

A GENERALIZED KAKUTANI-KODAIRA THEOREM

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ABSTRACT. In this note, we present a generalized Kakutani-Kodaira theorem for all locally compact groups.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let G be a locally compact group with identity e . The well-known classical Kakutani-Kodaira Theorem says that if G is σ -compact, then, for any sequence $\{U_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ of neighborhoods of e , there exists a compact *normal* subgroup N of G such that $N \subseteq \bigcap_{n=1}^\infty U_n$ and G/N is metrizable (cf. Kakutani-Kodaira [9]; see also, e.g., Hewitt-Ross [5, Theorem 8.7], Greenleaf-Moskowitz [3, Theorem A.9] and Lau-Losert [10, Remark 14(b)] for a different flavor of proofs). The significance of the Kakutani-Kodaira Theorem has been well demonstrated through its broad applications in harmonic analysis since its introduction in the early 40's. The only limitation of this theorem seems to be the restriction on the σ -compactness of G . However, this limitation is mitigated to a certain extent by the fact that every (non- σ -compact) locally compact group G contains a σ -compact open subgroup G_0 . In practice, the Kakutani-Kodaira Theorem is often applied to such G_0 . But in general the resulting compact normal subgroup N of G_0 may not necessarily be normal in G , even though the quotient space G/N of left cosets of N remains metrizable.

In this note, we shall present a generalized Kakutani-Kodaira theorem that applies to all locally compact groups (Theorem 2). The compact subgroup N obtained through this generalized version is assured to be *normal* in G . At first glance, we seem to have to yield the metrizability of G/N . However, the degree of the (non-)metrizability of G/N (or the local weight of G/N) is completely controlled by the compact covering number of G , which is exactly the essence of the original Kakutani-Kodaira Theorem.

The formulation of our generalized Kakutani-Kodaira theorem stems from the author's study on the dual relation between $L_\infty(G)$ and $VN(G)$ as *Kac algebras* and on how the structure of $L_\infty(G)$, $VN(G)$ and the structure of the underlying group G reflect each other (see Hu [8] for more information). Here, $L_\infty(G)$ is the abelian von Neumann algebra of multiplication operators on the Hilbert space $L_2(G)$, and

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$VN(G)$ is the von Neumann algebra generated by the left regular representation of G . It is well known that both $L_\infty(G)$ and $VN(G)$ are Kac algebras which are dual to each other, and together they generate the von Neumann algebra $\mathcal{B}(L_2(G))$ of all bounded linear operators on $L_2(G)$. See Enock-Schwartz [2] for a comprehensive account of the theory of Kac algebras.

2. PRELIMINARIES

For any topological space X , let $w(X)$ denote the weight of X , i.e., the least cardinality of an open basis for X . Let Ω be an infinite locally compact Hausdorff space and let Ω_∞ denote the one-point compactification of Ω . Then Ω_∞ is a compact Hausdorff space and Ω is open in Ω_∞ . Obviously, $\aleph_0 \leq w(\Omega) \leq w(\Omega_\infty)$. On the other hand, let \mathcal{E} be an open basis for Ω such that $|\mathcal{E}| = w(\Omega)$. We may assume that each $E \in \mathcal{E}$ is relatively compact in Ω and \mathcal{E} is closed under finite unions. It is readily seen that $\mathcal{E} \cup \{\Omega_\infty - cl_\Omega(E) : E \in \mathcal{E}\}$ is an open basis for Ω_∞ and hence $w(\Omega_\infty) \leq |\mathcal{E}| = w(\Omega)$. So, we always have $w(\Omega_\infty) = w(\Omega)$. By a minor modification of the proof of Smirnov Theorem, one can show that $dense(C_0(\Omega)) = w(\Omega_\infty)$ (cf. Hofmann-Morris [6, page 768]), where $C_0(\Omega)$ denotes the C^* -algebra of complex-valued continuous functions on Ω vanishing at infinity, and $dense(C_0(\Omega))$ is the norm density character of $C_0(\Omega)$. Therefore, we in fact have

(\dagger) $dense(C_0(\Omega)) = w(\Omega)$ for all infinite locally compact Hausdorff spaces Ω .

In [10, Remark 14(b)], Lau-Losert provided a very elegant and short proof of the classical Kakutani-Kodaira Theorem. Their proof is based on the following result, obtained in the same paper, on the structure of the commutative C^* -algebra $C_0(G)$.

Lemma 1 ([10, Lemma 12]). *Let G be a locally compact group. Then \mathcal{A} is a non-zero left translation invariant C^* -subalgebra of $C_0(G)$ if and only if there exists a unique compact subgroup $N_{\mathcal{A}}$ of G such that*

$$\mathcal{A} = \{f \in C_0(G) : f_t = f \text{ for all } t \in N_{\mathcal{A}}\},$$

where f_t denotes the right translate of f by t . Furthermore, \mathcal{A} is translation invariant if and only if $N_{\mathcal{A}}$ is normal in G .

3. A GENERALIZED KAKUTANI-KODAIRA THEOREM

For a locally compact group G , we will use $\kappa(G)$ to denote the compact covering number of G , and $\chi(G)$ to denote the local weight of G , i.e., the least cardinality of a neighborhood basis at the identity e of G . With the above preparation, we are now ready to prove the following generalized version of the Kakutani-Kodaira Theorem for all locally compact groups G , which clearly includes the classical Kakutani-Kodaira Theorem as a special case (the case when $\kappa(G) \leq \aleph_0$). The proof is made amazingly brief by applying Lemma 1 and equality (\dagger) and adopting a similar argument as used in Lau-Losert [10, Remark 14(b)] (thanks to Professor Anthony T. Lau for bringing [10, Remark 14(b)] to our attention).

Theorem 2. *Let G be a locally compact group. Then, for any family $\{U_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \Lambda}$ of neighborhoods of e with $|\Lambda| \leq \kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0$, there exists a compact normal subgroup N of G such that $N \subseteq \bigcap_{\alpha \in \Lambda} U_\alpha$ and $\chi(G/N) \leq \kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0$.*

Proof. First, let U be a neighborhood of e . Choose a real-valued continuous function f on G with compact support such that $\text{supp } f \subseteq U$ and $f(e) = 1$. Let \mathcal{A} be the translation invariant C^* -subalgebra of $C_0(G)$ generated by f .

Claim 1: $\text{dense}(\mathcal{A}) \leq \kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0$. Let n be any fixed positive integer. For each $x \in G$, since f is a continuous function on G with compact support, there exists a neighborhood $U_n(x)$ of x such that

$$\|_y f - x f\| < \frac{1}{n} \quad \text{and} \quad \|f_y - f_x\| < \frac{1}{n} \quad \text{for all } y \in U_n(x),$$

where $_y f$ denotes the left translate of f by y . So, there exists a subset E_n of G such that $|E_n| \leq \kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0$ and $G = \bigcup_{x \in E_n} U_n(x)$. We may assume that $e \in E_n$ for all n . Let

$$E = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} E_n \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{D} = \{ {}_x f_y : x, y \in E \}.$$

Then $|E| \leq \kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0$ and so $|\mathcal{D}| \leq \kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0$. Let \mathcal{Q}_c be the set of ‘‘rational’’ complex numbers, i.e., $\mathcal{Q}_c = \{ a + ib : a \text{ and } b \text{ are rational numbers} \}$. Let \mathcal{B} denote the set of functions of the form $\sum_{m=1}^n c_m h_m$, where $c_m \in \mathcal{Q}_c$ and h_m is a finite product of elements of \mathcal{D} . Then $|\mathcal{B}| \leq |\mathcal{D}| \cdot \aleph_0 \leq \kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0$. It is readily seen that $\overline{\mathcal{B}}^{\|\cdot\|}$ is the translation invariant C^* -subalgebra of $C_0(G)$ generated by f , i.e., $\mathcal{A} = \overline{\mathcal{B}}^{\|\cdot\|}$. It follows that

$$\text{dense}(\mathcal{A}) \leq |\mathcal{B}| \leq \kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0.$$

Therefore, Claim 1 is proved.

Owing to Lemma 1, there must exist a compact normal subgroup N of G such that $\mathcal{A} = C_0(G/N)$.

Claim 2: $\chi(G/N) \leq \kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0$ and $N \subseteq U$. Obviously, $\chi(G/N) \leq \kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0$ if G/N is finite. Assume that G/N is infinite. Combining Claim 1 with equality (†), we have

$$\chi(G/N) \leq w(G/N) = \text{dense}(C_0(G/N)) = \text{dense}(\mathcal{A}) \leq \kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0.$$

Furthermore, for all $t \in N$, since $f_t = f$, $f(t) = f(e) = 1$. In particular, we have $N \subseteq \text{supp } f \subseteq U$. Therefore, Claim 2 holds.

In general, let $\{U_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \Lambda}$ be an arbitrary family of neighborhoods of e such that $|\Lambda| \leq \kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0$. Let us consider the functions f_α for all U_α as we choose f for U . Let \mathcal{A} be the translation invariant C^* -subalgebra of $C_0(G)$ generated by $\{f_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \Lambda}$. Then, by Lemma 1 again, $\mathcal{A} = C_0(G/N)$ for some compact normal subgroup N of G . Since $|\Lambda| \leq \kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0$, it is readily seen from the proof of Claim 1 that $\text{dense}(\mathcal{A}) \leq \kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0$. It follows that

$$\chi(G/N) \leq w(G/N) \leq \text{dense}(C_0(G/N)) = \text{dense}(\mathcal{A}) \leq \kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0.$$

Moreover, for each $\alpha \in \Lambda$, since $f_\alpha \in C_0(G/N)$ and $f_\alpha(t) = f_\alpha(e) = 1$ for all $t \in N$, we have $N \subseteq \text{supp } f_\alpha \subseteq U_\alpha$. Therefore, $N \subseteq \bigcap_{\alpha \in \Lambda} U_\alpha$. The proof is complete. \square

Remark 3. As a special case when G is a σ -compact locally compact group, Theorem 2 naturally reduces to the classical Kakutani-Kodaira Theorem. This is because G is σ -compact if and only if $\kappa(G) \leq \aleph_0$ and the quotient group G/N is metrizable if and only if $\chi(G/N) \leq \aleph_0$ (cf. [5, Theorem 8.5]).

Remark 4. Let κ be any cardinal number. A subset E of G is called κ -open in G if E is an intersection of no more than κ open subsets of G . Let $\gamma(E)$ denote the

least cardinal number κ such that E is κ -open in G . Adopting the argument used in Hewitt-Ross [4, (28.69(a))], we can obtain the following equality:

$$(\ddagger) \quad \chi(G/N) = \gamma(N).$$

Furthermore, combining (\ddagger) with Hu [7, Lemma 4.2] (which implies that $\chi(G) \leq \gamma(N) \cdot \chi(N)$) and noting that $\chi(N) \leq \chi(G)$ and $\chi(G/N) \leq \chi(G)$, we conclude that

$$(\#) \quad \chi(G) = \chi(G/N) \cdot \chi(N).$$

Obviously, Theorem 2 is trivial if $\chi(G) \leq \kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0$. The equality $(\#)$ tells us that if $\kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0 < \chi(G)$, then the non-trivial compact normal subgroup N of G obtained in Theorem 2 satisfies $\chi(N) = \chi(G)$. Hence, in this case, we also have $w(N) = w(G)$ and $|N| = |G|$ (cf. Comfort [1, Theorem 3.5(iii) and Theorem 3.12(iii)]). On the other hand, since $\kappa(G/N) = \kappa(G)$ (cf. Hewitt-Ross [5, (5.24(a))]) and $\chi(G/N) \leq \kappa(G) \cdot \aleph_0 = \kappa(G/N) \cdot \aleph_0$, the abelian von Neumann algebra $L_\infty(G/N)$ is a so-called maximally decomposable sub-Kac algebra of $L_\infty(G)$ (cf. Hu [8]).

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