

C*-ALGEBRAS OF TRANSLATIONS AND MULTIPLIERS¹

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1. Introduction. In this note we announce several results about C^* -algebras generated by multiplication and translation operators on L^2 -spaces of compact abelian topological groups. The main result, for which the proof is indicated, is that such algebras contain no non-trivial compact operators. It follows that no irreducible, separable C^* -subalgebras of such an algebra can be Type I [2]. We also point out that there are *-isomorphisms between such C^* -algebras on the circle and related C^* -algebras of weighted shifts.

2. Main result. Let G be a compact abelian topological group with normalized Haar measure $d\nu$ and consider the associated complex Banach spaces $L^1(G)$, $L^2(G)$, $L^\infty(G)$ and the corresponding real Banach spaces of real-valued functions $L^1_{\mathbb{R}}(G)$, $L^2_{\mathbb{R}}(G)$, $L^\infty_{\mathbb{R}}(G)$. For a in G , an operator T_a is defined on $L^2(G)$ by

$$(T_a f)(x) = f(xa).$$

For $\phi(x)$ in $L^\infty(G)$ we can define an operator M_ϕ on $L^2(G)$ by

$$(M_\phi f)(x) = \phi(x) \cdot f(x).$$

We denote by $\tau(G)$ the C^* -algebra generated by all T_a and M_ϕ .

LEMMA 1. *Suppose that for $M > 0$ and ϕ_n in $L^\infty(G)$, $1 \leq n \leq k$, there are $a_i^{(n)}$ in G and real $c_i^{(n)} \geq 0$ with $1 \leq i \leq m(n)$, $\sum_{i=1}^{m(n)} c_i^{(n)} = 1$ and*

$$\left| \sum_{i=1}^{m(n)} c_i^{(n)} \phi_n(x a_i^{(n)}) \right| < M$$

for almost all x in G . Then there are real $c_i \geq 0$ and a_j in G such that $\sum_{i=1}^m c_i = 1$ and

$$\left| \sum_{j=1}^m c_j \phi_n(x a_j) \right| < M$$

for all $1 \leq n \leq k$ and almost all x .

PROOF. Let j range over all multi-indices $j = (i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k)$ where $1 \leq i_n \leq m(n)$. Then taking

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