

ON THE CONTINUITY OF THE EVALUATION MAPPING ASSOCIATED WITH A GROUP AND ITS CHARACTER GROUP

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ABSTRACT. For an abelian Hausdorff group G , let G^* denote the character group endowed with the compact-open topology and let $\alpha_G : G \rightarrow G^{**}$ denote the canonical homomorphism. We show that the evaluation mapping from $G^* \times G$ into the torus is continuous if and only if G^* is locally compact and α_G is continuous. If α_G is injective and open, then the evaluation mapping is continuous if and only if G is locally compact. Several examples and counterexamples are given.

Let G be an abelian Hausdorff group. The characters of G (i.e., the continuous homomorphisms from G into $\mathbf{T} = \{z \in \mathbf{C} : |z| = 1\}$) form a group G^* under pointwise operations. If G^* is endowed with the compact-open topology then it is an abelian Hausdorff group, called *dual group* (or *character group*) of G . (Cf. [8], [5], [1].) Evaluating characters at points of G gives rise to a canonical homomorphism $\alpha_G : G \rightarrow G^{**}$. The group G is called *reflexive* if α_G is a topological isomorphism. The classical Pontryagin – van Kampen duality theorem states that every locally compact abelian group is reflexive. It was proved by M.F. Smith ([12]; cf. [1], 15.2) that the additive group of every Banach space is reflexive. Kaplan proved ([6]; [1], 14.11) that every product of reflexive groups is reflexive. See [1] (and [10]) for further examples and background.

We use multiplicative notation and denote the unit element of G by e . The group G^* is an abelian Hausdorff group. The family of sets $P(K, V) = \{\chi \in G^* : \chi(K) \subseteq V\}$, where K is a compact subset of G and $V \ni 1$ is an open subset of \mathbf{T} , forms an open neighbourhood base at the unit element χ_0 of G^* . Taking into consideration that the mappings $x \mapsto \chi(x)$ and $\chi \mapsto \chi(x)$ are continuous homomorphisms, it is easily seen that the evaluation mapping $(\chi, x) \mapsto \chi(x)$ is continuous if it is continuous at (χ_0, e) . Noting that $\chi(x) \in V$ for all $(\chi, x) \in P(K, V) \times K$, it follows that the evaluation mapping is continuous if G is locally compact. If G is locally compact, then G^* is locally compact (cf. the Lemma stated below).

We employ the following well-known version of the Arzela – Ascoli theorem. It is an obvious consequence of [9], 2.2 or [1], 1.5; cf. also [8], Thm.9.

Lemma. *Let $V = \{\exp(it) : |t| < \pi/2\}$. If U is a neighbourhood of e , then $P(U, V)$ has compact closure in G^* .*

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Remark. Let $V_1 = \{\exp(it) : |t| < 2\pi/3\}$. Clearly, $\{z \in V_1 : z^2 \in V_1\} \subseteq V$. Hence $P(U^2, V_1) \subseteq P(U, V)$. Thus the Lemma implies that, for every neighbourhood U of e , $P(U, V_1)$ has compact closure in G^* . The following example shows that this improvement of the Lemma is optimal.

If G is an infinite compact group of exponent 3 (e.g., an infinite product of cyclic groups of order 3), then $\chi(x)^3 = 1$ for every $\chi \in G^*$ and $x \in G$. Thus $P(U, \overline{V_1}) = G^*$ is not compact (since G^* is an infinite discrete group).

Theorem. *The following properties are equivalent for every G :*

- (i) *The evaluation mapping $G^* \times G \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$, $(\chi, x) \mapsto \chi(x)$, is continuous at (χ_0, e) .*
- (ii) *The evaluation mapping $G^* \times G \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$, $(\chi, x) \mapsto \chi(x)$, is continuous.*
- (iii) *α_G is continuous and G^* is locally compact.*

Proof. We have already noted above that (i) implies (ii). Let V be a neighbourhood of 1 in \mathbf{T} . If (ii) holds, then there exist open sets $U \ni e$ and $W \ni \chi_0$ such that $\chi(x) \in V$ for all $\chi \in W$ and all $x \in U$, hence $W \subseteq P(U, V)$. The Lemma implies that W has compact closure if V is sufficiently small. Thus G^* is locally compact. If $B \subseteq G^*$ is compact, then (ii) implies that there is a neighbourhood U of e such that $\chi(x) \in V$ for all $(\chi, x) \in B \times U$. It follows that $\alpha_G(U) \subseteq P(B, V)$, and hence α_G is continuous. Thus (ii) implies (iii).

Suppose that (iii) holds. The evaluation mapping $G^{**} \times G^* \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$ is continuous because G^* is locally compact. Since $\alpha_G(x)(\chi) = \chi(x)$, the continuity of α_G implies (i). \square

Corollary. *Let G be an abelian Hausdorff group such that α_G is injective and open. Then the evaluation mapping $G^* \times G \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$ is continuous if and only if G is locally compact.*

Proof. Suppose that the evaluation mapping is continuous. The Theorem yields that G^* is locally compact and α_G is an embedding. It follows that G^{**} is locally compact. Hence $\alpha_G(G)$, which is an open subset of G^{**} , is locally compact. Thus G is locally compact. The converse has already been noted above. \square

Remarks. (a) The Corollary shows that the evaluation mapping associated with a reflexive group is continuous if and only if the group is locally compact. This result has recently been found by E. Martín-Peinador ([7]). Her proof is based on the concept of convergence groups. Our approach is much simpler.

(b) Neither of the two properties from part (iii) of the Theorem implies the other. In order to see this let us first consider any reflexive group G which is not locally compact. (For example, we could choose G to be the additive group of some infinite dimensional Banach space.) Then α_G is continuous while G^* is not locally compact.

Next we present a class of groups G such that G^* is locally compact and α_G is not continuous. Moreover, α_G is open and bijective. Let H be a non-compact locally compact abelian group and let G denote the group H endowed with the weak topology, i.e., the weakest topology such that all characters of H are continuous. We prove that G is a topological group which satisfies the properties mentioned above. First let us note that the mapping $\varphi : H \rightarrow \mathbf{T}^{H^*}$, $x \mapsto (\chi(x))_{\chi \in H^*}$, induces a topological isomorphism of G onto $\varphi(H)$. (In particular, G is a topological group.) If G is locally compact, then $\varphi(H)$ is a closed subgroup of the compact group \mathbf{T}^{H^*} and hence is compact. Thus $G \neq H$ (as topological groups). From a theorem

of Glicksberg ([4],1.2; cf. [2]) it follows that $G^* = H^*$ (as topological groups). In particular, G^* is locally compact and $\alpha_G = \alpha_H$. Since $\alpha_H : H \rightarrow H^{**}$ is a topological isomorphism, it follows that α_G is an open isomorphism and α_G is not continuous.

(c) The following examples show that the Corollary is no longer valid if one of the hypotheses on α_G is omitted. Suppose that G^* is discrete. Then the evaluation mapping is continuous and α_G is continuous. First we consider a non-trivial group G such that G^* is trivial. Then α_G is open and surjective. Moreover, G is not reflexive and hence is not locally compact. As a standard example for groups with trivial character groups, we mention L^p -spaces with $0 < p < 1$ ([5],23.32). For further examples see [11]. Dierolf and Warken proved that every abelian Hausdorff group is a closed subgroup of an abelian Hausdorff group without non-trivial characters ([3]).

Now let G be the torsion subgroup of \mathbf{T} . Note that G is not locally compact. The inclusion mapping $\iota : G \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$ is an injective character of G . In particular, α_G is injective. It is known (cf. the last lines of [9]) that the mapping $k \mapsto \iota^k$ is a topological isomorphism of the discrete group of integers onto G^* .

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