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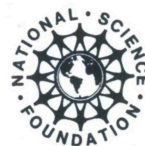
Number 16

Measure Algebras

Joseph L. Taylor



American Mathematical Society
with support from the
National Science Foundation



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Preface

These notes were prepared in conjunction with the N. S. F. regional conference on measure algebras held at the University of Montana during the week of June 19, 1972.

Our original objective in preparing these notes was to give a coherent detailed and simplified presentation of a body of material on measure algebras developed in a recent series of papers by the author (Taylor [1]–[10]). This material has two main thrusts: the first concerns an abstract characterization of Banach algebras which arise as algebras of measures under convolution (convolution measure algebras) and a semigroup representation of the spectrum (maximal ideal space) of such an algebra; the second deals with a characterization of the cohomology of the spectrum of a measure algebra and applications of this characterization to the study of idempotents, logarithms, and invertible elements.

As this project progressed the original concept broadened. The final product is a more general treatment of measure algebras, although it is still heavily slanted in the direction of our own work.

Chapter 1 contains a brief introductory discussion of convolution and the structure of the algebras $L^1(G)$ and $M(G)$, as well as an introduction to several of the problems which will be solved or partially solved in later chapters.

Chapters 2 and 3 are devoted to a development and discussion of convolution measure algebras and to a representation theorem for the spectrum of such an algebra. Several examples of convolution measure algebras are discussed in Chapter 4. Much of the material of Chapters 2–4 is contained in Taylor [1] and can be skipped by readers familiar with that paper. However, our discussion here is considerably more detailed and does not assume familiarity with Kakutani's L -space theory or the theory of topological semigroups.

Chapters 5–9 are mainly concerned with a characterization of the cohomology of the spectrum of a measure algebra and applications to the study of idempotents, logarithms, and inverses in such an algebra. This material originally appeared in Taylor [3]–[10]. The development here has been considerably simplified.

Chapter 10 is largely independent of Chapters 4–9. In it we discuss some results of Miller [1] on Gleason parts in a measure algebra, of Taylor [2] and Johnson [3] on the Shilov boundary of $M(G)$, and of Brown and Moran [3] on infinite product measures.

We would like to express our gratitude to Michael J. Fisher who conceived and organized the conference, and to the National Science Foundation, the University of Montana, the Rocky Mountain Mathematics Consortium, and the Conference Board of the Mathemat-

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University of Utah

Joseph L. Taylor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1: Orientation	1
1.1. Measure algebras on semigroups	1
1.2. Convolution equations	3
1.3. The spectrum of $M(G)$	5
1.4. Idempotents	8
1.5. Wiener-Hopf equations	9
1.6. Logarithms	10
1.7. Other measure algebras	12
Chapter 2: L-spaces	14
2.1. L -subspaces of a measure space	14
2.2. L -homomorphisms	15
2.3. L -spaces and duals of L -spaces	17
2.4. The standard representation	19
2.5. Tensor products of L -spaces	20
Chapter 3: Convolution measure algebras	23
3.1. Definition and examples	23
3.2. The structure semigroup	24
3.3. Homomorphisms of measure algebras	26
3.4. Elementary properties of S and \hat{S}	27
3.5. L -ideals of \mathfrak{M}	30
Chapter 4: Special examples	33
4.1. Compactifications and structure semigroups	33
4.2. Group algebras	34
4.3. The algebra $M(G)$	35
4.4. Arens-Singer algebras	37
4.5. An existence theorem for semicharacters	38
4.6. Idempotent semigroup algebras	40
Chapter 5: The structure of \hat{S}	42
5.1. Topologies on \hat{S}	42
5.2. Ideals, groups, and critical points	44
5.3. A covering lemma	46

Chapter 6: Cohomology of \hat{S}	48
6.1. Cohomology functors	48
6.2. Idempotents and logarithms	50
6.3. The cohomology of \hat{S}	52
6.4. Cohomology and critical points	54
Chapter 7: Critical points and group algebras	57
7.1. The main theorem	57
7.2. Linear equations and absolutely continuous measures in $M(G_0 \times R^n)$	59
7.3. Spectrum of a half-algebra	64
7.4. An alternate representation of \mathfrak{M}	67
7.5. Proof of Theorem 7.1.4.	69
7.6. A characterization of group algebras	73
Chapter 8: Idempotents and logarithms	76
8.1. The groups $H^0(\mathfrak{M})$ and $H^1(\mathfrak{M})$	76
8.2. The algebra $M(G)$	78
8.3. Logarithms and group algebras	79
8.4. Logarithms in $M(R)$	80
8.5. Weiner-Hopf equations	81
8.6. One-parameter groups in $M(R)$	82
Chapter 9: Invertible measures	84
9.1. The main theorem	84
9.2. The spectrum of a measure	86
9.3. The case $\mathfrak{M} = M(G)$	88
Chapter 10: Boundaries and Gleason parts	90
10.1. Analytic structure in \hat{S}	90
10.2. Miller's theorem on parts	92
10.3. The strong boundary	95
10.4. Infinite convolution products	96
10.5. The Shilov boundary of $M(G)$	99
References:	103

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