EXTENSION OF UNITARY OPERATORS

BY

Carl E. Linderholm

Let $(X, \mathfrak{M}, \mu)$ be a measure space; the space $(X, \mathfrak{M}, \mu)$ will ordinarily be written X. A *measure-preserving transformation* on X is a function T whose domain is X, and whose range is a subset of X, such that if E is a measurable set of X then $T^{-1}E$ is measurable and $\mu(T^{-1}E) = \mu(E)$. Let T be a measure-preserving transformation on X. If there exists a measure-preserving transformation S on X such that $ST(x) = TS(x) = x$ a.e. then T is *invertible*.

Let T be an invertible measure-preserving transformation on X. It is well known that if $f \in \mathfrak{L}^2(X)$ then $fT \in \mathfrak{L}^2(X)$ and that the correspondence $f \to fT$ is a unitary operator on $\mathfrak{L}^2(X)$. This is called the unitary operator *induced* by T.

The following theorem is due to Kakutani [5].

Theorem. *Let U be a unitary operator on a separable Hilbert space $\mathfrak{H}$. Then there exists a measure space $(X, \mathfrak{M}, \mu)$ isomorphic to the space of the interval $[0, 1)$ with Lebesgue measure, a measure-preserving transformation T on X, and a subspace $\mathfrak{K}$ of $\mathfrak{L}^2(X)$ invariant under the unitary operator U_T induced by T, such that the restriction of U_T to $\mathfrak{K}$ is unitarily equivalent to U.*

Remark. Kakutani's proof involves a non-trivial argument based on properties of Gauss functions. Some of the details were not published in [5]. The proof presented here has a more elementary approach, although it does not develop the facts as completely as Kakutani's does.

Proof. The proof is based on a form of the spectral theorem for unitary operators. If $(Y, \mathfrak{N}, \nu)$ is a measure space and φ is a complex-valued measurable function on Y such that $|\varphi(y)| = 1$ for every point y of Y, then for every function f in $\mathfrak{L}^2(Y)$ the product $\varphi f \in \mathfrak{L}^2(Y)$, and the mapping

$$V : f \to \varphi f$$

is a unitary operator on $\mathfrak{L}^2(Y)$. By a certain form of the spectral theorem [2, pp. 911–912], [3] there exist a space Y and a function φ such that the operator V is unitarily equivalent to U. We therefore replace U and $\mathfrak{H}$ by V and $\mathfrak{L}^2(Y)$. Moreover, in case U has no proper values we may take Y to be normal in the sense of [4]; in case the proper vectors of U span $\mathfrak{H}$ then Y may be taken to be a countable set and we may assume that $\nu(Y) = 1$ and if $y \in Y$ then $\{y\} \in \mathfrak{M}$ and $\nu\,\{y\}) > 0$; and if neither of these holds then we may take Y to be the normalized union of two such spaces as occur in the first two cases.

Let $(C, \mathfrak{C}, \gamma)$ be the normalized measure space of the unit circle $\{z : |z| = 1\}$

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