is a regularity.

*Proof.* By the property (a) of subspectra, we have  $\emptyset \neq \tau(a) \subset \sigma(a)$  for an arbitrary  $a \in B$ . In particular,  $\emptyset \neq \tau(0) \subset \sigma(0) = \{0\}$ . Hence  $\tau(0) = \{0\}$  and  $0 \notin R_{\tau}$ .

For  $|\mu| > ||a||$ , the element  $a - \mu$  is invertible. So  $0 \notin \sigma(a - \mu)$  and  $0 \notin \tau(a - \mu)$  neither. The set  $R_{\tau}$  is not empty and not equal to *B*. The particular case of the spectral mapping formula (b) is the addition formula

$$\tau(a+b) = \{\lambda + \mu \mid (\lambda, \mu) \in \tau(a, b)\},\tag{2.1}$$

corresponding to the polynomial p(x, y) = x + y.

On the other hand, by (a), we have

$$\tau(a,b) \subset \sigma(a) \times \sigma(b) \subset \sigma(a) \times D(0, \|b\|).$$
(2.2)

If  $0 \notin \tau(a)$  and  $||b|| < \min\{|\lambda| \mid \lambda \in \tau(a)\}$ , then  $0 \notin \tau(a+b)$ . The set  $R_{\tau}$  is open.

We apply the spectral mapping formula in the case of p(x, y) = xy. We obtain

$$\tau(ab) = \{\lambda \mu \mid (\lambda, \mu) \in \tau(a, b)\}.$$
(2.3)

Immediately, we conclude that  $0 \notin \tau(ab)$  if and only if  $0 \notin \tau(a)$  and  $0 \notin \tau(b)$ .

The set  $R_{\tau}$  has property (1.1).

The proof of property (1.2) is based on the following two lemmas.

LEMMA 2.2. (1) If  $(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_k) \in \tau(a_1, \dots, a_k)$  and  $b_1, \dots, b_m \in B$ , then there exist  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m \in \mathbb{C}$  such that

$$(\mu_1,\ldots,\mu_k,\lambda_1,\ldots,\lambda_m) \in \tau(a_1,\ldots,a_k,b_1,\ldots,b_m).$$

$$(2.4)$$

(2) If  $(0,...,0) \in \tau(a_1,...,a_k)$  and  $b_1^i,...,b_k^i \in B, 1 \le i \le m$ , then

$$(0,...,0) \in \tau \left( \sum_{j=1}^{k} a_j b_j^1, \dots, \sum_{j=1}^{k} a_j b_j^m \right).$$
(2.5)

*Proof.* (1) The spectral mapping property (b) applied to the polynomial  $p(x_1,...,x_k, y_1,...,y_m) = (x_1,...,x_k)$  gives us the first formula.

(2) We can find in  $\tau(a_1,...,a_k,b_1^1,...,b_k^1,...,b_1^m,...,b_k^m)$  an element of the form  $(0,...,0, \lambda_1^1,...,\lambda_k^1,...,\lambda_1^m,...,\lambda_k^m)$  using the first part of the lemma. If we apply the spectral mapping property to the polynomial mapping

$$p(x_1, \dots, x_k, y_1^1, \dots, y_k^1, \dots, y_1^m, \dots, y_k^m) = \left(\sum_{j=1}^k x_j y_j^1, \dots, \sum_{j=1}^k x_j y_j^m\right),$$
(2.6)

we obtain the desired property.

LEMMA 2.3. Let  $(0,...,0) \in \tau(a_1,...,a_k)$  for some  $a_1,...,a_k \in B$ . Then there exists a maximal ideal  $J \in M(B)$  such that  $I_B(a_1,...,a_k) \subset J$  and  $(0,...,0) \in \tau(b_1,...,b_m)$  for arbitrary  $b_1,...,b_m \in J$ .

*Proof.* If  $b_1,...,b_m \in I_0 = I_B(a_1,...,a_k)$ , then  $(0,...,0) \in \tau(b_1,...,b_m)$  by Lemma 2.2(2). Denote by  $\mathcal{J}$  the family of all ideals I in B which contain  $I_0$  and have the property that  $(0,...,0) \in \tau(b_1,...,b_m)$  for arbitrary  $b_1,...,b_m \in I$ . For every linearly ordered subfamily  $I_{\alpha}, \alpha \in S$  of  $\mathcal{J}$ , the set  $\bigcup_{\alpha \in S} I_{\alpha} \in \mathcal{J}$ . So by Kuratowski-Zorn lemma, the family  $\mathcal{J}$  contains a maximal element J. It remains to prove that  $J \in M(B)$ . Suppose that J is not maximal.

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There exists  $c \in B$  such that  $c + \lambda \notin J$  for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ . However, by Lemma 2.2(1), for arbitrary  $c_1, \ldots, c_k \in J$ , the set

$$\delta(c_1,\ldots,c_k) = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid 0 \in \tau(c_1,\ldots,c_k,c-\lambda)\}$$
(2.7)

is nonempty. It is a compact set as an intersection of the compact set  $\tau(c_1,...,c_k,c)$  with a line.

By the spectral mapping property again,

$$\delta(c_1,\ldots,c_k,b_1,\ldots,b_m) \subset \delta(c_1,\ldots,c_k) \cap \delta(b_1,\ldots,b_m).$$
(2.8)

The family of compact sets  $\delta(c_1,...,c_k)$  has the finite intersection property, so there exists  $\lambda_0 \in \mathbb{C}$  which belongs to  $\delta(c_1,...,c_k)$  for every  $(c_1,...,c_k) \in J^k$ .

By Lemma 2.2(2), the ideal generated by *J* and  $c - \lambda_0$  also belongs to  $\mathcal{J}$ , which is a contradiction. Lemma 2.3 is proved.

We return to the proof of Theorem 2.1.

Take  $a \notin R_{\tau}$ . In order to prove that  $R_{\tau}^{\#} = R_{\tau}$ , we must find a functional  $\phi \in B'$  such that  $\phi(a) = 0$  and  $0 \notin \phi(R_{\tau})$ . By definition  $0 \in \tau(a)$  and by Lemma 2.2(2),  $(0, \ldots, 0) \in \tau(b_1, \ldots, b_m)$  for all  $b_1, \ldots, b_m \in I_B(a)$ . Lemma 2.3 says that in particular, *a* belongs to some  $J \in M(B)$  that does not intersect  $R_{\tau}$ . *J* being a maximal ideal, it is equal to the kernel of a linear (multiplicative) functional. The proof follows.

Since the way from Lemma 2.3 to Żelazko theorem is short, we include the complete proof of this important theorem.

THEOREM 2.4 [6]. For every subspectrum  $\tau$  on a commutative algebra B, there exists a unique compact set  $K \subset M(B)$  such that

$$\tau(a_1,\ldots,a_k) = \{ (\varphi(a_1),\ldots,\varphi(a_k)) \mid \varphi \in K \}.$$

$$(2.9)$$

*Proof.* We define *K* as the set of those multiplicative functionals  $\varphi$  on *B* for which

$$(0,\ldots,0) \in \tau(b_1,\ldots,b_m)$$
 for arbitrary  $b_1,\ldots,b_m \in \ker \varphi$ . (2.10)

If  $(\mu_1,...,\mu_k) \in \tau(a_1,...,a_k)$ , then  $(0,...,0) \in \tau(a_1 - \mu_1,...,a_k - \mu_k)$  and by Lemma 2.3, the ideal generated by  $a_1 - \mu_1,...,a_k - \mu_k$  is contained in the kernel of a multiplicative functional  $\varphi$  such that condition (2.10) is satisfied.

This proves that *K* is nonempty and

$$\tau(a_1,\ldots,a_k) \subset \{(\varphi(a_1),\ldots,\varphi(a_k)) \mid \varphi \in K\}.$$
(2.11)

Now suppose that  $\varphi \in K$  and  $a_1, \ldots, a_k \in B$ . Obviously,  $a_1 - \varphi(a_1), \ldots, a_k - \varphi(a_k) \in \ker \varphi$  and  $(0, \ldots, 0) \in \tau(a_1 - \varphi(a_1), \ldots, a_k - \varphi(a_k))$  that implies that  $(\varphi(a_1), \ldots, \varphi(a_k)) \in \tau(a_1, \ldots, a_k)$ .

It remains to prove that *K* is compact. Let  $\phi \notin K$ . There exist  $b_1, \ldots, b_m \in \ker \phi$  such that  $(\phi(b_1), \ldots, \phi(b_m)) \notin \tau(b_1, \ldots, b_m)$ . By the definition of the Gelfand topology and the compactness of  $\tau(b_1, \ldots, b_m)$ , the property  $(\psi(b_1), \ldots, \psi(b_m)) \notin \tau(b_1, \ldots, b_m)$  holds for  $\psi$  in some neighborhood of  $\phi$ . The set  $K^c$  is open and *K* is compact.

#### 3. *F*-rationally convex sets and regularities

Let *X* be a topological Hausdorff space and  $\mathcal{F}$  a family of continuous functions on *X*. For an arbitrary set  $C \subset X$ , we define the  $\mathcal{F}$ -rationally convex hull of *C* as follows:

$$\widetilde{C} = \{ x \in X \mid \forall f \in \mathcal{F} f(x) = 0 \Longrightarrow 0 \in f(C) \}.$$
(3.1)

The term  $\mathcal{F}$ -rationally convex hull is justified at least when *C* is compact and  $\mathcal{F}$  is a vector space that contains constant functions.

The case is being  $x \in \widetilde{C}$  if and only if

$$\left|\frac{f}{g}\right|(x) \le \sup_{y \in C} \left|\frac{f}{g}\right|(y) \tag{3.2}$$

for every  $f,g \in \mathcal{F}$  with  $0 \notin g(C)$ .

A subset  $C \subset X$  is  $\mathcal{F}$ -rationally convex if  $\widetilde{C} = C$ .

The hull  $R^{\#}$  that appears in the definition of a regularity is just the *B*'-rationally convex hull of a set  $R \subset B$ . Condition (1.2) means that every regularity is *B*'-rationally convex.

We observe some basic properties of regularities.

# Proposition 3.1. Let $\emptyset \neq R \subset B$ .

(1) If  $R \subset B$  satisfies (1.1), then it contains the set G(B) of all invertible elements in B,

(2) if *R* is a regularity, then

$$R^{c} = \bigcup_{I \in M(B), I \cap R = \emptyset} \{I\}.$$
(3.3)

*Proof.* (1) Let  $b \in R$ . Then  $b = be \in R$ . By condition(1.1),  $e \in R$ . If  $a \in G(B)$ , then  $aa^{-1} = e \in R$  and again by (1.1), we obtain that  $a \in R$ .

(2) By the definition,  $\bigcup_{I \in M(B), I \cap R = \emptyset} \{I\} \subset R^{c}$ .

Let  $a \notin R$ . By condition (1.2), there exists  $\phi \in B'$  such that  $\phi(a) = 0$  and  $0 \notin \phi(R)$ . In particular,  $(\ker \phi) \cap G(B) = \emptyset$ . By Gleason-Kahane-Żelazko theorem,  $\phi \in M(B)$  (see [5, page 81]) and

$$a \in \ker \phi \subset \bigcup_{I \in M(B), I \cap R = \emptyset} \{I\}.$$
(3.4)

PROPOSITION 3.2. A nontrivial open subset  $R \subset B$  is a regularity if and only if  $G(B) \subset R$  and  $R^{\#} = R$ .

*Proof.* We show that the right-hand side condition implies the property (1.1). By condition (1.2) and Gleason-Kahane-Żelazko theorem,  $ab \notin R$  if and only if  $\varphi(ab) = 0$  for some  $\varphi \in M(B)$  with ker  $\varphi \cap R = \emptyset$ . This holds if and only if  $\varphi(a) = 0$  or  $\varphi(b) = 0$ . The proof follows.

In general, condition (1.1) does not imply (1.2). The simplest counterexample is the set  $Q = B \setminus \{0\}$ , where *B* is an integral domain.

We us observe the following hereditary property.

PROPOSITION 3.3. Let *R* be a regularity in *B*. Let *A* be a commutative unital Banach algebra and  $\phi : A \to B$  a continuous homomorphism of algebras. Then  $Q = \phi^{-1}(R)$  is a regularity in *A*.

*Proof.* The set *Q* is obviously open in *A*. Moreover,

$$G(A) \subset \phi^{-1}(G(B)) \subset \phi^{-1}(R) = Q.$$

$$(3.5)$$

By Proposition 3.2, it is sufficient to prove that  $Q^{\#} = Q$ . To this end, given  $a \notin Q$ , we must find  $\varphi \in A'$  such that  $\varphi(a) = 0$  and ker  $\varphi \cap Q = \emptyset$ . Since  $\phi(a) \notin R$ , there exists  $\psi \in B'$  such that  $\psi(\phi(a)) = 0$  and ker  $\psi \cap R = \emptyset$ . Hence,  $\varphi = \psi \circ \phi$  has the desired properties.

We denote by  $\hat{B}$  the set of all Gelfand transforms of elements of *B*.

THEOREM 3.4. Let R be a regularity in B and let

$$K = \{ \varphi \in M(B) \mid 0 \notin \varphi(R) \} = \{ \varphi \in M(B) \mid \ker \varphi \cap R = \emptyset \}.$$
(3.6)

Then K is a nonempty, compact,  $\hat{B}$ -rationally convex set.

*Proof.* As we know by Proposition 3.1(2),  $R^c$  is a union of a nonempty family of maximal ideals of *B* which are precisely kernels of each  $\varphi \in K$ . Hence *K* is nonempty.

If  $\varphi \in K^c$ , then  $\hat{a}(\varphi) = 0$  for some  $a \in R$ . If at the same time  $\varphi \in \hat{K}$ , we obtain  $0 \in \hat{a}(K)$ . Hence,  $\varphi_0(a) = 0$  for some  $\varphi_0 \in K$ . This contradics the definition of K, and so  $\hat{K} \setminus K = \emptyset$ .

Take again  $\varphi \in K^c$  and  $a \in R$  such that  $\varphi(a) = 0$ . Since *R* is open, there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that  $||a - b|| < \delta$  implies that  $b \in R$ . The set  $V = \{\psi \in M(B) \mid |\hat{a}(\psi)| < \delta\}$  is a neighborhood of  $\varphi$  in M(B). For  $\psi \in V$ , we have that  $a - \psi(a) \in R$  and  $\psi(a - \psi(a)) = 0$ . It follows that  $V \subset K^c$ . So  $K^c$  is open, *K* is closed, and hence compact.

## 4. Subspectrum associated to a regularity

Let *R* be a regularity in *B*. For  $(a_1, \ldots, a_k) \in B^k$ , denote

$$\sigma_R(a_1,\ldots,a_k) = \{ (\lambda_1,\ldots,\lambda_k) \in \mathbb{C}^k \mid I_B(a_1-\lambda_1,\ldots,a_k-\lambda_k) \cap R = \emptyset \}.$$
(4.1)

THEOREM 4.1. For an arbitrary regularity R in a commutative unital Banach algebra,  $\sigma_R$  is a subspectrum. If  $K = \{\varphi \in M(B) \mid 0 \notin \varphi(R)\}$ , then

$$\sigma_R(a_1,\ldots,a_k) = \{(\varphi(a_1),\ldots,\varphi(a_k)) \mid \varphi \in K\}.$$
(4.2)

*Proof.* The condition (a) defining subspectrum is obviously satisfied because  $G(B) \subset R$ . We introduce the operator  $T: B \to C(K)$  by the formula

$$T(a) = \hat{a} \mid_K. \tag{4.3}$$

The operator *T* is a continuous homomorphism of algebras and its image *A* is a unital subalgebra of *C*(*K*). If  $a \in R$ , then *T*(*a*) nowhere vanishes on *K*, hence it is invertible in *C*(*K*). Conversely, if  $a \notin R$ , then by the property  $R^{\#} = R$  and Gleason-Kahane-Żelazko theorem, there exists  $\varphi \in K$  such that  $\varphi(a) = 0$ . So  $\hat{a}$  vanishes at  $\varphi \in K$  and *T*(*a*) is not invertible in *C*(*K*). It follows that *T*(*R*) = *G*(*C*(*K*))  $\cap A$ .

Theorem 3.1 in [3] states that the mapping

$$\tau(f_1,\ldots,f_k) = \{(\lambda_1,\ldots,\lambda_k) \in \mathbb{C}^k \mid I_A(f_1-\lambda_1,\ldots,f_k-\lambda_k) \cap G(C(K)) = \emptyset\}$$
(4.4)

is a subspectrum on A. We extend T on  $A^k$  in a natural way:  $T(a_1,...,a_k) = (T(a_1),..., T(a_k))$ .

Notice that

$$\sigma_R(a_1, \dots, a_k) = \tau(T(a_1), \dots, T(a_k)) = \tau(T(a_1, \dots, a_k)).$$
(4.5)

Then for an arbitrary polynomial mapping  $p : \mathbb{C}^k \to \mathbb{C}^m$ , we have

$$p(\sigma_R(a_1,...,a_k)) = p(\tau(T(a_1),...,T(a_k))) = \tau(p(T(a_1),...,T(a_k)))$$
  
=  $\tau(T(p(a_1,...,a_k))) = \sigma_R(p(a_1,...,a_k)).$  (4.6)

Thus the spectral mapping formula (b) holds for  $\sigma_R$ .

For every  $\varphi \in K$  and  $a_1, \ldots, a_k \in B$ , we have

$$I_B(a_1 - \varphi(a_1), \dots, a_k - \varphi(a_k)) \subset \ker \varphi.$$

$$(4.7)$$

The kernel of  $\varphi$  does not intersect *R*, so  $(\varphi(a_1), \dots, \varphi(a_k)) \in \sigma_R(a_1, \dots, a_k)$ .

Now suppose that  $(\mu_1, ..., \mu_k) \in \sigma_R(a_1, ..., a_k)$ , which implies that  $(0, ..., 0) \in \sigma_R(a_1 - \mu_1, ..., a_k - \mu_k)$ . By Lemma 2.3, we know that the ideal  $I_B(a_1 - \mu_1, ..., a_k - \mu_k)$  is contained in the kernel of some  $\varphi \in M(B)$  and  $0 \in \sigma_R(b)$  for all  $b \in \ker \varphi$ . It follows that  $\varphi \in K$  and  $(\mu_1, ..., \mu_k) = (\varphi(a_1), ..., \varphi(a_k))$ .

The set *K* is exactly the compact set which describes the subspectrum  $\sigma_R$  in the sense of Żelazko theorem (Theorem 2.4).

In Section 3, we have studied the regularity associated with a given subspectrum. According to the definition, the regularity associated with  $\sigma_R$  is the set  $R_1 = \{a \in B \mid 0 \notin \sigma_R(a)\}$ . Obviously,  $R \subset R_1$ . If  $a \in R_1$ , then  $I_B(a) \cap R \neq \emptyset$ . There exists  $b \in B$  such that  $ab \in R$ . Hence  $a \in R$  by property (1.1). We conclude that  $R_1 = R$ .

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It is well known that different subspectra can lead to the same set of regular elements. Let  $\tau$  be the approximate point spectrum. The corresponding regularity  $R_{\tau}$  is the set of all elements of *B* which are not topological zero divisors while the set  $K_{\tau}$  defining  $\tau$  via formula (2.9) is the set of maximal ideals which consists of joint topological zero divisors.

The spectrum  $\sigma_{R_{\tau}}$  was studied in [4] and it corresponds to *K* equal to the set of all maximal ideals consisting of topological zero divisors, which in general differs from  $K_{\tau}$ .

If  $K \subset M(B)$  is compact and  $\tau$  is the subspectrum defined by formula (2.9), then the regularity  $R_{\tau}$  can be described as

$$\{a \in B \mid 0 \notin \hat{a}(K)\}. \tag{4.8}$$

**PROPOSITION 4.2.** Let  $K_1$ ,  $K_2 \subset M(B)$  and let

$$R_i = \{ a \in B \mid 0 \notin \hat{a}(K_i) \},\tag{4.9}$$

i = 1, 2. Then  $R_1 = R_2$  if and only if  $\widetilde{K}_1 = \widetilde{K}_2$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $R_1 = R_2$ . It means that for  $a \in B$ , the Gelfand transform  $\hat{a}$  vanishes on  $K_1$  if and only if it vanishes on  $K_2$ . If  $\hat{a}(\varphi) = 0$ , then  $\hat{a}(K_1)$  contains zero if and only if  $\hat{a}(K_2)$  does. Hence  $\widetilde{K}_1 = \widetilde{K}_2$ .

Now suppose that  $\widetilde{K}_1 = \widetilde{K}_2$  and that  $a \notin R_1$ . It follows that  $\hat{a}(\varphi) = 0$  for some  $\varphi \in K_1 \subset \widetilde{K}_2$ . We obtain  $0 \in \hat{a}(K_2)$ . So  $a \notin R_2$ . This shows that  $R_1^c \subset R_2^c$ , and  $R_2 \subset R_1$ . Similarly, we can prove the opposite. Then  $R_1 = R_2$ .

For a given regularity *R* in *B*, the subspectrum  $\sigma_R$  is the largest subspectrum having *R* as the corresponding regularity.

PROPOSITION 4.3. Let *R* be a regularity and let  $\tau$  be a subspectrum such that  $R_{\tau} = R$ . Then for every *k*-tuple  $(a_1, \ldots, a_k) \in B^k$ ,

$$\tau(a_1,\ldots,a_k) \subset \sigma_R(a_1,\ldots,a_k). \tag{4.10}$$

*Proof.* If *R* is a regularity, then according to Theorem 4.1,

$$\sigma_R(a_1,...,a_k) = \{ (\varphi(a_1),...,\varphi(a_k)) \mid \varphi \in K \},$$
(4.11)

where  $K = \widetilde{K}$  as Theorem 3.4 asserts.

If  $\tau$  is a subspectrum of the form

$$\tau(a_1,\ldots,a_k) = \{(\varphi(a_1),\ldots,\varphi(a_k)) \mid \varphi \in K_1\}$$

$$(4.12)$$

and  $R_{\tau} = R$ , then  $\widetilde{K}_1 = \widetilde{K} = K$  by Proposition 4.2. In particular,  $K_1 \subset K$  and

$$\tau(a_1,\ldots,a_k) \subset \sigma_R(a_1,\ldots,a_k). \tag{4.13}$$

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