Closed operator ideals on the Banach space of continuous functions on the first uncountable ordinal

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Joint work with Tomasz Kania



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C(K)-spaces

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Classification. Let *K* be a compact metric space. Then:

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Here, for an ordinal σ ,

$$[0,\sigma] = \{\alpha \text{ ordinal} : \alpha \leqslant \sigma\}$$

is equipped with the *order topology*, which is determined by the basis

$$[0,\beta),$$
 $(\alpha,\beta),$ $(\alpha,\sigma]$ $(0 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq \sigma).$

Introducing our main character: the Loy–Willis ideal

Let ω_1 be the first uncountable ordinal, so that $C[0, \omega_1]$ is the "next" C(K)-space after the separable ones $C[0, \omega^{\omega^{\alpha}}]$ for countable α .

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It is defined using a representation of operators on $C[0, \omega_1]$ as scalar-valued $[0, \omega_1] \times [0, \omega_1]$ -matrices; an operator belongs to \mathcal{M} if and only if its final column is continuous. The precise definition will follow later.

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Key step: *M* has a bounded right approximate identity.

 $\mathscr{M} = \{ T \in \mathscr{B}(C[0, \omega_1]) : \forall R, S \in \mathscr{B}(C[0, \omega_1]) : I \neq STR \}.$

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Corollary. The Loy–Willis ideal is the unique maximal ideal of $\mathscr{B}(C[0, \omega_1])$.

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Proof. The theorem implies that the identity operator belongs to the ideal generated by any operator not in \mathcal{M} .

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Remark. Many Banach spaces X share with $C[0, \omega_1]$ the property that

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Fact (Dosev and Johnson 2010). Suppose that \mathcal{M}_X is closed under addition. Then \mathcal{M}_X is the unique maximal ideal of $\mathcal{B}(X)$.

Recall:
$$\mathcal{M}_X = \{T \in \mathcal{B}(X) : \forall R, S \in \mathcal{B}(X) : I \neq STR\}$$

(i) $X = \ell_p$ for $1 \leq p < \infty$ and $X = c_0$ (Gohberg, Markus and Feldman 1960);

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- (v) $X = d_{w,p}$, the Lorentz sequence space determined by a decreasing, non-summable sequence $w = (w_n)$ in (0, 1] and $p \in [1, \infty)$ (Kamińska, Popov, Spinu, Tcaciuc and Troitsky 2011);

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(ix) $X = C[0, \omega^{\omega}]$ and $X = C[0, \omega^{\alpha}]$, where α is a countable epsilon number, that is, a countable ordinal satisfying $\alpha = \omega^{\alpha}$

(Brooker (unpublished), using Bourgain and Pełczyński).

Note:
$$C[0, \omega_1]$$
 differs from all these Banach spaces because $C[0, \omega_1] \ncong C[0, \omega_1] \oplus C[0, \omega_1]$.

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Theorem (Kania+NJL 2011). The following are equivalent for $T \in \mathscr{B}(C[0, \omega_1])$: (a) T has separable range,

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Theorem (Kania+NJL 2011). The following are equivalent for $T \in \mathscr{B}(C[0, \omega_1])$:

- (a) T has separable range,
- (b) T does not fix a copy of the Banach space

 $c_0(\omega_1) = \big\{ f \colon [0,\omega_1) \to \mathbb{C} : \{ \alpha \in [0,\omega_1) : |f(\alpha)| \ge \varepsilon \} \text{ is finite for each } \varepsilon > 0 \big\},\$

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where, for Banach spaces X and Y,

$$\mathscr{G}_{\mathbf{Y}}(X) := \operatorname{span}\{TS : S \in \mathscr{B}(X, Y), T \in \mathscr{B}(Y, X)\}$$

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Note: if Y contains a complemented copy of $Y \oplus Y$, then the 'span' is not needed; $\{TS : S \in \mathscr{B}(X, Y), T \in \mathscr{B}(Y, X)\}$ is already closed under addition.

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(d) $T \in \mathscr{G}_{C[0,\sigma]}(C[0,\omega_1])$ for some $\sigma \in [0,\omega_1)$, (e) $T \in \overline{\mathscr{G}}_{C[0,\sigma]}(C[0,\omega_1])$ for some $\sigma \in [0,\omega_1)$, where, for Banach spaces X and Y,

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This is always an ideal of $\mathscr{B}(X)$, and $\overline{\mathscr{G}}_{Y}(X)$ is its closure. Note: if Y contains a complemented copy of $Y \oplus Y$, then the 'span' is not needed; $\{TS : S \in \mathscr{B}(X, Y), T \in \mathscr{B}(Y, X)\}$ is already closed under addition.

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(d) $T \in \mathscr{G}_{C[0,\sigma]}(C[0,\omega_1])$ for some $\sigma \in [0,\omega_1)$, (e) $T \in \overline{\mathscr{G}}_{C[0,\sigma]}(C[0,\omega_1])$ for some $\sigma \in [0,\omega_1)$, where, for Banach spaces X and Y,

 $\mathscr{G}_{\mathbf{Y}}(X) := \operatorname{span} \{ TS : S \in \mathscr{B}(X, Y), \ T \in \mathscr{B}(Y, X) \}$

This is always an ideal of $\mathscr{B}(X)$, and $\overline{\mathscr{G}}_{Y}(X)$ is its closure. Note: if Y contains a complemented copy of $Y \oplus Y$, then the 'span' is not needed; $\{TS : S \in \mathscr{B}(X, Y), T \in \mathscr{B}(Y, X)\}$ is already closed under addition. *Warning!* This theorem does *not* imply that the ideal $\mathscr{G}_{C[0,\sigma]}(C[0,\omega_1])$ is closed for each $\sigma \in [0, \omega_1)$, despite the equivalence of (d) and (e).

Theorem (Kania+NJL 2011). The following are equivalent for $T \in \mathscr{B}(C[0, \omega_1])$:

- (a) T has separable range,
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Partial structure of the lattice of closed ideals of $\mathscr{B} = \mathscr{B}(C[0, \omega_1])$



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- (i) We suppress $C[0, \omega_1]$ everywhere, thus writing \mathscr{K} instead of $\mathscr{K}(C[0, \omega_1])$ for the ideal of compact operators on $C[0, \omega_1]$, *etc.*;
- (ii) $\mathscr{I} \longrightarrow \mathscr{J}$ means that the ideal \mathscr{I} is properly contained in the ideal \mathscr{J} ;
- (iii) a double-headed arrow indicates that there are no closed ideals between \mathscr{I} and \mathscr{J} ;
- (iv) α denotes a countable ordinal; and
- (v) $K_{\alpha} = [0, \omega^{\omega^{\alpha}}].$

Fact. $[0, \omega_1]$ is *scattered*: each non-empty subset contains an isolated point.

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 $\|\mu\| = \sum_{\alpha \in [\mathbf{0}, \omega_{\mathbf{1}}]} |c_{\alpha}| < \infty \quad \text{ and } \quad \mu = \sum_{\alpha \in [\mathbf{0}, \omega_{\mathbf{1}}]} c_{\alpha} \delta_{\alpha},$

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Corollary. For each $T \in \mathscr{B}(C[0, \omega_1])$, there is a unique scalar-valued matrix $(T_{\alpha,\beta})_{\alpha,\beta\in[0,\omega_1]}$ such that

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Theorem (Loy and Willis 1989). The set

$$\mathscr{M} = \{ T \in \mathscr{B}(C[0, \omega_1]) : k_{\omega_1}^T \text{ is continuous at } \omega_1 \}$$

is a maximal ideal of codimension one in $\mathscr{B}(C[0,\omega_1])$.

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Hence $S = T - c \cdot I \in \mathcal{M} + \mathbb{C} \cdot I$.

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$$k_{\omega_{\mathbf{1}}}^{\mathcal{T}}(\alpha) = ck_{\omega_{\mathbf{1}}}^{I}(\alpha) + k_{\omega_{\mathbf{1}}}^{\mathcal{S}}(\alpha) = \begin{cases} S_{\alpha,\omega_{\mathbf{1}}} & \text{for } \alpha < \omega_{\mathbf{1}} \\ c + S_{\omega_{\mathbf{1}},\omega_{\mathbf{1}}} = \lim_{\beta \to \omega_{\mathbf{1}}} S_{\beta,\omega_{\mathbf{1}}} & \text{for } \alpha = \omega_{\mathbf{1}} \end{cases}$$

Hence $S = T - c \cdot I \in \mathcal{M} + \mathbb{C} \cdot I$.

M is a *right ideal* and *maximal:* automatic!

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Theorem (Amir and Lindenstrauss 1968). A compact Hausdorff space K is Eberlein compact if and only if C(K) is weakly compactly generated (that is, $C(K) = \overline{\text{span}} W$ for some weakly compact subset W).