

## THE $\bar{\beta}$ TOPOLOGY FOR $W^*$ -ALGEBRAS

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Let  $A$  be a  $W^*$ -algebra and  $A_*$  its unique predual. A new locally convex topology  $\bar{\beta}$  is developed for the study of the algebra  $A$ . It is shown that if  $A$  is a type I  $W^*$ -algebra, that is either countably decomposable, commutative, or a factor, then  $\bar{\beta}$  is the Mackey topology for the dual pair  $\langle A, A_* \rangle$ . Consequently, when  $A = L^\infty(X, \mu)$ , where  $X$  is completely regular and  $\mu$  is a compact regular Borel measure on  $X$ ,  $A_* = L^1(X, \mu)$  and  $\bar{\beta}$  convergence on uniformly bounded sets is equivalent to convergence in measure.

Let  $X$  be a locally compact Hausdorff space,  $\beta X$  the Stone-Čech compactification of  $X$ , and  $C(\beta X)$  the collection of all complex-valued continuous functions on  $\beta X$ . In 1958, R. C. Buck [2] introduced a new locally convex topology for  $C(\beta X)$  that gave new insight into the intricate structure of  $C(\beta X)$ . This locally convex topology for  $C(\beta X)$ , which Buck called the strict topology, is the topology generated by the seminorms  $\{\lambda_f\}_{f \in C_0(X)}$ , where  $\lambda_f(g) = \|fg\|_\infty$ . Here,  $C_0(X)$  denotes those functions in  $C(\beta X)$  that vanish on  $\beta X \setminus X$ . Although Buck's approach is very useful in the study of  $C(\beta X)$ ,  $X$  locally compact, it does not lend itself to the study of  $C(\beta X)$ ,  $X$  completely regular, since  $C_0(X)$  may be the  $\{0\}$  subspace in this setting. In [18], F. D. Sentilles was able to overcome this possibility by introducing a new topology which, in the locally compact setting, reduces to the strict topology. Sentilles' topology,  $\beta$ , is defined as follows: for each  $Q \subseteq \beta X \setminus X$ , let  $\beta_Q$  be the strict topology on  $C(\beta X)$  determined by  $C_0(\beta X \setminus Q)$ . Then  $\beta$  is defined as the inductive limit of the topologies  $\beta_Q$  as  $Q$  ranges over all compact subsets of  $\beta X \setminus X$  [18]. Note that  $\beta$  is determined by the collection of open sets  $V$ ,  $\beta X \supseteq V \supseteq X$ , whose Stone-Čech compactification is  $\beta X$  and is therefore not a unique topology, since it depends on the underlying subspace  $X$ . Using this topology, substantial progress has been made in the study of  $C(\beta X)$ ,  $X$  completely regular, by Sentilles, Wheeler and others (see [8], [18], [24], [25]).

The purpose of this paper is to define and study a noncommutative analogue of the topology introduced by Sentilles. Noncommutative versions of Buck's topology already exist in a Banach module setting [19] and in the  $C^*$ -algebra of double centralizers  $M(B)$  of the  $C^*$ -algebra  $B$  [3], [20], [22]. In the double centralizer setting,  $B$  is viewed as a closed two-sided ideal in  $M(B)$ , and the strict topology for  $M(B)$  is

generated by the seminorms  $\{\lambda_b, \rho_b\}_{b \in B}$ , where  $\lambda_b(x) = \|bx\|$  and  $\rho_b(x) = \|xb\|$  for  $x \in M(B)$ . This topology has been very useful in the study of the  $C^*$ -algebra  $M(B)$ . In general it would be desirable to use this approach to study  $C^*$ -algebras  $A$  with identity, that is, develop a locally convex topology for  $A$  with the essential properties of the strict topology. It would be natural to try to find a closed two-sided ideal  $J \subseteq A$  such that  $M(J) = A$ , but this in general is difficult to do. Consequently, we find it necessary to place additional restrictions on our  $C^*$ -algebra. Namely, we will require  $A$  to be a  $W^*$ -algebra. Here we view a  $W^*$ -algebra as a  $C^*$ -algebra which is the dual of a unique Banach space  $A_*$  [14]. In a  $W^*$ -algebra  $A$ , it is known that a closed two-sided ideal  $J \subseteq A$  has the property that  $M(J) = A$  if and only if  $J$  is essential, that is,  $J^0 \equiv \{x \in A : xJ = \{0\}\} = \{0\}$  (see [22]). Since it is probable that more than one ideal with this property exists, it seems natural to apply Sentilles' method to our setting. Consequently, we define the  $\bar{\beta}$  topology for a  $W^*$ -algebra  $A$  as follows: for each essential closed two-sided ideal  $J \subseteq A$ , we define the strict topology  $\beta_J$  for  $A$  to be the locally convex topology generated by the seminorms  $\{\lambda_a, \rho_a\}_{a \in J}$  as in the double centralizer setting above. We then define the  $\bar{\beta}$  topology to be the inductive limit of the  $\beta_J$  topologies [13]. The algebra  $A$  under the  $\bar{\beta}$  topology will be denoted by  $A_{\bar{\beta}}$ . If  $A$  is topologically simple, then the  $\bar{\beta}$  topology is the norm topology, since  $A$  is the only ideal  $J \subseteq A$  such that  $M(J) = A$ . Note that our  $\bar{\beta}$  topology is space free and unique while Sentilles' topology is generated by a subclass of these ideals and, consequently, in Sentilles' setting our topology is a weaker topology than his  $\beta$  topology. The main question that we consider in this paper is the following: for a countably decomposable  $W^*$ -algebra (for example,  $A_*$  separable), what are necessary and sufficient conditions for the dual of  $A_{\bar{\beta}}$ , denoted  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^*$ , to be  $A_*$ ? We show that a sufficient condition is for  $A$  to be a type I  $W^*$ -algebra and we have evidence to suggest it is a necessary condition as well. When  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^*$  is  $A_*$ , then  $\bar{\beta}$  is the Mackey topology  $\tau(A, A_*)$  as studied by Sakai [14], Akemann [1] and others. In the special case when  $A$  is  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu)$ ,  $\bar{\beta}$  is the mixed topology of Dazord and Jourlin [4].

In §2 we discuss hyper-Stonean spaces as related to a  $W^*$ -algebra and §3 is devoted to the study of essential ideals. The general study of the  $\bar{\beta}$  topology is presented in §4 with our main results appearing in §5. The reader is referred to [5], [6], and [14] for definitions and basic concepts of  $C^*$ -algebras and  $W^*$ -algebras.

**2. Hyper-Stonean topological spaces.** Let  $\Omega$  be a compact Hausdorff space and  $C(\Omega)$  the space of all complex-valued continuous functions on  $\Omega$ . The space  $\Omega$  is called *Stonean* if the

closure of every open set is open, or equivalently,  $C(\Omega)$  is a conditionally complete lattice [9, 3N. 6, p. 52]. Now suppose  $\Omega$  is Stonean. A finite positive regular Borel measure  $\mu$  on  $\Omega$  is said to be *normal* if it satisfies the following property: if  $\{f_\alpha\}$  is a uniformly bounded increasing directed set of positive functions in  $C(\Omega)$ , then  $\int_\Omega \text{l.u.b. } f_\alpha d\mu = \int_\Omega \text{l.u.b. } f_\alpha d\mu$ . A finite complex regular Borel measure is called normal if it is a linear combination of positive normal measures. We denote by  $M(\Omega)$  the finite complex regular Borel measures on  $\Omega$  and by  $N(\Omega)$  the closed subspace of normal measures. The Stonean space  $\Omega$  is said to be *hyper-Stonean* if the union of the supports of the positive normal measures is dense in  $\Omega$ , or equivalently,  $C(\Omega)$  is a  $W^*$ -algebra [14, p. 46].

Throughout this section we shall assume that  $\Omega$  is a hyper-Stonean space. The results in this section are due to Dixmier [7] and we include them here for completeness.

2.1. PROPOSITION. *Let  $\{f_\alpha\}$  be an increasing net of continuous functions in  $C(\Omega)$  which is bounded above. If  $f$  is the lattice supremum and  $f'$  the upper envelope ( $f'(x) = \sup_\alpha f_\alpha(x)$ ,  $x \in \Omega$ ), then  $f$  and  $f'$  differ on a set of first category.*

*Proof.* For the proof, see [7, p. 154].

2.2. PROPOSITION. *In order that the measure  $\mu$  in  $M(\Omega)$  be normal it is necessary and sufficient that  $\mu(\Delta) = 0$  for all nowhere dense Borel subsets  $\Delta$  of  $\Omega$ .*

*Proof.* For a proof, see [7, Proposition 1, p. 157].

2.3. PROPOSITION. *Let  $\mu$  be a positive normal measure on  $\Omega$  and  $f$  a  $\mu$ -measurable complex-valued function. Then there exists a continuous function  $f'$  on  $\Omega$  such that  $f = f'$  almost everywhere.*

*Proof.* For a proof, see [7, Proposition 2, p. 157].

2.4. COROLLARY. *If the support of  $\mu$  is  $\Omega$ , then  $C(\Omega)$  is  $*$ -isomorphic to  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu)$ .*

We note that by [14, 1.2.6, p. 5] every  $*$ -isomorphism of  $C^*$ -algebras is an isometry.

2.5. PROPOSITION. *Let  $\mu$  be a positive normal measure on  $\Omega$  and  $\Delta$  a  $\mu$ -measurable subset of  $\Omega$ . Then  $\Delta$  coincides, except on a set of  $\mu$ -measure zero, with the closure  $\bar{\Delta}$ , with the interior  $\Delta^i$ , with the closure of  $\Delta^i$ , and with the interior of  $\bar{\Delta}$ .*

*Proof.* For a proof, see [7, Corollary, p. 158].

2.6. COROLLARY. *The support of  $\mu$  is both open and closed.*

2.7. COROLLARY. *If the support of  $\mu$  is  $\Omega$  and  $\Delta$  is a  $\mu$ -measurable set such that  $\mu(\Delta) = 0$ , then  $\Delta$  is nowhere dense.*

A measure space  $(\Gamma, \nu)$  is said to be *localizable* if there exists a family  $\{(\Gamma_\alpha, \nu_\alpha)\}$  of finite measure spaces such that  $\Gamma = \bigcup \Gamma_\alpha$ ,  $\nu = \Sigma \bigoplus \nu_\alpha$ , and the family  $\{\Gamma_\alpha\}$  is pairwise disjoint. Note that  $L^\infty(\Gamma, \nu) = \Sigma \bigoplus L^\infty(\Gamma_\alpha, \nu_\alpha)$ . The measure space  $(\Gamma, \nu)$  is called  *$W^*$ -localizable* if each  $\Gamma_\alpha$  is a hyper-Stonean space and  $\nu_\alpha$  is a positive normal measure on  $\Gamma_\alpha$  with support  $\Gamma_\alpha$ .

2.8. PROPOSITION. *Let  $Z$  be a commutative  $W^*$ -algebra. Then  $Z$  is  $*$ -isomorphic to some  $L^\infty(\Gamma, \nu)$ , where  $(\Gamma, \nu)$  is a  $W^*$ -localizable measure space. Moreover, the Stone-Ćech compactification of  $\Gamma$  is the spectrum of  $Z$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $Z$  is  $*$ -isomorphic to  $C(\Omega)$ ,  $\Omega$  hyper-Stonean, the result follows from the proof of [7, Theorem 1, p. 169].

**3. Essential ideals in  $W^*$ -algebras.** Let  $A$  be a  $W^*$ -algebra and  $J$  a closed two-sided ideal of  $A$ . The ideal  $J$  is called essential if  $J^0 \equiv \{x \in A : xJ = \{0\}\} = \{0\}$ . The essential ideals of  $A$  will be denoted by  $\mathcal{E}_A$ , or  $\mathcal{E}$  if  $A$  is understood. We do not assume  $J$  is proper.

A double centralizer of the ideal  $J$  is an ordered pair  $(S, T)$  of functions from  $J$  to  $J$  such that  $xS(y) = T(x)y$  for all  $x, y$  in  $J$ . In [3] Busby shows  $S$  and  $T$  are bounded linear maps with  $\|S\| = \|T\|$  and the space of all double centralizers of  $J$ , denoted by  $M(J)$ , is a  $C^*$ -algebra under the natural algebraic operations and norm  $\|(S, T)\| = \|S\|$ . There is a natural embedding of  $A$  into  $M(J)$ , namely, the map  $x \rightarrow (L_x, R_x)$  where  $L_x(y) = xy$  and  $R_x(y) = yx$  for all  $y \in J$ . Our next result connects double centralizer algebras and essential ideals. For basic concepts and definitions of double centralizers, we refer the reader to [3], [20] and [22].

3.1. LEMMA. *Let  $J$  be a closed two-sided ideal of the  $W^*$ -algebra  $A$ . Then the map  $x \rightarrow (L_x, R_x)$  is a  $*$ -homomorphism of  $A$  onto  $M(J)$ . Moreover, the map is a  $*$ -isomorphism if and only if  $J$  is essential.*

*Proof.* Let  $A_0$  be the  $W^*$ -subalgebra of  $A$  generated by  $J$ . It is easy to show that  $J$  is essential in  $A$ . The conclusion follows from [22, Theorem 2.1 and Corollary 2.2, p. 478].

**3.2. PROPOSITION.** *Let  $A$  be a  $W^*$ -algebra and  $I, J$  and  $K$  closed two-sided ideals of  $A$ . The following statements are true:*

- (1) *If  $J \subseteq K$  and  $J \in \mathcal{E}$ , then  $K \in \mathcal{E}$ .*
- (2) *If  $I, J \in \mathcal{E}$ , then  $I + J \in \mathcal{E}$ .*
- (3) *If  $I, J \in \mathcal{E}$ , then  $I \cap J \in \mathcal{E}$ .*

*Proof.* The proof of (1) is trivial. It is well-known that  $I + J$  is a closed two-sided ideal, so (2) follows immediately from (1). It is straightforward to show, by utilizing 3.1, that  $\|x\| = \sup \{\|xy\| : y \in I \cap J, \|y\| \leq 1\}$ , since  $I$  and  $J$  are essential. Thus the map of 3.1 is an isometry and (3) follows.

The next result shows that  $W^*$ -algebras in general have an ample supply of essential ideals.

**3.3. PROPOSITION.** *Let  $A$  be a  $W^*$ -algebra. Then  $A$  can be written as follows:  $A = \sum_{\alpha \in \pi} \oplus A_\alpha$ , where each  $W^*$ -algebra  $A_\alpha$  is either topologically simple or each maximal two-sided ideal of  $A_\alpha$  is essential with respect to  $A_\alpha$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $F$  be the family of all sets  $\{P_\alpha\}$  of central projections with the following properties: (1)  $P_\alpha P_\beta = 0$  for  $\alpha \neq \beta$ ; (2)  $P_\alpha A$  is topologically simple. It is easy to see, by using Zorn's lemma, that there is a maximal such family  $\{P_\alpha\}$ . Let  $A_\alpha = P_\alpha A$  and  $P = \sum P_\alpha$ . It is straightforward to verify that  $A = (\sum \oplus A_\alpha) \oplus (1 - P)A$ . Now suppose  $J$  is a maximal ideal of  $(1 - P)A$  that is not essential. It follows that  $J^0$  is a nonzero topologically simple two-sided ideal of  $(1 - P)A$  which is closed in the  $\sigma(A, A_*)$  topology. Therefore, there is a central projection  $Q$  such that  $QA = J^0$  [14, 1.10.5, p. 25]. But this contradicts the fact that  $\{P_\alpha\}$  was maximal. Hence our proof is complete.

It is well known that a factor contains a smallest nonzero, not necessarily proper, closed two-sided ideal [26, Remark 3, p. 61]. We will use this fact in the following proposition.

**3.4. PROPOSITION.** *Suppose that the  $W^*$ -algebra  $A$  is a factor. Then every nonzero closed two-sided ideal of  $A$  is essential.*

*Proof.* Let  $J$  be the smallest nonzero closed two-sided ideal of  $A$ . By virtue of 3.2, we need only show  $J$  is essential. If  $J^0 \neq \{0\}$ , then

$J \subseteq J^0$ . But this is clearly a contradiction. Hence  $J^0 = \{0\}$  and our proof is complete.

Let  $(\Omega, \mu)$  be a localizable measure space and  $A$  a  $W^*$ -algebra with separable predual  $A_*$ . We let  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$  denote the Banach space of all  $A$ -valued essentially bounded weakly\*  $\mu$ -locally measurable functions on  $\Omega$  (see [11, 3.5, p. 72]). In [14, 1.22.13, p. 68], Sakai shows  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$  is a  $W^*$ -algebra under pointwise multiplication and its predual is  $L^1(\Omega, \mu, A_*)$ , where  $L^1(\Omega, \mu, A_*)$  is the Banach space of all  $A_*$ -valued Bochner  $\mu$ -integrable functions on  $\Omega$ . The next lemma connects  $W^*$ -tensor products with the space  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$ . For basic definitions and concepts of tensor products of  $C^*$ -algebras, we refer the reader to [14, 1.22, pp. 58–70]. For the definition of the  $s(A, A_*)$  and  $s^*(A, A_*)$  topologies see, [14, p. 20].

**3.5. LEMMA.** *Let  $Z$  be a commutative  $W^*$ -algebra and  $A$  a  $W^*$ -algebra with separable predual. Then  $Z \bar{\otimes} A$  is  $*$ -isomorphic to  $\sum_{\alpha \in \pi} \oplus L^\infty(\Omega_\alpha, \mu_\alpha, A)$ , where each  $\Omega_\alpha$  is hyper-Stonean and  $\mu_\alpha$  is a positive normal measure with support  $\Omega_\alpha$ .*

*Proof.* The proof follows immediately from 2.8 and [14, 1.22.13, p. 68].

**3.6. LEMMA.** *Let  $Z$  be a commutative  $W^*$ -algebra and  $A$  a factor with  $A_*$  separable. If  $J$  is a closed two-sided ideal of  $Z \bar{\otimes} A$  such that  $J \cap (Z \bar{\otimes}_{\alpha_0} A) = \{0\}$ , then  $J = \{0\}$ .*

*Proof.* By virtue of 3.5 we may assume  $Z \bar{\otimes} A = L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$ , where  $\Omega$  is hyper-Stonean and  $\mu$  is a positive normal measure with support  $\Omega$ . Moreover, by virtue of 2.4 and [14, 1.22.3, p. 61], we may assume  $Z \bar{\otimes}_{\alpha_0} A = C(\Omega, A)$ , where  $C(\Omega, A)$  is viewed as a subalgebra of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$  in the natural way. Note that it follows from 2.4 that the center of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$  is  $C(\Omega) \cdot 1$ , where 1 denotes the identity of  $A$ .

First, suppose  $A$  is finite. Then, by [14, 2.6.1, p. 98],  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$  is finite. The conclusion follows directly from Corollary 1 of Proposition 2 in [5, p. 256].

Next, suppose  $A$  is semi-finite. By [14, p. 157] there exists an increasing net of projections  $\{e_\alpha\}$  which are finite and such that  $\sup e_\alpha = 1$ . Set  $A_\alpha = L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, e_\alpha A e_\alpha)$ . Then  $A_\alpha$  is a  $W^*$ -subalgebra of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$ . Suppose  $J$  is a closed two-sided ideal of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$  such that  $J \cap C(\Omega, A) = \{0\}$ . Then  $J \cap C(\Omega, e_\alpha A e_\alpha) = \{0\}$  and therefore  $J \cap A_\alpha = \{0\}$ , since  $e_\alpha A e_\alpha$  is a finite factor and the above applies. Now

let  $x \in J^+$  and set  $E_\alpha(t) = e_\alpha$  for all  $t \in \Omega$ . It follows that  $E_\alpha x E_\alpha \in J^+ \cap A_\alpha$  and consequently  $E_\alpha x E_\alpha = 0$ . Since  $\{E_\alpha\}$  converges to the identity of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$  in the  $s(L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A), L^1(\Omega, \mu, A^*))$  topology [14, 1.13.4, p. 30] and multiplication is jointly  $s(L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A), L^1(\Omega, \mu, A^*))$  continuous on uniformly bounded spheres [14, 1.8.12, p. 21], it follows that  $E_\alpha x E_\alpha$  converges to  $x$ . Hence  $x = 0$ . Since  $x$  was chosen arbitrarily,  $J = \{0\}$ .

Finally, suppose  $A$  is purely infinite. Since  $A^*$  is separable,  $A$  is countably decomposable [14, 2.1.9, p. 80]. Moreover, since the support of  $\mu$  is  $\Omega$ , it follows from [7, Proposition 7, p. 161] that  $C(\Omega)$  is countably decomposable. Hence  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$  is a countably decomposable type III (purely infinite)  $W^*$ -algebra [14, 2.6.6, p. 101]. Now, if  $J$  is a closed two-sided ideal of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$  such that  $J \cap C(\Omega, A) = \{0\}$ , then it follows directly from [14, 4.1.5, p. 155] that  $J = \{0\}$ .

Since  $A$  must be either finite, semi-finite or purely infinite, our proof is complete.

**3.7. COROLLARY.** *Let  $\Omega$  be a hyper-Stonean space,  $\mu$  a positive normal measure with support  $\Omega$ , and  $A$  a factor with separable predual  $A^*$ . If  $J$  is a closed two-sided ideal of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$  such that  $J \cap C(\Omega, A) = \{0\}$ , then  $J = \{0\}$ .*

**3.8. THEOREM.** *Let  $Z$  be a commutative  $W^*$ -algebra and  $A$  a factor with separable predual  $A^*$ . If  $J$  is an essential ideal of  $Z \bar{\otimes} A$ , then  $J \cap (Z \bar{\otimes}_{\alpha_0} A)$  is an essential ideal of  $Z \bar{\otimes}_{\alpha_0} A$ .*

*Proof.* Just as in 3.6, we may assume  $Z \bar{\otimes} A = L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$ , where  $\Omega$  is hyper-Stonean and  $\mu$  is a positive normal measure with support  $\Omega$ . Moreover, we may assume  $Z \bar{\otimes}_{\alpha_0} A = C(\Omega, A)$ . Now suppose  $J$  is an essential ideal of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$  such that  $J_1 \equiv C(\Omega, A) \cap J$  is not essential in  $C(\Omega, A)$ .

First, we will show that there exists an open and closed subset  $G$  of  $\Omega$  such that  $x(t) = 0$  for each  $x \in J_1$  and  $t \in G$ . Since  $J_1^0 \neq \{0\}$ , we may choose a nonzero  $y \in J_1^0$ . Because  $t \rightarrow \|y(t)\|$  is a continuous map, it is clear that there is an open and closed set  $G$  for which  $\|y(t)\| > 0$  for each  $t \in G$ . Now suppose there is a  $t_0$  in  $G$  and an  $x$  in  $J_1$  such that  $x(t_0) \neq 0$ . Then  $K_{t_0} = \{x(t_0) : x \in J_1\}$  is a nonzero closed two-sided ideal of  $A$  and moreover, by 3.4,  $K_{t_0}$  is essential in  $A$ . Since  $y \in J_1^0$ ,  $y(t_0)x(t_0) = 0$  for each  $x \in J_1$ . Thus,  $y(t_0) = 0$  since  $K_{t_0}$  is essential in  $A$ . But this is a contradiction because  $y(t_0) \neq 0$ . So,  $x(t) = 0$  for each  $x \in J_1$  and  $t \in G$ .

Due to the fact that  $J$  is essential in  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$ , it is straightforward to show that  $\chi_G J$  is a nonzero ideal of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$ . Thus, by 3.7,

$\chi_G J \cap C(\Omega, A) \neq \{0\}$ . It follows that there must be an  $x \in J_1$  for which  $x(t) \neq 0$  for some  $t \in G$ . But this contradicts the defining properties of  $G$ . Consequently,  $J_1$  must be essential in  $C(\Omega, A)$  and our proof is complete.

3.9. COROLLARY. *Let  $\Omega, \mu$ , and  $A$  be defined as in 3.7. If  $J$  is an essential ideal of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$ , then  $J \cap C(\Omega, A)$  is an essential ideal of  $C(\Omega, A)$ .*

3.10. PROPOSITION. *Let  $\Omega, \mu$ , and  $A$  be defined as in 3.7. If  $K$  is an essential closed two-sided ideal in  $A$ , then  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, K)$  is an essential closed two-sided ideal of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, A)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $J = L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, K)$  and suppose  $J^0 \neq \{0\}$ . Since  $J^0$  is a closed two-sided ideal, there exists by 3.6 a nonzero  $x$  in  $J^0 \cap C(\Omega, A)$ . In particular, we have  $xy = 0$  for all  $y \in C(\Omega, K)$ . Since  $C(\Omega, K)$  is essential in  $C(\Omega, A)$  it follows that  $x = 0$ , contradicting that  $x \neq 0$ . Thus  $J$  is essential and our proof is complete.

Let  $H$  be a separable Hilbert space,  $B(H)$  the bounded linear operators on  $H$ ,  $B_0(H)$  the compact operators, and  $T(H)$  the trace class operators. It is well known that the dual of  $B_0(H)$  is  $T(H)$  [14, 1.19.1, p. 47] and that the predual of  $B(H)$  is  $T(H)$  [14, 1.15.3, p. 39]. Furthermore,  $T(H)$  is separable whenever  $H$  is separable [14, 2.1.10, p. 81]. These facts will be used in the following examples.

3.11. EXAMPLE. Let  $\Omega$  and  $\mu$  be defined as in 3.7 and  $H$  as above. Then  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B_0(H))$  is an essential ideal of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B(H))$ .

3.12. EXAMPLE. Let  $J$  be a closed two-sided ideal of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B(H))$ . Then  $J$  is essential if and only if there exists a closed nowhere dense, possibly empty, subset  $E$  of  $\Omega$  with the property that for each  $x \in J$  and  $\epsilon > 0$ , there is an open neighborhood  $V$  of  $E$  such that  $\|x|_V\| \leq \epsilon$ . We will denote by  $J_E$  the essential ideal consisting of all those elements of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B_0(H))$  which satisfy this property. If  $B(H)$  is the complex number system, this essential ideal of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu)$  will be denoted by  $I_E$ .

**4. The  $\bar{\beta}$  topology.** In this section,  $A$  will always denote a  $W^*$ -algebra and  $A_*$  its predual. Let  $J$  be an essential ideal of  $A$ . Recall that the  $\beta_J$  topology for  $A$  is the locally convex topology generated by the family of seminorms  $\{\lambda_a, \rho_a\}_{a \in J}$ , where  $\lambda_a(x) = \|ax\|$  and  $\rho_a(x) = \|xa\|$  for all  $x \in A$ , and the  $\bar{\beta}$  topology for  $A$  is the inductive limit [13, p. 79] of all the  $\beta_J$  topologies. As before, let  $\mathcal{E}_A$ , or  $\mathcal{E}$  if  $A$  is



understood, denote the family of all essential ideals of  $A$ . In this section we study the algebra  $A$  under the  $\bar{\beta}$  topology.

The proofs of 4.1 through 4.5 are by virtue of [20, Corollary 2.7, p. 638], simple adaptations of arguments given by Sentilles. Consequently, we do not include them, but rather refer the reader to [18, pp. 317–318] and [20, pp. 636–638].

4.1. THEOREM. *Let  $W$  be a convex, balanced and absorbing subset of  $A$ . Then  $W$  is a  $\bar{\beta}$  neighborhood of zero if and only if, for each  $r > 0$  and  $J \in \mathcal{E}$ , there is a  $\beta_J$  neighborhood of zero  $V_J$  such that  $V_J \cap \{x: \|x\| \leq r\} \subseteq W$ . Consequently, the strongest locally convex topology for  $A$  that agrees with the  $\bar{\beta}$  topology on uniformly bounded subsets of  $A$  is the  $\bar{\beta}$  topology.*

4.2. COROLLARY. *The continuity of linear maps on  $A_{\bar{\beta}}$  is determined on the uniformly bounded subsets of  $A$ .*

4.3. COROLLARY. *Let  $B$  be a locally convex space and  $T: A \rightarrow B$  a linear or conjugate linear map. Then  $T$  is  $\bar{\beta}$  continuous if and only if  $T$  is  $\beta_J$  continuous for each  $J \in \mathcal{E}$ .*

4.4. COROLLARY. *The mappings  $x \rightarrow ax$ ,  $x \rightarrow xa$  and  $x \rightarrow x^*$  are  $\bar{\beta}$  continuous for  $x, a \in A$ .*

4.5. PROPOSITION. *The following statements are true: (1) as subsets of  $A^*$ ,  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^* = \bigcap_{J \in \mathcal{E}} A_{\beta_J}^*$ ; (2) if, for each  $J \in \mathcal{E}$ ,  $\beta_J$  is the Mackey topology of the dual pair  $\langle A, A_{\beta_J}^* \rangle$ , then  $\bar{\beta}$  is the Mackey topology of the dual pair  $\langle A, A_{\bar{\beta}}^* \rangle$ .*

Note that  $A_{\bullet}$  is a uniformly closed subspace of  $A^*$ .

4.6. THEOREM. *For the dual pair  $\langle A, A_{\bullet} \rangle$ , we have  $\tau(A, A_{\bullet}) \leq \bar{\beta}$ , where  $\tau(A, A_{\bullet})$  denotes the Mackey topology of the dual pair  $\langle A, A_{\bullet} \rangle$ .*

*Proof.* By virtue of [14, 1.16.7, p. 41],  $A$  can be viewed as a weakly closed self-adjoint subalgebra of  $B(H)$ , where  $H$  is some Hilbert space with the property  $H = \{T(h): T \in A, h \in H\}$ . Let  $J$  be an essential ideal in  $A$ . By the Cohen-Hewitt factorization theorem [10, Theorem 2.5, p. 151],  $H_0 \equiv \{T(h): T \in J, h \in H\}$  is a closed subspace of  $H$ . Furthermore, since  $J$  is essential,  $H = H_0$ . It follows that the  $\beta_J$  topology is stronger than the strong operator topology and therefore stronger than the  $s(A, A_{\bullet})$  topology on uniformly bounded spheres [14, 1.15.2, p. 35]. Moreover, due to the fact that the map

$x \rightarrow x^*$  is  $\beta_J$  continuous and multiplication is jointly  $\beta_J$  continuous on uniformly bounded spheres, the  $\beta_J$  topology is stronger than the  $s^*(A, A_*)$  topology on uniformly bounded spheres. But, Akemann has shown that on uniformly bounded spheres the  $\tau(A, A_*)$  and  $s^*(A, A_*)$  topologies agree [1, Theorem II.7, p. 292]. The conclusion now follows from 4.1.

4.7. COROLLARY. *The Banach space  $A_*$  is equal to  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^*$  if and only if  $\bar{\beta} = \tau(A, A_*)$ .*

4.8. COROLLARY. *A set  $V \subseteq A$  is  $\bar{\beta}$  bounded if and only if  $V$  is uniformly bounded.*

4.9. COROLLARY. *The unit ball of  $A$  is closed in the  $\bar{\beta}$  topology.*

4.10. PROPOSITION. *The following statements are equivalent*

- (1)  $\mathcal{E} = \{A\}$
- (2)  $\bar{\beta}$  is normable
- (3)  $\bar{\beta}$  is metrizable
- (4)  $\bar{\beta}$  is bornological
- (5)  $\bar{\beta}$  is barrelled.

*Proof.* It is clear that (1) implies (2), (2) implies (3), and (3) implies (4). Assume (4) holds, that is,  $\bar{\beta}$  is bornological. Then  $\bar{\beta}$  is the strongest locally convex topology on  $A$  with the same class of bounded sets. Thus, by 4.8  $\bar{\beta}$  is the norm topology and therefore barrelled. Now assume  $\bar{\beta}$  is barrelled. It follows that the unit ball  $B_1$  of  $A$  is a  $\bar{\beta}$  neighborhood of zero. Thus the norm and  $\beta_J$  topologies agree on  $A$  for all  $J \in \mathcal{E}$ . From [8, 3.2.4, p. 78] we have, for  $J \in \mathcal{E}$ ,  $A = M(J) = J$  and our proof is complete.

4.11. PROPOSITION. *Suppose  $\{A_\alpha\}$  is a family of  $W^*$ -algebras such that  $A = \sum_{\alpha \in \pi} \bigoplus A_\alpha$ . Then  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^* = (\sum_{\alpha \in \pi} \bigoplus (A_\alpha)_{\bar{\beta}}^*)_{l_1}$  [14, 1.1.5, p. 2]. Consequently,  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^* = A_*$  if and only if  $(A_\alpha)_{\bar{\beta}}^* = (A_\alpha)_*$  for each  $\alpha \in \pi$ .*

*Proof.* Note that essential ideals of  $A$  of the form  $(\sum_{\alpha \in \pi} \bigoplus J_\alpha)_0$ , where  $J_\alpha$  is essential in  $A_\alpha$ , generate the  $\bar{\beta}$  topology for  $A$ . By  $(\sum_{\alpha \in \pi} \bigoplus J_\alpha)_0$  we mean those  $\{x_\alpha\}$  in  $A$  such that  $x_\alpha \in J_\alpha$  and  $\alpha \rightarrow \|x_\alpha\|$  vanishes at infinity. By using this fact together with 4.3 and 4.13, the proof becomes straightforward.

4.12. PROPOSITION. *Let  $f$  be a hermitian  $\bar{\beta}$  continuous linear functional on  $A$ . Then there exists a unique decomposition  $f = f_1 - f_2$ , where  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  are positive  $\bar{\beta}$  continuous linear functionals such that  $\|f\| = \|f^+\| + \|f^-\|$ .*

*Proof.* The proof follows directly from [6, 12.3.4, p. 245], [21, Corollary 2.6, p. 164] and 4.3.

4.13. COROLLARY. *The space  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^*$  is the linear span of its positive elements.*

For  $f \in A^*$  and  $x, y \in A$  we define the elements of  $A^*$   $x \cdot f$ ,  $f \cdot x$  and  $x \cdot f \cdot y$  by  $(x \cdot f)(a) = f(ax)$ ,  $(f \cdot x)(a) = f(xa)$  and  $(x \cdot f \cdot y)(a) = f(yax)$  for all  $a \in A$ .

4.14. PROPOSITION. *Suppose  $J$  is an essential ideal of  $A$ . Then  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^*$  is the linear span of all linear functionals in  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^*$  of the form  $x \cdot g \cdot x$ , where  $x \in J^+$  and  $g$  is a positive  $\bar{\beta}$  continuous linear functional on  $A$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $f \in A_{\bar{\beta}}^*$ . Suppose  $\{e_\lambda\}$  is a positive approximate identity for  $J$ . Since  $f$  is also  $\beta_J$  continuous, it follows from [20, Corollary 2.2, p. 635] that  $\lim e_\lambda \cdot f = \lim f \cdot e_\lambda = f$ . Due to the fact that  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^*$  is both a left and right  $J$ -module, we see that  $f = a \cdot h \cdot b$  by virtue of [19, Theorem 2.1, p. 142], where  $h \in A_{\bar{\beta}}^*$ . By a variant of [19, Theorem 2.1, p. 142] there exist elements  $x, y, z$  in  $J$  such that  $x \geq 0$  and  $a = xy$  and  $b = zx$ . Thus  $f = x \cdot g \cdot x$ , where  $g = y \cdot h \cdot z$ . The remainder of the proof follows immediately from 4.13.

4.15. PROPOSITION. *Suppose  $A$  is a factor and  $J$  is the smallest closed two-sided ideal of  $A$ . Then  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^* = A_{\beta_J}^*$ .*

*Proof.* The proof is trivial.

4.16. PROPOSITION. *Suppose  $A$  is a factor. Then  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^* = A^*$  if and only if  $A$  is of type I.*

*Proof.* If  $A$  is a type I factor, then  $A = B(H)$  for some Hilbert space  $H$ . For this case  $A^* = T(H)$ , the trace class operators, and  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^* = A_{\beta_J}^*$ , where  $J = B_0(H)$ . But  $T(H) = B_0(H)^* = A_{\beta_J}^*$ , [20, Corollary 2.3, p. 635]. So, the first part of our proof is complete.

Now suppose  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^* = A^*$ . By 4.15 and [20, Corollary 2.3, p. 635],  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^* = A_{\beta_J}^* = J^* = A^*$ . So  $A_{\beta_J}^{**} = A$  and by [23, Theorem 5.1, p. 533],  $A$  is of type I.

**5. The main results.** In this section,  $A$  will denote a  $W^*$ -algebra,  $A_*$  its unique predual,  $\mathcal{E}_A$  the essential ideals of  $A$ , or  $\mathcal{E}$  if  $A$  is understood, and  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^*$  the dual of  $A$  under the  $\bar{\beta}$  topology. We will now state one of the main results of the section.

**THEOREM I.** *If  $A$  is a countably decomposable type I  $W^*$ -algebra, then  $A_{\beta}^* = A_*$ . Consequently, the  $\beta$  topology is the Mackey topology of the dual pair  $\langle A, A_* \rangle$ .*

Before we proceed with the proof of Theorem I, we will need the following three lemmas.

**5.1. LEMMA.** *If  $A$  is a countably decomposable type  $I_n$   $W^*$ -algebra ( $n$  a cardinal number), then  $n \leq \aleph_0$ . Consequently,  $A$  is  $*$ -isomorphic to  $\sum_{\alpha \in \Gamma} \oplus L^\infty(\Omega_\alpha, \mu_\alpha, B(H))$ , where  $\Omega_\alpha$  is hyper-Stonian,  $\mu_\alpha$  is a finite positive normal measure with support  $\Omega_\alpha$ , and the dimension of the Hilbert space  $H$  is  $n$ .*

*Proof.* The proof follows from [14, 2.3.3, p. 89] and 3.5.

In the next two lemmas we will assume  $\Omega$  is hyper-Stonian,  $\mu$  is a finite positive normal measure with support  $\Omega$ , and  $H$  is a separable Hilbert space.

**5.2. LEMMA.** *Let  $B_1$  be the set of all finitely-valued functions  $x$  in  $C(\Omega, B_0(H))^+$  with  $\|x\| \leq 1$ . Then  $\bigcup_{J \in \mathcal{J}} Cl_{\beta_J}(B_1)$  is equal to  $D_1$ , the set of all  $x$  in  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B_0(H))^+$  with  $\|x\| \leq 1$ . Here,  $Cl_{\beta_J}(B_1)$  denotes the closure of  $B_1$  in the  $\beta_J$  topology.*

*Proof.* By 4.9,  $\bigcup_{J \in \mathcal{J}} Cl_{\beta_J}(B_1) \subseteq D_1$ . Let  $x \in D_1$ . By [11, Corollary 1 and Corollary 2, p. 73], there exists a sequence  $\{x_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$  in  $D_1$  of countably-valued functions such that  $\|x_n - x\| \rightarrow 0$ . Thus, it suffices to assume that  $x$  is countably-valued. Let  $\{T_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  be the values in  $B_0(H)^+$  assumed by  $x$ . Then set  $E_i = \{t: x(t) = T_i\}$ . By virtue of 2.2, 2.5 and 2.7, we may assume  $x = \sum_{i=1}^\infty T_i \chi_{E_i}$ , where  $E_i \cap E_j = \emptyset$ ,  $i \neq j$ , and  $E_i$  is open and closed. Let  $E = \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty \overline{E_i} \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty E_i$  and suppose  $E \neq \emptyset$ . Then  $E$  is closed and, by 2.5 and 2.7, nowhere dense. Let  $J_E$  be the ideal of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B_0(H))$  defined in 3.12. We shall show that  $x_n \rightarrow x$  in the  $\beta_{J_E}$  topology where  $x_n = \sum_{i=1}^n T_i \chi_{E_i}$ . Given  $z \in J_E$  and  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists an open set  $V_\epsilon \supseteq E$  such that  $\|z(t)\| < \epsilon/2\|x\|$  for almost all  $t \in V_\epsilon$ . Since  $x$  is continuous on  $\tilde{V}_\epsilon$ , the complement of  $V_\epsilon$ , the functions  $t \rightarrow \|x_n(t) - x(t)\|$  form a decreasing sequence of positive continuous functions that converge pointwise to 0 on the compact set  $\tilde{V}_\epsilon$ . Consequently, by Dini's Theorem there exists an integer  $N$  such that  $\|x_n(t) - x(t)\| < \epsilon/\|z\|$  for all  $t \in \tilde{V}_\epsilon$  and  $n \geq N$ . It easily follows that  $\|zx_n - zx\| < \epsilon$  and  $\|x_n z - xz\| < \epsilon$  for  $n \geq N$ . Thus,  $x_n \rightarrow x$  in the  $\beta_{J_E}$  topology. If  $E = \emptyset$ , then by Dini's theorem  $x_n \rightarrow x$  uniformly on  $\Omega$ . Therefore  $x \in \bigcup_{J \in \mathcal{J}} Cl_{\beta_J}(B_1)$  and our proof is complete.

In the following lemma let  $A$  denote the  $W^*$ -algebra  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B(H))$ .

5.3. LEMMA. If  $F \in A_{\bar{\beta}}^*$  and  $x$  is a finitely valued function in  $C(\Omega, B_0(H))$ , then  $x \cdot F \in A_*$ .

*Proof.* It is straightforward to verify, by utilizing the spectral theorem for compact operators, 4.13, and 2.5, that we can make the following assumptions: (1)  $x = \chi_G P$ , where  $G$  is an open and closed subset of  $\Omega$  and  $P$  is a one-dimensional projection on  $H$ ; (2)  $F$  is positive. First, we will show that  $x \cdot F \cdot x \in A_*$ , or equivalently,  $x \cdot F \cdot x$  is normal [14, 1.13.2, p. 28]. Let  $\{z_\alpha\}$  be an increasing net in  $A^+$  with  $z = \sup z_\alpha$ . Since  $x \cdot F \cdot x(z_\alpha) = F(xz_\alpha x)$  and  $F$  is  $\bar{\beta}$  continuous, it will suffice to show  $xz_\alpha x \rightarrow xzx$  in the  $\bar{\beta}$  topology.

Let  $E \subseteq \Omega$  be a closed nowhere dense set,  $I_E$  the ideal of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu)$  as defined in 3.12 and  $J_E$  the corresponding ideal of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B_0(H))$  (see 3.12). For  $y \in J_E$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \|y(t)x(t)[z(t) - z_\alpha(t)]x(t)\| \\ & \leq \sup\{\|y(t)x(t)[z(t) - z_\alpha(t)]x(t)h\| : h \in H, \|h\| \leq 1\} \\ & \leq \sup\{|\langle h, h_0 \rangle \langle (z(t) - z_\alpha(t))(h_0), h_0 \rangle| \|y(t)(h_0)\| : h \in H, \|h\| \leq 1\} \\ & \leq |\langle (z(t) - z_\alpha(t))(h_0), h_0 \rangle| \|y(t)\|, \end{aligned}$$

where  $P(h_0) = h_0$  and  $\|h_0\| = 1$ . By [11, Theorem 2.8.5, p. 34] and [11, Theorem 3.5.2, p. 72], the map  $t \rightarrow \|y(t)\|$  is measurable and thus equal to, almost everywhere, a continuous function that vanishes on  $E$ . Therefore, it suffices to find a closed nowhere dense set  $E$  for which  $\phi_\alpha(t) \equiv \langle z_\alpha(t)(h_0), h_0 \rangle$  converges to  $\phi(t) \equiv \langle z(t)(h_0), h_0 \rangle$  in the  $\beta_{I_E}$  topology, for then  $xz_\alpha x$  will converge to  $xzx$  in the  $\beta_{J_E}$  topology, and hence, in the  $\bar{\beta}$  topology.

Since  $xz_\alpha x \rightarrow xzx$  in the  $\sigma(A, A_*)$  topology [14, 1.7.4, p. 15] and the predual of  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B(H))$  is  $L^1(\Omega, \mu, T(H))$ , it is easy to show that  $\int_\Omega \phi_\alpha(t) d\mu \rightarrow \int_\Omega \phi(t) d\mu$ . By virtue of 2.4 we can choose functions  $f_\alpha, f$  in  $C(\Omega)$  such that  $f_\alpha = \phi_\alpha$  and  $f = \phi$  almost everywhere. Note that  $f_\alpha$  is an increasing net with  $f \geq f_\alpha$ , so  $f \geq \sup f_\alpha \equiv f'$ . Since  $\mu$  is a positive normal measure,  $\int_\Omega f_\alpha d\mu \rightarrow \int_\Omega f' d\mu$ . Hence,  $\int_\Omega (f - f') d\mu = 0$ , or equivalently,  $f = f'$ . Now, let  $E$  be the closure of  $\{t : f(t) > \sup f_\alpha(t)\}$ . By 2.1, 2.2, 2.5 and 2.7,  $E$  is nowhere dense. By virtue of Dini's theorem, it is straightforward to show that  $f_\alpha \rightarrow f$  in the  $\beta_{I_E}$  topology for  $C(\Omega)$  and consequently  $xz_\alpha x \rightarrow xzx$  in the  $\beta_{J_E}$  topology for  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B(H))$ . Thus  $x \cdot F \cdot x \in A_*$ .

Finally, we must show  $x \cdot F \in A_*$ . Suppose  $x_\alpha \rightarrow 0$  for the

$s^*(A, A_*)$  topology where  $\|x_\alpha\| \leq 1$ . Then  $x_\alpha^* \rightarrow 0$  for the  $s^*(A, A_*)$  topology and by [14, 1.8.9, p. 20] and [14, 1.8.12, p. 21] it follows that  $x_\alpha^* x_\alpha \rightarrow 0$  for the  $s(A, A_*)$  topology. By utilizing the Schwartz inequality [14, p. 9], [14, 1.8.10, p. 21] and the above result for  $x \cdot F \cdot x$  it is easy to show that  $(x \cdot F)(x_\alpha) \rightarrow 0$ . Thus  $x \cdot F \in A_*$  and our proof is complete.

*Proof of Theorem I.* By [14, 2.3.2, p. 89],  $A = \sum_{n \in \Gamma} \oplus A_n$ , where each  $A_n$  is a type I<sub>n</sub>  $W^*$ -algebra. By virtue of 4.11 we may assume  $A$  is of type I<sub>n</sub> and consequently by 5.1 and 4.11 we may assume  $A = L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B(H))$  where  $\Omega$  is hyper-Stonean,  $\mu$  is a positive normal measure with support  $\Omega$ , and  $H$  is a separable Hilbert space.

Let  $F \in L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B(H))_{\bar{\beta}}^*$  such that  $F \geq 0$ . By 4.14 and 3.11 we may assume  $F = x \cdot G \cdot x$  for some  $x \in L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B_0(H))^+$  and  $G$  a positive  $\bar{\beta}$  continuous linear functional on  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B(H))$ . Clearly, we may assume  $\|x\| \leq 1$ . By 5.2 there exists an essential ideal  $J$  in  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B(H))$  such that  $x \in Cl_{\beta_r}(B_1)$ . Consequently, there exists a net  $\{x_\alpha\}$  in  $B_1$  that converges to  $x$  in the  $\beta_r$  topology. By 4.14 we may assume  $G = y \cdot G_1 \cdot y$  for some  $y \in J^+$  and  $G_1$  a positive  $\bar{\beta}$  continuous linear functional on  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B(H))$ . Therefore  $x_\alpha \cdot G \cdot x_\alpha \rightarrow F$  uniformly. Hence, by virtue of 5.3,  $F \in A_*$ . Since  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^*$  is the linear span of its positive linear functionals,  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^* = A_*$ . That  $\bar{\beta}$  is the Mackey topology of the dual pair  $\langle A, A_* \rangle$ , is an immediate consequence of 4.7 and our proof is now complete.

For a type I  $W^*$ -algebra, the condition of being countably decomposable is not necessary for Theorem I to hold. In fact, Theorem I holds for  $A = B(H)$ ,  $H$  not separable (see 4.16), and for any commutative  $W^*$ -algebra  $Z$ . Moreover, it is easy to see from our proof, that Theorem I holds for  $Z \hat{\otimes} B(H)$  where  $H$  is a separable Hilbert space. It is of interest to note that for the  $W^*$ -algebra  $L^\infty = L^\infty(X, \nu)$ , where  $X$  completely regular and  $\nu$  is a compact regular Borel measure on  $X$ , we have  $\bar{\beta} = \tau(L^\infty, L^1)$  where  $L^1 = L^1(X, \nu)$ . Thus,  $\bar{\beta}$  is the mixed topology considered by Dazord and Jourlin [4]. These results lead us to the following two related questions.

5.4. *Question.* Suppose  $A$  is a type I  $W^*$ -algebra that is not countably decomposable. Must  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^*$  be equal to  $A_*$ ?

5.5. *Question.* Let  $A$  be a countably decomposable  $W^*$ -algebra such that  $A_{\bar{\beta}}^* = A_*$ . Must  $A$  be a type I  $W^*$ -algebra? In other words, does the converse of Theorem I hold?

Our next result suggests that the converse of Theorem I may indeed be true. We will now view  $A$  as a  $W^*$ -algebra on a separable Hilbert space.

**THEOREM II.** *Let  $A = \int_{\Gamma} A(t) \mu(dt)$  be the direct integral decomposition of  $A$  into factors [17, Corollary 10, p. 53]. Let  $B$  be a factor and define  $\Lambda$  to be the set of all  $t \in \Gamma$  for which  $A(t)$  is spatially isomorphic to  $B$ . If  $A \# = A^*$  and  $\mu(\Lambda) > 0$ , then  $B$  must be a type I factor.*

*Proof.* By virtue of [17, Theorem 2, p. 228], 4.11, and 3.5, we need only consider the case  $A = L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B)$ , where  $\Omega$  is hyper-Stonian,  $\mu$  is a positive normal measure with support  $\Omega$ , and  $\mu(\Omega) = 1$ . Now, let  $D$  be the set of all elements in  $C(\Omega, B)$  of the form  $\sum_{k=1}^n x_k \chi_{E_k}$ , where  $x_k \in B$  and  $\{E_k\}_{k=1}^n$  are pairwise disjoint sets that are both open and closed. Since  $D$  is a  $*$ -subalgebra of  $C(\Omega, B)$  that separates points and contains the identity, we have by [6, 11.5.3, p. 234] that  $D$  is uniformly dense in  $C(\Omega, B)$ . Consequently, it follows from [14, 1.22.3, p. 61] and [14, p. 67] that  $D$  is  $\sigma(A, A^*)$  dense in  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mu, B)$ . Now, for  $f \in (B \#_{\beta_B})^+$  define  $\tilde{f}$  on  $D$  as follows: for  $x = \sum_{k=1}^n x_k \chi_{E_k}$ , set  $\tilde{f}(x) = \sum_{k=1}^n f(x_k) \mu(E_k)$ . We will now show that  $\tilde{f}$  is continuous on the unit ball of  $D$  for the relative  $\bar{\beta}_A$  topology. By 4.1 and 4.3, it will suffice to show that  $\tilde{f}$  is continuous on the unit ball of  $D$  in the relative  $\beta_J$  topology for each  $J \in \mathcal{E}_A$ .

Let  $J$  be a closed two-sided essential ideal of  $A$ ,  $I_0$  the smallest closed two-sided ideal of  $B$ , and  $\epsilon > 0$ . Since  $f$  is  $\bar{\beta}_B$  continuous on  $B$ , there exists a  $b \in I_0$  such that  $|f(x)| \leq \epsilon/2$  whenever  $\|bx\| + \|xb\| \leq 1$ . Now set  $J_1 = J \cap C(\Omega, B)$ . By 3.9,  $J_1$  is essential in  $C(\Omega, B)$ , so the set  $E = \{t \in \Omega: x(t) = 0 \text{ for all } x \in J_1\}$  is a closed nowhere dense subset of  $\Omega$ . Since  $\mu$  is normal, there exists an open and closed set  $G \supseteq E$  such that  $\mu(G) < \epsilon/2\|f\|$ . For each  $t_0 \in \tilde{G}$ , the complement of  $G$ , the set  $\{x(t_0): x \in J_1\}$  contains  $I_0$ . Therefore, it is straightforward to show that there exists a subset  $V_{t_0}$  of  $\tilde{G}$  and an element  $a_0$  in  $J_1$  that satisfy the following:

- (1)  $t_0 \in V_{t_0}$  and  $V_{t_0}$  is both open and closed;
- (2)  $\|a_0(t) - b\| < 1/8$  for  $t \in V_{t_0}$  and  $a_0(t) = 0$  otherwise. Since  $\tilde{G}$  is compact and  $\{V_t\}_{t \in \tilde{G}}$  is an open cover, there exists a finite collection  $\{V_{t_i}\}_{i=1}^m$  that covers  $\tilde{G}$ . Due to the fact that each set  $V_{t_i}$  is both open and closed, we can construct an element  $a$  in  $J_1$  such that  $\|a(t) - b\| < 1/4$  for  $t \in \tilde{G}$  and  $a(t) = 0$ ,  $t \in G$ . Now let  $x$  be an element of the unit ball of  $D$ , where  $x = \sum_{k=1}^n x_k \chi_{E_k}$ , and suppose  $\|xa\| + \|ax\| \leq 1/2$ . We may assume that, for some positive integer  $k$ ,  $E_1, E_2, \dots, E_k$  are subsets of  $G$

and  $E_{k+1}, \dots, E_n$  are subsets of  $\tilde{G}$ . Since  $\|x\| \leq 1$  and  $\|ax\| + \|xa\| \leq 1/2$ , it is easy to show that  $\|x_i b\| + \|b x_i\| \leq 1$  for  $i = k+1, \dots, n$ . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{f}(x)| &\leq \sum_{i=1}^k |f(x_i)|\mu(E_i) + \sum_{i=k+1}^n |f(x_i)|\mu(E_i) \\ &\leq \|f\|\mu(G) + (\epsilon/2)\mu(\tilde{G}) < \epsilon/2 + \epsilon/2 = \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\tilde{f}$  is  $\bar{\beta}_A$  continuous on the unit ball of  $D$ . Since  $A_{\bar{\beta}_A}^* = A_*$ , the  $\bar{\beta}_A$  topology is the Mackey topology of the dual pair  $\langle A, A_* \rangle$ . Consequently, it follows from [14, 1.9.1, p. 22] and [14, 1.8.10, p. 21] that  $\tilde{f}$  can be extended uniquely to a  $\bar{\beta}_A$  continuous positive linear functional on  $A$ . Hence  $\tilde{f} \in A_*$  and this implies  $f \in B_*$ . But, by 4.16 this can only happen when  $B$  is a type I factor and our proof is complete.

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