

# ON A COMMUTATIVE EXTENSION OF A BANACH ALGEBRA<sup>1</sup>

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**Introduction.** Let  $A$  be a commutative semi-simple Banach algebra and let  $\Delta(A)$  be the set of nonzero multiplicative functionals on  $A$ . Denote by  $A'$  the strongly closed span of  $\Delta(A)$  and by  $A''$  the Banach space adjoint of  $A'$ . Modifying a construction of R. Arens [1] we introduce a multiplication in  $A''$  under which  $A''$  becomes a *commutative* Banach algebra.  $A$  is algebraically isomorphic to a subalgebra of  $A''$  and the isomorphism is continuous. Indeed, we will henceforth need that *the embedding of  $A$  in  $A''$  be topological*. If  $A$  has a weak bounded approximate identity, then the algebra  $A^m$  of multipliers of  $A$  (see [3; 4]) is likewise embeddable in  $A''$  and the isomorphism is again continuous. In this paper we are concerned with identification of  $A^m$  in  $A''$ . For example, if  $A$  is, in addition to the above assumptions, regular and Tauberian and if  $\Delta(A)$  is discrete, then  $A^m$  and  $A''$  are topologically and algebraically isomorphic. The main result is the following: For  $A$  with approximate identity in  $j_A(\infty)$ , an element  $F$  of  $A''$  is a multiplier of  $A$  if and only if  $F$  belongs locally to  $\hat{A}$  at each point of  $\Delta(A)$ .

The multiplier algebra of the group algebra  $L_1(G)$  of a locally compact abelian group  $G$  is the algebra  $M(G)$  of bounded measures on  $G$ . In this case, our main theorem closely parallels Eberlein's necessary and sufficient condition for a function to be a Fourier-Stieltjes transform of a measure on  $G$ . See [5]. As an application, we construct  $A''$  and use Eberlein's theorem to determine the algebra of multipliers of the  $L_1$ -algebra of certain semi-groups  $G_+$ .

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1. **Preliminaries.**  $\hat{A}$  is the function algebra on  $\Delta(A)$  isomorphic to the commutative semi-simple Banach algebra  $A$  in the Gelfand theory. Let  $A^m$  be the set of all complex-valued functions on  $\Delta(A)$  such that  $f \cdot \hat{x} \in \hat{A}$  for all  $x \in A$ . Each  $f \in A^m$  determines a bounded operator  $f$  on  $A$  given by  $(fx)^\wedge = f\hat{x}$ . The set of all such operators with the uniform operator norm is a commutative semi-simple Banach algebra under the obvious operations. It is called the algebra of multipliers

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of  $A$  and is designated by  $A^m$ . (The ambiguous use of  $A^m$  will be clear in context.)  $\Delta(A)$  is homeomorphic to a subset of  $\Delta(A^m)$  both in their weak\* topologies. See [3].

$A$  is said to be regular if functions in  $\hat{A}$  separate points and closed sets of  $\Delta(A)$ .  $j_A(\infty)$  is the set of  $x \in A$  such that  $\hat{x}$  has compact support. Regular  $A$  is called Tauberian, if  $j_A(\infty)$  is dense in  $A$ .

$A^*$  will denote the Banach space adjoint of  $A$  and  $A^{**}$ , the second adjoint. If  $f$  is a function on  $X$  and  $Y \subset X$ ,  $f|Y$  will denote the restriction of  $f$  to  $Y$ . Let  $K$  be the complex number field.

2. **Construction of  $A''$ .** For completeness, we first sketch the construction of R. Arens [1] used to introduce a multiplication in  $A^{**}$ .

Define  $fx$  ( $x \in A, f \in A^*$ ) by  $fx(y) = f(xy)$  for  $y \in A$ , define  $Ff$  ( $f \in A^*, F \in A^{**}$ ) by  $Ff(x) = F(fx)$  for  $x \in A$ , define  $GF$  ( $F, G \in A^{**}$ ) by  $GF(f) = G(Ff)$  for  $f \in A^*$ .  $fx$  is linear on  $A$  and  $|fx(y)| = |f(xy)| \leq \|f\| \|xy\| \leq \|f\| \|x\| \|y\|$ , hence  $fx \in A^*$  and  $\|fx\| \leq \|f\| \|x\|$ . Similarly,  $Ff$  is linear on  $A$  and  $|Ff(x)| = |F(fx)| \leq \|F\| \|fx\| \leq \|F\| \|f\| \|x\|$ , so  $Ff \in A^*$  and  $\|Ff\| \leq \|F\| \|f\|$ . Also  $GF$  is linear on  $A^*$ ,  $|GF(f)| = |G(Ff)| \leq \|G\| \|Ff\| \leq \|G\| \|F\| \|f\|$ , therefore,  $GF \in A^{**}$  and  $\|GF\| \leq \|G\| \|F\|$ . As Arens points out, multiplication so defined in  $A^{**}$  is not in general commutative.

In the above construction replace  $A^*$  by the strongly closed span  $A'$  of  $\Delta(A)$ . Indeed, we might even replace  $A^*$  by the strongly closed span of the Silov boundary  $\partial\Delta(A)$  of  $\Delta(A)$ . ( $\partial\Delta(A)$  is the minimal closed set on which each function  $\hat{x} \in \hat{A}$  maximizes.) We then introduce as in the preceding paragraph a multiplication in  $A'' = A'^*$  which is defined on a dense subset of  $A'$  as follows (all sums are finite):

- (i)  $(\sum a_r p_r)x = \sum a_r p_r(x) p_r$  ( $p_r \in \Delta(A), x \in A, a_r \in K$ ),
- (ii)  $F(\sum a_r p_r) = \sum a_r F(p_r) p_r$  ( $F \in A''$ ,  $\sum a_r p_r \in A'$ ),
- (iii)  $FG$  is given by  $FG(\sum a_r p_r) = \sum a_r F(p_r) G(p_r)$  ( $F, G \in A''$ ,  $\sum a_r p_r \in A'$ )

$FG$  clearly extends to a function on all of  $A'$ . Multiplication so defined is commutative and exactly as in the Arens construction  $\|FG\| \leq \|F\| \|G\|$ .

3. **Embeddings.** In a natural fashion  $A$  can be embedded in  $A''$  and the embedding is continuous. Let  $x^{**}$  be the element of  $A^{**}$  associated, under the canonical embedding of  $A$  in  $A^{**}$ , with  $x \in A$ . Then  $x^{**}|A' \in A''$ . And

$$\langle \sum a_r p_r, (x^{**}|A')(y^{**}|A') \rangle = \sum a_r (x^{**}|A')(p_r)(y^{**}|A')(p_r)$$

which agrees with the multiplication in  $A''$  given by (iii) above. Observe that  $x^{**}|\Delta(A) = \hat{x}$ .

In order to realize  $A^m$  as a subalgebra of  $A''$ , we assume that  $A$  has a weak bounded approximate identity; that is, there exists a net  $\{x_\delta\}$  in  $A$  such that for each finite set  $\{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n\} \subset \Delta(A)$ ,  $\lim_\delta x_\delta(p_\nu) = 1$  for  $\nu = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$  and  $\{x_\delta\}$  is strongly bounded. Then

$$\begin{aligned} |F \sum a_\nu p_\nu| &= | \sum a_\nu F(p_\nu) | = \lim_\delta | \sum a_\nu F x_\delta(p_\nu) | \\ (1) \qquad &= \lim_\delta | F x_\delta \sum a_\nu p_\nu | \leq \lim_\delta \|F x_\delta\| \| \sum a_\nu p_\nu \| \\ &\leq k \|F\| \| \sum a_\nu p_\nu \| \end{aligned}$$

for each  $F \in A^m$  where  $\|x_\delta\| \leq k$  for all  $\delta$ . (1) implies that  $A^m$  is embedded continuously in  $A''$ . Semi-simplicity of  $A^m$  assures that the embedding is one-one. Existence of an approximate identity in the strong sense—a bounded net  $\{x_\delta\} \subset A$  such that  $\|x_\delta x - x\| \rightarrow 0$  for all  $x \in A$ —evidently suffices to accomplish this embedding.

**4. Example.** We note the form of  $A''$  when  $A = L_1(G)$  with  $G$  a locally compact Abelian group:  $A'$  is the strongly closed span of  $\hat{G}$ , the dual of  $G$ .  $\hat{G}$  is contained in the essential bounded functions  $L_\infty(G)$  on  $G$ . So the norm in this case is the essential supremum norm of  $L_\infty(G)$ . It is well known that the uniform closure of the characters of  $G$  are precisely the almost periodic functions on  $G$ , which in turn can be identified as the continuous functions on the almost periodic compactification  $G^*$  of  $G$ . Denote this sup-normed Banach algebra by  $C(G^*)$ . The adjoint of  $C(G^*)$  is  $M(G^*)$ .  $M(G)$  is isometrically isomorphic to a subset of  $M(G^*)$ . The multipliers of  $L_1(G)$  (viz.  $M(G)$ ) are precisely the measures of  $M(G^*)$  which have weak\* continuous restrictions to  $\hat{G}$ . This last result is due to Eberlein [5]. Also see Glicksberg [6].

**THEOREM.** *Let  $A$  be a regular Tauberian commutative semi-simple Banach algebra with discrete maximal regular ideal space  $\Delta$ . If  $A$  is topologically embedded in  $A''$  and  $A^m$  is embeddable in  $A''$ , then  $A^m = A''$ .*

**PROOF.** Let  $J = \{x \in A : Fx \in \hat{A} \text{ where } F \in A''\}$ . Since  $A$  is regular and  $\Delta$  is discrete,

$$I = \{x_p : \hat{x}_p(p) = 1, \hat{x}_p(p') = 0 \text{ for } p \neq p'; p, p' \in \Delta\} \subset J.$$

Indeed,  $\text{span}(I) \subset J$ . Consequently,  $F \cdot j_A(\infty)^\wedge \subset \hat{A}$ . But  $x_n \rightarrow x$  in  $A$ ,  $x_n \in j_A(\infty)$ , implies  $Fx \in A$ , since  $Fx_n \rightarrow Fx$  in  $A''$  and  $A$  is embedded topologically in  $A''$ . So  $F \cdot j_A(\infty)^\wedge \subset \hat{A}$ . Therefore  $A'' = A^m$ .

**REMARK.** However, even when  $A$  is regular and topologically em-

bedded in  $A''$ , and when  $A^m$  is embeddable in  $A''$ , it is not true that  $A^m$  is the set of those elements of  $A''$  whose restrictions to  $\Delta$  are weak\* continuous, as one might hope from the previous example and theorem. Specifically, if  $D$  is the algebra of complex-valued functions on  $[0, 1]$  possessing continuous first derivatives, functionals in  $A''$  can be identified as indefinite integrals of functions in  $L_\infty[0, 1]$ , whereas  $D^m = \hat{D}$ , the set of continuously differentiable functions on  $[0, 1]$ .

**5. Main theorem.** Under certain restrictions, however, we are able to obtain a necessary and sufficient condition that a functional in  $A''$  actually be a multiplier of  $A$ .

**DEFINITION.** Let  $A$  be a commutative semi-simple Banach algebra with regular maximal ideal space  $\Delta$ . A function  $f$  on  $\Delta$  is said to belong locally to  $\hat{A}$  at  $p \in \Delta$  if there exists a neighborhood  $V$  of  $p$  and a function  $\hat{x} \in \hat{A}$  such that  $f|_V = \hat{x}|_V$ .  $f$  belongs locally to  $\hat{A}$  at  $\infty$  if there exists a neighborhood  $W$  of  $\infty$  in  $\Delta \cup \{\infty\}$  and a function  $\hat{x} \in \hat{A}$  such that  $f|_W = \hat{x}|_W$ .

In the lemmas which follow we assume that  $A$  is a regular commutative semi-simple Banach algebra, that  $A$  is embedded topologically in  $A''$  and that  $A^m$  is embeddable in  $A''$ .

**LEMMA 1.** *If  $f \in A^m$ , then  $f$  belongs locally to  $\hat{A}$  at each  $p \in \Delta$ .*

**PROOF.** Let  $p \in \Delta$ . Choose a compact neighborhood  $V$  and a function  $\hat{x} \in \hat{A}$  such that  $\hat{x}(p) = 1$  for  $p \in V$  (possible, by regularity). Then, for  $f \in A^m$ ,  $f\hat{x} \in \hat{A}$  and  $f\hat{x}|_V = f|_V$ .

Our next lemma is essentially established in [7, p. 85].

**LEMMA 2.** *If a function  $f$  on  $\Delta$  belongs locally to  $\hat{A}$  at each  $p \in \Delta \cup \{\infty\}$ , then  $f \in \hat{A}$ .*

**PROOF.** If  $x_i \in A$  and  $f = \hat{x}_i$  on  $U_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) and if  $C$  is a compact subset of  $U_2$ , then there exists  $y \in A$  such that  $f = \hat{y}$  on  $U_1 \cup C$ : Using regularity, let  $e \in A$  be such that  $\hat{e} = 1$  on  $C$  and  $\hat{e} = 0$  on  $\Delta - U_2$ . Define  $y = x_2e + x_1(1 - e)$ .  $\hat{y} = \hat{x}_2 = f$  on  $C$ ,  $\hat{y} = \hat{x}_1 = f$  on  $U_1 - U_2$ , and  $\hat{y} = f\hat{e} + f(1 - \hat{e}) = f$  on  $U_1 \cap U_2$ . Now cover  $\Delta \cup \{\infty\}$  with finitely many open sets  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n$  such that  $f = \hat{x}_i$  on  $U_i$  and  $x_i \in A$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ). We can find open sets  $V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n$  also covering  $\Delta \cup \{\infty\}$  such that  $V_i \subset \bar{V}_i \subset U_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ). Using the first assertion of the proof and iterating, we have  $f = \hat{y}$  on  $\Delta$  with  $y \in A$ .

If  $F \in A''$  and if for each  $p \in \Delta \cup \{\infty\}$ , there is a neighborhood  $V$  of  $p$  with  $F\hat{A}|_V \subset \hat{A}|_V$ , then  $F \in A^m$ , since  $F\hat{x}$  ( $x \in A$ ) belongs locally to  $\hat{A}$  at each  $p \in \Delta \cup \{\infty\}$  and the previous lemma applies.

LEMMA 3. *If  $x \in (xj_A(\infty)^-)$  for every  $x \in A$  and if  $F \in A''$  belongs locally to  $\hat{A}$  at each  $p \in \Delta$ , then  $F \in A^m$ .*

PROOF. Choose  $\{x_n\} \in j_A(\infty)$  with the property that  $x_n x \rightarrow x$  in  $A$ . Clearly,  $Fx_n$  belongs locally to  $\hat{A}$  at each  $p \in \Delta \cup \{\infty\}$ , hence  $Fx_n \in \hat{A}$ . For any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$\|Fx_n - Fx\| \leq \|F\| \|x_n x - x\| < \epsilon \quad \text{for large } n.$$

And by the topological embedding of  $A$  in  $A''$  we have that  $Fx \in A$ . Therefore  $F \in A^m$ .

The existence of an approximate identity  $\{u_\delta\} \subset j_A(\infty)$  suffices for  $x$  to be in  $xj_A(\infty)^-$  and for  $A^m$  to be embeddable in  $A''$ .

THEOREM. *Let  $A$  be a regular commutative semi-simple Banach algebra with an approximate identity  $\{u_\delta\} \subset j_A(\infty)$  and such that  $A$  is topologically embeddable in  $A''$ . Then  $F \in A''$  is a multiplier of  $A$  if and only if  $F$  belongs locally to  $\hat{A}$  at each point of  $\Delta$ .*

The striking similarity of the above theorem with Eberlein's characterization of Fourier-Stieltjes transforms of measures [5] can be emphasized by reformulating the theorem without specific reference to  $A''$ . That  $F$  be in  $A''$  simply requires: there exist a constant  $k$  such that

$$(2) \quad \left| \sum a_\nu F(p_\nu) \right| \leq k \left| \sum a_\nu p_\nu \right|$$

for all  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n \in \Delta$  and complex numbers  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$ . Eberlein's proof can be viewed as a verification of the fact that continuous functions on  $\Delta = \hat{G}$  satisfying (2) belong locally to  $\hat{A} = L_1(\hat{G})^\wedge$  and hence are in  $A^m = M(G)$ .

However, it seems worthwhile to give a direct proof<sup>2</sup> that (2) implies  $F$  belongs locally to  $L_1(\hat{G})^\wedge$ . By regularity, if  $D$  is a compact neighborhood of some point of  $\hat{G}$  and  $E$  is an open subset containing  $D$ , then there exists an  $f \in L_1(\hat{G})$  such that  $\hat{f}(p) = 1$  for  $p \in D$  and  $\hat{f}(p) = 0$  for  $p \in \hat{G} - E$ . Consequently,  $H = F \cdot \hat{f}$  is in  $L_1 \cap L_2(G)$ . Let  $T^*$  denote the inverse Fourier transform. To have  $F$  belong locally to  $L_1(\hat{G})^\wedge$  it is sufficient to show that  $T^*H \in L_2(G)$  is also in  $L_1(G)$ . Let  $U$  be an element in  $C(\hat{G})$  of an approximate identity on  $\hat{G}$  with  $\hat{U}$  having compact support. Then by the Plancherel theorem,

$$(3) \quad \left| \int_G \sum a_\nu p_\nu(x) T^*H(x) \hat{U}(x) dx \right| = \left| \int_{\hat{G}} (\sum a_\nu L_{p_\nu} H)(p) U(p) dp \right|$$

<sup>2</sup> Added on May 25, 1962. This proof is due essentially to Professor I. Glicksberg, who provided corrections needed to circumvent certain errors in the author's original argument.

where  $L_p$ , denotes left translation by  $p^{-1}$ . Furthermore,

$$(4) \quad \sup_{p \in \hat{G}} \left| \sum a_r L_{p_r} H(p) \right| \leq k \left\| \sum a_r p_r \right\|_\infty$$

by (2). Let the support of  $\hat{U}$  be  $S$ .  $S$  is compact in the almost periodic compactification  $G^*$  of  $G$ , so by Tietze's theorem we can find an almost periodic function  $h \in C(G^*)$  such that

$$h|_S = \exp(-i \arg(T^*H \cdot \hat{U}))$$

with  $\|h\|_\infty \leq 1$ . Then  $h$  can be uniformly approximated on  $G^*$  by a trigonometric polynomial  $\sum a_r p_r$ , of modulus less than  $1 + \epsilon$ . Using this trigonometric polynomial in (3) and (4) we have

$$\int_G |(T^*H)\hat{U}| \leq \left| \int_G (T^*H) \cdot \sum a_r p_r \cdot \hat{U} \right| \leq M$$

where  $M$  is a constant. And since we can make  $|\hat{U}| > 1/2$  on any compact subset  $C$  of  $G$ ,

$$\int_C |T^*H| \leq 2M$$

on an arbitrary compact subset  $C$  of  $G$ , thereby showing that  $T^*H$  is in  $L_1(G)$ .

**6. An application.** Let  $G_+$  be a closed semi-group of  $G$  such that the interior of  $G_+$  is dense in  $G_+$ ,  $1 \in G_+$ , and the interior of  $G_+$  generates  $G$ . For such semi-groups  $G_+$  we propose to identify the multipliers of  $L_1(G_+) = \{f \in L_1(G) : f \text{ vanishes off } G_+\}$ .  $L_1(G_+)$  is a closed subalgebra of  $L_1(G)$ . Let  $\hat{G}$  be the dual of  $G$  and let  $A'$  be the closed span of  $\hat{G}$  in the norm of  $L_\infty(G)$ . Let  $L_1(G)dx$  and  $L_1(G_+)dx$  designate  $L_1(G)$  and  $L_1(G_+)$ , respectively, considered as embedded (topologically) in  $C_0(G)^*$ .

Suppose  $\mu \in M(G)$  has the property that for all  $\mu_f \in L_1(G_+)dx$ ,  $\mu * \mu_f = \mu_g$  where  $\mu_g \in L_1(G_+)dx$ . We will first show that  $\mu$  must vanish off  $G_+$ .

Let  $\{\mu_\delta\}$  be an approximate identity of  $L_1(G)dx$  and let  $\mu \in M(G)$ . For any  $h \in C_0(G)$ , the set of continuous functions on  $G$  vanishing at  $\infty$ , we have

$$\mu * \mu_\delta(h) = \int \int_G h(xy) \mu_\delta(dx) \mu(dy) = \int \int_G h(xy) \mu_\delta(x) dx \mu(dy)$$

and

$$|\mu * \mu_\delta(h) - \mu(h)| = \left| \int \int_G (h(xy) - h(x)) \mu_\delta(x) dx \mu(dy) \right|.$$

Since  $y \rightarrow h^y (h^y(x) = h(xy))$  is uniformly continuous on  $G$ , choose  $V$  such that for  $y \in V, \|h^y - h\|_\infty < \epsilon / \|\mu\|$ . Then, taking  $\mu_\delta$  with support  $(\mu_\delta) \subset V$  we have

$$\left| \int \int_G (h(xy) - h(x)) \mu_\delta(x) dx \mu(dy) \right| \leq \|h^y - h\|_\infty \|\mu\| < \epsilon.$$

Therefore, pointwise on  $C_0(G), \mu * \mu_\delta \rightarrow \mu$ .

Suppose that  $\text{support}(\mu) \cap (G - G_+) \neq \emptyset$ , and let  $N$  be a compact set with  $|\mu(N)| > 0$  and  $N \subset \text{support}(\mu) \cap G - G_+$ . (This is possible, since  $\mu$  is regular and  $G_+$  is closed.) Let  $f \in C_0(G)$  be such that  $f \equiv 1$  on a compact neighborhood  $U$  of  $N$  and  $f \equiv 0$  off some open neighborhood  $W$  of  $N$ . Let  $V$  be a neighborhood of the identity satisfying  $V \cdot N \subset U$ . Choose  $\{\mu_\sigma\}$  from an approximate identity of  $L_1(G) dx$  with  $\mu \in L_1(G_+) dx$ . ( $G_+$  is dense in  $G_+$  and Haar measure is positive on open sets.)  $\mu * \mu_\sigma(f) \rightarrow \mu(f)$ .  $\mu * \mu_\sigma$  is assumed an element of  $L_1(G_+) dx$ , hence is supported by  $G_+$ . Choosing  $\mu_0 \in \{\mu_\sigma\}$  such that  $\text{support}(\mu_0) \subset V$ , then

$$|\mu * \mu_0(f)| \geq \left| \int_{G \cap VN} 1 \mu(dy) \right| \geq |\mu(N)| > 0$$

in contradiction to the fact that  $\text{support}(\mu * \mu_0) \subset G_+$ . Hence any measure on  $G$  which is a multiplier of  $L_1(G_+)$  must vanish off  $G_+$ .

Finally, we establish that such measures are precisely the multipliers of  $L_1(G_+)$ .  $\Delta(L_1(G)) \subset \Delta(L_1(G_+))$ ,  $\Delta(L_1(G))$  is the Silov boundary of  $L_1(G_+)$  in  $\Delta(L_1(G_+))$ , and the topologies (relative and original) agree on  $\Delta(L_1(G))$ . See [2]. Constructing  $L_1(G_+)''$  using functionals in the closed span of the Silov boundary  $\Delta(L_1(G))$  in  $\Delta(L_1(G_+))$ , we may still reason that  $L_1(G_+)'' \subset C_0(G^*)^* = L_1(G)''$ . Consequently, since any multiplier of  $L_1(G_+)$  must be continuous on  $\Delta(L_1(G))$ , we can apply Eberlein's theorem to conclude that every multiplier of  $L_1(G_+)$  is in  $M(G)$  and by the preceding paragraph must vanish off  $G_+$ .

**THEOREM.** *The multipliers of  $L_1(G_+)$  are those measures in  $M(G)$  with support contained in  $G_+$ .*

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### A GENERAL THEORY OF $k$ -PLACE STROKE FUNCTIONS IN 2-VALUED LOGIC

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Let  $O$  be a 2-valued operator which may be applied to  $k$  ( $k \geq 1$ ) statements  $P_1, \dots, P_k$  to generate a new statement  $O(P_1, \dots, P_k)$ . Let  $o(p_1, \dots, p_k)$  denote the truth-value function associated with  $O(P_1, \dots, P_k)$ . We will assume that  $o(p_1, \dots, p_k)$  is defined by the standard truth table which is associated with the statement  $O(P_1, \dots, P_k)$  when 1 denotes "true" and 2 denotes "false." A set of operators  $\{O_1, \dots, O_i\}$  will be called *functionally complete* if a statement calculus based on  $O_1, \dots, O_i$  is functionally complete. If the set  $\{O\}$  is functionally complete, then  $O$  will be called a  *$k$ -place stroke* and  $O(P_1, \dots, P_k)$  will be called a  *$k$ -place stroke function*. If  $k=2$ , there are exactly two  $k$ -place stroke functions; namely, the well-known  $\uparrow(P_1, P_2)$  and  $\downarrow(P_1, P_2)$  which are such that  $\uparrow(p_1, p_2) = 3 - \max(p_1, p_2)$  and  $\downarrow(p_1, p_2) = 3 - \min(p_1, p_2)$ . The purpose of this paper is to give a general method for constructing and calculating the number of  $k$ -place stroke functions for any given  $k$  ( $1, 2, \dots, N$ ). If  $k=1$ , then the set of  $k$ -place stroke functions is null. Hence, the present problem of generating  $k$ -place stroke functions becomes interesting only when  $k \geq 3$ .

If a standard truth table is constructed for  $O(P_1, \dots, P_k)$ , it will contain  $2^k$  rows, and the  $i$ th row will correspond to the  $i$ th term in the lexicographical ordering of the sets of truth values  $[v_1, \dots, v_k]$  which are assigned to the arguments  $P_1, \dots, P_k$ . Let  $X_i$  denote the truth value of  $O(P_1, \dots, P_k)$  in the  $i$ th row of a standard truth table for  $O(P_1, \dots, P_k)$ . The truth values of  $O(P_1, \dots, P_k)$  which appear