Abstract. The aim of this note is to characterize the cyclic and the irreducible
*-representations of the trace-class of a proper H*-algebra.

Throughout this paper $A$ denotes a proper H*-algebra (i.e., $A$ is a Banach
*-algebra whose norm is a Hilbert space norm such that $\langle x, yz^* \rangle = \langle xz, y \rangle = \langle z, x^*y \rangle$ for every $x, y, z \in A$). A projection in $A$ is a nonzero element $e$
of $A$ such that $e^2 = e = e^*$; $e$ is called primitive if it cannot be represented
as a sum of two mutually orthogonal primitive projections in $A$. A maximal
family of mutually orthogonal primitive projections is called projection base.
An element $a \in A$ is said to be positive ($a \geq 0$) if $\langle ax, x \rangle \geq 0$ for every
$x \in A$. For each $a \in A$ there exists a unique positive element $|a|$ of $A$ such
that $|a|^2 = a^*a$.

By the trace-class of $A$ we mean the set $\tau(A) = \{xy : x, y \in A\}$ that is
dense in $A$. If $a \in A$, then the following assertions are equivalent:

(i) $a \in \tau(A)$.
(ii) $|a| \in \tau(A)$.
(iii) There exists a positive element $b$ of $A$ such that $b^2 = |a|$.
(iv) $\sum_\alpha \langle |a|e_\alpha, e_\alpha \rangle < \infty$ for some projection base $\{e_\alpha\}$ in $A$.

There is a positive linear functional $\text{tr}$ (called trace) on $\tau(A)$ such that
$\text{tr}xy^* = \text{tr}y^*x = \langle x, y \rangle$ and $\text{tr}a = \text{tr}a^*$ for every $x, y \in A$ and $a \in \tau(A)$.
One can define a Banach algebra norm $\tau$ on $\tau(A)$ by the formula $\tau(a) = \text{tr} |a|$
($a \in \tau(A)$). Denote by $R(A)$ the set of right centralizers on $A$, i.e., let

$$R(A) = \{S \in B(A) : S(xy) = S(x)y \ (\forall x, y \in A)\},$$

where $B(A)$ denotes the set of bounded linear operators on $A$. It is trivial that
$L_x$, the operator of the left multiplication by $x$, is in $R(A)$ for every $x \in A$.
$R(A)$ is isomorphic and isometric to $\tau(A)^*$.

As for the detailed discussion of proper H*-algebras and their trace-classes
as well as the proofs of the above statements we refer to [1, 5, 6].

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cyclic and irreducible representation.
A positive linear functional \( f \) on a Banach *-algebra \( B \) is called representable if there is a Hilbert space \( H \) and a *- representation \( x \mapsto T_x \) of \( B \) on \( H \) with cyclic vector \( b \in H \) such that \( f(x) = \langle T_x b, b \rangle \) \((x \in B)\). In [2, Theorem 37.11] it was stated that a positive linear functional \( f: B \to \mathbb{C} \) is representable if and only if there exists a positive constant \( c \in \mathbb{R} \) for which

\[
|f(x)|^2 \leq c f(x^* x) \quad (x \in B).
\]

Unfortunately, the proof presented there is incomplete since it uses the hermicity of the functional. For a correct proof see [4].

We begin with the following two basic lemmas.

**Lemma 1.** Let \( S \in \mathbb{K}(A) \). Then the following assertions are equivalent:

(i) \( \sum_a |\langle S|e_a, e_a \rangle| < \infty \) for some projection base \( \{e_a\} \) in \( A \).

(ii) There exists a unique \( a \in \mathbb{K}(A) \) such that \( S = L_a \).

**Proof.** Suppose that (i) holds. From the inequality \( S^* S \leq \|S\|\|S\| \) we have \( \sum_a \|S e_a\|^2 < \infty \). Since \( S \) is a right centralizer, one can easily verify that \( \{S e_a\} \) is a mutually orthogonal vector system. Let \( a = \sum_a S e_a \). Then

\[
L_a x = ax = (\sum_a S e_a) x = S(\sum_a e_a x) = S x \quad (x \in A),
\]
where we have used the fact that \( x = \sum_a e_a x \) for every \( x \in A \). Now \( L_{|a|} = |L_a| = |S| \) implies that \( a \in \mathbb{K}(A) \). The uniqueness of \( a \) is obvious.

The other implication is easy to prove.

**Lemma 2.** Let \( a \in \mathbb{K}(A) \) be positive. Then

\[
\tau(a) = \inf\{c \in \mathbb{R} : c > 0, \quad |\text{tr} a x^*|^2 \leq c \text{tr} a x^* x \quad (x \in \tau(A))\}.
\]

**Proof.** Consider the semi-inner product \( B \) on \( \tau(A) \) defined by

\[
B(x, y) = \langle ax, y \rangle \quad (x, y \in \tau(A)).
\]

The Cauchy-Schwarz inequality implies that

\[
|\langle axe, e \rangle|^2 = |\langle ax, e \rangle|^2 \leq \langle ae, e \rangle \langle ax, x \rangle \quad (x \in \tau(A)),
\]

where \( e \) is an arbitrary projection in \( A \). Now it follows that

\[
|\text{tr} ax^*|^2 = |\text{tr}(ax^*)^*|^2 = |\text{tr} ax|^2 \leq \tau(a) \text{tr} x^* a x = \tau(a) \text{tr} axx^* \quad (x \in \tau(A)).
\]

If \( c \in \mathbb{R}, \ c \geq 0 \) such that \( |\text{tr} ax|^2 \leq c \text{tr} ax^* x \ (x \in \tau(A)) \), then for every projection \( e \) in \( A \) we have \( \langle ae, e \rangle = \text{tr} ae \leq c \), which implies that \( \tau(a) \leq c \).

Our first theorem characterizes the representable positive linear functionals on \( \tau(A) \).

**Theorem 1.** Let \( f: \tau(A) \to \mathbb{C} \) be a positive linear functional. Then the following assertions are equivalent:

(i) \( f \) is representable.

(ii) There exists a unique positive element \( a \) of \( \tau(A) \) such that \( f(x) = \text{tr} ax \) for every \( x \in \tau(A) \).

(iii) There exists a unique positive element \( b \) of \( A \) such that \( f(x) = \langle L_x b, b \rangle \) for every \( x \in \tau(A) \).
Proof. Let $f$ be representable. Then there is a positive constant $c \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $|f(x^*)|^2 \leq c f(x^* x)$ ($x \in \tau(A)$). Since $f \in \tau(A)^*$, by [5, Theorem 2], there is a positive operator $S \in R(A)$ for which $f(x) = \text{tr} S x$ ($x \in \tau(A)$). If $e \in A$ is a projection, then we have $|\text{tr} S e|^2 \leq \text{tr} S e$, i.e., $\text{tr} S e \leq c$. Since it holds for every projection in $A$, we can conclude that $\sum_a (Se_a, e_a) \leq c$ for every projection base $\{e_a\}$ in $A$. By Lemma 1 there is a positive element $a$ in $\tau(A)$ such that $S = L_a$. The uniqueness of $a$ follows from the density of $\tau(A)$ in $A$.

To the implication (ii) $\Rightarrow$ (iii), let $b \in A$ be the positive square root of $a$. The remainder part of the statement is easy to check.

As a consequence of the above theorem and [3, Lemma (4.5.8)] we have the following

Theorem 2. Let $b \in A$. If $H_b$ denotes the closure of the subspace $\tau(A)b$ in $A$ then $x \mapsto L_x \mid H_b$ is a $*$-representation of $\tau(A)$ with cyclic vector $b$. Moreover, every cyclic $*$-representation of $\tau(A)$ is unitarily equivalent to a representation of this kind.

Proof. The only thing that has to be proved is $b \in H_b$ for every $b \in A$. But it follows from the fact that the projections in $A$ belong to $\tau(A)$.

In what follows, let

$$P = \{ f \in \tau(A)^* : f \text{ is positive and } |f(x)|^2 \leq f(x^* x) \ (x \in \tau(A)) \}.$$ 

By Theorem 1, for every representable positive linear functional $f$ on $\tau(A)$ there exists a unique positive member $a$ of $\tau(A)$ such that $f(x) = \text{tr} ax$ ($x \in \tau(A)$). Now, by Lemma 2, $f \in P$ if and only if $\tau(a) \leq 1$. If $f$ is not identically zero, then by [3, Corollary (4.6.5)], one can easily verify that $f$ is an extremal point of $P$ if and only if the conditions $a \in \tau(A)$, $\lambda a \geq 0$, $\tau(\lambda a) \leq 1$, and $\lambda a - a \geq 0$ for some $0 < \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ imply that there is a $0 \leq \mu \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\mu a = \lambda a$.

Theorem 3. Let $0 \neq f \in P$ and $a$ be the unique element of $\tau(A)$ corresponding $f$ as above. Then $f$ is an extremal point of $P$ if and only if there exists a primitive projection $e$ in $A$ for which $a = e/\|e\|^2$.

Proof. Necessity. Suppose that $f$ is an extremal point of $P$. It is easy to see that $\tau(a) = 1$. Let $a = \sum_n \lambda_n e_n$ be the spectral representation of $a$ where $0 < \lambda_n \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\{e_n\}$ is a sequence of mutually orthogonal primitive projections (see [6, Corollary 1]). Let $\tilde{a} = e_1/\|e_1\|^2$. Then $\tilde{a} \in \tau(A)$, $\tilde{a} \geq 0$, and $\tau(\tilde{a}) = 1$. Moreover, for $\lambda = 1/\|e_1\|^2$ we have $\lambda a - a \geq 0$. Consequently, there exists an $0 \leq \mu \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\mu a = e_1/\|e_1\|^2$. Taking traces we arrive at

$$\mu = \mu \text{tr} a = (1/\|e_1\|^2) \text{tr} e_1 = 1.$$ 

Sufficiency. Let $a = e/\|e\|^2$ where $e$ is a primitive projection in $A$. Suppose that $a \in \tau(A)$, $0 \neq a \geq 0$ such that $\tau(a) \leq 1$ and $\lambda a - a \geq 0$ for some $0 < \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$. Let $\tilde{a} = \sum_n \lambda_n e_n$ be the spectral representation of $a$. Then, for every fixed $n$, we have $\lambda e_n/\|e_n\|^2 \geq \lambda_n e_n$. If we extend the singleton $\{e\}$ to a projection base, then the first structure theorem of proper $H^*$-algebras (c.f. [1, Theorem 4.1]) implies that $e_n A \subset e A$. Since $e A$ is a minimal closed right ideal thus $e_n A = e A$. It is known that the projection of $x \in A$ on the closed
right ideal $eA$, where $e$ is an arbitrary projection in $A$, is $ex$. Consequently, we have $e_n = ee_n = e_n e = e$, which implies that there is a $0 < \mu \in \mathbb{R}$ for which $\mu a = a$. This completes the proof.

Using the notation of Theorem 2, by [3, Theorem (4.6.4)], it is easy to prove our final result, which follows.

**Theorem 4.** Let $e$ be a primitive projection in $A$. Then $x \mapsto L_x \upharpoonright H_e$ is a nonzero irreducible *-representation of $\tau(A)$. Moreover, every irreducible *-representation of $\tau(A)$ is unitarily equivalent to a representation of this kind.

**References**


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